

War Diary.

16.5.1943.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

X 1. V.C.N.S. today asked the 1st Sea Lord (in Washington) for approval of the proposal to raise the number of ships in H.X. convoys above 80 if necessary. Some 470 ships require to be escorted in H.X. and S.C. convoys during the month of June.

Home Commands.

X U/B attack on O.N.S.7.

2. B.5 (SWALE) reported that a ship in O.N.S.7 was torpedoed at 162100Z in 59.50 N., 41.05 W. (about 80 miles east of Cape Farewell).

U/B attacked.

3. A Halifax aircraft attacked a U-boat at 2003 today, 210 miles N.W. of Cape Ortegal. Wooden wreckage and two bodies were seen on the spot later.

Operation "Hostile 6 A"

4. M.G.Bs. and part of the supporting force of destroyers sailed from Plymouth this evening, for a minelaying operation near Roches Douvres. The remainder of the supporting force will be met off Start Point.

5. The barge BASILDON was damaged by explosion in the Thames Estuary in about 51° 28' 24" N., 0° 44' 54" E. It is thought the explosion was not caused by a mine.

North Atlantic.

6. OTTAWA reports that convoy O.N.182 became scattered during dense fog last night. On turning over to local escort 38 ships were in sight. It is thought that WETASKIWIN has 8 stragglers in company.

7. U.S.S. MACKENZIE attacked a U-boat in 35.53 N., 20.33 W., at 0350A today. This is believed to be the same U-boat as was attacked by a U.S. army aircraft at 1142A yesterday in 31.40 N., 21.15 W.

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SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

8. 19 survivors were picked up about 125 miles S.E. of Ascension at 0900 today from U.S. SAMUEL JORDAN, KIRKWOOD reported torpedoed 6th or 10th May, in 15.00 S., 07.00 W.

Mediterranean.

9. 15 Wellingtons from Algiers attacked Trapani last night; no hits are reported on naval objectives.

Australia & New Zealand.

10. A mine stranded on the west coast of New Zealand, near Auckland today.

11. U.S. WILLIAM R. VANDERBILT (Port Vila, Sandwich Is. for Suva, Fiji) is reported to have been torpedoed today in position estimated to be 20.30 S., 176.00 E (about 180 miles S.S.W. of Suva). Another report states that she was torpedoed and sunk in 18.41 S., 175.07 E. on 17 May, 23 survivors from SS. PHOEBE A. HEARST (Noumea for Samoa) were landed at Nukualofa by a U.S. minesweeper today. The Ship was sunk on 1st May.



War Diary.16.5.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

X Proposed conversion of A. to I. class destroyers. A.L.T.S.D. 2596/43 dated 6th May, 1943. It is for urgent consideration that at their next refits A. to I. class destroyers should be converted to "Escort destroyers" and one boiler removed where possible.

C. in C.W.A. 162056A December 1942, and 211805A December, 1942 to Admiralty, and A.M. 162056A December, 1942 to C. in C.W.A. with regard to conversion of A. and B. class destroyers refer.

A case recently occurred whereby the Senior Officer's ship DUNCAN in B7 group had to leave convoy 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.

(C. in C.W.A. 161340B to Admty.)

Proposed new S/M patrols. Your 142136 para. 1. Approved. (A.C.N.S.H. 161532B to F.O.S.)

Movements.

S/M Movements. From position S. 043° 01' N. 010° 28' W. proceed to dive by day by route "Rose" to R/V in Z.180° Lizard Head 12 miles at 1500B/23rd for escort to Portsmouth.

2. Proceed on the surface at C.Os. discretion during daylight 23. (F.O.S. 161024B to TRIBUNE.)

Following is forecast of movements of S/Ms.

1. ULTIMATUM to leave Lerwick 21st May for patrol.
2. TALLY HO to leave Holy Loch 27th May for Lerwick and patrol.
3. SYRTIS to leave Holy Loch 21st May for Scapa for A/S training and Commanding Officer qualifying course returning to Holy Loch on completion of latter.
4. SCEPTRE and LE CURIE to leave Holy Loch 27th May for Scapa for A/S training until 15th June and 13th June respectively, thence SCEPTRE to Holy Loch and LE CURIE to Lerwick and to patrol about 18th June.
5. SEADOG to Lerwick on relief by SCEPTRE on 29th May and to patrol 3rd June.
6. ULA and SATYR to leave Dundee 31st May for Lerwick and patrol.
7. O.15 will be required at Scapa for A/S training on completion repairs.
8. RUBIS to leave Dundee about 19th May for Portsmouth. (F.C.S. 161151B.)

S.3's 121053 arrived. (ULTIMATUM.)  
(S.O.S/M Lerwick 161244B.)

Positions of S/Ms at 0800B/17 and movements for following 24 hours.  
(F.C.S. 161538B, 162236B.)

Intend sailing X.8 and X.9 in tow OBERON and SOLSTICE respectively from Kamesbay at 0530/21st for Port H.H.X. S.O.A. 5½ kts.

2. Route via Swansea 250° Oversay 5¼ passage Oigh Sgeir to Loch Snigort and Port H.H.X.
3. Tows will be slipped and X.type S/M will proceed independently from vicinity of Eilean Trodday, OBERON and SOLSTICE proceeding in company. E.T.A. 0400/23rd May. (Capt. S.12 161503B to A.I.G.217.)



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Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

T.F.61  
SCYLLA. Examination of main condenser outlet pipes reveals severe pitting and perforation. Temporary repairs can be completed by 2359 tomorrow. Propose sailing be postponed until a.m. tide Tuesday to enable work to be completed.

(SCYLLA 161158 to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Change route immediately to pass through new position H. 52° 00' N. 33° 00' W. new J. 56.32 N. 23.50 W., then to D. Cominch recypher and pass on N.S.S. FOX to T.F.61½ (D.O.D.H. 161305B to T.F.61.)

SCYLLA is to meet T.F.61 consisting SOUTH DAKOTA, ALABAMA and Destroyers ELLYSON, RODMAN, EMMONS, MACCOMB, FITCH and accompany them to Scapa.

2. T.F.61 is routed through positions D.058° 01' N. 016° 01' W. E. 058° 45' N. 011° 10' W. and thence Scapa by Q.Z.L. 31. S.O.A. 15.5 knots.

3. SCYLLA is to intercept T.F.61 between position E. and long. Butt of Lewis. Present estimated time of passing position E. is 0800B/19th.

(C. in C.H.F., 161855B to SCYLLA.)

BLUEBELL,  
CAMELIA. Request urgent consideration may be given to return BLUEBELL and CAMELIA from Murmansk. 2. These ships have been in North Russian waters since the end of February and are likely to require considerable overhauling on return in addition to fitting of extra Oerlikons. 3. It is anticipated that they will be required for service June 16th.

(C. in C.W.A. 161448B to Admty.)

Operations.

Coastal Force Patrols. My 151117B. "Jovial" returned. (F.O.I.C. Portland 160624B.) Arrived ORKAN, GOATHLAND. (C. in C.Plymouth 160835B.) 1. Intend M.Ls. 269 (S.O.) and 303 to patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W. 2. Leave Portland at 2145 by Q.Z.S. 382 and leave patrol line at dawn/17. 3. Object anti E-Boat patrol. Codeword "Device". (F.O.I.C. Portland 161111B.) 1. M.G.Bs. 111, 115, 81, 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. 4. Information. Own. 4 M.G.Bs. and 8 M.Ls. S.O. M.G.B. 312 leave position 180° Start 4 miles about 2000B to southward and 6 destroyers S.O. LIMBOURNE leave same position about 2230B to southward. Above forces will be approaching Start from southwards after daylight 17th.

/Enemy...



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Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Coastal Force Patrols. (Contd.)

Enemy. E-Boats may operate from Guernsey for Cherbourg. 2 ELBING class destroyers and 4 T.Bs. at Cherbourg 14 May.

6. Codeword "Warrant."  
(C. in C.Plymouth 161341B.)  
2. S.G.B.6, M.G.B.614 short notice Newhaven  
3. M.L. 208, 124 patrolling southward of E.A.5 buoy

4. Chasseur 5 at St. Helens. LA COMBATTANTE, ALBRIGHTON, KINGSTON TOPAZ at Yarmouth.

5. M.L. 269, 303 from Portland patrolling between 1° 45' W. and 2° 25' W. on lat. 50° 20' N.  
(C. in C.Portsmouth 161400B and 161822B.)  
M.Ls. 142, 392 patrolling between Rye and Farlight Buoys.  
M.G.Bs. 41,43 patrolling at Bullock Bank from 2359 to 0330/17.  
M.A.S.Bs. 25,32 from Ramsgate at V. Buoy from 2359 to 0330/17.  
(V.A.Dover 161749B.)  
My 161111B. "Device" sailed at 2202.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland 162215B.)

Mid Atlantic S/M Patrol.

1. Your 160400. Return forthwith to R/V 180° Barrahead 8 miles with escort, who will escort you to Roseneath cover.  
2. Adjust speed to arrive R/V 1800/16th.  
3. Comsubron S.O. is requested arrange escort.  
(F.O.S. 160734B to HAKE.)

Estimated P.C. and S. of HAKE at 0800B/16, 56.10 N. 10.09 W. 070° 10 knots on surface.  
(C. in C.W.A. 161023B to Escorts O.N.184.)  
My 141513B cancel. F.O.S. 160734B.

Para. 2, HAKE proceeding from point B. to 180° Barra Head 8 miles on surface at C.Os discretion, E.T.A. 1800/16th.

Para. 3. A.C.C. in C.C.C. is requested to arrange bombing restrictions.

Para. 4. A.Total line 20. B. to A. 0800/16th until 2100/16th.

Para. 5. HAKE R/V with escort WAVENEY at Barra Head 1800/16th, thence to Roseneath, E.T.A. Clyde Boom 1800/17th.  
(Comsubron 50 161046B and 161635B to F.O.S.)  
My 151232. Object of your patrol is U-Boats. Surface ships are not to be attacked.

2. You will be operating in an area clear of our convoy, support groups and intensive air patrols.

3. While in the patrol-area keep a diving-patrol by day. If you receive orders necessitating surface passage by day identify yourself to all aircraft. Submerged bombing restrictions will cover your patrol-area.  
(F.O.S. 161216B to HERRING.)

1. Intend to sail HADDO escorted by WAVENEY from Clyde 1000B/18 to 180° Barra Head 8 miles, E.T.A. 2300/18.

2. Thence HADDO to assigned patrol area proceeding on the surface at C.O. discretion to 018° W. thence diving by day to assigned area.  
(Comsubron 50 161310B to Admty.)  
Cancel my 141513B. (HAKA.)  
(Comsubron 50 161630B.)

/Positions...



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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Mid Atlantic  
S/M Patrol.  
(Contd.)

Positions of submarines at 0800B/17th and movements for following 24 hours.  
HERRING approx. 63° 47' N. 28° 59' W. probably on surface through 60° N. 35° W. at 0900/18.  
(F.O.S. 161538B to Admty.)

X S/M  
Patrols.

Following patrol-lines each 40 miles long are established.

Patrol.	Mid Position.	Line of Patrol
A.A.	064° 36' 007° 30' W.	340° 160°
B.B.	064° 42' 005° 26' W.	340° 160°
C.C.	065° 10' 003° 30' W.	000° 180°
D.D.	064° 50' 001° 30' W.	000° 180°
E.E.	064° 20' 000° 55' E.	065° 245°
F.F.	063° 28' 001° 10' E.	065° 245°
G.G.	062° 50' 002° 30' E.	070° 250°

(F.O.S. 161349B to S/Ms.) *See also FOS. 041247A/Sept 43. and 051109A/Capt. 1943*

Cancel my 211806 April. (S/M Patrols.)  
(F.O.S. 161409B to Admty.)

Following movements are to take place forthwith. My 161418B refers. TRUCULENT to A.A. SURF to B.B., SHAD to D.D. 2. TUNA and STUBBORN are to sail from Lerwick to E.E. and G.G. respectively.

(F.O.S. 161432B to Capt. S.9.)

F.O.(S) 161432. Request you sail S/Ms from Lerwick as follows.

1. TUNA at 0600B/17th through 090° Muckle Flugga 5, thence direct to patrol line E.E.
2. STUBBORN at 1000B/17 through 090° Muckle Flugga 15, thence to patrol-line G.G.

(Capt. S.9 161625B to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

F.O.S. 161349. S/Ms are to leave present patrol and establish anti U-Boat patrol as follows:

1. TRUCULENT at 0800B/17 through L. 066° 55' 013° 05' W. M. 065° 01' 007° 20' W. thence patrol lines A.A.
2. SURF at 0400B/17 through L. and M. to patrol line B.B.
3. SHAD at 0400B/17 through K. 067° 45' 013° 05' W. thence direct to patrol line D.D.

(Capt. S.9 161651B to S/Ms.)

My 161638B add new paragraphs.

G. TUNA leaves Lerwick 0600B/17th probably on surface for vicinity 64° 21' N. 00° 54' E.

H. STUBBORN leaves Lerwick 1000B/17th probably on surface for vicinity 62° 51' N. 02° 31' E.

(F.O.S. 161808B to Admty.)

My 161538B. Cancel paras. A.B.C. and substitute new paras.

A. TRUCULENT 66° 40' N. 18° 15' W. probably on surface proceeding through 066° 55' N. 13° 05' W. and 065° 01' N. 007° 20' W. to patrol in 64° 36' 07° 30' W.

B. SURF vicinity 66° 59' N. 14° 15' W. probably on surface through 066° 55' N. 13° 05' W. and 065° 01' N. 007° 20' W. to patrol in 64° 42' N. 05° 26' W.

C. SHAD vicinity 67° 48' N. 13° 45' W. probably on surface through 67° 45' N. 13° 05' W. to patrol in 64° 50' N. 01° 30' W.

W. Submarines A.B.C. may be diving when South of 65° 20' N.  
(F.O.S. 162236B to Admty.)



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L.C.F. Intend to sail LOCUST L.C.Fs. 10 (S.O.) 5,  
exercise 6,8,11 and 12 from Needles 2300/17.  
on 18th May 2. Routed to 50° 25' N. 2° 59' W. E.T.A.  
LOCUST. 0600/18.  
3. 0600/18 to 0800/18 LOCUST will exercise  
L.C.Fs.  
4. 0800/18 LOCUST will return by reverse  
route to Needles, E.T.A. 1200/18, and L.C.Fs. will proceed  
to Plymouth E.T.A. 1600/18.  
5. Codeword "Object."  
(C. in C.Portsouth 161424B to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Allied Air Activity.

A/S tactics. The necessity for the close co-operation  
between fighter and Swordfish aircraft in  
attacks on U-Boats has been demonstrated by  
recent experiences of BITER who reports that  
heavy and accurate fire from 20 m.m. guns was experienced on  
several occasions resulting in one Swordfish being shot down  
and 2 others hit.  
(C. in C.W.A. 161301 to ARCHER, BITER, STALKER, HUNTER,  
BATTLER, ATTACKER, BOGUE.)

Lowestoft Squeaker installed Lowestoft barrage.  
Balloon (Station Z. 161435B to R.A.F.Units.)  
Barrage.

Enemy Air Activity.

Jan Mayen. Jan Mayen reported aircraft heard at 0728/15  
off North Coast, course 174°.  
(A.C.I.C. 160517Z.)

Two F.W.A/C Two F.W. 190 definitely destroyed at 2200 last  
destroyed. night.  
1st by QUEEN EMPRESS at 2158 seen to crash in  
flames vicinity of Rough's buoy, confirmed by  
Balmoral and Cork Lt. Vessel.  
2nd by Rough's Fort at 2202 seen to crash in sea 1000 yards  
from Fort confirmed by Cork Lt. Vessel. In addition M/S and  
P trawlers vicinity 51 buoy and 4 "L.L" trawlers engaged enemy  
aircraft flying at 50 feet. Several hits claimed.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 161034B.)

X Felixstowe Report fire in Boom Defence enclosure Bawdsey  
damage on Felixstowe following enemy action at 2240/15.  
15th May (BEEHIVE 161233B to Admty.)



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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

S.N.123. Arrived AGAMEMNON with ST. MARY, and CASTLETON in company.  
(TRELAWNEY 160648B.)  
Arrived SCOTT.  
(TRELAWNEY 160650B.)

Search off Hartland Point. My 141427B. Vessels returned. Operations completed. Nothing to report.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 160801B.)

Operation "Hostile 6A" Intend to carry out operation "Hostile 6A" tonight force "Hostile 6A" is to sail from Plymouth to pass Gate at 1715B/16th. Supporting force LIMBOURNE, WENSLEYDALE, and QUORN are to sail from Plymouth to pass Gate at 1900B/16th. MELBREAK, CATTISTOCK, and KRAKOWIAK are to R/V with LIMBOURNE in 180° Start Point 4 miles at 2030/16.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 161123B.)

Operation H.V.1. Your 152121. Procedure in para. 2 is considered suitable. Date ready to commence H.V.1 19th May, leaving Milford Haven p.m., 18th.  
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 161213B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

BASILDON damaged by explosion. When the barge BASILDON on passage to Faversham was proceeding down the swashway on 13th May an explosion occurred at 1445 under her stern which lifted the barge 3 feet out of the water. Barge leaking badly and was beached on Elmley Flats in Swale. Position of barge when explosion occurred was approx. 51° 28' 24" N. 0° 44' 54" E. No explosion was heard or seen by Garrison Point Signal Station or other naval or military stations and no reports of it from any other source. It is considered improbable that the explosion was caused by a mine.  
(C. in C.Nore 162254B to Admty.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported or attacked in N. Atlantic. Am over enemy submarine in 46° 15' N. 18° 30' W. (A/C B. of 86 Sqdn. 160834B to 15 Group.)  
Have attacked enemy with depth charges, estimate (?) one hit.  
(A/C B. of 86 Sqdn. 160835B to 15 Group.)  
Am over enemy S/M in 46° 14' N. 18° 31' W. (A/C B. of 86 Sqdn. 160845 to 15 Group.)  
Have attacked enemy with depth-charges and estimated (?no) hits.  
(A/C B. of 86 Sqdn 160847B to 15 Group.)  
Am over enemy submarine in 46° 20' N. 19° 48' W. (A/C B. of 86 Sqdn 161155B to 15 Group.)

/By...



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U/Bs reported By D/F at 1623Z U-Boat probably outward bound or attacked in to the Atlantic, estimated anywhere within 30 N. Atlantic. miles of 62° 20' N. 02° 30' E. (Contd.) (D.D.I.C. 161914B.)

X U/Bs reported Am over enemy submarine in 46° 00' N. 08° 34' W. or attacked Have attacked enemy with type C.A.N. in Biscay (A/C R9NL 160927 to 19 Group.) Area. On day 15th May 8 Whitleys of 10 O.T.U. were despatched. 5 U-Boats were sighted and four attacks made as follows:

A. Whitley "O" sighted the wake of a U-Boat 10 miles to starboard, but the U-Boat disappeared before an attack could be delivered.

B. Whitley "M" sighted the wake of a U-Boat 7 miles away (240 miles N.W. of Cap Ortegal) which proved to be a surfaced U-Boat. The pilot dived to attack out of the sun and achieved complete surprise. 6 depth charges were released, one of which hung up, and the rear-gunner opened fire on the conning tower the explosion of the depth charges appeared to lift the U-Boat bodily. The U-Boat disappeared and nothing further was seen.

C. The same Whitley returning later to the position of this attack, sighted a surfaced U-Boat (214 miles N.W. of Cape Finisterre) as the A/C approached to attack, fire was opened from the U-Boat at about 800 yards range and tracer was seen passing over the A/C. The bomb aimer also opened fire, observing strikes on the U-Boat. The pilot took evasive action, and attacked, releasing the depth charge which had previously hung up. It was seen to burst 100 to 200 ft. on the port beam of the U-Boat which lifted slightly with the explosion.

D. Whitley "S" sighted the wake of a U-Boat 4 miles to starboard (180 miles N.W. of Cape Ortegal) as the Whitley approached the U-Boat surfaced and then crash-dived immediately, six depth charges were dropped, nothing further was seen. Photos of the attack disclose a large disturbance in the water with a solid object which may be part of the U-Boat or possibly wreckage, in the centre.

E. Whitley "B" sighted the wake of a surfaced U-Boat (285 miles N.W. of Cape Ortegal) and attacked it with depth charges while it was still fully surfaced. The gunner also opened fire on members of the U-Boat's crew on the bridge. As a result of the explosions of the depth charges, the U-Boat heaved in the water?, swung slightly to port and settled again with the stern up high in the water, it then seemed to come on top to an even keel. About 1½ minutes after the attack the conning tower disappeared followed by the bows without making any apparent forward movement. The A/C swung round again and the gunner opened fire on the conning tower before it disappeared, nothing further was seen. The A/C was found to have been hit by return fire from the U-Boat. (H.Q.B.C. 161615B.)



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Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

Search for Your 152331B. No. My position 049° 02' N.  
Lifeboat. 017° 26'. Searching.  
(LAGAN 160018B to C. in C.W.A.)  
Your 160018B and 160101B. Carry out search  
based on this position. Sunderland aircraft  
will co-operate from 0640B/16 until 1325B. When located air-  
craft will carry out procedure C. on 385 k/cs for 3 minutes at  
each hour and each half hour.  
(C. in C.W.A. 160253B to LAGAN.)  
My 152126B. Position of lifeboat should read 049° 08' N.  
017° 25' W.  
(C. in C.W.A. 160703B to LAGAN.)  
Searching 10 miles each side of line 270° from last  
reported position of boat. S.O.A. West 5 knots. My position  
049° 07' N. 018° 20' W. Set experienced 345° 9 miles in 24  
hours. Request information A. How reliable was position.  
B. When last seen was boat under sail, oar, sea anchor or  
drifting. C. If under way course and rig.  
Have fuel remaining for 10 days at 12 knots.  
(LAGAN 161830B to C. in C.W.A.)  
Your 161830.  
A. Considered reliable to within a few miles.  
B. Still under sail. My 150931B refers.  
C. White lug sails. Boat about 30 feet long, colour grey.  
When first sighted boat was steering north east but from  
track between 2 sighting positions it appeared probable  
boat is making approximately 090° and was tacking when  
sighted. This was suggested in my 151516B.  
(C. in C.W.A. 162204B to LAGAN.)  
Sail COLUMBINE as soon as possible, speed 13 knots, weather  
permitting to position 49 N. 14 W. to search for lifeboat  
containing 12 persons.  
2. COLUMBINE is to top up at Moville if necessary.  
3. LAGAN is searching now.  
(C. in C.W.A. 162345B to WESTERN ISLES.)

Unknown Following received. From Lands End Radio.  
ship. Intercept 2202 G.M.T. EINM DE GCK Dublin  
1129 15 1040 COPT Steamer IRISH PLANE Valentia  
Radio THANTS message. Glad all survivors with  
you proceed immediately COBH to land them.  
Instructions regarding landing will await you at COBH.  
Acknowledge Gordon PALGRAVE.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 160026B to Admty.)

HAKE. My 152105B. Sailed WAVENEY.  
(F.C.I.C.N.I. 160045B.)  
Proceed forthwith to meet HAKE in 180° Barra  
Head 8 miles at 1800B today. Escort HAKE to  
Clyde.  
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 161044 to WAVENEY.)  
My 161044 sailed.  
(Cdre. D.W.A. 161254B to C. in C.W.A.)  
Met HAKE. Proceeding to Clyde speed 9 knots.  
(WAVENEY 161815B to Cdre. D.W.A.)

/ALFRED...



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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects - Contd.

ALFRED MOORE (convoy O.N.182.) Following received from Ongar. Intercepted at 0316Z from ALFRED MOORE begins - In collision (rest unread) Q.S.A.1, 0316 GBD 101 - 1 (Wick Radio No T.O.O. Recd. 0534/16.)

HALIZONES. Arrived Clyde HALIZONES in tow of MARAUDER, escorted by JONQUIL. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 160840B to Admty.)

O.10. O.10 arrived. (S.O.S/M Lerwick 161023B.)

SCYLLA. (SCYLLA 161158) See Movements.

PATHFINDER, OB DURATE. Your 151205B. This will be arranged. (C. in C.W.A. 161245B to R.A.D.)

ASTURIAS. My 151644B. As defects are still incomplete submit sailing should be postponed. (ASTURIAS 161304B to Admty.) Your 161304. Approved. (D.O.D.F. 161756B to ASTURIAS.)

M.G.B.108. My 161112B. Cancelled owing to engine breakdown. (N.O.I.C. Poole 161310 to V.A.Dover.)

Lifeboat. Following received from No. 7 MEFC begins. Crew of Wellington H.E.666 report ships lifeboat with 50 at 0544Z position 044° N. 06° 57' W. steering E.N.E. at 8 knots. Ends. T.O.O.161700Z. (O.A.C.Glos. 161900Z to Air Ministry.)

ANSON. Intend to sail ANSON to arrive Rosyth 28th May for quick docking and to give leave. Ship to be ready to sail for base on 18th June. Request as many A's and A's and defects be carried out as time permits. (C. in C.H.F. 161919B to Admty.)

Shipping & Convoys.

T.A.42. Sailed in accordance with my 141044B. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 160054B.)

O.N.184. Sailed ITCHEN, BURWELL and AGASSIZ for O.N.184. (Cdre. D.W.A. 160330B.)

/ERRIA...



618

16.5.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

- O.N.184 (Contd.) ERRIA has been reported as carrying 30 passengers. She is not to be used as a smoke-maker and should be given a safer position in the convoy.  
(C. in C.W.A. 161028B to Escorts O.N.184.)
- Group C. one. ITCHEN S.C. H/F D/F, BURWELL, AGASSIZ, WOODSTOCK, SACKVILLE, ST. LAURENT H/F D/F sailed for O.N.184. Anticipate ST. CROIX will sail morning 17th May to overtake.  
(C.T.G. 24.7 161320Z to C. in C.W.A.)  
It is noted from your R.O.P's on convoy S.C.123 and H.X. number 235 that you operated from a Lane in the centre of the convoy.  
2. After full consideration of Pro's and Cons of this arrangement I consider it best that you should take station astern of (boiler) in Commodore Column in conforming with provisional .A.C.I. article 145 para. 11.  
(C. in C.W.A. 161029Z to BOGUE, Convoy O.N.184.)
- O.N.186. O.N.185 and O.N.186 will be sailed as one convoy on 24th May title O.N.186.  
(D.T.D. 161236B to A.C.I.C.)
- E.G.7  
E.G.8. Following ships are to form 7th E.G. based at Greenock: PHEASANT, CHANTICLEER, CRANE, WHIMBREL, CYGNET.  
2. Following ships are to form 8th E.G. based at Greenock: INCONSTANT, WRESTLER, WANDERER, BANN, PLYM, NITH. 3. Previous allocations are cancelled.  
(C. in C.W.A. 161433B and 201113B to Capt. D.Greenock.)
- E.G.6. In order to achieve conformity intend in future that while operating as a Support Group under my control Task Group 92.3 should be referred to as the sixth Escort Group.  
(C. in C.W.A. 161532B.)
- A.T.43. A.M. 121940 May. Depart Halifax 170600Z May. E.T.A. Bar Light Vessel 231000Z May. Route.  
K. 43.00 N. 62.00 W. L. 42.00 N. 55.00 W.  
M. 42.00 N. 45.00 W. N. 47.00 N. 31.00 W.  
O. 53.00 N. 25.00 W. P. 56.00 N. 16.00 W.  
Q. 56.30 N. 08.30 W.  
Ships will pass through 54.26 N. 05.12 W. at 230500Z May.  
S.O.A. 19½ knots.  
(D.O.D.H. 161814B.)
- MATAROA. Sailed MATAROA.  
(N.C.S.O. Avonmouth 162005B to Admty.)
- S.C.130. TAMAHA. Your 161500Z. TAMAHA has been ordered to return to St. Johns N.F.  
(C. in C.W.A. 16210Z (sic) to Escorts S.C.130.)



War Diary.16.5.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

A.F.D. 18. Your 111802. Anticipated A.F.D.18 will be proceeding to Gibraltar in tow of H.M.R.T. MARAUDER about 23rd May. Request that towage of A.F.D.18 from Gibraltar to destination be undertaken by H.M.R.T. NIMBLE or other available tugs, and MARAUDER to be made available for towage of MANXMAN to U.K. (Capt. i/c Rescue Tugs, 160001B to F.O. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Plymouth.)  
Reply from C. in C. Med., 192112.

U.G.S. 8. U.G.S8 complying with F.O.I.C. Gib. 151828B. Casablanca section detached 2000A/15th lat. 34.26 long. 08.50 escorted by U.S. Destroyers SCHENCK, HERBERT, GILLESPIE, HARRISON. C.O.

WINOOSKI S.O. Casablanca section.  
(C.T.F.62, 160025A to F.O.I.C. Gib., (R) C. in C. Med., C.M.S.F.F., S.O. Escorts K.M.S.14, WINOOSKI.)  
U.S.S. GILLESPIE, HARRISON, SCHENCK, HERBERT, WINOOSKI with U.G.S.8 arrived Casa., May 16th.  
(C.M.S.F.F., 162020Z to C. in C. Med. (W), (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty., Cominch, Comnavaw.)  
Casablanca section U.G.S.8 arrived today (list).  
(C.M.S.F.F., 162100Z to P.D. New York, (R) Admty., etc.)

Axis Shipping, Bilbao. Arrival 14th, 1. Departure 14th 64, 63, 65, 59, 12, 16, 25, 8, MONTE ORDUNA. Departure 15th 1. (Consul Bilbao, No T.O.O./16 to Admty., (R) S.O. (I) Gibraltar.)  
64 = BORDSEE; 63 = LIVADIA; 65 = SPERBER;  
59 = KAULDI; 12 = THRIANTHA; 16 = LOUVETOT;  
25 = JACQUELINE; 8 = SPES; 1 = PRESIDENT DE LAVIT.

K.M.S. 14. Cancel my 151055 (N.T. in W.D.) K.M.S.14. Intend sailing: For Oran: W.R. CHAMBERLAIN. For Algiers: cable ship MIRROR, SUTHERLAND, H.M.S. BARFOIL. For Bone: EMPIRE HARMONY. For Bougie: L.S.T. (? 25, 114, 379, 664 or 978).  
Agreed M.W.T.R. and S.T.O.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 160939 to Com. N.O.B., N.O.I.C. Bougie, Cdre. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Bone, Admty., C. in C. Med.)

Dispositions. Situation at 1958/16th.  
TRIBUNE 39.42 10.06. OTUS diving by day 9.68/2.  
(2) O.S.47 SCARBOROUGH 33.30 10.03 through 33.02 09.59 thence 210°, 7½.  
Hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND 41.46 11.16 (? 358°, 336°, 196° or 104°), 13½.  
(4) Tug CHARON 26.47 14.48 through 30.01 28 thence 033°, 12.  
(5) DELHI 41.15 14.20 through 36.40 10.02 thence 105°, 17.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 161051B.)

/Situation ...



War Diary.

16.5.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Dispositions. Situation at 2003B/16th.  
(Contd.) G.U.S.7, C.T.F.64, 33.22 32.33 280°, 9.  
(2) U.G.L.4 U.S. Ship CHAMPLIN 31.45 38.11, 083°, 8.  
(3) U.G.F.8A, T.G.60.1, 33.03 36.33 through 33.40 31.45 thence to 086°, 12½.  
Amend U.S. Ship WEST POINT 41.10 40.49 through 41.10 37.43 thence to 098°, 20.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 161211B.)  
Add new paragraph (8) Hospital ship AMARAPOORA 35.55 06.29 through 37.01 11.01 thence 358°, 11. (See amendment 161823B.)  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 161547B.)  
Amend my 161547A to read Hospital ship AMARAPOORA sailing 1930B through 35.48 06.16, 36.32 07.56, 36.32 09.05, thence 287°, (? 11).  
Add new para. (ix). FLEETWOOD sailing 2300B 16 knots to (? end) of swept channel thence 13½ knots to overtake 1st S.47 (? O.S.47).  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 161823B.)

Convoy Arrived HEBE II and J. LEBORGNE.  
C.G. 32. (F.O. Gibraltar, 161133B to C.M.S.F.F., (R) Admty., Connav, C. in C. Med.)

Return of Urgently requested that return escorts may  
Escorts arrive in U.K. not later than the following dates.  
to U.K. (A) TEVIOT, ERNE from K.X.10, June 6th.  
(B) BERGAMOT, BRYONY from K.M.S.15, June 6th.  
(C) TEST, \*PROT, \*TOLARE, OXLIP, HYDERABAD from K.X.10, June 10th. \*TRENT, CLARE intended.  
(D) CHANTICLEER, LOTUS, DIANELLA, STARWORT, POPPY from A.F.D. XVIII, June 14th.  
(C. in C. W.A., 161456B to N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty., C. in C. Med.)

*\* See Convoy Returns 31/5/43*

Convoy Intend sailing for Casabalnca MARIE LOUISE  
G.C. 10. LEBORGNE, GALLIUM, CHATEAU LATOUR, EXPORT, PARAME, C. SCHIAFFINO. Agreed M.W.T.R. and S.T.O.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 161506B to C.M.S.F.F., (R) Admty., Connav, C. in C. Med.)

MACKENZIE, U.S.S. MACKENZIE made Radar and sound contact  
attack followed by two depth charge attacks, 33.53 N.  
on U/B. 20.33 W. at 0350A/16. Two separate underwater explosions heard after attack. Believed same U-Boat attacked my 151512.  
(C.M.S.F.F., 161630Z to Admty., (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, A.H.Q. Gibraltar, Connav, C. in C. Med. pass to Fairwing 15.)  
Request P.C. and S. and future movement of U.S.S. MACKLEBERGIE (as received. MACKENZIE presumably intended).  
Your 161630, refers.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 162335B to Commorseafon, (R) Admty., C. in C. Med.)

/Your ...



War Diary.16.5.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.MACKENZIE,  
attack  
on U/B.  
(Contd.)Your 162335B LAUB and MACKENZIE 2400/16 A  
position 33.40 N. 13.40 W., speed 20 to Casa.  
Future movements accordance my 161600.  
(C.M.S.F.F., 162346Z to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar,  
(R) Admty., C. in C. Med.)Swedish  
Relief  
Ships.Swedish relief ship BARDALAND 2595 G.T. and  
CAMELIA 1688 G.T. sailed 1610/16th for Salonika  
20 miles south of Cape Spartivento (Sardinia)  
thence 5 miles north of Ustica thence Vulcano  
Island thence through Straits of Messina.  
Speed 12 knots. Not to be molested on this route.  
Ref. A.M. 240351C April.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 151846B to S. and A.)

UNSPARING.

After crossing 43.01 N. at 06(?00)/19th pass  
through the following positions at (? scheduled)  
times (? stated): (T) 38.50 10.00 at 0630/22nd.  
(U) 36.51 09.13 at 2359/23rd. (V) 36.37 07.24  
at 0100/25th. (W) 35.53 06.15 at 1130/25th. (X) 35.49 06.06½  
at 1215/25th thence Gibraltar by Q.K.A.87 all times zone minus 2,  
positions N. and W.  
(2) S. of A. diving by day 83 miles per 24 hours. After passing  
position (V) proceed on surface at your discretion at 9 knots.  
Do not cross meridian of 7° W. before 0630/25th.  
(3) Submerged bombing restrictions have been arranged until  
0100/25th, thereafter total bombing restrictions 10 miles either  
side of your route from 35 miles ahead to 35 miles astern of  
your estimated position. Report if you are unable to keep  
within your bombing restrictions.  
(4) Red H.S. and G.S. routine after (?0600)/19th.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 161927B to P.55 (UNSPARING), (R) F.O.(S), C. in  
C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 3, Capt.(S) 5.)

Movements,  
Gibraltar.Arrivals M.T.B.638, M.L.469 from Mers-el-Kebir,  
HUDDERSFIELD TOWN from escort duties East. M.L.  
170, 174 from anti-submarine sweep East. French  
Ship LA GRACIEUSE, ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ, COMMANDANT  
DELAGE with C.G.32.

Departures H.M.L.C.(L) 129, 124, 127, 128, 130, 131, 132, 133,  
135, 180, 260, 262, 272, 274, 277, 285, 290, 293, 315 to Algiers.  
United States L.C.I.(L) 95, 96, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325,  
326, 349, 350 to Arzeu escorted KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE. S.C.526  
escorting RENE PAUL to Casablanca. VETCH to join K.M.S.14.  
TYNE DALE to Oran.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 162125 to Admty., etc.)

DELHI.

Onward route from RD through RE 35.49 N. 06.20 W.  
and Q.K.A.87 to Gibraltar.  
(2) Joiners (sic) are to be streamed as  
convenient before crossing 007° W.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 162345B to DELHI, (R) C. in C.  
Med., Admty.)



War Diary.16.5.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dispositions. Situation at 1959Z/16th. LEITH, ANCHUSA, COREOPSIS, VIOLET, AUBRETIA, WASTWATER, WHIMBREL, BELLWORT, with S.L.129, 20.46 17.47 000° 7. AIMWELL, M.M.S.102, 103, 105, 106, 17.15 17.47

000° 8½.

BIRDLIP, 2 M.Ls. with D.B.F. 2, 11.44 17.24 to 10.42 16.58 thence 116° 8½.

M.L. 1231 and 1072 about 18.38 16.40 (2 corrupt groups) Northward 10.

DUNCTON escorting about 13.25 17.10 to Bathurst 9.

CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 08.30 27.30 14.

FOXHOUND, BULLDOG, BOREAS, COWSLIP with S.R. 4F., 08.44 13.51 to 11.10 17.40 thence 000° 12½

CATTERICK 09.12 14.35 to 11.10 17.40 thence 004° 22.

(F.O.C.W.A. 161110Z.)

FANDANGA, PICT one M/L off Marshal Is. TRUSTY, DESTIENNE DORVES 02.20 01.30 East to Equator 03.00 West 320° 12½ M/L 1013 off Sassandia, two M/Ls off Kotonu M/L 1042, 1016, off Accra M/L 263, 744, on patrol about 04.10, 02.10 BRIDGEWATER about 07.11 12.54 to Freetown, 12. CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 08.30 27.30 14. Situation at 2000Z/16th. (R.A.W.A., A161135Z).

Add to my 161135 PETUNIA, TAMARISK escorting 03.43 01.00 East 110 13. SNOWDROP escorting about 04.50 00.18 West to Takoradi 8½.

(F.O.W.A., 161218Z)

016 KUMAON, KATHIAWAR, ALLIGATOR with KELT in tow 019° 05' 012° 00' to Walvis Bay 5 knots.

WORCESTERSHIRE 016° 50' 001° 25' East to 008° 45' 014° 30' West 13.

NEWCASTLE and Destroyer with W.S.29, 028° 35' 017° 57' to 029° 00' 014° 00' thence 033° 13' 017° 36' 12½.

SPHENE, NORTHERN DAWN, HERTFORDSHIRE, with C.N. 20, 029° 20' 016° 15' coastal to W.9.

FRITILLARY, NORWICH CITY with N.C.12, 032° 00' 017° 30' to Saldanha Bay 8.

QUADRANT 032° 35' 016° 55' to rendezvous with NEWCASTLE 20.

ROCKROSE, ARCTIC EXPLORER, NORTHERN DAWN, BLAUW BERG with D.C.25, 034° 20' 023° 25' coastal to Capetown 8.

ST. ZENO DRANGY with TURFFONTEIN with C.D.18 033° 45' 027° 00' coastal to Durban 8.

ST. LOMAN, LE TIGER with L.M.D.17, 026° 55' 033° 05' coastal to Durban 8.

STELLA POLARIS, COVENTRY CITY, SONDRRA with D.N.39, 029° 35' 034° 50' to 031° 00' 038° 00' 8 knots.

KENYA, QUICKMATCH with J.M.1, 029° 25' 038° 25' to 031° S. 038° E. thence Freetown 16½ DAUNTLESS 022° 50' 041° 00' to 031° S. 038° E.

14½ TULIP escorting KHEDIVE ISMAIL 022° 40' 039° 40' to 031° S. 038° E. 10½.

(C. in C.S.A. 161217B.)

C.N.20.

Convoy C.N. 20. My 151848 para. (2). Amend date of dispersal of South American ships to read 0800B tomorrow Monday 17th. Acknowledge. (C. in C.S.A. 161123B to SPHENE (R) Admty., Connav, F.O.C., W.A.F., Ass. S.O.(I) Recife.) See 171913Z from Cominch C. and R. (America and West Indies.)

/Movements...



623

War Diary.

16.5.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Movements Freetown. Arrivals (Corrupt group) 0552/12?/5/43. BRIDGEWATER, French Ship DUMONT DURVILLE, M.Ls. 256 and 584 escorting. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 161158Z to Comar Dakar. (R) Admty., N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

ANTILOCHUS. "S" Report. My 160750 and 160845 (N.T. in W.D.) Met SS. ANTILOCHUS who states she sent an SSS at 0730. Consider this mistaken in my signal for S.O.S. Am escorting to Freetown. E.T.A. 1700Z. (BRIDGEWATER, 161218Z to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Capt. (D))

MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, RAPID. My 141117 not to Admiralty and N.C.S.O. Freetown. Expected time of sailing 0100Z/17th May MALCOLM S.O., WOLVERINE, RAPID escorting ELIZABETHVILLE to R/V with ORDUNA HAI LEE position X-Ray 004° 51' N. 001° 37' W. at 1600Z/18th thence through "Orange" route to Freetown E.T.A. 1800Z/22nd May, S. of A. 9½ knots. (N.O.I.C. Lagos, 161349Z, 170956Z to N.O.I.C. Takoradi. (R) F.O.C.W.A., N.C.S.O. Freetown, Admty.)

Movements, Lagos. Arrival 16th MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, ARRAN, VIRGINIA, RAPID, M.Ls. 266 287. (N.O.I.C. Lagos, 161417Z to Admty. etc.)

Weekly State. West African Station 15 May 1943. Dakar Area LEITH, WHIMBRELL, ANCHUSA, COREOPSIS, VIOLET, AUBRETIA, BELLWORT, WASTWATER; AMARANTHUS. Bathurst Area. BRIDGEWATER, FREETOWN, CILICIA, ALCANTARA, BULLDOG, FOXHOUND, CATTERICK, BOREAS, COWSLIP, CORINTHIAN, ARMERIA, BURDOCK, WITCH, CROCUS, CYCLAMEN, COMMANDANT DETROYAT. Takoradi Area. VIRGINIA, WOODRUFF, TAKORADI, PETUNIA, MILFORD, TAMARISK, LAGOS, THYME, SNOWDROP. Lagos Area. MALCOLM, RAPID, WOLVERINE. Duala, SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA. Point Noire Area. TRUSTY, D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, PRESIDENT HOUDUCE. Ocean Patrol, CARNARVON CASTLE. (F.O.C.W.A., 161600Z to Admty., etc.)

W.S.29. Sailed QUADRANT for escort W.S.29. (C. in C.S.A., 161646B to Admty., Cdre. i/c Durban)

Water Carrier for N. Africa. It will be necessary to withdraw one of the small water carriers from Freetown at an early date for service in North Africa. 2. Vessel of EMPIRE CADET subject to confirmation that vessel will be available in time to sail not later than S.L.130



War Diary.16.5.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Water  
Carrier  
for N.  
Africa.  
(Contd.)

3. Present indications are that water requirements of two next succeeding W.S. convoys will not exceed 3,000 and 4,000 tons respectively for five ships. Request confirmation that no insuperable difficulty need be anticipated in supplying these quantities. 4. Inform P.E.C. (D. of S.T., (Approved by 4th Sea Lord) 161706B to D.S.T.O. Freetown, (R) Commodore i/c Freetown, F.O.C.W.A., C. in C.Med.)

MALCOLM.

Your 151703 and 260850 April. Request details of MALCOLM'S defects to enable repair yard to be selected. 2. Could her return be postponed till early July when AMAZON and DOUGLAS should have joined your Command.  
(F.O.C.W.A., (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.) Reply 181154Z.

NANKING  
(sunk 29/4)

My 041706Z/May not to S.O.(I) Gibraltar.  
NANKING sunk in position 5° 10' N. 11° 10' W. at 2120Z/29th April. S.O.I. Gibraltar reports 25 survivors (including 9 British) picked up by Spanish MARIA VICTORIA landed Teneriffe in care Swedish Consul. 6 survivors landed Grand Bassa now in Freetown. (S.O.I. Freetown, 161901 to Admty., (R) C. in C.S.A., S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)

Convoy  
S.R.4 F.

Sailing telegram. (2) 1700/16th May. (3) Nil. (4) 12½ knots. (5) Route to (6) FOXHOUND S.O., BULLDOG, BOREAS, COWSLIP. Codeword "Train". (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 162105, 162130Z to Admty.)



War Diary.16.5.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- Enemy Units. P.C. and S. 1 small vessel 39.23 N. 17.10 E. course 000° speed 5 knots. Am resuming patrol (or search).  
(A/C GKK/S 160115B. to Air H.Q. Malta.)  
One enemy E-Boat in WRLM 4847 (indecypherable) course 000° speed 20 knots.  
(A/C GKK/P. 160205B. to Air H.Q. Malta.)
- M.K.S.13. Algiers section sailed as in my 111625A and 121424 plus EXILONA for Gibraltar, for U.S.A. SINCLAIR, OPALINE defective D.G. sailed with D.G. off.  
(Cdre. Algiers 160708A. to Admty. F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in C. Med. Connav. (R) Commob, Oran.)
- M.K.S.13. AGATHA, JACINTH, TORFINNJARL, GULF PRINCE (4 ships) arrived.  
(Cdre. Algiers 161031A. to Admty. F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in C. Med. Connav.)
- P.A.38. Convoy P.A.38 arrived plus JALAVEERA from Masirah.  
(N.C.S.O. Aden 160718Z. to Admty. (R) C.in C. E.F. etc.)
- B.A.43. Convoy B.A.43 arrived less ELETTA straggler.  
(N.C.S.O. Aden 160758Z. to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F. etc.)
- K.M.S.14.X. K.M.S.14.X. My 151601. In view of early arrival of K.M.S.14 at Gibraltar F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to sail K.M.S.14 X. at 1800A/May 17th. (2) Para 2. On reaching 037° 16' N. 007° 17' E. convoy is to proceed to Bone, E.T.A. 0600A/May 20th. (3) C.S.12 is requested to sail convoy again at 2100A/May 20th routed through (X.A) 037° 10' N. 008° 03' E. thence to Philippeville at 0300A/May 21st.  
(C. in C. Med. 160911A. to F.O.I.Cs. and N.O.I.Cs. French North Africa (except N.O.I.C. Casablanca.) and F.O.I.C. Gib. Admty. Connav, S.O. Force "H" Capt. (S) 8, S.O.I.S. Bizerta.)
- Movements, Alexandria. Departures 15th May HURWORTH, GROOME, ROCKWOOD, JAVELIN, KELVIN, M.L.357. ROMEO, ADRIAS, French Ships LEOPARD, LA MOQUESE.  
(S.O. (I) Alexandria 160920C. to Admty. C. in C. Levant.)
- America M.T.Bs. A.M. to C.C.F. not addressed to C. in C. Med. T.O.O. 131456. These boats are American manned M.T.Bs. sent forward by arrangement with Connavnaw. There are 8 now operating. 2. Boats are 77 foot Higgins

/Type...



626

16.5.1943.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- American M.T.Bs. (Contd.) type armed with four 18" torpedo tubes, one Oerlikon, and four  $\frac{1}{2}$ " machine guns all hand operated. They are engined by three Packards. Whole lay out is extremely simple and boats are very reliable in pleasant (? contrast) to our own.  
(C. in C. Med. 160924A. to Admty. (R) C.C.F.)
- K.A.6. Convoy K.A.6. arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. Aden 160956Z. to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F. etc.)
- DZIK. DZIK sailed 1400B/16th for patrol in area Q. routed through 035° 10' 015° 40'.  
(Capt. S.10. 161013B. to C. in C. Levant (R) 10th S/M.F. Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8, C. in C. Med.)
- ULTOR. Shift patrol to area M. at 0001B/17th.  
(Capt. S.10, 161015B/5 to P.53 (ULTOR) (R) 10th S.F. Capt. (S) 1. Capt. (S) 8, C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med.)
- Landing Craft Spares. Your 512/Med (W)/326/13 of 5th. March. Not proposed to make special shipment from U.K. of spares demanded as arrangements have already been made to ship large consignments to Algiers for operational purposes. Services of British landing craft spares sub depot at Algiers should be made available to U.S. authorities for British craft operated by American personnel and in other exceptional circumstances at your discretion. Periodical returns should be rendered to Admty. giving details of any spares so transferred.  
(D. of P. 161018B. to C. in C. Med.)
- G.U.S.7A. My 111621, delete EXILOUA and POTTER. Add GULF GEM (T) GULF PRINCE (T) for U.S.  
(Cdre. Algiers 161226A. to Commob. Oran (R) Admty. etc.)
- Movements, Aden. Arrivals 0445Z PUNJAB, CAIRNS and WOOLONGONG in company 0515Z CARTHAGE. JUMNA and GERALDTON, in company 1004 CAPETOWN.  
(Cdre. Aden 161407Z. to C. in C. Levant, F.O.R.S.C.A. S.O.I. Kilindini, S.O.I. Colombo, S.O.I. Bombay, Admty.)

/P.R.U...



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16.5.1943.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

P.R.U. May 16th Visuals 1100 Taranto 2 battleships, 2 cruisers (1 in dry dock, 1 manoeuvring 10 miles S. of harbour, no screen.) (V.A.Malta 161411B. to C.in C. Med.etc.)

Convoy T.E.21. T.E.21, arrived ZACAPA, TITUS, URUSEJARL, BOLLSTRA STAR, H.M. Tug NIMBLE. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville 161500A. to Admty.etc)

22 M.C. Flotilla. Admty. 201945 Jan and N.C.X.F. 041115 Feb. Can you now spare 22nd Motor Launch Flotilla? (C. in C. Levant 161510C. to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. C.C.F. C.F.E.) Reply: 171629.

CELENO. My 111253 C. Report B.3. CELENO bound? for Aegean due Istanbul from Black Sea within next 48 hours. (S.O. (I) Istanbul 151530C. to C. in C.Levant, S.O. (I) Levant, (R) S.I., D.N.I.)

// Enemy Battleship. One battleship in 44.05 N. 09.50 E. course 090° 0, based on fix obtained within half an hour of 1600. (A/C G00/H, 161615A. to Air H.Q. Malta.)

Small Craft in K.M.S.16. In the event of shortage of deck space in K.M.S.16, which is likely, it will be necessary to decide between shipment of 6 fast A.S.R.67 boats for R.A.F. or R.N. requirement of 4 M.T.Bs. and 2 H.D.M.Ls. . (2) Request order of priority after consultation with A.O. C. in C. Med. Air Command. (3) Air Ministry agree. (D. of P. Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 161617B. to C. in C. Med. (R) Air Min.)

TRESPASSER. Your escort will be CAVA. (2) Small convoy leaves Algiers to Eastward at 0430/17th. (3) M.Ls. on patrol E. and W. of Algiers. (Capt. S.8. 161640A. to (P.312) TRESPASSER.)

Movements, Port Said. 16th May. Port Said arrivals F.F.S. NOTRE DAME D'ETEL, H.H.M.S. AETOS, SOUTHERN SEA, ROMEO. Departure ROMEO. (N.O.I.C. Port Said 161717C. to Admty. etc.)

/French...



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16.5.1943.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.- Contd.

French  
Sedu,  
Alexandria,  
influence of  
Martinique.

Personal for 1st Sea Lord. I am not fully acquainted with situation regarding French Fleet at Martinique but press reports give me impression that drastic action against ships there may be contemplated. 2. If such action is taken before Force X has left Alexandria I feel it may cause renewed resentment in Force X and lead to further delay in sailing of Force X. 3. On the other hand, Godfroy's decision (when fully taken) to join French Navy in North Africa, and particularly the departure of his ship, might well have a favourable influence on the Fleet at Martinique. 4. Providing there are no overriding considerations I strongly recommend that drastic action should not be taken or threatened at Martinique until Force X has reached its destination. 5. Minister of State informed.  
(C. in C. Levant 161736C. to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

ESKIMO,  
TARTAR,  
ILEX.

ESKIMO, TARTAR, and ILEX leave Bone at 0530A tomorrow Monday and proceed in accordance with your 161616 (N.T. in W.D.) N.O.I.C. Bone is requested to arrange fighter protection and signal codeword.  
(C.S.12 161833A. to Capt. (D) 6, C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Bone, Capt. (S) 8, (R) V.A. Malta, S.N.O. Trip, etc.)

/ Docks for  
landing  
craft.

Now understand from local U.S. Authorities 250 (?ton) docks are unlikely to be capable of taking L.C.I. (L)s and 350 ton docks will not take L.C.T. (I) owing to excess length of craft as compared with dock. Requirements were clearly stated in my 1220/21/2 (R) B.A.D. and my 2002/4/3. Smaller docks were presumably sent because no others were available. Maintenance of landing craft will be seriously compromised if L.C.I. (L) can only be docked in the six-350 ton docks and if none of the docks will take L.C.T. (I). Trials will be carried out when the docks arrive if there is any doubt in this matter. Request additional pontoons and fittings be supplied with all despatch to convert the six 250 ton docks to six 350 ton, and to convert the six 350 ton docks into six 450 tons. The three additional docks requested in my 061156 (Hush distribution) should also be of the 450 ton size. U.S. Navy have just asked for extra docks of this size.  
(C. in C. Med. 161920A. to Admty. (R) B.A.D.) See B.A.D. 192257Z. to C. in C. Med. (America & West Indies.)

Reply: Admty 271803B.

Enemy  
Units,  
UNRULY.

One merchant ship towed by destroyer escorted by another in position 070° Catania 7, course N, 4 knots, at 1700. A/C strikes at 2245.  
(Capt. S.10 161944B. to P. 49 (UNRULY).)

/Malta...



War Diary.16.5.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta Air Reports. A.I.506. Opsum No.7. 15/16th May.  
1 Albacore with bombs and flares and 3 Albacores with bombs anti shipping Pantelleria-Marsala area with Pantelleria Harbour as secondary target. Owing to heavy mist 1 Albacore returned early. 1 Albacore dropped 2 x 250 lb. bombs on Harbour Installations at Pantelleria, mist obscured results. 3 Beauforts with torpedoes anti shipping in Area N. of Messina. 1 Beaufort is missing. 1 Wellington with torpedo anti-shipping South East of Italy. 3 Mosquitoes intruder Eastern Sicily and Southern Italy. In Italy with a Beacon Position attacked near Paola produced continuous vivid flashes. 1 Wellington made shipping search between Sicily and Naples 16th May. 2 Baltimores made shipping searches in Gulf of Taranto. 1 Spitfire photo R/C. Messina no important change. M/V 4/5000 tons photographed off Catania following attack by S/M. M/V down by stern and apparently abandoned. Second Spitfire photo R/C. Taranto 6" D. Class cruiser has left dock since 15th May. A tanker 8000 tons has left the Port.  
(A.H.Q. Malta 161950Z.)  
AI. 505 C.S.R. (A) Part 1 Offensive. (Similar to 161950Z.) Part 2 enemy air activity. Day 16th May. 16 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta.  
(A.H.Q. Malta 162151Z.)

Movements, Tripoli. Sailed KLO. Arrival WHITEHAVEN, CROMARTY, BOSTON, ROMNEY.  
(S.N.O. Trip. 161954B. to Admty.)

M.L. Flotillas. Following is a repetition of my 201122. (April?) (N.T. in W.R.) (begins). Addressed Admiralty (R) Comm. Algiers N.O.I.C. Bougie., N.O.I.C. Philippeville, N.O.I.C. Bone, C.C.F., C.F.W., S.O.I.S., Com. N.O.B. Oran from C. in C. Med.  
Your 161055. My 091040 para 3, for M.L. 491 read M.L.341.  
2. M.Ls. 567, 577, 218, 232, and 240 will form another group.  
3. Eight M.Ls. referred to in your 301231 March and two M.Ls. now allocated as spares to 22nd and 29th Flotillas to form two more groups. 4. Request Flotilla numbers may be allocated for these three groups. (Ends). Your 150625 (Originated by W.R. requesting repetition of C. in C. Meds. 201122 referred to in his 062046.) refers.  
(C. in C.Med. 162001A. to Admty.)

TYNEDALE. Arrival TYNEDALE. Departures none. C. in C. Med. pass to Comnavnaw.  
(Com. N.O.B. Oran 162030 to Admty. etc.)

Movements, Algiers. Arrivals ZETLAND, M.L.240, WHADDON, EGGESFORD, OAKLEY, LOYAL, U.S.S. P.C.546. Departures CIRCE, M.M.S.21, L.S.T.411.  
(Cdre. Algiers 162044A to Admty. etc.)

/Turkish...



16.5.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Turkish ferries. Following for Adm. Kelly. Your 111245 para.8. (111223 intended re Turkish ferries for use at Iskanderum.) Both these ferries are being employed on operational work of paramount importance in connection with North Africa campaign which on paper may appear to be completed but in fact is still making big demands on sea services. 2. On behalf of both Army and Navy I should be most grateful if these 2 ships could be retained in Eastern Med. for at least another 3 months. We must keep them for the time being.  
(C. in C. Levant 162122C. to N.A. Ankara (R) Admty. etc.)  
(As amended 162236C.)

Movements, Haifa. Arrival 16th May PROTEA, PANTHER, SOUTHERN ISLE. Departure 16th May M.T.B.60. (N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports 162143C. to Admty. etc.)

Movements, Tobruk. Arrived p.m. 15th HURSLEY, ALDENHAM, KANARIS. Sailed to-day HURSLEY, ALDENHAM, KANARIS, WAR KRISHNA. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk 162248C. to Admty.)

Movements, Malta. Arrivals DULVERTON, EXMOOR, MIAOULES M.T.Bs. 268, 313. Departures BEAUFORT, EASTON, DARICA 6th. Departure and arrival PINDOS. (V.A. Malta 162308B. to Admty. etc.)



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War Diary.16.5.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

## Movements

Colombo arrivals 15th 1030Z BALTA.  
 Departures 0900Z WILLEM VAN DER ZAAN. 0902Z SCOUT.  
 Arrivals 16th Nil. Departure 0250Z CERES.  
 (F.O. Ceylon, 161209 to Admty. C. in C. E.F. F.O.C.R.I.N., F.O.C.R.S.F.)

Aircraft  
Repair Yards.

Following as requested in your 060835 (N.T. in W.R.) para. 3. A. Kayattar is not suitable for development as repair yard due to bad communication and bad weather conditions.  
**Proposals.**  
 (Comnas, 160609Z to R.A.N.A.S., Indian Ocean, (R) Admty. C. in C. Ceylon, F.O. Ceylon).

CHRISTIAN  
HUYGENS.

Para. 2 and 3 of your 130205B. CHRISTIAN HUYGENS is armed with one 4" B.L. three 12 pounders and 8 Oerlikons. B.E.M.S. consider ship fully armed. In view of above will use ship for one voyage from Karachi to Bombay with 500 Polish families sailing 21st May before proceeding Suez. (P.S.T.O.I., 160629Z to D.S.T. (R) P.S.T.O. M.E., C. in C, E.F., F.O.C.R.I.N.)

## Dispositions

Eastern Fleet disposition signal No. 56.  
 (A) RESOLUTION refitting Durban. Others no change. (C) SUSSEX leaves 17th for Mauritius. (D) HAWKINS, MAURITIUS at Kilindini. DAUNTLESS to Durban. CERES to Bombay. CAPETOWN to Aden. Others no change. (E) Available units exercising off Kilindini.  
 (C. in C. E.F., 160735Z to C. in C. S.A. etc).

Martlet  
and Seafire  
A/C.

In reply to your 081928 May, following will be available: (A) 15 Martlets IV all fitted with R. 1196 (?), (?R) R 1147. (?All deficient of modification 325).

(B) 10 Seafires. All fitted with (?R) 1304, R. 3108, R. 1147. 8 fitted Spitfire modification 650 and Merlin modification 386, but latter

(?requires) size of R.A.E. fuel restriction hole to complete. 2 deficient of Merlin modifications 386 and Spitfire modification 650.

10 deficient of Spitfire modification 497.

(2) (?Request) above deficiencies may be met and requisite modifications despatched by air to Egypt. (?4) of the 6 sets (?mentioned) in Nairobi's 111158 May are not now required.

Nairobi's 110931 May also refers.

(R.A.N.A.S. (Indian Ocean) 160841Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Levant C. in C. Med., C.O.N.A.S. Egypt, R.N.A.R. Yard Nairobi).

Your 100801Z. Request early information regarding anticipated number of aircraft which will be available.

(D.N.A.O. 161156B to R.A.N.A.S. I.O., (R) C. in C. E.F. C. in C. Levant).

/Troop...



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16.5.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

Troop  
Movements.

Confirmed that escort will be provided for convoys para. 2 and 3 of Admty's 151832B refers.  
(2) Colombo will be used for transhipment.  
(3) Remarks in para. 4 (C) of your 151832B are noted.  
(C. in C. E.F., 160945Z to Admty. F.O. Ceylon, F.O.C.R.I.N., C. in C. S.A.)

LUCIA  
trials with  
S. African  
coal.

(?Harbour) trials using South African coal in LUCIA's boilers confirm that ship is unable to proceed to sea until supplies of Welsh coal are available. South African coal has also proved unsuitable for auxiliary steaming in harbour.

2. Request arrangements may be made for an early supply of Welsh coal and date of report when supplies may be expected at Kilindini. My 071242 May refers.

3. Ship has sufficient Welsh coal on board for 21 days auxiliary steam.

4. Report on trials is being forwarded by air mail.

(C. in C. E.F., 160959Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, F.O.E.A., LUCIA, N.S.T. Kilindini).



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War Diary.16.5.1945.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.?U/B  
contact.BROCKVILLE has doubtful contact and H.E. in position  $44^{\circ} 08' 62^{\circ} 49'$  (A)  
(LINCOLN 160015Z to C. in C. C.N.W.At.(R)  
D.Halifax.)

U/B.

Sub. sighted by Fisherman in  $47.03$  N.  $62.02$  W.  
at 1815Z travelling south west. (Graded B.3)  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 160330Z to G.B.7A)U/B  
attacked  
by A/C.My 152147 aircraft attacked periscope. No  
evidence of damage.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 160336Z to G.B.7A)

Movements.

St. Johns N.F. 15th arrivals - NIAGARA, MATAPEDIA,  
MONCTON, KENORA ex S.C. 130 Departures - NAPANEE,  
GEORGIC, PORT HOPE Escorting C.L.64 to Sydney  
MONTGOMERY, FENNEL, NANAIMO, NORANDA to O.N.182.  
(N.O.I.C.St. Johns N.F. 160419Z to Admty)Arrivals M.M.S.197, 198, 200 from Shelburne.  
(Com. Halifax, 161355Z to Admty)New Orleans 14th CUBA (U.S.A.T.) Kingston, 19th FLORIDA  
(U.S.A.T.) Guantanamo 19th for Bahia.  
(N.S.H.Q. 161725Z to Admty)Floating  
Dock  
Montevideo.Masta 5969. Mast 48. (1) Our Mast 5906  
para 7 regarding Montevideo dock. Ministry's  
representative at Bahia suggests that it might  
be preferable to arrange an exchange of this dock  
with one which U.S.A. Navy are sending to Bahia  
the latter being sent to North Africa instead.(2) No doubt a new dock would be a safer towing proposition  
than the older one. Can you (a) state dimensions of Navy  
dock (b) whether it is ready to move to Bahia (c) whether if  
U.S. Navy dock is suitable for North Africa proposed exchange  
is likely to be considered by U.S. Navy Authorities.(M. of W.T. 160435 to B.M.S.M. Via Sparks, New York,  
(R) Perrin, Bahia, (Through B.R.L.O. Bahia))

Dispositions.

This is Cinclant's 151459. Location Sheet  
No 44 May 17 Lantfleet. Argentina: TUSCALOOSA,  
RANGER, AUGUSTA, 5 Destroyers. Casco Bay:  
B.B. NEW YORK.  
(Comnaveu, 160831 to Admty)Movements  
Summary  
1800  
G.M.T.16th.CARNARVON CASTLE  $08^{\circ}$  N.  $28^{\circ}$  W on patrol.  
(D.O.D.(F) 160944Z to Opnav (R) Comnaveu)U/B  
attacked  
by A/C.A/C attacked S/M in  $047^{\circ} 07'$  N.  $062^{\circ} 40'$  W. at  
0845Z.  
(C. in C. C.N.W.A. 161013Z to G.B.7, A.G.B.7A)

My /...



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16.5.1943.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

U/B  
attacked  
by A/C  
(Contd.) My 161032 (161013 intended) aircraft sighted increasing patch of oil two miles long.  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile wide in  $47^{\circ} 07' N.$   $62^{\circ} 40' W.$  at 1300Z.  
(C. in C. C.N.W.A. 161330Z to G.B. 7, A.G.B.7AG)

UGANDA. Argentinia 14th. Departure 1030Z UGANDA.  
(Capt. (D) Argentinia, 161214Z to Admty. (R)  
C. in C. W.A., B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F.,  
C. in C.C.N.A.)

ARCHER's  
A/C. Following is an extract of report received by signal from ARCHER "No trouble experienced in operating aircraft inside convoy screen although wind was from an unfavourable quarter. (2) No U-Boat sightings. (3) Good 2 way communication by aircraft with Carrier and escort up to 80 miles on R/T convoy wave but congestion on this wave makes a second channel very necessary."  
(D.O.D.(H), 161345B to B.A.D.)

U/B  
sighted  
by A/C. A/C sighted S/M in  $46.57 N.$   $63.08 W.$  at 1345Z.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 161415Z to G.B.7 A.G.)

C.T.G.02.6  
SNOWBERRY. Compliance Cominch 111353Z May about 1600Q May 16 is proceed Halifax direct. Point A Charleston Buoy 2 AC. Point B  $33.45 N.$   $74.30 W.$  Point C Sambo Lightship thence via Swept Channel to destination. S. of A. 12. Latest QJC message held 136 QJA, 199.  
(C.T.G. 02.6, 161455 to SNOWBERRY (R) Cominch, C.E.S.F., C.T.F.24, N.S.H.Q. etc.)

N.S.H.Q.  
S/M  
Estimate. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa estimate of S/M's North of 40 North West of 40 West 1200Z/16th May.  
(N.S.H.Q.161534Z)

S/M estimate  
16th May.  
U.S. S/M  
Notice. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 161541, 161542, 161605, 161606Z, 161607)

S.Q.47. Arrived Red Islet.  
(N.C.S.O. Quebec, 161545 to N.C.S.O. Sydney (R) Admty. etc.)

X Support  
Groups  
and  
Convoy  
Cycles. For 1st S.L. from V.C.N.S.  
Recent experience has clearly demonstrated the great value of support groups both as a protection to convoys and as killers of U-Boats. We want to have sufficient support groups to be able to re-inforce every convoy escort during the passage of more dangerous areas of the

North /...



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16.5.1943.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Support  
Groups  
and  
Convoy  
Cycles  
(Contd.)

North Atlantic routes. (2) During the month of June it is estimated by the M.O.W.T. that, including "Bolero" we shall have to escort some 470 ships in H.X. and S.C. convoys in the proportion of roughly 3 H.X. ships and 2 S.C. ships. (3) If the H.X./O.N. cycle was opened to  $7\frac{1}{2}$  days and that the S.C. cycle was maintained at 11 days the average number of ships in both H.X. and S.C. convoys would be 70 and it is anticipated that the numbers in O.N. and O.N.S. convoys would be somewhat smaller. (4) In June the C. in C. W.A. will have fully operative 20 groups, including the existing support groups (less the Home Fleet destroyers), the BOGUE and the Canadian support group. Four groups are required for close escort of O.S/S.L convoys and nine for close escort of trans-Atlantic convoys on the cycle proposed in (2) above leaving 7 spare groups for strategic use in both North and East Atlantic convoys. (5) No reliable figures are available for July sailings and it is intended to consider in the middle of each month the requirements of the following month. (6) The M.O.W.T. concur with the foregoing subject to the limit of 80 ships in H.X. convoys being raised if and when necessary. (7) Under the above scheme the British Escort Carriers will not be able to have their own escort separate from the support groups. If any further U.S. assistance could be provided with such escorts, thus greatly enhancing their value. (8) Your approval is requested to the raising of numbers of ships in H.X. convoys, vide para. 6 if this actually becomes necessary which I am inclined to doubt. I should also be glad of B.A.D's remarks after consultation as necessary with Cominch and N.S.H.Q.  
(V.C.N.S. 161550B to B.A.D.)

U/B.

Sighted S/M in  $049^{\circ}$  N.  $063^{\circ}$   $00'$  W. at 1540Z.  
(C. in C. C.N.W.A. 161559Z to G.B.7A.G.)

Dispositions. Section South West (?SEAWOLF) now being escorted by ALBERNI, ELK, REINDEER  $43.40$   $64.41$  to  $43.13$  N.  $65.23$  W.  $43.12$  N.  $66.00$  W.  $43.50$  N.  $66.39$  W.  $44.22$  N.  $66.33$  W. thence DIGBY Speed 10.  
O.N.S.6 W 3  $44.39$   $60.38$   $260^{\circ}$  7.5 altering to  $270^{\circ}$  in  $62.00$  W.  
Section South West Halifax Ships detaching  $44.30$   $62.48$   
LADY NELSON  $43.02$   $58.39$   $268^{\circ}$  13 altering to  $295^{\circ}$  in  $60.00$  W. to  $63.00$  W. thence Halifax.  
H.S.85 BRANTFORD, NIPIGON  $45.56$   $59.15$   $340^{\circ}$   $7\frac{1}{2}$  altering to (?268)(Alternative  $253^{\circ}$ ) in  $46.31$  N.  
Section South West Halifax portion H.X. 239 W 9 vicinity  $44.02$   $62.40$  to Halifax 9.5 knots. S.H. 80 A CHARNY BAFFIN  $44.30$   $62.49$   $270^{\circ}$  8 77th M.L. Flotilla Halifax Approaches in bound B.Y.M.S.68,31, 186, 187, 209, 42.36 68.01  $088^{\circ}$  10 altering to  $042^{\circ}$  in  $65.08$  N.  
Section South West H.F.54 SWIFT CURRENT  $44.42$   $66.25$   $022^{\circ}$  7.5. ARRAS vicinity  $44.15$   $64.00$  to Halifax coastwise 7 knots.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 161615Z)

My /...



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16.5.1943.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Dispositions My 161615Z add KAMSACK, DUNDAS, BLAIRMORE depart  
(Contd.) Halifax 2230Z/16th to carry out A/S sweep  
(?230° or 90°) one mile (?from) SCOVEBRO light  
vessel thence 142° 36 miles and reverse speed  
12 E.T.A. SCOVEBRO light vessel 0630Z/17th.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 161710Z)

My 161615Z add A:T.43 departs Chebucto Head 0600Z/17th course  
142° altering to 101° in 43 N. 62 W. Speed 19.5 knots.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 161905Z)

U/B. A.D.C. reports S/M on surface in 46.23 N. 64.09  
W. at 1726Z.  
(C. in C. C.N.W.A. 161754Z to G.B.7A.G)

Air A.713 16 May. Operations. 15 May 1943.  
Report, (B) Enemy sightings 1. Hudson B3 of 31 OTU  
Canada. sighted periscope at 2046 G.M.T. in 42.08 N.  
64.28 W. U-Boat on course 060° at about 6 knots.  
Attack immediately carried out from astern up  
track with 4 D/Cs. Periscope visible when  
attack made but not after attack. A/C left scene and  
returned in about 10 minutes but no further evidence of U-Boat  
or wreckage. Preliminary assessment possibly damaged.  
(A.O. C. in C. E.A.C. Canada, 161830Z)

B.Y.M.S. My 150150 B.Y.M.S. 68, 31, 186, 187, 209.  
Departure delayed 24 hours.  
(C.T.G.02.1, 161913Z to C.E.S.F.)

Ships It has been proposed that 4 U.S.A. ships in W.S.  
for P.O.W. 30 ex U.G.F.7 and 5 U.S. ships in W.S.31 ex  
for U.G.F.8 should load up to 500 prisoners in each  
North ship for North America at the Cape and then  
America. proceed to Casablanca to load prisoners to  
permissible limits. (2) It is considered  
that these valuable ships should be escorted in  
the vicinity of Casablanca and should avoid  
calling at Freetown if possible. (3) It is proposed that  
C. in C. South Atlantic should provide escort as necessary  
till clear of the Cape. (4) As no British escorts will be  
available in the Freetown or Gibraltar area at this time,  
request confirmation that (a) Endurance of these ships will  
permit direct passage Cape to Casablanca. (b) Escort will  
be available from U.S. sources to escort them in to Casablanca.  
(c) Escort from Casablanca to U.S.A. will be provided by U.S.A.  
(D.O.D.(F) 161913B to Cominch, C. in C. S.A. (R) C. in C. Med,  
F.O.C.Gibraltar. F.O.C. West Africa, Commorseafron, B.A.D.)

Convoy O.N.182 became scattered during dense fog last  
O.N.182. night 15th on turning over to local escort 38  
ships were in sight. Estimate WETASKIWIN has  
8 stragglers in company. See my 161922Z  
(N.T. in W.D.). GOTHLAND with convoy proceeding  
Halifax. Am searching for TUDOR PRINCE with escort.  
(H.M.C.S.Ottawa, 161925Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) F.O.N.F.,  
WETASKIWIN, MONTGOMERY)

Sub /...



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16.5.1945.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Sub.attack and sighting summary. All times Z. (B) O.S.2U plane attacks sub. course 190 23.22 N. 80.18 W. 152050. (C) R.A.F. plane attacks sub. 47.07 N. 62.40 W. 160845. Patrol plane attacks sub. 11.05 S. 36.06 W. 161700. K.40 Radar contact 23.13 N. 79.02 W. 150320. Hudson plane attacks sub. 42.08 N. 64.30 W. 152101. (D) Quonset plane attacks sub. 39.48 N. 69.28 W. 161300. SANDWICH sights sub. 28.15 N. 85.30 W. 161338. Surface vessel attacks sub. contact 23.17 N. 74.26 W. 160230. Plane sights periscope 48.47 N. 68.24 W. 152113. Fisherman sights sub. 47.03 N. 62.02 W. 151815. Periscope reported area 10.40 N. 61.40 W. 151741. Aircraft sights sub. 47.24 N. 63.49 W. 151724. Coast-Watchers sight sub. 46.30 N. 62.10 W. 151300. Sound contact reported 47.07 N. 54.21 W. 151522.  
(Cominch, 162045Z to Admty)

Ice Bulletin basis. Comtask 24 132025 Ice Bulletin gives Southern limit of pack ice on 48° N. LA MALBAIE lost dome in 47° 20' N. Routeing of LA MALBAIE to overtake H.X. 238 not known in Admiralty but it would appear that F.O.N.F.'s estimate of limits of pack ice while less optimistic than Comtask 24 was still too sanguine. Naval Meteorological Service estimates considerable risk of pack ice North of 46° N. and W. of 46° W. in area eastward of Cape Race. (2) In view of importance of accurate and up to date knowledge to U.K. routeing authorities, request some indication may be given whether the daily bulletin is generally based on complete aerial R/C or is partially estimated. Reduction in the available number of ocean escorts through ice damage close to shore is a matter of some concern.  
(A.C.N.S.(H), 162045B to C. in C. C.N.W.A. (R) C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., Com. (D) Argentia.)

U/B. A/C reports sighting probable S/M in 47.04 N. 63.03 W. at 1640Z.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 162120Z to G.B.7A G.)

Convoy H.F.54. Arrived less BORGHOLM.  
(N.C.S.O.St. John N.B, 162155Z to Admty)

SNOWBERRY. SNOWBERRY departed Charleston 1730Q for Halifax.  
(C.T.G.2.6, 162359Z to C.E.S.F.)

U/B's. 2 S/Ms sighted by coast watchers in 44.17 N. 66.10 W. at 2150Z.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 162220Z to G.B.7A)

NIPIGON. E.T.A. 170530Z.  
(NIPIGON, 162250Z to N.O.I.C.Sydney C.B.)



War Diary.16.5.1945.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.Digest  
481 of  
15th May.

X At 0745 local time 7 merchantmen all under 1000 tons and 2 escort vessels sighted 10 miles west of Arawe course 90°. Eight Beaufighters fourteen B.25's six Fortresses despatched to attack but unable locate target due heavy weather front. Four Beaufighters located and attacked S/M 60 miles south of Gasmata. (2) Noon R/C Liberator observed 1 destroyer Kavieng area. Over Gasmata evaded three Zeros. (7) Morning photos reveal nil sizeable shipping Wewak Harbour, 1 coaster 12 barges off. (12) Same time 4 Liberators 6 Fortresses raided Vunakanau Aerodrome causing fires and explosions in dispersal and barracks areas. 13 ships (Note?) Simpston's Harbour and 2 Talili Bay. (13) Hospital ship CENTAUR 3200 tons sunk by torpedo before dawn 14th May 50 miles east of Brisbane. No evidence of sinking until 35 hours later when 55 men and 1 Nurse rescued out of total 326 aboard including nil wounded indications submarine within 50 miles of 20° S. 156° E. at 151327Z. (14) Morning 15th three Liberators struck Nabire starting big fuel fire and damaging dump area. Photos reveal nil aircraft on Aerodrome where runway being oiled. New pier great quantity constructional material, 40 motor vehicles visible. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A.160912Z)

Movements.

Arrival 15th May Townsville R.A.A.F. Store Ship WANAKA R.A.F.A., AASE MAERSK Hired Transport KATOOMBA U.S. Transports CREMER ANHUI 16th Port Moresby U.S. Transport BOTH VAN HEUTSZ. Dutch Naval Store Ship MINJAK TANAH for exercise Brisbane 15th due Cairns 22nd.

(C.W.S.P.S.F. 161512Z to Admt)

Arrivals Fremantle 15th, Job Number 51 VAN GALEN. Townsville 15th KATOOMBA, WAGGA, BROOME. Port Moresby 15th WARRAMUNGA, SWAN.

Brisbane 15th U.S.D. GILMER 16th U.S.D. MAHAN

Sydney (N.S.W.) 15th - U.S.D. HENLEY, BALLARAT.

Departures. Newcastle 15th BUNDABERG, KALGOURLIE escort duty.

Sydney (N.S.W.) 15th MORESBY on escort duty BUNGAREE for Geelong F.S. CHEVREUIL for on passage U.S. HENRY T. ALLEN for Brisbane COLAV, TOWNSVILLE, MILDURA, BENDIGO, U.S.D. Tender RIGEL for Brisbane. Fremantle 15th AROTTA for Milne Bay Brisbane U.S.D. HELM for Sydney (N.S.W) 16th U.S.D. MUGFORD for Townsville.

Melbourne 16th ADELAIDE escort duty to Fremantle.

(A.C.N.B. 162046Z to A.I.G.115)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.

(D.D.I.C. 161403B, 161406B)



17.5.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Patrol  
SA.

1. M.T.Bs. 626, 653 and 620 (S.O.) sailed from Lerwick at 1400 today. The two latter vessels will act in support, 50 miles from the coast of Norway. The three M.T.Bs. returned to Lerwick at 1300/18.

X 2. TUNA and STUBBORN sailed from Lerwick, and TRUCULENT, SURF and SHAD left their present patrol positions to establish the Greenland Sea patrol (see 15 May), during this morning.

U/B attack  
on O.N.S.7.

X 3. Convoy O.N.S.7 was attacked by U-boat at 0037Z today and S.S. AYMERIC (British 5196 tons) was torpedoed. SWALE counter attacked.

U/B  
attacked.

X 4. At 2307 today in 62 degs. 10' N. (15.30 W or 14.30 W) aircraft J/269 from Iceland attacked with 4 depth charges a U-boat on the surface steering west at 7 knots, one minute after the attack a hundred foot cloud of grey smoke with an oily smell was seen over the area of attack, and 30 seconds later considerable oil was seen mixed with debris composed of some white objects and long narrow reddish objects about 6 ft. long, apparently of wood.

X 5. About 200 Aircraft of U.S.A.VIII Bomber Command today attacked the port areas of Keroman (Lorient), Lorient and Bordeaux. At the latter port, photographs taken during the attack show damage to dock No.2. The inner gates of the two entrance locks and the quay on the southern side of the docks collapsed, two submarines lying alongside Basin No.1. were damaged.

X 6. 51 Aircraft of Bomber Command laid 156 mines off the Frisian Islands and Biscay ports.

North Atlantic.

Fire at  
Ferrol  
Dockyard

7. N.A. Madrid reports that a very serious fire at Ferrol Dockyard has destroyed much equipment and irreplaceable electrical gear and that, as a result the Spanish cruisers GALICIA and

/MENDEZ...



17.5.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

Fire at  
Ferrol  
Dockyard  
(Contd.).

MENDEZ NUNEZ and destroyers ALSEDO, MIGUEL DE CERVANTES, and JUAN LA ZAGA are unlikely to be serviceable until after the war. It was reported in the Press that a mutiny occurred in the Spanish Fleet, but this was stated by N.A. Madrid to be incorrect.

South Atlantic.

U.128  
vs. Brazilian.

8. U.S. aircraft and destroyers sank a German 740 ton type U-boat at 1313Z today in 11.08 S. 35.38 W. (about 180 miles S. by W. of Recife) 47 survivors were landed at Recife. Another report says 70 prisoners were taken. The destroyers were MOFFETT and JOUETT.

9. M.V. NORTHMOOR (British 4392 tons) in escorted group was torpedoed and sunk by a U-boat in position reported to be 28.27 S. 32.43 E (about 120 miles north-east of Durban).

Mediterranean.

First  
through  
Mediterranean  
convoy  
sails.

10. The first through convoy K.M.14X from Gibraltar to Alexandria since the entry of Italy into the war, sailed from Gibraltar this evening, (see 15 May).

Bizerta.

11. C. in C. Med. sends today a preliminary report on the condition of Ferryville. A further report on Ferryville and port conditions at Bizerta and Tunis was sent on 23rd May. There are 23 ships and vessels sunk at the mouth of the Bizerta canal. By 23rd a passage 20 ft. deep and 85 ft. wide had been cleared and in a few weeks time there should be a passage for Liberty ships; the submarine, destroyer and seaplane bases are usable. At Ferryville, there is widespread damage in the dockyard and many

/wrecks...



17.5.1943:  
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Bizerta  
(Contd.).

wrecks in the harbour.  
The Tunis canal is partially blocked and will be cleared in 6 weeks.

X Minelaying  
in Tunisian  
campaign.

12. C. in C. Med. reports that an appreciable contribution to the campaign in Tunisia was made by minelaying carried out under improvised arrangements by the 10th M.T.B. Flotilla under command of Lieut. Jermain D.S.O. R.N. using American mines, with the assistance of a naval minelaying party under Lieut. Comdr. John Kremer U.S.Navy.

X 13. About 20 Wellingtons of N.A.A.F. attacked the seaplane base at Lido di Roma last night. The seaplane base and hangars were hit and many fires started.

America and West Indies.

Convoy  
cycles.

14. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa report that at the present time convoy cycles make a dangerous concentration near Westomp approximately every 11 days and that more even distribution of dates of arrival at Westomp would also eliminate the long lie over at St. Johns N.F. of Western Local groups and also allow for better use of group training and boiler cleaning facilities at Halifax.

X Aleutians  
operations.

15. Bad weather in the Aleutians is still hampering operations at Attu. The enemy strength is estimated at about 15000. Four ships were completely unloaded by p.m./15; the unloading of the remainder continues.

Australia and New Zealand.

16. Liberty ship WILLIAM K. VANDERBILT made a submarine distress signal today in 18.41 S. 175.07 E. Connav reports that she was torpedoed and Comnav reported that she sank.



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17.5.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Polish  
Ships  
and  
Nationals.

It is not desirable at present that Polish Warships should visit Russian ports, and contact between Polish and Russian nationals should be avoided as far as is practicable.  
(V.C.N.S.171358B to C. in C. H.F. W.A.Plymouth, Med.)

10th  
M.G.B.  
Flotilla.

M.G.B's 119, 120 and 121 plus 5 others to be nominated later are to form the 10th M.G.B. Flotilla based at Lowestoft.  
(D.D.O.D.(C), 171646B to C. in C. Nore)

Movements.

S/M  
Movements.

Intend sailing SATYR escorted by LOCH MONTEITH at 0830B/18 to 36 buoy routed 089° Sumburgh Head 5 and 091° Fair Island 6, E.T.A.2100B/18.  
(2) A.C.O.S. is requested to sail ULA with escort to this rendezvous STUMP, LOCH MONTEITH,

SATYR and ULA to Dundee by searched channels, speed 9, E.T.A. 1430B/11th.

(S.O.S/M Lerwick, 171103B)

Intend to sail MINERVE escorted by R.M.L.548 at 0600B/19 May for Dundee, E.T.A. 1700B.

(Capt. S.6, 171155B to Capt. S.9)

My 162236 para. (K). THRASHER escorted by Chasers 10 and 13 now proceeding Dartmouth.

(F.O.S.171424B to Admty)

S.O.Submarines Lerwick 17/1103B. Intend sailing ULA escorted by SCALBY WYKE to R/V LOCH MONTEITH and SATYR 36 buoy at 2100B/18.

(A.C.O.S.171718B to Capt. (S) 9.)

Positions of S/M's at 0800/18 and movements for following 24 hours

(F.O.S.171749B, 172314, 191031B)

Your 171649B. Arrived 0.9.

(SEAHAWK, 172035B to N.O.I.C.Campbeltown.)

T.F.61.  
SCYLLA.

Your 161855B. E.T.A. latitude 058° 45' 1200B/19th

(2) Intend proceed via Irish Sea and west of Hebrides along longitude 008° W. (3) Cominch pass to T.F.61.

(SCYLLA, 171226B to C. in C. H.F.)

Request all operational signals with regard to Task Force 61 be addressed to Cominch and Cinclant for information.

(Comnavcu, 171431Z to Admty)

Upon receipt of this despatch operational control C.T.F.61 passes to Admiralty.

(Comnavcu, 171528Z to Admty)

Cancel my 151721B. Intend to sail SCYLLA at 0630B/18 to Scapa through Irish Sea and west of Hebrides. S.O.A.20½ knots.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 171622B to Admty, A.C.O.S.)



17.5.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.- Contd.

BARBERRY, F.O.I.C.Greenock is requested to make arrangements for boom vessels BARBERRY and BAROVA for Mediterranean and BARNABY for Eastern Fleet to be included in L.C. Flight F sailing from Plymouth on 1st June.  
(D.B.D. 171331B)

BATTLE. BATTLE is required to ferry 20 Seafires to Gibraltar, leaving U.K. about 6th June.  
(2) Escort will be provided by TYRIAN and TUMULT.  
(A.C.N.S.(H), 171551B to C. in C. W.A.)

ANSON. Scapa arrivals ANSON, INTREPID, MIDDLETON, ECHO.  
(A.C.O.S. 172035)

Operations.

Greenland Sea S/M Patrols. TUNA sailed from Lerwick 0558B/17 unescorted and on surface at C.O. discretion through 090° Muckle Flugga 5 miles, thence direct patrol line EE.  
(S.O.S/M Lerwick, 170603)  
STUBBORN sailed 1002B/17 through 090° Muckle Flugga 15 miles to patrol line GG. Unescorted and on the surface at C.O. discretion.  
(S.O.S/M Lerwick, 171035B)

Coastal Force Patrols. My 161111B "Device" returned.  
(F.O.I.C.Portland, 170630B)  
(1) Intend M/L's 205 (S.O) and 246 to patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W and 02° 25' W. (2) Leave Portland at 2145 via Q.Z.S. 382 and leave patrol line at dawn/18.  
(3) Object. Anti E-Boat patrol. Codeword "Jovial"  
(F.O.I.C.Portland, 171057B)  
(1) M.G.B's 111, 115, 81 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 2330 B, leave patrol for Dartmouth 0500B. (4) Codeword "Bailey".  
(6) M.T.B's 98 and 227 are to patrol on latitude 49° N. between 3° 20' W. and 3° 35' W. (7) Object. To intercept enemy shipping. (8) Leave Dartmouth for patrol 2200B, speed on passage 24 knots. Leave patrol to be within 20 miles of own coast by first light 18th. (10) Codeword "Gibson".  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 171501B)  
Patrols tonight. (A) 2 M.G.B's Z.52. (B) 2 M.G.B's Z.54. (C) 2 M.L's Z.19. (D) 2 R.M.L's Z.15. (E) 3 M.G.B's Z.13. (F) 2 M.L's Z.10. (G) 2 M.L's Z.7. (H) 2 M.G.B's Z.5.  
(C. in C. Nore, 171546B)  
(1) S.G.B. 6, M.G.B. 614, M.T.B. 247 and 250 are to proceed for exercises tonight. (2) Pass C.2.A. Buoy at 2245B to exercise in latitude 50° 15' N, between 00° 50' W. and 00° 05' W. (3) Return so as to be within 20 miles of our coast by daylight. Force is not to be east of longitude 00° 00' or North of latitude 50° 20' N. before 0430B.

(4) /...



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Coastal Force Patrols. (Contd.)

(4) If destroyer patrol is ordered to intercept enemy, Force is to withdraw with despatch to Newhaven without regard to restrictions in para. 3. My 171701B refers. (5) If any of the force is compelled to return to Newhaven before daylight destroyer patrol is to be warned. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 171659B)

BLEASDALE, ALBRIGHTON, LA COMBATTANTE are to proceed by convoy route to eastward to arrive C.2 A. buoy at 2300B/17 and thence proceed to patrol in vicinity of position TT. Leave patrol so as to pass C.3 buoy at 0430B and return to Portsmouth.

(2) Air R/C 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 2 though passage 4 may be used for return if in that vicinity towards dawn.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 171701B to Capt. D.1)

(2) S.G.B.6, M.G.B. 614, M.T.B. 247, 250 from Newhaven.

Exercising on 50° 15' N. between 00° 50' W. and 00° 05' W.

(3) M.L.309, 464 patrolling southward of E.A.5 buoy.

(4) CHASSEUR 41 at St. Helens. KINGSTON TOPAZ at Yarmouth.

(5) 2 M.L.'s from Portland patrolling 50° 20' N. between 1° 45' W and 2° 25' W. (6) BLEASDALE (S.O) LA COMBATTANTE and ALBRIGHTON patrolling 15 miles South of Beachy Head.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 171703B)

Operation "KK"

Admiralty letter M.01720/43 of 30th April 1943. Intend to carry out operation "KK" on 20th and 21st May, LOCUST starting from Portsmouth on each day. The services of a Surveying Officer are gratefully accepted. He should join

LOCUST at Portsmouth 19th May.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 171012B to Admty)

(1) Intend to carry out operation "KK" on 20th and 21st May with following amendments. (2) "KK" Part I. LOCUST is to sail from Portsmouth at daylight 20th May to C.2 buoy thence carrying out calibration run as arranged and returning to Yarmouth. (3) "KK" Part II. 21st May as previously arranged.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 171038B)

Mid-Atlantic S/M Patrol.

My 151232. From position (c) proceed on surface to (d) 058° 30' 039° 01' at 0001B/19, thence as much as practicable diving by day through (e) 056° 30', 044° 02' at 0001B/21 and (X) 054° 01', 041° 59' at 1200B/22 to patrol in square A.1.

(F.O.S.171132B to HERRING)

Your 161310 para.2. Request you route HADDO from 180° Barra Head 8 miles on the surface through (H) 058° 01' 015° 45' at 2000/19th. (J) 057° 40' 021° 01' at 2000/20th. (K) 057° 30' 028° 02' at 1800/21st thence dive by day as much as practicable to W.055° N. 037° W. at 0001/25 and patrol in square A.3. Times Zone B.

(F.O.S.171206B to Comsubron S.O)

My /...



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Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Mid-Atlantic S/M Patrols. (Contd.) My 171134. (1) (a) Total lines 20. (b) Position C. to D. from 0400/18 to 0400/19. D. to E. from 2000/18 to 0400/21 E. to F. from 2000/20 to 1600/22. (F.O.S.171431B to H.Q.C.C. (R) HERRING)

Patrol S.A. M.T.Bs 626, 653, 620 (S.O) sailed. My 091346B/5, at 1400 2 latter acting in support 50 miles from Norwegian Coast. (A.C.O.S.171431B to Admty)

S/M Patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800/18th and movements for following 24 hours. All times Zone B.  
(a) TRUCULENT 65° 40' N. 08° 58' W. through 64° 59' N. 07° 20' W. to patrol vicinity 64° 36' N. 07° 30' W.  
(b) SURF approx. 65° 01' N. 07° 20' W. to patrol vicinity 64° 42' N. 05° 26' W.  
(c) SHAD approx. 65° 05' N. 02° 15' W. to patrol vicinity 64° 50' N. 01° 30' W.  
(d) TUNA on patrol vicinity of 64° 21' N. 00° 54' E.  
(e) STUBBORN on patrol vicinity 62° 51' N. 02° 31' E.  
(f) HERRING 60° 10' N. 34° 40' W. through 60° N. 35° W. and 58° 30' N. 39° 02' W. thence probably diving by day through 56° 30' N. 43° 59' W. to 54° N. 42° W.  
(g) HADDO escorted by WAVENEY leaves Clyde 1000/18th for 180 Barra Head 8 miles, E.T.A. 2300/18, thence unescorted on the surface through 57° 58' N. 13° 45' W. thence to Westward.  
(k) UNSPARING 44° N. 10° W. dived by day to Southward, crossing 43° N. at 0600/19th.  
(l) TRIBUNE 43° 02' N. 10° 28' W. dived by day through 44° 20' N. 10° 28' W. thence to Eastward. (F.O.S.171749B to Admty)

Allied Air Activity.

A/C in distress. Am proceeding to Flying Fortress in 082° Eddystone 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ . (Goathland, 171351 to Ships)

Enemy Air Activity.

A/C attacked. Am being attacked by 4 JU.88's in 46° 02' N. 09° 15' W. (A/C.O. of 461 Sqdn. 172124B to 19 Group)

Mining.

X Operation "Hostile A" Arrived LIMBOURNE, WENSLEYDALE, QUORN, MELBREAK, CATTISTOCK, KRAKOWIAK. (C. in C. Plymouth, 170845)

S.N.111B. Intend to carry out operation S.N.111 B as follows  
(A) Deep minefields from southward to northward  
AGAMEMNON /...



War Diary.

17.5.1943.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

S.N.111 B. AGAMEMNON, PORT QUEBEC, CASTLETON, NEWARK,  
(Contd.) ST. MARY'S LANCASTER and SCOTT.  
(2) C. in C. H.F. is requested to detail one  
cruiser. (E) Air escort is requested when outside  
the North Minch. (F) From 064° 02' N. 010° 19'  
W. to 064° 22' N. 010° 33' W. (G) 1800B/24th May. (I) 059°  
45' N. 005° 30' W. at 0630B/25th. (J) Through position  
(A) 059° 45' N. 005° 30' W. (B) 060° 30' N. 005° 30' W.  
(C) 062° 22' N. 006° 00' W. (K) 12½ knots. (L) 0600B/26th.  
(N) Through position (D) 064° 27' N. 010° 10' W. to position  
(O) 062° 22' N. 006° 00' W. thence the reverse of outward  
passage (O) Port Z.A.2330B/27th.  
(F.O.M. 171240B)

Thames At 160103B One ground mine detonated by Sweeper  
Estuary. in 53° B 7 buoy 3 cables.  
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 171344B)

Enemy Intelligence.

Boulogne P R Sortie 16/1745/May shows Boulogne six T.L.C.  
on present of which at least three are type 3 at  
16th May. Quai Chanzy compared with four T.L.C. type 1  
on 15 May. Two E/R Boat P still present in  
Bassin Cloubet, Auxiliaries unchanged.  
Departure of one vessel 230' only change in small  
Merchant shipping present.  
(R.A.F. Medmenham, 170315B)

U-Boats.

U-Boats Am investigating suspicious wake or swirl.  
reported in 49° 34' N. 09° (?25') W.  
or (A/C 10. O.T.U. Duty U. 171035 to 19 Group)  
attacked Mitchell aircraft from Iceland sighted submarine  
in North position 61.20 N. 15.52 W. heading West at  
Atlantic. 1040Z/17 May.  
(T.A.C. Prestwick, 171340Z)  
Am over enemy S/M in 60° 55' N. 17° 30' W.  
(A/C 269 Sqdn. Duty U, 171625B to Artunshofdi)  
Have attacked enemy with depth charges.  
(A/C of 269 Sqdn. 171715B to 18 Group)  
Am over enemy S/M in 60° 56' N. 16° 38' W. Periscope only  
sighted.  
(A/C 269 Sqdn. Duty W. 171745B to Artunshofdi)  
At 1040Z/17 Transit A/C sighted submarine in 61.20 N.  
15.52 W. Course W.  
(D.D.I.C.171805B to Escorts R.U. 74)  
Am over enemy submarine in 47° 58' N. 24° 52' W.  
(A/C E. of 190 Sqdn. 171933B to 15 Group)

U-Boat On day 16th May, 5 Whitleys of 10 O.T.U. carried  
attacked out A/S patrols. 1 A/C sighted and attacked a  
in Biscay U-Boat in the Bay of Biscay. The U-Boat was  
Area. seen to be diving as the A/C made run-up. 6  
depth-charges were dropped which may have overshoot.

*2. Ta33th*

Splashes /...



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17.5.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.U-Boat  
attacked  
in Biscay  
Area.Splashes and explosions were seen along what  
was believed to be a U-Boat's track, but these  
could not be related specifically to the  
swirl.  
(H.Q.B.C. 171920)Casualties and Defects.Search  
for  
Life-Boat.Have searched with aircraft a 40-mile belt to  
70 miles West of last sighting position.  
My P.C.S. 049° 11' N. 018° 56' W. 090° 13.  
On information in your 162204B intend searching  
East to East 016° thence Northward.  
Consider life-boat would make little to windward  
in past weather and may have gone a long way North if kept on  
starboard track. Weather 9170 2224.  
(LAGAN, 170108B to C. in C. W.A.)Sailed COLUMBINE in accordance with your 162345B. E.T.A.  
Menville 1000/17.

(WESTERN ISLES, 170201B to C. in C. W.A.)

Arrived fuelled and sailed COLUMBINE at 171115 in accordance  
with C. in C. W.A. 162345.

(Cdre. D. W.A. 171117B)

My appreciation of situation. (1) Wind 090° average  
force 4 from last sighting 2200/15th to 1000/17th.  
(2) Improbable boat able to sail to windward. (3) Easterly  
limit of search 016° W. on supposition (2). (4) Possible to  
have sailed 2 to 4 knots north or south probably north.  
(5) Wind now 110° force 5 and boat may now be making 020°  
from vicinity 050° 20' N. 017° 20' W. on supposition (4)  
(6) My position now is 049° 36' N. 016° 10' W. and intentions  
are to search through 049° 40' N. 017° 20' W, thence north to  
050° 30' N. Do you concur. 9170 2325.

(LAGAN, 171245B to C. in C.W.A.)

Your 171245B. Concur.

(C. in C. W.A. 171655B to LAGAN)

If search still unsuccessful at 0100 tomorrow proceed at  
best speed to Londonderry.

(C. in C. W.A. 171952B to LAGAN)

ATHABASCAN.

Twenty six seamen ratings, including 5 leading  
seamen are absent from ATHABSCAN. This will  
delay sailing.

(F.O.I.C.Tyne, 171110B to C. in C. Rosyth)

HAKE.

Clyde arrival HAKE escorted by WAVENEY.  
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 171218B)

CORMULL.

Intend sailing Tugs IRISHMAN and PRIZEMAN towing  
SS. CORMULL and escort at 0500 tomorrow, via  
swept channels to Thames, S.O.A. 5 knots.  
E.T.A. 0100/19.

(F.O.I.C.Gt. Yarmouth, 171250B to C. in C. Nore)

SCYLLA.

Your 161158B. Approved. Leave No.5 wharf  
at 0546N/18th.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 171307B to SCYLLA)

CULLEBRA /...



War Diary.

17.5.1943.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

- CULEBRA. My 111601. STELLA PEGASI is being sailed to R/V at Dunnet Head at 2130 tonight to provide escort to 32 buoy.  
(A.C.O.S. 171616B to F.O.I.C.Greenock)
- M.M.S.3. W.P.340. M.M.S.3 arrived with defects towed by LORD STANHOPE .  
(F.O.I.C.Falmouth, 171619B)
- TRACKER. F.O.C.Gibraltar's 141326. Destination for TRACKER is Belfast where she will be taken in hand by Messrs Harland and Wolff.  
(D.O.D.(H), 171625B to C. in C. W.A.)
- MOURNE. My 171047B. Sailing of MOURNE delayed by burning out of transformer. Estimated time for repair 24 hours.  
(C. in C. Nore, 172225B)



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War Diary.17.5.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- X O.N.S.7. One M/V torpedoed. O.N.S.7. 2 ships torpedoed. Position at 162100Z 059° 50' N. 041° 05' W. (B.5 170114Z to C. in C.Plymouth.)  
O.N.S.7. A.C.1. Article 39 A. 0037Z/17. B. One submerged. C. Port bow or beam. D. AYMERIC 25 survivors. G. SWALE 2 depth charges 2 Hedgehog attack. One Hedgehog explosion 33 seconds 2nd after firing H. 24.80, 20.54.  
My 170114Z. One ship only torpedoed at 0037Z/17. P.C. and S. at 171400Z, 058° 54' N. 042° 33' W. 233° 7 knots. Additional to A. 059° 50' N. 041° 05' W. (B.5 171540Z to C. in C.W.A.)
- O.N.S.8. ORILLIA E.T.A. 1500Z/17. Defects in Echo Sounding Machine. My P.C. and S. 061° 50' N. 025° 00' W. 031° 13. (ORILLIA 170300Z to A.C.I.C.)
- O.N.184, E.G.6. Request you will sail S.O.Escort Group 6 with SS. TOLTEC on completion of fuelling to support O.N.184. (C. in C.W.A. 171031Z to A.C.I.C.)  
Arrived BOGUE, BELKNAP, GREENE, BADGER and OSMOND INGRAM. (A.C.I.C. 172010B to F.O.C.N.I.)
- O.N.S.184. My 161320Z. ST. CROIX sailed at 0800Z. (C.T.G. 24.7 170817Z.) (Cdre. D.W.A. 171049B.)
- S.C.130 E.G.One Proceed at 13 knots to support S.C.130 estimated position at 2000B/17, 52.32 N. 42.10 W. course 055° 8 knots. (C. in C.W.A. 170857Z to E.G.1.)
- E.G.2. Request you will Escort Group two tomorrow as requisite for exercises and on completion to Reykjavik at economical speed. (C. in C.W.A. 171135B to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)
- N.Russia. Group 3. My 151801. Group 3 sailed at 1330B escorted by JASON, BRITOMART, BLUEBELL, CAMELIA, LORD AUSTIN. JASON wearing flag of S.B.N.O.N.Russia. (S.B.N.O.N.Russia 171334B to S.B.N.O.Archangel.)
- X H.X.237. Preliminary report convoy H.X.237.  
1. Escorted by C.2 Group S.O. BROADWAY supported by E.G.5. U-Boats destroyed in contact from May 9th to 13th inclusive. Two U-Boats destroyed two reported damaged. Two stragglers torpedoed. One BITER aircraft shot down and 3 lost by forced landings. Convoy not attacked due to efficient air support by E.G.5 and excellent work of escorts. Experience of voyage confirms desirability of carrier operating in convoy. When flying off though wind was

/astern...

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17.5.1943.

Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

- H.X.237.  
(Contd.)
- astern carrier able to remain within close screen.  
2. BROADWAY destroyed U-Boat by Hedgehog with LAGAN and BITER aircraft co-operating. Contact held to approximately 250 yards though recorder failed to mark after 500. Sixteen seconds after bombs entered water explosion was heard and slight disturbance in water shape of mushroom head to height of about 3 feet. About 20 seconds later a fainter explosion was heard. No air bubbles or oil but 44 minutes after attack wreckage or definite German origin was found on surface.  
3. LAGAN destroyed U-Boat by Hedgehog. Further signal will be sent upon arrival of LAGAN.  
4. In neither case did Hedgehog ammunition counter mine itself, latest types projectiles and fuses were in use.  
(C.T.G. 171545 to C. in C.W.A.)
- S.D.40. Arrived Clyde SS. LEINSTER.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 171636B.)
- AUSONIA. Your 15145 (sic.) Name of this vessel should read AUSONIA. She is being recognised as a Hospital Ship by H.M.G.  
(Head of M. 171642Z to Comnavu.)
- W.S.30 and  
K.M.F.15. Intend sail Clyde portion of combined convoy and escorts passing Clyde Boom 1800B/19 to R/V with Liverpool portion at 0552B/20 in 270° Oversay 6 miles, thence in accordance with A.M. 121950B.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 171744B.)
- O.S.48 and  
K.M.S.15. The following ships are to be sailed in O.S.48/  
K.M.S.15 and are to break off with the K.M.S.15 portion. From Mersey for Persian Gulf:  
VANCOUVER CITY, BRADFORD CITY, GEORGE CHAMBERLAIN,  
(U.S.A.) JOHN VINING (U.S.A.)  
From Mersey for Alexandria for orders: KAITUNA, FORT FINLAY,  
EASTGATE, DUKE OF SPARTA.  
From Clyde for Persian Gulf: EMPIRE TRUMPET.  
From Clyde for Alexandria for orders: DALHANNA, CLAN MACIVER.  
From Newport for Persian Gulf: BENJAMIN WILLIAMS (U.S.A.)  
From Barry for Alexandria for orders: EMPIRE STANLEY.  
(D.T.D. 171941B to C. in C.W.A.)



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17.5.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Convoy G.C.9. Sailed RENE PAUL, E.T.A. 1100/17 Casablanca. (F.O. Gib. 170127. to C.M.S.F.F. (R) Admty. etc.)

Convoy U.G.S.8. Arrivals EMPIRE HEATH, GOUVENEUR GENERAL LEPINE, FORT BOURBON, OCEAN LIBERTY, AMERICAN TRADER, REGENT, HAAKON, HAVAN, SIDI BRAHIM. (F.O.Gib. 170846B. to Cominch C. & R. C.M.S.F.F. (R) Admty. etc.)

Convoy O.S.47. Arrivals ENGLISH PRINCE, INDIAN PRINCE, TACTICIAN, NIGERSTROOM, MACHARDA, HAVILDAR, CITY OF AGRA, MYRTLEBANO, SALAWATI. (F.O.Gib. 170848B. to Admty.)  
Arrived from O.S.47 EMPIRE BARRIE, FORT DOUGLAS FORT THOMPSON, FORT DREW, BARON DUBREMORE. (M.S.F.F. 171108Z. to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med. Admty. etc.)

Convoy K.M.S.14. Arrivals THURLAND CASTLE, MANCHESTER PORT, SELLINGE, NEA, EMPIRE COMMERCE, BARON YARBOROUGH, OCEAN VOLUNTEER, KING HAAKON VII, PENCARROW, KINGSLAND. (F.O. Gib. 170851B. to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

LALANDE  
Repairs at  
Lisbon. Your 150754. Request you will sail LALANDE as convenient ostensibly for U.K. with secret instructions to put into Lisbon for repairs. N.C.S.O. Lisbon considers it essential that crew should be kept in ignorance of real destination and that Master should be told to report to him immediately on arrival. (Algiers 171121A. to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) B.N.A. Lisbon, Admty. N.C.S.O. Lisbon, C. in C. Med.)  
Your 150754. LALANDE should sail officially for U.K. keeping out of sight? of Portuguese coast. Master should be given secret instructions that when in vicinity of Lisbon he should decide that ship is not sufficiently seaworthy to continue voyage to U.K. and inform S.O. of escort who will order him to Lisbon. On arrival Master should report N.C.S.O. who will make all arrangements. (B.N.A. Lisbon 171735B. to F.O. Gib. (R) Admty. C. in C. Med.)

Dispositions. Situation 2001B/17th. Tug ? CHARON 30° (?25°) 11' 13° 33' 12. (2) H.M.S. DELHI 36.21 08.40 to Gibraltar 17. (3) G.C.10 French Sloop Minesweeper COMMANDANT DELAGE 35.49 (?06).09 through 35.45 06.30 to Casablanca 6. (4) FLEETWOOD 06.46 09 (?12) to overtake O.S.47 p.m. 19th 13½. (5) U.S.S. YEW 34.09 07.50 59.34 55.06 55 & 35 45.06.20 to Gibraltar 11. (6) 3 Portuguese S/M escorted by gunboat exercising Ce (?z) imbra area between 18th and 26th May.

/(7)...

War Diary.17.5.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Dispositions. (7) 2 destroyers, 2 merchant ships sail from  
(Contd.) Casablanca 1600/18th for Gibraltar 16.  
(8) Hospital Ship AMARAPOORA 36.12 07.10 36.32  
07.56 36.32 09.05 ?(37).01 11.01 thence (corrupt  
group) 11. (9) 4 P.C. 34.42 (?66) 23 to  
Casablanca 15.  
(F.O. Gib. 171122B.)

Situation 1958B/17th. U.G.F.8A, Task Group 60.1 33.(?46)  
30.41 086° 12½. G.U.S.7 C.T.F. 64.33 60.36 45 through 34.30  
40.29 thence 277° 9. U.G.L.4 U.S.S. CHAMPLIN 32.19 34.30 083° 8.  
(F.O. Gib. 171202B.)

SAENTIS. Swiss SAENTIS leaves Genoa 20th for Gibraltar.  
(D.E.W.D. 171138B. to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) C. in C.  
Med.)

Axis Arrivals:- WATERWEG, HENK, BALTIC, TIM.  
Shipping Arrivals 16th:- JACQUELINE, BANKORA, MARIBEL,  
Bilbao. COURDANNES, OLGA. SPES, THRIANTHA, Spanish plus  
ULTRA, CABO, CARBOEIRO, arrivals 17th, LOUVETOT.  
Departure 14th RICARDOR. Departure 15th REGEJA.  
Departure 16th COURDANNES, LINETTE, CASTILLO MOTA,  
CASTILLO BURTON, CABO CERVERA. Departure 17th MARIBEL.  
(Bilbao 171250. to Admty.)

\* Ferrol Admty. pass to Washington. Very serious fire  
Dockyard in Ferrol Dockyard reported to have destroyed  
Fire. stores and equipment worth 18 million pesetas  
pre war value. Electric gear irreplaceable.  
Spanish Cruiser GALICIA, Spanish Cruiser MENDEZ  
NUNEZ, Spanish Destroyer ALSEDO CERVANTES and  
Destroyer LAZAGA unlikely now to be serviceable until after  
war. Other units affected. Cause unknown but arrests have been  
made.  
(N.A. Madrid 171408B. to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

TAGUS. Portuguese 156 TAGUS 1092 G.T. speed 9 knots,  
usual markings on (?counter), sailed 1545/17th  
for Marseilles by approved route. Not to be  
molested this voyage.  
(F.O. Gib. 171526 to 8th S.F.)

Red Cross International Red Cross states they have been  
Vessels ordered by one of belligerents (presumably Germany)  
in Med. to route their vessels in Mediterranean to pass  
route. not more 20 miles from Spanish Coast between  
Almeria and Cape De Le Nao and vice versa from  
now on. (2) N.C.S.O. Lisbon has informed Gib.  
(N.A. Lisbon 171538B. to Admty.)

Convoy G.C.10 sailed as in my 161506.  
G.C.10. (F.O. Gib. 171547B. to C.M.S.F.F. (R) C. in C.  
Med. Admty. Connav.)



War Diary.17.5.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

French Refugees. Your 1714/14th. French here promised to have 600 at Setubal May 24th but have had to guarantee to the Portuguese that ship will be there. (B.N.A. Madrid 171819B. to C. in C. Med. (R) N.O.I.C. Gib. B.N.A. Lisbon, Admty.)

Movements, Casablanca. 17th May, warships, arrived U.S.S. GUEST, THATCHER BROWNSON, LAUB, and MACKENZIE. Departed U.S.S. YEW. (Commorseafron 172001Z. to C. in C. Med.)

Movements, Gibraltar. Departures:- WHEATLAND, BREAM, PENTSTEMON, FARNDALE, HAYDON, HOLCOMBE, BARFOIL, U.S. L.S.T. 379 and Cable Ship MIRROR to Join K.M.S.14. U.S. P.T. 214, 215, 211, 216 to Oran. ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ, COMMANDANT DELAGE, LA GRACIEUSE, with G.C.10. LIDDESDALE, VELOX, VENOMOUS, TROUBRIDGE with K.M.S.14X. Arrivals:- MOLDE ex escort duties Melilla. QUALICUM ex K.M.S.14. LIDDESDALE, VELOX, VENOMOUS, SEDGEPORT, PARRSBORO, FORT YORK and Cable Ship RETRIEVER with Gibraltar Sections of K.M.S.14 (?FL) 81 (corrupt groups) O.S.47 G.L.C. (L) 265 returned defective. (F.O. Gib. 172045B. to Admty. etc.)

Convoy K.M.S.14X. K.M.S.14X. sailed as in your 151601 less TACTICIAN, HAVILDAR, CITY OF AGRA. Cdre. Owenford, R.N.R. in MACHARDA. (F.O.Gib. 172117B. to C. in C. Med.)

TRACKER, BLYSKAWICA. As ORKAN will no longer be available, request instructions for (A) TRACKER (B) BLYSKAWICA. My 141326 and A.M. 141652 refers. (F.O. Gib. 172246B. to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.)



# SECRET

Recd in W.D.  
8th June 1943

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:

SECRET

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

Postagram.

170523/May

From F.O.C.W.A.F.

Date 7.6.43.

Recd. 1736

Cypher

Addressed N.O.I.C. Takoradi, R.N.O. Lagos. Repeated Admiralty, C. in C. S.A.

My 09/1650 December 1942.

Intend to cancel coloured routes and substitute following STREET routes which will be brought into force in near future when ordered by signal.

BAYSWATER.

ABLE	07 47 N	14 00	West
BAKER.	06 52	11 49	"
CHARLIE	05 36	10 00	"
DOG	04 42	08 56	"
EASY	04 09	07 42	"
FOX	04 59	05 22	"
GEORGE	05 04	03 50	"
HOW	04 33	02 00	"
WILLIAM	06 00	02 50	East.

VINE.

ITEM	07 45 N	14 05	West
JIG	06 52	12 00	"
NAN	04 00	08 00	"
OBOE	04 44	04 45	"
PETER	04 26	02 00	"
KRAY	05 40	03 00	East.

STRAND.

KING	07 39 N	14 20	West
NAN	04 00	08 00	"
PETER	04 26	02 00	"
YOKE	05 20	03 15	East.

OXFORD.

KING	07 39 North	14 20	West
MIKE	03 35	08 00	"
VICTOR	04 10	02 00	"
YOKE	05 20	03 15	East

WATLING.

KING	07 39 North	14 20	West
ROGER	04 00	12 00	"
SUGAR	03 16	08 00	"
TARE	03 16	06 00	"
VICTOR	04 10	02 00	"
ZED	05 10	03 20	East.

/LINE.



LIME.  
**KING** 07 39 North 14 20 West  
**LOVE** 08 00 14 00 "  
**QUEEN** 02 54 10 00 "  
**UNCLE** 02 54 05 00 "  
**VICTOR** 04 10 02 00 "  
**ZED** 05 10 03 20 East

2. Acknowledge receipt by signal.

T.O.O. 170523  
 Received in War Registry 071735  
 SEC.  
 COS  
 PACK  
 LOG  
 SOO  
 Admiralty.  
 C. in C. S.A.  
 Takoradi.  
 Lagos.

V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S. (H)  
 A.C.N.S. (F)  
 A.C.N.S. (UL) (2)  
 U.W.R.  
 Capt. Pim.  
 Ops. (3)  
 O.D. (5)  
 O.I.C. (3)  
 D. of S. 2A.  
 D.T.D. (4)  
 D.T.D. (M)  
 D.T.D. (C)  
 D. of S.T. (15)  
 I.P. (3)  
 D.A/S.W.  
 W.D.  
 U.S.N. (3)  
 Ad. Blake.  
 M. (2)

RS/16.



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War Diary.17.5.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

SHERIDAN. Cancel my 151741, vessel arrived Montevideo 15th.  
(Asst. S.O. (I) Recife 170213Z. to Admty.etc.)

DUCHESS OF RICHMOND, ROBIN, TUXFORD. Sailed DUCHESS OF RICHMOND, Takoradi, and ROBIN TUXFORD, Punta Arenas, in company.  
(2) Sailing time 0700Z/17th.  
(3) Ocean route passing through positions (D) 033° 13' S. 017° 36' E. (E) 030° 00' 016° 45' (F) 026° 20' 013° 40'. (4) Dispersing ROBIN TUXFORD parts company at position estimated. (5) S. of A. 14 knots. (12) Port of arrival and time Capetown serial number 931/2. (13) Cdre. Taylor R.N.R. in DUCHESS OF RICHMOND. (15) Convoy call sign D.R.D.1 to 9, code word "Pagan" B.F.R.  
(N.C.S.O. Capetown 170732Z. to Admty. C. in C. S.A. etc.)

Convoy S.R.4.F. Departures 1700Z/16th. CATTERICK, FOXHOUND, BULLDOG, COWSLIP, BOREAS with S.R.4. (F).  
(S.O. (I) Freetown 170905Z. to F.O.Gib. (R) Admty. C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Bathurst. Commorseafront. Comar, Dakar.)

Dispositions. LEITH, COREOPSIS, VIOLET, AUBRETIA, ANCHUSA, WASTWATER, WHIMBRELL, BELLWORT with S.L.U. 23.18 17.48 to 23.42 17.48 thence 045° 7. AIMWELL M.M.S. 102, 103, 105, 106, 20.36 17.49 360° 8½. BIRDLIP 2 M.Ls. escorting 10.12 15.58 to 9.35 14.12 thence 145° 8½. BOREAS, BULLDOG, FOXHOUND, COWSLIP, with S.R.4.F, 11.38 17.39 000° 12½. CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 08.30 27.30 14.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 171029Z.)

Situation at 1959/17th May. FANDANGO, PICT M.L.261, M.L.278 off Marshall. M.L.1018 off? Sassandra. TRUSTY, COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES 00110 N. 03.15 308° 12½. M.L. 1042 and 1016 off Accra. MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, RAPID with T.S. (F) 40, 05.30 01.35 E. to 04.51 01.40 to 04.20 02.02 thence 260° 9¾.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 171038Z.)

TAIGETE, ARCOLA. Following from S.B.N.O. Italian Tankers (begins): Masters have informed owner that TAIGETE unable to complete another voyage without dry docking and survey, ARCOLA can do another voyage but Master and Chief Engineer requires acknowledgement of their protest from Aruba re ships non-classification and bad condition of tail end shaft. (Ends.)  
(N.C.S.O. St. Vincent 171040 to Admty.)

Ships ex Convoy C.N.20. For United Nation ships named ex convoy C.N.20 for action HANLEY, NICHOLAS, BIDDLE, ETTRICK BANK, AGWISTAR, TEXMAR, JAMES LYKES, COTTON MATHER, GRACE ABBOT, ABEL PARKER UPSHUR .

/Urgent...



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War Diary.17.5.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Ships ex  
Convoy  
C.N.20.  
(Contd.)

Urgent, alter course immediately to due North. Maintain this course for 12 hours and then resume your route. Ships with H/F transmission acknowledge to C. in C. S.A.  
(C. in C. S.A. 171106Z. to Admty. Cominch C. & R.) See also 171821.

EMPIRE  
MINNOW.

Ref. A.M. 142323. Sailing EMPIRE MINNOW to arrive Takoradi 0630Z/20th for T.S. in order to connect S.L.130.  
(N.O.I.C. Lagos 171226Z. to N.O.I.C. Takoradi (R) F.O.C.W.A. C. in C. S.A. Admty.)

Convoy  
D.C.26.

Sailing telegram. 2. 1200Z/17th May. 4. 9 knots. 5. Coastal. 6. GENISTA, INDIAN STAR. (13) (A) C.O. ETHIOPIAN (7) Callsign H.T.D. 1 to 9.  
(N.C.S.O. Durban 171247 to Admty. etc.)

CORFU.

D. of S.Ts. 050553B, para. 1 (g). (Re future troop movements on West Coast of Africa.)  
2. In view of shortage of shipping and accommodation difficulties at Freetown, suggest CORFU, arriving with W.S.30, be used for coastal voyage with personnel for other destination.  
3. Request your remarks.  
(D.O.D. (F) 171254B. to F.O.C.W.A. (R) D.S.T.O.W.A. etc.)  
Reply: F.O.C.W.A. 201211Z.

SAMUEL  
JORDAN  
KIRKWOOD  
(torpedoed  
10/5.)

19 survivors picked up in approx. position 125 miles S.E. of Ascension at 0900/16 May from American SAMUEL JORDAN KIRKWOOD, torpedoed 10th May, position unknown.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 171304Z. to Admty.) U.S. 7191 tons, Table Bay to Bahia, position of rescue about 125 miles S.E. of Ascension (D.O.R. 1368.)

PRESIDENT  
HOUDUCE.

Arrival 17th p.m.  
(N.C.S.O. Duala 171448Z. to Admty. etc.)

Movements,  
Lagos.

Departure 17th May MALCOLM, RAPID, WOLVERINE, THYME, VIRGINIA, ARRAN, M.L.271.  
(N.O.I.C. Lagos 171537Z. to Admty. etc.)

COMMANDANT  
DETROYAT,  
stowaway  
after visit  
to Dakar.

Rating referred to in my 041551 para. 4 is still on board COMMANDANT DETROYAT. Have heard of no reply to telegram of Free French Mission to London. Unless instructed by you do not intend to order COMMANDANT DETROYAT to give up rating owing to complications which might arise if order were refused. B.N.L.O. Dakar considers that fairly frequent "Operational Visits" of Free French ships  
/to...



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17.5.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

COMMANDANT  
DETROYAT  
stowaway  
after  
visit to  
Dakar (Contd.) to Dakar should be encouraged, provided visits are ostensibly for operational reasons and due notice is given, they should assist French units in Dakar. Consul General concurs. Intend to discuss this with him during my visit this week. (F.O.C.W.A. 171605Z. to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.) *Reply: sent 28/5/28B.*

Movements,  
Bathurst. Arrival 1630/17th DUNCTON, escorting SS. STANDELLA. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst 171658Z. to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Comar Dakar, Admty.)

KANBE  
(torpedoed  
8/5.) Five Indian survivors of KANBE picked up by Spanish RIO FRANCOLI 60 miles S. Monrovia at 1315Z/9. KANBE torpedoed 2200Z/8. (F.O.C.W.A. 171723Z. to Admty.) KANBE, British, 6244 tons, on passage from Takoradi to Freetown and U.K. (D.O.R. 1368). Asking for information (D.T.D. 181240B.)

Convoy  
C.N.20. Following ships are to proceed Walvis Bay for re-routeing to Freetown: HOPESTAR, DAGRUN, FORT VILLE MARIE, KARMT. (2) routeing instructions are being sent to N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay. Acknowledge. (C. in C. S.A. 171821B. to HERTFORDSHIRE (R) Admty. F.O.C.W.Af. N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay.)

K.M.S.15. CELEROL will accompany K.M.S.15 into Med. as escort oiler. (D.T.D.171902B. to F.O.C.W.A.)

Brazilian  
Movements. Arrivals 14th May Brazilian S/M chaser C.S.56. Arrivals 16th Brazilian Light cruiser BAHIA. Brazilian Minelayers CARIOCA and CAMAQUA. Departure 16th Brazilian S/M chaser C.S.2 and 56 and Minelayer CABEDELLO. (R.O. Recife 171945Z. to Admty. (R) B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, S.O. (I) Freetown.)

Movements,  
Takoradi. Arrivals 17th May SNOWDROP, PETUNIA, TAMARISK. M.Ls.244, 263. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi 172350Z. to Admty. F.O.C.W.A.F. R.N.O. Lagos.)



War Diary.

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Unit. Following read: P.C. and S of enemy. Fixed at 2300B H.N.W.N. (indecypherable, if H.N.W.J = 37.08 N. 15.27 E) 325 degs. 40 knots. (A/C F.C.C/A 170000B).

Movements Alexandria Arrival 16th May ORION, G.S. SPETSAI, Netherlands Sloop SOEMBA, M/L 349. (S.O.(I) Alexandria 170915C to Admty. etc.).

N.A.A.F. Report. From: Spaatz. N.A.A.F. Adv. H.Q.  
To: Eaker, C.G. Eight Air Force.  
To: Brereton, C.G. Ninth Air Force.  
Cite: Meee 4187.

X (1). Night 14-15 May:  
19 Wellingtons dropped 20 x 1000 pound, 44 x 250 pound, 112 x 30 pound and 840 x 4 pound incendiary bombs from 9,500 feet on Palermo. Several fires were started and 636 pamphlets were dropped over Palermo.  
(2). Day 15th.  
Photo R/C missions carried out throughout the day. Coastal Air Force carried out usual patrol and escort mission. Marauders of R/C Mission attacked a tug boat with machine gun fire, damage not observed.  
(N.A.A.F. Rear No.T.O.O. to Etousa and Cairo). Read 0930Z/17.

H.D.M.L.1154 Regret to report loss of H.D.M.L. 1154 by mine off Bizerta 2245 May 14th with following casualties missing presumed killed (list). Boat total loss but certain gear is being recovered from forward part which was washed ashore. Next of kin not informed.  
(C.F.Bone 170941 to Admty.).

Movements Algiers. Arrivals TRESPASSER (P.312).  
Departures U.S.S. (?P.C.546) M.L.568 QUERCIA, TRANSVAAL.  
(Cdre. Algiers, 171014A to Admty. etc.).

NOTRE DAME D'ETEL F.F.S. NOTRE DAME , D'ETEL will be administered by F.N.F.L. Beirut and maintained by Beirut.  
(C. in C. Levant, 171240C to Comla. (R)  
F.N.F.L. Beirut, A.O. MEDWAY II, Admty. N.O.I.C. Beirut, NOTRE DAME, D'ETEL).

K.M.S.14 K.M.S.14 E.T.A. Northernmost end of Swept Channel Oran 1000A/18th.  
(T.F.62 171245Z to Cdr. N.O.B.Oran, etc.).  
K.M.S. 14 forward portion. Intend sailing for Philippeville FORT GIBRALTAR, for Bone, AGATHA, later ORPHEUS, SERULA, VILLE DE JIJELLI, GULF PRINCE. Bone for Bizerta ESNEH, WILLOWDALE, EMPIRE TERN. S (corrupt group) Bone for Tunis, ORKLA, NARVA. Total 12 ships. Also LEONIAN for Malta. Request pendants be

/allocated....



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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

K.M.S.14 (Contd.) allocated on joining. (N.O.I.C. Algiers 171731A to F.O.I.C's and N.O.I.C's French North Africa except N.O.I.C. Casablanca, Connav, Escorts K.M.S.14, F.O.C. Gibraltar, Admty.).

Enemy mines. Consider 23 mines referred my 101945 were type C or D only, without unit and hydrostat. (F.O.I.S. 171312A to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.).

Movements Aden. Departures 1330Z JUMNA with GERALDTON CAIRNS and WOOLONGONG in company. 1345Z CARTHAGE. (Cdre. Aden, 171422Z to C. in C. Levant, F.O.R.S.C.A. etc.).

Red Cross Vessels. To keep within 20 miles of Spanish Coast. (N.A.Lisbon 171538B) See North Atlantic.

22nd M.L. Flotilla. I consider it would be wrong to transfer these M.Ls. to Levant at present time in view of heavier scale of U-boat attack that exists here and of excellent work they are doing on offensive patrols.  
(2) Request you will inform me if they are required for some special purpose of which I am unaware. Otherwise situation will be watched closely and hunting forces will be moved if U-boat threat shifts. Your 161510 refers.  
(C. in C. Med. 171629 to C. in C. Levant (R) Admty. C.C.F.,C.F.E.)

Movements Port Said. 17th May Port Said, arrivals Nil. Departures AETOS, SOUTHERN SEA, ISLAMI, R.F.A. BADARPUR. (N.O.I.C. Port Said 171647C to Admty. etc.).

M.K.S.13. M.K.S.13 arrived EMPIRE HEYWOOD, FORT RELIANCE, CPOA (as received) THOMAS STONE, MANCHESTER CITIZEN, THISTLEDALE, R.HALVEY. (Com.N.O.B.Oran 171717A to Admty. etc.).  
M.K.S.13 sailed MONROE, BETTY ZANE, EMPIRE OPPOSSUM, CHATEAU PAVIE, GATEWAY CITY, NARANI, REVERDY JOHNSON, MARSHALL ELLIOT, VINLAND, ISAAC COLE, J GUNN, JAUNTY and HENGIST towing H.M.S. PORCUPINE, THOMAS STONE, M.M.S.618. (Com.N.O.B.Oran 171723A to Admty. etc.).

Tunisia Prisoners. To:- Agwar.  
For: Combined Chiefs of Staff.  
To: Usfor.  
For: British Chiefs of Staff.  
Signed: Eisenhower. N.A.F.222.

As shewn by a late report, grand total of prisoners of war captured in Tunisia since 5th May is 224,200 but I am checking this figure.  
(Algiers 171726Z to Rtousa and War).

/ P.R.U...



War Diary.

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.-Contd.

P.R.U. 17th May. Visual 1605 Taranto 2 Battleships, 2 Cruisers, 1655 Messina no major Naval Unit. (V.A.Malta 171753 to C. in C. Med. etc.).

Convoy T.E.21. Following is a repetition N.O.I.C. Bone's 170901 (begins) - Addressed Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. Connav. From N.O.I.C. Bone. T.E.21 arrived 1737/16. (Ends). (N.O.I.C. Bone 171802A to Admty. etc.).

BACHI (Spanish) My 141934 to Gibraltar Repeated you. (N.T. in W.D.) BACHI will probably return Valencia about June 5th. There should be then good chance of giving you at least 36 hours notice of sailing in case she could be intercepted North of Valencia. She would allow herself to be captured just outside territorial waters. Is this notice of practicable value? (B.N.A. Madrid 171856B to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O. Gibraltar, Admty.).

Malta Air Report. A.I.515 17 May. C.S.R. (A) Air Part 1, Offensive. Night 16/17 May. Mosquitoes made successful intruder patrols over East Sicily and Toe of Italy. One ship 2000 tons off West Coast of Toe of Italy and another of same size south of Toe of Italy were attacked and strikes scored on superstructures. In Sicily a water tower at Pachino was attacked and damaged and strikes were scored on railway station and railway buildings at Pozzallo. Armed searches were made by 2 Wellingtons 3 Beauforts and 4 Albacores East and North of Sicily and East and West of Toe of Italy but owing to A.S.V. jamming and rainstorms no sighting was made. Wellington dropped pamphlets over Palermo and Messina. Day 17 May 4 long range Spitfires on offensive sweeps East of Sicily attacked a tank landing craft full of troops off Augusta and started a fire in the stern. 4 Beaufighters made an armed R/C North of Sicily. Part 2. Enemy air activity night 16/17 May, 1 Beaufighter on interception patrol East of Sicily destroyed 1 J.U.88. Another Beaufighter made an interception patrol South West of Sicily. Day 17th May 12 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta. (A.H.Q. Malta 171920Z, 171950Z).

ARROW BRILLIANT. Request I may be informed when ARRON (?ARROW) and BRILLIANT may be expected to join 13th D.F. (C. in C.Med. 171956 to Admty. (R) F.O. Gib.). Reply 192029B.

Movements Sfax. Arrived and sailed PRIMULA, REDWOOD, FALK, KLO. Sailed L.C.Ts. 111, 113, 139, 154, 157, 158. (N.O.I.C.Sfax 172043A to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant).

/Movements...



# SECRET

659A

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

SECRET MESSAGE. 171810/May. IN

Date. 20/5/43.

X From: - C.in C. Med.

Recd. 1851.

NAVAL CYPHER X BY C. HLE.

~~Addressed: - Admiralty.~~

Preliminary report on Ferryville.

QUAYS. Quai Nord. Three wrecks alongside and bomb crater in face. Two berths each of 250 feet remain. Depth ten feet alongside 14 feet at six feet out. Quai Ouest (not number one dock) Northend final berth 200 feet clear. 14 feet alongside 17 feet at six feet. Remainder of Quai West of South of docks demolished. Quai Sud. Two wrecks and very badly damaged no berths.

*quays, jetties, docks, etc.  
(C. in C. Med., 171810 to Admiralty)*

#### JETTIES.

1. Two large breaches wreck on south side.
2. Two large breach in centre small crane sill North Side and at end. Two wrecks south side berth north side inshore of breach 200 feet depth 30 to 14 feet intend to repair North Side priority for collier berth.
3. Wreck North side South side clear jetty partially burnt intend repair priority for oil berth. Pipe line requires repair.
4. And five badly damaged wrecks both sides and across ends.

#### DOCKS.

1. Tug sunk in dock Caissoon open. Berth north side 170 feet depth 17 feet at six feet from Quay South side 200 feet same depth.
2. Empty except degaussing circuit on buoys Caissoon sunk at entrance eighteen feet of water over. Berth 200 feet each side with depth 17 at six feet out.
3. Caissoon and ships sunk in dock. Severe damage to walls.
4. Caissoon in place but badly damaged destroyer sunk in dock. General. All vertical sills destroyed except north side of No. 1, where there is an unexploded French Mine in pump chamber. All conduits severely damaged. Caissons slightly damaged available for No. one and four. Pumps at present immersed but not thought to be sabotaged. Motors being dismantled for inspection underwater damage awaiting availability of divers. Electric power both dockyard GS sets damaged and unusable switch gear seriously damaged. Limited supply available from Tiin-Kebir to meet essential requirements. D C supply can be partially re-established with minor repairs. Heavy machine shop. All machines in fair working order.

Largest. . . . .



Largest lathe is 59 feet between centres. Light machine shops, approx 15 machines removed to underground workshop being constructed 25 being prepared for transport. Remaining 30 available after partial overhaul.

FOUNDRY.

Generally serviceable except for medium electrical repairs to steel furnace. Max capacity castings steel one ton brass fifty tons and cast iron one ton. Platers shop - 50% machinery available when current available. Blacksmiths shop. Fairly good condition compressor and electrical equipment require medium repairs.

CARPENTERS.

Shop damaged can operate to limited capacity when current available. Welding shop. Electric. Appears serviceable Oxy Acetylene sufficient equipment but rubber hoses urgently required. Oxygen plant completely demolished. Roads generally good, railway can be quickly repaired. Water good available pipes require some repair. Cranes, no dockyard or floating cranes available three rail cranes may be serviceable but no DC current available to test.

TUGS.

Two small repaired and serviceable two more under repair and should be available shortly.

LIGHTERS.

Twenty seven floating but many require repairs. Floating docks very small. Wrecked on Jetty east.

STORES.

Good stocks steel bolt stove and plates also some nickle-chrome and heat resisting steel. Brass white metal etc. removed by Germans. Good general stocks metric sizes boiler tubes bricks. Some cable and general electric stores. Fair stock timber. Most small and valuable articles removed tankage. Lubricating oil tanks intact large capacity. Almost empty.

PETROL.

Storage for 250 tons available one mile from Dockyard. Pipe line 80% destroyed.

OIL FUEL.

Storage for 8000 tons three miles from yard pipeline 30% destroyed. Pumps available with minor repairs. All dockyard tanks destroyed. Armament Depot almost undamaged. Underground magazines undamaged 70% filled with obsolete ammunition and mines. Torpedo Depot damaged but repairable well fitted up.

LABOUR. . . . /



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 -

L.30UR.

About 1,000 Artisans available, increasing. Arab labour very difficult to obtain in quantity. Docks and repair group are men to assist 300 Italian prisoners have been asked for transport. No transport has yet been supplied except lorries which transported party from Algiers. These have been temporarily retained on SOIS instructions. Captured lorries have been applied for very few local lorries available. Mobile cranes are essential to progress.

25.

1st Lord.	171810.
1st S.L.(2)	
D.F.S.L.	
3rd S.L.	D. of Salvage.
4th S.L.	Salvage Branch.
Vice Contr.	D.T.M.(2)
Civil Lord.	D. of L.
Secy.	N.L.
Parl. Sec.	C.L.
Fin. Sec.	D.E.E.
Nav. Sec.	
A.S.(C).	D.N.C.
P.A.S.(S).	C.C.R.T.
V.C.N.S.	D.S.V.P.(2)
A.C.N.S.(F).	D.E.W.D.(3).
A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)	C.E. in C.
A.C.N.S.(A)(2)	D.A.S.(L).
A.C.N.S.(W).	R.A.(V)(4).
U.W.R.	Dep. Contr.(3).
Ops.(3)	D.(4) for action.
O.D.(5).	S.D.G.(2)
O.I.C.(3).	E. in C.
D.N.L.(5).	D.N.C.
D. of P.(3).	C.E. in C.
D.A/S.W.	D.A.S.(4).
D. of P.(q)(2)	D.N.O.(4).
M.(27).	L.Br.
D.T.S.D.	C.L.
C.N.I.	D.E.E.(3).
D.P.D.	S.W.R.
<u>W.D.</u>	
I.P.(3).	
Ad. Blake.(4).	
D.D.O.D.(M).	
D. of L.D.(3).	
D. 57, O, B.	
Hydrog.(2)	
D. of N.	
D. of S.(3).	
D.U.B.D.	
E. in C.	

BATH BY  
COURIER.



War Diary.17.5.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

- Movements Haifa. 17th May. Arrivals. MARYBOROUGH, GAWLER, LISMORE, IPSWICH and A.F.D.30. Departures MARYBOROUGH, GAWLER, LISMORE, IPSWICH. (N.O.I.C. Haifa 172055 to Admty. C. in C. Levant).
- Movements Tobruk. Arrived M.L.357, M.L. 1046 T.L.C. 108. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk 172117C to Admty. (R) C. in C Levant).
- Movements Tripoli. Arrived BEAUFORT, EASTON. Sailed WHITEHAVEN, BOSTON CROMARTY, ROMNEY, SKUD 4, HECTOR VII. (S.N.O. Trip. 172127A to Admty.).
- Movements Gibraltar. Departures WHEATLAND, BREAM, PENTSTEMON, FARNDALE, HAYDON, HOLCOMBE, BARFOIL, U.S.L.S.T.379 and Cablesip MIRROR to join K.M.S. 14 U.S. P.T. 214, 215, 211, 216 to Oran. AMIRAL MOUCHEZ, COMMANDANT DELAGE, LA GRACIEUSE with G.C.10, LIDDESDALE, VELOX, VENOMOUS, TROUBRIDGE with K.M.S.14X. Arrivals MOLDE ex Escort Duties Melilla QUALICUM ex K.M.S.14, LIDDESDALE, VELOX, VENOMOUS, SEDGEPORT, PARRSBORO, FORT YORK and Cablesip RETRIEVER with Gibraltar sections of K.M.S.14 FOXTROT, REIGHTON, WYKE ex O.S. 47 G.L.C.13 (L) 265 returned defective. (F.O. Gibraltar 172045B to Admty. etc.).
- Movements Oran. Arrivals today. LAMERTON, ANTHONY, WILTON, LAUDERDALE. Departures (? Same as) Arrivals plus H.M.T. JAUNTY, HENGIST, PORCUPINE, M.M.S.118. (Com. N.O.B. Oran 172145A to Admty. etc.).
- X Minelayers. Your 160108 (Re-issuing communique re achievements by our Minelayers in Tunisia campaign. Request name of Officer in command of Motor Launches. - N.T. in W.D.) Concur that communique should be issued.  
(2) An appreciable contribution was made by Minelaying carried out under improvised arrangements by 10th M.T.B. Flotilla under command of Lieut. Jermain D.S.O. R.N. using American mines with assistance of a Naval Minelaying party under Lieut. Cdr. John Kremer U.S.N. (C. in C. Med. 172147A to Admty.).
- X LAURANA Treatment of Unrecognised Hospital ship. A.M. 120200B. In view of legal difficulties LAURANA cannot be seized in Prize. She is therefore to be retained and operated by you as required under British flag but must not be used as a Hospital Ship or Hospital Carrier. It is considered advisable to change her name and proposed employment should be reported.  
(2) All personnel found on board are to be made prisoners-of-war and handed over to military authorities but protected personnel are to be given status to which they

/ are...



War Diary.

17.5.1943.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

LAURANA  
Treatment of  
Unrecognised  
Hospital  
ships.  
(Contd.).

are entitled under International Law.  
(3) As procedure for dealing with non-recognised hospital ships will vary according to whether vessels have been notified by enemy, each case should be referred to Admiralty for instructions together with report on results of examination. (Head of M.I. Approved by 1st Lord 172340B to C. in C. Med. (R) C. in C. Levant).

Movements  
Malta.

Sailed DULVERTON, PINDOS, EXMOOR, TETCOTT, BRIGAND, M.Vs. ALGORAB, FORT CATARQUI, and OCEAN VESPER, H.M.S. MIAOULES. Arrived TROOPER and UNISON, PETARD and QUEEN OLGA.  
(V.A. Malta 172357B to Admt. etc.).



War Diary.17.5.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

DILWARA. 13 18th May DILWARA Suez via Aden 24th May (corrupt group) only knots 12 13½ days. My 170554 (N.T. in W.D.) refers. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 170532Z to C. in C.U.S.Fleet C. and R.)

CHRISTIAN HUYGENS. My 160629Z. As Polish families will not now proceed to Bombay in CHRISTIAN HUYGENS intend despatching ship direct to Suez sailing 20th May. (P.S.T.O. India 170609Z to D. of S.T. (R) P.S.T.O. M.E. C. in C.E.F. F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Movements. Arrival RAMDAS. (N.O.I.C. Madras 170714Z to Admty.)  
Left SUSSEX. (F.O.C.W.Af. 170721Z to Admty.)

Departure EMILE BAUDOT. (S.O.(I) Bombay 171001Z to Admty.)  
Arrival 0730Z BALUCHISTAN with M.B.35. Departure 1030Z ALAUNIA with B.A.44. Part 2 1135Z BUSHWOOD. (S.O.(I) Bombay 171139Z to Admty.)  
Colombo arrival 17 May 0100Z SONAVATI, 0730Z RANPURA. (F.O.Ceylon 171500Z to Admty.)

M/Vs smoke. Your 111600 (121600 intended) Report despatch by Sea Mail 15th April. Copy to C. in C.E.F. (Com. R.I.N. 170829Z to Admty.)

B.A.44. Sailing telegram (2 ships). 2. 0930Z/17th. 3. E.T.A. crossing 055° E. 1930Z/21st May. 3a. E.T.A. Aden 0930Z/24th May. 4. 10 knots. 5. (Route). 6. ALAUNIA. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 171158Z, 171201Z to Admty.)

Shipping for Indian Coal. 51279/Q cipher 334949 17th May. Q2/Mov. During recent months Railway Board have expressed increased anxiety on account growing overload on Railway system and failure to obtain additional locos and wagons long on order. (details). Board have strongly represented necessity for considerable reduction of Military specials unless shipping can be provided to lift some of the coal which normally would be carried to Indian Ports by sea. Two million tons coal annually moving by rail which could be carried by sea. We regard as essential immediate provision of shipping for minimum total of 60000 tons coal monthly from Calcutta to Madras, Cochin, Bombay and Karachi. Coal and berthing can be made available Calcutta without interruption other imports and exports. M.W.T. here unable provide shipping therefore request you consult M.W.T. (?London) and Telegraph what can be arranged. (C. in C.India 171230 to W.O.)

OPHIR...



War Diary.

17.5.1943.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

OPHIR,  
TJITJALENGKA

Your 141431. Yes. This vessel and the TJITJALENGKA are however being renotified, as Dutch Hospital Ships as from 1st July 1943. Should difficulties arise over recognition following re-notification you will be informed. (Head of M.B. 171812B to C. in C.E.F. (R) F.O. Ceylon.)

U.S.Army  
Transports.

Following is repetition of my 160616Z (begins):-  
Request that LYMAN HALL and JOSE BONIFACIO both U.S.Army Transports may be routed to Colombo for orders instead of to Karachi. T.O.O. 160616Z.  
(P.S.T.O.I. 171817Z? to A.C.N.B. P.S.T.O. Capetown, (R) C. in C.E.F. D.S.T. F.O.Ceylon, S.S.T.O. Ceylon, S.O.I. Kilindini, S.O.I.Colombo.)



17.5.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U.S.A.T. Arrivals San Francisco May 14th DAY STAR,  
HENDERSON, REPUBLIC. All U.S.A.T.  
(N.S.H.Q., 170155 to Admty).

Movements St. Johns N.F. May 16. Arrivals - MALPEQUE  
escorting H.J. 51 ex Halifax M.L. 060 ex Wabana.  
Departures M.L. 059 to Wabana PELICAN, SENNEN,  
SPEY, WEAR, JED sailed for Support Duty.  
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 170335Z to Admty).

Arrivals GRANDMERE, FORT WILLIAM, FREDERICTON, L.S.Ts.  
13, 63, 64, 164, 198, 200 ex H.X.51 ARRAS from Shelburne,  
H.M.C.S. CHARNY, BAFFIN ex S.H.80 A.

(N.O.I.C. Halifax, 171155Z to Admty).

Argentia 15th. Arrival 1030Z, ARCHER B.6 Group. 16th  
arrival 1030Z/4th escort group.

(Capt. (D) Argentia, 171306Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. C.N.W.  
N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., B.A.D., C. in C. W.A.)

M/S 1173 and 1174 arrived 0900Q 17th.

(B.R.L.O. Santo Domingo, 171552Q to Admty).

Arrival May 17th from Trinidad U.S. Army transport T.W.

DRENAN.

(B.R.O. Georgetown, 171555Q to Naval Ottawa, Navy Dept.  
Washington Admty).

Submarine (Cominch, 170415Z, 171506Z, 171507Z, 171601Z,  
Estimate 17th 171602Z, 171604Z).  
May. U.S  
Submarine  
notice.

?U/B My 162334 (N.T. in W.R.) Further bearings  
change position to within 150 miles 01.30 S.,  
31.30 W.  
(Cominch, 170500 to Admty (R) Com. 4th).

MONOWAI MONOWAI will depart Cristobal 2200Z/17th May  
for Bermuda speed 15 knots. E.T.A. 2200Z/22nd.  
Route A. 009° 34' N., 079° 55' W. B. 012° 50' N.  
075° 01' W. C. 016° 17' N., 070° 01' W. D. 017°  
55' N., 068° 20' W. then through Mona Passage to E. 020° 01' N.  
068° 20' W. F. 026° 50' N., 065° 50' W. G. 032° 01' N., 064° 45'  
W. then to Bermuda. Request air cover entire (?channel).  
(Cdr. Panama S.F. 170500 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C. in C.  
Atlantic Fleet, N.O.B. Bermuda, (R) C. in C. Pacific Fleet,  
(U.S.) Cdr. Caribbean S.F., S.B.N.O.W.A., Admty. C. in C. W.A.  
N.Z.N.B., Cdr. Gulf S.F.)  
MONOWAI departure 17th 2300 G.M.T. E.T.A. Bermuda 22nd  
2200 G.M.T.  
(B.R.L.O. Cristobal, 171833R to Admty. S.B.N.O.W.A.,  
N.S.H.Q., B.A.D., S.O.(I) Jamaica).



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A.T.43                      A.T.43 sailed as of my 151445Z.  
(EMPRESS OF                (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 170517Z to Cominch C. and R.  
SCOTLAND)                Admty).

B.Y.M.S.                    B.Y.M.S.14, 22 and 24 departure 1330 G.M.T. May  
E.T.A. Trinidad 18th May.  
(B.R.L.O. Cristobal, 171017B to Admty).

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary	CARNARVON	08° N. 28° W.	Patrol	Blank
1800 G.M.T.	CASTLE			
17th.	T.A.42.	47° N. 26° W.	190°	26.*
	(D.O.D. (F), 171031B to Opnav (R) Comnavu).			
	*Altering to 232° in 27° W.			

X.B.53                      Sailing telegram. 2. Halifax 0700Z/17th.  
3. E.T.A. Cape Cod Canal 1900Z/19th Boston  
1800Z 19th. 4. 7.5 knots. 5. (route) 6. MINAS.  
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 171235Z to Admty).

H.S.85                      Arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. Sydney, 171242Z to Admty).

X Task Force                C. in C. Lant 162136 addressed for action to  
69 constitu-                Cdr. Destroyer Sqdn. 19, informs as follows:-  
tion.                        Task Force 69 hereby constituted as follows with  
Cdr. Connor in command (numerical designator  
effective 25th May): STEVENSON, THORN, STOCKTON,  
MAYO, SPENCER, DUANE, PAUL JONES, TARBELL,  
MAUMEE, PUMPER, ANTICLINE. Another escort will be added if  
available. Following Cominch (C. and R) routeing, escort  
convoy U.G.S.9 from New York about 28th May to North African  
Ports. Detach ANTICLINE and Pumper on arrival, and direct them  
to report to Comnavnav for duty. Comdesron 31 direct vessels as  
they arrive New York report to Cdr. Connor.  
Return to New York escorting convoy G.U.S.8 A, when directed  
by Commorseafon, following Admiralty routeing.  
(Comnavu, 171247 to Admty).

B.W.24                      Cancel 161430. All ships are to enter St.  
Johns N.F.  
2. You are to sail at 0900Z/May 18th with  
PHILIP T. DODGE, DUNSLEY and NORTHTON and escort  
to Wabana. NORTHTON detaching (?as requisite) to Bay Roberts.  
3. Return to St. Johns N.F. escorting SLOGA and YILDUM.  
(F.O.N.F., 171250Z to TROIS RIVIERES).

Attacks on                Admiralty 132250B amend A.C.1608 as follows:-  
U/Bs                        1. Delete para. one and insert note "See  
assessments.                Admiralty 872A".



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America & West Indies. - Contd.

Attacks on U/Bs assessments. (contd). 2. Delete all reference to Cominch in para. two. (C. in C. C.N.A., 171331Z to All H.M. and H.M.C. ships and establishments under the Command of C.O.A.C. (R) N.S.H.Q., Admty. C. in C. W.A.)

BASSILOUR Auxiliary Schooner BASSILOUR ashore Portugal Cove South Newfoundland, 13th May, total wreck. (N.S.H.Q., 171339Z to Admty. Connav, C. in C. C.N.A., N.C.S.O. Montreal).

BAYFIELD B.A.M.R. 151842Z. BAYFIELD sailing Halifax 1500Z 18th E.T.A. Cape Henry 0800Z/21st. (C. in C. C.N.A., 171340 to N.S.H.Q. (R) B.A.M.R., S.B.N.O.W.At., Admty).

S.H.80 A. Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 171406Z to Admty).

B.Y.M.S. Departure of B.Y.M.S.68, 31, 186, 178, 209, delayed. Cancel ? my 150150. (C.T.G.02.1, 171410/5 to C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q., Admty. Cominch, Comtask 24, F.O.N.F., C. in C. Atlantic).

LADY NELSON. LADY NELSON Hospital ship arrived 0930Z. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 171410 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q.)

N.S.H.Q. S/M Estimate. N.S.H.Q., Ottawa estimates submarine North of 040° North West of 040° W. 1200Z/17th. (N.S.H.Q., 171425Z).

RAVAGER Portland (Oregon) departed 151930Z RAVAGER for Seattle for gunnery trial. (N.S.H.Q., 171457Z to Admty. (R) B.A.D., C.O.P.C.)

Q.S.47 My 151605 Q.S.47 passed Red Islet 1430Z/17 3 ships present. (N.C.S.O. Quebec 171534Z to N.C.S.O. Sydney).

X Routeing Neutral vessels, North Atlantic. Your 072033. (A) Eire Ships. ?Protests on account bunker capacity were received from Masters when routeing of ships homeward bound from Canadian ports to parallel 38° 10' N. was enforced. These were overruled but if ships must proceed to 34th parallel, consider such protests would be reasonable, and difficulty might be experienced in keeping ships South even as far as 38° 10' N., (B) Portuguese ships also protested vide Admiralty 181524/Feb. In view of agreed presence many Portuguese fishing vessels,

/vicinity...



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Routeing  
Neutral  
vessels,  
North  
Atlantic.  
(contd).

vicinity Grand Banks of Newfoundland consider protest against taking passage as far South as 34th parallel would also be justified.  
(C) Suggest 38° 10' approach will keep ships away from U.G/G.U. convoy routes whilst still avoiding H.X. and S.C./O.N. routes.  
(D) If 34th parallel is Axis requirement, consider Canadian N.C.S.Os. should be empowered explain circumstances and authorise parallel 38° 10' N. at discretion.  
(N.S.H.Q., 171909Z to Admty).

CHARLESTON

When ready about 1800Q proceed Boston accordance Cominch 142134 (N.T. in W.D.) via Point  
A. 33 N., 77.26 W. B. 34.45 N., 74.29 W.  
C. 40.32 N., 71.04 W., thence through Cape Cod Canal direct to Boston. S. of A. 17 guard N.S.S.F. Schedule. Latest Q.J.C. message 136. Q.J.A.199, Q.J.H.18.  
(C.O.M. 6 CHARLESTON, 171603 to For action by hand GEORGETOWN  
(R) Cominch, C.E.S.F., N.S.H.Q., Cominch, Connorwestland, F.O.N.F., C.N.M.S.1, 3, 4, and 5.)

4th E.G.  
H.X. 239.

Request you will sail 4th escort group a.m. 19th to support H.X. 239.  
(C. in C. W.A., 171755Z to F.O.C.N.F., (R) C. in C. W.A., Connav, C. in C. C.N.W.At., Admty., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., Cdr. (D) Argentia, Comdre. (D) W.A., H.Q.C.C., A.C.I.C., PELICAN, ALYSSUM, BURTON, Ships escorting Convoy H.X. No.239.)  
On completion of defects PELICAN is to join 4th Escort Group temporarily.  
2. Request you will sail her accordingly to join this group at sea. My 171755Z refers.  
(C. in C. W.A., 171757Z to F.O.N.F.)

Smoke  
Trials.

Following from Adm. Usborne.  
Ref. W.A.X.O.3. Following salient points are forwarded for consideration in arranging future trials. (Details).  
(10) Results appear promising. So if escort agrees with above, detailed report will be forwarded by air.  
(F.O.N.F., 171805Z to Admty., (R) B.A.D., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.A.)

CENTAUR  
(Hospital  
Ship)  
sunk 13th  
May.

(B.A.D., 171811Z to Admty., A.C.N.B.)  
See Australia and New Zealand.

/Air ...



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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.- Contd.

Air Report A.719 17th May. Operations 16th May 43.  
Canada. B. Enemy sightings three. Anson NW1615 of 31  
GRS attacked enemy U-boat at 0830 G.M.T. 16 in  
47.07 N., 62.40 W. two 250 lb. D.Cs. were dropped  
about 75 feet apart from 180 feet and fell  
astride of swirl. Periscope visible at time of attack. No  
wreckage or bubbles observed but A/C returning to base as late  
as 1600 G.M.T. reported a wide oil slick in same vicinity.  
Preliminary assessment possibly damaged. Two other Ansons of 31  
GRS sighted U-boats at 1410 G.M.T. in 46.57 N., 63.08 W., and  
at shortly before 1726 G.M.T. in 46.19 N., 64.31 W. These two  
A/C were not equipped with D.Cs.  
(A.O.C. in C. E.A.C. Canada, 171820 to Air Min).

Re ships Lorsa 9242. Ref. Salor 7324.  
proceeding Halifax will not be in a position to fit nets to  
from St. new ships in addition to servicing N.D. vessels  
Lawrence ports arriving in convoys without undue delays owing  
to Halifax to limited facilities at that port.  
without nets. 2. Depot at Montreal is therefore necessary  
and will have the additional advantage that ships  
built at Montreal will have the benefit of their  
defence while proceeding down the St. Lawrence  
where danger is not great but cannot be entirely neglected.  
(B.A.D., 171831Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., B.A.T.M., M. of W.T.  
Montreal, Wartime Shipping Montreal for Pennington).

Frigate Your 121551 concur that BLACKWOOD and DRURY  
Compasses, should return to U.S.A. for further compass trials  
H.M.S. QUEEN after working up.  
ELIZABETH. 2. Your 121547 para. 3 approved to adjust  
programmes.  
3. Request you will signal your proposals for  
para. 1 (b) and (c) of A.M. 051824, having  
regard to the following:-  
(a) Three frigates can be accepted as escort for QUEEN ELIZABETH  
if necessary.  
(b) QUEEN ELIZABETH should be sailed for New York as soon as  
ready and held at Bermuda if necessary.  
(c) Should compass trials reveal defects which apply to all  
Captain class frigates such defects for ships required for this  
movement should be remedied after arrival in U.K.  
4. A.M. 051824 is being passed to S.B.N.O.W.At.  
(D.O.D. (H) 171834B to B.A.D. (R) S.B.N.O.W.At.)  
See D.O.D. (H) 181128B.

C.N. 20

Your 151848 and 161123 is dispersal point as well  
as first 3 lettered positions moved 7° to  
southward. Also request actual time of sailing  
and amended E.T.A. and "Chop" dates.  
(Cominch, C. and R., 171913Z to C. in C. S.A.)

/Solops...



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20.

May 14th. Photographs reveal following enemy A/C at: Kahili 1 bomber, 24 dive bombers, 47 fighters. Ballale 1 bomber. Faisi 15 float planes, Buka one bomber three fighters.  
(B.A.D., 171931Z to Admty. C. in C. E.F. (R) Concentric Colombo, C. of Staff, Kilindini, F.L.O. India).

Washops  
No. 108.

Aleutians. Bad weather is still hampering operations at Attu. Enemy strength estimated at about 15,000. 4 ships completely unloaded by p.m. 15th. Unloading of remainder continuing. (J.S.M. Washington, 171933Z to Admty. etc).

A.T.45  
(MARIPOSA).

A.T.45.

1. Destination of MARIPOSA leaving New York about 23rd will be Liverpool.
2. Request ship may be sailed to arrive on daylight tide and that E.T.A. at Bar Light vessel and estimated position of ship at daylight on day of arrival may be signalled.
3. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange Air protection.
4. Fighter Protection codeword should be allotted by B.A.D. (D.O.D. (H) 171937B to Connav, C. in C. W.A. (R) P.D. New York, N.S.H.Q., B.A.D., C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.I.C. Liverpool, C. in C. H.F., A.C.I.C., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Air Min. H.Q.C.C., H.Q.F.C.)

O.N.183  
Escort  
Group B.4

Western local groups W.8 CHELSEA (S.O.) SUDBURY, MILLTOWN will relieve you in Westomp 45.20 N., 49.19 W., at 1000Z20th.

2. Upon relief proceed with your unit less KENOGAMI to Argentia. KENOGAMI remains with convoy to Puerto Rico limit of endurance or until SHAWINIGAN overtakes thence direct Halifax.
3. "Chop" 1600Z/19th. (F.O.N.F., 171945Z to B.4 (R) C. in C. C.N.W. C. in C. W.A., Admty. N.S.H.Q., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, S.O.W.8 in CHELSEA) As amended F.O.N.F. 191750Z see also 201930Z.

Oiling at  
Sea.

- Your 151257. No towing strain should ever be taken by steadying line which is intended primarily as an aid to correct station keeping.
2. Bight of hose could be reduced by veering a little more on steadying line, but it is essential not to eliminate bight which provides safeguard against rupture of hose due to Escort vessel falling astern of station.
  3. Weight of hose should be taken onboard Escort vessel by jackstay, sufficient length should lie on forecastle free of all strain to facilitate coupling up to Escorts supply line.
  4. C.B.4080 para. 129 to 137 refers. (D.T.D., 171958B to B.R.L.O. New York (R) B.A.D., C. in C. W.A.)

/D.W...



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

- D.W. 24 Arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 172002Z to Admty).
- L.C.M.3's allocation. Salor 7494. Lorsa 9198. No more than a total of 120 L.C.M.3s is to be shipped to India for the present. Understand this leaves 18 unallocated for which destination will be signalled later.  
(Head of M.A.S., 172005B to B.A.D).
- Convoy O.NS.6 Following is a repetition of part 1 of N.C.S.O. Halifax 142035Z (begins) For Cdre. Propose to detach ship for U.S. port off Halifax for onward routing to Cape Cod. Route will follow request you advise Vice Cdre. to form 5 with estimated 3 ships from Halifax falling in astern. Advise (A) Present number of ships in convoy (B) Confirmation following ships in company (ends). (C. in C. C.N.A., 172045Z to S.E.O.N.S.6).
- Desron 16. Your 152255 concur in proposal for ships of Desron 16 if satisfactory to Comnavnaw. HERBERT and SCHENCK are required as escort for Card C. in C. Lant 141453 and thus cannot return with G.U.S.7 A. Other ships will return to North Africa when voyage repairs completed possibly with U.G.F.9 but probably a few days after that convoy sails.  
(Cominch, 172036Z to C. in C. Med., (R) C. in C. Lant, F.O.C. Gibraltar, Commorocceafon, Comnavnaw).
- Shipping Casualties. Connav serials 15 to 17. SAMUEL JORDAN, KIRKWOOD torpedoed presumed sunk about April 11th about 125 miles S.E. of Ascension Island. Your serial 13 ARISTIDES sailed from Charleston May 14th for Key West.  
(Connav, 172109 to Comnavnaw).
- M/V Routing. Your 162038. (2) Cominch (C. and R) 101530 quoted in my 120105 directed that all ships sailing from Balboa to India and Persian Gulf shall be routed trans-Pacific.  
(3) A.M. 2038/12 Jan. para. 2 directs oil burners and motor ships to proceed via Magellan.  
(4) Request confirmation that both oil burners and coal burners under British management are now to proceed trans-Pacific. If so suggest clarification.  
(B.A.D., 172109Z to Admty).

/Convoy...



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Convoy Cycles, sailing dates. Admty. 150008B. New sailing date for O.N.186 noted. At present time convoy cycles make dangerous concentration near Westomp approx. every eleven days. More even distribution of dates of arrival at Westomp would also eliminate long lie over at St. Johns N.F. of Western Local Groups and allow for better use of group training and boiler cleaning facilities at Halifax. In adjustment of sailing date for H.X.243 and any later amendments request consideration may be given to this point of view. N.S.H.Q., 172121Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.A., B.A.D.)

Sub. attack and sighting summary. All times Z. A. Two unidentified ships torpedoed 59.50 N., 41.05 W. 162100. IRISH OAK torpedoed sunk 47.49 N., 26.01 W. 15th. Plane attacks sub. 11.02 S., 35.00 W. 171200. MOFFETT and JOUETT attack sub. 11.08 S., 35.38 W. 171313. Army plane sights sub. course 060° 01.11 S., 31.33 W., 161136.

B. Sub. reported on surface 00.10 S., 30.15 W. 171247. R.A.F. plane attacks periscope 60.55 N., 17.30 W., 171425. C. P.B.M. Radar contact 37.10 N., 70.46 W., 161945. D. C.G. CARTIGAN attacks sub. 40.07 N., 73.27 W., 170215. Plane sights periscope 04.23 S., 35.22 W., 171307. P.B.M. Radar contact 36.50 N., 74.10 W. 171339. Coastal Watcher sights two subs. 44.17 N., 66.10 W., 162150. Periscope sighted 12.57 N. 59.42 W., 162129. Surface vessel sights sub. 20.15 N., 84.20 W. 161337. Aircraft sights sub. 46.57 N., 63.08 W., 161345. Aircraft sights oil patch and black submerging object 47.06 N. 63.11 W., 161310. Sub. reported 46.23 N., 64.09 W., 161726. Plane sights sub. 47.04 N., 63.03 W. 161640. (Cominch, 172200Z to Admty).

A/A Training. Your 171335 April. Navy Dept. regrets that it cannot supply a ship. (2) Evidence has been accumulating that extreme inexperience of crews for new construction makes it essential that training of all types and in particular close range A/A is imperative and every opportunity should be seized. (3) Facilities provided for firing at shore ranges in the U.S. cannot compete with the number of U.S. and British ratings to be put through and in any case system not considered to provide satisfactory training. (4) Your 071935 Jan. para. (V) request that approval may be given for these two A.P.Cs. to be retained for close range A/A training. They would also be used to give practical training in seamanship to E.R. personnel. (5) These ships could be manned by personnel awaiting completion of new construction ships. (B.A.M.R., 172202Z to Admty).

/Convoy...



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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Convoy F.H.55 Sailing telegram part 2. Total 5 ships (list etc).  
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.B., 172233Z to Admty).

Convoy diversion. Following reply made to Admty. 121155  
(Proposed all ships less than 10 knots be passed to Halifax) concur. This will be done 151612.  
(N.S.H.Q., 172250Z to Cominch B.A.D., C. in C. C.N.A., C. in C. W.A., Comnaveu).

Convoy C.U.2. Curacao, Section arrived 2300Z 17th.  
(C.A.F.A.C., 172330 to Cominch C and R. (R) Admty. Cdr. Caribbean S.F. N.S.H.Q., C.E.S.F.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Kiwi No.37 - Mine stranded W. Coast near Auckland N.Z. 16/5Z  
SSS from Liberty ship WILLIAM K. VANDERBILT 18.  
41 S., 175.07 E. 17/5 Z.F Japanese SS 21.30 S.  
- 178 W. 16/5. SS. sighted 10.50 S., 163.05 E.  
16/5 Kahili and Ballale S. Bougainville raided  
13/5. Allied F intercepted 25 Zeros over Russell Islands  
13/5 destroying 17. Allies lost five A/C and three pilots.  
A/C bombed and damaged Buin same day.  
(C.W.R. Wellington, 170051Z to C. in C. E.F., A.C.N.B., Admty. D.N.I., G.H.Q. New Delhi).

W.M. Message Commencing 0001Z June 1st, W.M. messages will be transmitted in P/L continuing existing serial numbers.  
(N.Z.N.B., 170411Z to W.M. Addresses).

X CENTAUR Hospital ship CENTAUR (3222 tons) en route Sydney to Cairns torpedoed and sunk 1800Z/13th in 027° 17' S., (?044° probably 154°) 05' 55 survivors picked up from crew 68 Medical Staff, 64 Army Medical Unit (corrupt group) total 352. Ship fully illuminated.  
(A.C.N.B., 170555Z to Admty. C. in C. E.F., N.Z.N.B.)  
G.H.Q., S.W.P.A's 160912Z. Request detailed report of sinking of Hospital ship CENTAUR as soon as possible.  
(Head of M.B., 171808B to A.C.N.B. (R) N.Z.N.B.) [Reply:

190949Z.  
page 950]

/From...



War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.

CENTAUR  
(Hospital  
ship) sunk  
13th May.  
(contd).

From 1st S.L. Circumstances regarding torpedoing of Hospital ship CENTAUR have been examined by Chiefs of Staff now in Washington. They are of opinion that every means should be taken to suppress publication of this as a temporary measure.

2. Request you will do all you can to prevent publication.  
(B.A.D., 171811Z to Admty. A.C.N.B.)

Digest  
Serial No.  
482 May 16th.

Morning R/C Liberator bombed Kavielil Aerodrome and reported sighting convoy 2 light cruisers, 6 medium merchant vessels Inga Elle Channel course 115°. Poor photos reveal 2 small vessels, 1 coaster Kavieng Harbour.

3. Afternoon (15th) 1 Fortress attacked 3 barges Kimbe Bay.  
4. Another bombed 3 large barges Gasmata area next afternoon.  
6. Forenoon R/C Wewak observed 2 medium merchant vessels in harbour.  
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 170848Z).

Movements

U.S. Transport VAN DER LIJN arrived Cairns 16th May. U.S. Transport CAPE FLATTERY arrived Gladstone 15th departed 16th due Townsville 18th. Hired Transport TAROONA U.S. Transport CREMER departed Townsville 16th due Fall River 18th. Hired Transport DUNTROON departed Townsville 16th due Port Moresby 18th.  
(C.S.W.P.S.F. 171221Z to Admty).

Arrival Townsville 16th ECHUCEASA, U.S. destroyers BAGLEY, FLUSSER, DRAYTON, RALPH TALBOT. Brisbane 16th GLENELG. Departure Brisbane 16th U.S. destroyer MAHAN for Sydney (N.S.W.) (?VENDETTA) (?U.S. destroyer PALMER) on escort duty Charles Point (corrupt group) KAPUNDA for Port Moresby.

(A.C.N.B., 171504Z to Admty)  
Arrival Townsville (?17th) May U.S. (?Naval) Transports PRESIDENT JACKSON, PRISIDENT HAYES, PRESIDENT ADAMS. Departures Brisbane 2033Z/16th. U.S. ALUDRA for Auckland E.T.A. 0800Z 22nd speed 10.5 knots "Chop" 17th.  
(A.C.N.B., 171556Z to Admty).

A/S  
Warfare  
Division  
established.

An A/S Warfare Division has been established at Navy Office Melbourne under the direction of C.S.W.P.S.F. comprising representatives of the (?R.A.N.) U.S. Navy and R.A.A.F.  
(2) This Division will be responsible for the combined practical and technical planning of

A/S measures of all kinds for final approval of Cdr. 7th U.S. Fleet.  
(A.C.N.B., 171614Z to Admty. N.L.O. Australia, London, N.B. Wellington, C. in C. E.F., N.A. Washington, B.A.D.)

Solops No.20

(B.A.D.171931Z to Admty. etc). See America and West Indies.



MOST SECRET.

67A

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War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 171402B).



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Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

? T.F. 61.

1. Task Force 61 (U.S. battleships SOUTH DAKOTA and ALABAMA, and destroyers ELLYSON, RODMAN, EMMONS, MACCOMB and FITCH) which sailed from Argentia on 12th May for Scapa, were placed under the orders of C. in C. Home Fleet at 1935B today.

2. Whirlwinds of 137 Squadron attacked some 12 to 15 small enemy vessels which were plotted by R.D.F. off Dunkirk last night and claim one seriously damaged and probably sunk, and 3 seriously and 4 slightly damaged.

Air attack  
on Cardiff.

3. Enemy aircraft attacked Cardiff in the early hours of today. A few bombs fell in the docks, but naval damage was negligible. The main G.W.R. line is blocked.

The ports of Cardiff and Barry and ports to the eastward of Barry were closed this morning on account of suspected enemy minelaying.

North Atlantic.

4. DELHI arrived at Gibraltar this morning from U.K. on passage to Mediterranean Fleet.

South Atlantic.

Convoy  
J.M. 1.

5. Convoy J.M.1 from Bombay arrived at Durban this morning, escorted by KENYA and QUICKMATCH.

Mediterranean.

6. SS. EMPIRE EVE and FORT ANNE in convoy K.M.S. 14 were torpedoed by a U-Boat at 1950 today in 36. 35 N. 01.01 E. (about 100 miles west of Algiers).

/The ...



War Diary.

18.5.1943.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

The former sank, but FORT ANNE reached Algiers.

7. At 0635C today a serious explosion occurred in the tanker DELPHINULA which was reported ashore near the Great Pass, Alexandria on 10 May. The explosion, which was due to petrol vapour having ignited, occurred when salvage tugs were proceeding alongside. Two tugs caught fire and had to be abandoned and both are extensively damaged. DELPHINULA is burning fore and aft and will probably become a total loss.

Malta  
Aircraft  
Operations.

8. Malta aircraft last night carried out intruder patrols over southern Italy. Small vessels were attacked in Tropea harbour. A Beaufort attacked with torpedo a 10,000 ton tanker 1 miles north of Messina harbour but did not see the result. Empedocle harbour and 3 F Boats were attacked. A 500 ton merchant ship was set on fire south of Pantellaria today.

N.W.A.A.F.  
Operations.

9. Some 83 N.W.A.A.F. U.S. Marauders and Mitchells escorted by about 90 U.S. Warhawks and Lightnings, some with bombs, were sent today to attack Pantellaria. Hits were made on the docks and jetties and on shore target. A large escorted force of Fortresses were sent to attack Messina, but on account of deterioration in the weather the alternative target Trapani was attacked. Hits among 6 ships caused explosions in one of them.

America and West Indies.

Routeing

10. Cominch wishes for the present to cease routeing via Cape Horn U.S. vessels from Red Sea and East and South Africa bound for U.S. east coast, Gulf and Caribbean ports, (these will be routed to Bahia for convoy in future) and that U.S. vessels from the Persian Gulf with speeds of 14.5 knots or greater bound for the U.S. shall be routed via the Atlantic instead of trans-Pacific via Cape Horn. The proposals of C. in C. S.A. for routeing to comply with the above are given in a message on 31 May. Admiralty and Cominch concurred.



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War Diary.

18.5.1945.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

11. It is reported that the U.S. tanker H.M. STOREY (10,000 tons), proceeding in ballast from Noumea to San Pedro was torpedoed at 0340 M and again at 0419 M today in 17.30 S. 172.03E. (about 230 miles west of Suva) and was abandoned.



War Diary.18.5.1943.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

LIEUTENANT / My 101530B and your 091840. It is reported  
DE LA TOUR. that 5 of the crew of French SS. LIEUTENANT DE  
LA TOUR have left the ship at Middlesbrough.  
No evidence of interference and no unauthorised  
person has been allowed on board nor was any  
application made by Master.  
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 181025B to Admty.)

Movements.

T.F.61. Sailed SCYLLA at 0654 in accordance with my  
SCYLLA. 171622B.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 180739B)  
Sailed SCYLLA at 0654 in accordance with SCYLLA's  
171226B.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 181035B)  
Task Force 61 is placed under your operational control.  
(A.C.N.S. H., 181935B to C. in C. H.F.)  
Your position estimated by R.D.F. is 54° 50' N. 04° 36' W.  
at 2131.  
(Via Liverpool, 182138B to SCYLLA.)

S/M My 171103B sailed (SATYR)  
movements. (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 180915B to A.C.O.S.)  
THRASHER exercising in Dartmouth, S/M Sanctuary  
between 0900 and 1600/18th.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 180935B)  
S.3s 171409, S.S.Es 141538. Intend to sail GRAPH  
escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE 1115B tomorrow northabout to Clyde.  
Speed 8 knots. E.T.A. Cumbrae 0600B/20th.  
(N.O.I.C. Barrow, 181113B.)  
Intend sailing L.15 (Russian S/M on May 20th as requested  
by Admiral Kharmalov.  
(Capt. S.3., 181515B to F.O.S.)  
Intend sail THRASHER escorted by M.L. 153 and 304 at 0900/19th  
for exercises in Dartmouth S/M area. (2) S/M and escort will  
leave area for Plymouth at 1500/19th by P.W. convoy route, E.T.A.  
1900/19.  
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 181609B).  
Positions of S/Ms at 0800B/19 and movements for following  
24 hours.  
(F.O.S. 181638B, 181716B, 181901B, 190836B.)  
Intend to sail L.15 and SYRTIS escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE  
from 180°Sanda Island 7 miles at 1500B/20 to Pentland Firth,  
E.T.A. 0100B/22. (2) Thence SYRTIS escorted to Scapa.  
LA CAPRICIEUSE and L.15 to Lerwick, E.T.A. 1200/22.  
(Capt. S.3., 181737B.)  
Scapa departure ULA escorted by SCALBY WYKE.  
(A.C.O.S., 181828)  
At 1200/19 intend sailing P.556 escorted by COLDSTREAMER  
routed via Sound of Mull and Islay, E.T.A. 1100/20th.  
(WESTERN ISLES, 182101B.)

/My...



War Diary.

18.5.1943.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

S/M My 182101. Amend time of departure 1100/19th,  
Movements. E.T.A. 1900/20. (P.556)  
(Contd.) (WESTERN ISLES, 182153B to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
Intend to sail U.S.S.R. S/M S.54 escorted  
by Chaser 5 from Needles at 0900/22 for Plymouth,  
E.T.A. Rame Head 1830; speed 12 knots.  
(Capt. S.5., 182332B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

M.L.558 A.M. 141546 is cancelled. 2. C. in C. W.A. is  
M.L.563. requested to divert M.Ls. 558 and 563 to Milford  
Haven for inclusion in next Coastal Force Convoy  
to Gibraltar.  
(D.D.O.D.C. 181310B)

HOWE. Intend to proceed to pass May Island 1915/19.  
E.T.A. Scapa 0515/20.  
(HOWE, 181555B to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
HOWE take MATCHLESS, ORWELL, ONSLOW under your  
orders and proceed to Gibraltar leaving Scapa practice area at  
0100B/21st May. (2) Route through (A) 58.39 N. 07.55 W.  
(B) 57.52 N. 09.10 W. (C) 50.01 N. 14.59 W. (D) 43.01 N.  
14.59 W. S.O.A. 16½ knots to latitude 50° N. thence 17½ knots.  
F.O.i/c Gibraltar is requested to signal onward route from  
position (D) (3) C. in C.W.A. is requested to provide A/S  
air escort from daylight 21st. Codeword "Encore".  
(C. in C.H.F., 181849B to HOWE.)  
Leave Harbour at 1630/19th and proceed by searched channel to  
Scapa. (2) Take MUSKETEER under your orders on leaving harbour  
and INGLEFIELD and BRISSENDEN when met at Eyebroughy.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 182251B to HOWE.)

UGANDA. Admiralty 121745B. From position (U) proceed  
through position (A) 180°. Bishop Rock 10 miles  
(B) 180°. The Lizard 3 miles, thence by A.M.  
Q.Z.S. 410 and 409. You are not to pass  
position (B) before daylight.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 181617B to UGANDA.)

BITER. Arrived BITER escorted by OPPORTUNE, OBDURATE,  
and PATHFINDER.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 181734B.)

North Dispositions of operational units in North  
Atlantic Atlantic.  
dispositions. Area Iceland (C): BELFAST, JAMAICA.  
Area Scapa: ANSON, DUKE OF YORK, MALAYA, BERMUDA,  
BERWICK, CUMBERLAND, EMERALD, GLASGOW, KENT, SCYLLA,  
Nine destroyers.  
Area Clyde: FURIOUS, INDOMITABLE, SUFFOLK, three destroyers.  
Area Plymouth: CHARYBDIS, 1 destroyer.  
Passage to U.K.: UGANDA.  
Support Group: 6 destroyers.  
Area Gibraltar: KING GEORGE V, NELSON, FORMIDABLE, AURORA, CARLISLE  
NEWFOUNDLAND, PENELOPE, SIRIUS, DELHI, 7 destroyers.  
(D.O.D.H., 181750B to C. in C. U.S.Fleet.)

/ADVENTURE...



War Diary.

18.5.1943.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - contd.

- ADVENTURE. A.M. 131834. Sailed ADVENTURE.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 181921B to F.O.C. Gibraltar.)
- WARSPITE. A.M. 211023B para. 2. (See Special File) and 211408B. Request you will arrange for WARSPITE to be sailed when ready to Scapa to work up. (D.O.D. H. 182015B to C. in C. H.F.)
- TRACKER. C. in C. Med. 181211, is being passed to C. in C. Plymouth who is requested to sail a destroyer to M.O.M.P. to be appointed by F.O.I/c Gibraltar. (D.O.D. H. 182016B to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
Note: C. in C. Med's. 181211 is cancelled by his 181821B.
- KENT, BELFAST. C.S.1 in KENT proceeding to Hvalfjord pass Hoxa at 2030B/19. Route through (X) 059° 03' N. 006° W., thence Reykjanes Passage by A.M. Q.Z.S.407 to Hvalfjord.  
(2) C.S.10 in BELFAST is requested to leave Hvalfjord for Scapa as soon as convenient after conferring with C.S.1. (C. in C. H.F., 182029B.)
- Hippo 1. Tugs ABELLE 21 and DANUBE VI towing special structure Hippo No. 1 arrived 2200/18th. (P.S.T.O. N.W. Ports, 182345 to D.S.T. London.)

Operations.

- Coastal Force Patrols. Your 171501B. "Bailey" and "Gibson" returned. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 180854B to C. in C. Plymouth)
1. Intend M.Ls. 303 (S.O.) and 233 to patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W. 2. Leave Portland at 2145 via Q.Z.S. 382 and leave patrol-line at dawn/19th.
  3. Object anti E-Boat patrol. Code-word "Prize". (F.O.I.C. Portland, 181125B.)  
BLEASDALE, GLAISDALE, ALBRIGHTON are to proceed by convoy route to eastward to arrive C 2A buoy at 2300/18 and thence proceed to patrol in vicinity of position T.T. Leave patrol so as to pass C.3. buoy at 0430/19 and return to Portsmouth.
  2. 3 Enemy torpedo-boats may be on passage southward.
  3. If ordered to intercept, force is to proceed through and return by passage two though passage four may be used for return if in that vicinity towards dawn. 4. Codeword "Device". (C. in C. Portsmouth, 181515B to Capt. D.1.)

/M.Ls....



War Diary.

18.5.1943.

Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - contd.Coastal  
Force  
Patrols.  
(Contd.)

M.Ls. 141 and 255 patrolling at No. 5 Buoy.  
M.T.Bs. 38, 204 and 235. M.G.Bs. 117, 116 and  
118, patrolling at Vergoyer Bank. E.T.D.  
0030/19. E.T.R. 0600/19. M.A.S.Bs. 26 and 24  
patrolling at "V" Buoy. E.T.D. 2359, E.T.R.  
0330/19.  
(V.A. Dover, 181730B.)  
My 181125B. "Prize" sailed.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 182153B.)

S/M  
Patrols.

Sailed HADDO escorted by WAVENEY in accordance  
with Comsubron 50s 161310.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 180958B and 181104B to Admty.)  
HADDO (U.S.) leaves 180° Barra Head 8 miles at  
2300A/18th proceeding on surface unescorted.

57.58 N. 13.45 W.

(C. in C.W.A., 181037B to Escorts O.N.S.8.)

Request you will recall TRUCULENT to arrive Lerwick 20th  
May. TRUCULENT will remain Lerwick and is required to leave for  
patrol about 2nd June. 2. SURF is to arrive Lerwick 22nd May,  
thence proceed Holy Loch. 3. ULTIMATUM is to leave Lerwick  
21st May for patrol-line B.B.

(F.O.S. 181246B to Capt. S.9.)

Position of Submarines at 0800B 19th and Movements for  
following 24 hours.

TRIBUNE 44° 20' N. 09° 51' W. dived by day toward 44° 21' N. 06°  
29' W., speed 105 miles per day.

STUBBORN on patrol vicinity 62° 50' N. 02° 30' E.

(E) TUNA vicinity 64° 19' N. 00° 58' E. (F) SHAD patrol near

64° 52' N. 01° 25' W. (G) SURF patrol vicinity 64° 45' N. 05°  
23' W. (H) TRUCULENT near 64° 40' N. 07° 30' W.

(J) HADDO 57° 15' N. 10° 08' W. on surface through 58° 01' N.

13° 45' W. 10 knots. (K) HERRING 57° 55' N. 40° 22' W. dived  
by day towards 56° 30' N. 44° 01' W. 100 miles per day.

(F.O.S. 181638B to Admty.)

S/Ms. are to leave patrol for Lerwick as follows:

(1) TRUCULENT at 0030B/19 through (X) 090° Muckle Flugga 5.

(2) STUBBORN at 0030B/21 through (X).

(Capt. S.9., 181645B to S/Ms.)

Patrol S.A.

My 091346B and 171431B. M.T.Bs. 626, 653, 620  
returned to base 1300/18.  
(A.C.O.S., 181324B.)

Exercises.

INDOMITABLE.

Sailed INDOMITABLE for exercises.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 181028B to N.O.I.C. Belfast.)

THRASHER.

THRASHER will be exercising in Dartmouth S/M area  
between 0900/19th and 1500/19th, thence on passage  
to Plymouth, E.T.A. 1900/19.  
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 181619B.)



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18.5.1943.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

A/C  
in Distress.

Following from 16 Flying Control Chatham Rescue Aircraft begins. S.O.S. British Airman in distress at 53° 50' N. 06° 32' E. (Humber Radio, 180619 to Immingham.)

Four Enemy  
M/Vs.  
damaged.

Four small vessels from five miles west of Dunkirk at 2335, westbound at ten knots, and two small vessels from six miles west of Dunkirk at 2335 westbound at five knots, were heavily attacked with bombs and machine-gun fire by Whirlwinds of 137 Squadron under Swingate ground control. Pilots report seeing twelve to fifteen vessels and claim one seriously damaged and probably sunk, three vessels seriously damaged and four slightly damaged. Plot remained stationary from 2345, time of the first attack until 0200 when they proceeded eastward and faded off Gravelines. (V.A.Dover, 180947B to Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Cardiff  
bombed.

\* Report of enemy air activity on Cardiff night 17/18th May. About 30 persons killed, about 45 seriously injured; 2 major fires, many smaller fires; 14 U.X. bombs in various parts of the city. G.W.R. Central Station damaged. No industrial production interfered with. A few H.E. in docks, damage negligible. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 181120 to Admty.)

Mining.

Bristol  
Channel  
Ports.

Ports of Barry and East thereof closed. Stop all traffic. (N.O.I.C. Cardiff, 180638B.) Port of Cardiff closed due to suspected enemy minelayers. No traffic is to proceed East of Swansea till further orders. (C. in C.W.A., 180730B.)

Ships may be sailed on a.m. tide only 19th May. Ports will then be closed till further signal. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 181624B.)

If there is no further enemy activity normal working will be resumed a.m. 20th at Bristol Channel ports.

(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 181732B.)

Operation  
H.V.

? The points raised in your 152121/May are under consideration, but request that the initial re-inforcement of these fields may proceed as planned. (A.C.N.S. H. 181107B. to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Yarmouth.

L.L. Sweepers detonated one red magnetic mine at 1150 in 095° 3 B. buoy 14 cables. (F.O.I.C. Gt.Yarmouth 181319B, 181429B, 182002B.)

/Sweep...



War Diary.18.5.1943.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.

Sweep by M/S.4. 1. Admiralty letter M/M/S 0285/43. Under favourable conditions operation can be completed in one sweeping day with all available ships. Following programme intended:-  
0500 Friday 21st May sail from Plymouth.  
0600 Saturday 22nd May arrive area. p.m. Saturday 22nd May leave area. p.m. Sunday 23rd May arrive Plymouth.  
2. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail two Trawlers asked for in my 4 M.S.O. 6/43 para 3 (B) to join me Coningbeg Lt. V. at 0600/22nd.  
(M/S.4. 181552B. to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Off Sunderland. At 180927B. One Mine exploded by Sweepers in 54° 50' 42" N. 01° 18' 36" W.  
(N.O.I.C. North Shields 182045B.)  
At 181647B. One Mine exploded by Sweepers in 54° 50' 50" N. 01° 18' 38" W.  
(N.O.I.C. North Shields 182050B.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Dunkirk. Photos. taken 180730B May show arrival of four T.L.C. Type III and decrease of two E/R boats only changes of note since 16 May. Three T/Bs. still present in Bassin Five.  
(R.A.F. Medmenham 181300B.)

Calais. P.R. sortie 1045B/18 May shows:-  
Boulogne. Calais. SPERRBRECHER Z.D. and one auxiliary in dry dock. Departure since 17 May of one E/R boat and two auxiliaries since 17 May.  
Boulogne - Port east of Maritime station and outer harbour not photographed. Two T.L.C. present at Quai Chanzy compared with seven on 17 May when port completely photographed. No A/C visible on the following A/Fs - Le Touquet, St. Inglevert, Berck sur Mer.  
(P.R. Benson, 181940B.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported or attacked in North Atlantic, on 17th May. Daily resume. All times Zone B. At 1623/17 in 60° 55' N. 17° 40' W. A/C sighted U/B periscope 260 8 knots and attacked 4 Torpex Mk. XI from 20ft. A/C remained 20 mins in vicinity but nothing further seen. At 1745/17 same A/C sighted periscope and wake of U/B in 60° 56' N. 17° 35' W. but no attack made as U/B had submerged. Baiting tactics adopted to P.L.E. At 1704/17 in 60° 04' N. 13° 56' W. 269 sighted U/B and attacked with 4 Torpex Mk. XI 3 secs. after submergence. A/C remained 19 mins. in vicinity but nothing further seen.  
(R.A.F. Iceland, 180129B to H.Q.C.C.)

/At...

18.5.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats - Contd.

U-Boat reported or attacked in North Atlantic, on 17th May. (Cont.) At 2339/17 in 61° 35' N. 18° 05' W. K/269 sighted streak iridescent oil 200 ft. wide stretching 10 miles on either side on line 345/165 ahead of C/Vs track. At 2307/17 in 62° 10' N. long. indecipherable, U/B fully surfaced on course 270/7 K.T.S. sighted and attacked with 4 Torpex. C/T fully visible and part of bows. 1 Min. after attack 100 ft. cloud of Grey smoke with oilyswell seen over area of attack. 90 secs. after attack considerable oil seen mixed with debris composed of some white objects and long narrow reddish objects about 6 ft. long apparently of wood. (R.A.F. Iceland, 181234B to H.Q.C.C.)  
Transit aircraft sighted Submarine at 1630Z/18 in 059° 45' N. 036° 35' W., course S.W. proceeding on surface. (A.C.I.C. 182045B to Admty.)

U-Boats reported or attacked in Biscay Area. A considerable number of U-boats estimated on passage to and from Bay of Biscay between latitudes 44° 01' N. and 48° 02' N. and longitudes 15° 04' W. and 22° 03' W. (D.D.I.C. 181330B to UGANDA.)  
On day 17th May 8 Whitleys of 10 O.T.U. carried out A/S patrols W. and N.W. of the Bay of Biscay. One A/C sighted a conning-tower at 15 miles in an attempt to strike before the U-boat submerged, an attack was made up sun, and 6 D.Cs. were dropped. No results were observed after the D/C explosions. Two Whitleys are missing. (H.Q.B.C. 181450B)

Casualties and Defects.

Search for Life-Boat LAGAN. Nothing found. My P.C.S. 051° 18' N. 017° 11' W. 053° 15. (LAGAN, 180125B to C. in C.W.A.)  
E.T.A. Merville 0500B/19. Intend proceeding up river without oiling. Fuel tank requires welding. My P.C.S. 053° 32' N. 012° 46' W. 055° 16½. (LAGAN, 181341B to C. in C. W.A.)  
Tonight 049° N. 014° W., 000° 14. No sign of lifeboats. Propose searching lanes 10 miles wide North and South alternatively to Westward. (COLUMBINE 182200B to C. in C. W.A.)

CORMULL. My 171250. Sailed at 0540. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 180625B to C. in C.Nore.)

FORT PASKOYAC. Arrived FORT PASKOYAC in tow of Tugs HUDSON and SCHELDE. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 180742B)



War Diary.

18.5.1943.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects. - Contd.

- L.S.T.301. Your 112000B. In view of extent of defects affecting sea going efficiency on L.S.T.301, request latest date for completion that can be accepted.  
(Dockyard, Portsmouth, 181255B to Admty.)
- PATHFINDER, R.A.(D) H.F. 151205 and 151150. PATHFINDER, OB DURATE, OPPORTUNE arrived Clyde p.m. today.  
OPPORTUNE. (C. in C. W.A., 181311 to C. in C.H.F.)
- WORTHING. WORTHING has sustained damage starboard house pipe. Casting is broken in pieces and ship's plating buckled. Intend to remove broken pipe and blank hole in ship's side and deck to make ship seaworthy. Although a new casting could be fitted by BLENHEIM if supplied from U.K. it would not be safe to continue to operate this ship in Icelandic waters, with only one anchor available for use and therefore propose she return to U.K. as soon as temporary repairs are completed.  
(A.C.I.C. 181504B to Admty.)  
Following from E.R.O. Shoreham. CYPRESS in tow left Shoreham today.  
(R.N.O. Shoreham, 181520 to S.I.D.G. London.)
- MOURNE. My 172225B. Transformer now replaced. Intend to sail MOURNE to-morrow with F.N.25 parting company at daylight 20th and proceeding independently to Tobermory.  
(C. in C. Nore, 181655B.)
- COLOMBO. A.M. 1928A/31, March. COLOMBO can be taken in hand at Devonport Dockyard on 28th May for fitting R.P.C. gear. 2. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail her to Plymouth to arrive on 28th May.  
(D.O.D.H., 181725B to C. in C. Plymouth.)
- SOUTHERN GEM. SOUTHERN GEM arrived Tobermory today with following defect, among many others. Details. Consider ship should proceed to dockyard for proper refit.  
(WESTERN ISLES, 181935B to Admty.)
- HESPERUS. HESPERUS has flooded fore peak and slightly damaged stem and may require docking on arrival.  
(HESPERUS, 182036Z to N.O.I.C. Liverpool.)
- CULEBRA. F.O.i/c Greenock's 151648. Destination of CULEBRA is Middlesborough not Tyne. Request tow may be routed accordingly.  
(D.S.T. 182206B, to A.C.O.S.)

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War Diary.18.5.1943.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- W.S.30. JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT should be prepared for inclusion in convoy W.S.30 (North African Portion) (D.S.T. 180029B.)  
MATAROA arrived 0108/18.  
(D.S.T.O. Greenock 180115B.)
- A.T.44. Convoy A.T.44 comprising ANDES is due Liverpool 20/5 with following on board. (a) Personnel; Total 4109. (b) Cargo as follows.  
3. She should be ready to sail about 27/5.  
(D.S.T. 180142B.)
- O.N.184. Escort Group 6 escorting TOLTEC sailed at 0415B/18 in accordance with your 171031.  
(A.C.I.C.180557B. to C. in C. W.A.)
- O.N.S.8. Escort Group C.4, CHURCHILL S.O., RESTIGOUCHE, BRANDON, COLLINGWOOD, BADDECK with VISCAMA, Tanker PAN GULF sailed to meet O.N.S.8.  
(C.T.G. 24.7 180630 to C. in C. W.A.)
- H.X.237. Attacks on U-Boats by A/C. from BITER. C.A.F.O. 151/43 part one. (1) BITER, 811 Squadron, Swordfish Mike. (2) 101650Z May, day attack. (3) 041° 54' N. 031° 19' W. (4) 4 Torpex Mark XI. (5) None observed.  
(BITER 181000Z. to Admty.)  
(1) BITER, 811 Squadron, Swordfish Love. (2) 2013Z/11th May, day attack. (3) 044° 47' N. 027° 22' W. (4) Four Torpex Mark XI. (5) Small patch of oil when U-Boat submerged.  
(BITER 181001Z.)  
(1) BITER, 811 Squadron, Swordfish Able. (2) 1758Z/12, day attack. (3) 047° 44' N. 025° 42' W. (4) 4 Torpex Mark XI. (5) None observed.  
(BITER 181002Z.)  
(1) BITER, 811 Squadron, Swordfish Baker. (2) 1230Z/12th May, day attack. (3) 047° 01' N. 025° 51' W. (4) 4 Torpex Mark XI. (5) Few bubbles after 15 minutes. (U.89 mark)  
(BITER 181003B.)  
(1) BITER, 811 Squadron, Swordfish How. (2) 0916Z/13th May. Day attack. (3) 049° 20' N. 022° 57' W. (4) 4 Torpex Mark XI. (5) None observed.  
(BITER 181004.)  
1. BITER, 811 Squadron, Swordfish Love. 2. 0949Z/14th May, Day attack. 3. 046° 38' N. 028° 06' W. 4. 2 40 pounds G.P. Bomb. 5. None observed.  
(BITER 181005Z.)  
1. BITER, 811 Squadron, Swordfish Baker. 2. 1044Z/14th May. Day attack. 3. 046° 38' N. 028° 06' W. 4. 4 40 Pound G.P. Bombs. 5. None observed.  
(BITER 181006Z.)

/O.S...



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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

O.S.48 Intend sailing ALYNBANK to R/V with convoy  
and O.S. 48/K.M.S.15 in 270°. Oversay 6 miles at  
K.M.S.15. 1130B/21st., thence comply with A.M. 071630B.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 181224B.)  
Intend sailing ORMONDE, FRANCONIA, STAFFORDSHIRE,  
BRISBANE STAR escorted by SARDONYX 1230B/19,  
speed 11 knots, to R/V with Clyde section in 270°. Oversay 6  
miles at 0530B/20.  
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 181342B.)

A.T.42A. Clyde arrivals. SS. AQUITANIA.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 182038B. to Cominch.)

K.M.F.15. My 141717. Sailed without D/F calibration.  
ROYAL (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 182103B. to F.O.I.C.Greenock.)  
ULSTERMAN.  
BANN.

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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

DELHI Arrived.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 180730B to Admty etc).

Dispositions. Situation at 2001B/18.  
FLEETWOOD 28.30 13.20 to overtake O.S.47 13½ kts.  
(2) P.55 (UNSPARING) passing through 43.01 10.01  
at 0600/19th thence 180° diving by day 7/2.  
(3) Hospital ship AMARAPOORA 38.09 11.03 358° 11.  
(4) O.S.47 SCARBOROUGH (E) 27.46 14.17 228° 8.  
(5) U.G.F.8 A. T.G.60.1, 34.05 24.46 through 34.10 23.01 thence  
090° 12½.  
(6) S.L. 129, LEITH, 25.22 16.10 041° 7.  
(7) U.S.S. WEST POINT, 35.01 24.01 through 34.58 18.02 thence  
097° 20.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 181045B).

TRACKER Your 172246. Request you will sail TRACKER  
escorted by O.R.P. BLYSKAWICA and TUSCAN.  
Admty. is requested to arrange relief for  
TUSCAN if possible.  
(C. in C. Med., 181211A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) Admty.  
C. in C. W.A.)  
Your 171211 (181211 intended) TUSCAN not at Gibraltar.  
A.M. 141840 (Natel re TUSCAN damaged by mine or torpedo during  
night 13/14) refers.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 181742B to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty. etc).  
Cancel my 181211. Admty. 141840 just received. Request  
you will hold TRACKER pending futher orders.  
(C. in C. Med., 181821A to F.O. Gibraltar (R) C. in C.  
W.A., Admty).

G.U.F.8 Intend sail Casa Section G.U.F.8 consisting of  
MONTEREY, GEORGE WASHINGTON, T.F. 67, 1600A/19th  
to R/V Mediterranean Section accordance C. in C.  
Med., 131115 thence accordance Admty. 101910.  
(C.M.S.F.F., 181256 to Port Director New York,  
(C.E.S.F. pass) (R) Connav, C. in C. Lant,  
Admty. C. in C. Med., etc).

GENEROSO Swiss GENEROSO 1437 G.T. National Colour and  
Switzerland on hull, sailed 1355/18th for  
Genoa by approved route. Not to be molested this  
voyage.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 181412B to S. and A. Area G.etc)

Axis Shipping Bilbao. Arrival 17th MARIBEL. Spanish RIO NANSA, PETRO-  
LEA, CANDINA, MIRAFLORES. Arrival 18th  
REGEJA, PRESIDENT DE LAVIT, LINETTE. Departure  
17th MARIBEL, TIM, SPES, WATERWEG, HENK.  
Spanish FUNCHALENSE, Spanish MONTE BANDERAS.  
Repeated S.O.(I) Gibraltar.  
(Bilbao, 181310 to Admty)

/Ships...



War Diary.

18.5.1943.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

Ships ex  
K.M.S.14.

KINGSLAND with coal, cargo, EMPIRE COMMERCE, tanker, cargo M.T. arrived here K.M.S.14 with no instructions. Request ultimate destination. Agreed Q.S.O.  
(S.T.O. I.C. Gibraltar, 181442 to P.S.T.O. Med., (R) D. of S.T.)

Neutral  
Shipping  
Routes.

Your 131602B. These routes may be communicated to Ministry of Marine.  
2. For your personal information only we understand that they are acceptable to all neutrals and to Axis. No mention should be made, however, of the fact that we are aware of this position.  
(Head of M.I. (808) 181710B to N.A. Madrid).

Movements,  
Gibraltar.

Arrivals U.S.S. YEW from Casablanca. KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE from escort duties east.  
Departures HAARLEM escort duties Melilla, M.L. 469, L.C.T.417, tug EMPIRE NED to Oran. (F.O. Gibraltar, 182146B to Admt. etc).



War Diary.18.5.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

CATTERICK Arrived CATTERICK 1700/17th. (corrupt group)  
S.R.4 F. sailed 0215/18th. Speed 13 knots to R/V at  
0700/18, with S.R.4 F.  
(Comar Dakar, 180225 to FOXHOUND, F.O.C.W.A.  
(R) F.O. Gibraltar, Admty. C. in C. Med.,  
Commorseafron, N.O.I.C. Bathurst).

X Convoy Arrived KENYA, QUICKMATCH with J.M.1  
J.M.1 (Com. Durban, 180511Z to Admty. C. in C. S.A.,  
C. in C. E.F. , F.O. Ceylon, N.O.I.C. Bombay)

GAMBIA Sailed GAMBIA to Capetown by route R.5 S. of A.  
20½ knots E.T.A. 0730Z May 20th.  
(2) Shift to W/T Group S.L. at 1600Z May 18th.  
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 180834Z to Admty. C. in C.  
S.A., C. in C. E.F., N.O.I.C. East London  
N.O.I.C. Port Elizabeth, N.O.I.C. Capetown).

Dispositions. WORCESTERSHIRE 012° S., 008° 10' W., to 008°  
45' S., 014° 30' W. 13.  
HERTFORDSHIRE, SPHENE, NORTHERN DAWN with C.N.  
20 off Walvis Bay.  
NORMAN, QUADRANT, REDOUBT with W.S.29, 036° 55' S., 020° E.  
to Durban 12.  
NEWCASTLE 036° 50' S., 019° 40' E., to 037° S., 021° 30' E.  
thence to Durban 20.  
GENISTA, INDIAN STAR with D.C. 26, 033° 15' S., 028° E. coastal  
to Capetown 9.  
COVENTRY CITY, SONDRRA, STELLA POLARIS, 030° 15' S., 033° 05'  
E. to Durban 10.  
DAUNTLESS 029° 50' S., 033° E. to Durban 15.  
TULIP escorting KHEDIVE ISMAIL 029° 45' S., 038° E. to 031°  
S., 038° E. thence Cape St. Lucia 10½ (all amendments  
181724B).  
(C. in C. S.A., 181001Z).

Following is a repetition of my 181618 (Not circulated in  
Admiralty) (begins) My 181001, delete KUMAON and Consorts.  
(deleted in W.D.)

Amend TULIP and consorts to 028° 10' 035° 35' to Durban 10½  
knots. Add GAMBIA 033° 05' 029° 25' by R.5 to Capetown 20½  
knots (ends).

(C. in C. S.A., 181724B to A.I.G.125).

Situation at 2001Z/18. LEITH, COREOPSIS, VIOLET,  
AUBRETIA, WHIMBRELL, ANCHUSA, with S.L. 129, 25.04 16.29  
047° 6.

AIMWELL M.M.S. 102, 103, 105, 106 off Port Etienne to North 8.5  
COWSLIP 15.23 1742 to Bathurst 12.

BELLWORT, WASTWATER escorting about 25.06 16.40 (?000)° 8.  
FOXHOUND, BOREAS, BULLDOG. CATTERICK, with S.R.4 (?F) 16.35 17.  
51 352 12.5.

SARABANDE on patrol about 08.30 27.30 14.

DESPATCH 05.18 15.57 to Freetown 20.

M.L. 290, 10.00 16.00 to (?West) 13.5.

PORTSDOWN, BUTSER, 08.35 13.37 to 09.22 14.11 thence 200 8.25.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 181132Z).

/Situation...



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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Dispositions (contd). Situation 1959Z/18th. MORRIS DANCE off Freetown coastal to Marshalls 10.  
FANDANGO, PICT M.Ls. 261 278 off Marshalls.  
M.L. 1018 off Sassandra.  
TRUSTY, COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES 03.03  
07.03 through 04.(?10) 07.51 at 0100Z/19th thence coastal to North West 12.5.  
M.L. 1042 M.L. 1016 off Accra.  
MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, RAPID, with T.S. (F) 40 04.18 02.05 261 9.75.  
THYME, VIRGINIA, 01.(?28) 03.10 E. 183° 10.5.  
(R.A.W.A., 181133Z).

DUCHESS OF RICHMOND. Sailed 17th May. Stores etc. for Freetown and United Kingdom.  
(S.T.O. Capetown, 181005Z to D.S.T. etc).

NORTHMOOR (sunk 17/5). SS. NORTHMOOR sunk in convoy by enemy submarine in 28° 27' S., 32° 43' E. at 1215Z/17.  
(2) Ship hit by two torpedoes fired from inshore and sank within two minutes of first torpedo.  
(3) Neither submarine nor torpedo tracks seen.  
(4) Ship did not open fire.  
(5) SSSS Signal not made.  
(6) C.Bs. locked in Steel Safe and sank with ship.  
(7) 11 members of crew and one D.E.M.S. missing.  
(8) D/C attacks made by Air and Surface escort.  
(Cdre. Durban, 181020Z to Admty. C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F.)  
B/S NORTHMOOR in escorted group sunk by U-boat at 1415B/17 in approx. 28° 20' S., 32° 40' E. Escorts and aircraft counter attacked former on good asdic contact. U-boat was not seen.  
(Simonstown W/T, 181537B to Admty. (R) Com. i/c Durban C. in C. E.F., S.O.(I) Colombo).

WAMERU, WAGOGO. German ships WAMERU and WAGOGO were taken over by Portuguese March 17th. Loanda informed.  
(Vice Consul Lobito, 181030A to C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.W.A., Admty).

ALLER, DORTMUND, RUFIDJI (sale to Portugal). Consul General informs me that he has been advised by M.W.T. that German ships ALLER and DORTMUND at Lourenco Marques and RUFIDJI at Beira have been sold to Portuguese Shipping Co. and H.M.G. has agreed to allow repatriation of crews in SS. MOUSINHO.  
(C.S.A. Lourenco Marques, 181042B to C. in C. S. A., C. in C. E.F., Admty).

ELIZABETHVILLE Sailed 0700/17 embarked (Military and cargo) (S.S.T.O. Lagos, 181043Z to D. of S.T. (R) S.S.T.O. Takoradi, D.S.T.O. W.A.)

/MONTEREY...



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War Diary.18.5.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

MONTEREY Arrived 1050Z.  
(Comar, Dakar, 181112Z to F.O.C.W.Af. Admty).

MALCOLM Your 161755 (Requesting details of MALCOLM's defects) Both propellers to be changed and condensers require retubing. Consider it inadvisable to steam MALCOLM any further than essential due to possibility of vibration resulting from damaged propeller damaging gearing. Intend to sail MALCOLM as in my 151703 as this is convenient opportunity.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 181154Z to Admty). Reply: Admty. 211840B.

LULWORTH HILL (sunk in March). My 081859 (LULWORTH HILL sunk by U-boat position not yet known. 19th March) SSSS 11° 44' S., 01° 44' E. attack by submarine 1958Z/15th. Believed to be from LULWORTH HILL.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 181221Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.)

KANBE (torpedoed 8/5). Your 171723Z (re survivors of KANBE) KANBE sailed in T.S.38, N.C.S.Os. Takoradi 050920Z refers and S.O.(I)'s Freetown 111258Z reported arrival of convoy.  
Request details of circumstances in which ship was sunk.  
(D.T.D., 181240B to F.O.C.W.A.) *See also 181403Z p.693.*

Water Carrier for North Africa. Your 161706. EMPIRE CADET arrived Duala 16th May for dry docking, anticipate earliest possible return first week in June and therefore cannot be included in S.L. 130. EMPIRE ARTHUR has stem damage and requires dry docking and consequently does not meet your requirements.

PASS OF MELFORT returned from dry docking 21st Jan. ROLF returned 3rd April, and either of these vessels could be released. Request early instructions. Anticipate no undue difficulty in supplying W.S. Requirements.  
(D.S.T.O.W.A., 181346Z to D. of S.T. (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.C.W.A., Cdre. i/c Freetown).

L.S.Ts. Freetown. My 071314. Owing to difficulty in unloading two L.S.Ts., L.S.Ts. will now reach destination 2nd June and third about 7 days later. Every endeavour is being made to expedite.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 181348Z to Admty).

DUMONT D'URVILLE, LE CENTAURE. Intend to sail F.S. DUMONT D'URVILLE and F.S. LE CENTAURE a.m. 19th May to carry out A/S exercise and on conclusion at 1430Z/19th to proceed Konakri. E.T.A. 1900Z/19th.  
2. DUMONT D'URVILLE escorting LE CENTAURE will sail from Konakri at 1700Z/24th May and proceed to Dakar passing through: A. 010° 35' N., 016° 39' W., at 0800Z/25th.

/B...



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

DUMONT B. 011° 14' N., 017° 22' W., at 1300Z/25th.  
D'URVILLE, E.T.A. Dakar 0630Z/26th. Speed 12 knots.  
LE CENTAURE. 3. Total bombing restrictions will be imposed  
(contd). 30 miles ahead and astern 10 miles either side of  
estimated positions.  
4. DUMONT D'URVILLE will report P.C. and S. if  
not inside T.B.R. Zone and also if contact is  
lost with LE CENTAURE.  
5. Comar Dakar pass to C.M.D. Konakri.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 181356Z to Comar Dakar, (R) C.M.D. Konakri, Admty.  
Air H.Q. West Africa, Capt. (D) Freetown, DUMONT D'URVILLE N.O.  
I.C. Bathurst).

KANBE British ship KANBE sunk at 2200/8/5. (Report  
sunk 8th from five Indian survivors picked up 60 miles  
May. south of Monrovia at 1315/9/5 by Spanish ship  
RIO FRANCOLI and taken to Fernando Po.  
Survivors state cause was an explosion, no news  
any other survivors.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 181403Z to Admty (R) C. in C.  
S.A.)

Dispositions. Position 18 May.  
ORBITA. B. As before C. Sailing with W.S.29  
CAPETOWN CASTLE A. Sailed for Saldanha Bay  
C. Sailing for U.S.A. May 21.  
LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE B. As before C. Sailing with W.S.29.  
W.S.29 A. Arrived May 18 in thick fog.  
B. Endeavouring to berth. C. May 21 for R/V.  
(S.T.O. Capetown, 181422Z to Admty).

LEWES A.H.Q. India's 120930 and C. in C. E.F's  
140955 (Re early release of LEWES to Ceylon  
and provision of relief for LEWES)  
LEWES has been an urgent requirement in South  
Africa since November 1942 for following reasons.  
(A) Torpedo training of S.A.A.F. which is a primary function  
of Wingfield.  
(B) LEWES is an important consideration in my 011207  
(Accommodation and facilities at R.N.A.S. Wingfield not  
sufficiently advanced to accept 2 Squadrons for working up  
practices)  
(C) Runner attacks in Table Bay area have been shown by recent  
experience to be undesirable without suitable recovery ship.  
(D) Normal shipping traffic has not provided adequate  
facilities owing to (1) Weather (2) Routeing diversions which  
cause uncertainty and unsuitability of ships movements thereby  
wasting many flying hours. Moreover such traffic may now be  
expected to decrease.  
(3) In addition to torpedo requirements LEWES will be indis-  
pensable for A.S.V. training by day and night also for search  
and shadowing exercises and practices with flares, all of which  
are essential in working up new Squadrons.

/(F)...



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Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.LEWES.  
(contd).

(F) Value of LEWES for the towing of divebombing and A/S targets. No such targets have yet been available.  
(C. in C. S.A., 181451B to Admty. C. in C. E.F.  
(R) F.O. Ceylon, R.N.A.S.I.O. Com. N.A.S., A.H.Q. India, 222 Group).

NEWCASTLE

Capetown departure 1245B May 18th NEWCASTLE for Durban by route R.5. Speed of advance 20 knots. E.T.A. Durban 1600B May 20th. Shifting to W/T organization J at 0800B May 20th.  
(C. in C. S.A., 181511B to Admty. N.O.I.C. Durban, E.F., C.S.10, N.L.O. Port Elizabeth, N.L.O. East London).

Floating  
Dock.

M.W.T. representative at Bahia reports that following inspection by Capt. Nicholson, Montevideo floating dock should probably be ready to proceed on passage by June 24th.  
2. You will be kept informed of progress.  
(D.O.D. (F), 181535B to F.O.C.W.Af. (R)  
C. in C. Med., F.O. Gibraltar).

CAPE NEDDICK  
(torpedoed  
12/5).

U.S. Ship CAPE NEDDICK torpedoed at 0113Z/12th in 023° 21' S., 001° 22' W. has arrived at Walvis Bay. Vessel hit by 1 torpedo and number 2 hold flooded. No casualties. Vessel is being made seaworthy for passage to Capetown.  
(C. in C. S.A., 181536B to Admty. B.A.D.,  
(R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Levant, S.O.(I) Colombo).

BULLDOG,  
BOREAS.

Arrived BULLDOG 0900Z sailed 1150Z. Arrived BOREAS (?1040)Z sailed 1300Z. Both ships rejoining. S.R.4F.  
(Comar Dakar, 181557Z to F.O.C.W.A.F., FOXHOUND, Admty).

CYCLAMEN

My 142314.\* Intend to sail CYCLAMEN p.m./21st May escorting two L.S.Ts. to Gibraltar and for onward sailing to U.K. as ordered by F.O.I.C. Gibraltar for periodical refit.  
(F. O.C.W.A. 181603Z to Admty. (R) F.O. Gibraltar)  
\*(142326 intended).

Movements

Arrivals Capetown 17th ROTHERHAM, NEWCASTLE, 18th RELENTLESS, RACEHORSE, Simonstown 18th LEWES.  
(C. in C. S. A., 181620B to Admty. F.O.C.W.A.)

W.S.29

Departures 0815B May 18 NORMAN, REDOUBT, for escort W.S.29 to Durban.  
(C. in C. S.A., 181626B to Admty. Com. Durban).

/T.L.109...



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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

T.L. 109 Sailed 1700Z/18th convoy T.L. 109 route B. S. of A. 7 knots, E.T.A. Lagos, 1600Z/20th (list etc). Convoy codeword (?Ba) "boo". Convoy W/T identity XZD 1 Dig 9 Q.L.A. (?171) (N.C.S.O. Takoradi, 181739Z to Admty. etc).

MAURETANIA Your 142012. Request ship be routed to Capetown through amended position (T) 031° 00' S., 025° 00' W. (U) 033° 012' W. (V) 033° 30' meridian of Greenwich (W) 033° 13' 010° E. (X) 033° 13' 017° 36' thence by searched channel described in Q.G.A. 127 direct Capetown. (C. in C. S.A., 181803B to Cominch C. and R. (R) U.S. Operating Base Rio de Janeiro, Admty. Comsolant).

S.R.4 F. Convoy S.R.4 (F) sailed 1600/16 May. 1 MALOJA, 2 ANTENOR, 3 CALIFORNIA, 4 FELIX ROUSSEL, 5 MOOLTAN, 6 MONTEREY. (2) Numbers 1 to 4 U.K. via Gibraltar. No. 5. U.K. via Casablanca, No.6 Dakar. Survivors, etc. (6) Passenger details see my code 181820 May. (D.S.T.O.W.A., 181810 to Admty. for D.S.T.)

Convoy T.L. 11. Sailed 1700Z/18th convoy T.L. 11 route B, S. of A. 7 knots, E.T.A. Lagos, 1600Z/20th (4 ships list etc). Convoy codeword "Bamboo" convoy W/T identity X-Ray Zebra D 1 - 9 Q.L.A. ? 171. (N.C.S.O. Takoradi, 181739Z to Admty. etc). Sailed 1700Z/18th T.L. 11 escort SARABANDE (S.O.) and ORFASY, E.T.A. Lagos, 1600Z/20th. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 181844Z to Admty. F.O.C.W.A.F., N.O.I.C. Lagos).

Movements, Freetown. Arrival 1321Z/18th May H.M.S. BIRDLIP and M.Ls. 285, 289 escorting. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 181856Z to Comar Dakar, (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Bathurst).

K.M.S.15 CELEROL will accompany K.M.S.15 into Mediterranean as escort oiler. (D.T.D., 181902B to F.O.C.W.A.)

Movements Takoradi. Arrivals 18th May, PETUNIA, TAMARISK. Departures SARABANDE, (?and) ORFASY, Lagos, 20th M.L. 263. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 181948Z to CYCLAMEN, R.A.W.Af. R.N.O. Lagos).

Movements...



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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Movements  
Walvis Bay.

Arrival 18th May KUMAON and KATHIAWAR escorting Tugs EMPIRE CH(?U)B, EMPIRE ACE, ALLIGATOR and EMPIRE DENNIS, latter towing KELT. EMPIRE OBERON due from Lobito a.m. 19th May. (N.O.I.C. Walvis Bay 181951B to C. in C. S.A. Admty. F.O.C.W.Af.)

Convoy  
O.S.47.

(1) Ships not required to call Freetown will transfer to convoy O.S.47 off Freetown for onward passage.  
(2) Following ships routed Freetown should proceed unless they have special reason for entering

Freetown JOHN HOLT, AMSTELKERK, LIBERIAN.

Overcarriage of small number of passengers must be accepted.

(3 and 4 disposition of remainder).

(5) Names and destinations of any ships able to reach an onward destination but without route should be signalled through aircraft or by other opportunity. Route will be sent by escort of O.S.47.

(F.O.C.W.A., 182042Z to SCARBOROUGH, For Cdre. of Convoy O.S.47).

? U/B Sunk

German S/M 740 tons type sunk by U.S. aircraft and destroyers at 1313Z/17th in position 01° 08' S., 035° 38' W. 47 survivors landed Recife. (A.B.N.S.O. Recife, 182045Z to Admty).



War Diary.

18.5.1943.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Algiers Air Report. To C.G. Eighth Air Force - C.G. Ninth Air Force. From N.W.A.F. Adv. H.Qs. N.R. M. 4357. From Spaatz. To Brereton and Eaker. 2. Night 15/16: 15 Wellingtons dropped 1,400 14 X 1,000 42 X 500, 27 X 250 and 48 30 pound bombs between 4,000 and 10,000 feet on Trapani. Direct hits on railroad yards, 3 Wellingtons are missing from mission. (Algiers No T.O.O. Recd. 0200Z/18.)

WAYLAND. Amended E.T.A. 1300Z/19th May. Request 500 tons oil fuel. (WAYLAND 180200Z to N.O.I.C. Aden.)

Convoy A.P.31. Sailing telegram (2 ships). 2. 0300Z/18th May. 3. Long. 055° 0300Z/21st May, lat. 022° 0800Z/23rd May. Khor Kuwait 0100Z/25th May. 4. 9 knots. 5. G.A.N. (O) 022° 18' 060° 40' P.G.W. 6. CARNATIC. (N.C.S.O. Aden 180326Z, 180329Z to Admty. etc.)

U/B. Following has been read. Am over enemy submarine in 34.33 N. 14.23 E. (A/C 2940 via Alex W/T 180415 to Admty.) My 0415 Enemy S/M was on surface and has dived in position (as former.) (A/C 2940 180430 to Admty.)

K.M.S.14. Sailed for Algiers: L.S.T. 368 BARRHILL (corrupt group). For Bougie EMPIRE HAYWOOD. For Bone USKIDE, ODYSSEUS. (N.O.I.C. Oran 180845A to Admty. etc.)

Movements Alexandria. Arrivals 17th May ROMEO, KANARIS. Departures 17th May M.Ls. 348,354, PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS. (S.O.I. Alexandria 180919C to Admty. C. in C. Levant.)

CARNATIC. Departure 0312Z. (Cdre. Aden 180937Z to C. in C. Levant, etc.)

G.U.S.7A. Convoy is to enter Oran to disembark prisoners. 2. N.O.I.C. Oran is requested to sail convoy as soon as ready signalling amended time of R/V for Gibraltar and Casablanca section. (C. in C. Med. 181031A to N.O.I.C. Oran, N.O.I.C. Bougie, N.O.I.C. Algiers, (R) F.O. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Casablanca, Admty. Connav.)

G.U.S. (?7)A. Philippeville section sailed less ST. DAY. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville 182314A to N.O.I.C. Bone, Cdre. Algiers, F.O.I.C. Oran.)

/Tunis...



War Diary.18.5.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

x Tunis Cable. Request you will arrange to divert Tunis-Igalo cable to Malta at earliest possible date. A.M. 1514/27 February refers.  
(C. in C.Med. 181105A to V.A.Malta, (R) Admty.)  
See also Admty. 201952B.

Your 181105. Manager Cable and Wireless considers for technical reason a cable ship to handle 40 miles of cable is essential. If no cable ship can be sent an attempt could be made using BURGENET but at expense of Salvage work and accepting serious risk of damage to cable.  
(V.A.Malta 182219 to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty.)

TAURUS. Intend to sail P.339 (TAURUS) 1830/19th for Malta route through 038° 20' 003° 48' at 0430/20th, 038° 18' 011° 16' at 2130/23rd, P. at 2330/23rd, thence Malta as ordered by Capt. S.10.  
(Capt. S.8 181132A to C. in C.Med. Capt. S.10 (R) 8th S/M F. Cdre. Algiers.)

Enemy units. Following read. P.C. and S. of one battleship, 44.05 N. 9.50 E. 180° stationary.  
(Naval Aircraft CXW/M via Algiers W/T 181338.)  
Following read. P.C. and S. of 1 enemy medium sized merchant vessel are 44.04 N. 9.52 E. 270° 10 knots.  
(A/C CXW/M 181340A.)

Following read. P.C. and S. of 2 large enemy vessels and 2 destroyers 44.00 N. 9.42 E. 020° 12 knots. Sighted at 1343A.  
(A/C CXW/M via Malta W/T 181445A.)

Following read. My 1338, enemy previously reported is one Italian battleship.

(A/C CXW/M via Malta W/T 181445A.)

Following read. P.C. and S. at 1534A of one enemy medium sized merchant vessel and six planes 39.03 N. 9.35 E. 020° 10 kts.  
(A/C CXW/M 181543A.)

Aircraft's 1338 and 1445. This battleship is probably only exercising off Spezia.

(Capt. S.8 181544A to 8th S/M Flotilla.)

SHAKESPEARE, 1. P.221 (SHAKESPEARE) leaving patrol through SARACEN. 042° 38' 008° 24' at 2102/20th 038° (?12') 004° 20' at 2058/23rd to R/V escorting to Algiers in 036° 57' 003° 13' at 0600/24th.

2. P.247 (SARACEN) leaving patrol through area J. so as to pass 038° 45' 009° 59' at 0400/20th 038° 07' 004° 20' at 2100/24th thence R/V with escort Algiers in 036° 56' 003° 06' at 0600/25th.

(Capt. S.8 181420A to 8th S.F. (R) C. in C.Med. F.O.Gibraltar, Capt. S.10th, Cdre. Algiers.)

N.W.A.A.F.  
Report.

NA.A.F. Opsum Number 86 18 May.

N.A.Strategic Air Force 16/17 May.

21 Wellingtons despatched attack Lido Di Roma and drop leaflets Rome. 1 returned early. 19 dropped 2 by 4000, 16 X 1000, 96 X (7500), 46 X 250, 126 X 30 lb on seaplane base from 750 to

/8000 ft...



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18.5.1943.  
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

N.W.A.A.F. Report (Contd.) 8000 ft. 1 A/C dropped 8 by 500, 3 by 250 on Lido. Bursts on seaplane base, hangars on fire, due restricted size of target some bombs in sea. 2 M/G attacks made at 500 and 100 feet along aircraft on Tarmac. Approx. one million leaflets dropped Rome. Moderate flak, nil searchlights. Vatican and P. of W. Camp illuminated. Blackout Rome good. 17 May. Nil Operations, resting. Evening 14 May Bone. 15 E/A damaged several houses, slight splinter damage naval craft. 25 military killed 48 wounded many caused by crashed E/A in camp. 15 May 6 E/A attacked Bone, damage assessment not yet received. 16 May, 12 plus, over 12 bombs, 2 military killed 15 wounded damage ?nil. (Spatz, N.W.A.A.F. Advanced. 181445A to Air Min. etc.)

P.R.U. 18th May. Visuals. 1205 Taranto 2 battleships 2 cruisers. (V.A.Malta 181455B to C. in C.Med. etc.) P.R.U. May 18th? visuals. 1610 Taranto 2 battleships, 2 cruisers. 1700 Messina no major naval units. (N.O.I.C. Malta 181814B to C. in C.Med. etc.)

DELPHINULA. My 101601 (DELPHINULA fully loaded with Benzine ashore near Great Pass, Alexandria) ship caught fire during Salvage operations this morning. Regret casualties among her crew and crews of tugs assisting. Still burning. (Supt. of Salvage 181507C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

My 131423 May para. 2. At 0635C 18th May a serious explosion occurred in tanker when salvage tugs were proceeding alongside due to petrol vapour becoming ignited. DELPHINULA, H.M. Tug BARWICK, and a Harbour Tug immediately caught fire and had to be abandoned. Fires in tugs extinguished damage to both extensive. DELPHINULA now burning fore and aft and will probably become a total loss. Tanker beached? in position 231° 3.7 cables from Great Pass Beacon at Alexandria. 2. Casualties are being reported separately. (C. in C. Levant 182030C to Admty. (R) R.A. Alexandria.)

DERWENT. Your 092319 and my 11241 (N.T. in W.R.) Subject to satisfactory progress, it is hoped that DERWENT will be ready for towage away about 6th June this will be confirmed at a later date. (A.S. Malta 181539 to C. in C. Levant, (R) C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta.)

EMPIRE RAJAH fire. EMPIRE RAJAH caught fire coal cargo No. 1 hold, beached and flooded in Suez Roads. Vessel refloated 17th and salvage now completed. Damage not known but probably not serious. (Supt. Salvage Alexandria 181540C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.)



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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

U.G.S.8. U.G.S.8 arrivals. (list). K.M.S.14 arrivals.  
K.M.S.14. (list.)  
(Comnob Oran 181543A to Admty. etc.)

CELENO. My 151535C. CELENO not yet arrived but  
imminently expected.  
(S.O.I. Istanbul 181617C to S.O.I Levant, C. in C.  
Levant, Capt. S.1, D.N.I.)

G.U.S.7A Intend sailing THOMAS PINCKNEY, EZRA CORNELL,  
MEANTICUT, WILLIAM JOHNSON, HAWAIIAN, HORACE  
BINNEY, LORRAINE, RICHARD H. ALVEY, THISTLEDALE  
(Gibraltar (?for) South America.)  
(Comnob Oran 181620A to Connav, Admty. C. in  
C. Med. F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) Commorseafron.)

LAURANA. A.M. 120200B. Request report whether further  
examination of LAURANA at Malta revealed  
evidence of abuse of Geneva Convention.  
(Head of M.I. 181708B to C. in C. Mediterranean,  
(R) C. in C. Levant.)

Movements 18th May Port Said arrivals COUNDOURIOTIS,  
Port Said. MARYBOROUGH, GAWLER, LISMORE, IPSWICH.  
Departures MARYBOROUGH, GAWLER, LISMORE, IPSWICH,  
HEPHAISTOS, COUNDOURIOTIS.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 181709C to Admty. etc.)

ORION V.A. Malta's 140713. (Movements of ORION and  
named destroyers). Request you will signal details  
positions. of all named positions in use other than those  
quoted in your 181758 January.  
(D.O.D.(F) 181735B to C. in C. Levant.)  
Reply 201120C.

French In my 141713 for ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ read GRACIEUSE,  
Refugees, arrival given May 21st.  
Portugal. (C. in C. Med. 181738A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R)  
B.N.A. Madrid, B.N.A. Lisbon, Admty.)  
(Former amended in W.D.)

G.U.F.8. G.U.F.8 sailed in accordance with C. in C. Med's.  
131115, ships as follows (list.)  
Escorts FARNDALE, HAYDEN, HOLCOMBE, CALPE, three  
U.S. destroyers as additional escort until west  
of Alborano Island then return Oran.  
(Com N.O.B. Oran 181850A to Connav, Admty. etc.)

/Enemy...



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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- Enemy units, At 1600, one merchant ship 3,000 tons, one  
ULTOR, destroyer and 3 E-Boats sighted 021° Point  
UNRULY. Alice 4 miles southbound, 8 knots. Air strike  
may be expected.  
(Capt. S.10, 181901B to P.53 (ULTOR) P.49 (UNRULY)  
(R) 10th S.F.)
- Minelaying. Your 071114 May. After further consideration  
and in view of small number of mines available, I  
have decided not to proceed with this project.  
(C. in C.Levant 181908C to Admty. (R) C. in  
C.Med. C. in C.E.F.)
- French A.M. 051331, to which early reply would be  
Man Power. appreciated, figures of available French manpower  
in North Africa given in your 032206 do not  
appear to tally with information contained in  
para. 3 of your 132044.  
(Deputy 1st S.L. 181910B to C. in C.Med.)
- MAURETANIA. Troopers 80 756 Q (M) 2 May 17th to Mid East.  
Request confirmation MAURETANIA proceed U.K.  
ex Suez and that she may be used to clear any  
available personnel for South Africa U.K. and  
U.S.A. apart from 1700 Czechs.  
(P.S.T.O.Egypt 181944C to D.S.T.) *Reply 060139 June.*
- Malta Air A.I.542 18 May C.S.A. A. Air. Part 1 offensive.  
Report. Night 17/18. Mosquitoes made successful  
intruder patrols over Southern Italy. In Tropea-  
Harbour one ship of 1000 tons and three smaller  
vessels were attacked, one railway locomotive  
was seriously damaged north of Crotone, and cannon strikes  
followed by coloured flashes were scored on a train at Scalea,  
another train at Cetraro and on railway buildings at Paola.  
M/T near Cape Trionto was attacked and cannon strikes started  
a fire in a goods yard at Port Salvo. One torpedo Beaufort  
was despatched to attack tanker 10,000 in Messina Roads,  
Beaufort sighted the tanker and one small vessel one mile north  
of Messina Harbour and attacked tanker with torpedo but results  
could not be observed owing to thick smoke screen from both  
ships. Two other torpedo Beauforts made armed searches in  
Messina area, four Albacores with bombs on shipping search  
between Pantellaria and Marittimo found no shipping and attacked  
alternative target Empedocle Harbour. 20 250 lb G.P. bombs  
were dropped, straddling power station and railway, starting  
two fires near power station and one fire in target area. 3  
near misses were scored on three F-Boats four miles south west  
of harbour.  
Day 18th May. 15 Spitfires made offensive sweep over southern  
Sicily. 1 of 3 Spitfires escorting P.R.Spitfire photographing  
Pantellaria attacked 1 M/V 500 tons south island and set it on  
fire.  
Part 2. Enemy Air Activity.  
Day 17th May. 16 Spitfires provided escort for outgoing  
southbound shipping.  
Night 17/18th May, 1 Beaufighter was airborne to protect  
Wellington on shipping search North of Sicily. One Beaufighter  
made interception patrol south end of Sicily.

/18 May...



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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Malta Air  
Report  
(Contd.)

18 May. 5 Beaufighters provided escort for outgoing southbound shipping. One mine was sighted 100 miles South of Malta by Beaufighters and subsequently sunk by D/R.  
(R.A.F. Malta 182007Z.)  
A/543 18 May. Daily Opsum No.9. (covers same incidents as A.I.542.)  
(R.A.F. Malta 182201Z, 182211Z.)

Movements,  
Haifa.

My 172055 (Add ?) arrival ST. MONANCE.  
Arrival 18th May Greek Destroyer AETOS, SOUTHERN SEA, ISLAY, M.L. ?1017. Departure Greek Destroyer AETOS, Greek Destroyer PANTHER, PROTEA, ISLAY, SOUTHERN ISLE, ST. MONANCE.  
(N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports 182017C. to Admty. C. in C. Levant.)

Movements,  
Algiers.

Arrivals SIRIUS, NEWFOUNDLAND, M.L.280 Tug RESTIVE, S/M TRIDENT. Departures AURORA, PENELOPE, SHADDON, (sic) OAKLEY, H.D.M.Ls. 1211, 1222, M.M.S.33, French Chasseur 3, S/M MARSOUIN.  
(Cdre. Algiers 182018A. to Admty. etc.)

N.A.A.F.  
Report.

"Edited Literal Text". To C.G.8th Air Force. To C.G.9th Air Force. To Eaker and Brereton. From Spaatz. Cite N.R.4477. 1. Night May 16/17, 21 Wellingtons dropped 2 x 4,000, 14 x 1,000, 96 x 500 pound and 46 x 250 pound and 126 x 30 pound incendiary bombs on Lido Di Roma Seaplane Base and 9 x 500 pound and 3 x 250 pounds bombs on Lido. The seaplane base and hangars were hit and many fires started. 1,000,000 leaflets were dropped on Rome. 1 photo R/C mission was made. 2. Day May 17th. Coastal carried out usual recon and escort patrols.  
(N.A.A.F. H.Q. Advance 182030Z. to Etousa, etc.)

Movements,  
Oran.

Arrivals today. CALPE, PENTSTEMON, (?HOLCOMBE), HAYDON, FARNDALE, U.S.S. YARKER, U.S.S. MCLANAHAN, U.S.S. KENDRICK, U.S.S. NIELDS, U.S.S. BOYLE. Departures today CALPE, HOLCOMBE, HAYDON, FARNDALE, BARHIEL. L.S.T. 368, U.S.Ss. MCLANAHAN, NIELDS, BOYLE.  
(Commob, Oran 182100 to Admty. etc.)

FORMIDABLE,  
Martlets,  
supply  
of  
spares.

Your 121751B. Reply as follows under lettering of para. 2 message quoted. A. One month's supply of all available Martlet spares was sent to ship in November. A.M. 0003A/25th Nov. refers. Arrangements made for immediate shipment in UNICORN of 144 cases of Martlet II and IV spares and other stores on demand by Ship, which have since become available. Cases marked M.C.F. in a diamond. B. No trace of receipt of Demands. Request copies be forwarded if not covered in duplicate demands being forwarded in accordance with your 131123B. C. Presume Demands referred to are those dated 17th Feb. for Martlet items.

/These...



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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

FORMIDABLE,  
Martlets,  
supply of  
spares.  
(Contd.)

These received Perth 19th March. Only 53 items available at the time; these were shipped early April. Items which have since become available shipped in UNICORN. D. 5 propellers shipped SS. HARMATRIS on the 14th March. 12 Pitot tubes shipped early April in R.667, case P.E.R.4321. See A.M. 082356 April addressed to Ship. E. Pitot tube mountings in course of delivery from U.S.A; see B.A.D. Washington message 210157 April, and A.M. 262204B April, addressed to Ship. Para. 3. Confirmed that action to replace losses by enemy action is taken immediately on receipt of information. Your 030945A and Admty. 071941B. Items referred to being shipped UNICORN. Original supply of exhaust stacks shipped in SS. EMPIRE WYCLIF. F.O.I.C. Gib. pass by hand to FORMIDABLE.  
(Director of Stores 182126B to S.O. Force H. (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C. Gib.)

Movements,  
Bone.

Arrival AURORA, PENELOPE, departure BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, CONVULULUS, SIRIUS, NEWFOUNDLAND, TANGO, PIROUETTE, KING SOL L.S.T.304.  
(N.O.I.C. Bone 182305. to Admty. etc.)

Movements,  
Tobruk.

Arrived M.L.354. Sailed Aberdare FAREHAM, BAGSHOT, HARROW, M.L.1012 RAGLAN CASTLE also M.L. 357 for Derna.  
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk 182324C. to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

Movements,  
Tripoli.

Arrived REDWOOD, PRIMULA, FALK, KLO, L.C.Ts.113, 139, 154, 158, 111, 157. Sailed BEAUFORT, EASTON.  
(S.N.O. Tripoli 182353B. to Admty.)

Movements,  
Malta.

Arrived RORQUAL R.A.F. Pinnacle 1235. Sailed UNSHAKEN, JERVIS, NUBIAN, PETARD.  
(V.A. Malta 182356 to Admty. C. in C. Med. etc.)

K.M.S.14  
attacked.

Convoy K.M.S.14 was attacked by U/B at 8.50 p.m. 18th, when about 100 miles W. of Algiers. EMPIRE EVE, British, 5979 tons, was torpedoed and sunk. FORT ANNE, British 7134 tons, was torpedoed but reached Algiers.  
(D.O.R. 1371 (21/5) ~~no~~ signal in W.D., <sup>but see page 740</sup>)



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18.5.1943.  
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

## Movements.

Arrival PATHFINDER.  
(S.O.I. Bombay 180146Z. to Admty.)  
Departure 0230Z KARACHI. Arrival 0345Z ORISSA  
with P.B.40 0650Z RAJPUTANA, PANGKOR.  
(S.O. (I) Bombay 180903Z. to Admty.)

## Arrival CERES.

(S.O. (I) Bombay 180951Z. to Admty.)  
Colombo Departures 18th 0930Z SONAVATI, HINDUSTAN.  
(F.O. Ceylon 181140Z. to Admty.)  
FALMOUTH, VERBENA arrived.  
(F.O.E.A. 181221Z. to Admty.)

Convoy  
P.B.40.

Bombay portion arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 180448Z. to Admty.)

N.C.P.35,  
N.C.P.117,  
names.

It has been decided to rename N.C.P.35 HJLHET\*  
and N.C.P.117 SHOLAPUR.\* as received.  
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 180605Z. to D.G.S.R. (R) Admty.  
R.I.N.L.O.)

Minesweepers.// As Vessel quoted in Para.4 of my 261337 March  
and other newly built minesweepers become  
available they are to be based at Colombo for  
working up. (2) Lt. H.H.C. Burdett, R.N.V.R.  
who has had recent experience as Group Officer of L.L/S.A.  
Sweepers in W.A. Command is available at Kilindini and is  
being appointed to F.O. Ceylon Staff for special duties in the  
training of those minesweepers. Whilst holding this appointment  
he will be granted acting rank of Lt.Comder. R.N.V.R.  
(3) Relief for Commander R.E. Cowell, R.N.R. vide Admty. Message  
152207 April will not now be required.  
(C. in C. E.F. 180841Z. to F.O. Ceylon, Admty.)

EASTERN PRINCE  
Polish  
families.

Expect to sail EASTERN PRINCE from Karachi to  
Beira 27th May with 500 Polish families.  
(P.S.T.O.I. 180948 to P.S.T.O. Capetown (R)  
D.S.T.O. Durban, D. of S.T. D.S.T.O. Kilindini.)

Convoy  
C.X.3.

Arrival 1056Z May 18th SCOUT escorting convoy  
C.X.3.  
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 181133Z. to Admty.)

Martlet  
and Seafire  
A/C.

Your 160841. Request details by signal of  
spares required to render remaining 4 Martlet IV  
and 1 Seafire 1 B serviceable.  
(D.N.A.O. 181705B. to R.A.N.A.S. I.O. (R)  
C. in C. E.F. R.N.A.R.Y. Nairobi.)

## KONKAN.

On arrival to join will have just completed  
120 hours only. KONKAN expected to leave  
Bombay 2nd June. Awaiting your further orders.  
Your 181321Z (N.T. in W.R.) refers.  
(KONKAN 181837Z. to S.N.O. Persian Gulf (R)  
R.N.O. Khor-Kuwait, F.O. Ceylon, F.O.C. R.I.N. Com.  
R.I.N. N.O.I.C. Bahrein.)



War Diary.18.5.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

LORIENT overdue. LORIENT due Boston from O.N.S.5 has not arrived. (N.S.H.Q., 180010Z to Admty., Connav, S.C.N.O. Halifax N.S., F.O.N.F., B.R.L.O. New York, B.R.L.O. Boston, N.C.S.O. Montreal.)

T.A. 42. Convoy T.A.42 sailed from U.K. a.m./16th May for New York.  
(QUEEN ELIZABETH) 2. Details of personnel on board are being communicated by W.O. to Milstaff Washington and C.G.S. Ottawa.  
(D. of S.T., 180109B to B.M.W.T. New York, B.A.D., (R) N.S.H.Q.)  
Request continuous air escort may be provided for T.A.42 consisting of QUEEN ELIZABETH estimated position 2000Z/18 May 41.11 N. 35.13 W. to 38.00 N. 53.00 W., 38.00 N. 70.00 W. thence New York. S. of A. 26 knots.  
(C. in C. C.N.A., 182017Z to A.O.C. in C. E.A.C., (R) N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., Conroute, Admty.)

Review of Air Assignments. My 082026 May. Air Min. state that U.S. War Dept. have now requested that review of Air Assignments be postponed to early June. They understand that U.S. Navy Dept. have no objection to this postponement. Air Min. party therefore proposes leaving 5th or 6th June with view to talks beginning 10th June. We are agreeing to this change. Admiralty representatives will, as previously arranged, travel with Air Ministry's party. Request confirmation that no difficulties foreseen from your point of view.  
(Hd. of Air Branch, 180121B to B.A.D.)  
A.M. 180121. Confirmed. No difficulties foreseen.  
(B.A.D., 181559Z to Admty.)

Convoy O.N. 181. 33 ships arrived including NORTH KING unexpected from Iceland. First arrival 171224Z. Last arrival 172117Z. EMPIRE DICKENS unaccounted for U.T.S.  
(P.D. New York, 180202Z to Cominch C. & R., (R) Admty., C.E.S.F., N.S.H.Q.)

H.X.240. (1) Sailing telegram part 1. Position PB at 2200Z/19th. 3, 5, 8. Routes and R/V as per Admty. 121450 and C. in C. C.N.A. 131950. 6. Task Unit 24.18.2, ST. CLAIR, S.O., QUESNEL, CHICOUTIMI.  
(P.D. New York, 180204Z to Admty.)

Movements. May 17th St. Johns N.F. arrivals - ACONITE and LOBELIA ex St. Pierre. TROIS RIVIERES escorting B.W.24 ex Sydney (C.B.). PELICAN returned with defects. OTTAWA, FISHGUARD, BANFF, DIANTHUS,



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18.5.1943.  
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies

Movements. ROSTHERN, ARVIDA, ST. ELSTAN and H.M.R.T. STORM  
(Contd.) KING ex O.N.182. Departures - NORTHERN GEM,  
GROWLER to H.X.239.  
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 180322Z to Admty.)  
Seattle arrived 161915Z RAVAGER.  
(N.S.H.Q., 180637Z to Admty.)  
Kingston arrival U.S.S. BLAKELEY.  
(S.O.(I) Kingston, 181033 to Opnav.)  
Arrivals BUXTON, MIDLAND, KAMLOOPS, TRANSCONA ex H.X.239.  
(C. Halifax, 181231Z to Admty.)  
Departures - HAMILTON, THE PAS, KAMSACK, BLAIRMORE  
escorting S.C.131 and L.S.Ts 13, 63, 64, 164, 181, 200.  
(C. Halifax, 182114Z to Admty.)  
Trinidad arrivals May 18th B.Y.M.S. 14, 22, 24.  
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 182002Z to S.B.N.O.W.At.)

Support Groups, Convoy Cycles. Personal for V.C.N.S. from 1st S.L.  
A. According to your 120117B para. three there would only be four support groups after 14th June if H.X., O.N. convoys maintain present cycle.  
B. But in your 161550B para. four you state that by opening out the H.X., O.N. cycle to seven and a half days we shall have seven spare groups which presumably could be used as support groups.  
C. By our calculation based on A.M. 280046 April however we only have two groups by opening out the H.X., O.N. to seven and a half days which would bring the number of spare groups down from seven to six.  
D. D.T.D. informs me that as a result of discussions with Americans it is proposed to alter the cycle of U.G.S. and O.S. convoys to ten days in August to allow for the increased size of these convoys vide B.A.D's 051647 May (Hush) and to synchronise them with Mediterranean convoys on the assumption that the latter will be on a five or ten day cycle and not on a seven day cycle as suggested in C. in C. Med.'s 141553 (Hush). This will require the allocation of two additional groups to the O.S./S.L. convoys.  
E. I agree with second part of para. one of your 161550 and request you will consult C. in C. Western Approaches if necessary and report as soon as possible how many support groups are necessary to achieve this on the supposition that the H.X., O.N. cycle is opened out to seven and a half days.  
F. Thus after you have confirmed para. C we shall see how many support groups we shall be short from the middle of June to end of August.  
(B.A.D., 180337Z to Admty.)

X Eastern Fleet, numbers of battleships and Carriers. Personal for V.C.N.S. from 1st S.L.  
Dr. Evatt has stated verbally to Somerville that British agreed to maintain at least 5 battleships and 3 carriers in Eastern Fleet. Have we ever made any statement which they might construe as promise of such force?  
(B.A.D., 180513Z to Admty.) Reply: 182240Z, page 711.

/Task ...



War Diary.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Task Force 69 C. in C. Lant's 162136 addressed to Comdesron 10 constituted. for action, informs as follows:  
Corrected Copy. Effective 25th May, numerical designator Taskforce 69 hereby constituted as follows:

STEVENSON, STOCKTON, THORN, MAYO, DUANE, SPENCER, TARBELL, PAUL JONES, MAUMEE, PUMPER, ANTICLINE. Com. Conner in command accordance Secnav letter (S.C.) P17-1 of July 18th, 1942. A 9th escort will be added if available. About 28th May escort convoy U.G.S.9 from New York to North African ports. Follow Cominch (C. and R.) routeing. Detach PUMPER and ANTICLINE and direct them report Comnavnav for duty on arrival. Return New York in accordance with Admiralty routeing escorting convoy G.U.S.8A when directed by Commoroccansesron. As vessels arrive New York Comdesron 31 direct them report to Com. Conner. (Comnavau, 180639 to Admty.)

H.M.S. QUEEN A.M. 171834B. Cancel para. 3(b) and substitute:  
ELIZABETH. 2. QUEEN ELIZABETH should be sailed from Norfolk as soon as ready and held at Bermuda if necessary. (D.O.D.(H), 181128B to B.A.D., (R) S.B.N.O.W.At.)

U.S. Merchant Shipping Casualties. The under-mentioned U.S. Merchant Ships have been accepted by the War Shipping Administration, Washington, as lost due to enemy action. Probable causes, dates and estimated position of loss for these vessels, suggested by Admiralty, are as set out below:

	Cause	Probable date	Estimated position.
EDWARD B. DUDLEY	Possibly torpedoed by S/M.	10th April 1943	50° 00' N., 38° 00' W.
ATLANTIC SUN	Possibly torpedoed by S/M.	17th Feb. 1943	51° 00' N., 41° 00' W.
JAMES MCKAY	Possibly torpedoed by S/M.	9th Dec. 1942	58° 00' N., 23° 24' W.
SAWOKLA	Possibly torpedoed by S/M.	4th Dec. 1942	35° 00' S., 36° 00' E.
LA SALLE	Possibly torpedoed by S/M.	29th Oct. 1942	40° 00' S., 21° 30' E.
JOHN WINTHROP	Possibly torpedoed by S/M.	24th Sept. 1942	56° 00' N., 31° 00' W.
ESSO WILLIAMSBURG	Possibly torpedoed by S/M.	22nd Sept. 1942	53° 10' N., 41° 00' W.
WICHITA	Possibly torpedoed by S/M.	15th Sept. 1942	15° 00' N., 54° 00' W.
TILLIE LYKES	Possibly torpedoed by S/M.	18th June 1942	19° 00' N., 85° 00' W.
CONNECTICUT	Possibly sunk by Raider.	20th April 1942	23° 00' S., 20° 00' W.
ROBERT GRAY	Possibly torpedoed by S/M.	22nd April 1943	57° 30' N., 43° 00' W.

/Admiralty ...



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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

- U.S. Merchant Shipping Casualties. (Contd.) Admiralty is reluctant to include these details on their official Casualty Lists without U.S. concurrence, as such entries might prejudice decisions made in U.S.A. for insurance and other purposes. Request that these suggested entries may be submitted to the U.S. Authorities for their agreement, and that if they consider more appropriate dates or positions necessary in regard to any of the above casualties, these may be signalled in their reply. (D.T.D., 181138B to B.A.D.)
- Signal letters. / Request by first available air opportunity, confirmatory list of Canadian signal letters already allocated to, or intended for, specifically numbered L.C.I.(L)s or L.S.Ts built or building in U.S.A. in order that comprehensive list may be promulgated. (D.S.D., 181305B to B.A.D., N.S.H.Q.)
- C.L.64. Arrived less JAMES STEWART and DRUMAHOE. (N.C.S.O. Sydney, 181343Z to Admty.)
- S.H. 81. Sailing telegram part II. (7 ships, list etc.) (N.C.S.O. Sydney, 181409Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)
- B.Y.M.S. Sail B.Y.M.S. 43, M 45, 46 onward from Belem when ready. Estimate next group B.Y.M.S. arrive Belem May 28th. Direct B.Y.M.S.44 proceed with this group if ready. (Cominch, 181426Z to Com. 4th Fleet, (R) Admty., F.O.C.W.Af., S.B.N.O.W.At., Alusnob Belem.)
- N.S.H.Q. S/M Estimate. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa estimate of S/Ms north of 40 N., West of 40 W. 1200Z/18th May. (N.S.H.Q., 181450Z.)
- B.Y.M.S. B.Y.M.S. 68, 31, 186, 187, 209 DYSART (? depart) Boston in company May 18th at 1030Q en route Halifax via coastal route. Speed 10. B.Y.M.S.68 is senior. (C.T.G. 02.1., 181452 to C.E.S.F., (R) C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, C. in C. C.N.A., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Comtask 24, N.S.H.Q., C.C.N.F., Admty.)
- Russian request for copy of "Torch" Orders. / 18th May, 1943. Following from Chiefs of Staff C.O.S.(W) 616. 1. Admiral Kharlamov, head of Soviet Mission in London has pressed us hard and continuously for a copy of "Torch" orders.



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Russian request for copy of "Torch" Orders. (Contd.)

2. Chiefs of Staff Committee feel that we cannot resist this request, but Orders would, of course, be carefully vetted and pruned before being handed over.

3. Please ask U.S. Chiefs of Staff if they have any objections and, assuming they have not, are there copies of any Russian Orders that we should ask for in return?

(Air Min., 181500Z to Britman Washington.)

S/M Estimate 18th May, U.S. S/M Notice.

(Cominch, 181514Z, 182126Z, 181513Z, 181601Z, 181602Z, 181603Z.)

Swordfish A/C, Argentina.

Request the following information -

(a) number of serviceable Swordfish reserves held at Argentina.

(b) number of (a) fitted A.S.V.

(c) number of unserviceable Swordfish held.

(d) possibility of shipping (c) to Dartmouth

for repair.

(e) number of (c) which can be made serviceable at Argentina.

(D.N.A.O., 181703B to R.N.A.S. Argentina, (R) B.A.D., Com. (D) Argentina, R.N.A.S. Dartmouth.)

Roman Candles.

X It is advised by the Admiralty Trade Division Convoy Equipment Section that all British managed ships will be supplied with seven Roman candles in lieu of White Rockets as required in Mersigs Volume 1 and A.M.S.I. 26/43 and 50/43. Five

White Stars are fired by these candles at ten second intervals to a height of 250 feet and have self contained percussion firing unit also weather proof. The change was instituted to improve dependability. The covering publications will be amended accordingly. Instructions are requested concerning the issuance of candles to Merchant vessels controlled by United States. (Connaveu, 181706Z to Connnav, (R) Admty.)

S.C. 131, Fuelling at Sea, Depth charges.

Escort oiler for S.C.131 ACASTA carrying Admty. fuel oil fitted with 5 inch hose buoyant method astern. First standby oiler GULF FOREST carrying Admty. fuel oil fitted with 5 inch hose astern method. Second standby oiler EL MIRLO carrying pool fuel oil with 5 inch hose buoyant method astern. Also carries 60 depth charges. (C. in C. C.N.A., 181708 to Admty., (R) Connnav, N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A., F.O.N.F., Cdr. (D) Argentina, B.A.D., C.E.S.F., P.D.N.Y., B.R.L.O New York.)

/Convoy ...



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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Convoy B.X. 52. Sailing telegram part 2.  
(H) Total 19 ships.  
(U.S. Port Director Boston, 181758 to Cominch C. & R., etc.)

S.C. 131. Sailing telegram part 2.  
Total 32 sailed.  
(Halifax, 181805Z to Admty.)

Routeing, // For the present desire to cease Cape Horn routeing U.S. Shipping. for U.S. vessels from Red Sea East and South Africa bound U.S. East Coast. Gulf and Caribbean Ports and that U.S. vessels from Persian Gulf with speeds 14.5 knots or greater bound U.S. be routed via South Atlantic instead of trans-Pacific. Recommend M.A.R.I. be amended as follows:-  
Section 1, para. 7A, sub-para. 1A change speed of U.S. managed ship to "14.5". Sub-para. 2 delete "U.S. managed ships of over 10 knots". Sub-para. 3 after Trinidad add "U.S. managed vessels of 14.5 knots and over". Pending promulgation of amendment request C. in C. S.A. route U.S. managed vessels in accordance with above.  
(Cominch C. & R., 181937Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A.)

PRINCE HENRY, PRINCE DAVID conversion. Your 251555 April to C.C.C.S. Further consideration has been given to the conversion of PRINCE HENRY and PRINCE DAVID. As a result of recent experience it is very desirable that these ships should be fitted as standby H.Q. ships or H.Q. ships of independent Brigade Groups.  
2. Additional requirements are as follows:-  
(a) Spaces. (b) Power supply. (c) Accommodation.  
4. Typical layout and wiring drawings, and details of W/T sets to be fitted will be sent by air mail.  
5. Agreed with C.C.C.S. and C.C.O.  
(D. of P., 181955B to N.S.H.Q., (R) C.C.C.S., C.C.O.)

Convoy O.N. 181. O.N. 181. O.N. 181. Following arrived New York May 17th.  
Total 32 ships (list).  
(B.R.L.O. New York, 181957Z to Admty., (R) Adm. Liverpool, N.S.H.Q.)

S.B. 41. Arrived.  
(Cornerbrook, 182031Z to Admty.)

BAZELY. Sail BAZELY Boston to Bermuda when ready about 21st for final working up. Advise time of departure, route, S. of A.  
(Cominch, 182040Z to C.N.D. East S. Frontier, (R) Cdr. 1st U.S.N. District Boston, C. in C. A.F., S.B.N.O.W.A., Admty., N.S.H.Q., U.S.N.O.B. Trinidad)

/Shipping ...



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War Diary.18.5.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Shipping Casualties. Connav Serial 18. AYMERIC torpedoed sunk 17th 59.50 N. 41.05 W. Convoy O.N.S.7. W.R. VANDERBILT torpedoed 16th estimated 20.30 S. 176.00 E. CITIES SERVICE BOSTON ashore probably total loss 16th near Basspoint N.S.W. M.M. STOREY torpedoed 17th estimated 17.20 S. 173.30 E. Serial 17 SAMUEL J. KIRKWOOD sunk 6th 15.00 S. 07.00 W. (Connav, 182112Z to Comnav.)

BAYFIELD. Departure BAYFIELD to Baltimore for refit. (C. in C. C.N.A., 182115Z to Admty., etc.)

9th Flight. This is N.O.B. Bermuda 182055 as amended by N.O.B. Bermuda 190103 (begins). Action Cominch. Info. C. in C. Lant, Admty., S.B.N.O.W.At., etc. Departing Bermuda for Gibraltar about 1300Z/20th in accordance Cominch 042009 Flight 9. H.M.S. C.I.(L)s 257. 122, 123, 136, 259, 261, 278, 280, 281, 282, 284, 286, 289, 292, 294, 303, 308, 313, 316, 318. Through positions (route). S. of A. 10. E.T.A. 0800Z June 2nd. S.O. in L.C.I.(L) 257. International call sign CZRJ. (Bermuda C.C.O., 182213P to Admty., F.O.C.W.A.F., C. in C. Med., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

B.S. 43. (1) Sailing telegram. (2) 2330Z/18th. (3) 0730Z/20th. (4) 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ . (5) (Route). (6) ST. KENAN. (R.O. Cornerbrook, 182216Z to N.O.I.C. Sydney C.B.)

U/B sighted by A/C. A/C sighted S/M 59.45 N. 36.35 W. at 2130Z/18th. (C. in C. C.N.A., 182225Z to G.B.7A.)

Eastern Fleet Strength. Alcove No.293, 18th May 1943. Personal for First S.L. from V.C.N.S. Your 180513Z. Prior to the actions in the Coral Sea, Midway and the Solomons, the Admty. was making arrangements for a force of the size quoted to be accommodated in Indian Ocean bases. 2. Admty.'s 1107/1/7/42 promulgated the revised policy for development of Indian Ocean bases which had been approved. It stated that "The size of the force which will make use of Kilindini at any one time is not expected to exceed 5 capital ships, 3 aircraft carriers, etc." No guarantee was given or implied that this force would in fact be maintained in the Indian Ocean. B.A.D. and A.C.N.B. were included in the addressees of this signal. 3. In reply to a telegram from Mr. Curtin the Prime Minister stated in September 1942 that the strength of the Eastern Fleet was then 2 modernised battleships and 1 carrier and that our plans for the reinforcement of the Eastern Fleet had had to be withheld on account of Malta and other operations contemplated in the near future. 4. At no time did we intend to commit ourselves to the agreement alleged by Dr. Evatt, nor can I find any statement which might reasonably be construed as such. 5. Hollis and I both think it possible that Evatt was told at some meeting that our aim was to build up eventually to a force approximating to this strength. If we can find any record of this further signal will be made. (Air Min., 182240Z to Britman, Washington.)



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Kiwi No.38 Heavy explosion heard off N.W. Coast of Rarotonga 2000M/17. 23 survivors from PHOEBE A. HEARST landed Nukualoia by U.S. M/S 16th. WILLIAM K. VANDERBILT sunk by torpedo 18.41 S. 175.07 E. 17th. Search A/C sighted 2 lifeboats 1 raft and oil slick in vicinity A.M. 17th. U S. tanker H.M. STOREY (10,000 tons) proceeding in ballast Noumea to San Pedro torpedoed 0340M/18 17.30 S. 172.03 E. Second torpedo hit 0419M ship then abandoned. 4 torpedo bombers attacked shipping Tonolei Harbour Bougainville night 14th hitting one A.K. Liberator then harassed Kahili intercepting Zeros proving ineffective. Ballale and Munda also attacked same night. Avengers attacked 4 enemy A.K. Wewho ?(West) of Pupukuna point (Tonolei) p.m. 15th hitting vessel which exploded. Estimated Jap S/M positions 18th. 1 West of Fiji Islands, 1 West of Tonga Islands, 2 South West of Tonga Islands, 1 to 2 possibly off East Coast Australia, 2 in Coral Sea (both probably going North) 1 probably 2 in Solomons area, 1 possibly 2 off South Eastern tip of Papua, 1 in Huon Gulf, 1 probably 3 in New Britain - New Ireland Area.  
(C.W.R. Wellington 180020Z to C. in C. E.F. Admty. D.N.I. A.C.N.B. G.H.Q. New Delhi).

Convoy V.K.9. . . . . Comprising POLYNESIEN, CAPITAINE. ILLIAQUER, CAPTARIFA escorted by Free French Ship CHEVREUIL sailed 14th May for Noumea.  
(N.C.S.O. Sydney 180250Z to Admty.).

Digest Serial No.483 May 17th. One Submarine Chaser, 1 unidentified vessel observed 40 miles southwest Massau Island course 340 degs. before dawn 16th.  
2. Liberator forenoon 17th sighted 4 destroyers 8 miles West Cape Matanalemu heading towards Kavieng. Also photographed Kavieng Harbour, revealing 2 small merchant vessels while sightings covered 1 additional gunboat or submarine in harbour. Aircraft successfully avoided interception by 4 fighters.  
(3) Usual shipping reported Rabaul Harbour morning.  
(4) One vessel reported as destroyer sighted 22 miles S. of Gasmata course 90 degs. midnight 17th - 18th.  
(7) Photos Wewak Harbour forenoon show 1 small merchant vessel 1 Coaster and normal large barge concentration while 1 small merchantman sighted in Muschu Strait course 330 degs.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 180956).

Movements. Arrivals:-  
Sydney (N.S.W.) 17th - F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT U.S. Destroyer HELM.  
Brisbane 17th - U.S. HENRY T. ALLEN U.S. Destroyer Tender RIGEL. COLAC, TOWNSVILLE, MILDURA, BENDIGO, VENDETTA.  
Exmouth Gulf 16th - U.S. Seaplane Tender HERON.

/Milne...



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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements  
(Contd.).

Milne Bay 17th - BOWEN.

Departures :-

Townsville 17th - BROOME on escort duty thence  
Brisbane. Milne Bay 16th - WARRAMUNGA for Cid Harbour. Exmouth  
Gulf 17th - U.S.S. HERON for Fremantle.  
(A.C.N.B. 181403Z to A.I.G. 115).

Departure Townsville 0600Z May 17th U.S.S. DEIMOS for  
Noumea, E.T.A. 2000Z 21st. S. of A. 11 knots.

(A.C.N.B. 181617Z to Admty.).

U.S. Transport MAETSUYCKER departed Portland Roads 17th  
arrived Cairns 18th U.S. Transport ANHUI departed Townsville 17th  
due Fall River 20th, N.AASE MAERSK departed Townsville 17th for  
Cid Harbour.

(C.S.W.P.S.F. 181906Z to Admty.).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.

(D.D.I.C. 181405B, 181410B).

Submarines Attacked.

Your 1059B/22 July. Following promising attacks  
reported week ending 2400Z/16.

May 9 U.S. Navy P.B.Y. attacked submarine on  
surface 59.39 N. 18.56 W. believed damaged. Same day U.S. Navy  
P.B.Y. attacked submarine on surface with 3 Torpex depth charges  
59.37 N. 19.14 W. Photographs claimed to show straddle, 1 charge  
exploding 12 feet from bow. Submarine unable to submerge after  
attack. Plane remained for 2½ hours exchanging gunfire and  
attempting to home corvettes. Submarine still surfaced zig  
zagging at 15 knots when plane left. Corvettes had not arrived.

May 12 U.S.S. FARRAGUT and EDWARDS believed to have sunk  
submarine by depth charges and gunfire north Pacific.

May 14 U.S. Navy P.B.Y. reported sinking submarine 60.31 N.  
31.05 W.

May 15th U.S. Army aircraft attacked submarine while stem still  
visible 31.40 N. 21.15 W. Slick 200 to 300 feet wide observed.  
Same day R.C.A.F. plane attacked submarine 47.07 N. 62.40 W. Oil  
patch two miles long three quarters mile wide observed. Presume  
you have details of following.

May 6 U.S.S. MADDOX 35.20 N. 20.15 W.

May 11 and 12 escorts S.C.129 H.X.237.

(Cominch 181347 to Admty. (R) Comnavu, N.S.H.Q. C.N.J.S.M. and  
B.A.D. by hand).

My 221059 July. (1) At 0749Z/11 in 47 degs. 08' N. 14 degs.  
30' W. FLEETWOOD escorting Convoy O.S.47 sank a U-boat which

/had...



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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked. -Contd.

had previously been attacked by a Halifax aircraft. 45 survivors were recovered.

(2) During the night of 11th/12th May the escorts with convoy S.C.129 drove off several attacks and HESPERUS reported one U-boat was seen abandoning ship.

At 1230Z/12 HESPERUS attacked a second U-boat in 42 degs. 30' N. 31 degs. 30' W. and recovered a quantity of wreckage with German markings.

(3) BROADWAY escorting Convoy H.X.237 report having sunk two U-boats by Hedgehog attack, one in 46 degs. 40' N. 25 degs. 41' W. at 1245Z/12 and one in 48 degs. 35' N. 22 degs. 50' W. at 0750Z/13.

*One was sunk  
by LAGAN  
(p. 489)*

(4) PATHFINDER reports severely damaging a U-boat in 47 degs. 50' N. 25 degs. 38' W. at 2000/12 approx.

(5) At 1814/15 in 45 degs. 28' N. 10 degs. 20' W. a Halifax aircraft attacked a U-boat fully surfaced. After the attack the U-boat was seen to sink vertically stern first. Confirmed by photographs.

(6) At 2003/16 in 45 degs. 57' N. 11 degs. 40' W. a Halifax attacked an outward bound U-boat. After the attack a very large oil patch, extensive wreckage and two possible bodies were seen.

(7) The Bay of Biscay air patrols since 13th April have now resulted in 89 sightings of which 60 have been attacked. In these attacks two U-boats are known to have been sunk and three probably sunk.

(D.A/S.W. 182034B to Cominch).



War Diary.

19.5.1943.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

T.F.61

1. Task Force 61 (See 18th May) arrived at Scapa at 2216 today, escorted by SCYLLA, to join the Home Fleet.

S.C.130;  
U/B sunk  
by SNOWFLAKE  
and DUNCAN.

2. Early this morning C. in C. W.A., ordered 1st Escort Group, which at 1955B/18 were in 51° 50' N. 40° 05' W. steering to support the convoy, to proceed at best speed to join. The convoy evaded one U-boat attack in the early hours by an emergency turn an hour before sunrise; aircraft attacked the U-boat when it surfaced. A second U-boat which attacked was counter attacked by SNOWFLAKE and B.7 (DUNCAN) reports that she subsequently sank the U-boat by one hedgehog hit, in 54.41 N., 34.15 W. though there was no other evidence, than much oil. Five U-boats were sighted near the convoy early today. WEAR, SPEY, JED and SENNEN (12th E.G.) all attacked U-boats: an attack by SENNEN in 54.32 N., 34.40 W., at 1403Z produced a large oil patch and debris.

3. U.S. Fortress aircraft made heavy attacks today on Kiel and Flensburg. Provisional claims of enemy aircraft destroyed or damaged are 44:27:15.

4. At 1627 a Hudson aircraft M/269 from Iceland attacked a U-boat in 59.25 N., 24.33 W., with depth charges and gunfire. As a result of the latter some casualties were seen, and a plank and another undefined object were seen floating in the centre of the oil streak after the U-boat submerged.

5. Normal working was resumed at Cardiff with the p.m. tide tonight.

South Atlantic.

South  
Atlantic  
Escort  
Force,  
constituted.

6. A South Atlantic Escort Force has been constituted and will be administered by Capt. (D) 11 with offices at Capetown and Durban. The force is composed of 9 destroyers (temporarily attached from Eastern Fleet) and 12 corvettes and sloops.



War Diary.

19.5.1943.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Tunisia

7. Capt. D.14 reports this evening that he is sending in to Malta under guard on board the German hospital ship KONSTANZ which was intercepted in 37.09 N., 11.55 E. (about 30 miles north of Pantellaria). Here disposal is to be identical with that of LAURANA. Destroyer patrols continue to be maintained near Cape Bon by day and north-west of Pantellaria by night.

Minesweepers have completed the clearance of a War Channel from Galita to 10° 40' E. 18 mines were swept on 17 May near 37° 10' N., 11° 08' E. and a further 20 on 18 May in the same area when progress has been hampered by anti-sweeping devices.

8. Airdromes in Sardinia were heavily and successfully raided by our aircraft today.

9. Enemy aircraft attacked Oran and Arzeu this evening. A ship was hit and set on fire at Oran, and was towed out of harbour. One ship was hit at Arzeu.

America & West Indies.

10. The Canadian barquentine ANGELUS was shelled and sunk by a U-boat today in 38.40 N., 64.00 W.

Australia & New Zealand.

11. 12 enemy aircraft attacked Douglas Harbour (north side of New Guinea) at midday today, destroying one small supply craft and slightly damaging another, and causing a few casualties.



War Diary.19.5.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

BEAGLE. On completion of refit and working up BEAGLE is to join F.O.C.W.Af. at the first convenient opportunity.  
(D.O.D.H. 191033B. to C. in C. W.A.)

AUBRIETIA, R.A.W.Af. 142326Z/5. With my immediate commitments it is impossible to spare AUBRIETIA and VIOLET or VIOLET. any ocean-going escort-vessel from the formed Escort Group without reducing a group below minimum of six which might entail a risk I am loth to take. On completion of next operational period it may be possible to surrender these ships, but not before.  
(C. in C. W.A. 191142 to Admty.)

RICHMOND, When ready for sea about mid June request RICHMOND WITHERINGTON. be sailed to join Western Local Force.  
2. WITHERINGTON is allocated to Gibraltar Escort Force. 3. M/1721/27 November refers.  
(D.O.D.H. 191516B. to C. in C. W.A.)

Movements.

T.F.61. Aircraft reported position of T.F.61 at 2239B/18  
SCYLLA. to be 058° 10' N. 015° ? 25' W.  
(C. in C. W.A. 190226B. to SCYLLA.)  
E.T.A. Hoxa is to be signalled after R/V has been made. (2) SOUTH DAKOTA, ALABAMA, and ELLISON will be boarded by Navigating Officers from M/Ls. on approximate line Cantick Head - Swona and piloted to their berth.  
(3) If Cdr. T.F. does not wish to be boarded outside Boom signal accordingly and W/Ls. will follow capital ships into harbour. In this case ask Cdr. T.F. if you can assist by leading force into harbour and suggest U.S. ships pass Boom at 15 knots. Destroyers also enter by Hoxa. (4) On making R/V pass the following signal to C.T.F.61 begins. I am very glad to welcome you to Home Fleet and to wish you good luck in any task which you and they may jointly be called upon to perform in furtherance of our mutual aim. Ends.  
(C. in C. H.F. 190914B. to SCYLLA.)  
Scapa arrivals:- SOUTH DAKOTA, ALABAMA, ELLYSON, RODMAN, EMMONS, MACCOMB, FITCH, SCYLLA.  
(A.C.O.S. 192216.)

S/M My 171155B. Sailed. (MINERVE.)  
movements. (Capt. S.6. 190625B.)  
Intend to sail OTUS escorted by RISKATO to Blyth at 1200 tomorrow carrying out steering and full-power trials during passage. E.T.A. Blyth 1600/20.  
(N.O.I.C. Tyne 191003B.)  
D day (date leaving Clyde) for Russian S/M L.15 is 20th May.  
(2) Admty. is requested to inform S.B.N.O. N. Russia forthwith and obtain onward route from position (E) 070° 50' N. 015° 00' E.  
(F.O.S. 191019B. to Admty.)

/Russian...



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War Diary.19.5.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M movements, (Contd.) Russian S/M L.15 sails Lerwick for Kola Inlet 222000B May routed through position E.70° 50 N. 15° E. S.O.A. 8 knots. E.T.A. position E. 270001. 2. Request you will (a) Order Onward route from position E. (b) Arrange escort in Russian waters. (c) Arrange bombing restrictions for aircraft operating from North Russia. (D.O.D.H. 191256B. to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Positions of S/MS. at 0800B/20 and movements for following 24 hours.  
(F.O.S.191652B, 192158B, 200829B, 201001B.)  
Intend to sail P.555 escorted by BURZA from Clyde (Garroch Head) at 1600B/21st via Sounds of Islay and Mull to Tobermory E.T.A. 0800Z/22.  
(Capt. S.7. 191915B. to F.O.S.)  
My 182332. Date of sailing advanced to 21st May. Time as before. Amend escort to read Chaser 13. (S.54.)  
(Capt. S.5. 192116B. to C. in C. Portsmouth.)  
Capt. (S) 3rd 191358 not to all addressees.  
1. Request you sail COLUMBINE as escort to THRASHER and S.54 from Plymouth May 23rd to Clyde.  
(C. in C. W.A. 192139B. to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
Cancel my 161503. Intend sailing X.8. and X.9. in tow of OBERON, and Drifter BERNACHIE respectively from Kamesbay at 0530B/21st May for Loch Snizort. S.O.A. 5½ knots. 2. Rosyth swept channel, 250° Oversay 5 miles, passage of Tیره, Oigh Sgeir, to Loch Snizort. 3. Tows will be slipped and X craft will proceed independently from vicinity Eilean Trodday to Port H.H.Z. OBERON and BERNACHIE will R/V with SOLSTICE.  
(Capt. S.12. 192155B. to A.I.G.217.)

TRACKER. Cancel my 182016.  
(D.O.D. H. 191138B. to C. in C. Plymouth.)

DUKE OF YORK. Intend following exercises and movements.  
MALAYA. 24th May. DUKE OF YORK, MALAYA and U.S. Task Force  
T.F.92.4. 92.4 to sea for exercises. On completion p.m. 24th  
INDOMITABLE, MALAYA with 3 H.F. Destroyers will be detached to  
ANSON, Clyde arriving off Clyde light vessel p.m.25th.  
VALIANT. (2) INDOMITABLE is to sail from Clyde on 25th May  
to R/V with MALAYA at Clyde light vessel. Time  
will be signalled. MALAYA's screen is then to  
transfer and escort INDOMITABLE to Scapa.  
(3) DUKE OF YORK, ANSON, VALIANT, INDOMITABLE and  
U.S. Task Force 92.4 will proceed for exercises on 27th May.  
On completion of exercises p.m. 27th INDOMITABLE screened by 3  
H.F. Destroyers will be detached to proceed Clyde. Screen to  
return Scapa when detached at Clyde light vessel.  
(C. in C. H.F. 191208B.) See also C. in C. H.F. 251753B.

HOWE. Sailed in accordance with my 182251B.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 191758B. to A.C.O.S.)

KENT. C. in C. H.F. 182029B. Sailed.  
(A.C.O.S. 192032 to A.C.I.C.)

/UGANDA...



War Diary.19.5.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

UGANDA. Your 181617. Expect to reach position A. at 0806/20. E.T.A. Plymouth 1246. Request sleeve-target E. of Lizard Head. (UGANDA 192113B. to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Operations.

Coastal Force Patrols. My 181125B. "Prize" returned. (F.O.I.C. Portland 190618.)  
1. Intend M.Ls. 205 (S.O.) and 246 to patrol tonight on Latitude  $50^{\circ} 20' N.$  between  $01^{\circ} 45' W.$  and  $02^{\circ} 25' W.$  2. Leave Portland at 2200 via Q.Z.S. 382 and leave patrol-line at dawn/20.  
3. Object anti-E-Boat patrol. Code word "Device". (F.O.I.C. Portland 191000B.)

GLAISDALE, LA COMBATTANTE, COTTESMORE are to proceed by Convoy route to eastward to arrive C.2A. Buoy at 2300B/19th and thence to proceed to patrol in vicinity of position T.T. Leave patrol so as to pass C.3. Buoy at 0430B/20 and return to Portsmouth. 2. 3 Enemy Torpedo-Boats may be on passage southward. 3. If ordered to intercept, force is to proceed through and return by passage two, though passage four may be used for return if in that vicinity towards dawn, or if there is any uncertainty in position for approaching passage two from the southward. Code word "Artful".

(C. in C. Portsmouth 191145B.)

1. S.G.B.6, M.T.B.247, 250, M.G.B. 615, 614 are to proceed to patrol tonight 19/20 May in eastern end of Baie de la Seine. 2. Object destruction of enemy shipping. 3. Pass C.2.A. buoy at 2245B/19th and proceed by passage four, return through passage four so as to be within 20 miles of our coast by daylight Force is to be East of Longitude  $00^{\circ} 00' N.$  or N. of  $50^{\circ} 20' N.$  before 0430B/20th. 4. If destroyer patrol is ordered to intercept enemy, force is to withdraw by passage four with despatch to Newhaven without regard to restrictions in para. 3. My 191145B. refers. 5. If any of the force is compelled to return to Newhaven before daylight destroyer-patrol is to be warned. Code word "Advent".

(C. in C. Portsmouth 191147B.)

2. GLAISDALE, LA COMBATTANTE, COTTESMORE patrolling 15 miles S. of Beachy Head. 3. S.G.B.6. M.G.B.615, 614 M.T.B.247, 250 patrolling to the southward from Newhaven. 4. M.L.572, 124 patrolling S. of E.A.5 Buoy. 5. CHASSEUR 5 at St.Helens. KINGSTON TOPAZ at Yarmouth. 6. M.Ls. 205, 246 from Portland patrolling  $50^{\circ} 20' N.$  between  $01^{\circ} 45' W.$  and  $02^{\circ} 25' W.$

(C. in C. Portsmouth 191258B.)

(1) M.T.B. 98 and 227 and M.G.Bs. 111 and 115, are to patrol on latitude  $049^{\circ} N.$  between  $003^{\circ} 20' W.$  and  $003^{\circ} 35' W.$  (2) Object to intercept enemy shipping. (3) Leave Dartmouth for patrol 2200, speed on passage 24 knots, leaving patrol to be within 20 miles of our coast by 1st. light 20th. (5) Codeword "Evidence".

(C. in C. Plymouth 191457.)

My 191000B. "Device" sailed.

(F.O.I.C. Portland 192212B.)



War Diary.19.5.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

S/M Patrols. F.O.S. 181246. Request you will sail ULTIMATUM from Lerwick at 0600B/21 routed through:-  
L. 090°. Muckle Flugga 10 miles.  
M. 062° 01' 000° 52' W. thence direct to patrol line B.B.  
(Capt. S.9. 191009B. to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

Positions of S/Ms. at 0800B/20th and movements for following 24 hours. (A) HERRING, approx. 57° 08' N. 42° 28' W. dive as much as practicable through 56° 30' N. 44° 02' W. at 0001/21 and 54° 01' N. 41° 59' W. at 1200/22. (B) HADDO 57° 55' N. 17° 15' W. probably on the surface through 57° 40' N. 21° 01' W. at 2000/20 and 57° 30' N. 28° 02' W. at 1800/21. (C) SURF vicinity 64° 42' N. 05° 26' W. leaving patrol 0030/21 probably on the surface for Lerwick. (D) SHAD vicinity 64° 50' N. 01° 30' W. (E) TUNA vicinity 64° 21' N. 00° 54' E. (F) STUBBORN vicinity 62° 51' N. 02° 31' E. (M) ULTIMATUM leaves Lerwick 0600/21st probably on the surface through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles, thence to Northwestward.

(F.O.S. 191652B. to Admty.)

My 181638 para (K) and my 191652 para (A). HERRING has now been ordered to patrol within radius 20 miles of 57° 15' N. 42° 30' W.

(F.O.S. 191746B. to Admty.)

Cancel my 171132. Patrol within 20 miles (F) 057° 15' 042° 30' until further instructions.

(F.O.S. 191808 to HERRING.)

Cancel my 191808. Proceed submerged as much as practicable to patrol within 20 miles of position (G) 056° 01' N. 045° 59' W. until further directions.

(F.O.S. 192352B. to HERRING.)

My 191746. 0800/20th position for HERRING as in my 191652 para (A), now proceeding to patrol vicinity 56° N. 46° W.

(F.O.S. 192356B. to Admty.) Repetition of my 192352 to HERRING

Begins Cancel my 191808. Proceed submerged as much as practicable to patrol within 20 miles of position (G) 056° 01' N. 045° 59' W. 056° at daylight. Ends.

(F.O.S. 192359. to Admty.)

ECLIPSE  
A/S  
Patrol.

Proceed so as to be in position (X) 062° 42' N. 012° 48' W. at 2359/19. 2. Carry out A/S patrol on line 140° 320° through (X) and within 20 miles of that position. 3. At 0800/20 sweep to position 061° 40' N. 015° 40' W. thence proceed to Hvalfjord.

(C. in C. H.F. 191204B. to ECLIPSE.)

Exercises.

THRASHER.

THRASHER exercising in Dartmouth S/M Sanctuary between 0900B and 1500B/19th.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 190027.)

STURGEON.

STURGEON exercising off Plymouth in area D.V. 1000/20 and 0600/21st May.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 191715B.)



War Diary.19.5.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.

A/C in sea. Keep good look-out for aircraft believed down in sea between Barra Head and North Channel. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 190033B. to SCYLLA, CYGNET, SARDONYX, etc.)

T.F.61. Recommend you do not carry out local flights until after consultation with C. in C. H.F. and A.C.O.S. for local regulations. (Comnavu 191321Z. to C.T.F.61.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Iceland. R/C of Hornafjordur 064° 15' N. 015° 12' W. carried out by Junker 88 at 0710. (A.C.I.C. 191137B.)

Mining.

Thames Estuary on 17th. May. One ground mine detonated by Sweeper at 1631B/17 in 226° Gunfleet Lighthouse 3½ miles. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 191131B.)

Sweep by M/S.4. My 181552. Following ships of 4th M.S.F. detailed. KELLET (S.O.) PANGBOURNE, ALBURY, ELGIN, LYDD, SALTASH. (M/S.4. 191421B. to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Bristol Channel Ports. My 181732. Normal working will be assumed p.m. tide tonight. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 191501B.)

H.V.1. Operation H.V.1. completed. (PLOVER 191643B. to C. in C. Plymouth.) My 181819B. Arrived. (PLOVER). (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 191651B.)

S.N.123. S.N.123. My 171845B. and your 181240B. Aerial R/C of fields was successfully carried out today p.m. No mines were sighted on surface in fields A. or B. Four mines were detected in field C. and from position are presumed to be still moored. Of these, one is in first leg, one in second leg, and two in third leg in order of laying. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 192045B. to S.M.D. Havant.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Destroyers. When NURNBERG passed southward through Great Belt on May 3rd official observed one M.A.A.S. class and one JAGUAR class destroyer in company. Graded A.3. (N.A. Stockholm 191642 to Admty.)

/Cherbourg...



War Diary.19.5.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence - Contd.

Cherbourg. Photos taken at 1415B/19 show Cherbourg: only Eastern part of Port covered on indistinct photos. 4 T.T. Auxiliaries present in Darse Transatlantique compared 3 on May 17. M/V 240 still present in same basin and 5 Coasters remainder of shipping seen. (R.A.F. Medmenham 192140/B.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported or attacked in North Atlantic. Inconclusive bearings at 2241Z/18 indicate U-Boat has reported a convoy. Probably S.C.130. Possibly H.X.238. (D.D.I.C. 190121B. to Escorts S.C.130, H.X.238.) Am over enemy S/M in 59.04 N. 25.50 W. (A/C 269 Sq. Duty B. 190626B.) Have attacked enemy with depth charges. (A/C 269 Sq. Duty B. 190634.) Am over enemy S/M in 59° 04' N. 24° 00' W. (A/C 269 Sq. Duty S. 190635B.) Have attacked enemy with depth charges. (A/C 269 Sq. Duty S. 190645B.) Am over enemy S/M in 47° 07' N. 16° 27' W. (A/C 502 Sq. Duty G. 190721 to 19 Group.) Am over enemy S/M in 5509 3518. (A/C 120 Sq. Duty T. 190734B.) Am over enemy S/M in 5448 3524. (A/C 120 Sq. Duty T. 190924B.) Am over enemy S/M in 5448 3440. (A/C 120 Sq. Duty T. 191013B.) Am over enemy S/M in 5457 3428. (A/C 1. KAT 191054B.) Am over enemy S/M in 54° 21' (?longitude). (A/C 120 Sq. Duty P. 191340.) Am over enemy S/M in 54° 21' N. 32° 57' W. (A/C 120 Sq. Duty P. 191346B.) Am over enemy S/M in 54° 35' N. 33° 37' W. (A/C 120 Sq. Duty P. 191400B.) Am over enemy S/M in 54° 48' N. 32° 51' W. (A/C 120 Sq. Duty P. 191415B.) Am over enemy S/M in 54° 17' N. 32° 25' W. (A/C 120 Sq. Duty P. 191445B.) A.C.681 19th May. S/M sightings at 0924B, 1013B, 1054B, 1340B. Details. (R.A.F. Iceland 191530B. to H.Q.C.C.) Am over enemy S/M in 59° 36' N. 24° 30' W. Have attacked enemy with depth-charges. (A/C 269 Sq. Duty M. 191627B.) Am over enemy S/M in 54° 44' N. 32° 34' W. (A/C 120 Sq. Duty P. 191633B.) Am over enemy S/M in 55° 08' N. 32° 51' W. (A/C ZKAP 191735.) Am over enemy S/M in 54° 38' N. 31° 14' W. (A/C 120 Sq. Duty P. 191855.) Am over enemy S/M in 65° 52' N. 33° 27' W. (A/C 120 Sq. Duty Y. 191925B. to 15 Group.) Am over enemy S/M in 55° 16' N. 33° 00' W. (A/C Duty O. 192006. to Iceland W/T.) Have attacked enemy with depth-charges at 2016. (A/C 120 Sq. Duty O. 192018B. to Artunshofdi.)

/Am..



War Diary.19.5.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.U-Boats  
reported  
or  
attacked  
in North  
Atlantic.  
(Contd.)Am over enemy S/M in 55° 05' N. 31° 45' W.  
(A/C 120 Sq. Duty O. 192159B. to Iceland W/T.)  
Have attacked enemy with depth charges at 2159B.  
(A/C 120 Sq. Duty O. 192200B.)Casualties & Defects.Search  
for  
Life-Boat.Boat with all sails up was sighted in 049° 08' N.  
017° 25' W. 2030B/15. From then until midnight  
16th the wind was 090° force 5, thereafter E.S.E.  
force 4. 1 Sunderland will search Westward  
between 051° N. and 050° N. from 012° 40' W. to  
014° 30' W. commenced 0700B/19. 2nd Sunderland  
will search Westward between 050° N. and 049° N. from 012° 40'  
W. to 014° 00' W. commencing 1400B/19. Area previously covered  
by A/C approx. 048° 40' N. to 050° N. between 015° W. and 019° W.  
Your 182200 approved, but remain in vicinity of A/C searching.  
(C. in C. W.A. 190006B. to COLUMBINE.)No sign lifeboat. P.C.S. 049° 44' N. 014° 52' W. 180°  
13 knots at 191900B. Alter course 2300 to 000° 13 knots.

(COLUMBINE 191520B. to C. in C. W.A.)

If nothing sighted by 2300 tonight return to Tobermory.

(C. in C. W.A. 191827B. to COLUMBINE.)

Cancel my 191827. COLUMBINE is to proceed to Plymouth.

(C. in C. W.A. 192129B. to COLUMBINE.)

My P.C.S. 050° 08' N. 015° W. 090° 14 knots at 2300 to  
Lands End. E.T.A. Plymouth 1100B/21.

(COLUMBINE 192340B. to C. in C. W.A.)

LAGAN.

Arrived LAGAN.

(Cdre. D. W.A. 190445B. to C. in C. W.A.)

Dinghy.

Am over an aircraft dinghy or raft containing  
three live persons. Position 47° 00' N.

(?longitude).

(A/C. S. of No.10 191130B. to 19 Group.)

Unknown  
Ship.Received at 1715GMT from Gallon Head Radio.  
Begins. Automatic distress at 1712 Type A2.  
Q.S.A.2.

(Wick 191600 to Lyness.)

Intercepted 1539 G.M.T. from Valentia Radio.

Automatic S.O.S. heard at 1530 G.M.T. strength of  
signals 1 Ends.

(Niton Radio 191739 to Portsmouth.)

/Following...



War Diary.

19.5.1943.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

Unknown  
Ship  
(Contd.)

Following received. Begins.  
Operations Room R.A.F. Wick Admiral Lyness.  
Received at 1915 G.M.T. De Gallonhead Radio begins  
intercepted at 1912 automatic S.O.S. Strength of  
signals.  
(A.C.O.S. 192116.)  
Following received from Niton Radio. Intercepted  
1844 G.M.T. Begins:- All concerned from Valentia  
Radio S.O.S. heard at 1837 G.M.T. strength of  
signal 1.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 191838 to Admt.)

CYPRESS.

Weather permitting intend to sail Tug LYNCH towing  
CYPRESS escorted by WARDOUR and M.L.190 in  
company with Tug GOOLE X and tow at 1500/20 in  
accordance with my 172222B May. E.T.A. 1500/21.  
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven 192020B.)

HESPERUS.

HESPERUS 182036. Messrs. Rutherfords can dock  
HESPERUS on arrival at Liverpool.  
(D.O.D.H. 192131B. to C. in C. W.A.)



War Diary.19.5.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

S.C. 130. Decode B.N.132. Proceed at best speed to join  
One U-Boat S.C.130.  
sunk by (C. in C. W.A., 190203Z to E.G. 1.)  
DUNCAN. Convoy shadowed by at least 4 S/M using series 8.  
DUNCAN has attacked one. NORTHERN SPRAY  
escorting one straggler has been ordered to  
stragglers route. My P.C.S. 54.46 N. (?35).30

W., 081°, 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ . Weather 5872 1854.  
(B.7, 190900Z to C. in C. W.A.)  
D/F bearings at 0202Z indicate U-Boat in contact with  
S.C. 130.  
(D.D.I.C., 190433B to Escorts S.C.130.)  
My 190203. SENNEN should be left to follow.  
(C. in C. W.A., 190920B to E.G. 1.)  
My 190400Z. First submerged attack evaded by 090°  
emergency turn one hour before sunrise, U-Boat surfaced on beam  
and was attacked by aircraft. Second submerged attack detected  
by SNOWFLAKE who then sighted periscope and counter-attacked.  
DUNCAN subsequently sank U-Boat with one hedgehog hit. Much  
oil, no other evidence. All ships and escorts present including  
TAY and PINK are hunting U-Boats attacked by aircraft who  
sighted 5 in all. P.C.S. 054° 41' N. 034° 15' W., 081°, 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ .  
(B.7, 191001Z to C. in C. W.A.)  
Detach KITCHENER as requisite to R/V with O.N.184 estimated  
position at noon tomorrow 058° 28' N. 034° 20' W., routed through  
AD 058° 25' N. 035° 02' W. and AE 053° 05' N. 044° 03' W.  
(C. in C. W.A., 191215B to Escorts S.C.130.)  
Submarine sighted on surface. Torpedoes seen at 1130Z.  
Attacked with hedgehog and depth charges by WEAR and SPEY.  
A.C.I. para. 39 - (A) 054° 44' N. 034° 14' W. at 1140Z.  
(B) WEAR, SPEY. (C) 1555 to join S.C.130 before dark.  
(D) Nil.  
(WEAR, 191630Z to C. in C. W.A.)  
U-Boat sighted on the surface at 12(?26)Z, position 54°  
32' N. 34° 40' W. and chased on course 020° at 20 knots until  
she dived at 1246Z. Contact gained and attacked with depth  
charges at 1316Z. Seen and heard blowing tanks and oil on the  
surface. SENNEN attacked with depth charges at 1403Z. SENNEN  
attack followed by great increase in oil patch and debris on  
the surface. Contact lost. 2 hedgehog attacks made on doubtful  
contact in the vicinity. Hunt abandoned 1550Z as no further  
contact. Proceeding to join S.C.130. My P.C.S. 54° 32', 33°  
47', (? 080°), 17.  
(JED, 191710Z to C. in C. W.A.)

B.A.M.S..1A.. You have passed through a concentration of  
U-Boats where the strong attacks made by your  
close escort and by the additional aircraft and  
surface supporting forces now at our disposal  
not only drove the enemy off but almost certainly fully  
avenged the two ships which were lost.  
(C. in C. W.A., 190836Z to B.A.M.S. 1A.)

/O.N.S. ...



War Diary.

19.5.1943.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- O.N.S. 8. LUCITA sailed as in my 181152B.  
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 190956B.)
- OXFORDSHIRE. Sailed Hospital Ship OXFORDSHIRE at 1100B/19th independently to Avonmouth unescorted. E.T.A. Barry Roads 0800B/20.  
(N.C.S.O. Belfast, 191101.)
- O.N.S. 7. Comtask 24 182305Z Ice Bulletin. Present route O.T. passes through area of scattered pack ice and ice floes. Request amended route if necessary.  
(B.5., 191110Z to C. in C. Plymouth.)
- E.G. 3. If convoy not threatened proceed St. Johns N.F. to refuel. You will probably be required to sail from St. Johns N.F. a.m./22nd May to support S.C.131.  
(C. in C. W.A., 191115B to E.G. 3.)
- W.S.30 and K.M.F. 15. My 181342B. Liverpool section sailed.  
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 191200B.)  
Sailed Clyde portions and escorts in accordance with my 171744B. CLEVELAND and GORLESTON joining from Londonderry at Oversay R/V. ROYAL ULSTERMAN will be sailed to overtake.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 191916B.)  
W.S.30/K.M.F.15. Sailed convoy and escorts as in Ad. 091530B, 091638B, 132215B, 141652B, 161901B routed as in Ad. 121950B. DESEADO complying with Ad. 181930B.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 192214B.)  
W.S.30. The following sailed at 2210/19. 13 ships.  
Pendants.  
(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 192215B to D.S.T.)
- \* Supply of Roman Candles. The White Rockets employed by merchant vessels to indicate a U-Boat or E-Boat attack are being replaced by Roman Candles firing five white stars at 10 second intervals to a height of approximately 250 feet.  
2. British managed merchant ships will be supplied as rapidly as possible and in the meantime either the rocket or the roman candle signal may be used.  
(D.T.D., 191206B.)
- Rescue Ships. C. in C. C.N.W.A. 171824Z and 181255Z. It is proposed that decision to send rescue ships to St. Johns or Halifax should rest with C. in C. C.N.A. and that each case should be considered on its merit. The following factors

/would ...



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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.Rescue  
Ships.  
(Contd.)

would have to be taken into account - (a) the endurance of rescue ships (b) the likelihood of the convoy being attacked west of Westomp and situation regarding H/F D/F fitted ships (c) the present policy is that rescue ships should be sailed in fast convoys only until their numbers are increased.  
(C. in C. W.A., 191210B to Admty.)

Information  
Reports.

Reference C.B.03050(10), N.C.S.I.119, para. 1, information required under headings (k) to (p) is to be amended to read as follows. Details.  
(D.T.D., 191216B to A.I.G.19.)

H.X. 237.

My 171545Z.

LAGAN proceeded to smoke float dropped by Sunderland aircraft and 500 yards after passing marker contact was made at 1950 yards speed reduced from 15 to 9 knots. Contact was lost at 240 yards and fired hedgehog at 240 yards. Two distinct hedgehog explosions 13 seconds after firing. About fifty seconds after firing large air bubbles mushroomed on the surface. Four about ten minutes air continued to come to surface. Oil continued to rise for one hour. Wreckage and wood identical with kind recovered by LAGAN after BROADWAY's attack previous day was picked up. All projectiles fired and were of new type. Ends.  
(C.T.G. 24.7, 191345Z to C. in C. W.A.)

North  
Russia.

Arrivals Dvina Bar JASON, BRITOMART, BLUEBELL, CAMELLIA and LORD AUSTIN. Merchant vessels EMPIRE SCOTT, ATLANTIC, LLANDAFF, DOVER HILL, ISRAEL PUTNAM.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 191523B to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

S.B.N.O.  
North  
Russia.

S.B.N.O. North Russia's 151801B. Arrived Archangel 1405B today.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 191531B to Admty.)

ANDES  
(A.T.44)

It is possible that you were reported by a U-Boat at 1329Z.  
(D.D.I.C., 191615B to A.T.44.)

W.P.  
Convoy  
Route.

Cancel my 121435B April. In consequence of the cancellation of Q.Z.X.962, W.P.343 and subsequent W.P. convoys are to proceed from D.1 Buoy in Q.Z.S.347 direct to 333° Eddystone 4 miles.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 191619B.)



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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- O.N. 186,  
O.N. 187,  
O.N. 188.  
(Rescue  
Tugs).  
My 021026Z. O.N.186 for DESTINY read GRIPER  
and add - O.N.187 - DESTINY. O.N.188 - BUSTLER.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 191714B.)
- A.N.D.  
Gear.  
The following questions are to be added to  
Form S.1533 (late I.D. Form S.A.): begins -  
"6A. (i) Was ship fitted with N.D? If so, were  
nets streamed at time of attack?  
(ii) What was the effect of the nets on the  
torpedo? (iii) If nets were not streamed, state reason".  
Ends.  
(D.T.D., 191848B.)
- O.N.186. (1) KING HAAKON VII is to proceed to Greenock  
on 23rd May and is to sail as additional escort  
to O.N.186.  
(2) Destination of KING HAAKON VII is Halifax.  
(C. in C. W.A., 192053B to F.O. N.I., N.O.I.C.  
Greenock.)
- H.X.238. (1) FENCER escorted by SKEENA is to leave  
convoy at 1200B/20 and proceed so as to arrive  
entrance to Belfast Lough at 0830B/21.  
(2) SKEENA is to be detached to Londonderry  
on passing.  
(C. in C. W.A., 192058B to C.3., FENCER.)
- E.G. 4. P.C.S. 46.57, 50.32, 076°, 14 knots.  
(E.G.4, 192302Z to C. in C. W.A., (R) H.X.239.)



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Raiders.

Intelligence A.M. 271641 B April  
(1) No further report of Raider H.  
(2) German merchant vessel fixed in Java area by D.F. on 13th May is possibly OSORNO which could by now have reached Far East.  
(D.D.I.C., 190029B to A.I.G.13 etc).

North Atlantic.

M/V Repairs in N.A. Madrid's 032303B May and previous messages. Spain and Admty. and M.W.T. are anxious that Spanish and Portugal. Portuguese ship repair facilities should be used as much as possible to augment our inadequate resources, but wish to know first whether, if all practicable precautions against sabotage are taken, such risk is considered under present conditions to be acceptable.  
2. No objection meanwhile to propose arrangements for LALANDE in N.A. Lisbon's 171735.  
(Hd. of M.I. Approved A.C.N.S. (U.T.) 190050B to N.A. Lisbon, N.A. Madrid, (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar)  
Reply: N.A. Lisbon 201606B.

Movements, This is re-encypherment of my 182110 (begins)  
Casablanca. Warships May 18th. Arrivals French AMIRAL MOUCHEZ, COMMANDANT DELAGE, LA GRACIEUSE, with C.G.10, P.C.472, 475, 481, and 474.  
Departures U.S.S. LAUB, MACKENZIE, with C.G.33, U.S.S. SCHENK to R/V WEST POINT.  
(C.M.S.F.F., 190944Z to C. in C. Med., (R) Comnavnaw, Cominch, etc).

Dispositions. Situation at 2001B/19th.  
P.55 (UNSPARING) 42.33 10.01 180° diving by day 7/2.  
2. U.S.S. WEST POINT 34.38 14.16 to Casablanca 20.  
3. G.U.F.8 FARNDALE 35.42 06.43 (?through) 35.39 12.01 to R/V Casablanca section in 34.07 09.11 at 0800/20th through 34.01 10.01 thence 242° 13½. Casablanca section T.F.67 sails from Casablanca (?04)00/19th.  
4. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN one merchant ship sailed 2100/19th through 35.56 06.20 to R/V one merchant ship off Chipiona thence 276° 6.  
6. Three Portuguese submarines escorted by parent ship exercising in Cezimbra Area.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 191052B).



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North Atlantic.

Dispositions (contd.) My 191052B add new para. (6) French Sloop M/S COMMANDANT DELAGE, AMIRAL MOUCHEZ, 34.29 07.38 through 35.45 06.30 to Gibraltar 11. (F.O. Gibraltar, 191920B). Situation 2002B/19th.

3. Hospital ship AMARAPOORA 42.32 11.18 358° 11.

4. U.G.F.8 A. T.G.60.1, 34.12 18.44 through 34.11 14.59 thence 92 12½.

5. S.R.4 F, FOXHOUND 21.07 18.17 through 25.25 16.18 thence 44 12½.

6. S.L. 129 LEITH (E) 26.46 14.47 through 27.32 (?29).10 thence 34 6½.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 191118).

M.K.S.13 M.K.S.13 arrived.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 191347B to C. in C. Med (R) Connav, Admty. etc).

G.U.F.3 Sailing telegram (2) (10) (11) all unit sail.  
(?8 intended) MONTEREY 22, GEORGE WASHINGTON 16, SHAWREE, 18, MEXICO 17, ORIZABA 16.5, SANTA PAULA 18.5, JAMES PARKER 17, SANTA ELENA 15.5, BORINQUEN 16, EVANGELINE 17, E.G. ALEXANDER 16.5, MONTICELLO 18, CHATEAU THIERRY 15.  
(C.M.S.F.F., 191355 to P.D. New York (R) Connav, Admty. etc)  
G.U.F.8 Arrival AGWILEON. Sailed SINCLAIR OPALINE  
(T) U.S.S. (?MERRIMACK)  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 191626B to Com. N.O.B. Oran, C.M.S.F.F. (R) C. in C. Med., Admty. Connav, N.S.H.Q.)

U.G.F.8 A Army authorities here state destination SEATRIN TREXAS, LAKEHURST and FREDERICK LYKES in U.G.F. 8 A is Casa instead Inside. Request confirmation.  
(C.M.S.F.F., 191700 to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O. Gibraltar, N.O.B. Oran, Connavnaw).

Movements Casablanca. Warships departed Casa (?day) 19, Task Force 67 U.S.S. TEXAS, KALK, HARRISON, GILLESPIE, TERRY, CARMICK, BROWNSON, THATCHER, HOBBY, GUEST, with G.U.F.8. French COMMANDANT DELAGE, AMIRAL MOUCHEZ for Gibraltar.  
(C.M.S.F.F., 191930 to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O. Gibraltar, Admty. Com. Connavnaw)

Movements Gibraltar. Arrivals ANTHONY, LAMERTON, WILTON, LAUDERDALE, M.K.S.18 PORCUPINE in tow HENGIST and JAUNTY ex M.K.S.13. U.G.S.21 from Algiers. Departures SIMOOM to Algiers, U.S.S. MERRIMAC to join G.U.F.8 HUDDERSFIELD TOWN to Lisbon to R/V and escort two M/Vs to join M.K.S.13, thence return Gibraltar.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 192145 to Admty. etc).



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Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.HIGHLAND  
PRINCESS  
(W.S. 29)

Ref. A.M. 201805B April para. (9) (Convoy W.S.29)  
HIGHLAND PRINCESS should now return to U.K. direct  
and not via Plate.  
(D.S.T., 190246B to D.S.T.O. West Africa, (R)  
C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.W.A., S.T.O. Lagos.)

Movements,  
Durban.

Arrived TULIP with KHEDIVE ISMAIL.  
(Com. i/c Durban, 190654Z to Admty., etc.)

Convoy  
D.N. 40.

Sailing telegram. (2) 0600Z/19th May. (4) 8  
knots. (5) (A) 028° 32' S. 032° 30' E. (B) 31°,  
38° thence as in my serial numbers 832 to 838.  
(6) FREESIA, JASMINE, NORTHERN CHIEF, ST. LOMAN,  
LE TIGER.

(15) QVD 1 to 9, codeword "Grazing". BRITISH ZEAL will be  
detached at position (A) escorted by JASMINE and ST. LOMAN to  
Lourenco Marques.  
(N.C.S.O. Durban, 190714Z to Admty., etc.)

EMPIRE  
CHUB.

Your 180023. EMPIRE CHUB E.T.A. Walvis Bay 19th.  
My 092105 repeated Admiralty refers.  
(B.N.L.O. West Africa, 190945A to D.S.T., (R)  
Admty.)

Dispositions.

Situation at 2000Z/19th.

WORCESTERSHIRE 009° 30' 012° 50' W. to 008° 45'  
014° 30' W. 13 knots.

GAMBIA 037° 20' 021° 10' by R.5 to Simonstown 20½.

GENISTA, INDIAN STAR with D.C.26 034° 20' 024° 00' coastal to  
Capetown, 9.

NORMAN, QUADRANT, REDOUBT with W.S.29, 034° 40' 024° 50' by  
R.8 to Durban, 12.

NEWCASTLE 034° 25' 027° 30' by R.5 to Durban, 20.

JASMINE, FREESIA, LE TIGER, ST. LOMAN, NORTHERN CHIEF with  
D.N.40, 028° 45' 032° 45' to 031°, 038°, 8.

(C. in C. S.A., 191153B.)

Situation at (corrupt group)02Z/19.

SCARBOROUGH, FLEETWOOD, AZALEA, SPIREA, WASTWATER, COLTSFOOT,  
BALSAM, BELLWORT with O.S.47, 24.40 18.02, 180°, 9.

AIMWELL, M.M.S.s 102, 103, 105, 106, 24.16 (?13).13, 022°, 8½.

FOXHOUND, BULLDOG, BOREAS, CATTERICK with S.R.4F, 21.29 18.09  
024°, 12½.

PORTSDOWN, BUTSER escorting 10.(? 13 or 15) 16.27 (? to) 10.39  
(?17).28 thence (? 358°), 8¼.

CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 08.25 27.30, 14.

M.L.1065 escorting 13.50 17.(?16) to Dakar, 5.

ASPIRANT, BRUN 14.14 17.07 to 14.00 16.59 (corrupt group)  
186, (? 15).

(F.O.C.W.A., 191212Z.)

/Situation ...



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Dispositions. Situation at 1959Z/19th May.  
(Contd.) MORRIS DANCE about 06.17 11.30 coastal to Marshall.  
FANDANGO, PICT off Marshall.  
M.L 278, M.L.261, 08.00 13.35 to Freetown 8.  
TRUSTY, COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES 06.15 11.16 coastal to Freetown, 12.5.  
M.L.1018 off Sassandra.  
MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, RAPID escorting T.S.40F, 03.46 05.55 to 03.30 07.40 thence 302, 10.75.  
M.L. 1042 and 1016 off Accra.  
M.L. 1019 and 274 escorting about 05.00 06.55 to Takoradi 8.  
VIRGINIA, THYME 01.40 S. 04.25 E. 113, 10.5.  
M.L. 305, (? M.L.) 266 escorting about 05.05 00.15 to Takoradi 8.75.  
SARABANDE, TURCOMAN with T.L.11 about 05.25 01.15 E. to Lagos 7.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 191223Z.)

U/B. Aircraft reports sighting periscope in 025° 33' N. 016° 41' W. at 1045/19th.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 191243Z to Escorts O.S.47, S.L.129, and S.R.4F., Admty.)

DESPATCH. Your 181132 situation report was the first information received in Admty. that DESPATCH had left Recife.  
(2) Did you receive a route and departure signal and if so was it repeated to Admty.?  
(D.O.D.(F), 191258B to F.O.C.W.A.)  
Reply: 200832.

Movements, Departure 1755Z/18th PORTSDOWN and BUTSER escorting.  
Freetown. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 191420Z to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, (R) Admty., Comar Dakar.)  
Departure 181913Z MORRIS DANCE for Marshall.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 191421Z to British Consul Gen. Monrovia, (R) Admty.)  
Arrival 190705Z DESPATCH.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 191426Z to Asst. S.O.(I) Recife, (R) Admty., Com. ?4th Fleet.)

RESOLUTION Usual type of stern gland stuffing box extension repairs. cannot be fitted in RESOLUTION owing to lack of space between gland and shaft coupling. Remarks and proposals. Consider that with these fitted, the anticipated intermediate docking for repairing of glands, in three months' time, will not be necessary. Your 170853 and my 111616 refer.  
(Capt. Supt. Durban, 191447Z to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty., etc.)

/QUERCY ...



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

QUERCY. QUERCY, reported to be French Banana boat converted to Auxiliary Cruiser, arrived Cayenne today from North Africa with relieving detachment of troops and officers.  
(Cayenne, 191500 to Admty.)

Tankers, Your 150312. Weekly signal will be made giving information. information required.  
(D.T.D., 191551B to F.O.C.W.A.)

GAMBIA. Your 191537 (N.T. in W.D.) E.T.A. 0830B Cdre. i/c Simonstown acknowledge.  
(GAMBIA, 191627Z to C. in C. S.A., (R) Cdr. i/c Simonstown, R.N.A.R.Y. Wingfield.)

South Atlantic Escort Force. \* The following ships will constitute the South Atlantic Escort Force and will be administered by Capt. D. 11th D.F. with offices at Capetown and Durban:  
MARYLAND (sic), ROTHERHAM, RACEHORSE, RELENTLESS, REDOUBT, RAIDER, QUADRANT, QUICKMATCH, NIZAM, NORMAN, GENISTA, ROCKROSE, THYME, NIGELLA, FREESIA, FRITILLARY, MARGUERITE, VERBENA, TULIP, ASTER, FALMOUTH, JASMINE.  
(C. in C. S.A., 191653B to S.A. Station G.645.)

Group Sailings, S.E.Africa. Request sailing telegrams including composition and escort of Groups between Lourenco Marques and Durban in both directions may be passed to Admiralty.  
2. Details of SS. NORTHMOOR Group would be appreciated.  
(D.T.D., 191736B to C. in C. S.A., (R) C.S.A. Lourenco Marques, N.C.S.O. Durban.)

Movements, Takoradi. Sailed 1600Z/19th May for Pointe Noire E.T.A. 1600Z/24 May. ROHILKHAND escorting M/S 107 and B.D.V. BARWIND through "Zebra" 004° 51' N. 001° 39' W., "Yoke" Equator 005° 00' E., "Nan" 003° 30' S. 009° 30' E., S. of A. 8 knots.  
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 191743Z to Admty., etc.)

Movements, Takoradi. Arrivals 19th May ARRAN, H.M. M.L.(?271). Departure M.L.227 Accra/Lagos escorting, E.T.A. Accra 0700Z/20th May. SNOWDROP, WOODRUFF to R/V and return Takoradi.  
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 191926Z to Admty.)

/FRISKY ...



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

FRISKY. Request H.M.R.T. FRISKY be sailed for Gibraltar as soon as convenient.  
(Capt. i/c Rescue Tugs, 191930B to Cdre. i/c Freetown, (R) F.O.C.W.A., F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med.)

Martlet Spares. Your ref. VII/028/42 dated 4 May, addressed R.A.N.A.S. I.O. and further to Admty. 071928B May request all available spares peculiar to Martlet IV Aircraft, including Cyclone Engine spares except quantity required by Nairobi for work outstanding on Martlet IV Aircraft now in East Africa, be transferred to S.N.S.O. Levant. Report action.  
(Director of Stores, 192129B to S.N.S.O. Durban, (R) R.A.N.A.S. I.O., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Levant.)



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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- K.A.7. Convoy K.A.7 arrived,  
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 190440Z to Admty., (R) C. in C.  
E.F., etc.)
- Movements Alexandria. Arrivals 18 DELPHINIUM, BURRA, SAKTOURIS.  
French Sloop LA MOQUEUSE. Departure 18th ROMEO.  
(S.O.(I) Levant, 190915C to Admty., C. in C.  
Levant.)
- UNITED. At your discretion be in position 090°, focal  
point F.43 miles by 0500A/20th. Freedom 259°  
24 miles sector 1. Resume patrol 1000/20th.  
(Capt. S.8, 191130Q. to UNITED, (R) UNBROKEN,  
Capt. (S) 10, C. in C. Med.)
- Tunis Cable. V.A. Malta's 182219 and my 181105 being passed to  
you. Could cable ship be provided from Levant  
for this urgent work? Both MIRROR and MARIE  
LOUISE MACKAY are being employed on Gibraltar  
Algiers Bizerta cables.  
(C. in C. Med., 191222A to C. in C. Levant, (R)  
Admty., V.A. Malta.)
- DOLFIJN. Intend sailing (P.47) DOLFIJN at 1500/20th for  
patrol in Tyrrhenean Sea routed through 038° 07'  
004° 40' at 0445/21st, 038° 45' 011° 30' at 2130/  
24th thence through zones A and B to patrol 40,  
49, South of 039° 30' east of 014°.  
(Capt.(S) 8 191226A to C. in C. Med., (R) Cdre., Algiers, 8th  
S.F., Capt., (S) 10th.)
- P.R.U. 19th May. Photographs. 0945 Taranto, 2  
Battleships one cruiser. Visual of one large  
destroyer 10 miles south of Taranto probably  
missing REGOLO. 0845 Messina no major naval unit  
(2) 2nd P.R. Sortie being made.  
(V.A. Malta, 191340B to C. in C. Med., etc.)  
P.R.U. 19th May. Visuals 1540 Taranto 2 Battleships, 2  
Cruisers. Messina not observed.  
(V.A. Malta, 191743B to C. in C. Med. etc.)
- G.U.S.7 A. Cancel previous signals. Algiers Section now  
M.B. BAMAR, ANDREW HAMILTON, A. BALDWIN, GULF GEM  
(T), POTTER (Five ships) for U.S. DJEBEL AURES (FR)  
for Gibraltar, L.S.T. 428 for Oran. Eastern  
Section consists of MAMMY, LINGE, ZECAPA (P.O.W.) EMPIRE ENVOY  
(P.O.W.) for Oran. DANIEL HUGER, LIBERTY.GLO for U.S. FORT  
PITT for Gibraltar.  
(Cdre, Algiers, 191126A to Commob Oran (R) Commorseafron, A.I.G.  
259.)

/Enemy...



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Mediterranean - Contd.

Enemy units. P.C. and S. of one destroyer 44.04 N. 9.34 E. 260°  
? 8 knots? based on a fix within half an hour of  
1300.  
(A/C A.P.R. via Alex, 191355A to 22 L.)  
P.C. and S. of one medium size merchant vessel 44.00 N. 9.12  
E. 180° 4 knots, based on a fix within half an hour of 1300.  
(A/C A.P.R. 191357A/5)  
My 1355. Enemy previously reported are of "Aviere" type.  
(A/C A.P.R. 191407A.)  
My 1357. Enemy previously reported was a 6,000 ton merchant  
vessel.  
(A/C A.P.R. 191411A/5.)

Movements, Arrival 0407Z STORMWRACK and SATSA in company,  
Aden. 1107Z WAYLAND with BURNIE in company.  
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 191404Z to C. in C. Levant etc.)

SIMOOM, Onward routeing through 135° Cape Palos 15 at 0200  
SHAKESPEARE. 038° 26' 002° 41' at 2100/23rd thence R/V P.221  
(SHAKESPEARE) and escort to Algiers in 036° 57' 003°  
13' at 0600/24th. All times zone minus 1, all  
positions North and East.  
(Capt.S.8, 191436A to P.225 (SIMOOM) (R) 8th S.F. F.O.C.Gibraltar,  
C. in C.Med., F.O. Force H., Commob Oran, Cdre. Algiers.)

UNSHAKEN. 2 or 3 E. Boats sighted close inshore to South West  
information. of Island. Inform Appleyard oblique photographs  
taken yesterday by Spitfire. Some brilliantly  
successful from range of 1 mile.  
(Capt. S.10, 191509 to P.54 (UNSHAKEN)).  
E.T.A. Northern swept channels 0730B/21st. Will transfer  
Appleyard at 1100B/20th in 036° 22' N. 013° 23' E. or at 1500B/20th  
in position 036° 20' North 013° 32' East to M.T.B. if sent.  
(P.54, 192301B to Capt.(S) 10)

SERAPH. Intend sailing P.219 (SERAPH) 1830/21st for patrol  
off East coast of Sardinia routed through 038° 07'  
004° 40' at 0436/22nd 038° 35' 010° 27' at 2200/24th  
thence course North to patrol in zone J.  
(Capt. S.8, 191516A to C. in C.Med. (R) Capt.(S)10, 8th S/M F.Cdre. Algiers)

N.W.A.A.F. Reports. M.4552. N.W. African Air Force Opsum 86. N.W.A.  
Strategic A.F., 17th/18th. 16 Wellingtons attacked  
Alghero town and Airdrome, Sardinia. Large fire in  
centre of town and fire in goods train outside  
station. 800,000 leaflets dropped Alghero and Sassari. 18th May.  
41 U.S. Marauders B.26, 42 U.S. Mitchells B.25, escorted by 40 U.S.  
Warhawks P.40, 16 bombs, and 51 Lightnings P.38, 24 with bombs,  
despatched Pantellaria, 10 B.26, 3 P.38 returned early. Hits on  
docks jetties and among small craft barracks and among aircraft  
South side of airdrome. 55 Fortresses B.17, escort 49 Lightnings  
P.38, despatched Messina. 15 B.17 and 12 P.38 returned early.  
40 B.17 attacked Trapani alternative target due weather, dropping  
108 x 1000 240 x 500 from 25500 feet. Bursts in town dock area  
and north side of harbour, and railroad yards. Hits among 6 ships

/caused...



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N.W.A.A.F. explosions in one.  
Reports. (N.W. Africa, Adv. H.Q. 191531A to Air Min. etc.)  
(Contd.) Part 2 my M.4552E 19 May. N.W.A. Coastal A.F.  
17/18 May. U-Boat hunt, 2 Hudsons 2 (?F)  
boats sighted 40.00 North 08.00 East, 1 attacked  
3 torpex aircraft and 3 100 lb bombs no results  
seen. Convoy escort 2 Hudsons and 1 Swordfish.  
18 May. Enemy activity. 25 hostiles over Jijelli 2045 -  
2300 17 May. Bombs on airfield, Naval property and harbours.  
1 military killed. No assessment damage received.  
(N.W.A.A.F. Adv., H.Q. 191553A.)

To: Eaker and Brereton. From Spaatz. Cite 4554.

1. On day of May 18th, 42 B.26s and 42 B.25s escorted by  
88 P.38s dropped on Pantelleria. (?1) Siebel Ferry and  
Coastal guns were hit, large transport on airdrome and barracks  
were hit and left burning. 2. 38 N.17s escorted by 24 P.38s.  
dropped bombs from 24,000 feet on Trapani. Bombs burst in  
town, harbour, dock area and railroad yards. Hits observed  
among 6 ships in harbour, 1 exploded. 3. Night 17/18:  
16 Wellingtons dropped bombs on Alghero and Sassari. Bomb  
bursts observed in town starting many fires. Leaflets were  
dropped.

(N.A.A.F. H.Q., (Advance), 191601A to Etousa.)

TRIDENT. C. in C. Med.'s 261729. Intend sailing TRIDENT  
for Malta 1830/21st routed through 038° 20' 003°  
48' at 0430/22nd 038° 18' 011° 16' at 2130/25th  
P. at 2330/25th thence as ordered by Capt. (S) 10.  
(Capt. S.8., 191548A to C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, (R) Cdre.,  
Algiers, 8th S/M F. Capt. (S) 10.)

Requirements / In amplification of para. 2 of my 032023. Visit  
for of these officers would not be justified unless  
Turkey. Turkish Government grant officers full facilities  
to visit Turkish billets (?) and Naval  
Establishments. (2) If officers could be  
available, B.N.A. Ankara should first seek  
approval of Turkish General Staff of such a programme.  
3. If their reply is unsatisfactory recommend officers should  
not be sent.  
(C. in C. Levant, 191611C to Admty., (R) B.N.A. Ankara.)

K.M.S.14. Algiers Section sail as in my 171731A less NARVA.  
Destination ESNEH and EMPIRE TERN now unloading.  
(N.O.I.C. Algiers, 191615A to N.O.I.C. Bougie,  
N.O.I.C. Philippeville, N.O.I.C. Bone, (R) S.O.I.S.  
Admty., etc.)

Movements, Port Said arrivals May 19th AETOS, SOUTHERN ISLES,  
Port Said. ISLAY, ROMEO, Tug ST. MONANCE. Departures  
SOUTHERN ISLES, ROMEO, ST. MONANCE.  
(N.O.I.C., Port Said, 191752C to Admty., etc.)

/Ferryville...



War Diary.19.5.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Ferryville. Preliminary report on state of dockyard (C. in C. Med. 191810) See Lion Copy. 19.5.43 P. 659A.

PALADIN,  
ASHANTI  
QUEEN OLGA. Your 191109 and C. in C. Med's 171716 not to LIDDESDALE. Intend to sail PALADIN, ASHANTI and G.S. QUEEN OLGA P.M. 21st to arrive Tripoli 0800B/22nd.  
(V.A. Malta, 191835B to S.N.O. Trip. (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, LIDDESDALE.)

Request for M.M.S. Flotilla. Heavy requirements for minesweeping at landing craft assembly ports, in Tunisian Channel and for future operations make provision of one additional motor minesweeping Flotilla in Mediterranean essential. 2. Understand it may be possible to spare 105th M.M.S. Flotilla. Request vessels allocated may be fully equipped for hot weather service and antiwormed before sailing, also bring as much spare gear as possible.  
(C. in C. Med., 191912A? to Admty., (R) C. in C. Levant F.O.i/c. Gibraltar, V.A. Malta Capt. F.D.N.C.X.F.)

BLYSKAWICA. X Request you will sail BLYSKAWICA U.K. as additional escort to M.K.S.13.  
(C. in C. Med., 191943A to F.O. Gibraltar (R) Admty.)

KONSTANZA intercepted. My 191853B (N.T. in W.R.) German Hospital Ship KONSTANZ (?KONSTANZA) intercepted in 037° 09' N. 011° 55' E. Am sending her to Malta with guard on board.  
(Capt. (D) 14, 192007B to C. in C. Med. (R) V.A. Malta.)  
KONSTANZA under guard routed through 036° 24' N. 011° 22' E. at 0200B/20th May 036° (corrupt group) North 011° 30' E. 036° 05' N. (Rest of message corrupt and missing.)  
(Capt. D.14, No T.O.O/19 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

ARROW  
BRILLIANT. Your 171956 May (Request when ARROW and BRILLIANT be expected join 13th D.F.) About 22nd June. Both Ships have been delayed and are intended to escort K.M.F.17.  
(D.O.D. (F), 192029B to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O., Gibraltar.)

Movements Oran. Today's arrivals. U.S.S. BOYLE (MCLEISH ?) NIELDS (MCKENZIE LARK ?) WINOOSK French CHASSEUR III French MARSOUIN.  
(Com N.O.B. Oran, 192035A to C. in C. Med., Admty., F.O.i/c Gibraltar, Comnavnaw.)

/Movements...



War Diary.

19.5.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Movements, Arrivals WISHART, VETCH, L.S.T. 368, M.L. 232, 463, 564, 568, M.M.S. 81, H.D.M.L. 1166, Submarine Algiers. SIBYL, Cable ship MIRROR. Departures CARLISLE, JULIET, EGGESFORD, LEONIAN, BORDE, Submarine TAURUS. (Cdre., Algiers, 192036A to Admty., etc.)

F.O. Bizerta. X R.A. Sir Gerald Dickens will assume duty at 0800 Friday 21st May as Flag O/i.c. Bizerta. His flag is to be flown on shore. 436K was Basegram. (C. in C. Med., 192040, to Med. Station 437K (R) C. in C. Levant, S.N.O. Tripolitania, Admty.)

Malta Air Report. A.I.555 19 May C.S.R. Part 1 Offensive. Night 18/19. Mosquitoes made successful intruder patrols over Sicily and toe of Italy. In Sicily attacks were made on factories at Marzemimi and Porto Palo, on factory seaplane base and railway sidings at Milazzo, and on M.T. at Alralia and Agrigento, and trucks in sidings near Catanisseita several locomotives were left belching steam. In Italy blue and yellow flashes. 4 Beauforts and Wellingtons with torpedoes on (? R/C) for enemy shipping southeast of Italy encountered low cloud and no sightings was made except for 1 Schooner 300 tons near Cape Rizzuto which was machine gunned by 1 Beaufort. Day 19th May. 2 Spitfires on offensive sweep over Southern Sicily scored Cannon strikes on M.T. near Marzemimi and on coastal vessel South of Cassibile. Part 2. Enemy air Activity, Night 18th/19th May. 2 Beaufighters made interception patrols southeast of Sicily to cover shipping strikes by Beauforts and Wellingtons. Day 19th May. 7 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta. (H.Q., R.A.F. Malta, 192045, 192132Z.)

WHITEHAVEN. Arrival. (N.O.I.C. Sousse, 192102B to Admty.)

A.F.D.18. A.M. 160001 to F.O. Gibraltar. Considered undesirable to change the tow at this stage. Requested that MARAUDER be ordered to continue to Oran with A.F.D.18. (C. in C. Med., 192112 to Admty., (R) F.O. Gibraltar, C. in C. Plymouth.)

?Operation "Banker". 0500A position "Banker" tomorrow Thursday 10 miles East Kelibia. (Capt. (D) 14, 192123A to N.L.O. 211 Group. All Cruisers and Destroyers Operating in Area between Bone and Malta.)

/Movements...



War Diary.

19.5.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements,  
Tripoli.

Arrived KELVIN, sailed PRIMULA, FALK.  
(S.N.O. Trip. 192208A to Admty.)

Landing  
Craft.

Admty. 131425B. L.C.1. (R) carried on board  
L.S.T.(2) 13 and 164 will be numbered 968 and  
975 respectively on arrival in U.K.  
Request L.C.P. (R) on board L.S.T. (2) 163 and  
165 be numbered 997 and 998 respectively on  
arrival in your command.  
(D.N.E. (C.O.), 192219B to C. in C. Med. (R)  
C. in C. Levant, B.A.D., S.O.A.S.C., C.C.O.)

Situation  
report  
No. 97.

1. Destroyer patrol continues to be maintained in vicinity of Cape Bon by day and N.W. of Pantellaria by night. Zembra and Zembretta were visited on 17th May in view of reports of W/T transmissions. No transmitting apparatus was found but one German telegraphist was captured.
2. Minesweepers have completed clearance of War Channel from Galita to 10° 40' E. 18 mines were swept on 17th May in vicinity of 37.10 North, 11.08 East and a further 20 on 18th May in same area, where progress has been slow owing to anti-sweeping devices.
3. H.D.M.L.1154 (? sunk) at about 2300/14 while patrolling Bizerta approaches. Ship was probably mined; there were four survivors. SPEEDY was mined off Malta on 15th May whilst sweeping North Eastern approach channel. Ship was towed into harbour some casualties.
4. SS. EMPIRE EVE and FORT ANNE in convoy K.M.S.14 were torpedoed by U-Boat at 1950/18 in 36° 35' N. 01.01 E. EMPIRE EVE sank, FORT ANNE has arrived at Algiers.
5. RORQUAL laid mines off Stilo Point on 15th May.
6. TRIDENT reports attacking VIRGILIO class merchant vessel escorted by two destroyers in position 42° 21' North 9° 50' East at 1650/12. Two probable torpedo hits were obtained.  
(C. in C. Med., 192336A, 2/2717A, to A.I.G.264.)



# SECRET

19/5  
440A

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

SECRET

MESSAGE

No T.O.O.

IN.

From Algiers.

Date 19.5.43.

Recd. 1518.

P/L.

Addressed Troopers, Usfor, Mideast, Britman Washington, Armindia Delhi, P.A.I.C, Landforces Melbourne, Dechiefs Pretoria, Dechiefs Capetown, Force Nairobi, Defender Wellington (For Puttick) Britmilat Ankara, (For Marshal Chakmak) Passed by Foreign Office. Resident Minister, Achimota. Passed by Colonial Office.

U.S.355. Ref. No.W/859/2533

*Tunisia, Situation Report.*

LINREP 47. Dated 19th May, 1943.

## Summary of operations 13th to 16th May.

1. 18 Army Group. Hq. 18th Army Group, formed on 17th February in order to control operations of 1st Army, 8th Army and 2nd U.S. Corps closed down upon the successful completion of its mission at 2359 hours 15th May. Prisoners now counted total some 224,200 which is not believed final figure.
2. 8th Army. During night 12/13 May little or no enemy activity. Following morning Field Marshal Messe agreed our demand for unconditional surrender.
3. 1st Army and 2nd U.S. Corps. In these areas clearance of the battlefields and concentration of our troops preparatory to their moving from Tunisia continues.
4. Naval. Our MTBS and destroyers have been active off Cap Bon and in the Sicilian Channel where a total of 879 would-be evacuees have been removed from small boats since 9th May. On early morning 13th May a cruiser with destroyer escort bombarded the harbor of Pantallaria while MTBS established patrols inshore to intercept enemy vessels which might put out to engage our force. On 15th May boarding parties from destroyer found military cargo in flooded vessel of 1,000 tons aground off Cap Bon. One of H.M. submarines, operating off N.W. Sardinia reports sinking a 450 ton coaster and a 300 ton steam trawler by gunfire on 2nd and 6th May respectively. Same submarine sank a 2,500 ton vessel by torpedoes in Porto Torres harbor on 8th May. *SAFARI (para 59)*
5. Air. 13th May, 21 Wellingtons bombed the industrial area of Naples. Fires were started and bursts were observed in the vicinity of the power station. A heavy and concentrated attack was made same day on Cagliari by 107 B-17's (Fortresses) with escort of 100 fighters followed by 98 medium bombers and 110 fighters. Great damage was done to naval base, naval berths, oil tanks and installations in the town. 1 merchant vessel was seen

/to...



to explode, direct hits were obtained on 2 others and 4 were left burning. Other raids by P-38's (Lightnings) have been carried out over Sardinia. Civitavecchia N.W. of Rome was bombed by over 50 B-17's on 14th May when Wellingtons again attacked Cagliari. 20 Wellingtons raided Palermo night 14/15 May and Trapani was attacked following day.

6. Political. The Bey of Tunis has been deposed and his place taken by Sidi Mohamed Lamine a member of the reigning family. Political and economic conditions in Tunisia appear better than expected. There are no new developments in negotiations of Giraud-De Gaulle.

No. T.O.O.

Received from Etousa 1518 21st May.

1st Lord.  
1st S.L.(2)  
4th S.L.  
5th S.L.  
D.C.N.A.E.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(F)  
A.C.N.S.(A)(2)  
A.C.N.S.(W)  
D.A.W.T.  
U.W.R.  
O.D.(5)  
C.C.L.S.  
O.I.C.(3)  
Ops.(3)  
D. of P.(3)  
M.(2)  
I.P.(3)  
C.N.I.  
W.D.  
D.N.I.(5)  
Ad. Blake  
D.D.O.D.(M)  
A.L.O.  
D.P.D.

Etousa Circulation.

Internal. Brig. Jacob.  
Foreign Secretary.  
C.6 Tels.  
A.M.C.S.(C)  
C.C.O.  
Mr. Strang.  
Mr. Radcliffe.

External. War Reg. Admiralty.



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War Diary.19.5.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Convoy Sailing telegram (ships, list, etc.)  
 B.P.80. (2) 0300Z/19th. (3) E.T.A. position (L) Karachi  
 R/V 0930Z/21st. (3(?A)) Expected time of  
 crossing 062° 1300Z/22nd. (3B) E.T.A. west of  
 Quoin Is. position (P) 0730Z/24th. (4) 9 knots.  
 (5) (Route). (6) MADRAS.  
 (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 190504Z, 190507 to Admty.)  
 (1) NEVASA. (2) ARONDA. (3) VARSOVA. (4) EL MADINA  
 sailed for Basra with following on 19th. (Personnel).  
 Requirements.  
 (D.S.T.O. Bombay, 190557Z to D.S.T.O.P.G.)

Movements. Departures 0310Z SUTLEJ speed of advance ref.  
 Comrin. 190448. 0230Z MADRAS, BARODA B.P.80.  
 (S.O.(I) Bombay, 190816Z to Admty., etc.)  
 CHITRAL, CARADOC arrived.  
 (F.O.E.Af., 191301Z to Admty.)

M.N.B.D.O. 1. A.M. 051250 para. 2.  
 (2) Originally the chief reasons for moving the  
 first A/A Regt. of M.N.B.D.O. 1 from Ceylon to  
 Bombay were -  
 (A) to have both A/A regiments in same area as main concentrated  
 M.N.B.D.O. 1 at Malaya.  
 (B) by local exchange of A/A Regiments, both could receive  
 M.N.B.D.O. operational training in Malaya.  
 (C) A/A training facilities at Bombay were nearest available  
 to Malaya, which had none. R.M. A/A Regt. at Bombay could  
 thus continue A/A training.  
 (D) to man Bombay A/A defences originally installed chiefly  
 to meet E.F. requirements put forward in mid-1942.  
 (3) E.F. decision to concentrate M.N.B.D.O. in Ceylon instead  
 of Malaya changes most of above arguments in favour of moving  
 back to Ceylon the R.M. H.Q. Air Defence Brigade and First A/A  
 Regt., and it is considered most desirable that above group  
 should be with M.N.B.D.O. from start of its training after  
 concentration in Ceylon.  
 (4) Suggested that it would be preferable to retain in Ceylon  
 the Military A/A Units recently moved there from Bombay until  
 A/A Batteries loaned to Middle East return to Ceylon.  
 (5) If this is done - (A) Shipping will be saved, and (B) The  
 effective A/A Defence of Ceylon improved at the expense of  
 Bombay.  
 (6) A temporary reduction of A/A Defences at Bombay can be  
 accepted from point of view of Eastern Fleet requirements.  
 (7) H.Q.M.E. please pass to M.N.B.D.O. 1.  
 (C. in C. E.F., 190841Z to Armindia, (R) C. in C. Ceylon, F.O.  
 Ceylon, F.O. Delhi, Admty., Gencom. M.N.B.D.O. 1.)

/Movement ...



War Diary.

19.5.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Movement. No. 65, May 19th.  
Summary. (1) SUSSEX left Kilindini 18th due Mauritius 21st.  
(2) CARTHAGE left Aden 17th due Kilindini 22nd.  
(3) ALAUNIA left Bombay 17th escorting convoy B.A.44 due Aden 24th.  
(4) SUTLEJ left Bombay 19th escorting one transport to Aden.  
(C. in C. E.F., 191201Z to E.F. 282Y.)

EDWARD F. (CJ D4 IT) trial 20th May (? p.m.) will advise  
JOHNSON. result and if assistance required position (? 346°) 630 miles from D draft (reduced speed?) 1 knot.  
(EDWARD F. JOHNSON, 192000Z to Colombo W/T.)

MAURETANIA. C. in C. E.F. 180925Z.  
In view of difficulties combining move of first flight African Division and transshipment of U.S. personnel ex MAURETANIA at Colombo and the fact that ship cannot go to Bombay during Monsoon period, request MAURETANIA be sailed for Suez when ready.  
D. of S.T's revised proposals for movement of first flight East African Division and oncarriage of personnel ex MAURETANIA from Suez to Bombay will follow. Agreed with M.O.W.T. and W.O. please pass to Military Authorities.  
(D.O.D.(F), 192015B to C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A., (R) F.O.C.R.I.N., F.O. Ceylon, P.S.T.O. India, P.S.T.O. Capetown, D.S.T.O. Kilindini, P.S.T.O.M.E., C. in C. Levant.)



War Diary.

19.5.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Frigate Your 171834. Final proposals as follows -  
Compasses. (1) BLACKWOOD and DRURY proceed New York on  
Escorts for completion of working up at Bermuda about 25th  
H.M.S. May.  
QUEEN (2) DRURY repair at New York, BLACKWOOD embark  
ELIZABETH. observers and carry out compass trials under  
direction of U.S. Navy in bad weather, for which  
ship may have to proceed to Newfoundland Area. If  
BLACKWOOD trials inconclusive, DRURY also carry out compass trials  
on completion repairs. Endeavour will be made to employ these  
ships as convoy escorts during compass trials period.  
(3) BLACKWOOD and DRURY to arrive Norfolk by 24th June.  
(4) BAZELY having worked up at Bermuda return to Norfolk by 24th  
June.  
(5) BAZELY, BLACKWOOD and DRURY escort H.M.S. QUEEN ELIZABETH to  
Bermuda. Sailing from Norfolk 26th June.  
(6) BENTINCK proceed to Bermuda for short work up when ready  
about mid-June.  
(7) BLACKWOOD, DRURY, BAZELY, BENTINCK escort H.M.S. QUEEN  
ELIZABETH from Bermuda to U.K.  
(8) BYARD to proceed to Bermuda when ready late June for possible  
short work up and also join QUEEN ELIZABETH's escort.  
(9) BENTINCK and BYARD will then be available for full work up  
in U.K. as first of Class in accordance with A.M. 1402/31 Jan.  
para.1.  
(B.A.D. 190047Z to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O.W.At.)  
Approved D.O.D.(H) 231616B.

Convoy X.B.53. P.C. and S. at 2300Z/18th, 043 degs. 10'  
X.B.53. N. 068 degs. 05' W. 267 degs. 7 knots.  
RILEY and BRIDGEPOOL E.T.A. Portland 1200Z/19th.  
ROXBOROUGH, NEVADA, GUDVAR E.T.A. Boston 1800Z/19th  
SASKATOON, DUNVEGAN, MINAS plus 7 Merchant ships for New York  
E.T.A. position B.E. 1930Z/19th.  
SASKATOON, DUNVEGAN E.T.A. Boston 2130Z/19th.  
Stragglers WILLIAM PENN, ISLE DE BREHAT, for New York and  
MAYCREST for Boston.  
ROXBOROUGH requires 200 tons of oil fuel for Corvettes 100 each.  
All escorts have escorted from Narragansett, weather report.  
(ROXBOROUGH 190100Z to Cdre. 1st U.S. W.Dist. Boston, C.E.S.F.  
(R) C. in C.N.A. N.S.H.Q.).

Movements. St. Johns N.F. May 18.  
Arrivals TROIS RIVIERES ex Wabana WETASKIWIN ex  
O.N.181. Departures TROIS RIVIERES to Wabana  
KEPPEL, ESCAPADE, GARLAND, RENONCULE, ACONIT, LOBELIA, ORCHIS,  
ROSELYS to H.X.239.  
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 190249Z to Admty.).  
Departure 19th T.W. DRENNAN U.S.A.T. Trinidad 20th.  
(B.R.O. Georgetown 190645 to N.S.H.Q.).  
H.M. Minesweepers 1173 and 1174 departed 0830Q/19th  
for Trinidad via San Juan.  
(B.R.O. Santo Domingo 191010Q to Admty.).

/Kingston...



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19.5.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Movements  
(Contd.). Kingston arrival U.S.S. BADGER.  
Departure U.S.S. BLAKELEY.  
(S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica 191014Q to Admty.).  
CYRUS FIELD, Cable Ship, arrived Argentina

2015Z/18th.  
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns. N.F. 191228Z to Admty.).  
CUBA (U.S.A.T.) arrived Kingston 18th.  
(N.S.H.Q. 191952Z to Admty.).

Use of Personal for V.C.N.S. from 1st S.L.  
terms Escort (A) The Allied A/S.M. Survey Board have called  
Group. attention to confusion which is arising by  
Support calling support group Escort Groups.  
Groups. (B) I have personally found it confusing not  
calling support groups by their proper names.  
(C) It has been suggested that our reason for  
using the term Escort Group for Support Group has been due to  
the fact that Admiralty Naval Cypher has no designation for  
Support Group.  
(D) I am of opinion that they should be called Support Group and  
that if necessary Naval Cypher should be altered to allow this.  
(B.A.D. 190511Z to Admty.). *Reply: 250050B, page 965.*

Dispositions Cominch 181655 addressed for action to Admty.  
informs as follows:  
Serial 74.

This refers to and changes my 111555.

Atlantic. ALABAMA, SOUTH DAKOTA at sea. PHOENIX in Philadelphia.  
BOGUE at Iceland. BROOKLYN at Norfolk.

Pacific. ALTAMAHA in San Francisco. COPAHEE at Pearl Harbour.  
INDIANAPOLIS, SALT LAKE CITY at sea. MISSISSIPPI, NEW MEXICO,  
NASSAU, PENNSYLVANIA in North Pacific. VICTORIOUS and NORTH  
CAROLINA in South Pacific. CONCORD and ESSEX at Balboa.  
(Comnaveu 190728 to Admty.).

Movements CARNARVON CASTLE, 08 degs. N. 28 degs. W. on  
Summary 1800 patrol.  
G.M.T.19th. (D.O.D.(F) 190837Z to Opnav (R) Comnaveu).

BADGER My 18/1823. BADGER retained at Kingston for  
escorting U.S.A.T. CUBA to New Orleans departing  
Kingston 1200Z/20th.  
(B.R.O. Kingston 190943 to Cdr. Caribbean S.F.  
(R) N.O.B. Guantanamo.).

H.S.86 Sailing Telegram part 2.  
Total 11 Ships (list etc.).  
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 191049Z to Admty.).



War Diary.19.5.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. -Contd.

O.N.181 Your 191225 April para.3.  
Oiling at O.N.181 oil transfer FJORDAAS (Nor.) 627 in 10  
Sea. operations KSSO NASHVILLE (U.S. 170 in 3  
Depth Charges. operations abreast. Depth charges transferred  
THORSHOLM (Nor.) 10 and 4 Carriers.  
(B.R.L.O. New York 191304Z to Admty. C. in C.W.A.  
(R) B.A.D.).

Convoy Arrived.  
F.H.55. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 191404Z to Admty.).

MAURETANIA Route MAURETANIA according to C. in C.S.A.  
181803B, cancel my 142012.  
(Cominch 191408Z to U.S.N.O.B. Rio de Janeiro.  
Com.4th Fleet, Admty. C. in C.S.A.).

Aircraft Your 132044 (N.T. in W.D.) A.C.I's. are in force  
use of R/T. in R.C.A.F. Eastern Air Command and with one  
exception your recommendations have been  
implemented by C. in C. N.A's 141616 (N.T. in W.D.)  
Exception is recommendation that R/T communication invariably  
established between V.L.R. or L.R.B. craft and escort commanders  
on arrival at convoy in Northwest Atlantic.  
(2) This has not been put into effect as it is considered (a)  
that discretion for breaking R/T silence should rest with S.O.  
escorts and (b) undesirable to vary the procedure as between  
aircraft under Canadian and U.K. operational direction.  
(N.S.H.Q. 191438Z to Allied A/S Survey Board (R) Cominch, 1st  
S.L. C. in C.C.N.A. C. in C.W.A.).

S/M Estimates (C. in C.U.S. Fleet 191501Z, 191502Z, 191530Z,  
May 19th. 191614Z, 191615Z, 191616Z, 192121Z).  
U.S.S/M  
Notice.

N.S.H.Q. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa estimate S/M North of 40 North West  
S/M Estimate of 40 degs. West 1200Z/19th.  
(N.S.H.Q. 191516Z).

M.M.S. Following received from B.N.L.O. Norfolk  
B.Y.M.S. (Begins) :- Addressed B.A.M.R. Admiralty, N.S.H.Q.  
CANADA (R) B.N.L.O. New York M/S New York.  
Following ships sailed Norfolk in company  
1500Q/18th.

(1) H.M.M. M.S.91, 101, 104, 108 all of second minesweeping  
group bound Miami (E.T.A. 1800Q/22nd.  
(2) B.Y.M.S. 38 for Charleston E.T.A. 1600Q/20th. S.O. Lt.  
Evans R.N.R. in M.M.S. 101 B.Y.M.S. 38 to be detached as  
requisite for entering Charleston M.M.S. group guarding B.A.M.S.  
routines throughout as laid down for L.C.I.(L) on passage in  
Cibus. All ships guarding 1726 kc/s. M.M.S.10 does not hold



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America and West Indies.

M.M.S. S.P. 02169 (18) or (19) all ships therefore  
B.Y.M.S. using Mersigs.  
(Contd.). T.O.O. 182153 (Ends).  
(B.A.D. 191627Z).

Dispositions Following is recyphered version of my 191700.  
(Begins) Section North West Mid. O.M.P. Gaspe  
special convoy Port Hope Gaspe approaches in  
bound 78th M.L. Flotilla vicinity 46.30 60.10 en route Gaspe.  
12 B.S. 43 ST. KENAN 47.16 59.50 194 degs. 7.5 LORD MIDDLETON  
patrolling Cabot Strait. (Ends).  
(C. in C.C.N.A. 191717Z to Admt.).

O.N.S.7. O.N.S.7 B.5's 191110 (Re request for re-route if  
necessary) to C. in C. W.A. Request you will take  
necessary action.  
(D.T.D. 191806B to C. in C.C.N.W.A. (R) C. in C.  
W.A. F.O.N.F. N.S.H.Q. Cominch C and R).

Convoy Personal for 1st S.L. from V.C.N.S.  
Cycles, Your 180337Z para. A and B concur.  
Support Groups (2) Para.C. Concur but C. in C.W.A. is hoping to  
and Escort form a weak additional group making a total of 7  
Groups. support groups and 14 escort groups.  
(3) Agreed that it will be necessary to close the  
combined O.S/K.M.S/S.L. convoy cycle to 10 days  
in August to suit proposed 10 day cycle for U.G.S.  
convoys. A further review of trans-Atlantic cycles will also be  
necessary in July in light of amount of shipping to be catered  
for in August, vide para.5 of my 161550B.  
(4) After consultation with C. in C.W.A. it has been decided that  
it is impossible to guarantee to support every O.N, O.N.S, H.X.  
and S.C. convoy through danger area unless there are as many  
support groups as escort groups, namely 9. Any scheme worked out  
for employing fewer support groups must be dependent on certain  
unpredictable factors namely (a) Replenishment of fuel and depth  
charges at sea (b) Route of convoys. (C) Possibility that enemy  
may follow a convoy out of existing danger area. One failure  
to fuel at sea may dislocate any such scheme entirely.  
It is, however, considered that even six support groups would  
give reasonable expectation of cover in probable danger area for  
every trans- Atlantic convoy on proposed cycle.  
(V.C.N.S. 191817B to B.A.D.).

LUCELLUM LUCELLUM sailed in H.X. 240 requires complete  
overhaul of H/F D/F gear on arrival F.H. three  
fitted. Insufficient time to carry out overhaul  
in New York.  
(B.R.L.O. New York 191842Z to Admt.).

S.C.130 Series 1 was used from vicinity of convoy at  
1532Z and probably Series 2 line 2 at 1546Z.  
(D.D.I.C. 191845B to Escorts of S.C.130 E.G.I.  
(R) Cominch, N.S.H.Q. A.C.I.C. C. in C.W.A.  
H.Q.C.C.).

/Convoy...



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Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.-Contd.

Convoy X.B.53. Boston section arrived 191712Z. Cape Cod Canal section arrived 191818Z. (R.O. Boston 191846Z to Connav).

Convoy H.X.240 Escort oilers, LUCELLUM, LUMINETTA, VEMLA, Escort Oilers, FJORDAAS, BRITISH ENGINEER (details). Ship carrying depth charges, THORHILD improvised 60. Depth Charges. (P.D. New York 191916Z to Admty.). H.X.240 additions and deletions. (B.R.L.O. 191905Z to Admty.).

Swedish Shipping. Agreed route for Swedish Vessels North and Southbound in North Atlantic lies for over 600 miles in Ottawa Intelligence Area. Adequate information is now received from S.O.I. Recipe for plotting Northbound Ships but no advice regarding vessels from Gothenburg to South Atlantic Ports is received. Request times of departures Skopen Fiord and speed be furnished. (N.S.H.Q. 191835Z to Admty.).

Swordfish A/C Argentia. Admty. 1817B (181703 intended) (A)3(B)3 (C) 2 (C) 2 (D) Although there is no fixed sea connection between Argentia and Halifax U.S. Merchant ship probably available every 3 weeks during summer months sails Argentia to Sydney and Boston U.S.A. possible calling at Halifax en route (E) 1. (R.N.A.S. Argentia 191945Z to Admty. (R) R.N.A.S. Dartmouth Nova Scotia, B.A.D. Capt.D. Argentia).

Routeing of Neutral Shipping. Your 072033 and 151920. Request inclusion N.S.H.Q. in information. Addressees of policy route signals affecting neutrals in (?the) Atlantic. (N.S.H.Q. 192002Z to Admty.).

O.N.183 GOTHLAND damaged by iceberg. O.N.183. Rescue ships GOTHLAND. Ship struck Iceberg 48 degs. 12' S. 47 degs. 37' W. Damage sustained all above water to stem both hawse pipes and 8 feet of plating. Estimate 4 to 5 weeks for repairs. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 192027Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q.).

MAURETANIA transport of U.S. Troops. Your 121025Z. Regret transshipment ex MAURETANIA in Ceylon not practicable without incurring unacceptable delay to ship at Capetown. MAURETANIA will now be routed to Suez for transshipment. Arrangements for on carriage and expected time of arrival of personnel in India will be communicated as soon as possible. Agreed with M. of W.T. and W.O. B.A.D. Washington pass to Military Authorities. (D.O.D.(F) 192032B to Con. Route (R) C. in C.E.F. B.A.D.).

/Oiling...



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America and West Indies. -Contd.

Oiling at sea. Your 111814B April. Full report of oiling is contained in HESPERUS report of proceedings. Extract containing this information secured and can be forwarded if desired.  
(F.O.N.F. 192047Z to Admty.).

Sub attack and sighting summary. All times Z.  
Para.A. R.A.F. Liberators make 10 sightings of subs area 55.09 N. 35.18 W. to 54.17 N. 32.25 W. 190534 to 191235. R.A.F. Hudson attacks sub 59 N. 31.16 W. 190435. Hudson attacks sub course 260.59 N. 23.20 W. 190435. Hudson attacks sub diving course 250 59.04 N. 25.50 W. 190428. DUNCAN attacks sub area 54.35 N. 36.45 W. P.M./18th.  
Para.D. Plane sighted periscope 47.35 N. 62.02 W. 142222.  
(Cominch 192102Z to Admty.).

Shipping Casualties Connav Serial 19.  
CAPE NEDDICK torp. 12th 23 degs. 21' S. 1 deg. 22' W arrived Walvis Bay 16th.  
Serial 18.  
WILLIAM VANDERBILT torp. 18 degs. 41' S. 175 degs. 7' E.  
(Connav 192111Z to Comnaveu).

Convoy Routeing instructions Your 151730B convoys prior to H.X. 238 and S.C. 130 were supplied with route instructions compiled from Q.Z. messages and notices to Mariners. Subsequent convoys will be routed in accordance with U.K. (two) ships in H.X. 236 bound for Bristol Channel Ports had all necessary information in envelope D to take them to their destinations as well as instructions for Belfast. This being so the purpose of the last sentence in your 151730B is not understood.  
(3) Suggest that UKAR (as received) page 1. para.3. leaves room for misunderstanding regarding Belfast and Bristol Channel and should be clarified.  
(N.S.H.Q. 192130Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.N.A. N.C.S.O. Halifax).

H.X.240 This completes my 180204. Sailing telegram. (7.) 45 ships.  
(P.D. New York 192146 to Admty.).  
(1) Sailing telegram Part 2.  
Total 45 ships sailed (List etc.) Task Unit 24.18.2.  
(P.D. New York 192152Z to Admty.).

U/B attack on O.N.S.7. W.A.G.(?M) 614 N. O.N.S.7.  
AYMERIC sunk. (A) 4 or 5.  
(B) One sighted 13th 5 miles ahead. Hunted by SWALE and WREN. No A/S contact. Convoy altered to 090 degs. to port. Not attacked. Several others driven off by A/C.  
(C) One submerged attack evening of 16th.

/(D) One...



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America and West Indies.

U/B attack on O.N.S.7. AYMERIC sunk. (Contd.).

(D) One, AYMERIC, No.31.  
 (E) One sunk, my 192151Z refers.  
 (F) Nil.  
 (B.5 192150Z to C. in C.C.N.W.A. Connav, Admty. A.C.I.C. C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. H.Q.C.C. Codre. (D) W.A. Com. (D) Argentina).

My 192150Z.  
 (2) (E) AYMERIC No. 31 torpedoed Port. One hour later on return track of ARTICHOKE, SWALE obtained Asdic contact 3000 yards to port of port wing column track. After 1st depth charge attack and unsuccessful Hedgehog attack thin oil and sub-surface Incandescence seen. One projectile exploded 33 seconds after 2nd Hedgehog attack, 2 muffled explosions and peculiar hydrophone effect following 1 minute 47 seconds later. Contact regained in approx. same place. Further 10 charge pattern dropped, contact then lost. During attack target moved 4000 yards at 2 knots course directly away from convoy.  
 (B.5 192151Z 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. Cdore. (D) W.A. Cdore (D) Argentina, H.Q.C.C.).

✓ Signal letters Admty.'s. 181305 and your 191423 not to Admty. Concur that list of allocations should be forwarded by air by N.S.H.Q.  
 (2) Allocation for a further 16 L.S.T. and 15 L.C.I.(L) will be requested when numbers have been assigned to future construction.  
 (B.A.D. 192159Z to N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty.).

✗ Helicopters M.A.P. 5258 19/5. S.N.R. from C.N.R. Briny 4285, para.8. (030342 April).  
 Subject to satisfactory trials of the R4.  
 Admiralty would like to take over 100 R.6 for limited operational use and practical experience of handling this type in various types of ships under operational conditions. They would not be required until sufficient personnel had been trained and a servicing organisation with spares was available.  
 (2) The 100 R.6 which are required in addition to the 250 R.5 would be of great value as an interim measure pending development and delivery of the R.5 Pass to B.A.D.  
 (M.A.P. 192220 to B.A.C.).

Docks for Landing Craft. Your 161920 addressed Admiralty. L.C.I. (L) can be docked in 250 ton N.L. Pontoon docks by lifting first one end of ship and then the other. Dock is designed to take these strains. This method has been tried out and no practical difficulties arose. Consider L.C.T.(I) can be docked using similar technique.  
 (B.A.D. 192257 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.).

✗ Montreal N.D.Depot. Salor 7573, Lorsa 9101. Your 081415. Proposal to establish N.D. depot at Montreal approved. Work should proceed forthwith irrespective of points



War Diary.

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Montreal  
N.D.Depot  
(Contd.).

in following para.  
(2) U.K. liability for cost of depot should not be assumed no incidence of cost raised with N.S.H.Q. If, however, N.S.H.Q. indicate that they regard cost as U.K. liability, request you will inform Admiralty specifying reasons given by N.S.H.Q. in support of their contention.  
(Head of M.II Approved Civil Lord 192239B to B.A.D.).

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest  
serial No.484  
May 18th.

My 190856. One Liberator bombed Cape Gloucester runway morning and at noon attacked building area Lorengau where schooner sighted in harbour. Later photographed convoy 45 miles west by North Cape Matanale, revealing 2 submarine chasers, 3 small Merchant Vessels, course 110 degs.

- x (2) Photos Rabaul mid morning reveal 36 vessels in harbour comprising 22 Merchant Vessels, whereof, 2 tankers and totalling 99,300 tons, 1 Light Cruiser, 2 Destroyers, 5 Submarines, 2 Minesweepers, 1 Submarine Chaser, 2 Destroyer Tenders, 1 Submarine Tender. In addition 1 large Merchant Vessel sighted entering harbour and 1 medium Merchantman departing. Photos also showed 15 Float Planes in Rabaul Harbour.
- (3) Freighter observed 20 miles north east Cape Orford course north morning.
- ? (5) One Fortress bombed dock area Finschhafen and Lae aerodrome night 17.
- (7) Nine enemy aircraft ineffectually attacked Oro Bay evening and one aircraft shot down by A/A fire.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A.190856).

CENTAUR  
(Hospital  
ship) sunk  
13th May.

Your 171808B. My statement 544173 and 180745 refers. Preliminary interrogation (?additional) survivors indicates that at 1815Z/13th ship was struck by one torpedo abaft No.2 hatch. She caught fire, plunged and sank in about 3 minutes. Ship made no signals. S/M surfaced after attack, but took no action against survivors, who were first sighted by aircraft at 0345Z/15th, and picked up by Destroyer at 0414Z/15th. At time of attack, weather was clear and visibility good. Ship was fully illuminated excepting that 2 forward floodlights had been switched off as they were affecting sight from bridge.  
(A.C.N.B. 190949Z to Admty. (R) N.Z.N.B.).

Movements.

Arrivals Port Moresby 18th STALKER Thursday  
Island 18th (? CASTLEMAINE).  
Cairns 18th U.S. Destroyers PLUSSE. Townsville

/ 17th...



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Wednesday.

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Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. 17th U.S. Destroyer MUGFORD. Brisbane 18th LITHGOW.  
(Contd.). Sydney N.S.W. 18th U.S. Destroyer MAHAN. Milne  
Bay 18th ARUNTA. Geelong 18th BUNGAREE.  
Departures Thursday Island 18th INVERELL for  
Darwin. Brisbane 18th COLAC, TOWNSVILLE, MILDURA BENDIGO for  
Sydney (N.S.W.). Townsville 18th U.S. Destroyers MUGFORD, BAGLEY,  
TALBOT for Noumea. E.T.A. 22nd Sydney (N.S.W.) 19th. (?STUART).  
U.S. Destroyer MAHAN for north east area via Moreton Bay.  
COOTAMUNDRA (Australian M/S Vessel) commissioned at Sydney (N.S.W.)  
30th April.  
(A.C.N.B. 191319Z to Admty.).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 191349B).

Submarines Attacked.

A/S attacks A.X.851 19th May.  
assessments. Following signal received from the Admiralty  
(quotes 132255B).

Commands having A/S Squadrons operating in the  
above areas are requested to forward one copy of form U.B.A.T. to  
the appropriate authority for assessment purposes. One further  
copy will in all instances be forwarded to D.A.T. Air Ministry  
for record purposes.

(Air Min. 191630Z to All R.A.F. Commands Overseas Negative Ferry  
Command (R) A.O.C. in C.C. Admty.).



20.5.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

1. HOWE, escorted by ONSLOW, INGLEFIELD and ORWELL sailed from Scapa this evening for practices and to join Force H at Gibraltar.
2. UGANDA returned to Plymouth from Argentinia this afternoon.
3. WEAR (E.G.1) reports attacking with hedgehog a U-Boat near Convoy S.C.130 in 55.12 N. 30.40 W. in the early hours of today.

S.C.130.

South Atlantic.

4. The Dutch tanker BENAKAT is reported torpedoed in 06.05 S. 12° 56' W. (about 140 miles N.E. of Ascension) this morning. 44 survivors, French complement, were picked up. It is reported that 11 survivors were picked up on 18th May by a Catalina in 05.28 N. 14.28 W. (about 170 miles S.W. of Freetown) of Greek SS. MAROUSSIO LOGOTHETI, Rio de Janeiro for Freetown, which was torpedoed and sunk at 1835Z/15.

Mediterranean.

U/B sunk  
by SICKLE.

5. S/M SICKLE reports that at 2154A she made one hit on a submarine steering 245° in 42° 50' N. 06° 00' E. (about 20 miles south of Toulon) and considers it sunk.
6. TRIDENT attacked a merchant ship of the Italian VIRGILIO class (11,718 tons), escorted by 2 destroyers at 1750/12, in the Gulf of Genoa and probably made two hits.



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Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- X 7. A convoy of 12 merchant ships and one tanker arrived at Tripoli (L) from Alexandria today.
8. H.M. minesweeper FANTOME had her stern blown off by a mine and suffered some serious casualties today whilst sweeping in the Cape Bon area. She was towed to Bizerta. Thirteen mines were swept in this area yesterday, 16 today, and one on 21st May.
- X 9. 8 P.38s of the Strategic Air Force bombed the west quay and east dock at Pantellaria today. Objectives in Sardinia were also attacked.
- X Malta Albacores bombed and hit and set heavily on fire and caused to list an escorted merchant ship 11 miles south of Cape Granitola at 2159 today.

America and West Indies.

10. Spanish SS. RIO FRANCOLI picked up 5 Indian survivors of SS. KEMBION on 9th May in 05.37 N. 81.03 W.
- X 11. Flight 9 of landing craft sailed from Bermuda today for Gibraltar.



War Diary.

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Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

R.N.O. Heysham. The R.N.O. Heysham is being withdrawn 1200/26th May N.O.I.C. Fleetwood assuming responsibility for duties previously carried out by R.N.O. Heysham.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 201525 to Admty).

ATHABASKAN, IROQUOIS. ATHABASKAN and IROQUOIS are to form part of 3rd Flotilla while attached to H.F. Command.  
(R.A.D. 201915B to ATHABASKAN, IROQUOIS).

Movements.

COLUMBINE C. in C. W.A.'s 192129B. Route to Plymouth through (A) 180° Bishop Rock 10 (B) 180° The Lizard 3 miles thence via Q.Z.S. 410 and 409 to Plymouth. Do not pass position (B) before daylight.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 200113B to COLUMBINE).  
P.C.S. 050° N. 011° W. 095° 12½.  
(COLUMBINE, 201030B to C. in C. W.A.)

HOWE Scapa arrivals HOWE, MUSKETEER, INGLEFIELD, and BRISSENDEN.  
(A.C.O.S., 200604).  
My 181849. Delete MATCHLESS and substitute INGLEFIELD. ONSLOW becomes S.O. screen.  
(2) For 0100B/21st May read 0300B/1st.  
(C. in C. H.F., 201547B to HOWE).  
Scapa departures HOWE escorted by ONSLOW, INGLEFIELD, ORWELL.  
(A.C.O.S., 202005B).

S/M My 191003 Sailed. (OTUS)  
Movements. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 201135B to N.O.I.C. Blyth).  
My 182332B amended my 192116. Vessels will sail by Portsmouth route Y.N. C. in C. Plymouth is requested (a) to sail THRASHER and S.54 escorted by COLUMBINE as convenient to Clyde  
(b) to sail CHASER 13 as necessary to R/V TRIBUNE in position  
(Z) 180° Lizard Head 12 in accordance with F.O.S., 161024B for escort to Plymouth and onward routeing to Portsmouth.  
(Capt. S.5., 201405B to C. in C. Portsmouth).  
Sailed SYRTIS and L.15 (Russian Sub). escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE in accordance with Capt. (S) 3rd 181737.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 201504B).  
Positions of S/Ms at 0800/21 and movements for following 24 hours.  
(F.O.S., 201711B, 202348B, 202201B, 211406).  
My 192155 para. 3 after SOLSTICE amend to read: thence OBERON and BERNACHIE to Lochalsh, E.T.A. 0600/23rd. BERNACHIE is to coal at Lochalsh afterwards escorting OBERON via Kyle Rhae Treen passage and 250° Oversay 5 miles to Clyde, E.T.A. 0900/24.  
(Capt. S.12, 201815B).

/Following...



War Diary.20.5.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M  
Movements.  
(contd).  
Following is a repetition of my 201942 to HERRING begins: Proceed to patrol in area A.1. pass through 054° 50' N., 042° 30' W. My 193252 is cancelled. Ends.  
(F.O.S., 201946B and 202218B to Admty).  
Your 1912156 para. two A. Onward route (for L.15) for position E. through positions  
F. 72° 40' N., 18° 00' E. J. 72° 40' N., 35° 10' E.  
A. 71° 26' N., 26° 04' E. B. 70° 00' N., 36° 04' E. G. 69° 19' N., 35° 10' E.  
2. Your para. two B. Russian local escort will meet in position G. Your para. two C. Arranged.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 202018B to Admty).

UGANDA Arrived UGANDA.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 201537B).

INDOMITABLE Arrived Clyde INDOMITABLE from exercises.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 201624B).

? Hippo Tugs EBRO, ABEILLE 21, and DANUBE VI towing  
No. 1. special structure Hippo No. 1. sailed 1700/20th.  
(P.S.T.O. N.W. Ports, 201955 to D.S.T.)

Operations.

Coastal Your 191457B. Returned M.T.Bs. 98, 92, M.G.Bs.  
Force 111, 115.  
Patrols. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 200350B).  
My 191000B. "Device" returned.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 200619B).  
Your 200706. Carry out search, direction of approach unknown, bearing and distance report from (corrupt group) 215° 10 to 14 miles. Your codeword "Wheel".  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 200749B to GOATHLAND).  
Your 200907. Position in my 200749 probably inaccurate.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 201001B to GOATHLAND).  
Return to harbour. Report if you have any wreckage on board. Boats will meet you in Sound to remove it.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 201055B to GOATHLAND).  
1. Intend M.Ls. 269 (S.O.) and M.L. 303 to patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N., between 01° 45' W., and 02° 25' W.  
2. Leave Portland at 2200 via Q.Z.S. 382 and leave patrol-line at dawn/21st.  
3. Object: Anti E-boat patrol. Codeword "Object".  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 201130B).  
BLEASDALE, LA COMBATTANTE, ALBRIGHTON patrolling 25' south of Newhaven.  
M.G.B. 615, 614 stand by Newhaven.  
M.L. 346, 124 patrolling south of E.A. 5 buoy.  
CHASSEUR 41 at St. Helen's. GLAISDALE, COTTESMORE, STEVENSTONE at Yarmouth.  
M.L.s 269 and 303 from Portland patrolling 50° 20' N., between 1° 45' W., and 2° 25' W.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 201315B).

/BLEASDALE...



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Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal  
Force  
Patrols.  
(Contd.)

BLEASDALE, LA COMBATTANTE, ALBRIGHTON are to proceed by convoy route to eastward to arrive C.2A Buoy at 2300B/20 and thence to proceed to patrol in vicinity of position 220° TT 15'. Leave patrol so as to pass C.3 Buoy at 0430B/21st and return to Portsmouth.

2. 3 enemy torpedo boats may be on passage southward.
3. If ordered to intercept, Force is to proceed through and return by passage two, though passage four may be used for return if in that vicinity towards dawn, or if there is any uncertainty in position for approaching passage two from the southward. Codeword "Advent".  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 201320B.)
1. M.T.Bs 98, 227, M.G.Bs 111, 81 and 112 are to patrol between 360° Triagoz Light 6 miles and 360° Les Heaux Light 4 miles.
2. Object destruction of enemy shipping.
3. Leave Dartmouth for patrol 2130B, speed on passage 22 knots. Leave patrol to be within 20 miles of own coast by first light 21st.
5. Enemy E-Boats may operate from Cherbourg or Guernsey.
6. Codeword "Occasion".  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 201513B.)  
M.Ls 137 and 293 patrolling two miles south of Q.Z.S.385 between "D" and "C" 1 buoys.  
M.G.Bs 43 and 40 at Bullock Bank, E.T.A. 2230, E.T.R. 0500/21.  
(V.A. Dover, 201822B.)  
Your 201513B. "Occasion" sailed. For M.G.B.81 read M.G.B.115.  
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 202154B to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
My 201130B. "Object" sailed 2220/20.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 202244B.)

ECLIPSE Hvalfjord E.T.A. 2130Z today.  
A/S Patrol. (ECLIPSE, 201542B to A.C.I.C.)

S/M  
Patrols. Position of S/Ms at 0800/21st and movements for following 24 hours. All times zone B.  
(A) HERRING on patrol vicinity 56° N. 46° W.  
(B) HADDO 57° 40' N. 25° 20' W. through 57° 30' N. 28° 02' W. at 1800/21, thence dived by day to 35° N. 37° W.  
(C) SURF 63° 45' N. 04° 10' W. probably on surface to Lerwick.  
(D) SHAD, TUNA and STUBBORN (P.238) as in my 191652.  
(E) ULTIMATUM vicinity out Skerries probably on surface through 62° 01' N. 00° 52' W. to patrol vicinity 64° 42', 05° 26' W.  
(K) TRIBUNE 45° 40' N. 06° 28' W. dived by day to northward daily advance 111 miles.  
(F.O.(S), 201711B to Admty.)  
Cancel my 192352. Proceed through 054° 50' N. 042° 30' W. to patrol in area A.one.  
(F.O.(S), 201942B to HERRING.)



War Diary.

20.5.1943.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

\* Flensburg,  
Damage on  
19th May.

New shipyards main frame angle bending shop damaged, several hits on slips. Damage to Quarantine Station and sheds and warehouses at old shipyard still smoking. Some scattered damage in town. Meantime of photography 1930 hours.  
(R.A.F. Medmenham 200750B to H.Q.B.C.)

Enemy Air Activity.

One unknown aircraft bearing 300° 4 miles, course 040° position 60.52 N., 12.07 W.  
(N.G.C.S. Block 2 200720B to Whitehall W/T).

\* Dover  
bombed.

One H.E. bomb was dropped by hostile aircraft during night 19/20 causing slight damage to W.R.N.S. accommodation establishments at Kearsney. There were no casualties.  
(V.A. Dover, 201831B to Admty).

Mining.

Sweep  
by M/S 4.

My 181552. Route to and from area convoy Route A, Q.Z.S. 301 and Q.Z.L.18. Speed on passage 11 knots.  
(M/S 4., 201103B to C. in C. Plymouth).

Humber

At 201014 one mine detonated by sweeper in 160° Humber Light Vessel 1½ miles.  
(F.O. Humber, 201203).

S.N.111 B.

Your 171240 being passed to C.C.10 C.S. and BELFAST. BELFAST detailed.  
(C. in C. H.F., 201233B to R.A.M.)

U-boats.

U-boats  
reported  
or attacked  
in North  
Atlantic.

At 0625/19 B/269 sighted U-boat breaking surface in 59° 04' N., 25° 41' W./250/8 and attacked with Four X Torpex MK X1 pistol MK XVL from 100 ft. in dive setting 25 ft. spacing 100 ft. U/B was attacked in act of surfacing. BU D/Cs considered to have overshot in very quick attack in half light. A/C remained 13 mins. in vicinity but only D/C scum seen.  
At 0635/19 SS/269 sighted U/B on surface in 59° 00' N., 23° 16' W./260/10 and attacked with 4 X Torpex D/Cs MK X1 pistol MK XVL XT from 100 ft. setting 25 ft. spacing 101 100 ft. 5 secs. after submerging. A/C remained 5 mins. in vicinity but only patches D/C scum seen. Straddle fell 50 ft. ahead of swirl on starboard to Port beam approach. At 0735/19 TT 120 attacked U/B in 55° 09' N., 35° 18' W. with 2 X 600 D/C SJ and 3 X 250 lb. D/Cs.

/At...



War Diary.20.5.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.U-boats.

U-boats  
reported or  
attacked in  
North  
Atlantic.  
(Contd).

At 0753/19 same A/C sighted 2 U/Bs in 54° 55' N.  
35° 48' W. LSC dived to make mock attack  
having no D/Cs left and both U/Bs crash dived.  
At 0904+ in 54° 55' N., 35° 06' W. same A/C  
sighted fully surfaced U/B on course 090/2 kts.  
A/C dived to mock attack but U/B did not submerge  
Rear gunner opened fire at C/T and U/B crash  
dived.

At 1012/19 in 54° 48' N., 34° 38' W. same A/C  
sighted U/B submerging. A/C dived and U/B submerged fully.  
At 1054/19 in 54° 57' N., 34° 28' W. same A/C sighted U/B fully  
surfaced.

(R.A.F. Iceland, 200354B to H.Q.C.C.)

Bearing 090/6 miles from A/C on course 090/6 kts. no  
attack. Whilst in C/VI areas DD (DDS seen to be continuously  
depth charging) on receipt of reports from A/C. C/V last seen  
at 1906/19 in DJYZ 0313/080/10.37 P.O.M.P. M/Vs E/Vs unknown  
course 080/10. Following sightings and attacks made by PP/120  
130/19 (1340/19) in 54.21 N., 32.57 W. sighted on surface and  
attacked with 4 (42 X) Torpex D/Cs MK X 16X1 Pistol MK XVI from  
50 ft. setting 25 ft. spacing 100 ft. ST PA/C remained 5 mins.  
in vicinity only slight brown oil scum seen.

At 1351/19 U/B sighted in 54.35 N., 33.37 W. 172/10 no attack.

At 1410/19 in 54.58 N., 32.51 W. LFLU U/B on course 095/10 kts.

At 1445/19 in 29.17 N., 32.25 W. U/B on course 120/4.

At 1632/19 in 54.44 N., 32.34 W. U/B on course 320/5 kts. At

1736/19 in 55.08 N., 32.51 W. U/B on course 100/8 kts.

At 1855/19 in 54.38 N., 31.14 W. U/B on course 180/6 kts. U/B  
submerged more than 30 secs. before A/C in position no attack  
made.

At 1411/19 MM/269 sighted U/B on surface but U/B dived before  
attack could be made. Position of U/B 59.18 N. 24.23 W. 260/10

At 1627/19 same A/C attacked U/B in 59.25 N., 24.33 W. 270/8  
kts. with 4 Torpex MK XI Pistol MK.XV2 XVI from 50 ft. setting  
15 25ft spacing 100 ft. U/B had pale grey insignia resembling  
figure 4 on side of C/T A/C remained 34 mins. in vicinity  
and considerable oil seen covering area 100 ft. wide also  
plank of wood approx. 6 ft. long and light object of no  
definite shape seen floating in centre of oil steak. Gunfire  
exchanged and some casualties seen.

(R.A.F. Iceland, 200404B to H.Q.C.C.)

Am over enemy S/M in 55° 30' N., 30° 00' W.

(A/C 102 Sq. Duty X. 200745B to 15 Group).

Have attacked enemy with depth charges.

(A/C 59 Sq. Duty X 200750 to 15 Group).

Am over enemy S/M in 55° 14' N., 29° 55' W.

(A/C 143 Sq. Duty N. 200808B to Artunshofdi).

Am over enemy submarine in 44° 52' N., 15° 30' W.

(A/C 10 Sq. Duty K. 200840 to 19 Group).

Have attacked enemy with depth-charges, estimate nil hits.

(A/C 10 Sq. Duty K 200850 to 19 Group).

Am over enemy submarine.

(A/C 120 Sq. Duty N. 201000).

Have attacked enemy with depth charges position 55°  
50' N., 29° 00' W.

(A/C 59 Sq. Duty X. 201031B to 15 Group).

Am over enemy Submarine in 55° 21' N., 29° 59' W.

(A/C 120 Sq. Duty N., 201045B).

Am over enemy submarine in 55° 08' N., 29° 37' W.

(A/C. 120 Sq. Duty N., 201058B).

/Am...



War Diary.20.5.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.U-boats.

U-boats reported or attacked in North Atlantic. (contd).

Am over enemy S/M in 54° 54' N., 26° 43' W. (A/C 59 Sq. Duty X., 201150B).  
Have lost touch; last seen in 62. 48 N., 11.43 W.  
(A/C M8H Duty A., 201220B to Admty).  
U-boat sighted by NUTS 55° 35' N., 29° 38' W. (R.A.F. Iceland, 201345B to H.Q.C.C.)  
Am over enemy S/M in 55° 10' N., 28° 23' W. (A/C 120 Sq. Duty P. 201450B).  
Am over enemy S/M in 55° 18' N., 27° 49' W. (A/C 120 Sq. Duty P. 201710B)  
Am over enemy submarine in 62° 20' N., 12° 18' W. (A/C 269 Sq. Duty Z., 201710B).  
Have attacked enemy with depth charges, estimate no hits. (A/C 120 Sq. Duty P. 201720B).  
Am over enemy S/M in 55° 36' N., 27° 24' W. (A/C 120 Sq. Duty P. 201924).  
My 1924. Have attacked enemy submarine on surface with depth charges. (A/C 120 Sq. Duty P. 202010).  
Am over enemy submarine in 56° 02' N., 26° 48' W. (A/C 120 Sq. Duty P. 202155B).

IRISH OAK

Master of SS. IRISH OAK has reported to Eire authorities at 2030/14 a submarine was sighted. At 0840/15 he was torpedoed in 47° 51' N., 25° 53' W. Survivors were landed here yesterday from IRISH PLANE who is now proceeding to Ardrossan.  
(N.A. Dublin, 201600A to D.N.I.)

U-boats destroyed in Biscay Area.

Air Ministry is requested to convey to those concerned our congratulations to the Halifax for the large part which she played, in co-operation with H.M. ships, in the destruction of a U-boat on May 11th, 1943.  
We congratulate FLEETWOOD and MIGNONETTE for their part in this success.  
(D.A/S.W. 202327B to Air Min. FLEETWOOD, MIGNONETTE).

Request you will convey to those concerned our congratulations on the destruction of a U-boat on May 2nd, 1943, by Sunderland M of 461 Squadron. (See Signal 042043) (V.C.N.S., 202331B to Air Ministry).

Technical.

A/C with Convoys.

Your 161301. Considered most important that fighters and swordfish be in direct R/T communication. Three alternatives suggested.  
1. Swordfish on fighter frequency and carrier as link between escorts and aircraft.  
2. Modify TR1196 to same R/T frequency as modified TR1304.  
3. Shift convoy frequency into TR1196 frequency band. If you agree suggest you take necessary steps to complement policy decided on.  
(R.A.N.A.S., 201639 to C. in C. W.A.)



War Diary.20.5.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

Unknown ship. Wick Radio from Gallon Head. 233° Class 2 bearing. Distress automatic S O S. (Wick 200757Z to A.C.O.S.) Automatic S O S signal heard 1007 G.M.T. strength of signal one type of Emission A1 bearing unobtainable.

(Valentia, Radio, 201010 to Admty).  
Following received from Tیره Radio: Automatic S O S 067° or 248° Class 3 strength 2. (Port Patrick Radio, 201104Z to N.O.I.C. Greenock). Distress Signals Automatically 233° class 1. (Gallon Head 201105Z to A.C.O.S.) Automatic S.O.S. has been heard and may be in your vicinity. Keep a good look-out. (C. in C. W.A., 201145B to Convoy H.X. 238). Received at 1115 G.M.T. de Gallon Head Radio. Intercepted 1103/05Z Automatic S O S Type A2 Q.S.A.2. (Wick Radio 201316 D.B.S.T.) Following from Lands End Radio begins:- Following received from SHEIGRA intercept begins - Distress signal 2330 degs. class 1. (C. in C. Plymouth 201332B to Admty). Distress signal automatic 236° class 2. (Gallon Head Radio, 201546Z to A.C.O.S.)

BOXER Request BOXER may be sailed to Belfast on 24th May to be taken in hand for completion of approved A's and A's making good defects, builders inspection, and first boiler clean under builder supervision. (S.O. A.S.C. 201128 to F.O.I.C. Greenock). Your 201128 concur. Request information how long ship will be available for these items to be carried out. (F.O.I.C. N.I., 201533B to S.O.A.S.C.)

SKEENA E.T.A. Merville 210330Z. Defects 8 frame 30 to 38 starboard side waterline bent by ice. Require diver to inspect port "A" bracket. 1 and 4 of Tanks leaking. Request I may proceed up river without oiling. (SKEENA 201838 to C.T.G. 24.7).

FORT PASCOYAC. Admty's 181828. Sailed Tugs HUDSON and SCHELDE, E.T.A. Mumbles 0300B/21. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 202019B to N.O.I.C. Swansea).



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War Diary.20.5.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- W.S.30 and M.K.S.15. Sailed ROYAL ULSTERMAN to overtake. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 200154).
- North Russia. (?) DOVER HILL and ATLANTIC entered Dvina (corrupt group) with (?) MORAY FIRTH waiting for weather to moderate. ISRAEL PUTMAN still at anchor. (BRITOMART 200600C to S.B.N.O. Archangel).
- S.C.130 U-boat sighted on surface on quarter of convoy in 54.43 N., 30.42 W. at 0415Z. Dived at 400 yards range. Attacked with 2 10 charge patterns. Contact then lost. No evidence damage. Am continuing search. (JED, 200625Z to C. in C. W.A.)
- U-boat attacked. U-boat sighted near convoy in 55.12 N., 30.40 W. At 0327Z dived. Attacked whilst shallow with Hedgehog. One possible 2 Torpex Bomb fitted with full modified fuse spring exploded. No evidence contact not regained. Half hour later deep promising contact attacked twice 2 miles from first contact possibly the same. (SPEY 201430Z to C. in C. W.A.)
- K.X.10 and O.G.90. Sailed: ALGERIAN Lisbon. BLAIRDEVON Huelva, CITY OF LANCASTER Lisbon, HALLFRIED (Nor). Lisbon, GRODONO Lisbon, HARTBRIDGE Huelva, SHETLAND Lisbon, EMPIRE DARWIN (Cam) Gib./Algiers, LEWANT (Pole) Algiers, RICHARD OLNEY (U.S.) Oran. FORT MCLOUGHLIN Philippeville, SVANHOLM Bone, ELIPHALET NOTT (U.S. Oran, EMPIRE DAMSEL (T) Algiers, PASS OF BALLATER (T) Algiers, EMPIRE ROSALIND Algiers, FORT POPLAR Algiers, Did not sail EMPIRE FAY Sq. 73 Crew trouble. HARDINGHAM Sq. 124 Not ready in time. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 200859 to A.I.G.288). Sailed: KINGSBOROUGH Huelva, FYLINGDALE Lisbon, MERS-EL-KEBIR (Fr) Oran, Algiers, FINLAND Lisbon, GREAT HOPE Lisbon, TAUTRA (Nor) Algiers, FORT FAIRFORD Algiers, FORT CONFIDENCE Oran, Algiers. JUNE CREST Algiers. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 201651B to A.I.G. 289). Sailed TEVIOT, ERNE, TEST, CLARE, TRENT, HYDERABAD for K.X.10. (Cdre. D. W.A., 202058B to Admty).
- O.N.S.8 Request you will sail E.G.2 on completion of fuelling to support O.N.S.8. (C. in C. W.A., 200939Z to A.C.I.C.)
- E.G.2.
- O.N.186 Intend to sail KING HAAKON VII at 0700B/23, E.T.A. Greenock 1400B/23. C. in C. W.A. 192053B refers. (F.O.I.C. N.I., 201128B).
- C.4 Group Your 1911Z. Approved. (D.O.D. H., 201141B to C. in C. W.A.)

/F.S...



War Diary.20.5.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.F.S.  
convoys.

My 281130/3 amended by my 241310 April. Starting with F.S.23 add 1 hour to all Southbound times. (C. in C. Rosyth, 201548B).

M.A.C. ships. Consider early M.A.C. ships should be operated in slow convoy to facilitate them regaining station after flying operation. Halifax is probably the most suitable Western terminal point provided means are available for hoisting aircraft in or out. The time for turning round should be as laid down in para. 7 of Admiralty letter M/T.D. (D.E.M.S.) 02049/43 of 7th April so far as this is compatible with para. 11 of same letter. The actual period of turning round in U.K. must be decided at time as it will vary with such factors as replacements, casualties to personnel or aircraft, and consequent needs for further training. (C. in C. W.A., 201556B to Admty).

O.N.S.J.8

My 192041 sailed (ORILLIA)  
(A.C.I.C., 201620B).

K.M.S.15

BRADFORD CITY, R/T Persian Gulf 35.10.  
VANCOUVER CITY Persian Gulf 45.10. GEORGE  
CHAMBERLAIN U.S. Persian Gulf 55 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  11.  
EASTGATE Medium Frequency R/T Alexandria 43 11.  
DUKE OF SPARTA Alexandria 22.10. KAITUNA Alexandria 33,13.  
JOHN VINING Persian Gulf 62.10 $\frac{1}{2}$ , FORT FINLAY Alexandria 34 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ .  
(N.C.S.O. Mersey, 201731B to Admty).

O.S.48

BRADFORD CITY R/T, Gibraltar F/O. VANCOUVER  
and K.M.S.15. CITY Gibraltar F/O. GEORGE CHAMBERLAIN (U.S.  
Gibraltar F/O OCEAN WANDERER (ND) special search  
R/T Algiers. EASTGATE M/F R/T Gibraltar F/O.  
DUKE OF SPARTA Gibraltar F/O. KAITUNA Gibraltar  
F/O. JOHN VINING Gibraltar F/O. FORT FINLAY Gibraltar F/O.  
OCEAN VISTA R/T Algiers.

(N.C.S.O. Mersey, 201735B to Admty).

Sailed ALYNBANK in accordance with my 181224B.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 202014B).

Sailed: PORT MELBOURNE Durban for bunkers / Lourenco  
Marques/Beira. BARON HERRIES Oran. EMPIRE MIRANDA (ND) Oran,  
EMPIRE TIDE (Cam) Gibraltar/Algiers. WEARPOOL Bone. EMPIRE  
PROSPERO Algiers. KINDAT Durban for bunkers/Port Said/Alexandria  
CELEROL Gibraltar F.O. HARDINGHAM (ND) Algiers. OCEAN VALOUR  
Algiers. Did not sail. FORT POPLAR Sq. 15 Sailed in K.X. 10/OG  
90. EMPIRE FAY Sq. 6 not ready in time.  
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 202016B to A.I.G. 288).

CLAN MACIVER Alexandria. DALHANNA Alexandria.

EMPIRE TRUMPET (N.D. Persian Gulf).

(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 202017B to Admty).

H.X.237

PACIFIC ENTERPRISE and JAMES TURNER arrived at  
wrong destinations. Request you will investigate  
what action was taken by S.O. C.2 on C. in C.  
W.A's 131340

(C. in C. W.A., 201739B to Cdre. D. W.A.)



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War Diary.20.5.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- French Refugees. Your 141713 (re GOVERNEUR GENERAL LEPINE available to evacuate 600 French refugees). Ship should arrive evening tide 24th. If all arrangements go well hope to sail her morning tide 25th.  
(N.A. Lisbon, 200021B to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O. Gibraltar, Admty., B.N.A. Madrid.)  
B.N.A. Lisbon's 200021 and my 141713 and 181738. Please act accordingly.  
(Algiers, 201212A to Admty.)
- SCYTHIA. Arrangements should be made for SCYTHIA to be sailed to New York in first available G.U.F. convoy.  
2. Request urgent report of anticipated dates of sailing and arrival.  
(D.S.T., 200023B to S.T.O. Gibraltar, (R) P.S.T.O. Med., etc.)
- G.U.F. 3. My 191355, add SINCLAIR, OPALINE.  
(C.M.S.F.F., 200046Z, 201459Z to P.D. New York.)
- T.E. 21A. Intend sailing for Oran SIDI BRAHIM, JOSEPHINE LEBORGNE.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 201010B to Connob. Oran, (R) Admty., Connav, C. in C. Med.)
- WEST POINT. Arrived 20th May.  
(C.M.S.F.F., 201030Z to P.D. New York, etc.)
- Dispositions. Situation at 2001B/20th.  
1. ADVENTURE 040° 37' 012° 48' through 036° 01' 010° 01' to 102° or 170°.  
2. P.55, 41.10 10.01 thence 180° or 251° diving by day 7/2.  
3. Escorts of convoy G.U.F.8, C.T.F.67, 033° 10' 011° 54', 242°, 13½.  
4. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN, 2 merchant ships 036° 47' 007° 15' through 036° 55' 009° 50' and 036° 59' 009° 05' thence 352°, 6.  
5. 3 Portuguese submarines escorted by gunboat exercising Cezimbra area.  
6. Escorts of U.G.F.8A, T.G.60.1, 034° 09' 013° 29' through 034° 01' 008° 03' to Gibraltar 12½.  
7. 4 destroyers 035° 45' 006° 32' to Gibraltar 15.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 201037.)  
Situation at 2001B/20th.  
3. ADVENTURE 40.37 12.48 through 36.01 10.01 to Gibraltar 17.  
5. S.R.4F, FOXHOUND 25.59 15.(?44) through 27.59 13.35 thence 036° 12½.  
6. S.E.C. S.L.129 LEITH 29.05 12.51 through 30.03 12.05 thence 027°, 6½.  
7. AIMWELL, 4 M.M.S. 26.35 14.57 through 27.(?32) 13.59 thence 033°, 8½.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 201113B.)

/Gibraltar ...



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20.5.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.X Gibraltar  
Congestion.

As Gibraltar anchorage will probably be acutely congested at end May request sailing telegram for K.X.10, O.G.90, O.S.48, K.M.S.15 may be forwarded forthwith.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 201040B to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., Commorseafon, C. in C. W.A., Comnob Oran.)

KEMBION  
survivors.

Ministry of Marine informs me Spanish RIO FRANCOLI picked 5 Indian survivors SS. KEMBION May 9th position 005° 37' N. 081° 03' W. Survivors landed Santa Isabel Fernando Po. Admty. pass to Consul Fernando Po. (Passing action being taken by W.R.)  
(N.A. Madrid, 201102B to Admty., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) N.O.I.C. Freetown.)

SCOTTISH,  
LOCH OSKAIG.

When can SCOTTISH and LOCH OSKAIG be expected to return to Gibraltar.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 201213 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. W.A.)  
Reply: 211956B.

AQUILEON.

AQUILEON sent in from G.U.F.8. Speed 14½ knots. Reason not known, request instructions.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 201542B to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty., Connav, C.M.S.F.F., Comnob. Oran.)

M/V Repairs,  
Spain and  
Portugal.

Your 190050. M. of W.T. representative is satisfied that all practicable precautions against sabotage are taken and that risk is acceptable under present conditions.  
(N.A. Lisbon, 201606B to Admty., (R) B.N.A. Madrid, C. in C. Med., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

SCYTHIA.

D. of S.T.'s 200023B May para. 2. Anticipate SCYTHIA sails about 29th May in G.U.F.8A arriving June 12th.  
(S.T.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 201620 to D. of S.T. London, (R) B.A.D., U.S.C.N. Ops., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C. in C. Med., F.O.C. Gibraltar, P.S.T.O. Med., Commorseafon, B.M.W.T. New York, C. in C. Levant.)

CHARON.

Arrived H.M. Tug CHARON.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 201825B to Admty., etc.)

/Convoy ...



War Diary.20.5.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Convoy M.K.S.13. M.K.S.13. 32 ships plus TASAJERA, LARIAT and forward half of (? ACTIVE) towed by CHARON R/V in position (JE) at 1200B/23rd escorted by WEDGEPORT, QUALICUM, FORT YORK, PARRSBORO, O.R.P. BLYSKAWICA, and ANTHONY. ANTHONY return

Gibraltar at prudent limit of endurance.

(2) Lisbon section consisting of RAVENS POINT and ALPERA escorted by HUDDERSFIELD TOWN R/V in position MK 35.32 09.24 at 1600B/23rd May. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN then return Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 201835B to Ships escorting convoy S.L. No.129, pass to Cdre., (R) Admty., C. in C. Med. Fleet., Commorseafon, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth.)

Movements, Casablanca. Arrival Casa May 20th U.S.S. SCHENCK and WEST POINT. Depart LA GRACIEUSE (Fr.) for Gibraltar. (C.M.S.F.F., 201945Z to C. in C. Med.)

Movements, Gibraltar. Arrivals HAARLEM ex escort duties Melilla. French Ships AMIRAL MOUCHEZ, COMMANDANT DELAGE from Casablanca. Departures HAARLEM escort duties Melilla. (F.O. Gibraltar, 202027B to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

Air Report. A.I.486, 20th May. Op. Summ. No.200 for 24 hours ended 1800 hours 20th May, 1943. (G) Sightings and attacks. U.S. Cat.(P.B.Y.5A) (Agadir) on CLA patrol at 0834B/20 29.12 N. 15.35 W. sighted surfaced U-Boat course 085°, 12 knots, which dived. (H.Q. R.A.F. Gibraltar, 202359.)



War Diary.20.5.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

DESPATCH. Your 191258. (News that DESPATCH has left Recife not received until situation report received.)  
Route given in Com. Fourth Fleet 141430 not repeated to Admiralty.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 200832Z. to Admty.)

Convoy N.C.13. Sailing telegram. (2) 0900B/20th May.  
(4) 8 knots. (5) Coastal. (6) HERTFORDSHIRE, SPHENE, NORTHERN DAWN. (12) Saldanha Bay E.T.A. 0700B/24th. (15) numbers 8 to 9, code word "Barter."  
(N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay 200901B to Admty. C. in C. S.A. N.C.S.O. Capetown.)

COWSLIP. Arrival 191900Z.  
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst 200901Z. to F.O.C.W.A.)

Movements, Dakar. Sailed (A) 1500Z/19th ST. LOUIS escorted by ASPIRANT BRUN for Freetown. (B) 0730Z/20th. ALEXANDER RAMSEY escorted initially by M.Ls. 1072 and 1231 for Paramaribo. (C) 0740Z/20th MONTEREY for Port of Spain, Trinidad. (2) Arrived 0745Z/20th Liss, escorted by M.L. 1065.  
(Comar, Dakar, 200927Z. to F.O.C.W.A. Admty. etc.)

West African Escort Force Refitting Reinforcements Your 142326. One ship can be accepted in U.K. on arrival of S.L. 130. Further signal will be made about subsequent refits. 2. AUBRETIA and VIOLET, now form part of a trained Western Approaches escort group and cannot be released. Allocation of new corvettes is under discussion and your claims will be given full consideration.  
3. Prospective reinforcements of your A/S forces are:- (a) BOADICEA leaves U.K. with W.S.30. (b) AMAZON leaves U.K. with W.S.31. (c) DOUGLAS, BEAGLE, S. GEM and S. PRIDE leave U.K. early July. (d) OXNA leaves U.K. mid July. (e) B.E.Cs. as in A.M. 221626 Feb. but all dates two months later. (f) 490 Squadron of Catalinas during June.  
(D.O.D. (F) Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 201021B. to F.O.C.W.A. (R) C. in C. W.A.)

ARCOLA explosion. Serious explosion engine-room Italian Tanker ARCOLA 1115 G.M.T. 20th. No sabotage suspected. Ship immobilised for present. Further report after survey. No British personnel injured.  
(N.C.S.O. Bissau 201050 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)

CORFU. Your 171254. (CORFU W.S.30 to be used for coastal voyage.) this will be arranged.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 201211Z. to Admty.)



War Diary.

20.5.1943.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

MAROUSSIO  
LOGOTHETI  
(sunk  
15 May.)

Greek ship MAROUSSIO LOGOTHETI sailed Rio De Janeiro 1st May for Freetown torpedoed at 1835Z 15th May and sunk in 2 minutes. 2nd Officer (said to be Russian) taken Prisoner aboard U-Boat. 11 survivors picked up by Catalina in 005° 28' N. 014° 28' W. on 18th May and landed Freetown. C.Bs. believed gone down with ship. (S.O.I. Freetown 201223Z. to Admty. (R) F.O.C.S.3. B.N.S.O. Rio De Janeiro.)

Routing  
to U.S. and  
Caribbean.

M.A.R.I. Section I, para. 7A. Connav desires that from now on U.S. vessels. (a) From Red Sea and East and South Africa bound U.S. East Coast Gulf and Caribbean ports and (b) Those of 14.5 knots and over from Persian Gulf should be routed via Atlantic instead of Trans-Pacific via Cape Horn. 2. Ships in (a) above of less than 14.5 knots to be routed to Bahia for convoy. 3. Request you will conform. 4. M.A.R.I. will be amended. (D.T.D. 201306B. to C. in C. S.A. (R) C. in C. E.F. F.O.R.S.C.A. S.N.O. Persian Gulf.)

Movements,  
Lagos.

Arrived 20th May SARABANDE, ORFASY.  
(N.O.I.C. Lagos 201337Z. to Admty. etc.)

Movements,  
Durban.

Arrived NEWCASTLE, QUICKMATCH.  
(Cdr. Durban 201401Z. to Admty. etc.)

A/C  
attack  
on  
U/B.

U/B Report. (1) (A) Admiralty Air Ministry A.H.Q.E.A. (B) A.O.S./1 (C) 20 May. (D) Congella. (E) 262. (F) Catalina F.B.226 (G) Temperate Sea. (H) Flight Lieut. Grant. (2) (A) (1) Yes. (C) 2055B/19 May. (D) 30° 00' S. 32° 11' E. (E) 486 Fathoms. (3) (A) Wake. (B) (1) 214 T. 2000 feet. (2) 1699 1-2 miles. (3) 180 T. 16 knots. (C) (1) Yes. (4) (A) Did not dive. Not seen after attack. (C) 2156B. (D) 135°. (E) 75 feet. (F) 486 fathoms. (5) (B) (1) 25 feet (2) Six. (3) Mark 8 (AMAT) (4) Mark 13. (5) Six. (7) 100 feet. (8) Not seen. (6) (A) Two explosives heard. (B) N.A. (C) Yes. (D) Not seen. (7) (A) To. (D) No. (E) 60 from starboard blister. (8) (A) Yes M.G. and L.A. Shells bursting astern. (D) Port Engine damaged Two bullet holes in tail plane. (9) (A) No (D) Left owing to damaged engine. Further aircraft despatched. (E) Left immediately owing to loss of oil. (10) Yes on beam aeriacs. U-Boat sighted visually port bow of S.V. no help. (11) (A) Moonlight (B) 080 T. 6 knots. (C) 3/10 Cumulus. (D) 12 Plus. (E) Calm unbroken. (12) (A) Yes. (B) One gun aft of conning tower. M.G. firing from forward of conning tower. Conning tower large and noticeable square shape. (C) Not noticed. (D) Not seen. (E) No. (14) Aircraft pressed home attack in face of heavy and accurate light A.A. fire as aircrafts port engine was put out of action and height could not be maintained pilot unable to observe results after attack. More complete U-Boat report (?1 Group missing) will be forwarded. Paras

/omitted...



War Diary.20.5.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

A/C  
attack on  
U/B. (Contd.) omitted all inapplicable.  
(C. in C. S.A. 201630B. to Admty. (R) Air Ministry,  
A.H.Q.E.A. C. in C. E.F.)  
W.D. Note:- Precis of A/C Captain's report of  
this attack, see 241827B.

Group  
Sailings  
S.E. Africa. A.M. 191736. (Requesting sailing telegrams  
including composition and escort of Groups  
between Lourenco Marques and Durban.) Para (2).  
L.M.D.17. Request you will reply direct to  
Admiralty.  
(C. in C. S.A. 201801B. to C.S.A. Lourenco  
Marques. (R) N.C.S.O. Durban, Admty.)

Movements,  
Duala. Departures 201730Z F.S. SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA.  
Free French Sub. Chaser No.43 Libreville  
p.m. 21st.  
(N.C.S.O. Duala 201803Z/5 to Admty. etc.)

A/C attack  
on U/B. American Aircraft based on Ascension attacked  
S/M on surface with depth charges and Machine  
gun fire at 1120Z/20 in 06° 20' S. 12° 40' W.  
S/M previously reported by transit aircraft.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 201922Z. to Admty.)

Movements,  
Freetown. Arrival 1700Z/20th COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES  
escorting TRUSTY. Admiralty pass to F.N.F.L.  
London.  
(S.O. (I) Freetown 201946Z. to B.N.L.O.W.A. (R)  
Admty. etc.)

Movements,  
Takoradi. Arrivals 20th May:- H.M.M.Ls. 305, 1018, 266, 263,  
244 and 274. Departures 20th May H.M.M.L. 1018  
to escort SS. TOIS to Cotonou.  
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 201953 to Admty. etc.)

Tugs  
for  
N. Africa. Your 142323. EMPIRE OBERON, EMPIRE ACE, EMPIRE  
DENNIS now boiler cleaning Walvis Bay. Expect  
sail for Freetown via Takoradi 27th May.  
(C. in C. S.A. 202025B. to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.A.  
N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay.)



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War Diary.20.5.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. Following read. Position of 3 enemy motor-boats is 39.20 N. 14.30 E. course of first, 180 degs. speed 15 knots, course of other two, 220 degs. speed 15 knots.  
(A/C A.R.M/V 200120B).  
Following read. P.C. and S of F (signification unknown) one small merchant vessel. one destroyer, 39.08 N. 14.02 E. 235 degs. 10.  
(A/C A.R.M/G 200215B).

Convoy K.M.S.14X. K.M.S.14X arrived less TACTITIAN, CITY OF AGRA, and HAVILDAR.  
(N.O.I.C. Bone 200759A to Admty. F.O. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. Connav).

Convoy K.M.S.14. K.M.S.14. Arrived TOPDALSFJORD, EMPIRE HEYWOOD.  
(N.O.I.C. Bougie 200800A to Com. N.O.B. Oran (R) Admty. F.O.C. Gib. C. in C. Med. Connav).  
K.M.S.14. C.W.S. PROGRESS returned lack of speed.  
My 191615A refers.  
(Cdre. Algiers 201040A to N.O.I.C. Bone (R) Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. Connav).

Movements Alexandria Arrivals 19 May ROCKWOOD, LISMORE, IPSWICH, MARYBOROUGH, GAWLER, MIAOULES, HIFAISTOS, PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS.  
(S.O.(I) Alexandria 200925 to Admty. C. in C. Levant).

EREBUS Suez. May 20th Arrival at 0945.  
(F.O.R.S.C.A. 201010C to C. in C. Levant (R) Admty. Com. Aden, R.A.L).

G.U.S.7A. EMPIRE SCOUT, TITUS, ANTONIA arrived. Algiers section sailed as in my 191126A. (N.T. in W.R.).  
Commander G. Woodruff U.S.N. in M.B. LAMAR, Oran, is requested to issue Ocean Cruising Forms.  
(Cdre. Algiers 201037Z to Com.N.O.B. Oran, Commorseafon, A.I.G. 259).

K.M.S.14 U.G.S.8. K.M.S.14 and U.G.S.8 arrived in accordance with C. in C. Med. 141757A and 141742A less EMPIRE EVE, torpedoed KINGSLAND put into Gibraltar, VACUUM diverted to Philippeville, plus following from Gibraltar, DWOW, SPERO, SUTHERLAND, MIRROR, from Casablanca, ALEXANDER HAMILTON, JOSEPH N. SEARLE.  
(Cdre. Algiers 201039A to A.I.G.259 (R) Com.N.O.B. Oran, Commorseafon).

P.R.U. May 20th visuals. 1030 Taranto 2 Battleships, 2 Cruisers.  
(N.O.I.C. Malta 201104B to C. in C. Med. etc.).

/ORION...



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War Diary.20.5.1943.  
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. -Contd.

ORION  
named  
positions. Your 181735 (Requesting position of ORION and others) details of positions in L.W.M. 95 and 98 to 101 plus "Rib" 33 degs. 00' 014 degs. 00' "Finger" 33 degs. 13' 013 degs. 48'.  
(C. in C. Levant 201120C to Admty.).

SIMOOM To confirm my 191436 pass 135 degs. Cape Palos 15 at 0200/22nd. 038 degs. 26' 002 degs. 41' at 2100 23rd to R/V in 036 degs. 57' 003 degs. 13' at 0600 24th. All times Zone Minus 1.  
(Capt.S.8. 201156A to P.225 (SIMOOM) (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar).

Movements Your 40357 and 190215 (sent by W.R.). My  
Algiers 130054 reference quoted should read 062203  
(9/5). repeated under 092258. Following is repetition of my 092258. (Begins). Arrivals BROCKLESBY L.S.T.363, 362, French S/M ANTIOPE, RHYL. Departures CARLISLE M.Ls. 280, 273, M.M.S.92, 171. (Ends) T.O.O. 092258.  
(Algiers C.C.O. 201159A to Admty.).

Naval Fighter Wings. Naval fighter tactics are being developed to include operation of Wings formed by combining Squadrons from one or more carriers. Fighter Squadrons of Home Fleet carriers are now receiving wing training from Officers who have completed the R.A.F. Wing Leaders course. If you so desire an Officer could be temporarily appointed to FORMIDABLE to advise on the training of fighter squadrons in wing operation and tactics. Early reply is requested.  
(D.A.W.T. Approved A.C.N.S. (Air) 201225B to C. in C. Med. (R) S.O. Force H. FORMIDABLE).  
Reply: 211022B.

Through Mediterranean Convoys. Ships from India Westbound. Your 151754A para.4.  
(1) It is presumed that C. in C. Levant will arrange with C. in C. E.F. to route suitable ships loading in India to connect with westbound Mediterranean convoys, minimum acceptable speed 8 knots.  
(2) M.O.W.T. have requested their representatives in India and Egypt to keep in close touch with Naval Authorities so that full advantage for British controlled shipping can be taken of anticipated westbound movements.  
(3) B.A.D. has been requested to inform W.S.A. of the dates of these movements, and W.S.A. will be sending instructions as regards U.S. controlled shipping to their representatives in India and Egypt.  
(D.T.D. Approved A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 201228B to C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, C. in C.E.F. (R) F.O.C.R.I.N.).  
See also Admty. 201229B to B.A.D. and B.A.D. 201551 to Admty,

(page 781-782)

/Requested...



War Diary.20.5.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Medi terranean.Through  
Mediterranean  
Convoys.  
Ships from  
India  
Westbound  
(Contd.).

Requested on authority of W.S.A. that the following three tankers ex U.G.S.8. should after discharging be sailed in G.T.X.1. destination Alexandria for orders. ESSO BAYTOWN, ESSO CHARLESTON and AMERICAN TRADER. These are the tankers referred to in A.M. 201229 para.3. (D.T.D. 202120B to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, B.A.D. Washington).

UNBROKEN  
UNISON.P.42 (UNBROKEN) leave patrol pass South of Ustica so as to pass P at 0300A/24th and P.43 (UNISON) keeping well clear of P.42. Leave patrol to pass P at 2200A/24th thence both S/Ms. proceed to Malta as ordered by Capt.(S) 10.  
(Capt. S.8. 201242A to 8th S/M Flot. (R) Capt. (S) 10).JAVELIN  
KELVIN.Following is repetition of C. in C. Med's. 201308A (Begins) Addressed:  
C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta (R) A.I.G.260 JAVELIN, KELVIN from C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta's 181253 not to all. Intend following programme for JAVELIN, KELVIN. Leave Malta p.m. 22. Arrive Bone p.m. 23. Act as additional escort to E.T.21 to Gibraltar. On arrival at Gibraltar sail for U.K. as escort for TRACKER T.O.O. 201308A (Ends).  
(C. in C. Med. 201310A to Admty. Connav).Smoke  
Protection.Your 132008C. If requirement C.S.A. mixture is for use in Naval vessels report anticipated monthly consumption for respective classes of vessels, as requirement is unusually large.  
(2) Provision of materials for static port and harbour screening is responsibility of Army Authorities. See para.1. iii (d) and Footnote of A.M. 161032A Jan. and agreement Inter-Services Smoke Protection Committee communicated in H.Q. R.A.F. Mid. East Signal 150851 March.  
(Director of Stores, Approved by 4th S.L. 201412B to C. in C. Levant).Enemy  
Unit.P.C. and S of one medium vessel 5000 tons 42.01 N. 11.46 E. 142 degs. 3 knots.  
(A/C G.D.S/R 201452A to Air H.Q. Malta).

ADVENTURE

Your 141849. (1) ADVENTURE sailed in accordance with A.M. 131834 carrying mines as in your 071148 April.  
(2) She also carries 20 A.Mk.IV mines Assembly B.228. (details).  
(3) Six copies of instructions are in charge of Lieut. Day who is taking passage in ADVENTURE.  
(D.D.O.D.(M) 201524B to C. in C. Med. (R) S.O. Force H. N.O.I.C. Oran).



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War Diary.20.5.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.-Contd.

Movements  
Aden. Departed 1135Z CAPETOWN, 1309Z BURNIE.  
(N.O.I.C. Aden 201526Z to C. in C. Levant,  
F.O.R.S.C.A. S.O.(I) Kilindini).

SAKARYA Report B.2. midday 19th May Turkish SAKARYA  
foundered. 2612 g.t. carrying 3200 tons chrome for Uganda  
K.C.C. from Fethiye to Mersina - Alexandretta  
struck rock about 25 miles S.E. Fethiye, broke  
in 2 and foundered. Vessel and cargo total loss.  
(S.O.(I) Istanbul 201350 to S.O.(I) Levant, (R) D.N.I.  
D.N.A. Ankara, C.S.A. Mersina, C.S.A. Alexandretta).

Enemy  
E-boats. Following from A/C G.D.S/X.  
P.C. and S of 2 E-boats at 1527A was 38.48 N.  
15.48 E. 152 degs. 10 knots (based on fix obtained  
within half an hour of 1500).  
(Malta W/T 201545A to All British Men of War).

TACTICIAN Intend sailing TACTICIAN (P.314) 1830/22nd for  
Malta routed through 038 degs. 03' 004 degs.  
25' at 0445/23rd 038 degs. 12' 011 degs. 20' at  
2130/26th P. at 2300/26th thence to Malta as  
ordered by Capt.(S) 10th S.F.  
(Capt.S.8. 201546A to C. in C.M.F. Capt.(S) 10th S.F. (R) Cdre.  
Algiers, 8th S.F. Capt.(S) 1st S.F.).

Convoy  
G.T.X.1. G.T.X.1. Have following for inclusion for Bizerta  
CARA, META, ALMENARA, EMPIRE KESTREL.  
For Algiers, EMPIRE DAY.  
(Com.N.O.B. 201621A to A.I.G.? Cdre. Algiers,  
F.O.I.S.).  
See also Admty. 201228, 202120.

SPORTSMAN If you were off Cape Noli at 0530A today you were  
probably sighted.  
(Capt.S.8. 201628A to SPORTSMAN).

Movements  
Port Sudan. May 20th arrivals IRIS (Pan.).  
Departures TARON (Tanker) for Massawa.  
(S.S.T.O. Port Sudan 201631Z to D.S.T. (R) P.S.T.O.  
M.E.).

Movements  
Port Said. 20th May Port Said. Departures AETOS, IERAX,  
ISLAY.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 201733 to Admty. etc.).

P.R.U. May 20th Visual. 1625 Taranto 2 Battleships 2  
Cruisers. 1710 Messina no Major Naval Unit.  
(V.A. Malta 201839B to C. in C. Med. etc.).



War Diary.

20.5.1943.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. -Contd.

N.W.A.A.F. Opsum 88. May 20th.  
Report. N.W.A. Strategic Air Force.  
19th May. 24 Mitchells (B.25) escorted by 25  
Lightnings (P.38) attacked Milis Airfields  
Sardinia. Hits on buildings and Aircraft, 6 to 8 fires resulting  
40 to 50 Aircraft seen on Airfield. 24 Mitchells (B.25) escort  
26 Lightnings (P.38), 1 Bomber and 3 fighters returned early.  
Villacidro Airfield, Sardinia, 50 Aircraft seen on ground.  
Dispersal areas covered, 6 fires started, bombs causing  
explosions across fuel dumps, barracks area. 43 Marauders (B.26)  
escort 38 Warhawks (P.40) Monserrato and Almas Airfields,  
Sardinia. Cagliari Harbour, City and outskirts of Quareo.  
Weather conditions and Combat prevented observation results. 27  
Fortresses (B.17) escort 36 Lightnings (P.38) 3 Bombers returned  
early, Milo A/D Sicily. Targets well covered, 4 to 6 fires  
started. 12 Warhawks P.40 Fighter Bombers Pantellaria, abortive  
due weather. 24 Fortresses B.17 escort 48 Lightnings P.38, 18  
Fighters returned early. Sciacca, Sicily, abortive due weather.  
(Spatz N.W.A.A.F. Advanced 201920A).

K.M.S.14 K.M.S.14 arrived EMPIRE CARPENTER, OCEAN VANITY,  
EMPIRE GUINEVERE. VACUUM for Gibraltar and  
CORNELIUS HARTNETT.  
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville 201937 to Admty. F.O.I.C.  
Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. Connav (R) Cdre. Algiers)

Tunis Your 181105 to V.A. Malta.  
cable. Is it intention to work cable from cable head at  
Nabeul, or from Tunis or Bizerta?  
(2) Request you will signal condition of landlines  
between Nabeul, Tunis and Bizerta.  
(3) Technical details can be obtained from cable engineer.  
(D.S.D. 201952B to C. in C. Med.).

Algiers Arrivals M.L.1221, 1128.  
movements. Departure VETCH, GAVOTTE, ZETLAND, WISHART L.S.T.  
428 submarine DOLFIJN (P.47).  
Arrived and departed BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK,  
CONVOLVULUS, TANGO, KING SOL, PIROUETTE.  
(Com. Algiers, 202003 to Admty.).

FANTOME Ship damaged by mine today Thursday. Following  
casualties sustained:- (1 dead, 2 seriously  
injured).  
(FANTOME 202352A to S.O.I.S. (R) C. in C. Med.  
Admty.).

Movements Arrived and sailed PRIMULA and FALK. Arrived  
Sfax. and sailing 2330, M/L 121.  
(N.O.I.C. Sfax 202109A to Admty.).

/Malta....



War Diary.20.5.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. -Contd.

Malta Air Report. A.I. 570 20 May C.S.R. Malta.  
Part 1. Offensive.  
Day 19th May. 4 Beaufighters on armed R/C along East Coast of Toe of Italy found no shipping, attacked a large goods train on coastal railway south of Point Stilo.  
Night 19/20th May. 1 Torpedo carrying Wellington made armed shipping search between Sicily and Naples. Heavy rain prevented further offensive operations.  
Day 20th May. 8 Spitfire bombers escorted by 8 Fighter Spitfires with 4 fighter Spitfires as rear cover attacked Comiso Airfield scoring hits on runway 3 formations of M.E 109's in target area were driven off by escorting Spitfires.  
Part 2. Enemy Air Activity.  
Day 19th May. 1610 hrs. 4 Spitfires were airborne to intercept 2 enemy aircraft probably lost which approached Malta from the south. Very bad visibility prevented interception.  
Day 20th May. 14 Spitfires were airborne for several raids which turned back before reaching Malta 2 Spitfires provided escort to incoming Naval unit.  
(R.A.F. Malta 202109Z).

SONTAY On completion third flight exchanges about 5/6 SONTAY is to be sailed to Bombay as early as possible, distinguishing marks used for protected status should be removed before departure Alexandria for Bombay. (P.S.T.O.M.E. 202120C to D.S.T.O.X (R) C. in C. Levant, F.O.R.S.C.A etc.).

KELVIN Sailed.  
(S.N.O. Trip. 202147 to Admty.).

Target towing Aircraft. Your 121316A/May. It is assumed Defiant aircraft are referred to. All Defiant shipped to Mediterranean or in course of shipment were complete with A.V.T. 15/ A.V.R. 20 R/T sets which is considered suitable for F.R.U. aircraft.  
T.R.1196 will eventually be supplied instead of A.V.T.15/ A.V.R. 20 when supply position permits of the change.  
(D. of Stores. 202219B to C. in C. Med. (R) N.O.I.C. Malta, C. in C. Levant, N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, S.O. Force H.).

ASHANTI Sailed ASHANTI, returning with Hospital Ship  
KONSTANZA KONSTANZ (German).  
(V.A.Malta 202232 to Admty. C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant).

/SICKLE...



War Diary.

20.5.1943.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. -Contd.

SICKLE  
attack on  
U/B.

At 2154A scored one hit on U-boat steering 245  
degs. in 042 degs. 50' North 006 degs. East.  
Consider sunk but no proof.

(2) 3 torpedoes remain.

(3) 2 French Light Cruiser TIGRE class destroyers  
entered Toulon yesterday.

(P.224 (SICKLE) 202339A to Capt.(S) 8. (R) C. in C. Med.).



War Diary.20.5.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- KARAPARA. Departure Hospital Ship KARAPARA.  
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 200506Z to Admty etc.)  
Hospital Ship KARAPARA sailed 20th for Basra empty. Requirements. E.T.A. Rooka 25th. a.m.  
(D.S.T.O. Bombay, 200812Z/ to D.S.T.O.P.G.  
(R) P.S.T.O.I., D.S.T.)
- Madras open. Cancel my 160850 (N.T. in W.R.) Madras Port now open to shipping.  
(Colombo W/T 200520 to B.A.M.S.7).
- AMRA. Arrival 20th Hospital Ship AMRA.  
(N.C.S.O. Diego Suarez, 200800Z to C. in C. E.F.)
- Hospital Ships E.I. Station. Bigot. Ref. your 192040 May and my 120846 April (Hush distribution). (2) Minimum requirements for E.I. station are 2 hospital ships. A reduction to one only is not acceptable for a longer period than 2 months. (3) Hospital ship VITA has been delayed at Bombay by minor defects but is due to sail now for Levant.  
Hospital ship OPHIR will be ready to sail from Colombo about 28th May. Hospital ship VASNA is due to change crew at Bombay early June but could arrive Suez about 18th June. (4) Confirmation is requested that 3 hospital ships are required.  
(C. in C. E.F. 200815Z to Admty (R) C. in C. M.F., C. in C. Levant.)
- Ceylon Movements. No.51 of 20th May. (1) Ref. Summary No.50 Para. CARNATIC did not sail. CARNATIC escorting A.P.31 left Aden 18/5 due (?UHKF KKAI) 25/5.  
(2) BALTA arrived Colombo 15/5. (3) SONAVATI and HINDUSTAN escorting T.B.36 left Colombo 18/5 due Bombay 22/5. (4) HOXA arrived Addu Atoll 11/5.  
(5) ORISSA arrived Bombay 18/5. (6) RAJPUTANA escorted by PANGKOR arrived Bombay 18/5. (7) RAMDAS arrived Madras 17/5.  
(8) SCOUT arrived Addu Atoll 18/5 after having detached WILLEM VAN DER ZAAN to assist M/S with engine defects.  
(9) TEWERA returned to Trincomalee. (10) BOMBAY escorting P.B.41 left Bandar Abbas 19/5 due Bombay 24/5. (11) MADRAS and BARODA escorting B.P.80 left Bombay 19/5 for Khor Kwai.  
(F.O. Ceylon, 200931Z to Admty)
- MAURETANIA. P.S.T.O. Capetown 191608Z para. 3. Considered most undesirable for MAURETANIA to proceed Bombay as ship's date of arrival about 12th June would probably coincide with the break of the South West Monsoon.  
(P.S.T.O.I. 201111Z to D.of S.T. (R) P.S.T.O. Capetown, C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.R.I.N.)
- SAGAING. Proposals for use of SAGAING as pier (Admiralty 151932 May refers) were forwarded to Admiralty and C. in C. E.F. by air mail on 9th May under my /...



War Diary.20.5.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.SAGAING.  
(Contd.)

my No.614/C 13/3/27 of 7th May. These required confirmation by Fleet Salvage Officer that ship was sufficiently strong. (2) He now reports that plating amidships is very considerably weakened and there is very grave risk of ship collapsing inwards when jumped out or outwards when filled with rock and cement. Only sound bulkheads are collision bulkhead forward and after most bulkhead.

Concrete  
Pier  
Proposed.

(3) Consider therefore scheme must be abandoned. In view of para.2 of C. in C. E.F. 21 0325/2 propose that pier with concrete head shown on S.C.E. drawing No.842/43 forwarded with my submission quoted should be constructed. Time required eighteen months. (4) Written report from Fleet Salvage Officer follows.  
(F.O. Ceylon, 201112Z to Admty (R) C. in C. E.F. N.O.I.C. Trinco, C.S. Ceylon)

REVENGE,  
RESOLUTION,  
Destroyers.

In order to use available destroyer escort to the best advantage and to enable REVENGE to arrive at Durban as soon as possible after departure of RESOLUTION following is proposed programme.

(2) REVENGE escorted by NAPIER and RAIDER to sail from Kilindini 0900C June 10th so as to R/V with

RESOLUTION in 020° 01' S. 041° 40' E. at 1200C June 13th.

(3) In view of U-Boat threat request you will provide 3 destroyers, of which one should be RACEHORSE, to escort RESOLUTION from Durban, sailing RESOLUTION and escorts from Durban as convenient 10th June. (4) After effecting R/V NAPIER and RACEHORSE to escort RESOLUTION onward to Kilindini, the remaining 3 destroyers escorting REVENGE to Durban.

(5) RAIDER will replace RACEHORSE on your station. (6) Request C.O. RACEHORSE may be replaced by C.O. NIZAM as Cdr. (D) Proceed direct to Durban before RACEHORSE sails.

(C. in C. E.F. 201441Z to C. in C. S.A. (R) N.O.I.C. Durban, REVENGE, RESOLUTION, F.O.2nd in Command E.F., Cdre. D., Admty)

U.S.  
Dispositions  
Pacific.

Changes in U.S. Pacific Fleet. A.M.152222/May refers. ALTAMAHA at San Francisco, COPAHEE at Pearl Harbour, INDIANAPOLIS and SALT LAKE CITY at sea. MISSISSIPPI, NEW MEXICO, PENNSYLVANIA and NASSAU in North Pacific. VICTORIOUS and NORTH CAROLINA in South Pacific. CONCORD and ESSEX at Balbao, PHOENIX to Atlantic.  
(N.O.D.(F), 201500B to C. in C. E.F.)

Floating  
Dock  
facilities,  
Trincomalee.

D.G.S.R. Bombay's 080545/April and my 271329/March the possibility of berthing a capital ship floating dock at Bombay has been reconsidered in the light of facilities which can be made available and, in view of the extent of dredging work now reported to be involved, it has been decided to drop

consideration /...



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War Diary.20.5.1945.  
Thursday..FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Floating Dock facilities. (Contd.) consideration of Bombay for this purpose in favour of Trincomalee subject to your confirmation that a suitable berth can be provided at the latter without dredging. (2) The allocation of A.F.D. XXIII to Kilindini stands and it is hoped this dock will be ready for use during latter half of 1944. (3) A.F.D. XXXV is allocated provisionally to Trincomalee. (4) An American sectional capital ship dock is expected to complete in October 1945. The prospects of getting this dock then or later depend upon U.S. requirements and the existing strategic and docking situation. Should we get it for the Indian Ocean before the completion of A.F.D. XXXV, it would go to Trincomalee. (D. of D. Bath, 201622B to C. in C. E.F. (R) D.G.S.R. Bombay, F.O.C.R.I.N., B.A.D. for B.A.M.R.) See 230540Z.

Minelaying. Request you will confirm as result of decision in your 181908 whether TEVIOT BANK and PROME will be required for operations on your station. (C. in C. E.F. 201842Z to C. in C. Levant, (R) Admty. C. in C. Med.)

China.

Enemy Intelligence. (1) Information received that sizeable Jap convoy forming up at Amoy, Naval Commander Wight of O.S.S. reports. Desire early R/C this port if at all practicable and report. Let us know if you can arrange.  
New Subject: (2) On May 17th, 2 destroyers escorting 6 ships of 3,000 tons loaded military supplies and 2 ships 4,000 tons carrying 500 troops each left Hongkong for Indo China. Rating reliability unknown and what port they are headed in not known.  
(Chunking, 200615Z to Usfor)



War Diary.20.5.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Policy re  
supplying  
Martlet  
Fighter  
A/C to  
Argentina.

Following received from Capt. D. Argentina. (Begins). There is evidence that U-Boats are shooting down Swordfish which indicates possibilities of Fighter support. Request 6 Martlet Fighters may be sent to Argentina in readiness for replacements. (Ends.)

2. Request your policy re Fighter replacements particularly in view of C. in C.W.A. 161301. Re close co-operation between Fighter and Swordfish A/C in attacks on U-Boats.) As you are aware there are no Martlets in U.S.A. except Martlet 5. If it is not your intention to ship Martlet 4 from U.K. we could flight deliver Martlet 5 taking them from U.K. deliveries. This would raise maintenance and spares difficulties. 3. Request your policy. (B.A.D. 200013Z to Admiralty.)

Document  
lost.

Regret to report that copy No. 7 of the Atlantic Convoy Conference Washington March 1st to 12th 1943 has been lost in B.A.D. Exhaustive search has been made and is being continued. Navy Department has been informed and full report follows by air mail. 2. This document is similar in size and colour to the L.S.T. Technical Instructions issued on 7th April to all U.S.A built L.S.T. and L.C.I.(L), but these are all given copy numbers and a check of copies remaining offers little hope that the missing document was issued in error. Admiralty may, however, consider it advisable to question all such vessels which sailed from U.S.A. prior to today. Enquiries of such vessels still in U.S.A. are being made locally. Issues to ships which had sailed prior to 7th April were made by safe hand to England. (B.A.D. 200219Z to Admty.)

Movements.

St. Johns N.F. May 19. Arrivals M.L.052 ex. St. Pierre M.L.056 ex Wabana. Departures STRATFORD, TROIS RIVIERES escorting C.L.65 M.L.063 to Wabana PELICAN to H.X. 239 CHELSEA, SUDBURY, MILLTOWN to O.N.183. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 200225Z to Admty.)

Argentina 19th. Arrival H.M. Trawler CAPE ARGONA.

Departure 0830Z/4th Escort Group.

(B.M.C. Argentina, 201148Z to Admty.)

Arrivals MIDLAND ex O.N.182 NIPIGON, BRANTFORD, ex S.H.81.

Departure SWIFT CURRENT. Escorting H.F.55.

(C. Halifax, 201231Z to Admty.)

Kingston 1200/19th in convoy J.O.2 GEORGE WASHINGTON (U.S.A.T.)

New Orleans.

(N.S.H.Q., 201452Z to Admty.)

San Francisco May 18 SOMMELSDIJK (DU)NOR\* San Diego U.S.

Army Transport.

(N.S.H.Q. 201711Z to Admty.)\* As received.

/Arrival...



War Diary.

20.5.1943.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Movements  
(Contd.)

Arrival May 20 JOHN L. CLEM U.S.A.T.  
(P.D. New Orleans 201914 to Admty.)

Solops 21.

Air R/C May 17th Buin area 8 Merchant Ships,  
3 Corvettes Munda air field 30 planes.  
(B.A.D., 200249Z to Admty., C. in C. E.F.(R)  
Concentric Colombo, C.O.I.S. Kilindini,, F.L.O.  
India.)

U.S.S/M.  
Notice  
S/M  
Estimate  
20th May.

(Cominch, 200315, 200443Z, 201504Z, 201505Z,  
201620Z, 201621Z, 201622Z, 201917Z, 202142Z,  
202335Z.)

Movements  
Summary  
1800 G.M.T.  
20th.

Ship	Position	Course	Speed
CARNARVON CASTLE	08° N. 28° W.	Patrol	Blank.
(D.O.D.(F) 200946Z to Opnav (R) Comnavu)			

Convoy  
X.B.43.

Boston arrived 2014Z/19 escorting X.B.53  
ROXBURGH.  
(N.S.H.Q., 201048Z to Admty.)

X U.S.10th  
Fleet  
established.

Cominch 182107 addressed for action to U.S. Fleet  
and Admty., and for information Bureau and  
N.S.H.Q. informs as follows:  
There is established, effective 20th May at 1200Z,  
the Tenth Fleet with H.Q. in the N.D. under the  
direct command of C. in C., U.S.Fleet. This  
Fleet will, in that part of the Atlantic under U.S. strategic  
control, exercise unit of control over U.S. A/S operations.  
Para 2: The Eastern Gulf and Caribbean Sea Frontiers plus  
Atlantic Sector Panama Sea Frontier and A/S support forces  
composed of surface, submarine and air forces assigned,  
comprise the Tenth Fleet forces. Para. 3: The following are  
Tenth Fleet tasks:  
1st: Protection of allied shipping in above mentioned sea  
frontiers.  
2nd. Support of all A/S forces operating in the Atlantic areas,  
including U.S. and Allied.  
3rd: Exercise of control of U.S. responsibilities with regard  
to convoys and shipping.  
4th: Correlation of U.S.A/S material development and training.  
Para. 4: All A/S agencies are attached to Tenth Fleet H.Q.  
having been transferred from Cominch H.Q. Para. 5: Operation  
Plan will follow, together with written directive.  
(Comnavu 201056Z to Admty.)

/S.C.131...







War Diary.

20.5.1943.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Through  
Mediterranean  
Convoys,  
Ships from  
U.S.A.  
(Contd.)

2. U.S. Authorities are considering changing to a 10 day cycle commencing with U.G.S.12 or 13, but above figures are worked out on a 15 day cycle. 3. If loaded fuel oil tankers can be accepted for convoy from Port Said to North Africa from August onwards the number of tankers for North Africa in U.G. convoy can be reduced by an equivalent amount. As far as can be foreseen number of such tankers is estimated in

the first instance as 10 per month rising later to 30 per month. 4. It is emphasised that with exception of U.G.S.9 and 10 above figures are only tentative and U.S. acceptance of above proposals has not yet been received.

(B.A.D., 201551Z to Admty., C. in C. Med., (R) C. in C. Levant.)

B.Y.M.S. Arrival B.Y.M.S.31, 68, 186, 187, 209 from New York.  
(C. Halifax, 201233Z to Admty.)

Convoy S.H.81 arrived less LADY LAURIER, arrived Lousiburg LIVERPOOL ROVER proceeding Liverpool N.S. independently.  
(N.C.S.O., Halifax, 201244Z to Admty.)

Convoy B.S.43 Arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. Sydney, C.B., 201256Z to Admty.)

Convoy Q.S.47 Arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. Sydney, C.B., 201309Z to Admty.)

Convoy T.O.4. Arrived Curacao 1000Z/20th.  
(C.A.F.A.C. 201415 to Connav.)

/ Signal Numbers. Your 192159 (re Allocation of Canadian Signal letters to specifically numbered L.C.I.Ls. or L.S.Ts. built or building in U.S.A.). This will be done.  
(N.S.H.Q. 201416Z to B.A.D.(R) Admty.)

N.S.H.Q. S/M Estimate. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa estimate of submarines North of 040° N.W. of 040° W. 1200Z/20th.  
(N.S.H.Q. 201445)

Escort Group B.4, Convoy O.N.183. Left O.N.183 at 1300Z/20th in 045° 10' N. 049° 27' W. course and speed 241° 9.5, escorted by CHELSEA, SUDBURY, MILLTOWN, KENOGAMI. My P.C. and S. 045° 16' N. 049° 49' W. 295° 12 knots in company VIMY, ANEMONE, ASPHODEL, CLOVER PENNYWORT. Weather report.  
(B.4. 201501Z to Admty., (R) Western Local Connav, C. in C.W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., E.T.U., 24.18.8;

A.C.I.C., H.Q.C.C., Cdmre.(D) W.A., C. in C. C.N.A., Comdre.  
(D) Argentina.

/Proposed...



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War Diary.20.5.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.Proposed  
visit to  
U.K. by  
V.A.  
J.W. Dorling.Visit to U.K. in the near future by V.A.  
J.W. Dorling B.A.S.R., Washington, most  
desirable in order that he may obtain latest  
Admiralty views on supply matters, and  
particularly on ships for delivery in 1944.  
(B.A.D., 201601Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.)A.T.46  
(QUEEN  
ELIZABETH),  
A.T.48  
(QUEEN  
MARY.)Request you will sail A.T.46 QUEEN ELIZABETH  
and A.T.48 QUEEN MARY from New York so as to  
arrive Clyde p.m. 1st June and p.m. 6th June  
respectively, reporting estimated position of  
ships at daylight on day of arrival and E.T.A.  
Clyde. 2. C. in C.W.A. is requested to  
arrange air protection. 3. Fighter protection  
Codewords should be allocated by B.A.D.  
(D.O.D.(H), 201621B to Connav. (R) B.A.D.etc.)A.T.47  
(PASTEUR)Convoy A.T.47. Request you will sail PASTEUR  
from Halifax when ready (about 26th May) to  
Liverpool so as to arrive on daylight tide,  
reporting expected time of arrival Bar L.V. and  
estimated position of ship at daylight on day of  
arrival. 2. C. in C.W.A. is requested to arrange air  
protection. 3. Fighter protection code word "Hickory".  
(D.O.D.(H) 201626B to C. in C.C.N.A.)

PASTEUR.

Halifax arrived 200801Z.  
(N.S.H.Q. 201636Z to D. of S.T.)Fortress  
A/C Crew  
picked up.Your 191951B, N.T. in W.D. (U.S. authorities  
wish to interview crew of R.N. vessel which  
rescued crew of a B.17 A/C.) 9 men were picked  
up from Fortress A/C after forced landing in  
position 63.11 N. 26.05 W. at 1617 G.M.T. May  
7th by FAULKNER and ONSLAUGHT. Landed at  
Argentia May 7th and turned over to U.S. Army authorities.  
(F.O.N.F., 201724Z to Admty., (R) C. in C.W.A., C. in C.H.F.,  
F.O.C. Iceland, C. in C.C.N.A., Comd. W.A. Cominch.)Oiling  
at sea  
Depth  
Charges.Ref. your 201109B SAN TIRSO carrying Admiralty  
fuel oil and fitted with 5" hose for oiling  
astern was omitted in my 181708Z GULFCREST  
carried no depth charges according to our records.  
(C. in C.C.N.A., 201729Z to Admty.)

A.T.47.

Your 191715Z May to D. of S.T. Ref. A.T.47. Due  
to Generator repairs ship cannot be ready to sail  
until May 28th, during which time four boilers  
being cleaned by Naval personnel.  
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 201831Z to N.S.H.Q.(R) D. of  
S.T., B.A.D.)

/M/Vs...



War Diary.

20.5.1943.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

M/Vs. routeing. Your 172109 last sentence of para. 1 of your 120103 in conjunction with para. 2 was interpreted to refer to ships proceeding trans-Pacific in accordance with existing instructions.  
2. However, we are agreeable, and M.O.W.T. concurs, for all British ships concerned to proceed trans-Pacific in accordance with your para 4 for the present opening of Mediterranean route.  
(D.T.D., 201901B to B.A.D.)

x Number of U.S. Personnel carried in a British Ship. It is not clear whether limitation by service category should apply U.S. personnel carried in a British ship in trade convoy under rule in your 114016 March para. 3. Your 1929/12 Nov. 1942 para. 3 refers. U.S. rules do not limit personnel by service category in trade convoys and U.S. authorities do not object to the waiving of category limitation in the case of U.S. personnel so carried in a British ship.  
(B.A.D. 201927Z to Admty.)

Escort Group B.4. My 171945 Amend as follows para. 2 B.4 Proceed St. Johns N.F.  
(F.O.N.F. 201930Z to Escort Grp. B.4., (R) C. in C. C.N.A., Cominch, C. in C.W.A., N.S.H.Q. Admty., Capt. (D) Argentia, S.O. Afloat Argentia.)

Ships for P.O.W. for North America. Your 161913. U.S. Army now proposes sailing SIBONEY and GOETHALS from Capetown to U.S. direct instead of via Casablanca SIBONEY fuelling at South American port. U.S. passenger rules are temporarily modified to permit these ships to embark full loads of prisoners of war at Capetown if you desire. Remaining U.S. ships from W.S.30 and 31 will sail empty from Capetown to Casablanca to embark full loads of prisoners at latter port. Ships have necessary radius to omit calling at Freetown. No. U.S. escorts are available for any part of this voyage but air coverage is requested where practicable if British escorts cannot be provided. Ships will return U.S. in G.U.S. Convoys.  
(C. in C.U.S. Fleet, 201930Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med. Cdr. 8th U.S. Fleet. C. Moroccan S.F.F. C. in C. Atlantic Fleet. B.A.D.W. C. in C.S.A., Com 4th Fleet.)

Convoy F.H.56. Pre-sailing telegram. (A) Saint John N.B. 2000Z May 23rd. (B) SWIFT CURRENT. (C) Eight Ships. (D) 40 hours.  
(N.C.S.O. St. John N.B., 202006Z to Admty.)

NIGERIA. My 141848 completion date of NIGERIA has been altered to 26th June making sailing date from U.S.A. about 15th July.  
(B.A.M.R. 202032Z to Admty., (R) NIGERIA A.S. Chatham C. in C. Nore.)

/Convoy...



War Diary.

20.5.1943.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Convoy.

Convoy B.X.52. Arrived between 1803Z and 2027Z May 20th. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 202050Z to Admty.)

Sub. attack and sighting summary. All times Z. A. R.A.F. planes make 5 sightings of Subs. area 55.10 N. 28.23 W. to 54.54 N. 26.43 W. 200608 to 201250. Planes attack Subs. 55.30 N. 30 W. 200545 and 55.50 N. 29 W. 200831. Liberator attacks Sub. course 090 55.05 N. 31.45 W. 191959. WEAR and SPEY attack Sub. on surface 54.44 N. 34.14 W. 191130. R.A.F. Hudson attacks Sub. course 270 59.36 N. 24.30 W. 191437. SENNEN attacks Sub. on surface 54.32 N. 34.40 W. 191403. Sub. attacked 54.44 N. 34.14 W. 191140. R.A.F. planes make 4 sightings of Subs. area 55.09 N. 33.27 W. to 54.38 N. 31 14 W. 191535 to 191816. D. BLACKHAWK sights periscope 01.28 S. 40.02 W. 191710. Sub. sighted course 270 01.32 S. 42.18 W. 192000. (Cominch, 202104Z to Admty.)

SNOWBERRY. Arrival SNOWBERRY from refitting Charleston. (N.O.I.C. Halifax, 202118Z to Admty., N.S.H.Q. Cominch C. & R., Naval Member C.A.N. Joint Staff Washington, B.A.D., Com.6.)

HERRING HADDO. Your 201446, not to Admty. L.N.641 HERRING (U.S.) estimate position 0800B/21st 056° 10' N. 043° 10' W. routed through 054° 50' 042° 30' to operate under direct control of Admiralty against U-Boats in Area bound by four positions 054° N. 042° W. 055° N., 037° W. 051° N. 035° W., and 050° N. 040° W.  
2. L.N. No. 725 HADDO (U.S.) estimate position 0800B/21st 057° 40' N. 025° 20' W. routed through 57° 30' N. 028° 01' West at 1800B/21st thence dive by day to operate in same area.  
3. Bombing restrictions for both Submarines are being arranged by F.O. Subs. (F.O.(S) 202216 to C. in C.C.N.A., (R) Admty., N.S.H.Q. Cominch.)

Review of Air Arrangements. My 180121. Admty. representatives now leaving U.K. by air with Air Min. party on 1st June. A.C.N.S. (A) and A.M.S.O. will remain a few days in Canada, Huskisson, Graham Smith and Beard proceeding onwards to Washington by first available means. Further details will be sent shortly. (A.C.N.S.(A) 202248B to B.A.D.)

Convoy H.S.86. H.S.86 arrived plus LOUISBERG, arrival FOUNDATION Aranmore. (N.C.S.O. Sydney, 202327Z to Admty.)

Convoy O.N.182. 41 ships and 4 escorts expected to arrive Ambrose Light Vessel 0300Z/22nd. (W.I., 202335Z to C.E.S.F. etc.)



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War Diary.20.5.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.Solops  
No.20.(B.A.D. 200249Z. to Admty. etc.)  
See America and West Indies.Digest  
Serial  
No.458  
May 19th.

Forenoon R/C report sighting damaged tanker with large oil slick in Steffen Strait. Photos Kavieng Harbour reveal 1 probable minelayer, 1 small medium merchantman, 1 coastal. 2. One destroyer 1 medium 2 small medium merchant vessels sighted 15 miles N.N.E. Rabaul course 180° mid-day. 3. Large S/M observed proceeding past Cape Orford afternoon. 6. Two medium, 4 small merchant vessels reported sighted in Wewak Harbour forenoon while partly obscured photos reveal only 2 merchantmen whereof larger 1,000 tons. Photos also showed 2 coasters, 10 barges off But. 8. Minimum 18 barges photographed at Lae forenoon. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 200912Z.)

Movements.

Arrival Thursday Is. 19th SWAN, Melbourne 19th BUNDABERG. Departure Brisbane 19th GLENELG for Sydney. Milne Bay 19th ARUNTA for Townsville. Cairns 19th U.S.D. FLUSSER for Cid Harbour. Townsville 19th U.S.N. DRAYTON for Cid Harbour. Sydney 19th F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT for Melbourne. (A.C.N.B. 201506Z. to Admty.)

U.S. Transport BOTH arrived Thursday Island 19th. Dutch Naval Stores ship MINJAK TANAH arrived Cairns 20th. Hired Transport DUNTRON departed Port Moresby 19th due Townsville 21st. Hired transport TAROONA departed Fall River 19th due Townsville 21st. Hired transport KATOOMBA departed Townsville 19th due Cairns 20th. (C.S.W.P.S.F. 201508Z. to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 201405B, 201413B.)



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

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

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

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

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



War Diary.21.5.1943.  
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

- FENCER 1. The escort carrier FENCER arrived at Belfast this morning from U.S.A.
- Task Group 92.4. × 2. Task Force 61 is dissolved and becomes Task Group 92.4.
- P.W./W.P. convoys revert to Continuous sailing. × 3. C. in C. Plymouth cancelled today the temporary arrangement made on 14 April, for P.W. and W.P. convoys to lie up at night. The number of destroyers now available is sufficient for P.W. 343, W.P. 343 and subsequent convoys to revert to continuous sailing.
4. Rosyth was closed at 212211B on account of low visibility.
- O.N.184 5. An aircraft from BOGUE's group, covering convoy O.N.184, attacked a U-boat at 2100Z today in 52.44 N. 35.23 W.

Mediterranean.

- Destroyer shortage. × 6. C. in C. Med., sends today a message on the fleet destroyer and escort situation in the Mediterranean, which he says cannot be allowed to continue. To provide escorts for current convoys Force H has had to be temporarily immobilised and fleet destroyers have had to be taken off operations. Unless some improvement is forthcoming it will be necessary to revise our intentions about running convoys through the Med.
- U/B sunk by SICKLE. 7. SICKLE who yesterday sank a U-boat 20 miles south of Toulon, reports that she sank today a southbound U-boat in 43.00.30 N., 05.59 E. (about 4 miles south of Toulon). U.S.S. NIELDS attacked a U-boat contact at 1818 today in 36.01 N., 00.34 W. (off Oran). Wreckage resembling deck planking and an oil patch were seen over a 3 mile area after the attack.
- u303



War Diary.

21.5.1943.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta  
bombed.

8. A convoy of 6 merchant ships and 3 tankers arrived at Malta from Alexandria today.
- X 9. For the first time since December 1942 bombs were dropped today on Malta in an early morning raid. R.A.F. Malta report that owing to negligent dispersal by F.A.A. 3 Albacores were destroyed at Halfar.
- X 10. The Strategic Air Force made heavy attacks on airfields in Sicily and Sardinia last night and today.

East Indies.

- X 11. In spite of the reduced number of suitable A/S ships for both the Arabian - Bengal - Ceylon Escort Force and Hormuz Group of the Coastal A/S Force as the results of detachments to other theatres and current refits C. in C. E. I. intends to retain the Hormuz patrol as an essential A/S defence of the Persian Gulf. The arrangements he is making are given in a message today.

America & West Indies.

12. All British ships from the Atlantic seaboard for India irrespective of the type of fuel burned if they cannot be accepted for the Mediterranean route are to proceed trans-Pacific for the present (c.f. 12 Jan).



21.5.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

X 13. Three B.25s in a coastal sweep last night sank 5 barges off Alexishafen and 3 near Cape Cretin and forced other ashore.

Japanese  
C. in C.  
killed.

X 14. Domei Radio today broadcast a report that Admiral Yamamoto, C. in C. of the Japanese Combined Fleets was shot down by a U.S. fighter and killed last month whilst in an aircraft in the south-west Pacific area. His successor is reported to be Admiral Koba.



War Diary.21.5.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

R.A.A.C. X Rear-Admiral Moody has assumed duties of Rear-  
H.F. Admiral Aircraft Carriers Home Fleet.  
(R.A.A., 211315 to Admty.)

Base X C. in C. H.F. 142259.\*  
personnel Request confirmation that opportunity is being  
in Russia. taken to send reliefs for base personnel in  
North Russia.  
(Admiral Fisher, 211636C to Admty.)  
\* re sailing of one destroyer to North Russia  
with mail and stores, etc.

I wish again to bring to notice large numbers of Naval personnel who have been in North Russia well over their 12 months of which some about 18 months. Soviet Government have pigeon-holed nearly every naval route application since January and there now appears nearly 70 routes for Naval reliefs outstanding.

2. Consider that either - (a) new visa offensive be launched carried through to satisfactory conclusion or (b) Naval personnel overdue for relief should be sent home now (by opportunity referred to in C. in C. Home Fleet's 142259\*) and that Soviet Government be informed afterwards that convoys cannot be re-started until facilities have been given for naval shore staffs to be brought up to full complement again.
3. Otherwise I see no prospect of these men ever being relieved before end of war which is a very severe hardship and an imposition upon them.
4. In my opinion alternative 2(b) above is well suited to Russian organisation mentality and would be more certain of success.
5. Request S.B.N.O. North Russia will remark and that early decision may be given.
6. Granting of visas is a matter which affects all 3 services and Head of Mission is taking it up with Ambassador.  
(Admiral Fisher, 211716C to Admty.)  
\* Re sailing of one destroyer to North Russia with mail, stores, etc.

8th D.F. As ships of 23rd D.F. become available to relieve 8th D.F. request you will transfer the latter individually to W.A. Command.  
(D.O.D.H., 211954B to C. in C. H.F.)

P.614. Admiralty Docket M.052906/43. Can C. in C. S.A. and F.O.C.W.Af. be now informed that it is intended that P.614 shall leave the Africa Station early in July for refit in U.K. prior

to Turkey.

(2) C. in C. S.A.'s 081217 April. If para. 1 above is approved it would appear unnecessary for P.614 to carry out her intermediate docking suggested prior to returning to U.K. unless P.614 has defects preventing her passage to U.K.  
(F.O.(S), 212212B to Admty.)



War Diary.21.5.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of the United Kingdom.Thames  
Estuary  
Towers.

My 5701 of 20th March. Second tower of Great Nore (? Forts) should leave Gravesend by moonlight at 0315 on 22nd May to pass Thames Gate at 0830B for arrival on site at 0900 and sinking at 0944B.  
(C. in C. Nore, 211145B.)

Movements.

THRASHER.

Your 210307B.\* N.O.I.C. Dartmouth's 190915 is as follows:- begins. Addressed C. in C. Plymouth (R) F.O.C.S., Admty., Capt. S.5, S.3, 10 Group, 19 Group. From N.O.I.C. Dartmouth.

My 181609B.+ WARRANT sailed 190915 May 1943. Ends.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 210453B to Admty.)\* W.R. signal requesting repetition of 190915. + H.M.S. THRASHER.

S/M  
Movements.

OBERON towing X.8 and X.9 sailed in accordance with Capt. (S) 12 192155 amended by his 201815.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 210904B.)  
Cancel my 191915B. (P.555).  
(Capt. S.7, 210950B.)

Intend sailing TRUANT and JAN VAN GELDER from Holy Loch at 0630B/23 via Sound of Islay to Port HHX. E.T.A. 2100B/23.  
(Capt. (S) 3, 211127B.)

S.5 182332 and 192116B. Sailed 1023/21st. (S.54)

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 211153B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Intend sailing UNTAMED escorted by SCIMITAR from Lough Foyle at 2000B/24 arriving Holy Loch 0700B/25.

(Cdre. D. W.A., 211647B.)

Positions of S/M at 0800<sup>B</sup>/22 and movements for following 24 hours.

(F.O.(S), 211649B, 211914B.)

KENT.

✓ Hvalfjord arrival 1105B C.S.1 in KENT.  
(A.C.I.C., 211129B.)

Hippo  
No. 1.

Tugs HERO, ABEILLE and DANUBE towing special structure arrived.  
(N.O.I.C. Stranraer, 211210B.)

UGANDA.

It is intended that UGANDA shall carry out the following programme:

2nd/3rd June - arrive Plymouth; 9th June - sail for Clyde; 10th June - arrive Clyde; 11th/18th -

June - carry out bombardment practice under R.A.(V) on C.C.O's range; 19th June - sail for Mediterranean escorting K.M.F.17.

2. Request you sail UGANDA accordingly.

(D.O.D.H., 211235B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

/UGANDA ...



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21.5.1943.

Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

- UGANDA.  
(Contd.) UGANDA is to pass the gate at 0800B/22 and proceed through position (K) 180° Bishop Rock 10. (L) 049° 55' N. 014° 57' W. and thence as necessary to comply with A.M.200035.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 211344B to UGANDA.)
- BELFAST. Intend proceeding in BELFAST passing gate at 1900 today. E.T.A. Scapa 0515B/23. Intend carrying out 3 hours full-power trial on passage.  
(C.S.10, 211325B to A.C.I.C.)  
Hvalfjord departure C.S.10 in BELFAST at 1903B/21.  
(A.C.I.C., 211921B.)
- SCIMITAR. My 211647. 27 bags of silver value 4,000 pounds will be embarked in SCIMITAR. C. in C. W.A. 141301B refers.  
(Cdre. D. W.A., 211653B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- 6 L.C.T.(R). Your 172108. Subject to concurrence of C.C.O. all 6 L.C.T.(R) are to be sailed in order to arrive Falmouth 4th June. They will sail with the L.C.G.(L) about 7th June.  
(D. of P., 211709B to S.O. Force J.)
- LONDON. Intend to sail LONDON for Rosyth at 0800/24 carrying out gun trials and A/C co-operation exercises during passage. S. of A. 18 knots, E.T.A. May Island 1300/24.  
Request fighter protection.  
(N.O.I.C. Newcastle, 211800B to C. in C. Rosyth.)
- BATTLER. A.M. 171551B. Request BATTLER may be available in the Clyde by 28th May to embark stores, subsequently proceeding to Belfast by a.m./4th June to embark aircraft.  
(D.O.D.H., 211946B to C. in C. W.A.)
- GLASGOW. Proceed Plymouth passing Hoxa Gate at 0001B/22 to arrive 1400B/23.  
(2) Route via Minches and War Channels.  
(C. in C. H.F., 211956B to GLASGOW.)



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21.5.1943.

Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

TRUCULENT, S.W.M.14 para. 2. P.315 (TRUCULENT) report.  
 patrol (1) No enemy vessels sighted.  
 report. (2) A/C. At 1045 in 066° 37' N. (? longitude)  
 one unidentified. At 0013 in 066° 44' N. 018°  
 15' W. one unidentified.  
 (3) F.O.(S) 091752 sighted MIDDLETON at 0707  
 12th May P.C.S. 066° 34' N. 018° 09' W. 285° 15 knots.  
 (4) Fixed longitude of Kolbinsey as 018° 45' W.  
 (5) List of defects.  
 (S.O. S/MS Lerwick, 210433B to F.O.(S).)

Coastal Your 201513B. "Occasion" arrived.  
 Force (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 210604B to C. in C.  
 Patrols. Plymouth.)  
 My 201130B. "Object" returned at 0626.  
 (F.O.I.C. Portland, 210650B.)  
 1. Intend M.Ls 208 (S.O.) and 233 to patrol  
 tonight on lat. 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W.  
 2. Leave Portland at 2200 via Q.Z.S.382 and leave patrol line  
 at dawn 22nd.  
 3. Object anti E-Boat patrol. Codeword "Spaniel".  
 (F.O.I.C. Portland, 211017B.)  
 1. BLEASDALE, STEVENSTONE, ALBRIGHTON are to anchor at  
 St. Helens by 2230 tonight.  
 2. If ordered to intercept enemy shipping they are to proceed  
 through Passage 4.  
 Passage 4 or Passage 2 may be used for return but should there  
 be any uncertainty in position Passage 4 should be used in  
 preference to Passage 2 if time permits.  
 3. Communications. Codeword "Advent".  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 211310B and 211705B to Capt. D.1.)  
 1. S.G.B.6, M.G.B.615, M.T.B.247, 250 to patrol tonight  
 eastern end Baie de la Seine.  
 2. Pass C.2A Buoy 2245/21 and proceed by passage four. Return  
 through passage four so as to be within 20 miles of our coast  
 by daylight. Force is not to be east of longitude 0° 00' N. or  
 north of 50° 20' N. before 0430/22.  
 3. If destroyer patrol is ordered to intercept enemy, force is  
 to withdraw by passage two with despatch to Newhaven without  
 regard to restrictions in para. 2. My 211310B refers.  
 4. If the force is compelled to return to Newhaven before  
 daylight destroyer patrol is to be warned.  
 5. Communications. Codeword "Object".  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 211329B.)  
 2. S.G.B.6, M.T.B.247, 250, M.G.B.614, 615, patrolling to  
 southward from Newhaven.  
 3. M.L.309, 464 patrolling south of E.A5 Buoy.  
 4. BLEASDALE, STEVENSTONE, ALBRIGHTON at St. Helens. CHASSEUR  
 15 at St. Helens, LORD WAKEFIELD at Yarmouth.  
 5. M.Ls 208 and 233 from Portland patrolling 50° 20' N. between  
 2° 25' W. and 1° 45' W.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 211336 and 211700B.)



War Diary.

21.5.1943.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal Force Patrols. (Contd.)

1. M.G.Bs 312, 317, 326 and 330 are to patrol from position 100° Start 21 miles and 087° Start 33 miles.
2. Object. Anti E-Boat patrol covering convoy W.P.342.
3. Leave Dartmouth 2230B for patrol. Leave patrol line for Dartmouth 0430B. Codeword

"Bailey".

(G. in C. Plymouth, 211543B.)

M.G.Bs S.2 and S.1 at Bullock Bank, E.T.D. Dover 2230, E.T.R. 0500/22.

M.G.Bs 26 and 23 at 'V' Buoy, E.T.D. Ramsgate 2300, E.T.R. 0500/22.

LADY SOUTHBOROUGH escorted by M.Ls 275 and 255 E.T.A. Dover 0230/22 from Newhaven, M.Ls then returning to patrol between D and C 1 buoys.

(V.A. Dover, 211704B.)

My 211017B. Sailed.

(F.O.I.C. Portland, 212210.)

Your 211329B. Sailed less S.G.B.6 returned with engine defects.

(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 212255 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

S/M Patrols.

At 0610B/21 ULTIMATUM left Lerwick unescorted and on surface at C.O.'s discretion through 090° steering 10 miles and 062° 01' N. 000° 52' W. to patrol line BB.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 210613B to S/MS.)

Positions of submarines at 0800B/22 and movements for following 24 hours, all times zone B.

(A) HERRING diving by day through very approx. position 54° 01' N. 41.30 W. towards 54.10 N. 39.30 W.

(B) HADDO vicinity 57° N. 30° W., diving by day to 55° N. 37° W.

(D) SHAD, TUNA, STUBBORN as in my 191652.

(E) ULTIMATUM 63° 30' N. 03° 19' W. probably on surface to patrol vicinity 64° 41' N. 05° 27' W.

(F.O.(S), 211649B, 221926B to Admty.)

+? Operation K.K.

My 171038B, para. 3. Sailed.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 210646B to F.O.I.C. Portland.)

My 171038B and 210646B. Returned.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 211641B.)

+ Operation V.P.-S.A.

Carry out V.P.-S.A.

1. Patrol S.A. 2. M.T.B. 626. 3. 1300/22 or first suitable day thereafter. Sailing signal will be made. 4. 1. 5. No. 6. No. 7. 110° Out Skerries 110 miles.

(A.C.O.S., 212025B.)



War Diary.

21.5.1943.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Exercises.

THRASHER. THRASHER exercising off Plymouth in area D between 1200B and 1515B/21st. (C. in C. Plymouth, 211039B.)

Exercise "Schooner". Regret further exercises will not be possible next week. (INDOMITABLE, 211535B to F.O.C.T.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Iceland. One unidentified enemy aircraft sighted 2 miles North of Skalar at 1645, course West, and 3 miles north of Rifstangi at 1827, course East. (A.C.I.C., 212139B.)

Jan Mayen. Following from Jan Mayen. Aircraft heard 0627Z north of island, westerly course. (A.C.I.C., 212107B.)

Mining.

Sweep by M/S. 4. M/S 4, 181552B. KELLET, PANGBOURNE, ALBURY, ELGIN, LYDD, SALTASH sailed. (C. in C. Plymouth, 210725B.) Your 181552B. Operation postponed. Proceed to Milford Haven. Orders for clearance operation to commence Sunday follow. (C. in C. Plymouth, 211650 to M/S. 4.)

Yarmouth. LL Sweepers detonated red magnetic mine at 0840/21 in 121° 57.F Buoy 3 miles 1 cable. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 210927B, 212320B.)

Explosion off Sheerness. Motor fishing boat DORIS L.O.284 has reported that when trawling off Sheerness on 14th May, the trawl with 30 to 40 fathoms of warp out caught upon an object which caused a heavy explosion. A piece of aluminium was recovered in trawl, but such pieces are frequently found in this area. Centre of trawl was blown away and planking was started in fishing boat. Position of boat at the time is uncertain but probably between No.6 and No.8 Sheerness bar buoys and just southward of a line joining them. Tug WATERPLANE which was abeam of DORIS at the time saw the explosion and estimated height of column of water at 40 feet and states there was no concussion. It is thought possible that explosion may have been caused by a U.X.B. disturbed by trawl. (C. in C. Nore, 212218B to Admty.)



War Diary.21.5.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

PRINZ EUGEN,  
LEIPZIG. Reported PRINZ EUGEN and LEIPZIG began reduce complement early Feb.  
(a) Engineers especially were drafted to U-Boat schools.  
(b) Certain fire control instruments and range finders were landed from these ships and are believed to have been sent by rail to factories. Both vessels are now used for training Naval personnel at Gdynia. B.2.  
(N.A. Stockholm, 211521.)  
N.I.D. Comment:  
Para. 1. Reduction in PRINZ EUGEN's complement has been previously reported. There is no reliable evidence to support this statement and she has been at sea since. LEIPZIG has not been located since 11th Nov. at Gdynia and this report may be true.  
Para. 2 (a). Has been previously reported by other sources.  
Para. 3. Men may be drafted to the PRINZ EUGEN for a time as part of their training. Any ship in German home waters is likely to be used in the same way. It is thought possible that LEIPZIG is laid up.

HIPPER,  
PRINZ  
EUGEN,  
EMDEN. Photographic R/C at 1400/21 shows:-  
(a) At Pillau, HIPPER heavily camouflaged.  
(b) At Gdynia, PRINZ EUGEN and EMDEN.  
(D.D.I.C., 212220B.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported or attacked in North Atlantic. Am over enemy S/M in 55° 50' N. 25° 55' W.  
(A/C 86 Sqdn. Duty 'Z', 210040B to 15 Group.)  
Am over enemy submarine in (? 61°) 52' N. 12° 15' W.  
(A/C 190 Sqdn. Duty 'O', 210133B to 18 Group.)  
Am over enemy submarine in 55° 10' N. 25° 10' W.  
(A/C 86 Sqdn. Duty 'Z', 210312B to 15 Group.)  
Am over enemy S/M in 60° 48' N. 19° 00' W.  
(A/C 9DF, 211657B to Artunshofdi.)  
Have attacked enemy with depth charges.  
(A/C 9DF, 211700B.)  
U-Boat attacked by A/C from BOGUE.  
(C.1., 212215Z.) See Shipping.

U-Boats in Biscay Area. Am over enemy S/M in 45° 54' N. 15° 29' W.  
(A/C IVHM, 210925B to 19 Group.)  
Am investigating wake or swirl in 46° 50' N. 08° 25' W. Enemy submarine previously reported 250°.  
(A/C 248 Sqdn. Duty 'U', 211528 to 19 Group.)  
Report of attacks on U-Boats by aircraft 20th and 21st May.  
(Cominch, 212030Z.) See America and West Indies.



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21.5.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.

Rosyth. Port of Rosyth closed, low visibility.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 212211B.)

Casualties and Defects.

Unknown Ship. Intercept 0424Z de Valentia Radio Automatic S O S heard on 500 k/cs Type A.1 strength of signals one.  
(Port Patrick, 210418Z to Greenock.)  
(Valentia, 210418 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

IMPERIAL VALLEY. Following received from Tiree Radio: Grade one 045° S O S IMPERIAL VALLEY.  
(Port Patrick Radio, 211124Z to Greenock.)

GARDAR, MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA. Intercept 1124Z de MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA. S O S have rammed trawler KING GEORGE 25. Immediate assistance required. Pos. 68.32 N. 2.46 W.  
(Port Patrick Radio, 211324B to Greenock.)  
Icelandic Trawler GARDAR sank after collision with SS. MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA in convoy E.N.31 in 58° 32' N. 02° 46' W. at 1324B today.  
2. Survivors from Trawler placed on board Grimsby Trawler BELL DOCK for passage to Wick but not yet arrived probably owing to fog.  
3. LARRINAGA holed in fore peak and returning Firth of Forth escorted by LEICESTER CITY.  
(A.C.O.S., 212215B to Admty.)

SOUTHERN GEM. WESTERN ISLES's 181935 and 211156. SOUTHERN GEM made following signal begins:- C. in C. (R) N.O.I.C. Leith and Granton A.S., M.C.D., M.E.D., engine trials completed and satisfactory with exception of few minor adjustments which could be completed by Contractors tonight. Fuel tank leaking badly into shell room. Request investigation. Request A.S. assistance. 071330 May.  
2. Leak was found in section of oil fuel transfer pipe in shell room and subsequently repaired. All defects submitted in defect list and subsequently discovered during lengthy refit of this vessel were satisfactorily made good and Engineer Officer of ship informed representative of C. in C. in presence of C.O. of ship that he was satisfied with the E.R. department before sailing.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 211817 to Admty., Bath.)

Search for Lifeboat. Your 211657B. Am now (? searching vicinity) 055° 50' N. 013° 20' W. Obtained one bearing at 1638B. Intend remaining in this area overnight if lifeboat not found.  
(KOOTENAY, 211825Z to C. in C. W.A.)

/Your ...



War Diary.21.5.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.Search for  
Lifeboat.  
(Contd.)Your 212231B. My position 1638B was 55.35 N.  
14.50 W., bearing obtained 081° 2nd class. My  
position 2359B/21 55.45 N. 13° W. Request A/C  
aircraft callsign.  
(KOOTENAY, 212151Z to C. in C. W.A.)Aircraft search today indicates possible position  
to lifeboat 055° 10' N. 014° 50' W. at 1330B.  
(2) Your 211825Z. Request your position and bearings obtained  
at 1638B.  
(3) Aircraft will continue search tomorrow.  
(C. in C. W.A., 212231B to KOOTENAY.)Unknown  
Ship.Intercept 1648 G.M.T. from unknown station  
bearing from Humber Radio 051°. Automatic  
S O S type A.1 signal strength 4.  
(Humber Radio, 211850 D.B.S.T. to Immingham.)Shipping and Convoys.T.F. 61,  
T.G. 92.4.\* Admiralty pass to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. H.F. for  
information.  
"Task Force 61 as Atlantic Fleet Task Force  
dissolved. You are now Task Group 92.4".  
(Comnavu, 210801Z to Admty.)O.S. 48 and  
K.M.S. 15.Sailed FOWEY, BRYONY, LA MALOUINE, STONECROP,  
MYOSOTIS, BERGAMOT, MALLOW for O.S. 48.  
(Cdre. D. W.A., 210935B to C. in C. W.A.)  
Your 211053. O.S.48 and K.M.S.15 total of 58  
ships, 9 escorts and ALYNBANK are present. CLAN  
MACIVER, EMPIRE TRUMPET and DALHANNA are in company. P.C.S. at  
2000B 055° 21' N. 008° 34' W., 254°, 8 knots.  
(E.G.37, 212012B to C. in C. W.A.)

NEWFOUNDLAND.

After completion of storing and bunkering  
hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND should be sailed on  
25th May on voyage to North Africa calling at  
Gibraltar for orders. Six medical personnel  
will embark as passengers.  
(D.S.T., 211314B to D.S.T.O. Avonmouth.)P.W. 342,  
W.P. 342.P.W. and W.P.342 convoy are to remain at sea  
tonight and proceed to Duncansby Head (sic).  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 211335B to Escorts.)

E.N. 31.

E.N.31 approx. position 36 Buoy at 1330,  
proceeding by South Fair Isle Channel. Request  
R.D.F. position of loading ship every hour  
until visibility improves.  
(PRESTON NORTH END, 211355B to A.C.O.S.)

/Group ...



War Diary.21.5.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Group Sailings.	Group Sailing	Liverpool	Take out.	Bring back
	C. 3	June 1st.	O.N. 187	H.X. 245B
	3	June 4th.	O.S. 49	S.L. 132B
	7	June 8th.	O.N.S.10	S.C. 135
	(C. in C. W.A., 211408Z.)			

R.U. 74. HINDOO not arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 211414B to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

S.C. 129U. KYKLADES not arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 211704B to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

O.N.S. 8,  
E.G. 2. Sailed escort group 2 STARLING, CYGNET, KITE, WILD GOOSE, WOODPECKER to support O.N.S. 8.  
(A.C.I.C., 211705B to C. in C. W.A.)  
My P.C.S. 63.14 N. 22.43 W., 230°, 14 knots.  
Expect to join you from ahead before dark tomorrow.  
(STARLING, 212100Z to CHURCHILL.)

O.S. 48/  
K.M.S.15. MARGALAU for Bahia (bunkers)/B. Aires.  
TUDOR STAR M/F R/T for Freetown (bunkers)/B. Aires.  
BARONSEA R/T for San Sebastian Arg./Patagonia F/O.  
NARBADA for Freetown (bunkers)/Capetown/Durban/  
L. Marques/Beira.  
HISTORIAN for Durban/Mombasa.

NELA M/F R/T for Montevideo/P. Deseado/San Julian/Santa Cruz/  
Rio Grande.  
INCOMATI R/T for Freetown with Cdre./Takoradi/Lagos.  
STUYVESANT (Du.) for Freetown/Takoradi/Lagos.  
DELANE R/T for Capetown/Simonstown/Port Elizabeth/Durban/L.  
Marques/Beira.  
ROOKLEY for Takoradi.  
THYSVILLE (Bel.), EMPIRE TRENT (SS.), EMPIRE LIVINGSTONE M/F R/T  
3 ships for Freetown.  
PANAGHIS (Gk.) for Montevideo.  
LODESTONE, HERMISTON 2 ships for B. Aires.  
FORT STEELE, FORT JEMSEG 2 ships for Casablanca/Dakar.  
ZYPENBERG (Du.) for Pernambuco.  
PORT MELBOURNE for Durban (bunkers)/L. Marques/Beira.  
JOHILLA (SS.) for Dakar/Freetown.  
URLANA for River Plate.  
Following 9 ships divertible:  
CITY OF KHIOS for Durban/Alexandria.  
CITY OF CANBERRA R/T carrying 3 tons toxic gases for Freetown  
(bunkers)/Capetown/Karachi/Bombay/Cochin.  
INVENTOR for Durban (bunkers) Port Said.  
EMPIRE SPLENDOR (SS.) R/T for Capetown/Port Said/Alexandria.

/FORT ...







War Diary.21.5.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

K.X. 10/ (F) 449. (G) F.B.  
 O.G. 90A. (H) Q.K.58, Q.K.A.98, Q.K.B.91, Q.L.A.167, M.K.  
 (Contd.) 434 less K.421, 423. Part two follows in my  
 211757Z May.  
 (C. in C. W.A., 211753Z and 221550Z.)  
 OCEAN GALLANT SS. R/T, N.D., OUSEL, MARITA (Nor.),  
 LYMINGE, FORT HALKETT (SS.), EMPIRE FLAMINGO (SS.), SVANHOLM,  
 7 ships for Bone.  
 EMPIRE SUNBEAM R/T, SOMERSET COAST, ROMAN, OCEAN COAST, FORT  
 FAIRFORD, JUNECREAT, TAURTRA (Nor.), LEWANT, EMPIRE DAMSEL, PASS  
 OF BALLATER, EMPIRE ROSALIND, FORT POPLAR, 12 ships for Algiers.  
 TEMPLE INN, GALWAY COAST, BRINKBURN, FORT M'CLOUGHLIN M/F R/T,  
 4 ships for Philippeville.  
 DUNELMIA for Gibraltar F/O.  
 LUBLIN R/T, BADJESTAND M/F R/T, FRAMLINGTON COURT, ULLA, 4  
 ships for Gibraltar.  
 GULLPOOL, FYLINGDALE, FINALDON, GREATHOPE, ALGERIAN, CITY OF  
 LANCASTER, HALLFRIED (Nor.), GRODNO, SHETLAND, VOLTURNO, 10  
 ships for Lisbon.  
 EMPIRE SPEY M/F, RICHARD OLNEY (U.S.), ELIPHALET NOTT (U.S.),  
 3 ships for Oran.  
 EMPIRE KANGAROO M/F R/T for Bougie.  
 KINGSBOROUGH, BLAIRDEVON, HARTBRIDGE, 3 ships for Huelva.  
 EMPIRE DARWIN (C.A.M.) R/T for Gibraltar/Algiers.  
 MERS-EL-KEBIR, FORT CONFIDENCE, 2 ships for Oran/Algiers.  
 (C. in C. W.A., 211757Z to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

ASTURIAS.

A.M. 161756.

On completion of work-up practices and subject  
 to receipt of essential spare gear request you  
 will sail ASTURIAS independently for Freetown on  
 27th May or as soon as convenient after that date.  
 (A.C.N.S.F., 211935B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Convoy  
"Protem".

"Protem" anchored in vicinity 20E. 6 ships.  
 Visibility 1 cable.  
 (WESTMINSTER, 212130.)

O.N. 184,  
U-Boat  
attacked  
by A/C.

U-Boat sighted and attacked by BOGUE aircraft at  
 2100Z 190 22. 60. A.C.I. 39.  
 (3) (A) 2100Z, 052° 44' N. 035° 23' W., 170°, 9.25.  
 (B) H.M.C.S. ST. LAURENT, U.S. Seaplane Tender  
 OSMOND, INGRAM.  
 (C) Will remain until dawn. (D) Nil.  
 (E) 93 90 82 32.  
 (C.1., 212215Z to C. in C. W.A.)



War Diary.

21.5.1943.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Convoy T.E. 21A T.E. 21A sailed? as in my 201010B.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 210744 to Com N.O.B. Oran  
(R) Admty. Connav, C. in C.Med.)

KYKLADES (Greek.) KYKLADES's owners are cabling crew to urge sailing. Ship is not to be sailed before 2000B/23.  
(D.T.D. 211030B to R.O.Horta, (R) N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

U.G.L.4 Convoy U.G.L.4 position 1200Z/21 May 33.53 N. 18.27 W. course 85° speed 5.5. Destination in accordance with Comampmfor 151005 (N.T. in W.R.) plus U.S. L.S.T.3 and 4 to Casablanca H.M.S.L.S.T. 62, 410 417, 420, 422, 423, 425, 427, 429 430 for Oran. Unable decode radio Algiers 191654 (N.T. in W.R.) Ref. my 131200 May (N.T. in W.R.) Hold only regular class 3 Cryptograph aid. F.O.C.Gib. pass to all concerned.  
(C.T.F.63, 211100 to F.O.Gibraltar, etc.)

GENEROSO Swiss GENEROSO leaves Genoa about 25th May.  
(D.E.W.D. 211110B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C.Med.)

Dispositions Situation 2002B/21st.  
ADVENTURE 035° 58' 009° 08' to Gibraltar 17.  
2. U.G.F.8, A.T.G.60.1 (734°) 27<sup>1</sup> 008° 39<sup>1</sup> through 35.45 06.30 thence through Straits 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>.  
3. (P.55) UNSPARING 039° 47' 010° 01' through 38.50 (743).01 thence 162° diving by day 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>.  
4. S.R.4F. FOXHOUND 029° 47' 012° 05' 036° 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>.  
5. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN 2 merchant ships 37.14 09.08 to 235° Forte Bugio Light 5 miles were merchant ships proceed Lisbon  
6. At 0800B/22nd HUDDERSFIELD TOWN R/V 2 more merchant ships in this position thence 172° 7.  
6. M.K. convoy 13 FORT YORK sailing 0500B/22nd to R/V S.L.129 in position 35.08 09.05 at 1200B/23rd.  
7. 3 Portuguese subs. escorted by gunboat exercising off Cezimbra.  
8. SS. CARNIVAL leaving Gibraltar 1400/22nd sailing coastwise to Vila Real 9.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 211129R.)  
Situation 1959B/21st.  
GU.F. 8, C.T.F.67 30.44 17.26 through 30.01 18.(759) thence 280° 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>.  
3. S.L. 129 LEITH 031° 21' 011° 22' 026° 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>. Three escorts and Casablanca section leaving convoy to arrive Casablanca day of 23rd. Escorts to fuel and rejoin S.L. 129.  
4. AIMWELL 4 M.M.S. 29.14 12.42 through 30.02 12.01 thence 026° 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>  
5. U.B.L. 4, U.S.ship CHAMPLIN (A) 33.45 18.25 through 33.50 17.35 thence 082° 8.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 211134B.)

/WEST POINT...



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21.5.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

WEST POINT Intend sail WEST POINT depart Casablanca 1400A  
May 22 escorted first 400 miles by U.S.S. HERBERT  
(route) thence New York S.O.A. 20 knots. First  
"Chop" 10 W. 222030A, second "Chop" 24 W. 240730A.  
Radio shift 20° W. 232130A. E.T.A. first ocean point 231400A.  
Communications accordance Vice Opnav 171232. Code word  
"Berserk" with three-figured call sign 120.  
(Commorseafron 211214Z to P.W. New York.)

Cable Repairs Intend to sail MARIE LOUIS MACKAY at 2100B/22  
escorted by ST. NECTAN and KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE  
to repair Gibraltar - Malta number two in 36°  
23' 22" N. 03° 39' 28" W.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 211222B to C. in C. Med. (R)  
Admty.)

GOVERNEUR Re-sailing to Setubal to embark French refugees.  
GENERAL 3. LA GRACIEUSE (escort) and LEPINE enter  
LEPINE Casablanca and COVERLEY (escort) returns to  
Gibraltar from position (X).  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 211618.)

LUGANO Swiss LUGANO 6942 G.T. speed 8½ knots, national  
colours and Switzerland on black hull, sailed  
1730 (21st?) for Genoa by approved route. Not  
to be molested this voyage.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 211737B to S. and A. in Area G.  
Capt. S. 10, H.Q.N.W. Af. Coastal Air Force.  
N.O.I.C. Malta, 8th S.F. (R) Admty.)

U/B. Aircraft reported U-Boat on surface 036° 42' N.  
(028° or 008°?) 40' W. at 1200B course 110°.  
Observed to submerge.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 211856B to UNSPARING.)

TARRAGONA Spanish TARRAGONA with cargo of Oranges for  
Germany expected to sail tonight from Cartagena  
for Gulf of Lions Port.  
(S.O. (I) Gibraltar 211923B to 8th S/M F. S.O. (I)  
Med. (R) Capt. S. 8th.)

SCOTTISH Your 201213 (re SCOTTISH and LOCH OSKAIG, when  
LOCH OSKAIG expected to return to Gibraltar.) E.T.A. Gibraltar  
about 8th June and end June respectively.  
(D.A.S.W. 211956B 231015B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar,  
(R) C. in C. Med. C. in C.W.A.)

/CYCLAMEN...



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21.5.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

CYCLAMEN. F.O.C.W.Af's 181603.  
On arrival in U.K. from Gibraltar about mid-June CYCLAMEN can be taken in hand at Sheerness proceeding southabout.  
(D.O.D.(H) 212049B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C.Plymouth, C. in C.W.A. (R) C. in C.Nore, Cdre. Sheerness, F.O.C.W.Af. CYCLAMEN.)

Air Report A.I. 492 May 21. Opsum No. 201 for 24 hours ended 1800 hours May 21.  
G. Sightings and attacks. 1 Well. He. 954 in transit from Portreath at 1157B/21 36.42 N. 8.40 W. sighted surfaced U-Boat, course 110° speed unknown. U-Boat crash dived immediately. 2 U.S.A. A.F. aircraft (Port Lyautey) at 1341B/21 33.56 N. 7.56 W. sighted periscope, no details.  
I. E/A activity nil, 2 fighter sorties.  
(A.H.Q.Gibraltar 212200B.)

Movements. Arrival HOLCOMBE, FARNDALE, HAYDON, CALPE ex G.U.F.8 TYNEDEALE from Oran F.S. LA GRACIEUSE from Casablanca.  
Departures AMIRAL MOUCHEZ, COMMANDANT DELAGE with T.E.21A.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 212355B.)

Axis shipping Arrival 21st VILLAREAL DE ALAVA. Arrivals 22nd Bilbao NORDFELS, SPERBER, WATERWEG, LOUVETOT. Departure 21st Spanish PLATO RIO NANSA. Departures 22nd MARIBEL, MARIE GABRIELLE, JEAN MAURICE, BORDSEE, THRIANTHA.  
(Consul ?Bilbao 213000? to Admty.)



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War Diary.

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Suspicious Ship. X American Transit aircraft reports at 0934/20 in 05.95 S. 12.00 W. "Naval vessel two turrets forward, one aft, course 190° true, travelled fast." No naval vessel but several merchant ships in this vicinity. None on course reported. (F.O.C.W.A. 210007Z to Admty.)

Shipping Casualties. Your 201340 May (N.T. in W.R.) E.F. 716H/71/27 dated 23rd April not received.  
2. A. British ship (?TINHOW) sunk off Limpopo River at 0415B/11th May.  
B. British ship NAILSEA MEADOW sunk in 32° 04' S. 29° 13' E. at 0045B/12th May.  
(S.O.I. Capetown 211026B to C. in C.E.F. (R) F.O. Ceylon S.O.(I) Colombo.)

DAUNTLESS Sailed DAUNTLESS to Simonstown by route R.9 amended by C. in C.S.A. 102355 Oct. 1942.  
2. S.O.A. 23 knots. E.T.A. 1800B/22nd.  
3. Shifting to W/T group S.L. at 1200Z May 21st. (N.O.I.C. Durban 210448Z to Admty. C. in C.S.A C. in C.E.F. N.O.I.Cs. Simonstown, East London, Port Elizabeth, Capetown.)

Convoy D.C.27. Sailing telegram. 2. 0600Z/21st May. 3. 8 knots. 5. Coastal. Ref. 61 to 68 Saldanha Bay O.X. 6. LADY ELSA, ST. ZENO, TURFFONTEIN. 12. E.T.A. Capetown p.m. 25th E.T.A. Port Elizabeth a.m. 23rd E.T.A. East London p.m. 22nd. 15. Convoy W/T call sign HTD 1 to 9 QGA 149. (N.C.S.O. Durban 210746Z to Admty. etc.)

Movements Bathurst. Arrival 210810 PORTSDOWN and BUTSER escorting SS. NEW NORTHLAND. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst 210902 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Comar Dakar, Admty.)

Dispositions Situation at 1959Z/21st. SCARBOROUGH, FLEETWOOD, AZALEA, SPIREA, WASTWATER, COLTSFOOT, BALSAM, BELLWORT with O.S.47 17.30 18.04 180 9. COWSLIP, DUNCTON escorting 10.02 15.48 to Freetown 9. ASPIRANT BRUN 09.53 14.59 to 09.27 14.00 thence Freetown 7. CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 08.30 (?27).30 14. M.L. 1231, 1072, VICTORIA escorting off Dakar coastwise to north 8 M.L.290 about 09.26 15.03 to Freetown 10. (F.O.C.W.A. 211138Z.) My 211138. Add PORTSDOWN, BUTSER escorting 13.31 17.01 to 12.39 17.22 thence 177 10. (F.O.C.W.Af. 212056Z.) Situation at (?2001) 21st May. MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, RAPID with T.S.40F 06.(?04) 12.18 to 17.(?00) 14.11 thence Freetown (?10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>). M.Ls. 285, 256, 281 and (?224) 08.00 14.08 to 07.16 14.08 to (?06).46 13.18 to 07.13 (?54). thence 302° 11 H.M.R.T. ORIANA, MORRIS DANCE off Marshall. M.Ls. 261, (?297), (?270) about



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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dispositions (Contd.) 06.40 11.30 to Freetown.  
 PICT off Marshall to Freetown 7.  
 M.Ls. 1019 and 1041 off Kotonu M.Ls. 277 and 1042  
 off Accra. M.L. 1018 escorting about 06.02 02.59  
 E. coastwise to (?Lagos) 6.  
 ROHILKHAND, M.M.S. 107 escorting 00.(?40) 03.53 E. 128° 8.  
 MILFORD, WOODRUFF, PETUNIA, TAMARISK, YESTOR, DUNKERY, TURCOMAN  
 with T.S.41 04.26 01.(?59) to 04.20 02.02 thence 262° (?6)½.  
 (F.O.C.W.A. 211213Z.)  
 Situation at 2000Z/20th.  
 HERTFORDSHIRE, SPHENE, NORTHERN DAWN, N.C.13, 024° 35' S. 014°  
 10' E. coastal to Capetown 8.  
 BLACKMOOR escorting CAPETOWN CASTLE 034° 00' S. 014° 15' E. to  
 035° 00' S. 009° 00' E. 18.  
 GENISTA, INDIAN STAR, D.C.26, off Cape Point to Capetown.  
 NORMAN, QUADRANT, REDOUBT, W.S.29, 032° 05' S. 029° 40' E. to  
 Durban 12.  
 FREESIA, LE TIGER, (?NORTHERN CHIEF), D.N.40, 030° 00' S. 035°  
 45' E. to 031° 00' S. 038° 00' E. 8.  
 JASMINE, ST. LOMAN off Inhaka Light.  
 TULIP in vicinity of 030° 10' S. 032° 10' E.  
 (C. in C.S.A. 201209B.)

Movements Arrived 1000Z M.L. 1072, M.L. 1231 1030Z PALACIO.  
 Dakar. 2. Intend to sail VICTORIA, S.O. M.L. 1072 and  
 1231, 1830Z/21st escorting PALACIO moving OUED  
 FEZ to Port Etienne, also 50 ton lighter in tow.  
 3. Speed 6½ knots, E.T.A. (corrupt group) 30Z/24th  
 standard coastal route. French air cover throughout passage.  
 4. All communications for VICTORIA through Com. Dakar.  
 VICTORIA holds Anglo French code and Loxo 26.  
 5. On arrival off Port Etienne continue (?direct to) Casablanca  
 coastal route speed made good 10 knots. Admiral Africa informed.  
 (Comar Dakar 211227Z to F.O.C.W.Af. Admty. N.O.I.C. Bathurst,  
 Commorseafon.)

FERNMOOR. Your 101941 para. 2. FERNMOOR has completed  
 laying C. baffle and is being sailed for Capetown  
 21st to discharge spare gear and load clumps.  
 Vessel will return Saldanha Bay 23rd to hand over  
 to S.A.N.F. schedule of booms to be installed and in service  
 etc. Ship will be docked at Capetown 29th for scraping and  
 coating bottom and range exercises about 31st. Intend sailing  
 FERNMOOR in next eastbound convoy after that.  
 (C. in C.S.A. 211319B to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med.)

EMPIRE CHUB, Sailed KATHIAWAR and KUMAON escorting Tank Ferry  
 KELT EMPIRE CHUB and tug ALLIGATOR towing KELT to  
 Capetown routed through A. 027° S. 014° 40' E.  
 B. 030° S. 016° E. S.O.A. 5 knots, E.T.A.  
 Capetown 1800B/27th May.  
 (N.L.O.Walvis Bay 211331B to Admty. C. in C.S.A.  
 N.C.S.O. Capetown, N.L.O.Capetown.)

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



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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

B.Y.M.S. B.Y.M.S. 11, 12, 13, 19, 20, 28 departed Pernambuco 1400Z/21 for Freetown routed through F. 07.10 S. 32.00 W. G. 04.30 S. 26.10 W. H. 00.00 S. 20.00 W. J. 04.03 N. 17.20 W. K. 08.00 S. 14.32 W. Engine speed 10 knots. E.T.A.

May 29th. Ships will guard N.N.S.FOX until 0100Z/24 then Group F.T. N.S.3. pass to B.A.D. (Com. 4th Fleet 211433 to C. in C.U.S.Fleet, (R) F.O.C.W.Af. N.O.B.)

Movements Sailed 1200Z/21st May, MILFORD, S.O. of escort Takoradi. WOODRUFF, PETUNIA, TAMARISK, TURCOMAN, YESTOR, DUNKERY escort T.S.41, Freetown route O. E.T.A. 1200Z/27. Sailed 1700Z/21st May ARRAN S.O. of escort M.L. 244 and 263 escort T.L.12. E.T.A. Lagos 1100Z/23rd, route B. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi 211507Z to Admty. F.O.C.W.Af. N.O.I.C. Lagos.)

Routeing of U.S. Ships X A.M. 201306\* and Cominch C. and R. 181837 not to all addressees. In view of U-Boat situation at the Cape propose all well-found U.S. managed ships with sufficient endurance be routed direct from East Africa, Red Sea and Persian Gulf to A. Rio de Janeiro (ships of 14½ knots and over) for onward routing. B. Bahia (ships under 14½ knots) for Bahia - Trinidad convoys. 2. Such ships to be routed to southward of lines joining following positions: A. 036° S. 040° E. B. 045° (7026°) C. 045° 010° thence direct. 3. Instructions in para. 2 to be amended as situation permits. (C. in C.S.A. 211556B to Admty. Connav, (R) C. in C.E.F. F.O.R.S.C.A. S.N.O.P.G.)

Convoy W.S. 29 Arrived NORMAN, REDOUBT, QUADRANT with W.S.29 Durban Section. (Cdre. Durban 211601Z to Admty. C. in C.S.A. C. in C.E.F.)

BRIDGEWATER 1. Intend to sail BRIDGEWATER escorting SILVER LAUREL at 0730Z/23rd routed A. 007° 33' N. 014° 10' W. B. 004° 01' N. 007° 56' W. C. 004° 32' N. 001° 48' W. thence Takoradi E.T.A. 1200Z/25th. 2. N.O.I.C. Takoradi sail BRIDGEWATER and SNOWDROP escorting DUCHESS OF RICHMOND, HIGHLAND PRINCESS to Freetown as soon as ready. (F.O.C.W.Af. 211651Z to N.O.I.C. Takoradi (R) BRIDGEWATER, Admty.)

SCARBOROUGH 1. From position A.J. proceed through position ARMERIA A.L. 012° 01' N. 018° 41' W. A.M. 010° 44' N. BUTTERMERE 018° 41' W. A.N. 009° 55' N. 014° 59' W. O.S.47. A.O. 008° 30' N. 013° 33' W. thence Freetown. 2. ARMERIA and BUTTERMERE from Freetown will R/V in position Z, 011° 08' N. 018° 41' W. at 1500Z/23rd and join escort.



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

SCARBOROUGH,  
ARMERIA,  
BUTTERMERE  
O.S.47  
(Contd.)

3. Adjust speed of advance to be in position A.O. at 0930Z/25th where ships and escort from Freetown will R/V and O.S.S. section of convoy will be detached. Orders for O.S.S. convoy follow.

4. Amend position Y. of stragglers route 01° 44' N. 018° 41' W. thence Freetown.

(F.O.C.W.A. 211621 to SCARBOROUGH (R) ARMERIA, Admty. N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Escorts O.S.47.)

Your 211621\* Earliest time of arrival at position A.Z. 1300Z/25. Please verify position A.N.

(Care. O.S.47 212043 to F.O.C.W.Af.)

\* Diversion of route of and R/V for SCARBOROUGH.

O.S.47. Request CITY OF ORAN if she has sufficient bunkers to reach Cape Town may be detached so as to omit Freetown.

(D.T.D. 211806B to F.O.C.W.A.)

L.S.T.412  
L.S.T.324  
CYCLAMEN.

1. Intend sailing L.S.T.412 (S.O.) L.S.T.324 escorted by CYCLAMEN at 1030Z/22nd (group missing) Gibraltar through following positions (route). Est. speed made good 8 knots or best possible speed E.T.A. Gibraltar p.m. 1st or a.m. 2nd June.

3. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to sail CYCLAMEN for U.K. at first available opportunity. (F.O.C.W.Af. 211625Z to N.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) C. in C.Med. Admty. CYCLAMEN, Comar Dakar, Commorseafon, L.S.T. 412.)

Takoradi  
Movements.

Arrival 21st. SNOWDROP, WOODRUFF, M.L. 274, H.M.Transport HIGHLAND PRINCESS. (N.C.S.O. Takoradi 211716Z to F.O.C.W.Af. Admty. N.O.I.C. Lagos.)

LLANSTEPHAN  
CASTLE.

LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE is sailing with Capetown section W.S.29 on 22nd? May as far as Durban but her speed precludes her attachment to W.S.29B from Durban to Bombay.

2. There are at Durban 1200 Lascars for repatriation (remarks.)

3. Assuming that C.M.42 leaves Durban for Kilindini on 30th May and that LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE can accompany east African convoy to Colombo on 10th June it seems that the advantages of getting an important shipload of Lascars back to India and of obtaining the benefit of an escort for such a valuable ship greatly outweighs the comparatively short delay of 5 or 6 days involved.

4. If C. in C.E.F. concurs it is intended therefore that above programme should be carried out.

(C. in C.S.A. 211839B to Admty. for D. of S.T. (R) C. in C.E.F. F.O.C.R.I.N. F.O.Ceylon, D.S.T.O. Kilindini, P.S.T.O.India, P.S.T.O. Capetown.)

/MALCOLM...



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Friday

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

MALCOLM

Your 181154.

On arrival in U.K. about 3rd week in June,

MALCOLM can be taken in hand at Messrs.

Thornycroft, Southampton, for changing propellers and retubing condensers.

2. Other essential defects may be undertaken provided ship is not delayed beyond period necessary for work mentioned in para. 1

3. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar and C. in C.W.A. are requested to sail and route ship as requisite.

(D.O.D.(F) 211840B to F.O.C.W.Af. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.O.I.C. Southampton, C. in C.W.A. (R) C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. Plymouth, MALCOLM.)

SS. BENAKAT

Torpedoed in 06° 05' S. 12° 56' W. a.m. 20 May.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 211848Z.)



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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Orders to TAURUS. Further to my 201126 (N.T. in W.R.) Positions S. 057° 07' 015° 15' R/V in west sanctuary 056° 08' 014° 22'. (Capt. (S) 10, 210040B to TAURUS)

K.M.S.14 U.G.S.8. Arrived plus R.N. LA FORET, A.E.BERNSIDE LIES ERIKSON, ODDYSEUS British B.D.V's BARFOIL and BARHILL. (N.O.I.C.Bone, 210103A)

Attack on VIRGILIO class ship. Correction to C. in C. Med. 192336 (Para.6) (C. in C. Med. 212217A)

U/B. An Italian S/M was south of Cape Passero at 0230C/21st. (Capt. (S) 10, 210439B to P.54)

Use of N.African Ports. × 0/53887 cipher 22 May. Newtell No.10. Situation review week ending incl. 21 May. (8) Adm.Sfax. Average daily discharge 1300 tons. Over 2000 tons discharged on each of 12 and 13 May. Highest discharge figure has been 2760 tons on 10 May. Use of Sfax now being discontinued except for shuttle ships from Tripoli carrying R.A.F. bombs and P.O.L. Backloading now in progress mostly amm. Tripoli. Average daily discharge 1300 tons. Convoy 11 vessels arrived 21 May with total nearly 42000 tons. 470 medical cases evacuated by hospital ships. Considerable tonnage being backloaded mostly 44 gal.drums and M.T. engines. Scale of future convoys to Tripoli will be reduced in view satisfactory position reserves holdings. Malta. Convoy five vessels arrived 21 May with total 21600 tons. Ras El Ali, Schooner shuttle service from Benghazi with R.A.F. petrol now in operation. Benghazi. Average daily discharge 590 tons excl. bulk petrol. 3600 tons bulk R.A.F. spirit discharged. Air Tpt. 6700 lbs from Cairo to fwd.airfields. (C. in C. M.E., 210740C to W.O)

U.G.F.8A. Your 191700 (Re destination of certain ships in U.G.F.8A). Destination Oran. (C. in C. Med. 210845A to Commorseafon)

WAYLAND. Departures 0327Z. WAYLAND 0734Z STORMWRACK and SATSA in company. (Cdre. Aden, 210901Z)

Movements. Alexandria. Arrival 20th May SOUTHERN ISLES, ROMEO, departure 20th May Greek SPETSAL, PAUL COUNDOURIO-TIS. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 210910 to Admty etc.)

Fighter /...



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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Fighter Wing Training. In reply to Admty 201225B (Re officer be appointed FORMIDABLE to advise on training). Yes please, if he can arrive by the 1st week in June. (S.O.Force H, 211022B to Admty)

SEBAT Turkish SEBAT sailed for Bourgas 21st May. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 211025C)

G.U.S.7A. G.U.S.7A intend to sail convoy from Oran at 0600A/22. Gibraltar R/V 1000A/23 Casablanca R/V 0800A/24. (Com N.O.B.Oran, 211026A)

Convoy E.T.21. Intend to sail. (list) (N.O.I.C.Bone, 211044A to Cdre. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Philippeville, N.O.I.C.Bougie, (R) Admty. etc.)

TEVIOT BANK and PROME. Your 201842 May. Confirmed that these ships are not required. (C. in C. Levant, 211101C to C. in C. E.F.)

P.53, ULTOR. P.49, UNRULY. DZIK. P.49, UNRULY leave patrol to arrive end of Searched Channel at 0830B/24th by reverse of outward route. P.53 ULTOR is to shift to area T. and DZIK to area M. at 0600B/22nd. (Capt. (S) 10, 211113, 220954 to P.53 ULTOR, P.49 UNRULY, DZIK. (R) C. in C.'s Levant & Med. Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8.)

P.314 (TACTICIAN) P.44 (UNITED) P.42 (UNBROKEN) TRIDENT. Onward routeing from P. through 037° 07' 013° 15' thence to R/V with M/S in 036° 08' 014° 22' at 0830B on following dates P.42 (UNBROKEN) on 26th. P.44 (UNITED) and TRIDENT on 27th and P.314 (TACTICIAN) on 28th May. (Capt. (S) 10, 211115B to P.314 (TACTICIAN), P.44 (UNITED), P.42 (UNBROKEN), TRIDENT. (R) Capt. (S) 1 C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant.)

A/S obstruction entrance to Bay of Salonika. X Report from Master Bulgarian Steamer BALKAN through reliable intermediary (Grade C 4) that a new anti S/M obstruction has been laid across entrance to Bay of Salonika. Position from Cape Kara to Vardar Point. Nature of obstruction not clear but one row of mines and 4 electric cables said to have been laid. Z/C some form of explosive controlled anti S/M boom. A gaye is working for ships passing. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 211116C to S.O.(I) Levant(R) D.N.I.)

PACIFIC. C. in C. Med. 191222. Intend to recall cables ship PACIFIC from Red Sea and sail her to Malta. She is required on Levant Station on completion.



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PACIFIC  
(Contd.) Request V.A. Malta confirm that adequate cable stock is available in Malta. (2) PACIFIC has Danish master and native crew. Presume this is acceptable from security aspect. (3) Agreed Communications Board, Middle East. Request Admiralty inform British Joint Board and Cable and Wireless Ltd. (C. in C. Levant, 211135C to Admty, C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta)

LAURANA  
(Italian)  
use as  
Hospital  
Ship. N.O.I.C. Sousee 122040. Has further examination of LAURANA at Malta revealed evidence of abuse of Geneva Convention? (2) Admty 120200 is being passed to you for information. (C. in C. Med. 211142A to V.A. Malta (R) Admty)

UNSHAKEN,  
information. Ref. Capt. (S) 10th S/M.F.'s signal (not to C.C.F) to UNSHAKEN T.O.O.191509, request you will endeavour to obtain copies of photographs referred to through Capt. (S) and forward them to D.D.O..D(C) Admty. (D.D.O.D.(C), 211207B to C.C.F. Algiers)

P.R.U. of  
Bari,  
Trieste,  
Fiume. + (1) Bari 19/5. One Naval vessel 230 feet, one tanker 430 feet, Hospital Ship GRADISCA. Four liners and five merchant vessels. (2) Trieste 20/5. LITTORIO class hull. Battleship CAVOUR refitting. Two cruiser hulls 510 feet. Two escort vessels 220 feet. Liners REX and STOCKHOLM and five other liners 445 to 630 feet. Twelve Merchant vessels one of which is in dry dock. One tanker 505 feet fitting out and four other tankers 390 to 490 feet - one yacht 220 ft. Five of the liners and one M.V. bear red cross markings. Quay 7 and SAN MARCO yards obscured by cloud. (3) Fiume 20/5. Three T.B.'s 240 feet. Four U-Boats 210 to 240 feet one of which in floating dock. One escort vessel. One munition carrier and another naval vessel 190 feet. One tanker 260 feet and one Merchant vessel 330 feet. Four destroyers 270 to 280 feet building on slips at Cantieri Navali Del Quarnaro. (D.D.I.C.211215B)

M.V. 1 Merchant Ship in 038° 53' 016° 56' at 0805 course 250° 6 knots. (Capt. (S) 10, 211231B to P.53 (ULTOR)

Orders  
for  
SICKLE. Your 202339. Well done. Leave patrol through 042° 00' 005° 28' at 1500A/22nd, 038° 15' 003° 55' at 2115A/24th thence R/V P.247 (SARACEN) and escort Algiers in 036° 56' 003° 06' at 0600A/25th. (Capt. (S) 8, 211300A to P.224 (SICKLE) (R) C. in C. Med. Cdre. Algiers, 8th S.F.)

M.W.28. Arrived convoy M.W. 28 HURWORTH, ALDENHAM, ADRIAS, CROOME, KELVIN, JAVELIN, EASTON, SHOREHAM, HURSLEY, F.S.LEOPARD. (V.A. Malta, 211308)

P.R.U. /...



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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

P.R.U. Taranto, Messina. P.R.U. May 21st visuals. 1050 Taranto 2 Battleships 2 cruisers. 1155 Messina no major naval units. (N.O.I.C.Malta, 211328B)

Through Mediterranean Convoys. / Your 201229. Maximum of 15 ships for through passage per convoy should be adhered to until we see our way more clearly. (2) Confusion seems to have arisen over use of code letters GTX which are intended to refer only to the intermediate convoys. The main convoys every 15 days, consisting of combined KM and UG convoys, will retain their K.M.S.designation. (3) These through convoy will leave Gibraltar as follows GTX 1 24th May, K.M.S.15 1st June, GTX 2 8th June, K.M.S.16 16th June, GTX 3 23rd June. (4) Up to 15 ships for through passage can be accepted in each of these convoys. There would be no objection if more than 15 ships for through passage arrived at Gibraltar with for example K.M.S.15 and U.G.S 9 but only 15 of them could be sent on from there in K.M.S.15. The remainder would have to be held for a week at Gibraltar and sent on in GTX. 2. (C. in C. Med. 211407A to Admty (R) B.A.D., F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Levant.)

FORT ANNE (torpedoed 18/5.) FORT ANNE torpedoed starboard side No.2 at 1940/18. Arrived Algiers 1700/19 under own power without assistance. Discharging forward holds to trim and ascertain damage which apparently considerable. No casualties. Inform owners. (D.S.T.O. Algiers 211435 to D. of S.T. London(R) P.S.T.O.Med.)

Italian repatriations. Italian repatriation liners VULCANIA and SATURNIA leave Trieste 1600 May 20 route to Gibraltar, description etc.. Not to be molested. (C. in C. Med. 211501A to A.I.G. 260 N.A.A.F. S.8) Route to Gibraltar. Sailing date, description etc. Not to be molested. (Capt. (S) 211731A to 8th S/M.F.)

Fleet Destroyers, Escort Situation. \* (2) It does not appear that Fleet Destroyer and escort situation in Mediterranean is fully realised. To provide escorts for current convoys Force H has had to be temporarily immobilized, fleet destroyers have had to be taken off offensive operations, and there is no question that all escorts and destroyers are fully stretched. (3) It is apparent my 1647 of 23rd Feb. refers (N.T. in W.D.) that since the two flotillas of fleet M/S have had to be taken off escorting, there are not sufficient escorts to meet current and future liabilities and unless some improvement is forthcoming it will be necessary to revise our intentions about running convoys through Mediterranean. (4) I am aware of general shortage but present situation in Mediterranean cannot be allowed to continue. Docking and refits of destroyers are being indefinitely postponed until a ship breaks down or

suffers/ ...



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Friday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Fleet  
Destroyers,  
Escort  
Situation.  
(Contd.)

suffers action damage. (5) To particularise I would point out that in the last week or two, two Hunts have been put out of action for some months and ARROW and BRILLIANT have again been delayed coming to Mediterranean.  
(C. in C. Med. 211525A, 221514A to Admty)  
Note by W.R. Para.1 has been omitted on instructions of V.C.N.S. Complete message circulated to V.C.N.S. A.C.N.S.(H) and D.O.D.(H) only.

Convoy  
K.M.S.14.

Malta section sailed. LEONIAN, ADJUTANT, EMPIRE CLIVE, EMPIRE HARMONY, BARFOIL for Malta. ORKLA, ESNEM, EMPIRE TERN, for Tunis WILLOWDALE, SERULA, BRUCE JARL, TORE JARL, ODYSSEUS for Bizerta.  
(N.O.I.C. Bone, 211601A to F.O.I.S., N.O.I.C. Tunis, V.A. Malta (R) Admty, F.O.I.C.Gibraltar, C. in C. Med., Connav.)

Convoy  
G.U.S.7A.

Arrived. OZZACAPA, LIBERTY, GLO, EMPIRE ENVOY; P. DANIEL, HUGGER, DJEBEL AURES, FORT PITT, MAMMY, LINGE. A. BALDWIN, M.B.LAMAR, GULF GEM, ANDREW HAMILTON (?TOTTER).  
(Com. N.O.B.Oran 211617A to A.I.G.259)

ISIS.

Your 211144A and 201116A (N.T. of either in W.R.). Intend to proceed to R/V with K.M.S.14's position 037° 03' N. 011° 40' E. and 037° 29' N. 011° 11' E. Capt. (D) 19 has been informed.  
(ISIS, 211627B to C. in C. Med. (R) ILEY, CARLISLE WHADDON, AURORA, N.O.I.C.Malta, S.O.I.S., S.O.M/S Flot. 15, N.O.I.C.Bone, A.I.G.266, N.O.I.C. Sousse, N.O.I.C. Bizerta.)

N.A.A.F.  
Reports.

M.4777 E. May 21st. Opsum 89, N.A.Strategic Air Force 19/20th May.  
19 Wellingtons despatched Sardinia. 1 returned early 18 bombed Villacidro and Decimonmannu. Lights at both P/D lit on arrival. Incendiaires of first aircraft assisted identification. All bombs in target area. Several fires among dispersed A/C. 20 May, 39 Lightnings P.38 despatched attack targets opportunity Sardinia. 3 returned early, 36 dropped bombs on Dam 10 or 30 miles E. Sassari N.W. Sardinia, no damage visible, on railway and barracks Bon Orva, Docks Golfo Aranco. N.E. Sardinia rail and road bridge damaged. M/G attacks on trains between Macomer Bonorva, also on Milis Airfield, 12 S.M.79 and hangar's set on fire. 8 P.38 each with 1 x 1000 despatched Pantelleria. 5 bombs dropped from 3,000 feet ?hits on W. Quay and E. Dock. 24 Mitchells (B.25) Escort 27 Lightnings (P.38) Villacidro Airfield. 50 E/A seen, dispersed aircraft well covered, one ME. 323 on fire 2 Aircraft seen to explode. 24 Mitchells (B.25) Escort.



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N.A.A.F. Reports. (Contd.)

25 Lightnings P.38 Alghero Airdrome N.W.Sardinia, enemy aircraft dispersed well covered. Escort machine gunned 2 seaplanes Portoconte damage.

27 Marauders B.27 escort 40 Kittyhawks Decimonmannu 4 B.26 and 8 P.40s returned early. Bombs on dispersals containing approx. 60 enemy aircraft well covered. Escort engaged 166 enemy aircraft 5 ME.109 1 ME.202 destroyed 1 ME probably 2 ME.109 damaged 1 P.40 destroyed on return 7 ME.323 intercepted near Villaolrido destroyed. 58 Fortresses B.17 despatched Crossetpo airdrome, Italy. 4 returned early. Entire airdrome well covered especially N.W. corner in concentration of aircraft. Several fires started, attacks appeared very successful. 12 Warhawks P.40 strafe Pantelleria, M/G emplacement silenced. N.W.A. Coastal air force, 19/20, convoy escort 7 Hudsons. U-Boat hunt, 1 Hudson ASR, 3 Hudsons, 1 Walrus, picked up German occupant of dinghy 100 miles N. Car de Garde. 20 May. convoy escort 4 Hudsons, 3 Albacores. U-Boat hunt, 2 Hudsons, nil sightings. (Spatz, N.W.A.A.F. Adv. H.Q. 211638A, 211712A to Air Min. A.H.Q. Gib. etc.)

Ref. No. JMO.578. To: Eaker Brereton, From: Spatz, To: CG 8th Air Force, To: CG 9th Air Force, From: HQ N.A.A.F. ADV. Cite M.4752.

(1) 12 x 1,000 pound bombs were dropped by 12 P.38's on docks in Gulf of Aranei and railroad bridge N.E. of Perfugas. Sheds in dock area were hit, near miss scored on tanker. Railroad and highway bridge severely damaged. (2) 10 P.38's dropped 10 x 1,000 pound bombs from 3,000 feet on Sassari, Bonnanaro, Chilivani. Barracks, 5 army trucks and trains were bombed and strafed. (3) 14 P.38's dropped 14 x 1,000 pound bombs from 1,700 to 2,500 feet on Macomer railroad junction and Milis airdrome. Large explosion and fire caused in town. 25 enemy aircraft, barracks and administration buildings at Milis airdrome were bombed and strafed. 12 enemy aircraft and hanger set on fire, large explosion developed from hangar fire. 1 enemy aircraft destroyed in air. (4) 9 P.40's strafed gun emplacements in vicinity of Pantelleria airdrome. P.38's dropped 5 x 1,000 pound bombs on Pantelleria in dock area from 3,000 feet. Results not observed. (5) 24 B.25's escorted by 23 P.38's dropped 1,692 x 20 pound fragmentation bombs from 7,000 feet on Villacidro airdrome. On ground, 1 aircraft was set afire, 2 exploded. Dust prevented further observation. (6) 24 B.25's escorted by 19 P.38's dropped 1,728 x 20 pound fragmentation bombs from 8,500 - 10,000 feet on Alghero airdrome. 20-30 multi-engined dispersed aircraft well covered by bursts. Burst observed on blast shelters, hangars runway and among parked aircraft. Escort damaged 2 seaplanes in harbour at Porto Conte. (7) 23 B.26's escorted by 32 P.40's dropped 90 x 100 pound bombs and 1,770 x 20 pound fragmentation bombs from 10,000 feet on approx. 60 aircraft on Decimonmannau airdrome. Target well covered, hits observed among aircraft. (8) 7 ME.323's encountered in Villasor/Villachdro area. All reported destroyed. 1 P.40 landed in sea. (9) 54 B.17's dropped 179 x 500 pound, 5,585 fragmentation bombs from 21,300 feet - 24,000 feet on Grosette airdrome. Approx. 35 enemy aircraft seen in field, target area well covered. Many fires started. 10. Coastal Air Force carried out usual escort and R/C missions. (11) Night 19/20: 9 Wellingtons dropped 92 x 250



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N.A.A.F. Reports. (Contd.) 96 x 40 pound, 60 x 30 pound fragmentation and 2,830 x 4 pound incendiary bombs from 400 to 12,000 feet on Villacidro airdrome. Area well covered, several fires started. (12) 10 Wellingtons dropped 92 x 250 pound, 48 x 40 pound and 2,340 x 4 pound incendiary bombs from 3,500 to 7,000 feet on Decimomannu airdrome. Several aircraft left burning. Area well covered. (H.Q. N.A.A.F. Adv, No.T.O.O. to Etousa)

SCYTHIA, LETITIA. There will be no G.U.F.8A. As considerable delay is expected before next G.U.F. convoy suggest SCYTHIA be sailed to U.K. in M.K.F.15. Your 200023A and S.T.O.I/C. Gibraltar's 201620 refers. Ref. S.T.O. I/C Gibraltar 171543, suggest personnel be embarked in SCYTHIA and LETITIA. (P.S.T.O. Med. 211710A to D.S.T.)

N.A.A.F. Opsum 89 May 21st. N.A. strategic air force 19/20th May. May 20th Lightnings P.38 dropped bombs on Docks Golfo Aranco. 8 P.38 each with 1 x 1000 despatched Pantelleria 5 bombs dropped from 3000 feet ?hits on W quay and E dock. Enemy activity. Oran and Arzeu attacked at 1922/19th May approx. 12 enemy aircraft 1 ship in Oran hit, fired, towed out of harbour, fire under control. 1 ship hit Arzeu. 6 killed 6 injured Ack Ack may have claims. (Spaatz H.Q. N.W.A.A.F. Advanced, 211712A)

MARAUDER A.F.D. XVIII. Your 192112, MARAUDER towing A.F.D. XVIII will be routed to Oran but her return to U.K. should be expedited. (Admty. 211722B to C. in C. Med.)

Small Craft in K.M.S.16. Ref. your 161617. Operational craft M.T.Bs and H.D.M.Ls must have priority over Rescue Launches of 253 Air Sea Rescue Unit. Air Ministry can rest assured that Naval Light Craft in Mediterranean will assist as always in air rescue. Med. Air Command concur. (C. in C. Med. 211821A to Admty (R) Air Min. Med. Air Command. N.A.C.A.F.) Cancelled by C. in C. Med. 231920B q.v.

Bizerta Movements. Bizerta arrivals ROTHESAY NEGRO, ELBURY, FILEY BAY. M.G.B's 646, 648 M.T.B. 656 L.S.T. (?385) H.D.M.L.1145. Departure POLRUAN, FELIXSTOWE, CADMUS, L.S.T. 385, H.D.M.L.1227. (F.O. Tunisia, 211958B)

Movements. Arrivals TARTAR Departures TRIDENT, SERAPH (P.219) (Gom. Algiers, 212003A)

Entered /...



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Movements. Entered today BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, CONVULVULUS,  
(Contd.) GAVOTTE, VETCH, TANGO, PIROUETTE, ZETLAND.  
Left. TYNEDALE, Fr.Sub. SULTANE Fr.CHASSEUR III  
C. in C. Med. Pass to Comnavnav.  
(Com. N.O.B.Oran, 212030 to Admtly etc.)  
21st May Port Said Arrivals. COUNDOURIOTIS, SPETSAI, R.F.A.  
WAR KRISNA. Departures. COUNDOURIOTIS, BULLFINCH.  
(N.O.I.C.Port Said 212045C)  
Arrived CROMARTY, BOSTON, ROMNEY, SKUD 4, HECTOR 7 ML's  
PRIMULA, FALK.  
(S.N.O. Tripolitania, 212059A)  
Arrived BRIGAND, also M.L.359 from Derna.  
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 212122C)  
Arrivals KERRERA, WHADDON, OAKLEY, EGGESFORD, PRODIGAL,  
BREAM, BORDE, BARFOIL, BARHILLA, HAZARD. Departures. WHADDON  
OAKLEY, EGGESFORD, LA FOREY, LOOKOUT, ESKIMO, TARTAR, CLACTON,  
WHEATLAND, BARFOIL M.T.B. 646, 656, M.G.B. 648.  
(N.O.I.C. Bone, 212244A)  
Departures PALADIN, ASHANTI, QUEEN OLGA, ALDENHAM, EASTON,  
HURSLEY, PRINCESS KATHLEEN, M.T.B's 65, 76.  
Arrivals UNSHAKEN, JERVIS, NUBIAN, PETARD.  
(V.A.Malta, 212315)

Malta × A.I. 587 CSR 21 May (A) Air. Part 1, offensive.  
Air Day 20th May. 4 Beaufighters armed R/C  
Report. east of Sicily finding no shipping attacked a  
Bombs on train near Catan Zaro (Toe of Italy) disabling  
Takali locomotive. Later destroyed 1 JU 52 north of  
and toe of Italy and on return journey bombed  
Hal Far. Licata Aerodrome and Naro railway junction.  
Night 20th/21st May successful attack was made on  
enemy shipping south of (?Trapani). 1 special  
equipment and 2 strike Albacores all with bombs  
on shipping search between Pantelleria and Marittimo sighted  
2150 hrs. 1 M/V 3/4000 tons and 2 escort vessels 11 miles south  
of Cape Granitola course south. Albacores attacked scoring  
near misses on 1 E/V and 4 direct hits on the M/V which developed  
heavy list to port and burst into flames which were visible  
40 miles away. One torpedo carrying Albacore was despatched  
to attack a 10,000 ton tanker sighted by PR Spitfire in Catania  
Harbour at 0203 hrs. Albacore aimed torpedo at tanker but no  
results observed. 2 Beauforts with torpedoes made shipping  
search in Gulf of Taranto. 1 Wellington dropped leaflets  
over Palermo, Catania and Messina. 5 Mosquitoes made successful  
intruder patrols (?over) Sicily and Southern Italy, 1 patrolling  
Catania Area. 1 over Western Sicily, 1 in the Messina Milazzo  
Artalon. 1 over south west coast of Italy and 1 in Taranto  
area in Sicano. Attacks were made on factory buildings at  
Milazzo, on a building adjoining the railway East of Sciacca,  
a hutted camp North of Castel Termini, and on a locomotive  
and trucks north of Lercara. Cannon strikes were scored on  
superstructure of a small vessel south west of Cape Granitola  
and on a vessel of approx. 1,000 tons to the south of Catania  
Bay. A fire was started in the stern of an E-Boat in the Bay.  
In Italy vivid coloured flashes were seen when station buildings  
near Cetraro and at Belvedere were attacked. 2 lines of trucks  
in Balta Paglia Junction were machine gunned, strikes being  
seen and 2 fires started.

Day /...



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Malta Air Report. Bombs on Takali and Hal Far. (Contd.)

Day 21st May. Nil. Part 2. enemy air activity. Day 20th May, escort to convoy approaching from south was provided by 4 Beaufighters. Night 20th/21st May, 5 Beaufighters made interception patrols off east coast of Sicily. Day 21st May. 0417 hrs. 36 plus FW.190 bombers and ME.109 escort approached Delta and were intercepted 50 miles North of The Island by 4 Spitfires and later 10 miles north of the Island by another 4 Spitfires which between them forced half the raiders to turn back and destroyed 2 FW.190 and damaged 3 FW 190 and 2 ME.109 for loss of 1 Spitfire through engine trouble from which pilot baled out safely on to land. 12 other Spitfires airborne intercepted enemy fighter escort over Malta but combats were inconclusive. Some bombers crossed coast and at Takali 1 Beaufighter was damaged and at Hal Far 1 Spitfire was destroyed in its pen owing to negligent dispersal by FW.3 Albatroses were destroyed and 2 naval ratings injured. A/A fired but make no claim. During course of day 10 other Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta. 50 Spitfire sorties were made in escorting incoming convoy and on protective patrols over tankers where they arrived in harbour. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 212231Z)  
A.I.588 21 May (same incidents as A.I.587).  
Daily Opsum 12.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 212359Z)

2 FAA.

VENOMOUS,  
LIDDESDALE,  
VELOX.

Leave Tripoli at 2100A/22nd S. of A. 21 knots through RG Position K and thence to Bone by reverse of route in C. in C. Med. 151601A. E.T.A. Bilbao (sic) 1930A/23rd. Codeword "Hunter" Wireless Call Sign 920. Request Fighter Protection Priority 2, normal (corrupt group) (S.N.O. Tripolitania, 212237A to VENOMOUS, LIDDESDALE, VELOX. (R) CROMARTY, Spares for C.in C. Med. etc.)

Second U/B sunk by SICKLE.

At 1512A sank southbound (?U-Boat) in position 043° 00' 30" N. 005° 59' E. 7672 2042. (SICKLE, 212253A)

RORQUAL.

RORQUAL sails at 1600B/22nd for Port Said routed through 035° 01' 015° 01' at 0100B/23rd and 033° 40' 021° 54' at 2200B/25th. Capt. (S) One is requested to arrange onward routeing. Daily advance 120 miles. (Capt. (S) 10, 212312B to C. in C. Levant, Capt. (S) 1, (R) ROCA, 10th S/M.F., N.O.I.C.Port Said, C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 8)

Tunisian Campaign.

X Thanks of General Eisenhower for congratulations from Red Army. We hope the quarter of a million prisoners that surrendered in final phase of Tunisian fighting and the 2,200 Axis airplanes destroyed here during this campaign has definitely weakened Hitler's band of brigands. (Freedom, Algiers No.T.O.O. to Agwar)



War Diary.21.5.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

## Movements.

SORSRA arrived.

(F.O.E.Af. 210306Z to Admty.)

Departure LAOMEDON escorted by CORNWALLIS leaving Sandheads a.m. 22nd for Madras.

(N.O.I.C. Calcutta 211014Z to Admty.)

Arrivals 20th SIRSA, 21st HAIYANG, EMPIRE PINTAIL, HUNAN, KRIAN.  
(N.C.S.O. Colombo 211134Z to A.I.G.88.)

Colombo arrival 21st 0830Z EMILE BAUDOT. Departure 0100Z INTEGRITY.

(F.O.Ceylon 211346Z to Admty.)

EMPIRE TROOPER D.S.T.O. Kilindini 191201Z and Admty. 192015B  
EASTERN PRINCE (N.T. in W.R.) to C. in C.E.F. Request immediate reply to my 181218Z as to whether EMPIRE TROOPER and EASTERN PRINCE will be required to proceed Mombasa as Combined Operations Training is being held pending your reply.  
(P.S.T.O.I. 210317Z to D. of S.T. (R) D.S.T.O. Kilindini, C. in C.E.F.)

## SUSSEX.

SUSSEX arrived.

(N.O.I.C. Mauritius 210401Z to Admty. etc.)

SUSSEX sailed for exercises in accordance with C. in C.E.F. 161507 (N.T. in W.R.)

(N.O.I.C. Mauritius 211400Z to Admty. F.O.Ceylon S.O.(I) Bombay (R) C. in C.E.F. S.O.(I) Aden, S.O.(I) Kilindini.)

U/B dis-  
positions  
No. 14.

Japanese 1 very doubtful 75 miles east of Socotra 19th.

(C. in C.E.F. 210924 to E.F.283Y (R) Admty. etc.)

Suspicious  
sailing ship

SANTA ISABEL 1000 G.C.T. suspicious sailing ship steering 310° 003° 31' S. 078° 16' E.

(SANTA ISABEL 211210Z to Adm. Colombo (R) Admty.)

## A.B.C.E.F. and Hormuz Group of C.A.S.F.

2. In spite of the reduced number of suitable A/S ships for both the A.B.C.E.F. and Hormuz Group of C.A.S.F. due to detachments to other theatres and current refits. It is intended to retain the Hormuz patrol as an essential A/S defence of the Persian Gulf.

3. The following arrangements are therefore required to implement this policy A. A.B.C.E.F. should not be reinforced at the expense of the Hormuz group of C.A.S.F.  
B. Separate instructions are being issued for BURNIE and TOOWOOMBA to be sailed from East Africa to reinforce temporarily the Hormuz Group.

C. F.O.Ceylon is requested to arrange for HIRAVATI to proceed to Hormuz at first opportunity and adjust B.P. escort programme accordingly.

D. F.O.C.R.I.N. is requested to expedite the completion of present refits of Hormuz group ships (F.O.Ceylon 210002 not to all addressees refers.)



War Diary.21.5.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.A.B.C.E.F.  
and Hormuz  
Group  
of C.A.S.F.  
(Contd.)

E. Com. R.I.N. is requested to reconsider his 190532Z not to all addressees and examine possibilities of sailing PANGKOR by coastwise route to Hormuz as soon as her refit at Bombay is completed.

4. When Hormuz Group of C.A.S.F. has returned to minimum required effective strength BURNIE and TCOWOOMBA will be withdrawn to Kilindini.

(C. in C.E.F. 211412Z to S.N.O.P.G. F.O.Ceylon  
(R) Admty. F.O.C.R.I.N. Com. R.I.N. F.L.O.Delhi,  
Cdre. Aden, F.O.E.Af.)Routeing of  
Tankers

x To enable tankers from Persian Gulf for South Africa to be loaded down to summer load line as far as Durban it is necessary that original route should not cross into seasonal Winter Zone.

2. Zone line lies on Rhumb line between South African coast at 30° S. and Australian coast at 35° S. and seasonal Winter is from 16th April to 15th October.

3. Propose that ships should be routed in first instance to northward of Winter Zone line.

4. This will not preclude subsequent diversion to southward of Zone line as an A/S measure.

(D.T.D. 211727B to C. in C.E.F. C. in C.S.A.)

Reply C. in C.S.A. 241043B.)

Adm-Yamamoto,  
killed.

x From G-2 Chinese, signed Wheeler.

This date, Domei Radio broadcast reports Admiral Yamamoto, Commander Jap. Combined Fleet, shot down and killed while in aircraft in S.W.P. area. This occurred in April. He was shot down by U.S.fliers. Successor reported to be Admiral Koga.\*

(Chunking 210925Z to Etousa.)

\* Admiral Mineichi Koga, see W.I.R. 168/57.



War Diary.

21.5.1943.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Movements. U.S. A.T. YARMOUTH sailed Greenland 19th for  
Argentina, N.F. escorted.  
(N.S.H.Q. 210053Z. to Admty.)  
Boston arrived 192333Z. GEORGETOWN from  
Charleston.  
(N.S.H.Q. 210100Z. to Admty.)  
St. Johns, N.F. 20th. Arrivals LINCOLN, OAKVILLE, REGINA,  
BROCKVILLE ex H.X.239. Departures NIAGARA, MATAPEDIA, MONCTON  
KENORA to O.N.S.7.  
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns, N.F. 210415Z. to Admty.)  
Arrival KAMLOOPS from O.N.182.  
(C. Halifax 211304Z. to Admty.)  
Departures 21st THOMAS J. CARROL and THORVARD for Trinidad.  
(Harbour Master Barbados 211405P. to Admty.)

Convoy Arrived.  
H.F.55. (N.C.S.O. St. John N.B. 210200Z. to Admty.)

S/M estimate (Cominch 210356Z, 211453Z, 211454Z, 210505,  
21st May. 211456Z, 211542Z, 211543Z.)  
U.S. S/M  
notice.

Escort Request you will sail E.G.3 so as to join S.C.131  
Group 3. a.m. on 23rd and act as support group.  
Convoy (C. in C. W.A. 210753Z. to F.O.N.F. (R) Connav.  
S.C.131. C. in C. C.N.A. Admty. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. Cdr.  
Argentina. H.Q.C.C. Cmdre. (D) W.A. S.O. Escort  
Group 3. Ships escorting Convoy S.C.131.)  
S.C.131. E.G.3. sails St. John 1130Z/22nd through  
047° 30' N. 048° 00' W. to 049° 41' N. 043° 18' W. to support  
S.C.131.  
(C.C.N.F. 211331Z. to C. in C. W.A. (R) Ships escorting S.C.131,  
C. in C. C.N.A., Admty. N.S.H.Q. C. in C. U.S. Fleet in OFFA.  
S.O.E.G.3. Cmdre. W.A. Capt. (D) Argentina.)  
S.C.131 my 211331 amend as follows to 48.57 N. 45.40 W.  
to support S.C.131.  
(F.O.N.F. 212055Z. to C. in C. W.A. (R) Capt. (D)  
Argentina, etc.)

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed.
Summary	SS.MONTEREY	13½° N. 26° W.	273°	16½
1800 G.M.T.	CARNARVON	08° N. 28° W.	Patrol	Blank.
21st.	CASTLE.			
	(D.O.D. (F) 210930Z. to Opnav (R) Commaveu.)			

9th All in Bermuda C.C.Os. 182213 departed 20th.  
Flight. Communication was in B.T.Ls. 152125 April.  
2. Signal letters. L.C.I. (L) (20 Landing Craft.)  
(S.B.N.O. W.At. 211213P, to Admty. F.O.C. W.Af.  
F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med. N.S.H.Q.)



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21.5.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

- NENE,  
KOOTENAY. Your 291653 April. As arrangements in para. (A) were not possible request your intention with regard to future movements of NENE and also confirmation that KOOTENAY may be expected to join C.5. in Mid Atlantic. Anticipate four corvettes of R.C.N. support group will be ready in St. Johns about 27th May dependent on defects.  
(F.O.N.F. 211320Z. to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A. C. in C. C.N.A.)
- A.T.47. A.T.47. Your 201626. In view of N.C.S.O. Halifax (PASTEUR). 201831 Army intend to embark 27th for sailing 28th May.  
(N.S.H.Q. 211401Z. to Admty. (R) B.A.D. Cominch (C. & R.) C. in C. C.N.A.)
- T.G.21.3, X This is Cinclant 202348 addressed for action to G.U.S.8. C.T.G. 21.3. When HERBERT, SCHENCK and BABBITT report to CARD, T.G. 21.3 reconstituted as follows: CARD, SCHENCK, BABBITT, HERBERT. In co-operation with C.T.F.66 (in same manner as did on eastward voyage), provide anti-U-Boat protection for G.U.S.8. convoy. Leave G.U.S.8. convoy at appropriate point West of Bermuda, and proceed to Base H, at which place T.G. 21.3 is dissolved. Destroyers will then be directed by you to proceed to the Navy Yard, New York, for availability. BABBITT should be detached at appropriate time and ordered to report to CARD, C.T.F.66 is hereby directed to accomplish this.  
(Comnaveu 211416Z. to Admty.)
- G.U.F.8A. Your 201620 (N.T. in W.R.) there will be no G.U.F.8A. Cmdt. 3rd U.S. Naval District hand to B.M.W.T. New York. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar hand to S.T.O.i/c Gibraltar. Admty. hand to D. of S.T. London and pass to P.S.T.O.  
(Cominch C. & R. 211429Z. to S.T.O.I.C. Gib. (R) B.M.W.T. New York, C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, F.O.I.C. Gib. P.S.T.O. Med. D.S.T. London, C.M.S.F.)
- N.S.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q. 211446Z to Admty. etc.)  
S/M  
estimate.
- Convoy Departure CHEBUCTO 1800Z/22 May speed 8½ knots.  
H.J.52. (Route). E.T.A. St. John's Nfld. 1300Z/25.  
W/T Call Sign ZK.  
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 211521Z. to Admty.) As amended  
N.C.S.O. Halifax 221201Z.
- M.S.Trawlers. Can a reply now be made to A.M. 051705. Re requesting date of sailing to U.K. of M/S Trawlers TEXADA, FLINT, GATESHEAD and HERCHEL.  
(D.M.S. 211550B. to N.S.H.Q.)

/Convoy...



War Diary.21.5.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Convoy Arrived.  
G.A.T.62. (B.R.L.O. Trinidad 211604Q. to Admty.)

ORIBI. F.O.N.F. 092055 May. Request anticipated date of completion of ORIBI may be reported.  
2. ORIBI is now to be considered under administration of R.A.D.H.F..  
(D.D.O.D. (H) 211625B. to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) N.S.H.Q. etc.)

B.D.Vs. Lorsa 9416. As we are being pressed to reach a decision on assignment of Boom Defence Vessels, it is requested that reply to Lorsa 9160, and in particular para. 3, may be received here by 9 a.m. Monday next if possible.  
(B.A.D. 211627Z. to Admty.)

Dispositions. Section South West. H.X.240 W.2 (E) 42.03 64.08 055° 9 alter to 086° in 61.59 W. H.H.X. 240 W.9 departs Chebucto Head 2000Z steering 122° 9½ to junction HX.240 1300Z/22nd. X.B. 53A TRURO 41° 15.68.25 270° 12 altering to 229° in 69.03 W. and 180° 70.19 W. O.N. 172 W. 1.39 44.71 13.274° 9½ altering for New York in 73.00 W. SEAWOLF surface escorted by ELK REINDEER 44.22 66.34 180° 10 altering to 085° in 42.50 N. 044° in 65.03 W. and for Halifax in 63.40 W. U.S.S. COMANCHE, ALGONQUIN. ACTIVE STORIS, WANDANK, SAGAMORE 2nd Section Y.F.D. 25 43.39(64.01) 063° 7 alter to 052° in 60.37 W. U.S.S. PHEASANT 43.12 65.20 230° 15 alter to 270° in 65.30 W. and for Boston in 69.06 W. FREDERICTON escorting ST. ANNE towing 173 D 110 vicinity 44.15 64.10 coastwise to Halifax 10. TAMARA FENRIS (Sweidish) 44.00 66° 38 180° 12 IRISH SIGHTSETTER 39.06 63.30 000° 9.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 211640Z. to Admty.)

Convoy All times G.M.T. Sailing telegram part 1.  
B.X.53. (1) B.X.53 7.5 J.T. (Route). (2) May 22nd. 2000 at position A. E.T.A. Halifax 2245/May 24th.  
(3) Task Unit 24.18.3 ROXBOROUGH. (S.O) SASKATOON, DUNVEGAN with TRURO as additional escort.  
(P.D. Boston 211705 to Cominch C. & R. C.E.S.F. N.S.H.Q. C. in C. C.N.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

U/B. D/F bearings on 10265 k/cs at 1414Z indicate  
O.N.184. U-Boat in your immediate vicinity.  
(D.D.I.C. 211708B. to O.N.184 (R) Cominch, N.S.H.Q. A.C.I.C. C. in C. W.A. H.Q.C.C.)

U/B. Following is a recyphered version of my 211702  
attacked (begins):- S/M sighted by aircraft in 48.03 N.  
by A/C. 62.37 W. at 1620Z. (Ends.)  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 211708Z. to G.B.7, WAVERLEY, G.B.7.A.G. (R) C. in C. W.A. Connav, Admty. N.S.H.Q. etc.)

/following...



War Diary.21.5.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

U/B attacked by A/C. (Contd.) Following is recyphered version my 211734Z (begins). My 211702Z, aircraft carried out attack in 48.13 N. 62.36 W. at 1620Z. (C. in C. C.N.A. 211745Z, as former.)

Routeing British Ships, Atlantic for India. My 122038 Jan. para. 2 all British controlled ships concerned irrespective of type of fuel are to proceed trans-Pacific for the present. (D.T.D. 211730B. to Connav, C. in C. E.F. F.O.C.R.I.N. F.O.C. Ceylon, A.C.N.B. N.Z.N.B. S.N.O. Persian Gulf (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. S.A. N.S.H.Q. B.A.D.) W.D. Note. See amendment 241531B May.

W/T Publication. My 281150/March, it is proposed to proceed with preparation of joint W/T publication as outlined in para. 2 (b). 2. Request you will ascertain whether Navy Dept. is intending to make counter proposals affecting production of this publication. (D.T.D. 211823B. to B.A.D. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

Convoy S.H.82. 1. Sailing telegram. (Ships, list etc.)  
2. 221530Z. 3. 232330Z. 4. 7 knots.  
5. (Route) WATUKA and FOUNDATION RANMORE Junction at position (N) at 222330Z.  
6. CLAYOQUOT and GRANDMERE.  
(N.C.S.O. Sydney 211847Z, 211849Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

Convoy H.X.240. Sailing Telegram. (13 Ships, list etc.)  
2. Gate 1900Z/21 May. 3. HOMP 1400Z/22 May.  
5. As C. in C. C.N.As. 131950Z May and Admiralty's 121450B May. 7. Total 13 sailed. 8. As C. in C. C.N.As. 131950Z May.  
(N.C.S.O. Halifax. 211920, 211930Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. etc.)

DRURY, BLACKWOOD. Direct N.O.B. Bermuda sail DRURY and BLACKWOOD upon completion working up about May 20th to New York and advise time of departure, route, S. of A.  
(Cominch 211947 to Cinclant, Inf. N.O.B. Bermuda, C.E.S.F. S.B.N.O. W.At., F.O.M.3, Admty.)

WEAZEL. Request that H.M.R.T. WEAZEL, on completion of present towage, be sailed for Freetown by first available opportunity for onward routeing to Gibraltar.  
(Capt.i/c, Rescue Tugs 212000B. to B.A.D. (R) S.B.N.O. Trinidad, F.O.C.W.A. C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C. Gib. Cdre. i/c. Freetown.)



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21.5.1943.  
Friday.War Diary:FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

SS. QUEEN Arrived New York 211853Z.  
ELIZABETH. (P.D. New York 212004Z. to Cominch C. & R.)

S/M attack and sighting summary. All times Z. Para. A. Plane sights S/M course 090 55.10 N. 25.10 W. 0112/21. R.A.F. Hudson attacks S/M. 61.42 N. 19 W. 1457/21. SPEY attacks S/M. 55.12 N. 30.40 W. 0327/20. R.A.F. plane sights S/M course 300 55.50 N. 25.55 W. 2240/20. R.A.F. Liberator attacks S/M on surface course 050 55.18 N. 27.49 W. 1510/20. R.A.F. Liberators sight S/Ms. on surface 55.36 N. 27.24 W. 1724/20 and 56.02 N. 26.48 W. 1955/20. Para. D. U.S.S. SIREN attacks sound contact S/M. 00.33 N. 47.02 W. 0025/21. A.T.C. plane sights S/M 11.42 N. 61.30 W. 1642/20. Plane sights periscope course 090 19.30 N. 76.30 W. 1705/20. (Cominch 212030Z. to Admty.)

SEARCHER. My 041635. (8) U.S. Army now state that they do not desire the services of SEARCHER for ferrying to Casablanca. Intend therefore to employ her for ferrying Naval aircraft and special stores (my 202019 April refers) to U.K. (2) It is hoped to ship four Tarpon six Hellcat and five Martlet V. (B.A.D. 212039Z. to Admty.)

H.H.X. 240. Departure ST. FRANCIS, MIDLAND, KAMLOOPS, TRANSCONA escorting H.H.X. 240. (C. Halifax 212120Z. to Admty. etc.)

Mid Atlantic S/M Patrols. First indications that U.S. S/Ms. HERRING and HADDO were at sea was gleaned from your situation report 181348B. and F.O. S. 202216B respectively. 2. From F.O. S. 202216B. it is now apparent that both these S/Ms. are operating in an area covered by L.R. aircraft working from Newfoundland and may continue to do so for some time. Their eventual destination is unknown. 3. It has since been ascertained that bombing restrictions have been arranged direct between C.C. and A.O.C. in C. E.A.C. 4. I would be most grateful if in future I may be kept informed of the movements of S/Ms. operating in these areas and the books they carry. In addition it would seem more satisfactory if bombing restrictions were arranged through me since by provisions of A.C.C.I. I am responsible for the efficient employment of all L.R. aircraft working from Newfoundland. (C. in C. C.N.A. 212131Z. to C. in C. W.A. (R) F.O. S. N.S.H.Q. Admty.) As amended F.O.S. 222258B. to C. in C. C.N.W.A.

/Request...



War Diary.21.5.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Request for British Account or Despatches of "Torch" operations. METER. O.N.I. has prepared an official account of "Torch" operation from U.S. Naval records they feel that it is incomplete without inclusion of British Participation and ask for British Account or British Despatches for study. 2. Request information as to how soon such information could be provided. 3. It is clear that no attempt has been made to make this a record of a Combined Operation. It is purely a Naval Narrative. 4. It is confined to a statement of facts and is not in analytical form. 5. C.O.L.O. has seen this narrative but does not wish to ask C.C.O. for information for reasons given in para. 3. above. (B.A.D. 212159Z. to Admty.)

U/B. Following is recyphered version of my 212304Z (begins) S/M sighted by A/C in 049° 45' N. 063° 18' W. at 1835Z (Ends). (C. in C. C.N.A. 212305Z. to G.B.7.A. G.B.7.A.G. (R) Connav, Admty. C. in C. W.A. etc.)

U.S. mines re sweeping. Navy Department has raised question whether the American Mk.XIII mines now being supplied to Ninth and Tenth U.S. Army Air Forces can be swept by minesweepers at present available. 2. Instructions for sweeping these mines by American craft are contained in V.C.N.O. letter (S.C.) S.8. 1-1 Serial of Comnav. 3. Navy Department are giving instructions that these mines are to be laid adjusted for two looks only for the present. 4. Request confirmation that present minesweeping force can sweep these mines provided that they are adjusted for two looks. Is further information required for preparation of detailed instructions for British minesweepers. (B.A.D. 212349Z. to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F. C. in C. E.F. C. in C. Med.)

Australia & New Zealand.Kiwi  
No.10.

Light enemy air attack Russell Islands night 18/5 no damage reported. Solomons area quiet for third successive night. Aircraft reported 1 D.D. and 1 small A.L. unloading at Buka p.m. 18/5. (C.W.R. Wellington 210002Z. to C. in C. E.F. A.C.N.B. Admty. (D.N.I.) G.H.Q. New Delhi.)



War Diary.

21.5.1943.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

Digest X Incomplete photos Rabaul Harbour and vicinity  
Serial No. mid morning reveal 34 ships, comprising 23  
486 Merchantmen including 2 Tankers and totalling  
May 20th. 150,000 tons, 1 light Cruiser, 5 S/MS. 4 small  
S/M Chasers, 1 small Minelayer. Two Flying boats  
14 Floatplanes photographed in harbour. 4. Forenoon  
R/C Wewak Harbour sighted and 1 Destroyer  
1 medium, 2 small Merchant Vessels while poor  
photos show 1,000 ton Merchantman, 1 smaller, 80 barges.  
5. Coastal sweep night 19th by 3 B. 25s. whereof 1 strafed  
and drove ashore, 2 loaded power barges near Finschhafen and  
all 3 attacked Salamaua with unobserved results. 6. 12 Enemy  
aircraft raided Douglas Harbour mid-day 19th destroying 1 small  
supply craft slightly damaging another and causing few  
casualties.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 210916Z.)

Movements. Arrival Townsville 19th U.S. Destroyer HUMPHREYS,  
U.S. Destroyer SANDS, SYDNEY (N.S.W.) 20th  
COLAC, MILDURA Townsville BENDIGO, GLENELG  
Fremantle 20th U.S. HERON. Departures Thursday  
Island 20th SWAN for Merauke E.T.A. 21st and WARREGO for  
Townsville E.T.A. 23rd.  
(A.C.N.B. 211548Z. to Admty.)  
Cairns arrival 20th Hired Transport KATOOMBA Milne Bay  
U.S. Transport ANHUI 21st Townsville U.S. Transport VAN HEUTSZ.  
U.S. Transport BOSPHORUS departed Thursday Island 20th due  
Merauke 21st. Dutch Naval Store ship MINJAK TANAH departed  
Cairns 21st due Thursday Island 24th.  
(C.S.W. P.S.F. 211518Z. to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 211415B, 211425B.)



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22.5.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Operation  
VP-SA.

X 1. M.T.B. 626 sailed from Lerwick at 1320 for Patrol S.A. but returned at 1200/23, unable to make the coast owing to fog.

2. UGANDA sailed from Plymouth at 0839B today and was recalled at 1819.

3. An L.C.V. with ammunition on board blew up last night during an exercise. There were several casualties.

Russian  
obstruction.

X 4. Further information on the unfriendly and obstructive attitude of the Russian Foreign Office towards ourselves is given in signals yesterday and today from Admiral Fisher and S.B.N.O. North Russia. The former proposes that we should inform the Russians we can despatch no further convoys until our reasonable requirements are met.

On 24 May 30 Mission, communicating to the Chiefs of Staff on the same subject, stated that the threat to stop the convoys is the only action the U.S.S.R. will understand.

O.N.184  
U/B  
sunk.

U.569

5. Aircraft from BOGUE (escort carrier, supporting Convoy O.N.184) at 0604Z attacked and estimated damaged a U-Boat in 51.02 N. 33. 56 W. (about 72Q miles E.N.E. of Cape Race). Either this or another U-Boat (the signals do not make it clear) surrendered to BOGUE's aircraft today after being attacked and hit in approx. 50½ N. 36¼ W. The U-Boat sank and ST. LAURENT picked up survivors.

Port of  
London  
Air  
Defence.

X 6. The Admiralty today informed the Air Ministry that the amount of shipping in the Port of London will steadily increase between mid-June and September, and they asked the Air Ministry to undertake any additional air defence measures they may think necessary. On 25 May they informed the Air Ministry in the same sense as regards the Tyne, Tees, Wear and Humber.

X 7. Three enemy vessels plotted by Plymouth R.D.F. between Guernsey and Cherbourg last night were successfully attacked by 10 group aircraft.

X 8. 88 aircraft of Bomber Command laid 279 mines successfully last night, chiefly in the Frisian-Elbe area.



22.5.1945.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.- Contd.

Operation  
H.V.2.

- x 9. PLOVER reported minelaying operation H.V.2 completed at 1609B.

North Atlantic.

10. SS. ALPERA (British 1777 tons) which with RAVENSPOINT was being escorted from Lisbon by H.M.Trawler HUDDERSFIELD TOWN to join Convoy S.L.129 was badly damaged by air attack at 2045 today when about 35 miles east of Cape St. Vincent. She was taken in tow by HUDDERSFIELD TOWN and SALVONIA was sailed from Gibraltar to assist; but the ship sank later. All the crew were saved.

Mediterranean.

11. Admiralty Floating Dock No.30 has arrived at Haifa from Massawa, but is not yet in operation.

- x 12. Mines were sighted in the Lake of Bizerta today, and a clearance sweep of the Lake was undertaken.

East Indies.

- x 13. 7 U.S.A.A.F. Liberators were despatched today, to lay mines in Rangoon River, but only 2 succeeded in accomplishing their task. A further attempt tonight was abandoned on account of the weather.



22.5.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

14. There are indications of enemy minelaying from aircraft in the approaches to Russel Islands (Solomon Is.)

15. Six Liberators this morning attacked Kaimana waterfront (Moluccas) and shipping, sinking one 500 ton vessel and starting fires near the jetty. On the return journey two motor launches were set on fire between Cerani and Kei Islands.



22.5.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

- L.C.Ts. Request early reply to my 111214B May\* all L.C.Ts. now at Scapa, namely 16, are now operating close protection on capital ships. (A.C.O.S., 221056B to Admty.)\* Re propose retraining L.C.T.III after arrival of L.C.T.IV.
- MERCATOR. My 212212 and M.S. minute of 26th August 1942 in M 09218/42 request F.O.C. W.A. may be informed that in the event of British submarines returning to Freetown for A/S training MERCATOR will again be required as accommodation ship for submarine crews. She might also be required for this purpose by French Submarines employed on similar training. (F.O.S. 221107B to Admty.)
- Base Personnel in North Russia. ~~At~~ Archangel. I fully concur with Adml. Fisher's 211716. The visa question is the bane of our existence. 2. While under present circumstances a small proportion of those now overdue could be spared without relief for a substantial period, relief would be essential before resumption of convoys etc. 3. Request at early notice as possible of personnel taking passage by opportunity referred to in C. in C. H.F.'s 142259 in order that personnel to return may assemble in Kola Inlet and exit visas be obtained. The latter formality is becoming akin to a major operation. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 221907B to Admty.)
- BARSPEAR. Boom Vessel BARSPEAR is allocated to Eastern Fleet but will be retained temporarily for boom work in Mediterranean. 2. Further orders will be issued regarding her passage abroad. (D.B.D., 222119B.)
- Support Groups and Escort Groups. Personal for V.C.N.S. Your 211157.\* The present system of identifying escort groups and support groups was put into practice to avoid alterations to Naval Cyphers and also to allow existing groups to retain identity for purposes of morale. I do not feel strongly on this latter point and if cyphers are to be amended I am in agreement with differentiating between support groups and escort groups. Proposals will be submitted under separate cover in case it is decided to alter the Naval Codes and Cyphers. (C. in C.W.A., 221325B to Admty.)\* Repetition of B.A.D. 190511 sent by War Registry to C. in C.W.A.



War Diary.22.5.1943.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of U.K.Plymouth,  
No.1 Loop.

Concur in your 190936\* if you consider it should take precedence over repair No. 4 Loop Falmouth referred to in my 111747B.  
(D.A/S W. 221514B to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
\*Re Repairs to No. 1 Loop.

Air  
Defence  
of Port  
of  
London.

Amount of shipping in the Port of London will steadily increase between mid June and September.  
2. Request any additional Air Defence measures you may think necessary.  
(D. of L.D. 221714B to Air Ministry.)

Movements.

HERRING.

Your 211426 (A) 055° 49' N. 043° 24' W. 150°  
Speed 10? daily advance 118.  
(B) Unreadable submerged satisfactory surfaced.  
(C) None.  
(HERRING 220315B to F.O.S. (R) C. in C. W.A.  
Admiralty, Comsubron 50.)

Landing  
Craft.

My 210950B, (Re intend sailing Flight G.)  
postponed.  
(N.O.I.C. Appledore, 220810B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar)

LONDON

My 211800B CONIA 13th Group Guard.  
(N.O.I.C. Newcastle-on-Tyne, 221009B.)

PRINS  
ALBERT.

A.M. 212020 and your 201340. 1. PRINS ALBERT should be ready to leave Portsmouth command 28th May at present no date can be obtained for delivery of L.C.A. fitted with HEDGEROW.  
2. As far as can be foreseen remaining L.S.I.(S) will be ready to leave Portsmouth Command by 10th June.  
(S.O. Force J. 221041B to C.C.O.)

COLOMBO.

A.M. 181725B. Intend to sail COLOMBO at 1200B/27 for Plymouth. Arrangements.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 221056B.)

S/M  
movements.

Intend to sail P.239 and D.S.O.10 escorted by F.S. LA CAPRICIEUSE at 1130B 23rd for Holy Loch by usual route. E.T.A. 1930B/26th.  
(2) A.C.O.S. is requested to arrange fighter protection. Help message on 385 Kcs. S. of A. 6 knots. (3) Communications.  
(S.O.S/Ms. Lerwick, 221105.)

Intend to sail THRASHER and S.54 (Russian S/M) escorted by COLUMBINE at 1300/23 to Holy Loch. 2. Codeword Bailey.



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22.5.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M 3. Communications. 4. Routed standard convoy  
Movements. route to Smalls, thence as in F.N.M. 385 (T) of  
1943 and Q.Z.S. 398-53 to destination.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 221213B.)

You will sail GRAPH for Chatham on completion  
of W/T trials with SALTBURN about 3rd June.

Escort should be capable of towing GRAPH if required.

Admiralty 211333 refers.

(F.O.(S) 221451B to Capt. (S) 3.)

R/V Intend sailing Chaser 13 at 0930/23rd to TRIBUNE in  
180 The Lizard 12 miles at 1500/23rd and escort to Portsmouth.  
(2) S/M and escort enter Plymouth for night 23/24 leaving  
Plymouth for onward passage at 0730/24th E.T.A. Needles 1800/24th  
(3) Codeword throughout Stencil. (4) Routed standard  
convoy route. (5) Communications.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 221515B.)

Positions at 0800B/23 and movements for following 24 hours,  
(F.O.S. 221711B, 221919B, 221926B) See Operations.

L.15 (Russian S/M) left Lerwick 2020B May 22nd escorted  
by F.S. LA CAPRICIEUSE to 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles thence  
unescorted by route Black to 070° 50' N. 015° 00' E. thence to  
North Russia, proceeding on the surface at C.O.'s discretion.  
Only recognition signals carried by L.15 are Verey Lights and  
flashing from A.S.R.S.6 as given in A.M. 340A March 1st 1943.

(S.O. S/Ms. Lerwick, 222024B, 222025B.)

SCOTT. On completion of S.N.111 B. SCOTT will visit  
Stornoway sailing thence A.M./31st to continue  
survey of Loch Na Lathaich and returning to  
Port Z.A., P.M./5th June.  
(R.A.(M) 221216B.)

SCIMITAR. SCIMITAR is required to escort TEMPLAR from  
Clyde to Scilly Isles on May 25th. She should  
remain at Clyde after completion of duty with  
P.58 (UNTAMED) and disembarking bags of silver.  
Your 211647B and 211653B refers. SCIMITAR to Londonderry on  
completion.  
(C. in C.W.A., 221228B.)

MALAYA. On completion exercises 24th May, MALAYA will be  
detached to Clyde arriving p.m./25. 2. While  
at Clyde home leave may be granted at C.O.'s  
discretion. 3. Ship is to be ready for service  
at fleet notice a.m.16th June.  
(C. in C. H.F. 221237B.)

HOWE. Expect air escort Sunday 23rd as follows. 2  
successive Sunderland from 0640B till 1130B.  
4 successive Halifax from 1130B to 2325B.  
(C. in C.W.A., 222058B to HOWE.)

/Special...



22.5.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

Special  
Exercise  
area.

All ships are to be warned to keep clear of area within 8 miles of position 055° 57' N. 007° 25' W. account of special exercise taking place therein. Warning in force until further notice. Warning is not to be issued by W/T to ships at sea. (C. in C.W.A. 222253B to F.O.I.C.'s, N.O.I.C.'s and N.C.S.O.'s in W.A.(R) C. in C. Plymouth. A.C.O.S., C. in C. Rosyth, Admty.)

Operations.

Coastal  
force  
patrols.

My 211017B.\* "Spaniel" returned. (F.O.I.C. Portland 220703B)\* Re M.Ls. 208 and 233 to patrol.

Intend M.Ls. 208 (S.O.) and 233 to patrol tonight Saturday 22nd May on latitude 50° 20' N. between longitudes 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W.

2. Leave Portland at 2200 via Q.Z.S. 382 and leave patrol line at dawn/23rd. 3. Object anti-E.Boat patrol Codeword "Artful". (F.O.I.C. Portland 221040B to C. in C. Portsmouth, (R) Admty., C. in C. Plymouth, N.O.I.C. Dartmouth.)

My 221040B.\* "Artful" sailed. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 222209B.)\* Patrol of M.Ls. 208 and 233.

UGANDA.

My 211344B. UGANDA sailed. (C. in C. Plymouth 220839B.) Return Plymouth forthwith. Do not pass Lizard Head before 0400/23rd. (C. in C. Plymouth, 221819 to H.M.S. UGANDA (R) Admty., N.O.I.C. Falmouth, C. in C.W.A., F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

Arriving 0615/23rd. (UGANDA, 222347B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Operation  
F.H.

Following movements and fuel requirements are in connection with operation F.H. 2. Intend to sail 1 RANGER class oiler escorted by MATCHLESS and GLEANER to arrive Hvalfjord 31st May then to load ready to assist fuelling fleet on arrival.

3. Request you sail RAPIDOL and 1 barge oiler escorted by 4 of M.S.F. 15 to arrive Akureyri a.m. 1st June.

4. Fuel required. Akureyri 2nd to 11th June 8,000 tons plus operational margin 2,000 tons. Seidisfjord 2nd to 12th June 5,200 tons plus operational margin 2,000 tons. Hvalfjord 2nd June 4,500 tons.

(C. in C.H.F., 221133B to N.O.I.C. Iceland, (R) Admty., A.C.O.S., F.O.(I) C.S., F.O.C.H.F.)

1st D.F.  
Operation.

1. GLAISDALE, STEVENSTONE, LA COMBATTANTE are to anchor at St. Helens by 2230 tonight 22/23 May. 2. If ordered to intercept enemy shipping they are to proceed through passage 4. Passage 4 or Passage 2 may be used for return but should there be any

/uncertainty...



22.5.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

1st D.F. Operation. (Contd.) uncertainty in position Passage 4 should be used in preference to Passage 2 if time permits.  
 3. Communications. (B) Fighter protection codeword Kettle. Re keeping guard. (C) Books to be landed in accordance with S 66/43 Section 13. 4. GLAISDALE, STEVENSTONE, LA COMBATTANTE acknowledge.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 221312B/May to D.I. (R) GLAISDALE, STEVENSTONE, LA COMBATTANTE, X.D.O.(E) Admty., C. in C. Plymouth, V.A. Dover, N.O.I.C. Newhaven, R.A.F. Tangmere and for 823 Squadron, 11 Group.)

Operation V.P. - S.A. X My 212025B M.T.B. 626 sailed at 1320. (A.C.O.S. 22132B.)

Operation Gearbox. X Please repeat C. in C. H.F.\* 1. Enemy air R/C 16th May to 22nd May. 18th May at 0700 to 0715Z. One airplane heard on (?course) westward in Sassenfjord and inner part of ice fjord to Coles Bay and thence southward.  
 2. Ice conditions. Bay ice slowly (?breaking). Drifting ice in mouth of Green harbour. (Gearbox, 221615Z)\* Passing action being taken by War Reg.)

S/M patrols. Positions of S/Ms. at 0800B/23rd and movements for the following 24 hours.  
 (a) U.S.S. HERRING proceeding dived by day to patrol in vicinity of 54.10 N. 39.30 W.  
 (b) U.S.S. HADDO very approx. position 56° 35' N. 31° 32' W. dived by day to 55° N. 37° W.  
 (c) ULTIMATUM (P.34) vicinity 64° 44' N. 05° 20' W.  
 (d) U.S.S. SHAD, TUNA and STUBBORN (P.238) as in my 191652.  
 (1) THRASHER and Russian Submarine S.54 escorted by COLUMBINE leave Plymouth 1300/23rd for Holy Loch. (F.O.S. 221711B, 221926/B.)  
 Proceed forthwith to patrol within 20 miles of centre area A.2 bombing restrictions arranged. (F.O.S. 221919B to HERRING)

Allied Air Activity.

Raid on Bordeaux. X The success of the raid by U.S. Liberators on Bordeaux has now, from photographic R/C been fully realised.  
 2. We send our hearty congratulations and are happy to know that casualties were light. (V.C.N.S. 220152B to Cmdg. General 8th U.S. A.A.F.)

3 vessels attacked off Cherburg. X Enemy shipping plotted by Plymouth R.D.F. 21/22 May, E.54 P.2220 - 0019 5 vessels Guernsey to Cherbourg speed 10 knots. 3 vessels successfully attacked by 10 group aircraft. (C. in C. Plymouth, 221003B, 221217B.)

/Stipple...



War Diary.

22.5.1943.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity. - Contd.

Stipple. Stipple for 23rd. A. O.N. 184. H.X.239. Fleet unit O.N.S.8. B. O.S. 48. K.X.10. C. W.S.30. May 23rd. S.C. 131 May 24th. (H.Q.C.C. 221006B/5 to 15, 19 Groups, Iceland.)

Bomber Command report. No.615. Covering period 1200/20 to 1200/22. Minelaying. Night 20/21 May, 14 Lancasters of 1 Group, 9 Stirlings of 3 Group were detailed. 16 were successful. All above aircraft returned. Day 21st May. A/S. Patrols. 5 Whitleys were despatched and three U-Boats were sighted and two attacks made. (A) Whitley "H" sighted a fully surfaced U-Boat about 4 or 5 miles to starboard. An attack was made on the down track of the U-Boat which had submerged 30 seconds previously. The depth charges were observed to explode. But nothing further was seen. (B) Whitley "Q" sighted a fully surfaced U-Boat 8 miles away and dived to attack as the U-Boat submerged. Photographs show the depth charges straddled the track of the U-Boat. Nothing further was observed. Minelaying. Night 21/22 May. 36 Wellingtons of 1 Group, Stirlings and 4 Lancasters of 3 Group, 14 Wellingtons of 4 Group and 34 Wellingtons of 6 Group, were detailed 88 A/C successfully laid their mines. 4 A/C are missing. (H.Q.B.C. 221315B.)

Mining.

Newhaven. x C.O. M.M.S.57 reports:- Have detonated Red Magnetic mine in 190 Newhaven West Pier 2.2 miles. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 220923.) Lt. Cdr. M/S Newhaven reports:- Ref. A.M. 1829A/13 January 1942 and further to M.M.S. 57s. 220910B/May and 221151B/May (N.T. in W.D.) (A) 0923/22nd May 1943. (D) M.M.S.67 lat. 50° 44' 27" North long. 00° 03' 09" E. course 005° (H) Not known. (I) None. (K) None. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 221927B.)

Mouth of Thames. x Following mines detonated out of swept channels. Accurate report of positions to follow. At 1233B/21st May one ground mine, 222° Gunfleet Light 2.05 miles, and at 1416B/22nd May. One ground mine 235° 8 cables West Sunk Buoy. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 221505B.)

Operation H.V.2. x Completed. (PLOVER 221609B.)

Sweep by M/S.4. 1. My 121502. Intend that boiler-cleaning of KELLET should be carried out at Milford Haven between a.m. 27th May and 0800 2nd June if F.O.I.C. Milford Haven concurs. 2. During absence of KELLETT, operation referred to C. in C. Plymouth's 211841 will be continued by PANGBOURNE. (M/S. 4.222147B. to C. in C. Plymouth.)



837

War Diary.22.5.1943.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. - Contd.

Larne exercise area. Sail all available minesweeper trawlers to carry out search for enemy mines in area enclosed by circle of 8 miles radius round position  $055^{\circ} 57' N. 007^{\circ} 25' W.$  search to be as deep as possible either Oropesa 50% or alternatively A. sweep in J. formation. Own mines may be encountered care should be taken to distinguish between them and any other mines swept.  
(C. in C. W.A. 222229B. to N.O.I.C. Stornoway.)

Sail all available M/S trawlers to carry out search for enemy mines possible laid in Larne exercise area. Search should be as deep as possible either Oropesa 50% or alternatively A. sweep in J. formation. A.Z.392 gives limit in area.  
(C. in C. W.A. 222234B. to N.O.I.C. Ardrossan.)

U/B. attacked. Risor reported dropping 3 pattern on confirmed contact in  $061^{\circ} 05' N. 004^{\circ} 29' W.$  at 1900/21.  
(N.O.I.C. Faeroes 221225B. to A.C.O.S.)

D/F reports. D/F bearings on 9420 kc/s at 1047Z indicate U-Boat in general vicinity of 80th convoys which may have reported either.  
(D.D.I.C. 221327B. to escorts O.N. 1841, H.X.239.)

Casualties & Defects.

KOOTENAY. Search for lifeboat. Your 212151Z. 2 Sunderlands Call Signs Figure one QUEEN SUGAR MIKE and OBOE DOG Figure 7 ZEBRA will continue search 0700B until 1800B/22nd. Same procedure for D/F watch as for yesterday. My 210243B refers.  
(C. in C. W.A. 220211B to KOOTENAY.)  
Keep South of  $055^{\circ} 40' N.$  between  $009^{\circ} W.$  and

Londonderry.  
(C. in C. W.A. 221953B. to KOOTENAY.)

S.O.S. S.O.S. 097°. Class 3.  
(Port Rush 220617Z.)  
068° 2nd Class S.O.S. (RULS.)  
(Tiree Radio 220711Z.)  
D/F bearing from the S.O.S.  $134^{\circ}$  3rd Class.  
(Wick 220930Z.)

Intercept 1030Z 500 kc/s  $111^{\circ}$ . An (?Un) calibrated sector. The unknown station Distress signal heard strength 2 type A.1. presumed enemy aircraft.

(Port Patrick Radio 221230B.)

Intercept at 1031/37 G.M.T. on 500 kc/s bearing  $143^{\circ}$  from unknown station begins:- S.O.S. Dinghy (very poor hand manipulation Q.S.A. 2/3) Ends.

(Wick Radio 221240.)

/L.C.V...



War Diary.22.5.1943.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - Contd.L.C.V.  
blown up.

L.C.V. 825

ARMADILLO reports:- During a.m. opposed night exercise 21st - 22nd May L.C.V. with ammunition on board blew up. List of missing believed killed, and wounded. A report in writing will be sent out as soon as possible. 220650. Ends.  
(R.A.C.O.B. (N) 220947B.) Landing craft, Vehicle.

GARDAR  
Sinking  
M. DE  
LARRINAGA.

A.C.O.S. 212215\*para. 2.10 Survivors out of crew of 13 landed at Aberdeen by trawler BELL DOCK who is now proceeding to Grimsby.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 221005B.)\*Icelandic Trawler GARDAR, in collision with SS. MIGUEL DE LARRANA.

MONSOON,  
WHIPPINGHAM.

H.M.D. MONSOON in collision with H.M.S. WHIPPINGHAM in Methil Roads 18/5/43. A.S. Rosyth is requested to arrange survey of damage to both vessels.  
(N.O.I.C. Methil 221654.)

GLENUSK.

H.M.S. GLENUSK in collision with Dock Wall Methil 19th May, 1943. A.S. Rosyth is requested to arrange the necessary survey, of damage to ship.  
(N.O.I.C. Methil 221655.)

SOUTHERN  
GEM.

Your 211817 last para. E.O. of Ship denies he said he was satisfied and C.O. confirms this E.O. said he was dissatisfied but as far as main engines were concerned he was not frightened to go to sea. E.O. who had only just joined protested against low power of dynamo and that conditions of some of auxiliary machines indicated that they had not been opened out during refit.  
(WESTERN ISLES 221815B. to C. in C. Rosyth.)

CAMPBELL.

CAMPBELL reports that Port L.P. forward main bearing is wiped and that it is considered inadvisable to run port main engines before a thorough examination of all bearings. Request dockyard may assist in examination on arrival of ship at Short Reach p.m. tomorrow Sunday.  
(C. in C. Nore. 221855.)



War Diary.22.5.1943.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- F.S/F.N. Southbound convoy anchored 20 F. Buoy and  
Convoys. Northbound convoy anchored 20 E. Buoy. Fog.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 220035B. to BRECON, BRISSENDEN.)  
My 212130 PROTEM underway, visibility 6 miles.  
(WESTMINSTER 220438B.)
- ANDES. Arrival 0551.  
(P.S.T.O.N.W. Ports 220625B.)
- O.N.184. BOGUE aircraft have attacked one U-Boat 51.02 N.  
U/B sunk. 33.56 W. 0604Z estimated damage ST. CROIX,  
WOODSTOCK hunting, sighted 2nd U-Boat 51.28 N.  
35.06 W. 0810Z ST. LAURENT, U.S. Dest. OSMOND  
INGRAM hunting. My 212215Z search negative.  
P.C. and S. 1000Z 51.29 N. 34.28 W. 215° 9 Weather report 8490  
8454.  
(C.1. 221005Z.)  
Admiralty 221327B (see U-Boats) consider signal was made by  
U-Boat attacked and possibly damaged by BOGUES aircraft at  
221050Z in 270 Z.Z.22 first class bearing obtained this  
position in (corrupt group) 8 at 221044Z. U.S. Destroyer  
OSMOND INGRAM and BURWELL hunting P.C. and S. 1300Z 51.07 N.  
34.53 W. 215° 9 weahter report 6580, 8554.  
(C.1. 221331Z. to C. in C. W.A.)  
U-Boat surrendered to BOGUES. aircraft after being  
attacked and hit position 07.6 Z.Z.38. ST. LAURENT now picking  
up survivors U-Boat sunk. OSMOND INGRAM and BURWELL hunting  
2nd U-Boat 05.3 Z.Z.39. P.C. and S. 50.26 N. 36.05 W. 240° 9.  
Weather report 66808454.  
(C.1. 222001Z.)
- P.W./W.P. My 211545B. and C. in C. Plymouth's 211711B  
Convoys. intend to sail W.P.B.343 from Barry Roads at  
2100/22 Scarweather R/V 0015/23 W.P.M. joins at  
R/V position B. at 0315/23.  
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 220945B.)  
Pass to N.C.S.Os. concerned. My 211711B May  
disregard sailing times mentioned in D.C.I. 11 paras. 4 and 5.  
C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail P.W. convoys at first  
light on odd dates this month. 2. F.Os.i/c Cardiff and Milford  
Haven are requested to sail W.P. convoys at 0900 on even dates  
this month.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 221007B.)  
Cancel my 220945B W.P.B. 343 will sail as in my 211545B.  
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 221030B.)
- S.C.130. If Convoy not threatened, detach First Escort  
Group to Londonderry now.  
(C. in C. W.A. 221128B. to S.O.B.7.)
- Safe Following were positions at 2200 May 21st.  
Conduct (N.A. Stockholm 221211.)  
Vessels.

/Swedish...



War Diary.

22.5.1943.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

Swedish Gothenburg Traffic. ? Request you will include N.S.H.Q. Ottawa in the address of departure signals of all Westbound Swedish Gothenburg traffic vessels. (D.O.D. (H) 221235B and 241408B. to N.O.I.C. Faeroes.)

H.X.239. One U-Boat attacked by aircraft 020° ZZ.28. ONSLAUGHT, FAULKNER proceed to hunt. Q.D.G.X.3015. (S.O. E.G.B.3. 221405Z.) My 221405Z. Consider improbable HX.239 yet sighted. (S.O.E.G.B.3. 221517Z.)

Consider H.X.239 or our aircraft first reported at 2045Z 22nd. KEPPEL, GARLAND and aircraft searched area 230 ZZ.15. My 221405Z FAULKNER, ONSLAUGHT rejoined convoy after unsuccessful search. P.C. and S. of convoy 051° 00' N. 032° 10' W. 065° 10 knots. Weather report 4481 9463. (S.O.E.G.B.3. 222045Z. to C. in C. W.A.)

SS. EMPIRE FAY. SS. EMPIRE FAY should be sailed for the Med. in the first available Coastal Craft Convoy. (D.O.D. (H) 222210B. to C. in C. Plymouth.)



22.5.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Convoy M.K.S.13. Sailing telegram. (2) 0600B/22. (4) 7½ knots (6) ATHERSTONE, LAUDERDALE, WILTON, QUALICUM, FORT YORK, PARRASBORO, SEDGEPORT. (F.O.Gibraltar, 220602B, 220606 to Admty) M.K.S.13 ships sailed in accordance with my 201835. (F.O.Gibraltar, 220510B to Admty etc.) M.K.S.13 embarked (numbers) (S.T.O.I.C.Gib. 220923 to D.S.T.)

ADVENTURE. Arrived. (F.O.Gibraltar, 220810B to Admty)

Dispositions. Situation 2002B/22nd. UNSPARING 38.24 09.50 162° diving by day 7/2. (2) S.R.4 F, FOXHOUND (A) 33.59 08.32 through 35.42 07.04 to Gibraltar 12½. (3) HUDDERSFIELD TOWN 2 Merchant Ships 37.14 09.08 through 36.59 09.05 thence to R/V. S.L.129 in 35.32 09.24 at 1300B/23rd 7. (4) M.K.S.13 FORT YORK 35.32 07.23 to R/V S.L.129 in 35.08 09.05 at 230900B. (5) S.L.129 LEITH (E) 33.22 10.07 through 35.08 09.05 thence 326° 6½. 2 Corvettes escorting 3 Merchant ships part company to arrive Casablanca p.m. 23rd. One Corvette part company to arrive a.m. 23rd. After fuelling corvettes rejoin convoy. (6) 4 Motor M/S 32.13 10.50 through 35.08 09.05 thence Gibraltar 8½. (7) COVERLEY F.S/M. LA GRACIEUSE one Merchant Ship sailing 231200 from Gibraltar through Q.K.A. 87 thence 307° 10. (8) G.U.S.7A. BROCKLESBURY passing Europa Point 231100B through 35.49 06.31 thence R/V Casablanca section in 34.09 07.56 8. (9) 3 Portuguese S/M, 1 Gunboat, exercising off Cezimbra. 10. C.G.33, P.C.482, 34.43 07.30 through 35.45 06.30 to Gibraltar 8.5. Escorts return Casablanca. (11) U.S.S. WEST POINT 1 U.S. Destroyer 34.10 09.1 through 35.01 17.01 thence to 270° 20. (12) ESKIMO sailed p.m. 22nd Westbound through 36.20 12.01 thence to 276° 16. (F.O.Gibraltar, 221037B)

Convoy G.T.X.1. Intend sailing: For Oran TINTERN ABBEY, GAID. For Algiers KINGSLAND, BRITTANY COAST, SAN AMADO, (corrupt group). For Bougie, H.M.Tug HENGIST. For Alexandria, CITY OF AGRA, TACTICIAN. For Ceylon, HAVILDAR. For Abadan, SALAWATI, KARACHI, MYRTLEBANK. For Malta, Tug, EMPIRE ANN. (F.O.Gibraltar, 221108 to F.O.'s I.C. and N.O.I.C. French North Africa (except N.O.I.C.Casablanca) Admty. Connav, S.O. Force 'H' etc.)

G.T.X. 1. Gibraltar A.1 formed as follows, 5 columns, 2 2 3 2 2. HAVILDAR Alexandria, TINTERN ABBEY, CAID, Oran. H.M.Tug RETRIEVER Oran. TACTICIAN Alexandria (Vice Cdre. of Convoy). SALAWATI Alexandria. CITY OF AGRA Alexandria (Cdre. (?Cdr) MacLellan R.N.R.) MYRTLEBANK, Alexandria. Tug EMPIRE ANN Malta. SAN AMADO, Algiers. BRITTANY COAST, Algiers. KINGSLAND, Algiers, H.M.Tug HENGIST, Bougie. Request North African ports may be instructed to signal to S.O. of Escort for Commodore names and destinations so that he can allocate them their correct position in convoy. (F.O.Gibraltar 221222B to c. in C. Med.)



War Diary.22.5.1945.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

HOWE, Admiralty is requested to pass following signal  
 INGLEFIELD, to HOWE, INGLEFIELD, ORWELL, ONSLOW, C. in C.  
 ORWELL, H.F., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth and  
 ONSLOW. H.Q.C.C. (begins):  
 Addressed HOWE (R) INGLEFIELD, ORWELL, ONSLOW.  
 C. in C. H.F., H.Q.C.C., Admty. C. in C. Med.  
 C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, from F.O.C.

Gibraltar. Onward route from position(D) through  
 (E) 38.59 N. 14.01 W. (F) 36.01 N. 11.59 W. (G) 35.47 N.  
 06.17 W. and Q.K.A. 87.10 Gibraltar. (2) Paravanes are to be  
 streamed as convenient before crossing 007° W.  
 (F.O.Gibraltar, 22141B to Admty (R) C. in C. Med.) Passing  
 action being taken by W.R.

Convoy Following Casablanca ships take new pendant  
 G.U.S.7A. numbers (list)  
 (Commorseafon, 22145Z to F.O.I.C.Gibraltar (R)  
 C. in C. Med. etc.)  
 G.U.S.7A. 1200A May 22nd. 36.16 N. 01.14 W.  
 9 knots. 272° E.T.A. Gibraltar 1000A May 23rd. Action  
 addressee pass to C. in C. Med. Comnavnaw, Com.N.O.B. Mor.Sea  
 Fron. Force.  
 (T.F.68, 221410Z to F.O.I.C.Gibraltar)

LUGANO. Swiss steamship LUGANO leaves Genoa about 27th  
 for Gibraltar.  
 (D.E.W.D. 221201B to F.O.I.C.Gibraltar. (R)  
 C. in C. Med.)

ALYNBANK. A.M.071630. ALYNBANK is to proceed to  
 Gibraltar escorting K.M.S.15 and is to come  
 under orders of C. in C. Med. on arrival.  
 (2) Orders to transfer to S.L.130 are cancelled.  
 (D.O.D.(H), 221232B to S.O. Escorts O.S.48,  
 (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Med., F.O.i/c N.I.  
 F.O.I.C.Gibraltar)

Axis Telegram 92 repeated to Admty. for D.N.I.  
 Shipping, B.N.A. Madrid. S.O.(I)Gibraltar.  
 Bilbao. (NORDFELS and SPERBER arrived 0225/22nd,  
 (Consul, Bilbao, 221315C to Admty. M.E.W.)

WEST POINT. My 211214, (?Sailed) 221745A.  
 (C.M.S.F.F. 221758Z to P.D.New York)

U/B Sound contact attacked 33.58 N. 16.05 W. at  
 0200Z/22 by P.C. escort U.G.L.4.  
 (Commorseafon, 221931Z to Cominch (R) Admty.  
 C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Comnavnaw.)

O.S.48. Propose include in O.S. 48 EMPIRE BARRIE, FORT  
 THOMPSON, FORT DREW, FORT DOUGLAS from Casablanca  
 CHARLES SHIAFFINO from Safi. Request R/V for  
 each. Advise.  
 (C.M.S.F.F. 221947Z to Admty)

Movements /...



22. 5. 1945.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Movements  
Casablanca.

Warships departed Casa May 22 U.S.S. HERBERT,  
OPAL, escort with U.S.S. WEST POINT. U.S.S.  
P.C. 482 P.C.472 P.C.480 for Gibraltar. French  
FRUCTIDOR for Safi. French CHASSEUR 11 for  
Mazagan.  
(Commorseafron, 221948Z to C. in C. Med.)

TARRAGONA.

Steamer TARRAGONA left Harbour 1900 G.M.T. direct  
to Port Vendres, fruit for Germany.  
(Alicante, 222100B to S.O.(I) Gibraltar, B.N.A.  
Madrid (R) Admty.)

Movements,  
Gibraltar.

Arrivals HAARLEM, ESKIMO, departures ST. NECTAN  
LORD NUFFIELD escorting cable ship MARIE LOUISE  
MACKAY.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 222330 to Admty (R) C. in C .  
Med. )



22.5.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Martlet Spares. My 192129B May. Shipment should be made at earliest possible date and date of shipment reported. Any further receipt of Martlet IV spares should also be sent to S.N.S.O. Levant. (Director of Stores, 220038B to S.N.S.O. Durban (R) R.A.N.A.S. I.O., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Levant.)

Convoy D.N. 41. (2) 0600Z/22nd May. (4) 8 knots. (5) (Z) 028° 32' S. 032° 30' E., (A) 031°, 038° thence as in my serial Nos. 839 to 845. (6) ASTER, SONDRÁ, COVENTRY CITY. (15) K.W.D. 1 to 9. (N.C.S.O. Durban, 220658Z to Admty., etc.)

CAPETOWN CASTLE. Sailed 21st May, E.T.A. Punta Arenas 30th May. Requirements. Passengers on board. (S.T.O. Capetown, 220815Z to Admty., B.A.D.)

Movements. Sailed 2230/21 OUED FEZ and PALACIO escorted by VICTORIA (S.O.), M.L.1072, M.L.1231. Sailed 0800Z/22 ?GAMBIAN. Arrived at Port Etienne 1800Z/21 LA GRANDIERE. (Comar Dakar, 220851Z to F.O.C.W.Af., Admty.)

TINHOW (sunk 11th May). Further particulars, C.S.A. Lourenco Marques 131005 refers. (1) Ship did not open fire. (2) C.Bs considered to have sunk with ship. (Com. i/c Durban, 220950Z to Admty., etc.)

Group Sailing. Group sailing telegram number 18, my 191131 (re 6 ships expected sailing Inhaka 21st May - N.T. in W.D.) Escorts were JASMINE and ST. LOMAN. Your 191736 refers (requesting sailing telegrams including composition and escort of Groups between Lourenco Marques and Durban be passed to Admty. and details of SS. NORTHMOOR group). (C.S.A. Lourenco Marques, 220955B to Admty.)

Convoy C.D. 19. Sailing telegram. 2. 1000Z/22nd. 3. 7½. 5. Coastal. Ref. position Saldanha Bay O.X.1 - 8. 6. NORTHERN DUKE, CAPE WARWICK, ROCKROSE, FRITILLARY, BLAAUWBERG. Codeword "Pasture" BAB. (N.C.S.O. Capetown, 221040Z to Admty., etc.)

Dakar dispositions. Weekly state 22nd May. Cruisers - GEORGES LEYGUES and GLOIRE, Dakar. A.M.C. QUERCY, Cayenne. Escort ships LA GRANDIERE, Port Victoria, on passage to Port Etienne, CALAIS Dakar area, DUMONT DURVILLE



845

War Diary.22.5.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dakar Dispositions. (Contd.) Conakry, ASPIRANT BRUN Freetown, AMIRAL MOUCHEZ, GAZELLE, COMMANDANT BORY Casablanca area. Submarines CENFAURE Conakry, ARGO Dakar. (Comar Dakar, 221047Z to F.O.C.W.A., Admty., C. in C. Med.)

Convoy W.S. 29, Capetown section. Sailing telegram.  
2. 1045Z/22nd.  
3. R/V 029° 57' S. 031° 12' E. E.T.A. 1200Z/25.  
4. 12 knots. 5. R.8 to R/V.  
6. Capetown section, RELENTLESS, RACEHORSE, ROTHERHAM. 15. Call sign XUD 1 to 9, codeword "Dancer", BHY.  
(N.C.S.O. Capetown, 221055Z to Admty., etc.)

Movements, Pointe Noire. Arrivals Pointe Noire 1000Z/22, THYME, VIRGINIA. (B.N.L.O. West Africa, 221105A to F.O.C.W.A.)

TRUSTY. Request port of arrival in U.K. for TRUSTY. (F.O.C.W.A., 221113Z to Admty., (R) F.O.S.) Reply: 231802B.

O.S. 47. Departure 0759/22 May ARMERIA, BUTTERMERE to join escorts O.S.47 to Freetown. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 221114Z to Admty.)

BRIDGEWATER. Departure 0833Z/22nd May BRIDGEWATER escorting. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 221118Z to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, (R) Admty.)

Dispositions. 1. Situation at 2000Z/22. 022. KUMAON, KATHIAWAR, ALLIGATOR with KELT in tow 025° 10' 014° 35' coastal to Capetown 5.  
HERTFORDSHIRE, SPHENE, NORTHERN DAWN with N.C.13, 030° 15', 017° coastal to Saldanha Bay.  
GENISTA, ARCTIC EXPLORER, NORWICH CITY, WELLARD with C.N.21, 032° 15' 017° 30' coastal to Walvis Bay, 9.  
FRITILLARY, ROCKROSE, CAPE WARWICK, NORTHERN DUKE with C.D.19, off Danger Point, coastal to Durban, 8.  
RELENTLESS, ROTHERHAM, RACEHORSE with W.S.29, 034° 55' 020° 10' by R.8 to Durban 11.  
ST. ZENO, LADY ELSA, TURFFONTEIN with D.C.27, 033° 30' 027° 30' coastal to Capetown 8.  
QUICKMATCH escorting ILE DE FRANCE 030° 10' 032° 35' to 031°, 036°, 18.

/FREESIA ...



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22.5.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dispositions. FREESIA 029° 03' 40' to St. Lucia, 12.  
(Contd.) NEWCASTLE 029° 05' 032° 30' to 025° 20' 040°  
45', 20.  
NORTHERN CHIEF, LE TIGER, 029° 20' 034° 25'  
to Moreton Bay, 10.  
ASTER, COVENTRY CITY, SONDRRA with D.N.41 028° 40' 032° 25'  
to St. Lucia thence 031°, 038°.  
(C. in C. S.A., 221126B.)  
Situation at 2004Z/22nd.  
SCARBOROUGH, FLEETWOOD, AZALEA, SPIREA, COLTSFOOT, BALSAM,  
BELLWORT, WASTWATER with O.S.47 14.20 18.05 to 13.57 18.05  
thence 199, 8.5.  
VICTORIA, M.L.1072, M.L.1231 escorting 16.43 16.43 coastal to  
north 6.5.  
CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 08.30 27.30, 14.  
PORTSDOWN, BUTSER escorting 10.15 16.10 to Freetown, 10.  
ARMERIA, BUTTERMERE 09.27 10.24, 298, 11.5.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 221155Z.)  
Situation at 2000Z/22nd.  
M.Ls 285, 256, 296, 574, 08.30 13.30 to Freetown, 11.  
BRIDGEWATER escorting 07.12 13.22 east 11.5.  
PICT off St. Annia (? Shoals) to Freetown, 8.  
M.Ls 261, 278 escorting about 06.58 12.42 to Freetown, 6.  
MORRIS DANCE, H.M.R.T. ORIANA off Marshall.  
WOODRUFF, MILFORD, PETUNIA, TAMARISK, TURCOMAN, YESTOR, DUNKERY  
with T.S.41, 03.56 04.37, 262, 6½.  
SARABANDE escorting 05.11 00.01 east to Takoradi, 8.  
ARRAN, M.Ls 244, 263 escorting 05.18 01.50 east to Lagos, 8.  
ROHILKHAND, M.M.S.107 escorting 01.08 S. 06.22 E., 128, 8.  
M.Ls 1019, 1052, 1018 off Cotonou. M.L.277, 1042 off Accra.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 221231Z.)

CROCODILE. Your 142323, not to Kilindini, Tug CROCODILE now  
at Lagos completes repairs and ready for sea  
15th. Is she to proceed Kilindini or return to  
North Africa?  
(N.O.I.C. Lagos, 221125Z to Admty., (R) F.O.C.W.A.  
N.O.I.C. Takoradi, N.O.I.C. East Africa.)

S.A. Weekly Number 004, Weekly Statement, S.A. Station 22 May.  
State. Walvis Bay to Capetown - KUMAON, KATHIAWAR, KELT,  
HERTFORDSHIRE, NORTHERN DAWN, SPHENE.  
Capetown to Walvis Bay - BURAK REIS, ARCTIC  
EXPLORER, NORWICH CITY, WELLARD.

Cape area - BLACKMOOR.  
Capetown to Durban - RELENTLESS, ROTHERHAM, RACEHORSE, ROCKROSE,  
FRITILLARY, CAPE WARWICK, NORTHERN DUKE.  
Durban to Capetown - DAUNTLESS, LADY ELSA, ST. ZENO.  
Durban area - NEWCASTLE, QUICKMATCH, JASMINE, (? FREESIA), ASTER,  
COVENTRY CITY, LE TIGER, NORTHERN CHIEF, ST. LOMAN, SONDRRA,  
SAN, SPINDRIFT.  
Capetown - NORTHERN ISLES, VIVIANA, ETHIOPIAN, INDIAN STAR,  
FERNMOOR, MEAD, CECILE MAPLESON, MASTERFUL.

/Simonstown ...



War Diary.22.5.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

S.A. Weekly State. (Contd.) Simonstown - FROBISHER, GAMBIA, LEWES, P.614, P.552, B.Y.M.S.5, 6, 7, 8, M.Ls 381, 830, 1150. East London - KIRRIEMOOR. Durban - NIGELLA, RESOLUTION, MARGUERITE, MANCHESTER CITY, KENYA, (? TULIP), NIZAM, NORMAN, REDOUBT, SANDSMELT (sic), LADY ROSEMARY, DRANGEY, STELLA POLARIS, (? PRUDENT), M.Ls. 1197, 1200. (C. in C. S.A., 221144B to C. in C. E.F., etc.)

BENAKAT (torpedoed 20th May). 44 survivors, French complement, picked up and landed here from BENAKAT (Dutch). Ship torpedoed 20/0728Z entering position (H) 006° 05' S. 012° 56' W. (Ascension, 221203Z to Admty., C. in C. S.A., I.O. Freetown, N.A. Washington & Pernambuco.)

ILE DE FRANCE. Following is future programme of ILE DE FRANCE: Sail Durban about 20th May. Arrive Freetown about 29th May. Sail Freetown about 31st May. Arrive Clyde about 9th June. (D.S.T., 221211B to F.O.C.W.A., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. W.A., (R) F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

QUANZA. High Commissioner South Africa telegram repeated to you as Q.378 of 21st May, steamship QUANZA should be ordered into Capetown irrespective of weather. (D.E.W.D., Approved by A.C.N.S.(F), 221320B to C. in C. S.A.)

Oil Cargoes, diversion. Your 150312Z and A.M. 191551B. Following tanker is due in your area shortly: SWIFT SCOUT carrying 10466 tons Persian quality fuel. 2. Only in cases of extreme urgency are cargoes to be diverted without previous reference to Admty. (D.T.D., 221530B to F.O.C.W.A.)

NEWCASTLE. Sailed NEWCASTLE to Kilindini routed through (A) 025° 20' S. 040° 45' E. (B) 014° 31', 042° 52'. (C) 010° 00', (? 042°) 52'. (D) (? 006°) 14', (? 041°) 26'. S. of A. 21 knots till 1900Z/24th then 22 (? knots). E.T.A. Kilindini 0300Z/27th. (2) Shifting to W/T (?group) V at 1415Z May 24th. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 221532Z to Admty., etc.)

/SNOWDROP ...



848

22.5.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

SNOWDROP.

Departure 22nd May SNOWDROP escorts and R/V  
DUCHESS OF RICHMOND and returns Takoradi 24th  
p.m.  
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 221823Z to Admty., F.O.C.W.A.  
R.N.O. Lagos.)

War  
Council.

Subject to operational requirements intend to  
attend West Africa War Council meeting at Accra  
27th to 28th May.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 222249Z to Admty., (R) Resmin.)



War Diary.22.5.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of small vessel 39° 20' N., 17° 15' E.  
000 0 knots.  
(A/C AOL/E, 220052B to Air H.Q. Malta).  
2 schooners in 39° 17' N., 17° 13' E. course  
035° speed 4 knots.  
(A/C AOL/E, 220126B to Air H.Q. Malta).  
P.C. and S. of 1 merchant vessel of 1000 tons 38° 41' N.,  
15° 45' E. 360° 10 knots.  
(A/C AOL/A, 220135B to Air H.Q. Malta).  
P.C. and S. of 3 unknown 36.03 N., 24° 02' E. 240° 6 knots.  
(A/C FAP/P 220105Z to (?) 201 Group).

Convoy G.U.S.7 A sailed 0600A/22.  
G.U.S.7 A. Oran Section - THOMAS PINCKNEY, E.R. CORNELL,  
WILLIAM JOHNSON, HORACE BINNEY, LORRAINE, S.H.  
ALVEY, P.J. MCGUIRE, FORT RELIANCE (Gibraltar  
for South America,).

Algiers and Bone Sections - M.B. LAMAR, A. BALDWIN, UOTTER,  
ZACAPA, ANDREW HAMIL. Escorts U.S.S. PARKER, NEILDS, MCLANAHAN,  
BOYLE, KENDRICK, LAUB, MCKENZIE, H.M.S. BROCKLESBY, VETCH,  
QUANTOCK, CONVULVULUS, TANGO, PIROUETTE, GAVOTTE, ZETLAND.  
British to Gibraltar. Incon 343 issued to Oran Section RANIEL  
HUGEO and ZACAPA.  
(Comnob, Oran, 220844A to Connav Admty. C. in C. Med., F.O.I.C.  
Gibraltar, (R) Commorseafron, Cdre. Algiers).

Convoy Request you will include TACTICIAN and CITY OF  
G.T.X.1. AGRA for Alexandria. MYRTLEBANK, HAVILDAR,  
SALWAT Alexandria for onward routeing to  
destination.  
(C. in C. Med., 220901A to F.O.C. Gibraltar,  
(R) C. in C. Levant, Admty).

ORION Arrival 21st May M.L. (?350) departure 21st  
May, ORION.  
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 220914C to Admty.  
C. in C. Levant).

C. in C. C. in C. Mediterranean is proceeding to Malta in  
Med., at NEWFOUNDLAND p.m. today 22nd May. Messages  
Malta. for C. in C. Med., should be still routed to  
Algiers but those requiring personal (?attention)  
of C. in C. Med., to Malta in addition.  
(C. in C. Med., 221000A to Admty. F.O. 12 C.S.  
etc).

HUSSAR, Request you will sail HUSSAR or SPEEDWELL as  
SPEEDWELL. detailed by S.O. 12th M/S Fl. as additional escort  
to M.K.S.14 to U.K. A.M.181828 refers  
(181828 April intended, re sailing of HUSSAR and  
SPEEDWELL to U.K.)  
(C. in C. Med., 221046A to S.O.I.S. (R) Admty.  
etc).

/L.S. Ts...



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War Diary.22.5.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

L.S. Ts. (A) Intend to sail L.S.T.388 and L.S.T.383 escorted by P.C.546 and 543 at 1330A/22 for Oran.  
(B) Standard inshore route thence through 44, and 109.  
(C) S. of A 10 knots. (D) Codeword "Throgmorton".  
(E) Communication constant watch on 84450 k/cs.  
(F) E.T.A. Oran 0700B/24th. (G) Request fighter protection 3. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 221053A to Comlan crabnaw (R) Cominch, Comeaslas, Connavnaw, Cdre. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Bougie, C. in C. Med., H.Q.N.W.A., Coastal Air Force).

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of 2 destroyers are 42° 12' N., 9° 50' E. 180° 10 knots.  
(A/C GGZ/H, 221240A to Air H.Q. Malta).  
P.C. and S. one small merchant ship of 3000 tons, one war motor boat 42° 50' N., 9° 50' E. 200° 10 knots at 1157A.  
(A/C GGZ/H, 221242A to Air H.Q. Malta).  
My 1143A, enemy previously reported are uncertain.  
(A/C GGZ/H, 221244A).

N.A.A.F. Report. To Eaker and Brereton. From Spaatz A.G. 4836. J.M. 0615  
(N.A.A.F., Adv. 221244A to Etousa etc)  
Details covered in 221653 and 221934 q.v.

Stores for Malta. My 251323. War Office state that total tonnage bid so far received for shipment of stores to Malta from North Africa does not exceed 3,000 dead weight tons.  
2. Request you confirm that Naval requirements for Malta ex North Africa and Gibraltar have been received by G.4 Mov. Tn. A.F.H.Q.  
(Director of Plans Approved 4th Sea Lord 221315B to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, V.A. Malta). Reply 270901B.

LAFOREY, LOOKOUT. Your 220931 (N.T. in W.R.) Reliefs are not necessary for LAFOREY and LOOKOUT providing M.T.B. Patrol is provided off Pantellaria Is. Harbour by night.  
(2) LAFOREY and LOOKOUT are to leave patrol at 1200B/23rd May and return to Bone.  
(C. in C. Med., 221325 to V.A. Malta (R) S.O. Force Q. Capt. (D) 19, N.L.O. 211 Group).

Small Craft in K.M.S.16. Request reply to my 161617.  
2. Shipping space allows of shipment of a total of 8 craft to Algiers, Bone and Bougie.  
3. Anticipated that two H.D.M.Ls. can be shipped to Casablanca, which destination is not acceptable for A.S.R. boats.  
4. Tentative arrangements are 4 A.S.R. boats and 4 M.T.Bs. (D. of P. Approved by A.C.N.S. (F) 221557B to C. in C. Med., (R) Air Min). W.D. Note - Answered by C. in C. Med's 211821A q.v.

/CARLISLE...



War Diary.22.5.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.CARLISLE  
escort.PALADIN, ASHANTI, (? TARTAR), EASTON, HURSLEY  
left Tripoli 1130A/22nd at 20 knots to meet you.  
(S.N.O. Trip., 221559A to CARLISLE, (R) PALADIN,  
ALDENHAM, CROMARTY, C. in C. Levant, 210 Group,  
238 Wing.)N.W.A.A.F.  
Report.

MS.12127, M.4876 E. 22nd May 1943.  
N.A.A.F. Opsum 90 May 22nd. N.A. Strategic A.F.  
20th/21st May.  
19 Wellingtons despatched Sardinia. 143 x 250  
G.P. 2520 x 4 inc. dropped on Decimomannu A/D  
from 3500 to 9000 feet, bursts in dispersal areas, A/D  
buildings, and on perimeter, 6 fires started. 3 E/A set on  
fire. 45 x 150 or 350? G.P. and 720 x 4 inc. were dropped on  
Villacidro A/D. Several small fires but results unobserved.  
1 x 4000 dropped North of railway station and another North of  
docks at Cagliari. 4 x 250 dropped on Elmas, 18 x 250 on  
Inglesias, 4 x 250 on transport, 1 x 250 near Tratalus, 1 x 250  
on San Pietro Harbour and 1 x 250 at C. Tuelsa.  
21st May. 51 U.S. Fortresses (B.17) escort 46 U.S. Lightnings  
(P.38) Sciacca A/D. 3 Fortresses 7 Lightnings returned early.  
6906 x 20 frag. bombs dropped from 23,000/25,000 feet. Approx.  
40 A/C on field. Target well covered, hits on hangars, 2 or 3  
fires and 1 explosion seen. No E/A encountered. 51 U.S.  
Fortresses (B.17) escort 36 U.S. Lightnings (P.38) Castelvetro  
7 Fortresses, 1 Lightning returned early. 6336 x 20 frag. bombs  
from 24,000 to 25,000 feet, target well covered. Hits on  
hangars, repair shops, and dispersal points. At least 3 fires  
started. 3 Me.323 set on fire on ground, gun battery hit. 65  
Me.109, F.W.190 and Mc.200 engaged in 3 combats. 6 Me.109  
and 1 Mc.200 destroyed, 4 Me.109, 1 F.W.190 damaged, 1 Fortress  
(B.17) damaged by bomb from F.W.190 and 10 damaged by heavy  
flak. 1 Lightning missing and 1 destroyed crash landing. 8  
U.S. Warhawks (P.40) strafed Pantellaria, gun positions  
destroyed. 9 U.S. Lightning (P.38) dropped 8 x 500 and 1 x  
1000 bombs on Pantellaria Island among buildings south end of  
quay and in town. Intense inaccurate light and heavy flak.  
48 U.S. Mitchells (B.25) escort 47 Lightnings (P.38) Villacidro.  
2 Lightnings returned early. 3366 x 20 frag. bombs dropped from  
7500 feet. A/D well covered 1 large explosion and several  
fires started. 3 E/A seen to explode and 3 burning. Power  
plant east of Inglesias strafed and left burning. 30 to 40  
E/A encountered. 6 Me.109, 2 Mc.202 destroyed, 1 F.W.190  
probably destroyed, 2 Me.109 and 2 Mc.202 damaged, 2 Mitchells  
destroyed by flak. 52 U.S. Marauders (B.26) escort 52 U.S.  
Warhawks (P.40) Decimomannu. 6 Marauders and 13 Warhawks  
returned early. 107 x 120 frag. clusters 558 x 20 frag. 328 x  
100 demolition bombs were dropped from 9600 to 10700 feet.  
At least 32 A/C on ground of which 7 were burning. Hits on  
administration buildings causing an explosion and large fires,  
also large gas fires west side of field. 18 Me.109 and (?7  
Mc.200) encountered. 4 Me.109 destroyed 2 damaged. 2  
Marauders destroyed by flak. 2 Warhawks missing.

/Enemy ...



War Diary.22.5.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- N.W.A.A.F. Report. (Contd.) Enemy activity. 20th May. Jijelli 4 hostiles at 2052 and 6 at 2115 dropped 21 bombs from varying heights mainly on shore and old A/D. 2 Army killed by shell. A/A claim 1 destroyed, 1 probable. Oran 2035 3 E/A approached turned away 10 miles from harbour. No bombs. Naval escort to convoy destroyed 1 S.M.79 off Cap de Garde, 3 prisoners, no attack in convoy.  
(N.W.A.A.F. Adn. H.Q., 221653A, 221934A to Air Min., etc.)
- GUARDIAN. Request intended date of sailing GUARDIAN for Mediterranean. A.M. 1915/18/2\* para. c(i) and my 2320/22/3 refers.\*  
(C. in C. Med., 221701A to Admty., (R) D.N.C.X.F. R.A.F.) \* Hush distribution.
- Convoy T.E. 21A. T.E. 21A arrived.  
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 221716A to Admty., etc.)
- Movements, Port Said. 22nd May, Port Said arrivals ORION, L.C.Ts 115, 101, AETOS, IERAX, H.M.S. ESLAU (sic), R.F.A. BADARPUR. Departures Z lighters Nos. 39 and 40 SPETSAI, ORION, R.F.A. BADARPUR.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 221729C to Admty., etc.)
- LA SULTANE. Intend sailing LA SULTANE 1930B/24th to patrol in Gulf of Genoa north of 042° N. and east of 007°, 040° E. routed through 038° 43', 003° 41' at 2200/25th and 042° 00', 007° 40' at 1100/28th.  
2. All times zone minus 2, positions north and east.  
(Capt. (S) 8, 221732A to C. in C. Med., (R) Cdre. Algiers, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 8th S/M.F.)
- K.M.S. 14. Your 211601A (re K.M.S.14 Malta section sailed). Arrived less ESNECH.  
(N.O.I.C. Tunis, 221801B to N.O.I.C. Bone.)
- ISIS, ILEX. Your 211144A (N.T. in W.D.) Intend to proceed with ILEX in company to Bone at 0130B/23rd May via position 037° 03' 011° 40', 037° 29' 011° 11' and Q.K.B.93, S. of A. 25 knots.  
(ISIS, 221810A to C. in C. Med., (R) Capt. (D) 19, JAVELIN, KELVIN, etc.)
- P.R.U. \* May 22nd visuals. 1600 Taranto 2 battleships 2 cruisers. 1458 Messina no major naval unit.  
(V.A. Malta, 221818B to C. in C. Med., etc.)

/German ...



# 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 :  
MOST SECRET "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

IN

No T.O.O.

FROM: Algiers

Date: 22.5.43.  
Recd: 1415

## CYPHER

ADDRESSED: Troopers PAIC  
Usfor Landforces Melbourne  
Midcast Dechiefs Pretoria  
Britman Wash. Dechiefs Capetown  
Amindia Delhi. Force Nairobi.

H.M. Ambassador Madrid (pass to U.S. )  
Ambassador Madrid )  
Britmilat Ankara (For Marshall )  
Chakmak )

} Passed by  
Foreign  
Office

Resident Minister Achimota

} Passed by  
Colonial  
Office

Defender Wellington

} Passed by  
War Office

IMPORTANT. Ref. No. 3168.*Tunisia - Situation Report.*

LINREP No. 48, dated 22 May 1943.

### Summary of Operations 17th to 19th May

1. One Army. The evacuation of prisoners and of captured material, together with the regrouping of our forces continued.

2. Naval.

(a) Our destroyers have maintained daylight patrols off Cape Bon and operated Northwest of Pantellaria during the night. On 17 May landing parties searched Zembra and Zembretta Islands off Cape Bon for suspected wireless transmitter.

(b) 1 of HM submarines reports obtaining 2 probable hits with torpedoes on a merchantman of 11,000 ton escorted by 2 destroyers off east coast of Corsica on 12 May. Bombed the port area of Trapani. In latter raid a merchant vessel was seen to explode in the harbour.

(c) 97 tons of bombs were dropped in daylight on 18 May on the harbour of Pantellaria when 1 large transport received direct hits. Airdromes in Sardinia were heavily and successfully raided on 19 May. On this day 23 enemy fighters were destroyed by our aircraft and their escorts.

4.....



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4. Political. Further repeal of Vichy laws curtailing personal liberty have been enacted. Admiral Derrfen has been placed under arrest in Tunisia and an official inquiry is under way of his actions.

Circulation:

- Brig. Jacob.
- Foreign Secretary.
- War Registry, Admiralty
- C. 6. Tels. W/O.
- A.M.C.S. (C)
- C.C.O.
- Mr. Strange Foreign Office.
- Mr. Radcliffe, M.O.I.

Advance Copy D.C. D.O.D. (F) D.D.I.C.

Recd in War Reg. at 1825/23

1st Lord.  
1st S.L. (2)

D.F.S.L.

V.C.N.S

A.C.N.S. (F) (2)

A.C.N.S. (W)

M.A. (Mails)

P.A.S. (S)

D.O.D. (F) (2)

D.O.D. (H) (2)

D.N.I. (4)

D. of P. (2)

D.C

B.D.I.C. (2)

D. of P. (Q) (2)

Hd. of M. (2)

I.P. (2)

W.D.

MLC. Ad. Blake.



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22.5.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

German Mines, Bizerta.      X German "S" type mines, without magnetic unit but with the 6 days clock connected direct detonator circuit were recovered at Bizerta. These were ready for sabotage laying from lighter.

(2) Six of these mines were 11 feet 1 inch in length remainder 7 feet 7½ inch.

(3) One long specimen complete is being shipped U.K. Apart from the size, nothing new was incorporated in these mines. One short specimen is being handed U.S. Navy. S.O.I.S. Bizerta 101943 to Admiralty refers (? T.O.O. intended 101945A, re mines found in harbour.

(C. in C. Med., 221914A to Admty., (R) C. in C. Levant, etc.)

Situation Report  
No. 30.

Convoy of 12 merchant ships and one tanker for Tripoli (Libya) and six merchant ships and three tankers for Malta from Alexandria arrived 20th and 21st May respectively.

Convoy 11 merchant ships arrived Alexandria 22nd May from West. No incident during above passages.

2. My 131423 para. 2 DELPHINULA probable total loss as result of fire from serious explosion. Casualties to Naval and Dockyard and civilian personnel. (My 301800 April to Admty. and R.A. Malta only, refers). H.M. Tug BARWICK seriously damaged.

(3) A.F.D. number 30 has arrived Haifa from Massawa. Not yet in operation.

(4) Egyptian schooner sunk by 2 enemy aircraft about 201000 May south of Cyprus. Crew picked up by NEBB.

(5) Canal Area. ORION now at Suez for bombardment practice. SS. EMPIRE RAJA beached and flooded at Suez as a result of coal fire, and refloated 17th May.

(C. in C. Levant, 221926C to Admty.)

Malta Docks.

7 State of docks is now -

No. 1 dock in full operation.

No. 2 dock caisson repairs completed. Dock in full operation but use limited to Fleet Destroyer by wreck of LEGION on which salvage work is

steadily progressing.

No. 3 dock in operation but use limited to ships not larger than Hunt class Destroyer by wreck of GLAUCUS on which salvage work is proceeding satisfactorily. Clearance still proceeding and side blocks not yet in place.

No. 4 dock. Can now take a Cruiser. Side blocks being progressed to enable two destroyers to be docked abreast in about three weeks time. Both drainage pumps in bar condition are under repair but main pumps are in operation.

No. 5 dock repairs to dock wall at position of major damage proceeding satisfactorily. Hoped to complete end May and pump down first week June.

Associated cranes and crane tracks serving docks have been

/repaired ...



War Diary.22.5.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Malta  
Docks.  
(Contd.) repaired to maximum extent possible. Work is in hand to extemporise lifting appliances in form of make shift derricks. Provisions of caterpillar excavators asked for in my 201746 will greatly improve facilities for effecting larger hull repairs especially at Nos. 2 and 3 docks where craneage is poor.  
(A.S. Malta, 221952 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta.)

Movements,  
Oran. Today's incoming French Escort CDT. DELAGE. Today's outgoing BROCKLESBY, VETCH, QUANTOCK, CONVULVULUS, ZETLAND, TANGO, PIROUETTE, GAVOTTE, U.S.S. PARKER, NEILDS, BOYLE, MCLANSHAN, KENDRICK, LAUB, MCKENZIE.  
(Comnob. Oran, 222012 to Admty., C. in C. Med., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Comnavnaw.)

Movements,  
Algiers. Arrivals WHEATLAND, JULIEN, French CHASSEUR III, M.L.444, French Submarine SULTANE ?. Departures C. in C. Med. in NEWFOUNDLAND, TARTAR, H.D.M.Ls. 1221, 1128, Submarine TACTICIAN.  
(Cdre. Algiers, 222016A to Admty., etc.)

Convoy  
B.A. 44. B.A.44, 20 hours late. Weather report.  
(ALAUNIA, 222045Z to Cdre. Aden, (R) C. in C. E.F.)

Malta Air  
Report. M.S.12123. A.I.508, 22nd May.  
(A) Air Part 1 offensive. Night 21st/22nd. Haze and low cloud hampered offensive operations. Mosquitoes made intruder patrols over Eastern Sicily and south-west Italy. In Sicily a jetty at Catania and M.T. south of Termini were attacked, cannon strikes were scored on industrial buildings near Termini and a goods train near Militello was attacked and damaged. In Italy station buildings and railway sidings at Bovalina Marina were attacked and strikes scored. 2 Wellingtons and 3 Beauforts all carrying torpedoes made armed searched for enemy shipping north of Messina, south-east of Italy and in Gulf of Taranto. A.S.V. jamming was experienced and no shipping was found. On return journey at 2128 1 Beaufort machine-gunned a schooner 500 tons south-east of Point Alice, scoring hits on the wheelhouse, 1 torpedo carrying Albacore despatched to attack tanker 10,000 in Catania Harbour aimed torpedo at the tanker but observed no results. 1 special equipment Wellington dropped leaflets over Palermo, Messina and Catania.  
Day 22nd, nil.  
Part 2, Enemy air activity. Night 21st/22nd. 3 Beaufighters made interception patrols east of Sicily and west of Malta.



War Diary.22.5.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Malta Air  
Report.  
(Contd.)

2 unidentified vessels south of Sicily were attacked with cannon fire.  
Day 22nd. 0840 19 plus Me.109s approached Malta at height. 12 Spitfires were airborne but raiders avoided combat and returned.  
A.A. fired pointer rounds. 8 Spitfires were

airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta.  
23 Spitfires made protective patrols over tankers in Malta Harbours.

Part 5. Operations by aircraft of other commands. Night 21st/22nd. 4 Wellingtons 2 of 37 Sqn. and 2 of 40 Sqn. airborne at 2100 from Garbabia to bomb Messina landed at Malta, 3 owing to engine trouble and 1 after being hit by flak. Hits were scored between the ferry terminus and oil storage installations and in the railway station area. All times G.M.T.

(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 222147Z.)

A.I.509, Daily Opsum. No.13.

(R.A.F. Malta, 222219Z.)

Movements,  
Malta.

Arrivals M.T.Bs 65, 76.  
Departures JAVELIN, KELVIN, S/Ms RORQUAL,  
TROOPER.  
(V.A. Malta, 222107 to Admty., etc.)

Movements.

Bizerta arrivals HUNDA, RHYL, STORNOWAY.  
Departure ROTHEWAY.  
(C.O.I.S., 222157B to C. in C. Med., Admty.,  
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

Movements,  
Bone.

Departures M.T.Bs 637, 633, 636, 640, BREAM,  
EMPIRE CENTAUR.  
(N.O.I.C. Bone, 222301A.)

Movements,  
Tobruk.

Sailed BRIGAND, M.L.359.  
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 222311C.)



War Diary.

22.5.1943.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

SUSSEX.

Arrived.  
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius 220400Z. to Admty. etc.)

M.N.B.D.O.1.

1st A.A. Regt. M.N.B.D.O. I do not agree with suggestion in para. 4. of C. in C. E.Fs. 190841Z/5/43 problem of accommodation in Ceylon will continue to be acute until 20 Ind. Div. leaves. (C. in C. Ceylon 220407Z. to Arminia (R) Admty. C. in C. E.F. F.L.O. Delhi, Gencom.)

Capt. S.4.  
WUCHANG.

Capt. S.4. will transfer from ADAMANT to WUCHANG on 29th May. I intend to commission WUNCHANG a.m. that day as an independent Command with pay and victualling accounts carried in LANKA. (F.O. Ceylon 220522 to Admty. C. in C. E.F. LANKA, S.4. ADAMANT F.O. (S).)

KARACHI.

Departure KARACHI for Pasni.  
(N.O.I.C. Karachi 220603Z. to Admty. etc.)

Convoy  
Cycle,  
Escorts.

Para. 3. (C) of C. in C. E.F. 211412 and my 140351. B.P.80 cycle will only have MADRAS as single escort after arrival Khorkwai. Number of ships in convoys of this cycle should be reduced accordingly. (2) Cdre. R.I.N. is requested to sail HIRAVATI as soon as ready as escort to an intermediate B.P. convoy if she should be delayed by adding her to escort of the next regular convoy. (F.O. Ceylon 220652Z. to S.N.O. Persian Gulf (R) Cdre. R.I.N. C. in C. E.F. Admty. Cdre. Aden.)

CARTHAGE.

Arrived.  
(F.O. E.Af. 220802Z. to Admty.)

Convoy  
C.M.42,  
LLANSTEPHAN  
CASTLE.

CITY OF PARIS has been delayed and cannot now arrive Kilindini before June 12th. (2) K.R.5 with 21st EA BRIGIDA will be ready to sail June 15th. (3) It is desirable therefore that C.M.42 should arrive Kilindini June 11th. (4) Concur that LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE should be included in C.M.42. (5) C. in C. S.A. 211839 and D. of S.T. 201920 refer. (C. in C. E.F. 221001Z. to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty. for D. of S.T. F.O.C.R.I.N. F.O. Ceylon, D.S.T.O. Kilindini, Com. Durban, P.S.T.O. India, P.S.T.O. Capetown.)

Movements.

Colombo arrivals 22nd 0330Z BUSHWOOD. Departure 1215Z. D.S.O.23.  
(F.O.C. Ceylon 221215Z. to Admty.)  
Departures SQUALL, PACKICE, S. of A. 10 knots.  
(S.O.(I) Bombay 221521Z. to Admty.)

/Air...



War Diary.22.5.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

Air Report India. X 2 U.S. Liberators sea search Andaman sea attacked 3000 tons freighter. Crew seen taking to life boats.  
(A.H.Q. India 221245Z. to Air Min.)

M.E.I.R.I. Amendment. (C. in C. E.F. 221551 to F.O.I.C. Ceylon, etc.)

VITA. Following received from P.S.T.O. Bombay. (Begins). Your 200817. Expect to sail VITA 26th May (Ends.) My 200815 May refers.  
(C. in C. E.F. 221615Z. to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant.)

EDWARD F. JOHNSON. EDWARD F. JOHNSON is to be towed to Kilindini, N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll's 220951 and your 220531 refer (N.T. of either in W.R.) (2) Tug INTEGRITY after joining EDWARD F. JOHNSON is to start towing her towards Seychelles. (3) Am sailing Tug BOLD forthwith to R/V with Tug INTEGRITY and EDWARD F. JOHNSON. (4) Tug BOLD should make R/V on a.m. 27th May and is to relieve INTEGRITY as towing vessel. INTEGRITY is then to return Colombo provided endurance allows otherwise to Addu. (5) WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN D.S. is to remain in company EDWARD F. JOHNSON to prudent limit of endurance and is then to return to Addu reporting position EDWARD F. JOHNSON on parting company.  
(C. in C. E.F. 221643Z. to F.O. Ceylon, INTEGRITY, WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN, D.S. BOLD. (R) Admty. F.O. E.A. N. O.I.C. Addu Atoll.)

Routeing of Tankers. Admty. 211727. I have no objections as proposals conform with normal routeing for southbound tanker as far as Durban.  
(C. in C. E.F. 222106Z. to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty.)



22.5.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Oiling at sea. Your 191225 April para. 3. O.N.S. six Oil Transferred HOPE MOUNT 711 in seven operations, JOHN D. ARCHBOLD (U.S.) 106 in two operations. Depth charges transferred JOHN D. ARCHBOLD nil. HOPE MOUNT fitted with platform rails starboard side with return rail on port requests Rollerson U Bend be replaced by hardwood facing. Hangers fouldrollers tearing hose. Ship states well greased hardwood surface preferable to existing rollers. If approved this alteration possible concurrently with ship repairs necessary here. (B.R.L.O. 220116Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A. B.A.D.).

U.S. Sub. notice. S/M Estimate 22nd May. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 220407Z, 221455Z, 221533, 221534Z, 221535Z).

S.S. QUEEN ELIZABETH. New York arrived May 21st QUEEN ELIZABETH. (N.S.H.Q. 220410Z to D.S.T.).

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary 1800 G.M.T. 22nd.	CARNARVON CASTLE	08° N. 28° W.	Patrol	Blank.
	WORCESTERSHIRE	03° S. 26° W.	296 degs	13
	(D.O.D.(F) 220812Z to Cpnnav (R) Comnavea).			

Convoy C.U.2. Sailing telegram part 2. (15 Ships list). 4 vessels for Clyde (Names) 2 for Mersey (Names). 8 vessels for Belfast (Names). Destination VERA CRUZ U.K. Port unknown. (C.A.F.A.C. 220832 to Admty.).

Convoy X.B.54 (1) Sailing telegram (15 Ships, list etc.). (2) Halifax 1100Z 22nd. (3) E.T.A. Cape Cod Canal 1900Z/24th (?Boston) 1700/24th. (4) 7.5 knots. (5) Route. Ships for Boston detach position D. (6) LACHINE, BRANTFORD, DUNDAS. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 221045Z, 221733 to Admty.).

STRIKER Departed San Francisco 211540Z for trial. (N.S.H.Q. 221058Z to Admty. (R) B.A.D. C.O.P.C.).

Movements. Baltimore arrived 212100Z BAYFIELD. (N.S.H.Q. 220705Z to Admty.). H.M. M/S 11 75 and 11 78 arrived 0330Q today May 22nd. (B.R.L.O. Santa Domingo 221115Z to Admty.).

/Departure...



22.5.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Movements (Contd.) Departure LACHINE to H.O.N. 183.  
(C. Halifax 221236Z to Admty.).  
San Francisco May 21st ROBERT G. HARPER  
(U.S.A.T.) Forsnandi, Fiji.  
(N.S.H.Q. 221922Z to D.N.I. Wellington,  
C.S.W.P.S.F. A.C.N.B. Admty.).  
Bermuda arrivals 22nd. MONOWAI.  
(S.B.N.O. W.At. 222142P to Admty.).

Routeing of U.S. Ships. X C. in C. S.A's 211556 subject to your remarks  
Admiralty approves proposed routeing round the  
Cape.  
(D.T.D. 221130Z to Connav, (R) C. in C.S.A.  
C. in C. E.F. F.O.R.S.C.A. S.N.O. Persian Gulf,  
B.A.D.).

6 Escort Group. Argentia 21st departure 0830ZB.  
(B.M.C. Argentia 221138Z to Admty. (R) F.O.N.F.  
N.S.H.Q. B.A.D. C. in C. W.A. C. in C.C.N.A.).

Numbers of personnel carried. X Your 201927 May. No limit by service category  
will be imposed on U.S. personnel in a British  
Ship in Trade convoy.  
(D.O.D.(F) 221229B to B.A.D.).

B.Y.M.S. At 1200Z sailed B.Y.M.S. 68 (S.O.) 31, 186, 187,  
209, to St. Johns N.F. through.  
(A) 44.30 62.10 (B) 46.00 57.00 (C) 46.00 54.40  
(D) 46.28 52.43 (E) 47.31 52.17 thence St. Johns  
speed 10 knots E.T.A. 2000Z/24th.  
(2) W/T watches A.F.O. S 1/43.  
(C. in C.C.N.A. 221230Z to F.O.N.F. (R) N.S.H.Q. Cominch, Admty.  
B.A.D.).  
Departure B.Y.M.S. 31, 68, 186 X 187, 209 for St. Johns  
N.F.  
(C. Halifax 222119Z to N.S.H.Q. etc.).

Swedish Ships departure signals. / Your 191835. N.O.I.C. Faroes has been requested  
to repeat the departure signals of all Westbound  
Swedish safe conduct vessels to you.  
(2) N.A. Stockholm promulgates a daily situation  
report of all Swedish safe conduct and Greek  
relief vessels and has been requested to include  
you in the address of this signal.  
(D.O.D.(H) 221236B to N.S.H.Q.).

Convoy C.L.65 Arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. Sydney 221236Z to Admty.).

U/B O.N.184. H.X.239. D/F of B Barred Message O.N. Series 8 at 1040Z/22nd  
repeated at 1045 1047 1050 1054 1057 and 1108

/indicates....



War Diary.22.5.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

U/B indicates that U-boat within 120 miles of  
O.N.184. position 52.00 33.00 (positions are North or  
H.X.239. West unless otherwise indicated) has made  
sighting report Convoy or Important Unit.  
(N.S.H.Q. 221237Z to Ships Escorting O.N. Convoy  
184, S.O.E.G.6, S.E.H.X. Convoy 239, S.O.E.G.4 (R) C. in C.C.N.At.  
C.C.N.F.F. A.C.I.C. Admty. S.B.N.O.W.At. C. in C. U.S. Fleet).  
D/F bearings at 1047Z indicate U-boat in general vicinity  
of both convoys which may have reported either.  
(D.D.I.C. 2213327B to Escorts of O.N.184, Escorts of  
H.X. 239, (R) Cominch, N.S.H.Q. A.C.I.C. C. in C.W.A. H.Q.C.C.).  
D/F bearings at 1501Z and 1726Z indicate U-boats in  
general vicinity of both convoys. It is not clear whether either  
convoy is being shadowed.  
(D.D.I.C. 222055B to Escorts of O.N.184, Escorts of H.X.239,  
(R) Cominch, N.S.H.Q. A.C.I.C. C. in C.W.A. H.Q.C.C.).

Convoy Arrived Cape Cod Canal 221220Z.  
X.B.53 (U.S. P.D. Boston 221345Z to Cominch C and R).

Fighter A/C Your 200013/May. Stocks of Martlet IV in U.K. and  
Argentina. requirements for reserves elsewhere will not  
allow shipment to Argentina. It is not intended  
to use Martlet V for this purpose.

(2) Intend carriers should embark reserve fighters Martlet IV  
or Seafire according to Squadrons embarked and only replace  
Swordfish from Argentina. This will simplify supply of aircraft  
and stores and also arrangements for repair of damaged aircraft,  
until the organisation can be expanded.  
(D.N.A.O. 221350B to B.A.D. (R) Com.(D) Argentina, C. in C.W.A.).

Ice Reports / Your 162045B. S.O.P.A. Argentina forecast relies  
Argentina. mainly on reports from aircraft whose primary  
duty is A/S. These reports are not much good for  
pack ice in fog, although ice bulletin of 12th

May gave warning of possibility of bergs and ice flows as far  
south as 47 degs. N.

(2) Recommend ice and negative ice reports are included in  
weather reports called for in A.C.I. article 43 from all North  
Atlantic Ocean escorts west of 43 degs. W. between mid January  
and mid August. Ice information extracted from these reports  
to be forwarded direct to S.O.P.A. Argentina by F.O. N.F.  
(C. in C.C.N.A. 221411Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q.  
S.O.P.A. Argentina, Capt.D. Argentina, F.O.N.F.).

N.S.H.Q. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa estimate of S/Ms. North of  
S/M Estimate 40 North West of 40 West 1200Z/22nd.  
(N.S.H.Q. 221500Z).

WEAZEL Your 212000. See Cominch 192202 April WEAZEL  
delayed as she had to be docked. Departed New  
Orleans 18th May towing barges as far as  
Guantanamo. E.T.A. 26th en route Freetown.  
(B.A.D. 221551Z to Admty.).

/NENE...



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. -Contd.

NENE F.O.N.F. is requested to sail NENE in C.5. Group  
KOOTENAY. escorting H.X.240.  
(2) NENE should return to St. Johns to join  
R.C.N. support group when relieved by KOOTENAY.  
(3) C. in C.W.A. is requested to sail KOOTENAY to join C.5.  
Group in Mid-Atlantic.  
(4) F.O.N.F's. 211320 refers.  
(D.O.D.(H) 221622B to F.O.N.F. C. in C.W.A. (R) C. in C. N.A.).

U.S. Aircraft X Your 041635Z which has been passed to C. in C.  
for Africa W.A. concur in paras. 2 and 3.  
use of (2) Your para.4. As it is considered that CHASER  
A.C.V's. 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, request you will sail them in convoy when ready. They  
should operate aircraft on passage as opportunity offers, provided  
they do not leave the convoy without proper escort.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 221625B to B.A.D. (R) C. in C.W.A.).

Shipping This is Conroute's 212058, Connav serial 20 and 21,  
Casualties which informs as follows.  
W.K. VANDERBILT Serial 19 Sunk 17th May.  
EMPIRE EVE torpedoed about 18th May. Estimated  
position 36.34 N. 00.17E. Convoy K.M.S.14.  
Serial 18 H.M. STOREY LINK 18th May and CITIES SERVICE BOSTON  
Back Broken YEDEK (as received).  
ATHEL DUCHESS collision 20th May proceeding with Convoy O.N.182.  
TIMLAT grounded date unknown off Eastern Coast of Sakhalin  
Island being salvaged.  
(Connaveu 221629 to Admty.).

Convoy Sailing telegram (4 ships, list etc.).  
Q.S.48. (2) Quebec 0001Z 24th Red Islet 1200Z/24th.  
(3) Sydney C.B. 1800Z/26th.  
(4) 10 knots.  
(5) (Route). Gaspé Sydney C.B. Chop 0900Z/26th.  
(6) PAYNTER, CAPE MARIATO.  
(N.C.S.O. Quebec 221630Z, 221635Z to N.C.S.O. Sydney (R) Admty.  
etc.).

Convoy Departure CHEBUCTO 2200Z/23.  
H.J.53. B. Route. (2) E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 1900Z/25.  
(3) W/T Call sign VJ.  
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 221735Z to Admty.).

Convoy Arrived.  
S.B.42 (R.O. Cornerbrook 221830Z to N.O.I.C. Sydney).

M.S. Trawlers Your 211550B (Requesting date of sailing to U.K.  
of M/S Trawlers, TEXADA, FLINT, GATESHEAD and  
HERCHEL).

/see...



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Saturday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

M.S. see C. in C.C.N.A.'s 151627Z.  
Trawlers (N.S.H.Q. 221832Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.C.N.A.).  
(Contd.).

Convoy (1) Sailing telegram.  
S.B.44. (2) 0830Z 23rd. (3) 0930Z 24th. (4) Knots 9.  
(5) (Route) (6) MISCOU.  
(R.O. Corner Brooke 221840Z to N.O.I.C. Sydney).

Air Report A. 750 22nd May Z.499 Ops. 21 May. Times G.M.T.  
Canada. (B) A/S Sorties 137. U-boat sighted and attacked  
by Canso S/117 1620 in 48.13 N. 62.26 W. results  
unknown. U-boat sighted by Hudson K/119 at 1835  
in 49.45 N. 65.18 W. no attack.  
(H.Q. E.A.C. Canada 221852Z to Air Min.).

Convoy 44 ships arrived. First arrival 1905Z May 21.  
O.N.182. Last arrival 1010Z May 22. S.S. THORSHOVDI (Nor)  
put in Delcapes.  
(P.D. New York 221908 to Cominch C and R).  
O.N.182 Following arrived New York May 21st. (List).  
Total 44 ships.  
(B.R.L.O. New York 222034Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A.  
N.S.H.Q.).

Routeing Reference C. in C.S.A. 211556B approve suggested  
of U.S. Ships routeing of U.S. managed ships from East Africa  
Red Sea and Persian Gulf.  
(Cominch C and R 221914Z to C. in C.S.A. Admty.  
(R) C. in C. E.F. F.O.C.Red Sea Force, S.N.O.  
P.G.).

HERRING Following is paraphrased version of my 221919  
patrol. addressed U.S.S. HERRING.  
Patrol area radius 20 miles from centre of area  
A.2.  
(F.O.S. 221923B to C. in C.C.N.A. (R) Admty.  
Cominch, C. in C. W.A. H.Q.C.C. A.C.I.C.  
Comnaveu).

ADVANTAGE Direct H.M.R.T. ADVANTAGE upon arrival Key West  
Y.W.65 to tow Y.W.65 direct to Bermuda provided no delay  
involved. Vice C.N.O. 221540 (N.T. in W.R.)  
(Cominch 221941Z to Cdre. Gulf S.F. (R) U.S.  
N.O.B. Key West, Cdre. Carribean S.F. Cinclant  
F.O.N.F. S.B.N.O.W.A. Admty. C.E.S.F.).



22.5.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.-Contd.

- S.C.131. S.C.131 met at 1600Z/22nd in 046 degs. 40' North  
046 degs. 00' W. 31 ships present. Weather report  
6581 1575.  
(W.4. 222005Z to C. in C.C.N.A.).
- Convoy B.X.53 Sailing telegram part 2.  
(H) Total 27 ships (list).  
(U.S.P.D. Boston 222026Z to Cominch C and R).
- Sub. attack and sighting summary. All times Z.  
Para.A. U.S.S. BOGUE aircraft attack Subs. 51.02  
N. 33.56 W. 0640/22 and area 52.44 N. 35.23 W. 2200/  
21 sight another 51.28 N. 35.06 W. 0810/22.  
R.A.F. plane sights Sub. 55.35 N. 29.38 W, 0800/20.  
Para.D. R.C.A.F. plane attacks Sub. 48.13 N. 62.26 W. 1620/21.  
Hudsons sights Sub. 49.45 N. 65.18 W. 1835/21.  
(Cominch 222030Z to Admty.).
- S/M Patrol Movements. Request full info. re patrol movements of  
Subron 50 units for inclusion in daily sub-  
estimate. F.O.S. 202221B refers. Unknown if HAKE  
is on patrol in F.O.S. 131236B.  
(Cominch 212045Z to Comnavu (R) Comsubron, 50,  
F.O. Subs, C. in C.C.N.A. Admty.);
- B.D.V's. Salor 7588. Lorsa 9160.  
Your para.3. Our immediate requirements for  
Mediterranean theatre have been catered for at  
the expense of West and South African and Indian Ocean bases.  
Failing assistance from U.S. construction requirements for other  
operations in European theatre will have to be drawn from U.K.  
bases. We consider such a policy would be unacceptable so long  
as the Air and U-boat threat from the Axis persists.  
(2) In the light of the above and your more detailed knowledge  
of the U.S. needs we feel that you should press for 12 to be  
delivered by mid 1944 when we would require to review the  
situation again.  
(3) Your para.4. We do not consider at this juncture that any  
useful purpose would be served in sending over an Officer to  
reconcile technical standards. You can, however, inform the  
Americans that we have overhauled our allocation of boom vessels  
to ensure they are being used to best advantage.  
(4) Your para.2. In northern Latitudes and exposed anchorages  
elsewhere more than two boom vessels are essential whereas in  
other places it may be that an occasional visit from one boom  
vessel is sufficient for maintainance.  
(A.C.N.S.(W) 222113B to B.A.D.).
- Convoy A.I.52. Departures FORT WILLIAM, FREDERICTON escorting  
A.J.52.  
(C. Halifax 222118Z to Admty.).



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Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.-Contd.

MARIPOSA Departing New York 1300Z/23rd Ambrose MARIPOSA  
E.T.A. Liverpool Bar Light Vessel 0400Z June 1.  
(Route). Dawn R/V at 0400Z/31st in 56.27 N. 12.12  
W.U 56.30 08.30 S. of A. 18½ knots. Fighter  
protection Codeword "Bellows" with associated Call Number 175,  
carrying 5528 Troops. "Chop" 1030Z"26th.  
(P.D. New York 222124 to Cominch C and R (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q.  
C. in C.W.A. C. in C. Lant, Comeastseafon Com.3. C. in C.C.N.A.).

HAMILTON E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 12 (?00) May 23rd. Boiler  
hours. In company THE PAS, BLAIRMORE, HAMILTON  
has defective steering gear.  
(HAMILTON 22301Z to F.O.N.F. (R) Capt.(D) St.  
Johns N.F.).

U/B D/F bearings at 2247Z/22nd place U-boat within  
100 miles of 041 degs. 30' N. 052 degs. 30' W.  
type weather report.  
(N.S.H.Q. 22345Z to U.S.S.RANGER, C. in C.C.N.A.  
F.O.N.F. (R) Admty. C. in C.U.S.Fleet, S.B.N.O.  
W.A.).



War Diary.

22.5.1943.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Kiwi No.41. X Indications of enemy laying mines from aircraft in approaches to Russel Islands (Solomons) 20/5. Usual air attack on Buin and Kahili early a.m. 21/5. One Avenger lost due to adverse weather.  
(C.W.R.Wellington 220022 to C. in C. E.F., Admty., D.N.I., A.C.N.B. G.H.Q. New Delhi.)

Movements. Arrival Sydney 21st U.S.S. MOUNT VERNON.  
(A.C.N.B. 220847Z to Admty.)  
Arrival Townsville 21st hired transports TAROONA, DUNTROON. U.S. Transport MAETSUYCKER depart Cairns 21st due Portland Roads 22nd. U.S. Transport CREMER depart Fall River 20th due Cairns 23rd. A.S.I.S. YUNNAN depart Townsville 22nd for Cid harbour.  
(C.S.W.P.S.F. 221245Z to Admty)

Arrivals: Townsville 21st ARUNTA, KAPUNDA.  
Sydney (N.S.W.) 21st U.S. Destroyer CONYNGHAM. Brisbane 21st BROOME. Milne Bay 21st SHEPPARTON. Departures: Brisbane 21st VENDETTA on escort duty. Milne Bay 21st KATOOMBA for Townsville, BOWEN for Oronto. Fremantle 21st HEEMSKERCK for Bay of Biscay.  
(A.C.N.B. 221324Z to Admty.)

Digest (4) Noon R/C Wewak sighted 4 small vessels in  
Serial harbour where photos revealed 1 Submarine Chaser,  
No.487 1 small Merchantman, 6 Launches, 74 Barges, also  
May 21st. 1 Coaster, 13 Barges at But and 10 Barges at Boram.  
(5) Three B.25's in coastal sweep night 20th  
sank 5 Barges off Alexishafen, and forced ashore  
5 others and destroyed 3 Barges vicinity Cape  
Cretiu. (8) Three Liberators attacked Nabire morning 21st,  
causing explosions in Stomes area and probably destroying build-  
ings. Also reported sighting 5 small medium Merchant Vessels  
and several small craft at Kaimana.  
(G.H.Q. S.W. P.A. 220902Z)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 221351B, 221415B)



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23.5.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

1. UGANDA returned to Plymouth at 0719B today and sailed again to the westward at 231231B. CHARYBDIS sailed from Plymouth at 231021B with ORKAN, to cover Convoys O.S.48 and K.X.10.

X 2. Flight G. of Landing Craft sailed from Appledore at 1000 today for Gibraltar.

H.X.239  
U/B sunk  
by R.P.

See 979  
X 3. It is reported that the Liberator escorting H.X.239 attacked one U-boat, and ARCHER'S Swordfish aircraft made 3 attacks, this morning. In the third attack by Swordfish B/819 at 1020Z in 51.48 N. 29.32 W. (about 760 miles north of the Azores) 6 hits with Rocket Projectiles were estimated, and the R.P. attack was followed up by machine gun fire from a Martlet aircraft, which killed the U-boat's Captain. The U-boat sank before escort vessel arrived, and ESCAPADE picked up one Officer and some 10 ratings. ARCHER reports "On first occasion use of R.P. fulfilled all expectations".

North Atlantic.

4. Commorseafron reports that at 1350Z today a plane sighted one corpse and some debris in a large oil slick in 34.30 N. 12.50 W. (300 miles West of Casablanca) (C. in C. Med. gives the longitude 13 degs. 13' W) after attack on a U-boat by a U.S. aircraft. It is reported that at 1145 G.M.T. today the Frigate NESS, one of the escorts of Convoy W.S.30/K.M.F.15 attacked and almost certainly sank a U-boat in 42.05 N. 15.34 W. (about 280 miles W.S.W. of Cape Finisterre).

Mediterranean.

X 5. C. in C. Med. arrived at Malta late tonight on board NEWFOUNDLAND with TARTAR.

/ 6.LAFOREY....



War Diary.

23.5.1943.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.-Contd.

6. LAFOREY whilst on a patrol in the Sicilian Channel with LOOKOUT sank a northbound 400 ton auxiliary vessel in the early hours of today, in 37.24 N. 11.53 E. and took 8 Italian prisoners.

7. Two eastbound convoys have been passed through the Sicilian Channel without incident. Coastal forces operating from Bizerta and Malta carried out patrols off Empedocle and the south east corner of Sicily last night and during the night 21/22 May, to cover the passage of the convoys.

8. One hundred and 22 mines have been swept off the Tunisian coast since 9 May.

9. A 10,000 ton escorted tanker was bombed and hit twice at 2355 today, 5 miles south east of Catania and was left stationary, but apparently reached port later. The N.W. African Strategical Air Force today attacked Pantellaria docks, town and aerodrome.

Australia and New Zealand.

10. U.S.S. NIAGARA (Gunboat, Flagship, and tender to M.T.B. Sqdn.2.) was torpedoed p.m. today, east of Cap Cristobal, and apparently sank.

11. It is reported that the Panamian Tanker STANVAC MANILA (10169 tons) Balboa for Noumea, was torpedoed today in 23.45 S. 166.30 E (120 miles south of Noumea, New Caledonia) and sank next day. Another report states that she was torpedoed on 24 May in 23.44 S. 186.32E.



War Diary.23.5.1945.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M  
Movements. Time of arrival estimated position Russian  
Submarine L.15 at 0800/23rd 061° 38' N. 000° 10'  
W. proceeding probably on surface at 8 knots on  
route.  
STUBBORN keep to Eastern end of patrol-line from  
1200 until 2359B/23rd May. (2) Russian submarines can only  
identify themselves by flashing signal and Verey light.  
(F.O.S.230019B to S/M's)  
Sailed TRUANT escorted by JAN VAN GELDER to comply with  
S.3's 211127B.  
(F.O.I.C.Greenock 230714B)  
Intend sail TEMPLAR and SCIMITAR from Holy Loch at  
2100B/25 by standard route to 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles E.T.A.  
1400B/27, Speed 11 knots. (2) Thence TEMPLAR to South.  
(Capt. (S) 3, 231029B to A.I.G.220)  
Sailed OBERON and BERNACHIE. E.T.A. Clyde 0900/24.  
(N.O.I.C.Loch Alsh 231036B)  
My 211647B. Amend speed to read 8 knots and E.T.A. to read  
0900B/25th (UNTAMED).  
(Cdre. D. W.A. 231037B)  
My 221105B Sailed (P.239, 0.10)  
(S.O.S/M Lerwick, 231156B)  
C. in C. W.A.'s 222253B not passed to OBERON.  
(N.O.I.C.Loch Alsh 231157)  
Intend sailing P.555 escorted by BLADE from Clyde at  
1600B/24 via Sound Islay and Mull to Tobermory, E.T.A. 0800B/25.  
(Capt. (S) 7, 231208B)  
THRASHER and S.54 escorted by COLUMBINE sailed. E.T.A.  
0800/25.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 231411B to N.O.I.C.Greenock)  
Positions of S/M's at 0800B/24 and movements for following  
24 hours.  
(F.O.S.231546B, 231728)

BELFAST. Scapa arrival BELFAST.  
(A.C.O.S. 230640 to A.C.I.C.)

UGANDA. Arrived UGANDA.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 230719B)  
Pass Gate at 1145B today and proceed as ordered  
in my 211544B. Time of arrival in position ordered in  
Admiralty 200035 being amended to read 2000B/26th May.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 231003B to UGANDA)  
Sailed UGANDA in accordance with my 231003B.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 231231B to Admt)

Landing X Sailed Flight G. of L.C.'s from Appledore at  
Craft 1000/23rd for Gibraltar. Consisting of T.L.C.  
Flight G. (3) 302, 303, 332, 333, 399, 410, 411, 412, 413,  
for 421, 422, 311, 314, 321, 355, 364, 372, 377, 379,  
Gibraltar. 390, 324, L.C.F.(3) 15, 17 Tug EMPIRE TITANIA,  
EMPIRE SPITFIRE escorted by H.M.Tug MINUET and  
TWOSTEP. Routed as in Admiralty 1935/30th March  
1945. C. in C. Med.is requested to signal onward  
route from position N. Communications. Codeword "Porter".  
A.M.222210B May. EMPIRE FAY sailed in company.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 231117B to F.O.I.C.Gibraltar)



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War Diary.23.5.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

RAMILLIES. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail RAMILLIES when ready to the Clyde to work-up under C. in C. W.A. (2) C. in C. H.F. is requested to inform C. in C. W.A. when RAMILLIES can be accepted at Scapa to continue working up. A.M. 111455B refers. (D.O.D.(H) 231258B)

North Russia. Sailed from Dvina for Kola inlet 1230B BRITOMART, BLUEBELL, CAMELLIA, Soviet destroyers URITSKI and KUIBESHEN escorting tanker BEACON HILL. R.A. Archer on board BRITOMART. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 231408B)

GLASGOW. Arrived GLASGOW. (C. in C. Plymouth, 231535B)

Operations.

Coastal Force Patrols. My 221040B. "Artful" returned at 0626. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 230635)  
Patrols May 23rd. Patrol A, M.G.B's 111, 112, 80 and 81 are to patrol from 112° Start Point 16 miles to 090° Start Point 28 miles. Patrol B. M.G.B's 312, 317, 326 and 330 are to patrol between 233° Start Point 13 miles and 233° Start Point 28 miles. (2) Object anti-E-Baot patrol. (3) Leave Dartmouth 2230B for patrol. Leave patrol-line for Dartmouth 0430B. (6) Codeword Patrol A "Limit", Patrol B "Limit One". (C. in C. Plymouth, 231337B)  
(2) S.G.B.6, S.G.B.4, M.G.B.614 and M.G.B.615 patrolling south of Newhaven. (3) BLEASDALE, ALBRIGHTON, LA COMBATTANTE at immediate notice at St. Helens. (4) Chasseur 10 at immediate notice at St. Helens. (5) M.L's 309 and 464 patrolling south of E.A.5 buoy. (6) KINGSTON TURQUOISE at immediate notice at Yarmouth. (7) M.L's 347, 297, 182 to pass Needles 2200B/23 and proceed through following positions.  
(A) 50° 20' N. 01° 31' W. (B) 50° 20' N. 02° 33' W.  
(C) 50° 33' N. 02° 37' W. (D) 50° 38' N. 02° 37' W.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 231440B)  
(1) S.G.B.6, S.G.B.4, M.G.B. 614 and 615 are to patrol tonight in Eastern end of Baie De La Seine. Object, destruction of enemy shipping. (2) Pass C 2A buoy 2300B/23rd and proceed by passage 4. Return through passage 4 so as to be within 20 miles of our coast by daylight. (3) If destroyers from St. Helens are ordered to intercept enemy, Force is to withdraw by passage 2 with despatch to Newhaven. (4) Communications. Codeword "Match".  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 231445B)  
(1) BLEASDALE, ALBRIGHTON, LA COMBATTANTE are to anchor at St. Helens by 2230B tonight. (2) If ordered to intercept enemy shipping they are to proceed through passage 4. Passage 4 or passage 2 may be used for return but should there be any uncertainty in position passage 4 should be used in preference to passage two if time permits. (3) Communications. Codeword "Advent".  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 231448B to Capt. D(1))  
M.L's 138 and 141 at Bullock Bank.  
(V.A. Dover, 231759B)

Your /...



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War Diary.23.5.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Coastal Force Patrols. (Contd.) Your 231537B. "Limited" and "Limited One" sailed, less M.G.B. 550 defective. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 232242B to C. in C. Plymouth)

S/M Patrols. STUBBORN has been ordered to keep to the eastern end of her patrol line from 1200Z/23rd to 2359Z/23. (F.O.S. 231016B to Russian S/M.L.15) Following is paraphrase of my 231248 addressed HADDO repeated HERRING. Pass 055° 30', 035° 00' at 0800B/24th, thence direct square C.3. Previous instructions cancelled. (F.O.S. 231254B to Admty)

Positions of Submarines at 0800B/24th and movements for following 24 hours. (A) HERRING vicinity 54° 00' N. 39° 30' W. (B) HADDO 55° 30' N. 35° 00' W. dived by day to vicinity 52° 25' N. 36° 30' W. (C) ULTIMATUM, SHAD, TUNA, and STUBBORN as in my 221711.

(F.O.S. 231546B to Admty.)

C. in C. C.N.A. 212131 para. 4. Bombing restrictions for S/Ms are arranged by F.O.(S) direct with H.Q.C.C. who in turn informs A.O.C. in C. Eastern Air Command. This procedure is in line with that used with Air Commands in Iceland (C) and at Gibraltar. An abbreviated form of signalling the request is used with H.Q.C.C. in accordance with F.O.(S) charge document F.S.A. (6) which is not held by C. in C. C.N.A. To avoid duplication of signalling suggest requests for bombing restrictions shall continue to be originated by F.O.(S) direct to H.Q.C.C. and that when instituting restrictions H.Q.C.C. shall repeat signal to C. in C. C.N.A.

(F.O.S. 231611B to Admty)

(Corrupt) Request you will sail HAKE 26th May for anti U-Boat patrol in Central Atlantic. Route follows. (F.O.S. 231901B to C.T.G. 92.1)

Operation VP-SA. M.T.B. 626 returned 1200/23rd. Unable to make coast owing to fog. My 221528B. (2) M.T.B. will sail again tomorrow or first suitable day thereafter. (A.C.O.S. 231942B to Admty)

Allied Air activity.

Air Patrols. (1) A/S Escort to O.N.S. 8 by three Aircraft/120 E.T.D. 0315B on 0605B off 0205B/24 to 0550B/24. (2) A/S Patrol Copper by 5 Aircraft 269 Sqdn. E.T.D. 1500B on 1520B off 2100B E.T.P. 2120B. (3) A/S Patrol Potman by 5 Aircraft 84 E.T.D. 1600 B on 1620B off 0325B/24 E.T.A. 0345B/24. (4) Clac search on track of coastal convoy from Budareyri to Reykjavik by one Aircraft/269 E.T.D. 0325B on 0515B off P.L.E. E.T.A. 0925B. (R.A.F. Iceland, 230020B) My 230020B. (1) First Sortie returning to base, second Sortie postponed. Weather in area. (R.A.F. Iceland 230912B) "Stipple" for 24. A. HX 239, O.N.184, O.N.S. 8, S.C.151, B. /...



War Diary.

23.5.1943.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

Air Patrols. (Contd.) B. O.S.48, K.M.S.15, O.G.K.X.10.  
C. S.L.129 May 26th.  
(H.Q.C.C. 231002B to 15 and 19 Groups)  
VLR 23rd May. (C) Nile, (D) Nil, (E) Fit 2359/23  
May until 2359/24 May.  
(H.Q.15 Group, 231015Z)  
B. Ice/VLR 17/23 May. C. O.N.S.8. D. Convoy O.N.S.8 duty  
escort aircraft 120.  
Time off Time on patrol Off patrol E.T.A.Base.  
0040 0440 1150 1610 Reykjavik.  
0725 1145 1845 2255 "  
1330 1810 2350 0445 "  
E.S.W. Area unfit 2359/23 - 2359/24, base fit 2359/23-2359/24.  
(15 Group 231205Z to No.1 Group, St.Johns N.F.)

HOWE. Fourth Halifax cancelled. My 222058B refers.  
(C. in C. W.A. 231245B to HOWE)

Enemy Air Activity.

A/C Crashed. Steeply diving aircraft possibly crashed in 55.40  
N. 15.32 W. at 1030Z 7 miles from ship. Thorough  
search with WEAR yield nothing.  
(SPEY, 231200Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Mining.

Search in Intend to sail GUNNER, THOMAS ALTOFT, HATANO,  
Larne GREEN HOWARD, SIR LANCELOT, and SIR GALAHAD at  
Exercise 0230 in compliance with your 222234B.  
Area. (N.O.I.C. Ardrossan 230116B to C. in C. W.A.)  
Your 222229B. Intend sailing HARLECH CASTLE  
DUNRAVEN CASTLE and POWIS CASTLE at 0800 today.  
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 230220B to C. in C. W.A.)  
Your 212348. 1st M.S.F. consisting of 4 ships can be made  
available for this operation. They will be sailed for  
Londonderry on the 31st May.  
(C. in C. H.F. 231837B to C. in C. W.A.)

Thames Estuary. One ground mine detonated by Sweeper at 1223B/21 in  
225° Gunfleet Light 2¼ miles. Details.  
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 231009B)  
One ground mine detonated out of Channel, 231°  
East Shingles Buoy, 3.5 cables.  
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 231424B)

Operation. Carry out operation H.V.3 1st light 25th May.  
H.V.3. Initial position 050° 56' 3" N. 005° 39' 2" W.  
299°, 3 miles.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 231327B to PLOVER.)  
My 181107 May. It has been decided to limit  
reinforcement to lines A1, A2, A3, A4, B1 and B2.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 231831B to C. in C. Plymouth, (R)  
C. in C. W.A., PLOVER)



War Diary.23.5.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.

Yarmouth. LL Sweepers detonated red magnetic mine at 1355 in 341° No. 5B Buoy 2.2 miles. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 231421B, 231515B.) Mine exploded in approx. 258° 2 miles from 3A Buoy. (VANITY, 231439 to C. in C. Nore)

SCOTT. Sailed SCOTT. (TRELAWNEY, 232100B to Admt)

Enemy Intelligence.

Wilhemshaven Y Photographs taken at 21/1245/B show: Wilhemshaven. Smoke-screen obscuring details of harbour and west part of town. Naval units now present comprise one F class E/V one M class M/S one 500 ton U/B fitting out. Departures since 4.5.43 are one T/B 240', one Ex. T/B tender 240', one E/R boat, one T.L.C. liners L.38 and L.35. L.26 and L.22 occupy same berths as on 4.5.43 only changes in merchant shipping are arrival of two M/US 25/300' and departure of one M/V 200/250. (R.A.F. Medmenham, 230030B to Admt.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported or attacked in North Atlantic. C.54 No. 942 from Newfoundland to Prestwick report sighting submarine position 52.10 N. 27.30 W. by dead reckoning. (T.A.C. Prestwick, 230825) Am over enemy S/M in 51° 45' N. 28° 40' W. (A/C 86 Sq. Duty Z. 230850B to 15 Group) Have attacked enemy U-Boat with depth-charges. (A/C 86 Sq. Duty Z, 230940B to 15 Group) U-Boat sunk by Swordfish A/C from ARCHER. (B.3, 231132Z) See Shipping. Am over enemy S/M in 51° 42' N. 27° 35' W. (A/C.423 Sq. Duty A. 232102 to 15 Group) Have attacked enemy with depth-charges. (A/C 423 Sq. Duty A. 232114 to 15 Group)

Casualties and Defects.

ORESTES. ORESTES will have completed working-up and boiler-cleaning a.m. Monday 24th May. Sailing will be delayed owing to minor boiler defects. (Capt. Port Edgar, 232131 to C. in C. Rosyth)

Shipping and Convoys.

O.S.48 and K.M.S.15. ALYNBANK. CHARYBDIS. ORKAN. O.S.48/K.M.S.15. My 211708Z para (C) ALYNBANK proceed to Gibraltar. Cancel transferring to S.L. 129. Para. (D) amend to read 58 (27 ships breaking off). (C. in C. W.A. 230915Z) Sailed CHARYBDIS, ORKAN in accordance with my 221335B. (C. in C. Plymouth, 231021B)



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War Diary.25.5.1945.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- E.G.40. Request you will sail Escort Group 40 p.m. 24th toward 055° N. 028° W. at 12 knots. (C. in C. W.A. 230951Z to Cdre. D. W.A.)
- EMPIRE  
FAY. EMPIRE FAY arrived and sailed with Flight G. (N.O.I.C. Appledore, 231045B)
- O.N.184. D/F bearings of transmission at 0828Z indicates that convoy O.N.184 has probably been reported. (D.D.I.C. 231055B to Escorts O.N.184.)  
My 222001Z. ST.LAURENT has all survivors comprising captain, 2 officers, 22 ratings. In all attacks by BOGUE's aircraft U-Boat replied with A/A fire. No indication U-Boat still in contact with convoy. P.C.S. 231800Z, 049° 54' N. 039° 38' W. 274° 6.  
(C.1, 231940Z to C. in C. W.A.)
- H.X.239. U-Boat sunk by A/C from ARCHER. H.X.239. Situation at 1130Z. Quiet night after many fruitless searches on air and H/F D/F, see my 222045. (2) Estimate 5 S/M in vicinity combining 2 ahead reported by duty Z (corrupt group) and 3 astern. (3) Of latter (A) attacked by Liberator at 0718Z. (B) attacked by Swordfish at 0910Z. (C) damaged by Swordfish at 0950Z and sank, 11 prisoners in ESCAPADE.  
(4) (?Been) much H/F D/F heard but signals may have been reporting aircraft and no conclusive evidence of convoy sighted.  
(5) 2nd Liberator now in company. (6) 42 Merchant ships in company. P.C.S. 052° 02' N. 028° 26' W. 065° 10 knots.  
(B.3 231132Z to A.I.G.303)  
My 231132. First interrogation by ESCAPADE.  
(A) One Officer survivor. Captain killed by aircraft machine gun. (B) Convoy thought to be proceeding westward.  
(B.3, 231253Z to A.I.G.303)  
C.A.F.O.151/45. First attack. (1) ARCHER, 819 Squadron Swordfish F. (2) 23rd May 0910Z day attack. (3) 051° 58' N. 029° 56' W. (4) 4 mark XI depth-charges dropped. (5) Straddled periscope while still visible. Nothing further sighted.  
Second attack. (1) ARCHER, 819 Squadron Swordfish G. (2) 23rd May 0940Z day attack. (3) 051° 53' N. 029° 45' W. (4) 4 Mark XI depth-charges dropped. (5) Straddled track 24 seconds after diving. Nothing further sighted.  
Third attack. (1) ARCHER, 819 Squadron Swordfish B. (2) 23rd May 1020Z day attack. (3) 051° 48' N. 029° 32' W. (4) 8 R.P. fired in pairs at ranges 800 yards, 400 yards, 300 yards, and 200 yards. Estimate 6 hits. (5) R.P. attack followed up by Martlet who killed Captain. U-Boat sank before arrival of destroyer to pick up survivors. On first occasion use of R.P. fulfilled all expectations. (6) It is essential to control aircraft on frequency additional to R/T convoy wave. At present congestion is intense. Weather 5281 0034.  
(ARCHER, 232259Z to C. in C. W.A.)  
A.M.231055B. Further bearings indicate that this transmission on Series 8 was in the vicinity of Convoy H.X.239 and not O.N.184. Transmissions at 0830Z/23 and 0856Z/23 may also be in this vicinity, indicating that convoy H.X. 239 is being shadowed. (D.D.I.C.231232B to Escorts O.N.184, and H.X. 239)

H.X.237/...



War Diary.23.5.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- H.X.237.                    H.X.237.    Average speed 9.5 knots.  
 BRAND,                    Off Oversay 161130Z.    Stragglers BRAND, FORT  
 FORT CONCORD,            CONCORD and SANDANGER Torpedoed and sank.  
 and                        Remainder arrived.  
 SANDANGER                (D.T.D.231357B to Connav)  
 sunk.
- North                    C. in C. C.N.A. 221411Z.    Propose to issue the  
 Atlantic                following W.A.G.M. begins:    When west of 43° W.  
 Ice                        weather-reports called for by A.C.I.43 are to be  
 Reports.                immediately preceded by an ice-report from all  
                              North Atlantic ocean escorts.    Report is to be in  
                              form of a four figure group from information given  
                              in W.A.G.O.62.    To permit this sub paragraphs  
 (A) to (E) are to be renumbered (1) to (5).    First two figures  
 will indicate proportion in tenths of sea covered.    Third  
 figure descriptive term.    Fourth figure size of floes.  
 Example quoted will thus be signalled 0623.    Negative reports  
 are always required and are to be signalled by Group  
 commencing with two noughts and completed by two dummy figures.  
 Ends.    (2) Request concurrence.  
 (C. in C. W.A. 231425Z to Admty)
- Safe                    \* Request you will include N.S.H.Q. (Ottawa) in the  
 Conduct                address of daily situation report of all Swedish  
 Ships.                    Gothenburg Traffic and Greek relief vessels.  
                              (D.N.I.231848B and 241645B to N.A. Stockholm)
- S.C.130.                My P.C.S. 056° 31' N. 022° 22' W. 090° 6½.  
                              ESSEX LANCE in company.  
                              (PESSAC, 232000Z to C. in C. W.A.)
- E.G.1.                    E.G.1. is to boiler-clean on arrival.    One boiler  
                              has been cleaned in St.Johns. PELICAN will proceed  
                              to Liverpool for forthcoming layover.  
                              (C. in C. W.A. 232220B to Cdre. D. W.A.)



War Diary.23.5.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

FOXHOUND. E.T.A. 1200Z May 23rd.  
(FOXHOUND, 230500Z to F.O.I.C.Gibraltar)

U/B Aircraft attacked submarine 34.04 N. 11.57 W.  
attacked 0751Z/23 May. Details later.  
by A/C. (C.M.S.F.F. 230850Z to Admty)  
Following read GYU v BRK (Casablanca).  
A A A Proceed best speed to assist aircraft  
attacking submarine 34.04 N. 11.57 W.  
(Gib. W/T. 230855Z to Admty)

My 230850. Sub sighted 0752Z/23 May course 120. Submerged  
before attack completed. Plane remaining vicinity. Additional  
plane and U.S.S. HERBERT despatched to scene.  
(Commorseafron, 230920Z to A.H.Q. Gibraltar, F.O.I.C.Gibraltar  
(R) Cominch, Admty, Comnavnaw, Comfairwing 15)  
Following has been read off Casablanca W/T. HERBERT U.S.S.  
Remain submarine area until further instructions received.  
(Gib. W/T T.O.R. 1442/23 to Admty)

My 230850. Later information received indicates Sub  
wake sighted close astern WEST POINT. Plane did not drop depth  
charges. Destroyer HERBERT in immediate vicinity ordered to  
remain in area until 232000A. Evaluation doubtful.  
(C.M.S.F.F. 231515, 231755 to A.H.Q.Gibraltar, F.O.I.C.  
Gibraltar, (R) Cominch, Admty, Comnavnaw, Comfairwing 15)

O.T.5, Request routeing O.T.5 from 18.14 N. 21.56 W.  
Route. Cominch, 101551 refers.  
(C.M.S.F.F. 230945Z to Cominch, C. & R. (R) Admty)

SCOTTISH, Correct reference quoted in my 211956 to read  
LOCH F.O.I.C.Gibraltar' 201213. F.O.I.C.Gibraltar's  
OSKAIG. 221947 to Admty only (Not being circulated) refers.  
(H.W.R.(Q) 231015B to F.O.Gibraltar etc.)  
W.R. Note. F.O.I.C.Gibraltar's 201213 wrongly  
circulated under T.O.O.201451. T.O.O. of this  
message and reference quoted in A.M.211956 (giving  
estimated dates of arrival of SCOTTISH and LOCH  
OSKAIG) should be amended to read 201213.  
(Amended in W.D.)

Dispositions. Situation 1959B/23rd. U.S.S.WEST POINT 034°  
59' 019° 13' through 034° 58' 027° 59' thence 099°  
20. (2) G.U.F.8 C.T.F.67 031° 36' 029° 17'  
through 052° 01' 052° 01' thence 281° 13½'.  
(F.O.Gibraltar, 231030B)

Situation at 2001B/23rd. (1) Ships escorting convoy S.L.127  
LEITH (E) 36.27 10.13 through 36.30 10.15 thence 311° 7½'.  
(2) Sub. P.55 (UNSPARING) 37.02 09.18 through 36.51 09.13 thence  
099° diving by day 7½. (3) UGL 4, U.S.Ship CHAMPLIN 34.30 08.55  
through 34.21 08.31 where Casablanca section part company thence  
through 34.59 08.01 (3 corrupt groups) 9. (4) G.U.S.7A,  
BROCKLESBY 35.40 06.38 to R/V Casablanca section in 34.09 07.56 at  
0900B/24th thence 247° 8½. (5) AIMWELL 4 motor minesweepers  
35.10 08.56 to Gibraltar 8½. (6) COVERLEY, F.S. LA GRACIEUSE  
one merchant ship 36.12 06.44 through 36.55 07.52 thence  
coastwise to Setubal 10 knots where (corrupt group) enters and  
escort /...



23.5.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Dispositions (Contd.) escort patrols outside territorial waters.  
(7) 3 Portuguese submarines 1 gunboat exercising off Cezimbra until 26th May. (8) HUDDERSFIELD TOWN 1 merchant ship and 1 merchant ship in tow. Vicinity Cape St.Mary. (9) U.S.Des. HERBERT 34.24.11.33 to Casablanca 20. (10) TYNEDALE sailing 0400/24th from Gibraltar to R/V 1 merchant ship off Villa Real at 1800/24th and escort to Gibraltar 9. (11) 3 P.C. 35.45 06.28 to Casablanca 15. (12) \*ESKIMO sailed 1900/23rd through 35.40 12.01 thence 281 16.  
(F.O.Gibraltar, 231138B)  
\*W.R. Note: Para.12 has been cancelled by F.O.I.C.Gibraltar's 231544 (N.T. in W.D.)

CIUDAD DE ALICANTE (Spanish) Departure 23rd 3 C.DE ALICANTE Cadiz 25th. (Las Palmas 231030 to Admty)  
W.R. Note: Passed to H.Q.C.C. F.O.S., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth)

COVERLEY, LA GRACIEUSE, COVERLEY, LA GRACIEUSE, escorting one merchant ship sailed 1200/23rd routed Q.K.A. 87 thence direct to Cape St.Mary and coastwise to Setubal speed 9 knots.  
(F.O.Gibraltar, 231102B to P.55UNSPARING)

G.U.S.7A. Arrivals FORT PITT, DJEBEL AURES, FORT RELIANCE, EMPIRE ENVOY.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 231125B to Com.N.O.B.Oran, Comm. Algiers (R) C. in C. Med. C.M.S.F.F., Connav, Admty)

G.U.S.7A. Gibraltar section sailed as follows (list)  
(F.O.Gibraltar, 231133B to C.M.S.F.F. (R) Admty etc.)

TYNEDALE. TYNEDALE sails Gibraltar 0400/24th to R/V with 1 merchant ship of Villa Real at 1800/24th and escort to Gibraltar.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 231246B to S/M USPARING)

Convoy C.G.33. Arrived.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 231415B to C.M.S.F.F. (R) C. in C. Med. Admty. Connav)

TARRAGONA. Following is repetition of my 230317 (Begins) 8th Sub.Flot. S.O.(I) Med. (R) Capt. (S) 8 from S.O.(I) Gibraltar. My 211923. TARRAGONA left Alicante 2100B on Saturday 22nd for Port Vendres.  
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 231502B to 8th S.F., S.O.(I) Med. (R) Capt. (S) 8).

HOWE /...



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War Diary.23.5.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

HOWE, Admty. recypher and pass to HOWE, (R) INGLEFIELD,  
 INGLEFIELD, ORWELL, ONSLOW, C. in C. H.F. C. in C. W.A.,  
 ORWELL, C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C. from F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.  
 ONSLOW. (Passing action being taken by W.R.)  
 N.U. Cancel my 221141. Onward route from  
 position (D) through (P) 37.26 N. 14.05 W.  
 (Q) 36.18 N. 12.38 W. (R) 35.03 N. 10.10 W.  
 (S) 35.45 N. 06.20 W. and Q.K.A.87 to Gibraltar. (2) Paravanes  
 are to be streamed as convenient before crossing 07° W.  
 (F.O. Gibraltar 231530B to Admty (R) C. in C. Med.)

ALPERA HUDDERSFIELD TOWN escorting RAVENSPPOINT and  
 damaged ALPERA from Lisbon to join S.L.129 reported 2045/22  
 by A/C. May ALPERA badly damaged in engine room from Air  
 Attack. (2) At 2155 HUDDERSFIELD TOWN in position  
 330° St. Vincent.15 reported ALPERA in tow and  
 making for Baliera Point Anchorage. 37.04 08.17,  
 RAVENSPPOINT in company. (3) SALVONIA sailed 0200/23rd May,  
 E.T.A. ALPERA 1600/23rd May. (4) CALPE sailed 1345/23rd May  
 to escort RAVENSPPOINT to Gibraltar.  
 (F.O. Gibraltar 231608B to Admty, C. in C. Med., C. in C. W.A.  
 (R) F.O.H.). W.D. Note: ALPERA sunk, see CALPE, 240110B.  
 ALPERA abandoned in sinking condition 20 miles from coast.  
 Will endeavour to beach Bahia (corrupt group) Lagos (Portugal).  
 (SALVONIA, 232130B to F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

S.R.4.F. Arrived Convoy S.R.4.F. consisting of ANTENORE,  
 MALOJA, FELIX ROUSSEL and CALIFORNIA, escorted by  
 BULLDOG, FOXHOUND, CATTERICK.  
 (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 231631 to Admty etc.)

BLYSKAWICA. Following is a repetition of paras. 6 and 7 of my  
 201957 (Begins) (6) BLYSKAWICA is to remain with  
 convoy until prudent limit of endurance when she  
 is to part company and proceed to U.K. Route and  
 destination as ordered by Admiralty. (7) When hundred miles  
 clear of convoy BLYSKAWICA is to report by immediate signal,  
 (A) P.C. and S. of convoy, number of ships in convoy, and escorts  
 not present. (B) P.C. and S. of BLYSKAWICA. (C) Weather report  
 (Ends.)  
 (F.O. Gibraltar 231646B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C.  
 Plymouth, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Portsmouth)  
 Forced to part company from M.K.S.13 at 0803B/23rd in 035°  
 21' 008° 42' 259° 7. S.L.129 not yet joined. My P.C. and S.  
 at 2200B/23rd, 037° 30' 011° 26' 330° 15. Intend proceeding to  
 013° 20' W. thence 000°. May have to reduce speed again owing  
 to shortage of fuel. Special weather report.  
 (O.R.P. BLYSKAWICA, 232208B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) Admty,  
 C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth)

M.M.S. E.T.A. 2200/25th May.  
 (S.O. Motor Minesweepers, 231725Z to F.O.C.  
 Gibraltar)

S.L.129 /...



War Diary.

23.5.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

S.L.129.

AUBRETIA, COREOPSIS, ANCHUSA, VIOLET sailed (1800A (1900A?)) today to rejoin S.L.129. (C.M.S.F.F. 231740Z to F.O.C.Gib. (R) Admty. C. in C. Med.)

Movements,  
Gibraltar.

Departures ADVENTRUE, HAYDON to Mers El Kebir, COVERLEY French Ship LA CRACIEUSE Escort Duties Setubal. CALPE Escort Duties West. Arrivals ZETLAND, VETCH, GAVOTTE, KING SOL, TANGO, PIRQUETTE, Ex. G.U.S.7A. (F.O.C.Gibraltar 231955B to Admty, C. in C. Med.)



War Diary.

23.5.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

HIGHLAND PRINCESS M.W.T.R. Lagos requests HIGHLAND PRINCESS due Takoradi 21/5, be diverted to Lagos to cover a special requirement. (2) In the circumstances we are prepared to accept delay to HIGHLAND PRINCESS provided you have no objection.  
(D. of S.T. 230005B to F.O.C.W.A.).  
D. of S.T. 230005. Concur. Sailing HIGHLAND PRINCESS to Lagos accordingly.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 230308Z to N.O.I.C. Takoradi (R) S.S.T.O. Takoradi, N.O.I.C. Lagos, S.T.O. Lagos, D. of S.T. D.S.T.O.W.Af.)  
D. of S.T. 230005. Turn round of HIGHLAND PRINCESS at Lagos and Takoradi must be expedited to utmost in order to avoid delay to DUCHESS OF RICHMOND.  
(2) In order to take advantage of this valuable opportunity to (?clear) civilians from West Coast, every effort is to be made after consultation with Master to berth males in troop deck. No berths are to be lost by berthing married couples together. Complete control of berthing to be exercised by S.S.T.O's.  
(3) Vessel may be embarked to (?greater) limit.  
(4) Numbers of civilians which I wish to clear by this opportunity are (list).  
(5) S.S.T.O. Lagos report arrangements made.  
(6) F.O.C.W.Af. concurs.  
(7) S.S.T.O's pass to M.W.T.R's.  
(D.S.T.O.W.A. 231927Z to S.S.T.O. Takoradi, S.S.T.O. Lagos (R) N.O.I.C. Lagos, N.O.I.C. Takoradi, R.A.W.A. D. of S.T.).  
+See also 231749Z.

ILE DE FRANCE Sailed May 22nd for Rio de Janeiro E.T.A. a.m. June 3rd. Total personnel on board for U.K. Requirements.  
(D.S.T.O. Durban 230803T, to B.R.O. Rio de Janeiro (R) Admty. C. in C.S.A. etc.).

W.S.29 ALMANZORA sailed in W.S.29. Requirements Diego Suarez.  
(S.T.O. Capetown 230915Z to D. of S.T. N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, P.S.T.O. India).  
Following freight ships sailed 22nd May in W.S.29 for Middle East D.S.T.O. Durban is requested to inform addressees E.T.A. Aden. PARDO, EMPIRE KAMAL, SILVER WALNUT. Requirements.  
(S.T.O. Capetown 230935Z to D. of S.T. S.T.O. Aden).  
W.S.21 (?29) sailed for R/V 22nd May. D.S.T.O. Durban is requested to inform addressees E.T.A. Bombay. ATHLONE CASTLE, ORBITA, LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE. Requirements.  
(S.T.O. Capetown 230945Z to Admty. etc.).

CILICIA Intend sailing CILICIA at 1200Z/24th to proceed through position (X) 011 degs. 01' North 017 degs. 33' west to patrol area A 011 degs. North 027 degs. west B.009 degs. 025 degs. C 006 degs. 028 degs. D. 008 degs. 030 degs. S. of A. 14 knots.  
(2) Intend CARNARVON CASTLE to leave patrol at 1500Z/26th to return to Freetown position X. S. of A. 15½ knots E.T.A. Freetown, 1600Z/28th.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 230950 to Admty.).

/Movements....



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War Diary.23.5.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. -Contd.

Movements  
Takoradi. Arrival 23rd May SARABANDE. Departure 23rd May M.L.305 to Port Bouet, E.T.A. 0630Z/24th. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi 231015Z to Admty. etc.).

STRAAT  
MALAKKA Your 021554 (requesting information re STRAAT MALAKKA calling at Bombay). D.S.T.O. Durban reports STRAAT MALAKKA has 14 aircraft on deck for Karachi and unless you instruct him to contrary will despatch ship to Karachi. No reason for her visit to Bombay. (P.S.T.O. Capetown 231112 to C. in C.E.F. (R) P.S.T.O.I. etc.).

VIRGINIA  
THYME Departure Pointe Noire 1000Z VIRGINIA and THYME in accordance with previous orders (not to B.N.L.O. West Africa) S. of A. 10 knots. Routed through 017 degs. south 011 degs East. E.T.A. Capetown 0809Z 1st June. Shift to Q W/T organization 1800/24th. (B.N.L.O.W.A. 231115A to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty. C. in C.S.A. N.O.I.C. Lagos, N.O.I.C. Walvis Bay.

Dispositions Situation at 1959Z/23.  
U.S. ELLIS DUPONT, DICKERSON, with O.T.5, 17.28 35.35 85 degs. 13.2 VICTORIA M.L. 1231, 1072 escorting 18.58 16.50 northward 6½. SCARBOROUGH, FLEETWOOD, AZALEA, SPIREAM, RISKATO, BUTTERMERE, WASTWATER, COLTSFOOT, BALSAM, BELLWORT, with O.S.47, 11.01 18.30 117 degs. 8½ L.S.T. 412 CYCLAMEN L.S.T.321, 09.08 14.28 309 degs. 8. CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 08.30 27.30 14. (F.O.C.W.A. 231115Z).  
Situation 2002Z 23rd.  
M.Ls. 285, 272, 289 and 209, 07.06 13.55 to 06.46 13.18 to 07.00 13.10 thence Freetown 11. BRIDGEWATER, escorting 04.56 09.30 to 04.01 07.54 thence 085 degs. 11½. PICT about 07.30 13.49 to Freetown 8. MORRIS DANCE, ORIANA off (corrupt groups) MILFORD, WOODRUFF, PETUNIA, TAMARISK, TURCOMAN, YESTOR, DUNKERY with T.S.41, 03.35 07.00 to 03.30 07.40 thence Dakar 6.5 SNOWDROP escorting 01.47 00.20 East 324 degs. 13.5. M/L.277 M/L 1042 off Accra. M/Ls. 1019, 1018 and 1052 off Kotonu. ROHILKHAND M.M.S.107 escorting 03.05 South 08.55 East 03.30 South 09.30 East thence 115 degs.8. (F.O.C.W.A.231130Z).  
Weekly state West African Station 22nd May, 1943. Dakar area SCARBOROUGH, FLEETWOOD, AZALEA, COLTSFOOT, SPIREA, BALSAM, BELLWORT, WASTWATER, Freetown, CILICIA, ALCANTARA, DESPATCH, WITCH, CORINITHIAN, TRUSTY, BURDOCK, CROCUS, CYCLAMEN, COMMANDANT DETROYAT, COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE, COWSLIP, L.S.Ts. 412, 324, 421. Freetown Area, MALCOLM, RAPID, WOLVERINE, ARMERIA, BUTTERMERE, BRIDGEWATER. Takoradi Area MILFORD, SNOWDROP, PETUNIA, TAMARISK, WOODRUFF. Duala PRESIDENT HOUDUCE. Libreville SAVORNADE, BRAZZA. Pointe Noire Area, VIRGINIA, THYME, ROHILKHAND. (F.O.C.W.A. 231457Z).

/GEORGES....



War Diary.

23.5.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.-Contd.

GEORGES My 21195 (sic) to F.O.C.W.Af. only.  
LEYGUES. Intend to sail GEORGES LEYGUES 2130Z/24 for  
Casablanca routed through position A 14 degs. 45'  
North 17 degs. 37' West. B. 20 degs. N. 17 degs.  
16' West. thence by French standard coastal route.  
Speed made good 23 knots, E.T.A. 0900Z/27.  
(3) French air protection throughout.  
(4) GEORGES LEYGUES keeping group F.T. until 0600Z/26 then  
Gibraltar broadcast. 500 kc/cs constant French H/F and M/F  
services constant. Amiral Afrique informed.  
(? Comar Dakar 231117Z to F.O.C.W.A. Admty. S.N.O.C.A.etc.).

T.S.40. Arrival 22nd May MALCOLM, RAPID, WOLVERINE,  
M.Ls. 285, 256, 296, 574 with T.S.40.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown 231258Z to N.O.I.C.Takoradi  
(R) Admty. R.N.O. Lagos).

Movements Arrival 22nd May COWSLIP, DUNTON, French ship  
Freetown. ASPIRANT BRUN.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown 231259Z to Comar Dakar, N.O.I.C.  
Bathurst, Gambia, (R) Admty.).

Saldanha Loop Defence. Estimate further 8 weeks required to complete  
training of S.A.N.F. controlled mining personnel  
referred to in para.3. of your 091806.  
(C. in C.S.A. 231319 to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F.  
MANCHESTER CITY).

French S/Ms. A.M.072127 and C. in C. Med. 101749. ARGO and  
ARGO CENTAUR very efficient as A/S training S/Ms.  
CENTAUR . have good speed and remarkable range of action.  
Considered too large for operations in  
Mediterranean.

(2) Crew do not at present show much fighting spirit but with  
change of Scene in America morale may improve. Information  
regarding JULES VERNE is being collected.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 231459Z to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.).

S.L.130 Advance Sailing Telegram.  
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 231546Z to Admty.).

CYCLAMEN Departures 1200Z/23 May. CYCLAMEN escorting  
L.S.Ts. L.S.Ts. 412, 324.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown 231602Z to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar,  
(R) Comar Dakar, Commorseafron, C. in C. Med.  
Admty.).

/My....



War Diary.23.5.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- CYCLAMEN  
L.S.Ts.  
(Contd.).  
My 211625. (Intended sailing of L.S.T. 412 (S.O.) and L.S.T. 324) Sailed 24 hours late at 1030/23rd CYCLAMEN pass to L.S.T. 412.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 232300Z to F.O.Gibraltar).
- DAUNTLESS  
Arrived Simonstown 22nd May.  
(C. in C.S.A. 231649B to Admty. N.O.I.C. Durban, C. in C.E.F.).
- HIGHLAND  
PRINCESS,  
ORDUNA,  
MALCOLM.  
D. of S.T.'s. 230005. Intend to fill HIGHLAND PRINCESS to escorted (?basis) and sail her in company with ORDUNA to Casablanca. MALCOLM and one corvette will provide escort north of Dakar. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to say if he can relieve corvette in 26 degs. North about 7th June. MALCOLM continues with convoy to destination.  
(F.O.C.W.A.231749Z to Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) D.of S.T. Commorseafront. D.S.T.O.W.A. C. in C. Med.).
- Movements  
Lagos.  
Arrivals 23rd ARRAN M/Ls 244, 263. Departure ORFASY, Cotonou 24th.  
(N.O.I.C. Lagos 231800Z to Admty. etc.).
- TRUSTY  
F.O.C.W.Af. 221113. Port arrival of TRUSTY in U.K. is Holy Loch, refitting at Newcastle-on-Tyne. (2) F.O.I.C. Gib, is requested route TRUSTY on to route "Rose".  
(F.O.S. 231802B to F.O.C.W.Af. F.O.I.C.Gib. (R) Admty. Capt.(S) 3. Capt.(S) 9.).
- QUERCY  
French Auxiliary cruiser QUERCY now lying off Salut-Island is leaving tomorrow morning for St. Laurent.  
(R.O. Cayenne 231935 to Admty.).
- GAMBIA  
Simonstown departure 1415Z/23rd May GAMBIA for Bathurst. S. of A. 18 knots. Route (G) 034 degs. 25' South 014 degs. 45' East. (J) 002 degs. South 007 degs. 40' west. (K) 004 degs. North 009 degs. (L) 007 degs. 38' 014 degs. 10'. shift to W/T organisation for area P at 0400Z/28th May, E.T.A. position K 0800Z/30th May E.T.A. Bathurst 1000Z/1st June.  
(C. in C. S.A. 231959B to Admty. F.O.C.W.Af. N.O.I.C. Bathurst).
- U/B  
Submarine reported by American Aircraft 35 miles east of Accra at 1755Z/23.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 232001Z to Admty.).

/GEORGES.....



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23.5.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.-Contd.

GEORGES  
LEYGUES  
GLOIRE.

Comar Dakar informs me that GEORGES LEYGUES and GLOIRE will not be available for operations after 15th June as they will be preparing for their forthcoming refit in America. Porpose to send Liaison staffs now in these ships to America in them, then to be available for transfer to other

ships as you direct.

(F.O.C.W.A. 232223Z to Admty. (R) B.A.D. C. in C. Med. Comar Dakar).



23.5.1943.

Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of F (signification unknown) one merchant vessels and one unknown 38° 53' N. 15° 20' E., 360°, 10 knots. (A/C FFU/F, 230124B to A.H.Q. Malta.)

Malta Opsum. A.I.525, 23rd May. Daily Opsum No.14, 22nd/23rd May. One Wellington on shipping search north of Messina sighted at 2320 hours one M/V 3000 tons with an E/V in 38° 53' N. 15 (or 25?)° 20' E. course north at 10 knots, at 2359 hours the M/V was attacked with torpedo but no result observed. 2 torpedo Beaufort made armed search for enemy shipping south-east of Italy and in Gulf of Taranto. 3 Mosquitoes made intruder patrol over Sicily and toe of Italy. M.T. at Palagonia and Regulbuto was attacked and at a W/T station and camp at Metilli a fire was started visible 50 miles away. Cannon strikes were scored on factory buildings at Pozzallo and on a railway locomotive at San Cataldo and a train east of Cefalu was attacked and damaged a large petrol store near railway at San Cataldo after attack exploded and burst into flames with much black smoke. In toe of Italy a railway locomotive was disabled between Lam Zia and Catanzaro. 2 Beaufighters made interception patrols east of Sicily, one Beaufighter was airborne on interception.

23rd May. 12 Spitfire bombers escorted by 4 Spitfires bombed Lampedusa aerodrome, 24 x 250 lb. G.P. (inst. with rod and 6 hours delay) bombs dropped. Bursts were seen on eastern half of aerodrome on south perimeter and off north-west boundary. 4 Spitfires were airborne on R/C of Lampedusa. One Baltimore provided A/S patrol for incoming Naval Units. 2 Baltimores made shipping searches south-east of Italy and in Gulf of Taranto. 25 Me.109 and F.W.190 approached Malta at extreme height. 18 Spitfires intercepted but combats inconclusive. 24 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back. (R.A.F. Malta, 230310Z.)

Tunisia. X Impression of Gen. Eisenhower on German surrender. (A.F.H.Q. Algiers, No T.O.O.; Recd. 0345/23.) See Lion Copy.

Movements, Tripoli. 22nd May sailed PRIMULA, FALK, CROMARTY, BOSTON, ROMNEY, M.L.121. Arrived LIDDESDALE, VELOX, VENOMOUS. Arrived and sailed PALADIN, HURWORTH, EASTON, HURSLEY, ALDENHAM, TROUBRIDGE. (S.N.O. Trip., 230355A to Admty.)

CESSNOCK. Departure. (N.O.I.C. Massawa, 230845Z to Admty.)

/Movements ...







7. Equipment very good and first inspection shows no change in standard of manufacture.

T.O.O. Nil.

Note by C.6. (Tels.) Advance copy sent to H.Q. E.T.O.U.S.A.

Received in War Registry from War Office at 1720/24.

War Office Distribution.

1st Lord.  
1st S.L.(2).  
D.F.S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(F)(2).  
A.C.N.S.(H).  
D.O.D.(F)(2).  
D.O.D.(H)(2).  
D. of P.(2).  
Hd. of M.(5).  
C.C.O.(2).  
W.D.  
D.N.I.(4).  
D.D.I.C.(2).  
D.S.D.9.(2).

S. of S.  
C.I.G.S.  
V.C.I.G.S.  
D.C.I.G.S.  
A.C.I.G.S.  
D.S.D.  
D.M.O.  
D.D.M.F.(0).  
D. Plans (2).  
M.C.1,4,5,6.  
L.M.I.  
D.E.M.I.(I).  
M.I.3,3a,3b,6,10,14,17.  
M.I.8. (Major Leatham).  
D.D.I.P.  
I.P.1.  
Air Co-ord.  
Brigadier Jacob (W.C.O.)  
S. of S. Foreign Affairs (Personal)  
D.N.I.  
A.C.A.S.(I).  
F.O. (Mr. Cavendish-Bentinck).  
Col. Vickers. (M.E.W.)  
Sec. J.I.C.(2).  
Hd. of War Registry, Admiralty.  
Hd. of A.M.C.S. Air Ministry.



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23.5.1943.

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

Movements, Bizerta. Following is a repetition of my 222157 (N.T. in W.R.) (3 corrupt groups) Bizerta arrival HUNDA, RHYL, STORNOWAY. Departure ROTHESAY, (Ends). (S.O.I.S., 230908B to C. in C. Med., Admty., etc.)

Movements, Alexandria. Arrivals 22nd May DULVERTON, EXMOOR, TETCOTT, BEAUFORT, Cable ship BULLFINCH, Greek destroyers PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS, PINDOS. Departures 22nd May BELVOIR, WOLBOROUGH, ROMEO. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 230916C to Admty., etc.)

Italian Repatriations. GRADISCA, CITTA DE TUNISI and ARGENTINA may have left Bari for Smyrna at 0400/23rd. Not to be molested. (Capt. (S) 10, 230926B to TROOPER, (R) 10th S/M.F.)

ULTOR. P.53 (ULTOR) leave area T to arrive Malta 0830B/26th routed through 036° 40' 015° 49' and 035° 15' 015° 35'. P.53 shift to area T at 2000/24th. (Capt. (S) 10, 230952B to P.53 (ULTOR), P.52 (P.S. DZIK), (R) C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8.)

Through Convoys. G.T.X.3. Admty. 201229B and B.A.D. 201551Z. Following is latest appreciation of numbers that will be sailed for G.T.X.3: ex K.M.S.16, 4 specials, 5 standard allocation, ex U.G.S.9 7 ships, total 16.  
2. In order to fix loadings information is urgently required whether following numbers can be accepted for through convoy. Ex K.M.S.17, 5 ships ex U.G.S.10, 15 ships arriving Gibraltar about 1st July. (D.T.D., 231001B to C. in C. Med., (R) B.A.D., C. in C. Levant.)

Zigzagging. Request following amendments be promulgated by A.G.M. as soon as possible.  
(A) B.R.248 insert new numbered zigzag diagram for normal night zigzag as described in C.O.F.

Art. 145 (A).  
(B) S.P.02200 article 143 (E) delete except when carrying out the normal night zigzag.  
(C) S.P.02200 articles 144 (E) and 145 delete.  
(C. in C. Med., 231049B to Admty., (R) C. in C. Levant, F.O. H.)

RORQUAL. Capt. (S) 10 212312.  
After passing 033° 40' 021° 54' at 2300C/25th May proceed through (? position) 032° 08' 032° 10' at 0115C/30th.

/ (B) ...



23.5.1943.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

RORQUAL  
(Contd.) (B) 031° 48' 032° 34' to arrive Port Said searched channel at 0530C/30th. Heartiest congratulations on laying your thousandth egg. (Capt. (S) 1, 231058C to RORQUAL, (R) C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 10, Capt. (S) 8, Commodore (D), C.C.F. Eastern Med.)

Minesweeping Alexandria. Weekly M/S Summary 23rd May 1943. Channels, anchorages and J.G. range swept daily negative results. Two red mines laid 9th June 1941 in declared Q.B.C. 260 (A) detonated. One B LL/SA sweeper LAN LAAGTE on 17th May and one by LL/SA sweeper SOIKA on 19th May. Written report follows. Chart 243 refers. (R.A. Alexandria, 231228 to Admty.)

Enemy Unit. P.C. and S. at 1218A of one medium enemy vessel is 738° 03', 10° 00' E., 100°, 8 knots. (A/C FBS/S, 231231A to Air H.Q. Malta.)

U.G.F. 8A. Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Oran, 231306 to Admty., etc.)

P.R.U. P.R.U. 23rd, battleships, visuals, 1040 Taranto 2 battleships, 2 cruisers. 1225 Messina no major naval units. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 231332B to C. in C. Med., etc.)

P.R.U. 23rd May. Visuals. 1520 Taranto - 2 battleships, 2 cruisers. 1605 Messina - no major naval units. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 231735B to C. in C. Med., etc.)

N.A.A.F. Report. From: Spaatz Adv. N.A.A.F. Nr. M.4942. To: Eaker and Brereton.  
1. Escorted by 36 P.38s 23 B.17s dropped bombs on Bo Rizzo aerodrome.  
2. 37 P.38s co-ordinated attack with B.17s and damaged 3 enemy aircraft.  
4. Night 21st/22nd May. 17 Wellingtons dropped bombs on Castelvetro, Sciacca, Milo and Bo Rizzo airdromes. (N.A.A.F. Adv., 231337B to Etousa.)

PUNJAB. Departure. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 231344Z to C. in C. Levant, etc.)

/LIDDESDALE ...



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23.5.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

LIDDESDALE, Leave Tripoli at 1900A/23rd S. of A. (20 knots?)  
VELOX, through "Blaze" position (R) 034° 14' 012° 00'  
VENOMOUS. thence to Bone by reverse of route in C. in C.  
Med.'s 151601. E.T.A. boom 1830/24th codeword  
"Hunter" wireless call sign 920. Request fighter  
protection normal.

(S.N.O. Tripoli, 231351A to LIDDESDALE, VELOX, VENOMOUS, (R)  
C. in C. Med., N.L.O. 211 Group, F.O.I.C. & N.O.I.C. French  
North Africa (except N.O.I.C. Casablanca) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar,  
S.O. Force H, Admty., Connav, Capt. (S) 8.)

N.W.A.A.F. N.A.A.F. Opsum. No. 01 May 23rd.  
Report. N.A. Strategic A.F. 21st/22nd May. 17  
Wellingtons intruder missions over Castelvetro, Sciacca, Milo and Borizzo airdromes to facilitate passage of convoy.  
22nd May. 25 Fortresses (B.17) escorted by 36 Lightnings (P.38)  
2 Fortresses returned early dropped bombs on Borizzo airdrome, covered target thoroughly, fires started. 44 Lightnings (P.38), 7 returned early, diversionary sweep Borizzo for bombers.  
21st/22nd May. U-Boat hunts, 6 Hudsons, convoy escort, 3 Albacores. Defensive patrols, 19 Beaufighters. Interception, 6 Beaufighters. All nil reports.  
23rd May. Convoy escort, 2 Hudsons. U-Boats hunts, 4 Hudson, 1 Albacore. R.O.N. 2 Marauders Sardinia, Corsica Vitavechia north coast Sicily. Defensive patrols, 21 U.S. Airacobras (P.39) Interception, 5 U.S. Airacobras (P.39) (? made) no contacts.  
Enemy activity. 3 hostile approached Jijelli? between 0315 and 0405 May 21st. No landfall, possibly minelayers, no contacts.  
(N.W.A.A.F. Adv. H.Q., 231507B.)

Situation Report No. 98.

1. Two through convoys west to east have been passed through Sicilian Channel without incident. Fleet minesweepers and destroyers running T.S.D.S. preceded the convoy in vicinity of Cape Bon where clearance operations are still in progress.
2. FANTOME was mined and stern blown off at 0735/20 whilst sweeping in Cape Bon area. Ship has been towed to Bizerta. Three serious casualties.
3. During minesweeping operations off Cape Bon 13 mines were swept on 19th May, 16 on 20th May, and 1 on 21st May. Total number of mines swept off Tunisian coast since 9th May, 122.
4. EGGESFORD shot down one enemy aircraft off Cape de Garde at 0057/21, three of crew were recovered.
5. Coastal forces operating from Bizerta and Malta carried out patrols off Empedocle and south-east corner of Sicily during nights 21st/22nd May and 22nd/23rd May to cover passage of convoys.
6. CLACTON intercepted small sailing boat off Cape Bon at 0820/2 and took 8 German prisoners escaping from Sidi Daud.



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Report  
No. 98.  
(Contd.)

7. At 0345/23 LAFOREY whilst on patrol with LOOKOUT in Sicilian Channel sunk northbound 400 ton auxiliary in 37° 24' N. 11° 53' E. 8 Italian prisoners taken.

8. SICKLE scored one hit on U-Boat which was considered sunk at 2154/20 in 42° 50' N. 06° 00' E. Another U-Boat was sunk in same vicinity at 1512/21.  
(C. in C. Med., 231743, 261742B to A.I.G.264.)

Minesweeping.

F.O. Inshore Squadron 171025A (N.T. in W.D.) Both Flotillas intend to anchor Kelibia Bay tonight Sunday and continue sweep in Area P from 5 miles east to 10 miles south of Kelibia at about 0600 tomorrow Monday. Request fighter protection priority 2 for MAGRULL and BALSAM.  
(S.O. 12 M/S. Flotilla, 231821B to F.O.I.S., (R) A.I.G.263 (Spare), S.O. 13 M/S. Flotilla.)

Small  
Craft in  
K.M.S. 16.

Cancel my 211821 (Priority of operational M.T.Bs and H.D.M.Ls over A.S.R. Launches) which was sent due to misunderstanding. H.Q. Med. Air Command did not concur.

2. I consider naval operational craft must have priority but am prepared to accept arrangements in A.M. 221557 provided four M.T.Bs arrive without shipment of two H.D.M.Ls to Casablanca can be accepted.

3. Med. Air Command do not concur in A.M. 221557 and wish their full allocation.  
(C. in C. Med., 231920B to Admty., (R) Air Min., H.Q. Med. Air Command.)

SIMOOM,  
SHAKESPEARE,  
information.

My 231754. Landing craft leaves Algiers at 0600B to East. SIRIUS sails at 0700B.  
(Capt. (S) 8, 232000B to P.225 (SIMOOM), P.221 (SHAKESPEARE).)

Movements,  
Bizerta.

Arrivals HUSSAR, BREAM, P.T.202 and 204, M.G.Bs 641 and 643 and 647, EMPIRE MINOTAUR.  
Departures FANTOME, RHYL, STORNOWAY, HUSSAR, FOULA, EMPIRE MINOTAUR, WESTRAY, L.S.T.385, H.D.M.L. 1163.  
(F.O.I.S., 232024B to C. in C. Med., etc.)

Movements,  
Port Said.

23rd May Port Said arrivals BELVOIR, WOLBOROUGH, ROMEO, M.L.1004. Departures AETOS, IERAX, ISLAY, M.L.386, R.F.A. WAR KRISHNA, BELVOIR, WOLBOROUGH, NEBB.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 232113C to C. in C. Levant.)

/Malta ...



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

Malta Air Report. A.I.524, 23rd May. C.S.R. Malta.  
(A) Air, offensive, day 22nd May. 8 Spitfire bombers escorted by 8 fighter Spitfires with 4 fighter Spitfires as high cover and four fighter Spitfires as rear cover bombed Gela/Ponte Olivo

Aerodrome..

Night 22nd/23rd May. Mosquitoes made successful intruder patrols over Sicily and toe of Italy. One special equipment Wellington with torpedo on shipping search north of Messina sighted at 2320 hours 1 M/V 3000 tons with an E/V in 38° 53' N. 15° 20' E. course north, 10 knots. At 2359 hours the M/V was attacked with torpedo but no result was observed. 2 torpedoes carrying Beauforts on armed search for enemy shipping south-east of Italy and in Gulf of Taranto encountered haze and poor visibility and made no significant sighting.

Day 23rd May. 12 Spitfire bombers escorted by 4 fighter Spitfires bombed Lampedusa aerodrome. —

Part 2. Enemy air activity.

Night 22nd/23rd May, 2 Beaufighters made interception patrols east of Sicily. 1 Beaufighter was airborne on interception.

Day 23rd May, 0807 hours 25 Me.109 and F.W.190 approached Malta at extreme height and were intercepted by 18 Spitfires but combats were inconclusive. 24 other Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta and evaded combat.

(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 232126Z.)

Movements,  
Oran.

Arrivals today: SS. TEXAS SEATRAN, FREDERICK LYKES, NEA HELLAS, U.S. SAM LAKEHURST, CHICOPEE, MONROVIA, MATTAPONI, BARNETT, JOSEPH S. DICKMAN, LYON THURSTON, ELIZABELL C. STANTON, OBERON, BETELGEUSS, HUNTER LIGGETT, SAVANNAH, PLUNKETT, WAINWRIGHT, NIBLACK, COLE, MAYRANT, GLEAVES, BENSON, RHIND, TRIPPE, DALLAS, ROWEN, BERNADAU, HAYDON, ADVENTURE.  
Departure: HAYDON.  
(Comnob. Oran, 232155B to Admty., etc.)

Movements,  
Tripoli.

Sailed LIDDESDALE, VENOMOUS, VELOX. Arrived CROMARTY, BOSTON, ROMNEY.  
(S.N.O. Trip., 232237A to Admty.)

Malta  
M.T.Bs.

Sailed M.T.Bs. 65 and 84 for patrol.  
Arrived M.T.Bs 637, 633, 636 and 640.  
(V.A. Malta, 232304B to Admty., etc.)

Port  
conditions,  
Bizerta,  
Ferryville,  
Tunis.

\* 3635, 22nd. 2(a) Ferryville No.1 dock C.M.A. (This is to Agwar, (R) Cominch C.M.A., Admty., and Comnavnaw signed Eisenhower answering Agwar S.C.N. 27/18 timed 182355A (N.T. in W.R.)  
Tug sunk inside. Coign on S. side destroyed.



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conditions,  
Bizerta,  
Ferryville,  
Tunis.  
(Contd.)

2. Caissons in this dock which fit No. 1 or No. 4 dock. They appear to be superficially damaged. Believed to be some bomb craters on floor of dock.

(b) Ferryville No. 2 dock C.M.A. There appear to be no obstructions or damage inside this dock but Coigns have been destroyed and Caisson is damaged and sunk.

(c) Nos. 1 and 2 docks may be operating in three months time. Ferryville Nos. 3 and 4 docks. Caissons C.M.A. Coigns and walls are severely damaged and cannot be repaired in less than 6 months.

3. Port conditions.

(a) Bizerta. There are 23 ships and vessels sunk at mouth of canal. Clearance is proceeding and there is now a passage 20 feet deep and 85 feet wide and berths for L.S.Ts. In a few weeks time there should be a passage for liberty ships. Port facilities and town largely destroyed. Submarine C.M.A. destroyer and seaplane bases and La Pecherie village in fair condition and usable. Fuel tanks only partially destroyed.

(b) Ferryville. Wide damage in dockyard but restoration making good progress. Many wrecks in harbour. Ferryville town practically undamaged.

(c) Tunis. Canal partially blocked and will be cleared in six weeks. Berths for coasters not available at La Goulette. No storage C.M.A. cranes or fuel supply available at present. La Goulette town severely damaged. Tunis town practically undamaged.

4. (a) Immediate requirements are 10 in number 10" self priming centrifugal salvage pumps, gasoline or diesel driven, with suction hose and pipes.

(b) 4 in number 20-ton long jib trawler cranes.

(c) Self-contained gasoline or diesel driven welding plant for 8 welders and similar air compressor plant for 8 pneumatic tools.

5. Further signal will be made re electrical power requirements. (C. in C. Med., T.H.I.222350A to Agwar, (R) Cominch (Agwar please pass), Admty., Comnavnaw.)

NEWFOUNDLAND. X Arrived NEWFOUNDLAND and TARTAR.

(V.A. Malta, 232359B to Admty., C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant.)

W.D. Note: NEWFOUNDLAND with C. in C. Med. on board.



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

CLIVE. Departure CLIVE.  
( N.O.I.C. Karachi, 230306Z to Admty. etc.)

Convoy M.B. 36. Arrived.  
( N.C.S.O. Bombay, 230312Z to Admty.)

VASNA. Serial No. 28. arrival Hospital ship VASNA 23rd.  
( N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 230406Z to Admty.)

Convoy X.C.2. Sailing telegram. ( 2 ships.)  
2. 0100Z/24th. 4. 10½ knots. 5.(Route.)  
6. SCOUT.  
( N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 230502Z 230541Z to Admty.)

Floating Dock, facilities, Trincomalee. + Is it proposed to berth A.F.D. 35 expected to arrive additional to A.F.D.26, at Trincomalee. Your 201622B/5 refers. ( The signal referred was circulated under T.O.O. 201625 this time of origin should be amended to 201622B. Re; Berthing of a capital ship floating dock at Trincomalee and allocation of A.F.D's.)  
( N.O.I.C. Ceylon, 230540Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. Eastern Fleet.)

M.M.S.130. Departure M.M.S'. 130.  
( N.O.I.C. Madras, 230654Z, to Admty.)

Dispositions. Eastern Fleet disposition signal No. 57.  
(A) Battleships REVENGE at Kilindini. RESOLUTION refitting Durban. (C) 8" cruiser SUSSEX at Mauritius leaves 24 May for escort duty S. Indian Ocean. (D) 7.5 and 6" cruiser MAURITIUS, HAWKINS, CARADOC, CAPETOWN at Kilindini. GAMBIA and DAUNTLESS to U.K. CERES at Bombay. DURBAN in Persian Gulf. KENYA at Durban. FROBISHER refitting Simonstown. NEWCASTLE Durban to Kilindini.  
(E) Exercises off Kilindini.  
( C. in C. E.F. 230745Z to C. in C. S.A. etc.)

REVENGE RESOLUTION, Destroyers. As RESOLUTION is delayed programme given in my 201441 May will not take place before 12th June.  
( C. in C. E.F. 230830Z to C. in C. S.A., Cmdre. (D), Admty., F.O.C. 4th C.S., RESOLUTION, N.O.I.C. Durban, REVENGE.)

Convoy B.P.80½. Sailing telegram. (2) 0830Z/23rd May.  
(3) Expected time of crossing 062° E. 2130Z/26th May. E.T.A. West of Quoins position F, 2230Z/28.  
(4) 8 knots. (5) B. 021° 03' 069° 22'.  
C. 024° 41' 060° 35'. D. 025° (707) 056° 50' thence P.G.W. Eto J. (6) TAMWORTH.  
( N.C.S.O. Bombay, 230838Z, 230844Z.)

/ Convoy ...



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Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

Convoy . . . . . Departure TAMWORTH with B.P. 80½. ( corrupt group)  
B.P. 80½. ( S.O.I. Bombay 231005Z to Admty., etc.)

Movements. Colombo departures 23 May. 1105Z EMILE BAUDOT.  
( F.O. Ceylon, 231158, to Admty.)  
CARTHAGE, FALMOUTH, VERBENA left.  
( F.O.E.A. 231501Z to Admty.)

Convoy 1. Sailing telegram. 2. 231335Z. 3. "Chop"  
M.G. 7. 28th E.T.A. Durban 020600Z June. 4. 9 knots. 5.  
( Route) 6. FALMOUTH, VERBENA.  
( N.C.S.O. Kilindini, 231441Z to Admty.)

WILLEM VAN Position 1330Z/23rd latter approx. 04° 49' S.  
DER ZAAN. 065° 44' E.  
( WILLEM VAN DER ZAAN, 231530Z to EQCeylon.)

Proposed X It is required to move 6,000 New Zealand troops  
Troop from Middle East to New Zealand and a correspond-  
Transport. ing number back again.  
2. It is proposed to use a troop transport  
probably NIEUW AMSTERDAM, leaving Suez about 14th  
June. 3. Escort would be required throughout.  
4. Request your proposals.  
( A.C.N.S. (F) 231735B to C. in C. E.F. (R) A.C.N.  
B., N.Z.N.B., Comsouwespac., C. in C. Levant.)



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

GEORGIAN. 230800Z. Boiler hours. In company M.L.077. Unmarked redwhistle buoy encountered in 046° 25' N. 054° 55' W. at 221230Z. (GEORGIAN, 230001Z to F.O.N.F.(R) Capt.(D) St. John's N.F.)

HERRING, HADDO. Further to my 202216 not to H.Q.C.C. Area is sub divided into 12 squares each of approx. 60 mile sides. Squares are numbered from West to East 1 to 3 and lettered from North to South A. to D. North West Square is A.1. (F.O.S. 230014B to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) C. in C. U.S. Fleet, H.Q.C.C. Admty., C. in C.W.A., N.S.H.Q.)

U.S. S/M Notice S/M Estimate 23rd May. (Cominch, 230105Z, 231508Z, 231509Z, 231610Z, 231611Z, 231612Z)

MILLTOWN M/Vs. E.T.A. 231200Z with 6 merchant ships. Boiler hours. (MILLTOWN, 230255Z to C. in C. N.W.A. (R) D. Halifax, N.C.S.O. Halifax.)

Movements. St. Johns N.F. 22. Arrivals M.L.059 ex Wabana. Departures. OFFA, PENN, PANTHER to S.C.131 M.L.052 to Wabana. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 230330Z to Admty.) Arrivals ST. CLAIRE, CHICOUTIMI, QUESNEL from H.X. 240 KENOGAMI, MILLTOWN ex O.N.183. (C. Halifax, 231249Z to Admty.) Kingston arrival 0922Q/23rd U.S.A.T. STATE OF MARYLAND, U.S.Y.P. 454. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 231251Q to Admty.) Departure from Bermuda 23rd MONOWAI. (S.B.N.O. W.At., 232145P to Admty.)

RAVAGER. This is Cominch's 211909 addressed to Com. 5 B.N.L.O. Norfolk. Compaseafiron sail onward to Norfolk in Trade convoy or independently if satisfactory to other sea frontier commanders concerned and advise time of departure route, S. of A. Comnowestseafiron sail RAVAGER when ready about May 26th independently to Balboa. Action addressees furnish protection as practicable. Advise time of departure, Route, S. of A. No operating planes on board. (Comnaveu, 230807 to Admty.)

/Movements...



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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

Movements Summary	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
1800 G.M.T.	CARNARVON CASTLE	08° N.	Patrol	Blank
23rd.	WORCESTERSHIRE	28° W. 00½° S. 31° W.	296°	13

(Altering to 005° in 32° W.)  
(D.O.D.(F) 230825Z to Opanav (R) Commaveu)

U/B H.X.239 My 221956 W/T traffic continuing on Series 8 from vicinity of Convoy included probable contact report at 0803, 0817 and 0856 originating from within 90 miles of 051° 30' N. 030° 30' W. Transmission of B barred message at 0828 and 0829 appears to be from U-boats further to the North-Eastward. (N.S.H.Q., 231002Z to S.E. H.X. 239 (R) C. in C. C.N.A. Cominch. Admty., A.C.I.C., S.B.N.O., W.A., F.O.N.F.)

ATHENE. San Diego arrived 1430/22.  
(N.S.H.Q. 231206Z to Admty., (R) B.A.D., C.O.P.C.)

Convoy B.W.25. Arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 231244Z to Admty.)

O.N.184. O.N.184. (1) Western local escort W.7 LINCOLN (S.O.) REAPIDATINVILLE (as received) REGINA, BROCKVILLE will relieve you in West O.M.P. 45.38 N. 46.43 W. at 0900Z/25th. (2) Upon relief proceed with your unit plus KITCHENER to St. Johns N.F. E. Group 6 proceed direct (4) reporting defects as soon as detaching. (3) Chop, 0900Z/24th. (F.O.N.F., 231440Z to Ships escorting O.N.184, S.O. E.G.6. S.O. present afloat Argentia in LINCOLN. (R) C. in C.W.A. C. in C. U.S. Admty., Capt.(D) Argentia, C. in C. C.C.N.W.A., N.S.H.Q., S.O.W.7.)

N.S.H.Q. S/M Estimate. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa estimated Submarine North of 040° N. West of 040° W. 1200Z/23rd.  
(N.S.H.Q., 231504)

Convoy B.X.53. Boston sailed 221554Z ROXBOROUGH escorting B.X.53.  
(N.S.H.Q., 231540Z to Admty.)

Convoy S.Q.49. (1) Sailing telegram (Ships, list)  
(2) 1500Z/24th. (3) Red Islet 1000Z/27th.  
(4) 8 knots. (5) Sydney (C.B.) Gaspe Chop 0200Z/25th. (6) ST. KENAN, LORD MIDDLETON.  
(N.C.S.O. Sydney, (C.B.), 231557Z, 231559Z to N.C.S.O. Quebec.)

/MONOWAI...



War Diary.

23.5.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

MONOWAI. This is U.S.N.O.B. Bermuda's 231551 (begins) Cominch Infor C. in C. Lant, S.B.N.O.W.At., Admty., N.Z. N.B., Unless otherwise instructed MONOWAI departs Bermuda about 1800Z/23 May in accordance with Cominch 072313 through (Route) thence to destination. Reference positions (details). S. of A. 14.7. E.T.A. at point (G) 1300Z/01 June. Chop 28 May. (Bermuda C.C.O. 231602P to Admty., N.Z.N.B.)

Frigate Your 190047. Approved.  
Compasses, (D.O.D.,(H) 231616B to B.A.D. (R) S.B.N.O.W.At.)  
Escorts  
for H.M.S  
QUEEN  
ELIZABETH.

Convoy Ref. my 221908. THORSHOVDI arrived Ambrose  
O.N.182 0340/23rd.  
THORSHOVDI. (P.D. New York, 231728 to Cominch C. and R.)

Convoys X Pass to F.Os. I.C. and N.C.S.Os. Following  
entering received from N.S.H.Q. (Begins.)  
Cape Cod U.S. Authorities require convoys at entrance to  
Canal, Cape Cod canal to anchor in 2 lines one mile  
instructions. east of buoy off canal (about 3 miles from canal  
entrance.) Ships are boarded there and given  
further instructions 192208Z ends.  
2. The above should be issued as a general  
instruction to ships in O.N. and O.N.S. convoys.  
(D.T.D., 231849B to C. in C. W.A. (R) N.S.H.Q. C. in C. C.N.A.  
Connav, C.E.S.F.)

Mid X Your 212131Z - This mistake is much regretted.  
Atlantic It is the intention that these submarines are to  
S/M be operated against U-Boats by the Admiralty,  
Patrols. who will be responsible for passing all the  
necessary intelligence. Signals on intelligence  
from other authorities may lead to confusion and  
loss of security and are not required.  
2. On completion of patrols, Submarines return to U.K.  
3. List of books is being signalled by F.O.S. 4. The  
question of bombing restrictions is being gone into and a further  
signal will be made.  
(D.O.D.,(H) 231951B to C. in C. C.N.A., (R) C. in C.W.A., F.O.S.,  
N.S.H.Q.)

U/B. S/M sighted by fishermen in 46.38 N. 53.17 W.  
at 0030Z/23rd.  
(C. in C.C.N.A., 232020Z to G.B.7., A.G.B.7.)

/Sub...



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War Diary.23.5.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Sub. attack and sighting summary. All times Z. Para. A. Aircraft attack sub. area 50.47 N. 34.09 W. 221345. Bogue aircraft attack sub. area 50.30 N. 35.25 W. 221900. Para. B. Aircraft attack sub. course 180 51.45 N. 28.45 W. 230650 Para C. Sub sighted on surface course 120 52.10 N. 28.10 W. 230858. Transient aircraft reports sub. 52.10 N. 27.30 W. A.M./23. Surface craft attacked sub. 54.43 N. 30.42 W. 210415. (Cominch, 232058Z to Admty.)

Convoy. F.H.56. Sailing telegram part 2. Total 8 ships (List, destinations etc.) (N.C.S.O. St. John N.B., 232121Z to Admty.)

LE TERRIBLE. Boston sailed light French cruiser "LE TERRIBLE" 1609 G.M.T. 22nd. Destination unknown. (N.S.H.Q. 232130Z to Admty., (R) B.A.D., C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F., S.B.N.O.W.A.T.)

Convoy X.B.54. E.T.A. X.B.54 Cape Cod Canal 1430 G.M.T. (MAHONE, 232315Z to C.E.S.F.(R) C. in C. C.N.A., D. Halifax.)

B.Y.M.S. Departed Port of Spain 231430 B.Y.M.S. 14, 22 and 24 route coastal via Serpents Mouth to Belem E.T.A. off Salinas Point 291430 engine speed 10 knots. (Radio, Washington, 232340Z to Admty., S.B.N.O. W.At., F.O.C.W.A., N.S.H.Q.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest Serial No.488 May 22nd. Six liberators attacked Kaimana waterfront and shipping mid morning sinking 1 vessel of 500 tons and starting fires near jetty. Photos show 18 landing barges but nil aircraft Utarom strip. while returning aircraft strafed 3 motor launches, whereof 2 set afire in Watoebela group between Ceram and Kai Islands. S.T.Os. photographed a 70 ton vessel and 5 barges in different location of same group. 2. Two medium 1 small merchantmen sighted Kavieng harbour forenoon also single medium cargo vessel with large oil slick in

/Silver...



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23.5.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND  
America and West Indies.

Digest Serial No. 488 May 22nd. (Contd.)  
Silver Sound. Photos show possible additional 2 medium merchant ships whereof larger alongside wharf, also 2 coastal craft, nil aircraft or change visible Pananapai strip.  
x 3. Coverage Majority Rabaul harbour reveals 21 merchant ships totalling 102000 tons including 1 large tanker, "Ymbari" class cruiser, 2 destroyer tenders; 5 each destroyers submarines subchasers. Nineteen Floatplanes on water.  
7. Cape Orford reports submarine going south dusk 21st and another heading North dawn 22nd. 8. Probably three unidentified type enemy aircraft, dropped nine bombs in sea  
? Exmouth Gulf after dark 21st May. Boomerangs intercepted without results.  
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 230950)

Movements. Arrivals. Sydney 22nd. BENALLA from Melbourne U.S.S. OBABBON RADFORD Destroyer. Tender VESTAL from Espiritu Santo. Melbourne 22nd Free French LE TRIOMPHANT from Sydney. Fremantle 22nd DUBBO from Geraldton. Departures Townsville 22nd ARUNTA to rejoin T.F. 74, ECHUCA for Brisbane. Brisbane 22nd GYMPIE for Townsville 23rd, BROOME for Sydney. Fremantle 22nd U.S.S.T. HERON which arrived 23rd Geraldton. (A.C.N.B. 231023Z to Admty.)

Convoy Titles. Your 151605. For Drakes Island read Thursday Island.  
(C.S.W.P.S.F., 231336Z to Admty.)

Convoy V.K.7. F.S. CHEVREUIL with convoy V.K.7 arrived Noumea 0500Z/23rd.  
(H.M. Consul, Noumea, 232135Z to N.Z.N.B., A.C.N.B. Admty., for F.N.F.L.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines reported.

Estimated Positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 231347B, 231355B.)



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24.5.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.

1. The Ministry of War Transport have discontinued allocating ships of under 8 knots to the Trans-Atlantic trade and as from O.N.S.13 and S.C.136 inclusive the minimum speed for inclusion in O.N.S and S.C. convoys will be 8 knots for British controlled ships. Cominch (25th May) concurred and announced that all U.S. shipping of 9 knots and below would be withdrawn in the near future from North Atlantic trade convoys.

"Checkmate"  
system.

2. The Admiralty today sent a message explaining the "Checkmate" system, which enables warships to obtain quick corroboration from shore plots of the bona fides of suspicious merchant ships.

Home Commands.

E-Boat  
minelaying  
off  
Portsmouth.

3. Last night, two groups of about 10 and 5 E-Boats approached the convoy route between the Needles and Portland and plots indicated that mines were laid off the Needles and south-west of St. Albans Head. Destroyers were not able to intercept, but Albacores of 823 Squadron pursued the returning enemy and claim to have sunk two and damaged two. Later today mines were found in the area.

Operation  
V.P.-S.A.

4. M.T.B. 626 sailed again at 1415B today for patrol S.A. but returned at 1200B/25 and M.T.B. 620 sailed for the same patrol at 1345B/25.

Air raid on  
Sunderland.

5. During an enemy air raid on Sunderland in the early hours of today R.F.A. tanker BELGOL received a direct hit from an enemy bomb and had 3 casualties.

Operation  
S.N. 111B.

6. R.A.(M) sailed from Port ZA this afternoon in MENESTHEUS with AGAMEMNON, PORT QUEBEC, CASTLETON, ST. MARYS, NEWARK and LANCASTER, to carry out minelaying Operation S.N.111B. BELFAST will provide cover.



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24.5.1943.

Monday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.S/M  
Operations.

7. UNRULY reports a hit with torpedo at 1036/16 in 37.35 N. 15.17 E. (in Catania Bay, east coast of Sicily) on a 4000 ton northbound merchant ship which was shown by aircraft photographs a few minutes later to be stopped and down by the stern.

PAPANICOLIS on 8th May sank two German requisitioned caiques in 35.35 N. 25.06 E. (about 15 miles north of Candia) and took prisoners.

SHAKESPEARE sank two schooners at 1800/13 in 41.20 N. 00.16 E. (45 miles E. of Straits of Bonifacio). At 1330/20 she bombarded Calvi Xairfield (West Corsica).

8. A convoy of two tankers and three merchant ships left Malta today for Alexandria.

9. M.T.Bs carried out a patrol off Pantellaria last night.

X10. 32 Wellingtons bombed the Messina Ferry Terminus last night. The Ferry Termini at San Giovanni and Reggio di Calabria were bombed today: a tanker was set on fire in Reggio harbour.

Heavy air  
attacks on  
Sardinia &  
Pantellaria.

The N.W.A. Strategical Air Force attacked targets at Pantellaria last night and today. Today also a large number of aircraft of this force attacked various targets in Sardinia, including Carloforte harbour, Alghero, Porto Conte, Santo Stefano Island, La Maddalena, Terranova, and inland targets. At Carloforte harbour a merchant ship was hit and burst into flames, another ship was near missed, small boats were sunk and bombs burst along the docks. The seaplane base at Porto Conte was set on fire. Three ships were near missed east of Santo Stefano Island where the causeway was hit and buildings north-west of the naval base were set on fire. Near Terranova merchant ships were hit and near missed, and hits on the harbour installations, warehouses, and an ammunition dump caused explosions and fires.



War Diary.

24.5.1943.  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

11. C.W.R. Wellington reports that H.M.N.Z. Trawler KIWI has been damaged by gunfire from J.B. WEAVER, due to mistaken identity.
  
12. During last night, enemy positions in the Solomons were heavily attacked by Allied aircraft to cover minelaying operations. The latter are reported to have been very successful.



24. 5. 1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Russian  
procedure.

1. Personnel of all three services North Russia sent on understanding they would be relieved after one year, to which Russians agreed. Relief has been impossible because Russia has withheld visas for reliefs since January. Many personnel have spent 18 months in North. Unfair on these men and as they know the cause it leads to ill feeling with Russians. Suggest following course:-

Firstly, I should send home personnel due for relief when passage available.

Secondly, warn Soviet authorities that when time comes that we can re-open convoys we shall not be able to do so unless they have granted visas for reliefs in sufficient time. They must also grant visas for naval personnel to complete establishment for operational duties.

2. Russians have not granted visas for return of Colonel Martin who commands our base unit and is a key man. Visas also held up for following essential personnel. Major Croft, Flying Officer Trapp and five other ranks N.A.F.I. staff.

3. Army and Air Force establishments have been progressively reduced. Naval establishment had to be increased due to larger convoys and escorts. Strength of all three services is below agreed establishments. Visas only being demanded essential personnel.

4. Relations with Russian services friendly, but Russian Foreign Office consistently obstructive. Threat to stop convoys only action they will understand. Constant representation by all three services has produced no improvement and (?Head) Naval Section informed Admiralty of position recently.

5. Informed Ambassador that I was reporting matter to Chiefs of Staff.

(30 Mission, Moscow, 240930Z to Troopers).

FORESTER,  
ICARUS.

Admty. 211954B.

1. FORESTER and ICARUS will be the first two ships to transfer to W.A. and are now being refitted and modified as A/S escort destroyers.
2. FORESTER completes at Menzies Leith on

14th June.

3. ICARUS completes at Humber Graving Dock Immingham on 21st June.

4. If you prefer, both ships can be transferred to your Administration forthwith.

(R.A.D., 241430B to C. in C. W.A.)

Defence of United Kingdom.

Sunderland  
A/A defences.

Shipbuilders in Sunderland are pressing for increased A.A. defences, also immediate to installation of a balloon barrage. I consider some action is necessary to avoid delay in production and repairs to ships.  
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 241509B to Admty).



War Diary.24.5.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.S/M  
Movements.

Sailed TRIBUNE escorted by CHASSEUR 13 in accordance with my 221515B.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 240801B).  
Position of S/Ms at 0800B/25 and movements for following 24 hours.  
(F.O.S., 241714B).

Sailed codeword "Pendant".  
(Cdre. D. W.A., 242000B to R.A.F. N.I.)

BLYSKAWICA

F.O.I.C. Gibraltar's 231646 and BLYSKAWICA's 232208. Request you will signal onward route for BLYSKAWICA whose final destination is Cowes to refit.

(D.O.D. H., 241000B to C. in C. Plymouth).

Admiralty 241000 and your 232208. Proceed through -  
(A) 047° 01' N., 013° 20' W. (B) 049° 20' N., 009° 50' W.  
(C) 180° Bishop 10 miles. (D) 180° Lizard Head 3 then by A.M. Q.Z.S. 410, 411, 391, 386, 284 to Needles. Adjust speed to make passage from Lizard Head to Needles during daylight hours calling if necessary at Falmouth or Plymouth for fuel.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 242253B to BLYSKAWICA).

Landing  
Craft  
Flight G.

Landing Craft Flight G on crossing 11° W., steer for new position 0.47.30 N., 14.01 W, thence to M.  
(D.O.D. H., 241058B to MINUET).

North  
Atlantic  
dispositions.

Dispositions of operational units in North Atlantic.  
Area Iceland (C) JAMAICA, KENT 1 destroyer.  
Area Scapa ALABAMA, ANSON, DUKE OF YORK, MALAYA, SOUTH DAKOTA, BELFAST, BERMUDA, BERWICK CUMBERLAND, EMERALD, SCYLLA, 11 destroyers

5 destroyers (U.S.)

Area Clyde INDOMITABLE FURIOUS. Area Plymouth GLASGOW, UGANDA, CHARYBDIS, 1 destroyer. Support Group 6 destroyers.  
Passage to Gibraltar, HOWE, SUFFOLK, 3 destroyers.  
Area Gibraltar KING GEORGE V, NELSON, FORMIDABLE, AURORA, CARLISLE, DELHI, NEWFOUNDLAND, PENELOPE, SIRIUS, ADVENTURE 8 destroyers.  
(D.O.D. H., 241120B to C. in C. U.S. Fleet).

Landing  
Craft Flight  
F. PRODUCT.

Admiralty 181921B. Intend to sail PRODUCT to Gibraltar with Flight F. of L.C. sailing from Plymouth on 1st June.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 241535B to Admtty).  
A.M. 111146B April and A.M. 082103B May. As Flight F is expected to comprise a total of 51 craft, request the 22nd Trawler Group may be allocated as additional escort.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 241539B to C. in C. W.A.)

/A.F.D...



903

24.5.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

A.F.D. 18 Your 231100. Sailed Tugs EMPIRE FARM, EMPIRE SINEW, and EMPIRE CUPID towing A.F.D. X VIII to Oban. E.T.A. 2100. Intend sailing mooring vessel MOORCOCK to Dunstaffnage and Oban a.m. tomorrow.  
(R.N.O. FORT WILLIAM 241615B to N.O.I.C. Oban).

OPPORTUNE As it is understood that depth-charges referred in Comnavew's 211356Z cannot now arrive Scapa before 30th May intend to sail OPPORTUNE from Clyde about 1000 tomorrow to embark the required number of depth-charges from Londonderry. Request these charges with their accessories may be embarked on arrival and ship sailed for Scapa on completion.  
(R.A.D., 241755B to Cdre. Londonderry).

Operations.

GOATHLAND Cancel my 240117. (No trace in W.R.) Enemy returned. Resume patrol.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 240231B to GOATHLAND).

Coastal Force Patrols. Your 231337B. "Limited" and "Limited one" arrived.  
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 240818B to C. in C. Plymouth).  
1. Intend M.Ls. 205 S.O. and 245 to patrol tonight on lat.  $50^{\circ} 20' N.$ , between  $01^{\circ} 55' W.$

and  $02^{\circ} 25' W.$

2. Leave Portland at 2200 via Q.Z.S.382 and leave patrol-line at dawn/25.

3. Object anti E-boat patrol. Codeword "Spaniel",  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 241205B and 241351B).

Available M.G.Bs. of 9th Flotilla and M.T.Bs. detailed by S.O. M.T.Bs. are to be prepared to sail on first suitable night to carry out offensive sweep of enemy coastal route to eastward of Dunkerque. Object to attack and destroy enemy shipping and patrols encountered. Force is to leave Ramsgate so as to pass V buoy not earlier than 2315, thence via northeast end of Outer Ruytingen, Oost Dyck and small bank where patrol is to be maintained to the eastward of longitude  $2^{\circ} 30' E.$  and to the southward of latitude  $51^{\circ} 15' N.$ , which latter line is not to be crossed unless in action and in absence of other orders. Force is to leave patrol so as to pass V buoy not later than 0415. M.T.Bs. returning to Dover and M.G.Bs. to Ramsgate. Attention is called to my 141926B/April.

(V.A. Dover, 241239B to WASP) See also Mining.

1. BLEASDALE, ALBRIGHTON, STEVESTONE to carry out anti E-boat patrol tonight on latitude  $50^{\circ} 24' N.$ ,  $1^{\circ} 00' W.$  and  $50^{\circ} 17' N.$ ,  $1^{\circ} 40' W.$  2. Pass F.buoy outward 2300 and inward 0500  
4. M.Ls. on E.A.5 patrol to keep to Eastward of E.A.3 buoy.  
5. If ordered to intercept shipping to South eastward, passage four is to be used. Passage four or two may be used for return but should there be any uncertainty in position passage four should be used in preference to two if time permits  
6. Communications. Codeword "Advent".  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 241619B to Capt. D.1.)

/M.L....



24.5.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal Force Patrols. (contd). M.Ls. 257 and 137 at Bullock Bank. M.G.Bs. 110, 116, 119, 117, 108, and 118, M.T.Bs. 202, 203, 204, 236, 38, and 219 from Ramsgate carrying out offensive sweep of enemy coastal-shipping route east of Dunkirk. E.T.D. 2215.  
M.T.Bs. 38 and 219 E.T.R. Dover 0445/25. Main Force E.T.R. Ramsgate 0515/25. (V.A. Dover, 241758B to Admty).  
My 241205B. "Spaniel" remaining in harbour at short notice owing to weather. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 242115B).

S/M Patrols. Intend to sail HAKE escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE from Clyde at 1000B/27 to 179° Barra Head 8 miles, E.T.A. 2300B/27th.  
2. Thence HAKE as ordered by F.O.(S). (Comsubron 50 241409B to A.I.G.191).

Position of submarines at 0800B/25 and movements for following 24 hours.

- (A) HERRING vicinity 54° 00' N., 39° 30' W.
- (B) HADDO approx. 53° 45' N., 36° 00' W., dived by day to patrol vicinity 52° 25' N., 36° 30' W.
- (D) ULTIMATUM vicinity 64° 44' N., 05° 20' W.
- (E) SHAD vicinity 64° 50' N., 01° 30' W.
- (F) TUNA vicinity 64° 21' N., 00° 54' E.
- (G) STUBBORN vicinity 62° 51' N., 02° 31' E. (F.O.S., 241714B to Admty).

Operation VP - SA. X My 231910 and 212025. M.T.B. 626 sailed 1415B/24 (A.C.O.S., 241505B).

Allied Air Activity.

Air Patrols. "Stipple" for 25th. (H.Q.C.C., 240945B to 15 and 19 Groups, Iceland). My 231205Z. First sortie returning to base, weather in area. Remaining sorties cancelled. (R.A.F. Iceland, 240950Z to 15 Group, No. 1 Group. St. Johns)  
(B) LV/16/ VLR (C) S.C.131. (F) Request No. 1 group St. Johns cover S.C.131 until 2035/25th May. (H.Q. 15 Group., 241100Z to Iceland, St. Johns).  
(B) Ice/VLR 19/24 May. (C) O.N.S.8. (F) Request No.1 group 1 take over from 0905/25. (Iceland, No T.O.O. to 15 Group, No. 1 Group St. Johns Recd. 1845/24).  
Programme 25. (1) A/S escort O.N.S.8 by 1 A/C 120, E.T.D. 0150 on 0710 off 1145, E.T.A. 1720.  
(2) A/S sweep R.U.75 by 4 A/C 84, E.T.D. 0225 on 0425 off 0115/26, E.T.A. 0440/26.  
(3) A/S sweep 3 A/C 269 area 61° 32' N., 23° 34' W., 62° 58' N. 28° 45' W. 59° 38' N., 28° 10' W. E.T.D. 0300 on 0425 off PLE, E.T.A. 0910. (R.A.F. Iceland, 242355B to H.Q.C.C., 15 Group).

/Bomber...



905

24.5.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity. - Contd.

Bomber Command operations. X On day 23rd May 11 A/C bombed Zeebrugge. On night 23/24, 826 A/C bombed Dortmund. (H.Q.B.C., 241230B) See also U-boats.

2 E-boats claimed sunk. 2 E-boats damaged. X During night 23/24 two groups of about 10 and 5 E-boats approached the convoy route between Needles and Portland. Albacores of 823 Squadron pursued returning enemy and claim two sunk and two damaged. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 241254B to Admty).

Enemy Air Activity.

Sunderland bombed. BELGOL damaged. X Received direct hit from enemy bomb. All Midships accommodation gutted. Number 4 tank pierced. Three casualties in hospital. (BELGOL, 240939B to D. of S.)

Hastings bombed on 23rd May. X Royal Oak Hotel Hastings severely damaged by enemy action yesterday. Rough cost of repairs £1,000. Search being made for alternative accommodation. If successful, propose to de-requisition Royal Oak. (S.C.E. Chatham 241600B).

Mining.

Minelaying off Liewport Bank. X Weather permitting operation ordered in my 241239B is to be carried out tonight. (See Operations).

Two additional M.T.Bs. each with mines embarked are to be sailed with striking force to Liewport Bank where they are to wait as arranged with S.O. M.T.Bs. until striking force is clear.

Minelaying force is then to proceed three miles to south westward and to lay in the channel at intervals of not less than half a cable in the vicinity of 2 E and 1 E. Buoys returning thence independently to harbour.

WASP is requested to sail M.T.Bs. to Ramsgate as convenient and N.O.I.C. Ramsgate to sail them in company with M.G.Bs. in accordance with my 241239B. (V.A. Dover, 241241B to WASP).

Enemy Minelaying off St. Albans Head. X During night 23/24 May two groups of about 10 and 5 E-boats approached convoy route between Needles and Portland and plots indicate that mines were laid off Needles and South West of St. Albans Head. Q.Z.X. areas are being requested in separate signal. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 241254B to Admty). My 241254B. 1. The following areas are dangerous due to suspected enemy Minelaying. Details. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 241500B to Admty).

/Sweepers...



24.5.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Enemy minelaying off St. Albans Head. (contd). Sweepers report minefield located centre position 103° P.L.B. 10 miles. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 241825B to C. in C. Portsmouth My 241825B and C. in C. Portsmouth's 241500B. Minesweepers report 6 mines exploded in sweep, one German type U cut and sunk by rifle fire. Three anti-sweeping devices observed moored and watching. These were sunk by rifle fire. Above were all in area described in C. in C. Portsmouth's 241500B para. 1 sub. para. 3. Details of sweeping operations for tomorrow are being signalled. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 242213B to C. in C. Portsmouth).

S.N.111 B. / R.A.M. sailed in MENESTHEUS with AGAMEMNON, PORT QUEBEC, CASTLETON, ST. MARYS, NEWARK, LANCASTER in company. (TRELAWNEY 241800B).

H.V.3 My 231121. Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 242007B).

Enemy Intelligence.

SCHEER Pocket Battleship believed ADMIRAL SCHEER report at Swinemunde May 17th. Graded B.2. (N.A. Stockholm 241533 to Admty). O.I.C. Comment. SCHEER was reported at Swinemunde by P.R.U. on 22nd April, but was not seen there on 20th May.

U-boats.

U-boats attacked in Biscay Area on 22nd May. On day 22nd 5 Whitley S O F 10 O.T.U. carried out A/S patrols and 3 of these A/C sighted U-boats. In one case the U-boat opened fire from 800 yards and one shell threw the B/A off his seat so that, when the A/C tracked over the U-boat at 50 feet in level flight, the D/Cs were not released. The R/G fired at the conning-tower and saw one man fall off the deck before the U-boat submerged. The second U-boat sighted fully surfaced at 5 miles also opened fire and slightly damaged the Whitley. The R/G scored hits on the conning-tower but the D/Cs undershot and the submarine dived. In the third attack, the D/Cs were dropped 12 seconds after the U-boat submerged and appeared to explode along the U-boat's estimated track, but no further results were seen. (H.Q.B.C., 241230B).

U-boats attacked in North Atlantic. Am over enemy S/M in 61° 32' N., 23° 34' W. (A/C 84 Sq. Duty K., 241730B to 18 Group). Have attacked enemy with torpedoes 1732B. (A/C 84 Sq. Duty K., 241745B to 18 Group).



War Diary.

24.5.1943.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

BIDEFORD BIDEFORD reports big end of starboard steam dynamo refitted last week by base has seized and brush scored crank-shaft. Have ordered her to proceed Londonderry direct for immediate repair.  
(E.G.40, 240028B to Comm. D. W.A.)

PRECISION My 231230B. Work on PRECISION greater than anticipated and ship not considered seaworthy. Intend to beach her at Montrose and anticipate sailing her in company with PROGRESS and TRIUMPH in approx. 3 days.  
(N.O.I.C. Dundee 241827B to Admty).

PINK PINK has fracture main shaft box.  
(B.7., 242003B to C. in C. W.A.)

Shipping & Convoys.

R.U.75 My 231312. Sailed.  
RUDDERMAN. (A.C.I.C., 240006B to A.C.O.S.)

Nomenclature of Groups. / Your 221325 to V.C.N.S. Following is Cominch's 221819. Begins "To avoid confusion between terms "Escort Group" "Support Group" propose all concerned use former as applicable to any group escorting a convoy and latter to any group engaged in support of convoys whether acting independently or augmenting regularly assigned Escort Group Ends.  
(D.O.D. H., 240011B to C. in C. W.A.).

E.G.40 Cancel my 230951Z. E.G.40 is not to be sailed, for the present.  
(C. in C. W.A., 241008Z to Cdre. D. W.A.)

H.X.239, E.G.4. If convoy not threatened fourth escort group part company and proceed as follows:- ARCHER escorted by FAULKNER, ONSLAUGHT and PELICAN to Clyde. PELICAN to be detached to Liverpool as requisite. IMPULSIVE to proceed direct to Scapa, if (A) fuel permits (B) condition of shaft will permit ship to eventually reach Humber where it is intended she will refit. Otherwise to continue to Clyde.  
2. Report intentions for IMPULSIVE.  
3. ONSLAUGHT will probably be detached to Scapa a.m. tomorrow.  
4. FAULKNER will boiler clean on Clyde.  
(C. in C. W.A., 241247B to Capt. D.8.)

/D/F...



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24.5.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- H.X. 239, D/F bearings at 1129Z indicate U-boat may be in vicinity of convoy.  
E.G.4. (D.D.I.C., 241412B to Escorts H.X. 239).  
(contd). A.M. 241412. Bearings subsequently received indicate U-boat was well to Westward of convoy.  
(D.D.I.C., 241512B to Escorts H.X. 239).  
Your 241247B. Left Convoy in 53.33, 22.20, (at?) 1300Z with ARCHER, ONSLAUGHT, PELICAN.  
IMPULSIVE detached (?to) Scapa then at 14 knots. Continuous air patrol round convoy during forenoon and search by 4 Swordfish this (afternoon ?) assure me that convoy is not threatened. My P.C. and S. 053° 54', 019° 50', 075° 15' (.5?) knots.  
(Capt. D.8., 241831Z to C. in C. W.A.)  
My 241247B. If not already detached retain IMPULSIVE until she can proceed in company with ONSLAUGHT.  
(C. in C. W.A., 241906B to Capt. D8).
- O.S.48 Amend stragglers route cancel (a) substitute (y)  
K.M.S.15. 40.30 N., 13.30 W.  
(C. in C. W.A., 241312Z to Ships of Convoys.)
- S.L.129, Intend sailing GLASGOW at 2000B/25 to provide cover for S.L. 129 ships being diverted as necessary if required to comply with para. 2 of A.M. 191329B May.  
GLASGOW. (C. in C. Plymouth, 241329B to Admty).
- T.A.42 A. AQUITANIA will be ready to leave Clyde p.m./31st May.  
2. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail ship to 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., 241912B).
- T.A.43 EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND will be ready to leave Liverpool p.m./29th May.  
2. F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to sail ship to Halifax by route which will be signalled by Admiralty.  
3. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange air protection.  
(D.O.D. H., 241913B).
- S.C.130 (A) Loch Ewe Portion LOOSESTRIFE, Main Portion VIDETTE. (B) 2145B/25. (C) 1930B/25 and 1200B/26  
(D) 1000B/26. (B.7 242003B to C. in C. W.A.)
- O.N.S.9 and (1) VOLUNTEER is to proceed Londonderry when ready and is to be sailed at economical speed to S.C.132 overtake O.N.S.9 in 017° W. (2) VOLUNTEER will subsequently be ordered to transfer to S.C.132  
VOLUNTEER (C. in C. W.A., 242119Z to Cdre. D. W.A.)
- O.N.C.186 My 242223B. BRITISH PURPOSE (T), speed 11 - 10½ sailed to overtake at Oversay.  
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 242345B).



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24.5.1943.

Monday,War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.General.

M/V  
Recognition  
Checkmate  
system.

(1) A system known as "Checkmate" is in force in East Indies and South Atlantic Stations for the purpose of supplementing existing merchant shipping information signals and recognition procedure to enable Warships to obtain quick corroboration from shore plots of bona fides of suspicious merchant ships.

(2) System is intended for occasions when (a) Recognition procedure proves inconclusive. (b) Boarding is impracticable. (c) There is no strong objection to use of W/T. (It is considered that there are few occasions when risk of breaking W/T silence overrides the paramount importance of ensuring that a Raider or Blackade Runner does not escape).

(3) An organisation has now been set up in Admty. to deal with "Checkmate" signals from any part of the world, and C. in C.E.F. and C. in C.S.A. will be requested to bring their existing systems into line with the following.

(4) On encountering a merchant ship about whose identity any doubt exists Warships should make a "Checkmate" message as follows:

(a) Message is to be addressed to Admty. and C. in C. or F.O.I.C. of Area concerned using plain dress procedure.

(b) Message to bear indication of priority "Emergency" and to be in the form:-

(1) the word "Check", (2) signal letters, if these have been ascertained, (3) alleged name of merchant ship, and (4) the position (indicated by means of lettered co-ordinates).

All in plain language.

Example - GZZ vXPT - O. - T - Z - HJ OI "Check"

GKND TUSCAN STAR KLBT 2427 T.O.O. 172317Z.

(5) Warships are to use their sea call sign from S.P. 02396 Series.

(6) Admty. and/or C. in C. or F.O.I.C. concerned receiving message will reply with word "Mate" followed by "Yes", "No" or "Doubtful" all in plain language using same sea call sign as in 5 above. The term "Yes" will indicate that ships could be in reported position "No" that it is impossible for ship to be in reported position and "Doubtful" that doubt exists as to whether ship could be in reported position and further investigation is desirable.

(7) It is the intention that Admty. should normally reply to all such message but C. in C. or F.O.I.C. addressed should reply to "Checkmate" messages provided they are in possession of reliable information to enable them to do so before Admty. can. Such replies should be repeated to Admty. Similarly Admty. will repeat replies to C. in C. or F.O.I.C. addressed.

(8) Your remarks are requested.

(D.T.D. Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 241910B to C. in C.E.F. C. in C.S.A. F.O.C.W.A.F. C. in C. Med. N.S.H.Q. (R) A.C.N.B. N.Z.N.B. C. in C.W.A. S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica A.S.O.(I) Recife. B.R.L.O. Cristobal, F.O.Ceylon. Connav, B.A.D. C. in C, Levant, V.A. Gibraltar).

*Admiralty 241910 B May 1943*



War Diary.24.5.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Convoy G.T.X.1. / G.T.X.1 sailed as in my 221108B plus HAAKON HAUAN (T) and EMPIRE COMMERCE for Algiers, H.M.S. RETRIEVER for Oran, H.M. Tug HENGIST towing CAID to Oran.  
(F.O. Gibraltar 240001B to F.Os. i/c and N.Os. i/c French North Africa (except N:O.I.C. Casablanca, Admty. Connnav, S.O. Force "H" etc.).

Movements Casablanca Arrived Casablanca AUBRETIA, VIOLET, ANCHUSA, COREOPSIS from S.L. 129, departed to rejoin. Arrived BOREAS.  
(C.M.S.F.F. 240002Z to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.C. Gib. Admty.).

ALPERA sunk (attacked by A/C 22/5). My position 036 degs. 51' north 008 degs. 42' W. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN, SALVONIA and RAVENSPPOINT in company, am proceeding to Gibraltar S. of A. 9 knots E.T.A. 1930B 24th May. ALPERA sunk, all crew saved and on board HUDDERSFIELD TOWN.  
(CALPE, 240110B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

U/Bs. In addition my 231515 (No trace in W.R. being obtained) at 1718Z/23, P.B.Y.5 A altitude 4000 sighted submarine fully surfaced position 34.30 N. 13.13 W. During approach for attack sighted second submarine south east of first. Both submarines course 245 degs. and submerged before attack could be made. At 1350Z/23 second plane sighted one corpse and debris in large oil slick, 34.30 North 12.50 West.  
(Commorseafron 240240 to F.O. Gibraltar, (R) Admty. etc.).

G.U.S.7A. Sailed Casablanca section G.U.S.7A. 0400A/24th. Connnav pass to Com. Algiers.  
(M.S.F.F. 240258 to P.D. New York, Connnav, Cinclant, Admty. etc.).  
(1) Sailing telegram G.U.S.7A. (2) 0400A/24 May.  
(3) 34.09 N. 07.56 W. 0800A/24 position (P.A.) 2000/24 9 knots.  
(4) First "Chop" 10 West 2000A/24 Second "Chop" 24 West 0900A/28  
Radio shift 20 West 1000A/27. (5)(Route). (6) Desron 16, PARKER, LAUB, KENTRICK, MACKENZIE, MCLANAHAN, BOYLE, FIELDS.  
(Commorseafron 240258, 240309, to Admty. etc.).

BOADICEA E.T.A. 1745Z today Monday 24th.  
(BOADICEA 240934Z to N.O.I.C. Casablanca).

M/V Repairs in Spain. X My 032127 (Re work on Allied and British Ships at Valencia). Another larger Firm in Valencia Union Naval De Levante with which negotiations are proceeding and which is likely to be of service.  
(N.A. Madrid 241008B to C. in C. Med.).

/U.B....



911

24.5.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.-Contd.U/B  
considered  
sunk.

Following received by aircraft from S.O.W.S.30  
(begins) ESS has attacked U-boat almost certainly  
sunk at 1145/23 G.M.T. position 42.05 North  
15.34 West (ends).  
(2) Presume ESS to be NESS.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 241009 to Admty. etc.).

U/B

Following has been read. One S/M on surface  
bearing 265 degs. distance 10 miles course unknown,  
37.19 N. 14.21 W. fixed within half an hour of  
0500.  
(SUFFOLK 241134 Z to Admty. F.O. Gibraltar).  
W.D.Note. SUFFOLK escorting W.S.30 and K.M.S.15).

Dispositions

Addressed - A.I.G.63.

Situation 2002B/24th.

G.U.S.7A. U.S.S. PARKER 033 degs. 33' 009 degs.

40' through 33.26 10.01 thence 244 degs. 8½.

(2) P.55 036 degs. 40' 007 degs. 48' through 36.37 07.24 and  
35.53 06.15 to Gibraltar dived by day 7/2 to position 36.37 (?35)  
24 thereafter on the surface 9 ordered not to cross 007 degs.  
West before 0630/25.

(3) COVERLEY French Minesweeper LA GRACIEUSE on patrol off  
Setubal till approx. 0900B/25th when they R/V 1 Merchant Ship and  
escort Coastwise to 270 degs. St. Vincent Cape 3 miles thence 164  
degs. 10.

(4) TYNDALE off Vila Real till approx. 2000/24th thence  
Gibraltar 17.

(5) W.S.30, K.M.F.15, SUFFOLK 36 degs. 50' 012 degs. 59' through  
035 degs. 32' 010 degs. 01' where K.M.F. 15 part company to  
proceed Gibraltar and W.S.30 continue 180 degs. 12½.

(6) Fleet Unit 3 destroyers 037 degs. 47' 013 degs. 08' through  
036 degs. 56' 011 degs. 06' thence 106 degs. 20' to Gibraltar 17½.

(7) 3 (Corrupt Group) 2 submarines 1 Gunboat exercising off  
Cezimbra until 26th May.

(8) Portuguese sloop departed Lisbon 24th May for Funchal 10.

(9) BOREAS 1 Merchant Ship departed 1800/24th from Casablanca  
through 034 degs. 03' 008 degs. 01' 35 degs. 44' 006 degs. 38' to  
Gibraltar 13.

(10) BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK 035 degs. 13' 006 degs. ?59' to  
Gibraltar 20.

(11) AIMWELL 4 motor (?minesweepers) approx. 033 degs. 32' 009  
degs. 03' to Gibraltar 8½.

(F.O. Gibraltar 241209 as amended 241531B).

Situation 1958B/24th. G.U.F.8, C.T.F.67, 032 degs. 33'  
035 degs. 28' 281 degs. 13½.

(2) U.S.Ship WEST POINT 035 degs. 13' 028 degs. 59' through 039  
degs. 02' 036 degs. 03' thence 281 degs.20.

(3) U.G.S.8A. C.T.F.66. 033 degs. 16' 038 degs. 14' 081 degs. 8½.  
(F.O. Gibraltar 241213B).

O.S.48

Request you will arrange R/V as requested by  
Commorseafron's 221947Z.  
(D.T.D. 241226B to F.O. Gibraltar).

/Axis...



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War Diary.24.5.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. -Contd.

Axis Shipping Arrivals 22nd German HOCHHERINER (in future 66)  
Bilbao 55, Spanish MOCUPMAR. Departures 23rd, 12, 25,  
27, 15 SUEVIA. Departure 22nd, 28, 11 VILLARREAL  
DE ALAVA, MONTE TATA, (?MONTE JATA), CABO CARVOEIRO.  
Repeat S.O.(I) Gibraltar.

(Vice Consul, Bilbao, 241235 to Admty.) Identification  
55 - SCHARLACHBERGER, 15 ) THRIANTHA, 25- JACQUELINE, 27 -MARIBEL,  
15 - SYDNEY, 28 - LINETTE, 11 - REGEJA.

K.M.F. 15 . K.M.F.15 onward route from (C.G.? through (MA)  
W.S.30 035 degs. 48' North 006 degs. 23' West Q.K. A 87  
to (M.B.) 036 degs. 01' North 005 degs. 21' West  
(M.C.) 035 degs. 42' North 003 degs. 01' West  
(M.D.) 035 degs. 56' North 000 degs. 50' West thence as ordered  
by C. in C. Med.

(2) W.S.30 is to remain in company with K,M.F.15 until all  
following have joined FOXHOUND, CATTERICK, ANTELOPE.

(3) FOXHOUND, CATTERICK R/V in position (C.G.) at 0900B May 25th  
H.M.S. ANTELOPE will R/V in position (M.X.) 035 degs. 36' North  
009 degs. 05' West at 1230B May 25th.

(4) BOADICEA is to be detached on ANTELOPE joining and proceed  
so as to arrive Casablanca before dark May 25th.

(F.O. Gibraltar 241301B to Escorts of convoy K.M.S.15 and  
W.S.30 Pass to Cdre. (R) Admty. C. in C.Med. F.O.C.W.A.F. Com.  
N.O.B. Oran, Commorseafron).

S.S.VEGA Swedish VEGA 1094 g.t. speed 8 knots usual  
markings on side sailed 1350 24th for Marseilles  
by approved route with Prisoner of War Parcels.  
Not to be molested this voyage.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 241442, 241547B to S. and A. etc.).

ALBULA Swiss ALBULA 1220 g.t. speed 8 knots national  
colour and Switzerland on black hull sailed  
1350/24 for Genoa by approved route. Not to be  
molested this voyage.  
(F.O. Gibraltar 241444B to S. and A etc.).

Enemy Aircraft. Following has been read. 2 aeroplanes 290 5 miles  
course 180 degs. 37.35 12.92 fixed within 1/2 hour  
of 1300.  
(A/C G.Y.W/8 1452Z via Gib W/T).  
My 1452, one aircraft shadowing.  
(LEITH 241550Z to F.O:I.C. Gibraltar).

F.W.200 in approx. position 37 degs. North 12 degs West.  
probably reported S.L.129 at 1645.

(D.D.I.C. 241740B to HOWE, Escorts of S.L.129, Escorts of  
M.K.S.13, ANCHUSA (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C.W.A. H.Q.C.C.).

A second F.W. A/C in approx. 37 degs.-38 degs. North  
and 13 degs. - 14 degs. West at 1720, probably reported W.S.30.

(D.D.I.C. 241907B to HOWE, Escorts of K.M.F.15 and W.S.30,  
(R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C.W.A. H.Q.C.C.).

HOWE B.X. Alter forthwith for new position (t) 036  
destroyers degs. 56' North 011 degs. 06' West thence to S

/omitting.....



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Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

HOWE  
destroyer  
(Contd.).

omitting P, Q and R Admty. pass to H.Q.C.C.  
(Passing action being taken by W.R.).  
(F.O. Gib. 241514B to HOWE (R) INGLEFIELD, ONSLOW,  
ORWELL, Admty. H.Q.C.C. C. in C. Med.).  
E.T.A. 1300B/25th May ONSLOW, ORWELL, INGLEFIELD  
in company.  
Request Gates 14 15.  
(HOWE 242326B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) S.O. Force  
H).

Spanish  
Fleet.

Following for D.N.I. Your 221120 (Requesting  
confirmation of reports of mutiny in Spanish  
Fleet). There has been no mutiny of any sort at  
Ferrol.  
(N.A. Madrid 241653 to Admty. D.N.I.).

TYNEDALE.

Embarkation completed. E.T.A. 0100B/25. Weather  
report.  
(TYNEDALE 241812B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

Movements  
Casablanca.

May 24th Warships QUANTOCK, CONVULVULUS,  
BROCKLESBY arrived refuelled departed for  
Gibraltar. Arrivals BOADICEA from W.S.30 U.S.S.  
HERBERT from escorting WEST POINT P.Q.482, 472,  
480 from Gibraltar L.S.T.3 L.S.T.4. from U.G.L.4.  
Departures BOREAS for Gibraltar.  
(Commorseafron 242150Z to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. etc.).

Movements  
Gibraltar.

Departures HOLCOMBE, ATHERSTONE, LAMERTON, WILTON,  
VETCH, GAVOTTE, TANGO, KING SOL, REIGHTON WYKE,  
RETRIEVER, EMPIRE ANN, M.M.S.20, 184, HENGIST  
towing CAID with G.T.X.1.  
TYNDALE escort duties Villa Real, DELHI to

Algiers.

Arrivals HAYDON from Mers El Kebir (? SALVONIA from West,  
HUDDERSFIELD TOWN from escort duties West.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 242235 to Admty. C. in C. Med.).



War Diary.24.5.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Movements Intended to promulgate information concerning  
Promulgation own and enemy forces as follows.  
A. Own Force: daily movement summaries will be issued in 2 series for outward bound ships East of Cape of Good Hope and ships West thereof, addressed to A.I.G. 125 and A.I.G. 359 respectively. Positions given will be interim 2000Z on day of origin. Signals in each series will be numbered consecutively. Composition of A.I.Gs. is given in A.M. A.909 of 20th May.  
B. Enemy Forces: signals will be made as situation demands numbered consecutively with prefix "Easy" addressed to A.I.Gs. as above. Signals in both "Easy" series must be retained and read in conjunction with earlier signals.  
(C. in C.S.A. 241030B to S. & A. Stn. G.646, (R) Admty.)  
See also 261639

Routeing of Tankers. A.M. 211727 (see East Indies). Consider inadvisable to limit scope of independent routes under present conditions of U-Boat activities.  
(C. in C.S.A. 241043B to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F.)  
Reply Admty. 252246

DUCHESS OF RICHMOND Arrival 1100Z/24th H.M. Transport DUCHESS OF RICHMOND.  
(N.C.S.O. Takoradi 241103Z to Admty. etc.)

Movements Freetown. Arrival 1425Z/23rd May, PORTSDOWN, BUTSER escorting.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown 241124Z to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, (R) Admty. Cdre. Dakar.)

QUANZA interception Your 221320 passed to H.C.Pretoria Portuguese SS. QUANZA escorted in Capetown 23 May. Master who was very friendly confirmed that his orders were not to enter territorial waters unless ordered and escorted in. Indications that similar procedure for other vessels of line will be necessary.  
(C. in C.S.A. 241213B to Admty. (R) H.C.Pretoria.)

French Admirals. Admiral Collinet definitely wishes to meet Auboyneau. Governor of Bathurst will be glad to help. Intend making necessary arrangements in due course. My 111151 refers.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 241221 to Admty. (R) Resmin, C. in C.Med.) W.R.Note: Repetition of 111151 was circulated under T.O.O. 111152.

LUDWORTH HILL (sunk 19 March.) My 081859 May. LUDWORTH HILL torpedoed and sunk (2? torpedoes) by German U-Boat, 200 feet in length, 1 4" gun only forward at 0400Z/19 March in approx. 9° S. 9° W., 2 survivors picked up by RAPID now in Freetown. No news of others.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown 241301Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.S.A.)



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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

CROCODILE  
ALLIGATOR

Your 221125Z not to C. in C.S.A. (N.T. in W.D.)  
Destination of Tugs CROCODILE and ALLIGATOR has  
not been changed by my 142323.  
(D. of S.T. 241539B to N.O.I.C. Lagos, (R)  
F.O.C.W.Af. N.O.I.C. Takoradi, N.O.I.C. East  
Africa, C. in C.S.A.)

Transports

DUCHESS OF RICHMOND arrived. Embarking on her  
outstanding service personnel and few civilians.  
HIGHLAND PRINCESS sails for Lagos 250600.  
Will embark all civilians that can be gathered  
up on her return here. S.T.O.Tains (?H) reported  
for duty 23rd.  
(S.S.T.O. Takoradi 241730Z to D. of S.T. (R) D.S.  
T.O. W.Af. S.T.O. Lagos.)

SARABANDE.

Sailed 1700Z/24th May SARABANDE, escorting,  
Accra thence Lagos, E.T.A. Accra 0600Z/25th  
May. Route coastal.  
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 241745Z to Admty. R.A.W.A.F.  
R.N.O. Lagos.)

A/C attack  
on U/B 20  
May.

My 201630B May.  
Following is a precis of Captain's report.  
While carrying out A/S search and when in  
position 30° 00' S. 32° 11' E. Wake sighted one  
to two miles on port bow. Aircraft turned to  
port and brought silhouette against moon. U-Boat  
opened fire when aircraft at height of 300 feet and several  
hundred yards away. Six mark 8 depth charges dropped using  
aiming mark 50 feet ahead of U-Boat for centre of stick.  
Aircraft appeared to pass across bows of U-Boat with port wing  
tip passing over bows. After attack Captain realised aircraft  
was being hit by A.A. fire and Engineer reported loss of oil  
down to about three gallons in 30 seconds. Pilot feathered port  
propellor but while doing so aircraft could not maintain height.  
Height could be maintained when propellor was fully feathered  
and aircraft returned to base.  
(C. in C.S.A. 241827B to Admty. (R) Air Min. A.H.Q.E.A. C. in  
C.E.F.,

S.L.130.

Sailing destinations (list.)  
(D.T.D. 241856B to R.A.W.A.)

Movements  
Freetown.

Arrival 1525Z/24th May PICT, M.L. 261, 278,  
Esquimalt.  
(S.O. (I) Freetown 241923Z to Consul General,  
Monrovia, (R) Admty.)

Transport for  
Madagascar.

Ship is required for two quick voyages between  
Tamatave and Diego Suarez to transfer the Islands  
Area H.Q.  
2. D.S.T.O. Kilindini has suggested use of  
TAKLIWA but this vessel cannot be released from  
Middle East. 3. Could either PULASKI or KHEDIVE ISMAIL be made

/available...



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24.5.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Transport for  
Madagascar.  
(Contd.)

available and if so when? Have you any other  
suggestions to make?  
(D.S.T. 242255B to P.S.T.O. Capetown, (R)  
D.S.T.O. Kilindini, P.S.T.O. M.E. C. in C.E.F.)

LA GRANDIERE

Following received. C.T.F. 21.4 T.O.O. 241915.  
Sail LA GRANDIERE to amended R/V accordingly.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 242307Z to Comar Dakar, (R) C.T.F.  
21.4.)

ILE DE FRANCE.

Request you will divert ILE DE FRANCE to  
Freetown for U.K.  
2. D. of S.T. 221211 May which presumably  
crossed D.S.T.O. Durban's 230803 refers.  
(D.O.D.(F) 242310B to C. in C.S.A.)



917

24.5.1943.

Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of 2 enemy "E" boats and one tanker 307° 37' N. 16° E. 48 030° speed 8 knots. (A/C A.Q.F/C 240140 to Air H.Q. Malta.) Your objectives are two E-Boats one tanker in position 37.30 N. 15.50 E. steering 030°, speed 8 knots. (Air H.Q. Malta 240140 to A/C CZC/C.)

Italian Repatriations. Your 111814 para. 1. Request earliest confirmation that Italian repatriation ships left Trieste as scheduled. (N.O.I.C. Massawa 240621 to Admty.)

Movements, Alexandria. Arrivals 23 May ABERDARE, BAGSHOT, FAREHAM, HARROW RAGLAN CASTLE, M.L. 1012 SPETSAL. Departures 23rd May DELPHINIUM, RAGLAN CASTLE, SOEMBA, BURRA, JAN DE WAELE, French Sloop LA MOQUESE, PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS. (S.O. (I) Alex. 240925C. to Admty. C. in C. Levant.)

Russian Congratulations. My 141652. (re congratulations from Russian Naval Staff on success of Mediterranean Operations.) Request any reply from C. in C. Med. may be repeated to me as early as possible for transmission to Russians. Eisenhower's reply received and published. (Admiral Fisher 241012C. to Admty.)

UNRUFFLED. Intend sailing P.46 (UNRUFFLED) at 1700/25th for patrol as ordered by Capt. (S) 8, routed through 036° 08' 014° 22' thence 037° 07' 013° 15' to pass position P. 1200/27th. (Capt. S.10. 241146B. to P.42 (UNBROKEN) P.44 (UNITED) Capt. (S) 8. (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, Capt. (S) 1.)

Through Med. Convoys. Your 211407A received. Situation understood. Reply is still required to para. 2. of my 231001B. (D.T.D. 241204B. to C. in C. Med. (R) B.A.D. C. in C. Levant.)

MAURETANIA. Your 201920. (MAURETANIA to proceed to Suez for transshipment.) B.H. Q. Middle East states cannot accept personnel for India in MAURETANIA for transshipment in Mid East during June. Agree. (P.S.T.O.M.E. 241123C. to D.S.T. (R) Admty. etc.)

PAPANICOLIS R. of P. PAPANICOLIS gunned and sunk 150 ton German requisitioned Caique Maria, laden with cement, 0530/8th May in 35.35 N. 25.06 E. capturing seven of crew. At 0915/8th May in same position rammed and sank 250 ton Caique VARVARA wearing German

/flag...



24.5.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- PAPANICOLIS R. of P. flag. Cargo cement, ammunition batteries, acid and ordnance spares. Two Greeks and one German Naval rating captured. 2. Delay in report is regretted.  
(C. in C. Levant 241146C to Admty. (R) F.O.S. C. in C. Med.)
- K.M.S.14. Arrival Convoy K.M.S.14, WHADDON, OAKLEY, EGGESFORD.  
(V.A. Malta 241322B. to Admty. C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant.)
- SUTLEJ. Arrival 1132Z.  
(Cdre. Aden 241446Z. to C. in C. Levant. etc.)
- SPORTSMAN. Your patrol area is extended to 005° E. Keep N. of 042° N. You are to be West of 007° 30' E. by 2359B 28th May.  
(Capt. S.8. 24150B. to P.229 (SPORTSMAN) (R) 8th S/M.F. F.O.I.C. Gib. LA SULTANE.)
- Enemy M/V. Following has been read.P.C. and S. of one enemy merchant vessel 4000, 39.17 N. 15.08 E. 170° 8.  
(A/C ASJO 241601).
- German Hospital Ships. C. in C. Med's. 211900A/May not to C. in C. Levant. German Hospital Ship CONSTANZ should be treated in manner prescribed for LAURANA by Admty. 172340B/May and 201928B/May, neither to V.A. Malta. (Head of M. (I) Approved V.C.N.S. 241631B. to C. in C. Med. (R) C. in C. Levant, V.A.Malta.)
- UNRULY R. of P. UNRULY reports. (1) At 1036/16 in 37° 35' N. 15° 17' E. fired 4 torpedoes at 4,000 ton merchant vessel Northbound. 1 hit. Air photograph taken within a few minutes of attack showed vessel stopped and down by the stern. Moderate counter attack. (2) At 2357/21 in 37° 12' N. 15° 30' E. fired 4 torpedoes at U-Boat. Missed.  
(S.10. 241656B. to C. in C. Med. (R) S.8, S.1, V.A.M., C. in C. Levant.)
- G.T.X.1. Intend joining DALDORCH for Philippeville OCEAN VERITY, COVERT FLINCK for Bone. ANTONIA (T), EMPIRE DUNSTAN TORFINJARL, IMPERIAL TRANSPORT (T) for Bizerta. ROSSUM for Sousse. STANFORTH for Malta. Also L.S.T.368 and (?word omitted). Total 12 ships. Request pendants, also routeing positions for tanker. (N.O.I.C. Algiers 241701B. to Escort G.T.X.1. (R) F.O.S.i/c and N.O.s.i/c. French North Africa (Except N.O.I.C. Casablanca.) F.O.I.C. Gib. Admty. Connav, S.O. Force H, Capt. S.8.)



War Diary.

24.5.1943.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

SARACEN, Your Escort CAVA will meet you at 0700B/25th.  
SICKLE. First arrival identify herself to Escort and  
enter harbour unescorted, 2nd arrival will be  
escorted. (2) LA SULTANE leaves Algiers 1930B/24th course 14°  
8 knots. (3) M.Ls. are on patrol to E. and W. of Algiers.  
(Capt. S.8, 241724B. to P.247, SARACEN, P.224, SICKLE.)

Movements, 24th Port Said arrivals. KOUNDOURIOTIS, RAGLAN  
Port Said. CASTLE, JUMNA, CAIRNS, GERALDTON, WOOLONGONG.  
Departures: ROMEO, LARGS, JUMNA, GERALDTON,  
WOOLONGONG.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 241809C. to Admty. etc.)

P.R.U. May 24th visuals. 1610, Taranto, 2 battleships,  
2 cruisers. 1713, Messina, no major naval unit.  
(N.O.I.C. Malta 241916B. to C. in C. Med. etc.)

Malta A.I. 548 24 May, C.S.R. A. Air. Part 1 offensive  
Air Night 23/24th May. 1 bomb carrying Albacore on  
Report. search for enemy shipping along East Coast of  
Sicily sighted 2355 hours one tanker 10000 tons  
escorted by 1 D/R and one E/V 5 miles South East of Catania  
course 030° speed 6 knots. Albacore attacked with 6 250 lb  
bombs scoring 2 direct hits on tanker causing reddish yellow  
flashes. Tanker left stationary. Mosquitoes made intruder  
patrols over Southern Italy and Northern Sicily. 3 torpedo  
carrying Beauforts made armed search for enemy shipping along  
West coast of Italy. Part 2. Enemy Air Activity. Day 23rd May.  
5 Beaufighters provided escort for incoming shipping. Day 24th  
May. 0949 hours 38 plus enemy fighters approached Malta at  
extreme avoided combat and returned. 1033 hours 8 Spitfires were  
airborne for 18 plus enemy fighters which turned back before  
nearing Malta. 1355 hours 12 enemy fighters including M.E.109s.  
approached Malta at height and were intercepted by 11 Spitfires  
but enemy had height advantage and returned.  
(A.H.Q. Malta 241930Z.) A.I. 549, Daily Opsum 15 (A.H.Q. Malta  
242257Z.)

Convoy Pass to Commodore and escorts G.T.X.1. Have  
G.T.X.1. following joining:- EMPIRE DACE 10 Algiers,  
L.S.T.426 10 Bougie, L.S.T. 411 10 Bougie,  
CARA 8 Bizerta, META 8 Bizerta, ALMENARA 8 Bizerta, LING 8  
(?Bizerta) L.S.T. 325 Beirut from Mostaganem.  
(Cdr. N.O.B. Oran 241845B, 241945B. to (?HOLCOMBE) (R) (?A.I.G.  
259), (?N.O.I.C. Algiers), N.C.S.O. Bizerta, N.C.S.O. Bougie.)

Enemy + The 4 mines referred to in my 221310, not to  
Mines, Admty. as having been swept in Bizerta Lake Sautte  
Bizerta. Harle, on examination these mines were found to  
have been laid without primer disposed detonator  
and with no horns fitted. 9 Barbette mines of same type and  
in similar condition have been sent in custody. A sweep of  
remainder of Bizerta Lake is being continued.  
(F.O.I.C. Bizerta 241920B. to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. F.O.I.S.)



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24.5.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

OLIGARCH, Desired that OLIGARCH and CEDARDALE Oilers in  
CEDARDALE. Force R, should carry following for Destroyers of  
Force H to limit of satisfactory stowage capacity.  
(D/Cs. ammunition, etc.) (2) Admty. is requested  
to arrange for embarkation in OLIGARCH before  
leaving U.K. (3) C. in C. Levant is requested to  
arrange supply to CEDARDALE.  
(C. in C. Med. 241947 to Admty. C. in C. Levant, (R) S.O. Force H.)

Convoy My 211044A sailed less J.A. DIX and CEVENNES.  
E.T.21. Plus MARS AGATEA (T) VILLE JIJELLI, GULF PRINCE  
(T) L.S.T.385 for Algiers, KROMAN, BJORGHAUG,  
for Oran.  
(N.O.I.C. Bone 242000 to N.O.I.C. Algiers (R)  
Admty. F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in C. Med. Comnav.)

Movements, Arrivals S/Ms. SHAKESPEARE (P.221) SIMOOM  
Algiers. (P.225) U.S.S. P.Ts. 211, 214, 215, 216.  
Departures LOYAL, QUEEN EMMA, S/M LA SULTANE,  
VISENDA.  
(Cdre. Algiers 242104B. to Admty. etc.)

Repatriations Italian Repatriation Liners DUILIO and GIULIO  
CESARE not to be molested. Passing Messina about  
2000 to-day thence passing South of Vulcano and  
North of Ustica proceeding through 038° 00' N.  
010° 00' E. to Gibraltar speed about 15 knots.  
(Capt. S.8, 242117B. to 8th S/M.F. (R) Capt. (S) 10.)

M.G.Bs. Bizerta. Departure M.G.B. 646 and 648.  
(S.O.I.S. 242122B. to C. in C. Med. Admty.  
F.O.I.C. Gib.)

N.W.A.A.F. Pt. 1. M.5019E 24 May. N.W. African Air Force  
Report. Daily Opsum 92. N.W. African Strategic Air Force.  
May 23. 38 Mitchells (B.25) escort 16 Warhawks  
(P.40) Pantelleria Docks and Town. Bombs  
dropped from 10,000 feet starting fires, 1 hit  
and near misses medium M/V small boat exploded. 38 Marauders  
(B.26) escort 12 Warhawks (P.49) 10 carries bombs Pantelleria  
airdrome. 3 Marauders (B.26) returned early. Target well  
covered. 11 Warhawks (P.40) intruder mission Pantelleria  
strafed guns and huts, results not observed. 12 Lightnings  
(P.38) Iglesias Zinc Works. (Remainder of message corrupt.)  
(N.W.A.A.F. Adv. H.Q. No. T.O.O.)  
Carlaforte Harbour. 12 x 1000 dropped from 1000 to 3000  
feet. Bursts in town, among small boats in harbour, factory  
type buildings Piana? Island M/G left smoking. 2 x 500 dropped  
on 200 ton coaster, 1 through ship other near miss, both failed  
to explode.  
(N.W.A.A.F. Adv. H.Q. 242134B.)

/M.T.Bs...



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24.5.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

M.T.Bs. Departed M.T.Bs. 211, 214, 215, 216.  
(N.O.B. Oran 242200B. to Admty. etc.)  
Arrived M.T.Bs. 65 and 84.  
(V.A. Malta 242228B. to Admty. etc.)

Movements, Arrivals UNRULY. Departures UNSHAKEN, M.E.27  
Malta. escorted by HURWORTH, SHOREHAM, LEOPARD,  
CROOME, ADRIAS.  
(V.A. Malta 242243B. to Admty. etc.)

Convoy Sailed from U.K. 19th May. List, personnel on  
K.M.F.15. board, destinations, etc.  
(D.S.T. 242331B. to P.S.T.O. Med.)  
See Lion Copy.

Movements, Arrivals WESTRAY H.D.M.L. 1163, LIDDESDALE, VELOX,  
Bone. VENOMOUS, FOULA, ST. DAY, L.S.T.385, FANTOME,  
EMPIRE MINOTAUR. Departures LIDDESDALE, VENOMOUS,  
VELOX, JAVELIN, KELVIN, HAZARD, L.S.T. 385.  
(N.O.I.C. Bone 242331B. to Admty. etc.)

Situation 1. U.S.S. NIELDS attacked U-Boat contact at  
Report 1818/21 in position 36° 01' N. 00° 34' W.  
No.99. Wreckage including planking and large oil patch  
were observed after the attack. 2. U.S. aircraft  
attacked U-Boat at 1718/23 in position 34° 30' N.  
13° 13' W. One corpse and debris were sighted  
later in the vicinity. 3. Mines were sighted in the lake of  
Bizerta on 22nd May and clearance sweep of the lake is in  
progress. 4. 1 mine was swept on 22nd May during sweeping  
operations off Kelibia. 5. S.S. ALPERA was damaged by air  
attack off Cape St. Vincent at 2045/22. Ship was taken in tow  
by escorting trawler. Salvage tug has been despatched from  
Gibraltar. 6. M.T.Bs. carried out patrol off Pantellaria during  
night 23rd May/24th May. 7. SHAKESPEARE reports sinking two  
200 ton schooners at 1800/13 in position 41° 20' 0° 16' E. At  
1330/20 bombarded Calvi airfield. 20 rounds fell in target area  
action broken off when enemy short range defence weapons  
obtained range. 8. Main Eighth Army and main First Army pass  
to N.L.Os.  
(C. in C. Med. 242351B. to Admty. etc.)



# MOST SECRET

921A

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

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

## M E S S A G E

OUT

MOST SECRET

242331B/May

To P.S.T.O. Mediterranean  
Repeated D.S.T.O. Algiers  
D.S.T.O. Bone  
D.S.T.O. Bougie  
F.O.C. Gibraltar  
D.S.T.O. Gibraltar  
C. in C. Mediterranean  
D.S.T.O. Oran  
S.T.O. Phillippeville

Date 24/5/43

Convoy KMF 15

### Naval Cypher A2

From Director of Sea Transport.

IMPORTANT

Convoy KMF 15 sailed from United Kingdom 19th May comprising the following troop transports:-

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>No. of Per- sonnel on Board</u>	<u>Destination of Personnel</u>
P.5	LETITIA	2377	Gibraltar
P.11	ORMONDE	2756	Algiers
		883	Middle East via Algiers
P.26	STAFFORDSHIRE	2268	Oran
P.42	DUCHESS OF YORK	4311	Algiers
		3	Phillippeville
		2	Bougie
		2	Bone
P.50	SAMARIA	4410	Algiers
P.64	BOISSEVAIN	2808	Algiers
		88	Bone
P.65	FRANCONIA	3017	Algiers
		1056	Middle East via Algiers
P.67	JOHAN VAN OLDEN- BARNEVELT	3581	Algiers
P.74	STIRLING CASTLE	4245	Oran
P.76	INDRAPOERA	1	Algiers
		1931	Bone
P.77	ARAWA	1570	Algiers

/ 2.



2. H.M.S. ROYAL SCOTSMAN also sailed with 141 personnel on board for Algiers.

3. Following cargo also on board:-

<u>Ship</u>	<u>Cargo in shipping tons</u>	<u>Destination</u>
LETITIA	300 stores	Gibraltar
ORMONDE	419 stores	Algiers
DUCHESS OF YORK	1358 stores	Algiers
SAMARIA	245 stores	Algiers
BOISSEVAIN	615 stores	Algiers
FRANCONIA	275 stores	Algiers
JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT	640 stores	Algiers
STIRLING CASTLE	1041 stores and tentage	Oran
INDRAPOERA	223 stores	Algiers
ARAWA	3692 stores and frozen meat	Algiers

4. Particulars of vessels proceeding East of Oran are:-

<u>Ship</u>	<u>Estimated Arrival Draught</u>	<u>Length Overall</u>
ORMONDE	28'	599'
DUCHESS OF YORK	26' 6"	601'
SAMARIA	29' 6"	624'
BOISSEVAIN	24' 5"	550'
FRANCONIA	28' 5"	626'
JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT	27' 9"	608'
INDRAPOERA	26' 6"	610'
ARAWA	27'	549'

5. A.M. 201850B, not to all addressees, refers, regarding future service of STAFFORDSHIRE, STIRLING CASTLE and ARAWA. Remaining troopships should return to U.K.

242331B

A.C.N.S.(F)(2)	Hd. of M.(10)	D. of S.T.
A.C.N.S.(H)	D.D.I.C.(2)	M.W.T. Ext.2186
A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)	D. of P.(2)	
U.W.R.	D. of S.T.(2)	
N.A. Mails	I.P.(2)	
D.O.D.(F)(2)	W.D.	
D.O.D.(H)(2)	D.C.(2)	
D.T.D.(3)	AdmiralBlake	
D.T.D.(M)	D.S.O.	
D.T.D.(C)	C.C.O.(2)	R.A.(V)(4)



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24.5.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

H.D.M.Ls. X Present disposition of (corrupt group) H.D.M.Ls. of Burmese Navy is as follows 1100, 1101, Mayu River, 1102, 1103 at Mandapam for use with L.C.Ts. 1104 refitting at Calcutta prior to dispatch to Chittagong. Propose allocating these to 137th flotilla. All launches manned by Burmese R.N.V.R. Your 051753 refers.  
(F.O.C.R.I.N., 240115 to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Calcutta, C.O. Burmese Navy) Reply: Admty. 271851.

Convoy X.C.2 Departure 0110Z May SCOUT escorting convoy X.C.2 (N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 240138Z to Admty).

CHRISTIAN HUYGENS. Transport CHRISTIAN HUYGENS sailed 23rd May with following personnel and stores for Suez. Requirements Suez. E.T.A. A. Aden 28th May A.M. (D.S.T.O. Bombay, 240344 to P.S.T.O. M.E. (C) P.S.T.O.I. D.S.T.O. Suez, D.S.T.O. Aden, D.S.T., A.H.Q., M.E.)

P.B. 41 Arrival BOMBAY with P.B. 41. (S.O.I. Bombay, 240431Z to Admty. etc).

SUSSEX Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 240631Z to Admty. etc).

Movements Arrival 0828 24th H.M. Tug INTEGRITY. (N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 240831Z to Admty).

EREBUS, CARADOC Gunnery training. May reply now be given to my 280716 April and 030717 May. (C. in C. E.F., 240756Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A., R.A.T.E. Durban, R.A.E.F.)

Movement summary. No. 66 May 24th.  
1. NEWCASTLE left Durban 23rd due Kilindini 25th  
2. CAPETOWN left Aden 20th May due Kilindini 25th.  
3. CARTHAGE left Kilindini 23rd due Durban 28th.  
4. FALMOUTH and VERBENA left Kilindini 23rd escorting (?convoy) M.C.7 to Durban due 2nd June.  
5. The following Y messages are cancelled numbers 273Y of May 6th, 277Y of May 8th, 278Y of May 11th, 280Y of May 15th. (C. in C. E.F., 241002Z to E.F.285Y).

Convoy P.B. 41. Arrived less British HOPE straggler. (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 241026Z to Admty).

/M.E.I.R.I...



War Diary.

24.5.1943.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

M.E.I.R.I.

Amendment Number 16 to M.E.I.R.I.  
(C. in C. E.F., 241239Z).

Routeing  
of British  
ships.

/ My 211730 (British ships to proceed trans-Pacific for the present) Trans-Pacific routeing only applies to such ships as can not be accepted for Mediterranean route.  
(D.T.D., 241531B to Comnav, C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.R.I.N., F.O.C. Ceylon, A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B., S.N.O.P.G., (R) C. in C. Levant, C. in C. S.A., N.S.H.Q., B.A.D.)



War Diary.24.5.1945.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

O.N.184. Preliminary bearings at 0008Z/24 suggest  
U/B. Convoy O.N.184 may have been sighted by U-Boat.  
(D.D.I.C. 240222B to Escorts O.N.184, (R) N.S.H.Q.  
A.C.I.C., C. in C. W.A., Cominch, Escorts S.C.131)  
A.M.240222B. Further bearings show this U/B was  
not in your vicinity.  
(D.D.I.C. 240546B to Escorts of O.N.184, (R)  
N.S.H.Q., A.C.I.C. C. in C. W.A. Cominch, Escorts  
of S.C.131)

Movements. St.Johns N.F. 23. Arrivals GEORGIAN M.L.077  
escorting B.W.25 ex Sydney. ALGOMA, GALT,  
NORTHERN WAVE ex O.N.S.7. HAMILTON, THEPAS,  
KAMSACK, BLAIRMORE ex S.C.131.

Departures ST. ELSTAN, H.M.R.T. STORM KING to H.X.240.  
(N.O.I.C. St.Johns, 240240Z to Admty)  
Arrival 23rd. U.S.A.T. CUBA, convoy J.O.3.  
(P.D. New Orleans, 240432 to Admty)  
Arrival 23rd M.L. ?312 arrivals 24th M.L's Q.1173, 1174.  
(B.R.O.St.Lucia, 240931Q to Admty)  
M/S 1175 and 1178 departed 1000Q/24th for Trinidad via  
San Juan.  
(B.R.L.O.Santo Domingo, 241055Q to Admty)  
Kingston arrival May 23rd STATE OF MARYLAND (U.S.A.T.)  
(N.S.H.Q. 241618Z to Admty)  
Argentia 23rd May. Arrivals 0930Z LAVENDER, STAFNES.

Departure 1930Z STAFNES.  
(Brit. Maintenance Cdr. Argentia, 241727Z to Admty)  
Depart 24th 2200Z M.L.484 E.T.A. Trinidad 1400Z/25th.  
(B.R.O. St. Lucia, 242215Z to Admty)  
PETER SYLVESTER (U.S.A.T.) arrived San Francisco May 21.  
(N.S.H.Q. 242330Z to Admty)

U.S.S/M (Cominch, 240305Z, 240335Z, 241557, 241558, 241705,  
Notice. 241706, 241707)  
S/M Estimate  
24th May.

Convoy Repetition my 240300 Action P.D. New York.  
G.U.S.7A. (1) Sailing telegram part 1. (2) 0400A/24 May.  
(3) 34.09 N. 07.56 W. 0800A/24 Posit (PA)2000A/24  
9 knots. (4) First "Chop" 10 W. 2000A/24  
Second "Chop" 24 W. 0900A/28 Radio (30?) 20 W.  
1000A/27. (5) All positions North and West.  
(Route). (6) Desron 16 PARKER, LAUB, KENDRICK, MACKENZIE,  
MCLANAHAN, BOYLE, NIELDS. (7) 44. (15) First two letters of  
wireless call signs 5 F.  
(Comsirseafron, 240309 to P.D. New York, (R) Admty. C. in C. Med.  
F.O.I.C.Gibraltar, N.O.B.Oran, N.S.H.Q., Comnavnaw, Com.Algiers)

U/B. Following has been read: S/M sighted by HELEN  
HUNT JACKSON in 21° 25' N. 83° 27' W. at 0750Z.  
(S.O.(I) Kingston, 240515Q to Admty)

Movements /...



War Diary.

24.5.1943.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary	CARNARVON CASTLE	08° N. 28° W.	Patrol	Blank
1800	WORCESTERSHIRE	04° N. 31½° W.	005°	15
G.M.T. 24th.	SS. WEST POINT	35° N. 28° W.	287°	20
	(D.O.D.(F) 240945Z to Opnav (R) Comnaveu)			
Convoy	Sailing telegram.			
H.J.53.	(2) Halifax 2200Z/23. (3) E.T.A. St. Johns N.F.			
	2100Z/25. (4) 12½. (5) (Route) (6) WASAGA.			
	(N.C.S.O.Halifax, 241211Z to Admty)			
Convoy	Arrived.			
B.S.44.	(N.C.S.O.Sydney, 241232Z to Admty)			
Convoy	Departure WASAGA escorting H.J.53.			
H.J.53.	(C. Halifax, 241244Z to Admty)			
Oiling	Your 091225 April para. 3 and 091230 April para.3.			
at Sea,	O.N.182. Oil transfer CHESAPEAKE 228 in three			
Depth	operations, THORSHOVDI 474 in six operations,			
Charges.	ATHELDUCHESS 443 in five operations, SAINTONGE			
	246 in four operations. All ships plus VOCC			
	carried depth charges nil passed. 14 hoses			
	broken this convoy. Ships named herein report			
	hoses cut by (?certain) escorts overrunning hose line and urge			
	that escorts keep station on port quarter to avoid this. Also			
	escorts be fitted three roller unit (one horizontal two vertical)			
	made portable if necessary to avoid nipping hoses on rails.			
	Few escorts utilise bow fairleads. Escort MONTGOMERY stopped			
	up messenger and buoys before casting off lines thus effecting			
	economy this equipment otherwise frequently carried away by			
	escorts over-running after completion operation.			
	(B.R.L.O.New York, 241314Z to Admty (R) C. in C. W.A. B.A.D.)			
	As amended B.R.L.O.New York, 242105Z)			
Convoy	Boston Section arrived 241227Z. Cape Cod			
X.B.54.	Canal Section arrived 241335Z?			
	(P.D. Boston, 241341 to Connnav, Admty etc.)			
Swedish	My 221236. Cancel para. 2 and substitute.			
Ships	"N.A. Stockholm promulgates a daily situation			
departure	report of all Swedish vessels on Gothenburg			
signals.	traffic and Greek relief and has been requested			
	to include you in the address".			
	(D.O.D.(H), 241409B to N.S.H.Q.)			
N.S.H.Q.	N.S.H.Q. Ottawa Estimate of S/M's North of			
S/M	40 Northwest of 40 West, 1200Z/24th.			
Estimate.	(N.S.H.Q. 241410Z)			

Convoy /...



War Diary.

24.5.1943.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Convoy H.S.87. (1) Sailing telegram (8 ships, list etc.)  
(2) Halifax 1400Z/24. (3) E.T.A. Sydney 0400/26.  
(4) 7.5 K. (5) (Route) Ships for Louisburg  
detach Pos. 45.34 N. 60.00 W. at 1300Z/25.  
(6) SWIFT CURRENT, MOOSEJAW.  
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 241435Z, 241439Z to Admty)

SEARCHER. Arrived 0930/24th.  
(B.R.L.O. Balboa, 241524R to Admty)

Convoy G.Z.32. Arrived.  
(B.R.L.O. Cristobal, 241549R to Admty)

Canadian built Frigates and Corvettes. X (1) N.S.H.Q. is requested to arrange for BARLE and CUCKERE, DITTANY and HONESTY to be given a few days shake down before being sailed as additional escorts to Clyde for first of class trials and work-up. A.M. 311402/Jan. and A.M. 242101/Feb. refers. (2) The remaining frigates and corvettes, being built in Canada for R.N. should, upon conclusion of work-up at Bermuda, be sailed as additional convoy escorts to U.K. as arranged by C. in C. C.N.A. to join Western Approaches Command.  
(D.O.D.(H) 241618B to N.S.H.Q., S.B.N.O. W.A., C. in C. C.N.A.  
(R) B.A.D. Cominch, F.O.N.F., C. in C. W.A., Cdre. (D) W.A.)

ASPIRANT, CAIRO (Derrick barge), ADVANTAGE. C.G.S.F. to sail H.M.R.T. ASPIRANT Orange, Texas to New Orleans when ready about May 26th for ranging deperming and stores. When ready about June 2nd sail onward to New York towing derrick barge CAIRO from New Orleans. After delivery of derrick barge at New York C.E.S.F. route ASPIRANT onward to destination St. Johns. Economic speed 12 knots. Action addressees advise all times of departures, routes speeds of advance. Admiralty has reassigned ASPIRANT to St. Johns and H.M.R.T. ADVANTAGE to Bermuda. Com.8 pass to Naval Station New Orleans. (Radio Washington 241650 to C.G.S.F., C.E.S.F.)

Convoy Q.S.48. My 221630 and 221635 Q.S.48 pass Father Point 1845Z escorted by PAYNTER less LORD STRATHCONA, stand by CAPE MARIATO at Grandes Bergerons. (N.C.S.O. QUEBEC, 241850Z to N.C.S.O. Sydney (C.B) (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A. N.C.S.O. Montreal, Connav, N.O.I.C. & N.C.S.O. Rimouski.)

Troop /...



927

War Diary.

24.5.1943.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Troop Movements, "Queens". X For Searail. For D.D.Mov.(P) from D.D.Mov.(P) (1) Chiefs of Staff have decided that "Queens" must operate on 28 day cycle. (2) Movement of east African Div. to continue as planned. (3) Agreed. (B.A.S. Washington 241900Q to W.O)

NORSEMAN (Cable Vessel) Following is repetition of my 241253. (Begins) Arrival 24th Kingston NORSEMAN. (B.R.O. Kingston 241905Q to Admty, Comcarib (R) N.O.B.Guantanamo.)

Convoy Dates and Escort Groups. Your 231621. (N.T. in W.D.) First Sea Lord approves proposal in para. 8 of A.M. 161550. (Sailing dates of North Atlantic Convoys for June, based on 9 group system proposed by C. in C. W.A.) (2) Cominch and N.S.H.Q. have been consulted unofficially. Former has no remarks to offer, latter is anxious for some assurance that support groups will be used to reinforce the Western Local Escort should the U-Boats move into their area in view of the weakness of this escort and the increased size of the convoys. (3) Although M. of W.T. estimates 505 sailings in June judging by past performance and Sparks estimate which is considerably lower it is considered that the nine group system will be able to take care of actual sailings without convoys becoming unacceptably large. (B.A.D. 241943Z to Admty)

Shipping Casualties. Connav Serials 22 to 24 X. STANVAC MANILLA torpedoed 23 May, sunk 24 May 23.45 S. 166.30 E. Request information ROBERT GRAY. (Connav, 242049 to Comnav)

Overdue Ship. AJASA(BRIT) unreported since departing Port Harcourt April 9th for Lagos. Have you any information. (Cominch C. & R. 242053Z to Admty)

Speed of Ships for trans-Atlantic trade convoys. X The M.O.W.T. have discontinued allocating ships of under 8 knots to the trans-Atlantic trade and as from O.N.S.13 and S.C.136 inclusive the minimum speed for inclusion in O.N.S. and S.C. convoys will be 8 knots for British controlled ships. (2) Request your concurrence that the same rule should apply to all United Nations shipping. (D.T.D. 242119B to Connav,, N.S.H.Q. (R) C.in C. N.A., B.A.D., C. in C.W.A.) D.T.D.281320B.

SEARCHER. Cominch directs SEARCHER proceed Norfolk Virginia. Enemy submarines have been operating lately north coast Cuba. One allocated possibly Yucatan

Channel /...



War Diary.24.5.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

SEARCHER. Channel area SEARCHER proceed independently  
(Contd.) from Cristobal at approximately 2100/25 May.  
Arrive point XM 1200/30 May. All times Z.  
Speed advance 16 knots. (Route).  
Air coverage will be furnished in Paseafron and  
same requested from other Seafroncoms.  
(Compaseafron, 242148 to SEARCHER, Comfalir Wing 3)

FORT Your 241719Z (N.T. in W.R.) acknowledged.  
WILLIAM. E.T.A. 1300Z/25th. Boiler hours.  
(FORT WILLIAM 242150Z to F.O.N.F.)

MAURETANIA, Your 192032. U.S. War Department is much upset  
Transport at the apparent unnecessary voyaging of their  
of U.S. troops involving double passage of Red Sea at  
Troops. its worst season. (2) War Department and Navy  
Department are also understandably critical of  
the many changes of plans apparently from your  
061728 onward. (3) Request further confirmation  
that it is out of the question to tranship troops at Colombo.  
(B.A.D. 242153Z to Admty) Reply: Admty 271046B.

Corvettes Your 211320Z, addressed Admty.  
R.C.N. Request you will confirm that the four Corvettes  
Support of your Support Group will be ready on 27th May  
Group. as there are indications that there will be a  
task for them on or shortly after that date.  
(C. in C. W.A. 242157Z to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C.  
C.N.A., Admty, N.S.H.Q.)

Sub. All times Z. A. Navy plane attacks sub. 61.32 N.  
attack 23.34 W. 241532. Surface craft attacks sub area  
and 51.55 N. 28.20 W. 230910. Plane attacks sub  
sighting area 51.45 N. 29.00 W. 230718. Aircraft sights  
summary. sub course 225 51.42 N. 27.35 W. 231900.  
C. HELEN HUNT JACKSON sights sub 21.25 N. 83.27 W.  
230750. Patrol plane sights sub course 185  
33.33 N. 64.40 W. 232230. D. Sound contact  
attacked 19.46 N. 74.49 W. 241200. Fisherman sights sub 46.38 N.  
53.17 W. 230030.  
(Cominch 242176Z to Admty)

THREE E.T.A. L.C.56 St. Johns 1500Z/25th. Request on  
RIVERS. return from Wabana 24 hours extended notice to make  
good defects. Weather report 7581 1373.  
(THREE RIVERS 242320Z to F.O.N.F.)



War Diary.

24.5.1943.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Kiwi  
No.42.                      Panamanian Tanker STANVAC MANILA 10169 tons  
torpedoed 23.44 S. 166.32 E. 24/5. Unidentified  
aircraft near Espiritu Santo 22/5 Buin areas.  
Bougainville 1 C.L. 1 P.D. 2 D.D. 4 A.K. 21/5.  
H.M.N.Z.S. KIWI damaged by gunfire from J.B.  
WEAVER due to mistaken identity returned to Auckland.  
(C.W.R. Wellington 240001Z to C. in C. E.F., Admty. for D.N.I,  
A.C.N.B., G.H.Q., New Delhi, India)

Digest                      3 Fortresses 1 Liberator bombed Kavieng Aerodrome  
Serial                      before dawn with unobserved results, while 4th  
No.489                      Fortress skip-bombed medium Merchantman off  
May 23rd.                      wharf scoring a 15 ft miss. While returning  
aircraft sighted 2 medium Merchant ships  
stationary off shore North Coast Gazelle  
Peninsula and 1 Corvette 7 miles Southwest Ubili  
course East. (5) After daybreak S/M sighted off Cape Orford  
course North and before dusk another heading South. (6) Forenoon  
photos reveal 1 Coaster, 77 barges Wewak Harbour. (7) Morning  
pictures Lae show 10 barges out nil serviceable Aircraft.  
(8) Early daylight raid on enemy villages and installations  
Nassau Bay by four Beaufighters five Bostons. 40 Native  
Canoes on beach among targets attacked.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 240816.)

Movements.                Arrivals Fremantle 23rd. ADELAIDE Netherlands  
Cruiser TROMP Sydney N.S.W. 22nd. MORESBY,  
KALGUORLIE Milne Bay 23rd. BOWEN Darwin 23rd.  
INVERELL Townsville 23rd. WARREGO Cairns 23rd.  
BOWEN Thursday Island 23rd. SWAN. Departures  
SYDNEY 22nd. DELORAINE, KALGOURLIE, MORESBY for Brisbane 23rd.  
H.M.S. NEPAL for Melbourne.  
(A.C.N.B. 241536Z. to Admty.)

NIEUW                      As NIEUW AMSTERDAM cannot be accepted at Bombay  
AMSTERDAM.                request she be instructed to proceed to Colombo  
where the transhipment of all or part of her  
personnel for India and P.A.I.C. will be arranged.  
From Colombo she will probably proceed to Suez  
but this will be confirmed.  
(D. of S.T. 242316B. to A.C.N.B. (R) C. in C. E.F. F.O. Ceylon,  
F.O.C.R.I.N. P.S.T.O. India, P.S.T.O. M.E. F.O.R.S.C.A.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarine Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 241346B, 241417B.)



War Diary.

25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Escort and Support groups.

1. The present system of identifying convoy escort groups and support groups is causing some confusion. The Admiralty is taking action to make the term "escort group" applicable to any group escorting a convoy and "support group" to any group engaged in support of convoys whether acting independently or augmenting a regularly assigned escort group.

Refits and modernising of French ships.

×2. In view of the strained refit and repair situation, both in the U.S.A. and U.K., the Admiralty do not consider that French ships should be refitted and modernised unless they will be fully suitable for useful operational employment on completion. An Admiralty message today gives a list of the ships whose characteristics are thought to justify refit and modernisation. (p. 968)

Home Commands.

E-boats in Portsmouth Command.

3. In view of the present heavy E-boat concentration in the Portsmouth Command, C. in C. Portsmouth is asking for Albacores to be detached from Manston to Tangmere. The shortage of fast gunboats precludes the maintenance of sufficient anti E-boat continuous surface patrols and on each occasion of recent E-boat activity on our coastal route in the Portsmouth Command Albacores have been the only craft with which it has been possible to effect an interception and the first strike during their approach. The Admiralty concurred (26 May), subject to sufficient aircraft remaining at Manston to maintain a standing anti E/R-boat patrol over the Straits during the dark period.

French fishing vessels in Biscay area.

×4. Arrangements are being made to inform French fishing vessels in the Bay of Biscay area that drastic action will shortly be taken against them, and they must either come to the U.K., where they will be welcomed, or stay at home, or be attacked without warning.

U.S. S/Ms

×5. It has been approved to operate two U.S. submarines from Sub. Sqdn. 50 against U-boats in the North Atlantic. F.O.(S) will direct their operations (cf. 1 and 3 March, and 15 May). HERRING and HADDO are on patrol in the area at present.

×6. The total sightings and attacks by aircraft in the Bay of Biscay patrols has now reached 114 sightings and 73 attacks.



25.5.1943  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands. - Contd.

- X 7. 15 F.W.190s attacked Folkestone at 2146 today. They were intercepted by our fighters, who destroyed 4 and damaged one. Slight damage from bombs was caused at Folkestone.

North Atlantic.

- X 8. Convoy S.L. 129 was shadowed by F.W. aircraft today and late in the evening an erratic high level bombing attack was carried out by a succession of single aircraft. No damage was caused.

Mediterranean.

Heavy air attacks on Messina.

- X 9. 44 U.S. Liberators attacked the Ferry Terminus and railway sidings at Messina in the early hours of today following an earlier attack by 25 Wellingtons on railway objectives. Bomb bursts were seen on and near the ferry berth and a ship was straddled alongside the quay. Aircraft of the Strategic Air Force attacked Olbia last night. Large fires and a very heavy explosion were caused, and two ships were left burning and a third blew up. 103 Fortresses were sent to attack Messina today and 91 carried out their attacks. Porto Scuso (Sardinia), Licata Harbour (Sicily) Porto Empedocle (Sicily) Porto Souso, and Pantellaria.
- X 10. 6 R.A.F. Beaufighters made a successful attack today on the seaplane base at Prevesa (west coast of Greece) today, destroying and damaging seaplanes and a petrol dump. A schooner of 160 tons near the coast was set on fire.
- X 11. During an air raid on Bone in the early hours of today SS. CEVENNES was slightly damaged.



War Diary.25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean - Contd.

- X 12. 8 Beauforts and 2 Albacores from Malta mined the entrance to Catania harbour successfully last night. As a diversion, 5 Wellingtons bombed the harbour. *This was the last aircraft raiding in the Mediterranean in view of the forthcoming invasion of Sicily (M.L.W.D., 356, XIV).*
13. VETCH made a promising attack on a U-boat contact at 1339 in 36.31 N., 00.40 E. about 80 miles N.W. of Oran, the periscope being seen.

East Indies.

- X 14. After the departure of convoy P.A. 40 on 2nd June the convoy assembly anchorage will be changed to Khasab Bay, 26.14 N., 56.15 E, inside the Straits of Hormuz, and Bandar Abbas anchorage will cease to be used for the present.
15. C. in C. Eastern Fleet sends today a message giving details of the re-organisation of the A/S Escort Force in the northern Indian Ocean.



War Diary.

25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

105th M.L.  
Flotilla

There is a requirement for the 105th Flotilla fully equipped and anti-wormed for tropical service. Request you will signal earliest possible date when flotilla will be ready to sail, if necessary in two portions.  
(D.M.S. 251204B to C. in C.Plymouth.)

French  
Fishing  
Vessels in  
Biscay Area.

\*H.W.O.84 para. 8. Bay of Biscay Area. French Fishing Vessels are not to be attacked until receipt of further instructions. Arrangements are being made for Aircraft to drop leaflets on and fire warning shots near any French fishing vessel encountered in near future. Naval forces encountering French fishing vessels shall where possible warn occupants that drastic action will shortly be taken against them and that alternatives before them are to come to the U.K., where they will be welcomed, to stay at home or to be attacked without warning.  
(C. in C.H.F. 251224B. H.F.Message Z.40.)

Proposed  
A/C for  
Tangmere.

In view of present heavy concentration of E-Boats in the Portsmouth Command it is requested that consideration may be given to stationing a detachment of 841 Squadron at Tangmere while the threat remains. A striking force flying from Manston to Portsmouth Command would almost certainly arrive too late to take action before E-Boats obtained their objective. On each occasion of recent E-Boat activity on our coastal route in this command the Albacores have been the only craft with which it has been possible to effect an interception and the first strike during their approach. The shortage of fast gunboats precludes the maintenance of sufficient anti E-Boat continuous surface patrols.  
(C. in C.Portsmouth 251230 to Admty.)

Defence of United Kingdom.

N.E. Coast.  
Prospective  
increase in  
shipping.

A.M. 221714B. Increases in shipping will also take place in Tyne, Tees, Wear, and Humber, between June and September, thereafter remaining stable or slightly increasing. Request any additional air defence measures you consider necessary.  
(D.L.D. 250849B to Air Ministry.)

Sunderland  
A/A Defences.

Your 241509.  
Increase in A/A defences of Sunderland is under consideration. Arrangements have been made for provision of Balloon Barrage which will arrive very shortly.  
(D.L.D. 251338B to F.O.I.C. Tyne.)



War Diary.25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

GLASGOW. GLASGOW is to pass gate at 2000B today and proceed by A.M. Q.Z.S. 409 and T. and through position F. 180° Bishop Rock 10 G. 050° 01' N. 018° 30' W. and thence comply A.M. 241836B May.

2. You will not act as cover for S.L. 129 unless so ordered.
3. Codeword "Gibson."

(C. in C.Plymouth 250001B to GLASGOW, (R) UGANDA.)  
Sailed GLASGOW in accordance with my 250001B.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 251949B.)

BELFAST. Scapa departure BELFAST.  
(A.C.O.S. 250057B to C. in C.H.F.)

N.Russia. 1. Your 231408. Arrived.  
(S.B.N.C. North Russia 250431B to S.B.N.C. Archangel.)

INDOMITABLE. Sailed R.A.(A) in INDOMITABLE in accordance with C. in C.H.F. 191208B.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 251016B.)  
Intend to proceed in INDOMITABLE passing Clyde light vessel at 1700B/25th to Scapa. S.O.A. 18 knots. Request Hoxa Gate 1300B/26th.  
(V.A.A.H.F. 251024 to C. in C.H.F.)

When detached after exercises p.m. 27th May R.A.(A) H.F. is requested to take CUMBERLAND, BERMUDA, ECHO, MIDDLETON under his orders and proceed Clyde.

(C. in C.H.F. 251745B to R.A.A.H.F.)  
My 191208. Para. 3, for 3 H.F. destroyers read 2 H.F. destroyers.  
2. Cancel last sentence of para. 3. My 251745 refers.  
(C. in C.H.F. 251753B to R.A.D. R.A.A. INDOMITABLE.)

RAMILLIES. Admiralty 231258 para. two. Mid June approximately  
(C. in C.H.F. 251114B to C. in C.Plymouth.)

S/M  
Movements. Intend to sail COLUMBINE, TALLY HO, SCEPTRE, LE CURIE from 180° Pladda Island 3 miles at 1800B/27th to Pentland Firth, E.T.A. 0700B/29th, speed 10 knots.  
2. A.C.O.S. is requested to sail SEADOG escorted to this R/V.  
3. Thence LE CURIE, SCEPTRE and escort to Scapa. COLUMBINE, TALLY HO, SEADOG to Lerwick E.T.A. 1700B/29th, speed 11 knots.  
(Capt. S.3 251145B.)  
Positions of S/Ms at 0800B/26 and movements for following 24 hours.  
(F.O.S. 251721B, 252152B.)  
Sailed P.316 escorted by SCIMITAR in accordance with S.3's 231029B.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 252134B.)



War Diary.

25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

- A.F.D.18. Sailed HARLECH CASTLE, DUNRAVEN CASTLE, POWIS CASTLE to sweep ahead of A.F.D. XVIII as far as 010° W. My 251657 refers.  
2. On completion these 3 minesweepers are to resume sweeping operations now in progress. (C. in C.W.A. 251659B to N.O.I.C. Oban.)
- NELSON. E.T.A Gate 0840B/30. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 251238 refers.  
(S.O.Force H. 251700B to C. in C.Plymouth.)
- Landing Craft \* Following is programme for sailing L.S.I. (3) to for Med. Mediterranean.  
1. S.O.Force J will sail PRINS ALBERT on 28th May from Portsmouth to Falmouth.  
C. in C.Plymouth is requested to sail her independently to Gibraltar at 18 knots as soon as possible after fuelling and embarkation of stores and personnel.  
2. S.O.Force J. will sail PRINCE CHARLES, PRINCE LEOPOLD, PRINSES J. CHARLOTTE and PRINSES ASTRID on 10th June from Portsmouth to Falmouth for onward routeing in convoy to Gibraltar after fuelling.  
C. in C.Plymouth is requested to sail them by a.m. 12th June at economical speed.  
(D.O.D.H. 251821B.)
- MALAYA. MALAYA arrived Clyde.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 252016B.)
- BLYSKAWICA Your 242253. Intend entering Plymouth for oil, E.T.A. 1230B/26.  
2. P.C. and S. 048° 48' 010° 15' 045° 15½ at 2000B/25th.  
(BLYSKAWICA 252243B to C. in C.Plymouth.)
- ONSLAUGHT. My position 250040B, 058° 23' N. 007° 52' W. E.T.A. 260800B.  
(ONSLAUGHT 252325B to A.C.O.S.)

Operations.

- S/M Patrols. Your 241409. Onward route for HAKE, pass 179° Barra Head 8 miles at 2300/27th in position B. 056° 40' 015° 01' W. C. 056° 00' W. 025° 00' W. D. 054° 50' 027° 59' W. thence to patrol square to be signalled later.  
2. HAKE is to proceed on surface to position D. thence dived by day. Request you will arrange bombing restrictions.  
(F.O.S. 251156B to to Comsubron 50.)  
\* B.A.D's 012125/March and my 031546/March.  
It has been approved to operate two U.S. submarines from Sub-Sqdn. 50 against U-Boats in the North Atlantic. The operation of these submarines is directed by F.O.(S) using the latest available intelligence from the Admiralty and also having regard to the position and routeing of convoys.



War Diary.25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.S/M Patrols.  
(Contd.)

2. At present HERRING and HADDO are on patrol in an area bounded by lines joining position W. 55° N. 37° W. X. 54° N. 42° W. Y. 50° N. 40° W. Z. 51° N. 35° W. This area is subdivided into twelve squares, each of approximately 60 miles sides. Squares are numbered W. to E. 1 - 3, and N. to S. A - D, that is, the North West square is A-1.

3. Further signals ordering submarines to patrol will include you in the address.

(A.C.N.S.H. 251228B to B.A.D. Washington.)

Positions of submarines at 0800B/26th and movements for following 24 hours.

A. HERRING vicinity 54° 00' N. 39° 30' W.

B. HADDO vicinity 52° 25' N. 36° 31' W.

C. ULTIMATUM, SHAD, TUNA and STUBBORN as in my 241714.  
(F.O.S. 251721B to Admty.)Operation  
"Dynamo".

\* Your 241341Z.

(1940)

1A. A.M. 1857/26 May, ordered operation "Dynamo" to commence. V.A. Dover had sent over personnel vessels at 1500 on that day.

B. V.A. Dover's figures. British 193568.

Allied 123095. Total 316663.

Lord Gort's figures. British 224585. Allied 112546. Total 337131.

C. EXPRESS and SHIKARI left Dunkirk 0340/4th June with 1000 troops and the beach-parties. (1940)

3. Discrepancy in B. above probably due to a number having been evacuated before official commencement of operation "Dynamo".  
(V.C.N.S. 251300B to B.A.D. Washington for 1st S.L.)Operation  
V.P. S.A.

\* My 241505B. M.T.B. 626 returned 1200B unable to make coast owing fog.

2. M.T.B. 626 sailed for same patrol 1345B today.  
(A.C.O.S. 251451 to Admty.)Coastal  
Patrols.

1. Following dispositions to be taken up against probable E-Boat activity to eastward of Portsmouth tonight 25/26 May.

2. ALBRIGHTON, LA COMBATTANTE, QUORN immediate notice at St. Helens. Codeword "Cadger."

3. M.Ls. 346, 572 to patrol searched channel between F. and E.A. 5 buoys.

4. S.G.B. 6 and 4, M.G.B. 615, 614 to patrol latitude 50° 25' N. between 01° 00' W. and 00° 15' W. from 2300B to 0430B. Codeword "Advent."

(C. in C. Portsmouth-251457B.)

1. M.G.Bs. 111, 115, 80 and 81 are to patrol between 157° Eddystone 12 and 220° start 10.

2. Object anti E-Boat patrol.

3. Leave Dartmouth 2230B for patrol. Leave patrol-line for Dartmouth 0430B. 6. Codeword "Bailey."

(C. in C. Plymouth 251507.)

/1. Intend...



War Diary.25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.S/M Patrols.  
(Contd.)

1. Intend M.Ls. 269 (S.O.) and 303 to patrol tonight, on lat. 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W.

2. Leave Portland at 2200 via Q.Z.S. 382 and leave patrol line at dawn/26th, returning via Q.Z.S. 382.

3. Object Anti E-Boat Patrol. Codeword "Device."  
(F.O.I.C. Portland 251542B.)  
My 251457B.

Newhaven Force remain in harbour at short notice. Destroyers are to patrol as ordered in para. 4 passing F. for Fox buoy at 2315B and 0500B.

(C. in C.Portsmouth 251825B.)

My 251542B. "Device" sailed.

(F.O.I.C. Portland 252222B.)

My 251507B.

Owing to weather M.G.B.Patrol is to remain in harbour at short notice.

(C. in C.Plymouth 252244B.)

Operation  
F.H.

X A.C.O.S. is requested to sail one Ranger-class oiler for Hvalfjord leaving Scapa p.m. 27th.

2. R.A.(D) is requested to sail MATCHLESS and GLEANER as escorts.

3. On arrival GLEANER is to come under orders of

S.O. 15 M.S.F. for sweeping duties in Reykjavik area.

4. MATCHLESS will be required to sail from Hvalfjord 4th June.

5. My 221133 refers.

(C. in C.H.F. 251510B.)

Allied Air Activity.

Air Patrols.

"Stipple" for 26th.

A. S.C. 131, H.X. 240. B. S.L. 129, O.S. 48,

S.E.G.10. C. O.N.S.8 27th May.

(H.Q.C.C. 250945B.)

Enemy Air Activity.Unknown ship  
attacked.

/ Intercept 2238 AAAA DE (undercypherable) Bearings 143° approx. 0049 Ends.

(Niton Radio 250038 to Ad. Portsmouth.)

ROTA

From ROTA. Bombed 100° 35 miles from North Cape.  
(Iceland W/T 251056B.)Damage at  
Bournemouth  
on 23rd May

R.N.Unit Bournemouth at 1255/23rd.

A. Blast damage to windows. Evacuation of rooms facing Holdenhurst Road due to 500 lb. U.X.B. in the vicinity.

B. 2 slight casualties.

(C. in C.Portsmouth 251756B to Admty.)

/Iceland...



War Diary.25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. - Contd.

Iceland. One unidentified enemy aircraft plotted 20 miles N.W. of Siglunes  $066^{\circ} 11' N. 018^{\circ} 50' W.$  at 1103, course East. Aircraft sighted N.W. of Bakkafjord  $066^{\circ} 01' N. 014^{\circ} 50' W.$  at 1155, course south, and N.E. of Vattarnes  $064^{\circ} 56' N. 013^{\circ} 40' W.$  at 1210, course east.  
(A.C.I.C. 251845B.)

Mining.

Thames Estuary. One ground mine detonated by sweeper at 1416B/22 in  $079^{\circ} B6A$  buoy 1.1 miles. Details.  
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 251030B.)  
One ground mine detonated by sweeper at 1310B/23 in  $097^{\circ} E.$  Shingles Buoy 1.4 cables. Details.  
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 252125B.)

H.V.3. X Operation H.V.3 completed.  
(PLOVER 251515B to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Sweep off Skerryvore. Leave present operation as necessary to arrive Oban in time to fuel and provision and be ready to sail again p.m. 26th.  
(C. in C.W.A. 251657B to HARLECH CASTLE, DUNRAVEN CASTLE, POWIS CASTLE.)

Following from HARLECH CASTLE:- Have sunk two floating British mines Marks XIV and XV in  $56^{\circ} 02' N. 07^{\circ} 18' W.$ , and  $55^{\circ} 51' N. 07^{\circ} 29' W.$  respectively.

HARLECH CASTLE proceeding to Oban to coal. Remainder of group are proceeding with sweep.  
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway 251805B to C. in C.W.A.)

Sweep in Larne Exercise Area. C. in C.W.A. 222234. Operation completed. Negative results. M/S trawlers have returned to base.  
(N.O.I.C. Ardrossan 251033 to C. in C.W.A.)

Search off Bloody Foreland. On completion of operation proceed to Belfast with the other 5 minesweepers.  
(C. in C.W.A. 252147B to GUNNER.)  
When ready request you will sail the minesweeper referred to in my 252147 to carry out search for enemy mines in area enclosed by circle of 9 miles radius with centre  $055^{\circ} 57' N. 008^{\circ} 55' W.$   
2. Type of search to be same as ordered in my 222234.  
(C. in C.W.A. 252150B to N.O.I.C. Belfast.)  
Action ordered in my 252150 is to be taken by N.O.I.C. Ardrossan. No action is required by F.O.I.C. N.I.  
(C. in C.W.A. 252347B to F.O.I.C.N.I.)



War Diary.25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

IRISH OAK. My 201600A. SS. IRISH ASH was inward bound in position some 9 miles ahead of IRISH OAK when she was stopped by U/B (?) presumably on 14/5. She was allowed to proceed and U/B was identified as such by member of crew possessing a Canadian publication showing details of U/B (and?) IRISH OAK was torpedoed in position given after being ordered to abandon ship. Master was informed by U/B Captain that cargo carried was known to him and that boats would be picked up shortly by Irish plane which was outward bound. Official statement issued here that submarine was unidentified does not hold water if report correct. Routes given to Irish shipping appear compromised. Grade A. 1. (N.A.Dublin 251350 to D.N.I.)

U/B sunk by HERRING. The attack on a U-Boat by U.S.S. HERRING on 21st March has been assessed as probably sunk. Request you will convey our congratulations to HERRING. (V.C.N.S. 251650B to Comnavu.)

U/Bs reported or attacked in N.Atlantic Am over enemy submarine in 62° 25' N. 14° 55' W. (A/C 84 Sqdn. Duty F. 251805B to Artunshofdi.) Have attacked enemy with depth charges. (A/C 84 Sqdn. Duty F. 251810B.) See also Shipping

U/B sunk by TOTLAND. TOTLAND's attack on a U-Boat on 23rd February 1943 has been assessed as Probably Sunk and we congratulate her on this success. (V.C.N.S. 251831B to TOTLAND.)

Casualties & Defects.

ANSON. Your 161919B May. Modifications and defects will necessitate main armament being at 3 days notice. Request confirmation that this is acceptable. (A.S.Rosyth 251520B to C. in C.H.F.)

COALTIT A.M. 090103. COALTIT will be sailed for Harwich on 28th May or as soon as weather permits. Hull is in bad condition and serious leaks occur in bad weather. (V.A.Dover 251753B to F.O.I.C. Harwich.)

L.C.T. 626 My 242217B and 250646. L.C.Ts. 626 and 624 damaged in collision. Following report received from F.O.I.C. Southampton. L.C.T. 624 damaged principally above water. Requires docking or slipping for examination and repair or replacement of rudder. It is

/estimated...



War Diary.25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.L.C.T.626  
L.C.T.624  
(Contd.)

estimated that defection can be made good in about a week. L.C.T. 626 has sustained more serious underwater damage and no accurate estimate of time required to make good can be made at present.

(C. in C.Portsmouth 251930B.)

IMPULSIVE.

Your 251800. Is any difficulty anticipated in making destination.

2. If in doubt proceed via Minches.

(C. in C.W.A. 252145B to IMPULSIVE.)

Your 252145. No difficulty anticipated. Condition no worse. Have reduced to 12 knots for greater safety.

(IMPULSIVE 252230B to C. in C.W.A.)

Shipping & Convoys.

D.F.6.

Intend to sail LADY OF MANN passing Clyde boom 1900B/26 for Loch Ewe for fuel. E.T.A. 0900B/27. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 251028B.)

N.O.I.C. Greenock 251028B. N.O.I.C. Aultbea

is requested to sail LADY OF MANN so as to R/V with CHIDDINGFOLD in 270° Cape Wrath 18 miles at 1700B/27.

2. Onward route. S.O.A. 18 knots.

(A.C.O.S. 251750B.)

O.N.184,  
E.G.6.

Part company with convoy and proceed in accordance with F.O.N.F. 231440Z.

(C. in C.W.A. 251102B to E.G.6.)

Your 251620Z. Proceed to Argentia.

(C. in C.W.A. 252028Z to E.G.6.)

E.G.4.

Detach ONSLAUGHT to Scapa.

(C. in C.W.A. 251103B to Capt. D.8.)

O.S.48  
K.X.10.  
S.L.129.

My 221335B and C. in C.W.A. 240924Z.

You should consider cover of O.S.48 your first object.

2. After O.S.48 and K.X.10 have reached 042° N. you are to cover S.L.129 whilst fuel permits and then return to Plymouth through positions B. and A.

(C. in C.Plymouth 251113B to CHARYBDIS.)

<sup>c</sup>  
S.C.130.  
U-Boat  
believed  
sunk.

Preliminary report First Escort Group with convoy S.C.130.

2. 19th May. 2 U-Boats sighted while closing convoy. First fired torpedoes as escorts approached and was subsequently attacked by WEAR and SPEY but went deep. Possibly damaged. Second sighted and attacked by JED causing damage indicated by oil. SENNEN joined and

/attacked...



War Diary.25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- S.O.130  
U-Boat  
believed  
sunk.  
(Contd.)
- attacked bringing splintered woodwork, oil, and bubbles to surface. Considered sunk.  
3. 20th May. Middle and morning watches H.M.S. JED while searching along H.F/D.F. bearing obtained R.D.F. visual and Asdic contact. Large U-Boat dived close ahead and was attacked twice with depth charges and once with hedgehog at 0220, 0228 and 0239 respectively. No apparent result.
4. 20th May. Middle and morning watches. H.M.S. SPEY while searching along H.F/D.F. bearing obtained R.D.F. and Asdic contact. Hedgehog attack carried out at 0346 one or two bombs exploding shortly after entering waterroom no evidence could be seen in dark. Doubtful contact was regained later but lost at 500 to 600 yards. Depth charge attacks with deep settings carried out at 0457 and 0542 without apparent result. Result inconclusive.
5. 20th May. Support group carried out sweeps for U-Boats indicated by aircraft and H.F/D.F. reports without result.
6. Support groups left convoy 0900/22nd May.  
(Cdre. (D)W.A. 251507B to C. in C.W.A.)

MONOWAI. On arrival Clyde about 2nd June request you will sail MONOWAI to Liverpool for conversion to M.O.W.T.  
(D.O.D.F. 251625B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

S.C.131  
U-Boat  
sighted.

U-Boat sighted on surface and dived in position 245 Z Z 16. Am hunting. My position 51.02 N. 32.05 W.  
(OFFA 251954Z to C. in C.W.A.)  
My 251954Z. Fair contact gained 2112. OFFA one attack, PANTHER 2. No results. Hunt abandoned 2230 to rejoin S.C.131.  
(OFFA 252245Z to C. in C.W.A.)

A.T.45.  
T.A.45.

Convoy A.T.45 comprising U.S. MARIPOSA is due Liverpool a.m. 1st June with approximately 5,500 personnel on board.  
2. Vessel will sail as convoy T.A.45 on 3rd June.  
(D.S.T. 252339B.)

T.A.42A.  
AQUITANIA.

My 130201B para. 2.. Vessel is required to sail as convoy T.A.42. A. on 31st May. No personnel will embark.  
(D.S.T. 252341B.)

T.A.43.  
EMPRESS OF  
SCOTLAND.

My 190550B para. 2.. Vessel will now sail as convoy T.A.43 on 29/5. Approximately 200 personnel will embark 29/5.  
(D.S.T. 252352B.)

/Atlantic...



War Diary.

25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

Atlantic  
Convoys  
Air Cover.  
Signals  
"Stipple"  
and  
"Tubular."

× Consequent on experience of procedure outlined in Admiralty's O71612B May it has been found that categories of priority referred to in para. 3 of above signal are not entirely satisfactory. Following amended categories are proposed. X. Imminently threatened with attack, i.e. being actually shadowed by the enemy or passing through an area where U-Boats are known to be concentrated  
Y. Standing into danger, i.e. approaching an area where U-Boats may be encountered during the

24 hours under consideration.

Z. Standing out of danger i.e. in a comparatively dangerous area but the danger is progressively diminishing and the convoy is drawing clear.

O. May require cover in the near future but not at present in a dangerous area, indication of date to be given.

P. Comparatively safe from attack, the only risk being a chance encounter with an isolated U-Boat.

2. Intend to raise proposed amendments at Trend Meeting on Thursday.

(C. in C.W.A. 252359Z to Admty.)



War Diary.25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Convoy Sailed 1542/24 FOXHOUND, CATTERICK. 0010/25  
W.S.30. ANTELOPE.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 250012 to Admty).

French X My 200021. Train delayed. Ship will not catch  
refugees. morning tide.  
(N.A. Lisbon, 250804B to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R)  
C. in C. Med., Admty. B.N.A. Madrid).  
My 250804. Operation delayed by non-arrival  
of train in time to catch morning tide but embarkation of 697  
refugees now completed.  
(N.A. Lisbon, 251141B to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med.,  
Admty. B.N.A. Madrid).  
My 251141. Ship sailed at 2000B.  
(N.A. Lisbon, 252015B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R)  
C. in C. Med., Admty. B.N.A. Madrid).

G.U.S.7 A. Following is Comtaskfor 68 242108. Action Port  
Director New York, repeated to you for  
information (begins) In addition to vessels  
listed in Commorseafron 240309, add GULF GEM  
to Mediterranean Section G.U.S.7 A making total 45. 2000A  
May 24 P.C.S. 23.19 N., 10.04 W., course 258° 9 knots.  
(Commorseafron 250813Z to Admty. C. in C. Med., etc).

S.L.129 One aeroplane bearing 150°. Distance 5 miles  
A/C. in 39° 02' N., 13° 30' W. Course and speed of  
convoy 270° 5 knots.  
(LEITH 250850Z to Gib. W/T).

Dispositions. Situation 252005B. U.S.S. WEST POINT 037° 24'  
038° 33' 281° (?20).  
(2) U.G.S.8 A, C.T.F.66, 033° 47' 034° 14'  
through 034° 10' 030° 59' thence 086° 8½.  
(3) 20 L.C.I.(L)s flight 9, 032° 31' 039° 59' 097° 10.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 251016B).  
Situation at 252002B.  
G.U.S.7 A. U.S.S. PARKER 032° 01' 013° 31' through 031° 01'  
016° 01' thence 283°.  
2. S.L. 129 LEITH 040° 05' 014° (?02') 350° 6¼.  
3. One (?Portuguese) sloop departed Lisbon May 24th for Funchal.  
4. W.S.30 SUFFOLK 034° 03' 009° 34' through 032° (?35') 009°  
59' and 029° 05' 012° 32' thence 226° 12½.  
5. French Cr. GEORGES LEYGUES 022° 05' 017° 02' northbound  
coastwise to 026° 15' 015° 23' to 027° 01' 014° 20' thence 037°  
23.  
6. O.S.48 K.M.S.15, FOWEY 045° 04' 014° 06' 162° 8.  
7. ESKIMO 036° 35' 009° 26' 303° 18.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 251056B).

/Situation...



War Diary.25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Dispositions. Situation 251959B.  
(contd). (2) K.M.F.15 WESTON 035° 44' 007° 10' through Straits of Gibraltar 12½.  
(3) 3 Portuguese S/MS one gunboat, exercising off Celostimbra until May 26th.  
(4) COVERLEY Fr. S. LA GRACIEUSE one merchant ship sail from vicinity Setubal about 252200B coastwise to 270° St. Vincent 3 miles thence direct to Casablanca 10.  
(5) Italian repatriation ships VULCANIA and SATURNIA sailed 251800 through 035° 49' 006° 06' and 034° 20' 009° 02' thence 204° 15.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 251214B).

TYNEDALE My 242235B, not to B.N.A. Lisbon arrived TYNEDALE from vicinity of Villa Real Desant Antonio with 114 Poles.  
(N.O.I.C. Gibraltar 251044B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., B.N.A. Lisbon).

TEMPLAR P.316 (TEMPLAR) leaves Scilly Isles at 1400B May 27th diving by day 98 miles a day route Rose to 043° N., E.T.A. 0600B June 22nd.  
(2) Communications.  
(3) S.Os. carried. Painted blue. Last Q.K.27 Q.K.A.102.  
(Capt. S.3., 251147B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) F.O.(S), C. in C. Med., C. in C. Plymouth, Capt. (S) 8, S.O.(S) Gibraltar).

GEORGES  
LEYGUES. On crossing 026° N., pass through position (O) All positions North and West 026° 15' 015° 23' (P) 027° 00' 014° 20'. (Q) 030° 00' 011° 45' (R) 033° 50' 009° 00' (S) 034° 05' 008° 01' thence Q.K.A.102 to Casablanca.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 251206B to F.S. GEORGES LEYGUES, (R) Admty. C. in C. Med., F.O.C.W.Af. Comar Dakar, Admiral Africa, C.M.S.F.F.)

S.O. Force H, Intend following route for S.O. Force H in NELSON NELSON.  
(P) 35.42 09.59 (Q) 38.41 14.14 (R) 40.01 15.01 (S) 48.38 15.01 (T) 49.40 06.21 thence Q.Z.S.410.  
S. of A. 15½ knots.  
(2) Fighter protection codeword "Relax" call sign 406.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 251238 to Admty. (R) H.Q.F.C., C. in C. Med., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A., H.Q.C.C., S.O. Force H., R.A.H.)

BOADICEA BOADICEA sailed to rejoin 0800/25th.  
W.S.30 (C.M.S.F.F., 251256 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) F.O.C.W.A., Escorts W.S.30).

/Enemy...



War Diary.25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

Enemy A/C 38 Group. One aeroplane bearing 270° distant 5 miles approx. true course 180°. My position 39° 21' N., 13° 35' W. based on a fix within half an hour of 1300.  
(S.O. 38th Escort Group, 251328Z to Gibraltar).  
My 1328. 1 Focke Wolf shadowing, bombing runs, turning, no bombs dropped. No longer shadowing at 1500.  
(S.O. Escort Group 38, 251433Z to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).  
Following read, R.A.F. Gib. I am being shadowed by one enemy A/C bearing 060° from centre of convoy height 5,000 ft. Convoy "Child" P.C. and S. 39° 14' N., 13° 47' W., 344° 7 knots.  
(A/C of 202 Sqdn. Duty E. via Liverpool, 251715B).  
3 planes course 230° 5 miles 180° position 39.53 N., 13.44 W. Position based on a "fix" obtained within half an hour of 1300.  
(S.O. 38th E.G. 251821Z to Gib. W/T).  
My 1821 9 F.Ws. present.  
(S.O. 38th Escort Group, 251841Z to Gib. W/T).  
My 1841Z. 9 F.Ws. round convoy until 2025. Erratic H.L.B. by succession of single aircraft. No damage.  
(S.O. Escort Group 38, 252031Z to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) C. in C. W.A.)  
8 F.W. are operating probably in your vicinity. Your position was reported at 2020.  
(D.D.I.C., 252107B to S.O. Escort Group 38, (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth H.Q.C.C.)

ALBULA Swiss steamship ALBULA leaves Genoa about 30th for Gibraltar.  
(D.E.W.D., 251402B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med).

UNSPARING Arrived.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 251705B to Admty. etc).

Movements Arrived M.M.S. 102, 103, 105, 106, AIMWELL.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 251812B to Admty. etc).

Movements Gibraltar. Departures ESKIMO, BOREAS, to West. MOLPE on escort duties, Melilla. Arrivals BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, CONVULVULUS, ex G.U.S.7 A.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 252155B to Admty. C. in C. Med).

Repatriations. Italian repatriation liners VULCANIA and SATURNIA sailed 2039B/25.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 252945 to Admty. etc).

TRUSTY Your 241601 not to F.O.S. (N.T. in W.D.)  
Request E.T.A. 26° 10' N., 20° 59' W. Convoys permitting intend TRUSTY to pass through 37° N. 10° 28' W. thence 36° to Route "Rose".



War Diary.

25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic

TRUSTY  
(contd).

Submarine to proceed on surface at C.O.'s discretion until reaching 35° N., thereafter diving by day S. of A. 111 miles per day. F.O.S's 101604 April is being passed to you to inform TRUSTY.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 252342B to F.O.C.W.A. (R) F.O.S.)



War Diary.25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

H.D.M.L's Walvis Bay. F.O.C.W.Africa's 051252Z. No other H.D.M.L's are available for transfer. (2) The flotilla of H.D.M.L's completing in July and August in U.K. has been allocated to you. Every endeavour will be made to ship or steam them as early as possible after completion. (3) Provision of A/T baffles is not at present considered practicable, as neither boom vessels nor net layers are available. (4) Considered controlled minefield alone would not cover sufficient area to be of real value. (5) Therefore suggested that the only immediately available defence is A/S patrols of H.D.M.L's now completing at Durban and indicator loops intended for Saldanha Bay which will be replaced from U.K. at high priority. (Head of M.II Approved by A.C.N.S.(F), 250312B to C. in C. S.A. (R) F.O.C.W.A)

ANTELOPE W.S.30. E.T.A. ANTELOPE for fuel 1930Z/29. Request she may be sailed to rejoin convoy immediately on completion of fuelling. (FOXHOUND, 250808 to N.O.I.C.Dakar, (R) F.O.C. W.A. SUFFOLK, ANTELOPE)

CATTERICK W.S.30. E.T.A. CATTERICK for fuel 0600Z/30th. (FOXHOUND, 250820 to N.O.I.C.Bathurst (R) F.O.C. W.A., SUFFOLK, CATTERICK)

CILICIA. Departure 1158Z/24th, CILICIA on Ocean Patrol. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 250838 to Admty (R) Com. 4th Fleet)

SNOWDROP, HIGHLAND PRINCESS. Sailed 0645Z/25th May SNOWDROP M.L.266 escorting H.M. HIGHLAND PRINCESS, speed 13 knots E.T.A. Lagos 0800Z/26th May. (N.O.I.C.Takoradi, 250910Z to Admty, F.O.C.W.Af. N.O.I.C. Lagos.)

GEORGES LEYGUES. Sailed 2130Z/24 GEORGES LEYGUES. My 231117 refers. Amiral Afrique informed. (Comar Dakar, 250928Z to F.O.C. W.Af., A. Gib, S.N.O.C.A.)

Movements, Pointe Noire. Arrival Pointe Noire 0900Z/25th ROHILKHAND escorting M.M.S.107 and B.D/V. BARWIND. (B.N.L.O.W.Af. 251045A to R.A.W.Af. (R) Admty, C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C.Takoradi)

Convoy W.S.29. Sailing telegram. (2) 1100Z/25th May. (3) R/V. Capetown Section 030° 25' S. 031° 02' E. at 1400Z (?25th) (4) 12 knots. (5) (Route) (6) FERNIE, RACEHORSE, REDOUBT, QUADRANT. (15) X.U.D.1 to 9. Aden section K.L.D.1 to 9. After parting company codeword "Dancer" B.H.Y. E.T.A. 10° N. 1500Z 6th June, Aden 1400Z/8th June, Bombay 1200Z/10th June, Karchi 10th June.

"Chop" /...



War Diary.

25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Convoy "Chop" 45° (? East) 28th May. ALMANZORA will be detached to fuel at Diego Suarez and rejoins convoy. STRAAT MALAKKA will be detached in vicinity of (? 67°) East for Karachi. (N.C.S.O. Durban, 251209Z to Admty etc.) Durban Section Convoy W.S. 29A and attached ships sailed 25 May for Aden E.T.A. 1400Z 8th June. Personnel on board for Middle East. (A) LEOPOLDVILLE (B) RUYS (C) SELINDIA (D) BERENSFJORD (E) For Malta. (F) for Aden. (2) Freightship CLAN LAMOND also sailed in convoy. (D.S.T.O. Durban, 251309Z to D.S.T.O. Aden)

Transfer of A.M.C's. X ASTURIAS, CORFU, CARNARVON CASTLE, CILICIA and ALCANTARA are to be transferred from South Atlantic Command to West African Command from 1st June, 1943. A.M.101534 refers. (D.O.D.(F), 251230B to F.O.C.W.Af., C. in C. S.A. (R) C. in C. E.F., F.O.I.C.Greenock)

W.S.29. Sailed W.S. 29 escorted by NORMAN, QUADRANT, REDOUBT, RACEHORSE in accordance with N.C.S.O. Durban 251209. (2) Destroyers return to Durban from 25° S. or prudent limit of endurance passing through 031° S. 038° E. (3) Destroyers medium frequency on group J throughout. (N.O.I.C.Durban, 251309Z to Admty, C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F.)

CUBA, NEW NORTHLAND, STANDELLA. Intend to sail CUBA and NEW NORTHLAND for Lagos and STANDELLA for Marshall at 1200Z/26th May escorted by WITCH, CROCUS, F.S. COMMANDANT DETROYAT, and 4 M.L's (Route). Speed made good 11½ knots to Dakar. Thereafter 12½ knots. E.T.A. Lagos 1700Z/30th May. (2) M.L's will be detached at 0600Z/27th to transfer to convoy T.S.41. (A?) STANDELLA will be detached from position B to proceed independently to Marshall. (F.O.C.W.A. 251326Z to N.O.I.C.Lagos, (R) N.O.I.C.Takoradi, Admty.)

Dispositions. Situation at 1959Z/25th May. VICTORIA about 025° 42' 014° 45' coastal Northwards 10. French Cr. GEORGES LEYGUES about 022° 25' 016° 55' coastal northwards 23. LA GRANDIERE (corrupt) 020° 23' 017° 55' 240° 13. U.S.Destroyers ELLIS, DUPONT, DICKERSON with O.T.5, 018° 05' 027° 32' 088° 13½. L.S.T.412, CYCLAMEN, L.S.T. 324, 014° 30' 017° 40' to 014° 45' 017° 42' thence 015° 8½. CILICIA 010° 07' 020° 45' 255° 14. French Sloop DUMONT D'URVILLE, LE CENTAURE, 012° 30' 017° 25' 000° 12. CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 008° 30' 027° 30' 14. B.Y.M.S.26, 9, 27, 008° 36' 013° 33' to 010° 22' 014° 00' thence 293° 8½. (F.O.C.W.A. 251326Z)

Following /...



War Diary.25.5.1945.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dis positions (Contd.) Following is a repetition of my 251135 May. (Begins) Situation at 2000Z/25th May. 025. VIRGINIA, THYME 014° (08' or 15') 011° 05' to 017° 00' 011° 00' 10. ARCTIC EXPLORER, NORWICH CITY, WELLARD, GENISTA off Walvis Bay. GAMBIA 023° 45' 006° 50' to 002° 007° 40' W. 18. KUMAON, KATHIAWAR, ALLIGATOR with KELT in tow 030° 45' 016° 25' to Capetown 5. ROCKROSE, FRITILLARY, CAPE WARWICK with C.D.19, 032° 029° 20' coastal to Durban 8. QUICKMATCH escorting EXHIBITOR 030° 55' 032° 30' to 034° 036° 16. KENYA, NORMAN, RACEHORSE, QUADRANT, REDOUBT with W.S. 29 030° 10' 033° to 031° 038° 12. (See amendment 251747B) ASTER, COVENTRY CITY, SONDRRA off Cape St.Lucia to Durban 10. CARTHAGE 018° 20' 041° 35' to 022° 01' 041° 30' 16½ (Ends) (C. in C.S.A. 251348B)

Following is a repetition of my 251728.  
From my 251135, delete KENYA (Ends)  
(C. in C. S.A. 251747B)

ILE DE FRANCE. Admty. 242310. ILE DE FRANCE has been diverted to Freetown, E.T.A. daylight 5th June.  
(2) C. in C. S.A. to F.O.C. W.Af. 1st June.  
(C. in C. S.A. 251426B to Admty (R) F.O.C.W.Af. B.R.O. Rio de Janeiro, D.S.T.O. Durban, Qnav..)

C.T.F. 21.4. Following is a repetition of 250901, (Begins) Comar Dakar from F.O.C.W.Af. My 242307.  
LA GRANDIERE. Correct R/V position to read 018° 14' N. 022° 26' W. (Ends.)  
(F.O.C.W.A. 251441Z to C.T.21.4)

U/B attacked by A/C. U-Boat Report.  
(1) A. Admiralty Air Ministry A.H.Q.E.A. B. AOS/2. C. 25th May. D. St. Albans. E. 321. F. Catalina 485. G. Temperate sea. H. Lieut. Vonk (R.N.N.A.S.) (2) A. H. Yes. B. 16 miles 280 T. C. 07.00 (B) 24th May. D. 24.05 S. 26.20 (E) E. 60 fathoms. (3) A. Periscope B. 1. 340 T. 2000 B. 2 One mile 040 (T) B. 3. 080 (T) three to four knots. C. 3 Yes. (4) A. 1500 yards. B. 25 seconds. C. 0700B. Dim on port quarter 30° reading from astern. E. 80 feet. F. 60 fathoms. (5) B. 1. 25 feet. B. 2. Four. B. 3. Two mark 8 (Anmatol) two Mark 8 (Torpex) Torpex No. 2 and 3 of stick. B. 4. Mark 13. B. 5. Three, No. 4 hung up. B. 6. 60 feet. (6) A. Yes. B. No. C. & Q. Centre explosion 150 feet dead up track from swirl left by periscope. (7) A. No. B. Yes. C. 30 seconds. D. One oil patch AFYMO 50 yards long and two broad and 40 minutes later another circular patch 40 feet in diameter about one mile up track of first patch. (8) A. B. Yes, six to seven rounds estimate 40 MM. D. No. (9) A. W/T on 6666 and 500 not acknowledged. B. No. D. Yes. I. 3½ hours. F. 1040B. (10) First contacted on starboard beam aerial at 1½ miles at 0620B. Altered course to starboard and picked up U-Boats wake visually. U-Boat submerged before attack could be delivered. Periscope picked up visually and attacked 40 minutes later. (11) A. Fine. B. Light variable. C. Nil. D. 12 plus. E. Calm unbroken. (14) At 0620B

( ?BLBP ) / ...



War Diary.25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

U/B attacked by A/C. (Contd.)

(?BLBP) obtained and aircraft turned to investigate and sighted wake and shortly afterwards a dark shape which opened fire. Aircraft not in position to attack and circled for a second run in but U/B had submerged. Aircraft then contacted convoy by V/S and returned to position at 0700B to commence square search when periscope was seen leaving 040 T. about one mile away proceeding 080 T. Periscope only seen for five seconds but swirl left by it seen during attack. Three depth charges dropped in stick 150 to 170 feet ahead of swirl. No.2 depth charge exploded dead up track of periscope. Oil patch seen after attack and another 40 minutes later. At 0800 handed convoy over to Ventura and then remained in position of attack until 1040B. (15) Although no evidence of kill estimated that the centre depth charge fell on or very close to U-Boat. U-Boat was closing to attack important convoy and aircraft attack undoubtedly saved it assessed as very good attack. Paras. omitted all inapplicable. More complete report with sketches will be forwarded. (C. in C. S.A. 251509B to Admty etc.)

B.Y.M.S. Intend sailing B.Y.M.S.26 (S.D) 09 and 27 at 1800Z/25th to Dakar to refuel for onward passage to Casablanca and Gibraltar. (2) Route 009° 22' N. 014° 00' W. 010° 33' N. 016° 48' W. 011° 27' N. 017° 20' W. thence to Dakar (corrupt group) 0700 28th speed 8½ knots. (3) Comar Dakar is requested to sail B.Y.M.S. a.m., (?29th) May be coastwise route to Casablanca and report time B.Y.M.S. will shift to Med. Station W/T organization. (4) Continuous wireless guard will be maintained on groups F.T. until shifting at 026° 10' N. when watch will be kept on Gib. Broadcast. (5) Ships have been issued with minor war vessels sets of S.P. call signs and sig. letters (list) (6) Commorseafrontier is requested to sail Baker to Gibraltar as soon as possible. (F.O.C.W.A. 251628B to Comar Dakar, Commorseafrontier. (R) Admty. C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C.Gibraltar, N.O.I.C.Bathurst)

Convoy W.S.30. List, speeds, destinations, etc. (D.S.T. 251644B to F.O.C.W.A., C. in C. S.A. etc) See Lion copy.

Movements. Arrived Port Etienne 1830/24 OUED FEZ and PAQONIO escorted by M.L.1231 M.L.1072. My 211227 refers. Admiral Afrique informed concerning OUED FEZ. (Comar, Dakar 251706Z to F.O.C.W.A.F., Admty. F.O.I.C.Bathurst, Commorseafron)

ARCOLA. Your 201050 (Re Internal explosion Italian Tanker ARCOLA). Request early report. (Head of M.1, 251801B to N.C.S.O.Bissau, (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)



SA  
951A

# 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.)

251644B May.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

OUT

To F.O.C. W.Af:

Date 25.5.43.

- C. in C. South Atlantic.
- C. in C. Eastern Fleet.
- Repeated C. in C. Levant.
- F.O.R.S.C.A.
- N.O.I.C. Durban.
- F.O.C. Gibraltar.
- F.O.C.R.I.N.

Convoy W.S. 30.

NAVAL CYPHER (XD) BY W/T

From Admiralty.

IMPORTANT to F.O.C. W.Af.

Following troop transports sailed from United Kingdom 19.5.  
in Convoy WS 30:-

<u>CODE</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>SHIP.</u>	<u>SPEED.</u>	<u>DESTINATION.</u>	<u>PERSONNEL</u> <u>ON BOARD.</u>	<u>PENDANT</u> <u>Nos.</u>
D 2	MATAROA	14	West Africa	63	71
			South Africa	49	
			East Africa	185	
			India	1207	
			Middle East	297	
D 3	U.S. ARGENTINA	18	West Africa	186	52
			South Africa	1202	
			East Africa	175	
			India	1573	
			Middle East	1026	
			Ceylon	24	
			Iraq	19	
Mauritius	3				
D 4	U.S. H.F. ALEXANDER	18	West Africa	146	61
			South Africa	859	
			East Africa	13	
			India	672	
			Middle East	72	
			Ceylon	1	
			Iraq	32	
D 5	U.S. SIBONEY	16 1/2	West Africa	454	51
			South Africa	134	
			East Africa	1	
			India	167	
			Middle East	150	
			Ceylon	190	

/ D.6 .....



<u>CODE</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>SHIP.</u>	<u>SPEED.</u>	<u>DESTINATION.</u>	<u>PERSONNEL</u> <u>ON BOARD.</u>	<u>PENDANT</u> <u>Nos.</u>
D 6	U.S.SLOTERDIJK	15	West Africa South Africa East Africa India Middle East Ceylon	190 10 569 560 136 429	62

2. H.M.S. CORFU also sailed in convoy with 768 personnel on board for West Africa.

3. 1400 shipping tons commercial cargo was shipped on MATAROA for Durban.

4. Following freightships also sailed in Convoy WS 30:-

<u>SHIP.</u>	<u>SPEED.</u>	<u>DESTINATION.</u>
BRISBANE STAR	15½	New Zealand via Panama.
DESEADO	15	Do.

5. CUBA and NIEUW HOLLAND will join WS 30 at Freetown for India. D.S.T.O. West Africa is requested to signal details of personnel on board and sea speed on sailing Freetown.

6. Separate signal has been sent regarding on-carriage of personnel for West Africa from Freetown.

7. All troop transports in paragraph 1 will turn round at Durban. Further signal will be sent giving disposal instructions and on-carriage proposals.

8. Commodore of Convoy is Commodore Sir C.G.Ramsey K.C.B. in SIBONEY, Vice Commodore, Master of MATAROA.

9. Addressees pass to S.T.O's and Military Authorities concerned.

251644B.

1st S.L.(2).

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(F)(2).

A.C.N.S.(UT)(2).

U.W.R.

N.A. Mails.

D.O.D.(F)(2).

D.O.D.(H)(2).

D.T.D.(3).

D.T.D.(M)

D.T.D.(C).

Hd. of M.(10).

D.D.I.C.(2).

Director of Sea Transport.

M.W.T. - Ext. 2187.

D. of P.(2).

D. of S.T.(2).

I.P.(2).

W.D.

D.C.(2).

Adl. Blake.

D.S.C.

R.A.(V)(4).

U.S.N.(3).



War Diary.

25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

QUICKMATCH, Arrived and sailed QUICKMATCH escorting SS.EXHIBI-  
EXHIBITOR. TOR in accordance with N.C.S.O.Durban 251207Z  
(EXHIBITOR (U.S.A.) via Rio de Janeiro escorted by  
QUICKMATCH). (2) QUICKMATCH breaks off escort  
in position 035° 58' S. 037° 24' E. and proceeds  
to Capetown through position 035° 10' S. 020° 01' E. S. of A.  
from this position 16½ knots. E.T.A. Capetown, 290900Z.  
(3) Shifting to S.L. at 0600Z/26th.  
(N.O.I.C.Durban, 251815Z to Admty etc.)

Movements, Arrivals 25th May, SNOWDROP, BRIDGEWATER, M.L.305,  
Takoradi. departures 25th SNOWDROP, M.L.266 Lagos escorting  
E.T.A. 0800Z/26th.  
(N.O.I.C.Takoradi, 251857Z to Admty, F.O.C.W.Af.  
R.N.O. Lagos)

Routeing of Tankers. Your 241043. In view of para. 4 of my 211727 there would be no reduction in area available for diversive routeing. (2) Masters decide appropriate load line on original route as issued at port of departure. (3) By obliging Masters to load only to winter load line tankers cargoes suffer average some 800 tons loss which it is desired to avoid.  
(D.T.D. 252246B to C. in C. S.A. (R) C. in C. E.F.)  
Agreed (C. in C. S.A. 281039)



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War Diary.25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. My 0127 (N.T. in W.D.) P.C. and S. of 4 unknown ships 2 R.M. 2 R.S\* is 40.15 N., 14.08 E., 310° 6 knots.  
(A/C A.P.J./V. 250140 to Air H.Q. Malta.) \*Signification of 2 R.M., 2 R.S. unknown.

My 0140 enemy previously reported are 1 medium vessel and 1 vessel size unknown detected by Radar (R.D.F.) in 40.16, 13.57 E.

(A/C A.P.K./4 250340B to Air H.Q. Malta.)

B.A.44. Convoy B.A.44 arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 250529Z to Admty.)

Convoy E.T.21. Following is repetition of N.O.I.C. Philippeville's 242350B. E.T.21 Philippeville section sailed T.O.O. 242350B.  
(C. in C. Med. 250730B. to Admty. etc.)

Convoy G.T.X.1. G.T.X.1. sailed as in my 241945B to HOLCOMBE. (Cdre N.O.B. Oran, 250829B to Admty. etc.)  
G.T.X.1. Amend destination EMPIRE COMMERCE to Bone. KINGSLAND to La Goulette (Tunis).  
HOLCOMBE pass to Cdre. and ships concerned.  
(C. in C. Med., 251740B to HOLCOMBE, Escorts G.T.X.I. (R) N.O.i/c Algiers, N.O.i/c Philippeville, N.O.i/c Tunis, F.O.I.S., Admty.)

Air Report. A.667 May 25th, 1943. Daily Opsum 27.  
23/24 May. 32 Wellingtons Messina Ferry terminus. 1 bombed Marina Di Palizzi in Italy, another bombed coast road South of Messina results unobserved. 30 bombed objective bombs bursting on railway sidings and in areas of railway and power stations. 7 fires started. 1 x 4000 lb. H.E. 197 x 500 lb. H.E. at 0158Z hours. 3 torpedo Wellingtons anti-shipping R/C Aegean Sea and West Coast Greece no sightings. 24 May. 41 U.S. Liberators (B.24 D.S.) Perry Termini San Giovanni? and Reggio Di Calabria. 9 returned early technical troubles. Another unable to release bombs over target. 17 bombed Reggio majority of bombs bursting in area of terminus and railway sidings to South. Tanker East of ferry berths set on fire violent explosion and fire in railway sidings. 24 bombed San Giovanni scoring many hits on terminus and railway sidings. 1 small fire started. On return journey these aircraft saw tanker burning in Reggio Harbour and reported large fires with smoke rising to about 6000 feet in harbour area. Both formations attacked by total about 13 enemy fighters 1 M.E.109 shot down another probably destroyed. 143 x 1000 lb. H.E. 48 S.B.C. incendiary on San Giovanni at 0955Z hours, 102 x 1000 lb. H.E.



War Diary.25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- Air Report. (Contd.) 34 S.B.C. incendiary on Reggio at 1007Z hours. Following delayed details 23 May. 3 Baltimores (A.22) 3 Beaufighters independent anti-shipping R/C Aegean Sea and West Coast Greece. 1 Caique 50 tons damaged off Cape Malca? vessel abandoned by crew. L schooner about 100 tons set on fire off Ceycluonia Island, crew abandoned ship. Another schooner attacked same area, damage unobserved. 4 Beaufighters anti-shipping R/C Aegean Sea, no sightings. (H.Q. R.A.F. ME., 250924Z.)
- EKMA. D.S.Ts. 201920/May P.S.T.O.Is 250104Z/May neither to all addressees. EKMA should be sailed to Kilindini as early as possible. Personnel for Aden should be embarked. (P.S.T.O.M.E, 250929C to D.S.T.O. Suez, (R) Admty., for D.S.T. etc.)
- Movements Alexandria. Arrivals 24th May BELVOIR, G.D. PANTHER, WOLBOROUGH M.L.359, NEBB. Departure 24th May, G.D. SPETSAI. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 250932C to Admty., C. in C. Levant.)
- DZIK. Leave Patrol to arrive Malta 0830B/28th routed through 036° 40' 015° 49' and 035° 15' 015° 35' Do not close within 3 miles of Catania as mines have been laid last night by R.A.F. (Capt., S.10, 251030B to DZIK. (R) C. in C. Levant. C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1 Capt. (S) 8.)
- SAFARI. Intend to sail P.211 (SAFARI) at 1830/26th for patrol off South East Coast Sardinia routed 038° 17' 004° 25' at 0530/27th and 038° 45' 010° 01' 0001/30th. 2. P.211 (SAFARI) will leave patrol for Bone about 4th June through position (1) 038° 45' 009° 15' and position (2) 037° 10' 007° 50'. Arriving position (2) soon after daylight. Time and date of passing position (1) and (2) will be signalled by P.211 (SAFARI) at least 24 hours before passing position (1) 3. N.O.I.C.Bone on receipt of this signal from P.211 (SAFARI) is requested to sail escort to R/V her in position (2) and escort her to Bone. 4. After disembarking personnel P.211 (SAFARI) should leave Bone at 1930 day of arrival and return to patrol be reverse route. 5. Capt. (S) 8 will arrange necessary bombing restrictions. (Capt. S.8., 251100B to C. in C. Med., (R) S.O.I.S. etc.)
- WAYLAND. Suez May 25th arrival from south WAYLAND at 1200. (F.O.R.S.C.A. 251226 to C. in C. Levant.)

/Movements...



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War Diary.25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements, Arrival 0345Z ALAUNIA. Departure 1335Z B.D.V.  
Aden. PLANET.  
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 251412Z to Admty., etc.)

CEVENNES, During air raid on Bone at 0400 hours today 25th  
A/C damage. CEVENNES suffered near miss. Bomb splinters  
pierced upper part hull in each hold. Lifeboat  
damaged and bridge engine room telegraph put  
out of action.

Welding of hull necessary after discharge of P.O.W. Owing  
congestion P.O.W. Algiers propose sailing vessel Oran by  
shuttle service 0930/26th.  
(S.T.O.I.C. Bone, 251430B to P.S.T.O. Med., (R) D.S.T.)

P.R.U. May 25th visuals. 1025 Taranto 2 battleships,  
1 cruiser. 1140 180° Taranto 20 miles 1 cruiser,  
1 destroyer manoeuvring in Bay.  
(V.A. Malta, 251446B to C. in C. Med., etc.)

P.R.U. 25th May. Visuals. 1515 Taranto - two battleships,  
one cruiser. One cruiser, one destroyer 1 mile outside harbour.  
(V.A. Malta, 251749B.)

P.R.U. report visuals of E-Boats at 1700. Licata 6 to 8,  
Empedocle 4, Sciacca 2, Marsala 2.  
(V.A. Malta, 251830B.)

UNRUFFLED, Onward routeing from P at 1200/27th through  
DOLFIJN. Zone A and B to patrol in Zone C and Zone E  
east of 014° E.  
2. P.47 (D.S. DOLFIJN) patrol in zone F after  
0001/28th.  
(Capt. (S) 8, 251536B to (P.46) UNRUFFLED, (R)  
8th S.F., Capt. (S) 10.)

SCYTHIA. Request SCYTHIA may be sailed in M.K.F.15 with  
routeing instructions enabling her to break off  
and proceed independently to New York.  
(2) She should also be given necessary  
instructions for continuing in convoy to U.K. in event of  
situation making it undesirable to break her off.  
(D.T.D., 251545B to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar,  
N.C.S.O. Gibraltar, C. in C. W.A.)

VETCH, VETCH attacked contact and periscope 036° 31' N.  
(G.T.X.1) 000° 40' E. at 1339 (2 corrupt groups) tempor-  
arily and contact lost. Periscope sighted at  
attack 70 feet disappeared in centre of shallow pattern.  
on U/B. 4 escorts searched for 90 minutes without gaining  
contact. Have rejoined convoy. Weather report.  
(HOLCOMBE, 251602B to C. in C. Med.)

/Black ...



25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.- Contd.

Black Sea,  
Situation  
Report.

1. Sea. (A) Russian tug sunk by torpedoes from enemy E-Boat off Sochi on May 19th. Night 20th/21st May enemy E-Boats were engaged by Russian R-Boats near Sochi an E-Boat was sunk and 2 enemy torpedoes exploded on shore.

(B) During March and April Black Sea Fleet and Naval aircraft sank 8 enemy merchant vessels, 7 E-Boats, 14 landing craft, 3 schooners and 40 launches also damaged one merchant vessel, a minesweeper and 2 E-Boats.

2. Aircraft attack. (A) On May 21st Russian bombers damaged an E-Boat west Tunadise and A.R. and a F-Boat in Kerch Straits. (B) Enemy aircraft beside supporting land attacks north-east of Novorossisk attacked aerodromes near Sukhum May 17th and on May 19th 5 planes dropped bombs on Russian held area south-east Novorossisk.

3. At the beginning of last week enemy strongly attacked Russian positions north-east of Novorossisk and in vicinity of town. All attacks were repulsed and fighting has now resolved itself into exchange of artillery fire.

(B) In lower Kuban enemy have been using small boats for transportation of troops during attacks on Russian positions. On May 19th Russian artillery sank 18 troop laden boats.

4. Russians report that C. in C. and Staff of enemy of Black Sea Naval Forces is now based Simferopol.  
(N.L.O. Black Sea, 251610C to Admty.)

Algiers  
Sitrep.

Cite F.H.G.C.T., signed Eisenhower.

Para. 1. Sitrep 213, 24th May, Part 2.

Para. 1. Naval. U.S.S. NIELDS attacked U-Boat off Oran. Wreckage and large oil patch observed.

U.S. aircraft attacked U-Boat 300 miles west

Casablanca. One corpse and debris sighted later. Submarine sank two 200 ton schooners off coast Africa 13th May and bombarded Calvi Corsica airfield on 20th May. M.T.B. patrolled off Pantellaria night 23rd/24th May. SS. ALPERA damaged by air attack off Cape St. Vincent 22nd May.

\* Para. 3. L. of C. Jijelli raided by enemy aircraft night 23rd/24th May. Water and electricity supply temporarily cut off and telephone lines damaged.

(A.H.Q. Algiers, T.O.O. Nil to Usfor, Recd. 1640/25.)

ORION,  
PALADIN,  
TROUBRIDGE.

ORION take PALADIN, TROUBRIDGE under your orders and sail from Alexandria to pass "Shoulder" at 2100/27th May thence through "Home" 8 miles North "Bend" 0645/28th 3 miles North "Tin" 1110 through "Chop" "Egg" 1420, "Pork" "Loaf" 1725, "Hop" 0540/29th "Crush" to Malta, E.T.A. 0925/29th.

(2) S. of A. 24 knots.

(3) Air Authorities are requested to provide fighter defence search priority and A/S defence.

(4) VERITY is requested to supply latest movements intelligence on sailing.

(5) Codeword "Mammoth".

(C. in C. Levant, 251803 to ORION, R.A. Alexandria, S.N.O.C., N.O.I.C. Mersa Matruh, N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 201 N.C. Group, 212 Group, 235 Wing, 245 Wing, 247 Wind, Fighter Sectors between Alexandria and Benghazi.)

/M.K.S. 14 ...



War Diary.25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- M.K.S. 14, M.K.S.14 G.U.S. 8. N.O.I.C. Bone is to sail combined convoy M.K.S.14 and G.U.S. 8 at 2000 G.U.S. 8. June 3rd. Speed of ships  $8\frac{1}{2}$ . speed of advance  $7\frac{1}{2}$ .
2. Route through 91, 24, 14,  $037^{\circ} 01' 002^{\circ} 55'$
- E. (corrupt group) 2, 76, 3, 16, lettered B to K omitting I.
3. From 16, M.K.S.14 enters Gibraltar.
4. From 16, G.U.S.8 proceed at S. of A. 9 (? via) Q.K.A.87 then (L)  $035^{\circ} 47' 006^{\circ} 30' W.$  to R/V with Casablanca section in (M)  $034^{\circ} 08' 008^{\circ} 29' W.$  at 1800 June 8th.
5. G.U.S. 8 Ocean route as ordered by Admiralty.
6. Sections join and detach with local escort as follows: Philippeville  $037^{\circ} 13' 007^{\circ} 00' E.$  0200 June 4th. Bougie  $037^{\circ} 10' 005^{\circ} 08' E.$  1400 June 4th. Algiers E.T.A. 0400/5th entering Bay sailing again 1100. Oran (?  $036^{\circ}$ )  $09' 000^{\circ} 46' W.$  1400/6th. Gib. position "Lad" 2000/7th.
7. First two letters of W/T call sign of G.U.S.8 and of combined convoy 6J.
8. G.U.S. 8, Incon 342.
9. Fighter priority 3 by day, 2 by night, codeword "Wasting" (? after midnight).
10. Escort 22nd to R/V with HOLCOMBE, ATHERSTONE, VETCH. Algiers to R/V REIGHTON WYKE, KING SOL, PIROUETTE, FOXTROT. Escort to return to Gib. on completion.
11. All times B.  
(C. in C. Med., 251805B to A.I.G. 260 except Sfax and Sousse, N.O.I.C. Casablanca.)

- M.K.F. 15. Request you will sail M.K.F.15 at 2000B May 28th S. of A. 13 knots.
2. Route 100, 39, 93, 52, 73, 16, lettered K to P then via Q.K.A. 87, stragglers route as convoys.
3. Standard ocean route lettered Q to U, stragglers route lettered A to F.
4. Sections join with local escorts Oran in 93 at 1130B May 29th, Gibraltar 16 at 0500B May 30th.
5. First 2 letters of W/T call sign 4K. Incon 346.
6. Fighter priority 2 by night, 3 by day, codeword "Harper" 110.
7. Escorts WESTON (S.O.), WELLINGTON, TOTLAND, GORLESTON, LOWESTOFT, EXE, NESS.  
(C. in C. Med., 251807 to Com. Algiers, (R) Connob.Oran, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty., H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Plymouth, Connav.)

Movements,  
Port Said.25th May Port Said arrivals M.L.360, AETOS,  
PROTEA, ISLAY, SPEPSAI.  
Departure PROTEA, M.L.360.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 251905C to Admty., etc.)

/Malta ...



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25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta Air Report. A.I.569, 25th May C.S.R. Malta.  
 (A) Air. Part 1, offensive. Day 24th May. 20 Spitfires made offensive sweeps over Southern Sicily but found no enemy aircraft.  
 Night 24th/25th May. Successful mining operations at entrance to Catania Harbour were carried out by 8 Beauforts and 2 Albacores. 1 Albacore is missing. As diversion for this minelaying 5 Wellingtons bombed railway installations at Catania Harbour. To cover these operations Mosquitoes made intruder patrols in the Catania Gerbini area but no enemy activity was seen. 1 special equipment Albacore with flares and 3 torpedo carrying Albacores made search for enemy shipping south-east of the toe of Italy.  
 Day 25th May. 8 Spitfires provided withdrawal cover to Liberators of 9th Bomber Command bombing Messina, Spitfires still airborne on offensive sweeps.  
 Part 2. Enemy Air Activity. Day 24th May. Further 8 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta.  
 Night 24th/25th May. 1 Beaufighter made interception patrol to the East of Sicily.  
 Day 25th May. 8 Beaufighters provided escort to outgoing southbound shipping. 1048 hours 3 plus enemy fighter approached Malta and were intercepted North of Island by 3 Spitfires but enemy avoided combat and returned. 18 other Spitfires were airborne for several raids which turned back before reaching Malta.  
 (A.H.Q. Malta, 251930Z.)

Malta Situation Report. Week ending 22nd May.  
 1. Enemy. 6 daylight alerts for enemy A/C mainly R/C. One raid 36 plus incl. fighter bomber attacked Hal Far, Ta Kali. 3 Albacores 1 Spitfire destroyed, 1 Spitfire 1 Beaufighter damaged on ground. 1 F.W.190 destroyed, 4 F.W.190, 2 Me.109 damaged. 2 Spitfires damaged combat, 1 Spitfire destroyed (engine) failure, pilots safe. A.A. engaged, no claims.  
 2. Own Air. By day approx. 143 Spitfire sorties on interception, 125 Spitfire and 5 Beaufighter sorties, escorting shipping, 16 Beaufighter sorties armed R/C Sicily and toe Italy, targets locomotives Licata, destroyed 3 Ju.52. 23 Spitfire bomber sorties targets Comiso, Pozzallo, railway installations. 22 Spitfire sorties fighter sweeps Sicily, targets locomotives, landing craft. 2 Spitfires, 1 Beaufighter damaged. By night 18 Mosquito intruder patrol sortie Sicily, toe Italy, targets locomotives, shipping, Taranto. 14 Beaufighter sorties interception patrols and escorting bombers. 12 Albacores, 19 Beauforts, 8 Wellingtons shipping searched. Tanker M/Vs Catania, Porto Empedocle installations attacked, 5 Wellingtons bombed Messina, 3 Wellingtons special mission Palermo Catania Messina. 1 Ju.88 destroyed, 1 Beaufort, 1 Mosquito, 1 Wellington damaged.



War Diary.

25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta  
Situation  
Report.  
(Contd.)

3. Convoy M.W.28 arrived 21st May, 3 cargo ships, 3 tankers, 2 colliers, 1 personnel ship.  
4. Naval unrecognised German Hospital Ship KONSTANZ escorted Malta 20th May. 5 prisoners. 33 Italian from SS. LAURANA and 1 German prisoner landed.  
(Governor and C. in C. Malta, 252015 to C. in C. M.E., (R) W.O.)

Movements,  
Oran.

Sailed today French BALANCEIL, JEAN LA LORRAINE, French escort vessels CDT. DELAGE, LA SETOISE and LA SERVANNAISE.  
(Comnob. Oran, 252018 to Admty., etc.)

Movements,  
Bone.

Arrival M.T.Bs 646, 648, P.Ts. 211, 213, 214, 215. Departure PRODIGAL, WESTRAY, ST. DAY, P.Ts. 201, 205, 208.  
(N.O.I.C. Bone, 252018 to Admty., etc.)

Movements,  
Malta.

Departures C. in C. Mediterranean in CLEOPATRA, TARTAR, WHADDON, OAKLEY, EGGESFORD, M.T.Bs. 77, 65, 84.  
(V.A. Malta, 252030 to Admty., etc.)

Tankers.

My 202120B. In view non-inclusion in G.T.X.1 of the three tankers mentioned, request expected sailing date may be signalled.  
(D.T.D., 252041B to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, B.A.D.)

Movements,  
Bizerta.

Bizerta arrivals P.Ts. 201, 205, 208. L.S.C. 333, 369, 359, 307, 387. Y.M.S.13, 15. S.C.10, 30 (? corrupt group). P.C.545, 562, (?555), (?425). Departure HUNDA, BREAM, H.D.M.L.12, 27.  
(F.O.I.S., 252056B to C. in C. Med., etc.)

DOLFIJN,  
casualties  
at Ustica.

At Ustica 3rd Officer, one rating wounded by machine gun bullets. Rating leg wound not serious. Officer bullet in back above hip bone probably glancing hit. Bullet still inside. Kidneys and intestines possibly not affected. Intend to proceed through 038° 40' 012° 00' E. at 260500B diving by day to 037° 30' 009° 32' proceeding Bizerta. S. of A. 95 miles. Propose wounded if possible be transferred to ship carrying doctor, afterwards resume patrol, request instructions.  
(P.47 (DOLFIJN), 252105B to Capt. (S) 8.)  
Reply: Capt. (S) 8, 260020.



War Diary.25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.EMPIRE  
ROACH,  
A/C attack  
4th Feb.Request that Master of SS. EMPIRE ROACH may be instructed on arrival to forward official report to Director of Gunnery and A/A Warfare, Admty., re air attack on his ship on Feb. 4th 1943 in order that his claim to have destroyed an aircraft may be assessed.  
(D.G.D., 252119B to Cdre. Aden.)SPORTSMAN,  
U/Bs sunk  
by SICKLE.P.224 (SICKLE) sank 2 U-Boats in position 042° 50' N. 006° 00' E. on 20th and 043° 00' N. 005° 59' E. on 21st.  
U-Boats in this area are liable to be more cautious in future.  
(Capt. (S) 8, 252130B to P.229 (SPORTSMAN).)

QUEEN EMMA.

Arrival.  
(N.O.I.C. Sousse, 252145B to Admty.)Malta  
Opsum.A.I.570, May 25th, Opsum 16. 24th/25th May, 8 Beauforts, 4 Albacores were airborne to mine entrance to Catania Harbour. 2 Albacores returned early, 1 Albacore is missing. Mines successfully laid by other A/C. As diversion for minelaying 5 Wellingtons bombed railway installations at Catania Harbour, starting large fire. 2 Mosquitoes intruded in Catania-Gerbini area. 4 Albacores made shipping search S.E. of toe of Italy. 2 Albacores returned early. 1 Wellington provided A/S patrol for outgoing shipping. 1 Wellington made shipping search between Sicily and Naples. 1 Beaufighter made interception patrol to East of Sicily.  
Day 25th May. 12 Spitfires on offensive sweep returned early owing to adverse weather. 8 Spitfires provided withdrawal cover to Liberators of 9 Bomber Command bombing Messina. 1 Wellington maintained A/S patrol for outgoing shipping. 2 Baltimores provided A/S patrol for outgoing naval units. 1 Baltimore made shipping search S.E. of Italy.  
Night Beaufighters escorted outgoing southbound shipping. 1048 hours, 3 plus enemy fighters approached Malta, 3 Spitfires intercepted and enemy avoided combat and returned. 18 other Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back. 1610 hours, 30 plus enemy fighters approached Malta at great height. 20 Spitfires intercepted, 1 Spitfire returned early, enemy aircraft avoided combat and did not cross the coast.  
(A.H.Q. Malta, 252215Z, 252200Z.)S/M  
Movements.Arrival submarine TAURUS. Departure submarine UNRUFFLED.  
(V.A. Malta, 252204 to Admty., etc.)

/Movements ...



War Diary.25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Movements,  
Benghazi.Arrived PRIMULA, FALK, L.C.T.111, 157. Arrived  
and sailed L.C.T.114, 139, 149, 154.  
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 252247C to Admty.)N.W.A.A.F.  
Report.

M.5110, 25th May.

Northwest African Air Force Daily Opsum 93.  
May 24th.N.W.A. Strategical A.F. 23rd/24th May. 23  
Wellingtons Pantellaria Harbour and airdrome.

One returned early. Bombs dropped from 5000 to 8000 feet.  
5 aircraft attacked town there, large fire was started. 17  
aircraft attacked airdrome, bursts over large area but results  
unobserved.

24th May. 12 U.S. Warhawks (P.40) Pantellaria airdrome, 1  
returned early. Bombs dropped from 10,000 feet. Landing  
ground well covered, dust prevented observation of damage.  
12 U.S. Lightnings (P.38) Carloforte Harbour. Bombs dropped  
from 2,000 to 3,000 feet. Three near misses on large M/V  
direct hits on M/V which burst into flames. Four small boats  
sunk, near misses on others, bursts along docks. Eight U.S.  
Lightnings (P.38) Alghero and Porto Conte. 8 x 500 dropped  
from 2000 feet, hits on factory buildings and near railway  
station. Seaplane base at Porto Conte strafed, 4 S.M.79 set  
on fire. Four U.S. Lightnings (P.38) Arbatax 4 x 500 dropped  
from 2000 feet. One direct hit on railway bridge. A seaplane  
and tug on lake (corrupt group) strafed, tug on fire. 4 U.S.  
Lightnings (P.38) railway tunnel Macomber, 4 x 500 dropped,  
tunnel not hit, one bomb jettisoned. 3 S.M.79 destroyed in  
combat. 12 U.S. Lightnings (P.38) Inglesias. One returned  
early. 10 x 500 bombs dropped from 3000 feet, hits in barracks  
area, near railway, on transforming station, magnesium plant,  
and building south-west of target. Explosion in barracks area.  
8 aircraft along coast strafed, and coal barge set on fire.  
51 U.S. Fortresses (B.17) La Maddalena, 1 returned early. 587  
(? or 507) x 500, 6 x 1000, dropped from 20,000 to 22,500 feet,  
hits and near misses on 2 M/Vs in south-east Harbour, near  
misses on 3 ships east of San Stefano Island. Hits on causeway.  
Building north-west of naval base set on fire. 54 (or 14 ?)  
U.S. Fortresses (B.17) Terranova. 2 returned early. Escort  
41 U.S. Lightnings (P.38) 7 returned early. 624 x 500 bombs  
dropped from 21,300 to 25,000 feet 1 M/V set on fire, a third  
was hit, near misses on a fourth. Harbour installations,  
warehouses and ammunition dump hit. Large explosions and fires  
followed. 2 U.S. Lightnings (P.38) missing. One crash landed  
pilot safe. 24 U.S. Lightnings (P.38) Alghero airdrome. 2  
returned early. Escort 29 U.S. Lightnings (P.38). 4 returned  
early. 10 escort 29 U.S. Lightnings (P.39). 10 escort aircraft  
carried 1 x 500 each. 2442 x 20 fragmentation bombs were  
dropped from 10,800 feet, 10 x 500 from 3000 (? or 300) to 2500  
(or 250 ?) feet. Target area completely covered, hangars hit  
and a large fuel dump set on fire. 5 enemy aircraft attacked  
over target. 2 Me.109, 1 Re.2001 destroyed and 1 Me.109 damaged  
by escort. 10 seaplanes strafed in Porto Conte, 2 set on fire.



War Diary.25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

N.W.A.A.F. Report. (Contd.) 36 U.S. Mitchells (B.25) Albia Venafiorita airdrome, escort 30 U.S. Lightnings (P.38). 6 returned early. Target well covered. 15 to 20 aircraft on field, many believed destroyed or severely damaged. One direct hit on Me.323 fires started in building. 14 to 18 enemy aircraft attacked over target, 1 Mc.200 destroyed. 1 enemy aircraft probable 2 enemy aircraft damaged by bombers. 2 Mc. 202, 1 Mc.200 destroyed, 6 enemy aircraft damaged by escort. Factory train and a building strafed. 1 Lightning missing.

N.W.A. Tactical A.F. May 24th. 8 U.S. Warhawks (P.40) Pantellaria A/D. 8 x 500 dropped. Burst near hangars. 2 direct hits on buildings east of airfield, other bursts east and south of A/D and in the town. N.W.A. Coastal A.F. 23rd/24th May. U-Boat hunts 5 Hudsons. Defensive patrols 9 Beau-fighters Bone - Tunis - Bizerta area. One E/A damaged. Inter-ceptions 5 Beaufighters 3 Ju.88 destroyed. 24th May. Convoy escort, 1 Hudson. U-Boat hunts 7 Hudsons, 5 French Latecores. One U-Boat sighted (? 36.52) North 02.25 East dived when attacked with D/C.

Enemy activity. 2 hostiles approached Jijelli 2340 May 23rd, both shot down by 1 Beaufighter. 11 Hostiles approached same area 0315 May 24th. 1 shot down by same Beaufighter. 25 H.E. dropped. Houses damaged 1 soldier wounded. (N.W.A.A.F. Adv. H.Q., 252259B.)

TAURUS. Intend sailing P.339 (TAURUS) at 1700B/27th for patrol as ordered by Capt. (S) 1 routed through 035° 01' 015° 01' at 0200/28th and 035° 01' 019° 59' at 0200/30th. P.339 (TAURUS) will shift to L.S. routines at latter position from where Capt. (S) 1 is requested to take operational control. (Capt. (S) 10, 252324B to Capt. (S) 1, C. in C. Levant, (R) P.52, Capt. (S) 8, C. in C. Med.)

Ships ex W.S. 31. Ref. A.F.H.Q.'s 3784 of 23/5 (N.T. in W.D.) Was the proposal accepted by C. in C. Med., observing that if two ships in W.S.31 are sent to Philippeville and two to Bone they will be risked additionally and return convoy will be delayed.

2. Ref. para. 4 of A.F.H.Q. signal. What are the limitations in length and draught?  
(D. of S.T., 252343B to P.S.T.O. Med., (R) C. in C. Med.)



# MOST SECRET

25.5-43

961A

**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:

MOST SECRET "O.T.P." MESSAGE No. T.O.O./25th May IN

FROM: Algiers.

DATE: 26.5.43.

RECD: 2345Z.

## C Y P H E R

Addressed: Troopers Usfor Mideast Britman Washington  
Armindia Delhi P.A.I.C. Landforces Melbourne  
Dechiefs Pretoria Dechiefs Capetown Force  
Nairobi Defender Wellington (for Puttick)  
Resident Minister Achimota - Passed by  
Colonial Office Britmilat Ankara (for  
Marshal Chakmak) - Passed by Foreign Office.

Ref. No. 4557.

U.S. 376.

LINREF 49. dated 25th May 1943.

*Tunisia: Situation Report.*

### Summary of Operations 20th to 23rd May 1943.

1. GROUND. Evacuation of prisoners and enemy material and the reorganisation and regrouping of our forces have continued.
2. ENEMY. ~~ENEMY~~ (NTR).
3. NAVAL. The first westbound convoy passed through the Sicilian narrows without incident. H.M.S. FANTOME Minesweeper was mined off Cap Bon and towed to Bizerta with stern blown off. On 20th May H.M.S. SICKLE (?) probably sank a U Boat in vicinity forty miles S.W. of Marseilles and following day sank a second in same area. May 21st H.M.S. LAFOREY sank a 400 ton auxiliary in the Sicilian Chamel.
4. AIR. On night 19/20 May Wellingtons bombed enemy airfields in Sardinia. Medium bombers continued attack in daylight, when 30 B-17 (Fortresses) bombed Grosseto on Italian mainland. Fires were started at all targets and direct hits were scored on buildings and grounded aircraft. Fighter bombers attacked docks at Pantelleria and communications and Milis airfield in Sardinia. In these operations there were destroyed 15 enemy fighters and 7 transport aircraft.

No. T.O.O. /25.  
Advance Copy Ops. O.D. O.I.C.

Received in War Registry: 1851/27.

Circulations overleaf .....



1st Lord

1st S.L. (2)

4th S.L.

5th S.L.

D.C.N.A.E.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (A) (2)

A.C.N.S. (F) (2)

A.C.N.S. (W)

U.W.R.

D.O.D. (F) (2)

D.O.D. (H) (2)

D.D.I.C. (2)

D. of P. (2)

D.C. (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.A./S.W. (2)

D.M.S.

C.C.L.S.

R.A.V. (4)

PAG. U.S.N. (3)

## Circulation:-

Brig. Jacob.

Foreign Secretary

War Reg. Admiralty.

C.6. Telegrams War Office.

A.M.O.S. (C)

C.C.O.

Mr. Strang Foreign Office

Mr. Radcliffe Min. of Information.



25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Movements. Departure 0057Z 25th H.M.Tug INTEGRITY.  
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 250107Z to Admty.).  
Colombo arrival. 25th May 0630Z NETRAVATI.  
Departures 0130Z JAY. 1200Z NETRAVATI.  
(F.O.Ceylon 250433Z to Admty.).  
Arrival CORNWALLIS escorting LAOMEDON.  
(N.O.I.C. Madras 250518Z to Admty.).  
CAPETOWN arrived.  
(F.O.I.C. E.Af. 250701Z to Admty.).  
Arrivals EMILE BAUDOT 1235Z/25th.  
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 251330Z to Admty.).

A.F.D.XXVI Reference my 030106B, A.F.D. XXVI now expected  
complete Bombay end January 1944.  
(D. of D. 250313B to C. in C. E.F. (R) F.O.C.R.I.N  
N.O.I.C. Bombay, F.O. Ceylon).

Convoy Departure HINDUSTAN with B.M. 53.  
B.M.53 (S.O.(I) Bombay 250331Z to Admty.).

JALAGOPAL Hired transport JALAGOPAL sailing 25th May for  
Addu Atoll via Colombo with following troops and  
stores (details).  
(2) Requirements Colombo, E.T.A. Colombo 29th May.  
(D.S.T.O. Bombay 25/0555Z to S.S.T.O. Colombo,  
(R) D.S.T.O. Bombay, N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, D. of  
S.T.).

Convoy After departure of convoy P.A.40 on 2nd June the  
Assembly anchorage for Oran (Oman  
anchorage. intended) bound Persian Gulf convoy will be  
changed to Khasab Bay 026 degs. 14' N. 056 degs.  
15' E. Bandar Abbas anchorage will cease to be  
used for the present.  
(S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 250745Z to N.O.I.C. Hormuz,  
(R) Admty. C. in C.E.F. C. in C. S.A. Cominch,  
F.O. Ceylon, C.R.I.N. N.O.I.C. Aden, N.O.I.C.  
Karachi).

Convoy Departure BALUCHISTAN with B.P.81.  
B.P.81 (S.O.(I) Bombay 250808Z to Admty.).

India Air A.234. 25th May Daily Opsum No.436.  
Report. 22nd May. 7 U.S. Liberators (B.24) Mine-laying  
Rangoon River estuary. 5 A/C abandoned operation.  
2 A/C laid 8 x 1000 lb. mines. 6 U.S. Mitchells  
(B.25) detailed (Thazi?). Abandoned due weather.  
22/23 May. 5 U.S. Liberators (B.24) detailed  
mine-laying. Abandoned due weather.  
(A.H.Q. India T.O.O. 250909/Z to Air Min.).



25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.-Contd.

NIEUW  
AMSTERDAM.

Following are proposals for escort to NIEUW  
AMSTERDAM Admiralty 231735B refers.

- (2) A.M.C. from Aden to South of Equator.
- (3) Cruiser from South of Equator to M.O.M.P. in vicinity of 25 degs. S. 90 degs. E.
- (4) A.C.N.B. is requested to take over ocean escort from M.O.M.P. (C. in C.E.F. 250921Z to Admiralty (R) A.C.N.B. N.Z.N.B. Comsouwespac. C. in C. Levant, S.4.).

A/S Escort  
Force.

Following are details of reorganisation of  
Anti-Sub Escort Force in Northern Indian Ocean.

- (2) Arabian Bengal Ceylon Escort Force. Short Title A.B.C.E.F./ G.A.B.C.E.F. is organised in following two groups detailed and created by F.O.Ceylon for ocean anti-sub escort duties in Arabian Sea and Island bases areas.
- (A) Bombay Group. TAMWORTH, LAUNCESTON, BATHURST, BOMBAY, MADRAS, PUNJAB, BENGAL, BALUCHISTAN, KONKAN, RAJPUTANA, ORISSA, KHYBER, CARNATIC, KUMAON, ROHILKHAND, KATHIAWAR. Last three ships not yet arrived on East Indies Station.
- (B) Colombo Group. SCOUT, HINDUSTAN, N.M/L WILLEM VAN DER Zaan, SONAVATI.
- (C) Following ships lent temporarily to South Atlantic Escort Force. FALMOUTH, MARGUERITE, VERBENA, TULIP, ASTER.
- (3) Coastal Anti- S/M Force title C.A.S.F. The C.A.S.F. is organised in following three groups as detailed telegram F.O.C.R.I.N.
- (A) Hormuz Group. SEA BELLE, PANGKOR, RATNAGIRI, HIRAVATI, CLIVE, INVESTIGATOR lent temporarily BURNIE, TOOWOOMBA.
- (B) East Coast Group. IRRAWADI, ST. ANTHONY, PANSY, RAMDAS, KALAVATI 6 R.I.N. Bassetts.
- (C) West Indian Coast Group. CORNWALLIS, DIPAVATI, 4. R.I.N. Bassetts.
- (4) C.A.S.F. are operating as follows and carrying out duties shown.
- (A) Hormuz Group operated S.N.O. Persian Gulf for Hormuz Patrol.
- (B) East and West Coast Group operated by F.O.C.R.I.N. for Coastal A/S Escort and local harbour A/S Defence of Indian ports.
- (5) F.O. Ceylon informs F.O.C.R.I.N. of coastal A/S Escort requirements.
- (6) F.O.C.R.I.N. administer all R.I.N. ships in A.B.C.E.F. and C.A.S.F.
- (7) Message 250 C and 253 C both not to Admiralty are cancelled. (C. in C. E.F. 250925Z to East Indies Station (272C) (R) Admiralty)

GENERAL  
FOCH  
employment.

GENERAL FOCH. Your 222129/ May (N.T. in W.D.) to S.T.O. Diego Suarez only. This small ship has been requisitioned by the R.N. and is operating as a white ensign ship.

- (2) She is normally employed on naval duties inside the harbour but has been despatched on following missions.
- (3) (A) To Majunga in Feb. 1943 at urgent request of Local French Authority for cargo of rice.
- (B) To Mayotee in March at urgent request of Army Authorities with military stores.
- (C) To Vohemar in April for timber for Supt. C. Engr.

/ (4) No...



25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

GENERAL  
FOCH  
employment  
(Contd.).

(4) No question of freight charge has ever risen.  
(5) Governor of Madagascar's statement that ship is used by us for our own supplies is therefore misleading and the ramifications not understood. (N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez 241001Z to D. of S.T. (R) Admty. C. in C.E.F. C.O.E.Af.).

NIEUW  
AMSTERDAM  
DOMINION  
MONARCH  
Escorts.

As NIEUW AMSTERDAM is being instructed to proceed to Colombo instead of direct to Suez following change in plan for escorting DOMINION MONARCH and NIEUW AMSTERDAM is made (?accordingly) on arrival at (?New) M.O.M.P. with CANTON in position P 003 degs. 50' S. 074 degs. 00' E. at 0900Z/31st. SUSSEX will escort NIEUW AMSTERDAM to Colombo adjusting speed as necessary having regard

to endurance.

(3) C. in C.E.F. 121235Z and D of S.T. 242310B refers. (C. in C.E.F. 251301Z to SUSSEX, CANTON, F.O. Ceylon, Cdre. Western Australia, A.C.N.B. C.T.F.71 (R) D. of S.T. N.O.I.C. Aden, F.O. Red Sea and Canal Area, (?C.S.4) P.S.T.O. India, P.S.T.O.M.E. F.O.C.R.I.N.).

BERAKIT  
(torpedoed  
7th May).

Reference sinking of D.S. BERAKIT on 7th May 1943. ship was torpedoed port side and immediately took up list of 7 degs. to port. Crew except for Master, First Officer and one or two other Officers promptly abandoned ship in starboard life boats.

Those abandoning included 3 D.E.M.S. ratings and remainder of gun's crew. As soon as U-boat saw ship being abandoned she surfaced fearlessly one point on starboard bow and opened gunfire proceeding down starboard side at point blank range. Master and remaining Officers abandoned ship as soon as gunfire was opened and ship sank, presumably as a result of gunfire, four hours later.

(2) Suggest the importance of gun's crew remaining at their post to last moment in independently routed ships should be stressed. Also suggested that, bearing in mind the lesson of BERAKIT, all independently routed ships should be asked to consider themselves as potential Q-ships. If torpedoed the guns crew should remain hidden near their gun while remainder should abandon ship thus giving confidence to U-boat as actually occurred in the case under review.

(F.O. Ceylon 251343Z to Admty. C. in C.E.F. (R) B.S.O.).  
Reply: Admty. 271737.



War Diary.25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Bermuda Escort Vessels working up. After discussion with Captain H.A. Simpson, R.N. on the intended programme for working up escort vessels at Bermuda under Con. A.F/O. 576/43 para. 19. it is suggested that with the exception of first 2 ships of each class, ships should remain at Bermuda sufficiently long to enable all essential As. and As. necessary on completion to be carried out prior to working up. The advantages claimed for this proposal are (a) A considerable reduction of refitting work in home yards with corresponding benefit to the escort vessels and other ships already operating in home waters. (b) The time required for As. and As. at Bermuda should enable all harbour drills and exercises to be completed so that remainder of period can be devoted entirely to training at sea. (c) On completion of working up period ships will be in every way fully prepared for service. (C. in C. W.A. 250043. to Admty.)

Use of Terms, Escort Group Support Group. For 1st S.L. from V.C.N.S. Your 190511. It has been convenient for all groups to remain interchangeable and available either to escort or to act in support according to the current needs. 2. The present system of identifying groups was put into practice (a) to avoid alteration to the Naval Cyphers. (b) to allow of existing groups retaining their names for purposes of "Esprit de corps" when changing their function temporarily, as in para. 1 above. 3. Cominch in his signal 221819 has proposed that, in order to avoid confusion between terms "escort group" "support group" propose all concerned use former as applicable to any group escorting a convoy and latter to any group engaged in support of convoys whether acting independently or augmenting regularly assigned escort group. 4. Admiralty and C. in C. W.A. agree with Cominch's 221819, and C. in C.W.A. is making proposals to this effect. Necessary action will be taken by Admiralty and Naval Cypher amended as required. (V.C.N.S. 250050B. to B.A.D. (R) C. in C. W.A.)

U/B. Submerging S/M sighted at 2121Z 24th 39.57 N. 71.56 W. (C. in C. C.N.A. 250248Z. to G.B.7A.) Following is repetition of my 250253Z. (N.T. in W.R.) (Begins) Surfacing S/M sighted by A.D.C. reported in 048° 32' N. 064° 10' W. at 0130 25th. (C. in C. C.N.A. 250254Z. to Connav, Admty. etc.)

Corvettes R.C.N. Support Group. Your 242157Z KITCHENER and WOODSTOCK not yet returned from O.N. 184 their defects not yet known Further signal will be made. (F.O.N.F. 250347 to C. in C. W.A. (R) C. in C. C.N.A. Admty. N.S.H.Q.)

Movements. San Diego departed 232200 ATHENE. (N.S.H.Q. 250438Z. to Admty.) St. John May 24th re Arrivals B.A.M.S. 868, 831, 986, 987, 1209 ex Halifax STAFNES ex Argentina.

/Departures...



War Diary.

25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Movements. Departures OTTAWA, FISHGUARD, BANFF, DIANTHUS,  
(Contd.) ARVIDA, WETASKIWIN, ROSTHERN to H.X.240 LINCOLN,  
BROCKVILLE, OAKVILLE, REGINA to O.N.184. MALPEQUE  
escorting C.L.66 to Sydney.  
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns, N.F. 250446 to Admty.)  
Arrival 25th 4 U.S. Navy tankers CHEMUNG, SALOMINI  
NEOBARA, ENOREE.  
(B.R.O. Aruba 251037 to Admty.)  
Departure KENOGAMI to O.N.S.7.  
(C. Halifax 251215Z. to Admty.)  
Arrival 24th May U.S. A.T. BRIGADES, GENERAL RETHERS.  
(S.B.N.O. Curacao 251422Z. to Admty.)  
Arrivals NIAGARA, KENORA ex O.N.S.7.  
(C. Halifax 252215 to Admty.)

STRIKER. San Francisco. Departed for trials 1535/23  
STRIKER.  
(N.S.H.Q. 250657Z. to Admty.)

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
summary	CARNARVON CASTLE	08° N. 28° W.	Patrol	Blank.
1800 G.M.T.	WORCESTERSHIRE	09° N. 33½ W.	335°	13.
25th.	(D.O.D. (F) 250816Z to Opnav (R) Comnavu.)			

Task Force 69. • Cinclant 242026 addressed for action to Com.  
Destroyer Squadron 19, and for information Cominch,  
Comnavnav, Comdesron 31, Com 3, informs as follows.  
This refers to my 162136 (Task Force 69).  
Delete PUMPER.  
(Comnavu 250853Z. to Admty.)

Convoy B.X.53. Arrived between 2112Z 24th and 0050Z 25th.  
(?N.C.S.O. Halifax 251212Z. to Admty.)

Convoy O.N.183. Boston Section arrived 0200Z/25.  
(U.S. P.D. Boston 251225Z. to Cominch C. & R.)

Operation Dynamo. V.C.N.S. 251300B to B.A.D. see Home Commands.

Mid Atlantic S/M Patrols. X My 231951 para 4. The following arrangements are  
made to ensure that all authorities concerned are  
informed of operations of S/Ms. from the U.K.  
against U/Bs. in the Western North Atlantic, and  
that there is no confusion concerning bombing  
restrictions. 2. F.O. (S) will inform C. in C.W.A.  
C. in C. C.N.A. and H.Q.C.C. repeating the signal  
to Cominch, B.A.D. and N.S.H.Q. of operational orders given to  
S/Ms. and in the same signal will request bombing restrictions  
which will be arranged through H.Q.C.C. 3. F.O. (S) will  
inform H.Q.C.C. direct of details of bombing restrictions  
required and H.Q.C.C. will co-ordinate them with E.A.C.  
as may be necessary, repeating the signal to C. in C. C.N.A.  
4. Request your concurrence or remarks.  
(A.C.N.S. (H) 251317B. to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) F.O.S. C. in C.W.A.  
H.Q.C.C.)

/Your...







Lion  
A.W.I.  
967r.

# MOST SECRET

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

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

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

251321Z/May.

From: J.S.M. Washington.

Date. 25.5.43.

Time. 1940Z.

CYPHER

Addressed: War Cabinet Offices, London.

A/S Aircraft

IZ. 1851. J.S.M. 945. 25th May, 1943.

Ref. C.O.S. (W) 601.

1. U.S. Chiefs of Staff have furnished following revised statement of numbers of U.S. aircraft engaged on anti-submarine operations.

	<u>V.L.R.</u>	<u>L.R.</u>	<u>M.R.</u>
(a) Strength on May 8th, 1943.			
<u>Army</u>	46	14	141
<u>Navy</u>	Nil	230	4

(b) Tentative deployment on July 1st, 1943.

<u>Army</u>	75	12	96
<u>Navy</u>	60	315	Nil

2. Detailed breakdown by areas is as follows.  
Columns 1-3 are present strength V.L.R., L.R., M.R.  
Columns 4-6 are tentative deployment V.L.R., L.R., M.R.  
on July 1st.

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
U.K. -Iceland	Nil	11	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
N.W. Atlantic	12	39	4	51	27	Nil
U.S. Atlantic	17	43	130	30	87	85
Caribbean	Nil	47	11	Nil	72	11
South America	Nil	60	Nil	15	99	Nil
Gibraltar-N.W.						
Africa	17	23	Nil	24	30	Nil
Bermuda	Nil	21	Nil	15	12	Nil

Notes to U.S. Atlantic. Columns 4 and 5 available for Air Task Group. Column 6 awaiting transition to a L.R. and L.R. 3 figure for V.L.R. at (a) above does not agree with figure previously given in weekly progress for same date. American

/ Staffs .....



Staffs explanation this discrepancy is that 46 includes 17 Liberators which have since become available and which will be added to total in next weekly progress report.

251321Z.

Circulation.

1st Lord.  
1st S.L. (2)  
D.F.S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
K.C.N.S. (H) (2)  
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)  
A.C.N.S. (W)  
A.C.N.S. (UT)  
5th S.L.  
D.C.N. A.E.  
N.A. (Mails).  
P.A.S. (S)  
D.O.D. (F) (2)  
D.O.D. (H) (2)  
D.N.I. (4)  
D. of P. (2)  
D.C.  
D.D.I.C. (2)  
D. of P. (Q) (2)  
Hd. of M. (2)  
I.P. (2)  
W.D.  
Adl. Blake.  
D.N.A.O.  
D.A.W.T.  
C.C.L.S.  
Hd. of Air Br.  
D.A/S.W.

Brigadier Jacob.  
Foreign Secretary.  
1st Sea Lord.  
C.6. Tels. War Office.  
A.M.C.S.(C).  
C.C.O.



War Diary.25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

French Naval Vessels, repairs and employment. X Your 052209. In view of strained refit and repair situation, both in U.S.A. and this country, we do not consider French ships should be refitted and modernised unless they will be fully suitable for useful operational employment on completion. 2. Certain ships, notably the 8" cruisers at Alexandria have exceptionally poor endurance and others from age or large extent of damage would not be worth the effort expended. 3. The ships whose characteristics are thought to justify refit and modernisation are as follows:- RICHELIEU, BEARN as an aircraft ferry, EMPIRE BERTIN, GEORGES LEYGUES, GLOIRE, MONTCALM, JEANNE D'ARC for escort duties. Contre-Torpilleurs TERRIBLE, FANTASQUE, LE MALIN. Destroyers for escort duties:- BASQUE, FORBIN, FORTUNE, TEMPETE. Also L'ALCYON and SIMOUN if not too seriously damaged. 4. The following are not considered worth refitting unless it is imperative politically. This would be for decision by two Governments, and operationally we do not consider that work on them would be justified. Certainly it should not be undertaken to the detriment of work on vessels of immediate operational value. JEAN BART, TOURVILLE, LORRAINE, SUFFREN, DUSQUESNE, DUGUAY TROUIN. (V.C.N.S. 251749B. to B.A.D.)

Convoy C.N. 183. 18 Ships arrived. First arrival 251155 Gebrab. Last arrival 251346Z. All ships accounted for. (P.D. New York 251750 to Cominch C. & R.) O.N.183. Following arrived New York 25 May (List) (B.R.L.O. New York 252027Z. to Admty.)

ORIBI, POLYANTHUS. My 201815 (N.T. in W.R.) ORIBI, POLYANTHUS will be ready for sea May 29th E.T.A. ORIBI at Boston June 1st, E.T.A. POLYANTHUS at Baltimore June 5th. (F.O.N.F. 251820Z. to B.A.M.R. (R) C. in C. C.N.A. N.S.H.Q. N.N.M.C.J.S. Washington, Cominch, Admty. C. in C. W.A. ORIBI, POLEANTHUS.)

Convoys L.C.56 and H.J.5. Arrived. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 251906Z. to Admty.)

STATE OF MARYLAND. (1) Special convoy Kingston Ciudad Trujillo. (2) 260900Z. (4) 11 knots. (5) (Route). (7) 1 Ship U.S.A.T. STATE OF MARYLAND. (B.R.O. Kingston 251933 to Admty. Comcaribseafon, (R) N.O.B. Guantanamo.)

Speed of Ships for Trans-Atlantic Trade Convoys. X Concur your 242119 all U.S. shipping 9 knots and below will be withdrawn in near future from North Atlantic trade convoys. (Cominch C. & R. 251946 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. C. in C. C.N.A. Halifax, C. in C. W.A.)



War Diary.25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

MONOWAI, information. A Westbound U.S. convoy will pass to Northward of you (probably outside visibility range) a.m. 26th.  
(N.S.H.Q. 252032Z. to MONOWAI (R) S.B.N.O. W.A. Admty.)

L.S.T.159 Crane. LORSA 9512. Reference SALOR 7452. One ten-ton revolving type crane being shipped in L.S.T.159. Heaviest list for assembling 21,000 lbs. Instruction books are packed with crane.  
(B.A.D. 252051 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta.)

Through Med. Convoys, Ships from U.S.A. Your 201551Z and your 051647Z para. 4. Please furnish estimate of size and convoys as far ahead as possible specifying also numbers of ships passing through Straits inclusive of those for through convoy.  
(D.T.D. 252054B. to B.A.D.)

S/M attack and sighting summary. All times Z. Para C. Army plane sights S/M 06.46 S. 27.14 W. 251233. Para D. S/M sighted 48.32 N. 64.10 W. 250130. 1321 sights periscope and wake 39.57 N. 71.56 W. 242121.  
(Cominch 252105Z. to Admty.)

U.S. Dispositions. This is Cominch's 251519 for action Admiralty information Comnavcu changing his 181655. Serial 75. Pacific. At Sea TENNESSEE, BLACK ISLAND, ESSEX, TRENTON. At San Diego LONG ISLAND, PORTLAND En route U.S. BARNES, NASHVILLE. In North Pacific SALT LAKE CITY, INDIANAPOLIS.  
Atlantic. In U.K. ALABAMA, SOUTH DAKOTA. At Sea TEXAS, YORKTOWN In Argentinia BOGUE. At Philadelphia INDEPENDENCE. At Montevideo OMAHA, MILWAUKEE, CINCINNATI. In Casablanca SAVANNAH. At Norfolk PHILADELPHIA. At Trinidad LEXINGTON.  
(Comnavcu 252107. to Admty.)

H.X.241, Oiling at Sea. Convoy H.X.241 escort oilers. SAINTONGE emergency buoyant 13600 U.S. Navy special fuel. KAIA KNUDSEN 3½ canvas and trough 93250 barrels U.S. Navy special fuel. ESSO NASHVILLE American canvas and trough 10710 tons gas oil Ship carrying depth charges SAINTONGE 50 improvised.  
(P.D. New York 252114Z. to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A. Comeasseafron. C. in C. C.N.A. F.O.N.F. N.S.H.Q. Conroute.)



War Diary.25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

AQUITANIA. For your information, following is position regarding AQUITANIA:- (a) She will sail U.K. 31/5 arriving New York about 8/6. (b) In New York she required drydocking and Cunard insist on double fumigation. We estimate this should take until about 28/6. (c) She will then do one run to U.K. and return to New York. (d) If everything is then ready for her to commence large scale overhaul and repairs envisaged, work can be commenced, but we do not want her to be held up awaiting availability of, for example, furnace fronts. If any appreciable time would be wasted we would prefer her to do a second quick trip to U.K. and return to New York before commencing the overhaul and repairs as it is important to make the best use of her during the fine weather. 2. Request your urgent views. 3. We will signal you separately regarding details of work required. (D. of S.T. 252344B. to B.M.W.T. (R) B.A.D.) Reply: B.R.L.O. New York 262340Z.

Australia & New Zealand.

NIEUW AMSTERDAM, DOMINION MONARCH. NIEUW AMSTERDAME will be sailed in company with DOMINION MONARCH escorted by Neth. Cruiser TROMP to Momp. Expected time of departure Fremantle 0001Z 26th. (2) In view of D.S.Ts. 242316 intend NIEUW AMSTERDAM to part company in approx. 016° S. 078° 30' E. and proceed at best speed to Colombo independently unless C. in C. E.F. can provide suitable escort. (3) NIEUW AMSTERDAM has on board 1392 for Bombay 761 for Basra 3279 including 81 civilian technicians for Egypt. (Cdre. Western Australia 250429Z. to C.S.W.P.S.F. C. in C. E.F. F.O. Ceylon, SUSSEX, CANTON (R) D. of S.T. P.S.T.O. India, P.S.T.O. M.E. F.O.C.R.S.F.)

Convoy C.O.95. Departure 25th convoy C.O. 95 comprising 12 ships CARADALE, IRIS, BANK, ARDENT, THEOFANO, LI VANOS, for Melbourne COLAC for Geelong TALUNE for Hobart ILIKSOS and ELISAVET for Adelaide IRON KING and IRON BARON for Whyall KOTOR for Port Piriew BENJAMIN H. GRIERSON for Aden escorts WARRNAMBOOL for Townsville MILDURA, BINGERA. (N.C.S.O. Sydney 250547Z. to Admty. (R) Comnav.)

Digest. Serial No. 496 May 24th. After nightfall two B.25s. bombed Penfoei Aerodrome observing 2 medium ships and some barges Koepang Harbour. 3. During early hours six Fortresses, five Liberators dropped incendiaries and bombs



971

25.5.1943.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest dispersal areas Vunakenau Lakunai Rapopo  
 Serial No. aerodromes also seaplane base causing explosion  
 496 and fires. 4. Forenoon small cargo ship observed  
 May 24th. off North shore Gazelle Peninsula course West.  
 (Contd.) 5. Two destroyers sighted early morning 60 miles  
 S.E. Gasmata course 45° and same ships seen at  
 dawn off Cape Orfor course North. 7. Noon  
 pictures reveal 1 subchaser, 2 coasters, 7  
 powerboats Wewak Harbour. 8. Continual night coastal barge  
 activity reported Saydor. 9. Two enemy medium bombers  
 ineffectively raided Port Moresby early morning. 11. Evening  
 23rd Ground observer reported ships in Lae Harbour. Pre-dawn  
 24th five Bostons bombed Malahang wreck finding nil shipping  
 present.  
 (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 250740.)

Movements. U.S. transport VAN HEUTSZ arrived Thursday Island  
 24th. - Dutch naval shore ship MINJAK TANAH arrived  
 Thursday Island 24th departed 25th due Merauke  
 26th. R.A.F. auxiliary oiler BISHOPDALE departed  
 Townsville 24th arrived Cairns 25th.  
 (C.S.W.P.S.F. 251134B. to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
 (D.D.I.C. 251400B, 251401B.)

Submarines attacked.

U/Bs. Your 1059B/22nd July. Following promising  
 attacked, attacks reported week ending 2400Z/23. 14th May  
 Weekly U.S.S. GANSE VOORT believed to have sunk S/M  
 Summary. by depth charges and gunfire North Pacific. 17th  
 May planes patrol 74 and U.S.S. MOFFETT and JOUETT  
 sank S/M 11.08 S. 35.38 W. 70 prisoners. 20th May  
 U.S. army B.25 depth charges and strafed S/M 06.20  
 S. 12.40 W. oil slick observed plane damaged by anti-aircraft  
 fire. 21st May 2 planes sighted S/M 36.01 N. 00.34 W. U.S.S.  
 NIELDS attacked sound contact observed wood resembling deck  
 planking and oil over 3 mile area. Presume you have details of  
 following. 17th May escorts O.N.S.7. 19th May JED and SENNEN.  
 Same day DUNCAN and SNOWFLAKE. 22nd May U.S.S. BOGUE aircraft.  
 23rd May R.A.F. Liberator and U.S.S. TIDE.  
 (Cominch 251515Z. to Admty. etc.)

/My...



War Diary.

25.5.1943.  
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines attacked.

U/Bs.  
attacked.  
Weekly  
Summary.  
(Contd.)

My 221059 July. 1. At 2307/17 Hudson aircraft J/269 attacked a U-Boat in 62° 10' N. 14° 30' W. One minute after the attack a cloud of smoke was seen and considerable oil with some wreckage. 2. A.M. 19th May. DUNCAN and SNOWFLAKE escorting S.C.130 attacked a U-Boat in approx. 54° 46' N. 30° 00' W. and claims to have sunk it with Hedgehog. 3. JED and SENNEN attacked a U-Boat in 54° 32' N. 34° 40' W. at 1403Z/19. Some oil and wreckage seen after attack. 4. Hudson M/269 attacked U-Boat in 59° 25' N. 24° 33' W. at 1627/19. Considerable oil and some planks were seen after the attack. 5. H.M. S/M SICKLE claims a hit on one U-Boat at 2154/20 and to have sunk another U-Boat at 1612/21. Both South of Toulon. 6. Aircraft from U.S.S. BOGUE made several promising attacks on U-Boats in vicinity of convoy O.N.184. At 2001Z/22 one of the aircraft scored hits on a U-Boat in 50° 30' N. 35° 15' W. which sank. Survivors picked up by ST. LAURENT. 7. At 1020Z/23 a Swordfish aircraft from ARCHER sank a U-Boat in 51° 48' N. 29° 32' W. with hits with Rocket Projectiles. 8. The total sightings and attacks by aircraft in the Bay of Biscay patrols has now reach 114 sightings and 73 attacks.  
(D.A/S.W. 252109B. to Cominch.)



War Diary.

26.5.1943.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

1. The U.S.S.R. intend to sail several warships of unspecified type from the Far East by the northern route, to reinforce the Northern Fleet, and they ask for one of the British tankers now in North Russia to be provided for fuelling the force. *The crew of warships was subsequently dispersed and the request for a tanker was cancelled.*
- Support Forces. / 2. C. in C. W.A. proposes to abandon the term (escort) Support Group and to introduce Support Force. A Support Force will consist of one or more Escort Groups and may be joined by one or more escort carriers or other ships; it will be identified by double letters.
- Battle of the Atlantic. 3. C. in C. W.A. sent today a message summarising the definite turn in our favour, which the Battle of the Atlantic has taken during the past two months.

Home Commands.

- \* 4. A reduction is taking place in the strength of the U.S. forces in Iceland (C).

North Atlantic.

- R.P. weapon. \* 5. In order to obtain practical experience of the rocket projectile weapon against U-Boats the Air Ministry proposes temporarily to withdraw ten Hudsons from Gibraltar for operations in the Bay of Biscay where U-Boats abound and their tactics of fighting it out on the surface give the greatest opportunity of obtaining quick results.
- \* 6. S.O. Force H in NELSON sailed from Gibraltar this morning for the U.K., escorted by INGLEFIELD, ONSLOW and ORWELL.



War Diary.26.5.1943.  
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.North Atlantic. - Contd.Attack  
on U/B.*Assumed known sunk*

- ? 7. TEST, frigate, and HYDERABAD, corvette, escorting Convoy K.X.10, attacked an A/S contact in 43.51 N. 15.57 W. between 1458 and 1552. The contact faded after the last attack, and F.O. Gibraltar, reports that oil, wreckage and air bubbles suggest possible destruction.

South Atlantic.

- \* 8. Convoy D.L.M.1 (Durban to Lourenco Marques) left Durban today, escorted by FREESIA and NORTH CHIEF.

Mediterranean.

Convoys.

9. Convoy K.M.S.14X, the first through Mediterranean convoy since Italy entered the war, which left Gibraltar on 17th May, arrived at Alexandria today (4 ships). Convoy X.T.15A, consisting of LARGS and two personnel ships, left Alexandria today for Tripoli (L).

\* The arrangements agreed with the French Admiralty for the command of mixed convoy escorts on the Mediterranean Station, are given in a message from C. in C. Med. today.

Air  
Operations.

10. 12 U.S. Lightnings bombed the harbour at Golfo Aranci, Sardinia, setting fire to a large transport, a small vessel and 3 oil storage tanks. 12 U.S. Warhawks attacked the harbour at Porto Ponte Romano, scoring several hits on the quay, on the dam and a power station. Near misses were obtained on 2 M/Vs. Attacks were continued on Italian airfields. 4 Beaufighters damaged a schooner of 120 tons and sunk a large caique near Cape Malea (southern point of the Greek mainland). A caique of 80 tons outside the harbour was also sunk. 1 Wellington attacked Prevesa (W. Greece), dropping bombs on the slipway. 4 Baltimores attacked 4 sailing vessels off Cape Malea, 3 being sunk or set on fire and the fourth abandoned by her crew.



War Diary.

26.5.1943.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Proposed A/C for Tangmere. C. in C. Portsmouth's 251230B. Concur provided that sufficient aircraft remain with 841 Squadron at Manston to maintain standing anti E/R boat patrol over the Straits during the dark period. (V.A. Dover 261136B to Admty.).

Defence of U.K.

Sunderland A/A Defences. X A balloon-barrage is being deployed to Sunderland as an extension to the Newcastle barrage and will become operational at Sunderland W.E.F. 1800 today. The Sunderland balloons will function under the operational control of H.Q. 13 Group through the balloon barrage control at Newcastle. They will be treated as an independent barrage. The Sunderland deployment is not a Crittall operation. (H.Q.F.C. 261150B).

Iceland. X Commanding General Iceland Base Command informs me a reduction in strength of his command is in progress.  
(2) Details affecting coast defence have been discussed and agreed upon.  
(3) All U.S. Forces are being withdrawn from and four inch guns are being dismantled in Reyda Fjord, except R.D.F. Station at Vattarnes. I intend to withdraw examination service concurrently.  
(4) Similarly U.S. forces are evacuating Hrutafjord. Proposals for disposing of controlled minefield (0) are in my 221904B May.  
(5) On completion of Movement C.B. 3029 (53) and C.B. 3029 (52) should be cancelled.  
(6) Coast defences of other ports are not materially affected. Details are being reported by letter.  
(A.C.I.C. 262032B to Admty. (R) C. in C.H.F.).

Movements.

KENT  
JAMAICA  
ECLIPSE Intend to proceed May 28th in KENT with JAMAICA and ECLIPSE to arrive Akureyri May 29th and to leave Akureyri P.M. May 31st returning Hvalfiord June 1st.  
(2) Tactical exercises will be carried out on return passage.  
(C.S.1 260107B to C. in C.H.F.).

ARCHER  
FAULKNOR Arrived ARCHER and Capt.(D) 8 in FAULKNOR.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 260856).

A.F.D.18. Your 241124B May. Intend sailing codeword "Profit" at 2000/26. S. of A. 6 knots.  
C. in C. W.A. 231620 para.2. Request LOTUS, DIANELLA, STARWORT, and POPPY may be sailed to R/V in 25 miles Inistrahull 000 degs. at 0800/27th.  
(N.O.I.C. Oban 261102B to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

/ANSON....



26.5.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. -Contd.

ANSON When detached after exercises p.m. 27th F.O. 2nd B.S. in ANSON take OPPORTUNE, OBEDIENT, and QUALITY under his orders and proceed to Rosyth.  
(4) Screen is to be detached at Eyebroughy buoy return Scapa.  
(C. in C.H.F. 261157B to ANSON).

S/M Positions of S/M's at 0800B/27 and movements for movements. following 24 hours.  
(F.O.S. 261637B, 271116B).  
Your 251146. Assuming surface passage from 43 degs. N. direct to Algiers without calling at Gibraltar. Estimate SEVERN could arrive Algiers approx. 18th June. Date might be advanced but, unless absolutely necessary would prefer this portion done submerged by day.  
(F.O.S. 261729B to C. in C. Med.).  
Capt.(S) 3 251145B and Capt.(S) 7 252206B. SHIKARI is to escort P.317, P.215, and P.67 to Pentland in place of COLUMBINE.  
(C. in C.W.A. 261901B).

A.F.D.19 Your 261025B. Arrived.  
(R.N.O. Fort William 261710B to N.O.I.C. Oban).

Landing My 211132 April para.3 and my 261705.  
Craft C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail these  
Flight K twelve L.C.1. (L) to Gibraltar on 31st May.  
for (2) They will be known as Landing Craft Flight  
Gibraltar. K.  
(3) C. in C.W.A. is requested to sail one corvette as escort, to arrive Portsmouth by 30th May.  
(4) Codeword "Apricot".  
(D.O.D.H. 262039B).

Operations.

Coastal My 251542B. "Device" returned.  
Patrols. (F.O.I.C. Portland 260605B).  
Intend M.L. 269 (S.O.) and M.L. 303 to patrol tonight on lat. 50 degs. 20' N. between 01 degs. 45' W. and 02 degs. 25' W.  
(2) Leave Portland at 2200 via Q.Z.S. 382 and leave patrol line at dawn/27th returning via Q.Z.S. 382.  
(3) Object anti E-boat patrol. Codeword "Match".  
(F.O.I.C. Portland 261221B).  
Following anti E-boat dispositions tonight.  
(2) S.G.B.6 and 4, M.G.B. 614 and 615, M.T.B. 250 to patrol latitude 50 degs. 25' N. between 0 degs. 15' W. and 1 deg. 00' W. from 2300 to 0430. Codeword "Device".  
(3) BLEASDALE, STEVENSTONE immediate notice at St. Helens. Codeword "Advent".  
(4) M.Ls. 464, 201 to patrol searched channel between F and E A 5 buoys.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 261253B).

/S.G.B...



26.5.1943.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal Patrols (Contd.). (2) S.G.B.6 and 4, M.G.B. 614, 615, M.T.B.250 patrolling southward of E.A.5 Buoy.  
(3) M.L.464, 201 patrolling eastern approach channel.  
(4) BLEASDALE, STEVENSTONE at St. Helens.  
(5) Chasseur 15 at Helens. LA COMBATTANTE, QUORN, KINGSTON TOPAZ, at Yarmouth.  
(6) M.Ls. 269 and 303 from Portland patrolling 50 degs. 20' N. between 1 degs. 45' W. and 2 degs. 25' W.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 261255B).  
My 261221B "Match" sailed 2227.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland 262235B).

S/M Patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800B/27th and movements for following 24 hours.  
(A) HERRING vicinity 54 degs. 01' N. 39 degs. 31' W.  
(B) HADDO vicinity 52 degs. 24' N. 36 degs. 30' W.  
(C) ULTIMATUM, SHAD, TUNA, STUBBORN, as in my 251721.  
(F.O.S. 261637B to Admty.).

Allied Air Activity.

INDOMITABLE A/C Training. The fighter squadrons of ILLUSTRIOUS, FURIOUS, and some Escort Carriers already received training in Fighter Wing operation and Tactics by Naval Officers who have qualified at the R.A.F. Wing Leaders Course. Great importance is attached to this training and an instructor is being flown out at C. in C. Med's. request to train FORMIDABLE fighters. If you so desire Lieutenant Commander Campbell Horsfall, who is similarly qualified, can be lent to advise on the training of INDOMITABLE fighter squadrons. The full course takes 16 days and it is desirable that the squadrons should be disembarked to Machrihanish for as long a period as possible. Understood this could be arranged by F.O.N.A.S. Some useful work can however be done in a shorter time and with the squadrons embarked, if you consider disembarkation undesirable. In the latter case, request the signal giving time date and place at which Lieutenant Commander Campbell Horsfall should embark may be repeated to Yeovilton.  
(A.C.N.S. Air 261655B to C. in C.H.F.).

Enemy Air Activity.

Enemy A/C One plane, type unknown, on course 130 degs. 3 miles on 030 degs. from my position 60.16 N. 13.45 W. My course 121 degs. and speed 7 knots.  
(QUADRILLE 260803B to Admty.).

Folkestone attacked on 25th May. At 2146 yesterday 15 F.Ws. 190's. attacked Folkestone but were intercepted by our Fighters who destroyed 4 and damaged 1. Aircraft were

/initially.....



26.5.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Folkestone attacked on 25th May. (Contd.). initially detected by Capel R.D.F. at nought feet off Gris Nez. Two bombs fell in Folkestone causing slight damage to Royal Pavilion Hotel Operation Room. No casualties reported. (V.A. Dover 261246B).

Jan Mayen Jan Mayen reports aircraft heard at 0215Z far off to north of island. (A.C.I.C. 261347B).

Mining.

Dover Routine Sweeping carried out 25/26th May. One Red Mine detonated in 50 degs. 50' 07" N. 00 degs. 42' 32" E. (V.A. Dover 261012B).

Search off N.W.Ireland. Your 252347/May. Ships now completing with bunkers and stores and will sail a.m. tomorrow. (N.O.I.C. Ardrossan 261101 to C. in C.W.A.).

Q.L.5B. (1) Weather permitting carry out operation Q.L. (5) A tonight with available M.G.Bs. of 6th Flotilla, close escort 21st M.T.B. Flotilla. (C. in C. Nore 261120B 261351B 261445B to BEEHIVE).

HUMBER Mine detonated by Sweeper at 260809 in 237 degs. South Inner Dowsing 3 cables. (Capt. M/S Grimsby 261700) (F.O. Humber 262145).

H.V. 4. Carry out operation H.V.4 first light 28th May. Initial position 050 degs. 53.6' N. 003 degs. 31.5' W. 299 degs. 3 miles. (C. in C. Plymouth 261721B to PLOVER).

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Cruiser at Narvik. Soviet air R/C at 0610B today observed "Koln" class cruiser alongside at Narvik, minesweeper alongside with her, and A/S net to seaward. Photographs were taken and copies will be forwarded. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 261135B to Agmty.).



War Diary.

26.5.1943.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-boats.

U-Boats reported or attacked in North Atlantic.

Am over enemy S/M in 51 degs. 54' N. 29 degs. 25' W.  
(A/C 86 Sqdn. Duty J. 260725 to 15 Group).  
Have attacked enemy with depth-charges.  
(A/C 86 Sqdn. Duty J. 260727 to 15 Group).  
Am over enemy submarine in 52.11 N. 29.15 W.  
Periscope only sighted.  
(A/C 59 Sqdn. Duty N. 261358 to 15 Group).

U-boats sunk.

Request you will convey our congratulations to BOGUE on the destruction of a U-boat on 22nd May (with Convoy O.N.184).  
(V.C.N.S. 262017 to Comnavu).  
Their Lordships congratulate ARCHER and particularly Swordfish B/819 on the destruction of a U-boat on May 23rd, 1943.  
(With Convoy H.X.239).  
(V.C.N.S. 262020B to ARCHER).

See 866

U-boats reported or attacked in Biscay Area.

On day 24th May. 9 Whitleys of 10 O.T.U. completed A/S patrol. There was one sighting and one attack.  
(H.Q.B.C. 261300B).

Casualties and Defects.

GROWLER

Request dry dock. Damage to hull plating, extensive damage to rubbing band metal and wood, numerous leakages throughout vessel. Request permission to proceed first to Campbeltown.  
(GROWLER 261640 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

ANSON

Your 251520. Confirmed.  
(C. in C.H.F. 262003B to A.S. Rosyth).

Shipping and Convoys.

North Atlantic Ice Reports.

Your 231425Z. Concur.  
(D.N.M.S. 260029B to C. in C.W.A.).  
When West of 043 degs. W. weather reports called for by W.A.C.I.43 are to be immediately preceded by an ice report from all N. Atlantic Ocean escorts. Report is to be in form of a 4 figure group from information given in W.A.G.O.62. To permit this sub paragraphs (A) to (E) are to be renumbered (1) to (5). First 2 figures will indicate proportion in (?) terms of sea covered. Third figure descriptive term. Fourth figure size of floe. Example quoted will thus be signalled 0623. Negative reports are always required and are to be signalled by group commencing with 2 nought and completed by 2 dummy figures.  
(C. in C.W.A. 260742Z to A.I.G.32.).



War Diary.

26.5.1943.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. -Contd.

Group	Group.	Sailing Liverpool.	Taking out.	Bringing Back
Sailing.	C.5	10th June	O.N.188	H.X.245
	B.6	16th June	O.N.189	H.X.246
	38	19th June	O.S.50	S.L.133

(C. in C.W.A. 260755Z).

S.C.131 No attack. Probably 2 S/M in contact. My P.C.S. 052 degs. 08' N. 029 degs. 40' W. 054 degs. 8½ knots.  
(C.T.U. 24-1-4 260803Z to C. in C. W.A.).

Tankers for Iceland. The following is Comservforlant's 251545 May for action to N.O.B. Iceland. About June 18 contemplate sending the following Tankers due base C. MONTANA, SABINE SUN, ESSO AUGUSTA, MARKAY 95. Can you receive Navy special listed above? (Comnaveu 260836Z to Admty.).

Bristol Channel shipping. † Commencing forthwith, merchant ships may sail independently from Newlyn, Penzance and North Cornish ports to Bristol Channel ports and vice versa, by day and by night. Sailing authorities are to warn ships sailing independently to keep clear of convoys that they may meet, and that they may burn navigation lights, if necessary, whilst in close proximity to a convoy.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 261127B).

Russian request for Tanker. × Soviet D.C.N.S. has asked whether one of British tankers now North Russia can be provided for refuelling several warships type unspecified which it is intended to sail from Far East by northern route to reinforce northern fleet, as for similar operations last year when tanker HOPE MOUNT was lent (Admiral Miles 1546 June 9th 1942 and subsequent signals).  
(2) Tanker would be required to leave Kola Inlet or Archangel between mid-June or July and proceed as far as Dikson with 25 per cent possibility of having to go as far as Tiksi returning in September.  
(3) Strengthening for ice reserve provision, warm clothing etc. will be required as for HOPE MOUNT of which S.B.N.O. Archangel has details.  
(4) Early decision requested.  
(Ad. Fisher 261310C to Admty.).  
N.I.D. Comment.

The further weakening of the Soviet Pacific Fleet would be yet another sign of the confidence that is felt by the Government of the Soviet Union that Russia has nothing to fear from Japan. The ships transferred last year from Vladivostock to North Russia along this route were 1 Flotilla Leader and 2 modern destroyers representing approximately 25% of the destroyer strength of the Pacific Fleet.

In addition to the above, 6 submarines were also to have been

/despatched....



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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Russian  
request  
for  
Tanker.  
(Contd.).

despatched from the Pacific Fleet via Panama Canal and U.K. to North Russia. Of these 6 boats one was lost in the early stages of the voyage (cause unknown) 4 have already arrived in North Russia, and the remaining 1 sails today from the U.K.

A British Liaison Officer on board one of these Soviet submarines was informed by one of the Officers that further submarines would be sent to North Russia from the Pacific Fleet. The sailing of submarine craft along the Northern Sea Route has, as yet, never been accomplished and therefore it may be possible to presume that the reinforcement now contemplated will again consist of some destroyer craft. It is possible that the convoy may also be accompanied by the large (11,000 ton) Icebreaker STALIN which has been refitting on the West Coast of the United States.

Escort  
Groups and  
Support  
Forces.

X Your 250055. In order to retain the full flexibility of the group system and for the purposes of esprit de corps it is proposed to retain the old Escort Group identities for all groups.

(2) To avoid complications in appointments and the chain of command it is also proposed to abandon the term Support Group and to introduce Support Force. A Support Force will consist of one or more Escort Groups and may be joined by one or more Escort Carriers or other ships. The Support Force will be under the orders of the S.C. present. To make Support Forces doubly distinctive they will be identified by double letters. The forming and disbanding of a Support Force will be promulgated by general signal.

(3) In order to implement the above it is requested that the necessary additional groups may be allocated in the Delivery Groups, Naval Cypher No.5. Interservice Cypher, and Naval Code to allow for the following existence and spare units and also for the S.O. of each Unit.

(C. in C.W.A. 261321 to Admty.).

H.X.239  
on 23rd May.

Reference 614 N. (A) None, but about 5 in the vicinity. (B) to (D) nil (E) one sunk by Swordfish aircraft (F) Convoy discipline excellent. (B.3. 261615Z to C. in C.W.A.).

O.N.S.  
Convoy  
speeds.

A<sub>3</sub> from and including convoy O.N.S.13 the minimum speed for inclusion in O.N.S. convoys is to be 8 knots. (D.T.D. 261644B).

Battle of  
the Atlantic.  
Recent  
results.

X The Battle of the Atlantic has taken a definite turn in our favour during the past 2 months and returns show an ever increasing toll of U-boats and decreasing losses in Merchant Ships in Convoy.



War Diary.26.5.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

Battle of  
the Atlantic.  
Recent  
results.  
(Contd.).

All Escort Groups, Support Groups, Escort Carriers, and their Aircraft and Aircraft of various Air Commands have contributed to this great achievement which is the outcome of hard work, hard training, and determination on the part of all officers and men of the surface-forces in (?and) Air Units involved. Quite apart from spectacular kills by Escort Groups and Support Groups many notable victories have been achieved by the safe and timely arrivals of numbers of Convoys in face of heavy enemy attacks, Outstanding among results is the performance of B.7 Group (Cmdr. Gretton) despite enforced absence of their leaders aided by 3rd and 1st Supporting Group (Capt. McCoy and Cmdr. Brewer respectively) while escorting and covering O.N.S.5. which resulted in such wholesale destruction of enemy; the successful passage of H.X. No.237 escorted by C.2. group (Lieut. Cmdr. Chevasse) and that of S.C.129 escorted by B.2. group (Cmdr. Macintyre), both being supported by BITER and 5th Support Group. Also of H.X.234 escorted by B.4. Group (Cmdr. Day) and supported by 4th Support Group (Capt. Scott Moncrieff). More recently comes the heavy defeat of the enemy during the passage of S.C.130 escorted and supported by B.7. Group and 1st Support Group, and H.X.239 escorted and supported by B.3. Group (Cmdr. Evans) and ARCHER and 4th Support Group which resulted in the enemy quickly giving up the battle. Particularly gratifying is the outstanding success of the aircraft of the Escort Carriers BOGUE, BITER, and ARCHER who have given invaluable service in the battle. We owe much also to help of the H.F. Destroyers who came to our aid and acquitted themselves so brilliantly in this unaccustomed type of warfare. Much sterling work has also been done by the escort on the Gibraltar Freetown runs. The tide of the battle has checked if not turned, and the enemy is showing signs of strain in the face of heavy attacks by our sea and air forces, Now is the time to strike and strike hard, bearing in mind always that the secret of success is trained, efficient, and immediate readiness for every conceivable emergency. (C. in C.W.A. 261716).

O.N.186 Sailed LAGAN, KING HAAKON VII to overtake O.N.186 speed 16 knots.  
'Cdre. D.W.A. 261846B).

D.F.6. Sailed LADY OF MANN in accordance with my 251028.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 261906B).

K.M.S.16 My 131758. FLORES should sail with K.M.S.16  
FLORES. leaving Clyde 4th June.  
(D.O.D.H. 262122B).

A.T.46 Convoy A.T.46 is due Clyde p.m.1/6.  
T.A.46 (2) Total of approx. 15,000 personnel will  
(QUEEN disembark 2/6.  
ELIZABETH-). (3) Approximately 3000 personnel will embark at  
Tail of the Bank on p.m. 4/6 and a.m. 5/6.  
(4) Convoy T.A.46 should be ready to sail p.m.5/6.  
(D.S.T. 262147B).



War Diary.26.5.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Dispositions. Add new para. (vii) to my 251114. (251214 intended, situation report.)  
Fleet unit 3 destroyers sailed 0035B/26th from Gibraltar through 035° 42' 009° 59' thence 308° 15½.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 260213B.)

BULLDOG, ANTELOPE. BULLDOG developed broken air pump rocker arm. Intend retaining ship at Gibraltar for repair.  
2. ANTELOPE sailed in W.S.30 in lieu. F.O.I.C. W.A. is requested to sail ANTELOPE for Gibraltar with moderate despatch after one night at Freetown.  
3. BULLDOG will be sailed for Freetown on completion repairs and boiler cleaning.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 260759 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. C. in C.Med.)  
Reply F.O.C.W.A. 261002Z.

Convoy O.S.48. Intend sailing FORT RELIANCE, FORT CHILCOTIN, EMPIRE ENVOY for S.America. OCEAN FAME, EMPIRE FORREST for West Africa. Agreed M.W.T.R. and S.T.O.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 260956 to R.A.W.A.F. (R) Admty. Connav, C. in C.Med. C.M.S.F.F. Cdre. of Convoy O.S.48.)

French Refugees GOVERNOR GENERAL LEPINE and escort sailed Setubal 2035B/25th.  
2. E.T.A. position X. 262359B. My 211618 refers.  
3. Can this E.T.A. be accepted?  
4. Comdr. Seafron Morocco pass to Amiral Afrique.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 261051 to Cdre. U.S.Seafron Morocco, (R) Admty. COVERLEY, Amiral Afrique.)

Force H. \* Sailed S.O.Force H in NELSON escorted by INGLEFIELD, ONSLOW, ORWELL.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 261110B to Admty. (R) C. in C.H.F. C. in C.W.A. C. in C.Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.)

U/B. Am over enemy submarine in 43.00 N. 13.20 W. periscope only sighted and when first sighted was on course 180° speed unknown.  
(A/C B. of 202 Sqn via Liverpool 261125B to Gibraltar for use with A/C.)

Dispositions. Situation 1959B/26th.  
U.G.S.8A, C.T.F.66, 034° 15' 030° 18' 086° 8½.  
2. G.U.S.7A, C.T.F. 68, 031° 21' 017° 40' 283° 9.  
3. UGANDA patrol vicinity Azores.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 261127B.)

Situation 2003B/26th  
20 L.C.I.(L) S.O.257 032° 04' 035° 21' through 032° 01' 035° 01' thence 088° 10.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 261203B.)



War Diary.

26.5.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

FREESIA  
DRANGEY

My 241622 to C.S.A. Lourenco Marques only, and C.S.A. Lourenco Marques 251614. FREESIA and DRANGEY substituted for NORTHERN CHIEF.  
2. C.S.A. Lourenco Marques is requested to sail 4 ships instead of 2 and report name and speed of the additional 2 as soon as possible.  
(Cdre. Durban 260733Z to R.O. Lourenco Marques, (R) 1 Bank Block, C. in C.S.A. C. in C.E.F. Connav.,.)

W.S.29.

Durban section convoy W.S.29B and attached ships sailed 25 May for Bombay E.T.A. 1200Z/10 June. (S.T.O. Capetown's 230945 not to C. in C.E.F. also refers). Personnel on board A. for Bombay

B. Persian Gulf C. Mid East D. Ceylon.

3. LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE did not continue in W.S.29 and will proceed in C.M.42.

(D.S.T.O. Durban 260701Z to S.S.T.O. Bombay, (R) P.S.T.O. India, P.S.T.O. Capetown, C. in C.E.F. D.O.S.T.)

My 251209. SILVER WALNUT arrived ex W.S.29 with engine defect.

(N.C.S.O. Durban 260827Z to Admty. etc.)

Sailed KENYA to R/V with W.S.29 at 1400Z May 27. My 251004 not to Admiralty refers.

2. KENYA shifts to W/T group N.U. at 1000Z May 28.

3. C. in C.E.F. is requested to instruct KENYA when to shift from group N.U. to group V.

(Cdre. Durban 261451Z to Admty. C. in C.S.A. C. in C.E.F.)

Convoy  
D.L.M.1.

X Sailing telegram. 2. 0700/26th May. 4 9 knots.  
5. Coastal. 6. FREESIA, NORTHERN CHIEF.  
7. 2 columns 1 1. 9 and 12, 10 knots. ALLERTON  
10 knots, FORT FROBISHER both to Lourenco Marques  
(N.C.S.O. Durban 260909B to Admty. etc.)

Movements  
Durban.

Arrived RELENTLESS, ROTHERHAM.

(Com. i/c Durban 260931 to Admty. C. in C.S.A. C. in C.E.F.)

ANTELOPE.

Your 260759 and my 231749 May. ANTELOPE will? be retained Freetown to carry out this escort duty with MALCOLM. E.T.A. Casablanca 9th June. (F.O.C.W.A. 261002Z to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med. Admty.)

Reply F.O. Gib. 271548.

Movements  
Dakar.

Sailed 1550Z/25th from Port Etienne M.L. 1141 for Dakar and Bathurst. E.T.A. Dakar 0800Z/27th Arrived Dakar 0905Z/26th DUMONT D'URVILLE and CENTAURE.

(Comar Dakar 261016Z to R.A.W.A. N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Admty.)

/Movements...



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26.5.1943.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.Movements  
Lagos.Arrival 26th May SNOWDROP, M.L. 266.  
(N.O.I.C. Lagos 261025Z to Admty. etc.)ARCOLA  
(explosion  
20th May.)My 201050. Preliminary survey indicates extensive structural damage abaft and to engine room. Improbable sufficient repairs can be done here to make ship seaworthy. Submit H.M.S. might be sent to remove 11 British personnel as in any event vessel will be here some months and probably for duration of hostilities.  
(N.C.S.O. (St. Vincent.) 261050 to Admty. (R) F.O.W.Af.)

BULLDOG.

Your 241301. Request information as to sailing of BULLDOG.  
(R.A.W.Af. 261209Z to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty. C. in C.Med. FOXHOUND.)

Dispositions.

Situation 2001Z/26th May.  
U.S.Dests. ELLIS, DUPONT, DICKERSON with O.T.5  
018° 14' 021° 56' to 018° 20' 020° 10' thence  
032° 13.5 LA GRANDIERE escorting 017° 59' 022°  
03' to Dakar 13.5. L.S.T. 412 and 324 CYCLAMEN 018° 08' 017°  
10' 344° 8.5. B.Y.M.S.9, 26 and 27 010° 21' 016° 18' to 010°  
33' 016° 48' thence 330° 8.5. ASPIRANT BRUN escorting off  
Freetown to Konakri 5.5. CILICIA on patrol about 007° 30' 027°  
32' 14. CARNARVON CASTLE 009° 18' 023° 42' 074°. WORCESTERSHIRE  
012° 43' 034° 37' 028° 13.  
(R.A.W.A. 261230Z.)

O.S.47.

Arrived 1338Z/25 May. SCARBOROUGH, FLEETWOOD,  
MIGNONETTE, SPIREA, AZALEA, BUTTERMERE,  
WASTWATER, BALSAM, COLTSFOOT, BELLWORT with O.S.47  
(S.O.(I) Freetown 261423Z to Admty. etc.)SAVORGNAN  
DE BRAZZAArrival Pointe Noire 0930Z/26.  
(B.N.L.O.West Africa 261505A.)

S.T.66.

Departure 1157Z/25th May CORINTHIAN, BURDOCK,  
BIRDLIP, DUNCTON with S.T.66.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown 261541Z to N.O.I.C. Takordai,  
(R) Admty. etc.)Movements  
promulgationProcedure for promulgation of information given  
in my 241030 (re promulgation information own  
and enemy forces) will commence on 1st June.  
(C. in C.S.A. 261639B to S.A.Stn. G.647.)

/N.D....



War Diary.

26.5.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

N.D. Ships  
S. Africa.

Pass to N.C.S.Cs.  
Masters of N.D. Ships concerned should be informed that Capetown is the only South African port at which servicing of nets can be carried out and ships requiring servicing should be instructed to call at that port.  
(D.T.D. 261725B to C. in C.W.A. C. in C.E.F. F.O.C.W.A.F. N.S.H.Q. (R) B.A.D. Comnav.)

Movements  
Freetown.

Departures 1229Z/26th May, 1943. WITCH, CROCUS, DETROYAT, M.Ls. 296, 272 and 281, 209 escorting. (S.O.(I) Freetown 261939Z to R.N.O. Lagos, (R) Admty. etc.)

Movements  
Buenos Aires.

U.S. Cruisers CINCINNATI, OMAHA, MILWAUKEE arrived Montevideo May 22nd and sailed 26th May. (S.O.(I) Buenos Aires 261952Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.Af.)



988

War Diary.26.5.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

DOLFIJN. Your 252105. Proceed to pass position (P) casualties at 2200B thence to Malta as ordered by Capt. (S) off 10 to transfer wounded. P.314 (TACTITIAN) passes Ustica. (P)0001B/27 speed 100 miles per day. Dress officer's wound with Field dressings, keep patient still and do not attempt to remove bullet. (Capt. (S) 8, 260020B to P.47 (DOLFIJN) (R) Capt. (S) 10, C. in C. Med. 8th S.F.)

Route from P through  $037^{\circ} 07' 013^{\circ} 15'$  thence to R/V with M/S in  $036^{\circ} 08' 014^{\circ} 22'$  at 0830/28th. P.314 (TACTICIAN) also due at this time. (Capt. (S) 10, 260418B to P.47 (DOLFIJN) (R) P.64 (UNRUFFLED) 8th S/M.F., C. in C. Med.)

M.E. Air A.669 26 May. Daily Opsum 28. 24/25 May. Report. 25 Wellingtons railway sidings Messina. 1 landed Malta on outward journey engine trouble. 24 bombed objective, majority bombs dropping on sidings between terminus and railway station. About 5 fires started, 4000 lb. bomb burst in town south west of station. 1 x 4000 lb. H.E. 181 x 500 H.E. between 0158Z and 0210Z hours. 25 May. 53 U.S. Liberators (B.24) Ferry Terminus and railway sidings Messina. 9 returned early with technical troubles. 44 bombed objective scoring many hits along railway sidings from Terminus to town power station other bombs west of Terminus of eastern rim of Harbour in Citadel area and in area Naval Oil Depot. Fires started in town by incendiaries. Propaganda leaflets dropped. About 13 M.E.109's F.W.190's M.C.202's attacked, 1 enemy fighter shot down 5 probably destroyed 1 damaged. Several B.24's hit by A/A fire. 1 member of crews killed. 264 x 1000 lb. H.E. 78 SBC incendiary at 1135Z and 1215Z hours. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 260904Z)

Movements, Arrivals 25th May LARGS, JUMNA, GERALDTON, Alexandria. WOOLONGONG, BRIGAND, ROMEO, M.L.1004. Departures 25th May BEAUFORT, EXMOOR, ROCKWOOD, BELVOIR, SEKSERN, KANARIS, SAKTOURIS. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 260934C to Admty etc.)

M.K.F.15. Intend to sail STAFFORDSHIRE, STIRLING CASTLE, G.W. GOETHALS, J.W. MC ANDREW, J. ERRICSSSEN, NEA HELLAS, CRISTOBAL. (Com. N.O.B.Oran, 260942B to A.I.G.259 (R) Com. Algiers)

My 260942, also intend sailing to Gibraltar for U.S.A. SEATRIN TEXAS, LAKEHURST, EXAMINER, DARTMOUTH. (Com. N.O.B.Oran, 261702B to A.I.G.259.)

SUTLEJ. Departure 0442Z. (N.O.I.C.Aden, 260951Z to C. in C. Levant, etc.)

Proposed /...



War Diary.26.5.1945.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- Proposed transfer of Hudsons to Biscay. A.X.413 26th May. The urgency of obtaining practical experience of the R.P. weapon against the U-Boat is considered to justify in the present circumstance the temporary withdrawal of ten Hudsons from Gibraltar for operations in the Bay. The fruitfulness of the Bay area and U-Boat tactics of fighting it out on the surface give the greatest opportunity of obtaining quick results. We would therefore like to transfer ten R.P. fitted Hudsons temporarily from Gibraltar to U.K. Admiralty are in favour of this proposal. Should change in convoy or U-Boat situation in Gibraltar area require it this flight could be returned at short notice. Request you will signal your views.  
(Air Ministry, 261100Z to M.A.C. (Presumably Med. Air Command) (R) Gibraltar, C. in C. Med., H.Q.C.C., Admty.)
- U.G.L.4. Oran Section U.G.L.4 arrived.  
(Com. N.O.B.Oran, 261108B to Admty etc.)
- Italian Repatriations. For 0400/23rd read 0400/27th in my 230926.  
(Re. GRADISCA, CITTA DE TUNISI and ARGENTINA may have left Bari for Smyrna and not to be molested.)  
Confirmed ships sail on this date.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 261111B to TROOPER (R) 10th S/M.F.)
- Convoy E.T.21. E.T.21. Intend sailing the (?following): for U.K. THISTELDALE, SELVIK. For U.S. Escort LIBERTY, GLO, HAWAIIAN. For West Africa MANCHESTER CITIZEN.  
(N.O.I.C.Oran, 221116A to Admty. F.O.I.C.Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. Connav, (R) N.O.I.C.Algiers)
- Enemy Units. 1 destroyer and 1 tanker of 7000 tons in position 45.00 N. 6.40 E. course 180° speed 10 knots.  
(A/C.GOO/O via Malta, 261140 to Call Sign 22 L)
- ARETHUSE. Intend sailing ARETHUSE 1900/27th to patrol North of 042° N. N.W. of a line 225° from Spezia and East of 006° E. routed through 040° 00' 004° 33' at 0530/29th 042° 00' 006° 10' at 2000/30th.  
(2) Positions N. and E. time Zone minus 2.  
(Capt. (S) 8, 261152B to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.C.Gibraltar, N.O.I.C.Algiers, Capt. S.10, 8th S/M.F. LA SULTANE, F.S. ARETHUSE.)  
Sailing of ARETHUSE delayed 24 hours, amend all times in my 261152 accordingly.  
(Capt. (S) 8, 261552B)
- U/B. One S/M submerged bearing 270° distant 5 miles course unknown. Position 36.45 N. 02.29 E.  
(M.L.445, 261200A to Mostagane W/T Station)
- RORQUAL. Following is a repetition of my 261156 (Begins) Addressed A.I.G.71, A.I.G.72, A.I.G.76, (R) RORQUAL. Estimate RORQUAL position at 2300C/26th



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26.5.1945.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

RORQUAL  
(Contd.) 033° 19' 024° 16' routed through 032 08' 032°  
10' at 0115C/30th to arrive Port Said 0530C/30th.  
(Ends.)  
(Capt. (S) 1, 261201, to RORQUAL.)

Convoy Sailing as in my 241701 less DAIDORCH, GOVERT,  
GT. X.1. FLINCK, IMPERIAL TRANSPORT. Plus VILLE DE  
(?BOUGIE) for Bone and MIRROR for BIZERTA.  
Total 12 ships. Bougie C.C.O. pass to Jijelli  
C.C.O.  
(Cdre. Algiers, 261208B to A.I.G.260 (Negative  
S.O. Force H) R.A.H., Capt. (S) 8).

G.T.X.1. Arrived. SAN AMADO, BRITTANY COAST, HAAKON HUAN,  
EMPIRE DACE, four (ships?)  
(Com. Algiers, 261457 to Admty. etc.)  
My 261208. Repeated to escort G.T.X.1 for Cmdre. T.O.O.  
261536. Amend total to read 11 ships.  
(N.O.I.C. Algiers 261545B)

Force "P" / Jijelli C.C.O. and Sousse C.C.O. are named  
Force "L" automatically responsible for R.A. Force "P" and  
R.A. Force "L" respectively. Watch is maintained  
on broadcast by Mike X-ray. Cancel my 172055,  
not to R.A. Force "L". (N.T. in W.D.)  
(C. in C. Med. 261229B to Admty. (R.A.V.),  
C. in C. Levant, D.N.C./X.F., N.O.I.C. Malta, R.A.  
Force "P", R.A.F. Force "L".)

and 261229B

American \* Your 160924A. Seven American built M.T.B's  
M.T.B's. numbered 88, 90/94 and 198 intended for Russia  
have arrived in U.K. and have been turned over to  
us. They are provisionally allocated for high  
speed target service as it is not desired to  
include them in Coastal Forces at home. (2) (Details)  
(3) Very limited stores and spares accompanied boats, but no  
torpedoes or depth charges have been provided. (4) Performance  
is not known, but may be comparable with Higgins Boats described  
in your 160924A. (5) No crews can be provided from U.K.  
(6) Do you consider that these boats would be of value to you  
as spare boats observing (a) that spares may and torpedoes  
would have to be requisitioned from U.S.A. (b) Difficulties  
experienced here in the past in preparing M.T.B's from U.S. for  
active service (c) acute shortage of suitable shipping  
facilities.  
(D.O.D.(C), 261229B to C. in C. Med. (R) C.C.F.)  
Reply: C. in C. Med. 271914.

Malta. ? Revised directive to Governor and C. in C.  
(Air Min. 261400Z to Mideast for C.s in C. etc.)  
See Lion Copy.

Convoy E.T.21 sailed as in my 241702 (N.T. in W.R.) for  
E.T.21. RHODE ISLAND read PAN RHODE ISLAND. Commodore  
Cdr. Hayward R.N.R. and two signal staffs in  
SPERO. Commodore Tunbridge R.N.R. is being  
held at Algiers for special duty.  
(Cdre. Algiers, 261454B to A.I.G. Admty etc.)

E.T.21 /...



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990A

# MOST SECRET

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

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

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

261400Z/May

FROM: Air Ministry.

Date: 26.5.43.

Recd: -

CYpher

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ADDRESSED: Midcast (for Cs in C. and pass to Minister of State and C. in C. Levant), Britman Washington (for J.S.M.) Freedom, Algiers (for General Eisenhower) (via ETOUSA as No. 3017 T.O.O. 261323Z)

IMPORTANT.

*MALTA - Directive to Governor.*

OZ.1476. 26th May 1943.

The following Revised Directive to Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Malta (in substitution of Directive contained in Telegram No. 180 dated 17th March, 1943, from Colonial Office to Malta) is sent for your information. Begins:-

1. You are appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief Malta.
  2. In your capacity as Governor you will deal direct with the Secretary of State for the Colonies in all matters relating to civil administration, including any matters arising out of paragraph 5 below.
  3. In your capacity as Commander-in-Chief you will be Supreme Commander in the Island. Where in your judgment the safety of the island is endangered you will exercise this authority in any manner which appears to you to be necessary.
  4. In the event of an invasion you will command all sea, land and air forces located in or operating from Malta.
  5. For purposes of offensive operations based on Malta you will, in your capacity as Commander-in-Chief be responsible for the co-ordination of all administrative preparations, civil and military, within the island. In cases where there is a conflict of priorities either between the requirements of two or more Service commanders or between civil and military requirements which, in your judgment, cannot be resolved locally, you will refer the matter to the British Chiefs of Staff.
  6. You will consult with the Commander-in-Chief Allied Forces in North Africa, or other appropriate authorities in the Mediterranean and Middle East, as may be necessary.
- Subject to the above the Naval and Air Force Commanders will remain under their respective Commanders-in-Chief. The G.O.C. Malta, will come directly under your Command. They will,

however.....



However, keep you fully informed of all important signals exchanged with their respective Commanders-in-Chief and, in particular, of all signals which in any way affect the discharge of the responsibilities laid upon you in the preceding paragraphs. Ends.

261400Z

Air Ministry circulation:

1st Lord.	Brigadier Jacob.
1st S.L. (2)	Foreign Secretary.
D.F.S.L	First Sea Lord.
4th S.L.	C.6. Telegrams War Office.
5th S.L.	A.M.C.S. (C)
V.C.N.S.	C.C.O
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	S. of S. for Colonies.
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)	
A.C.N.S. (W)	
Sec.	
N.A. (Mails)	
P.A.S. (S)	
D.O.D. (F) (2)	
D.O.D. (H) (2)	
D.N.I. (4)	
D. of P. (2)	
D.C.	
D.D.I.C. (2)	
D. of P. (Q) (2)	
Hd. of M. (2)	
I.P. (2)	
W.D.	
Ad. Blake.	
D. of L.D.	
D.A.W.T.	
D.N.A.O	
Hd. of Air.	



War Diary.26.5.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- Convoy E.T.21 arrived BRISK, JANINE, LES ISSERS, VACUUM, E.T.21. F.S. RHODES, GULF PRINCE, MARS, AGATHA, VILLE (Contd.) DE JIJELLI. (N.O.I.C. Algiers 261456B. to Admty. etc.)
- SPORTSMAN. Leave patrol through 042° 00' 006° 38' at 0330/30 038° 18' 003° 41' at 2002/1st June thence R/V escort Algiers and P.219 (SERAPH) in 036° 56' 003° 14' at 0630/2nd June. (Capt. S.8. 261438B. to P.229 (SPORTSMAN) (R) F.O.C. Gib. C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Algiers, 8th S/M.F. LA SULTANE, ARETHUSE.)
- Convoys, Ref. Com. N.O.B. Oran's 222010 (222012 intended re Algiers. Oran arrivals and departures 22nd.) and 221753 (N.T. in W.R.), two French? Convoys arrived. Eight ships. (Cdre. Algiers 261442B. to Admty. etc.)
- H.D.M.Ls. X Your 081829 April. 1. Four H.D.M.Ls. additional to Turkey. those mentioned in 101920B May have been allocated to Turkey at a priority second only Western Med. It is hoped to be able to sail them from U.K. about end of August. 2. As soon as completion dates of boats are known, and urgent operational needs decided on, a further signal will be made regarding the provision of the remaining 7 boats. 3. Every endeavour will be made to provide them before the end of the year. (D. of L.D. Approved by A.C.N.S. (F) 261518B. to N.A. Ankara (R) C. in C. Levant.)
- P.R.U. May 26th visuals. 1245 Taranto 2 battleships, 2 cruisers. 1340 Castellamare 1 cruiser. 1400 Messina no major naval units. (V.A. Malta 261531B. to C. in C. Med. etc.)
- Movements, May 26th. Arrival PACIFIC (cable ship). Port Sudan. Departure OWEN SUMMERS for Capetown PACIFIC for Suez. (S.S.T.O. Port Sudan 261631Z. to D. of S.T. (R) P.S.T.O. Egypt, Middle East.)
- Floating Your 052150, Floating Docks for North Africa. Docks. Arrangements being made for supply with A.F.D. 18 of docking shores, equipment and stores for dock, but not base stores for repair of vessels using dock. As this dock is intended for Oran, and will be manned and operated by U.S.N. it is assumed, unless information received to contrary, that necessary repair materials in connection with its use will be supplied by U.S. Authorities. 2. Request confirmation that any repair materials for Algiers for use in connection with Modevido (?Montevideo) 5000 ton dock and additional to materials being arranged for in satisfaction of your 1029/20/12/42 and 1846/7/1, will either be demanded by you or obtained from U.S.A. if this dock is manned and operated by U.S.N. (as is hoped). (D. of D. Bath 261647B. to C. in C. Med.)

/N.W.A.A.F...



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26.5.1943.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

N.W.A.A.F. M. 5205. N.W. African Air Force Opsum 94, May 25th Report. N.A. Strategic Air Force 24/25th May. 18 Wellingtons despatched Olbia. 2 returned early. Dropped (?23) x 1000, 84 x 500 and 3 x 250 from 7000 ft. on docks and marshalling yards, fires started. 2 ships left burning. A third burning ship blew up. Italian pamphlets dropped. 25th May. 103 Fortresses (B17), 12 returned early, on (?4) missions against Messina, dropped 228 x 1000 and 588 x 500 from 23750 ft. 2 Fortresses destroyed, 1 missing and 20 damaged. 13 M.E. 109s. destroyed 4 probably destroyed and 5 damaged. 11 Lightnings (P38) rail road tunnel near Palermo dropped 7 x (? 1000) from 3000 feet. 1 Lightning missing. 4 Lightnings dropped 4 by 500 on jetty and power station at Porto Scuso from 1200 feet. 1 direct hit on M/V set on fire. 34 Mitchells (B25) escort 27 Lightnings (P38) 3 of each type returned early, attacked Licata Harbour. Fighter bombers dropped 90 x 1000 from 3000 feet. Medium bombers dropped (225 or 300?) from 10,000 feet. Results good. 36 Marauders escorted by 29 Lightnings, 2 bombers and 6 fighters returned early, attacked Porto Empedocle. Mediums dropped 260 x 300 from 10500 feet hitting sulphur refinery and railways junction near East quay. Fighter bombers dropped 6 x 1000 from 3000 feet hitting power house and sugar refinery. One Marauder missing. 10 Lightnings, (?2) returned early.

Dropped (6 or 3?) x 1000 from 2500 feet on Terranova. 1 Lightning destroyed by flak. One D.O.217 destroyed over target 28 Lightnings, 1 carrying 1000 pound bombs, 7 returned early, bombed Bocca di Falco Aerodrome from 3000 feet, bursts seen among A/C on ground in combat 2 F.W.190 and 7 M.E. 109 destroyed 2 M.E.109 damaged. 6 Lightnings missing. 60 Warhawks made 2 attacks Pantellaria, 5 returned early. Dropped 162 x 20 Frag. bombs from 10,000 ft and 12 x 500 from 1500 to 3000 feet hits on docks aerodrome and barracks West of Valenza. 20 Lightnings Milo Aerodrome, 8 carrying 1 x 500, dropped 1500 feet. Hits on Hangars and Admin. buildings 4 Lightnings attacked Porto Scuso dropping 4 x 1000 from 2500 ft, large explosion docks, tug set afire. N.A. Tactical A.F. (?25th May) 8 Warhawks 2 attacks Pantellaria dropping 8 x (?300 or 500). 6 Mitchells escort 12 Spits. attacked Military concentrations North side Pantellaria. 48 x 250 from 10,000 ft. (H.Q., N.W.A.A.F. Adv. 261649B, 261856B.)

Enemy P.C. and S. of 1 Destroyer at 1624B 38.58 N.  
Units. 13.53 E. 230° 15 knots. Position based on a fix obtained at 1700.  
(A/C G.L.O/H via Alexandria 261655B.)  
One medium vessel in 38.22 N. 13.30 E. based on fix within half an hour of 1800 course 020° speed 5 knots, sighted at 1746B.  
(A/C G.L.O/H in Malta 261805B.)

M/V A.M. 241910 (see Foreign Stations - General).  
Recognition Concur.  
Checkmate (C. in C. Med. 261700B. to Admty.)  
System.

/SCYTHIA...



War Diary.

26.5.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

SCYTHIA. Ref. my 211701A. (211710 intended). See Admty. 251545 to C. in C. Med. (P.S.T.O. Med. 261730B. to D. of S.T. London (R) F.O.I.C. Gib.)

LAURANA. Your 211142 No. There are still some documents to be examined. (V.A. Malta 261903B. to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.)

ALETTA. Request you will sail tanker ALETTA for Bizerta in first through convoy. Ship is urgently required as water carrier. (C. in C. Med. 262021B. to C. in C. Levant, (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Bizerta, Cominch.)

Anglo-French X Command of mixed convoy escorts on Mediterranean  
Convoy Station has been agreed with French Admiralty  
Escorts. as follows to facilitate conduct of A/S operations.  
(A) French escort vessels joining at sea an emergency? escort will act under orders of Allied S.O. Escort irrespective of seniority.  
(B) When convoy forms in port and majority of escorts are British or U.S. while the S.O. is French, command of escort is to be decided locally and is to depend on whether French vessel concerned is fitted with Asdic, R.D.F., signal communications and Liaison personnel necessary to exercise such command efficiently. (1) If French ship is so fitted the French S.O. acting as S.O. escort for all purposes. (2) If French ship is not so fitted the French Control Officer is to delegate command of escort for all purposes to Senior Allied Commander, putting himself under latter's orders.  
(C. in C. Med. 262024B. to Med. Station K.451 (R) Admty. C. in C. Levant, R.A.W.A.F.)

K.M.F.15. Arrived STAFFORDSHIRE, STIRLING CASTLE. (Comnob, Oran 262028B. to Admty. etc.)

Malta A.I. 584 26th May. C.S.R. (A) Air Part 1.  
Air Offensive. Day 25 May. 12 Spitfires made  
Report. offensive sweep South of Sicily. Night 25/26  
May. 2 Albatrosses, 1 carrying bombs and 1 carrying a torpedo made armed search for enemy shipping along East Coast of Sicily. Mosquitoes made intruder patrols in Catania area and along coast of Eastern Sicily and South East Italy. Day 26 May, 23 Spitfires were airborne providing escort withdrawal cover and diversionary sweep over Southern Sicily for bombing attack of Southern Sicilian aerodromes by N.W.A.A.F. Liberators escorting Spitfires rendezvoused with Liberators 20 or 24 miles S.W. of



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War Diary.26.5.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Malta Air Report (Contd.) Soalambri and escorted them to and from the target. 10 M.E. 109s. and F.W. 190s. attempting to attack bombers in Comiso area were driven off by Spitfires. Part 2. Enemy air activity, day 25th, 1610 30 plus enemy fighters approached Malta at great height and were intercepted by 19 Spitfires but raiders avoided combat and returned. Night 25/26, 2 Beaufighters made interception patrols to East of Sicily. Day 26 May 093020, enemy fighters approached Malta at height but turned back on being intercepted by 8 Spitfires. 24 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta. Part 5. Ops. by A/C of other Commands. Day 25. 5 Liberators 3 of 345 and 1 each of 343 and 514 Sqdns. Ninth Bomber Cmd. Airborne to bomb Messina ferry terminus landed at Malta after being damaged by flak. Bomb bursts were seen on and near ferry berth and railway yards. 1 stick straddled a ship alongside Quay, a fire was seen near railway station and another 1 mile N. of Messina. Several M.S.202s. were encountered over target, a M.C. 202 was damaged by 1 Liberator. (A.H.Q. Malta 262030Z, 262103Z, 262124Z.)  
A.I. 585. Daily Opsum 17, 25/26 May.  
(A.H.Q. Malta, 262220B.)

Movements, Tripoli. Sailed CROMARTY, BOSTON, ROMNEY, HECTOR, SEAHAM. (S.N.O. Tripolitania 262101B. to Admty.)

ALDENHAM. Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk 262101C. to Admty.)

Oran, Movements. Today's arrivals were L.S.Ts. 331, 322, 380, 410, 417, 420, 423, 425, 429, 427, 430, 257, 16, 61, VISENDA. Fr. S/M LA VESTALE. Departures VISENDA. (Com. N.O.B. Oran 262146B. to Admty. etc.)

Movements, Algiers. Arrived and departed LIDDESDALE, VENOMOUS, VELOX? JAVELIN, KELVIN, GAVOTTE, TANGO, KING SOL, REIGHTON WYKE, DELHI. Arrivals C. in C. Med. in CLEOPATRA, TARTAR M.M.S.20, 184 U.S. L.S.Ts. 385, 325, PRODIGAL, French COMMANDANT DELAGE. Departures Tug RESTIVE, VIENNA, MIRROR, MISOA, L.S.T. 368 U.S.N. SUNFLOWER, JULIET, S/M. P.211. (Cdre. Algiers 262157B. to Admty. etc.)

Convoy Programme. Following convoy programme is intended Eastbound convoys and Westbound convoys. (C. in C. Med. 262201B. to A.I.G.260 etc.) See Lion Copy.

Movements, Bizerta. Bizerta arrivals. HAZARD, SPEEDWELL, HUSSAR (?BRIXHAM) BREAM, ALBACORE, ESPIEGLE, CIRCE, CADMUS, WESTRAY, HUNDA, ST. DAY, P.T.656. My 252056B (N.T. in W.D.) for SUSTAIN read SENTINEL. (F.O.I.S. 262242B. to C. in C. Med. etc.) Amendment see 272114.

Movements /...



# MOST SECRET

*med*  
26/5/43  
994A

**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.

IN

~~MOST SECRET~~ Messages shown as having been sent in a ~~Code~~ <sup>262801</sup> ~~by~~ <sup>by</sup> ~~Nav. Pad :~~  
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

From . C. in C. Mediterranean Naval Cypher C by Cable Date 27/5/43  
Recd. 1320

### CORRECTION & RECIRCULATION

Addressed A.I.G. 260, Commorseafront, N.O.i/c Malta. Repeated C. in C. Levant, H.Q. N.A.C.A.F., H.Q. N.A.A.F., N.L.O. N.A.S.A.F., R.A.L.

Following convoy programme is intended.

*Mediterranean Convoy Programme*

**For Eastbound convoys:-**

(1) Convoy	(2) Gibraltar	(3) Oran	(4) Algiers	(5) Bougie	(6) Phillippoville/Bone
KMS.15/ UGS.8A	June 1st	2nd	3rd	3rd	4th
GTX.2	June 8th	9th	10th	10th	11th
KMS.16/ UGS.9	June 16th	17th	18th	18th	19th
GTX.3	June 23rd	24th	25th	25th	26th

(1) Convoy	(7) Bizerta/Tunis	(8) Sousse	(9) Malta	(10) Gabs/Gfax	(11) Tripoli
KMS.15/ UGS.8A	June 5th	5th	6th	6th	7th
GTX.2	June 12th	12th	13th	13th	14th
KMS.16/ UGS.9	June 20th	20th	21st	21st	Bone
GTX.3	June 27th	27th	28th	28th	29th

**For Westbound convoy:-**

(1) Convoy	(2) Tripoli	(3) Sfax/Gabs	(4) Sousse	(5) Malta	(6) Tunis/Bizerta
XTG.1	June 8th	9th	10th	9th	10th
MKS.15/ GUS.8A	June 15th	16th	17th	16th	18th
XTG.2	June 23rd	24th	25th	24th	26th
MKS.16/ GUS.9	June 30th	Jul.1st	Jul.2nd	1st	3rd

  

(1) Convoy	(7) Bone /Phillippoville	(8) Bougie	(9) Algiers	(10) Oran	(11) Gibraltar
XTG.1	June 11th	11th	12th	13th	14th
MKS.15/ GUS.8A	June 18th	19th	19th	20th	21st
XTG.2	June 26th	27th	(?28th)	29th	30th
MKS.16/ GUS.9	July 3rd	4th	4th	5th	6th

/ Dates



Dates are those on which section r/vs with main convoy except those (?shown) for Tripoli and Gibraltar which are dates of arrival and departure.

Dates for Malta are those on which convoys arrive on Eastbound passage and depart when Westbound.

262201B

Advance copies Duty Captain

D.O.D. (H)

D.T.D.

1st S.L. (2)

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (H)

A.C.N.S. (F) (2)

A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)

U.W.R.

N.I. Mails

D.O.D. (F) (2)

D.O.D. (H) (2)

D.T.D. (3)

D.T.D. (M)

D.T.D. (C)

Head of M. (10)

D.D.I.O. (2)

D. of P. (2)

D. of S.T. (2)

I.P. (2)

W.D.

D.C. (2)

Admiral Blake

D.S.O.

U.S.N. (3)

R.A. (V) (4)

GM



War Diary.

26.5.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements,  
Port Said.

26th May Port Said arrivals CUMBRAE, ORION, WAYLAND  
departures AETOS, ISLAY, COUNDOURIOTIS, ORION.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 262248C. to Admty. etc.)



26.5.1943.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Convoy Amend date of M.O.M.P. in P to June 2nd.  
 U.S. 19. 2. SUSSEX and CANTON acknowledge.  
 SUSSEX, (C. in C. E.F., 260816Z to SUSSEX, CANTON, A.C.N.  
 CANTON, B., C.T.F.71, Cdre. W. Australia, F.O. Ceylon,  
 M.O.M.P. N.O.I.C. Aden, F.O.R.S.F., C.S.4, (R) D. of S.T.,  
 P.S.T.O. Bombay, P.S.T.O.M.E., F.O.C.R.I.N.)  
 See Cdre. W. Australia 260659Z (Australia and  
 New Zealand).  
 Your 251303Z (N.T. in W.R.), your 251308Z (N.T. in W.D.) and  
 your 260816Z acknowledged.  
 M.O.M.P. CANTON in P (003?) 50' S. 074° 00' E. at 0900Z June  
 2nd.  
 (SUSSEX, 261221Z to C. in C. E.F., (R) CANTON, F.O. Ceylon,  
 Cdre. W. Australia.)

SCOUT. Colombo arrival 26th, 0830Z SCOUT.  
 (F.O. Ceylon, 261128Z to Admty.)

Ceylon Movement Summary No. 52, 26th May.

1. BENGAL left Calcutta 21st May escorting ELLENGA to Chittagong.
2. BALUCHISTAN left Bombay 25th May escorting B.P.81 due Quoin Island 30th May.
3. CLIVE left Karachi 23rd May for Khor Kwai.
4. CARNATIC and BATHURST leave Khor Kwai 30th May escorting P.B.43.
5. JAY left Colombo 25th May due Trincomalee 27th May.
6. KONKAN and LAUNCESTON leave Bandar Abbas 27th May escorting P.B. 42.
7. LAOMEDON arrived Madras 25th May.
8. MADRAS left Khor Kwai 25th May escorting P.A.39 due Aden 1st June.
9. NETRAVATI left Colombo 25th May escorting J.C.12 due Madras 28th May.
10. PUNJAB left Aden 23rd May for Saalah thence R/V 28th May with A.P. 32.
11. SCOUT arrived Colombo 26th May.
12. HINDUSTAN left Bombay 25th May escorting B.M. 53 due Colombo 29th May.
13. TAMWORTH left Bombay 23rd May escorting B.P.80 (? and half) due Quoin Island 28th May.
14. TEWERA left Trincomalee 25th due Colombo 27th.
15. WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN due Addu Atoll 27th thence Colombo. (F.O. Ceylon, 261140Z to Admty., etc.)

U.S. Pacific Fleet dispositions. A.M. 201500. Changes in U.S. Pacific Fleet.  
 TENNESSEE, BLOCK ISLAND, ESSEX and TRENTON - at sea. LONG ISLAND and PORTLAND - at San Diego.  
 BARNES and NASHVILLE - en route to U.S.A.  
 SALT LAKE CITY and INDIANAPOLIS - in N. Pacific.  
 (D.O.D.(F), 261824B to C. in C. E.F.)

/NIEUW ...



War Diary.

26.5.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

NIEUW My 242316B.  
AMSTERDAM. There are 3150 personnel in NIEUW AMSTERDAM for transhipment for onward conveyance to Bombay and P.A.I.C.  
2. Vessel is due Colombo about 3rd June.  
Request you will arrange for shipping for this number to be available for direct transhipment without delaying NIEUW AMSTERDAM.  
3. Delay to her is most unacceptable as it would involve corresponding postponement of her sailing from Suez with New Zealand personnel, most undesirable from an operational point of view.  
4. This proposal is subject to C. in C. E.F.'s concurrence.  
5. A.C.N.B. is requested to warn Master and O.C. troops to be prepared for transhipment.  
6. After transhipment has been effected NIEUW AMSTERDAM should continue to Suez.  
(D. of S.T., 262129B to P.S.T.O. India, (R) F.O. Ceylon and for S.T.O. Colombo, C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.R.I.N., P.S.T.O.M.E., F.O.R.S.C.A., C. in C. Levant, A.C.N.B.)

Troop In view of P.S.T.O.M.E. 241123C and B.A.D. movements, 242153Z it is now intended that MAURETANIA MAURETANIA. should proceed from Capetown to Ceylon where transhipment of her 6450 personnel for Bombay and P.A.I.C. will be arranged. She should arrive Ceylon about 12th June.  
2. Proposed that STRATHAIRD and STRATHMORE arriving Bombay in W.S.29 about 7th June should, after disembarkation, proceed forthwith to Ceylon. Personnel in MAURETANIA will there be transhipped direct to these ships for movement to Bombay. Onward conveyance from Bombay of personnel for P.A.I.C. should be arranged by you as usual.  
3. This proposal is subject to C. in C. E.F.'s concurrence.  
4. After transhipment has been effected MAURETANIA should continue to Suez.  
(D. of S.T., 262140B to P.S.T.O. India, (R) F.O. Ceylon and for S.T.O. Colombo, C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.R.I.N., B.A.D., C. in C. S.A., P.S.T.O. Capetown, P.S.T.O.M.E., F.O.R.S.C.A., C. in C. Levant.)



War Diary.

26.5.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

- U.G.S. convoys. Your 252054 see C.M.T.C. 40/1 dated 13th May 1943 Table I. Certain amendments have been made in light of recent decisions and revised table will be forwarded shortly. (B.A.D., 260013Z to Admty).
- AJASA overdue. Your 242053Z. Last report of AJASA is arrival Lagos 10th April vide N.C.S.O. Lagos, 101810Z April. Vessel was engaged on shuttle service between Lagos and Port Harcourt. (D.T.D., 260030Z to Connav).
- RAVAGER Seattle departed 0700/25. (N.S.H.Q., 260034Z to Admty. (R) B.A.D., C.O.P.C.) Following received from Comnorwestseafon as 250719 passed to you by Cominch (Begins) RAVAGER departed Cape Flattery 250700Z, at Balboa 6th June. (Route). S. of A. 15 26 May 1 June. (U.S. Navcom Washington 261122Z to N.S.H.Q. Admty).
- ATHENE San Francisco arrived 251727. (N.S.H.Q. 260035Z to Admty. (R) B.A.D., C.O.P.C.)
- MATSONIA San Francisco May 24th MATSONIA (U.S.A.T.) for Auckland and Brisbane. (N.S.H.Q., 260035Z to D.N.I. Wellington).
- S.C. 131 U/Bs. A.M. 260040B and 260802B (N.T. in W.D.) At 0700Z Series 8 changed to 7905 k/cs. (D.D.I.C., 260929B to Escorts of S.C. 131, (R) Cominch, N.S.H.Q., A.C.I.C., C. in C. W.A., H.Q.C. C.)  
Transmission on 7905 k/cs of which bearings were obtained at 0728Z may have been a sighting report of S.C. 131. (D.D.I.C., 261046B to S.C.131 (R) Cominch etc).  
A.M. 260040B, 260802B and 260929B. Series 8 changed to 9350 k/cs at 0900Z. (D.D.I.C., 261125B to S.C.131 (R) Cominch. etc).  
Preliminary D/F bearings on 9350 k/cs at 0920Z indicate U/B in your vicinity which has probably reported you. (D.D.I.C., 261217B to S.C. 131 (R) Cominch etc).
- U.S. S/M notice (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 260043Z, 260740Z, S/M estimate 261450Z, 261451Z, 261557Z, 261558Z, 261559Z). 26th May.
- B.D.Vs.  Lorsa 9510 Ref. Salor 7588 (re Mediterranean requirements) para. 2.  
1. Agreed at M.A.C. meeting 24th May that the 20 Boom Defence vessels building under the 1799 ship programme would be assigned, 5 to U.K. and 15 to U.S. Actual hull numbers not yet decided but we are pressing for delivery of as many of our quota as possible this year.



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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies

B.D.Vs. (contd). 2. Present forecast of completions is 8 vessels this year and a further 12 by May 1944.  
3. This arrangement was the best we could obtain, as U.S. are very short of these vessels and have urgent operational requirements for them. It may still be possible to attain target of 12 vessels by mid '44 as a new programme of 36 more vessels appears in Bureau of Ships Progress Report of 1st May and we are pressing for these vessels to be completed as soon as possible.  
(B.A.D., 260051Z to Admty).

Movements 25th May St. Johns N.F. Arrivals WASAGA ex Halifax escorting H.J.53 FORT WILLIAM, FREDERICTON ex Halifax escorting H.J.52, M.L. 063 ex Wabana. TROIS RIVIERES ex Sydney escort in L.C.56.  
Departures M.L. 062 to Wabana. FREDERICTON escorting W.B.21 to Sydney.  
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 260202Z to Admty).  
U.S.C.G. MODOC (patrolling?) Yarmouth from Argentia departure SWIFT CURRENT escorting special river group No. 3.  
(C. Halifax, 262100Z to Admty. etc).

Movements, New York. New York departed 25th May ST. ALBANS escorting H.X. 241. New York arrived 25th May CHELSEA escorting O.N.183.  
(N.S.H.Q., 260615Z to Admty).

Convoy H.F.56. Arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. St. John N.B., 260630Z to Admty).

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary 1800 G.M.T. 26th.	CARNARVON	09½° N. 24° W.	077°	15
	CASTLE			
	CILICIA	09° N. 26° W.	Patrol	Blank
	WORCESTERSHIRE	13½° N. 34° W.	031°	13
	(D.O.D. (F) 260916Z to Opnav (R) Comnavau).			

BLACKWOOD, DRURY. Departing Bermuda about 1200Z/27th May through positions M. 32.42 64.42. N. 35.55, 68.40. O. 39.58 72.51. BLACKWOOD and BRURY to destination New York. S. of A. 11, E.T.A. 1100Z/30.  
(N.O.B. Bermuda, 261042 to Cinclant, (R) Admty. Cominch, Com. 3., BLACKWOOD, DRURY, S.B.N.O.W.At. C.E.S.F.)

Fuelling at Sea. Delay in Answering your 041402Z is regretted. Steadying line is intended as an aid to station keeping and should not be subjected by escort vessel to towing strain. Necessity for special fairlead is not clear.  
(D.T.D., 261127B to B.R.L.O. New York).



26.5.1943.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

M/V Recognition, Checkmate System. / Your 242031 (Giving repetition of Admty. 241910 see Foreign Stations - General) Submitted. Would appreciate information as to circumstances envisaged in which this procedure might concern me.

2. If it is intended for information of H.M. ships calling here who may not have received it from higher sources request instructions as to which categories of ships are affected. Presume cruisers, armed merchant cruisers and escort carriers, but not smaller types.

3. As Connav is amongst addressees presume it is not for me to pass to Compaseafron.

4. If it is considered possible that I might be called on by one of the addressees for information regarding whereabouts of some vessels, would point out that unless sent through Compaseafron question and reply would have to be sent in cypher by cable involving considerable delay, as I do not hold the letter co-ordinated table.  
(B.N.L.O. Cristobal, 261131R to Admty.)

Convoy H.J.53 Arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 261221Z to Admty).

Convoy B.X.54. Sailing telegram (17 ships list etc). 7.5 knots P Z. (Route).  
May 26th 2000Z at position (E) E.T.A. Halifax 2230Z/28th. Task Unit 24.18.10 GEORGETOWN (S.O.) BRANTFORD, DUNDAS and MAHONE. "Chop" 2200 my 27th.  
(P.D. Boston 261225Z 262014Z to Connav, etc).

Convoy H.S.87. Arrived less ROYALITE.  
(N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B.261233Z to Admty).

N.S.H.Q. S/M estimate. N.S.H.Q. estimate of submarines north of 040° N. west of 040° W. 1200Z/26th.  
(N.S.H.Q., 261425Z).

Washops 109. X Aleutian. U.S. Troops have made slight advance both sides Chichagof Valley but have not yet captured Holtz Bay, Chichagof pass.  
During enemy air attack by 16 bombers p.m. May 23rd 6 U.S. Fighters scored 5 - 7 - 0. Bombs were jettisoned and neither shipping nor ground troops were attacked.  
(J.S.M. 261607 to Admty. etc).

SEARCHER Departure 1430 G.M.T. 26th May SEARCHER E.T.A. Norfolk (Virginia) 0900 G.M.T. 1st June.  
(B.R.L.O. Cristobal 261629R to Admty. C. in C. B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., S.O.(I) Jamaica).

/Convoy...



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26.5.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

- Convoy S.C.129. Average speed not reported. Arrival off Oversay 200100Z. KYKLADES lost convoy in fog and put into Azores. Proceeding independently. GRADO and ANTIGONE torpedoed sunk. Remainder arrived.  
(D.T.D., 261639B to Connav, (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.A.)
- "Torch" Orders. J.S.M. 946. 26th May. Ref. C.O.S. (W) 616 (181500). U.S. Chiefs of Staff agree to your giving "Torch" orders to U.S.S.R. and suggest that they be asked in return for their orders or plans for their successful campaign winter 1942/3.  
(J.S.M. 261653Z to W.C.O. London).
- Movements E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 262300Z escorting LADY RODNEY. Boiler hours, MIDLAND, KAMLOOPS, TRANSCONA. KAMLOOPS, defects.  
(MIDLAND, 261830Z to F. O.N.F. Connav).
- Convoy S.C.132 Sailing Telegram (45 ships) (2) Gate 1100Z/26th (4) 7.5 knots. (5) Ocean route (details). (6) W.8.  
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 261850Z, 261900Z to Admty).
- Convoy S.H.83 Sailing telegram (10 ships) 2. 1400Z/27 3. 2000Z/28 4. 8 knots. 5. (route). 6. BUXTON, MOOSEJAW.  
(N.C.S.O. Sydney, 261917Z, 261919Z to C. in C. C.N.A)
- A.T.47 1. A.T.47 pre sailing telegram. Admty. 201626B May, N.S.H.Q's 211401Z May.  
2. CHEBUCTO, 0400Z May 28th.  
3. 056° 12' N., 013° 00' W., at 0500Z June 2nd Bar light vessel 0730Z June 3rd.  
4. 19.5 knots. 5. (route). "Chop" 1930Z May 29th route K. (15) Codeword "Hickory" bunkers for 14 days.  
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 261944Z to Admty. Cominch, C. and R.)
- FLORIDA T.B.15. Radio Washington pass to Admty. and N.S.H.Q. 271600 FLORIDA (U.S.A.T.) R/V with T.B.15 at position (j). If R/V (?is) (corrupt group) vessel proceeds to Recife, 292200 May (?position) (j) (?3) June Recife.  
(Route) Knots (i) 16, (ii) 17.5.  
(R.O. Port of Spain, 262003, to C.C.S.F., N.S.H.Q., Admty. Com. 4th Fleet. (R) U.S. Destroyer SOMERS).
- DESEADO DESEADO keep bright lookout for vessels on your port bow tonight steering due west until crossing 036° W., thence rejoin route at position U U.  
(Cominch, 262050Z to B.A.M.S.1 B. DESEADO).  
/S.C....







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War Diary.

26.5.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements Arrival Brisbane 24th ECHUCA. Melbourne 24th  
NEPAL. Departure Milne Bay 24th SHEPPARTON for  
Stephan Island and return to Milne Bay.  
(A.C.N.B., 260059Z to Admt).  
Arrival 22nd May Portland Road U.S. Transport MAETSUYCKER.  
2. 25th Townsville V.S.I.S. MERKUR U.S. H.T. NIROPUW, AMSTERDAM,  
Thursday Island R.A.A.F. Store ship WANAKA.  
26th Brisbane U.S. Transport PRESIDENT JOHNSON. U.S. Transport  
CREMER depart Townsville 24th due Gladstone 26th H.T. KATOOMBA  
depart Cairns 25th due Thursday Island 28th. H.T. DUNTRON  
depart Townsville 25th due Thursday Island 27th thence Darwin.  
(Comsouwestpac Sea Frontier, 261101Z to Admt. Connav).  
25th May arrivals Milne Bay. BUNBURY from Cairns.  
Port Moresby, WAGGA from Cairns, Brisbane, VENDETTA, CAP DES  
PALMES. Departures Sydney N.S.W. WARRNAMBOOL. MILDURA,  
FREMANTLE escorting convoy C.O.95, DERNA, ADELAIDE for Melbourne.  
(A.C.N.B., 261452Z to Admt. etc).

U.S.19 C.B.04024 (41) para. 88.  
(1) U.S.19 (Sailing telegram (2 ships)  
(2) 0400Z May 26th. (3) 1000Z May 29th at 025°  
15' S., 090° 54' E. with SUSSEX, "Chop" East.  
Indies Station 2200Z May 26th. (4) 18 knots. (Route)  
to Colombo S. of A. 19½ knots E.T.A. Colombo 1300Z June 3rd.  
(6) Both vessels D.S. TROMP to 025° 15' S. 090° 54' E. thence  
SUSSEX to (P) thence DOMINION MONARCH, CANTON to Aden and NIEUW  
AMSTERDAM, SUSSEX to Colombo.  
(N.C.S.O. Fremantle, 260413Z to Admt).  
Netherlands Cruiser TROMP departed Fremantle 0300Z  
Wednesday 26th escorting U.S. 19 DOMINION MONARCH and NIEUW  
AMSTERDAM to R/V SUSSEX at 1000Z Saturday 29th in 025° 15' S.,  
090° 54' E. Local escort TJERK HIDDES to 110°E. 2.Communications.  
(3) My convoy sailing telegram 260413 refers.  
(Cdre. W. Australia 260659Z to C.S.W.P.S.F., C. in C. E.F.  
F.O. Ceylon (R) SUSSEX, CANTON, Comsouwestpac, N.O.I.C.  
Aden, F.O.C.R.I.N., Admt. F.O.R.S.C.A., TROMP).  
See C. in C. E.F., 260816Z (East Indies).

Digest One Fortress attacked 3 Barges Talasea Area  
Serial No. afternoon 24th and later bombed Cape Gloucester  
491 May 25th. aerodrome.  
2. Large S/M observed passing Cape Orford course  
North morning 25th.  
7. S/M reported sighted 32 miles East Coff's  
harbour before dawn. S/M submerged on sighting.  
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 260732Z to Admt).

Kiwi 43. Single enemy aircraft attacked Espiritu Santo  
early a.m. 23/5, no damage.  
Aircraft sighted submarine between Swaklow Island  
and Santa Cruz Island 1422M/25.  
U.S.S. NIAGARA (P.T. tender) torpedoed p.m. 23/5  
east of Cap Cristobal P.Ts. picked survivors.



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26.5.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Kiwi 43.  
(contd).

Three enemy aircraft attacked Guadalcanal evening 23/5 causing no damage. During night 23/24 May enemy positions Solomons were heavily attacked by Allied aircraft to cover minelaying operations. Latter reported very successful. Two unidentified ships reported South End of Bougainville and three at Ballale Island 23/5.

Estimated Jap Submarine positions May 26, 2 south of New Caledonia 1 possibly 2 off Eastern Australia, 1 North of Banks Island, 2 possibly 3 in Southern Solomons, 5 to 7 in New Britain Papua Area, 1 possibly Fiji area.  
(C.W.R. Wellington, 260934Z to C. in C. E.F. etc).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 261348B, 261402B).



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27.5.1943.

Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

M.A.C.  
Ships.

1. Until further experience has been gained, M.A.C. ships are to be sailed in slow convoys and will load at Halifax, whether they are tankers or grain ships.

Home Commands.

2. In the early hours of today M.T.Bs 632, 629, 628 and M.G.B.607, whilst employed on a sweep of the enemy convoy routes engaged 4 armed trawlers off Terschelling and damaged one of them and left it on fire and sinking. Our forces suffered slight superficial damage and one casualty.

3. BELFAST arrived at Scapa this afternoon from covering minelaying operation S.N.111B.

4. A.F.D. XVIII in tow of tug BUSTLER sailed from Oban this evening for Oran escorted by a sloop and 4 corvettes.

Mediterranean.

LEOPARD.

5. The French destroyer LEOPARD, one of the escort of the convoy for Alexandria which left Malta on 24th May, ran aground in 32.27 N. 20.26 E. (about 40 miles north-east of Benghazi) in the early hours of today. CROOME went to her assistance and salvage craft were sent.

Flag  
changes.

6. C. in C. Med. announces today temporary changes in certain flag appointments. R.A. (Actg. V.A.) Power becomes V.A. Malta, R.A. Harcourt assumes command of the 15th C.S. and Captain (Cdre. 2nd cl.) Agnew of the 12th C.S.

EREBUS.

7. EREBUS, joining the Mediterranean Fleet from the Eastern Fleet, sustained damage to her rudder whilst passing through the Suez Canal today.

/Air ...



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War Diary.

27.5.1943.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Air  
Operations.

8. Pantellaria was attacked today by U.S. Warhawks and Lightnings of the Strategic Air Force, and by 4 U.S. Warhawks of the Tactical Air Force.

31 U.S. Mitchells escorted by 49 U.S. Lightnings attacked Villacidro. A 150 ft. freighter in the Gulf of Palmas was also strafed. Later, 36 U.S. Marauders with escort of Warhawks bombed Villacidro aerodrome.

36 Marauders escorted by 28 Warhawks bombed Decimomannu aerodrome, Sardinia.

\*9. A message has been received, giving a summary of naval operations by the Russian Black Sea Fleet and naval aircraft during March and April. They claim to have sunk 8 enemy merchant ships, 7 E-Boats, 14 landing craft, 3 schooners and 40 launches, and to have damaged 1 merchant ship, 1 minesweeper and 2 E-Boats.

East Indies.

10. Swedish SILICIA, Buenos Aires for Lourenco Marques is reported to have been sunk this morning, by a German U-Boat in 24.31 S. 35.12 E., about 15 miles from Zavora Point, Mozambique. A Portuguese vessel was on the spot and with aircraft assistance all the crew were saved. No distress signal was made. S.O.(I) Colombo reported on 1st June that the cause of sinking was unknown.

11. H.M. Minesweeper HONG LAM is reported to have foundered in rough seas off Adam's Bridge, between India and Ceylon, whilst on passage from Colombo to Trincomalee. There were no casualties and the possibilities of salvage are being investigated.



War Diary.27.5.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.PIORUN.  
IROQUOIS.

As PIORUN is now required to join H.F. it is intended to replace her by IROQUOIS when the latter ship completes repairs. 2. Request Piorun may be sailed for Scapa on completion of her docking.  
(R.A.D. 270042B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

105th  
M.L.  
Flotilla.

My 251204B May. Attention is also drawn to A.F.O.'s 1602/43 and 1836/43.  
(D.M.S. 271600B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Movements.Landing  
Craft  
Flight K.  
COLUMBINE.

Admty. 262039. COLUMBINE is detailed as escort to Landing Craft flight K. N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail COLUMBINE to Portsmouth when ready.  
(C. in C.W.A. 270932B.)  
A.M. 262039B para. 5.

Route for Landing Craft Flight K. As ordered by C. in C. Portsmouth, to O. 50.01 N. 10.02 W. P.48.01 N.14.01 W. M. 42.30 N. 13.59 W. N. 36.40 N. 10.02 W. Thence to Gibraltar.  
(D.O.D.H. 271901B.)

C.O.P.P.5.

C. in C. Plymouth is requested to route and sail a destroyer as soon as practicable to convey C.O.P.P.5 to first destination Gibraltar.  
2. C.O.P.P. 5 consists of 5 officers, 7 ratings, 5 tons stores, and F.O.i/c Gibraltar is requested to arrange onward passage to second destination Malta without delay.  
(D.O.D.H., 271002B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

S/M  
movements.

Intend to sail U.S.R. S.54 for Lerwick p.m. May 29th.  
(Capt. S.3, 271421B.)  
Positions of S/Ms at 0800B/27 and movements for following 24 hours.  
(F.O.S. 271631B, 280921)

Sailed SHIKARI, TALLY HO, SCEPTRE, LE CURIE, in accordance with Capt. (S) 3 251145B.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 271758B.)

A.M.271002B. (1) Sailed MELBREAK at 1400/27 for Gibraltar. C.O.P.P. party and stores embarked. (2) S.O.A. 19 knots, E.T.A. 1200B/30th. (3) Route. (5) Codeword "Teapot".

(C. in C. Plymouth, 271515B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

NELSON.

To avoid S.L. 129 on crossing latitude 44° N. alter course for new position U.45.30 N. 14.00 W., new V 49.30 N. 14.00 W., then to T.  
(D.O.D. H. 271655B to NELSON.)

/UGANDA...



War Diary.

27.5.1943.

Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

UGANDA. Return to Plymouth. Pass through position  
M. 049° 10' N. 015° 50' W. and N. 180° Bishop  
Rock 7.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 271701B to UGANDA.)  
Your 271701. Position 039° 42' N. 025° 41' W., S.O.A. 18  
knots. E.T.A. 0940B/30.  
(UGANDA, 271902B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

L.C. Flight Ref. A.M. 082103B\*May. Intend sailing A.M. 3rd  
F. June Flight F. consists of 21st and 26th L.C.T.  
Flotilla, 1st and 2nd M.F.V. Flotilla B.D.V.  
BARDERRY, BAROVA and BARNABY, Tug HUDSON and  
SCHELDE escorted by H.M. Tug SHEPPEY, ST. KILDA,  
ENSAY, MOUSA and PRODUCT.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 271735B to Admty., F.O.C.N.A.)\* Re dates of  
sailing of L.C. Flights and accompanying tugs.

A.F.D.18. A.M. 151855B and C. in C. W.A. 162215 B. A.F.D.  
XVIII in tow of tug BUSTLER and escorted by  
CHANTICLEER sailed from Oban at 2225B/27th to  
R/V with DIANELLA, LOTUS, STARWORT, and POPPY in  
accordance with N.O.I.C. Oban 261102B. Estimated speed 6 knots.  
Route in accordance with A.M. 232237B.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 272306B)

Operations.

Coastal My 261221. "Match" returned.  
Patrols. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 270018B.)  
(1) Intend M.Ls. 208 (S.O.), 233 and 122 to patrol  
tonight on lat 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. and  
02° 25' W. (2) Leave Portland at 2200 via Q.Z.S.382 and leave  
patrol line at dawn 28th returning via Q.Z.S.382. (3) Object  
anti E-boat patrol. Codeword "Malta".  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 271045B.)  
1. BLEASDALE, ALBRIGHTON, STEVONSTONE to carry out anti-  
E-Boat patrol tonight between 50° 25' N. 00° 15' W. and 50° 25'  
N. 01° 00' W., passing F. buoy at 2315B and 0500B. Codeword  
"Device". 3. M.Ls. 464, 201 to patrol searched channel between  
F. and E.A. 5 Buoy. 4. M.G.B. 614, 615 immediate notice at  
Newhaven. Codeword "Object".  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 271232B.)  
2. M.G.B. 614, 615 immediate notice Newhaven. 3. BLEASDALE,  
ALBRIGHTON, STEVENSTONE patrolling Southward of Eastern Approach  
Channel. 4. M.L. 464, 201 patrolling in Eastern Approach  
Channel. 5. CHASSEUR 5 at St. Helens, KINGSTON TOPAZ at  
Yarmouth. 6. M.L. 208, 233, 122 from Portland patrolling 50°  
20' N. between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 271235B.)  
1. M.G.Bs. 111, 81, 115 and 80 are to patrol 8 miles 250°  
and 070° from 180° Start 14 miles. 2. Object. Anti-E.Boat  
patrol. 3. Leave patrol-line for Dartmouth 0430B.  
Codeword "Evidence.". Leave Dartmouth 2230B. for patrol.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 271327B.)

/Your...



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27.5.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal  
Patrols.  
(Contd.)

Your 271327B. "Evidence" sailed.  
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 272230B.)  
My 271045B. "Match" sailed.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 272230B.)

S/M  
Patrols.

Sailed HAKE escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE in accordance with Consubron 50.241 (?409).  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 271017B.)  
(1) In order to keep clear of convoy H.X.240 HERRING proceed forthwith to patrol within 20 miles of 054° N. 042° W. Estimated position of convoy at 0800B/27 049° 02' N. 043° 30' W. proceeding through 052° 01' N. 040° 59' W. 053° 58' N. 038° 02' W. 9 knots. (2) HADDO proceed forthwith to square D.3 concentrating on S.E. corner. (3) Bombing restrictions follow.  
(F.O.S. 271117B to Subron 50) (F.O.S. 271118B to C. in C.W.A.)  
Positions of S/Ms at 0800B/28 and movements for following 24 hours. (A) HERRING vicinity 54° 01' N. 41° 59' W. (B) HADDO vicinity 50° 59' N. 35° 02' W. (C) ULTIMATUM, SHAD, TUNA, STUBBORN as in my 251721. (E) HAKE 56° 40' N. 15° 01' W. 56° 01' N. 25° 00' W., speed 10 knots. (H) TEMPLAR 48° 20' N. 06° 30' W. diving by day to the southward, advance 98 miles in 24 hours.  
(F.O.S. 271631B to Admty.)

Operation  
"Super".

★ 1. Object: Interception and destruction of enemy shipping. 3. KRAKOWIAK is to take GARTH, GOATHLAND, and WENSLEYDALE under his orders and the Force, to be known as Force "Super" is to pass the gate at 2045B today and proceed to patrol between positions (A) 047°. Ile Vierge Light 14. and (B) 335° Ile Vierge Light 6. Force "Super" is to reach position (A) at 0125B/28 and, if not in contact with the enemy, is to leave the western end of the patrol-line at 0400 and return to Plymouth at high speed. 4. Lettered positions for enemy reports, XX - Ile Vierge Light. YY - 49° 30' N. 4° 30' W. 5. Codeword "Harris".  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 271355B.)  
My 271355B. Sailed.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 272043B.)

Operation  
"Outward".

★ Operation "Outward" terminated by Admiralty's instructions at 1710.  
(A.B.O. Waxham, 271739B to F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth.)  
Following is a preliminary report of C/F activity night 26/27 May. 2. Available M.T.Bs. of 31st and 22nd Flotilla were ordered to sweep enemy convoy routes off Terschelling in search of northbound convoy reported leaving Hook at 1330. 3. M.T.Bs. 632, 629, 628 and M.G.B. 607 of 31st Flotilla arrived at initial position at 0300 and swept N.E. and E.

/At...



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27.5.1943.

Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation  
"Outward"  
(Contd.)

At 0237 in 53° 33' N. 05° 12' E. obtained R.D.F. contact consisting of four flak trawlers. Avoiding action taken but not entirely successful and during ensuing short action, M.T.B. 632 was hit in engine-room causing leakage of exhaust-gases. Unit disengaged and continued search.

At 0313 the condition in engine room of 632 necessitated her to fall out of line. She then ordered M.T.B. 629 to take over the unit and to return and attack patrol vessels previously sighted. These were re-engaged at 0331 and action took place during which one enemy patrol-vessel was heavily damaged by gunfire and deserted by her consorts. She was then silenced, and left burning and sinking by the stern. At 0405 M.T.B. 632 re-joined unit and action was dis-engaged. Unit then set course for home. Casualties: One rating killed. Slight superficial damage to boats. 4. M.T.Bs. 347, 245 of 22nd Flotilla arrived in initial position at 0110 and swept north east. At 0255 in 53° 27' N. 04° 50' E. starshell followed by tracer was sighted to northward 12 miles. Unit remained in position to await enemy report and information from 31st Flotilla, and stood by during action until 0320. As it was now getting light, action was still proceeding, and no torpedo-target has been reported, unit set course for home.  
(C. in C. Nore, 271900B to Admty.)

Exercises.

INDOMITABLE.

Scapa departures. R.A.(A) H.F. in INDOMITABLE with CUMBERLAND, BERMUDA, ECHO and MIDDLETON for exercises in accordance with C. in C. H.F. 251745 at 0931.  
(A.C.O.S., 271859 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Allied Air Activity.

Enemy  
M/V  
attacked.

P.C.S. of one enemy medium-sized merchant vessel and two escort vessels 57° 55' N. 07° 00' E., 290°, 8 knots. Result of attack unobserved.  
(A/C 455 Sq. Duty C. 271717B to 18 Group.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Iceland.

One Junker 88 flying low carried out R/C of Hornafjordur 064° 15' N. 015° 12' W. 0640, and disappeared 07° South.  
(A.C.I.C. 271735B.)

Mining.

Operation,  
Q.L.5A.

Operation Q.L.5A completed.  
(C. in C. Nore 271900B to Admty.)



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War Diary.27.5.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.U-Boat  
attacked  
in  
Biscay  
Area.

Am over enemy S/M in 46° 45' N. 13° 30' W.  
(A/C. 224 Sq. Duty T. 272010B. and 272015 to  
19 Group.)  
Have attacked enemy with depth charges. Present  
visibility towards the surface is 500 yards.  
(A/C 224 Sq. Duty T. 272020 to 19 Group.)

Technical.Oiling  
at Sea.  
STRINDA.

STRINDA. If owners repairs prevent this ship  
sailing in O.N.187 request that oiling-at-sea  
trial may be arranged as early as possible.  
2. This ship is one of the first to be fitted  
with rollers in place of rail and stirrup and  
it is essential to obtain early experience of  
this type of gear under way.  
(D.T.D. 271926B. to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Casualties & Defects.

ABEILLE 21.

ABEILLE 21 with tow, reported at 0727B. in 55°  
35' N. 06° 32' W. in difficulties due to severe  
boiler trouble. MARAUDER is to be sailed  
forthwith to assist and take in tow to Oban.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 270856B. to N.O.I.C. Oban.)  
Your 270856B. Sailed MARAUDER.  
(N.O.I.C. Oban 270947B. to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Explosion at  
Bull Point.

An explosion occurred at 0735 today in a  
laboratory-room at Ernesettle Main causing death  
of two men (names) and 2 men slightly injured.  
Origin of explosion not yet clear particularly  
as room was engaged in examination of practise  
hedgehogs.  
(S.A.S.O. Bull Point 270915.)

ALLEGIANCE.

Owing to the salvage-pump injection-valve spindle  
having broken necessitating the ship to be  
docked to carry out repairs, the sailing of  
ALLEGIANCE will be delayed.  
(C.B. Hull 271450B. to F.O. Humber.)

OLIGARCH.

Your 261318B and 261453B. Following from R.F.A.  
OLIGARCH begins:- Collided with pier at Tyne  
Dock at 1030 today. Sustained fractured bow  
plate in fore peak tank. Vessel also grounded  
under fore foot. Pier end wrecked and barge sunk. Propose  
to range and swing and return to Smiths Dock. Collision  
attributable to wrong movement of engine. 271100B. Ends.  
Every endeavour being made to expedite repairs.  
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 271503B. to Admty.)

/MATCHLESS...



War Diary.

27.5.1943.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Casualties & Defects.

**MATCHLESS.** Have developed densities in both boilers and have been unable to reduce them by blowing down. Immediate return to harbour considered necessary. Intend turning convoy until more sheltered waters are reached to transfer mail and passengers to GLEANER. (MATCHLESS 271739B. to R.A.D. H.F.)

**COTSWOLD.** My 271045B. COTSWOLD returned Sheerness with engineering defect. (C. in C. Nore 271822B. to F.O.I.C. Harwich.) Return to Scapa with Oiler and GLEANER until relief can be arranged unless otherwise ordered by C. in C. H.F. (R.A.D. H.F. 271920 to MATCHLESS.) My 1920. ATHABASKAN and SEAGULL have steamed. (R.A.D. H.F. 271930 to C. in C. H.F.)

**UGANDA.** A.M. 211235. Observing ship is now 6 months out of dock and asdic dome requires repair it is intended to dock UGANDA. (2) UGANDA has crack in shell plating between 10 and 11 frame which can be temporarily repaired by welding: to effect permanent repair additional stiffening is considered essential to prevent a recurrence. It is suggested permanent repair should take place during a refit and as it is understood other cruisers have experienced similar trouble an Admiralty ruling is requested. (3) Approval is requested to (A) supply and fit 6 additional Oerlikon guns in preparation for future service (b) Return 2 Walrus aircraft and stores. (C. in C. Plymouth 271838B. to Admt.)

**BONAVENTURE.** Moderate southerly wind today caused unexpected devastation in mooring arrangements which were already reinforced compared with Admiralty instructor. Fairleads forward and aft torn out ship. During vain attempted reberthing intermediate shaft of anchor windlass collapsed and windlass main frame fractured in spite of assistance of 1100 horse power tug. Unable therefore to weigh either anchor. Situation at present precariously in hand and no further assistance required but do not consider ship in present condition would be safe in bad weather. Intend leaving port H.H.Z.\* for Clyde as soon as weather conditions permit.

(BONAVENTURE 272252B. to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Shipping & Convoys.

S.C.131. Consider convoy is no repeat no longer shadowed.  
E.G.40. My P.C.S. 054° 17' N. 024° 11' W. 075° 8½.  
E.G.3. (C.T.U. 24.1.4. 270858Z. to C. in C. W.A.)  
If convoy not threatened LULWORTH, WAVENEY, HASTINGS part company at daybreak tomorrow and proceed to Reykjavik.  
(C. in C. W.A. 272146B. to E.G.40.)

/if...



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War Diary.

27.5.1943.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Shipping & Convoys.

S.C.131. If convoy not threatened E.G.3 part company  
E.G.40. at day-break tomorrow. OFFA and PENN proceed to  
E.G.3. Scapa. PANTHER proceed to Clyde.  
(Contd.) (C. in C. W.A. 272148B. to Capt,D.17.)

W.P. Whilst Q.Z.S.413 is in force and W.P. Convoy pass  
Convoys. Portland during dark hours, a craft will be  
anchored close to the east of Shambles Buoy,  
showing 2 all-round white lights vertical, until  
Convoy has passed.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 270951B. to Escorts W.P.345.)

S.C.130. 1. Preliminary report of Convoy S.C.130.  
One U-Boat Escorted by B.7 E.G, DUNCAN S.O.  
believed Four attacks by B.7. attacks by Support Group  
sunk E.G.1 were given in my 251507. Six attacks  
on by Aircraft observed. 2. Consider one U-Boat  
19th sunk on 19th SNOWFLAKE gaining Asdic Contact  
May. 2900 yards and damaging, DUNCAN killing with  
Hedgehog. 3. Evasive turns of Convoy practised  
two successive mornings when U-Boats in contact  
proved most valuable and U-Boats were found  
submerged on original line of advance awaiting day attack.  
4. M/F Homing of 17 Aircraft most successful, Air co-operation  
excellent but on some occasions S.O. E.G. was handicapped by  
the "I go" Signal being omitted and consequently at times  
Aircraft thought to be still patrolling had left sometime  
before this was realised by S.O. E.G. 5. SNOWFLAKE corroborates  
evidence given by SPEY and SENNEN that Icebergs were in several  
instances reported by Asdic listening Watch as high speed diesel,  
it appears that water noises on Icebergs of certain shape  
produce this result which may be dangerous if escorts in  
fog do not classify as non sub in early stages attack. Consider  
evidence sufficient to warrant warning to Escort Group.  
(Cdre. D. W.A. 271147B. to C. in C. W.A.)

M.A.C. + As soon as a M.A.C. ship arrives in Clyde for  
Ships. working up it is requested that a report be  
made by F.O.C.T. of date of readiness. Admiralty  
will then allocate M.A.C. ship to appropriate  
Convoy in accordance with para. 7 of Admiralty

letter M/TD (D.E.M.S.) 02049/43.  
(D.T.D. 271222B. to C. in C.W.A.)

M.A.C. Ship EXPIREMACALPINE sails with O.N.S.9 on 28th May  
and is to load at Halifax. If possible she should be sailed  
again in S.C.135. 2. Until further experience has been gained  
M.A.C. ships are to be sailed in slow convoys and will load at  
Halifax whether they are Tankers or Grain ships. 3. In U.K.  
Grain ships will discharge in Mersey. Tankers in Mersey or  
Clyde. They should be sailed to Clyde for orders.  
(D.T.D. 271251B.)



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War Diary.27.5.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- F.D.6. My 251720. Sailed LADY OF MANN.  
(N.C.S.O. Aultbea 271412B. to A.C.O.S. N.O.I.C. Stornoway.)  
F.D.6. Intend sailing LADY OF MANN escorted by CHIDDINGFOLD at 2000 to-morrow to Invergordon. E.T.A. 1400/29. Route. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 271535B.)
- Use of Smoke Screens. C. in C. Western Approaches 121613B. ref. WAXO.3.  
(1) Agree with following points in F.S.N.Fs. 171805Z to Admiralty. 1,2,3,4,7,8,9.  
(2) Consider results under suitable conditions excellent. (3) Should have no hesitation in using smoke if convoy was threatened. Suggest smoke makers be stationed at Sunset and instead of being given a fixed time, be ordered by R/T to make smoke at the first sign of attack. (4) Smoke makers are apt to stand out very clearly against their own smoke and I suggest that A.N.D. ships be considered for this purpose. (ITCHEN 271546Z. to C. in C. W.A.)
- S.L.129. Estimate S.L.129 in 043° 48' N. 014° 50' W. at 0800B/27 steering 000° 7 knots. Proceed close within 60 miles of convoy and cover against surface attack maintaining a speed of advance of not less than 18 knots. (2) Estimate CHARYBDIS now covering convoy will break off for Plymouth by 0800/28th. (3) Proceed to Scapa when convoy reaches 050° N. C. in C. W.A. is requested to signal route from 050° N.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 271635B. to GLASGOW (R) UGANDA, CHARYBDIS.)  
Your 271631B. Have sufficient fuel to cover S.L.129 to 050° N. at 18 knots.  
(CHARYBDIS 271930B. to C. in C. Plymouth.)
- C.E.179. Delayed 24 hours owing to fog.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 271732B. and 272240B.)
- O.N.S. and S.C. Convoy speeds. Commencing with O.N.S.13 and S.C.136 minimum speed for inclusion in O.N.S. and S.C. convoys will be 8 knots.  
(D.T.D. 271740B. to A.C.I.C.)
- H.X.239. My 311719 January 1942. H.X.239 FORT FITZGERALD for Southampton carries valuable general cargo. Request you will arrange special protection.  
(D.T.D. 272149B. to C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Portsmouth, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)



War Diary.

27.5.1943.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French Refugees. GOVERNOR GENERAL LEPINE and LA GRACIEUSE arrived 270300A.  
(Commorseafron 270725Z to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar,  
(R) Admty. C. in C.Med.)

M.K.S.13. Your 261526. Insert following between BAXTERLETE and SALTWICK. 9 ARY LENSEN, iron ore, Workington.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 270957B to Admty.)

Dispositions Situation 2001B/27th.  
MOLDE, HUDDERSFIELD TOWN, 1 merchant ship departing Gibraltar 0230/28th through Q.K.A.87 thence 307° 8.  
2. O.S. (?48) G. LAUDERDALE sailing Gibraltar 0200/28th to R/V O.S. (?48)/K.M.S.15 in 034° 19' 010° 12' 8½.  
3. L.S.T. convoy U.S.Destroyer HERBERT sailing (?Casablanca) 0600B/28th to R/V with L.C. convoy from Port Lyautey in 034° 23' 007° 04' at (?15)00B/28th. Combined convoy U.S.Destroyer HERBERT then 021° 8.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 271108B.)

Situation at 1959B/27th.  
20 L.C.I.(L)s. S.O. 257, 032° 04' 030° 43' 089° 10.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 271120B.)

Axis shipping NORDFELS, SPERBER sailed 0330/27th.  
Bilbao. (Consul Bilbao 271155, to M.E.W. (R) Admty. etc.)

O.S.48 O.S.48 G. 5 ships escorted by LAUDERDALE S.O.  
K.M.S.15. FOXTROT and CONVULVULUS will R/V O.S. 48 in position A.F. 034° 19' N. 010° 12' W. at 1200B May 29th.  
2. When R/V has been made K.M.S.15 and ALYNBANK are to part company with O.S.48 and proceed Gibraltar routed through A.E. 035° 45' N. 006° (?30' or 46') W. and Q.K.A. 87 escorted by LAUDERDALE, CONVULVULUS, SHARPSHOOTER, FOXTROT, BERGAMOT and BRYONY.  
3. Following ships will R/V in position A.G. 033° 47' N. 010° 08' W. at 1600B/29th May EMPIRE BARRIE, FORT THOMPSON, FORT DREW, FORT DOUGLAS, from Casablanca, CHARLES SCHIAFFINO from Safi.  
Destinations follow.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 271223B.)

TRACKER. TRACKER has 190 tons Wood Pulp and 413 tons Zinc consigned to Ministry of Supply Paper Control and Non Ferrous Metals Control respectively, also Naval Aircraft for major repairs.

2. Request I may be informed if TRACKER will proceed to an unloading port prior to Belfast.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 271304B to Admty.)  
Reply: No. (Admty. 281733B.)

/GEORGES...



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War Diary.

27.5.1943.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

GEORGES  
LEYGUES. Arrived 27th May.  
(C.M.S.F.F. 271310Z to Comar Dakar, (R) F.O.C.W.A.  
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty.)

CHOKO. Your 251013 April, steamship CHOKO.  
Request confirmation that non-interception was  
due to no patrol craft being available and not  
to double crossing by Master.  
(D.E.W.D. 271314B to F.O.Gibraltar.)  
Reply: 281630B.

OXLIP,  
HYDERABAD. My 161456. OXLIP, HYDERABAD are now required to  
arrive U.K. by June 6th for further operations.  
(C. in C.W.A. 271448B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar,  
(R) Admty. C. in C.Med.)

ANTELOPE,  
BULLDOG. I shall have no destroyers available between  
30th May and 3rd June.  
2. ANTELOPE could carry out duty in your 261002  
subject to my retaining BULLDOG until 6th June  
approx.  
3. BULLDOG will not complete until 0001B/3rd June.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 271548B to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty.  
C. in C.Med.)

Axis shipping  
Bilbao. Arrival 26th, HENK, COURDANNES, LOUVETOT, MONTE  
BIZCARGUI. Arrival 27th BANKA, JACQUELINE,  
WATERWEG, CABO TRES FORCAS. Departure 26th,  
THRIANTHA, MARIBEL, REGEJA, SPERBER, NORDFELS,  
CASTILLO SIMONCAS, MARQUES COMILLAS.  
(Consul Bilbao 271635 to Admty, (R) S.O.(I) Gib.)

M.K.F.15. Your 261212B May. Sailing destinations.  
CALIFORNIA, LETITIA, SANTA ROSA, MOULTAN,  
GEORGE W.GEOTHALS, J.W.MCANDREW, JOHN ERICSON,  
NEA HALLAS and CRISTOBAL to Clyde.

ANTENOR, FELIX ROUSSEL and MALOJA to Mersey.  
STAFFORDSHIRE and STIRLING CASTLE not for U.K.  
(D.T.D. 271900B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Commob Oran, (R) C. in C.  
Med.)

Movments,  
Casablanca. Warships May 27. Arrivals French GEORGES LEYGUES  
from Dakar and LA GRACIEUSE from Portugal.  
(C.M.S.F.F. 271936 to C. in C.Med.)

ESKIMO,  
BOREAS,  
BULLDOG. Return to Gibraltar forthwith. Acknowledge.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 271940B to ESKIMO, BOREAS,  
BULLDOG, (R) Admty. C. in C.Plymouth, C. in C.Med.)

/Your...



War Diary.27.5.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

ESKIMO, Your 271940 understood. My P.C. and S. 038°  
 BOREAS, (?01') N. 014° 22' W. 117° 25 knots. E.T.A.  
 BULLDOG. boom 1530B/28th. Weather report.  
 (Contd.) (BOREAS 272057B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R)  
 ESKIMO, BULLDOG.)

Your 271940B acknowledged.  
 E.T.A. Gibraltar 1200B/28.

My position 037° 35' N. 009° 58' W. course 142° speed (?23)  
 knots. Weather report.  
 (BULLDOG 272130B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

Movements  
 Gibraltar.

Arrivals LORD NUFFIELD escorting Cable Ship  
 MARIE LOUISE MACKAY from East MOLDE ex escort  
 duties Melilla. VISENDA from Oran. COVERLEY  
 from Casablanca. ANTHONY ex M.K.S.13.  
 (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 272003B to Admty. C. in C.  
 Med.)

TRUSTY.

Following is repetition of my 252342 (begins)  
 Your 241602 not to F.O.S. Request E.T.A. 26°  
 10' N. 20° 59' W. Convoys permitting intend  
 TRUSTY to pass 37° N. 10° 28' W. thence 360°  
 to Rolte Rose. Submarine to proceed on surface  
 at Commanding Officer's discretion until reaching 35° N. there-  
 after diving by day speed of advance 111 miles per day. F.O.S's  
 101604 April is being passed to you. (Ends.)  
 (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 272034B to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) F.O.S.)



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War Diary.

27.5.1943.

Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

M/V Recognition, Checkmate System. A.M. 241910 concur. (C. in C. S.A., 271038B to Admty).

Pointe Noire Movements. Departure Pointe Noire 1000Z/27th ROHILKHAND escorting motor M/S 107 and B.D.V. BARWIND. Routed through 016° 00' S., 011° 20' E. E.T.A. Walvis Bay dawn 3rd June. S. of A. 7½ knots. (B.N.L.O. W.Af., 271144A to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Walvis Bay).

ATLANTIS. Hospital Ship ATLANTIS sailed May 26 for Capetown E.T.A. 0600B May 29. Personnel on board. (D.S.T.O. Durban, 271252Z to S.T.O. Capetown (R) C. in C. S.A. etc).

HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN. Sailed 26th. 24 HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN, Brit. due Clyde June 15th. (R.O. Montevideo, 271357 to Admty).

B.Y.M.S. Departure 25th. B.Y.M.S. No. 26, 09, 27. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 271351Z to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

REDSHANK Arrival 1050Z/25th REDSHANK unannounced. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 271352Z to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty).

Movements. Arrivals 27th Capetown KELT, Simonstown KUMAON, KATHIAWAR. (C. in C. S.A., 271547B to Admty).

CANADA (Hospital Ship). Your 311558 March. S.M.O. reports ship has not adequate medical or nursing staff. Ventilating and sanitary arrangements deficient, reducing maximum beds from 600 to 400. Considered below British Base hospital standards but with some added equipment could be used as a hospital carrier. Fuller report follows. (F.O.C.W.Af., 271621Z to C. in C. Med (R) Admty).

GAMBIA N.K. on crossing 10° S. proceed to new position O equator 017° W. thence P.010° N. 020° W. thence to Bathurst omitting J.K. and L. (F.O.C.W.Af., 271925Z to GAMBIA (R) S.A. Stn. Admty. N.O.I.C. Bathurst).

Movements Dakar Arrived 1900Z ESSO PHILADELPHIA escorted by LA GRANDIERE. (C.O. Dakar, 272218Z to R.A.W.A. Admty. etc).



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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Flag appointments. / Following temporary changes in flag appointments are to take effect as shown.  
 (A) Captain W.G. Agnew, C.B. D.S.O. of AURORA is to assume Command of 12th Cruiser Squadron in rank of Commodore 2nd Class and is to hoist his broad pendant in AURORA at 0800 Friday May 28th.  
 (B) Rear Admiral C.H.J. Harcourt, C.B.E. is to assume command of 15th Cruiser Squadron. His flag as F.O.(12) C.S. is to be struck in SIRIUS at 0800 Friday 28th May and hoisted as F.O.(15) C.S. at same time in NEWFOUNDLAND.  
 (C) Rear Admiral A.J. Power C.B. C.V.O. is appointed V.A. Malta and is to serve in acting rank of V.A. His flag as F.O.(15) C.S. was struck in CLEOPATRA on Friday 7th May and his flag as V.A. is to be considered as having been hoisted on the same day.  
 (C. in C. Med. 270410 to Med. Fleet 453X, (R) Admty. C. in C. Levant).

LEOPARD aground. F.S. LEOPARD aground position 032 degs. 37' North 020 degs. 40' East. CROOME close to assist.  
 (Capt.(D) 22. 270510B to N.O.I.C. Benghazi (R) C. in C. Levant, CROOME).  
 Correct approx. position in my 270510B to read 032 degs. 27' North 020 degs. 26' East.  
 (Capt.(D) 22 270753B to N.O.I.C. Benghazi (R) C. in C. Levant, CROOME).

Beirut movements. 26th May. Arrivals SOUTHERN SEA. Departures HEDGEHOG.  
 (S.O.(I) Beirut 270852C to Admty.).

Stores for Malta. / Confirmed that a bid for 1200 tons representing Naval Stores ex Malta convoy now at Oran Bougie and Algiers was made to G.4 (Movements and Transport) Allied Forces H.Q. Your 221315 refers.  
 (C. in C. Med. 270901B to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, V.A. Malta).

M.T.B's. Arrivals May 27th. M.T.Bs. 77, 65, 84 from operations.  
 (V.A. Malta 270934B to Admty. C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant).

S/Ms. Malta. Arrivals May 27th. UNRIVALLED, UNITED, ULTOR.  
 (V.A. Malta 271027 to Admty. C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, S.1. S.8.).

Administration of Units. Amend my 081745 (Orders showing responsibility for administration of ships in W.Med.) as follows -  
 Para.2. Delete 12th M/S Flot. Escort Group 27 add Escort Group 36 Gibraltar Escort Force 29th

Trawler Group. Para.4. Delete POZARICA. Para.5. Delete Escort Group 36 add



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Administration of Units (Contd.) 20th Destroyer Division 12th M/S Flotilla?  
Para.7. Amend to read by C.C.F. add VIENNA.  
Para.8. Amend to read by Hamilcar.  
Para.10. Delete VIENNA add RETRIEVER.  
(C. in C. Med. 271203B to Med. Stn. K.453).

Cable Ships. Your 261108 (N.T. in W.R.) BULLFINCH will be held available. PACIFIC will remain in Red Sea. BULLFINCH is at present repairing Alexandria. loop and later due to lay loop for protection of oiler berth at Haifa.  
(2) Cancel my 262000 (N.T. in W.D.).  
(3) Admiralty inform Cable and Wireless re PACIFIC movements.  
(C. in C. Levant, 271219C to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.V.A.Malta).

Middle East Air Report. / A.71 May 27th. Daily Opsum 29. May 25/26. 3 torpedo Wellingtons anti shipping R/C Aegean Sea and West Coast Greece no sightings.  
May 26. 4 Baltimores (A.22) anti shipping R/C Aegean Sea. 4 Sailing vessels attacked Cape Malea Area. 1 Caique 100 ton laden with bales and drums sunk. 1 Caique 60 tons left sinking. 1 Caique 120 tons set on fire. Another of 30 tons abandoned by crew. Following delayed details May 25. 6 Beaufighters attacked sea plane base Preveza. 1 Cant. Z.501 2 Cant. Z.56's destroyed 1 Cant Z506 probably destroyed 5 Cant Z.506 2 J.U.52 Seaplanes damaged on water. Petrol dump destroyed. On return journey 1 Schooner 160 tons laden with barrels attacked off Preveza vessel, left smoking. 4 Beaufighter bombers anti shipping R/C Aegean Sea. 1 returned early with Technical defect escorted by second. Beaufighter. Remaining 2 attacked 1 Caique 80 tons laden with bales east of Kithera Island vessel left on fire and emitting oil.  
My Opsum 28. Of 44 U.S. Liberators (B.24) which bombed Messina 25 May 5 landed Malta owing damage from A.A. firing. Bombs from these straddled ship alongside quay and burst in area? Of Ferry berths and railway yards, 1 fire seen near railway station another North of Messina, 1 M.C.202 damaged.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 271237Z).

P.R.U. May 27th visuals. 1150 Taranto 2 battleships, 2 Cruisers. 1230 Messina obscured.  
(N.O.I.C. Malta 271331B to C. in C. Med. etc.).

Convoy K.M.F.15 Arrived.  
(Com. Algiers 271412B to Admty.).

S/Ms. information. P.51 (UNSEEN) leaves Malta at 1700/27th to Northward on special operation.  
(2) Cruisers and destroyers leave Grand Harbour at 0900/28 for exercise South of Filfolia Isles.  
(Capt.S.10 271439B to P.314 (TACTICIAN) P.47 (DOLFIJN) P.52 (DZIK) (R) 10th S/M F).

/Air....



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

Air Report. M.5019E 24th May. N.W. African Air Force Daily Opsum 92. May 23rd. Northwest African Strategic Air Force. May 23rd. 38 Mitchells Escort 16 Warhawks Pantellaria Docks and Town. 12 x 100 265 x 300 dropped from 10,000 feet starting fires, 1 hit and near misses medium M/V small boat exploded. 38 Marauders escort 12 Warhawks 10 carried bombs Pantellaria Airdrome. 3 Marauders returned early Bombers dropped 708 x 100 from 10,000 feet, Warhawk (P.-40) missing. 11 Warhawks intruder mission Pantellaria strafed guns and huts results not observed. 1 Warhawk crash landed on return. 12 Lightnings Iglesias Zinc Works. 1 returned early. 11 x 1000 dropped from 3000 feet among buildings in target area. 26 Lightnings. (N.A.A.F. Adv. 271530B).

N.A.A.F. M.5305E 27 May. N.W.A. Stragetical Air Force. Opsum 95. 24 U.S. Mitchells escort 24 U.S. Lightnings Pantellaria? Airdrome. 4 U.S. Lightnings returned early. 1728 x 20 F dropped from 8500 to 9000 feet covering South part of field and falling among aircraft. 1 Mitchell (B.25) crashed in Med. Biscari Airdrome, 24 U.S. Marauders (B.26) escort 28 U.S. Lightnings (P.38) 5 returned early. 2457 x 20 F dropped from 11,000 feet bombing inaccurate. Comiso Airdrome, 55 U.S. Fortresses 155 x 500 G.P. 4742 x 20 F dropped from 20,750 to 24,100 feet. Target well covered, several fires and explosion. 40 to 50 enemy aircraft encountered. 3 M.E. 109's destroyed and 3 damaged. 7 Fortresses damaged by flak. Pantellaria, 22 U.S. Warhawks 105 x 20 F dropped on Southeast Coast from 6000 feet. Results not observed, Troops, Guns and trucks strafed in vicinity, Porto Ponte Romano Harbour, 14 U.S. Warhawks 12 with bombs 2 returned early. 10 x 5000 dropped early, 10 x 500 dropped from 10,000 feet several hits on quay near misses on 2 M/Vs. Hits on upper and lower dams, power station, military camp, buildings, trucks, fishing craft strafed. 1 Lightning shot down, 2 damaged by flak. Golfo Aranci Harbour, 12 U.S. Lightnings carrying bombs. 12 x 1000 dropped from 100 feet. 1 Cant.Z506B destroyed on water, 3 oil tanks, 1 small boat, 1 large type transport vessel set on fire. Submarine building strafed. Villacidra Airdrome, 12 Lightnings U.S. carrying bombs. 12 x 1000 dropped from 3000 feet. Hits among aircraft hangars, barrack areas, Results not observed. Northwest African Tactical Air Force. Pantellaria. 12 Warhawks 12 x 500 dropped in centre of island. No claims. N.A. Coastal A.F. Night 25/26 May. Submarine hunts 5 Albacores, 3 Hudsons dropped depth charges on surfaced submarine. Abandoned attack because engines damaged by M/G fire. Convoy patrol. 7 Hudsons defensive patrols 15 Beaufighters 11 U.S. Aircobras 1 H.E. 111 destroyed. (N.A.A.F. Adv. H.Q. 272030B).

TACTICIAN

Intend sailing P.312 (TACTICIAN) for exercise

/p.m....



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TACTICIAN p.m. 29th thence through 036 degs. 56' 003 degs. (Contd.). 08' at 1930 29th 038 degs. 03' 003 degs. 23' at 0215 30th 040 degs. 01' 004 degs. (?38') at 0430 31st 042 degs. 00' 004 degs 38' at 05 (?30) 1st thence patrolling in Gulf of Lyons north of 042 degs. 00' and west of 006 degs. 00'.  
(Capt.S.8. 271544B to C. in C. Med. (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers, (?F.O.I.C. Gibraltar) Capt.(S) 10, 8th S/M, ARETHUSE, LA SULTANE) Amended Capt.S.8. 281050B.

ZETLAND. Your 261417B. (Damage to ZETLAND - N.T. in W.D.) ZETLAND should be sailed for U.K. as soon as repairs fitting her for passage are completed. (C. in C. Med. 271629B to F.O. Gib. (R) Admty.).

CLEOPATRA CLEOPATRA is to join 12th C.S. and NEWFOUNDLAND  
NEWFOUNDLAND is to join 15th C.S.  
(C. in V.Med. 271630B to 12th C.S. 15th C.S. Admty. C. in C. Levant, V.A.Malta, Comm. Algiers. Maidstone.).

Movements 27th May Port Said Arrivals WOLLBOROUGH, ROMEO.  
Port Said. Departures SPETSAI, CAIRNS, WAYLAND.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 271713C to Admty. etc.).

Situation X Convoys K.M.S.14X A.K. just (?first) through  
Report.No.31 convoy of four merchant ships arrived Alexandria 26th May. Reporting no incidents during passage.  
(2) X.T.15A consisting of LARGS and two personnel ships left Alexandria 26th May for Tripoli (L).  
ME 27\* (3) Convoy of two tankers and three merchant ships\* left Malta  
store? / 24th May for Alexandria. F.F.S. LEOPARD (one of Escort) ran aground 0510/27th May in 32 degs. 27' North, 100 (?20) degs. 26' East, ship beam on to beach starboard side (to) in fairly large swell. CROOME standing by, salvage craft proceeding.  
(4) Benghazi raided dusk 25th May by two aircraft. No damage reported.  
(5) Levant, Egyptian schooner found abandoned and ashore at Episkopi Bay (Cyprus). No trace of crew. Cause unknown.  
(6) Canal Area. EREBUS during transit of canal 27th May sustained damaged rudder and will require docking.  
(C. in C. Levant, 271731C to Admty.).

ASIAN Deputy Secretary General Foreign Affairs asks  
replacement. my help to obtain replacement of ASIAN, the 4th merchant ship to be delivered under Adana list.  
(2) Mr Rees, British Salvage Adviser to Turkish Government, is in Egypt, inspecting these ships to their behalf. He makes the following remarks.

\* W.D. of C in C Levant, 24.5.43, says this convoy included three tankers and two merchant ships.



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Mediterranean.

ASIAN replacement. (Contd.). (A) General state of the ship is in keeping with her age.  
(B) Boilers are in a bad state, giving cause for anxiety, and there are no documents to state when last tested.  
(C) Ship is only fitted for coast trade and not suitable for cargoes she will be required to carry.  
(3) Understood Mr. Murrant has asked M. of W.T. for her replacement and I consider this is necessary to avoid bad impression here, in addition to reasons stated in para.2. above.  
(N.A. Ankara 271733C to Admty. (for D.N.I.) (R) C. in C. Levant).

Movements Alexandria Arrivals 26th May EASTON, CARLISLE, HURSLEY, PALADIN, TROU(BRIDGE?), PROTEA, M.L.360.  
Departure 26th May LARGS, (?DULVERTON), TETCOTT, WOLBOROUGH, ROMEO, PINDOS, MIAOULES.  
Arrived and left 26th May ASHANTI Gk. Dest. QUEEN OLGA.  
(S.O.(I) Alexandria 271733C to Admty. C. in C. Levant).

Tankers Tanker will be sailed in K.M.S.15 passing Gibraltar about June 1st, Your 252041 refers.  
(C. in C. Med. 271755B to Admty. (R) F.O.C.Gibraltar, B.A.D.).

Convoy E.T.21 Arrived KRISTEL, DUX, BJOURKHAUG, KROMAN, BOLLSTA.  
(Com. N.O.B. Oran 271800Z to A.I.G. 259 (R) F.O.I.S. N.O.I.C. Philippeville, Cdre. Algiers).

Docks for Landing Craft. Your 161920. When supply of N.L. docks was first under consideration considerable doubt existed as to whether the pontoon assembly would stand up to additional stresses to which it would be liable in 450 ton size, due to weather conditions or distribution of loading.

(2) Whilst it is agreed that this size is very desirable and B.A.D. is requested to ascertain whether it is now thought practicable, procurement and shipping of additional pontoons etc. cannot now help your immediate needs.

(3) Should procedure in B.A.D's 192259 prove feasible with L.C.T. as well as L.C.I.(L) it is considered that although not ideal, it will provide service required and any additional pontoon equipment that can be made available might be better employed in forming additional docks, of smaller sizes.

(D. of P. 271803B to C. in C. Med. (R) B.A.D.).

Malta Air Report. A.I.598 27th May C.S.R. (A) Air. Part 1 Offensive. Night 26/27th May. 1 Mosquito made intruder patrol in the Catania area, high wind prevented any further offensive operations. Day 27th May Nil.  
Part 2. Enemy air activity. Night 26/27th May. 2 Beaufighters made interception patrols east of Sicily.  
Day 27th May. 4 Spitfires were airborne for raid which turned back before reaching Malta.  
(A.H.Q. Malta 271823Z).



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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

American M.T.Bs. Your 261229. Request these boats may be sent to Mediterranean without torpedo tubes and without being prepared for service.

(2) Boats are similar to American boats referred to in my 160942 and arrangements for supply of plates will be made locally.

(3) Crews will be provided from boats undergoing large repairs. (C. in C. Med. 271914B to Admty. (R) C.C.F.).

Floating Dock Algiers. After consultation with Vice C.N.O. Washington Comnavaw has been informed that U.S. are not prepared to man the 5,000 ton floating dock ex Monte Video which it is intended to berth at Algiers. Availability of dock in this theatre is essential in my view. Can Admiralty provide deck crew and repair party? Failing this, attempt will be made to berth dock at Ferryville and operate with local labour. (C. in C. Med. 271945B to Admty.).

L.C.I.(L)'s. L.C.T's. Following are movements to final destinations of L.C.I.(L) and L.C.T. Squadrons, Commanders and staff. (A) L.C.I.(L) 6 Officer, 3 P.O's, 5 others. A Squadron already at Sousse. B. Squadron remain

Jijelli. C. Squadron to Malta about 24th June. D.Squadron (ex Force 'J') allocated U.S. Navy from about mid June. (B) L.C.T. 5 Officers, 4 P.O's, 4 others. B. Squadron to Sfax about 24th June. C. Squadron to Tripoli (Libya) in 11th Flotilla sail via Malta 31st May. D. Squadron (ex Force 'J') to Malta about 8th June.

(C. in C. Med. 272020B to HAMILCAR (R) Admty. D.N.C.X.F. V.A. Malta, C. in C. Levant, S.N.O. Tripolitania, N.O.I.C. Benghazi, N.O.I.C. Sousse, Force L,C.C.O.).

NAAF 272030. See p. 1021.

Malta Air Report. A.1599 27 May Daily Opsum 18. 26/27 May 1 Mosquito made intruder patrol in the Catania area. 2 Wellingtons were airborne on shipping searches North of Sicily and in Gulf of Taranto. 1 Wellington Gulf of Taranto patrol returned early. 2 Beaufighters made interception patrol east of Sicily. 27 May. 2 Baltimores made shipping searches southeast of Italy. 7 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back. 1710 hours 6 plus enemy fighters approached Malta at great height 6 Spitfires were airborne on interception but enemy aircraft avoided combat and turned back before reaching the coast. (A.H.Q. Malta 272110Z).

Movements Bizerta. Bizerta arrivals ROTHESAY, FELIXSTOWE, POLRUAN, STORNOWAY, CLACTON, FOULA, KINTYRE, FILEY BAY, H.D.M.L. 1227.

/Departures.....



1925

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Movements  
Bizerta.  
(Contd.).

Departures BREAM, WESTRAY, L.S.T. 381 P.C.562.  
My 262242B for P.T.656 not ( sic - ?read) P.T.  
214.  
(F.O.I.S. 272114B to C. in C. Med. etc.).

Movements  
Haifa.

27th May arrival M/L 350,348, 386, G.S. AETOS,  
ISLAY, SOUTHERN SEA.  
Departure M/L 350, 348, 386, ISLAY, G.S. AETOS,  
G.S. IERAX, M.T.B.60.  
(N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports 272116 to Admty.etc.)

Movements  
Algiers.

Arrivals E.G.42 in WESTON, WELLINGTON, GORLESTONE,  
TOTLAND, NESS, EXE, LOWESTOFT, ROYAL SCOTSMAN,  
ROYAL ULSTERMAN, OAKLEY, EGGESFORD, WHADDON,  
MKNNA (as received) U.S.P.Ts. 209, 210, 212, 218,  
JULIET.

Departures WHEATLAND. Departed and arrived DELHI.  
(Cdre. Algiers 272203B to Admty. etc.).

M.L.295

Have not made R/V. Am patrolling vicinity of  
position, request instructions. Am maintaining  
single operator periodically on 135 kc/s.  
(M.L.295 27220B to N.O.I.C. Algiers).

S/Ms.  
Malta.

Arrival TRIDENT. Departures TAURUS, UNSEEN.  
(V.A.Malta 272227 to Admty. etc.).

Movements  
Tobruk,  
Derna.

Arrived BELVOIR T.L.C. 114, 139, 149, 154.  
Sailed ALDENHAM T.L.C. 108, 114, 139, 149,  
154. Sailed from Derna, M.L. 355 and 356.  
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk 272310C to Admty.).

Movements  
Benghazi.

Sailed PRIMULA, FALK T.L.C.111, T.L.C.157,  
Schooner EL HANNEN, M.L. 358, M.L.357. Arrived  
and sailed DELPHINIUM, F.S. LA MOQUEUSE, PUNNET,  
BURRA SOEMBA, arrived KINGSTON CYANITE.  
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi 272317C to Admty.).



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War Diary.27.5.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

U/B. Following has been read: Colombo Radio, from ALICE F. PALMER. Submarine 3° 40' N. 76° 31' E. time 21 hours 41 mins. G.C.T. May 26th. (Colombo W/T, No T.O.O., Recd. 0057/27.)

CORNWALLIS. Departure CORNWALLIS escorting BEGUM, keeping continuous watch on 500 k/cs. (N.O.I.C. Madras, 270233 to Admty., etc.)

Movement Summary No. ?(67), May 27th. 1. Convoy W.S.29 left vicinity of Durban p.m./25 May. Routed East of Madagcar and West of Farquhar Island: S. of A. 12 knots. Aden portion due 8th June. Bombay portion due 10th June. 2. KENYA left Durban 26th May to R/V with convoy W.S. 29 p.m./27th May and to take over escort of convoy. 3. TROMP escorting 2 transports left Fremantle 26th May to M.O.M.P. with SUSSEX 29th May. On being relieved by SUSSEX, TROMP returns to Fremantle. (C. in C. E.F., 270730Z to E.F., Admty., etc.)

NEWCASTLE. Arrived. (F.O.E.Af., 270742Z to Admty.)

Ships for Mediterranean Convoys. Intend to sail forthwith following ships loaded in India for U.K. CITY OF HONG KONG 12½ knots, MALAKAND 13½ knots, MARTAND 14½ knots for Aden for onward routeing Suez. A.M. 201228 refers (re routeing of suitable ships loading in India to connect with westbound Med. Convoys.) (C. in C. E.F., 270811Z to C. in C. Levant, (R) Admty.) Request M.O.W.T. India will indicate average numbers British controlled ships expected to be sailed weekly for U.K. via Mediterranean in accordance with A.M. 201228. 2. Assume suitable ships quoted are those from 8 to 15 knots with exception of those motor vessels whose critical speed will prevent them keeping station 7½ to 8 knot convoys. (C. in C. E.F., 270812Z to F.O.C.R.I.N., (R) C. in C. Levant, Admty.)

WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN. Arrival 0900Z May 27th. (N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 270912Z to Admty.)

B.P. 82, My 190619Z.  
B.P. 83, (1) B.P.82. KOSCIUSZKO is withdrawn. CITY OF  
B.P. 84. LONDON will be delayed until the 3rd June due to machinery repairs. Can sailing date of B.P. 82 be postponed 24 hours or must CITY OF LONDON

/wait ...



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27.5.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

B.P.82, wait for B.P.83 sailing 10th June? (2) Following  
 B.P.83, extra moves have been arranged. B.P. 83 2  
 B.P.84. personnel ships SANTHIA, VARELA sailing 10th June.  
 (Contd.) (3) Bombay to Karachi NEVASA with 850 troops  
 sails 14th June can escort be bunkered.  
 (4) From Karachi B.P.84 to join P.A. convoy for  
 Suez one personnel ship with 1700 I other ranks  
 and horses, ship GAZANA with approximately 405 mules and 80  
 troops sails 20th June.  
 (P.S.T.O. Bombay 270927Z. to C. in C. E.F. (R) F.O. Ceylon,  
 N.O.I.C. Hormuz, D. of S.T.)

MAURETANIA. Can further information be given of MAURETANIA's  
 expected date of arrival in South Africa?  
 No news of this ship's movements has been  
 received since A.M. 082001B May. Admty. pass to  
 D. of S.T.  
 (C. in C. E.F. 270931Z. to Admty. (R) C. in C.  
 S.A. D. of S.T.)

Convoy Sailing telegram. (6 ships). 2. 0900Z/27th.  
 P.B.42. 4. 9½ knots. 5. (Route). 6. LAUNCESTON, KONKAN.  
 (N.C.S.O. Hormuz 270940Z. to A.I.G.357.)

Movements. Departure RAMDAS escorting RADCOMBE.  
 (N.O.I.C. Madras 270954Z. to Admty. etc.)

Transports. Intend sailing KOSCIUSZKO and EMPIRE TROOPER  
 empty to Suez first June.  
 (P.S.T.O.I. 271007 to C. in C. E.F. (R) P.S.T.O.  
 M.E., D.S.T. Com. Aden.)

X.C.2. Convoy X.C.2. arrived 1030Z/26th May.  
 (N.C.S.O. Colombo 271121 to Admty.)

CITY OF Transport CITY OF PARIS sailed 27th May for  
 PARIS. Colombo and Mombasa with following. (numbers).  
 Requirements Colombo.  
 (D.S.T.O. Bombay 271127Z. to S.S.T.O. Colombo.)

SICILIA Unknown ship sunk at 0830B May 27th 15 miles  
 Sunk. Zavora Point 024° 31' S. 035° 12' E. Portuguese  
 vessel on spot and aircraft searching for  
 survivors. /  
 (C.S.A. Lourenco Marques 271145B to Admty.  
 C. in C.S.A. C. in C.E.F. Cdre. Durban.) / Was  
 Swedish SS. SICILIA, see 281414B.



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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

STRATHAIRD,  
STRATHMORE,  
MAURETANIA.

STRATHAIRD and STRATHMORE will not arrive Colombo before 15th June. 2. Request MAURETANIA may be held at Capetown so as to arrive Colombo June 16th. 3. Admty. 151832B May para. 4. Subsection C. refers. 4. A.M.C. Escort for STRATHAIRD and STRATHMORE from Colombo to Bombay will be provided. 5. D. of S.Ts. 262140 May refers. (C. in C. E.F. 271315Z. to D. of S.T., C. in C. S.A. F.O. Ceylon, P.S.T.O. India, S.T.O. Colombo, F.O.C.R.I.N. (R) Admty. P.S.T.O. Capetown.)

HONG-  
LAM  
foundered.

Regret to report that H.M. Minesweeper HONG LAM foundered in rough seas off Adams Bridge whilst on passage to Trincomalee via Pambam. Possibilities of salvage are being investigated. No casualties. (F.O. Ceylon 271320Z. to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F.)

BERAKIT  
(torpedoed  
7/5)  
conduct of  
D.E.M.S.  
ratings.

Your 251343. A.M.S. I.184/43 stresses importance of D.E.M.S. ratings remaining at their guns as long as possible. It is not considered desirable that merchant ships should act as potential "Q" ships, however, owing to danger of provoking general retaliatory action by U-Boat against men in boats. (D.T.D.271737B. to F.O. Ceylon (R) C. in C. E.F.)

H.D.M.Ls.  
Burmese  
Navy.

Your 240115. Concur with proposed allocation. As additional Flotilla Number will now be required in respect of H.D.M.Ls. building in India on Indian account Flotilla Number 130 is allocated (D.D.O.C. (C) 271851B to F.O.C.R.I.N. (R) N.O.I.C. Calcutta. C.O. Burmese Navy.)



1029

War Diary.27.5.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

G.U.S. 7. Convoy G.U.S.7 arrived New York, 1600Z May 26th, 27 ships arrived. NATHANIEL BACON reported aground off Ambrose Channel. (Port Director New York, 270216 to Cominch C. & R., (R) Commorseafon, Admty., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.) This is repetition of N.R.O. Norfolk 270150. (Begins): Comeastseafon, Cominch C. & R., from N.R.O. Norfolk. Chesapeake detachment G.U.S.7 arrived, 0135Z May 27th. T.O.O. 270150. (Ends). (Cominch C. & R., 270720Z to Admty.)

Movements. St. Johns N.F. May 26th arrivals U.S.C.G. STORIS COMANCHE, ACTIVE ex Argentinia. KITCHEN, ST. LAURENT, ST. CROIX, BURWELL, AGASSIZ, SACKVILLE, WOODSTOCK, KITCHENER ex O.N.180. ST. FRANCIS, MIDLAND, KAMLOOPS, TRANSCONA ex H.X.240. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 270330Z to Admty.)

SEARCHER. Balboa departed 252100 for Norfolk (Vir.) SEARCHER. (N.S.H.Q., 270710 to Admty., (R) C.O.P.C., B.A.D.)

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary	CILICIA	08° N. 28° W.	Patrol	-
1800 G.M.T.	WORCESTERSHIRE	18° N. 31° W.	031°	13
27th.	(D.O.D.(F), 270935Z to Opnav, (R) Comnavu.)			

MAURETANIA, transport of U.S. troops. Your 242153 paras. 1 and 3. A transshipment at Colombo is being arranged. D. of S.T's 262140\* gives detailed proposals. 2. Your para. 2. Arrangements have been complicated by following factors, of most of which U.S. Authorities are presumably ignorant: (a) Difficulty of laying on shipping in Ceylon, where such shipping is not normally available, and where local resources have to be carefully studied as this is not a normal transshipment port. (b) Extreme shortage of personnel shipping in Indian Ocean. (c) Need for fitting this move in with others. (d) Series of breakdowns and delays in such ships as were expected to be available. (e) Uncertainty as to whether W.S. shipping would be required for operational moves. 3. It is hoped, therefore, that proposals in D. of S.T's 262140 by which D. of S.T. is providing W.S. shipping at Colombo at some cost, and which avoid necessity for double voyage of U.S. personnel through Red Sea, will be satisfactory. Request that, if you think it desirable, you will make changes of plan more understandable on the lines of para. 2 above. (D.O.D.(F), Approved V.C.N.S., 271046B to B.A.D.) \* See East Indies.

/Soviet ...



War Diary.

27.5.1943.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Soviet  
request for  
Orders for  
Operation  
"Torch".

Following from Chiefs of Staff Committee C.O.S.  
(W) 620. Reference J.S.M.946.  
It will be necessary to obtain American as well  
as British orders for Operation "Torch" from  
General Eisenhower. For this purpose please  
arrange for Combined Chiefs of Staff to instruct  
Eisenhower to supply us with these Orders for  
the landings at Casablanca, Oran and Algiers.  
(Air Min., 271130Z to Britman Washington.)

U.S.  
Movements.

My 251037QR (re arrival 25th U.S. Navy Tankers  
CHEMING, SALOMINI, NEOBARA.) all sailed for  
(? Holyrood). Arrival 26th U.S.A. Army Transport  
DRENNAN.  
(B.R.O. Aruba, 271131QR to Admty.)  
Honolulu May 22nd JANE ADDAMS (U.S.A.T.) for  
Tutuila.  
(N.S.H.Q., 271516 to D.N.I. Wellington.)

B.X. 54  
GEORGETOWN.

GEORGETOWN sailed Boston 261656 escorting B.X.54.  
(N.S.H.Q., 271256Z to Admty.)

6th E.G.

Argentia 26th May arrival 1730Z 6th Escort  
Group.  
(British Maintenance Com. Argentia, 271315Z to  
Admty.)

ESTRELLA,  
KATENDRECHT  
collision.

S.C.132. Nor. ESTRELLA returned to port damaged  
in collision with Dut. KATENDRECHT.  
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 271350Z to Admty.)

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

(N.S.H.Q., 271400Z.)

SEARCHER,  
information.

You may sight RIO CARCAR(?JA) Argentine and RIO  
GUALEGUAY Argentine p.m./27th and EMPIRE GRACE  
a.m./28th.  
(N.S.H.Q., 271416Z to SEARCHER, (R) S.B.N.O.W.At.,  
Admty.)

S/M Estimate  
27th May,  
U.S. S/M  
Notice.

(Cominch, 271456Z, 271457Z, 271555Z, 271556,  
271557.)

Movements.

San Francisco 25th KLIPFONTEIN (Du.) Brisbane.  
U.S. Ocean escort transport 26th ROSEVILLE (Nor.)  
Brisbane U.S. Army Transport.  
(N.S.H.Q., 271607Z to Admty.)

/Battle ...



War Diary.

27.5.1943.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Battle of Atlantic. I wish most heartily to endorse your 261716 (re favourable turn in Battle of Atlantic) and to say how glad Canadian Forces are to be associated with yours in recent victories. The support group system advocated by F.O.N.F.F. 18 months ago and which with assistance of destroyers from Home Fleet it has been possible to achieve during this period of short nights, should deal a lasting blow to morale of U-Boat personnel, and Higher Command.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. Halifax, 271620Z to C. in C. W.A.)

MONOWAI. MONOWAI. Recommend diversion forthwith to pass through Flores Strait and rejoin route at D. (D.O.D.(H), 271650B to Cominch C. & R., (R) C. in C. W.A.)

G.A.T. 63, Convoy G.A.T.63 arrived. Convoy B.T.13 arrived with ARKANSAS (U.S.), RIO BRANCO (Braz.), and B.T. 13. NEVANIA (U.S.) additional.  
(B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 261652Q to Admty.)

BLAIRMORE. Am returning St. Johns N.F. with defective telemotor refrigerator. E.T.A. 2230Z. Request to be met at Gate by tug.  
(BLAIRMORE, 271711Z to F.O.N.F.)

Convoy Sailing telegram.  
H.H.X.241. 2. Gate 1800Z/27th. 3. H.O.M.P. 1900Z/28th. 5. As C. in C. C.N.A's 201510 and Admty. 181110B except H.O.M.P. 1900Z/28th. 7. Total 13 sailed. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 271830Z, 271845Z to Admty.)  
As Amended 301225Z.

Convoy Following is coded version of N.C.S.O. Sydney  
W.B. 21. 271713Z (N.T. in W.R.)  
W.B.21 arrived.  
(Sydney C.C.O., 271842Z to Admty.)

A.P.C. 59, C.E.S.F. sail A.P.C.59. Vesca in next N.K. A.P.C. 71. convoy for onward routeing in trade convoy by C.G.S.F. and C.C.S.F. to Trinidad via Guantanamo. Trinidad sail in T.B. convoy for Recife. Ultimate destination is Gibraltar via Freetown for which onward routeing from Recife will be issued later. A.P.C.59 manned by British merchantman Ensign. A.P.C.71 manned by Greek Naval Crew and flies Greek Ensign. Economical speed 9 knots. Estimated endurance 2300 miles. Vessels have merchantman service books only.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 271902Z to C.E.S.F.)



1932

War Diary.27.5.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- H.J. 54. Departures CALGARY and TRURO escorting H.J.54.  
(Com. Halifax, 271907 to Admty., etc.)
- 122 M.S.  
Flotilla. N.S.H.Q. 151425 August 1942 not to Cominch or  
C.E.S.F. Anticipate 122 M.S. Flotilla composed  
M.M.S. 196 to 201 inclusive will be ready to  
proceed (? in convoy) 7th June to New York for  
onward routeing in accordance with Admiralty's  
071825 April 1942. Further signal will be made.  
B.A.D. pass to N.M.C.J.S.  
(C. in C. C.N.A., 271941 to N.M.C.J.S., (R) Admty., N.S.H.Q.,  
B.A.T.M., Cominch, C.E.S.F., B.A.D., N.O.I.C. Shelburne,  
F.O.C.W.Af.)
- S.Q. 50. Sailing telegram. 2. 1400Z/28th. 3. 1500Z/31st.  
(4) 7 knots. (5) (Route). (6) PAYNTER, AYRSHIRE.  
(N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B., 271947Z, 271949Z to  
N.C.S.O. Quebec.)
- BAZELY. Change ready date my 182040 to 28th.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 271953Z to C.E.S.F.)
- U.S.A.T. Port of Spain May 27th FLORIDA (U.S.A.T.)  
Recife June 3rd.  
(N.S.H.Q., 272004Z to F.O.C.W.A., C. in C. S.A.S.,  
S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica.)
- P. 554  
TRANSCONA. 1. P.554 escorted by TRANSCONA sails Argentinia  
1200Z May 29th for St. Johns on the surface  
routed through (route).  
2. Speed 10 knots.  
(F.O.N.F., 272025Z to Cominch, (R) C. in C. C.N.A.  
N.S.H.Q., Admty.)
- CALGARY,  
ALGOMA. At 1700Z/27 sailed CALGARY escorting H.J.55,  
E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 0800Z/30.  
2. On arrival request CALGARY relieve ALGOMA in  
Canadian support group and ALGOMA be sailed to  
Halifax as convenient. My 101725 refers.  
(C. in C. C.N.A., 272029Z to F.O.N.F., (R)  
N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A., Admty., B.A.D.)
- Convoy  
A.T. 48  
(QUEEN MARY). Route A.T.48 (QUEEN MARY) via (K) 38.30, 70.30.  
(L) 40.39, 61.01. (M) 42.10 49.11. (N) 42.18,  
34.45. (O) 42.32, 24.29. (P) 49.20, 21.13.  
(Q) 56.20, 17.28. (R) 56.30, 08.30.  
(Cominch C. & R., 272057Z to P.D. New York.)

/Sub. ...



1033

War Diary.27.5.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Sub. attack and sighting summary. All times Z.  
Para. D. Eastern Airlines plane sighted sub.  
29.27 N. 81.05 W., 270953.  
(Cominch, 272119Z to Admty.)

Movements. Bermuda departure BLACKWOOD and DRURY for New York.  
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 272120P to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand.

ENGADINE. Departure today Fiji ENGADINE for Pearl Harbour E.T.A. 2000Z/5th May.  
(D.N.I. Wellington, 270001Z to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q.)

Digest Serial No. 492 May 26th. 5. Enemy aircraft dropped approx. 16 bombs in sea off Merobe early hours 24th.  
6. Afternoon 25th R/C Fortress strafed huts and boats along shore 20 miles north-west of Arawe.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 270802Z to Admty.)

Movements. Arrivals 27th May MACKAY, U.S. Transport CAPE FLATTERY. Townsville R.A.F.A. AASE MAERSK. U.S. Transport BOTH departed Thursday Island 24th arrived Cairns 26th. U.S. Transport VAN DER LIJN depart Cairns 26th due Thursday Island 29th. Hired Transport TAROONA depart Townsville 26th due Port Moresby 28th. U.S. Transport MAETSUYCKER depart Portland Roads 26th due Thursday Island 27th.  
(C.S.W.P.S.F., 271058Z to Admty.)  
Arrivals Exmouth Gulf 25th U.S. Seaplane Tender HERON. Brisbane 26th DELORAINE, MORESBY, KALGOURLIE. Sydney (N.S.W.) 26th BROOME. Departures Townsville 25th U.S. Des. MAHAN for Port Moresby. Fremantle 26th Netherlands Cr. TROMP, TJERK HIDDIS escort duty Indian Ocean. Exmouth Gulf 26th U.S. Seaplane Tender HERON for Geraldton. Sydney (N.S.W.) 26th U.S. Des. CONYNGHAM escort duty to 158° East, BENDIGO for Aden. Milne Bay 26th BUNBURY for Port Moresby. Melbourne 26th NEPAL, QUIBERON for Fremantle, E.T.A. 31st.  
(A.C.N.B., 271319Z to Admty.)

/Departure ...



1034

War Diary.

27.5.1943.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements.  
(Contd.)

Departure Sydney (N.S.W.) 26th U.S.S. MOUNT  
VERNON for Auckland E.T.A. 0400Z/29th.  
(A.C.N.B., 271321Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 271345B, 271355B.)



1035

28.5.1943.

Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- X 1. A floating dock in tow of 3 tugs with escorts was seen by aircraft at 0735 today in 60.45 N. 04.50 E. A B.2 report states that the dock passed Stav Fiord at 1700 today.
- Mines off Portsmouth. / 2. 6 moored mines were found by 9th M/S.F. sweep off Portsmouth (see 24th May); 5 were detonated in sweep and one sunk. Two explosive conical floats were sunk and one swept. The 9th M/S.F. are now working from Portland.
- Operations:- S.N. 111B. 3. R.A.(M) in MENESTHEUS and the forces employed in Operation S.N. 111B returned to Port ZA early this morning.
- H.V. 4. PLOVER completed Operation H.V. 4 today.

North Atlantic.

- U/B attacked. / 4. At 2333B, Wellington aircraft R.A.J./R 179 straddled a U-Boat amidships with depth charges in 38.34 (or 24) N., 00.02 E. The U-Boat was still on the surface 30 minutes later. No oil or bubbles were seen.

South Atlantic.

- Attack on B.T. 14. / 5. JOHN WORTHINGTON, Panama tanker, 8166 tons, was torpedoed about 0330 in 03.50 S. 37° W. SS. FLORIDA and CARDINAL GIBBONS were torpedoed in 03.56 S. 36.43 W. (about 130 miles N.W. of Natal, Brazil) about 0500 G.M.T. All 3 ships were in convoy B.T.14. FLORIDA put into Fortelaza. The other 2 ships continued in convoy.

/Attack ...



1036

28.5.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic.Attack on  
C.D. 20. /

6. Convoy C.D. 20 (Capetown to Durban) was attacked this morning in 34.57 S. 19.33 E. (near Cape Agulhas) and the following were torpedoed:-

AGWIMONTE, American, 6679 tons New York and Balboa for Durban and Suez torpedoed about 72351 B. 1151B. Sixty-one were saved out of a complement of 69.

STORAAS, Norwegian tanker, 7886 tons, torpedoed about 1155B. Thirty-five were saved out of a complement of 39. ? 2355 B.

(20 page  
1133)

N.C.S.O. Port Elizabeth gives the position of these sinkings as 34.52 S. 19.35 E. No SSSS was sent out nor rockets fired by either ship, nor was fire opened as the U-Boat was not seen.

J.W. DENVER.

7. S.O.(I) Freetown reports that 18 survivors of the American ship JAMES W. DENVER have been picked up after 35 days in a lifeboat by a Spanish ship and landed at La Aguers, Rio de Oro. They are being sent to Las Palmas. JAMES W. DENVER was reported torpedoed on 11th April in U.G.S.7, near the Azores.

Mediterranean.

Convoys. X

8. In an Admiralty review of the Convoy situation, it is stated that R.S. (Gibraltar to Freetown) and S.R. convoys have been discontinued, and it is presumed that E.T./T.E. convoys ("Torch" Area) will cease upon the establishment of G.T.X. convoys. The following estimate of future traffic is given:-

O.S., ships for South and West Africa, South America, etc., 40 a month.

K.M.S., 140 per month, of which 50 per month will require through convoy to Alexandria and beyond.

U.G.S., 150 per month, of which 70 per month will require through convoy.

Interport shipping, 60 per month.

East to West convoys, on same cycles, though with less ships in each.

/ U/Bs ...



1037

28.5.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean - Contd.

U/Bs sunk.

9. A U-Boat which had been attacked with U/P rockets was sunk at 1353 today by a Hudson aircraft of No. 608 Squadron R.A.F. in 39.59 N. 01.41 E., about 90 miles S.W. of Barcelona. Another U-Boat was sunk today by a Hudson of the N.W. Africa Coastal Air Force in 40.03 N. 01.20 E., 70 miles N.E. of Valencia. Between 30 and 40 survivors were seen in the sea.

M.T.B. &  
M.G.B.  
Patrols.

10. After two nights in which coastal craft operations had to be cancelled on account of weather, M.T.Bs from Malta last night patrolled in the vicinity of Pantellaria, and M.T.Bs and M.G.Bs from Bizerta made a sweep off Marittimo.

SICKLE.

11. In addition to successes reported earlier, it was announced today that the submarine SICKLE fired 4 torpedoes at a tanker off Monaco at 1115 on 15th May. One torpedo hit and sank the tanker, while another hit the casino at Monte Carlo.

UNRULY.

12. S/M UNRULY reports having obtained one hit on a 4,000 ton merchant vessel at 1032 on 16th May in 37.35 N. 15.17 E.

UNBROKEN.

13. S/M UNBROKEN reports sinking a 600 ton tug at 1547 on 16th May in 38.45 N. 16.00 E., about 40 miles N.E. of Messina, and a 4000 ton merchant vessel at 1744 on 21st May in 38.24 N. 15.44 E., about 33 miles N. of Reggio di Calabria.

ULTOR.

14. S/M ULTOR reports that a 500 ton trawler at a buoy in the entrance to Augusta Harbour blew up when hit by a torpedo at 0821 on 23rd May.

Leghorn  
bombed.

15. 70 Fortresses from North Africa, in 3 waves, made daylight attacks today on Leghorn. All returned without loss, and only 4 had minor flak damage. This was the most distant raid yet made from the North African theatre. Bursts were seen in the railway yard, oil storage tanks, docks and shipyards. Explosions were caused in the oil tanks and fires were started in the shipyards. Hits were claimed on 2 medium sized ships and one large merchant vessel.

/Other ...



1038

28.5.1943.

Friday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean. - Contd.

- Other Air Operations. / 16. Continuing their attacks on enemy aerodromes today, 36 Mitchells raided Sciacca, 24 Marauders Castel Verrano, 23 Marauders Milo, 29 Mitchells Bo Rizzo, 26 Lightnings Castelvetro, 8 Warhawks Pantellaria.  
A force of 37 U.S. Liberators attacked the aerodrome at Foggia, Italy, (N.E. of Naples) at 1025 G.M.T. today. At least 2 aircraft on the ground were blown up and others damaged. 13 Wellingtons last night attacked enemy aerodromes at Villacidro, Decimomannu, and Elmas.  
5 R.A.F. Liberators of 9th Bomber Command attacked Augusta last night, without loss. Bombs burst in the area of the railway station and near oil installations.  
2 Beaufighters on anti-shipping reconnaissance in the Aegean attacked an 80 ton caique south of Spetsai, east coast of Greece, and a U-Boat about 75 miles north of Derna, cannon strikes being seen before the submarine dived.
- Enemy Air Operations. + 17. Seven enemy aircraft raided Sousse this morning. Eight bombs in the dock area caused superficial damage. Casualties included 4 military killed and 5 injured.  
SHOREHAM was attacked by A/C this evening in Eastern Mediterranean without damage.
- Air Cover. / 18. The North Africa Coastal Air Force has now taken over responsibility for fighter and air anti-submarine defence of shipping off the East Coast of Tunisia as far south as a line Tripoli - Tunis border to 34.00 N. 12.30 E., and as far east as 12.30 E.
- Minesweeping. \* 19. One German type R and 7 Sautworder Harle mines were swept today within a radius of half a mile of 37.18 N. 09.54 E., off Bizerta.
- EREBUS. 20. The monitor EREBUS from East Indies Station arrived at Port Said today.
- Movement Summaries. 21. Consequent on the change of station limits which is to take effect on 1st June, C. in C. Mediterranean issued revised instructions today for the issue of Movement Summaries to come into force on that date.



War Diary.28.5.1943.  
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.America and West Indies.Convoy  
organisation.

22. Admiral Usborne suggests, in order to defeat attack by submarines getting in amongst ships of a convoy, that the columns should be staggered, even numbers in each column to be  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cables to port of the line of advance of column. This arrangement would make it extremely difficult for submarines to manoeuvre between columns. Also with columns 5 cables apart and ships in columns 4 cables apart, it might permit of the use of depth charges by merchant vessels. He suggests that staggered columns, but without depth charges, may be tried in the convoy in which he returns (H.X. 242 or 243.) The Admiralty consider that the proposed formation would make station keeping difficult and emergency turns hazardous, particularly at night and in low visibility, but do not object to trials for short period if the Commodore and S.O. Escort agree.

U.G.S. and  
G.U.S.  
Convoys.

× 23. Beginning with U.G.S.11, sailing on 27th June, and G.U.S.8, arriving about 25th June, U.G.S. convoys will sail from and arrive at Hampton Roads instead of New York.

Australia and New Zealand.

× 24. Before daybreak today, 4 Liberators and 6 Fortresses bombed Wewak, Boram and Dagua aerodromes, causing many fires and probably destroying 7 searchlights. During the forenoon, a Liberator bombed Talasea and destroyed a jetty on Garua Island, off Talasea, while another strafed Sangar Village, 55 miles S.E. of Wewak.



1040

28.5.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Co-operation with Russia.

Exchange  
of  
courtesies.

Your 241012C May. To Admiral Kusnets. From Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Andrew Cunningham, thanking Kusnets for his tribute to the work of British and U.S. seamen in the African Campaign.  
(Hd. of M.II 282212B to Adm. Fisher).

Movements.

BATTLE

My 261546B sailed BATTLE.  
(N.O.I.C. Belfast 280525B).  
Clyde arrival BATTLE.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 281106B).

S/M.  
movements.

Intend to sail U.S.S.R. S.54 escorted by LOCH MONTEITH from Holy Loch 1500B/29 to Lerwick, E.T.A. 1600B/31st speed 10 knots.  
(2) Thence both ships as ordered by S.O. SUBS. Lerwick.  
(Capt.S.3 280953B).

Intend to sail SEADOG escorted by TEKOURA at 0630B tomorrow to R/V in accordance with Captain (S) 3rd's 251145B.  
(A.C.O.S. 281227B).

Subject to your concurrence propose to extend period spent by C.O. qualifying course at Scapa by one week.

(2) In order to carry out above and maintain your requirements of two S/Ms. for A/S training at Scapa until mid June intend following programme.

(a) ULA to leave Dundee about 1st June for A/S training duties at Scapa until about 11th June.

(b) SCEPTRE to take C.O. qualifying course training from SYRTIS on 3rd June until 10th June. SYRTIS to return to Holy Loch 4th June.

(F.O.S. 281433B to C. in C. H.F.).

Positions of S/Ms. at 0800B/29 and movements for following 24 hours.

(F.O.S. 281612B, 281807B, 291122).

CHARYBDIS

Your 271930. Return to Plymouth forthwith.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 281051B to CHARYBDIS, (R) GLASGOW).

GLASGOW

C. in C. Plymouth's 271635.  
Onward route. (R) 052 degs. 01' N. 015 degs. 02' W. (S) 055 degs. 59' N. 013 degs. 18' W. (T) 058 degs. 33' N. 008 degs. 58' W. thence Scapa.  
(C. in C.W.A. 1116/28 to GLASGOW).

CUMBERLAND  
BERMUDA.

Clyde arrival CUMBERLAND, BERMUDA.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 281244B to C. in C.H.F.).



28.5.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. -Contd.

KENT Hvalfjord departues F.O. 1st C.S. in KENT with  
JAMAICA JAMAICA, ECLIPSE in company.  
(A.C.I.C. 281349).

Landing (1) A.M. 201349/April A.M. 082103/May.  
Craft (2) Arrangements are in hand for the 6 L.C.T.  
Flights E (R) originally scheduled for Landing Craft  
and H. Flight H, to arrive Falmouth in time to sail with  
Flight E. Flight H will consist of stragglers  
only.

(3) The amended programme for Flight E. and H. is  
therefore as follows:-

FLIGHT E. will sail from Falmouth on 7th June, comprising,  
(a) 18 L.C.G. (L) of 6th and 8th Flotillas. (b) 6 L.C.T.(R),  
(c) 3 L.C.T. (3) of 5th Flotilla. (d) 2 L.C.T.(3) of 4th  
Flotilla. (e) L.C.F. (3), 8, 10, 11 and 12. (f) Oil fuel  
Carriers VINDONIA, VINDELECIA and OUTPOST. (g) Tugs EMPIRE HARRY  
and EMPIRE LARCH.

Flight H. will comprise L.C.T.(4) 624 of the 25th Flotilla and  
L.C.T.(4) 626 of the 26th Flotilla, and any other craft remaining  
after Flights F and E have sailed.

(D.O.D.H. 281711B to C. in C. Plymouth).

EMPIRE Your 271735 May.  
DAMSEL Water Boat EMPIRE DAMSEL is to be sailed with  
L.C.Flight F to Gibraltar for onward routeing as  
required by C. in C. Mediterranean.  
(D.O.D.H. 281723B to C. in C. Plymouth).

CUMBERLAND After SCYLLA and ATHABASKAN have arrived and  
SCYLLA completed with fuel on 31st May F.O.I.C. Greenock  
FURIOUS is requested to sail CUMBERLAND (S.O.) SCYLLA,  
BERMUDA. FURIOUS, BERMUDA, ATHABASKAN, ECHO, MIDDLETON,  
for Akureyri to arrive p.m. 3rd June.

(2) Route through position (a) 215 degs. Oversay  
6 miles thence via Q.Z.S.407, 406 and south of Q.Z.X. 241 and  
794 to Akureyri. S.O.A. 17 knots.

(3) On arrival all ships complete with fuel.  
(C. in C. H.F. 281901B).

SCYLLA take ATHABASKAN under your orders and proceed to  
Clyde passing Hoxa Gate at 0700B/30th May.

(2) Route via Minches and war channel.

(3) On arrival both ships complete with fuel and act in  
accordance with my 281901.

(C. in C. H.F. 281915B).

Operations.

Coastal Your 271327B. "Evidence" arrived.  
Craft (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 280520B to C. in C. Plymouth).  
Patrols. My 271045B. "Match" returned 0612.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland 280629B).

/Intend....



28.5.1943.

Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal Craft Patrols. (Contd.). (1) Intend M.Ls. 208 (S.O.) 233 and 245 to patrol tonight, on lat. 50 degs. 20' N. between 01 degs. 45' W. and 02 degs. 25' W.

(2) Leave Portland at 2200 via Q.Z.S.382 and leave patrol line at dawn/29, returning via Q.Z.S.382.

(3) Object anti E-boat patrol. Codeword "Device". (F.O.I.C. Portland 281024B).

(1) S.G.B.4 M.G.B. 614, 615 M.T.B.250 patrolling southward of E.A.5 buoy.

(2) ALBRIGHTON, STEVENSTONE, and MEYNELL if available immediate notice at St. Helens.

(3) M.Ls. 346, 572 patrolling in Eastern Approach Channel.

(4) M.L.208 (S.O.) 233, 245 from Portland patrolling 50 degs. 20' N. between 01 degs. 45' W. and 02 degs. 25' W.

(5) CHASSEUR 10 at St. Helens, KINGSTON TURQUOISE at Yarmouth. (C. in C. Portsmouth 281210B).

Tonight S.G.B.4, M.G.B. 614, 615, M.T.B.250 to patrol latitude 50 degs. 25' N. between 00 degs. 15' W. and 01 degs. 00' W. from 2300 to 0415. Code word "Object".

(2) ALBRIGHTON, STEVENSTONE and MEYNELL if available immediate notice Yarmouth. Code word "Match".

(3) M.L.346, 572 to patrol searched channel between F and E.A.5 buoys.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 281222B, 282019B).

M.Ls. 257 and 137 at Bullock Bank.

M.Ls. 104, 108, 107, 213, 210, 573, 128, 101, 102 and M.T.Bs. 221, 219 from Dover carrying out operations N.L. 83 and N.L.84, route via No.4. Buoy Eastwards. E.T.D. 2330 E.T.R. 0430/29.

M.G.Bs. 110, 116, 108, from Ramsgate covering Operations N.L.83 and 84 E.T.D. 2330 E.T.R. 0430/29.

M.G.Bs. 43, 40, 42 proceeding to patrol at Bullock Bank.

(V.A. Dover 281754B).

My 281024B "Device" sailed.

(F.O.I.C. Portland 282214B).

Operation "Super" + Arrived KRAKOWIAK, GARTH, GOATHLAND, WENSLEYDALE. (C. in C. Plymouth 280857B).

S/M patrol. Following is a paraphrase of my 281024. Surface ships are not to be attacked as position of stragglers from convoys may not be known. (F.O.S. 281027B to Admty. C. in C.W.A. C. in C.C.N. A., Comnavu).

Positions of submarines at 0800B/29th and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) HERRING vicinity 54 degs. 02' N. 42 degs. 01' W.

(B) HADDO vicinity 51 degs. N. 35 degs. W.

(C) HAKE 56 degs. 30' N. 17 degs. 32' W. probably on surface through 56 degs. 00' N. 25 degs. 01' W. and 54 degs. 50' N. 27 degs. 59' W.

(D) SHAD, TUNA, ULTIMATUM, STUBBORN as in my 251721.

(g) TEMPLAR 46 degs. 40' N. 06 degs. 28 W. dived by day to southward, daily advance 98 miles.

(F.O.S. 281612B).

/Engagement.....



1043

28.5.1943.

Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. -Contd.

Engagement of Enemy Coastal Craft. \*Preliminary report on proceedings of M.G.Bs. on night of 27th/28th May. Unit of 4 M.G.Bs. Nos. 605, 612, 610, 609 took departure from No.4. Buoy at 1630 on a course of 060 degs. At 1900 one A/C probably Dornier, sighted at a distance, and at 1952 2 F/W approached at 100 feet. A/C passed just out of range and returned and fired short burst at M.G.B.609, unit replying. At 2010 unit made bold alteration of course for centre of Brown Ridge, and when 12 miles from initial position 52 degs. 05' N. 04 degs. 09' E another A/C passed low over rear ship. At 2315 flares sighted ahead, and at 0009 unit stopped at initial position and set hydrophone watch. M.T.B.610, having been slightly damaged in collision, was ordered to return independently. At 0100 unit commenced sweep at 12 knots. At 0110 fixed white light observed on port bow, range about  $4\frac{1}{4}$  miles, later proving to be one fast escort vessel. At 0128 star shell fired from astern. At 0148 bows observed of fast vessel closing rapidly on port side. Fixed light of vessel previously mentioned was extinguished and R.D.F. showed two vessels, one on either bow, with third vessel apparently attempting to illuminate and drive M.G.Bs. on the other escorts. Unit increased and altered course to starboard and when two miles clear stopped. At 0210 unit approached original position to identify vessels. At 0230 star shell. Proceeded down convoy route at 12 knots, enemy escorts keeping about two miles off, firing intermittent star shell. At 0315 enemy were closing rapidly and unit decided to make off shore at fast speed. Many deviations necessary as the three enemy ships were spread out fanwise and at times estimated speed 30 knots, chase being abandoned after about 15 miles. During last manoeuvre 609 and 612 became separated and course to steer was sent by W/T. M.G.B.610 also reports that when leaving unit she was chased north approximately 15 miles by one fast ship. The enemy showed little initiative with the advantage they held. (C. in C. Nore 281814B to Admty.

Allied Air Activity.

A/S escort H.240 A.C.799 28 May Programme 28th. (5) A/S escort to H.X.240 by 3 A/C of 120 E.T.D. 0100B on 0750B off 0950B E.T.A. 1630B E.T.D. 0735B on 1400B off 1655B E.T.A. 2305B E.T.D.1555B on 2150B off 0140B/29 May E.T.A.0725B/29 May. (R.A.F.Iceland (C) 280023).

Stipple (O.N.186) A.C.N. 561 28 May. My A.C.N.550 27 May. Stipple amend O.N. 186 from C Two to A Three. V.L.R. cover to be provided from first light if possible by Iceland. (H.Q.C.C. 280050B).

/Stipple...



1044

28.5.1943.

Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity. -Contd.

Stipple. Propose to issue following amendment to A.M. 071612B. Begins:-  
Delete para.3 and substitute.  
This signal will be prefixed by the codename Stipple which will signify that the priorities are approved by C. in C.W.A. Convoys will be grouped in the following categories, and named also within their own categories in the order of priority.  
(A) Definitely threatened or being attacked, or convoys of special importance. Convoys in this category require air cover if possible.  
(B) May require air cover in the near future, with indication of date.  
(C) Troop convoys including monsters which have not been included in category (A). Air cover is required for these if aircraft are available after allowing for commitments in categories (A) and (B).  
(D) Standing out of danger; unlikely to require cover tomorrow.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 280417B to S.A.S.O. Coastal Command, C.O.S.W.A.).

Proposed C. in C. Portsmouth 251230. Request you will  
A/C for give favourable consideration to this proposal  
Tangmere observing that it is desired to improve defence of  
convoys whilst present E and Torpedo boat  
concentration remains in Channel.  
(2) It is regretted that in present state of F.A.A. expansion no  
compensation can be made for the reduction at Manston  
(A.C.N.S.H.281326B to H.Q.F.C.).

Enemy Air Activity.

Jan Following from Jan Mayen. Aircraft observed far  
Mayen. away inland 0650Z course north.  
(A.C.I.C. 281709B).

Mining.

S.N.111B. R.A.(M) arrived in MENESTHEUS with AGAMEMNON,  
CASTLETON, St. MARY'S in company.  
(TRELAWNEY 280124B).  
Arrived PORT QUEBEC, NEWARK, LANCASTER.  
(TRELAWNEY 280342B).

Off \* L.L. Sweepers detonated 1 red magnetic mine at  
Lowestoft. 0754 in 042 degs. 6B Buoy 18 cables.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 280829B, 291110B).  
L.L.Sweepers detonated One Red Magnetic Mine at  
1055 in 140 degs. No.3.C Buoy 2.4 miles.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 281119B, 291120B).  
L.L.Sweepers detonated one red magnetic mine at 1123 in 060  
degs. No.3B Buoy 2.3 miles.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 281204B, 291122B).



1045

War Diary.

28.5.1943.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. --Contd.

Thames Estuary One ground mine detonated by Sweeper at 0957B/26 in 134 degs. B.7 Buoy 6.9 cables. (Capt.M/S Sheerness 281050B).

Operations Q.U.10 and Q.U.11. Weather permitting carry out the following operations tonight.  
(1) Q.U. (10) 2 boats. (2) Q.U. (11) 3 boats.  
(3) Both lays to be scattered working through central position of Q.U.(10) and Q.W.(11) along convoy route.

(4) Units to proceed in company as far as possible before dividing to arrive at laying positions at 0200. Should breakdowns occur units are to be re-organized into two of 2 boats or one of three. If reduced to one unit operation Q.U.(11) to be carried out.

(6) Boats in Q.U. (10) Unit A. Boats in Q.U. (11) Unit B. Should boats reform into one unit, then use call sign unit B. (C. in C. Nore 281133B to BEEHIVE).

Operation "Hostile 8" Intend carrying out operations "Hostile 8" tonight. Force "Hostile 8" is to sail from Plymouth to pass Gate at 1815B/28th. Support Force LA COMBATTANTE (F.S.) is to sail from Plymouth to pass Gate at 2100B/28. (C. in C. Plymouth 281139B).

Cancel reference to LA COMBATTANTE. (My 281139B). Support Force is to consist of KRAKOWIAK, GOATHLAND, GARTH and WENSLEYDALE.

(C. in C. Plymouth 281347B).

Sailed KRAKOWIAK, GOTHLAND, GARTH, WENSLEYDALE in accordance with my 281347B.

(C. in C. Plymouth 282133B).

Yarmouth At 1019/27 one Mine detonated by Sweeper in 52 degs. 26' 33" N. 01 degs. 57' 50" E. (Cdr. M/S Lowestoft 281213B).

Sweep of Q.Z.X.999 9th M/S F have completed 100 per cent sweep of Q.Z.X.999. 6 mines type R accounted for, five detonated in sweep, one sunk. Two explosive conical floats sunk and one swept. Four sweeps parted by explosive anti-sweep device. 9th

M/S F. now working from Portland clearing Q.Z.X.1001. (C. in C. Portsmouth 281223B to Admty.).

Operation H.V.4. Operation H.V.4 completed. (PLOVER 281735B to C. in C. Plymouth).

Bristol Channel. At 271125B one Mine detonated by Sweeper in 51 degs 40' 42" N. 05 degs. 14' 00" W. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 271815B).



1046

28.5.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Floating Dock off Bergen. X Floating dock in tow of 3 tugs with escorts seen by aircraft at 0735/28 in 60 degs. 45' N. 04 degs. 50' E. B.2. report states dock passed Stav Fiord 1700/28. (D.D.I.C. 282245B to C. in C.H.F. C. in C. Rosyth A.C.O.S. H.Q.C.C. F.O.S.).

U-boats.

U-boat reported in Biscay Area. Am over enemy submarine in 47 degs. 07' N. 14 degs. 30' W. (A/C 502 Sq. Duty H. 281529 to 19 Group).

U-boats reported or attacked in North Atlantic. Am over enemy S/M in 54 degs. 41' N. 36 degs. 31' W. (A/C 120 Sq. Duty E 282036B to 15 Group). My 2036. Have attacked enemy with depth charges. (A/C 120 Sq. Duty E 28203B to 15 Group).

Technical.

Icebergs and Asdic. Icebergs have in several instances been reported as high-speed diesel hydrophone effect by escort keeping Asdic listening watch. It appears this result may be produced from water noise on iceberg of certain shape or possibly by reflection of hydrophone effect from iceberg. It may have dangerous consequences if escort in fog does not classify as non sub in early stage of attack. (C. in C.W.A. 281828B).

Casualties and Defects.

PRINS ALBERT My 272300 (N.T. in W.R.). Electrical defect has not yet been located. Consider it inadvisable to proceed. Request sailing may be postponed until fault has been traced and rectified. (PRINS ALBERT 280532B to C. in C. Portsmouth). My 280532B. Defect now remedied. (PRINS ALBERT 281737B).

A/C in distress Proceed forthwith with despatch to 60 degs. N. 01 degs. to act as Air/Sea Rescue ship for aircraft. (C. in C.H.F. 281431B to QUAIL). My 281431. Request you will assume operational control of QUAIL until completion of present duty. (C. in C. H.F. 281551B to C. in C. Rosyth). Return to base. (C. in C. Rosyth 281847B to QUAIL).

/Scapa.....



1047

28.5.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

A/C in  
distress

Scapa arrival QUAIL.  
(A.C.O.S. 282248B).

PORCUPINE

Admty. 281639B. Tow of PORCUPINE will be transferred to CHARON tomorrow weather permitting. PORCUPINE at present in tow, PHENIUS. Maximum speed of PORCUPINE in tow CHARON is 6 knots. (?AUBRETIA).

Your 281657B and your 281723B since received. My P.C.S. at 1800Z 048 degs. 27' N. (100/015 degs.?) 07' W. 001 degs. 7.25 knots.

(E.G.38 281630Z to C. in C.W.A.).

S.L.129 and M.K.S.13.

On reaching 50 degs. N. CHARON towing forward half of PORCUPINE to Portsmouth is to be detached with suitable escort.

(2) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to relieve escort of CHARON and PORCUPINE in vicinity of 5 degs.W.

(D.O.D.H. 281639B to C. in C.W.A.).

S.L.129/ M.K.S.13. A.M. 281632 LEITH to detail 2 corvettes as escort.

(C. in C.W.A. 281847B to C. in C. Plymouth).

Your 281847B and Admiralty 281639B. Request confirmation that WHIMBREL is not suitable escort in which case AUBRETIA and COREOPSIS will be detailed. Weather at present appears suitable for transfer of tow tomorrow.

(E.G. 38 282044Z to C. in C.W.A.).

Dinghy

Am over enemy aircraft dinghy or raft containing two live persons. Position 49 degs. 46' N. 07 degs. 41' W. Occupants have indicated that they require GBAR fuel.

(A/C 10 Sqdn, Duty T. 281715B to 19 Group).

Proceed at H.S. through 048 degs. 50' N. 008 degs. 10' W. to search for A/C dinghy containing 6 crew reported in 047 degs. 50' N. 009 degs. 38' W. at 1630B today.

(2) Sunderland A/C attempting to rescue may have landed in this area.

(C. in C. Plymouth 282239B to LA COMBATTANTE).

UGANDA

Your 271838 para.3. My 251339 refers.  
(D.O.D.H. 281907B to C. in C. Plymouth).

WAVENEY  
HASTINGS.

E.T.A. Reykjavik 0700Z/30th May.

Following defects will require attention.

WAVENEY requires new mark 4 depth charge throwers complete, the carrier having sheared its stops and gone overboard. Repairs to hydraulic firing system may enable throwers to use mark 2 carriers.

HASTINGS will require 8 hours to repair feed heater system.

(E.G.40 282140Z to A.C.I.C.).

/VISCOUNT...



1048

War Diary.

28.5.1943.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects. -Contd.

VISCOUNT.

In addition to main bearings defects VISCOUNT has following O.F. leaks.  
(VISCOUNT 282201Z to Capt (D) Liverpool).

KOOTENAY

My 281613, KOOTENAY arrived with engine-room fans defective and damaged boats. Carley and Flotanets and oiling connections lost overboard.  
Intend to sail KOOTENAY to H.X. 240 (C. in C. Western Approaches 242121 refers) when ready probably about 1500B/29th May.  
(A.C.I.C. 282336B).



1049

War Diary.28.5.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- O.N.186. D/F bearings at 2152Z/27th May indicate U-Boat may have reported convoy. (D.D.I.C. 280017B. to Escorts O.N.186.) Ships which are straggling at present and unable to rejoin convoy by 2000Z tonight return U.K. (Ad. Liverpool 280945Z. to Admty. B.A.M. S.I.A.)
- Use of H/F. Your 201816. It is considered that H/F transmissions from convoys W. of 25° W. will disclose their approximate position but not with sufficient accuracy to enable U-Boats to operate as a result. No objection to homing aircraft W. of 25° using H/F. (A.C.N.S.H. 281050B. to C. in C. W.A.)
- S.C.131. Is it now essential for us to go so far North as C.L. We might avoid crossing Westbound traffic and would perhaps catch an earlier tide at Liverpool. (Cdre. S.C.131 281300Z. to C. in C. W.A.)
- T.A.42A. (AQUITANIA.) My 241912/May. Convoy T.A.42A. Route as follows. Through position H.270° Oversay 6 miles at 010600B/June then through:-  
J. 55.01 N. 15.58 W. K. 51.00 N. 23.32 W.  
L. 42.05 N. 29.03 W. M. 38.10 N. 37.04 W.  
N. 38.10 N. 37.04 W. O. 38.05 N. 70.02 W. thence to New York.  
(D.O.D.H. 281327B. to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- T.A.43. Intend sailing EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND 1900Z/29. Route 270° 6 miles from Oversay P.055 N. 014 W. Q. 049 023. R. 042 027. S. 040 036 T. 039 050 U. 040 063 V. 044 063, thence Halifax approaches S. of A. 19½ to 20½. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 281504Z. to Admty.)
- P.S.29. P.S.29 and S.P.29 cancelled.  
S.P.29. (C. in C. Portsmouth 281724B.)
- D.F.6. My 271535 amended my 280920. Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 281800B.)
- Anti U/B Tactics. Following experience with S.C. 130 is promulgated for information. Evasive turns carried out by convoy on two successive mornings when U-Boats were in contact proved most valuable and U-Boats were found submerged on original line advance awaiting daylight attack. (C. in C. W.A. 281823B.)



War Diary.

28.5.1943.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

T.A.44. ANDES will be ready to leave Liverpool on 6th June.  
2. F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to sail ship  
to Halifax by route which will be signalled by  
Admiralty.  
(D.O.D.H. 281915B.)

North BEACON HILL sailed Kola Inlet for Archangel  
Russia. 2030B/28th., Russian PAMYAT KIROVA in company.  
Escorts BRITOMART, CAMELLIA Russian GREMYASHCHI,  
GROZNI, GROZA and light craft. CAMELLIA parts  
company at Tergwen Orlov and returns Kola Inlet.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 282039 to S.B.N.O.Archangel)



1051

War Diary.28.5.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

O.S.48. Sailed as in my 260956B.  
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 280205B. to F.O.C.W.Af. (R)  
Admty. Connav, C. in C. Med. C.M.S.F.F.)

MARIE Repairs completed in accordance with my 211222.  
LOUISE (2) Intend sailing MARIE LOUISE MACKAY in K.M.S.15  
MACKAY. for Algiers in accordance with your 131554.  
(F.O. Gib. 281015B. to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.  
Com. Algiers.)

WORCESTERSHIRE. Alter course forthwith for new position R. 27°  
N. 30° W. meet S. 36° 28° W. new T. 41° N. 25° W.  
new U. 50° N. 22° W. new V. 55° N. 15° W. new W.  
55.30 N. 08.30 W.  
(D.O.D. (F) 281112B to WORCESTERSHIRE (R) F.O.I.C.  
Gib. C. in C. W.A. Cominch.)

Dispositions. Situation 1959B/28th. MOLDE, HUDDERSFIELD TOWN.  
One Merchant Ship 036° 49' 007° 44' to Cape St.  
Marys thence coastwise to Lisbon 8. (2) O.S.48  
(G) LAUDERDALE 035° 02' 008° 21' to rendezvous  
O.S. 48/K.M.S.15 8½ knots and escort K.M.S.15 through 035° 45'  
006° 30' to Gib. 8. (3) Italian Repatriation Ships GIULIO  
CESARE and DUILIO sail 1700/28th from Gibraltar through 034° 20'  
009° 02' thence 204° 15. (4) Landing Craft convoy one Merchant  
Ship two tugs MINUET 038° 25' 011° 12' through 036° 40' 010° 02'  
thence Gibraltar 8. (5) L.S.T.S. U.S. Des. HERBERT 035° 05'  
006° 45' through 035° (corrupt group) 006° 26' Gibraltar nine.  
(6) Spanish training ship GALATEA (?steering) Funchal escort to  
Ferrol (corrupt group). (7) K.X. (?10) OG 90 (?A) TEVIOT (E)  
038° 07' 012° 53' through 036° 20' 009° 57' Gib. 8. O.S.48  
(Casablanca Section) 352° sailing 2100B/28th and S.A.F. (?)  
(corrupt group) Section (?161°) sailing 0400 (?29th) both  
sections to R/V in 033° 47' 010° 08' at 1600/29th. Escort return  
with Merchant ship for Casablanca (IX) (?one) Merchant ship  
(?128) (?58') 034° 32' 007° 34' through 035° 45' (?006°) 30'  
to Gibraltar 11½.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 281155B.)

LUGANO. My 221201, steamship LUGANO sails 29th.  
(D.E.W.D. 281243B. to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) C. in C.  
Med.)

MINUET, Onward route from position (N) through (O) 035°  
BROADWAY, 47' N. 006° 25' W. and Q.K.A.87 to Gibraltar.  
TWOSTEP. (2) Report E.T.A. Gibraltar on crossing 007° W.  
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 281249B. to MINUET, BROADWAY,  
TWOSTEP, Admty.)



1052

War Diary.28.5.1943.  
FridayFOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

P.55 Intend sailing P.55 UNSPARING for Algiers p.m. (UNSPARING). 30th May routed (R) 180° Cape (?Calaburras) 5 miles at 03 (?30) 31st (Q) 180° Cape Delgata 5 miles at (?1300) 1st and (?unless otherwise directed) by Capt. (S) 8th (P) 135° Cape Palos 5 miles at 1700/2nd. Capt. (S) 8th is requested to assume operational control at 1300/1st. S. of A. 7 knots 83 miles per day time zone minus (?2). (F.O.I.C. Gib. 281457B. to C. in C. Med. (?Capt. (S) 8th P.55 UNSPARING S.O. Force H. Combas Oran Cdre. Algiers. (R) V.A. Malta. 8th S/M Flotilla.) Delayed 24 hours (292148B.)

ESKIMO. E.T.A. 0715B. Request dockyard assistance to repair internally leaking fuel tanks. Ship cannot operate without (great?) risk of boiler room fire till this has been done. Tanks affected will be empty but not clean on arrival. (Capt. (D) 6. 281554 to F.O.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med.)

Convoy X.K.7. Anticipate after half of PORCUPINE towed by AIMWELL will not make more than 7½ knots in fine weather. (2) Propose to sail convoy X.K.7. PORCUPINE. consisting of half of PORCUPINE towed by AIMWELL, GLAISDALE, FENSHURST, SARCHANGEJKS. Maximum speed of last three ships 7 knots.

Escorts HUDDERSFIELD TOWN and MONDE. (3) Convoy to sail about 5th June. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 281555B. to C. in C. Med. (R) C. in C. W.A.Admtly.)

Non-interception of CHOKO. A.M. 271314B. STORNOWAY only ship available to intercept reached 38° 53' 46° N. 09.29 48 W. at 2220 May 3rd this position was on CHOKO's agreed route. STORNOWAY then proceeded reverse of CHOKO's agreed route to latitude of Cape Razo at 0035/4th without intercepting. Allowing for agreed speed of 7 knots CHOKO should have been met before this as she sailed 2135/3rd. Further search after this well to the Northward failed in locating CHOKO. Visibility varied but fair throughout. C.O. STORNOWAY was convinced impossible to have missed CHOKO if she had adhered to agreed route and speed. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 281630B. to Admtly.)

TRACKER. Your 271304B para 2. (If TRACKER is to proceed to an unloading port prior Belfast). Reply No. (D.O.D. (H) 281733B. to F.O. Gib. (R) F.O.C.T.)

GIULIO Italian repatriation liners GIULIO CESARE and CESARE, DUILIO sailed 1655/28th. DUILIO. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 281742B. to Admtly. etc.)

O.S.48 Cancel EASTGATE returned to U.K. K.M.S.15. (D.T.D. 281743B. to F.O. Gib.)

/Oil...



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War Diary.28.5.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Oil for Portugal. British Embassy Washington's telegram to M. of E.W. number 1824/26th May and my ref. to D.N.I. O-195 18th May. American Authorities have refused to approve 300 tons of Aviation spirit for Ministry of Marine in oiler SAM BRAS with following probable results. (A) Naval Aviation Lisbon will have no aviation spirit available for carrying out searches off Portuguese Coast at end of June. (B) Portuguese Government may requisition stock of aviation spirit recently laid down by us in Azores. (N.A. Lisbon 281839B. to Admty. (R) B.N.A. Washington.) See J.S.M. Washington T.O.O. 292028Z. (America and West Indies.)

LUGANO. Following is a repetition of my 281840. (N.T. in W.R.) (Begins) My 230959. Swiss LUGANO leaving Genoa 29th for Gibraltar. T.O.O. 281840. (Ends.) (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 281911B. to 8th S/M.Flott. LA SULTANE, ARETHUSE.)

Movements, Casablanca. Warships May 28 departed Casablanca. U.S.S. SCHENCK P.C. 480 for R/V O.S.48. U.S.S. HERBERT. P.C.472 L.S.T.3 and 4 to join L.S.T. 34, 73, 53, 58 and L.C.I. (L) Group 10 and S.C. 532 and 526 departing from Port Lyautey. French LA GRACIEUSE and ANNAMIT departed Casablanca for Gibraltar and CHASSEUR DEUX arrived Casablanca from Mazagan. (? Gibraltar 282005Z. to C. in C. Med.)

Gibraltar Movements. Departures HUDDERSFIELD TOWN, MOLDE Escort Duties. Lisbon, LAUDERDALE, CONVULVULUS, FOXTROT with O.S.48 (G) and to act as additional escort to K.M.S.15. Arrivals BULLDOG, BOREAS from West LIDDESDALE, VENOMOUS, VELOX, GAVOTTE, PENSTEMON, TANGO KING SOL, REIGHTON WYKE, JAVELIN, KELVIN Tug RESTIVE with E.T.21. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 282115. to Admty. C. in C. Med.)

Convoy E.T.21. Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 282237B. to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. Connav, Cdre. Algiers, Comnob, Oran.)



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War Diary.28.5.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

T.S.41 Arrivals 1132Z/27 May MILFORD, PETUNIA, TAMARISK, WOODRUFF, YESTOR, DUNKERY, TURCOMAN with T.S.41. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 280100Z to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, (R) Admty. R.N.O. Lagos).

MAURETANIA My 262140B. Request you will warn Master and O.C. troops on MAURETANIA to be prepared for transhipment. (D.S.T., 280851B to P.S.T.O. Capetown (R) P.S.T.O. India, F.O. Ceylon).  
Your 270931. MAURETANIA due Capetown on Tuesday 1st June and will probably sail for Colombo Saturday 5th June. Your 271315 refers.  
(C. in C. S.A., 281108 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty. D. of S.T.)

Convoy C.D.20. Sailing telegram (2) 280830Z. (3) Port Elizabeth p.m./30th May, Durban p.m. 1st June (4) 8 knots (5) Coastal. Reference positions D.T. Saldanha Bay 1 to 8 (6) VIVIANA, NORTHERN DAWN, SPHENE, VEREENIGING, KUSLIPAON (?KUMAON intended) KATHIAWAR. (15) Call signs C.D.I. 9373 work "Janitor" 168.  
(N.C.S.O. Capetown, 281015Z to Admty. etc).

Movements Lagos. Arrival 28th ORFASY. Departure SNOWDROP M.L.266 and 287.  
(N.O.I.C. Lagos, 281030Z to Admty. F.O.C. W.A. N.O.I.C. Benghazi).

BULLDOG Your 271548 (Re no destroyers available 30th May - 3rd June) Request you will retain BULLDOG accordingly.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 281033Z to F.O. Gibraltar (R) Admty. etc).

Routeing of Tankers. A.M. 252246. Agreed.  
(C. in C. S.A., 281039B to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F.)

Dispositions Situation at 2001/28th May. SUFFOLK, CORFU, FOXHOUND, BOADICEA, ANTELOPE, CATTERICK with W.S.30, 201° 12' 018° 20' 180° 12½.  
U.S. destroyers ELLIS, DUPONT, DICKERSON with O.T.5 025° 38' 015° 38' 047° 13½.  
L.S.T.412 CYCLAMEN L.S.T.324, 024° 33' 016° 36' 040° 8½.  
CILICIA on patrol about 007° 36' 027° 32' 14.  
WORCESTERSHIRE 021° 48' 029° 32' 028° 13.  
TRUSTY M.L. 279, off Freetown to 009° 30' 014° 10' at 0205 29th thence 295° 11½.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 281048Z).

/Situation...



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28.5.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dispositions (contd). Situation at 1959Z/28th May. COWSLIP about 007° 22' 013° 10' coastal south east 10.  
B.Y.M.S. 11, 12, 13, 19, 20 and 28, 008° 08' 014° 15' to Freetown 9½.  
FANDANGO, MORRIS DANCE off Malacca (?18).  
WITCH, CROCUS, F.S. COMMANDANT DETROYAT with S.T.67, 004° 18' 005° 45' to 004° 34' 004° 06' thence 091° 12½.  
CORINTHIAN, BURDOCK, BIRDLIP, H.M.S. ARMERIA, DUNCTON, with O.T.T.47, 004° 18' 004° 48' 086° 8½.  
SARABANDE and M.L.277 off Accra.  
ROHILKHAND and M.M.S. 107 escorting 009° 00' S., 011° 40' E. 180° 7½.  
GAMBIA 007° 05' S., 007° 35' W., 307° 18.  
PORTSDOWN, BUTTERMERE escorting off Freetown 256° 9.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 281050Z).

## Situation at 2000Z/28th May.

028 Portuguese Sloop GONCALO VELHO approx. 017° 011° southbound  
GENISTA, ARCTIC EXPLORER, NORWICH CITY, WELLARA with N.C.14  
(5 ships) 025° 45' 013° 00' to 029° 013° 9 knots.  
BLACKMOOR 029° 15' 012° 45' to 025° 00' 012° 30' 13.  
DAUNTLESS 032° 15' 015° 15' to 030° 013° 15½.  
LADY ELSA, INDIAN STAR, NORTHERN ISLES, with C.N.22 (12 ships)  
033° 13' 017° 00' to 033° 13' 012° 00' 8.  
VIVIANA, NORTHERN DAWN, SPHENE, VEREENIGING, KUMAON, KATHIAWAR  
with C.D.20 (15 ships) off danger point coastal to Durban 8 JV  
2 PL (7?).  
SONDRA with D.N.42 (5 ships) 030° 10' 033° 00' to 031° 038° 8.  
FREESIA DRANGEY with L.M.D.19 (4 ships) 028° 20' 032° 35' coastal  
to Durban 9.  
KENYA and destroyers with W.S.29 (13 ships) 027° 20' 046° 15'  
to 026° 50' 049° 10' 12.  
FALMOUTH, VERBENA with M.C. 7 (9 ships) 022° 15' 041° 55' to 025°  
00' 042° 30' 9.  
(C. in C. S.A., 281230B).

## LEWES

Your 181451 (Reasons for retaining LEWES as Target vessel in South Africa). It is not intended to re-allocate LEWES. Provision of a suitable target vessel for Ceylon cannot be made for the present.  
(Head of Air Br. 281111B to C. in C. S.A. (R)  
C. in C. E.F., etc).

Movements  
Dakar.

Sailed 0810Z, M.L. 1141.  
(2) Arrived 0815Z, B.Y.M.S. 26, 09 and 27. 09 has engine defects. Intend to sail them in company a.m./30th May but further signal will be made.  
(Comar, Dakar, 281142Z to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, F.O.C.W.Af., F.O.I.C. Gib. Admty. Commorseafron).

/W.S.31...



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28.5.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

W.S.31  
K.M.F.17. Convoy W.S.31, consisting of about 5 personnel ships is due to leave U.K. on 19th June with troops for M.E. and India via Cape. Convoy will probably be accompanied by two freight ships for the Cape and will be joined in West Africa by 5 personnel ships for India.

2. Convoy K.M.F.17, consisting of about 6 personnel ships for North Africa, will leave U.K., in company with W.S.31.

3. Further signal will be made about escorts.  
(D.O.D. (F) 281242B to F.O.C.W.Af. C. in C. Med., F.O. Gibraltar, C. in C. S.A., (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Levant, F.O.C.R.I.N.)

COMMANDANT  
DETROYAT,  
stowaway.

Your 171605. No action should be taken regarding rating. No objection to visits of Free French Warships to Dakar in normal course, but special visits should not be arranged or encouraged until agreement between two Generals has been reached. (Head of M.I. Approved by A.C.N.S. (F), 281328B to F.O.C.W.A. (R) C. in C. Med).

PRESIDENT  
HOUDUCE.

Departure 281400Z F.S. PRESIDENT HOUDUCE  
E.T.A. Lagos 310700Z.  
(N.C.S.O. Duala, 281410Z to R.N.O. Lagos, (R)  
Admty. F.O.I.C. W.Af. N.O.I.C. Takoradi,  
B.N.L.O.W.Af.)

DAUNTLESS

Simonstown departure 0550Z May 28th. DAUNTLESS for Pointe Noire (Route). E.T.A. Pointe Noire 1530Z, June 2nd. Shift to W/T organisation for area P at 1830Z June 1st.  
(C. in C. S.A., 281447B to Admty. etc).

Convoy  
C.M.42

Your 270911. C.M.42 sails from Durban p.m. Sunday 30th May. This date cannot be advanced. (P.S.T.O. Capetown, 281455B to Kilindini (R) D. of S.T., D.S.T.O. Durban, C. in C. E.F., F.O. Ceylon, P.S.T.O. India, F.O.C.R.I.N., C. in C. S.A.)

TRUSTY

Intend to sail TRUSTY at 1830Z/28th May to U.K. port of arrival Holy Loch. Route all positions North and West all times Z. (Route).

2. TRUSTY will be escorted by one M.L. to B.

3. TRUSTY will shift to Mediterranean W/T organisation at 1730 2nd June.

4. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to impose total bombing restrictions from position (D).

5. On reaching latitude 35 N., at 0900/5 TRUSTY will dive by day speed of advance 111 miles per day. Prior to this TRUSTY will only dive at C.Os. discretion.



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War Diary.

28.5.1943.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

TRUSTY  
(contd).

6. TRUSTY does not hold F.S.A.6 standard bombing restrictions for area one and two referred to F.O.S. 101604 April or restrictions for sink at sight areas in Bay of Biscay.  
(7) TRUSTY will shift to Home Station W/T organisation at 0100Z/10th June.  
(8) W/T watch.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 281500Z to Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar  
(R) C. in C. Med., Commorseafron, C. in C. W.A.,  
C. in C. Plymouth, F.O. Subs. Capt. S.3. TRUSTY).

ILE DE  
FRENCE.

My 251426. ILE DE FRANCE reported at 281100 unable to make Freetown without refuelling.  
2. Ship has been instructed to resume original route to Rio de Janeiro "Chop" C. in C. S.A. to Opnav 31st.  
(C. in C. S.A., 281639B to Opnav (R) Admty. F.O.C.W.A., B.R.O. Rio de Janeiro D.S.T.O. Durban, B.A.D.)

CARTHAGE

Arrived.  
(Cdre. Durban, 281518Z to Admty. etc).

JAMES W.  
DENVER  
(torpedoed  
11th April).

American ship JAMES W. DENVER reported by survivors sunk by U-boat. After 35 days in lifeboat 18 survivors picked up by Spanish ship and landed at La Aguers Rio D'Oro and are being sent to Las Palmas. Report is from R.A.F. Port Etienne.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown 281706Z to Admty. (R) Opnav S.O.(I) Gibraltar).

Walvis Bay  
Local  
Defence.

Your 250312 concerning Walvis Bay. Para. 1 to 4 noted. Are H.D.M.Ls. referred to in para.2 remainder of 135th Flotilla or separate Flotilla?  
2. Para.5 C.G.S. has approved installation of indicator loops intended for Saldanha Bay and ? provision of 6 H.D.M.Ls. for which Union will accept responsibility for purchasing maintaining operating and manning when S.A.N.F. crews are trained. Consideration has already been given to sending H.D.M.Ls. now in commission at Durban to Walvis but resulting loss of security to Durban Anchorage where these vessels are at present on patrol cannot be accepted at present.  
3. Replacement of cable for Saldanha Bay noted.  
4. H.D.M.Ls. can be maintained at Walvis.  
(C. in C. S.A., 281737B to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.A.)

/QUICKMATCH...



War Diary.

28.5.1943.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

QUICKMATCH, Arrived and sailed QUICKMATCH escorting SS.  
EXHIBITOR. EXHIBITOR in accordance with N.C.S.O. Durban  
251207Z.  
(2) QUICKMATCH breaks off escort in 033° 58' S.  
037° 24' E. and proceeds to Capetown through  
035° 10' S., 020° 01' E. S. of A. from this position 16½ knots.  
E.T.A. Capetown 290900Z.  
(3) Shifting to S.L. at 0600Z/26th.  
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 281815Z to Admty. C. in C. S.A., C. in C.  
E.F., N.L.Os. East London, Port Elizabeth, Capetown).

CAMBRIA CAMBRIA cable ship departed Bahia 281930Z for  
Recife. Route coastal speed 7½ knots. Will work  
off Recife 08.12 S., 34.47 W.  
(Grabbag, 282015 to Admty).

CORINTHIAN E.T.A. 1201Z/29th.  
(CORINTHIAN, 282235Z to N.O.I.C. Takoradi).



War Diary.

28.5.1943.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

SONTAY,  
TALAMBA,  
TAIREA. Protected ship SONTAY and British hospital ship TALAMBA and TAIREA leave Alexandria 1800C/29th routed direct to 5 miles south of Castle Rosso and thence by Turkish territorial waters to Smyrna E.T.A. 1800/31st speed 9 knots.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 280201C to KATSONIS G.S., P.339, TAURUS)  
Left on 28th, see 291829C.

ALAUNIA. Departure 0609Z.  
(N.O.I.C.Aden, 280616Z to S.O.(I) Bombay, C. in C. Levant, Admty, F.O. Red Sea Canal Area, S.O.(I) Kilindini)

VILLE  
D'ORAN,  
MARIGOT. Your 221844. Present position in regard to use for trooping in the Mediterranean.  
(D.S.T.280853B to P.S.T.O.Med.)

Convoy  
G.T.X.1. Bone Section OCEAN VERITY, VILLE DE BOUGIE, EMPIRE COMMERCE arrived.  
(N.O.I.C.Bone, 280913 to Admty, F.O.I.C.Gibraltar, C. in C. Med., Connav.)

Movements,  
Alexandria. Departure 27th PALADIN, TROUBRIDGE, RELAY, M.L.1012 PROTEA. Arrived and sailed 27th ORION, G.S. PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS.  
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 280918C to Admty. C. in C. Levant.)

Enemy  
Units. Following read: P.C. and S. of 1 cruiser and 1 destroyer 41° 12' N. 9° 52' E. based on a "fix" obtained within half an hour of 1000.  
Course 040° speed 10 knots.  
(A/C B.U.G.G. 280952B to Air H.Q. Malta)

Following read: P.C. and S. of 2 destroyers 42° 27' N. 9° 46' E. 360° 10 knots, based on a "fix" obtained within half an hour of 1000.  
(A/C B.U.G.G. 281023B to Air H.Q. Malta)

Tunisia  
responsibility for fighter and air A/S defence of shipping off East Coast of Tunisia as far South as a line Tripoli - Tunis border to 034° 00' 012° 30' and as far East as 012° 30' East.  
My 270100 was 452 K. 453 K was Basegram.  
(C. in C. Med. 281058B to Med. Station K. 454.  
(R) C. in C. Levant.)

M.E.  
Opsum 30. A.673 May 28. Daily Opsum 30. May 26.  
1 Wellington despatched against seaplanes Prevez - no aircraft seen and Wellington bombed slipway. damage unobserved. May 27. 4 Beaufighters anti-shipping R/C Aegean Sea. 2 JU.88 engaged



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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean

M.E.  
Opsum 30.  
(Contd.)

West of Melos. One JU.88 shot down, second damaged, 1 Beaufighter damaged. No attacks on shipping.  
Following delayed details.  
May 26. 4 Beaufighter bombers anti-shipping R/C Aegean Sea. 1 Schooner 120 tons severely damaged by bombs and cannon fire in Harbour near Cape Malea. Vessel left sinking. 1 Caique 80 tons laden with bales sunk by bomb outside Harbour. 3 Wellingtons 1 Baltimore (A.22) 1 Walrus anti-submarine 1 Spitfire photographic R/C. 8 Beaufighters 7 Hurricanes shipping protection 4 Spitfires defensive patrols.  
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 281102Z)

ASIAN  
replacement.

Minister of Foreign Affairs spoke to me in sense of para.1 of my 27133 at a reception in Afghan Embassy yesterday evening.  
(N.A.Ankara, 281146C to Admty (for D.N.I.) (R)  
C. in C. Levant.)

M.L.360.

Intend M.L.360 to join 43rd M.L.Flottilla on completion of defects.  
(C.F.E. 281215C to C. in C. Levant.)

U/B.

Following read: P.C. and ?speed of one S/M on the surface 42° 47' N. 5° 46' E based on a "fix" within half an hour of 1200 course 130°.  
(A/C. B.U.G.G. 281228B to Air H.Q. Malta)

PLANET.

28th arrival at 1231C.  
(N.O.I.C.Massawa, 281314Z to Admty)

N.W.A.A.F.  
Opsum 96.

May 27. N.W.A.Strategic A.F. 27 May.  
Warhawks P.40 7 U.S.Lightnings P.38 Pantellaria. 15 x 1000 from 3000 feet, hits on harbour defences at Point? Leonardo, Point Sidire, and town.  
1 explosion in buildings south of Mole.  
33 Mitchells B.25, Villacidro, escort 52 U.S. Lightnings P.38. 2 Mitchells 3 Lightnings returned early. 2088 x 20 fragmentation dropped from 9500 feet. Field? well covered) bursts among dispersed aircraft, 5 fires. 150 foot freighter in Gulf of Palmas strafed. 36 U.S. Marauders B.26 escort 35 U.S. Warhawks P.40 7 Warhawks returned early. 4032 x 20 fragmentation dropped from 9500 feet, west and east sides of aerodrome well covered. Many dispersed aircraft destroyed, others damaged. (30 or 38?) to 40 E/A mostly M.E.109 with some MC.202 attacked bombers and fighters head on in target area and followed escort to within 25 miles African coast. Bombers destroyed 7 ME.109, fighters destroyed 4 ME.109, 2 MC.202. 1 P (70 or 46?) destroyed  
N.W.A. Tactical A.F.27 May. 4 U.S. Warhawks 3 with bombs Pantellaria results unobserved.  
(N.W.A.A.F. Adv, 281324B to Air Min. etc.)

ZETLAND /...



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War Diary.

28.5.1943.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- ZETLAND. C. in C. Med's 271629 and F.O. Gibraltar's 261417. Request you will report cause of damage and estimated date ship will be ready for passage.  
(D.O.D.(F), 281535B to C. in C. Med., F.O.Gib.)
- P.339 (TAURUS) Capt. (S) 10, 252324 (?onward routeing) through 035° 36', 022° 57' at 0530C 31st thence into Aegean on course 66° dive to 250 feet between longitude 023° (?12') (?and) 023° 33' thence keep South of Anaphi Island proceed to patrol North Aegean North of A line 056° from Cape Geri (?hi) Andros Island. PARTHIAN operates in Western Aegean remain North of 036° 20' from p.m. 31st May to p.m. 2nd June. S/M's are not to be attacked in Aegean until further orders.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 281601C to P.339 (TAURUS), (R) PARTHIAN, G.S. KATSONIS, Spares for C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 8.)
- P.R.U. May 28th visuals 1315 Taranto 2 battleships, 2 cruisers.  
(N.O.I.C.Malta, 281605B to C. in C. Med. etc.)  
May 28th visuals. 1635 Taranto 2 Battleships, 3 Cruisers. 1540 Messina no major naval unit.  
(V.A. Malta 281821B to C. in C. Med. etc.)
- BALKAN (Bulgarian) BALKAN sailed for Bourrest 0815 G.M.T. 28th May.  
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 281613C to S.O.(I) Levant, Admty)
- LOOKOUT. My 271400 (N.T. in W.R.) 3 LOOKOUT leaves Bone 0430 29th routed through QK BS 93 and 107 as far as 036° 59' N. 011° 17' E. thence through 036° 10' 011° 30' and 036° 07' 013° 00' to QK (2 groups missing) S. of A. (group missing) (3 groups missing) Boom (corrupt group) 15. Fighter priority 3 codeword "Annex" 351. All times B.  
(C.S.15, 281730B to C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Malta, F.O.I.C. Tunisia, N.O.I.C. Bone, Capt. (S) 8 INVICTA, C.S.12 Capt. (D) 19, NEWFOUNDLAND, LOOKOUT, A.I.G. 263.)
- KATSONIS. My 281601. On completion of your special operation proceed to patrol Eastern Aegean south of a line 056° from Cape Akamatis Andros Is. which is not to be recrossed except in pursuit of the enemy.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 281802C to KATSONIS, (R) P.339 (TAURUS), PARTHIAN, C. in C. Levant.)
- LUCIA. C. in C. E.F. 230936. In view of these limitations Admiralty considers this move undesirable.  
(2) Movement in para. 2 (c) of A.M.041245 is cancelled.  
(D.F.S.L.281852B to C. in C. Med., C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. Levant, F.O.S., S.4)

M.M.S./ ...



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War Diary.28.5.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

M.M.S. Your 191912 not to all addressees. Proposed to sail 4 M.M.S. of 105th Minesweeping Flotilla on approx. June 7th. Requested that destination of tails, which will be shipped separately, may be given. (2) Following M.M.S. are assembling at Gibraltar for passage through Mediterranean - Now at Gibraltar 3 M.M.S.'s for Levant and 1 M.M.S. for Eastern Fleet, June 7th 3 B.Y.M.S. for Gibraltar, June 14th 1 B.Y.M.S. for Gibraltar, June 14th 5 B.Y.M.S. for Eastern Fleet, June 28th 4 B.Y.M.S. for Eastern Fleet. (3) Considered that use may be made of these M.M.S.'s during forthcoming operation, unless they are urgently required on their stations\*.  
(D.M.S. 281927B to C. in C. Med. (R) C. in C.'s Plymouth, Levant, E.F., V.A. Malta, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, D.N.C.X.F., Capt. (F)).  
\*Not urgently required in Eastern Fleet.  
(C. in C. E.F. 291321Z)

SHOREHAM. My 1927 (N.T. in W.R.) one flare, 2 depth bombs no damage. Aircraft lost contact.  
(SHOREHAM, 282000Z to Alexandria W/T)

Malta A.I.514, 28th May C.S.R. Malta.  
Air (A) Air. Part 1 offensive. Night 27/28th May.  
Report. Mosquitoes intruded over Sicily and 1 bombing Wellington made shipping search Naples area.  
Day 28th May. nil.  
Part 2. Enemy air activity. Day 27th May.  
1710 hrs 6 Spitfires intercepted 6 plus enemy Spitfires but enemy withdrew. Night 27/28 May. 2 Beaufighters made interception patrols east of Sicily to cover bombing of Augusta by Ninth Bomber Command. 2 Beaufighters made interception patrols south west of Sicily. Day 28th May. Negligible enemy air activity.  
(A.H.Q. Malta, 282000Z to Air Min.)

Convoy Sailing telegram. (2) and (3) 281930B, (4) 13  
M.K.F.15. knots. (5) and (8) As in C. in C. Med. 251407  
(251807). (6) WESTON, WELLINGTON TOTLAND, GORLESTON, LOWESTOFT, EXE, NESS. (15) 4 K 11 ships join from Oran of which 5 break off at Gibraltar.  
8 ships join from Gibraltar. Destination Algiers Section is Clyde for Orders, negative ARAWA Gibraltar for Lagos.  
(Com. Algiers, 282006B to A.I.G.259 (R) Com. N.O.B. Oran.)

Algiers Departures WESTON, WELLINGTON, TOTLAND, GORLESTON,  
Movements. LOWESTOFT, EXE, NESS, Vice Admiral Harcourt in SIRIUS, JULIET, STROMA, U.S.S. P.T's 209, 210, 212, 218 submarine ARETHUSE French Ships LA SERVANNAISE, LA SETOISE, COMMANDANT DELAGE.  
(Com. Algiers, 282014B to Admty. C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C.Gib. V.A. Malta, Cominch, Connavnaw.)

Bone Arrival SIRIUS, BREAM, WESTRAY, P.T's 209, 210,  
Movements. 212, 218. Departure H.D.M.L.1232.  
(N.O.I.C.Bone, 282017B to Admty etc.)

Haifa /...



1063

War Diary.28.5.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- Haifa Movements. Arrival 28th M.T.B.60.  
(N.O.I.C.Palestinian Port, 282045C to Admty. C. in C. Levant.)
- Enemy Mines. One German type (R) and 7 Sautworder Harle mines swept within a radius of  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile of  $037^{\circ} 18' N.$   $009^{\circ} 54' E.$   
(F.O.I.C.Bizerta, 282104B to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty., F.O.I.S.)
- Famagusta Movements. Arrived and left 28th A/S SOUTHERN SEA. Arrived 28th M.L.350 and 384.  
(N.O.I.C.Famagusta, 282112C to Admty etc.)
- Malta Movements. Arrivals TACTICIAN (P.314) DOLFIJN (P.47) DZIK (P.52). Departures JERVIS, PETARD.  
(V.A.Malta, 282113 to Admty etc.)
- Bizerta Movements. Bizerta arrivals VIENNA, BORDE, L.S.T.197, 349 and 351. Departures ALBACORE, ESPIEGLE, CIRCE, CADMUS, HAZARD, HUSSAR, BRIXHAM, SPEEDWELL, HUNDA.  
(S.O.I.S. 282132B to C. in C. Med. etc.)
- Port Said Movements. 28th Port Said arrivals. RELAY, H.M. R/L 1012, PROTEA, KONDOURIOTIS, AETOS, ISLAY, R.F.A. WAR KRISHNA, EREBUS, CESSNOCK, ABDIEL.  
Departures WOLBOROUGH, ADBIEL.)  
(N.O.I.C.Port Said, 282137 to Admty etc.)
- Sousse Movements. Departure WHITEHAVEN.  
(N.O.I.C. Sousee, 282145B to Admty)
- Convoys, numbers, protection. Your 211525A May, and 231647A Feb. RS/SR convoys have been discontinued and it is presumed that ET/TE convoys will cease upon establishment of G.T.X. convoys. Without knowledge of complete convoy programme it is not possible to assess amount of reinforcement which would be necessary.

The following is an estimate of the situation based on information at present available in Admiralty (2) Traffic assumed. (a) O.S. ships for South and West Africa, South America, etc. 40 per month. (b) K.M.S. ships 140 per month of which 50 per month will require through convoy to Alexandria and beyond. (c) U.G.S. ships 150 per month, of which 70 per month will require through convoy: (d) Inter port shipping 60 per month: (e) Escort Forces available (excluding Fleet destroyers and Force 'H' Hunts :

Mediterranean /...



1064

28.5.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Convoys, numbers, protection. (Contd.)		Mediterranean.	Levant.	Total.
	Hunts	15	15	30
	Old Destroyers	7	-	7
	Corvettes & Sloops	3	7	10
	Trawlers & Whalers*	20	11	31
		45	33	78

\* Including 5 'Fish' class.

Certain Greek vessels in Levant in view of uncertain value and French escort vessels in the Western Mediterranean, have been omitted. (4) It is further assumed that a 5-day cycle for through convoys (if 30 ships limit is maintained) will ultimately be necessary. It is therefore surmised that the minimum number of escort groups required will be: (a) K.M.S./M.K.S. and G.T.X/X.T.G convoys between Gibraltar and Tripoli (Libya) 4 groups: (b) Same convoys between Tripoli and Alexandria 3 groups. (c) 1 group for Malta Joiners or Leavers. (d) 1 Support group for Sicilian Channel, and eventually for escort of K.M.F. convoys. (e) 2 groups for Gibraltar Local Escort Force. (f) 1 Group for Coastal Levant convoys. (5) (Cancelled by 301215B) (6) Request your remarks.

(D.O.D.(F) 282145B to C. in C. Med. (R) C. in C. Levant etc.)

Situation Report No.100.

(1) Mines sighted in the Lake of Bizerta as reported in my 242351 were swept on 24th May and on examination were found to have been laid without primers detonators or horns. 13 Mines were swept in this condition. (2) VETCH carried out a promising attack on U-Boat contact in 36.31 N.

00.40 E. at 1339/25. Periscope was also sighted and shallow pattern dropped around it. Contact was not regained during subsequent search by four ships. (3) During night 27th/28th May M.T.B's from Malta patrolled in vicinity of Pantellaria and M.T.B's and M.G.B's from Bizerta carried out sweep off Marittimo. Coastal craft operations for previous two nights had to be cancelled on account of weather. (4) In addition to the successes reported in my 231740 para. 8 SICKLE fired four torpedoes at Tanker off Monao (?Monaco) at 1115/15. SICKLE reports that one torpedo hit the Tanker which sank and another hit the Casino at Monte Carlo. (5) UNRULY reports obtaining one hit on 4,000 ton Merchant Vessel at 1032/15 in 37.35 N. 15.17 E. (6) UNBROKEN reports sinking 600 ton Tug at 1547/16 in 38.45 N. 16.00 E. and 4,000 ton Merchant Vessel in 38.24 N. 15.44 E. at 1744/21. (7) ULTOR reports that 500 ton Trawler at Buoy in entrance to August Harbour blew up when hit by torpedo at 0821/23. (8) Hudson aircraft of 608 Squadron R.A.F. sank U-Boat which had been attacked with U.P. Rockets at 1353/28 in 39.59 N. 01.41 E.  
(C. in C. Med. 282200B to Admty)

Tobruk Movements.

Sailed BELVOIR. Arrived M/L 355 and 256. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 282200C to Admty)

PARTHIAN, KATSONIS information.

4 ships laden with ammunition and troops believed ready to leave Piraeus for Rhodes. (Capt. (S) 1, 282202C to PARTHIAN, G.S.KATSONIS)

Tripoli /...



1065

War Diary.28.5.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Tripoli  
Movements.Sailed KLO, arrived CROMARTY.  
(S.N.O.Trip, 282207B to Admty)Movement  
Summaries.

A.F.O.'S' one/43 section MD para. 4. Consequent on change of station limits on 1st June following revised instructions for issue of movement summaries comes into force that date.

(A) Easterly limit area GC is to move to a line joining Tunisian - Tripolitanian border to Cape Granitola Sicily. Summary of exceptions originated by F.O.I.S. and be transmitted on Malta and Algiers broadcast. (B) Summary for area LC North of 055° 30' made V.A. Malta and that South of 055° 30' by S.N.O. Tripolitania both on Malta broadcast. (C) Remaining summaries unchanged. (2) A.F.O.'S' 1/43 Section M.L. now in course of distribution will be amended. My 455.K was a basegram.  
(C. in C. Med. 282210B to Med. Stn. K.456. (R) Admty, C. in C. Levant, S.N.O. Tripolitania)

Exchange  
of  
Courtesies.

Reply from Admiral Cunningham to Admiral Kusnets's telegram of congratulation see A.M.282212B in Home Commands.

P.47  
(DOLFIJN)Intend to sail P.47 (DOLFIJN) at 1700/29th routed through positions S. and P. for patrol as ordered by Capt. (S) 8.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 282229B to Capt. (S) 8. (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, Capt. (S) 1.8th S/M Flot.)M.L's  
Sfax.Sailed M.L.459 M.L.1122 for Tripoli (Libya).  
(N.O.I.C. Sfax, 282255B, 290825B to Admty)Benghazi  
Movements.Sailed VALKYRIE, KINGSTON CYANITE arrived M.L.358 SIKSERN M.L.357 Schooner FATTEL.  
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 282329C to Admty)

ARETHUSE.

My 261152. You are to operate East 007° 40' E. after 0001/3rd June. (2) P.312 (TRESPASSER) may operate as far East as 007° 00' E. after 0001/3rd June.  
(Capt. (S) 8, 282348B to ARETHUSE, (R) C. in C. Med. (Corrupt group), LA SULTANE, 8th Subs.)



# SECRET

had 28/5

1065A

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

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

SECRET

MESSAGE

No T.O.O/28th May. IN

Date: 29.5.43

From: Algiers.

Recd: 2201Z

*Tunisia. Situation Report.*

Addressed: Troopers. Usfor. Mideast. Britman  
Washington. Armindia Delhi. P.A.I.C.  
Landforces Melbourne. Dechiefs Pretoria.  
Dechiefs Capetown. Force Nairobi.  
Defender Wellington (for Puttick)  
Britmilat Ankara (for Marshal Chakmak) -  
Passed by Foreign Office. Resident  
Minister, Achimota - Passed by Colonial  
Office.

ETOUSA. W.1562/5479

LINREP 50, dated 28th May, 1943.

(1) Ground. The reorganization and movements of our forces continued.

(2) Naval. Night 23/24 May. MTB's carried out patrols off Pantelleria without incident. Following day U.S.S. NIELDS attacked U-Boat off Oran and wreckage and oil patch were seen. U.S. Aircraft observed debris and corpse after dark on second U-Boat 300 miles West of Casablanca. 1 of our submarines on 13th May sank 2 Schooners of 200 tons each off East coast of Corsica and on 20th May bombarded Calvi airfield Corsica.

/(3).....



1065B

- 2 -

(3) Air. Throughout the period Heavy, Medium and Fighter Bombers maintained a powerful scale of attack against targets in Sicily, Sardinia and Pantelleria. Heaviest attack made by 4 formations of B-17 (Fortresses) totalling 103 aircraft which dropped 261 tons of bombs on Messina on 25th May. Bombs were seen to burst on the Dock areas, Railway Marshalling Yards, Power Stations and on the Naval Base, where a large explosion was observed. In other raids by B-17's La Maddalena in Sardinia was attacked where in addition to damage to the Naval Base, near misses were obtained on 2 Merchant Vessels. On 26th May a formation of 45 B-17's attacked the Airdrome of Comiso in Sicily where the target area was well covered, despite a 60 MPH wind which made accurate bombing difficult. Among successful raids by lighter Bombers 25 P-38 Lightnings on 26th May scored direct hits on both upper and lower dams on the river Tirso in Sardinia. The Power Stations were also damaged. Continuous attack was maintained on Pantelleria, which was raided by 23 Wellingtons on 24th May, by P-40's (Warhawks) same day and again by 22 P-40 and other Fighter Bombers on 26th May. Among similar targets attacked, Olbia was raided by 36 B-25 (Mitchells) on 24th May and again same night by 18 Wellingtons which dropped 28-tons of bombs.

/In this.....



# 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.

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In this latter raid 1 ship exploded and 2 others were left burning. Aircraft of the Coastal Air Force attacked a U-Boat with depth charges on 24th May and a second fully surfaced during night 24/25 May. In neither case were results observed.

(4) Political. General Catroux is expected to return Algiers tomorrow. Scheduled for Sunday next, is Gen. De Gaulle's arrival in Algiers.

No T.O.O/23

1st Lord.

Advance copies: Ops. C.D. O.I.C.

1st S.L. (2)

D.T.D.

Recd: from War Office 1453/30

3rd S.L.

D.T.D.(M)

5th S.L.

D.of P.(2)

V.C.N.S.

D.A/S.W.

A.C.N.S. (H)

C.N.I.

A.C.N.S. (F)

D.P.D.

A.C.N.S.(U.T)(2)

Hd. of M(2)

A.C.N.S. (W)

I.P.

A.C.N.S.(A)(2)

W.D.

Sec.

Ad.Usborne.

P.A.S.(S)

Ad.Blake.

Naval Sec.

D.A.W.T.

U.W.R.

D.N.A.O.

D.O.D.(H)(2)

Air.

D.O.D.(F)(2)

R.A.V.(4)

D.S. (2)

D.M.S.

D.N.I. (4)

C.C.O.(2)

D.D.I.C.(3)

War Office Circulation.

Internal.

Brig. Jacob.

Foreign Secretary.

C.6 Tels. War Office.

A.M.C.S. (C)

C.C.O.

Mr. Strang.

Mr. Radcliffe.

External.

War Registry, Admiralty.



1066

28.5.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Troop movements. Your 262129B. Regret ships cannot be made available for immediate transshipment. Earliest possible dates ships can arrive Colombo are CITY OF LONDON 7th June, VARELA 8th June, SANTHIA 8th June.  
(P.S.T.O. I., 280501Z to D.S.T., (R) F.O. Ceylon, S.S.T.O. Ceylon, C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.R.I.N., P.S.T.O.M.E.)  
Your 262129 May to P.S.T.O.I. NIEUW AMSTERDAM arriving Colombo 3rd June. Understand P.S.T.O.I. cannot provide transshipment at Colombo until 8th June. No accommodation on shore for the 3153 troops possible. Unless P.S.T.O.I. can accelerate transshipment delay must I fear be accepted.  
(C. in C. Ceylon, 280558Z to D. of S.T., (R) P.S.T.O. India, A.C.N.B., F.O.I.C. Ceylon, C. in C. E.F., P.S.T.O. M.E., C. in C. Levant.)  
My 280501Z Armindia now state movement of 1400 Pioneer Corps to Basra arranged in B.P.82 sailing 3rd June, must take place. This means CITY OF LODNON will not now be available to proceed to Colombo. Only two ships will be available VARELA capacity cabin 55 troop deck 860. It may be possible to increase numbers to 900 before sailing. SANTHIA cabin 50 troop deck 1550. Armindia also state they have instructed Ceylon to accommodate troops ex NIEUW AMSTERDAM ashore pending the arrival of the on carrying ships to India so that this ship sailing to Suez will not be delayed.  
(P.S.T.O.I., 281018Z to D.S.T., (R) F.O. Ceylon, S.S.T.O. Ceylon, C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.R.I.N., P.S.T.O.M.E.)

Movements. Arrived TOOWOOMBA left 0735Z.  
(N.O.I.C. Seychelles, 280740Z to Admty.)

Movements, Colombo. Colombo arrival 27th May 1100Z TEWERA.  
Departure 28th 1125Z S/M 0.21.  
(F.O. Ceylon, 281100Z to Admty., etc.)

EDWARD F. JOHNSON. Your message 280744 (N.T. in W.R.) received observed position 337° 710 miles D drifting 160°  $\frac{1}{2}$ ? knots.  
(EDWARD F. JOHNSON, 281400Z to C. in C. E.F.)

MAURETANIA. Your 270931.  
MAURETANIA is due Capetown 1st June.  
(D.O.D.(F), 281155B to C. in C. E.F., (R) C. in C. S.A.)

SICILIA (sunk 27th May) Consular Shipping Advisor Beira. Vessel sunk. Ref. my 271141B (not to (corrupt group)) is SICILIA Sweden. All crew saved.  
(C.S.A. Lourenco Marques, 281414B to Admty., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., Cdre. Durban.)

/LAOMEDON ...



1067

War Diary.

28.5.1943.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

LAOMEDON.

Boom Carrier LAOMEDON should be sailed to Suez for inclusion in westbound convoy for U.K. provided speed is not less than (? 8) knots. My 050814 and your 280525 (N.T. of either in W.R.) refers.  
(C. in C. E.F., 281423Z to F.O. Ceylon, (R)  
C. in C. Levant, Admty., C. in C. S.A.)



War Diary.

28.5.1943.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies

- U/B. Submarine reported by fishermen surfaced in 046° 44' N. 057° 05' W. at 2030Z/25th May. Grading unknown.  
(C. in C.C.N.A. 280020Z to Connav, Admty. etc.)
- Working up Frigates & Corvettes. Necessary action to be taken on Admiralty's 241618.  
(N.S.H.Q. 280028Z to C. in C.C.N.A. (R) Admty. B.A.D. S.B.N.O.W.At. C. in C.W.A.)
- BAZELY.. BAZELY departs Boston Massachusetts May 28th 1943 at 0900 Q en route Bermuda via B. 42.07 N. 70.15 W. C. 40.01 N. 69.01 W. D. 32.40 N. 64.55 W. Speed 14 knots, E.T.A. position C. 28th at 2100Q.  
(C.T.O2.1 280047Z to C.E.S.F. (R) S.B.N.O.W.At. Admty. etc.)
- Convoy F.H.57. My 260007Z. F.H.57 delayed by thick fog. Propose sailing about 1000Z May 28th.  
(N.C.S.O. St. John 280102Z to Admty.)  
As amended 291855Z.
- Special River Group No. 3 Special river group No. 3 arrived south end of Gut of Canso 0130Z/28. Anchored in Jacob's Bay until morning.  
(S.N.O.Mulgrave 280150Z to Admty.)  
Special river group No. 3, 5 merchant ships escorted by SWIFT CURRENT passed Mulgrave North - bound at 0935Z/28th.  
(S.N.O.Mulgrave 281037Z to N.C.S.O. Halifax.)
- Convoy T.O.4. 5 ships arrived New York. First arrival 270415Z. Last arrival 271612Z May. This is re-encypherment of Port Director New York 271930 passed for information.  
(Radio Washington 280325Z to Admty. N.S.H.Q.)
- M.Ls. Departure 27th H.M. M.Ls. 1175 and 1178 for St. Lucia.  
(British Consul San Juan 280952Q to Admty.)
- | Movements Summary | Ship.                                    | Position.                                   | Course. | Speed |
|-------------------|--|---|---------|-------|
| 1800 G.M.T. 28th. | WORCESTERSHIRE                           | 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° N. 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° W. | 027°    | 13    |
|                   | CILICIA                                  | 08° N. 28° W.                               | Patrol  | Blank |
|                   | (D.O.D.(F) 281031Z to Opnav (R) Comnav.) |   |         |       |

/QUEEN...



War Diary.

28.5.1943.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

QUEEN  
ELIZABETH  
A.T.46.

In A.M. 201621B Connav was requested to sail A.T.46 to arrive Clyde p.m. 1st June.  
2. Port Director New York is, however, sailing the ship to arrive at 1230B on 2nd June.  
3. There may be some good reason for this, but no advance information or explanation has been received. As a result of the late arrival of A.T.48 both Queens will be in the Clyde together p.m. on 6th June, a state of affairs we have tried to avoid.  
4. Request you will take this up with the U.S. Authorities and explain that the reason we require these ships to arrive p.m. on a specified day is to enable disembarkation to start early the following morning and to enable each ship to have four clear days in the Clyde before sailing.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 281106B to B.A.D.)

Movements. Arrival 26th U.S.A.T.DRENNAN.  
(B.R.O. Aruba 281115QR to Admty.)  
Departure ARROWHEAD to O.N.184.  
(C.Halifax 281608Z to Admty.)  
Bermuda arrival ADVANTAGE.  
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 281846P to Admty.)  
Arrival Port of Spain May 27th MONTEREY (U.S.A.T.)  
(N.S.H.Q. 282026Z to Admty.)

Convoy  
F.H.57

1. Sailing telegram (5 ships, list, etc.)  
2. St. John N.B. 1115Z May 28. 3. E.T.A. Halifax 0115 May 30. 4. 8 knots. 5. (Route).  
6. GRANDMERE.  
(N.C.S.O. St. John N.B. 281151Z, 281152Z to Admty.)

H.X.241. Departure H.M.C.S. NIAGRA, ST. CLAIR, CHICOUTIME,  
QUESNEL escorting H.X.241.  
(C.Halifax 281217Z to Admty. etc.)

A.T.47 My 261944. A.T.47 late 10.  
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 281235Z to Admty. Cominch C. and R. (R) N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C. in C.Atlantic Fleet, C. in C.W.A.)

Speed of  
ships for  
Trans-  
Atlantic  
Trade  
Convoys.

My 242119B para. 1 amend O.N.S. 13 to read O.N.S. 14 and S.C.136 to read S.C.137.  
(D.T.D. 281320B to Connav, N.S.H.Q. (R) C. in C.C.N.A. B.A.D. C. in C.W.A.)

N.Atlantic  
Convoy  
Cycles.

An early reply to A.M. 251323B would be appreciated.  
(D.T.D. 281336B to N.S.H.Q. (R) Connav, B.A.D. C. in C.W.A. C. in C.C.N.W.A. F.O.N.F.)

/H.X.242...



1070

War Diary.28.5.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

- H.X.242. Admiralty 251323B. Sail H.X.242 May 31st.  
(Cominch C. and R. 281355Z to C.E.S.F. (R)  
N.S.H.Q. etc.)
- N.S.H.Q. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa estimate submarine North of 040°  
S/M estimate N.W. of 040° W. 1200Z/28th.  
(N.S.H.Q. 281406Z.)
- A.P.C.60. British A.P.C.60 departs Boston May 28th at  
1130Q en route New York via Cape Cod Canal and  
Long Island Sound. Speed 10 knots.  
(C.T.G. 02.1 281455Z to C.E.S.F.)
- Convoy Sailing telegram. 2. 1300Z/29th May. 3. St.  
B.W.26. Johns N.F. 1400Z/31 Wabana 1800Z/31. 4. 8 knots.  
5. V. 046° 20' N. 054° 51' West Argentina R/V  
at 1600Z/30. (Route.) 6. MALPEQUE.  
(N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 281457Z to F.O.N.F.)
- S/M estimate (C. in C.U.S.Fleet 281518, 2815MZ, 281557,  
28th May U.S. 281558, 281559, 281925Z.)  
S/M Notice.
- Convoy anchorage. ✓ Further to my 192208 (N.T. in W.D.) C.E.S.F.  
states that convoys on reaching vicinity of 41.50  
N. 70.20 W. should form in two columns five  
cables apart and anchor in following anchorage  
area bounded on the north by 41.49 N. on the  
south 41.47.40 N. and on the west by 70.27 W. If the leading  
vessels in each column anchor near the western limit of this  
area rapid transit of the canal is facilitated.  
(N.S.H.Q. 281506Z to Admty. C. in C.C.N.A. (R) Connav,  
F.O.N.F. C.E.S.F.)
- N.Atlantic Convoy Cycles, Escort Groups & Support Groups. A.M. 251323B.  
1. Concur nine mid ocean groups sufficient for  
proposed cycles though it appears that layovers  
though adequate in aggregate will vary  
considerably.  
2. It however slow cycle could be readjusted as  
follows Western local could operate in six groups  
only with reasonable layovers at Halifax for boilers  
etc. rather than in seven groups with undesirably  
long layover at St. Johns where facilities  
already overstrained. Suggest O.N.S. convoys be sailed three  
days later commencing O.N.S.10 on June 11th subsequently every  
11 days. Dates for H.X., O.N., and S.C. convoys as proposed  
to stand.  
3. If above proposal accepted intend allocated the nine W.L.E.F.  
groups as follows: A. six groups between Westomp - Halifax -  
New York. B. one group for X.B. - B.X. convoys. C. leaving  
two groups for support groups normally to be employed west of  
Westomp but as situation requires.  
(N.S.H.Q. 281640Z to Admty. (R) Connav, B.A.D. F.O.N.F. etc.)

/Convoy...



War Diary.28.5.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Convoy Arrived.  
F.H.56A. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 281644Z to Admty.)

Dispositions Section East. S.A.24 T.U. 24.8.3 052° 15' 049° 16' 257° 9½.

O.N.S.8, C.4., W.4., 046° 18' 047° 51' 241° 8 altering to 274° in 051° 01' W.

BLAIRMORE 046° 33' 050° 10' 121° 12 to join O.N.S.8, S.C.132, W.3, 045° 44' 054° 55' 037° 7.5.

J.H. 53, FORT WILLIAM, 046° 07' 057° 30' 268° 8.5 altering to 241° in 059° 00' W. 231° in 059° 51' W. and 247° in 061° 01' W.

J.N. 27, WASAGA, BOTWOOD approaching inbound H.J.54 TRURO 046° 01' 056° 11' 081° 12 altering to 043° in 055° 49' W. to Argentia. TRURO to detach for O.N.S.8 in 047° 00' N.

H.J.55 CALGARY 045° 48' 058° 09' 081° 9 altering to 013° in 052° 39' W.

U.S.S. STEVENS vicinity 044° 20' 048° 10' to 044° 20' 049° 40' thence to Argentia speed 14 knots.

NORTHERN WAVE, STAFNES, L.S.T. 13, 047° 20' 052° 31' 160° to join S.C.132.

TROIS RIVIERES 047° 00' 052° 42' 197° 7.

TRANSCONA departs St. Johns N.F. 2100Z coastwise to Argentia.

U.S.S. MENENSHA vicinity 046° 20' 053° 00' to eastward.

L.C.57, STRATFORD, 046° 18' 055° 23' 093° 7 altering to 091° in 054° 58' W. and to 048° in 052° 59' W. and 015° in 052° 35' W.

(C. in C.C.N.A. 281645Z to Admty.)

Following is recyphered version of my 281745. Begins

Section North West.

S.Q. 50, PAYNTER, AYRSHIRE 047° 07' 060° 11' 270° 7 altering to 349° in 062° 09' W.

S.B.43 MISCOU 047° 04' 059° 54' 015° 7.

Special river convoy SWIFT CURRENT, VIC 045° 56' 063° 14' to 046° 48' 064° 35' thence 012° 7 knots.

KENTVILLE patrolling Port Basque Approaches.

(C. in C.C.N.A. 281746Z to Admty.)

ADHERENT,  
BACCALIEU

Following for C.C.R.T. H.M.R.T. ADHERENT sailed St. Johns 281632 to assistance of SS. BACCALIEU broken down in vicinity St. Juliens Island, Newfoundland.

(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 281720Z to Admty. (R)  
C. in C.C.N.A. N.S.H.Q.)

U.S.Merchant  
ship losses.

Your 181133. Navy Department Records agree substantially but with the following exceptions which are passed for interest - A. EDWARD B. DUDLEY S/M Torp. 10th April 1943, 53° 00' N. 39° 00' W. B. LA SALLE Marine casualty 29th Oct.

1942 Southeast Atlantic.

2. The source of A. is Ottawa Report No. 15. B. Alusna London.

3. It is not intended to attempt reconciliation of minor differences.

(B.A.D. 281737Z to Admty.)

/Aircraft...



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28.5.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Aircraft Points from 19th Meeting A.U. Committee.  
R.P. A. M.A.P. authorised to order production of  
Weapons. installation equipment for internally stowed  
R.P. weapons for all Coastal Command Liberators.  
B. Reported that work in connection with counter  
measures to R.D.F. emissions from U-Boats had  
reached stage of development contact.  
C. As result of effective results of Bay Offensive and need  
of increased flying effort by day, Admiralty Coastal Command  
and Air Min. invited to investigate possibility of making  
additional aircraft available from other duties.  
(A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 281806B to B.A.D. (R) A.O.C. in C.C.C.)

M/V recog- Your 261131 May paras. 1 and 4.  
nition It is not repeat not envisaged that "Checkmate"  
"Checkmate" procedure will concern you at this stage.  
system. Your paras. 2 and 3. Scheme will subsequently  
be promulgated by A Message. No action is  
required by you.  
(D.T.D. 281818B to B.N.L.O.Cristobal.)

NORSEMAN 282200 NORSEMAN British escorted by C.G. 83379  
(Cable repairing cable in position D. 29 B. 17.49 N.  
Repair.) 76.14 W. C. 17.54 N. 76.8 W. D. 18.8 N. 76.6 W.  
returning to Kingston through E. 17.55 76.5  
Knots (1) 10.  
(B.R.O.Kingston 281833 to Comcarib (R) N.O.B  
Guantanamo.)

ORIBI, My 251820/5. ORIBI, POLYANTHUS delayed two days.  
POLYANTHUS. (F.O.N.F. 281929Z to B.A.M.R. (R) C. in C.C.N.A.  
N.S.H.Q. N.M.C.J.S.Washington, Cominch, Admty.  
C. in C.W.A. ORIBI, POLYANTHUS.)

BAZELY You may sight following ships forenoon 29th fast  
information U.S. convoy, URUMEA Spanish, HERA Sweden, all  
westbound.  
(N.S.H.Q. 281931Z to BAZELY, (R) S.B.N.O.W.At.  
Admty.)

M.M.S. Sailing M.M.S. 100 onward May 29th. Norfolk to  
Miami to join M.M.S. 99, 101, 104, 108 which vessels  
expected to depart Miami about June 2nd for onward  
passage my 131456Z April. Vessels are to proceed  
expeditiously stopping only for voyage repairs fuel and  
provisions. Responsible addressees advise all times of  
departure, routes, speeds of advance.  
(C. in C.U.S.Fleet 282040Z to C.E.S.F.)

Convoy This completes my despatch 271926. U.G.S.9 part 1.  
U.G.S.9. (7) 74 ships.  
(P.D.New York 282114 to Cominch C. and R. (R)  
C.E.S.F. Cdr. N.W.Africa S.F. Admty. F.O.I.C.  
Gibraltar, C. in C.Med. N.S.H.Q. N.C.B.Oran,  
U.S.N.O.B.Bermuda.)

/Sub...



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28.5.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Sub attack  
& sighting  
summary.

All times Z.  
Para. A. SS. FLORIDA and CARDINAL GIBBONS  
torpedoed 03.56 S. 36.43 W. about 280246  
Para. E. B.24 attacks sub. 35.45 N. 73.15 W.  
281822. B. 24 sights sub. 35.38 N. 70.15 W.  
281325.  
Para. D. C.G. 58911 sights sub course southeast  
40.44 N. 71.50 W. 272300. B.35 sights periscope  
29 N. 84.50 W. 281637  
(Cominch 282114Z to Admty.)

B.Y.M.S.

Sail B.Y.M.S. 69,188,189, 210 when ready about June  
2nd New York to Halifax for onward routing to  
Londonderry via St. Johns N.F. Ships should not  
operate at speeds above 1000 revolutions per  
minute. Have commodity of 1700 to 1800 miles at 9 knots using  
30 American gallons fuel per hour. Total tank capacity 5700  
gallons. Approval granted to carry 1200 gallons extra fuel  
as deck cargo in barrels provided vessels sailed on favourable  
weather report and do not refill barrels after fuel is removed.  
Advise Boston route speed of advance.  
(Cominch 282144Z to C.E.S.F. (R) Admty. etc.)

CHURCHILL

No ice encountered North and West of 046° 35' N.  
046° 10' W. 10 large and 8 small bergs 46 to 46.35  
N. 46.10 to 48.10 W.  
P.C. and S. 2300Z 046° 05' N. 048° 02' W. 248°  
7½ knots C.4 less RESTIGOUCHE W.4 less BLAIRMORE. BLAIRMORE  
expected. SS. TENAX escorted by VASCAMA and CAPE PALLISER  
part at 290659Z for destination. Weather report.  
(CHURCHILL 282201Z to C. in C.C.N.A. (R) N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F.)

ARETHUSA.

Your 071541. Completion of ARETHUSA has been  
discussed with Yard Officers.  
2. Unofficially Yard will endeavour to complete  
first December ex trials provided their unforeseen  
commitments permit and gear from U.K. arrives in good time.  
3. Please understand that we have not consulted Navy Dept.  
and prefer not to do so at this stage.  
4. The major work at Charleston is escort vessel construction  
which takes priority over cruisers.  
5. As PHOEBE is refitting at New York, she does not affect the  
situation at Charleston.  
(B.A.M.R. 282208Z to Admty.)

CAPETOWN  
CASTLE  
nos. of  
P.O.Ws.

Request you will confirm number of P.O.Ws.  
embarked in CAPETOWN CASTLE given in your  
220815 as 300. Information from other sources  
states 500 on board.  
(N.S.H.Q. 282217Z to S.T.O.Capetown, (R) D.  
of S.T. B.A.D.) Reply 311548B.

/U/B...



War Diary.

28.5.1943.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

U/B menace / Following from Adm. Usborne.  
proposed It has been suggested in order to defeat attack  
staggering by submarines getting in amongst a convoy that  
of ships in ships in columns should be staggered namely even  
convoy. numbers in each column to be 2½ cables to port of  
line of advance of column. This arrangement makes  
it extremely difficult for submarines to manoeuvre  
between columns. Also with columns five cables  
apart and ships in columns four cables apart it might permit  
of use of depth charges by M/Vs. My experience shows anxiety  
and capacity of Masters to co-operate in every possible way.  
Suggest that staggered columns, but without depth charges,  
may be tried in convoy in which I return with H.X. 242 or 243.  
(B.R.O. New York 282227Z to Admty. (R) B.A.D. C. in C.C.N.A.  
C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q.) Reply Admty. 301751.

Suspicious Numerous suspicious contacts obtained and in  
Contacts. several cases attacked by NIAGARA, CHICOUTIMI and  
ST. CLAIR today in general area 043° 00' N. to  
043° 30' N. 060° 00' W. to 062° 00' W.  
Confirmatory evidence lacking. Weather report.  
(W.2 282235Z to C. in C.C.N.A. (R) Connav,  
Admty. etc.)

U.G.S.9. Sailing telegram part 2. 74 ships sailed.  
(P.D. New York 282240Z to Cominch C. and R. (R)  
C.E.S.F. Admty. N.S.H.Q. etc.)

U.G.S./ Beginning with U.G.S.11 sailing 27th June and  
G.U.S.8 arriving about 25th June standard U.G.S.  
Convoys convoys will sail from and arrive at Hampton  
to sail & Roads instead of New York.  
arrive (C. in C.U.S. Fleet 282303Z to C.G.S.F. (R) C. in  
Hampton C. Med. C.E.S.F. Com. 3rd U.S.N.D.N.Y. Com. 5th  
Roads. U.S.N.D. Hampton Roads, Admty. Cdr. U.S. Nav. Forces  
in Europe, B.A.D. U.S. Port Dir. N.Y. Port Dir.  
Norfolk, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Comnavnaw, C.N.S.F.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Kiwi No. 44 Enemy SS. reported 270° Amedee Light New  
Caledonia 15 miles at 1145 M. 26th another reported  
2025 S. 165. 45 E. at 1050M 26 course 25° possible  
SS. sound contact 20.45 S. 177.52 E. at 1215M 27.  
Aircraft sighted 2 SS. 19.52 S. 170.43 E. at 0750M  
27. Food shortage anticipated at Kolombangara  
result Japs raiding native gardens.  
(N.O. Wellington 280015Z to C. in C.E.F. A.C.N.B.  
D.N.I. Admty. G.H.Q. New Delhi.)



1075

War Diary.28.5.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand. - Contd.

Digest serial No.493 May 27th. x My 280746 two gunboats, 6 medium cargo vessels sighted forenoon entering Gazelly Channel course 120°. 2. Morning photos covering majority Rabaul Harbour reveal 36 ships including 25 merchant vessels totalling 118,000 tons 1 Light Cruiser YUBARI class, 5 each Destroyers and S/MS. Also in harbour single flying boat 11 floatplanes. 3. At Dusk S/M observed off Cape Orford proceeding South. 6. Aerodrome and dispersal areas Lae also buildings defence positions barge concealments and Malahang wreck attacked during forenoon by 6 Beaufighters, 9 Liberators, fifteen B.25s. Beaufighters started with strafing run followed by flight B.25s. 9000 rounds and dropping light parachute fragmentation bombs from minimum height. Simultaneously Liberators and remaining B.25s. bombed entire target area from medium height. Large explosions ensued and numerous fires started. Two probable medium bombers on airfield destroyed with direct hit. One Beaufighter lost. 9. Refer Digest No.492 para. 2. scoring hit on probable wireless station and strafing enemy occupied coastal villages Saidor to Madang. Observed 12 enemy bombers 15 miles South East of target heading S. One hour later enemy aircraft including probably 7 Zeros, 8 medium and 16 light bombers bombed and strafed in succession Morobe Mambare Douglas harbours. Slight damage only reported also two casualties including one killed.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 280746.)

Movements. Hired Transport DUNTROON arrived and departed Thursday Island 27th due Darwin 30th. U.S. Transport MAETSUYCKER arrived and departed Thursday Island 27th due Fall River 29th R.A.A.F. Store Ship WANAKA departed Thursday Island 27th due Merape 28th. Royal Australian Fleet Auxiliary MARINEHOPDALE departed Cairns 27th due Townsville 28th V.S.I.S. MERKUR departed Townsville 27th for Cid Harbour.  
(C.S.W. P.S.F. 281643Z. to Admty.)  
27th May arrivals Ports Moresby BUNBURY, Sydney U.S. Destroyer CONYNGHAM. Departures Darwin INVERELL for Aden, U.S. Destroyer GILMER for Townsville, Melbourne BUNDABERG, BUNGAREE for Sydney, Thursday Island SWAN for Darwin, Sydney U.S. Destroyer BROOKS for Townsville.  
(A.C.N.B. 281953Z. to Admty.)

Proposed exchange of Japanese and British subjects. x There is under consideration a further exchange of Japanese and British subjects. Present target is that the exchange should take place at Goa in July. (2) The number of internees to be moved from Australia is approx. 700. There will be a considerable number of British subjects to return from Goa to Australia. (3) Our present proposal is to deal with the British subjects from Goa to Australia in a troopship proceeding to New Zealand to load. She would be under safe conduct for the voyage. (4) Is there any possibility of Australian hospital ships being made available for the movement of the Japanese to Goa.  
(D. of S.T. 282202B. to A.C.N.B.)



War Diary.

28.5.1943.  
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 281333B, 281338B.)



29.5.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands.

Coastal Force Engagements. X

1. In an engagement early this morning with 4 Enemy Trawlers near Dunkirk B.W.Buoy, M.G.B. 110 was set on fire and lost and M.G.Bs. 108 and 118 were damaged; but 2 of the Enemy Trawlers are believed to have been sunk and another seriously damaged, and one or more of 6 E-Boats which intervened in the action were also almost certainly damaged by our forces and by one another's fire.

X While endeavouring to intercept a force of E-Boats to the west and S.W. of Portland during last night a short engagement took place between our own forces in which KRAKOWIAK, WENSLEYDALE, M.G.Bs. 80 and 115, and M.L. 208 all sustained damage and casualties.

X At 2350/28 an Enemy Force was located by R.D.F. about 18 miles N.E. of Cherbourg proceeding at 25 knots towards Beachy Head. S.G.B. 4 and M.G.Bs 614, 615 left their patrol line off the Portsmouth Eastern Approach Channel at 0103 this morning, engaged the enemy at 0146 and damaged at least 4 of his craft; and Albacore A/C from Tangmere claim to have sunk 6 and to have damaged 3 more with bombs. S.G.B. 4 had one minor casualty and M.T.B. 614 was considerably damaged.

Enemy Mines. X

2. In the area off Portland where E-Boat minelaying last night had been suspected, M/S 9 has today detonated 14 mines, exploded one, and sunk one, making 16 in all.

Mediterranean.

Cruiser Sqdns.

3. CLEOPATRA is being transferred from the 15th to the 12th Cruiser Squadron, and NEWFOUNDLAND from the 12th to the 15th Cruiser Squadron. NEWFOUNDLAND will fly the flag of R.A. 15th C.S. CARLISLE, A/A cruiser, hitherto in Force Q, is to be administered by F.O. 15th Cruiser Squadron.

Air Operations.

4. In an offensive sweep over the Aegean, by long range fighters, a 60 ton caique was badly damaged by cannon fire and abandoned by her crew between Keos and Syros Islands.



War Diary.

29.5.1943.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean.

Air  
Operations.  
(Contd.)

The air offensive against Italy was continued today with several attacks on Pantellaria (including the Radar station) and other bases and airfields. During the day 158 1,000 lb. bombs, besides smaller, were dropped on Pantellaria

Enemy  
Air  
Operations.

X 5. A few casualties were caused when Bone was raided by enemy aircraft last night.

Minesweeping

6. Four German type R. and eight Sautter Harle mines swept within a radius of 2 cables of 37° 18.1'N. 09° 53'.6 E. today brought up the total of mines swept by the 20th Trawler Group in North African Waters to 106.

East Indies.

Shipping  
via  
Mediterranean

7. C. in C. Eastern Fleet today directed that all suitable British controlled Ministry of War Transport ships loading in India for the United Kingdom are to be routed to Aden for onward routing to Suez and subsequent inclusion in the X.T. convoys now being assembled at Alexandria. Suitable ships are those of from 8 to 15 knots, except those slower vessels whose critical speed will prevent them keeping station in a 7½ to 8 knots convoy. Only well armed ships are to be included at this stage.

8. MAURITIUS, cruiser, left Kilindini today for Aden, Suez, and Port Said.

America & West Indies.

Support  
Groups.

9. In view of the U-Boat concentration towards the African convoy route, Cominch today asked the Admiralty that one support group, preferably with an auxiliary aircraft carrier, should be placed under the temporary operational

/control...



29.5.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

Support  
Groups.  
(Contd.)

control of Cinclant and proceed towards 40° N. 50° W. The Admiralty on 30th May asked Senior Officer Present Afloat, Argentina, to sail the 6th Escort Group as early as practicable towards this position. The Group was placed under the operational control of Cinclant.

Australia & New Zealand.

10. This morning a Liberator attacked a 1000 ton vessel towing 6 barges off the south coast of Boeroe Island, possibly damaging the ship with 2 near misses.

11. A Liberty ship was unsuccessfully attacked with 2 torpedoes at 1248Z in 32.52 S. 153.49 E. D/F fixes of submarines have been obtained in this vicinity.



29.5.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

OFFA,  
PANTHER,  
PENN.

Propose that OFFA, PANTHER, PENN come under your orders and R.A.(D)'s administration as from receipt of this signal.  
(C. in C. W.A., 291118B to C. in C. H.F.)  
Your 291118 concur.  
(C. in C. H.F., 292054B to C. in C. W.A.)

Personnel  
in North  
Russia.

Reference 24093. Foreign Office have instructed Ambassador to apply urgently for visas Naval reliefs, but no mention of visas for reliefs and personnel for other two services. Army and R.A.F. reliefs as important as Naval reliefs.  
(30 Mission, Moscow, 291240Z to Air Ministry.)

2nd M.G.B.  
Flotilla.

The 2nd M.G.B. Flotilla consisting of M.G.Bs 6, 7, 8 and 13 is re-allocated to "Attack" for operational duties in the Portsmouth Command.  
2. M.G.Bs 6 and 7 should be given a short working up period at BEE on completion of refit about 6th June.

3. A.M. 031652 December 1942 and 071335 April are cancelled.  
(D.D.O.D.C., 291726B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Proposed  
A/C at  
Tangmere.

My 291539, C. in C. Portsmouth's 251230 and Admty. 281326.  
In this action the frustration of the enemy's operation was chiefly due to the Albacores and it is considered that the comparatively slow and weak Coastal Force would not have prevented him from laying his mines. This further shows the necessity for the presence of these aircraft at Tangmere in order effectively to carry out the primary object allocated to the Portsmouth Command, i.e. the protection of our Coastal Convoys.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 291956B to Admty.)

Movements.

S/M  
Movements.

Scapa arrivals LE CURIE, SCEPTRE. Departure SEADOG.  
(A.C.O.S., 290844.)

Admiralty's 231125. Intend to sail UNBENDING escorted by KINGSTON TOPAZ from Needles at 0900/31st for Plymouth by route YN. E.T.A. Ram Head 2130, speed 9 knots.

(Capt. (S) 5, 291010B.)  
Your 281433. Concur.  
(C. in C. H.F., 291057B to F.O.(S).)

My 221209. Intend to sail TANTALUS escorted by JAN VAN GELDER 1000B/31st northabout to Clyde. E.T.A. 0430B/June 1st.  
(N.O.I.C. Barrow, 291102B.)

/Request ...



1081

War Diary.29.5.1943.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M Request you will sail S.54 for Kola Inlet at  
Movements. 2000B/31st May in accordance with my S.M.0439/  
(Contd.) 345 and S.M. 04393/468.  
(F.O.(S), 291259B to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)  
Sailed S.54 escorted by LOCH MONTEITH in  
accordance with Capt. (S) 3 280953.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 291504B.)  
Russian submarine S.54 sails Lerwick for Kola Inlet  
2000B/31st May routed through position (e) 70° 50' N. 15° E.  
S.O.A. 10 knots.  
2. Onward route from position (e) as in your 202018 May.  
3. Request you will arrange - (a) Escort in Russian waters.  
(b) Bombing restrictions for aircraft operating from North  
Russia.  
(D.O.D.(H), 291535B to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)  
Positions of S/Ms at 0800/30 and movements for following  
24 hours.  
(F.O.(S), 291712B, 291741B.)

Rosyth 7 Principal ships present at 0900/29th. Details.  
Command. (C. in C. Rosyth, 290901B.)

WARSPITE. Intend sailing WARSPITE for Scapa at 1515B/1st  
June passing Clyde Light vessel at 1830B/1st.  
E.T.A. 1630B/2nd.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 291146B to C. in C. H.F.)

CHARYBDIS. Arrived CHARYBDIS.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 291233B.)

Landing F.O.I.C. Falmouth's 281241B and A.M. 281711.  
Craft Flight E is likely to consist of approx. 40 craft  
Flight E. propose tug EMPIRE SPITFIRE be sailed additional  
to this flight.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 291433B to Admty.)

RODNEY. My 270042B para. 2. N.O.I.C. Greenock's 291146.  
Request PIORUN may be substituted for ORWELL  
in RODNEY's screen and ORWELL sailed to R/V Clyde  
light vessel with WARSPITE at 1830B/1st and  
provide additional escort to Scapa.  
(R.A.D.H.F., 291705B to C. in C. Plymouth.)



1082

War Diary.29.5.1943.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

- Interception of E-Boats. Coastal Batteries in action. WENSLEYDALE damaged. Proceed out of harbour. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 290055B to ALBRIGHTON, STEVENSTONE, MEYNELL.) Proceed N. 1 buoy. E-Boats in position 140° S.C.P.30 and W of Portland. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 290116B to STEVENSTONE, ALBRIGHTON, MEYNELL.) Group one. Position of enemy vessel plotted by R.D.F. was 210 Portland Bill 10 at 0130. (C. in C. Plymouth, 290134B to O.P. Forces, 126 Axy. M/S Group.)
- Group one. Enemy course and speed is 170°, 35. (C. in C. Plymouth, 290135B to O.P. Forces.) Are you in contact with enemy. (KRAKOWIAK, 290330B to ALBRIGHTON.)
- During engagement this morning M.G.Bs 115 and 80 sustained minor damage. Casualties nil in M.G.B.115, one killed and one officer wounded in M.G.B.80. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 290612B.) My 282133B. Arrived KRAKOWIAK, GOATHLAND, GARTH and WENSLEYDALE. (C. in C. Plymouth, 290749B.)
- E-Boats operating West of Portland at about 0120/29th came under fire of coast and heavy A.A. Artillery. The following rounds were fired:- Blacknor 9.2" battery - 2 rounds. A.A. sites P2, P3, P4, P5, P6 - 312 rounds. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 291349B.)
1. In intercepting E-Boats West of Portland on night 28th/29th May a brief engagement took place between Motor Gunboats of 8th Flotilla, destroyers GOATHLAND, GARTH, WENSLEYDALE and KRAKOWIAK, and Motor Launches from Portland during which our forces sustained following casualties.
  2. Superficial damage, 1 serious and 2 minor casualties in KRAKOWIAK. Damage to torpedo tubes and 1 minor casualty in WENSLEYDALE. 1 killed, 1 wounded and superficial damage in M.G.B. 80. Superficial damage in M.G.B.115. Slight damage and 1 killed and 1 wounded in M.L.208.
  3. Damage to enemy not known but is not considered to be serious.
  4. Minelaying to West and south-west of Portland Bill is suspected. Sweeping is in progress and traffic has been diverted temporarily. (C. in C. Plymouth, 291707B to Admt.)
- Coastal Patrols. My 281024B. "Device" returned. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 290550B.)
1. Intend M.Ls 269 (S.O.), 246 and 245 to patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W.
  2. Leave Portland at 2200 via Q.Z.S.382 and leave patrol line at dawn/30th, returning via Q.Z.S.382.
  3. Object: Anti E-Boat patrol. Codeword "Prize". (F.O.I.C. Portland, 291205B.) S.G.B.6 and 4 immediate notice Newhaven. BLEASDALE, ALBRIGHTON patrolling southward of E.A.5 buoy.
  5. M.L.346, 572 patrolling in Eastern Approach Channel.



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Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Coastal  
Patrols.  
(Contd.)

6. Chasseur 12 at St. Helens. KINGSTON  
TURQUOISE at Yarmouth.
7. M.L.269, 245, 246 from Portland patrolling  
50° 20' N. between 02° 25' W. and 01° 45' W.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 291458B.)
1. BLEASDALE, ALBRIGHTON to carry out anti  
E-Boat patrol tonight between 50° 25' N. 00° 15' W. and 50°  
25' N. 01° 00' W. Pass F buoy at 2315B and 0500B.  
Codeword "Device".
3. M.Ls 346, 572 to patrol searched channel between F and  
E.A.5 Buoys.
4. S.G.B.6 and 4 immediate notice at Newhaven. Codeword  
"Jovial".  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 291506B and 291725B.)  
M.Ls 275 and 255 patrolling at Bullock Bank.
- M.Ls 104 - 108 and 107 and M.T.B. 221 carrying out operation  
N.L. 85 and M.Ls 213, 128, 573, 210, 101 and 102 carrying out  
operation N.L.85 leave Dover eastwards, E.T.D. 2330, E.T.R.  
0425/30.
- M.G.Bs S.2, S.1 and 43 at 'V' Buoy, E.T.D. 0030, E.T.R. 0415/30.  
(V.A. Dover, 291725B.)  
My 291725B. Add: M.T.Bs 204 (S.O.), 202 and 240 from  
Dover and M.G.B.117 from Ramsgate patrolling at Bullock Bank.  
E.T.D. Dover 2240, E.T.R. 0445.  
(V.A. Dover, 291834B to Admty.)

KENT,  
JAMAICA.

- C. in C. H.F. 281148B and my 260107B para. 2.  
No enemy action sighted on passage. Have  
decided to postpone tactical exercises until a  
later date.  
(C.S.1, 291022B to A.C.I.C.)  
My 281349. Arrived Akureyri 1120B/29th.  
(A.C.I.C., 291309B.)

S/M  
Patrols.

- HERRING proceed forthwith to north-west corner  
of A.3. Bombing restrictions follows.  
(F.O.(S), 291139B to Subron 50.)  
After passing through position (d) 054° 50', 027°  
59' at 2200B/30 HAKE proceeds submerged by day  
to centre of square B.3. Bombing restrictions follow.  
(F.O.(S), 291142B to Subron 50.)  
Following is paraphrase of my 291139 and 291142 sent  
HERRING and HAKE respectively.  
(F.O.(S), 291148B to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.A.,  
H.Q.C.C.)  
Positions of submarines at 0800/30 and movement for  
following 24 hours.  
(A) HADDO vicinity 51° N. 35° W.  
(B) HERRING proceeding to vicinity 54° 40' N. 38° 37' W. from  
south-westward dived by day.  
(C) HAKE approx. 56° 04' N. 24° 40' W. probably on surface  
through 56° N. 25° W. and 54° 50' N. 27° 59' W., thence dived  
by day towards 53° 35' N. 37° 02' W.

/(D) ...



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Patrols.  
(Contd.)

(D) TUNA, SHAD, ULTIMATUM, and STUBBORN as in my 251721.

(F) TEMPLAR 45° 08' N. 06° 30' W. dived by day through 44° 20' N. 06° 29' W., thence to westward daily advance 98 miles.

(F.O.(S), 291712B to Admty.)

My 291341. HERRING is proceeding to vicinity of 054° 40' N. 038° 40' W. submerging by day arriving in this position p.m./30th. (C. in C. W.A., 291718B to Escorts O.N.186.)

Engagement  
with  
E-Boats.  
M.G.B. 110  
lost.  
M.G.Bs. 108  
and 118  
damaged.  
2 Trawlers  
sunk.  
1 Trawler  
damaged.  
One or more  
E-Boats  
damaged.

X At 2330 yesterday, M.G.Bs 110, 116, 108 and 118 were sailed from Ramsgate to patrol in vicinity of West Dyck Bank to support 50th M.L. Flotilla and M.T.Bs 221 (S.O.) and 219 carrying out operation N.L.83 and 52nd M.L.F. operation N.L. 84.

2. N.L.84 was carried out without incident but N.L.83 was abandoned by 50th M.L.F. owing to engine defects. M.T.Bs 221 and 219 proceeding independently were challenged and attacked by four trawlers when approaching the position of the lay at 0227. M.T.Bs thereupon abandoned the lay and returned to Dover without jettisoning their mines.

3. At 0230 the M.G.Bs having received an alarm signal from M.T.B.221 proceeded to the vicinity of Dunkirk B.W. Buoy and engaged the four trawlers. M.G.B.118 was hit in the early

stages of the action, both officers becoming casualties and was withdrawn by the Coxswain who claims to have sunk one trawler while disengaging.

M.G.B.116 sustained damage to her pom-pom early on and therefore took little part in the action but reports observing four different vessels on fire.

While M.G.Bs 110 and 108 were closing to board one trawler which was stopped and on fire, six E-Boats were observed apparently from astern.

M.G.Bs 110 and 108 thereupon commenced to withdraw but 110 turned and was seen to be engaging the E-Boats at close range. She was seen to be drawing heavy fire and to burst into flames which were soon extinguished, but although M.G.B.108 remained in the vicinity until daylight and Typhoon aircraft carried out a thorough search at first light all efforts to locate her have failed and she must be regarded as a total loss.

4. After disengaging M.G.B.108 observed that the 3 boats continued the action amongst themselves and two were seen to be on fire, one of which subsequently blew up. It is considered possible, however, that this may have been M.G.B.110.

5. The engagement lasted some forty-five minutes during which time it is considered that at least one trawler was destroyed, another left in a sinking condition and one seriously damaged. Damage was also almost certainly inflicted on one or more E-Boats both by our forces and by their own fire.



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Saturday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Engagement with E-Boats. M.G.B. 110 lost. M.G.Bs 118 and 108 damaged. 2 Trawlers sunk. 1 Trawler damaged. One or more E-Boats damaged. (Contd.)

6. The following casualties and damage have been reported:-  
M.G.B. 110 lost.  
M.G.B. 118 Commanding Officer seriously wounded, 1st Lieutenant and two ratings wounded.  
M.G.Bs. 118 and 108 both sustained damage to hulls and superstructures.  
(V.A. Dover, 291210B to Admty.)

Operation R.A.

1. Information. Fishing vessels probably Danish reported in approx. 53° 40' N. 03° 20' E.  
2. Object. To capture and bring in as many fishing vessels as practicable.  
3. Forces taking part. One unit of 4 boats

made up from 17th and 31st Flotillas.  
4. Unit to sail so as to arrive in area at 0230 tomorrow. Search of as large an area as practicable round TKS 4020 is then to be made using R.D.F. If nothing found by 0530 Unit is to return to Yarmouth. If successful Unit and prizes are to leave area not later than 0530. Force is not to be used unless vessels offer resistance in which case crew should be taken off and vessel sunk. As many vessels as practicable are to be rounded up and escorted to Yarmouth unless their draught exceeds 7 feet in which case they are to be escorted to Humber via Gap D. Attention is called to B.S. 87.  
5. If vessels are found brief situation report with P.C.S. is to be signalled when west of 3° E. If nothing found signal to this effect is to be made at 0530.  
6. Fighter protection will be arranged using codeword "Delta". (C. in C. Nore, 291527B to MIDGE.)

Operation F.H.

Request you sail CAMELLIA and BLUEBELL 6th June a.m. if weather is unsuitable for enemy air reconnaissance otherwise p.m.

(2) Route through position - (D) 071° 20', 037° 38'. (E) 072° 52', 037° 22'. (F) 074° 05', 031° 20'. (G) 074° 05', 025° 51'. (H) 074° 56', 018° 12'. (I) 071° 22', 000° 00'. (J) 062° 27', 006° 01' W. (K) 058° 52', 004° 36' thence to Loch Ewe via Minches. Above is route "Green". Final destination is Liverpool. Fuel is available at Seidisfjord, Iceland if required. Corvettes to make best speed to longitude 15° E. In planning operation this has been assumed to be 14½ knots.

(3) Ice R/C is being flown and present conditions are favourable to route ordered. If there are indications that passage North



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Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation of Bear Island is blocked corvettes are to proceed south of Bear Island.  
F.H. (4) ONSLAUGHT, MUSKETEER, MAHRATTA leave Seidisfjord 2000B/5th June. MUSKETEER, MAHRATTA for Kola Inlet with stores routed by route "Brown" as follows:- (L) 072° 30', 004° 55' E.  
(M) 073° 49', 017° 24'. (N) 073° 49', 030° 01'. (O) 071° 41', 035° 40' thence as ordered by you. Speed of advance 14 knots until ONSLAUGHT parts company, thence best speed.  
(5) If position of corvettes when they reach Bear Island area is known with sufficient accuracy ONSLAUGHT will join them. If position of corvettes has not been received by time the destroyer reaches 21° E. ONSLAUGHT will transfer to route "Green" and follow it to westward. ONSLAUGHT will part company with corvettes if met after passing meridian Greenwich.  
(6) Battle Fleet including FURIOUS will be operating S.W. Bear Island on 8th and 9th June thence proceeding Scapa. CUMBERLAND, BERMUDA and 2 destroyers leave Barents Burg p.m./7th June for Seidisfjord routed north of route "Green".  
(7) After unloading request you will sail MUSKETEER, MAHRATTA for Seidisfjord, thence Scapa by reverse of outward route.  
(8) Request you signal time of departure of corvettes to H.F. Operational.  
(9) No special British submarine dispositions have been made to avoid possible loss of security via Russian communications.  
(10) S.B.N.O. North Russia pass by secret hand message to CAMELLIA and BLUEBELL.  
(C. in C. H.F., 292357B to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Exercises.

Force V. I want to exercise Force V in the area between Mull of Kintyre and Loch Ryan southward of the dangerous area between 1600 - 2359 on 17th June. Can this be arranged and will you provide any A/S cover you may consider necessary.  
(R.A.V., 291215 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Allied Air Activity.

Enemy Vessel attacked. One enemy motor vessel in 58° 03' N. 08° 06' E., course 360°, speed 12 knots. Result of attack unobserved.  
(A/C 28MF, 290243B to 18 Group.)

Zeebrugge bombed. On day 28th 12 Venturas were despatched with fighter cover to attack the coke ovens at Zeebrugge. All A/C delivered their attacks from 1,150 feet; bombs fell slightly short of the power station but some probably burst across buildings in the southern area of the target.  
(H.Q.B.C., 291230B.)

/Engagement ...



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HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity - Contd.

Engagement  
with Enemy  
Force.  
6 Enemy  
ships  
claimed  
sunk.  
3 Enemy  
ships  
claimed  
damaged.  
M.G.B.614  
damaged.

X At 2350/28th May R.D.F. plots indicated an enemy force 18 miles north-east of Cherbourg proceeding towards Beachy Head at 25 knots. Albacore aircraft from Tangmere were directed to intercept.  
2. Attacks as reported by aircraft were made at:-  
A. 0008/29 with bombs. Aircraft heard loud explosions and saw 2 ships well on fire. 2 enemy claimed destroyed.  
B. 0105 with 8 bombs. Actual strikes seen on 2 boats and large explosion noted. 2 enemy claimed damaged.  
C. 0120 with 10 bombs. Large explosion seen on one vessel. 2 enemy claimed destroyed.  
As a result of these last 2 attacks, enemy was seen on plot to alter course, break formation

and then stop.

3. Striking Force under command of Lieutenant T.W. Boyd, R.N.V.R. consisting of S.G.B.4, M.G.Bs 614, 615 left patrol line south of Portsmouth Eastern Approach Channel at 0103, and directed from Portsmouth plot engaged enemy at 0146. Aircraft were ordered to cease bombing when force was 4 miles from enemy.

4. At least 8 enemy were seen to be steaming slowly to south-westward. Force steamed between two enemy groups and engaged one at 200 yards. Hits were observed on 4 enemy, each craft engaging in turn, and M.G.B.615 also engaged the other group at point blank range. Consider at least 4 boats were given heavy punishment.

5. M.G.B.615 was then seen to be on fire. Force disengaged and reformed. Enemy retired at full speed, and by 0216 all contact was lost, and force returned.

6. As soon as our force was known to be clear, Albacores were ordered to bomb again. Attacks were made at:-  
D. 0238 with 8 bombs. Strikes were clearly seen on one boat. Claim 1 destroyed and 1 damaged.

E. 0320 with 8 bombs. Large flash seen on one craft which immediately disappeared. One claimed as destroyed.

7. S.G.B.4 suffered one minor casualty.

M.G.B. 614 received considerable damage from fire in after crew space and from C.S.A. acid, but should be ready for service 31st May.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 291539 to Admty.)

Mining.

Sweep by  
M/S. 9.

A check sweep of 1001 is to be carried out and a search 2 mile deep south of area.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 290939B to M/S.9.)

A.M.Q.Z.X. 1001. One more lap in "G" required before starting deck sweep. "T" type mines are causing havoc to sweeps. Mines today "R" or "Z" type, one swept and exploded and one detonated. "T" type one sunk and 13 detonated or 14 if one was a double detonation. 3 of these were in cancelled A.M. Q.Z.S.386.

(M.M.S. Flot. 9, 292340B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

/Thames ...



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29.5.1943.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - Contd.

- Thames Estuary. One ground mine detonated by Sweeper at 1306A/28 in 347° L.3 Buoy 1.6 miles. (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 291025.)
- Q.U. 4. Prepare to carry out following operation on 30th May.  
(1) Q.U.4 with available boats of M.T.B. Flotilla 21.  
(C. in C. Nore, 291132B to BEEHIVE.)
- Iceland. My 221133. On arrival Akureyri ships of 15th M/S.F. are to sweep the approach and entrance to the harbour south of latitude 066° 10' N. Keep to eastward of Hrisey Island.  
(2) During operation F.H. they will be required to remain at Akureyri to carry out A/S patrol and sweeping as ordered by S.O. present.  
(3) On completion of operation F.H they will be available to return to Reykjavik area.  
(4) Request you will sail GLEANER for Scapa when these ships arrive in Reykjavik area or on June 14th whichever is the earlier.  
(5) Carry out sweeping when P.R.U's least expect. If approach of P.R.U. is reported, stop sweeping and scatter at slow speed.  
(C. in C. H.F., 291519B to A.C.I.C.)

Enemy Intelligence.

- E-Boats in Channel. E.10Q (2) 2340 8 - 9 Units from 11' N. of Alderney divided into 2 groups in 252° Portland Bill 6', one group (5 units) retired south and faded 11' S. of Portland Bill. The other (2 units) turned E. then N.W. and retired S.W. fading at 0157 18½' S.W. of Portland Bill. Speed 30 knots.  
E.12Q. 2350-0314 8 units from 18½' N.E. of Cherbourg to 28½' S. of Selsey turned at 0124 retired S.W. and faded 13½' N. of Cherbourg at 0314. Speed 12 - 27 knots.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 291010B.)
- Dunkirk. x Photographs taken by 140 Squadron sortie at 281530B show:  
Port West of Armament Quay and dry docks covered on hazy photo. No shipping over 200' in length visible in that part of Port seen. One M class minesweeper believed departed Dock No.4.  
(R.A.F. Medmenham, 291725B.)
- Boulogne. Photographs taken at 291230B show:- Change since 281830B May. Departure of one M class M/S, seven T.L.C. type 1, three T.L.C. type 3, and arrival of E/R boat. Significant shipping now present one E/R boat, six T.L.C. type 3, five auxiliaries 100/150.  
(R.A.F. Medmenham, 291825B.)



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War Diary.29.5.1943.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.U-Boats  
reported  
or attacked  
in Biscay  
Area.By D/F at 2045Z/28 U-Boat, estimated anywhere  
within 75 miles of 47° 30' N. 14° 30' W.  
(D.D.I.C., 290030B.)

1. U-Boat wake swirl and periscope sighted in  
45° 30' N. 09° 47' W. at 1136/29 by A/C of 236  
Squadron.
3. Object thought to be periscope sighted just  
ahead of swirl.
8. 8 R.P. 25 lb. A.P. head.
11. First pair fired at 800 yards, last pair at 400 yards. All  
aimed at and entered water just short of target.
12. Line of disturbed water turning 90° to port from point of  
swirl immediately after attack.
13. 12 minutes.
14. Nil.

Narrative: After sighting wake from a 1000 feet A/C made  
climbing turn to starboard into cloud to gain height. Attack  
made from 1300 feet, angle of dive 20°, speed 250 knots, first  
pair fired at 800 yards from starboard beam of swirl, point of  
aim taken short plain object thought to be periscope at leading  
edge of swirl. Last pair fired at estimated range of 400 yards  
each pair entered water short of target as intended. After  
last pair had fire A/C made steep turn to port immediately  
sighting two black objects emerging from water about 150 feet  
beyond target at angle between 45° and vertical. They rose to  
300 feet which was height of the A/C at this time. Objects were  
curved and estimated to be five or six feet long and one or two  
feet thick. Three similar objects emerged in the same way  
immediately after this making five in all. As A/C passed over  
swirl after releasing last pair a line of aerated or disturbed  
water was sighted making a sharp 90° turn to port from the  
leading edge of swirl. Nothing further seen.  
(R.A.F. Predannack, 291555B to 19 Group.)

U-Boats  
reported  
or attacked  
in North  
Atlantic.At 2036/28 in (? lat.) 37° 20' N. E/120 sighted  
U/B on surface course 320/8 and attacked with 4 -  
270 lb. Torpex Mk.XI pistol Mk.XVI setting 25  
ft. spaced 100 ft. from 100 ft. C/T and decks  
awash on attack. A/C remained 18 mins. in  
vicinity. Oil observed and wreckage consisting  
of pieces of wood and one large black object  
in middle of D/C scum.

(R.A.F. Iceland, 291412B.)

My 1542. Enemy S/M was on surface. When first sighted  
was on course 230°, speed 10 knots, position 63° 40' N. 10° 37'  
W. Have attacked with depth charges.

(A/C 190 Sqdn., Duty 'V', 291620B to 18 Group.)

Am over enemy submarine in 48° 50' N. 18° 05' W.

(A/C 59 Sqdn., Duty 'S', 291735 to 15 Group.)

Have attacked enemy with depth charges. Submarine is  
still on surface.

(A/C 59 Sqdn., Duty 'S', 291735 to 15 Group.)

/Enemy ...



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Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

U-Boats reported or attacked in North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Enemy submarine previously reported is still on surface.  
(A/C 59 Sqdn., Duty 'S', 291820 to 15 Group.)  
S/M has dived.  
(A/C 59 Sqdn., Duty 'S', 291853 to 15 Group.)

Casualties and Defects.

Dinghies. Am over an A/C dinghy in 47° 52' N. 09° 36' W. (A/C 50W3, 290120B to 19 Group.)  
My 282239 para. 2. Sunderland attempted to land and crashed.

2. One dinghy 7 occupants and a second dinghy, 3 occupants sighted in 047° 50' N. 009° 34' W. at 0640/29th.

3. Third dinghy occupants unknown 048° 07' N. 009° 23' W. at 0745B/29th.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 290829B to LA COMBATTANTE.)  
You were reported by enemy aircraft at 0737B.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 291025B to LA COMBATTANTE.)  
My 282217B. Proceed from 47° 50' N. 09° 38' W. to search in 49° 45' N. 08° 15' W., thence return to Plymouth.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 291333B to 10 Group.)

BIDEFORD. Your 282325. My position 061° 17' N. 016° 22' W. Ship in hand-steering due to further trouble with steering-engine. Speed 13 knots to arrive before weather further deteriorates.  
(BIDEFORD, 290715Z to Admty.)  
My 290715Z. E.T.A. Hvalfjord 0800B/30. Steering engine repaired and working satisfactorily.  
(BIDEFORD, 291240Z to A.C.I.C.)  
Your 290715. Request you inform me if you require assistance of a tug.  
(A.C.I.C., 291440B to BIDEFORD.)

FORT PASKOYAC. Intend sailing at 1600/30 SS. FORT PASKOYAC in tow of tugs ABEILLE 21 and DANUBE 6 to Tyne escorted by ELM as far as Aultbea. Standard route. S.O.A. 5 knots.  
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 291942B.)

Shipping and Convoys.

A.T. 46. My 262147B. Convoy now due Clyde a.m./2nd June.  
2. Personnel will disembark p.m./2nd June and 3rd June and embark p.m./5th June and a.m./6th June.  
3. Convoy should now be ready to sail p.m./6th June.  
(D.S.T., 290055B.)



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Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- W.P. 346. Take GOATHLAND under your orders and pass gate at 1300/29th to R/V W.P.346 at Eddystone and continue on escort to Needles. LIMBOURNE is to continue to Needles.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 290951B to TANATSIDE.)  
Sailed GOATHLAND to escort W.P. 346.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 291344B.)  
My (290951B?). Delete TANATSIDE and cancel par. 2.
2. W.P. 346 is proceeding into Dartmouth.
  3. N.O.I.C. Dartmouth is requested to resail W.P.346 daylight 30th.
  4. LIMBOURNE on meeting P.W.346 is joining as S.O. Escort.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 291355B to Escorts.)  
TANATSIDE take LA NANTAISE, PEARL and LUNDY under your orders and pass Gate at 1945B/29 and proceed to R/V P.W.346 at Eddystone.
  2. On relief LINCOLNSHIRE and LORD ESSENDEN escort Plymouth ships into harbour.
  3. LIMBOURNE and QUORN leave convoy daylight 30th and return to Plymouth.
  4. TANATSIDE continue to Milford Haven.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 291455B.)
- E.G. 1, BITER. BITER is to join First Escort Group on completion present lay-over.  
(2) Following is intended programme for Group. Details.  
(3) Complete Group ready for service midnight 4th/5th June.  
(C. in C. W.A., 291131B to E.G.1, BITER.)
- O.N.S. Convoys. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 281640.  
(1) Consider interests of ocean escorts should be paramount. Proposals in my 201456 were designed to give the most suitable lay-overs for ocean escorts allowing for continuation of training programme in U.K.  
(2) If O.N.S. convoys were sailed 3 days later ocean escorts would have 13 days lay-over in U.K. and only 3 days in Newfoundland.  
(3) Suggest N.S.H.Q. Ottawa be informed that no long term programme is envisaged since trade requirements are likely to fluctuate.  
(C. in C. W.A., 291137B to Admty.)
- E.G. 6. Your 271850. Intend to hold 6th E.G. at Argentia for the first few days in June pending a clarification of U-Boat situation in Western Atlantic. Should no unusual development occur intend to use your group to support H.X.242.  
(C. in C. W.A., 291407Z to E.G. 6.)



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War Diary.29.5.1943.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

U.R. 77. Date of sailing of U.R.77 is to be advanced to June 1st.  
(C. in C. W.A., 291721B.)

Escort Groups. / It is my intention to bring B groups up to a strength of five destroyers and/or frigates and six corvettes apiece, consistent with the provision of three new groups to be formed from new construction sloops, captains and frigates and designed to be used primarily as support forces. It is assumed that all towns will be relieved in A and C groups when they can be spared.

(2) (A) It is obviously desirable that C groups should be as strong numerically as B groups and I would propose bringing the destroyer strength of C groups up to three apiece, apart from towns, by allotting to C groups certain destroyers which are coming forward for service and are now allocated to my command. This would entail the allocation of six destroyers to C groups.

(B) I assume that R.C.N. would make up the numerical deficiency of C groups by allocating to these groups Canadian-manned frigates and corvettes, and that any destroyers allocated from my command would have to be British-manned.

(3) Request general lines of these proposals may be laid before Canadian authorities subject to Admiralty approval.  
(C. in C. W.A., 291854B to Admty.)

D.S. 41. BANFORA is required to be ready to sail from Clyde on 8th June as convoy D.S. 41.  
2. Approximately 1,000 personnel will be embarked at Tail of the Bank on 7th June and 8th June.  
3. On return voyage she will be used for approximately 1,300 personnel.  
(D.S.T., 292031B.)

A.T. 47, Convoy A.T.47 comprising PASTEUR is due Liverpool a.m./3rd June with following personnel on board. Total 4495.  
T.A. 47. 2. Also following cargo on board.  
3. She is required to be ready to sail again as Convoy T.A. 47 on 8th June.  
4. Embarkation of about 2,000 German prisoners of war ex ORMONDE and up to 500 personnel will take place 7th June and 8th June.  
(D.S.T., 292056B.)

/W.S. 31 ...



War Diary.

29.5.1943.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

W.S. 31.

Following is provisional composition of:-

(a) W.S. 31:

Ship	Port	Date due
RANGITIKI	Liverpool	In
STRATHEDEN	Tail of the Bank	In
U.S. ERICSSON	Tail of the Bank	6th June
U.S. GOEPHALS	Tail of the Bank	6th June
U.S. J.W.MCANDREW	Tail of the Bank	6th June

(b) W.S. 31 (North African portion):

BRITANNIC	Liverpool	In
FRANCONIA	Liverpool	6th June
LARGS BAY	Liverpool	In
U.S. CHRISTOBAL	Tail of the Bank	6th June
U.S. SANTA ROSA	Tail of the Bank	6th June

2. Embarkation will take place between 14th June and 18th June. 3. TAMAROA at Avonmouth is also included.

(D.S.T., 292120B.)

W.S. 31A,  
W.S. 31B.

Following are the provisional arrangements for embarkations other than W.S. 31 proper during June:-

(1) W.S. 31A:-

Ship	Code	Approx. personnel capacity which will be embarked.	Embarking
H.M.S. GLENGYLE	A1	982	Clyde 13th-15th June.
MARNIX VAN ST. ALDEGONDE	A2	2809	
DERBYSHIRE	A3	2566	
CIRCISSIA	A4	2016	
LLANGIBBY CASTLE	A5	1736	
DURBAN CASTLE	A6	2022	
H.M.S. HILARY	A7	95	
BATORY	A8	1663	
ASCANIA	A9	2291	
(ii) W.S. 31B Part 1:-			
EMPIRE PRIDE	AA10	1836	Clyde 28th-30th June.
ARUNDEL CASTLE	AA11	2305	
DUNNOTTAR CASTLE	AA12	2240	
(iii) W.S. 31B Part 2:-			
CAMERONIA	A13	2975	Clyde } Liverpool } 28th- Clyde } 30th Clyde } June. Liverpool }
ORMONDE	A14	3580	
BANFORA	A15	2120	
LETITIA	A16	2438	
SAMARIA	A17	4120	
Latter 3 ships due U.K. 6th June.			

(D.S.T., 292135B.)

/KALDFONN ...



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29.5.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. - Contd.

KALDFONN.

Your 231118B.

Fitting oiling at sea platform on KALDFONN is to be put in hand forthwith.

2. Vessel must however be ready to sail in O.N.188 and if necessary this work will have to be left uncompleted.

(D.T.D., 292335B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)



1095

War Diary.29.5.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- O.S.48. My 271315, SCHIAFFINO sailed to join escorted by S.C. 517 replacing TAPAGEUSE. S.C. returns Safi after Rendezvous.  
(Commorseafron 290315Z. to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) Comar, Dakar. C. in C. Med. F.O.C.W.A. Admty. U.S.S. SCHENCK, P.C.L.480, P.C.482 N.S.B. Safi.)
- FINISTERRE. Arrival.  
(F.O. Gib. 291133B. to C.M.S.F.F. (R) Admty. etc.)
- MALOJA. Swiss steamship MALOJA leaves Genoa about 3rd June for Gibraltar.  
(Swiss). (D.E.W.D. 291139B. to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med.)
- Dispositions. Situation at 2003B/29th. WORCESTERSHIRE 026° 35' 030° 01' through 027° 01' 030° 01' thence 011° 13. (2) G.U.S.7A, C.T.E. No.68, 033° 55' 030° 02' 285° A.  
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 291141B.)
- TEMPLAR, M.W.C.A.O.16.A. Mergid (? submerged intended) bombing B. TEMPLAR (P.316) C.O.600/2 43° 01' 10° 28' restrictions. 0130/5 38° 50' 10° 00' 0434/6 36° 51' 09° 13' 0330/7 36° 37' 07° 24' D. 9 knots. (2) M.W.C.A.O. 16 A. Total. B. TEMPLAR (P.316). C. 0330/7 36° 37' 07° 24' 1030/7 35° 53' 06° 15' 1115/7 35° 49' 06° 06½' to arrive Gibraltar at 1430/7. D. 11 knots. All times zone minus 2, positions N. and W.  
(F.O. Gib. 291518 to R.A.F. Gib. H.Q.C.C. (R) Admty. F.O.S. Port Layautey.)  
Pass 043° 01' N. at 0600/2nd then through following positions at times stated. All positions are N. and W. unless otherwise indicated. (T) 038° 50' 010° 00' at 0130/5th. (U) 036° 39' 009° 13' at 0430/6th. (V) 036° 37' 007° 24' at 0330/7th. (W) 035° 53' 006° 15' at 1030/7th. (X) 035° 49' 006° 06' at 1115/7th thence to Gibraltar by Q.K.A.87 all times zone minus 2. 2. S. of A. diving by day 97 miles per day. Do not cross meridian 007° W. before 0630/7th but thereafter proceed on surface at your discretion at 11 knots. 3. Submerged bombing restrictions have been arranged until 0330/7th thereafter total bombing restrictions 10 miles either side your route from 35 miles ahead to 35 miles astern your estimated position. Report if you are unable to keep within your bombing restriction. 4. Read H.S. and G.S. routines after 0600/2nd.  
(F.O. Gib. 291522B. to P.316 (TEMPLAR) (R) Capt. (S) 8, F.O. (S), Capt. (S) 3, C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med.)
- U-Boat. S/M sighted 18 miles S.E. of Porto Santo 0530 G.M.T. 28th steering E. and again 10 miles E. of Porto Santo at 1240 G.M.T. 28th steering N. A.O.  
(N.A. Lisbon 291643B. to S.O. Gib. (R) Admty.)

/GEORGES....



1096

War Diary.29.5.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

GEORGES LEYGUES. Intend sail GEORGES LEYGUES (Fr.) depart Casa 1800/2 June routed through Q.K.A.102. (C) 33.27 N. 09.29 W. (D) 30.00 N. 11.45 W. (E) 27.03 N. 14.20 W. (F) 22.09 N. 17.37 W. (G) 14.45 N. 17.37 W. thence Dakar. E.T.A. 0600A/5 June. S. of A. 23. (Commorseafron 291919Z. to Comar, Dakar. (R) F.O.C.W.A. F.O.I.C. Gib. Admty. C. in C. Med. N.O.B. Casa Comfairwing 15 Comnavnaw.)

Movements, Gibraltar. Arrivals: ESKIMO from West, French ships ANNAMITE, LA GRACIEUSE from Casablanca. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 292005B. to Admty. C. in C. Med.)

U-Boat. Following is a re-encipherment of my 291716 (begins). Possible sub contact 35.41 N. 06.42 W. reported by U.S.S. HERBERT 291458. She will patrol in area tonight. (Commorseafron 292045 to F.O.C. Gib. (R) Cominch, Admty. C. in C. Med. Comnavnaw. A.H.Q. Gib.)

Air Report. A.I. 535 May 29. Daily Opsum No.209 28/29 May. 4 Wells, 1 Swordfish anti S/M. 29 May, 9 Huds. 2 Cats. anti S/M, 4 Huds. 1 Cat. 1 U.S. Cat. (P.B.Y.5A.) convoy protection. 1 Spit. photo R/C Cadiz, and S. Spain. At 2333B/28 38.34 or 24 N. 00.02 E. Well. R.A.J.R/179 straddled U-Boat amidships with D.Cs. U-Boat still on surface 30' later. No oil or bubbles seen. (H.Q. R.A.F. Gib. 292145B. to Air Min.)

UNSPARING. All times in my 281457 are deferred 24 hours. (F.O. Gib. 292148B. to C. in C. Med. etc.)

Movements, Casablanca. 29th May Warships arrived P.C.472 from Gibraltar. (Commorseafron 292155Z. to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.C. Gib. Cominch, Comnavnaw, Admty.)



1097

29.5.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

VIRGINIA. Arrival 28th May.  
(N.L.O.Walvis Bay 290702Z to C. in C.S.A. Admty. etc.)

Convoy D.C.28. Sailing telegram. 2. 0600Z/29th May. 3. 8 knots. 5. Coastal reference 61 to 68 San D.T. 6. LORD BELEHET, CAPE WARWICK, LE TIGRE, ASTER, 12. E.T.A. Capetown p.m. 2nd June E.T.A. Port Elizabeth a.m. 31st May. E.T.A. E.London, 30th May. (N.C.S.O. Durban 290737 to Admty. etc.)

Repatriations Arrival 29th Italian Liners VULCANIA and SATURNIA.  
(N.C.S.O. St. Vincent 290850 to Admty.)

RESOLUTION Examination in dock proves (details). Date of undocking and completion of dockyard work 11th June. My 111616 refers.  
(Capt. Supt. Durban 201121Z to C. in C.E.F. (R) Admty. etc.)

HIGHLAND BRIGADE, HIGHLAND MONARCH, C.M.42 0930Z/30th May HIGHLAND BRIGADE, HIGHLAND MONARCH Lagos (sic) 16th June, knots in convoy 10½ then A. 13½ B. 15.  
Section 2. In convoy C.M.42 to position M. 031° 00' S. 038° 00' E. thence in company (route) to Lourenco Marques.  
2. Section 1 only T.O.O. 291116Z to F.O.I.C.W.Af. Connav, N.O.I.C. Lagos, N.L.O.Port Elizabeth, N.L.O.E.London.  
(N.C.S.O. Durban 291129Z to Admty. C. in C.S.A.)

CLARKIA Sailed Pernambuco 1700Z/28th CLARKIA escorting ROBERT MORRIS (U.S.A.) to Takoradi E.T.A. 6th June.  
(A.B.N.S.O. Recife 291131Z to Admty.)

CARNARVON CASTLE. Arrival 1456Z/28 May from ocean patrol.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown 291144Z to Admty. (R) Cdr. 4th Fleet.)

Weekly state S.A.Station 29th. Walvis Bay to Capetown GENISTA, ARCTIC EXPLORER, NORWICH CITY, WELLARD.  
Capetown to Pointe Noire DAUNTLESS, BLACKMOOR.  
Capetown Area LADY ELSA, INDIAN STAR, NORTHERN ISLES.  
Capetown to Durban KUMAON, KATHIAWAR, VIVIANA, NORTHERN DAWN, SPHENE, (?QUICKMATCH).

/Durban...



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War Diary.

29.5.1943.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Weekly state S.A. Station 29th. (Contd.)  
Durban to Capetown TULIP, CAPE WARWICK, LE TIGRE.  
Durban area STELLA POLARIS, LADY ROSEMARY, FREESIA, DRANGEY, FLAMOUTH, VERBENA, NORMAN, RACEHORSE, REDOUBT, QUADRANT, SONDRAL.  
Walvis Bay THYME, VIRGINIA.  
Capetown SPINDRIFT, ETHIOPIAN, HERTFORDSHIRE, ST. ZENO, KELT, RIVER, SPEY, EMPIRE CHUB, MEAD, EMPIRE GOBLIN, CECILEMAPLESON.  
Simonstown FROBISHER, LEWES, QUICKMATCH, P.614, P.552, M.L. 381, M.L. 830 and 1150, B.Y.M.S. 5,6,7,8.  
East London NORTHERN DUKE, KIRRIEMOOR.  
Durban RESOLUTION, CARTHAGE, ROTHERHAM, RELENTLESS, WIGAN, ROCKROSE, NIGELLA, JASMINE, FRITILLARY, MARGUERITE, ASTER, MANCHESTER CITY, A.S.I.S. (?WALVIS), M.L. 1197, 1200 COVENTRY CITY, NORTHERN CHIEF, ST. LOMAN, PRUDENT.  
(C. in C.S.A. 291200B.)

M/V Recognition "Checkmate" System. A.M. 241910B. Consider proposed procedure appears quite satisfactory. (F.O.C.W.Af. 291206Z to Admty.)

COWSLIP. Departure 1210Z/28th May for Marshall. (S.O.(I) Freetown 291227Z to Consul General Monrovia, (R) Admty.)

Movements Freetown. Departures 1838Z/28th May S/M TRUSTY, M.L. 279. (S.O.(I) Freetown 291233Z to Admty.)  
Departures 1838Z/27th May BUTTERMERE and PORTSDOWN escorting cable ship LADY DENISON PENDER. (S.O.(I) Freetown 291236Z to Admty.)

Movements Bahia. Arrivals 29th, Brazilian minelayers CAMAQUAM, YOUNGIOCA. (R.O.Bahia 291301Z to Admty.)

U/B. U/B N.E. of Ceata attacked B.T.14 0246Z/28 and D/F 0400Z/29. Probably the report referred to in my 261403B (N.T. in W.D.) was unfounded. (D.D.I.C. 291346B to F.O.C.W.A.)

C.D.20 STORAAS, AGWIMONTE torpedoed 28 May. STORAAS and AGWIMONTE torpedoed in 034° 57' S. 019° 33' E. at 2153Z/28th May. (S.O.(I) Capetown 291702B as amended 301045B to S.O.(I) Alexandria, S.O.(I) Persian Gulf.)  
Convoy C.D.20 attacked at 2153Z/28th May in 034° 57' S. 019° 33' E. STORAAS and AGWIMONTE torpedoed.  
2. Visibility poor. Catalina escort did not make contact with S/M. No white (?) rocket fired. No counter attack.



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War Diary.29.5.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- C.D.20  
STORAAS,  
AGWIMONTE  
torpedoed  
28 May.  
(Contd.)
3. Of total complement of 110 in torpedoed ships 90 have been picked up. Aircraft sighted raft and 2 lifeboats with more survivors.  
4. Further details follow.  
(C. in C.S.A. 291725B as amended 301057B to Admty.  
(R) C. in C.E.F. N.O.I.C. Durban, N.L.O.Port Elizabeth, N.L.O.E.London.)
- B.Y.M.S.
- F.O.C.W.Af.'s 251628 and my 281142. Intend to sail B.Y.M.S. 26,09 and 27, 1000Z/30.  
2. Speed made good 8 knots, E.T.A. Casablanca 1800Z/6.  
3. Standard French coastal route. My 242258 to A. Gib. my letter Bl/1 8th April to F.O.C.W.Af. and Admiral Afrique's order 313 of the 25th March refer.  
4. B.Y.M.S. shift to Gibraltar broadcast 1200Z/3 June.  
5. Commorseafron pass to Admiral Afrique.  
(Comar Dakar 291732Z to F.O.C.W.Af. A. Gib. Admty. Commorseafron, B.Y.M.S.26.)
- Movements  
Dakar.
- Sailed 1630Z. ARCTURUS and ST. BASILE escorted by French Sloop LA GRANDIERE and French Sloop DUMONT D'URVILLE. My 281752 refer.  
(Comar Dakar 291824Z to F.O.C.W.Af. N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Admty.)
- Transport.
- Request F.O.C.W.Af. will report whether number of personnel remaining in HIGHLAND PRINCESS, ORDUNA, and DUCHESS OF RICHMOND after intermediate ports will necessitate onward escort to U.K.  
2. If so, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to report his proposals.  
3. There are no ships ex K.M.F.17 to return to U.K.  
(D.O.D.(F) 291825B to F.O.C.W.Af. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C.Med.)
- Attack on  
B.T.14  
28 May.
- X U.S. inform me convoy B.T.14 attacked by U-Boat at 0500Z/28th between Natal and Fortelaza. FLORIDA, JOHN WORTHINGTON and CARDINAL GIBBONS, 3 U.S. ships damaged. First vessel put in to Fortelaza, second and third continued in convoy.  
(B.N.S.C. Rio de Janeiro 291850Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.S.A. F.O.C.W.Af. S.O.(I) Kingson.)
- B.Y.M.S.
- Arrivals 29th May 1943. (EHM (as received) B.Y.M.S. 11, 12, 13, 19, 20, 28. Com. 4th Fleet pass to A. S.O.I. Recife.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown 291911Z to A.S.O.I. Recife, (R) Admty. etc.)

/Movements...



1100

29.5.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Movements  
Takoradi.

Arrivals 29th May CORINTHIAN, ARMERIA, DUNCTON, BIRDLIP and M.L. 759.  
Departures 29th May M.Ls. 244 and 274, anti-sub. patrol to S.E. to meet HOPE GUARD returning a.m. 1st June.  
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 291916Z to Admty. (R) R.N.O. Lagos.)

Accra  
U.S. Deve-  
lopment  
of Aero-  
drome.

M.A.S.T. 379.  
X Salvesen reports in letter of 7th May that American Army are considering greatly increasing capacity of Accra aerodrome to deal with freight flown direct from U.S.A. to Middle East and beyond. He is informed that material will require some 50 ships to transport it across Atlantic and that it is proposed shipments should begin in June and be completed in autumn.

2. This will have grave repercussions on ports of Takoradi and Accra. Resident Minister has already set up committee to investigate means of increasing capacity of Takoradi.  
3. Before receiving Salvesen's message we had had only vaguest indications from Colonial Office and Air Ministry of American project. We are making further enquiries but please investigate and report urgently.  
(M. of W.T. No T.O.O./29 to B.M.S.M. Washington.)



War Diary.

29.5.1943.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Algiers  
Air Report  
(27/5).

To: Eaker and Brereton From Spaatz, Signed: Eisenhower.

1. From 3000 feet, 8 P.40s <sup>dropped</sup> 8 x 1000 pound bombs on Pantellaria and 7 P.38s dropped bombs on Point Leonarde and Point Sidire. Harbour defences and town were hit, explosions

were observed.

2. 31 B.25s escorted by 49 P.38s dropped 2088 x 20 fragmentation bombs from 9500 feet on Villacidro Airdrome. Bursts among dispersed aircraft and revetments with aircraft observed.

3. 36 B.26s escorted by 28 P.40s dropped 4032 x 20 fragmentation bombs from 9500 feet on Decimomannu Airdrome. Bursts observed among dispersed aircraft, destroying many and damaging others. Formation attacked by 30 - 40 enemy aircraft of which 13 were destroyed. There was shot down 1 P.40.

(Algiers, 290230B to Etousa).

Movements,  
Beirut.

28th, May departures M.Ls. 350, 384. Arrivals IERAX. (S.O.(I) Beirut, 290732C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant).

M.E. air  
Report.

A.675 May 29 Daily Opsum. 31. May 27/28. 5 Liberators B.24 Augusta Harbour bursts on land at base of main mole, in area of railway station and oil installations, damage unobserved propaganda leaflets dropped. 39 x

1000 lb. H.E. 8 x 500 lb. H.E. at 2148Z hours. May 28, 51 U.S. Liberators B.24s Foggia Airfield 1 returned early technical defect 11 unable to locate Foggia owing to low cloud 37 bombed objective at 1025Z hours, bombs bursting among dispersed aircraft on West South and South East sides of airfield. 2 aircraft destroyed, several fires including two large started mainly on west side airfield, direct hits on hangars followed by smoke. Propaganda leaflets dropped. 2 Beaufighters anti shipping R/C Aegean Sea. 80 ton Caique attacked south of Spetsai Feland, many cannon strikes. On return journey submarine attacked about 75 miles north of Derna cannon strikes seen before submarine dived. 1 Hudson despatched on search of area results awaited. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 290944Z).

Movements  
Alexandria.

Arrivals 28th May CAIRNS, Greek destroyer SPETSAI, WAYLAND. Departure 28th May BRIGAND. (S.O.(I) Alex. 290955C to C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant).

VULCANIA,  
SATURNIA.

F.O.I.C. Gib.'s 252245 May (Italian repatriation liners VULCANIA and SATURNIA) For operational reasons water carriers MYRIEL and PETRONELLA unlikely to be available for watering these liners until second week in July. May I be informed

of 1. Number of ships involved in repatriation

2. Ports of embarkation 3. E.T.A. ships in Red Sea area.

(P.S.T.O.M.E., 291013C to Admty. for D. of S.T. (R) F.O.R.S.C.A)



War Diary.29.5.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

- CELENO My 26th May 1156 C. Report B.3. CELENO sailed from Constanza p.m. 27th May but returned owing to engine defects. Repairs will take several days.  
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 291103C to S.O.(I) Levant,  
(R) Capt. (S) 1, D.N.I.)
- ESNEH Your 280145B (Originated by W.R. - requesting repetition) Following is a repetition of my 251051B (begins) N.O.I.C. Tunis (R) C. in C. Med., A.I.G. 263 F.O.I.C. Bizerta H.D.M.L. 1227 from F.O.I.S. Intend sailing ESNEH escorted by H.D.M.L.1227 at 2030 B.25th to Tunis. Route by Q.K.B.94 and 93. Speed 6 knots. E.T.A. 0630B/26th. Fighter protection priority "Brogue" 3. H.D.M.L. to be returned to Bizerta immediately. (Ends).  
(S.O.I.S., 291108B to Admty).
- Oran Departures today. U.S.S. SAVANNAH, ROWAN, Movements. RHIND, WAINWRIGHT, TRIPPE, CHAMPLIN, BERNADAU, ORDRONAU, MAYRANT, French Ship ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ. (Com N.O.B. Oran, 291148B to Admty. C. in C. Med., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Comnavaw).
- P.R.U. May 29th visuals. 0845 Taranto 2 battleships 2 cruisers. 0755 Messina no major naval unit. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 291212 to C. in C. Med., etc). P.R.U. 24th May. Visuals. 1745 Taranto 2 Battleships 1 cruiser seen. Berth of second cruiser filled but ship not identified. 1640 Messina no major naval unit. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 291948B to C. in C. Med., etc).
- U.G.S.8 A. P.C. and S. 0800Z/29th 034° 36' N., 019° 05' W. 090° 8.5 E.T.A. at point S. 0120Z/1st June. Cdre. request R/V with British escort vessels for section 1 and 2 at 1600Z/31st May in 034° 07' N., 009° 38' W. 26 Merchant ships, T.F.66 T.C.21.3 for Casablanca. 17 merchant ships and 11 L.S.Is. for Oran. 23 Merchant ships for Algiers and other Med., ports. (C.T.66 291212 to C. in C. Med., (R) Morsefront Forces, 8th U.S. Fleet, Cinclant).
- Enemy Units P.C. and S. of one enemy medium vessel and four destroyers is 40.15 N. 14.42 E. course 180° 5 knots.  
(Air H.Q. Malta, 291225B).  
Position of one medium vessel and one destroyer 39.03 N. 17.16 E. course 360°. Speed 7 knots.  
(A/C BSJ/M, 291615B to Air H.Q. Malta).  
P.C. and S. of 2 enemy destroyers, one tanker, 5 merchant vessels, 39.22 N. 15.00 E. 270° 8 knots.  
(A/C CXL/E, 291704B to Air H.Q. Malta).



War Diary.

29.5.1943.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- M.K.F.15. Sailed as in my 260942 and 261702 less SEATRIN, TEXAS. All ships hold S.P. 0227Z (24) and (25), ships for U.K. hold Incon 346. (Comnob, Oran 291302B. to A.I.G. 259.)
- G.U.S.8. Intend to sail (list). (Comnob, Oran 291308B. to Com. Algiers, Commorseafron (R) A.I.G. 259, Admty. F.O.C. Gib. C. in C. Med. Connav.)
- M.Ls. M.Ls.480, 575 and 338 have been re-allocated to 3rd M.L. Flotilla. 2. N.O.I.C. Oran is requested to sail M.L. 480 to Algiers as soon as convenient. N.O.I.C. Algiers is then to sail all his M.Ls. to Bone for onward passage Malta as arranged by F.O.I.S. (C. in C. Med. 291501B. to N.O.I.C. Oran, F.O.I.S. N.O.I.C. Algiers V.A. Malta (R) N.O.I.C. Bone, C.C.F. Admty.)
- Movements, 29th May Port Said arrivals SATSA. Departures RELAY  
Port Said. PAPANICOLIS, ROMEO, AETOS, CUMBRAE, ISLAY.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 291603C. to Admty. etc.)
- Movements, FORFAIT escorted by RAIE arrived.  
Philippeville. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville 291618B. to N.O.I.C. Bone, Admty. etc.)
- CARLISLE. CARLISLE is to be administered by F.O. (15) C.S. (C. in C. Levant 291645C. to CARLISLE (R) C. in C. Med. F.O. (15) C.S. Admty. N.O.I.C. Alex.)
- Sitrep 217. Cite F.H.G.C.T. signed Eisenhower. 28 May. Part 2. Naval. On 25 May VETCH attacked U-Boat off Tenesba, M.17, believed successful. M.T.Bs. operated off Pantellaria and Marittimo during night 27/28 May. During recent patrols our submarines sank a tanker off Monte Carlo, 4000 ton motor vessel off Messina, a trawler at entrance Augusta Harbour and damaged 4000 ton motor vessel off Catania. Para 3. L. of C. Seven enemy aircraft raided Sousse morning 28 May. Eight bombs fell on dock area causing superficial damage to port. Casualties included four military killed and five injured. (A.F.H.Q. No. T.O.O. to Usfor, Recd. 1815/29.)
- SONTAY, Amend my 280201. (Re protected ship SONTAY and  
TALAMBA, British hospital ship TALAMBIA and TAIREA leave  
TAIREA. Alex. 29th.) Ships left Alexandria 1800/28th May due Smyrna 1st June. (Capt. (S) 1st S.F. 291829C. to KATSONIS, G.S., TAURUS (R) C. in C. Levant.)

/Transports...



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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Transports,  
Malta.Transports GREYSTOKE CASTLE, DUNKELD, DAVID  
STONE left for Alexandria.  
(D.S.T.O. Malta, 291847B to D.S.T., etc.)N.W.A.A.F.  
Report.

North West African Air Force Opsum 97, May 28th.  
N.W. African Strategic Air Force 27th/28th May,  
13 Wellingtons Villacidro, Decimomannu and  
Elmas Aerodromes. Results unobserved due haze.  
28th May, 8 Warhawks (P.40) Pantellaria. 24  
Fortresses (B.17), two returned early, Leghorn oil refinery.  
Target area well covered, large explosion and fires resulting.  
27 Fortresses (B.17), 5 returned early, Leghorn marshalling  
yards. Hits on railway yards, oil storage tanks, docks and  
shipyards. Explosion among oil tanks. Hits on two medium  
ships and one large M/V in harbour. 26 Fortresses (B.17), 4  
returned early, Leghorn shipbuilding yards. Fire started in  
shipyards. 29 Fortresses (B.17), 3 returned early, Leghorn  
harbour. Target area well covered. 12 enemy aircraft  
encountered. 1 Mc.200 destroyed, one D.G.109, one Mc.200  
damaged. Four Fortresses (B.17) minor flak damage. 36  
Mitchells (B.25) escort 38 Lightnings (P.38), 2 returned early,  
Sciacca Aerodrome, 1 Mitchell (B.25) missing. 24 Marauders (B.26)  
escort 50 Lightnings (P.38) Castel Verrano Aerodrome. 24  
Marauders (B.26) escort 48 Warhawks (P.40), one bomber and five  
fighters returned early, Milo Aerodrome. South and West  
dispersal areas well covered, large aircraft hit caught fire,  
train in railway yards blown up. 3 Me.109 destroyed in combat.  
3 Warhawks (P.40) missing. 30 Mitchells (B.25) escorted 36  
Lightnings (P.38), 1 bomber returned early, Bo Rizzo Aerodrome.  
Bombs covered field, hits on aircraft in dispersal areas.  
Some aircraft exploded, 2 fires believed petrol. In combat  
10 Me.109s, one Mc.200 destroyed, 4 Me.109s, 2 F.W.190 probable,  
5 Me.109 damaged by bombers. 4 Me.109s destroyed, 1 Me.109  
damaged by fighters. 1 Lightning (P.38) missing. 27 Lightnings  
(P.38), 1 returned early, Castelvetro airdrome. Target well  
covered. One Me.323 exploded, other aircraft damaged. North-  
west African Tactical Air Force, May 28th, 8 Warhawks (P.40)  
Pantellaria. Bombs on airdrome and east end of harbour.  
North West African Coastal Air Force. 27th May additional. 3  
convoy escort, 1 Swordfish U-Boat hunt. 1 Swordfish reported  
beached submarine found old wreck in position indicated.  
28th May, convoy escort 1 Albacore. U-Boat hunts, 3 Hudsons.  
U-Boat strike, 2 Hudsons. 1 attacked surfaced U-Boat 40.05 N.  
01.20 E. sinking it. 30 to 40 survivors in sea.  
Enemy activity 27th/28th.  
15 plus Bizerta, preliminary report two destroyed by Beau-  
fighters, three by A/A. Five plus Sousse, preliminary report  
slight damage and casualties miscellaneous.  
(H.Q.N.W.A.A.F., 291938A.)

TRESPASSER.

Departure submarine TRESPASSER.  
(Com. Algiers, 292001B to Admty., etc.)

/UNSHAKEN ...



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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

UNSHAKEN. E.T.A. west sanctuary R/V 0730B/30th. No prisoners - one missing.  
((P.54) UNSHAKEN, 292030B to Capt. (S) 10.)

Sousse Movements. Arrival ROSSUM, MISOA. Departure WHITEHAVEN.  
(N.O.I.C. Sousse, 292210B to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant.)

Movement, Bizerta. Arrivals L.S.T.326, S.C.969, (?L).S.T.381, P.R. (? 562).  
Ocean escort departures - H.D.M.L.12, 41, ROTHESAY, FELIXSTOWE, STORNOWAY, POLRUAN.  
(F.O.I.S., 292212B to C. in C. Med., etc.)

Movements, Bone. Arrival HUNDA. Departures LOOKOUT, BREAM.  
(N.O.I.C. Bone, 292215B to Admty., etc.)

Movements, Malta. Sailed PALADIN and TROUBRIDGE to patrol. GLOXINIA, TETCOTT and MIAOULES with M/Vs GREYSTOKE CASTLE, DUNKELD and DAVID STONE. PETARD. Arrived ORION, PALADIN and TROUBRIDGE. JERVIS and PETARD, TETCOTT and MIAOULES, LOOKOUT.  
(V.A. Malta, 292225B to Admty., etc.)

DOLFIJN. Sailed S/M DOLFIJN.  
(V.A. Malta, 292227B to Admty., etc.)

Movements, Tripoli. Arrived LARGS, DULVERTON, PRIMULA, PINDOS, FALK, M.L.459, M.L.1122, JAN DE WAELE.  
(S.N.O. Trip., 292301B to Admty.)

Movements, Haifa. 29th May arrival G.S. IERAX, SOUTHERN SEA.  
(N.O.I.C. P.P. (Haifa), 292330 to Admty., C. in C. Levant.)

Movements, Tobruk. Arrived T.L.C.111 and 157, SEVASTI.  
Sailed M.L.354 and 355.  
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 292330C to Admty.)



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BARODA. Departure.  
(N.O.I.C. Karachi 290151Z. to Admty. etc.)

Movements. Departure NETRAVATI escorting SAIDJA.  
(N.O.I.C. Madras 290414Z. to Admty. etc.)

Convoy Arrived 0415Z/29th May.  
B.M.53. (N.C.S.O. Colombo 290500Z. to Admty.)

Ships for / Through Westbound Mediterranean convoys known as  
Mediterranean X.T. convoys are assembling at Alexandria and will  
Westbound be sailed in 7 or 8 days. 2. First 3 convoys  
Convoys. leave Alexandria on 3rd, 10th and 18th June,  
(X.T. Convoys) thereafter weekly. 3. Henceforth all suitable  
British controlled M.O.W.T. ships loading in  
India for U.K. are to be routed to Aden for  
onward routing to Suez and subsequent inclusion  
in X.T. convoys. 4. Suitable ships are those from 8 to 15 knots  
with exception of those slower vessels whose critical speed will  
prevent them keeping station in 7½ to 8 knots convoy.  
F.O.C.R.I.Ns. 280845 not to all addresses refers.  
(C. in C. E.F. 290835Z. to F.O.C.R.I.N. M.W.T. India (R)  
F.O. Red Sea Canal Area. C. in C. Levant. F.O.I.C. Ceylon,  
N.O.I.C. Aden, Admty.)

Ships selected in accordance with my 290835 must be well  
armed for passage through the Mediterranean at this stage.  
(2) If armament is at all below average and cannot be increased  
locally they should not be included.  
(C. in C. E.F. 292133Z. to F.O.C.R.I.N. M. of W.T. India, F.O.  
Red Sea Canal Area N.O.I.C. Aden, Admty.)

MAURITIUS. MAURITIUS sails from Kilindini p.m. today to  
comply with following programme.

Arrive.	Place.	Depart.
0700Z/1st June.	Aden.	1400Z/1st June
0500Z/4th June.	Suez.	4th June.
p.m. 4th June.	Port Said.	

S. of A. Kilindini - Aden 26 knots Aden - Suez 23½ knots.  
(3) C. in C. Med. 281931.  
(C. in C. E.F. 290958Z. to C. in C. Med. (R) C. in C. Levant.  
MAURITIUS, N.O.I.C. Aden, Admty. C.S.4. F.O. Red Sea Canal Area.)  
Sailed today MAURITIUS.  
(F.O. E. Af. 291546Z. to Admty.)

SAGAING. Proposals for use of SAGAING as Pier.  
(F.O. Ceylon 291048Z. to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty.)

Movement No. 113, 29th. 1. MAURITIUS leaves Kilindini 29th  
Summary. for Aden. 2. ALAUNIA left Aden 28th to R/V  
W.S.29 and escort Aden portion to Aden due 8th  
June. 3. Following Y message cancelled, No. 282 Y.  
of May 19th.  
(C. in C. E.F. 291218Z. to Admty. E.F. 289Y.)



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East Indies - Contd.

M.M.S.

Para 3 A.M. 281927 (see Mediterranean). Vessels ear-marked for this station are not urgently required.  
(C. in C. E.F. 291321Z. to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.)

Movements,  
Colombo.

Colombo Arrival 29th May 0400Z HINDUSTAN.  
(F.O. Ceylon 291410Z. to Admty. etc.)

Shipping  
for  
Indian  
Coal.

For Q (M). Ref. your 51279/Q (171230 May.) / You should see M.W.T. cable 7363 dated 28 to Masson. Position appreciated here and as soon as future is clearer we will press for more adequate assistance. Inform us amount of help M.W.T.R. is able to arrange as result above cable.  
(W.O. 291525B. to C. in C. India.) / Re Overload on railways and difficulty in obtaining additional locos and wagons long on order also deterioration in Railway coal stock.

NIEUW  
AMSTERDAM.

Your 281018Z. (N.T. in W.D.) Do you mean that all the 3150 personnel will be disembarked from NIEUW AMSTERDAM on arrival and accommodated ashore to await on carriage. If so this should enable NIEUW AMSTERDAM to arrive Suez by about 12/6.  
(D. of S.T. 292121B. to P.S.T.O. India (R) F.O. Ceylon, S.S.T.O. Ceylon, C. in C. E.F. F.O.C.R.I.N. P.S.T.O. M.E.)



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Dispositions. My 281645 delete reference to TROIS RIVIERES amend NORTHERN WAVE, STAFNES, L.S.T.13 in 047° 08' 052° 22', 160°, 8 to join S.C. 132 at 1200Z/29th. L.C.57 (E) 046° 28', 057° 30', 095°, 3 increasing to 7 knots as weather permits. S.C. 132 (E) 045° 40', 057° 15', 087°, 5.5.

(C. in C. C.N.A., 290017Z to Admty.)

Following is a repetition of my 290029Z (N.T. in W.R.) (begins): My 281745Z (passed under T.O.O. 1746 re situation report N.W.) add: UNGAVA sails Gaspe 2200Z/28th to join S.Q.50 in 047° 21' 062° 17' at 1000Z. H. ASPENLEAF 046° 14' 063° 50' en route Sydney (C.B.) via Gut of Canso and Bras D'Or Lake 7.5. ALBERNI sails Gaspe 0001Z/29th to join special river group number 3 at 1000Z/29th. Ends.

(C. in C. C.N.A., 290115Z to Admty.)

My 281645Z. Section East add U.S.S. ATAK departs Argentia 1830Z/28 235° 6' altering to 257° in 054° 58' W.

SS. TERRANOVA 048° 08' 052° 21' 021° 6.5.

(C. in C. C.N.A., 290353Z to Admty.)

Section East my 281645Z.

Add U.S.S. MOHAWK, NORTHLAND, TAHOMA, S.C.527, S.C.528, WANDANK departed Argentia 1900Z/28th 234° 10' altering to 244° in 054° 56' W.

(C. in C. C.N.A., 290640Z to Admty.)

Soviet request for Operation "Torch" Orders.

/ To: Eisenhower, Freedom Algiers.  
From: The Combined Chiefs of Staff.  
(1) A request from the Soviet Government to give them copies of the orders issued for operation "Torch" in exchange for certain operational orders issued by the Soviet has been approved by the Combined Chiefs of Staff.

(2) It is desired that you send copies of the orders regarding the landings at Casablanca, Oran and Algiers, to the British Chiefs of Staff, London. Before being turned over to Soviet Military Authorities these copies will be carefully edited.

(Agwar Washington, 290114Z to Etousa.)

Movements. St. John N.F. May 8 (? 28 intended) arrivals - U.S.C.G. TAMPA and MOJAVE ex Halifax. M.L.052 ex Wabana. TROIS RIVIERES escorting M/S Wabana. RESTIGOUCHE ex O.N.S.8. Departures NORTHERN WAVE, STAFNES, L.S.T.13 to S.C.132. TROIS RIVIERES to Wabana. BLAIRMORE to O.N.S.8. M.L.060 to Wabana. TRANSCONA to Argentia. H.M.R.T. ADHERENT to assistance of BACCALIEU in St. Julian Harbour N.F.

(N.O.I.C. St. Johns, 290130Z to Admty.)

Kingston departure 28th U.S.C.G.83, 379.

(S.O.(I) Kingston, 290944Z to Admty.)

U.S.A.T. STATE OF MARYLAND arrived 28th ex Jamaica and departed same day for San Juan.

(B.R.L.O. Trujillo, 291155Z to Admty.)

Boston departed for Bermuda 1300/28th BAZELY.

(N.S.H.Q., 291225Z to Admty.)

/Departure ...



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Movements (Contd.). Departure 29th INGATA U.S. A.T. BRIGADIER GENERAL RETHERS and EL LIBERTADOR for Trinidad 31st. (B.S.N.O. Curacao 291401Z to Admty.). Arrived Kingston 29th May P.C. 1194 U.S.S. OPAL, U.S.C.G. LOTUS. (N.O.I.C. Kingston 291812Q to Admty.).  
Arrival REGINA from O.N.184 MINAS from H.X.241 departure COBALT for PICTOU (N.S.) (docking) Motor Launch 055 for Sydney (C.B.).  
(Cdre. i/c Halifax 292344Z to Admty.).

Floating Dock ex Montevideo Your 231744 April to F.O.C.W.A.F. not to B.A.D. At request of M. of W.T. Navy Department have been contacted with a view to dock ex Montevideo remaining at Bahia while American Dock at present intended for Bahia is moved to North Africa. Navy Department is sympathetic and is examining the question. Request B.A.D. may be kept informed of intentions regarding this Dock in order that negotiations if approved may be continued. (B.A.D. 290149Z to Admty.).

MINAS My P.C. and S at 0400Z (?43) 10 N. 60. 06 W. 290 degs. 12 FORT AMHERST in company. E.T.A. Halifax 1700Z Boiler hours. Weather calm with dense fog. (MINAS 290330Z to C. in C.C.N.A. (R) Capt.(D) Halifax).

S/M estimate May 29th. U.S. S/M Notice. (C. in C.U.S. Fleet 290135Z, 290540Z, 291556, 291557, 291613, 291614, 291615, 291806Z).

Movements Summary	Ship.	Position	Course	Speed.
1800 G.M.T. 29th	WORCESTERSHIRE	28½ degs. N.	011 degs.	13
		29½ degs. W.		
	CILICIA	08 degs. N. 28 degs. W.	Patrol	-

(D.O.D.(F) 290920Z to Opnav (R) Comnav).

WEASEL Kingston (Jam.) arrival H.M.R. Tug WEASEL for repairs to life boat and to await arrival of 2 barges which broke adrift in Windward Passage. N.O.B. Guantanamo has arranged recovery of barges and delivery to Kingston. (N.O.I.C. Kingston 290952Q to S.B.N.O.W.A. C.Caribbean S.F. Admty. N.S.H.Q. N.O.I.C. Trinidad, N.O.B. Guantanamo).

U/B Cominch reports submarine sighted in 019 degs. 44' N. 075 degs. 01 degs. W. at 1220Z. (S.O.(I) Jamaica 291124Q to Admty.).



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N.J.27 Arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 291214Z to Admty.).

Convoy S.G.25 (1) Sailing telegram.  
(2) 0900Z/29th.  
(3) Arrives position F. 0900Z/June 1st.  
(4) 11½. (5) Route. (6) C.T.U.24.8.2 in U.S.C.G.  
MOJAVE, TAMPA, ALGONQUIN.  
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 291216Z).  
As amended 300310Z.

Convoy H.X.241 (1) You will be relieved by mid ocean  
H.X.241 escort Group B.4. HIGHLANDER H/F D/F (S.O.) VIMY  
Escorts. H/F D/F ASPHODEL, ANEMONE, PENNYWORT in Westomp  
045 degs. 17' N. 046 degs. 40' W. at 1200Z 31st.  
(2) W.H.X. 241 1 ship U.S. CHARLES M. SCHWAB  
escorted by CLOVER junctions in 044 degs. 17' N. 051 degs. 16' W.  
at 1430X 30th.  
(3) "Chop" 1200Z June 1st).  
(F.O.N.F. 291250Z to Ships escorting H.X.241 (R) C. in C.C.N.A.  
N.S.H.Q. HIGHLANDER, Admty. C. in C.W.A. Cominch, Cdre. (D) W.A.).

Convoy Arrived Boston 290705Z.  
X.B.55 (P.D. Boston 291210Z to Connav etc.).

Convoy Arrived between 2210Z/28th and 0325Z/29th.  
B.X.54 (N.C.S.O. Halifax 291330Z to Admty.).

Convoy (1) Sailing telegram. (6 ships, list etc.).  
H.S.88 (2) Halifax 1400Z/29. (3) E.T.A. Sydney 0600Z/31.  
(4) 7.5 (5) (Route). Ships for Louisberg detach  
in pos. 45.26 N. 60 .00 W. at 1400Z/30.  
(6) BARRIE, MILLTOWN.  
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 291345Z, 291349Z to Admty.).

Convoy Arrived less LIVERPOOL ROVER proceeded independently  
S.H.83 to Liverpool N.S.  
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 291400Z to Admty.).

N.S.H.Q. N.S.H.Q. estimate submarine North of 040 degs.  
S/M North West of 040 degs. West 1200Z/29th.  
Estimate. (N.S.H.Q. 291432Z).

Convoy (1) Sailing telegram (5 Ships, list etc.).  
C.L.67 (2) 1400Z/29. (3) E.T.A. Sydney 2000Z/31.  
(4) 7 knots. (5) (Route). FREDEN detach for St.  
Lawrence position 47 miles 266 from position (Q).  
(6) TROIS RIVIERS.  
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 291454Z to Admty.).

/Convoy....



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Convoy O.N.S.8. Route. Route ships for U.States Ports to continue through to Cape Cod Canal.  
(2) From Position C.C. omit Position C.D. pass through X.C. 044 degs. 30' N. 062 degs. 40' W. X.D. 044 degs. 05' 064 degs. 00'  
(3) Detach ships for Halifax Position X.C. to Approach Halifax by Northern most Channel.  
(4) Junction for ships joining from Halifax established in 044 degs. 18' N. 063 degs. 19' W. at 1600Z June 1st.  
(5) From Position X.D. proceed as convoy X.B. 56 through X.E. 043 degs. 09' N. 065 degs. 30' W. X.F. 043 degs. 10' 069 degs. 02' X.G. 042 degs. 24' 070 degs. 19' X.H. 041 degs. 55' 070 degs. 19'.  
Detach Boston ships positions X.G. disperse position X.B. ships for New York proceed by Cape Cod Canal.  
(6) "Chop" 1800Z June 2nd.  
(7) Escorts required to continue Boston.  
(C. in C.C.N.A. 291520Z to Ships Escorting S.8. (R) Com. 1st U.S.N. District and Boston, Admiralty, N.S.H.Q. C.E.S.F. N.O.I.C. St. John, N.B. Comm. 3rd U.S. Naval District New York. Cominch C and R).

Convoy Q.S.49 My 281338 and 281343 Q.S.49 passed Red Islet 1200Z/29th.  
(N.C.S.O. Quebec 291645Z to N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B.).

Employment of French Warships. \* Personal for 1st S.L. Ref. C. in C. Med. 101707 addressed Admiralty, 150058 from V.C.N.S. to 1st S.L. 201923 from 1st S.L. to V.C.N.S. A.M. 251749 also refers. American Chiefs of Staff are about to ask Admiral Fenard for his remarks as to the general disposal of French men-of-war as and when they finish their repairs. In view of our conversation during your visit here you may wish to give me some directive in the matter before it comes up before Combined Chiefs of Staff. I think you gave me impression that Admiral Cunningham would probably make some approach to General Giraud concerning RICHELIEU which might pave the way to an easy solution.  
Following is copy of draft of proposed letter by Combined Staff Planners to Admiral Raymond Fenard, Head of French Naval Mission Washington from Combined Chiefs of Staff. (Begins).  
"As you are aware the employment of French naval vessels which have joined the United Nations Force since operations in North Africa was determined in a general way and specifically in few instances as result of agreements between French authorities in Africa the Glassford Mission and C. in C. Allied Forces in North Africa. It appears desirable to come to a conclusion as to general employment of each type vessel in order to prosecute orderly overhaul.  
The Combined Chiefs of Staff would be pleased to receive your recommendations in this matter which they now have under consideration. (Ends).  
(B.A.D. 291647Z to Admty.).



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ROANOKE 29th May 21 hours (U.S.A.T) ROANOKE New Orleans  
5th June. (Programme and route).  
(R.O. New Orleans 291718 to Admty.).

Ships for C. in C. U.S. Fleet's 201930Z.  
Ps. of W. (2) Concur that SIBONEY ex W.S.30 and GOETHALS  
North ex W.S.31 should lift full load of German Ps. of W.  
America. from Cape to U.S.A. direct.  
(3) The remaining U.S. ships, which now number 3  
in W.S. 30 and 2 in W.S.31 will be sailed from  
Cape direct to Casablanca for inclusion in  
appropriate G.U.S. convoy.  
(D.O.D.(F) 291835B to Cominch, C. in C.S.A.  
F.O.C.W.A. (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar,  
Commorseafon, B.A.D.).

Convoy Arrived.  
S.B.43 (R.O. Cornerbrook 291920Z to N.O.I.C. Sydney CB).

U/B In view of S/M concentration toward African  
Situation convoy route, request one support group preferably  
Support A.C.V. be placed under temporary operational  
Group. control of C. in C, Lant and proceed towards 40  
degs. N. 50 degs. W.  
(Cominch 291930Z to Admty. (R) Comnaveu, C. in  
C.C.N.A. C. in C. Lany, Com. 10th Fleet).

U/B sighted A/C sighted S/M 057 degs. 05' N. 053 degs. 30'.  
by A/C. W. at 1900Z/29.  
(C. in C.C.N.A. 291940Z to G.B.7A).

Convoy Arrived.  
H.J.54 (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 292026 to Admty.).

Oil for C.O.S.(W) 621.  
Portugal Ref. B.N.A. Lisbon's 281839B repeated to B.N.A.  
Washington and Arfar 2188.  
(2) In view of reasons stated and other of which  
you are aware, please urge upon U.S. Authorities  
importance of arranging early supply of aviation petrol.  
(J.SM.Washington T.O.O. 292028X to Air Min.).

A.T.46 A.T.46 N.K. On crossing 45.50 W. steer for new  
(QUEEN position (M) 44.01 N. 37.30 W. new (N) 45.15 N.  
EZLIABETH) 25.25 W. thence to (H).  
(D.O.D.(H) 292031Z to A.T.46 (QUEEN ELIZABETH)  
(R) Cominch C and R. N.S.H.Q. C. in C.W.A. H.Q.C.C.)  
Your 281106. Ship sailed p.m. 27 in first daylight  
tide after she was ready. She was ready to sail on previous night

/tide.....



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A.T.46  
(QUEEN  
ELIZABETH).  
(Contd.).

tide which would have made arrival 2230Z/1 but U.S. authorities inform Maignard will not allow Queens to leave New York in darkness. (2) Your para.4. These points have been represented to Navy Department. They point out the difficulty of making an exact arrival where sailing time is dependent on daylight tide, time on passage varies according to route which depends on U-boat situation at the time and where maximum speed is required throughout for safety, but when daylight tide is p.m. consideration will be given to making sailing date one day earlier although this may make an a.m. arrival.  
(B.A.D. 292243Z to Admty.).

Sub attack  
and  
sighting  
summary.

All times Z. Para. A. S.S. JOHN WORTHINGTON torpedoed area 03.50 S. 37 degs. W. about 280330 R.A.F. Liberator sights sub 54.41 N. 36.31 W. 281836. Para.C. Sub sighted 19.44 N. 75.01 W. 291220. Para. D. Blimp has made contact 34.37 N. 75.34 W. 282008. Surface craft attack sound contact area 43. N. 61. W. on 28th. Sameset sound contact 39.30 N. 73.25 W. 291600.  
(Cominch 292050Z to Admty.).

Sickle and  
Bolero plans.

(J.S.M. Washington 292053Z to C.O.S. London).  
See Lion Copy.

AQUITANIA

Your 262340. From the point of view of reception in Clyde we would prefer AQUITANIA not to sail until 25/6.  
(2) We are planning her carrying out two voyages before commencing her overhaul which should therefore begin about mid August. We are calculating on her return to service in mid September. If position in New York regarding ability to commence repairs changes request you advise immediately.  
(D. of S.T. 292141B to B.M.W.T. New York, (R) B.A.D.).

O.T. Convoys X  
Tankers for  
Dakar.

2 - 14.5 knot tankers carrying fuel for Dakar will sail in convoy O.T.6. leaving Aruba about June 16th. This convoy should pass through a R/V position near that given in my 061645 about June 25th.  
(2) In future there will be one or two tankers for Dakar in each O.T. convoy which could be routed through a similar position.  
(3) Can you provide escort from R/V to Dakar, (A) for the two ships mentioned in para.1. and (B) for future sailings which will be approx. 32 days intervals?  
(4) Further signal will be made giving names of ships and details of R/V. Freetown C.C.O. pass to Comar Dakar.  
(B.A.D. 292241 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty. Comar Dakar, Cominch).

/Oiling.....



A.W.L.  
1113A

# 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:

MOST SECRET. ("O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)  
MESSAGE 292053Z/May IN

From:

J. S. M. Washington.

Date 30.5.43.  
Recd. 0230Z.

Cypher.

*Sickle and Bolero plans*

Addressed: Chiefs of Staff London.

IZ. 1900.

J. S. M. 949. 29th May 1943.

In discussing SICKLE and BOLERO movement here we have been under pressure to increase the number of cargo ships that can be handled in U.K. ports for this movement each month.

2. We have pointed out the necessity for early arrival of engineer troops to activate the depots and also for port battalions to handle increased arrivals of cargo ships.

3. The cargo ship sailings from U.S.A. required to support the BOLERO/SICKLE build-up shown in Table III of Annex VII to C.C.S. 244/1 are as follows:-

(a) June	40	
(b) July	63	
(c) August	88	
(d) September	108	
(e) October	108	
(f) November	57	plus 29 from North Africa for U.S. Troops plus 22 from North Africa for British troops.
(g) December		as for November.
(h) January	106	plus 29 from North Africa for U.S. troops plus 31 from North Africa for British troops.
(i) February	135	
(j) March	150	
(k) April	160	

4. Above may help you to decide what steps should be taken now over provision of depots and development of ports.

292053Z.

Received in War Registry at 301200.

Circulation

Brig. Jacob, Foreign Secretary. First Sea Lord, C.6 Tels. War Office, A.M.C.S.(C) Minister of War Transport. Captain Parker.

1st Lord.	N.A. Mails.	Head of M. (2)
1st S.L. (2)	P.A.S. (S)	I.P. (2)
D.F.S.L.	D.O.D. (F) (2)	W.D.
4th S.L.	D.O.D. (H) (2)	Admiral Blake.
V.C.N.S.	D.N.I. (4)	D.T.D. (4) and for Cdr. Jenkins.
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	D. of P. (2)	
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.C.	
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)	D.D.I.C. 9 (2)	
A.C.N.S. (W)	D. of P. (Q) (2)	



War Diary.

29.<sup>5</sup>.1943  
Saturday,

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. -Contd.

Oiling at  
sea.

Your 191225 April para.3. O.N.S.7. Oil transfer  
CHRISTIANHOLM 500 in 7 operations BRITISH PRESTIGE  
185 in 2 operations. Depth charges transferred  
CHRISTIANHOLM Nil BRITISH PRESTIGE Nil Standard  
Nil.

(B.R.L.O. New York 292244Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.  
W.A. B.A.D.).

Accra

X Re development of Accra aerodrome by American Army,  
effect on ports of Takoradi and Accra.  
(M.W.T. No.T.O.O./29 to B.M.S.M. Washington).  
See South Atlantic.

Australia and New Zealand.

Kiwi No.45

My No. 41 no confirmation of mining Russels Islands.  
Gazelle Channel New Ireland 27/5, 2 P.G. 6 A.K.  
course 120 degs.  
(C.W.R. Wellington 290001Z to C. in C.E.F. Admty.  
D.N.I. G.H.Q. New Delhi. A.C.N.B.).

NIEUW  
AMSTERDAM  
Escorts.

Your 231735 and C. in C.E.F's. 250921. Following  
are proposals for escort for NIEUW AMSTERDAM.  
(2) Cruiser escort from 025 degs. S. 090 degs. E.  
to New Zealand via Fremantle and Hobart. Cruiser  
to wait in New Zealand for return voyage.

(3) Local surface and air escort in and out of Fremantle.

(4) Similar arrangements for 3 voyages to Middle East.

(C.S.W. P.S.F. 290156Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F. N.Z.N.B. Com.  
7th Fleet).

Digest  
Serial  
No.494 May  
28th.

(2) Morning R/C photographed 4 ship convoy  
comprising 2 small merchant ships, one coaster and  
a surchaser 20 miles off East Cape (New Ireland)  
course 130 degs. Subsequent sighting indicates  
destination as Solomons.

(6) Convoy observed 90 miles Northwest of Hansa  
Bay morning course 150 degs. speed 10 knots. Photos  
reveal composition 4 medium merchantmen, 1 destroyer 1 gunboat.  
Ships shadowed till evening when 70 miles further South heading  
160 degs.

(7) 6 Bostons detailed for dawn strike Salamaua met heavy weather  
and only one reached target.

(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 290615Z).



1115

29.5.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand. -Contd.

Movements.

27th departures, Brisbane, PIRIE H.M.A.S.ECHUNGA and BENDIGO for Sydney (N.S.W) 28th May arrivals, Brisbane, WARREGO. Port Moresby, U.S. Des. MAHAN, Geraldton, U.S.Seaplane Tender HERON. Fremantle TJERK HIDDERS from escorting, Milne Bay. WAGGA Trinidad Island 28th May departure, Port Moresby BUNBURY for Milne Bay. Sydney (N.S.W.), U.S. Des. HENLEY for Townsville. (A.C.N.B. 291049Z to Admty.).

Arrival 28th May Townsville R.F.A. Oiler BISHOPDALE. Thursday Island hired transport KATOOMBA. Port Moresby hired transport TAROONA. Brisbane U.S. Transport CREMER. POYANG departs Brisbane 28th due Sydney (N.S.W.) 30th. AASEMAERSK departs Townsville 28th for Cid Harbour. (C.S.W.P.S.F. 291236Z to Admty.).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated position.  
(D.D.I.C. 291335B, 291350B).



1116

War Diary.30.5.1943.  
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

1. NELSON arrived at Plymouth today from the Mediterranean.

3. The S/M UNTAMED failed to surface at 1700 today after A/S exercises in the Campbeltown Exercise Area Z. She was pumping out her oil fuel at 1847B and the A/S Trawler SHEMARA is in contact with her. TEDWORTH at Ardrossan is sending divers and camels have been ordered from Rothesay. The weather there is at present a flat calm.

North Atlantic.

U/B  
attacked.

3. At 0951B, a Hudson aircraft of No. 233 Squadron sighted a periscope in 38.31 N. 01.38 E., and dropped 4 depth charges 10 seconds after its disappearance, estimating a straddle 100/150 ft. ahead of the feather. No results were seen.

Enemy Air  
Activity.

4. A convoy of 3 merchant vessels from Lisbon to Gibraltar, escorted by MOLDE and HUDDERSFIELD TOWN, was attacked by two Focke Wulfes off Sagres, Cape St. Vincent, at 1300, and SS. LLANCARVAN was sunk, without loss of life.

5. TRENT, frigate, reported an attack from high altitude by a single enemy aircraft at 1217A in 37.36 N. 09.17 W. on Lisbon section of Convoy K.X.10. No ship was damaged.

Force H.

6. The Rear-Admiral Force H, in KING GEORGE V, with HOWE, FORMIDABLE, and 10 destroyers, left Gibraltar p.m. today for Algiers.



War Diary.

30.5.1943.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

7. SS. FLORA MACDONALD, U.S. 7177 tons, independently routed from Takoradi to Freetown, was torpedoed at 0224 in 07.15 N. 13.20 W., off Cape St. Ann, south of Freetown. She arrived at Freetown under tow on 1st June, still burning. Two of her crew were killed.

Mediterranean.

Sweep.

8. During last night, PALADIN and TROUBRIDGE carried out a sweep along the East Coast of Sicily, and M.G.Bs from Bizerta operated as a striking force to intercept, any E-Boats mine-laying in the war channel. No incidents have been reported.

Air  
Operations.

9. Three Beaufighters on anti-shipping reconnaissance off the west coast of Greece attacked a merchant vessel of 800 tons carrying a deck cargo of hay off Cephalonia and left it blazing.

X 23 U.S. Fortresses bombed Naples marshalling yards. One hit was scored on a ship, near misses on several others, and oil storage and dry docks were damaged.

X 29 U.S. Lightnings bombed Aranci port and railroad, Sardinia dropping 27 1000-lb. bombs. Three ships were badly damaged.

French  
Squadron,  
Alexandria.

X 10. A Vichy broadcast tonight reported that the French Squadron at Alexandria, "as a result of the incessant pressure of the British", had joined the Allies.

LEOPARD.

11. The French destroyer LEOPARD, which grounded on 27th May on a coastal reef N.N.E. of Benghazi, was still aground today, and N.O.I.C. Benghazi estimates her chances of salvage at 50%.



War Diary.

30.5.1943.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Pacific.

Aleutians.

- X 12. Japanese Imperial Headquarters announced today that communications with Attu Island had ceased since 27th May, and that it was thought the Japanese Force there had completely perished, "shouting Banzai for the Emperor and bowing towards the Imperial Palace in Tokyo". A Navy Department spokesman in Washington stated that all organised resistance to the United States troops on Attu had collapsed.

Australia.

Hospital  
Ships.

- X 13. Following the sinking of CENTAUR, authorities in Melbourne favour hospital ships having their markings removed and sailing blacked out and escorted. The Naval Board, Melbourne, asks for Admiralty views.



1119

30.5.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Conversion of Trawlers. A.M. 171725A January 1942. 4 of the 7 A/3 trawlers at Harwich have been converted to L.L. As some of the layer motor minesweepers are now joining this command, it is proposed that this alteration to the other 3 vessels be deferred, observing that these 7 vessels are normally employed singly on convoy escort duty, and they cannot now be spared for the additional time required for the alteration to be done. The matter could be reviewed later should enemy mining policy render it necessary.  
(C. in C.Nore 301102B to Admty.)

Fishing vessels in Biscay Area. X My 241751B para. 3. On or after 1st June all fishing vessels are to be attacked in Bay of Biscay area laid down in P.C.W.O. 100 para. 1 D. as amended in para. 4 of my signal quoted. 2. The Leaflet Campaign against French Tunny ships is still being continued however and these ships should when practicable be exempt from attack in daylight until further orders. 3. Any naval force encountering French Tunny men should take action described in para. 3 of my 241751.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 302149B to GLASGOW, UGANDA, CHARYBDIS, ORKAN, PIORUN.)

Movements.

GLASGOW. My P.C. and S. 053° 48' N. 014° 17' W. 014° 18 kts. Northward and eastward to pass through position 001° Cape Wrath 6 miles at 0225B/31st. Permission is requested to remain at sea to carry out postponed long range H/A practice D. at 0900B for 2 hours.  
(GLASGOW 300002B to C. in C.H.F.)

LLANDUDNO. Your 221133 para. 3. Sailed LLANDUDNO.  
(A.C.I.C. 300201B to C. in C.H.F.)

SCYLLA, ATHABASKAN. Scapa departures SCYLLA and ATHABASKAN.  
(A.C.O.S. 300727 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

NELSON. Arrived NELSON, INGLEFIELD, ONSLOW, ORWELL.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 300833B.)

UGANDA. Arrived UGANDA.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 301101B.)

PRINS ALBERT. Intend sailing L.S.I.(S) PRINS ALBERT at 2000/31 May for Gibraltar. E.T.A. 1900Z/3rd. Routed as in Admiralty's 271835B. Speed 18 knots. Codeword "Limited."  
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 301202B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

/S/M...



1120

30.5.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

S/M My 290930B. Sailed (UNTIRING.)  
Movements. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 301204B.)  
Position of S/Ms at 0800B/31 and movements for following 24 hours.  
(F.O.S. 301814B, 302158, 311252B, 010014B.)

Intend to sail Russian submarine S.54 escorted by LOCH MONTEITH 2000B/31st for A. 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles pass through position B. 089° Out Skerries 5 miles expected time of arrival 0130B June 1st. Thence S.54 in accordance with F.O.S. S.M. 04393 (not to C. in C.Rosyth or H.Q.C.C.) and H.M.S. LOCH MONTEITH through B. and 091° Fair Isle 6 miles to Scapa, E.T.A. 1800B/1st.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick 301643B to A.C.O.S.)

Your 291535 para. 3 (re (S.54.))

A. Escort will meet in position G. B. arranged.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 302254B to Admty.)

Landing You may have been reported by enemy aircraft  
Craft at 1219B/30.  
Flight G. (D.D.I.C. 301315B to Flight G, K.X.10.)

ASTURIAS. 1. As soon as stores referred to in A.M. 291906 have been loaded F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail ASTURIAS independently to Casablanca.  
2. Route as follows, through:- D. 55° N. 11° W. E. 49° N. 18° W. F. 40° N. 18° W. G. 35° N. 10° W. thence to Casablanca.  
3. Stores are those requested in A.F.H.Q's No. 5166 of 28th May (not to all addressees) and arrangements should be made to forward them to Oran by rail from Casablanca.  
4. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to arrange onward passage of ASTURIAS to Freetown.  
(A.C.N.S.F. 301825B.)

Landing In view of S.O.Force J 301227B. Intend to  
Craft postpone sailing of Flight K as instructed in  
Flight K. your 262039B.  
(C. in C.Portsmouth 301828B to Admty.)

DUKE OF YORK, Intend to proceed to Hvalfjord in DUKE OF YORK,  
SOUTH DAKOTA, with SOUTH DAKOTA, ALABAMA, BERWICK, MILNE,  
ALABAMA, OPPORTUNE, OBDURATE, OBEDIENT, ELLYSON, RODMAN,  
BERWICK. EMMONS, MACOMB, and FITCH leaving Scapa practice area at 1600B/31st May.  
2. Route through position 001° by 12 miles thence by Q.Z.S. 407 and 405 to Hvalfjord. S.OA. 16½ kts  
3. C. in C.Rosyth, C. in C.W.A. A.C.I.C. are requested to provide A/S air escort codeword "Distaff."  
4. E.T.A. Hvalfjord Boom 0930N/2nd.  
(C. in C.H.F. 301834B to A.I.G. 47.)  
My 301834. Request Admiralty keep Connaveu, C. in C.U.S. Fleet C. in C.Lant informed of Task Force 61 movements.  
(C. in C.H.F. 302343B to Admty.)

/CAMELLIA...



1121

War Diary.30.5.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

CAMELLIA. CAMELLIA arrived Kola Inlet.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 301851B to Admty.)

Operations.

Coastal Patrols. My 291205B. "Prize" returned 0605.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland 300610B.)

1. Intend M.Ls. 303 (S.O.), 245, and 122 to patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W.
2. Leave Portland at 2200 via Q.Z.S. 382 and leave patrol line at dawn/31st, returning via Q.Z.S. 382.
3. Object. Anti E-Boat patrol. Codeword "Kettle."  
(F.O.I.C. Portland 301031B.)
  1. BLEASDALE, GOATHLAND, STEVENSTONE are to carry out anti E-Boat patrol tonight between 50° 25' N. 00° 15' W. and 50° 25' N. 01° 00' W. passing F. Buoy at 2315B/30 and 0500B/31. Codeword "Advent."
  3. M.Ls. 309 and 464 to patrol searched channel between F. and E.A.5 buoys.
  4. S.G.B. 6 and 4 at immediate notice at Newhaven from 2330B/30 reverting to half an hours notice at 0330B/31. Codeword "Device."  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 301420B.)
    1. BLEASDALE, STEVENSTONE, GOATHLAND, patrolling southward of E.A.5 buoy.
    2. M.L. 309 (S.O.) 464 patrolling in Eastern Approach Channel.
    3. Chasseur 41 at St. Helens and KINGSTON TURQUOISE at Yarmouth.
    4. S.G.B. 6 and 4 at immediate notice at Newhaven.
    5. M.Ls. 303, 245, 122 patrolling 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' E.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 301425B.)

M.Ls. 139, 142 patrolling between Rye and Fairlight Buoys.  
M.T.Bs. 204, 231, 235 and M.G.Bs. 114, 116 patrolling at Bullock Bank. E.T.D. 2230. E.T.R. 0500/31.  
M.G.Bs. 43, 40, 41 at V Buoy. E.T.D. 2230 E.T.R. 0545/31.  
(V.A. Dover 301725B.)  
My 301031B. "Kettle" sailed.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland 302226B.)

Operation F.H. Your 292357 para. 4.  
Onward route from position O. through position M.U.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 301321B to C. in C.H.F.)  
Operation F.H. My 301423. Submarines will be kept East of Meridian Greenwich between 1200B/9th June and 1200B/11th June.  
(F.O.S. 301418B to Admty. C. in C.H.F.)

Home Fleet memorandum 01325/141 dated 27th May. Operation F.H. amendment number one. Para. 6 E. cancel. Para. 14 cancel.  
(C. in C.H.F. 301808 to H.F.)

Operation F.H. enhances importance of P.R.U. Altenfjord.  
2. Changes in disposition and movements of H.F. units indicative of activity in Northern Waters may be detected by German R/C on and after June 3rd.  
(C. in C.H.F. 301848B to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

/"Gearbox"...



30.5.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

"Gearbox" X My 221615. No significant change in ice conditions or enemy air activity. ("Gearbox" 301334Z to Admty.)

CHARYBDIS CHARYBDIS is to pass gate at 0600B/31st May and proceed through position F. 180° Bishop Rock 10 G. 049° 12' N. 012° 12' W. and thence patrol between lat. 047° N. and 045° N. on about 016° W.  
Object. To cover M.K.F.15 and A.F.D. 18 against surface attack while between 042° N. and 050° N.  
2. Estimate M.K.F.15 passes 042° N. about 1200B/1st and A.F.D. 18 passes 050° N. about 2300B/31st.  
3. CHARYBDIS is to maintain above patrol until M.K.F.15 passes 049° 30' N. after which CHARYBDIS is to keep within 60 miles of A.F.D.18 until latter passes 042° N. when she is to return Plymouth by reverse route.  
4. Photographic R/C showed 3 (WO) destroyers in Gironde and one in La Pallice on 29th May.  
5. Codeword "Talbot."  
(C. in C.Plymouth 301337B to CHARYBDIS.)

S/M Patrols. TUNA, STUBBORN, and ULTIMATUM are to be recalled from patrol so as to arrive Lerwick 3rd June.  
Submarine. Date of leaving. Patrol-line.  
TALLY HO a.m. 31st May B.B.  
TRUCULENT p.m. 1st June C.C.  
SEADOG p.m. 2nd June E.E.  
SATYR p.m. 3rd June F.F.

3. Submarines are to proceed dived by day as much as possible when north of 062° N.  
(F.O.S. 301423B.)

Position of submarines at 0800B/31st and movements for following 24 hours:-  
A. HAKE approx. 54° 29' N. 30° 10' W. dives by day to patrol vicinity 53° 35' N. 37° 01' W.  
B. HERRING vicinity 54° 40' N. 38° 37' W.  
C. HADDO vicinity 51° N. 35° W.  
D. STUBBORN, ULTIMATUM, SHAD, TUNA as in my 251721.  
H. TEMPLAR 44° 22' N. 07° 43' W. dived by day through 44° 20' N. 10° 28' W. due 43° 00' N. 10° 27' W. at 0600/2nd.  
(F.O.S. 301814B.)

Operation X My 291527. Operation R.A. unsuccessful.  
R.A. Nothing found in area.  
(C. in C.Nore 301434B to Admty.)

Allied Air Activity.

"Stipple" Signal. The "Stipple" signal introduced by Admiralty 071612, governs priorities for air-cover for convoys. All previous Admiralty messages on the subject are cancelled.  
2. A.C.O.S. is added to the address of Admiralty message 071612.  
(A.C.N.S.H. 300341B to C. in C.W.A. A.O.C. in C.C.C.)



War Diary.

30.5.1943.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Orkneys. At 301831 WESTRAY W.U. site reported Ju.88 200 feet course became northeast. Sound reports indicated aircraft flew North-Ronaldsay to  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile south of Fair Isle on easterly course. Visibility very bad. Fighters failed intercept. No R.D.F. plots.  
(A.C.O.S. 302042B.)

Mining.

N.L. 83 My 291725B. Operations N.L. 83 and N.L.85 not  
N.L.85. carried out owing to unsuitable weather.  
(V.A.Dover 300821B.)

Firth of Red mine considered very old exploded by mine-  
Forth. sweeper at 1330/29 in  $56^{\circ} 11.6' N. 02^{\circ} 30' W.$   
(C. in C.Rosyth 301038B.)

Q.U.4. My 291132B postponed 24 hours.  
(C. in C.Nore 301048B to BEEHIVE.)

Sweep by Your 292340. Probably P., not T.  
M/S 9. (C. in C.Portsmouth 301141B to M/S 9.)  
Mine exploded in sweep position  $50^{\circ} 31' 40'' N.$   
 $2^{\circ} 39' 00'' W.$   
(F.O.I.C. Portland 301645B.)

Q.Z.X.1001 cleared check clearance completed as far south as  $050^{\circ} 28' (7045'') N. 2 T. or P. mines detonated, 1 similar type exploded, and 2 conical cutters swept.$   
(M/S 9 302115B to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Humber. Following mines detonated today:-  
At 301545B, one mine detonated by sweeper in  $170^{\circ}$   
58A Buoy 4.1 miles.  
(F.O.Humber 301850.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat P.C. and S. of enemy  $47^{\circ} 00' N. 14^{\circ} 00' W. 200^{\circ}$   
attacked 15 knots.  
in Biscay (A/C 210 Sqdn. Duty G 300955B to 19 Group.)  
Area. Report enemy type.  
(H.Q. 19 Group 301020B to A/C G.)  
Have attacked enemy with depth-charges. Result  
of attack unobserved.  
(A/C 210 Sqdn. Duty G 301025B to 19 Group.)  
Am over enemy S/M in  $47^{\circ} 20' N. 12^{\circ} 27' W.$   
(A/C 502 Sqdn. 301748 to 19 Group.)

/Anti...



1124

30.5.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats - Contd.

Anti U-  
Boat  
Tactics.

One of our submarines was recently sunk by U-Boat attack while proceeding on steady course in daylight in maximum visibility and slight sea. The submarine was in area where it was thought danger from submarine attack was slight. 2. Attention is drawn to the fact that zigzagging is essential under these conditions. (F.O.S. 301144B to Capts.S.)

U-Boats  
reported or  
attacked in  
N. Atlantic.

Received 1923 G.M.T. from Gallon Head Radio begins 3333 de BXST (?) Position 55.25 N. (unread) 24 (unread) submarine sighted. ends. (Wick 302126 to Lyness.)

DON  
torpedoed.

3333 Torpedoed, position 65.25 N. 24.35 W. 6 miles XX 331.

(Origin unknown T.O.R. 2130B/30.)

Detail one escort to proceed with despatch to assist unknown vessel torpedoed in 065° 25' N.

024° 35' W. and to report situation on arrival.

(A.C.I.C. 302219B to LLANDUDNO.)

Your 302219B. ARDROSSAN detailed. Name of ship SS. DON. (LLANDUDNO 302345B to S.C.I. Iceland.)

Casualties & Defects.

COTSMUIR.

Departure tug DIVERSION to assist COTSMUIR.

(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 301055B.)

My 301055. Tug DIVERSION with COTSMUIR entered harbour.

(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 301755B.)

FORT  
PASKOYAC.

My 291942B. Sailed.

(N.O.I.C. Oban 301521.)

H.D.M.L. 1259.

H.D.M.L. 1259 returned owing faulty steering and damaged A-brackets.

(N.O.I.C. Isle of Man 301715B.)

SOUTHERN GEM.

Cmdre. WESTERN ISLES is requested to sail SOUTHERN GEM to Barry p.m. tomorrow to make good defects.

(C. in C.W.A. 301730B.)

UNTAMED.

UNTAMED failed to surface after A/S exercise at 1700 today. Request all surface vessels be instructed to keep clear of Campbeltown exercise area Z. SHEMARA reports she is in contact with P.58 who is on the bottom. Deep sea divers urgently required.

(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 301805B to F.O.S. S.3. S.7. F.O.I.C. Greenock, Admty.)

/My...



1125

War Diary.30.5.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

- UNTAMED.  
(Contd.) My 301805B. SHEMARA reports that Buffs are watching and UNTAMED is pumping out oil fuel. No communication on S.S.T. Position 106° ship light Sandra Island 4.4 miles. TEDWORTH at Ardrossan has been ordered to send divers forthwith. Camels have been ordered from Rothesay. Weather in vicinity flat calm.  
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 301847B to F.O.S. F.O.I.C. Greenock, S.3. S.7.)
- SERENITY. Departure H.M.R.T. DANUBE 5 to assist motor vessel SERENITY aground.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 301851B.)  
Arrival DANUBE 5 my 301851B. No assistance rendered.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 302059B.)
- ST. MELLONS. Arrival in Yarmouth Roads with defective steering gear Rescue Tug ST. MELLONS ex "Protem."  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 302017B.)
- KERMA. KERMA arrived Oban with E.N. 35 having received damage on Mills Rocks, extent not known. Vessel beached in Camas Nathais Bay, Lynne of Lorne.  
(N.O.I.C. Oban 302107B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- Shipping & Convoys.
- T.A.43. Sailed 2223/29 (EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND.)  
(P.S.T.O.N.W. Ports 300010 to D.S.T.)
- H.X.240.  
E.G.2. Unless convoy is threatened E.G.2 negative CYGNET is to part company at dusk today and proceed to cover S.C.132 and H.X. 241.  
2. Attention is called to positions of friendly submarines given in W.A. situation report.  
3. CYGNET remain with C.5 group until further orders.  
(C. in C.W.A. 301036Z to STARLING.)
- T.A.42A. Intend sailing AQUITANIA passing Clyde Boom 2300B/31st May to pass through position H. at 0600B/1st June thence in accordance with a.m. 281327B May. S.O.A. 19 knots. "Chop" date 4th June. E.T.A. Ambrose Light vessel 1600Z/8th.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 301106B.)
- O.NS.9. Sailed VOLUNTEER in accordance with C. in C.W.A. 242119Z.  
(Cdre. D. W.A. 301148B to C. in C.W.A.)

/AMARAPOORA...



1126

30.5.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

AMARAPOORA

Intend to sail Hospital ship AMARAPOORA, 1200/1st June from Barry Roads to Gibraltar. Route Inside Irish Territorial Waters to Fastnet Rocks thence A. 050° N. 011° W. B. 040° N. 011° W. thence by Q.K.A. 87 to destination.  
(N.C.S.O. Newport Mon. 301210 & 311025B to Admty.)

A.T.48.  
(QUEEN MARY)  
T.A.48.

Convoy A.T.48 is due Clyde p.m. 6.6.  
2. Total of approx. 15,000 personnel will disembark 7.6.  
3. Approximately 2000 personnel and 4000 German prisoners of war ex convoy M.K.F.15 will embark at Tail of the Bank on p.m. 9.6 and 10.6.  
4. Convoy T.A.48 should be ready to sail p.m.10.6. (D.S.T. 301735B.)

A.T.45.

We have now heard there are 2400 measurement tons of cargo on board U.S. MARIPOSA.  
2. How will this affect her date of readiness to sail. My 252339B refers.  
(D.S.T. 301746B.)

M.K.F.15.

Convoy M.K.F.15 is due Clyde a.m. 5/6 and Liverpool p.m. 5/6, comprising the following Troop Transports:- MOOLTAN, U.S. SANTA ROSA, U.S. GOETHALS, U.S. ERICSON, U.S. J.W. MCANDREW, U.S. CHRISTOBAL. FELIX ROUSSEL, ANTENOR, LETITIA, NEA HELLAS, DUCHESS OF YORK, CALIFORNIA, INDRAPOERA, BOISSEVAIN, ORMONDE, JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT, SAMARIA, MALOJA, FRANCONIA.  
(D.S.T. 301747B.)

Black Ball procedure.

A.C.I. Art. 127.  
It is intended that this procedure shall be held in abeyance for transatlantic convoys and that all aircraft sighted shall be treated as friendly until proved hostile.  
(C. in C.W.A. 301853B and 301858B.)

Anti U-Boat Tactics.

Evasive steering for convoy under 11 knots. When a convoy is so heavily threatened by U-Boats that it is considered a drastic diversion would be of no avail it is proposed that evasive steering by day be carried out at the discretion of S.O. of Escort. This should be done by altering leaders together remainder in succession by signal from the Commodore. The intervals and degree of alteration to be at Commodore's discretion but the convoy should return to its M.L.A. at least once every four hours.  
(C. in C.W.A. 301855B to Admty.)

/Stationing...



1127

30.5.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

Stationing  
of Escort  
Oilers, A/C  
Carriers, &  
Mac Ships.

X To facilitate flying operations, oiling,  
signalling between these ships and Commodore  
and General Station keeping of convoy it is  
proposed:

A. The Commodore's column should be a normal one.

B. One column adjacent to the Commodore's column  
to be left free of all ships except the leader,  
the A/C Carrier or Mac Ship to be stationed in

this column normally in position of 3rd ship in line which is  
considered the safest position in convoy.

C. Escort Oilers to be stationed 2nd in line in the columns  
adjacent to the Commodore's column and that reserved for the  
A/C Carrier.

2. If this is agreed to request you will promulgate to  
authorities concerned.

(C. in C.W.A. 301905B to Admty.)

O.N.186.

My 301846. U-Boat sighted BROADWAY and 3  
escorts searching.

(B.1 301927Z to C. in C.W.A.)



1128

30.5.1943.

Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- Convoy  
M.K.F.15. Sailed UNICORN, TRACKER, JAVELIN, KELVIN with Gibraltar Section M.K.F.15.  
(F.O.L.C. Gibraltar 300510 to Admty. etc.)  
1. M.K.F.15 Gibraltar section. 2. 0400B/30 May.  
3. 0500B/30 in position 180° Europa 2½ miles.  
4. 13 knots (list, destinations, etc.)  
(F.O.Gibraltar 300631.)
- M.K.F.15. Arrivals STAFFORDSHIRE, EXAMINER, STIRLING CASTLE, LAKEHURST, ARAWA, DARTMOUTH.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 300710B to C. in C.Med.)  
Arrived TOTLAND defective ex M.K.F.15.  
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 302310B to Admty. C. in C.Med.)
- O.S.48. FORT STEELE, FORT JEMSEG arrived 0900A today from O.S.48.  
(C.M.S.F.F. 300805 to Admty.)
- MELBREAK. Arrived.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 300841B to Admty.)  
See also 301217, etc.
- Dispositions. Situation 302002B.  
Italian repatriation ship GIULIO CESARE DUILIO 26.39 14.24 218° 15.  
2. M.K.F.15, WESTON, 36.11 08.54 through 36.20 10.10 thence 307° 13.  
3. O.S.48, FOWEY, 30.27 12.09 through 28.33 13.16 thence 228° 8.  
4. 2 L.S.T., CYCLAMEN, 29.(755) 11.(759) 035° 8½.  
5. U.G.S.8, A.C.T.F. 66, 34.30 13.19 091° 8½.  
6. 20 L.C.I.(L), S.O. 257, 31.40 16.50 through 31.35 15.55 thence 061° 10.  
7. Spanish training ship left Funchal for Ferrol Gate.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 301103B.)  
Situation at 302001B.  
MOLDE, HUDDERSFIELD TOWN 036° 56' 008° 56' coastwise to Cape St. Mary thence to Gibraltar 6.  
2. O.T.5, C.T.G. 21.4, 034° 44' 007° 35' through 035° 45' 006° 30' thence through Straits 13½.  
Casablanca Section 2 U.S.Destroyers part company to arrive a.m. 31st.  
3. Landing convoy, one merchant ship, one tug, MINUET, TWO STEP, 036° 20' 008° 28' to Gibraltar 8½.  
4. Hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND 035° 52' 007° 33' to Gibraltar 14.  
6. C.G.34, U.S.S. HAMBELTON 034° 41' 007° 28' through 035° 45' 006° 33' to Gibraltar 7.  
7. G.C.11, ANNAMITE, pass through Straits at 310(?300) through (?035°) 48' 006° 28' thence (007°) 6½.  
8. K.X.10, O.G.90 A TEVIOT 035° 49' (006°?) 39' through 035° 47' 006° 25' to Gibraltar 6.3.  
9. KING SOL 4 escorts sail Gibraltar 301300B to R/V (?U) G.S.8A at 311800 in 034° 27' 009° 38' 9.  
BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK sailing Gibraltar 310400 for same for patrol GEORGE M. BIBB and U.S.escorts part company with Casablanca Section to arrive 010800 June. U.G.S.8A, BROCKLESBY proceed through Straits 8½.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 301105B.)

/TORBAY...



War Diary.30.5.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

TORBAY.

Your 260904 not to S.8. Anticipated TORBAY ready to sail 22nd June.  
(S.O.(S) Gibraltar 301129B to S.1, (R) S.8.)

SCYTHIA.

D. of S.T's 280548B. SCYTHIA sailed in M.K.F. 15 with orders as in Admty. 251545B. No passengers embarked. Loaded approx. 200 tons scrap as ballast correction.  
(S.T.O.I.C. Gibraltar 301140B to D. of S.T. (R) P.S.T.O. Med. Commorseafiron.)

A/C attack on TRENT (Convoy K.X.10, Lisbon Section.)

Am being shadowed by one aircraft in 37.35 N. 09.16 W.  
(TRENT 301200A to Gibraltar W/T.)  
Following read. Single enemy aircraft carried out high altitude bombing attack 1217A, further attack expected. My position is 037° 36' N. 009° 17' W.  
(TRENT via Gibraltar W/T 301222A.)  
My 1200 and 1222. No further attack and no ships damaged. My course and speed 354° 7½ knots.  
(TRENT 301305A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) S.O.E.G.44.)  
5 F.W. aircraft at sea level sighted proceeding 170° at 2020A my position 350° Cap Erazura 5 miles.  
(TRENT 302026A to Gibraltar.)  
Lisbon section of K.X.10 arrived destination. TRENT proceeding Gibraltar speed 16 knots. E.T.A. 311630A.  
(TRENT 302056A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) S.O.E.G. 44.)

PRINS ALBERT.

Intend sailing L.S.I.(S) PRINS ALBERT at 2000/31 May for Gibraltar. E.T.A. 1900Z/3rd June. Routed as in Admty. 271835B. Speed 18 knots. Communications. Code word "Limited."  
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 301202B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty. C. in C.Plymouth, C. in C.Portsmouth C. in C.W.A. C. in C.Med. C.C.O. S.O.Force J, H.Q.C.C. H.Q.F.C.)

MELBREAK party for Malta.

Commanding Officer Coppl reports party are required to be operational in Malta by 3rd June.  
2. Party consists of 5-officers and 6 other ranks with 5 tons stores.  
3. Propose sailing MELBREAK for Malta p.m. 30th May.  
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 301217B to C. in C.Med. (R) V.A.Malta.)  
Sailed MELBREAK. My 301753B refers. (N.T. in W.D.)  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 302110B to V.A.Malta, C. in C.Med. (R) Admty. C. in C.Levant.)

VICTORIA.

VICTORIA arrived 1030A today. B.N.L.O.Dakar pass to Comar Dakar.  
(C.M.S.F.F. 301511 to Comar Dakar, (R) F.O.C.W.A. Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C.Med.)

/ZETLAND...



War Diary.

30.5.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

- ZETLAND. Intend sailing ZETLAND at 1900B May 31st to U.K. for refit routed through ZA. 035° 46' N. 006° 23' W. ZB. 037° 18' N. 011° 59' W. ZC. 039° 59' N. 013° 30' W. ZD. 044° 59' N. 013° 30' W. thence as ordered by Admty. S.O.A. 19 knots.  
2. Codeword "Quirk."  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 301725B to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med. C. in C.W.A. C. in C.Plymouth, F.O.I.S. H.Q.C.C.)
- STIRLING CASTLE, ARAWA, STAFFORDSHIRE. Intend sailing A. STIRLING CASTLE codeword "Endeavour." B. ARAWA, STAFFORDSHIRE codeword "Trusty" for Freetown unescorted.  
A. Sails 0001B/31st May S.O.A. 18 knots.  
B. Sails 0030B/31st May S.O.A. 14 knots.  
2. Route. Q.K.A. 87 to A. 035° 45' 006° 30'.  
B. 033° 12' 009° 25' C. 027° 27' 014° 03'  
D. 024° 01' 018° 40' E. 015° 01' 018° 40' F. 010° 01' 017° 18'  
3. C. in C.Med. 271538 refers.  
4. C.M.S.F. is requested to provide maximum air cover in his area. (F.O.Gibraltar 301741B to R.A.W.Af. Commorseafron, (R) Admty. Comar Dakar, C. in C.Med.)
- Convoy K.M.S.15. K.M.S.15 arrived.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 301833B to Admty.)  
Arrived R.F.A. CELEROL with Gibraltar section K.M.S.15 escorted by SHARPSHOOTER, BERGAMOT, BRYONY, ALYNBANK, local escorts LAUDERDALE, CONVULVULUS, FOXTROT.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 302250B to Admty. etc.)
- Route for TRUSTY. F.O.C.W.A.F. 281500. Estimate you pass lat. 035° N. at 0500B/5th. Total bombing restrictions have been arranged from 1930B/2nd to 0500B/5th thereafter submerged bombing dusk until 0200B/10th 10 miles either side your route from 35 miles ahead to 35 miles astern your estimated position. Report if you are unable to keep within your bombing restrictions.  
2. Read H.S. and G.S. routines from 1930B/2nd until 0200B/10th. (F.O.Gibraltar 301851B to TRUSTY, (R) F.O.C.W.A.F. Admty. C. in C.Med. C. in C.W.A. C. in C.Plymouth, F.O.S. Capt. S.3, Commorseafron.)
- Convoy attacked, LLANCARVAN sunk. An aeroplane attacked convoy A.M. today off Sagres. One ship set on fire but report at noon fire but report at noon fire extinguished and ship proceeding with an armed escort. Damage unknown. (N.A.Lisbon 301901B to S.O.(I) Gibraltar (R) Admty.)  
SS. LLANCARVAN sunk see May 31st.

/Movements...



1131

War Diary.

30.5.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

Movements  
Gibraltar.

Departures R.A.(H) in KING GEORGE V, HOWE, FORMIDABLE, CALPE, FARNDALE, LIDDESDALE, TYNEDALE, HAYDON, CLEVELAND, ACTIVE, VELOX, VENOMOUS, O.R.P. SLAZAK, PENTSTEMON, VISENDA, KING SOL, REIGHTON WYKE, COVERLEY to R/V U.G.S.8A. (F.O.C.Gibraltar 302010B to Admty. C. in C.Med.)

Movements  
Casablanca.

Warships May 30th.  
Arrivals U.S.S. HERBERT, U.S.S. SCHENCK, P.C. 482, 480, French VICTORIA from Dakar and TAPAGEUSE from Safi.  
Departures U.S.S. HAMBLETON?, P.C. 481, 474, French CHASSEUR II with C.G.34, French BISON with VAL DE LA HAYE for Agadir.  
(Commorseafron 302103 to C. in C.Med. (R)  
Commavnaw, Cominch, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty.)

Air Report.

Opsum 210, 24 hrs. ended 1800/30 May.  
G. Sightings and attacks. Hud. P/233 on A/S East sighted from 1500 distant 3 miles periscope co 300/4 kts attacked at (?0951/30) 38.31 N. 01.38 E. from ahead 20° to track releasing four D.Cs. 10 secs. after disappearance of periscope. Explosions not seen but believed straddled 100/150 ft. ahead of feather, no results seen.  
(A.H.Q.Gibraltar 302345B.)

South Atlantic.

Convoy  
T.S.42

Sailed 0600Z/30th May. Route "Orange" in my (four corrupt groups) Freetown 0900Z/2nd June. No straggler route. DUCHESS OF RICHMOND (Commodore Taylor R.N.R.) 17½ knots. HIGHLAND PRINCESS 15½ knots. Convoy codeword "Bamboo" convoy W/T identity "Victor Love". (N.C.S.O. Takoradi 300749Z to Admty. etc.)

Sailed 0600Z/30th May. T.S.42. Escorted by (?BRIDGEWATER) SNOWDROP (2 corrupt groups). E.T.A. Freetown (0900?Z) 2nd June. (?N.O.I.C. Takoradi 300804Z to Admty. etc.)  
Details, and requirements Freetown (S.S.T.O. Takoradi 301203 to D.S.T.)

Convoy  
C.M.42

Sailed CARTHAGE, NIZAM, ROCKROSE, FRITILIARY escorting C.M.42 in accordance with N.C.S.O. Durban 301103.  
2. ROCKROSE, FRITILLARY will be detached in 041° 20' E. NIZAM in 046° 00' E. returning to Durban through 031° 00' S. 038° 00' E.

3. CARTHAGE shifts from broadcast JIG to NAN at 1000Z June 2nd\*.

/C. in C....



1132

War Diary.30.5.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Convoy C. in C.E.F. is requested to instruct CARTHAGE when to shift to BI.  
C.M.42 (N.O.I.C. Durban 301002Z to Admty. C. in C.S.A. (Contd.) C. in C.E.F. F.O.E.A.)  
\*Amended by 011539Z q.v.  
C.M.42 sailed May 30 for Kilindini E.T.A. 0600Z  
June 10th. Personnel on board A. ASCANIUS. B. EMPIRE WOODLARK. C. LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE.  
(D.S.T.O. Durban 301603Z to D.S.T.O. Kilindini, (R) D. of S.T. etc.)

Dispositions. Situation at 2000Z/30th.  
B.Y.M.S. 9,26 and 27, 015° 50' 017° (?10') to North Coastal 8. SUFFOLK, CORFU, FOXHOUND, BOADICEA, ANTELOPE, CATTERICK with W.S.30, 009° 57' 017° 10' to Freetown 13. LA GRANDIERE, F.S. DUMONT D'URVILLE escorting 011° 30' 017° 08' to (?011°) 15' (?017°) 07' thence 131° 7. M.L. (290?) and 5 M.Ls. on A/S sweep 009° 33' 014° 28' to 010° 07' 016° 13' and 009° 37' 018° 13' thence 090° 10. COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES escorting 009° 13' 014° 11' 294° 10. SCARBOROUGH, FLEETWOOD, MIGNONETTE, AZALEA, SPIREA, COLTSFOOT, BALSAM, BUTSER, DUNKERY with S.L.130 008° 39' 013° (?05') to 009° 34' 014° 35' thence (?074°) 7. TRUSTY on the surface 013° (?16') 021° 01' 000° 11. CILICIA on patrol about 008° 35' 027° (?25') 14.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 301022Z.)

Situation 1959Z/30th May.  
PORTSDOWN, BUTTERMERE escorting 006° 48' 020° 43' to 006° 26' 022° 16' 9.  
COWSLIP off Marshall.  
FANDANGO escorting about 007° 27' 013° 14' to Freetown 8.  
MORRIS DANCE, WESTERN 007° 32' 013° (?12') to Freetown 7.  
M.L. 305, M.L. 263 off Cape Palmas.  
GAMBIA 002° 09' 018° 39' (?282) 18.  
BRIDGEWATER, SNOWDROP with T.S.42 004° 02' 004° 09' 263° 12.  
M.L. 277, 244, 487 about 003° 42' 000° 33' to Takoradi (?7).5  
SARABANDE, M.L. (?277) off Accra.  
PRESIDENT HOUDUCE about 005° (?03') 004° 26' E. to Lagos 7.  
(R.A.W.A. 301129Z.)

Weekly state West African Station 29th May 1943.  
Cape Blanco Area CYCLAMEN, L.S.Ts. 324, 412.  
Dakar Area SUFFOLK, CORFU, FOXHOUND, CATTERICK, BOADICEA, ANTELOPE (with W.S.30.)  
Freetown DESPATCH, MALCOLM, RAPID, WOLVERINE, ALCANTARA, CARNARVON CASTLE, SCARBOROUGH, FLEETWOOD, AZALEA, MIGNONETTE, SPIREA, COLTSFOOT, BALSAM, MILFORD, WOODRUFF, TAMARISK, PETUNIA, WASTWATER, REDSHANK, L.S.T. 421, D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES.  
Freetown area TRUSTY, COWSLIP, BUTTERMERE.  
Takoradi CORINTHIAN, ARMERIA, BRIDGEWATER.  
Takoradi area WITCH, CROCUS, CDT. DETROYAT, SNOWDROP, BURDOCK.  
Duala PRESIDENT HOUDUCE.  
Pointe Noire SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA.  
Mid ocean patrol CILICIA, Ascension area GAMBIA.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 301341Z to Admty. etc.)

/U/B...



1133

30.5.1943.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

U/B attack on C.D.20 28 May. My 291702B May. Amend position to read 034° 57' S. 019° 33' E. (S.O.(I) Capetown 301045B to S.O.(I) Alexandria, S.O.(I) Basra.) My 291725B May. Amend position to read 034° 57' S. 019° 33' E. (C. in C.S.A. 301057B to Admty.)

AGWIMONTE American torpedoed at about 2351B/28th in position approx. (034°) 52' S. 019° 35' E. struck by 2 torpedoes both on starboard side one torpedo was seen. 61 survivors out of total complement of 69. Eight unaccounted for. No casualties so far as known. One boat picked up. Fire was not opened as S/M not seen. No SSSS sent out. No rockets fired. Information by 2nd Officer not on bridge at the time. No information re books.

(N.C.S.O. Port Elizabeth 301348B to Admty. etc.)

STORAAS Norwegian tanker torpedoed in position approx. 034° 52' S. 019° 35' E. at about 2355B/28th, one torpedo seen before striking on starboard side engine room, fire not opened as submarine not sighted.

35 survivors out of total complement of 39, 3 killed in engine room, one man missing, 2 boats (group missed) picked up, no rockets fired, no SSSS sent out, ship was not seen to sink, Wireless Operator's books thrown overboard, Master book in chest in ship, information by Master.

(N.C.S.O. Port Elizabeth 301405B to Admty. etc.)

B.Y.M.S. Sailed 1215Z B.Y.M.S. 26, 09, and 27. My 291732 refers. Commorseafon pass to Admiral Afrique. (Comar, Dakar 301243Z to F.O.C.W.Af. A.Gib. Admty. Commorseafon.)

TULIP. Arrival 1242 G.M.T. 30th. (?N.O.I.C. East London 301246Z to Admty. etc.)

Movements Freetown. Departure 1320Z/30th May F.S. COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES escorting. Comar Dakar pass to C.M.D.Port Etienne. (S.O.(I) Freetown 301500Z to C.M.D.Port Etienne, Comar Dakar, (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

SS. ORION. ORION sailed May 30th for Freetown. E.T.A. June 14. Personnel on board. C. Total for ship 1228. (D.S.T.O. Durban 301559Z to D.S.T.O. W.Af.)

C.N.22 Convoy C.N.22 dispersed at 0001Z/30th May in 033° 13' S. 012° 00' E. (C. in C.S.A. 301606B to C. in C.U.S.Fleet, C. and R. F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Ass. S.O.(I) Recife, Admty.)

/Repatriations...



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30.5.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Repatriations Departure 30th Italian liners VULCANIA and SATURNIA E.T.A. Port Elizabeth 10th.  
(N.C.S.O. (St. Vincent) 301740 to Admty. (R)  
R.A.W.A.F. N.O.I.C. Port Elizabeth.)

Movements Arrivals 1815Z/30th WITCH, CROCUS, BURDOCK,  
Lagos. F.S. PRESIDENT HOUDUCE, F.S. COMMANDANT DETROYAT.  
(N.O.I.C. Lagos 301908Z to Admty. etc.)

Convoy My 23/1546 May. Following ships did not sail.  
S.L.130. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 302008Z to Admty.)  
Convoy S.L.130. List, cargoes, destinations.  
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 302011Z to Admty.)

U/B. 1 submarine 07° 15' N. 13° 20' W.  
(FANDANGO 302210Z to Freetown W/T.)  
W.D.Note: Position in which FLORA MACDONALD  
was torpedoed. See 31 May.



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War Diary.30.5.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Malta Air Report. A.I. 529. C.S.R. 29 May. (A) Air. Part 1 Offensive. Night 28/29 May. Mosquitoes made intruder patrols over Sicily. 2 bombing Wellingtons made shipping searches N. of Sicily and S.E. of Italy. Finding no shipping target

1 Wellington bombed coastal railway 18 miles S. of Messina scoring 2 direct hits on track. Day 29 May. Nil.

Part 2 Enemy Air Activity. Night 28/29 May. 2 Beaufighters made interception patrol E. of and S.W. of Sicily. Day 29 May. Little enemy air activity. 1 Alert at 1614 hours for 15 plus enemy aircraft which avoided combat and turned back before reaching coast. 12 Spitfires made dusk patrols as cover for shipping leaving harbour. 8 Beaufighters escorted incoming shipping.

(A.H.Q. Malta 300100B.)

Convoy G.T.X.1. Following is a repetition of F.O.I.S. 291445B (begins). Addressed A.I.G. 259 from F.O.I.S. G.T.X.1. Arrived 1100B/28th. (list). (Algiers 300603B. to Admty. etc.)

Dock Repairs, Ferryville. From Diver's report it is considered possible to seal and remove number 2 dock Caisson, displacement 15664 tons, without using explosives. Estimated time for this operation 10 days maximum. Caisson should be reparable. If blown up with explosives it will take considerable time to remove. KING SALVOR is being kept at Ferryville to effect this. Details. (D.P.S.V.O. 301653B. F.O.I.C. Bizerta (R) C. in C. Med. D. of Salvage, Admty. P.S.V.O. Med. C.S. Ferryville.)

Movements, Beirut. 29th May, arrival ABDIEL. Departure IERAX. (S.O.I. Beirut 300855C. to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

Movements, Alexandria. Arrivals 29th May. WOLBOROUGH, CROOME, HURWORTH, H.H.M.S. ADRIAS. Departures 29th May. M.L.361. ?Spetsiu. (S.O. (I) Alexandria 300920C. to Admty. C. in C. Levant.)

M.E. Air Report. A.677. Daily Opsum 32. 28/29th May. No operations. 29th May. 3 Beaufighters anti shipping sweep Aegean Sea. 1 Ju. 53 shot down, 1 Arado 196 severely damaged and beached off Thermia Island, 1 Caique 60 tons attacked between Keos and Syros Islands and abandoned crew. My Opsum 31.126 x 500 lb. H.E. 310 x 120 lb. fragmentation 2460 x 20 lb. fragmentation dropped on Foggia May 28. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 300924Z.)

/Operations...



1136

30.5.1943.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Operations. Following intention for night 30/31.  
 (A) One cruiser bombard Pantellaria Harbour between 0100 and 0200/31st. (B) 3 M.T.Bs. sweep Westward from Correnti to Licata.  
 (C) (?2) Destroyers sweep E. Sicilian Coast as far N. as Catania.  
 (V.A. Malta 300944B. to C. in C. Med. S.O. Force "Q" S.N.O. Tripoli, R.A. Force "L").

Enemy Units. Following read 2 enemy destroyers, one 10,000 ton merchant vessel and one 6,000 ton merchant vessel in 41.24 N. 9.44 E. fixed at 1000 course 180° 12 knots.  
 (A/C C.X.L/F. 300954B.)

Spares for Martlet IV aircraft. Admty. 192129 May. Request information regarding supply spares required for Martlett IV Aircraft which are common to all types of Martlet also sections 105, 106, 125, 128 etc. No American spares held at Gebel Massara at present.  
 (S.N.S.O. Levant 301022C. to D. of S. Admty.  
 (R) S.N.S.O. Gebel Massara.)

MASIRAH. Steamship MASIRAH destination St. Johns N.B. Request whether she should be sailed in G.U.S. convoy or routed in M.K.S. Earliest reply requested.  
 (Cdre. Algiers 301031B. to Admty.) Reply: 311217B.

DOLFIJN. After passing P. about 1200/31st proceed through zones A. and B. to operate in Zone C. and Zone E. East of 014° E. 2. Congratulations on your D.S.O. (Capt. S.8. 301114B. to P.47 (DOLFIJN) (R) S.(8), Capt. S. (10). )

K.M.S.15. Request you will sail Collier DUNELMIA for Bone in this convoy.  
 (C. in C. Med. 301115B. to F.O.C. Gib. N.O.I.C. Bone, S.O. I.S. Admty.)

M.K.F.15. List, numbers. My 282006B refers.  
 (Cdre. Algiers 301150B. to Admty. etc.)

Convoys. Cancel para. 5 of Admty. 282145B. May.  
 (D.O.D. (F) 301215B. to C. in C. Med.)

Movements, Malta. Arrived. STANFORTH, EMPIRE ANNE, BARHILL, H.M. Ships LAMERTON, WILTON, WHITEHAVEN.  
 (V.A. Malta 301231B. to Admty. etc.)



1137

War Diary.30.5.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

P.R.U. May 30th. Visuals. 0805 Messina no major naval units. 0900 Taranto 2 battleships, 2 cruisers.  
(V.A. Malta 301239B. to C. in C. Med. etc.)

P.R.U. May 30th visuals. 1615 Taranto 2 battleships, 2 cruisers. Harbour partially obscured. 1705 Messina. No major naval units.  
(N.O.I.C. Malta 301900B. to C. in C. Med. etc.)

Bombardment of Pantellaria. One cruiser from Malta will bombard Pantellaria harbour between 0100 and 0200 May 31st.  
(F.O. 12 C.S. 301425B. to ISIS (R) ILEX, N.O.I.C. Malta, C. in C. Med.)  
My 300944/~~not~~ to ISIS or ILEX, para. 1. and your 301105. / Estimated position of ORION, TROUBRIDGE and PETARD 036° 10' 011° 40' at 2320/30. Thence as necessary to bombard Pantellaria harbour between 0100 and 0200 returning N. of Pantellaria to Malta. (2) Destroyers should keep clear F.O. 12 C.S. confirm.  
(N.O.I.C. Malta 301536 to S.O. Force Q. (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.C.I.S. ISIS, ILEX, ORION.) / N.T. in W.R.  
(Corrupt group). My 201334 (N/T in War Reg. but probably refers to bombardment of Pantellaria.) Photographs show only F. boats present.  
(N.O.I.C. Malta 301902B. to C. in C. Med. etc.)

Algiers Sitrep 218. 29th May. To: Usfor (Action). (R) Agwar, TROOPERS, Mideast, etc. From: Freedom. Signed: Eisenhower. Cite: F.H.G.C.T. 3. L. of C. Bone was raided by enemy aircraft on night of 28/29 May. A few casualties resulted. Details are not available. (Algiers No. T.O.O/30th. Recd. 1540Z/30.)

LEOPARD. (grounded 27 May.) Please pass following from S.F.N.O. Levant to F.N.M.L. London (begins). Present situation of LEOPARD as follows. Ship aground on coastal reef N.N.E. of Benghazi coast 50 yards off mainland. Salvage party on board with pump, rest of crew safely landed waiting at Benghazi. One engine and one boiler compartment flooded. Weather moderating tug will be on spot this afternoon. N.O.I.C. Benghazi directing operations in person estimates chances of salvage 50%. (Ends.)  
(S.O.I. Levant 301625C. to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez for Admiral Auboyneau.)

N.A.A.F. Opsum 98, 29 May. M. 5571E. N.W.A. Strategic A.F. May 29. 8 U.S. Lightnings Porte Ponte De Romano 8 x 1000 from 3000 ft. Target area covered, explosions and fires resulting. 12 U.S. Lightnings Pantellaria 10 x 10007 from 3000 ft. harbour installations well covered. 12 U.S. Warhawks Point Leonardo, Pantellaria, 8 x 500 from 4000 ft. Objectives covered. 74 U.S. Mitchells 66 x 1000 from 8700 ft. to 9500 ft. Lightnings 12 x 1000 from 3000 to 7000 ft. Target area covered but haze

/prevented...



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War Diary.30.5.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

N.A.A.F. prevented observation results. 19 U.S. Marauders escorts 12 U.S. Lightnings Pantellaria 70 x 1000 from 11800 ft., several large fires and 2 large explosions resulted. N.W.A. Tactical A.F. May 29. 12 or 11? U.S. Warhawks Pantellaria dropped 8 x 500 bomb, near misses on Siebel Ferry and small boat.  
(N.A.A.F. Adv. 301633B.)

Enemy (2 corrupt groups) 4 German type R. and 8 Sautter  
Mines Harle mines swept within radius of 2 cables of  
Bizerta. 037° 18' 1 N. 009° 53'.6 E. on May 29th. Those make a total of 106 mines swept by the 20th Trawler Group in North African waters.  
(F.O. Bizerta 301712B. to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. F.O.I.S.)

N.A.A.F. 1. Twelve P.40s. in 3 missions dropped 500 pound  
Report. demolition bombs on Pantellaria and airdrome. Results not observed. 2. Eight P.38s. dropped 8 x 1000 pound bombs from 3,000 feet on Porto Ponte De Romano. Bombs fell on dock area causing explosion and fire. Two bombs hit railroad. 3. Twelve P.38s. 12 P.40s. 24 B.25s. escorted by 12 P.38s. and 19 B26s. escorted by 12 P.38s. attacked installations on Pantellaria throughout the day. 158 x 1000 pound bombs and 8 x 500 pound bombs were dropped. Hits were scored on docks, gun emplacements, Radar Station, and town itself. Fires and explosions were started, heavy dust obscured observations.  
(H.Q. N.A.A.F. Adv. 301718B. to Etousa.)

SIRIUS. Your 291905 (N.T. in W.R.) SIRIUS is to remain at Bone for the present.  
(C. in C. Med. 301729B. to S.O. 12th C.S. (R) SIRIUS, CLEOPATRA, N.O.I.C. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Bone.)

UNISON, N.W. searched channel is being swept tomorrow  
BERYL. Monday morning by Fleet sweepers so that it will not be necessary for BERYL to sweep you back to Marsamxett. If your exercise is satisfactory instruct BERYL to return making her own E.T.A.  
(Capt. (S) 10th S.F. 301752B. to UNISON (R) Cdre. M/S. N.O.I.C. Malta.)

Movements, 30th May Port Said arrivals RORQUAL, SPETSAI.  
Port Said. Departures EREBUS, PROTEA, CESSNOCK, COUNDURIOTCS.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 301827C. to Admty. etc.)

Convoy Following is repetition of F.O.I.S. 301552B.  
G.T.X.1. (begins) Addressed A.I.G. 259 from F.O.I.S. My 291445B delete IMPERIAL TRANSPORT (Ends).  
(C. in C. Med. 301910B. to Admty. etc.)

/Operations...

(reported in 30 0603B)



1139

War Diary.30.5.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Operations by Light Forces. 3 Motor Gunboats operating between South of Marittimo and Granitola returning Bizerta 1000B/31st, codeword LIZARD. 2. 3 P.T. operating between North of Marittimo and Castellamare returning Bizerta 0830B/31st, codeword Scratch. (C. in C. Med. 30200B to ISIS (R) ILEX.)

Movements, Algiers. Arrivals SPEEWELL. Departures M.L.444, MINNA, S/M SICKLE (P.224). (Cdre. Algiers 30200B. to Admty. C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C. Gib. V.A. Malta.)

Movements, Haifa. Arrivals May 30th Greek Des. AETOS, ISLAY, CUMBRAE. Departure May 30th Greek Des. AETOS. Greek Des. IERAX, ISLAY, CUMBRAE, SOUTHERN SEA. (N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports, Haifa 302051C. to Admty. C. in C. Levant.)

Movements, Oran. Following left. U.S.S. NIBLACK, BEYSON, CHAMPLIN, ROWAN, RHIND. C. in C. Med. pass to Comnavnaw. (Com. N.O.B. Oran 30210B. to Admty. etc.) Entered today BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, CONVULVULUS, GAVOTTE, VETCH, TANGO, PIROUETTE, ZETLAND.

Left. TYNEDALE Fr. S/M SULTANE Fr. CHASSEUR III. C. in C. Med. Pass to Comnavnaw. (Com. N.O.B. Oran 212030A. to Admty. etc.)

Malta Air Report. A.I.543 30th May. C.S.R. (A) Air. Part 1, offensive. Night 29/30th May. 1 bomb carrying Wellington made armed shipping search between Sicily and Naples. Mosquitoes made intruder patrols over Sicily. Day 30th May. 14 Spitfires made offensive sweep over South East Sicily. Part 2 enemy air activity. Night 29/30th May. 2225 hrs. 1 J.U.88 approached and dropped flares over the Island, searchlights illuminated and Beaufighter intercepted J.U.88 and damaged it. Day 30th May. 8 Beaufighters escort to outgoing shipping. 1147 hrs 18 plus enemy aircraft including 6 fighter bombers approached Malta at great height but did not cross coast. 9 Spitfires airborne on interception. 1520 hrs 12 plus enemy fighters approached Malta. 16 Spitfires were airborne on interception but enemy aircraft avoided combat and returned. 8 Beaufighters airborne to escort incoming shipping. (A.H.Q. Malta 302150Z.)

Movements, Malta. Sailed DULVERTON, PINDOS, FALK, PRIMULA. Arrived and sailed BELVOIR. Arrived GLOXINIA, HOLCOMBE, ATHERSTONE, WHEATLAND, VETCH, ALDENHAM, SAKTOURIS. (S.N.O. Malta 302159B. to Admty.) Arrivals and departures. QUEEN OLGA, TROUBRIDGE, PETARD, UNSEEN. Arrived ASHANTI, PALADIN, UNSHAKEN. Departures JERVIS, ORION. (V.A. Malta 302325B. to Admty. etc.)

/Enemy...



War Diary.

30.5.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Enemy  
Units.

Position of 3 unknown enemy vessels is 37.03 N.  
13.16 E.  
(A/C G.O.T/V. 302205B. to Air H.Q. Malta.)  
1 unknown enemy vessel in 36.54 N. 13.22 E.  
course 180° speed 15 knots.  
(A/C G.O.T/V 302250B. to Air H.Q. Malta.)

Movements,  
Bizerta. -

Arrivals BREAM, JULIET, STROMA. P.T.511, 512, 526.  
Departures L.S.T.306, 307, 333, 369, 391, 392,  
393, 381, 387 SENTINEL P.545, 562, S.C.10, 30.  
(S.O.I.S. 302212B. to C. in C. Med. etc.)

Movements,  
Bone.

Arrivals M.L. 1222, 1211. Departures ISIS, ILEX,  
HUNDA, WESTRAY P.T.211, 215, 216.  
(N.O.I.C. Bone 302348B. to Admty. etc.)

K.M.S.15.

Following is repetition of my 281608A, addressed  
Commodore Algiers (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C.  
Levant, S.N.O. Tripolitania, Admty, Connv,  
from C. in C. Med. (begins). K.M.S.15. Request  
you will include Tanker ESSO BAYTOWN.

Destination Alexandria. T.O.O. 281608. (Ends).  
(C. in C. Med. 302352B. to Cdre. Algiers.)



1141

30.5.1943.

Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

OPHIR (Hospital Ship). OPHIR sails p.m. today E.T.A. Kilindini 8th June. Embarked following invalids for Kilindini (details) (S.S.T.O. Ceylon 300346Z to D.S.T.O. Kilindini D.S.T.O. Durban, (R) C. in C.E.F. D. of S.T.).

STRATHAIRD STRATHMORE Para. C and D. of your 151815B to P.S.T.O. Capetown is view of your 262140B. Will STRATHAIRD and STRATHMORE on return to Bombay about 20th June still be required to proceed to Suez and Capetown respectively. (P.S.T.O. India 300403Z to D. of S.T.).

Dispositions Eastern Fleet disposition signal No.58 (A) No change (C) SUSSEX on escort duty South Indian Ocean (D) MAURITIUS to Aden. HAWKINS to Durban. KENYA on escort duty off East African Coast.

Others - no change. (E) Unit exercises off Kilindini. (C. in C.E.F. 300527Z).

NIEUW AMSTERDAM. Your 292121B. (Yes?) See C. in C. Ceylon's 290855Z. (P.S.T.O.I. 300603Z to D.S.T. (R) F.O. Ceylon, S.S.T.O. Ceylon, P.S.T.O.M.E. C. in C.E.F.).

M/V Recognition Checkmate system. Concur with procedure in Admiralty 241910B except that consider Warship should be permitted to make an immediate and preliminary signal in the form "check position in lettered co-ordinates" bearing indication of priority "Emergency" if she so desires, this signal to be followed by further signal of same priority giving amplifying details. (2) It is not intended that two separate signals should always be made, but experience has shown that a considerable time may elapse between moment that suspicion is aroused and Warship has been able to give further details, particularly at night. In such cases a speedy final reply from shore authority is more probable if preliminary signal has been received and situation from merchant ship plot assessed. (C. in C.E.F. 300711Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.S.A.).

PULASKI Suggest for consideration that PULASKI on completion repairs Durban be allocated for movement of R.A.F. from Kilindini to Mid East your 290105B and 242255B refer. (Re movement of R.A.F. from Kilindini to Middle East). (D.S.T.O. Kilindini 300755Z to D.S.T. (R) C. in C.E.F. etc.).

Troop Movements. U.S. Authorities have at Abadan about 200 civilian Technicians for repatriation and understand NIEUW AMSTERDAM due yours shortly with U.S.A. personnel for Gulf could embark these. Request expected time of arrival Bombay if known and probable length of stay in port. Blson proposals for movement

/of U.S....



1142

War Diary.

30.5.1945.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Troop  
Movements  
(Contd.) of U.S. personnel to Gulf. (2) Your 270922  
(270927 intended) para.1 and 281147Z. In view  
of withdrawal of SANTHIA from B.P.83 It will be  
necessary to use CITY OF CANTERBURY instead for  
movement of Indian Units to Mideast. Is it  
proposed to include any troopships in B.P.84  
observing large numbers still await movement  
Basra/India. My 071611Z/5 para.B. refers.  
(D.S.T.O.P.G. 300932Z to P.S.T.O.India (R)  
D. of S.T.)

AMRITSAR. Departure AMRITSAR escorting LAOMEDON.  
(N.O.I.C. Madras, 300944Z to Admty. C. in C. E.F.  
F.O. Ceylon, F.O.C.R.I.N.Com. R.I.N.)

VITA  
(Hospital  
Ship) Departure VITA S. of A. 11 knots.  
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 301015Z to F.O. Ceylon, C. in C.  
E.F., C.O.R.Aden, Admty. F.O.C.R.I.N., N.O.I.C.  
Alexandria)

Movements. Colombo arrivals 30th May N.F. 0120Z WILLEM VAN  
DER ZAAN.  
(F.O.Ceylon, 301200Z to Admty)

CARADOC,  
for  
gunner  
training. Your 280716 April. Approved for CARADOC to be  
detailed for this duty. (2) Further signal will  
be made concerning para. 8.  
(D.O.D.(F), 301501B to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C.  
S.A., R.A.T.E.)

BOLD. Following is repetition of my 271200 (Begins)  
BOLD, your 281721 refers. (Originiated by W.R.  
requesting repetition of 271200)  
(N.O.I.C.Seychelles, 301701Z to Admty)



War Diary.

30.5.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

STRIKER San Francisco departed 29 STRIKER for final trials if satisfactory she expects to proceed at 301900Z direct to Balbao. (N.S.H.Q. 300400Z to Admty. (R) B.A.D., B.R.L.O. New York, S.B.N.O. W.Af.)

Movements. St. Johns N.F. 29th. Arrivals WASAGA escorting N.J.27 (?ex) BOTWOOD, CHURCHILL, BRANDON, BADDECK, COLLINGWOOD, ORILLIA ex O.N.S.8. Departures U.S.S. TAMPAEN, MOJAVE, ALGONQUIN escorting S.G.25 to Greenland. TROIS RIVIERES escorting C.L.67 to Sydney. CLOVER escorting W.H.X.241. (N.O.I.C. St.Johns, 300420Z to Admty) Kingston arrivals U.S.D. BLAKELEY U.S.D. BADGER. (S.O.(I) Kingston, 300938Q to Admty.) Arrival ST. ALBANS, TRAIL, TIMMINS ex H.X.241, GRANBY from Lunenburg. (N.O.I.C. Halifax, 301635Z to Admty)

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary	WORCESTERSHIRE	33 $\frac{1}{2}$ <sup>o</sup> N. 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ <sup>o</sup> W.	011 <sup>o</sup>	13
1800	CILICIA	08 <sup>o</sup> N. 28 <sup>o</sup> W.	Patrol	Blank
G.M.T. 30th.	(D.O.D.(F), 300930Z to Opnav (R) Comnav)			

OPAL Kingston departure U.S.S. OPAL. (N.O.I.C. Kingston, 301013Q to Admty etc.)

North Atlantic Convoy Cycles, Escort Groups and Support Groups. Your 281640Z. The effect of the amendment to O.N.S. sailing dates proposed in your para.2 would be to reduce the lay-over of the mid-ocean escort at St.Johns to about 3/4 days. This is considered to be too short and would not allow sufficient time for any necessary repairs to defects or damage occurring during Westward voyage. (2) The difficulties with the W.L.E.F. and the advantage of having two support groups are fully appreciated but in view of para.1 above and as the cycle proposed in A.M.251323 is a short term programme which it is intended to review in the light of estimated presenters for July and subsequent months, it is regretted that your proposal cannot be accepted at present. It is therefore intended to implement the O.N.S. cycle proposed in A.M.251323 as a temporary measure. (A.C.N.S.(H), 301030Z to N.S.H.Q. (R) Connav, C. in C. C.N.A. F.O.N.F., C. in C. W.A.)

Dispositions. Dispositions of operational units in North Atlantic. Area Iceland (C), JAMAICA, KENT, 1 Destroyer. Area Scapa, ALABAMA, DUKE OF YORK, SOUTH DAKOTA, BELFAST, BERWICK, EMERALD, GLASGOW, 17 Destroyers. Area Clyde, FURIOUS, INDOMITABLE, SCYLLA, BERMUDA, CUMBERLAND, 1 Destroyer. Area Plymouth, CHARYBDIS, UGANDA, 4 Destroyers. Area Gibraltar, HOWE, KING GEORGE V, FORMIDABLE, AURORA, DELHI, CARLISLE, NEWFOUNDLAND, PENELOPE, SIRIUS, ADVENTURE 8 destroyers (D.O.D.(H), 301032Z to C. in C. U.S. Fleet)



1144

War Diary.

30.5.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.- Contd.

A.T.46. Disregard Radio Washington 291424 from Connav.  
(QUEEN Proceed in accordance with A.M.292031.  
ELIZABETH) (D.O.D.(H), 301107B to A.T.46 (QUEEN ELIZABETH (R) C. in C. W.A.)

B.5 Group. Argentinia 29th May. Departure 0800Z B.5 Group  
P.554. 1130Z P.554 for ST.Johns N.F.  
(Capt. (D) Argentinia, 301154Z to Admty)

6th Escort Request you will sail 6th Escort Group as early  
Group. as practicable to proceed towards position  
40° N. 50° W. (2) The 6th Escort Group is  
hereby placed under the operational control of  
Cinclant.  
(D.O.D.(H), 301205B to S.O.Present Afloat Argentinia,  
(R) 6th Escort Group, C. in C. C.N.W.A.,  
F.O.N.F., Cinclant, Cominch, Comtenthfleet,  
C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C.Gibraltar, C. in C. Med.)

Your 291930Z. The 6th Escort Group had been instructed to  
remain at Argentinia for the first few days in June in the hopes  
that the U-Boat situation would clarify. (2) I agree now that  
it will be dangerous to wait and have requested Senior Officer  
present Afloat Argentinia to sail the 6th Escort Group towards  
position 40° N. 50° W. as early as practicable. (3) The 6th  
Escort Group has been placed under the operational control of  
Cinclant.  
(D.O.D.(H), 301210B to Cominch, (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.A.  
Cinclant, Comnavu.)

Convoy Arrival FORT WILLIAM escorting J.H.53.  
J.H.53 (C. Halifax, 301216Z to Admty)

L.S.T's Following received from N.O.B.Bermuda for  
transmission "From N.O.B.Bermuda to C.T.F.69  
Departing Bermuda about 1200Z/31 L.S.T's 322 12  
FORT LEE escorted by S.C. 681 S.C.649. Proceeding  
R/V with U.G.S.9 at position lat. 32.40 lon. 64.22 at about  
1500Z/31. Release S.C.681 when others joined. All have  
straggler route. T.O.O.301526Z Ends.  
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 301319Z to Admty. C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Gib.  
N.S.M.Q.)

Task Force C. in C. Lant, 291927 addressed for action to Com.  
66, T.F.66, informs as follows:  
Convoy Modify my 032357. Escort convoy G.U.S.8 to  
G.U.S.8. Hampton Roads.  
(Comnavu, 301332 to Admty)

Task ×C. in C. Lant 292307 addressed for action to  
Group Com. Task Group 21.5 informs as follows:  
21.5. Task Group 21.5 hereby reconstituted as follows:  
reconstitu- Lt. Comdr. Gragg in ROPER, LEA and DECATUR.  
tion. Escort convoy O.T.6 sailing 8th June from New  
York to Mediterranean ports via Aruba. Routeing

and /...



1145

War Diary.

30.5.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Task Group 21.5. reconstitution. (Contd.) and "Chops" will be specified by Cominch (C. & R.) Port Director New York will name commercial tankers in convoy from which to fuel destroyers at sea. Return to New York via Aruba escorting convoy T.O.6 in accordance with Admiralty routing, when directed by Com. Moroccan S.F. (Comnaveu, 301535 to Admty)

Convoy J.H.53 J.H.53 J.H.53 arrived 1 less IRES (Nor.) plus ROYALITE. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 301430Z to Admty)

N.S.H.Q. S/M Estimate. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa estimate of submarines (?North) of (?040°) North West of 040° W. 1200Z/30th. (N.S.H.Q. 301430Z)

Convoy F.H.57. Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 301432 to Admty)

S/M Estimate 30th May. U.S.S/M Notice. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 301530, 301531, 301616, 301617, 301618)

122nd M.S. Flotilla. Your 27191. In view of urgency, propose 122nd M.S.F. be routed via Londonderry to Gibraltar as in my 271221/April. (D.M.S.301559B to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

OTTAWA. My P.C. and S. at 1600Z 056° 49' N. 051° 33' W. D.Reckoning 090° 9. Weather report. (OTTAWA, 301620Z to KOOTNENAY, C. in C. W.A.)

BAZELEY. Bermuda arrived. (S.B.N.O.W.A. 301708P to Admty)

U/B menace, proposed staggering of Ships in Convoy. / For Admiral Usborne. Your 282227Z it is considered that proposed formation would make station keeping undesirably difficult and emergency turns hazardous particularly at night and in low visibility. (2) No objection to trials for short periods provided Commodore and S.O. Escort Agree. (D.T.D. (Agreed by D.A/S.W.), 301751B to B.R.L.O. New York, (R) C. in C. C.N.A., B.A.D., N.S.H.Q. C. in C. W.A.)

Task Group 21.12 constitution. X C. in C. Lant 301616 addressed for action to BOGUE and for information to Com. U.S. Forces Aruba-Curacao, Comnaveu, informs as follows: Task Group 21.12 hereby constituted as follows: BOGUE, CortDiv-1. In accordance with Admiralty

301210B /...



1146

War Diary.30.5.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Task Group 21.12 constitution. (Contd.) 301210B, sail when ready for position 40° 50 W. BELKNAP will be directed by me to join you when she is ready. Before you sail, advise your E.T.A. at 40° N. 50° W. Further orders will be issued later. (Comnav, 301852Z to Admty (R) C. in C. W.A.)

Stationing of ships in Convoy. A.M.151210 March the trials referred to have now been completed and it is requested that convoys may now revert to normal formation. (D.T.D. 301901B to Connv, (R) N.S.H.Q., B.A.D. C. in C. W.A.)

Convoy H.J.55. Arrived. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 301940Z to Admty)

U/B's sighted by A/C. Aircraft reported 6 possibly 10 submarines on the surface in 057° 00' N. 053° 40' W. at 1856Z/29th. (C. in C. C.N.W.A. 301952Z to G.B.7A)

Convoy H.X.242. (1) Sailing telegram part 1. (2) Position A A at 20000Z/31st. (3) (5) (8) Route and R/V as per Admiralty 231146 and C.. in C. C.N.A. 251225 May except all times 24 hours later. H.O.M.P.1300Z June 3rd. (6) Task Unit W.1. (24.18.1) MONTGOMERY, S.O.FENNEL, NANAIMO, NORANDA, LACHINE. (P.D. New York, 302000Z to Admty)

Sub. attack and sighting summary. All times Z. Para. D. P.C.622 sound contact 30.29 N. 81.02 W. 30.1705. R.C.A.F. Hudson sights 6 to 10 subs. 57 N. 53.40 W. 1856 29. Fisherman sighted sub. 46.44 N. 57.05 W. 2030 25. (Cominch, 302025Z to Admty)

Convoy H.S.88. BARRIE, MILLTOWN with H.S. 88 consisting 5 ships E.T.A. Sydney C.B.310900Z. (BARRIE, 302151Z to C. in C. C.N.W.A. Halifax, N.O.I.C. Sydney C.B. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

Convoy B.W.26. Hove to and scattered in whole easterly gale vicinity 46.35 (57?) 30. (MALPEQUE, 302235Z to Connv, N.O.I.C.Sydney (C.B) (R) A.C.I.C., C. in C. C.N.A., Admty, C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q., Com. (D) W.A. Cdre. (D) Argentia, F.O.N.F., H.Q.C.C.)



1147

30.5.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Hospital Ships, proposed procedure. X Following upon sinking of CENTAUR C. in C. South West Pacific. Army and Political view here is that in future Hospital Ships in this area should: (a) have all Geneva Convention markings painted out. (b) be blacked out and (c) be escorted. (2) Request your views. (A.C.N.B. 300301Z, 300539Z to Admty (R) B.A.D.)  
My 300301Z. Request all after "escorted" in para (1) be deleted.  
(A.C.N.B. 300539Z to Admty (R) B.A.D.)

Digest Serial No.495 May 29th. Forenoon photos Rabaul Harbour reveal 35 ships including 22 Merchantmen totalling 102,000 tons. 2 medium Tankers, 4 Submarines, 2 Sub Chasers, 1 each Light Cruiser YUBARI Class Minesweeper, Subtender, Destroyer tender and damaged Destroyer also 2 flying boats, six Floatplanes. (2) Early morning search observed single small vessel Madang Harbour and 3 others under 3,000 tons 5 miles to N.E. course S. (3) Shortly afterwards same R/C Liberator sighted vicinity Hansa Bay 6 ships including possible gunboat, a Destroyer, 1 medium Cargo Vessel. (4) Mid morning photos same Convoy show 1 Destroyer 3 medium Cargo Vessels and a Coaster all stationary in or near Hansa Bay. also 20 Barges. Large quantities stores visible along shore also 34 gun or machine gun batteries. R/C Lightning this time sighted 12 enemy aircraft patrolling over shipping. (5) Dusk R/C Liberator saw 6 ships 12 miles North East Hansa Bay course 45° and 30 minutes later same distance to N.W. course 140°. Bombs dropped scoring 2 near misses on Merchantman left smoking. (9) Afternoon R/C Fortress observed 25 barges along North coast New Britain Kimbe Bay to Cape Gloucester and another 4 on shore East of Gasmata. Many strafed and some destroyed. (12) Noon R/C saw 3 medium vessels at Koepang and Tenau. (13) During morning 2 liberators dropped bombs among several aircraft parked Babo Aerodrome damaging at least 3. Later bombed Barracks at Nabire. One small Merchant Vessel seen along-side wharf Babo and another of 200 tons 30 miles away heading thereto. (14) Same time another Liberator attacked 1000 ton vessel towing 6 barges off south coast Boeroe Island course 120° possibly damaging ship with 2 near misses. (16) Makassar 4 medium Merchant ships observed also 1 probable Warship plus many Praus (as received) and small craft. (18) Three small Vessels under 500 tons observed off North Coast Flores Island Course 260° morning. (19) Liberty ship unsuccessfully attacked with 2 torpedoes 291248Z in 32° 52' S. 153° 49' E. Convoy escort sighted torpedo track at 291118Z in 37° 03' S. 150° 22 E. D/F fixes of Submarines in vicinity of both these positions.  
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A. 300848, 300900Z)

Movements. Arrivals Brisbane 29th U.S. Dest. DAYTON  
Townsville 28th GYMPIE Milne Bay 29th BUNBURY.  
Departure Sydney (N.S.W) 29th U.S. Dest. HELM  
for Noumea Port Moresby 29th U.S. Dest. MAHAN for  
Port Moresby area Brisbane 29th U.S. Dest. DRAYTON for Sydney  
(N.S.W.)  
(A.C.N.B. 301031Z to Admty)

Arrivals /...



1148

War Diary.

30.5.43.  
• Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements.  
(Contd.) Arrivals 29th May Thursday Island U.S. Transport  
VAN DER LIJN. Hired transport TAROONA departed  
Port Moresby 29th due Townsville 31st. U.S.  
transport BOTH departed Cairns 29th due Thursday  
Island 1st June thence MERAUKE. U.S. transport  
CREMER departed Brisbane 29th due Sydney (N.S.W.) 31st  
(C.S.W. P.S.F. 301106 to Admty)

NIEUW  
AMSTERDAM,  
Escort. Your 290156 Admiralty message 231735 offer of  
cruiser escort is much appreciated and accepted.  
(N.Z.N.B. 302205Z to C.S.W.P.S.F. (R) C. in C.  
E.F., Admty. Com. 7th Fleet)

MONOWAI  
(substitute  
required) Question raised in your 262131, April is under  
consideration by War Cabinet. Reply will be sent  
as early as possible.  
(A.C.N.B. 300012Z to D. of S.T.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 301330B, 301335B)



1149

31. 5. 1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

1. CUMBERLAND, SCYLLA, FURIOUS, BERMUDA with 3 destroyers left the Clyde at 1306B today for Akureyri; and at 1038B C. in C. H.F. in DUKE OF YORK with SOUTH DAKOTA, ALABAMA, BERWICK and 9 destroyers left Scapa for Hvalfiord. KENT and JAMAICA with one destroyer left Akureyri at 2305B for Hvalfiord.
- X 2. A force of E-boats plotted by Plymouth R.D.F. between 0015 and 0320 this morning in the Lyme Bay area were not located by our surface forces and are suspected to have laid mines.
3. The S/M TUNA on patrol in about 64° 21' N., 00° 56' E. reports today having sunk one U-boat and that she intends to leave patrol at 0001/1st with her port engine out of action; and another U-boat was sunk today in the Biscay area by A/C on patrol.
4. The British CATFORD, 1568 tons, in convoy F.N. 34 was mined and sunk off Spurn Point at 1718. 5 of her crew are missing and 19 survivors will be landed at Grimsby.
5. Cdr. S.3. in TEDWORTH reported at 1829B that the position of UNTAMED has been marked, but that the weather has become unsuitable for diving and boat-work and that no sign of activity had been heard from UNTAMED in the past 24 hours.

South Atlantic.

6. U.S. cruiser MARBLEHEAD, and U.S. destroyer MOFFETT left Recife at 1630Z escorting the U.S. tanker BOHEMIAN CLUB to Ascension.



31.5.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean

- Pantellaria X 7. Pantellaria was bombarded between 0100 and  
bombarded. 0200 by ORION cruiser, accompanied by TROUBRIDGE  
and PETARD, destroyers. 2 Albacores with flares  
provided illumination for the naval units. 150  
rounds of 6" and some smaller calibre from the  
destroyers fell in the inner harbour. No  
appreciable opposition was met with and there  
were no damage or casualties in H.M. ships.
- Destroyer and 8. ISIS and ILEX patrolled last night north of  
M/B patrols. Pantellaria, and JERVIS and QUEEN OLGA off the  
East Coast of Sicily. M.T.Bs. and M.G.Bs. from  
Bizerta swept between Cape Granitola and  
Castellamare, and M.T.Bs. from Malta between  
Licata and Corrienti Island.
- Air 9. Two Beaufighter bombers attacked a caique of  
operations. about 100 tons off Thermia Island, Aegean Sea,  
and made many hits with cannon fire.  
The N.W. African Air Force kept up its attacks  
today on Pantellaria, Cagliari and other targets.
- Enemy Air X 10. Some bombs were dropped on Valetta, Malta,  
Operations. last night in a raid by about 36 enemy fighters  
and fighter bombers, causing slight civilian  
damage.
- MAURITIUS 11. The cruiser MAURITIUS, on arrival in the  
Mediterranean from the East Indies, is to form  
part of the 15th Cruiser Squadron. Immediately  
on arriving at Port Said she is to be sailed for  
Malta for bombardment practice.
- Work of X 12. In a message to C. in C. Mediterranean today  
Minesweepers. the Admiralty say that the opening of the  
through Mediterranean route so soon after the fall  
of Tunisia is a tribute to the fine work of the  
minesweeping forces, and request that their  
Lordship's appreciation be conveyed to all  
concerned.
- M/V Repairs X 13. The Admiralty agree that early use should be  
made of repair facilities for damaged British  
merchant ships in Spanish and Portuguese ports,  
and conditions under which this can be done are  
indicated in a message to C. in C. Med.



MOST SECRET.

1151

31.5.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

14. Minesweeping at Bermuda has been accepted as a U.S. naval commitment, and S.B.N.O. Western Atlantic proposes to return surplus stores to the United Kingdom.



1152

War Diary.31.5.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M Movements. S.5's 291010B. Sailed 0935. Route amended by C. in C. Plymouth's 310325B (UNBENDING). (C. in C. Portsmouth, 311010B). My 291102 and F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 291508. Sailed TANTALUS. (N.O.I.C. Barrow, 311057).  
Intend to sail P.555 escorted by M.L.577 to arrive 2100/3rd June for fuel. M.L.577 for fuel and onward routing to Milford Haven. M.L.472 will be sailed to arrive Oban 1400/4th June for fuel and to escort submarine to Tobermory. Request submarine may be sailed to arrive Tobermory p.m.5th June. (WESTERN ISLES, 311101B to N.O.I.C. Oban).  
Intend sailing UNBENDING escorted by WANDERER at 0900/1st June for Rothesay.  
(2) Routed standard convoy route to the Smalls. Thence in accordance with F.N.M.21st (T) 1943 and by A.M. Q.Z.S. 398 and 53 (C. in C. Plymouth, 311345B).  
Positions of S/Ms at 0800/1st and movements for following 24 hours.  
(F.O.S. 311734B, 311923B, 010014B, 011244B).  
My 301643. Sailed (S.54).  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 312016B to A.C.O.S.)  
S.54 escorted by LOCH MONTEITH left Lerwick 2015B/31st for 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles thence S.54 unescorted and on surface at C.O.'s discretion proceeding North Russia by route "Black".  
S.54 carries only Verey lights and flashings recognition signals from A.S.R.S.6 as given in Admiralty message 340A of 1st March 1943.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 312019B to S/Ms).

GLASGOW Scapa arrivals GLASGOW.  
(A.C.O.S., 311248).

CUMBERLAND, SCYLLA, FURIOUS, BERMUDA. Sailed CUMBERLAND, SCYLLA, FURIOUS, BERMUDA, ECHO, MIDDLETON, ATHABASKAN to comply with C. in C. H.F., 281901B. E.T.A. 1100Z/3rd. Codeword "Familiar".  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 311306B).

DUKE OF YORK, SOUTH DAKOTA, ALABAMA, BERWICK. Scapa departures C. in C. H.F. in DUKE OF YORK, with C.T.G.92.4 in SOUTH DAKOTA, ALABAMA, BERWICK, MILNE, OPPORTUNE, OB DURATE, OBEDIENT, ELLYSON, RODMAN, EMMONS, MACOMBE, and FITCH at 1038B/31st May in accordance with his 301834B.  
(A.C.O.S., 311658B to A.C.I.C.)

ZETLAND Request you will signal onward route for ZETLAND 2. Final destination is Jarrow to refit.  
(D.O.D. H., 311828B to C. in C. Plymouth).

/PRINS...



1153

31.5.1943.

Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

PRINS My 301202B and C. in C. Plymouth 301825B. Sailed.  
ALBEAT. C. in C. Med., is requested to signal onward route from position E given in Admiralty's 271835B. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 312022B to F.O.I.C. Gib).

Operations.

E-boats off / Your 302345B. Return to Plymouth.  
Start Point. (C. in C. Plymouth 310022B to GARTH).  
M.G.Bs. 80, 115, and 81 proceed forthwith to Dart buoy.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 310027B to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).  
E-boat Plots. Group A. 1220 Start Point 10, course 300° speed 20. Group B 090° Start Point 20, course 270° speed 25, at 0115.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 310119B to QUORN, KRAKOWIAK, WENSLEYDALE, MEYNEL, M.G.B. 81)  
Group AAT 0130 in position 125° Start Point. 6 M.G.Bs. engaging E Group A.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 310133B to 5 LDP, 5 WQV, QUORN, KRAKOWIAK, MEYNELL, WENSLEYDALE).  
Sail available M.Ls. to engage group B and take control of them.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 310144B to Dartmouth).  
Return to harbour.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 310257B to QUORN, KRAKOWIAK, MEYNELL, WENSLEYDALE).  
Arrived GARTH  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 310347B to Admty).

S/M (1) ULTIMATUM, STUBBORN, Capt. (S) 6 leaving  
Patrols. Mid Point of patrol line as necessary to cross lat.  
U-boat of Muckle Flugga on 3rd June at 0500B, 0900B,  
sunk by and 1300B respectively proceed thence Lerwick.  
TUNA. (2) Submarines are to pass through following  
positions ULTIMATUM 063° 35' 003° 30' and 090°  
Muckle Flugga 5 miles. STUBBORN 090° Muckle  
Flugga 10 miles. TUNA 090° Muckle Flugga 8 miles.

(3) Submarines are to proceed dived by day as much as possible when North 062°.  
(Capt. S.9., 310935 to S/Ms).

I request you will sail submarines from Lerwick as follows.  
(1) TRUCULENT at 1600B/1st June through 090° Muckle Flugga 6 miles and 063° 25' 001° 40' W. to patrol line CC.  
(2) SEADOG at 1600/2nd June through 090° Muckle Flugga 7 miles and 063° 25' 000° 55' W. to patrol line EE.  
(3) SATYR at 2300B/3rd June through 090° Muckle Flugga 9 miles to patrol line FF.  
(4) Attention is drawn to F.O.S. 301423B para. 3.  
(Capt. S.9., 310941B to S.O. S/M Lerwick).

TALLY HO sailed from Lerwick 1210B/31 unescorted and on surface at C.O's discretion till 062° N. thence diving by day as much as possible proceed through 063° 45' N., 005° 30' W, thence, patrolling line BB.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 311241B to S/Ms).

/Positions...



War Diary.31.5.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

S/M Patrols Positions of submarines at 0800/1st June and  
U-boat sunk movements for following 24 hours.  
by TUNA. (A) HAKE approx.  $54^{\circ} 05' N.$ ,  $33^{\circ} 05' W.$ , diving  
(contd). by day to patrol vicinity  $53^{\circ} 38' N.$ ,  $37^{\circ} 02' W.$   
(B) HERRING patrolling vicinity  $54^{\circ} 39' N.$ ,  $38^{\circ} 36' W.$   
(C) HADDO patrolling vicinity  $51^{\circ} N.$ ,  $35^{\circ} W.$   
(D) STUBBORN patrolling vicinity  $62^{\circ} 50' N.$ ,  $02^{\circ} 30' E.$  leaves  
patrol approx. 0200B/2nd passing through 090 Muckle Flugga 10  
at 0900B/3rd probably dived by day when North of  $62^{\circ}$   
(E) ULTIMATUM very approx.  $63^{\circ} 35' N.$ ,  $003^{\circ} 30' W.$  probably  
diving by day when North of  $62^{\circ}$  to 090 Muckle Flugga 5, E.T.A.  
0500B/3rd.  
(F) TUNA patrolling vicinity  $64^{\circ} 21' N.$ ,  $00^{\circ} 56' E.$  leaves  
patrol approx. 0001B/2nd for 090 Muckle Flugga 8, E.T.A. 1300B/3rd  
probably diving by day when North of  $62^{\circ} N.$   
(G) SHAD patrolling vicinity  $64^{\circ} 52' N.$ ,  $001^{\circ} 31' W.$   
(J) TEMPLAR  $44^{\circ} 20' N.$ ,  $10^{\circ} 01' W.$ , dived by day through  $44^{\circ} 20' N.$ ,  
 $10^{\circ} 30' W.$ , and  $43^{\circ} 01' N.$ ,  $10^{\circ} 30' W.$  at 0600B/2nd then  
to South.  
(K) TALLY HO approx.  $62^{\circ} 30' N.$ ,  $03^{\circ} 14' W.$ , dived by day through  
 $63^{\circ} 45' N.$ ,  $05^{\circ} 30' W.$ , to patrol vicinity  $64^{\circ} 42' N.$ ,  $05^{\circ} 26' W.$ ,  
120 miles in 24 hours.  
(F.O.S., 311734B to Admty).  
Your 311015. Intend to leave to patrol line EE at 0001/1st,  
diving by day until  $062^{\circ} N.$ , Port engine out of action. S.O.A.  
on surface 4 knots. Request bombing restriction accordingly.  
One U-boat sunk.  
(TUNA 311911B to Capt. S.9).

Coastal 1. Intend M.Ls. 269 (S.O.) 303, and 205 to patrol  
Patrols. tonight on lat.  $50^{\circ} 20' N.$ , between  $01^{\circ} 45' W.$ ,  
and  $02^{\circ} 25' W.$   
2. Leave Portland at 2200 via Q.Z.S. 382 and  
leave patrol line at dawn/1. Returning via

Q.Z.S. 382.

3. Object anti E-boat patrol. Codeword "Kettle".  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 310954B).

1. S.G.B. 4, M.G.B. 611, 614, 615, M.T.B. 250 to carry out  
anti E-boat patrol tonight on lat.  $50^{\circ} 25' N.$ , between  $00^{\circ} 15' W.$   
and  $01^{\circ} 00' W.$  from 2315B to 0415B. N.O.I.C. Newhaven to arrange  
R/V with M.G.B. 615. Codeword "Device".

2. ALBRIGHTON, STEVENSTONE immediate notice Yarmouth, codeword  
"Advent".

3. M.L. 309, 464 to patrol Searched Channel between F and EA 5  
Buoy.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 311348B).

Amend my 311348B para. 2 for Yarmouth read St. Helens.

If weather is unsuitable for coastal forces, destroyers will be  
ordered to patrol in area referred to in para. 1.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 311903B).

My 310954B. "Kettle" sailed.

(F.O.I.C. Portland, 312220B).



1155

31.5.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

A/C for  
Tangmere.

Admiralty's 281326B. 3 Albacores of 841 Squadron are to be detached to Tangmere today 31st May. In order to maintain this detachment it appears necessary to consider all sixteen aircraft of 841 A.S. I.E. and for the additional ground crew personnel to be provided. (H.Q.F.C., 311020B to Admty).

Mining.

SCOTT

Sailed SCOTT.  
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway 310809B).

Thames  
Estuary.

One ground mine detonated by sweeper at 0725B 30 in 036° B.6 A Buoy 1.2 miles.  
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 311040B).  
One ground mine detonated 173° Sunk Head Tower 2.9 miles.  
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 311129B).  
One ground mine detonated 262° B.8 one mile.  
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 311206B).  
1 Ground mine detonated. 170° Sunk Head Fort 2.95 miles.  
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 311325B).

H.V.5

X Operation H.V.5 completed.  
(PLOVER 311517B to C. in C. Plymouth).

Q.U.4

My 291132. Add para. 3 if mines have to be jettisoned they are to be dropped live if inside 12 fathoms and providing approx. position is known.  
(C. in C. Nore, 211524B to BEEHIVE).  
My 291132B. Postponed a further 24 hours.  
(C. in C. Nore, 311633B to BEEHIVE).

Sweep in  
Lyme Bay  
Area.

Request you will sail BEN URIE, LOCH BUIE, BRECON CASTLE and PATTI to Dartmouth using A sweep in B formation as deep as practicable. (C. in C. Plymouth, 311706B to F.O.I.C. Portland). Your 311706B. Intend at 0545 tomorrow BEN URIE, LOCH BUIE, PATTI and BRECON CASTLE to sweep Q.Z.S.415 to Dart Buoy returning to Dartmouth on completion Codeword "Stencil".  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 312102B to C. in C. Plymouth).

CATFORD  
sunk.  
(F.N.34).

? SS. CATFORD mined in 053° 39' N., 000° 41' E. KINGSTON OLIVINE standing by.  
(WORCESTER 311718 to C. in C. Nore).  
SS. CATFORD of F.N.34 mines in 053° 37' 37" N. 000° 42' 12" E. 19 survivors will be disembarked Grimsby, 5 missing. 5 stretcher cases.  
(WIDGEON 311811B to C. in C. Nore).  
Your 311718B. Tug is leaving Grimsby now.  
(C. in C. Nore, 311811B to WORCESTER).

/Search...



War Diary.31.5.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. - Contd.

Search Your 222229B. HARLECH CASTLE reports operation completed.  
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway 312025B to C. in C. W.A.)

Enemy Intelligence.

E-boats X Enemy shipping plotted by Plymouth R.D.F. 30/31 May.  
1. At 0015/31 E 64 K 4 vessels 17 miles 315° from the Casquets on N. Westerly course speed 20 knots fading at 0025.  
2. At 0108 E 64 K Reappeared 23 miles 090° from Start Point developing into E-boat activity group B East of Berry Head and finally fading at 0320 25 miles 160° from Portland Bill on Easterly course.  
3. E 66 K appeared at 0059 in position 19 miles 125° from Start Point developing into E-boat activity Group A 6 miles 130° from Start Point and finally fading at 0212 in position 21 miles 140° from Start Point on a southerly course.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 311081B to Admty).

Merchant Ships. P.C.S. of 2 medium sized merchant vessels, one small merchant vessel, 58° 40' N., 05° 30' E. 330° 10 knots.  
(A/C 333 Sq. Duty G. 311346 to 18 Group).

U-boats.

U-boats reported or attacked in North Atlantic. Have attacked firm contact in 066° 28' N., 021° 07' W. No results as yet. Am leaving BEAUMARIS to investigate, rejoining in one hour if no results.  
(LLANDUDNO 310045B to S.O.(I) Iceland).  
D/F bearings at 2032Z/30th indicate U-boat in area within 100 miles of 48 N. 20 W.  
(D.D.I.C., 310154B)

QUEENSBOROUGH, SCORPION, MATCHLESS join QUAIL forthwith and search for U-boat reported by P.241 in area C.2 in vicinity EE at 1330.

(R.A.D. H.F., 311452B).

Submarine sighted by Transit.A/C at 1640B/31st in 064° 55' N., 028° 10' W, course 240°.

(A.C.I.C., 311734B to Ships).

Submarine periscope reported by H.M. Submarine SYRTIS in 59° 1' 30" N., 03° 44' W., at 1330B today.

2. No further sighting or contact has been obtained.

3. Destroyer and air search is being maintained.

(A.C.O.S., 312105B to Admty).

Your 311845. Shall have completed Vignot curve of search by 2200 in position 059° 15' N., 004° 35' W. Consider further search fruitless.

(QUEENBOROUGH 312115B).

/U-boats...



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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-boats. - Contd.

U-boats in Biscay Area. One U-boat sunk by A/C.

(A) 043° 51' N., 015° 57' W. 261 (?500 or 903 or 159) A May.  
(B) TEST, HYDERABAD  
(C) Hunt abandoned 1830A. Contact lost. Orders from S.O. of escort to rejoin by 2100A. (TEST, 310751Z to C. in C. W.A.)  
(A) 043° 49' N., (?015°) 56' W. 261427Z.

{B} HYDERABAD and TEST.  
{C} Lost contact 261456Z oil wreckage, air (?bubbles). (?HYDERABAD, 311015B).  
Am over enemy submarine in 46° 38' N., 10° 42' W. (A/C 58 Sq. Duty R. 311550 to 19 Group).  
Have attacked enemy with depth charges S/M disabled. (A/C 58 Sq. Duty R., 311600 to 19 Group).  
Enemy has been severely damaged by air attack. (A/C 58 Sq. Duty R., 311610 to 19 Group).  
Am over enemy submarine in (?lat) 09° 55' W. (A/C 58 Sq. Duty J. 311710 to 19 Group).  
Have attacked enemy with depth charges, estimate no hits. Enemy submarine is still on the surface. (A/C 58 Sq. Duty J. 311710 to 19 Group).  
Am over enemy submarine in 45° 38' N., 13° 04' W. (A/C 201 Sq. Duty R., 311713 to 15 Group).  
Plane attacked enemy S/M with depth charges. (A/C 201 Sq. Duty R. 311722 to 15 Group).  
U-boat is sunk. Crew in water. Returning to base. (A/C E. of 10 Coastal Sqdn. 311731B to 19 Group).  
U-boat sunk. Am returning to base. (A/C 58 Sq. Duty J. 311848B to 19 Group).  
Am over enemy S/M in 45° 50' N., 08° 45' W. (A/C 228 Sq. Duty X., 311934 to 19 Group).  
S/M has dived in 45.42 N. longitude indecypherable. (A/C 228 Sq. Duty X., 311938B to 19 Group).

DON Am on 065° 25' N., 024° 35' W. No sign of torpedoed ship. Am continuing search for survivors and for wreckage.  
(ARDROSSAN, 310821B to A.C.I.C.)  
Your 310820 proceed to Akureyri. Ship has arrived Reykjavik.  
(A.C.I.C., 310941B to ARDROSSAN).

Ref. Distress message from SS. DON broadcast by Whitehall W/T Station at 2000Z/30.  
This message should not have been transmitted by DON. The only evidence of a S/M being in the vicinity is that 2 of the crew say they saw a periscope about 500 yards away up sun. Periscope was not seen by anyone else on board and had disappeared by the time crew had gone to action stations. DON has arrived safely at Reykjavik.  
(A.C.I.C., 311844B to Ships).

/Hedgehog...



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War Diary.31. 5. 1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.U-boats. - Contd.

Hedgehog or Depth-charge. Paras. 5 and 6 of No. AZ.208 are thought to have influenced some Commanding Officers to use the Hedgehog in preference to depth-charges even in most unfavourable circumstances.

2. Depth-charge attacks, unless they cause damage generally tend to force the U-boat deep, and it is therefore recommended that the Hedgehog should be used in the early attacks in a hunt when the U-boat is likely to be comparatively shallow and the greater killing potentialities of the weapon can be exploited to the full.

3. The Hedgehog should not be used in weather so bad that it makes accurate steering impracticable and asdic results unreliable.

4. If asdic contact is lost at a range greater than about 400 yards, the chance of a kill with a Hedgehog or depth-charge pattern is about the same, and the latter should be preferred owing to its damaging or moral effect.

(D.A./S.W., 311224B Ad. Gen. Message 0983A)

A/C speeds for attacking U-boats. Reports of five day attacks by Swordfish aircraft armed with depth charges in first sustained operation by an escort carrier gives mean attacking speed of 130 knots with minimum of 115 knots. This speed is higher than has hitherto been taught and was due either to aircraft having to attack at once if the U-boat dived on being sighted or to the natural desire to close quickly if the U-boat decided to fight it out on surface.

2. In view of this experience 130 knots is to be regarded as the normal attacking speed in a day depth charge attack on a U-boat by Swordfish aircraft. Air crews are to be trained and distributor gear adjusted accordingly. No repeat no alteration is to be made in spacing for the present.

3. Further information will be promulgated and Air Fighting instructions and Admiralty Letters amended as soon as sufficient experience has been gained to confirm these instructions.

(D.A.W.T.311422B: R.Message 664R).

Casualties & Defects.

Dinghy Proceed forthwith by Standard route to 180° The Lizard 3 miles, 180° Bishop 10 miles, position (A) 049° 01' N., 010° 01' W, thence to rescue of British airmen in dinghy in approx. 047° 20' N. 010° 02' W. Expect air escort by single Sorties of Beaufighters from 0600/31st. (C. in C. Plymouth, 310007B to WENSLEYDALE, BRIDPORT).

UNTAMED

My 301805B. TEDWORTH moored over position of UNTAMED. Bubbles still rising. Divers going down. Commander Mills on staff of S.3 has taken charge of salvage operations in TEDWORTH. N.O.I.C. is remaining in SHEMARA for the present. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 310034B).

/Sailed...



31.5.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

UNTAMED  
(contd). Sailed HESPERIA to assist TEDWORTH. My 301805B ref.  
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 310220B to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Following received from Commander S.3 begins  
Diving suspended at 0100 on account of tide.  
Resuming at 0500. Buffs lost but submarine believed located  
by GRAPNEL and position (?is) marked. Staybright sweep  
may be required. Nothing seen or heard since bubbles at 2215.  
310415B Ends.

(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 310730B to Admty).

Following from Cdr. S.3 begins:- Regret tide was too strong  
for diver at 0730 and next attempt will be 1100.

(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 311015B to Admty).

Following from S.3 begins. Following ships are required  
to stand by TEDWORTH

(A) WOLFE, SHEMARA, WHITE THORN, BARFIELD.

(B) Two lifting craft, three tugs, and CHIEFTAIN of Liverpool  
and Glasgow salvage association.

Remaining ships return to Harbour. Request one M.F.V. or  
Drifter to attend TEDWORTH.

Ships in (A) will be released as soon as S/M is buoyed.  
T.O.O. 311530B Ends. Drifter WELWYN has been detailed.

(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 311833B to Admty).

Following received from Cdr. S.3 in WOLFE begins:-  
No result at 1100. Position established Echo soundings and  
sweeping at 150 yards north east of buoyed position. Am  
re-berthing now.

(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 311530B to Admty).

Following from Cdr. (S) 3 Addressed N.O.I.C. Campbeltown  
repeated Captain S.3 begins:-

Weather unsuitable for diving and boat work. Position by echo-  
sounding marked. Have transferred to WOLFE. TEDWORTH is at  
half hour's notice for re-mooring when swell moderates. SHEMARA  
stand by in A/S contact. All other ships have returned to  
harbour. No positive sign of activity heard from submarine  
in past 24 hours. T.O.O. 311829B. Ends.

(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 312310B to Admty).

CORMULL Southend 31st May departure Tugs PRIZEMAN and  
SCOTSMAN towing SS. CORMULL to Harwich and  
Yarmouth if able to make port before dark for  
onward passage by inshore route to Hartlepool  
escorted as far as Lowestoft by OSAKO. S.O.A. about 7 knots.  
E.T.A. 51 Buoy 1240B/31. E.T.A. Lowestoft 1745B/31, Yarmouth  
1840B/31.

(N.C.S.O. Thames, 310559B).

Your 310559B. Arrived and anchored in Yarmouth Roads.

(N.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 311915B to N.C.S.O. Thames).

WESTOWN,  
CHAMPION,  
ARLETTE.

Arrival at 0300 CHAMPION towing SS. WESTOWN  
escorted by EVERTON. CHAMPION having been in  
collision with X V ARLETTE near Humber L.V. at  
approx. 0200. Both CHAMPION and ARLETTE making  
water. Extent of damage not yet known.  
ARLETTE now berthed at Grimsby CHAMPION at  
Immingham. Pumping operations in progress.  
(F.O. Humber, 310610B).

/A.F.D...



War Diary.

31.5.1943.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

A.F.D.18 Proceed forthwith to assist Floating Dock in 052° 40' N., 015° 05' W. drifting North Easterly 3 to 5 knots at 0600B/31st. S.O. of Escort in CHANTICLEER.  
(C. in C. W.A., 310954B to SAMSONIA).

FORT PASKOYAC. N.O.I.C. Aultbea's 301543. SS. FORT PASKOYAC in tow of ABEILLE XXI and DANUBE VI escorted by PETER HENDRIKS, is on passage from West Coast Tyne. Speed 5 knots. E.T.A. Loch Ewe 2000/31st and 22 A Buoy 0600/3rd.

2. One Leith trawler is to pick up routes from N.O.I.C. Methil and then take over escort from 22 A Buoy to 21 C Buoy, where trawler from Tyne is to take over.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 311125B).

TWEED My 251401B. TWEED has minor oil fuel leaks and will require new domestic boiler funnel on arrival.  
(WESTERN ISLES 311202B to Cdre. D. W.A.)

PORCUPINE A.M. 281634B.  
1. QUORN is to sail from Plymouth passing Gate 1830B/31 and proceed to R/V in 180° Lizard 3 miles at 2100B/31 with WHIMBREL escorting CHARON towing forward half of PORCUPINE.  
2. QUORN is to relieve WHIMBREL as escort and escort tow to Portsmouth.  
3. Route W.P. convoy route to 180° Start 4 miles, then in accordance with C. in C. Plymouth's 310325B which is being passed to QUORN. Speed 6 knots.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 311215B to QUORN).

SOUTHERN GEM. Sailed SOUTHERN GEM. E.T.A. 1400/2nd. C. in C. W.A., 301730 refers.  
(WESTERN ISLES, 312201B to N.O.I.C. Barry).

Shipping & Convoys.

O.N.S.9 Intend to sail E.G.40 at 1400B/31st. Your  
E.G.40. 3000746 refers. S.O.A. 11 knots.  
(A.C.I.C., 310106B to C. in C. W.A.)  
My 310106. Sailed.  
(A.C.I.C., 311348B).

O.N.S.9 Route. From about 058° 00' 012° 29' to (ZH) 058° 01' 031° 58' (ZJ) 055° 03' 042° 02' (ZE) 053° 32' 043° 28' (ZF) 044° 04' 049° 01'.  
(2) S.O. Escort B. two in HESPERUS. 29 ships. Addition to A/S escort and for Rescue Duty VIZALMA and NORTHERN FOAM.  
(3). Escort Oilers SANVALERIO fitted platform and rail 1,000 tons fuel, DAYLIGHT American canvas hose 300 tons, MAJA copper hose 500 tons.  
(4) Depth charges SANVALERIO 60 in flotation gear 40 in improvised stowage, SOLSTAD improvised 60.  
(5) (Corrupt group) ship EMPIRE MACALPINE.  
(C. in C. W.A., 312318Z to E.G.40).



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War Diary.31.5.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- O.N.186 Admiralty 301927. 2nd U-boat in contact.  
Request air escort.  
(B.l. 310228Z to F.O.N.F.)
- E.G.2 Return at best speed to cover H.X.240.  
(C. in C. W.A., 310255Z to E.G.2).  
In view of Admty's 310846 cancel my 310255 and  
proceed in execution of previous orders.  
(C. in C. W.A., 310712Z to E.G.2).
- H.X.240 D/F bearings at 0142Z indicate convoy has  
probably been reported by U-boat.  
(D.D.I.C., 310420B to Escorts H.X. 240).  
A.M. 310420B. From bearings received later  
and in view of complete absence of further transmissions from  
your vicinity, it is considered that transmission at 0142Z was  
from a position well to westward of convoy.  
(D.D.I.C., 310846B to Escorts H.X. 240).  
Suggest executive action should not be taken on Admiralty  
D/F information vide Admiralty 310420B unless confirmed by  
ships in more immediate vicinity. In this case there were no  
less than 8 repeat 8 H/F D/F fitted ships within 100 miles H  
destination 240 and they would have known all about it if a  
U-boat had transmitted nearby. In addition visibility such as  
to make a first sighting most improbable. Weather report  
6872 9544.  
(STARLING 311030Z to C. in C. W.A.)
- Lyme Bay traffic. Owing to suspected enemy minelaying traffic  
should be routed through Lyme Bay as follows:  
180 Start 4 Dart Buoy 075 Berry Head 7 287°  
Portland Bill 17, 314 Portland Bill 6.4 180°  
Portland Bill 3 and by Q.Z.S.413 284 V.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 310325B).
- M.K.F.15, CHARYBDIS. Sailed CHARYBDIS in accordance with my 301337B.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 310557B and 311223B to Admty)  
M.K.F.15. Items 10, 11, 12. Ships and  
destinations.  
(D.T.D., 311529B to C. in C. W.A.)
- R.U.76 It is anticipated that this convoy which sails  
at 0800Z June 1st will comprise 14 ships for  
which only 2 trawler escorts are available.  
C. in C. W.A. pass to N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe.  
(A.C.I.C., 311247B to C. in C. W.A.)
- BEACON HILL Arrived Bakharitsa Tanker BEACON HILL escorted  
by BRITOMART and two Russian destroyers.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 311423B to S.B.N.O.  
North Russia).

/PRAGUE...



31.5.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- PRAGUE,  
AMSTERDAM. Intend sailing Transport PRAGUE Kite Balloon and Escort at 2330/2nd June, speed 16 knots. Route. Thence in company with AMSTERDAM to Invergordon E.T.A.1200. Request fighter protection.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 311459B to A.C.O.S.)
- O.S.51/  
K.M.S.20 and  
O.S.52/  
K.M.S.21. Southbound convoys sailing on 4th and 19th July respectively will be designated O.S.51/K.M.S.20 & O.S.52/K.M.S.21 respectively.  
(D.T.D., 311605B to C. in C. W.A.)
- K.M.S.18  
K.M.S.19 / K.M.S.18 and 19 will be convoys of a special nature and as such will be handled operationally as was the case before O.S. and K.M.S. convoys were combined.  
2. Attention is drawn to A.M.1328A/5th November paras. 2, 3, and 5 for general procedure.  
(D.T.D., 311742B).
- D.F.convoys A.M. 201820. Programme of sailings from Invergordon to Faeroes is as follows.  
(D.O.D. H., 311803B to A.C.O.S.)
- Stationing  
of Close  
Escort. / A.C.I.130. In view of increase in width of convoy front of large convoys and in order to afford more protection against submerged daylight attack from the Van consideration should be given to stationing close escort as an asdic screenhead of convoy. This is of particular importance under conditions applicable to DE 7 where a large gap would otherwise exist between escorts in positions L and B. Support groups should not be used to implement this.  
(C. in C. W.A., 312009B W.A.G.M.670 N.B.4).
- T.A.42 A. Sailed AQUITANIA in accordance with my 301106B.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 312324B) (D.S.T.O. Greenock 312325B).



War Diary.

31.5.1945.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Convoy K.X.10/O.G. 90A arrived.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 310852B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. Connav.)  
Arrived TEST, TEVIOT, CLARE, ERNE, TRENT, (?HYDERABAD), OXSLIP. (? K.X.10/O.G.90).  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 311704 to Admty)  
K.X.10. Your 211757, para. (D) gives 48 ships. Only 24 ships listed. Request comments.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 311839B to C. in C. W.A.)

ARAWA, H.M.T.s ARAWA, STAFFORDSHIRE proceeded Freetown  
STAFFORDSHIRE, for onward routing to Lagos STIRLING CASTLE for  
STIRLING Freetown requires 1000 tons fresh water on  
CASTLE. arrival E.T.A. Freetown 6th June.  
(S.T.O.i/c Gibraltar, 310913B to D.S.T.O. W.Af.  
(R) D. of S.T. London, P.S.T.O. Med.)  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 311111B, 311112B)

Air Report. A.I.541 30 May. Daily Opsum No.212210.  
At. 0951B/30 38.31 N. 01.38E. Hudson P/233  
having sighted periscope co. 300° 4 knots dropped  
4 K/C's 20° to track 10' after disappearance  
estimating straddle 100/150 ft. ahead of feather. No results  
seen.  
(A.H.Q. Gibraltar 310018B)

Convoy Convoy of (?Three) Merchant vessels from Lisbon  
attacked to Gibraltar escorted by MOLDE and HUDDERSFIELD  
by F.W.A/C. TOWN attacked by two F.W. A/C off Cape St.  
LLANCARVAN Vincent 1300/30. LLANCARVAN sunk. No casualties  
sunk. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 311129B to Admty. C. in C. Med.)  
My 301901. Damaged vessel seen to sink 8 miles  
from Sagres about 1800 G.M.T. A/O.  
(N.A. Lisbon 311131B to S.O. Gib. (R) Admty)

Dispositions. Situation 2001B/31st. U.G.S.8A BROCKLESBY 034°  
34' 009° 22' 063° 7. (2) U.G.S.8A (Casablanca  
Section) Comtask 66, 034° 22' 009° 19' to  
Casablanca 8. (3) G.C.11 128° 035° 09' 006°  
45' through 034° 19' 007° 56' and 034° 04' 007° 51' to Casablanca  
6½. (4) ZETLAND sailed 1900B/31st from Gibraltar through 035°  
46' 006° 23' and 037° 18' 011° 59' thence 336° 19. (5) CYCLAMEN  
2 L.S.T's 032° 42' 009° 40' through 035° 01' 007° 40' to  
Gibraltar 8½. (6) 20 L.C.I.(L)'s S.O.257 034° 50' 008° 30'  
to Gibraltar 10. (7) TEVIOT, HYDERABAD, OXLIP, BERGAMOT, BRYCNY,  
ERNE sailed 2130B/31st through Q.K.A.87 thence 289° 12½.  
(8) G.C.12 U.S.S. HAMBELTON sailed 1700B/31st through 035° 45'  
006° 30' and 034° 08' 008° 02' to Casablanca 11½.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 311132B)  
Add new para. (9) to my 311132. STAFFORDSHIRE and ARAWA  
033° 05' 009° 28' 168° 14.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 311808B)



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War Diary.31.5.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

K.M.S.15. Intend to sail (lists for Oran, Algiers, Alexandria, etc.)  
(F.O. Gibraltar 311309 to Admty etc.)

Convoy Arrived.  
C.G.34. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 311605B to C.M.S.F.F. (R)  
C. in C. Med. Connav, Admty.)

Gibraltar Arrived H.M.T. MINUET, TWO STEP with EMPIRE TITANIS  
Movements. and T.L.C. 302, 303, 332, 333, 399, 411, 412,  
413, 421, 422, 314, 321, 355, 364, 372, 376, 379, 390,  
324, L.C.F.15 17.

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 311612B to Admty)

Arrivals: U.S.S. CHAMPLIN, NIBLACK, BENSON, RHIND, ROWAN from Oran. French ship LA SETOISE from Algiers MOLDE, HUDDERSFIELD TOWN, ex escort duties Lisbon. U.S.S. HAMBLETON, P.C.481, 474 with C.G.34. Departures: French ships ANAMITE, LA GRACIEUSE with G.C.11. BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK to R/V U.G.S.8A UNSPARING to Maniers ? P.C. 481, 474 with G.C.12 Motor Launch 170, 172 escort duties Melilla.

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 312005B to Admty)

Convoy Intend to sail at 1200B June 1st.  
X.K.(?8) (2) Escorts TEST, TRENT, CLARE. (3) Route thence by standard M.K.S. route lettered (d) to (h). Stragglers standard M.K.S. lettered (r) to (w). (4) S. of A. 8 knots. (5) Fighter protection codeword "Detest" 248. (6) First two letters W/T callsign F.J.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 311614B to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med. H.Q.C.C.)

Axis Arrivals 29th VILLAREAL DE ALAVA, CABO QUINTRES,  
Shipping MARINA, CASTILLO RIAZA.  
Bilbao. Departures 30th, KAULDI, HENK, BALTIC.  
Departures 31st PAX-CHRISTI, MARIE GABRIELLE.  
Departures 29th COURDANNES, LOUVETOT.  
Departures 30th SCHARLACHBERGER, MARIBEL, MONTE BUITRE.  
(Consul, Bilbao, 311645 to Admty)  
SCHARLACHBERGER sailed 0340 May 30th. KAULDI arrived 0540/30th.  
(Consul, Bilbao, 311800 to M.E.W.)

Convoy Convoy U.G.S.8A and K.M.S.15 are to combine and  
U.G.S.8A. proceed in company in Mediterranean. (2)  
K.M.S.15 ALYNBANK 47 ships Cdre. Cdr. Heywood  
combined. R.N.R. in CITY OF CANBERRA escorted by LAUDERDALE  
U.S.S. RHIND, U.S.S. BENSON U.S.S. NIBLACK  
U.S.S. ROWAN, SHARPSHOOTER, PIROUETTE, FOXTROT,  
CHAMPION, TWOSTEP. Pass through F.C. at 2130B/1  
June. Routed in accordance with para. 2 of my 300045, S. of A.  
7 knots. (3) K.M.S.15 formed in 11 columns will at daylight  
2nd June manoeuvre to reduce S.O.A. to enable U.G.S.8A to over-  
take, when K.M.S.15 will form astern of U.G.S.8A. (4) On

convoy /...



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War Diary.

31.5.1943.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Convoy  
U.G.S.8A  
K.M.S.15  
combined.  
(Contd.)

convoy combining Admiral Cooke U.S.N. in MEMPHIS CITY assumes Cdre. Combined convoys. Cdr. Heywood R.N.R. in CITY OF CANBERRA Vice Cdre. of Convoy. S.O. Combined Escort, CHAMPION. (5) Combined Convoys to be known as K.M.S.15 codeword "untrue". (6) S. of A. combined convoys 8 knots E.T.A. Oran 1000B/3rd June. (7) LAUDERDALE will pass destinations and details of K.M.S.15 to Admiral Cooke a.m. 3rd June. (F.O.I.C.Gibraltar, 311646B to Escorts of U.G.S. 8A for Cdre. (R) Admty. Comnavnaw, Cdre. Algiers C. in C. Med. Cdr. N.O.B.Oran).

L.S.T.412.

My P.C. and S. at 311200Z 029° 37' 012° 02' 036° 7. Delay due to sets, pounding and breakdowns. Passed through CYCLAMEN. (L.S.T.412 311700Z to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) F.O.C. W.A.)

TEST,  
HYDERABAD  
attack on  
U/B.

Convoy K.X.10. TEST and HYDERABAD attacked A/S contact in 43° 51' N. 15° 57' W. between 1458 and 1552 on 26th May. Contact faded after last attack. Oil, wreckage and air bubbles suggest possible destruction. (F.O.I.C.Gibraltar, 311851 to Admty)

ZETLAND.

ZETLAND sailed my 301725B refers. (F.O.I.C.Gibraltar, 311925B to Admty)

Movements,  
Gibraltar.

Sailed TEVIOT, HYDERABAD, BRYONY, BERGAMOT, OXLIP, ERNE. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 312215B to Admty)



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War Diary.31.5.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

FLORA  
MACDONALD  
(U.S.A.)  
torpedoed  
30/5. FLORA MACDONALD torpedoed in 07° 15' N.  
13° 20' W. at (?) 302249.  
(F.O.C.W.A.F. 310207Z. to Admty.)

CILICIA. My 230950 May has been passed to Cdre.  
4th Fleet.  
(R.A.W.Af. 310409Z. to Admty. (R) CILICIA.)

Air  
Report. Daily Opsum 26, 29/30 May. One Hudson sweep track  
of M/V FLORA MACDONALD, two Hudsons T.S.42, one  
Hudson S.T.67.  
(S.O.R. A.H.Q. W.A. 310450 to Air Min.)

ORANJE. Hospital ship ORANJE arrived and is expected  
to sail June 3rd.  
(D.S.T.O. Durban 310741Z. to Admty. etc.)

? U/B. MORRIS DANCE sighted possible S/M 06° 01' N.10°  
50' W. at 1830Z/29.  
(F.O.C.W.A.F. 310840Z. to Admty.)

MORRIS  
DANCE. Arrival 2220Z/30th May.  
(S.O. (I) Freetown 310945Z. to Consul-General,  
Monrovia. (R) Admty.)

AGWIMONTE  
STORAAS  
(sunk  
28/5.) N.C.S.O. Port Elizabeth's 301348/May and 301405  
times of (?which) should be 2351B and 2355B  
respectively. 2. All survivors from both ships  
now accounted for.  
(C. in C. S.A. 311029B. to Admty. etc.)

Convoy  
Cycles,  
fuelling. With 15 day cycle it appears that S.L. and O.S.  
convoys will cross South of 20° N. This means  
FORTOL leaves S.L. convoy too soon and joins O.S.  
too late to fuel escorts. This may result in  
escort of both convoys having to be detached to  
oil at Casablanca. Alternatives appear to be to  
sail oiler with each O.S. convoy to transfer to S.L. or sail  
oiler from Gibraltar to join each O.S. convoy to transfer to  
S.L. and return. FORTOL can be spared for either alternative.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 311033Z. to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A.)

ARCOLA  
(explosion  
20th May.) Your 291551B (291251B intended). My 201050 and  
261050. Damage as follows (details).  
Conclusions:- (A) Ship unable to proceed under  
own steam. (B) Doubtful if sufficient material  
and plant St. Vincent C.V. even to strengthen  
ship sufficiently to be towed and if undertaken  
will leave local British firm with no material if British or  
Allied ships require repairs. (C) Thorough investigation diffic-  
ult owing to death of 3 Italian crew near explosion.  
(N.C.S.O. St. Vincent 311105 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)  
/Dispositions...



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31.5.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Dispositions. Situation at 2000Z/31st May. R.F.A. Tugs 013° 010° 20' to 004° 30' 008° 30' 8 knots.  
 BLACKMOOR 013° 45' 011° 05' to Pointe Noire 13.  
 DAUNTLESS 015° 009° 30' to 010° 15'.  
 ROHILKAND BARWIND M.M.S. 107 017° 55' 011° 25' to Walvis Bay 7½  
 VIRGINIA, H.M.S. THYME with N.C.15 (3 ships) 024° 014° 05' coastal to Capetown 9. Portuguese Sloop GONCALO VELHO 028° 35' 015° 20' Southbound 10. QUICKMATCH escorting Monster 033° 13' 012° 55' 090° 20. GENISTA, ARCTIC EXPLORER, NORWICH CITY, H.M.S. WELLAND with N.C.14 (5 ships) 033° 13' 017° 25' to Capetown 9. ASTER, CAPE WARWICK, LE TIGRE, NORTHERN DUKE with D.C.28 (17 ships) 034° 15' 023° coastal to Capetown 9. NORTHERN DAWN, SPHENE, VIVIANA, KUMAON, KATHIAWAR, VEREENIGING with C.D.20 (13 ships) 031° 35' 029° 40' coastal to Durban 8. SONDRRA off Durban. STELLA POLARIS, LADY ROSEMARY 030° 15' 033° 50' to Durban 8. QUADRANT, REDOUBT, FALMOUTH, VERBENA with M.C.7 (9 ships) 030° 45' 036° 25' to Durban 9½. CARTHAGE, NIZAM, ROCKROSE, FRITILLARY with C.M.42 (6 ships) 031° 038° to 027° 40' 045° 50' 11.  
 (C. in C. S.A. 311147B.)

Situation 2001Z/31st May. B.Y.M.S. 9 26 and 27 018° 50' 017° 10' to North coastal 8. LA GRANDIERE escorting 009° 52' 015° 01' to Konakri approaches thence Freetown 7. F.S. DUMONT D'URVILLE escorting 009° 52' 015° 01' to Konakri Approaches 7 thence independently to 010° 16' 016° 00' 13. M.L. 290 5 M.Ls. 009° 46' 016° 01' to Freetown 10. COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES escorting 011° 14' 017° 21' 355° 10. SCARBOROUGH, FLEETWOOD, MIGNONETTE, AZALEA, SPIREA, COLTSFOOT, BALSAM, BUTSER, DUNKERY with S.L.130 010° 02' 015° 48' to 010° 36' 017° 19' thence 355° 7. TRUSTY on the surface 017° 40' 021° 01' 000° 11. CILICIA on patrol about 008° 01' 028° 05' 14. GAMBIA 009° 01' 019° 42' to 010° 00' 020° 00' thence Bathurst 13 (R.A.W.Af. 311316Z.)

Repatriations. Following received from Saint Vincent (begins). Departures 30th VULCANIA and SATURNIA, Italian Port Elizabeth 10th, T.O.O. 310900. (Ends.) (S.O. (I) Freetown 312258Z. to Admty. etc.)

Convoy 1. Sailing telegram. 2. 311300B. 4. 8½ knots.  
 N.C. 15.. 5,6. M.T.B.21, THYME.  
 (N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay 311306B. to Admty. C. in C. S.A. N.C.S.O. Capetown.)  
 Sailed VIRGINIA, THYME escorting convoy N.C.15. E.T.A. Capetown 0800B/4th June.  
 (N.L.O. Walvis Bay 311309B. to C. in C. S.A. Admty. N.L.O. Capetown.)

BURDOCK. Departure 31st May.  
 (N.O.I.C. Lagos 311415Z. to Admty. etc.)

/ALCANTARA...



War Diary.31.5.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

- ALCANTARA. Intend sailing ALCANTARA to Dakar E.T.A. p.m. 3rd June with technical dockyard Officers to discuss stores required, etc. Ship to remain? about 72 hours at Dakar and return Freetown, E.T.A. a.m.
- 8th June. Officers will be accommodated on board ALCANTARA. (F.O.C.W.A. 311457Z. to Comar Dakar, (R) ALCANTARA Admty.)
- S.L.130. Departure 1731Z/30th May SCARBOROUGH, FLEETWOOD, MIGNONETTE, AZALEA, SPIREA, COLTSFOOT, BALSAM, BUTSER, DUNKERY with S.L. 130. (S.O. (I) Freetown 311535Z. to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) Admty. etc.)
- SIBAJAK, CUBA, NIEUW HOLLAND. Your 151735. SIBAJAK completing repairs Port Elizabeth 15th June and will then proceed Durban arriving there about same time as W.S.30. The only ships proceeding beyond Durban are CUBA and NIEUW HOLLAND for India but if C. in C. Eastern Fleet concurs it is proposed SIBAJAK should embark military personnel to capacity for Middle East and accompany them for first part of voyage. (P.S.T.O. Capetown 311540B. to D.S.T. (R) C. in C. E.F. etc.) Concur C. in C. E.F. 020506Z. (See East Indies).
- CAPETOWN CASTLE, Ps.O.W. Your 282217. Ps.O.W. figures given in my 220815 were one Officer, 499 O.Rs. total 500. (S.T.O. Capetown 311548B. to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa (R) D. of S.T., B.A.D.)
- Convoy W.S.30, Escort. My 091638. W.S.30. Request your intentions for escort between Freetown and the Cape. (D.O.D. (F) 311554B. to F.O.C. W.A. C.in C. S.A.) (1) Intend to sail convoy W.S.30 consisting of 6 ships escorted by SUFFOLK, CARNARVON CASTLE, CORFU, WOLVERINE, RAPID, BOADICEA and CATTERICK at 0700Z/3rd June. (2) Route. Thence as ordered by C. in C. South Atlantic. S. of A. 13 knots. N.O.I.C. Takoradi is to sail WITCH escorting CUBA to join in 003° 08' N. 002° 01' W. at 1600Z/6th. (4) BOADICEA escorting CORFU will be detached at dusk 6th to proceed to Takoradi. (5) CATTERICK will be detached to fuel at Pointe Noire and rejoin escort to the Cape or may be refuelled from SUFFOLK at SUFFOLK's discretion. (6) WOLVERINE, RAPID, SHEARWEAR will part company and proceed to Pointe Noire after being relieved by escort from the Cape. (see 011844Z.) (7) Escort shift to area Q W/T organisation at 1200Z/10th June. (8) C. in C. S.A. is requested to signal onward route from position (h) and to arrange for his escort to join in 003° (754') S. 009° 34' E. at 0700Z/9th June. (F.O.C. W.A. 312048Z. to Admty. N.O.I.C. Takoradi, C. in C. S.A. B.N.L.O. W.A. (R) SUFFOLK, N.O.I.C. Lagos, B.A.D.) (Amended by 011844Z June, q.v.)
- Arrival 1259Z/31st May. SUFFOLK, CORFU (? AMARANTHUS) BOADICEA, ANTELOPE, CATTERICK with W.S.30. (S.O. (I) Freetown 311949Z. to Admty. etc.)

/East...



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31.5.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

East African Escort Force, refitting reinforcements. Your 142326 and my 201021. Concur that one escort vessel be sent to U.K. for refit with each S.L. convoy. 2. Refits will be expedited. It is requested you will name ships returning as far ahead as possible.  
(D.O.D. (F) 311902B. to F.O.C. W.A. (R) C. in C. W.A.)

Tankers, O.T.6. Your 292241 May. (Re Tankers carrying fuel for Dakar will sail in convoy O.T.6.) Air cover by day will be provided. Surface (?escort) cannot be guaranteed.  
(F.O.C. W.Af. 312031Z. to B.A.D. (R) Admty. etc.)



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War Diary.31.5.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

MAURITIUS. Following received (begins): addressed C. in C. Levant, (R) C.S.15, V.A. Malta, MAURITIUS, from C. in C. Med.  
Immediately on her arrival Port Said request you will sail MAURITIUS for Malta for bombardment practice. C. in C. E.F. 290958 refers. T.O.O. 302012B May (ends). (R.A. Alexandria, 310846C to MAURITIUS.)  
MAURITIUS forms part of 15th C.S. on arrival in Med. (C. in C. Med., 311104B to Med. Station 462 K, (R) C. in C. Levant, Admty.)

SEVERN. Arrival of SEVERN 30th. Your 261729 is satisfactory but no later date could be accepted.  
(C. in C. Med., 310852B to F.O.(S), (R) Admty., Capt. (S) 8th S/M.F.)

Movements, Beirut. 30th May arrivals M.L.350 and 384. Departures SNOWDRIFT.  
(S.O.(I) Beirut, 310852C to Admty., (R) C. in C. Levant.)

Movements, Malta. Arrivals Convoy M.W.29 BEAUFORT, ROCKWOOD, EXMOOR, KANARIS.  
(V.A. Malta, 310902B to Admty., C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant.)

M.E. Air Report. A.679, May 31st. Daily Opsum 33. May 28th/29th. No operations. May 30th. 55 Liberators (B.24) Foggia aerodrome. 4 returned early technical troubles. 51 bombed objective scoring direct hits on hangars, barracks and other buildings. Several aircraft destroyed on ground. 2 oil fires started on west side aerodrome, buildings seen burning.  
My Opsum 25. Egyptian schooner reported sunk by 2 enemy aircraft May 20th subsequently found drifted ashore Cyprus. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 310934Z.)

Movements, Alexandria. Arrival 30th May ROMEO, Grk. S/M PAPANICOLIS. Departure 30th May WOLBOROUGH, Yugoslav S/M NEBOJSCA.  
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 310957C to Admty., etc.)

Movements, Oran. Arrivals today were P.224 (SICKLE), H.M.T. MIMNANMWY (sic). Departure today was M.L.480. C. in C. Med. pass to Comnavaw.  
(Comnob. Oran, 311009B to Admty., etc.)

/UNSPARING ...



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War Diary.31.5.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- UNSPARING. Onward routeing through 135° Palos Cape 5 at 1700/3rd 038° 04' 002° 59' at 2200/5th thence R/V escort Algiers in 036° 56' 003° 00' at 0630/6th.  
(Capt. (S) 8th S.F., 311032B to P.55 (UNSPARING), (R) 8th S.F., N.O.I.C. Algiers, F.O.I.C. Gib., F.O. H., Comnob. Oran, C. in C. M.F.)
- K.M.S.15,  
U.G.S.8A. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar pass to Commodore and escorts K.M.S.15/U.G.S.8A.  
Intend to sail (list).  
(Comnob. Oran, 311059B to Admty., etc.)
- P.R.U. May 31st Visuals. 0825 Taranto 2 battleships, 2 cruisers. 0915 Messina no major naval units.  
(V.A. Malta, 311113B to C. in C. Med., etc.)
- MELBREAK,  
ADVENTURE. Request you will sail MELBREAK after fuelling to Oran.  
2. N.O.I.C. Oran is requested to sail ADVENTURE escorted by MELBREAK to Gibraltar for onward sailing of ADVENTURE to U.K.  
3. ADVENTURE is not to sail from Oran until Lt. Gray R.N.V.R. has embarked.  
(C. in C. Med., 311142B to N.O.I.C. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Oran, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A., ADVENTURE.)
- P. 217. Intend sailing P.217 2000/1st June direct through 042° 01' N. 008° 01' E. at 0130/5th to patrol in Gulf of Genoa north of 042° N. East of 006° 40' E. and south of a line 225° from Spezia.  
(Capt. (S) 8, 311214B to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, Capt. 10th S.F., N.O.I.C. Algiers, 8th S.F., ARETHUSA, LA SULTANE.)
- MASIRAH. Your 301031B\* Ship should be sailed in G.U.S. Convoy.  
(D.T.D., 311217B to Cdre. Algiers.)  
\* re whether steamship MASIRAH should be sailed in G.U.S. convoy or routed in M.K.S.
- SAFARI. If you were off Cape Ferrato at 0932 you were sighted.  
(Capt. (S) 8, 311240B to (P.211) SAFARI.)

/UNRIVALLED...



War Diary.31.5.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.UNRIVALLED,  
UNSEEN.

P.45 (UNRIVALLED) sails 1700 today routed through 036° 16' N. 014° 17' E. thence 005°. When you return steer direct for 036° 11' N. 014° 20' E. thence R/V.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 311257B to P.51, UNSEEN.)

OLIGARCH.

Para. 3 of Admty. 252202 (R.F.A. OLIGARCH sails in K.M.S.16.) It is intended that R.F.A. OLIGARCH shall proceed to Tobruk and be employed oiling at sea.  
(C. in C. Med., 311407B to Admty., (R) C. in C. Levant.)

Movements,  
Aden.

Arrivals 1038Z PACKICE and SQUALL in company.  
(Com. Aden, 311409Z to C. in C. Levant, F.O.R. S.C.A., etc.)

M.M.S.,  
B.Y.M.S.

Request Tails be shipped to Gibraltar for 5 M.M.S. of 150 Flotilla. Admiralty 281927 refers.  
(2) Intend to use B.Y.M.S. of 153 Flotilla during forthcoming operations and other B.Y.M.S. if necessary.  
(3) Request confirmation that suitable spare gear for these vessels will be available.  
(C. in C. Med., 311430B to Admty., (R) C. in C. Levant, etc.)

ST. MONANCE.

Massawa 31st May arrival H.M. Tug ST. MONANCE 1500Z.  
(N.O.I.C. Massawa, 311520Z to Admty.)

Eastern  
Boundary,  
Sub-Areas.

? As from 1st June, 1943, the Eastern boundary of Mediterranean Station is extended to the meridian of 020° East. Memorandum showing consequent re-organisation is in course of distribution. 2 main points are as follows:-  
(A) Oran and Algeria sub-areas are established  
(1) Later Oran under Commandant Naval Operating Base, Oran area, (N.O.I.C. Oran) bounded on the west by 002° 13' W. and on the east by 001° 20' E.  
(2) Algeria under Cdre. Algeria (C.O. M.M. Algeria) bounded on the west by 001° 20' E. and on the east by 008° 40' E.  
Officers in command of these sub-areas will organise local convoy movements and will operate the forces under their commands as far North as is within their capabilities. Operations affecting both sub-areas will be directly controlled by C. in C. Med.  
(B) Until re-organisation and re-establishment of boundary of Ferryville and Tunis is completed F.O. in Charge Bizerta will undertake maintenance.



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Eastern Boundary, Sub-areas. (Contd.)

(1) Re-organisation and re-establishment Bizerta, Ferryville and Tunis.  
 (2) Relationship with U.S. and French Forces.  
 (3) Administration and discipline of Naval personnel and Establishment ashore.  
 (4) Control and movement of convoys entering and leaving Bizerta.

S.O. Inshore Squadron will undertake.

(5) Control of operations conducted from coast between Bougie and a line running B Tunisian - Tripolitanian border to Cape Granitola.  
 (6) Minesweeping operations except those affecting approaches to boundary (F.O. in Charge Bizerta).  
 (7) Command of forces carrying out above operations except those under direct order of C.S.12.  
 (C) S.N.O. Tripolitania will organise local convoy movements and operate forces under his command from Tripolitania Coast as far North as is within their capabilities.  
 (C. in C. Med., 311542B to Med. Station 461 K, Comnavnaw, (R) Admty., Cominch, C. in C. Levant, F.O.C.W.Af.)

K.M.S. 15. Request you will hold the following ships in Gibraltar for orders. FORT HALKETT, OCEAN GALLANT, EMPIRE FLAMINGO.  
 (C. in C. Med., 311630B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) N.O.I.C. Bone, Admty.)  
 Algiers joining section 13 ships (list).  
 (N.O.I.C. Algiers, 311733B to Escorts K.M.S.15.)

Ps.O.W. Tact. It will be in order to utilise EMPIRE CAPEPENTER, OCEAN VERITY, CORNELIUS HARTNETT for Ps.O.W. to Oran in M.K.S.14/G.8. All vessels to continue in convoy after disembarkation.  
 EMPIRE GUINEVERE and FORT GIBRALTAR are not available for this purpose.  
 (P.S.T.O. Mediterranean, 311640B to S.T.O. i/c Philippeville, (R) W.S.A., M.W.T.R. Med., D.S.T.L.O. Oran.)

IERAX. Arrived and left 31st May.  
 (N.O.I.C. Famagusta, 311713C to Admty., etc.)

Axis Shipping, Alicante. Steamer ILLUECA leaving tonight for Port Vendres, lemon cargo for Germany. Similarly JOSE ILLUECA and CARMEN FREIXAS (corrupt group) now loading.  
 (Alicante, 311730 to Gib., (R) Admty.)

CELENO. My 291103C. Report B.4. CELENO expected to arrived Istanbul 2nd/3rd June.  
 (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 311731C to S.O.(I) Levant, (R) Capt. (S) 1, D.N.I.)

/FERNMOOR ...



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31.5.1943.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

FERNMOOR. Request present position and intended passage programme for Boom Carrier FERNMOOR. W.M. 101941 May refers. Ship is urgently required in Med.  
(C. in C. Med., 311749B to F.O.C.W.A.F., (R)  
C. in C. S.A., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty.)

Movements, Port Said. 31st May, Port Said arrivals S/M NEBOJSCA, AEPOS, SUTLEJ, WOLBOROUGH, CUMBRAE, ISLAY. Departures L.C.T.138, SUTLEJ, WOLBOROUGH, RAINSTORM.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 311750C to Admty., etc.)

Floating Dock. Replying to your 261847 (261647 intended).  
1. Confirmed U.S. will supply material for repair of vessels in A.F.D. XVIII.  
2. U.S. not prepared to operate Montevideo dock, my 271945 refers. Materials for repairs in this dock will be supplied from stocks in port where dock is used, being replenished from U.K.  
3. Request outstanding material and plant ordered in my 1029/20 December 1942 and 1846/7 January 1943 be despatched in next convoy. Most serious deficiencies are electric welding and oxy-acetylene plants and mild steel electrodes. These items have been repeatedly requested.  
(C. in C. Med., 311808B to Admty.)

X.T.G. 1, K.M.S.15. X.T.G.1. H.S. K.M.S.15 will not arrive Tripoli until p.m./8th. X.T.G.1 will be 24 hours late throughout. Amend my 262201 accordingly. Convoy will leave Tripoli a.m. June 9th.  
2. My 281147 (N.T. in W.D.) C. in C. Levant is requested to adjust date accordingly.  
(C. in C. Med., 311840 to C. in C. Levant, N.A.C.A.F., N.A.A.F., N.L.O., N.A.S.A.F., S.N.O. Tripoli, R.A. Alexandria, etc.)

N.W.A.A.F. Report. M.5639 E. N.W.A.A.F. Opsum 99, 30th May 1943. N.W.A. Strategic A.F. 28th/29th May additional. 16 Wellingtons intruded Western Sicily, bombed Castelvetro, Borizzo, Trapani Docks?, Milo A/D, Marsala, results unobserved due to haze and darkness. 29th/30th May. 13 Wellingtons Pantellaria, 9 made double sorties. Results unobserved due to darkness. 30th May. 2 missions mediums Pantellaria, 20 U.S. Mitchells (B.25) escort 14 U.S. Lightnings (F.19), 18 U.S. Marauders (B.26) escort 12 U.S. Lightnings (P.38), 1 Marauder returned early. Targets well covered, many direct hits, large fire. 28 U.S. Lightnings (P.38) Pantellaria. 7 returned early, direct hits and near misses. 36 U.S. Lightnings (P.38) Chilivini. Marshalling yards thoroughly covered, hits on buildings,

/transformer ...



1175

31.5.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

N.W.A.A.F. transformer station, direct hit on train.  
Report. Water tower R.R. Station and trains warehouse  
(Contd.) and factory at Alghero strafed. 36 U.S. Fortresses  
bombed Pomigliano aircraft factory, 2 returned  
early. Target well covered, many fires. 8 E/A  
encountered, 1 F.W.190 destroyed.

26 U.S. Fortresses (B.17) Pomigliano landing ground, 1 returned  
early, entire airdrome well covered, bombs among dispersed  
aircraft. 8 to 10 E/A encountered, 1 Me.210 destroyed, 1 Re.  
2001 probably destroyed, 1 Mc.202 damaged. 2 Fortresses  
slightly damaged flak. 32 U.S. Fortresses (B.17) Capodichino  
Airdrome, 3 returned early. 3 aircraft on ground. 1? head-  
quarters building and hangars hit. 30 - 50 E/A encountered  
6 Me.109, 4 Me.110? (111) destroyed, 2 Me.210, 2 Me.110 probably  
destroyed. 28 U.S. Fortresses (B.17) marshalling yards,  
Naples, 5 returned early. Hits on centre of target area. 1  
ship believed hit, oil storage depot hit, 2 explosions. Another  
explosion near docks believed oil tanks. Fire East of dry  
dock. 4 E/A encountered, 1 Mc.200 destroyed. 40 U.S. Light-  
nings (P.38) Aranci Port and R.R. 11 returned early. Near  
misses 3 ships. 3 ships badly damaged, direct hits on Moles?  
and R.R. Yard. 2 E/A engaged, 1 Me.109 destroyed.

N.W.A. Tactical A.F. 8 U.S. Warhawks (P.40?) Pantellaria,  
results unobserved. 1 U.S. Spitfire escorted bombers Pantellaria.  
4 U.S. Spitfires escorted Walrus on A.S.R. 4 crew of crashed  
B.25 rescued.  
(N.W.A.A.F. Adv., 311907B.)

P.R.U. 31st May. Visuals. 1715 Taranto 2 battleships,  
2 cruisers.  
(V.A. Malta, 311912B to C. in C. Med., etc.)

Attacks A.M. 091916 July 1942.  
on U/Bs. All positions north and east.

(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)
435	1750/27th March	BEAUFORT	033° 00', 022° 10'	F	Nil
436	1849/18th April	LA MALBAIE	031° 34', 030° 01'	I	Nil
437	2240/24th April	SOUTHERN ISLES and G.S. IERAX	031° 43', 034° 01'	H	Nil
438	1858/23rd April	G.D.SPETSAI	031° 19', 029° 46'	I	Nil
439	1841/7th May	Baltimore aircraft of 454 Sqdn., R.A.A.F.	034° 15', 023° 35'	G	Nil
440	1100/19th April	DULVERTON and EXMOOR.	032° 40', 023° 17'	D	Nil

(C. in C. Levant, 311947C to Admty.)

/Movements ...



1176

31.5.1943.

Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Movements,  
Bizerta.Bizerta arrivals 30th May AGATHA, 31st May STROMA, ESNEH.  
(F.O.I.S., 311952B to Admty., etc.)Movements,  
Algiers.Arrivals M.L.338, MELBREAK. Departures PRINSES BEATRIX, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, WHADDON, M.T.Bs 243, 89, 81.  
(Cdre. Algiers, 312004B to Admty., etc.)N.A.A.F.  
Report.To: C.G. 8th Air Force. To: C.G. 9th Air Force.  
From: Spaatz, N.A.A.F. Adv. Hq. To: Eaker and Brereton.

1. 14 P.38 escorted 20 B.25, 18 B.26 escorted by 12 P.38 and 19 P.38 carrying bombs attacked

Pantellaria. 91 x 1000 pound bombs were dropped causing fires. All target areas well covered.

2. 36 P.38 dropped 35 x 1000 pound bombs from 1500 to 3000 feet on Chiliviani railroad station and marshalling yards. Target well covered and buildings, transformer station and train were also hit. 1 P.38 was lost.

3. 35 B.17 dropped 404 x 500 pound bombs on Pomigliano aircraft factory. Target well covered, many fires started. 8 enemy aircraft were encountered, 1 was destroyed.

4. 25 B.17 dropped 3594 x 20 pound fragmentation bombs from 24,000 feet on Pomigliano landing ground. Entire airdrome covered and bursts observed among dispersed aircraft. 2 B.17 received minor flak damage. 8-10 enemy aircraft attacked formation, 1 of which was destroyed, 1 probably destroyed and another damaged.

5. 29 B.17 dropped 4134 x 20 pound fragmentation bombs from 24,000 feet on Capodichino Airdrome. Buildings, hangars and dispersed aircraft were hit. 30 - 50 enemy aircraft attacked formation. 10 were destroyed, 4 probably destroyed.

6. 23 B.17 dropped 276 x 500 pound bombs on Naples marshalling yards. Near misses were scored on several vessels, 1 hit scored on ship, oil storage depot was hit and 2 explosions occurred. Heavy smoke and fire observed in target area. 4 enemy aircraft attacked formation, 1 was destroyed.

7. 29 P.38 dropped 27 x 1000 pound bombs from 2500 feet on Aranci Port and railroad. 3 ships were badly damaged and direct hits on railroad and shore buildings observed. 2 enemy aircraft attacked formation, 1 was destroyed.

8. 4 men in dinghy rescued by Walrus of Tactical Air Force 40 miles east of Cap Bon. Coastal carried out usual escort and patrol missions.

9. Night 29th/30th: 22 Wellingtons dropped 124 x 500 pound, 60 x 250 pound bombs on Pantellaria. Darkness obscured results, except for visible fires.

(N.A.A.F. Adv., 312010B.)

/Tribute ...



1177

War Diary.

31.5.1943.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Tribute to Minesweepers. ✓ The opening of the through Mediterranean route so soon after the fall of Tunisia is a tribute to the fine work of the Minesweeping forces under your Command.  
2. Request you will convey their Lordships' appreciation to all concerned.  
(1st Sea Lord, 312018B to C. in C. Med.)

GUARDIAN. Your 221701. Intend sailing GUARDIAN on 19th June with K.M.F.17.  
2. Your 222320 March confirmed.  
(D.B.D., 312019B to C. in C. Med.)

Movements, Haifa. Arrivals 31st May Greek Destroyer IERAX, M.L. 348 and 350, JENNET.  
(N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports, 312035C to Admty., C. in C. Levant.)

M/V Repairs, Spain and Portugal. ✓ Your 121151 April. In view of N.A. Madrid's 241847 and N.A. Lisbon's 201606, it is agreed that early use should be made of repair facilities in Spanish and Portuguese Ports for execution of repairs to appropriate damaged British ships from Ports in your Command.  
2. As special instructions are necessary when ships are intended to repair in Portugal, and as ships for both Portugal and Spain may have to sail without certificates of seaworthiness it is desirable that they should proceed under orders of Naval Authorities. Presumably you will consult Lisbon or Madrid in advance before any vessel is despatched and will select ships in consultation with M.W.T.R. Gibraltar or North Africa, both being kept advised of what is being done.  
3. M.W.T.Rs. will be instructed to give assurance to Masters putting to sea without seaworthy certificates that they will be covered by War Risks Association for any damage sustained on voyage not recoverable from marine underwriters by reason of absence of certificate, and to inform M.W.T. so that owners may be advised and asked to give Master instructions.  
(Head of M.(1), Approved A.C.N.S.(U.T.), 312049B to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.A. Lisbon, N.A. Madrid.)

Movements, Bizerta. Bizerta arrivals JULIET, M.Ls 1241, 1236, 1222, 1211, HUNDA, WESTRAY.  
Departures JULIET, CLACTON, STROMA.  
(2) My 302212 for P.T.511, 512, 215 read P.T.211, 216, 215.  
(S.O.I.S., 312112B to Admty., etc.)

/Movements ...



1178

31.5.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Movements,  
Malta.Arrivals ORION, PENELOPE, JERVIS, PETARD,  
TROUBRIDGE, QUEEN OLGA.  
Departures ASHANTI, M.T.Bs. 640, 633, 363.  
(V.A. Malta, 312130 to Admty., etc.)Movements,  
Sfax.Arrival FALK.  
Departure KLO.  
(?N.O.I.C. Sfax, 312132B to Admty.)Malta Air  
Report.

A.I. 559, C.S.R. Malta.  
(A) Air. Part 1. Offensive. Night 30th/31st May. 1 special equipment Wellington on armed search south-east of Italy made no significant sighting and bombed railway bridge on south-east coast of toe of Italy. Albacores provided illumination for Naval units shelling Pantellaria and made shipping search south-west of Sicily. Mosquitoes made intruder patrols over east and west Sicily.  
Day 31st May. 19 Spitfires made offensive sweep over Southern Sicily.  
Part 2. Enemy air activity. Night 30th/31st May. 1 Beaufighter made interception patrol east of Sicily.  
Day 31st May. 0333 hours 4 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta. 1635 hours 36 plus enemy fighters and fighter bombers approached Malta at great height. 20 Spitfires were airborne on interception but combats were inconclusive. Some bombs dropped on Valetta caused slight civilian damage. 50 Spitfires were airborne escorting 2 tankers and 2 M/Vs approaching from the south and making protective patrols over the tankers on their arrival in harbour.  
(A.H.Q. Malta, 312205Z.)

S/Ms, Malta.

Departures submarines UNRIVALLED (P.45), UPROAR (P.31), SOKOL.  
(V.A. Malta, 312246 to Admty., etc.)Movements,  
Bone.Arrivals ISIS, ILEX, STORNOWAY, M.S.T. (as received) W.S. 243, 89, 81.  
Departures PENELOPE, M.Ls. 1222, 1211.  
(N.O.I.C. Bone, 312300B to Admty., etc.)Movements,  
Benghazi.Arrived L.S.T.413, sailed CROMARTY, BOSTON, ROMNEY, GLOXINIA.  
(S.N.O. Tripolitania, 312322B to Admty., (R) R.A.L.)



med 31  
1178A

# MOST SECRET

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

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

MOST SECRET MESSAGE No. T.O.O./31 May IN

FROM: A.F.H.Q. Algiers.

DATE: 2.6.43.  
RECD: 1100

## C Y P H E R

Addressed: War Office.

128245

6761 cipher 31 May.

For British Chiefs of Staff.

Paraphrase follows of Agwar Fl30 May 29 request by Soviet Government for copies of orders issued for TORCH operation in exchange for certain Soviet operation orders approved by Combined Chiefs of Staff. Desired that A.F.H.Q. send copies orders regarding Casablanca. Cran and Algiers landings to London for British Chiefs of Staff for careful editing prior to delivery to Soviet military authorities. End paraphrase. Copies of orders for landings being prepared and will be forwarded.

No. T.O.O./31 May.

Received in War Registry: A.M./6th.

Circulations overleaf ....



1st Lord  
1st S.L. (2)  
D.F.S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)  
A.C.N.S. (W)  
N.A. Mails  
P.A.S. (S)  
D.O.D. (F) (2)  
D.O.D. (H) (2)  
D.N.I. (4)  
D. of P. (2)  
D.C.  
D.D.I.C. (2)  
D. of P. (Q) (2)  
Head of W. (2)  
I.P. (2)  
W.D.  
Admiral Blake.

War Office Circulation:-

S. of S.  
C.I.G.S.  
V.C.I.G.S.  
D.M.O.  
D.D.M.O. (0)  
M.O. 1, 4.  
D. Plans.  
D.M.I. G.S. (P)  
D.D.M.I. (I)  
M.I. 3, 17. M.I.L.  
Brig. Jacob  
C.N.S.  
C.A.S.  
C.C.O.



War Diary.

31.5.1943.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Convoy B.P.82 Concur postponing B.P.82 sailing date 24 hours as special case.  
(2) Unless F.O.C.R.I.N. can provide suitable A/S escort from C.A.S.F. NEVASA should be sailed in B.P.83 or 84. Your 270927 refers.  
(R.O. Ceylon 310446Z to P.S.T.O. India (R) C. in C. E.F. N.O.I.C. Hormuz, D. of S.T.).

CORNWALLIS Arrival.  
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta 310547Z to Admty. etc.).

VASNA Arrival.  
(S.O.(I) Bombay 310601Z to Admty.).

BALTA Arrival.  
(N.O.I.C. Cochin 310635Z to Admty.).

Hospital ships Request reply to para.4. of my 200815 May re  
East India hospital ships.  
Station. (C. in C.E.F. 310651Z to Admty.).

RAMDAS Arrival.  
(N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam 310732Z to Admty. etc.).

Convoy P.B.43 (1) Sailing telegram (6 Ships, list etc.).  
(2) 0700Z/31st.  
(4) 9 knots. (5) (Route) (6) DURBAN, BATHURST, CARNATIC.  
(N.C.S.O. Hormuz 310740Z to C. in C.E.F. etc.).

Movements. HAWKINS, CHITRAL sailed.  
(F.O. E.A. 310741Z to Admty.).  
Arrival BARODA.  
(S.O.(I) Bombay 310916Z to Admty.).

Movements May 31st.  
Summary (1) HAWKINS left Kilindini 31st due Durban June  
No. 69 4th.  
(2) CHITRAL left Kilindini 31st to relieve KENYA as escort to W.S.29 on June 2nd KENYA proceeding to Kilindini due June 4th. CHITRAL escorting W.S.29 B due Bombay June 10th.  
(3) CANTON leaving Colombo 31st C.M.O.M.P. with SUSSEX and two transports SUSSEX escorting one transport to Colombo due about June 3rd. CANTON escorting 2nd transport to Aden due June 8th.  
(4) CARTHAGE escorting C.M.42 left Durban 30th due Kilindini June 10th routed east Madagascar and west of Farquhar Is.



1180

31.5.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Movements Summary No. 69. (Contd.). (5) 228 Y of 28th May para. (2) read 233Y of 26th March not 235 Y. (C. in C.E.F. 310834Z to E.F. 290Y).

Distress Report. Received at 0810 this morning following message S.O.S. position 30 degs. 30' S. 29 degs. 1700 G.M.T. 29, 14 survivors in two boats. (Walvis Bay 310856Z to Admty.).  
Following received via Jacobs W/T from C74EQ - NEDERLAND. Intercepted S.O.S. from VA4ZK COUGAR, British, ships two life boats on your starboard beam. (Simonstown W/T 311208 to Admty.).

N.C.P.35  
N.C.P.117  
names. Following is a repetition of my 310301 / (Begins) Your 291109 +. My 280801 confirmed names in my / 180605 as SYLHETOF and SHOLAPUR (Ends). (F.O.C.R.I.N. 311133Z to Admty.).  
W.R.Note. / Received undecypherable.  
+ Sent by W.R. requesting repeat of names.  
/ N.C.P. 35 and N.C.P. 117.

Movements Colombo Colombo arrivals 31st May 0335Z S/M 024. Departures 0835Z CANTON 69, 161, 721, 31, 10, 289, 584, 1140Z WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN. (F.O. Ceylon 311234Z to Admty. etc.).

BOLD  
EDWARD F.  
JOHNSON. Tug BOLD took (?? E) F. JOHNSON in tow P.M.29th May, about 500 miles east of Seychelles and is proceeding Kilindini.  
(2) My 221643 to F.O. Ceylon refers.  
(C. in C.E.F. 311318Z to Admty.).

SICILIA  
(sunk 27/5) SICILIA, Sweden, my 281414B, sunk by German submarine at 0835/27, 024 degs. 30' South 035 degs. 17' East, after crew had been given time to abandon ship. One torpedo only. Ship unarmed. No distress signal made. Submarine rusty. Crew pale.  
(C.S.A. Lourenco Marques 311606 to Admty. C. in C.S.A. C. in C.E.F. Cdre. Durban).

M.N.B.D.O. My 250115 (250118)(Received undecypherable) repeated in full (begins):-  
55270/G 24 May 1645FG. Armindia to C. in C.E.F.  
(R) C. in C. Ceylon, F.O. Ceylon etc.  
Your 190814Z. Location M.N.B.D.O. fully discussed with Lukis during visit here and agreed proposals passed to you in my 46683 C.O.O.B. of 15th April and accepted in your 170903Z/April. Move of A.A. Units of M.N.B.D.O. from Ceylon to Bombay and other connected moves just completed. Adequate training facilities for A.A. exist in Bombay, therefore no vital training need

/move....



1181

31.5.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

M.N.B.D.O.  
(Contd.).

move these units back to Ceylon. Sea and rail transportation in India already working to maximum capacity. Essential to cut down unnecessary moves. Hope you will therefore agree to R.M.A.A. Units now at Bombay remaining there.(Ends). (Armindia 312140 to Admtty.).



1182

War Diary.31.5.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

U.S. S/M (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 310050Z, 311512Z, 311513Z,  
Notice, 311556Z, 311557Z, 311558Z.)  
S/M Estimate  
31st May.

Movements. St. Johns N.F. 30th Arrivals TRANSCONA, P.554  
ex Argentina. ROXBOROUGH, SASKATOON, MULGRAVE,  
COWICHAN, W.3 ex S.C.132. CAPT. PALLISER,  
VASCAMA ex O.N.S.8. CALGARY escorting H.J.55  
ex Halifax. Departures ST. CROIX, ALGOMA escorting J.H.54 to  
Halifax. HIGHLANDER, VIMY, ASPHDEL, ANEMONE, PENNYWORT B.4  
to H.X. 241.  
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 310149 to Admty.)  
Arrival 31st May U.S.E.D. IONIAN.  
(B.R.O. Georgetown, 311800Q to Admty.)

U/Bs. Apparent sighting report at 0141 on 4693 k/cs  
may be from U-Boats in your vicinity.  
(N.S.H.Q., 310313Z to S.E. S.G.25, (R) C. in C.  
C.N.A., C.C.N.F., Admty., C. in C. U.S.Fleet,  
A.C.I.C., S.B.N.O.W.At.)

STRIKER. Cominch passing for your info., N.S.H.Q., Admty.  
from Radio Washington.  
Refer to this as 300318. STRIKER departed  
Sanfran from Point C. 2016Z/30 May for Balboa.  
Speed 15. (Route). E.T.A. Balboa 0430Z/9 June.  
(C.W.S.F., 310600Z to Radio Washington give to  
Cominch etc.)

Task X Cinclant 301516 addressed for action to  
Force 61 Comdesdiv 21, informs as follows:  
constituted. Task Force 61 hereby constituted as follows:  
Com. Oswald, Desdiv 21, McCORMICK, ENDICOTT,  
PARROTT, PREVAIL, PILOT, MERRIMACK, KEOKUK,  
WEEHAWKIN, SALEM, ANTICLINE, PUMPER. Escort  
convoy U.G.S.10 ready New York about 12th June to North African  
ports. Routes and "Chops" will be specified by Cominch (C. and  
R.) For fuelling destroyers at sea, use MERRIMACK. At points  
designated by Cinmed, turn over vessels for Mediterranean  
ports to British or other escort. Detach KEOKUK, WEEHAWKIN,  
SALEM on arrival African waters, direct them to report to  
Comnavnav for temporary duty. Also PUMPER and ANTICLINE,  
except these two report for duty. Return Hampton Roads escorting  
convoy G.U.S.9 in accordance with Admiralty routeing when  
directed by Commorseafron.  
(Comnavau, 310712 to Admty.)

/Task ...



1183

31.5.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Task Group 21.12. Com. Task Group 21.12 302245 addressed for action to Cinclant informs as follows:- In accordance with Cinclant 301616, expect to sail Task Group 21.12 (less BELKNAP) for Base R 1130Z/31. S. of A. 15, E.T.A. 40° N. 50° W. 2130Z/1st June. (Comnaveu 310829 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A.)

Movements	Ship.	Position.	Course.	Speed.
Summary	WORCESTERSHIRE	38 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° N, 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° W.	025°	13
1800	CILICIA	08° N, 28° W.	Patrol	Blank.
G.M.T.	(D.O.D. (F) 310920Z. to Opnav (R) Comnaveu.)			
31st.				

Oiling at Sea. Oiling at sea. A report is required on the working of the twin blondin wire stowage provided in BRITISH CHIVALRY for handling buoyant hose emergency outfit. The following points should be covered. (a) General care of working, including remarks on weather condition. (b) Are the shackle and slip arrangements satisfactory for hanging the hose while coupling up second flight. (c) Does the hose ride comfortably in stowage position when motion is on ship. (d) Comments and recommendations. 2. Request Master and C.O. may be interviewed accordingly. (D.T.D. 311031B. to B.R.L.O. New York, (R) B.A.D. C. in C. W.A.)

U/B. S/M sighted 022° 55' N. 078° 40' W. at 311200Z. (S.O. (I) Jamaica 311216Q. to Admty.)

Convoy L.C.57. Arrived less YILDUM and SPRUCE BAY. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns, N.F. 311227Z. to Admty.)

Convoy H.S.28. Arrived less (Gr.) KATHRIOTISSA. (N.C.S.O. Sydney 311342Z. to Admty.)

NORSEMAN. Arrival 30th May Port Morant cable vessel NORSEMAN British. From B.R.O. Kingston (Jamaica) (N.O.I.C. Kingston 311423 to C.C.S.F. (R) N.O.B. Guantanamo.)

BLACKWOOD, DRURY. New York arrived May 30 from Bermuda. (N.S.H.Q. 311446Z. to Admty.)

N.S.H.Q. S/M. Estimate. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa estimate S/Ms. N. of 040° N.W. of 040° W. 1200Z/31st. (N.S.H.Q. 311488Z?).

Stationing of Convoys Cape Cod Bay. Cancel My 231849. 2. Convoys approaching Cape Cod Bay should form in two columns five cables apart on reaching vicinity of 41° 50'

/North...



1184

War Diary.31.5.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Stationing of Convoys Cape Cod Bay. (Contd.) N. 70° 20' W. and anchor in following anchorage area bounded on the W. by 70° 27' W. on the N. by 41° 49' N. and on the South by 41° 47' 30" N. 3. If the leading vessels in each column anchor near the western limit of this area rapid transit of the canal is facilitated.  
(D.T.D. 311506B. to C. in C. W.A. (R) N.S.H.Q. C. in C. C.N.A. C.E.S.F. Connnav.)

T.A.43. (EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND.) 1. Request continuous air cover for T.A.43 (EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND) from as far Eastward as practicable until arrival. Route thence Halifax. E.T.A. Halifax 0100Z/6th June. 2. Estimated position 2000Z/31st May 49° N. 23° W.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 311507 to A.O.C. in C. E.A.C. (R) F.O.N.F. N.S.H.Q. Admty.)

ORIBI. (1) ORIBI sails St. Johns N.F. 0700Z June 1st for Boston. (2) Routed through (F) 047° 33' N. 058° 31' W. (G) 046° 35' N. 052° 55' W. (H) 043° 20' N. 065° 00' W. (J) 043° 10' N. 067° 50' W. Thence to destination via Q.J.C.76 and Q.J.C. 127. (3) S. of A. 15 knots. (4) E.T.A. p.m. June 3rd.  
(F.O.N.F. 311540Z. to B.A.M.R. (R) C. in C. C.N.A. N.S.H.Q. N.M.C.J.S. Cominch, Admty. C. in C. W.A. ORIBI. Cdr. 1st U.S. N.D. Boston.) Amended see 011155Z.

Convoy G.U.F.8. Arrived New York complete 1300Z/31 May.  
(P.D. New York 311710 to Conroute (R) C.E.S.F. Admty. N.S.H.Q.)

A.T.48 (QUEEN MARY). Departing New York 1130Z June 1st at Ambrose. QUEEN MARY A.T.48. E.T.A. Clyde Boom 1500Z June 6. B. 38.30 N. 70.30 W. C.40.15 59.45 D. 41.01 47.02 E. 47.40 36.30 F. 53.31 21.50 dawn R/V at 0400Z June 6th in 56° N. 10° 48' W. G. 56.30 08.30 thence accordance with instructions C. in C. W.A. S. of A. 26.5 knots. Standard Communication Plan. Fighter protection Code Word "Battle" with associates 3 number call sign 126. Carried 14933 service personnel and approx. 80 bags navy mail. "Chop" 1300Z June 3rd.  
(P.D. New York 311714Z. to Cominch C. & R. (R) Admty. C. in C. C.N.A. N.S.H.Q. C.E.S.F. Com. 3rd U.S.N.D. New York, Cinclant, C. in C. W.A.)

U/B. attacked. Weekly Summary. Your 221059B July. 23rd May U.S. Aircraft attacked S/M 34.30 N. 13.13 W. One corpse and debris sighted? Only promising attack reported week ending 2400Z/30.  
(Cominch 311750Z. to Admty.)

/Loss...



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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Loss of SURCOUF, statement requested. Free French C. in C. has asked for a fresh Board of Enquiry to be set up with U.S. British and Free French representatives to provide a statement on loss of F.F.S. SURCOUF, for Free French administrative purposes. 2. Admiralty do not repeat not agree to fresh Board of Enquiry but suggest that statement (not for publication) based as far as possible on your 082205Z/Sept, 1942, should be agreed between B.A.D. Navy Dept., and Captain Gayral or other representative selected by Free French Naval Headquarters. (Hd. of M.II. Approved by A.C.N.S. (F) 311819B. to B.A.D.)

U/B Escort Group 2. At 1506Z a U-Boat transmitted on 10805 kc/s. Bearings inconclusive but transmission may have originated from general area of E.C.2. (D.D.I.C. 311820B. to E.G.2. (R) Cominch, N.S.H.Q. A.C.I.C. C. in C. W.A. H.Q.C.C.) Your 311820B. Signal was very weak and distant. Not near me. (S.O. Escort Group 2. 312000B. to Admty. (R) C. in C. U.S. Fleet (C. & R.) N.S.H.Q. A.C.I.C. C. in C. W.A. H.Q.C.C.)

Minesweeping /1. Minesweeping at Bermuda has been accepted as at Bermuda. a U.S. Naval commitment. 2. "Daylight" and "Flash" are now fitting Mk.III gear at Bermuda for operation at Trinidad. 3. Present reserves at Bermuda are:-  
(a) Mk. 1, 11, 111, V. 2 sets maintenance.  
(b) Mk. 111. 2 sets outfit. (c) Mk. V. 1 set outfit  
(d) Mk. V. Magnetic Mk.V. components.  
4. Propose to discontinue maintenance reserves at Bermuda. Trinidad and Jamaica are requested to state their requirements of stores mentioned in para. 3 above. Propose to return surplus stores to U.K.  
(S.B.N.O.W.A. 121004P (sic) to Admty.) Received 1835/31/5.)

Convoy O.N.184. 29 ships arrived including TOLJEC HOND which was unexpected. First arrival 1248Z/31. Last arrival 1513Z/31 May. All ships accounted for. (P.D. New York 311836 to Conroute (R) C.E.S.F. N.S.H.Q. Admty.)

O.N.184. Following arrived New York May 31st. Total 28 ships. (List.)  
(B.R.L.O. New York 312101Z. to Admty.)

Task Group 21.11. Convoy U.G.S.10. This is Cinclant's 302013 addressed to Santee for action and Comdeslant, Cominch, Comnavnav (Inform Commorroceanseafon and C. in C. Med.) C.T.F. 29, Comnavau (Pass to Admiralty) C.T.F.61. Task Group 21. 11 Captain Fick established as Santee Desdiv. 62 Macleigh. Provide anti submarine air coverage for convoy U.G.S.10 escorted by Task Force 61 which sails New York June 12 in co-operation with Comtask force 61. Task Group 21.11 proceed from Base H. on June 12 and R/V with Task Force 61 at appropriate point to Westward of

/longitude...



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Task Group 21.11. Convoy U.G.S.10. (Contd.) longitude of Bermuda. On arrival African waters Task Group 21.11 proceed Casablanca where I will give orders for return. Captain Fick directed proceed New York. Confer with Comtaskforce 61 Commander Oswal in LIVERMORE to formulate operating plan. (Comnaveu 311954 to Admtly.)

Convoy H.X.242. Additions. Deletions. (B.R.L.O. New York 312000Z. to Admtly.)

Convoy H.X.242. This completes my "Dis" 302000. Sailing telegram H.X.242. Part 1. 7. 52 ships. (P.D. New York 312140Z, 312022 to Admtly.)

Bahamas Forces, Command. C.O.S. (W) 622. Ref. C.O.S. (W) 595. (292030 April). Following Colonial Office Telegram No. 129 dated 31st May has been sent to Bahamas. "My Telegram No.99 last paragraph. Canadian Order-in-Council has now been made and is being forwarded to you by air mail". (Air Min. 312200Z. to Britman, Washington.)

S/M attack and sighting summary. All times Z. (A) Surface craft sight S/Ms. area 52.25 N. 38.22 W. 301846 and area 51.30 N. 39.00 W. 310100. (C) Plane sights S/M 64.55 N. 28.10 W. 311440. Plane sights S/M 36.48 N. 70.32 W. 311535. (D) U.S.S. UMPQUA sights two torpedo wakes 30.00 N. 80.40 W. 310845. P.C. 612 attacks sound contacts 30.29 N. 81.02 W. 311015. Pan air pilot sights conning tower course 151 22.55 N. 78.40 W. 311200. (Cominch 312210Z. to Admtly.)

SALISBURY. SALISBURY ready to sail Friday 11th June. Request destination. (B.A.R.M. 312232Z. to C. in C. C.N.W.A. (R) Admtly. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. S.B.N.O. W.At. SALISBURY.)

CITY OF GLASGOW suspected foul play. Your 102010Z. Missed convoy owing to deaths and sickness of D.E.M.S. ratings and previous and subsequent messages. Request full report of Inquiry may be forwarded and M. of W.T. representative kept fully informed. (D.T.D. 312353B. to N.C.S.O. Halifax. (R) Sec. N.B. Ottawa. N.O.I.C. St. Johns, N.F. Cdre. i/c.Halifax.)

/Kiwi...



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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Kiwi  
No.47. Searchlight observed Tongoa Island New Hebrides p.m. 29th May and natives report S.C. course N. a.m. 30th May. Munda New Georgia heavily bombed 28th May Buin area BOUGAINVILLE one A.P. course S.30 May.  
(C.W.R. Wellington 310025Z. to C. in C. E.F. Admty. D.N.I. A.C.N.B. B.A.D. G.H.Q. New Delhi.)

Departure Auckland 1046/30 U.S.S. MOUNT VERNON for San Francisco E.T.A. 11th June.

(D.N.I. Wellington 310521Z. to Admty.)

Arrivals 30th May Sydney A.S.I.S. POYANG Fall River U.S. Transport MAETSUYCKER 31st Townsville Hired Transport TAROONA. Hired Transport DUNTROON arrived Darwin 30th departed 31st due Thursday Island 2nd June U.S. Transport ANHUI departed Orobay 30th due Fall River 30th U.S. Transport PRESIDENT JOHNSON departed Brisbane 30th due Townsville 2nd U.S. Transport (corrupt group) HEUTSZ departed Brisbane 30th due Gladstone 1st.

(C.S.W. P.S.F. 311059Z. to Admty.)

Digest  
Serial No. 496.  
May 30th. One bomber sighted Cape Gloucester Aerodrome afternoon. 2. Seven Fortresses attacked Wewak and Boram Aerodromes before dawn starting fires including 2 probably from aircraft at Boram also causing explosions in ammunition dump and destroying 3 searchlights and probably 2 others. Also sighted 2 vessels stationary off Wewak. 3. Liberator dusk 29th reported sighting total 9 vessels outside Hansa Bay, including 4 destroyers, 2 large, 3 medium merchantmen. No other confirmation convoy increased from original 6 vessels including 1 destroyer, 1 gunboat, 4 medium merchant vessels. Nil shipping sighted Hansa Bay area morning 30th. 7. Photos during attack on Babo morning 29th reveal 7 medium bombers whereof 1 unserviceable, 2 light bombers, 4 fighters, including 1 burning ship attacking aircraft after sighted 4 Zeros taking off from Langgoor strip. 8. Photos midday same day showed 3 medium, 1 small merchant vessel Koepang Harbour area. 9. Three Liberators unsuccessfully attacked 3000 ton merchant man Kendari Harbour morning 30th. Other observations prevented by weather. 10. Photos taken morning 29th reveal following. At Makassar 1 torpedo boat, 1 minelayer, 16 merchant vessels whereof one 17,000 one 8,000, 23,000 and 12 under 500 tons and 200 Praus. 11. Two Liberators over Java area unsuccessfully intercepted by 1 fighter 100 miles W. of Sourabaya morning 30th and later reported sighting 3 merchant vessels with small escort 130 miles E.N.E. of Sourabaya course 45°.

(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 310920Z.)

Movements. Arrivals Fremantle 29th Netherlands HEEMSKERCK U.S. Ships, PELIAS, ISOBEL, CHANTICLEER. 30th QUIBERON, NEPAL, Sydney (N.S.W.) 29th DE DELORAIN, KALGOURLIE 30th, PIRIE, ECHULA, BENDIGO, BUNGAREE. Townsville 30th U.S. Destroyers SMITH, MAHAN, BROOKS, GILMER. Milne Bay 29th, BOWEN. Darwin 30th SWAN. Departure Geraldton 30th U.S. Seaplane Tender HERON for Fremantle. Brisbane 30th VENDETTA on escort. Milne Bay 27th WHYALLA on survey. 29th WAGGA for Port Moresby. 30th BOWEN for Townsville. Thursday Island 30th CASTLEMAINE for Milling. (Two corrupt groups) (A.C.N.B. 311324Z. to Admty. etc.)



War Diary.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 311330B, 311351B.)