

536.

16.8.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Enemy
Main Units.

1. Photographs taken by the Russians at 1520C yesterday show TIRPITZ, SCHARNHORST, one pocket battleship, and 6 Narvik class destroyers at Altenfiord.

Operation
S.F.

2. Five attacks were made by SHIKARI at 2130 today on a U-Boat sighted by A/C at 1720 in about 61° N. 16° 22' W.

Operation
"Musketry".

3. An A/C of 53 Squadron attacked a U-Boat at 1428 today and reported at 1515 that the U-Boat had entered Ferrol. ATHABASKAN and GRENVILLE left Falmouth at 1420B to R/V at 2030A tomorrow in 45° 50' N. 12° 15' W. with GLASGOW supporting the 2nd and 40th Escort Groups; and the S/M UNBROKEN was ordered at 1121A to proceed direct to establish an A/S patrol in Zone J.8. E.G.40 left Plymouth at 1702A to resume patrol in the "Musketry" area.

Operation
F.N.

4. C.S.10 in BELFAST with ONSLOW and ORWELL were reported by Stavanger A/C at 1020 today.

Portsmouth
bombed.

5. Portsmouth was attacked by 25 to 30 A/C early this morning. The attack lasted 2 hours and 20 minutes with one 17 minute break at 0103 and damage was done in the dockyard, naval barracks, and Stamshaw Camp. The Q-sites drew much of the attack towards Hayling Island and Langstone Harbour and there were 7 casualties in the dockyard and about 111 in civil areas, of which 26 were fatal. No naval casualties are reported.

Convoy
T.A. 57.

6. AQUITANIA left the Clyde at 1745A today for New York. SHROPSHIRE sailed with W.S. 33 for Australia.

North Atlantic.

Spanish S/M
attacked off
Ferrol.

7. A submarine believed German, was reported attacked by aircraft today about 10 miles N.E. of Ferrol, on the edge of territorial waters, and was seen making for Ferrol. N.A. Madrid was asked to make urgent inquiries. It appears that the vessel was the Spanish S/M B.2, which when entering Ferrol was followed by 2 unknown planes and the shore batteries opened fire.

War Diary.

16.8.1943.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Sicily
and
southern
Italy.

8(a) U.S. forces entered Messina this evening.

(b) U.S. cruisers and destroyers covering ferrying operations on the Army's left flank at Barcellona were dive bombed last night by 3 aircraft without damage.

(c) American M.T.Bs. last night encountered 2 E-Boat North of Messina, but the enemy escaped.

(d) ROBERTS (monitor) destroyers and M.T.Bs. (under Captain D.4) last night covered a successful landing of two Commando elements at Scaletta (north of Taormina) by L.C.As of PRINCE CHARLES and PRINSES BEATRIX, with 5 L.C.Ts. A small number of tanks were also landed. At 1420 today the Commandos reported holding positions and advancing south to meet our own troops. An infantry battalion was ferried up the East Coast to reinforce them.

(e) SIRIUS and DIDO, with the destroyers PENN and PANTHER, sank a southbound lighter and 2 escorting M.Ls. off Cape Bonifati last night, and later carried out a 15 minute bombardment of Vibo Valentia Marina.

(f) TROUBRIDGE, TYRIAN and TUMULT patrolling off the Calabrian Coast last night engaged 3 E-Boats which fired torpedoes. The E-Boats were chased but made good their escape.

(g) M.T.Bs. operating in the Messina Straits last night were engaged by shore batteries and had one boat damaged with several casualties.

Canal
Area.

9. Force G is to be known in future as Force M. The flag of Rear Adm. Peters was transferred from KEREN to BULOLO today.

Air
Operations.

10. 39 Wellingtons attacked marshalling yards and beaches last night of Sapri, Cetrano, Scalea and Paola, on the western side of the toe of Italy.
44 other Wellingtons dropped 88½ tons of bombs at Viterbo.
A coastal Wellington last night attacked a 4000 ton M/V with torpedoes near Monte Circe, N.W. of Gulf of Gaeta.
A fire was seen after the attack.
Wellingtons also bombed a merchant vessel of 2000 tons, a smaller M/V, and a tanker at Missolonghi (W. Coast of Greece).

/Beaufighters...

16.8.1943.

Monday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.Air
Operations.
(Contd.)

Beaufighters last night dropped 2 torpedoes in an attack on 2 stationary destroyers 2 miles E. of Chiappa Point.

Tactical Force bomber aircraft today carried out 8 missions in the Messina Straits, including an attack on 2 7000 ton ships by 11 B.25s north of Messina and one by 12 Baltimores on a ship on fire north of Messina.

Fighter bombers continued their attacks on barges in the Straits, whilst others attacked communications in the toe of Italy. Beaufighters attacked 2 escorted merchant vessels of 3000/4000 tons N.E. of Zannone Island (Gulf of Gaeta, W. Coast of Italy) and a torpedo hit was scored on each. Beaufighters also attacked 2 merchant vessels in Missolonghi Harbour, and obtained a hit on one of them.

Enemy Air
Attacks on
Convoys.

11. The Bougie section of Convoy U.G.S.13 was attacked by a Heinkel 111 at 0300 before joining the main convoy. A torpedo fired at HORNPIPE, trawler escort, was avoided and the aircraft was shot down. A second aircraft was driven off. SS. EMPIRE KESTREL, a straggler from the main U.G.S.13 convoy, was torpedoed and sunk at 0300 by an undetected enemy aircraft. 40 survivors were landed at Philippeville.

SS. BENJAMIN CONTEE, American, carrying 1800 Italian prisoners of war, whilst joining Convoy G.U.S.12 was torpedoed at 1328 about 2 miles W. of Bone Harbour. She reached Bone with about 320 killed and 80 wounded.

A formation of L.C.Ts. was attacked by 3 fighter bombers at 1810 off Cape Orlando without damage.

East Indies.

12. SS. HAVILDAR, British, which left Madras on 9th August for Aden and U.K., made an "S" report at 1550 from 09.37 N. 64.06 E.

13. U.S. Liberators attacked 2 small freighters 120 miles south of Moulmein, and left them in an apparently sinking condition.

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War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

14. A U.S. aircraft at 1750Z attacked a U-Boat in 19.53 N. 74.50 W., about 15 miles south of Cuba.

Australia and New Zealand.

15. 2 Liberators attacked shipping and oil installations at Balikpapan this forenoon. A 6000 ton tanker was set on fire, and hits scored on the oil storage tanks, causing fires.

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Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Inferior Coal in North Russia. EMPIRE SCOTT. Informed by Russian Staff that EMPIRE SCOTT being unable to maintain more than $6\frac{1}{2}$ knots has parted company for Archangel escorted by one minesweeper. I approve detached minesweeper should remain Archangel. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 160406A to JASON) My 150937. EMPIRE SCOTT is returning to Archangel escorted by BRITOMART having been unable to maintain speed of more than $6\frac{1}{2}$ knots with Russian coal. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 161032A to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

CYCLAMEN. When CYCLAMEN is ready for Sea C. in C. Nore is requested to sail her for Tobermory for short work-up. 2. On conclusion of work-up C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail her in first convenient convoy to rejoin F.O.C.W. Africa's Command. (D.O.D.H. 161236A to C. in C. Nore.)

Provision of Hunting Groups. Your 151241. Concur that ships mentioned in para. 3 should be made available as soon as possible. 2. They, together with ships mentioned in N.S.H.Qs. 142132 August should be formed into groups under your command and employed on Bay offensive. 3. Request your proposals. (A.C.N.S. H. 162155A to C. in C.W.A.)

Movements.

Ships at Scapa. Principal ships at Scapa 0600/16. (A.C.O.S. 160601A to Admty.)

ORIBI. Your 152031A. Arrived. (C. in C. Rosyth, 160645A to R.A.D.)

VIZALMA. Report situation forthwith. (C. in C.W.A. 161002Z to VIZALMA.) Your 161002Z. My P.C.S.052° 55' N. 023° 43' W. 025° 8 knots. LORD KELVIN in company. (VIZALMA, 161030Z to C. in C.W.A.)

S/M movements. Intend to sail VENTUR^{ca} (My 101556B) escorted by MAZURKA at 1300Z/18 northabout to Clyde, E.T.A. Cumbrae 1300A/19. (N.O.I.C. Barrow, 161415A Intend to sail Z5 escorting OTUS, UNA from Rothesay at 1400A/18 via searched channels to 052° 25' N. 004° 55' W. E.T.A. 1500A/19th. Thence UNA unescorted to Fishguard, E.T.A. 1630A. Z5 escorting OTUS to 180°, Bishop Rock 10 miles adjusting speed to arrive 2200A/20th, thence OTUS unescorted to comply with F.O.S. 141852B. (Capt. S.7. 161601A to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

/Positions...

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Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

S/M Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/17 and movements
Movements. for following 24 hours.
(Contd.) (F.O.S. 161656A, 171717A)
My 141815B. Sailed. (P.556)
(Capt. S.7 162001A)

BERMUDA. Intend to pass through 243° Bishop Rock 18 at
0200A tomorrow, course 98° 16 knots. E.T.A.
0820.
(BERMUDA 161810A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

SHROPSHIRE. Admiralty's 112201B. After parting company
SHROPSHIRE intends to make 20 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 162104A to Admt'y.)

Operations.

Operation Your 152044. U/boat was attacked at 1419A in
S.F. corrected position T.C. 57.20 when on course
240° average 6 knots. 4 depth charges dropped
when swirl only visible. 2nd and 3rd straddled
80 ft. ahead of swirl. Whitish substance like
paint seen before and after attack. No oil, air, bubbles, or
debris seen.
(? MUSKETEER, 160057A. No address)
Sailed MATCHLESS, ULSTER for Skaalefiord. E.T.A. 1830A/16.
(R.A.D. 160705A to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)
Port thrusting block over-heating at speeds above 15 knots.
Oil supply correct. Excess vibration. Suggest "A" frame bush
worn. 60% oil remain at 0800Z. If contact not regained by
2000A tonight intend return Skaale Fiord. No further
instructions.
(SHIKARI, 160922A to C. in C. Rosyth.)
My 151139A 2. Centre of square to be moved 225°, 30
miles as from 1159A/16th.
(C. in C. Rosyth 161008A to MUSKETEER)
My 031615B and my 152304A. Moorings moved a further 225°
60 miles at 1159A/16th. (2) From 1202A to 2358A/16th (A) 9
(B) 6.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 161047A to H.F.)
Your 160922 last sentence. Destination Scapa.
(C. in C.H.F. 161347A to SHIKARI)
When next ordered by C. in C. Rosyth to return to Base
destination of ships addressed is Scapa.
(C. in C. H.F. 161417A to MUSKETEER, METEOR, MAHRATTA,
SHIKARI)
My 151139A and 161008A. Centre of square to be moved a
further 30 miles 225° forthwith.
2. Detach SHIKARI to Scapa. C. in C. H.F. 161347A refers.
(C. in C. Rosyth 161547A to MUSKETEER)
If no further A/C sightings and if not in contact at 2359A/
16th, return to harbour.
(C. in C. Rosyth 161554A to MUSKETEER, MAHRATTA, METEOR)
Am over enemy S/M in 61° 18' N. 17° 00' W. Periscope only
sighted and was on course 187° estimated speed 5.
(A/C H/18 N.R.I. 161720A to 18 Group)

/My...

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Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation S.F. (Contd.) My message No. 1. Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge, periscope only sighted. Was on course 164° estimate speed 5 knots.
(A/C M.J.S.W. 161740 to 18 Group)
At 1902A reached position submarine reported by aircraft W.11, 061° 01' 016° 22' W. On arrival METEOR and SHIKARI obtained contact and are investigating. MUSKETEER and MAHRATTA are sweeping to southward.
(MUSKETEER, 162035A to C. in C. Rosyth.)
Have attacked enemy submarine in 061° 07', 016° 28'.
(SHIKARI, 162129A to C. in C. Rosyth.)
My 162129. Contact held for 2½ hours. 5 attacks carried out. 3 Bubble Target released. 2 attacks, including the last, accurate.
(SHIKARI, 162224A to C. in C. Rosyth.)
(1) Group B. (2) 061° 13' N. 017° 20' W. 6060 (3) 225
(4) "Apricot" cancel my 161554A.
(C. in C. Rosyth 162225A to H.F.)
Have probable S/M contact position 61.04 N. 16.15 W.
Request relief A/C to maintain patrol round destroyers.
(A/C M.J.S.A. 162225A to 18 Group)
In view of your 162035 cancel my 162225.
(C. in C. Rosyth 162320A to H.F.)
Your 162035. If contact is lost continue search until further orders. 2 relief A/C call sign MJSL 20 and MJSP 4 carrying out square search from 61° 01' N. 16° 22' W.
(C. in C. Rosyth 162350A to MUSKETEER)
My 031615B and 161047A. Mooring patrols revert to normal Area from midnight 16th. (2) From 0001A to 1159A 17th (a)6 (b)5.
(C. in C. Rosyth 162359A to H.F.)

Operation "Musketry". Have obtained A.S.V. contact.
(A/C AJ7U T.O.R. 160244 to 19 Group)
Attack abandoned.
(A/C AJ7U 160255 to 19 Group)
ATHABASKAN is taking GRENVILLE under his orders leaving Falmouth after fuelling today and proceeding through position (J) 180° Bishop's Rock 15 and (K) 048° 49' N. 010° 15' W. and thence R/V GLASGOW at 2030A/17 in 045° 50' N. 012° 15' W.
2. After meeting destroyers are to form A/S screen for GLASGOW supporting Second and 40th Escort Groups. (4) Codeword "Talbot".
(C. in C. Plymouth, 160913A)
Cancel my 141732. UNBROKEN proceed direct to establish anti U/Boat patrol in zone J.8 bound by parallels 045° N. and line drawn 075° through 044° 25' N. 005° 00' W. and longitudes 005° W. and 003° W. You are covered by submerged bombing restrictions.
(F.O.S. 161121A to S/Ms.)
Your 160913. Sailed. (ATHABASKAN, GRENVILLE)
(N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 161420B to C. in C. Plymouth.)
Disposition at 2000. (1) ATHABASKAN, GRENVILLE 049° 35' N. 007° W. S.W. bound, 20 knots.
(2) 40th Escort Group, LANGUARD, WAVENEY, BIDEFORD, HASTINGS, 180°. The Lizard 3, westbound, 12 knots.

/(3)...

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Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation
"Musketry"
(Contd.)

Second Escort Group, STARLING, WREN, KITE, WOODCOCK, WOODPECKER, WILD GOOSE patrolling vicinity 045° N. 011° W.

(4) GLASGOW patrol vicinity 045° N. 011° W.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 161625A)

My 151714, sailed. (E.G.40).

(C. in C. Plymouth, 161702A)

Cancel my 151812. Resume patrol between 044° N. and 046° N.
(2) From dark tomorrow 2nd Escort Group is operating in area Musketry South.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 161736A to E.G.2.)

8 Ju. 88s position 43°56' N. 10° 22' W. at 1715.

(A/C 161736 to 19 Group.)

Operation
FN.

You were reported by Stavanger weather aircraft at 1020.

(D.D.I.C. 161200A to BELFAST)

Coastal
Force
Patrols.

(a) M.G.Bs. 613 (S.O.), 614, M.T.Bs. 250, 251 from Newhaven are to carry out sweep along the French coast between 073° Yoke Yoke 9 miles and 236° Yoke Yoke 15 miles, passing two N. at approx. 2230A and four N. at 0430A. Object to attack torpedo targets proceeding along inshore route which may be within one mile of the coast.

(b) BLEASDALE, GLAISDALE, anti-E-boat patrol on 50° 25' N. between 00° 40' W. and 01° 25' W. from 2230A to 0330A. Then to patrol near C.3. buoy from 0500A until ordered to return.

(c) M.Ls. 292, 343 patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between F. and E.A.5 buoys.

(d) M.Ls. 344 immediate notice St. Helens. (e) GOATHLAND, ALBRIGHTON immediate notice Yarmouth. (f) M.G.Bs. 7, 6 and 8 from Portland patrolling 50° 20' N. between 02° 00' W. and 02° 25' W.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 161421A)

1. Force "C" M.G.Bs. 111, 115 are to patrol in vicinity 180° Eddystone 8 miles. 2. Codeword "Arena". 3. Force "D" M.G.Bs. 329, 324 are to patrol in vicinity 105°. Start 21 miles. Codeword "Gibson". 5. Forces "C" and "D" are to leave Dartmouth to be on patrol by 2130A, leave patrol 0500A. 6. Forces are not to enter Q.Z.X. 1056 unless in pursuit of the enemy.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 161444A)

M.Ls. 138 and 203 at Bullock Bank. M.G.Bs. S.2, S.1 and 42 at V buoy, E.T.D.2030, E.T.R. 0530/17.

(V.A. Dover, 161824A)

Your 161444A. "Gibson" and "Arena" sailed at 1900A and 1905A respectively for exercises before taking up position.

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 161900A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

S/M
patrols.

Position of submarines at 0800A/17th and movements for following 24 hours. (A) UPSTART and ULA as in my 101721. (B) TRUANT approx. 62° 10' N. 00° 50' W. dived as much as practicable when North of 62° N. for Lerwick.

/ (C) ...

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Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

S/M (C) THRASHER approx. 61° 29' N. 00° 22' for
patrols. Lerwick. (F) TRUCULENT 49° 30' N. 06° 30' W.,
(Contd.) dived by day to southward, daily advance 100
miles. (G) TUNA 49° 30' N. 06° 15' W. dived by
day through 49° N. 06° W. thence to southward,
daily advance 100 miles. (J) SYRTIS 46° 50' N.
06° 55' W., dived by day through 47° 30' N. 07° 30' W. thence
to Northward. (K) SEANYMPH 46° 44' N. 06° 00' W. dived by
through 47° 30' N. 07° 01' W. thence to northward. (L) UNBROKEN
on patrol in area bounded by 45° N. and line drawn 075° through
44° 25' N. 05° 01' W. and longitude 5° W. and 3° W.
(F.O.S. 161656A Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Portsmouth 1. H.E. Bomb near No. 14 Dock in dockyard. New
bombed. construction office demolished. Considerable
blast damage, 2 slightly injured. Small fire in
the sail-loft quickly brought under control.
One H.E. Bomb Stamshaw Camp, damage by blast to
buildings. Royal Naval Barracks report small phosphorous type
1 B in roof of ward room.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 160129A to Admty.)
My 0129. Casualties in the dockyard now reported as 9.
No naval casualties so far reported.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 160340 to Admty.)
Summary of Air Raid on 16th August. Raid by 25 to 30
planes. Type not yet established. Duration 2 hours 20 mins.
with short break from 0103 to 0120 during which time it is
believed 2 H.Es. were dropped in Portsmouth. Incidents mainly
affected Portsmouth, Hayling Island, Havant and Gosport to a
minor extent. H.Es. Phosphorous bombs, Oil bombs, Incendiary
bombs and I.Bs. with explosive tails were all used and scattered
over a wide area. Some fires were started none serious.
Communications still good. Naval damage to three Naval
properties. Details. Civil Area Portsmouth. Casualties
22 killed, 28 seriously injured, 40 slightly injured. 1 H.E.
at Airspeeds destroyed an aircraft. No interruption to
production. 22 Fires dealt with, 13 unexploded bombs. Havant
had 18 incidents over scattered area including Hayling Island.
A few small fires some houses damaged and demolished.
Casualties so far reported - 2 women, 2 children killed: 5 women,
3 men 9 children injured. 3 unexploded bombs reported Fareham.
Oil-bomb dropped on Gosport Pontoon. Several phosphorous type
incendiaries in vicinity of Gosport Ferry Gardens. No damage
or casualties. The unexploded bomb outside the boundary of
Stamshaw is now stated by the C.O. to be on Admiralty property;
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 161405A to Admty.)
My 161405. It is apparent that the Q sites were effective
in drawing a good portion of the attack towards Hayling Island
and Langstone Harbour. Unconfirmed reports state that a fair
number of bombs dropped in the harbour.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 161417A to Admty.)

/My...

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Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.Portsmouth
bombed.
(Cont.)

My 160129 and 160340. Correct casualties to read 2 injured and in hospital 5 slightly injured. Correct damage as follows. Details. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 161425A to Admty.)

DELHI
attacked.

Trawler DELHI when fishing 20 miles N.W. of the Bull at 140750B reports being attacked by a Ju.88. Three attacks were made, Skipper wounded, slight superficial damage. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 161115A to Admty.)

Mining.

S.N.74.

Estimated position at 2204 tonight. AGAMEMNON, MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, NORFOLK, SABRE, MARYS, IMPULSIVE, MIDDLETON, 066° 15' N. 023° 52' W. to South. (A.C.I.C. 161310A to Ships)

Reykjavik Departure at 1552A WELLS, SALADIN to join you. (A.C.I.C. 161606A to R.A.M.)

Request you will sail IMPULSIVE in accordance with para. 3 of C. in C. H.F.071154 and that IMPULSIVE be directed to close Reykjavik on sailing in order to embark Commander Oswald and one other Officer for passage if no opportunity for air passage has occurred by that time.

(A.C.I.C. 161940A to KENT, IMPULSIVE.)

065° 45' N. 024° 30' W. 210° 13 knots at 2200B. Proceed Hvalfiord as convenient.

(R.A.M. 162201B to NORFOLK.)

My P.C.S. at 2300A, 065° 20' N. 024° 39' W. 165° 13 knots. (R.A.M. 162300A to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.Alten
Fiord.

Soviet interpretation (corrupt group) of P.R.U. photographs of Alten Fiord taken 1520C yesterday gives: TIRPITZ, SCHARNHORST, one pocket battleship, six Narvik-class destroyers. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 161010A to Admty.)

Spitzbergen.

My 041603. R/C of Dickson and Eckman Fjord completed. All huts visited. No trace of Germans. ("Locomotive" 161205Z to Admty.)

Unknown
Craft.

WYOMING 160251A. At 0244 WYOMING 8 cables east of 51 buoy heading south, EDWARDIAN 2 cables N.W. of WYOMING. Dim red light seen to northward at 0244 then small squat shape seen to northward heading west at same speed. Both ships commenced turning to starboard WYOMING fired four star shell had brief sight of object just abaft EDWARDIAN's funnel. Object

/in...

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Craft.
(Contd.)

in view about 3 mins. H.E. during 13 mins. showed contact going first west then east. EDWARDIAN who was nearer saw nothing and got no contact. As the night was very clear and EDWARDIAN closer to the object it is difficult to separate fact from fancy.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 161610A to C. in C. Nore.)

Casualties and Defects.

CALGARY.

Major bearing defect developed in CALGARY may delay sailing beyond August 19th.
(Cdre. D.W.A. 161024A to C. in C. Plymouth.)
My 152117A. CALGARY is defective and will not sail with remainder of group. (2) It is unlikely that this ship will be ready in time to join group during first trip to Bay and she will probably join on group's return to Plymouth.
(C. in C.W.A. 161242A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

BURWELL.

My 151237A. Further defects will delay sailing of BURWELL till 1300A 18th.
(Cdre. D.W.A. 161028A.)

PELICAN.

My 101910 and my 051959. PELICAN is defective and will not sail with group. (2) S.O. Escort group No. one will sail with group in EGRET.
(3) PELICAN is expected to be ready p.m. 25th and will then sail to join group in the Bay.
(A.C.W.A. 161821A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

BERMUDA.

Your 101646B. Anticipate BERMUDA will be required to sail about 0900A/20th. Report -
(a) what boiler cleaning you can carry out within this time (b) maximum speed available during boiler cleaning (c) time to close up boilers if required in emergency.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 161853A to BERMUDA.)

Unknown
Ship.

Intercept at 2205 G.M.T. on 500 from unknown station SSSS De Su ?? torpedoed Port?.
(Wick, 162308BST to Ad Lyness)

Shipping and Convoys.

ORION.

Intend sailing ORION at 0600A/17th for New York.
Route. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 161215A)

K.M.F. 22.

Sailed my 141630.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 161230A)

/My...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. - Contd.

K.M.F.22
(Contd.)

My 151430A. Amend sailing-time to read 0230A/
17th. S.O.A. 18 knots.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 161700B to Admt.)
My 141038. Sailed. BANN delayed by defects.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 161944A.)

EMPRESS OF
AUSTRALIA,
ORDUNA,
TEGELBERG.

Sailed 1319/16.
(S.T.O. N.W. Ports, 161650A to D.S.T.)

T.A.57
(AQUITANIA)

Sailed at 1745/16th.
(S.T.O. Greenock, 161759A)

D.S.44.

SS. ~~VOLENDAM~~ is allocated for convoy D.S.44
leaving Clyde p.m. 31st August.
(D.O.D.H. 161851A to C. in C.W.A.) See also
D.O.D.H. 231958A.

K.M.S. M.24.

Convoy K.M.S.(M)24.

Ship.	Nationality.	Destination.
EXILONA	U.S.A.	Algiers and Oran
MERS EL KEBIR	French	Oran F.O.
LANGLEEBROOK		Bone.
FORT GLENORA		Bone.

(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 162056A.)

DUCHESS
OF BEDFORD.

Sailed at 2350A/16.
(S.T.O. Greenock, 162355A.)

16.8.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

General.

American losses at sea.

The United States Navy Department last night announced:- The U.S. S/M PICKEREL failed to return from patrol operations and must be presumed lost. Mediterranean:- The following U.S. Naval vessels have been lost in action against the enemy in operations in this area:-

The U.S.S. ^x P.C. 458 (S/M Chaser) sunk June 4 as the result of an under-water explosion; the U.S.S. REDWING (S/M rescue vessel) sunk June 29 as the result of an under-water explosion; the U.S.S. SENTINEL (M/S) sunk July 11 in landing operations off Sicily, the U.S.S. MADDOX (Destroyer) sunk July 10 by aircraft off Sicily. Atlantic:- U.S.S. PLYMOUTH (Gunboat) sunk a short distance off the North Carolina coast on August 5 as the result of an under-water explosion.

(The Times 16.8.1943.)

** P.C. 496 intended? Med. War Diary, 4.6.1943 (TSB 4032/43) p. 206 says P.C. 496 struck a mine and sank in 37°23' N, 09°52' E. Five officers and 60 ratings picked up. Three ratings missing.*

North Atlantic.

SALVONIA,
SCYLLA,
O.S. 53/
K.M.S. 23.
(attacked
15/8.)

Rescue Tug SALVONIA sailed position:-
038° 46' N. 012° 44' W. Your 152201 refers
(F.O.C. Gib. 160115B to SCYLLA (R) BLACKWOOD,
Admty. C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A.)
Cancel my 160025 not to all (N.T. in W.D.)
Proceed to join combined convoys O.S. 53/K.M.S. 23
in position. (WF) 036° 20' N. 010° 10' W.

2. O.S. 53/K.M.S. 23 S.O. BLACKWOOD, routed from
(WE) 040° 01' N. 014° 15' W. through (WF) to (WG) 033° 01' N.
010° 10' W. S. of A. 8 knots, is estimated to pass through (WF)
at 2200B/August 16th.

(F.O.C. Gib. 160901B to SALVONIA (R) SCYLLA, Admty. BLACKWOOD,
C. in C. W.A. C. in C. Med.)

F.O.I.C. Gib. 160901B. Cdre. of convoy to be 10 miles
S. of W.F. at 2230Z altering then to W.G.

(BLACKWOOD 161820Z to SALVONIA (R) F.O.I.C. Gib.)

My 16/826 (161820 intended). SALVONIA not met. Dense fog.
My course 179° 7 knots.

(BLACKWOOD 162316Z to F.O.I.C. Gib. SALVONIA.)

K.M.S. 23. My 152326A. BARON FAIRLIE keeping water down
with difficulty but has nearly succeeded in overtaking convoy.
BAZELEY could not find FACTO and is rejoining. ELIZABETH MASSEY
not undamaged but struggling 6 miles astern. Stop Press.
FACTO in convoy.

(Escort S.4. 160322Z to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) Admty. SCYLLA,
C. in C. W.A. BAZELEY, C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med.)

My 160322. K.M.S. 23 final state of parts. BARON FAIRLIE
stemming leak but may have to go into Gibraltar. Other ship
was not FACTO but OCEAN FAITH, 23, still in convoy, keeping
water down but degaussing out of order. ELIZABETH MASSEY 5
miles astern. H.M.S. STORIT (sic) Radar (maybe?) completely out
of action due to gunfire. Rescue ship RATHLIN has 94 survivors
and one body from WARFIELD.

(S.O. Escort Group 4. 160725Z to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) Admty.
C. in C. W.A. C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med. SCYLLA.)

/Escort...

16.8.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.SALVONIA,
SCYLLA,
O.S.53/
K.M.S.23,
(attacked
15/8.)
(Contd.)

Escort of convoy K.M.S.23 is not repetition not to part company from O.S.53 until escorts in para. 2 of my 151112 have joined. 2. Para. 3 for 19th and 21st read 18th and 20th respectively. 3. REDPOLE is to enter Gibraltar with escorts in Para. 4. (?F.O. Gib. 161153B to Escorts of Convoy K.M.S.23. for Cdre. O.S.53, Admty. C.M.S.F., F.O.C.W.A., C. in C. Med. M. & A., N.O.I.C. Oran.) Fuelling arrangements approved. Your 151545 refers

(2) Unlikely that escort Oiler will be in S.L.135, further signals will be made.

(F.O.I.C. Gib. 161231B to BLACKWOOD (R) Admty. F.O.C.W.A., C. in C. W.A. Escorts of O.S.53, C.M.S.F.)

Part company at 2200B/16th August and proceed to Gibraltar with all convenient despatch. (2) Ship is to boiler clean on arrival.

(F.O.I.C. Gib. 161235B to SCYLLA (R) Admty. C. in C. Med. (M) and (A)).

Dispositions. LOCH OSKAIG, MARIE LOUISE MACKAY, repairing cable in vicinity $036^{\circ} 16' 007^{\circ} 28'$. 2. O.S.53 K.M.S. (?23) BLACKWOOD, SCYLLA, (corrupt group) $036^{\circ} 32' 010^{\circ} 24'$ through $036^{\circ} 20' 010^{\circ} 10'$ thence $177^{\circ} 8'$. SCYLLA part company approx. 162200 and (?proceeds) Gibraltar 23. TRENT was detached about 161400 for Casablanca to fuel and rejoin p.m. 17th. TEST being detached 170800 rejoining p.m. 18th. 3. O.S.53G. ISIS $035^{\circ} 14' 008^{\circ} 31'$ to R/V O.S.53/K.M.S.23 in $034^{\circ} 48' 010^{\circ} 05' 7\frac{1}{2}'$ escort returns after fuelling with K.M.S.23 through $035^{\circ} 45' 006^{\circ} 30' 8'$. 4. Mediterranean escorts of K.M.S.23 SHOREHAM $035^{\circ} 46' 006^{\circ} 28'$ to R/V O.S.53 K.M.S.23 in $034^{\circ} 48' 010^{\circ} 05' 12'$. 5. Casablanca section O.S.53, P.C.474, sails Casablanca 161900 to R/V O.S.53 in $034^{\circ} 54' 010^{\circ} 08' 9'$ after R/V escort return with one merchant ship 8. 6. Fleet units (?SAV)AGE $035^{\circ} 07' 010^{\circ} 21'$ through $035^{\circ} 01' 010^{\circ} 01'$ to Gibraltar 19. 7. Escort group 38 ENCHANTRESS $038^{\circ} 05' 012^{\circ} 42'$ through $036^{\circ} 01' 011^{\circ} 01'$ to Casablanca 12. 8. IMPERIALIST, SCOTTISH, 1 merchant ship $036^{\circ} 52' 007^{\circ} 58'$ coastwise to Lisbon 8. 9. DUMONT D'URVILLE, FORBIN $034^{\circ} 20' 007^{\circ} 45'$ through $035^{\circ} 44' 006^{\circ} 28'$ to Gibraltar 14. 10. C.G.56 LE TEMPETE sailing Casablanca 1100/17th through $035^{\circ} 44' 006^{\circ} 28'$ to Gibraltar 8. 11. SALVONIA approx. $036^{\circ} 22' 009^{\circ} 48'$ to R/V O.S.53, K.M.S.23, 12 (F.O. Gib. 161051B.) To my 161051B add new para (12) WITHERINGTON, ACTIVE sail Casablanca 0900/17th through $035^{\circ} 44' 006^{\circ} 28'$ to Gibraltar 20. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 162121B.) Situation 1958B/16th. GLORIEUX $032^{\circ} 27' 030^{\circ} (01)$ through $032^{\circ} 01' 034^{\circ} 01'$ thence 289° on the surface 11. 2. U.G.S.14, C.T.F.65, C.T.G. 21.15 $035^{\circ} 08' 033^{\circ} 07' 093^{\circ} 9'$. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 161101B.)

War Diary.16.8.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

ST.CERGUE. Swiss steamship ST.CERGUE leaves Genoa for Gibraltar 20th August.
(D.E.W.D.161205A to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) C. in C.Med.)
Postponed see 201433.

LADY HOGARTH. Intend to sail LADY HOGARTH at 2100B August 17th to relieve you in position (W) 036° 16' N. 007° 28' W. E.T.A.position (W) 0900B August 18th.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 161223B to LOCH OSKAIG (R) Admty. C. in C. Med. LADY HOGARTH.)

INCONSTANT. Request your intentions for return of INCONSTANT. A.M. 061801 para. 4 refers.
(D.O.D. (F) 161242A to F.O.I.C. Gib.)

FINN, safe conduct. Following is a repetition of my 161214.
(Begins) Expected to leave Marseilles 18th August Swedish FINN 1600 G.T. coast-wise to Cape San Sebastian thence approved route to Gibraltar. Not to be molested, this voyage T.O.O.161214.
(Ends).
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 161243B to S.8, F.S. ORPHEE, F.S. LA SULTANE.)

U/B Ferrol. Am over enemy S/M in 43° 35' N. 08° 15' W. within half an hour of 1400. Enemy S/M was on surface and when first sighted was on course 045° estimated speed 8 knots.
(A/C 53 Sq. Duty A. 161428 to 19 Group.)
My 1428. U-Boat previously reported was on surface Have attacked with depth-charges. No hits.
(A/C 53 Sq. Duty A. 161428 to 19 Group.)
My 1428. Have attacked enemy with depth charges.
(A/C 53 Sq. Duty A. 161435A to 19 Group.)
My 161428. Have attacked enemy.
(A/C 53 Sq. Duty A. 1161500 to 19 Group.)
U/B has entered El Ferrol.
(A/C 53 Sq. Duty A. 161515 to 19 Group.)
Your 1541. U-Boat uncamouflaged now alongside at Ferrol.
(A/C 53 Sq. Duty A. 161625A to 19 Group.)
German S/M chased by plane reported entered Ferrol 5 p.m. August 16th. Proceeding Ferrol, ascertain if report correct.
(Guyatt, Coruna 162030 to Admty. (R) Gib. and B.N.A.Madrid.)

Cable operations. MARIE LOUISE MACKAY completed operations (A) and (B). Your 152150 and my 141153 not to C. in C. Med. (2) Operation (C) now in progress. Estimate complete within next few days.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 161519B to C. in C. Med. (A) (R) Admty. C. in C. Med.)

16.8.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- O.S.53 Suspicious Ships. O.S.53. JOHAMAUITS reports that at 0429Z today Monday in approx. 037° 48' 011° 35' he closed convoy of 2 or more merchant ships and at least one warship steering 350-7 knots. No reply received to V/S unknown call. (S.O. Escort Group 4 161636Z to F.O.I.C.Gib.)
- K.M.S.23. Intend sailing (list, 5 ships.) (F.O.I.C. Gib. 161636B to N.O's.i/C. North African Ports.)
- TRENT. E.T.A. 0530Z/17. Approx. 250 tons fuel oil (TRENT 161645Z to N.O.I.C. Casablanca (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)
- G.U.S.12. My 131143 add DAVID STONE, GEORGE DAVIS, HENRY DUNDAS (T), ANNE BRADSTREET. All in ballast. Delete M.B. LAMAR. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 161648B to Comm. Algeria, Commob. Oran, C.M.S.F.F.)
- E.G.38. My E.T.A. Casablanca A buoy 0600A/18th August. (S.O. E.G.38 161837Z to Comorseafron (R) F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in C. W.A.)
- OTUS. F.O. (S) 142024B. Intend routeing OTUS through (P) 38° 50' N. 10° 00' W. at 1700/27. (Q) 37° 00' 10° 00' W. at 1300/28. (S) 26° 10' N. 21° 00' W. at 2259/1st. September, thence by onward route ordered by F.O.C.W.A.F. 2. Intend OTUS to proceed diving by day until reaching latitude 35° N. at 2359/29 thereafter proceeding on the surface at 10 knots. All times zone minus 2. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 161903B to F.O.C.W.A. (R) F.O.S. Admty. S.7.)
- French Refugees. Your 142001. This date impossible as no rolling stock available in Portugal between 27th and 31st. Suggest target date be made 6th September. (B.N.A. Lisbon 161908B to C. in C. Med. (A) (R) N.O.I.C. Gib. B.N.A. Madrid, Admty.)
- Convoy G.C.30. G.C.30 arrived. (Commorseafron 161930B to F.O.I.C. Gib.) S/M believed German was attacked by aircraft about ten miles N.E. of Ferrol at edge of territorial waters today, and was seen making for Ferrol. A S/M was subsequently sighted alongside in Ferrol and apparently uncamouflaged. 2.No Spanish S/M is believed to have been in the vicinity. 3. You should use discretion, but make most urgent enquiries.It is now (?not) known whether S/M attacked was damaged. (Head of M.I.162316A to N.A. Madrid (R) C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C., F.O.I.C. Gib.)

/Movements...

16.8.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Movements,
Casablanca.

Warships August 16th. Arrivals WITHERINGTON,
ACTIVE, P.C.S.482, 484, 75, Task Group 21.14,
CARD, BARRY, GOFF, BCISE. Departures DUMONT
D'URVILLE, FORBIN, S.C.524 P.C.S.474, 471, 473.
(Commorseafron 162125B to C. in C. Med.)

War Diary.16.8.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Movements
Takoradi Arrivals 16th August. EXE.
Departure 16th August. M.L.1052 Port Harcourt
escorting; E.T.A. Bonny Fairway Buoy 1500/17th.Z.
(N.O.i/c Takoradi 160846Z to Admty. etc.).

Movements
Pointe
Noire. Departure Congo River p.m.15th arrival Pointe
Noire 0800Z/16th SWALE, BELLWORT escorting
R.F.A. DINGLEDALE, S.S. EMPIRE CADET.
(B.N.L.O.Pointe Noire 160905Z to F.O.C.W.A.).
ERLING BROVIG sailed 16th August for Pointe
Noire E.T.A. p.m. 24th August.

Intend sailing F.C. SUFFREN and F.C. DUGUAY-TROUIN 22nd August
to arrive Pointe Noire a.m. August.
Admiralty 011256 refers.
(C. in C.S.A. 161547B, to F.O.C.W.A.).

Convoy
L.S.10. Sailing telegram.
(2) 1700Z/16 August. (3) Knots $7\frac{1}{2}$ to position X.
then $6\frac{3}{4}$. (4) MATADIAN (Commodore) SILVER GUAVA
(Vice Commodore) EMPIRE FRANKLIN, EMPIRE STRENGTH,
BARON HERRIES for Freetown E.T.A. 0730Z/24th
August NEW NORTHLAND for Takoradi E.T.A. 1030Z/18th August.
(5) Route. (11) T.W.D. codeword "Trainer".
(N.C.S.O. Lagos 160945Z to Admty. etc.).

Dispositions Situation at 2000Z/16th August. NORMAN,
RELENTLESS, QUIBERON, RAPID, KALE, TAY, DERG, with
W.S.32 026 degs. 40' 013 degs. 55' to 033 degs.
02' 017 degs. $31' 12\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
CARNARVON CASTLE 022 degs. 30' 009 degs. 00' to 008 degs. 00'
003 degs. 00' 16.
P.614 020 degs. 15' 003 degs. 10' to 020 degs. 00' 003 degs. 00'
thence 010 degs. 00' South 003 degs. 35' West $8\frac{1}{2}$.
(C. in C.S.A. 161002).

Situation 1959Z/16th. Fr. Cruiser DUQUESNE, Fr. Cruiser
TOURVILLE 005 degs. 55' 011 degs. 18' through 007 degs. 31' 013
degs. 59' thence 315 degs. $18\frac{1}{2}$.
WOLVERINE, BEAGLE, BULLDOG, DOUGLAS, CATTERICK, 2 Fleet Units
with C.F. 13, 000 degs. 56' South 006 degs. 04' East through
equator 005 degs. 00' thence 304 degs. $12\frac{1}{2}$.
M.L. 1041 off Kotonu. M.L. 1160 off Port Bouet.
DUNCTON escorting about 007 degs. 28' 013 degs. 10' coastwise to
Freetown 10.
INKPEN screening off Marshall.
M.L.1078 off Lome. MORRIS DANCE M.L.1018 off Accra.
WELLINGTON, BRIDGEWATER, GORLESTON, FOLKESTONE, LOWESTOFT with
L.S.10 006 degs. 08' 003 degs. 25' East through 005 degs. 20' 003
degs. 15' East to 004 degs. 51' 001 degs. 37' West 9.
(R.A.W.A. 161447Z).

CANADA
(French). Admiralty 131948. Comar Dakar had requested that
CANADA should sail Dakar about 25th. August in
convoy to Casablanca with women and children.
(F.O.C.W.A. 161131Z to C. in C. Med.(Algiers) (R)
Admty.).

/Movements...

16.8.1943.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

Movements
Freetown.

Arrivals 15th August. BOADICEA, FOXHOUND with T.S.50.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 161133Z to N.O.i/c Takoradi, (R) Admty. etc.).
Arrivals 15th August TEVIOT, HELFORD, PLYM with R.S.9.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 161135Z to F.O.i/c Gibraltar (R) Admty. etc.).

A/C attack
on U/Boat
14th August.

U-boat Report.
1. A. Admiralty Air Ministry A.H.Q.E.A.
B. 099 C. 14th August. D. C.F.A.D.Durban
E. 22 Squadron S.A.A.F. F. Ventura X 6079. G.
Usual H. Lieut. H.L.Harrison.
2. A. 4 on passage Convoy D.N.56 B. 71 miles 266 degs. T.
C. 1251B 14th August. D. 28.24 South 33.08 East. E. 600 fathoms.
3. A. Wake B. (1) 088T, 1800 feet (2) 073T six miles (3) 180T
ten knots. C. (1) Yes.
4. A. 1½ miles. B. 30 seconds C. 1253B. D. Approx. 80 degs.
E. 50 feet. F. 600 fathoms.
5. B. (1) 25 feet (2) Six (3) Mark eight Torpex. (4) Mark 13.
(5) Six. (6) 100 feet. (7) About 100 feet.
6. A. Only two observed to detonate. B. Altered course 030 to
starboard during dive. C. Large swirl about 100 feet diameter.
D. Ahead of swirl about 200 feet and slightly to starboard.
7. A. Not observed.
9. A. No, none in vicinity. D. Yes, by Ventura, E. One hour 45
minutes. F. 1437B.
10. Not fitted.
11. A. 5 B. 180T 14 knots. C. 3/10 cumulus 2000 feet. D.30 miles
E. Slight swell.
12. A. Not clearly seen. B. No distinguishing points noticed.
Colour appeared to be very light grey.
14. At 1251 aircraft flew out of shower and saw Wake and then
saw U-boat fully surfaced. Aircraft went into attack but c.t.
disappeared when two miles away. D.Cs. dropped 30 seconds later
but only two explosions 100 feet apart approx. two swell lengths
ahead of swirl. Nearest explosion appeared to undershoot U-boats
track by 50 feet. Just before release large air bubble appeared
slightly ahead and to port of swirl. Aluminium sea marker dropped.
(C. in C.S.A. 161145B to Admty. etc.).

Force Q.
C.F.13.

S.O.Force Q reports Convoy C.F.13 sailed Congo
River 0700Z/15 August. E.T.A. Freetown 1200Z/22
August.
(S.T.O. Freetown 161357Z, 161711Z to Admty.).

Weekly
state.

West Africa Station 14th August.
Cape Blanc Area - Fleet Unit QUALITY, BRILLIANT,
ROEBUCK. Dakar - CROCUS, WITCH.
Dakar Area - SNOWDROP, NESS, MOYOLA, CLARKIA,
PETUNIA. Freetown - ASTURIAS, CORFU, CILICIA,

16.8.1943.
Monday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Weekly
state.
(Contd.).

ABERDEEN, MILFORD CDT. DETROYAT, ARMERIA, COWSLIP.
Freetown area - TEVIOT, HELFORD, PLYM, FOXHOUND,
BOADICEA, FOWEY, MYOSOTIS, MALLOW, CAMPION, FRISO,
BERRY, STONECROP, WOODRUFF.
Lagos - WELLINGTON, GORLESTONE, LOWESTOFT, FOLKE-
STONE, BRIDGEWATER, EXE.

Pointe Noire PRESIDENT HOUDUCE.

Pointe Noire area - SWALE, BELLWORT, CDT. D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES,
WOLVERINE, BEAGLE, BULLDOG, CATTERICK, DOUGLAS 2 Fleet Units.
(F.O.C.W.A. 161501Z to Admty. etc.).

STRATHMORE
STRATHEDEN
SIBAJAK

In view of doubt as to completion date of SIBAJAK
and in order to economise time and escorts it is
proposed that STRATHMORE due Durban a.m. Tuesday
24 August should turn round as quickly as possible
and sail W.S.32 which is due at Durban 22 August.
Possible? sailing date would be daylight Friday 27

August.

2. Above is subject to C. in C.E.F. concurrence that ocean escort
for STRATHMORE to Suez can be arranged and to D. of S.T.'s.
approval that necessary delay to W.S.32 is acceptable.

3. C.M.45 consisting of STRATHEDEN and SIBAJAK would be sailed
as soon as ship available.

4. C. in C.E.F. 150941 refers.

(P.S.T.O. Capetown 161601B to C. in C.E.F. (R) D.S.T. etc.).

Reply: D.S.T. 190216A.

Shipping
West
Africa.

There has recently been a very marked decrease
in shipping between West Africa and Cape and
increase between West Africa and South America
both in both directions. Do estimated figures
given in para.2. of your 261206 June still hold
good? Can a forecast per month be given of

returning independently routed ships from (A) Cape (B) South
America.

(F.O.C.W.Af. 161804Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.At.).

Reply: 231849A.

Movements
Bathurst

Arrival 2100Z/16th. SNOWDROP and TURCOMAN.
(N.O.i/c Bathurst 162200Z to Comar Dakar (R) Admty.
etc.).

War Diary.16.8.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Unit Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 41.28 N., 10.06 E.
(type of vessel not indicated).
(A/C FCT/A 160135B).
Position course and speed of enemy (22,000 ton
Merchant vessels) 38.10 N., 21.20 E. 040° 5 knots.
(?Army Co-operation A/C) 0555Z).
Position of 4 enemy merchant vessels is UNSC Patras.
(A/C Army Nr. 1 (via Alex. W/T, 160605Z).
P.C. and S. of 2 medium merchant vessels 1 destroyer
41.02 N., 13.54 E. 160° 6 knots.
(A/C BSZ/X 160612Z to Any British Men of War).
P.C. and S. of three enemy power barges 38.56 N. 20.43 E.
090° 5 knots.
(A/C ARM/F 160915).

UNRULY. Your 160340 not to all (N.T. in W.D.) Well done.
Return route through 038° 35' 018° 20' at 0500/17
035° 45' 016° 38' 1200/18th to R/V with Minesweeper
5 miles East of end of Eastern Channel at 0800/19.
Surface passage on 17th. M.J.A.O.24, request bombing restric-
tions to cover firing route.
(Capt. (S) 10, 160526 to P.49 (UNRULY) (R) Capt. S.1., C. in C.
Med. (M), C. in C. Levant, 10th S/M F. V.A. Malta, Capt. S.8.
A.H.Q. Malta).

Alexandria August 15th arrival O.R.P. KRAKOWIAK, SUTLEJ
Movements. departure CLEVELAND, BRYONY, F.S. LA MALOUINE,
O.R.P. KRAKOWIAK, BERGAMOT, P.S. SLAZAK.
(R.A. Alexandria, 160645C to Admty).

10th S/M F. (1) O.R.P. SOKOL off Bari. (2) P.52 (DZIK) 040°
summary at 54' 018° 39' to 039° 33' 018° 51' at 2000/17th.
2000/16 th. (3) P.49 (UNRULY) 039° 25' 018° 46' to 036° 57'
017° 21' at 2000/17th surface passage.
(4) P.54 (UNSHAKEN) 035° 46' 016° 18' to arrive
Malta 08 17th.
(5) P.44 (UNITED) 035° 56' 016° 31' to 038° 38' 018° 10' at
2000/17th surface passage.
(Capt. S.10, 160658)

DZIK Onward route from 038° 50' 018° 29' at 0500/18
through 035° 45' 016° 38' at 1200/19 to R/V
with M/S 5 miles (corrupt group) seaward end
of (?Eastern) Channel at 0800/20 surface passage
on 18th.
2. M.J.A.O. 24, request bombing restrictions for above para.
(Capt. (S) 10, 160710 to P.52 (DZIK) (R) A.H.Q. Malta, 10th
S.F. Capt. (S) 1, C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta,
Capt. (S) 8).

RORQUAL 16th August arrival.
(S.O.I. Beirut, 160845C to Admty).

/Movements...

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Movements, 15th August. Arrivals M.L 356, LA MOQUEUSE, Beirut. IERAX, BREAM. Departures M.L. 354 and 356. (S.O.(I) Beirut, 160847C to Admty).

U.G.S.13 U.G.S.13, Cdre. Algiers 141832B, 4 ships arrived. (N.O.I.C. Bougie, 160900B to Admty. etc).
U.G.S.13. DESTRO for Alexandria sails at 1700B/17th to R/V in position 212 at 1600/18th
1 ship. Escort GRAYLING. Pass to Cdre. (S.N.O. Trip. 161059 to S.O.E. U.S.G.13).
U.G.S.13. ARGO, CEDARDALE (T), BRITISH VIGOUR (T) Destination Alexandria. All in ballast. 3 ships. Pass to Cdre. and Escorts.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 161437B to GERALDTON).
U.G.S.13. VACUUM (T) arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 161717B to N.O.I.C. Algiers).
U.G.S.13. DESTRO for Alexandria sails at 1700B/17th to R/V in position to 212 at 1600B/18th. 1 ship. (corrupt group) GRAYLI(NG) Pass to Cdre.
(S.N.O. Trip. 161059 to S.O. Escorts of Convoy U.G.S.13, Admty. C. in C. Levant, etc).
U.G.S.13 SUNCLINE arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Bone, 162113B to Admty. etc).

Greek M/S We arrived at Bizerta on 15th August. (Cdr. Greek Group Minesweepers, 160931 to Greek C. in C. Alexandria, Greek N.A. London).

Med. Air Signed Eisenhower.
Report. Part 3. Air. Cositintrep No. 37, 15 August. N.W.A. Air Forces.
Night 8(?)14)-15 August. 72 Wellingtons bombed the San Giovanni Palmi and Pizzo beaches and marshalling yards at Lamezia. 23 light bombers operated on armed R/C in north part of the Straits and toe of Italy. Day 15th August. 4 B.25s Georges scored near misses on M/V off Caplanuka. 24 B.26s bombed marshalling yards at (?Sapri) 47 P.40s carried out a sweep over Sardinia dropping fragmentation bombs mostly in the Cagliari area. Fighter bombers continued attacks on evacuation shipping. (Air C. in C. Med. 160943B).

M.E. Air A.656 16th August 0934Z. Daily Opsum 110. 14/15 August.
Report. 12 Halifaxes 4 Liberators (B.24) railway sidings San Giovanni 3 Halifaxes returned early, 1 landing Malta. Remainder attacked objective, bombs bursting in area of Ferry Berths and along railway north and south of harbour. Fires started in town. 2 Wellingtons anti-shipping R/C Aegean Sea. 1 attacked a merchant vessel about 900 tons anchored North of Leros, 2 bombs bursting 50 feet astern.
Second sighted a merchant vessel 800 tons with 2 escorts south of Melos. Bombs failed to release. Another Wellington attacked 3 ships 2000/3000 tons anchored off Preveza. 6 x 500 lb bombs straddled ships, with 1 possible hit, but all failed to explode.

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Report.
(contd).

15 August. 4 Beaufighters offensive R/C East Coast Greece. 2 attacked merchant vessel of 3000 tons, 2 of 2500 tons, off Preveza scoring near misses with 4 250 lb. bombs of which all failed to explode. 1 Schooner 200 tons attacked with cannon fire, hits scored. Remaining 2 aircraft bombed landing ground and harbour at

Kalamata. 1 250 lb. bomb burst on runway, another hit building near Quay.

Following delayed details. 14th August.

3 Baltimores (A.30) 1 Walrus 2 Bisleys anti submarine. 1 Baltimore (A.30) photographic R/C. 1 Merchant vessel 1000 tons machine gunned off Zante. No visible damage but some of crew jumped overboard.

My Opsum 109. Now confirmed 101 U.S. Liberators (B.24) left to bomb Wiener Neustadt 13th August, 37 returned early, reports from 3 not received. 61 bombed target including one which failed to return.

(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 161029Z).

8th S.F.
movements
at 2001B/16th.

- (1) SARACEN East of Corsica.
(2) SIMOOM 041° 35' 006° 47' 213° 2½/10 until dawn 17th there after on surface 10 knots.
(3) LA SULTANE F.S. in Gulf of Genoa.
(Capt. S.8., 161030B).

SICKLE,
SIBYL.

Intend to sail:

- (A) P.224 (SICKLE) at 1730/17th on surface 10 knots through 038° 03' 004° 59' at 0530/18th 038° 27' 010° 04' at 0520/19th thence diving by day through 041° 00' 010° 04' at 2200/20th to

patrol (?in) Tyrrhenean Sea between 041° N. and 042° 35' N. W. of 012° E.

(B) P.217 (SIBYL) at 1900/17th on surface 10 knots on 17th and 18th and thereafter diving by day through 038° 59' 005° 50' at 1400/18th 042° 32' 008° 00' at 0130/20th to patrol north of 042° N., between 008° E. and 009° E.

(Capt. S.8., 161032B to C. in C. Med. (Malta) (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Algiers, Capt. (S) 10, 8th S/M F. LA SULTANE). W.D. Note - See also 161654B, 171132B.

G.U.S.12

N.C.S.O. Alexandria's sailing signal not received. Request names and destinations of all joiners from Alexandria and other Levant ports bound West of Algiers.

(Com. Algeria, 161038B to C. in C. Levant).

Trapani

Detailed examination of strokes at Trapani reveals following (Mines, etc).

(30 Commando 161202B to C. in C. Med. for C.O.I.S. (R) Admty. for D.N.I. and D.T.M.)
Reply 171631A.

/M.K.S...

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- M.K.S.22 List, destinations.
(R.A. Alexandria, 161315 to Admty. etc).
- Enemy Units. Position of one small enemy Merchant vessel and 6 small craft is 37.34 N., 22.50 E.
(A/C CYK/O 161355Z).
- French Admty.101941. French probably aware main features
Co-operation, C.B.4002 also fair amount C.B.4003. Consider
D/F Code. loss in security small and convenience to French great, but do not consider would have marked effect on work being done for us. Casablanca and Oran bearings reasonably accurate and would be of considerable value if communications could be improved. Propose to investigate possibilities of speed up. Issue of D/F bearing code to French would go long way towards solving problem. Is this acceptable?
(C. in C. Med. 161525 to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).
- G.U.S.12 My 141841 sailed plus JONATHAN EDWARDS for O.S. 327 route (corrupt group) 57 and P.A. not held by U.S. Ship. Inform Commodore.
(N.O.I.C. Tunisia, 161525B to Escorts of Convoy G.U.S.12)
Pass to Cdre. Algiers, joining section (list).
(N.O.I.C. Algiers, 161934B to S.E.C., G.U.S.12).
G.U.S.12, arrived CAP ST.JACQUES, ROMNEY, DANIO.
(S.N.O. Trip. 162359B to Admty. etc).
- Movements, NOTRE DAME D'AFRIQUE arrived.
Bone. (N.O.I.C. Bone, 161529B to Admty. etc).
- Aden, A.271 August 16.
Air Sqdns. 1. Ref. your A.X.31, June 12, A.O.C. Aden reports that after complete R/C there is no area within his command suitable for development as advanced base for operation of flying boats during monsoon periods. Operation of flying boats from main base at Aden involves considerable wastage in engine flying hours when proceeding to and from areas of R/C and shipping escorts.
2. We therefore recommend that Aden Command should be re-armed with two G/R. Wellington Squadrons instead of one Wellington and one Catalina Squadron.
3. In order to economise in manpower and because we are most anxious to preserve identity of No.8 Squadron we suggest that this squadron should be re-armed with Wellingtons and that the second Wellington Squadron be provided in accordance with your present policy.
4. We shall be unable to re-arm No.8 squadron from our present resources and shall therefore require an additional allotment of aircraft to meet recommendation in para. 2.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 161544Z to Air Min).

/BUCK...

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Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.BUCK,
INDOMITABLE.

Your 151022 (N.T. in W.R.)
U.S.S. BUCK can be fuelled at sea by INDOMITABLE.
Adaptors are available at Gibraltar.
2. Request BUCK may be sailed to arrive Gibraltar
on 20th August.
(C. in C. Med. 161604 to Comnavaw, (R) F.O.C.
Gibraltar, Admty. INDOMITABLE).

Intend that INDOMITABLE should sail for U.S.A. on 21st
August escorted by U.S.S. BUCK and 2 destroyers of ILLUSTRIOUS
Screen.

(2) Admiralty is requested to signal route.
(C. in C. Med. (Malta) 161608 to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C.
Gibraltar, C. in C. H.F., B.A.D., R.A.D. H.F., Cominch,
Cinclant, INDOMITABLE, R.A. Comnavaw).
Reply: 171638A. also C. in C. H.F., 172245A.

NARBADA

Destination of H.M.I.S. NARBADA escorting K.M.F. 22
is Bombay. Para 7 (b) A.M. 071745 August refers.
2. You are requested to arrange onward passage
from Algiers.
(D.O.D. (F) 161604A to C. in C. Med).

SEMINOLE

Hospital ship SEMINOLE arrived.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 161630B to C. in C. Med).

K.M.S. 23

Destinations follow.
(C. in C. Med. (A), 161632B to SHOREHAM, Ships
escorting convoy K.M.S. 23).

French Ships,
Refits.

French Admiralty do not confirm your 141144.*
Three ships named will re-arm in North West
Africa. TAMGRY (sic) 211610 July. Minesweeper
BOUDEUSE delayed waiting engine parts and will
now re-arm in Africa. Request Asdic set depth
charges equipment Radar type 271 loudspeaker T.W.12 set and
Oerlikons allocated TPFHER (as received) may be shipped to
Casablanca in GRACIEUSE and COMMANDANT DELAGE or at next
opportunity.

3. Effect of above is that no more French ships will re-arm
at Bermuda on completion of SIMOUN and ANNAMITE.
(C. in C. Med. (A) 161648B to S.B.N.O.W.At. (R) Admty. C. in C.
Med. B.A.D.) Reply - S.B.N.O.W.At., 201256Z.
(See America and West Indies). *N.T. in W.D.

SARACEN,
LA SULTANE.

P. 247 (SARACEN) leaves patrol through 041° 00'
010° 29' at 0400/17th 038° 34' 010° 08' at 0600/
18th 038° 25' 004° 58' (R) 038° 25' 004° 58' at
1730/19th thence R/V escort Algiers in 036° 56'
003° 10' (R) 036° 56' 003° 10' at 0630/20th
proceeding on surface at discretion on 19th and
20th.

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SARACEN, (2) LA SULTANE leaves present patrol after dark
LA SULTANE. 20th and proceeds to an area bounded by 041° 00'
(Contd.). N., and 042° 35' N., and 011° 00' E. and 012° 30'
E. to arrive in this area by 2200/21st keeping
North of 041° 40' when West of 011° E.

(3) My 161032 para. (A) P.224 (SICKLE) is not to proceed North
of 041° 40' until after 2200/21st.

(4) My 161032 para. (B) After dark 20th P.217 (SIBYL) patrol in
Gulf Genoa North of 042° 35' and E. of 008°.

(Capt. S.8., 161654B to 8th S/M F. LA SULTANE, (R) F.O.I.C.
Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Algiers).

SAXIFRAGE, SAXIFRAGE, GODETIA in company, E.T.A. 2130B.
GODETIA. (SAXIFRAGE, 161715B to N.O.I.C. Bougie, (R)
N.O.I.C. Algiers).

Movements Bizerta arrivals SAN AMADO (T) JONATHAN EDWARDS,
Bizerta. WELSH COAST, PROCIDA, AUGUSTINE LE BORGNE,
EMPIRE DUNSTAN, BADARPUR (T), CITY OF DELHI, EMPIRE
FAY (T).
(F.O.I.C. Tunisia, 161735B to Admty. etc).

Axis Ships, My 131555C. BACCHUS not yet sailed. Report C.4.
Istanbul. CELENO expected to take part of FIRUZ remaining
cargo.
(Istanbul, 161757C to C. in C. Levant, S.O.(I)
Levant, S.1., S.10, D.N.I. Admty).

Movements, 16th August Port Said arrivals M.Ls. 354, 356,
Port Said. PRINCESS ELIZABETH. Departures M.Ls. 354, 356.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 161757C to Admty. etc).

CLEOPATRA A.S. Malta 140942 August.
On completion of the necessary temporary repairs
CLEOPATRA should be sailed to U.K.
2. Destination is Portsmouth where ship will
be laid up for long term refit and damage repairs.
3. B.A.M.R. has been informed.
(D.O.D. (F) 161828A to A.S. Malta, V.A. Malta).

N.A.A.F. N.A.A.F. Opsum 176. N.A. Strategic A.F, 14 August
Report. (Add) 24 U.S. Lightnings P.38 sweep toe of Italy.
one returned early. Probable hits Radar Station,
north edge Vibo Valentia airdrome, railway cars
and trucks strafed. Vibo Valentia Power Station
and transformer Rosarno strafed. 14/15 August. 24 Wellingtons
beaches San Giovanni to Papai. 42½ tons dropped from 5,000 to
8,000 feet. Fires observed. One aircraft machine gunned beaches
between Scilla and Palmi. 19 Wellingtons beaches Pizzo. Two
returned early. 32 tons bombs dropped. One barge set on fire.
Four fires started along coast. 26 Wellingtons Lamoio marshal-
ling yards. 54 tons from 1,400 to 9,000 feet. Several fires
started. Bursts seen throughout yards. Fire in oil refinery.

/15 August...

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N.A.A.F. Report. (contd). 15 August. 48 U.S. Mitchells B.25 escort 36 U.S. Lightnings P.38 Sibari Railway Junction. Many fires started among 200 cars in yards. Hits stations sidings and repair shops. Railway hit and severed at junction North of Yards. 24 U.S. Marauders B.26 Escort 24 U.S. Lightnings P.38 Sapri marshalling yards. Four bombers five fighters returned early. 20 direct hits on tracks and among 289 cars present. Direct hits and damaging near misses stations, severe damage buildings and warehouses. 4 U.S. Mitchells B.25 escort 19 U.S. Lightnings P.38 attacked small merchant vessel 1 mile West of Cape Palinuro 12 x 75 MM shells fired from 200 to 500 feet. Vessel also strafed. 1 Fighter returned early. 24 U.S. Lightnings P.38 bombers sweep Staletai, road bridge and tunnel. No hits observed. Railway track torn up? for 50 yards. 24 U.S. Lightning P.38 bombers sweep Italy. Bombs on railway tunnel, 5 miles South Bianco and marshalling yards Marina di Brancaleone. 2 hits on North and South end of tunnel tearing up track. Radar Station Cape Spartivento strafed. 47 U.S. Warhawks P.40 bombers sweep Monserrato Area. One returned early. Many hits Bivouac area 1 mile East airdrome. 8 U.S. Lightnings P.38 sea? search. N.W.A. Tactical A.F. 14/15 August. 11 Bostons A.20 armed R/C roads Messina area. Motor transport attacked south Scaletta. Beaches Messina and Stationary trucks also attacked. 8 Bostons A.20 4 Baltimores A.30 armed R/C roads Vibo Valentia to Cape Spartivento. 1 Baltimore A.30 returned early. No movement seen. Villages roads railways and cross roads attacked. Fires and explosions. (N.A.A.F. Adv. H.Q., 161829). Part 3 Nicotgra. 15 August. 35 Baltimore A.30 36 U.S. Mitchells B.25, 24 U.S. Bostons A.20 troop and barge concentrations two miles north Messina. Targets well covered. Buildings hit. (N.A.A.F. Adv. H.Q., 161831).

Malta Air Report.

Opsum No. 98 161916Z. Night 15/16 August. 5 Mosquitoes were airborne to bomb explosives factory at Fontana Liri N.W. of Naples. 3 aircraft bombed target with unobserved results. Owing to haze 1 Mosquito failed to locate target and bombed alternative target goods yard west of Minturno starting a fire visible for 40 miles. Another Mosquito bombed alternative target railway at Subiaco results not observed. 5 Beaufighters made interception patrols North of Malta. 3 Wellingtons carrying torpedoes made armed search for enemy shipping from Gulf of Taranto to Brindisi and between the Heel of Italy and Albanian Coast. 1 Wellington made shipping search in Gulf of Taranto. 7 enemy night fighters were seen during patrol but these were successfully engaged. 1 Wellington made A/S search in Ionian Sea. 2 Boston sorties were made from Malta in attacks on communications in Toe of Italy. 16 August. 6 Spitfires made photo R/C of Corfu Foggia Najdes and Taranto areas and harbours and aerodromes of Southern Italy and North East Sicily. 2 Baltimores made A/S search east of Sicily. 10 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta. (A.H.Q., Malta, 161925Z).

/CONVOLVULUS...

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Mediterranean - Contd.

CONVOLVULUS. Arrived and sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 162001B to Admty).

Enemy M/V P.C. and S. of 1 merchant vessel 38.15 N. 21.42 E.
270° 8.
(A/C BWX/C 162015Z to 201 Group H.Q. M.E.)

Situation Report No. 155. (1) U.S. Cruisers and destroyers covered ferrying operations on Army's left flank at Barcellona. Night 15/16, forces were dive bombed by three aircraft during approach, no damage.
(2) American M.T.Bs. encountered two E-boats the same night north of Messina but enemy made good their escape.
(3) British Destroyers and M.T.Bs. covered successful Commando landing at Scaletta night 15/16. Small number tanks also landed. At 161420 Commandos reported holding positions and advancing south to meet own troops.
(4) SIRIUS, DIDO, PENN, PANTHER, sank southbound lighter and two escorting M.L. off Cape Bonifacio night 15/16 and later carried out fifteen minute bombardment of Vibo Valentia Marina.
(5) TROUBRIDGE, TYRIAN, TUMULT operating night 14/15 observed demolition along South Calabrian Coast and near Scaletta. Enemy vessels engaged north of Point Peloro and fire returned. Three E-boats encountered but dispersed at high speed.
(6) APHIS and SOEMBA bombarded coast road to Messina on 15th.
(7) UNRULY reports one tanker beached and one tanker or liner probably hit during patrol off Brindisi ended 15th.
(8) L.S.T. 414 hit amidships by torpedo from torpedo bomber at 150200 183° Cani Rocks 3.5 miles one killed six missing L.S.T. beached outside Bizerta.
(9) Unsuccessful attack by torpedo bombers on L.S.I. convoy 160237 off Cape Bougaroni.
(C. in C. Med. Malta, 162020B to Admty).

Exaggerated Axis Reports of Attack on Convoy. Your 162029B. (Re Exaggerated Axis broadcast re attack on convoy (N.T. in W.D.)) As it is considered that it would create an undesirable precedent it is not proposed to deny exaggerated Axis claim. If done on this occasion similar statements would be expected in future when complete refutation might not be possible. Enemy claims are now generally recognised to be either exaggerated or completely untrue.
(D.P.D., app. 1st Lord, 180233A to C. in C. Med. M).

Taranto R/C Photos 16 August. Sorties 585B, 1820B hrs. Taranto. Part cover only, position of 1 Cavour Class battleship not covered, other major naval units all present.
(P.H.I.S. Malta, 162100Z).

/Movements...

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Movements, Haifa. Arrivals 16th August. IERAX (G.S.), LA MOQUEUSE (F.S.) BREAM. Departures 16th August as above also Z.40. (N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports, 162100C to Admty.etc)

Movements Augusta. 16th August arrivals: FAULKNER, INTREPID, O.R.P. PIORUN. M.T.Bs. 78, (?121), (?M.G.)B. 645, Landing Craft T ordinary method. Departures: TROUBRIDGE, TYRIAN, TUMULT, WHEATLAND, L.C.Is. 240, 111, 302, 169, 172, 295, 308, 289, 281, pulley(?) method apparatus are being brought into force. L.C.Ts. 364, 536, 595 (?) 268, 347, 702, 303, 316, REIGHTON WYKE. (N.O.I.C. Augusta, 162101 to Admty).

Movements, Tripoli. Arrived and sailed GLOXINIA, KLO, Arrived GRAYLING, L.S.Ts. 408, 430, L.C.I.187, L.S.T 343, 361, 391, 346, 380, 404, 169, M.L.1211. (S.N.O. Trip. 162109 to Admty).

Movements Tunisia. Arrival SIRIUS, DIDO, PENN, PANTHER. Departure PENELOPE, EURYALUS, JERVIS, PALADIN, LE FA(NT?)ASQUE. Arrival RHYL, ILEX, INCHCOLM, L.S.T.404, 425, 160, 405, 163, 380, S.C.534, 693. Departures P.C.627. Arrivals and departures MENDIP, PUCKERIDGE. (F.O.I.C. Tunisia, 162115 to Admty. etc).

Convoy "Titus", A/C. 4 Aircraft shadowing "Titus" in position DKDY 0808 (37.08 N., longitude indecypherable). (Naval General call sign 162117 to Bizerta W/T).

Movements, Algiers. Arrivals (Gr) MIAOULES, Tug WEASEL, (Fr) LA FANTASQUE. Departures HURWORTH, BLANKNEY, (Gr) ADRIAS. M.M.S.116, H.D.M.L. 1292. Arrived and departed CROOME. (Cdre. Algeria, 162126B to Admty. etc).

TAURUS, RIGEL. Chart 1556.. RIGEL beached in position 039° 12.5' 023° 20.3' near Cone Rock may be salvaged shortly. Target not of great importance but might be worth a visit. (Capt. (S) 1, 162126C to TAURUS).

Movements, Benghazi. Arrived M.F.V.515, 570, 109, 157, M.Ls. 348, 385. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 162151C to Admty. etc).

BENJAMIN CONTEE Following has been read by Portrush Radio 149° SS (?SS) 3 SU JT (Undecypherable). (Port Patrick Radio, 162205Z to Navycharge Greenock (R) Admty).

/SSSS...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

BENJAMIN CONTEE (contd.) SSSS Torpedoed 16 miles north Cape Degardia. Bearing from Burnham-on-Sea Radio 150° Class 2. Controlling Station North Foreland Radio. R.A.F. informed.
(BENJAMIN CONTEE, U.S. T.O.R. 2214 G.M.T.)
Torpedo hit port side, two forward hold flooded, (unread) probably sinking, drifting 3 knots K. Controlling Station North Foreland Radio. R.A.F. informed.
(BENJAMIN CONTEE, T.O.R., 2225 G.M.T./16 to North Foreland Radio)
Proceeding to Bone very slowly, will keep you informed as to progress. Controlling Station North Foreland Radio. R.A.F. informed.
(BENJAMIN CONTEE, No T.O.O./16).
Following received from Lands End Radio. Intercept 2141 G.M.T. 500 k/cs. SSSS de SUD 3, torpedoed 2 hours (?miles) west of Bone Harbour, speed 8 knots.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 162242A to Admty).
W.R. Note - SUD (3) is convoy call sign.
Received 2215Z 500 k/cs bearing 161.5° Gonio A de BENJAMIN CONTEE SSSS Torpedoed 16 miles North Cape de Gardia. Acknowledged by North Foreland Radio.
(North Foreland Radio, 162315A to Admiral Chatham, F.O.I.C. Dover).
Following read: From Portrush Radio 148° SSSS class 2.
(Port Patrick Radio, 162353A to Navycharge Greenock, Admty).

Movements Arrival FLUELLEN, M.L. 238.
Bone. (N.O.I.C. Bone, 162210B to Admty. etc).

Enemy P.C. and S. of 2 enemy minesweepers, 2 destroyers
Units. 43.15 N. 5.19 E. 000° 10, am resuming patrol.
(A/C GMO/L, 162220).
P.C. and S. of 2 enemy vessels (small) 43.10 N.
5.20 E. 070° 5. Am resuming patrol.
(A/C GMO/L, 162233).
P.C. and S. of one enemy destroyer 42.48 N. 10.12 E. 750
(sic).
(A/C GMO/X 162304).
Position of 1 merchant vessel of 7000 tons and 1 small
merchant vessel 43.52 N. 8.02 E. in harbour.
(A/C GMO/L, 162346).

Movements, Arrivals M.Ls. 340, 308, 579, 337. M.T.Bs. 265,
Malta. 670. Departures M.L. 240, M.T.Bs. 78, 298.
M.G.B.s 645.
(V.A. Malta, 162251B to Admty. etc).
Arrivals PRODIGAL, OAKLEY, LAMERTON, TROUBRIDGE, TYRIAN,
TUMULT, 4 L.C.Ts., 4 L.C.I.(L)s.
Departures FAULKNER, INTREPID, PIORUN, PIROUETTE, 1 L.C.I.(L),
1 L.S.T., 1 L.C.R., 3 L.C.F.
(V.A. Malta, 162252B to Admty. etc).

/Following...

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Movements,
Malta.

Following is a repetition of my 152139. (begins)
Sailed OAKLEY, TYNEDEALE, LAMERTON, GLOXINIA (escort
"Bluecoat"), B.Y.M.S. 20 and 27 with United States
Sub. Chaser 693. QUANTOCK, ILEX, STELLA CARINA
(Escort "Wicked") M.M.S. 92 and 171. Arrived and
sailed ROCKWOOD and KANARIS.
Arrived NUBIAN and TARTAR.
Landing Craft movements. Sailed: L.C.Ts. 343, 361, 391, 346, 388
and 404.
L.S.Ts. 160, 415, 430.
L.C.T. 422.
Arrived: L.C.I.(L) 255, and 253. L.C.Ts. 580 and 535.
(V.A. Malta, 162302B).

War Diary.16.8.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Naval Aircraft markings, E.I. Station. The following changes in International markings have been authorised for all naval aircraft both ship-borne and shore-based operating in East Indies Station. (A) Roundels consisting of a white centre encircled by a blue ring on the upper surface at the wing tips and on each side of the fuselage. In addition, fighter aircraft will carry similar roundels on the lower wing surfaces. (B) Fin marking consisting of a blue and a white vertical stripe.

2. These markings are already in use by the R.A.A.F. and A.H.Q. India.

3. Request promulgation to Admiralty and Air Authorities concerned.

(C. in C. E.F., 160057Z, 160957Z to A.H.Q. India, G.H.Q.M.E., Arminia, G.H.Q. Persia and Iraq, H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., A.H.Q. Persia and Iraq, (R) Admty.)

ATREUS Your 262002 June propose to carry out the programme. following. Do you concur.

(A) Explode if possible any mine loops that require renewal.

(B) Leave down sinkers of exploded mines and loop cables.

(C) Relay mine loops approx. 25 yards abreast of original loops.

(D) Dump recovered mine sinkers in deep water as it will not be practicable to clean these sinkers of marine growth and it will endanger health if they are put below hatch in that climate.

(E) Similarly dump recovered mines which fail to explode in the loop.

(F) Leave down any loops that are efficient and appear likely to remain so.

(G) Re-use existing tails which are efficient.

(ATREUS, 160123Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F.)

RAMDAS. Departure RAMDAS escorting PAUPOI.
(N.O.I.C. Madras, 160328Z to Admty., etc.)

Movements. Departures SUFFOLK.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 160446Z.)
Arrived NEWCASTLE.
(F.O.E.Af., 161033Z.)

Departure M.Ls. 438 and 440.
(N.O.I.C. Madras, 161036Z.)

Colombo arrivals 16th 2330Z/15th SHILLONG, 2330Z/15th KHYBER, 2330Z/15th POONA, 0208Z/16th H.N.M.S. O.23.

Departures 1030Z KHYBER.
(F.O. Ceylon, 161302Z.)

WEST POINT. WEST POINT E.T.A. Point Lonsdale 2200Z/28th.
(N.O.I.C. Bombay, 160612Z to C. in C. E.F.,
A.C.N.B., Opnav., F.O. Ceylon, Admty.)

/India ...

War Diary.16.8.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

India Air Report. A.285, 16th August. Daily Opsum No.519. Outstanding reports 10th U.S.A.A.F. 13th August 6 U.S. Liberators (B.24) sea sweep Rangoon area. 2 A/C returned early due weather. 4 A/C attacked 175 ft. freighter Diamond Island. Over 5 tons dropped. 2 direct hits vessel left sinking. 14th August 6 U.S. Liberators (B.24) sea sweep Rangoon area. 1 A/C returned early due weather. 3 A/C attacked 2 motor launches off Pagoda Point L/G. Over 1 ton dropped. All hits on runway.
(A.H.Q. India, 160712Z to Air Min.)

OPHIR. Request you will sail OPHIR to Bombay to fit steam disinfectant if this has not been completed at Alexandria.
(2) OPHIR is required to embark invalids at Bombay for passage to Colombo.
(3) Com. R.I.N. is requested to arrange for onward programme from Bombay.
(C. in C. E.F., 160925Z to Com. i/c Aden, (R) Com. R.I.N., F.O. Ceylon, F.O.C.R.I.N., F.O.R.S.C.A., C. in C. Levant, Admty., OPHIR.)

Convoy Sailing telegrams. C. in C. E.F.'s 131433 request you will continue to address direct to Comtenthfleet C. and R. sailing telegrams of W.S., C.M., C.F. convoys and monster transports.
2. Admiralty will include all other convoys in daily summary.
(D.T.D., 160948A to C. in C. E.F., C. in C.S.A.)

Convoy B.M. 59. Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 161115Z to Admty.)

NEPAL, REDOUBT. With REDOUBT in company E.T.A. for fuel a.m./18th. Requirements. Ships will proceed on completion of fuelling.
(NEPAL, 161200Z to N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez.)

LANCASHIRE. LANCASHIRE, expected time of departure Kilindini for Suez p.m./22nd.
(D.S.T.O. Kilindini, 161319Z to C. in C. E.F.)

HAVILDAR "S" Report. Following has been received - S S S S S S S S
09.37 N. 64.06 E. at 1550 sighted.
(HAVILDAR via Colombo W/T, No T.O.O. Recd. 161715.)

/British ...

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16.8.1943.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

British
Controlled
Shipping
from Indian
Ocean,
routeing.

141452 all British controlled ships from Indian Ocean, including East Africa, bound for U.K. or North American Eastern seaboard should sail through Mediterranean, except those having cargo commitments in South of West Africa or South America.

(D.T.D., 162143A to C. in C. E.F., (R) C. in C. Levant.)

War Diary.16.8.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Movements. St. Johns N.F. 15th arrivals SHERBROOKE ex S.C.139.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns 160210Z.)
Arrival Vieux Fort 16th U.S.A.T. HUGH J.GALLAGHER.
(B.R.O.Castries (via N.Y.) 160700.)

Departure 2330 G.M.T. 16th ENGADINE, E.T.A. New York 1700 G.M.T.
23rd.
(B.R.L.O. Cristobal 161904.)
Departures SACKVILLE, GALT to St. Johns N.F.
(C.Halifax 161954Z.)
CANSO escorting Cable Ship NORSEMAN departed Bermuda for
Halifax.
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 162215Z.)
Argentia 16th departure 2030Z EVENLODE for St. Johns N.F.
(Capt. D.Argentia 162230Z.)

KENOGAMI. KENOGAMI has A/S and R.D.F. defects. Propose to
sail her from Pictou N.S. 1300Z/16th for Halifax
to enable defects to be made good.
(ROXBOROUGH 160215Z to C. in C. C.N.W.A. (R)
Capt. Halifax, S.N.O.Pictou N.S. SOREL, KENOGAMI.)

Dispositions. My 151540Z add U.S.S. S.C. 708 departed Boston
Gate 1930Z/15th to 042° 31' N. 070° 28' W. thence
082° alter to 251° in 065° 20' W. and to 075° in
044° 55' N. 12 knots.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 160515Z.)

L.26, 051° 00' 047° 28' 224° 9.
O.N.S. 15, B.3, 049° 19' 048° 00' 223° 8.
Escort Group W.2 sails St. Johns 2000Z to join O.N.S.15 in
position 048° 08' 049° 40' at 0900Z/17th.
O.N. 196 W.3 047° 12' 050° 53' 223° 10 alter to 242° in 046° 01' N.
Escort Group C.2 047° 37' 051° 02' 12 en route St. Johns N.F.
FUSILIER BUSTLER 047° 44' 051° 52' 10 en route St. Johns N.F.
B.W.51, GEORGIAN, SARNIA 047° 30' 052° 12' 010° 7 alter to 313°
in 047° 33' N.
STRATFORD, ADHERENT escorting SS. MEIGLE vicinity 046° 39' 055°
46' en route St. Pierre.
S.G. 29, C.T.U. 24.8.3 057° 29' 056° 36' 323° 7.
SS. SANTA PRINCEZA leaving 046° 20' 048° 33' for Portugal.
SS. SANTA JOANA leaving 046° 40' 048° 35' for Portugal.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 161515B.)
My 161515Z add A.T. 60, 42° 58' 53° 48' 78° 19.5 alter to
56° in 50° 01' W.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 161557Z.)
My 161515Z add ASPIRANT departed Red Bay 1202Z/16th en
route for St. Johns N.F.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 162017Z.)
My 161515Z add U.S.S. PINTO departed Argentia 2200Z/16th
to position 046° 42' 055° 01' thence 066° 12 knots.
KAMLOOPS, POLYANTHUS escorting B.Y.M.S. 229, M.M.S. 255, 244 047°
42' 051° 47' en route St. Johns.
DRUMMONDVILLE 046° 22' 053° 50, 12 en route Sydney.
EVENLODE departed Argentia 2030Z/16th to St. Johns.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 162243Z.)

/PRIMROSE...

War Diary.16.8.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

PRIMROSE. E.T.A. 162200Z. Boiler hours. In company POLYANTHUS, KAMLOOPS, CHAMBLY. (PRIMROSE 161230Z to F.O.N.F. (R) Capt. D.St. Johns N.F.)

U.S. S/M Estimate. (Cominch 161250Z.)

B.Y.M.S. At 1200Z/16 sailed B.Y.M.S. 240 (S.O.) 33 to St. Johns N.F. (route) thence destination via Q.J.A. 204. Speed 10 knots. E.T.A. 1600Z/18 August. 3. B.Y.M.S. are for onward routing to U.K. vide Cominch 252107 June (N.T. in W.R.) (C. in C.C.N.A. 161254Z to F.O.N.F.)

ADHERENT, MEIGLE, broken down. Following for C.C.R.T. ADHERENT sailed St. Johns N.F. 0200/16th to assistance of S.O.S. MEIGLE broken down in 046° 39' N. 055° 46' W. (F.O.N.F. 161359Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. C. in C.C.N.A.)

GRIPSHOLM. Your 141621Z concur. (Head of M.I. 161347A to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)

LE GLORIEUX. C. in C.Med. pass to Comnavaw for info. Cominch will pass appropriate U-Boat estimates to LE GLORIEUX in area west of 40 W. F.O.C.Gibraltar 141900 (N.T. in W.R.) refers. (Cominch 161421 to Admty. info F.O.C.Gib. Commorseafon, Comnavaw, C. in C.Med.)

L.26 routing. Routing of L.26 in vicinity of convoys has caused considerable embarrassment to shore based aircraft. Should be grateful if in future submarines on passage could be routed well clear of convoys. (C. in C.C.N.A. 161424Z to Admty. (R) F.O.S. C. in C.W.A.)

N.S.H.Q. S/M Estimate. (N.S.H.Q. 161430Z.)

EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND. EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND arrived New York 1108Z/16th. (P.D. New York 161514 to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. (R) C.E.S.F.)

L.23. L.23 expected to sail for New London on 3rd Sept. Vessel will remain there about 15 days. (B.A.M.R. 161536Q to Admty. (R) F.O.S. N.S.H.Q. C. in C.C.N.A. Capt. 3.7, S.B.N.O.W.At. L.23.)

War Diary.

16.8.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

- Task Group 21.14 constituted. From C. in C.Lant addressed to U.S.S. CARD repeated Com. 5., Comnavu, Comnavnaw, Comdeslant, C.T.F. 28, Cominch and C.T.F. 64 for information. Task group 21.14 constituted as follows: Capt. Isbell CARD, BORIE, BARRY, GOFF. Co-operate with Comtask Force 64 in providing A/S protection for convoy U.G.S. 13 scheduled to sail from Hampton Roads 27th July for North Africa. Orders for return will be sent later. Attention is directed to my 102109 July. (Comnavu 161621 to Admty.) W.R.Note. Previously circulated as 131621 August.
- ENGADINE. Departing Cristobal 2300Z/16th for New York via Yucatan and Florida Straits ENGADINE. Speed 13. E.T.A. New York 1700Z/23rd route B. (Commorseafron 161742 to Com. 10th Fleet, C. & R. (R) Opnav 7, N.S.H.Q. B.A.D. S.B.N.O.W.At. Admty. Comcaribseafron, Com. 3.)
- A.T.62. Convoy A.T.62. Request QUEEN ELIZABETH be sailed so as to arrive Clyde on 25th (arrival p.m. 25th preferred.) (D.O.D.(H) 161859A to Cominch.)
- Casualty Summary No. 20. FERNHILL (Norwegian) torpedoed and presumed sunk in 7° N. 20° W. on 6th. Sailed U.K. 19th July in O.S.52 for Montevideo and Buenos Aires. (D.T.D. 161902A to N.S.H.Q. C. in C.S.A. C. in C.E.F. F.O.C.W.Af. S.O.(I) Colombo, Asst. S.O.(I) Recife.)
- Convoy U.T.1. Convoy U.T.1 leaving Hampton Roads 20th. Destinations will be:- SS. CRISTOBAL, ARGENTINA and SANTA PAULA to Mersey SS. MONTICELLO, CANYON CREEK, and ESSO HARRISBURG to Clyde. 2. Escort DART, ERNE, WHIMBREL, CLARE, BANFF and FISHGUARD destinations as arranged by C. in C.W.A. 3. Request S.O. of escort be instructed to report E.T.A. of both sections 48 hours before arrival in North Channel. (D.O.D.(H) 161904A to Cominch.)
- NORSEMAN. Cancel my 152348. NORSEMAN escorted by CANSO, Cominch 1939/9 departs Bermuda for Halifax for equipment 1700Z/16th through position:- X. Lat. 36.42 Long. 64.35. Y. 40.40 64.12. Z. 43.37 63.35 thence to destination Halifax, S.O.A. 11 knots, E.T.A. 1500Z/19th. (N.O.B. Bermuda 161932 to C. in C.Lant, C. in C.C.N.A. (R) Admty. B.A.D. F.O.N.F. N.S.H.Q. Cominch, C.E.S.F. Connav.)
- BLOCK ISLAND. Change sailing date of BLOCK ISLAND from 20th to 21st of August. U.S. destroyer DUPONT pass to Cdre. T.G. 21.17. (C. in C.C.N.A. 161935Z to (U.S.) Cdr. Eastern Sea Frontier, (R) (U.S.) C. in C.U.S. Atlantic Fleet, etc.)

/EMPEROR...

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War Diary.16.8.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

- EMPEROR Include EMPEROR ferrying Non-Operational aircraft
H.X. 253. in H.X. 253.
(C. in C.U.S. Fleet 161939Z to C.E.S.F. (R) B.A.D.
N.S.H.Q. S.B.N.O.W.At. U.S.P.D. New York.)
- PRINCE ROBERT. PRINCE ROBERT departs Bermuda 2200Z/16th for the
Clyde through positions (route) thence to
destination. S.O.A. 16.5. Your 091935. E.T.A.
0300Z/24. E.T.A. 0300Z/21st. E.T.A. "Chop" 47 W.
1700Z/19th.
(N.O.B. Bermuda 161954 to Cominch.)
- H.H.X. 252. Departure H.M.C.S. KAMSACK (?), BATTLEFORD,
BLAIRMORE escorting H.H.X. 252.
(C. Halifax 161956Z to Admty. etc.)
- Routing of vessels from Indian Ocean. Your 141457 para. 2. U.S. Vessels from Indian
Ocean Area destined East Coast, South America
including Bauxite trade should be routed around
Cape Good Hope and through the South Atlantic.
Vessels destined West Coast South America
should be routed Transpacific. Para. 3 and 4
routing to East Coast South American Ports for
onward routing was approved in order that vessels coming to U.S.
area of control via South Atlantic could receive onward routing
instructions without calling at Ports in Capetown area. It is
not desired at present that vessels routed to your station
Transpacific be returned via Atlantic except:
A. Those destined East Coast South America.
B. Those scheduled for Bauxite.
C. Those designated for Mediterranean routing.
(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 161959Z to C. in C.E.F. (R) Admty.)
- CLEOPATRA Your 071756. The extent of damage to CLEOPATRA
refit. would involve an unacceptable amount of work in
preparing ship for ocean passage and she will
therefore be taken in hand in U.K. and not in U.S.A.
(D.O.D.(F) 162021A to B.A.M.R.)
- Shipping August 15 no report. All times Z. Para. A.
Casualties, M.H.DE YOUNG torpedoed 21.50 S. 175.10 W. 141753
U/B attacks. being towed to port.
MATTHEW LYONS torpedoed damaged area 22.30 S.
166.30 E. 11th August.
Para. C. K.81 Radar contact 35.23 N. 74.20 W.
161330 and made contact 35.19 N. 74.23 W. 161415.
P.B.M. Radar contact 37.15 N. 73.13 W. 161530.
Plane Radar contact 35.34 N. 74.54 W. 152235.
(Cominch 162051Z to Admty.)
- VICTORIOUS. Your 110130. Tarpon F.N. 874 will be at San Diego
for you. Request you make own collection
arrangements. 2. This aircraft comes from the
fifteen already earmarked for you for embarkation
before proceeding to U.K.
(B.A.M.R. 162059Z to VICTORIOUS, (R) Comfair
West Coast, Admty.)

/Convoy...

War Diary.

16.8.1943.

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

Convoy U.G.S.15. Following is P.D.Norfolk 161220 (begins):
Sailing telegram part 1. 1. U.G.S. 15.
2. 1131Z/16 August. 3. 0200Z/18 passing L. speed 9
4. "Chop" 24 W. 2300Z/28. Shift radio watch 20 W.
2200Z/29.
(Route). 6. C.T.F. 66, CHARLES LAWRENCE, BALDWIN, EMRDINL (sic),
ENDICOTT, McCORMACK, HOPPING, REEVES, SYMBOL, MERRIMACK, C.T.G.
21.16 CORE, BADGER, BARKER, AULMER.
7. 60, when CORE and MERRIMACK are on formation. (Ends.)
(Radio Washington 162113 to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. F.O.I.C.
Gibraltar, Cinclant, (R) C.E.S.F. N.O.B.Bermuda, C. in C.C.N.A.
N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. Admty. C. in C.Med. Comnavnaw, Comoroceanseaf-
ron, N.O.B.Oran, C. in C.Levant.)

Task Group 21.11 This is C. in C.Lant's 152029 to U.S.S. SANTEE (R)
constituted. to Comdeslantflt, Commorseafon, C.T.G. 61,
Cominch, Comairlant, begins: Task Group 21.11 is
established with SANTEE, GREENE, BAMBRIDGE,
MACLEISH, CAPTAIN FACE. In co-operation with
Comtaskforce 61 support Task Force 61 escorting
Convoy U.G.S.16 sailing Hampton Roads August 26 see my 102109
July escorts to be directed report to you at Hampton Roads.
(Comnavau 162131 to Admty.)

C.T.G.21.16. This is C. in C.Lant's 161329 to C.T.G. 21.16 (R)
to Cominch, C.T.G. 21.15, Commorseafon (begins)
Proceed to areas of enemy submarine concentration
near U.S. - Africa convoy lanes at good speed.
Against these concentrations you are to operate offensively until
time to support Task Force 66 as it nears the concentration.
Permission granted to refuel destroyers by stop at Bermuda.
(Comnavau 162143 to Admty.)

Hunting Groups. Your 142132. Concur. Request that ST. CROIX
may be made immediately available to C. in C.W.A.
2. Request that remainder of ships mentioned may
be sailed independently to U.K. as soon as ready
an that anticipated sailing dates may be signalled.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 162201A to N.S.H.Q. (R) C. in C.W.A.
C. in C.C.N.A.)

PRINCE ROBERT. Arrival Bermuda PRINCE ROBERT and departure in
accordance with N.O.B.Bermuda's 161954 (N.T. in W.R.)
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 162202 to Admty.)

ROXBOROUGH Group W.8 Take W.8 Group under your orders weigh and
proceed at 1300Z/17th as arranged to Halifax
routed from Pictou N.S. to Gut H.I. (3 corrupt
groups) by most direct route and Gut (corrupt
group) 044° 30' N. 062° 40' W. coast wise (2
corrupt groups) navigation 138. Thence via Q.J.A.
215 to Halifax.
2. S.O.A. 12 knots.
3. E.T.A. Mulgrave 1900Z/17th E.T.A. Halifax 1100Z/18th.
(SOREL 162254Z to ROXBOROUGH, (R) N.S.H.Q. C. in C.C.N.W.A. etc.)

War Diary.

16.8.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

B.W.51, SARNIA, GEORGIAN. B.W.51 SARNIA, GEORGIAN, E.T.A. 171100Z. SARNIA, GEORGIAN boiler hours. (SARNIA 162320Z to F.O.C.N.F. (R) Capt. D.)

F.T. 1114, F.T. 21. The following re-encypherment is N.O.B. Trinidad 152109 to Comfourthfleet for action. Info to Comcaribseafon B.A.D. (begins): F.T. 1114 and 21 departed in convoy T.J.5? for Recife on August 14. (Ends.) (Radio Washington 152336Z to N.S.H.Q. Admty. V.A.Gibraltar.)

MEIGLE, STRATFORD. Detached MEIGLE (?2 miles) south of St. Pierre. E.T.A. Sydney 171130Z boiler hours. Weather forecast. (STRATFORD 162312Z to F.O.N.F.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial No. 573 Aug. 15th. 3. During early hours patrol Catalina sighted submarine 60 miles southeast Gasmata course west while another located 5 southbound barges near Sioq and damaged or destroyed all with bombs and strafing. 7. Midday 14th 5 barges located near Talasea and another five in Rein Bay by 12 Mitchells. All barges destroyed or damaged. 6 barges hit by strafing Liberator in Borgen Bay afternoon 15th and same time 4 Bostons, 2 Beaufighters swept south coast firing 1 barge Wide Bay and camouflaged one 50 ton vessel Jacquinot Bay also bombing dump area Gasmata. 8. Negative barge sweep south coast Huon Peninsula 14th but 6 observed this area 15th. 13. Forenoon photos Buka passage reveal 15 fighters one medium 7 dive bombers also two sizeable ships 19 barges and small craft in area. Nil shipping sighted Buin area. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 160920Z.)

Movements. Arrivals 15th August Townsville H/T KATOOMBA, R.A.F.A. KURUMBA U.S.Transport VAN DER LIJN. Departed Cairns 14 arrived Townsville 15 U.S. Transport TORRENS. Departed Brisbane 15 due Townsville 16 U.S.Transport MAETSUYCKER departed Milne Bay 15 due Oro Bay 15 R.A.F.A. BISHOPDALE departed Milne Bay 15 due Townsville 18 A.S.I.S. YUNNAN departed Brisbane 15 due Townsville 18. (C.S.W.P.S.F. 161206Z.)

/Location...

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War Diary.

16.8.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

Location of
Amchitka
D/F Station.

Change location given my 121700 for Amchitka to
51 - 24 - 43 N. 179 - 16 - 26 E.
(Vice C.N.O. 161535Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 161259A, 161317A.)

Submarines Attacked.

Sub. attack
& sighting
summary to
1000B/16.

Para. A. VENTURA attacked U-Boat 1040/15 in 28°
30' S. 34° 00' E.
Para. B. Aircraft attacked periscope and wake
1317/15 in 61° 57' N. 13° 40' W. course 240°.
Aircraft sighted U-Boat 2040/15 in 61° 52' N. 14°
26' W. course 050°.
Ref. A.M. 140910Z. Sinking of CLAN MACARTHUR now
reported 23° 00' S. 53° 11' E. at 2330/11. Reports in para. C.
should have been included in Para. A.
(D.D.I.C. 161004Z to Cominch.)

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17.8.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- Operation F.N. 1. C.S.10 in BELFAST with ONSLOW and ORWELL returned to Skaalefiord at 0626A and considers that his Force was again sighted by A/C on approaching harbour.
- Coastal Patrol Shelled. 2. A coastal patrol of 2 M.G.B's and 2 M.T.B's was very accurately shelled at ranges up to 18,000 yards by enemy Coastal Batteries when about 4½ miles N.N.W. of Catellier Point at 0059 this morning. M.G.B.613 had her stern blown away, but made harbour under her own power at 0739. There were no casualties.
- Operation "Musketry". 3. E.G.40 returned to Falmouth this morning owing to a defect in HASTINGS, and sailed again less HASTINGS at 2005A to resume patrol.
- Troop Convoy. 4. Convoy K.M.F.22/W.S.33 sailed from the Clyde at 0944A to-day.
- Enemy Mines. 5. One Mine was detonated by Sweepers off the Humber today, and three explosions were seen by a Sweeper at 1325 off Orfordness.

North Atlantic.

- M.K.S.21. 6. Convoy M.K.S.21 escorted by CHARYBDIS and HIGHLANDER, was shadowed at 1938A by 2 Focke Wulfs. One of these was shot down by a Liberator aircraft, which also crashed, survivors from both being picked up. No attack was made on the convoy.

South Atlantic.

- Attacks on U-Boats. 7. A U-Boat was attacked by Aircraft at 0929 today in 14.11 N. 17.40 W. off Cape Verde, and was reported to have surfaced after the attack, possibly damaged. FOWEY and CROCUS were ordered to hunt.

A French /...

17.8.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

Attacks
on
U-Boats.
(Contd.)

A French Sunderland sighted a U-Boat conning tower and attacked with 4 depth charges in 15.13 N. 17.51 W. at 1215. A U-Boat was also reported to have been sighted by a Sunderland aircraft at 1429 in 14.28 N. 18.03 W. (140 miles west of Dakar), but disappeared before an attack could be made. S.O. Escort Group 37 after a search considers the report doubtful.

8. SANTA CECILIA, U.S. New York for Dakar, reported at 1250Z that she was being attacked by a U-Boat in 15.30 N. 17.52 W. off Dakar. At 1950Z she reported that the U-Boat did not fire a gun, but perhaps fired a torpedo. Aircraft escorting her considered the report doubtful.

9. The French cruiser MONTCALM arrived at Dakar this morning from Bermuda, after refit in U.S.A. and will be available for patrols from 20th August.

Mediterranean.

Sicily:
Messina
captured,
resistance
ended.

10. A U.S. cruiser force operated last night North of Messina without incident. PENELOPE, EURYALUS, PALADIN and JERVIS operated last night to the North of Sicily and to the Italian mainland. No enemy forces were met. Rapid Axis withdrawals on all sectors into the Messina area and across the Straits to the mainland continued yesterday and during the early hours of today. An official announcement from Algiers today states that "American troops captured Messina early this morning. Some artillery fire is being directed on the city from the mainland." The American 7th and the British 8th Armies made contact in Messina during the day, and all organised resistance in Sicily has ceased.

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17.8.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean. - Contd.Aeolian
Islands.

11. TRIPPE, U.S. destroyer, and 3 P.T.'s received the surrender of the Aeolian Islands at 1230 from the Italian Naval Commander at Lipari.

The radio and cable station were inoperative but not sabotaged. The radio station on Stromboli was out of action. The Germans left 10 days ago.

S/M
Operations.

12. S/M. UPROAR reports that at 2158/6 in 41.11 N. 16.56 E. (north of Bari, east coast of Italy) she fired 3 torpedoes at an M/V and observed one hit abreast the main mast.

RORQUAL reports that on 7th August she sank a 2,500 ton merchant ship in a strongly escorted convoy off the Dardanelles. On 8th August she bombarded the Chrovssso resin factory.

Enemy
Torpedo
Bombers.

13. N.C.S.O.'s have been instructed to warn merchant ships, Commodores of Convoys, and escorts that Torpedo bomber aircraft are very active at present on the North African routes, operating in large numbers or singly.

G.U.S.12
attacked.

Convoy G.U.S.12 was attacked at 0002 by one torpedo bomber without damage, off Bone.

G.U.S.
Convoys.

14. A standard route is laid down by Admiralty today for G.U.S. Convoys, to begin with G.U.S.13, due to leave Alexandria on 20th August.

Air
Operations.

15. 40 Wellingtons last night bombed enemy beaches between Merata and Palmi. Bursts straddled a concentration of small boats. 6 Bostons of the Tactical Air Force last night attacked 3 merchant vessels near Messina, scoring near misses, in the course of attacks on the beaches between Messina and Cape Peloro. 1 Wellington of Coastal Air Force last night attacked a merchant vessel of 4,000 tons off Emperia with torpedoes. Dense smoke followed the attack.

Last night 206 Warhawks with 129 Kittyhawk bombers attacked coastal traffic from Reggio to Palmi. Direct hits were obtained on 5 Siebel ferries. 2 E-Boats and 4 barges, and near misses on several other landing craft.

36 U.S. Lightnings which today swept the Toe of Italy strafed the radar station at Cape Spartivento.

R.A.F. Beaufighters and Wellingtons continued their offensive sweeps against enemy shipping and

harbour /...

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17.8.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.Air
Operations.
(Contd.)

harbour installations in the Aegean and off the west coast of Greece. The harbours of Zante, Melos and Siros were bombed. Malta Beaufighters attacked the seaplane base at Argostoli and damaged 2 Heinkel 115's. One 1200 ton schooner in 37.38 N. 90.34 E. (12 miles S. of Zante) was hit by a 250 lb bomb and left listing.

East Indies.EMPIRE
STANLEY,
Sunk.

16. At 1550Z, bearings taken of an "S" message were estimated to have originated from a ship, probably EMPIRE STANLEY, in a position within 150 miles of 25 degs. S. 50 degs. E. Survivors from this ship were picked up at 0550Z on 20th August in 27 degs. S. 47 degs. E. 130 miles S.E. of Madagascar. 1 boat was then still adrift.

Raiders.

17. ALCIDES, Norwegian tanker, overdue at Fremantle from Abadan since 8th August, and GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER U.S. overdue at Aden from Hobart since 11th August are perhaps victims of Raider "H", which is possibly operating in an area 02 degs. to 03 degs. S. 30 degs. to 100 degs. E.
The U.S. ship DAVID G. HUGHES, on passage from Hobart to Colombo, sighted a derelict tanker with stem blown off in the vicinity of 01.25 N. 78.31 E. on 10th August which may have been ALCIDES.

S.E.
Asia H.Q.

18. C. in C. Eastern Fleet in a signal today on the naval communications problem of S.E. Asia Command H.Q. says it is essential to set up a separate naval communications organisation at this headquarters at Delhi, and makes certain proposals.

Air
Operations.

19. 6 Hurricanes successfully attacked river craft in the Akyab area today. 2 Beaufighters on a sweep of the Irrawaddy attacked and damaged 35 sampans and fired an oil tank at Kanhla.

War Diary.17.8.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Provision
of
Hunting
Groups.

It has been suggested that in present circumstances one Trawler is sufficient with each O.N.S/S.C. convoy. It is proposed to transfer the six Trawlers so released temporarily to the Home Fleet for use in A/S duties in the Northern passage. (2) Request your remarks.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 171438A to C. in C. W.A.)

EMPIRE
SCOTT.

(? Dvina)
Arrived Breina Bar 0500A/17th BRITOMART and EMPIRE SCOTT.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 171652 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Movements.HASTINGS,
BERMUDA,
E.G.40.

HASTINGS proceeding Falmouth with defects, remainder 40th E.G. proceeding vicinity Lizard Head. Positions by plot.
(1) BERMUDA 230 degs. Longships 22 miles at 0356A. (2) HASTINGS 195 degs. Longships 20 at 0338A. (3) 40th E.G. 196 degs. Longships 21

at 0356A.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 170413A)

Arrived BERMUDA.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 170925B)

IMPULSIVE.

IMPULSIVE has been ordered to sail from Hvalfiord at 1500A/17, closing Reykjavik at 1630A for passengers thence proceeding Scapa. E.T.A. Scapa 0700A/19, speed 19 knots.
(KENT, 170702A to A.C.I.C.)

Reykjavik departure IMPULSIVE with KENT's 170702.
(A.C.I.C. 171802A to R.A.D.)

S/M
Movements.

My 160846. Add 24 hours to all times (S.T.O.I.C.)
(F.O.S. 170951A to Admty.)
Intend sailing TRUANT and THRASHER escorted by CUTTY SARK 2000A/18 for Holyloch by Varne route. E.T.A. 1100A/20th.
(S.O.S/M Lerwick, 171055A)

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

(F.O.S. 171717A, 181422A, 181622A)

Intend to sail KINGSTON AMBER escorting TRUANT, ULTIMATUM, LE CURIE and MINERVE from Clyde at 2000A/20th August by standard route to 180 degs. Bishop Rock 10 miles, E.T.A. 2200A/22. (2) Thence ULTIMATUM and LE CURIE to southward and MINERVE and TRUANT escorted by KINGSTON AMBER to Plymouth. E.T.A. 0800A/23.

(Capt. (S) 3, 172243A, 181013A, 201433A)

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17.8.1943.

Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

VIZALMA. LORD KELVIN handed over to HOTSPUR (O.N.197).
Proceeding in accordance with your 151156A.
(VIZALMA, 171530Z to C. in C. W.A.)

T.F.112-1, Proceed to pass Hoxa Gate at 1930A/18 to arrive
PHOEBE. in 058 degs. 45' N. 006 degs. 12' W. at about
0400A/19th. (2) Task Force 112.1 will
approach this R/V on course 83 degs. S.O.A.
13½ knots (?and) is expected there at 0630A.
(3) Meet and provide escort to Scapa acting in accordance with
H.F.'s memorandum one/216 dated 17th August, 1943 operation F.O.
(C. in C. H.F. 171855A to PHOEBE)

Operations.

Operation Contact has been lost with U-Boat. Destroyer
S.F. searching in immediate vicinity. Request
concentrated air co-operation at first light 17th.
Consider U-Boats air and batteries very low and
probably damaged by my attack.
(SHIKARI, 170118 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Your 170118. Add to aircraft in my 162350 one Catalina on
patrol approx. 0730 carrying out square search.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 170315A to SHIKARI)
My 0930 P.C.S. 061 degs. 12' N. 016 degs. 12' W. 078,
12 knots. E.T.A. Skaale Fiord for fuelling 1030/18th.
Intend sailing from Skaale Fiord to arrive Scapa by 1100A/19th.
Port engine thrust block now definitely wiped. Traces of
white metal in filters.
(SHIKARI, 170942A to C. in C. Rosyth.)
My 170315. Add 2 Sunderlands on square search at 1530
and 1630 today respectively.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 171124A to MUSKETEER, SHIKARI).
My 031615 and 162359 Patrols 1201A to 2359A/17.
(A) 11 (B) 7.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 171153A to A.I.G.47)
Your 170925A. Continue search. If no further aircraft
sighted and if not in contact at 2359 return to harbour.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 171249A, 171417 to MUSKETEER)
My 171132A. Amend to read MUSKETEER, METEOR, MAHRATTA
searching vicinity 060 degs. 48' N. 016 degs. 49' W.
SHIKARI 061 degs. 25' N. 011 degs. 50' W. to Skaale Fiord.
(A.C.O.S. 171437A to Ships)
My 162224A. A very careful analysis of plot and records
show that in at least 4 out of 5 attacks the U-Boat was certainly
within the pattern and in remaining attack probably within the
pattern and close enough to expect serious damage.
Consider U-Boat probably destroyed. Burst of Hydrophone effects
and special noises on bearing as contact finally faded.
(SHIKARI, 171634A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Operation Skaale Fiord arrival BELFAST, ONSLOW, ORWELL.
F.N. (N.O.I.C.Faeroes, 170626A to C. in C. H.F.)
Consider my Force was sighted at 0530A
today while approaching Skaale Fiord.
(C.S.10, 171045A to C. in C. H.F.)

Operation/...

War Diary.17.8.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation "Musketry". My 1517144A. 40th Escort Group returning Falmouth owing to condensor defect in HASTINGS. HASTINGS E.T.A. Falmouth 0900A. Expected time departure Falmouth p.m.17th. (C. in C. Plymouth, 170825A to E.G.2, GLASGOW, GRENVILLE, etc.)

Following estimated position submarine 0800A/18th. All submarines proceeding diving by day. (1) SYRTIS, 048 degs. 22' N. 007 degs. 30' W. through 049 degs. 00' N. 007 degs. 30' W. to R/V 180 degs. Bishop Roack 8 miles 0700A/19th. (2) SEANYMPH, 048 degs. 10' N. 007 degs. 00' W. through 049 degs. 00' N. 007 degs. 01' W. R/V as in para. (1). (3) TRUCULENT, 047 degs. to zone J.7. (4) TUNA 047 degs. 50' N. 006 degs. 00' W. to Zone J.6. (5) UNBROKEN in Zone J.8. (F.O.S.171133A to S/M's)

Your 171054. 40th Escort Group should be sailed as soon as defect in HASTINGS is completed.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 171315A to F.O.I.C. Falmouth)

(1) It is desired to investigate possibility of making use of bearings of transmissions of enemy long-range fighters which might be obtained by ships operating in Bay of Biscay.

(2) Whenever information is available, usually early in the day, you will be informed by signal of frequency on which D/F watch should be set. (3) Watch so ordered should then be maintained until sunset on that day provided this can be done without undue effect on anti U-Boat D/F organisation of your group. (5) It is hoped that bearings will be obtained which with knowledge of code used may. (a) lead to fixing of U-Boats with fighter escort. (b) lead to fixing of any of own aircraft which may be shot down by enemy fighters. (6) Records are to be kept and forwarded on return from 1st Sortie. Should it appear to you that any immediate operational use can be made of result this is to be suggested by signal.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 171326A to E.G.1)

Your 171315A. Owing to the bad state of air pumps generally in HASTINGS, vessel cannot be ready to proceed until 1200/18 at earliest. Request further instructions for 40th. E.G.

F.O.I.C.F almouth, 171525A to C. in C. Plymouth)

(1) ATHABASKAN and GRENVILLE are to return to Falmouth to arrive p.m. 19th to refuel and sail again p.m.20th.

(2) Route through position (L) 048 degs. 57' N. 010 degs. 30' W. (M) 180 degs. Bishop Rock 10 miles, thence by Q.Z.S. route to Falmouth.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 171540A to GLASGOW.)

Disposition at 1600. (1) GLASGOW, ATHABASKAN, GRENVILLE on patrol 045 degs. 50' N. 012 degs. 15' W. at 2030.

(2) Escort Group 2 (STARLING, WOODCOCK, WREN, WILD GOOSE, WOODPECKER, KITE) on patrol vicinity 045 degs. N. 010 degs. 30' W. (3) P.315 049 degs. 10' N. 006 degs. 30' W.

Southbound, daily advance 100 miles. (4) TUNA 049 degs. 10' N. 006 degs. 05' W. Southbound, daily advance 100 miles.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 171625A to Ships)

My position 180700A, 106 degs. Y.59.

(E.G.2, 172010A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Your 171744A. 40th E.G. should be sailed as soon as possible. HASTINGS should be sailed to join them as soon as defect is completed.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 172011A to F.O.I.C. Falmouth)

My /...

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17.8.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation "Musketry".
(Contd.)

My 170825A. Escort Group 40 less HASTINGS sailed Falmouth, 2005A/17th.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 172135A to E.G.2, GLASGOW, etc.)

S/M Patrols.

Leave patrol at 0400A/19 through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 5 miles to arrive Lerwick p.m. 21st.

(Capt. (S) 9, 170921A to UPSTART.)

Request you will sail ULTIMATUM and LE CURIE so as to part company with escort in position XX 180 degs. Bishop Rock 10 miles at 2200/22nd, thence LE CURIE via route Blood to C.A. 048 degs. 10' 007 degs. 01', thence direct to anti U-Boat patrol in zone J Six.

(2) From XX ULTIMATUM is to proceed through (UA) 049 degs. 01' 007 degs. 30' (UB) 048 degs. 01' 007 degs. 30' thence direct to anti U-Boat patrol in zone J Seven.

(3) LE CURIE and ULTIMATUM are to leave patrol so as to pass through C.B. 046 degs. 30', 006 degs. 01' and UC 045 degs. 01' 006 degs. 01' respectively at 0800/31, thence via route Gold to longitude 007 degs. west thence inside 100-fathom line to pass through position ZZ 043 degs. 01' 009 degs. 45' at 0400/4th Sept. and 0400/3rd Sept. respectively for onward passage to Gibraltar. (4) TUNA and TRUCULENT will be recalled by the reverse of route given in my 141644 to arrive in position XX at 0700/24th. (5) UNBROKEN will be recalled via route Gold to arrive in position YY 180 degs. Lizard Head 12 miles at 0800/25.

(F.O.S. 171519A and 201042A to Capt. S.3)

Request you will recall ULA forthwith to Lerwick and Dundee.

(F.O.S. 171540A to Capt. (S) 9.)

Leave patrol at 2000A/17 through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 10 to arrive Lerwick 19th August.

(Capt. (S) 9, 171601A to ULA)

Positions of submarines at 0800A/18th and movements for following 24 hours. (A) UPSTART as in my 101721 leaving patrol 0400/19th dived as much as practicable when North of 62 degs. N. for Lerwick. (G) SYRTIS 48 degs. 22' N. 07 degs. 30' W. dived by day through 49 degs. 01' N. 07 degs. 30' W. to R/V in 180 Bishop Rock 8 miles at 0700/19th. for escort to Holy Loch. (H) SEANYMPH 48 degs. 10' N. 07 degs. 00' W. dived by day through 49 degs. 00' N. 07 degs. 01' W. to R/V in 180 Bishop Rock 8 miles at 0700/19th for escort to Holy Loch. (J) TRUCULENT 47 degs. 50' N. 06 degs. 30' W. dived by day to patrol in area between latitudes 46 degs. 05' N. and 45 degs. 20' N. and longitudes 05 degs. 00' W. and 03 degs. 30' W. (K) TUNA 47 degs. 50' N. 06 degs. 00' W. dived by day to patrol in area between latitudes 47 degs. 25' N. and 46 degs. 45' N. and longitudes 05 degs. 25' W. and 04 degs. 30' W.

(L) /...

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17.8.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

S/M Patrols. (Contd.) (L) UNBROKEN (P.42) as in my 161656. (N)ULA approx. 62 degs. 30' N. 00 degs. 32' E. diving as much as possible while North of 62 degs. N. for Lerwick. (F.O.S. 171717A to Admty.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (A) LA COMBATTANTE, GLAISDALE Anti - E-Boat patrol from 2145 to 0400 on 50 degs. 25' N. between 0 degs. 40' W. & 1 degs. 25' W. Anchor St Helens if weather unsuitable. On completion of patrol GLAISDALE to proceed to Portland in execution of previous orders, and LA COMBATTANTE to return by Needles. (B) M.L.292, 344 patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between F and E.A.5 Buoys. (C) CHASSEUR 5 immediate notice St. Helens. (D) M.L.122, 124, 233 from Portland patrolling 50 degs. 20' N. between 2 degs. 00' W. and 2 degs. 25' W. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 171547A)

Coastal Force shelled. M.G.B.613 damaged. M.G.B.613, 614, M.T.B. 250, 251 proceeded on patrol in accordance with my 161421 and at 0034/17 started to patrol off the French Coast at 9 knots from a position 5 miles North of St. Valery En Caux. Beach Flares of varying colours, presumably an alarm, were seen at 5 to 10 minute intervals. Enemy batteries firing from 2 to 6 gun salvos opened fire at 0059 when patrol was 330 degs. Catellier Point 4½ miles. The first shell hit M.G.B.613 bursting low on the stern and blew away the stern and forward part of the keel, damaging the forward bulkhead. Forward mess deck flooded which made headway impossible without danger of sinking. M.G.B.613 steered to seaward at 3½ knots astern, working up to 9. Other Boats stood by scattering when firing became too accurate, to confuse ranging. Destroyers were sent to assist, but M.G.B. 613 made harbour under her own power at 0739. Enemy fire was very accurate and followed boats out to 18000 yards, several shots falling within 50 feet. No casualties. Estimated time for repairs 10 to 14 days. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 172010A and 181030A to Admty.)

Allied Air Activity.

A/C at Scapa. Pending other arrangements the number of Walrus aircraft and air crews from 700 Squadron at Scapa operationally available for A/S patrol is not to be reduced below 6 aircraft, and four air crews without reference to me. (C. in C. H.F. 171915A to Twatt)

Standard "Meet" procedure. It is considered essential that H.M.ships should be aware of the W/T call signs of all shorebased aircraft sent to co-operate with them. This should normally be included in the signal giving notice of air co-operation. The amount of traffic on area broadcast may however, make such

warning /...

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17.8.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.

Standard "Meet" procedure. (Contd.) warnings signals impossible. For example F.O.C.W.A.F. 111245 August not to all addressees refers (2) When no warning signal is sent it is necessary that the aircraft on arrival should report her W/T call sign to the S.O. (3) Therefore it is considered desirable to introduce a standard "meet" procedure to be used on every occasion as follows. Details. (6) It is requested that if approved, orders for this procedure may be issued by general signal. (C. in C. W.A. 172227A to Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Jan Mayen. Following from Jan Mayen. Aircraft heard 0525 south of Island, Westerly course. (A.C.I.C. 171846A)

Mining.

S.N.74. IMPULSIVE, MIDDLETON arrived Hvalfiord. (A.C.I.C.170556Z to R.A.M.)

F.D.45. Request you will sail RUBIS for operation FD.45 so as to part company with escort in position YY 180 degs. Lizard Head at 0800/25th. Thence RUBIS is to proceed diving by day when South of 049 degs. 30' via route Gold to position RA 046 degs. 30', 006 degs. 01' at 0800/27th thence RB 046 degs. 24', 003 degs. 15' and to south eastward for operation. (2) On return route F.S. RUBIS is to pass through RB at 2200/3rd. RA at 0300/5th, thence via RK Gold to R/V in position YY at 0700/7th Sept. (F.O.S.171527A to Capt. (S) 5.)

Humber. Mine detonated by Sweeper at 170743 in 288 degs. 62 D. Buoy 1.5 miles. Details. (F.O. Humber, 171622A)

Harwich. At 1325/17. M.M.S. 226 in 52 degs. 00.5' N. 01 degs. 47.5' E. one of 3 M.M.S. Sweeping S.A. LL, in 212 degs. direction, reports 3 plumes of explosions bearing 060 degs. distance approx. 3 miles, no shock felt. Friendly A/C passed over 10 minutes earlier but South of this position. (F.O.I.C.Harwich, 171902A to Admty.)

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17.8.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

SEADOG report. Summary of patrol.
No enemy ship sighted. 3 unidentified twin-engined A/C course 000 degs. at 1930/15th, position 047 degs. 12' 006 Degs. 48'.
Numerous fishing vessels sighted by day and by night in patrol area.
Boarded French fishing vessel for interrogation 2115/13th position 045 degs. 50' 004 degs. 40'. Nothing to report.
(SEADOG, 170431A), (F.O.S. 171056A to Admty.)

SATYR report. Following sightings were made.
At 0424B/9th in 047 degs. 06' N. 004 degs. 50' W. 2 sweepers, course 240 degs. At 1136B/9th in 047 degs. 03' N. 004 degs. 50' W. 2 sweepers course 060 degs. At 0407A in 046 degs. 56' N. 005 degs. 31' W. 3 ships probably sweepers course 270 degs.
TUNA has been informed.
(SATYR, 171236A to F.O.S.)

Raider "H", HIMALAYA, TANNENFELS, DRESDEN. A.M. 271933B July. Tanker ALCIDES overdue at Fremantle since 8th August from Abadan. This may indicate further activity by Raider "H". (2) No further reports of blockade runners but HIMALAYA and possibly TANNENFELS believed to be loaded and ready to sail at Bordeaux. DRESDEN may have begun loading. (3) Cancel report in A.M.201610B July para. 4 regarding dummy funnel in HIMALAYA. This structure is a new flak position.
(D.D.I.C. 171651A to A.I.G.13, F.O.S., C. in C. Plymouth)

TRUANT report. TRUANT reports (1) No enemy vessel sighted. (2) One JU.88 in 62 degs. 03' N. 00 degs. 56' W. at 0250A/17.
(F.O.S.172132A to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects.

HASTINGS. Arrival "Porter", HASTINGS with defects. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 170927A to C. in C. Plymouth)
My 170927A. Completion of HASTINGS 2000/17 at earliest. Request instructions.
(F.O.I.C.Falmouth, 171054A to C. in C. Plymouth.)
My 171525A. Your 171606A.
Further examination of HASTINGS reveals port air pump barrel very badly worn, reboring considered essential. Estimated date of completion 22nd August.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 171744A to C. in C. Plymouth)

LANCASTER CASTLE/...

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War Diary.17.8.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects. - Contd.

LANCASTER
CASTLE,
EMPIRE
STARLIGHT,
NEW WESTMIN-
STER CITY,
OCEAN
FREEDOM. D.S.T. 161843 June. I saw D.C.N.S. about
this on 23rd June and also discussed with
Golovko who was then visiting Moscow.
(2) Golovko undertook early investigation and
report but no reply yet received through
Soviet Naval Staff. (3) Please ask Golovko
to hasten his report.
(Ad. Fisher, 171138C to S.B.N.O. North Russia)

MAZURKA. N.O.I.C. Barrow's 101556. MAZURKA returned
with defects.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 171415A)

GLASGOW. Your 151233. Approved to remove catapult
subject to provisions of C.A.F.O. 793/43.
(Dep. Controller, 171948A to A.S. Devonport)

Shipping and Convoys.

W.S.33/
K.M.F.22. DUCHESS OF BEDFORD sailed late and will be
approximately 1/2 hours late at Oversay R/V.
(C. in C. W.A. 170059A to Escorts K.M.F. 22)
Sailed CHANTICLEER, USK, WRESTLER, WESTON,
TOTLAND, NARBADA, BARLE, for W.S. 33/K.M.F.22.
Sailed ETTRICK to comply with C. in C. W.A. 151139.
(Cdre. D. W.A. 170435A)

Sailed convoy and escorts as in Admiralty 071745B and
122020B August routed as in Admiralty 112201B. HUNTER
sailed with convoy and is S.O. Escort. BANN delayed by
defects.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 170944A)
My 170944A. Sailed BANN to overtake convoy.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 172256A to C. in C. W.A.)

ORION. My 161215. ORION sailed at 0545A/17. E.T.A.
New York, 1400/24.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 170643A to Admty.)

O.G.92/
K.M.S.24. Intend sailing CYGNET to R/V with O.G.92/K.M.S.
24 in 270 degs. Oversay 6 miles at 1530A/18
thence complying with Admiralty 061734.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 171004A)
(A) 2234A/17. (B) Unescorted. (C) 12 ships.

(D) ZAMALEK.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 172245A)
FORT CAMOSUN Bombay/Trincomali/Calcutta. CITY OF
LANCASTER Gibraltar. BODEGRAVEN (Dut) Bombay/Colombo/Calcutta.
LOM (Nor) Algiers. ZAMALEK (Rescue ship) Gibraltar.
EMPIRE RHODES (ND) Lisbon. OCEAN ANGEL (ND) Lisbon.
EMPIRE SERVICE (ND) Lisbon. EMPIRE MORTIMER (ND) Lisbon.
BARON SEMPLE Bone. LIGHTFOOT Lisbon. AUK Algiers.

Destination /...

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

- O.G.92/
K.M.S.24.
(Contd.)
- Destination of AUK now Algiers.
Did not sail: EMPIRE SUCCESS Sq: 94 steering gear defects. FORT COLOGNE Sq: 24 N.D. defective.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 172250A to Admty.)
HURRICANE is to detail one escort to R/V
SS. ZAA NSTROOM off Oversay at 1900A/18 thence to join convoy
ZAA NSTROOM escorted from Milford Haven to R/V by HELIER 11.
(C. in C. W.A. 172318 to HURRICANE)
- A.T.58A. Arrived ATHLONE CASTLE.
(N.O.I.C.Liverpool, 171100A)
- S.L.134. Ships for Mersey capable of saving? a tide are to be detached from position (CX) to proceed independent. (3) Loch Ewe portion to be detached on crossing 010 degs. W. escorted by 1 corvette to 057 degs. N. thence unescorted.
(C. in C. W.A. 171451A to ROCHESTER)
- A.T.57 A. MARIPOSA arrived Clyde.
(N.O.I.C.Greenock, 171538A to A.C.I.C.)
- SAMANCO. Intend sailing SAMANCO 1500Z/18 via Clyde for direction-finding calibration. Route to Rio de Janeiro. Knots 13/15 $\frac{1}{2}$. Estimate passing 007 W. 0300Z/20th, "Chop" 30th.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey, 171650Z)
- EMPRESS OF RUSSIA. (1) Intend to sail. (2) EMPRESS OF RUSSIA.
(3) 0715A/18 to New York. Route.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 171755A and 172254 A to Admty.)

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Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

SCYLLA. E.T.A. 0840B/17th Gate 0925. Request following:-
 (A) 1600 rounds 4.5 inch H.E. ammunition.
 (B) Dockyard assistance from a.m. Wednesday for repairs of defective brickworks in 2 boilers and one main steam pipe joint. (C) Representative of D.I.N.O. for full examination of 4.5 guns all now in excess of estimated life. My 011653 (N.T. in W.R.) to N.A.S.O. refers. Weather report.
 (SCYLLA 170001B to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) Comdre. Supt. Gib.)
 Arrival SCYLLA from O.S.53/K.M.S.23.
 (F.O.I.C. 171442B to Admty.)

STORK. STORK Radartype 272 beyond repair by Ships Staff 285 unreliable. Also 37% short of ammunition and require fuel. Proceeding now Gib. with all despatch. Urgently request base staff may meet on arrival about 2200Z today.
 (S.O. Escort Group 4th 170735Z to F.O. Gib. (R) STORK.)
 E.T.A. 2300Z.
 (STORK 171200Z to F.O.C. Gib.)

SALVONIA, P.C. and S. 170930B 036° 06' N. 009° 18' W. 276°
 O.S.53, 11 knots was at W.F. from 162200 to 162300B now
 K.M.S.23. between A and W.F. in hope of meeting Gibraltar
 portion?
 (SALVONIA 170930B to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) BLACKWOOD.)
 Return to Gibraltar.
 (V.A. Gib. 171228B to SALVONIA (R) Admty. C. in C.
 Med. F. S.E.C. O.S. No.53, E.C. K.M.S. No.23.)
 SALVONIA 170930B not to SHOREHAM. Understand SALVONIA in
 company ship R/T callsign "Adverb" who I have informed she is not
 required here. Damaged ships are in K.M.S.23. My P.C. and S.
 1400Z 034° 28' 010° 11' 178° 8 knots. Weather report.
 (BLACKWOOD 171423Z to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) SALVONIA, SHOREHAM.)

Convoy 1 enemy A/C shadowing "Detest" position 230°
 "Detest" 35° N. 10° W. 8 miles.
 Enemy (ISIS 170950B to Gib. W/T Whitehall W/T.)
 A/C.

INCONSTANT Intend INCONSTANT to act as additional escort
 M.K.F.22. to M.K.F.22. 2. Ship is being used to replace
 destroyers of B.5 group boiler cleaning.
 3. A.M. 161242 refers.
 (F.O. Gib. 170952B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.
 C. in C. H.F., C. in C. W.A.)

ILLUSTRIOUS, Intend sailing ILLUSTRIOUS at 0730B August 18th
 escort. escorted by HURWORTH, CROOME, BLANKNEY, and
 ADRIAS routed through 32, 71, 79, lettered O to
 Q thence Q.B. B.149, Q.B.B.150 to (R) 036° 51' 36"
 N. 011° 14' 36" E. (S) 036° 07' 39" N. 014° 21'
 40" E. thence Q.B.B.123 to Malta S. of A. 17½ knots.
 (2) Code word "Solvent". (3) E.T.A. 1600B August 20th.
 (F.O.I.C. Gib. 171110B to V.A. Malta, (R) C. in C. Med. N.O.B.
 Oran, N.O.I.C. Algiers, R.A. (A) H.F. Admty. S.O. Force H,
 ILLUSTRIOUS, N.O.I.C. Bone, F.O. Tunisia.) /Dispositions...

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North Atlantic - Contd.

Dispositions. Situation at 2002B. O.S.53 BLACKWOOD, 033° 45' 010° 02' through 033° 01' 010° 01' thence 208° 8. (2) M.K.S.21 HIGHLANDER, CHARYBDIS (E) 038° 49' 014° 44' through 040° 01' 016° 01' thence 000° 7. (3) Group K. coastal (craft) EGILSCOR, ROYALIST (?030°) 013° 40' 179° 9 ? (4) Portuguese tanker SAMBRAZ sailed Ponta Delgada 15th for Lisbon 12. (F.O. Gib. 171130B.)

Situation at 2004B/17th. F.S/M. LE GLORIEUX 032° 20' 035° 01' 289° 11' on the surface. (2) U.S.N.F. Task Force 21.15 expected proceeding to patrol vicinity of Azores. (3) G.U.S.11, C.T.F.63, C.T.G.21.13 034° 23' 039° 01' through 034° 40' 039° 56' thence 284° 8. (F.O. Gibraltar 171152B.)

^P
 NORTH
 ATLANTIC.

Your 131313. No action is intended at present. In view of Germany's straitened finances in Spain, M.E.W. are very strongly opposed to disposal of either hull or cargo to Spaniards and are telegraphing their views to H.M.Ambassador (Hd. of M. (I) 171246A to N.A. Madrid.)

Naval Tug No.12 with Lighter Salvage Plant and some 100 men left Ferrol for Camarinas commenced salvage operations Tanker NORD ATLANTIC. INIRGEN DE LA CARIDAD also at wreck. (Corunna 171615B to Admty. (R) Gib. B.N.A. Madrid.)

Reported U/B Ferrol. My 162030. S/M turned out to be Spanish S/M B.2. When entering Ferrol she was followed by 2 unknown planes and shore batteries opened fire. Naval authorities telegraphed incident to M. of M. (Corunna 171330B to Admty. (R) Gib. and B.N.A. Madrid.)

Your 162316. S/M was Spanish B.2. My immediately following signal. Please pass to H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Plymouth.

(B.N.A. Madrid 171419B to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C. Gib.)

My 171419. S/M is undamaged. M. of M. states she was well inside territorial waters so much so that first report said A/C was attacking shore battery also. This S/M which cannot submerge is attached to engineering school and goes out almost every day but never outside territorial waters or more than few miles from Ferrol. My R/359/42 of Oct.27th 1942 reported this practice. Movements are not advised as with all S/Ms. because exercises are almost every day and always local. Protest will be made. Admty. please pass to H.Q.C.C. and C. in C. Plymouth.

(B.N.A. Madrid 171420B to Admty. (R) F.O. Gibraltar.)

Movements, Gibraltar. Arrival ILLUSTRIOUS, UNICORN, SAVAGE, SCORPION, OPPORTUNE, OBDURATE, OBEDIENT. (F.O. Gib. 171431B to Admty.) Departures SHOREHAM, WHITEHAVEN, HYTHE, RYE, ROMNEY, GAWLER, LISMORE, MARYBOROUGH, IPSWICH to K.M.S.23 French Ship LA SETOISE. Escort duties Almeria thence Oran. (F.O. Gib. 171804B to C. in C. Med. A. & M.)

/Arrival...

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Movements, Gibraltar. (Contd.) Arrival French Ship FORBIN, DUMONT D'URVILLE, from Casablanca. WITHERTON from Casablanca. HURWORTH, BLANKNEY, CROOME, ADRIAS from Algiers. Departures LADY HOGARTH to the West to join Cable ship MARIE LOUISE MACKAY. (F.O. Gib. 172349B to Admty.)

TRENT O.S.53. Sailed Casablanca 1615. Expect rejoin "Parole" 0600/18. (TRENT 171701Z to S.O. Escort Group 4.) TRENT sailed 171712A to O.S.53. ((U.S.) C.M.S.F.171821B to Ships escorting Convoy O.S.53.)

Enemy A/C. One German A/C seen off Leixoes flying N. 1600/15. One German A/C seen off Figuerada Foz 1215/16th flying S. All times G.M.T. (N.A. Lisbon 171834 to S.O. (I) Gibraltar (R) Admty.)

TEST. Arrived 171735A. (C.M.S.F. 171844Z to F.O. Gib. (R) O.S.53, C.in C. Med. Admty.)

O.S.53 Escort Group 38. Request you sail escort group 38 to join O.S.53 on completion fuelling. (F.O. Gib. 171858B to C.M.S.F. (R) F.O.C. W.Af. Admty. Escorts O.S.53., Escorts S.L.135., E.G.38. Comar Dakar.)

M.K.S.21, Enemy A/C. Following read:- Am being shadowed by one enemy A/C bearing 020° 8 miles from 38° 48' N. 14° 47' W. (CHARYBDIS 171938A.) Several F.W.200 are active from Bordeaux. (D.D.I.C. 171946A to Escorts of M.K.S.21, Escort Group 2, CHARYBDIS, ATHABASKAN, GLASGOW, GRENVILLE (R) F.O.I.C.Gib., C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.) My 171938A. 2 F.Ws. shadowed "Cockatoo". One shot down by Liberator which also crashed. Both crews saved. No attack on convoy. Weather report 2972 1900 position to nearest degree 3915. (CHARYBDIS 172120A to F.O. Gibraltar.) CHARYBDIS's 171938. Regret Sergeants Horner, Hogg and Corporal Van Dixon of Liberator "L" failed to escape from aircraft. Remaining 7 members of crew rescued uninjured. Also on board 4 of crew of 7 from F/W Condor. (HIGHLANDER 172318A to C. in C.W.A. Admty. F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in C. Med.)

Movements, Casablanca. August 17. Arrived TEST and TRENT from O.S.53, latter departed to rejoin WITHERINGTON and ACTIVE and French TEMPETE left for Gibraltar. (C.M.S.F. 172214B to C. in C. Med. (M)).

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S.J. 30 Amended E.T.A. S.J. 30 17th.
PETUNIA has (?main engine) lubrication defect which may require 24 hours. Pass to Capt. D. (CLARKIA, 170615Z to F.O.C.W.Af).

Congo Anchorage. S.O. Force Q reports - "I consider Rambler Pass Congo River is a suitable fuelling anchorage for destroyer and probably cruiser but there is no possible fuelling anchorage for heavy ships in Congo River". Submit that Pointe Noire (?Bay) should be employed for future operations of ? this nature. C. in C. S.A's 281455 July para. 2. (not to Admiralty) concerning F.S. LORRAINE refers. (B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, 170725 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A.)

BOTHNIA, HENRI JASPER escorts. Sailed SNOWDROP and H.M. Trawler TURCOMAN escorting BOTHNIA and HENRI JASPER 0900Z/17th August. Route X.N. two 013° 32' N., 017° 06' W. thence green route speed nine knots E.T.A. Freetown 1600Z/19th. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 170912Z to F.O.C.W.Af., BLENHEIM, Admty. Comar Dakar).

DINGLEDALE, EMPIRE CADET, escorts. Departure Pointe Noire 0800Z/17th. SWALE, BELLWORT, M.L. 244, M.L. 287 escorting R.F.A. DINGLEDALE, SS. EMPIRE CADET routed through position A. 004° 40' S. 011° 00' E. B. Equator 005° 30' E. thence Lagos. E.T.A. Lagos, 1000Z/21st. S. of A. 9 knots. (B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, 170915A to F.O.C.W.Af).

FORTOL My 101351. FORTOL is not with convoy O.S.53 F.O. Gib. is requested to inform FOWEY forthwith whether escort oiler will join S.L.135 later. (F.O.W.Af., 170959Z to FOWEY, F.O. Gibraltar (R) Escort of S.L.135.)

MONTCALM Arrived 0943Z MONTCALM? (Comar Dakar, 171004Z to F.O.C.W.Af. etc).

CEFN Y BRYN My 152201 arrived Freetown 17th. (F.O.C.W.Af., 171031Z to Admty. (R) Connav, Ast. S.O.(I) Recife.)

ORFASY 17th August departure. (N.O.I.C. Lagos, 171032Z to Admty. etc).

/Dispositions...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

Dispositions. Situation at 2000Z/17th August.

NORMAN, RELENTLESS, QUIBERON, RAPID, KALE, TAY, DERG with W.S.32 031° 35' 016° 30' to 033° 02' 017° 31' 13.

P.614 017° 35' 011° 25' to 010° 00' 003° 35' W. 8½.
 CARNARVON CASTLE 016° 30' 006° 30' to 008° 00' 003° 00' 16.
 (C. in C. S.A., 171043B).

Estimated situation at 1959Z/17th.

WELLINGTON, GORLESTON, BRIDGEWATER, FOLKESTONE, LOWESTOFT with L.S.10, 005° 19' 000° 11' E. to 004° 51' 001° 37' W. 7.5.
 WOLVERINE, BEAGLE, BULLDOG, DOUGLAS, CATTERICK 2 Fleet Units with C.F.13, 001° 46' 002° 16' E. to 004° 01' 001° 12.5.
 EXE M.Ls. 296, 266, 004° 25' 001° 15' to 003° 06' 000° 18 E. 12.
 INKPEN screening off Marshall. MORRIS DANCE M.L. 1018 off Accra.
 M.L. 1041 off Kotonu.
 M.L. 1160 escorting coastwise to Westward from Port Bouet.
 M.L. 1052 escorting about 004° 25' 002° 35' E. to Port Harcourt 7.5. M.L.1016 off Port Bouet.
 ORFASY escorting about 004° 52' 005° 03' E. to Duala 8.5.
 SWALE, BELLWORT 2 M.Ls. escorting off Pointe Noire to North westward.
 (F.O.C.W.A., 171308Z).

Situation at 2001Z/17th. French Cruiser DUQUESNE French Cruiser TOURVILLE 010° 32' 016° 59' through 011° 02' 017° 30' to (?Dakar) 18½. FOWEY, MYOSOTIS, MALLOW, CAMPION, STONECROP, CROCUS, FRISCO, BERRY with S.L. 135 015° 11' 017° 50' 000° 8 knots
 YESTOR, BUTSER, ADDU ATOLL H.M.S. LADY DENISON PENDER about 010° 12' 016° 29'.
 SNOWDROP, TURCOMAN searching about 014° 11' 017° 40'.
 (F.O.C.W.Af., 171310Z).

U/B attacked Aircraft reports attacking S/M in 014° 11' N. by A/C 017° 40' W. at 1000/17th.
 (S.L.135). S/M reported surfaced after attack and possibly damaged. Hunt with all available craft.
 (F.O.C.W.Af., 171050Z to FOWEY, CROCUS, N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Escort S.L.135, Comar Dakar, (R) Admty).

Your 171713Z (N.T. in W.R.) Your 171050 received very corrupt eventually decyphered 1230. Convoy at that time was 5 miles from position of attack. Swept through position with A/S inner and outer screen. Searched by air for 25 miles round the position. Altogether a lane 5 miles either side of position was swept out. In view of fact S/M could have progressed 12 miles submerged and over 40 on surface during 2½ hours delay between attack and decyphering of your 171050 no further action than this was taken. Also at it was apparent other U-boats were about any weakening of screen for more than 2 hours was not considered justified. A periscope was reported by aircraft at 1527 in 014° 28' N. 018° 02' W. and a A/S screen was carried out by CAMPION round this position. Nothing was detected and the sighting is considered doubtful. Many large oil patches have been sighted during afternoon all of which have been investigated with no result. All escorts now with convoy.

(S.O. 37th Escort Group, 172018Z to F.O.C.W.Af).

/Attack...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

Attack

on U/B
15 August.

U-boat report.

1. (B) 1119 (C) 15 August (D) CFAD? Durban (E) 22 Squadron S.A.A.F. (F) Ventura 6041 (G) Normal (H) Lieut. Anderson.
2. (A six) A/S Hunt (D) 28° 17' S. 34° 07' E. (E) 600 fathoms.
3. (A) Wake (B) (one) 088 T one thousand feet (two) 030 T 17 miles (three) 150 T eight knots (C) (one) Yes.
4. (A) crash dived as attacked (B) released as U-boat dived (C) 1110B (D) 30° (E) 50 feet (F) 600 fathoms.
5. (1) 25 feet (two) six (three) mark eight Torpex (four) mark thirteen (5) six (6) 50 feet (7) first 290 feet apart. Four hung up and were released on second attack 35 seconds later when two dropped together and others 50 feet apart.
6. (A) Yes (B) No (C) stern (D) first two straddled U-boat remainder 200 feet ahead.
7. (B) Oil streak with thick bubbles green colour not similar to D.C. scum (C) 10 to 15 (D) oval oil patch 100 by 60 feet dissolved in sea after 15 minutes.
9. (D) Catalina seen in vicinity but not properly relieved (E) two hours ten minutes (F) 1320B.
10. Not fitted.
11. (A) fine (B) 050 T five knots (C) stratacu (D) 30 miles (E) calm.
12. (A) Yes (B) conning tower dark grey. At 1105B a white spray sighted about 20° to starboard and turned to investigate and saw U-boat at conning tower depth. It started to submerge when about half a mile away but stern still showing when aircraft released D.C. Two only released which were seen to straddle target. Second attack made 35 seconds later when remaining four were released which were seen to burst about 200 feet ahead of swirl two together and the other two at intervals of approx. fifty feet along track of U-boat. D.C. scum seen and about ten minutes later patch of dark green bubbly oil which disappeared after about 15 minutes.
(C. in C. S.A., 171142B to Admty. Air Min. C. in C. E.F., A.H.Q.E.A.)

TABIAN

Have you any news of TABIAN (Dutch) due Bahia 9th from Capetown.
(D.T.D., 171212A to A.B.N.S.O. Recife)
Reply: 181221Z.

SANTA

CECILIA
S Report.

Following has been read:- SSSS de W.L.W.R.
(SANTA CECILIA) Position at 1250Z 15 R 30 N 17 R 52 W. chased by Sub. and attacked.
(Freetown W/T, No T.O.O. to Admty).
S/M did not fire gun perhaps fired a torpedo.
(SANTA CECILIA, 171950Z to F.O.C.W.Af).

Movements
Pointe
Noire.

Arrival Pointe Noire 0600Z/17th F.S. CMDT.
D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES and departure 1100Z/17th for
Congo River after repairs to A/S dome.
(B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire 171445A to F.O.C.W.Af).

/SUFFREN etc...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

SUFFREN
etc. My 161547. Request route from Pointe Noire to Takoradi.
(C. in C. S.A., 171545B to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty. Adm. F.C. SUFFREN, B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire)
Reply: 181944.

French
manned H/F
D/F Stn. Your 101941.
A. Bearings received from Dakar over the past 2 months have been above average for accuracy for South Atlantic Station but are usually too late for operational use. Speed up of transmission and introduction of cable control receiving attention.
B. Consider alteration of policy as indicated would encourage French Personnel to greater zeal and co-operation which would increase usefulness of their work.
(F.O.C.W.A., 171602Z to Admty).

EXE,
Force Q. Sailed 1600Z/17th EXE, M.Ls. 274, 277, 296, 266, 272 to R/V Force Q in 3° 6' N., 0° 18' E. at 0700Z/18 EXE to remain with Force Q to Freetown. M.Ls. returning Takoradi when detached. Escorts rejoin after fuelling.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 171613Z to Admty. F.O.C.W.A. R.N.O. Lagos).

Movements
Lagos. 16th August departures WELLINGTON, BRIDGEWATER, GORLESTON, FOLKESTONE, LOWESTOFT, EAGLE, M.Ls. 266, 296, 1041.
(N.O.I.C. Lagos, 171630Z to Admty. etc).

Movements
Takoradi. Arrivals August 17th EXE, H.M.M.Ls. 269, 1018, 266, 10, 1078 departures 1800Z/17th H.M.M.L. 1019 E.T.A. Accra 0600Z/18th.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 171803Z to Admty. etc).

P.614 Regret P.614 cannot comply with your 151044 as refit arrangements can not be postponed.
2. C. in C. Med. (A) 151805 repeated to you will have to cover your requirement.
(D.A/S.W., 172054A to F.O.C.W.Af).

RAMILLIES Arrivals a.m./17th August RAMILLIES escorted by ROEBUCK, BRILLIANT, QUALITY.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 172347Z to C.M.S.F.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

French Liaison. Personal from V.C.N.S. Developments at Algiers and change in general Med. situation have led Service Departments to review liaison arrangements with French. Proposals will shortly be submitted to Chiefs of Staff and your early comments are requested on following:-

2. (a) Liaison Missions from the three Services to be accredited to French Committee; Missions to work closely together but each have to have its own Head.
(b) Naval Mission to consist of Head serving in rank of Rear-Admiral, one Captain, plus one other officer.
(c) Naval Mission to be generally responsible to and communicate directly with Admt. but for all matters affecting Med. Command, to be directly responsible to you, communication with Admt. on such matters being made through you.
(d) Service Missions to work under general guidance in political matters of Resident Minister.

3. Subject to your views, our idea would be for Capt. Wharton to be No.2 on Naval Mission.

4. Special position of A.F.H.Q. in North Africa under Darlan-Clarke arrangements is appreciated, but we have need for Mission with wider territorial responsibilities than A.F.H.Q. Moreover, A.F.H.Q. may not always be in same place as H.Q. of French Committee. French Naval Mission in U.K. covers only French Forces based on U.K.

5. Resident Minister has been consulted in London and is understood to favour scheme proposed in para.2, which is similar to that contemplated by Air Ministry. War Office position is somewhat different in that they do not have theatre command.

6. It is desired that this question should not be discussed with U.S. pending decision of C.O.S., when Resident Minister will be asked to take it up on behalf of all three Services, and to go into question of accommodation, etc.
(Hd. of M.I. Approved 1st Lord, 170016A to C. in C. Med, A. and M.)
Reply: 191825.

EASTERN PRINCE, Your 142112C. In view of EASTERN PRINCE'S recent BURMA. performance it has been decided to bring her to U.K. for thorough overhaul. After disembarkation in Middle East she should therefore be included in first appropriate convoy for U.K. Request report of your intentions.

(2) Subject to (a) D.S.T.O. Kilindini confirming that there are sufficient personnel to be moved and (b) C. in C. E.F. accepting use of this ship+, it is proposed that BURMA should return from Suez to Kilindini for transport of A.A.P.C. etc., to Middle East. (D.S.T. 170210A to P.S.T.O.M.E.).
+ Accepted (C. in C.E.F., 181544Z).

Enemy Units. P.C. and S of 2 destroyers 39.45 N. 17.00 E. 150 degs. 15 knots.
(A/C F.B.O./V 170253B to Air H.Q. Malta).
My 0253B, enemy has altered course to 010 degs. approx.
(A/C F.B.M/U. 170305B to Air H.Q. Malta).

/P.C. and S...

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17.8.1943.
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. (Contd.). P.C. and S. at 0705Z of one merchant vessel of 3,000 tons, two small enemy vessels 38.16 N. 21.38 E. course 045 degs. speed 8 knots. (A/C CYK/D via Alexandria 170800Z).

SOKOL information. Large scale A/S measure being made by enemy. (Capt.(S) 10, 170305 to O.R.P. SOKOL, S/M. P.52 (DZIK)).

G.U.S.12. ODYSSEUS, OCEAN REGISTRY and SPERO arrived. (N.O.i/c Bone 170635B to Admty. etc.). G.U.S.12. My 131024. Philippeville Section sailed. Both ships Prisoners of War for Oran. (N.O.i/c Philippeville 170847B to ALYNBANK (R) N.O.i/c Algiers, Admty. F.O.i/c Gibraltar, Connav). G.U.S.12. Ref. my 141837. HOLMWOOD returned boiler defect. (F.O.i/c Tunisia 171000B to Admty. etc.). Convoy G.U.S.12, LYMINGE arrived. (N.O.i/c Philippeville 171239B to Admty. etc.). Following is a repetition of my 140958 (begins). Escorts of convoy G.U.S.No.12 (R) A.I.G.295, N.O.i/c Algiers, N.O.i/c Bone, from S.H.A.112, G.U.S.12 pass to Cdre. and escort. Intend to join 1100B/16th 10 FORT NIPIGON ballast Algiers for (+?Derna). 10 SPERO army stores Bone T.O.O. 140958B.(ends). (N.O.i/c Tunis 172015B to Admty.).

A.P.41 List and destinations. E.T.A. Karachi a.m. 23rd August. Rooka p.m. 24th August, Khor Musa a.m. 25th August. (N.C.S.O. Aden 170716Z to Admty. etc.).

S.10 Summary at 2000/17th. 1. P.44 (UNITED) 038 degs. 38' 018 degs.10' to patrol off Point Alice. 2. O.R.P. SOKOL off Bari. 3. P.52 (DZIK) 039 degs. 33' 018 degs. 51' to 036 degs. 57' 017 degs. 21' at 2000/18th. 4. P.49 (UNRULY) 036 degs. 57' 017 degs. 21' through 035 degs. 45' 016 degs. 38' to 035 degs. 46' 016 degs. 18' at 2000/18th. (Capt.S.10 170727B).

Movements Alexandria. Arrivals STARWORT, POPPY, ALDENHAM, M.L.384, departures BOKSBURG, LANGLAATE BEVER. (R.A.Alex. 170730C to Admty.).

Movements Aden. Arrival 0258Z MAID MARION. Departure 0606Z BALUCHISTAN. (Com. Aden 170801Z to A.I:G.85 etc.).

TORBAY ORPHEE TORBAY is to exercise in swept channel with an M.L.

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ORPHEE
(Contd.).2. Escort will wait for you until 1000/17th.
3. Report your P.C. and S. weather is thick
off Algiers.
(Capt.(S) 8th 170858B to ORPHEE F.S.).Movements
Beirut.16th August. Arrivals Z.40, NOTRE DAME, D'ETEL.
Departures LA MOQUEUSE, IERAX, BREAM.
(S.O.(I) Beirut 170902C to Admty.).

M.K.F.22

M.K.F. 22 is to sail 48 hours late.
(1) My 141946 is to be amended accordingly.
(C. in C. Levant 170947C to Escorts of M.K.F.22,
U.G.S.13, C. in C. Med.,Connav., Admty. etc.).M.K.F.22 consists of GLENGYLE and 9 ships. My 141946 is
cancelled. R.A. Alexandria is requested to sail a.m. August 19th.
2. S. of A. 12.3. 309, 1300/19th 310, 509, 2040/19th 15 miles North 322
through 510, 0855/20th 511, 340, 1825/20th 5 miles North 513,
2330/20th 15 miles North 355 0525/21st 235 1110/22nd thence as
ordered by C. in C. Mediterranean.

5. Q.A. 6. High "Manicure" 7.C.

8 BEAUFORT, S.O.TETCOTT, BELVOIR, EASTON, EXMOOR, ALDENHAM.
G.S. PINDOS is not now included.(C. in C. Levant 171717C to Escorts M.K.F.22, U.G.S.13, C. in
C. Med. V.A.Malta, A.H.Q. Malta etc.).ILLUSTRIOUS
escort.Intend sailing ILLUSTRIOUS at 0730B/August 18th
escorted by HURWORTH, CROOME, BLANKNEY and
ADRIAS routed through 32.71.79 lettered Q to Q
thence Q.B. B 149, Q.B. B 150 to (R) 036 degs.
51' 36" North 011 degs. 14' 36" East.(S) 036 degs. 07' 39" North 014 degs. 21' 40" East thence Q.B. B.
123 to Malta. S. of A. 17½ knots.

(2) Codeword "Solvent".

(3) E.T.A. 1600B/August 20th.

(F.O. Tunisia 171110B to V.A. Malta, (R) C. in C. Med. etc.).

HUNTER

Request information as to whether HUNTER is
being sailed to join Escort Carriers at
Gibraltar.

(C. in C. Med.(Malta) 171114 to Admty.).

My 112201 not to R.A.(A) para.4. HUNTER sailed in K.M.F.22.
(D.O.D.(H) 171144A to C. in C. Med. A. and M.).M.E. Air
Report.

Daily Opsum 111. 15/16 August.

2 Wellingtons anti-shipping R/C West Coast Greece.
1 attacked one M/V 300 tons West of Corfu, no hits.
Vessel machine-gunned. Second bombed estimated
position of 1 M/V 2000 tons one small tanker,one small M/V reported in Missolonghi on 15 August. 1 large
explosion resulted. Single enemy aircraft dropped bombs 25 miles
north of Beirut. No damage. 2 Beaufighters 2 Hurricanes up, no

/interception...

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M.E. Air Report. (Contd.). interception. 16 August. 92 U.S. Liberators (B.24) San Nicola and Toroorella satellite airfields Foggia 7 returned early. 42 bombed Toroorella, eastern half of airfield well covered by bursts. Many bombs on Laddio area along adjacent railway line and in dispersal areas. 2 large oil fires N.E. of airfield. 42 bombed San Nicola, whole airfield well covered by bursts with direct hits on workshops, administrative buildings operations room, and living quarters. Large fire started near quarters. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 171117Z).

SICKLE Para.(A) of my 161032. Submarine P.224 (SICKLE) will patrol between 041 degs. North and 042 degs. 35' North, West of 011 degs. East. (Capt.S.8 171132B to 8th S.F. (R) LA SULTANE, F.S., C. in C. Med. N.O.i/c Algiers, F.O.C.Gibraltar).

8th S/M F. movement summary, 1957B/17th. (1) LA SULTANE in Gulf Genoa. (2) SARACEN (P.247) 040 degs. 05' 010 degs. 21' through 038 degs. 34' 010 degs. 08' thence 268 degs. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ /9 (Capt.S.8. 171148B).

SONTAY Your 300214 July. Request SONTAY may be used for (?one) voyage to Tripoli and return with urgently required military personnel. Vessel would sail from Alexandria on 25th August. Duration of voyage about 14 days. Agreed G.H.Q. M.E. (P.S.T.O. M.E. 171211C to D.S.T.).

Standard route, G.U.S. convoys. A.M. 142355 and Comdr. 10th Fleet C. and R.161640 neither to all addressees. The following standard route is to be established for G.U.S. convoys. (a) Ocean route. 34.58 N. 10.02 W., 35.00 N. 18.01 W., 34.03 N. 24.59 W., 36.40 N. 35.45 W., 38.18 N. 47.30 W., 38.46 N. 59.27 W., 38.04 N. 69.57 W., (b) Stragglers route. 34.58 N. 10.02 W., 34.45 N. 18.00 W., 33.03 N. 25.04 W., 35.00 N. 33.00 W., 36.40 N. 41.16 W., 36.35 N. 50.12 W., 37.55 N. 59.50 W., 38.04 N. 69.57 W., (2) C. in C. Levant is requested to promulgate letters convoy route double letters, stragglers route single letters. (3) The standard route is to be brought into force with convoy G.U.S.13. (D.O.D.(H) 171253A to C. in C. Med. (M) and (A) (R) C. in C. Levant, 10th Fleet C and R., F.O.i/c Gibraltar, F.O.i/c and N.Os. i/c N. Africa, Commorseafron).

UPROAR, UNSHAKEN R. of P. UPROAR reports at 2158/6th in 41 degs. 11' 16 degs. 56' fired 3 torpedoes at M/V resembling Talbot Booth (1940) number 67, one hit observed abreast main mast.

/(2) UNSHAKEN...

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UNSHAKEN
R. of P.

(2) UNSHAKEN reports at 1812/10th in 40 degs. 44' N. 18 degs. 03' E. fired 4 torpedoes at 7000 ton M/V resembling ASMARA, one hit, vessel seen beached following morning and to capsize and sink at 1429/11th. At 0105/13th in 40 degs. 23' N. 18 degs. 53' E. fired 4 torpedoes at 750 ton U-boat missed.

U-boat combing tracks.

(S.10, 171325 to C. in C. Med. etc.).

M.K.S.22

List, 3 ships. Pass to Cdre. and escorts.
(V.A.Malta 171406B to SLAZAK (R) Commorseafon,
Admty. etc.).

Destination requested for Tankers due in M.K.S.22.

(1) American UMADER to Augusta. (2) ? OVULA to Malta.

Serials 1 and 2 for discharge to shore stocks and return to
Mideast to reload under orders of C. in C. Levant. All movements
at earliest convoy opportunities.

(C. in C. Med. (Malta), 171733 to V.A. Malta).

U.G.S.13

Arrived EDWARD BATES, no previous advice.
(N.O.i/c Tunis 171403B to Admty. etc.).

U.G.S.13 onward route vide C. in C. Mediterranean's 121025.

2(A) 7½ from 212. (B) 9.

3. 033 degs. 01' N. 020 degs. 01' East 13 (?40) (?20th) 512
0430/21st 337 14 (?35) 21st 510 01(?25) 22nd 316 1725/22nd 310,
309, 0925/23rd (?306) 303. 300, 399, 0600/24th to Port Said.

4. (?Alexandria) detach 309, 0925/23rd.

5. B.F. 6. High "Taunton" 7. C. 8. PALOMARES S.O., GERALDTON S.O.
screened by H.M.S. CESSNOCK, H.M.S. CAIRNS, H.M.A.S. WOOLONGONG,
(?BURRA), GLOXINIA, KLO, PALOMARES detach at daylight 21st at best
speed to Tobruk for fuel, on completion join G.U.S.13.

9. Ships for Alexandria and onward orders for escort follows.

V.A. Malta is requested to report escort's boiler hours.

(C. in C. Levant, 171515C to PALOMARES, GERALDTON S.E., U.G.S.13.,
S.E., G.U.S.13, S.E., M.K.F.22, C. in C. Med. Admty. F.O.i/c Gib.
Connav, R.A.Alex.).

My 141832B Part 1. U.G.S.13.

Algiers joiners (list).

(N.O.i/c Algiers 141823B to F.Os.i/c and N.Os.i/c French North Africa, etc.).

Med. Air
Report.Signed Eisenhower. Part 3. Air.Cositntrep No.38
16th August.

N.W. Af. Air Forces - Night 15/16th August. 39

Wellingtons attacked marshalling yards and beaches
of towns on Western side of Toe of Italy, many bursts being
observed on target. These towns were Sapri Celrano (?Scopia) and
Paola. Another Wellington force of 44 A/C dropped 88½ tons of
bombs at Viterbo many of which were believed to have fallen in
marshalling yards including one 4000 lb bomb. A/C of Tactical Air
Force flew 22 (or 20) sorties over Messina beaches and Toe of
Italy. A coastal Wellington attacked a 4000 ton M/V with
torpedoes near Monte Circein whilst Beaufighters dropped two
torpedoes in an attack on two stationary D.D. 2 miles east of
Chiappa Point. Beaufighters shot down a Cant.1007 in the

/Bizerta...

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Med. Air Report. (Contd.). Bizerta area. Day 16th August. 28 B.25's attacked Steletti where hits are claimed in road bridges, and 24 (?B) 26's bombed temporary bridge over Angitola River. Each bomber force had an escort of 23 P.38s. Tactical bomber force A/C carried out eight missions in the Straits including an attack on two 7,000 ton ships by 11 B.25s. north of Messina and one by (?)12 Baltimores on a ship on fire north of Messina. Fighter bombers continued to direct their attacks on barges in the Straits whilst others attacked communications in Toe of Italy. Beaufighters attacked two escorted M/V of 3000/4000 tons N.E. of Zannone Island. A torpedo hit was scored on each M/V. (C. in C. Med. No T.O.O. to A.F.H.Q. Algiers, etc.).

G.U.S.13 G.U.S.13 consisting of about 15 ships, R.A. Alexandria is requested to sail a.m. August 20th. (2) (A) 8 (B) 9. (3) 309 1000/20th 310, 316, 0115/21st (?322) (?328) 1600/21st 511 2 miles North 341 0545/22nd through 346, 355, 2130/22nd 235, 1900/24th thence as ordered by C. in C. Med. (4) Benghazi detach as ordered by R.A. Alexandria. (5) W.A. (6) High "Trafford". (7) C. (8) FARNDALE, S.O., 50th Escort Group, HAYDON, LOTUS, POPPY, DIANELLA, STARWORT, CALPE, PALOMARES join from Tobruk. (9) My 151215 not to all addresses being passed to you FARNDALE also applies to G.U.S.13. (C. in C. Levant 171545 to FARNDALE, Escorts G.U.S.13, U.G.S.13, Admty., F.O.i/c Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. etc.).

Trapani Your 161202B† Details of torpedoes, etc. required. (D.T.M. 171631A to C. in C. Med., for 30 Commands.).
+ Given Most Secret Circulation.

INDOMITABLE Route. Your 161608/August. Route: A. 35.02 North 07.58 West, B. 31.30 North 16.00 West, C. 33.28 North 26.31 West, D 34.35 North 38.27 West, E 34.20 North 51.10 West, F 32.59 North 63.01 West, G 35.20 North 70.00 West. Thence to Norfolk. (D.O.D.(H) 171638A to C. in C. Med.(A. and M.)., (R) F.O.i/c Gib. C. in C. H.F., B.A.D., Cominch, C. in C. Lant., INDOMITABLE, Comnavnaw).
C. in C. Mediterranean 161608. Request OPPORTUNE and OBDURATE may be used for this service.
(C. in C.H.F. 172245A to F.O.i/c Gibraltar (R) C. in C. Med. R.A.D., Admty.).

Tugs C. in C.E.F. 210927/July, C. in C.S.A. 021319/ distribution. August, C. in C. Levant 081116/July, 031450/August, 030749/August. To meet urgent requirements for ocean going coastal and harbour tugs and in view of present shortage of tugs and personnel, following arrangements and movements are necessary.

/PRUDENT...

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Tugs disposition. PRUDENT to remain at Durban and allocated to C. in C. S.At. CROCODILE to be sailed for Kilindini. EMPIRE FAIRY to Ceylon. EMPIRE LINDEN, being under charter to Kenya Uganda Railway, is not available for transfer from Kilindini.

FAVOURITE to return to C. in C.E.F. on commissioning of CAPTIVE and BARWICK. EMPIRE GNOME and EMPIRE MINOTAUR, both coal burning, to be allocated to C. in C.E.F. for Ceylon, where they are required by end of October. T.124 Crews to be relieved if possible by local crews.

Two Empire Class Tugs as detailed by C. in C. Med. to be allocated to C. in C. Levant for Harbour Tugs at Alexandria. T.124 T. Crews to transfer to CAPTIVE and BARWICK and Harbour Tugs locally manned. Replacement for these Empire Class Tugs transferred from C. in C. Med. will be made by two tugs completing in U.K. in September. But if essential to provide immediate replacements two tugs of EMPIRE LARCH types could be despatched from U.K. for temporary service and on relief by new construction Tugs could then be used for towage of damaged ships to U.K.

Further signal will be made with regard to 14 smaller Harbour Tugs required in Ceylon.

In addition to requirements above, Military Authorities India require a Ship Tug on East coast by early November and if situation permits C. in C. Med. is requested to sail EMPIRE OBERON for this service.

AIMWELL and LARIAT should arrive in Mediterranean by end of August. FRISKY should be available early in September. MINDFUL and VAGRANT commissioning in U.S.A. in August and September respectively have been allocated to C. in C. Med. and it is intended that ORIANA and WEAZEL be released to C. in C.E.F. on their arrival on station or when situation permits. PATROCLUS and ATHLETE commissioning in U.S.A. in October are allocated to C. in C.E.F.

Authorities addressed are requested to arrange accordingly. (Hd. of M.II Approved Vice. Contr. 171657A to C. in C. Med.(A and M)., C. in C. Levant, C. in C.E.F., C. in C.S.At., B.A.D.).

N.A.A.F. Report. N.W. Af, Air Force. Opsum 177. N.A.S.A.F. 15/16 August. 10 Wellingtons marshalling yards Sapri. 18 tons dropped from 5000 to 9000 feet, fires and explosions. Towns and yards covered with smoke. 10 Wellingtons Cetrano marshalling yards 20 tons from 3500 to 10,000 feet. Burst station and tracks. 19 Wellingtons marshalling yards Vieterbo. 88½ tons from 5,000 to 10,000. Bursts rail town and barracks. 19 Wellingtons beaches Scalea and Paola. 38½ tons from 4000 to 8500 feet. Hits (Section corrupt) wharf, Town, beaches, roads Scalea. 28 U.S. Mitchells escort 23 U.S. lightnings bridge Staletti. 8 bombers failed to bomb. 1 fighter returned early. Target not hit. 24 U.S. Marauders escort 23 U.S. Lightnings temporary bridge Angitola. 4 bombers 6 fighters returned early. North end bridge hit. 3 more possible hits on bridge. N.A.T.A.F.

/16 August...

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N.A.A.F. Report. (contd). 16 August. 12 U.S. Mitchells 12 Baltimores 2 7000 ships north Messina. 1 U.S. Mitchell returned early. Bombs fell north and east of target. 48 U.S. Mitchells 24 U.S. Bostons beaches Porticatello to Cape Peloro. 1 U.S. Mitchell returned early. Target area well covered. 220 Warhawks 90 Kittyhawk bombers. Direct hits barges 2 Siebel Ferries and 1 M/V. 65 U.S. Mustangs bombing and strafing mission 1 destroyed, 1 missing. 1 boat 100 feet, destroyed in Messina Straits. N.A.C.A.F. 15 August add. 3 Torpedo Beaufighters, 3 anti flak Beaufighters attacked large destroyer 2 miles east Chiappa Point. 2 torpedoes dropped, no results observed. (N.A.A.F. Adv. 171657B).

NARBADA Following have been added to repeated addressees of A.M. 161604 August. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar. S.O. Group 3. NARBADA. (D.O.D. (F), 171702A to C. in C. Med).

Enemy Torpedo Bombers. N.C.S.Os. should be instructed to warn (?M/Vs) Cdres. of convoys and escorts, that torpedo bomber A/C are very active at present on the route, operating in large numbers or singly. (C. in C. Med. 171703B to F.O.I.C. and N.Os.I.C. North Africa (Oran and Tripoli) Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Connav etc).

PENELOPE Cancel intention given in my 170859 (N.T. in W.R.) Intend passing through 039° 54' N., 015° 14' E. at 0001/18 thence Eastwards coastwise bombarding Scalea about 0120. Thence Bizerta E.T.A. 1500/18 passing south at Ustica. (PENELOPE, 171710B to C. in C. Med. (R) Cdr. Naval Force U.S., C.T.F. 88, N.O.I.C. Tunisia, F.O. 12th C.S., Capt. (S) 8th N.L.O. 211 Group).

CANADA (French). French Admiralty state that CANADA is now engaged in transporting French families. They regret that she will not be available for other service for some considerable time. (C. in C. Med. (A), 171730B to Admty).

K.M.S.23 Amend destination of GREATHOPE to Oran. My 161632 refers. (C. in C. Med. (A) 171730B to SHOREHAM, Escorts K.M.S.23).

K.M.S.23. S. of A. 8 knots, speed of ships 9 knots. 2. Onward route from (GE) 93 through 122, 120, 51, 43, 124, 96, 79 lettered GF to GM omitting G1 and GH Channel to (GN) 299. Thence 293, 275, 212, 235, and 033° 02' 020° 01' lettered GO to GS and as ordered by C. in C. Levant.

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K.M.S. 23 (contd). 3. Sections join and detach with local escorts. Oran 93 0700 August 20th. Algiers E.T.A. 0830 August 21st entering Bay sailing again at 1330. Bougie 036° 58' 005° 10' 0230 August 22nd. Philippeville, 124, 1430 August 22nd.
Bone 92, 1815 August 22nd, Bizerta 119, 0800 August 23rd, Tunis 123, 1100 August 23rd, Malta 212, 1430 August 24th.
4. Codeword "Untrue" priority normal by day high by night.
5. All times B.
6. Escorts SHOREHAM (S.O.) WHITEHAVEN, HYTHE, RYE, ROMNEY, GAWLER, LISMORE, MARYBOROUGH, IPSWICH.
(C. in C. Med. (A) 172119B to ?SHOREHAM, Escorts of K.M.S. 23).

Movements 17th August Port Said arrivals LA MOQUEUSE, Port Said. IERAX, BREAM, NIKI.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 171731C to Admty. etc).

Situation Convoys G.T.X. 5 arrived August 13th with 21 report No. merchant ships for Alexandria and 14 merchant 48. ships for Port Said.
M.K.S. 22 (Z) 10 slow merchant ships left Alexandria August 14th routed inshore to Tripoli.
M.K.S. 22, 23 merchant ships left Alexandria August 15th.
(2) Cyrenaica, 3 M.Ls. searched until a.m./17th for a U-boat reported by aircraft off Benghazi in 033° 55' N., 020° 04' E. at 0516 August 15th. 6 Z Lighters have arrived Tripoli from Levant.
(3) Alexandria. BEAUFORT, TETCOTT, EASTON and PINDOS carried out bombardment practice off Ras Al Kanayis dawn 14th.
(4) Canal Area, Force (?S) is to be known in future as (?Force) M; the flag of R.A. Peters was transferred from KEREN to BULOLO August 16th. (corrupt group) ship NIKI holed by practice torpedo at Suez August 14th and (?cannot) dock.
(6) Submarines. RORQUAL reports she (?successfully) (?laid mines) in Northern Aegean; August 7th she sank 2500 tons merchant ship in strongly escorted convoy off Dardanelles; August 8th bombarded Chrovssso Resin factory.
(7) Changes on the Station. Departure OSIRIS to Eastern Fleet. Arrival (M.L.?) 312 at (?corrupt group) 5 motor fishing vessels and 5 H.D.M.Ls. (?returning to) (?corrupt group) from Western Med.
(C. in C. Levant, 171857C to Admty).

Movements Departures today. U.S.S. ACADIA and SEMINOLE. Oran. (Comnob Oran, 171931 to Admty. etc).

Movements, Arrival and departure August 17th KLO, GLOXINIA. Sfax. (N.O.I.C. Sfax, 171931B to Admty).

/Situation...

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- Situation report No. 156.
- (1) SS. BENJAMIN CONTEE carrying 1800 Italian P.O.W. torpedoed 161328 by enemy A/C whilst joining convoy off Bone, has since reached Bone about 320 killed and 80 wounded.
- (2) Convoy G.U.S.12 attacked 170002 by one torpedo bomber off Bone, no damage.
- (3) Bougie section of U.G.S.13 attacked by H.E.111 (160300) before joining main convoy. Torpedo fired at escorting Trawler HORNPIPE which avoided and shot down aircraft. Second aircraft driven off. SS. EMPIRE KESTREL, straggler from main convoy, torpedoed and sunk 160300 by undetected enemy aircraft. Forty survivors landed Philippeville.
- (4) M.T.Bs. operated in Straits of Messina night 15/16. One M.T.B. damaged, one killed, several injured (W.D. Note - By shore batteries, see 182023B).
- (5) One battalion infantry ferried up east coast on 16th to reinforce Commandos previously landed Scaletta night 15/16 as reported in Sit. Rep. 155. [*Further details, see 192012, page 683*]
- (6) Formation of L.C.T.s. attacked by three fighter bombers 161810 off Cape Orlando. No damage.
- (7) One daylight raid Augusta on 15th by about six planes. Four bombs in harbour with near misses on PRINSES BEATRIX, LEDBURY and OCEAN VIRTUE. No damage or casualties. Spitfires shot down F.W.190 and damaged another.
- (C. in C. Med., 171932 to Admty)

- SIMOOM, SURF. SHEPPEY will be at R/V. Fog is to be expected. SIMOOM is to identify herself to SHEPPEY and enter harbour unescorted. SHEPPEY will escort P.239 (SURF).
2. Set additional watch on 4900 k/cs at 0500/18th.
3. One transport and one destroyer sailing 0800/18th eastbound.
4. French convoy sailing westbound at 0900/18th.
5. Westbound convoy passing Algiers at 1000 and 1200/18th when sections join and detach.
6. Destroyers from east arrive 0700/18th.
7. M.Ls. are on patrol east and west of Algiers.
8. P.224 (SICKLE) sailed 1730/17th course 050° and P.217 (SIBYL) sailed 1900/17th course 045°.
- (Capt. S.8., 171944B to SIMOOM, SURF).

Movements Philippeville. Arrived LE FANTASQUE and LE TERRIBLE. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 172001B to Admty).

OXLIP Your 171749. OXLIP now has defective asdic. Am sending her to Alexandria to repair and fuel and rejoin as escort Port Said section. (HOLCOMBE, 172006C to C. in C. Levant, (R) R.A.L.)

Movements, Benghazi. Sailed ST. MINVER, M.F.V.s 70, 51, 55, 109, 157. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 172022C to Admty).

/TAURUS...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

TAURUS Patrol off approach to Dardanelles by dawn 20th.
(Capt. S.l., 172032C to(P.339) TAURUS).

Malta Air Report. A.I.1081 17 August. Opsum No. 99. 16th August.
1 Spitfire made photo R/C of Taranto and 1
Baltimore made A/S patrol east of Sicily.
16/17 August. 8 Mosquitoes of which 4 carried
bombs attacked Roads and Railways in Southern
Italy. At Manduria 1 direct bomb hit was scored on a factory
building causing vivid flash and a pall of black smoke. At
Villa Literno 2 x 250 lb. bombs scored direct hits on railway
station. Transport on road near Bovino was bombed and a bomb hit
was scored on road at Cape Spulico. 2 torpedo carrying Wellingtons
searched for enemy shipping between Heel of Italy and
Albanian coast. 8 Beaufighters made interception patrol north of
Malta. 1 Wellington (?) on shipping search in Gulf of Taranto.
8 Bostons and 4 Baltimores were airborne from Malta attacking
communications in Toe of Italy. 17 August. 4 Beaufighters
carrying bombs made armed R/C along west coast of Greece. The
Seaplane base at Argostoli was attacked and 2 He. 115s were
damaged. One 1200 ton schooner in 37° 38' N., 20° 34' E. was
hit by 1 x 250 lb. bomb and left listing to starboard. 3
Spitfires made photo R/C of Taranto, Naples and Southern
Italian Aerodromes. 2 Baltimores made A/S patrol south of Toe
of Italy. 0610 hrs. 4 Spitfires were airborne to intercept 1 Ju.
88 which approached Malta at great height probably on R/C but did
not cross the coast A.A. fired.
(R.A.F., Malta, 172045Z).

Movements, Arrivals Tug ST. DAY French S/M ORPHEE.
Algiers. Departures U.S.S. DALLAS, S/M SICKLE, S/M SIBYL,
LE FANTASQUE, LE TERRIBLE.
(Com. Algeria, 172052B to Admty. etc).

Movements, Arrived and sailed PRINS ALBERT, PRINSES ASTRID,
Tripoli. ROYAL ULSTERMAN, L.S.T.402. Arrived L.C.R.136,
L.C.F. 12, 15, 16 L.C.G. 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 19.
Sailed GRAYLING, M.L. 1291, L.S.T.430.
(S.N.O. Trip. 172059B to Admty).

Movements 17th August arrivals: L.S.T.323, M.L. 556,
Augusta. PIROUETTE, M.T.Bs. 226, 86, 89.
Departures: (?TARTAR) BROCKLESBY, L.C.F.7, L.C.I.
130, 131, 135, 282, L.C.T.328, 397 (?386) 396.
M.L. (?602) PIROUETTE, L.S.T. 323, (?L.C.) (S)
25, QUILLIAM, QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 172145 to Admty. etc).

/Movements...

17.8.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements,
Malta.

Arrivals WHEATLAND, PUCKERIDGE, HYACINTH, REIGHTON
WYKE, KING SOL, BONITO, STELLA CARINA, L.C.I.(L)
283, M.T.Bs. 85, 81, H.D.M.L. 1242.
Departures M.T.Bs. 226, 86, 89, L.S.T. 322, 303, 5
L.C.Ts. 5 L.C.I.(L)s and M.L. 564.
(V.A. Malta, 172211 to Admty. etc).

Enemy Units.

Position and course of one enemy merchant vessel
3,000 tons 4 escort vessels 41.38 N. 12.24 E. 330°
(A/C HTZ/C 172254B).
My 2254. P.C. and S. of one medium merchant vessel
3 escort vessels 41.40 N., 12.10 E. 300° 5.
(A/C HTZ/C 172325B).

UNSHAKEN

Arrival Submarine UNSHAKEN (P.54).
(V.A. Malta, 172350 to Admty. etc).

Movements
Tobruk.

Arrived AMBER, M.L. 1158, sailing M.L. 387.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 172359C to Admty).

MOST SECRET

608A. *lion*
17/8

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

From A.F.H.Q. Algiers.

Date: 19.8.43.

Recd: 1310.

CYPHER

Addressed The War Office, repeated Agwar, Usfor.

148165. W/7632/2732 cipher 17 Aug. Most Secret.

First Part.

Sicily: Army Report.

CITE FHGCT. Signed Eisenhower.

Twenty Third weekly summary. Summary of operations. 9th August to 16th August. This summary slightly overlaps summary No. (?92).

Para: one. Ground Seven. Aug. The towns of (?Fratello) J 68 Acitresso, - Giovanni La Punta H 98, Tremestiere, Mascalucia, H 98 Nicolosi and Pedara H 99 on Thirteen Corps front were the important towns captured in the general advance. Stubborn resistance and heavy demolitions encountered by 78 Div. in its advance on +Bronte C 7310. On Seven Army fronts, three div. repulsed counter attack in San Fratello area. One div. positions were being taken over by Nine Div. Eight Aug. advance to the north made by thirteen Corps against retreating enemy, Acireale captured by 151 Bde. Aci Antonio H 9991 captured by 168 Bde. Trecastagne H 99 captured by Thirteen Bde. on Div. Div front. Bronte C 7310 captured by 78 Div. after severe fighting. A landing behind enemy lines was accomplished by Two. Bn Thirteenth RCT at C 6045, enemy reinforcement column advancing west was routed and 300 German PWS taken. S Agata C 5437 captured by Seven RCT and contact was made with Two Bn. during the day. Cesaro C 6326 taken by 47 RCT, four Tabor of Goumns protecting 47 RCTS left flank. Nine Div. completed relief of Four Div. Nine Aug. On eight Army front contact was continued with enemy in line two northing. TRE Monti feature H 99 captured by Thirteen Bde. Stubborn resistance, heavy/.....

heavy demolitions and many fires hampered 78 Div. progress north of Bronte C 7310. Patrol contact was made on the left with Nine US Div. Seven Army front. General advance for several miles accomplished over heavily mined and difficult terrain. Sixty RCT occupied Comolato C 5822 and seven RCT captured San Marco D Alunzio C 6241, Line of D 01 northing reached by thirteen Corps. River Léonardille crossed by 168 Bde. Slow advance north made by 78 Div. against enemy strong points and mortar fire. The forward line of Seven Army troops advanced further east, difficult terrain slowing advance. Eleven Aug. Enemy resistance stiffened on Eight Army Front. Giarre occupied by 151 Bde. In Maletto area 78 Div. held up by strong resistance, Difficulty encountered in deploying troops owing to the nature of the country and demolitions. On Seven Army front advance made to three miles east of river Simeto along road Cesaro - Randazzo by Nine Div. Line of road Naso - Ueria reached by Third Div. A successful landing behind the enemy lines in the area of River Naso was accomplished by Two Bn. Thirtieth RCT supported by Naval and Air bombardment. After repulsing two counter attacks, advance inland was made seriously disrupting enemy supply columns moving west. Twelve Aug. Eight Army. From the line Riposto-Giarre 151 Bde moved northward. Maschia occupied by 158 Bde. Fifteen Bde. in contact with enemy on northern slopes of M Cagliato. Maletto taken by 38 Bde. who then occupied high ground to the west. Northeast of Lentini One. Cdn Div. concentrating. Advance to within one mile northwest of Randazzo made by 39 RCT. (?Floresta) C 8032 captured by Sixty RCT who then moved southward. The line Figarra C 7346 - Patti C 8549 - Giojoya Marea C 7853 was reached by Third Div. Thirteen Aug. The line of Twelve Northing reached by advanced troops fiftieth Div. Progress north of Fiumefreddo D 0611 made by 69 Bde and (?168 Bde was south of Piedimonte D 0213 153 Bde. approximately four miles west of Mascali D 0406. Randazzo entered by Three Bde. in the afternoon. On Seven Army front Randazzo captured by/.....

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.)

by 39 RCT and 48 RCT continuing through advanced towards Francaville C 9822. Advance line of Third Div. approximately west of Librizzi C 8444 to Patti to near Giojosa Marea C 7853.

Para. two. Location statement as of noon sixteen Aug. Fifteen Army Gp Cassibile J 0621 consisting of Eight Army H 9983 Seven Army C 6846 and one Airborne Div. Kairouan area. Eight Army consisting of Thirteen Corps H 8635 and Thirtieth Corps H 8993. Thirteen Corps consisting of Five Div. H 7861 One Cdn. Div. H 9157 Thirtieth Corps consisting of fiftieth Div. J 0398, 51 Div. H 7785 78 Div. H 7297. Seven Army consisting of Two Corps C 3820 and Prov Corps Palermo. Two Corps consisting of one Div. C 4413, Nine Div. C 5441 three div. C 7351 Prov. Corps consisting of 45 Div. C 3837 First Armd Div. B 3343 and 82 Airborne Div. Trapani. For change of location of troops in North Africa see para three.

Para. three. Movements. Nine Aug. One Gde. Bde. departed Soussé for Constantine area. Thirteen Aug. 46 Br. Inf. Div. arrive Bougie, Djidjelli and Bizerta.

Para. four. Estimated casualties. Eighth Army D Day to ten Aug. Read off and others. BR. Killed 152 and 1234. Wounded 375 and 4656. Missing 97 and 2174. Total 624 and 8064. Canadian. Killed 34 and 399 Wounded 114 and 1246. Missing 26 and 377. Total 174 and 2022. Seven Army D day to Nine Aug. 6926. No breakdown by off and others available.

Para. five. Estimated prisoners Seven Army to Aug. twelve 96,000 Eight Army to Aug. Twelve 30,000 breakdown by nationalities unknown.

Para. six. Administrative. Palermo twelve berths available for Liberty ships.

Preliminary/.....

Preliminary report Catania two berths blocked.
Estimate could clear 800 tpd. by 16/17 Aug.
Not intended to use port for discharge at present. Thirty locos. and approx. 250 wagons captured in working order. Anticipated D plus 28 convoy will be cleared by D plus 43 Evacuation. Seven Army to Nine Aug. Casualties 4,283 PW 64,470. Eight Army to Twelve Aug 12431 (sick and wounded) PW 22974. Out of total 6550 casualties evacuated from 24 Jul, to Seven Aug. forty percent were evacuated by air. Pipe line to Comiso airfield in operation since seven Aug. Seven Army report mine detectors of no value against German improvised plastic mine. Shipping casualties none notified. Craft position North African ports twelve Aug. number in port 176. Number unserviceable 84. General adm. situation satisfactory.

No. T.O.O.

Advance has been passed to ETOUSA.

Rec: in War Reg. 20th Aug.

	<u>Circulation</u>
1st Lord.	
1st S.L. (2)	M.O.1.2.4.5.6.7.
4th S.L.	G.S.(P)
5th S.L.	M.I.3.3.(L) 14.17
D.C.N.A.E.	S.D.2.5.
V.C.N.S.	Air Co-ord.
A.C.N.S.(A) (2)	C.O.M.
A.C.N.S.(F) (2)	R.A.8.
A.C.N.S.(W)	R.A.C.1.
U.W.R.	Sigs 5.
D.O.D.(F) (2)	E(Ops)
D.O.D.(H) (4)	Q(Ops) 2 (4 copies)
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D of P (2)	H.Q. E.T.O.U.S.A.
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Hd of M (2)	Admiralty (War Reg)
D.N.I.(4)	A.M.S.S.O.
I.P.(2)	C.O.H.Q.
D.P.D.	Cdn. Mil H.Q.
C.N.I.	
W.D.	
Ad. Blake.	
D.D.O.D.(M)	
D.A.W.T.	

• 609

17.8.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN. Departure 0100Z/17th D.S. WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN escorting WING SANG. (N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 170114Z to Admty.)

Movements. Departure 17th SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA. (N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 170150Z to Admty.)
Departure LAHORE for Vizagapatam. (N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 171221Z to Admty. etc.)

Colombo arrivals 17th 0040Z BERAR. (F.O. Ceylon, 171313Z to Admty. etc.)
CANTON arrived left ALBATROSS, CHITRAL. (F.O.E.Af. 171409Z)

S.E. Asia H.Q. My visit to Delhi has afforded an opportunity to review the naval communications problem of the South East Asia Command Headquarters. (2) The R.I.N. organisation in G.H.Q. New Delhi at present handles all naval traffic but, with the Volume steadily increasing, it is found barely sufficient to meet F.O.C.R.I.N's requirements and will be quite inadequate to handle South East Asia Naval Communications. (3) It is therefore considered essential to set up a separate naval communications organisation at S.E. Asia H.Q. at Delhi initially for which the following W.R.N.S. Staff will be required: (details). (4) If Wrens are not available naval ratings will be required instead. These are not available locally. Request early information of composition of staff being sent and approx. date of arrival so that accommodation may be arranged. (5) Since date of operation for which ratings in party Major 71 are required has now been retarded, it is intended to use them temporarily for this purpose. It is expected that they will remain available until about 1st December. (C. in C. E.F. 170628 to Admty. (R) F.L.O.India, N.F.C.I.E.F.)

OPHIR. As neither VITA, VASNA or OXFORDSHIRE have been made available for Eastern Fleet, a considerable programme for OPHIR has been arranged. Unless her retention is essential request her onward passage to E.F. may stand. Your 151251 P.S.T.O. Med. 141500 and my 160025 not to P.S.T.O. Med. refer. (C. in C. E.F. 170953Z to C. in C. Levant. (R) P.S.T.O. Med. etc.)

SUSSEX damage. Damage to SUSSEX Turbo generator. SUSSEX 090905 refers. Board of enquiry report by signal that cause of damage not definite but probably due to fatigue failure of Turbine blading. This is the 2nd accident of a similar nature within 8 months and is an indication that blading is approaching limit of its life. Request consideration be given to reblading all dynamos as priority measure at earliest opportunity. SUFFOLK 140830 not to Admiralty refers. Minutes and findings of Board of Enquiry will be forwarded in due course. (C. in C. E.F. 171430Z to Admty. (R) C.S.4, SUSSEX.)

Convoy / ...

17.8.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

Convoy C.M.45. Your 150941Z. Para. 2. No objection to sailing date of second section of C.M.45 being delayed to 9/9.
(D. of S.T. 170212A to C. in C. E.F.)

Movements Summary No.85 Aug.17th. (1) KENYA left Addu Atoll August 16th for Kilindini due Karachi 20th. (2) CAPETOWN left Bandar Abbas August 15th due Aden 19th. (3) ALBATROSS left Kilindini 17th for Capetown due 25th. Routed through Mozambique Channel. (4) SUFFOLK left Bombay 16th for Trincomalee. (5) FROBISHER left Bombay 15th due Aden 19th. (6) CHITRAL left Kilindini 17th to R/V EMERALD and C.M.44. CHITRAL escorting convoy to Aden. EMERALD escorting one ship proceeding Kilindini. (7) OSIRIS left Aden August 15th due Kilindini August 22nd. (8) Following Y messages are cancelled. 328 Y of July 25th, 324 Y of July 30th, 336 Y of August 4th, 339 Y of August 8th.
(C. in C. E.F.170842Z to E.F.346Y)

India Air Report. A.297 17 August. Daily Opsum No.520 15/16 August. 2 Hurricanes Mayu. 1 A/C returned due weather. 1 A/C attacked and sank 2 loading Sampans. 16 August. 2 Mohawks bombed (P.36) attacked river steamer and dumps near Kalewa. 6 Hurricanes sank 6 loaded Sampans Minbya area.
(A.H.Q. India, 170845Z to Air Min.)

Moorings Trincomalee. Following moorings have been laid at Trincomalee since 30th June. My 171016 July refers. (List) (2) Future programme. Number 1 berth will be completed about 22nd August and the S and (?A) of C.3 berth by end of August. Work on fourth class moorings D.7 - D.16 will be commenced during the month and will probably be completed by 20th Sept.
(F.O. Ceylon, 171229Z to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty. etc.)

Movements, Kilindini. CANTON arrived, left ALBATROSS, CHITRAL.
(F.O. East Africa & Zanzibar, 171409Z to Admty)

NIEUW AMSTERDAM, C.M.45. D. of S.T. has been asked to release NIEUW AMSTERDAM to U.S.A. for use in Pacific.
(2) To replace capacity from South Africa to India, D. of S.T. is proposing that STIRLING CASTLE and HIGHLAND BRIGADE leave Durban for Bombay in C.M.45 on 9/9 with STRATHEDEN for Suez.
Request your early views whether this extra escort commitment can be accepted. (3) STIRLING CASTLE would no longer be included in B.A.47.
(D.O.D.(F), 171909A to C. in C.E.F. (R) C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.R.I.N.)

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Movements. St. Johns N.F. 16th. Arrivals - M.M.S.254, M.M.S. 255 ex Halifax. GATINEAU, LAGAN, ICARUS, CHAMBLY, DRUMHELLER, PRIMROSE, BUSTLER, FUSILIER ex O.N.196.

Departures - ADHERENT to assist SS. MEIGLE. GEORGETOWN, SHAWINIGAN, BROCKVILLE, LETHBRIDGE, GRANDBY to O.N.196.

ST. CLAIR, MIDLAND, SHERBROOKE, TRANSCONA, MULGRAVE to O.N.S.15. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns, 170153Z.)

(? Transport) S.3 and 4 (Royal Dutch Navy) arrived 17th. (B.R.L.O. Santo Domingo, 171612Q to Admty., etc.)

Departure 17th STATE OF VIRGINIA (U.S.A.T.) Trinidad 18th. (B.R.O. Georgetown, 171921Q.)

Departure 17th MINQUAS (U.S.E.D.) Paramaribo 19th. (B.R.O. Georgetown, 172027Q.)

CLYDE VALLEY
aground
14th Aug. My 141513 CLYDE VALLEY afloat. In tow WILLET (U.S. Tug) to Havana for docking. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 171051Q to Admty., S.B.N.O.W.At.)

B.Y.M.S. My 121800Z. B.Y.M.S.229, M.M.S.251 and 244 returned St. Johns with defects. (F.O.N.F., 171118Z to Admty.)

MONTCALM. My 171004.
MONTCALM available for patrols from Friday 20th August. Endurance similar to that of GLOIRE and GEORGES LEYGUES.

2, Lieut. C.M. Stuart and Liaison Staff from GEORGES LEYGUES embarked.
(Comar Dakar, 171156Z to F.O.C.W.Af.), (R) Admty.)

Movements, Norfolk. Norfolk arrived August 14th DART, ERNE, WHIMBREL, CLARE, FISHGUARD and BANFF. (N.S.H.Q., 171352Z to Admty.)

U.S. S/M Estimate. (Cominch, 171504Z.)

Pacific and Atlantic dispositions. Change my 101727. Serial 87 Pacific. PENNSYLVANIA in North Pacific. VICTORIOUS, LONG ISLAND at sea. ALTAMAHA in Fremantle. PRINCE WILLIAM, NASHVILLE, HONOLULU at Pearl. NEW ORLEANS, BARNES in San Diego. CONCORD at Callao. TRENTON in Valparaiso.

Atlantic - NEW JERSEY in Trinidad. BUNKER HILL in Boston. COWPENS at Philadelphia. CHESTER in Norfolk. MEMPHIS at Recife. MARBLEHEAD, OMAHA at sea. SANTEE, CHARGER in Norfolk. BLOCK ISLAND in New York. CORE with U.G.S.15. CROATAN with U.S.G. 14. BOGUE with G.U.S.11. CARD in Casablanca. (Cominch, 171517Z to Admty., (R) Comnavu.)

/Dispositions ...

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17.8.1943.

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

Dispositions. L.26 049° 52' 049° 05' 223° 5 en route St. Johns N.F. O.N.S.15 W. 2 046° 58' 051° 13' 223° 8 altering to 273° in 045° 29' N.
LADY MADELINE, LA PLATA escorting 2 ships to St. Johns N.F. 047° 40' 051° 37' 8. ACONITE F.F.S. LOBELIA 046° 40' 052° 08' 12 en route for St. Pierre.
(?HL) 44 ESQUIMALT 047° 05' 052° 34' 187° 7.5 altering to 245° in 046° 29' N. and 285° in 046° 22' N.
JN 38 SARNIA 048° 30' 052° 45' 350° 9. ON 196 W 3 044° 58' 055° 13' 242° 9.5 altering to 235° in 059° 01' W.
SACKVILLE and GALT 045° 55' 055° 41' 081° 13 altering to 012° in 052° 40' W. B.Y.M.S. 240, 033 045° 41' 057° 12' 081° 10 altering to 010° in 052° 36' W.
BW 52 STRATFORD Sydney Approaches outbound.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 171520Z.)

U.G.F.10. Delete ERICGSON and add MONTICELLO to sailing list of U.G.F.10. Refer my 121515.
(Cominch, 171538Z to Cinclant.)

Convoy U.T.1. Delete MONTICELLO from sailing list of U.T.1. Refer my 101955.
(Cominch, 171539Z to Cinclant.)
Postpone sailing of U.T.1 from 20th to 21st.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 172210Z, to Cinclant C.E.S.F.
(R) Admty. B.A.D. P.D. Norfolk, DART Com. 5
S.B.N.O.W.At. C. in C.C.N.A., N.S.H.Q. Comnavu.)

NORSEMAN, cables. Following is N.O.B. Bermuda's 161954 (begins):
Cinclant (R) S.B.N.O. W.At., Cominch from N.O.B. Bermuda - Having completed cable break 40 miles from Bermuda NORSEMAN escorted by CANSO departs today my 161931 for Halifax to embark gear essential to repair second break which is about midway to Halifax. Cominch 232202 of June. Your 042218. Recommend C. in C. C.N.A. be requested to furnish escort for second break repair. (Ends.)
(S.B.N.O.W.A. 171752 to Admty. (R) C. in C. C.N.A.)

B.E.C.2. B.E.C. 2 sailing from Chicago about 19th Request arrangements for both ships as in my 201451 July, trials, work up and passage being made in company. (B.A.D. 171803Z to N.S.H.Q. (R) N.O.I.C. Montreal N.O.I.C. Quebec C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F., C. in C. W.A. Admty.) W.R. Note: After work up request you sail B.E.C.1 as requisite to join a convoy escort to U.K. for first of Class trials etc.

/ACONIT...

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17.8.1943.

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

ACONIT. Your 151710, not to C. in C. C.N.A. C. in C. C.N.A. is arranging for ACONIT to be routed direct from St. Pierre to New Orleans as time will not permit of a visit to New York en route. B.A.M.R. 091458 refers. (B.A.D. 171805Z 171805Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C.W.A. F.O.N.F., C. in C.C.N.A., B.A.M.R.) C. in C.W.A's 030857B August. My E.T.A. St. Pierre 1200Z 18th. Fuel stocks remaining 60 per cent. Request instructions. LOBELIA in company as far as St. Pierre. (ACONIT 172251Z to C. in C. C.N.W.At. (R) F.O.N.F., C. in C.W.A. S.O. Escort B.3, N.O.I.C. St. Pierre, N.O.I.C. Greenock, Capt. (D) Greenock, F.N.F.L. London, F.R.N.O. Greenock)

ST. CROIX Admty.'s 162201A. Take necessary action. for C. in (N.S.H.Q., 171847Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) Admty., C.W.A.) C. in C. W.A.)

F.T.2. My 092102. F.T.2 will now proceed in company with B.Y.M.S. 76 and B.Y.M.S. 213. I have granted Tempy. Lieut. C. Delmar-Morgan R.N.V.R. the tempy. rank of Act. Lieut. Comdr. R.N.V.R. for passage to Londonderry. (B.A.M.R. 171934Z to Admty.)

Convoy Sailing telegram part 2. (24 ships, list and B.X.69. destinations) (P.D. Boston, 171934 to Com. 10th Fleet C. and R. etc.)

MONTICELLO. This is V.C.N.O.'s 171539 to Com. Gen. Port of embarkation New York and repeated to Comnavnaw, Comnavau, Cinclant, C.E.S.F., Com. 5, and U.S.S. MONTICELLO. Make MONTICELLO available Com. Gen. Port of embarkation New York for loading on afternoon of 18th or earlier if practicable and sail ship U.G.F.10. Completion discharge embark passengers and proceed as directed by Comnavnaw to U.S. East coast port. D.N.T.S. Serial 099239 cancelled. (Comnavau 171956Z to Admty.) W.R. Note: D.N.T.S. Serial 099239: Orders for U.S.S. MONTICELLO.

TOWY. E.T.A. Argentinia (70800)Z 18th. KEPPEL (?in company). Request (?gate)(?09??)Z. (?N.P.) P.C. and S. at (?2030)Z 047° 41' N. 051° 14' W. (TOWY, 172002Z to (Corrupt Group) Argentinia, and Capt. (D) Argentinia, (?F.O.N.F.) C. in C. N.A.) W.R. Note: Whole message imperfectly received and corrupt.

/LE GLORIEUX...

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17.8.1943.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

- LE GLORIEUX information. Enemy submarine estimated 1200Z 18th. 1 Area 036° N. 043° W. from sights 171935Z and from recent D/F that area. 3 Homeport bound estimated within 150 miles at following position 032° N. 046° W. 030° N. 039° W. from recent D/F. 027° N. 042° W. (C. in C.U.S. Fleet, 172018 to LE GLORIEUX.)
- L.26. My P.C. and S. are 049° 54' N. 049° 01' W. 224° 7 knots at 1700Z 17th. E.T.A. St. John's N.F. 2200Z 18th. (L.26, 172112Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) F.O.(S) F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q.)
- Sub. attack and sighting summary. Para. C. All times Z. Sub. attacked 19 - 53 N. 74 - 50 W. 1750/16. Sub. sighted 18.18 N. 75.53 W. 1833/16. PBM. Radar contact (2 corrupt groups, 1 group missing) 05° N. 73.37 W. 2034/16. (Cominch, 172122Z to Admty.)
- Hunting Groups. Admty.'s 150925A. Regret effective strength W.L.E.F. Group precludes release of ships at present time. (N.S.H.Q. 172126Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. C.N.A., C. in C.W.A.)
- B.Y.M.S. When ready about 22nd sail B.Y.M.S. 53, 56, 174, 175, Charleston direct to Halifax for onward routing to Londonderry via St. Johns N.F. Ultimate destination Mediterranean. Should not operate above 1000 R.P.M. (Cominch, 172216Z to C.E.S.F.)
- DUCKWORTH. When ready about 23rd sail DUCKWORTH Boston to Bermuda direct for working up. (Cominch, 172217 to C.E.S.F. (R) Com. 1 C. in C. Lant, N.O.B. Bermuda, N.S.H.Q.)
- U.S.A.T. NOORDAM (Du) U.S.A.T. sailed San Francisco August 16th for Noumea. (N.S.H.Q., 172217Z to Admty.)
- KAMSACK. E.T.A. 180830Z. BLAIRMORE (group missing) in company. Boiler hours (both ships). (KAMSACK, 172221A to (? C. in C. C.N.A.) (R) Cdre. Halifax N.S. D. Halifax.)

/Spanish...

615

17.8.1943.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Spanish Fishing Craft. Following received from N.A. Madrid (Begins) "My 131313 July. No report of noon position has been received from these vessels since August 2nd. Have they been sighted?" (Ends.) Can you give any information? (Head of M.B. 172248A to N.S.H.Q. (R) N.A.Madrid)

ADHERENT MEIGLE broken down. Following for C.C.R.T. My 161359 H.M.R.T. ADHERENT arrived St. Johns 171012. MEIGLE proceeding under own steam. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 172337 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. C. in C. C.N.A.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Arrived Brisbane 15th. BUNDABERG, MORESBY, TOWNSVILLE, BALLARAT. Townsville 15th. F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT. U.S.(D) HENLEY. Thursday Isles, 15th H.M.A.S. LATROBE. Departed Port Moresby 15th. SWAN for Cairns. Townsville 15th. PIRIE, KAPUNDA for Milne Bay. Milne Bay 15th. GYMPIE, BOWEN for Townsville. Port Moresby 14th. U.S.(D) HELM, COLAC, KATOOMBA for Cairns. (A.C.N.B. 170146Z) Arrival Brisbane 15th U.S.S. H.T. ALLEN, departed Townsville 16th U.S.S. VICTORIA for Mackay. (A.C.N.B. 170851Z.) Arrived Brisbane 15th U.S.D. BAGLEY Milne Bay 15th U.S.D. HUMPHREYS, U.S.D. GILMER, U.S.D. SANDS, U.S.D., BROOKS Townsville 16th U.S.D. HELM Cairns 16th H.M.A.S. KATOOMBA, COLAC, DELORAINÉ. Departed Milne Bay 16th BENELLA for Cairns. Townsville 16th U.S.D. LAMSON for Milne Bay Brisbane 16th BUNDABERG, MORESBY, TOWNSVILLE, BALLARAT for Sydney (N.S.W.) (A.C.N.B. 171042Z) Arrivals 15th August Oro Bay U.S. Transport MAETSUYCKER, 16th Cairns H/T DUNTROON 17th Townsville U.S. Transport TORRENS H/T TAROONA. U.S. transport VAN DE LIJN departed Townsville 16th due Boweo 16th. (C.S.W. P.S.F. 171307Z.)

Digest Serial No. 574 August 16th. 2 Liberators on armed photo. R/C attacked shipping and oil installations Balikpapan forenoon. 1 6,000 ton tanker set on fire also hits on oil storage tanks causing fires. Photos. show 7 medium merchantmen 1 probably tanker, 1 gunboat, 1 naval auxiliary, 4 200 foot vessels, 1 flying boat in addition to small

/craft...

616.

17.8.1943

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Digest Serial No. 574 August 16th. craft in harbour. 2. Same Liberators report sighting 1 minesweeper with 5 or 6 other small vessels in gulf of Bone (Southern Celebes). 6. Liberator bombed enemy installations Voco Point and reported sighting 10 possible barges near Finschhafen. 9. Single Liberator unsuccessfully attacked convoy, 2 destroyed, 3 7,000 ton merchantmen area 25 miles west Massau Island on course 180° early forenoon. Photos. show at least 1 merchantman carrying barges on deck. 10. Another Liberator unsuccessfully attacked small merchantman further north on course 200° shortly after noon. 12. Allied landing successfully effected Vella Lavella morning 15th. Allied destroyers and landing craft engaged in landing operation unsuccessfully attacked by undetermined number torpedo bombers while retiring from Vella Lavella to Guadalcanal. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 170917Z)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 171350A, 171351A)

Submarines Attacked.

Sub. attack and sighting summary for 24 hours to 1000B/17. Para. A. A.M. BENJAMIN CONTEE, torpedoed at 2142/16 in 37° 12' N. 07° 48' E. and possibly one or two others in the same convoy (G.U.S.12) A/C attacked U/Boat with depth charges at 1328/16 in 43° 35' N. 08° 15' W. German U/Boat reported to have entered Ferrol. Transit A/C sighted U/Boat at 0906/16 in 43° 38' N. 09° 10' W. course 310°. Para. B. 5 attacks by H.M.S. on contact at 2029 16th in 61° 07' N. 16° 28' W. A/C sighted U/Boat at 1620/16 in 61° 18' N. 17° W. Two H.M. ships obtained contact at 1802/16 in 61° 01' N. 16° 22' W. A/C reported probable U/Boat at 2125/16 in 61° 04' N., 16° 15' W. Transit A/C sighted U/Boat (possibly Spanish) at 0925/16 in 42° 45' N., 09° 30' W. (D.D.I.C., 170925Z to Cominch.)

U/Boats attacked. Weekly Summary. My 221059 July, 1942. 1. A Liberator aircraft armed with depth charges sank a U/Boat in 12° 20' N. 20° 07' W., at about noon 12th August (W.D.Note, 11th intended). The Liberator was shot down while carrying out the attack and there were no survivors. 7 prisoners from the U/Boat were recovered by H.M. Ships on 13th. 2. At 1902A/16 destroyers on A/S patrol in area S.E. of Iceland (known as "Moorings" area) carried out 5 attacks with depth charges on a good contact. A South bound U/Boat had been sighted in the vicinity by aircraft at 1814A/16. Contact was lost at 0118A/17. (D. A/U.D., 171859A to Cominch.)

617

18.8.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Blockade
Runners.

1. It is believed that the Italian blockade-runner HIMALAYA and possibly also TANNENFELS are now loaded and ready to sail from Bordeaux and that DRESDEN may have begun loading there.

KERTOSONO

2. The Admty. have asked the Air Ministry to regard as a most important target the German KERTOSONO (9289 tons) now at Nantes and believed to be intended to operate as a U-boat supply-ship.

Operation
"Musketry".

3. Catalina aircraft will not be available by day in the Biscay Area until further notice; and at 2156B today all aircraft were recalled from this area on account of weather.

BB Convoys

4. The last BB convoy will be run for ships of S.C.139 due at Belfast on about 25th August.

North Atlantic.

5. The aircraft carrier ILLUSTRIOUS, with the destroyers HURWORTH, CROOME, BLANKNEY and ADRIAS, left Gibraltar at 0730B for Malta, where they are due at 1600B, 20th August.

6. A U.S. Army transit aircraft reports sighting a surfaced submarine at 1350Z in 41.50 N. 11.05 W. 100 miles S.W. of Cape Finisterre.

South Atlantic.

U/B^{*}
attacked.

7. A French Wellington aircraft reports attacking a U-boat at 0654Z in 13.42 N. 17.30 W. 12 miles S.W. of Dakar. An oil patch and yellow debris were observed. *This was the same U/B as in the para. below.* A Hudson aircraft escorting convoy S.L. 135 at 0929Z attacked a U-boat in 14.11 N. 17.40 W. about 50 miles West of Dakar, with 4 depth charges, of which the second and third straddled the U-boats track. Visible damage included a large oil patch 2-3 miles long and 100-200 feet wide, with light debris.

** The U-boat was subsequently assessed "probably sunk" credit shared between the French Wellington (H2/697) and Hudson 0/100.*

618

18.8.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.- Contd.

8. Convoy W.S.32, 10 ships, escorted by 4 destroyers and 3 frigates, arrived at Capetown today.

Mediterranean.

Sicily
and Southern
Italy.

9. The Allied occupation of Sicily was completed today. PENELOPE, EURYALUS, PALADIN and JERVIS made a sweep last night southwards from Cape Palinuro to Scalea (West Coast of Italy). 387 rounds were fired in a bombardment of Scalea, but results were obscured by enemy smoke. The U.S. cruiser PHILADELPHIA with 2 U.S. destroyers (PLUNKETT and BENSON) last night made bombardments of Gioia and Tauro, on west coast of the Toe of Italy. A heavy explosion resulted at Gioia. Simultaneously the U.S. Cruiser BOISE with the U.S. destroyers NIBLACK and GLEAVES, bombarded the power sub-station at Palmi with unknown results.

SARACEN
lost.

10. S/M SARACEN (P.247), which was ordered to patrol off Bastia during daylight of 13th August, has since failed to answer signals and must be considered lost. A German broadcast of 16th August claimed that a German escort vessel had rammed and sunk a British submarine in the Mediterranean, many of the crew being prisoners of war. It is therefore hoped that many of SARACEN's crew have been rescued, as in the case of SAHIB and SPLENDID.

BRONZO

11. C. in C. Levant, suggests that a fourth alternative in the disposal of the ex-Italian submarine BRONZO (P.714) is to offer her to the Yugo-Slavs, but he considers that the Greeks deserve first refusal.

/Air...

619

18.8.1943.

Wednesday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean - Contd.Air
Operations.

12. 48 Wellingtons last night dropped 89 tons of bombs on the beaches between Briatico and Cape Suvero. Large explosions were seen at Pizzo and Lamezia. 29 light bombers attacked communications on the Toe of Italy. 4 U.S. Mitchells escorted by 24 Lightnings made a shipping sweep last night in the Gulf of Eufemia. A large landing craft north of Fiume Freddo was hit on the water line, and a merchant vessel 8 miles N. of Pizzo was bombed and hit by shells on the water line and broke in two.

Coastal Air Force Wellingtons attacked a small convoy off the West Italian coast with unknown results.

Of 2 Beaufighters on anti-shipping reconnaissance in the Aegean last night, one bombed a small ship in Melos, scoring a near miss, and attacking the vessel with cannon and machine guns; the other bombed a caique in Syros Harbour and also made a cannon attack.

2 Wellingtons bombed warehouses and shipping in Syros, scoring 2 hits on the mole, other bombs fell in the water near the mole.

A Malta Wellington bombed Preveza Harbour last night, bursts being seen between the quays and the town.

Another Wellington bombed a 600 ton merchant vessel with 3 small vessels off Keos Island, and claims to have damaged one small vessel.

4 Beaufighters attacked 2 merchant vessels of 300 and 1500 tons respectively in Missolonghi and obtained one hit and two near misses with bombs on the larger vessel. Both ships were attacked with cannon and machine guns, and many of the crew of the smaller vessel jumped overboard.

U.S. Kittyhawk bombers today attacked coastal traffic between Reggio and Palmi, scoring direct hits on 5 Siebel ferries, 2 E-Boats and 4 barges.

U.S. Warhawks attacked a 2 masted naval vessel at Germesia (South Sardinia) and left it in flames in a sinking condition.

Beaufighters on anti-shipping reconnaissance off the west coast of Greece attacked a caique of 120 tons with bombs and cannon off Ystakos; no bomb hits.

A 500 ton coaster at Invonitsa Bay, Preveza, had a bomb hit on the stern, followed by smoke.

Black Sea.

13. A number of successes by Russian aircraft against enemy shipping, F barges, etc. from 6th August to 13th August are reported today by N.L.O. Black Sea.

18.8.1943.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Air Raid
on
Bizerta.

14. Bizerta was heavily raided last night by 75 - 80 enemy bombers and many bombs were dropped over a wide area. 11 enemy aircraft are claimed as destroyed, 8 by A/A and 3 by Beaufighters. SS. WALTON B. EVANS and one L.C.I. were sunk and there were some R.N. and U.S.N. casualties. Sea mines were dropped.

East Indies.

Ceylon.

15. C. in C. Ceylon considers that the scale of attack on port areas, Ceylon, promulgated by the War Office on 7th August, has been written down too much. In view of the vital importance of the Ceylon ports to the Eastern Fleet, strong A/A defence is imperative. He makes certain recommendations.

Combined
Operations.

16. The organisation to be set up at Bombay for combined Operations craft and personnel is outlined today in a signal from C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

Convoy
Escorts.

17. In order to reduce the number of cruiser escorts required for W.S.32 and C.M.45 from 3 to 2, both these convoys will be routed close to Socotra, the Aden portion being detached to proceed to Aden, relying for protection on air A/S escort.

Air
Operations.

18. 1 Wellington dropped 5500 lbs of bombs on Akyab town last night, starting fires. Hurricanes attacking river craft at Myebon last night sank a river steamer and 2 sampans.

War Diary.

18.8.1943.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

A/S Forces.

19. The following are placed under the operational control of C. in C. Western Approaches in order to strengthen A/S forces in the Eastern Atlantic - ST. CROIX, ST. FRANCIS, CHAMBLY, MORDEN and SACKVILLE.

F.O.N.F. is requested to sail CHAMBLY and SACKVILLE to Londonderry as soon as ready, ST. FRANCIS and MORDEN will be sailed to arrive St. Johns about 24th August for fuel and onward routing to Londonderry.

Australia and New Zealand.

20. U.S. Fortresses, Liberators and Mitchells today attacked Wewak, New Guinea. Three ships of from 500 to 1000 tons were set on fire in the harbour and many barges were sunk.

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18.8.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

AMARANTHUS. When ready for sea AMARANTHUS should be sailed to Londonderry to work up. 2. On completion of working up C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail AMARANTHUS to F.O.C. West Africa in first convenient convoy.
(D.O.D.H. 181435A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

19th M.L. Flotilla. The 19th M.L. Flotilla consisting of M.Ls. 217, 236, 243, and 250 is re-allocated from C. in C. W.A. to C. in C. Nore. 2. C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail M.Ls. to Yarmouth as follows (D.D.O.D.C. 181631A)

Thames Estuary. Fifth tower of Red Sand Fort should leave Gravesend at 0445A/20th to pass Thames Gate at 0900A for sinking at 1100A. Sixth tower is expected on 30th August.

(C. in C. Nore 181809A to Com. Sheerness.)
Your 181035A. I prefer the proposals in my 100929. The re-deployment of these guns as suggested in A.M. 141854B is receiving consideration.
(A.C.O.S.181846A to Admty.)

Movements.

DANAE. Vice Admiral Sir Harold M. Burrough and Staff will take passage in DANAE from Clyde to Gibraltar. 2. DANAE will be required to leave Clyde to arrive Gibraltar on 10th September. She will then proceed as ordered by C. in C. Med. to join the Eastern Fleet. 3. Request you sail DANAE for Clyde accordingly.
(D.O.D.H. 180910A to C. in C. H.F.)

JAMAICA. Admiralty letter G.06294/43 10th August. Concur in Admiralty proposal provided JAMAICA can reach Scapa not later than 31st August.
(C. in C. H.F. 180910A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

M.S.F.1 and M.S.F.15. Intend that 1st M/S. Flotilla should relieve 15th M/S Flotilla in Icelandic waters in near future. The following movements to implement this are intended. Details. (g) Ships of 15th M/S Flotilla will be ordered Scapa when relieved by ships of 1st M/S Flotilla. (2) It is also intended that HUSSAR and SPEEDWELL should relieve JASON and BRITOMART in North Russian waters at earliest opportunity.
(C. in C. H.F. 181017A.)

PLEIADES. Your 161201. Request you will hold vessel until further orders.
(D.O.D.H. 181305A to A.C.O.S.)

/S/M....

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18.8.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

S/M. Intend sailing TANTIVY and UNTIRING escorted by
movements. COTILLION from Clyde at 1800A/20th by standard
route to Scapa, E.T.A. 0900/22nd. Thence
UNTIRING escorted by COTILLION by standard route
eastward Orkneys to Lerwick, E.T.A. 2000/22nd,
speed 10 knots. 2. Thence COTILLION as ordered by S.O. (S)
Lerwick escorting UPSTART to Scapa and UPSTART and SEA ROVER
from Scapa, to Holy Loch.
(Capt. S.3. 181206A.)

My 161601.(Z5, OTUS, UNA). Sailing delayed 5 hours.
F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to arrange extension of
Cardigan Bay Sanctuary until 2359 tomorrow.

(Capt. S.7. 181342A to A.I.G.220.)

Intend to sail ULA escorted by MACBETH 2130A/19 for Dundee
routed:- (A) 089° Sumburgh Head 5 miles. (B) 090° Fair Isles
6 miles. (C) 058° 45' N. 002° 33' W. thence by searched
channels, E.T.A. 0530A/21st.

(S.O. S/M. Lerwick 181635A to A.C.O.S.)

Positions of S/Ms. at 0800/19 and movements for following
24 hours.

(F.O.S.181733A, 190832A.)

Intend to sail CHASER 14 escorting P.556 to Portland in
accordance with Capt. S.5. 160929A on 19th.

(C. in C. Plymouth 181739A.)

After turning over escort of P.556 to C.H.14 in 175°
Eddystone 8 miles at 0700/19 KIHNA is to return to Clyde by
reverse route, unless necessary to fuel at Plymouth. KIHNA
pass to P.556.

(C. in C. Plymouth 181743A to KIHNA.)

P.259 and P.257 escorted by LOCH MONTEITH Northbound in
North Channel. OTUS and UNA escorted by BLADE southbound to
Irish Sea during dark hours tonight. SEADOG escorted by
COTILLION sailed Barrow-in-Furness 1300A/18th for Clyde.

(C. in C. W.A. 181814A to BURZA, BAYNTON, etc.)

My 161601A and 181342A. Sailed. (Z.5, OTUS, UNA).

(Capt. S.7 181951A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

My 171055A sailed. (TRUANT, THRASHER.)

(S.O. S/M Lerwick 182006A.)

M.F.V.
Convoy
for
Gibraltar.

Request you will sail following M.F.V. Convoy
to Gibraltar for service in the Mediterranean
on 23rd of August or as soon as weather is
suitable. Motor Fishing Vessels Nos. 23,37,73,75
and 89. Motor Minesweepers Nos. 3 and 35.
Escorted by POLLOCK.

(D.O.D.H. 181416A to C, in C. Plymouth.)

M.G.B.316.

All reference to M.G.B.316 in A.M.071803/July and
N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 081435B/July is cancelled.
2. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail
M.G.B.316 to Dartmouth on completion of refit

for special duty as Navigational Leader. 3. On completion or
cancellation of the operation M.G.B.316 is re-allocated to
Force J. and C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail boat to
Portsmouth.

(D.D.O.D.C. 181820A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

/PHOEBE...

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18.8.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

PHOEBE, SCYLLA and CHARYBDIS will not be available at SPARTAN. Gibraltar as A/A escorts to slow convoys after the end of August. 2. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail PHOEBE for Gibraltar when ready for sea on completion of docking.

3. C. in C. H.F. is requested to sail SPARTAN for Gibraltar when ready for service. It is anticipated that she will be available at Gibraltar by 2nd October. 4. PHOEBE and SPARTAN will operate from Gibraltar as A/A escorts to slow convoy under the orders of C. in C. Med. until relieved by SCYLLA and CHARYBDIS. 5. On relief, PHOEBE and SPARTAN will join the Mediterranean.

(D.O.D.H. 181920A.)

T.F.112-1. Scapa departure in accordance with C. in C. H.Fs. 171855A PHOEBE.
(A.C.O.S. 181928 to C.T.F.112-1.)

MENDIP, As MENDIP, BLENCATHRA, and HAMBLEDON have not BLENCATHRA, yet returned from Mediterranean it is requested HAMBLEDON. Capt. (D) 21 and staff may return to Sheerness without delay. 3. It is further requested MENDIP, BLENCATHRA, and HAMBLEDON may return at earliest convenient date.
(C. in C. Nore 182059A to Admty.)

Operations.

Operation Faeroes arrival SHIKARI. S.F. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes 180835A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Operation Ships position 44° 01' N. 10° 58' W. "Musketry". (A/C 161 Sq. Duty O. 181215A to 19 Group.)
2nd Escort Group is to operate forthwith in area Musketry South East. 2. 40th Escort Group is to proceed to Area Musketry South West and operate in that Area.
(C. in C. Plymouth 181312A to E.G.2, E.G.40.)

Disposition at 2000. 1. Escort Group 2, WREN, KITE, WOODPECKER, WILD GOOSE, STARLING, WOODCOCK patrolling vicinity 044° N. 009° 20' W. 2. Escort Group 40, LANDGUARD, BIDEFORD, WAVENEY 047° 45' N. 010° 15' W. southbound 12 knots. 3. P.241 049° 05' N. 007° 20' W. bound for Bishop Rock, daily advance 100 miles. 4. P.223 048° 55' N. 007° W. bound for Bishop Rock, daily advance 100 miles. 5. GLASGOW Patrolling vicinity 044° 10' N. 011° W. 6. GLASGOW Patrolling vicinity 044° 10' N. 011° W. 6. ATHABASKAN, GRENVILLE vicinity 045° N. 010° 30' W. leaving patrol to arrive Falmouth p.m. 19th.
(C. in C. Plymouth 181633A to Ships.)
Am being shadowed by 7 Ju.88s. in 46° 33' N. 10° 29' W.
(GLASGOW 181635 to Plymouth.)

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War Diary.18.8.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation "Musketry" (Contd.) No M.S. para 9. Catalina aircraft are required for night employment with searchlight equipment and will not be available for co-operation by day until further notice.
(C. in C. Plymouth 181733A to E.G.2, E.G.40, E.G.1 E.G.5.)

One unidentified vessel 115° 12 miles, course 305° in 48° 12' N. 10° 25' W.

(E.G.40 182041A to Whitehall W/T.)

My 2041. Sailing vessel.

(E.G.40 182043A to Whitehall W/T.)

All aircraft being recalled due to weather.

(C. in C. Plymouth 182156B to E.G.2, E.G.40.)

GLASGOW met Escort Group 40 at 2100. My E.T.A.

Falmouth boom 0930A, S.O.A. 23½ knots.

(ATHABASKAN 182157A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

C. in C.W.A. 152117A. On completion fuelling p.m. 19th Escort Group 5 is to leave Milford Haven and proceed by "QZ" S.315. From position (F) 270° Trevose Head 8 miles proceeding through (G) 048° 53' N. 010° 10' W. and thence to carry operation "Musketry" in area "Musketry" S.E.

(2) If fuel permits Escort Group 2nd should continue operations in area "Musketry" S.E. until Escort Group 5th reaches that area at about darkness 21st. (3) On reaching (E) Escort Group 2nd is to proceed through position (H) 048° 48' N. 010° 13' W. and thence to Liverpool fuelling at Falmouth or Milford Haven if necessary. S.O. Escort Group 2nd is to report intention in due course. (6) Escort Group 40 commence patrolling in "Musketry" S.W. p.m. 19th.

(C. in C. Plymouth 182305A to E.G.5, N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, E.G.2.)

Coastal Force Patrols.

1. Orders for night 18th/19th August.

(A) M.L.292, 344, patro. Q.Z.S.384 between F. and E.A. 5 buoys. (B) LA COMBATTANTE, STEVENSTONE, Chasseur 13 immediate notice St.Helens.

(C) TANATSIDE, TALYBONT immediate notice Yarmouth.

(D) M.G.Bs. 8,6,7, from Portland patrolling 50°

20' N. between 2° 60' W. and 2° 25' W. 2. M.L.190, 191, L.C.F. 1, Z.7, Z.8, and 12 L.C.T. exercising, pass Needles 2100 thence through 50° 22' N. 1° 25' W. 50° 22' N. 0° 57' W. to F. buoy at 0600 and Gate at 0830.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 181506A.)

Patrols 18th August on completion of exercises tonight 18th August. 1. Force D. M.G.Bs.111, 115 are to patrol in vicinity 180 Eddystone 8 miles. 3. Force E. M.G.B.81,75 are to patrol in vicinity 195 Start 15 miles.

(C. in C. Plymouth 181521A.)

Add to my 181521A. 7. Forces D. and E. are to leave patrol for Dartmouth at 0500A.

(C. in C. Plymouth 181627A.)

M.G.Bs.42,S.1, 43 at V Buoy. E.T.D. 2030, E.T.R. 0530/19. M.Ls. 139, 140 at Bullock Bank.

(V.A. Dover 181654A.)

/S/M...

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War Diary.18.8.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

S/M Positions of S/Ms. at 0800/19th and movements
Patrols. for following 24 hours. All times zone A.
(A) UNBROKEN on patrol as in my 161656.
(C) UPSTART 64° 03' dived as much as practicable
N. of 62° E.T.A. Lerwick p.m. 21st.
(D) ULA approaching Shetlands from N.E., E.T.A. Lerwick 19th.
(L) TRUCULENT 46° 20' 05° 16' dived by day to patrol in area
my 171717. (M) TUNA on patrol in area given in my 171717.
(F.O.S. 181733A to Admty.)

Allied Air Activity.

Target F.O.N.A.S. 4926/0132/3 dated 28th June. Target
Ships ship situation at Crail has rapidly deteriorated
at consequent upon withdrawal of target ships for
Crail. other duties and necessity for carrying out
repairs to remainder. Unless two suitable
target vessels can be supplied immediately the
training of torpedo pilots at Crail will
virtually cease. No other vessel can be allocated from
F.O.N.A.S. resources.
(F.O.N.A.S. 181705A to Admty.)

KERTOSONO. Reference Navtar No.8 Section D. One.
Information has been received that German ship
KERTOSONO reported by P.R.U. in floating dock
at Nantes on 15th August is intended to operate
to operate as a U-boat supply ship. 2. Her value in this role,
at the present state of the U-Boat campaign, is such that she
should be considered a most important target.
(A.C.N.S.H. 182321A to Air Ministry.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Humber Between 2325/17 and 0050/18 approx. 20 to 25
Area Hostile Aircraft crossed the coast between
bombed. Hornsea. Yorkshire and the Norfolk Coast.
H.E. and incendiary bombs were dropped over a
scattered area of E. Yorkshire and Lincolnshire.
No reports of any Naval damage or casualties
have been received. No evidence of minelaying.
(F.O. Humber 180251A.)

Scapa. At 0541/19 E/A plotted at 090° A Buoy 25 miles,
course South, Height 1000 ft. No fighters took
off due to weather. It seems likely that larger
units of H.F. were identified.
(A.C.O.S. 180941 to Admty.)

Spitzbergen. Ju.88 passed very high over Barentsburg at
0445Z at 1536 today.
("Locomotive 181602Z to Admty.)

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18.8.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

HIMALAYA,
TANNENFELS,
DRESDEN.

It is believed that blockade-runners HIMALAYA and possibly TANNENFELS are loaded and ready to sail from Bordeaux. DRESDEN may have begun loading.
(F.O.S. 180048A to S/MS.)

Casualties & Defects.

EL ISLEO.

Intend to sail at 2359Z/18th tugs EMPIRE BASCOBEL and EMPIRE SANDY towing SS. EL ISLEO to Scrabster for onward routing (A.M. 121836) escorted by EARREID (BXRJ). 3. Request destination of

EL ISLEO.
(A.C.I.C. 181112A to Admty.)

SATELLITE.

Your 161554A. Vessel unable to return today. Has wireround propeller. Hopes to clear at slack water tonight and sail tomorrow.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 181641A to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth.)

Shipping & Convoys.

K.M.S.24/
O.G.C.92.

Sailed at 0122A to overtake, FORT COULOGNE (ND) Lisbon.

(N.C.S.O. Clyde 180128A to Admty.)

HIGHWEAR, Gib/Algiers.

(N.C.S.O. Belfast 180241A to C. in C. W.A.)

LEONARDIA Sw. Setubal, EMPIRE SPEY Gibraltar F/O, Alexandria F/O, SKELDERGATE Lisbon and Melilla, EMPIRE SUMMER Sicily, EMPIRE SNOW Sicily.

(N.C.S.O. Oban 180450A to Admty.)

EXILONA is to return to Clyde forthwith.

(C. in C. W.A. 181638A to Escorts K.M.S.24/O.G.92.)

EMPRESS
OF
RUSSIA.

My 171755A. EMPRESS OF RUSSIA sailed at 0726A/18th, E.T.A. New York 2230A/26.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 180738A to Admty.)

F.D.11.

Intend to sail loaded transport BEN MY CHREE escorted by RIPLEY to Invergordon at 1700/19, E.T.A. 0900/20. Route.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 181029A to A.C.O.S.)

B.B.
Convoys.

My 081518B/8/43. The last B.B. Convoy will be run for ships of S.C.139 arriving Belfast approx. August 25th. 2. Bristol Channel ships of M.K.S.21 will proceed as in signal quoted.
(C. in C. W.A. 181254A.)

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18.8.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- T.A. 57A. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail
SS. MARIPOSA p.m. 21st August to New York.
(D.O.D.H. 181325A.)
A.M. 181323. Route.
(D.O.D.H. 182031A to C. in C. W.A.)
- H.X. 251. Detach as soon as convenient ships capable
of 12 knots and over negative Commodore and
rescue ship, escorted by VISCOUNT, BYARD and 1
corvette to 007° W. thence independently.
(C. in C. W.A. 181502Z to Escorts H.X. 251.)
- SAMARIA. Intend sailing SAMARIA 1500/19. Route to New York.
Estimated passing 007° W. 0500Z/20th. Chop
25th August.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey 181705Z to Admty.)
- Slow
Convoys
Route. A.M. 181920. During the period when no cruisers
are available. It will be necessary for slow
convoys to be routed by the outer standard route,
in accordance with A.M. 052006.
(D.O.D.H. 181925A to C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Gib.)

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18.8.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.M.K.S. 21,
F.W. attacks.

Information of F.W. attacks indicates that alteration of course of about 45° during aircraft run up decreases bombing accuracy to large extent. Pass to Commodore.

(D.O.D. (H), 180146A to Escorts of M.K.S. 21, (R) CHARYBDIS, C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar. C. in C. Plymouth).

ILLUSTRIOUS
screen.

A.M. 131958 and C. in C. Med. 161608. Request you will sail the remaining three destroyers of ILLUSTRIOUS screen independently without delay for Scapa.

(D.O.D. (H), 180248A to F.O. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med. etc).

LE GLORIEUX
U/B.

Indefinite D/F of transmission on 5412 k/cs at 0007/18 indicates U-boat in your general vicinity. (D.D.I.C., 180325A to F.F. S/M LE GLORIEUX, (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Cominch, Commorseafron).

Convoy
O.S. 53.

Expect to rejoin you 0800Z tomorrow 19th. (TEST, 180601Z to S.O. E.G. H. (?4 intended)).

O.S. 53. A.C.I. 39 para. 3.

(a) 033° 10' 010° 01' 2325Z/17th.

(b) BLACKWOOD, DRURY, FAL (?proceeding). 2

former short of ammunition (group missed). FAL lost contact 0125Z/18th. (d) Nil. (c) Clear moon sea calm: no previous Radar contact 2 apparently good A/S contacts attacked simultaneously. Not fully satisfied U-boat was present. Coded weather report position to nearest degree 2611.

((?S.O. Escort Group 4) 180715Z to Admty).

(?TEST) sailed 0700A August 18th to rejoin O.S. 53.

(Commorseafron, 180810B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty.

C. in C. Med. Escort Group O.S. 53).

Arrival STORK from O.S. 53.

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 180902B to Admty. etc).

ENCHANTRESS, LEITH, SANDWICH, ANCHUSA, sailed Casablanca 2100A/18th to join O.S. 53.

(C.M.S.F., 182320B to F.O. Gibraltar).

Dispositions. Situation 182001B.

LADY HOGARTH, MARIE LOUISE MACKAY repair cable vicinity 036° 16' 007° 28'.

2. VENOMOUS, Coast Ship DUMONT D'URVILLE, FORBIN,

2 Merchant Ships 036° 52' 008° 04' direct to Setubal 12½ knots where Merchant Ships enter and escort patrol outside.

3. Escort Group 38, ENCHANTRESS sail Casablanca p.m./18th to overtake O.S. 53 12 knots.

4. IMPERIALIST, SCOTTISH R/V 4 Merchant Ships off Tagus at 182100 thence direct if convenient 8.

5. U.S. Hospital Ship SEMINOLE 035° 36' 006° 39' through 035° 02' 007° 58' thence 273° 13.

(F.O. Gibraltar, 180921B).

/Situation...

18.8.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

LOCH OSKAIG E.T.A. Boom 1920/18th August. Request acknowledgement.
(LOCH OSKAIG, 181520 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

CYGNET, WANDERER, WALLFLOWER. Following personnel are embarked as escorts to "Oatmeal" convoy (a) In CYGNET, R.N.1 O.A. 4. 1 Sergt. R.M., R.A.F. 9 Senior other ranks, 9 Airmen and Lt. Cdr. Roberedo Silva, Portuguese Navy.

(b) In WANDERER and WALLFLOWER 2 R.A.F. Officers, 11 Senior other ranks and 9 airmen.

2. Request arrangements may be made for CYGNET, WANDERER and WALLFLOWER to enter Lisbon.

(D. of P. Approved D.O.D. (H), 181531A to N.A. Lisbon).

R.A.A. H.F. flag. Flag of S.O. Aircraft Carriers H.F. is being transferred to UNICORN 19th. August.
2. Office of S.O. Aircraft Carriers H.F. is temporarily established ashore at Gibraltar and all correspondence should be sent there.
3. Request signals be routed to Gibraltar C.C.O. (F.O.C. Aircraft Carriers, 181617B to Admty).

SAVAGE, SCORPION, OBEDIENT. SAVAGE, SCORPION, OBEDIENT sailed at 1330B August 18th.
2. Route (N) 35.47 06.30 (O) 36.15 12.10 (P) 39.01. 15.10 (Q) 45.01 15.10. thence as ordered by C. in C. W.A. S. of A. 19 knots.
3. Codeword "Relax". 4. Admty. pass to H.Q.C.C. (F.O. Gib. 181627B to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. A.C.O.S., C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C., R.A.D. H.F.)

M.K.S. 21 enemy A/C. While covering M.K.S.21 Convoy Army Liberator from Port Lyautey shot down one of two F.W. shadowing convoy. Liberator crashed. Both crews saved. No attack on convoy. These are only preliminary details received from escort CHARYBDIS.
(Commorseafron, 181710B to Comnavnav (R) C. in C. Med. Admty. etc).

Convoy C.G. 56 arrived.
C.G. 56. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 181730B to C.M.S.F.F.)

K.M.S. 23 E.T.A. K.M.S.23 Gib. section 2115B/18 consisting of ALRESFORD, SELVICK, RATHLINE, BARNHURST, BARNDALE, and E. MASSEY and OCEAN FAITH for repairs. H.M.S. UNST requires Asdic and R.D.F. repairs and has been told to enter Gibraltar. H.M.S. STAFFA is to proceed into Med.
(ISIS, 181738B to F.O.C. Gib. (R) F.Os. I.C. and N.Os. I.C. French North Africa (except N.O. I.C. Casablanca) Admty. etc).

/My...

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631 PRECEDES

18.8.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Dispositions. Situation 182003B. M.K.S. 21, HIGHLANDER, CHARYBDIS 040° 25' 017° 39' through 041° 01' 019° 01' thence 000° 7.

2. Group K coastal craft EGILSAY 041° 18' 014° 28' through 040° 05' 013° 30' thence 143° 9.

3. O.S. 53 BLACKWOOD 030° 50' 011° 20' through 029° 02' 012° 30' thence 229° 8.

4. U.G.S. 14 C.T.F. 65 034° 45' 024° 24' 093° 9.

5. Spanish Naval Training Ship JUAN SEBASTIAN DE ELCANO and GALETEA depart Marin 18th for Teneriffe and Las Palmas respectively.

7. H.M.S. SAVAGE, H.M.S. SCORPION, H.M.S. OBEDIENT 035° 57' 008° 22' though 036° 15' 012° 10' and 039° 01' 015° 10' thence 000° 19.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 181011B).
Situation 1959B/18. U.G.S. 14 (U.S.) C.T.F. 65, 034° 45' 024° 24' 093° 9.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 181057B).
Situation 2001B/18. GLORIEUX 033° 42' 040° 01' through 034° N., 041° W. thence 270° (??) on the surface.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 181109).

SAFARI information. BLACKMORE sailed 181000B course 82° 22 knots. Fleet unit escorted by 4 destroyers sailed 180730B course degrees 87 17½ knots.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 181023B to P. 211 (SAFARI)).

Movements, Casablanca. (A) EMPIRE PROWESS arrived from O.S. 3.
(B) Escort Group 38, LEITH, SANDWICH, COLUMBINE, VIOLET, ANCHUSA, ENCHANTRESS arrived.
(C.M.S.F., 181140B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med. (W), Admty).
4 British Y.M.S. arrived, your 110843 (N.T. in W.R.)
(Commorseafon, 181420B to F.O.C.W.A.)

NORD ATLANTIC. My 122057B Salvage party arrived from Ferrol. Fire at time of stranding was caused by rating igniting incendiary bomb in wireless room which was put out by master's orders.
(N.A. Madrid, 181154B to Admty. (R) S.O.(I)).

Cables MARIE LOUISE MACKAY expects to complete operation (C) p.m. today Wednesday my 161519 refers.
2. M.L. MACKAY reports further fault exists between (C) and Lisbon in position as yet undetermined. Intend to report this fault before sailing M.L. MACKAY in accordance with your 152150.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 181503B to C. in C. Med. (A) (R) Admiralty etc).

/LOCH...

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18.8.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

K.M.S.23 (contd). My 181738B. Cancel E. MASSEY who is proceeding to Oran.
(ISIS, 182022B to F.O. Gibraltar).
My 181738B, add BARON FORBES
(ISIS, 182116B to F.O. Gibraltar).

K.M.S. 23. My 161636 (BEDFORD (T) BALTEAKO, TOORAK (T)).
sailed.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 182125B to N.O.I.C. North Africa Ports,
(R) Admty. etc).
Arrival REDPOLE, ANTHONY, ISIS, ST. NECTAN, UNST, BARNDALE,
BARNHURST with Gibraltar Section K.M.S.23.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 182205B to Admty. etc).
K.M.S.23. Arrivals ALRESFORD, SELVIK, RATHLIN, BARON
FORBES, and OCEAN FAITH (damaged) 5 ships.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 182203B to Admty).

OTUS Sailed OTUS in accordance with F.O.S. 142024B August.
(Capt. (S) 7, 181837A to F.O.I.C. Gib. F.O.C.W.A
(R) Admty. F.O.S.)

Movements Arrivals. ACTIVE from Casablanca and patrol.
CARLISLE from East. Tug SALVONIA from K.M.S.23.
French ship TEMPETE with C.G.56, LOCH OSKAIG from
escorting cable ship MARIE LOUISE MACKAY,
departures, VENOMOUS, French ships FORBIN,
DUMONT D'URVILLE Escort duties Setubal. BLACKMORE to Algiers
water carrier CEVIC to K.M.S.23.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 182310B to Admty. etc).

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War Diary.18.8.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

U/boat attacked. French aircraft reports attacking U-boat at 0654Z/18th position 13 degs. 42' North 17 degs. 36' West.
(F.O.C. West Africa 181039Z to Admty.).

L.S.10 Sailed Takoradi portion of L.S.10 1000Z/18th to R/V position X. at 1100Z/18th. List etc.
(N.C.S.O. Takoradi 181115Z to Admty. etc.).

KARIMATA KARIMATA sailed 1000Z/18th Arran to R/V L.S.10 in position "Xray".
(N.O.i/c Takoradi 181149Z to Admty. etc.).

LULWORTH HILL torpedoed 18th/19th March survivors search. Request you will report what action if any was taken to search for survivors from LULWORTH HILL torpedoed night 18/19 March.
(D.T.D. 181150A to F.O.C.W.Af.).

Dispositions Situation at 2000Z/18th.
P.614 014 degs. 45' South 000 degs. 30' West to 010 degs. South 003 degs. 35' West 8½.
CARNARVON CASTLE 010 degs. 30' South 004 degs. East to 008 degs. South 003 degs. East 6.
(C. in C.S.A. 181152B).

DUQUESNE, TOURVILLE. Arrived 1045Z.
(Comar Dakar 181159Z to F.O.C.W.A.).

SNOWDROP Your 180841. (N.T. in W.D.). Will be in position indicated by 1330Z. Intend conducting search TURCOMAN (corrupt group) M.L.226 with 4 M/L 1 (one) hour astern. TURCOMAN has fuel and 4 days remaining.
(SNOWDROP 181209Z to Comar Dakar (R) F.O.C.W.Af., N.O.i/c Bathurst).

TABIAN (Dutch) Your 171212A. Vessel arrived Bahia date unknown and joined convoy J.T.4 14th for Trinidad.
(A.B.N.S.O. Recife 181221Z to Admty.).

CILICIA Requested that if available an electric driven pump of about 50 tons capacity may be supplied and fitted in CILICIA to enable her No.3. Ballast Tank to be used for Admiralty fuel for fuelling escorts at sea.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 181333Z to Com.Supt. Simonstown (R) C. in C.S.A., CILICIA, Admty.).

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. 181942Z/Aug. IN.
From. F.O.C. .Af. Date. 3.9.43.
Recd. 1819
AIR POSTGRAM.

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

Shipping routes, West Africa.

My 170523 May/A.

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

T R O U T.

(A)	07 47'	North.	14 00'	West.
(B)	06 52'		11 49'	
(C)	05 36'		10 00'	
(D)	04 42'		08 55'	
(E)	04 04'		07 40'	
(F)	04 59'		05 22'	
(G)	05 04'		03 48'	
(H)	01 34'		01 53'	
(I)	04 49'		01 42'	
(J)	04 14'		01 00'	
(K)	06 10'		03 14'	East.

C A R P.

(A)	07 47'	North	14 00'	West.
(D)	04 42'		08 55'	
(E)	04 04'		07 40'	
(H)	04 30'		06 02'	
(J)	04 45'		03 25'	
(N)	04 34'		01 53'	
(X)	04 49'		01 42'	
(Y)	04 14'		01 00'	
(Z)	06 10'		03 14'	East.

P I K E

(L)	07 42'	North.	14 18'	West.
(M)	03 55'		08 16'	
(N)	04 34'		01 53'	
(X)	04 49'		01 42'	
(Y)	04 14'		01 00'	
(Z)	06 10'		03 14'	East.

Cont. Bream.

B R E A M.

(L)	07	42'	North	14	18'	West.
(O)	06	52'		13	34'	
(P)	03	34'		08	16'	
(Q)	04	12'		02	13'	
(X)	04	49'		01	42'	
(Y)	04	34'		01	00'	
(Z)	06	10'		03	14'	East.

M I N N O W.

(L)	07	42'	North	14	18'	West.
(R)	06	40'		13	53'	
(S)	03	00'		08	02'	
(V)	03	00'		03	16'	
(W)	04	32'		02	00'	East.

P E R C H.

(L)	07	42'	North	14	18'	West.
(T)	05	42'		14	18'	
(U)	02	34'		09	12'	
(V)	05	00'		03	16'	
(W)	04	32'	North	02	00'	East.

Positions (X) and/or (Y) may be omitted as necessary.

Lagos and Takoradi acknowledge receipt by signal.

181942Z.

A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (UF) (2)
U.W.R.
D. cf P. (2)
D.O.D. (H) (4)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.N.I. (4)
D.A/S.W.
D.A.U.D.
I.P. (2)
W.D.
D.C.

← No trace in War Registry, repetition has been asked for.

Plot.
D.D.I.C. (2)
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (C)
Ad. Blake. (4).

vs

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18.8.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

- S.T.74. Departures 0815Z/18 August. ABERDEEN, MILFORD, ARMERIA, COWSLIP, PETUNIA, DUNKERY with S.T.74.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 181355Z to N.O.i/c Takoradi, (R) Admty., R.N.O. Lagos).
- S.S. NEW NORTHLAND. Arrival August 18th.
(N.C.S.O. Takoradi 181601Z to Admty. etc.).
- S.T.74 Sailing telegram.
(2) 0800/18th August. (3) Knots 8.
(4) ADAHO for Robertsport. 19th August, AGEN for Bania (Has defective 4" gun), GOVERNER for Pernambuco, NYANZA for Victoria, Brazil. BEACONSFIELD and FORT ABITIBI for Rio de Janeiro. MAPLEWOOD for Montevideo. OCEAN GALLANT for Buenos Aires. MARY KINGSLEY and LITIOPA for Takoradi 23rd August. EMPIRE FLAMINGO for Lagos 24th August. THEMISTOCLES for Walvis Bay.
(5) (Route). (8) Separate signal will be made giving routes and particulars of Cape and South American ships.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 181756Z to Admty.).
- SUFFREN etc. Your 17154B (Sailings of ERLING, BROVIG and F.C. SUFFREN and F.C. DUGUAY TROUIN) Pointe Noire to S. 003 degs. South 006 degs. East thence Takoradi. (F.O.C.W.A. 181944Z to C. in C.S.A.).
- Air Report. Daily Opsum 5 ending 1800 hours Aug.17.
(2) A/S sorties.
(a) Sunderland G/204 (b) A/S patrol (c) 1429 sighted U-boat periscope (d) 14.28 N. 18.03 W. (e) approx. West (f) 2-3 K.T.S. U-boat disappeared before attack could be made.
- Part 2. (A) Hudson O/200. (B) S.L.135. (C) Sighted 0929 attacked 0929. (D) 14.11 N. 17.40 W. (F) 3 knots. (H) Four D/Cs. (I) D/cs. 2 and 3 straddled U-boat track. D/cs. dropped 12 seconds after U-boat submerged centre of stick was between stem and conning tower 15 feet above U-boat. Visible damage, large oil patch 2-3 miles long 100-200 feet wide light debris.
(4) ?My Opsum 3 para.1 force F.G.
(A) Add 1 Wellington. (B) 1030- 1645. (C) ?8 hours 55 mins.
(5) (A) Hudson O/200. (B) U-boat hunt sighted oil patch 600 yards long 75 yards wide position 14.20 N. 17.39 W. colour blue tinge (?time) 1911. At 1927 sighted second oil patch 4-5 miles long 1 mile wide in patches dark bluish green.
(A.H.Q. West Africa 182215).

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18.8.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of one medium sized merchant vessel and 3 escort vessels, 41.42 N, 12.11 E. 060° 8 knots.
(A/C HTZ/H 180010B.)
P.C. and S. of one escort vessel 41.39 N. 12.20 E. 170 12.
(A/C HTZ/D 180209)

BUCK. C. in C. Med. 171059 my 171442 direct BUCK proceed immediately upon completion of repairs 18th. Advise C. in C. Med. and F.O.I.C. Gibraltar prospective time arrival Gibraltar. (Commavnaw, 180134B to Com. N.O.B. Oran (R))
C. in C. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, INDOMITABLE, Cominch, Admty.)
BUCK departed.
(Commob Oran, 181959B to Admty. etc.)

Exaggerated Axis broadcast re attack on convoy. Your 162029B. As it is considered that it would create an undesirable precedent it is not proposed to deny the exaggerated Axis claim. If done on this occasion similar statements would be expected in future when complete refutation might not be possible. Enemy claims are now generally recognised to be either exaggerated or completely untrue.
(D.P.D. Approved by First Lord, 180233A to C. in C. Med. (M))

Movements, Alexandria. August 17th, 1943. Arrivals nil. Departures M/L. 384, Y.S.S. DURMITOR, KATMAKIAIN.
(N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 180745 to Admty.)

NIEUW AMSTERDAM. Arrived 0420 18th G.M.T.
(N.C.S.O. Suez, 180847C to Admty.)

AETOS. 17th August. Arrival.
(S.O.I. Beirut, 180852C to Admty.)

Oil Supplies. Tanker Situation. Your 121653. para. 1. (? 121635 intended). The necessity for any further retention should clarify about mid-September but number to be retained is expected to be small.
2. Your para. 2. Debit balance for July-August expected to be 110,000 tons furnace oil.
3. Your para. 3. Naval "Slate" bids took account of "Husky" and Post "Husky" estimated requirements up to end of September. No reductions were made for possibility of supply from Mid. East, it being my intention to cut western supply when eastern supply was guaranteed. In addition A.F.H.Q. Petroleum Section took action at my request remove debit. See Eisenhower's Cite FH PET 578 to Troopers Ref. No. W.6705/8553 (?6795/8553) of 7th August.

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Oil
Supplies
Tanker
Situation.
(Contd.)

4. Your para. 6. It is doubtful if this can be arranged. A.N.P.B. are sole arbiters of "Make up" of convoys which have often sailed before details of "Break-down" of cargoes reach A.F.H.Q. Intend to forward to you monthly copies of naval "Slate" bids and copy of North African Oil "Slate".
(C. in C. Med., 180929 to Admty.)

PENELOPE,
sweep.

Sweep Cape Palinuro to Scalea. (?387) rounds at Scalea. Result obscured by enemy smoke. Hospital Ship ACQUILIA in position 039° 30' N. 015° 25' E. course degrees 20 at 0230.
(PENELOPE, 180942B to C. in C. Med. (R) Comnavaw, Cdr. T.F. 88, C.S.12, N.O.I.C. Tunisia.)

M.K.S.22.

Pass to Cdre. and escort. Intend to join at 1800B 20th August.
OCEAN VISCOUNT ballast Oran for Melilla 9.
SACKLA ballast Algiers for orders.
(N.O.I.C. Tunis, 180951B to SLAZAK P.D.(R) Admty. etc.)

M.E.Air
Report.

A660 18th August, Daily opsum 112. 16/17 August: 4 Wellingtons each armed torpedo and bombs anti-shipping R/C West Coast Greece and Sea. One attacked westbound tanker 1500 tons off Patras with torpedo and bombs. No hits claimed. Second bombed Preveza Harbour bursts seen between quays and town. Third bombed one M/V 600 tons with 3 small vessels off Keos Island. One small vessel claimed damaged. Fourth Wellington made no sightings. Single enemy aircraft flew over Cyprus and Syrian Coast. One bomb reported near Limassol Aerodrome. No damage. Flares or flash bombs dropped on South Coast Cyprus and North Beirut. 3 Beaufighters 4 Hurricanes up no interception. Following delayed details.
16th August: 4 Beaufighters including 2 armed with bombs attacked 2 merchant vessels 300 and 1,500 tons respectively in Missolonghi. One hit two near misses with bombs on larger vessel. Both ships attacked with cannon and machine guns many of crew of smaller vessel jumped over board. A/A gun positions in harbour also attacked.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 180954Z)

G.U.S.12.

Amend destination of WILLIAM WEBB to U.S.A. Pass to Cdre and ship concerned.
(C. in C. Medn. (A) 181015B to ALYNBANK Escorts of convoy G.U.S. 12 DELPHINIUM.)

/Pass...

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

G.U.S.12. Pass to Cdre. Algiers section sail as in my
(Contd.) 161934 less FRANCIS L. LEE (Total 10 ships).
(N.O.I.C. Algiers, 181104B to Escorts of Convoy
G.U.S.12.)

G.U.S.12. Following arrived OCEAN VISION,
OCEAN GLORY, OCEAN VULCAN, FORD, HOWESN FRANZVAN MIERKE.
(5 ships).
(Com. Algeria, 181900B to Admty. etc.)

VASNA. Request you will sail H.S. VASNA for U.K. p.m.
August 21st.
(?C. in C. Levant, 181028C to R.A. Alex.)

Black Sea. 1. Enemy shipping. Air attacks (a) Torpedo
aircraft sank 3,000 ton merchant vessel in an
attack on a convoy 40 miles East Sulina on
August 7th (B) On August 10th. torpedo aircraft
and bombers attacked an enemy convoy off Cape Tarkhan sinking
6,000 and 3,000 ton merchant vessels and damaging third ship
(C) During period Aug. 16th. to Aug.13th (sic) (?6th to 13th)
Russian aircraft sank one E/Boat, four F. barges, three fishing
vessels and damaged five F. barges, three fishing vessels in
sea of Azov and Kerch Straits. Submarine attacks: 7,000 A
ton merchant vessel torpedoed sunk off coast of Crimea.
2. Air operations (a) Russian aircraft bombed and attacked
enemy positions in Novorossisk and on area Taman Peninsular on
August 6th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th. (B) On (corrupt group)
four enemy fighters destroyed, one by ramming; Russians lost
two planes.
3. Land. Russian Naval Forces have been attacking some days
on Novorossisk front. No information officially on (corrupt
group) offensive, but wounded state that Glebovka is now in
Russian hands.
(N.L.O. Black Sea 181047 to Admty. etc.)

U.G.S.13. Pass to Cdre. and escort. My 161437B sailed
less BRITISH VIGOUR plus 8½ TEMPLE YARD 13
Alexandria 9 DUKE OF ATHENS 22 Alexandria 10
FRANS HALS 23 Alexandria. 5 ships. Onward
route not received in time for issue.
(V.A. Malta, 181146B to GERALDTON, (R) Admty.
etc.)

U.G.S. 13, DAGO TWO, ESSO PROVIDENCE arrived.
(V.A.M. 181911B to Admty. etc.)

UNSEEN Intend sail P.51 UNSEEN at 0430 20th escorted by
DZIK. minesweepers to 5 miles beyond position B. in
Q.K.B.147 thence through. 035° 56' 016° 31' at
0400/21st, 037° 45' 017° 37' at 2000 21st,
039° 44' 018° 52' at 0300 23rd, 040° 20' 018°
52' at 1200 23rd, thence to patrol off Brindisi.*
Surface passage on 21st. (2) M/S will escort P.52 (DZIK)
back to harbour. (3) Request bombing restrictions for about
passage.
(Capt. S.10 181158B to P.52, DZIK, C. in C.Med, C. in C. Levant,
V.A. Malta, etc.)*Altered to Bari(191115 q.v.)

8th...

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18.8.1943.

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

8th S/M F. movements at 1959B/18th. (1) P.224 SICKLE 038° 16' 008° 10' through 038° 27' 010° 04' at 0520 19th thence (?000° or 012°) surfaced 10 knots until dawn 19th thereafter diving by day 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ /9. (2) P.217 SIBYL 039° 53' 006° 22' 025° surfaced 10 knots until dawn 19th thereafter diving by day 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ /9. (4) F.S. LA SULTANE in Gulf Genoa. (Capt. S.8 181232B)

BRONZO. Fourth alternative to C. in C. Med. 141120 is to offer Italian S/M BRONZO to Yugo-Slavs. Levant number 1847/827/3A of 17th July refers. 2. Consider however that Greeks deserve first refusal before Yugo-Slavs. (C. in C. Levant, 181242 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

K.M.S.22 Pass to Cdre. and escorts K.M.S.22 joining vicinity position 309 for Port Said (a) BELPAREIL 10' (b) MARIT MAERSK 9 local pendants (a)11 (b) 12. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 181252C to C. in C. Levant, R.A.Alex, etc.)

TORBAY Intend to sail TORBAY and TEMPLAR for Eastern Mediterranean in K.M.S.23 on 21st August. TEMPLAR. (2) Both S/Ms are fitted for patrol but consider that if they are required to patrol in Aegean, before arrival Beirut they should first visit Malta to obtain latest intelligence. (Capt. (S) 8 181356B to C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, etc.)

SCYLLA Your 121203 (Hush distribution N.T. in W.D.) CHARYBDIS. SCYLLA and CHARYBDIS will be made available. 2. No reliefs can be provided from Home Station until PHOEBE and SPARTAN are ready for service about 14th and 24th Sept. respectively. These two ships will be sent to Gibraltar to escort slow convoys until you can relieve them with SCYLLA and CHARYBDIS, when they will join your Command. 3. During the period no cruisers are available slow convoys will have to use the outer standard route in accordance with A.M. 052006, the drawbacks of the longer route and reduced air for the Bay being accepted. (D.O.D.(H), Approved A.C.N.S.(H) 181414A to C. in C. Med.)

SARACEN, presumed lost. German broadcast of 16th August claimed that a German Escort Vessel had rammed and sunk a British Submarine in the Mediterranean, many of the crew being prisoners of war. (2) SARACEN (P.247) who was ordered to patrol off Bastia during daylight of 13th August has since

/failed...

War Diary.18.8.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.SARACEN,
presumed
lost.
(Contd.)

failed to answer signals.
(3) I deeply regret therefore, that this fine submarine must be considered lost but it is hoped that most of the crew have been rescued as in the case of SAHIB and SPLENDID.
(4) C. in C. Levant pass by air to S.I.
(S.8 181424B to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.,
C. in C. Levant, F.O.S. S.I, S.10.)

M.K.S.22.

Pass to Cdre. Intend to sail 9 EMPIRE KINGSLEY
51 R/T M/F P.V. Gibraltar for Takoradi, 10
GEORGE WALTON, 52 M/F Oran for Hampton Roads?
9½ FORT SLAVE 61 M/F, P.V. Philippeville, 11
OCEAN STRANGER 62 N.D. R/T M/F P/V Bougie.
(N.O.I.C. Bone, 181512B to Esc. of Convoy
M.K.S.22, N.O.I.C. Philippeville etc.)

DINARD.

Intend to sail hospital carrier DINARD late
p.m. today to Philippeville in accordance with
F.O.S.Y.'s 161816. Route.
(N.O.I.C. Catania 181553B to N.O.I.C. Philippeville
(R) F.O.S.Y. etc.)

Med.
Air
Reports.

Signed Eisenhower, Cositintrep No. 39 17th August
Part 3 Air. First part. N.W.Af. Air Forces.
Night 16/17 August. 49 Wellingtons bombed
Viterbo (?airport) scoring hits on hangars and
L/G which started fires. Several planes unable
to find target, dropped their bombs on Grosseto,
Tarquina Elba and Marinella, with good results. 40 Wellingtons
bombed beaches at Maratea-Palmi, bursts straddled a concentration
of small boats, six Bostons attacked three M.Vs near Messina
scoring near misses. Day 17th August. 96 B.17s attacked
Istres le Tube a/d accurately covering target. 150 A/C on
field of which 15 were left burning. Other results obscured
by smoke. 84 B.17s bombed Salon A.S.D. Target area well
covered. 36 B.25s escorted by 23 P.38s bombed Palermi-
Vallenfiorita road. Results not good.
(Air C. in C. Med. No. T.O.O./18 Recd. 1555/18)

S/M
dispositions.

First submarine Flotilla August 18th. A.
Refitting MATROZOS, NEBOJSCA NEREUS, KATSONIS.
B. Operational, TACTICIAN. Port Said docking
completed TAURUS. Patrol Aegean. TROOPER.
Beirut. TRESPASSER Beirut. RORQUAL. Beirut.
(C. in C. Levant, 181620C to C. in C. Med.)

K.M.S.23.

Pass to Cmdre. and Escorts K.M.S.23. For Algiers
8½ GRAND QUIVELLY (French). For Bizerta 8
EILDON, 11 EDWARD RICHARDSON M/FN/D, 10½ HORACE
BINNEY M/F, U.S. L.S.Ts. 25, 72, 73, 175, 176,
208, 209, 261, 398, 17 (?207) 210.
(Comob Oran, 181637B to SHOREHAM (R) C. in C.
Med. (A) and (M) etc.)

/SIRIUS...

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

181920C ^{? August} Sept.

IN

From. C. in C. Levant.

Date. 3.9.43.

Recd. 2005.

NAVAL CYPHER (M) BY W/T

Addressed. Admiralty, C. in C. Med (A), COMNAV,
F.C.I.C. Gib. Commorocceanseafron, F.Osi/c &
N.Os i/c N. Africa (Oran & Tripoli), R.A. Alex.

Ref. A.M. 171253 P/T R.A. Alexandria
para. 1(ene) (a) Convoy route. FF rep. FF
~~KK rep. KK DD rep DD GG rep GG JJ rep JJ~~
~~EE rep. EE HH rep. HH.~~

Para. 1(ene) (b) Stragglers route. X A U Z W T
~~Y V rep Y A U Z W T Y V.~~ Admiralty pass to
COMNAV.

181920C (5 Aug 43)

~~Passing action being taken
by Tar Registry.~~

~~Advance Copy D.C. D.O.D. (F). Plot.~~

~~(Standard route for ^{GUS} ~~POS~~ convoys.)~~

A. C. N. S. (F)
C. N. S. (UT) (2)
U. R.
N. A. Mails.
D. C. D. (F) (2)
D. O. D. (H) (4)
D. T. D. (4)
Plot.
D. T. D. (C)
Hd. of M. (10)
D. D. I. C. (2)
D. of P. (2)
~~L. P. (2)~~
~~V. D.~~
D. C. (2)
D. A. S. I.
D. A. U. D.
Ad. Blako.
D. S. C.
U. S. N. (3)
C. C. L. S. (2)

War Diary.

18.8.1943.

Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

SIRIUS, Intend following movements 19th/20th August.
 DIDO, All positions North and East and times B.
 PENN, SIRIUS leaves Bizerta 0915 usual route.
 PANTHER. Rendezvous with DIDO, PENN, PANTHER at end at
 Palermo searched channel at 1830, thence
 through position (A) 038° 50' 014° 15' at 2030
 (B) 039° 30' 015° 40' at 0001 thence along Coast
 to position:
 (C) 038° 45' 015° 50' at 0210 thence North of Stromboli and
 Ustica. E.T.A. Bizerta 1500 20th
 Codeword "Decade". Call Sign 328.
 (SIRIUS, 181840B to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.12th C.S. etc.)

N.A.A.F N.A.A.F. Opsum 178. N.A. Strategic A.F.
 Report. 16/17 August - 47 Wellingtons Viterbo Airdrome
 1 bombed roads and railway Tarquinia, 1 railway
 station and bridge Marinella. 4(?) bombed
 railway and airdrome vicinity Grosseto, 1 gun
 position Elba and 6 bombed (?) widely Viterbo Area. 34 attacked
 objective. Many hits observed target area. Fires started in
 Hangars and on landing ground. 40 Wellingtons beaches between
 Palmi and Meratea. Many fires started target area.
 Concentrations barges straddled. Towns railways bridges also
 attacked. 17 August. 90 U.S. Fortresses SBRRN (As received)
 Airdrome. 6 returned early. Numerous fires among dispersed
 A/C. Large fires hangar area. Many A/C in area covered by
 bomb bursts. 104 U.S. Fortresses Istres Le Tube Airdrome.
 7 returned early. (?Approx) 150 A/C on airdrome. Area
 accurately and thoroughly covered. Hits Hangars and buildings.
 Fires and explosions. 36 U.S. Mitchells escort 24 U.S. Lightnings
 Road and railway targets Castrovillari. Direct hits railway
 in town. Road junction hit. All roads into town hit. 36 U.S.
 Mitchells escort 24 U.S. Lightnings Palermi - Valle Fiorita
 Road. 1 fighter returned early. Direct hits across Hairpin
 curve. Road cut on North and South sides of curve. 39 U.S.
 Marauders escort 36 U.S. Lightnings marshalling yards Battipaglia
 3 bombers, 5 fighters returned early. Target well covered.
 Fires started. 31(or 38?) U.S. Marauders escort 24 U.S.
 Lightnings temporary bridge Angitola. 2 fighters returned
 early. Northeast end covered. North bridge blown away.
 36 U.S. Lightnings swept Toe Italy. Trains and railway cars
 strafed. Two motor vehicles set on fire. Radar station
 Cape Spartivento strafed. N.A. Tactical A.F. 16/17 August.
 5 Bostons beaches Messina to Cape Peloro, 5 aircraft scored
 near misses. 2 ships with barges alongside. 1 aircraft
 bombed beached ship. Beaches also bombed and machine gunned.
 (H.Q. N.A.A.F. 181858B.)

Parts 3 and 4. 6 Bostons armed R/C roads Peloro to Gioia
 Little Movement seen. Palmi and Bagnara bombed, Fires
 started. 206 Warhawks 129 Kittyhawk bombers attacked coastal
 traffic Reggio to Palmi. Direct hits 5 Siebel Ferries 2 E-
 Boats, 4 barges. Near misses several other landing craft.
 (1?) motor transport damaged near Selita. N.W.Af. Coastal Air
 Force. 15/16 August (Add) 3 Wellingtons armed R/Cs East coasts
 Sardinia Corsica Elba approaches Leghorn, Spezia and West Italian
 Coast. 1 Wellington Naval co-operation. 3 Wellingtons shipping
 strike 2 failed to locate target. 1 attacked merchant vessel

/escort...

18.8.1943.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

N.A.A.F. Report. (Contd.) escort by destroyer 8 miles northwest Monte Circoe, 2 torpedoes dropped. Fire seen after attack. 16th August (Add) 4 Baltimores, 2 Marauders R/C east and west coasts Sardinia Corsica approaches Genoa Spezia North Tyrrhenian Sea and West Italian Coast. 4 Torpedo

Beaufighters and 4 anti flak Beaufighters attacked convoy of 2 merchant vessels 3,000 to 4,000 tons escorted by 1 large destroyer and 2 smaller destroyers 20 miles northeast Zannone Island. 4 Torpedoes dropped, 1 hit on each merchant vessel. 16/17 August. 4 Wellingtons armed R/C French and Italian Coasts from Marseilles to Naples. 1 attacked merchant vessel 4,000 tons off Imperia with torpedoes. Dense smoke followed attack. 4 Hudsons, 1 Wellington, 4 Beaufighters A/S patrol and convoy escort. Beaufighters destroyed, 2 H.E.111 attacking convoy off Bone. (H.Q. N.A.A.F. 181938B.)

DOLFIJN. Your escort will be ST. KILDA. 2. Set additional watch on 4900 kc/s per sec. from 0500/19th. Morning fog may be expected. 3. 2 destroyers from Eastward arriving about 0400/19th. 4. One Fleet Unit and 4 destroyers passing Algiers Eastbound at about 0800/19th. 5. Usual M.L. patrol. (Capt. (S) 8th S.F., 181902B to P.47 DOLFIJN.) Wellington aircraft is searching for suspected U/Boat South of 037° 00' N. (R) 037° 00' N. between 002° 40' E. and 003° 20' E. until 0200/19th. (Capt. (S) 8, 181938B to DOLFIJN.)

Route of G.U.S. convoys. A.M. 171253 passed to R.A. Alexandria paragraph 1(A) convoy route. FF, KK, DD, GG, JJ, EE, HH, Para. 1(B) Stragglers route. X A U Z W T Y V. Admty. pass to Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet C. & R. (C. in C. Levant, 181920C to Admty. etc.)

DZIK Information. Cable ship MIRROR escorted by HAZARD and BERYL leaving Malta 0700/19th for position 035° 37' 016° 08' and will be working there for some days. (Capt. (S) 10th S/F, 181930B to DZIK (R) UNRULY.)

Movements, Port Said. 18th August Port Said arrivals YSS. DURMITOR, YSS. KAJMAKAIAN. Departures ARPHA, FES. LA MOQUEUSE, IERAX, BREAM, BULLFINCH, Y.S.S. DURMITOR, Y.S.S. KAJMAKAIAN, TACTICIAN. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 181939C to Admty. etc.)

ABDIEL. Your 162011, not to R.A.(M) or F.O.I.C. Tyne. ABDIEL can be taken in hand mid-September at Wallsend Slipway Co. Newcastle. (D.D.O.D.(M) for D.O.D.(F) 181946A to C. in C. Med. (R) R.A.(M), F.O.I.C. Tyne.)

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18.8.1942

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

Malta AI 1083 18th August. Opsum No. 100 17th August
 Air 2 Spitfires made photo R/C of Taranto and
 Report. special areas in Toe of Italy. 1 Baltimore
 made A/S patrol south of Toe of Italy.
 17/18 August. 8 Mosquitoes made successful
 intruder patrols and attacks on railways in
 southern Italy. 2 x 250 lb. bombs dropped on Sibari
 Marshalling Yards caused continuous explosions and large
 persistent fires among trucks and sheds. 1 Do. 217 was
 attacked and destroyed 5 miles east of Brindisi. Near San
 Severo 1 goods train and locomotive were damaged and at
 Grazzanile bombs scored direct hits on the railway station.
 Other bombs were dropped on goods yard at Peitro Venitico
 Casarano railway station, industrial buildings at Barletta
 and the railway station at Concello. A total of 11 Boston
 and 6 Baltimore sorties were made from Malta against
 communications in Southern Italy. 7 Beaufighters made
 interception patrols north of Malta. 1 Wellington made
 shipping search in Gulf of Taranto and 2 torpedo carrying
 Wellingtons searched for enemy shipping between heel of Italy
 and Albanian coast. 18th August. 3 Spitfires made photo
 R/C of Taranto Naples and Foggia areas and 2 Baltimores made
 A/S patrols south of Toe of Italy.
 (R.A.F. Malta, 181955B)

Movements, Sailed French ships LA FANTASQUE AND LE TERRIBLE.
 Philippeville. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 182001B to Admty.)

Movements, Arrival LA FANTASQUE, LE TERRIBLE, PENELOPE,
 Bizerta. JERVIS, PALADIN. Departure, AURORA, DIDO,
 PENN, PANTHER, PATHFINDER, NICHOLSON, SECUTTER,
 HACKBERRY? Arrivals L.S.T. 200, 565, 403,
 P.C. 697, S.C.546. Departures L.S.T. 430, 302
 324, 367, 410, 431, 423, 369, 325, 385, 349, 379, 356, 377,
 MOULA.
 (N.O.I.C. Bizerta, 182015B to Admty. etc.)

Situation (1) PENELOPE, EURYALUS, PALADIN and JERVIS
 report operated North of Sicily and to Italian mainland
 No. 157. night 16th/17th. Nothing met. (2) U.S.
 Cruiser Force operated north of Messina night
 16th/17th without incident. (3) Following
 night PHILADELPHIA, PLUNKETT and BENSON
 bombarded bridges at Gioia, Tauro, causing heavy explosions; and
 BOISE, NIBLACK and GLEAVES bombarded Palmi Power Substation.
 Results not known. (4) PENELOPE, EURYALUS, PALADIN and
 JERVIS made sweep of Italian coast southwards from Cape
 Palinuro night 17th/18th and bombarded Scalea with 367 rounds.
 Results obscured by enemy smoke. (5) TROUBRIDGE, TYRIAN and
 TUMULT patrolling off Calabrian coast night 15th/16th engaged
 three E/Boats which fired torpedoes. E/Boats chased but made
 good escape.

/(6)...

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18.8.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation report No.157. (Contd.) (6) Heavy air attack on Bizerta night 17th/18th by 80 enemy bombers. Many bombs dropped over wide area. One ship known hit details not yet known, and Army Barracks hit and small fire on quay. Eight enemy aircraft shot down. Some casualties. (Further details, 192012) (page 682)

(7) M.T.B. off Messina night 15th/16th had inconclusive engagement with E/Boats, and were engaged by shore batteries resulting in damage reported in situation report No. 156.

(8) UPROAR reports one hit on 2,500 tons Merchant Vessel at 062158 in 41° 11' N. 16.56 E. UNSHAKEN sank 7,000 ton M/V off Brindisi on 10th and unsuccessfully attacked 750 ton U/Boat on 13th in Straits of Otranto. (U.453)

(C. in C. Med. (M) 182023B to Admty.)

Movements Haifa. Arrivals 18th August. Greek ships AETOS, ALPHEIOS and PENEIOS, French ship COMMANDANT DOMINE. Departures. FOINAVEN, REINE DES FLOTS (French) NOBLE NORA (Norwegian). (N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports, 182034C to Admty, etc.)

Movements, Algiers. Arrivals. MOUSA, M.M.S.140, S/Ms SURF (P.239) SIMOOM (P.225) KANARIS (GR), U.S.S. ANCON, U.S.S. BOLE, U.S.S. DORAN. Departures, HILARY, ITHURIEL in tow of WEASEL, MIAOULES (GR), AJACIENNE (FR), SERVAINAISE (FR), GOELAND (FR). Arrived and departed MENDIP, TYNEDEALE, U.S.S. DALLA. (Com. Algeria, 182046B to Admty. etc.)

GAMTOOS. Arrival. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 182103C to Admty.)

Movements, Tripoli. Arrived L.C.F. 10, L.C.T.416, 445, 624, 357, 329, L.S.T. 322, 303, L.C.I.(L) 106 Y.M.S.66, 65, 67, 185, sailed L.S.T. 408 arrived and sailed M.L.564. (S.N.O. Tripolitania, 182201B to Admty.)

BLACKMORE. E.T.A. 0700B 19th August. (BLACKMORE, 182207 to N.O.I.C. Algiers, (R) C. in C. Med.)

Movements Bone. Arrived M.M./S.4 Sailed M.M./S.58. (N.O.I.C. Bone, 182223B to Admty. etc.)

/Movements...

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18.8.1943.

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

Movements 18th August. Arrivals BEQUIA?, BOSTON, SEAHAM,
Malta. OFFA, PETARD, RAIDER, L.C.I.132.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 182235B to Admty.)

G.U.S.13 Request you will sail for (A) Benghazi,
BASSETHOUND. (T) LEESANG, (B)(?Tripoli)
AFGHANISTAN, MIRANDA, CAPE BELLAUISTA, CROMBIE.
(C) Malta FORT GEORGE, GARTER (T) JAMES J. MAGUIRE
(T) (D) Sicily, EMPIRE TROOPER, NEURALIA, KAROA. (E) Algiers,
EMPIRE GARRICK. (F) U.K. TREVORIAN KAITUNA, EMPIRE MOORHEN,
CITY OF KHIOS. (G) U.S.A. JACQUES CARTIER, ROBERT NEWELL.
(C. in C. Levant, 182242C to R.A. Alex.)

Enemy P.C. and S. of three small Merchant Vessels
Units. course 180° speed 5 knots.
(A/C GQN/W Via Alex., 182335B)
My 2335. Enemy previously reported are two
destroyers and two small merchant vessels.
(A/C GQN/W Via Alex, 182342B.)

Sicilian Signed Eisenhower. Following figures released
Campaign, result C. in Cs. press conference. Total
casualties. axis losses 135,00 prisoners by 10th August.
Estimated 32,000 killed and wounded, 260 tanks
and 502 guns to August 10th. Total German Force
originally 75,000. Casualties 6 - 7,000
prisoners. Some 24,000 killed and wounded from incomplete
returns. Incomplete returns estimate Allied losses 25,000.
Also 103 tanks and 251 guns. Aircraft losses in combat and
on ground enemy 1,691 Allied 274.
(A.F.H.Q. Algiers, No. T.O.O/18 to Agwar etc.)

SECRET

18/9

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

MESSAGE T.C.C./August.

IN.

From: A.F.H.Q. Algiers.

Date: 18.8.43.

Recd: 2200

CIPHER

Addressed: The War Office, C.in C. Middle East. D.of C. C.G.S. South Africa G.O.C. in C. East Africa C.in C. Persia Iraq. Repeated: Usfor. C.M.H.Q. London, C.G.S. Canada L.H.Q. Melbourne C.in C. India B.A.S. Washington, C.G.S. New Zealand, Resident Minister Achimota.

Sialy: Army Report.

148150 2539 cipher 17th August.

FIRST PART.

Gite FHGCT. Signed Eisenhower.

Seventy third Linrep. Summary of operations twelve to fifteen August. Para one. Ground. Eighth Army. Thirteen Corps. On right flank Fifty Div entering Riposto on twelve Aug against light opposition crossed river Venero and on fifteen Aug captured Taormina and Letojanni on coast road. Fifty one Div relieved Fifth Div and pushed forward to Linguaglossa. With Seventy eight Div which had reached area Maletto C seven one Fifty first Div completed clearance and repair of road Piodimonte Randazzo. On thirteen Aug Thirty Corps assumed command of Fifty and Fifty first Divs and thus of Eighth Army front. One Cdn Div. completed concentration in area NE of Lentini. Seventh Army. Two US Corps has made rapid progress and now threatens Messina. Ninth Div captured Randazzo on thirteen Aug and swung north through Basico C Nine four to reach Furnari C Nine four where contact was made with Third Div. Third Div continued advance along coast road through Patti C eight four and on fifteen Aug reached Spadafora ten miles due west of Messina. Line on sixteen Aug extended: Letojanni - Kaggi - Castiglione. C nine two - Furnari - Spadafora.

Para two. Naval. MTBs on patrol during night eleven twelve Aug fired torpedoes at three merchantmen entering Messina harbour. No definite hits claimed but explosion heard. On twelve Aug US Naval Forces bombarded enemy communications in Patti area. During night twelve thirteen Aug two sweeps were carried out by forces of cruisers and destroyers without incident. First force operated off Italian coast from Licosa fifty miles south of Naples to Gulf of San Eufemia second in Gulf of Taranto. Following night large fires were started by bombardment of Vibo Valentia and a coaster was blown up. On night fourteen fifteen Aug Scalea on south side of Gulf of Policastro was bombarded by two cruisers which fired one thousand rounds

SIRIUS 4210

/ in twenty minutes.

[Another copy, page 644 E.]

in twenty minutes. Other intense activity in Messina Straits and support of land operations has continued.

Para three. Air. Raid on Lorenzo and Littoria marshalling yards Rome thirteen Aug was carried out by 106 B seventeens Fortresses and 168 medium bombers. Same day 114 B twenty fours Liberators of Nine US Bomber Command Middle East attacked aircraft factories at Vienna without loss. Each night during period average of eighty Wellingtons bombed beaches and landing craft between Messina and Cape Pelero. As example support of ground operations 144 medium bombers on twelve August attacked targets of enemy troops, guns and supply dumps in area Patti and to east. Raids on S. Italy included bombing of Crotone airfield by twenty four B twenty fives Mitchells on twelve Aug. and attacks by formations of medium and light bombers on 13th Aug against railway communications. Considerable losses have been inflicted on small enemy shipping in Straits of Messina. From Malta Mosquito aircraft have carried out intruder missions over Italy.

Para four. Enemy. Following fall of Randazzo in center on 12th Aug withdrawal on all sectors accelerated and by 14th Aug enemy had broken contact on both east and north coastal roads. Further resistance unlikely except on peninsula Messina reported covered by 88 mm guns. Since early August systematic evacuation surplus motor transport, CD and AA personnel has taken place by means small craft. Traffic increased from 7th Aug and material unnecessary for maintaining delaying action in bridgehead began to be evacuated. Numbers of personnel transferred believed increased from 9th Aug and by 14th Aug main stage of evacuation reached. Orderly move to mainland covered by extremely heavy AA protection. Line units now definitely thinning out and enemy winding up campaign.

SECRET

644^B.

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 -

Para. five. Political. Nothing to report.

T.O.O. /August.

Recd. in War Reg. 0740/21st August.

Advance copies Ops. O.D. O.I.C.

War Office Circulation:

W.O.1.2.4.5.6.7.

G.S.(P)

M.I.3.8.(L) 14.17.

S.D.2.5.

Air Co-ord.

C.O.M.

R.A.8.

R.A.C.1.

Sigs.5.

E.Ops.

Q.Ops. 2 (4 copies)

A.G. Co-ord.

H.Q., F T O U S A

Brig. Jacob (W.C.O.)

Admiralty (War Reg.)

A.M.S.S.O.

C.O.H.Q.

Can. Mil. H.Q.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.(2)

D.F.S.L.

4th S.L.

A.C.N.S.(F)

A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)

A.C.N.S.(W)

A.C.N.S.(A)(2)

U.W.R.

Capt. Pim.

Ops.(3)

O.D.(5)

O.I.C.(3)

D.N.I.(5)

D. of P.(3)

D.A/S.W.

D.A/U.D.

D. of P.(Q)(3)

M.(2)

C.N.I.

D.P.D.

W.D.

I.P.(3)

Ad. Blake.(4)

D.D.O.D.(M)

D.R.O.(CO)(2)

H.W.R.

?EDC

SECRET

644^c

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message and the text must first be paraphrased* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

(*Note: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad: "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

MESSAGE

180020/August IN

From: 15 Army Group.

Date: 18.8.43

Reed: 0200

Cypher

To: Cositintrep addresses. 5th Army.

*Entry into Messina,
Army Report.*

MOST IMMEDIATE

147723

O 243 cipher 18th August.

Cositintrep number 39 to 1600B hrs.
17th August.

Part one begins.

Section One. Intelligence M.I.R.
Section Two. Ground Operations.

First. 8th Army TAC Army H.Q. Taormina,
30 Corps. Main 30 Corps H.Q. D0607. 50 Div. H.Q.
D1216. During night 16/17 landing at Scalletta was
reinforced. Elements 4 Armd. Bde. entered Messina
at 1000B hrs. using inland road. Many demolitions
on coast road which is under shell fire from mainland.

Second. 7th Army. 3 Div. 7 RCT. Patrols
entered Messina about 162000B closely followed by
forward elements 7 RCT. Very slight resistance to
entry into city. Some artillery fire from Mainland.
3 Ranger Bn. approaching outskirts Messina from
southwest this morning. 30 RCT moving northeast along
coast road at 1100B hrs. were just west of Capo
Peloro.

Section 3 AIR.

First. General impression of offensive night
reconnaissance was little activity Sicilian beaches
some shipping Messina Straits.

Second. Tactical Reconnaissance fighters and
bombers continued to report barges Siebels and
shipping in Messina Straits during day lessening

/towards.....

- 2 -

towards midday.

Third. Bomblines 7 and 8 Armies 1126hrs.
No bombing in Sicily.

Section 3 ends.

180020.

Advance Copy Ops.

Recd: from War Office 0717/18.

War Office Circulation:-

S. of S.

C.I.G.S.

V.C.I.G.S.

D.C.I.G.S.

D.M.O.

D.D.M.O.(O)

M.O.1.5.6.

M.O.4.(3 copies)

D.Plans (2 copies)

D.M.I.

D.D.M.I.(I)

D.D.M.I.(F)(Room 226)

M.1.3.14.17.

D.Air

D.D.Air.

Air Co-ord.

D.D.I.P.

I.P.1.

Brig. Jacob (22 copies)

War Registry (Admiralty)

Upper War Room (Admiralty)

A.M.C.S. (Air Ministry)

Brig. Rodger, Canadian Military H.Q.

C.O.H.Q. (Maj. Gen. Haydon).

1st Lord.

1st S.L.(2)

D.F.S.L.

4th S.L.

A.C.N.S.(F)

A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)

A.C.N.S.(A)(2)

A.C.N.S.(W)

U.W.R.

Capt. Pim.

Ops.(3)

O.D.(5)

O.I.C.(3)

D.A/U.D.

D. of P.(Q)(3)

M.(2)

C.N.I.

D.P.D.

W.D.

I.P.(3)

Ad. Blake (4)

D.D.O.D.(M)

D.R.O.(C.O.)

D.A/S.W.

D. of P.(3)

D.N.I.(5)

644^D

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.

~~MONO SECRET~~ Pages shown as ~~base~~ sent in a One Time Pad IN
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

From: 15 Army Group.

Date: 19.8.43.
Recd: 0055.

CYPHER

Addressed: The War Office and Cositintrep Addressees.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

147932 O.950 cipher 18 Aug.

Cite FHGCT & FHGBI Signed Eisenhower.

Cositintrep number 40 to 1600B hrs. 18 Aug.

Section 1. Intelligence. PW's confirm enemy rearguard formed from 29 PG Div on Eighth Army front some PW's taken from Goering and Parachute Eng. Bn.

Section 2. Ground Operations.

1. Eighth Army. 30 Corps. All organised resistance in Sicily has ceased. Some shelling from the mainland was reported on the coast road south of Messina. 13 Corps. N.T.R.
2. Seventh Army. Two Corps continuing assembly and have begun movement of units to western Sicily. Three Div. continued occupation of Messina and Capo Peloro Peninsula. One bn 36 FA from area D3000 engaged in counter battery firing across Straits of Messina. Prov Corps. 82 Airborne Div assembled vicinity Palermo prepared to move to North Africa as shipping becomes available.

Section three air. N.T.R. escorting (number corrupt) P38's scored direct hits on the bridge of Angitola. 36 P38's on fighter sweeps over too of Italy shot up 25 R.R. cars and destroying one radar station at C.(?Spartivento). 2 P38's destroyed one B26 missing. 33 B26's escorted by 26 P38's attacked Battipaglia marshalling yards. Target well covered. One P38 destroyed one B26 missing.

2. Malta - night 16/17 August eight Mosquitoes attacked roads and R.R's in southern Italy with good results. Day 17 August 4 Beaufighters carrying bombs, damaged two He 111 at Argostoli in Greece and hit a 1,200 ton schooner.

3. Enemy air activity - night 17/18 August 80 plus e/a attacked Bizerte area. 8 destroyed by (?AA) and Beaufighters extent of damage unknown.

4. Air intelligence. Enemy fighter reaction to our missions during day was slight. B17's over southern France encountered only six e/a approximately 25 e/a were reported over Messina Straits and southern Italy not aggressive.

Recieved in War Reg. at 0340/19.

No T.O.O.

/Circulation....

War Office Circulation:-

.....molt:Inverio\

S. of S. I.P.1.
C.I.G.S. Brig. Jacob (22 copies)
V.C.I.G.S. War Reg. Admiralty,
D.C.I.G.S. Upper War Rm. Admiralty,
D.M.O. A.M.C.S. Air Ministry
D.D.M.O. (0) Brig. Rodger, Canadian
M.O. 1.5.6. Mil. H.Q.
M.O. 4 (3) C.O.H.Q. (Maj-Gen. Haydon)
D. Plans (2)
D.M.I.
D.D.M.I. (I)
D.D.M.I. (F) (Rm. 226)
M.I. 3.14.17.
D. Air.
D.D. Air.
Air Coord.
D.D.I.P.

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)
A.C.N.S. (W)
U.W.R.
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.O.D. (H) (4)
D.D.I.C. (2)
D. of P. (2)
D.C. (2)
Hd. of M. (2)
D.N.I. (4)
I.P. (2)
D.P.D.
C.N.I.
W.D.
Ad. Blake.
D.D.O.D. (M)
D.A.W.T.
D. of L.D.
D.G.D. (2)

EJ

.....molt:Inverio\

644^E 18

MOST SECRET

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(*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad: M E S S A G E T.O.O. Nil/August
MOST SECRET "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.) IN

From A.F.H.Q. Algiers

Date 18/8/43
Time 2200

CIPHER

Addressed War Office, C. in C. Middle East, L. of C., C.G.S.
South Africa, G.O.C. in C. East Africa, C. in C.
Persia Iraq, Pass to: C.M.H.Q. London, C.G.S. Canada
L.H.Q. Melbourne, C. in C. India, B.A.S. Washington
C.G.S. New Zealand, Resident Minister Achimota. USFOR.

148150

Ref. No. 2539. 17th August.

FIRST PART.

Cite FHGCT. Signed Eisenhower.

Seventy third Linrep. Summary of operations twelve to fifteen August.

Para. 1. Ground. Eighth Army. Thirteen Corps. On right flank Fifty Div entering Riposto on twelve August against Light opposition crossed river Venero and on fifteen August captured Taormina and Letojanni on coast road. Fifty one Div relieved Fifth Div and pushed forward to Linguaglossa. With Seventy eight Div which had reached area Maletto C seven one Fifty first Div completed clearance and repair of road Piedimento Randazzo. On thirteen Aug. Thirty Corps assumed command of Fifty and Fifty first Divs and thus of Eighth Army front. One Cdn. Div completed concentration in area NE of Lentini. Seventh Army. Two US Corps has made rapid progress and now threatens Messina. Ninth Div captured Randazzo on thirteen Aug and swung north through Basico C nine four to reach Furnari C nine four where contact was made with Third Div. Third Div continued advance along coast road through Patti C eight four and on fifteen August reached Spadafera ten miles due west of Messina. Line on sixteen August extended: Letejanni - Kaggi - Castiglione. C nine two Furnari - Spadafera.

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/ twenty

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Para. five. Political. Nothing to report.

T.O.O. Nil.

Received in War Registry a.m./21.

Advance copies sent D.C., D.O.D.(F) & D.D.I.C.

1st Lord.
 1st S.L.(2)
 D.F.S.L.
 4th S.L.
 5th S.L.
 D.C.N.A.E.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S.(A)(2)
 A.C.N.S.(F)
 A.C.N.S.(W)
 U.W.R.
 D.O.D.(F)(2)
 D.O.D.(H)(4)

D.D.I.C.(2)
 D. of P.(2)
 D.C.(2)
 Hd. of M.(2)
 D.N.I.(4)
 I.P.(2)
 D.P.D.
 C.N.I.
 W.D.
 Ad. Blake.
 D.D.O.D.(M)
 D.A.W.T.

Message delayed
 through being received
 corrupt.

D.T.S.D.
 D.DO.D.(C)
 D.G.D.
 D. of P.(Q)(3)
 D.R.O.(C.O.)(2)

645

18.8.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

"S"
Report
?
EMPIRE
STANLEY. At 1550Z/17th bearings taken of an SS.
SS. BN. were estimated to have been originated
by a ship probably EMPIRE STANLEY in a
position within 150 miles of 025° S. 050° E.
(C. in C. E.F. 180010Z to S. & A.E.I.S. Admty.
C. in C. S.A. 246 Wing, Air H.Q. E.Af.)
Survivors found see 202207Z.

DIPAVATI. Departure.
(S.O. (I) Bombay 180131Z to Admty. etc.)

Movements
Summary
No.85. Message Y 346 (T.O.O 170842) movements summary
No.85 para 8 cancel Y.334 of July 30th. (T.O.O.
301515) Y.324 is still in force.
(C. in C. E.F. 180724Z to E.F.348Y.)

Raider
situation
No.35. ALCIDES overdue Fremantle from Abadan since
8th and GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER overdue Aden
from Hobart since 11th are possible victims of
raider H. Raider possibly operating in area
020° to 030° S. 080° to 100° E.
(C. in C. E.F. 180725Z to E.F. 347Y., F.L.O.
Delhi, A.C.N.B. N.O.I.C. W.Australia, Cmdre.
7th U.S. Fleet., C.T.F. 71.)

India
Air
Report. A.301 18 Aug. 17 August. 6 Hurricanes
successfully attacked river craft Akyab area.
6 Hurricanes attacked enemy troops Maungdaw area.
2 Beaufighters on sweep of Irrawaddy attacked
and damaged 35 Sampans and fired oil tank at
Kanhla. 2 Beaufighters abandoned operations due
weather. 2 Hurricanes TAC/R Kalywa. 4 Hurricanes TAC/R Mayu.
1 Mitchell B.25 P.R.U. covered 60 miles Prome-Taungup Road.
4 M.T. visible 1 Hurricane P.R.U. Akyab. No aircraft or
shipping activity. Outstanding Reports 10th U.S.A. A.F.
(A.H.Q. India 180825Z to Air Min.)

Convoy
C.X.6. Sailing telegram Part 2. (2 Ships, names etc.)
(N.C.S.O. Colombo 180915Z to Admty.)

Combined
Operations,
Organisation. Intend to set up following organisation at
Bombay as from a date which will be communicated.
Para 3. of your 301949 July refers.
(A) SALSETTE under command of Act.Capt. C.A.
Kershaw, R.N. bearing all categories of combined
operations personnel. (B) BRAGANZA under command
of Act.Capt. C. Naylor, R.N. to be R.N. Depot, Bombay, carrying
out normal functions of a naval depot and bearing depot
complement, transit personnel, D.E.M.S. personnel etc.
(C) Commission BRAGANZA II as an independent command with
accounts carried in BRAGANZA under command of Act.Capt. J.D.A.
Musters, R.N. Senior Officer, Assault ships and craft India
(short title S.O.A.S.C. (I) bearing all administrative and
maintenance base staffs of the combined operations dockyard

/organisation...

646

18.8.1943.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Combined Operations, Organisation. (Contd.) organisation. (2) A.B. and C. above to be administered by the Senior R.N. Officer, Bombay, (short title S.R.N.O. Bombay) who will undertake the administrative functions at present carried out by F.O.Ceylon in respect of SALSETTE and BRAGANZA. (3) It will also be necessary to set up an independent command for coastal forces under the command of Capt. A.G.V.Hubback, R.N. Commanding Officer, Coastal Forces India (short title C.O.C.F. (I)) according to where his headquarters are located, either at Bombay or Trincomalee, BRAGANZA III or HIGHFLYER II will be commissioned. Further signal will be made. (4) F.L.O. India pass to M.F.C. E.F., Arminia, F.O.C.R.I.N., and D.C.O. (I). (C. in C. E.F. 181046 to Admty. (R) F.O. Ceylon, etc.)

ALCIDES (Norwegian tanker overdue.) DAVID O. HUGHES U.S.A. while on passage Hobart to Colombo sighted derelict tanker with stern blown off in vicinity of 01° 25' N. 78° 31' E. at 1700 East G. August 10. Your 171651A August may refer. (F.O. Ceylon 181213Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F. A.C.N.B., S.N.O.P.G.)

Convoy B.M.60. Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Colombo 181221Z to Admty.)

Movements Colombo. Colombo arrivals 18th August. 0050Z ROHILKHAND, 0100Z SUFFOLK, 0830Z M.Ls. 438, 440, 441, 474, 475, 476, 477. Departures 0030Z KATHIAWAR, 0200Z SUFFOLK, 0900Z BARODA. (F.O. Ceylon 181250 to Admty, etc.)

Convoys W.S.32, C.M.45, Ocean Escorts. Para. 2 of your 171909. Intend meeting extra escort commitments as in my 181432Z to C. in C. S.A. (C. in C. E.F. 181430 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A. F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Cancel my 150943 (150941 intended) not to all addressees. (2) The following is revised arrangement for ocean escort to convoy W.S.32 and C.M.45. (3) In order to reduce the number of cruiser escorts required for each convoy from three to two, both these convoys will be routed close to Socotra, the Aden portion being detached to proceed to Aden reyling for protection on air A/S escort. (4) Ocean escort will be provided as follows:- (A) Convoy W.S.32. HAWKINS then EMERALD. (B) Convoy C.M.45. CERES then HAWKINS. (5) N.O.I.C. Aden is requested to confirm that continuous air A/S escort can be provided for STRATHMORE arriving Aden about 8th September and for STRATHEDEN and SIBAJAK arriving Aden about 17th Sept. (6) Admty. 171909 part 3 refers. (C. in C. E.F. 181432Z to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Durban, F.O. 4th C/S, Comdre. R.I.N., F.O. Ceylon, F.O.C.R.I.N., N.O.I.C. Aden.)

/Para...

18.8.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Convoys
W.S.32,
C.M.45,
Ocean
Escorts.
(Contd.)

Para. 2 of my 150941 August. Convoy C.M.45 will not now have to be delayed for Ocean Escort. D. of S.T. 170212 refers. 2. My 181432 and a.m.171909 also refer.
(C. in C. E.F. 181444 to D. of S.T.)

ATREUS
programme.

Your 160123Z. A. Concur. Lot number of detonator in any mine which misfires is to be reported. B. Sinkers should be recovered and ground cleared if possible. D. Concur if these sinkers are not required for scrap metal locally. E.F. & G. Concur.
(D.T.M. 181453A to ATREUS (R) C. in C. E.F.)

Changes in
U.S.Pacific
Fleet
dispositions.

PENNSYLVANIA in North Pacific. VICTORIOUS, LONG ISLAND at sea. ALTAMAHA at Freemantle. PRINCE WILLIAM, NASHVILLE, HONOLULU at Pearl. NEW ORLEANS, BARNES, at San Diego. CONCORD at Callao. TRENTON at Valparaiso.
A.M.111210/August refers.
(D.O.D. (F) 181455A to C. in C. E.F.)

East Indies
Bases,
Scale of
Attack.

Your 65879/COS 15 Aug. to me only. Ref. Troopers 56807/7 Aug. (081315).
1. I consider scale of attack on port areas has been written down too much. In view vital importance Ceylon ports to Eastern Fleet strong A.A. defence is imperative. 2. Recommend scales Trincomalee 48 H.A.A. and 54 L.A.A. Colombo and Ratmalana 48 H.A.A. and 36 L.A.A. 3. Koggala and Katukurunda being near line of approach to Colombo are liable to appreciate high level attack. Other airfields Vavuniya, Sigiriya, Minneriya Puttalam not considered liable to high level attack of any size. Together with landing grounds Komariya, Kalametiya and two in Jaffna area for protection Palkanchoraoe they require minimum scale against low flying attack. For all these commitments and provision of small reserve consider necessary 24 H.A.A. and 66 L.A.A. total Ceylon target therefore 20 H.A.A. and 156 L.A.A.
Request early approval.
(C. in C. Ceylon 181500Z to Armindia (R) C. in C. E.F. Troopers.)

BURMA.

Para. 2 (B) of your 170210 August (see Med.) Ship quoted is acceptable.
(C. in C. E.F. 181544Z to D.S.T.)

War Diary.18.8.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

W.8. W.8 E.T.A. Boom 1030Z/18th. Boiler hours ROXBOROUGH, SASKATOON, DUNVEGAN, ROXBOROUGH, DUNVEGAN defects. (ROXBOROUGH, 180100Z to C. in C. C.N.W.A. (R) D. Halifax.)

ALGOMA. E.T.A. 051 degs. 18' N. 057 degs. 00' W. 1800Z/18th. P.C. and S. at 0100Z/18th 049 degs. 50' N. 059 degs. 51' W. 051 degs. 8 knots. Weather report. (ALGOMA, 180105Z to PRESERVER, (R) F.O.N.F., C. in C. C.N.A.)

Movements. St. Johns N.F. 17th, Arrivals EVENLODE ex Argentia. SARNIA GEORGIAN ex B.W.51. ADHERENT ex proceeding to assistance of SS. MEIGLE. KAMLOOPS, POLYANTHUS, FUSILIER ex O.N.196. B.Y.M.S. 229, M.M.S. 244, M.M.S. 251 ex proceeding to U.K. Departures BROCKVILLE to O.N.196. ESQUIMALT to W.B. 44. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F.180118Z) Arrival 18th U.S.E.D. IONIAN. (B.R.O. Georgetown, 180800Q) Departure H.M.S. CHELSEA to H.X.252. (C. Halifax, 180229Z to Admty. etc.)

Convoy G.U.S.11, U/B. Preliminary fix of bearings at 0205Z and 0216Z indicates U-Boat within 150 miles of 36 degs. 00' N. 42 degs. 00' W. (D.D.I.C. 180301Z to T.G. 89.6. Escorts of G.U.S.11, T.G.21.13. (R) Cominch, Commorseafon, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. W.A., H.Q.C.C., N.S.H.Q.)

Movements Summary 1300 G.M.T.18th. T.A.57 position 50 $\frac{1}{2}$ degs. N. 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ degs. W. Course 245 degs. speed 19 $\frac{1}{2}$. (D.O.D.(F), 181001Z to Opnav (R) Comnav) (R) Comnav

A/S Forces Eastern Atlantic, strengthening. Following ships are placed under operational control of C. in C. W.A. in order to strengthen A/S forces in Eastern Atlantic. SAINT CROIX, SAINT FRANCIS, CHAMBLY, MORDEN, SACKVILLE. (2) Request you will sail CHAMBLY and SACKVILLE to Londonderry as soon as ready reporting earliest date they can proceed. (3) ST. FRANCIS and MORDEN will be sailed to arrive St. Johns about August 24th for fuel and onward routing to Londonderry as soon as ready. (C. in C. C.N.A. 181054Z to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C. W.A., D. Halifax, N.S.H.Q., D. Newfoundland, Admty. Com. D. W.A.) Your 181054Z para. 2. SACKVILLE sails Aug. 19 vide my 171918Z. CHAMBLY will sail independently a.m. Aug. 23 upon completion of defects. (F.O.N.F. 181706Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.

- B.Y.M.S. (1) B.Y.M.S. 173, 75, 157, 229, 52, 55 and 74 sailed At. Johns 1100Z 18th for Londonderry. Speed 10 knots. (2) Route and W/T routine as in my 081537Z. (F.O.N.F. 181134Z to Admty.)
- B.X.69. P.D. New York for B.R.L.O. and Midship New York. Convoy B.X.69 sailing telegram Part 2. My despatch 171934 add SS. MANCHESTER SPINNER as departing Boston with B.X.69 convoy. (U.S. Navcom, 181301 to Admty.)
- COWICHAN. Arrival COWICHAN ex H.X.252. (C. Halifax, 181314Z to Admty. etc.)
- ACONIT. Your 172251A to all. Having fuelled and stored proceed to New Orleans passing through following positions: (Route)
Thence direct to New Orleans speed 12 knots signalling E.T.A. to Cdr. 8th U.S. Fleet. (R) Cdr. Gulf Sea Frontier, C. in C. C.N.A., B.A.M.R.
(3) Acknowledge and report time of departure to addressees of this signal.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 181348Z to ACONIT, (R) Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet. C. & R. ANTWERP, Cdr. 8th U.S. Fleet, Admty, C. in C. W.A., N.O.I.C. St. Pierre, B.A.M.R. Cdrs. Gulf Sea Frontier.)
- Convoy W.H.X.252. Sailing telegram. (2) 1800Z 18th. (3) Junctions in position 045 degs. 25' N. 050 degs. 24' W. 1200Z August 19th. (4) 10 knots. (5) and (8) as C. in C. C.N.A.'s 101740 Aug. and Admty.041301 July. (6) GRENADE. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 181423Z to Admty.)
- Convoy T.O.7. Curacao section arrived. (C.A.E.A.C. 18133 to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)
- U.S. S/M Estimate. (Cominch, 181430Z)
- Air Sqdn. for Iceland. Comairlant 171932 to Comfairwing 9. for action, and following for information: Admty. Cinclant, Comtenth Fleet, Senav, Fairwing 7 Argentinia, Compatron 84, Combomron 128 and Comfairwing 7.
When ready on or about 23 August direct Bomron 128 proceed Iceland. On arrival report by despatch to Comfairwing 7, for duty for operational control by British Authorities. Transfer administration to Comfairwing 7. Cominch 091311 not to all addressees. (Comnavu, 181432Z to Air Min. (Pass to R.A.F. Station St. Eval.) (R) Admty.)

Dispositions /...

650

18.8.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Dispositions. B.Y.M.S. 240 03.3 046 degs. 48' 052 degs. 28' 010 degs. 10 en route St. Johns N. F. H.M.C.S. PRINCE ROBERT 040 degs. 57' 053 degs. 16' 051 degs. 16.5 H.X.252 W.6 043 degs. 34' 053 degs. 59' 083 degs. 9.5 altering to 054 degs. in 053 degs. 43' W. and to 042 degs. in 045 degs 00' N. W.H.X.252.

HESPERIA, GRENADIER 047 degs. 14' 052 degs. 18' 147 degs. 10 to junction with H.X.252 in 045 degs. 20' 050 degs. 32' at 1200Z 19 NY 19.

ARIEN, CHICKADEE, HOWARD PALMER 047 degs. 13' 054 degs. 15' 041 degs. 13.5 O.N.S. 15 W.2 045 degs. 32' 054 degs. 22' 273 degs. 8 alter to 234 degs. in 058 degs. 52' W. B.W.52

H.M.C.S. STRATFORD 045 degs. 58' 055 degs. 06' 081 degs. 9 alter to 083 degs. in 054 degs. 50' W. and to 045 degs. 44' 052 degs. 51' W. and to 010 degs. in 046 degs. 24' N. W.B.40

H.M.C.S. ESQUIMALT 046 degs. 34' 055 degs. 57' 242 degs. 7.5 alter to 281 degs. in 046 degs. 10' N.

H.M.C.S. BATTLEFORD 043 degs. 27' 057 degs. 34' 12 en route Halifax S.G.29 (U.S.) Cdr. Task Unit 24.8 061 degs. 38' 057 degs. 52' 090 degs. 8.

S/S MOSDALE 047 degs. 59' 048 degs. 48' 238 degs. 14 alter to 258 degs. in 053 degs. 12' W. U.S.S.C. 708 045 degs. 33' 057 degs. 21' 057 degs. 12 altering for Argentia in 055 degs. 01' W. B.Y.M.S. 173, 75, 157, 229, 52, 55, 74, 048 degs. 25' 050 degs. 39' 059 degs. 10 via Great Circle route to Londonderry. (C. in C. C.N.A. 181525Z)

L.N.17. ALCOMA, ALBERNI, VILLE DE QUEBEC 051 degs. 25' 056 degs. 45' 051 degs. 8 alter to 009 degs. in 052 degs. 01' N. 052 degs. 15' N. 055 degs. 29' W. thence coast wise to destination

S.B.61 MISCOU 047 degs. 16' 059 degs. 45' 010 degs. 8 alter to 060 degs. in 048 degs. 36' N.

Q.S.64. MILLTOWN, UNGAVA, CAPE ARGONA, CAPE MARIATO 049 degs. 05' 063 degs. 55' 121 degs. 8 alter to 152 degs. in 060 degs. 55' W.

78th M.L. Flotilla Sweeps ahead of Q.S.64 detached in 048 degs. 49' 063 degs. 20' thence Gaspe. MILLTOWN detached from Q.S.64 to sweep 047 degs. 30' 064 degs. 20 thence Gaspe, 77th M.L. Flotilla depart Gaspe 1600Z/18th to position 048 degs. 49' 063 degs. 20' thence sweeping ahead of Q.S.64 to 047 degs. 53' 060 degs. 55' thence Magdalen Is. B.A.D. pass P/L to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.

(C. in C. C.N.W.A. 181625Z)

My 181625Z add WASAGA escorting MONTMORENC PARK 045 degs. 59' 062 degs. 02' 9 knots via Gut of Canso thence coast-wise to Halifax through position 044 degs. 30' 062 degs. 40' B.A.D. Washington pass P/L to Cominch.

(C. in C. C.N.W.A. 182203Z)

LE GLORIEUX Enemy S/M estimate 1200Z/18.
information. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 181537Z to LE GLORIEUX)

Convoy. G.A.T.80 arrived.
(B.R.L.O.Trinidad, 181554Q to Adnty.)

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

War Diary.

18.8.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

- B.Y.M.S. Holding Q.J.C.149 and Q.J.A.223 and guarding
F.T.2. B.A.M.S. B.Y.M.S. 76 and 33 and British
F.T.2 en route Halifax depart Boston Gate at
1300Q/18 August in company. Routed
via King 42.23 N. 70.42 W. L 42.31 70.18?
M. 42.37 67.32 N. 42.41 65.08 O 43.51 63.16. Speed 9.5?
knots. E.T.A. on 1100Q/20th August. The 76 is Senior Vessel.
(C.T.G.02.1, 181628 to Admty. etc.)
- T.A.60. (1) Ref. Q.M.266 para. 2. Please sail T.A.60
U.T.1. PASTEUR to Hampton Roads. Request no personnel
for Canada to obviate additional rail movement.
(2) Ref. Q.O./687, troopship starters U.T.1 now
CRISTOBAL, ARGENTINA and SANTA PAULA, total
capacity 13000.
(B.A.S. Washington, 181750Q to W.O.)
- U.S.A.T. 18th August U.S.A.T. CUBA.
(R.O. Cristobal, 181839 to Admty.)
- EMPEROR. C.E.S.F. pass to Com. 3 P.D. New York.
If H.M.S. EMPEROR is not ready to sail with
H.X.253 sail her singly to overtake provided
repairs and trials completed to allow sailing
within 18 hours after convoy departure. If she is not ready
within above limit hold her to sail in H.X.254.
(Cominch, 181847Z to C.E.S.F.)
- H.X.250. Average speed 9.25 knots. Off Oversay at
2115Z/11th August. All arrived.
(D.T.D. 181919A to Connav, N.S.H.Q.)
- B.Y.M.S. When ready about 0700Q August 19 depart Throggs
Neck proceed Boston via Long Island Sound and
Cape Cod Canal. Report to C.T.G. 02.1 for
onward routing to Halifax. Arrival Halifax
report C. in C. C.N.A. for orders. Speed 10 knots. Guard BAMS.
Call signs to be encyphered in S.P.02182(4) are: B.Y.M.S. 77,
BQZW: B.Y.M.S. 214, BRFZ. By hand to B.Y.M.S. 77 (S.O)
and B.Y.M.S. 214.
(Comeastseafon, 181925 to B.Y.M.S.77(S.O) B.Y.M.S. 214, (R)
N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., Admty. Cinclant, B.N.L.O.N.Y. C. in C. W.A.
Cominch, C.T.G. 02.3. C.T.G. 02.2, C.T.G. 02.1, C. in C. C.N.A.
C.T.F. 24.)
- Movements 18 August 1943. Arrival B.3 E.G. TOWYN,
Argentia. KEPPEL, NARCISSUS, ORCHIS, F.F.S. RENONCULE
ex O.N.S.15.
(Capt. (D) Argentia, 182000Z to Admty.)

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

- S/M Attack and Sighting Summary. Para. A. From Cominch. Action to Admiralty for O.I.C. U.S.S. GLENNON sights surfaced sub. area 36.11 N. 42.27 W. 171935Z. Admiralty pass to Comnavu N.O.I.C. Jamaica pass to S.O.(I). (Cominch, 182050Z to Admty.)
- U.T.2. My 142259 para. 3. (1) View pressure from U.S. War Department for additional capacity U.T. 2 British Army Staff have asked us arrange maximum loading our vessels this group. (2) Presume you agree our working out double berthing arrangements with Masters we providing additional L.S.A. as necessary. (B.M.W.T. New York. 182115Z to D.S.T.)
- PRINCE ROBERT information. Estimate for 192000Z of independent shipping in vicinity of your route: (details) (N.S.H.Q. 182120Z to PRINCE ROBERT)
- H.X.252. Arrival H.L.C.S. KALSACK, BLAIRMORE, ex H.X.252. (C. Halifax, 182204Z to Admty. etc.)
- O.N.196. Departures ROXBOROUGH, DUNVEGAN, SASKATOON, SHEDIAC, KENOGAMI escorting O.N.196. (C. Halifax, 182207Z to Admty. etc.)
- Panel System. J.S.M.1141 18th Aug. 1943. Following is text of telegram to Eisenhower Freedom Algiers from Combined Chiefs of Staff No.5234. Begins. The Combined Panel System short title C.C.B.P. 8, U.S. "Restricted", British "Restricted" has been adopted for Combined, Joint, and intra-Army use, effective 1st Jan. 1944 or earlier at discretion of Theatre Commanders. Expected date of publication is approx. 15th October, 1943. Replying your W.7137 of 12th August. (Ends.) (J.S.M. Washington, 182211Z to W.C.O. London)

Australia and New Zealand.

- Digest Serial No.575 Aug.17th. Submarine passed Cape Orford midday southbound. Mitchells observed 8 to 10 ships mainly small in Wewak Area including one large freighter one subchaser. (3) During early hours patrol Catalina unsuccessfully attacked convoy comprising 1 medium cargo vessel, 1 escort vessel,

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest 2 unidentified same? ships 40 miles south east
 Serial Cape Saint George course 300 degs.
 No. 575 (4) After dark 4 destroyers sighted 50 miles
 Aug. 17th. West Buka Passage course probably South possibly
 (Contd.) destined for Central Solomons refer para. 12
 hereafter. (5) At dawn R/C Liberator attacked
 but missed one Southbound 8000 ton transport
 50 miles Northwest Massau Island also later
 observed 1 destroyer, 1 whaling factory ship 26 miles
 Southwest Massau Island. (6) During early hours Catalina
 located 6 Southbound barges 20 miles Northwest Madang.
 3 Barges demolished by bombs others effectively strafed.
 Later small vessel observed Astrolabe Bay South of Madax.
 (7) 4 Beaufighters strafed barges Finschhafen and Cape
 Bushing in dawn sweep Huon Peninsula and South Coast Western
 New Britain. At noon 6 Bostons completed destruction of
 wrecked barges North Salamaua also strafed serviceable barges
 extremity Salamaua Peninsula. (11) Afternoon 4 Hudsons
 bombed Taberfane followed at dawn by 8 Beaufighters. One
 Luger near Taberfane strafed and left burning while occupants
 consisting approx. 50 troops killed. 5 Floatplanes attempted
 intercept Beaufighters and 4 destroyed plus one damaged.
 (12) After dark 1 possible heavy cruiser 3 destroyers observed
 twenty miles northeast Vella Lavella course southeast.
 Later seen Sade area on reverse course.
 (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 180926Z)

Movements. Arrivals 17th Brisbane Dutch Naval Store Ship
 SOEDOE, Bowen U.S. Transport VAN DER LIJN.
 18th Townsville R.A. Fleet Aux. BISHOPDALE.
 U.S. Transport VAN HEUTSZ departed Brisbane 15th
 due Townsville 19th.
 (C.S.W.P.S.F. 181103Z)
 Arrived Melbourne 17th NIZAM 18th WESTRALIA, U.S. DRAYTON.
 Milne Bay 17th U.S. PERKINS (? U.S. QUAIL). Darwin 17th
 U.S.S. ALTAMAHA for Karachi, Milne Bay 16th MILDURA,
 SHEPPARTON for Townsville.
 (N.B. Melbourne, 181107Z to Admty. etc.)
 Departed Mackay 17th U.S. Ship VICTORIA for Gladstone
 Sydney N.S.W. 17th U.S. Ship MI(LL?) AR for Milne Bay.
 (N.B. Melbourne, 181208Z to Admty. etc.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 181401A, 181405B)

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18.8.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

Sub. attack and sighting summary for 24 hours to 1000B/18.

A. A/C attacked U-Boat at 1000/17 in 14 degs. 11' N. 17 degs. 40' W. U-Boat surfaced after this attack.

B. SSSS made by unknown vessel, possibly EMPIRE STANLEY from position estimated within 150 miles of 25 degs. 00' S. 50 degs. 00' E. A/C escorting S.L.135 reported P/S at 1527Z/17 in 14 degs. 28' N. 18 degs. 02' W.

C. Am. SANTA CECILIA, reported SSSS chased by S/M at 1250/17 in 15 degs. 30' N. 17 degs. 52' W. Later reported that a torpedo might have been fired but no gunfire.

Ref. A.M.170925Z para. A. BENJAMIN CONTEE torpedoed by A/C. U-Boat attacked which subsequently entered Ferrol was Spanish. (D.D.I.C. 181016Z to Cominch)

19.8.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Task Force
112-1.

1. Task Force 112-1, consisting of the U.S. A/C Carrier RANGER, the U.S. Cruisers TUSCALOOSA and AUGUSTA, and 5 U.S. Destroyers arrived at Scapa at 1143A today escorted by PHOEBE.

Engagement
off Dutch
Coast.

2. In an engagement early this morning off the Dutch Coast between a Coastal Force of 6 M.T.Bs. and 2 M.G.Bs. and an enemy southbound Convoy, one Sperrbrecher and a Trawler were damaged by gunfire and M.T.Bs. 650 and 630 were also hit. 3 ratings were wounded. (MIDGE 261640 states that damage to M.T.B. 630 occurred during action 19/20 August).

Minesweepers
shelled.

3. At about 1450 today a Force of 6 M.Ls. and 2 M.A.S.Bs. carrying out an Oropesa search in the Straits of Dover was accurately shelled by Enemy Coastal Batteries and retired undamaged under a smoke-screen. Six 3 gun salvos were fired.

Operation
S.N. 74.

4. Commodore (M) in AGAMEMNON, with MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, and two destroyers returned to Port ZA at 1800A from the minelaying operation S.N. 74.

5. Admiral Fisher sends today a report on conditions on board the British merchant vessels which have been idle in North Russia for 6 months. Both he and S.B.N.O. North Russia consider that no effort should be spared to get these ships to the U.K. as soon as possible.

North Atlantic.

6. On the departure of INDOMITABLE for repairs in U.S.A., the flag of the Rear-Admiral, Aircraft Carriers, Home Fleet, was transferred at Gibraltar today to UNICORN. The office of the S.O. Aircraft Carriers, Home Fleet, is temporarily established ashore at Gibraltar.

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Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

7. F.O.C. West Africa, in an analysis of U-boat sightings and attacks, says it appears that certainly 4 U-boats have been operating in the Dakar area, of which one is known to be sunk and two more are possibly damaged.

U.K. -
Freetown -
Lagos
convoys.

8. U.K.-Freetown-Lagos convoys are to be instituted now on a 20-day cycle in order to connect with the K.M.S./M.K.S. and U.G.S/G.U.S. convoys which are on a 10-day cycle. The convoys will be escorted in turn by the 37th, 38th, 39th, and a newly founded 40th group, each group doing the complete cycle from U.K. to Lagos and back. A fifth group may be available later.

9. Convoy W.S.32, 9 ships, escorted by NORMAN, RELENTLESS, QUIBERON and RAPID, left Capetown today.

Mediterranean.

Cruiser
Sweep.

10. AURORA and DIDO escorted by PENN and PANTHER, operated in the Tyrrhenian Sea last night and sank 7 northbound landing craft off Scalea.

Operation
"Settler"

11. S/M TAURUS, engaged on this operation, was instructed by Capt. (S) 1, at 1925C that if she met interference or had reason to believe Karalodos Bay compromised, she was to report by W/T within the next 48 hours.

B.Y.M.S. lack
of spares.

12. C. in C. Med. reports that B.Y.M.S. are now nearly all out of action due to lack of engine spares, as he forecast on 31st May. At present B.Y.M.S. are only kept in action by the kindness of U.S. Navy in Mediterranean, who are also short of stores. He requests immediate action.

ULSTER
MONARCH.

13.
ULSTER MONARCH, L.S.I.(H) was bombed and set on fire at 0024 off Cape Bon, but the fire was extinguished and she continued to Tripoli at 15 knots, with a hole aft and damaged steering gear.

/Air...

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19.8.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Air
Operations.

14. 5 Liberators and 11 Halifax bombers, attacked the marshalling yards at Cotrone last night. Wellingtons on anti-shipping R/C in the Aegean last night bombed 2 motor vessels of 600 tons, N.W. of Rhodes, but bursts were not seen. 1 Beaufighter unsuccessfully bombed a 200 ft. ship in Heraklion, Crete.

Bizerta
Raid.

15. 60 enemy aircraft attacked Bizerta last night 3 were claimed destroyed by A/A and 2 by Beaufighters.

America & West Indies.

H.X. 252:
4 ships in
collision.

16. Convoy H.X. 252 was reported to have been attacked last night and early this morning by what was believed to have been only one U-boat, in 43.51 N. 53.12 W. about 170 miles south of Cape Race.

J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON, U.S. was stated to have been torpedoed, and set on fire. Became derelict. SS. SANTOS, Norwegian, was sunk. 37 survivors were recovered on the morning of the 20th; the master stated that the ship was sunk in collision with two unknown vessels - (probably J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON, who has a damaged bow), and SS. SANTOS).

J.H. SENIOR, Panama tanker, was damaged in collision with an unknown ship and was towed to Bay Bulls by H.M.R.T. ADHERENT (arrived 24th August).

T.D. WELD was damaged in collision with SANTOS at 2149/18 and with an unknown ship at 2248/18; she rejoined the convoy a.m./23 capable of 10 knots, with d.g. out of action.

RICHARD MONTGOMERY reported an attack which may have been a false alarm.

COBALT, corvette, and LACHINE, minesweeper, carried out 4 attacks on a U-boat, three of which were promising, the U-boat being probably damaged.

At 0525Z, S.O. of Escort Group W.6 asked that an additional escort might be sent to Westomp for the convoy, then screened only by MONTGOMERY and CHELSEA. Meantime, C. in C. C.N.A. had sailed ST. FRANCIS at 0530Z to the vicinity of 45.45 N. 56.40 W., to carry out an A/S sweep. At 1432Z, F.O. Newfoundland reported that GRENADIER and HESPERIA had been ordered to assist the torpedoed ships and would not accompany H.X. 252.

/Rescue...

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19.8.1943.

Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

H.X.252:
4 ships in
collision.
(Contd).

Rescue tug ADHERENT left St. Johns at 1110 to the assistance of torpedoed ships. On 23 August, after interrogation of survivors from J.P. HENDERSON, J.H. SENIOR and SANTOS, and of C.Os. of ship concerned F.O.N.F. reported that he considered on balance the evidence pointed to a series of collisions in very low visibility, and that it was doubtful that any attack was made or that there was a submarine in the vicinity.

Australia & New Zealand.

Japanese
S/M sunk.

17. It is reported that a New Zealand corvette and aircraft today sank a Japanese "I" class submarine about 110 miles south of Noumea (New Caledonia). Six prisoners were taken.

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19.8.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

SKATE Captain S.3's 181058. In view of my 231104 June now propose SKATE be allocated permanently to Captain S.3.
(C. in C.W.A. 191131A to Admty.).

M.S.F. F.O.N.F. 181134, A.M. 021931, and A.M.161125.
159. B.Y.M.S. 52, 55, 157 and 173 are to join 159th M.S.F. at Grimsby.
(D.M.S. 191231A to Cdre. D.W.A.).

North Following is appreciation of shipping situation
Russia North Russia.
situation. A. Deck and engine room stores. Further supplies are required vide Watson and Frankel message 171050 Admty. 132154 refers.
B. Certain ships are being employed on coastal movements with Russian cargoes subject to assistance from Russians over coal and provisions. This is proving (corrupt group). It will not be possible to complete movements before September 15th vide Admty. 012118 July paragraph 2A if this date still holds good.
C. Stocks of British coal are just sufficient for homeward voyage. If Russians are unable to supply better quality to ensure minimum speed 8 knots it is for consideration either to abandon (5 corrupt groups) mixture Russian and British coal for coastal movements, retaining sufficient British for first 10 days steaming on homeward voyage. Alternatively supplementary supplies could be sent over from U.K. with other stores required as A above but (corrupt group) escort entailed for this could probably be used to better effect to escort ships home using present supplies.
D. Acknowledge Russians require tanker to go to Novaya Zemla. Admiral Fisher 141235 refers. Russians are reluctant to disclose information about defences, if any, of (?Cheskays) Bay, and inform me that tanker will be required there for oil storage till November subject to recall for homeward convoy. Enemy air and U-boat reconnaissance in Novaya Zemla indicate possibility of enemy action which presence of tanker might turn into probability. During last 3 weeks there have been seven D/F reports of U-boats in vicinity (?Cheskaya) Bay alone.
If a tanker is sent PONTFIELD would fulfill requirements utilising after tankers only (6,000 tons), forward tanks are clean and have no heating.
(2). Much discontent widespread a feeling which has been aggravated by lack of mails and poor health, and unrest exists among personnel of Merchant Vessels which have been (?waiting) for at least 6 months in North Russia.
Consider no effort should be spared to get these ships home as soon as possible.
(3). Similarly H.M.Trawler CHILTERN has been in these waters for over 15 months and is considerably overdue for refit. I would like to include this ship in homeward convoy, without relief, if no opportunity relief concurs. Alternatively she might re-commission on station.
(4) Request (corrupt group) information on Admty.'s policy for these merchant vessels and decision on part raised under B,C, and D above, also para.3.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 191235A to Admty.).

/Admiralty...

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Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

North Russia situation. (Contd.).
Admiralty 132154. Details of stores situation being reported by S.B.N.O. North Russia shortly. (2) S.B.N.O. North Russia reports that considerable discontent exists among crews of British (?Merchant Vessels) which have been idle for over 6 months. Supplies of fresh food have been inadequate and there have been many cases of stomach troubles which are increasing. Clothing and boots are wearing out and survivors stocks which have been drawn upon will not last beyond September. S.S.T.O. Archangel 021813 refers. (3) Even if basic items of stores are available to enable ships to stay until November or January, life will be reduced to bare subsistence. The continued idleness is likely to breed trouble on board and also ashore with our allies. That there has been so little so far reflects the greatest credit to masters. (4) S.B.N.O. North Russia considers from every point of view no effort should be spared to get these ships home as soon as possible. I agree. (5) It is also most desirable that trawlers LORD AUSTIN and CHILTERN should return. (Ad. Fisher 191627C to Admty.).

BERKELEY CASTLE. When ready for sea BERKELEY CASTLE should be sailed for Tobermory to work up on completion of which she should join Western Approaches Command. (D.O.D.(H)191248A to A.S.C.B.S.). BERKELEY CASTLE is allocated to Londonderry. (C. in C.W.A. 192152A to Cdre. D.W.A.).

PINCHER PINCHER successfully launched at 1330/19th. (W.P.S. Belfast 191445 to Admty.).

MAGPIE When ready for sea late August MAGPIE should be sailed to Tobermory for 18 days work up thence to Scapa for 10 days gunnery work up. On conclusion of working up MAGPIE is to join Western Approaches Command. A.M. 061836 refers. (D.O.D.H. 191859A to A.S.C.B.S.).

AMETHYST When ready for sea early October AMETHYST should be sailed to Tobermory for 18 days work up thence to Scapa for 10 days gunnery work up. On conclusion of working up AMETHYST is to join W.A. Command. A.M. 061836 June refers. (D.O.D.H. 191901A to A.S.C.B.S.).

Movements.

M.G.B.316 Admiralty 181820A. M.G.B. 316 will be ready to sail a.m. 22nd. (Cdre. Force "J" 191017A to C. in C. Portsmouth).

/SCORPION...

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Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

SCORPION, Destinations SCORPION to Greenock for boiler
 SAVAGE, cleaning. SAVAGE, OBEDIENT to Scapa.
 OBEDIENT. (R.A.D.H.F. 191017A to SAVAGE).
 F.O.C.Gibraltar 181627B. Route from Q to Scapa.
 (C. in C.W.A. 191057A to SAVAGE).
 My 191057A and R.A.D's. 191017A. SCORPION is
 to break off as convenient.
 (C. in C.W.A. 191503A to SAVAGE).

T.F.112-1. Scapa arrival Cdr. Task Force 112.1 in U.S.
 Aircraft Carrier RANGER with TUSCALOOSA, AUGUSTA,
 FORREST, CORRY, HOBSON, ISHERWOOD, BELL with PHOEBE.
 (A.C.O.S. 191143A to Admty.).

North Dispositions of operational units in North Atlantic:
 Atlantic Area Iceland (C) KENT, NORFOLK.
 dispositions. Area Scapa ANSON, DUKE OF YORK, MALAYA, RENOWN,
 LONDON, BELFAST, PHOEBE, RANGER, TUSCALOOSA,
 AUGUSTA, 8 destroyers, 5 (U.S.) destroyers.
 Area Plymouth: 2 destroyers. Passage to Gib. SHROPSHIRE. Bay
 Area GLASGOW. Passage to U.K. CHARYBDIS, 3 destroyers.
 (D.O.D.H. 191246Z to C. in C.U.S. Fleet).

E.G.5. C. in C.W.A. 152117A. 5th Escort Group arrived
 less CALGARY .
 (F.O.i/c Milford Haven 191345A).
 C. in C. Plymouth's 182305 and my 191621A. Sailed
 5th E.G.,TWEED, (Acting S.O.) SNOWBERRY, EDMONSTON, NENE
 proceeding independently from St.Annes Head to Plymouth. E.T.A.
 0700/20 for gyro compass repairs. She rejoins 5th E.G. there-
 after reassuming S.O.
 (F.O.i/c Milford Haven 191619A).

S/M Intend sailing LE CURIE from Clyde, at 2000/20th
 movements. to Gibraltar carrying out patrol in Bay of Biscay
 en route.
 (Capt. S.3 191411A).
 Intend to sail MINERVE from Clyde 2000A/20 to Portsmouth.
 (Capt.S.3. 191413A).
 Capt, (S) 5 160929. Intend sailing P.556 escorted by
 Chaser 14 for Portsmouth at 0530 tomorrow. E.T.A. Needles 0930/20th
 (N.O.i/c Portland 191506A to C. in C. Portsmouth).
 Positions of S/Ms. at 0800A/20 and movements for following
 24 hours.
 (F.O.S. 191541A, 202241).
 Intend to sail H.28, H.33, H.50, at 2000A/21st escorted by
 KIHNA from Rothesay to Londonderry, E.T.A. Lough Foyle 0800A/22.
 Thence S/Ms. as ordered by Cmdre (D) W.A. KIHNA escorting H.32,
 P.511 to Rothesay E.T.A. 2000A/22. Cmdre. (D) W.A. is requested to
 sail H.32, P.511, to R/V with KIHNA on arrival.
 (Capt.S.7. 191543A).

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Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

BELFAST. Faeroes departures BELFAST.
(N.O.i/c Faeroes 192001A to C. in C.H.F.).

DORSETSHIRE Your 141925B. Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Barry 192100A to F.O.i/c Gibraltar).

Operations.

Operation Arrival ATHABASKAN and GRENVILLE.
"Musketry". (F.O.i/c Falmouth 190916A to C. in C. Plymouth).
All aircraft being recalled owing to weather.
(C. in C. Plymouth 191021A to E.G.40, E.G.2, GLASGOW).

BERMUDA is to pass the Gate at 1000A/20 and proceed through position (J) 180 degs. Bishop Rock 10 and (K) 049 degs. 11' N. 010 degs. 36' W. and thence operate in "Seaslug" area North of 044 degs. 30' North to cover Second, 40th, and 5th Escort Group against surface attack.

(2) Estimate GLASGOW now covering Escort Groups will leave area a.m. 21st. Routed through position (G) 048 degs. 53' N. 010 degs. 16' W. and (J) to Plymouth.

(5) Sailing ATHABASKAN and GRENVILLE is postponed. My 171540 refers.

(C. in C. Plymouth 191341A).

Disposition at 2000.

(1) E.G.40, LANDGUARD, BIDEFORD, WAVENEY patrols vicinity 044 degs. N. 011 degs. W.

(2) E.G.2, STARLING, WOODCOCK, WREN, KITE, WILD GOOSE, WOODPECKER, patrols vicinity 044 degs. 30' N. 009 degs. 30' W.

(3) GLASGOW patrols vicinity 044 degs. 10' N. 011 degs. W.

(C. in C. Plymouth 191630A to Admty.).

Six Focke-Wulfs 5 miles, bearing 315 degs. from 44 degs. 50' N. 09 degs. 58' W.

(GLASGOW 191645 to Plymouth W/T.).

One Focke-Wulfe bearing 290 degs. 0.3. My position at 1700 44 degs. 40' N. 10 degs. 56' W.

(E.G.40 191729A to Whitehall W/T).

Operate in "Seaslug" area North of 044 degs. 30' N. until you discontinue patrol to return to Plymouth.

(C. in C. Plymouth 191854A to GLASGOW).

Your 182305A. Expect to remain until relieved by 5th E.G. then homeward by Q.Z.L.730.

(E.G.2. 192100A to C. in C. Plymouth).

Operation Scapa arrival MUSKETEER, METEOR, MAHRATTA at
"S.F." 0545A.

(A.C.O.S. 190944A).

Scapa arrival SHIKARI.

(A.C.O.S. 191005A to N.O.i/c Faeroes).

Groups are to be organized as follows:-

Group A. S.O. M/S F. 15 in FRASERBURGH, LLANDUDNO, BOOTLE, WORTHING
Group B Capt.(D) 17 in ONSLOW, ORWELL, MATCHLESS, ULSTER. Group
C. SABRE.

(2) When group A is ordered to sea a position will be given for remainder of Groups to R/V with FRASERBURGH.

(C. in C. Rosyth 191020A).

/Proceed...

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War Diary.19.8.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation "S.F." (Contd.). Proceed to establish patrol by 1801A/20th as follows:-
 (1) Group A. (2) 062 degs. 53' N. 014 degs. 10' W.
 (3) 225 degs. 60 - 60. (4) Apricot 1.
 (1) Group B. (2) 062 degs. 15' N. 012 degs. 40' W.
 (3) 225 degs. 60-60. (4) APRICOT.
 (C. in C. Rosyth 191225A to Capt.D.17, M.S.F.15).
 Proceed so as to be in 062 degs. 53' N. 014 degs. 10' W. by 1801A/20th.
 (C. in C. Rosyth 191226A to FRASERBURGH).
 Sail with BOOTLE and WORTHING to R/V with S.O.15th M/S F. in 062 degs. 53' N. 014 degs. 10' W. at 1759A/20.
 (C. in C. Rosyth 191227A to LLANDUDNO).
 Your 191020A. Request instructions for BEAUMARIS. (LLANDUDNO 191255A to C. in C. Rosyth).
 Your 191020A. Request BEAUMARIS may be included in Group A.
 (M.S.F.15, 191401A to C. in C. Rosyth).
 My 191020A. Add BEAUMARIS to Group A.
 (C. in C. Rosyth 191411A).
 Faeroes departure FRASERBURG.
 (N.O.i/c Faeroes 191943A to C. in C. Rosyth).

S/M UNBROKEN leaves patrol p.m. 21st so as to pass through position K.A.045 degs. 25' N. 006 degs. 01' W. at 0800/22nd, thence via route "Gold" to arrive position Y.Y.180 degs. Bishop Rock 12 miles at 0800/25 for onward escort to Portsmouth as arranged by Capt.(S) 5. Estimated S. O.A. 90 miles per day. UNBROKEN may proceed on surface North of 049 degs. 30'. (F.O.S. 191146A to S/Ms.).
 Positions of submarine at 0800A/20 and movements for following 24 hours.
 (A) UNBROKEN, TUNA, TRUCULENT on patrol between latitudes 44 degs, 20' N. and 47 degs. 30' N. and East of 05 degs. 30' W.
 (B) UPSTART approx. 62 degs. 40' N. 01 degs. 50' W. dived as much as practicable while north of 62 degs. N. E.T.A.Lerwick p.m. 21st.
 (F.O.S. 191541A to Admty.).

Operation M.T.Bs. 618 (S.O.) and 623 sailed.
 V.P-B. My 131651B. At 1315 today.
 (A.C.O.S. 191326A to Admty.).
 / Most Secret Distribution.

Coastal (1) Force C. M.G.Bs. 677, 664, 676 are to patrol Force 2 miles 090 degs. and 270 degs. from 180 degs. Patrols. Eddystone 8 miles.
 (3) Force C is to leave Dartmouth to be on patrol by 2130A. Leave patrol for Dartmouth 0500A. (C. in C. Plymouth 191433A).
 (A) LA COMBATTANTE, STEVENSTONE to follow 9th M.S.F. out and patrol 50 degs. 12' N. between 0 degs. 45' W. and 0 degs. 15' W. as anti-E-boat screen. E.T.A. Spithead 0700A/20.
 (B) Chasseur 12 immediate notice at St. Helens.
 (C) M.Ls. 122, 114, 233 from Portland patrolling 50 degs. 20' N.

/between...

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19.8.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal Force Patrols. (Contd.). between 02 degs. 00' W. and 02 degs. 25' W. (C. in C. Portsmouth 191434A and 192224A). M.Ls. 138 and 293 at Bullock Bank. M.G.Bs. S.2 (S.O.) and 40 from Dover, E.T.D.2030 and M.G.B.116 from Ramsgate E.T.D. 2045 at 'V' Buoy. E.T.R. Dover 0530/20. E.T.R. Ramsgate 0515/20. (V.A. Dover 191720A).

Operation "Venus". Intend ULA to carry out an operation in Mejford 069 degs. 30' 017 degs. 30'. Object to land certain Norwegian personnel and stores. (2) ULA will leave Dundee about 28th August and proceed to Lerwick for a few days while landing personnel practice in handling Folboat. (F.O.S. 191634A to Admty.).

My 191634. Short title of operation is "Venus". (F.O.S. 191636A to Admty.).

Preliminary report of C/F operations last night 18th/19th August.

(1) Unit G (M.T.Bs. 630, 650, 652 M.G.B.603) and Unit E (M.T.Bs. 621, 628, 668, M.G.B.606) were ordered to sweep North from vicinity of Noordwijk for southbound convoy seen by air recco off Ameland at 0540/18 and believed to have entered Den Helder during the day. Visibility extreme, sea calm, moonrise 2140A. (2) Unit G left initial position at 0007 to sweep North followed 15 minutes later by Unit E. Unit G made Radar contact at 0100 being engaged by 3 or 4 inch gunfire from unseen enemy. Unit withdrew under smoke and proceeded northward to try and work round inshore of enemy. At 0255 on course 205 degs. Radar contact made ahead. M.G.B.603 was ordered to make diversion while M.T.Bs. attacked with torpedoes. 650 and 630 fired one torpedo each at Sperrbrecker range 600 yards and Flak trawler range 200 yards respectively, the second torpedo in each boat misfiring. Unit then withdrew, 650 and 630 receiving hull damage 650 being hit by 3 inch shell.

(3) Damage claimed on enemy. Possible torpedo hit on Sperrbrecker also damage by gunfire to Sperrbrecker and Flak Trawler.

(4) Unit E obtained confused Radar contacts at 0124 and turned south to shadow from ahead. Contacts then lost. On receipt of signal saying that Unit G was shadowing course was altered to northward for about 3 miles but no contact was made so Unit turned south again to regain touch with previous contact. No contact was made and Unit withdrew at 0425.

(5) Casualties. M.T.B. 630 one rating wounded. M.T.B.650 two ratings wounded. (C. in C. Nore 191845A to Admty.).

Minesweeping Force shelled. At about 1450 today M.Ls. 138, 139, 140, 142, 293, 137 and M:A.S.Bs. 23 and 24, while carrying out Oropesa search of Q.X.Z. 814, were shelled by enemy coastal batteries in positions 50 degs. 53' 18" N. 01 degs, 21' 18" E. Six 3-gun Salvoes fell at varying distances of from 50 to 100 yards from our craft who retired undamaged under a smoke screen. Sudden lifting of coastal haze disclosed our craft to the enemy. (V.A. Dover 191935A to Admty.).

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19.8.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Exercises.

Depth charge trials. BURWELL. C. in C.W.A. 121414. Intend sailing BURWELL 2200A/19 for 1st series depth charge trials in Irish Sea. E.T.A. Port Patrick Area 0600A/20. On completion BURWELL to Liverpool to load remainder depth-charges. (F.O.i/c Liverpool 191558A to C. in C.W.A.). Sailed BURWELL in accordance with my 191558A. (F.O.i/c Liverpool 192200A).

Exercise "Ogden". Your 191232A. WORCESTER, GARTH, MONTROSE, detailed for 5,6 and 7 patrols for exercise "Ogden" tomorrow. Destroyers to anchor as convenient in Yarmouth Roads on completion of patrol and escort duty a.m. Friday, proceeding as necessary to be on "Ogden" Patrol by 0830A. (Capt.D. 16 191610A to C. in C. Nore).

Enemy Air Activity.

Jan Mayen. Message received from Jan Mayen that an enemy aircraft approached the defence area from the south at 1155/18th. Fire was opened and aircraft turned to sea and disappeared on a southerly course. (A.C.I.(C) 190838A to Admty.).
Jan Mayen reports that an aircraft was sighted at 0540A far to the south of the Island on an easterly course. (A.C.I.C. 191946A to Admty.).

Mining.

Q.Z.X.1070 On completion of Check Sweep of Q.Z.X.1056 carry out check sweep in Q.Z.X. 1070 of area bounded by lines joining the following positions:
(A) 50 degs. 23' 17" N. 03 degs. 06' 04" W.
(B) 50 degs. 24' 18" N. 02 degs. 57' 28" W. (C) 50 degs. 20' 00" N. 02 degs. 55' 37" W. (D) 50 degs. 18' 24" N. 03 degs. 03' 13" W. Sweeping North and South.
(C. in C. Plymouth 191532 to GWEAL).

S.N.74 S.O. minelayers arrived in AGAMEMNON with MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, ST. MARY'S, and WELLS in company. (TRELAWNEY 191800A).
Arrived SALADIN.
(Cdre. D.W.A. 192221A to R.A.M.).

Q.Z.X.239 (My?) 150941. Operation completed. Return to harbour 9 hours to carry out check of A.M. Q.Z.X. 239 tomorrow. (M.S.F.4, 192146A to C. in C. Plymouth).

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19.8.1943.

Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

Spitzbergen One submarine bearing 305 degs., speed 10 knots, course 090 degs.
("Locomotive" 192253Z to Whitehall).

Casualties and Defects.

EL ISLEO Sailed at 0905A today. My 181112 and A.M. 121836 July refer.
(A.C.I.C. 190908A to Admty., N.O.i/c Thurso).

HALCYON Your 181017A/August, and R.A.Ds. 181705/August. HALCYON can be taken in hand for refit 21st August at Middlesborough. She should be sailed accordingly.
(D.M.S. 191910A to C. in C.H.F.).

SAUMAREZ Admiralty's 181320. Intend to sail SAUMAREZ to arrive Humber 0900/23rd.
(3) Boiler cleaning will be undertaken by ships staff.
(4) There are no major defects and the few minor defects will be undertaken by ships staff.
(R.A.D. 192215 to F.O.I.C. Humber).

Shipping and Convoys.

T.A.60 My 180225 para. 3. Vessel is required to be ready (PASTEUR) to sail as convoy T.A.60 on 29/8.
(2) Approximately 1350 personnel including 260 P.O.W. will embark on 29/8.
(D.S.T. 190224A).

D.S.44 My 121540 not to last three addressees. CHAMPOLLION (CHAMPOLLION) capacity 2119 will comprise Convoy D.S.44 sailing Clyde 31/8.
(2) Approximately 1,000 personnel will embark at Tail of the Bank on 31/8.
(D.S.T. 190236A).

O.G.92/ (A) 1430Z/18th. (C) B one, HURRICANE, H/F D/F K.M.S.24 WANDERER, H/F D/F, DAHLIA, MONKSHOOD, BORAGE, WALLFLOWER, HYDRANGER. A/A escort CYGNET, rescue ship ZAMALEK H/F D/F.
(D) 39.
(C. in C. W.A. 190836Z).

HIGHWEAR straggled, probably return Gough Island.
(B.1. 190922A to C. in C.W.A.).

HIGHWEAR returning to port.
(C. in C.W.A. 191037A to Escorts O.G.92/K.M.S.24).

/H.X.251...

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19.8.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. - Contd.

H.X.251 Following ships escorted by VISCOUNT S.O., BYARD, POTENTILLA detach at 0800Z/19 in 053 degs. 52' N. 026 degs. 00' W. in accordance with C. in C.W.A. 181502. Names.

(2) BIDDLE about 60 miles astern ordered stragglers route maximum speed 7 knots, change of destination not passed. (GAME 191017Z to C. in C.W.A.).

K.M.F.22 My P.C.S. 049 degs. 09' N. 014 degs. (?42') W. 207 degs. 16½ knots, altering course at 2000A to 189 degs. to intercept K.M.F.22. (BANN 191600A to C. in C.W.A.).

SAMARIA SAMARIA sailed 1445Z/19th. E.T.A. New York 29th August. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 191637Z to Admty.).

SAMSONIA F.O.i/c Greenock's 162344A. Intend to sail SAMSONIA at 0500/21 for Moville. E.T.A. 1000A. (N.O.i/c Campbeltown 191824A).

BEN MY CHREE My 181029. Delayed. (N.O.i/c Faeroes 191847A to A.C.O.S.). Sailed my 181029 amended by my 191847. (N.O.i/c Faeroes 192219A to A.C.O.S.).

W.S.33 F.W. 200 aircraft are operating in your vicinity. K.M.F.22 (D.D.I.C. 192012A to Escorts W.S.33, K.M.F.22).

T.A.60A My 070225B paragraph 4. Vessel is required to be (MAURITANIA) ready to sail from Liverpool a.m.27/8 as Convoy T.A.60 A. (2) Approximately 1350 personnel will embark 26/8. (D.S.T. 192220A).

Following js Summary No.1. of major troopship movements in and out of Liverpool and Clyde during the next two weeks to 2/9.

(a) In:

Serial No.	Convoy	Ship	Port	Arrive.
(1)	A.T.62	QUEEN ELIZABETH	Clyde	25/8
(2)	A.T.61	QUEEN MARY	Clyde	31/8
(3)	U.T.1	{ ARGENTIA CRISTOBAL SANTA ELENA	{ Clyde Liverpool Liverpool	{ 1/9

(b) Out:

(4) T.A.57.A U.S. MARIPOSA Clyde 21/8 (5) T.A.60.A MAURETANIA Liverpool 27/8 (6) T.A.60 PASTEUR Liverpool 29/8 (7) T.A.62 QUEEN ELIZABETH Clyde 29/8 (8) D.S.44 CHAMPOLLION Clyde 31/8. (2) Similar signals will be made at weekly intervals in future. (D.S.T. 192235A).

MARY B MITCHELL If met Eire sailing ship MARY B. MITCHELL should be warned to keep West of 012 degs. West as she is otherwise in peril of being attacked. (C. in C. Plymouth 192334 to GLASGOW).

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War Diary.19.8.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

O.S.53. COLUMBINE, VIOLET sailed Casablanca 0030A/19 to join O.S.53.
(C.M.S.F. 190307B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) S. E.C. O.S.53, F.O.C.W.Af. C. in C. Med., Admty)

U/Boat. Transit Aircraft U.S. Army reports sighting surfaced S/M 041° 50' N. 011° 05' W. at 181350Z.
(Commorseafron, 191054B to all Commands.)

Dispositions. Add new para. (7) to my 191126B (Situation Report N.T. in W.D.) 1 (one) B.Y.M.S. 2 M.M.S. sailed Casablanca 2100/19th through 035° 44' 006° 28' to Gibraltar 9.
(F.O. Gibraltar 192048B)

Situation 2001B/19th. SEMINOLE 035° 17' 013° 33' through 035° 32' 019° 01' thence 275° 14.

(2) M.K.S.21 HIGHLANDER, CHARYBDIS 042° 37' 019° 01' 000° 7. CHARYBDIS parts company at dusk 19th and proceeds to join K.M.F.22 23.

(3) O.S.53 BLACKWOOD 028° 17' 013° 26' 229° 8.

(4) U.G.S. 14 C.T.F. 65 034° 33' 020° 07' 093° 9.

(5) SAVAGE, SCORPION, OBEDIENT (?039°) 17' 015° 10' 000° 19.

(6) Group "K" Coastal craft EGILSAY 038° 11' 011° 40' through 036° 30' 010° 02' to Gibraltar 9.

(7) K.M.F.22 HUNTER, SHROPSHIRE, 045° 29' 017° 48' through 044° 30' 018° 30' thence 180° 12½.

(8) Fleet Unit 3 destroyers 035° 45' 006° 18' through 035° 02' 007° 58' thence 242° 17½.

(9) Spanish Naval Training Ship JUAN SEBASTIAN DE ELCANO and GALATEA sailed (?Porto Mahon)?0724) 18th for Tenerife and Las Palmas respectively.

(10) Portuguese Sloop AFONSO DE ALBUQUERQUE sailed Ponta Delgada (?10)00 18th believed for Funchal 15 knots.

(11) Escort Group 38 031° 06' 010° 51' to overtake O.S.53 12.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 191132B.)

CHARYBDIS, Part company with M.K.S.21 after dark 19th August
M.K.S.21, to R/V K.M.F.22 in estimate position (X) 043° 07'
K.M.F.22. N. 018° 30' W. at 200800B August.

2. K.M.F.22 consists of 19 ships Cdre. Crabbe in MONARCH OF BERMUDA escorted by SHROPSHIRE, CHANTICLEER, WRESTLER, WESTON, TOTLAND, NARBADA,

ETTRICK, HILDEGARDE, BARLE, and is routed as in A.M. 052006, outer outward letter P.R. to PV, S.O.A. 12½ knots.

3. Codeword "Chitty".

4. First 2 letters convoy wireless call sign JF.

5. Admty. pass to H.Q.C.C.

(F.O. Gibraltar, 191138B to CHARYBDIS (R) S.E.C. K.M.F. 22, S.E.C. M.K.S.21, C. in C.W.A., C. in C. Plymouth Admty. H.Q.C.C.)

SCYLLA N.O.I.C. Gibraltar 181130 (re barrels due for
S.L.135. exchange) N.A.S.O. Gibraltar, 172022 (re SCYLLA guns require exchange). To complete work of

/changing...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

- SCYLLA
S.L.
(Contd.)
A/S escorts)
to change guns?
(F.O. Gibraltar, 191204B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)
Reply: Admty. 201851A to C. in C. Med.
- changing guns at Gibraltar at least 7 days continuous work will be required. This will seriously prejudice other dockyard work particularly that which requires crane berth.
(2) In view of para. 1 of A.M. 181920 (SCYLLA and CHARYBDIS not available at Gibraltar as should SCYLLA be sailed independently to U.K.
(3) If this approved S.L.135 will be routed on outer route.
- A/C off Tagus. (?Two) armed trawlers reported in action presumably against aircraft just south of entrance to Tagus 1915B 18th. A.1.
(N.A. Lisbon, 191311B to Admty.)
- M.K.S.22. Intend sailing (list)
(F.O., Gibraltar, 191617B to Admty.)
M.K.S. 22 my 191616 (191617 intended) add IVA Government Stores.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 191749B)
- G.U.S.12. Request you will sail Casablanca section G.U.S.12 to R/V convoy in 035° 19' N. 008° 28' W. at 1800B August 21st.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 191624B to C.M.S.F. (R) C. in C. Med. (A) etc.)
- INDOMITABLE destroyers. Intend to sail INDOMITABLE at 0730B August 20th screened by OPPORTUNE, OBDURATE and BUCK to Bermuda for fuel and for onward routeing to Norfolk.
(2) Route: 35° 02' 07° 58'
31° 30' 16° 00' 33° 28' 26° 31' 34° 35'
38° 27' 34° 26' 51° 10' 32° 59' 63° 01' Lettered A-F.
S. of A. 17½ knots. (3) Codeword "Relax".
(F.O. Gibraltar, 191712, to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C.H.F. etc.)
- S.L.135. Propose following ships all phosphates for U/K joined from Casablanca. 10 VELOX (Nor.)
9 PARKLAAN, 11 NYNORN, 11 EMPIRE PROWESS, last three British. Do you concur?
(C.M.S.F. 191730B to F.O. Gibraltar.) Reply: 201845B.
- SAFARI. SAFARI ready to sail for U.K. p.m. August 22nd propose route "Rose". C.O. reports that he has been given 12 Mark VIII torpedoes in view of number of U/Boats sighted by TALLY HQ in bay. Request confirmation of number of torpedoes to be carried.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 191848B to F.O.S.(R) S.8.)

/Movements...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

Movements,
Gibraltar.

Arrivals U.S.S. BUCK from Oran. S/M SAFARI from Algiers.
Depart (group missing) UNST to rejoin K.M.S.23 CARLISLE to K.M.S.23. French TEMPETE to Oran. ST. NECTAN escort duties Melilla.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 191957B to Admty.)

Spanish
Blue
Division.

Withdrawal from Blue Division now greatly exceeds new draft. There was draft to replace last 1200 men who returned. It is believed policy is now to allow division to die out. A.3.
(N.A. Madrid, 192036B to Admty. (for D. of N.I.))
N.I.D. Comment: The continued maintenance of Spanish "Blue Division" on Eastern Front, is one of the points which H.M. Ambassador, Madrid, will be discussing with General Franco, in his interview which is taking place today.

B.Y.M.S.23
etc.

My 191611B (repeated in C.M.S.F.F.'s 221450 re sailing of B.Y.M.S. 23 etc.) sailed, 2000A/19.
(C.M.S.F.F., 192201B to F.O. Gibraltar (R) Admty. etc.)

Movements,
Casablanca.

Departed U.S. Task Force 64 less STOCKTON, SPENCER, CHEPACHET, COLUMBINE, VIOLET, B.Y.M.S.23, M.M.S.108 and 104. No warship arrivals. August 19th.
(C.M.S.F., 192320B to C. in C. Med.)

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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

STRATHMORE, STRATHEDEN, SIBAJAK. Your 161601B. Agree delay to W.S.32 as necessary. 2. Request you make every possible endeavour to include SIBAJAK as we are most anxious to include her in the September M.K.F. convoy to U.K. (D. of S.T. 190216A to P.S.T.O. Capetown.)

W.S.32. Sailing telegram (9 ships). (2) 0630Z/August 19th. (3) Durban a.m. 22nd August. (4) 13 knots. (5) Route. (6) NORMAN, QUIBERON, RAPID, RELENTLESS. (8) Coastal. (13) Cdre. W.E.B. Magee, R.N.R. in MALOJA, Vice Cdre of convoy Master of HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN. (15) Convoy callsign F.G.D (N.C.S.O. Capetown 190753Z to Admty.)
Arrivals Capetown 18th August NORMAN, RELENTLESS, QUIBERON, RAPID, TAY, KALE, DERG with W.S.32. Departure 0854B/19th August NORMAN, RELENTLESS, QUIBERON, RAPID with W.S.32. (C. in C. S.A. 190927B to Admty. etc.)

M.L.244. Arrival Pointe Noire 1800Z/18th M.L.244. Anticipate will require 4 days to effect temporary repairs. (B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire 190815A to F.O.C.W.A.)

M.L.1078. Sailed 0600Z/19 (? M.L.1078) E.T.A. Accra 1800Z/19 MORRIS DANCE. to relieve MORRIS DANCE screening. MORRIS DANCE returning Takoradi E.T.A. 0600Z/20. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi 190831Z to Admty. etc.)

C.D.32. Sailing telegram (4 ships). (2) 0700Z/19th August (3) East London 1200Z/22nd August Durban a.m. 24th August. (4) 7 knots. (5) Coastal passing through position (A) 034° 53' S. 020° 00' E. Ref. Saldanha Bay L.M.1 to 8. (6) THYME, NORTHERN CHIEF, TURFFONTEIN. (13) Cdre. Master WEST DURFEE, Vice Cdre. of convoy, Master BARON JEDBURGH. (15) Call sign V.C.D.1 9 codeword "Janitor". (N.C.S.O. Capetown 190833Z to Admty. etc.)

Dispositions. Situation at 2001Z/19 August. ABERDEEN, MILFORD, ARMERIA, COWSLIP, PETUNIA with S.T.74 005° 42' 011° 20' to 003° 00' 010° 00' thence 081° 8. WELLINGTON, GORLESTON, BRIDGEWATER, FOLKESTONE, LOWESTOFT, ARRAN with L.S.10, 004° 34' 005° 09' 251° 7. BEAGLE, BULLDOG, DOUGLAS, CATTERICK, EXE, WOLVERINE 2 Fleet units with C.F.13, 003° 18' 006° 10' to 003° 02' 008° 02' thence 305° 12. SWALE, BELLWORT, M.L.287 escorting 001° 07' 005° 09' E. to Lagos 9. ORFASY 004° 00' 007° 40' E. (270° or 256°) 8½. INKPEN escorting 004° 42' 008° 56' to 005° 36' 010° 00' thence 305° 7. DUNKERY off Robert Port M.L. 1016 off Port Bouet. MORRIS DANCE M.L.1019 off Accra. M.L. 1041 off Kotonu. CARNARVON CASTLE 006° 10' S. (7000°) 19' 302° 16. (F.O.C.W.A. 191105Z.)
Situation at 2008Z/19th August. THYME, NORTHERN CHIEF, TURFFONTEIN with C.D.32 (4 ships) 034° 55' 019° 48' coastal to Durban 8 knots, NORMAN, RELENTLESS, QUIBERON, RAPID with W.S.32, 9 ships, 034° 55' 020° 37' R.8 to Durban 13. GENISTA, FREESIA, ARCTIC EXPLORER, INDIAN STAR, LADY ELSA, NORTHERN DUKE with C.B.4 /DN 57/DLM 6, 9 ships, 029° 15' 031° 45' to 028° 30' 032° 30' 8. ROCKROSE, JASMINE, VIVIANA with B.C.4. 5 ships 021° 25' 035° 45' coastal to Lourenco Marques and Durban 8. ALBATROSS escorted by NEPAL 015° 20' 043° 40' to 016° 59' 042° 19' 15. REDSHANK 015° 05' 043° 45' to 014° 50' 044° 00' 9. (C. in C. S.A. 191145B.)

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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

O.S/S.L. C. in C. W.A.'s. 221243 and F.O.C.W.Af's. 312324
 Convoy July. A 20 day cycle for O.S/S.L. convoys is
 Cycles. essential as long as K.M.S/M.K.S. and U.GS/G.U.S.
 Escort convoys with which they have to connect, remain
 Groups. on a 10 day cycle. 2. U.K/Freetown/Lagos
 convoys are to be instituted now on a 20 day
 cycle as follows:- D day Sail Liverpool.
 D + 19 Arrive Freetown, D + 23 Sail Freetown
 D + 29 Arrive Lagos D + 31 Sail Lagos D + 38 Arrive Freetown
 (Boiler clean) D + 46 Sail Freetown D + 66 Arrive Liverpool
 D + 80 Sail Liverpool. 3. To implement this cycle F.O.C.W.Af.
 is requested to form one escort group with a paper strength
 of 9 ships from the forces in his command and transfer it to
 C. in C. W.A. These should be exclusive of 42nd escort group
 which is to be retained. (Reply: Capt. (D) Freetown, 211613Z.)
 4. No reinforcements are available until October but it is
 possible that a new group may be available for O.S.56 on 7th
 October. O.S/S.L. escorts will then have 34 days in the U.K.
 during which period they will be available for other duties
 after the necessary maintenance, rest and training.
 5. If and when a Freetown/Bahia convoy is instituted the next
 following O.S. Convoy will be sailed with two groups, one of
 which is to bring back the S.L. sailing about 7 days after its
 arrival, the other continuing to Bahia. 6. Convoys will then
 run to Bahia on a 20 day cycle, the disadvantage of a short lay
 over being accepted until a sixth group can be formed for this
 run.
 (D.T.D. Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 191253A to F.O.C.W.Af. C. in C.W.A.
 (R) F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in C. S.A.)

P.614. 614 amend route from E.A. to new position G. 007°
 45' N. 014° 05' W. omit position F.
 2. Estimate P.614 will pass through 010° S. 003°
 35' W. at 1300Z/20th E.A. Equator 010° W. at
 2300Z/23rd G. at 1300Z/26th. 3. A.H.Q. W.A. is requested to
 impose T.B. R.30 miles ahead and astern 10 miles either side of
 track. 4. P.614 report it outside this T.B. R. Zone.
 (F.O.W.A. 191431Z to P.614, Air H.Q. W.Af. (R) N.O.I.C.
 Ascension, C. in C. S.A.)

U/B Following is a summary of reported U-Boat sightings
 Sightings and attacks during the last 8 days.
 and Attacks. A. Catalina attacked with depth charges fully
 surfaced U-Boat 1038/11 1105 N. 1823 W. course
 280°. Aircraft damaged by gunfire.
 B. Liberator attacked and sunk U-Boat at approx.
 0945/11 in 12.20 N. 20.07 W. Liberator shot down.
 C. DUNKERY made Q.L/F. contact at 2000/12, 10° N. 16.21 W.
 D. Hudson attacked with two D/C and gunfire a U-Boat on
 surface which did not return fire, 12.03 N. 17.35 W. at 1510/13.
 E. M.L.226 reported large quantity diesel oil 1500/15 in 14.12 N.
 17.30 W. F. Hudson sighted U-Boat at 0755/17 13.32 N. 17.58 W.
 G. Hudson attacked U-Boat at 0929/17 14.11 N. 17.40 W. oil patch

/and...

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U/B and debris reported. H. French Sunderland sighted conning tower course 270° and attacked with four D/Cs. at 1215/17 in 15.13 N. 17.51 W. J. SANTA CECILIA made SSSS by S/M and attacked 15.30 N. 17.52 W. at 1250/17. Aircraft escorting SANTA CECILIA considered report doubtful. K. Sunderland sighted periscope at 1429/17, 14.28 N. 18.02 W. S.O. escort group 37 reported that CAMPION searched round this position but nothing was detected and the sighting is considered doubtful. Oil patches sighted and investigated without result. L. French Wellingtons attacked U-Boat 13.42 N. 17.36 W. at 0654/18. Oil patch and yellow debris observed. M. Oil patch sighted at (?140/18) position 15.12 N. 17.52 W. N. Oil patch sighted in 16.25 N. 17.20 W. at 1436/18. Comment - By distance, A,C,D,F,G,K and L could be the same U-Boat but it appears probable that two U-Boats at least were involved. B and H indicate 2 further boats so that it appears that certainly 4 U-Boats have been operating in Dakar Area. Of these one is known to be sunk B and three attacks at D.G. and L. all may have caused damage which indicates possibly that two further boats are damaged. Oil patch M. coincides with attack H. possibly indicating damage. Other oil patches are confusing. Patch E. does not fit into picture. 637 (? E.G.37) with S.L.135 reported many large oil patches on afternoon of 17th in Cape Verde Area all of which were investigated without success. (F.O.C.W.A. 191623A to Admty.)

Movements, August 19th. Arrivals Motor Launch 1041.
Lagos. Departure Motor Launch 1014.
(N.O.I.C. Lagos 191631 to Admty. etc.)

Escort of Regret your 112031 was received corrupt and check
RAMILLIES has only reached me now.
to Cape. (C. in C. S.A. 191751B to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty.)

A/S Ref. U-Boat reports T.O.O. 161145B August and
Operations 171142B August. Following outline of operations
14/8 to covering period 14th to 18th August submitted.
18/8. (2) 14th August NIGELLA ordered to sea
immediately after first attack to patrol vicinity
and co-operate with air patrols. No other ships
available. Venturas relieved aircraft after attack
patrolling area till dusk when two Catalinas
carried on. (3) 15th August. Search continued by Venturas
and U-Boat sighted and attacked at 1120B. Two Catalinas
carried on during night one on creeping line ahead patrol, and
other on Perimeter patrol round area 2 A.S.V. contacts obtained
at 1745B and 2009B, which disappeared on approach of aircraft.
(3) 16th August. Three Venturas co-operated with Mitchells
and two Catalinas carried out creeping line ahead patrols.
During night four Catalinas carried out similar patrols
covering an area 120 miles broad and 100 deep. (4) 17th August.
As no further contacts made two parallel track searches made
by 19 and 14 Venturas covering Area 200 by 250 miles.
(5) As D/F obtained 0826/17 which might possibly have been
same U-Boat though unlikely in view of strength of air patrols

/two....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

A/S
Operations
14/8 to
18/8.
(Contd.)

two Catalinas carried out two creeping line ahead searches further Eastward night 17/18 August. (7) During operations Catalinas flew 12 sorties totalling 200 hours and Venturas 41 sorties totalling 174 hours.
(C. in C. S.A. 191753B to Admty. Air Ministry, C. in C. E.F. A.H.Q.E.A.)

Movements,
Takoradi.

Arrived August 19th M.Ls.274, 296, 266, 277, 271.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 191907Z to Admty. etc.)

CARNARVON
CASTLE.

Amend route from C to new position E 007° 40' N. 014° 20' W. omitting D.
(F.O.C.W.A. 191931Z to CARNARVON CASTLE (R) Admty.)

P.614.

Expect to be 5 hours earlier in each position arriving destination 1600Z/26th. Your 191431 para (2) (N.T. in W.R.) refers.
(P.614, 192242Z to F.O.C.W.A. etc.).

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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. My 0035B (N.T. in W.D.). Enemy previously reported are two destroyers and three medium merchant vessels.
(A/C. G N/W via Alex. 190040B)

M.K.S.22. Pass to Cmdre. and escort, Bizerta joiners (list) total 12 ships.
(F.O.I.C. Tunisia 190129B to S.O. Escort M.K.S. 22 (R) Admty. etc.)
Pass to Cdre. and Escort. Intend to join, 9 VACUUM (T) 21 M/F JIDDA.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 190846B to SLAZAK.)
M.K.S.22. My 180951B. OCEAN VISCOUNT will not join.
Destination of ULLA is now Oran.
(N.O.I.C. Tunis, 190955 to SLAZAK.)
M.K.S.22. Pass to Cdre. and Escort. My 171406B sailed plus EMPIRE THACKERAY to Bizerta for onward routing.
4 ships.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 191135B to SLAZAK (R) Admty. etc.)

Movements Malta. Movements 18th August.
Arrivals QUILLIAM, QUEENBOROUGH and QUAIL, VETCH, PENTSTEMON and CONVULVULUS. (Escorting Merchant Vessels Ex. U.G.S.13). PIROUETTE, EURYALUS, L.C.T. 421 and 396, L.C.I. 282.
Departures PALOMARES, BUDE, STORNOWAY, POLRUAN, BOSTON, SEAHAM, OFFA, PETARD, RAIDER, L.C.I.132.
Departed and returned OAKLEY and WHEATLAND.
(V.A. Malta, 190646B to Admty. etc.)
Sailed M.T.B.307. Arrived M.T.B.636.
(V.A.Malta, 190649 to Admty. etc.)

Movements Alexandria. August 18th arrival OXLIP, BEVER, departure WOLBOROUGH, M.L.355.
(R.A.Alexandria, 190656C to Admty.)

10th S/M.F. Summary (?at) 2000/19th. (1) O.R.P. Sokol off Bari. (2) P.44 (UNITED) off Alice Point. (3) P.52 (DZIK) 035 degs. 46' 016 degs. 18' to arrive Malta 0800/20th. (4) P.51 (UNSEEN) leaves Malta, 0430/20th to 035 degs. 53' 015 degs. 32' at 2000/20th. (Capt. (S) 10, 190701)

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of enemy 1 medium vessel, 2 M/S, 1 Escort Vessel - KIKT OO 54 (undecypherable) 180 degs. 5 knots.
(A/C GQA/R, 190827Z)
My 0817Z enemy previously reported are one medium vessel 4000 tons 2 minesweepers one escort vessel.
(A/C GQA/R, 190855Z)

Movements/...

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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements, 18th August, Arrivals Z.35. Departures
Beirut. AETOS, PINDOS, COMMANDANT DOMINE.
(S.O.(I) Beirut, 190840C to Admty.)

M.E. Air A.602. 19th August, 0854Z, daily Opsum 113.
Report. 17/18 August 2 Beaufighters bombers independent
anti shipping R/C Aegean. 1 Bombed small
ship in Melos scoring 1 near miss. Vessel
attacked with cannon and machine guns, many
strikes. Second bombed Caique in Syros Harbour. Results
unobserved, cannon attack also made. 2 Wellingtons bombed
warehouses and shipping in Syros Harbour, scoring 2 hits on
mole, other bombs in water near mole. Following delayed
details. 17th August 2 Beaufighters anti shipping R/C West
coast of Greece. 1 bombed 500 ton ship in Zante Harbour, 1
bomb falling between ship and quay while second bomb hit jetty,
second Beaufighter made no attacks.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.190901Z)

8th S/M.F. (1) LA SULTANE in Gulf of Genoa. (2) P.217
Movements (SIBYL) 041 degs. (755') 007 degs. 32' 025 degs.
at 2 1/2/9 to patrol in Gulf of Genoa. (3) P.224
1958B/19th. (SICKLE) 039 degs. 06' (? 012 degs.) 04' 000 degs.
2 1/2/9.
(Capt. (S) 8, 191020B)

Situation [ROWAN + BENSON]
Report. Following is a repetition of my 152016 (received
(15/8) undecypherable) (Begins:) (1) U.S. Cruiser
BOISE and Destroyers bombarded Milazzo 14th to
cover landing operations. U.S. Naval Craft
ferried artillery round Cape Calava 14th where
road tunnel demolished.
(2) SIRIUS, DIDO and PANTHER bombarded Scaletta night 14/15th
firing over 1000 rounds on to the port in 20 minutes at 8000
yards range. (3) NUBIAN and TARTAR on sweep Italian coast
to Cape Rizzuto night 14/15th encountered 3 E-Boats which fired
torpedoes and left at high speed. (4) M.T.B's operated off
Messina night 14/15th M.T.B.665 set on fire and sunk. 7 may have
reached shore or been pulled up by other M.T.B's.
(5) APHIS, FLORES and COCKCHAFFER operated inshore on Sicilian
coast on 14th FLORES bombarded coast road at Taormina.
No opposition. (6) U.S. Destroyers and M.T.B's swept
coastwise Milazzo to Italian mainland night 14/15th nothing
met. (7) Coastal Forces in Straits of Messina night 14/15th
chased 3 enemy craft which made good their escape.
(8) Port Party established at Marsala on 9th. Ends.
(C. in C. Med. 191024B to Admty.)

SOKOL. Leave patrol after dark 20th August to pass
041 degs. (?19') 018 degs. 00' at 0500/21st thence
040 degs. 11' 019 degs. 10' at 0500/22nd thence
038 degs. 44' 018 degs. 26' at 0500/23rd thence
035 degs. 45' 016 degs. 38' at 1200/24th to R/V

5 miles /...

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Mediterranean.

- SOKOL (Contd.) 5 miles East of position B in Q.K.B.147 with minesweeper at 0800/25th. Do not pass West of this last position unless in company with minesweeper. Surface passage on 23rd. (2) MJAO 24, request bombing restriction to cover above passage. (Capt. (S) 10, 191048 to SOKOL.)
- UNSEEN. P.51 (UNSEEN) will patrol off Bari and not Brindisi, my 181158 refers. (Capt. (S) 10, 191115 to C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 1, (R) 10th S.F.)
- Broadcast to Italian Seamen. Your 151734. Concur that heading of leaflet should be amended to conform with A.M.142334. (2) Concur also in use of C. in C. Med's name as signature to leaflet and in broadcast at the end of the heading to message in A.M. 142334. (Head of M. (1) 191122A to C. in C. Med. (A), (R) C. in C. Med. (M), C. in C. Levant.)
- M.M.S. Your 291714 July and my 052209. Survey confirms M.M.S. 80 and 81 unfit for operations except in fair weather. (2) Request E.T.A. Gib. of M.M.S. (33?) and 35. (3) In view of desirability sailing in good weather intend M.M.S.80 and 81 shall return U.K. as soon as possible. V.A. Malta is requested prepare for ocean passage and to sail to Gib. for onward routeing. (C. in C. Med. 191252B to Admty.)
- Capt. (D) 21. The situation in Nore Command with greatly increased volume of traffic is very difficult and it is hoped you will be able to comply with para. 1 of C. in C. Nore's 182059/August, if these Officers can be spared. (2) C. in C. Nore has been informed that the ships concerned cannot be released for the present. (D.O.D.(H), Approved A.C.N.S. (H), 191328A to C. in C. Med. (Malta) (R) C. in C. Nore, Capt. (D) 21.)
- TROUBRIDGE. Reference to torpedoing of TROUBRIDGE not understood. Your 161920 (Natal message) refers. Ship is undamaged. (C. in C. Med. Malta, 191346 to Admty.) Reply: Admty. 211806A.
- Command Organisation, C. in C. Leaves Malta. Following is a repetition of my 191310 101 B begins Mediterranean and Levant Stations, Admty. F.O.C.W.Af., C. in C. E.F. from C. in C. Med. 101 B, to holders of Naval Cypher. C. in C. Med. is returning to Algiers p.m. 20th August. (2) As from 1400/20th August the C. in C. Med.

organisation /...

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War Diary.19.8.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Command
Organisation,
C. in C.
Leaves
Malta.
(Contd.)

organisation at Malta will close down and following division of responsibility is to come into force: (a) C. in C. Med. will conduct all operations and administration from Algiers. (b) F.O. 'H' will be responsible for active operations against the Italian coast and in adjacent waters. The 1st and 2nd Divisions of the Battle Squadron, 15th Cruiser Squadron and all (corrupt group ? Fleet) Destroyers less those working from Bizerta are under his orders for this purpose. (c) F.O.Sy. will be responsible for operations in the Straits of Messina, having monitors and gunboats under his orders as detailed by C. in C. Mediterranean for this purpose. (d) V.A. Malta will continue to be responsible for supply of Sicily and routine duty in Central Med. within limits laid down in Med. 00200/12 of 31st May, Para. 8. (3) As from 1200/20th August all signals for C. in C. Med. are to be routed to Algiers and to other authorities in accordance with the division of responsibilities in Para. 2 above, signals for F.O. being routed via Malta. (5) B.27 of 26th June is cancelled. T.O.O.191350. (Ends.) (C. in C. Med. 191350B to Admty. etc.)

UNRULY,
ships
attacked.

UNRULY reports at 1050/15 in 40 degs. 41' 18 degs. 01' fired four torpedoes at 5000 ton southbound tanker in ballast, escorted by two corvettes and destroyer. Two hits vessel seen beached. (2) At 1629/15 in 40 degs. 52' 17 degs. 58' fired four torpedoes at 5000 ton tanker and 5000 ton liner overlapping target in convoy of about 8 ships forming up. One explosion at correct interval followed by three more. Consider at least one vessel damaged. (S.10, 191420B to C. in C. Med. etc.)

M.K.F.22.

Sailing telegram (2) 1157/19. (3) Sailed together. (4) (5) (6) as in C. in C. Levant's 171717 August less ALDENHAM. (13) (A) Cdre. England in ORBITA for Algiers. (R.A. Alexandria, 191442C to Admty. etc.)

G.U.S.13Z.

Pass to Cdre. and escort. Intend to sail 8 knots ZAHRA (T). Fuel oil. Benghazi. To R/V with G.U.S.13 Z. in position 333 at 1945/21st. Local escort M/L 1149, callsign 5 WXX, and M/L 1223. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 191530C, 200955C to SAKTOURIS, (R) FARNDAL, HYACINTH, Admty. F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in C. Med. etc.)

Movements
Aden.

Arrival 0645Z FROBISHER, 1209Z CAPETOWN. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 191551Z to C. in C. Levant etc.)

Docks /...

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19.8.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Docks. Your O31703 June to Admty, (Requesting experience gained with 250 ton and 350 ton docks)
(1) Performance of 250 ton and 350 ton Docks generally satisfactory. (2) Very desirable that 350 ton Docks be provided for L.C.I.(L) and essential 450 ton Docks for L.C.T's 3 and 4. Smaller size of docks have not repeat not adequate lift. (3) Wooden plugs have to be used in ends of flooding pipes in 250 ton and 350 ton docks. (A) to ensure each section of Pontoon is efficiently blown when lifting. (B) For safety and preservation of small freeboard in weather or when vessels are passing dock. (C. in C. Med. (A), 191637 to B.A.D. (R) Admty.)

Movements, 19th August Port Said arrivals WOLBOROUGH.
Port Said. Departures PRINCESS ELIZABETH, WOLBOROUGH,
LOTUS.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 191637C to Admty. etc.)

N.A.A.F. N.W.Af. Air Forces Opsum 179.
Report. N.W.Af. Strategic Air Force.
17/18 August. P.D.48 Wellingtons beaches from Briatico to Cape Suvero 88³/₄ tons dropped, fires started at Pizzo and Lamezia followed by 2 large explosions. Direct hit bridge N.E. Pizzo. Some Aircraft attacked Marina Di Valentia causing fires. 36 (? or 66). Mitchells escort 24 U.S. Lightnings road and railway bridges Angitola. Burst across North and South ends. Railway bridge road bridge not hit. 36 U.S. Marauders escort 35 U.S. Lightnings road and railway Ponto Di Staletti. Targets well covered. 4 U.S. Mitchells escort 24 U.S. Lightnings shipping sweep Gulf of Eufemia. Fired 67 rounds 75 m.m. and dropped 4 x 500. Large landing craft north Fiume Freddo hit on water line by 3 shells; on merchant vessel 8 miles north Pizzo hit on waterline and ship bombed. Vessel broke in two. 38 U.S. Lightnings 24 with bombs swept Toe of Italy. Railway station bridge yards and siding Soverata (hit). 29 U.S. Warhawks bombers escort 16 U.S. Warhawks swept South Sardinia dropping bombs on barracks, railway and factory Gorizia (?) area. Naval vessel strafed left in flames, in sinking condition. N.W.A. Tactical Air Force. 12 August (add) 159 Warhawks bombers 61 Kittyhawks bombers attacked shipping and road transport 3 landing craft hit.
(H.Q. N.W.A.A.F. 191645B)
Part 2 of Opsum No.179. 4 Vehicles destroyed, 11 damaged. 182 Spitfires escorted bombers and fighter bombers. 2 F.W. 190 destroyed 4 M.E. 109 probable 1 M.E.109 damaged. 13 August (add). 161 Warhawks bombers 49 Kittyhawks 126 U.S. Mustangs. Direct hits 5 landing craft and 1 E-Boat. Near misses 1 merchant vessel. Few road targets found.
(H.Q. N.A.A.F. 191832B)

Part 3 /...

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19.8.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

N.A.A.F. Part 3 of N.A.A.F. Opsum No.179.
Report. N.W.A. Coastal Air Force 17/18 August.
(Contd.) 5 Wellingtons armed shipping R/C West Italian
Coast and Ligurian Sea. 1 attacked convoy
1 merchant vessel 4 escort vessels with 2
torpedoes 25 miles West Rome. Not hits.
1 attacked convoy 1 merchant vessel 3 escort vessels with 2
torpedoes off Fiumara Grande results not observed. 6 Hudsons
2 Wellingtons 1 Beaufighter A/S and convoy escort.
Enemy Activity. 17/18 August. 2050 hours.
Bizerta Harbour attacked by 75 enemy aircraft. 1 L.C.T. sunk
1 merchant vessel strafed, 1 dump set on fire. Other damage
believed negligible. 19 persons reported killed 175 injured
Beaufighters destroyed 2 aircraft and 1 probable as reported
above. A/A claim 8 destroyed.
(H.Q. N.A.A.F. 191844B)

TORBAY,
TEMPLAR.

Capt. (S), 8 181356. If it is desired that
both S/M's should proceed direct on patrol
request S/M intelligence note which is being
flown to Cairo tomorrow Friday may be forwarded
to Malta in time to catch S/M.
(Capt. (S) 1, 191710C to C. in C. Levant.)

Med.
Air
Report.

Signed Eisenhower. Part 3. Air Cositintrep
No.40, 18 August.
N.W.Af. Air Forces. Night 17/18. 48
Wellingtons dropped 89 tons of bombs and 432,000
leaflets on beaches between Briatico and Cape
Suvero. Large explosions were seen at
Pizzo and Lamesia where fires were started. 29 Light bombers
attacked communications on Toe of Italy. Q/T and road bridges
were targets. Coastal Air Force Wellingtons attacked a small
convoy off West Italian Coast with unknown results. Day 18th
August. 29 P.40 fighter bombers escorted by 16 P.40 fighters
dropped fragmentation bombs in the Gormesia area in S.Sardinia
and strafed a two masted naval vessel which was left in flames.
24 P.38 fighter bombers escorted by 14 other P.38's attacked rail
communications at Saverato. Road and rail bridges at Augetila
and Porto Distaletti were attacked, former by 36 B.25's and
latter by a similar number of B.26. Both formations were
well escorted by P.38. Four B.25 G's escorted by 24 P.38's
fired 69 (or 67) rounds of 75 m.m. shells and dropped 4 500 lb
bombs against shipping in Gulf of Eufemia. Medium M/V off
Pizzo broke in two. Tactical air force fighter bombers
continued to harrass the retreating enemy in Toe of Italy.
(2) Malta night 17/18 August. Mosquitoes intruded against
railway in Southern Italy with good results and also destroyed
(?word corrupt) 217. (3) Air intelligence sixty aircraft
attacked Bizerta on the night of 18/19 August, three being
claimed destroyed by A/A and two by Beaufighters.
(Air C. in C. Med. No. T.O.O./19.)

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

War Diary.19.8.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

B.Y.M.S. lack of spares. B.Y.M.S. are now nearly all out of action due to lack of engine spares. This was forecast in my signal 311430 May para. 3. At present B.Y.M.S. are only being kept in action due to the kindness of U.S. Navy in the Mediterranean who are also short of stores. (2) Immediate replacement demands for engine spares for B.Y.M.S. have been signalled to B.A.D. in V.A. Malta's 051745. (3) Demands for electrical maintenance stores and Oropesa stores have not been made specifically as establishment of these stores is not known. (4) Request immediate action be taken to supply stores spares and maintenance handbooks for B.Y.M.S. now on the station. It is suggested that 30 spare engines complete be sent in addition. (C. in C. Med. Malta, A.191806B to Admty. (R) B.A.D. V.A. Malta, F.O.S.Y.) Reply: 211335A.

French Liaison. I am in general agreement with proposals in your 170016. It has been becoming increasingly evident that some organisation is necessary here to deal exclusively with French Naval and re-armament problems. (2) Agree to composition of Mission and to Capt. Wharton as No.2. It is important that mission should contain an Officer who has held appointments on technical side of Admty. to deal with detailed questions which arrive over re-armament. There will also be a crop of financial problems arising now that we are returning ports to the French and in connection with claims and payment for defence stores. (3) I am not however altogether satisfied with the proposal that mission should work direct with Admty. and not through me. It is inevitable that the French will in fact bring their troubles to me and much time and signalling will be saved if I am kept fully informed. Suggest Mission should be responsible to Admty through me. I should naturally only concern myself with matters of policy and routing matters would go on as they do in connection with any other question. It seems to me that the knowledge of the French background here and the experience gained in the last nine months will be wasted unless the arrangement is as outlined above. (C. in C. Med. (Malta) 191825 to Admty for V.C.N.S.) Reply: 012235A
September

TROOPER. TROOPER sails from Beirut at 2015C/20th August routed through following positions:
A 033 degs. 39' 032 degs. 41' at 0815C/21st
B 033 degs. 51' 029 degs. 54' at 2015C/21st
C 033 degs. 16' 026 degs. 39' at 0100C/23rd
proceeding on surface at 11½ knots during daylight 21st to operate in North Aegean North of 037 degs. 45' N.
(Capt. (S) 1, 191904C to C. in C. Levant, (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 10. Cdre. (D), 1st S/M.F. C.C.F. Eastern Med.)

Escort /...

19.8.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Escort Carriers. Escort carriers will complete work up about the end of the month. Your 140055 refers. (C. in C. Med. (Malta.) 191906B to Admty. (R) R.A.A., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. W.A. C. in C. Plymouth)

K.M.S.22. Following arrived EMPIRE AUSTIN, EMPIRE NEWTON, FORT GRAHAM, CRISTA, FORT MEDUCTIC, TALMA, EMPIRE HEYWOOD, EDAM. (R.A. Alex. 191916C to Admty.)

PARTHIAN (presumed lost) Propose to pay off PARTHIAN to date 11th August. My 132207 refers. (C. in C. Levant, 191919C to Admty.)

Operation "Settler". If you met interference or have reason to believe Karalodos Bay compromised report by W/T within next 48 hours. (Capt. (S) 1, 191925C, 192040C to P.339 (TAURUS), (R) P.314 (TACTICIAN)).

NIEUW AMSTERDAM. Your 180222 NIEUW AMSTERDAM arrived Suez 18th August and arrangements made to embark 2100 service personnel tomorrow 20th August and sail vessel to Durban in accordance your 072205B to P.S.T.O.M.E. only. Request immediate instructions. Meanwhile vessel will be held Suez and F.O.R.S.C.A. requested arrange accordingly. (P.S.T.O.M.E. 191959C to Admty. for D.S.T. (R) C. in C. M.E. C. in C. Levant, F.O.R.S.O.A., D.S.T.O., Suez.) Reply: D.S.T. 202036A.

Movements Algiers. Arrivals BOXER, BRUISER, THRUSTER, BRECON, BOISE (U.S.S.) BRISTOL, (U.S.S.) LUDLOW (U.S.S.) Submarine DOLFYN (P.47). Departures LETITIA, KANARIF (GR.) CHASSEUR 111, (French) Submarine ORPHEE (French). Arrived and Departed BLACKMORE, BLANKNEY. (Com. Algeria, 192008B to Admty. etc.)

Situation Report No.158. (1) (?AURORA), DIDO, PENN and PANTHER operating Tyrrhenian sea night 18/19th sank 7 Northbound landing craft off Scalea. (2) ULSTER MONARCH bombed and set on fire 190024 off Cape Bon. Fire extinguished and continued passage to Tripoli at 15 knots. Steering gear damaged and large hole aft. (3) 37 members of bombers crews rescued by air sea Rescue Service Bone on 18th. (4) Air attack on Bizerta reported in Sitrep 157 SS. WALTON B. EVANS and one L.C.I. sunk. 4 Officers and 3 ratings wounded in addition to about 100 U.S. Navy personnel, now reported 11 enemy aircraft destroyed.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation Report No.158. (Contd.) (5) Landing at Scaletta night 15/16th reported in Sitrep 156 was made by L.C.A's of PRINCE CHARLES and PRINSES BEATRIX with 5 L.C.T's supported by ROBERTS destroyers gunboats and L.C.F. Under Naval command Capt. D.4, Slight opposition. No damage to ships or craft. (6) TRIPPE and 3 P.T's received surrender of Aeolian Islands 171230 from Italian Naval Commander at Lipari. Radio and Cable Station inoperative but not sabotaged. Radio Station on Stromboli out of action. Germans had left 10 days earlier. (C. in C. Med. 192012 to Admty.)

Movements, Haifa. Arrivals 19 August. BULLFINCH. Departures 19 August HAYDON, AETOS (G.S.) COMMANDANT DOMINE (F.S.) (N.O.I.C. P.P. 192020C to Admty. C. in C. Levant.)

Movements, Oran. Arrivals today U.S.S. DALLASEN, ALYNBANK, TYNE DALE, KANARIS, DELPHINIUM, ROCKWOOD, SOUTHERN SEA, FALK, SOUTHERN MAID, JUMNA, PRIMULA. (C. in C. Med. pass to Comnavnav) (Com.N.O.B. Oran, 192037B to Admty. etc.)

Malta Air Report. A.I.1085, Opsum No.101. August 18th. Five Spitfires made photo R/C of Taranto and aerodromes Southern Italy and special areas in the Toe of Italy. 1 Baltimore made A/S patrol for shipping. 18/19 August. Offensive operations were curtailed owing to weather conditions. 1 Torpedo carrying Wellington searched for enemy shipping between the Heel of Italy and the Albanian coast. 2340 hours 2 Beaufighters were airborne in interception patrols for 3 enemy aircraft which approached Malta, probably on shipping R/C but did not cross coast. 2 Malta Beaufighters were airborne from Sicily on interception patrols East of Sicily and at 0250 hours 1 JU.87 was probably destroyed in Syracuse area. 1 Beaufighter made interception patrol North of Malta. 1 Wellington made a shipping search in Gulf of Taranto and 2 Wellingtons made A/S patrols for shipping. 19 August. 6 Spitfires made photo R/C of Taranto and Lalse? Areas? aerodromes Southern Italy and special areas in Toe of Italy. 4 Baltimores made A/S patrols for shipping. 13 Beaufighters provided escort to shipping. 3 Spitfires were airborne for a raid which turned back before reaching Malta. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 192118Z)

Italian Mine. B.106. Italian drifting contact mine discovered in Sicily has following characteristics. (Details). (E) Mine is fitted for laying by parachute from aircraft though no parachute has been found. (F) No booby trap is fitted but rendering safe is not recommended till H.T.D. 1 has been issued. (C. in C. Med. (M), 192130 to Med. Station, Levant Station, (R) Admty.)

CITY OF DIEPPE /...

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19.8.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

CITY OF
DIEPPE. Your 311313/July and my 062240/July. Assume that CITY OF DIEPPE will not be required for further service in Mediterranean and intend therefore to sail her for Colombo as soon as refit and restoring are completed.

(2) To avoid delay not intended to send stores in transit for Malta by this opportunity. Earlier opportunities of ordinary freight to Malta will be utilised for stores urgently required.

(D. of V. (Q.A.M.713) Approved by 4th S.L., 192135A to C. in C. Med.)

Movements, Arrival 19th August: GRAYLING (Corrupt Group)
Augusta. M.L.No.168 L.S.T. 402, 430, L.C.F.7,
M.L.258, 555 L.C.I. 314, L.C.T's 364, 379, 418,
390, 316, 321, 587.
Departure L.S.T.402, 430, M.L.562, L.C.T. 633.
M.T.B. 78, MAURITIUS, PRINCE LEOPOLD, PRINCE CHARLES,
PRINSES BEATRIX, FAULKNER, INTREPID, O.R.P. PIORUN,
(?QUANTOCK), SEAHAM, BROCKLESBY.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 192145 to Admty.)

G.U.S.12. Following remained Oran (list).
(2) Ships from Oran sailed as in my 131139 plus
HYAM SOLOMON, A.G. BELL and J.A. BROWN less
JOHN MOTLET. (3) Time did not permit boarding
all ships and it not known whether they all hold necessary
orders and recoding tables.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 192159B to C. in C. Med. (A))

Movements, Following is a repetition of my 192236B. (Begins)
Bone. "M.M.S.116 arrived and sailed:"
(N.O.I.C. Bone, 192243B to Admty. etc.)

U.G.S.13. Following transports sailed in U.G.S. 13,
FRANS HALS in ballast for Alexandria.
TEMPLEYARD in ballast ex Sicily urgently requires
Fourth Engineer Steam. DUKE OF ATHENS with
60 tons aero engines spare parts and gas cylinders for
Alexandria ex Syracuse, Tankers ARGO and CEDARDALE in ballast.
(D.S.T.O. Malta, 192245B to D.S.T)

Movements Arrivals M.T.B. 76, 77, 79, 84, 315, 309,
Malta. 206, 266, M.L.564, M.T.B.78.
(V.A. Malta, 192312B to Admty. etc.)
Arrival MAURITIUS, INTREPID, FAULKNER, PIORUN,
L.S.T. 408.
Departures HAZARD, BERYL, MINOR, CIRCE, ABDIEL, CONVULVULUS,
PENSTEMON, VETCH, WHADDON, LAUDERDALE, BRITTANY, L.C.T.396.
Arrived and sailed CLEVELAND.
(V.A. Malta, 192328B to Admty. etc.)

/Arrived...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Movements
Malta.
(Contd.)

Arrived S/M UNRULY.
(V.A. Malta, 192331 to Admty. etc.)

Movements,
Tripoli.

Arrived HAMBLEDON, PRINSES J. CHARLOTTE, ROYAL
ULSTERMAN, ULSTER MONARCH, L.S.T. 420, 302,
324, 367, 410, 421, 426, 427 CIRCE, L.C.T. 317,
318, 328, 325, 307, 386, 397 sailed L.S.T. 622.
(S.N.O. Trip. 192325 to Admty.)

Movements,
Tobruk.

Arrived CALM, M.L.1149 M.F.V's 51, 55, 70, 109,
157.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 192359C to Admty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Movements

Arrival LAHORE.

(N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam, 190451).

Khor Kuwai arrivals 190200 ORISSA and TAMWORTH.

(N.O.I.C. Hormuz, 190546Z).

Arrived BARWIND.

(N.O.I.C. Seychelles, 190705Z).

Arrival SUFFOLK at 0715Z/19th.

(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 190750Z).

Colombo arrivals 19th August 0810Z WILLEM VAN DER ZAN.

Departures 1035 HINDUSTAN. 1035 BERAR. 1045 POONA.

(F.O. Ceylon, 191421Z).

Arrival RAMDAS.

(N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 191630).

IRRAWADDI

IRRAWADDI took over escort PAKHOI a.m. today relieving RAMDAS.

(N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 190506Z to Admty. etc).

Convoy
P.B. 52 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Sailing telegram. Part 2. (2 ships troops, Bombay)
(N.C.S.O. Karachi, 190754Z to C. in C. E.F.)

Air Report
India.

A.311 19th August.

Daily Opsum number 522 17/18 August. 3 Hurricanes attacked river craft Myebon. 1 River Steamer 2 Sampans sunk. 1 Hurricane abandoned operations due weather. Outstanding reports 10th U.S.A.A.F.

16th August. 10 U.S. Liberators (B.24) sea sweep off Rangoon. 1 A/C returned due engine trouble. 9 A/C dropped 10 tons 2 small freighters 120 miles south of Moulmein. Near misses freighters also machine gunned appeared sinking condition.
(H.Q., R.A.F. India, 190908Z No. T.O.O. recd. 200500A Air Min).

NIEUW
AMSTERDAM.

Now probable that NIEUW AMSTERDAM will proceed to Pacific from Suez. Admiralty decision is awaited.

2. Following routes (a) to Durban (b) to Pacific are given pending Admiralty decision as to her destination, A.(route) thence to Durban.
B. (Route) thence as required by A.C.N.B.
(C. in C. E.F., 191002Z to F.O.R.S.C.A.)

Enemy
Intelligence.
Raiders.

Following ungraded information received from Soviet Naval Staff.

2. On 8 July two diesel ships each armed with one gun were in inner harbour at Yokohama. These ships are believed ex British or

American and were probably being manned by survivors from a German raider in preparation to sail for Europe.

3. On same date another German diesel ship was lying in Sinko (Winko) wharves (jetty No. 3) loading cargo of boxes, presumably rubber, while a fourth German ship of about 7000 tons was at Jetty No.4.

(Admiral Fisher, 191129C to Admty). O.I.C. Comment:- The ships referred to in para. 1 are unlikely to be British or American

/otherwise...

19.8.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Enemy
Intelligence
Raiders.

otherwise this seems a reasonable report. Yokohama is known to be much used by German ships in the Far East. The raider survivors may be from raider "E" which was destroyed at Yokohama in November 1942. Several of the crew of this raider were taken prisoner whilst returning to Europe in blockade runners intercepted in April 1943.

Convoy
J.C.(?19).

Sailing telegram. (3 ships, list etc).
2. 1200Z/19th August 1943. 4. 9½ knots.
5. Coastal. 6. SHILLONG.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 191134Z 191136Z to Admty).

Convoy
C.X.7.

Sailing telegram Part 2. (2 ships).
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 191146Z to Admty).

Convoy
M.B.44.

Sailing telegram (2 ships). (2) 1230Z/19th August. (4) 9 knots. (5) Coastal. (6) Berar.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo 191251Z, 191256Z to Admty).

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19.8.1943.

Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Movements. St. Johns, N.F. 18th. Arrivals SACKVILLE, GALT ex Halifax. B.Y.M.S. 240, 33 ex Halifax. LADY MADELEINE, NORTHERN SKY ex O.N.S. 15.
 Departures B.Y.M.S. 173, 75, 157, 74, 52, 55, 229 to Londonderry. HESPERIA, GRENADIER, to W.H.X. 252. (F.O.N.F. 190135Z.)
 My 190135Z. (Re arrivals 18th). Add arrivals ASPIRANT ex Red Bay. (F.O.N.F. 191045Z.)
 BLACK BEAR arrived 1125Q and left for Trinidad 1400Q/19th E.T.A. 1200Q/20th. (Harbour Master Barbados 191503P.)
 S/M Chaser S.3 and S.4 (Royal Dutch Navy) departed 19th. (B.R.L.O. Santo Domingo 191640Q.)
 San Francisco departure 17th PENNANT (U.S.A.T.) Townsville. (N.S.H.Q. 191859Z.)
 STATE OF VIRGINIA U.S.A.T. arrived 18th. (R.O. Port of Spain 192014.)
 Arrival SALISBURY from B.X. 69. (Cdre. Halifax 192140Z.)

Attack on H.X. 252. 2 Ships hit. COBALT and LACHINE still attacking. (W.6. 190230Z to C. in C. N.W.A. (R) Connav, F.O.N.F., Admty. H.Q.C.C. A.C.I.C., Cmdr. (D) Argentia, C. in C.W.A. Cmdre. (D) W.A., N.S.H.Q.)
 H.X. 252. Fog. U-Boat (German) probably damaged, contact lost after 4 attacks of escort vessel

3 promising. COBALT hunting in vicinity. LACHINE investigating wrecks. Details follow. Request Tug be sent to 043° 51' N. 053° 12' W. Request additional escort to Westomp for convoy now screened only by MONTGOMERY and CHELSEA. (W.6 190525Z to F.O.N.F. C. in C. C.N.A. (R) Connav. Admty. A.C.I.C. C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q. Cmdre..(D) W.A. H.Q.C.C. Cmdr. (D) Argentia.)

Ref. W.6. 190200Z. Sailed ST. FRANCIS at 20 knots at 0530Z 19th to vicinity 045° 45' N. 056° 40' W. to carry out A/S sweep. Further orders to follow.

(C. in C. C.N.A. 191110A to F.O.N.F. (R) A.C.I.C. Connav. Admty. C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q. Cmdr. (D) Argentia, H.Q.C.C. Cmdre. (D) W.A.)

H.X. 252. Number 42 J.P. HENDERSON sunk* LACHINE has 1 survivor. 32 J.H. SENIOR floating COBALT standing by. BURY has 6 burned survivors. (? convoy) at 191 (? 845) Z in position A.F. course (? 129, 319, 199) speed 9. On relief propose to detach one ship for St. Johns. N.F. escorted by CHELSEA and LACHINE, MONTGOMERY screens COBALT if towing to release GRENADIER and HESPERIA for convoy duty. LACHINE taking off survivors from BURY weather 5544 1063. *W.D. Note: Incorrect see 201550Z (W.6 191200Z to F.O.N.F., C. in C. C.N.A. (R) Connav. Admty., A.C.I.C., C. in C.W.A., N.S.H.Q., H.Q.C.C., C.I., FORESTER, GRENADIER, Cdre. (D) Argentia, Cdre. (D) W.A.)

Ref. W.6. 190230Z GRENADIER, HESPERIA have been ordered to proceed to assistance of ships and will not accompany H.X. 252. (F.O.N.F. 191432Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

Admty. inform Comnav. All times Z. Para. A.
 J. PICKNEY HENDERSON torpedoed sunk* 4356 North 5302 west 190116.
 JH. SENIOR torpedoed 4356 north 5302 west 190116 still afloat.
 COBALT and LACHINE report four attacks on sub. 4356 north 5302 west 190116 with probable damage.
 (Cominch, 192115Z to Admty.) * W.D. Note Incorrect, see 201550Z.

H.X. 252...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Attack on H.X.252. (Contd.) H.X.252. My 1920 (corrupt group) Z. Number 11 RICHARD MONTGOMERY reported attacked not hit. Area (?scoured), no contact, no ships lost. Quiet now. Fog. (W.6 192158Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) Connav, Admty. etc.)

Your 192015Z. TOWY, KEPPEL, NARCISSUS, ORCHIS sailing Argentia 0030Z/20th to your assistance. If possible maintain contact until their arrival. Has been passed to Admty. and C. in C. W.A. for information. (F.O.N.F. 192209Z to COBALT (R) ST. FRANCIS, C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, GRENADIER, NORTHERN SKY.) My 192209 add RENONCULE. (F.O.N.F. 192324Z to COBALT (R) ST.FRANCIS, C. in C. C.N.A. N.S.H.Q. Admty. etc.)

Have thoroughly swept area now proceeding to position 043° 48' N. 053° 33' W. lifeboats sighted by A/C will then screen wreck. (COBALT 192230Z to F.O.N.F. C. in C. C.N.A. N.S.H.Q. (R) MONTGOMERY, ST. FRANCIS, SALISBURY.)

T.A.57. (AQUITANIA.) Convoy T.A.57 comprising AQUITANIA sailed from U.K.16/8. 2. Details of personnel on board are being communicated by War Office to Milstaf Washington and C.G.S.Ottawa. (D.of S.T. 190246A to B.A.D. B.M.W.T. New York, (R) N.S.H.Q.)

Secret equipment. Your 291831Z/June. Their Lordships have considered more than once during the war the preparation of a list on the lines now requested but have decided against it because it is undesirable to require technical Departments to produce information of this kind underpresent conditions; because any list prepared would never be up to date; and finally because the Censorship rules and restrictions of cameras in H.M. ships should adequately control the use of photography. For these reasons Their Lordships do not repeat not wish to prepare such a list now for American purposes. (V.C.N.S.190918A to B.A.D.)

S.H.97A. Arrivals INVER, OCTAVIA escorting S.H.97A. (C. Halifax 191129Z to N.S.H.Q. etc.)

VICTORIOUS. VICTORIOUS sends this as 190345 to B.A.M.R. and Admiralty as Action Addees. Expecting to arrive 26 August at Panama. (Commaveu 191144 to Admty.)

L.26. Amend my 191142 (191114Z intended). August 19th arrived L.26. (F.O.N.F. 191221Z to Admty. (R) F.O.C. S/Ms. C. in C. W.A. C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q.)

/Craft...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

- Craft Acceptances. (CANAD 5181 FRM Mission) C.N.341 accepted and commissioned 14th August, 1943. Acceptance subject to satisfactory completion of sea and equipment trials.
(B.A.T.M. 191340 to Admty.)
CANAD 5180 from Mission. C.N.314 U.S.S.P.G.96 accepted 16 August subject to satisfactory completion of equipment trials and handed over to U.S.N. same day.
(B.A.T.M. 191305 to Admty.)
- B.Y.M.S. B.Y.M.S.77 and 214 departed New York Throggs Neck 19th 0800Q for Boston via Long Island Sound and Cape Cod Canal.
(C.T.G. 02.3 191312 to C:E.S.F., C.T.G.02.1.)
- GEORGETOWN, W.3. E.T.A. 2000Z. E.T.A. W.3 with 13 ships 0100Z.
(GEORGETOWN 191500Z, 191601Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)
- B.Y.M.S. allocation. Request you will continue allocation of B.Y.M.S. in accordance with A.L. M/M/S 0669/42 dated 23rd October, 1942, after meeting requirements in A.M. 151912 July and 291809 July.
(D.M.S. 191532A to B.A.D.)
- U.S. S/M. Estimate. (Cominch 191555Z.)
- LE GLORIEUX. Enemy S/M estimate 1200Z/19.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 191600Z to LE GLORIEUX.)
- BATTLEFORD. E.T.A.2145. My position 043° 47' N. 062° 02' W. Weather report.
(BATTLEFORD 191615Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)
- Dispositions. My 191530 add SS. CAPETOWN CASTLE 045° 15' 049° 10' 252° 17.5 altering to 246° in 050° 00' W.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 191620Z.)
- TEIA MARU. Propose routing for Japanese Exchange Ship TEIA MARU has been received. From Singapore to Mormugao passing through Sunda Straits via Karimata Channel then:-
(A) 04.40 N. 94.40 E. (B) 05.50 N. 76.50 E. then Mormugao. Return route reverse. To permit early conclusion exchange negotiations request approval. Other routes my 141615Z* also urgently required.
(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 191730Z to Admty.)
- * W.R. Note. 141615 is part 1 of 141621. Re route for safe conduct exchange ship GRIPSHOLM.

/EYEBRIGHT...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

EYEBRIGHT. 19th. 1500. EYEBRIGHT. Halifax via Ches and Del Canal. Indefinite.
(R.O. Balto 191736 to Admty.)

Routeing. Request British controlled vessels loading nitrate from Chile to Middle East may be routed trans-pacific. 2. First vessel is SAMARITAN shortly ready at Iquique.
(D.T.D. 191840A to Comnav, (R) B.A.D. S.O. (I) Callao. B.R.L.O. Cristobal.)

PINTO. Departure U.S.S. PINTO to Argentina.
(C. Halifax 191845Z to Admty. etc.)

U/B. S/M. 1730 43.58 N. 52.43 W.
(Halifax C.C.O. No.T.O.O. Recd.191951 Admty. A.C.I.C.)
Following received from Newfoundland C.C.O. addressed C. in C. C.N.A. S/M. 1730 043° 58' N. 052° 43' W. (Ends.)
(C. in C. W.A. 192044A to A.C.I.C.)

LEAMINGTON. My 101908. LEAMINGTON may be delayed.
Expected to be ready to sail 25th.
(B.A.M.R. 192026Z to C. in C. N.A.)

Convoy H.X.253. 1. Sailing Despatch. Part 1.
2. Position HO at 1600Z August 20th.
3. 5.8. Routes and R/V as per Admty. 162051 June 041301B July Cominch C. & R. 181510 June C. in C. C.N.A. 161958 and 181400 August. "Homp"
1200Z/23rd. 6. Task Unit W.5. LINCOLN. S.O. SAINT ALBANS, MATA DOIA, HEPATICA, DIGBY, MELVILLE.
(P.D. New York 192124 to Admty.)

CANSO, NORSEMAN. Arrival CANSO escorting NORSEMAN (Cable Ship) from Bermuda.
(C. Halifax 192139Z to Admty.)

Helicopter trials. Your 041545 and further to my 091743.
2. Ministry of War Transport not inclined at present to allocate a second ship for fitting out to operate helicopters.
3. DAGHESTAN in signal to M.O.W.T. New York, No.35, 155 of 16.7.43., indicated that platform must be removed under U.S. security rule before sailing. If this is confirmed, it is not essential, although it would still be preferable, for DAGHESTAN to carry out the trials in

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Helicopter trials. (Contd.)
September. Any similar British ship which fulfils the requirements of your 142003/April would serve the purpose and could be directed to Baltimore if the trials were advanced. 4. In any case position of DAGHESTAN will be reviewed here before the end of August and you are requested to signal any further information then available regarding trials on, say, 26th August.
(A.C.N.S. (UT) 192140A to B.A.D.)

Stragglers report No.14.
1 arrived St. John's N.F. from H.X.251. EL MYNDO (Pan.) 13th boiler trouble. 1 arrived New York from H.X.252. NATHANIEL BACON (U.S.) 15th steering defective. 2 arrived St. John's N.F. from S.C.139. EXFORD (U.S.) 15th engine trouble. HARTLEPOOL 15th unable to maintain convoy speed owing to weather and bad coal.
(N.S.H.Q. 192201Z to Admty.)

L.N.17.
L.N.17 E.T.A. uncertain. Fog bound off position K. Will advise when able to proceed. ALBERNI detached 1000Z/19th in accordance with N.S.H.Q. 161841Z. Weather report.
(?ALGOMA 192300Z to S.N.O. Goose Bay, N.O.I.C. Rigolet.)

Oil Fuel Supplies.
My 032315 July. (Agreements reached regarding oil fuel supplies at Halifax and Newfoundland.) N.S.H.Q. now state release of SCOTTISH MUSICIAN and TEAKWOOD is delayed and may be effected during October.
(B.A.D. 192333Z to Admty.)

Convoy O.N.196.
E.T.A. Boston at 0800Z/21st. Provisional E.T.A. O.N.196 Ambrose 0200Z/22nd.
(ROXBOROUGH 192355Z to C.E.S.F.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest Serial No. 576 August 18th.
Four probable destroyers observed morning 12 miles S.E. Cape Saint George course undetermined probably N. or E. (2) S/M passed Cape Orford Northbound morning and

/another...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest
Serial
No. 576
August
18th.
(Contd.)

another Southbound with deck cargo afternoon.
(3) Afternoon search Liberator unsuccessfully bombed medium freighter 6 miles S.E. Cape Saint George Co. 300. Also observed large sea truck same area heading S.E. (4) Convoy photographed 25 miles N.W. New Hanover mid-day including 3 medium merchantmen, 1 escort vessel.
(5) During early hours patrol Catalina effectively strafed 17 barges observed anchored Cape Busing.
(6) 4 Wewak airfields also township and shipping attacked again mid-morning. Many Allied planes unable reach target but 9 Fortresses, 10 Liberators, 51 Mitchells escorted by 95 Lightnings inflicting further heavy damage in raid lasting one hour including estimated 50 planes destroyed on ground. Maximum 45 enemy fighters airborne whereof bombers shot down 11 while fighters claimed 14 certain plus 3 probables. 3 ships of 500 to 1,000 tons set afire in harbour and many barges sunk. 2 Mitchells one Lightning lost. (8) 11 Liberators despatched for Balikpapan strike midnight 17th/18th and 9 attained objective. 6 bombed and strafed shipping from masthead height probably destroying 4 medium sized ships and damaging 2 more. 3 Liberators attacked town starting fires. One A/C returned due mechanical trouble and 11th unable locate target bombed Makase?r. (9) Probable S/M observed approaching Vila night 17th when 2 westbound barges seen Blackett Strait.
(10) Same night 4 barges engaged by Allied patrol craft off Baeroko Harbour and early hours 18th 8 barges engaged 1 mile S.E. Vila with undetermined results. (11) 4 Jap destroyers escorting barge convoy towards S.E. engaged for half hour early morning 18th by 4 United States destroyers N. of Vella Lavella. 2 enemy destroyers badly damaged, third hit but necessity to disperse barges prevented pursuit. Coastwatcher saw two ships possible barges sink. Some barges may have landed N.E. Vella Lavella. 8 enemy planes ineffectually attacked our destroyers.
(12) Same night enemy planes dropped bombs and torpedoes at another two Allied destroyers escorting amphibious craft retiring from S.E. Vella Lavella. 1 small ship lost.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 190850Z.)

Movements. Arrivals 17th August Brisbane U.S. Transport BONTEKOE 18th Townsville ASIS YUNNAN. U.S. Transport CREMER H/T KATOOMBA departed Townsville 18th due Port Moresby 20th H/T TAROONA departed Townsville 18th due Port Moresby 20th H/T DUNTROON departed Cairns 18th due Port Moresby 20th.
(C.S.W.P.S.F. 191057 to Admty.)
Arrived Cairns 17th SWAN, GYMPIE, BENALLA. Milne Bay 18th PIRIE, KAPUNDA Sydney (N.S.W.) 18th BUNDABERG, MORESBY, TOWNSVILLE (? BALLARAT). Departed Brisbane 17th U.S. Destroyer BAGLEY for Milne Bay. Townsville 18th F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT, U.S. Destroyer HENLEY for Port Moresby Cairns 18th DELORAINE for Port Moresby H.M.A.S. KATOOMBA for Milne Bay.
(A.C.N.B. 191222Z.)
Departed Gladstone 18th U.S.S. VICTORIA for Brisbane.
(A.C.N.B. 191307Z.)

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 191340A, 191348A.)

Submarines Attacked.

S/M
attack
and
sighting
Summary for
24 hours
to 1000B/19.

Para.A. Two ships were attacked in convoy
H.X.252 at 0116/19 in 43° 56' N. 53° 02' W. by
1 S/M which was counter attacked by escorts.
French A/C attacked U-Boat at 0654/18 in 13°
42' N. 17° 36' W. H.M. ship missed U-Boat with
four torpedoes at 2205/12 in 40° 23' N. 18° 53' E.
Para.D. H.M. ships attacked doubtful contact at
2325/17 in 33° 10' N. 10° 01' W.
(D.D.I.C. 191000Z to Cominch.)

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War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- Enemy Units. 1. A Russian visual R/C of Altenfiord at 1230C today showed TIRPITZ, SCHARNHORST, one Pocket Battleship, and six destroyers still there as on the 15th August.
- Operation S.F. 2. ONSLOW, ORWELL, MATCHLESS, and ULSTER left the Faeroes at 0746A, and LLANDUDNO, BOOTLE, WORTHING and BEAUMARIS left Seidisfiord at 0700 to R/V with FRASERBURGH. Both these groups are patrolling in the Denmark Strait.
- Operation "Musketry". 3. BERMUDA left Plymouth at 1022A to cover the three Escort Groups (E.G.40, E.G.2 and E.G.5) on A/S patrol in the Bay of Biscay.
- Enemy Craft destroyed. 4. Hurricane A/C of 137 Squadron claim to have destroyed one M-class Minesweeper and one R-boat, and to have damaged two R-boats, off the French Coast in the Straits of Dover last night.

North Atlantic.

5. INDOMITABLE, aircraft carrier, left Gibraltar this morning for Norfolk, Va. for repairs in U.S.A. screened by OPPORTUNE, OBDURATE and U.S. destroyer BUCK.
- HALLFRIED. 6. SCOTTISH at 0420B reported that SS. HALLFRIED, Norwegian, was damaged by collision and required the services of a tug with pumping apparatus, in a position off Cacho Light, 162° 10 miles.

South Atlantic.

- U/B attacked. 7. C. in C. South Atlantic reports that a Catalina aircraft (C/259) attacked with depth charges a surfaced U-boat at 1226B in 28.45 S. 42.05 E. (220 miles S.S.W. of Madagascar)

/The...

20.8.1943.

Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic - Contd.

U/B attacked.
(contd).

The U-boat dived and a further attack was made by another Catalina (N/265) at 1630B in 28.54 S. 42.31 E. Both aircraft report direct hits observed, and C. in C. South Atlantic considers the attack most promising. Wreckage and a large oil patch 200 ft. by 100 ft. appeared after the U-boat disappeared.

C. in C. S.A. reported on 23 August that Catalina C attacked a U-boat at 1300C, today in 28.40 S. 42.36 E. and damaged it so that apparently it could not stay submerged. Good shadowing and co-operation enabled the relieving aircraft, Catalina N, to carry out a good attack at 1705C in 29.05 S. 42.30 E, which the Admiralty considered destroyed the U-boat. These two reports evidently refer to the attacks at 1226B and 1630B above.

Mediterranean.

Command
Organisation.

8. From 1400 today the organisation of C. in C. Mediterranean at Malta was closed down. The following division of responsibility came into force:-

(a) C. in C. Med. will conduct all operations and administration from Algiers.

(b) F.O. Force H, will be responsible for active operations against the Italian Coast and in adjacent waters. The 1st and 2nd Division of the Battle Squadron, 15th Cruiser Squadron, and all Fleet destroyers other than those working from Bizerta are under his orders for this purpose.

(c) F.O. Sicily, will be responsible for operations in the Straits of Messina, having monitors and gunboats under his orders as detailed by C. in C. Med. for this purpose.

(d) V.A. Malta will continue to be responsible for supply of Sicily and routine duty in Central Mediterranean within limits laid down in Mediterranean 0020/12 of 31st May.

East Indies.

Eastern
E.F.

9. The flag of Rear-Adm. Troubridge is to be hoisted on shore as from 13th August on his

/taking...

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Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Eastern
E.F.

taking up appointment as Sub. Force Commander, Eastern Expeditionary Force. It will be transferred to a more suitable ship when the latter is available.

America & West Indies.

H.X.252
(see 19th
August).

10. At 0945Z, COBALT, escorting convoy H.X.252, reported she was in A/S contact with a submarine which lay beneath a wreck, and was attacking with depth charges in 43.53 N., 53.12 W. in the vicinity of J.H. SENIOR (damaged on 19th).

At 1550Z, S.O. Escort Group B.3 reported that J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON was floating well but heavily on fire in 44.17 N., 52.58 W. and he considered her salvable only if the fire burnt out soon. NORTHERN SKY was standing by and KEPPEL had taken off 2 remaining survivors. HESPERIA was ordered to join NORTHERN SKY.

11. Convoy U.T.1 (Troop convoy) sailed from Hampton Roads today for U.K. via Argentia.

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Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

KISTNA. When ready for sea late August KISTNA should be sailed for Scapa to work up.
 (2) On completion of work up R.A.D.H.F. is requested to sail her for Londonderry where she will be based temporarily. (3) KISTNA will be attached to W.A. Command for a short period in accordance with A.M.142317 June on conclusion of which C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail her with convenient convoy for destination Bombay.
 (D.O.D.(H), 201256A to A.S. C.B.S.)

Defence of U.K.

Seidisfiord A/S defences. Owing to weather it is doubtful whether Seidisfiord Defence can be completed by ELDORADO.
 (2) Owing to condition of ELDORADO's engine room it is considered essential ship leaves direct for U.K. no later than 10th Sept.
 (3) Every endeavour to complete as much of the existing operation as possible is being undertaken.
 (ELDORADO, 201025A to A.C.I.C.)

Movements.

BELFAST. Scapa arrival BELFAST.
 (A.C.O.S. 200714A to C. in C. H.F.)

NENE. Arrived 0826 NENE.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 200928A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

S/M Movements. P.66 sailed Dundee 2200A/19th.
 (S.O.S/M Lerwick, 200937A to Admty.)
 Intend to sail RUBIS escorted by CHASSEUR 11 at 0600/24 from Needles by standard convoy route to Falmouth. E.T.A. D. one buoy 2030/24.
 (2) N.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to sail RUBIS and CHASSEUR 11 a.m. 25th to arrive position (YY) 180 degs. Lizard Head 10 miles at 0800/25. (3) From position (YY) RUBIS proceeds on surface whilst north of 049 degs. 30' N. thence diving by day as in my 201039A. (4) CHASSEUR 11 is to R/V with UNBROKEN in position (YY) at 0800/25 and escort her to Dartmouth as arranged by N.O.I.C. Falmouth. (5) N.O.I.C. Dartmouth is requested to sail UNBROKEN and escort a.m. 26th to arrive Spithead 1800/26.

(Capt. S.5, 201037A and 211547A)
 TANTIVY, UNTIRING escorted by COTILLION sailed for exercises, thence to comply with S.3's 181206A.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 201538A)
 Your 191543. Owing to defects in H.32 and to essential exercise commitments, H.32 and P.511 will not be ready to sail until 2000/22nd. Intend to sail them at that time.
 (Cdre. D. W.A. 201546A to Capt. (S) 7,)

Positions /...

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

S/M
Movements
(Contd.)

Positions of S/M's at 0800A/21 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 201622, 201813, 202241, 212229A)
Sailed ULTIMATUM, LE CURIE, MINERVE, TRUANT, escorted by KINGSTON AMBER in accordance with Capt. (S), 3's 172243 amended by 181013 and 201433.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 202004A)

E.G.1.

On completion of exercises in ROCKABILL area about 0001A/22nd First Escort Group consisting of EGRET (S.O), JED, ROTHER is to proceed Milford Haven to fuel, thence as ordered by

C. in C. Plymouth. (2) Orders for PELICAN and WEAR joining group will be given subsequently.
(C. in C. W.A. 201254A to PHILANTE)

GODAVARI.

R.A.D.'s 191905. Request you will arrange for GODAVARI to embark stores at Clyde and then to proceed to Londonderry to boiler clean.

(2) GODAVARI should be based at Londonderry while operating in W.A. Command in accordance with A.M.142317 June, on conclusion of which it is requested she may be sailed with convenient convoy for destination Bombay.
(D.O.D.(H), 201255A to C. in C. W.A.)

QUEEN
ELIZABETH.

My 181615A. Intend to provide 3 Hunts as escort to vicinity of position (H) 055 degs. 04' N. 005 degs. 30' W.
Request relief destroyers may take over escort in this position p.m. 29th August.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 201420A to C. in C. H.F.)

Operations.

Operation
"Musketry".

There are indications that enemy A/C are active from Bordeaux.
(D.D.I.C. 200328A to GLASGOW, CHARYBDIS, E.G.40, E.G.2)

My 191341. BERMUDA sailed.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 201022A to Admty. GLASGOW)

On completion of patrol WOODPECKER to Bristol.
Remainder of second escort group to Liverpool.
(C. in C. W.A. 201124A to E.G.2)

My 182305A. Para. 1. 5th Escort Group consisting of TWEED S.O, EDMUNDSTONE and SNOWBERRY left Milford Haven 1900A/19. NENE will join group later from Plymouth and take over duties of S.O. on joining.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 201140A to E.G.2, E.G.40)

Dispositions at 2000. (1) Escort Group 40, LANDGUARD, BIDEFORD, WAVENEY patrolling vicinity 043 degs. 30' N. 011 degs 00' W. (2) Escort group 2, KITE, WREN, WOODPECKER with STARLING, WOODCOCK patrol vicinity 044 degs. 00' N. 009 degs. 30' W. (3) BERMUDA 049 degs. 25' N. 008 degs. 35' W. Westbound, 20 knots. (4) Escort Group 5, SNOWBERRY, EDMUNSTON, TWEED

700

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Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation "Musketry" (Contd) 049 degs. 05' N. 009 degs. 50' W. southbound 12 knots. (5) OTUS 180 Bishop (Rock) 10 at approx. 2030, southbound to patrol. (C. in C. Plymouth, 201558B to Ships)
My P.C.S. 0700A/21, 036 degs. A.57, 180 degs. 11 knots. (E.G.5, 201945Z to C. in C. Plymouth)
My position 0700A/21 136 degs. P.26. (E.G.2, 202046A to C. in C. Plymouth)
Have obtained A.S.V. contact. (A/C. 612 Sqdn. Duty J. 202334 to 19 Group)
Attack abandoned. (A/C 612 Sqdn. Duty J. to 19 Group Recd. 202355)

Operation S.F. Faeroes Departure ONSLOW, ORWELL, MATCHLESS, ULSTER. (N.O.I.C.Faeroes, 200746A to C. in C. Rosyth.)
Sailed 0700/20 LLANDUDNO, BOOTLE, WORTHING, BEAUMARIS. (R.N.O.Seidisfiord, 200904A to C. in C. Rosyth)
My 031615B August. Moorings patrol in Milford Sound area. (2) On patrol 1200A/20. (A) 2 (B) 2 situation obscure re further patrols owing to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth, 201157A to H.F.)
My 031615 and 201157. Patrols 1700 to 2359/20th (A) Nil (B) 3. (C. in C. Rosyth, 201632A to H.F.)
My 031615 para. 2. From 0002 to 1201/21st (A) 2 (B) 5. (C. in C. Rosyth, 202337A to H.F.)

S/M Patrols. Request you will sail UNTIRING for patrol line GG. (F.O.S.201119A to Capt. (S) 9.)
TUNA and TRUCULENT are to leave patrol by reverse of route given in my 141644. TUNA is to pass position TA at 0400A/23rd August. TRUCULENT is to pass position RA at 0400A/23rd. Submarines are to R/V in position XX 180 degs. Bishop Rock 10 miles at 0700/24th. for onward escort to Holy Loch. (F.O.S. 201122A to S/M's)
Positions of Submarines at 0800A/21st and movements for following 24 hours. A. UNBROKEN, TUNA, TRUCULENT, as in my 191541. UNBROKEN leaves patrol p.m. 21st dived by day through 45 degs. 25' N. 06 degs. 01' W. at 0800/22nd August, thence to northward, S.O.A. 90 miles per day.
B. UPSTART approx. 61 degs. 10' N. 000 degs. 40' W. probably on the surface, arriving Lerwick p.m. 21st. C. OTUS approx. 48 degs. 30' N. 06 degs. 30' W. dived by day to southward.
J. TRUCELENT leaves patrol p.m. 21st dived by day towards 47 degs. 50' N. 06 degs. 40' W. (F.O.S. 201622 to Admty.)

Harwich /...

701

20.8.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.Harwich
A/S
Patrol.

My 161610A August. Further evidence from CORENA and DONNA NOOK at 52 buoy points to possibility of enemy R/C by submarine. Suggest H.M.T. PROGRESSOR and PROMISE be lent temporarily from Yarmouth to Harwich to A/S patrol 51 to 52 buoy.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 201215A to C. in C. Nore.)

Coastal
Force
Patrols.

(1) Orders for night 20/21 August.
(A) M.L.191, 12 L.C.I(S) exercising pass Spithead Gate 2200A/20th and proceed via swept channels to E.A. 3 buoy. Thence through positions 50 degs. 20' N. 00 degs. 46' W. 50 degs. 20' N. 01 degs. 30' W. to N 3 buoy and Needles, E.T.A.

arrivals 0600A/21.

(B) M.Ls 292, 343 patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between F and E.A. 5 buoys keeping clear to the Eastwards until ships in para. 1 have passed E.A. 3 buoy.

(C) STEVENSTONE, WENSLEYDALE immediate notice at Yarmouth.

(D) CHASSEUR 15 immediate notice at St. Helens.

(E) M.G.Bs 8, 6, 7 from Portland patrolling 50 degs 20' N. between 02 degs. 00' W. and 02 degs. 25' W.

(2) All coast craft to carry page of Loxod for 21st

(Repetition 21st August) and A.V.S.B. only.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 201501A)

M.L's 142 and 137 at Bullock Bank.

M.G.B's 108 and 118 and 116 at 'V' Buoy. E.T.D. Ramsgate.

2045. E.T.R. 0515/21.

M.G.B's S.2 and 42 at No.4 Buoy. E.T.D. 2120. E.T.R. 0434/21.

(V.A. Dover, 201728A)

Exercises.Depth-
charge
trials.

Arrived BURWELL.

(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 201650B to C. in C. W.A.)

Allied Air Activity.One
Minesweeper
and one
R-Boat
destroyed.
Two R-
Boats
damaged.

One medium and six small from Boulogne at 2124, Northbound, at 8 knots, became stationary off Blanc Nez at 2300 and faded at 2330. Attacked by two Hurricanes of 137 Squadron who claim one M-class minesweeper destroyed, one R-Boat destroyed, 1 damaged. Confirmed by one vessel seen from Dover to be burning furiously.
Five small from 5 miles West of Dunkirk at 2200, Westbound, at six knots, entered Calais at 0115. Attacked by 2 Hurricanes of 137 Squadron who claim one R-Boat seriously damaged.
(V.A. Dover, 201047A)

702

20.8.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity. - Contd.

KERTOSONO. Admiralty 182321A. There is increasing evidence of the great importance of this target to the enemy U-Boat campaign. Target may only be available for a short time. Therefore would be grateful if you would attack it on the first occasion that weather and your other commitments permit. Photographs are being despatched to you with copies to 8th Bomber Command tonight.
(Air Ministry, 201945A to H.Q. 8th U.S. Air Force.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Jan Mayen. Jan Mayen reports aircraft observed 1203 South of Island on Westerly Course. Weather foggy.
(A.C.I.C. 201928A to Admty.)

Mining.

Operation F.D.45. My 201037A. From position (YY) RUBIS proceeds on the surface while north of 049 degs. 30', thence diving by day through 049 degs. 01', 006 degs. 01' via route Gold to position (RA) 046 degs. 30' 006 degs. 01' at 0800/27th. (RB) 046 degs. 24', 003 degs. 15' thence course 160 degs. to vicinity 043 degs. 50', 001 degs 54' to carry out minelaying operations to eastward. (2) On completion of operation RUBIS pass through (RB) at 2200/3rd position (RA) at 0300/5th, thence via route Gold to R/V in position (YY) at 0700/7th.
(3) All positions north and west. (4) S.O.A. 86 miles per day.
(Capt. (S) 5, 201039A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Q.Z.X.1015. My 130946B. Check of Q.Z.X. 1015 completed. (2) Mine total for operation (A) H.S.1, 238 during clearance, 2 during check, and one not previously reported during search carried out in accordance with your 101658 July. Total 241. (B) German type D. 9 during clearance, nil during check, total 9. (3) My 192146A. Intended check of Q.Z.X. 239 not carried out owing to bad weather.
(M/S.F.4, 202153A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Enemy Intelligence.

Altenfiord. Result Soviet visual R/C Altenfiord 1230C today is as in my 161010.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 201250A to Admty.)

U-Boats

Spitzbergen. My 192253Z. One or perhaps 2 U-Boats remained position indicated until 0645/20th August, departed slowly on Westerly course. At 0410A plane circled over them.
(“Locomotive”, 200844Z to Admty.)

703

20.8.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

LANCASTER
CASTLE,
EMPIRE
STARLIGHT,
NEW WESTMIN-
STER CITY,
OCEAN
FREEDOM.

My 171138C. Reply now received from D.C.N.S. to effect that repairs to ships after they had been salvaged would absorb full resources of Murmansk repair yards for some time which is unacceptable at present. (2) He said present pressure of work was only temporary and held out vague possibility of undertaking salvage and repairs at a later date. Will raise question again in two months time.
(Ad. Fisher, 201027C to Admty.)

KENT

Your 171242. KENT can be given a quick docking at Chatham in mid-September.
(D.O.D.(H), 201213A to C. in C. H.F.)

MANX MAID.

F.O.N.A.S. 181705. MANX MAID can continue in service until 15th September but no extension of this date is acceptable. Defective condenser tubes are causing priming. Auxiliary machinery requires a thorough overhaul.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 201233A to Admty.)

ASTRAL.

Arrival Belgian Pilot Vessel ASTRAL. Ship will be taken in hand Tilbury, for refit.
(F.O.I.C. London, 201745 to Admty.)

EL ISLEO.

My 091434/July. Panamanian Vessel EL ISLEO refloated 17th August. Sailed from Reykjavik in tow of Tugs EMPIRE BASCOBEL and EMPIRE SANDY at 0530/19th August bound to Northeast Coast Port

U.K. Vessel draws? 24 feet forward and 26 feet aft. Cargo remaining number one hold about 500 drums aviation spirit all contaminated by sea water. Cargo in number two hold estimated 18 tons brass-sheets, 180 tons zinc-ingots. Several hundred tons of fuel-oil remain tanks with bottom of tanks open to the sea. Vessel can anchor but unable to weight and has no propelling power. Generator and pumps placed on board for additional safety during passage to U.K. Docking should not be delayed.

(A.C.I.C. 201918A to Admty.)

Following from Lands End Radio: Intercept 2212 G.M.T. from ATHELDUCHESS. S.O.S. ashore on Smalls. 202214B. Ends.
(C. in C. Plymouth, T.O.R.2325/20 to Admty.)

20.8.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- ISLE OF JERSEY. Sailed at 0700/20 hospital ship ISLE OF JERSEY searched channels to Aberdeen, E.T.A. 1400/20. (N.C.S.O. Lyness, 200705A)
- K.M.S.24. HIGHWEAR returned from K.M.S. 24 with engine trouble. (N.C.S.O. Belfast, 200904)
- T.A. 57A. Intend sailing MARIPOSA passing Clyde Boom 2030A/21st thence complying with A.M.182031A, S.O.A. 19 knots. "Chop" date 26th August. E.T.A. Ambrose Light Vessel 2130Z/28. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 200945A)
- DORSETSHIRE. Hospital Ship DORSETSHIRE arrived 0950A/20. (D.S.T.O. Avonmouth, 201000A)
- S.C.139. (1) At daylight 23rd detach SUNFLOWER, LOOSESTRIFE to Londonderry for A/S exercise in Lough-Foyle exercise area. (C. in C. W.A. 201128A to B.7)
- F.N.4. My 200922. Icelandic fishing trawlers BA 77, GK 190, RE 153, RE 165 failed to contact F.N.4 at 62 D buoy having proceeded independently ahead of convoy in defiance of order of Humber Escort Trawler. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 201156A to Admty.)
- H.X.252 Sailing Telegram. 55 ships, 3 escort oilers, 1 Rescue Ship. Names and destinations (D.T.D. 201853A)
- O.G.92/
K.M.S.24. If able to rejoin convoy before dusk 21st, detach WANDERER to pass through 052 degs. 05' N. 013 degs. 45' W. where a Liberator Aircraft may have crashed about 2030/20th. (C. in C. W.A. 202323A to HURRICANE)

War Diary.20.8.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.MARIE
LOUISE
MACKAY
cable
operations.

MARIE LOUISE MACKAY completed operation C. at 2200/19th. 2. Cable and wireless U.K. consider repair of further fault mentioned in my 181503 can be postponed. MARIE LOUISE MACKAY is therefore returning to Gibraltar. E.T.A. 1430/20. (F.O. Gibraltar 2000005B to C. in C. Med. (A) (R) Admty. C. in C. Med. (M)).

HALLFRIED
collision.

HALLFRIED damaged by collision and requires service of tug with pumping apparatus urgently. 0400 position 162° (corrupt group) Cacho Light 10 miles course 160°. We are standing (corrupt group) unable meet BORGHOLM. (SCOTTISH 200420B to F.O. Gibraltar (R) N.C.S.O. Gibraltar.)

INDOMITABLE
destroyer.

My 191712 sailed. Q.J.A.223, B.9, C.149, W.J.A. 193, B.34, Hydrolant 21. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 200846B to Admty.)

Dispositions. Situation 2001B/20th. O.S.53 BLACKWOOD 026° 10' 016° 09' through 024° 40' 018° 01' thence 180° 8. (2) Escort Group 38 ENCHANTRESS 027° 31' 014° 24' to overtake O.S.53 12.

(3) Fleet unit 3 destroyers 034° 47' 008° 31' 242° 17½.

(4) U.G.S.14, C.T.F. 65. (E) 034° 20' 015° 19' through 034° 15' 014° 45' thence 076° 9. (5) K.M.F.22 HUNTER, SHROPSHIRE, CHARYBDIS (E) 040° 57' 018° 30' through 038° 59' 018° 30' thence 142° 12. (6) Spanish naval training ships JUAN SEBASTIAN, DE ELCANO and GALATEA sailed Marin 18th for Tenerife and Las Palmas respectively. (7) BANN (E) 041° 55' 016° 48' 189° 16½ to R/V K.M.S.22 approx. 1030B/21st. (F.O. Gibraltar 201149B.)

Add new para 8 to my 201149B, C.T.G.21.14 one auxiliary aircraft carrier 3 destroyers sailing Casablanca 210300 to carry out patrol vicinity Azores. Speed approx. 14 knots. (F.O. Gibraltar 201843B.)

Situation report for Area Y. Situation 201959B U.S. Hospital Ship SEMINOLE 035° 39' 020° 21' 275° 14. (F.O. Gibraltar 201211B.)

German
A/C.

My 132314B. Following information received from official French sources "On 13th August in the (?evening) German A/C landed in flames on beach near El Ferrol. All nine members of crew killed". After checking times and positions am convinced this was plane attacked by our army Liberator. (C.M.S.F. 201201B to F.O.I.C. Gib. Admty. etc.)

French
Evacuations
through
Spain.

B.N.A. Lisbon saving and Admty. pass to C. in C. Mediterranean. French and American hope Spanish Gov. will shortly agree that French shall be evacuated from Spanish ports instead of Setubal. Spaniards will probably suggest Malaga which would be adequate for rail connections consular

/representation...

War Diary.20.8.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.French
Evacuations
through
Spain.
(Contd.)

representation and berthing, etc. but Cadiz has many advantages particularly geographical position. Huelva, Seville and Algeciras are also possibilities but unlikely to be suggested. What attitude do you want me to take?

(N.A. Madrid 201212B to C. in C. Med.)

ST. CERGUE.

My 161205 SS. ST. CERGUE (departure) postponed to about 23rd August.
(Admty. 201433A to F.O. Gibraltar.)A/S
Sweep.Re-encipherment of C.T.G.21.14 201200Z action to C. in C. Lant info. 10th Flotilla C.T.F.64 (begins). Departing Casa 210900Z for sweep through S/M concentrations East and North East of Azores ahead of G.U.S.12 and T.F.64.
(Commorseafron 201600B to Comnavnav, C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C. Gib. Admty.)Escort
Group
38.My P.C. and S. at 1800Z 027° 04' N. 014° 52' W. (X) 229° 13' 028° 49' N. 012° 41' W. Weather report.
(S.O. Escort Group 38 201717 to F.O.I.C. Gib.
(R) F.O.C. W.Af. S.O. Escort Group 4.)

G.U.S.12.

BRITISH COURAGE has again broke.
(2) Request you will load tanker, joining G.U.S.12 with 10,000 barrels to act as standby tanker.
(F.O. Gibraltar 201751B to C.M.S.F.)

Your 201751B. ELORN (French) will sail in Casablanca section G.U.S.12 as standby tanker.

(Commorseafron 201935B to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) Admty. etc.)

G.U.S.12 is 6 hours late. Request you amend Casablanca R/V to 035° 31' 007° 33' W. at 1800B August. Your 201117 not to Admty. refers.

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 201757B to C.M.S.F. (R) C. in C. Med. Cdr. U.S. Naval Forces, N.W. African Waters, Admty. Cdr. T.F.64 Cdr. T.G.21.14.)

Date of R/V in my 201757 in August 21st.

(F.O.I.C. Gib. 202239B to Commorseafron.)

S.L.135.

Your 191730 concur. Anticipate ships will have to sail p.m. August 23rd.
(F.O. Gibraltar 201845B to C.M.S.F.F. (R) Admty. etc.)

707

20.8.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

SAFARI (P.211). Your 191848. Concur with route Rose though alteration is probable if our A/S Forces are operating off Finisterre. 2. Confirmed that 12 Torpedoes should be carried as SAFARI (P.211) will be required for Patrol. 3. Request she may be given Q messages for both Holy Loch and Portsmouth. (F.O.S. 202001A to F.O. Gib. (R) S.8.)

LE GLORIEUX. Your 191514Z (N.T. in W.R.) Following is repetition of C. in C. U.S. Fleet 132215Z addressed C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (R) N.O.B. Bermuda, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar S.B.N.O. W.At., Bermuda (Begins) F.O.I.C. Gib. 120921Z being passed for your information. Direct N.O.B. Bermuda provided escort from 33° 11' N. 60° 00' W. E.T.A. this point 221100Z F.O.I.C. Gib. is requested to inform LE GLORIEUX. (Ends). 2. Presume N.O.B. Bermuda is providing escort for LE GLORIEUX at position ordered. (F.O. Gib. 202039Z to S.B.N.O. W.At. Bermuda (R) C. in C. U.S. Fleet, N.O.B. Bermuda, C. in C. Lant.)

Movements, Arrivals U.S.S. STEVENSON, THORN, DUANE, CAMPBELL, Gibraltar. JACOB JONES, HAMMANN, ROBERT E. PEARY from Casablanca. CARLISLE from escorting K.M.S.23 B.Y.M.S.23 M.M.S.108, 104 from Casablanca. IMPERIALIST, SCOTTISH, ex escort duties Lisbon. Departures U.S.S. STEVENSON, THORN, CAMPBELL, DUANE, HAMMANN, JACOB JONES, ROBERT E. PEARY with G.U.S.12. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 202140B, 210805B to Admty. etc.)

War Diary.20.8.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.INKPEN,
BARKING.Amend my 181801. (N.T. in W.R.) E.T.A. 0200/21st
BARKING in company.
(INKPEN 200728Z to N.O.I.C. W.Af.)Convoy
D.C.40.Sailing telegram. (2) 0800Z/20. (3) 8 knots.
(5) Coastal reference 61-68 Saldanha Bay L.M.
(6) VERBENA, NORTHERN ISLES, NORWICH CITY,
LADY ROSEMARY, ODBERG, convoy W/T call sign
B.T.D.1 to 9 Codeword "Faggot" 299 Q.G.A.156.
(N.C.S.O. Durban 200844Z to Admty. etc.)Movements,
Bathurst.Arrival 0630Z/20th TURCOMAN and SNOWDROP.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst 201122 to F.O.C.W.Af.)

Dispositions.

Situation at 2000Z/20.
THYME, NORTHERN CHIEF, TURFFONTEIN with C.D.32
(4 ships) 034° 35' 023° 08' coastal to Durban.
7 knots. NORMAN, RELENTLESS, QUIBERON, RAPID
with W.S.32 (9 ships) 034° 05' 026° 43'
Philippville 8 to Durban 13. VERBENA, NORTHERN ISLES, NORWICH
CITY, LADY ROSEMARY, ODBERG with LUCIA and D.C.40 (14 ships)
031° 23' 030° 08' coastal to Capetown 8. LADY ELSA, NORTHERN DUKE.
with D.L.M.6 (one ship) 026° 25' 033° 12' coastal to Lourenco
Marques 8. GENISTA, FREESIA, ARCTIC, EXPLORER, INDIAN STAR,
with C.B.4/D.N.57 (8 ships) 027° 30' 034° 50' to 026° 00' 038°
00' 8. ROCKROSE, JASMINE, VIVIANA with B.C.4 (4 ships) 025° 05'
034° 45' coastal to Lourenco Marques and Durban 9½. ALBATROSS
escorted by ICARUS 020° 15' 041° 00' to 022° 21' 039° 55' 15.
(C. in C. S.A. 201123B.)

Situation at 2001Z/20th August. ABERDEEN, MILFORD, ARMERIA,
COWSLIP, PETUNIA with S.T.74 003° 00' 010° 00' 081° 8.
WELLINGTON, GORLESTON, BRIDGEWATER, FOLKESTONE, LOWESTOFT, ARRAN
with L.S.10 003° 47' 007° 28' to 003° (?35') 008° 00' through
003° 25' 008° 58' at 1000Z/21st thence 308° 6½. MOYOLA 006° 05'
011° 58' 133° 16 to join L.S.10. WOLVERINE, BEAGLE, BULLDOG,
DOUGLAS, CATTERICK, EXE 2 Fleet units with C.F.13 004° 42' 010°
23' 305° 12. SWALE, BELLWORT, M.L.287 escorting 005° 02' 003°
54' E. to Lagos 9. ORFASY 004° 55' 005° 00' E. to Lagos 8½.
MORRIS DANCE 4 M.Ls. with T.L.21 off Takoradi 075° 9.
M.L.1060 escorting 006° 26' 011° 11' to Freetown 7. INKPEN
escorting 008° 00' 013° 52' to Freetown 5½. DUNKERY off Robert
Port. M.L.1078 M.L. 1019 off Accra. CARNARVON CASTLE 002° 39'
S. 005° 46' to Equator 010° 00' thence 330° 16. S/M P.614 009°
10' S. 004° 07' 327° 8½.

(F.O.C.W.Af. 201241Z.)

W.S.33
CAP LORRAINE.

Anticipate that W.S.33 will be in Pointe Noire Area
about 28th September. To economise escorts,
CAP LORRAINE be sailed to allow change over of
escorts similar to W.S.32. A Force Q arrangement.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 201142Z to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty.)
Reply, C. in C.S.A. 231035B.

/Force Q...

709

20.8.1943.

Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

Force Q. My 141920 (re arrival at Gibraltar of Force Q and West African Destroyers.) for 29th August read 30th August.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 201144Z to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R)
C. in C. Med. C. in C. W.A., P.S.T.O. Med.)

WITCH, Intend to sail WITCH and BRILLIANT at 1400Z/21
BRILLIANT. Moguga to escort HORACE WILLIAMS to Dakar through position:- (A) 1100N.18.00 W.
(B) 14.43 N. 17.38 W. estimated speed 11 knots
E.T.A. position (B) 1500Z/23rd August.
(F.O.C.W.A. 201204Z to Comar Dakar, (R) WITCH Admty., BRILLIANT., Capt. (D))

B.Y.M.S.23 Your 190800A. (W.R. signal calling for
M.M.S. repetition of 110843 in view of Commorseafon's 181420 which states 4 B.Y.M.S. arrived.)
Following is a repetition of Comar Dakar's 110843 not to Admiralty (begins) F.O.C.W.Af.
Commorseafon, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med.
from Comar Dakar. Sailed 0800Z B.Y.M.S.23, M.M.S. 100, 101, 104, 108. My 101631 refers. 2. Lieut. R.H. Bacon, R.N.V.R. C.O. M.M.S. 101 discharged to hospital at Dakar, Expected duration of illness 3 weeks (ends.)
(Freetown C.C.O. 201223Z to Admty.)

Durban Policy, recommend continuance of establishment,
Training etc.
Establishment. (C.in C. S.A., 201320B to Admty. etc.) See Lion Copy.

Aircraft Catalina aircraft attacked surfaced U/Boat at
attacks 1015Z/20 in 28° 45' S. 42° 05' E. Depth
on U/Boat. charges dropped and contact lose but regained at 1100Z in 28° 40' S. 42° 15' E. Further reports awaited.
(C. in C.S.A. 201325Z to Admty. C. in C.E.F. Com. i/c. Durban.) W.D. Note, Details see 231109B.
Further attack on U/Boat made by Catalina at 1630 in position 28.25 S. 40.48 East.
(C. in C.S.A., 201741B to Admty., C. in C. E.F. Cdre. Durban.)
My 201741. Position of attack was 28° 54' S. 42° 31' E. (C. in C.S.A., 202231B.)
In view of frequent transmissions on 17, 18 and 19 August from South of Madagascar it was considered possible that they were from the U/Boat referred to in my 191753B/August.
2. 3 Catalinas were ordered on patrols in this area during night 19/20 August with further aircraft at readiness to relieve them. 3. At 1226B/20 aircraft C/259 reported having attacked U/Boat in 28.45 S. 42.05 E. The other two aircraft were immediately diverted to position and another Catalina despatched.
4. At 1630B/20 aircraft N/265 reported having attacked U/Boat in 28.54 S. 42.31 E. At time of sighting speed of U/Boat was 6 knots. 5. Remarkable point is the number of transmissions

/made...

SECRET

SA

709A

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

201320B August

IN

From C. in C. S.A.

Date 21,8,43.

Ref. 2443

Naval Cypher X by W/T.

*Durban Training Establishment,
Policy.*

Addressed Admiralty, C. in C E.F. Repeated C. in C. Levant,
R.A.T.E. Durban.

On receiving A.M. 111838 and bearing in mind revelant portions of A.M. 091139 attached and my own experience of shortage of non-substantive rates while at the Admiralty, I visited H.M.S. ASSEGAI at Durban. I was impressed by the training establishment which has within its boundaries Gunnery Torpedo Signal A/A and Radar Schools with training classes in all subjects in full swing. This training establishment is at a main refitting base of the Eastern Fleet in a good climate and surrounded by a white population.

(2) As regards the drafting pool I consider this ought to be on the other side of the Indian Ocean and nearer the main base of the Eastern Fleet than is Durban.

(3) The case of the training establishment is different. It has taken almost a year to create H.M.S. ASSEGAI and this short time has only been possible because

(A) a suitable site near a big town was immediately available with water, power and drainage supplied.

(B) ample labour was at hand.

(C) building materials were manufactured locally as required.

(4) I doubt whether such combination of circumstances with all the advantages of Durban can be found elsewhere. Even if they are and it is decided to build again it will be a year before the new establishment can function. In which case either a complete new outfit of gear is supplied from the U.K. while ASSEGAI continues to function or ASSEGAI is dismantled while training is suspended for about 12 months.

(5) The M.T.E. is a fixture. A year ago South African authorities were asked whether the benches, lathes etc. from the Technical College which forms the M.T.E. might be removed to within the precincts of ASSEGAI. This was refused.

(6) My conclusion is that either ASSEGAI and the M.T.E. continue to function as at present or all non-substantive training is done in the U.K.

(7) Against the policy of returning men from the Eastern Fleet to the U.K. for courses before they have completed their full time abroad is a factor which has probably been considered by Their Lordships and is sharply exemplifying itself in South Africa now.

/As

As the war goes on officers and men grow more and more tired of it if brought to their own country for courses it will not be easy to get abroad again with any enthusiasm particularly if any scheme for releasing men is in progress or even rumoured.

(8) The Eastern Fleet is about to attain considerable size. Numbers of ships must be sent to Durban and other South African ports for refits action repairs and periodic spells in a temperate climate. It will be easy to train large numbers of the crews in ASSEGAH and to give refresher courses to those who do not need further non-substantive rates.

(9) Men sent to the U.K. for courses will expect leave at home and a spell in depot before going abroad again. This and the length of the voyage there and back will considerably increase the numbers required.

(10) The continuation of ASSEGAH as a training establishment will depend on the provision of transport to and from Red Sea and Ceylon. Passages in H.M. Ships will not be regular enough. Provision should be made for a flow of an average of 700 trainees monthly though ASSEGAH can train more than that if required. As the war develops it will not be only naval ratings that will require transport. There are the (? main) schools whose output to India will be about 300 monthly from South Africa and the solution appears to be the provision of a ship to run a regular service between Durban and Ceylon.

(11) I recommend that the training establishment at Durban should continue as at present.

(12) The C.W. establishment at Port Elizabeth is doing most efficient work and turning out excellent material. It could however be closed down or moved. The present establishment has advantages which would be difficult to reproduce anywhere else. Among these are extremely suitable buildings in an ideal position with access to the sea a good climate and a white population. I am not impressed by the argument that young ratings might refuse commissions if they were not sent home to qualify. If any of them showed that spirit they would save the Selection Board the trouble of rejecting them.

(13) With the knowledge I have of Admiralty policy the above are my views but I hope to have the opportunity shortly of discussing them with C. in C. E.F. personally.

201320B

1st S.L. (2)
D.F.S.L.
2nd S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (W)
Sec.
P.A.S. (NP)
N.A. 2 S.L. (2)
C.W. (2)

N.
D.P.S. (2)
M. (2)
O.D. (5)
D.A./U.D.
D.A./S.W.
D.G.D. (2)
D.T.E. (2)
P.D.G.
D.T.S.D.

D.S.D. (3)
W.D.
I.P. (3)

War Diary.20.8.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.Aircraft
attacks
on U/Boat.
(Contd.)made during afternoon 20th August.
6. Both aircraft report direct hits observed.
(C. in C.S.A. 201833B to Admty., Air Ministry,
C. in C.E.F., A.H.Q.E.A.) See also 211115B and
231233B.Use of
Pointe
Noire
as Convoy
Port.

Your 031817 July to Admty. Consider sub.
assembly port at Pointe Noire could be established
with improvised arrangements at very short notice
providing screening craft could be made available.
Subject to arrival of personnel, Minesweeper,
boats and stores and equipment necessary for full
operation, arrangements for accomodation etc.
could be ready within 4 to 6 weeks of order being
given to proceed. 2. Pointe Noire has many
advantages over lower reaches of Congo. 3. Have visited
Banana, Bona and Matadi. Fully concur with proposal re transfer
organisation to Banana in N.C.S.O. Matadi's 181045Z, not to
Admty. Need for some N.C.S. organisation in Congo will be
permanent but if established at Banana to work as auxiliary to
Pointe Noire should latter become sub assembly port. Adjustment
in staff between 2 ports could be made as necessary. 4. O.C.
R.A.F. Banana, favours proposal, from which he considers mutual
benefit would arise. 5. In this case lower reaches of Congo
could be used as R/V anchorage for ships requiring no service
other than N.C.S. 6. Full report follows. 7. Very early
decision on N.C.S.O. Matadi's proposal would be appreciated as
As Governor of province is otherwise desirous of completing
contract for new accommodation of N.C.S.
(N.L.O. Resmin, 201611Z to F.O.C. West Africa, (R) Admty.,
B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, N.C.S.O. Matadi.)

PRUDENT,
CROCODILE.

PRUDENT is to remain at Durban and is allocated
to South Atlantic station.
2. CROCODILE is to be sailed in next C.B. convoy
for Beira for fuel and thence to Kilindini.
(C. in C.S.A. 201705B to Com. i/c Durban, (R)
C. in C.E.F. Admty.)

Convoy
T.L.21.

T.L.21 sailed 1800 20th. Route B, S. of A.
9 knots Lagos 070022. List etc. Convoy
Code word "Bamboo" H/T identity letters V.L.D.1
to 8.
(N.C.S.O. Takoradi, 201821 to Admty. F.O.C.W.A.,
Takoradi.)

Escorts.

Amend all previous orders for exchange of escorts
between S.T. 74 and L.S.10.
ABERDEEN detach MILFORD and ARMERIA at first
light to join L.S.10. WELLINGTON detach
FOLKESTONE and H.M.S. GORLESTON at first light to join S.T.74.
AS soon as this exchange is made WELLINGTON and LOWESTOFT are to

/transfer...

711

20.8.1943.

Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Escorts.
(Contd.)

transfer to ST.74 and PETUNIA to L.S.10.
 ABERDEEN and COWSLIP remain with S.T.74.
 BRIDGEWATER remains with L.S.10. MOYOLA joins
 L.S.10.
 (F.O.C.W.A. 201909Z to WELLINGTON, ABERDEEN, (R)
 Admty. Escorts of L.S. 10, Capt. D.F.E.F., MOYOLA)

Movements
Takoradi.

Arrivals August 20th. MORRIS DANCE, M.L.1016.
 (N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 202114Z to Admty. etc.)

Shipping
Routes.

As Connav N.S.H.Q. and S.O.(I) Recife have now
 received coloured route scheduled propose to
 adopt method of informing them of dispersal of
 O.S.53 as in my 101809 July not to F.O.I.C.Gib.
 2. Will coloured routes held by ships joining
 O.S. convoys from Gibraltar and dispersing for South America be
 passed to above address?
 (F.O.C.W.Af., 202308Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.S.A., F.O.I.C. Gib.)
 Reply: Admty. 221816A.

SNOWDROP,
TURCOMAN.

1. Intend to sail 1000Z (?21st) (?SNOWDROP)
 and TURCOMAN escorting BOTHNIA and HENRI JASPER to
 Freetown.
2. Routed through position (XN) 013° 32' N.
 017° 06' W. thence Green route. Speed 9 knots

E.T.A. Freetown, 1730Z 23rd.

(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 202358Z to F.O.C. West Africa, (R) Admty.,
 Comar Dakar.)

War Diary.20.8.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Movements
Alexandria. August 19th. Arrivals HOLCOMBE, ATHERSTONE, LIDDESDALE, HYDERABAD, COLTSFOOT, HYACINTH, PROTEA, DURMITOR, KAJMAKAIAN, M.L. 1126, M.L.1038 M.L. 1083, M.L.387. Departures BEAUFORT, TETCOTT, BELVOIR, PINDOS, EASTON, EXMOOR, GLENGYLE, SAKTOURIS, ROMEO. (R.A. Alexandria, 200635C to Admty).

10th S.F.
Movements. (1) P.51 (UNSEEN) 035° 52' 015° 32' through 035° 56' 016° 31' to 037° 45' 017° 37' at 2000/21. (2) P.44 (UNITED) off Point Alice. (3) O.R.P. SOKOL, 041° 19' 016° 54' through 041° 19' 018° 00' to 040° 55' 018° 25' at 2000/21st. (Capt. S.10, 200710B).

DINARD Arrived Hospital Carrier DINARD. No sailing orders held here. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 200804B to N.O.I.C. Catania, (R) Cdre. Algiers, Admty. etc).

LETITIA Arrived LETITIA intend to sail at 1800/20th in accordance with 191131 (Not to Admty). E.T.A. Augusta 0600/22nd. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 200814B to N.O.I.C. Augusta, (R) C. in C. Med. (A) Admty. etc).

CHRISTINE (?LETITIA intended) sailed. N.O.I.C. Algiers' 191113B and my 200814 refer. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 201801B to N.O.I.C. Augusta).

Movements
Beirut. 19th August arrivals: REINE DES FLOTS, NOBLE NORA, FOINAVEN, BREAM. Departures: REINE DES FLOTS. (S.O.(I) Beirut, 200837C to Admty).

M.K.S.22 Arrived OLQULA Brazil. Arrived and sailed again for Sicily. AMERICAN TRADER, OCEAN HUNTER, THISTLEMUIR, EMPIRE PATROL, HIGHLAND PRINCE, SUIYANG, DEBRETT, NIRVANPAN, FORT LAWRENCE, FORT LA JOIE. (V.A. Malta, 200852 to Admty. etc).

M.K.S.22 pass Cdre. and escort. Intend joining CAMELIA and B.Y.M.S.68, 186, 187, 31 for Oran addition to my 191037. (N.O.I.C. Tunisia, 200917 to SLAZAK (Polish Destroyer) (R) B.N.L.O. ?Oran, Admty. F.O.I.C., Gibraltar etc).

M.K.S. 22. Arrived ENSIS (T), CERION (T). (C.N.O. Tripoli, 201201B to Admty. etc).

G.U.S.12 Amend my 192159. TINTERN ABBEY arrived and remained Oran. KATRINA LUCKENBACH sailed to overtake having cleared fouled anchor. (Comnob Oran, 200915B to C. in C. Med).

/Med...

20.8.1943.

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

Med. Air Report. Signed Eisenhower. Part 3. Air. Cositintrep No. 41, 19 August. N.W.A. Air Forces. Night 18/19th August, 38 Wellingtons bombed temporary bridge at Angitola with good results. Beaufighters destroyed Ju.87 near Augusta.

Day 19th August, 162 B.17s escorted by 57 P.38s dropped 1931 x 500 lb. bombs on the marshalling yards and sub-station at Foggia. Considerable flak and fighter opposition was encountered, five B.17s and three P.38s were lost and 32 B.17s damaged. Bombers and their escort shot down 27 enemy A/C and probably nine others. 51 B.26s escorted by 46 P.38s attacked town and marshalling yards at Spari. Whilst 48 B.25s with 35 P.38s escort bombed those at Salerno. One B.25 was destroyed by flak. R.A.F. flew 123 fighter sorties to protect shipping whilst 44 A.36s attacked rail communications and targets of opportunity in toe of Italy. 6 A.36s were lost. Four anti-flak and four torpedo Beaufighters attacked schooner S.E. of Civita Vecchia and were themselves attacked by enemy fighters and one Beaufighter was lost.

Para. 2. Ninth Bomber Command - Night 18/19th August, 16 heavy bombers (B.24s and Halifaxes) bombed marshalling yards at Cotrone. One Halifax was believed destroyed by night fighters.

Day 19th August. 47 B.24s dropped 438 x 500 lb. bombs on marshalling yards at Foggia and direct hits were observed on repair shops, warehouses etc. A small force of enemy A/C were encountered four of which were destroyed. 2 B.24s have not returned.

Para. 3. Air Intelligence - enemy fighters reaction to the attack on Foggia was greater than experienced for some time. Upwards of 70 enemy A/C were encountered, being in the main Me. 109s.

(Air C. in C. Med., 200932B to A.F.H.Q. Algiers etc).

Convoy "Hunter". CORCREST (9), ALEXANDRE ANDRE (8), sailed 2000B 20th to Bizerta. Route 292, 255 Tunisian War Channel 119 and Q.B.B.94. S. of A. 8 knots, E.T.A. 1500B/22nd. Escort MENDIP codeword "Hunter". CORCREST for onward routeing Algiers. (S.N.O. Tripolitania 200938B to N.O.I.C. Bizerta (R) Admty. V.A. Gib. etc).

K.M.S.23 Pass to Commodore and escorts, no joiners. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 201001B to SHOREHAM). Pass to Cdre. and Escorts K.M.S.23. My 181637 sailed. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 201102B to SHOREHAM). Pass to Commodore. Algiers joiners. (list 11 ships). (N.O.I.C. Algiers, 201130 to Escorts K.M.S.23). K.M.S.23 arrived: GULF OF VENEZUELA, GREAT HOPE, ELIZABETH MASSEY, CHLORIS. (N.O.B. Oran, 201521B to C. in C. Med). Pass to Cdre. Add MARIGOT (French) for Tunis for La Goulette to my 201130. (N.O.I.C. Algiers, 201718B to SHOREHAM, Escorts of Convoy K.M.S.23).

/M.E...

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20.8.1943.

Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.M.E. Air
Report.A. 664, August 20, 0945Z. Daily Opsum 114.
18/19 August.

5 Liberators B.24 11 Halifaxes marshalling yards Cotrone, many bursts in yards followed by large number small fires, large explosion 1 fire south of yards, large explosion 3 fires among buildings north-west of town in area of chemical works. 2 Beaufighter bombers 2 Wellingtons both armed with bombs and torpedo anti-shipping R/C Aegean Sea. 1 Wellington bombed 2 motor vessels 600 tons north-west of Rhodes, bursts not seen. 1 Beaufighter bombed 1 ship 200 feet in Heraklion, no hits. Remainder found no suitable targets.

19th August. 86 U.S. Liberators B.24 marshalling yards Foggia. 13 returned early. 1 landed Sicily. 71 bombed objective, whole area of yards well covered by bursts, direct hits overhead railway, bridge, carriage repair shops, warehouses, and barracks north of railway many carriages in yards set on fire explosions and fires at engine repair shops, near station and carriage repair shops oil fires near railway bridge.

4 Beaufighter bombers anti-shipping R/C Dodecanese Islands indecisive engagement with 2 Mc. 202s N.W. of Rhodes during which aircraft jettisoned bombs and formation returned. Following delayed details. 18 August. 2 Beaufighter bombers anti-shipping R/C west coast Greece. 1 Caique about 120 tons attacked with bombs and cannon off Ystakos, no bomb hits. 500 ton coaster attacked Inyonitsa Bay Prevesa, 1 bomb hit on stern followed by smoke.

(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 201002Z).

G.U.S.13

Sailing telegram, 9 ships. (2) 07450/20th
(3) Sailed together (4) (5) (6) As in C. in C.
Levant's 171545 August. ROBERT NEWELL and
JACQUES CARTIER, Ocean and Stragglers route as

in Admiralty's 171253A August.

(13) (A) Cdr. Newman R.N.R. in ROBERT NEWELL to Gibraltar. (B)
Master SS. NEURALIA, Sicily.

(N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 201007C to Admty. etc).

8th S/M
Movements

at 1957B/20th.

1. P.224 SICKLE 040° 55' 010° 04' to patrol
East of Corsica.

2. SIBYL Gulf Genoa.

4. F.S. LA SULTANE east of Corsica moving
south east.

(Capt. S.8., 201100B).

Vessels for
Eastern
Fleet.C. in C. E.F., 211033 July and A.M. 180006A/
August.

1. In order that sloops and "Bathursts" lent
to C. in C. Med. may be released to Eastern
Fleet and to reinforce Eastern Fleet escorts,
C. in C. Western Approaches is requested

to arrange for:-

(a) AIRE and CUCKMERE, SPIREA, PINK and ANEMONE to be sailed
to C. in C. Med. with O.S.54 leaving Londonderry 29th August.
SAXIFRAGE now at Gib. to be transferred to Mediterranean.

/(b)...

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20.8.1943.

Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Vessels
for Eastern
Fleet.
(contd).

(b) BARLE, USK and DART to be sailed to C. in C. Med. on return to U.K. from their present duty. They should be ready to leave U.K. before mid September.

(c) NITH to be sailed to C. in C. Med. on completion of working up about end September.

(d) Coastguard cutters LULWORTH, LANDGUARD, SENNENBANFF and FISHGUARD - the last named after refitting - to be sailed to C. in C. E.F. when ready, the first four early September.

(e) The first seven of new construction corvettes HONESTY, DITTANY, BETONY, WILLOWHERB, SMILAX, LINARIA, BURNET, STATICE, ROSEBAY to be sailed to Eastern Fleet as they become ready for service, which should be during September.

2. It is intended that the ships named in para 1(a) (b) and (c) should be allocated to C. in C. Eastern Fleet when they can be spared by C. in C. Med.

(D.O.D. (F) Approved V.C.N.S., on O.D. 1212/43, 211105A to C. in C. W.A., (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Levant, F.O. Ceylon, F.L.O. Delhi, F.O.C.R.I.N., C. in C. S.A., S.N.O. P.G.)

ESKIMO

As soon as ready ESKIMO should be sailed to Gibraltar. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to sail her to U.K. as additional escort to M.K.F.22 (C. in C. Med. (M), 201129 to V.A. Malta).

Movements,
Sfax.

Arrival August 18th ROYAL ULSTERMAN. Departures August 19th ROYAL ULSTERMAN, HENGIST. (N.O.I.C. Sfax, 201147B to Admty).

ROYAL
ULSTERMAN,
ROYAL
SCOTSMAN.

In view of damage to QUEEN EMMA and ULSTER MONARCH I much regret that I cannot spare either ROYAL ULSTERMAN or ROYAL SCOTSMAN. (C. in C. Med. (M), 201230B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. Med. (A)).

ULSTER
MONARCH.
(damaged
19 August).

Have received two hits from medium level bomber on after gun, killing two of gun's crew, third man died from splinter wounds while 70 feet from gun. Following is list of casualties. (ULSTER MONARCH, 201304B to Admty).

UNITED

Keep north of 039° 20' and outside 200 fathom line. Memo number S.O. 113A para. 2. first 11 words. (Capt. (S) 10th, 201305B to UNITED).

Enemy Units.

P.C. and S. of one medium vessel 42.15 N. 8.28 E. 340° 6 knots. (A/C H4 C/H via Algiers, 201320B to Med. Call Sign K.T.J.)

/P.C. and S....

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20.8.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of 2 medium merchant vessels 43.15 N.
(contd). 10.20 E. 170° 7 knots.
(A/C CJX/S via Alex. 201525B to Air H.Q. Malta).
My 1525B enemy previously reported are 2 4,000
ton M/Vs.
(A/C CJX/S via Alex. 201530B).

Your objective is one 3,000 ton M/V in 42.15 N. 8.28 E.
LRZG at 1320B steering 340° speed 10 knots.
Your objective is two 4000 ton M/Vs in 43.15 N. 10.20 E. steering
180° speed 8 knots.
(C/S 45 U via Alexandria, 201555B to C/S 93Q).

N.A.A.F. N.A.A.F. Opsum 180. N.A. Strategic A.F. 18/19 Aug.
Report. 38 Wellingtons temporary bridge Angitola. 1
returned early. Photos show bombing in close
proximity of bridge.

19 August. 162 U.S. Fortresses escort 57 U.S.
Lightnings marshalling yards and electric plant Gowgia. 14
bombers 15 fighters returned early. Hits rolling stock warehouses
overhead highway bridge, Northwest end yards, gas works,
industrial buildings and in city. Explosion followed hit on
electric sub-station.

48 U.S. Mitchells escort 35 U.S. Lightnings marshalling yards
Salerno. 1 fighter returned early. Hits West half of yards,
station and warehouses.

51 U.S. Marauders escort 46 U.S. Lightnings Sapri town and
marshalling yards. 3 bombers 5 fighters returned early. Good
concentration bombs target area. Hits and near misses goods
wagons. Through track cut. Bombs west part town.
(N.A.A.F., 201456B).

(Part 2 N.A.A.F. Opsum. 180).

N.A. Tactical A.F. 11 August. (Addnl) 182 U.S. Mustangs bombed
and straffed artillery positions, roads and supply dumps.
129 U.S. Warhawks provided cover for beach landings.

N.A. Coastal A.F. 18/19 August. 3 Wellingtons armed R/C East
Coast Sardinia, Corsica, Elba Approaches, Leghorn, Genoa, and
West Italian Coast. 1 attacked with 2 torpedoes M/V 3,000 tons
escorted by 2 destroyers vessel seen to fall astern of
destroyers after attack. No hits seen.

(N.A.A.F., 201457B)

Part 3 and Final Opsum 180.

19 August. 2 Marauders, 3 Baltimores R/C East and West Coast
Sardinia, Corsica, Straits of Bonifacio, Elda Approaches, Toulon,
Genoa, Spezia, Leghorn and West Italian Coast. 4 Torpedo Beau-
fighters, 4 Anti-flak Beaufighters armed shipping R/C attacked
schooner 12 miles S.E. Civita Vecchia with cannon fire. Flames
and smoke seen. Enemy activity. 18/19. Bizerta attacked by 60
enemy aircraft in 2 waves at 2340 and 0010 hrs. 1 ship damaged.
1 stick bombs across Sidi Ahmed airdrome reported 3 killed 40
plus injured. Beaufighters destroyed 2 enemy aircraft, probably
destroyed 1 as reported above. A/A claim 5 destroyed.
(N.A.A.F., 201636B).

/P.A.49...

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War Diary.

20.8.1943.

Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

P.A. 49 Convoy P.A. 49 arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 201501Z to Admty).

LETITIA Your 130304A. LETITIA now proceeding Syracuse.
C. in C. Med. has been asked to divert her to
Malta on return to Algiers to embark personnel
mentioned. They can proceed to U.K. in M.K.F. 22.
(P.S.T.O. Med., 201503B to D.S.T.)

Movements Arrivals BENGAL and RAJPUTANA in company
Aden. departure FROBISHER.
(Com. Aden, 201558Z to C. in C. Levant, etc).

FORTUNATA, Shuttle service. My 191017 (N.T. in W.R.) did
TWOSTEP. not sail.
Intend sailing SS. FORTUNATA at 0330 August 21st
coastwise for Bougie escort TWOSTEP to Bougie.
S. of A. 6 knots. E.T.A. 2200 August 21st.
Constant watch on 2150 k/cs codeword "Denison".
(Com. Algeria, 201608 to N.O.I.C. Bougie).

TORBAY, Capt. (S) 1st 201121 (Hush distribution) approved
TEMPLAR. (2) S/M intelligence note is being flown to
Malta.
(3) Request Capt. (S) 10 will sail TORBAY and
P. 316 TEMPLAR as required by Capt. (S) 1.
(C. in C. Levant, 201616C to C. in C. Med. etc).

M.K.F. 22 List, destinations, etc.
(R.A. Alexandria, 201620C. to Admty. etc).

AMARAPOORA Intend to sail Hospital Ship AMARAPOORA at 2100B
20th routed through positions 87 and 40 thence
War Channel and Approach Channel to Bizerta.
Speed adjusted to arrive Bizerta daylight 22nd.
(Cdr. Algeria, 201656B to F. O. Tunisia, (R) Admty
etc).

M.K.S. 22 Z. ORNA (8), OCEAN PRIDE (8), PELLICULA (T) (8 $\frac{1}{2}$),
SPONDILUS(T) (8), sailing 1030B/21st to Malta
route 292202 212 Q.B.B. 123. Speed of advance
7 knots E.T.A. 1630B/22nd escorts S.O. H.M.S.
VETCH, G.S. SAKTOURIS, H.M.S. PENTSTEMON, H.M.S. CONVULVULUS,
codeword "Nonce" (corrupt group) Priority normal and A/S.
PELLICULA for Malta other 3 for onward routeing to Sicily.
(S.N.O. Tripolitania, 201657B to N.O.I.C. Malta, (R) Admty.
etc).

My 191037B, add CRACHSHOT for Algiers.
(N.O.I.C. Tunisia, 202120 to S.O. Escort M.K.S. 22 (R)
Admty. etc).

/Movements...

War Diary.20.8.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements, 20th August Port Said arrivals RHODODENDRON, HONEYSUCKLE, R.F.A. WAR KRISHNA, AETOS, F.F.S. Port Said. COMMANDANT DOMINE. Departures RHODODENDRON, M.L.836. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 201701C to Admty. etc).

Movements, Arrival and departure 20th LA MOQUEUSE, IERAX. Cyprus. (N.O.I.C. Famagusta Cyprus 201729C to Admty. etc).

Movements, Sailed (?18)00Z/20th August (?T.L.) 21 escorted Takoradi. by MORRIS DANCE, M.Ls. 274, 302 (?266) 296, (?by) route, B, S. of A. 9 knots, E.T.A. Lagos (?15)00Z 22nd. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi 201813Z to Admty. etc).

K.M.S.22 Convoy arrival telegram, K.M.S.22 arrived less Alexandria portion detached. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 201818C to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Levant).

End of Cipher 19 August signed Eisenhower. From G.2. Sicily All Axis resistance on Sicily has come to an end, Resistance. and occupation of Island by Allies has been completed. Although during last phase of campaign the enemy lost prisoners on the east coast from Goering and Para. Div. Engr. Bns. main rearguard made up of elements 29 P.G. Div. Prisoners taken by Seventh Army from commencement campaign now reported totalling one hundred thousand. No report from Eighth Army. No other information received. (A.F.H.Q. Algiers, 201830B to W.O.)

SCYLLA F.O.I.C. Gib. 191204. SCYLLA could be taken in hand at Barrow to change guns. 2. Even if she returned forthwith to Barrow she could not be available at Gibraltar until about 4th Sept. 3. Request you will instruct F.O.I.C. Gibraltar* (D.O.D. (F), 201851A to C. in C. Med. (Malta) (R) F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, N.O.I.C. Barrow). *Instructions (C. in C. Med., 211503B).

Movements, Arrivals. SIRIUS, DIDO, PENN, PANTHER. Tunisia. Departures BLENCATHRA, LE FANTASQUE, LE TERRIBLE, BISCAYNE. Arrivals and departures. PLUNKET, ANSON. (F.O. Tunisia, 202000B to Admty. etc).

Arrival Y.M.S. 21, 207, ROTHESAY, CLACTON, BRIXHAM, FOULA, departure R.Y.S.A. S.C. 498, 666, 676, 506, 651, 532, 655, 770, 639 L.S.T. 315, 317, 316, 370, 383, 332, 386, 305, 362, 417, 419, 314, 357, 375 (304 or 327), 376, B.Y.M.S. 68, 31, 187, 186, L.C.G.5 1 (one) 20, P.C. 626, 545, 546, 551. (N.O.I.C. Tunisia, 202012 to Admty).

20.8.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements, Arrived and sailed BLENCATHRA, BLACKMORE, BLANKNEY
Philippeville. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 202001B to Admty).

H.D.M.Ls. A.M. 091828. No suitable craft can be provided
and manned from U.K.
2. If they can be manned and equipped from
station resources, suggest American-built Fleet
tenders at present allocated for harbour service might be used
instead of H.D.M.Ls. 8 are now on passage to Med. and 11 others
should be on passage by end of September.
(D.L.D. Approved by A.C.N.S. (F), 202012A to C. in C. Med.
(R) C. in C. Levant).

GAMTOOS Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 202014C to Admty).

Movements Today's arrivals, French ORPHEE, CHASSEUR III
Oran. and TEMPETE, IPSWICH and STAFFA. Today's
departures U.S.S. L.S.Ts. 17, 21, 25, 72, 73, 175,
176, 208, 209, 261, Y.T. 210, IPSWICH.
(Comnob Oran, 202026B to Admty. etc).

NIEUW Your 191959C. NIEUW AMSTERDAM should sail Suez
AMSTERMAN. immediately for Durban with 2100 Service personnel
on board.
2. She should call at Massawa to embark 800 U.S.
personnel for U.S.A.
3. After disembarkation of the 2100 Service personnel at Durban
she should embark the 800 German P.O.W. now awaiting movement
from Durban to North America. P.S.T.O. M.E. should arrange for
sufficient Service personnel for passage to U.K. to be embarked
in Middle East to act as guard. Any personnel in Middle East
or South Africa for North America should also be embarked.
4. Vessel should then continue to San Francisco via Fremantle
and Auckland.
5. Separate signal will be made to P.S.T.O. India as to
alternative arrangements to be made for the personnel disembarked
from ARAWA.
6. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa pass to Sir R.I. Metcalfe.
(D.S.T., 202036A to P.S.T.O.M.E. (R) C. in C. E.F., etc).

Malta Air A.l. 1090/20 August. Opsum No. 102. 19/20 August
Report. 4 Mosquitoes carrying bombs made intruder patrols
over Southern Italy. No enemy air activity
was found but successful attacks were made on
railway targets North of Riposta. 1 hit with
a 250 lb. bomb was scored on railway station and another bomb
hit was scored on a bridge west of town. At Torre Annunziata
2 bomb hits were scored on railway line and west of Capaccio,
cannon strikes damaged electrical installations in railway
station, other bombs were dropped on railway stations at
Taviano and Novoli and cannon attacks were made on railway
Station at Ela. 2 torpedo carrying Wellingtons searched for
enemy shipping between heel of Italy and Albanian Coast.

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20.8.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Malta Air Report. (contd). 1 Wellington made shipping search in Gulf of Taranto and another Wellington provided A/S patrols for friendly shipping. 6 Beaufighters and 2 Mosquitoes made interception patrols (AJPEP as received) of Malta and 2 Malta Beaufighters were airborne from Sicily on interception patrols in Etna area. 20th August. 4 Malta Spitfires with long range tanks using Aquino as a L/G made an offensive sweep in Ponza Apri area. 3 Spitfires made photo R/C of Southern Italian ports and aerodromes. 2 Baltimores made A/S patrols south of Toe of Italy. (A.H.Q. Malta, 202050B).

LA SULTANE My P.C. and S. 043° 11' 008° 53' 230° 8. Further signal follows. (F.S. LA SULTANE, 202130B to Capt. (S) 8, (R) C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Algiers).

L.S.T. Escort. On 21st August proceed as escort for 3 British L.S.Ts. to Oran as directed by C. in C. Med. Upon completion further proceed in accordance with C. in C. Med's routing to Casablanca and report C.T.F. 65 for duty and return U.S. (Comnavnav, 202151B to U.S.S. ?RAN, (Remainder of ship's name corrupt) (R) N.O.B. Oran, Commorseafro F.O.I.C. Gib. C.T.F.65, C.T.F.86).

Enemy Unit Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 41.06 N. 13.40 E. (A/C HTN/D via Alex. W/T, 202206B).

Bizerta Air Raid 17th. August. Signed Eisenhower. This is a corrected copy, part 4. Cositintrep 40. 19th August. Ref. our 3486 August 20. Part 4 Cositintreps 36 to 39 not issued. Estimated sixty enemy aircraft attacked Bizerta 17 August. Objective shipping in harbour and lake. (?) enemy aircraft shot down (as received). Sea mines and H.E. bombs dropped. One L.C.T. sunk. One ship strafed. Oil fire started on land. Material damage slight. Casualties not yet known. Early morning 18 August single enemy aircraft dropped either bombs or mines without effect. (A.F.H.Q. Algiers, No T.O.O. (Recd. 2217/20) to W.D.)

Movements, Augusta. August 20th. Arrival; NAIAD, L.C.T.303, 536, 347, 333, L.C.F.14, WHEATLAND, QUEEN EMMA, OAKLEY, EGGESFORD, PUCKERIDGE. Departure POOLE, M.M.S.118, MAURITIUS, FAULKNOR, INTREPID, O.R.P. PIORUN, M.L. 168, L.C.F.12, 17, 18, QUEEN EMMA, OAKLEY, EGGESFORD, PUCKERIDGE. (N.O.I.C. Augusta, 202220B to Admty).

/Movements...

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20. 8. 1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Movements, Arrived and sailed MENDIP. Arrived HILARY, ST.
Tripoli. MINVER, VETCH, CONVULVULUS, PENTSTEMON, L.C.I.(L)
249, L.S.T.385, L.C.Ts. 496 (491?), 484, (284).
Sailed B.Y.M.S.6566, 67, 185, L.C.I.(L) 185, 250.
(S.N.O. Trip, 202225B to Admty).

Movements, Arrivals. TWOSTEP.
Algiers. Departures M.L. 273, Hospital Ship AMARAPOORA,
L.C.I.(L) 183.
(Com. Algeria, 202314B to Admty. etc).

Movements Arrivals ILLUSTRIOUS, HURWORTH, CROOME,
Malta. WHADDON, LAUDERDALE, WHITING, POOLE, TANGO,
KANARIS, ADRIAS, M.T.Bs. 634, 640, M.M.S.118,
M.Ls. 562, 240, H.D.M.L. 1246, L.S.T.633.
Departures UGANDA, FAULKNER, INTREPID, OAKLEY,
WHEATLAND, EGGESFORD, L.S.T.408, L.C.T.561, L.C.I.(L) 264.
Arrival and departure O.R.P. SLAZAK, KRAKOWIAK. Departed
returned, QUEEN EMMA, PUCKERIDGE.
(V.A. Malta, 202318 to Admty. etc).
Arrivals S/M DZIK. Departure S/M UNSEEN.
(V.A. Malta, 202345 to Admty. etc).

SECRET

721^A *Med 1*
20/8.

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 A.F.H.Q. Algiers Date 22.8.43
Recd. 0925

CYPHER

Addressed War Office C. in C. Middle East C.G.S. South Africa C. in C. Persia/Iraq G.O.C. in C. East Africa L. of C. Repeated Us for G.M.H.Q. London C.G.S. Canada L.H.Q. Melbourne C. in C. India B.A.S. Washington C.G.S. New Zealand for Puttick Resident Minister Achimota.

Sicily, Army Sit. Rep.

3705 cipher 20 Aug.

LINKED 74.

Summary of operations August 16th to 18th.

1. Ground. Capture of Messina on 16th August has ended Campaign. Eighth Army. During night 15/16 Aug. 2 Commando and elements four armoured brigade landed Scaletta B. 2940 meeting only slight resistance. Reinforced by Infantry Bn. landed 16 Aug, the force found extensive demolitions blocking route south and pressed north by inland road. On morning 17 Aug. contact made with three div. in Messina. Shelling of coast road from mainland continues. Seventh Army. Three div. maintained advance along northwest and patrols entered Messina approx. 2000 hours B 16th Aug. with little opposition. Two Corps now concentrating for move to Western Sicily. Artillery duels with mainland now in progress.

2. Navy. During night 15/16 Aug. British destroyers and M.T.B.s covered landing at Scaletta with subsequent reinforcement day 16 Aug. Also night 15/16 Aug. U.S. M.T.B.s operated north of Messina encountered two E boats which succeeded escaping. Same night H.M. Ships SIRIUS, DIDO, HEN and PANTHER after sinking southbound lighter and two escorting launches off Cape Bonifanti (or Bonifati) carried out 15 minutes bombardment of Vibo Valentia. On night 17/18 Aug. R.N. cruisers bombarded Scaletta with 387 rounds, while U.S. cruisers made simultaneous bombardment of Gioia, Tauro and Palmi.

3. Air. On 16 Aug. 64 B-24s Liberators of 9th U.S. Bomber Command Middle East attacked Foggia Airfield. One formation was attacked by 50 plus fighters of which 29 are claimed destroyed. 7 B-24s were lost. Following day airfields at Istros and Salon Du Provence in Marseilles Area were attacked respectively by 96 and 84 B17 Fortresses. 118 out of 147 B-17s which bombed Regensburg north of Munich from bases in U.K. landed in N. Africa. Throughout period road and rail communications in S. Italy have been attacked by medium and fighter bombers and heavy toll taken of enemy shipping in Messina Straits. One ship was left on fire North (or South) of Messina on 16 Aug. when Beaufighters also scored torpedo hit on each of two medium sized Merchantmen N.E. of Zannone Island. Four medium bombers sunk similar vessel in Gulf of San Eufemia with bombs and 75MM gunfire.

4. Enemy. Rapid Axis withdrawals on all sectors into Messina Area and across straits to mainland continued on 16th and early hours of 17th, and with completion of Allied occupation on 18th, last semblance of resistance came to end. Elements of 29th PG Division provided the main body of enemy rearguard but few troops of Goering Panzer Div. and Para Div. resisted to end on east coast. Prisoners of war taken in Sicily are thought to number about 130,000 of which roughly 7,000 are German though final count not yet made. Enemy casualties in dead and wounded are estimated at 32,000 mostly German. No accurate figures on enemy losses in equipment yet available.

5. Political. Nothing to report.

No T.O.O.

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

D of P. (Q) (3)
 M. (2)
 C.N.I.
 D.P.D.
 W.D.
 I.P. (3)
 Ad. Blake (4)
 D.D.O.D. (M)
 D.R.O. (C O) (2)
 H.W.R.
 D.A.W.T.
 C.C.L.S. (2)
 D.G.D. (2)

Circulation:

Rec'd AG ETO Aug. 21185
 ETO Distribution (ET-3)
 Relays: None

Standard Liaison Report
 Distribution.

721^B. Mar 20
1/4

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 "T.P." are excepted from this rule. 201930P/August. IN

From: A.F.H.Q. Algiers. Date: 21.8.43
Recd: 0425

CIPHER.

Addressed: The War Office. Agwar.
Repeated: C. in C. Middle East.

*Sicily Evacuation,
Army Association.*

IMPORTANT.

148505.

W/7843/3829 Cipher 20th August.

Cite FHGBI Signed Eisenhower.

(1) Enemy losses in material during Sicilian Campaign. Complete tally naturally incomplete. Estimated figures as follows: Read A Italians, B German - tanks A 150, B 140, vehicles A 1,500, B 3,500, anti tank and field guns A 1,060, B 190, anti aircraft guns A 670, B 70.

(2) Personnel losses Italian. Our estimate total Italian personnel under military administration before campaign 345,000. In view of the fact that Fifth Field Division not identified and on basis battle evidence received regarding strengths consider first line troops overestimated by 25,000, Coast defence troops by 26,000, second line troops by 15,000. In addition Militias, Carabinieri and non combatant base personnel estimated together at 63,000 were not in the event made prisoner. Total is thus reduced to 216,000. Account for this figure as follows. Prisoners to date 123,000 killed 2,000 evacuated wounded 5,000 evacuated 30,000 unaccounted for 56,000. Consider it not improbable that all of latter escaped capture by assuming civilian clothing and returning private occupations. Local Sicilians especially from Coastal units mainly concerned.

/(3).....

185
T-F
ort

(3) Personnel losses German. Estimate maximum Germans in Sicily including flak troops and Gaf personnel employed in active ground defence role 92,000. Of these estimate 20,000 wounded, 5,000 killed 7,000 prisoners. Balance 60,000 probably evacuated. Preliminary estimated breakdown of evacuated personnel flak 12,000 29 P.G. Division 12,000, Hermann Goring 9,000 15,000 P.G. Division 8,000, one Flieger Division 3,000, miscellaneous fighting units 3,000, Base and Service personnel 13,000.

(4) Results evacuation. 20 P.G. Division freshest of all formations. After short period reorganisation estimate probably ready further operations. Some shortages heavy equipment likely and M T almost certainly inadequate. Hermann Goering and 15 P.G. Division very tired and suffering from severe and repeated losses especially in infantry personnel. Former could possibly produce battle group within short time but rest reorganisation and refit essential both divisions and total reforming unlikely to be effected in under a month. One Flieger Division if reassembled probably would not exceed five battalions (including one para Regt not identified in Sicily) are Divisional ancillaries. Morale of German Forces consider still high but reaction after protracted fighting and strain inevitable and troops not immediately in condition to undertake heavy fighting. Such elements Italian Field formations as may have been evacuated unlikely be committed further first line fighting. Estimate Italian material evacuated very slight.

201930B

C.6 Telegrams.

Recd: from War Office 1025/22
War Office Circulation.

1st Lord.	D. of P(2)	S. of S.	M.I.3.3b.10.11
1st S.L.(2)	D.R.O(CO)2	C.I.G.S.	17.19.
4th S.L.	D.N.I(4)	V.C.I.G.S.	D.D.L.M/R.L.G.
A.C.N.S.(A) (2)	D. of P	A.C.I.G.S.D.C.I.G.	D.R.A.
A.C.N.S. (F)	(Q)(3)	A.G.	S D.R.A.C.
A.C.N.S. (W)	D.A/S.W	Q.M.G.	D. Air.
A.C.N.S. (U.T(2)	D.A/U.D	V.Q.M.G.	Air Co-ord.
U.W.R.	Hd. of M.	D.G.A.R.	D.D.I.P.
D.D.O.D. (M)	C.N.I.	D.M.O.	A.G.Stats.
Capt. Pim.	D.P.D.	D.D.M.O.(O)	D.P.W.
D.C. (2)	W.D.	D.Plans (2)	S. of S. for
D.C.D.(H)(4)	I.P.(2)	M.O.l 4.	Foreign Affairs.
D.O.D. (F)(2)	Ad.Blake	D.M.I.	Brig.Jacob (War
D.D.I.C.(2)	(4)	D.D.M.I.(I)(P/W)	Cabinet Offices)
		War Reg. Admiralty	A.M.C.S.(Air Min)
		Mr. Cavendish-Bentinck	(Foreign Office)

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20.8.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.R.A.
Troubridge,
Flag.

Flag of Rear Admiral Troubridge is to be hoisted on shore as from 13 August on taking up appointment as Sub. Force Commander Eastern Expeditionary Force. It will be transferred to more suitable ship when latter is available. (C. in C. E.F. 200245Z to N.F.C.E.E.F. FLO (I) (R) F.O. Ceylon, Admty. BRAGANZA, SALSETTE, F.O.C.R.I.N.)

O.21.

It is anticipated that O.21 will not return from special operation in Australia until end of Sept. (2) B.S.O. request that she may be retained in Australia for 2 or 3 months to carry out further special operations. (3) If it is confirmed that some of submarines from Levant referred to in A.M.271852B/7 and C. in C. Med.'s 12/1802/8 will arrive in Ceylon by end of Sept. recommend that B.S.O's request should be approved. (F.O. Ceylon, 200500Z to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty. C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med. B.S.O. Capt. (S) 4.)

SUFFOLK.

It is desirable that SUFFOLK should have 2 days at Fremantle prior to sailing with U.S.22. (2) Request you will sail SUFFOLK to arrive Fremantle early A.M. on 28th. (3) C.S.W.P.S.F. 200005 refers. (C. in C. E.F. 200808Z to F.O. Ceylon (R) C.T.F. 71, N.O.I.C. W.Australia, C.S.W.P.S.F.)

No.26
disposition
of U-Boats,
Japanese.

1 possibly by sighting 009 degs. 37' N. 064 degs. 06' E. 16th. (2) 1 by D/F moving N.E. (? last) plotted near 001 degs. S. 090 degs. E. 14th (And) German (corrupt) by D/F near 028 degs. S. 043 degs. E. 19th. 2 or 3 others unfixed may still be in area to S.W., S. and S.E. of Madagascar and possibly in area between Madagascar and Mauritius. (3) Italian indication by poor D/F fixed 13th that 1 or 2 were 500 miles S.S.E. Mauritius probably (bound) N.E. (C. in C. E.F. 200817 to E.F. 249Y (R) Admty. etc.)

EFTHALIA
MARI
Torpedoed,
suspected
leakage.

Further interrogation survivors EFTHALIA MARI reveals no evidence submarine stated that she was awaiting a ship with war materials for Mauritius original statement emanated from French Administration which forwarded first details on arrival of survivors near Fort Dauphin. 170852Z from C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. S.A. only refers. No SSSS sent. W/T set destroyed by explosions. All secret documents thrown into sea. (S.O.(I) Diego Suarez, 200851Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A. S.O.(I) Colombo)

M.L.1107 /...

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20.8.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

M.L. 1107. M.L.1107 Commandeered (as recd. ? Launched) p.m. 17th at Messrs African Marine and General Engineering Company Limited, Mombasa. My 060750 July refers. (A.S. Kilindini, 200853C to Admty. N.O.I.C. Saldanha Bay, C. in C. E.F. F.O. E. Af. (R) G.R.10?)

Movements. Arrival 0415Z, MADRAS, CARNATIC with P.B.52. Departure 0845Z, SUSSEX. (S.O.(I) Bombay, 200913Z) Departure DIPAVATI for Karachi. (N.O.I.C. Kathiawar Coast, 200930Z) KENYA, EMERALD arrived NEWCASTLE left. (F.O.E.Af. 201335Z) Arrival KHYBER with one ship. (S.O.(I) Bombay, 201341Z) Departure SUFFOLK at 1905Z/20th (N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 201910Z)

Convoy P.B.52 Bombay portion arrived. (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 200936Z to Admty.)

Revised programme, troop movements. Following is amendment and addition to my 070617Z. Para. 9 cancel and substitute Bombay-Durban empty HIGHLAND BRIGADE sailed 20th. Para. 10 cancel and substitute Bombay-Plate ARAWA with small number of service personnel for Durban sailing 22nd, para. 14 cancel and substitute B.A.47 Bombay-U.K. via Suez STAFFORDSHIRE with fuel complement of service personnel sailing 25th. Additional move para. 17 Bombay-Durban STIRLING CASTLE empty sailing 23rd. (P.S.T.O. India, 200959Z to C. in C. E.F.)

W.S.32. Following are alternative routes for convoy W.S.32 route (a) through following positions. L.026 degs. 02' S. 038 degs. 01' E. M. 019 degs. 32' S. 041 degs. 03' E. N. 011 degs. 25' S. 041 degs. 59' E. O. 005 degs. 23' S. 043 degs. 56' E. P. 010 degs. 02' N. 052 degs. 15' E. Q. 018 degs. 22' N. 069 degs. 12' E. thence Bombay. Route (b) through following positions. E. 027 degs. 26' S. 043 degs. 12' E. F. 026 degs. 20' S. 048 degs. 15' E. G. 014 degs. 30' S. 051 degs. 50' E. H. 010 degs. 59' S. 049 degs. 54' E. thence through position O. P. and Q. as in route (a). (2) Aden section of convoy to be detached on reaching position (Q) and are to pass through position (Z) 012 degs. 30' N. 051 degs. 20' E. thence as required by N.O.I.C. Aden. (3) My 181432 August not to F.O.C.R.I.N. refers. (C. in C. E.F. 201244Z to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty. F.O. Ceylon, F.O.C. Red Sea, N.O.I.C. Aden, Com. R.I.N., F.O.C.R.I.N., N.O.I.C. Durban)

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20.8.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

Attack
on U/B.

By Catalina, 28.45 S. 42.05 E.
(C. in C. S.A. 201325Z)
See South Atlantic.

Movement
Summary
No.86
Aug.20th.

(1) SUSSEX for Bombay 20th due Kilindini about 26th. (2) NEPAL left Diego Suarez 18th to R/V with ALBATROSS 19th and escort her through Mozambique Channel to vicinity of Durban, Nepal proceeding to Durban due 23rd, ALBATROSS proceeding to Capetown. (3) NEWCASTLE left Kilindini 20th due Capetown 26th routed through Mozambique Channel.
(4) FROBISHER left Aden 20th escorting one ship due Bombay about 27th.
(C. in C. E.F. 201334Z to E.F. 350Y)

EMPIRE
STANLEY,
(sunk
17/8)

At 0550Z on 20th August SS. SOCOTRA picked up 20 survivors from the BS.EMPIRE STANLEY in position 27 degs. S. 47 degs. E. One lifeboat with nine men is still adrift sailing west. My 180010Z to Com. R.I.N. refers.
(C. in C. E.F. 202207Z to Admty., C. in C. S.A. 246, Wing A.H.Q.E.Africa, A.O.S. Capetown, Com. R.I.N.)

725

20.8.1943.

Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

C.T.G. 21.4. This is C. in C. Lant's 191738 addressed to C.T.G. 21.4. On arrival New York about 26th BABBITT, LEARY and SCHENCK proceed Navy Yard for eight days' availability assigned hereby.

Destroyers on completion conduct refresher training until time to arrive New York before noon 7th Sept. Then escort convoy O.T.9 scheduled to sailed from New York Sept. 8th to Gibraltar and North Africa by way of Aruba. Escort convoy T.O.9 to New York via Aruba when directed by Commorseafron. (Comnaveu 200024Z to Admty.)

Movements. Argentia 20th. Departure 0030Z TOWY, KEPPEL, NARCISSUS, ORCHIS and F.F.S. RENONCULE. (Capt. (D? Argentia, 200100Z to Admty.) 20th 03 hours U.S.A.T. CUBA Puerto Barrios and return to Cristobal, 22nd. (R.O. Cristobal, 200234)

St. Johns N.F. August, arrivals STRAHYORD ex B.W.52 L.26 ex U.K. departures ASSINIBOINE, FORESTER, ITCHEN. GALT, EVENLODE, SACKVILLE, AGASSIZ, CELANDINE To. H.X.252 ADHERENT, NORTHERN SKY to position 43.51 N. 53.12 W.

(N.O.I.C. St. Johns, 200304Z)

Arrival SHAWINAGAN, BROKEVILLE, LETHBRIDGE, GRANBY ex.

O.N.196. Departure CALDWELL, OAKVILLE, ARROWHEAD to O.N.S.15.

(C. Halifax, 200850Z)

Arrival GEORGETOWN ex O.N.1196. BATTLEFORD ex H.X.252.

(C. Halifax, 200852Z)

Departures 20th August tug IONION, (U.S.E.D.) towing DELEMAR (U.S.E.D.) Trinidad 22nd August.

(B.R.O. Georgetown, 200915Q.)

Arrival 20th T.W. DRENNAN (U.S.A.T.) and escort.

(B.R.O. Georgetown, 201022Q.)

Departure (? NAMAIMO or HAMILTON) to X.B.70 returning to Halifax.

(Cdre. Halifax, 201123Z, 201736 to Admty. etc.)

Arrivals B.Y.M.S. 76 - 213 from Boston.

(N.O.I.C. Halifax, 201455Z to Admty. etc.)

Departure 20th T.W. DRENNAN (U.S.A.T. Trinidad 22nd.

(B.R.O. Georgetown, 202355Q)

C.L.69. C.L.69 arrived Halifax 2130Z Aug. 19th plus MANCHESTER, SPINNER, BOSTON CITY. (N.C.S.O Halifax, 200126Z to Admty.)

H.X.252
(attacked
by U/B
19th August)

B.3 group in 046° 45' N. 054° 29' W. at 0345Z 20th proceeding to 044° 06' N. 053° 12' W.

(2) TOWY and KEPPEL at 17.5
NARCISSUS, ORCHIS, F.S. RENONCULE 15 knots.

(S.O. E.G. B.3, 200150Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

Your 200745 (N.T. in W.R. but see 201410Z.)

Report position of A/S immediately.

(C. in C. C.N.A. 200910Z to COBALT (R) C. in C.W.A.

Connav. Cmdr. D. Argentia, Cmdre. (D) W.A. Admty.

A.C.I.C., H.M.C.S., ST. FRANCIS, GRENADIER,

NORTHERN SKY, N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., H.Q.C.C. B.3.)

/Your...

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War Diary.20.8.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

H.X. 252 (attacked. by U/B 19th August) (Contd.) Your 200910Z. Position 043° 53' N. 053° 12' W. (S) vicinity of J.H. SENIOR. (COBALT, 201220Z to C. in C. C.N.A. C. in C.W.A. (R) B.3. Connav. ST. FRANCIS, GRENADIER, NORTHERN SKY, A.C.I.C. Admty., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F. H.Q.C.C. Cdre. (D) Argentia, Cdr. (D) W.A.) St. John's N.F. (3) 0930Z/20th. (4) BURY ex H.X.252 (5) Landed survivors, hospital cases. (N.C.S.O. St. John's N.F., 201332Z to Admty.)

COBALT's 201220Z refers to following from COBALT. (Begins) In A/S contact with S/M which lay beneath wreck am attacking with depth charge T.O.O. 200745Z (Ends.)

(C. in C. C.N.A. 201410Z to B.3, ST. FRANCIS, GRENADIER, NORTHERN SKY (R) Ships and Authorities reading Broadcast L. N.S.H.Q. Admty., S.B.N.O. W.At. N.O.I.C. Sydney, N.O.I.C. Shelbourne, N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.B. Cominch, C.E.S.F.)

H.X.252. Arrival 0930Z 20th BURY EX. HX. 252, landed survivors hospital cases.

(N.C.S.O. St. Johns, N.F., 201434Z to Admty.)

SS. J.P. HENDERSON floating well but heavily on fire in position 044° 17' 052° 58' consider (?saleable) only if fire burns out soon. H.M.S. NORTHERN SKY patrolling her and will report any change. 2. KEPPEL has taken off 2 remaining survivors. 3. KEPPEL and ST. FRANCIS closing COBALT with (corrupt group) TONY following with corvettes. 4. Position of GRENADIER and Tugs not yet established.

(S.O.E.G.B.3., 201550Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) Capt. (D) Greenock, E.G.N.3., Admty., A.C.I.C., C. in C., W.As. N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., H.Q.C.C., Capt. (D) Argentia, Cdre. (D) W.A. Connav.)

Following for C.C.R.T., H.M.R.T. ADHERENT sailed St. Johns 1110 19th to assistance of 2 torpedoed ships in position 43.51 N. 53.12 W.

(F.O.N.F. 201648Z to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A.)

My 201550Z. Unable to locate COBALT or raise on W/T. (2) GRENADIER complying with your 201325. HESPERIA joining NORTHERN SKY.

(S.O.E.G. B.3., 201836Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

Survivors ex. SANTOS report ship sank in collision with Liberty ship (probably J.P. HENDERSON who has damaged bow).

(S.O.E.G.B.3, 201945Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

Situation 2100Z. (1) HESPERIA, MISS NEPTUNE, NORTHERN SKY and SS. HENDERSON. (2) Bearing COBALT 082° obtained at 2022Z from 043° 53' N. 053° 20' W. (3) All group ST. FRANCIS, GRENADIER and ADHERENT closing COBALT who will be detached on relief. (4) Your 201 (? 324, 325 to 428)Z (201535 intended) escort of (corrupt group) by NARCISSUS. (5) COBALT proceeding with SS. SENIOR but no contact since 0900Z 20th. (6) Intend to search the area.

(S.O.E.G.B.3., 202215Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

Relieved by ST. FRANCIS 2315Z E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 1600Z 21st. (COBALT 202359Z to F.O.N.F. (R) D. Halifax.)

/H.X.252...

727

20.8.1943.

Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

H.X. 252
(attacked
by U/B
19th August)
(Contd.)

H.X. 252. 30 summarize result of attacks 18th No. 42 J.P. HENDERSON sunk No. 32 J.H. SENIOR hit now being salvaged by H.M.C.S. COBALT tugs sent. No. 34 SANTOS feared sunk, weak signals heard, no further information. Second wreck seen by H.M.C.S. LACHINE described as tanker possible total 4. Attack reported by No. 11. R. MONTGOMERY 19th may be false alarm. C. One requested to enquire about 34 and if second tanker missing also question 11 when fog cleared. Statement that attacked from quarter should be treated with reserve at present. Consider only one U/Boat present. Nothing heard H/F or M/F D/F. (W.6 202100 to C. in C. C.N.A., A.C.I.C., Connnav, Admiralty, C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., Cdr.(D) W.A., H.Q. Coastal Command. Cdr. (D) Argentia (R) C. One, COBALT.)

LEANDER.

Ref. my 201544B July. LEANDER is not expected to be seaworthy in New Zealand for about three months and in view of heavy commitments in prospect in U.K. it is possible that at about end Sept., when the position should be clearer, a request will be made for permanent repair and such modernisation as is practicable to be undertaken in U.S.A. N.Z.N.B. being requested to follow procedure laid down in C.A.F.O. 816/43 and to furnish both B.A.D. and Admiralty with as much information as possible by mid-Sept.

(Director of Dockyards, 200240A to B.A.D.)

A.T. 62
(QUEEN
ELIZABETH)

Departing New York 201600Z Ambroso. QUEEN ELIZABETH (A.T. 62) Clyde E.T.A. Clyde Boom 1800Z 25th, S. of A. 26.5 knots. D. 38.30 N. 70.01 W. (Route) Dawn R/V at 0400Z 25th with British escort in 55.04 N. 13.40 W. K. 55.30, 08.01 thence in accordance instructions by C. in C.W.A. Communications. Fighter protection codeword "Berserk" with three figure callsign 120. "Chop" 1800Z 22nd. (P.D. New York 200533 to Com 10th Fleet C. and R.)

SS. QUEEN ELIZABETH (A.T. 62) departed Ambrose 1606Z 20th for Clyde E.T.A. Clyde Boom 1800Z 25 S. of A. 26.5. (P.D. New York, 201630Z.)

French
Ships
refits.

Your 161648. Following equipment available at Bermuda for BOUDEUSE (list) (2) Space available would permit only smaller parts of 127A and T.W. 12 being shipped in DELAGE Group. (Corrupt Groups) intend therefore to ship instead two type 123A sets and three Radar 286 P.U. for Trawlers in

DELAGE and GRACIEUSE. Your 211610 July refers. C.S. Bermuda's 151413 August refer. (3) Equipment for BOUDEUSE will be shipped in SIMOUN and ANNAMITE which should be ready to leave Bermuda early October. If delay is unacceptable suggest B.A.D. endeavour to arrange for diversion of SHIK to Bermuda from U.S.G. Convoy to load and rejoin. (4) Quantity of gun mountings D/C throwers and ammunition etc. ex. French Vessels is also held at Bermuda. Understood from F.L.O.C. that this is required at Casablanca. Request confirmation. (S.B.N.O.W. At. 201256Z to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty., B.A.D.)

/U.S. ...

War Diary.

20.8.1943.

Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

U.S. (Cominch, 201316Z)
S/M
Estimate.

B.Y.M.S. 1. B.Y.M.S. 240 (S.O.) and 33 sailed St. Johns 1030Z 20th for Londonderry.
2. Route and W/T routine as in my 081537Z.
(F.O.N.F. 201336Z to Admty.)

Convoy. O.N.S.15 following ships arrived 0940Z August 20th.
O.N.S.15. (List)
(N.C.S.O. Sydney, 201406Z to Admty.)

N.S.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q. 201502Z.)
S/M
Estimate.

Dispositions. N.Y.19 ARIEN, U.S. PALMER, CHICKADEE, U.S. HOWARD
049° 27' 049° 28' 018° 13.8 altering to 041° in
053° 10' N. escort group W.6. 047° 44' 049° 38'
en route St. Johns N.F.12 B.Y.M.S. 240, (?Section)
3 048° 23' 050° 25' 10 by great circle route to
U.K. Escort group B.3 ST. FRANCIS, COBALT, ADHERENT, NORTHERN
SKY, GRENADIER, HESPERIA, A/S Sweep vicinity 044° 06' 053° 13'.
ASPIRANT sails St. Johns, N.F. 2030Z 20th to New York, U.S.S.
PONTAIC Tampa 044° 26' 057° 45' 048° 12 altering for Argentia in
046° 09' N. B.W.53, MALPEQUE, ESQUIMALT. 046° 22' 059° 10' 106°
7.5 altering to 084° in 056° 55' W. U.S.S. GOLDEN EAGLE 040°
55' 057° 00' 260° 16.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 201535Z.)
VEGREVILLE 046° 47' N. 060° 58' W. 12 coastwise via Cape
North to Sydney (C.B.) M.Ls. 064, 074, 092 048° 00' N. 064° 00'
W. 12 en route Charlottetown. 78th M.L. Flotilla departed
Gaspé 2300Z/20th for A/S sweep through 049° 50' N. 064° 50' W.
to arrive Seven Islands 1300Z/21st. 77th M.L. Flotilla departed
Magdalen Is. 2300Z/20th to Charlottetown.
(C. in C., C.N.A. 2017(?16)35Z)
My 201535 add CAPETOWN CASTLE, 040° 45' 056° 01' 255° 17.5
altering to 272° in 064° 01' W. T.A. 57 042° 30' (?049) 41' 247°
19.5.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 201740Z.)

B.Y.M.S. At a speed of 10.5 knots the B.Y.M.S. 77 and 214
holding Q.J.C. 149 and Q.J.A.224 and guarding
B.A.M.S. depart Boston Gate 1030Q 21st en route
Halifax via (Route). B.Y.M.S. 77 is Senior
vessel.
(Usnavcom, 201745 to C. in C. C.N.A.)

/Convoy...

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War Diary.

20.8.1943.

Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Convoy H.X.253. This completes Mydis 19/2124. Sailing dispatch. 39 ships (list, cargoes, destinations.) (P.D. New York, 201910Z, 202026Z to Admty.)

B.Y.M.S. Compliance Cominch 172216 (Re sailing of B.Y.M.S. 53, 56, 174 and 175) about 1800Q August 22 proceed Halifax (Route). Carry 1200 gallons extra fuel as check cargo in barrels. Do not refuel barrels after renewing fuel. Do not operate speeds above 1000 r.p.m. E.T.A. Halifax 2000Q August 27. (Navcom, 201941 to Cominch)

EYEBRIGHT. Dome sheared off on Sand Shoal during reinforcing calibration. Possible damage to dome (corrupt group) intend proceeding without dome. (?arriving)(corrupt group)(?at) 0600 21st. (EYEBRIGHT 202055 to C. in C.C.N.A. (R) Capt.(D), St. John's N.F.)

Sub. attack and sighting summary. A. 37 survivors ex SANTOS recovered 45.10 N. 53.40 W. a.m./20th All times Z. C COBALT attacked sub. approx. 44.06 N. 53.10 W. about 192025 attacked contact 43.53 N. 53.12 W. 200745. R.C.A.F. Pby. sighted sub. 43.58 N. 52.43. W. 191728. D. RICHARD MONTGOMERY torpedo miss area 43.17 N. 49.20 W. 192026. (Cominch, 202137Z to Admty.)

Convoy U.G.F.10. (1) Sailing telegram U.G.F.10. Part 1. (2) 2100Z August 21 point Z seaward end swept channel. (3) Position C. at 0200Z August 23. S. of A. 13½ knots. E.T.A. at position J. 0730Z/01 Sept. (4) Chop 2200Z August 29.5(Route) (6) Task Force 68. U.S.S. TEXAS, S.O. U.S.S. CHICOPEE both in convoy formation. U.S.S. PARKER, U.S.S. LAUB, U.S.S. KENDRICK, U.S.S. MACKENZIE, U.S.S. MCLANAHAN, U.S.S. BOYLE, U.S.S. CHAMPLIN, U.S.S. NIELDS, U.S.S. ORDRONAU, U.S.S. DAVISON, U.S.S. MERVINE, U.S.S. BEATTY, U.S.S. TILMAN, U.S.S. QUICK for 24 hours only. (9) Fighter protection code word "Rigmarole" with 3 letters callsign V.H.R. (P.D. New York, 202152Z, 211956 to Cdr. U.S. Fleet, C. and R.)

? Convoy U.T.I. A. New York 21 (? Convoy U.T.1 intended) bound Argentia for Belfast. B. Z. seaward end swept Channel 2030Z August 21 S. of A. 15 knots. E.T.A. Argentia, 1330Z August 24. C. Ocean route C. 40.05 N. 67.56 W. D. 42.13 N. 60.24 W. E. 46.44 N. 54.49 W. F. 47.20 N. 54.05 onward routing Argentia Belfast accordance Comtenthfleet C. & R. 151941 August (N.T. in W.R.) "Chop" will be designated by U.S.R.O. Argentia. D. U.S.S. BLOCK ISLAND. Non operating aircraft. U.S.S. DUPONT

/U.S.S...

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War Diary.

20.8.1943.

Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

? Convoy U.S.S. HERBERT, U.S.S. ELLIS four for Argentina
 U.T.1. for Belfast. E. C.T.G.21.17 Capt. C.L. Ramsey,
 (Contd.) U.S.N. aboard, U.S.S. BLOCK ISLAND.
 G. (Communications) C.T.G.21.17 has by hand.
 (P.D. New York, 202220 to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.
 (R). C. in C. Lant, N.O.B. Iceland, C. in C.
 C.N.A. Admty., N.S.H.Q., Comthree, F.O.N.F., C.E.S.F., C. in C.W.
 A., C.T.F.24, Comairlant.)

LOBELIA. Following is recoded version of F.F.S. LOBELIA's
 201214 (Begins) S.O. B.3. (R) B.3. Escort Group
 F.O.N.F., C. in C. C.N.A. Senior U.S. Officer
 Present Afloat Argentina, (Capt. (D) Argentina,
 N.O.I.C. St. Pierre, Capt. (D) Greenock, C. in C.
 W.A. Your 191242 and 200324 acknowledged.
 (N.T. of either in W.R.) (ii) 31st intend sailing
 St. Pierre to St. John N.F. E.T.A. 2300 22nd.
 201214 (ends.).
 (F.O.N.F. 202224Z.)

Australia and New Zealand.

LEANDER. Ref. your 062307 following is extract from
 message sent to B.A.D. (begins) Ref. my 201544B/
 July. LEANDER is not expected to be seaworthy in
 New Zealand for about three months and in view of
 heavy commitments in prospect in U.K. it is possible that at
 about of Sept. when the position should be clearer, a request will
 be made for permanent repair and such modernisation is as
 practicable to be undertaken in U.S.A. (ends.)
 Request therefore that reasonably firm date of readiness for sea
 be communicated to Admiralty by mid-Sept. and that the procedure
 laid down in C.A.F.O. 816/43 should be put into operation as much
 information as possible being communicated to both B.A.D. and
 Admiralty by mid-Sept.
 (Director of Dockyards, 20039A to N.Z.N.B. (R) High Commissioner.)

Digest 2. Morning search Lightning sighted 5 small
 serial ships 30 barges Wewak Harbour Area where 8 Zeros
 No. 577 ineffectually attempted interception.
 August 19th. 4. Three aircraft on Lae Airfield forenoon.
 Previous afternoon Liberator unsuccessfully bombed
 20 barges alongside Malahang wreck, while another
 Liberator bombed Salamaua.
 5. Three midday R/C Liberators observed 2 small ships in
 Manokwari Harbour where some bombs dropped on docks. Later
 sunk by straffing. One vessel of 50 feet, 40 miles Southwest
 Fak. Subsequently straffed Larat-Kai Islands and bombed Saumlaki.

20.8.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
serial
No. 577
August 19th.
(Contd.)

8. Submarine shelled and strafed allied landing craft Nassau Bay.
9. Photographs morning 18th disclose 90 fighters Kahili Ballale Dromes. Little shipping including nil warships Buin Gese.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 200856Z)

Movements.

Arrival Brisbane 19th AUSTRALIA Milne Bay 19th(? TOWNSVILLE) (corrupt group) 19th SHEPPARTON departed Sydney (N.S.W.) 19th U.S.S. PROMESTHEUS for (?Cairns) Milne Bay 19th PIRIE, KAPUNDA for Townsville.
(A.C.N.B. 201108Z.)

U.S. Transport VAN HEUTSZ arrived Townsville 19th August
U.S. Transport TORRENS departed Townsville 18th due Milne Bay 20th
A.S.I.S. YUNNAN departed Townsville 18th due Milne Bay 22nd.
(C.S.P.S.F., 201218Z.)

MAUNGANUI.

Arrival Wellington Hospital Ship MAUNGANUI.
(Com N.Z. Seafron, 201930Z)

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 201354A, 201357A.)

Submarines Attacked.

Submarine
attack
and sighting
summary
for 24
hours to
1000B/20.

Para. A. U.S. Army Transit A/C sighted U/Boat at 1350/18 in 41° 50' N. 11° 05' W.
Ref. A.M. 191000Z Para. A.
Two ships attacked in H.X.252 were American J. PINKNEY HENDERSON and Panamanian, J.M. SENIOR (Tanker), the former sank and the latter still afloat.
(D.D.I.C. 200832Z to Cominch.)

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21.8.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
S.F.

1. SABRE left the Faeroes at 2237A today to join Group B on A/S patrol in the Denmark Straits by 1000A tomorrow.

Operation
VP-N.

2. M.T.B. 619 sailed at 1300A today to carry out a patrol on the Norwegian coast and returned at 1425A/22.

Biscay A/S
Operations,
"Musketry," new
("Percussion")
area instituted.
Air
patrols re-
organised.
Escort
groups
patrol close
inshore.

3. The Canadian frigate NENE left Plymouth at 1247A to take command of the 5th Escort Group in the S.E. Musketry area; and at least light today E.G.40 (LANDGUARD, BIDEFORD, and WAVENEY) are to begin a sweep off the N.W. coast of Spain from 07° 30' W. to Cape Villano.

It is believed that U-boats are now probably making passage to and from the Biscay ports close to the North coast of Spain, and Admty. have today asked C. in C. Plymouth to cover with surface forces the presumed U-boat route between Capes Villano and Ortegal. (On 22 August C. in C. Plymouth ordered E.G.5 to join E.G.40 on patrol on this route). H.Q.C.C. and A.O.C. Gibraltar have also been asked to establish an A/S air-patrol to the westward of Cape Finisterre, and on 22 August. H.Q.C.C. ordered the air patrols to be re-organised to give maximum effort round the north-west coast of Spain from 42° N. to Cape Ortegal. Areas Musketry and Seaslug are to be cancelled and new area Percussion, closing the passage in the Cape Finisterre and Cape Ortegal area, to be brought into force at the earliest possible date. The air A/S operations will be prosecuted by 15 Group C.C. and by U.S. Fleet Air Wing 7 under the operational control of the British Authorities, with H.Q. at Plymouth. Aircraft from Gibraltar will co-operate by day and night. Submarines will patrol to the eastward of Estaca Point (to eastward of Cape Ortegal)

Mediterranean.

4. Last night, the French contre-torpilleurs LE FANTASQUE and LE TERRIBLE carried out a sweep along the west coast of Italy and bombarded Scalea. Unidentified craft made an unsuccessful torpedo attack.
U.S. M.T.Bs. patrolled off Vibo Valentia last night, but sighted nothing.

21.8.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

5. The S/M UNRULY reports two hits on a 5,000 ton tanker and damage to at least one ship in convoy, whilst on patrol off Brindisi.

6. SS. CAPE MOHICAN was torpedoed by accident at 2205 today in 33.42 N. 16.34 E. (about 167 miles S.E. of Malta), but reached Malta.

K.M.S.23
attacked.

7. Convoy K.M.S.23, escorted by SHOREHAM, was attacked by one torpedo bomber at 0335B in 36.49 N. 01.56 E. There were no hits.

Port Sudan.

8. In view of the changed strategical situation C. in C. Levant intends to reduce Port Sudan to the status of an undefended port.

East Indies.

9. Two Beaufighters on offensive R/C today from Mandalay to Chauk attacked and damaged many river craft. 8 U.S. Kittyhawks attacked river craft and supply dumps in north Burma.

China.

Hankow
bombed.

10. Seven escorted B.25s of U.S.A.A.F. bombed Hankow today and 14 B.24s attacked the river front. Results were not seen. Out of more than 50 enemy fighters which intercepted 35 were destroyed and probably a further 11; 2 B.24s are missing.

21.8.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

11. Allied patrol craft last night engaged 6 enemy barges in Kula Gulf, New Georgia, sinking one and damaging others.

12. 7 Beaufighters attacked the seaplane base at Taberfane (Aru Island, south of Dutch New Guinea) this afternoon.

13. Japanese aircraft made three attacks on Allied amphibious craft unloading at Barakoma.

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21.8.1943.

Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Home
Fleet
Cruiser
strength.

Your 201921. The present strength of Home Fleet cruisers including AUGUSTA and TUSCALOOSA is satisfactory until LONDON leaves and will allow SHEFFIELD and JAMAICA to be detached when requiring a short work-up after refit.

(2) By deferring the full refits of GLASGOW and BERMUDA until both BERWICK and CUMBERLAND have reworked-up at the end of the year, the only replacement required is that for LONDON. It is strongly recommended that this should be provided by NIGERIA whose priority at Chatham should be raised to the maximum to complete by early October failing which propose CEYLON be retained with Home Fleet.

3. No solution is seen to date to cope with the situation that will arise when the Americans withdraw AUGUSTA and TUSCALOOSA if SHEFFIELD and JAMAICA have left the Home Fleet.

4. The retention of GAMBIA until CUMBERLAND completes working up at the end of December would enable either BERMUDA or GLASGOW to be refitted and this is advocated.

5. An early decision is requested.
(C. in C.H.F. 211059A to Admty.)

STRATHCOE.

Request you will sail H.M. Trawler STRATHCOE fitted to carry Diesel fuel as convenient to Portsmouth for Force J.
(D.O.D.H. 211329A to F.O.I.C. Cardiff.)

Destroyer
dispositions.

The number of fast ocean-going ships bound for East coast ports and London now arriving in Atlantic convoys makes it necessary to run F.N./F.S. convoys on seven days instead of six days a week, starting as soon as possible. This will

place an additional strain upon the escort forces in the Rosyth and Nore Commands.

2. The return of MENDIP, BLENCATHRA and HAMBLEDON to C. in C. Nore cannot at present be arranged.

3. In order to make up this shortage, the TOWN Class destroyers of the 17th Division are to be transferred from R.A.(M) to the command of C. in C. Rosyth for use as close escorts by 1st September. Escorts for minelaying Squadron will have to be provided from other sources when required.

4. on this transfer taking place, C. in C. Rosyth is requested to lend three Wairs to C. in C. Nore for anti-E-boat protection duties.

5. Every endeavour will be made to avoid drawing on the escort forces of Nore and Rosyth to meet other commitments.
(D.O.D.H. 211520A.)

Movements.

Trawlers
for Scapa.

Admiralty's 171438. 1. Trawlers are to proceed to Scapa as follows:
(A) NORTHERN WAVE and CAPE PALLISER from Liverpool Aug. 24th.
(B) VIZALMA and BLACKFLY from Liverpool Aug. 26th.

/(C)...

736

21.8.1943.

Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

Trawlers
for Scapa.
(Contd.)

(C) KINGSTON AGATE from Tobermory August 28th.
(D) NORTHERN REWARD from Liverpool August 31st.
2. Trawlers are to come under orders of C. in C.
H.F. on arrival.
(C. in C.W.A. 210019A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool, Cdre.
WESTERN ISLES.)

DUNBAR.

At 1200Z tomorrow intend to sail DUNBAR to
Seidisfiord with stores and provisions for
15th M/S Flotilla, also 10 heavy and 20 light
depth charges and associated equipment.
(A.C.I.C. 211016A to R.N.O. Seidisfiord.)

S/M
movements.

Intend sailing CUTTY SARK 2200A/22 from Clyde
by standard route to R/V TRUCULENT and TUNA in
180° Bishop Rock 10 miles, E.T.A. 0700A/24.
2. Thence TRUCULENT and TUNA escorted by CUTTY
SARK by standard route to Holy Loch, E.T.A.
2030A/25.
(Capt. S.3. 211139A.)

Sailed 0820A STORM escorted by HUGH WALPOLE for Clyde.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 211202A.)

Intend to sail P.65 escort COTILLION 2130A/22nd August for
Hoxa Gate through position, A. 090° Sumburgh Head 5 miles and
B. 089° Fair Is. 6 miles. E.T.A. 1000A/23. 2. A.C.O.S. is
requested to sail P.218 to R/V at Hoxa Gate at this time.
3. Thence COTILLION and both S/Ms to Holy Loch by searched
channel, E.T.A. 0500A/25.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 211223A.)

Intend to sail P.511 and H.32 to R/V KIHNA off Lough Foyle
at 2000 tomorrow, 22nd thence to Rothesay.

(Cdre. D.W.A. 211617A to Capt. S.7.)

S.7's G.Q.Y.1601 and my 210945. L.27 escorted by Z.5 left
Fishguard for Rothesay.

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 211625A to A.I.G.220.)

Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/22 and movements for following
24 hours.

(F.O.S. 211704A, 211908A, 212229A, 221114A, 221546A, 221916A.)

My 191543 and Cdre. (D) W.A.'s 201546 sailed. (H.28, H.33,
H.50)

(Capt. S.7. 212120A to A.I.G. 216.)

M.F.V.
Convoy
for
Gibraltar.

Intend to sail M.F.V., convoy as in Admiralty's
181416A August at 1000A/23 routed north of
Scilly Isles and through P. 050° 02' N. 013° 40' W.
Q. 044° 58' N. 013° 41' W. R. 040° 05' N. 013°
30' W. S. 036° 30' N. 010° 02' W. thence by Q.B.A.
87 to Gibraltar.

(3) N.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to sail
CYELSE and GOOSANDER to join convoy at D. one buoy.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 211652A.)

HUSSAR.

My 181017. Cancel para. (C) and substitute (C)
on completion of working up R.A.(D) H.F. is
requested to sail HUSSAR to rejoin first M/S.
(C. in C. H.F. 211742A to R.A.D. H.F.)

/ORIBI...

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War Diary.

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

ORIBI. Proceed at 2000A tomorrow to Scapa to arrive at 0630A/23rd.
(C. in C. Rosyth 211807A to ORIBI.)

MIDDLETON. Cancel my 211417. Sail MIDDLETON to arrive Scapa a.m. 24th. Route through Q.Z.S. 407 thence direct to 000°. Butt of Lewis 7.
(C. in C.H.F. 211945A to KENT.)
Your 211945 A, para. 2. E.T.A. 0900Z/24.
(KENT 212201A to C. in C.H.F.)

Operations.

Operation "Musketry". Have obtained A.S.V. contact probably with a S/M.
(A/C 612 Sqdn. Duty J. 210027 to 19 Group.)
Have obtained A.S.V. contact.
(A/C 407 Sq. Duty W. 210318 to 19 Group.)
Attack abandoned.
(A/C 407 Sq. Duty W. 210335 to 19 Group.)
You may have been reported by enemy A/C at 0635.
(D.D.I.C. 210742A to E.G.5, BERMUDA, GLASGOW.)
My P.C.S. is 045° 06' N. 012° 12' W. 019° 17.5 knots. E.T.A. 1420A/22nd.
(GLASGOW, 210959A to C. in C. Plymouth.)
NENE is to pass Gate at 1230 and proceed through position, (L) 180° Bishop Rock 7, (M) 049° 07' N. 010° 40' W. and thence towards position (Q).
2. On arrival in area "Musketry" south east NENE is to R/V with and take command of 5 Escort Group and my 182305. TWEED is to arrange R/V as necessary.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 211004A to NENE.)
If fuel permits 2nd Escort Group is carrying out a sweep 100% between 100 fathom lines and Spanish Coast from longitude 007° 30' W. to Cap Villo, commencing last light today.
2. S.O. Escort Group 2nd is to report if unable to comply, in which case sweep is to be carried out by Escort Group 40 which is to make as much easting as possible before commencing sweep 100% to westward.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 211115A to E.G.2, E.G.40.)
4 To AST*bearing 250, distance 1 mile PORTER 42° 54' N. 10° 13' W., course 315, speed 11 knots.* Unidentified aircraft.
(E.G.40 211158A to Whitehall W/T.)
My 211004A. Sailed NENE.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 211247A to Admty.)
Your 192100A. Approved to return via Q.Z.L.53 on completion of patrol. Attention is drawn to para. 3 thereof.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 211249A to E.G.2.)
Your 211115A. Regret fuel does not permit.
(E.G.2. 211325A to C. in C. Plymouth.)
C. in C.W.A. 20154. On completion of fuel p.m. 22nd August 1st Escort Group is leaving Milford Haven, and proceeding by Q.Z.S. 315 from a position (d) 270°, Trevose Head 8 miles proceeding through (e) 048° 58' N. 010° 33' W. and thence relieving 40th Escort Group carry out operation "Musketry" in area "Musketry" South West in accordance with N.O. M.S.

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Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation "Musketry" (Contd.)

2. On arrival First Escort Group in the area at about dark 24th, 40th Escort Group is to proceed through position, (f) 049° 30' N. 010° 58' W. and thence W. of Ireland to Londonderry as routed by C. in C.W.A.

5. 5th Escort Group is operating in Area "Musketry" South East.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 211718A.)
6 Ju. previously reported last seen 46° 50' N. 11° 30' W. 9 miles, height 5,000.
(A/C 58 Sq. Duty L. 211840 to 19 Group.)
Halifax aircraft believed in sea in 049° 00' N. 008° 12' W. Proceed to search vicinity for dinghy for one hour then resume voyage passing through position (G) 048° 53' N. 010° 16' W. and thence toward position Q.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 211847Z to NENE.)
A/C previously reported last seen 46° 55' N. 10° 55' W. 6000 ft. Have no traces of damage.
(A/C 22 Sq. Duty X. 211850A to 19 Group.)
Intended P.C.S. 220700, 148° 3 miles, 000° 10 knots.
(E.G.5, 211859Z to C. in C. Plymouth.)

S/M Patrols. Request you will sail UNTIRING at 0600 A/23. through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles, thence direct patrol line GG.
(Capt. S.9 211017A to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

Positions of submarines at 0800A 22nd and movements for following 24 hours. (D) ULTIMATUM, CURIE, MINERVE and TRUANT escorted by KINGSTON AMBER vicinity Lundy Isle due 180 Bishop Rock 10 miles at 220 22nd thence:-
(2) ULTIMATUM independently dived by day through 49° N. 07° 30' W. thence to southward. (3) CURIE independently dived by day through 49° N. 07° W. thence to southward.
(G) TUNA as in my 191541, leaving patrol dived by day pass through position 47° 50' N. 06° 01' W. at 0400/23, thence to Northward. (H) TRUCULENT approx. 46° 28' N. 05° 25' W. dived by day through 47° 50' N. 06° 30' W. at 0400/23, thence to Northward. (J) UNBROKEN approx. 45° 25' N. 06° 02' W. dived by day to northward. (K) OTUS approx. 46° 47' N. 06° 30' W. dived by day to southward. Daily advance 100 miles.
(F.O.S. 211704A to Admty.)

Operation S.F. Add new para. 12. After a sighting by aircraft the destroyer will "Home" on to the aircraft (Appendix I paragraph 1. (D)) when the destroyer obtains visual touch the sighting aircraft will act under orders of S.O. until P.L.E. is reached. If possible another aircraft will be sent to relieve the sighting aircraft at P.L.E. and will similarly come under orders of S.O. on arrival. The call sign on the relief aircraft will be promulgated by C. in C. Rosyth. All other aircraft in the area will be acting under orders of 18 Group and are not to be diverted by the S.O.
(C. in C. Rosyth 211030A to H.F.)

/C. ...

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War Diary.21.8.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Operation S.F. (Contd.) C. in C. W.A.'s 191126. Request you will sail SARDONYX for Skaalefjord to arrive a.m. 24th. 2. On arrival SARDONYX will come under operational control of C. in C. Rosyth for operation S.F. (C. in C.H.F. 211109A to R.A.D.)
My 031615 Para. 2. From 1202 to 2359/21st (A)6, (B)7. (C. in C. Rosyth, 211156A to H.F.)
Your 191504A. Request you sail DUNBAR to Seidis Fjord as convenient after completion of boiler cleaning.
2. DUNBAR is to join group A on their return to harbour (my 191020 August refers). (C. in C. Rosyth, 211300A to A.C.I.C.)
Proceed to join Group B. on patrol by 1000A/22 in 062° 15' N. 012° 40' W. (C. in C. Rosyth, 211957A to SABRE.)
Detach MATCHLESS and ORWELL to arrive Scapa by 0600A/23rd. SABRE instructed R/V as in my 211957. (C. in C. Rosyth, 211958A to Capt. D.17.)
Faeroes departure SABRE. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 21(?)137A.)
My arrangements 031615 para. 2 from 001 to approx. 0630/22nd (A) nil (B) nil. Weather unsuitable. (C. in C. Rosyth, 212342A to A.I.G.47.)

V.P. operations. My number 2073/O.S.0272 dated 18th October 1942 para. 10. (a) In future sub. paragraph 2 will indicate the series number of the V.P. operation being carried out. (b) The Pendant numbers of the M.T. Boats being employed will be signalled when the operation has sailed. (A.C.O.S. 211229A to Admty.)

Operation VP-N. My 131616B. M.T.B. 619 sailed at 1300A today. (A.C.O.S. 211312A to Admty.)

Coastal Force operations. 1. (A) LA COMBATTANTE, GLAISDALE anti E-Boat patrol from 2145A to 0445A on 50° 25' N. between 00° 40' W. and 01° 25' W. (B) M.Ls. 343, 344 patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between F. and E.A.5 buoys. (C) Chasseur 13 immediate notice at St. Helens. (D) M.Ls. 122, 233, 124 from Portland patrolling 50° 20' N. between 02° 00' W. and 02° 25' W. (E) Coastal craft exercising southward of Newhaven north of 50° 38' N. until 0330A 22nd. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 211447A.)

Operation "Starkey". The following ships are required to arrive at Spithead for operation "Starkey" by 4th September.

/Ship...

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Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Operation "Starkey". (Contd.)	Ship.	Speed.	Departure Port.	Date.
	SS.EMPIRE DERWENT	8	Tyne	28th Aug.
	KINGSLAND	8	Tyne	28th Aug.
	EMPIRE COUGAR	8	Tyne	28th Aug.
	LORNASTON	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	Tyne	28th Aug.
	DANBY	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	Middlesboro'	28th Aug.
	BARON ELGIN	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	London	29th Aug.
	EMPIRE TORRIDGE	8	Middlesboro'	1st Sept.
	MONKSLEIGH	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	Middlesboro'	1st Sept.
	EMPIRE JESSICA	8	Middlesboro'	1st Sept.
	VINRIVER	8	Middlesboro'	1st Sept.
	EMPIRE BEATRICE	9	London	2nd Sept.
	EMPIRE SIMBA	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	London	2nd Sept.

2. It is proposed to include the first six named in Convoy F.S.6 and C.W.205 and the last six in convoys F.S.9 and C.W.206.

3. C. in C. Nore is requested to adjust sailing of C.W.Convoys in order that these ships may be included strengthening the escort if considered necessary.

4. The following ships will be ready to leave West Coast ports on 2nd September and it is proposed they should be sailed in Convoy W.P.3. From Penarth SS. RUNSWICK, BARON GRAHAM, CRAGPOOL, EMPIRE GARNET, EMPIRE ADVOCATE: Barry, IMPERIAL MONARCH: Cardiff, CLEARPOOL.

5. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to strengthen the escort of W.P.3 as requisite.

(D.O.D.H. 211944A to C. in C. Nore, Portsmouth, Plymouth.)

See also D.O.D.H. 231554A.

A/S
Patrol.

It is appreciated U/Boats are probably making passage to and from Bay ports close to Spanish coast.

2. Owing to Coastal traffic and fishing craft it is not practicable to use LL Wellingtons effectively at night along North coast of Spain, and enemy fighters render this area difficult by day.

3. H.Q. Coastal Command in conjunction with A.O.C. Gibraltar is requested to establish a patrol similar to "Musketry" to intercept U/boats in a sector approximately 180° to 320° from Finisterre.

4. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to cover presumed U/Boat route inshore between Capes Vilano and Ortegual with surface forces.

5. C. in C. Plymouth and H.Q. Coastal Command are requested to modify these initial dispositions as experience may prove necessary (A.C.N.S.H. 212216A.)

Exercises.

Plan
"Starkey".

Reference appendix B combined plan "Starkey" D - 5 convoys. It is essential all merchant ships be clear of Shoreham by August 27th so as to allow freedom of movement for landing craft.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven 211055Z to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

/Depth...

21.8.1943.

Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Exercises - Contd.

Depth charge trials. My 191558. Intend sailing BURWELL 0800A/22 for final series D/C trials in Irish Sea. E.T.A. Port Patrick area 1300A/22. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 211144A.) A.M. 538AZ. Important exercises involving surface vessels submarines and aircraft are being carried out in this area. Serious interference is being caused by presence of merchant vessels flying balloons during darkness. Request immediate instructions be issued to all authorities concerned that balloons and kites are not to be flown in Irish Sea north of latitude of Bardsey Island till further orders. Also request general message to this effect be sent to ships concerned at wea with added instruction that balloons already flying should be deflated.

2. Exercises will take place during night August 21/22. (C. in C.W.A. 211251A to Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Spitzbergen. From 15th August to 22nd August (?) German plane has passed early every morning previous (?to) 17th. On 18th 2 planes passed, one at 0445Z, the other at 1536Z. Refer my 181602Z. ("Locomotive" 212113Z to Admty.)

Mining.

Q.Z.X. 1056. Whole of Q.Z.X. 1056 now check swept. No mines encountered. (GWEAL, 212102A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Enemy Intelligence.

U/Boat crews. Decline in Morale. Following reports support impression of recent lowering morale: (a) Instructor Petty Officer at U/Boat School Gdynia has been admitting to Polish escapees that impression has now grown that 50% U/Boats putting to sea never return. This realisation has had considerable lowering effect on morale of crews. (b) Certain naval ratings including U/Boat crews have recently returned Gdynia having to forego their leave in Hamburg. Their outlook is now one of depression. (c) At Oysandon near Trondjheim a number of U/Boats and other naval ratings have accompanied military offenders into (?detention) quarters. All graded C.2. (N.A. Stockholm, 211215 to Admty.) N.I.D. Comment: Conclusion of last N.I.D. U.S. on Morale was as follows:- In the last few weeks there has been a marked drop in the morale of U/B P.Ws. This decline is attributable chiefly to: (a) The recent marked increase in the number of U/B losses. (b) The depressing news from home as a result of our most intensive bombing of German towns and ports. (c) The growing realisation that Germans can no longer hope to win the war.

War Diary.21.8.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

- ATHELDUCHESS. Sailed Rescue Tug ABEILLE IV at 0107A/21 to assist M/T ATHELDUCHESS ashore on Smalls. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 201935A to C. in C.W.A.) ATHELDUCHESS ashore by the bow, head 270° listed, one cable from Lighthouse, crew being taken off. Salvage officer of first on board. ABEILLE 21 with tow line made fast awaits next high water to refloat ship. Wind S.W.4, heavy ground swell. Chief Salvage Officer proceeding from Milford Haven for Smalls 1730 today in SALVAGE CHIEFTAIN. RANGER from Belfast E.T.A. Smalls 221000. Vessels in attendance ABEILLE 4 and 21 salvage vessel first. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 211655A to C. in C.W.A.)
- KENT. Admiralty 201213. Intend KENT should be sailed to arrive Chatham September 15th for quick docking. She is required back at Scapa p.m. 30th September. (C. in C.H.F. 211057 to C. in C. Nore.)
- ROTHER. Arrived ROTHER with gun defects. (F.O.I.C. N.I. 211235A.)
- SAUMAREZ. Proceed passing Switha 1200A/22nd to arrive Hull 0900A/23rd for fitting of type 272. Messrs. Brigham and Cowan. (R.A.D. 211437A to SAUMAREZ.)
- EMPIRE FRIENDSHIP. (M.K.S.21.) EMPIRE FRIENDSHIP stopped unable to move engine in position 046° 42' N. 018° 02' W. CLOVER ordered to instruct BEECHVILLE to take in tow and screen both ships till P.L.E. Request tug be sailed. (B.4 211702A to C. in C.W.A.)
- N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail ALLEGIANCE to R/V with M.K.S.21.. On joining convoy HIGHLANDER is to detach 1 Corvette to escort ALLEGIANCE to EMPIRE FRIENDSHIP stopped in 046° 42' N. 018° 02' W. at 211702A. CLOVER is to keep ships informed of progress of EMPIRE FRIENDSHIP. B.4s 211702A refers. (C. in C.W.A. 211947A.)
- Sailed ALLEGIANCE in accordance with F.O.I.C. Greenock's 211938A. S.O.A. 12 knots. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 212001A.)
- Cancel my 211947A. ALLEGIANCE returning to base Tug DEXTEROUS is being sailed from Falmouth. (C. in C.W.A. 212042A to B.4.)
- Return to Campbeltown. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 212053 to ALLEGIANCE)
- EMPIRE FRIENDSHIP ex. M.K.S.21 reported broken down in 046° 42' N. 018° 02' W. at 1702A/21 may be in tow of BEECHVILLE on estimated course 022°. CLOVER is escorting.
- (2) Request you sail DEXTEROUS forthwith to assist and tow to Falmouth. (C. in C. Plymouth, 212131A to N.O.I.C. Falmouth.)

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

M.T.B.623. A.C.O.S.'s 211727. M.T.B.623 has sustained damage to her hull and her P. and V. brackets are broken away. Request she may be taken in hand at approved port on the mainland, preferably Aberdeen, where repairs can be done immediately. She will be ready to sail on August 23rd. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 212009A to Admty.)

DUNBAR. Your 191122. DUNBAR can be taken in hand for refit at Hull, on 20th September. Request ship may be sailed as convenient. (D.M.S. 212103A to A.C.O.S.)

SHIKARI. Proceed passing Switha 2000A 22nd to Londonderry for repairs to Port Engine. (R.A.D. 212350A to SHIKARI.)

Shipping and Convoys.

PASTEUR. My 190224A. Personnel will now embark p.m. 28th August and vessel should be ready to sail a.m. 29th August. (D.S.T. 210239A.) Arrived PASTEUR. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 211000Z.)

A.T.62. My 192235A. Convoy A.T.62 is due Clyde p.m. 25th August. (QUEEN ELIZABETH) T.A.62. 2. Approximately 15,000 personnel will disembark at Tail of the Bank on 26th August. 3. Approximately 1350 personnel will embark at Tail of the Bank p.m. 28th August and a.m. 29th August. 5. Convoy T.A.62, should be ready to sail p.m.29th (D.S.T. 210241A.)

S.C.139. On crossing 021° W. detach ships capable of 10 knots negative Cmdre and rescue ship with 2 escorts to 007°, thence independent. (C. in C.W.A. 210816Z to Escort S.C.139.)

Fast portion escorted by SUNFLOWER and LOOSESTRIFE detached at 1700Z. 9 ships as follows. Names. 44 ships now in company. My P.C.S. 053° 57' N. 020° 30' W. 073° 6. (B.7. 211959Z to C. in C.W.A.)

/AMSTERDAM...

21.8.1943.

Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. - Contd.

AMSTERDAM,
PRAGUE.

Intend sailing loaded transports AMSTERDAM and PRAGUE from Cromarty 2031A 24. Standard route to 35 buoy, thence 5 miles east of Fair Isle. E.T.A. Lerwick 0731A/25. Speed 17 knots. K/Bs. flown.

(N.O.I.C. Invergordon, 211126A to C. in C.Rosyth, A.C.O.S.)

Convoys
cancelled.

The following convoys will be cancelled:

C.W.207, C.E.204, C.E.205, P.W.395, P.W.396, P.W.397, W.P.396, W.P.397, W.P.398.

The following convoys may be cancelled:

C.W.208, C.W.209, C.E. 206, P.W.398, P.W.399, P.W.400, W.P.399, W.P. 400, W.P.401.

(A.C.N.S. H., 211325A and 221259A.)

M.K.S.21.

Convoy to split as soon as convenient a.m.22nd. Fast section is to be composed of ships for East Coast ports capable of arriving Loch Ewe by 1200A/25, together with ships for other ports

capable of maintaining necessary speed.

2. S.O. to detail escort as requisite and to report composition of smaller section.

(C. in C.W.A. 211508A to Escorts M.K.S.21.)

H.X.251.

Ships of main convoy for Mersey port capable of making a.m. tide 23rd August are to be detached to proceed independently.

(C. in C.W.A. 211552A to Escort H.X.251.)

O.S.54.

Coloured routes which are to be given complete except where otherwise stated.

1. Coloured route. South America by "Silver" South Africa and beyond by "White".

2. Alternative coloured routes and positions. (A) Freetown - Nil. (B) West African ports beyond Freetown, African and Coast positions. (C) South America - "Copper". (D) Durban and beyond, from 4th "Amber" onwards. "Green" "Red" and "Jade".

3. Letters. "Silver" M.N.O.P., "Copper" Q.R. "White" MM to PP 4th "Amber" onwards S. to X. "Green" DD to JJ, "Red" AA to CC, "Jade" YY, African XX, Coast ZZ.

4. Ships for Cape and beyond leave "White" route at NN thence to Walvis Bay.

(D.T.D. 211746A.)

T.A.57A.

MARIPOSA sailed 212033A.

(S.T.O. Greenock, 212040A.)

A.T.61,
(QUEEN
MARY)

T.A.61.

My 192235A. Convoy A.T.61 is due Clyde p.m.31st August.

2. Approximately 15,000 personnel will disembark at Tail of the Bank on 1st September.

3. Approximately 3,000 personnel will embark at

/Tail...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

A.T.61
(QUEEN
MARY)
T.A.61.
(Contd.)

Tail of the Bank p.m. 3rd September and a.m.
4th September.
(D.S.T. 212105A.)

Ships
in
Irish
Sea.

Owing to exercises in Irish Sea request all
Merchant ships be instructed to deflate balloons
and not to fly kites in the area between latitude
of Bardsey Island and Mull of Kintyre until
further notice.

2. Coasters from English Channel and Bristol
Channel ports should be routed to Milford for
removal of balloons.

3. Coasters proceeding south through this area should not be
provided with balloons until arrival at Milford Haven.
(D.T.D. 212110A to A.I.G. 12.)

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21.8.1943.

SaturdayWar Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.French
Evacuees.

Ships sailed Setubal 2120B August 20th. My 171126 not to VENOMOUS refers (re intend to sail SIDI BRAHIM, G.C. LEPINE). E.T.A. position Q 2000B August 21st.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 21002B to Commorseafron (R) Admty. etc).

M.K.S.22

Sailing destinations.
(D.T.D., 210017A, 211546A to F.O. Gibraltar).

SAFARI

Intend to sail SAFARI 1201 August 22 for U.K. routed. (P) 35° 49' 06" 06½' at 1530/22.
(Q) 35 (4 corrupt groups) 15 at 1610/22.
(R) 36.37 07.24 at 2220/22. (T) 36.51 09.13 at 2300/26. (V) 38.50 10.01 at 1000/24. (S) 43.01 10.28 at 2300/26 shifting W/T watch at 2300/26., thence as ordered by F.O.S.
(2) SAFARI is painted dark blue. F.O.S's 1149/8 January 1942.
(A) 12 Mark 8 (B) 11½ knots until 0630/23 thereafter 9¾ knots 110 miles per day. (C) Ready for patrol 100% Fuel. (D) (1) Nil.
(2) 3.
(3) W/T Watch in Atlantic S1/43 Section ML Table 2 (3), line 2 on Home Station 82/43 Section 2 Table 2 (3).
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 210038B to Admty. etc).

G.U.S.12

G.U.S.12 sailed as in my 131143 and 161648 less BRITISH COURAGE.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 210410B to C.M.S.F.F. (R) C. in C. Med. Admty).

G.U.S.12. Arrivals (list).

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 210642B to Admty. etc).

G.U.S.12. CHEERET, ELORN, SALAMIS escorted by U.S.S.

STOCKTON and SPENCER sailed Casablanca 0600A/21st to R/V 035° 29' N., 007° 44' W. 1800A/21st.

(C.M.S.F.210745B to F.O.C. Gibraltar (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers, C. in C. Med. Admty. etc).

G.U.S.12 arrivals 0930/21. KATRINA, LUCKENBACH, JONATHAN EDWARDS, JOHN FITZSIMMONS. Arrivals 1300/21 ARCHIBISHOP LAMY, EMPIRE SOUTHEY.

(F.O.I.C. Gib. 211457B to A.I.G.259 (R) C.M.S.F.F.)

U/B

Following read by Plymouth W/T. Am over enemy submarine in 41.53 N. 12.43 W. Submarine was on surface on course 270° speed 10 knots.
(A/C 404 Squadron Duty C, 210548 to Gib. W/T).

Convoy
"Rivet",
A/C.

"Rivet" being shadowed by one enemy A/C 47.24 N. 10.10 W.
(TWEED, 210657A to Gib. W/T).

Movements,
Gibraltar.

Arrivals p.m./20th EGILSAY, FILLA, GRILSE, M.L. 456, 461, 478, 451, 299 tug LARIAT.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 210909B to Admty. etc).

/S.L...

War Diary.21.8.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

S.L.135, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 180955B.
Escorts. It will be necessary for all escorts S.L.135 to proceed Casablanca to oil in order to reach U.K. If relief escort cannot be provided propose to detach 4 ships of escort at 0600/23rd to proceed ahead to Casablanca to oil and then sail to R/V S.L.135 in approx. 033° 30' N. 009° 50' W. when remaining escort will proceed Casablanca.

BERRY will require diver on arrival for examination starboard propeller shaft which has developed excess vibrations.
My P.C. and S. 1000Z X. 024° 49' N., 016° 45' W. 042° 7 knots 023° 38' N., 017° 32' W. Weather report.
(S.O.E.G.37 21100Z, to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. W.A., C.M.S.F.)

Your 211000 to F.O.C.W.A. approved.

2. 2 destroyers will R/V in approx. 033° 30' 009° 50' and act as additional escort until all escorts fuelling at Casablanca have rejoined.

(F.O.C. Gib. 211656B to E.G.37 (R) C. in C. W.A., F.O.C.W.A. C.M.S.F.)

Dispositions. Situation at 1959B/21st. U.S. Hospital ship SEMINOLE 036° 10' 027° 15' through 036° 25' 031° 01' thence 278° 14.

(2) Fleet Unit 3 destroyers 031° 35' 015° 52' through 031° 30' 016° 01' thence 200° 12.

(3) Portuguese destroyer DOURO left Ponta Delgada p.m./21st for Lisbon 18 knots.

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 211054B).

Situation 212001B. P.211 SAFARI sailing Gibraltar 1200/22nd by Q.B.A. 87 thence 035° 53' 006° 15' at 1610/22nd thence 308° at 11½.

2. U.G.S.14, C.T.F.65 035° 10' 010° 15' through 035° 40' 007° 40' thence through Straits 10. Casablanca section P.C.9 sailing 1700/21st to R/V in 035° 37' 007° 48' at 0800B/22nd (See addition 211444).

3. G.U.S.12 (U.S.) Task Force 64, 035° 26' 007° 54' through 034° 58' 010° 02' thence 270° 9.

4. C.G.57 COMMANDANT BORY, FORBIN sails Casablanca 221100B through Q.B.A. 102, thence 050° 8.

5. Spanish Second Destroyer Flotilla Spanish M.L. NEPTUNE class Spanish S/M GENERAL MOLA class and Spanish S/M C.2 sail Vigo 21st arriving Cadiz 22nd.

6. G.U.S.12 Casablanca section 3 merchant ships 2 escorts 035° 18' N., 007° 46' W. to Casablanca 10½.

7. U.S.S. DORAN passes Europa Point approx. 1000/22 thence through Q.B.A. 87 034° 10' 007° 53' to Casablanca 7.

8. Portuguese naval sailing training ship SAGRES departs Lisbon 21st for Funchal.

(F.O. Gibraltar, 211056B as amended 212150B).

Add new para. (9) to my 211056B. C.A.M. Ship F.22 HUNTER. SHROPSHIRE, CHARYBDIS 037° 31' 014° 18' through 035° 25' 010° 01' to Gibraltar 12½.

CHARYBDIS part company approx. 2200/21st and proceed through 036° 01' 010° 01' to Gibraltar 23. (see addition, 211758B).

Add to para. (2) DELPHINIUM 7 escort sail Gibraltar 0800/22nd to R/V U.G.S.14 in 035° 47' 006° 27' at 1500/22nd and escort through Strait 9. When R/V has been made T.F.65 part company

/and...

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- Dispositions. and escort compartment section to compartment 10.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 211444B).
Add new para. 10 to my 211056B. 2 M.M.S. sailing Casablanca 2000/21st through 035° 44' 006° 28' to Gibraltar 6.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 211856B).
Situation at 2003B/21st.
M.F.22 H.M.S. SHROPSHIRE, H.M.S. CHARYBDIS, HUNTER 037° 31' 014° 18' through 035° 25' 010° 01' to Gibraltar 12½. (See addition 211448B, 211758B.)
(2) S.L. 135 FOWEY (a) 025° 30' 016° 01' through 027° 33' (014°?) 01' thence 036° 7½.
(5) C.T.G.21.14 sailed Casablanca 210300 to patrol vicinity Azores ahead of G.U.S.12 speed approx. 14.
(6) Spanish naval training ships JUAN SEBASTIAN DE ELCANO and GALATEA sailed Livorno (Leghorn) in 18th for Canary Is.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 211114B).
Para. (1) of my 211114. CHARYBDIS parts company approx. 2200/21st and proceeds through 036° 01' 010° 01' to Gibraltar 23.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 211448B).
My 211056B to A.I.G.63 add to para. 9 my 211114B to A.I.G. 55 add to para (1), SHROPSHIRE part company in 035° 25' 010° 01' thence 198° 17.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 211758B).
- T.G.21.3 Task Group 21.3 sailed 211030A proceeding 041° N. 023° W. thence south and west according to developments. S. of A. 14.
(C.M.S.F., 211128 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) C. in C. Med. Cdr. U.S. Naval Forces, N.W. African waters, C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet, C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Admty. Cdr. T.F.64, Cdr. T.F.65).
- U.G.S.14 Intend sailing: SELVIK coal Bone ALRESFORD coal also BARON HAIG Government Stores Algiers also ALYNBANK, B.Y.M.S.22 and 23.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 211129B to N.O.I.Cs. North African Ports, (R) Admty. etc).
DELPHINIUM S.O, JUMNA, ROCKWOOD, PRIMULA, MIAOULES, SOUTHERN MAID, SOUTHERN SEA and FALK R/V in position (X) 035° 47' 006° 27' at 1500B August 22nd.
(2) When British escorts have joined American escorts are to part company and escort Casablanca Section.
(3) Onward route from (K) through Q.B.A.87 DA 036° 01' 005° 21' DB 035° 48' 003° 02' DC 035° 56' 000° 50' thence as ordered by C. in C. Med. S. of A. 9 knots is to be adjusted to pass through DC at 0800B August 24th.
(4) ALYNBANK and 3 ships will join from Gibraltar in position DA at 0100B August 23rd.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 211148B to S.E.C., U.G.S.14 for Cdre. (R) C. in C. Med. Admty. etc).
All positions are west in my (?211)148.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 211446B).

/CHARYBDIS...

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21.8.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.- Contd.

CHARYBDIS,
K.M.F.20.

CHARYBDIS is to part company after dark August 21st and proceed Gibraltar routed through (K) 036° 01' 010° 01' S. of A. 23 knots.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 211236B to Ships escorting K.M.F. 20 (R) Admty. C. in C. Med (Malta)).

M.M.S.

Intend sail M.M.S. 100 (Senior) and 101 E.T.D. 1900A/21, S. of A. 6 knots; route Q.B.A.102.
(B) 35.44 N. 06.28 W. Q.B.A.87. E.T.A. Gibraltar 0800A/23. Vessels guard 21 50 k/cs.
(Commorseafron, 211428B to F.O. Gibraltar).
British M.M.S. sailed as my 211428B.
(Commorseafron, 212151B to F.O. Gibraltar).

Movements
of Spanish
Submarines.

Your 171420. It is regretted that as movements of Spanish submarine B.2 appeared to be confined to harbour entrance, they were not promulgated. They will now be promulgated in AZ message and C.A.F.O. in accordance with terms of your R/359.

2. In view of suspected intention of U-boats to keep close in to North Spanish coast and of Admiralty Message 1031/21 July 1942, authorising attack within territorial waters, advance notification of movements of all Spanish submarines within territorial waters is essential. It is realised that individual movements of submarines, except in such cases as the submarine B.2, are generally notified, and you will no doubt continue discreetly to encourage this practice.

3. Your 171642. Notification much appreciated. Employment by the enemy of destroyers as escorts for U-boats and blockade runners makes it particularly necessary that we should be informed of all movements of Spanish Warships North of Spanish Portuguese border.

(Head of M.I. Approved A.C.N.S. (H), 211614A to N.A. Madrid, (R) H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

K.M.F.22

List, destinations numbers, disposal, etc.
(D.S.T., 211701A, to F.O. Gibraltar, etc).
See Lion Copy.

CYGNET,
WANDERER,
WALLFLOWER.

On arrival in Portuguese territorial waters, passengers in CYGNET, WANDERER and WALLFLOWER are to be transferred to tug which will be sent out from Lisbon.

2. H.M. Ships are not to enter the harbour unless it is necessary to refuel when they should enter several hours after the convoy.

3. After transfer of passengers escort is to act in accordance with previous orders.

(D.O.D. (H), 211753A to CYGNET, (R) WANDERER, WALLFLOWER passed to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

/CURIE...

749A.

MOST SECRET

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

211701A August.
CUT

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

Date 21.8.43.

To F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.
C. in C. South Atlantic.
C. in C. Eastern Fleet.
C. in C. Mediterranean.
C. in C. Levant.
F.O.C. W.Af.

Convoy. K.M.F. 22

Repeated N.O.I.C. Durban.
F.O.C.R.I.N.
F.O.R.S.C.A.
COMMORSEAFRON.

Naval Cypher (X).

From Admiralty.

IMPORTANT to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Mediterranean,
and C. in C. Levant.

Convoy KMF.22 sailed from United Kingdom 16 August comprising the following troop transports:-

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Speed</u>	<u>Destination of Personnel on board.</u>	<u>No. of personnel.</u>
C.1	MARNIX VAN ST. ALDEGONDE	14	Algiers	3128
C.2	DURBAN CASTLE	17	Algiers Middle East via Algiers	1121 1296
C.3	DUCHESS OF BEDFORD	17½	Sicily	3147
C.4	ORONTES	17½	Algiers Malta	3897 53
C.5	OTRANTO	17½	Sicily	4488
C.6	MONARCH OF BERMUDA	17	Middle East India East Africa Ceylon	546 2336 9 385
C.7	ARUNDEL CASTLE	13.4	Middle East India Iraq Ceylon Aden	1914 212 726 4 1
C.8	RUYS	16½	Middle East India Ceylon	5 2519 216
C.9	TTGELBERG	16	Middle East India	81 2645

/C.10

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Speed</u>	<u>Destination of Personnel on board.</u>	<u>No. of personnel.</u>
C. 10	ORDUNA	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	Middle East India South Africa East Africa Mauritius	382 1 1292 1019 1
C. 11	EMPERESS OF AUSTRALIA	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	Middle East India South Africa Aden Ceylon	3081 120 1 10 563
C. 12	ANTENOR	14	South Africa West Africa	168 611
C. 13	DUCHESS OF RICHMOND	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	Algiers Middle East via Algiers Malta	2050 1004 2
C. 14	INDRAPOERA	15	Algiers Middle East via Algiers	1659 182
C. 15	JOHAN DE WITT	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	West Africa	602
C. 16	CAMERONIA	15	Gibraltar	4033
C. 17	ORIONDE	15	Algiers Middle East via Algiers	1513 495
C. 18	BOISSEVAIN	17	West Africa	995

2. Troopship VILLE D'ORAN with approximately 20 personnel on board is also included in Convoy KMF.22 for Algiers.

3. Following stores, etc. were shipped in troop transports:-

<u>Ship</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Destination</u>
HARNIK VAN ST. ALDEGONDE	25 tons petrol	North Africa
DURBAN CASTLE	121 tons frozen meat 24 tons petrol	North Africa
DUCHESS OF BEDFORD	214 tons frozen meat 18 tons petrol 12 tons butter	North Africa
ORONDES	22 tons petrol	North Africa
ORONTO	15 tons petrol	North Africa

/ ARUNDEL CASTLE

MOST SECRET

<u>Ship</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Destination</u>
ARUNDEL CASTLE	Stores	Middle East
RUYS	M.T. Stores	India
DUCHESS OF RICHMOND	Stores	West Africa
INDRAPOERA	Stores	West Africa
ORMONDE	Stores	West Africa
BOISSEVAIN	Stores	West Africa

4. Commercial freightship GLENARTNEY Speed 17 knots also sailed in Convoy KMF.22 for India.

5. Separate signal has been sent to appropriate authorities giving estimated arrival draughts and length overall of vessels proceeding to North African ports.

6. Destinations of troop transports are as follows:-

- (a) HARNIX VAN ST. ALDEGONDE }
 DURBAN CASTLE }
 DUCHESS OF BEDFORD } Algiers
 ORONTES }
 OTRANTO }
- (b) MONARCH OF BERMUDA }
 RUYS } India
 TEGELBERG }
- (c) ARUNDEL CASTLE }
 EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA } Middle East.
- (d) ORUNDA } East and South Africa.
- (e) CAMERONIA } Gibraltar
- (f) ANTIENOR }
 DUCHESS OF RICHMOND } D. of S.T.'s 052034B
 INDRAPOERA } paragraph (3) not to
 JOHAN DE WITT } all addressees refers.
 ORMONDE }
 BOISSEVAIN }

7. Disposal of troop transports is as follows:

- (i) 6 (a) will remain in Mediterranean.
- (ii) 6 (c) should return to U.K. in Convoy MKF.24.
- (iii) 6 (e) should return to U.K. in Convoy MKF.22.

Disposal of ships under 6 (b) and (d) will be given later.

8. Ships under 6 (f) after embarkation in West Africa will proceed via South Africa as Convoy WS.33 - DUCHESS OF RICHMOND to Middle East and remainder to India. Disposal instructions will be given in due course.

9. Separate signal has been sent regarding on-carriage of personnel ex ANTENOR JOHAN DE WITT and BOISSEVALIN as necessary along West African Coast.

10. It is understood that P.S.T.O. Mediterranean is arranging for onward conveyance from Algiers for personnel for Sicily, Malta and Middle East.

11. P.S.T.O. India should arrange for on-carriage from Bombay of all personnel for Ceylon.

12. P.S.T.O. Middle East should make arrangements for on-carriage of all personnel ex ARUNDEL CASTLE and EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA for destinations beyond Middle East. Also for personnel for East Africa ex MONARCH OF BERMUDA.

13. Commodore of Convoy is Commodore L.G.E. Crabbe in MONARCH OF BERMUDA, Vice-Commodore is Commodore O.H. Dawson in DUCHESS OF RICHMOND, Road-Commodore is Master of CALIFORNIA.

14. Addressees pass to S.T.O's and Military Authorities concerned.

211701A

Director of Sea Transport.
M.W.T. - Extn, 2187.

- 1st S.L. (2).
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F).
- A.C.N.S. (UT) (2).
- U.W.R.
- N.A. (Mails).
- D.O.D. (F) (2).
- D.O.D. (H) (4).
- D.T.D. (4).
- D.T.D. (M).
- D.T.D. (C).
- Head of M. (10).
- D.D.I.C. (2).
- D. of P. (2).
- D. of S.T. (6).
- I.P. (2).
- V.D.
- D.C. (2).
- Admiral Blake.
- D.S.O.
- D. of S. (2).
- S.O.F. (V) (2).
- C.C.O. (2).
- U.S.N. (3).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

CURIE,
ULTIMATUM.

F.O.S. 091501B August (CURIE for Gibraltar when ready about 20th August). and 131018B August (P.34 (ULTIMATUM) for Gibraltar about 20th August) sailed. Last Q.B.27, Q.B.A.103. Painted blue. (Capt. (S) 3, 212115A to F.O. Gibraltar).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

OUED FES My 171118Z August, not for S.O.(I) Capetown.
OUED FES arrived Port Etienne 0730/20.
(N.C.S.O. Dakar 210205 to Admty.).

Movements Departures Pointe Noire 1700Z/20th M.L.244 and
Pointe French CHASSEUR 42, both ships with one motor
Noire. out of action. E.T.A. Libreville dawn (?23rd).
(B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire 210715A to F.O.C.West
Africa, (R) Admty. N.O.i/c Lagos, N.O.i/c Takoradi).
Departure Congo River p.m.20th arrival Pointe
Noire 0700Z/21st COM. D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES escorting S.S. DUMANA.
(?B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire 210845A to F.O.C.W.A.).

Catalina Attack on U-boat appears most promising.
attack on Floating wreckage observed and U-boat disappeared
U-boat after explosions of four depth charges estimated
20th August. within lethal range. Large oil patch 200 ft. by
100 ft. appeared after U-boat disappeared. Captain
of second Catalina who witnessed attack confirms
opinion that U-boat was probably sunk.
(2) NIGELLA has been sent to position of attack.
(3) My 201833+ refers.
(C. in C.S.A. 211115B to Admty. Air Ministry. C. in C. E.F.,
A.H.Q.E.A.).
+ Re report of direct hits on U-boat. W.D. Note. Details of the
two attacks. Dee 231109B, 231233B.

Dispositions Situation at 2000Z/21st August.
THYME, NORTHERN CHIEF, TURFONTEIN with C.D.32
(4 ships) 034 degs. 00' 026 degs. 25' coastal to
Durban 7.
NORMAN, RELENTLESS, QUIBERON, RAPID with W.S.32 (9 ships) 030
degs. 30' 031 degs. 02' R.8 to Durban 13.
VERBENA, NORTHERN ISLES, NORWICH CITY, LADY ROSEMARY, ODBERG
with LUCIA and D.C.40 (16 ships) 033 degs. 05' 028 degs. 10' coastal
to Capetown 8 knots.
GENISTA, FREESIA with C.B.4 (?2 ships) 026 degs. 038 degs. to 021
degs. 038 degs. 7.
ARCTIC EXPLORER, INDIAN STAR with D.N.57 (6 ships) 026 degs. 00'
038 degs. 00' convoy disperses (b) escorts return to Durban.
(See amendment 212148B).
ROCKROSE, JASMINE, VIVIANA, LADY ELSA, NORTHERN DUKE with B.C.4/
L:M.D.29 (10 ships) 027 degs. 45' 032 degs. 55' coastal to Durban 7
ALBATROSS escorted by NEPAL 026 degs. 00' 038 degs. 40' to 028
degs. 01' 038 degs, 00' 15.
NIGELLA 029 degs. 15' 038 degs. 00' to 028 degs. 25' 042 degs. 48'
special search.
(C. in C.S.A. 211127B).
Amend my 211127. ARCTIC EXPLORER and INDIAN STAR continue
with C.B.4.
(C. in C.S.A. 212148B).
Situation 2001Z/21st.
WELLINGTON, ABERDEEN, FOLKESTONE, LOWESTOFT, GORLESTON, COWSLIP
with S.T.75 003 degs. 26' 007 degs. 18' 081 degs. 8.
BRIDGEWATER, MOYOLA, MILFORD, ARMERIA, PETUNIA, ARRAN with L.S.10
004 degs. 10' 009 degs. 52' 308 degs. 7.

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Dispositions (Contd.) WOLVERINE, BEAGLE, BULLDOG, DOUGLAS, CATTERICK, EXE, 2 Fleet Units with C.F.13 007 degs. 12' 013 degs. 56' to 007 degs. 33' 014 degs. 23' thence Freetown 11.
MORRIS DANCE 4 M.Ls. with T.L.21 005 degs. 53' 002 degs. 04' East to Lagos 9.
M.L.1160 escorting about 007 degs. 39' 013 degs. 44' to Freetown 7. DUNKERY off Monrovia.
M.L.1078 and 1019 off Accra. M.L.473 off Cotonou.
CARNARVON CASTLE 001 degs. 20' 010 degs. 49' 330 degs.
P.614 006 degs. 18' South 005 degs. 59' 327 degs. 8½.
(F.O.C.W.A. 211141Z).

S.A.E.F. composition. Following ships will constitute the South Atlantic Escort Force (S.A.E.F.).
(A) Frigates. BANN, DERG, HELFORD, KALE, PLYM, TAY, TEST, TEVIOT, TRENT.
(B) Corvettes. ASTER, FREESIA, FRITILLARY, GENISTA, MARGUERITE, NICELLA, ROCKROSE, THYME, TULIP, VERBENA, JASMINE.
(C) Trawlers. ARCTIC EXPLORER, CAPE WARWICK, COVENTRY CITY, DRANGEY, HERTFORDSHIRE, INDIAN STAR, LADY ELSA, LADY ROSEMARY, LE TIGRE, NORTHERN CHIEF, NORTHERN ISLE, NORTHERN DAWN, NORTHERN DUKE, NORWICH CITY, SPHENE, ST. ZENO, STELLA POLARIS, ST. LOMAN, VIVIANA, WELLARD, WASTWATER, BUTTERMERE.
(2) Following G Messages are cancelled:-
645 G of 19th May, 662 G of 27th June, 667 G of 3rd July.
(C. in C.S.A. 211131B to S.A. Stn. 649G).

O.S.53 F.O.i/c Gibraltar pass to F.O.C.W.Af. O.S.53.
C. in C.W.A. 300946B+ July, 38 Group expect to overtake a.m. tomorrow, Sunday.
(2) My 180915. All 4 ships require fuel. Where is gas oil available please? Weather report.
(S.O. Escort Group 4 211155Z to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A., F.O.i/c Gibraltar, ENCHANTRESS, O.S.53, S.L.135).
+ Re O.S.53.
S.O.37th E.G.211000 and S.O.4th E.G. 211155, neither to all addressees. Request you will reply.
(2) Gas Oil is available at Dakar.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 211551Z to V.A. Gib. (R) S.O.37th E.G., S.L. 4th E.G., C.M.S.F.).

Movements Arrivals 21st . SWALE, BELLWORT, ORFASY, M.L.287.
Lagos. (R.N.O. Lagos 211217Z to Admty. etc.).

40th Escort Group. Your 191253. Following escort group will be formed and will return as escort S.L.136. EXE (senior officer) BRIDGEWATER, MILFORD, CLARKIA, PETUNIA, ARMERIA and MOYOLA. Necessary to include EXE in place of SWALE owing to station indisposition. Intend SWALE to replace EXE in 42nd Escort group. CYCLAMEN and BURDOCK bring paper strength of returning escort group to nine ships.
(Capt. (D) Freetown 211613Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A, F.O.i/c Gib.).
W.D. Note: Named 40th Group, see 232321A.

/Convoy...

War Diary.

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

Convoy Escorts Kilindini - Durban convoys. Organisation of convoy escorts is being considered on the appreciation that submarine activity East and North East of Durban is likely to be sustained particularly against unescorted incoming traffic. Your 211033 July para.4 and 5 refers. Can any estimate be given of the date on which Kilindini Durban convoys could start as proposed in above quoted signal para.7B? (C. in C.S.A. 211633 to C. in C.E.F. (R) Admty.).

MALCOLM Your 191310 (N.T. in W.D.) MALCOLM will complete refit 27th August and will be sailed to rejoin your Command about 13th Sept. after a short work-up. (D.O.D.(F) 211702A to F.O.C.W.A.).

Movements Takoradi Arrivals 21st August. M.L.1078. Departures 1500Z/21st M.L.1018 Accra, escorting, E.T.A. 0600Z/22 August coastal. 1800Z/22 M.L.1016, Accra, escorting, E.T.A. 0700Z/22nd August, coastal. (N.O.i/c Takoradi 211803Z to Admty. etc.).

STRATHMORE diversion. To avoid southbound Submarine alter course for new A 030 degs. 20' South 042 degs. 30' E. From this position steer direct to Durban. Please acknowledge immediately to C. in C. S.A. (C. in C.S.A. 211919Z to B.A.M.S. 3C and 7B for STRATHMORE).

Demands on Union Ports. M. of W.T. have been asked by Wurtzburg for appreciation of future demands on Union Ports in view of coming discussions with Sturrock. (2) We have asked them to stress that prospective build-up of a large amphibious force for operations against Japan, with numerous auxiliaries of all types, will add very considerably to demand on repair and maintenance facilities in whole Indian Ocean area and Admiralty expects to use facilities in South and East Africa to their maximum capacity. (3) On questions of future usefulness of Saldanha Bay, it is being suggested that your views should be sought, as responsibility for directing ships to this harbour rests with you. (Hd. of M.II. Approved Controller 211959A to C. in C.S.A. (R) C. in C.E.F.).

Movements Freetown. Departures 1500Z/21 August WITCH BRILLIANT, escorting. 1130/21 August CLARKIA. (S.O.(I) Freetown 212354Z to Comar Dakar (R) N.O. i/c Bathurst, Admty.).

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Enemy Units. One medium sized merchant vessel type F in 42.45 N. 9.40 E. Course 180 degs. speed 12 knots (A/C. HTN/A, 210007B)
P.C.S. medium sized merchant ship and an enemy destroyer are 41 degs. 33' N. 12 degs. 28' E. 150 degs. 8 knots.
(? 210021B to K.T.1)
P.C. and S. of one medium sized M.V. and 2 M.T.B's 41.15 N. 16.35 E. 310 degs. 10.
(A/C ANT/H via Alex W/T 210050B to K.T.1)
P.C. and S. of three enemy destroyers are 41.23 N. 12.40 E. 110 degs. 15 knots.
(A/C HTN/X via Alex. W/T 210400B to K.T.1)

U/B(?) Am investigating suspicious object, possible conning tower, in 38.40 N. 12.37 E.
(A/C. ARB/J, 210031C)

K.M.S.23, A/C Attack. "Untrue" attacked by one torpedo bomber 2 torpedoes fired no hits. Position 036 degs. 49' N. 001 degs. 56' E.
(SHOREHAM, 210335B to C. in C. Med.)

LA SULTANE. Kept submerged (?reason) E-Boat N.W. of Corsica since 0001/20th proceeding clear of SIBYL's area and returning Algiers reverse route subject to receipt of fresh instruction (?position) 0300B/21st 042 degs. 47' N. 008 degs. 04' E.
(? French S/M LA SULTANE, 21345B to Capt. (S) 8 (R) C. in C. Med. (A) etc.)
Leave patrol through 042 degs. 15' 007 degs. 17' at 2200/21st and proceed diving by day through 037 degs. 57' 003 degs. 55' at 2200/24th thence on surface to R/V escort Algiers in 036 degs. 56' 003 degs. 10' at 0630/25th.
Your 210345 refers.
(Capt. (S) 8, 210650B to LA SULTANE (F.S) (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Algiers, 8th S/M.F.)

Movements, Alexandria. Alexandria August 20th arrival ABDIEL, WOLBOROUGH. Departure ABDIEL, G.S. PANTHER, FARMDALE, POPPY (DIANELLA, STARWORT) CALPE, WILD, BISAG.
(N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 210655C to Admty.)

TROOPER 20th August 1943 departure.
(S.O.(I) Beirut, 210829C to Admty.)

Movements, Beirut. 20th August 1943 Arrivals LA MOQUEUSE, IERAX, M.L.s 349 and 360.
Departures NOBLE NORAH, M.L. 349 and 360.
(S.O.(I) Beirut, 210832C to Admty.)

M.E.Air/...

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M.E.Air Report. A.666 21 Aug. 0844Z. Daily Opsum 115.
19/20 Aug. 1 Wellington 1 Beaufighter anti-shipping R/C both returned engine trouble. Single enemy aircraft operated over Syrian Coast flares reported dropped north of Tripoli 2 Beaufighters 1 Spitfire up 1 Beaufighter contacted enemy but was unable to close within range. Following delayed details. 19 Aug. 2 Beaufighters anti shipping R/C West Coast Greece. 2 lorries attacked near Makhalas. 1 set on fire, 1 motor vessel 1500 tons attacked near Preveza. 2 bombs failed to explode but gun on stern silenced by cannon fire. Three-engined floatplane on water left smoking after cannon attack. 4 Beaufighters despatched to attack shipping in Missoulonghi. 1 M/V 2000 tons bombed, no hits, cannon strikes on bridge.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 210857Z)

W.S.32. After position (Z) 12 degs. 30' N. 51 degs. 20' E. thence "Gas". Your 201244 refers. (alternative routes for Convoy W.S.32) (C.O.A. Aden, 210904Z to C. in C. E.F.(R) Admty. etc.)

NIEUW AMSTERDAM. D. of S.T. 202036. NIEUW AMSTERDAM should carry out immediate embarkations of personnel enumerated in my 181426C. (2) On completion of embarkation ship to proceed Massawa E.T.A. 24th August to embark approx. 550 U.S.A. civilians for U.S.A. S.S.T.O. Massawa requested to arrange embarkation accordingly and on completion to sail vessel Durban. (3) F.O.C. Red Sea requested to concur to calling at Massawa. (4) G.H.Q. Middle East endeavouring to provide escort for P. of W. Further signals will be made. (P.S.T.O.M.E. 210937C to S.S.T.O. Suez (R) S.S.T.O. Massawa, S.S.T.O. Capetown, S.S.T.O. Durban, C. in C. S.A. CHALLENGER, F.O.C. Red Sea etc.)

Movements, Arrivals RYSA, M.L.273.
Bone. (N.O.I.C.Bone, 210940 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

K.M.S.23. Intend to join.
9 QUEEN ADELAIDE M/F P/V Bizerta.
(N.O.I.C.Bone, 210946B to S.O.E. K.M.S. 23.)
TORBAY and TEMPLAR at present with Malta Section of K.M.S. 23, SHOREHAM pass to TORBAY and TEMPLAR. (V.A. Malta, 211432 to SHOREHAM (R) LAUDERDALE, OAKLEY, TEMPLAR, TORBAY, C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 10, Capt. (S) 1)
Pass to Cdre. (corrupt group) section sailed as in my 201130. MARIGOT did not sail.
Algiers section arrived as in C. in C. M.F's 161632B less

GREATHOPE /...

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Mediterranean.

K.M.S. 23
(Contd.) GREATHOPE, plus GRAND QUIVELLY (French) and EILDON. (Total 13 ships)
(N.O.I.C. Algiers, 211706B to Escorts of Convoy K.M.S. 23, (R) Admty. etc.)
N.O.I.C. Philippeville's 201101B (No trace, presumably 201001 re K.M.S. 23 is intended). Arrived two ships.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 211937B to Admty. etc.)

DZIK, DZIK reports at 2032/15th in 41 degs. 09' attacks 17 degs. 25' fired two torpedoes at 5000 ton on M.V's. Tanker, one hit observed abreast foremast followed by another explosion ten seconds later, consider both hit and vessel probably sunk. (2) 25 seconds later fired two torpedoes at 6000 ton passenger ship, two explosions heard at seven seconds interval at correct running time, vessel considered sunk or badly damaged. (3) Both attacks carried out at range of 1200 yards.
(S.10, 211005 to A.I.G.66, C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 1 (R) F.O.S.)

M.K.S.22Z. Arrivals.
(S.N.O. Trip, 211032B to Admty. etc.)
M.K.S.22 Z. My 201658B Sailed. (? 201657 Re ORNA, OCEAN PRIDE, PELLUCULA, SPONDILUS sailing 21st etc.)
(S.N.O. Trip. 211037B to V.A. Malta)

M.K.S.22. Pass to Cdre. and escort M.K.S. 22. Intend sailing 10 EMPIRE CARPENTER N/DM/FR/T Gibraltar for U.K.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 211100B to SLAZAK)
Pass to Cmdre. Algiers joiners (list 8 ships)
(N.O.I.C. Algiers, 211238B to Escorts of Convoy M.K.S. 22, Admty. etc.)
M.K.S. 22 FORT SLAVE arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 211940B to Admty. etc.)

U.G.S.14. Destinations.
Ships for Middle East and beyond continue with convoy.
(C. in C. Med. 211105B to (U.S) C.T.F.65, C.T.G.21.15. S.E.C., U.G.S.14.)

TAURUS. Unless you have had an attack remain there another 24 hours. My 172032 refers.
(Capt. (S) 1, 211107C to P.339 TAURUS)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

8th Subs. movements at 2001B/21st. (1) LA SULTANE 042 degs. 15' 007 degs. 17' (3) P.217 (SIBYL) in Gulf Genoa. (4) P.224 (SICKLE) (?East of Corsica) (Capt. (S) 8, 211130B)

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of one enemy medium vessel (2000 tons) 2 destroyers 5 planes bearing 350 degs. distant 8 miles position ?RDU 1634. (?LRDU 1634 - 42.16 N, 11.34 E.) (A/C. CJX/X, 211145B)

Axis Shipping, Istanbul. My 131555C and my 161757C. A. GERDA TOFT arrived Istanbul from Black Sea in transit 21st August. B. Reported B.3 this vessel with BAC?(CHU)S will sail for Piraeus between 1300 and 1500 G.M.T. today. C. BAC?CHUS description: 1810 G.R.T. grey hull and funnel bridge and machinery aft, gun platforms on forecastle midships and poop. Ship very low in water. D. Hungarian SZEGED sailed for Bourges a.m. 21st August. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 211145C to C. in C. Levant etc.) CELENO a tanker with escort expected arrive off Dardanelles to synchronize with GERDA TOFT and BACCHUS entry into Aegean. Probably morning August 22nd. B.3. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 211253 to C. in C. Levant etc.)

TORBAY, TEMPLAR. TORBAY and P.316 TEMPLAR sailed in K.M.S.23. (2) Constant Watch on area broadcast read in addition to Rugby main M.S. routine. (Capt. (S) 8, 211148B to C. in C. Med. (A) C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 10. Capt (S) 1)

UNRUFFLED. Intend sailing P.46 UNRUFFLED at 1430/22nd via Eastern Channel routed through 035 degs. 50' 016 degs. 35' at 1200/23rd, thence 037 degs. 58' 019 degs. 39' at 2000/24th thence to operate for 24 hours off Cape Dukato. Surface passage on 24th. (2) On night 25/26th P.46 UNRUFFLED will withdraw to N.W. and report before entering Adriatic along 018 degs. 52' and will patrol off Brindisi. (3) M.J.A.O. 24. Request bombing restrictions for above passage and for area north of 038 degs. N. E. 019 degs. E. from 2000/24th until report is received that P.46 (UNRUFFLED) is clear of area. (Capt. (s) 10, 211201 to C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 8, 10, 1, (R) Air H.Q. Malta, 201 Group, 10th S.M.F.)

TEMPLAR /....

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TEMPLAR.

TEMPLAR should dock before leaving for E.F.
 (2) Patrol must be shortened as requisite to permit this since delay would be unacceptable.
 (3) Your 201121 (Hush) para. 3 refers.
 (C. in C. Levant, 211219C to S.1(R)S.8, S.10, C. in C. Med. V.A.M. Admty.)

N.A.A.F.
Report.

N.W.Af. Air Forces Opsum 181. N.W.A. Strategic Air Force 19/20 August. 49 Wellingtons marshalling Yards Foggia. (93 or 43?) tons dropped from 6000/12000 ft. bursts across yards, several fires started. Hits on station and warehouse. 2 Wellingtons destroyed. 37 Wellingtons beaches Sapri to Paola. 71 tons dropped from 5000/10500 ft. Bursts along railways and in towns. Railway and road bridges hit. 36 U.S. Mitchells (B.25) escort 44 U.S. Lightnings (P.38) marshalling yards Tennevento 3 fighters returned? early. Direct hits and near misses railway junction west of yards. Locomotives storage and repair sheds hit. 51 U.S. Marauders (B.26) escort 44 U.S. Lightnings (P.38) Marshalling yards Caserta. 1 bomber 6 fighters returned early. Bombs fell in railway yards, Aversa, among goods wagons, causing two huge explosions. Two large explosions among rolling stock Capualto.
 (N.A.A.F. Adv. H.Q. 211227B)

Part 2 and Part 3 Final. 48 B Warhawks Bombers Monserrato Airdrome. Most bombs northeast and northwest airdrome. Some bombs in town. N.A.T.A.F. 11 August (add) 153 Warhawks bombers 82 Kittyhawks bombers attacked shipping in Messina Straits and road targets Sicily. 2 barges hit, near misses 1 merchant vessel. 1 F-Boat sunk. 166 Spitfires escorted bombers and Fighter Bombers. 14 August. (Add) 10 Warhawks G.110 Kittyhawks bombed and straffed shipping and road transport. Direct hits 1 tug and 1 barge. Damaging near misses 2 Siebel ferries. Column of 180 motor transport straffed. 12 destroyed. 272 Spitfires? escorted bombers and fighter bombers. 15 August. (Add) 186 Warhawks bombers 141 Kittyhawks bombers attacked shipping claiming direct hits. 2 Siebel ferries. 1 barge, 1 boat north end Straits Messina. Near misses several craft. 194 Spitfires escorted bombers and fighter bombers. 20 August. 36 Warhawks bombers found no shipping targets and little road movements. Attacked railway trucks Locri starting fires. 40 Spitfires escorted fighter bombers. N.A.C.A.F.
 (N.A.A.F. Adv. H.Q. 211334B)

B.Y.M.S.
lack of
spares.

Your 191806 para. 2. Reference is made to B.A.D's 100025/Aug. in reply to V.A. Malta's 051745. Please signal serial numbers of B.Y.M.S. mainly affected in order to ascertain whether suitable spares can be provided from U.K. stocks. (2) Request confirmation that

shortages /...

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B.Y.M.S. shortages of stores if any, on leaving U.S.A.
lack of were communicated by ships concerned to B.A.D.
spares. in accordance with latter's standing instructions
(Contd.) A.M.311528/July refers. Also that allowance
lists were supplied by U.S. Navy Authorities in
accordance with their standard practice.
B.Y.M.S. arriving in U.K. have these allowance
lists on board. (3) Your Para. 4 A.M.071233B refers and a
further supply of instructional data was despatched on the 17th
August addressed to Cdr. M/S Malta.
(D.M.S. 211335A to C. in C. Med. (R) B.A.D. etc.)

G.U.S.13. List, destinations, etc.
(N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 211431C to Admty.etc.)

TEMPLAR, C. in C. Levant, 201616.
TORBAY. Request you will sail TEMPLAR and TORBAY when
ready for onward routeing through Antikithera
Channel to patrol as in my 201121 para. (1).
(Capt. (S) 1, 211458C to Capt. (S) 10,
(R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

SCYLLA A.M. 201851. Request you will sail SCYLLA to
U.K. forthwith. (2) 4th September is acceptable.
(C. in C. Med. 211503B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar(R)
Admty. C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, N.O.I.C
Barrow)
Cancel my 211503 not to all. SCYLLA is to proceed to Algiers
where guns can be changed in three days using French labour.
(C. in C. Med. 212144B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) Admty,
N.O.I.C. Algiers, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, N.O.I.C.
Barrow, SCYLLA)

Med. Air Signed Eisenhower. Part 3, Air Cositintrep
Report. No.42. 20th August.
N.W.Af. Air Forces. Night 19/20 August - 27
Wellingtons bombed Foggia marshalling yards, 11
attacked other Military objectives and 18
bombed Capri and Paola beaches. Hits scored on bridges, warehouses
Day 20th, August. 51 B.26s escorted by 44 P.38s dropped 56
tons of 500 lb bombs on Caserta marshalling yards.
B.25s escorted by 41 P.38s dropped 54 tons of 500 lb bombs
on Benevento marshalling yards, target well covered.
48 P.40s carrying 20 lb fragmentation bombs attacked Monserrato
Airdrome. North of airdrome well covered.
Fighter bombers flew three Missions over toe of Italy, no
shipping targets sighted, only slight M/T movement observed.
(Air C. in C. Med. No. T.O.O. Recd. 1520/21)
Second and last part. Railway at Locri attacked and fires
started. Air sea rescue continued, 3 members of a B.24 crew
were rescued 26 miles northwest Stromboli.
(Air C. in C. Med. No. T.O.O. Recd. 1710/21)

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- Axis Shipping, TACTICIAN, TAURUS. (1) GERDA TOFT 295 feet and tanker BACCHUS 274 feet expected time to arrive off Trikiri channel dawn 23rd at earliest from Dardanelles. (2) Proceed patrol off Trikiri Channel. (Capt. (S) 1, 211531C to TACTICIAN (R) TAURUS) See also 211807C. TAURUS is patrolling off Dardanelles until further orders. My 211531 refers. (Capt. (S) 1, 211819C to TACTICIAN (R) TAURUS)
- CAPE TOWN. Departure 0341Z. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 211551Z to C. in C. Levant, F.O.R.S.C.A. etc.)
- ESSEX, JAUNTY. ESSEX in tow of JAUNTY left for Algiers. Request runner crew of MOORFLY on board ESSEX may be repatriated U.K. as soon as possible after arrival Algiers. Agreed D.M.W.T.R. (D.S.T.O. Malta, 211600 to P.S.T.O. Med. M.W.T.R.Med. D.S.T.O. Algiers, D. of S.T.)
- L.C.T.(R) It appears from your submission 2459/23M/Med/00358/29a/of 3rd August that L.C.R. is being used on the Mediterranean Station as the short title for Rocket Craft. Comnavnav has also informed Navy Dept. of this. (2) The correct short title for Rocket craft is L.C.T.(R) the meaning of L.C.R. is Landing Craft Rubber, an American type, vide C.A.F.O. 2553/42 and Page 1A of Green List. (3) Request all concerned may be instructed to use the correct short title for Rocket craft and Comnavnav may be informed. (Hd. of M.11, Approved A.C.N.S. (F), 211625A to C. in C. Med.(A))
- WIRRIL. My 142120 (re sailing of WIRRIL for Piraeus). Sailing postponed until 0800 hours August 25th. (Head of M.1, 211724A to C. in C. Levant.)
- ARETHUSE. Intend sailing ARETHUSE 1900/23 for patrol North of 042 degs. 20' N. between longitude 005 degs. 00' and 007 degs. 00' routed through 038 degs. 11' 004 degs. 57' at 1800/24 042 degs. 20' 006 degs. 30' at 0300/27 (Capt. (S) 8, 211742 to C. in C. Med. (A) (R) F.O. Gib. etc.)
- TROUBRIDGE. Your 191346, not to D.24. Torpedoing of TROUBRIDGE was inferred from D.24 152320/August. To what ship does latter signal refer? (D.O.D.(F), 211806A to C. in C. Med. (R) Capt.D.24)

AXIS /...

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Axis
Shipping,
Istanbul.

A. My 211145C, reported B.3 GERDA TOFT has engine defect; expected ? time departure now a.m. August 22nd.
B. My 211253C. May reasonably expect that tanker's arrival will be postponed correspondingly.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 211807C to C. in C. Levant etc.)

Port
Sudan,
states.

In view changed strategical situation intend
(A) reducing Port Sudan status undefended port.
(B) removing boom defences. (C) abolishing minewatching and minesweeping organisation and examination service. (D) disbanding Naval Staff and establishments. Disposal instructions for personnel will be given by me. (E) paying off SUDAN.
F.O.R.S.C.A. report date. (F) S.T.O. will be appointed R.N.O. in addition present duties. P.S.T.O.M.E. concurs.
(C. in C. Levant, 211825C to Admty.)

Movements,
Port Said.

21st August Port Said arrivals
H.H.M.S. PANTHER. Departures F.F.S. LA MOQUEUSE, AETOS, H.H.M.S. PANTHER, M/L. 355.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 211839C to Admty. etc.)

Greek
M/S Group.

Group arrived Benghazi 1701C/21st.
(Commander Greek M/S, 211859C to Greek C. in C. Alexandria (R) Greek N.A. Admty.)

M.E.
Situation
Report.

Newtel No.23. Situation review week ending incl. 20th August.
(7) Adm. Sicily. Intention to hold part D plus 28 convoy Malta was changed. Seven ships were held Augusta instead and called forward from there to Syracuse. Eleven vessels sailed from Delta for Sicily on 15th August with approx. 15,300 tons Pol and stores and 1,200 vehs. Tripoli. Four ships sailed with 7,570 tons bulk M.T. petrol 6,800 tons Pol and stores and 120 vehs. Total 6,840 tons discharged. 2,140 personnel disembarked, 31,100 embarked. Over period 11 to 15 August 2,140 cases disembarked in hosp. ships from Sicily and 1,420 embarked for Delta. Benghazi. Four vessels sailed with 3,080 tons bulk aviation spirit 1,400 tons bulk M.T. petrol and 2,300 tons stores. 7,820 tons discharged incl. 4,660 tons aviation spirit. Air freight. 59,300 lbs by air from Cairo and 10,500 for onward despatch to Sicily. Also 100 personnel. Works. Additional 700 ft deep water berth ready at Suez east. Laying of Suez Cairo petrol pipe line completed and one third tested to full pressure 800 lbs. p. in.
(10) General. From 12th August 15 Army Group assumed adm. responsibility for all tprs. in Sicily and direct dealing between Mideast and Eighth Army ceased except for certain minor Adm. matters.
(C. in C. Middle East, 211940C to W.O)

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Taranto R/C. A.I.241 August 21. T.O.O. 211940Z. Sortie M.636 B.21 August, 1730B hours, shows Taranto changed since 0830 hours, departure of 2 CAVOUR battleships 1 B. class CONDOTTIERI 6 inch cruisers 2, 2 REGOLO class 5.3 inch cruisers, 1 TIGRE class Contre-Torpilleur, 1 NAVIGATORI class destroyer 1 T/B. 1 CAVOUR with escort of NAVIGATORI class destroyers and TIGRE class Contrepilleur is photographed in position 225 degs. Cape San Vito 12 miles course 360 degs. Remaining naval units reported in position 225 degs. Cape San Vito 15 miles. Pilot states latter engaged in target practise. (P.H.I.S. A.H.Q. Malta, 211950Z to All Recipients P.R.U. Reports.)

Movements, Tunisia. Arrivals. L.S.T. 62, 323 BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, PRINSES ASTRID, PRINCE CHARLES, PRINCE LEOPOLD. Departures. L.S.T.401, 304, 362, 406, 417, 419, 426, 428, 407, 305, S.C.78. (N.O.I.C. Tunisia, 212021B to Admty. etc.)

Malta Air Report. A.I.1092 August 21st T.O.O. 212016B Opsum No.103. (? 20th August) 4 Malta Spitfires with long range tanks using Termini as a L.G. made an offensive sweep along West Coast of Southern Italy and destroyed 1 Cant. 506 20 miles south west of Capri. 3 Spitfires made photo R/C of Taranto and special areas in toe of Italy. 1 Baltimore made A/S patrol south of toe of Italy. 8 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta. 20/21st August. 6 Mosquitoes of which 5 carried bombs, made intruder patrols over Southern Italy. Poor visibility was experienced and no enemy air activity seen. The railways near Licata? and Villa Literno were bombed and 2 bombs dropped on Railway Station at Osteni started 2 fires. 2 torpedo carrying Wellingtons searched for enemy shipping between heel of Italy and Albanian Coast. On return journey 1 Wellington dropped 5 x 250 lbs bombs on railway junction at Castrignano. 1 Wellington made shipping search in Gulf of Taranto. 7 Beaufighters and 2 Mosquitoes made interception patrols north of Malta and 2 Malta Beaufighters were air borne from Sicily on interception patrols. 21st August. 6 Spitfires made photo R/C of Taranto, Naples, Fog-gia, ports and aerodromes in Southern Italy, and special areas in toe of Italy. 1 Baltimore made A/S patrol South of toe of Italy. 4 Spitfires were airborne for a raid which turned back before reaching Malta. (A.H.Q. Malta, 212026B)

ACUTE. C. in C. Med.'s 052210. ACUTE now 22 hours overdue for boiler cleaning. Half number of cones have collapsed and remaining brickwork failing. Propose sailing her to Malta for boiler cleaning forthwith. (ASCANIA, 212031B to C. in C. Med. (R) S.N.O. Tripolitania, N.O.I.C. Malta, ACUTE, S.N.O.L., C.C.O. Bizerta.)

BREAK/...

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

- BREAM.** August 21st arrival.
(N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports, 212042C to Admty etc.)
- FORTUNATA.** Comdr. Algiers 201608B (Sailing SS. FORTUNATA and escort TWOSTEP to Bougie). Arrived, one ship.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 212045 to Admty. etc.)
- Movements, Departures today.
Oran. STAFFA, French Destroyer TEMPETE and French Submarine MARSOUIN.
Arrivals today. U.S.S. BENSON, U.S.S. PLUNKETT. C. in C. Med. pass to Comnavnaw.
(Com. N.O. B. Oran, 212053B to Admty. etc.)
- Movements, Arrived SEAHAM, L.S.T. 430, 402 L.C.T. 561, 618, Tripoli. 560, 553, 616, 606, 556, 605, L.C.I.(L) 108, 273, 111, 186, 116, 109, 102, 182, 254, 242, 256, 101, 170, 119, 163, 247, 248, 244, 104, 210, 6, 99, 97, 243, 176, 110, 175. Sailed HAMBLEDON, CONVULVULUS VETCH, PENTSTEMON, L.C.T. 624.
(S.N.O. Tripolitania, 212144B to Admty.)
- Salvage PRINCE SALVOR is being sent to Levant on Vessels. completion. She is Expected to leave U.K. early in September. Upon her arrival CONFEDERATE should be prepared for service in Persian Gulf. SALVAGE DUKE will also join Levant before end of the year. OCEAN SALVOR will join Eastern Fleet instead of SEA SALVOR.
A.M.051936B (Hush) and C. in C. E.F. 140613Z (Hush) refer. OCEAN SALVOR is expected to leave U.K. for Colombo early in October.
(Head of M.11, 212203A to C. in C. Levant, C. in C. E.F., (R) S.N.O. P.G., C. in C. Med.)
- Movements, SIDI BRAHIM group arrived 2130A August 21st. Casablanca. (Commorseafron, 212204B to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med. Admty.)
- Movements, 21st August. Arrivals - QUEEN EMMA, PUCKERIDGE, Augusta. L.S.T. 319, 368, 321, MISOA, L.C.I. 264, (26/?) L.C.T. 364 (3/6?), M.L. 554, 460.
Departures QUEEN EMMA, PUCKERIDGE, ROBERTS, EREBUS, LEDBURY, WHEATLAND, COCKCHAFER, L.S.T. 408, M.L.449, 218 R.N.N SOEMBA, FLORES.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 212215 to Admty.)
- Movements, Arrived and left PALOMARES, sailed M.L.384, Tobruk. arrived Derna M.L.348.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 212358C to Admty.)

War Diary.

21.8.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Convoy Arrival 0555Z/21st.
C.X.6. (N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 210601Z.)

Defence of My 170902Z (Hush Most Secret.)
Port (1) Manning problem affected by (A) R.M.A.A.
Areas. Units not now coming to Ceylon from Bombay.
(B) Armindia's wish for 23 L.A.A. Regt. to be
released. (2) Could allow for both (A) and (B)
Above by reducing provision under three of

my Cable to 16 H.A.A. and 54 L.A.A. making total for Ceylon 112
H.A.A. and 144 L.A.A. (3) Am prepared to accept this reduction
until defence of Palk Strait landing grounds becomes necessary.
C. in C. E.F. 160301Z refers and was received after despatch
my 170902Z.
(C. in C. Ceylon 210608 to Armindia (R) C. in C. Eastern Fleet,
Troopers.)

C.X.6. Arrival 0555Z/21st KATHIAWAR escorting C.X.6.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 210609Z to Admty.)

Movements. REDOUBT arrived.
(F.O. E.Af. 210725Z.)
Colombo arrival 21st August 0345Z H.M.M.M.S. 107.
(F.O. Ceylon 211158Z.)

P.A.50. Departure Bandar Abbas 0800/21st TAMWORTH and
ORISSA escorting P.A.50. Assume group V 0100Z/22.
2. E.T.A. 057° 30' E. 2000Z/23rd E.T.A. Aden
0300Z/30th.
(N.O.I.C. Hormuz 210816Z to N.O.I.C. Aden.)

Convoy Sailing telegram (11 ships, list, etc.)
P.A.50. (2) 0800Z/21st. (4) 8 knots. (5) Route 4.
(6) ORISSA, TAMWORTH.
(N.C.S.O. Hormuz 210835Z 210840Z to C. in C., E.F.
etc.)

Sloops, Reinforcements for Eastern Fleet (Admty. 211105A.)
Minesweepers, See Mediterranean
Cutters.

P.B.52½. Arrival TRAVANCORE with P.B.52½.
(S.O. (I) Bombay 211203Z to Admty.)

SECRET

764A.

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
TELEGRAM

No T.O.O. August

IN

From: Mauritius (Sir D. Mackenzie
Kennedy)

Date 21.8.43.

Recd. 2359.

CYPHER O.T.P.

Addressed: S. of S. Colonies.

*U/Boat Campaign, Mauritius,
Shipping Leakage.*

No. 829 Most Secret.

Czech music broadcasts. See the first sentence of paragraph 3 of my telegram No. 800. I understand that musical codes are not (repeat not) unknown as media for transmission of information.

2. Headquarters, East African Command, report that survivor of Greek steamer torpedoed about 300 miles from Port Dauphin, states that "The submarine surfaced and the Commander asked for the name and cargo of the ship and then said he was waiting for ship loaded with war material for cargo". East African Command continues "Two (repeat two) ships proceeding yours from the U.K. are reported as lost. These incidents tend to confirm our suspicions of serious leakage of shipping information at yours and suspect enemy agents may be in contact with submarines at yours by W/T". I agree, and have worked on this assumption for many weeks, but you should know that Durban is also danger point. Shipping firms and merchant Seaman are very careless and loading of fully addressed crates of merchandise and war material does not (repeat not) pass unnoticed.

*Incorrect
see
2/9/43.*

3. Reunion is another danger point, and we have no (repeat no) mission there. C. in C. Eastern Fleet has issued directions regarding the control of movements of French tug which plies between Mauritius and Reunion at frequent intervals. Her crew has every opportunity of picking up local information while in Port Louis harbour. She was in Port Louis on dates of sinking of the HOIHOW and the UMVUMA and near Reunion when the CLAN MACARTHUR was sunk. Master has local French ticket (? only) but was W/T operator. She is known to have carried smuggled goods and uncensored letters.

4/...

4. I shall keep you informed, but my main pre-occupation is as stated in the second sentence of paragraph 3 of my telegram No. 800.

No. T.O.O/August.
Recd: from S. of S. Colonies.1721.

1st Lord
1st S.L. (2)
D.F.S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(UT) (2)
U.W.R.
D. of P. (3)
O.D. (5)
D.N.I. (5)
D.A/S.W.
D.A/U.D.
I.P. (3)
W.D.
Ops. (3)
M. (2)
O.I.C. (3)
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (C)
Plot
D. of S.T. (15)
Ad. Blake (4)

War Office circulation to:-
Admiralty
War Cabinet Office
War Office (M.O.5)
Air Ministry
M.I.5.
M.I.6.
Security Executive
Mr. M.J. Fox.
A.D.N.I.
Brig. E.I.C. Jacob.
Capt. E.G.A. Clifford
Lt. Col. R.H.A. Gough-
Calthorpe.
W/Cdr. G. Burges.
S.4 (O.G.)
Lt. Col. B. Ede.
Col. V.P.T. Vivian.
Mr. K. Diplock.

21.8.1943.

Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Movements St. Johns N.F. August 20th. Arrivals LACHINE ex H.X.252. Departures STRATFORD to W.B.45. B.Y.M.S. 240, 33 to Londonderry.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns, N.F., 210004Z).
Arrivals 20th (U.S.S.T.) PATOKA.
(B.R.O. Aruba, 211615Z).

H.X.252 My 202359Z. Relieved in position 043° 51' N.
(attacked by 052° 10' W.
U/B 19th (COBALT, 210230Z to F.O.N.F. (R) D. Halifax).
August). Detaching for PICTOU in accordance with C. in C.
C.N.A. 201924Z.
Wreck in tow of ADHERENT, GRENADIER in charge.
My Position 043° 51' N., 052° 10' W. course 299°
S.O.A.17 knots. Weather report.
(ST. FRANCIS, 210530Z to S.O.B.3 (R) A.I.G.302,
N.O.I.C. Sydney, C.B., GRENADIER).

My 202215 Situation 0830/20th.

1. SS.HENDERSON in 044° 27' N. 053° 08' W. untouchable red hot gutted hulk but still floating well and might be salvable in 48 hours.

2. NORTHERN SKY and HESPERIA now joined SS. SENIOR.

3. SS. SENIOR apparently in First class condition in tow ADHERENT since 0430Z Screen ORCHIS, GRENADIER, P.C. and S. 044° 02' 052° 24' 351° 3½ knots.

4. COBALT, ST. FRANCIS, URGE detached.

5. Intend to cover SENIOR with Group leaving in time to arrive St. Johns before dark 22nd.

6. Presume 2 trawlers can remain. Suggest additional escorts for very valuable ships.

(S.O. E.G. B.3 211045Z to C. in C. N.At. (R) Capt. (D) Greenock, E.G. B.3, W.6, Connav, Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., H.Q.C.C., Cdr. D. Argentia, Cdr. (D) W.A., A.C.I.C.)

SS. SENIOR in tow by ADHERENT and HESPERIA in 044° 08' N. 052° 23' W. at 1900Z course 352° speed 5 knots.

(2) Ship damaged apparently by fire and collision only. Rudder jammed. Fire still smouldering internally. Full vaseline tanks venting freely.

(3) B.3 Group will part company at about 1030Z/22nd.

(S.O. E.G.B.3, 211920 to C. in C. C.N.A.)

My 211920. HESPERIA parted tow at 2015Z.

(S.O.E.G.B.3, 212030Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

Balboa 21st 2200 U.S.A.T. CEFALU Melbourne via Bora Bora 4th September.

(R.O. Cristobal, 212351).

Balboa 21st 2200 U.S.A.T. CONTESSA Melbourne via Bora Bora

5th September "Chop" 31st August.

(R.O. Cristobal, 212352).

O.N.S.15 Arrival CALDWELL, OAKVILLE, ARROWHEAD with O.N.S. 15.
(C. Halifax, 211140Z to Admty).

766

21.8.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Convoy Boston section arrived 210517Z.
O.N.196. (P.D. Boston, 211217Z to Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet).

Convoy (?U).T.1 ERNE and CLARE returning to Harbour with
U.T.1, defects. Expected time of arrival 212030.
ERNE, (S.O. Escort Group D, 211130Q to C. in C. Lant).
CLARE. U.T.1, my 211130Q. Add FISHGUARD also defective
returning to harbour.
(DART, 211831Q to C. in C. Lant).

Convoy Arrived Guantanamo 211500Z.
J.G.12. (N.O.B. Guantanamo, 211532 to N.O.I.C. Kingston).

U.S. S/M Cominch, 211542Z.
Estimate.

GRIPSHOLM, Following is situation of routeing of Japanese
TEIA MARU. repatriation ships:
GRIPSHOLM. Route from New York to Port Elizabeth
proposed in your 031300 agreed in A.M. 071532,
2. Route from Port Elizabeth to Marmagoa:
(t) 037° 02' S. 035° 01' E. (u) 034° 59' S. 049° 58' E.
(v) 022° 00' S. 065° 02' E. (w) Equator 065° 00' E.
(x) 009° 58' N. 065° 59' E. (y) 015° 01' N. 069° 58' E. thence
to Marmagoa.
3. Marmagoa to Port Elizabeth reverse of above.
4. Port Elizabeth to New York route proposed in your 141621
agreed in A.M. 161347. These routes are subject to the agreement
being obtained of the Union Government to use of Port Elizabeth,
which should be received not later than 24th.
5. TEIA MARU. Route proposed in your 191730 not acceptable.
6. The following route was proposed by C. in C. E.F. and agreed
by Com. Pacific S.F. in his 140716 not to Com 10th Fleet C. & R.
From Sunda Strait through (a) 005° 59' S., 099° 58' E.
(b) 003° 01' N. 080° 02' E. (c) 006° 00' N. 074° 30' E.
(d) 009° 02' N., 073° 45' E. (e) 009° 58' N., 070° 01' E.
(f) 015° 25' N., 069° 58' E. thence Marmagoa. Return route
reverse of above.
7. Request you will signal in due course, date of sailing of
GRIPSHOLM and TEIA MARU.
8. British F.O. have informed Japanese Government of amended
route proposed in para. 6.
(Head of M.I., 211631A).

Exchange negotiations with Japanese expected collapse unless
round trip safe conduct course GRIPSHOLM Port Elizabeth to
Mormugao available by 23rd August and round trip safe conduct
course Japanese TEIA MARU approved Singapore to Mormugao passing
through Sunda Straits via Karimata Channels, then A. 04.40 N.
94.40 E. B. 05.50 N. 76.50 E. My 191730Z and 141615Z (141621
intended)? and Vice C.N.O. 031300Z. Prompt action requested
to prevent collapse exchange negotiations.
(Cominch, 212130Z to Admty).

/ROANOKE...

767

21.8.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

ROANOKE,
PETER H.
BURNETT.

Com. Tenth Fleet's 201410 states that Tanker ROANOKE and PETER BURNETT not total losses now being operated by Navy.
(Comnaveu, 211636 to Admty)

Dispositions. S.B.62 BAFFIN in 047° 54' 059° 37' 010° 8. altering to 061° in 048° 37' N., S.Q.65 LORD MIDDLETON, AYRSHIRE, CHEDABUCTO, UNGAUA, 046° 41' 060° 08' 352° 8 altering to 324° in 047° 17' N. and to 302° in 048° 16' N. SPAB, CLAYOQUOT departs Port aux Basques 1000Z/22.
(C. in C. C.N.W.A., 211640Z ?211540).
My 211540Z add ORION 043° 50' 052° 05' 250° 17½ altering to 255° in 059° 00' W.
STRATHNAVER 042° 30' 052° 10' 248° 14 altering to 071° in 042° 59' N. 050° 02' W.
A.T.62 038° 30' 058° 47' 090° 26½ altering to 067° in 057° 40' W.
T.A. 57 039° 32' 058° 54' 247° 19½ altering to 262° in 060° 05' W.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 211550Z).

Iceland
reduction
of U.S.
facilities.

Following is an extract from signal received from A.C.I.C. (Begins).
The Commandant U.S. Naval Operating Base Iceland has informed that he has been directed by the C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet to reduce certain facilities and arrange to turn over to me the following:-

- (A) Any food and ammunition storage facilities at Hvammsvik required, in conjunction with the U.S. Army Authorities.
 - (B) The Salvage Depot, and any salvage equipment and materials urgently needed in Iceland (C) on Lease Lend terms.
 - (C) The Tank Farm and fuel Depot at Hvalfjord for operation and control.
2. The turnover of (A) (B) and (C) is made with the stipulation that they should be returned to U.S. Navy Control on 60 days notice. 102124B July. (Ends).
As no confirmation is available in London, request you will ascertain from Navy Dept. whether it is in fact desired that facilities listed by A.C.I.C. should be taken over by the Admty. on a date to be agreed. There may be difficulty in the Admty. supplying the necessary personnel.
(4th S.L. 211733A to B.A.D., (R) Comnaveu, A.C.I.C., C. in C. H.F.)

Convoy
S.C.140.

Sailing telegram (50 ships, list, cargoes, destinations). 2. Gate 1400Z/21st.
4. Eight K. 5. Ocean route. 6. W.l.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 211757Z, 211825Z to Admty).

Bay of Biscay
Offensive.

U.S. Fleet Air Wing 7 European Theatre Detachment Task Organisation.
(Comnaveu, 211759 to Admty).

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.)

G. Patron 63. Lieutenant-Commander Wagner. 14
PBY-5.

H. Bomron 103. Lieutenant-Commander Von Bracht.
13 PB4Y-1.

I. Bomron 105. Lieutenant-Commander Nuessle.
12 PB4Y-1.

J. Bomron 110. 12 PB4Y-1. Bomron 111. 12 PB4Y-1.

1. Cominch serial 001447 of 19 July 1943.
Cominch despatches 111603 and 142201 of August 1943.
Commander in Chief Coastal Command Memo 1005 of 14
August.

2. This detachment will prosecute the Bay of
Biscay offensive by conducting and supporting Bay
of Biscay Operations under the operational Control
of British Authorities.

3. A. Fleet Air Wing 7 Command Headquarters
Unit. Establish Basic Command Headquarters
at Plymouth England collaborating with the
Bay of Biscay controlling group of the
British Coastal Command at that place.

B. Fleet Air Wing 7 Headquarters Squadron.
Support Bay of Biscay Operations by pro-
viding insofar as practicable Major
Maintenance of Wing Aircraft at Dunkeswell
and Operating Maintenance of Wing Aircraft
at Dunkeswell, St. Davids, St. Eval and
Pembroke Dock.

C. St. Eval Group. Conduct initial
training. Fighter affiliation and
indoctrination. When ready conduct Bay of
Biscay Operations as directed. Be prepared
to shift from St. Eval to assigned base on
orders. Maintain aircraft assigned.

D. E. F. Dunkeswell Group. St. Davids
Group. Pembroke Dock Group. Conduct Bay
of Biscay Operations as directed. Maintain
aircraft assigned.

G. Patron 63. Operate on anti-submarine
Missions. Conduct air coverage and air
patrols in the Bay of Biscay under the
operational control of British Authorities.

H.....

H. I. J. K. Bomron 103. 105. 110. 111.
Conduct initial indoctrination and operations
at St. Eval. Operate on anti-submarine
Missions. Conduct air coverage and air
patrols in Bay of Biscay under the opera-
tional control of British Authorities.

X. Co-operate with British Isles Forces in
the protection of British Isles against
enemy action or infiltration. Conduct the
maximum possible training in all phases of
air operations commensurate with missions
assigned maintain all aircraft at highest
possible state of efficiency and readiness.

4. Fuel munitions berthing and messing from
local resources overhaul and replacement of
aircraft assigned to detachment will be
co-ordinated by Commander Fleet Air Wing 7
as necessary. Direct supply servicing and
maintenance of operating Units will be
accomplished by Hedron 7 Base Unit or
detachment assigned.

5. Use Z time for operations. Local time for
administration. Communications in accordance directive
issued by Comnavel Commander Fleet Air Wing 7 and
British Authorities. Commander Fleet Air Wing 7 at
Plymouth England.

Transmission of this plan by registered mail,
within the continental limits of the United States
is Authorized.

Annex A. Information pertaining to the movement
of Fleet Air Wing 7.

Annex B. Final disposition of the personnel
of Fleet Air Wing 7 European Theatre detachment.
Annexes to be forwarded by Air Mail.

211759.

D.F.S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(A)(2)

A.C.N.S.(H)

A.C.N.S.(F)

A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)

U.W.R.

D.C.(2)

D.O.D.(H)(4)

D.O.D.(F)(2)

D.A/S.W.

D.A/U.D.

D.D.I.C.(2)

Hl. of M.(2)

D.S.D.

D.N.I.(4)

D. of P.(2)

Air.

D.N.A.O.

D.A.W.T.

D.A.E.

D.A.C.R.

D.A.M.R.

W.D.

I.P.(2)

Ad. Blake.

Ad. Osborne.

C.C.L.S.

DR.

768

21.8.1943.

Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

A.T.61
(QUEEN MARY). Convoy A.T.61. Request you will sail QUEEN MARY so as to arrive Clyde on 31st August (p.m. arrival preferred).
2. Fighter protection codeword "Trysail".
(D.O.D. (H), 211811A to C. in C. C.N.A.)

B.Y.M.S. Modify my 172216 (About 22nd sail B.Y.M.S.53, 56, 174, 175, Charlestown direct to Halifax for onward routeing to Londonderry via St. Johns N.F.) sail via New York for stores.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 211826Z to C.E.S.F.)

CLYDE,
L.23. Comeaseafron sail CLYDE when ready about 30th August Philadelphia to New York where 6 torpedoes from Bliss Factory will be embarked. After calibration D/F off Stratford Shoal Long Island sail onwards to New London for 15 days working up.
Advise all times of departure routes S. of A. Provide escort as practicable. Will probably sail for Portsmouth, England, about 17th September for which onward routeing will be issued later. Sail L.23 Philadelphia to New London when ready about 3rd September for about 15 days working up advising time of departure route S.O.A. Ultimate destination of this vessel Halifax for which routeing orders will also be issued later.
(Cominch, 211829Z to Comeaseafron (R) Cinclant, Admty, N.S.H.Q. C. in C. W.A., Com. 4th Naval Dist. Philadelphia, Com. 3rd Naval Dist. New York, Com. 1st Naval Dist. Boston, Cdr. S/Ms Atlantic).

C.U.4 Destinations.
(D.T.D., 211905A to Connav).

Helicopter trials. Your 192140. Delays in modification and production difficulties have further delayed completion of helicopters. It now appears that we shall not be ready to start trials before the beginning October. It is tentatively proposed that DAGHESTAN should be available at Baltimore by then in which case a second ship would not be required.
2. We will keep you informed of the position.
3. The main platform and other aircraft arrangements are still on DAGHESTAN. Only an experimental turntable arrester unit superimposed on the main platform was removed.
(B.A.D., 211909Z to Admty).

B.7 S.C.139 fast portion escorted by SUNFLOWER and
Convoy S.C. LOOSESTRIFE detaches at 1700Z.
139. 9 Ships as follows MANCHESTER DIVISION (Cardiff)
EMPIRE YUKON, SIMON WILLARD, SAMUEL MOODY,
WANDERER, Norwegian, TOLEDO, JAMES M. WAYNE,
and C.H. McCORMICK.

GENERTON number 15 hove to this morning to avoid damage to deck cargo.
44 ships now in company.

/My...

War Diary.

21.8.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

B.7

Convoy
S.C.137.

My P.C. and S. 053° 57' N., 020° 30' W. (X) 073° 6.
Weather report 48, 62, 02, 78.
(B.7, 211959Z to Cdr. (D) Argentia, Cmdr. (D) W.A.
C. in C. W.A., Connav, A.C.I.C., C. in C. C.N.A.,
Admty. N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., H.Q.C.C.)

LEAMINGTON

My 192026 trials unsatisfactory LEAMINGTON is
unlikely to be ready to sail before 30th.
(B.A.M.R., 212002Z to C. in C. C.N.A., (R)
N.S.H.Q., Admty. S.B.N.O.W.At.)
Amended - (See B.A.M.R., 21501Z).

Martlett
and Hellcat
Aircraft.

Your 072045 July and further to my 042207 August
and personal messages between N.A.R. and A.C.N.S.
(A) the need for our pilots to be trained on
Martlet IVs is fully appreciated but the prospects
of getting Martlet Vs. and Hellcats operationally
equipped to meet requirements in the near future

are causing concern.

2. If the early delivery by air freight of the modification sets
for all the Martlet Vs. and Hellcats which have been sent to the
U.K. and the supply of at least 30 modified Martlet V as i.e.
for VICTORIOUS before sailing can be guaranteed the Martlet IVs
may be retained in U.S.A. for training.

3. The essential modification sets required are (details).
40 sets of each are required.

(A.C.N.S. (A), 212019A to B.A.D., (R) N.A.R., S.A.T.)

B.Y.M.S.

At 1700Z/21st sailed B.Y.M.S.76 S.O. and B.Y.M.S.
213 routed (A) 044° 47' N., 060° 00' W. (B) 045°
42' N., 057° 00' W. (C) 046° 12' (?North) (?056°)
36' W. (D) 047° 30' N., 052° 17' W. speed 9 knots.

E.T.A. St. Johns 1500Z/24th. W/T watch A.F.O.S. 1/43 section W.A.
table 2 (2) (C).

2. Request you provide onward routeing to Londonderry C. in C.
U.S. Fleet 102303 refers.

(C. in C. C.N.A., 212040Z to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C. U.S. Atlantic
Fleet, C.T.F.24, N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A., B.A.D., Admty. Cdre. (D)
W.A.)

Sub. attack
and sighting
Summary.

All times Z. Para. A. My 202137 Norwegian
SANTOS sank in collision. New Zealand corvette
and aircraft sink I Class sub, area 22° 50' S.
167° 20' E. p.m./19th six survivors.
(Cominch 212053Z to Admty).

Convoy
S.S.C.140.

1. Sailing telegram (20 ships, lists, cargoes,
destinations). 2. Gate 0100Z/22nd.
3. S.O.M.P. 1800Z 22nd.
4. 6 knots to position (EY) 7 knots to S.O.M.P.

/Thence...

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21. 8. 1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Convoy S.S.C.140. (contd). Thence 8 knots. 5. (Route).
6. THUNDER, ST. KENAN, WESTMOUNT, CAPE MARIATO.
13. (B) LANGLEETARN.
(N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B., 212117Z, 212119Z to Admty).

NIPIGON Departure NIPIGON to S.F.V. 140.
(C. Halifax, 212120Z to Admty. etc).

S.C.140 Departure H.M.C.S. BUCTOUCHE, BARRIE, QUESNEL and
H.M.S. BUXTON to S.C.140.
(C. Halifax, 212121Z to Admty. etc).
Departure SALISBURY to overtake S.C.140.
(C. Halifax, 212125Z to Admty. etc).

ASSINIBOINE Cancel my 211432Z.* Merchant ships in convoy using
call sign Jumbo. My position course and speed
50° 05' N. 41° 36' W. 065° 9 knots. Weather
report.
(ASSINIBOINE, 212230Z to C. in C. W.A.)
*N.T. in W.D.

Convoy U.G.F.10. (1) Sailing telegram part 2,
(P.D. New York, 212326 to Com. 10th Fleet C. and R)

Convoy New York, 21. Refer my despatch 202220 Convoy New York 21.
Add 4 hours to all times. U.S.S. BLOCK ISLAND
departure Ambrose 2234Z/21st.
(P.D. New York, 212344Z).

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements U.S. Transport BRAZIL arrived Hobart 0005Z/20th.
(C.S.W.P.S.F., 210459Z)
Arrival Milne Bay 19th U.S. BAGLEY, Port Moresby
9th F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT, departed Cairns 19th SWAN
for Milne Bay. Sydney 20th BALLARAT for Melbourne. Port Moresby
19th F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT for Milne Bay. Townsville 20th U.S.
FLUSSER for Milne Bay. Sydney 19th BUNDABERG, MORESBY, GLENELG,
for Brisbane.
(A.C.N.B., 210626Z).
Arrivals 20th August Port Moresby U.S. Transport CREMER,
H.Ts. KATOOMBA, TAROONA, DUNTRON, U.S. Transport MAETSUYCKER,
departed Oro Bay 20th due Townsville 22nd. U.S. Transport WILLARD
A. HOLBROOK departed Townsville 20th due Brisbane 22nd.
(C.S.W.P.S.F., 210837Z).

/Digest...

War Diary.

21.8.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.

Digest
serial No.
578 August
20th.

Mid morning strike Boram Airfield by 24 Liberators with 49 Lightnings escorting. Minimum 5 planes destroyed on ground while approx. 30 fighters intercepted top bombers shot down 6 certain, 5 probably and 3 damaged while Lightnings claim 13 certain plus 1 probable. Enemy casualties include 88 twin engined fighters. 40 barges observed

Wewak Harbour vicinity.

2. Southbound submarine with deck cargo passed Cape Orford afternoon.

3. During morning 13 small craft or barges observed Hansa Bay and 16 at Ulingan 30 miles further southeast. Previous night Catalina patrolling Western New Britain strafed 6 barges Rein Bay sinking 1 and another Cape Bushing.

4. 20 barges observed Lae where fair aircraft activity reported on and over drome forenoon.

5. Enemy submarine reported southern Louisiade Archipelago evening.

7. Midnight 19/20th Catalina severely strafed southbound vessel of 500 tons 20 miles northeast Buka Island. Ship left sinking but still under way.

8. Photos Manokwari 20th show 14 landing craft 2 large barges.

9. Eight Mitchells in pairs conducted barge sweep Vella Lavella and Choiseul afternoon 19th. 3 barges strafed northwest Vella Lavella and probable sea trucks beached on northeast coast hit with 2 bombs. Large barge sunk off central South Coast Choiseul.

10. Night 19/20th 4 U.S. destroyers engaged surfaced submarine off West Coast Rendova, with undetermined results and later destroyed by gunfire 1 of 2 small fast craft off northeast Vella Lavella. Enemy planes ineffectually bombed destroyers intermittently throughout night.

(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 210916Z).

LE TRIOMPHANT. Pass to F.N.F.L. London begins - From F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT. Milne Bay 210115Z. - ends.
(A.C.N.B., 211205Z to Admty).

HOEGH
SILVERLIGHT.

Special ship (cracking plant) HOEGH SILVERLIGHT Fremantle 20th in convoy O.W.6 for Abadan.
(C.S.W.P.S.F., 211236 to Admty. C. in C. E.F, S.O.(I) Colombo).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 211450A, 211511A).

Sub. attack
and sighting
Summary to
1000A/21.

Para. A. Catalina attacked U-boat with Depth Charges 28° 45' S. 42° 05' E. at 1015/20.
Catalina attacked U-boat with depth charges 28° 54' S. 42° 31' E. at 1430/20.
(D.D.I.C., 211010Z to Cominch).

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

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

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

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

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

ADM 199 2275

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22.8.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

1. A message from C. in C. W.A. today (amended 24 Aug.) gives a list of 10 escort vessels allocated to the Mediterranean Command and 9 to the Eastern Fleet.

U-Boat
Sunk.

2. The S/M TUNA reported on 24 Aug. that at 1206A today she attacked 2 inward bound U-Boats escorted by 5 minesweepers and a trawler steering 25 degs. in 47.18 N. 04. 26 W. (75 miles S. by E. of Ushant) and sank one of the U-Boats with 2 hits.

South Atlantic.

FB/BF
convoys.

3. If the U-Boat threat renders it necessary, it is proposed to extend the U.K./West Africa convoys (O.S/S.L) to Bahia. Between Freetown and Bahia these convoys would be known as F.B/B.F. convoys.

Mediterranean.

Sicily
and South
Italy

4. The French contre-torpilleurs LE TERRIBLE and LE FANTASQUE last night carried out a sweep in the Tyrrhenian Sea, and D.19 in LAFOREY with 4 destroyers operated off the coast of Calabria. Neither force encountered any of the enemy. U.S. M.T.B's patrolled off Vibo Valentia and British M.T.B's swept round the toe of Italy. The former found only an abandoned schooner and the latter force had no incidents.

U.458
Sunk.

5. The destroyer EASTON rammed and sank U.458 which was attempting to escape on the surface at 2315 today in 36.25 N. 12.39 E. (about 30 miles S.E. of Pantellaria). The C.O. and other officers and several ratings were picked up. EASTON was damaged by ramming and was towed to Malta by the Greek destroyer PINDOS, who also assisted in the kill.

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22.8.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Air
Activity.

6. Middle East aircraft attacked shipping in the Aegean today. Two tankers and a Merchant Vessel were bombed at Prevezza.

East Indies.

S/As
from
Meditn.

7. A message from C. in C. Levant today gives the names and probable dates of arrival of 5 more of the 8 long endurance submarines which are being released from the Mediterranean to the Eastern Fleet (see 27 July). The first of the eight, TRIDENT, sailed from Aden on 4th August for Colombo.

22.8.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

SPIRAEA,
ANEMONE.

SPIRAEA and ANEMONE are allocated to Mediterranean Command and are required to sail with or overtake convoy leaving Londonderry August 29th.

2. Request date you anticipate sailing these ships.

(C. in C. W.A., 221146A to C. in C. Nore).

Your 221146A. SPIRAEA sails tomorrow in accordance with my 221215A. ANEMONE will not complete trials before 1st September (C. in C. Nore, 221550A to C. in C. W.A.).

Ships for
Mediterranean
and E.F.

Following ships are allocated to Med. Command:

(A) AIRE, CUCKMERE, SPIRAEA, ALISMA, ANEMONE sailing with O.S. 54 August 29th. ANEMONE to overtake if not ready.

(B) SAXIFRAGE now in Med.

(C) BARLE, USK, DART sailing mid-September.

(D) NITH when ready.

2. Following ships are allocated to Eastern Fleet:-

(A) LANDGUARD, LULWORTH, SENNEN sailing early September.

(B) BANFF on returning from U.S.

(C) FISHGUARD after refit.

(D) HONESTY, BENTONY, BURNET, DITTANY when ready.

3. Anticipate ships at sea will arrive U.K. as follows:-

(A) LANDGUARD 26th August.

(B) DART, BANFF 30th August.

(C) FISHGUARD early September.

(D) BARLE, USK 5th September.

4. Cdre. W.A. is requested to arrange refit of FISHGUARD on return to U.K.

5. Ships are to be prepared for tropical service as far as time allows.

(C. in C. W.A., 221151A)

Escort
Groups.

Consequent on my 221151 following changes in organisation are to take place forthwith or on next return of ship to harbour.

(A) Group 3, 40 and 44 to be disbanded.

(B) Group 10 to be formed based Londonderry and

consisting of EGRET S.O., ERNE, CLARE, WAVENEY, ODZANI.

PELICAN will join the group at later date.

(C) DEPTFORD to group 37. BIDEFORD to group 38. HASTINGS to group 39.

(C. in C. W.A., 221153A).

Movements.

S/M
Movements.

My 211223A. Add 24 hours to all times. (P.65,

P.218) A.C.O.S. 220531A refers.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 220945A).

F.O.(S) 191146A. Adjust speed to R/V CHASSEUR II in YY180° Lizard Head 10 miles at 0800A/25th. for

escort to Dartmouth and onward routing to Portsmouth. RUBIS southbound will part company with CHASSEUR II in position YY at same time.

(Capt. S.5., 221147A to UNBROKEN).

/UTHER...

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22.8.1943.

Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.S/M
Movements
(contd).

UTHER at present working up in Clyde area and earmarked for 10th S/M Flotilla has defective conning-tower casting which probably cannot be replaced in under three months. In order not to hold up reinforcements to Mediterranean intend UNTIRING at present completing working-up to join

10th S/M Flotilla in lieu of UTHUR. UNTIRING will be ready to leave U.K. about 20th September.

(2) Intend UTHUR to join 9th S/M Flotilla vice UNTIRING early September. My 121047 refers.

(3) UTHUR will be limited to A/S training until conning-tower casting is replaced.

(F.O.S., 221246A to Admty).

Positions of S/MS at 0800A/23 and movements for following 24 hours.

(F.O.S., 221736A, 222219A, 231748A, 230746A).

Cancel my 221616. (P.511 and H.32) sail as in my 211617.

(Cdre. D.W.A., 221816A).

My 221921, and Admiralty 212216. Request you will re-route SAFARI to pass through S.A. 43° 01' 12" 50'. Request E.T.A. position SA.

(F.O.S., 221942A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar) Reply: F.O. Gib. 231234B.

17th
Destroyer
Division.

Admiralty 211520A para. 3.

(1) WELLS and ST. MARYS complete duty as target ships at Methil p.m./30th when they will be sailed to Rosyth.

(2) CASTLETON completes similar duty at Lamlash on same date. Propose to sail her thence to

arrive Rosyth a.m./3rd September.

(3) LANCASTER is at Holyhead carrying out special gunnery/Radar trials expected to last 6 weeks.

(4) NEWARK is under refit at Newport and completes 13th September ex trials.

(5) Propose to transfer Destroyer Division 17 to your command and administration as from 1st September.

(R.A.M., 221202A to C. in C. Rosyth).

DUNBAR

My 211016. Sailed. E.T.A. Seidisfjord 1900A/23. (A.C.I.C., 221340A).

BELFAST,
IMPULSIVE.

Scapa departure. C.S.10, in BELFAST with IMPULSIVE in company.

(A.C.O.S., 221825A to A.C.I.C.)

MIDDLETON

Your 211945. MIDDLETON sailed. E.T.A. Scapa 0900A/24.

(A.C.I.C., 221858A to C. in C. H.F.)

ORIBI

My 211807. Sailed.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 221945A to A.C.O.S.)

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22.8.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation S.F. My P.C.S. 061° 54' N. 006° 31' W. 100° 6 knots. In view of dense fog intend to pass northabout of Faeroes to R/V 0924. (SABRE, 220021A to Capt. D.17). My 031615 para. 2. From 0630 to 1159/22.

(A) One on patrol 1000. (B) Nil.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 220615A to H.F.)
Scapa arrival ORIBI.
(A.C.O.S., 220725 to C. in C. Rosyth).
Have one rating with suspected ruptured bowel, condition dangerous. E.T.A. 222030A. My position 060° 34' N. 010° 40' W. speed 24 knots. ORWELL in company.
(MATCHLESS, 220930A to A.C.O.S.)
Establish patrol forthwith as follows: (1) Group A.
(2) 062° 34' N. 013° 25' W. (3) 225° - 60 - 60.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 221034 to M/S 15).
A.C.I. 331 Home 1300 and subsequently every hour on 2410 k/cs
Am patrolling in estimated vicinity of R/V.
(Capt. D.17, 221125A to SABRE).
My 031615 para. 2. Programme from 1201 to 2359/22nd (A) 5
(B) 9.
Cancellations probable owing to weather.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 221153A to H.F.)
Your 221149. Return Skaalefiord.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 221250A to SABRE).
My 221133. Delete ref. SABRE and amend to read FRASERBURGH, LLANDUDNO, BOOTLE, WORTHING, BEAUMARIS searching vicinity 062° 34' N., 013° 25' W. ONSLOW, ULSTER approaching Faeroes from westward.
(A.C.O.S., 221507A).
C. in C. Rosyth 221250A. Weather deteriorating. My P.C.S. 061° 59' N. 007° 23' W, 103° 10. Am giving weather 2 hours to improve failing which will steam west at 6 knots until fog lifts. Type 291 defective.
(SABRE, 221511A to Capt. D.17).
My 221153. All patrols cancelled.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 221610A to H.F.)
Scapa arrival: MATCHLESS and ORWELL.
(A.C.O.S., 222053A to C. in C. H.F.)
My 031615 para. 2. From 0001A to 1201A/23. (A) 7 (B) 5.
Liable to cancellation owing to weather.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 222319A to H.F.)

Operation "Musketry". Your ?223847A. Area searched. Nothing to report. My P.C.S. 049° 00' 008° 12', 264° 13 to position (G) thence to 180°. (NENE, 220115A to C. in C. Plymouth).
Your 220559 and 220663. Approved to rescue these survivors yourselves. Keep steam at H.S. while your boat is in the water.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 220737A to GLASGOW, (R) NENE).
4 F.W. 190s 49° 24' N., 07° 57' W.
(GLASGOW, 220907A to Plymouth W/T).
It is appreciated that U-boats are probably making passage to and from Bay Ports close to Spanish Coast.

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22.8.1943.

Sunday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

- Operation "Musketry". (contd).
2. Fifth Escort Group is to join 40th Escort Group under orders of LANDGUARD who is to establish a patrol between 100-fathom line and Spanish Coast between Cape Ortegal and Cape Villano. Patrol is to be maintained by day and night.
3. LANDGUARD is to arrange R/V with NENE who is to take command of Escort Groups on arrival.
4. Approx. position of NENE at 0800A/22 was $048^{\circ} 20' N.$, $010^{\circ} 14' W.$
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 221111A to E.G.5, E.G.40, NENE).
 Aircraft reports dinghy with 4 aircrew in $45^{\circ} 12' N.$, $10^{\circ} 05' W.$ at 1035A. Search area on your way south.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 221123A to NENE).
 My 211718. F.O.I.C. N.I. is requested to sail JED as soon as ready today to R/V with EGRET and ROTHER off Milford Haven a.m./23rd as arranged by N.O.I.C. Milford Haven.
 (2) Ships then to proceed as previously ordered.
 (3) 40th Escort Group to report in due course if necessary to leave patrol on account of fuel-shortage before Escort Group one reaches area.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 221333A).
 Am over 3 enemy S/Ms.
 (A/C 30 Sq. Duty D. 221340 to 19 Group).
 Your 221123A. E.T.A. in position $045^{\circ} 12' 010^{\circ} 05' 2359/22.$
 (NENE 221430A to C. in C. Plymouth).
 My 221111. Patrol is to be carried out to Eastward by day and Westward by night.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 221447A to E.G.5, E.G.40).
 R/V $146^{\circ} Q.27$ at 2000/22nd. If late at R/V sweep eastward from R/V ceasing at Radar range between 100 fathom line and coast until 2330, then west and south. Return R/V 230700. I intend sweeping eastward to Cape Ortegal and return to R/V at 0700/23.
 (E.G.40, 221512A to E.G.5).
 6 Ju.88s in $44^{\circ} 04' N.$ $10^{\circ} 50' W.$
 (A/C 502 Sq. Duty A. No T.O.O. Recd. 221606).
 Arrived GLASGOW.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 221607A).
 6 Ju. 88s in $44^{\circ} 54' N.$, $09^{\circ} 53' W.$ course 050° .
 (TWEED 221640A to Whitehall W/T).
 8 Ju.88s course 050° . Have not been attacked.
 (TWEED 221645A to Whitehall W/T).
 Disposition at 2000.
 (3) BERMUDA patrol vicinity $045^{\circ} N.$, $012^{\circ} W.$
 (4) NENE $046^{\circ} 17' N.$, $010^{\circ} 05' W.$ southbound 13 knots.
 (5) Second Escort Group, STARLING, WREN, KITE, WOODCOCK, WOODPECKER, WILD GOOSE, $048^{\circ} 40' N.$, $007^{\circ} 20' W.$ bound Liverpool 12 knots.
 (6) S.O. Escort Group 40, LANDGUARD, BIDEFORD, WAVENEY. S.O., Escort Group 5 TWEED, SNOWBERRY, EDMUNDSTON vicinity $044^{\circ} 30' N.$ $008^{\circ} 40' W.$
 (7) OTUS $046^{\circ} 20' N.$, $006^{\circ} 30' W.$ southbound.
 (8) UNBROKEN $045^{\circ} 57' N.$, $006^{\circ} 00' W.$ northbound to R/V 180° Lizard Head 10.
 (9) TRUCULENT $046^{\circ} 53' N.$, $005^{\circ} 50' W.$ northbound.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 221654A to Ships).
 Aircraft's 1350 my 1433 and your 1435. Remainder of group have not sufficient fuel and are proceeding to U.K.
 (E.G.2, 221654A to C. in C. Plymouth).
 Your 221123A. First class bearing 343° of aircraft V1 XX
 Homing signal obtained from my position $42^{\circ} 54' N.$, $09^{\circ} 36'$

/at...

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22.8.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation at 1306A.
"Musketry". (BIDEFORD, 221748 to C. in C. Plymouth).
(contd). My 221123A and my 221715A. There is only one dinghy requiring search approx. position $46^{\circ} 02' N.$ $10^{\circ} 40' W.$ Halifax aircraft V/502 co-operating. (C. in C. Plymouth, 221807A to NENE).

Wellington aircraft of 19 Group report sighting fully surfaced S/M with light showing on Northerly course, speed 5 knots at (04(?)13)) today in $043^{\circ} 46' N.$, $008^{\circ} 10' W.$ Aircraft did not attack in view of close proximity to Ferrol. Request enquiry to ascertain whether Spanish S/M B.2 based at Ferrol was at sea at that time.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 221859A to Admty).

My 221748. Aircraft Q 9 H F (?9 miles) 341° from $43^{\circ} 25' N.$ $08^{\circ} 55' W.$, 20.

(BIDEFORD, 222015 to C. in C. Plymouth).

My P.C.S. 0700/23. $146^{\circ} Q.$ 27, 235° 10 knots. Estimate fuel percentage remaining at 0700/23 LANDGUARD 70, BIDEFORD, 63, WAVENEY 66.

(E.G.40, 222035A to C. in C. Plymouth).

Your 221111. Propose operating in Area enclosed by P.X. and Y to cover escort groups by day moving westward at dusk. If approved BERMUDA will be 30 miles to westward of P, steering 090° at 0700A/23.

(BERMUDA, 222101 to C. in C. Plymouth).

D/F bearings at 1945Z indicate U-boat within 40 miles of $46.40 N.$, $4.40 W.$

(D.D.I.C., 222141A to S/Ms).

Carry out sweep with one ship close shore as safe. Examine all ships lighted and unlighted and R.D.F. contact. Use searchlight short range for short time if necessary. Limit use of R/T to emergency.

(E.G.40, 222205A to E.G.5).

Your 221807A. Commenced searching area marked by flares around position $045^{\circ} 49' 010^{\circ} 45'$ at 2130. Dinghy not yet located.

(NENE, 222320A to C. in C. Plymouth).

S/M Intend sailing TANTALUS from Holy Loch 24th
Patrols. August for Lerwick, thence anti U-boat patrol in area bounded by parallel $074^{\circ} 20'$ and $076^{\circ} 30'$ and long. $015^{\circ} E.$ and $020^{\circ} E.$ P.318 (TANTALUS) will concentrate patrol mostly in area 30 miles either side of line joining south of Cape Spitzbergen and Bear Island.

(F.O.S., 221132A to Admty).

Establish patrol in area within 10 miles $046^{\circ} 30' N.$, $006^{\circ} 30' W.$

(F.O.S., 221544A to OTUS).

Positions of submarines at 0800A/23 and movements for the following 24 hours.

(A) UNTIRING vicinity Out Skerries proceeding to patrol vicinity $62^{\circ} 50' N.$, $02^{\circ} 30' E.$ probably on the surface when south of $62^{\circ} N.$

(G) ULTIMATUM $48^{\circ} 55' N.$, $07^{\circ} 30' W.$ dived by day to southward.

(H) CURIE $48^{\circ} 50' N.$, $07^{\circ} 00' W.$ dived by day to southward.

(J) TRUCULENT $47^{\circ} 55' N.$, $06^{\circ} 30' W.$ dived by day through $49^{\circ} 00' N.$, $06^{\circ} 30' W.$ to R/V in 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles with CUTTY SARK at 0700/24th for escort to Holy Loch.

/(K)....

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22.8.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

S/M (K) TUNA 47° 56' N., 06° 00' W. dived by day
 Patrols. through 49° 00' N., 06° 01' W. to R/V as in para.
 (contd). (J).
 (L) OTUS vicinity 46° 30' N., 06° 30' W.
 (M) UNBROKEN 46° 44' N., 06° 01' W. dived by day
 to northward.
 (F.O.S., 221736A to Admty).

Cancel my 141852 and 221544. Proceed through position.
 OA 046° 01' 006° 30' thence through OB 046° 01' 013° 15' W.
 at 2000A/26 to OC 042° 59', 013° 15' at 1600/28 shifting W/T
 watch at that time.

2. You may expect intensive activity by own A/C along your route
 between longitude 009° 30' and parallel 043° N.

(F.O.S., 221902A to OTUS).

Admiralty appreciates U-boats are probably making passage
 to and from Bay ports close to Spanish coast.

2. Following temporary zones are established. J.10 between
 lat. 044° N. and Spanish coast between long. 006° 00' W. and 005°
 30' W. J.11 between parallels 044° 35' and 043° 55' and meridian
 005° 10', 004° 15'.

3. Attention is called to F.S.L.2 para. 8 in particular sub.
 para. (3).

(F.O.S., 221944A to S/Ms).

For ULTIMATUM and LE CURIE only. Cancel previous instruc-
 tions. From position UB ULTIMATUM proceed direct diving by day
 to patrol zone J.10. From position CA LE CURIE proceed direct
 diving by day to patrol zone J.11.

My 221944 refers.

(F.O.S., 222206A to S/Ms).

My 221902. Subtract 24 hours from time of passing through
 OB and OC.

(F.O.S., 222229A to OTUS).

Coastal (A) ALBRIGHTON, GLAISDALE anti E-boat patrol from
 Force 2145A to 0445A/23rd on 50° 25' N., between 00°
 Patrols. 40' W. and 01° 25' W.
 (B) LA COMBATTANTE immediate notice at Yarmouth.
 (C) M.Ls. 292, 343 patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between F and
 E.A. 5 Buoys.

(D) CHASSEUR 14 immediate notice at St. Helens.
 (E) M.G.Bs. 8, 6, 7 from Portland patrol 50° 20' N., between 02°
 00' W. and 02° 25' W.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 221248A).

M.Ls. 140 and 203 at Bullock Bank. M.G.Bs. 42 S.1 and 40
 at "V" buoy E.T.D. 2000 E.T.R. 0545/23.

(V.A. Dover, 221741A).

If weather is still unsuitable for E-boats, patrols should
 anchor off Ramsgate.

(C. in C. Nore, 222217A to Capt. D.16).

Operation My 211727A para. 2.
 VP-B. Penetration of outer leads was successfully
 accomplished on night of 19/20th August but
 when moving to attack positions during the night
 20/21st M.T.Bs. were sighted and challenged by a
 patrol vessel. They therefore withdrew and returned to base.
 2. While retiring M.T.B. 623 touched bottom and was damaged.
 N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 212009 refers.

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Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation 3. During day 20th August much enemy air activity
VP-B. (chiefly Me. 109s and Arado) was observed.
(contd). (A.C.O.S., 221249A to Admty).

Operation My 211312A. M.T.B.619 returned at 1425A today.
VP-N. (A.C.O.S., 221545A to Admty).

Allied Air Activity.

E-boats 2 small from 4 mile North of Boulogne at 2107
attacked. Eastbound at 30 knots faded 3 miles North of
Calais at 2150 identified as 3 E-boats and
attacked by 2 Albacores who claim hits on 2 vessels
(V.A. Dover, 220937A).

A/C for Intend to ferry ten Swordfish Mk. 2 to Argentinia
and from August 23rd weather permitting. Ten Swordfish
Argentinia. Mk. 1 at present at Argentinia to be dispatched
to Yarmouth less radio equipment. Pilot ferrying
Mk. 2 all here.
(R.N.A.S. Dartmouth, 221158Z to R.N.A.S. Argentinia)

Area In view of our previous successes in "Musketry"
"Percussion". and "Seaslug" areas and the lack of sightings
since 5 August it is most likely that U-boats
are now entering and leaving the Bay close to the
Spanish Coast in the area Cape Finisterre and Cape

Ortegal. Sightings by transit aircraft have been made in this
area.

(2) It is of the utmost importance that this passage is blocked
both by day and by night at the earliest possible moment.

(3) The Admiralty have agreed to place two Escort Groups close
to the coast between Cape Villano and Cape Ortegal throughout
the 24 hours and submarine patrols to the eastward of Cape Estaca.

(4) Areas "Musketry" and "Seaslug" are to be cancelled and the
following new area "Percussion" brought into force at the
earliest possible time. "Percussion" divides into sub. areas
AA BB CC DD and EE as follows.

(5) By day. "Percussion" AA lat. 48° 00' N. long. 09° 30' W. thence
due South to lat. 46° N, thence to Cape Ortegal coastwise to lat.
43° N. thence due West to long. 11° W, thence due North to lat.
44° N, thence to lat. 46° N. long. 12° W, thence due North to
lat. 48° N. This area will be flooded by aircraft of 19 Group.

(6) By Day. "Percussion" BB lat. 48° 00' N., long. 13° 00' W.
and lat° 43° N., long. 13° 00' W. to Western Boundary of
"Percussion" AA. This area will be flooded by aircraft of 15
Group but patrols will be co-ordinated by 19 Group.

(7) By Night. "Percussion" CC. Using searchlight Wellingtons and
Catalina of 19 Group flooding an area between parallels of lat.
45° 00' N., and lat. 42° 45' N., and between long. 09° 00' W. and
11° 00' W.

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- Area "Percussion" (contd). (8) By Night. "Percussion" DD. Wellington aircraft of 304 and 547 Sqdns. are to flood an area between lats. 45° 00' N., and 44° 00' N. and longs. 08° 00' W. and 09° 45' W. These aircraft will act as scarecrows and not carry bombs. They will however carry as many flares as possible and illuminate all A.S.V. contacts.
- (9) "Percussion" EE. Day and night. A.O.C. Gibraltar is requested to put the maximum effort that can possibly be made available including U.S. aircraft by arrangement with Comorseafron by day and night in an area bounded by lat. 42° 00' N. and 43° 00' N. and East of long. 11° 00' W. to the coast.
- (10) It is emphasized that the night effort is of utmost importance.
- (11) All convoy coverage from U.K. Bases will be the commitment of 15 Group to the limit of their resources. (H.Q.C.C., 221616B to 19 and 15 Groups).

Enemy Air Activity.

Jan Mayen. Jan Mayen reports that an aircraft which swooped over the defence area at 0940Z/22nd August was fired on. A second aircraft was observed South of the island at 1400Z. Both disappeared in a southerly direction. (A.C.I.C., 222006A to Admty).

Mining.

- Q. Z. X. 1056. GWEAL's 212102A August. Request Q. Z. X. 1056 be cancelled. (C. in C. Plymouth, 221031A to Admty).
- S. N. 222 B. Your 211520A para. 3. Request you will arrange for 4 destroyers to be provided from p.m./2nd until p.m./6th September to screen minelaying Squadron for S. N. 222 B. Ships detailed should be capable of manoeuvring by W/T on screen wave. (R. A. M., 221204A to Admty).

Casualties & Defects.

EMPIRE FRIENDSHIP. Sailed Rescue Tug DEXTEROUS 18 to assistance of EMPIRE FRIENDSHIP in approx. 046° 42' N., 018° 02' W. at 1700/21, course 022°. Tug routed through 180° Bishop's 6 miles, thence 049° 20' N., 012° 00' W. Speed 10 knots. (N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 220033A to C. in C. Plymouth).

Intend sailing HASTINGS at 1200/22 to overtake and escort DEXTEROUS proceeding to assist EMPIRE FRIENDSHIP in 46.42 N., 18.02 W. at 1700/21. Routed through 180° Bishops 6 miles thence 49° 20' N., 12° 00' W. and to Westward. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 221014A to C. in C. Plymouth).

Request you will take over control of operation with Salvage of EMPIRE FRIENDSHIP. (C. in C. W.A., 221129A to C. in C. Plymouth).

/My...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

EMPIRE FRIENDSHIP. (contd). My 221014A. Add HASTINGS to act as additional escort to tow back to Falmouth. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 221110A to C. in C. Plymouth). Report situation and P.C.S. (C. in C. Plymouth, 221315A to CLOVER). N.O.I.C. Falmouth 221014A. EMPIRE FRIENDSHIP now maintaining 5 knots. Master is hopeful that engines are capable of making port. Intend despatching BEECHVILLE at best speed via Straggler Route at 2000A/22nd, destination Glasgow. Request concurrence. 1200A/22nd position 047° 01' N. 017° 38' W. course 020°. (CLOVER, 221414A to C. in C. W.A.) Your 221414A BEECHVILLE is to remain in company till DEXTEROUS has arrived. (C. in C. Plymouth, 221636A to CLOVER).

EL ISLEO Inform ship named destination of EL ISLEO is Tyne. (C. in C. W.A., 220729A to EARRAID). My 212102 is returning to Reykjavik on account of leak in number one hold. Leak is under control of pumps but cannot be examined at sea owing to petrol fumes. (A.C.I.C., 221021A to Admty).

GEORGE ADGELL. GEORGE ADGELL requires docking for collision repairs beyond local resources. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 221830A).

SHIKARI Sailed SHIKARI to Londonderry for repairs, E.T.A. Merville 0700A/24th. (R.A.D., 222006A to Cdre. D.W.A.)

Shipping & Convoys.

F.S.99 HIGHWOOD. HIGHWOOD Straggler ex F.S.99 entered Humber. (N.C.S.O. Humber 220744A).

O.N.198. Inform Commodore following ships did not sail:- FRIDJOF NANSEN, DAVID L. SWAIN, CYPRIA, JACOB H. GALLINGER, ATHOLL DUCHESS, JOSEPH WARREN, CHESAPEAKE and have returned. (C. in C. W.A., 220925A to Escorts O.N.198). Sailed HESPERUS, SWEETBRIAR, RICHMOND, CAMPANULA, VESPER, CLEMATIS, ST. ELSTAN, Rescue tug SAMSONIA, SS. HOPEMOUNT and SS. VINGA all for O.N.198. MOURNE delayed by defects will be sailed to overtake p.m. today. (Cdre. D.W.A., 220950A to Admty). My 220950. MOURNE will now sail p.m. tomorrow to overtake. (Cdre. D.W.A., 221028A to Admty).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- H.X.252 Detach an escort to contact stragglers in Cdre's R/V promulgated to stragglers for today, rejoining as convenient.
(2) Confirm position and time of Cdre's R/V for 23rd.
(C. in C. W.A., 220953Z to Escorts H.X.252).
Your 220953. EVENLODE detach.
(2) Request following B.A.M.S. broadcast begins H.X.252 amended R/V for 1400 G.M.T./23rd 207° 58 miles from position M. R/V for 1400 G.M.T./24th 088° 180 miles from position M. ends.
(ASSINIBOINE, 221647Z to C. in C. W.A.)
- PRAGUE, Your 191658A. Intend sailing PRAGUE and AMSTERDAM
AMSTERDAM. kite balloons escorted by CHARLESTOWN at 2330/25
speed 16 knots. Routed 5 miles East of Fair Isle,
6 miles East of Auskerry, E.T.A. 0430/26.
AMSTERDAM thence Kirkwall, E.T.A. 0600.
PRAGUE and CHARLESTOWN proceeding Cromarty E.T.A. 1030. Route.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 221155A to A.C.O.S.)
- DORSETSHIRE DORSETSHIRE arrived 1120/22nd.
(P.S.T.O. N.W. Ports, 221215A to D.S.T.O. Avonmouth)
- CHAMPOLLION. D. of S.T. 121540. Intend to sail from Southend
at 1000/24. SS. CHAMPOLLION with destroyer
escort until dusk 24th thence independently by
Swept Channel and A.M.Q.Z.S.402 and 277 for Clyde.
S.O.A. 14 knots adjusting to pass through Pentland
in daylight hours.
(C. in C. Nore, 221825 to C. in C. W.A.)

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CHARYBDIS K.M.F. 22 in 036 degs. 46' N. 013 degs. 52' W.
K.M.F.22. at 2300. CHARYBDIS E.T.A. 1700 August 22nd.
7 American airmen on board. EMPIRE FRIENDSHIP
rejoined M.K.S. 23 p.m. 19th Aug. Weather.
(CHARYBDIS, 220502B to F.O.I.C. Gib.)

Arrival CHARYBDIS.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 221802B to Admty.)

A/C N.R. 2. (N.T. of No.1) Have attacked U-Boat
attack with depth charge.
on U/B. (A/C. 404 Squad. Duty C. 220620B)

BLACKWOOD F.O.C. West Africa's 211551 S.O.38th E.G. .
4th E.G. has taken over O.S.53 so am proceeding to Dakar
O.S.53. to fuel in BLACKWOOD with JOHAN MAURITS,
BAZELY, DRURY. My P.C. and S. 019 degs. 49'
017 degs. 56' 178 degs. 15 knots. Weather
report.
(S.O. 4th E.G. 220900Z to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R)
F.O.C.W.Af., C. in C. W.A. Admty. C.M.S.F.
S.O.37th E.G. S.O.38th E.G.)

If practicable ships should fuel at Casablanca, if not proceed
to Dakar. (2) Your 211155 refers. (3) Report intention.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 221121B to BLACKWOOD (R) Admty. C. in C.
W.A. F.O.C. W.Af., S.E.C. S.L. No.135)
Your 221121. In view of F.O.C.W.Af. 221715 not to
S.L.135 and my proximity to Dakar intend to proceed there as in
my 220900, not to S.L.135.

(BLACKWOOD, 222230Z to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) F.O.C.W.Af.
Admty. C. in C. W.A., S.E.C., S.L.135.)

Dispositions. Situation at 222002B. (P.211) SAFARI 036 degs.
22' 007 degs. 01' through 036 degs. 37' 007 degs.
24' at 222022 036 degs. 51' 009 degs. 13' at
230605 thence 342 degs. 11½ on surface until
230630 thereafter diving by day 9¾/2. (2) (L.N.738 allocation
not known) escorted by TEMPETE 035 degs. 45' 006 degs. 30'
through 034 degs. 05' 008 degs. 06' to Casablanca 9½.
(3) Casablanca section U.G.S. 14, C.T.F. 65 035 degs. 07' 007
degs. 03' to Casablanca 10. (4) C.G.57 COMMANDANT BORY
034 degs. 23' 007 degs. 30' through 034 degs. 42' 007 degs.
04' 035 degs. 44' 006 degs. 28' thence through Straits. 8.
(5) LOCH OSKAIG one merchant ship sailing Gibraltar 222100
through 036 degs. 52' 007 degs. 54' thence coastwise to
Lisbon. 7½. (6) K.M.F. 22, HUNTER, CHANTICLEER 035 degs. 32'
008 degs. 53' thence through Straits. 12½.
(7) Portuguese Destroyer DOURO class sailed Ponta Delgada
p.m. 21st for Lisbon. 18. (8) C.G.58 VENOMOUS sails
Casablanca 231300 through 035 degs. 44' 006 degs. 28' to
Gibraltar. 12. (9) 2 Motor M/S 035 degs. 30' 006 degs. 41'
through 035 degs. 44' 006 degs. 28' to Gibraltar. 6.
(10) ACTIVE, ANTHONY sailed Gibraltar 221400 to R/V K.M.F. 22 in
035 degs. 34' 008 degs. 38' at 222100 and escort one merchant
ship to Gibraltar. 18½.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 221111B)

Situation /...

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Sunday.

War Diary.

- FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Dispositions (Contd.) Situation 1959B/22. G.U.S.12, C.T.F. 64, 035 degs. 01' 012 degs. 12' 270 degs. 9.
 (2) SHORPSHIRE 034 degs. 14' 010 degs. 29' through 029 degs. 02' 012 degs. 30' thence 229 degs. 17.
 (3) S.L.135 FOWEY (E) 027 degs. 34' 013 degs. 57' 035 degs. 7. 4 Escorts detach 0800/23 to Casablanca to fuel and rejoin. (4) Portuguese Naval sailing Training Ship SAGRES sailed Lisbon 21st for Funchal. (5) Spanish Naval Training ship JUAN SEBASTIAN DE ELCANO and GALATEA sailed Marin 18th for Canary Islands. (6) U.S. Naval Force T.G.21 14 037 degs. 34' 015 degs. 29' through 041 degs. 01' 023 degs. 01' to patrol vicinity Azores 14. (8) Spanish M.L. VULCANO left Marin between 18th/20th for Canary Islands (F.O. Gibraltar, 221121B)
 Situation 221957B Fleet Unit 3 destroyers 032 degs. 59' 023 degs. 51' through 033 degs 28' 026 degs. 31' thence 277 degs. 17.
 (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 221125)
 Situation 1958B/22nd. (2) U.S. Hospital Ship SEMINOLE 036 degs. 48' 034 degs. 09' 278 degs. 14.
 (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 221133B)

Cables. Intend to sail cable ship MARIE LOUISE MACKAY escorted by IMPERIALIST at 2100B August 23rd to carry out operation (A). (2) Repairs Gibraltar - Algiers No.2 in position (T) 36 degs. 22' N. 04 degs. 12' W. On completion of operation (A) Request relief for IMPERIALIST may be sailed to escort M.L. MACKAY to carry out operation (B) (Repairs to Gibraltar - Algiers No.2) in vicinity of 37 degs. 30' N. 00 degs. 05' W. (3) Estimated time of completion of operation (A) will be signalled. (F.O. Gibraltar, 221215 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. Com. Algiers, Com. N.O.B. Oran.)

STAFFA. STAFFA did not call Gibraltar but continued with K.M.S. 23 into Mediterranean. She arrived Oran 20 and sailed 21 for Algiers. Your 211537A refers.) (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 221256B to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. C. in C. Med.)

HALLFRIED, damage. HALLFRIED with part cargo ex EMPIRE BRUTUS at Lisbon arrived Gibraltar with collision damage. Temporary repairs before proceeding Algiers. Expected date of completion 24th August. (S.T.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 221324B to P.S.T.O. Med. (R) D. of S.T.)

B.Y.M.S.23 M.M.S. Your 210400A (originated by W.R. requesting repetition of 191611 referred to in C.M.S.F.F.'s 192201). Follows repetition my 191611B. Intend sail B.Y.M.S. 23, M.M.S. 108 and 104, E.T.A. 2000A/19 S. of A. 9 knots, route Q.B.A.102 (T) 35. 44 N. 06.28 W. Q.B.A.87 E.T.A. Gibraltar 2100A/20. Guard 2150 K/cs(?) ships hold Q.B.A.108. M.M.S.100 and 101 delayed until a.m. 21st. (C.M.S.F.F. 221450B to Admty.)

AMBRIZ /...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

- AMBRIZ. Sailed 1620/22nd Portuguese AMBRIZ for Marseilles by approved route proceeding Cape San Sebastian thence coast-wise. Speed 9 knots made good. Usual markings. Not to be molested this voyage.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 221622B to 8th S/M Flotilla, LA SULTANE)
- SAFARI. SAFARI sailed 1212B August 22. Only such 'Q' messages affecting passage to Portsmouth and Holy Loch carried.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 221758B to Admty.)
- G.U.S.12. Sailing telegram Part 1.
(2) From Casablanca 200 in 035 degs. 29' N. 007 degs. 44' W. at 211700Z. (3) (PA.) 220600Z speed 9. (4) 010 degs. W. 220600Z 024 degs W. 221100Z. QA Shift. 020 degs. W. 241230Z. (Route). (6) CORINTHIAN, T.F. 64. U.S. Destroyers STOCKTON. HALMANN, JACOB JONES, PARRY, STEVENSON, THORN, CAMPBELL, DUANE, SPENCER, CH(?EP)ANHET. (7) 41 including CH(?EP)ANHET. (C.M.S.F. 221910B, 231630B to P.D. Norfolk)
- OTUS. In view of Admty. 212216 not to F.O.C.W.Af. Cancel para. 1 and 2 of my 142024. OTUS now passes through position OC 43 degs. 01' 13 degs. 15' W. at 1600A/28 August.
(F.O.(S), 221921A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty.)
- Air Report, Attack on U/B. Part 2. My A.I.318, 22 August. Gib. GR Opsum Sup, 21st August. 41.59 N. 12.49 W. 270 degs. 10, C/T circular construction, no rails round rear, no periscope or gun seen, U/B was large. Attacked surface fully illuminated by Leight Light, 170 green, 6 D/Cs spaced 60 feet straddled. All appeared to explode. U/B not seen again.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Gibraltar, 222016B)
- Movements, Gibraltar. Departures DELPHINIUM, JUMNA, MIAOULES, PRIMULA, SOUTHERN SEA, SOUTHERN MAID, FALK to U.G.S.14. ANTHONY, ACTIVE to R/V VILLE D'ORAN and escort to Gib. ST. NECTAN Escort duties Melilla. LOCH OSKAIG escort duties Lisbon.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 222145B to Admty.)
- Movements, Casablanca. Arrived U.S.S. DORAN, P.Cs. 473, 474. French CHASSEUR 11, COMMANDANT BORY departed with C.G.57. Warships August 22nd.
(COMORSEAFRON, 222258B to C. in C. Med. (R) Cominch, Admty.)

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Movements, Departure Pointe Noire 1800Z/21st. COMMANDANT
Pointe Noire. D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES F.S. escorting SS. DUMANA.
E.T.A. Libreville 1600Z/23rd. COMMANDANT
D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES F.S. breaking off to arrive
at Banana p.m. 24th.
(B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire 220915A to F.O.C.W.A.F.
(R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Lagos.)

DUGUAY-TROUIN, Sailed F.S. DUGUAY-TROUIN, F.S. SUFFREN for
SUFFREN. Pointe Noire routed through:-
(F) 033° 13' S. 017 37' E. (G) 020° 00' S. 01°
05' E. (H) 012° 04' S. 010° 01' E. thence to
Pointe Noire route from Pointe Noire to Takoradi.
(S) 003° S. 006° E. thence Takoradi. (2) E.T.A. 010° S.
1600Z/25th August. E.T.A. Pointe Noire 0900Z/26th August,
S. of A. 18.5 shifting to W/T organization P at (?16)00Z/25th.
(3) Total fuel requirements on arrival Pointe Noire 2700 tons.
(C. in C. S.A. 221018B to Admty. etc.)

RESOLUTION, Arrival a.m/22nd August RESOLUTION, REVENGE,
REVENGE, WOLVERINE, DOUGLAS. BEAGLE, EXE, CATTERICK with
C.F.13. C.F.13.
(Freetown W/T 221029Z to Admty. etc.)

Dakar Cruisers. DUQUESNE, TOURVILLE, MONTCALM, Dakar.
Weekly A.M.C. QUERCY, Casablanca. Escort Ships.
state AMIRAL MOUCHEZ Dakar area. CALAIS, ASPIRANT
21st BRUN, Dakar refitting. LA GRANDIERE, DUMONT
August. D'URVILLE, GAZELLE, COMMANDANT BORY, VICTORIA,
Casablanca area. Submarines ARGO, CENTUARE,
Dakar. Depot Ship. JULES VERNE, Dakar.
(Comar Dakar 221031Z to Admty. etc.)

W.S.32. Arrived NORMAN, RAPID, RELENTLESS, QUIBERON with
W.S.32.
(Cdre. Durban 221103Z to Admty. etc.)

Dispositions. Situation at 2000Z/22nd August. HAWKINS, 034°
53' 020° 30' R.10 to Durban 18 VERBENA (?OD)BERG,
NORTHERN ISLES, NORWICH CITY, LADY ROSEMARY with
D.C.40 (14 ships) 034° 25' 024° 50' coastal to
Capetown. 8. THYME, NORTHERN CHIEF, TURFFONTEIN with C.D.42
(4 ships) 032° (?28') 029° 05' coastal to Durban 7. ROCKROSE,
JASMINE, VIVIANA, LADY ELSA, NORTHERN DUKE with B.C.4/LMD 29
(10 ship) 029° 23' 031° 37' coastal to Durban 5. ALBATROSS
escorted by NEPAL 029° 20' 034° 00' to 030° 21' 031° 12' thence
NEPAL to Durban ALBATROSS R.9 to Capetown. NIGELLA (?searching)
in the vicinity of 028° 25' 042° 48' GENISTA, FREESIA, INDIAN
STAR, ARCTIC EXPLORER with C.B.4 (5 ships) 022° 45' 038° 00' to
021° 00' 038° 00' 8. NEWCASTLE 022° 15' 039° 50' to 027° 41'
039° 01' 18.
(C. in C. S.A. 221223B.)
Situation at 2000Z/22nd August. F.S. SUFFREN and F.S.
DUGUAY-TROUIN 029° 20' 015° 10' to 020° 00' 010° 05' 18½ knots.
(C. in C.S.A. 221241B.)

/A/S...

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A/S Exercises. It is hoped to exercise operations detailed in T.P. signals, designed to force down or locate U-Boat which has attacked, while escorts are at sea with convoys in unthreatened waters. This will usually be done during the last hour before dawn of the day of arrival at base port when U-Boat situation permits. 2. After due warning has been issued to coast defences S.O. of escort will receive a signal from C. in C. S.A. example (begins) "Exercise T.P.1 at your discretion between 0500 and 0700" (Ends). 3. On receipt of this signal which will normally be sent during previous day, S.O. of escort is to warn convoy that a star shell search will be exercised shortly before daybreak. 4. A smoke float or calcium flare or any other night marker may be required to represent torpedoed ship. All R/T signals in connection with the exercise are to be prefixed "for exercise". Any ship obtaining a contact which may be a real U-Boat is to broadcast on R/T "negative exercise" "negative exercise" "negative exercise". The exercise is then to be considered cancelled. 5. Escorts may expend up to 12 star shells each ship and one pattern of depth charges. Shallow settings are not to be used for this exercise. 6. The exercise should normally be terminated by the S.O. present one hour after commencement. It may however at S.O. discretion be continued up to the time limit ordered when the exercise will automatically cease and escorts are to proceed to overtake the convoy. (C. in C. S.A. 221219B to S.A.Stn. G.696 (R) Admty.)

Situation 2002Z/22nd. WELLINGTON, ABERDEEN, FOLKESTONE, LOWESTOFT, GORLESTON, COWSLIP with S.T.74 004° 08' 003° 18' to 004° 20' 002° 00' thence Takoradi 9½. BRIDGEWATER, MOYOLA, MILFORD, ARMERIA, PETUNIA with L.S.10 006° 30' 012° 28' 310° to Freetown 8. ORFASY 2 M.L. escorting Coastwise Lagos (Nigeria) to Takoradi. M.L. No. 1014 off Kotomu. ARRAN screening off Marshall. DUNKERY screening off Monrovia. M.L. No.244 and Chasseur II 000° 25' 009° 10' (?East) to Libreville 8. CARNARVON CASTLE 006° 45' 013° 48' to 007° 40' 014° 20' thence Freetown 15. P.614 003° 25' S. 007° 50' to 000° 00' 010° 00' thence 332° 8½.

(R.A.W.A. 221337Z.)

RAMILLIES, (F.O.C.W.A. 221417Z to C. in C. S.A. B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire (R) Admty. RAMILLIES, ROEBUCK.)
CILICIA,
ROEBUCK,
QUALITY,
TEVIOT,
HELFOED,
PLYM. Cancelled by F.O.W.Af. 241825Z.

Movements, 22nd August arrivals MORRIS DANCE M.Ls. 266,
Lagos. 274, 277, 296, 302. Departures M.Ls. 1014, 1041
screening.
(N.O.I.C. Lagos 221505Z to Admty. etc.)

HAWKINS. 1. Sailed HAWKINS for Durban route R.10 S. of A. 18 knots E.T.A. 0800Z/24th August shifting to W/T Organisation J. at 0030Z/24th August.
2. Requirements on arrival.
(C. in C. S.A. 221701B to Admty. N.O.I.C. Durban, (R) C. in C. E.F. F.O. E.Af. N.O.I.C. Port Elizabeth, N.O.I.C. East London.)

/M.Ls...

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South Atlantic.

M.Ls. 1. Intend to sail M.L.1231, 1141 and 1072 for Dakar at 0600Z/23rd to hand over in accordance with F.O.C.W.Af. 091857 (N.T. in W.R.).
2. Route from Gambia middle buoy to position (Q) 014° 15' N. 017° 38' W. thence by Northern Channel.
3. Speed 10 knots, E.T.A. 1900/23rd.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst 221727 to Comar, Dakar (R) Admty. F.O.C.W.Af., Capt. (D) Freetown. C.O., Coastal Forces Base.)

Coloured route schedules. Your 202308, para. 1, concur. Para 2. Admty. will pass to Connav, N.S.H.Q. and S.O. (I) Recife details of coloured routes issued to ships by F.O.C. Gibraltar.
(D.T.D. 221816A to F.O.C.W.A.)

Movements, Freetown. Freetown 22nd August BRIARWOOD, AORANGI, DOMINION MONARCH.
(Freetown 221853Z to Admty. B.B.)

O.S.53. Your 221551. (N.T. in W.R.) Have had no order countermanding C. in C. Western Approaches 300946B July, ref. escorting S.L.135, but am waiting reply to your 221715.
(S.O. Escort Group 4 222235Z to F.O.C.W.A.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Position course and speed of enemy 1 destroyer
Units. 2 escort vessels uncertain 42.28 N. 10.58 E. 310
degs. 10 knots.
(A/C G.Q.P/S. 220145 via Alex.).
My 0145. Three enemy war vessels position 42.29
N. 10.57 E. course 310 degs. speed 10 knots.
(A/C G.Q.P/S via Algiers 220228B).
One medium merchant vessel and one destroyer 121ZZ 3H (sic).
(A/C G.P. N/F via Alex. 220645 to Air H.Q. Malta).

10 S.F. (1) P.51 (UNSEEN) 039 degs. 07' 018 degs. 28' to
dispositions. 040 degs. 32' 018 degs. 41' at 2000/23rd.
(2) P.44 (UNITED) off Alice Point.
(3) SOKOL O.R.P. 039 degs. 43' 018 degs. 56' to
037 degs. 02' 017 degs. 24' at 2000/23rd.
(4) P.46 (UNRUFFLED) 035 degs. 50' 015 degs. 10' through 035 degs.
50' 016 degs. 35' to 036 degs. 00' 016 degs. 50' at 2000/23rd.
(Capt.S.10, 220707).

Movements August 21st 1943.
Alexandria Arrivals - PATHFINDER, RHODODENDRON M.L.836
BOXSBURG, LANGLAATE.
Departures SUTLEJ, HYACINTH, DURMITOR, KAJMAKAIN.
(R.A. Alexandria 220745C to Admty.).

Malta Sailed M.Ls. 561, 564 and 562. Arrived M.Ls.
M.Ls. 168. 218. Arrived and departed M.L.449.
(V.A. Malta 220800 to Admty. etc.).

Movements Departed 21st August. QUEEN EMMA and PUCKERIDGE.
Malta. M.M.S.118, M.F.V.36. JAUNTY and JONQUIL.
FORMIDABLE, ILLUSTRIOUS, QUILLIAM, QUAIL, QUEEN-
BOROUGH, PIORUN, HURWORTH, CROOME, KANARIS and
ADRIAS to exercise.
L.C.Ts. 633, (372) (300) 421. Arrived OAKLEY and EGGESFORD.
L.C.Gs. 12, 17 (218). WARSPITE, VALIANT, TROUBRIDGE, TYRIAN,
TUMULT, ECHO, FURY and NUBIAN.
(V.A. Malta 220801B to Admty. etc.).

Movements 21st August. Arrivals. REINE DES FLOTS.
Beirut. Departures BREAM, M.Ls. 357, 349.
(S.O.(I) Beirut 220920C to Admty.).

Movements Departures 0707Z. BENGAL and RAJPUTANA in company.
Aden. (Cdre. Aden 220956Z to C. in C. Levant etc.).

12th M/S My 212031~~/~~ 220701~~/~~ and 220815~~/~~. Am now reduced
Flotilla. to 2 effective sweepers. Request relief for
CIRCE may be found if practicable to enable her
to return to me for sweeping tomorrow Monday.
(S.O.12th M/S Flotilla 221052B to S.N.O. Trip.
(R) CIRCE).
~~/~~ N.T. in W.R..

/Syracuse...

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Mediterranean. - Contd.

Syracuse
Loops.

LASSO completed laying 4 Indicator loops at Syracuse. Laying of H.D.A's awaiting arrival of twin core cable.
(N.O.i/c Syracuse 221103B to F.O.Sy.).

DERBYSHIRE
WINCHESTER
CASTLE.

C. in C. Levant 211231 to P.S.T.O.M.E. only advises DERBYSHIRE, WINCHESTER CASTLE may now proceed to India as required by D. of S.T.
(2) WINCHESTER CASTLE ready now. DERBYSHIRE changes crew 24th August ready sail 25th August.
(3) Request early instructions.
(P.S.T.O.M.E. 221104C to D.S.T.).

M.E. Air
Report.

A.668. Daily Opsum 116. 20/21 August.
1 Beaufighter bomber anti-shipping R/C Aegean.
1 Ship 260 feet attacked in Melos harbour results unobserved. 21st August. 76 U.S. Liberators (B.24) Canello marshalling yards near Naples. 9 returned early 15 unable to identify Canello dropped bombs in surroundings of Pomigliano D'Arco aerodrome with unobserved results. 2 jettisoned over Canello owing to failure release gear. 50 aircraft bombed target. Hits on stores Depot station on or near factory to North. Yards well covered with bursts causing much smoke. Fires started at Southern end. 5 Beaufighters anti-shipping R/C Aegean, no sightings. Following delayed details - 20 August, 4 Beaufighters anti shipping R/C Aegean. No sightings. My Opsum 115. 3 bombs dropped North and South of Tripoli 19/20 Aug without damage.
(H.Q. R.A.F M.E. 221116Z).

Area G.B.

Until further orders movements summary for area G.B. will be temporarily extended as far as 009 degs. East. Movements between 006 degs. 28' and 009 degs. will be repeated on Malta broadcast.

A.F.O.S.1/43 Section M.L. is not being amended at present.
(C. in C. Med. 221150B to Med. Station, Levant Station 107B).

Situation
Report.
No. 159.

(1) SIRIUS, DIDO, PENN, PANTHER operating in Tyrrhenian Sea, and Destroyer patrols South of Messina night 19th-20th August, made no contacts.
(2) U.S. ships WAINWRIGHT, CLEVELAND, and TRIPPE bombarded Gioja, Tauro, night 19th-20th August, and started large fire.
(3) French ships TERRIBLE and FANTASQUE carried out sweep of west coast of Italy night 20-21st August and intended to bombard Scalea but no details yet received. Unsuccessful torpedo attack was made by unidentified craft in vicinity Scalea.
(4) U.S. Naval Base at Gela has been closed. Sitrep number 155 para.7. Amplifying report from UNRULY as follows.
(A) At 1050/15 in position 40 degs. 41' N. 18 degs. 01' E. obtained two hits on 5,000 ton southbound Tanker in ballast which was later seen beached.
(B) At 1629/15 in position 40 degs. 52' N. 17 degs. 58' E. attacked 5,000 ton Tanker and 5,000 ton Liner in convoy of about eight ships. Four explosions were heard and UNRULY considers

/that...

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Mediterranean.

Situation report
No.159.
(Contd.).

that at least one vessel was damaged.
(C. in C. Med. 221159B to Admty.).

S.8. Movement summary
2000B/22.

(1) P.217 (SIBYL) in Gulf of Genoa.
(2) P.224 (SICKLE) East of Corsica.
(Capt.S.8. 221200B).

TEMPLAR

TEMPLAR's patrol must now be cancelled.
(2) S.10 is requested to sail her direct to Beirut or Port Said as required by S.1.
(3) She is required to arrive Colombo before end of

September.

(4) Refer my 211219. S.1's 211458, S.8's 210918. F.O. Ceylon's 20050.
(C. in C. Levant 221330C to S.1., S.10., (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, S.8., Admty.).

S/Ms. for Eastern Fleet.

TEMPLAR should arrive Colombo by end of September. F.O. Ceylon's 200500Z refers.
(2) Other arrivals approx. TAURUS, TACTICIAN 10th October, SEVERN mid October, TRESPASSER 18th October.
(C. in C. Levant 221332C to C. in C.E.F. (R) F.O. Ceylon, Admty. C. in C. Med. B.S.O., S.4., S.1.).

Landing Craft state.

Information now available in Admiralty regarding whereabouts and state of Landing craft on Mediterranean and Levant Stations is both incomplete and inaccurate.
(2) In August returns received from D.C.O. Middle East and HAMILCAR, some 680 craft are not accounted for. This represents over 50% of total number of Landing craft assumed to be still on Mediterranean and Levant Stations.
(3) Whilst appreciating many difficulties involved in collecting and collating information concerning more than 1300 craft, it is requested that arrangements may be made for returns in accordance with C.A.F.O. 519/43 (as amended by A.M. 071913 August) for 1st September to be as complete as circumstances permit.
(D.O.D.(F) Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 221426A, 231641A to C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant).

NIEUW AMSTERDAM.

093422 August NIEUW AMSTERDAM Durban via Massawa 24th August, Durban E.T.A. 3rd September. Route. (N.C.S.O. Suez 221430 to Admty.).

N.A.A.F. Report.

N.W. Af. Air Forces Opsum 182. N.W.Af. Strategic Air Force 20/21 August. 36 Wellingtons Villa Literno. 60½ tons dropped from 7,500 - 10,500 ft. Heavy bursts across railway yards. 21st August.
33 U.S. Fortresses escort 47 Lightnings marshalling yards Aversa. 4 bombers 15 fighters returned early. Main track out of Yards

/cut...

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- N.A.A.F. Report. (Contd.) cut. Many hits town area near station. Direct hits gasworks. 72 U.S. Marauders escort 41 U.S. Lightnings Villa Literno 8 Bombers 12 fighters returned early. Hits Northern and South Choke points. Rolling stock tracks warehouses severely damaged. N.W. Af. Tactical Air Force.
- 19th August (Add). 20 U.S. Mustangs 12 with bombs attacked railway yards Catanzaro. 24 X 500. Direct hit oil tank wagons. Explosion half railway yard in flames. 24 U.S. Mustangs attacked targets of opportunity Toe of Italy. Rail attacked at Cosenza and Paola. N.W. Af. Coastal Air Force.
- 20/21 August. 3 Wellingtons armed R/C East coasts Sardinia Corsica Elba and West Italian Coast. 1 attacked with 2 torpedoed 3000 ton Merchant vessel 5 miles East Lastia. No hits observed. (H.Q. N.A.A.F. 221644B).
- Enemy Units. One enemy medium-sized merchant vessel, two small vessels, one E.boat, one destroyer and two A/C in 44.05 N. 9.40 E. "fixed" within half an hour of 1600 hours. Course 290 degs. Speed 8 knots. (A/C A.Q.Q/E via Alex. W/T 221549B).
- Following has been read. My 1549. One Merchant Vessel 3,000 tons one P.T.I.O. two Coasters. (A/C AQQF 221605B).
- M:K.S.22 Algiers section sail as in my 211238. (N.O.i/c Algiers 221553 to Escorts of Convoy M.K.S. 22 (R) Admty. etc.).
- Malta Maintenance. No. 61868 Cipher Q(Ops)1, 22/8. Ref. Mideast Q.1/93506 of 9 Aug. not to C. in C. Med. and Levant. (1) Consider general policy for maintenance of Malta should be adopted as in 3 Our 87725 Q(Ops)1 of 8 Jun. not to C's. in C. Med. and Levant for demands for shipment on Oct. and onwards. Naval and R.A.F. shipping programmes will, however, be made up in London as for other theatres (2) P.O.L. maintenance to remain for the present as in our 53811 Q(Ops) 2 of 28 July but some modification may be necessary later. (3) Directive referred to para.1. C (ii) Our 87725 Q(Ops) 1 of 8 June follows earliest and will indicate future policy of supply civil and military foodstuffs. (4) Confirm earliest agreement. Agreed here Admiralty, Air Ministry, Colonial Office and M.W.T.). (W.O. 221600B to C. in C. Mideast, Governor and C. in C. Malta, (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant., A.F.H.Q.).
- K.M.S.23 FORT ASH arrived. (N.O.I/c Bougie 221630B to Admty. etc.). Convoy K.M.S.23. Following arrived FORT ALBANY, NORTHLEIGH, PORTSEA, CATO, BENDICT, VILLE DE JIJELLI, 6 ships. Negative arrived CHLORIS. (N.O.i/c Philippeville 221659B to Admty. etc.).

/K.M.S.23...

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Mediterranean.

K.M.S.23 (Contd.) K.M.S.23 onward route vide C. in C. Med. 172119B.
2. S. of A. 8 as far as 331, then 7.
3. 033 degs. 02' N. 020 degs. 01' E. 0920/26 349
3 miles North 344 0335/27, 331 1435/27, 329, 316
0935/28, 310, 309 0530/29 thence 306, (? 303),
300 399 adjusting speed to arrive Port Said daylight 30th.
4. Alex. section 309 0530/29.
5. A.G. (6) High, "Councillor". (7) C.
8. COLOMBO S.O., SHOREHAM S.O. Screen, WHITEHAVEN, HYTHE, RYE,
ROMNEY, GAWLER, LISMORE, MARYBOROUGH, IPSWICH.
9. COLOMBO detach 2300/26th, proceed at 17½ knots, through 349,
355, 360, 267 to arrive Benghazi daylight 27th for fuel.
10. Ships for Alexandria and orders for escorts follow.
(C. in C. Levant, 221856C to Escorts of K.M.S.23, G.U.S.13,
M.K.S.23, R.A. Alexandria, etc.)
K.M.S.23 Bone section arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Bone, 222024B to Admty., etc.)

Stromboli, To: Agwar. For: Combined Chiefs of Staff.
situation. Repeated: Usfor. Info: British Chiefs of Staff.
Signed: Eisenhower. On August 17th a small naval
party landed Lipari and Stromboli, accompanied
Amgot Officer. Civil population Lipari 14,000.
Island quiet, health good, food short, regular water supply
required. No political prisoners now present, they were removed
six weeks ago. Conditions on Stromboli Island substantially
same as Lipari. Stromboli civil population 1,000.
(Algiers, 221643Z.)

Service As there is little or no likelihood of passage via
Personnel, the Cape for women at present, may para. 5 (D) of
Transport. your 111553 (Hush) July be waived in the case of
families of service personnel who must be
repatriated under terms of agreement with Egyptian
Government? Example, family of Officer or rating
discharged from service in Egypt.
(C. in C. Levant, 221712C to Admty., (R) P.S.T.O.M.E., C. in C.
Med., H.B.M. Embassy.)
As amended 241833.

O.T.8. Intended destination of tankers due in O.T.8 with
furnace oil for prompt discharge and return to
U.S. 1. CONTREAS to Algiers. 2. PALA ALTO,
ESSO PHILADELPHIA to Oran. 3. BUFFALO, WALLOW
to Gibraltar. Serials 1 and 2 have deck cargo of gliders
and planes.
(C. in C. Med. (Algiers), 221735B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Cdre.
Algiers, Comnob. Oran, (R) Admty., Comnavnaw.)

Movements, 22nd Port Said arrivals Y.S.S. DURMITOR, Y.S.S.
Port Said. KAJMAKAIAN.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 221801C to Admty., etc.)

/Med. ...

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Med. Air Report. Signed Eisenhower.
Part III. Air Cositintrep No.43, 21st August.
N.W.A. Air Forces.
Night 20th/21st August. 36 Wellingtons dropped 61 tons of bombs on Villa Literno marshalling yards, fires and explosions were seen, opposition slight.
Day 21st August. Villa Literno marshalling yards attacked by 22 B.26s escorted by 41 P.38s, 144 by 1,000 and 211 by 500 pound bombs were dropped, many direct hits on tracks, rolling stock. 33 B.17s escorted by 47 P.38s attacked Aversa marshalling yards, 396 by 500 (or 600) pound bombs were dropped. Hits were scored along track some aircraft attacked targets outskirts of Naples, slight to moderate heavy flak but no enemy aircraft encountered. Fighter bombers attacked communications Bovalino/Bagnara road destroying 8 M/T and damaging 24. During day 21st two A.S.R. searched carried out without results.
Para. 3. 9th Bomber Command 67 B.24s attacked Canello marshalling yards and Pomigliano d'Arco. 20 to 30 enemy encountered. 16 were destroyed.
Para. 4. Air Intelligence - approx. 50 enemy fighters, mostly German attacked our B.26s over Villa Literno RR yards, 23 Me.109s and 2 Mc.202s destroyed. 4 B.26s lost. Over Aversa RR yards B.17s encountered no E/A. RR lines at Aversa, Villa Literno and Sapri are temporarily blocked.
(Air C. in C. Med., No T.O.O./22, Recd. 1820/22.)

Tugs. Request the two EMPIRE LARCH type tugs mentioned in A.M. 171657A may be sent as soon as possible.
2. Present allocation of Rescue and EMPIRE class tugs is barely sufficient to meet even present commitments. In view of future operations intend to retain EMPIRE GNOME and EMPIRE MINOTAUR until arrival of AIMWELL and FRISKY. Two EMPIRE class tugs will be sent to the Levant on arrival of Tugs in Para. 1.
(C. in C. Med., 221824B to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Levant.)

TARTAR Own M.T.Boats will be operating during night to North of 037 degs. 30' N. and West of 016 degs. 30' E.
M.T.Bs. (S.O. Force K in H.M.S. UGANDA, 221843B to TARTAR, (R) S.O. Force H, C.C.F.B.)

TACTICIAN, P.314 (TACTICIAN) and P.339 (TAURUS) both operated
TAURUS, North Aegean. Patrolling Rhodes Piraeus route
TROOPER. QD off Kandaliusa or between Symi and Alimnia.
(Capt. (S) 1, 221914C to TROOPER, (R) 1st S/M.F.)

Movements, Arrivals NIBLICK, LE FANTASQUE, LE TERRIBLE,
Tunisia. MENDIP. Departures PRINCE LEOPOLD, PRINCE CHARLES,
PRINSES BEATRIX, BROCKLESBY, AURORA, PENELOPE,
JERVIS, PALADIN, QUANTOCK.
(F.O. Tunisia, 222010 to Admty., etc.)

/Harbour ...

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Defence
Equipment.

Requirements for port parties for captured ports in Sicily and future operations have necessitated transferring considerable items of harbour defence equipment in North Africa to French Navy for operation by them.

2. Since ports are likely to be required for many months to come for operational working of shipping for Allied Military Forces it has been necessary to leave A/S Boom Defences in place. Only items being removed are mill loops on account of their most secret nature.

3. Transfer is being effected of scheduled list of stores without prejudice to any financial adjustment which may be required between British and French Governments at a later date. F.O.I.C. Tunisia and Com. Algeria have been requested to arrange transfer of ready use and periodical maintenance stores recording transactions similarly.

4. Details will be reported on completion. As French have no adequate boom vessels it will be necessary for one British bar vessel to remain at Mers-el-Kebir and one at Algiers. (C. in C. Med., 222010B to Admty.)

Movements,
Oran.

Today's arrivals were BRECON, BOXER, BRUISER, THRUSTER and U.S. P.C.557.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 222015B to Admty., etc.)

Malta Air
Report.

A.I.1094. Opsum No. 104.

Day 21st August. 1 Spitfire photo R/C of Taranto
1 Baltimore made A/S patrol south of Toe of Italy.
4 Beaufighters provided escort shipping.

21st/22nd August. 5 Mosquitoes were airborne on intruder patrols in the Lecco Taranto and Foggia areas. No signs of aircraft or aerodrome activity. 6 Beaufighters and 2 Mosquitoes carried out interception patrols north and east of Malta without incident. One Malta Beaufighter was airborne from Sicily in interception patrol East of Etna. One Wellington made shipping search in Gulf of Taranto.

Day 22nd August, 4 Spitfires airborne on interception patrols destroyed one Ju.88 which was probably on R/C. 9 Beaufighters provided escort to shipping. 3 Baltimores and 1 Wellington made A/S patrols for shipping. 5 Spitfires made photo R/C of Taranto, Naples, Durazzo aerodromes, in the Heel and Toe of Italy and special task in Toe of Italy.

(A.H.Q. Malta, 222038B.)

Movements,
Algiers.

Arrivals STAFFA, BRITTANY, PHILADELPHIA (U.S.S.), EDISON (U.S.S.).
Departures MARIGOT, FAULKNER, INTREPID.
Arrived and departed CLEVELAND.
(Com. Algeria, 222102B to Admty., etc.)

/Movements ...

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Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements 22nd August. Arrivals; ABDIEL (?BLACKMORE),
Augusta. BLANKNEY, BLENCATHRA, LEDBURY, WHEATLAND, TARTAR,
TUMULT, NUBIAN, L.C.T. (corrupt) 372, 421, 614,
M.L.449, L.C.F.11, L.C.I. 296, 127.
Departures: (?BUDE), PETARD, BLACKMORE, BLANKNEY,
BLENCATHRA, ABDIEL, LEDBURY, WHEATLAND, VISENDA, MISOA, M.L.460,
M.L.1257, L.S.T. 319, 321, 368, M.L.494, M.L.468.
(N.O.i/c Augusta 222150 to Admty.).

Movements Arrivals 22nd August. Greek ships AETOS, PANTHER,
Haifa. IERAX, French ship COMMANDANT DOMINE, SUTLEJ,
HYACINTH. Departures 22nd August Greek ships
AETOS, PANTHER French ship COMMANDANT DOMINE,
SUTLEJ, HYACINTH.
(N.O.i/c P.P. 222300 to Admty. etc.).

Movements Arrived HAMBLEDON, GLENGYLE, L.S.I.(L) DEVONSHIRE,
Tripoli. SOBIEKI, L.S.Ts. 401, 406, 304, 362, 305, 428,
426, 415 L.C.Is. 133, 105, L.C.Ts. 330, 380, 387,
164, 344. Sailed SEAHAM L.C.I.256.
(S.N.O. Trip. 222317B to Admty.).

Movements Arrived and left GAMTOOS. Arrived KINGSTONCORAL,
Tobruk. AMBER, WILDBILL (sic). Sailed M.F.Vs. 51, 70,
109, 55, 157.
(N.O.i/c Tobruk 222321C to Admty.).

UNRUFFLED Sailed.
(V.A. Malta 222333B to Admty. etc.).

Movements Arrivals. ILLUSTRIOUS, QUILLIAM, QUAIL,
Malta. QUEENBOROUGH, PIORUN, ROBERTS, EREBUS, COCKCHAFER,
SCARAB, SOEMBA, FLORES, APHIS, VETCH PENTSTEMON,
CONVOLVULUS, LAFOREY, LOYAL, PETARD, MINOR,
HAZARD, BERYL, ABDIEL, OFFA. Six L.C.G. M.L.460.
Departures, WHITING, STELLA CARINA, BONITO, RESTIVE, TARTAR,
NUBIAN, TUMULT, DELHI, HAILSTORM, KING SOL, L.C.I.127, 132, 296,
L.C.T.332, 626.
(V.A. Malta 222334B to Admty. etc.).

MOST SECRET

22/8
797A.

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

From A.F.H.Q. Algiers.

Date 23.8.43.
Recd. 0335.

CYPHER

EXTRACT

Sicily, Axis losses.

To War Office. ACWAR. Repeated C. in C. Middle East.

IMPORTANT.

149020

EXTRACT from W8028/4683 Cipher 22 Aug.

MOST SECRET

Four. Axis losses Sicily. Revised figures enemy losses in material as follows. Read A Italian, B German. Tanks and armoured cars, A 188, B 78, field, anti tank, SP and AA guns, A 1220, B 288 these totals based on returns from Armios. Known to be incomplete. In view deployment armies other tasks fuller estimates unlikely. Naturally much material abandoned or destroyed in addition to above.

Five, prisoners. Latest figures German seven, 100, Italian 125,300.

Six. Miscellaneous. Recent German PWs testify to hostile attitude to Germans of civilian population in Sicily even before allied invasion. Allies artillery greatly admired and feared. Close advance of infantry behind creeping barrage described as very effective. Forward troops even without having suffered casualties unable fight well immediately after barrage. Evident that enemy supply system for forward troops broke down in last stages battle. Last prisoners captured very exhausted. Morale unaffected by Italian military and political collapse. General impression from prisoners is that morale tends to correspond with rank. Distinct scepticism about Axis war prospects among private soldiers. Marked absence German arrogance after capture noticed in all ranks.

221900

Advance copy. Duty Capt. D.D.I.C.

Received in War Reg. 250115.
Circulation overleaf.

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (2).
D.F.S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.H.S. (F).
A.C.C.S. (W).
A.C.N.S. (H).
U.W.R.
D. of P. (2).
P.A.S. (S).
D.O.D. (H) (4).
D.C.D. (F) (2).
D.N.I. (4).
E. of L.D.
I.P. (2).
W.S.
Duty Capt. (2).
Hd. of H. (2).
D.D.I.C. (2).
D. of P. (O) (3).
S.O.P. (V) (4).
Adl. Blake (4).
C.N.I.
E.P.D.

Distribution by M.I.17:-

S. of S.
C.I.C.S.
V.C.I.G.S.
D.C.I.G.S.
A.C.I.G.S.
A.G.
Q.M.G.
V.Q.M.G.
D.M.O.
D. Plans. (2).
D.D.M.O. (0).
M.O.I. 4, 5.
D.D.M.I. (P/W).
M.I.10, 14, 17, 18.
D.R.A.
D.R.A.C.
A.G. Stats.
D.P.W.
D.D.I.P.
D. Research.
S.A/A.C.
D.B.R.
D.C.A.
C.A.3.
L.M.I.
D.G.A.R.
D.M.T.
S. of S. for Foreign Affairs.
Brigadier Jacob.
Mr. Cavendish Bentinck (Foreign
Office).
War Registry (Admiralty)
A.M.C.S. (Air Ministry)

798

22.8.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Convoy Arrived.
P.B.52¹/₂. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 220255Z to Admty.)

Movements. Arrival AMRITSAR.
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta 220324Z.)
Khor Kuwait arrival 0330Z/22nd BATHURST.
(N.O.I.C. Hormuz 220518Z.)
Arrival 22nd SOLVRA.
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius 220730Z.)
Departure 1310Z/22nd August KATHIAWAR escorting V.S.I.S.
TAIPING.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 221344Z.)

C.X.7. Arrival (? 04) 15Z/22nd HINDUSTAN escorting
convoy C.X.7.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 220437Z to Admty.)

Movements, DURBAN, FALMOUTH left.
Kilindini. (F.O. East Africa 220501Z to Admty.)

E.E.F. For A.G.A.N. E.F. Broad Pendant of Commodore
Appointment. Douglas Pennant is (? to be) hoisted on shore as
from 13th August on taking up appointment as
Sub. Force Commander (?Eastern) Expeditionary
Force. (It will be) transferred to some
suitable ship (?when) latter is available.
(C. in C. E.F. 220514Z to F.L.O. Delhi (R) F.O. Ceylon,
F.O.C.R.I.N. SALSETTE, BRAGANZA. (?Admty.)

Eastern (C) SUSSEX Bombay to Kilindini. SUFFOLK
Fleet Trincomalee to Fremantle. (D) NEWCASTLE Kilindini
Disposition to Simonstown DURBAN Kilindini to Colombo
Signal. FROBISHER Aden to Bombay HAWKINS Simonstown to
No.70. Durban CAPETOWN Aden to Suez KENYA, EMERALD at
Kilindini. Others no change. (E) Unit exercises
off Kilindini.
(C. in C. E.F. 220716Z to C. in C. S.A. etc.)

O.21. Approved for Dutch S/M O.21 to be retained in
Australia for the present. Your 200500 refers.
I will discuss the problem with B.S.O. when I
next visit Colombo.
(C. in C. E.F. 221217Z to F.O. Ceylon (R) Admty.
B.S.O.S.4, C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med.)

War Diary.

22.8.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

- L.N.17. My 210005Z. L.N.17. Situation unchanged. Weather report. (ALGOMA, 220012 to S.B.O. Goosebay, N.O.I.C. Rigolet.)
My 220012Z. L.N.17. Weather showing signs of clearing. Approx. E.T.A. Rigolet 2100Z August 23rd. Weather report. (ALGOMA, 222343Z to S.N.S.O. Goose Bay, N.O.I.C. Rigolet.)
- B.Y.M.S. Departure B.Y.M.S. 76 - 213 to St. Johns N.F. (C. Halifax, 220015Z to Admty.)
- FISHGUARD. E.T.A. 220600Q. (FISHGUARD, 220130Q to (U.S.) Commandant, 5th Naval District Norfolk, V.A. (R) C. in C.U.S. Atlantic Fleet, B.N.L.O.)
- Movements. St. Johns N.F. 21st. Arrivals - KEPPEL ex U/Boat hunt. COBALT, MONTGOMERY, CHELSEA (W.6.) ex. H.X.252. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns, 220220Z.)
MONTEREY (U.S.A.T.) arrived New Orleans 20th. (N.S.H.Q. 221919Z.)
- SULAIRES, Trinidad sailing vessel SULAIRES (36 tons) arrived Grenada yesterday from Curacao after month at sea. S/M seen. Master states he met submarine (nationality unknown) 27th July about 0200 hours local time in vicinity 12° 55' N. 66° 05' W. Further report awaited. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 221123Q to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)
- Possible F.B./B.F. Convoys Schedule. D day. Sail Liverpool (O.S.). D + 19 arrive Freetown, D + 24 Sail Freetown (F.B.) D + 35 arrive Bahia. D + 48 Sail Bahia (B.F.) D + 59 arrive Freetown. D + 66 Sail Freetown (S.L.) D + 86 Arrive Liverpool, D + 100 Sail Liverpool, (O.S.) 2. Request your concurrence. (V.C.N.S. 221228A to Connav, (R) C.in C.W.A., F.O.C.W.Af.)
- U.T.1, DART, Proceed with convoy U.T.1. to Argentinia remain there Escorts. until escorts can be made fit and reassembled C.T.F.24 inform Canadian authority. (C. in C. Lant, 221251Z to DART, Opnav, C.T.F.24, C.E.S.F. CLARE.)
- Refer DART's 220102 (N.T. in W.R.) CLARE has sailed and should rejoin morning of 25th FISHGUARD and ERNE will not complete repairs in time to overtake. Request reinforcement of U.T.1 escorts by 2 vessels from Newfoundland. These vessels to be replaced in Newfoundland by FISHGUARD and ERNE upon completion repairs. (Cominch, 221445Z to Admty., (R) Cinclant, C. in C.C.B.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., Cdt. 5th Naval District Norfolk, DART, C. in C.W.A.)

/Your...

22.8.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

U.T.I. Your 221351Z (N.T. in W.R.) and C. in C.U.S.
DART, Fleet's 221445. Position course and speed
Escorts. at 221200Z 037° 22' N. 073° 30' W. proceeding
(Contd.) 060° 18 knots to 043° 28' 059° 33' thence
Placentia Bay. E.T.A. 0600P/25. Request
approval. Consider weather unsuitable for
speed over 18 knots. Weather report.
(CLARE, 221731Z to C. in C. Lant, (R) N.O.B.
Argentia, S.O. Escort Group D., C. in C. U.S.
Fleet, C.E.S.F., C.T.F.24, C. in C. C.N.A.,
F.O.N.F.)

A/S Forces My 181054 para. 3 amend as follows ST. FRANCIS
Eastern requires the following extensive repairs and will
Atlantic, be sailed from Pictou to arrive St. John's p.m.
Strengthening. 28th for onward routing.
2. MORDEN is to be sailed independently on
arrival St. Johns. C. in C. Western Approaches
202312 not to all addressees refers.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 221336Z to F.O.N.F. (R) Admty.,
Capt. (D) W.A., C. in C.W.A. (D) HFX, N.S.H.Q.,
(D) Newfoundland.)

U.S.S/M. (Cominch 221507Z)
Estimate.

Small Your 162001 (Rules governing inclusion of small
ships in Atlantic Convoys leaving U.K.) Concur
in Atlantic but restrictions will exclude Lake Built Coastal
Convoys. Type Tanker and similar craft after October 1st.
N.C.S.O. Halifax 221515 June and your 232158 June
not to Connav and B.A.D. refer.
(N.S.H.Q., 221510Z to Admty. Connav. (R) B.A.D.)
Reply: Admty. 261912.

N.S.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q. 221545Z.)
S/M
Estimate.

Convoy Following ships arrived New York 21st August.
O.N.196. Total sixty ships (list.)
(B.R.L.O. New York, 221641 to Admty.)

H.H.X. Departure LETHBRIDGE, SHAWINIGAN, GRANBY
253. escorting H.H.X.253.
(C. Halifax, 221705Z to Admty.)
Total 16 ships (List, cargoes, destinations.)
(Halifax, 221713Z to Admty.)

/GRIPSHOLM...

801

22.8.1943.

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

GRIPSHOLM, Reply to your 212130Z to Admty. only is contained
TEIA MARU, in A.M. 211631A addressed Com. 10th Fleet
Japanese C. & R.
repatriation 2. Union Government has consented to use of
Ships. Port Elizabeth provided that no Japanese are
permitted to land.
3. Americans returning from Far East will be
allowed to go ashore.
4. Same facilities will be afforded at Port
Elizabeth as were accorded by Portuguese Government at Lourenco
Marques.
(Head of M.I., 221735 to Cominch, (R) Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.
Commaveu, C. in C.S.A., C. in C.E.F.) Note: Re. negotiations
with Japanese about safe conduct repatriation ships.

H.X.252 Derelict J.P. HENDERSON was in 044° 17' N. 052°
(attacked 58' W. at 2359Z 21st.
by U/B, 2. SS. SENIOR in tow in 044° 42' N. 052° 50' W.
19th August) course 345° speed 3.5 knots at 0800Z/22nd.
(S.O. E.G. B.3., 221750Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R)
Commav, Admty., A.C.I.C. C. in C.W.A., N.S.H.Q.
F.O.N.F., H.Q.C.C. Cmdr. (D) Argentia Cmdre. (D)
W.A.)

Stragglers 15th August E.G.FORD (U.S.) SC. 139 Engine
arrived week trouble. 15th August HARTLEPOOL S.C.139
ending 21st. Defective Bunkers. 20th August ROBERT FULTON H.X.
252 Lost convoy in fog.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 221835Z to Admty.)

O.N.196. 60 ships arrived including straggler CHURUBUSCO
which arrived 1405Z August 20 and unexpected ship
CORNER BROOK. First arrival 212218Z last arrival
220312Z.
(P.D. New York, 221840, 222150 to Com. 10th
Fleet, C. and R.)

B.Y.M.S. This re-enciphers comdt. six N.A. district
221417. Action to B.Y.M.S. 53, 56, 174, 175,
"Reference Cominch 211826 amend my 201941.
Proceed New York via Macri B. Report C.E.S.F.
Stores fuel onward routing. E.T.A. New York
1000Q August 25."
(Radio, Washington, 221840Z to Admty.)

INDOMITABLE C. in C. Med. pass to Cdr. U.S. Nav. For.
destroyers. N.W. African W.At. upon completion of fuelling
direct N.O.B. Bermuda (U.S.) sail INDOMITABLE
escorted by OPPORTUNE, OBDURATE and U.S. Des.
BUCK onward to Norfolk about 27th August.
Advise Time of Departure route, S. of A.
(Cominch, 222122Z to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet
(U.S.) (R) Cdr. Moroccan Sea Fron, N.O.B. Bermuda,
C.E.S.F. Com. 5th Nav. Dis. Norfolk, V.A., F.O.C. Gib, Admty.
C. in C. Med., C. in C. H.F., Cdr. N/F N.W.Af. W. At. (U.S.).
/BAYFIELD...

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22.8.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

BAYFIELD Search. (?20) per cent search of (? area) (? bounded) by following positions completed 045° 27' N. (? 060°) 34' W. 045° 19' (?060°) 25' 045° 06' 060° 46', 045° (14'?) 060° (56'?) result negative. (BAYFIELD 222358Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) N.O.I.C. Sydney., S.N.O. Mulgrave.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Arrivals 20th Cairns, Bunbury 21st Cairns, PIRIE and (? GEELONG) Thursday Island, FREEMANTLE Port Moresby, DELORAINIE, Milne Bay, F.S.LE TRIOMPHANT, KATOOMBA. Departures. 20th Fremantle Dutch Ship HEEMSKERK for Addu Atoll thence Fremantle. 21st Brisbane, AUSTRALIA and VENDETTA for Sydney GOULBURN for convoy duty thence Sydney Port Moresby U.S. Destroyer HENLEY and (? U.S. Des. HELM) for Townsville Milne Bay, F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT, KATOOMBA for Townsville. (A.C.N.B. 220946Z.)
Departures Melbourne 21st of Naval transport HERMIT RESORT for Fremantle. (A.C.N.B. 221048Z.)

Digest Serial No. 579. August 21st. (2) 7 Beaufighters attacked seaplane base Taberfane afternoon. 5 Floatplanes observed airborne or taking off and 2 destroyed plus another probably. 1 Lugger several canoes sunk, other small craft in vicinity also strafed. Two Beaufighters collided over target and lost with crews.
(3) 11 Liberators struck Nickel Mines Pomelaa (Pomelaa on Eastern Shore Bone) Bone Gulf Midday. Bombs started fires in smelting plant, also damaged medium merchantman in Harbour with near misses, while buildings warehouses strafed. Over target transport plane shot down and off Southeast Celebes. 12 fighters encountered whereof two destroyed plus three probably. All Liberators returned.
(5) Same time patrol Hudson unsuccessfully bombed 1,000 ton sea truck and launch 50 miles Northeast Baba, Baba Island course 300° (6) Submarine passed Cape Orford Northbound morning. (7) Dagua (Dagua and But) But airfields attacked forenoon by 18 strafing Mitchells with 60 Lightnings escorting. 4 barges, 1 launch in harbour area strafed and left burning. Photos reveal 1 sea truck off But.
(8) 18 barges observed Bansa Bay morning. 11. 7 Mitchells conducted negative barge sweep Western New Britain morning 20th excepting 3 possibly unserviceable craft strafed on western extremity. Same afternoon six Mitchells reported nil sightings along south coast Hyon Peninsula.

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22.8.1943.

Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
Serial
No. 579.
August 21st.

13. Afternoon 20th 8 Corsairs covered by 16 more same type raided Shortlands shooting down one floatplane and starting three fires ashore. Simultaneously another 8 Corsairs strafed waterfront Rekata Bay where 9 probable dummy floatplanes observed on beach.

14. Next morning 8 Mitchells with 16 fighters escorting swept Choiseul and Vella Lavella Coasts locating only three serviceable barges northwest Vella Lavella.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 221016Z.)

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 221331A, 221335A.)

Submarines Attacked.

Sub.
attack
and
sighting
summary
for 24
hours to
1000A/22nd.

Para. A. Br. EMPIRE STANLEY probably torpedoed by U/Boat 200' S.E. of Madagascar. 20 survivors picked up on 20th August.
A/C C/404 attacked surfaced U/Boat at 0420 22nd August in 41° 53' N. 12° 33' W.
Para. B. French A/C attacked C/T of U/Boat with 4 D/Cs. at 1215 17th August in 15° 13' N. 17° 51' W. course 270°.
(D.D.I.C. 221001Z to Cominch.)

23.8.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

1. 47 aircraft of Bomber Command were despatched last night, to lay mines off the Frisian Isles and South of Texel. 22 aircraft completed their allotted tasks.

Mediterranean.

2. SS. PIERRE SOULE was torpedoed by a U-Boat off Palermo in 38.19 N. 12.55 E. at 1930 today and was towed to Bizerta.

3. British and U.S. coastal forces operated off the Italian coast last night, but sighted nothing.

Air
Operations.

4. Two Wellingtons on armed reconnaissance last night attacked with torpedoes 3000 ton merchant vessel escorted by 2 destroyers 15 miles South of Alistro, east coast of Corsica, but did not see the result.

Air Raid
on
Palermo.

5. About 30 enemy aircraft raided Palermo early this morning. Two U.S. submarine chasers were destroyed and a British coaster was damaged. Two aircraft were claimed shot down by fighters and two by A/A fire.

East Indies.

Burma.

6. Aircraft today damaged a number of river craft in the Mandalay area and over 20 river craft in the Yesalyo-Monywa area (Chindwin).

War Diary.

23.8.1943.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies. - Contd.

7. Near the Nicobar Islands a small freighter was set on fire and a number of landing barges were damaged or destroyed.

Australia and New Zealand.

8. 4 U.S. destroyers searched Huon Gulf, Papua, during the early hours of today without making any contacts, and bombarded selected targets in the Finschhafen area.

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23.8.1943.

Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

M.G.B. 675.

Request M.G.B. 675 may be allocated to A.C.O.S. for special service under N.O.I.C. Lerwick after completion of trials with F.O.S. and until the first 4 M.T.Bs. are fitted and trained for use of special weapons.
(A.C.O.S. 231016A to Admty.)

Donegal Bay
and
Hebrides
West.
S/M.
Sanctuaries.

Admiralty Message A.Z.538. Rockabill Area has been unsatisfactory for large Scale exercises with surface craft, S/Ms. and aircraft due to presence of coastal shipping some of which fly balloons and also to small size of area.
(2) It is proposed to establish 2 new areas as follows. (1) Donegal Bay area bounded by a line through position A 290° Bloody Foreland 20 miles position B 200° 50 miles from position A, position C 290° 50 miles from position B, position D 290° 50 miles from position D 290° 50 miles from position A and (2) Hebrides W. area bound by a line drawn through the following positions. Position E 057° 25' 008° 20' position F 056° 35' 008° 20' position G 056° 35' 009° 50' position H 057° 25' 009° 50'. (3) The Donegal Bay area would be suitable for exercises with convoys. The Hebrides West area should be reasonably clear of shipping. (4) It is intended to retain the Rockabill Area for exercises on a smaller scale. (5) If approved request early promulgation of these areas as S/M sanctuaries as there will be an opportunity for exercises on first September. Propose PHILANTE be authority for ordering the sanctuary.
(C. in C. W.A. 231154A and 241220A to Admty.)

PRINCE
ROBERT.

H.M.C.S. PRINCE ROBERT is required to sail to join the Mediterranean Fleet as soon as possible after completion of A/A working-up practices to carry out duties as fast Troopship.

2. Request you will arrange for these practices to be carried out in Clyde area.
(D.O.D.H. 231251A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

17th Destroyer Your 221202A. Para.5. Approved.
Division to (C. in C. Rosyth 231259A to R.A.M.)
Rosyth
Command.

RAVAGER,
ACTIVITY.

The following allocations of Escort Carriers have been approved:-

- (A) RAVAGER to deck-landing training vice ACTIVITY for a period of approximately six months.
- (B) After refit ACTIVITY to Trade Protection.

Pending a refitting yard being found for ACTIVITY F.O.C.T. is request to work her up for operational duties.
(D.O.D.H. 231301A to F.O.C.T.)

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23.8.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy - Contd.17th
Destroyer
Division.17th Destroyer Division will be transferred to command and administration of C. in C. Rosyth as from 1st September.
(R.A.M. 231510A to CASTLETON, etc.)Personnel
in
North Russia.

My 191635. (191627C intended).
Have now discussed matter with Admiral Duncan U.S.N. who fully agrees regarding American ships with my Paras. 2,3, and 4 which follow, and he is informing Washington accordingly.
(2) S.B.N.O. North Russia's 191235 Para. 1
(A) and (C). If stores and clothing are sent out I feel sure that Merchant crews will conclude they are going to be marooned for a further long and indeterminate period which will add to their present discontent. (3) Suggest therefore every effort be made to get ships home. (4) If impossible to get ships home in convoy suggest consideration of (A) Despatch of relief crews. (B) Sailing ships independently when nights are longer. (5) Admiral Duncan who recently visited all American ships in the North tells me that their crews are just as discontented as the British and that their troubles also are increasing. These troubles include an officer's suicide while ours include a murder.
(Ad. Fisher 231554C to Admty.)

Admiral
Sir Charles
Forbes.

On hauling down my flag, I wish to let you know how very conscious I am that we ~~are~~ in the Plymouth Command have been able to operate with weak split forces off the enemy back door only because the H.F. has contained the enemy main surface force in the North and barred the front door. All Good Fortune to you and your fleet.
(C. in C. Plymouth 231838Z to C. in C. H.F.)

Personal for Admiral of the Fleet Sir Charles Forbes.
On hauling down your flag as C. in C. Plymouth, Their Lordships wish to thank you for the manner in which you have carried out the many important duties in your Command, and in particular, for the efficient operation of your forces in the defence of our shipping, the energetic attack on that of the enemy and, in co-operation with Coastal Command, the prosecution of the Bay offensive.
(Naval Secty. 232137A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Movements.S/M.
movements.

Intend sailing P.218 escort M.L.286 at 0900A tomorrow to R/V at 1000A off Swona Island with COTILLION escorting P.65 in accordance with S.O.
(S) Lerwick 211223.
(A.C.O.S. 231006A.)

1. Intend sailing MINERVE and TRUANT escorted by Chaser 41 for Portsmouth at 0700 tomorrow. Z.T.A. Needles 1130/24 and Outer Spit buoy 1400/24.
(N.O.I.C. Portland 231521A.)
Positions of S/Ms. at 0800/24 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 231752A.)

/My ...

War Diary.23.8.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.S/M
movements.
(Contd.)My 211223A as amended by my 220945A. Sailed.
(P.65, P.218.)
(S.O. S/M. Lerwick 232145A.)

SARDONYX.

Sailed SARDONYX to Skaale Fiord, E.T.A. 0700A/24th
(R.A.D. 231502A to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)M.F.V.
Convoy
for
Med.My 211652A. Sailed. S.O.A. 7 knots. S.O. of escort
will report E.T.A. six hours before arrival at Gib.
(C. in C. Plymouth 231601A to Admty.)
My 231601A. Convoy arrived Falmouth 2200/23.
(C. in C. Plymouth 232236A to Admty.)
C. in C. Plymouth's 231601A. Convoy arrived
Falmouth. Intend sailing at 1300A/24 routed as
in C. in C. Plymouth's 211652A.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 232312A to C. in C. Plymouth,
C. in C. W.A. V.A. Gibraltar.)

BARHOLM.

My 212234E/5. On completion of working-up request
BARHOLM. May be included in K.M.S.26.
(D.B.D. 231706A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

DUNBAR.

My 221340. Arrived Seidis Fjord 1830A.
(A.C.I.C. 232314A to M/S. 15.)Operations.Operations
"Musketry"
and
"Percussion"Your 222101 not approved.
(C. in C. Plymouth 230029A to BERMUDA.)
Have obtained A/S V contact.
(A/C. 81 Group, Duty K. No. T.O.O. to 19 Group.
Recd. 230529.)
Attack abandoned.
(A/C. 81 Group, Duty K. to 19 Group. Recd. 230532.)Your 221807A and my 222300A. 6 air crew of Liberator G.
picked up from 2 dinghies in 045° 47' 010° 40'. Proceeding R/V
40th E.G. speed 15 knots.

(NENE 230915A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

C. in C. Plymouth's 211718 and 221333 and my 221241.
Sailed 1st Escort Group, EGRET, ROTHER making R/V with JED
seaward end Q.Z.S.184. R.A.F. party embarked in EGRET.

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 230941A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Your 222320. Report if rescue effected and your present
position and movements.

(C. in C. Plymouth 231101A to NENE.)

15. 44° 55' N. 09° 44' W.

(A/C. Duty L. 231245 to 19 Group.)

Aircraft previously reported last seen 45° 00' N. 09° 45' W.

(A/C. 58 Sq. Duty L. 231247A to 19 Group.)

14 Planes bearing 250° height 2000 feet, course 340° 45°
05' N. 09° 54' W.

(NENE 231250A to Whitehall W/T.)

To avoid misunderstandings it is suggested that while
operation "Percussion" or similar operation is in force the
following policy be adopted. A total S/M bombing restriction
area be imposed till further notice bounded. (A) On the N. by
latitude 5030. (B) On the W. by Meridian 8° N. of latitude

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Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operations 46° and by Meridian 7° S. of latitude 46°.
 "Musketry" (C) On the South by the North Spanish Coast.
 and (D) On the east by the French Coast and in the
 "Percussion". channel by the Meridian 4°. (2) The above
 (Contd.) area allows for the agreed 40 mile margin.
 (H.Q.C.C. 231315A to F.O.S.)
 Am being attacked by 14 Ju.88.
 (A/C 58 Sq. Duty J. 231316 to 19 Group.)
 B.15 am being attacked by 14 Ju.88. Dead reckoning
 position 45° 57' N. 09° 47' W.
 (A/C 58 Sq. Duty J. 231324 to 19 Group.)
 Disposition at 2000. 1. TANATSIDE, GOATHLAND 048° 52' N.
 008° 05' W. S.W. bound to search vicinity 047° 25' N. 009° 08' W.
 and return Plymouth. 2. Escort Group 1st, EGRET, JED, ROTHER,
 050° 17' N. 005° 55' W. westbound 13 knots. 3. BERMUDA patrol
 vicinity 045° 00' N. 011° 40' W. 4. Escort Group 5th, NENE,
 TWEED, SNOWBERRY, EDMUNDSTON, Escort Group 40th, LANDGUARD,
 BIDEFORD, WAVENEY patrol vicinity 043° 30' N. 008° 40' W.
 7. OTUS 046° 00' N. 008° 30' W. westbound. 8. UNBROKEN 047°
 15' N. 006° 00' W. Northbound, daily advance 90 miles.
 9. TUNA 048° 26' N. 006° 00' W. TRUCULENT 048° 26' N. 006° 30'
 W. northbound to 180° Bishop Rock 10. 10. UPSTART 048° 57' N.
 007° 00' W. southbound. 11. ULTIMATUM 049° 00' N. 007° 20' W.
 southbound.
 (C. in C. Plymouth 231645A to Admty.)
 Your 231315. Strongly concur. Request you will institute
 forthwith.
 (F.O.S. 231833A to H.Q.C.C.)

Operation ONSLOW, ULSTER arrived Faroes.
 S.F. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 230705A to C. in C. Rosyth.)
 My 031615 para. 2. From 1203 to 2359/23rd.
 (A) 3 (B) 5 subject to weather.
 (C. in C. Rosyth 231157A to H.F.)
 ORIBI proceed passing Switha 0800A/24 to Skaale Fiord.
 2. On arrival relieve ULSTER on operation S.F. Act under order
 of Capt. (D) 17th D.F. 3. Capt. (D) 17th D.F. is requested to
 sail ULSTER to Scapa on relief.
 (R.A.D. H.F. 231212A to ORIBI.)
 S.3s. 221045, My 210019 and 221636. CAPE PALLISER is to
 arrive Holy Loch at 1200A/25 to escort TANTALUS to Lerwick and is
 subsequently available for operation S.F.
 (C. in C. W.A. 231816A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)
 My 031615 para. 2. From 0001 to 1159/24. (A) 8. (B) 7.
 (C. in C. Rosyth 232346A to H.F.)

Coastal (A) S.G.Bs. GREY GOOSE, GREY OWL, GREY FOX,
 Force from Newhaven anti E-Boat patrol from 2145A to
 Patrols. 0445A/24th on 50° 25' N. between 00° 40' W. and
 01° 25' W. (B) GLAISDALE immediate notice at
 St. Helens. (C) M.Ls. 292, 343, patrol Q.Z.S. 384
 between F and E.A. 5 buoys. (D) CHASSEUR 12
 immediate notice at St. Helens. (E) M.Ls. 122, 233, 124, R.M.L.
 532 from Portland Patrol 50° 20' N. between 02° 00' W. and 02°
 25' W.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth 231401A and 231720A.)
 1. Force C. M.G.Bs. 677, 664 are to patrol in vicinity
 105°. Start 21 miles. 3. Force D, M.G.Bs. 111, 81 are to

/patrol...

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Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Coastal Force Patrols. (Contd.) patrol in vicinity 180° Eddystone 8 miles.
 5. Forces C. and D. are to leave Dartmouth to be on patrol by 2115 Force C to leave patrol at 0600. Force D to leave patrol at 0500.
 6. Force E M.T.Bs. 94 (SO) 91, 98, M.G.Bs. 115, 75 are to leave Dartmouth at 2000 and proceed at 25 knots to position (AA) 270 Les Hanois Lt 15 miles, thence to carry out sweep at reduced speed for enemy shipping through position (BB) 180° Les Hanois light 10 miles to position (CC) 49° 18' N. 02° 20' W. and return by same route. Force to be within 30 miles of own coast by first light.
 8. Attention is drawn to Q.Z.X.1083.
 (C. in C. Plymouth 231526A.)

Operation "Starkey". A.M. 211944. Paras. 4 and 5 for convoy W.P.3 read W.P.395. 2. Arrival at Spithead 5th Sept. for these ships must be accepted.
 (D.O.D.H. 231554A to C. in C. Nore, Portsmouth, Plymouth, Rosyth, F.O.I.C. Cardiff.)

S/M. Patrols. Positions of S/Ms. at 0800/24th and movements for following 24 hours. All times Zone A.
 (A) UNTIRING approx. 62° 15' N. 01° 30' E. dived as much as practicable to patrol vicinity 62° 50' N. 02° 30' E. (F) UNBROKEN 48° 10' 06° 00' dived by day through 49° 01' 06° 02' to R/V 180° Lizard Head 10 miles at 0800/25th. (G) ULTIMATUM 48° 10' 07° 30' dived by day through 48° 01' 07° 30' thence course 162°. (H) CURIE 48° 10' 07° 01' dived by day through 48° 08' 07° 00' thence course 160°. (J) OTUS 46° 01' 10° 10' dived by day to westward. Daily advance 100 miles.
 (F.O.S. 231752A to Admty.)

Allied Air Activity.

Bomber Command Operations. On night 22/23rd. 3 A/C attacked Hamburg and 22 A/C laid Mines.
 (H.Q.B.C. 231540A.)

I.F.F. in Bomber A/C. Operational aircraft of Bomber Command and similar allied commands in future will not switch on I.F.F. on outward flights when flying above 5000 feet. 2. C.B. 04092/42 is being amended.
 (D.S.D. 231852A to A.G.M. Home 552. A.Z.)

Mining.

Q.Z.X.1070. 4.2 miles from western edge of area already cleared in Q.Z.X.1070 now check swept. No mines encountered.
 (PROSPECT 231635A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

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23.8.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

U-Boat
attacked. Have attacked S/M contact. S/M known to be
in the vicinity. My P.C.S. are at 0130A 048°
14' N. 017° 07' W. 006° 5 knots.
(CLOVER 230130A to Admty. C. in C. Plymouth.)
My 230130A. Search abandoned.
(CLOVER 230215A to Admty.)

Casualties & Defects.

SARBA. Sheerness. Departure SARBA in tow of tug
KESTRAL for Tilbury.
(Cdre. Sheerness 231024A.)

TAHCHEE. Request you sail tug to TAHCHEE in tow of
VANSITTART in 054° 43' N. 015° 42' W. at 0400A/23
070° 6 knots.
(C. in C. W.A. 231028A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Request you will sail STORMKING to assist TAHCHEE in tow of
VANSITTART in 54° 43' N. 015° 42' W. at 230400A. Course 070°
speed 6 knots.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 231047A to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown.)
Your 231047A. Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 231219A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Unknown Ship. Received 0946 G.M.T. De Tيرة Radio at 0938 heard
S.O.S. automatic, type A.1., strength, 2/3.
(Port Patrick Radio 231046A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Dinghy. At 1200A detach GOATHLAND and TANATSIDE to proceed
to 047° 25' N. 009° 08' W. to search for dinghy
reported by Aircraft at 0839. Proceed through
position (K) 108° Bishop Rock 10 miles.
(J) 049° 12' N. 007° 42' W. Liberator and Sunderland aircraft
will co-operate in search until dusk.
(C. in C. Plymouth 231104A to LIMBOURNE.)

EMPIRE FRIENDSHIP. Your 230130. Proceed to eastward towards Falmouth
with EMPIRE FRIENDSHIP. After making contact with
tug DEXTEROUS and HASTINGS proceed in company
with BEECHVILLE to Clyde. Estimated position of
DEXTEROUS at 0800/23 049° 17' N. 012° 30' W.
course 270° 10 knots.
(C. in C. Plymouth 231146A to CLOVER.)

ORESTES. Admty's. 231156. Intend to sail ORESTES to
Humber at first light tomorrow. Speed 15 kts.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 231618A to F.O.I.C. Humber.)

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23.8.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- P.S.23,
S.P.23. My 221658A P.S.23 and S.P.23 cancelled.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 231020A to N.O.I.C. Newhaven.)
- S.C.139. CLUNE PARK and RAJAHSTAN are to proceed to destination independently from 010° W.
2. Estimate you may overtake VANSITTART towing 1 (one) ship at about 1900A/23rd.
(C. in C. W.A. 231042 to NORTHERN REWARD.)
Request you sail NARVIK to R/V S.C.139, B escorted by VIDETTE. S.C.139 E.T.A. position A 1000A/24.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 231728A to Cdre. D. W.A.)
- T.A.60A.
T.A.60. Convoy T.A. 60A SS. MAURETANIA will be ready to leave Liverpool on 27th August for New York and Convoy T.A.60. SS. PASTEUR on 29th August for Hampton Roads. 2. F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to sail ships accordingly.
(D.O.D.H. 231523A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)
- O.N.363. Sailed MOURNE to overtake O.N.363.
(Cdre. D. W.A. 231545A to B.2.)
- F.N.4. Your 201156 has been repeated to A.C.I.C. who has been requested to investigate.
(D.T.D. 231718A to N.C.S.O. Humber.)
- C.W.
Convoys. Admiralty's 211944. Times of sailing of C.W. Convoys cannot be adjusted in view of restricted lighting in Thames Estuary searched channels and (Daylight?) restrictions for passage through Straits of Dover. 2. If necessary sailing of convoys can be postponed 24 hours. 3. As the projected sailing dates of C.W. 205 and 206 coincide with low water springs in Q.Z.S.383 at the time the convoys are likely to pass this area, arrangements are being made to institute a special channel to the eastward to allow the heavy draught ships to proceed at any state of the tide.
(C. in C. Nore 231910A to Admty.)
- D.S.44. A.M. 161851. For VOLENDAM read CHAMPOLLION.
(D.O.D. H. 231938A.)
- Escort
Groups. Admiralty 191253. (1) I consider that a 14 day lay-over for O.S./SL. groups would entail a serious deterioration of training and morale and that the introduction of 5th group into this service at first opportunity is therefore essential. (2) Anticipate 7 Captain-Class Frigates of group 4 will have completed group exercises and be ready for service by September 17. (3) 4 of these ships will return from convoy duty in tropical waters early in September. If a satisfactory report is received as to their habitability under tropical conditions I intend that group 4 should escort O.S.55, thus introducing the 34-day lay-over with the least delay.
(C. in C. W.A. 232316A to Admty.)

/U.K...

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War Diary.23.8.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.U.K./Freetown
Lagos,
Convoys.

U.K./Freetown/Lagos convoys are being instituted on a 20 day cycle as follows:- D day
Sail Liverpool D + 19. Arrive Freetown D + 23.
Sail Freetown D + 29. Arrive Lagos D + 31.
Sail Lagos D + 38. Arrive Freetown. Clean boiler.
D + 46. Sail Freetown D + 66. Arrive Liverpool
D + 80. Sail Liverpool.

(2) These convoys will be escorted in turn by 37th, 38, 39 and newly formed 40th Group each Group doing the complete cycle from U.K. to Lagos and back. (3) A 5th Group may be available shortly in which case the lay-over in U.K. would be 34 days, during which the group at home would clean boilers, give leave, carry out exercises and subsequently be available for one turn for other duty in or adjacent to Home Waters. (4) (A) 40th Group will be based at Greenock and will consist of:- EXE S.O., BRIDGEWATER, MILFORD, MOYOLA, CLARKIA, PETUNIA, ARMERIA, CYCLAMEN, BURDOCK. (B) The 7 first name ships will escort S.L.136 due U.K. 23rd Sept. CYCLAMEN completes trials at Sheerness 3rd September and has been ordered to Tobermory to work up. BURDOCK recently started refit at Sheerness. (5) 38th Group will return with S.L.137. 39th Group with S.L.138 and so on. .
(C. in C. W.A. 232318A.)

War Diary.23.8.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

U.G.S.14 U.G.S.14 sailed as in my 211129 plus GEORGE LEONARD, ELBRIDGE GERRY, JOHN STEPHENS, WILLIAM GILES, WILLIAM TRAVIS, NEWTON D. BAKER, JOSEPH HOOKER to Bizerta for Palermo, HELEN JACKSON for Oran. All with Army stores. Cdre. Armstrong R.N.R. embarked in H.M. Tug CHARON to transfer at sea.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 230112B to N.Os. I.C. North African Ports (R) Admty. etc).

U.G.S.14. Arrivals CHARLES M. CONRAD, JAMES BIRNEY, STEPHEN DOUGLAS, PONCE DE LEON, JAMES BARBOUR, RICHARD BASSETT, JOHN FISKE, CORNELIUS GILLIAM, MAGDALA.

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 230250B to C. in C. Med).

U.G.S.14 Casablanca section arrived 1130A/23 JOHN HARVEY, JOHN MITCHELL, LEONIDAS POLK, ROBERT F. HOKE, GREEN MOUNTAIN. Task Force 65, U.S. destroyer LIVERMORE, KEARNY, EBERLE, U.S. ERICSSON, U.S. TARBELL, U.S. UPSHUR, PILOT (corrupt group) COSSATOT. Add ROBERT DROPARY* to ships in company.
(Commorseafron, 231535B to P.D. Norfolk) (ROBERT E. PEARY)

K.M.F.22 Arrivals CAMERONIA, BOISSEVAIN, ANTENOR, JOHANN DE WITT.
(F.O.C. Gib., 230934B to Admty).

Dispositions. Add new para. (11) to my 230958 (N.T. in W.R.) SCYLLA (?CARLISLE) sail Gibraltar p.m./23rd through *(78) 036° 02' N., 003° 01' W. 56.12. 74.(?14) to Algiers speed 23.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 231208B)*as received.

Situation report for Area XB, 2002B/23rd.

1. P.211 (SAFARI) 037° 24' 009° 24' through 038° 50' 010° 01' thence 333° 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ /2.
2. G.U.S.12, C.T.F.64 035° 01' 016° 36' through 035° 01' 018° 01' thence 260° 9.
3. (?FOLKESTONE) (A) 026° 26' 015° 50' 229° 20.
4. S.L.135 FOWEY 029° 50' 012° 09' through 030° 01' 012° 01' thence 027° 7.
5. O.G.92 K.M.S.24 S. 045° 26' 017° 52' through 044° 30' 018° 31' thence 180° 6 $\frac{1}{2}$.
6. Portuguese Naval Training Ship SAGRES sailed Lisbon 21st for Funchal.
7. 2 Spanish Naval Training Ships sailed Marin 18th for Canary Islands.
8. Portuguese Sloop AFONSO DE ALBUQUERQUE sailed Funchal 23rd for Lagos (Portugal).
(F.O. Gibraltar, 231120B).

SAFARI

After passing through position V proceed through new position S.A. 043° 01' 012° 50' at 0210B/27th. Delete all reference to position S in sailing orders. Submerged bombing restrictions arranged.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 231216B to SAFARI (R) Admty. F.O.C. Subs etc).

Your 221942 arranged. E.T.A. position S.A. 0210B/27.
(F.O.C. Gib. 231234B to F.O.S. (R) Admty. C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.) W.D. Note. See also 231808B.

/Movements...

War Diary.23.8.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.Movements,
Gibraltar.Arrivals Greek KING GEORGE II with Gibraltar
Section U.G.S.14.
ANTHONY, ACTIVE with SS. VILLE D'ORAN ex K.M.F.
22. LADY HOGARTH escort duties Almeria M.M.S.100
101 from Casablanca.Departures ALYNBANK, B.Y.M.S. 22, 23, Tug CHARON to U.G.S.14,
CARLISLE, WILTON to K.M.F.22. IMPERIALIST escorting Cable ship
MARIE LOUISE MACKAY to the East.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 231249B to Admty. etc).Ships for
Towing U.K.
X.K.2.
(X.K.11).There are four ships of speed of seven knots or
less awaiting convoy to U.K. Following ships
will be ready for tow to U.K. by end of August.
LANCE towed by PROSPEROUS, FANTOME towed by LARIAT
EMPIRE MORN towed by SCHELDE and HUDSON, FORT
BABINE no tugs allocated. My 051512, refers.
(2) Propose special slow convoy X.K.2 S. of A.6 knots be sailed at beginning of September escorted by ST.
NECTAN and ARCTIC RANGER (Gibraltar trawlers requiring refit
in U.K.) and B.5 Group unless other escort can be provided instead
of latter.(F.O. Gibraltar, 231254B to C. in C. Med) Reply: C. in C. Med.
241213B, Admty. 252344A. Title amended to X.K.11.
(Admty. 261646A).CAMPION,
MALLOW,
FRISCO,
S.L.135.My P.C. and S. at 1400Z 030° 17' 012° 05' 037°
12.5 knots. E.T.A. Casablanca in company MALLOW,
FRISO D.S.1700Z/24th.
P.C. and S. S.L. 135 at 0600Z 028° 46' 013° 09'
036° 7 knots 027° 37' 014° 03'.
Please inform Netherlands Consulate, Casablanca.
(CAMPION, 231500Z to C.M.S.F. (R) F.O.I.C.
Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Casablanca, C. in C. Med. S.O.
37th E.G.)Convoy
C.G.57.Arrival FORT RUPERT.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 231503B to C.M.S.F.)

SHROPSHIRE

Following received via WESTON (begins).
Addressed F.O.C.W.A. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar from
SHROPSHIRE, E.T.A. Freetown 1100Z August 26.
(Ends).
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 231614B to F.O.C.W.A.,
Admty).

/SAFARI...

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23.8.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

SAFARI,
patrol
zones.

Following additional permanent patrol zones are to be lightly pencilled on operational chart J.6 between lat. $047^{\circ} 25'$ $046^{\circ} 45'$ and long. $005^{\circ} 25'$ W. $004^{\circ} 30'$ W.

J.7 between lat. $046^{\circ} 05'$ $045^{\circ} 20'$ and long. $005^{\circ} 00'$ W. $003^{\circ} (730')$ W. J.9 between lat. $045^{\circ} 04'$ $045^{\circ} 00'$ and long. $005^{\circ} 20'$ $005^{\circ} 50'$ W.

J.8 bound by parallel of $045^{\circ} 00'$ and line drawn from 075° through $044^{\circ} 25'$ $005^{\circ} 00'$ W. and long. 005° W. 003° W.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 231808B to SAFARI (R) F.O.(S)).

BERRY

My P.C. and S. 2000B/23rd $030^{\circ} 50'$ $011^{\circ} 29'$ 035° 12 knots. Port engine in use only. Request diver to examine starboard shaft on arrival. E.T.A. Casablanca 1900Z/24th.
(BERRY 232001B to C.M.S.F. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med., C. in C. W.A., Escort Group 37).

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23.8.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

- NEPAL. Arrived.
(Cdre. Durban, 230634Z to Admty. etc.)
- ESSO NORFOLK. ESSO NORFOLK dispersed A/2100 22nd August in
10° 23' N. 19° 35' W.
(F.O.C.W.A., 230920Z to Connnav, (R) Admty.
N.S.H.Q.)
- FORT NIAGARA. Your 221701 (No trace in W.R.) M.L. 231574
only available escort for FORT NIAGARA.
(Comar Dakar, 231026Z to F.O.C.W.A.(R) T.C.21.)
- CAP LORRAINE. Sailing date will be adjusted to comply with
your 201142.
(C. in C. S.A. 231035B to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty.)
- A/C attack on U/B 20th August. U/Boat Report.
1. A. Admty., Air Ministry, C. in C.E.F.
A.H.Q. East Africa. B. A.O.S./5. C. 20th August.
D. R.A.F. Tulear, E. 259 Squadron. F. Catalina C
G. North Atlantic. H. Flight Lieut. L.O.
Barnett B.G.
2. A. Yes. C. 1310C 20th August. D. 28.40 S. 42.36 E.
E. 2650 fathoms.
3. A. W. B. (1) 285 T. 2000 feet. (2) Six miles 045° to port
(3) Easterly 10 to 12 knots. C. (1) Yes. (2) No.
4. A. N.A. B. N.A. C. 1313C. D. 060°. E. 50 feet.
F. 2650 fathoms.
5. B. (1) 25 feet. (2) six. (3) Mark 11. (4) Mark 16. (5) Six.
(6) 100 feet. (7) 90 to 100 feet.
6. A. Yes. B. Did not dive. C. Yes. D. Fell across bow
four to starboard two to port.
7. A. U/Boat reduced speed and developed list to port which
slowly increased. Dived at 1346C on course 225. B. Oil
streaks after U/Boat submerged. C. About 40 minutes.
D. No air or oil bubbles. E. 1200 of point three and 600.5
several bursts placed on C/T.
8. A. Light M.G. and cannon fire during initial attack.
Cannon fire probably 20 MM during subsequent attacks at about
800 to 1000 yards. B. No.
9. A. No. D. Yes. E. Four hours 45 minutes. F. 1758C.
10. Yes intermittently for 30', to obtain data of no
assistance as U/Boat seen visually first.
11. A. Fair. B. 030 T. 30 knots. C. 6/10 - 8/10 cumulus
1500 2000 feet. D. Five improving 10 - 10 miles. E. Moderate.
12. A. Yes. B. Light grey 250 feet long squarish conning
tower deck dark grey or black no marks crew wore brown overalls
and flat dark blue caps. No wire cutter seen. C. Front gun
one quarter distance from conning tower to bows. After gun
equidistant between conning tower and stern. D. German. E. No.
13. Photographs to follow. 14. Aircraft sighted U/Boat at
1310C and made diving turn to port crossing fins of U/Boat at

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23.8.1943.

Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

A/C
attack
on U/B
20th August.
(Contd.)

50 feet. During dive, fire opened with front and port Blister gun and hits observed on decks and conning tower.

Six depth charges dropped during this attack straddling U/Boat four to starboard and two to port. Speed of U/Boat noticeably reduced and list to port developed which increased until U/Boat submerged 30 mins. later. Remained submerged about 45 mins. Oil streaks seen immediately after U/Boat submerged and again five mins. before it resurfaced. Smoke and flame floats dropped. On resurfacing U/Boat again opened fire and flack continued every time the aircraft approached. Accuracy of aim deteriorated after first attack. At 1705C relieving Catalina sighted and machine gun attacks made on last of these, enemy flak had ceased and no one observed on deck or in conning tower. Aircraft observed attack by N/265 and after depth charges had exploded U/Boat had completely disappeared and a large upheaval of oil was seen gushing to surface which spread over large area. Successful in damaging U/Boat so that apparently it could not stay submerged. Good shadowing and co-operation enabled relieving aircraft to carry out a good attack. (C. in C.S.A. 231109B to Admty. etc.) W.D. Note:- Admiralty Commendation, see 241943A.

U/Boat report.

1. A. Admty., Air Ministry, C. in C.E.F., A.H.Q.E.A., B. A.O. S/6. C. 20th August. D. Tulear, E. 265 Squadron. F. Catalina N. G. N. Atlantic. H. Fl. Off. C.E. Robin.
2. A. Yes. C. 1705 C. 20th August. D. 2905 South 42.30 East. E. 2650 fathoms.
3. A. Wake. Bl. 75° 1500 feet. 2. 75 T. 10 miles. 3. 200° 10 kts C. yes.
4. C. 1730C. D. 40° across stern from starboard. E. 50 feet. F. 2650 fathoms.
5. B.1. 25 feet. 2. Eight. 3. Six mark eight Torpex, two mark eight Amatol. 4. Marks 11 and 13 (five) Six (six) 75 feet (7) 75 feet.
6. A. Yes. B. Yes parallel to line of attack. C. Yes. D. Three on each side four estimated within lethal range.
7. A. Flying debris observed during explosions. B. Yes. C. Immediately after D. large oil patch 200 by 100 feet at position of attack. E. 500.5 300.3 Hits seen on deck and conning tower.
8. A. Yes. 9. A. No. D. No. Reached PLE. E. 31 minutes F. 1801C 10. No. 11. A. Overcast. B. 025T 25 knots. C. 10/10 Strata cumulus 1700 feet. D. 3-10 miles. E. Rough.
12. A. Yes. B. Two 3.5 guns fore and aft of conning tower, 250-300 feet long. No marks. Light grey. Wire railing round hull. Cables from bows to conning tower. C. 20-25 feet from conning tower fore and aft. D. German. E. No.
14. While carrying out square search loop bearings obtained from C/259. U/boat sighted at 1705C, circled U/Boat and silenced flak which had been aiming wildly in spasmodic bursts.

/Aircraft...

23.8.1943.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

A/C
attack
on U/B
20th
August.
(Contd.)

Aircraft made two runs over U/Boat firing front and tunnel guns. No crew then visible. U/Boat on aircraft's third run the U/Boat turned parallel to line of attack made violent turns across line of attack, and six depth charges were dropped three falling on each side four estimated within lethal range. Debris flew into air during explosions and after the water had subsided, U/Boat had completely disappeared leaving patch of oil.

15. An excellent attack and in view of corroborative evidence by the crew of C/259 it is probable that the attack was successful and the U/Boat destroyed.
(C. in C.S.A. 231233B to Admty. etc.)

Personnel transport

Your 111553 July (Hush). D.S.T.O. W.A's. 211602 to D. of S.T. and my 201142. By end of September there will be 2000 persons on coast awaiting homeward passage exclusive of reliefs resulting from arrival of W.S.33 which appears likely will add a further 2000. Escorts working W.S.33 and possible LORRAINE will form convenient opportunity for homeward escort if suitable transport could be made available ex Cape. This should reduce personnel subsequently awaiting passage to numbers quoted in your 111553 July.
(F.O.C.W.A. 231115Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.)

Dispositions. Situation at 1959Z/23rd. P.614 159° 21' S. (1909° 45' through 000° 00' (1920°) 00' thence 332° 8½.
COWSLIP escorting 000° 04' 005° 01' 071° to Lagos
9. DUNKERY screening off (corrupt group)
ARRAN screening off Marshall. ORFASY M.L.302 and 266 escorting 005° 30' 000° 48' east to Takoradi 8.
M.L.296 and 287 005° 50' 001° 28' East coastal to Takoradi 10.
M.L. 1014 off Kotonu M.L.1016, 1018 off Accra Cdt. D'ESTIENNE
D'ORVES F.S. 002° 45' S. 009° 50' E. to Banana 11.
(F.O.C.W.A. 231121Z.)

Situation at 2000Z/23rd August. VERBENA, LADY ROSEMARY, NORTHERN ISLES, NORWICH CITY, ODBERG with D.C.40 (14 ships) 034° 43' 020° 45' coastal to Capetown 8 knots.
HAWKINS 032° 37' 028° 46' R.10 to Durban 18.
THYME, NORTHERN CHIEF, TURFFONTEIN with C.D.32 (3 ships) 030° 05' 031° 01' coastal to Durban 8.
GENISTA, FREESIA, ARCTIC EXPLORER, INDIAN STAR with C.B.4 (5 ships) 021° 01' 038° 01' to Beira 8.
ALBATROSS 033° 40' 028° 15' route R.9 to Capetown 15 knots.
NIGELLA approx. 028° 30' 042° 30' direct to Durban 14.
NEWCASTLE 029° 15' 037° 15' to 036° 28' 028° 33' 19.
SORSRA with M.C.9 (2 ships) 017° 30' 040° 45' to 020° 01' 035° 07' 8.

(C. in C.S.A. 231204B.)

/Situation...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Dispositions
(Contd.)

Situation at 2000 23rd August.
F.S. SUFFREN, F.S. DUGUAY-TROUIN 22° 30' 011°
25' to 020° 00' 010° 05' 18½ knots.
(C. in C. S.A. 231211B.)

W.S.32.

Intend sail W.S.32 by route A. in C. in C. E.F.
201244. Route from Durban by approach route 5.
2. It is presumed position Q. in para. 2 of
C. in C.E.F.'s 201244 should read P.
(C. in C.S.A. 231155B to C. in C.E.F. N.O.I.C.
Durban (R) Admty., etc.) Confirmed: C. in C.E.F.
231711Z.

Use of
Pointe
Noire
as Convoy
Port.

N.L.O. Resmin's Para. No.3 (201611Z). Presume
"French" should read "Belgian". In my opinion
under present i.e. normal conditions N.C.S.O.
should remain at loading port Matadi but during
convoy assembly fuelling operations by H.M.Ships
a member of N.C.S. Staff should be detached
temporarily (several groups and T.O.O. missing.)
(B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, No T.O.O. to N.C.S.O.
Matadi, (R) F.O.C.W.Af. N.C.S.O. Freetown, Admty.)
W.R. Note:- B.N.L.O. Point Noire has incorrectly
read Geographical signification i.e. French
instead of "fully" concur.

ERLING,
BROVIG
fuelling of
RAMILLIES.

Arrival Pointe Noire 1100Z 25th tanker ERLING
BROVIG.
Will remain in accordance with para. 5 your
221417.
(B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, 231205A to F.O.C.W.Af.(R)
Admty. etc.)
My 221254 and 221417.

- (1) Retain 2500 tons furnace oil in ERLING BROVIG.
- (2) Sail her with least possible delay to discharge Diesel at
Ango Ango and thence to Walvis Bay to arrive Walvis Bay 3rd
September at latest.
- (3) Report forthwith if this programme cannot be carried out
and if so time of arrival Walvis Bay.
(F.O.C.W.A. 231807Z to B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire (R) Vice Consul,
Matadi, Admty. C. in C.S.At.)
My 231807. Poor holding ground in Congo River made
fuelling of battleships on passage North impossible. It was
practicable only by using floating hose method at anchor outside.
Consider swell makes fuelling RAMILLIES alongside from ERLING
BROVIG off Point Noire most undesirable, and that only sound
alternative is to make use of shelter in Walvis Bay.
(F.O.C.W.A., 231904Z to Admty., C. in C.S.A. (R) B.N.L.O.
Pointe Noire, RAMILLIES.)

/SWALE...

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23.8.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

SWALE, THYSVILLE, damage. SWALE on arrival Lagos a.m. 21st August secured head and stern to numbers 6 and 5 buoys on flood tide head south east. THYSVILLE was berthed at 5 and 4 buoys head north west. Due to failure of ship's boat to secure picking up wire to bow, buoy stern of SWALE fouled 5 buoy and stern hawsers of THYSVILLE. Divers have examined both ships. Damage to SWALE slight and above water. It can be repaired during period of boiler cleaning. Damage reported to propellers of THYSVILLE as follows. (details). Consider it unlikely that damage to starboard propeller was caused by SWALE. Propellers are phosphor-bronze and five spare blades carried. Marine surveyor and Assistant Constructor are surveying THYSVILLE. Further signal will be made. (R.N.O. Lagos, 231635Z to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty. SWALE.) See also 271709Z.

Weekly state, Cape Blanco area: ENCHANTRESS, LEITH, SANDWICH, W.Af. station, VIOLET, ANCHUSA, COLUMBINE, TEST, TRENT FAL, 21st August. BLACKWOOD, DRURY, JOHAN MAURITS, BAZELY, FOWEY, MYOSOTIS, MALLOW, CAMPION, FRISO, BERRY, STONECROP, CROCUS, WOODRUFF.

Dakar Area: SNOWDROP.

Freetown: Fleet Unit FOXHOUND, (?BOADICEA), CILICIA, CORFU, ASTURIAS, QUALITY, ROEBUCK, TEVIOT, HELFORD, PLYM, COMMANDANT DETROYAT.

Freetown area: CLARKIA, WITCH, BRILLIANT, WOLVERINE, BEAGLE, EXE, BULLDOG, DOUGLAS, CATTERICK 2 Fleet Units.

Cape Palmas area: BRIDGEWATER, MOYOLA, MILFORD, ARMERIA, PETUNIA, WELLINGTON, ABERDEEN, LOWESTOFT, FOLKESTONE, COWSLIP, GORLESTON, CARNARVON CASTLE.

Lagos: BELLWORT, SWALE.

Pointe Noire: COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, F.S. PRESIDENT HOUDUCE.

(F.O.C.W.A. 231737Z.)

Shipping Estimate. Your 161804. Revised estimate of numbers per month to U.K. direct and via Freetown are:-
(a) From South America 45 (b) From Cape 12.
2. Outward shipping from U.K. about 10 per cent less. 3. Above figures include 4 in each of (a) and (b) of over 15 knots.
(D.T.D. 231849A to F.O.C.W.A.)

Movements, Takoradi. Arrival August 23rd WELLINGTON, GORLESTON, FOLKESTONE, LOWESTOFT, ABERDEEN.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 231850Z to Admty. etc.)

S.L.Convoy. Pass to N.C.S.Os. and B.R.L.Os. S.L.136 is expected to sail from Freetown 3rd September. Convoys thereafter at 20 day intervals. Inform M.W.T.Rs.
(D.T. D. 231916A to F.O.C.W.Af., C. in C.S.At., S.O.(I) Recife.)

/Trawler...

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23.8.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Trawler
Refits.

The seven "Hill" class trawlers now serving on W.Af. Station will shortly become due for refit. Propose these trawlers should return to U.K. to refit, sailing in turn as additional escort to S.L. convoys, in a similar manner as corvettes. If this is approved in principle a programme will be proposed. This class of ship have proved themselves a valuable addition to escort force and their operational value, accommodation, and facilities are markedly superior to other trawlers on the station. In view of this it is strongly recommended that they should return to this station after refit for an 18 months period as for corvette. (F.O.C.W.A. 232019Z to Admty.)

40th
Escort
Group.

Your 211613 (Forming of new Escort Group consisting of EXE (S.O.) BRIDGEWATER, MILFORD, CLARKIA, PETUNIA, ARMERIA and MOYDIA).
(1) Group will be named 40th Group and will be based at Greenock and administered by Capt. (D) Greenock.
(2) Request accounts may be transferred to

H.M.S. ORLANDO,
(C. in C.W.A., 232321A to Capt. (D) Freetown, (R) Admty.,
F.O.C.W.Af., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Capt. (D) Greenock.)

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Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. Position of 2 M.T.Bs. is 42° 04' N. 11° 44' E. (A/C CJO/L 230050B). P.C. and S. of 2 destroyers and one medium vessel is 42° 00' N. 9° 34' E. 180° and 6 knots. (A/C CJO/S 230212B).

Movements Alexandria. August 22nd arrivals HONEYSUCKLE, M.L.355. (R.A. Alexandria, 230701C to Admty).

10th S/M Flotilla summary at 2000/23rd. (1) P.51 (UNSEEN) 040° 32' 018° 41' to patrol off Bari. (2) P.44 (UNITED) off Aliche Point. (3) O.R.P. SOKOL 037° 02' 017° 24' through 035° 44' 016° 38' to 035° 45' 016° 18' at 2000/24th. (4) P.46 (UNRUFFLED) 036° 00' 016° 50' to 037° 57' 019° 43' at 2000/24th. (Capt. S.10, 230710).

Movements, Beirut. 22nd August 1943. Arrivals M.Ls. 357, 349. Departures IERAX, COMMANDANT DUBOC, M.L.357, 349, 360. (S.O.(I) Beirut, 230855C to Admty).

M.E. Air Report. A.670. Daily Opsum 117. 21/22 August. 6 Liberators B.24, 11 Halifaxes Cotrone marshalling yards. 1 Halifax returned early. Remainder bombed. Poor visibility hampered observation but large fires with explosions started in area of yards. One large fire Western outskirts Cotrone, several small fires in factory area North of yards. 1 Wellington anti-shipping R/C Preveza. 1 tanker 4,000 tons 1 merchant vessel 2,500 tons bombed outside harbour. Results unobserved. 2 Wellingtons anti-shipping R/C Aegean. No sightings. 22nd August. 2 Beaufighters anti-shipping R/C Aegean. 1 Caique 60 tons attacked Exo Nimfi in Gulf of Laconia. Bombs overshoot destroying small boats in vicinity. 1 Caique 250 tons bombed in Githion. No hits. Vessel attacked with cannon. 1 Caique 20 tons left sinking in Monemvasia after cannon attack. 3 Beaufighters anti-shipping R/C W. coast Greece. 1 tanker 2,000 tons bombed in Preveza. 2 near misses. Tug in harbour attacked with cannon. 1 merchant vessel 6/7000 tons attacked with cannon fire East of Cape Ducato. Following delayed details. 21 August. 2 Beaufighters anti-shipping R/C West Coast Greece, 1 M/V 400 tons attacked with bombs and cannon in Demata Bay near Prevesa. 2 near misses. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 230951Z).

G.U.S.13 Pass to Cdre. Intend to join (list, 4 ships). (N.O.I.C. Bone, 231056B to Escorts of Convoy G.U.S.13, N.O.I.C. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Oran).
Your 231056. Last groups received corrupt, please signal position of R/V. (FARNDALE, 251321B to N.O.I.C. Bone).

/Pass...

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23.8.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- G.U.S.13 (contd). Pass to Cdre. and Ships escorting Convoy G.U.S.13. Intend sailing (list). (V.A. Malta, 231101B to FARNDALE, (R) Admty. etc).
- 8th Sub. 1. P.224 (SICKLE) east Casablanca Corsica.
Fl. Movements 3. P.217 (SIBYL) in Gulf of Genoa.
at 2000/23rd. (Capt. S.8., 231106B).
- K.M.S.23 Pass to Cdre. and escorts K.M.S.23. Intend sailing (list), all ballast, all Alex for orders. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 231107 to SHOREHAM (R) M.W.T.R. Alex. Admty. Connav etc).
Following is correct version of my 231348B (not circulated) (begins) Addressed A.I.G.259. K.M.S. 23. FORT VILLE MARI arrived with fire in No.4 hold. My 231343 to C. in C. Med. only refers (Ends).
(N.O.I.C. Bone, 231521 to Admty. etc).
- U.G.S.14 Pass to Cdre. and Escort U.G.S.14. Intend to sail 10, CHLORIS Philippeville; 10, GULF OF VENEZUELA, M/F Bizerta. (N.O.B. Oran, 231109B to ALYNBANK, (R) Conroute, C. in C. Med. Admty. etc).
- UNITED Leave patrol to pass $039^{\circ} 25' 017^{\circ} 17'$ at 0600/27 $038^{\circ} 56' 018^{\circ} 34'$ at 0300/28th $035^{\circ} 45' 016^{\circ} 38'$ at 1231/29th to R/V (corrupt group) 5 miles east of end of eastern Channel at 0800/30.
Surface passage on 28th.
2. M.J.A.O. 24. Request bombing restrictions for above passage. (Capt. (S) 10, 231120B to P.44 (UNITED) (R) 10th S/M F., C. in C. Med. etc).
- M.K.S.22 Algiers Section arrived (9 ships). (Cdre. Algeria, 231132B to Admty. etc).
K.M.S.22 arrived 22nd August. PELICULA (T), SPONDILUS (T), ORNA, OCEAN PRIDE. Sailed 22nd for Sicily. PELICULA (T), SPONDILUS, (T), NASPRITE (T), ORNA, OCEAN PRIDE. (V.A. Malta, 231148B to Admty. etc).
M.K.S.22 arrived. ULLA, WEARFIELD, NASSAU, WILLIAM D. MOSELEY, DAVID G. FARRAGUT, JOEL C. HARRIS, FORT GROUARD, MAYA, COXWOLD, EMPIRE KINGSLEY, B.Y.M.S.31, 68, 186, 187.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 232015B to C. in C. Med).
- ULTOR, Intend sailing (P.53) ULTOR and (P.45) UNRIVALLED
UNRIVALLED. at 1500/24th via Eastern Channel as follows.
(P.53) ULTOR passing $035^{\circ} 56' 016^{\circ} 31'$ at 0900/25th $037^{\circ} 37' 017^{\circ} 32'$ at 2000/26th $038^{\circ} 38' 018^{\circ} 10'$ at 1000/27th thence course 297° for patrol in Gulf of Taranto. (P.45) UNRIVALLED follows same route 4 hours later having future (P.53) ULTOR to get ahead during night 24/25th. M.J.A.O.24 request submerged bombing restrictions for above passages.
(Capt. S.10, 231140B to Capt. S.1., C. in C. Med. etc).

/GERDA...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

GERDA TOFT,
BACCHUS.

A. My 211807C. GERDA TOFT and BACCHUS sailed for Pireaus 0200 G.M.T. August 23rd.
B. Speed estimated 9 knots. Expected time of entry Aegean dawn August 24th.
C. Report B.3 Tanker expected to arrive Dardanelles from Aegean today.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 231140C to C. in C. Levant etc).

SHAKESPEARE

Intend sailing P.221 (SHAKESPEARE) at 1700/24th routed 038° 01' 005° 00' at 0500/25th 038° 43' 009° 52' at 0415/27th 040° 15' 013° 01' at 2215 28th to patrol in Tyrrhenean Sea North of 040° N. East of 013° E.

(Capt. (S) 8th, 231222B to C. in C. Med. (R) S.O. Force H, N.O.I.C. Malta, 8th S/F LA SULTANE, ARETHUSE, Capt. (S) 10th).

My 2312222. SHAKESPEARE (P.221) sailed 24th August, will make and receive signals decypherable by SHAKESPEARE (P.221) and Capt. (S) 8th S.F. only.

(Capt. (S) 8th S.F., 231228B to Capt. (S) 1st S.F., C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 10 (R) Admty. F.O.I.C. Gib. Subs on patrol).

QUEEN EMMA

Your 201230 August.

Request information regarding damage to QUEEN EMMA and time you estimate she will be out of action.

(D.O.D. (F), 231321A to C. in C. Med., (R) C. in C. Portsmouth).

TALLY HO.

Leave patrol diving by day through 042° 20' 005° 49' at 1000/27, 038° 01' 004° 25' at 22005/29 thence on surface at your discretion to R/V escort Algiers in 036° 56' 003° 14' at 0630/30.

2. Keep west of 006° E. after 0001/27th. ARETHUSE F/S will keep East of 006° E. until 1200/27.

(Capt. S.8., 231342B to P.317 (TALLY HO) (R) C. in C. Med. (A) ARETHUSE F/S, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Algiers, 8th S.F.)

Axis
Shipping,
orders to
TAURUS,
TACTICIAN.

1. Ships in my 211531 now expected to enter Aegean a.m./24th speed reported 9 knots.

2. (P.339) TAURUS remaining off Dardanelles adjusting patrol to pass (a) 035° 15' 026° 35' at 0101C/27th. (b) 034° 09' 029° 26' at 0402C/28th thence direct on surface to arrive Beirut 0603C/29th.

3. (P.314) TACTICIAN patrolling of Trhimiri before dawn 25th. (Capt. S.1., 231458C to (P.339) TAURUS (P.314) TACTICIAN (R) C. in C. Levant, 1st S.F.)

/SPONDILUS...

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23.8.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

SPONDILUS My 112144 (N.T. in W.R.) and C. in C. Levant's 181220 (SPONDILUS to be routed to the West). After discharge request tanker SPONDILUS be sailed to Bizerta to reload furnace oil and return to Augusta to discharge to shore.
2. On completion to be sailed to U.K. for repairs. Admty. 211320 refers.
3. Movements at first convoy opportunity.
4. C. in C. Levant pass to M.W.T.R. M.E. (C. in C. Med. 231640B to F.O. Sy. etc).

U.G.S.13 Following arrived. DESTRO, BLAIRCLOVA, COOMBE HILL, CAP ST. JACQUES, OLIGARCH. (R.A. Alexandria, 231657C to Admty).

Movements Port Said. 23rd August Port Said arrivals: AETOS, PANTHER, COMMANDANT DOMINE, H.M.S. RAGEA, departures Y.S.S. DURMITOR, Y.S.S. KAJMAKAIAN, R.F.A. DERWENTDALE, AETOS, PANTHER, COMMANDANT DOMINE. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 231701C to Admty. etc).

GEORGE GIPP, JAMES OLIVER. Have you any news of GEORGE GIPP and JAMES OLIVER due Aden 16th and 17th August respectively from Hobart? (D.T.D. 231723A to N.C.S.O. Aden (R) C. in C.E.F. etc.) Reply: 250745A.

K.M.S. 22 Pass to Cdre. and escorts K.M.S. 22. My 211100 (EMPIRE CARPENTER) sailed. (N.O.B. Oran, 231731B to SLAZAK).

LETITIA LETITIA arrived and left for Algiers passengers as per my 231746. Accommodation available for you first and second class 143 troop deck 1933. Agreed. (D.S.T.O. Malta, 231745B to D. of S.T.)

Storage of Mines. Personal for D.D.O.D. (M) from F.T.O. Numbers. (C. in C. Levant, 231809C to Admty).

TEMPLAR Intend sailing TEMPLAR at 0430/25th routed through 035° 51' 015° 24' at 1200/25th 035° 25' 017° 33' at 0600/26th 034° 05' 024° 07' at 1200/27th thence as ordered by S.I. She will proceed submerged during daylight 25th, remainder of passage on surface, S. of A. 11 knots.
2. M.J.A.O. 24. Request bombing restrictions for above passage. (Capt. S.10, 231810B to C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, etc).

/Movements...

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23.8.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements, Augusta. Serial No. (?) Port Augusta, arrival. (3) 23rd August 1943. - (4) NASPRITE, PELLICULA, SPONDILUS, ST. JULIAN (Hospital Carrier 29) ST. JULIAN (Hospital Carrier) (as received.) (4) 231830. (5) Syracuse. (6) 231930. (7) Request sailing orders. (N.O.I.C. Augusta, 231901 to Admty.)

Malta Air Report. A.I.1096. Opsum No.105. 22nd August. 2 Spitfires made photo R/C of Taranto and special areas in toe of Italy. 1 Baltimore made A/S patrol and 4 Beaufighters provided escort for friendly shipping. 22nd/23rd August. 4 Mosquitoes made intruder patrols in Taranto area. 1 Wellington made shipping R/C in Gulf of Taranto, 1 Wellington made A/S patrol for friendly shipping and 1 Wellington made A/S search east of Sicily in co-operation with naval units. 6 Beaufighters and 2 Mosquitoes made interception patrols north of Malta and 2 Malta Beaufighters were airborne from Sicily on interception patrols. 23rd August. 5 Spitfires made photo R/C of Taranto, Naples, southern Italian aerodromes, north-west Greece and special areas toe of Italy. 3 Baltimores made A/S patrols for friendly shipping. (A.H.Q. Malta, 231933B.)

M.K.S.23. Request you sail (list and destinations). (C. in C. Levant, 231939 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria, (R) F.O.Sy., Connav, etc.)

Med. Air Report. Signed Eisenhower. Para. 3. Air Cosintrep No.44. 22nd August N.W.A. Air Forces. Night 21/22 August, 63 Wellingtons dropped 102 tons of bombs on marshalling yards at Battipaglia. Day 22nd August 64 B.26s bombed marshalling yards at Salurno where good coverage was obtained of target area. (C. in C. Med (Air), 231943B.)

12th M.S. Flotilla. Your 191425B para. 2 complete. Negative result. Para. 3 complete in "George" formation. 5 Mark XVI mines. E.T.A. Reefs 1100/24th with FLY, CADMUS 3 whalers and M.L. (S.O. 12th M/S Flotilla, 232001B to S.N.O. Tripoli.)

Movements, Bizerta. Arrivals STRIVE, U.S. Dest. GLEAVES, U.S. Dest. NICHOLSON, NEGRO, GREGORY, ELBURY, KNIGHT, SPEED, L.S.Ts. 21, 176, 261, 72, 175, 73, 208, 209, 17, 25, 356, 349, 369, 377, 379, 624, L.C.Is. 33, 96, 229, 12, 209, 276, 115, 114; (? mine-sweepers 10 of 21st Flotilla, 9 of 22nd Flotilla, 5 of 12th Flotilla, Y.T.10, S.Cs. 5, 22. Departures MENDIP, HUNDA, KINTYRE, WESTRAY, FOULA, L.C.I.183. Arrival and departure GAWLER, ROMNEY, LISMORE. (Tunisia and Bizerta C.C.O., 232001Z, 260825B to C. in C. Med., etc.)

/Movements ...

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23.8.1943.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Movements,
Algiers.

Arrivals U.S.S. BENSON. Departures WISHART,
H.D.M.L.1229 French Submarine ARETHUSE.
(Com. Algeria, 232019B to Admty. etc).

Movements,
Oran.

Todays arrivals:- U.S.S. MAYO, B.Y.M.S.31
68, 186, 187. Todays departures U.S.S. BENSON.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 232025B to Admty. etc).

Situation
report No.
160.

1. During the night 21 August/22 August.
(A) F.S. TERRIBLE and FANTASQUE carried out sweep
in the Tyrrhenian Sea and D.19 in LAFOREY with four
destroyers operated off the coast of Calabria.
Neither force made an encounter.

(B) U.S. P.T. boats patrolled off Vibo Valentia and M.T.Bs. swept
round the Toe of Italy. The former found only an abandoned
schooner and the latter force had no incidents.

2. SS. CAPE MOHICAN reported torpedoed by accident at 2205/21
in position 33° 42' N., 16° 34' E. Details of incident not yet
received. Ship later reported on even keel with tugs proceeding
to her assistance.

U.458
(p.862)

3. EASTON rammed and sank German U-boat which was attempting
to escape on the surface at 2315/22 in position 36° 25' N. 12°
39' E. Some survivors picked up. H.M.S. EASTON was damaged by
the ramming and is being towed to Malta by Greek Ship PINDOS who
also assisted in the kill.

4. Air raid by about 20 E/A at Palermo 0405/23. 2 U.S.S.C.
destroyed and British Coaster damaged. Two aircraft claimed shot
down by fighters and two by A/A fire.

(C. in C. Med. 232041B to Admty) Amplified by 242249 q.v.

p.865

SIBYL

A patrol off Port Ferrajo Elba from 0600 to
1000 tomorrow Tuesday may be profitable from
westerly direction. Freedom 20 miles sector A or
(?B).
(Capt. (S) 8, 232056B to SIBYL).

Movements
Augusta.

23rd August. Arrivals QUANTOCK, PRINSES BEATRIX,
PRINCE LEOPOLD, PRINCE CHARLES, BONITO, JULIAN,
M.L.568, L.C.F. 18, L.C.I.132, L.C.T.332, 626.
Departures QUANTOCK, H.M.S. PRINSES BEATRIX,
PRINCES CHARLES, RAIDER, BONITO, JULIAN, L.C.I.
132, 127, 264.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 232114 to Admty).

Movements,
Haifa.

Arrival 23rd August M.Ls. 357, 360, 349 departure
23rd August IERAX, G.S. BREAM, M.Ls. 357, 360,
349.
(N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports (Haifa) 232123C to
Admty. etc).

/Movements...

23. 8. 1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements, Arrived ROYAL SCOTSMAN, L.C.T. (30?) L.C.I.(L)
Tripoli. 185, (?) 260 (250) sailed HAMBLEDON, L.C.T. 324
308 (?326), 361, 341, 325, 318, L.C.I.(L) 133.
(S.N.O. Tripoli, 232157B to Admty).

Movements, Arrived PRINSES BEATRIX, QUANTOCK, FLY, CRICE,
Tripoli. CADMUS, L.C.T. 537, 619, 586 L.C.I.(L) 256 sailed
L.C.G. 7 2 6, L.C.T. 343, 382, L.C.T.(L) 174, 184,
299, 309 QUANTOCK.
(S.N.O. Tripolitania, 232227B to Admty).

Movements Arrivals. BROCKLESBY, BLACKMORE, LEDBURY,
Malta. WHEATLAND, LEONIAN, ACUTE, VISENDA, RAIDER, SEA-
HAM, INTREPID, PRINCE CHARLES, EASTON, PINDOS.
A.S.I.S. KHETI, PACHECO, C.M. Zs. 721, 722,
H.D.M.L. 1257.

Departures LAUDERDALE, OAKLEY, M.L. 568, L.C.T. 622.
Arrivals and departures BLANKNEY, BLENCATHRA, LETITIA, L.C.I.(L)
256.
Departed and returned INGLEFIELD, FURY.
(V.A. Malta, 232317 to Admty. etc).

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23.8.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Allocation of H.L(P)'s. Boats referred to in C. in C. E.F. 131742 August should be consigned to Colombo. (F.O. Ceylon, 230306Z to C. in C. S.A. (R) C. in C. E.F. Admty. C.S. Simonstown.)

Movements. Left QUADRANT. (F.O. E.A. 230437Z to Admty.) Colombo departures 23rd August 0045 M.L's 438, 440, 441, 474, 475, 476, 477, 0618 M.M.S. ANGBY. (F.O. Ceylon, 231213Z)

Khor Kuwait arrival 0800Z/23rd BALUCHISTAN. (N.O.I.C. Hormuz, 231256Z)

Convoy Escorts, Kilindini, Durban Convoys. Reply to your 211633 is being deferred until arrival of C. in C's at Kilindini when full appreciation and intentions will be forwarded. (Dept. C. in C. E.F. 230725Z to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty., C. in C. E.F.)

LANCASHIRE. Due yours 27th. Numbers. Requirements. (D.S.T.O. Kilindini, 230745Z to D.S.T.O. Aden.)

ARAWA. Transport ARAWA sailed 22 August for River Plate via Durban with following. E.T.A. Durban 6th Sept. (D.S.T.O. Bombay, 230914Z to D.S.T.O. Durban)

DIPAVATI. Departure DIPAVATI escorting PEGU to Bombay. (N.O.I.C. Karachi, 231003Z to Admty.)

STIRLING CASTLE. Transport STIRLING CASTLE sailed 23rd August for Durban. E.T.A. 5th September. (D.S.T.O. Bombay, 231031Z to D.S.T.O. Durban)

BARODA. Arrival BARODA with one ship. (S.O.(I) Bombay, 231032Z to Admty.)

Convoy B.P.92. (1) (8 ships, list, destinations) (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 231107Z to Admty.)

W.S.32. Para. 2 of your 231155 confirmed. (C. in C. E.F. 231711Z to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty. F.O. Ceylon, F.O.C. Red Sea, N.O.I.C. Aden, Cdre. i/c Durban, Com. R.I.N., F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Use /...

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Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

Use of
Searchlights.

It is understood that use of searchlights against air attack at night has been investigated in Home Fleet and EXCELLENT. (2) Request result and recommendations of these investigations. (C. in C. E.F. 231153Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, C.S.4.)

Movements,
Bombay.

Departures 1105Z KUMAON, KONKAN, INVESTIGATOR with B.P.92, 0945Z LAWRENCE. (S.O.(I) Bombay, 231559Z to Admty. etc.)

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23.8.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.ST. KENAN,
CAPE
MARIATO,
THUNDER,
WESTMOUNT.ST. KENAN, CAPE MARIATO escorting 2 merchant
ships E.T.A. Sydney (C.B.) 1420Z/23.
THUNDER, WESTMOUNT P.C. and S. at 0200Z/23
045 degs. 46' N. 059 degs. 01' W. 325 degs.
12 knots E.T.A. Sydney (C.B.) 0830Z/23.
Weather Report.
(THUNDER, 230212Z to N.O.I.C. Sydney, C.B. (R)
C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q.)

CLARE.

Your 221731Z affirmative.
(C. in C. Lant, 230706Z to CLARE, Connav,
A.C.I.C. (R) C. in C. C.N.A. Admty. C. in C. W.A.,
N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., Cominch, C.E.S.F. Cmdr. (D)
Argentia Cmdre. (D) W.A., A.C.I.C., H.Q. C.C.,
C.T.F.24.)

Movements.

St. Johns N.F. 22nd.
Arrivals MALPEQUE, ESQUIMALT ex B.W. 53.
HOTSPUR, CHURCHILL, NASTURTIUM, TRILLIUM,
BOMBARDIER, GRIPER ex O.N.197.
TOWY, RENONCULE, NARCISSUS, ORCHIS ex search in position 43.51
N. 53.12 W. Departures MONTGOMERY, CHELSEA, COBALT, LACHINE
to O.N.197.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns, 230324Z)
Barbados arrival CORSAIR 0730Q and left for Bermuda
1200Q/23rd. E.T.A. 1200Q/27th.
(Harbour Master Barbados, 231301P)
Port Hueneme Calif. 18th TYPHOON (U.S.A.T.) for Espiritu
Santo.
(N.S.H.Q. 231350Z)
Arrival Bermuda French Submarine LE GLORIEUX and
French Minesweeper ANNAMITE.
(S.B.N.O. W.At. 231534Z to Admty.)
Arrival EYEBRIGHT, from Baltimore ex refit.
(C. Halifax, 232032Z to Admty. etc.)C.T.G.
02.6.This is re-encypherment of my 222259 (previously
received undecypherable). "My 221417 departed
Charleston 1721Q August 22."
(C.T.G. 02.6, 230415 to B.A.D., Cominch,
C.E.S.F., C.T.F.24, C.C.O. Newfoundland,
N.S.H.Q. Admty, C. in C. Lant, C. in C. Med.
C. in C. C.N.A., C. in C.C.W.A., C.T.G. 02.5.
C.T.G. 02.4, C.T.G. 02.3, C.T.G. 02.1.)

CHAMBLY.

C. in C. C.N.A. 181054Z. CHAMBLY sailed
St. Johns 1100Z/23rd for Londonderry by Great
Circle through (A) 48.00 N. 49.00 W. Speed
12 knots.
(F.O.N.F. 231120Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Convoy /...

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23.8.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.

Convoy X.B.70. Boston section arrived 230150Z. Cape Cod Canal Section arrived 230040Z (P.D. Boston, 231221Z to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)

B.Y.M.S. Arrival (?B.Y.M.S.) 77,214 from Boston. (Cdr. Halifax, 231305Z to Admty.)

SANTOS (Nor.) Survivors. 37 Survivors landed from SANTOS ex H.X.252 Pendant number 34. Missing presumed dead - Perry Dennis Mess Boy British. Walker Rober, Engine Room Boy British. Master reports vessel was sunk as result of collision with two unknown vessels. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 231315Z to Admty. Cominch, (R) N.S.H.Q.)

H.X.252 collision damage 18/19th August. Incidents in H.X. 252 on night August 18th/19th point to fact that damage to ships was caused by collision. On next occasion of breaking W/T silence report whether any other ships in convoy have damaged bows, also any other relevant information that can be obtained from ships in convoy. (F.O.N.F. 231349Z to C.1 (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A., C. in C. W.A., Admty.)

Your 221306 (N.T. in W.R.) not to all addressees. After interrogation of survivors from J.P. HENDERSON, J.H. SENIOR and SANTOS and of C.O's of ships concerned in reported torpedoings in H.X.252 consider that on balance the evidence points to a series of collisions in very low visibility. Type of damage sustained by HENDERSON and SENIOR bears this out. It is doubtful that any attack was made or that there was a submarine in the vicinity. Written report follows but awaits further information from ships in the convoy as in appears highly probable one of them has a damaged bow. (F.O.N.F.231433Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) N.S.H.Q., Admty. ?C. in C. W.A., S.O. E.G.B. 3, S.O. E.G. C.1, S.O., E.G.W.6, Cominch)

N.S.H.Q. S/M Estimate. 1200Z/23rd August one unlocated in Canadian Coastal Area. (N.S.H.Q. 231424Z)

LEAMINGTON. My 212002 for 30th August read 6th September. (B.A.M.R. 231501Z to C. in C. C.N.W.At., (R) N.S.H.Q., Admty., S.B.N.O., W.At.)

Aircraft /...

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23.8.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

Aircraft
Jamaica. 6382 cipher 23rd August. No British aircraft now available Jamaica for any purpose. Captain in Charge has already applied for retention of 2 Kingfish out of 20 now at Kingston to be handed to U.S.A. Navy but Admty. has refused. Aircraft urgently required for training fixed defences and Infantry Units, D.E.M.S., (?M) L's and A.T.C. also for (?Inter) Island communications. Am informed that most suitable type would be Walrus amphibious. Personnel for maintenance and Pilots (? available).
(Cdr. North Caribbean Sea Area, 231515Q to W.O.)

Convoy
B.X.70. Sailing telegram part 1, 8 knots.
J.T. Route: August 24th 2100Z at position Q.
E.T.A. Halifax 2100Z/26th. Task Unit W - 2.
Cdre. Cdr. Poole R.C.N.R. in SS. FORT TOWNSHEND.
ST. CLAIR (S.O), SHERBROOKE, MULGRAVE.
"Chop" 2100/25th. Q.J.A.226.
(P.D. Boston, 231516Z to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)

U.T.1
Escorts. Cominch's 221445Z. C. in C. C.N.A. is requested to arrange replacement for ERNE and FISHGUARD in escort of U.T.1. There seemsto be no other alternative.
(D.O.D.(H), 231534A to Cominch, C. in C. C.N.A.
(R) C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., Cinclant, DART.)

U.S.
S/M
Estimate. (Cominch, 231545Z)

AQUITANIA. Arrived New York 1121Z/23rd.
(P.D. New York, 231556 to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)

VICTORIOUS,
ROYAL
SOVEREIGN,
Escorts. Your 151645 and your 142015 para. 2(a). Unless ship's officers advise otherwise, concur that endurance appears insufficient.
(b) and (c) concur in employment of OPPORTUNE, OBDURATE and new frigates to provide screens as requisite for VICTORIOUS and ROYAL SOVEREIGN (d) considered undesirable unless there is no alternative.
(D.O.D.(H), 231624A to B.A.D.)

Task
Force 22
designated. Cinclant's 211940 addressed to Combatlant for action informs as follows:
Task Force 22 R.A. Hustvedt hereby designated. IOWA, Comdesron 10 in ELLYSON, RODMAN, ELMONS to proceed to Argentia when ready about 27th
August. Instruction letter being mailed.
(Connaveu, 231652Z to Admty.)

War Diary.

23.8.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

- INDOMITABLE. Neutral Trans-Atlantic Standard route lies along 34th parallel between 039 degs. 00' W. and 061 degs. 00' W. Following neutrals will be in vicinity of your route and may be sighted. (List)
(N.S.H.Q. 231729Z to INDOMITABLE. (R) Admty., S.B.N.O. W.At.)
- H.X.254. Advance Sailing Dispatch.
73 ships for Mersey, Three for Loch Ewe.
4 Mersey and South Wales. Total 80 ships.
(P.D. New York, 231830 to Admty.)
- Convoy W.S.C.140. 5 ships (list, cargoes, destinations)
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns, N.F. 231911z to Admty.)
- L.S.I.L's, Your 071039 information requested as follows
A. Gross tonnage 6679 net tonnage 3945 speed 14 knots ballasted draft 21 feet.
B. U.S. Nor. State they will supply paravanes if available but this question not yet decided.
(D.E.M.S. New York, 232021Z to Admty. for D.T.D.)
- Sub. attack and sighting summary. August 22nd no report. Para. A. U.S.S. CORE
Planes attack Sub. 26.59 N. 37.20 W. 1400Z/23.
(Cominch, 232045Z to Admty.)
- NAUSHON. State advises SS. NAUSHON will shortly be employed by British as Hospital Ship. Identification number 49. Has one mast and funnel.
2725 G.R.T. Distance from bow to foremast 66 feet 3 inches. From foremast to funnel 43 feet 6 inches.
From funnel to stern 140 feet. Pass to appropriate Air Commands.
All interested parties informed.
(Cominch, 232121Z to U.S. Fleet (R) Admty., N.Z.N.B., A.C.N.B., N.S.H.Q., Chief of Staff, Army.)
- Escort Carriers, dispositions. Navy Department are most interested in operations of escort carriers and have asked that the movement of these vessels should be shown in Admiralty signals of disposition of operational units. They point out that U.S. escort carriers are included in Cominch disposition signals.
Pink list may often convey a false impression of the use we are making of them.
(B.A.D. 232153Z to Admty.)

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23.8.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

SHROPSHIRE. Has SHROPSHIRE sailed in accordance with your 271304 July.
(A.C.N.B. 230246Z to Admty.)

NIEUW
AMSTERDAM. Request Wellington be port of call in New Zealand your 202036A refers. Desire embark approximately 240 Service personnel for North America. A.C.N.B. is requested to give E.T.A. Wellington as soon as known.
(N.Z.N.B. 230257Z to D. of S.T.)

Digest (4) Midday R/C Liberator observed diving submarine
Serial 10 miles Southwest Cape Saint George Course North.
No.580 Another submarine passed Cape Orford Southbound
Aug. 22nd. afternoon. (5) Forenoon search Liberator strafed
small merchantman 350 miles West Kapingamrangi
and another machine-gunned two ship convoy 30
miles further West afternoon. Photos show former
sighting 500 ton freighter and latter convoy two to four
thousand ton cargo ship with probably small escort vessel.
(6) During early hours Catalina attacked 1 small freighter,
2 barges heading southeast 40 miles East Wewak. 1 barge probably
sunk, other two craft beached. (7) 1 probably heavy
cruiser, 3 destroyers sighted afternoon 15 miles off East Coast
Buka course south speed 25. 6 enemy fighters overhead
ineffectively attacked our R/C plane. (8) 30 Avengers, 12
Mitchells with fighter protection struck barge landing locations
southwest Vella Lavella afternoon starting fires and scattering
timber stores. (9) 6 enemy barges engaged Kula Gulf night
20th by Allied patrol craft sinking 1 and damaging others.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 230730Z)

Movements. Arrivals 21st Townsville U.S. Transport
VAN DER LIJN (Du.) 22nd Townsville U.S. Transport
MAETSUYCKER Milne Bay, A.S.I.S.YUNNAN Brisbane,
U.S. Transport WILLARD A. HOLBROOK. R.A.A.F.
Store Ship WANAKA departed Sydney 22nd due Townsville 25th.
U.S. Transport VAN HEUTZ departed Townsville 21st due Milne
Bay 25th.
(C.S.W.P.S.F. 231032Z)
U.S. Transport URUGUAY arrived Hobart 2215Z/22nd.
(C.S.W.P.S.F. 231033Z)
Arrived Thursday Island 22nd COOTAMUNDRA. Milne Bay
22nd SWAN, U.S. Destroyer FLUSSER. Sydney.
22nd AUSTRALIA, VENDETTA. Fremantle.
22nd ALSEY. Brisbane.
22nd BUNDABERG, MORESBY, GLENELG. Townsville.
22nd F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT. Departed Cairns. 22nd GYMPIE,
KUPUNDA, COLAC for Milne Bay, Sydney. 22nd VENDETTA for
Brisbane, U.S.S. PATHFINDER for Noumea. Port Moresby.
21st DELORAINE for Milne Bay. 22nd SWAN for Cairns.
(N.B. Melbourne, 231119Z to Admty.)

TINHOW /...

837

23.8.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand. - Contd.

TINHOW
(torpedoed
and sunk
11th May).

Request advice (and particulars) as to whether
SS. TINHOW 5232 tons has been lost as a result of
enemy action.
(A.C.N.B. 231256Z to Admty.)

THOR.

The German auxiliary cruiser THOR has reached
Japan after brilliant success as a raider.
Tokyo Radio, quoted in Press 24/8/43.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 231336A, 231342A)

24.8.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

1. RENOWN sailed from Scapa today for Halifax.

2. Between 1049 and 1210 today enemy coastal batteries fired 6 rounds which fell in Dover causing damage to house property and slight damage to the W.R.N.S. Headquarters. There were no service casualties.

Biscay A/S
patrol.

3. E.G.1 was ordered today to join E.G.5 and 40 in the Biscay area, and when in company to detach E.G.40 to proceed to Londonderry.

C. in C.
Plymouth.

4. The flag of Admiral of the Fleet Sir Charles Forbes was struck at Plymouth today. He is succeeded as C. in C. by Vice-Admiral Sir Ralph Leatham.

5. 32 aircraft of Bomber Command laid mines last night off the Biscay ports and Frisian Islands.

North Atlantic.

U/B sunk.

6. Cominch reports that an aircraft from U.S. auxiliary aircraft carrier CORE, on patrol in the Azores area, sank a U-Boat at 0837 today in 27.00 N. 37.06 W. (about 800 miles S.W. of the Azores) 20 survivors were seen in the water. Another of CORE's aircraft attacked a surfaced submarine with depth charges in 27.09 N. 37.03 W. at 1416 today; a heavy oil slick was seen.

Mediterranean.

Sicily &
S. Italy.

7. Last night U.S. M.T.Bs. operated off Vibo Valentia and British M.T.Bs. off the coast of Calabria without incident.

/Malta ...

24.8.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta
dockyard
strike.

8. A strike without notice of all sections of workers commenced in Malta dockyard this morning. By a.m./25th the strike was 95% complete. The employees returned to work on 28th August.

Cruiser
hit.

9. N.W.A.A.F. aircraft report that today they made two hits on the stern of a cruiser at Sapri (77 miles S.E. of Naples) blew the stern off and set the vessel on fire and left it sinking.

Results of
air attacks
on Naples.

10. The Air Staff Operational Summary today gives details of the damage caused by the air attacks on Naples on 1st and 4th August. Six or seven ships have been sunk, burnt or damaged, including a CLIMENE/PARTENOPE T.B., the liner LOMBARDIA and 4 or 5 merchant vessels, and possibly a second T.B. Severe damage has been caused to quays and port installations, including the Repair Yards at the Dry Docks.

Air attack
on Augusta.

11. SS. ESSO PROVIDENCE (U.S. tanker) was damaged during air attack by 6 F.W.190 at Augusta this morning.

China.

Air attack
on Wahnsien.

12. A number of enemy bombers today attacked Wahnsien (on the Yangtse, between Chungking and Ichang). Damage was caused to the city and shipping in the river, but no casualties have been reported.

America and West Indies.

13. For the present, vessels with speeds of 11 knots and above, not carrying aviation spirit may be sailed independently in the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, along the eastern seaboard and along the east coast of South America.

/This ...

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24.8.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies - Contd.

This was modified on 30th August and vessels with speeds of less than $14\frac{1}{2}$ knots proceeding into the Eastern Sea Frontier were ordered to join convoy at Key West or Guantanamo.

Australia and New Zealand.

14. One of 3 enemy destroyers was hit and stopped by attack by 9 Liberators 100 miles N.E. of Buka Passage this afternoon, but got under way again later and proceeded at 15 knots.

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War Diary.

24.8.1943.

Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Ships for Med. Command and Eastern Fleet. Admty. 211105. My 221151. (1) Delay in return of T.U.1 and M.K.F.22 and in refit programmes will affect some sailing dates. (2) Present sailing proposals are: (A) AIRE, CUCKMERE, SPIREA, ALISMA, O.S.54 29th August. (B) LANDGUARD, SENNEN, ANEMONE, O.G.93 September 7th. (C) DART, BARLE, USK, LULWORTH, BANFF, O.S.55 September 18th. (3) My 221150 to Admty. and W.A. Authorities is amended accordingly. (C. in C. W.A. 241245A to Admty.)

My 22115 1. Attention is drawn to A.F.O. 2823/43. (C. in C. W.A. 241512A to A.I.G.32)

Admiral Sir Charles Forbes.

I know I speak for the C. in C. Nore and the whole of the Home Fleet when I say how much we appreciate your signal. A front door needs a good steel bar and we are deeply sensible that our first commander-in-Chief was the forger of that bar. Good luck to you personally from us all. (C. in C. H.F. 242302A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Movements.

JANUS. Intend to sail JANUS for Scapa at 1600 today. S.O.A. 20 knots until 2100, then 15 knots. E.T.A. Scapa 0815/25. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 240645A)

S/M Movements. My 231521A. Sailed. (MINERVE, TRUANT). (F.O.I.C. Portland, 240657A to C. in C. Portsmouth) My 231006A. Scapa departure P.218 escorted by M.L.286. (A.C.O.S.240901A)

F.O.S. 221132A. Intend to sail TANTALUS from Holy Loch at 1400A/25 to Lerwick, E.T.A. 1600/27th. (Capt. (S) 3, 240939A)

My position 180 degs. Wolfe Rock 2 miles, course 242 degs. (TUNA, 241000A to F.O.S.) Positions of S/M's at 0800A/25 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 241653, 250041A, 251239A.)

S.G.B.1 and M.G.B.18 Flotillas. Request available craft of 1st steam gunboat and 18 motor gunboats flotilla may be sailed to arrive Dover by 29th August. (Cdre. Force "J", 241143A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

RENOWN. (1) Scapa departure RENOWN. (A.C.O.S.241243A)

KENT /...

War Diary.24.8.1943.
Tuesday.HOLE COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

KENT. Request you will sail KENT for Argentia at 0330A/26 routed through following positions:
F. 061 degs. 28' 030 degs. 00'. G. 056 degs. 40' 040 degs. 00'. H. 046 degs. 38' 052 degs. 36'. S.O.A. 18 knots. E.T.A. 2030A/29. (2) On arrival KENT is to fuel and await further orders at normal notice. (3) My 221030 to Admty refers (See Special File) (C. in C. H.F. 241629A to C.S. 10)

MAHRATTA. MAHRATTA proceeds passing Switha 2045 today to Rosyth to embark personnel and stores referred in Admty. 211240A para. 3 (3) C. in C. Rosyth is requested to sail MAHRATTA for Scapa as soon as personnel and stores have been embarked. (R.A.D. 241955A to MAHRATTA)

Operations.

Operation S.F. Am over enemy S/M in (? latitude) 14 degs. 40' W. When first sighted S/M was on course 225 degs. It was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. Speed 5 knots. (A/C. M.J.S.L.16, 240627 to 18 Group)

Sailed ORIBI to Skaalefiord. E.T.A. 2100A/24. (R.A.D. 240809A to N.O.I.C. Faeroes.)

U-Boat sighted by F/120 in 62 degs. 00' N. 14 degs. 40' W. at 0727A, course 225 degs, 5 knots on surface and seen to submerge. (R.A.F. Iceland, 240853A to H.Q.C.C.)

Raise steam with all despatch and proceed towards 062 degs. 00' N. 014 degs. 40' W. (C. in C. Rosyth, 240905A to Capt. (D) 17)

Proceed to sighting. (C. in C. Rosyth, 240912A to M/S.F.15)

My 031615. Moorings Area shifted 60 miles to South West as from 1000A/24th. (C. in C. Rosyth, 241020A to H.F.)

Faeroes departures ONSLOW, SABRE, SARDONYX, (? ULSTER). (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 241114A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Position 2000/24th. FRASERBURGH, LLANDUDNO, BOOTLE, WORTHING, BEAUMARIS searching vicinity 062 degs. 00' N. 014 degs. 40' W. ONSLOW, ULSTER, SABRE, SARDONYX 062 degs. 00' 012 degs. 10' to search vicinity 062 degs. 00' 014 degs. 40'. (A.C.O.S. 241132A and 241226A to Ships)

Group A searching to S.W. in company with aircraft MJSL.

16. (2) Position 062 degs. 08' N. 014 degs. 13' W. (3) Groups B. and C. not informed. (M.S.F.15, 241203A to C. in C. Rosyth)

My 240905. (1) Group B. ONSLOW, ULSTER, SABRE, SARDONYX. (2) 061 degs. 40' N. 015 degs. 24' W. (3) 225 degs - 60 - 60. On reaching area instruct S/O M/S Flot. 15 to return Seidisfiord with Group A if not in contact. (C. in C. Rosyth, 241212A to Capt. D.17)

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24.8.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation S.F. (Contd.) My 031615 para. 2 and 241020. From 1201A to 2359A/24th, A.6, B.13. (C. in C. Rosyth, 241215A to H.F.) Aircraft Z of 190 squadron being sent to relieve F of 120 at 1700 today. Aircraft keeping constant watch on 385 K/cs and transmitting on same frequency. (C. in C. Rosyth, 241252A to M.S.F. 15) Following received from S.O. M/S 15 begins. Repeats M.S.15's 241203A. (C. in C. Rosyth, 241427A to Capt. (D) 17) If not in contact and no sighting by 2359/24th proceed to assume patrol as follows. (1) Group B. (2) 061 degs. 12' N. 016 degs. 24' W. (3) 225 degs - 60 - 60. (C. in C. Rosyth, 241832A to Capt. (D) 17) On arrival refuel and proceed with convenient despatch at daylight 25th to join Group B. on patrol. My 241832 refers. (C. in C. Rosyth, 241840A to ORIBI) My 241840. On arrival ORIBI, detach ULSTER to arrive Scapa by 1800/26th. (C. in C. Rosyth, 241842A to Capt. (D) 17) Faeroes arrival ORIBI. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 242042A to C. in C. Rosyth) Intend to proceed at 0545 tomorrow. (ORIBI, 242115A to N.O.I.C. Lyness) My 031615. Moorings area moved 120 miles to S.W. as from 2359/24th. (A) 5, (B) 5. (C. in C. Rosyth, 242330A to H.F.)

Operations "Musketry" and "Percussion". U-Boat sunk by TUNA on 22nd. August. One enemy aircraft shadowing "Rivet" bearing 315 degs. distance one mile. Position 43 degs. 19' N. 09 degs. 09' W. course 065 degs. speed 8 knots. (NENE, 240908A to Whitehall W/T.) P.C.S. of "Rivet" 43 degs. 40' N. 08 degs. 10' W. 080 degs. 12 knots. (Escorts Convoy "Rivet" 240940 to Admt.) One Focke Wulf distance one mile bearing 070 degs. position 43 degs. 30' N. 08 degs. 46' W. (NENE, 241040A to Whitehall W/T) At 1206A/22nd August in 047 degs. 18' N. 004 degs. (?26' W) attacked 2 U-Boats escorted by 5 minesweepers and 1 trawler, course 25 degs. One U-Boat sunk with 2 hits. (TUNA, 241225A to F.O.S.) 1 unknown merchant ship in 44 degs. 24' N. 12 degs. 35' W. steering about north. Am investigating. (BERMUDA, 241315 to Admt.) My 211718. After passing position (E) proceed. Contact with Escort Group 5 and 40 now patrolling in company between 100-fathom line and Spanish Coast from Cape Ortegal to Cape Villano. Direction of patrol is eastward by day and westward by night. (2) When in company with S.O. Escort G.P.1 (one) is to detach 40 Escort Group to proceed to Londonderry as previously ordered and is taking 1st and 5th Escort Groups under

his /...

24.8.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operations "Musketry" and "Percussion". U-Boat sunk by TUNA on 22nd August. (Contd.)

his orders and maintaining the patrol off Spanish Coast. (3) 5th Escort Group is to be detached at last light on 26th to proceed through position (S) 048 degs. 47' N. 010 degs 04' W. (K) 180 degs. Bishop Rock 10, and thence to Plymouth. (C. in C. Plymouth, 241525A to E.G.1) N.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to sail ATHABASKAN and GRENVILLE at 2000A/25. (2) Ships are to proceed through position (K) 180 degs. Bishop Rock 10 miles. (L) 048 degs. 52' N. 008 degs. 22' W. and thence towards position Q. vide NOMS. (3) ATHABASKAN and GRENVILLE are to support 1st and 5th Escort Group against surface attack operating in company these groups as ordered by S.O. Escort Group 1. (C. in C. Plymouth, 241657A)

Disposition at 2000. BERMUDA 044 degs. 30' N. 011 degs. 008 W. on patrol. E.G.40, LANDGUARD, BIDEFORD, WAVENEY vicinity 043 degs. 15' N. 009 degs. 30' W. E.G.5, NENE, TWEEN, SNOWBERRY, EDMUNDSTON vicinity 043 degs. 40' N. 008 degs. 35' W. E.G.1 EGRET, JED, ROTHER 047 degs. 15' N. 010 degs. 15' W. southbound 12 knots. P.34 047 degs. 45' N. 007 degs. 15' W. to Zone J.7, daily advance 100 miles. P.67 047 degs. 45' N. 006 degs. 45' W. to Zone J.7 daily advance 100 miles. P.42, 048 degs. 45' N. 006 degs. 00' W. 180 degs. bound Bishop's 10, daily advance 90 miles. OTUS 046 degs. 00' N. 011 degs. 15' W. westbound, daily advance 100 miles. (C. in C. Plymouth, 241702A to Ships)

Am being shadowed by 3 JU.88's in 43 degs. 48' N. 08.25'W. Course 248 degs. speed 10 knots. (BIDEFORD, 241800A to Whitehall W/T)

40 Escort group in company. Intended P.C.S. at 0700/25, 120 degs. Q.31 miles, 055 degs. 8 knots. One Spanish destroyer in 133 degs. Q.35 miles, steering 225 degs. at 1630. One Spanish destroyer in 108 degs. Q.41 miles, steering 230 degs. at 1845, thence towards Ferrol. (E.G.5, 241940A to C. in C. Plymouth)

BERMUDA is in vicinity 044 degs. 30' N. 011 degs. 01' W. covering Escort Group 40 and Escort Group 5 which are between Cape Ortegale and Cape Villano. Route. E.T.A. p.m. 29th, 11 knots. (F.O.S. 242136A to OTUS.)

Your 241658A. 19 26th August. (2) Your 241654A for 11 West read 12 West. (3) My position to nearest whole deg. 045 degs. N. 013 degs. W. (BERMUDA, 242203A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Coastal Force Patrols. (A) ALBRIGHTON, GLAISDALE immediate notice at Yarmouth, (B) M.L's 292, 344 patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between F. and E.A. 5 buoys. (C) CHASSEUR 13 immediate notice at St. Helens. (D) M.G.B's 8, 6, 7 from Portland Patrol 50 degs. 20' N. between 02 degs. 00' W. and 02 degs. 25' W. (E) 2 M.T.B's from Newhaven exercising from 2100A until daylight

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War Diary.24.8.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

Coastal Force Patrols. (Contd.) 25th between Beachy Head and Newhaven North of 50 degs. 40' N. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 241502A) (1) Force C. M.G.B's 330, 324 are to patrol in vicinity of O96. Start 19. Codeword "Neutral". (3) Force D. M.G.B's 111, 75 are to remain at Dartmouth at 15 minutes notice. (4) Force C to leave Dartmouth to be on patrol by 2115. Leave patrol at 0500 for Dartmouth. (C. in C. Plymouth, 241709) M.L's 140 and 143 at Bullock Bank. M.T.B's 203, 204, and 235 from Dover, E.T.D. 2130, and M.G.B's 108, 116 from Ramsgate E.T.D. 2130 operating off the Schelde route via U buoy each way, E.T.R. 0430/25. M.G.B's 42 and S.1 at V buoy, E.T.D. Dover 2015, E.T.R. 0530/25. (V.A. Dover, 241801A) Your 241709A. "Neutral" returned owing to weather. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 242309A to C. in C. Plymouth)

S/M Patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800A/25 and movements for following 24 hours. All times zone A. (A) UNTIRING patrolling vicinity 62 degs. 50' N. 02 degs. 30' E. (F) ULTIMATUM 46 degs. 45' N. 06 degs. 55' W. dived by day course 162 degs. (G) CURIE 46 degs. 40' N. 06 degs. 12' W. dived by day course 160 degs. (H) OTUS 46 degs. 01' N. 12 degs. 30' W. dived by day through 46 degs. 01' N. 13 degs. 15' W. thence course 180, daily advance 100 miles. (F.O.S. 241653 to Admty.) My 221944 para. 2. Amend longitude limits of zone J 10 to read as follows: between longitude 006 degs. 26' W. and Cape Penas. (F.O.S. 241744A to S/M's.)

Dover shelled. Between 1049 and 1210 today enemy coastal batteries fired six rounds which fell in Dover causing damage to house property and very slight damage to W.R.N.S. Headquarters at Dover College. No casualties reported amongst service personnel. One civilian killed and two wounded. Two rounds were fired from battery near Calais and remainder from about two miles South of Wissant. (V.A. Dover, 241731A to Admty.)

Operation "Starkey" (1) Coasters will assemble by September 5th or will be held after unloading as follows: (a) Newhaven 5 of 200 feet length. If smaller vessels are berthed at North Wharf number may be increased. (b) Littlehampton 5 not exceeding 120 feet length. (c) Portsmouth Camber and Fleethouse Quay 6. (d) Southampton 75. (e) Ports west of Southampton about 15. (2) All coasters will be clear of Shoreham by August 27th

but /...

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24.8.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Operation
"Starkey"
(Contd.)

but it will be necessary to ensure that coasters for essential civil requirements can be accepted at this port on resumption of convoys (D. of P. 241805A to C. in C. Portsmouth, Plymouth, F.O.C. Dover for S.O. Force "J".)

Operation
"Lorry".

Intend following operation "Lorry" with object of passing personnel and small number of stores and mail in two destroyers to North Russia.

(2) D day will be signalled and is expected to be 27th August. All times are zone minus

one. (3) MUSKETEER, MAHRATTA after completing with fuel at Skaalefiord will sail thence for Kola inlet at 1630 D day.

(4) Route through following positions.

A. 067 degs. 50' N. 006 degs. 10' W. B. 072 degs. 01' N.

000 degs. 20' E. C. 072 degs. 37' N. 007 degs. 10' E.

D. 074 degs. 41' N. 016 degs. 02' E. E. 075 degs. 01' N.

021 degs. 10' E. F. 074 degs. 08' N. 032 degs. 28' E.

G. 071 degs. 52' N. 038 degs. 50' E. thence Kola Inlet as

ordered by S.B.N.O. N. Russia. S.O.A. 19 knots as far as position D, thence best speed Kola inlet which is assumed to be

29 knots, S.O.A. 19 knots as far as position D, thence best speed Kola Inlet which is assumed to be 29 knots, S.O.A.

(5) C.S.10 is requested to sail Hvalfiord in BELFAST with

NORFOLK and IMPULSIVE at 0300D plus one, to act as covering-

force for the destroyers. (6) Route through the following

positions: J. 069 degs. 02' 016 degs. 58'. K. 071 degs. 32'

010 degs. 30'. L. 074 degs. 20' 004 degs. 32' E. thence to

patrol area bound by 076 degs. 30' N. 074 degs. 30' N. 002 degs.

W. 002 degs. E. S.O.A. 17½ knots to position L.

(7) If unable refuel at sea IMPULSIVE is to return Seidesfjiord at P.L.E., refuelling and remaining short notice.

(8) S.B.N.O. North Russia is requested to turn round destroyers as soon as possible and sail them by reverse route to Faeroes(?)

proceeding at maximum speed to position D, thence at best speed which is assumed to be 19 knots. In absence of other

information it will be assumed that destroyers leave Kola at

0700 D plus 4. (9) In absence of other orders or enemy

information C.S.10's force to leave covering-area and return to Hvalfiord when destroyers reach position D, which is to be

assumed to be at 0500 D plus 5. (10) N.O.I.C. Faeroes is

requested to sail destroyers for Scapa after fuelling. Each

destroyer will require about 480 tons fuel at Kola.

(C. in C. H.F. 242009A)

Exercises.Exercise
C.N.

Following tactical exercise C.N. is intended.

(2) Date Friday 27th August. (3) Force taking part and maximum speeds. (4) Special objects:

(A) to exercise RANGER operating in the line.

(B) to exercise RANGER in retransmitting her

aircrafts reports. (C) To accustom T.G.112.1 to British signal books. (5) General idea: and orders.

(C. in C. H.F. 242145A)

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War Diary.24.8.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air activity.

RENOWN. Expect A/S air escort B.7 one Fortress from 0500Z/25 to 1200Z/25 followed B.7 one Liberator 1200Z until dusk.
(C. in C. W.A. 241104Z to RENOWN)

Bomber Command Operations. On night 23/24th. 32 A/C laid Mines.
(H.Q.B.C. 241730A)

Mining.

F.D. 45. Sailed RUBIS escorted by CHASSEUR II.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 240635A to C. in C. Plymouth.)
Your 201037 (end of)? para. one arrived, and intend sailing 0500/25 (RUBIS).
(N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 242050A to Capt. (S) 5)

Harwich. Ground mine explosion reported by Sunk Head Fort in approx. 51 degs. 50.5' N. 01 degs. 41' E. at 1548.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 241829 to Admty.)

S.N. 222B. R.A.(M)'s 221204. Propose that escort be provided by AMAZON, LANCASTER, SABRE and SARDONYX. (2) C. in C. H.F. is requested to sail SABRE and SARDONYX to join minelaying squadron as desired by R.A. (M). (3) C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail AMAZON and LANCASTER as requisite to Port Z.A. (D.O.D.(H), 242223Z to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. W.A.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat reported. Submerged contact. Should we bomb. 49.50' N. 08.50' W.
(A/C 242123 to 19 Group)

Casualties and Defects.

Dinghy. No aircraft specially detailed to assist in search but friendly aircraft will be passing over from daylight onward. If no fresh sighting by 0900A/24th return Plymouth by reverse route.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 240001A to GOATHLAND, TANATSIDE)

(?ly) 240001A. For 0900A/24th read 2100A/24th. Patrol in the vicinity of position. 1 Hudson due 1200/24th to assist and search.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 240925A to GOATHLAND, TANATSIDE, H.Q.C.C.)

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24.8.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects. - Contd.

- EMPIRE FRIENDSHIP. Met "Wheel". Detached CLOVER escorting BEECHVILLE to Clyde. My P.C.S. 049 degs. 20' N. 014 degs. 48' W. 083 degs. 5 knots. DEXTEROUS and EMPIRE FRIENDSHIP in company.
(HASTINGS, 240025A to C. in C. Plymouth.)
P.C.S. 049 degs. 35' N. 010 degs. 44', 084 degs. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots. EMPIRE FRIENDSHIP proceeding satisfactorily own power 2 cylinders. Master confident of ability to make discharging Port Barry Dock. If you approve propose to proceed by Q.Z.S. 315 and 395 detaching DEXTEROUS as required.
(HASTINGS, 242201A to C. in C. Plymouth)
- NITH. Cancel my 191240, owing to engine defects.
(N.O.I.C. Leith, 240939 to Cdre. WESTERN ISLES)
- TANCHEE. Transferred towing to STORMKING in 055 degs. 10" N. 010 degs. 46' W. Tug estimates a towing speed of 8 knots. Am proceeding Londonderry speed 14 knots.
(VANSITTART 241130Z to C. in C. W.A.)
- ST. MARY's. My 211002A ST. MARY's has engine room defect which will delay her departure from Port ZA about 24 hours.
(Com. M. 241232A to C. in C. Rosyth.)
- SPIRAEA, ALISMA, ANEMONE, SAXIFRAGE. A.M. 211105A para. 1. As time will not permit fitting the four additional Oerlikons allowed before SPIREA, ALISMA and ANEMONE leave U.K. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange for single Brownings up to four extra to be fitted prior to sailing. If opportunity occurs extra Oerlikons should be fitted in the Mediterranean before ships proceed to Eastern Fleet. C. in C. Med. is requested to take similar action with SAXIFRAGE.
(D.G.D. 241626A to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Med.)
- KING GEORGE V. KING GEORGE V letter number 3818/115 dated 20th July. If not already done, and unless there are circumstances of which I am unaware, request a Board of Inquiry may be convened to investigate:
(a) whether it was necessary to maintain vacuum in the engines for so long a period. C.A.F.O. 56/40 para. 8. (B) refers.
(b) whether adequate precautions were taken to safeguard engines under conditions of short notice. C.B. 56/40 para. 8 (A) and 9 refers.
(C. in C. H F. 241849A to S.O. Force H.)
- BLYTH. My 240840A. BLYTH returned Tilbury with engine defects.
(F.O.I.C. London, 241924A to C. in C. Nore.)

War Diary.24.8.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- H.X.252. After Commodores R/V today report name of ships not present.
(C. in C. W.A. 240929Z to Escorts H.X.252)
Your 240929Z. Names of ships absent J.H. SENIOR, J.P. HENDERSON, SANTOS, S.R. FULTON, ROBERT MONTGOMERY. MONTGOMERY reported by W/T 182027 that torpedoes were passing astern, heard C.H. DANA.
(ASSINIBOINE 241802Z to C. in C. W.A.)
- AMSTERDAM. Intend sailing AMSTERDAM escorted by CHARLESTOWN at 0530/26 to Invergordon routed 35 buoy Q.Z.S. 352 150. E.T.A. Cromarty 1130. Your 191658 refers.
(N.O.I.C. Kirkwall, 241050A to A.C.O.S.)
My 241050A. Advance times 24 hours.
(N.O.I.C. Kirkwall, 241618 to A.C.O.S.)
- O.N.199. Escorts for O.N.199. OTTAWA, KOOTENAY, ARVIDA, WETASKIWIN, KITCHENER, LA MALBAIE. OTTAWA and KOOTENAY fitted H.F/D.F.
(Cdre. D. W.A. 241122A to C. in C. W.A.)
- M.K.S.21. No local escort available for B section. Ships are to proceed unescorted from position A. BARON RAMSEY to comply with my 231408 para. 2.
(2) Your 241002. Coal available at Loch Ewe.
(C. in C. W.A. 241325A to Escorts M.K.S.21)
E.T.A. HIGHLANDER 2100A/25, PENNYWORT 2130A/25, SPEEDY 2200A/25. Have on board 4 German N.C.O.'s air crew, 2 of which (corrupt group) dangerous cot cases.
(B.4, 242315A to Cdre. D. W.A.)
- F.N. and Admiralty 211520A. Town-Class destroyers of F.S. 17th division are not considered suitable as Convoys. only escort for F.S/F.N. convoys but will be satisfactory as additional escorts which are at present provided by you. (2) Subject your concurrence I propose (a) to provide one WAIR and one Town or American WAIR per convoy commencing on 1st September. (b) any WAIRS not required for convoy duties to be loaned to you.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 241445A to C. in C. Nore.)
Your 241445. Concur.
(C. in C. Nore, 242210A to C. in C. Rosyth.)
- F.S.5. Twenty-five ocean ships expected in W.N.71, E.T.A. Methil p.m. 27th of which two for Tyne, five for Humber, one for Ipswich and thirteen for London should sail in F.S.5.
(D.T.D. 241856A to C. in C. Rosyth, C. in C. Nore.)
- T.A.60A. A.M.231523. Route through position M. 270 degs. (MAURETANIA) Oversay 6 miles at 1730A/27 thence through following positions to New York.
(D.O.D.(H), 242031A to F.O.I.C.Liverpool)

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24.8.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

C.T.G. 21.14 We are repeating C.T.G. 21.14 dispatch 231940
(Azores (N/T previous receipt in W.R.). Action Com.10th
Patrol). Fleet, info. C. in C. Lant, C.T.F.64, C.M.S.F.F.,
C.T.G.21.15 (begins). Position 231933Z, 38.25 N.
20.13 West, proceeding on course 220 degs. to
intercept homebound submarines ahead of G.U.S.12,
S. of A. 13 knots, weather.
(Commorseafron 240223 to F.O.i/c Gibraltar, C. in C. Med., Admty.).

Convoy C.G.58 arrived.
C.G.58 (F.O.C. Gibraltar 240954B to C.M.S.F.F.(R) Admty.
C. in C. Med.).

Dispositions Situation 2003B/24th.
U.G.S.15 (U.S.) C.T.F.66, (U.S.) C.T.G. 21.16
032 degs. 34' 041 degs. 43' 098 degs. 9.
(2) 2 Swedish relief ships 034 degs. 10' 036 degs. 12' 086 degs.
12.
(F.O.i/c Gibraltar 241135B).

Situation 1958B/24th.
G.U.S. 12 C.T.F.64 (E) 034 degs. 33' 021 degs. 15' through
034 degs. 03' 024 degs. 59' thence 287 degs. 9.
(2) U.S. Naval Forces C.T.G. 21.14 and 21.15 patrol vicinity
Azores.

(F.O.i/c Gibraltar 241141B).
Situation at 2001B/24th. SAFARI 039 degs. 08' 010 degs. 12'
333 degs. diving by day 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ /2.
(2) S.L.135, FOWEY (e) 031 degs. 57' 027 degs. 7.
(3) O.G.92 K.M.S.24 HURRICANE, 042 degs. 58' 018 degs. 31' 180
degs. 6.
(4) 2 Spanish naval training ships sailed Marin 18th for Canary
Islands.
(5) Portuguese Sloop AFONSO DE ALBUQUERQUE sailed Funchal 23rd
for Lagos (Portugal).
(6) Italian repatriation ship DUILIO and (? GIULIO CESARE)
sailed Las Palmas a.m. 24th through 028 degs. 24' 015 degs. 01'
thence 050 degs. 16.
(7) Portuguese tanker SAMBRAZ sailed Lisbon a.m. 25th for Aruba 12.
(F.O.i/c Gibraltar 241157B).

U-boat Ref. A/T 171351. Suggest situation would be more
positions clearly defined for authorities who do not
maintain a full submarine plot of the area if it
were made clear which C. Blanco was referred to.
Admty. chart 2060 refers.
(F.O.i/c Gib. 241145 to Admty.).

C.C.Base Having examined reports of ships sent in
Dakar. accordance with your 141747 July and of all other
Spanish ships controlled here this year, am very
doubtful whether establishment of C.C. Base Dakar
as outlined in your 240005 June can be justified.
(2) Consequently suggest postponement of project until

/facilities...

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C.C.Base facilities are available for establishing Base as originally intended, when its desirability could again be reviewed.
Dakar. (3) This would enable me to release a fair proportion of present complement of Gibraltar Contraband Control Base now for service elsewhere.
(Contd.). A/T 091139 August refers.
(F.O.i/c Gib. 241208, 251730B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.).
Not concurred in (Admty. 271712A, q.v.).

Convoy Intend sail French convoy two ships HOGGAR, 12, Casablanca- QUERCY 12.5, escorted by LA GRANDIERE (Senior) and Dakar. DUMONT DURVILLE, E.T.D. Casablanca 251700A, S. of A. 11.5 knots (route) Dakar E.T.A. 302200A. Escorts guard 20150 within 100 miles of Casa.
Gib.F. from departure until 270800A then Freetown broadcast. Ships hold approaches to Dakar corrected through Q.L.A. 201.
(Commorseafron 241423B to F.O.C.W.A. (R) F.O.i/c Gib. C. in C. Med., Admty.).
Delayed, see 251749.

37 E.G. Intend detaching WOODRUFF at 1800Z/24th to WOODRUFF. proceed Casablanca to oil, S. of A. 11 knots. My P.C.S. 1500Z 031 degs. 56' N. 010 degs. 55' W. 027 degs. 6½ knots, 030 degs. 48' N. 011 degs. 32' W. Weather.
(S.O.37th E.G. 241500Z to F.O.i/c Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C.W.A., C.M.S.F., CAMPION).

S.L.135 ACTIVE and ANTELOPE R/V in position G.B. 033 degs. M.K.S.22. 48' 009 degs. 48' at 1400B August 25th. My 211656 refers.
(2) From E.H. proceed through 035 degs. 25' 016 deg 00' 038 degs. 45' 019 degs. 35' 044 degs. 30' 019 degs. 35' 055 degs. 00' 011 degs. 20' lettered P.A. to P.D.
(3) Amend stragglers route from (V) as follows 034 degs. 45' 016 degs. 00' 038 degs. 30' 020 degs. 15' 051 degs. 00' 016 degs. 00' 055 degs. 00' 011 degs. 20' lettered C to G.
(4) Adjust S. of A. to position Z.Z. 035 degs. 08' 011 degs. 07' at 1200B August 26th.
(5) M.K.S.22 (13) ships, Cmdre. Hardy in CITY OF AGRA, escorted by STORK, REDPOLE, SAXIFRAGE, GODETIA, LADY HOGARTH R/V in position Z.Z. at 1200B August 26th.
(6) When convoys have combined :-
(a) STORK and REDPOLE act as additional A/S and A/A escort respectively to U.K.
(b) SAXIFRAGE, GODETIA, LADY HOGARTH return to Gibraltar.
(7) All positions north and west unless otherwise indicated.
(8) Admty. pass to H.Q.C.C.
(F.O. Gibraltar 241615B to Escort S.L.135 for Cdre.(R) C.M.S.F., C. in C.W.A., H.Q.C.C., Admty., C. in C. Plymouth).

/Movements...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

Movements Casablanca.	CAMPION, MALLOW arrived 241510A in company FRISCO (Dutch). (Commorseafron 241658B to F.O.i/c Gibraltar (R) C. in C. Med. etc.).
Movements of Spanish S/MS.	Your 211614. Submarine B.2 never goes outside line drawn Punta Herminio to Point one 4 miles west Cabo (?L'ino). (2) She never exercises at night. (3) She is painted white and has all other markings of Spanish Submarines. (4) She is as shown in Jane except bridge has been cut down a bit. (5) All armaments removed. (6) Any submarine observed outside line as in para, 1 can be attacked unless of course I have advised you of special movements. (7) M. of M. will endeavour to give me previous advice of all destroyer movements in area between Vigo and Pasajes but cannot guarantee it as (?they) may wish to send out destroyer to answer S.O.S. and instructional destroyers (?MELILLA) and CEUTA often go out at short notice though normally never far (?out). (8) Presume you do not need advice of cruiser movements though they are usually notified. (9) Do you wish me try include minelayers and gunboats? Small coastal gunboats frequently move along north coast. (10) M. of M. asked me to say fishing vessels will be sailed outside prohibited zone. (N.A. Madrid 241700B to Admty. (R) F.O.i/c Gibraltar, H.Q.C.C. C. in C. Plymouth).
Shipping Bilbao.	Arrivals 23rd CABO BUENA ESPERANZA. Departure 23rd JACQUELINE. (Consul Bilbao, 241725 to Admty.).
Convoy G,U.S.12.	(1) Sailing telegrams part 2. (Ships, list, destinations). (C.M:S.F. 241803B to P.D. Norfolk).
OCEAN VOLGA.	Ref. messages from N.O.i/c Bone, T.O.O.231056, destination of OCEAN VOLGA should be New York. Ship should continue in G.U.S. 13, agreed M.W.T.R. (F.O.i/c Gib. 241941B to Escorts of Convoy G.U.S. No.13 for Cdore. (R) Connav, Admty. etc.).
4 German aircraft in sea near Spanish Coast.	Admty. pass to Algiers. My 141404 609 (as received) Cartagena report 4 survivors, Cartagena, 3 Garrucha, 13 Almeria, and 3 Saint Louis, will be on ALBORAN. (N.A. Madrid 241953B to Admty. (R) F.O.i/c Gib. C. in C. Med.). / Passing action being taken by W.R.
M.K.S.22	Sailed Gibraltar Section M.KS.22 and M.M.S.171, 92 escorted by REDPOLE, STORK. Q.Z.H. 491 (C.45)

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M.K.S.22 L.55 S.427 X 1084. Y404. Local escort GODETIA,
(Contd.). SAXIFRAGE, LADY HOGARTH.
(F.O.i/c Gibraltar 242011B to Admt. C. in C.W.A.
(R) C. in C. Med.).
(1) M.K.S. 22. Ships, cargoes, destinations.
Pendants 31, 32, 41, 42, 51, 52 did not enter Gibraltar. Remainder
sailed to join.
(F.O. Gibraltar 242030B to Admt.).
M.K.S.2 (M.K.S.22 intended) arrivals (8 ships) list.
(F.O. Gibraltar 242032B to Admt. C. in C. Med. C. in C.
Levant, Connav, V.A. Malta, Cmdre. Algiers.).

A/C A/C previously reported last seen position 42 N.
11 degs. 30' West course 270 degs. Height
3,000 feet.
(A/C L. of 202 Sqdn. via Gib. 242100C).

Movements Arrivals BLUEBELL detached from M.K.S.22 ST.
Gibraltar. NECTAN Escort duties Melilla.
VENOMOUS with C.G.58. SLAZAK, KRAKOWIAK,
CLEVELAND, BERGAMOT, BRYONY, LA MALOUINE, CAMELIA
with Gibraltar section M.K.S.22.
Departures. ACTIVE, ANTELOPE local escort to reinforce S.L.135.
M.Ls. 456, 478, 451, 461, 299 escorting M.M.S.100, 101, 104,
108 to Algiers.
(F.O. Gibraltar 242123B to Admt.).

?U-Boat Following has been read:
Investigating possible periscope 42 degs. 14' N.
10 degs. 40' West.
(A/C of 202 Sqdn. via Plymouth 242142 to Gib.).
Following has been read: My 2142 nothing further
seen.
(A/C of 202 Sqdn. 242200).

OTUS After passing through 043 degs. 01' N. 013
degs. 15' West at 1700 August 27th proceed direct
through 026 degs. 10' N. 021 degs. 01' W. at
0910 Sept. 3rd thence as ordered by F.O.C.W.Af.
(2) S. of A. diving by day 120 miles per day. After reaching
035 degs. N. 017 degs. 09' W. at 0040 Sept. 1st proceed on
surface at your discretion at 10 knots.
(3) Submerged bombing arranged until 0040/1st there after total
bombing restrictions 20 miles either side of your route from 50
miles ahead to 50 miles astern of your estimated position. Report
if you are unable to remain within your bombing restriction.
(4) All times zone minus 2.
(F.O. Gibraltar 242237B to OTUS, (R) SAFARI, F.O.(S), F.O.C.W.Af.,
Admt. C. in C; Plymouth. Capt. (S) 7, C. in C. Med.).

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Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

ERLING BROVIG. Admty. 211555 and my 231205. Tanker ERLING BROVIG has 1500 tons gas oil on board and there is space available in shore tanks for about 800 tons. Request whether tanks should be completed to total? capacity. All furnace oil after commitment referred to in C. in C. S.A's 221018 (not to Lagos) and including 2000 tons reserve (para. 5 of F.O.C.W.Af's 221417 refer) can be discharged to shore tanks.
(B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, 240745A to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) Admty., N.O.I.C. Lagos.)
Your 231807, para. 3. Anticipate following programme for ERLING BROVIG. Sailing from Pointe Noire p.m./26th. E.T.A. Banana dawn 27th proceeding Ango Ango p.m./27th to discharge 1000 tons gas oil. Leaving Congo River p.m./28th. E.T.A. Walvis Bay dawn 2nd Sept.
(B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, 241455A to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) Admty., C. in C. S.A., N.C.S.O. Matadi.)

SHROPSHIRE. Your E.T.A. 1100/26th received through F.O.I.C. Gibraltar acknowledged.
(F.O.C.W.A., 240933Z to SHROPSHIRE.)

HAWKINS. Arrived.
(Com. i/c Durban, 240953Z to Admty., etc.)

SWALE, THYSVILLE collision 21st Aug. SWALE in collision with THYSVILLE whilst mooring Saturday 21st August falling down under THYSVILLE's quarter. Diver reports two blades port propeller bent at tips one blade starboard propeller cracked vertically for 2 feet three inches with opening 18 inch at top of blade. Hull not damaged. Now tipping THYSVILLE to try and sight propeller for survey.
(S.T.O. i/c Lagos, 241010 to D.S.T.O.W.A., (R) D. of S.T.)

U/B. U-Boat sighted on surface at 0740B/24th by aircraft in 38° 59' S. 20° 23' E. U-Boat submerged. Continuous air patrol is being maintained. LEWES is proceeding to position.
(C. in C. S.A., 241025B to Admty., C. in C. E.F., Com. Durban.)

Overdue Shipping. Overdue sailing ship GUAYTECAS Durban 12th June for Paranagua 1st August and JOHN A. SUTTER Bahrein 4th July for Bahia 17th August not arrived.
(A.B.S.N.O. Recife, 241038Z to Admty., etc.) JOHN A. SUTTER arrived Bahia (291402Z.)

/Dispositions ...

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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Dispositions. Situation at 2000Z/24th August.
 ALBATROSS 035° 05' 021° 30' Philippeville 9
 to Capetown 15 knots.
 NEWCASTLE 034° 40' 031° 00' to 036° 28' 028°
 33', 19.
 NIGELLA 029° 20' 036° 15' to Durban, 13½.
 GENISTA, FREESIA, ARCTIC EXPLORER, INDIAN STAR off Beira.
 SORSRA with M.C.9 (2 ships) 018° 52' 037° 44' to 020° 01'
 035° 07', 5.
 (C. in C. S.A., 241057B.)
 Amendment to Sit. Rep. LEWES approx. 039° 00' 020° 00'
 special search.
 (C. in C. S.A., 241231B.)
 0500 F.S. SUFFREN, F.S. DUGUAY-TROUIN 015° 25' 010° 02'
 to 012° 02' 010° 01', 18½ knots. Situation at 2000Z/24th
 August.
 (C. in C. S.A., 241059B.)
 Situation at 2000Z/24th August.
 SHROPSHIRE 019° 17' 018° 00' to 015° 00' 018° 00' thence 175°, 21.
 U.S. Des. LEA, U.S. ROPER, U.D. DECATUR (C.T.G. 21.5.) with O.T.8
 018° 55' 028° 14' to 018° 30' 024° 05' thence 085°, 13.5.
 M.Ls. 231, 574 016° 31' 019° 31' 314° 12 to R/V O.T.8.
 ENCHANTRESS, LEITH, (? SANDWICH), VIOLET, ANCHUSA, COLUMBINE,
 TEST, FAL with O.S.53 011° 36' 017° 38' to 010° 05' 017° 30'
 thence Freetown, 8.5.
 TRENT about 012° 24' 017° 30' overtaking O.S.53, 15.
 FOXHOUND, BULLDOG, BOADICEA, CATTERICK, NESS 2 Fleet Units 009°
 55' 014° 38' to 010° 02' 017° 58' thence 352°, 12½.
 (F.O.C.W.A., 241154Z.)
 Amend my 241154Z. BEAGLE* to read - 008° 55' 014° 38'.
 (F.O.C.W.A., 241619Z.)
 * No reference to BEAGLE in signal as received in W.D.
 Situation at 1958Z/24th.
 M.L.1147 escorting 007° 38' 013° 40' through 006° 52' 011° 49'
 thence 125°, 7.
 DUNKERY screening off Monrovia. ARRAN screening off Marshall.
 P.614 002° 40' 011° 23' 332° 8½.
 M.L.1014 screening off Kotonu. M.Ls. 274, 1016, 1018 screening
 off Accra. COWSLIP escorting about 006° 04' 003° 02' East to
 Lagos (Nigeria) 8½ knots.
 M.Ls. 261 and 281 007° 49' 014° 01' through 007° 45' 014° 05'
 thence 152°, 12 knots.
 (F.O.C.W.A., 241525Z.)

C.C. Base Proposed abolition.
 Dakar. (F.O. Gibraltar, 241208).
 See North Atlantic.

L.S. 10. Arrived 23rd August 1943. BRIDGEWATER, MOYOLA,
 MILFORD, ARMERIA, PETUNIA with L.S. 10.
 (S.O.(I) Freetown, 241331Z to R.N.O. Lagos,
 N.O.I.C. Takoradi, (R) Admty.)

Movements, Arrivals 1341Z/23rd August SNOWDROP, TURCOMAN
 Freetown. escorting.
 (S.O.(I) Freetown, 241345Z to N.O.I.C. Bathurst)
 /Arrival ...

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South Atlantic - Contd.

Movements, Freetown. (Contd.) Arrival 23rd CARNARVON CASTLE. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 241347Z to C. in C. S.A., (R) Admty.)
Arrivals 23rd August, 1943, BRIDGEWATER, MOYOLA, MILFORD, ARMERIA, PETUNIA with L.S.10. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 241725Z to R.N.O. Lagos, N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)

Convoy D.C. 40A. Sailing telegram (2 ships). (2) 1600Z/24th Aug. (3) 12½ knots. (5) (Route). Ref. 61 to 68 Saldanha Bay M.L. (8) Coastal. (9) 15 knots EMPIRE MIGHT, 14 RANGITATA, E.T.A. Capetown 1000Z/27th August. (13) Master RANGITATA. (15) C.Z.D.1 to 9, codeword "Faggot". Q.G.A.157. (N.C.S.O. Durban, 241604Z to Admty., etc.)

DESPATCH. A.M. 141735 July and Comar Dakar's 171156. DESPATCH is to be sailed for U.K. as soon as her repairs are completed. (A.C.N.S.(F), 241720A to F.O.C.W.Af., C. in C.S.A., (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. W.A.)

O.S. 53. On reaching 010° 15' 017° 30' steer direct for Freetown. (F.O.C.W.A., 241801Z to ENCHANTRESS, (R) TRENT, Admty., Escorts O.S.53.)

RAMILLIES, CILICIA, ROEBUCK, QUALITY, TEVIOT, HELFORD, PLYM. Cancel my 221417Z. Intend to sail RAMILLIES and CILICIA at 1252/25th August escort ROEBUCK, QUALITY, TEVIOT, HELFORD, PLYM.
2. Route - A. 007° 40' N. 014° 20' W. B. 022° 59' S. 005° 02' W. C. 019° 01' S. 010° 01' E. D. 022° 45' S. 012° 05' E. thence Walvis Bay, E.T.A. 0600Z/3rd Sept., S. of A. 12.5 knots.
3. Tanker ERLING BROVIG is to be sailed by B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire to Walvis Bay with 2500 tons of fuel for RAMILLIES and escorts. She is to arrive not later than noon 2nd Sept.
4. Ship shift to area Q W/T organisation at 1200Z/30th.
5. C. in C. S.A. Sta. is requested to give onward route for RAMILLIES from Walvis Bay and to sail ERLING BROVIG on completion. (F.O.W.Af., 241825Z to C. in C. S.A., B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, (R) Admty., RAMILLIES, ROEBUCK.)

Movements, Takoradi. Arrivals August 24th ORFASY, M.Ls. 266, 302, 296, 287, 277. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 241901Z to Admty., etc.)

/Attack ...

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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.Attack on
U/B, 20th
August.

C. in C. S.A's 231109B. This well co-ordinated attack is likely to have resulted in the destruction of a U-Boat. A kill would be a just reward for the vigorous offensive you are conducting. This attack provides encouragement for further successes soon.
(A.C.N.S.(U.T.), Approved by V.C.N.S. 241943A to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F.)
See also 271650A.

RANGITIKI

Motor vessel RANGITIKI due 28th August destination Liverpool.
(D.T.D., 242033A to N.C.S.O. Freetown.)

Convoy
C.F. 13.

Sailing telegram. (2) 1300/24th. (3) Nil.
(4) Knots 12½ to position X thence 15. (5) All following positions are North and West unless otherwise indicated (route), thence Gibraltar.
(6) RESOLUTION (S.O.), REVENGE, FOXHOUND, BULLDOG, BOADICEA, CATTERICK, NESS.
(14) French Transport CANADA from Dakar escorted by BLACKWOOD, DRURY, BAZELY, JOHAN MAURITS to R/V with convoy C.F.13, 1000 G.M.T. 26th in position X. AORANGI then to be detached to join CANADA and proceed as S.R.5.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 242049Z to Admty.)
Amended, see 250034Z.

Force Q,
C.F. 13.

Departures 24th Force Q and convoy C.F.13 escorted by FOXHOUND, BULLDOG, BOADICEA, CATTERICK and NESS. Q.B.A.108, Q.B.119, Q.L.A. 201.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 242148Z to F.O.I.C.Gibraltar, Commorseafron, Comar Dakar, (R) Admty., C. in C. Med.)

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Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of one Merchant Vessel, 3,000 tons, one merchant Vessel, 2,000 tons, 4 Escort Vessels, 36.08 N. 24.10 E. 185° 5.
(A/C FBM/S 240005A.)
P.C. and S. of enemy. One merchant vessel, 3000 tons, 1 merchant vessel 2000 tons, 3 escort vessels 36.08 N. 24.10 E. 185° 5 knots.
(A/C FBM/E 240030Z.)
P.C. and S. of enemy, one destroyer, 2 merchant vessels, 41.30 N. 12.24 E. 315° 10 knots.
(A/C ANN/G 240325B via Alex.)
P.C. and S. 43.10 N. 06.50 E. 240° and 10 knots.
(A/C HUR via Alex. 240940B.)
My 0940. Enemy previously reported is one Merchant Vessel of 3000 tons.
(A/C HUR/Y 240945B.)
P.C. and S. of 2 large vessels and 2 destroyers in 38.00 N. 10.40 E. 100° and 8 knots.
(A/C ASC/E 241522.)
P.C. and S. of one medium vessel of 6,000 tons, one medium vessel, of 3,000 tons, 2 destroyers and 2 aeroplanes is 43.37 N. 9.38 E. 360° and 8 knots.
(A/C ASC/J 241555B.)

Transports for India. Ref. A.M.211801A (Hush) Para. 1 (b). Do not sail ASCANIA, WINCHESTER CASTLE and CIRCASSIA yet for India. We are hoping to be able to use them for onward conveyance of personnel for India in RUYSS, TEGELBERG, and MONARCH OF BERMUDA, arriving Middle East in K.M.S.22. Can you foresee any difficulties in effecting transshipment?
(D.S.T. 240210A to P.S.T.O. Middle East (R) C. in C. Levant, C. in C. E.F.) Reply:- P.S.T.O.M.E. 251308C.

G.U.S.13. Pass to Cdre. and escorts, intend to join 1800B/25 11 OCEAN VISCOUNT Ballast Gibraltar for Melilla, 10 OCEAN VIGOUR. Ballast Gibraltar for Pepel.
(N.O.I.C. Tunis 240330B to Escorts of Convoy G.U.S. No.13 (R) Admty. etc.)

Following sailed in G.U.S.13 for Bizerta:- FORT TADOUSAC, BENRINNES, FORT CHIPWEYAN, all in ballast also CAPE HANK with following passengers. TAUTRA no cargo or passengers.

(D.S.T.O. Malta 241100 to D.S.T. (R) P.S.T.O. (Med.) D.S.T.O. Bizerta.)

Pass to Cdre. G.U.S.13. My 231101 sailed less RANCHER, BEACON, GOOD GULF, plus CAPE HAWKE, FORT TADOUSSAC, FORT CHIPEWYAN, and BENRINNES, all for Bizerta.

(V.A. Malta 241110B to Escorts of Convoy G.U.S.13 (R) Admty. F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in C. Med. CONNAV, C.M.S.F. N.O.I.C. Tunisia.)

Pass to Cdre. and escort Bizerta joiners. Total 8 ships. (list).

(N.O.I.C. Bizerta 241629B to Escorts of Convoy G.U.S.13. (R) Admty. etc.)

/SUTLEJ...

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

SUTLEJ, N.O.I.C. Port Said 231231C (N.T. in W.R.) not
AETOS. received until 240227C. G.S. AETOS R/V at
position 405 at 0800C/24th when my course will
be 255° speed 12 knots.
(SUTLEJ 240430C to G.S. AETOS, N.O.I.C. Port Said
(R) C. in C. Levant, R.A. Alex. Capt. S.1, Cdre. Levant, area etc)

SOKOL, TEMPLAR is being escorted to 5 miles beyond
TEMPLAR. Eastern channel by M/S at 0800/25th who will
wait then escort you into harbour.
(Capt. (S) 10 240702B to O.R.P. SOKOL.)

10th S/M.F. (1) P.45 (UNRIVALLED) and P.53 (ULTOR) 035° 50'
Summary 015° 10' through 035° 56' 016° 31' to 036° 15'
at 016° 42' at 2000/25th. (2) O.R.P. SOKOL 035°
2000/24th. 45' 016° 18' to arrive Malta Sanctuary 0800/25th.
(3) P.51 (UNSEEN) off Bari. (4) P.44 (UNITED)
off Alice Point. (5) P.46 (UNRUFFLED) 037° 57'
019° 43' to patrol off Cape Dukato.
(6) TEMPLAR leaves Malta 0430/25th to 035° 46' 015° 47' at
2000/25th.
(Capt. S.10. 240710B.)

M.E. Air A.672 Daily Opsum 118. 22/23 August. 1 Wellington
Report. anti shipping R/C Aegean, no sightings. Bombs
dropped on barracks area Lindos (Rhodes) causing
explosion and column of smoke. Single enemy
aircraft operated Benghazi area. Flares reported.
One Beaufighter contacted enemy but was unable to close.
23 August. 30 U.S. Liberators (B.24) Bari Marshalling yards.
2 returned early, remainder found 6/10 9/10 high cloud over
Bari. 16 bombed alternative target Bai aerodrome bombs
bursting in hangar area. 12 bombed Marshalling yards. Accurate
observation results difficult but bursts seen in yards and town
to North with many fires in town area.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 240824Z, 240843Z.)

Sicily Request urgently destination of all ships in
Convoys. convoy K.M.S.23, K.M.S.24 and K.M.F.22,
M.W.S.41, and coasters, on completion of
discharge Sicily.
(D.S.T.O. Sicily 240858B to P.S.T.O. Med. (R)
P.S.T.O. Middle East. D. of S.T. F.O.I.C.Sicily.)

Movements 23rd August. Arrived and sailed LETITIA.
Malta. Arrived. HEROE, FORT TADOUSSAC, BENRINNES,
CAPE HAWKE, FORTRAE, FORT CHIPEWYAN, SHIRRABANK,
GOOD GULF (T), BEACON (T), TAUTRA, RANCHER,
TURKISTAN, VASCO, FORT FROBISHER, PALERMO.
(V.A. Malta 240900 to Admty.)

/Movements...

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War Diary.24.8.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Movements,
Beirut.23rd August. Arrivals* BREAM, M.L.1046.
Departures M.L.1159, M.L.358.
(S.O. (I) Beirut 240915C to Admty.)
* PINIOS, ALFIOS.

CAPETOWN.

Suez arrival at 0630C.
(F.O.R.S.C.A. 240920C to Admty.)

UNSPARING.

Intend sailing P.55 UNSPARING at 1500/25th via Eastern channel routed through 035° 56' 016° 31' at 0800/26th, 037° 17' 017° 20' at 0600/27th 039° 45' 018° 52' at 0500/28th 040° 20' 018° 52' at 2000/28th 041° 10' 018° 00' at 0600/29th thence 270° to patrol off Bari. Surface passage on 27th. 2 M.J. A.O.24. Request bombing restrictions to cover above passage. (Capt. S.10, 241005, 241515 to A.I.G.66, C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, etc.)

NIEUW
AMSTERDAM.

Position 1800/August 19 - 22. (Du.) NIEUW AMSTERDAM (A) sailed S. 22nd. (B) loaded 67 tons embarked 3140 personnel agreed. (D.S.T.O. Suez 241010C to Transports London (R) P.S.T.O. M.E. G.H.Q. M.E.) Arrived 24th NIEUW AMSTERDAM. (N.C.S.O. Massawa 241501Z to Admty.)

STRATHAIRD.

Your 110235B is not understood. If STRATHAIRD is to be used for transshipment ex K.M.F.23 from Middle East to India she cannot be back in Suez in time to proceed to U.K. in M.K.F.24 in October. (P.S.T.O. M.E. 241015C to Admty. for D.S.T.)

AMARAPOORA.

Intend sailing hospital ship AMARAPOORA at 1400 August 24th routed through war channel to position 79 thence 53, 36, 61, 24, 89, 44, 17, 109, to Oran, speed 14 knots. (N.O.I.C. Bizerta 241027B to B.N.L.O. Oran, Admty. F.O.I.C. Gib. etc.)

TORBAY.

Intend sailing TORBAY at 1500/25th via Eastern Channel routed through 035° 49' 017° 55' at 2000/26th thence through 035° 47' 021° 33' at 2000/27th surface passage as necessary on 27th. S.1. is requested to arrange onward routing. 2. M.J. A.O.24, request bombing restriction for above passage. (Capt. (S)10 241029 to Capt. (S) 1. C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant. etc.)

8th S/M.F.
movement
summary
2002B/24th.

(2) P.224 SICKLE East Corsica. (3) P.217 SIBYL in Gulf of Genoa. (Capt. S.8, 241100B.)

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War Diary.24.8.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

K.M.S.23. My 231107 not to F.O.C. Red Sea and N.O.I.C. Port Said. Sailed less FORT CHEPEWYAN, BENRINNES, FORT TADOUSSAC, and CAPE SPIEWKE plus RANCHER to Alexandria Beacon (T) Port Said Good Gulf (T) Port Said for Abadan.
(V.A. Malta 241111 to S.O. Ships escorting K.M.S.23. (R) Admty. C. in C. Med. Connav, C. in C. Levant, F.O.C. R.S. N.O.I.C. Port Said. P.S.T.O. M.E. M.W.T.R. Alexandria. Cdre. Algiers. F.O. Gibraltar.)

French Air Squadrons. U.S.667, N.A.F. 338. Ref. No. W.8123/5229. 24th August 1943. To AGWAR. For Combined Chiefs of Staff. To Usfor. For British Chiefs of Staff. Signed Eisenhower. Ref. Our W. 8032 (No record) Agwar 4376 dated August 7, 1943.
1. Our W. 8032 cancelled by this message.
2. Ref. Agwar 4376 (T.O.O. 070236/8) dated August 7, 1943 from Combined Chiefs of Staff to Eisenhower. Recommend assignment French Patrol Plane Squadron. Propose assigning Squadron Agadir and to operate in conjunction with two other French Naval Squadrons equipped with Sunderlands and Wellingtons operating under control A.O.C. West Africa now. (Algiers 241116B to H.Q. Etousa.)

Movements, Alexandria. Alex. August 23rd. Arrivals FORMIDABLE, HURWORTH, CROOME, GLOXINIA, CESSNOCK, G.S.ADRIAS, G.S. KANARIS, BURRA, M.L.351. Departures WOLBOROUGH, BOKSBURG, LANGLAATE, BEVER. (N.O.I.C. Alex. 241121C to Admty.)

Axis Shipping Istanbul. A. My 240930C (not to Malta and London) reporting entry BACCHUS and GERDA TOFT into Aegean 1930 G.M.T. August 23rd, escort consisted of three vessels and three aircraft. B. GERDA TOFT has deck cargo of ? bales of fodder. C. CELENO and one German ship entered Dardanelles from Aegean 1900 G.M.T. August 23rd. D. This is first occasion that ? Axis ships have passed Dardanelles after dark. (S.O. (I) Istanbul 241128C to C. in C. S.O. (I) Levant, S.1, S.10, D.N.I.)
My 241128. CELENO and THISBE arrived Istanbul.
(2) Former will load cargo ex FIRUZ. B.2.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul 241518C to S.O. (I) Levant, (R) Capt. (S) D. of N.I.)

X.K.2. (Ships for Towing to U.K.) Your 231254. (Ships ready for tow to U.K.) Approval subject to Admty. concurrence. Date of departure to be about 4th September depending on departure of escort carriers. (C. in C. Med. 241213B to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth.) Reply: Admty. 252344.

/M.K.F.22...

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24.8.1943.

Tuesday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

M.K.F.22. M.K.F.22. Intend to sail DURBAN CASTLE (61) MARNIX VAN ST.ALDEGONDE (71) at 1900/25th to Gibraltar in accordance with C. in C. Med's. 231821B (not to all). C. in C. Med. 231821 being passed to escorts on arrival. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville 241217B to CHANTICLEER, (R) Escorts of M.F.K.22 Admty. Commob, Oran, N.O.I.C. Algiers, F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in C. Med. Connav.)

U/B sunk 22/8. U-Boat sunk 22nd August by EASTON and PINDOS was probably U.458. No further details yet available. (S.O.I. Med. 241227B to Admty. for D.N.I., S.O.I. Levant, etc.) Confirmed U.458 see 261224.

N.A.A.F. Report. N.W.A.A.F. Opsum 184. N.W.A. Strategic A.F. 22/23 August. 51 Wellingtons Marshalling yards Salerno one returned early. 91½ tons from 4000 to 10000 ft. 4 x 4000 landed in yards and 1 x 4,000 on road Junction East. Several fires. Much smoke. 23 August. 71 U.S. Mitchells (B.25) marshalling yards Battipaglia. One returned early. West Choke Point completely covered. Direct hits Salerno and Monte Corvino Highways. 47 U.S. Warhawks (P.40) sweep Sardinia. 1 returned early. 282 x 20 fragmentation on and among factory buildings and barracks 25 miles North Cagliari. N.W.A. Tactical A.F. 18 August (Add.) 36 Kittyhawks (P.40) 23 U.S. Warhawks (P.40) attacked train near Seilla and motor transport Melito. N.W.A. Coastal A.F. 22/23 August. 2 Wellingtons armed R/C Chiappa Point, Elba and West Italian Coast attacked with 1 torpedo merchant vessel 3,000 tons escorted by 2 destroyers. 15 miles S. Alistro. 1 torpedo hung up. No results observed. 1 Wellington R/C Elba, Northeast, Corsica and approaches Leghorn. 7 Hudsons, 5 Beaufighters, A/S patrol and convoy escort. 3 Wellingtons air sea rescue. 13 Beaufighters 4 U.S. Beaufighters defensive patrols. 23 August. 3 Baltimores (A.30) 2 Marauders (B.26) R/C E. and W. Coasts Sardinia, Corsica, Approaches Genoa, Spezia and West Italian Coast. 4 torpedo Beaufighters 4 anti (Corrupt group) Beaufighters on shipping strike, failed locate convoy. Enemy activity. 22/23 August. 0411 hours 20 August enemy aircraft attacked Palermo. 2 S/M. chasers sunk. 1 Coaster damaged. Casualties and other damage slight. 2 Ju. 88 destroyed. 1 Ju. 88 probably destroyed by Beaufighters as reported above anti-aircraft claim (two or ten?) destroyed. (N.A.A.F.H.Q. 241438B.)

Med. Air Report. Signed Eisenhower. Part 3, Air Cositintrep No.45. N.W.Af. Air Forces. Night 22/23 August. 51 Wellingtons dropped 915 tons of bombs on Marshalling yards at Salerno with good concentration on target area. A Wellington on armed R/C attacked a small convoy with torpedoes South of Alistro but results were not observed. Beaufighters destroyed two Ju.88 and probably destroyed another from the 20 plus E/A which raided Palermo. Day 23 August. 70 B.25s.

/bombed...

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War Diary.24.8.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Med. Air Report. (Contd.) bombed Marshalling Yards at Battipaglia their escort being composed of 24 P.40 and 48 A.36's of Tactical Air Force. 47 P.40 on a sweep over Sardinia dropped bombs in Cagliari district starting many fires. A Catalina on A.S.R. although escorted by 12 P.38's was attacked by 8 M.E.'s. 109's and shot down. One M.E.109 was probably destroyed and a P.38 is missing. 2. Malta. Nothing to report other than routing patrols. (?) 3. Ninth Bomber Command 42 (or 12) B.24's attacked Marshalling yards at Bari but observation of results was difficult owing to cloud over. Due to cloud over target another formation of 16 B.24's. attacked aerodrome where bursts were seen in the airfield and hangar area. (?) 4. Intelligence. Night 22/23 August Palermo port was attacked by 20 plus enemy A/C Ju.88's and D.O.217's. Two S/M chasers were sunk. (Air C. in C. Med. T.O.O. Nil. Recd. 1535/24.)

M.K.S.23. My 231939 add for Malta DERWENTDALE. (C. in C. Levant 241536C to R.A. Alexandria (R) Admty. etc.)

U.G.S.14. (List). (Com. N.O.B. Oran 241610B to C. in C. Med.)

FORT VILLE MARIE, Fire. FORT VILLE MARIE entered 23rd August 1943 on fire in deep tank and No.4 tween decks. Fire now under control. Ministry and Naval Salvage Surveyor attending. Vessel detained pending their release. Fear serious damage to Cargo but not to hull. (D.M.W.T.R. Bone 241620B to Shipminder, London.)

U.G.S.13. Convoy arrival telegram, Convoy U.G.S.13 arrival less Alex. portion detached. (N.C.S.O. Port Said 241628C to Admty. (R) S.O. (I) Levant.)

French Evacuations through Spain. Request your remarks re French refugees contained in B.N.A. Madrid's 201212. It might be possible to move present disembarkation and security organisation from Casablanca to Oran if latter is considered preferable as destination for sea transport. (C. in C. Med. 241727B to F.O. Gib. (R) N.A. Madrid. N.A. Lisbon, Admty.)

Movements, Algiers. Departures SHAKESPEARE U.K., M.F.22 Algiers Section. Arrived ORONTES, ORMONDE, DUCHESS OF RICHMOND, INDRAPOORA, VILLE D. ORAN five ships M.K.F.22 following arrived CHRISTIAN HUYGENS, LEOPOLDVILLE, ORBITA, BERGENSFJORD, ARONDA, NIGERSTROOM, KINA II seven ships. (Com. Algeria 241826B to Admty.)

/Malta...

War Diary.24.8.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Malta
Air
Report.

23 August. 2 Spitfires made photo R/C of Taranto and special area in Toe of Italy. 1 Baltimore made A/S patrol for friendly shipping. 23/24 August 4 Mosquitoes on intruder patrols in Taranto area found no enemy air activity. 3 Beaufighters and 1 Mosquito made interception patrols N. of Malta and 2 Malta Beaufighters were airborne from Sicily on interception patrols N. of Syracuse. 3 Wellingtons made patrols for friendly shipping. 24 August. 5 Spitfires made photo R/C of Taranto Naples aerodrome in the heel and toe of Italy, and special areas in Toe of Italy. 4 Baltimores and 1 Wellington made A/S patrols for friendly shipping. 4 Spitfires airborne for a raid which turned back before reaching Malta. Operations by aircraft of other commands. 23 August. 1 U.S. Liberator of 415 Squadron. Airborne from Benina at 0605Z hours dropped 9 x 500 lb. demolition bombs on Bari Marshalling yards observed them to fall on South side of railway siding. Liberator later attacked by 3 M.E.109 1 of which was shot down into the sea. Owing to fuel shortage and oil trouble in one engine Liberator landed at Malta 1450Z hours. (R.A.F. Malta 241925B.)

Caique,
safe
conduct.

Motor caique number S.A.29 250 tons leaving Chesme for Cyprus E.T.D. unknown, not to be molested.
(Capt. S. (1) Flot. 242046C to 1. S.F.)

X.T.Convoys.

Intend following interim A.Ts. for slow ships which cannot maintain speed of main through convoy. 2. A.T.*convoys consisting of slow through ships and ships for intermediate ports up to and including Tripoli (Libya) will sail from Alex. every 10 days commencing about Sept. 1st. 3. Escort will consist of 2 A/S M/S until more become available. 4. Escorts are to return to Alex. with any ships ready at Tripoli and Benghazi. Not more than 48 hours delay can be accepted at Tripoli. (C. in C. Levant 242114Z to C. in C. Med. (M)).
* Should be X.T. see Admty. 251152. C. in C. Levant 261936.

Movements,
Cyprus.

Arrived and left 24th August G.S. IERAX,
F.S. COMMANDANT DUBOC.
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta, Cyprus 242143C to Admty. etc.)

Movements,
Oran.

Arrivals today U.S.S. BOISE SAVANNAH, BENSON,
EDISON, COLE and French Ships COMMANDANT BORY,
CHASSEUR 116. No departures.
(Comnob Oran 242145B to Admty. etc.)

/Relief...

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War Diary.24.8.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Relief Ships safe conduct. Admiralty message 231844B July.

1. Present arrangements under existing conditions on the Levant station are adequate.

2. When active operations take place in the Aegean all ports and Islands visited by relief ships may come under heavy air attack. In order not to prejudice security consider sailings should continue normally until such time as operations have started. Relief ships already in axis ports must then take their chance but ships en route to the area can be diverted.

3. When operations are impending it should be possible to hold these ships temporarily at Gibraltar or a North African port on some operational excuse such as enemy minelaying in the Central Mediterranean.

4. No other procedure can be envisaged which can be relied upon to give immunity to relief ships without prejudice to security.

(C. in C. Levant 242146C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

Movements, Port Said. Arrivals 24th August Port Said CAIRNS, KLO, WOLBOROUGH, ASPIS, AETOS, PANTHER, COMMANDANT DOMINE, R.F.A. CEDARDALE. Departures AETOS, PANTHER, COMMANDANT DOMINE, KLO.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 242215C to Admty. etc.)

Enemy Units, Spezia. P.R.U. report 2 cruisers and 4 destroyers 40 miles S.W. of Spezia at 1730B course S.W.
(Capt. (S) 8. 242230B to 8th S/M.F.)

Situation report No.16. 1. My 232041 para 2. CAPE ~~MOHICAN~~ ^{MOHICAN} arrived Malta. Para. 3. U-Boat was probably U.458. EASTON has arrived Malta. Para. 4. British Coaster damaged in air raid at Palermo was SS. KPEILFAST.

2. During the night 22nd August - 23rd August, Coastal forces operated off Italian Coast North and South of Straits of Messina without incident.

3. SS. PIEREE SOULE torpedoed by U-Boat at 1930/23 in 38.19 N. 12.55 E.

4. SS. ESSO PROVIDENCE damaged during air raid. August a.m. 24th August.

5. DZIK reports at 203215 in 4109 N. 17.25 E. attacked 5,000 ton tanker, one hit observed and one explosion heard and shortly afterwards 6,000 ton passenger liner two explosions heard. DZIK considers tanker probably sunk and liner sunk or badly damaged.

(C. in C. Med. 242249B to Admty.)

Movements, Algiers. Arrivals WISHART, MENDIP, DELHI, WILTON, SCYLLA, U.S.S. NICHOLSON, GLEAVES, TACKLE. Departures SHAKESPEARE U.S.S. SAVANNAH, BOISE, BENSON, EDISON, COLE. Arrived and sailed BEAUFORT, BELVOIR, EXMOOR, BRECON.
(Com. Algeria 242354B to Admty. etc.)

SECRET

865^A ²⁴/₈

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.)

*Algeria Situation
Report.*

SECRET MESSAGE IN

No. T O.O.

From A.F.H.Q. Algiers

DATE 25.8.43.

REC'D 1630

Cipher

Addressed The War Office Repeated C. in C. Middle East, L. of C. C.G.S. South Africa, G.O.C. in C. East Africa, C. in C. Persia/Iraq Pass to Usfor, C.M.H.Q. London, C.G.S. Ottawa, L.H.Q. Melbourne, C. in C. India, B.A.S. Washington, C.G.S. New Zealand (for Puttick), Resident Minister Achimota.

149816 5549 Cipher 24 August.

Cite FIGOT Signed Eisenhower.

74 Linrep. Summary of operations 19 to 22 August.

1. Ground. 7 and 8 Armies proceeded with concentration in Western and Eastern Sicily respectively.
2. Naval. British Cruisers and destroyers operated in Tyrrhenian Sea and South of Messina during night 19 - 20 August without incident. Same night US Destroyers carried out bombardment of Gioja Tauro starting large fire. On night 20th - 21st. French Destroyers FANTASQUE and TERRIBLE on sweep of West Coast of Italy bombarded Scalea. No details received except unsuccessful torpedo attack was made by unidentified craft. U.S.M.T.Bs patrolled off Vibo Valentia same night without incident. H.M. Submarine UNRULY reports two hits on 5,000 ton tanker and damage done to at least one other ship in Convoy on patrol off Brindisi.
3. Air. Railway communications in S Italy were main targets during period. Heaviest attack made 19th August against Foggia marshalling yards. 162 B seventeens from North Africa and 86 B twenty fours Liberators of 9th U.S. Bomber Command Middle East did great damage, and with escorts claim 31 Aircraft destroyed and 9 probables for loss 8 Bombers and 3 Fighters. 27 Wellingtons continued attack that night.

In Naples.....

2.

In Naples area 33 B seventeens on 21 August bombed railway yards at Aversa while 51 B twenty sixes Marauders attacking similar target at Caserta claim 9 enemy aircraft destroyed for loss 5 Escorts. In same area yards at Villa Literno raided by 36 Wellingtons during night 21st August were attacked on 21st August by 72 B 26's. Other marshalling yards bombed include Salerno and Battipaglia in South of Italy and Benevento Northeast of Naples. P. Forties Warhawks attacked Sardinian airfield of Monserrato. Intruder patrols have been flown over S Italy from Malta.

4. Enemy. A total of 132,400 Prisoners were taken the Sicilian Campaign of which 7,100 were Germans. Casualties in dead and wounded are estimated at 25,000 Germans and 7,000 Italians. Enemy losses in material have been considerable.

5. Political. Nothing to report.

No T.O.O.

Distribution by M.O. 4.

1st Lord	
1st S.L. (2)	M.O. 1.2.4.5.6.7.
4th S.L.	G.S. (P)
5th S.L.	M.I. 3.8.(L) 14.17.
D.C.N.A.E.	S.D. 2. 5.
V.C.N.S.	Air Co-ord.
A.C.N.S. (F)	C.O.M
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)	R.A.8.
A.C.N.S. (V)	R.A.C.1.
A.C.N.S. (U.T) (2)	Sigs.5.
U.W.R.	E.Ops.
Ops (3)	Q.Ops 2 (4 copies)
O.D. (5)	A.G.Co-ord.
D:A.W.T.	H.Q.E.T.O.U.S.A.
C.C.L.S. (2)	Brig. Jacob:
O.I.C. (3)	Admiralty War Registry.
D. of P. (3)	A.M.S.S.O.
M (2)	C.O.H.O.
I.P. (3)	Cdn. Mil. H.Q.
C.N.I.	
W.D.	
D.N.I. (5)	
Admiral Blake	
D.D.O.D. (M)	
A.L.O.	
D.P.D.	
D.A/S.W.	
D.A.U.D.	

Advance copy sent to Duty Capt.
D.D.I.C.

Note by C. 6 Tels:-

Cipher has been passed to Signals for transmission to Ottawa Melbourne Delhi Washington and Wellington.
A/Cs have been passed to Camilitary and ETOUSA.

B

866

24.8.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

M.B.44. Arrival BERAR with M.B.44.
(S.O.I., Bombay, 240211Z to Admty.)

Movements. Arrival SHILLONG.
(N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam, 240432Z.)
Departure (?RAMDAS) for Madras, escorting LYMAN STEWART.
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 241130Z to Admty.)
Departure 1130Z 24th HINDUSTAN escorting SEPIA.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 241141Z to Admty.)
RACEHORSE left.
(F.O.E.Af., 241535Z.)

Convoy J.O.19. Departure PATNA for Calcutta escorting J.O.19.
(N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam, 240451Z to Admty.)

Air Report. On 23rd August 2 B.24s 10th Air Force report 3 direct hits on 300 foot vessel anchored S.S.E. of Cab Nicobar which was left burning. 250 foot vessel thought to be Destroyer also present. One landing barge believed sunk, other barges seen on shore. Unfinished landing ground observed S.W. corner of Island with barracks and buildings erected.
(F.L.O. India, 240645Z to C. in C.E.F., (R) F.O. Ceylon, C.O.I.S.E.F.)

Convoy P.B.53. My 240740Z part 1. (1) P.B.53. (2) 0700Z/24 (3) A join group D. 0001Z/25th. B. 062° E. 1500Z/ 26th. C. Karachi, 0200Z/28th. D. Bombay 0700Z/30th. (4) 8 knots. (5) Route, 2. (6) BALUCHISTAN, BATHURST, TOOWOOMBA.
(N.O.I.C. Hormuz, 240735Z to C. in C.E.F.)
W. Reg. Note. Part 2 not received.

QUALITY. Is it your intention that QUALITY should rejoin Far Eastern Fleet with RAMILLIES and ROEBUCK. Your 251604 (Repetition of 251550) not refers.
(C. in C.E.F. 240820 to Admty. (R) C. in C.S.A. C. in C. Med.)
Your 240820. Confirmed. QUALITY is to rejoin Eastern Fleet.
(D.O.D.(F) 241753A to C. in C.E.F., (R) C. in C.S.A., C. in C. Med.)

Convoy B.M.61. Signal II. (2 ships, destinations).
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 241037Z to Admty.)

Convoy K.R.6. (1) 1455Z/24th. (3) 0300Z/Sept. 3rd.
(4) 11.5 knots. (5) Route. (6) DURBAN, RACEHORSE.
(N.C.S.O. Kilindini, 241537Z to Admty.)

/BEVEZIERS...

24.8.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

BEVEZIERS,
D'ENTRE-
CASTREAU.
Report.

Proposals contained in N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez
230727 July are concurred in.
(Head of M.I., 241929A to C. in C.E.F. (R)
N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, F.O.E.A., C. in C.S.At.)

Smoke
Screens,
Trincomalee,
Colombo.

Your 121004Z has been passed to War Office in
accordance with inter-service responsibility for
area smoke screening as laid down in A.M.
061032A January and 022215 April.
(Head of M.Br.II, 241937A to Com. Chief Ceylon,
(R) Armindia, C. in C. E.F.)

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War Diary.24.8.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

LETHBRIDGE E.T.A. 240900Z LETHBRIDGE, boiler hours 2 my position $043^{\circ} 51' 061^{\circ} 57' 288^{\circ} 9.5$. Weather report.
(LETHBRIDGE, 240100Z to C. in C. C.N.W.A. (R) Capt. D).

Movements. St. Johns N.F. 23rd. Arrivals LOBELIA ex St. Pierre. MORDEN ex Pictou. B.Y.M.S.76, 213 ex Halifax.
Departures SARNIA to Wafana. CHAMBLY to Londonderry ESQUIMALT to W.B.46.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 240138Z).
Departure COLUMBIA, KAMSACK, BATTLEFORD, BLAIRMORE to O.N.197.
(C. Halifax, 241303Z).
Arrival SHAWINIGAN ex H.X.233.
(C. Halifax, 241306Z).
Arrival LETHBRIDGE, GRANBY ex (?H.X.) 253.
(C. Halifax, 241716Z to Admty).
Arrival ORILLIA, COLLINGWOOD from St. Johns N.F.
(C. Halifax, 241717Z).
25/1100 HUGH J. GALLAGHER, U.S.A.T. Tobago via Grenada 25th knots 11 10 Boca de Navios thence direct to St. Georges Grenada thence direct to Charlottesville Tobago and return to Trinidad days 7.
(R.O. Port of Spain, 241717 to Admty).
San Francisco 23rd MATSONIA (U.S.A.) for B.
(N.S.H.Q., 241851Z to Admty).
Departure B.Y.M.S.77 - 214, F.T.2, to St. Johns N.F.
(C. Halifax, 242024Z to Admty. etc).
Arrival BUXTON ex S.C.140.
(Halifax, 242031).

MARIPOSA Convoy T.A. 57 A comprising MARIPOSA sailed from U.K. on 21 August for New York.
2. Details of personnel on board are being communicated by W.O. to Milstaf Washington and C.G.S. Ottawa.
(D. of S.T., 240209A to B.M.W.T. New York, B.A.D.
(R) N.S.H.Q.)

FISHGUARD Expected departure 1300Z/24th August FISHGUARD.
Routed Argentinia via, all positions N and W.
 $B.037^{\circ} 06' 074^{\circ} 06' C. 042^{\circ} 39' 061^{\circ} 21' D. 044^{\circ} 30' 056^{\circ} 24' E. 046^{\circ} 37' 054^{\circ} 36'$. S. of A. 15 knots.
(P.D. New York, 240413Z to Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet C and R. C.E.S.F. N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A., Com. 1st N.D. Boston, Cmdt. 3rd N.D. New York Comdt. 4th N.D. Philadelphia, F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, C.T.F.24).

U/B Submarine contact $019^{\circ} 50' N. 074^{\circ} 59' W.$ at 1441Z.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 241202Q to Admty).

/U.S....

War Diary.24.8.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.U.S. S/M
Estimate.

Cominch 241245Z.

ROCKAWAY,
HUMBOLDT,
MATAGORDA.

Following passed for information (re trips to U.K. for aeronautical material). Comnavu request Admiralty secure approval of M. of W.T. or designate ports if necessary. (Comnavu, 241257 to Admty).

M/V routeing
ships over
11 knots
speed.

For the present vessels with speeds of 11 knots and over not carrying aviation gasoline may be sailed independently in the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea, along the Eastern Seaboard and along the East Coast of South America. In accordance with above Trinidad shall be used for onward routeing port for vessels from East Coast of South America with Northern destinations and for vessels from north of Trinidad with destinations on East Coast of South America. Reporting centres pass to routeing officers your area. (Com. 10th Fleet, U.S. Nav. Com. 241320Z to Admty). Suspended, see 301200.

U.T.1,
Escorts.

Admiralty's 231534 being passed to you.
1. Escort can be provided by 28th either ST. FRANCIS or COLUMBIA.
2. Request confirmation that one will be sufficient since presumably FISHGUARD will be sailed to Argentia to join this convoy vide your 182353.
3. No other arrangement can be made without unduly weakening group C.4 which is only group available. Presume Corvettes are too slow for escorting this convoy.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 241342Z to Cdr. T.F.24 (R) C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., DART, C. in C. U.S. Fleet).

AQUITANIA

Arrived New York, 23rd.
(N.S.H.Q., 2413154Z to D. of S.T.)

M.M.S.

L.M.M.S. 255 (S.O.) and 254, 251, 244 sailed St. Johns 1400Z/24th for Londonderry (5 groups missing) route and W/T routine as in my 081537Z. (F.O.N.F., 241409Z to Admty).

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

N.S.H.Q., 241443Z.

/Spanish...

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Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.- Contd.

Spanish Shipping Craft. Admty. 172248A. 2. Reports requested for Comgreenpat New York received. All other Commands concerned report negative. (N.S.H.Q., 2414153Z to Admty. (R) B.N.A. Madrid). Admty's 172248A*N.S.H.Q.'s 241453Z. 2. Comgreenpat's report negative. (N.S.H.Q., 242134Z to Admty. (R) B.N.A. Madrid). *Spanish fishing vessels.

U.S. Dispositions. Change my 171517. Serial 88. Atlantic. TEXAS, ALABAMA, SOUTH DAKOTA, CINCINNATI, MEMPHIS at Sea. RANGER AUGUSTA, TUSCALOOSA in United Kingdom. CHESTER, BOSTON at Trinidad. BOGUE in Norfolk. CARD ahead of G.U.S.12.

BLOCK ISLAND with B.Y.21. CROATAN vicinity Azores. CORE en route Norfolk. Pacific: CHENANGO, ST. LOUIS in San Francisco. ALTAMAHA, PRINCE WILLIAM, CONCORD at Sea. LONG ISLAND South Pacific. BIRMINGHAM at Balboa. (Cominch, 241522Z to Admty. (R) Comnaveu).

Dispositions. U.S.S. TAMPA RARITAN, S.C. 30, 049° 11' 049° 52' 032° 10 S.C.140 W.1. (one) 045° 31' 050° 21' 041° 8 Escort Group C.2 047° 15' 051° 27' 111° 12. 5 to 046° 37' N., 048° 56' W. at 0800Z/25th W. S.C.140 POLYANTHUS, LANCER, LADY MADELEINE 047° 20' 050° 45' 101° 8 to 047° 00' N., 048° 25' W. at 1200Z/25th. W.B. 46 GEORGIAN, ESQUIMALT 046° 14' 055° 53' 265° 8 altering to 280° in 057° 00' W. U.T.1 DART, BANFF, WHIMBREL 045° 49' 055° 30' 045° 15 altering for Argentina in 045° 55' N. CLARE 043° 40' 058° 17' 045° 20 en route Argentina. B.W.54 VEGREVILLE 046° 02' 054° 36' 083° 7.5 altering to 039° in 052° 54' W. and to 010° in 046° 30' N. H.X.253 W. 5 (E) 044° 35' 053° 46' 073° 9.5 to 045° 00' N. 051° 00' W. thence 041° W. H.X.253 FUSILIER, BUSTLER, HESPERIA departing St. Johns N.F. at 2000Z/24th to 046° 18' 049° 22' at 1800Z/25th Escort Group B.3 departing St. Johns N.F. 2300Z/24th to join H.X.253 in 046° 18' 049° 22' at 1800Z/25th. ST. ALBANS N.S. 045° 47' 057° 29' 20 to overtake H.X.253. M.M.S.244, 251, 254, 255 048° 10' 051° 15' 057° 10 great circle route to Londonderry. MORDEN 047° 43' 051° 10' 080° 12 great circle route to Londonderry MALPEQUE 046° 32' 052° 55' to Sydney (C.B.). (C. in C. C.N.A., 241555Z). My 241555Z. Add S.C.707 departed Argentina 241830Z to position 046° 33' 055° 52' thence 247° 12.5. (C. in C. C.N.A., 242120Z).

VICTORIOUS, ROYAL SOVEREIGN escorts. Your 231624. Intend the following escort arrangements to U.K. 2. VICTORIOUS to be escorted by OPPORTUNE, OBDURATE and CALDER. S.B.N.O.W.At. is requested to arrange for CALDER to be sailed on completion of work up to arrive Norfolk not later than 12th September.

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

VICTORIOUS,
ROYAL
SOVEREIGN
escorts.
(contd).

3. ROYAL SOVEREIGN to be escorted by DUCKWORTH, FINDHORN and CAPEL or INVER whichever is worked up first. These three escorts are required to be at Norfolk by 22nd September. S.B.N.O.W.At. is requested to arrange accordingly signalling in due course which ships are detailed for this duty. (B.A.D., 241631Z to Admty. (R) Cominch, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. H.F., S.B.N.O.W.At., VICTORIOUS, ROYAL SOVEREIGN).

J.H. SENIOR,
collision
damaged
August 18/19.

(1) St. Johns N.F. (2) Bay Bulls. (3) 1630Z August. (4) J.H. SENIOR (U.S.) ex H.X. 252. (5) Damaged in collision with unknown ship ex H.X. 252. Towed Bay Bulls by H.M.R.T. ADHERENT. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 241711Z to Admty).

H.X. 252,
J.H. SENIOR.

H.X. 252. Arrival 1630Z/24th J.H. SENIOR (U.S.) at Bay of Bulls. Damaged in collision with unknown vessel in H.X. 252. Towed to Bay of Bulls by H.M.R.T. ADHERENT. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 241712 to Admty).

ACONIT

At 1730Z/24th sailed ACONIT in accordance with my 181348 (?being) passed to Cdr. Eastern Sea Frontier except ship joins route at position (B) latest Q.J.D.124. (C. in C. C.N.A., 241743Z to Com. 8th Naval Distr. (R) C. in C. W.A., B.A.R.M. N.S.H.Q., N.L.O. St. Pierre, C.G.S.F., Cdr. 10th Fleet, C. and R. Admty C.E.S.F.)

H.X. 252,
collision
damage Aug.
18/19.

Your 231349Z not to C. in C. W.A. T.D. WELD number 43 has severely damaged bow after collision with SANTOS number 34 at 2149 and second unknown ship at 2224/18th. Damage to other ships unknown. T.D. WELD joining convoy a.m. 23rd August capable of 10 knots degaussing out of action. (ASSINIBOINE, 241817Z to F.O.N.F., C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A.)

H.X. 254

H.X. 254. Your 231830 destinations. (D.T.D., 241940A to P.D. New York).

Convoy
U.G.S.16.

U.G.S.16 convoy now scheduled to sail 27th. (Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet, 241945Z to C.E.S.F. etc).

LE GLORIEUX.

C. in C. Med. give to Comnavnav info. Ch navmis Dakar had for info. S/M LE GLORIEUX arrived Bermuda 23rd. (Cominch, 242015Z to Info. to C. in C. Lant, C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C., Gib. Admty. etc).

/CLYDE...

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

- CLYDE Modify my 211829 CLYDE will not embark torpedoes at New York.
(Connav, 242027Z to C.E.S.F).
- Convoy (1) Sailing telegram part 2.
B.X.70. (I) 20 ships (list etc).
(P.D. Boston, 242029 to Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet).
- B.Y.M.S. Sail B.Y.M.S. 39, 54 when ready about 30th. Charleston to Halifax via New York. C. in C. C.N.W.A. requested to route onward to Londonderry via St. Johns N.F. Should not operate above one thousand R.P.M. Instructions for previous sailing of this type of vessel apply S.O. in B.Y.M.S.54.
(Cominch, 242100Z to C.E.S.F.)
- Depth Charges Your 241813B July para. 1. BRITISH GLORY 30 in M/Vs. depth charges flotation. Request instructions whether to return to ship 30 depth charges removed when fitting spar deck here. Also regarding similar cases in future and restoration of flotation fitted depth charges passed in convoy.
(B.R.L.O. New York, 242137Z to Admty).
Reply: 281748A.
- Sub. attack All times Z. Para. A. U.S.S. CORE aircraft sank and sighting sub. 27.00 N. 37.06 W. 240837. 20 survivors in summary. water. CORE A/C attacks surfaced sub. 27.09 N. 37.03 W. 241416 with D.Cs. Heavy oil slick.
(Cominch, 242140Z to Admty).
- U.G.S./G.U.S. Effective with U.G.S.19 no ship shall be included convoys, in U.G.S./G.U.S. convoys that does not have a Speed of declared speed of at least 10 knots. This to Ships. insure sustained speeds of 9 knots without smoking as specified in my 251637 of December and 131820 of February.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 242230Z to C.E.S.F. (R) C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, Comdt. 5th U.S. Naval District, Norfolk, Comdt. 3rd U.S. Naval District New York, U.S.P.D. New York, P.D. Norfolk, Admty. B.A.D. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Comnav, C. in C. Med. CommorseafRon)
- C.T.G.21.15 This is C.T.G. 21.15 241646 addressed for action to C. in C. Lant and CommorseafRon and repeated Cominch C.T.F.65, Comairlant, Comnav and Comnavaw. CommorseafRon is to inform interested parties.

/Proceeding...

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War Diary.

24.8.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

C.T.G. 21.15. Proceeding Casa. with disabled catapult result
(contd). runaway shot fighter. Attacked surfaced sub. 42.05
N., 24 W. at 211800. No apparent damage. Present
position 36.06 N. 17.14 W. Speed of advance 13.
Expected time of arrival forenoon 26th. Own planes will be
operating. Estimate ship can make temporary repairs by 27th.
(Comnaveu, 242318 to Admty).

NEW ZEALAND Request instructions for NEW ZEALAND STAR, now at
STAR. Cristobal. Ready 25th.
(Com. 10th Fleet C. and R, 242342Z to Admty).

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest (3) 2 Mitchells strafed small vessel at Moloe
serial No. Island (Northern Tanimbar Group) morning and
581 August later observed 1 freighter of 2,000 tons, 1 small
23rd. destroyer off West Coast Seloe Island (Western
Tanimbar Islands) course northwest. Air strike
despatched but unable locate convoy due heavy
rain.

(5) At daybreak R/C Mitchell strafed surfaced submarine 40 miles
northeast Merobe Harbour heading north.

(6) 1 medium freighter, 1 destroyer unsuccessfully bombed after-
noon 60 miles west New Hanover course southeast. 2 floatplanes
over convoy.

(8) During morning 4 Mitchells raided hostile area around
Marawasa sixty miles northwest Lae while 6 more after negative
barge sweep Huon Peninsula bombed and strafed waterfront
Finschhafen.

(12) 4 U.S. destroyers searched Huon Gulf during early hours
without contact and bombarded selected targets Finschhafen Area
with 540 rounds from 7,000 yards. Nil opposition encountered
although several planes possibly attempted retaliation after
bombardment.

(13) Submarine departed Rekata Bay early hours.

(14) 1 barge destroyed off Southwest Vella Lavella pre-dawn
20th August by Allied patrol craft. That night 2 enemy barges
damaged by patrol craft Kula Gulf. Following morning 8 Allied
patrol craft searched inlets south coast Kolombangara attacking
6 barges found Elliot Cove west of Vila. Negative results
other inlets but intense automatic fire encountered from shore
on all entrants damaging 1 ship with some casualties.

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24.8.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial (15) Night 22/23rd August 7 U.S. destroyers contacted only 2 small ships north Vella Lavella and No. 581 several barges southwest Choiseul. Japanese planes August 23rd. intermittently attacked destroyers.
(contd). (16) Three Jap air attacks on our amphibious craft unloading Barakoma 21st causing slight damage some casualties by near misses.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 240906Z).

Movements Arrivals 23rd TOWNSVILLE, H/Ts DUNTROON, KATOOMBA, TAROONA. U.S. Transport MAETSUYCKER. Departed TOWNSVILLE 23rd arrived Cairns 24th. (C.S.W.P.S.F., 241057Z).
U.S. Transport WILLARD A. HOLBROOK departed Brisbane 24th August due San Francisco 9th September. (C.S.W.P.S.F., 241056Z).
Arrived Milne Bay 23rd U.S.N.T. MIZAR. Departed Brisbane 23rd U.S.N.T. VICTORIA for Townsville and Milne Bay. (A.C.N.B., 241124Z).
Arrived Milne Bay 23rd U.S.S. CURTISS, 22nd U.S.S. FLUSSER Townsville 23rd U.S.S. HENLEY, U.S.S. HELM, Brisbane 23rd VENDETTA, Port Philip 23rd BALLARAT, Cairns 23rd KATOOMBA. Departed Brisbane 23rd BUNDABERG, MORESBY, GLENELG for Sydney (N. S.W.) Townsville 23rd PIRIE for Milne Bay. (A.C.N.B., 241233Z).

SHROPSHIRE, Your 230246.
W.S.33. SHROPSHIRE sailed in accordance with my 271304 July not to all addressees, and arrives Freetown 26th August for onward passage to Australia via the Cape.
(D.O.D. (F), 241129A to A.C.N.B. (R) F.O.C.W.Af. C. in C. S.A.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 241420A, 241431A).

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25.8.1943.

Wednesday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

S/M patrol
in northern
waters.

1. The S/M TANTALUS (P.318) sailed from Greenock this afternoon for Lerwick and thence for anti-U-Boat patrol from p.m./2nd Sept. until 10th Sept. in an area between Cape Spitzbergen and Bear Island.

Sweep off
Dutch coast.

2. M.T.B.349 suffered casualties during engagement by a trawler and two large escort ships at 0200A today in 52.27 N. 04.24 E. during a sweep off the Dutch coast by 5 M.T.Bs. from the Nore.

Biscay
A/S patrol.
U/Bs to be
attacked
in Spanish
waters.
New weapon
used by
German
aircraft.

3(a) The enemy is attempting, by vigorous attacks on our A/S air patrols, to clear a safe route for the passage of U-Boats to and from Biscay ports. The Admiralty consider he may now make a concentrated effort by NARVIK class destroyers and bomber aircraft to drive our surface hunting forces from the Ortegál/Vilano area. It is not possible at present to strengthen our surface forces to counter this threat, and the Admiralty are asking H.Q.C.C. to consider the provision of reconnaissance to warn surface forces of the approach of NARVIK class destroyers and to give such fighter support against bombing attacks as is practicable.

(b) ATHABASKAN and GRENVILLE sailed from Falmouth this evening, to support the 1st and 5th Escort Groups against surface attack. E.G.40 is returning to Plymouth.

*Rocket glider
Bomb.*

(c) NENE and BIDEFORD reported being bombed early this afternoon by twin engine bombers, Ju.88 and possibly Dorniers, in about 43.51 N. 08.13 W. The enemy employed a new weapon (rocket glider bomb) and BIDEFORD suffered damage and casualties from near miss.

(d) BERMUDA, on patrol in the area, is to carry out a sweep tonight in the approaches to the Bay, afterwards proceeding to Plymouth.

(e) At 0143/22 a submarine was sighted by aircraft six miles off the north-west coast of Spain and showing lights, but was not attacked owing to mistaken fear of attacking Spanish S/M B.2. It is considered that this was almost certainly a U-Boat, and as it is evident that U-Boats are now evading our patrols by using territorial waters as a corridor into the Bay of Biscay the Admiralty intend to attack U-Boats in territorial waters. (This is merely a restatement of the policy laid down by H.M. Government and communicated by the Admiralty on 21st July.)

/On ...

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25.8.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Biscay
A/S patrol.
U/Bs to be
attacked
in Spanish
waters.
New weapon
used by
German
aircraft.
(Contd.)

On 1st September C. in C. Med. informed the Admiralty that an awkward situation resulted owing to the failure of the Admiralty to inform him (in whose area the Gibraltar Command is situated) that S/MS were to be attacked in Spanish territorial waters. A.O.C. Gibraltar directed Cdr. Moroccan Sea Frontier in this sense but neither the Cdr. Naval Forces N.W. African Waters nor C. in C. Med. knew of the Admiralty orders. Consequently Cdr. Moroccan Sea Frontier is not attacking as directed, pending the authority of Cdr. N.F.N.W. African Waters.

Germans sink
2 Swedish
fishing
vessels.

4. At about 2000 today two German minesweepers sank two Swedish 80 ton fishing craft in the Skagerrak in about 57.33½ N. 08.29 E. These vessels were within the German declared area and the German naval authorities accused them of behaving in a suspicious manner.

Minelaying.

5. 63 aircraft of Bomber Command laid 164 mines last night off North-west Germany.

North Atlantic.

U. 523
destroyed.

6. WANDERER (Escort of Convoy K.M.S.24/O.G.92) reported that she destroyed U.523 (who was outward bound) at 0233 today in 41.58 N. 17.59 W. (about 410 miles N.E. of San Miguel, Azores). The Captain and 36 other prisoners were picked up. WALLFLOWER also took part in the hunt.

Mediterranean.

Sicily &
South Italy.

7.(a) AURORA, PENELOPE, JERVIS and PALADIN carried out a sweep in the Tyrrhenian Sea last night; TARTAR, NUBIAN and TUMULT with M.T.Bs. and M.G.Bs. operated off the coast of Calabria and the destroyers bombarded Luceri (results not seen, opposition belated and inaccurate); and U.S. coastal forces carried out a patrol near Vibo Valentia. There were no incidents.

/(b) ...

25.8.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.

Sicily &
 S. Italy.
 (Contd.)

(b) ORION carried out a bombardment of the Calabrian coast at 1500 today: small opposition was encountered from 8" and 4" guns.

(c) Eight F.W.190 attacked Augusta at 1555 today. No damage was caused to harbour installations. PRINSES ASTRID (L.S.I.(S)) and the tanker SPONDILUS were near missed, but no details of any damage have been reported.

X.T.
 Convoys.

8. Ships which cannot maintain the speed of the main Mediterranean westbound convoys will until further orders sail every 10 days from Alexandria, starting about 1st September. These convoys will be known as X.T. convoys. The escort will consist of 2 A/S M/S Trawlers until more become available.

Air
 Operations.

9(a) Air reconnaissance today showed that the enemy have blown up the landing areas at Elmas, Monserrato and Capoterra airfields near Cagliari (Sardinia).

(b) A small merchantman was attacked and damaged last night east of Cape Corse and another off Alassio, Albania.

East Indies.

Burma.

10. Aircraft continued their attacks on river craft today, at Kaladan, and at Monywa where 13 being sunk and 6 others damaged.

China.

Air attack
 on Kowloon.

11. 15 B.25s and 18 P.40s of the 14th U.S.A.A.F. bombed Kowloon Docks (Hong Kong) today. Two 550 ft. vessels were hit one of which was set on fire, and many fires were caused in the dock area. Tai Koo Docks were unsuccessfully attacked.

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25.8.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

12. Two gunboats, a transport, and two small merchantmen, one carrying 10 M.L.Cs on deck were attacked this afternoon by a Liberator on armed reconnaissance 60 miles west of N.W. Mussau Is., Bismarck Archipelago. Two hits stopped the transport, which was left listing badly with much debris near by.

Air attack
on Hansa
Bay.

13. 81 aircraft attacked Hansa Bay, New Guinea and harbours along the coast to the south-eastward this morning, destroying two coasters, some luggers and a great many barges.

14. During the forenoon, successful attacks were made on small craft in harbour at Garovo Island.

15. Off the coast of Choiseul Island (Solomon Is.) this afternoon two Kittyhawks destroyed 3 possible M.T.Bs.

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25.8.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Ships for
 Med. and
 Eastern
 Fleet.

Your 241245. Concur with sailing proposals.
 (D.O.D. H., 251328A to C. in C. W.A.)

S/M Exercise
 area.

Under consideration to establish submarine
 exercise area for Naval Aircraft limits lines
 joining following positions:-

- (a) 54° 05' N., 4° 13' W. (b) 54° 05' N. 3° 56' W.
- (c) 53° 55' N., 3° 56' W. (d) 53° 55' N., 4° 13' W

ELSWICK (Torpedo) area being moved 2½ miles to the eastward
 limits lines joining following positions:-

- (m) 54° 00' N. 3° 54' W. (n) 54° 00' N. 3° 36' W. (o) 53° 50' N.
- 3° 36' W. (p) 53° 50' N. 3° 54' W.

2. Berth for one submarine required alongside at Douglas, Isle
 of Man, with depth of at least 16 feet at M.L.W.S. for 300 feet
 and minor repair facilities.

3. Submarine Area would require minesweeping 100% search for
 coarse set ground mines estimated 60 sweeping hours.

4. Request early remarks.

(A.C.N.S. W., 251820A to C. in C. W.A.)

Personnel in S.B.N.O. Archangel 231146 and Admiral Fisher
 North Russia. 231554.

Late R.A.F. stores at Grasnaya have already been
 absorbed into naval stock but a reserve from
 these for 5,000 men for one month has been

earmarked for survivors.

2. Taking all stocks including reserve into consideration it is
 estimated that British and American personnel in North Russia
 can exist till end of December but without as regards food any
 luxury such as tinned fruit to vary staple diet (Tins), supplies
 from Russian sources being almost unobtainable.

3. The consequent lowering of standard of living if effect is
 given to above is not something that these men should be called
 upon to endure in severe climatic conditions prevailing.

4. Also to abolish this reserve is dangerous as re-victualling
 convoy may well produce survivors rather than stores in which
 case we are also sunk.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 251901A to Admty).

Movements.

JANUS

Scapa arrival JANUS.
 (A.C.O.S., 250915A to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

HUSSAR

On completion of A/S practice tomorrow proceed by
 normal route to Londonderry.

2. On arrival rejoin 1st M.S. Flotilla and act
 under orders of M.S.1.

(R.A.D., 251038A to HUSSAR).

/S/M...

25.8.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.- Contd.

- S/M
Movements. Capt. (S) 5's 201037A. Intend sailing at 0700/26 UNBROKEN escorted by CHASSEUR 11 for Portsmouth. E.T.A.1730.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 251135 to C. in C. Portsmouth)
Following is forecast of submarine movements.
- A. STUBBORN, SEANYMPH, SYRTIS to be sailed from Holy Loch 30th August for Lerwick and patrol.
- B. TUNA and TRUCULENT to arrive Port HHZ 1st September for towing-trials.
- C. THRASHER to embark 2 Welmans and arrive Port HHZ 1st September for further trials.
- D. SATYR and SEADOG are to arrive Scapa 3rd September for A/S training but are to be at 24 hours notice for patrol from 1st September.
- E. SCEPTRE is remaining at Holy Loch at 24 hours' notice for patrol as from 1st September.
(F.O.S., 251146Z to Capt. S.3, S.9).
From position SA proceed diving by day through S.B. 046° 01' 012° 50'.
(F.O.S., 251147A to SAFARI).
TANTALUS escorted by CAPE PALLISER sailed in accordance with S.3b. 240930A.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 251434A).
Intend to sail VARANGIAN escorted by M.L. detailed by PHILANTE from 180° Sanda Island 2 miles at 0700A/27 to Larne, E.T.A. 0930A.
(Capt. S.3., 251507A).
Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/26 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S., 251706A, 261036).
- M.S.F.111 Request you will sail 111th M.S.F. consisting of M.M.S.38, 48, 117, 167, 168, 169, 170 and 172 to arrive Milford Haven by 6th September.
(D.M.S., 251519A to F.O.I.C. Cardiff, Southampton)
- Coastal Craft Group "L". The following ships to be known as Coastal Craft Group "L" are to be sailed from Milford Haven to Gibraltar for onward routing as directed by C. in C. Med. on 7th September of when weather is suitable.
- 8 ships of 111th H.M.S. Flotilla. M.Ls. 584 and 585. M.F.V.2029 Tug FRISKY.
2. C. in C. W.A. is requested to detail two of ships mentioned in his 241245 August (not to all addressees) as escort and to sail ships to Milford Haven as requisite.
5. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail ships by standard route as requisite.
(D.O.D. H., 251605A).
- QUEEN ELIZABETH. A.M. 141249B. Intend sailing QUEEN ELIZABETH at 1600A/28 for Scapa escorted to position (H) 055° 04' N., 005° 30' W. by LIMBOURNE, GOATHLAND, and TANATSIDE.
2. Route.
3. S.O.A. 16 knots, E.T.A. position (H) 1900A/29, E.T.A. Scapa 1400A/30.

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25.8.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

QUEEN
ELIZABETH.
(contd).

4. C. in C. Home Fleet is requested to detail relief escorts to take over at position (H) as in my 200420.
5. On relief LIMBOURNE, GOATHLAND, and TANATSIDE return Plymouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 251632A).

MAHRATTA

Intend sailing MAHRATTA at 1930 today to Scapa, E.T.A. 0530 tomorrow.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 251750A to R.A.D.)
My 251750. Sailed.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 252040A to R.A.D.)

M.F.V.
Convoy.

To shorten route alter course forthwith for new T, 46.20 N. 13.40 W, thence to Q.
(D.O.D. H., 251935A to POLLOCK).

North
Atlantic
Dispositions.

Dispositions of operational units in North Atlantic. 1. Area Iceland (C) BELFAST, KENT, NORFOLK, 1 destroyer.
Area Scapa, ANSON, DUKE OF YORK, MALAYA, LONDON, PHOEBE, SPARTAN, 9 destroyers, TUSCALOOSA, RANGER, AUGUSTA, 5 destroyers (U.S.).
Area Plymouth GLASGOW 2 destroyers. Bay Area. BERMUDA. At sea RENOWN, 2 destroyers.
2. Disposition of Escort Carriers. Gibraltar Area. ATTACKER, BATTLER, HUNTER, STALKER. These four are armed with fighters.
(D.O.D. H., 252201A to C. in C. U.S. Fleet).

Operations.

Operations
"Musketry"
and "Percussion".
BIDEFORD
damaged.

Am over enemy S/M in 42° 07' N., 09° 30' W. Enemy was sighted on surface, stationary.
(A/C 179 Sq. Duty J, 250020B to Gibraltar).
Am over enemy S/M in 43° 00' N., 11° 00' W.
(A/C 210 Sq. Duty K, 250225 to 19 Group).
My 0225. Nothing sighted.
(A/C 210 Sq. Duty K, 250250A to 19 Group).
Admiralty 241809A, para. (H).

OTUS is passing south through area (corrupt group) "Seaslug". I presume you know that BERMUDA is patrolling at 20 knots roughly between lat. 044° 30' N., and 045° N.
F.O. (S) pass to OTUS.

(BERMUDA, 250447 to C. in C. Plymouth).

One A/C shadowing convoy "Talbot" in 44° 38' N., 09° 30' W. (EGRET, 250917 to Whitehall W/T).
Am being attacked by enemy A/C in 47° 11' N. 12° 30' W. (A/C 86 Sq. 250920).
Am being attacked by 2 Ju. A/C. (A/C 86 Squ. 250923 to 19 Group).
2 F.W.1 280 in 43° 47' N., 08° 14' W. (NENE, 250940A).

/One...

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Wednesday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operations "Musketry" and "Percussion" BIDEFORD damaged. (contd).
One shadowing aircraft, convoy "Talbot" in 43° 50' N., 08° 21' W. Course 060° speed 8 knots. (BIDEFORD, 250940A).
One Ju.88 in vicinity 45° 18' N., 12° 01' W. (BERMUDA, 250957A to C. in C. Plymouth).
One F.W. shadowing convoy using call sign 100 in 43° 52' N., 08° 15' W, course 060, speed 8 knots. (BIDEFORD, 251025 to Whitehall W/T).
1 Ju.88 shadowing "Talbot" in 44° 19' N., 09° 10' W, course 140, speed 10.
(EGRET, 251045A to Whitehall W/T).
Am being shadowed by one enemy aircraft, bearing 300°, position 43° 55' N., 07° 54' W. course 060° speed 8 knots. (WAVENEY, 251055Z to Whitehall W/T).
You were probably reported by enemy aircraft at 0635. (D.D.I.C., 251205A to HASTINGS).
C. in C. Plymouth, 211718A.
2. Onward route from (F) to (G) (053°) 00' N., 011° 30' W, (H) 055° 01', 010° 02'.
(C. in C. W.A., 251206A to E.G.40).
2 shadowing A/C, convoy "Rivet" in 43° 53' N., 08° 00' W, course 240° speed 8 knots.
(NENE, 251245A to Whitehall W/T).
My 222209 para. one. For submerge read total, and cancel last sentence section (B).
(F.O.S., 251256A to H.Q.C.C.)
20 aircraft type unknown bearing 000° course 280°. My P.C.S. within ½ hr. of 1400 is 43° 51' N., 08° 13' W. 240° 8. (BIDEFORD, 251344 to Whitehall W/T).
16 Ju.s 5 miles 270° 43° 50' N., 08° 06' W. (NENE 251344A to Whitehall W/T).
My 251344A. Enemy A/C have dropped bombs. (NENE, 251415A to Whitehall W/T).
Enemy aircraft bombing. (E.G.40, 251416A).
My 251415. Attack ceased 1435. BIDEFORD A/S compartment flooded, wireless set out of action and many holes in ships side, largest 42 foot square. No other damage. (E.G.5, 251501A to C. in C. Plymouth).
BERMUDA is to carry out following sweep tonight. Passing through position BA 045° 07' N., 011° 02' W. and BB 045° 06' N., 007° 59' W. to reach BC 044° 30' N., 006° 40' W. at 0600A/26, thence through BD 044° 20' N., 006° 41' W. and thence 270° to resume patrol until necessary to discontinue and return Plymouth on account of fuel shortage. (C. in C. Plymouth, 251502A to BERMUDA).
8 Ju.s 44° 10' N. (?longitude) 270° 4,000 feet. (A/C 53 Sq. Duty R, 251600).
Disposition at 2000.
(1) First Escort Group, EGRET, JED, ROTHER, Fifth Escort Group NENE, TWEEN, SNOWBERRY, EDMUNDSTON patrolling vicinity 043° 50' N., 008° 30' W.
(2) Escort Group 40, LANDGUARD, BIDEFORD, WAVENEY 044° 20' N. 008° 55' W, course 344° 11 knots.

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25.8.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operations "Musketry" and "Percussion" BIDEFORD damaged. (contd).

(5) OTUS 045° 50' N., 013° 10' W, southbound daily advance 120 miles.

(6) RUBIS 049° N. 006° 01' W, southbound.

(7) ATHABASKAN, GRENVILLE sailed Falmouth 2000 westward through 180 Bishops Rock 10. (C. in C. Plymouth, 251652A to Ships). Consider enemy air activity in your area today may indicate imminent attempt by U-boat to make eastbound passage through area Cape Villano to Cape Ortegale.

(2) A U-boat is believed to have recently used the ruse of passing through this area at night near the limit of territorial waters fully surfaced and showing lights. (C. in C. Plymouth, 251855A to E.G.1., E.G.5). On next occasion of breaking W/T silence S.O.5 and 40 escort groups report type of enemy aircraft concerned.

(2) Report if any casualties sustained. (C. in C. Plymouth, 251859A to E.G.5, E.G.40). My 211718 and 241525. On searching 048° 50' N. LANDGUARD is to part company with 40th Escort Group and proceed via Q. Z. S. 315 to call at Milford Haven, proceeding thence to Londonderry as ordered by N.O.I.C. Milford Haven.

(2) BIDEFORD and WAVENEY are to continue voyage to Londonderry as previously ordered. (C. in C. Plymouth, 251903A and 252234A to E.G.40). 1st and 5th E.G.s intended P.C.S. at 0700/26, 205 Q.48, 000° (?) 10 knots. (E.G.1, 251951A to C. in C. Plymouth). Your 241657. Sailed. (ATHABASKAN, GRENVILLE). (N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 251955A to C. in C. Plymouth). (Corrupt Group) P.C.S. 0700/26, 114° A 74 miles, 343° 12½ knots. (E.G.40, 252039A to C. in C. Plymouth). Following damage sustained in air attack due to near misses p.m. today Wednesday: Compartments flooded due to splinter holes above and below waterline cable locker, asdic compartment, lower control store. Holed above waterline paint shop, fore mess deck, upper central store. Asdic out of action. Foremast severed and fished 18 feet from masthead, electric and type 291 leads cut. "F" coil degaussing gear out of action, no damage machinery. Ship seaworthy in average weather conditions. All damage to port side (BIDEFORD, 252119A to Admty).

Operation S.F. (A) 062° 32' 30" N., 013° 49' W. (B) 197° M J S L 16, strength 4. (C) LLANDUDNO, 14 knots. (D) 10 49 aircraft. (E) 062° 10' N., 014° 10' W. (F) Negative. (M/S 15 250054A to C. in C. Rosyth). Faeroes departure ORIBI. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 250556A to C. in C. Rosyth). R.D.F. contact hunted from 0256/25th until 0330 when it faded at 2600 yards right ahead in position 061° 12', 016° 13'. No Asdic contact obtained although conditions excellent. (2) Unexplained star shell or Very Light sighted to southward at 0408. Search negative. (3) SABRE will be detached at 2000 to Skaale Fiord to refuel. (4) ULSTER will be detached to Scapa at 1600 in accordance with C. in C. Rosyth's 241842A.

/(5)...

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Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

- Operation S.F. (contd). (5) Am patrolling south west limit of square A/C 6 and L.16 in company. Position 61 17. (D/F 17, 251215A to H.F.) Arrivals Seidisfiord 1950Z FRASERBURGH, LLANDUDNO, BOOTLE, WORTHING, BEAUMARIS. (R.N.O. Seidisfiord, 252105A to A.C.I.C.) My 031615. From 2359A/25 moorings area 60 miles 225° from normal.
2. From 0002A to 1158A/26th (a) 6 (b) 7. (C. in C. Rosyth 252131A to H.F.) Establish patrol forthwith as follows: (1) Group B (2) 061° 53' N., 014° 55' W. (3) 225° 60 60. (C. in C. Rosyth, 252235A to Capt. D.17). On completion of refuelling remain at Skaalefiord. (C. in C. Rosyth 252216A to SABRE).
- S/M Patrols. Request you will sail TANTALUS from Lerwick at 2100 A/27th through 090° Muckle Flugga 5 miles through route "Pink" to 069° 00' N., 008° 52' E, thence direct to patrol-area in accordance with F.O.(S) 221132.
2. S/M to proceed on surface at discretion of C.O. (Capt. S.9., 251051A to S.O.S/M Lerwick). Request you will recall UNTIRING to arrive Lerwick 5th September whence UNTIRING will proceed Holy Loch. (F.O.S., 251151A to Capt. S.9). A.C.O.S. is requested to sail 0.15 for Lerwick on relief by S/Ms in para. (D) of my 251146. (2) Capt. (S) 9 is requested to sail 0.15 for anti U-boat patrol after 3 days standing off at Lerwick. (F.O.S., 251158A). (1) Cancel my 222206. (2) LE CURIE proceed to patrol vicinity 046° 15', 005° 15'. (3) ULTIMATUM proceed patrol vicinity 045° 40', 005° 45'. (F.O.S., 251211A to S/Ms). Positions of submarines at 0800A/26 and movements for following 24 hours. All times Zone A. (A) UNTIRING Patrolling vicinity 62° 50' N., 02° 30' E. (E) OTUS approx. 44° 50' N., 13° 15' W. dived by day to southward daily advance 100 miles. (F) CURIE on patrol in 46° 15' N., 05° 15' W. (G) UNTIMATUM on patrol in 45° 40' N., 05° 45' W. (J) SAFARI passes from southward through 43° 01' N., 12° 50' W. at 0110/27 thence dived by day to northward. Daily advance 110 miles. (F.O.S., 251706A to Admty).
- Operation "Starkey". Your 211944. In order that ships referred to in para. one may attend convoy conference intend postponing C.W.205 and C.W.206 for 24 hours. Ships will therefore be due to arrive Spithead p.m./1st and 5th September. (C. in C. Nore, 251221A to Admty). N.O.I.C. Newhaven's 241350A. Arrivals M.L.347 and L.C.Ps. 165, 167, 172, 179, 189, 196, 197, 199, 202, 208. (V.A. Dover, 251635A).

/Your...

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25.8.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Operation
"Starkey".
(contd).

Your 241143. Anticipate GREY GOOSE, GREY OWL, GREY FOX, GREY SEAL and M.G.B. 611, 614, and 616 will be ready to sail to Dover on 29th August. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 251825A to S.O. Force J).

Engagement
with Enemy
Convoy.
M.T.B. 349
damaged.Preliminary report of C/F operations night 24/25 August.
1. M.T.Bs. 356 (S.O.) 351, 348, 349, 347 were ordered to sweep North from vicinity of Scheveningen to intercept possible southbound convoy while avoiding patrols.

2. Unit arrived on convoy route between Scheveningen and Hook at 2350. All lights on at Hook. Unit approached to sight Pier Head, nothing seen. Shore guns fired starshell and lights were extinguished. Unit swept North along convoy route at 12 knots, at 0200A. In 52° 27' N., 04° 24' E. Radar contact 3 ships 3000 yards Red 45, at same time sighted trawler and two large escort ships. Enemy opened fire, Unit proceeded West at 6 knots making smoke, enemy pursued speed increased to 12 knots, but enemy not shaken off until speed increased to 20 knots. Shortest Radar range 1300 yards. At 0253 M.T.B. 349 was ordered to return harbour owing to casualties. Remainder of Unit proceeded N. 50° E. and continued sweep. At 0357 Unit turned south, at 0415 no further contacts, Unit set course for Base.

Weather. Visibility good, light airs, sea slight.

Casualties. M.T.B. 349 one officer killed, one officer slightly wounded

Damage. M.T.B. 356. Compartment below water line. Superficial.

M.T.B. 349. Star torpedo and tube damaged, wheelhouse, Radar Aerial severed, petrol tank holed, hull damage.

Ammunition expended Nil.

(C. in C. Nore, 251251A to Admty).

Coastal
Force
Patrols.

(A) S.G.Bs. GREY GOOSE, GREY OWL, GREY FOX, from Newhaven anti E-boat patrol from 2145A to 0500A 26th on 50° 25' N., between 00° 40' W. and 01° 25' W.

(B) BLEASDALE immediate notice at Yarmouth.

(C) M.Ls. 292, 344 patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between F and E.A. 5 buoys.

(D) CHASSEUR 14 immediate notice at St. Helens.

(E) M.Ls. 122, 233, 124, from Portland patrol 50° 20' N., between 02° 00' W. and 02° 25' W.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 251452A).

1. Force C. M.G.B.s 664, 667 are to patrol in vicinity 096° Start Point 19. Codeword "Plumb".

3. Force D. M.G.Bs. 81, 111, 75 are to patrol in vicinity 180° Eddystone 8'. Codeword "Stencil".

5. Forces are to leave Dartmouth to be on patrol by 2115.

Leave patrol at 0500A/26 for Dartmouth.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 251638A).

M.G.B.S.1. from Dover and M.A.S.Bs. 26 and 29 from Ramsgate at V Buoy. E.T.D. Dover 2000. E.T.R. 0545/26. E.T.D.

Ramsgate 2015. E.T.R. 0530/26. M.Ls. 139, 293 at Innder Lade Buoy.

(V.A. Dover, 251701A).

/My...

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25.8.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal Force Patrols. (contd). My 251002. Cancel destroyed patrols. Remain at half an hour notice.
(C. in C. Nore, 251923A to Capt. D.16, D.21).
Your 2516138A. "Plumb" sailed. "Stencil", remaining in harbour at immediate notice owing to weather.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 252024A to C. in C. Plymouth).

Operation "Lorry". Para. 4 of C. in C. H.F. 242009. Onward route from position G through MZ.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 251718A to C. in C. H.F.)

Allied Air Activity.

Naval A/C Training. One A/S training submarine is to be detailed each day when required by arrangement between Captain (S) 3 and Captain (S) 7, for training of Naval Aircraft, its programme being co-ordinated by F.O.C.T. This commitment is to take priority over other A/S training.

2. Submarine will be used for: (a) Machrihanish A/S school (b) Escort carrier training (c) Exercises and trials with Ronaldsway and Inskip Naval Air Stations.

3. Special area for commitment (c) will be established to east of Isle of Man.
(A.C.N.S. W. 251810A to Capts. S.7., S.3, F.O.C.T.)

Mining.

Q.Z.X.1070. My 191532. On completion of check sweep commence clearance of Western half of Q.Z.X.1070 enclosed by following positions.
PROSPECT, PORCHER, ULVA and NEAVE from Portland to R/V in 50° 24' 18" N., 02° 57' 28" W. at 0800 tomorrow with GWEAL, CONCERTATOR, ARMANA, NIGHT HAWK, and LOCH BUIE from Dartmouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 251233 to GWEAL, PROSPECT).

S.N.222 B. Admty. 242223. Intend SALADIN take AMAZON's place in S.N.222 B.
(C. in C. W.A., 251235A).
Intend to proceed 0500A/26 to comply with C. in C. Plymouth's 251233A. NEAVE, ULVA, PORCHER in company.
(PROSPECT, 251900A and 251948 to C. in C. Plymouth)

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25.8.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Technical.

New Air Weapon. New weapon used today by Ju.88. Projectile appears (?like a) paravane and same slope. Release takes place at about 1000 feet when aircraft approx. abeam on (?reciprocal) course of ship about 3/5 miles. Rocket propulsion carries it ahead of aircraft then projectile peels off in general direction of ship in sufficient duplicate rocket begins flight pointed away from ship, altering to approach and again at end of flight. Control appears to be optical base evidence radio valve and portion of supposed amplifier base with lens slot recovered. One carried by each aircraft. Explosive normal. About half (?dive bombers) missed - mile or more from target. Aircraft approached down wind test projectile flight across wind.
(E.G.40, 251607A to C. in C. Plymouth). *See corrected version p. 857A.*

Casualties & Defects.

EMPIRE
FRIENDSHIP.

Your 242201A approved. DEXTEROUS to remain in company as far as Lundy. Thence to Falmouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 250045A to HASTINGS).

TAHCHEE

Request destination for (2 corrupt groups) towing (corrupt group) Tanker TAHCHEE.
(STORMKING, 250925Z to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

M.T.B. 344

Regret to report serious accidental damage to M.T.B. 344. Boat inoperative and will have to be paid off. M.T.B. 252 will be brought forward as her relief for present exercises. Should be ready p.m./27th.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 252250A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal
Convoy
speeds.

The scheduled speeds of some recent coastal convoys have been substantially exceeded with the result that the lower powered ships have been unduly tried. As this practice also tends to disorganise work at the ports and the prearranged programmes for leavers and joiners it should not be allowed.
(D.T.D., 251053A to A.I.G. 235).

Convoys
for U.K.

Request authorities at convoy assembly ports abroad for U.K. convoys may be instructed to inform Commodores as follows.
(A) Commodore to remain with convoy to destination unless ships are ordered to proceed independently.
(B) Loch Ewe section to be detached on crossing 10° W.
(C) Convoy is to be formed into not more than three columns before reaching 7° 30' W.
(C. in C. W.A., 251132A to Admty).

SECRET

887A
Received 9 Sept. 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: "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

IN.

251607A/August.

Date: 26.8.43.
Rcd.: 0100.

From S.O. 40th E.G.

First use of Rocket Propulsion by M.C.

Naval Code K.1 by W/T1 Corrected Version.

Addressed C. in C. Plymouth, Admiralty. Repeated S.O. E.G.1, (S.O. E.G.5, H.M.S. BERMUDA, C. in C. W.A.

IMMEDIATE.

New weapon used to-day by Ju. 88. Projectile appeared like a P.V. and same slope. Release taking place at about 1000 feet when aircraft approximately abeam on (reciprocal?) course of ship about 3/5 miles. Rocket propulsion carried it ahead of aircraft then projectile peels off in general direction to I.E. rocket begins flight pointed away from ship, altering to approach and again at end flight.

Control appears to be optical based on evidence of radio valve and portion of supposed amplified base with lens slot recovered. 1 (one) carried by each aircraft. Explosives normal. About half (dive bombers?) missed - mile or more from target. Aircraft approaches down wind, projectile flight across wind.

	251607	O.I.C.	
1st Lord.	Advance Copy Ops. O.D.	O.I.C.	
1st S.L. (2).	D. of P. (3).	Dep. Contr. (3)	} Bath by } Courier.
D.M.B.L.	D.N.I. (5).	D.A.S. (4).	
3rd S.L.	D.A./S.W.	D.N.O. (4).	
4th S.L.	D.A./U.D.	D.T.M.	
5th S.L.	D.G.D. (2).	S.W.R.	
V.C.N.S.	Adml. Blake (4).		
A.C.N.S. (4).	D.T.M. (2).		
A.C.N.S. (W).	C.A.O.R.		
A.C.N.S. (F) (2).	D.S.R.		
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2).	Air Branch.		
A.C.N.S. (A) (2).	D.S.D. (1).		
Nav. Sec.	I.P. (3).		
U.W.R.	W.D.		
Ops. (3).	D.A.S. (L).		
O.D. (5).	D.N.O. (2).		
O.I.C. (2).	I.M.N.G.		
A.H. (W).	D.T.D. (4).		
D.M.W.D.	Asst. Com. (R & D).		
D.T.S.D.	I.P. (3).		
D.C.H.A.B.	W.D.		
D.S.R.			
D.N.O.			
D.A.W.T.			
H. (27).			

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25.8.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.- Contd.

D.S. 44 Admiralty 161851.
1. SALADIN now requires docking and will not be ready in time for D.S. 44.
2. Intend AMAZON, SCIMITAR escort D.S. 44.
(C. in C. W.A., 251235A to Admty).

F.S. and Commencing 1st September the Rosyth Escort Force
F.N. Convoys. will provide both escorts for F.S. and F.N.
convoys.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 251433A).

A.T. 62 Arrived 1800/25.
(QUEEN (S.T.O. Greenock, 251802A).
ELIZABETH).

GOODWIN E.T.A. 260230Z. No survivors.
(GOODWIN 251850 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

T.A. 62, Convoy T.A. 62 SS. QUEEN ELIZABETH will be ready
T.A. 61. to leave Clyde p.m./29th August for Halifax and
convoy T.A. 61 SS. QUEEN MARY will be ready
to leave Clyde p.m./4th September for New York.
2. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail ships
accordingly. Admiralty will signal routes.
(D.O.D. H., 251952A to C. in C. W.A.)

PRAGUE, My 221155. Sailed.
AMSTERDAM. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 252340A to A.C.O.S.)

H.X. 252 U-boat signal on (2 corrupt groups) intercepted
2300Z second class bearing 230° (true). My
estimated position is 54° 43' N., 18° 59' W.
(ASSINIBOINE, 252350Z to C. in C. W.A.)

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25.8.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

WANDERER attacking U-Boats. O.G.92, P.C.S.
U/B. 041 degs. 58' N. 017 degs. 59' W. (S) 198 degs.
U.523 7 knots at 0233Z. Weather report 64 61 19 53.
destroyed. (S.O. Escort Group B.1, 250241Z to F.O.I.C.
Gib. (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Med.
C.M.F.S.)
S.O.B.1 250241. U.523 destroyed in 042 degs.
03' N. 018 degs. 02' W. at (? time omitted).
(WANDERER, 250745A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. W.A.
(R) S.O. E.G. B. Admty.)
Your 250745 August. Warmest congratulations.
(C. in C. W.A. 251117A to WANDERER (R) S.O. Escort
Group B.1., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

WOODRUFF. My P.C. and S. at 0600Z was 033 degs. 29' N.
009 degs. 05' W. 062 degs. (corrupt group)
knots. E.T.A. Casablanca (?00)30Z/25th.
(WOODRUFF, 250729Z to Commorseafron. (R)
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar. C. in C. Med., C. in C. W.A.
N.O.I.C. Casablanca, S.O. Escort Group 37.)

G.U.S.13. N.O.I.C. Tunis 240330 Destination OCEAN VIGOUR
should be New York. Ship should continue in
G.U.S.13. Agreed M.W.T.R.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 250905B to S.E.C. G.U.S.13
for Cdre.)

Dispositions. Situation at 1957B/25th.
Two Swedish relief ships 034 degs. 30' 030 degs.
32' 086 degs. 12.
(2) U.G.S. 15, C.T.F. (?66) C.T.G. 21.16 032
degs. 06' 037 degs. 33' 098 degs. 9
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 251058B)
Situation at 1958B/25th. S/M SAFARI 040 degs. 42' 011
degs. 17' 333 degs. 9 $\frac{3}{2}$. (2) S.L.135 FOWEY (E) 034 degs. 32'
009 degs. 17' through 035 degs. 01' 009 degs. 01' thence 274
degs. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$. ACTIVE, ANTELOPE part company and proceed
(?Gibraltar) when all escorts have fuelled Casablanca and
rejoined. (3) M.K.S. 22 STORK 035 degs. 27' 008 degs. 58' to
R/V S.L.135 in 035 degs. 08' 011 degs. 07' 7 $\frac{1}{2}$. 2 corvettes
one trawler returning Gibraltar after R/V. (4) O.G.92
K.M.S. 24 HURRICANE (E) 040 degs. 14' 018 degs. 29' through
039 degs. 01' 018 degs. 29' thence 141 degs. 7.
(5) Portuguese tanker SAMBRAZ sails Lisbon a.m. 25th for
Aruba 12. (6) 2 Spanish naval training ships sailed Marin
18th for Canary Islands. (7) French corvette LA GRANDIERE
sailing Casablanca 251800 through 034 degs. 05' 008 degs. 06'
033 degs. 39' 008 degs. 54' 032 degs. 48' 009 degs. 46' 031
degs. 30' 010 degs. 16' thence 196 degs. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$.
(8) Portuguese Naval Training ship SAGRES sailed Lisbon p.m.
23rd for Funchal. (9) U.S. Naval Force 21.15 approx. 034 degs.
57' 012 degs. 08' to Casablanca 13.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 251128B, 251452B)

Situation /.....

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War Diary.25.8.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Dispositions (Contd.) Situation 2003B/25th. (1) G.U.S. 12, C.T.F.64 034 degs. 10' 025 degs. 29' 287 degs. 12. (3) U.S. Naval Force T.G.21.14 patrolling vicinity Azores. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 251332B)

NORD ATLANTIC. German Tanker NORD ATLANTIC at Camarinas afloat afternoon August 25th. (Corunna, 251150 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Gibraltar, B.N.A. Madrid.)

G.C.32. Intend sailing EMPIRE CELIA, P.L.M.21, EMPIRE SOUTHEY all for Safi. Agreed M.W.T.R. and S.T.O. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 251455B to C.M.S.F.F. (R) C. in C. Med. Admty.)

BARDALAND, CAMELIA. Request Mediterranean route for BARDALAND and CAMELIA. N.C.S.O. St. John's 131425 refers. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 251207B to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.)

BROOKLYN. E.T.A. Casablanca 1830Z. (U.S. Cruiser BROOKLYN, 251301Z to Commorseafron)

French Refugees. Negotiations for next evacuation at Setubal held up pending reply to my 161908 (target date fixed for evacuation impossible). Request early reply. (B.N.A. Lisbon, 251305B to C. in C. Med.)

BERRY S.L.135. BERRY has defective bush in starboard A bracket. Considers half speed possible on shaft giving total maximum speed 15 knots. Intend sailing to rejoin convoy, E.T.D. Casablanca 251500A. Type S.L. Radar now in operation. (C.M.S.F.251432B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. W.A., E.G.4., Capt. (D) Belfast, Escorts S.L.135, BERRY.) BERRY sailed Casablanca 251530A to rejoin S.L.135 at 260600. (C.M.S.F. 251731B to F.O. Gibraltar)

G.U.S.13. Intend to sail (list) (F.O. Gibraltar, 251623B to Comm. Algeria Com. N.O.B. Oran, C.M.S.F.F., (R) Admty.)

VEGA. Swedish VEGA sailed 1645/25th for Marseilles by approved route to Cape San Sebastian, thence coastwise. Not to be molested this voyage. Speed 8 knots, usual markings. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 251655B to 8th S.F., F.S.LA SULTANE, ARETHUSE, 251659B to S. & A.)

S.L.135 /...

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War Diary.25.8.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- S.L.135. (? WOODRUFF) arrived from S.L.135 251600A.
(Commorseafron, 251709B to F.O. Gibraltar.)
- Casablanca- My 241423 (Intend to sail ships in French
Dakar Convoy with escorts.) Sailing delayed indefin-
Convoy. itely. Further signal will be made.
(Commorseafron, 251749B to F.O.C.W.A.)
- Convoy Coastal convoy "Faust" arrived. 6 ships.
"Faust". (S.N.O. Philippeville, 241801B to Admty. etc.)
- K.M.S.24 You were probably reported by enemy aircraft
O.G.92 before 1450 today Wednesday.
(D.D.I.C. 251840A to Escorts K.M.S.24, Escorts
O.G.92, (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, etc.)
- Air Gibraltar G/R Opsum 24 August. J/179 (Capt.
Report. F/O Macrae) 0010/25 night M.K.III 42.05 N.
09.37 W. stationary ?heading 255 degs. C/T
and periscope standard similar to 500 ton type.
Gun abaft C/T. Attacked from 120 to 110 green,
fully surfaced, 6 D/CS? spaced 50 feet estimated straddle
across C/T. Fire from U-Boat continued for 3 secs. after
attack became erratic and suddenly ceased. Nothing further
seen.
(A.H.Q. Gibraltar, 251900B)
- Convoy Coastal Convoy "Basinghall", BRUCE M. escorted
"Basinghall" by H.D. M/L 1238 arrived. N.O.I.C. Bougie's
231105B refers. (N/T. in W.R.)
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 242054B to F.O.Gib.etc.)
- Attacks A.M.1031/21 July 1942 and my 211614 which have
on U/B's been passed to F.O.(S). For your information,
in Spanish A/S patrols are now very active off north-west
Territorial Spanish coast and it appears U-Boats are using
Waters. territorial waters as corridor into the Bay.
(2) You should understand that we intend to
attack U-Boats in territorial waters with
utmost vigour in accordance with A.M.1031/21
July, 1942. Submarine sighted by aircraft 0143 hours 22nd
August, six miles off coast and showing lights, was not attacked
owing to mistaken fear of attacking Spanish B.2. Submarine
considered almost certainly U-Boat. (3) Request you ascertain
whether B.2 ever remains at sea at night and, if so, you should
point out delicately, but firmly, that it is evident to us that
U-Boats are now evading our patrols by using territorial waters
and with present heavy scale of A/S effort in approaches to
the Bay. B.2. runs most serious risk if she is at sea during
dark hours. You should emphasize that aircraft are patrolling

for /...

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War Diary.

25.8.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Attacks
on U/B's
in Spanish
Territorial
Waters.
(Contd.)

for sole purpose of attacking U-Boats and that errors of navigation are probable. Fact that lights are shown cannot of course be accepted as evidence of innocence, since enemy may adopt this ruse. (4) Request confirmation that - (a) B.2 is marked as described in A.F.O.1408/43; (b) No other Spanish submarine is operating north of Spanish Portuguese border.
(Head of M.(1), Approved V.C.N.S., 252146A to N.A. Madrid, (R) C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C., F.O.(S), F.O.I.C. Gibraltar)
Reply: N.A. Madrid, 262131B.

M.K.S.22.

This confirms that Cdre. Hardy in CITY OF AGRA assumes command of combined S.L. M.K.S. convoy. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 252217B to C. in C. Med.)

GIULIO
CESARE,
DUILIO.

You are to broadcast your position every 4 hours. (V.A. Gibraltar, 252230B to GIULIO CESARE, (R) DUILIO, Admty., C. in C. Med.)

X.K.2.
(Ships for
towing
to U.K.)

Your 231254/August and C. in C. Med's 241213/Aug. (2) Request you will sail convoy X.K.2 on 4th Sept. or when B.5 complete duty with carriers. (3) Convoy should be given short route and special A/A escort be provided by CYGNET. M.K.S. 23 being sailed by outer route will not require special A/A protection. (4) Escort will then consist of ST. NECTAN, ARTIC RANGER, CYGNET, GODETIA and one destroyer of B.5 Group. (5) Request you will sail remaining destroyers of B.5 group for A/S operations in the Bay as directed by C. in C. Plymouth as soon as ready. (D.O.D.(H), Approved A.C.N.S.(H), 252344A to F.O.i/c. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth)

S.L.135.

Arrived 252207A from S.L.135 STONECROP, MYOSOTIS and CROCUS.
(C.M.S.F.252346B to F.O. Gibraltar)

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25.8.1943.

Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- Convoy S.R. 5. Cancel AORANGI sailing in convoy C.F.13. Will be detached at 1000 G.M.T. 26th August in position 014° 29' N. 017° 55' W. to join French transport CANADA and proceed as convoy S.R.5 through (P) 015° 00' N. 018° 30' W. (Q) (023°) 56' N. 018° 30' W. (R) 028° 02' N. 013° 33' W. (S) 032° 58' N. 009° 38' W. (T) 035° 45' N. 006° 26' W. thence Gibraltar 31st August. My 242049 August also refers. (N.C.S.O. Freetown (S.L.), 250034Z to Admty., (R) F.O. Gibraltar, etc.)
- LEWES. Your 241451B (N.T. in W.R.) para. 3. H/P continuing search at 18 knots my position 038° 47' South of 020° 34' E. sea and swell 23 wind force 4 visibility fair. (LEWES, 250359B to C. in C. S.A.)
- RANGITATA. Sailed 24th August for Capetown. E.T.A. 1000Z/27th August. Personnel on board. Requirements. (D.S.T.O. Durban, 250727Z to S.T.O. Capetown.)
- M.Ls. Sailed 0625Z M.L.231, M.L.574. My 231803 refers (N.T. in W.D.) (Comar Dakar, 250901 to N.O.I.C. Gaspe, (R) C.T.G. 21, U.S.S. ROPER.)
- O.S. 53. 9 ships for South American ports dispersed 0600Z/25th in 010° 02' N. 017° 30' W. (2) FORT KOOTENAY mentioned in your 231236Z has sufficient fuel. DALCROSS and STAD MAASLUIS proceeding Freetown. (3) Your 241801Z ordering dispersal at 0800 received too late for action without excessive night signalling. O.S.53 P.C. and S. 1000Z, 009° 49' N. 017° 01' W. (X) 110°, 8½ knots, 011° 08' N. 017° 31' W. Weather report. (S.O. Escort Group 38, 251010Z to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) Admty.)
- Dispositions. Situation at 2000Z/25th August.
FRITILLARY 036° 30' 019° 15' to 037° 30' 019° 30' 13 knots special search.
LEWES 038° 20' 022° 40' to Simonstown 15.
NEWCASTLE 036° 55' 022° 55' to 037° 06' 019° 34', 19.
GENISTA, FREESIA, ARCTIC EXPLORER, INDIAN STAR with B.C.5 (3 ships) 020° 55' 035° 10' coastal to Durban 8.
(C. in C. S.A., 251051C.)
Situation 2002Z/25th.
SHROPSHIRE 010° 55' 017° 34' through 010° 05' 017° 30' to Freetown 21.
FOXHOUND, BULLDOG, BOADICEA, CATTERICK, NESS 2 Fleet Units 011° 34' 018° 12' through 012° 31' 018° 20' thence 012°, 12½.

/BUTSER ...

25.8.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dispositions. BUTSER, RUMBA with LADY DENISON PENDER proceeding from 012° 30' 017° 15' to Conakry.

U.S. Destroyer LEA, U.S. Destroyer ROPER, U.S. Destroyer DECATUR (U.S. T.G. 21.5) with (? T.C.) 8 018° 55' 028° 59' 096°, 12.

M.L.231, 574 about 017° 29' 020° 30', 135° to Dakar, 12.

ENCHANTRESS, (? LEITH), SANDWICH, VIOLET, COLUMBINE, ANCHUSA, TEST, TRENT, FAL with O.S.53 009° (? 21') 015° 40' to Freetown, 8½.

(F.O.C.W.A., 251237Z.)

Situation at 19752Z/25th.

F.S. SUFFREN, F.S. DUGUAY-TROUIN 008° 08' S. 010° 50' W. to Pointe Noire, 18½ knots.

M.L.1147 escorting 006° 34' 011° 09' through 005° 36' 010° 00' thence 130°, 7 knots.

M.L.1016 about 005° 54' 001° 49' E. to Lagos, 8 knots.

M.L.274, 1018 off (? Accra). DUNKERY screening off Monrovia.

M.L.1014 (off ?) Kotonu. ARRAN screening off Marshall.

MORRIS DANCE, M.Ls. 1041, 1019 escorting 006° 08' 003° 21' East to Takoradi, 8 knots.

ORFASY, 2 M.Ls. with T.L.22, 004° 50' 001° 27' to Lagos 10 knots.

ROEBUCK, QUALITY, TEVIOT, CILICIA, HELFORD, (? MYOSOTIS) 1 Fleet Unit 007° 32' 014° 10', 139°, 12½.

M.L.281, 261, P.614 005° 32' 013° 03' through 007° 30' 015° 14' then Freetown, 8½.

(F.O.C.W.A., 251335Z.)

Movements. Arrival Libreville 23rd M.L.244, CHASSEUR 42, SS. DUMANA. Departure Libreville 1000Z/25th M.L.244, CHASSEUR 42, E.T.A. Duala 1000Z/26th. (B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, 251105Z to F.O.C.W.A., (R) Admty., etc.)

ALBATROSS. Arrived Capetown. (C. in C. S.A., 251121B to Admty.) Intend to sail ALBATROSS for Pointe Noire a.m./27th August. E.T.A. a.m./1st Sept. Request onward route to Freetown. (C. in C. S.A., 251231B to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) Admty., etc.)

AORANGI speed. AORANGI failed to make expedited speed on passage to Freetown. Test her best speed on passage to Gibraltar and report on arrival, repeated to Admiralty. (R.A.W.Af., 251145Z to BLACKWOOD.)

C.F. 13. Convoy C.F.13 sailed 24th (list, etc.) 4. Passenger details in my code 251152 August. (S.T.O.W.A., 251150Z to Admty., etc.)

/Meet ...

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25.8.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

- Meet
Procedure. Your 172227 August (re Introduction of standard "meet" procedure between H.M. Ships and shore-based aircraft co-operating.) Entirely concur. A similar procedure is in force in this command with success. (F.O.C.W.A., 241230Z to C. in C. W.A., (R) Admty.)
- LULWORTH
HILL. Request reply to A.M. 181150A August (Requests action taken, if any, to search for survivors from LULWORTH HILL.) (D.T.D., 251249A to F.O.C.W.A.) Your 181150A August. SSSS made by unknown ship at 2200/18th March in 11° 44' S. 01° 44' E. A.F. Message made by C. in C. S.A. Locality was beyond aircraft search and no H.M. Ships were on passage in the area. LULWORTH HILL reported overdue Freetown 29th March. 2. On 2nd May U.S. aircraft reported raft with two persons in 01° 47' S. 07° 53' W. On 3rd May B.A.M.S. message (? to search) was made. Raft sighted by aircraft from NEWCASTLE on 55 and RAPID ordered to proceed to position, picked up two survivors of LULWORTH HILL from raft in 00° 20' S. 10° 35' W. at 1121/7 May. (F.O.C.W.A., 251729Z to Admty.)
- Convoy
B.C. 5. Sailing telegram (3 ships). (2) 0900Z/25th August. (3) 1200Z/25th 6 miles 110° Fairway Buoy. (4) 77 knots. (5) Coastal. (12) E.T.A. Lourenco Marques 0800Z 28th August E.T.A. Durban 1800Z/29th August. (C.S.A. Beira, 251319Z to Admty., etc.)
- NARINGA. Durban 1200Z/26th August NARINGA, Karachi 16th Sept., knots in convoy 7 (A), 9 (B), 10 in convoy D.N.58 (Route). (Durban, 251335Z to Admty.)
- O.T. 8. Change destination of ESSO PHILADELPHIA to Dakar. (Cdr. 10th Fleet, 251400Z to C.T.G. 21.5, (R) Admty., etc.)
- W.S. 32. Your 161601. W.S.32 will now sail 28th August. (P.S.T.O. Capetown, 251406Z to D.S.T.O. Durban, (R) D. of S.T., etc.)
- Movements,
Beira. Arrivals 25th ROVUMA, ADVISER. (C.S.A. Beira, 251409Z to Admty., etc.)

/Group ...

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25.8.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Group Sailing. Group sailing No.30 Lourenco Marques. Expected sailing R/V 130° Cape Inhaca 6 miles 0500Z/28th, 3 ships, escorted by NORTHERN CHIEF and VIVIANA. (List). (Lourenco Marques, 251421Z to Admty.)

Movements, Congo. Arrival Congo River 0600Z/24th F.S. COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES to dock at Boma. (B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, 241435A to F.O.C.W.A.)

Shipping Estimates. Table below indicates probable monthly sailings for next two months based on July figures and excluding local traffic.
3. Request you will report if these figures are of value and whether further similar signals are required based on later information.
(D.T.D., 251646A to C. in C. S.A, F.O.C.W.A.)
Reply: F.O.C.W.A. 291853Z. C. in C. S.A. 301801B.

Ships in O.S. Convoys for Dakar. Request that Comar Dakar and F.O.C.W.Af. may be given early information of all ships joining O.S. convoys destination Dakar. Lack of such information has caused confusion and has made adequate escort arrangements difficult. Ships joining O.S.33 (O.S.55 intended) were a case in point when details of ships which had joined from Casablanca were only received from S.O. of Escort nine hours before escorts had to sail from Dakar to R/V for inward escort. (F.O.C.W.A., 251803Z to F.O.I.C. Gib., Commorseafron, (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. W.A., Admty., Comar Dakar.) Amended 281601Z.

T.L.22. Sailed 1800Z/25th August. T.L.22 escorted by ORFASY, M.Ls. 302 and 287. Route L, S. of A. 10 knots, E.T.A. Lagos 0600Z/27th. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 251817Z to Admty., etc.)
T.L.22, list etc. Convoy codeword "Jingo". Convoy W/T identity letters XLD 1 to 8. (N.C.S.O. Takoradi, 251813Z to Admty., etc.)

O.S. 53. My 212002. 9 South American ships dispersed at 250600 in 10.02 N. 17.30 W.
2. Seven ships for Plate HILVERSUM, SAINT ROSARIO, EMPIRE BARDOLPH, ANTILOCHUS, NARTERV, EMPIRE HIGHWAY, FORT CHESTERFIELD, proceeding by "Silver" route direct to R thence S, T, U destination.
3. Two ships for Rio de Janeiro LEIGHTON, FORT KOOTENAY proceeding "Silver" route direct to R thence S, ST destination. FORT KOOTENAY given ST 25 S. 32.40 W.
4. Following ships proceeding Freetown DALCROSS, STAD MAASLUIS, EMPIRE CABOT, EMPIRE PORPOISE. (F.O.C.W.A., 251848Z to Admty.)

/Escort ...

25.8.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Escort
for Fleet
Tenders.

Your 141714 (re further intercyphers to cables South American Coast.)
Intend that escorts after completing with LADY DENISON PENDER should proceed to Recife to escort Fleet Tenders. First batch of these now reported ready end of August. Date of completion of LADY DENISON PENDER on present task not yet known. No other escort for Fleet Tenders can be spared at present if escort for floating dock onwards from Dakar is required.
(F.O.C.W.A., 251931Z to Admty., (R) Com. 4th Fleet, B.A.D.)

CILICIA.

My P.C. and S. 006° 05' N. 013° 31' W., 309°, 8½ knots. M.Is. in company.
(CILICIA, 251955Z to F.O.C.W.A.)

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25.8.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.DERBYSHIRE,
DEVONSHIRE.

Your 221104C. A.M. 211801A (Hush Most Secret.)
and my 240210A neither to P.S.T.O. Med. refer.
2. DERBYSHIRE is not to proceed to India.
She is to remain in the Med. for service there
as she will now presumably be fit in view of her

change of crew.

3. On completion of her present service DEVONSHIRE should
proceed to Bombay without delay.

(D. of S.T. 250153A to P.S.T.O. Middle East, (R) C. in C. Med. (A)
C. in C. Levant, P.S.T.O. Med.)

Movements,
Haifa.

Arrivals 25th July, AETOS and PANTHER, SUTLEJ,
HYACINTH, PRINCE DE LIEGE, BREAM, F.S. REINE DES
FLOTS, COMMANDANT DOMINE, and COMMANDANT DUBOC.
Departures 25th July. As above except PRINCE DE
LIEGE.
(N.O.I.C.P.P., 250202X to Admty., C. in C. Levant.)

X.T. Convoys.

Following is a repetition of my 242046 (begins).
Until further orders ships which cannot maintain
speed of main westbound convoys will sail every
10 days from Alexandria starting about Sept. 1st.

2. Minimum speeds are as follows: through ships 8 knots and
for intermediate ports to Tripoli (Libya) 7 knots.

3. Convoys will be known as A.T. convoys. (Ends.)

(C. in C. Levant, 250229C to Admty. D.S.T., P.S.T.O. M.E.,
P.S.T.O. Med., M.W.T.M.E.)

Your 250229 para. 3. A.T. in Mediterranean was cancelled by
C.A.F.O. 818/43, as this short title is in use elsewhere.

2. X.T. has already been allocated for convoy Alexandria -
Tripoli (Libya), vide C.A.F.O.'s 818/43 and 1572/43.

(D.T.D. 251152A to C. in C. Levant)

Enemy
Units.

Following has been read. P.C. and S. of enemy
one medium merchant vessel 2 Enemy war motor
boats 39° 47' N. 18° 14' E. 270° 10 knots.
(GKCZ via Alexandria, 250230B to A.H.Q.R. Malta.)
Following read 45U, Position of two minesweepers
43° 00' N. 9° 40' E.

(CXVX Duty via Alexandria, 250252 to 45 U.)

My 250252 P.C. and S. of enemy 2 minesweepers course 200°
6 knots 43° 00' N. 9° 40' E.

(CXVX via Alex, 250300 to 45 U.)

Movements,
Tunisia.

Arrivals: RYSA, CLACTON, TRIPP, ELBURY, RHIND,
ROWAN, WAINWRIGHT, KING SOL, HAILSTORM, L.C.F.5.

Departures: SUSSTAIN, SEER NIBLICK, ELBURY

GAVOTTE, KNIGHT ALBACORE, L.S.T. 320, 425, 418,
422, 415, 160, 161, 12, 8, 9, 416, 162, 62, 199,

366, 405, 403, 404, 409, 301, 65, 417, 323, P.C. 556, 542.
Y.M.S. 34, 51, 63, M.L. 565.

(F.O. Tunisia, 250700B to Admty. etc.)

War Diary.

25.8.1943.

Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

10th S.M.F. Summary at 2000/25th. 1. (P.51) UNSEEN, off Bari. 2. (P.44) UNITED off Alice Point. 3. (P.46) UNRUFFLED leaves C. Dukato for Adriatic at about 2300/25th. 4. (P.45) UNRIVALLED and (P.53) ULTOR 036° 15' 016° 42' to 037° 36' 017° 32' at 2000/26th. 5. (P.55) UNSPARING 035° 50' 015° 00' through 035° 56' 016° 31' to 036° 20' 016° 45' at 2000/26th. 6. ~~TEMPLAR~~ 035° 46' 015° 47' to 034° 48' 020° 32' at 2000/26th. 7. TORBAY 035° 50' 015° 00' to 035° 49' 017° 54' at 2000/26th. (Capt. S.10 250703.)

S/Ms. Malta. Sailed 24th August ULTOR and UNRIVALLED. Arrived TORBAY and ~~TEMPLAR~~. (V.A. Malta, 250734 to Admty. etc.)

Movements, Malta, 24th August. Departures: WHADDON, PENSTEMON, CONVULVULUS, VETCH, SOEMBRA, M.M.S.80, 81 and FLORES. ESKIMO, LEDBURY, BLACKMORE, FARNDALE, L.C.I.'s 283, 313, 260, 307, 274, 290, 308, 289, 297 and 281. L.C.Ts. 581 and 355. L.C.I.(L)s 258, 132 and 282. Arrival: CALPE and HAYDON, TERCOTT and Tugs RESTIVE and FAVOURITE with CAPE, MOHICAN, FARNDALE, BLACKMORE Tug CIVIC. L.C.I.(L) 127, 132, 264, 133, 183. L.C.T.318. OAKLEY and LAUDERDALE. Arrived and departed RYE, WHITEHAVEN and MARYBOROUGH. (V.A. Malta, 250736, to Admty. etc.) Sailed M.L. 240, 232, H.D.M.L. 1242, M.G.B.647, arrived M.L. 559, 555, 560, 562 and 564. (V.A. Malta, 250745B to Admty. etc.)

JAMES OLIVER, GEORGE GIPP. Your 231723 both ships arrived. My Vesca signals 392 and 393 refer. (N.C.S.O. Aden, 250745Z to Admty.)

K.M.F.22. DURBAN CASTLE and MARNIXVAN, ST. ALDEGONDE, (2 ships) arrived. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 250752B to Admty. etc.)

NIEUW AMSTERDAM. Sailed 0610C 25th. (N.C.S.O. Massawa, 250803Z to Admty.)

Movements, Alexandria. August 24th. Arrivals G.S. SAKTOURIS, Y.S.S. DURMITOR, Y.S.S. KAJMAKAIAN, ROMEO GAMTOOS. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 250830C to Admty.)

/Movements...

War Diary.25.8.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Movements
Beirut.24th August.
Arrivals - M.Ls. 360, 357, 349, IERAX,
COMMANDANT DUBOC.
Departures - ABERDARE, BAGSHOT, BREAM, REINE
DES FLOTS, COMMANDANT DUBOC, PRINCE DE LIEGE.
(S.O.(I) Beirut, 250857C to Admty.)

CAPETOWN.

Concur. Anticipate CAPETOWN will leave
Alexandria August 31st. Your 231404 (N.T. in
W.D.)(Re Capt. D.P. Evans should be relieved
to undergo operation. Proposed Capt. C.L.
Robertson of CAPETOWN relieves.)
(C. in C. Levant, 250917C to C. in C.E.F.)M.E.
Air
Report.Daily Opsum 119.
23/24 August. 2 Wellingtons anti-shipping
R/C. Aegean. Southbound convoy 1 M/V
2/3000 tons, 1 M/V 3/4000 tons 4 small escort
sighted between Melos Island and Crete, no
attack possible owing to smoke screen and bad
weather. Following delayed details - 23 August, 2 Beaufighters
anti-shipping R/C west west coast Greece 1 M/V 680 tons bombed
in Zante harbour, no explosions seen, cannon attack also made
(H.Q.R.A.F. M.E., 250930Z, to A.M. Whitehall, H.Q. Med Air Cmd.
etc.)

C.G.57.

COMDT. BORY, CHASSEUR II escorting CHATEAU PAVIE,
CHELMA and CARTHAGE arrived.
(Commob, Oran, 250940B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar,
Commorseafron.)

O.T.8.

Destinations.
(C. in C. Med., 251025B to C.T.G.21.5, Escort
O.T.8.)

G.U.S.13.

G.U.S.13 pass to Cdre. and escort. Cancel my
241439B. Intend to sail (10) VILLE DE DJIDJELLI,
Pendant 61 Algiers.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 251043B to PALOMARES.,
Escorts of Convoy G.U.S.13.)G.U.S.13 Arrived SONTAY, AFGHANISTAN.
(S.N.O. Trip, 251456B to Admty. etc.)Pass to Cdre. My 241629, add EMPIRE DACE; delete
THOMAS N. PAGE.(N.O.I.C. Bizerta, 251510B to S.O. Escort G.U.S. (13?) (R)
Commob, Oran., Admty., etc.)

/TEMPLAR...

25.8.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- TEMPLAR. Capt. (S) 10's 231810 not to all.
(1) Onward route on surface at 11 knots through 033° 40' 029° 22' to arrive Beirut at 1620C 29th.
(2) Comla requested to arrange air cover from 1001C 29th onward.
(Capt. S.1. 251046C to P.316 (TEMPLAR)(R) Cdre. (D) Cdr. Eastern Med., Comla, C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 8., C. in C. Levant, Capt. (S) 10., V.A. Malta.)
- M.K.S.23. Sailing telegram (24 ships)
(2) 0802C 25th. (3) (?Sailed) together
(4) (5) (6) as in C. in C. Levant's 221826 August.
(13)(A) Cdre. Sir Gordon Ramsay in KAITUNA for Gibraltar. (B) Master OCEAN VIKING for Sicily.
(C) Rear Cdre. Cdre. Woodward in EMPIRE GARRICK for Algiers. (R.A. Alexandria, 251057C to Admty. etc.)
- U.G.S.14. Pass to Cdre. Intend joining 9 FAUVETTE R/T ammunition Bizerta.
(N.O.I.C. Bone, 251058B to Escorts U.G.S.14, N.O.I.C. Bizerta, Admty., etc.)
Pass to Cdre. Algiers Section sailed as in my 241506 less BRITISH CHARACTER (T) plus EGRA for Bizerta.
(N.O.I.C. Algiers, 251250B to Escorts of Convoy U.G.S.14, (R) Admty. etc.)
- K.M.S.23 24th August. Arrived CAPE MOHICAN.
G.U.S.13. Arrived K.M.S.23 arrived G.U.S.13, EMPIRE TROOPER, NEURALIA, KAROA, SOUTH AMERICAN (T)
Sailed K.M.S.23 as in my 231107 amended by my 241111. Sailed G.U.S. 13 as in my 231101 amended by my 241110 less FORT GAE returned with steering trouble. (V.A. Malta, 251129 to Admty. etc.)
- ACADIA. Intend to sail Hospital Ship ACADIA at (?251600)B routed through 109, 39, 24, 36, 79, Q.B.B.149 and 94 to Bizerta E.T.A. 271200B. S. of A. 12 knots.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 251131 to C. in C. Med.)
My 251131B sailed.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 251651B.)
- 8th S/M.F. (1) P.221 (SHAKESPEARE) 038° 08' 005° 54' movements at 1959B/25th. 079° 2½/10 knots.
(2) P.217 (SIBYL) in Gulf of (?Genoa).
(3) P.224 (SICKLE) East of Corsica.
(Capt. S.8, 251202B.)

/ESSO...

25.8.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

ESSO U.S.S. ROPER 241929. ESSO PHILADELPHIA PHILADELPHIA. urgently required in Med. Ship should not be detached to Dakar unless absolutely essential. (C. in C. Med. (A) 251255B to C.T.G. 21.5. Escorts O.T.8.)

Transports for India.

Your 240210X. ASCANIA, WINCHESTER CASTLE, CIRCASSIA are being held as required.
2. Provided RUYS, TEGELBERG, MONARCH OF BERMUDA tranship their personnel at Suez no difficulty in actual transhipment is foreseen.
3. Personnel lift of three vessel in para. 1 above is however only 6500 whereas number requiring transhipment is 8100 plus 900 ex ARUNDEL CASTLE and EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA all for India.
4. Provided DUNERA, DILWARA, EMPIRE PRIDE have not already sailed propose balance personnel for India should embark in these three vessels plus about 1300 Indian ex Middle East. If these three vessels are ready to go earlier may they be held for this purpose or must they be sailed immediately ready, in which case embarkations ex Middle East will be limited to unescorted totals unless C. in C.E.F. can arrange separate escort. Request earliest possible reply.
5. Understand ASCANIA, CIRCASSIA, WINCHESTER CASTLE although taking full complement of landing craft will only have craft maintenance crews on board. All three vessels have rafts to cover troops carried and lifeboats for crew. Presume this will be acceptable.
6. Request earliest possible confirmation transhipment is to take place.
7. Presume escort from Aden originally intended for RUYS, TEGELBERG, MONARCH OF BERMUDA will be held for oncarrying vessels if this should prove necessary.
(P.S.T.O.M.E., 251308C to D.S.T. (R) C. in C. Levant, C. in C. E.F., F.O.R.S.C.A.) Reply D.S.T. 272035A.

Med
Air
Report.

Signed Eisenhower. Part 3. Air Cositintrep No. 46, 24 August. N.W. Af. Air Forces. Night 23/24, 78 Wellingtons dropped 150 $\frac{3}{4}$ tons of bombs on Bagnoli Marshalling Yards. In addition a small number of bombs were dropped on Villa Laterno and Ischia Island. Day 24th August.

Sapri Castrovillari and Sibari, were attacked simultaneously at 1700 hours each by 24 A 26s. In addition to rail communication target at Spari* two hits were scored on stern of a cruiser which was left burning.

(Air C. in C. Med. No. T.O.O./25 Received 1345/25.)

*Gulf of Policastro 40.04 N. 15.37 W.

/N.A.A.F...

War Diary.25.8.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

N.A.A.F. Report. N.W.Af. Air Forces Opsum 183. N.W. Af. Strategic Air Force 21/22 August. 53 Wellingtons Battip Aglia Marshalling Yards. Bombs across yards. Fires, explosions. 22 August. 78 U.S. Marauders Salerno Marshalling Yards. 8 returned early. Hits tracks, bridges. Railroad bridge demolished. (H.Q. N.A.A.F. 251521B.)

CELENO, FIRUZ, THISBE. My 241518C CELENO, alongside FIRUZ in Istanbul port and loading part of remaining cargo. Expected complete transfer August 26th or August 27th and will then sail for Piraeus B.3. THISBE loading chrome: may sail for Bourgas August 26th B.4. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 251538C to C. in C. Levant etc.)

C.S.12. Sweeps cancelled but ships sail on 26th August as in my 250715 and my 250810 (N.T. in W.R.) SIRIUS force E.T.A. Palermo 1800 26th. (C.S.12 251556B to C. in C. Medn. SIRIUS (R) N.O.I.C. Tunisia Capt. (S) 8, S.O. Force (H) H.Q. R.A.F.M.E. etc.)

N.A.A.F. Report. N.A.A.F. Opsum 185. N.A.S.A.F. 23/24 August. 78 Wellingtons Marshalling Yards Bagnoli. One returned early. 150 $\frac{3}{4}$ tons bombs dropped from 4500 to 12500 feet. Bursts seen to cover target area. Two large fires and explosion. N.A.T.A.F. 24th August 72 U.S. Mustangs escort 41 U.S. Mustangs attacked Sapri, Sibari and Castrovillari simultaneously. 42 x 500 Sapri. Mouth tunnel north and yard blocked. Direct hit trucks west. 20 x 500 Castrovillari direct hits railway yards. 36 Spitfires covered withdrawal of U.S. Mustangs. N.A.C.A.F. 23/24 August. 4 Wellingtons armed R/C east coasts? Sardinia, Corsica, Elba, Approaches Genoa, Spezia, Leghorn, and West Italian Coast. On made 8 attacking runs at Merchant Vessel 2000 tons 15 miles South Fiumare Grando but torpedo would not drop. 24 August 5 Torpedo Beaufighters, 5 Anti Flak Beaufighters shipping strike. 1 torpedo Beaufighter and one Anti Flak Beaufighter returned early due engine trouble. 2 Barges, 1 tug? 1 schooner, 15 miles North Civita Vecchia attacked with cannon fire. 1 barge left on fire, schooner left sinking. 1 Beaufighter hit mast of schooner. 1 vessel 1500 to 2000 tons, 2 tugs attacked 5 miles south Alistro. 3 torpedoes dropped, results unobserved. Tugs severely damaged by cannon fire. (N.A.A.F. A.W.H.Q. 251600Z.)

SOEMBA. E.T.A. Bizerta Anchorage 260100B with SS.TAUTRA Straggler from G.U.S. 13, bound Algiers. (Netherlands Sloop, 251715B to N.O.I.C. Bizerta.)

/Landing...

25. 8. 1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Landing Craft etc. Malta. My 110814 (Shortage of diving dresses and electrodes - completion dates referred to in A.M. 071944 July, cannot be achieved.) and Admty's 162223 (Authority under which supplies of diving dresses considered due) Further supplies of diving dresses and electrodes now received.

Revised completion dates are now: No.2 complete, No.3 end of August, No.4 end of September, No.5 end of October. No. 1 slip partially collapsed on 22nd when unslipping an L.C.I.(L) repair work proceeding, estimated time required one month. (V.A. Malta, 251756B, to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty).

Malta Air Report. A.I.1003. Opsum No. 107. 24 August. 1 Spitfire made photo R/C of Taranto and 2 Baltimores provided A/S protection for friendly shipping. 24/25 August. 4 Mosquitoes on intruder patrols west of Corfu and over Southern Italian aerodromes found no enemy air activity. 1 Mosquito and 3 Beaufighters made intercepting patrols north of Malta and 2 Malta Beaufighters were airborne from Sicily on interception patrols in Etna area. 4 Wellingtons made A/S patrols for friendly shipping and 1 Wellington made search for enemy shipping in Gulf of Taranto. 25 August. 6 Spitfires made photo R/C of Southern Italian ports and aerodromes and special areas in Toe of Italy. 4 Beaufighters and 23 Spitfires provided escort and 3 Baltimores made A/S patrols for friendly shipping. 4 Spitfires were airborne for raid which turned back before reaching Malta. (A.H.Q. Malta, 251811Z).

P.O.W. Camps, Italy. Following Allied Prisoners of War Camps are situated on or near the Italian Coast.
(A) Chiavari 044° 48' N., 009° 19' E. Barracks
(B) Chieti 042° 21' N., 014° 09' E. Bungalows.
(C) Monturano 043° 11' N., 012° 44' E. large buildings.
(D) Nocera 040° 44' N., 014° 38' E. Barracks.
(E) Bari 041° 06' N., 016° 28' E. Stone buildings, wooden barracks.
(F) Tutuano 040° 34' N., 017° 58' E. Barracks and tents.
(G) Cape San Vito (Sicily) 040° 39' N., 017° 42' E. Wooden Bungalows.
(ii) Damage to above should be avoided as far as is practicable. (C. in C. Med., 251826 Med. 192, Levant Station 116B).

Movement Sfax. Departure ROYAL SCOTSMAN 23rd August. (N.O.I.C. Sfax, 251829 to Admty).

K.M.F. 24 K.M.F.24 will leave U.K. on 13th September. It is expected to contain following ships.
(a) For North Africa 6 personnel ships. Two of these after disembarkation may continue to West Africa. Further signal will be made.
(b) For passage through Mediterranean. 2 personnel ships and 1 M.T. for India, 2 personnel ships for Middle East and 1 for South Africa.
(c) For West Africa, 1 personnel ship.

War Diary.

25.8.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- K.M.F. 24 (contd). 2. C. in C. Med. is requested to inform authorities concerned of proposed sailing date of M.K.F. 24 from Port Said.
3. There will be no K.M.F. 23.
(D.O.D. (F), 251844A to C. in C. Med. etc).
- ?M.K.F. 22 A. Sailed as in (?C. in C. Med's) 231821B and my 241359B (N.T. in W.R.)
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 251959B to Admty. etc).
- Movements Philippeville. Arrived and sailed. USK, BARLE, ETRICK, WRESTLER.
(S.N.O. Philippeville, 252001B to Admty).
- Movements, Algiers. Arrivals CHANTICLEER, NARBADA (?French) submarine LA SULTANE. Departures WILTON, U.S.S. MOUNT BAKER, U.S.S. NICHOLSON, U.S.S. GLEAVES, CHASSEUR III, LA TOULONNAISE, LA SABLaise, H.D.M.L.1273.
Arrived and departed DELPHINIUM SOUTHERN SEAS, CHARON.
(Com. Algeria, 252004B to Admty. etc).
- Movements, Augusta. Port Augusta arrival (3) 25th August 1943.
(4) MARIGOT, EMPIRE TROOPER, KAROA, NEURALIA.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 252020 to Admty).
- K.M.F. 22 Onward route, vide C. in C. Med. 221635B August.
(C. in C. Levant, 252037C to S.E.C. K.M.F. 22, K.M.S. 23, M.K.S. 23 etc). Cancelled by 261258 q.v.
- Movements, Oran. U.S. Ship NICHOLSON and GLEAVES arrived today.
L.C.I.(L) 83, 84, 85, 86, 88 departed.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 252037B to Admty. etc).
- Tripoli - Malta Convoy. Intend to sail at 1201B/26th SONTAY (2 groups missing) ENSIS (T) joiners for U.G.S. 14 FORT GEORGE for Malta (?and) EMPIRE MOORHEN for onward routing to U.K. Escorts VETCH, CONVULVULUS, PENTSTEMON. Route 292, 202, 248, 212. E.T.A.
Malta Boom 1700B/27th. S. of A. 8. Codeword "Nonce" (corrupt group) priority normal and A/S.
(S.N.O. Tripolitania, 252059B to V.A. Malta, (R) C. in C. Med. etc).
- U/B sunk 22 August. We congratulate EASTON and PINDOS on destruction of a U-boat on 22nd August 1943.
(D.A.U.D. Approved by V.C.N.S., 252104A to EASTON, PINDOS (R) C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med. Cdre. (D) Levant).

/TACTICIAN...

25.8.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

TACTICIAN,
TROOPER.

- (1) CELENO, 336 feet, expected to leave Istanbul shortly.
- (2) P.314 (TACTICIAN) patrol off Dardanelles on completion special operation.
- (3) TROOPER move to North Aegean with despatch to patrol to North of Doro Channel.
(Capt. (S) 1, 252117C to TROOPER, P.314 (TACTICIAN)
(R) C. in C. Levant).

Situation
report No.
162.

- (1) During night 23/24th August P.T. boats operated off Vibo Valentia and M.T.Bs. off Calabrian Coast without incident.
- (2) AURORA, PENELOPE, JERVIS and PALADIN carried out sweep in Tyrrhenian sea night 24/25 August but had nothing to report.
- (3) TARTAR, NUBIAN and TUMULT, M.T.Bs. and M.G.B. operated off Calabrian Coast night 24/25 August and U.S. Coastal forces carried out patrol in vicinity of Vibo Valentia.
- (4) My 242349X (242249 intended) Para. 4. attack was by six F.W. 190.
(C. in C. Med., 252128B to Admty).

Movements,
Bone.

Arrived and sailed ETRICK, WRESTLER, BARLE.
(N.O.I.C. Bone, 252130B to Admty. etc).

Malta
Dockyard.

Strike of workers 95% complete. Report.
(Govr. Malta, 252230B to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

Situation
report No.49.

Convoys. A. Departures, M.K.F.22, GLENGYLE and 10 M/Vs escorted by six "Hunts" left Alexandria August 19th, G.U.S.13. Z. Four slow (M/Vs?) left Alexandria 20th to Tripoli (L).
August 13. six M/Vs and M.W.F.40 three personnel ships for Sicily, left Alexandria in company. 20th August M.K.S.23. Z. Eight slow M.S. and M.K.S.23, 26 M.S. left Alexandria 24th and 25th respectively.
B. Arrivals K.M.S. (Groups missing). 33° 42' N., 34° 43' E. at 1730/21st. SUTLEJ and HYACINTH sailed to Haifa to conduct combined air and surface A/S search until a.m./24th. Nothing found. Unescorted sailings suspended. S. of Tripoli (S) ?1215. and ban extended to whole Levant Area 22nd. Changes on the station. Arrivals - FORMIDABLE, ALDENHAM, QUEEN OLGA, PATHFINDER, from Western Med. last two for boiler cleaning. Four Greek B.Y.M.S. at Benghazi. CAPETOWN at Port Said for passage to U.K. Departures GLENGYLE to Tripoli (L).
(C. in C. Levant, 252231C to Admty).

Movements,
Malta.

Arrived QUANTOCK, WHADDON, FAULKNOR, GAVOTTE, OAKLEY, QUEEN EMMA, two L.S.Ts. one L.C.I.(L) one L.C.F.
Sailed BROCKLESBY, LEDBURY, LAUDERDALE, OAKLEY, SEAHAM, CALPE, HAYDON, FAVOURITE one L.S.T. two L.C.I.(L)s forty L.C.Ms. arrived and sailed PUCKERIDGE sailed and arrived.
(V.A. Malta, 252344 to Admty. etc).
Arrived H.M.S/M SOKOL sailed H.M.S/M TEMPLAR, UNSPARING TORBAY. (V.A. Malta, 252345 to Admty. etc).
Arrived M.Ls. 1284, 1247, 1242, 555.
(V.A. Malta, 252352A, 260336B to Admty. etc).

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.)

M E S S A G E 252230B August.
MOST SECRET IN
From Govnr. & C. in C. Malta. Date 26.8.43.
CIPHER. Recd. 0930.

~~Addressed The War Office.~~

Malta Dockyard Strike.

~~149909 HE/5050 cipher 25 Aug.~~

For Secretary of State and Chiefs of Staff from Governor Malta.

1. A strike without any notice of all sections of workers commenced in Malta dockyard a.m. 24th Aug. Situation a.m. 25th August shows strike is 95% complete. Some pickets operating in vicinity dockyard. No violence.

2. Men complain that cost of living prevents lower paid men with families maintaining reasonable standard of living. War bonus is main point at issue.

3. Statement by Government of Malta in newspapers today as follows.

- (A) Action by dockyard employees when war effort should be maximum deplored.
- (B) Welfare of all sections population the main preoccupation of Government of Malta.
- (C) Reasons of strike are being investigated without delay.
- (D) Dockyard employees assured that immediately it is their general wish to return to work they will be re-employed.

4. An extension of strike to Maltese civil employees in Army, R.A.F. and civil establishments has occurred on a limited scale only so far. All essential services still operating.

5. We are holding a meeting tomorrow under chairmanship of the Lieutenant-Governor and attended by delegates of all workers unions in Malta as well as Service representatives. Purpose of meeting is to ventilate grievances and to report to me as matter of urgency. I shall furnish you with my recommendations as soon as ever it is possible to do so.

252230B.

Recd. in War Registry PM/27/8.

Circulation over

War Office circulation:

S. of S.	
C.I.G.S.	
V.C.I.G.S.	
D.C.I.G.S.	
A.C.I.G.S.	
D.C.I.G.S. (Co-ord)	
D.M.O.	Brig.(Q) Ops.
D.D.M.O.(O)	Q.(Ops)1.
D. Plans. (2)	D. Mov.
M.O.1.4.5. (12)	D.D. Mov. (P)(S)
G.S.(P)	Brig. Jacob.
D.M.I.	Foreign Sec.
D.D.M.I.(I)	C.N.S. Admiralty (2)
M.I.3.17.	C.A.S. Air Min.
D. Air.	A.M.C.S. Air Min.
D.D. Air.	C.C.O.
Air Co-ord.	S. of S. for)Col-
D.S.D.	Colonies.)onial
D.D.S.D.(A)	Lt. Col. Rolleston)Office.
S.D.2.	
C.O.M.	
Q.M.G.	
V.Q.M.G.	

1st Lord.	D. of S.T. (6)
3rd S.L.	Hd. of C.L. (2)
Vice Controller	A.S./M.S.
V.C.N.S.	D. of D.
A.C.N.S.(F)	C.E. in C.
Parl. Sec.	C.N.I.
Fin. Sec. (2)	D.P.D.
Naval Sec.	Hd. of M. (2)
Civil Lord.	D.N.C.
C.M.S.R.	D. of C.
Secretary	W.D.
Dep. Sec.	I.P. (2)
C.I.A.	Dep. Contr.
P.A.S. (PR)	Hd. of L.
D.N.I. (4)	Hd. of P.
D. of L.	Hd. of M.F.
A.S. (C)	Hd. of C.L.
Hd. of P.	D. of D.
Hd. of M.F.	C.E. in C.
	D.N.C.
	D. of C.
	Hd. of S.W.R.

BATH
BY COURIER.

907

25.8.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Movements. Arrival LAWRENCE.
(N.O.I.C. Karachi, 250515Z)
Arrivals 0110Z. KONKAN with defects 0230Z.
DIPAVATI escorting one ship.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 250628Z)

Departure SHILLONG.
(N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam, 251032Z)
Colombo arrival, 24 August 0700Z POONA.
(F.C. Ceylon, 251152Z)
SUSSEX, OSIRIS arrived left CARTHAGE.
(F.O.E.Af. 251347Z)

Jap. Air Raids, Chungking, Wanhsien. A. 423. Japanese raid Chungking 23/August. 21 bombers escorted by 26 fighters reached the capital. Chinese Air Force report states Chinese fighters intercepted near Chungking and bombers were diverted from City centre. Bombs were dropped on Cottonmill in Western suburbs causing little damage and 7 casualties. 1

Bomber was shot down and crew taken prisoner. Chinese lost 4 fighters. 1 pilot safe. Bombers came from Hankow and belong 12th (?) Hikosentai. 27 bombers also attacked Wanhsien, no details. Japanese raid Wanhsien 24/Aug. 2 groups of 27 bombers attacked Wanhsien causing damage to city and shipping on river. Bombers came from Kingmen and belong to 90th Hikosentai. No casualties and no interception took place. Stated that this raid was intended for Chungking but failed owing to weather. Comment. After 2 years free of raids in Chungking it is considered that these raids are chiefly for propaganda purposes and as retaliatory measures for 14th U.S. Air Force raids against Canton and Sankow. (Hankow²). Possible Japanese wish to cause 14th U.S. Air Corps to divert some of their forces to this area.
(A.A. Chungking, 250603Z to Air Min.)

Ceylon Movement Summary No.65 of 25th. (1) AGRA escorting B.M.61 left Bombay 24th due Colombo 29th. (2) BENGAL and RAJPUTANA escorting A.P.42 left Aden 22nd due Khor Kuwait 28th. (3) DIPAVATI escorting one ship left Karachi 23rd due Bombay 25th. (4) HINDUSTAN escorting one ship left Addu Atoll 24th due Colombo 27th. (5) INVESTIGATOR, KONKAN and KUMAON escorting B.P.92 left Bombay 23rd due Khor Kuwait 29th. (6) IRRAWADI arrived Chittagong 20th. (7) KATHIAWAR escorting one ship left Addu Atoll 22nd due Diego Garcia 24th. KHYBER escorting one ship leaves Bombay 26th Colombo 31st. (9) MADRAS and PUNJAB escorting B.P.93 leave Bombay 29th. (10) MAFURA arrived Calcutta 19/8. (11) NETRAVATI arrived Cochin 24/8 leaves 1/9 escorting one ship to Colombo. (12) ORISJA and TALWORTH escorting P.A.50 left Bandar Abbas 21/8 due Aden 30/8. (13) PATNA escorting J.C.19 left Vizag 24/8 due Calcutta 25/8. (14) RAMDAS escorting one ship left Calcutta 24/8 due Madras 28/8. (15) SHILLONG arrived Vizag 24/8. (16) TOOWOOLBA, BALUCHISTAN and BATHURST escorting P.B.53 left Bandar Abbas 24/8 due Bombay 30/8. (17) TRAVANCORE arrived Bombay 21/8.
(F.O. Ceylon 260658Z)

Convoy /...

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. - Contd.

- Convoy K.R.6 etc. (?Cancel) my 191321. Following is forecast of movements of (A) Second (corrupt) (corrupt) (B) Naval (?striking forces) from Kilindini to Colombo. (A) STRATHAIRD sailed 23rd August escorted throughout by QUADRANT E.T.A. (?Seychelles) 1330 F.G. 30th. Convoy K.R.6 sailed 24th August escorted throughout by RACEHORSE and by DURBAN from vicinity Seychelles E.T.A. Colombo 0930 F.G. 3rd Sept. Route as in my (?161) 331 and my 241147. (B) First flight CARTHAGE unescorted sailed p.m. 25th E.T.A. Colombo 1200 F.G. 1st Sept. 2nd flight CANTON and CHITRAL sailing 8th Sept. E.T.A. Colombo about 16th Sept. Destroyer escort will be provided if available. (2) Your 180613 August S. of A. K.R.6 is $11\frac{1}{2}$ knots request additional surface escorts to westward of $1\frac{1}{2}$ degs. channel. (3) Request (air?) A/S escort for each of above moves. (4) Refs. not to Admiralty. (C. in C. E.F. 250825Z to F.O. Ceylon (R) Admty.)
- B.A.47. Departures ALAVNIA with B.A. 47 speed of advance $12\frac{1}{2}$ knots. (S.O.(I) Bombay, 250926Z to Admty.)
- India Air Report. A.222 25 August. Daily Opsum No.528. Outstanding reports. 10th U.S.A.A.F. 23 August. 2 U.S. Liberators (B.24) attacked shipping Nisobar Island. Over 2 tons dropped. 3 direct hits 3 near misses on 300 freighter. Vessel left on fire. Number of landing barges damaged 1 believed sunk. (A.H.Q. India, 250830Z to Air Min.)
- B.M.61. Departure AGRA with B.M.61. (S.O.(I) Bombay, 241001Z to Admty.)
- STRATHEDEN. Positions V and W are altered as follows - V 028 degs 050 degs. W 026 degs. 038 degs. steer now for changed V. (C. in C. E.F. 251100Z to STRATHEDEN)
- STAFFORD-SHIRE. Bombay departure 25th STAFFORDSHIRE, 0945Z Aden 31st August, nil Diesel oil. (Bombay, 251133Z to Admty.)
- Dispositions. U.S. Pacific Fleet. Changes in A.M.181455. CHENANGO ST. LOUIS in San Francisco. ALTAMAHA, PRINCE WILLIAM, CONCORD at sea. LONG ISLAND in South Pacific. BIRMINGHAM in Balboa. CHESTER to Atlantic. (D.O.D.(F), 251347A to C. in C. E.F.)

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. - Contd.

Movement Summary No.87 August 25th. (1) SUFFOLK left Trincomalee 20th due Fremantle 28th August. (2) RACEHORSE left Kilindini 24th escorting convoy K.R.6 consisting of 3 ships due Colombo 3rd Sept. routed through 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ degs. channel. DURBAN left Kilindini 22nd due Seychelles August 25th and will R/V convoy August 28th and proceed Colombo in company RACEHORSE. (3) QUADRANT left Kilindini 23rd escorting one transport due Colombo 30th routed south of Addu Atoll. (4) CARTHAGE sails Kilindini 25th due Colombo 1st Sept. routed through 8 degs. Channel. (5) D.S. JACOB VAN HEEMSKERCK escorting convoy O.W.6 ATREUS and one merchant ship left Fremantle 20th August for dispersal point off Addu Atoll D.S. JACOB VAN HEEMSKERCK proceeding Addu Atoll for fuel, ATREUS proceed Colombo due 1st Sept. (6) FALMOUTH escorting one ship left Kilindini 22nd due Aden 27th. (7) U.S. ALTAMAHA left Fremantle 16th due Karachi 28th. (8) Cancel Y message 342 of 13th. (C. in C. E.F. 251415Z to E.F. 356 Y)

Shipping Estimates.

Table below indicates probable monthly sailings for the next two months excluding local traffic. It is based on July figures, and all traffic is assumed to be following coastal routes.

(3) Request you will report if these figures are of value and whether further similar signals are required based on later information.

(D.T.D. 251647A to C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A.)
Reply: C. in C. E.F. 290920.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Movements. St. Johns N.F. 24th.
Arrivals HESPERIA, ADHERENT, NORTHERN SKY,
GRENADIER ex H.X.252 salvage operations.
Departures TOWY, KEPPEL, NARCISSUS, ORCHIS,
RENONCULE, LOBELIA, B.3. to H.X. 253. MALPEQUE to Sydney ASPIRANT
to New York.
GATINEAU, LAGAN, ICARUS, PRIMROSE, DRUMHELLER, KAMLOOPS C.2. to
S.C.140.
POLYANTHUS, LANCER, LADY MADELEINE to W.S.C. 140, HESPERIA, FUSIL-
IER, BUSTLER to W.H.X. 253.
M.M.S. 244, 251, 254, 255 to Londonderry MORDEN to Londonderry.
(N.O.i/c St. Johns N.F. 250010Z).
New York arrived 23rd ENGADINE.
(N.S.H.Q. 250505Z).
Departure 24th U.S.A.T. KIDWELL with 2 barges Trinidad 27th.
(British R.O. St. Lucia 250921Q).
Departure 25th U.S.S.T. PATOKA for high seas.
(B.R.O. Aruba 251621Z).
Halifax. Arrival 25th LORD KELVIN.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 251819Z).

VEGREVILLE Position of B.W.54 at 00030Z/25th is position F(X)
course 041 degs. 8.5 knots.
(VEGREVILLE 250043Z to F.O.N.F. (R) N.S.H.Q.,
C. in C. C.N.W.At.).

ATLANTIS H.M.H.S. ATLANTIS departed New York 0130Z/August
25 point Z seaward end swept channel. Avon-
mouth. E.T.A. 1630Z Sept. 3rd. S. of A. 14.75
knots.
(P.D.New York 250148Z to Com. 10th Fleet C and R.
(R) Admty. N.S.H.Q, F.O.N.F., C. in C.W.A., Com.3
C. in C.C.N.A., Cinclant.).

Convoy (A) Belfast. (B) E.T.D. Gate Argentia 25 1100Z.
New York 21 Speed 15.7 E.T.A. Point P. 30 1613Z.
(c) Ocean route. (d) U.S.S. Block Island, not
operating aircraft, for Belfast.
(e) U.S.S. DUPONT, U.S.S. HERBERT, U.S.S. ELLIS,
C.T.G.21, 17, Capt. C.T. Ramsey U.S.N. in BLOCK ISLAND.
(g) "Chop" 26 1430Z.
(h) Codeword and associated call sign "Battle" 126.
(P:D. New York 250211Z to C.T.G.21.7, Com. 10th C and R (R)
Cominch, N.O.B.Iceland, C. in C.W.A., Admty., Comnavu, Comairlant,
Cinclant, C. in C.C.N.A., F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q.).
New York 21. Amend my 250121. Add 8 hours all times. "Chop"
now 262230. Now hold Q.X.H.487.
(C.T.F. 24, 252235Z to Com. 10th Fleet C and R.).

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed.
Summary at	Fleet Unit	55 degs. N.	246 degs.	22
1800 G.M.T.		22½ degs. W.		
25th.	(D.O.D.(F) 250942Z to Opnav, (R) Comnavu).			

/SALISBURY...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

SALISBURY E.T.A. St. Johns 1530Z/25th. Boiler hours. Urgents defects nil. BARRIE with BUCTOUCHE, QUESNEL arriving later at speed (?15) knots. (SALISBURY 251130Z to F.O.N.F. (R) Capt.(D). St. Johns).

H.X.252 My 231344 (231433 intended). / Now reported 1 ship Collision in H.X. 252 has severely damaged bow. In damage August 18th/ conjunction with other evidence it is now 19th. established that all damage and sinking of SANTOS were the result of collision only. (C.C.N.F. 251142Z to C. in C.C.N.A. (R) N.S.H.Q., Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet C. and R., Admty. C. in C. W.A. S.O.E.G/B 3/C 1/W6.). / ? 231433 intended re cause of sinking of SANTOS.

My 231344 (231433 intended) J.P. HENDERSON now a gutted hulk and considered only fit for scrap. Intend H.M.R.T. ADHERENT, screend by trawler NORTHERN SKY tow hulk Sydney C.B. but owing to defect in latter they cannot sail until 1330Z on 26th August. Position of HENDERSON at 241656? reported by R.C.A.F. was 44.12 N. 52.58 W. (F.O.N.F. 251214Z to C. in C.C.N.A. (R) Admty. Cominch, N.S.H.Q. C. in C.W.A.).

NEW ZEALAND Your 242342 in view of critical speed request STAR. NEW ZEALAND STAR sail independently to Liverpool. (D.T.D. 251218Z to Connav).

A.T.61 (1) A.T.61. Presailing telegram Admiralty 211811A (QUEEN Aug. MARY). (2) Chebucto 1400Z/27th. (3) E.T.A. Rothesay 1600Z/31st. (4) Knots 26 $\frac{1}{2}$. (5) Route. (6) Nil. (10) Knots 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ (15) Codeword "Trysail" standard communications plan. (C. in C.C.N.A. 251235Z to Admty. Connav).

ADHERENT Following for C.C.R.T. My 201648 / H.M.R.T. ADHERENT arrived St. Johns 242024 after towing J.H. SENIOR (U.S.) ex H.X. 252 to Bay Bulls. (N.O.i/c St. Johns N.F. 251204Z to Admty.). / Re ADHERENT sailed to assistance of two Torpedoed Ships.)

Convoy Your 241342 and associated despatched. My U.T.1. understanding with arrival FISHGUARD only one Escorts. additional escort required for U.T.1. (C.T.F. 25 251305Z to C. in C.C.N.A. (R) C. in C. Lant, Admty. C. in C.W.A. F.O.N.F. Cominch, N.S.H.Q. DART).

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

A/S Forces Eastern Atlantic strengthening. C. in C.C.N.As. 181054. /
 (1) CHAMBLY due for refit November ST. CROIX tentatively November. Cdr. D.W.As. 181636 refers.
 (2) ST. FRANCIS SACKVILLE completed refits last March and May respectively. MORDEN completed this month.
 (F.O.N.F. 251310Z to C. in C.W.A.).
 / Ships to strengthen A/S forces in Eastern Atlantic.

DUCKWORTH DUCKWORTH movements delayed. Cancel my despatch 242048.
 (C.T.G. 02.1 251322 to N.O.B. Bermuda (R) C. in C.U.S. Fleet., C. in C.U.S.At.Fleet, N.S.H.Q. C.E.S.F. Admty. C.T.G. 23.1.).
 At speed 15 knots and holding Q.J.C. 149 and Q.J.B.9, DUCKWORTH departing Boston boom at 0900Q/26th en route Bermuda via, all following positions are N. and W unless otherwise indicated: (M) 042 degs. 07' 070 degs. 15' (N) 042 degs. 07' 069 degs. 20' (O) 040 degs. 01' 069 degs. 01' (P) 032 degs. 39' 064 degs. 18' (Q) 032 degs. 16' 064 degs. 18' (R) 032 degs. 18' 064 degs. (?29').
 (C.T.G. 02.1 251950 to N.O.B. Bermuda).

Convoy U.T.I. A.M. 161904 para.1. Amend destination of ARGENTIA to read Clyde. Delete MONTICELLO.
 (2) H.M.S. DART pass to Commodore.
 (D.O.D.(H) 251355A to DART, C. in C.W.A, F.O.i/c Liverpool, F.O.i/c Greenock, Air Min. H.Q.F.C., H.Q.C.C.).

U.S. S/M Estimate. (Cominch 251500Z).

ST. FRANCIS At 1500Z/26th sailed ST. FRANCIS from Pictou N.S. to Argentia via Gut Canso thence (F) 045 degs. 32' North 060 degs. 00' W. (G) 046 degs. 01' N. 055 degs. 14' W. (H) 047 degs. 00' N. 054 degs. 40' W. Q.J.A. 220, Speed 14 knots. E.T.A. 2339Z/27th.
 (2) On arrival ST. FRANCIS report to C.T.F.24. for orders SOREL pass to S.N.O. Pictou.
 (C. in C.C.N.A. 251518Z to SOREL, (R) F.O.N.F. Cominch, C. in C. Lant, Admty. C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q. C.T.F.24, DART, ST. FRANCIS, S.N.O. Pictou N.S.).

B.Y.M.S. F.T.2. At 1500Z/24 sailed B.Y.M.S. 77 (S.O.) 214 and F.T. No.2. to St.Johns N.F. routed through
 (A) 44.47 N. 60.00 W. (B) 45.52 N. 57.00 W.
 (C) 46.12 N. 52.36 W. (D) 47.30 N. 52. 15 W.
 thence destination via Q.J.A. 204 speed 9 knots
 E.T.A. 1300Z/27.
 (3) B.Y.M.S. are for onward routing to U.K F.T.2 detaching be requisite for Iceland vide Cominch 100002 and Admty. 151842 both June.
 (C. in C.C.N.A. 241541Z to F.O.N.F. (R) N.S.H:Q. C. in C.W.A.etc.).

/JEANNE...

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JEANNE D'ARC. Departure 25th JEANNE D'ARC for New York via Martinique. (British Consul San Juan 251714Q to Admty.).

B.Y.M.S. Sail B.Y.M.S.194. 230 when ready about 29th from New York to Halifax following instructions my 10002 July. (C1 in C. U.S. Fleet 251910Z to C.E.S.F.).

CARAQUET CARAQUET expected to be ready to sail for Halifax 30th. (B.A.M.R. 252032Z to C. in C.C.N.A. (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q., S.B.N.O.W.At.).

Sub. attack and sighting summary. My 192115. Presume series of collisions not torpedoing area 4356 N. 53.02 W. J.PICKNEY HENDERSON derelict. J.H. SENIOR arrived St. Johns damaged. All times Z. Para.A. U.S.S. BARKER attacks Radar and sound contact 28.11 N. 35.37 W. 0150/25 to 0241/25. Very large oil slick observed at daylight. CROATAN plane attacks surfaced sub 42.05 N. 24.00 W. 1800/21. No apparent damage. Para.B. U.S.S. BADGER attacks Radar and sound contact 27.56 N. 35.51 W. 2215/24 to 2302/24. (Cominch 252040Z to Admty.).

Escort Carriers. Your 232153Z. The present state of escort carriers is as follows:-
Of the six operational escort carriers, four are at Gibraltar and are allocated to C. in C.Med. BITER is refitting and ARCHER has serious defects.
(2) Two Escort carriers are working up and four are undergoing modifications.
(3) ACTIVITY is to be used operationally after refit and RAVAGER is to take her place on deck landing training for 6 months, as it is considered important to train pilots in one of this class.
(4) PRETORIA CASTLE is working up prior to being employed as trials carrier.
(5) In future employment of operational escort carriers will be shown in weekly disposition signal to C. in C.U.S.Fleet. (D.O.D.(H) 252112A to B.A.D.).

Minesweepers When ready for sea 26th proceed St. Johns N.F. via New York approaches to point Z. 4004 50 N. 73.31.45 W. thence point D. 40.30 N. 63.30 W. Point E. 46.27 N. 52.02 W. Point F. 46.33.35 N. 52.35.41 W. Thence St. Johns via approaches. Arrival Report F.O. N.F. for onward routing S.C.1061 will accompany you to 40.18 N. 68.20 E. F.O. N.F. is requested to furnish escort in

/from...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Minesweepers. from Point F. Estimated speed 12 knots.
(Contd.) (C.E.S.F., 252125 to A.M. 138 (S.O.), A.M.139, S.C.1283, S.C.1284, S.C.1285, (R) Com. 10th Fleet, C. in C. Lant, F.O.N.F., C. in C. C.N.A., C.T.F.24, C.T.G. 02.1, 02.2, 02.3, N.O.B. Iceland, V.C.N.O., N.S.H.Q., Admty., S.C.1061.)

Dock Y.F.D. H.M. Tug ADHERENT is to be held in readiness to
(?A.F.D.)32. assist in towing Dock Y.F.D. (? A.F.D.) 32 to St. Johns Newfoundland.
(2) Should initial stages of tow be ?through Long Island Sound and Cape Cod Canal ADHERENT will R/V with Dock in vicinity Cape Cod Bay.
(3) Should Dock sail direct and not through inside passage ADHERENT to be sailed to R/V ?with Dock off Ambrose Light or position designated.
(4) N.M.C.S. is to inform C. in C. C.N.A. at first opportunity (A) route likely to be taken. (B) E.T.A. Cape Cod Bay, Ambrose Light or position designated as the case may be.
(5) C. in C. C.N.A. to comply as necessary.
(N.S.H.Q., 252131Z to C. in C. C.N.W.A., N.M.C.S., (R) B.A.D., Admty., F.O.N.F., C.E.S.F.)

Instructions Request Commodores of convoys bound for U.K. may to be instructed as follows:-
Commodores. (a) Commodore to remain with convoy to destination unless all ships are ordered to proceed independently
(b) Loch Ewe section to be detached on crossing 10 degs. West unless otherwise ordered.
(c) Convoy to be formed into not more than three columns before reaching 7 degs. 30' W.
(D.T.D., 252140A to Connav, N.S.H.Q., C. in C. Med. (A), F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.O.C.W.Af., (R) B.A.D., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.A.)

Use of C.V.Es. There is strong and increasing criticism by certain U.S. Naval Officers of length of time that elapsed between our C.Y.(?V).E. being handed over to us and our getting them into action this being in some cases between 6 and 8 months. This is partly due to lack of knowledge of what they have actually achieved. B.A.D. 232153 (re U.S.N. Dept. are most interested in operations of escort carriers) refers.
(2) Admiral Kauffman mentioned yesterday that perhaps the best way to get more C.V.E. work in Atlantic quickly might be for the U.S. Navy to take back some of those allotted to us so that they could be manned as and when personnel are available and become operational with minimum delay. This might affect corresponding number of A/C assigned to us.
(3) This message is in nature of a warning and is intended to point out that whole question of use of C.V.E. (as between anti-U-Boat and other forms of operations) may be suddenly interrogated particularly if and when it is proposed to route North Atlantic convoy on southern route during coming winter.
(4) A further signal on policy concerned with employment of Vancouver C.V.E. on their 1st voyage follow.
(B.A.D., 252149Z to Admty.) See also 272321.

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LINCOLN. Expected time of arrival 0700Z/26th. Boiler hours. In company - N.S. ST.ALBANS. (LINCOLN, 252331Z to F.O.N.F., (R) Capt. (D) St. Johns.)

U/B. Possibly S/M sighted by fisherman in vicinity 043 degs. 47' N. 066 degs. 37' W. at 1730Z/24th. (C. in C. C.N.A., 252350Z to G.B. 7A.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements U.S. Transport MAUI departed Brisbane 25th August due San Francisco 12th September. (C.S.W.P.S.F. 250301Z). Arrived Cairns 24th SWAN. Departed Port Philip 24th U.S. DR. DRAYTON, WESTRALIA for Milne Bay. Darwin 24th INVERELL for Thursday Island. (A.C.N.B. 251009Z).

TINHOW Your 231256. TINHOW torpedoed and sunk May 11th sunk 0210Z in position 25 degs. 15' S. 33 degs. 30' E. Total complement 83 crew 9 European and 115 Lascar passengers. Survivors 58 crew, 4 European and 73 Lascar passengers. (D.T.D. 251105A to A.C.N.B.).

U.S.A.T. U.S. Transport KLIPPONTEIN departed Brisbane 25th August. Due San Francisco 11th September. (C.S.W.P.S.F. 251207Z to Admty.).

Digest serial No.582 August. Two destroyers or escort vessels sighted off Cape Saint George heading Rabaul early morning. (2) Enemy submarine sighted northbound off Cape Orford forenoon another with deck cargo southbound during afternoon.

20 aircraft of undetermined serviceability report on Wewak strip and 3 small Merchantmen of Seatruck type in harbour in addition to small craft. Approx. 14 barges observed Hansa Bay. (7) 2 Mitchells bombed and strafed barges off Wotap Island. (11) 2 Mitchells on barge search strafed. Minoa Installations Islands manning Strait Area. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 251856Z).

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25.8.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 251349, 251440).

Submarines Attacked.

Sub. attack
and sighting
summary for
24 hours to
1000A/25th.

Para.4. A.M. PIERRE SOUL torpedoed at 1730
August 23rd in 38 degs. 19' N. 12 degs. 55' E.
EASTON rammed and sank German U-boat at 2115/
22nd in 36 degs. 25' N. 12 degs. 39' E. probably
U.458.

H.M. S/M TUNA attacked two U-boats at 1206/22 in
47 degs. 18' N. 4 degs. 26' W. Claims one U-boat
sunk with 2 hits.

A/C J.179 attacked U-boat at 2220 August 24th in 42 degs. 07' N.
09 degs. 30' W.

WANDERER attacked U-boats at 0233 25th. in 41 degs. 58' N. 17 degs.
59' W. and sank U.523. A/C sighted U-boat on surface at 0540
August 24th in 38 degs. 59' S. 20 degs. 23' E.

Para.C. A/C reported investigating possible periscope at
2042 August 24th in 42 degs. 14' N. 10 degs. 40' W.
(D.D.I.C. 251036Z to Cominch).

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26.8.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

1. Owing to the importance of conserving aircraft for the Bay offensive convoys may run between the U.K. and Gibraltar without air escort south of 40° N. and north of 46° N. at the discretion of the Flag Officer concerned, special consideration being given to troop convoys and convoys of particular operational importance.

Home Commands.

KENT

2. KENT sailed from Hvalfiord at 0450A today for Argentia and Halifax.

Minelaying

3. 36 aircraft of Bomber Command laid mines last night in Biscay ports.

North Atlantic.

4. U.S. forces are patrolling and engaged in A/S operations in the Azores area. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar asks for information of these operations, of which he has no knowledge. (C.M.S.F. 260847B throws some light on these operations).

Mediterranean.

Sicily and
S. Italy.

5. Coastal forces operated off Vibo Valentia and the coast of Calabria last night. There were no incidents.

U/B attack
on U.G.S.14.

6. SS. JOHN BELL and SS. RICHARD HENDERSON in convoy U.G.S.14 were torpedoed by U-boat in 37.15 N. 08.24 E. (off Bone) at 2130 today. Tugs proceeded to their assistance, but both ships sank later.

918

26.8.1943.

Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

2 Turkish
ships sunk.

7. S.O.(I) Istanbul reports (Graded B.2) that the Turkish sailing vessels DERSIS and YILMAZ were sunk off the Bosphorus by gunfire by an unidentified submarine during the nights of 22nd and 24th respectively, both in Turkish Territorial waters and without casualties.

East Indies.

Burma

8. Aircraft continued their attacks on river craft today, over 50 being attacked on the Irrawaddy between Prome and Magwe and others at Mayn. Seven water transport craft were damaged in Gwa Bay (Arakan coast).

China.

9. Kowloon docks were successfully bombed today by U.S. aircraft (15 B.24s. 10 P.38s, 7 P.40s.)

America & West Indies.

SS.
MONTOSO.

10. SS. MONTOSO (Havana for Trinidad) made a submarine distress report this morning in 07.12 N. 58.11 W.

26.8.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

New Georgia

11. All organised enemy resistance in the New Georgia area has now ceased. Allied troops occupied both sides of Baroko Harbour without opposition.

920

26.8.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Herring fishing. Propose period during which herring fishing is allowed in additional area be extended to 30/9/43.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 261551 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Movements.

S/M TUNA, TRUCULENT (P.315) escorted by CUTTY SARK arrived Clyde.
Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 260104A.)
Intend to sail P.66 escorted by LOCH MONTEITH from Dundee at 1100A/29 to Lerwick E.T.A. 1500A/30th.

(2) Request fighter protection may be arranged S. of A. 10 knots.
(4) S.O. Subs. Lerwick is requested to sail LOCH MONTEITH to Dundee on completion.
(Capt. (S) 9, 260959A.)
For information. Estimated position at 0200B/27th.
(A) OTUS 043° 56' N. 013° 15' W. due 043° 01' N. 013° 15' W. at 1600B/27th. (For Freetown).
(B) P.211 (SAFARI) 043° 01' N. 012° 50' W. to northward.
Both submarines are to proceed diving by day.
(F.O.(S), 261138A to OTUS, P.211 (SAFARI), (R) C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.)
Positions of submarines at 0800A/27th and movements for following 24 hours.
(B) TANTALUS (P.318) escorted by CAPE PALLISER vicinity Westray due Lerwick 1600/27th. Thence TANTALUS (P.318) sails unescorted at 2100/27th through 62° 01' N. 00° 38' W. thence to north-eastward proceeding probably on the surface.
(E) RUBIS see Operations.
(F.O.(S), 261758A, 262318A.)

KENT. Departure at 0450A. Your 241629 refers.
Admiralty pass to U.S.A. Authorities concerned.*
(A.C.I.C., 260520A to C. in C. H.F.)
*Note. No passing action has been taken by W.R.

Group L. Admty. 251605 which has been passed to Cdre.
(D) W.A.
1. LANDGUARD S.O., SENNEN are to arrive Milford Haven p.m. Sept. 6th to escort coastal craft
Group (L) to Gibraltar.
2. My 241245 para. 2(B). Delete LANDGUARD, SENNEN.
(C. in C. W.A., 261223A.)

Cargo A.M. 291901 July. (Not to all addressees).
carrying M.G.Bs. converted to fast cargo carriers flying
M.G.Bs. the Red Ensign but retaining the main characteristics of the type will be on passage as follows:
(a) About 28th August - one from Gosport to Humber. (b) About 31st August - four from

/Humber ...

921

26.8.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Cargo carrying M.G.Bs. (Contd.) Humber to Holyhead northabout, returning to Humber about 8th September.
2. Authorities concerned are requested to give facilities and take such precautions as are appropriate.
(D.O.D.(H), 261755A to C. in C. Portsmouth, Nore, Rosyth, W.A., A.C.O.S., N.O.I.C. Humber, Holyhead, BEE.)

Operations.

Biscay A/S Operations.

Air attacks on 25th August. Your 251859. Twin engine bombers, some definitely Junkers 88 but some evidence Dornier present as well. Casualties LANDGUARD nil, WAVENEY nil.
(S.O. E.G.40, 260045A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

E.G. 40. Re BIDEFORD damaged. BIDEFORD 252119* not to all addressees. If you consider it advisable in view of damage sustained by BIDEFORD, E.G.40 should make passage East of Ireland, route as in my 251903. (C. in C. Plymouth, 260055A to S.O. E.G.40.)
* Re BIDEFORD and WAVENEY to proceed to Milford Haven damage sustained in air attack.

Intend calling at Falmouth with group to land wounded man who needs brain specialist. Every hour saved vitally important. Submit investigation of directed Glider bombs be made there in case group dispersed later. P.C. and S. at 0001/27th 049° 02' N. 009° 43' W. 072°, 12. E.T.A. 1800/27th.

(S.O. E.G.40, 261951A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Your 251859A.* Ju.88 and Dornier 217.

(2) BIDEFORD. Reported 2 ratings seriously injured. Intended P.C. and S. at 0700/27th 046° 10' N. 031° or 010°) 04' W., 000°, 12 knots.

(S.O. E.G.5, 262148A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

* Requesting report of type of aircraft and casualties if any.

My 261641A, para. 4. Amend to read 40th E.G. LANDGUARD, BIDEFORD, WAVENEY in 049° 02' N. 009° 43' W. at 0001/27, E.T.A. Falmouth 1800/27.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 262241.)

S.O. E.G.40 251607A and 261915A.* My 262311A.* Request investigation of directed glider bombs may be carried out at Falmouth.

(2) My 251903A E.G.40 E.T.A. Falmouth 1800/27th.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 262310A to Admty.)

* N.T. in W.R.)

Request for air R/C.

By his vigorous attacks on our A/S air patrols, the enemy has already shown his determination to clear a safe route for passage of U-Boats to and from Biscay Ports. He may now make concentrated effort by NARVIK destroyers and

/bomber ...

922

26.8.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Biscay A/S Operations.Request for
Air R/C.
(Contd.)bomber aircraft to drive our surface hunting
forces from Ortegá/Vilano area.2. It is not possible at present to strengthen
surface forces to counter this threat, and
available cover forces must be used in manner
best calculated to hide our weakness.3. H.Q.C.C. is requested to consider provision of R/C to warn
surface forces of approach of NARVIK destroyers and to give
such fighter support against bombing attacks as is practicable.
(V.C.N.S., 260101A to C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C., (R) C. in C.
W.A., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)Enemy A/C
activity:
New weapon
used.You may have been reported by enemy aircraft
this morning.(D.D.I.C., 261001A to E.G.40, (R) C. in C.
Plymouth, C. in C. W.A., H.Q.C.C., BERMUDA,
E.G.1, E.G.5.)Increased enemy air activity by R/c and bomber
aircraft occurred yesterday 25th August in theCape Ortegá area and may be expected to continue. Types of
aircraft to be expected are Ju.88, Dornier 21 and F.W.200.(ii) During an attack on 5th and 40th Escort Groups enemy is
reported to have used a new weapon consisting of a form of
projectile which resembles a P.V. in appearance. Projectile
which is fitted with rocket propulsion is released by aircraft
flying down wind at about 1,000 feet and 3 to 5 miles from
target in a direction across wind and is coned towards target
by the aircraft. One carried by each aircraft so equipped.

Explosive appears normal.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 261531A to ATHABASKAN, GRENVILLE,
(R) E.G.1, E.G.5, C. in C. W.A., Admty., BERMUDA, H.Q.C.C.)

6 Ju.88s position 44.10 N. 08.45 W.

(EGRET, 261719.)

4 Ju.88s height 4000 ft. bearing 270° position 46.45 N.

09.52 W.

(ATHABASKAN, 261737A.)

Orders for
BERMUDA.Further to my 251502A not to all addressees.
On discontinuing patrol pass through position
(H) 048° 48' N. 010° 13' W. and (J) 180° Bishop
Rock 10 and thence to Plymouth keeping West of
Lizard Head during dark hours.(C. in C. Plymouth, 261224A to BERMUDA, (R) ATHABASKAN,
N.O.I.C. Falmouth, H.Q.C.C., Admty., C. in C. W.A., F.O.(S),
E.G.1, E.G.5, E.G.40.)Your 261224A. My P.C. and S. are at 2100A/26th (?045°)
41' 012° 06', 022°, 20 knots, E.T.A. 1920A/27th acknowledge(?.)
(? Request) Gate 2000A and 1500 tons fuel.

2. Weather report 9070 1973.

(BERMUDA, 262101A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

/Disposition ...

923

26.8.1943.

Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Biscay A/S Operations.- Contd.

Disposition at 2000. 1. ATHABASKAN, GRENVILLE 045° 44' N. 008° 57' W. southbound 14 knots.
 2. BERMUDA 044° 47' N. 010° 57' W. northbound 18 knots.
 3. E.G.1, EGRET, JED, ROTHER patrolling vicinity 043° 30' N. 009° 30' W. E.G.5, NENE, SNOWBERRY, TWEED, EDMUNDSTON patrol vicinity 043° 30' N. 009° 30' W. leaving patrol last light thence northward.
 4. E.G.40. See 262241.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 261641A.)

Suspicious Tunnyman. Suspicious Tunnyman 47° 22' N. 09° 15' W. course West.
 (A/C 502C, 261750A.)
 Request permit attack Tunnyman position 047° 22' N. 009° 17' W.
 (A/C 502 Sqn., 261914A to A.O.C. 19 Group.)

PELICAN to support E.Gs. Cdre. (D) W.A. 251741A not to all addressees. N.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail by PELICAN when completed with fuel p.m./27th by A.M. Q.Z.S.315. From position (D) 270° Trevose Head 8 miles PELICAN is to proceed through (S) 048° 46' N. 010° 04' W. and thence toward position (Q) to make contact with E.G.1 as ordered by S.O. E.G.1.
 (2) Communication.
 (3) ATHABASKAN and GRENVILLE are support First Escort Group codeword "Talbot I".
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 261841A to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, PELICAN (R) E.G.1, E.G.5, ATHABASKAN, Admty., C. in C. W.A., Cdre. (D) W.A., N.O.I.C. Falmouth, H.Q.C.C., F.O.(S).)

E.G. 1 movements. E.G.1 (? night) intention to sweep westward along Spanish coast. My intended P.C. and S. 270700 206° Q 51 miles 000°, 10 knots.
 (S.O. E.G.1, 261903 to C. in C. Plymouth, (R) ATHABASKAN.)

ATHABASKAN, GRENVILLE movements. My P.C. and S. 1900A 046° 08' N. 008° 53' W. 187° 13.5. Intend joining E.G.1 at 0700. Following 3 groups are a special uncoded 8 fig. weather reported followed by 4 fig. uncoded position to nearest degree 5772 1464 4609.
 (ATHABASKAN, 261909 to C. in C. Plymouth, (R) BERMUDA, E.G.1, E.G.5.)

My 241525A, para. 2 and 241657A, para. 3. Commencing daylight tomorrow 27th August E.G.1 supported by ATHABASKAN and GRENVILLE in company is to carry out following patrol.

(2) Commence at first light to South-westward of Cape Finisterre

/search ...

924

War Diary.26.8.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Biscay A/S Operations.ATHABASKAN,
GRENVILLE
movements.
(Contd.)

search to southward approx. on 100 fathom line to about 042° N. turning then and sweeping north inside the 100 fathom line to reach Cape Prior at last light.

(3) At last light commence sweep from Cape Prior to south-eastward between 110 fathom line and shore resuming sweep as in para. 2 above at

first light.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 261917A to E.G.1, ATHABASKAN, GRENVILLE,
(R) Admty., F.O.(S), H.Q.C.C., C. in C. W.A.)

LANDGUARD will not call at Milford.

(3) On completion of investigation N.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to sail 40th Escort Group to Londonderry.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 262311A to Admty.)

General.S/M
Patrols.

Amend position RA to 047° 30' 006° 01'.

RUBIS proceed thence direct to position RB 046° 24' 003° 15'.

(F.O.(S), 261019A to Subs. operating S. of 51° N.
(R) Admty., C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.)

My 251706 para. (D) add through 47° 30' N. 06° 01' W. and 46° 18' N. 03° 14' W.

(F.O.(S), 261036.)

Operations
"Forfar".

In orders for B.D. and I all revised August (B and D not to R.A.F. Thruxton or Capt. Rooney) for M.T.B.344 read M.T.B.252 throughout. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 261055A to Cdr. S.S. Brigade No.12 Command (Major Lynn), Admty., Cdr. Commanding J Force, M.T.B.250, F.O.C.Dover, C.C.O., N.O.I.C. Newhaven, No.11 Group R.A.F. Thruxton, No.12 Command (Capt. Rooney).)

Operation
S.F.

My 031615 para. No.2 from 1201A to 2359A August 26th. (A) 5. (B) 10.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 261057A to Home Fleet Operational.)

If not in contact and no aircraft sightings at 2001A/26th return to Skaale Fiord and revert to 4 hours notice.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 261235A to Capt. (D) 17, (R) H.F. Operational, N.O.I.C. Faroes.)

Operation
"Starkey".

N.O.I.C. Newhaven's 251630A. Dover 26th August. Arrivals 2 M.I.s., 12 L.C.P.(L)s, and 1 L.C.P.(R). (V.A. Dover, 261520A.)

Your 241805A, para. 2. Presume Harbour Board Shoreham have been informed.

(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 261542 to Admty.)

/Coastal ...

925

26.8.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.Coastal
craft
operations
and patrols.

M.T.B.630 sustained damage to both torpedo tubes B during action 19th/20th August 1943 (? 18th/19th August intended). Tubes from M.T.B.650 at present refitting are being placed on board M.T.B.630. Request two new tubes be supplied for M.T.B.650 as soon as possible. (MIDGE, 261640.)

M.T.Bs. 203, 204, 235 and M.G.Bs.114, 108, 116 patrolling Berck Buoy. Route via Number 10 Buoy each way. E.T.D.2330. E.T.R. 0630/27.

M.G.Bs. 312 (S.O.), 326, 317 patrolling at V Buoy. E.T.D.1945. E.T.R. 0600/27. Route via No.1 Buoy each way.

M.Ls. 137, 203 at Bullock Bank. (V.A. Dover, 261811.)

Operation
"Gearbox".

Your 071940 July. If vessel is not now required for projected services request instructions as to her disposal and that of Sub.-Lieut. Christiansen and party sent from Lerwick. (2) Civilian crew of KAPP I have signed engagement to service in Royal Norwegian Navy. (A.C.O.S., 261756A to Admty.)

Rs. of P.

When Western Approaches escorts are operating under the orders of other command Rs. of P. should normally be addressed to the operating authority unless otherwise ordered. Copies of all such reports are to be forwarded to C. in C. W.A. (C. in C. W.A., 261952A.)

Operation
"Lorry".

Sailed MUSKETEER, MAHRATTA for Skaale Fiord and onward passage Kola Inlet. E.T.A. Skaale 0900A/27th. (R.A.(D), 262103A.)

Exercises.S/M
exercise
area.

A.M. 251820A para. 1 proposed exercise area is on the Isle of Man to Fleetwood route. Para. 2. Berthing in outer harbour at Douglas (Isle of Man) is possible in favourable weather (subject to the concurrence of Harbour Commissioner). In adverse weather (frequently in winter months) S/M would have to put to sea or (with difficulty) be placed on mud in inner harbour when she would be open to near public view. Minor repair facilities are possible with local firm of engineers. (N.O.I.C. Isle of Man, 261126A.)

926

26.8.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.

Stipple.

Explanation of the codeword.
(Cancels A.M. 010125 June and 071612 May.)
See Lion Copy. (p.927A)Enemy A/C
destroyed.

A low flying Ju.88 was destroyed off Fair Isle yesterday evening by light A.A. defences. No survivors. Initial warning given by R.A.F. wireless unit posts who followed A/C up the east coast of Orkneys. Spitfires airborne from Skeabrae and Sumburgh. No contact made. (A.C.O.S., 261944A to Admty.)

Mining.Danish
waters.

(A) Great Belt. Recent increase in mine-sweeping arrangements and replacement of navigable marks is inference that Germans intend safeguarding passage against our possible mine-laying operations.

(2) Despite vigilant observation during month of July only seven or eight U-Boats passed northwards and one south.
(B) Minefield, possibly British, has been discovered between position 56° 54' N. 5° 20' E. and 56° N. 5° 20' E. A.2. source D.I.S.
(N.A. Stockholm, 261123.)Off N.W.
Germany.
In Biscay
ports.Night 24th/25th minelaying. 66 A/C took off. 63 laid mines in their allotted areas.
Night 25th/26th minelaying. 42 A/C took off. 36 laid mines in their allotted areas.
(H.Q.B.C., 261215A.)Enemy Intelligence.German
main units.HIPPER and PRINZ EUGEN have recently had crews increased to normal complement. B.3.
(N.A. Stockholm, 261032.)
N.I.D. Comment: Previous reports stated that these ships were manned by reduced complements.U-Boats.U/B sunk
by TUNA,
22nd Aug.TUNA reports:-
A. At 0003A/22 in 47° 12' N. 04° 27' W. 5 minesweepers steering 200° at 15 knots.
At 1147A in 47° 18' N. 04° 26' W. sighted over heavy westerly swell masts and upperworks of vessels later seen to be 5 minesweepers and 1 trawler bearing 200° 5 miles course 025° estimated 15 knots.
At 1151A sighted conning towers of 2 U-Boats in the centre of a circle formed by above vessels. No A/S transmissions heard at any time.

/Screen ...

927

26.8.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

U/B sunk
by TUNA,
22nd Aug.
(Contd.)

Screen was penetrated close ahead of starboard wing minesweepers and it was then observed that U-Boats were disposed abeam about 3000 - 4000 yards apart.

At 1206½A fired eight torpedoes at the further U-Boat believed 540 ton and painted white.

Nearer U-Boat crossed TUNA's bows at about 100 yards while torpedoes were being fired. Track angle 75° 5 sec. intervals. Point of aim ¼ length ahead. TUNA went to 150 feet turning to port immediately after firing about 2000 yards ahead of minesweeper on starboard quarter of formation. Trawler was then about 3000 yards on port quarter of this vessel.

Just after firing there was a small explosion immediately overhead subsequently found to be caused by the port sweep of the starboard wing minesweeper fouling the jumping wire. This was cut and paravane was entangled in it when TUNA surfaced at 2158. No other damage beyond broken glass in lights and instruments on bridge. Paravane could not be recovered but portions broken off by the explosion are available.

At 1209 21 secs. and 1209 25 sec. heavy explosions heard and H.E. of target which had been held up till then stopped immediately. TUNA then proceeded at full speed for 5 minutes. On slowing down for listening all H.E. had ceased but started again almost immediately and main force faded away on a northerly bearing. One vessel remained in vicinity to eastward of TUNA stopping and starting for about twenty minutes and then left. No counter attack and no other explosions were heard at any time and TUNA retired about 20 miles to westward. TUNA surfaced 2158 and cleared paravane and jumping wire and set course for R/V for which she was by now late.

The heavy explosions could only have been caused by torpedoes hitting target or depth charges. It is most improbable that two depth charges only should have been used throughout the encounter, that they should explode at intervals coinciding with the firing interval and at the exact time that torpedo explosions should be expected. In view of this and the cessation of targets H.E. consider two torpedo hits were obtained and target certainly destroyed.

B. 0031A/23 in 47° 30' 04° 19' sighted 4 destroyers or escort vessels bearing 090° 4 mile course 260° turning to 180° 2 mins. after sighting. They then passed out of range to the southward. One main engine failed at this moment and alteration of enemy's course was providential as battery was by then low.

C. Engine defects. (Details). 8 days at least will be required to make good.

In view of continued unreliability of engines, considered TUNA's future operations should be confined to areas near home and remote from enemy A/S forces.

(Capt. (S) 3, 261151A.)

Casualties and Defects.

SS. MONTOSO. Following has been received:- Addressed: Navy Charge Greenock, from Port Patrick Radio:- Intercept 0507Z de unknown station SSSS de KNWF (unread) 712 N (unread) 5811 261708. Weak signals strength two unreliable. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 260607A.)

/? PICQUOT ...

SECRET

927A
926

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

261135A August

OUT

Date 26.8.43

Addressed: C. in C.W.A.
C. in C. Plymouth
C. in C. H.F.
C. in C. Rosyth
C. in C. Canadian N.A.
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar
A.O.C. Coastal Command
A.C.I.C.
A.C.O.S.

Repeated: C. in C. Med.
Air Ministry
N.S.H.Q. Ottawa
Cominch

Explanation of Code word
"Stipple"

NAVAL CYPHER (C)

From: Admiralty

Admiralty Messages 010125/June and 071612/May are cancelled and following are revised arrangements for stating daily priority requirements for air cover for convoys and Fleet Units.

2. Priorities for the following day are discussed daily by C. in C.W.A., A.O.C. in C. and Admiralty Trading Room. Priorities will then be notified by signal from A.O.C. in C. to 15 and 19 Groups and R.A.F. Iceland, repeated Eastern Air Command, 1 Group R.C.A.F. St. Johns, R.A.F. Gibraltar 18 Group, Admiralty Air Ministry Naval Commands concerned N.S.H.Q. and Cominch.

3. This signal will be prefixed by the code name STIPPLE which signifies that priorities are approved by C. in C. W.A. Convoys and Fleet units will be grouped in the following categories and named also in their own categories in order of priority:-

Category A: Convoys and Fleet units for which air cover must if possible be provided before any other commitment, e.g. those definitely threatened or being attacked, or of special importance even though not known to be definitely threatened.

Category B: Probable future requirements. Convoys and Fleet units likely to be included in Category A on days subsequent to period of present STIPPLE, with indication of dates.

Category C: Any convoys or fleet units to which it is desired to give air cover against light scale attack (e.g. possible contact with single U-boat). Air cover normally to be given to these if available after allowing for A and B but discretion is left to A.C.H.Q. concerned to withhold this cover and report accordingly if specially promising or important offensive operations are in hand.

4. Object of STIPPLE procedure is to ensure that air cover is afforded in the appropriate order of priority to all convoys and Fleet units whose degree of danger or importance justifies diversion of effort from the A/S offensive. It is not repetition not designed to provide means of placing all convoys that might possibly be threatened in their order of priority unless air cover is actually required.

5. As soon as possible after STIPPLE signal has been made A.O.C. in C. Coastal Command will signal probability areas and any special instructions necessary to co-ordinate action by Coastal Groups and R.A.F. Iceland. This latter signal will be prefixed by the code word TUBULAR, and repeated to Admiralty, Eastern Air Command Halifax, 1 Group R.C.A.F. and R.A.F. Gibraltar. Naval Commands will be informed by associated Air Commands through Combined Area H.Q., C. in C. Rosyth informing C. in C.H.F. as necessary.

6. These arrangements will come into effect from 1st September 1943.

7. Naval addressees requested to pass to associated R.A.F. and R.C.A.F. Commands as from A.O.C. in C. Coastal Command.

261135A

for D.C.D.(H)(395)

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

1st Lord
1st S.L.(2)
Dep.1st S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)
A.C.N.S.(A)(2)
Nav. Sec.
U.W.R.
Capt. Fim
Ops.(3)
O.D.(5)
C.I.C.(3)
I.P.(3)
D.S.D.9 (2)
D.A/S.W.
D.T.D.(M)

Air
M.(3)
C.C.L.S.(2)
A.L.O.
D. of P.(3)
U.S.N.(3)
Ad.Blake
D.N.I.(5)
D.T.D.(4)
D.T.D.(C)
D.A.W.T.
D.N.A.O.
D.S.D.(2)
D.S.O.
H.W.R.(3)
W.D.

928

26.8.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.HDME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

? PICQUOT. C. in C. Plymouth, 260609B.
See America and West Indies.

SABRE. Skaale Fiord E.T.A. 2140A/26th port propeller
appears to be damaged. Proceeding on starboard
engine only. N.O.I.C. Faroes acknowledge.
(SABRE, 261805A to C. in C. Rosyth, N.O.I.C.
Faroes, (R) Capt. (D) 17.)

GULF COAST, Escorts H.X.252 GULF COAST and JOHN A. BROWN
JOHN A. were in collision at 2300Z/25. Considerable
BROWN. structural damage in each. We have proceeded
in convoy.
(ASSINIBOINE, 261856Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Shipping and Convoys.

H.X. 253. NELSON DINGLEY in collision FUSILIER (? and)
SS. NELSON BUSTLER standing by. No details yet. Dense
DINGLEY fog. (Corrupt group) P.C. and S. at 0900Z
and DONAHUE 048° 10' N. 047° 40' W., 044°, 9.5. (3)
in collision. 0904 1441.
(S.O. E.G.B.3, 260940Z to C. in C. W.A., (R)
Connav, A.C.I.C., C. in C. C.N.A., Admty.,
N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., H.Q.C.C., Cdre. (D)
Argentia, Cdre. (D) W.A., Capt. D. Greenock.)
My 260940. After NELSON DINGLEY insert and FRELING HUYSSEN.
(2) DINGLEY proceeding independently St. Johns N.F. at 8 knots.
(3) FRELING HUYSSEN hopes to proceed half speed in about 1 hour.
Also ordered to St. Johns N.F. with BUSTLER and FUSILIER
assisting. Latter 2 ships ordered to rejoin me when no longer
required.
(4) Submit A.C.I.49, para. 9 need not apply and FUSILIER be
ordered to rejoin me.
(5) Visibility improving slightly.
(S.O. E.G.B.3, 261309Z to as before.)

Instructions Commodores of convoys bound for U.K. are to
for Commodores. remain with convoy to destination unless all
ships are ordered to proceed independently.
2. Loch Ewe sections are to be detached on
crossing 10° W.
3. Convoys are to be formed into not more than 3 columns
before reaching 07° 30' W.
4. A.C.Is. Art. 410, 411, 417 and 424 will be amended.
(C. in C. W.A., 261207A.)

MAURETANIA, Convoy T.A.60A. A.M. 231523. Intend sailing
T.A. 60A. MAURETANIA 0800Z/27th fighter protection codeword
"Teapot" S. of A. to position M 22 knots thence
20 knots. E.T.A. position M 1630Z/27th. E.T.A.
Ambrose L.V. 0600Z/3 Sept.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 261558A.)

/East ...

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26.8.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.East
Channel
Convoys.

2. Arrangements in my 191844B April will be in force, except that Convoys will be sailed to pass Sandhead Buoy at nautical twilight. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to issue the necessary C.E. timetables in advance and to arrange for ships to be informed that they will be buttoned at B.2 Buoy to northbound convoys unless otherwise ordered.

3. 2 destroyers are required for each convoy and are to be detailed 48 hours before C.W. sailing.
(C. in C. Nore, 261745.)

Air escort
for U.K./
Gibraltar
convoys.

A.M. 261135*

Owing to the importance of conserving aircraft for the Bay offensive in the present circumstances Admiralty will accept convoys between U.K. and Gibraltar without air escort South of 40° N. and North of 46° N. at the discretion of the Flag Officer concerned.

(2) Troop convoys and convoys of particular operational importance should be given special consideration.

(3) The Admiralty view for any particular day will be reflected in the "Stipple" signals.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 262026A.)

* Re new "Stipple" arrangements.

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War Diary.26.8.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

S.L.135 FOWEY sailed 252300 to rejoin S.L.135.
(C.M.S.F., 260100B to F.O.I.C.Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med. etc).
STONECROP, MYOSOTIS, CROCUS, sailed 260800A to rejoin S.L.135. Speed 12 knots.
(C.M.S.F., 260835B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) C. in C. Med. etc).
LORD HYRON, (?ST. LOUIS), SHEL(?BUT), (?DUNKERQUE) arrived from S.L.135.
(Commorseafron, 261557B to F.O. Gibraltar).
VELOX straggling from S.L.135 arrived 261725A.
(Commorseafron, 262109B to F.O. Gibraltar).

C.T.G.21.11 Following a re-encipherment of Cinclant's 252112B action to C.T.G.21.11 Info. to Cominch, N.O.B. Bermuda, C.T.F. 61, C.M.S.F. (begins):-
When ready about August 26th proceed towards Lat. 35° Long. 35° operate against enemy sub. concentrations which may develop until time to support Task Force 61 as it nears these concentrations. Stop at Bermuda to refuel destroyers and to permit SIMSON and MACLEISH to R/V with you at appropriate points. (C.M.S.F., 260847B to Admty. etc).

Dispositions. Situation 261959B.
U.G.F.10 C.T.F. 68, 034° 54' 044° 04' 105° 13½.
(2) G.U.S.12, C.T.F., 64, 035° 11' 029° 36' 287° 9.
(3) U.G.S.15, C.T.F. 66, 031° 36' 033° 29' through 031° 20' 031° 15' thence (corrupt group) 9.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 261043B).
Situation 2002B/26th.
O.G.92, K.M.S.24, HURRICANE 037° 47' 017° 13' through 036° 36' 016° 01' thence 104° 7.
2. S.L. 135 FOWEY (E) 035° 10' 012° 01' 274° 6½. ACTIVE, ANTELOPE part company p.m./26th for Gibraltar 24.
3. Two Swedish relief ships 034° 51' 024° 48' 086° 12.
4. P.211 (SAFARI) 042° (?20') 012° 22' 333° 9¾/2.
5. SAXIFRAGE, GODETIA, LADY HOGARTH 035° 13' 010° 35' through 034° 45' 006° 45' to Gibraltar 9.
6. Portuguese Sloop PEDRO NUNES sailed St. Vincent Cape Verde Island 24th for Funchal 11 knots.
7. Portuguese Tanker SAMBRAZ sailed Lisbon a.m./25th for Aruba 12 knots.
8. Two Spanish Naval training ships sailed Marin 18th for Canary Islands.
9. Portuguese Naval training ship SAGRES sails Lisbon p.m./23rd for Funchal.
10. Hospital Ship LLANDOVERY CASTLE sails Gibraltar 2000/26th through 035° 47' 006° 25' and 037° 01' 010° 01' thence 339° 10½.
11. OTUS crosses 043° 01' 013° 15' at 1700/27th thence 201° 10/2½.
12. STONECROP, MYOSOTIS, CROCUS sail Casablanca 260900 to rejoin S.L.135 12.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 261049B).
Situation Report for Area Y. G.(U.S.) 12, C.T.F.64, 035° 11' 029° 36' 287° 9. Task Group 21.14 expected to proceed from vicinity Azores to R/V G.(U.S.) 12 situation 262003B.
(2) U.G.S.15, C.T.F.66, C.T.G.21.16 031° 36' 033° 29' through 031° 20' 031° 15' thence 074° 9.
(F.O.Gibraltar, 261051B).

/U/B...

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26.8.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

U/Bs 5 U-boats crossing your course eastbound to Bay of Biscay.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 261101B to P.211 (SAFARI)).
Estimate 6 U-boats cross your course eastbound to Bay of Biscay.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 261117B to OTUS).

Minesweepers Intend sail A.Ms. (U.S. Minesweepers) PREVAIL, Senior and PILOT both speed 17 also Y.M.S.27, Y.M.S.28 and S.C. 525 all speed 12 direct to Oran where spare minesweeping gear will be unloaded.
Last three named continue to Bizerta E.T.A. August 31st. A.Ms. continue in company until detached to port to be designated by Comnavnav at which time Y.M.S.27 becomes Senior. Group departs Casablanca 271800A S. of A. 11 knots, route Q.B.A.102 (G) 35.44 N. 06.28 W. Q.B.A.87. Guard 2150 k/cs. Request onward routeing and communication plan.
C. in C. Med. pass to Comnavnav and N.O.I.C. Bizerta pass to Comlan crabnav.
(Commorseafron, 261314B to N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med. Comnavnav, Comlan crabnav, N.O.I.C. Bizerta, Com. N.O.B. Oran)

G.C.31 G.C.31 sailed MAGDALA (T) for Casablanca. My 251455, for G.C.31 read G.C.32.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 261336B to C.M.S.F.F. (R) C. in C. Med. Admty).

FORTOL My 151833. On arrival SCOTTISH AMERICAN at Gibraltar request FORTOL be sailed for U.K. in first available convoy.
(D. of Stores 261346A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).
See also 302149.

Italian Repatriation Ships, Warning to Masters. My 061735B. Attitude of masters and Senior administrative officials DUILIO and GIULIO CESARE similar to first pair. Likewise masters again took most heed of the advice.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 261504B to Admty. etc).
Sailing 0730B August 27th Italian repatriation liners DUILIO and GIULIO CESARE speed 15½ knots for Taranto routed through F. 036°15' N. 003° 00' W. G. 036° 15' N., 001° 00' W. H. 037° 00' N., 001° 00' E. I. 037° 25' N., 005° 00' E. J. 038° 10' N., 010° 00' E. K. 038° 10' N., 011° 30' E. L. 037° 00' N., 011° 35' E. M. 036° 20' N., 015° 00' E. N. 036° 20' N., 017° 00' E. O. 039° 00' N., 018° 00' E. Escort ROCKWOOD who has been instructed to (?tranship) armed guard at position (M). Codeword "Autumn".
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 261538B to Admty. C. in C. Med. etc).
DUILIO and GIULIO CESARE (route etc). Not to be molested on this route.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 261542B to 8th S.F., 10th S.F., French S/M ARETHUSE).

/T.G...

26.8.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

- T.G.21.15 Task group 21.15 arrived.
(C.M.S.F.F., 261555 to Cinclant).
- S.L.135 LORD BYRON, ST. LOUIS, SHELDE, (?DUNKERQUE) arrived
from S.L. 135.
(Commorseafron, 261557B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R)
F.O.C.W.Af., Admty. etc).
- British Units off Ferrol (LANDGUARD). Ministry of Marine complained mildly that on
afternoon August 24th 6 British Destroyers and 1
Submarine were "exercising" 2 miles outside Ferrol
and disturbing local fisherman. Is this a close
Blockade?
(N.A. Madrid, 261704B to Admty).
- NORD ATLANTIC. My 181154 and Corunna 251150. Ministry of Marine
say NORD ATLANTIC not finished, not yet afloat.
PLUTON standing by and transferring oil proceeding
slowly.
Apparently British destroyer entered Camapinas
1230/25th August and anchored. She left at 1500. No objection
is taken as apparently there was some good excuse.
Request I may be informed of circumstances of brief visit.
(N.A. Madrid, 261745B to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).
see page 1002 for reply.
- BRITISH COURAGE. Repairs complete, vessel now ready for sea.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 261849B to C. in C. Med.
(R) Admty).
- Movements Gibraltar. Arrivals. LOCH OSKAIG ex Escort Duties Lisbon.
Departures. TOTLAND Greek, KING GEORGE II with
G.C.31, LORD NUFFIELD escort duties Melilla.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 261915B to Admty. C. in C.
Med).
- ESKIMO E.T.A. 0600B/27th August. Have only one propeller.
Request tug for berthing (corrupt). Weather report
(ESKIMO, 262104 to F O.I.C. Gibraltar).
- Attacks on U/Bs in Spanish territorial waters. Admty. pass to last three addressees.
Your 252146. This is largely answered by my
241700, para. 6. of this is of course my own as
Spaniards would never actually tell me we could
attack any S/M outside that line but within
territorial waters. Their actual wording was that
any S/M outside line would not be Spanish.
(2) Paras. 1 to 5, my 241700, are actually as
stated by M. of M.
(3) I confirm she never goes out at night. Of course she might
break down but that would be inside line.

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26.8.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Attacks on
U/Bs in
Spanish
territorial
waters.
(contd).

(4) I have emphasized difficulty of exact navigation by aircraft. Answer was that when attacked B.2 was well inside one mile off Cabo Priorino. On edge of 3 mile limit mistakes are understandable.

(5) I confirm B.2 is marked as indicated in C.A.F.O. 1408/43 and that there are no other Spanish S/MS North (9032°).

(6) Please pass my 241700 to F.O.S. (passing action being taken by W.R.)

(N.A. Madrid, 262131B to Admty. (R) F.O. Gibraltar H.Q.C.C., F.O.S., C. in C. Plymouth).

A/S
Operations,
Azores.

From Natel No. 197 it would appear that considerable anti U-boat operations have taken and are taking place in vicinity of Azores of which I have been unaware.

2. Request I may be kept fully informed of such operations in the area for which I am responsible. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 262307B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. Cdr. 10th Fleet, (C. and R.) Reply Admty. 271831, Admty. 301211 Admty. 011312.

SAXIFRAGE

E.T.A. 1500 on 27th August.
(SAXIFRAGE, 262355B to F.O. Gibraltar).

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26.8.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

S.R.5. Sailed 0635Z convoy S.R.5. consisting of BAZELY,
C.F.13. BLACKWOOD, DRURY escorting CANADA to meet C.F.13
in position (X) 014 degs. 29' N. 017 degs. 55'
W. at 1000Z/26th and take over escorts of AORANGI.
Subsequent route as in F.O.C.W.Af. 231431.

(2) JOHAN MAURITS unable to reach U.K. at anticipated best speed
of convoy. She sailed 0615 independently by most direct route at
14 knots for Casablanca to refuel and rejoin. E.T.A. 0900Z/30th
requires bunkers, oil.

(3) WITCH, BRILLIANT sailed 0135Z to join C.F.13 in position
(Y) 013 degs. 52' N. 018 degs. 04' W. at 0700Z/26th. F.O.C.W.Af.
211307 and subsequent amendments refer.
(Comar Dakar 260936Z to F.O.C.W.A., Commorseafron (R) Admty. etc.)

Movements Arrivals Pointe Noire 0900Z/26th F.S. SUFFREN
Pointe F.S. DUGUAY-TROUIN.
Noire. (B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire 261005A to F.O.C.W.Af.,
(R) Admty.etc.).

Troop In order to lift remainder of 81st Division it
Transports, is proposed that two ships ex K.M.F.24 should
escort. proceed to West Africa after disembarkation at
Algiers, returning to Gibraltar in time to join
K.M.F. 25 for India. Ships will be able to enter
Lagos.

(2) HIGHLAND PRINCESS leaving U.K. in K.M.F.24 will carry about
1400 personnel for West Africa and will be available for lifting
about 2,000 to U.K. joining M.K.F.25 at Gibraltar.

(3) Request (a) F.O. Gib. and F.O.C.W.Af. will confirm that escort
can be arranged for these three ships in their respective commands
on assumption they leave Gibraltar about 27th Sept. and return
to Gib. as soon as embarkation and fuelling arrangements in West
Africa permit.

(b) F.O.C.W.Af. will signal estimated date on which ships would
reach Gibraltar at S. of A. of 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots. This date will govern
sailing date of K.M.F.25 (October convoy) from U.K.

(4) There may also be one or possibly two personnel ships ex
Cape to accompany convoy from West Africa to Gibraltar to join
M.K.F.25. F.O.C.W.Af.'s. 231115, which is being examined, refers.
(D.O.D.(F) 261154A to F.O.C.W.Af., F.O. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C.
Med. D.S.T.O. W.Af., G.O.C. in C. W.Af.).
Reply: F.O.C.W.A. 281755.

RAMILLIES In order to avoid delay to RAMILLIES due to lack of
C.M.45 suitable escorts, it is intended to sail her with
C.M.45 which will have to be held until 11th or
12th September for this purpose.
(C. in C.S.A. 261225B to Com.i/c Durban (R)
C. in C. F.O.C.R.I.N. Admty.).

Casablanca Your 241423 and 251749 have been passed to Comar
Dakar. To avoid additional signal traffic you
convoy. will include Comar in address of all signals
referring to sailings to Dakar.
(F.O.C.W.A. 261226Z to Commorseafron (R) F.O.i/c
Gib. Admty. etc.).

/Movements...

26.8.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

Movements Departure 1222Z/25th RAMILLIES, CILICIA, escorted
Freetown by ROEBUCK, QUALITY, TEVIOT, HELFORD, PLYM.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 261246Z to C. in C.S.A, B.N.L.O.
Pointe Noire (R) Admty.).

Dispositions Situation at 2001Z/26th.
ROEBUCK, QUALITY, TEVIOT, CILICIA, PLYM HELFORD
one Fleet Unit 004 degs. 22' 011 degs. (?14')
141 degs. 13.
MORRIS DANCE M.L. 1041, 1019, 005 degs. 11' (?011 degs.) 11' to
Takoradi 8.
M.L. 1147 escorting 004 degs. 42' 008 degs. 54' through 004 degs.
09' 007 degs. 42' thence (?coastal) 7.
ORFASY M.L.302, 387, with T.L.22, 006 degs. 00' 002 degs. 20'
East to Lagos 10.
DUNKERY screening off Monrovia ARRAN screening off Marshall. M.L.
274 off Accra, M.L. 1014 off Kotonu. 2 M.Ls. escorting 004 degs.
35' 001 degs. 40' 157 degs. 10.
PICT escorting 007 degs. 43' 014 degs. 03' to 005 degs. 00' 016
degs. 00' 8.
(F.O.C.W.A. 261250Z).

D.N.58 and Sailing telegram (12 ships).
D.L.M.7. (2) 1200Z/26th August. (4) 7 knots. (5) (X) 028
degs. 34' South 032 degs. 30' East.
(Y) 026 degs. 038 degs. L.M. ships will be
detached at (X) to proceed coastal escorted to
destination remainder dispersing at (Y) thence as
in my series numbers 550 to 559.
(6) THYME, JASMINE, HERTFORDSHIRE, NORTHERN DUKE, NORTHERN CHIEF,
VIVIANA.
(N.C.S.O. Durban 261314Z to Admty. etc.). Addition, see 270634Z.

RAMILLIES (1) Onward route for RAMILLIES, CILICIA and
CILICIA. escort from Walvis Bay to Capetown as follows.
F. 024 degs. 30' S. 013 degs. 30' E. G. 029 degs.
30' 015 degs. 00' H. 033 degs. 13' 017 degs. 37'
thence to Capetown via Q.G.A. 127. F.O.C.W.Af.
241825Z refers.
(2) Before sailing RAMILLIES report through N.L.O. Walvis Bay
E.T.A. Capetown also requirements on arrival.
(C. in C.S.A. 261543B to RAMILLIES, N.L.O. Walvis Bay (R) Admty.
F.O.C.W.Af. ROEBUCK).

NEWCASTLE Arrived.
(C. in C.S.A. 261603B to Admty. etc.).

D.C.40B. Sailing telegram (2 ships).
(2) 1600Z/26th August. (4) 12½ knots. (5) (Route,
to Capetown). E.T.A. Capetown (?10)00Z 29th
August.
(15) S.Q.D.1 to 9 "Faggot".
(N.C.S.O. Durban 261606Z to Admty. etc.).

/SHROPSHIRE...

War Diary.

26.8.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

SHROPSHIRE Intend to sail SHROPSHIRE at 1630Z/27th August route (A) 07 degs. 40' N. 14 degs. 30' W. (B) 07 degs. 01' S. 03 degs. 59' W. (C) 22 degs. 02' S. 07 degs. 59' E. (D) 33 degs, 14' S. 17 degs. 38' E. thence Capetown E.T.A. 0500Z/4th September, S. of A. 18 knots. (2) SHROPSHIRE shifts to area Q W/T organisation at 2359Z/30th August. (3) SHROPSHIRE carries stores for Capetown. (F.O.C.W.A. 261708Z to C. in C.S.A. (R) Admty. SHROPSHIRE, A.C.N.B.).

S.L.136 Advance Sailing telegram.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 261815Z to Admty.).

M.Ls. Departures 26th. August 1800Z M.L. 266 and M.L. 277 escorting and returning Takoradi 0600Z/29th. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi 261841Z to Admty.).

Movements BUTTERMERE and WASTWATER arrived Rio de Janeiro today 26th. Rio. (B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 262009Z to C. in C.S.A.).

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26.8.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Movements, Arrived 25th August. LEDBURY, LAUDERDALE,
Augusta. SEAHAM, PRINSES ASTRID, QUEEN EMMA, BLACKMORE
L.S.T's 425, 7, 8, 9, 12, 62, 65, 160, 161, 199,
404, 405, 413, 415, 416, 422, 323, 162, 403,
366 (?and) 162. L.C.T's unknown (?355) 324,
361, 308, 896, 322, 325. L.C.I's 280, 121, 117, 107, (?185)
134 (?317) 300, 391, 271 (?252), 132, 258, 282. M.L. 565.
Departures BLACKMORE, QUEEN EMMA, L.C.I. 280, M.G.B's 663, 658.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 260002B to Admty.)

NARBADA, Sail at 0600B today August 26th to overtake and
U.G.S.14. act as additional escort to U.G.S. 14 to Port
Said. (2) Convoy routed through position 88
at 2100B today August 26th thence through war
channel. (3) Codeword until joining "Denison".
(N.O.I.C. Algiers, 260051B to NARBADA (R)
ALYNBANK, Admty. etc.)

Pass to Cdre. Bizerta joiners (2 ships).
(N.O.I.C. Tunisia, 261005 to Escorts of convoy U.G.S.14 (R)
Admty. etc.)

Pass to Cdre. and escort. Intend sailing to join (list)
All Alex. for orders.
(? V.A. Malta, 261153B to ALYNBANK (R) M.W.T.R. Alexandria,
P.S.T.O. M.E., Admty., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med.
Connav.)

UNRUFFLED. Operation completed. Expect to pass 040 degs.
30' at 0900B/27th thence vicinity Brindisi.
(UNRUFFLED, 260245B to Capt. (S), 10 (R) UNSEEN)

Enemy Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 42.00 N. 9.40 E.
Units. (A/C. G.P.Q/B. 260334B)
My 0334. P.C. and S. of 3 small vessels of
600 tons is 42.00N. 9.46 E. 190 degs. and 6
knots.
(A/C. GPQ/B, 260355B)

C.M.44. Convoy C.M.44 arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 260512Z to Admty.)

G.U.S.13. My 231056B. Sailed less FORT BUFFALO, FORT
AKLAVIK, OCEAN VOLGA plus EMPIRE COMMERCE for
Algiers.
(N.O.I.C. Bone, 260601B to S.O. Escorts of
Convoy G.U.S. No.13 (R) F.O. Gib. etc.)

My 211431C. 2 ships for U.S.A. Cancel all reference to
Gibraltar, onward instructions should be received off Algiers.
Please Pass to Cdre.
(R.A. Alexandria, 261245C to Admty. C. in C. Med. etc.)
G.U.S.13, pass to Cdre. and escort. My 251043B sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 261247B to PALOMARES, Escorts
of G.U.S.13.)

Pass /...

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26.8.1943.

Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

G.U.S.13. Pass to Cdre. Algiers Joiners VACUUM (T),
(Contd.) HANNIS TAYLOR both for U.S.A.
Capt. Taylor U.S.N. in VACUUM will act as
Vice - Cdre. until convoy passes Gibraltar.
(N.O.I.C. Algiers, 261505B to Escorts of Convoy
G.U.S.13)

W.D. Note: Only VACUUM sailed, see 271709B.
G.U.S.13. Intend sailing for U.S. (list) for Gibraltar,
EMPIRE KINGSLEY (for onrouteing to Takoradi), GREAT HOPE not
known.
(Com. N.O.B.Oran, 261645B to C. in C. Med.)

Movements 25th August arrivals (?KLO), Departures HOLCOMBE,
Alexandria. ATHERSTONE, LIDDESDALE, HYDERABAD, RHODODENDRON,
HONEYSUCKLE, COLTSFOOT, ALDENHAM, M.L.351.
(R.A. Alexandria, 260715C to Admty.)

10th S.F. (1) P.44 (UNITED) leaves Alice Point 0600/27th
Summary at to 039 degs. 13' 017 degs. 50' at 2000/27th.
2000/26th. (2) P.46 UNRUFFLED entering Adriatic.
(3) P.51 UNSEEN off Bari. (4) P.45 UNRIVALLED
and P.53 ULTOR 037 degs. 36' 017 degs. 32' through
038 degs. 38' 018 degs. 10' to (? 038 degs) 45'
017 degs. 51' at 2000/27th. (5) P.55 (UNSPARING) 036 degs.
20' 016 degs. 45' to 038 degs. 58' 018 degs. 28' 2000/27th.
(6) TEMPLAR 034 degs. 48' 020 degs. 32' to 034 degs. 05'
024 degs. 05' at 1200/27th. (7) TORBAY 035 degs. 49' 017 degs
54' to 035 degs. 46' 021 degs. 32' at 2000/27th.
(Capt. (S) 10, 260720)

Enemy Cruisers have returned to Spezia. My
Cruisers. 242230 refers. (P.R.U. report 2 cruisers and
4 destroyers 40 miles S.W. of Spezia.)
(Capt. (S) 8, 260904B to 8th S.F.)

Movements, 26th August. Arrivals. MAURITIUS, ALBACORE,
Augusta. L.S.T. 200, H.D.M.L.1128, B.Y.M.S. 26. L.C.I's
315, 123, 281, 166, 115, 164, 165, 178, 312,
288, 301, 304, 306 (?167) 169, 172, 179, 241,
287, 302, 305, 175, 120, 63, 38 (corrupt group)

L.C.M's (?205), M.G.B's 661, 634.
Departures ORION, LEDBURY, LAUDERDALE, CROMARTY, ALBACORE,
BOSTON, STELLA CARINA, M.T.B.307, L.C.I.263.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 261023 to Admty.)

M.E. Air A.676 26 August. Daily Opsum 120.
Report. 24/25 August. 5 Liberators B.24's 12 Halifaxes
marshalling yards Cotrone, area of yards well
covered by bursts, many fires started. Hits
on buildings southern side chemical works
followed by explosions. Other bombs in town. 4 Wellingtons
anti-shipping R/C Dodecanese. No sighting. 1 bombed harbour
on Kos Island 2 bombed Riniss (Rhodes) results unobserved.
Single enemy aircraft dropped flares East of Tripoli (Libya).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

M.E.Air Report. (Contd.) 2 Beaufighters up on interception. 25 August. 35 U.S. Liberators B.24's marshalling yards Foggia. 7 returned early. 28 bombed. Yards well covered by burst with hits on adjacent warehouses. Fire started in Northern half of town. 4 Beaufighters anti-shipping R/C Dodecanese. 1 aircraft made cannon attack on 30 ton Caique off Rhodes Harbour scoring hits amidships. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 261026Z)

"Bunker" warning of Friendly Aircraft. On certain occasions when large numbers of friendly aircraft are approaching North African Coast it may be desirable to warn shore Authorities and ships at sea of their passage. As quick method of doing this codeword "Bunker" will be used followed by information in following form:- (A) Number and type of aircraft. (B) Approx. approach and time of crossing coast. (C) Approx. longitude aircraft are expected to cross coast. (2) Signal of this nature should be taken as also being warning to stand by for air sea rescue operation. (C. in C. Med. 26105-B (261050?) to S. and A. Med. Station. S. and A. Levant Station 117B. (R) Admty.)

8th S.F. Movements at 1957/B/26th. (2) SICKLE east of Corsica. (3) SHAKESPEARE 038 degs. (743') 008 degs. 25' through 038 degs. 43' 009 degs. 52' on the surface 0415/27th thence 058 degs. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ /10 knots. (4) SIBYL in Gulf of Genoa. (Capt. (S) 8, 261130B)

UNSEEN, UNRUFFLED. Be in position 308 degs. Focal Point B.46 miles by 0200/27th. Freedom in a North West direction about 27 miles, sector A. P.46 (UNRUFFLED) may be interested. (Capt. (S) 10, 261125 to P.51 (UNSEEN) (R) P.46 (UNRUFFLED))

French Refugees. Your 161908, not to Commalseafron. SIDI BRAHIM and LEPINE will be available for 8th evacuating. ?Target date at Setubal 6th Sept. French will supply two escort vessels. F.O.I.C.Gibraltar is requested to supply extra British escort. (2) Your 181555, not to all. French Admiralty state maximum passenger capacities are SIDI BRAHIM 900, LEPINE 900, DJEBEL AURES 700, CHATEAU PAVIE 350, but ship's officers should be best authorities. (C. in C. Med. 261141B, 290735 to B.N.A. Lisbon, (R) F.O. Gib. B.N.A. Madrid, Admty., N.O.I.C. Casablanca.)

TORBAY /...

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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

TORBAY. Onward routeing and patrol orders. From position 035 degs. 47' 021 degs. 33' pass through 035 degs. 38' 023 degs. 02' at 0530C/28th thence through approach Channel on course 066 degs. diving to 250 feet between 023 degs. 12' and 023 degs. 33'.
(2) Thence proceed at your discretion to patrol Piraeus-Rhodes route either in vicinity of Kandaliusa or between Symi and Alimega. (3) Make every endeavour to raise an alarm in Western Aegean en route. (4) TROOPER and P.314 (TACTICIAN) both in North Aegean at present but latter will be in your area later. Submarines are not to be attacked in Aegean unless in company with surface escort.
(Capt. (S) 1, 261150 to TORBAY (R) C. in C. Levant, Capt. (S) 10th, 1st S.F.)

SERAPH,
SIBYL. Intend to sail SERAPH 1900/27th for patrol in Gulf of Genoa East of 007 degs. 45' E. North of a line 225 degs. from Spezia routed 039 degs. 02' 006 degs. 13' at 1530/28th 043 degs. 17' 007 degs. 45' at 0800/30th proceed on the surface on 27th and 28th. (2) SIBYL is to keep South of line 225 degs. from Spezia after 0001/30th.
(Capt. (S) 8, 261202B to C. in C. Med. (R) F.S. ARETHUSE, N.O.I.C. Algiers, Capt. (S) 10, 8th (S) F., F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

U/B sunk
22/8. Confirmed that U-Boat sunk by EASTON was U.458 (see S.O.I. Med's 241227) C.O. Lieut. Cdr. Diggins. U-Boat left Toulon 14th August had fired no torpedoes last trip. C.O., 4 Officers and 38 ratings now at Malta.
(S.O.(I) Malta, 261224 to Admty. C. in C. Med. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

Tripoli -
Malta
Convoy. My 252059 sailed.
(S.N.O. Tripolitania, 261229B to N.O.I.C. Malta (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

K.M.F.22. Cancel my 252037. M.K.F. 22 (? convoy) route vide C. in C. Med. 221635 and 250901.
(2) S.O.A. 14 knots. (3) 032 degs. (?13') N. 020 degs. 00' E. 1100/27th, 352, 512, 340 at 2240/27th 328 10 miles North of 316 at 1440/28th 505, 310 at 2230/28th 309, 306 at 0220/29th 303, 300, 399 at 1040/29th.
(4) Will be later. (5) F.M. (6) High "Collins".
(7) C. (8) CARLISLE (S.O) BEAUFORT, BELVOIR, EXMOOR, G.S. PINDOS. (9) Ship for Alexandria and orders for escort follow.
(C. in C. Levant, 261258, 261906C to Ships escorting K.M.F.22, K.M.S.23 and M.K.S.23, N.O.I.C. Gaspe, Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. Connav.)

M.K.S.23 /...

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Mediterranean. - Contd.

- M.K.S.23. List, destinations etc.
No envelopes "A" "C" "D" "U" or Outcon Table issued. Q.BB.203, Q.B.C.793.
(R.A. Alexandria, 261317C to Admty. etc.)
- CHITRAL. Arrival 0246Z.
(Commodore Aden, 261431Z to C. in C. Levant etc.)
- L.S.T's Sousse. My 251222B (N.T. in W.R.) "Hairpin" sailed 1500/26 consisting of L.S.T.319 and 221 unescorted.
L.S.T. 368 is at Sousse to comply with Capt. L.S.T.251002 not to all. Pontoon Causeway and party are retained at Sousse.
(N.O.I.C. Sousse, 261505B to S.N.O. Tripolitania, (R) Cdre. N. Escort Group, Capt. L.S.T. F.O.Sy. Capt. (S) 10, C. in C. Med. etc.)
- U.G.S.14. CHLORIS arrived. BRITISH CHARACTER negative arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 261544B to Admty. etc.)
- Med. A.258. signed Eisenhower.
Air Cositintrep No.47, 25th August. Part 3. Air.
Report. (1) N.W.A. Air Forces. Night 24/25.
48 Wellingtons dropped 97 tons on Torre Annunciati marshalling yards and steel works.
Five large fires started.
Day 25th August. 140 P.38's made a low flying straffing attack on Foggia Satellite between 0925 and 0950B hrs.
48 A/C on ground were destroyed and 11 damaged. Majority JU.88's. This attack was followed with an attack by 116 B.17's escorted by 32 P.38's.
(2) Ninth Air Force co-operated with Strategic Air Force by attacking Foggia marshalling yards between 0945/0950 target well covered.
(3) Fighter bombers of Tactical Air Force attacked scattered M.T. on roads in Sinoli Area and fighters flew naval and shipping patrols. Coastal air force Beaufighters straffed a tug and barges north of Civitavecchia, one barge on fire.
Wellingtons attacked 1,500 ton M.V. south of Copraia, a glow amidships was seen as A.S.R. saved crew of Beaufighter.
(Air C. in C. Med. No. T.O.O. Recd. 1600/26)
- Convoy Programme. Main Med. convoy programme for September.
Eastbound slow:
Convoy Gibraltar Malta Port Said
U.G.S.15 3rd Sept. 8th Sept. 13th Sept.
K.M.S.25 8th 13th 18th

Then /...

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Convoy Then U.G.S. and K.M.S. alternately at 5 days
Programme. interval.
(Contd.) Westbound Slow:

Convoy	Alexandria	Malta	Gibraltar
M.K.S.24	4th Sept.	8th Sept.	13th Sept.
G.U.S.15	9th	13th	18th

Then M.K.S. and G.U.S. alternately at 5 days interval.

Even numbers M.K.S. convoys connect with S.L. convoy.

Odd numbers M.K.S. convoys are escorted to U.K. by escort
K.M.S/O.G. convoys:

Eastbound fast:

Convoy	Gibraltar	Algiers	Port Said
U.G.F.10	1st Sept.	3rd Sept.	-
K.M.F.24	20th	21st	25th Sept.

Westbound fast:

Convoy	Alexandria	Algiers	Gibraltar
G.U.F.10	-	6th Sept.	8th Sept.
M.K.F.24	16th Sept.	20-23rd	25th

(C. in C. Med. (A), 261612B to Admty. etc.)

CELENO,
BACCHUS.

My 2515761C (251538C intended)
A. CELENO loaded only 3,300 tons (capacity 5,500)
but preparing to sail for Piraeus. B.1.
B. BACCHUS expected from Aegean to lead balance
EOL?DL cargo. B.3.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul via N.I.D. 261639C to C. in C.
Levant, S.O.(I) Levant. S,1 S.10, D.N.I.)

Turkish
Ship
Sunk by
U/B.

Turkish auxiliary sailing vessels DERVIS and
YILMAZ sunk off Bosphorus by gunfire unidentified
submarine during nights of 22nd and 24th
respectively. No casualties. Both in
Turkish territorial waters.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 261640C to S.O.(I) Levant,
(R) D.N.I.)

Convoy
X.K.11.

My 252344. Para. 2. Amend designation of
Convoy to read "X.K.11".
(D.O.D.(H), 261646A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar,
C. in C. Med., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth.)

N.A.A.F.
Report.

N.A.A.F. Opsum 186. N.A. Strategic A.F.
24/25 August. 51 Wellingtons marshalling yards
and steel works Torre Annunziata. 2 returned
early, bombing well concentrated. Fires started.
25 Aug. 158 U.S. Fortresses escort 38 U.S.

Lightnings Foggia satellites airdromes. 20 bombers 2 fighters
returned early. 2 bombers jettisoned. Targets well covered.
Several aircraft seen burning. Observation difficult due
smoke. 157 U.S. Lightnings strafe Foggia satellite airdromes.
24 returned early, many aircraft destroyed on ground.
Railway stations locomotives, trains, M.T. gun emplacements,
and troops also strafed.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

N.A.A.F. Report. (Contd.) N.A. Coastal A.F. 24/25 August. 4 Wellingtons R/C coasts Corsica and East Sardinia. 1 attacked with 1 torpedo merchant vessel 2500 tons 12 miles East Cape Corse. Yellow glow seen amidships.
(H.Q. N.A.A.F. 261717B)

SOKOL SOKOL patrol report blank.
(S.10, 261718 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

Movements, Port Said. 26th August, Port Said arrivals, Motor Fishing Vessels 505, 516 SUTLEJ, HYACINTH, AETOS, COMMANDANT DOMINE, IERAX, PANTHER, ABERDARE, BAGSHOT, M.Ls. 354, 356.
Departures HYACINTH, AETOS, ABERDARE, BAGSHOT.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 261719C to Admty. etc.)

Movements Bizerta. Arrivals THOMAS STONE, FERMMOOR, FORT CHIPEYAN, FORT TADOUSSAC, BENRINNES, CAPE MAWKE, TAWTRA, AUGUSTINE LE BORGNE, PRESTOL (T), GUDVIN, BRUCE M. LESTER, SUNFLOWER (T).
(F.O.I.C. Tunisia, 261810B to Admty. etc.)

PARTHIAN. Your 191919 approved. (Propose to pay off PARTHIAN to date 11th August.)
(Hd. of M.11 Approved by 2nd S.L. 261819A to C. in C. Levant.)

Malta Air Report. A.I.1007. Opsum No.108. 25th August. 1 Spitfire made photo R/C of Taranto Area? 1 Baltimore made A/S patrol and 12 Spitfires provided escort for friendly shipping. 25/26 August. 2 Mosquitoes on intruder patrols over aerodromes in Southern Italy found no activity. 2 Mosquitoes and 2 Beaufighters made interception patrols North of Malta and 2 Malta Beaufighters were airborne from Sicily on interception patrols in Etna area. 1 Wellington made shipping search in Gulf of Taranto and 1 Wellington made A/S patrol for friendly shipping. 26th August. 5 Spitfires made photo R/C of Taranto Durazzo aerodromes, in Toe of Italy, and special areas in Toe of Italy. 4 Beaufighters provided escort and 2 Baltimores made A/S patrol for friendly shipping.
(R.A.F. Malta, 261820Z)

M.K.F.22. M.K.F.22 Sailed for Gibraltar 1800B otherwise in accordance with C. in C. Med. 231821B (List, 15 ships).
Cdre. Dawson R.N.R. in DUCHESS OF RICHMOND, Vice Com., Master of ORBITA.
(Com. Algeria, 261913B to F.O.I.C.Gib., Com.N.O.B. Oran, Admty, C. in C. Med., Connav, V.A. Malta. C. in C. Levant, F.O.C.W.Af. Commorseafron)

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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

ULTOR, UNRIVALLED, Operation "Bottom". Operation "Bottom" postponed. P.53 (ULTOR) is to proceed Alice Point and carry out instructions given in para. 7 sailing orders. Then pass 039 degs. 25' 017 degs. 17' at 0600/29th 038 degs. 56' 018 degs. 34' at 0300/30th 035 degs. 45' 016 degs. 39' at 1200/31st and R/V minesweeper at 0800/1st 5 miles East Q.B.B. 147 surface passage on 30th. (2) P.45 is to return Malta through 038 degs. 17' 018 degs. 10' at 0600/27th 035 degs. 45' 016 degs. 39' at 1200/28th and R/V M/S at 0800/29th 5 miles East Q.B.B. 147, surface passage on 27th. (3) Submarines are not to be attacked unless positive identification as hostile. (4) M.J.A.O.24, request bombing restrictions for above passage. (Capt. (S) 10, 261915 to P.53 (ULTOR), P.45 (UNRIVALLED). (R) 10th S.F., C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 1, Air H.Q. Malta.)

Situation report No.163. (1) My 242349 Para. 3 SS. PIERRE SOULE arrived Bizerta in tow p.m. 25th August. (2) ORION carried out bombardment of Calabrian Coast at 1500 August 25th small opposition from 8" and 4" guns. (3) Air Raid at Augusta at 1555/25 by 8 F.W.190, no damage to harbour installations, PRINSES ASTRID and SS. SPONDILUS near missed. (4) Coastal Forces operated off Vibo Valentia and Calabrian Coast night 25/26th August, no incidents. My 252128 para. 3. destroyers bombarded Locrì, results unobserved, opposition belated and inaccurate. (C. in C. Med. 261919B to Admty.)

X.T. Convoys. For A.T. Convoy read X.T. Convoy. My 242114, 242046, 252207 none to all refer. (C. in C. Levant, 261936 to Admty. etc.)

U.G.S.14. Bone Section arrived. (N.O.I.C. Bone, 261936B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. Connav.)

CAPETOWN. Intend to sail CAPETOWN for U.K. August 28th with Lieut. Cdr. Grenfell in command as acting Cdr. C. in C. E.F.'s 251517 refers. (C. in C. Levant, 261946C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. E.F., C.S.4., Deputy. C. in C. E.F. RAPID, CAPETOWN.)

1st S.F. disposition. Aug. 26th. A. Refitting, G.S. MATROZOS, Y.S. NEBOJSCA, G.S. NEREUS, G.S. KATSONIS. B. Operational, TACTICIAN patrol of Aegean South of Trinedri(?s). TROOPER, patrol Aegean west of Mitylene. TAURUS, patrol, due Beirut Aug. 27th. TRESPASSER, Beirut, RORQUAL, Beirut. (C. in C. Levant, 262012C to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. etc.)

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War Diary.26.8.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Movements, Arrivals today were. U.S.S. MOUNT DAKER,
Oran. NIBLACK, SEER, SUSTAIN, P.C.624, 591 (?) 558, 556,
P.C. 542 and AMARAPOORA.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 262016B to Admty. etc.)

Movements, Arrivals, AURORA, PENELOPE, JERVIS, PALADIN.
Tunisia. Departures. SIRIUS, DIDO, PENN, PANTHER.
(F.O. Tunisia, 262020 to Admty. etc.)

ACADIA. Following is a repetition of my 191745 (Begins)
Bizerta arrival, U.S. Hospital Ship ACADIA.
T.O.O.191745B(Ends.)
(F.O. Tunisia, 262020, to Admty. etc.)

Movements, Arsenals, (?Arrivals intended) KINTYRE, HUNDA,
Bizerta. FERMMOOR, SOEMBA, FLORES, L.S.T's 412, 343,
105, L.C.I's 295, 322 L.C.G.6, 7, 2, (?59) 10,
43 and 775.
Departures. CAVA, INCHCOLM, L.C.T's 540, 582,
316, 198, 63, 64, L.C.I. (?109) 17, L.C.G.5, 20, 1 S.C.'s
532, 506, 651, 770, 655 P.C's 559, 627.
?Arrivals and Departures, FOULA.
(N.O.I.C. Bizerta, 262034 to Admty.)

Movements, Arrived M.M/S 58, DINARD, ST. JULIEN. Sailed
Bone. M.M/S. 9.
(N.O.I.C. Bone, 262036B to Admty. etc.)

Algiers Arrivals. BLENCATIERA, BLANKNEY, HAMBLEDON,
Movements. M.M.S.100, 101, 104, 108, M.L.456, 451, 478,
461, 299.
Departures NARBADA, CHANTICLEER, DELMI, BRITTANY,
U.S.S. PHILADELPHIA, LUDLOW, BRISTOL. Arrived
and Sailed ETTRICK, U.S.S. BARLE, WRESTLER.
(Com. Algeria, 262104B to Admty. etc.)

Movements, Arrivals ORION, LEDBURY, LAUDERDALE, R.Y.S.A
Malta. L.C.T's 343, 362.
Departures - MAURITIUS, EURYALUS, QUILLIAM,
QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, INGLEFIELD, ECHO, TETCOTT
PRODIGAL. PINDOS, M.T.B's 78, 95, M.G.B.661,
M.L's 337, 308, 340, 579, H.D.M.L's 1128, 1242, 1247,
L.S.T. 408, L.C.I. (L) S. 315, 278. Motor Boat A.3.
(V.A. Malta, 262230 to Admty. etc.)

Movements, 26th August arrivals ALDENHAM, M.L.351,
Haifa. SILHOUETTE (Norwegian) EUROTAS (Greek) Ex
TRANSVAALIA) COMMANDANT DUBOC, F.S. M.L.357,
M.L.358.
(N.O.I.C. P.P. 262330C to Admty. C. in C. Levant.)

Movements /...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements,
Tripoli.

Arrived FAVOURITE, sailed VETCH, PENTSTEMON,
CONVOLVULUS.
(S.N.O. Tripoli, 262335B to Admty.)

Movements,
Tobruk.

Sailed AMBER, PUNNET.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 262359C to Admty.)

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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Movements. Departure YING CHOW.
(N.O.I.C. Madras 260044Z.)
Arrived 25th DURBAN.
(N.O.I.C. Seychelles 260400Z.)

J.C.19. Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Calcutta 260318Z to Admty.)

W.S.32. 1. Request composition of Indian Sections W.S.32
C.M. 45. and C.M.45 and disposal instructions for ships on
STRATHAIRD. arrival Bombay.
2. Intended that STRATHAIRD should call Bombay en
route from Colombo to U.K. via Suez.
(P.S.T.O.I. 260624Z to D.S.T.) Reply D.S.T. 310230A.

India Air Daily opsum No. 529. 24 August.
Report. 2 Wellington Arakan Coast Patrol. 1 aircraft bombed
water transport and huts Gwa Bay area. Hits on
large huts Sandoway also bombed, 3 fires started.
Outstanding reports China. 24 August 2 waves each
27 bombers attacked Wahnsien. City and river shipping damaged, no
casualties reported. 23rd Aug. Further reports indicate 21
bombers 26 fighters attacked Chungking outskirts causing minor
damage.
(A.H.Q. India 260855Z.)

CANTON. CANTON will be available to M.O.M.P. in approx.
020° S. 090° E. on 23 Sept.
2. If delay of few days in sailing of SAMEE from
Fremantle will allow inclusion of other valuable
ships, SAMAROVSK in particular, in same escorted sailing request
this be done.
3. Your 241106 (N.T. in W.R.)
(C. in C.E.F. 260900Z to C.S.W.P.S.F. (R) F.O.Ceylon, N.O.I.C.
W.Australia, C.T.F. 71.)

STAFFORDSHIRE. Transport STAFFORDSHIRE sailed 25th August for U.K.
via Aden and Suez. E.T.A. Aden 31st.
{D.S.T.O. Bombay 260944Z 260949Z to D.S.T.O. Aden,
(R) D.S.T.O. Suez, D. of S.T.)

B.M.62. Sailing signal II. IKUANA Government Stores Colombo.
EKMA Ballast Colombo.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 261107Z to Admty.)
Transports EKMA, IKUANA sailed 25th August for
Colombo with following. E.T.A. 30th August a.m.
(D.S.T.O. Bombay 261011Z to S.S.T.O. Ceylon.)
Departure 0645Z TRAVANCORE 0915Z KHYBER with B.M.62.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 261143Z to Admty. etc.)

/BANJERMASIN...

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East Indies - Contd.

BANJERMASIN, HISTORIAN. Have you any news of BANDJERMASIN (Dutch) and HISTORIAN both due Tulear 13th and 19th August respectively from Kilindini.
(D.T.D. 261158A to S.O.(I) Diego Suarez, (R) C. in C.E.F.)

FROBISHER. Arrival FROBISHER with one ship.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 261301Z to Admty. etc.)

KHEDIVE ISMAIL. Request KHEDIVE ISMAIL be sailed Kilindini after disembarkation Adau Atoll to embark urgent Naval draft for Ceylon. C. in C.E.F. can provide escort. D. of S.T.'s 252150A August refers. Presume NIEUW HOLLAND will be required for purposes mentioned in Admty. 122335B August.
(D.S.T.O. Kilindini 261500Z to P.S.T.O. India, (R) D. of S.T. C. in C.E.F. S.S.T.O. Ceylon.)
Delay, see 270517Z.

D'ENTRECAS-TEAUX. My 140728 and 230727 July latter not to Com. I/C Durban. A.N.F.L. Diego Suarez report ship will probably be ready to sail for Durban approx. 15th December, when one main engine should be in running order. Tug may be necessary as additional precaution. French will be asked to provide.
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez 261505Z to C. in C.S.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

MADURA, M/Vs. Departure MADURA escorting RISALDAR and ITAURA to Vizagapatam. W/T watch.
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta 261801Z to Admty. etc.)

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Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

G.U.S.11. Convoy G.U.S.11 arrival New York 2200Z/August 25th
18 ships arrived.
(P.D. New York 260030Z to Com. 10th Fleet C. and
R. C.E.S.F., Admty. N.S.H.Q.)

MELVILLE, E.T.A. with SS. GEORGE POINDEXTER 261530Z. Ship
HEPATICA, has leak in both boilers. E.T.A. HEPATICA and
SS. BANADEROS, 260930Z. Defects in HEPATICA,
requires repair to main engine number 1 406 No.2
462. MELVILLE Asdic Oscillator defective may
require renewal. Starboard generator lubricating oil pump gear
stripped. All bearings require renewal. Request (?Radar)
Beacon if fog.
(MELVILLE 260100Z to F.O.N.F.)

Movements, St. Johns, N.F. August 25th. Arrivals
St. Johns. BUCTOUCHE, BARRIE, NIPIGON, QUESNEL, SALISBURY,
ex S.C.140. VEGREVILLE ex B.W.54.
Departures B.Y.M.S.76, B.Y.M.S.213 to Londonderry.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns 260228Z to Admty.)

C.U.4. Sailing telegram. (2) 261500Z. (3) Passing
position K.271900Z knots 14.0. (4)"Chop" 47° W.
2 September 1000Z. "Chop" 30° W. 5 September
0200Z. (5)(Route). (6) C.T.G.21.6. U.S.S.
MADISON with U.S.S. LANSDALE. U.S.S. CHARLES F. HUGHES,
U.S.S. BROOME (groups missed) U.S.S. SIMS, U.S.S. HILARY P.JONES.
(7) 22 Ships.
(C.A.F.A.C. 260230, 260315 to Admty.)
C.U.4. left (list, destinations, etc.)
(Willemstad, N.W.I. 261531Z, 261548Z to Admty.)

MONTOSOA Following read by Demerara Radio, Addressed
"S" Admiralty, London. Intercept at 0506 G.M.T. from
report. MONTOSO SSSS 712 (?) N. 58.11 W. At 0605 G.M.T.
intercept (quote)"is suspicious flare".
(Kingston, Jamaica 260305Q.)
Following received from Lands End Radio.
Intercept 0508 G.U.S.T. 500 kc/s. D.E. unknown
station SSSS de CNWF? unread 1.12 N. 58.11 W. 261700 DEVP.
(C. in C. Plymouth 260609B.)W.R. Note Undecypherable
(? PICQUOT)

U.S.A.T. Arrival August 26th U.S. Army Transport
BRIGADIER GENERAL F.H. RETHERS from Trinidad.
(B.R.O. Georgetown 260400Q to Admty. etc.)

T.G.21.12. Action BOGUE (R) Comaveu C.T.F. 28, Cominch,
U.G.S.17. Commorseafon, Comdesron 18 Comdeslantelt Admty.
originated by Cinclant as his 252219. Attention
my 102109 July. (N.T. in W.R.) BOGUE Comcortdiv 1
G.E. BADGER, O. INGRAM, CLEMSON, GREENE,
Constitues Task Group 21.12, Captain Dunn. Support T.F.62

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Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

T.G.21.12. in co-operation with C.T.F.65 escorting convoy
U.G.S.17. U.G.S.17 schedule to sail September 5 from
(Contd.) Hampton Roads. GREENE will be ordered to
report to you.
(Comnaveu 260456Z to Admty.)
Action BOGUE (R) Comnaveu, Cominch, C.T.F.28,
Comdesron 18, Commorseafron, Comdeslantflt, Admty. From Cinclant,
originated as his 261341. Task Force mentioned my 252219 should
be Task Force 62, not 65.
(Comnaveu 261941Z to Admty.)

Movements, Kingston arrival U.S. P.C.1191 and Y.A.G.18.
(N.O.I.C. Kingston Jamaica 260705Q to Admty. etc.)

J.T.4. Convoy J.T.4. arrived minus VICTORIALOIDE (Braz.)
detached to Recife.
(B.R.L.O. Trinidad 260918Q to Admty.)

VIOLA, Belize passes report (graded reliable) of S/M
U/B. sighted by Honduranian vessel VIOLA (68 tons)
at 2230Z/23rd August in 22.22 N. 85.00 W.
(S.O. (I) Jamaica 260949Q to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

Movements, Arrival CHELSEA, MONTGOMERY, COBALT, LACHINE ex
Halifax. O.N.197.
(Halifax 261024Z to Admty. etc.)

A.T, Requested that sailing authority for A.T. and U.T.
U.T. convoys be instructed to include F.O.I.C. of port
Convoys. or ports of destination in address of their pre-
sailing and sailing telegrams.
(D.O.D. (H) 261243A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

DART. Repairs to DART completed. On arrival FISHGUARD
and ST. FRANCIS intend sailing U.T.1. late 27th
August or early 28th subject to weather conditions
incident to hurricane.
(C.T.F.24. 261251Z to Cinclant (R) C. in C. C.N.A.
Com. 10th Fleet, C. and R. N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F.,
C. in C. W.A. Admty. Capt. D. S.O. Escort Group D.)
Your 261251Z approved.
(C. in C. Atlantic 261811Z to C.T.F.24.)

JEANNE Cominch's 252110 to C. in C. Lant, info. Admty.
D'ARC. Commorseafron, N.O.B. Bermuda, Comnavaw, C. in C.
Med. CHNAVMIIS. Include in U.G.S.17, French Cruiser
JEANNE D'ARC from Bermuda destination Casablanca.
If considered necessary, direct N.O.B. Bermuda
provide Liaison group.
(Comnaveu 261339 to Admty.)

/F.B...

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Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

F.B., Proposed F.B., B.F. convoys, Admty. 211228A.
 B.F., (Cannot be identified in W.R.) should utilize
 Convoys. present T.J., J.T. standard routes between Bahia
 and latitude Natal to facilitate air coverage and
 convoy control. U.S. repair training and other
 facilities are adequate for British escort group
 at Bahia. Preferable escorts not burn diesel. Existing U.S.
 convoy and routing centre at Bahia equipped organize convoys.
 If approved by Cominch will make necessary arrangements with
 Brazilians. This is re-encyphering of 251402 from Com. 4th
 Fleet, action Com. 10th Fleet, info. C. in C. Lant.
 (Radio Washington 261415Z to Admty. F.O.C.W.A.)

Tugs. N.S.H.Qs. 252131. (ADHERENT to be held in
 readiness to assist in towing lock Y.F.D.32.)
 As this will leave no Rescue Tug at St. Johns
 intend retaining GRIPER for present. HESPERIA
 ex H.X.253 now towing M/S 254 to St. Johns will be sailed with
 H.X.254 in lieu of GRIPER. Understood HESPERIA required in
 U.K. not later than 10th September.
 (F.O.N.F. 261422Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) N.S.H.Q. Admty.)

Damage A.M. 151516. B.M.W.T. state preliminary
 to arrangements made for permanent repairs and
 ASTURIAS. conversion at Todd Erie Basin N.Y. at end of
 September which is earliest date facilities are
 available. Request E.T.A. and any further
 information of damage and repairs required. My
 letter 183H/37277 of 23rd June 1942 refers.
 F.O.C.W.Af. pass to ASTURIAS.
 (B.A.M.R. 261424Z to Admty.)

B.Y.M.S. (1) B.Y.M.S. 76 (S.O.) and 213 sailed St. Johns
 1100Z/August 25th for Londonderry.
 (2) Route and W/T routine as in my 081537/August.
 (F.O.N.F. 261438Z to Admty.)
 My 261438 cancel. Returned due to weather.
 (F.O.N.F. 261751Z to Admty.)

B.Y.M.S. When ready about 0700Q August 28 depart Throggs
 Neck. Proceed Boston via Long Island Sound and
 Cape Cod Canal. Report to C.T.G. 02.1 for
 onward routing to Halifax. Arrival Halifax
 report C. in C. C.N.A. for orders. Speed 10
 knots. Guard B.A.M.S. Call signs to be encyphered in S.P.02182
 (4) are:- B.Y.M.S. 174 B.R.C.Z., B.Y.M.S. 175, B.R.D.B, B.Y.M.S.
 53, B.Q.Y.R. B.Y.M.S. 56, B.Q.Y.V. By hand to B.Y.M.S. 174
 (S.O.) B.Y.M.S. 175, B.Y.M.S. 53, B.Y.M.S.56.
 (Comeastseafon 261511 to B.Y.M.S. 174 (S.O.) B.Y.M.S.175, B.Y.M.
 53, B.Y.M.S.56 (R) N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. Admty. Cinlant.)

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26.8.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- LEAMINGTON. My 231510. (Re Unsatisfactory trials LEAMINGTON.) Damage to starboard H.P, turbine more extensive than shown by preliminary examination. Repairs required 4 to 5 weeks from 26th August. (B.A.M.R. 261546Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) Admty. etc.)
- S/M (Cominch 261600Z to Admty. etc.)
Estimates.
- SPINDLETOP. Your 251730. Approved to sail American Tanker SPINDLETOP 1120 G.T. 9 knots, in S.C. convoy. Admty. 221050 refers. (N.S.H.Q. 261631Z to B.R.L.O. Philadelphia (R) New York, S.C.N.O. Halifax N.S., N.C.S.O. Halifax, Admty.)
- ST. FRANCIS. Your 251518Z. ST. FRANCIS delayed until 0300Z/27th August due urgent engine defects. Intend instructing ship to proceed with execution of your 251518Z at 0300Z/27th August. (SOREL 261641Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet, ST.FRANCIS, S.N.O. Pictou, Admty. etc.)
Slip and proceed 0300Z/27th August to Argentinia (route). Carry out A/S sweep en route. 2. S. of A. 14 knots. 3. E.T.A. Argentinia 1100Z/28th August. 5. Report to C.T.F. 24 for orders. (SOREL 261649Z to ST.FRANCIS (R) C. in C. C.N.A., C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet, F.O.N.F., Admty. N.S.H.Q., C.T.F.24. etc.)
- Dispositions. Q.S.65 MAHONE, AYRSHIRE, ROSE BAY, ARIES, LORD MIDDLETON, 183 in company Sydney Approaches inbound. M.Ls. 057, 097, 096 patrolling Cabot Strait. B.A.D. pass P/L to C. in C. U.S. Fleet (C. & R.) (C. in C. C.N.A. (Halifax) 261705Z.)
My 261705Z add B.S.65 DRUMMONDVILLE departed Port Au Port 1500Z/26th. (C. in C. C.N.A. 262155Z.)
- U.T.1. Following is a recyphered version of my 261215Z (begins) Argentinia 25 August. Arrival U.T.1. escorted by DART, CLARE, WHIMBREL, BANFF. (Capt. (D) Argentinia 261735Z to Admty.)
- U.G.S.15, SYMBOL. Upon arrival U.G.S.15 detach SYMBOL (A.M.123) to temporary duty at Navnaw. My despatch 251954, not to all addressees. C. in C. Med. pass to C. in C. African Forces. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 261845Z to C. in C. Lant, (R) Cdre. U.S. Naval Forces, N.W.African Waters, C. in C. Med. C.T.F.66, U.S.S. SYMBOL, C. in C. African Forces.)

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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- L.26. F.O.N.F. 252255. L.26 arrived position (L) 041° 50' N. 070° 20' W. at 1000Z/21 August, thence junction buoy C. 2½ miles N.E. Cape Cod Canal entrance. Provide escort to Philadelphia reporting actual time of arrival at Canal and Philadelphia. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 261848Z to C.E.S.F. (R) U.S. Commandant 1st Naval District Boston. U.S. Commandant 3rd Naval District N. York. U.S. Commandant 4th Naval District Philadelphia. U.S. Cdr. S/Ms. Atlantic C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F., Admty. N.S.H.Q.)
- ENGADINE. Include ENGADINE in H.X.255. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 261850Z to Comeastseafont, Cinclant (R) C.T.F.24, etc.)
- Y.F.D.32. Request you will sail Dock Y.F.D.32 from Perth Amboy N.J. to St. Johns, N.F. as soon as ready. (2) Tug ASPIRANT sailed to New York for towing, Tug ADHERENT being held in readiness to assist.
- N.S.H.Qs. 252131Z F.O.N.F.'s 241932Z refer and passed for information. (K.S.H.Q. 261910Z to Cominch (R) Admty. C.E.H.F., C. in C., C.N.A., N.M.C.S., F.O.N.F., B.A.D.)
- Small Ships in Atlantic Convoys. Your 221510. Sailing of ships referred to will be within your discretion under S/M. para. 4 of the instructions. (D.T.D. 261912A to N.S.H.Q.)
- VICTORIOUS escort. To arrive Point A Hampton Roads at 1400Z/Sept.1st. VICTORIOUS departed Cristobal at 1900Z/27th Aug., via windward Passage. Exact route to interested addressees by other message. Escorted by (U.S.S. SATTERLEE) and U.S.S. THOMPSON with U.S.S. TURNER joining morning 29th. (Cdr. Panama Sea Fron.261939Z to Cinclant (R) Admty. etc.)
- B.X.70. B.X.70 arrived 1855Z/August 26th JEAN (U.S.) arrived 1650Z ahead of convoy. U.S. Cmdnt. 1st Naval District Boston pass P.D. Boston. (N.C.S.O. Halifax N.S. 261950Z to Admty.)
- Movements, Trinidad. Arrivals 26th CAMAS, MEADOWS, FLORIDA U.S.A.T. Tug KEDWELL, following Bauxite, LACHINEDOC, Pan. (R.O. Port of Spain 262001 to Admty.)
- U.S.A.Ts. San Francisco arrivals 24th BLOEMFONTEIN (Du.) LURLINE (U.S.) YOUNG AMERICA (U.S) (All U.S.A.Ts.) (N.S.H.Q. 262019Z to Admty.)

/U.S...

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War Diary.26.8.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

U.S. personnel in British ships in Trade Convoys. Admty. letter M. 08855/43 of 13th August, 1943. U.S. Authorities agree that American regulations are satisfactorily set forth in draft confidential A.F.O. giving numbers of passengers that may travel in ships in trade convoys and in ships sailing without escort, subject to following amendments. 2. (A) The words "No limit by service category will be imposed on U.S. personnel in a British ship in trade convoy" to be added to table A, column (C) for trade convoy. This to comply with A.M.221229 May. (B) They suggest that following sentence be added to para. 3. "U.S. rules quoted herein are those currently in effect and are subject to change by U.S. Authorities". (B.A.D. 262055Z to Admty.)

S/M. attack and Sighting Summary. All times Z. (B) U.S.S. STOCKTON sights S/M on surface 34.57 N. 28.07 W. 0626/26. (C) P.B.M. Radar contact 37.24 N. 72.44 W. 1654/26. P.B.M. sighted swirl 37.34 N. 72.34 W. 1345/25. Attacked sound contacts 37.26 N. 72.32 W. 1454/25. Admty. pass to Comnavu and H.Q.C.C. (Cominch 262101Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)

U/B. Possible S/M reported by shore watcher at 1030Z August 26th in 049° 09' N. 058° 22' W. B.A.D. pass P/L to Cominch. (C. in C. C.N.A. 262140Z to G.B.7, A.G. etc.)

F.T.2. Your 171934Z August to Admty. only. Request report present whereabouts of F.T.2, observing that C. in C.N.As. 212040Z August to F.O.N.F. (R) B.A.D. reports sailing B.Y.M.S's 76 and 213 and not F.T.2. (D.S.V.P. 262141A to B.A.M.R. (R) B.A.D., C. in C. C.N.A.) Reply:- 281552Z.

Spanish Fishing Craft. Admty. 172248A and N.S.H.Q. 241453Z. Following received from CHURCHILL via Resolution Island and passed by cable to Madrid addressed Pescadores Y Secatores Bacalao (begins) SS.CIERZO August 18th 1320Z. Fish aboard ABREGO 140 tons CIERZO 140 tons, signed Capt. Gabriel Aguirre. (N.S.H.Q. 262227Z to Admty.)

L.23. My 161536. L.23 now expected to sail for New London on Wednesday 8th Sept. and Halifax 22 September. (B.A.M.R. 262302Z to Admty. (R) F.O.S., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A., Capt. S.7., S.B.N.O., W.At., L.23.)

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Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Fremantle facilities. Your 021152Z. Following facilities are available for basing a maximum of 6 escort vessels at Fremantle (list). 2. No special naval recreational facilities exist. 3. S.O. Escort Group not available at present. Secretariat can be arranged if desired. 4. Technical officers and men G, A/S, S.E. and Radar are already available for general base duties but may require assistance from Eastern Fleet. 5. Consider personnel for draft pool should not repetition not be R.A.N. 6. Expect that Cockburn Sound could accommodate a large number of Escort Vessels by June 1944 but no repair facilities are being provided at this anchorage. 7. Intention to operate Eastern Fleet escort vessels from Fremantle has not been referred to Cdr. 7th U.S. Fleet pending confirmation of project. (A.C.N.B. 260200 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty. F.O. Ceylon, F.O.C.R.I.N., Com. R.I.N., S.N.O. P.G. N.O.I.C. Aden, F.O.I.C. E.Af. and Zanzibar, C. in C.S.A., F.O.C.R.S.)

Movements. Arrived Sydney 25th August U.S.N.T. REPUBLIC
U.S. S.G. ALGORAB Fremantle 26th U.S.N.T.
HERMITAGE.

(A.C.N.B. 260856Z to Admty. Connnav, Com. 12.)

Arrival Sydney (N.S.W.) 25th BUNDABERG, MORESBY, GLENELG, GOULBURN. Milne Bay 25th GYMPIE, COLAC, KAPUNDA. Sydney (N.S.W.) 25th U.S. Destroyer REID, U.S. Ship ALGORAB. Departed Townsville 24th U.S. Dest. HENLEY, Bowen and for Port Moresby. Cairns 25th KATOOMBA, BENALLA for Milne Bay. (?Thursday Island) 25th COOTAMUNDRA for Darwin. (Corrupt Group) (?25th) DELORAINE for Cairns.

(N.B. Melbourne 261144Z to Admty. etc.)

Arrivals 25th August Milne Bay U.S. Transport VAN HEUTZ. Melbourne 26th U.S. Transport SOMMELSDIJK U.S. Transport ANHUI departed Townsville (?25th) Milne Bay 28th. M/T TAROONA departed Bowen 25th due Sydney 28th.

(C.S.W.P.S.F. 261301 to Admty.)

August 24th MAUI (U.S.A.T.) San Francisco September 12th.
(Brisbane 261407Z to B.R.L.O. San Francisco (R) Admty.)

Convoy Sailing telegram. (B) 1306/26th August.
O.C.120. (C) List, 6 ships. Escort MILDURA, ROCKHAMPTON,
BENDIGO.
(N.C.S.O. Melbourne 261411Z to Admty. etc.)

Digest Parts 9 to 12 cover South Pacific Forces.
Serial No.583, Two light cruisers, four destroyers sighted off
August 25. Northern tip Buka Island forenoon on easterly
course. (2) Liberator on armed R/C sighted another
convoy which photos, show as two gunboats, one
transport, two small merchantmen, 60 miles W.

N.Utst Pussae Island course 100° early afternoon. Two hits
claimed on transport which was left still in water and listing
badly with much debris nearby. One of smaller merchantmen
carrying ten M.L.C. on deck. Same aircraft later sighted another
small merchantman approx. 40 miles further to N.E. on course
120°. (3) Four Bostons and three Beaufighters involved in
attacks on Gasmata during day. Several camouflaged barges
observed and strip reported unserviceable. (4) 35 Liberators

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26.8.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest
Serial
No. 583,
August 25.
(Contd.)

11 Fortresses and 35 Mitchells heavily bombed and strafed Hansa Bay area during forenoon dropping 179 tons of bombs and causing many large fires and explosions, scoring hits on A/A positions gun emplacements and fuel dumps, in addition destroying two large luggers and many barges in harbour area. Bivouac areas also thoroughly bombed and strafed. Lae, small coasters reported off Manan Island. (5) 2 Beaufighters attacked small craft in harbour Garove Island forenoon firing one small patrol boat and scoring hits on six others in addition to twelve camouflaged barges. Same aircraft reported sighting possible destroyer off Dintrich Point 35 miles W. Gasmata on westerly course. (6) Enemy barges active Finschhafen area Lae area. (13) Possible light cruiser YUBARI class reported off Buka passage afternoon 24th and (AAIN) on 25th.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 262022Z to Admty. etc.)

G.P. 65. Departure 27th August. Sydney Section Convoy G.P. 65 comprising 6 ships (list). Escorts CASTLEMAINE (S.O.) GLENELG, MORESBY, ABRAHAM ORIJNSSEN, M.L. 804, M.L. 820.
(H.C.S.O. Sydney 262233Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 261341A, 261406A.)

S/M attack
and
sighting
summary
for 24
hours to
1000A/26th.

Para A. R.D.F. contact hunted by 17th Destroyer Flotilla at 0156/25th in 61° 12' N. 16° 13' W.
(D.D.I.C. 261005Z to Cominch.)

/Submarines...

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26.8.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Attacked.Weekly
Summary.

My 221059 July 1942.

1. At 1015/20 Catalina C/259 attacked a fully surfaced U-Boat in $28^{\circ} 45' S.$ $42^{\circ} 05' E.$ U/Boat dived after attack but resurfaced later and was attacked by Catalina N.265. After this attack U/B. disappeared leaving wreckage and oil patch.
2. At 0420/22 searchlight Wellington C.179 attacked surfaced U-Boat Westbound in $41^{\circ} 53' N.$ $12^{\circ} 33' W.$ Claims depth charges straddled U-Boat but nothing further was seen.
3. At 2115/22 in $36^{\circ} 25' N.$ $12^{\circ} 39' E.$ H.M.S. EASTON rammed and sank a German U-Boat which she was hunting in conjunction with H.N.M.S.PINDOS. Prisoners picked up.
4. At 0233/25 H.M.S.WANDERER escorting convoy O.G.92 sank U.523 in $41^{\circ} 58' N.$ $17^{\circ} 59' W.$ Prisoners picked up.
5. Appreciating that U-Boats are probably attempting Bay of Biscay passage close to Spanish coast, and are remaining submerged throughout daylight hours, air patrols have been re-organised to give maximum effort round N.W. coast of Spain from $42^{\circ} N.$ to Cape Ortegal. Aircraft from Gibraltar co-operating by day and night. Escort groups are also patrolling close inshore between Cape Finisterre and Cape Ortegal.
(D.A.U.D. 261855A to Cominch, etc.)

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27.8.1943.

Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
"Lorry".

1. MUSKETEER and MAHRATTA left Skaale Fiord at 1619A today for the Kola Inlet with stores and personnel.

Biscay A/S
operations.
EGRET sunk.

2(a) EGRET, ATHABASKAN and JED were attacked with the new pattern planing bombs which were released out of range of effective gunfire by a large number of aircraft soon after noon today in 42.08 N. 09.22 W. (about 30 miles west of Vigo). The sloop EGRET was sunk and Canadian manned destroyer ATHABASKAN was damaged, but was able to steam at 15 knots; and GRENVILLE, who assumed S.O., sent her to Plymouth screened by GRENVILLE, JED and ROTHER until 0400A/28 when these ships are to take up new patrol line between 41.20 N. 12.05 W. and 42.15 N. 12.38 W.

(b) Before receiving this signal Captain Brewer (in GRENVILLE) reported to C. in C. Plymouth and C. in C. W.A. that he was convinced that continuance of the Spanish coast patrol will only lead to further loss of valuable ships without any compensating return of German U-Boats destroyed. He had instructed the Captain of GRENVILLE to hold off the coast until a reply was received. At 0116A/28 C. in C. Plymouth ordered GRNEVILLE to move to the south-west if shadowed, though the new patrol line is believed to be out of range of Do.217 aircraft.

(c) PELICAN sailed from Plymouth at 1801A today to reinforce E.G.1.

(d) All aircraft in the "Percussion" area were recalled early today on account of weather at base.

3. Bomber Command laid 72 mines off Biscay ports last night.

South Atlantic.

C.C. Base
at Dakar.

4. A Contraband Control Base is to be opened at Dakar. It is definitely known that considerable quantities of important contraband are being smuggled to Europe by Spanish ships, and in view of this and the improved political situation M.E.W. intends to exert increased control over South American shipping.

/Blockade ...

27.8.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

Blockade
runner
patrol.

5. In order to increase the efficiency of the blockade runner patrol and to give A.M.Cs. some measure of A/S protection in the event of blockade runners having U-boat escort or crew F.O.C.W.Af. intends to sail a frigate with each A.M.C. on patrol. He is asking for 4 new construction frigates to be allocated for this purpose.

Mediterranean.

Sicily and
South Italy.

6 (a) Coastal forces operated off Vibo Valentia and the Calabrian coast last night without incident.

(b) A Commando party was landed at Bova Marina (Toe of Italy, South coast) last night; they returned with some prisoners and reported the locality undefended.

(c) Destroyers attacked a U-boat off Dellys (Algeria) at 0800 today, without result.

7. About 40 aircraft attacked Algiers at 0430 today. No naval damage or casualties were caused. Two or more of the enemy were shot down.

8. The Flag of Rear Admiral Vian (R.A.(V)), was hoisted in EURYALUS at 1300 today.

China.

9. 14th U.S.A.A.F. Kittyhawks attacked shipping at Yochow (100 miles south of Hankow) today, and left a steamer on fire and also hit a small gunboat and two other steamers.

960

27.8.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

Landing on
Arundel Is.

10. Allied forces made an unopposed landing on Arundel Island (Kula Gulf, New Georgia) today. There was some evidence of a Japanese evacuation.

11. East of Muscan Island (Solomon Is.), a small enemy gunboat was damaged by an Allied aircraft today.

961

27.8.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Herring fishery period. Your 261551. Approved subject to concurrence of A.C.O.S. (C. in C. Rosyth, 271057A to F.O.I.C. Aberdeen.) F.O.I.C. Aberdeen's 261551 and your 271057. Concur. (A.C.O.S., 271916 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

S/M Exercise Area. A.M. 251820, para. 1. are concurred in and C.O. R.N.A.S. Inskip agrees that movement of Elswick torpedo area as indicated is acceptable. (2) Concur with N.O.I.C. Isle of Man's 261126A. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 271314A to Admty.)

F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 271314. Concur. N.O.I.C. I.o.M's 261126 para. 1. Consider this can be accepted. Para. 2. Concur. (C. in C. W.A., 271551A to Admty.)

Donegal Bay and Hebrides West S/M sanctuaries. My 231154. In view of para. 5 request decision. (C. in C. W.A., 271504A to Admty.)

Defence of the United Kingdom.

Red Sand Fort. Sixth Tower of Red Sand Fort should leave Gravesend at 0145/31 to pass Thames Gate at 0615 for sinking at 0815. Seventh Tower is expected on 3rd Sept. and first Tower of Shivering Sand Fort on 18th Sept. (C. in C. Nore, 271716A.)

Movements.

S/M Movements. My 211128. Intend to sail VIKING escorted by CUTTY SARK 1030A/29 northabout to Clyde. E.T.A. Cumbrae 0600A/30. (N.O.I.C. Barrow, 271442A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.) Positions of S/Ms at 0800/28 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.(S), 271801A.)

LANDGUARD. Intend to sail LANDGUARD at 0900/28 for Londonderry, E.T.A. 1800/29. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 272351A.)

Operations.Biscay A/S Operations.

Request you will sail CRANE to reinforce 1st Escort Group while operating in the Bay. Lack of A/A sloop with K.M.S.25 can be accepted. (D.O.D.(H), 270020A to C. in C. W.A.) 5355 k/cs. today. Ground station call sign 291. My 171326A refers. (C. in C. Plymouth, 270741A to E.G. 1.)

27.8.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Biscay A/S Operations. - Contd.

2 F.W.'s. position 43 degs. 17' N. 09 degs. 28' W.
(EGRET 270744A to Whitehall W/T).
My 270744A. 3 F.W. are shadowing.
(EGRET 270903A).

Sail CRANE when ready to reinforce Escort Group
1 operating in Bay of Biscay.

(2) Route by Q.Z.S. 315 thence as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth.
(C. in C.W.A. 270936A to C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.i/c Greenock).

Aircraft investigated was friendly.

(A/C BTULX No T.O.O. to Plymouth. Recd. 271055).

Emergency air attack 43.10 N. 09.20 W.

(A/C YROB 6, No T.O.O. to Plymouth. Recd. 271058).

Aircraft shadowing M.E.13, unknown type, 43 degs. (?44') N.
09 degs. 20' W.

(Origin unknown 271130Z to Gibraltar W/T).

Am attacked by A/C position 43.44 N. 09.20 W.

(A/C No T.O.O. to NHY. Recd. 271226).

13? Dorniers bearing 217 degs. position 42 degs. 10' N.
09 degs. 22' W. course 160 degs. speed 15 knots.

(EGRET 271252A to Gibraltar W/T).

EGRET

sunk.

ATHABASKAN

damaged.

EGRET sunk. ATHABASKAN damaged.

(ROTHER 271325Z to Admty., C. in C.W.A., C. in C.
Plymouth).

Attacked by 13 Dorniers. EGRET sunk.

(JED 271329A to C. in C. Plymouth).

13 J.U.88. New pattern planing bomb. EGRET sunk.

Picking up survivors. ATHABASKAN hit. My position

42 degs. 08' N. 09 degs. 22' W.

(GRENVILLE 271357A to Admty. C. in C. Plymouth).

Your 251741. Arrived. (PELICAN).

(F.O.i/c Milford Haven 271357A to Cdre. D.W.A.).

C. in C. Plymouth's 1531A/26 is being passed for information.

Request ships sailing for the Bay may be informed accordingly.

(C. in C.W.A, 271458A to F.O.i/c Milford Haven, Greenock, Liver-
pool).

Have assumed S.O. ATHABASKAN can steam 15 knots, all gadgets
out of action. Intend screening her with JED, ROTHER to Ply-
mouth, steaming to Westwards tonight. ?Left patrol because
ATHABASKAN must be screened home and these bombs are released out
of range of effective gunfire.

MY P.C.S. 042 degs. 02' 009 degs. 31' W. 250 degs. 14 knots.

(GRENVILLE 271516A to C. in C. Plymouth).

C. in C. Plymouth, 261841A. E.T.A. position Q, 1100A/29th.

(PELICAN 271601A to E.G.1.).

Disposition at 2000.

(1) POLLOCK Small Group coastal craft 046 degs. 30' N. 013 degs.
30' W. southbound 6 knots.

(2) Escort Group 5 NENE, SNOWBERRY, EDMUNDSTON, TWEED, 048 degs.
32' N. 010 degs. 00' W. bound Plymouth 12 knots.

(3) ATHABASKAN, GRENVILLE, E.G.1st ROTHER, JED patrol in vicinity
042 degs. 00' N. 009 degs. 50' W.

(4) RUBIS 046 degs. 50' N. 004 degs. 30' W. south-eastbound, daily
advance 83 miles.

(5) P.211 044 degs. 35' N. 012 degs. 50' W. northbound, daily
advance 110 miles.

(6) PELICAN off Trevoise Head 2330, thence course 240 degs. 14
knots.

(C. in C. Plymouth 271645A to Ships).

/Following...

27.8.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Biscay A/S Operations.

EGRET sunk. Following amendments are made to Operation "Percussion".

ATHABASKAN damaged. (1) Gibraltar. Extend "Percussion" E.E. by day only to 12 degs. W.

(Contd.). (2) 15 Group. Cancel present "Percussion" B.B. and substitute New "Percussion" F.F. between latitudes 43 degs. and 41 degs. N. and longitudes 12 degs. and 14 degs. W. 15 Group are to control own aircraft but work in close co-operation with 19 Group. (H.Q.C.C. 271742A to 19 Group, 15 Group, A.C.H.Q.).

It is vital to continue to hunt during this critical stage of U-boat War, when enemy is straining every effort to get his U-boats home.

(2) GRENVILLE, ROTHER, and JED are to escort ATHABASKAN towards position A.B., 038 degs. 00' N. 014 degs. 59' W. until after dark today when, if her condition permits, ATHABASKAN is to part company and proceed to pass through A.B. and thence Gibraltar as ordered by F.O.i/c Gibraltar. Survivors from EGRET may be transferred ATHABASKAN before parting company at your discretion.

(3) Alternatively it is at the discretion ATHABASKAN to proceed unescorted to Plymouth after parting company, keeping west of 015 degs. W.

(4) GRENVILLE, ROTHER and JED are to establish patrol on line between position:-
(G.A.) 041 degs. 20' N. 012 degs. 05' W. and (G.B.) 042 degs. 15' N. 012 degs. 38' W. by 1st light tomorrow. Aircraft will co-operate in this area tomorrow.

(5) PELICAN and CRANE leave Milford Haven and Greenock respectively p.m. today to join 1st Escort Group. BERMUDA leave Plymouth a.m. 28th to cover.

(6) ATHABASKAN report intention and condition of ship. Ships concerned report summary of casualties.
(C. in C. Plymouth 271756 to GRENVILLE, ATHABASKAN (R) E.G.1., Admty., BERMUDA., F.O.i/c Gibraltar, C. in C.W.A, F.O.S.).
Arrival 1606/27. BIDEFORD, LANDGUARD, and WAVENEY.
(F.O.i/c Falmouth 271800A to C. in C. Plymouth).
Sailed PELICAN in accordance with C. in C. Plymouth's 261841.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 271801A to C. in C. Plymouth).
ATHABASKAN has been damaged by air attack p.m. today 27th in 042 degs. 08' N. 009 degs. 22' W., and may be proceeding Gib. at 15 knots.
(C. in C. Plymouth 271809A to F.O.i/c Gibraltar).
You will be required to sail 0700A tomorrow.
(C. in C. Plymouth 271813A to BERMUDA).
BERMUDA is to pass Gate at 0700A/28 and proceed to pass through position B.A. 180 degs. Bishop Rock 7 B.B. 048 degs. 35' N. 012 degs. 01' W., thence patrol between 044 degs. N. and 046 degs. N. and between 014 degs. W. and 015 degs. W. to act as cover for GRENVILLE and 1st Escort Group against surface attack.
(C. in C. Plymouth 271926A to BERMUDA).
My 191341 BERMUDA arrived.
(C. in C. Plymouth 271942A to Admty.).
C. in C.W.A. 270936A.
From a position (D) 270 degs. Trevoise Head. 8 miles CRANE is to proceed through position (S) 048 degs. 22' N. 011 degs. 55' W. and thence position G.B. 042 degs. 15' N. 012 degs. 38' W. to make contact with GRENVILLE and Escort Group 1st as ordered by GRENVILLE. GRENVILLE and Escort Group 1st are operating in company in the vicinity of G.B.

/N.O.i/c...

27.8.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Biscay A/S Operations.

EGRET sunk.
ATHABASKAN damaged.
(Contd.).

N.O.i/c Appledore is requested to transfer operation order memorandum M.O.M.S. by M.L. to CRANE off Appledore at about 1100A tomorrow. (C. in C. Plymouth 271949A to CRANE). Personal from Capt. Brewer. Reference C. in C. Plymouth 271733 (Part of 271756). From evidence of generally increased enemy air activity and of today's attack I am convinced continuation of Spanish coast patrol will only lead to further loss of valuable ships without any compensating return of U-boats (German) destroyed. The control of these bombs is extremely accurate and wide misses previously reported must have been due mechanical failure. I have instructed GRENVILLE to hold off coast until answer is received.

(GRENVILLE 272001A to C. in C. Plymouth).

Estimate position of OTUS at 2000A/27, 042 degs. 50' N. 013 degs. 16' W. course 200, advance 120 miles per day.

(C. in C. Plymouth 272004A to ATHABASKAN, (R) GRENVILLE).

Intended P.C.S. at 0700/28 048 degs. 35' N. 006 degs. 55' W. 12 knots, E.T.A. 1601/28.

NENE (in company with) TWEED, EDMUNDSTON, SNOWBERRY.

NENE has 6 American Air Force personnel to land on arrival including 3 cot cases.

(E.G.5. 272201A to C. in C. Plymouth).

ATHABASKAN is proceeding to Plymouth escorted by GRENVILLE, JED and ROTHER until 0400A tomorrow who then patrols in accordance with your 271756A para.3. ATHABASKAN has number one boiler room, B magazine and provision room flooded and 2 fuel tanks open to sea, maximum speed 15 knots due to hull damage. Casualties - 2 killed, 15 wounded. All survivors (ex?) EGRET, except one rating, transferred to ATHABASKAN. My P.C.S. 041 degs. 48' 011 degs. 10' W. . . 325 degs. 14 knots.

(GRENVILLE 272301A to C. in C. Plymouth. (R) BERMUDA, PELICAN, CRANE).

H.M.S. EGRET blew up. S.O. Group C.O. Doctor. 3 S/Lts. R.N.V.R., 30 ratings picked up. Controlled rocket bombs are released from 5000 feet at range of 5 miles. Bombs fall in shallow dive, can be dodged at speed and exploded by oerlikon fire.

One Ju.88. homed on 5355 Kc/s. About 18 attacked in groups. Bombing was accurate.

(GRENVILLE 272308A to C. in C. Plymouth).

General.

S/M My 261138. For 0200B read 0200A and for 1600B Patrols. read 1600A.

(F.O.S. 270137A to OTUS, SAFARI).

My 251147. From S.B. proceed diving by day to position S.C. 046 degs. 40' 010 degs. 01' thence carry out anti U-boat patrol within 20 miles of S.D. 046 degs. 40' 005 degs. 58'.

(F.O.S. 271219A to SAFARI).

Positions of submarines at 0800/28th and movements for following 24 hours. All times zone A.

(A) UNTIRING as in my 251706.

(B) TANTALUS 61 degs. 55' N. 00 degs. 40' W. through 62 degs. 02' N. 00 degs. 38' W. and 65 degs. 30' N. 03 degs. 55' E. probably on surface.

/ULTIMATUM...

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27.8.1943.

Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

S/M (C) ULTIMATUM and CURIE as in my 251706.
 Patrols. (D) RUBIS 46 degs. 28' N. 03 degs. 35' W. dived
 (Contd.). by day through 46 degs. 19' N. 03 degs. 14' W. to
 southeast. Daily advance 83 miles.
 (E) SAFARI 45 degs. 30' N. 12 degs. 50' W. dived
 by day through 46 degs. 01' N. 12 degs. 50' W.
 and 46 degs. 40' N. 10 degs. 01' W. Daily advance 110 miles.
 (F.O.S. 271801A to Admt.).

TANTALUS sailed from Lerwick 2108A/27 unescorted and
 proceeding on surface at C.Os. discretion. Proceeding through
 position 090 degs. ordered 5 miles, then by route direct to
 069 degs. 00' N. 008 degs. 52' E. thence direct patrol in area
 bounded by latitude 074 degs. 20' and 076 degs. 30' and longitude
 015 degs E. and 020 degs. E.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick 272111A to S/MS.).

Operation Faeroes arrival Group B.
 "S.F." (N.O.i/c Faeroes 270655A to C. in C. Rosyth).
 Leave Skaale Fiord at daylight tomorrow for
 Scapa.
 (C. in C. Rosyth 272151A to SABRE).

Operation MUSKETEER, MAHRATTA arrived Skaale Fiord.
 "Lorry" (N.O.i/c Faeroes 270907A to R.A.D.H.F.).
 Faeroes departure MUSKETEER, MAHRATTA.
 (N.O.i/c Faeroes 271619A to R.A.D.H.F.).

Operation Dover 00636 of 24th Aug. Minesweeping.
 "Starkey" Item 1 (one). Para.5. Cancel from "The code word
 for" to "until arrival 10 M.P.H.", and substitute
 calls for smoke-laying a/c are to be made to
 F.O.C. Dover and pre-fixed emergency, using the
 groups from the auxiliary vessel signal book. Part 2, of signal
 is to contain present strength and direction of wind and bearing
 on which it is desired smoke screen should be laid. This will be
 passed by telephone direct to Controller, No.11 Group (H.Q?).
 Item 2. Add at bottom of paragraph 6 (A) (1) as follows "Note:
 Over 2,000 ft. A/A gun may engage aircraft clearly recognise
 as hostile providing no friendly aircraft are in vicinity."
 (F.O. Dover 271242A to Admt.).

Coastal (A) S.G.Bs. GREY GOOSE, GREY OWL, GREY FOX from
 Force Newhaven Anti-E-boat patrol from 2130A to 0500A/28
 Patrols. on 50 degs. 25' N. between 00 degs. 40' W. and
 01 degs. 25' W.
 (B) GLAISDALE immediate notice at Yarmouth.
 (C) M.Ls. 343, 344 patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between F and

E.A.5 Buoys.
 (D) CHASSEUR 10 immediate notice at St. Helens.
 (E) M.Ls. 208, 122, 124 R.M.L. 522 from Portland Patrol on 50
 degs. 20' N. between 02 degs. 00' W. and 02 degs. 25' W.
 (F) 2 M.T.Bs. exercising between Newhaven and Beachy Head north
 of 50 degs. 41' N. from 2100A until daylight 28th.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth 271528A).

/Force C....

War Diary.27.8.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Coastal Force Patrols. (Contd.).

(1) Force C. M.G.Bs. 677, 664 are to patrol in vicinity of 095 degs. Start 22 miles.
 (2) Codeword "Scent".
 (3) Force D. M.G.Bs. 324, 330 are to patrol in vicinity of 146 degs. Start 19 miles.
 (4) Codeword "Brasserie".
 (5) Forces C and D are to leave Dartmouth to be on patrol by 2115A. Leave patrol for Dartmouth at 0500A.
 (6) Attention is drawn to Q.Z.X. 1070.
 (7) Force E. M.T.Bs. 98 (S.O.) 96, M.G.Bs. 111, 75 are to leave Dartmouth at 1940 and proceed at 25 knots to position (A.A.) 000 degs. Sept. Isles Lt. 4 miles. Thence to carry out sweep for enemy shipping at 15 knots through position (B.B.) 173 degs. Barnouic East light 5 miles to position (C.C.) 139 degs. Les Hanois Lt. 15 miles. Force is to leave position (C.C.) passing through position (D.D.) 230 degs. Les Hanois Lt. 10 miles to be within 30 miles of own coast by first light.
 (8) Codeword "Stencil".
 (C. in C. Plymouth 271534A).
 M.Ls. 275 and 143 at Inner Lade Buoy.
 M.G.Bs. 42 and S.1 at V Buoy, E.T.D. 2000. E.T.R. 0545/28.
 M.T.Bs. 235 and M.G.Bs. 117, 108 and 166 patrolling at Berck Buoy. E.T.D. 2330, E.T.R. 0630/28.
 M.Ls. 104, 101, 108, 107, 128, 210, 213 and 573 carrying out operation N.L.96. E.T.D. 1920. E.T.R. return 0500/28, route via Dumpton and U buoy each way.
 M.T.Bs. 240, 202, 221 and 38 supported by M.G.Bs. 317 and 326 carrying out operation N.L.97. E.T.D. 1920, E.T.R. 0445/28. Route via Dumpton and U buoys each way.
 (V.A. Dover 271814A).
 My 271534A. Para.7, cancelled due to weather.
 (C. in C. Plymouth 271819A).
 My 271814. Patrols at V buoy and Berck buoy and operations N.L.96 and 97 cancelled owing to weather.
 (V.A. Dover 271950A).
 Your 271534A. "Scent" and "Brasserie" sailed at 1952 and 1950 respectively.
 (N.O.i/c Dartmouth 272014A to C. in C. Plymouth).
 My 271528A. Para.1. (A) and (C) postponed until weather moderates. Cancel para.1 (F).
 (C. in C. Portsmouth 272352A).
 Your 271534A. "Brasserie". Returned owing to weather.
 (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 272334A to C. in C. Plymouth).

Operation "Gearbox" Your 261756. HAVORN is now being held for this duty pending approval for fitting additional items required by Norwegians.
 (2) Request you will keep KAPP I available until approval is obtained when instructions will be given for her disposal.
 (3) Naval crew detailed for KAPP I will be required to man whichever vessel is employed on this service.
 (D.O.D.H. 271925A to A.C.O.S.).

Mining

S.N.222B. Intend to carry out operation S.N.222B as follows.
 (A) Deep minefield from south to north.
 /(D) (1)....

967

27.8.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.S.N.222.
(Contd.).(D) (1) AGAMEMNON (?S.O.) PORT QUEBEC, MENESTHEUS,
LANCASTER, SARDONYX, SALADIN, SABRE, SCOTT.(2) C. in C.H.F. is requested to detail a cruiser
if cover is considered necessary.(E) C. in C. Rosyth is requested to arrange A/S Air
escort when outside North Minch and to ensure that this is
continuous between 0730A and 2300A on 4th September as squadron
will then be on a steady course.(F) From 063 degs. 00' 30" N. 012 degs. 10' W. to 063 degs. 19'
00" N. 012 degs. 32' 30" W.

Positions and details.

(R.A.M. 270904A to Admty.).

My 270904A. Request LANCASTER, SARDONYX, SALADIN and SABRE
may be sailed to arrive Port ZA by 1500A/2nd in order that C.Os.
may attend preliminary conference and type 4 D wireless set may
be fitted in SARDONYX and SABRE. Admiralty 242223A and C. in C.
W.A. 251235A refer.

(R.A.M. 270906A to C. in C.H.F., C. in C.W.A.).

Mersey
Area.Reference mine groups in Mersey Area, it is
intended to fire No.4. Group O.S.1. 1900A/30th
No damage is anticipated, but Mersey Docks and
Harbour Board hold Naval Authority fully responsible.All local service and Civil Authorities have been
informed and all necessary steps taken to ensure that area will
be clear. If results are considered satisfactory it is intended
to fire No.1. Group O.S.1 and No.12 Group O.S.1. subsequently.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 271028 to Admty.).

Humber

Mine acoustically detonated 310 degs. H.3. buoy
2 point 8 miles.
(Capt.M/S Grimsby 271235 to C. in C. Nore).Enemy Intelligence.Sinking of
2 Swedish
Fishing
Craft by
German M/S.Description of incident 25 August in Skagerrak.
(N.A. Stockholm 271319 See Lion Copy).German
Sea
TransportKota Approaches sea transport between Oslo and
Axis ports.
Both in Norway and Sweden it was expected that
cessation of German transit traffic through Sweden
and other foredicted troop movements would soon
bring considerable increase in sea transport
through Sound and Kattegat. Following reports now available.
(1) Careful analysis of our recent statistics shows number of
transports entering and leaving Oslo between Aug.1st and Aug.17th
are similar to July figures viz. 14 and 16 respectively. A.2.

/ (2) Oslo...

Confidential.MESSAGE.967^AIN

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.

CONFIDENTIAL

MESSAGE

271319/August. IN.

From: N.A. Stockholm

Date: 28/8/43

Time: 1841/277

I.D.C.(O.T.P) BY CABLE

Addressed: Admiralty.

Sinking of Swedish fishing craft in Skagge^rak.

At about 2000 on August 25th 2 German M/S sank 2 Swedish 80 ton fishing craft in approximate position 57 degs 33.5' North 8 degs 29' East.

2. They were within German declared area and about 16 miles to Westward of Swedish fishing buoy shown on chart annexed to my R.S.1211.

3. Chief Naval Staff explained that Berlin Admiralty had told him this morning that certain Swedish fishing craft had already been reported by German patrol vessels on morning of August 25th behaving suspiciously and had ordered out of this area. The same evening whilst 2 German M/S were covering passage of German Northbound tow of lighters to Norway, these Swedish fishing craft had again behaved in a suspicious manner and were accordingly sunk at close range by gun fire.

4. Chief of Staff in appearing to accept this incident with usual complacency told me that Swedish Government will probably demand both an explanation and compensation for losses, this being also public opinion strongly supported in to-day's press. He added staff were considering question of stationing warship in this area of guard against such further incidents.

271319.

Advance Copy O.I.C. for comment.

N.I.D. Comment.

Public opinion is likely to react more vigorously than the Swedish Government.

2) Other Swedish - German incidents since the sinking of the Swedish S/M ULVEN by a German mine in April last are:-

- (a) Firing by a German M/V on a Swedish M.T.B.
- (b) Firing by a German M/V on a Swedish Military aircraft.

/ (c) Carriage....

WARNING: This is an unclassified version of a secret code or code message, and the text must not be disclosed if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

(c) Carriage of arms in a German courier plane which force-landed in Sweden.

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.(2)
- D.F.S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(H)
- A.C.N.S.(F)
- A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)
- Sec.
- Nav. Sec.
- P.A.S.(S)
- U.W.R.
- Capt. Pim
- Cps.(3)
- C.D.(5)
- D.N.I.(5)
- C.I.C.(3)
- D.S.D.9(3)
- D.T.D.(4)
- D.T.D.(M)
- D.T.D.(C)
- D. of P.(3)
- D.A/S.W.
- D.A/U.D.
- I.P.(3)
- W.D.
- C.N.I.
- D.P.D.
- M.(10) & for F.O., A.M., W.O.
and Brig. Jacob.
- D.E.W.D.(3)
- Ad. Blake

JM.

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

German sea Transport. (Contd.). (2) Oslo reports Germans anticipate increased traffic to commence from Aug.15th. B.3. (3) Additional air strength is expected in south Norway for Protection of increased sea transport. D.3. Inference. An increase in sea transport may still be expected though up to Aug. 17th it was certainly not apparent. (N.A. Stockholm 271829)
N.I.D. Comment: A sound report which is supported by such other evidence as is available.

U-boats.

U-boats sunk. The following attacks have been assessed as "Known Sunk".
(2) 28th May Hudson M/608. 28th July (Liberator N/4th A/S Liberator W/224. 29th July Wellington G/172.
(3) Request you will convey our congratulations to those concerned with these successes. (V.C.N.S. 271646A to Air Ministry).

U-boat reported. By D/F at 272046Z position of U-boat was approx. 62 degs. N. 04 degs. E. (D.D.I.C. 272205A to S/Ms.).

Technical.

Directed Glider bombs. Your 262310A. Representatives of D.G.D., D.S.D, and D.T.M. will arrive Falmouth at about 1700 today for investigation at time and place to be arranged by N.O.i/c Falmouth.
(2) Request you will send a representative. (D.G.D. 271410A to C. in C. Plymouth).

Attacks have been carried out in the Bay of Biscay by JU.88 and/or D.O.217 aircraft using a new weapon with some success.
(2) From slight information so far received the weapon may be a rocket-propelled glider bomb of small span which homes at high speed on to the ship attacked when released at a range of 3-5 miles from a moderate height.
(3) If so the chance of a hit might be decreased either by combing the track and taking slight avoiding action, or by steaming at high speed into the wind.
(4) If the homing device is optical, the use of smoke might be effective. If Radar Homing is employed it may only be able to hold the nearest ship in which case manoeuvring by the ship attacked to place itself at a greater range than some other ship at the correct moment might defeat it.
(5) In one attack by 18 aircraft one ship was damaged by near miss. In a second attack by 13 aircraft today, two ships were hit
(6) Fuller information is expected shortly and will be promulgated as soon as available.
(V.C.N.S. 271955A "A" Message H and A, 501A, B.4.).

War Diary.

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

ATHELDUCHESS ATHELDUCHESS broke in two 270500A. Stern section adrift present position 038 degs. 5½ miles from Smalls. Salvage vessel RANGER and Tug ABEILLE IV and ABEILLE 21 proceeding to wreck with DAMSAY as escort.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 270821A to C. in C.W.A.).
After part of ATHELDUCHESS towed into Milford Haven and beached in Dale Roads.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 271807A to Admty.).

LYME REGIS My 241114. LYME REGIS delayed due to excessive loss of oil from a bracket.
(F.O. Humber 271745A to A.C.O.S.).

Shipping and Convoys.

PRAGUE My 241050A and 241618A. Sailed.
AMSTERDAM. (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 270353 to A.C.O.S.).

T.A.60A. Sailed.
(MAURETANIA) (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 270800Z).

ATLANTIC, Arrived Dvina Bar 0030C/27th, ATLANTIC and
LLANDAFF LLANDAFF.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 270814A).

O.S.54/
K.M.S.25. My 251232. 252122. CRANE will not accompany the
convoy.
(C. in C.W.A. 270946A to N.O.I.C. Greenock).
C. in C.W.As. 251232A para.3. Sailed A.B.V.
VELDA additional escort.
(F.O.I.C. Milford 271809A to C. in C.W.A.).
Convoy O.S.M.54.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 271924A to C. in C.W.A.).
Convoy K.M.S.(M) 25.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 271928A to C. in C.W.A.).

U.R.88. (A) 1645/27.
(B) KINGSTON AMBER and HUGH WALPOLE.
(C) 7.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 271730A to A.I.G. 258).

P.W. and A.M.211331A. Para.4.
W.P. Convoys. It is intended to continue P.W./W.P. convoys during this period between Bristol Channel ports and Plymouth with A/S trawlers as escorts unless prevented by unforeseen circumstances.
(C. in C. Plymouth 271748A to Admty.).

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Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- EMPIRE SPEY. Collier EMPIRE SPEY in K.M.S.24 with 5,300 tons North Country Coal can be accepted for discharge at Gibraltar.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 270030, 271138B to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.) Reply C. in C. Med. 301225.
- Italian Repatriations. Ref. A.M.111652*August. DUILIO and GIULIO CESARE sailed from Gibraltar 0740B/27th. (2) Request you will inform Ambassador.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 270245B to B.N.A. Madrid (R) Admty.) (270724B to S/Ms.) (270743B to Admty. etc.)
- Spanish Shipping. Spanish TOM expected to sail Segunto about 1000 28th for Sete. Spanish BATOI expected to leave Valencia for Segunto today.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 270548B to (TALLY HO) (R) Capt. (S) 8, S.O. (I) Med.)
- Dispositions. Situation at 1956B/27th. U.G.S.15, C.T.F.66, C.T.G. 21.16 031° 48' 029° 25' 074° 9.
(2) Portuguese tanker SAMBRAZ sailed Lisbon A.M. 25th for Aruba 12.
(F.O. Gib. 270956B.)
- Situation 2004B/27th August. U.G.F.10, C.T.F.68 033° 34' 037° 50' through 032° 55' 035° 01' thence 089° 13½.
(2) G.U.S.12, C.T.F.64, C.T.G.21.14 036° 14' 033° 55' through 036° 40' 035° 45' thence 280° 9.
(F.O. Gibraltar 271004B.)
- Situation 271958B. S.L.135 FOWEY, (?LOWESTOFT) 035° 23' 015° 03' through 035° 25' 016° 01' thence 319° 6.
2. O.G.92, K.M.S.24, HURRICANE 036° 18' 014° 29' 104° 7.
3. OTUS 042° 50' 013° 17' 201° 10/2½. 4. 2 Swedish relief ships 035° 10' 019° 02' 086° 12. 5. ACTIVE, ANTELOPE, approx. 035° 27' 012° 45' to B.E.23. 6. Westomp unit FOXHOUND 021° 40' 017° ?12' through 023° 31' 018° 02' thence 032° 13½.
7. Small craft convoy POLLOCK 044° 54' 013° 40' 178° 7.
8. Hospital ship LLANDOVERY CASTLE 036° 17' 007° 51' through 037° 01' 010° 01' thence 339° 11. 9. Portuguese sloop PEDRO NUMES sailed St.Vincent 24th for Funchal 11. 10. 2 Spanish Naval training ships sailed through Livorno in 188 for Canary Islands.
11. Portuguese Naval training ship through Sagres sails Lisbon p.m.23rd for Funchal.
(F.O. Gib. 271132B.)
Add new para. 12 to my 271132B. JOHAN MAURITZ approx. position 022° 50' 017° 20' Z.S. pendant Casablanca, 14.
(F.O. Gib. 271430B.)
Add new para. 13 to my 271132 amended by my 271430.
Hospital Ship NEWFOUNDLAND 041° 40' 011° 55' to 040° 01' 011° 59' thence 149° 14.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 271824B.)
Situation 2002B/27th. G.C. (?32) WESTON 035° 33' 006° 40' through 034° 05' 008° 06' where 1 Merchant ship and 1 Tug detach for Casablanca and 033° 39' 008° 54' thence 222° 7½.
(4) C.G.59 TOTLAND sail Casablanca 281100 through 035° 44' 006° 28' to Gibraltar 10.
(F.O. Gibraltar 271148B.)

/Add...

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Dispositions. Add new para. (5) to my 271048B. (Presumably
(Contd.) 271148 intended) G.C.33 CHANTICLEER sailing
Gibraltar 1300/28th through 035° 36' 007° 01'
thence 217° 13½.
(F.O. Gibraltar 271706B.)
Add new para. (6) to my 271048 (271148 intended)
amended by my 271704B (271706 intended). T.F.65 LIVERMORE
5 Destroyers sailed Casablanca 1900/27th through 035° 44' 006°
28' to Gibraltar E.T.A. 1200/28th speed 13.
(F.O. Gibraltar 271756B.)

Sinking of EGRET. GZADE (Not known) 271130Z. EGRET 271252A see Home Commands (Operations).

U.523, sunk by WANDERER, WALLFLOWER. O.G.92/K.M.S. 24 position, course and speed 2000B 036° 05' 013° 13' x 103° 8 knots 036° 27' 015° 09'. H.M.S. WANDERER 250745A not to all addressees. H.M.S. WANDERER detected U-Boat by R.D.F. at 14000 yards. One Hedgehog hitting not lethal next depth charge attack forced it to surface. H.M.S. WALLFLOWER took part in hunt. 37 survivors including Captain. From prisoners U-Boat sailed from Lorient 16th with 2 others bound South Atlantic (Weather report). (S.O. Escort Group Bl. 271642Z to F.O. Gib. (R) C.M.S.F. C. in C. Med. Admty. C. in C. W.A.)

C.C. Base, Dakar. Your 241208 is not concurred in. Ref. Para. 1 only 5 Spanish ships from South America have been sent in to Gibraltar for examination since 1st Jan. Fact that nothing found in this very small proportion of total traffic coupled with fact that 4 of the ships had already called at Las Palmas where articles of small bulk but high value could have been landed cannot be taken as indication that traffic in general is innocent. 2. Main object of base at Dakar is to control homeward bound Spanish ships before reaching Las Palmas. 3. Although intended to open the Base with only a small British staff it is anticipated that staff will be augmented by French. 4. It is known definitely that considerable quantities of important contraband are being smuggled to Europe and in view of this and improved political situation M.E.W. intends to exert increased control over South American Shipping working up to about 15 ships a month when Dakar is operating. (Hd. of M.I.* 271712A to F.O. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med.) *Approved A.C.N.S.(F).

French Convoy. My 241423B (Re sailing French Convoy 2 ships, HOGGAR 12, QUERCY 12.5.) sailed 1600A. (C.M.S.F.F. 271715B to F.O.C.W.A.)

A/S Operations, Azores, (F.O.Gib. not notified.) Your 262307. Admty. 141631 informed you of movements of CROATAN and from Radio Washington 162113 (R) to you it could be assumed that CORE would operate in a similar manner.

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A/S Operations, Azores, (F.O.Gib. not notified.) (Contd.)

2. Possibility of providing you with more precise information is being discussed with Comnavu. (D.O.D. (F) 271831A to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med.)

French Refugees.

Most preferable routes would be Algeciras Casablanca or Cadiz Casablanca alternatively Malaga Oran. 2. It is considered all 3 are preferable to present Setubal Casablanca with its consequent fighter protection requirements.

3. Your 241727 refers. (F.O. Gib. 271840B to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. etc.)

Movements, Gibraltar.

Arrivals ESKIMO from Malta. GODETIA, SAXIFRAGE, LADY HOGARTH ex M.K.S.22. Departures ROCKWOOD for Malta and Alexandria. ANTHONY, WESTON, Tug LARIAT with G.C.32. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 271937B to Admty. etc.)

BESSEL (German.)

Report BESSEL is being painted black and prepared for sailing. Please signal your views. (B.N.A. Madrid 272009B to Vigo (R) Admty.) Reply 281132.

Movements, Casablanca.

Sailed U.S.S. LIVERMORE, EBERLE, KEARNEY, ERICSSON, TARBELL (?all for) Oran for Gibraltar (Fr.) LA GRANDIERE, DUMONT D'URVILLE for Dakar. Arrived TOTLAND, KING GEORGE II from Gibraltar. Warships 27 August. (C.M.S.F.F. 272230B to C. in C. Med.)

ATHABASKAN.

C. in C. Plymouth's 271756. (See Home Commands). 2. If proceeding to Gibraltar after passing through position (AB) steer for position 036° 10' N. 010° 01' W. thence by Q.B.A.87 to Gibraltar. (F.O. Gibraltar 272332B to ATHABASKAN (R) C. in C. Plymouth, Admty. E.G.1st, C. in C.W.A., BERMUDA, GRENVILLE. F.O. (S)).

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Request for Frigates. In order to increase efficiency of blockade runner patrol and to give A.M.C.s some measure of A/S protection in likely event of blockade runners having U-Boat escort or cover intend to sail a frigate with each A.M.C. on patrol. When 40th Escort Group has left station I shall only have two frigates remaining. There are no other ships in Command which combine necessary speed and endurance for economical use on this duty. Of three A.M.C.s remaining two are diesel and third of moderate endurance which limits the amount of furnace oil which can be carried for refuelling escorts at sea to a comparatively small quantity. For consideration that four new construction frigates might be allocated for this purpose. Intention in para. 3 of C. in C. W.A.'s 141636 June will assist if implemented. (F.O.C.W.A. 270019Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A.)

D.N.58. Add to my 261314 E.T.A. Lourenco Marques
D.L.M.7. 0400Z/28th August.
(N.C.S.O. Durban, 270634Z to Admty. etc.)

HIGHLAND Sailed 26 August for Capetown for onward routing
CHIEFTAIN, to River Plate. E.T.A. 1000Z/29 August.
ESPERANCE (D.S.T.O. Durban, 270746Z to S.T.O. Capetown,
BAY. (R) D.S.T., P.S.T.O. Capetown.)

D.C.41. Sailing telegram (10 ships)
(2) 0800Z/27th August. (4) 8 knots.
(5) Coastal reference 61 to 68 Saldanha Bay M.L.
(6) NIGELLA, TULIP, WELLARD, TURFFONTEIN.
(12) All for Capetown. E.T.A. p.m. 31st August. E.T.A.
Port Elizabeth 0630Z/29th August. (15) Convoy W/T Callsign
KUD 1 to 9, "Playmate" 391, Q.G.A.157.
(N.C.S.O. Durban, 270914Z to Admty. etc.)

C.D.33A. Sailing telegram. (2) Simonstown 0800Z/27th
August. (3) Port Elizabeth p.m. 28th August.
(4) 13 knots. (5) Coastal. (6) TAY, KALE,
(15) Callsign Q.C.D. 1 to 9, Codeword "Janitor"
168.
(N.O.I.C. Capetown, 270916Z to Admty. etc.)

Dispositions. Situation 2001Z/27th August.
ROEBUCK, QUALITY, TEVIOT, CILICIA, HELFORD,
PLYM one Fleet Unit 000 degs. 04' (?South)
007 degs. (?28') through 002 degs. 59' (?South)
005 degs. 02' thence 137 degs. 13.
M.L.1147 off Tabu DUNKERY screening off Monrovia.
M.L.266, 277 000 degs. 54' 000 degs. 09' to Takoradi 10.
(Corrupt Group) 005 degs. 05' (?015 degs.) (?32') to 005 degs.
00' 016 degs. 00' thence Freetown 8.
SKUD 6, POLAR V, COPINSAY, 008 degs. 29' 013 degs. 30' to 007
degs. 47' (?014 degs.) 00' thence (?112 degs.) 5½.

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Dispositions 1014Z (corrupt group).
(Contd.) SHROPSHIRE 007 degs. 55' 014 degs. 10' through
007 degs. 40' 014 degs. 30' thence 144 degs. 18.
F.C. SUFFREN, F.C. DUGUAY-TROUIN 004 degs. 28'
S. 010 degs. (?50') E. through (?001 degs. or
003 degs.) 00' S. 006 degs. 00' E. thence (?317 or 137 degs.)
18 $\frac{1}{2}$.
?WELLINGTON, GORLESTON, FOLKESTONE, LOWESTOFT, ABERDEEN with
(?T.S.3) 004 degs. 29' 002 degs. 26' through 004 degs. 44'
004 degs. 45' thence 257 degs. 7.
(F.O.C.W.A. 271119Z)
ALBATROSS 031 degs. 20' 016 degs. 30' to 020 degs. 01'
010 degs. 05' 15 knots.
DESPATCH 032 degs. 40' 017 degs. 20' to 020 degs. 00' 010 degs.
05' 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
(C. in C. S.A. 271210B)
Situation at 1958Z/27th.
FOXHOUND, (?NESS) CATTERICK, BULLDOG, WITCH, BRILLIANT
2 Fleet units with C.F.13 022 degs. 08' 017 degs. 59' through
023 degs. 31' 018 degs. 02' thence 032 degs. 13 $\frac{1}{2}$.
BLACKWOOD, BAZELY, DRURY with S.R.5, 021 degs. 20' 018 degs.
30' 023 degs. 03' 018 degs. 30' thence 042 degs. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$
U.S.(D) ROPER U.S.(D) LEA, U.S.(D) DECATUR (C.T.G.21.5)
with O.T.8 020 degs. 21' 020 degs. 40' through 024 degs.
30' 020 degs. 10' thence 009 degs. 13 M.L.231, 574 escorting
017 degs. 02' 020 degs. 09' to Dakar 12. SOUTHERN PRIDE,
RUMBA, BUTSER, with LADY DENISON PENDER off Conakry. JOHAN
MAURITS about 023 degs. 20' 017 degs. 10' to Casablanca 14.
(F.O.C.W.A.271400Z)

Movements, Arrivals 1130Z/26th August. SHROPSHIRE 1523Z
Freetown. ENCHANTRESS, LEITH, SANDWICH, VIOLET, ANCHUSA,
TEST, COLUMBINE, TRENT, FAL with O.S.53.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 271120Z to C. in C. W.A.)

P.614. Arrival 26th August, P.614 escorted.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 271146Z to C. in C. S.A.
(R) Admty.)

Starshell Starshell expenditure for exercising night
Allowance. illumination round convoy was calculated on the
basis of each escort carrying out minimum of
two and maximum of four practices in the year.
It is hoped to use M.L's for target. Your 24
1505 August (N.T. in W.D.) refers.
(2) Allowance of starshell would be 36 per shipper year, that is
at the rate of three per month. (3) Practices are under control
of C. in C. S.A.
(C. in C. S.A. 271237B to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty.)
(Concur (C. in C. E.F. 311559Z))

ALBATROSS /...

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

ALBATROSS. (1) Sailed ALBATROSS for Pointe Noire routed through. Q 33 degs. 13' S. 17 degs. 37' E. R. 20 degs. 01' S. 10 degs. 05' E. S. 12 degs. 05' S. 10 degs. 01' thence Pointe Noire. Route from Pointe Noire through L 03 degs. S. 06 degs. N. * M Equator 07 degs. W. N 07 degs. 30' N. 14 degs. 30' W. to Freetown. (2) E.T.A. 10 degs. S. 1600Z Aug. 31st. E.T.A. Pointe Noire 1200Z Sept. 1st. S. of A. 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots. (3) Shift to W/T organization for area P. at 1600Z Aug. 31st. (C. in C. S.A. 271320B to Admty. F.O.C.W.Af. B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire.)
* Position L corrected, see 280943B)

T.S.51. Sailed 1330Z/27th August T.S.51 escorted by WELLINGTON, FOLKESTONE, ABERDEEN, GORLESTON, LOWESTOFT. Route "Vine" E.T.A. Freetown 1500Z/1st Sept. S. of A. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 271348Z to Admty. F.O.C.W.A. R.N.O. Lagos.) * (?9 intended)

T.S.51. Sailing Telegram. Convoy Codeword "Jingo" W/T identity letters X2. D.1 to 9. (N.C.S.O. Takoradi, 271402Z to Admty. etc.)

DESPATCH. Sailed DESPATCH for Pointe Noire routed through A. 033 degs. 13' S. 017 degs. 37' E. B. 020 degs. 00' S. 010 degs. 05' E. C. 012 degs. 04' S. 010 degs. 01' thence Pointe Noire route from Pointe Noire through T.002 degs. S. 009 degs. E. thence to Takoradi. (2) E.T.A. 010 degs. S. 1030Z/31st Aug. E.T.A. Pointe Noire 0530Z/1st Sept. S. of A. 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots. (3) Shifting to W/T organisation for area P at 1030Z/31st August. (C. in C. S.A. 271600B to Admty. etc.)

MONTE ALBERTIA. Spanish steamship MONTE ALBERTIA sailed Buenos Aires 14th August for Tenerife and Bilbao. Normal voyage to Tenerife is 23 to 25 days. (2) Very desirable to intercept before reaching Tenerife and send in to Gibraltar under armed guard. (3) Full instructions will be sent to C.C.S.O. Gibraltar before arrival. (D.E.W.D. Approved by A.C.N.S.(F), 271610A to F.O.C. W.Af. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med.) (W.D. Note: Intercepted on 4th Sept. by MONTCALM. See 041503Z etc.)

PIERRE LOTI. PIERRE LOTI abandoned 25th Matang Lagos 29th with all officers and men and Salvage Officer. (R.O. Libreville, 271610Z to F.O.C.W.A. (R) B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, R.N.O. Lagos, Admty.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

NEW NORTH-
LAND.

Sailing p.m. embarked for Freetown (numbers).
Requires 200 tons fuel oil 400 tons water.
(S.S.T.O. Takoradi, 271630Z to D.S.T.O. W.A.)

Attacks
on U/B's
20/August.

A.M. 241943. On the evidence available it is
considered that these attacks achieved the
destruction of the U-Boat. Our congratulations
to all concerned.
(D.A.U.D. Approved by V.C.N.S., 271650A to
C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F.)

THYSVILLE
damage.

Both Lloyds Surveyor and Admiralty Representative
are of opinion split in one blade of starboard
propeller of THYSVILLE as reported in my
231635 was not caused by SWALE but due to flaw
in metal. THYSVILLE carried out successful
steam trial today 27th, no vibration starboard shaft, very
slight vibration port shaft at full speed. Certificate of
seaworthiness given.
(R.N.O. Lagos, 271709Z to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty., SWALE.)

C.C. Base,
Dakar.

Proposed abolition not concurred in (Admty.
271712A) See North Atlantic.

French
Cruisers.

Departure Pointe Noire 1700Z/27th, F.C. SUFFREN,
F.C. DUQUAY TROUIN routed in accordance with
your 181944. E.T.A. Takoradi 0700Z/30th.
S. of A. 17.5 knots.
(B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, 271805A to F.O.C.W.Af.
(R) Admty., N.O.I.C.Takoradi, Comar Dakar.)

ERLING
BROVIG,
RAMILLIES.

Departure from Pointe Noire 1730Z/27th.
Tanker ERLING BROVIG. E.T.D. from Congo River
a.m. 29th and E.T.A. Walvis Bay 1800Z/2nd Sept.
She has 2500 tons furnace oil remaining.
F.O.C.W.Af. pass to RAMILLIES.
(B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, 271825A to F.O.C.W.A.
(R) Admty. C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C.Benghazi,
RAMILLIES.)

My 271825 not to R.N.O. ERLING BROVIG discharged 5000 tons
furnace oil and 487 diesel oil to shore tanks in addition to
2500 furnace oil discharged to French CREED.
(B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, 271835A to F.O.C.W.A.(R) Admty. N.O.I.C.
Lagos.)

O.T.
Convoys.

In order to bring dispersal point of ships for
Dakar nearer to Dakar and to allow better air
cover whilst in this area suggest following
route for O.T. convoys (?after) crossing

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27.8.1943

Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

O.T. 25 degs. W. N dispersal point for Dakar
 Convoys. 15 degs. 00' N. 19 degs. 01' W.
 (Cont.) O 24 degs. 51' N. 18 degs. 28' W.
 P 27 degs. 33' N. 15 degs. 05? ' W.
 Q 29 degs. 14' N. 14 degs. 42' W.
 R 33 degs 01' N. 09 degs. 59' W. No appreciable
 change in length? from usual route.
 (F.O.C.W.A. 271845Z to Cominch C. & R. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar,
 Admty., C. in C. Med., R.A.D. Commorseafron)
 Reply: F.O. Gibraltar, 302315.

S.L.136. Sailing destinations:
 (D.T.D. 271950A to N.C.S.O. Freetown, (R)
 F.O.C.W.Af.)

Movements Arrivals August 27th.
 Takoradi. MORRIS DANCE, M.L's 277, 274, 1052, 1041.
 Departures 2030Z. M.L.1041 E.T.A. Kotonu
 2130Z/28th to relieve M.L.1014 screening
 2030Z. M.L.1052 E.T.A. Lagos 0830Z/29th.
 (N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 272030Z to Admty. etc.)

O.T.8. Detached FORT NIAGARA at point N. 271900Z
 C.T.G.21.5. Speed 14 without surface escort.
 O.T.8 course (165 degs. 090 degs. 108 degs. 007
 degs.) speed of convoy 10.
 May I exchange destinations ESSO PHILADELPHIA
 and BUFFALO WALLOW? *
 Will give added time for repair to (corrupt group) and
 increase speed of convoy 4 knots whilst in Med.
 (C.T.G. 21.5, 272047 to Comar Dakar, C. in C. Med. (M) (R) Com-
 morseafron, Admty. etc.).
 * Exchange approved.
 (C. in C. Med. 280920B)

War Diary.

27.8.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of 2 enemy merchant vessels (medium) are: 39.47 N. 18.13 E. 115° 10 knots. (A/C CYJ/V 270049B.)

INGLEFIELD. Your 262230C (N.T. in W.R.) E.T.A. position 355, 271100C. E.T.A. Position 309, 280630C. (INGLEFIELD 270240 to C. in C.Levant, (R) S.O. Force H, FORMIDABLE, ECHO, R.A.Alexandria, etc.)

Movements Alexandria. Alexandria August 26th arrivals CAPE TOWN, WOLBOROUGH ASPIS. Departures L.C.T. 138, DURMITOR, KAJMAKAIAN. (R.A.Alexandria 270620C to Admty. (R) C. in C.Levant)

10th S.F. summary at 2000/27th. 1. P.31 (UPROAR) escorting K.M.S.28 from Malta 1900/27th to 035° 40' 011° 23' at 2000/28th. 2. P.44 (UNITED) 039° 13' 017° 50' through 038° 56' 018° 34' to 037° 02' 017° 21' at 2000/28th surface passage. 3. P.45 (UNRIVALLED) recalled to Malta 038° 17' 018° 10' at 0600/27th through 035° 45' 016° 18' to 035° 46' 016° 18' at 2000/28th. 4. P.53 (ULTOR) 038° 45' 017° 51' to Alice Point. 5. P.51 (UNSEEN) off Bari. 6. P.46 (UNRUFFLED) off Brindisi. 7. P.55 (UNSPARING) 038° 58' 018° 28' to 040° 20' 018° 52' at 2000/28th. (Capt. S.10, 270714B.)

G.U.S.13. 3 ships arrived. (N.O.I.C. Bougie 270809B to Admty. etc.) My 261505. VACUUM only sailed. Holds 02272, (25) (26) Outcon 497 one ship 375. Algiers Section arrived - 4 ships. (N.O.I.C. Algiers 271709B to Escorts G.U.S.13, Pass to Cdre. (R) Admty. etc.)

U.G.S.14. My 261005B sailed plus MOUNT EVEREST. (F.O.I.C. Tunisia 270816B to ALYNBANK, (R) A.I.G.259 etc.)

Italian Intercept. Following is a repetition of my 261454 with same addressees. (Begins) Following R/T message in Italian P/L intercepted on approx. 9700 k/cs between 2200/25th and 2359/25th. "Lghorn calling all stations. Attention. Reference instructions 1214. Make sure that no ship after having unloaded troops and supplies in Sardinia, is transferred to the Germans or enters a port occupied by the Germans." (Ends.) (C.O.I.S. Mediterranean 270827B to Admty. for D.N.I. (R) C.O.I.S. Alexandria, C. in C.Med.)

/Movements...

War Diary.27.8.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements
Beirut. 26th August, arrivals M.Ls. 357, 349.
Departures COMMANDANT DUBOC, TRANSVAALIA,
SILHOUETTE, M.Ls. 358, 357.
(S.O.(I) Beirut 270850C to Admty. (R) C. in C.Levant)

BREAM. Arrival and departure 26th.
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta, Cyprus 270853C to Admty. etc.)

Movements
Tobruk. Arrived Tobruk KINGSTON CORAL, M.Ls. 384, 385.
Sailed Derna M.L. 348.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk 271000C to LATONA, (R) C. in C.
Levant, N.O.I.C. Alexandria.)

X.K.Convoy,
SAXIFRAGE. My 241213. Date should now be as soon as convenient
after 31st August.
2. SAXIFRAGE is transferred to Mediterranean Command
and should join 50th Escort Group when latter
arrives at Gibraltar.
(C. in C.Med. (Algiers) 271032B to F.O.I.C.
Gibraltar, (R) Admty. C. in C.W.A. C. in C.Plymouth)

CELENO. My 261639C (CELENO preparing to sail for Piraeus.)
Para. A. CELENO has taken clearance papers.
(S.O.?I) Istanbul 271041C to C. in C.Levant,
S.O.I. Levant, S.1, S.10, D.N.I.)

R.A.(V) Flag. Flag of R.A.Sir Philip Vian as R.A.(V) will be
hoisted in EURYALUS at 1400B today Friday.
(C. in C.Med. Algiers 271044B to Admty.)

M.K.S.23. Pass to Cdre. and Escorts. Intend sailing to join.
(list, 9 ships.)
(V.A.Malta 271045B to HOLCOMBE, (R) Admty. etc.)
Pass to Cdre. Intend joining (list 6 ships).
(N.O.I.C. Bone 271520B to Escorts of convoy M.K.S.
23, (R) Cdre. Algeria, Admty. etc.)

K.M.F.22Y. Intend to sail K.M.F.22Y at 1800/29th as in C. in
C.Med's 261101.
(S.N.O.Philippeville 271144 to F.O.Sicily, (R)
C. in C.Med. V.A.Malta. etc.) Delayed, see 291516B.

Malta
Dockyard. Strike of workers, situation.
(Govr. Malta, 271150C to W.O.) See Lion Copy.
H.E/5070. My HE/5050. I have issued orders for a
censorship stop on the strike in Malta as it might
damage our war effort and also possibly encourage
air attacks on Malta.
(Govr. Malta 272200B to Colonial Office (War Office
pass) (R) Chiefs of Staff (War Office pass).

MOST SECRET

979^A

WARNING : This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the text must first be paraphrased* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

(*NOTE : Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad :
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 271150C/August IN
Date 27.8.43
Recd. 1640
From Governor and C. in C. Malta.

CYPHER

Malta Dockyard Strike.

Addressed The Chapelries London (War Office Pass), The War Office (For Chiefs of Staff).

150364 HE/5061 cipher 27 August.

My No. HE5050.4

During 25th and 26th strike spread to all Technical Government Departments but essential services adequately maintained by regular staff except in case of scavenging services in certain areas which are being dealt with by A.R.P. personnel. Conference with Workers' Delegates finished late last night. Lieutenant Governor gave following assurances on my behalf. Begins. His Excellency will give his immediate and most careful consideration to your representations. The Government agrees that there is a case for an increase in War Bonus. His Excellency will forward his recommendations to the Home Authorities with the least possible delay and he will endeavour by every means in his power to obtain a decision at the earliest possible date. His Excellency had previously discussed with me the question of the date from which any increase should take effect and he had reached the conclusion that the beginning of July would be a reasonable date the more especially as representations had been submitted early in July. His Excellency, will in forwarding his proposals for improved conditions recommend that any increase granted should take effect from the beginning of July but the approval of that recommendation must of course rest with the Home Authorities His Excellency has agreed that when the Home Authorities decision has been received it will be communicated to you and that you will be afforded the opportunity of discussing it before it is given effect (?to) ends. Delegates have called on workers to meet this evening in order to give account of conference and there seems reason to believe that they may return to work tomorrow morning. Civil Government and Services discussing proposals this morning. I shall consult Executives Council on Saturday morning before forwarding my recommendations.

271150C

Note by C.6. Tels. A/c has been passed to Colonial Office.

Received in War Registry 29.8.43

4 252230

Circulation over/.....

1st Lord
 3rd S.L.
 Vice Controller
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S.(F)
 Parl.Sec.
 Fin. Sec.(2)
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 D.N.I.(4)
 D.of L.
 A.S.(C)
 Hd.of P.
 Hd.of M.F.
 D.of S.T.(6)
 Hd.of C.L.(2)
 A.S/M.S.
 D.of D.
 C.E.in C.
 C.N.I.
 D.P.D.
 Hd.of M.(2)
 D.N.C.
 D.of C.
 W.D.
 I.P.(2)
 Dep.Controller
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 Hd.of P.
 Hd.of M.F.
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Bath

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 C.5.
 Brig.Jacob
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 C.N.S. Admiralty (2)
 C.N.S. Air Ministry
 A.M.C.S. Air Ministry
 C.C.O.
 S.of S. for Colonies
 Lt.Col. Rolleston Colonial Office

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27.8.1943.

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

UNSHAKEN. Intend sailing P.54 (UNSHAKEN) at 0430/29th via Q.B.B. 147 through 035° 53' 015° 44' at 2000/29th through 035° 56' 016° 31' to 038° 05' 017° 50' at 2000/30th thence through 030° 45' 018° 52' to arrive off Brindisi for patrol at 2000/1st. Surface passage on 30th.

2. M.J.A.O. 24, request bombing restrictions to cover above passage.

(Capt. S.10, 271154B to C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant, V.A.Malta, Capt. S.8, Capt. S.10, Capt. S.1, (R) 10th S.F. A.H.Q.Malta.)

8th S/M F. movements at 1959B/27th 1. P.221 (SHAKESPEARE) 039° 09' 010° 46' 058° 21/10.
3. P.224 (SICKLE) east of Corsica. 4. P.217 (SIBYL) Gulf of Genoa.
(Capt. S.8 271200B.)

UNSEEN. Leave patrol so as to pass 041° 20' 018° 00' at 2300/29th and patrol Southern Approaches to Valona.
2. Leave for Malta passing 040° 15' 019° 07' at 0500/1st thence through 039° 40' 019° 03' to 038° 46' 018° 30' at 0500/2nd 036° 05' 016° 50' at 0500/3rd through 035° 45' 016° 38' to R/V with M/3 5 miles East of Eastern Channel at 0800/4th surface passage on 2nd.

3. M.J.A.O. 24, request bombing restrictions to cover above passage.

(Capt. S.10, 271227 to P.51 (UNSEEN) (R) 10th S/M F. A.I.G. 66, C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant, V.A.Malta, Capt. S.8, Capt. S.1, A.H.Q.Malta.)

Transports for India. My 251308C. DUNERA, DILWARA can not in any case be ready sail ex Suez until 31 August owing necessary arrangements re L.C.A. crews.
2. ASCANIA, EMPIRE PRIDE will have no landing craft on board on voyage to India but will have rafts to cover full complement personnel: is this acceptable?
3. Request immediate reply to this and to my 251308C as transshipment will have to take place Suez 30/31 August and necessitates many advance arrangements.

(P.S.T.O.M.E. 271241 to Admty. for D. of S.T. (R) C. in C.Levant, C. in C.E.F. F.O.R.S.C.A.) See also 272035A. Reply 281354A.

G.U.S.14. Request you will sail (list, for Benghazi, Tripoli (L), Sicily, U.K. and U.S.A.)
(C. in C.Levant 271247C to R.A.Alex. S.N.O. Cyrenaica, N.O.I.C. Tripoli, V.A.Malta.)

ARROW. ARROW is to be reduced to C. and M. Party details of which are to be reported by letter together with date of reduction. Remainder of her crew are to be discharged to U.K. at first opportunity.
(C. in C.Med. 271346B to Care. Algeria, (R) Combrax Portsmouth etc.)

/Movements...

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27.8.1943.

Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements Malta. Following is a repetition of my 262230 (begins)
Addressed Admiralty, C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant,
From V.A.Malta.
Arrivals ORION, LEDBURY, LAUDERDALE, RYSA, L.C.Ts.
343, 382. Departures MAURITIUS, EURYALUS,
QUILLIAM, QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, INGLEFIELD, ECHO, TETCOTT,
PRODIGAL, H.H.M.S. PINDOS, M.T.Bs. 78, 95, M.G.B. 661, M.Ls. 337,
308, 340, 570, H.D.M.Ls. 1128, 1242, 1247, L.S.T. 408, L.C.I.(L)
315, 278, M.B.A.3.
(V.A.Malta 271347 to Admty. etc.)

CHITRAL. Departure 0628Z.
(N.O.I.C. Aden 271406Z to C. in C.Levant, etc.)

P.217. A patrol off Porto Ferrajo Elba from 0800 to
1400 tomorrow Saturday should be profitable.
Freedom in southeasterly direction 18 miles
sector C.
(Capt. S.8, 271510B to P.217 (SIBYL.))

Med. Air Report. A.259, signed Eisenhower. Part 3, Air, Cositintrep
No. 48. N.W.A.Air Forces - Night 25/26 79
Wellingtons dropped 125 tons of bombs onto
Taranto marshalling yards where fires were started.
An aircraft which dropped an unidentified object
into Bizerta Harbour was chased by a Beaufighter which reports one
Ju.88 destroyed. Day 26 August. 82 B.17s escorted by 44 P.38s
dropped 142 tons of fragmentation and 500 lb. bombs on A/D at
Capua covering dispersal areas well. 35 B.25s and 73 B.26s bombed
the A/D at Grazzinise the former being escorted by 24 P.38s and
the latter by 48 P.38s. Another formation of B.25s failed to
R/V with escort and returned to base. A formation of 47 P.40s
dropped fragmentation bombs in the harbour and town of Carloforte.
Sardinia, destroyed three Ma. 202s on ground near Guspini and
strafed M/T and buildings in same area. Tactical Air Force
B.25s attacked road and rail junction at Locri whilst 3 A.36s
attacked gun positions in Reggio area.
(Air C. in C.Med. no T.O.O. Recd. 1530/27.)

M.K.F.22. M.K.F.22, arrived, ARONDA, ORONTES, DURBAN CASTLE,
MARNIX VAN SAINT ALDEGONDE.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran 271540B to C. in C.Med.)

SPORTSMAN,
SICKLE. Intend to sail P.229 (SPORTSMAN) 1900/28th for
patrol in area between 010° 40' and 011° 30' and
north of 041° 30' routed 038° 01' 004° 50' at 0610/
29th, 038° 20' 007° 50' at 2100/29th, 038° 36' 010°
22' at 2100/30th, 041° 30' 010° 51' at 0130/1st
Sept. proceeding on surface on 28th and 29th.
2. P.224 (SICKLE) is to keep west of 010° 30' after 2100/31st.
(Capt. S.8 271540B to C. in C.Med. (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers, 8th S.F.
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Capt. S.10, S.O.Force H.)
SPORTSMAN delayed, see 291810B.

War Diary.27.8.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

N.A.A.F. Report. N.W.A. Air Forces Opsum 137. N.W.A. Strategic Air Force. 25/26 August. 79 Wellingtons marshalling yards Taranto 1 returned early, 2 bombed Scalea. 131½ tons dropped from 5600/11500 ft. bursts throughout target area. Fires started 1 believed gas works. 26th August. 82 U.S. Fortresses escort 44 U.S. Lightnings Capua Aerodrome. 4 bombers, 4 fighters returned early. 141½ tons from 22000/24000 ft. Several? hits fuel stores causing explosions and fires. Hits hangars and barracks. 16 aircraft destroyed on ground. 35 U.S. Mitchells escort 24 U.S. Lightnings Grazzanise Aerodrome. 1 bomber, 4 fighters returned early. Strings across northwest and southeast corners some bursts across centre aerodrome. 73 U.S. Marauders escort 48 U.S. Lightnings Grazzanise Satellite. 9 bombers, 11 fighters returned early. Hits repair buildings and barracks. Landing area well cratered. 8 aircraft destroyed on ground. 47 U.S. Warhawks swept Sardinia. 192 x 20 frags. dropped Carloforte Area. North docks harbours area and town hit. 3 Mc. 202 destroyed on ground northwest Guspini. M/T power lines, barracks and buildings Guspini Area also strafed.

N.W.A. Tactical Air Force. 26th August. 36 U.S. Mitchells road/rail Junction Locri. 12 failed R/V with escort and returned. 24 dropped 191 x 250. Target straddled. Direct hits railway yards. 12 Baltimores, 12 U.S. Bostons bombed gun positions San Giovanni - Reggio Area. (70 or 76?) Spitfires escorted bombers. (H.Q.N.A.A.F. 271631B.)

R/C enemy ports. P.R.U. photographic. Genoa, no change. Spezia, all major units present at 0900. Battleships being moved by tugs in outer harbour. Cruisers in inner harbour. 2. R/C would have detected any southward movement. (N.O.I.C. Tunisia 271641 to C. in C. Med. S.O. Force H. etc.)

EREBUS. A.M. 150142. It is intended to sail EREBUS for U.K. in M.K.S.25. (C. in C. Med. 271642 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant, V.A.M., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

L.C.Ts. deficiencies. Your 020946 July. Examination of records shows that all items were supplied to L.C.T. 404. 2. Confirmed that 404 had efficient hold cover when prepared for passage. 3. Only known deficiency in tank securing gear was for L.C.T. 554 and this was despatched aboard L.C.T. 583. 4. Instructions for preparing craft for passage were issued in Capt. M.L.C.'s letter O.0512/6 of 12th March to all Squadron Commanders and Flotilla Officers and C.Os. and no instances of these stores not being supplied were reported. 5. Confirmed that reserve stocks of stores are being provided. (D.C.O.M. 271656A to C. in C. Med. (R) HAMILCAR, Capt. M.L.C.)

/Convoy...

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War Diary.

27.8.1943.

Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Convoy "Brilliant". Intend sailing TANGO, L.C.T. 339 escorting TUZLA and DARICA at 1101B/28th route 218, 269 with all convenient despatch to 090° Cape Passero 7 miles 090° Mur(?ro) (?Benghazi) Porco 4 miles (corrupt group) Q.B.B. 164, E.T.A. Augusta (?at) 1302B/30th. S.O.A. 6, code word "Brilliant" (?.) Request fighter defence normal. (S.N.O. Trip. 271723B to N.O.I.C. Augusta, (R) C. in C.Levant, Admty. etc.)

Movements Port Said. 27th August Port Said arrivals Y.S.S. DURMITOR, Y.S.S. KAJMAKAIAN, L.C.T. 138. Departures COMMANDANT DOMINE, IERAX, PANTHER, R.F.A. CEDARDALE, SUTLEJ, PROTEA. (N.O.I.C. Port Said 271723C to Admty. etc.)

CURIE. Your 191141 July. French authorities have now asked that CURIE should call at North African Port, preferably Algiers. 2. Request you will report whether this can be arranged and if this request modifies intention in your 191141 July. (Hd. of M.Branch II 271808A to C. in C.Med.) Reply C. in C.Med. 021807.

Schooner No. 4 lost. Regret to report Levant Schooner No. 4 overdue Paphos Cyprus, since August 23rd and must be considered lost. 2. She left Beirut August 21st with Levant Schooner No. 3 in company and was last sighted by her 2200/22nd 90 miles from Syrian coast. U-Boat activity in the area accounted for three Egyptian Schooners on the 21st and 22nd, but no positive evidence that Levant schooner 4 was also sunk. 3. Hope (?) to report casualties and any relevant information known. (C. in C.Levant 271821C to Admty. C.F.E.)

Movements Tunis. Arrivals HENGIST, SOUTHERN MAID, Y.M.S. 23, 82, 83, L.S.T. 2, S.C. 508, 498, P.C. 543, M.L. 11, 63. Departures ABERCROMBIE, U.S.Des. RHIND, U.S.Des. TRIPPE, L.S.T. 2, 61, S.C. 508, 449, M.L. 468, L.C.I. 265, 171, 276, 312, 286, 114, 96, 41, 3, 95, 13, 76. Arrivals and departures PRIMULA, FALK. (N.O.I.C. Tunis 272001B to Admty. etc.)

U.G.S.12. U.G.S.12 onward route vide C. in C.Med. 212151B (N.T. in W.R.) 2. S. of A. 8 as far as 511, (?609) (?387). 3. 033° 01' N. 020° 01' E. at 1000C/30th, 355, 349, 2015/30th 3 miles north, 346, 2 minutes north of 341 at 0615/31st, 511, 328 at 2045/31st, 322 at 0435/1st, 316, 310 at 0520/2nd, 309, 306, (?512), 300, 399 adjust speed to arrive Port Said 0630/3.

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War Diary.27.8.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

U.G.S.12. (Contd.) 4. Alex. sections (?alter course) at 0645/2nd.
5. Y.K. 6. High "Dunnock". 7. C.
8. ALYNBANK S.O. until detached to join G.U.S.14.
DELPHINIUM S.O.(screen), JUMNA, PRIMULA, MIAOULES,
SOUTHERN MAID, SOUTHERN SEAS, FALK.
9. ALYNBANK detaches as convenient to join G.U.S.14 before dark 31.
10. Ships for Alex. and orders for escort follow.
(C. in C.Levant 272015C to S.E.C. U.G.S.14, S.E.C.G.U.S.14, R.A.
Alex. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty. etc.)

Transports for India. Your 251308C, not to P.S.T.O. India. DUNERA, DILWARA and EMPIRE PRIDE cannot be held. They must proceed to Bombay without delay.
2. In these circumstances MONARCH OF BERMUDA and TEGELBERG only should be turned round at Suez.
RUYS should continue to India with ASCANIA, WINCHESTER CASTLE and CIRCASSIA.
3. Your para. 5 confirmed.
(D. of S.T. 272035A to P.S.T.O.M.E. (R) C. in C.Levant, C. in C.E.F. F.O.R.S.C.A. P.S.T.O. India.)

Movements Oran. Arrivals today U.S.S. PHILADELPHIA, LUDLOW, BRISTOL, STEADY, WOOLSEY, British L.C.I. 277, French LA SABLaise, CHASSEUR III, TOULONNAISE, GOELAND.
Departures today French CHASSEUR II.
(Comnob Oran 272035B to Admty. etc.)

Malta Air Report. Opsum No. 109, 26 August. (No incidents.)
(R.A.F.Malta 272036B.)

Movements. Arrived and sailed COLOMBO. Arrived L.C.Ts. 9, 13, 108, 112.
(S.N.O.Cyrenaica 272052C to Admty.)

Movements Algiers. Arrivals JONQUIL, JAUNTY, CHARON, PUCKERIDGE, PENN, PANTHER. Departures S/M SERAPH (P.219).
Arrived and departed EURYALUS.
(Com. Algeria 272130B to Admty. etc.)

Movements Bone. Arrivals INCHCOLM, CYRUS JOSEPH.
(N.O.I.C. Bone 272130B to Admty. etc.)

Situation Report No. 164. 1. Coastal Forces patrolled off Calabrian Coast and Vibo Valentia night 26th/27th August without incident.
2. Convoy U.G.S.14 was attacked by U-Boat at 2130/26 in 37° 15' N. 08° 24' E. SS. JOHN BELL and SS. RICHARD HENDERSON torpedoed. Tugs proceed to their assistance. Reports indicate that one ship has sunk. (Both sunk, see 291302B.)

985

27.8.1943.

Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation Report No. 164 (Contd.) 3. FARNDALE and LOTUS carried out 3 attacks on firm contact in position 37° 05' N. 04° 02' E. between 0745/27 and 1000/27 but without result.
4. Air raid on Algiers at 0430/27 B.T. about 40 aircraft, No naval damage or casualties. Two aircraft definitely shot down, one more claimed shot down.
(C. in C.Med. 272133B to Admty.)

UPROAR. Sailed UPROAR with B.Y.M.S. 828.
(V.A.Malta 272208B to Admty. etc.)

Shipping Malta. Arrived SONTAY, ENSIS, EMPIRE MOORHEN, ARNA, NIRVANA, SALVESTOR, AROOSTOOK, ALETTE, NEA, THISTLEMUIR, FORT LAWRENCE, MORAY COAST, ROBERT MAERSK, FORT GEORGE, AMERICAN TRADER.
Sailed NEURALIA.
(V.A.M. 272234 to Admty. etc.)

Enemy unit. Following read: Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 43.00 N. 9.44 E.
(A/C FB3/E 272327B.)

Movements Tripoli. Arrived H.D.(M.L?) 1247, 1242, L.S.T. (?278), 319, 321, L.C.T. 583, 603, 572, 615, 621, L.C.I.(L) 240.
(S.N.O.Tripolitania 272338B to Admty.)

Movements Malta. Arrived TARTAR, NUBIAN and TUMULT, BARFOIL, BAROVA, CROMARTY, BOSTON, STELLA CARINA, ALBACORE, SALVESTER, CONCOLVULUS, PENTSTEMON and VETCH, L.C.I. 284. Departed QUANTOCK, OAKLEY and EGGESFORD.
WHADDON and LAMERTON, TANGO, RODNEY, NELSON, FAULKNER, FURY, OFFA, PETARD, RAIDER, PIORUN, TYRIAN and INTREPID for exercise. ABDIEL, L.C.T. 318 and 23, L.C.M. Arrived and departed BONITO, WHITING and MULLET.
(V.A.Malta 272348 to Admty. etc.)
Arrived M.L. 564 and 561, H.D.M.L. 1254, 1258 and 1271, M.L. 565, M.G.B. 660 sailed M.L. 12, 135 and 121, H.D.M.L. 1253.
(V.A.Malta 272353B to Admty. etc.)

War Diary.

27.8.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Movements,
Bombay.

Departure HINNOY, MAALOY.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 270201Z to Admty).

ST. ANTHONY

Departure ST. ANTHONY keeping continuous watch on 500 k/cs until within 4 hours steaming of Cochin when operating on 3000 k/cs.
(N.O.I.C. Madras, 270237Z to Admty. etc).

Movements
Addu Atoll.

Arrival 0310Z August 27th KATHIAWAR escorting V.S.I.S. TAIPING.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 270351Z to Admty).

Movements,
Madras.

Arrival RAMDAS escorting LYMAN STEWARD.
(N.O.I.C. Madras, 270401Z to Admty. etc).

KHEDIVE
ISMAIL,
NEVASA.

Ref. D.S.T.O. Kilindini 261500Z troops for Addu Atoll unable to reach Colombo before Sept. 9th. Request information if this delay to KHEDIVE ISMAIL is acceptable.
(P.S.T.O. India, 270517Z to D. of S.T. (R) C. in C. E.F., etc).

Delay is acceptable in view of no other vessel being available. Your 270517Z refers.

(D.S.T.O. Kilindini, 271426Z to P.S.T.O.I.)

My 270517. Move of troops to Addu Atoll is postponed.

S.S.T.O. Ceylon requested to sail NEVASA for Bombay. Further signal will be made concerning disposal of KHEDIVE ISMAIL.

S.S.T.O. Ceylon's 261025 refers.

(P.S.T.O.(I) 271025Z to D. of S.T. (R) C. in C. E.F.,
D.S.T.O. Kilindini, S.S.T.O. Ceylon).

Your 270517. As KHEDIVE ISMAIL in K.R.6 will probably not arrive Colombo before 5 September very little delay is involved in waiting for the personnel for Addu Atoll.

2. Subject however to C. in C. Eastern Fleet's concurrence it is intended that KHEDIVE ISMAIL should sail Colombo as soon after 9 September as possible with the personnel for Addu Atoll continuing after disembarkation to Kilindini for the movement referred to in D.S.T.O. Kilindini's 261500Z.

(D.S.T., 272050A to P.S.T.O. India, (R) D.S.T.O. Kilindini,
C. in C. E.F., S.S.T.O. Ceylon).

Air
Report.

25 August. 4 Hurricanes damaged or destroyed 27 river craft Kaladan River.

26 August 2 Beaufighters offensive Akyab-Gwa Bay. 1 A/C returned early due bad weather. 1

A/C attacked and damaged 7 water transport. 2

Beaufighters offensive Irrawaddy. Attacked 2 factories Thayetmyo. Over 50 river craft attacked between Prome and Magwe. 4 sunk many damaged. 4 Hurricanes attacked River craft Mayu. 6 barges attacked and believed sunk. 4 smaller craft sunk.

14th. U.S.A.A.F. 25 August. 15 U.S. Mitchells B.25 and 18 U.S. Kittyhawks P.40 attacked Kowloon Docks. 2 direct hits on 550 ft. boat. 1 direct hit on another 550 ft. boat, many fires in dock area.

(A.H.Q. India, 270619Z).

/A. B. 10...

War Diary.

27.8.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

A.B.10 Personnel ships SALENCE sailing in convoy from Aden about 7th September for Bombay with personnel ex convoy K.M.J.22 will comprise convoy A.B.10. (C. in C. E.F., 270746Z to S.T.O. M.E., F.O.C.R. I.N., D. of S.T., F.E. Ceylon, Comin Aden, Comrin F.O.R.S.C.A., P.S.T.O.I.)

NAPIER Your 201314Z (N.T. in W.D.) Condition satisfactory. All intact. (NAPIER, 270920Z to Cdre. (D) E.F. (R) C. in C. E.F., Capt. Supt. Durban, Capt. (D) or S.O. 11th D.F.)

U/Bs U-boat disposition number 27. Japanese: 1 possible U-boat contact attacked 016° 30' N., 055° 30' E. 25th August. German: 1 by D/F near 029° S. 043° E. 23rd August probably still in this area. (C. in C. E.F.. 270921 to Eastern Fleet, 3757, (R) Admty. etc).

Balloons, Following received by Air Ministry from A.H.Q. for ships. India (begins) -
A. 396 (or 356 CPT) 18th August. Forthcoming operations necessitate flying balloons from ships in convoy desirable employ latest Admiralty type armament. Only equipment held this command 45,000 feet K.B.1 cable. Can you supply complete armament equipment plus full instructions and balance cable required for 50 ships plus reserve despatch by air transport required? If equipment not available your recommendations for arming cable would be appreciated. T.O.O. 181110Z (Ends).
2. Request fuller details of actual requirements allowing reserves and possibility further future operations. Requirements to differentiate between full flying off equipment and arming devices to complete ships already otherwise fitted.
3. A.H.Q. have been instructed to contact you and confirm supply position balloons and hydrogen. Recommended practice when balloons are required is to give 10 cylinders to ships not sailing between ports sufficiently adjacent to give inflated balloon service.
4. Air transport difficult. Is this necessary if so state absolute minimum proportion total requirements. (D.M.W.D. (Fanum House,) 271134A to F.O.C.R.I.N. (R) A.H.Q. India, Air Min).

Movements, Colombo. Colombo arrivals 27th. 0030. HINDUSTAN 0700Z INTEGRITY. Departures 1030Z POONA. (F.O. Ceylon, 271300Z to Admty. etc).

/H.D.M.Ls...

27.8.1943.

Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

H.D.M.Ls.

Shipping programme for H.D.M.Ls. referred to in A.M. 230108B July has been accelerated and 15 boats have already been shipped to Bombay.

2. If you desire remaining 9 H.D.M.Ls. to be off loaded at Colombo, Kilindini or other ports where shore appliances are inadequate, craft will have to be shipped in special ships with derricks capable of 48 ton lift and dates given in A.M. 230108B July cannot be adhered to.

3. Request your delivery instructions in light of above limitations.

(D.D.O.D. (C), * 271405A to C. in C. E.F., (R) F.O.C.R.I.N., F.O. Ceylon, C.C.F. (A) Bombay) *Approved A.C.N.S. (F).

O.24

Reference your 270847Z (N.T. in W.R.) My E.T.A. is 0230Z/29th August owing to fuel shortage. (O.24 (D.S.) 271505Z to Capt. (S) 4, (R) F.O. Ceylon).

SECRET

988A E.I. 27
8

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/August

IN

From: C. in C. India

Date: 27.8.43.

Recd: 1715

CYPHER

Addressed: The War Office

China Weekly Summary

IMMEDIATE

361352. 68125/I 27 Aug.

Following is forwarded from U.S. Army Forces in India for information of Prime Minister and Chiefs of Staff as representing Weekly Summary of events in China for period 19 August to 25 August transmitted by U.S.A.A.F. China. Begins.

1. Chinese Air. August 23, 29 Chinese planes intercepted approximately 50 Japanese Bombers and Fighters over Chungking 1 Bomber destroyed Chinese lost 4 planes. Minor damage caused by raid.

2. Chinese ground. Activity of ground forces confined to minor guerillas skirmishes.

3. U.S. ground. Nil.

4. U.S. Air August 19. 9 Japanese planes bombed Kienow scoring 3 hits on runway no interception. August 20 21 Japanese planes over Kweilin partially intercepted by 15 P-40s 2 Japanese planes confirmed 2 P-40s missing. 8 B-25s and 11 P-40s bombed Tienho (Canton) hitting revetment 4 intercepting Zeros destroyed and 2 probables no Allied losses. August 21 over Hengyang 19 P-40s were attacked by 33 Japanese Fighters, 4 Japanese Fighters destroyed 2 probables 1 P-40 lost. Near Lingling 9 P-39 (38)'s attacked 12 Zeros 3 Zeros destroyed no loss to Allies. 7 B-25s escorted by 11 P-40s bombed Hankow many planes on ground believed damaged. 14 B-24s attacked Hankow River front results unobserved 35 of more than 50 intercepting Fighters destroyed and 11 probables 2 B-24s missing. August 22 4 P-40s attacked Tengchung. August 24, 24 Japanese Bombers attacked Wang Sien (midway between Chungking and Ichang on Yangtse) no details. 7 B-24s and 6 B-25s covered by 8 P-38s and 14 P-40s attacked Fuchang and Hankow airdromes with excellent results intercepted by more than 75 Japanese Fighters 19 planes confirmed 4 B-24s missing. Aug. 25 8 B-25s and 6 P-40s attacked Kowloon Docks obtaining 2 direct hits on 550 ft. boat which burst into flames and hit another vessel of same size in drydock many

fires

Wahnsen

fires started, 7 B-25s and 12 P-40s attacked Tai Koo Docks with unsuccessful results.

T.O.O. Nil

Recd. from War Office 0832/28

War Office circulation:

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- S. of S.
- C.I.G.S.
- V.C.I.G.S.
- D.C.I.G.S.
- D.M.O.
- D.D.M.O. (O) (H)
- D. Plans (2)
- M.O.L.3.12. for action)
- D.H.I.
- D.D.M.I.(I)
- M.I.3.2a, 2b, 2c.17
- D.D.I.P.
- Q. (Ops)
- D. Air
- D.D. Air
- Air Co-ord.
- Air lc.
- G.6 (Tels)

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- Hd. of War Reg. (Admiralty)
- A.M.C.S. (Air Ministry)
- S. of S. Foreign Office
- Brig. Thompson (India Office (2)

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- 1st S.L. (2)
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- D. of P. (3)
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- D.A.U.D.
- I.P. (3)
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- D.P.D.
- D.S.D. (3)
- Ad. Blake
- U.S.N. (3)
- C.W.R.
- D.R.O. (∞) (2)

989

27.8.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

- A.P.C. 52. Request necessary action B.A.D's 261453 (sailing A.P.C. 52 to Londonderry) to conform with Admty. O32314B, not to N.S.H.Q. (C. in C. C.N.A., 270106Z to F.O.N.F.)
- FUSILIER B. 3. Take appropriate action B.3 261309 (FUSILIER be ordered to rejoin, B.3). C. in C. W.A's 261228A being passed refers. (C. in C. C.N.A., 270136Z to F.O.N.F., (R) S.E.C. H.X.253, Connav, Admty., A.C.I.C., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., H.Q.C.C., Cdr. (D) Argentia, Cdr. (D) W.A.)
- Movements. Departure H.M.C.S. SAULT ST. MARIE (sic) to Bermuda. (C. Halifax, 270145Z to S.B.N.O.W.A.)
- Movements, St. Johns N.F. St. Johns N.F. August 26th arrivals LINCOLN, ST. ALBANS, DIGBY, MELVILLE, HEPATICA ex H.X.253. B.Y.M.S.76, 213 ex proceeding to Londonderry. Departures GEORGIAN ex W.B.47. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns, N.F., 270146Z to Admty.)
- T.F. 67. U.T. 2. This is C. in C. Lant's 261929 addressed Combatdiv 5, Info. Cominch, Comdesron 17, Comnav, Comdeslant, C.T.F.29, Comdesron 31, Admty., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.A., C.T.G. 112.1. This establishes T.F.67, Rear-Admiral Blunt, as follows. NEVADA, Desron 17 plus COWIE, EARLE, FITCH, QUICK, CAPPS, WEBER, FETCHELER, WINOOSKI less SHUBRICK. Escort convoy U.T.2 consisting of not over 25 ships including MATAPONI, ESCALANTE, CHEMUNG, SALAMONIE, CHIWAWA. Scheduled sail New York Sept. 5th to U.K. When directed by C. in C. W.A. return New York escorting Convoy T.U.2. Important that convoy U.T.2 arrive U.K. on Sept. 17th. On arrival U.K. detach FITCH, CAPPS and direct them report C.T.G. 112.2 in exchange for BELL and ISHERWOOD which I desire return with you. Local arrangements for this exchange requested to be made by Comnav. (Comnav, 270256Z to Admty.)
- French Air Squadron. Ref. N.A.F.338 (T.O.O. 241116 August). Requested by Combined Chiefs of Staff, U.S. Navy Department to assign French patrol plane squadron, when formed in about October 1943, to Agadir to operate in conjunction with two other French Naval Squadrons in accordance with your recommendation contained in N.A.F. 338. (Agwar Washington, 270701Z to Etousa, Algiers.)

/T.F.62 ...

27.8.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

T.F. 62. This from C. in C. Lant 262036 addressed to
U.G.S.17. Comdesron 19 for action, Info. to Cominch,
Commorseafon, C.T.G.21.12, Comnavu, Admty.,
C.T.F.29, C.T.F.23 and Comdeslantflt.
FRANKFORD, MCCOOK, DOYLE, CARBACK, POPE,
PILLSBURY, FLAHERTY, PORTENT, PIONEER, NIOBRARA hereby constitute
T.F.62, Cdr. Mendenhall in FRANKFORD in command, accordance
article 102 D.T.P.215. Escort convoy U.G.S.17 scheduled sail
Hampton Roads, September 5th for North African ports. Turn
over ships in convoy bound for Mediterranean ports to other
escort which will meet you at point to be prescribed. When
directed by Commorseafon return Hampton Roads escorting
convoy G.U.S.16.
French Cruiser JEAN BART will join you at sea off Bermuda.
C.T.F.23 direct report Cdr. Mendenhall. C.T.F. do same for
PORTENT, PIONEER, NIOBRARA.
(Comnavu, 270421Z to Admty.)
See also 270812.

FUSILIER, S.O. B.3's 261309 (N.T. in W.D.) If SS.FRELING
BUSTLER. HUYSEN no longer requires your assistance to
reach St. Johns N.F. and if it is possible for
you to overtake convoy, proceed to overtake.
Otherwise proceed St. Johns N.F. in company with
merchant ships.
(F.O.N.F., 270429Z to FUSILIER, BUSTLER, (R)
C. in C. C.N.A., Connav, H.Q.C.C., Admty., C. in
C. W.A., etc.)

DUCKWORTH. DUCKWORTH left Boston 26th August for Bermuda.
(N.S.H.Q., 270502Z to Admty., etc.)

T.G. 21.12. C. in C. Lant's 252219 addressed to U.S.S. BOGUE
U.G.S. 17. for action and to Comnavu, Commorseafon,
Cominch, Comdesron 18, Comdeslantflt, and C.T.F.
28 for information informs as follows:
Task Group 21.12 hereby constituted as Captain
Dunn, BOGUE, Comcortdiv 1 in G.E. BADGER, O. INGRAM, CLEMSON,
GREENE. Attention my 102109 July. Support Task Force 62
escort convoy U.G.S.17 scheduled to sail from Hampton Roads
5th September. Task Force 65 co-operating. GREENE will be
directed to report to you.
(Comnavu, 270812 to Admty.)

T.A.G.80. T.A.G.80 Kingston (Jam.) section arrived
271115Z with S.C.1278 and C.G.581.
(N.O.I.C. Kingston, Jamaica, 270840Q to
C.C.S.F., N.O.B. Guantanamo, (R) Admty., etc.)

/Movements ...

War Diary.27.8.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Movements of "Queens". For Searail. From D.D Mov. (P) and D.D. of S.T. for D.D. Mov. (P) and Hynard. Your Concrete 552. C.C.S. at 115th meeting approved "Queens" reverting to 21 day cycle in view of longer nights and necessity for moving maximum number of troops. We have therefore developed programme which avoids ships being in U.K. for four days either side of full moon. (B.A.S. Washington, 271015Q to W.O.)
Reply: W.O., 291115A.

TRACKER. Provisional date for TRACKER being ready for service 23rd September.
(F.O.C.T., 271032A to Admty., (R) TRACKER, F.O.I.C. Greenock, F.O.N.A.S., R.A.N.A.S.(N), C. in C. W.A.)

T.A.G.81, G.N. 81. Sailing telegram. (21 ships). (2) 1300Z/27th August. (4) 8 knots, (9 knots Curacao). (5) (Route). (6) U.S.S. BARNEY, U.S.S. TOURQUOISE, U.S.S. P.C.469, 1200, 1260. (B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 271102Q, 271104Q to Admty.)

EMILE BERTIN. Arrival 26th French Cruiser EMILE BERTIN from Martinique.
(British Consul San Juan, 271128Q to Admty., etc.)

BLOCK ISLAND, C.T.G. 21.17. To avoid eastbound convoy steer from new position (Q) 49.13 N. 42.01 W. to new position (R) 53.02 N. 28.58 W. thence to position (O). (D.O.D.(H), 271142A to U.S.S. BLOCK ISLAND, Com. Task Group 21.17.)

COLUMBIA, M/V. HARRIET BEECHER STOWE detached 271230Z.
E.T.A. 281601Z.
(COLUMBIA, 271220Z to Connav.)

A.T. 61. QUEEN MARY sailed as in my 251235Z August, "Chop" 1900Z August 28th.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 271244Z to Admty., etc.)

I.F.F. Re development of I.F.F. Mark V and use meantime of I.F.F. Mark III and IV.
(C.O.S.(W), 769.)
(Air Min., 271300Z to Britman Washington.)
See Lion Copy.

/Movements ...

MOST SECRET

Asst. 27/8

991^A

WARNING : This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the text must first be paraphrased* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

(*NOTE : Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad :
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

MOST SECRET. M E S S A G E. 271300Z/August. OUT.

To. Britman, Washington. Date. 27.8.43.

C Y P H E R.

From. Air Ministry.

Development of I.F.F. Mark V.

IMMEDIATE.

OZ. 2545. 27th August, 1943.

Following from Chiefs of Staff Committee C.O.S.(W)762.

1. There is an urgent requirement for a secure form of I.F.F. for all Allied Forces. Neither the Standard I.F.F. Mark III, nor the I.F.F. Mark III modified as described in A.R.L. Report No. 126 of 8th April, 1943, (R.D.F. Board paper No. 451) nor I.F.F. Mark IV will provide adequate security for long. The modified Mark III and the Mark IV will be difficult to introduce into service.
2. The principal failing in the Standard I.F.F. Mark III system is the possibility that the enemy will use captured intact I.F.F. sets to pose as friendly to our RADAR.
3. I.F.F. Mark IV has been developed and will shortly be available to U.S. Forces for limited use as a stand by system. We consider that if this system were introduced, even for a short time, in a part of the Pacific operational theatre it might increase the life of Standard I.F.F. Mark III by confusing the Japanese as to our real intentions.
4. On the other hand, owing to the lack of facilities and the amount of work involved, it will be impracticable to change British (and Dominion) ships and aircraft to and from the I.F.F. Mark IV system every time they enter and leave the area in which it is used. The area chosen for I.F.F. Mark IV must therefore be a part of the Pacific where it is improbable that any British Forces will be employed.
5. The British Chiefs of Staff are convinced that the highest priority should be given to the development and production of U.N.B./I.F.F. Mark V with a view to its introduction into service not later than June, 1945. No other I.F.F. projects should be pursued which may hold it back for it alone is likely to provide the measure of security and those other features which are required of a universal I.F.F./Beacon System.

Cont. 6.

6. It is considered that research into methods of improving the security of standard I.F.F. Mark III should be continued but that no modifications should be introduced into what is at present a universal system unless they:

- (i) will appreciably increase the security of I.F.F. Mark III by preventing the enemy deceiving us through using captured intact sets, and
- (ii) can be introduced universally while preserving the continuity of Radar identification, and
- (iii) will have a useful life before I.F.F. Mark V is ready, and
- (iv) will not retard the development and introduction of U.N.B./I.F.F. Mark V.

271300Z.

Circulation.

1st Lord.
1st S.I. (2)
D.F.S.L.
Contr.
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (W)
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)
P.A.S. (S)
P.A.S. (PR)
N.A. Mails.
D.O.D. (H) (4)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.N.I. (4)
D. of P. (2)
D.C. (2)
D.D.I.C. (2)
D. of P. (Q) (2)
D.R.O. (C.O.)
Hd. of M. (2)
A.S. (C)
M.A.S.
D.M.W.D.
C.A.O.R.
D.C.N.A.E.

Brig. Jacob.
Foreign Sec.
First Sea Lord.
C.6. Tels. W.O.
A.M.C.S. (C)
C.O.O.

Recd. Aug. 27 2039.

D.S.D.
D.N.A.O.
D.A.W.T.
D.A.M.R.
D.A.E.
I.P. (2)
W.D.
Ad. Blake.

War Diary.

27.8.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

- Movements. Departure GODERICH, LOCKEPORT to St. Johns N.F. (C. Halifax, 271337 to Admty., etc.)
- U.S.A.T. Arrival 26th August U.S. Transport STATE OF VIRGINIA. (B.S.N.O. Curacao, 271355Z to Admty.)
- A.M. 138, My 252125 (re A.M.138 (S.O.), A.M.139 proceeding
A.M. 139. St. Johns). Sailing delayed. Alusna Moscow informed. V.C.N.O. informed senior representative U.S.S.R. and B.A.D. (C.E.S.F., 271417Z to N.S.H.Q., Admty., etc.)
- B.E.C. 3. Cominch 261601 (N.T. in W.R.)
Request you will arrange for B.E.C.3 sailing from Chicago about 27th August to collect C.Bs. at Montreal and to carry out trials and short work up at Quebec.
2. On completion of above request you will sail B.E.C.3 to Bermuda for full work up.
3. Final destination Freetown.
(B.A.D., 271431Z to N.S.H.Q., (R) Admty., etc.)
- C.3 Group. 1. Upon relief R.C.N. units of your Group less BITTERSWEET may proceed direct to Halifax for visit during lay over. No drafting changes to take place.
2. R.N. units and BITTERSWEET proceed St. Johns N.F.
(F.O.N.F., 271434Z to C.3, (R) C. in C. C.N.W.A.)
- Cominch S/M Estimate. Possibly one north-east of Hatteras from contact 261654Z. No fresh information other areas. (Cominch, 271445Z to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A.)
- X.B. 71. Sailing telegram part 1 (5 ships). (2) Halifax 1400Z/27th. (3) E.T.A. Cape Cod Canal 2000Z/29th Boston, 1900Z/29th. (4) 7.5. (5) (Route). (6) CALDWELL, ARROWHEAD, OAKVILLE. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 271445Z, 271449Z to Admty.)
- U.S.A.T. Departure August 27th BRIGADIER GENERAL H.F. RETHERS, U.S. Army Transport, Paramaribo August 28th. (B.R.O. Georgetown, 271525Q to Admty., etc.)

/ U/B ...

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27.8.1943.

Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- U/B Estimate. 1200Z/27th August U-Boat (German) recently unlocated may have been sighted in 49.09 N. 58.22 W. at 1030Z/26th but report unconfirmed at present.
(N.S.H.Q., 271533Z.)
- FLORIDA. 272100 FLORIDA U.S.A.T. New Orleans, 2nd Sept. knots (I) 15.75, (II) 17.5. (Route, etc.)
(R.O. Port of Spain, 271603, 271705 to Admty.)
- Movements, Kingston, J. Departure 281300Z direct Guantanamo 291200Z 8 knots Y.A.G.18 with 5 U.S. service personnel passengers, P.C.1191, 15 personnel, S.C.1278, 10 personnel.
(N.O.I.C. Kingston Jamaica, 271610Q to C.C.S.F, etc.)
- VICTORIOUS. Departure 1900 G.M.T. 27th August, VICTORIOUS E.T.A. Point A Chesapeake Bay entrance 1400 G.M.T. 1st September.
(B.R.L.O. Cristobal, 271622R to Admty., etc.)
From VICTORIOUS addressed B.A.M.R. Washington, Admty. Noon September 1st expect to arrive Hampton Roads.
(Comnaveu, 272325 to Admty.)
- Y.F.D. 32. From N.M.C.S. in New York. Ref. N.S.H.Q. 252131 (re ADHERENT to assist in towing dock Y.F.D.32 to St. Johns N.F.)
(A) Intend route dock direct.
(B) E.T.A. at Ambrose Light 1200Q/31 August.
Cominch pass to Washington Addressees.
(Cdr. East Sea Frontier, 271633Z to C. in C. N.A., (R) N.S.H.Q., etc.)
N.M.C.S. Washington's 271633.
Sail ADHERENT forthwith by direct route for Ambrose Light Vessel. Instructions for R/V with Y.F.D.32 will be signalled direct to ADHERENT when route of Y.F.D.32 is known.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 272029Z to F.O.N.F., (R) Admty., etc.)
- H.X. 254. 1. Sailing despatch. 2. Position JW at 2100Z August 27th. 3, 5, 8. Routes and R/V as per Admty. 162051 June, 041301B July and Cominch C. and R. 181510 June and C. in C. C.N.A. 231905 August. "Homp" 1200Z August 30th. 6. Task Unit W.8. ROXBOROUGH S.O., DUNVEGAN, KENOGAMI, SASKATOON, SHEDIAC.
(P.D. New York, 271754 to Admty.)
This completes my 271754. Sailing despatch. Part 1.
H.X.254. 7. 70 ships (list).
(P.D. New York, 271854 to Admty.) Amended 281930.)
Sailing despatch H.X.254. Part 2.
(P.D. New York, 272210.)

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27.8.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.

- U.G.S. 16. Passed by hand to C.T.F.61 and Commander. S.B.N.O.W.At. pass to N.O.B. Bermuda. C. in C. Med. pass to Comnavnav. Admty. pass to C. in C. Levant. Sailing telegram, part 1.
1. U.G.S.16. 2. 1312Z/27th August. 3. 301900Z passing CJ speed 9. 4. "Chop" 24.00 W. 082300Z. Shift radio watch 20.00 W. 092200Z. 5. Standard ocean route CJ through CQ.
6. C.T.F.61 EVART, GWYNFFELS, DECKER, DOBLER, SMARTT, WALTER S. BROWN, HOBBY, KALK, GILLESPIE, ENOREE, French DELAGE, GRACIEUSE. C.T.G. 21.11 SANTEE, BAINBRIDGE, GREER, SIMPSON, MACLEISH. 7. 82 when ENOREE and SANTEE are in formation.
8. Standard stragglers route A through G.
- This message was originated by Port Director Norfolk as 271348.
(P.D. Norfolk, 271820Z to Com. 10th Fleet (C. and R.), V.A. Gibraltar, Cinclant, (R) Comeastseafon, Admty., etc.)
- TRUMPETER This is re-encypherment of 271517 from Comnor-
escort wesseafon information N.S.H.Q., Admty., B.A.D.,
carrier. Cominch, Cincpac and Comwesseafon.
TRUMPETER arrived Port Angeles 271400Z.
(Radio Washington, 271920Z to N.S.H.Q., Admty.)
- M.M.S. My 241409Z. M.M.S. 244 - 254 returned to
St. Johns.
(F.O.N.F., 271932Z to Admty.)
- H.X. 251. Average speed 8.13 knots. Off Oversay at
0730Z/22 August. All arrived.
(D.T.D., 271948A to Comnav, N.S.H.Q.)
- U.S.A.Ts. San Francisco arrival August 26th JAPARA (Dutch)
MOUNT VERNON. Both U.S.A.T.
(N.S.H.Q., 272003Z to Admty.)
- B.Y.M.S.194, When ready about 0700Q/29th August depart Throggs
B.Y.M.S.230. Neck. Proceed Boston via Long Island Sound and
Cape Cod Canal. Report to C.T.G. 02.1 for
onward routing to Halifax. Arrival Halifax
report C. in C. C.N.A. for orders. Speed 10
knots. Guard B.A.M.S. Call signs to be encyphered in * S.P.
02182 (4) are: B.Y.M.S. 194 BRDZ; B.Y.M.S.230 BRGV. By hand
to B.Y.M.S.194 (S.O.), B.Y.M.S.230.
(Comeastseafon, 272005 to N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., Admty.,
Cinclant, etc.) * Mercantile Secret Call Signs.
- Shipping, WILLIAM HARPER, WILLIAM C. BRYANT, SORVANGEN
Trinidad. (Nor.), above Bauxite. HUGH J. GALLAGHER (U.S.A.T)
Arrivals 27th RANDA (Brit.)
(R.O. Port of Spain, 272029 to Admty.)

/Martlets ...

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27.8.1943.

Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- Martlets. Your 212019. In view of your para. 1 it is not intended to retain the Martlet fours in U.S.A. (B.A.D., 272055Z to Admty.)
- FISHGUARD. Argentia 27th August, arrival FISHGUARD. (Capt. (D) Argentia, 272200Z to Admty.)
- OBDURATE, OPPORTUNE. Sail OBDURATE and OPPORTUNE Norfolk to Halifax direct when ready about 30th August. Advise time of departure, route, S. of A. (Cominch, 272302Z to C.E.S.F., (R) C.T.F.24, Admty., etc.)
- Use of C.V.Es. My 252149, para. 4.
1. In the past C.V.Es. built in U.S.A. and assigned to U.K. have been regarded on their initial voyage primarily as a means of transporting aircraft across Atlantic. Even when, due to completion dates of C.V.Es. and squadrons working up having coincided fortuitously, a squadron has been embarked, it has only been semi-operational. No real balance of fighter and T.B. aircraft has been possible and armament and pyrotechnic stores have been on a greatly reduced voyage home basis only.
 2. With a few exceptions all C.V.Es. after SLINGER which are built in U.S.A. and assigned to U.K. will be modified to full British operational standards in Vancouver.
 3. It would greatly assist short term planning if some indication could be given of destination of future C.V.Es. and of your instructions as to aircraft complements on their first voyage.
 4. In this connection our present organisation for working up Tarpon and Corsair squadrons in U.S.A. entirely precludes our providing a balanced complement of fighters and T.B. aircraft to any C.V.E. If 12 Tarpon are embarked it seems unlikely that, on present manning complements, any fighters could be operated.
 5. On the other hand, if we are to produce a balanced complement of, for example, eight Tarpons and 6 Corsairs as a C.V.E. group, consider we should split flying and maintenance personnel of existing squadrons into groups as soon as possible. Recent experience of tactical engagement of fighters with A/S bombers against U-Boats indicates that a group should train as a unit in latter stage of working up period.
 6. In our view if C.V.Es. can be shown as being operationally effective on their first voyage it may do something to lessen criticism mentioned in my 252149, para. 1.
 7. Above is based on assumption that Corsairs can be operated from C.V.Es. in other than ideal conditions. This assumption may well prove optimistic.
 8. For your information Allied A/S Board recommendation now is that next 7 C.V.Es. should be handed back to U.S.N.
 9. Request your remarks.
(B.A.D., 272321Z to Admty.)

/Suspicious ...

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27.8.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.Suspicious
call sign.

Westbound in Straits of Magellan 23rd, unidentified M.V. gave call of SS. CAPE LOOKOUT which should have been South of New Zealand en route Fremantle from Balboa. Description later if obtainable. From Cominch as 271433 addressed C. in C. Pac., Comsoeastpac, (R) Admty., Com. 4th Fleet, Comnavu.) (Comnavu, 272329Z to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand.Convoy
T.N.146.

(B) August 27th. (C) CANBERRA, KATOOMBA, PORT MORESBY. (D) U.S.S. HELM, P.C.1119. (N.O.I.C. Townsville, 270018Z to Admty., etc.)

ORANJE.

Your 251349Z to A.C.N.B. only. ORANJE expected time of departure Sydney 27th August for Aden direct. (A.C.N.B., 270440Z to P.S.T.O. Middle East, (R) D.S.T.)

Movements.

Arrival Milne Bay 26th PIRIE. Sydney 26th HOBART, WARRAMUNGA, ARUNTA. Departed Townsville 26th Task Group 112.1 for Milne Bay. (N.B. Melbourne, 271118Z to Admty., etc.)

MERKUR, U.S. Transport BONTEKOE arrived Townsville 26th August. R.A.A.F. store ship WANAKA arrived and departed Townsville 26th due Thursday Island 28th. R.A.F.A. KURUMBA departed Townsville 27th due Gladstone 28th. (C.S.W.P.S.F., 271134Z to Admty.)

Convoy
F.T. 21.

(B) Milne Bay 0110Z/26th August. (C) TORRENS, Townsville. (D) GYMPIE. (C.S.W.P.S.F., 271132Z to Admty.)

Digest
No. 584
August
26th.

Paras. 10 to 12 cover South Pacific Forces. Late report of additional 18 Mitchells attacking Hansa Bay area forenoon 25th indicates additional small freighter and several other luggers destroyed in Hansa Bay and another small coaster and at least two other luggers probably destroyed in harbours along coast to S.E. Hansa Bay. Same aircraft thoroughly bombed and strafed barges buildings and jetties around Hansa Bay. 4. Hospital ship on N.W. coast sighted by R/C Liberator 200 miles W. by N. Greenwich Island forenoon 25th.

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27.8.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.Digest
No. 584
August
26th.
(Vontd.)

6. R/C Zero reported over Goodenough Island morning 25th.
7. Night Catalina sight convoy described as one destroyer one medium merchantman one large tanker 30 miles East of Cape St. George course 240° shortly before midnight.
8. Late report of attack on Taberfan 24th by 7 Beaufighters indicates one float-plane destroyed

on ground one probably destroyed and another damaged in combat.

10. Three enemy destroyers covered by ten fighters observed approx. 8 miles West of Ontong Java on North-westerly course during forenoon and shadowed during day until force of 9 Liberators attacked in position approx. 100 miles North-east Buka Passage late afternoon when air cover missing. Direct hit claimed on one destroyer causing vessel to stop but force later reported proceeding on S.W. course at 15 knots.

11. Further attacks by Mitchells, Avengers and Dauntless aircraft against barge centres and gun positions West of Villa morning 25th. 6 Liberators with fighter escort bombed Kahili strip same afternoon. 3 enemy destroyers observed taking evasive action in Tonolei harbour. 2 other Liberators bombed Rekata Bay area.

12. All organised enemy resistance New Georgia area now ceased. Our troops occupied both sides Baroko Harbour without opposition capturing some 20 vehicles and much food. Some evidence enemy evacuated prepared positions Dragon Peninsula, Islands West of Baanca and South of Arundel occupied without opposition.

(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 271402Z to Admty., etc.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 271344A, 271346A.)

998

28.8.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

U/B in
Shetlands.

1. At 292030 A.C.O.S. received a report that civilians had sighted a U-Boat at 2150 today in Donna Firth, Shetlands (60.22 N. 01.19 W.)

Operation
"Lorry".

2. C.S.10 in BELFAST sailed from Hvalfjord early this morning with NORFOLK and IMPULSIVE, to cover MUSKETEER and MAHRATTA who are taking personnel and stores to Kola Inlet (see 27 August).

Biscay A/S
Operations,
U/B sunk.

3. BERMUDA, who arrived at Plymouth late this evening from patrol in the Bay, sailed at 0715A today, to cover GRENVILLE and 1st Escort Group against surface attack. CRANE sailed to reinforce E.G.1.

At 2130A GRENVILLE reported that a U-Boat was detected at 0350, attacked at 0400 and 0800, and finally sunk at 2000 in 42.03N. 12.10W. (about 120 miles S.W. of Cape Finisterre), a large quantity of diesel oil appeared. Two bales of sheet rubber were recovered, which led the Admiralty to think the U-Boat may have been Japanese.

4. H.M.S. QUEEN ELIZABETH left Plymouth today for Scapa on conclusion of refit, escorted by 3 destroyers, (arrival at Scapa 30 Aug.)

5. Bomber Command aircraft laid 96 mines last night off Biscay ports and north-west Germany.

Mediterranean.

Sicily and
S. Italy.

6. Five Commando parties landed at Bova Marina (Toe of Italy, south coast) last night, with W/T sets. All was quiet and the party remained for reconnaissance. More prisoners were removed for interrogation.

U.S.M.T.Bs. carried out a sweep in the Gulf of Gaeta last night without incident.

Bombardments.

UGANDA and destroyer QUILLIAN bombarded Pellarò Battery (south of Reggio) at 1630 today. There was ineffective opposition from a medium calibre gun.

About 12 aircraft attacked Augusta at 0800 today. Slight damage to one L.C.T. outside the harbour is reported.

Enemy batteries shelled Messina from 0400 to 0500 today. Minor damage only was caused.

999

28.8.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta
Strike.

7. Malta dockyard employees are returning to work.

8. Three L.C.Ts. were gutted and one extensively damaged by fire and explosion at Tripoli (L) this morning.

TAURUS.

9. S/M TAURUS, who returned to Beirut yesterday, from patrol in the Aegean, reports that she encountered 2 medium merchant vessels escorted by 5 aircraft, 5 destroyers and 2 E-Boats. TAURUS's periscope was damaged by ramming.

10. FORMIDABLE undocked at Alexandria yesterday and sailed for Gibraltar today, accompanied by CAPETOWN (Eastern Fleet) who is to proceed to the U.K. and escorted by 4 destroyers.

Air attack
on Taranto.

11. About 40 U.S.B.25s bombed Taranto marshalling yards today. A direct hit is reported on a large cruiser in harbour, a possible hit on an unidentified vessel and near misses on other shipping. The area of the railway repair shops and sidings was well covered with bursts.

Black Sea.

12. S.O.(I) Istanbul reports that a Russian S/M has sunk Bulgarian M/V VARNA; 2 Turkish auxiliary sailing vessels have been sunk off the Bosphorus by gunfire from unidentified submarines; and a Russian minesweeper was torpedoed and sunk by an enemy S/M off the Caucasus Coast.

East Indies.

Burma.

13. In an air attack on Akyab town today by 45 Allied aircraft the main jetty was hit.

14. Five Hurricanes sank or damaged 26 river craft in central Burma today.

1000

28.8.1943.

Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

15. Allied aircraft attacked Hansa Bay, New Guinea today; a small freighter was set on fire, 8 barges and 9 luggers were destroyed and others damaged. Lae was also attacked and jetties and barges were destroyed. Twelve Mitchells escorted by 18 fighters attacked the north west area of Isabel Island and destroyed barges.

1001

28.8.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Flag of
R.A.(A) H.F.

R.A. (A) H.F. 281201B See North Atlantic.

ULSTER.

My 231055 para. 2. On completion of boiler cleaning p.m/2nd Sept. request ULSTER may be sailed to Plymouth to join Plymouth Command temporarily.
(R.A.D. 281529A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Assault
Force in
Rosyth
Command.

Establishment of an Assault Force in the Rosyth Command. Proposals contained in C. in C. Rosyth's No.2811/00968 X.D.1 of 11/8/43 are approved in principle. (2) Work on essential works proposed in App.111 except hutted camps may be commenced in anticipation of Admiralty approval. (3) Request information whether accommodation for personnel cannot be found by requisitioning and/or billeting.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 282140A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Movements.

KENT.

Leave Argentia so as to arrive Halifax N.S. by 2nd Sept. (2) Admiralty pass to Cominch and C. in C. Lant.
(C. in C. H.F. 281525A to KENT.)

SARDONYX.

Your 271520. Concur except Care. (M) is requested to sail SARDONYX direct to Skaale Fiord when released from S.N.222B.
(C. in C. H.F. 281523A to C. in C. W.A.)

QUEEN
ELIZABETH.

My 251632A. Sailed QUEEN ELIZABETH escorted by LIMBOURNE, GOATHLAND and TANATSIDE.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 281612A to A.C.O.S.)

S/M
Movements.

Positions of S/M's at 0800A/29 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S.281646A.)
(C.O.W. 281828A to A.I.G.25)

Group "L"

A.M.251605. Para. 1. Add H.D.M.Ls. 1243, 1245, 1282 and 1294.
(D.O.D.(H), 281709A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)
A.M's 061510 and 091814 para. 3 and 111709 para. 2. (2) F.O.I.C.Milford Haven is requested to include H.D.M.L's 1243, 1245, 1282 and 1294 in the Coastal Force Convoy to Gibraltar due to sail on Sept. 6th.
(D.D.O.D.(C), 281816A)

LANDGUARD /...

1002

28.8.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

LANDGUARD, visit to Ferrol. Reference N.A. Madrid's 261745 (should be^e 261704) August British destroyer was LANDGUARD. She took photograph of NORD ATLANTIC and landed a small Oropesa which she had picked up. She was boarded by 3 Spanish Officers who left apparently well satisfied.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 281853A)

BRITOMART. BRITOMART sailed from Dvina at 1930C/28 for Kola Inlet. E.T.A. Toros Island 0001C/30th. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 281942C)

Operations.

Biscay A/S Operations.

GRENVILLE - patrol position. GRENVILLE's 272001A. Concur with Captain Brewer's remarks.
(C. in C. W.A. 280034A to C. in C. Plymouth, (R) Admty.)
Since your 272001A presume you have received my 271756A complete. (2) Patrol line in para. 4 is believed outside maximum range of D.O.217 aircraft but if shadowed you should move to the southwest.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 280116A to GRENVILLE, (R) C. in C. W.A., Admty.)

U/B Am over Enemy Submarine in 42.30 N. 09.30 W.
(A/C DB5A, 179 Sqdn. 280225)
Lost touch with U-Boat last seen position 42° 25' N. 09° 21' W. U.Boat previously reported course 3° speed 36 knots, when first sighted in position 000° 12.
(A/C 179/A, 280240B)

PELICAN. At 0305 your position by plot 275° Pendeen 12.
(N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 280314A to PELICAN)

ATHABASKAN. Am being shadowed by enemy A/C bearing 180° 12000 feet LOCKER ESCR (?FSCR) 1705, 43.17 N. 12.55 W.
course 325° 15 knots.
(ATHABASKAN, 280705A)

Air co-operation. From Capt. Brewer. (1) (a) It is an urgent requirement that support aircraft should set watch on 2410 K/cs on meeting the patrol group.
(b) Have aldis battery fully charged.
(c) Be thoroughly briefed in sector report code.
(2) Failure in these points made enemy shadowing easy (?also). Squadron Leader Selby who is missing had previously agreed to this signal.
(ATHABASKAN, 280815A to C. in C. Plymouth (R) GRENVILLE)

1003

28.8.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay A/S Operations - Contd.

BERMUDA.

Sailed BERMUDA 0715/28 latest messages held A.M. Q.B.A. 108, A.M. Q.B.118. (C. in C. Plymouth, 280946A to Admty. (R) ATHABASKAN, E.G.1, C. in C. H.F., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.O.(S), C. in C. W.A., E.G.5, SHEFFIELD)

Steer 270° until West of 015° W. thence pass through positions (AC) 048° 30' N. 015° 01' W. and (AD) 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles to Plymouth.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 280956A to ATHABASKAN (R) GRENVILLE, BERMUDA, LLOCK (?), N.O.I.C. Falmouth, Admty., C. in C. W.A., F.O.(S), H.Q.C.C.)

My 261841 not to GRENVILLE amend route.

From position (S) 048° 46' N. 010° 04' W. proceed through (T) 048° 11' N. 012° 08' W. and (GB) 042° 15' N. 012° 38' W. and thence make contact with GRENVILLE and E.G.1 as ordered by GRENVILLE.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 281033A to PELICAN (R) GRENVILLE, ATHABASKAN, E.G.1, BERMUDA, C. in C. W.A., Admty., F.O.(S), H.Q.C.C.)

Escort Groups Programme.

My 051959. (1) A number of ships of my command having been allocated abroad certain changes are necessary in the programme for the Bay Offensive. First Escort Group is required to return to Londonderry by September 5th and will subsequently be employed on other service. 40th Escort Group

will be disbanded on return to Base. (2) Following is tentative revised programme for September subject to concurrence of C. in C. Plymouth.

Group.	Sail U.K.	Arrived Bay.	Leave Bay.	Arrived U.K.
1	Nil	Nil	3/9	5/9
2	3/9	5/9	13/9	14/9
	17/9	18/9	26/9	28/9
5	31/8	1/9	9/9	11/9
	22/9	24/9	Nil	Nil
8	17/9	19/9	26/9	27/9
9	10/9	12/9	19/9	20/9
	25/9	26/9	Nil	Nil
37	22/9	24/9	Nil	Nil

(3) (A) Groups to return to W.A. Bases for Boiler Cleaning as follows - First Group September 5th. 5th Group 11th, Second Group 28th. (B) Otherwise Groups to return to Plymouth for short rest on dates shewn. (4) 3 Destroyers of B.5 Group will also be available in the first half of September on passage from Gibraltar to Liverpool.

(C. in C. W.A. 281118A to Admty.)

My 281216. (A) Submerged line 20. (B) 046° N. 006° W. to UX 046° N. 009° W. 1800/30th August to 2359/2nd Sept. UX to UB 2200/31st to 2000/4th. GREEN 3 2000/2nd to 0700/5th Sept. GREEN 4 1600/3rd to 1100/6th. All times Zone A.

(F.O.S. 281218A to H.Q.C.C.)

My 271756A para. 4 no aircraft co-operation owing to weather.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 281229A to ATHABASKAN, GRENVILLE (R) E.G.1, Admty., BERMUDA, F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. W.A.)

Relief /...

1004

28.8.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Biscay A/S Operations - Contd.Relief
for
ATHABASKAN.

ATHABASKAN is returning to Plymouth from Cape Ortegale area with the following damage sustained yesterday after air attack with weapon referred to in "A" Message 501A. T.O.O. 271955: No.1 Boiler Room "B" Magazine and provision Room flooded.

Two fuel tanks open to sea, restricting speed to 15 knots.
(2) Casualties reported two killed, fifteen wounded.
(3) Request you will sail a destroyer to Plymouth as soon as practicable as relief for ATHABASKAN.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 281308A to C. in C. H.F.)

Movements.

Disposition at 2000. (1) BERMUDA 049° 10', 010° 00' S. Westbound, 18 knots.
(2) PELICAN 048° 30', 011° 25' S. Westbound to 048° 23' 011° 28' thence Southbound 14 knots.
(3) RUBIS 046° 03' 002° 50' S. Eastbound, daily advance 86 miles. (4) P.211 046° 09' 012° 15' North-Eastbound, daily advance 110 miles. (5) POLLOCK small group Coastal Craft 044° 015' South-Eastbound 6½ knots. (6) GRENVILLE, Escort Group 1, ROTHER, JED patrolling between 041° 20', 012° 05' and 042° 15' 012° 38'. (7) ATHABASKAN 045° 10' 015° Northbound 15 knots. (8) CRANE 050° 10' 006° 30' South-Westbound 14 knots.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 281556A to Admty.)
Arrived NENE, TWEED, SNOWBERRY and EDMUNDSTON.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 281705A)

CRANE.

C. in C. Plymouth's 281554A Amend Para. 2 to read: "CRANE 270 Trevoze Head 8 South/Westbound 14 knots.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 281811A)

SHEFFIELD.

SHEFFIELD is to pass Gate at 1700A tomorrow and proceed through position.
SA 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles.
SB 048° 46' N. 010° 15' W. SC 048° 00' N. 010° 15' W. SD 047° 12' N. 010° 16' W. and thence 245° to patrol area between 044° N. and 046° N. and between 014° W. and 015° W. to support GRENVILLE and 1st Escort Group against surface attack. My 271756 refers. (2) SHEFFIELD is to pass through S.C. at 0900A/30th speed approximately 20 knots. Beaufighters and Mosquitos of 19 Group will R/V at this point and escort until 1300A. During this period SHEFFIELD is operating and controlling fighters. (3) If weather is signalled as unsuitable for flying SHEFFIELD is to continue from SB through SE 048° 12' N. 012° 19' W. and thence patrol area.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 281842A to SHEFFIELD)

Night /...

1005

28.8.1943.

Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operation.Biscay A/S Operations - Contd.

Night
A/C Patrol
Areas. (1) Admiralty and F.O.C.S. have agreed that the following night patrol area for searchlight Wellingtons is to be flown commencing night of 30th August until further notice. This area to be "Percussion G" and will be flown by searchlight Wellingtons only. "Percussion C" henceforth be flown by Catalinas only South of 44° N. Day Wellingtons using flares freely known as Scarecrows will be flown in "Percussion D". (2) F.O.C.S. has agreed to withdraw our submarines as necessary subject to concurrence *DCHC in C. Plymouth who is requested to inform him accordingly. (3) Limits of the area are 44° 07' N. 04° 22' W. to 45° 37' N. 05° 24' W. to 45° 02' N. 07° 06' W. to North Spanish Coast in longitude 06° 10' W. Total SBR will be adjusted allowing the customary 40 miles border. (H.Q.C.C. 282125A to 19 Group) * As received.

U/B
Sunk. Position 0700/29 042° 03', 012° 10' W.
U-Boat detected by R.D.F. then asdics at 0350. Attacked at 0400 and 0800, finally sunk in above position at 2000. Large quantity diesel-oil, 2 bales sheet rubber recovered. PELICAN is to R/V in position 340 G.B.40 at 2000A/29. (GRENVILLE, 282130A to Admty. C. in C. Plymouth, PELICAN, (R) BERMUDA.)
My P.C. and S. 044° 46' N. 015° 05' W. 00° 13.
(ATHABASKAN, 282201 to C. in C. Plymouth)

Operations - General

Coastal
Force
Patrols. S.G.B's are to proceed on patrol as ordered in my 271528A leaving patrol line at 0530. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 280112A)
Your 271534A "Scent" returned. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 280634A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Portsmouth
Orders
for night
28/29th. (A) S.G.B's GREY GOOSE, GREY OWL, GREY FOX, GREY SEAL at short notice at Newhaven:
(B) TALYBONT immediate notice at Yarmouth:
(C) M.L's 343, 344 patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between F and E.A.5 Buoys: (D) CHASSEUR V immediate notice at St. Helens: (E) M.G.B's 13, 7, 8 from Portland patrol on 50° 20' N. between 02° 00' W. and 02° 25' W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 281423)

All patrols cancelled. At 2100 F.N.11 South of 54 D. F.S.5 East Dudgeon Buoy. No squeakers required tonight. (C. in C. Nore, 281925A)

My 281423A* and 281442A* neither to all addresses. Patrols remaining in Harbour.*Re orders for night 28/29 Aug: not recd. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 282054A)

Operation /...

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War Diary.

28.8.1943.

Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Operation Starkey. Your 271245A. S.G.B. GREY SEAL arrived at 1743/27.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 280135A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
Ref. my 261616A and 271615A (N.T. in W.D.)
M.L.190 and 16 L.C.V's sailed 0821 August.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 280836A to C. in C. Portsmouth,
V.A. Dover, (R) ROBERTSON, C. in C. Nore, Admty.
Com. C.O.B. Force J (VECTIS), WESTCLIFF,
QUEBEC, NEWT, AGGRESSIVE.)

C. in C. Portsmouth's 251825A/August and Force J's 241143A/
August not to all addressees. Intend to sail S.G.B.s GREY
GOOSE (S.O), GREY FOX, GREY SEAL, GREY OWL and M.G.Bs 611(S.O)
614 and if available M.G.B. 616 at 1400/29 to Dover.
Inshore route speed 20 knots. Watch to be kept on 1700 K/cs.
C. in C. P. is requested to arrange air cover. Codeword
"Kettle 2".

(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 281230A)

Admiralty's No. CR 9015/43 dated 17 August.

Para. 7 (A) (1) EASTERN WYOMING. (2) 50° 45' N. 01° 10' E.
(3) 0600 to 2100 August 30 to September 3 inclusive.

Para. 7 (B) Grade A.

(Cdre. Force "J" 281307A to C.C.O)

My 261441. Following ships will be in company.
READY HOUND, HYDRA, LOYALTY, COCKATRICE, ILFRACOMBE, PARRSBORO
and QUALICUM. With reference to Admty's 241944 not to all
addressees it is requested that RATTLESNAKE may be retained
at Harwich during absence of 18th M.S.F.)

(M.S.18, 281430A to C. in C. Nore.)

Serial No.28 Force J.S. 0850/5/1 of 28th July.

(1) Intend to sail 12 L.C.P. (L)s of 704 Flotilla escorted by
M.Ls. 247, 297 at 1100/29 to Dover for onward passage to
Richborough. Inshore route speed 8½ knots, E.T.A. 1800/29.

(2) S.O. M.L.247 escort will watch on 1700 K/cs. (3) Request
air cover codeword "Prize". (4) M.L.s 247 and 297 will proceed
to Ramsgate on completing escort duties to Richborough.

(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 281545A)

Operation
"Lorry".

Sailed C.S.10 in BELFAST with NORFOLK and
IMPULSIVE. C. in C. H.F's 242009 refers.
(A.C.I.C. 280419A to C. in C. H.F., MUSKETEER)
It is estimated that two or three U-Boats,
outward bound for Atlantic possibly via Denmark

Strait may be near you today.

(D.D.I.C. 280907A to MUSKETEER, MAHRATTA (R) C. in C. H.F.

V.A.2, A.C.O.S., A.C.I.C., C. in C. Rosyth, C.S.10)

Estimated position 2100 today BELFAST, NORFOLK, IMPULSIVE
068°05', 019° 30' to N.E.

(A.C.I.C. 281140A to Ships)

S/M
Patrols.

ULTIMATUM and LE CURIE are to leave patrol
after dark on 30th August and 31st August
respectively and proceed dived by day through
(UA) P46° 01' 007° 01' to (UB) 046° 01' 012°
54' thence route Green to cross 043° 01' at

0300A/5th and 0300A/6th September respectively.

(2) Daily advance 90 miles.

(F.O.S. 281216A to S/M's)

Positions /...

War Diary.

28.8.1943.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

S/M Patrols. (Contd.) Positions of submarines at 0800A/29th and movements for following 24 hours. All times Zone A. (A) UNTIRING, ULTIMATUM, CURIE as in my 25170. (B) TANTALUS 65° 17' N. 03° 30' E. through 69° 01' N. 08° 52' E. towards 74° 02' N. 15° 02' E. probably on surface. (C) RUBIS 45° 15' N. 02° 40' W. dived by day, course 160° daily advance 83 miles. (D) SAFARI 46° 26' N. 10° 57' W. through 46° 40' N. 10° 01' W. thence course 090° diving by day, daily advance 110 miles. (F.O.S.281646A to Admty.)

Local Patrol. A/P patrols anchored at Cork owing to weather. (F.O.I.C.Harwich, 282213A)

Allied Air Activity.

Northern Passage. A. 837 28th August. Owing to lack of success in moorings area A/S patrol covering Fox Northern Area and extended to Greenland Coast is to be flown daily on 30th August and until further orders. (H.Q.C.C. 281602A to Iceland.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Jan Mayen. Following from Jan Mayen. Aircraft observed 0955 South of Island westerly course. (A.C.I.C. 281510A)

Mining.

S.N. 222B. My 251235. SALADIN will not now be ready for either operation. Intend (A) AMAZON, GLENARM escort D.S.44. (B) SCIMITAR arrive port Z.A. by 1500A Sept. 2nd for S.N. 222B. (C. in C. W.A. 280005)

Minelaying by Bomber Command. Night 26/27th August. 5 Stirlings, 3 Lancasters, 19 Wellingtons, laid mines successfully in their allotted areas. 37 Wellingtons, 3 Stirlings laid mines in enemy waters. (H.Q.B.C. 281340A)

4th M/S.F. My 221643*. Report on operations 25-28 Aug. (M.S.4. 282029A and 291033A). * Intended movements of 4th M.S.F. and attached trawlers.

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War Diary.

28.8.1943.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Main Units. Result of Soviet visual R/C Alten Fiord area 1445C/27th just received was: 2 battleships or battle cruisers, one pocket battleship, 4 destroyers. Photographs were taken but result of interpretation not yet available. Copies if successful will be supplied. (?Naval) staff have been asked to communicate results of R/C more promptly than of late. Admiralty pass C. in C. H.F. H.Q.C.C. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 281045A)
Soviet visual R/C Alten Fiord area 1245C today was as in my 281045 except that 5 destroyers were sighted. No photographs were taken. (Admiralty) pass to C. in C. H.F. H.Q.C.C. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 281315A)

KERTOSONO. Report graded B.2 states that German ship KERTOSONO at Nantes undocked on August 27th. Upper works and superstructure are painted light A.M. 182321 August refers. (D.D.I.C. 282301A to Air Ministry.)

OTUS. You may encounter homeward bound U-Boats today 28th August. (D.D.I.C. 280930A to OTUS)

Technical.

Submarine Flares. Your 131456/June para. 1. Concur. Re trials. (Admty. 281955A to C. in C. H.F.)

Casualties and Defects.

KENT. A.M.201213. During the period of KENT's docking no engineering or electrical work can be undertaken and any work in connection with under-water should be carried out by ship's staff. (D.O.D.(H), 281201A to C. in C. H.F.)

Shipping and Convoys.

K.M.F.24. K.M.F.24 sailing Sept. 13th. Escorts will be provided by group one. (C. in C. W.A. 281121A to Care. D. W.A.)

BEN-MY-CHREE. Intend sailing loaded transport BEN-MY-CHREE (D.F.11) from Cromarty 1629A/1st Sept. 21 knots K/B. Standard route end of Q.Z.S.15 to position 060° 54' N. 005° 45' W. E.T.A. Sorvaag 0929A/2nd. (N.O.I.C.Invergordon, 281140A to C. in C. Rosyth)

Troop /...

War Diary.

28.8.1943.

Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

BEN-MY-CHREE. Troop transport BEN-MY-CHREE is due to sail p.m. 1st Sept. from Invergordon to Faeroes. RIPLEY is boiler cleaning and CHARLESTOWN earmarked for this duty has today developed defect. My 281847A refers. Request if possible (?a) destroyer from Rosyth command be made available for this duty. (A.C.O.S. 281918A to Admty., C. in C. Rosyth.)

T.A.62. Intend sailing QUEEN ELIZABETH passing Clyde boom 2359A/29th August thence in accordance with A.M. 271331. S.O.A. from position Q will be $26\frac{1}{2}$ knots. "Chop" date 1st September. E.T.A. 0200Z/3rd. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 281258A)

T.A.60. Intend sailing SS. PASTEUR 1030Z/29th. S.O.A. to position A.22 knots, thence $19\frac{1}{2}$ knots. E.T.A. position A 1900Z/29th. "Chop" 1500Z/2nd. E.T.A. Cape Henry 1500Z/5. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 281520Z)

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28.8.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

M.K.F.22. M.K.F.22 arrived. (11 ships).
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 280748B to Admty. etc.)
M.K.F.22. Intend sailing (list), destinations.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 281548 to Admty.)
M.K.F.22 sailing destinations BERGENSFJORD, CHRISTIAN HUYGENS
and LEOPOLDVILLE to Clyde.
KINA II, NIGERSTROOM and ORBITA to Mersey.
(D.T.D. 281801A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C.Med.)

Dispositions. Situation 2001B/28.

Small craft convoy POLLOCK 042° 06' 013° 30'
through 042° 05' 013° 30' thence 155° 7. (see
281547B, 281735B.)

2. S/M OTUS 040° 59' 014° 14' 201° diving by day 10/2½.
3. Hospital ship LLANDOVERY CASTLE 038° 29' 010° 43' through 040° 01' 011° 30' thence 000° 10.
4. O.G.92, K.M.S.24, HURRICANE 035° 39' 011° 08' through 035° 25' 010° 00' to Gibraltar 7. Lisbon Section parts company at 035° 31' 009° 07' thence 353°.
5. ACTIVE, ANTELOPE, 1 merchant ship, 035° 40' 010° 48' 088° 8½.
6. JOHAN MAURITZ approx. 027° 31' 014° 08' direct to Casablanca 14.
7. S.R.5, BLACKWOOD 025° 09' 016° 28' through 028° 02' 013° 33' thence 035° 12½. (see 281321B.)
8. C.F. 13, FOXHOUND, 2 fleet units (?026°) 30' 015° 56' through 027° 48' 015° 01' and 030° 01' 014° 02' thence 048° 13½.
9. C.T.8, C.T.G. 21(?5) 025° 05' 020° 04' through 030° 05' 019° 15' thence 060° 13½.
10. S.L. 135, FOWEY (?from) 037° 44' 018° 31' through 038° 45' 019° 35' thence 000° 7½.
11. Portuguese sloop PEDRO NUNES sailed Cape Verde Island 24th for Funchal 11.
12. One Spanish training ship sailed Marin 18th for Tenerife.
13. Portuguese Naval training ship (?SA)GRES sailed Lisbon p.m. 23rd for Funchal.
14. GRENVILLE, ROTHER, JED on patrol between 042° 15' 012° 38' and 041° 20' 012° 05'.
(F.O.Gibraltar 281127B.)
Para. 1 of my 281127B. Amend position and course to read 042° 28' 014° 25' 240° altering course at dark for 040° 05' 013° 30' thence 143°.
(F.O.Gibraltar 281547B.) (Cancelled, see 281735B.)
Add new para. (?16) to my 281127B French convoy LA GRANDIERE, DUMONT DURVILLE 030° 27' 010° 33' to 029° 34' 010° 52' 028° 10' 013° 24' thence 215° 11½.
Cancel my 281547B. Amend P.C. and S. para. 1 of my 281127B to read 044° 21' 014° to 044° 18' 014° 57' thence 166° 6.
(F.O.Gibraltar 281735B.)
Amend position and speed in para. 7 of my 281127B to read E. 024° 21' 017° 15' and 10.8.
(F.O.Gibraltar 281321B.)

BESSEL
(German).

Your 272009. Front bridge of BESSEL has been re-painted dark grey, otherwise no change appearance. When tanker sailed there was report that this vessel also then intended to sail and this is still possible.
(R.O.Vigo 281132 to B.N.A.Madrid, (R) Admty. for D.N.I. S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)

/R.A.(A)...

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28.8.1943.

Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

- R.A.(A) My 181617. Flag of R.A.(A) H.F. is being transferred to ISKRA today Saturday August 28th and Flag, to ILLUSTRIOUS at 0900 on Tuesday August 31st to ILLUSTRIOUS. which ship I am proceeding by air.
2. Office ashore at Gibraltar will be closed today Saturday August 28th.
3. Request signals be routed to ILLUSTRIOUS after 2100 on Sunday 29th.
(R.A.(A) H.F. 281201B to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med. etc.)
- Shipping Arrivals 27th JOSE CALVO, SOTELO, VILLAREAL, Bilbao. ALAVA, JACQUELINE. Arrivals 28th CASTILLO VANDRADE plus ULTRA. Departure 27th MONTE CASTELO, MARUJA, AURORA. Departure 28th JACQUELINE.
(Consul Bilbao 281314 to Admty.)
- U.523. We congratulate WANDERER on destruction of U.523 on 25th August.
(D.A.U.D. Approved V.C.N.S. 281440A to WANDERER, (R) S.O.Escort Group B.1, C. in C.W.A. Care. D.W.A.)
- M.K.S.21. M.K.S.21 arrived 26th August.
(D.F.D. 28153A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) N.C.S.O. Gibraltar.)
- CONGO. Estimated P.C. and S. 282000Z Portuguese CONGO under safe conduct 34.30 N. 30.12 W. 086° 7.5.
(Com. 10th Fleet 281555Z to B.A.M.S. 1B, Admty.)
- VASNA. Arrived hospital ship VASNA.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 281718B to N.O.I.C. Alexandria, (R) Admty. etc.)
- G.C.32. SCHIAFFINO, LARIAT, arrived Casablanca from G.C.32.
(Commorseafron 281807B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C.Med. (W), Comnavnaw, Admty.)
- Convoy "Oatmeal." Approx. E.T.A. "Oatmeal" at Cascaes base 2230A/29.
(CYGNET 281934A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) B.N.A.Lisbon.)
- Movements Arrivals EURYALUS from Algiers. DELHI, Gibraltar. CHANTICLEER, WRESTLER, BARLE, ETRICK, USK with M.K.F.22. U.S.S. LIVERMORE, EBERLE, KEARNY, ERICSSON, DORAN, TARBELL, UPSHUR from Casablanca. LORD NUFFIELD escort duties Melilla.
IMPERIALIST from escorting cable ship MARIE LOUISE MACKAY. Departures EGILSAY to join cableship MARIE LOUISE MACKAY east. CHANTICLEER, WRESTLER, USK, BARLE, ETRICK with G.C. 33. IMPERIALIST, GRILSE with T.E. 29 for Cran.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 282043B to Admty.)

War Diary.

28.8.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

C.G. 60
EMPIRE MORN.

In view of statement of C.O. Tug LARIAT his ship will tow EMPIRE MORN without assistance of SCHELDE. Intend subject to your concurrence sailing convoy from Casablanca 1000A/30th. S.O.A. 4 knots. Estimated time of departure Gibraltar 1800A/1. Your 261805B para. 4 my 281609B (N.T. in W.R.) refers.
(C.M.S.F. 282135B to F.C.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med. Admty. WESTON, Cdr. N.O.B. Casablanca.)
See also 291514.

C.G. 59.

TOTLAND, P.C.S. 481 KING GEORGE 2nd departed with C.G. 59. No warship arrivals today.
(Commorseafron 282220B to C. in C. Med.)

G.C. 33.

G.C. 33 sailed (list). Cdre. Dawson R.N.R. in DUCHESS OF RICHMOND.
(F.C.I.C. Gibraltar 282303 to C.M.S.F.F. (R) C. in C. Med. Admty.)

1013

28.8.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

ALBATROSS Correct position to read 003° 35' 006° E.
My 271320B refers.
(C. in C. S.A., 280943B to Admty. etc).

Dispositions. Situation at 2000Z/28th August.
TAY, KALE on passage to patrol area south of
Port Elizabeth.
NIGELLA, TULIP, WELLARD, TURFFONTEIN with D.C.41
(10 ships) 033° 35' 027° 20' coastal to Capetown 8 knots.
HAWKINS and QUIBERON, RAPID with W.S.32 (4 ships) 028° 42' 032°
22' to 028° 30' 032° 30' 12½.
GENISTA, FREESIA, VIVIANA, ARCTIC EXPLORER, NORTHERN CHIEF,
INDIAN STAR with L.M.D.30 (3 ships) 027° 35' 032° 55' coastal
to Durban 7.
THYME, JASMINE, LADY ELSA, HERTFORDSHIRE with D.N.58 (10 ships)
026° 20' 037° 15' to 026° 038° 7.
(C. in C. S.A., 281117B).

Situation at 2000Z/28th. ALBATROSS 027° 02' 014° 00' to
020° 01' 010° 05' 15½ knots.
DESPATCH 026° 58' 013° 55' to 020° 00' 010° 05' 17½ knots.
(C. in C. S.A., 281123B).

Situation at 1959Z/28th.
ROEBUCK, QUALITY, TEVIOT, CILICIA (?MEDICINE HAT) PLYM, HELFORD
one fleet unit 003° 51' S. 004° 21' 137° 13 knots. SHROPSHIRE
002° 05' 010° 32' 144° 18 knots.
French Cruiser DUGUAY-TROUIN French cruiser SUFFREN 001° 40' S.
004° 39' E. 317° 17½ knots.
SKUD 6, POLAR V, COPINSAY 007° 15' 012° 44' through 006° 52'
011° 49' thence 124° 5½ M.L. 1147 off Cowlbu M.L. 1014 and 1041
off Kotonu. DUNKERY screening off Monrovia.
M.L.1018 off Accra. PICT 007° 43' 014° 01' to Freetown 9 knots.
M.L.1052 005° 48' 001° 50' E. to Lagos 8 knots. M.L. 266 and 277
004° 40' 001° 30' to Takoradi 10 knots.
WELLINGTON, ABERDEEN, LOWESTOFT, FOLKESTONE, GORLESTON with
T.S.51 004° 40' 005° 00' 256° 7 knots.
(F.O.C.W.A., 281158Z).

W.S.32 Sailing telegram (5 ships) (2) 1000Z/28th August.
(4) 12 knots Aden section 16 knots from position
(P) (5) Route. STRATHMORE will be detached in
position P to proceed to Aden (Route).
(6) HAWKINS, NORMAN, QUIBERON, RAPID.
(13) Cdre. W.E.B. Magee R.N.R. in MALOJA. (b) Master BRITANNIC.
(15) H.T.D.1 to 9 "Bacon".
(N.C.S.O. Durban, 281143, 290654Z to Admty. etc).
Sailed HAWKINS, NORMAN, QUIBERON, RAPID escorting W.S.32.
2. When relieved by EMERALD escorts proceed to Kilindini,
C. in C. E.F. 181432 refers.
3. Escorts shift to W/T group V at 1415Z 1st Sept. W.A.E.C. not
held.
4. N.C.S.O. Durban 281143, refers.
(Com. i/c Durban, 281151Z to Admty. etc).

/SHROPSHIRE...

1014

28.8.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

SHROPSHIRE Departure 1634Z/27 August 1943.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 281317Z to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty).

Movements Departures 1817Z/27th August SKUDD 6, POLAR V,
Freetown COPINSAY.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 281421Z to R.N.O. Lagos).

Ships in Your 271610 (Querying reference to O.S.33 in
D.S. Convoys 251803). My 251803Z August. For O.S.35 read O.S.
for Dakar. 55.
(F.O.C.W.A., 281601Z to Commorseafron (R) F.O.I.C.
Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. Comar, Dakar, C. in C.
W.A., Admty).

U/B Report, Panagra pilot reports that he saw 3 submarines in
(doubtful). 021° 30' S. 070° 20' W. at 1140 Zone on 27th.
B.N.A. Santiago de Chile states no Chilean sub-
marine North Coquimbo and suggests that 3 ships
seen were whaler killing ships from factory ship
THORSHAMMER now off the coast. Americans have warned entire
coast. I concur with Naval Attache.
(S.O.(I) Callao, 281620R to Admty (for D. of N.I.) (R) B.A.D.)

Troop Your 261154. Para 3a. Two destroyers from
Transports, Freetown can join convoy from Casablanca on 28th
Escort. Sept. It is assumed MALCOLM will sail with K.M.F.
24 and will form a third escort to Freetown.
Four destroyers will be available for return
escort to Gibraltar.

Para. 3b. 29th October.
Para. 4. Cape ships should arrive Freetown not later than 18th
October.
(F.O.C.W.A., 281755Z to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in C. Med.
S.T.O.W.A., G.O.C. in C. W.A.)

Shipping for To save double "Chop", ships bound for South
South American east coast from West African command
America. as far east as Takoradi will remain in control
of F.O.C.W.A., until "Chop" to Com. 10th Fleet
C. and R.

2. No change for ships from ports east of Takoradi.
3. Interstation route signals and departure Vescas will be
reported to all authorities as formerly.
(D.T.D., 281907A to Connav, F.O.I.C. Gib. S.O.(I) Recife,
F.O.C.W.A., C. in C. S.A., (R) B.A.D., N.S.H.Q.)

RANGITIKI For lack of other opportunity intend to sail
RANGITIKI for U.K. in S.L. 136.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 282310Z to Admty).

1015

28.8.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Repatriations. C. in C. Med's. 041943/June not to C. in C. Levant. It now seems probable that the movement of German sick and wounded from French North African ports to occupied France will take place towards the end of September or beginning of October. Request your views as to ports and timing.
2. As a further part of the same exchange it is expected that a British ship will take Axis repatriates from Alexandria to Smyrna to meet an Axis ship bringing British repatriates from Axis occupied port possibly Salonika. Request your report whether you have any objection and state your views as to timing, ports and route to be taken.
(Head of M. (I) 280024A to C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant.)
Reply:- P.S.T.O.M.E. 311310, C. in C. Levant 012355C.)

Movements, Port Said. Following is a repetition my 252121C (begins)- Admty. C. in C. Levant. (R) F.O.R.S.C.A., R.A. Alexandria from N.O.I.C. Port Said.
25th August Port Said arrivals:- PROTEA, CAPETOWN, R.A.F. Marine Tender 1602, 1603.
Departures:- WOLBOROUGH, ASPIS, CAPETOWN. (Ends).
(Port Said C.C.O. 280030C to Admty.)

SAXIFRAGE. A.M.241626. Fitting of 4 additional Oerlikons in SAXIFRAGE is to be progressed as far as possible at Gibraltar during present time in harbour.
(C. in C. Med. 280055B to C.S. Gib., (R) F.O.I.C. Gib., SAXIFRAGE, Admty. etc.)

10th S/M.F. summary at 2000/29th. (1) P.31 (UPROAR) 035° 40' 011° 23' leaves at 2300/28th for Malta escorted by B.Y.M.S.28, to arrive 1600/29th. (2) P.44 (UNITED) 037° 02' 017° 20' through 035° 45' 016° 38' to 035° 46' 016° 18' at 2000/29th. (3) P.45 (UNRIVALLED) 035° 46' 016° 18' to arrive Malta 0800/29th. (4) P.53 (ULTOR) from Alice Point to 039° 12' 017° 50' at 2000/29th. (5) P.46 (UNRUFFLED) off Brindisi. (6) P.54 (UNSHAKEN) leaving Malta 0430/29th to 035° 53' 015° 44' at 2000/29th. (7) P.55 (UNSPARING) 040° 21' (?031°) 52' to patrol off Bari. (8) P.51 (UNSEEN) off Bari.
(Capt. S.10. 280720.)

Movements, Alexandria. August 27 1943. Arrivals HYACINTH, AETOS, BAGSHOT, ABERDARE.
(R.A.L. 280745 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

Movements, Beirut. 27 August. Arrivals. BREAM M.Ls. 358, 351, 357. Departure Z.11, Z.39, Z.40, M.L.349. FOINAVEN.
(S.O. (I) Beirut 280832C to Admty.)

TAURUS. 27th August, arrival.
(S.O. (I) Beirut 280827C to Admty.)

1016

28.8.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

FALMOUTH.

Arrival 0341Z.
(Com. Aden 280901Z to C. in C. Levant, etc.)CELENO,
BACCHUS.A. My 271041C. CELENO sailed for Piraeus
07400 G.M.T. 28th August. B. Expected time entry
Aegean between 2100 and mid-night G.M.T. but fog
this morning in Sea or Marmora and vessel may
be slightly delayed. C. Tanker, probably
BACCHUS, expected from Aegean. B.2.
(S.O. (I) Istanbul 2809715C to C. in C. Levant, S.O.I. Levant,
S.1. S.10 D.N.I. Admty.)

O.T.8.

Your 272047 (see South Atlantic). Approved to
exchange destinations of ESSO, PHILADELPHIA, and
BUFFALO, WALLOW.
(C. in C. Med. 280920B to T.G.21.5. Ships escorting
O.T.8. (R) F.O.I.C. Gib. Admty. etc.)

Black Sea.

1. Enemy Shipping. S/M attacks. S.O.(I) Istanbul
reports following:- (A) Bulgarian M/V VARNA sunk
by Russian S/M. (B) 2 Turkish auxiliary sailing
vessels sunk (? off) Bosphorus by gun fire
from unidentified S/Ms. No official remarks on above received
from Black Sea Naval Staff. Air attack. A/C sank 3 barges
and a tug, and damaged 2 R Boats, 2 barges and a tug in a raid
on Yalta. 2. Russian minesweeper torpedoed and sunk by enemy
S/M off Caucasus coast. 3. Air operations. Russian A/C have
carried out daily attacks on enemy positions in Novorossisk area.
4. Land. Very little to report as activity almost entirely
confined to exchange of artillery fire in Novorossisk area.
(N.L.O. Black Sea 280940C to Admty. etc.)8th S/M.F.
movement
summary
at
2001B/28th.2. P.219 (SERAPH) 039° (?44') 006° 29' through
041° 16' 007° 01' at 0530/29th thence 015° 7½/10.
3. P.224 (SICKLE) E. of Corsica. 4. P.217 (SIBYL)
Gulf of Genoa. 5. P.221 (SHAKESPEARE) (?east of)
013° N. of (?040°) 00'.
(Capt. S.8. 281026B.)Malta
Dockyard
Strike.HE/5071. Signed Governor. My HE/5050.
Dockyard civil and services employees are
returning to work but indicate this is a temporary
resumption pending their consideration of terms
to be offered. I am submitting my suggestions
urgently and trust they will be promptly dealt
with.
(Governor Malta 281130B to War Office, Colonial
Office (R) Chiefs of Staff.)

U.G.S.14.

My 261153B. THISTLEMUIR, ROBERT MAERSK and
FORT LAWRENCE only sailed plus 9 FORT RAE local
pendant No.14, 10 SONTAY 15, 10 EMSIS 25, 10
AMERICAN TRADER 24. All for Alex. 7 ships. Pass
to Cdre. and escorts.
(V.A. Malta 281145B to ALYNBANK (R) Admty. F.O.I.C.
Gib. etc.)

/Algiers...

1017

28.8.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- U.G.S.14. (Contd.) Algiers section arrived as C. in C.Mediterranean's 211105 plus FORT LE TRAIT, FORT PITT, BARON HAIG. (Total 12 ships). (Com. Algeria 281244B to Admty. etc.) Arrived MOUNT EVEREST, GLARONA, ALEXANDRE ANDRE, LAURENCE D. TYSON, four ships. (V.A. Malta 282217 to Admty.)
- K.M.F.22Y. F.M.F. 22Y (?K.M.F.22Y intended) sailed in accordance with C. in C. Med's. 261101. (N.T. in W.R.) 4 ships. H.M.S.LETITIA, Fr.Auxiliary Cruiser VILLE D'ORAN, RAJULA, TAKLIWA. (N.O.I.C. Algiers 281227 to N.O.I.C.Philippeville (R) Admty. etc.)
- TEMPLAR. U-Boat operating in Levant area. You are to proceed diving by day on 29th to arrive Beirut 0600C/30th. (Capt. S.I. 281221C to P.316 (TEMPLAR)(R) C. in C. Levant.)
- Transports for India. My 272035A. In view of your 271241, RUYSS should also be turned round in Middle East and her personnel on-carried in DUNERA, DILWARA and EMPIRE PRIDE together with 1,300 Indian troops referred to in your 251308C para. 4. 2. Situation regarding L.S.A. acceptable as ships will be in convoy. (D.S.T. 281354A to P.S.T.O. Middle East (R) C. in C. Levant, C. in C. E.F., F.O.R.S.C.A., P.S.T.O. India.)(Reply 291021C.)
- G.U.S.13. Sailed as in my 261645 less W. RUTLEDGE and GREAT HOPE. Plus H.M. Trawlers LAUREL, BURKE and return for Gibraltar. Vice Cdre. Lieut.Cdr. Parr, U.S.N. in MARSHALL ELLIOT. (Com. N.O.B. Oran 281530 to C. in C. Med.)
- AMARAPOORA. Intend sailing Hospital Ship AMARAPOORA at 1500B/29 routed through 109, 122, and 120 to Algiers, E.T.A. 0900B/30th. S. of A. 12 knots. (Comnob. Oran 281545B to C. in C. Med.)
- N.A.A.F. Report. N.W.A.A.F. Opsum 188. N.W.A. Strategic A.F. 26/27 August. 52 Wellingtons marshalling yards Bagnoli. 1 returned early. 90 $\frac{3}{4}$ tons from 8000/11000 feet. Bursts across yards, exhibition buildings, and iron and steel works hit. 2 Wellingtons missing. 27 August. 79 U.S. Fortresses (B.17) Escort 45 U.S.Lightnings (P.38) Marshalling Yards and explosion store, Sulmona. 10 Bombers, 3 fighters returned early. 153 tons Marshalling Yards. 51 tons explosive stores. Direct hits buildings Marshalling Yards. Locomotive repair shops and rolling stock also hit. 3 violent explosions following hits buildings

/explosive...

1018

28.8.1943.

Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

N.A.A.F. Report. (Contd.) explosive stores. (52 or 58?) U.S. Mitchells (B.25) escort 52 U.S. Lightnings (P.38) Marshalling Yards Benevento. 4 Bombers, 6 fighters returned early. Hits E. and W. Choke Points. Locomotive repair yard covered. 53 U.S. ? Marauders (B.26) escort 45 U.S. Lightnings (P.38) Marshalling Yards Caserta. 3 Bombers, 7 fighters returned early. Hits among goods waggons, warehouses and industrial buildings. 27 August. 12 U.S. Mitchells (B.25) 12 Baltimores (A.30) 24 Bostons (A.20) rail and road junction Catanzaro. Direct hits road. 18 Bostons (A.20) bombed gun zone Reggio area. 40 U.S. Mustangs (A.36) rail junction Sabari. Target well hit, barracks and train Paola strafed. 48 U.S. Mustangs (A.36) dropped 60 x 500 rail junction Cetraro. Several direct hits.
(N.A.A.F. H.Q. 281624B, 291430B.)

Movements, Port Said. 28th August, Port Said, arrivals nil, departures. M.F.Vs. 505, 516, M.Ls. 354, 356.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 281657 to Admty. etc.)

UNIVERSAL. Intend to sail P.57 (UNIVERSAL) 1900/29th for patrol in area E. 009° 00' and N. of 043° 25' routed 038° 02' 003° 42' at 0500/30th 040° 41' 005° 53' at 0530/31st, 042° 59' 007° 52' at 0330/2nd September thence through 043° 25' 009° 01' into patrol area, proceeding on surface on 29th and 30th.
(Capt. S.8, 281740B to C. in C. Med.)

SIBYL, SERAPH. SIBYL leave patrol p.m. 31st so as to pass through 042° 35' 008° 18' at 0130 first September thence through 041° 31' 007° 29' at 2100 first 038° 01' 004° 52' at 2100/2nd thence R/V escort Algiers in 036° 57' 003° 17' at 0700/3rd proceeding on the surface at discretion on 2nd and 3rd.
(2) SERAPH is not to be South of line 225° from Spezia before 0200/1st.
(Capt. S.8. 281748B to 8 S/M.F.)

Malta Air Report. Opsum No.110 27 August. (No Naval incidents.)
(A.H.Q. Malta 281815Z.)

TRESPASSER. P.312 (TRESPASSER) leaves Beirut at 1930C/29th on mean course 261° speed 11 knots warned of your movements. S/Ms. are not to be attacked during night of 29th/30th after 2200C.
(Capt. (S) 1. 281823C to P.316 (TEMPLAR) (R) C. in C. Levant.)

1019

28.8.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- Movements, Tripoli. Following is a repetition of my 252101 addressed to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant R.A. Alexandria, V.A. Malta, from S.N.O. Trip. (Begins) Arrived CONVULVULUS, VETCH, PENSTEMON, L.S.T.320. Sailed L.C.T.13, 112, 9, 108, 115. (Ends.) (S.N.O. Trip., 281827B to Admty.)
- Movements, Philippeville. Shuttle Service arrived, GALLIUM, RAVENSPPOINT, LE TRAIT, PROVENCAL, VAL DE LA HAYE, M.M.S.58, H.M.T. INCHCOLM. (S.N.O. Philippeville 281831B to Admty. etc.)
- BARNABY. Suez August 28th departure to South BARNABY at 1830. Keeping W/T watch on R.D. Broadcast. Holds Medox and Mersigs. (F.O.R.S.C.A. 281846C to Admty.)
- M.N.B.D.O. Augusta. Request confirmation that M.N.B.D.O. may be counted on indefinitely for defence of Augusta. (C. in C. (Algiers) 281900B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.)
- Med. 150517. A/260 signed Eisenhower.
Air Cositintrep No.49. 27 August. Part 3. Air.
Report. N.W.A. Air Forces. Night 26/27 August. Marshalling yards at Bognoli were attacked by 50 Wellingtons, one of which is missing. Day 27 August. 60 B.17s. escorted by 45 P.38s. bombed marshalling yards at (?Solmona). Benevento marshalling yards were attacked by 67 B.25s. with 53 P.38s. as escort. Track was cut at last junction and sticks covered entire length of the yards. At Caserto 53 B.26s. escorted by 45 P.38s. scored many hits on trains, tracks and buildings and started several fires. 48 light bombers attacked Cantonzarro whilst others attacked gun positions at Reggio. A.36s. attacked rail communications at Sibari, Paola, and Cetraro and destroyed a landing barge at Diamante. 3. Air Intelligence. Night 26/27 August. 30/40 enemy aircraft attacked Algiers area, 3 of which are claimed destroyed.
(Air C. in C. Med., No. T.O.O./28. Recd. 1900/28.)
- Movements, Algiers. Arrivals HORNPIPE, CHASSEUR 3. Departures SCYLLA, MENDIP, BLANKNEY, PUCKERIDGE, HAMBLEDON, BLENCATHRA, S/M. SPORTSMAN. (P.229) M.Ls.456 451, 478, 461, 419. (Cdre. Algeria 282015B to Admty. etc.)
- Movements, Bone. Sailed INCHCOLM Motor M/S.58. (N.O.I.C. Bone 282017B to Admty. etc.)
- Movements, Haifa. Arrivals 28th August. BREAM, Z.22, Z.33, Z.41, French Ships COMMANDANT DOMINE, REINE DES FLOTS, Greek Ships IERAX, PANTHER. Departures 28th August. Z.11, Z.39, Z.40, M.L.349 COMMANDANT DOMINE, IERAX, PANTHER. (N.O.I.C. 282020C to Admty. etc.) /Movements...

1020

War Diary.28.8.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements,
Tunisia. Arrivals KNIGHT, SPEEDFAST, L.S.T. 316, H.S.L. 179,
Departures M.L. 1292, 1224, H.S.L. 2582, 187,
L.S.T. 316, BUDE, POLRUAN, HENGIST, SOUTHERN MAID.
(F.O. Tunisia 282030 to Admty. etc.)

Movements,
Oran. C. in C. Med. pass to Comnavnaw. Departures today
L.C.I. (L) 277, French Ships COMDT. BORY,
AJACIENNE, CHASSEUR II, H.M.T. LAUREL, BURKE,
RETURNO.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran 282125B to Admty. etc.)

Shipping
Malta. Arrived SUTHERLAND, ASTRA, MARITA, JEANNE
SCHIAFFINO, CELEROL, OCTANE, 6 ships.
(V.A. Malta 282207 to Admty. etc.)

Malta
M.T.Bs. Sailed M.T.Bs. 76, 77, 79, 82, 84, 640.
(V.A. Malta 282227B to Admty. etc.)

Movements,
Malta. Arrivals. NELSON, RODNEY, FAULKNER, FURY, RAIDER,
INTREPID, PRINSES ASTRID, FOULA, CAVA, OAKLEY,
EGGESFORD, ABERCROMBIE, WHADDON, LAMERTON.
L.C.I (L) 126, 245. Departures. ILLUSTRIOUS,
ECLIPSE, LOYAL, CROMARTY, BOSTON, ALBERCORE,
LARGS L.C.I (L) 296, 11 L.C.M.S. Arrived and sailed. MIAOULES.
Sailed and arrived LAURDERDALE, BLACKMORE.
(V.A. Malta 282232B to Admty. etc.)

K.M.F. 22Y. VILLE D'ORAN, KOSCIUSZKO, LETITIA, RAJULA with
5 escorts.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville 282247B to Admty. etc.)

Benghazi
M.Ls. Arrived M.Ls. 337, 308, 340, 579.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi 282303C to Admty.)

Movements,
Tripoli. Arrived and sailed WHADDON, LAMERTON, TANGO.
Arrived BRITTANY, M.L. 126, 121, (131?) L.S.Ts.
63, 64, 198, 200.
(S.N.O. Trip. 282359B to Admty.)

1021

War Diary.

28.8.1943.

Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

- FROBISHER. Departure.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 280139Z to Admty. etc.)
- M.L. Flotilla. Arrival 55th M.L. Flotilla.
(N.O.I.C. Madras 280228Z to Admty. etc.)
- MADURA. Arrived and left.
(N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam 280319 to Admty. etc.)
- DURBAN. Left DURBAN.
(N.O.I.C. Seychelles 280436Z to Admty. etc.)
- Convoy Programme. Ref. my 070617Z, para. 12, B.P. 93 now sailing 30th August, delay caused by engine defect in CITY OF LONDON. Para. 18 as amended my 230537Z, cancel and substitute Karachi - Bombay, VARSOVA with 420 Indian other ranks and 450 British other ranks sailing 3rd Sept.
(P.S.T.O. India 280438Z to C. in C.E.F.)
- P.B. 53. P.B. 53 Karachi portion arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Karachi 280516Z to Admty.)
- Derelict Tanker. Ref. attempt to salvage derelict tanker mentioned in my 191015 and 181146, neither to Admty. Set (?SAN ERNESTO.) experienced in area appeared to be about 1.5 knots in approx. direction 070°. Intensive air search allowing for set from half knot to two knots was arranged accordingly and was continued for three days with no result. Rescue tug INTEGRITY was cruising in area during search. Attempt has now been abandoned owing to shortage of aircraft and INTEGRITY has returned to Colombo. 2. Air photographs taken by Catalina previously sighting derelict show stern blown off slightly abaft main mast. Fore part on even keel apparently in fairly good condition except bridge completely burnt out. Photographs suggest ship was probably SAN ERNESTO and definitely not ALCIDES. Three survivors have failed to identify photographs as SAN ERNESTO but probability of their evidence considered low and I am of opinion that ship was SAN ERNESTO. 3. Photographs are being forwarded to D.N.I.
(F.O.Ceylon 280710B to C. in C.E.F. (R) Admty.)
See also 301040Z.
- BANDRA. Transport BANDRA E.T.A. yours 300800 August R.I.A.S.C. stores (details).
(S.T.O. Calcutta 280846 to S.T.O. Chittagong, (R) P.S.T.O. India, D. of S.T.)

/ADAMANT...

1022

28.8.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

ADAMANT. Intend to sail ADAMANT from Kilindini 28 Sept. to arrive Ceylon about 6th Oct. (C. in C.E.F. 280946 to F.O.Ceylon, Admty. etc.) Reply Admty. 301357A.

Troop Movements. In view of later date of arrival KHEDIVE ISMAIL mentioned in your 270250A (272050 intended re sailing of KHEDIVE ISMAIL), request you will cancel my 071025Z (from East Africa Command requesting capacity of STRATHAIRD). Intend to embark troops in VARSOVA, sailing from Bombay 6th Sept. and arriving Colombo 11th Sept. to connect with KHEDIVE ISMAIL. (P.S.T.O. India 280948Z to D.S.T.)

ALTAMAHA. Arrival U.S. Ship ALTAMAHA. (N.O.I.C. Karachi 281000Z to Admty.)

CARNATIC. Departure. (S.O.(I) Bombay 281019Z to Admty. etc.) Delayed see 290207.

Cruiser A/A Armaments. Outstanding weakness in our cruisers at present is in 40 m.m. A/A Weapons. A.M. 111648 refers. 2. Agree that the number of these equipments should be increased to the maximum that weight and space allows. Even at the cost of one main armament turret if no other top weight reduction will meet the case. 3. Before with their greater effectiveness at longer ranges appear preferable to pompoms. 4. 4" batteries should not be increased at expense of close range rearmament. (C. in C.E.F. 281215Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C.H.F.)

Cruiser for Capt. D. When cruisers become available request consideration may be given to provision of an ARETHUSA Class Cruiser for Capt. D.E.F. Para. 3 of my 090439 of August 1942 (N.T. in W.R.) refers. (C. in C.E.F. 281216Z to Admty.)

A.B. 10. DUNERA, DILWARA and EMPIRE PRIDE are to join convoy A.B. 10. My 270746 August refers. (C. in C.E.F. 281219Z, 290603Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant, etc.)

Movements Colombo. Colombo departures 28 August 0230Z WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN. 1120Z HINDUSTAN. (F.O.Ceylon 281231Z to Admty. etc.)

/Aircraft...

1023

28.8.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Aircraft
Repair Yard.

Your 170824 July and 120626 August. Approved to call Aircraft Repair Yard "R.N.A.R.Y. Clappenburg Bay, Trincomalee" and to combine it for administrative purposes with R.N.Air Section, China Bay.
2. Proposed ship's name for joint establishment should be submitted in due course.
(Hd. of Air Branch Approved by 5th S.L. 281318A to R.A.N.A.S. Indian Ocean, (R) C. in C.E.F. F.O.Ceylon.)

Movement
Summary
No. 88,
August 28th.

1. FROBISHER left Bombay 27th August for Colombo.
2. CHITRAL left Aden 27th August due Kilindini 1st September.
3. ALAUNIA left Bombay 25th August escorting convoy B.A.47 composed one ship due Aden 31st Aug.
4. NORTHERLY (sic), ALSEY left Fremantle August 28th for Colombo.
5. HAWKINS escorting convoy W.S.32 with NORMAN and RAPID left Durban 28th August for R/V off Kilindini, routed through Mozambique Channel.
6. Cancel Y message 346 of August 17th and Y 350 of August 20th. (C. in C.E.F. 281400Z to E.F. 358Y, F.O.Red Sea (Suez), Admty.)

Sabang
Intelligence.

Total of over 30 Navy fighter dive bombers and torpedo bombers arrived Sabang 0700Z/28th. No ships entered harbour during daylight. Weather report.
(TRIDENT 281631Z to Capt. S.4, (R) F.O.Ceylon.)

Lin
Received 7 Oct. 1943
1023A.

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

282014A/August

OUT

DATE 28.8.43

To. D.G.S.R.
C. in C. Eastern Fleet.
F.O.C. Royal Indian Navy
F.O.C.W. Af.
C. in C. Mediterranean
B. A. D.
S.B.N.O. Western Atlantic.

Dock from Valparaiso

Naval Cypher XD Plug.

From Admiralty

DEFERRED.

Negotiations are proceeding to obtain from Valparaiso a dock of 4,500 tons lifting capacity to be sited at Vizagapatam.

2. The dock is self contained including moorings and should be capable of taking all destroyers, LSTs and smaller merchantmen. Particulars are -

Length 365 ft.
Beam 85 ft.
Clear internal width 64ft
Maximum draught over blocks 21'6"
Probable draught on passage 3'6"
Depth of water required in berth 35'

3. The route proposed is via the Panama Canal, Freetown and the Mediterranean. If necessary the dock will be held at Freetown until the situation in the Mediterranean is favourable.

4. B.A.D. is requested -
(a) To inform U.S. authorities of this project.
(b) To obtain confirmation that passage of the Panama Canal will be permitted.
(c) To obtain Cominch's views on the need for escort between Valparaiso and Colon.

282014A
for Hd of M. II (671)
Approved A.C. H. S. (F)+

P.T.O.

1st S.L. (2)
D.F.S.L.
Controller.
Vice Controller.
Civil Lord.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)
A.C.N.S. (W)
P.A.S. (S)
U.W.R.
D.O.D. (H) (4)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D. of P (2)
C.C.R.T.
D. OF S.T. (6)
D. OF N.
Hydrographer
D. 57 O.B.

D.N.C.
M.F. (T)
Hd of M. (M/D.O. 19236/43) (10)
& for India Office (Mr. Anderson) (2)

D.N.I. (4)
D.C. (2)
D.D.I.C. (2)
D. of P (Q) (3)
C.G.O. (2)
D.C.C.M. (2)
D.R.O. (C.O) (2)
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (C)
C.E. in C.
E. in C.
Ad. Blake. (4)
D. of L.D.
A.S. (C)
D.A/S.W.
D.A/U.D.
D.T. (M)

Dep. Contr.
D.N.C.
E. in C.
D. of D.
M.F.
C.E. in C.
P.Br.
Hd. S.W.R.

BATH

1024

28.8.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Convoy O.N.197. 43 ships arrived. First arrival 27/1902Z. Last arrival 27/2225Z. All ships accounted for. (P.D. New York, 280224 to Comtenthfleet (C. and R) (R) C.E.S.F., Admty. N.S.H.Q.)

KHERSON wrecked. Your 130500A. Following is a recoded version of Opnav's 122041 (Referred to in Ottawa C.C.O's 202302Z August) (begins), C.N.W.S.F. (R) N.S.H.Q. Cojmlsec, N.O.B. Dutch Harbour. From Opnav. KHERSON, call UUMK, grounded 3rd July east coast Kamchatka between Cape Poverotni and Akhomten Bay. Believed total loss, cargo being salvaged. Grounding allegedly caused by weather and difficulty with compass. 122041Z (ends). (Ottawa, C.C.O., 280229Z to Admty).

Movements, St. Johns. St. Johns N.F. August 27. Arrivals B.Y.M.S.77, 214 ex Halifax. F.T. 2 M.M.S. 244, 254 returned due engine defects. BUSTLER, FUSILIER ex H.X.253. Departures L.26, SARNIA Cape Cod to Philadelphia. NORTHERN SKY, GRIPER, to salvage, J.P. HENDERSON. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns, 280231Z to Admty).

U.G.S.16. Radio Washington re-encyphers P.D. Norfolk 271504. (Action to Com. 10th Fleet C. and R. and V.A. Gibraltar. Info to Comeastseafron N.O.B. Bermuda C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., Admty. etc). Sailing telegram Part II. U.G.S.16. (Radio Washington 280831Z).

Movement, Kingston. Arrival JAN VAN BRAKEL Netherlands Gunboat. (N.O.I.C. Kingston Jamaica, 280833Q to Admty.etc)

RENOWN Your 280025Z (N.T. in W.R.) 6 hours late, making good 24 knots. (RENOWN 280837Z to F.O.N.F.)

G.A.T.82 Convoy G.A.T.82 arrived. (B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 280938Q to Admty).

ST. FRANCIS E.T.A. Argentia 0900Z Saturday 28th August. My P.C.S. 045° 48' N., 056° 17' W. 072° 20 knots. Not in possession of detailed chart Argentia. (ST. FRANCIS, 2801001Z to C.T.F. 24 (R) F.O.N.F.)

/HUMBOLT...

1025

28.8.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

HUMBOLT This is Comairlant 172148 addressed to Comfairwing 7 and U.S.S. HUMBOLT for action and repeated to U.S.S. ROCKAWAY, U.S.S. MATAGORDA, Com. 10th Fleet, Cominch, C. in C. Lant, Comfairwing 5, N.O.B. Argentia, N.A.S. Argentia, Senav Fairwing 7, Argentia and Comnavu. When ready on or about 23 August HUMBOLT proceed to Argentia from Boston. As directed by Comfairwing 7 transport personnel and aeronautical material Fairwing 7 to port in U.K. Thence proceed Argentia and return U.K. further assignment Cominch 111608. Report to me by despatch from U.K. for further orders upon completion second trip. My 151938 cancelled. (Comnavu, 281004 to Admt) Comnavu Note - Ref. 111608: passed to Admt previously. Ref. 151938 not held by Comnavu.

B.W.55 U.S.S. SALINAS POLARLAND Carrier detached from B.W.55 for Argentia at 0830Z/28 in 46.01 54.31. (MALPEQUE 281110Z to C. in C. C.N.W.A., etc).

H.X.253 Arrival 2200Z August 27th NELSON, DINGLEY (U.S.) PETER DONAHUE (U.S.). Both with collision damage. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 281210Z to Admt).

Convoy (a) U.T. 1 U.K. (b) Argentia Gate 1100Z/28th. U.T.1. 14.5. (c) LL 46.37 54.35 MM 46.08 54.12. NN 45.40 50.01 thence to point E on ocean route. (d) ARGENTINA, CRISTOBAL, SANTA PAULA, ESSO HARRISBURG, CANYON GREEK. (e) E.G.D., DART (S.O.), CLARE WHIMBREL, BANFF, H.M.C.S. ST. FRANCIS, U.S.S. HUMBOLDT, U.S.S. MATAGORDA. (f) "Chop" 1500Z/29th (g) All other information contained in original sailing despatch not held by originator. Cominch pass to Com. 10th Fleet C. and R. C. in C. W.A., pass to Cdre. (D) W.A. (C.T.F.24, 281233Z to Com. 10th Fleet C. and R. (R) Cinclant, Cominch, Admt. C. in C. W.A., Cdre. (D) W.A., C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F.)

U/B Estimates. Cominch, 281245Z.

Movements, Argentia, U.T.1. Argentia 28th August. Arrival ST. FRANCIS ex Pictou. Departures DART, WHIMBREL, CLARE, BANFF, FISHGUARD and ST. FRANCIS with U.T.1. (Capt. (D) Argentia, 281445Z to Admt).

Bermuda Base. A.M. 232101 February para. 3. and A.M. 081124 August (not to all addressees). Anticipated that Bermuda working up Base will be full to capacity after October 1943 and unable to accept any R.C.N. vessels.

2. In view of additional training submarines being allocated to Canadian coast request consideration may be given to working up R.C.N. vessels at Halifax.

(Head of M.II Approved A.C.N.S. (F), 281456A to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, (R) MALABAR, B.A.D., C. in C. C.N.A., S.B.N.O.W.A.)

/F.T.2...

1026

28.8.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

F.T.2 Your 262141 (request for report of present whereabouts of F.T.2). See C.Halifax 242024. (B.A.M.R., 281552Z to Admty).

Dispositions. O.N.S.16, C.3. 049° 24' 047° 51' 223° 7.5. W.l. depart St. Johns to meet O.N.S.16 in position 047° 17' 050° 46' at 1900Z/29th. O.N.198 B.2 050° 53' 044° 25' 242° 9 altering to 223° in 047° 00' W. W.5 departs St. Johns N.F. 2300Z/28th to join O.N.198 in position 048° 35' 049° 03' at 1600Z/29th. G.S.27 T.U. 24.8.2 050° 09' 053° 01' 136° 8. altering to 181° in 049° 54' N. N.L.17 ALGOMA, ALBERNI, QUEBEC 054° 07' 056° 40' 116° 8 altering to 176° in 055° 40' W. and to 195° in 052° 17' N., and to 230° in 052° 00' N. B.W.55 ESQUIMALT, MALPEQUE 046° 14' 052° 47' 045° 7 altering to 009° in 052° 32' W. B.Y.M.S. 76, 213, 77, 214. F.T.2 047° 55' 051° 59' Great Circle to Londonderry 9 knots. TRADEWIND 041° 40' 058° 10' 256° 15. INDOCHINOIS 045° 47' 054° 34' 090° 15. MOSDALE 045° 28' 056° 00' 066° 14 altering to 109° in 054° 00' W. and to 090° in 051° 05' W. NORTHERN SKY and tug vicinity 043° 45' 052° 41' to tow merchant ship to Halifax. (C. in C. C.N.A., 281615Z). My 281615Z add RENOWN 043° 16' 059° 55' 266° 22 altering to 302° in 061° 00' W. KENT 050° 39' 047° 37' 217° 18 en route Argentina. SAMARIA 039° 55' 066° 10' 284° 13.5. (C. in C. C.N.A., 281750Z).

EMILE BERTIN. Departure 27th French Cruiser EMILE BERTIN for unknown destination. (British Consul, San Juan, 281629Q to Admty. etc)

DUCKWORTH Bermuda arrival. (S.B.N.O.W.At., 281632Z to Admty).

INDOMITABLE destroyers. Bermuda arrival INDOMITABLE escorted by OPPORTUNE OB DURATE and U.S. BUCK. (S.B.N.O.W.A., 281639Z to Admty).

B.Y.M.S., M.M.S. B.Y.M.S.76, 77, 214, M.M.S. 244 and F.T.2 sailed St. Johns 1630Z August 28th for Londonderry speed nine knots. Route and W/T routine as in My 081537Z August not to all addressees. (F.O.N.F., 281735Z, 291549A to Admty).

ADHERENT Your 272029Z. ADHERENT sailed St. Johns 1600Z August 28 route (A) 47.35 52.31 (B) 46.26 52.50 (C) 42.48 60.50 (D) 40.35 69.34. thence Ambrose light. Speed 12 knots. (F.O.N.F., 281736Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) Admty. etc)

/Depth...

1027

28.8.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

- Depth Charges in M/Vs. Your 242137 (Requests instructions re return of 30 D/Cs to BRITISH GLORY) Depth charge stowage, whether improvised or flotation, should always be made up to full complement before sailing provided spar deck fitting will not interfere with transfer of depth charges at sea. (D.T.D., 281748A to B.R.L.O. New York (R) C. in C. W.A., B.A.D.)
- H.X.254 Additions and deletions. (B.R.L.O. New York, 281805Z to Admty).
- B.Y.M.S. Cominch pass to B.A.D. (R) Section Bases Charleston and Southport by other means. Compliance Cominch 242100 (Requesting sailing of B.Y.M.S. 39, 54 to Halifax) about 1800Q August 29 proceed New York via Macri Baker. Do not operate speeds above 1000 R.P.M. Guard 2716 k/cs. Report Comeastseafon for onward routing. (C.T.G.02.6, 281841 to Admty. (R) Cominch, etc).
- O.N.197 Arrivals New York 27th (list). (B.R.L.O. New York, 281850 to Admty).
- BLAKELEY Kingston arrival U.S.S. BLAKELEY. (Capt. 1/c Jamaica, 281855Q to Admty. etc).
- T.A.60 A Convoy T.A. 60 A comprising MAURETANIA sailed from U.K. 27 August for New York. 2. For details of personnel on board see War Office signal 63468 of 27 August to Milstaf Washington and C.G.S. Ottawa. (D.S.T., 282053A to B.A.D., B.M.W.T. New York, (R) N.S.H.Q.)
- KENT C. in C. H.F.'s 241629A. 3 hours early. Amended E.T.A. 1730A. Weather report. (KENT, 282100Z to C.C.N.F. (R) C. in C. C.N.A., C.T.F.24).
- MALPEQUE, ESQUIMALT. E.T.A. 0934Z/29 E.T.A. Wabana 1530Z/29, boiler hours. In company with ESQUIMALT 10 Sept. ESQUIMALT has starboard fresh water tank leak. (MALPEQUE 282248Z to F.O.N.F. (R) Capt.(D)).
- NORTHERN SKY. P.C. and S. at 2200Z 044° (?04') N., 053° 37' W. (?248°) 2.5 knots due to weather. Your 281821Z (N.T. in W.R.) Fishermen had lost sight of Schooner in fog whilst fishing on (missing group) Banks Thursday 26th. (?Will) (?investigate) (?full details) (missing group) in St. Johns N.F. tomorrow. (?Weather report or three corrupt groups) (NORTHERN SKY, 282300Z to F.O.N.F.)

/NORSEMAN...

1028

28.8.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

NORSEMAN

Halifax departure 2300Z/28th August H.M. Cable Ship NORSEMAN escorted by H.M.C.S. MATAPEDIA to 038° 40' N., 064° 00' W. (C. in C. C.N.A., 282302Z to Admty. etc).

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements.

Arrivals Townsville 27th DELORAINÉ. Fremantle 27th SUFFOLK. Port Moresby 27th U.S. Destroyer HENLEY. Darwin 27th LATROBE. Thursday Island 27th INVERELL. Milne Bay 27th BENALLA.

Departed Townsville 27th. U.S. Destroyer HELM for Port Moresby. Sydney (N.S.W.) 26th CASTLEMAINE, GLENELG, MORESBY for Brisbane, U.S. destroyer REID 27th for Milne Bay. (N.B. Melbourne, 280608Z to Admty. etc).

F.T.21

My 271132Z (re convoy F.T.21). (B) Add COLAC, KAPUNDA. (Comsouwestpacseafon 280748Z to Admty).

Digest
serial No.
585 August
27th.

Paras. 11 - 13 cover south Pacific Forces. Liberator attacked large two funnelled transport 110 miles north east Mussau Island early afternoon without effect. Another Liberator attacked convoy 1 patrol craft escorting two small freighters off western tip (?New) Hanover on course 20°, scoring two near misses. (W.D. Note Warship was a destroyer, see 291015).

(3) ?Convoys reported my serial number 584 para. 7 (corrupt group) sighted early hours 27th in St. Georges Channel heading Rabaul.

(4) Usual submarine with deck cargo sighting off Cape Orford afternoon.

(5) Single Liberator bombed and strafed possible enemy targets Jacquinot Bay afternoon, other bombed Finschhafen and Lae while one Mitchell strafed barges Nanisch area. 5 Beaufighters attacked shipping Gauve Island forenoon destroying one 40 ton vessel one small patrol craft one launch and badly damaging or destroying another 40 tonner and several barges. One small Seatruck type freighter and other camouflaged barges observed in area.

(6) 30 enemy aircraft reported patrolling Lae Area afternoon and was observed heading south. Eight barges sighted Lae Harbour forenoon.

/(8)...

1929

28.8.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest (8) Photos show one minelayer three small coasters
serial No. eight barges at Sorong afternoon 25th while
585 August Catalina reported five small vessels jetty same
27th. (contd). area early hours 27th.
(12) Two Kittyhawks strafed and destroyed three
possible M.T.Bs. off Choiseul Coast afternoon 25th
while similar force set fire to small coaster and 3 other small
craft off North coast Ganongga following afternoon.
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 281046Z).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

Sub. attack A. JOHN BELL and RICHARD HENDERSON torpedeod
and sighting at 1930/26th August off Bone; one sunk.
summary, 24 Aircraft sighted submarine at 0025/28th August
hours to 1000A in 42° 25' N., 09° 21' W. course N.
28th August. B. H.M.S. FARNDALE and H.M.S. LOTUS attacked
contact at 0600/27th August off Dellys.
Aircraft sighted possible submarine at 0117/27th
August in 43° 10' N., 09° 25' W.
D. Aircraft sighted periscope at 1550/27th Aug.
in 50° 00' N., 08° 48' W. course 115°.
(D.D.I.C., 281025A to Cominch).

Submarines Reported.

Estimated
positions.

D.D.I.C., 281403A, 281408A.

1030

29.8.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

C.S. 1.

1. The flag on Rear-Admiral Hamilton was struck at sunset today. Rear-Admiral Palliser assumed command of the 1st C.S., with flag in LONDON.

2. SHEFFIELD sailed from Plymouth at 1715 today, to support GRENVILLE and E.G.1.

Danish Navy.

3. N.A. Stockholm reports that the Danish T.B. HAVKATTEN and 4 or 5 armed fishing craft escaped from Denmark and arrived at Landeskrona this morning. A low grade report states that some small armed craft have arrived at Malmo. The Press reports the scuttling of certain Danish warships at Copenhagen and that the Germans have established a patrol vessel in the Sound, to prevent further escaping vessels reaching Swedish ports. These reports are all unconfirmed.

North Atlantic.ULSTER
QUEEN.*attack by
rocket bombs.*

4. CLEVELAND and fighter direction ship ULSTER QUEEN were attacked by aircraft at 2113 today in 36.09 N. 02.24 W. (about 130 miles east of Gibraltar). ULSTER QUEEN's engines were disabled by near miss: she returned to Gibraltar (arrived 30th August). It was subsequently established from bomb fragments that the attacks were made with rocket bombs. There was no contact with the attacking aircraft by Radar; the enemy was not sighted in the late dusk, and was only heard faintly by a few.

Mediterranean.Sicily &
South Italy.

5. Coastal forces operated off Vibo Valentia and the coast of Calabria last night without incident.
Air raids took place on Augusta at 1845 today

/and ...

1031

29.8.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Sicily &
South Italy.
(Contd.)

and again between 2100 and 2200. Circling torpedoes were dropped. No damage is reported and few casualties. Three enemy aircraft were shot down.

Catania was also attacked by aircraft in daylight today. Superficial damage was caused to M.S./A.S. Trawler JULIET. There were no casualties.

U/B off
Beirut.

6. A U-Boat was reported today in 34.13 N. 35.34 E. (about 20 miles north of Beirut). Search was ordered and all unescorted sailings north of Beirut were suspended.

East Indies.

TRIDENT.

7. TRIDENT the first of the long endurance submarine reinforcements sent from the Mediterranean command, whilst on patrol off Sabang (northern corner of Sumatra), reports that a total of over 30 Navy fighters, dive bombers, and torpedo bombers arrived at Sabang at 0700Z/28. No ships entered harbour. TRIDENT has one engine out of action, and F.O. Ceylon today recalled her from patrol. TRIDENT reports that at 0129Z today she fired 8 torpedoes at extreme range at the Japanese cruiser KASHI which was entering Sabang, and made one possible hit; the result was not seen. She intends to remain on patrol near Sabang.

Burma.

8. On the lower Irrawaddy today a Beaufighter sank about 30 river craft and damaged others, and also set railway installations on fire. In the Kaladan River/Hunters Bay area Hurricanes sank 11 river craft and probably destroyed a river steamer. In the Pakokku area 21 river craft were sunk.

1032

29.8.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

KENT,
RENOWN.

9. KENT arrived at Argentia this evening from the U.K. RENOWN arrived at Halifax today from the U.K.

Australia and New Zealand.

10. A cruiser and 2 destroyers were attacked, apparently last night, by a Catalina 45 miles west of the northern tip of Buka, Solomon Islands, and a near miss was made on the cruiser.

11. 47 Allied aircraft attacked Alexishafen/Bogadjim area (New Guinea) this morning; several barges were destroyed.

1033

29.8.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

SCORPION SCORPION sailed to comply with para. one of F.O. Dest. H.F., 271131A. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 291646A).

S/M Position of S/MS at 0800A/30 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S., 291721A).
Movements.

BRITOMART Kola Inlet arrival BRITOMART. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 292223A to S.B.N.O. Archangel).

Operations:

Biscay A/S Poor D/F bearings at 2209Z indicate U/B in 47° 30' N., 16° W. radius 100 miles. (D.D.I.C., 290046A to ATHABASKAN, (R) BERMUDA, PELICAN, C. in C. Plymouth).
Operations. D/F bearings at 2226Z indicate U/B in your vicinity.

(D.D.I.C., 290125A to E.G.1).

Well done. I was confident that you would keep the ball in play.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 290948A to GRENVILLE).

H.Q.C.C. 282125, para two. Concur.

2. As present area C and G only covers 30 miles of Spanish coast. Propose area be altered as follows.

3. A.D.O.C. From 043° 30' N., 010° 30' W. to 044° 30' N., 008° 25' W, thence Cape Ortegale, thence coastwise to 043° N., thence due West to long. 010° 30' W, thence one North to 043° 30' N.

4. Air D. Officer D. From 045° N. 008° 47' W. to 045° N. 007° W, thence 044° N., 006° 24' W, thence due west 008° 05' W, thence 045° N., 008° 47' W.

A.D.O.G. From 045° N., 007° W. to 045° 37' N., 005° 24' W. to Spanish Coast in long. 004° 06' W, along coast to long. 006° 10' W, thence to 045° N. 007° W.

6. 19 Group concurred in proposed alteration to area.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 291334A to F.O.S., H.Q.C.C., 19 Group)

Am being shadowed by two enemy A/C height 1,000 feet bearing 190°, Talbot 1, pos. 44° 02' N., 12° 43' W. course 190° speed 16 knots.

(PELICAN 291611A to Whitehall W/T).

Disposition at 2000.

1. CRANE 046° 05' N., 012° 08' W. southbound 14 knots.

2. ATHABASKAN 048° 46' N., 013° W, bound Plymouth 13 knots.

3. BERMUDA on patrol between 044° and 046° N., 014° and 015° W.

4. Escort group 1st ROTHER, JED, PELICAN, GRENVILLE, R/V in 042° 52' N., 012° 57' W, thence patrol between 041° 20' N., 012° 05' W. and 042° 15' N., 012° 38' W.

5. SAFARI 046° 38' N., 009° 43' W, Northeastbound through 046° 40' N., 010° 01' W, thence 090° daily advance 110 miles.

6. F.S. RUBIS 044° 43' N., 002° 20' W. southeast bound daily advance 83 miles.

1034

29.8.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations

Biscay A/S Operations. (contd).

7. Hospital ship LLANDOVERY CASTLE 043° 25' N., 011° 30' W, northbound, 10½ knots.

8. SHEFFIELD sails from Plymouth 1700 through 180° Bishop Rock 10, westward, 20 knots. (C. in C. Plymouth, 291613A to Ships).
Your 291611. If still being shadowed alter course to 270° until dark reporting that you are being so.

2. If you make this alteration you should R/V with GRENVILLE in position G.B. at 0800A tomorrow unless otherwise ordered by GRENVILLE.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 291652A to PELICAN).
Sailed SHEFFIELD 1715/29.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 291742A to Admty).
Enemy aircraft Homing on 424 k/cs. My P.C.S. 043° 48' N. 012° 57' W. 270° 16 knots.
(PELICAN 291810A to C. in C. Plymouth, (R) GRENVILLE).
My position 0700A/30th G.B.

2. My 290940. JED given feed water to last patrol.

3. P.L.E. GRENVILLE, JED, a.m./31st, ROTHER, p.m./1st.

4. CRANE to pass through G.B. at 1900A/30 steering for 041° 20', 012° 05' W. until met.

5. Intend sweeping North from G.B. from 2000/30. Weather 5380 2402.
(GRENVILLE 291903A to C. in C. Plymouth, GRANE, (R) BERMUDA, SHEFFIELD, PELICAN).
PELICAN answered R/T call up at 1914A but has not replied since on W/T or R/T. I am operating in vicinity of 044° 30' 015° 00' visibility 100 yards. Have you any information.

2. M.F.V.23 was sighted in 046° 13', 014° 40' steering 175° about 7 for Gibraltar at 1109A.
(BERMUDA, 291947A to C. in C. Plymouth, GRANE, GRENVILLE).
My P.C.S. at 2100A, 043° 48' N., 013° 56' W. 160° 11 knots, altering to 090° at 0545A/30. E.T.A. position G.B. 0800A/30th.
(PELICAN 292101A to BERMUDA).

Operation "Starkey". My 281545A. Postponed 24 hours.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 290935A to C. in C. Portsmouth)
My 281230A. S.G.Bs. GREY GOOSE (S.O.) GREY FOX, GREY SEAL, GREY OWL, M.G.Bs. 611, 614, 616 sailed E.T.A. Dover 1700/29.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 291440A to C. in C. Portsmouth V.A. Dover).

N.O.I.C. Newhaven's 281230A. Arrivals S.G.Bs. GREY GOOSE, GREY FOX, GREY SEAL, GREY OWL, and M.G.Bs. 611, 614, 616.
(V.A. Dover, 291758A to Admty).

If security requirements permit, it is desired to make use of south coast Chain during Operation "Starkey". Request information if shore sets are available and if so request allocation of frequencies and call signs. ALBRIGHTON and STEVENSTONE will be fitted V.H/F.
(Cdre. Force X, 291904A to Admty).
L.C.P.(L) Flotillas will not operate with you tomorrow.
M.Ls. and M.A/S.B.s. will be sailed.
(V.A. Dover, 291920 to M/S 9, M/S, 18).

/S/M...

1035

29.8.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

S/M
Patrols. LE CURIE and ULTIMATUM proceed after dark today to position 046° 48', 004° 48', and position 046° 15' 005° 15' respectively. Leave patrol to comply with my 281216.
(F.O.S., 291028A to S/Ms).
Route Green is course 180° from 046° 01' N., 012° 54' W.
(F.O.S., 291033 to LE CURIE, ULTIMATUM).
My 271219. SAFARI proceed through position SD direct to Sone J.1 and carry out anti U-boat patrol.
(F.O.S., 291036A to S/Ms).
(1) On completion of M.L. Operation RUBIS proceed to zone J.5 east long. 003° 30' and carry out anti U-boat patrol.
(2) RUBIS is to leave patrol p.m./5th September and pass through RC 045° 32', 006° 01' at 0700/7th, thence by route Gold to R/V with escort arranged by Capt. (S) 5th in position YY (180° Lizard Head 10 miles) at 0700/10th for onward passage Portsmouth
(3) Cancel para. 2 of my 201039.
(F.O.S., 291116A to S/Ms).
Positions of submarines at 0800A/30th and movements for following 24 hours.
(A) TANTALUS 68° 57' N., 08° 35' E. probably on the surface through 74° N., 15° E.
(B) UNTIRING as in my 251706.
(D) SAFARI 46° 40' N., 08° 25' W. dived by day through 46° 40' N., 06° 01' W. to patrol area J.1.
(E) CURIE vicinity 46° 48' N., 04° 42' W.
(F) ULTIMATUM vicinity 46° 14' N., 05° 15' W. leaving patrol p.m./30th to pass through 46° N., 07° W. thence to westward.
(G) RUBIS vicinity 43° 49' N., 01° 54' W.
(F.O.S., 291721A to Admty).

Coastal
Patrols. Starting tomorrow until further orders MACKAY, MONTROSE, WHITSHED, WALPOLE, WINDSOR are only to be employed on patrol. Each night three are to be on patrol returning to Harwich each morning, one to anchor at the Rough the others at Harwich at two and a half hours notice. Destroyers returning from patrol are to top up with fuel.
(2) If patrols are cancelled owing to weather four of above are to anchor at the Rough before dark unless weather is too bad in this anchorage in which case destroyers are to remain in harbour at two and a half hours notice.
(3) By day four destroyers are to be at one and a half hours notice for steam.
(4) Destroyers are to land S.Ps. and other C.Bs. in accordance with A.F.O. S.66/43 section 13. With reference to para. 113 current editions of key memoranda and current numbered index columns are to be retained on board.
(C.in C. Nore, 291309 to Capt. D. 16).
1. (A) LA COMBATTANTE, GLAISDALE at immediate notice St. Helens.
(B) M.Ls. 292, 343 patrolling Q.Z.S. 384 between F. and E.A.5 buoys. (C) M.Ls. 208, 122, 124, R.M.L. 523 from Portland patrolling on 50° 20' N., between 02° 00' W. and 02° 25' W.
(D) CHASSEUR 11 at immediate notice St. Helens.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 291512A).

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29.8.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.- Contd.

"Forfar B". "Forfar B" will not be carried out tonight.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 291520A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Operation "Lorry". I estimate you will arrive (corrupt group) 1600A
30. Maintain W/T silence unless your E.T.A. is more than 2 hours different from this.
2. Tsip Navalok, Syet Navalok, and Teriberski Radio Beacons have been requested from 1200A if weather is thick.

3. Hurricanes and Yaks will escort you from position MZ if weather is suitable and MBR Seaplanes may be on anti-S/M patrol in (corrupt group) where F.W. 190s have been active recently.

4. Pilots will board off Bolsoi Oleni Island. Anchor on arrival in 26 and 28 berths.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 291625A to MUSKETEER, MAHRATTA).

Allied Air Activity.

R/C of Brest. Request P.R.U. of Brest a.m. tomorrow.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 291338A to Admty).
Request P.R.U. of Brest a.m. tomorrow.
(D.D.I.C., 291629A to Air Ministry).

Enemy Air Activity.

Jan Mayen Following from Jan Mayen. A/C heard 1010 south of Island, westerly course, weather foggy.
(A.C.I.C., 291822A to Admty).

Orkneys. At 1911/29 E/A plotted 060° A Buoy 25 miles course west and at 1915 in 060 A Buoy 30 miles, course North East. It is not considered that landfall was made nor R/C carried out of Flow area. A/C was subsequently plotted on a northerly course at under 1000 feet by Fair Isle and Shetlands Radio Stn. Last plot was 15 miles east of Bressay at 1957.
(A.C.O.S., 292330 to Admty).

Mining.

Q. Z. X. 1070 On completion of tomorrow sweeping take PROSPECT, NEAVE, PORTCHER, and ULVA and proceed to Plymouth. CONCERTATOR, NIGHT HAWK, ARMANA, LOCH BUIE to proceed to Dartmouth. Vessels to be ready to resume clearance of Q. Z. X. 1070, 2nd September.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 291323 to GWEAL).

(1) 16 cables from northern edge of Q. Z. X. 1070 cleared today. No mines encountered. Operation abandoned owing to fog.
(GWEAL, 291821 to C. in C. Plymouth).

/Western...

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War Diary.29.8.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. - Contd.

Western Channel sweeps. BRECON CASTLE, Cdr. Evans, SCARRON and FINESSE are to proceed to Falmouth sweeping Q.Z.S.409 - 410 to Lizard thence steaming to destination along Q.Z.S.349. Sailing 0545 tomorrow.
 (2) On 31st August these vessels are to proceed from Falmouth and sweep Q.Z.S. 389 and 315 to position 50° 12' 18" N., 65° 45' 48" W - 5 miles Trevose Head 293°.
 (3) On completion, sweep to Plymouth using A sweep in B formation (C. in C. Plymouth, 291327).

Enemy Intelligence.

Escape of Danish Warships to Sweden. Following Danish Warships escaped today to Swedish Ports (a) torpedo boat HAVKATTEN arrived Landeskrona at 0500 this morning. Graded A.1.
 (b) two sloops have arrived Malmo, last one having entered port at about 1000. Graded B.3. (N.A. Stockholm, 291127 to Admty).
 My 291127. (a) In addition one torpedo boat, 4 or 5 armed fishing craft have arrived at Landskrona together with one Lieut. Commander, one Lieut. and 50 men. Graded A.2.
 (b) Vessels at Malmo are now reported as armed fishing craft mainly used for mine watching by Danes. Graded A.2.
 (c) Press reports scuttling of certain Danish Warships at Copenhagen and that Germans have established a patrol vessel in Sound to prevent further escaping Warships reaching Swedish ports. These reports are all unconfirmed. (N.A. Stockholm, 291326 to Admty).

Casualties & Defects.

PARRSBORO My 281740. PARRSBORO reports defective. Will be able to sail at 1330 today without fail. Reserve feed tank out of action but sufficient boiler water can be distilled to keep ship in operation for 5 days. (M/S 18 291124A to N.O.I.C. Harwich).

S O S. From unknown station 38.42 N. 09.32 W. (C. in C. Plymouth, 291403Z) See North Atlantic.

ATHABASKAN D.R. position at 1600A 048° 10' N., 013° 55' W, course and speed 066° 13 + 1/2 knots. Uncertain of ability to reach Plymouth on remaining good fuel. Request tug meet ship at Scilly Isles and accompany her from there. No R.A.F. survivors. Weather 1944 1554.
 (ATHABASKAN 291608A to C. in C. Plymouth).
 Request you will sail DEXTEROUS escorted by CORNELIAN to meet ATHABASKAN in position 180° Bishop 10' at 1500/30 and accompany her to Plymouth.
 (C. in C. Plymouth 292149A to F.O.I.C. Falmouth).

/L.C.T....

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29.8.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects - Contd.

L.C.T. 750 Unless required to stand by you detach WAVENEY to assist L.C.T. 750 broken down and drifting 180° Bardsey Island 7 miles at 1800/29. Otherwise proceed to assist in company. Tug FOREMOST from Fishguard and Nevin Life Boat sailed.
(C. in C. W.A., 291826A to BIDEFORD).

Request you will take charge of operation of salvage of L.C.T. 750. My 291826A refers.
(C. in C. W.A., 291829A to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

Shipping & Convoys.

O.N. 199 Proceed to Liverpool forthwith.
(C.5, 290115Z to SAPPER).

T.A. 60 My 281520Z. Sailed PASTEUR.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 291034Z).

BEN-MY-CHREE Your 281918. WOOLSTON detailed for this duty sailing from Rosyth a.m./1st.
(2) Intend RATTLESNAKE to be used on convoy work between September 1st and 7th.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 291140A to A.C.O.S.)

C.W. 205,
C.E. 023. As ships for C.W. 205 in F.S. 6 are required to attend convoy conference at Southend, C.W. 205, and C.E. 023 are postponed 24 hours.
(C. in C. Nore, 291201A to A.I.G. 45).

K.M.F. 24 Subject to completion of working up, and boiler cleaning if necessary, MALCOLM, BICESTER, CHIDDINGFOLD, ZETLAND, THEMISTOCLES, will be required as additional escorts to K.M.F. 24 which departs Clyde 13th September.
2. Request you will report which of these destroyers will be available. They could join from Moville a.m./14th.
(D.O.D. H., 291237A to R.A.D., H.F.)

S.L. 135 -
M.K.S. 22. By D/F at 1445Z U-boat estimated in general area of convoy.
(D.D.I.C., 291618A to Escorts S.L. 135 - M.K.S. 22)

Holm apparatus. It is understood that some American Merchant Ships will shortly be arriving in U.K. fitted with Mark 29 Holm apparatus.
2. Presume instructions will be given to Masters of Ships so fitted to recover the gear before reaching Westerly limit at Q.Z.X. 331.
3. As ships so fitted have already arrived in and sailed from U.K. request I may be informed when any vessels fitted with this gear are to be included in an outward convoy in order that escorts sailing from Clyde may be warned to keep clear.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 291736A to C. in C. W.A.)

/T.A. 62...

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29. 8. 1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

T.A.62
(QUEEN
ELIZABETH).

Sailed 292330.
(S.T.O. Greenock, 292335A).

S.C.140

Have obtained second class bearing distance uncertain short (?U-boat) signal 062° from convoy. Similar signal received 282300Z distance far. Have recalled ICARUS. Series one time 292100Z E. Group B.3 heard nothing. (C.2, 292359Z to C. in C. W.A.)

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29.8.1943.

Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Convoy C.G.59 arrived (3 ships).
C.G.59. (F.O.I.C.Gibraltar, 291029B to C.M.S.F.F.)

Dispositions. Situation report for Area X.A.
ACTIVE, ANNELOPE, One Merchant Ship 035° 48' 006° 41' to Gibraltar 8½. (2) O.G.92, K.M.S.24
HURRICANE 035° 51' 005° 57' through Straits 7½.
(3) C.F.13, FOXHOUND, Two Fleet Units 030° 58' 012° 45' 048' 13½. (4) G.U.S.13, C.T.F. 65 passes Europa Point 2100/29th to R/V Casablanca Section in 035° 10' 009° 05' at 1800/30th thence 255° 8. (5) Two Swedish relief ships 035° 50' 007° 16' Gibraltar 12. (6) RIBBLE 031° 57' 020° 17' direct to Casablanca, 14. (7) Lisbon Section K.M.S. 24, O.G.92, CYGNET 038° 10' 009° 23' to Lisbon 7½. (8) Hospital Ship VASNA sailed Gibraltar p.m. 29th through 036° 30' 010° 00' thence 329° 12. (9) O.G.60, WESTON sails Casablanca 301100 through Q.B.A.102 thence 037° 4. (10) Two Swedish relief ships sail Gibraltar p.m. 29th 266° 12.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 291114)

Situation Report area X.B. Med. Station.
Situation 291958B. S/M OTUS 039° 08' 015° 10' 201° diving by day 10/2½. (2) small craft convoy POLLOCK 042° 17' 014° 13' through 040° 05' (?013°) 30' thence (?285°) 6.
(4) O.T.8, C.T.G. 21.5 026 degs. 55' 019° 48' (A) through 030° 05' 019° 15' thence 060° 10. (5) S.L.135, FOWEY 040° 24' 019° 35' 000° 7½. (6) French C/V LA GRANDIERE 027° 10' 014° 13' to 026° 10' 015° 00' thence by standard French coastal route 11½. (7) S.R.5, BLACKWOOD 027° 34' 014° 02' through 028° 02' 013° 33' thence 035° 10.8. (8) U.G.S. 15, C.T.F.66, C.T.G. 21.16 033° 43' 021° 16' to 034° 15' 019° 05' thence 084° 9. (9) U.G.F.10, T.F.68, 033° 30' 025° 21' to 035° 01' 019° 02' thence 087° 13½. (10) JOHAN MAURITZ 031° 57' 010° 17' direct Casablanca 14. (11) Hospital ship LLANDOVERY CASTLE 000° (remainder of position omitted) 10.
(12) GRENVILLE, ROTHER, JED patrol between 042° 15' 012° 38' and 041° 20' 012° 05'. (13) One Spanish training ship sailed Marin 18th for Tenerife. (14) Portuguese Naval Training Ship SAGRES sail Funchal p.m. 29th for Lisbon.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 291122B)

G.U.S.13. G.U.S.13, intend sail Casablanca joining section U.S.S. COSSATOT (T) and MAGDALA (T) expected sailing Casablanca 300300Z. S. of A. 10 knots, route Q.B.A.102 to R/V position (P) 35.10 N. 09.05 W. at 301700A. Escort P.C's 482 (senior) C/S NBOF 471 and 473, guard 2150 K/cs convoy guard 500 K/cs. Escort return Casablanca when released by C.T.F.65.
(C.M.S.F. 291135B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) C. in C. Med. (M) C.T.F. 65, C.T.G. 21.15)

G.U.S.13. Add C. in C. Med. to Addressees of my 251623. Gibraltar section sailed as in above signal. (2) HOMER LEA requires deperming.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 291541B to Commorseafon (R) Admty., C. in C. Med.)

G.U.S. /...

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29.8.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

- G.U.S.13 (Contd.) G.U.S.13 arrivals EMPIRE KINGSLEY, OCEAN VISCOUNT, CITY OF KHIOS, OCEAN VIGOUR (Four ships) (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 292101B to Admty.etc.) G.U.S.13. BRITISH COURAGE has again broken down. (2) Request you will load DAGDALA as standby tanker. (3) If necessary request you will amend Casablanca R/V as necessary. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 292242B to Commorseafon, (R) Admty., Commavnaw, C. in C. Med. Cominch, Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet, Escorts G.U.S.13)
- G.C.33. G.C.33 arrived, Escorts sailed for Gibraltar 1030A. (Commorseafon, 291155B to F.O. Gibraltar.)
- U/B. French aircraft sighted surfaced Submarine position 29.00 N. 12.08 W. 290635A. Sub. submerged. (Commorseafon, 291250 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med. Admty., Cominch, Commavnaw.) Probably a whale 301112B.
- CHANTICLEER. Position at 1400B 034° N. 008° W. course 036° 10 knots. E.T.A. Gibraltar 0900/30th August, BARLE, ETRICK, USK, WRESTLER in company. (CHANTICLEER, 291401B to F.O.C. Gibraltar.)
- S.O.S. Report. Following received via Valentia Radio, From unknown station addressed Lavadores Port Radio. S.O.S. from unknown station 38.42 N. 09.32 W. course 090°. (Ends) Last group doubtful. (C. in C. Plymouth, 291403Z)
- U/B. Submarine on surface bearing 028° 20 miles course 000° my position 40.08 N. 19.22 W. (S.O.37 Escort Group, 291411 to Admty.) See also 301035A.
- ACTIVE. P.C. and S. 035° 46' N. 007° 20' W. 084° 8-1/2. From 300051B (corrupt group) may be passed over shallow D.G. range at 0800. Weather report. (ACTIVE, 291431B to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) Capt.(D) Gibraltar.)
- EMPIRE MORN, (C.G.60) Consider that LARIAT and SCHELDE should both tow EMPIRE MORN, observing that LARIAT is doubtful of the reliability of his towing. Your 282135 refers. (2) Concur in proposed time of sailing. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 291514B to C.M.S.F. (R) C. in C. Med. Admty.)

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29.8.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

- M.K.S.23. Intending sailing (list).
(F.O.I.C.Gibraltar, 291549B to Admty. (R)
C. in C. Med.)
- VASNA. Hospital ship VASNA sailed 1400B/29th August.
(Route). To Barry. S. of A. 12 knots.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 291806B to C. in C. W.A.
(R) Admty.)
- DESPATCH. Request E.T.A. of DESPATCH at Gibraltar also
whether accommodation will be available for me
and my staff to proceed to U.K.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 291924B to C. in C. S.A.,
(R) Admty./F.O.C. W.Af.)
- T.G.21.15, A re-encypherment of C.T.G. 21.15 291500 action
G.U.S.13. to Commorseafon, information to C.T.G.65,
Cinclant, etc. Passed to you for information
(Begins): Departing Casablanca swept channel
buoy 1100Z/30 direct for point DD 34.03 N. 24.59
W. in support Taskfor 65 by operating within 150 miles DD
until arrival G.U.S.13 to intercept possible subs en route
Finisterre from Area 28 N. 38 W. thence with 65 pending later
developments. S. of A.13. Taskgroup 21.15 (Ends.)
(Commorseafon 292105 to C. in C. Med. Admty., F.O.I.C.
Gibraltar, Commavnaw.)
- ULSTER Help "Pillbox" 36.09 N. 02.34 W.
QUEEN, (S.O. Escort "Pillbox", 292113 to Gibraltar W/T.
A/C attack. (R) Admty.)
036° 14' N. 002° 34' W. Engine disabled by
near miss. Please send tug.
(ULSTER QUEEN, 292120B to F.O.I.C.Gibraltar.)
- My 292120B. P.C. and S. 036° 10' 002° 42' 262° 9 knots for
Gibraltar. Tug not required at present but engine unreliable.
Request fighter protection at daylight.
(ULSTER QUEEN, 292301B to F.O.I.C.Gibraltar)
See also 301115.
- WESTON, August 29th arrived WESTON and ANTHONY from
ANTHONY. Safi.
(Commorseafon, 292254B to F.O. Gibraltar.)
- Fishing It is understood that the presence of large
Vessels, numbers of fishing vessels off Spanish Coast in
Spanish Southern part of "Percussion" area has
Coast. seriously interfered with night A/S operations
of aircraft from Gibraltar, and Casablanca.

(2) /...

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Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Fishing
Vessels,
Spanish
Coast.
(Contd.)

(2) Request you will signal available information regarding the probable type nationality and numbers of fishing vessels which may be encountered and the area in which fishing takes place. In particular the western limit is required.

(D.O.D.(H), Approved A.C.N.S. (H), 292334A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.)
Reply 302215.

Movements,
Gibraltar.

Arrivals SCYLLA from Algiers TOTLAND,
KING GEORGE 11, P.C. 481 with C.G. 59.
FARNDALE, HAYDON, LOTUS, POPPY, DIANELLA,
STARWORT, CALPE, PALOMARES, LAUREL, BURKE,
RETURNO, M.M.S.80 and 81 with Gibraltar Section
G.U.S.13.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 292347B, 300932B to Admty.
etc.)

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29.8.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

W.S.32 Convoy W.S.32 sailed 28th August for Bombay E.T.A. a.m./12 September. Personnel on board for (destinations). (D.S.T.O. Durban, 290751Z, 011347Z, to D.S.T.O. Bombay).

STRATHMORE sailed 28th August in W.S.32 for Aden. E.T.A. p.m./8th Sept. Personnel on board. (D.S.T.O. Durban, 290759Z to D.S.T.O. Aden).

Weekly state 28th August. Cruisers DUQUESNE, TOURVILLE, MONTCALM Dakar. B.A.M.C. HUENCO (sic) on passage Casablanca to Dakar. Escort ship AMIRAL MOUCHEZ on passage Dakar to Freetown. CALAIS, ASPIRANT BRUN, refitting Dakar. LA GRANDIERE, DUMONT D'URVILLE on passage Casablanca to Dakar.

GAZELLE, COMMANDANT BORY, VICTORIA, Casablanca Area. Subs. ARGO, CENTAURE Dakar. Pilot Ship JULES VERNE. (Comar Dakar, 291029Z to F.O.C.W.Af, Admty, C. in C. Med).

Dispositions. Situation 1959Z/29th. SOUTHERN PRIDE, RUMBA screening SNAPDRAGON off Conakry, INKPEN, ST. WISTAN escorting 008° 39' 013° 46' 304° 8. AMIRAL MOUCHEZ M.L. 290 escorting 009° 53' 015° 48' to L.Q.10. (R.A.W.A., 291043Z).

Situation 2001Z/29th.

ROEBUCK, QUALITY, TEVIOT, CILICIA, HELFORD, PLYM, 1 Fleet unit 007° 34' S., 000° 49' 132° 13.

SHROPSHIRE 003° 49' S. 006° 18' through 007° 01' (?003°) 59' thence 143° 18.

TURCOMAN 007° 30' 013° 18' coastwise to Marshalls, 9.

SKUDD 6, POLAR V, COPINSAY, 006° 14' 010° 52' through 005° 36' 010° 00' thence 179° 5½.

French Cruiser SUFFREN. French Cruiser DUGUAY-TROUIN 003° 27' 000° 16' to Takoradi 17½.

WELLINGTON, ABERDEEN, LOWESTOFT, FOLKESTONE, GORLESTONE with T.S.51, 004° 12' 008° 20' 306° 7½.

SWALE, (?BELLWORT) with L.M.4, 005° 18' 003° 25' E. 180° 10½. (?D.S. DOLFIJN) 2 M.Ls. 004° 55' 001° 28' to Lagos (Nigeria) 9. M.L. 1147 off Sassandra.

DUNKERY screening off Cape Tiburon.

M.L. 1041 Kononu, M.L. 1018 and M.L. 244 about 003° 58' 006° 28' E. to Lagos (Nigeria) 6½.

(F.O.C.W.A., 291107Z).

Situation at 2000Z/29th August. ALBATROSS 021° 30' 010° 50' to 020° 01' 010° 05' 15½. DESPATCH 020° 50' 010° 30' to 020° 00' 010° 05' 17½.

(C. in C. S.A., 291159B).

Movements, August 29th arrivals 1014, 1052. Departures Lagos. SWALE, BELLWORT. (N.O.I.C. Lagos, 291331 to Admty. etc).

/JOHN...

1045

29.8.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.- Contd.

JOHN A. SUTTER. My 241038 (overdue shipping) JOHN A. SUTTER arrived Bahia 28th. (Asst. B.N.S.O. Recife. 291402Z to Admty. etc).

A/S Your 1025/032 of 4th August.
Escorts Concur in provision of Anti-Submarine escort for
for A.M.Cs. A.M.Cs. Suggest, however, that it is open to
doubt whether proposed patrols make best use of
air cover available including Northern Aircraft
Transit Route while passage to the East of
Ascension is left uncovered.

2. Patrolling effectiveness of Fourth Fleet is normally greater than that of British and French forces at your disposal.
3. If British patrol areas were on Natal-Freetown line some 400 to 800 miles from Freetown, where air cover is weak, American patrols would be double banked to West of Ascension and Easterly Passage also be guarded. In addition full use would be made of aircraft patrols and transit routes.
4. Request you should take these points into consideration before concluding negotiations with Comforfleet. Letter follows by Air Mail.
(Head of M.II approved A.C.N.S. (F), 291423A to F.O.C.W.A.)

T.L.23 T.L.23 sailed 1700Z/29th August p.m. route H (details) convoy WDST (as received) identity letters VLD 1 to 8. (N.C.S.O. Takoradi, 291719Z to Admty. F.O.C.W.Af. R.N.O. Lagos).

Sailed 1700/29th August T.L. 23 escorted by MORRIS DANCE
M.L. 274 and 277 S. of A. 9 knots E.T.A. Lagos 1000Z/31st. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 291725Z to Admty. F.O.C.W.A., R.N.O. Lagos).

P.614 Intend to sail P.614 at 1400Z/1st September to Dakar for fuel thence to U.K. through 26° 10' N. 21° 00' W. Request onward route. (F.O.C.W.A., 291755Z to F.O.C. Gibraltar, F.O.(S) (R) Admty. P.614).

Shipping A.M. 251646. Figures given are of value and
Estimates. similar signals would be appreciated.
(F.O.C.W.A., 291853Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.)

1046

War Diary.29.8.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Movements Arrivals 28th August CROMARTY, BOSTON, ALBACORE,
Augusta. M.L. 468, L.C.T. 318, 540, 542, L.C.I. 171, M.M.
312, 286, 181, 114, 276, M.T.B. 76, 77, 79, 82, 84.
Departures WILTON, M.M.S. 184, L.C.I. 107, 288, 287,
305, L.C.T. 379, 316, 306, 418, 332, 421, 347, 411
to 422 and 303, 302, 412.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta 290101 to Admty.)

UNSEEN. One torpedo remains, returning by route in your
271154. All times 72 hours early. Surface
passage 30th. Small merchant ship sunk 27th
and schooner sunk 28th. 6 survivors.
(P.51 (UNSEEN) 290233 to Capt. S.10, (R) P.55
(UNSPARING).)

P.51 (UNSEEN) is returning to Malta 3 days earlier than was
expected. 72 hours is to be subtracted from all times in my
271227.

2. M.J.A.O. 24, request bombing restrictions be amended
accordingly.

(Capt. S.10, 290926B to C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant, V.A.
Malta, Capt. S.8, Capt. S.1, (R) 10th S.F. A.H.Q.Malta.)

M.E.Air Daily Opsum 123. 27/28 August.
Report. 4 Liberators B.24, 13 Halifaxes railway marshalling
Cotrone. 1 Halifax returned early, remaining
aircraft bombed. 28th August. 42 U.S.Liberators
B.24 railway yards and repair shops Taranto, 2
aircraft returned early, another jettisoned over sea owing to
engine trouble. 39 bombed. 1 direct hit claimed on large
cruiser in harbour. Possible hit on unidentified vessel caused
heavy black smoke to rise. Near misses on other shipping
including 1 medium vessel believed transport. 3 Beaufighters
A/S R/C Dodecanese. No suitable targets.
Following delayed details. 27th August. Four Beaufighters A/S
R/C Dodecanese. No sightings.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 290720Z.)

10th S.F. 1. P.44 (UNITED) 035° 46' 016° 18' to arrive Malta
summary at 0800/30th.
2000/29th. 2. P.46 (UNRUFFLED) off Brindisi.
3. P.54 (UNSHAKEN) 035° 53' 015° 44' through 035°
56' 016° 31' to 038° 05' 017° 50' at 2000/30th
surface passage.
4. P.44 (UNSPARING) off Bari.
5. P.53 (ULTOR) 039° 12' 017° 50' through 038° 55' 018° 34' to
037° 02' 017° 24' at 2000/30th surface passage.
6. P.51 (UNSEEN) 039° 40' 019° 03' to 037° 06' 017° 25' at
2000/30th surface passage.
(Capt. S.10, 290722.)

Movements August 28 arrivals ALDENHAM, ING LEFIELD, ECHO,
Alexandria. SUTLEJ, PROTEA, BOKSBURG, LANGLAATE, BEVER.
Departures FORMIDABLE, CAPETOWN, PATHFINDER,
QUEEN OLGA, ING LEFIELD, ECHO, ISLAY, M.L. 355.
(R.A.Alexandria 290729C to Admty.)

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29.8.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

K.M.F. 22Y. My 282247B (N.T. in W.D.) amend KOSCIUSCO to read TAKLIWA.
(S.N.O. Philippeville 290814B to Admty. etc.)
K.M.F.22Y. Sailed 2½ hours late.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville 292021B to F.O.Sy.)

NELSON
grounding. Regret to report while taking up berth at 8 and 8A buoy Grand Harbour at 1730B Saturday 28th August
NELSON touched shelf to northward of 8A buoy.
Diver reports no damage. Written report follows.
(NELSON 290825 to S.O.Force H, (R) C. in C.Med.(M)
Admty. V.A.Malta, A.S.Malta.)

M.E.Situation Newtel No. 24. Situation review week ending incl. Report. 27 August.

7. Adm. Tripoli. Total 13,320 tons discharged incl. 4,800 tons bulk M.T. petrol. 500 personnel embarked and 1,790 disembarked. During week ending 18 August 1,100 Hosp. cases arrived by sea and 490 by air from Sicily. Benghazi. Total 8,030 tons discharged incl. 3,060 tons bulk aviation spirit. Air freight. 74,820 lbs. and 82 personnel by air from Cairo. Base Ports. Tonnages discharged during period 18 to 24 August. Delta ports 85,300 tons, Levant ports 11,250 tons, total 96,550 tons.
8. Political. A 63 ton Egyptian sailing vessel was sunk 20 miles off Nathanya on the night of 20/21 August. The crew maintain that an enemy submarine surfaced and sank the vessel with gun-fire. 10. Balkans.
Soe, Greek organisation in Piraeus, successfully damaged tug TXIARCHIS and salvage ship CYCLOPS. Total of 91 tons of arms ammunition equipment and stores were dropped by air into the Balkans making total for month up to 25 August Yugoslavia 64 tons Albania 18 tons Greece 148 tons Crete 2 tons.
(C. in C.M.E. 291000C.)

Attacks on U/Bs in Spanish Waters. Following has been made by A.O.C. Gibraltar to Comorseafon begins "In connection with Air Operations N.W. Spanish Coast any submarine seen in "Percussion" area should be attacked even if in Territorial Waters and burning lights. We will comply." (Ends.)

Please inform if A.O.C. has received any order from H.M.G. which permits disregard of International law as regards Territorial Waters of Spain. If so please quote authority as I can at present trace no such order and U.S.Navy are questioning the matter.

(C. in C.Med. 291016B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)
Reply: F.O.Gibraltar 300027B.

Transport for India. Your 281354A. RUYS will tranship at Suez.
2. DILWARA, DUNERA, EMPIRE PRIDE will sail with ASCANIA, CIRCASSIA, WINCHESTER CASTLE ex Suez first Sept. for Bombay.
3. Request confirmation RUYS, TEGELBERG, MONARCH OF BERMUDA are to return to U.K. in M.K.F. 24 with EMPIRE OF AUSTRALIA and ARUNDEL CASTLE.
(P.S.P.O.M.E. 291021C to Admty. for D. of S.T. etc.)

/UNRUFFLED...

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29.8.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

UNRUFFLED. Leave Brindisi area to pass $040^{\circ} 40' 018^{\circ} 52'$ at 0200 first thence to patrol off Valona.
 2. Leave for Malta passing $040^{\circ} 15' 019^{\circ} 07'$ at 0500 second thence through $039^{\circ} 40' 019^{\circ} 03'$ to $038^{\circ} 40' 018^{\circ} 50'$ at 0800 third thence through $035^{\circ} 45' 016^{\circ} 38'$ to R/V with M/S 5 miles east of Q.B.B. 147 at 0800/5th surface passage on 3rd.
 3. M.J.A.O. 24, request bombing restrictions to cover passage. (Capt. S. 10, 291102 to P.46 (UNRUFFLED) (R) C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant, V.A.Malta, Capt. S.1, Capt. S.8, Admty. R.A.Alexandria, 10th S.F. A.H.Q.)

CELENO orders to S/Ms. CELENO enter afternoon 2250C/28th.
 1. P.314 (TACTICIAN) proceed to join TORBAY in south east afternoon patrolling as follows
 A. P.314 (TACTICIAN) East of line running 142° from Krokelos Point (Kos).
 B. TORBAY west of this line.
 C. Both may cross this line when avoiding or attacking. Submarines are not to be attacked.
 2. TROOPER has freedom of action north of $037^{\circ} 25'$. (Capt. S.1, 291102C to P.314 (TACTICIAN) TROOPER, TORBAY.)

8th S.F. Movements at 1958B/29. SPORTSMAN $038^{\circ} 20' 007^{\circ} 45' 082^{\circ}$ surface 10 knots until dawn 30th thereafter diving by day $2\frac{1}{2}/10$ knots (see amendment 292020B.)
 SERAPH $041^{\circ} 38' 007^{\circ} 10' 015^{\circ} 2\frac{1}{2}/10$ knots to patrol in Gulf Genoa. SIBYL in Gulf Genoa.
 P.224 (SICKLE) East of Corsica.
 SHAKESPEARE north of $040^{\circ} 00' E.$ of $013^{\circ} 00'$. (Capt. S.8, 291110B.)
 My 291110 amend para. 1 to read P.229 (SPORTSMAN) $038^{\circ} 15' 006^{\circ} 35' 082^{\circ}$ diving by day $2\frac{1}{2}$ surfaced by night 10 knots. (Capt. S.8, 292020B.)

MAINE. Hospital ship MAINE sailed Tripoli 1030/29th August embarked 64 (R) 64 Protected Personnel 10 (R) 10 Canadian Invalids plus Personal Baggage only. (D.S.T.O. Alexandria 291130C to Admty.)

M.K.S.23. My 271045B and my 271727B. Sailed less (2 corrupt groups) and ALETTA, Fisherman (sic) $8\frac{1}{2}$. ARTENDS took local Pendant 33, destination unknown $9\frac{1}{2}$. SALVESTOR 34 Algiers $9\frac{1}{2}$. HARPALYCUS 31 Oran for Beni Saf and U.S.A. $12\frac{1}{2}$. KAROMINUS 32 Oran $11\frac{1}{2}$. LUCRETIA MOTT 26 Oran for Gaspe. BELNOR sailing 31st (?) to overtake convoy.
 2. Ships for Tripoli are now ORNA, ALEXANDRE ANDRE (T) and OCTANE (T).
 3. 17 ships in all. C. in C.Med. is requested to signal destination of ARVOSTOOK. Pass to Cdre. and escorts.
 4. EMPIRE MOORHEN requires 200 tons water at Gibraltar. (V.A.Malta 291228B to HOLCOMBE, (R) COLOMBO, Levant Escort Force 259, Comnob Oran, C.C.O. Bizerta.)

/M.K.S.23.

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Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

M.K.S.23. M.K.S.23. Pass to Cdre. and Escort. Intend to sail
(Contd.) 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ PORT SLAVE pendant 21 Gibraltar for Beni Saf.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville 291304B to COLOMBO,
Escorts of Convoy M.K.S. 23, (R) Admty. F.O.I.C.
Gibraltar, C. in C.Med. Connav.)

M.K.S.23 arrived MACOMA, DEFENDER, CUSTODIAN, CITY OF NEWCASTLE,
FORTHBANK, PRINCE DE LIEGE, OCEAN VIKING, FORT CHAMBOC, FORT
GRAHAME, INDIAN PRINCE, PRESIDENT DE VOGUE, YENANGYAUNG.
(V.A.Malta 292253 to Admty. etc.)

Landing
Craft.

Agwar 95 dated 20th August asks for state of
landing craft. It is not possible to produce
status reports of any accuracy in the detail
required and following is best information
available regarding British craft as on 29th Aug.
(C. in C.Med. 291251B, 291307B to B.A.D.)

Situation
Report
No. 165.

1. WANDERER and WALLFLOWER escorting K.M.S. 24/
O.G. 92 sank outward bound U-Boat by "Hedgehog"
and depth charges at 0233/25th in 41° 58' N. 17°
59' W. 37 survivors including the Captain.
2. Commandos landed Bova Marina night 26th/27th
August. Party returned with Prisoners of War
and reported all quiet and locality not defended.
3. 5 further Commando parties landed with W/T sets night 27th/28th
August. More prisoners removed for interrogation. All was quiet
One L.C.I. was damaged by gunfire when passing Melito at daylight
no casualties. So far (?) C.O. Parties have signalled nothing to
report.
4. U.S.P.T. Boats carried out sweep in Gulf of Gaeta during night
27/28th August. No incidents reported.
5. UGANDA and QUILLIAM bombarded Fellaro Battery at 1630/28.
Only opposition was from medium gun whose fire was ineffective.
6. Three L.C.T. gutted and one extensively damaged by fire and
explosion at Tripoli (Libya) a.m. 28th August. Two fatal
casualties.
7. Both ships in my 272133 para. 2 (attack on U.G.S.14) have sunk.
(C. in C.Med. 291302B to Admty.)

Enemy units.

Following has been read: P.C. and S. of enemy
2 medium merchant vessels and 2 destroyers 43.05
N. 9.25 E. course 100° speed 8 knots.
(A/C BUL/K 291345B.)

My 291345B. Enemy previously reported are 2 medium merchant
vessels 5000 tons and 2 destroyers.
(A/C BUL/K 291355B.)

U.409.

P.O.W. information indicates U.409 was subject
of attacks by WHIMBREL and CYGNET at 061325 July
in 36° 46' N. 01° 21' E.
2. U.409 subsequently sunk by INCONSTANT 12th
July off Algiers.
(C. in C.Med. 291413B to Admty. C. in C.W.A.)

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War Diary.29.8.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

N.A.A.F. Report. N.A.A.F. Opsum 189. N.A.S.A.F. 27/28 August. 49 Wellingtons marshalling yards, Salerno. 4 returned early. 77 tons dropped from 4,500 to 11,000 feet. 84 U.S. Fortresses escort 48 U.S. Lightnings marshalling yards Terni. 8 bombers, 4 fighters returned early. Good concentration yards, tracks, rolling stock and freight sheds. 48 U.S. Mitchells escort 48 U.S. Lightnings marshalling yards Canello. 5 fighters returned early. 68 3/4 tons from 10,000 to 13,500 feet. 2 of the U.S. Mitchells dropped 4 x 300 and fired 15 x 75 m.m. shells on R.D.F. station Ventotene Island. 79 U.S. Marauders escort (41 or 49?) U.S. Lightnings marshalling yards Aversa. 3 bombers 2 fighters returned early. 119 tons from 10,000 to 11,900 feet. 44 U.S. Warhawks dropped 264 x 20 frag. Flumini. Aggiori Area. Factory buildings, smelting plant and town hit. Correct my Opsum 188. 79 U.S. Fortress took off to attack Sulmona 10 returned early. 27/28 August. 12 Bostons gun positions San Giovanni. 44 x 250 Majority bombs target area. (H.Q.N.A.A.F. 291430B.)

K.M.S.23. Following arrived (list.)
(R.A.Alexandria 291421C to Admty.)

Hospital ship AMARAPOORA. My 281545B sailed.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran 291500B to C. in C.Med.)

K.M.F.22Y. C. in C.Med's 261101 para. 4 anticipate sailing delay of about one hour. Amend my 271144B.
(S.N.O. Philippeville 291516B to C. in C.Med.)

Med. Air Report. A.261 signed Eisenhower. Part 3 Air Cositintrep No. 50, 28 August. N.W.A. Air Forces. Night 27/28. 45 Wellingtons dropped 77 tons of bombs on the marshalling yards at Salerno covering the target well. 12 B.59s attacked gun positions at San Giovanni. Day 28 August. 76 B.17 escorted by 44 P.38 bombed marshalling yards at Terni. At Canello 46 B.25 escorted by 43 P.38 bombed marshalling yards whilst two B125G which accompanied them skip bombed and shelled the islands of Wurzburg and Ventotene. 74 B126 escorted by 47 P.38 bombed marshalling yards at Aversa. 3. Bomber Command. Day 28 August. 40 P.25 bombed Taranto marshalling yards where hits are reported on the main station and on a naval vessel in the barbour.
(Air Clin C.Med. T.O.O. Nil, Recd. 1545/29.)

Ships for Eastern Fleet. A.M. 041601 August (BIGOT most secret distribution) and your 061024 (N.T. in W.D.)
A. In addition to 2 Fighter Direction ships it will be necessary to send two A/A cruisers to Eastern Fleet before the end of the year. In view of her defective turbine COLOMBO will not be suitable.

/B...

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29.8.1943

Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Ships for
Eastern
Fleet.
(Contd.)

B. CALEDON will become available by December.
C. ALYNBANK must be brought home to pay off before STUART PRINCE can be commissioned.
D. ANTWERP will remain in Mediterranean.
2. Proposed that ALYNBANK should return when CALEDON is ready for service.
3. In view of above do you wish to modify your 061024 August?
(Hd. of M.II Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 291714A to C. in C.Med. (R) C. in C.E.F.)

Movements
Port Said.

29th August Port Said arrivals ISLAY, EXMOOR, BELVOIR, IERAX, PANTHER, R.F.A. WAR KRISHNA, COMMANDANT DOMINE. Departures CAIRNS, WOOLONGONG, EXMOOR, BELVOIR, R.F.A. WAR KRISHNA, KAJMAKAIAN, DURMITOR.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 291801C to Admty. etc.)

SPORTSMAN.

My 271540. SPORTSMAN passing through 038° 20' 007° 50' at 0300/30th and subsequent positions six hours later than times stated.
(Capt. S.8th 291810B to 8th S.F. (R) C. in C.Med. S.O.Force H, Capt. S.10.)

K.M.F.22.

Convoy arrival telegram K.M.F.22 arrived less Alexandria portion detached.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 291908C to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Levant.)

LAWRENCE
D.TYSON,
NEA.

LAWRENCE D.TYSON after collision in convoy. Holed above water starboard side after end No. 4. Details later.
2. NEA arrived requiring bunkers. Vital repairs to engines being carried out probable duration about one week. Future plans for ship will assist in bunkering and storing.
(D.S.T.O. Malta 291917B to D. of S.T. P.S.T.O.Med.)

Movements
Algiers.

Arrivals U.S.S. NICHOLSON, EDISON.
Departures JONQUIL, JAUNTY and CHARON with ENIEX in tow HORNPIPE, M.M.S. 101, 104, 108, five 133, 134 Submarine UNIVERSAL (P.57.)
(Com. Algeria 292026 to Admty. etc.)

Movements
Haifa.

29th August arrival LISMORE, ABDIEL, COMMANDANT DUBOC, Z 7, Z. 26. Departure BREAM, REINE DES FLOTS, Z.22, Z.33, Z.41, GERALDTON.
(N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports Haifa 292029C to Admty. C. in C.Levant.)

Malta Air
Report.

A.I. 1026, opsum No. 111. (No incidents.)
(R.A.F.Malta T.O.O. 292050B.)

/Movements...

War Diary.29.8.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements Bone. Arrivals WELCOME, M.Ls. 456, 451, 478, 461, 299. (N.O.I.C. Bone 292115B to Admty. etc.)

Movements Benghazi. Sailed M.Ls. (?299 or 337) 308, 340, 224, L.C.Ts. 13, 112, 9, 108, 115, B.Y.M.S. 65, 66, 67, 185. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi 292126C to Admty.)

Movements Oran. Arrived today U.S.S. SPEED, L.C.T. 420, 445, 447, 450, U.S.S. PREVAIL, PILOT, Y.M.S. 27, 28, S.C. 525, GRILSE and IMPERIALIST. Departed U.S.S. EDISON, NICHOLSON, French GOELAND. (Comnob Oran 292213B to Admty. etc.)

Movements Malta. Arrivals ILLUSTRIOUS, OFFA, PETARD, PIORUN, TYRIAN, WILTON, LOYAL, ECLIPSE, Tug ORIANA, M.T.Bs. 289, 277, 290, 295, 298, M.Ls. 464, 448, 1292, 1229 M.M.S. 184. Departures LEDBURY, LAUDERDALE, CONVULVULUS, PENTSTEMON, VETCH, STELLA CARINA, HOY, BAROVA, BARFOIL, SALVESTOR, SALVEDA, Tug EMPIRE ANN, A.S.I.S. KHETI, M.G.B. 661, L.C.I.(L) 310, 126, L.C.T. 417, 354. Arrivals and departures HOLCOMBE, LIDDESDALE. (V.A.Malta 292302B to Admty. etc.) Arrivals UPROAR, UNRIVALLED. Departure UNSHAKEN. (V.A.Malta 292304B to Admty. etc.)

Movements Augusta. 29 August arrivals L.C.I. 296 and 10 L.C.Ms. and one L.C.A. M.Ls. 240, 255. Departures L.C.F. 17, 18, L.C.I. 265, 291, 317, 286. (N.O.I.C. Augusta 292310B to Admty.)

Movements Tripoli. Arrived H.D.M.L. 1253, L.C.I.(L) 299, 309, sailed BRITTANY, H.D.M.L. 1242, L.C.I.(L) 249. (S.N.O.Trip. 292355B to Admty.)

Movements Tunisia. Arrivals POLRUAN, BUDE, PRODIGAL, Y.M.S. 227. Departures WAINWRIGHT, ROWAN, STRIVE, ESPIEGLE, L.S.Ts. 25, 72, 73, 326, 175, 176, 5, 411, 412. (F.O.I.C. Tunisia 292357B to Admty. etc.)

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29.8.1943.

Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Convoy, Departure 0115Z/29th August KATHIAWAR
X.C.5. escorting convoy X.C.5.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 290117Z to Admty.)
Sailing telegram part 1, X.C.5 (2 ships)
(2) 0100Z/29th August. (4) 11 knots.
(5) X. 002° 51' N. (7076°) 42' Y 006° 50' 079° 20'.
(6) KATHIAWAR.
Part 2 is my 290141Z.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 290137Z to Admty.)

CARNATIC. Departure delayed 16 hours, my 281019 refers.
K.T.G. unchanged.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 290207Z to Admty.)

TRAVANCORE. Arrival.
(N.O.I.C. Karachi, 290221Z to Admty.)

RAMDAS. Departure RAMDAS escorting ALFIOS keeping
continuous watch on 500 K/cs and shifting to
2700 K/cs within 4 hours steaming off Colombo.
(N.O.I.C. Madras, 290308Z to Admty. etc.)

VARSOVA. Ref. my 280958 to C. in C. E.F. para. 19.
Request confirmation that escort is available.
(P.S.T.O.I. 290329Z. to F.O. Ceylon (R) C. in C.
E.F. etc.)

TRIDENT TRIDENT reports total of over 30 Navy Fighters
R. of P. Dive-bombers and Torpedo-bombers arrived
Cruiser Sabang 0700Z/28th August. No ships entered
Torpedoed. harbour. (2) Owing to one engine being out
of action TRIDENT had to patrol off Sabang
instead of North of 1½ Fathom Bank as previously
arranged. (3) Am now recalling TRIDENT from
Patrol.
(F.O. Ceylon, 290411Z to C. in C. E.F. (R)
Capt. (S) 4, Admty., F.L.O. Delhi.)

Your 290556Z (N.T. in W.D.) fired 8 torpedoes (?extreme range)
at Japanese cruiser KASHI (?entering) Sabang 0129Z/29th, one
possible hit, result unobserved.

Intend to remain on patrol in vicinity Sabang.
(TRIDENT, 291651Z to Capt. (S) 4, (R) THUNDERBOLT (sic))

Air Daily Opsum No.532. 28 August.
Report. 6 Hurricanes detailed Pauk-Pakokku. 1 Aircraft
returned early due technical trouble.
5 aircraft sunk or damaged. 26 Rivercraft and
attacked animal transport.

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29.8.1943.

Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Air Report (Contd.) 28/29 August. 5 Wellingtons bombed Akyab town. Over 8 tons dropped. All bombs target area. Several large fires started. (A.H.Q. India, 290526Z)

SONDRA. SONDRA left. (F.O. E.A. and Z. 290707A to Admty. etc.)

Dispositions. Eastern Signal No.71 (C) SUSSEX at Kilindini, SUFFOLK Fremantle to Addu Atoll. (D) NEWCASTLE at Simonstown, FROBISHER at Colombo, HAWKINS Durban to Kilindini, EMERALD Kilindini to Bombay. (E) Unit Exercises off Kilindini. (C. in C. E.F. 290821Z to C. in C. S.A. etc.)

Shipping Estimates. As these tables are based on past information and as all traffic is assumed to be following coastal route, which is far from being the case, it is considered that such a forecast when required is better obtained from local merchant shipping plots. (2) Consider therefore that promulgation of further similar signals is not required. (3) Your 251647 refers. (C. in C. E.F. 290920 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.)

B.P.92. Departure BARODA with B.P.26 $\frac{1}{2}$ (?92 $\frac{1}{2}$ intended) (S.O.(I) Bombay, 291051Z to Admty. etc.) Signal 11 (1) B.P.92 $\frac{1}{2}$ HASSHEMI, VICTORIA MARIE both Ballast, Karachi. (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 291107 to Admty.)

Movements. Khor Kuwai arrival 1700Z/28. BENGAL and RAJPUTANA. (N.O.I.C. Hormuz, 291100Z to Admty. etc.) Khor Kuwai arrivals 0900Z/29th KUMAON and

INVESTIGATOR. (N.O.I.C.Hormuz, 291228Z to Admty. etc.) Colombo arrivals 29th August. 0030Z AGJA (?AGRA) 0520 H.N.M.S. O-24. (F.O. Ceylon, 291354Z to Admty. etc.)

PATNA. Departure PATNA keeping continuous W/T watch on 500 Kilos per second and shifting to 3000 Kilos per second when within 4 hours steaming of destination. (N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 291432Z to Admty. etc.)

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29.8.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

SUDBURY. P.C. and S. at 2300Z/28th (7 groups missed)
11 knots Pictou 2100Z/29th. Weather report.
(SUDBURY 290100 to SOREL, ARROWHEAD, C. in C.
C.N.A., S.O. (I) Halifax, S.N.O. Mulgrave,
S.N.O. Pictou.)

Movements, St. Johns. St. Johns, N.F. Aug. 28th arrivals GODERICH,
LOCKEPORT Halifax. Departures B.Y.M.S.76, 77,
214, M.M.S.244, F.T.2 to Londonderry ADHERENT to
New York, LINCOLN, ST.ALBANS, HEPATICA, DIGBY,
MELVILLE, O.N.198.
(N.O.I.C. St.Johns 290136Z to Admty.)

DAWN lost. Nassau reports U.S.Auxiliary Schooner DAWN
wrecked 24th off Egg Island total loss crew
saved.
(S.O.I. Jamaica 290943R to Admty. etc.)

Movements of "Queens". For D.D. Mov. (P) and B.M.S.M. from D.D. Mov. (P)
and D. of S.T. Your QM/268 of 27th August.
(271015Q). Minutes of C.C.S.115th meeting not
yet received here but we understand approval was
given for reversion to a (not the) 21 day cycle
with no restrictions relating to full moon period.
Latter were applied originally on account of possibility of
bombing which now considered remote and negligible. Our view is
that this pre "Trident" restriction need no longer apply and
subject to Admiralty approval we propose to revise programme for
"Queens" accordingly.
(W.O. 291115A to B.A.S. Washington.)

A/S Instructions to Convoy Escorts. Herewith 102109 of July sent by Cinclant for
action to C.T.G. 21.11, 21.12, 21.13 and for
information to C.T.F.61, 62, 63, Cominch,
Comfairlant and U.S.S. CARD (begins) Interpret
my orders to provide anti-submarine air coverage
or protection to convoys, in carrying them out,
as giving you full liberty to leave the vicinity
of the convoy to operate offensively against S/M concentrations
whenever your information of submarine positions indicates that
you can take such action and still be able to return to the
vicinity of the convoy in time to prevent, by any reported
concentration, a pack attack on the convoy. (Ends).
(Commaveu 291234Z to Admty.) Note:- This is reference quoted
in C. in C.Lant's 252219 which was passed to you as our
260456Z (re escort for U.G.S.17.)

Movements, Halifax. Arrival ROSEBAY, ARIES ex S.H.99A, SUDBURY to
Halifax approaches ex S.H.99A, thence to Pictou.
(C. Halifax 291235Z to Admty. etc.)
Departure MATAPEDIA escorting NORSEMAN (Cable
ship).
(C. Halifax 291236Z to Admty. etc.)

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War Diary.

29.8.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

- S.C.139. Average speed 6.6 knots. Off Oversay at 1000Z/24th August. TACHEE engine breakdown, was towed successfully. All arrived.
(D.T.D. 291255Z to Comnav, N.S.H.Q.)
- INVER. Admty. 211758 June. Anticipate sailing H.M.S. INVER to Bermuda 3rd September for work up.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 291318Z to S.B.N.O.W.A.)
- RENOWN. Arrival RENOWN from U.K.
(C. Halifax 291433Z to Admty. etc.)
- H.X.255. 1. Ocean route letters K.F. to K.K.
2. Add positions K.C. 39.50 N. 73.00 W.
K.D. 39.57 N. 67.18 W. K.E. 42.40 N. 62.26 W.
3. Departure position K.C. at 1900A/Sept.2nd.
H.O.M.P. position 42.58 W. N.W. 60.57 W. at 1200Z/Sept.5th.
4. Stragglers route letters H to N. 5. "Westchop" 0900Z
Sept. 4th.
(C. in C. C.N.A. Halifax 291434Z to Admty. C.E.S.F. (R)
N.S.H.Q. etc.)
1. Advance sailing despatch. H.X.255. Total 38 ships.
(P.D. New York 291630Z to Admty.)
- X.B.71. Convoy arrivals. X.B.71 Boston Section arrived 291007Z. Cape Cod Canal Section arrived 291130Z.
(P.D. Boston 291511Z to Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet.
C.E.S.F. N.S.H.Q. C. in C. C.N.A. (R) Admty.)
- O.N.S.16. C.3. relieved by W.1. SS. LORD COCHRANE with boiler trouble proceeding from Westomp to St.John's, N.F. to effect repairs escorted by NORTHERN PRIDE.
(C.3. 291521Z to Connav (R) Admty. etc.)
- U/B.
Estimates. One area 31 N. 78 W. From attack 281915Z.
No recent information other areas.
(Cominch 291543Z to Admty. etc.)
- JAMES. L.
RICHARDS. H.M. Rescue tug SUSY sailed to assistance of SS. JAMES L. RICHARDS aground in 009° 15' N. 060° 35' W.
(B.S.N.O. Trinidad 291622Q to S.B.N.O.W.A.)
- INDOMITABLE,
OPPORTUNE,
OBDURATE,
BUCK. Following is a re-encypherment of N.O.B. Bermuda 291530 (begins) Com. 5 (R) Cominch, Cinclant, C.E.S.F., Comairlant, Comdeslant, S.B.N.O.W. At., B.A.D. Admty. from N.O.B. Bermuda. INDOMITABLE

/originator...

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29.8.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

INDOMITABLE, OPPORTUNE, OB DURATE, U.S.S. BUCK
OPPORTUNE, departing Bermuda 2100Z/29 through positions.
OB DURATE, (a) Lat. 32.16 long. 64.18. (b) Lat. 32.39
BUCK. long. 64.18. (c) Lat. 34.33 long. 70.05.
(Contd.) thence X.S. and destination Norfolk. Advancing
15 knots, E.T.A. 1600Z/31. Cape Henry.
Q.J.C.151, Q.J.B.9, Cominch 202239, Cinclant
280529. 15 Albacores to fly off 37.00 N. 74.30 W.
Communications between ship planes and N.A.S. Norfolk will be
on 4550 kc/s. W/T and 6550 R/T. S.B.N.O. W.At. pass to Admty.
By hand to INDOMITABLE, OPPORTUNE, OB DURATE and BUCK. T.O.O.
291530 (Ends).
(Bermuda C.C.O. 291630Z to Admty.)
Bermuda departure INDOMITABLE escorted by OPPORTUNE,
OB DURATE and U.S.S. BUCK.
(S.B.N.O. W.At. 291902Z to Admty. etc.)

L.26. Ref. C. in Cs. 261848. C.E.S.F. Oral modification
escort. Aug. 29. U.S.G.G. GENERAL GREEN provides escort
buoy C.2½ miles N.E. Cape Cod Canal entrance to
Tompkinsville via Buzzards Bay, Block Island,
Long Island Sounds.
(Cdr. Narragansett Group 291734 to C.E.S.F.
(R) F.O.N.F. Admty. etc.)

Russian C.E.S.Fs. 252125 re delay in sailing Russian M/S
M/S. and and M/Ls. For operational reasons it is
M/Ls. desirable that these ships should reach Iceland
(C) as soon as possible for onward passage to
Russia. 2. Request you will inform C.E.S.F.
accordingly. 3. Early information of expected
date of arrival in Iceland (C). is requested.
(D.O.D. (H) 291744A to B.A.D.)

U.S. This is Cinclant's 291514 addressed to Comnavu
Atlantic for action and to Cominch for information.
Fleet. Comnavu to pass to Admty. August 30 at
Argentia IOWA and 3 D.Ds. Lantflt. location
sheet number 40-7.
(Comnavu 292131Z to Admty.)

KENT. Argentia 29 August, arrival.
(Capt. (D) Argentia 292240Z to Admty.)
My 292240Z. Add to repeated addressees C. in C.
Home Fleet, RENOWN, C. in C. C.N.A. pass to
RENOWN.
(Capt. (D) Argentia 292350Z to Admty.)

B.Y.M.S. My 281841 (B.Y.M.S.39,54).
Departed Charleston 1830Q/August 29. Cominch pass
to B.A.D. (R) C.T.G. 02.5 C.T.G. 02.4 C.T.G. 02.3
C.E.S.F.
(C.T.G. 02.6 292317 to B.A.D. N.S.H.Q. etc.)

1058

29.8.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.Digest
No. 586
August 28th.

Paras. 12 and 13 cover South Pacific Forces. Enemy convoy eight vessels including three escorts sighted 65 miles West Mussau Island on Northerly course midnight 27th. Following morning R/C aircraft reported sighting total 7 vessels comprising one heavy cruiser, one light cruiser, two or three destroyers, at least one large and one medium merchantman in area to North Mussau Island. Photos confirm heavy and light cruiser. When last sighted further N. noon shipping in two groups on Northerly courses.

(2) Another Liberator sighted on gunboat escorting medium merchantman N. Mussau Island on S.Easterly course during forenoon. Several near hits claimed causing merchantman to trail large oil slick. This convoy observed later on same course with single fighter covering. (3) Hospital ship observed S. of Kavieng on Northerly course forenoon and to N.E. of Kavieng during afternoon on similar course.

(4) Ref. my Serial No. 585, para. 1 photos show vessel to be destroyer. (5) Photos Wewak area forenoon show one 3500 ton freighter, two smaller freighters seatruck type, three luggers and 21 barges. Four airfields this area show total 21 fighters, 12 light and three medium bombers on ground, six fighters also observed airborne. (6) Enemy S/M Northbound off Cape Orford during forenoon and another Southbound with deck cargo during afternoon. (7) 27 Mitchells escorted by 32 Lightnings attacked Hansa Bay forenoon dropping over 23 tons bombs and thoroughly straffing area. Fuel and ammunition dumps fired, hits scored on A/A defences, small freighter set on fire, eight barges and nine luggers destroyed and others damaged. Photos taken after attack show 40 barges in harbour. One Mitchell lost.

(8) 13 Fortresses escorted by 16 Thunderbolts dropped 29 tons bombs on barges and jetties Lae forenoon destroying three jetties and barges, and firing ammunition dumps. Nil interception. (?No) losses. (9) Six Bostons attacked barges and jetties Sooca (Sal Amau) destroying at least one barge but final results not observed. (12) Single Liberator scored hit on vessel off Falsi before noon another dropped bombs same area and one bombed Rekata Bay. 12 Mitchells escorted by 16 fighters straffed and bombed Kakasa (Choiseul) starting fires and probably destroying ten barges afternoon 27th.

(13) Allied troops made unopposed landing Arundel Island 27th, some evidence of Japanese evacuation.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 291015Z.)

Movements.

Arrival Milne Bay 28th. KATOOMBA, SHEPPARTON, Townsville? 28th KAPUNDA. Port Moresby 27th BOWEN (?LATROBE) Darwin 28th COOTAMUNDRA. Departed Townsville 28th DELORAINÉ for Milne Bay. (N.B. Melbourne 291054Z to Admty. etc.)

Arrived Port Moresby 26th U.S. Navy Transport MIZAR, Melbourne 28th U.S.N.T. WEST POINT, Sydney 26th U.S.S. SHICKELAMY. Departed Port Moresby 28th U.S.N.T. MIZAR for Brisbane. (A.C.N.B. 291116 to Admty. etc.)

/S/MS...

1059

29.8.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated
Positions.

(D.D.I.C. 291340A, 291359A.)

Submarines Attacked.

S/M attack
and sighting
summary for
24 hours to
1000A/29th
August.

Para. A. GRENVILLE attacked R.D.F. and Asdic contact in 42° 03' N. 12° 10' W. and finally sank S/M at 2000/28th August, large quantity of diesel oil and two bales of sheet rubber recovered. Para. B. Transit aircraft sighted S/M in 44° 32' N. 08° 06' W. at 0810/27th August, course 332°.
(D.D.I.C. 290955Z to Cominch.)

1060

30.8.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Biscay
Patrol.

1. BERMUDA left patrol this evening for Plymouth. ATHABASKAN (damaged by air attack on 27th Aug.) reached Plymouth this evening under her own power.

North Atlantic.

U-boat
sunk.

2. STORK and STONECROP of E.G.37, escorting Convoy S.L.135/ M.K.S.22, today hunted a U-boat which had been sighted at 1311/29 (about 320 miles north-north-west of San Miguel, Azores). The U-boat was hunted for 26 hours and very deep, but at 1500Z today the U-boat was considered sunk in 40.25 N. 19.10 W. after 3 heavy underwater explosions which brought to the surface wreckage, fresh human remains and torpedo air vessels.

South Atlantic.

U-boats

3. C. in C.S.A. thinks it probable that the U-boats now off the southern coasts of Africa are proceeding to the Mozambique Channel and the waters south of Madagascar where much shipping is to be encountered and surface and air escorts are few. It appears that the enemy is putting himself as far as possible out of range of aircraft, as he did in the Atlantic earlier; and C. in C.S.A. asks for a squadron of Wellingtons for long distance strikes.

Mediterranean.

Sicily
and
South
Italy

4. Coastal forces patrolled off Vibo Valentia and the Calabrian coast again last night. The force off the coast of Calabria was fired at by coastal batteries near Melito and Bovalina Marina (Toe of Italy), but no damage or casualties occurred.

/There...

30.8.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Sicily
and
South
Italy.
(Contd.).

There were two fighter bomber attacks on Augusta today, at 0655 and 0850 respectively. No damage or casualties were caused.

East Indies.

C. in C.
E.F.

5. C. in C.E.F. intends to visit C. in C.S.A. leaving Kilindini and 1st September and returning to Kilindini 11th September; he intends subsequently to proceed to Colombo where his shore headquarters will have been transferred.

Burma

6. Sixty two river craft sunk and large numbers of river craft reported to have been damaged by Allied air attacks on the Lower Irrawaddy and in central Burma today.

30.8.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Flag of Rear-Admiral Hamilton was struck at sunset 29th August. Rear Admiral Palliser has assumed command of First Cruiser Squadron wearing his flag in LONDON.
(C.S.1. 300800A to Admty.)

Reserves for Captain-Class Frigates. My 091830 July. (1) It is understood that there may be difficulty in distributing adequate reserves for Captain-Class Frigate till sufficient quantities have been supplied from U.S. sources. (2) To provide for immediate contingencies, request reserves of armament and special stores for these vessels may be established in Belfast and Freetown in the first instance. (3) Further request that in the meantime U.S. authorities may be asked to supply from U.S. stocks replenishment of U.S. type stores for British Captain Class Frigates visiting Casablanca and Argenta. (4) The most important requirements for armament stores appear to be (A) high explosive and starshell for American 3 inch 50 calibre guns. (B) Arbors and impulse charges for American K guns. (5) All ships carry British depth charges.
(C. in C. W.A. 302137A to Admty.)

Defence of United Kingdom.

Port H.H.X. Security arrangements at port H.H.X. will not be required by 12th S/M.F. between 1st September, 1943 and 1st March, 1944. It is believed however H.Q.C.C.O. are considering applying for use of this port between these dates.
(Capt. S.12. 301002 to Admty.)

Red Sand Fort. My 271716A. Operations postponed 24 hours and 45 minutes.
(C. in C. Nore 301255A to Com. Sheerness.)

Movements.

S/M movements. L.27 is due to leave Clyde 4th September for St.John's, N.F. Request route. Estimated S.O.A. 9 knots.
(F.O.S. 301033A to C. in C. W.A.)
Positions of S/Ms. at 0800A/31 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S.301751A, 301921A, 311716A.)

QUEEN ELIZABETH. Scapa arrivals QUEEN ELIZABETH, HURON, SCORPION.
(A.C.O.S. 301418A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

T.G.21.17. This is Escort Control Londonderry's 271349 addressed to Comtaskgroup 21.17 for action and to Comnaveu for information. Entire group proceed to Belfast.
(Comnaveu 301451 to Admty.)

/Your...

1063

30.8.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

- T.G.21.17. Your 301925A and 301200A. Can make North Sea
(Contd.) Light 1000A/31st.
(T.G.21.17 302221Z to N.O.I.C. Belfast.)
- M.F.V.23. BERMUDA reports sighting M.F.V.23 in 046° 13' N.
014° 40' W. at 1109A/29 steering 175° 7 knots.
My 231601A and N.O.I.C. Falmouth's 241306A refer.
(C. in C. Plymouth 301454A to POLLOCK.)
- ATHENE,
ENGADINE. It is understood that ATHENE sailed in H.X.254
and that ENGADINE will sail in H.X.255.
2. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange for
these ships to proceed to the Clyde to unload
aircraft.
(D.O.D.H. 301752A to C. in C. W.A.)
- MALAYA. MALAYA leaves Scapa practice area on completion
of exercise about 1900A/1st for Clyde. E.T.A.
1700A/2nd. 2. Route via Minches and war
channel. 3. R.A. (D) H.F. is requested to
detail one destroyer as escort.
(C. in C. H.F. 302323A to MALAYA.)

Operations.

Biscay A/S Patrol.

- U/B. U/B detected by Radar in 041° 50' 013° 40' W.
PELICAN close with utmost despatch and set watch
on 2410 kc/s.
(GRENVILLE 300101A to C. in C. Plymouth, PELICAN.)
Am being attacked by 3 enemy A/C position
45° 25' N. 10° 57' W.
(A/C. ZLJZ 300953B to 19 Group.)
- BERMUDA. At 2000A today, BERMUDA is to leave patrol and
proceed through position:- (BB) 048° 35' N. 012°
01' W. (BA) 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles, thence
to Plymouth keeping to westward of the Lizard
during dark hours.
(C. in C. Plymouth 301029A to BERMUDA (R) SHEFFIELD, GRENVILLE.)
A/C previously reported last seen position 46° 40' 11° 00'
W. course 270° height 3000 feet, one M.E.110.
(A/C. 502 Sq. 301105 to 19 Group.)
BERMUDA will pass through 044° 00' N. 015° 27' W. at 2100A
today, course 360°, 8.
(BERMUDA 301514A to SHEFFIELD.)
4 Junkers, position 45° 30' N. 10° 30' W.
(A/C. 53 Sq. Duty Q. 301810A to 19 Group.)
Safe. Returning to base.
(A/C. 53 Sq. Duty Q. 301828A to 19 Group.)

/Enemy...

1064

30.8.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay A/S Patrol - Contd.

Enemy A/Cs. Am being attacked by enemy A/C position 46° 25' N. 11° 39' W. (A/C 461 Sq. 301105 to 19 Group.)

PELICAN, WEAR. My 281118. PELICAN and WEAR of E.G.1 need not arrive Londonderry till September 8th. (C. in C. W.A. 301135A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

U/B. Radar Echo Range 1600 yards of vessel in 044° 46' N. 014° 32' W. paravane detected at 1307. German transmission heard at 1439 on 10265 kc/s. Vessel probably U-Boat and steering to westward. Visibility half mile. (BERMUDA 301447A and 311703A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

E.G.2. C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail E.G.2. to Plymouth en route for Bay patrol. 2. Admiralty representatives will visit ships and will fit special W/T equipment to two ships of the Group. (A.C.N.S. H. 301820A to C. in C. W.A.)

GRENVILLE. GRENVILLE, JED, ROTHER, P.C.S. 042° 28' 012° 32' W. 358° 13. CRANE, PELICAN on patrol line in the vicinity GB at 0700/31st. E.G.1 has not been sighted by air since 27th. Patchy fog begins at 042° N. EGRET survivor A.B. Burgess. JED's 31st improvement hopes to reach Londonderry direct. (GRENVILLE 302033A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Patrol line moved. My 301138A. CRANE and PELICAN are to establish new patrol line at daybreak tomorrow between position (GC) 043° 00' 013° 10' W. and (GD) 044° 48' 014° 00' W. (2) WEAR and Escort Group are to join CRANE and PELICAN on this patrol, route from position (L) being amended and R/V being ordered by WEAR. (3) My 281842A. Amend patrol area for SHEFFIELD to read between 046° N. and 048° N. disposed between 014° W. and 015° W. to support 1st and 5th E.G. (4) If shadowed by aircraft while on patrol ships are to move to the westward reporting action taken. (C. in C. Plymouth 302037. to WEAR, GRENVILLE, SHEFFIELD, E.G.1, E.G.5.)

"Percussion" Areas. Following percussion areas are to be brought into force on the dates stated.
2. Percussion A. Limits of area 48.00 N. 12.00 W. 48.00 N. 09.30 W. 46.00 N. 09.30 W. Cape Ortegal coastwise to 43.00 N. 43.00 N. 11.00 W. 44.00 N. 11.00 W. 46.00 N. 92.00 (12.00) W.
Percussion D. Limits of area 45.00 N. 09.00 W. 45.00 N. 08.00 W. coast at 08.00 W. coast at 0900 W. Percussion E. Limits of

/area...

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War Diary.30.8.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Biscay A/S Patrol.

"Percussion" area 43.30 N. 11.00 W. 43.30 N. 09.00 W.
Areas. coastwise to 42.00 N. 42.00 N. 11.00 W.
(Contd.) Percussion F (North). Limits of area 45.00 N.
14.00 W. 45.00 N. 12.00 W. 43.00 N. 12.00 W.
43.00 N. 14.00 W. Percussion F (South). Limits
of area 14.00 N. 14.00 W. 44.00 N. 12.00 W.
42.00 N. 12.00 W. 22.00 N. 14.00 W. Percussion H (North).
Limits of area 46.00 N. 12.00 W. 46.00 N. 11.00 W. 44.00 N.
11.00 W. 44.00 N. 12.00 W. Percussion H (South). Limits of
area. 44.00 N. 12.00 W. 44.00 N. 11.00 W. 43.00 N. 11.00 W.
43.00 N. 12.00 W. Percussion J. Limits of area 47.00 N. 11.00 W.
47.00 N. 09.00 W. 43.30 N. 09.00 W. 43.30 N. 11.00 W.
3. Areas to be covered by aircraft as follows:- O.C. Gibraltar
is requested to arrange participation of U.S. aircraft to maximum
degree possible. Percussion A. 19 Group may aircraft as from
1st September. Percussion D. 304 - 547 Squadrons as from night
1/2 September. Percussion E. Gibraltar LL Wellingtons as from
night 31st August/1st September. Percussion F. (North). 63
Squadron and 15 Group as from 1st September patrols to be co-
ordinated by 19 Group. Percussion F. (South). U.S. Liberators
and Catalinas from Lyautey as from 1st September. Percussion H
(North). 19 Group LL Catalinas as from night 1/2nd September.
Percussion H (South). Gibraltar Catalinas as from night 1/2nd
September. Percussion J. 19 Group LL Wellingtons as from night
1/2nd September. 4. Escort groups will be patrolling a line from
43° 00' N. by 13° 30' W. to 44° 48' N. by 14° W.
(H.Q.C.C. 302250A to 15 and 19 Groups.)

General.

Operation By D/F at 2322Z/29, U/B estimated within 100 miles
"Lorry". of 73° 00' N. 05° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 300331A to C. in C. H.F., C.S.10.)
1. Estimate MUSKETEER and MAHRATTA will pass
through 074° 41' 016° 02' at 0500/1st. September,
M.L.A. 245°, speed 19 knots. 2. TANTALUS is not to cross 074°
N. before 0500/2nd. 3. Surface force have been told of
TANTALUS movements and that her estimated position at 0800/31st
is 072° 23' N. 012° 50' E.
(F.O.S. 301447A and 301817A to S/MS.)
(1) TANTALUS is proceeding on surface to patrol between
Bere Island and South Cape Spitsbergen. (2) Her estimated
position at 0800/31st is 072° 23' N. 012° 50' E. and she has
been ordered not to cross latitude 074° N. before 0500/2nd.
(F.O.S. 301451A and 301839A to C.S.10, MUSKETEER, IMPULSIVE,
NORFOLK, MAHRATTA.)

Operation Carry out VP. 1. Patrol AN. 2. 38152.
VP-AN. 3. p.m. 1st September or 1st suitable day there-
after. 4. One. 5. No. 6. No. 7. One hour
after 1st light on morning after Force leaves
Lerwick. Batalden Island 061° 39' N. 004° 48' E.
Para. (1), my 1421/OS0272/1 dated 25th August 1943 refers.
(A.C.O.S. 301029A to Admty.)

/Operation...

1066

30.8.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

- Operation VP-SG. Carry out VP. 1. Patrol SG. 2. 37154. 3. p.m. 10th September or first suitable day thereafter. 4. One. 5. No. 6. No. 7. 120° Out Skerries 110 miles. (A.C.O.S. 301042A to Admty.)
- Operation VP-DD. Carry out V.P. 1. Patrol DD. 2. 34. 3. p.m. on 1st suitable day after 1st September. 4. At S.Os. discretion. 5. No. 6. No. 7. 045°. Out Skerries 110 miles. (A.C.O.S. 301052A to Admty.)
- Operation VP-VV. Carrying out VP. 1. Patrol VV. 2. 33. 3. p.m. on 1st suitable day after 1st September. 4. At S.O. discretion. 5. No. 6. No. 7. 050°. Out Skerries 110 miles. (A.C.O.S. 301121A to Admty.)
- VP. Operations. Cancel following signals from Lerwick 211235 June. 221525 June, 081650 July, 301810 July, 120959 Aug. 121011 August, 131651 August, 131616 August, (2) Fresh preparatory signals will be made giving serial number operation in para (2) and using letters for entrance as in my 1421 report as follows:- begins OS 0272/1 dated 25th August 1943 when operations are again contemplated. (A.C.O.S. 301211A to Admty.)
- Coastal Patrols. Patrol not required tonight. (C. in C. Nore 301035A to Capts. D.16, D.21.) 1. (A) BLEASDALE, LA COMBATTANTE, GLAISDALE, WENSLEYDALE, CHASSEUR.14, immediate notice St. Helens. (B) M.L.292, 343 patrolling Q.Z.S. 384 between F. and E.A. 5 buoys. (C) M.G.B.13, 8, 7 from Portland patrolling 50° 20' N. between 2° 00' W. and 2° 00' W. and 2° 25' W. (C. in C. Portsmouth 301601A.)
- Operation "Starkey". My 281545 and 290935A/8 postponed 24 hours. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 301045A.) C. in C. Nore reports BLYTH will be ready to sail 31st. Should she be instructed to join M.S.9. (C. in C. Portsmouth 301232A to V.A. Dover.)
- Operation S.F. Following should be added to para. 5. of my signal to MANSFIELD begins:- Have just heard with concern that the P.V.ls. of 128 Squadron which has relieved 84 Squadron in Iceland (C) have only maximum safe endurance of 5 hours at 150 knots owing to some trouble with teardrop tanks. This is no better than Hudson and far worse than P.B.Y. and effect will be seriously to reduce efficiency of "Moorings" patrols. Hope all possible will be done to increase operational range of these aircraft. Ends. (H.Q.C.C. 301455A to Admty.)

/Request...

1067

30.8.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation S.F. (Contd.) Request you will sail one additional destroyer to arrive Skaalefiord a.m. 1st September. (C. in C. H.F. 301631A to R.A.D.) SAVAGE with MIDDLETON proceed passing Switha 2100A/31st to Skaalefiord. 2. On arrival Capt. (D) 17 in ONSLOW return to Scapa. SAVAGE, MIDDLETON act under orders of C. in C. Rosyth for operation S.F., SAVAGE taking over S.O. (R.A.D. H.F. 301645A to SAVAGE, MIDDLETON, D.17.) Am over enemy S/M in 62° 20' N. 11° 20' W. (A/C. MJSP. Duty 9 301935 to 18 Group.) Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on the surface and observed to submerge. (A/C. MJSP. Duty 9 301950A to 18 Group.) Report course U-Boat. (18 Group 302050A to A/C. MJSP.9.) Proceed with all despatch to position of S/M sightings. 1. Group B, ONSLOW, ORIBI, SARDONYX. 2. 062° 00' N. 012° 04' W. 3. 225° 60 - 60. (C. in C. Rosyth 302052A to Capt. D.17.) 270° 10 knots. (A/C. MJSP.9. 302235A to 18 Group.) My 031615B. Moorings Area shifted 50 miles 135° as from 2359A/30th para. No.2. (A) 2. (B) 6. (C. in C. Rosyth 302352A to Capt. D.17.) Faeroes departure ONSLOW, ORIBI, SARDONYX. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes 302347A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

"Forfar Beer". "Forfar Beer" will not be carried out tonight. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 301530A to C. in C. Portsmouth).

S/M Patrols. Positions of S/Ms. at 0800A/31st and movements for the following 24 hours. (A) TANTALUS 72° 23' N. 12° 50' E. approx. course 022° probably on the surface, not to cross 74° N. before 0500/2nd September. (B) UNTIRING as in my 251706. (F) SAFARI 46° 45' N. 05° 50' W. to patrol in area J.1 dived by day. (G) CURIE as in my 291721A, leaving patrol dived by day after dark 31st to pass through 46° N. 7° W. thence to Westward 90 miles a day. (H) ULTIMATUM 46° 01' N. 07° 08' W. dived by day to Westward, daily advance 90 miles. (J) RUBIS probably proceeding from 43° 19' N. 01° 54' W. to patrol in J.5 E. of 03° 30' W. dived by day. (F.O.S. 301751A and 301921A to Admty.) TANTALUS will be operating on an anti-U-Boat patrol from p.m. 2nd September until 10th September in the area bounded by parallel 074° 20' and 076° 30' and longitude 015° E. and 020° E. 2. The patrol will be concentrated mostly in area 30 miles either side of line joining South of Cape Spitzbergen and Bear Island. 3. Request you will inform the Russians and arrange for the area to be kept free of their forces. 4. Operation "Lorry" and TANTALUS have been informed of each others movements. 5. Regret you were not informed earlier of this patrol. (A.C.N.S. H. 301944A to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

1068

30.8.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Exercises.

Exercise "Sunk". Carry out exercise "Sunk". Details.
(C. in C. Nore 301427A to PYTCHLEY.)

Exercise in Hebrides West Area. WREN, WOODCOCK, VARANGIAN, will be exercising with aircraft of coastal command in Hebrides West Area from 1200A/1st to about 0700A/2nd September. Illuminants will be used during night. On completion ships and submarine proceed to Londonderry.
(PHILANTE 301831A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Mining.

Q.Z.X.1070. Two laps completed today. 2.2 miles from Northern edge of Q.X.Z.1070 now swept. Mines encountered today as follows:- 1159 One G.R. Type cut and exploded in $110\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ Berry Head 10.4 miles.
1207 One G.R. Type cut and sunk in 111° Berry Head 10.32 miles. During last lap two Static Cutters were encountered and PROSPECT's sweep parted. It is suspected that a holiday in this lap may have been left and it will be re-swept.
(GWEAL 301845A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. Following is a repetition of N.O.I.C. Lerwick's 301256 to A.C.O.S. Begins. Report received 292030 that a U-Boat had been observed by civilians in Downna Firth on surface 282150, dived at 2220 when Sunderland passed overhead.

A further report that periscope was sighted by two youths in same locality on evening of 27th is being investigated. Trawler MACBETH and M.L.452 are patrolling Voes in vicinity with air co-operation. Garrison Commander and Home Guard with Police are searching. Intend maintaining M.L. patrol in Saint Magnus Bay.

(A.C.O.S. 301854 to Admt.)

At 1857A today Jan Mayen sighted a U/B to Northward on Easterly course.

(A.C.I.C. 302220A to C.S.10.)

Navigational.

Tyne. My 131730B. Two-way traffic at the entrance to the River Tyne is now being resumed but care is necessary that only one vessel at a time passes abreast of the wreck of SS. BRABO, the vessel proceeding against the tide to give way.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 301049A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

1069

30.8.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Technical.Glider
Bombs.

Commander Begg with two other officers arrives North Road 0732 tomorrow to investigate Rocket glider-bomb attacks. Request he may be afforded immediate facilities to interview officers and men of ATHABASKAN and any survivors of EGRET. (D.G.D. 301907A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Casualties & Defects.ATHABASKAN.
Airman
in
sea.

Your 292149A. Intend sailing tug DEXTEROUS escorted by CORNELIAN at 0600/30. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 300135A to C. in C. Plymouth.) ATHABASKAN damaged and possibly short of fuel is making Scilly Isles from westward, maximum speed about 13½ knots. CORNELIAN escorting DEXTEROUS proceeding to R/V ATHABASKAN in 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles at 1500 today. 2. LIMBOURNE proceed with TANATSIDE and GOATHLAND to meet ATHABASKAN and escort to Plymouth. After meeting 2 destroyers may be detached at your discretion. (C. in C. Plymouth 301117A to LIMBOURNE.)

When satisfied that ATHABASKAN can be left LIMBOURNE and GOATHLAND are to detach and proceed in company to rescue airman in sea in 049° 14' N. 004° 15' W. at 1900A/30. (2) ALBACORE co-operating all night. (3) Enemy are aware of position of this airman. (4) You are to be within 30 miles of own coast by first light 31. (5) Codeword "Warrant".

(C. in C. Plymouth 302001A to LIMBOURNE.)

M.M.S.1010.

M.M.S.1010 has steering defect and is anchoring in Spithead. Request tug may stand by her. E.T.A. Spithead 1100. (M.M.S.1007. 301045 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

M.L.293.

M.L.293 now clear of boom and proceeded Sheerness in tow. (N.C.S.O. Thames 301722A to Admty.)

Shipping & Convoys.

W.P.M.393.

Postponed 24 hours on account of weather. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 300719A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

LIND.

My 280945. Sailed. (N.C.S.O. Kirkwall 300845A to A.C.O.S.)

D.S.44.

Intend sailing CHAMPOLLION passing Clyde boom 2045A/31 to R/V with AMAZON and GLENARM from Londonderry in 270° Oversay 6 miles at 0700A/1st thence in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 111746

June. E.T.A. Reykjavik 1900A/3rd. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 300954A.)

/BEN-MY-CHREE...

1070

30.8.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- BEN-MY-CHREE. My 281140A. Amend position to read 061° 54' N. 005° 45' W. Escort WOOLSTON V.H/F R/T yes. (N.O.I.C. Invergordon 301205A to C. in C.Rosyth.)
- Oiling at sea. Your 191625. Fuelling from VINGA and NORSTANK carried out. Gear very satisfactory except for seizing of hose to Jackstay which are too weak and carry away frequently. (HESPERUS 301421Z to Admty.)
- K.M.F.24. It is anticipated that all destroyers referred to in your 291237 will be available by 13th Sept. (R.A.D. H.F. 301434A to Admty.)
- U.T.1. A.M.161904 and 251355. Amended composition and destinations now as follows:- (A) ARGENTINA and SANTA PAULA to Mersey. (B) ESSO HARRISBURG, CANYON CREEK and CRISTOBAL to Clyde. (C) USS HUMBOLDT, and U.S.S. MATAGORDA to Barry Roads for orders. 2. Pass to Commodore and U.S.S.HUMBOLDT. (D.O.D.H. 302011A to DART.)
- S.C.140. Your 292359. As convoy no longer appears to be threatened by U/B you should use your discretion whether to detach ICARUS with hospital case. (C. in C. W.A. 302306Z to Escort S.C.140.)

1071

30.8.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Attacks on U/Bs in Spanish Territorial Waters. A.M. 252146 para. 2, not to C. in C.Med. which is being passed to you, refers to your 291016. (F.O.Gibraltar 300027B to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty.)

M.V. MAGDALA G.U.S. 13. Am ordering MAGDALA outside harbour to pump out ballast (?now). Estimated earliest T.O.D. Aug. 310600. Am sailing U.S.S. COSSATOT as scheduled and will require additional when MAGDALA is ready. (C.M.S.F. 300114B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

Your 300114. No escorts available Gibraltar. Request you will detail one convoy escort to remain behind and sail with MAGDALA tomorrow Tuesday to overtake. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 300350B to C.M.S.F.)

Your 300350B. Tanker will not overtake for over 12 days and procedure reduces escorts to 6 ships. Suggest in view of frequency of convoy standing east no standby tanker be employed and other arrangements be made if emergency arises.

(C.M.S.F.F. 301000B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

This is my 301529B. American Adees have. (begins): Herewith recapitulation G.U.S. 13, standby Tanker Situation. BRITISH COURAGE scheduled standby unable to sail at last minute and originator was requested to prepare White tanker MAGDALA due to short notice, lack of fuelling gear, speed of only 10 knots and lack of escorts. It was impossible to prepare and sail ship in time overtake convoy in reasonable time. In view frequency of East Bound convoys and other more feasible methods of meeting emergency which may cause due loss of fuelling tanker it was decided to do without standby tanker. Accordingly MAGDALA was sailed in Ballast 30/1200A with local escort with instructions C.T.F. 65 to detach D.D. for relief local escort and escort MAGDALA to overtake convoy. (Ends.)

(C.M.S.F. 301530B to C. in C.Med. (R) F.O.I.C. Gib. Comnav, Com. 10th Fleet, C. and R. C.T.F. 65, Admty.)

Your 300114. Imperative MAGDALA proceeds Alexandria for orders in accordance my 291816 to C. in C.Med. 2. Request acknowledgement.

(D.T.D. 301637A to C.M.S.F. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar) see also 311225.

ULSTER QUEEN. P.C. and S. at 0230 036° 04' N. 003° 32' W. 262° 10.5 knots. (ULSTER QUEEN 300245B to VOLUNTEER.)

K.M.S. 24. Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 300302B to N.Cs.I.C. North African Ports, Admty. Comnav, C. in C.Med. Fleet.)

O.G. 92/
K.M.S. 24. Arrivals, (M/Vs.) (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 300330B to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med.)
O.G. 92/K.M.S. 24 arrived HURRICANE, MONKSHOOD, WALLFLOWER, BORAGE, WANDERER, HYDRANGEA, DAHLIA. Rescue ship ZAMALEK. (F.O.C. Gibraltar 301945B to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A. C. in C.Med.)

1072

30.8.1943.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

S.L. 135. Arrival PERSEUS.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 300404B to F.O.C.W.Af. (R)
C. in C.Med. Admty.)

WALLFLOWER. WALLFLOWER in company E.T.A. 301830B.
(WANDERER 300801B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R)
Capt. D.Gibraltar, S.O.B.l.)

Movements Gibraltar. My 292347. Departures CLEVELAND to Malta,
ULSTER QUEEN to Algiers, U.S.S. LIVERMORE, EBERLE,
DORAN, ERICSSON, TARBELL, UPSHUR, KEARNEY to R/V
and escort G.U.S.13.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 300932B to Admty. etc.)

Dispositions. Situation 302001B.
G.U.S.13, C.T.F. 65, LIVERMORE, 6 destroyers 034°
59' 009° 58' through 034° 58' 010° 02' 034° 01'
013° 01' thence 270° 9.

2. Hospital ship VASNA 038° 19' 011° 21' through 041° 00' 013°
40' thence 000° 12.

3. OTUS 037° 16' 016° 06' 201° diving by day 10/2½.

4. O.T.8, C.T.G. 21.5 030° 28' 018° 30' 060° 10.

6. U.S.G. 15, C.T.F. 66, C.T.G. 21.16 034° 26' 017° 03' 084° 9.

7. U.G.F. 10, C.T.F. 68, 034° 33' 019° 10' through 035° 01' 019°
02' thence 087° 13½. (see amendment 301249.)

8. GRENVILLE, ROTHER, JED, PELICAN patrol between 042° 15' 012°
38' and 041° 20' 012° 05'.

9. 1 Spanish Training Ship sailed for (?) Marinio for Tenerife.

10. Portuguese Naval Training Ship SAGRES sailed Funchal p.m.
29th for Lisbon.

11. Small Craft Convoy POLLOCK 039° 58' 013° 22' 143° 6.
(F.O.Gibraltar 301007B.)

Situation 302002B.

C.F. 13, FOXHOUND, 2 fleet units 034° 35' 008° 01' to Gibraltar 13

3. CYGNET, 2 merchant ships 036° 51' 006° 43' through 035° 56'
006° 20' to Gibraltar 7½.

4. C.G. 60, WESTON, ANTHONY 034° 14' 007° 50' 037° through 035°
34' 006° 28' to Gibraltar 5½.

5. S.R. 5, BLACKWOOD, BAZELY, DRURY 031° 04' 011° 09' through
032° 58' 009° 38' to Casablanca 10.8.

6. 2 Portuguese submarines and gunboats exercising in Cezimbra
area 31st.

7. G.C. 34, COMMANDANT BORY, CHASSEUR II sailed Gibraltar 310900
Suez 6½.

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 301131B.)

Amend position and course in para. 7 of my 301007B to
read 034° 33' 019° 10' 081°.

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 301249B.)

U/B sunk
by STORK,
STONECROP,
S.L. 135/
M.K.S.22.

My 291411Z. STORK and STONECROP hunting. Still
in contact after 18 hours. U-Boat (German) very
deep. My P.C. and S. at 1030 - X. 042° 27' N.
019° 40' W. 000° 8, 041° 04' N. 019° 40' W.
Weather report.
(E.G. 37, 301035A to (corrupt group), F.O.I.C.
Gibraltar.)

1073

War Diary.30.8.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.U/B sunk
by STORK,
STONECROP,
S.L.135/
K.M.S.22.
(Contd.)

My 301035. U-Boat considered sunk. Three heavy underwater explosions occurred which were followed by wreckage, fresh Hun remains, and torpedo air vessels appearing on surface. STORK and STONECROP proceed 1600A to rejoin convoy. My P.C. and S. at 1800A - X 043° 38' N. 019° 40' W. 000° 8. Weather report.
(E.G. 37 301815A to C. in C.W.A. (R) F.O.C. Gib. Admty. Capt. D.Liverpool.)

U/B.

Interrogation indicates object sighted my 291250B was probably a whale.
(Commorseafon 301112B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C.Med. Admty. Cominch, Comnavnaw.)

ULSTER QUEEN.
CLEVELAND.
A/C attack.

My impression was that attacks made on ULSTER QUEEN and CLEVELAND at 2112 on 29th Aug. were of unusual type. Slight green trail of light and whirring hiss came from bomb for about 2 seconds before explosion possibly caused by rocket propulsion. No contact made with attacking aircraft either visual aural or R.D.F. W.C. and (?W.S.) sets in use.
(CLEVELAND 301115 to C. in C.Med. (R) F.O.Gib. ULSTER QUEEN.)

Movements
Casablanca.

Task Group 21.15 departed 0900A. Arrived ACTIVE and ANTELOPE, Dutch JOHAN MAURITS. F.O.I.C. Gib. requested pass arrival Dutch ship to interested addee.
(C.M.S.F.F. 301125B to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med. Admty. Comnavnaw.)

T.G.21.5.

Following is Comtaskgroup 21.5 T.C.O. 291500 passed for your information. (Begins):
Departing Casa. swept channel buoy 301100Z direct for point D.D. 34.03 N. 24.59 W. in support Taskfor 65 by operating within 150(15?) miles D.D. until arrival G.U.S. 13 to intercept possible submarines en route Finisterre from Area 28 N. 34 W. thence with 65 pending later developments. S.O.A. 13. (Ends.)
(C.M.S.F. 301131B to C. in C.Med. Comnavnaw, Admty. F.O.I.C. Gib.)

T.G. 21.12.

Following is a repetition of Cinclant 252219 addressed to U.S.S. BOGUE for action.
Task Group 21.12 hereby constituted as Captain Dunn, BOGUE, Comcoartdiv. 1 in G.E. BADGER, O. INGRAM, GLEMSON, GREENE. Attention my 102109 July. Support Task Force 62 escorting convoy U.G.S. 17 scheduled to sail from Hampton Roads 5th September. Task Force 65 co-operating. GREENE will be directed to report to you.
(D.O.D.(H) 301136A to F.O.Gibraltar.)

/A/S...

1074

War Diary.30.8.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- A/S operations Azores. Your 262307. This will be done. (D.O.D.(H) 301211A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.) See 011312.
- C.G. 60. Sailed 1200A my 281609 (N.T. in W.D.) refers. Amended E.T.A. is 2000A/1st September. (C.M.S.F. 301330B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C.Med. Admty.)
- C.T.F. 68 U.G.F. 10. 10 Casablanca joining Section 2 Transports BANFORA, K.14, D/F R/T P/V and RHONA, Speed 11.5 D/F both British, for Algiers escorted by ANTELOPE (?S.O.), ACTIVE and P.C. 482 and 471, estimated departure Casablanca 311200A. S.O.A. 11½ knots route Q.B.A. 102 (V) all the following positions are north and west unless otherwise indicated, 035° 44' 006° 28' to R/V 035° 49' 18" 006° 06' 30" at 010600A. Escort guard 2150 convoy guard 500 k/cs. ANTELOPE and ACTIVE proceed Gibraltar, P.C. return Casablanca when released by C.T.F. 68, U.S. Battleship TEXAS. (C.M.S.F.F. 301531B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C.T.F. 68, C. in C.Med. etc.) See also 311435.
2000Z/30th position originator and U.G.F. 10 115 miles 262° from point K. course 082° to point K, thence 095° to point J. S.O.A. 14. Para. 7 F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 301007 gravely in error and 301249B still not understood. My 290815 to Admty. No destination port assigned to ship T.F. 68 prior sailing but C.T.F. advised that C. in C.Med. would be informed. Information requested. Message from U.S.C.M.S.F. 301531B. It is noted ships from Casablanca joining 1st September have speed 11.5 knots while speed of U.G.F. 10 is 15 knots with S.O.A. 13.5. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar pass to all addressees. Weather report. (U.S.C.T.F. 68 302030 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C.Med. (R) Admty. etc.)
- M.K.S. 23. M.K.S. 23. My 291549B add FORTOL (T) oil fuel. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 301536B to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med.) M.K.S. 23. Sailing destinations. (D.T.D. 301856A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)
- U.G.S. 15. Intend sailing to Bizerta for Palermo (list). For Algiers (list). (F.O. Gibraltar 301632B to N.Os.I.C. North African Ports (R) Admty. etc.) See also 011131.
- KAULDI. Telegram 137. August 30th. Spanish KAULDI No. 59 proceeded this morning up river to Franco Belga tipping to load iron ore. Unconfirmed report states new iron ore contract with Germany arranged. (Consul Bilbao 301740 to M.E.W.)

1075

30.8.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

G.U.S.13. G.U.S.13 is routed as follows FF. 34.58 10.02
AA. 34.00 13.00 DD. 34.03 24.59 thence standard
route lettered GG. JJ. EE. HH. all positions
north and west.

2. Your 300840 (N.T. in W.D.) C. in C.Levant 181920 and my
291906 not to C. in C.Levant refers.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 302147B to Admty. (R) C. in C.Levant.)

FORTOL, Your 261346 not to C. in C.Med. refers. Important.
SAN CLAUDIO. Request authority to retain FORTOL for Fleet
Attendant duties at Gibraltar until about 10th
September when SAN CLAUDIO is expected to have com-
pleted docking and essential repairs.
(C.S.Gibraltar 302149 to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med.
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.) See also 311950.

Fishing A.M. 292334A. Following numbers and types of
Vessels Spanish Fishing craft are known to be based and
Spanish to operate from ports in the Vigo District.
Coast. A. Ten steam trawlers with steel hulls from two
hundred to three hundred G.T.
B. 180 steam trawlers with wooden hulls ranging
in gross tonnage from 40 to 120.
C. Two diesel trawlers with wooden hulls of 113 G.T.
D. A large number of 15 ton types mostly with auxiliary motors.
2. Of above (A) the larger ones of B. and C. fish far afield
in neighbourhood of Great Sole Bank grounds off North West
Coast Africa and recently as a new departure Newfoundland areas.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 302215B to Admty. (R) C. in C.Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.)

O.T.Convoy. Do not concur with route proposed in F.O.C.W.A.
271845.
2. Proposed route passes through Canary Islands
and may necessitate daylight passage allowing
convoy to be seen from shore. This is highly undesirable if air
escort is not available.
3. Consider present practice of routeing tanker convoys to west
of Canaries preferable and that each convoy should be considered
in light of the existing U-Boat situation and air escort
available being re-routed if necessary. This is current practice
in my area.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 302315 to Cominch, (R) Admty. C. in C.Med.
B.A.D. C.M.S.F. F.O.C.W.Af.)

Movements Arrivals French ship COMMANDANT BORY, CHASSEUR II,
Gibraltar. L'AJACIENNE from Oran, CHANTICLEER, WRESTLER,
BARLE, USK, ETTRICK from Casablanca. ULSTER QUEEN
tug PROSPEROUS from East. PUCKERIDGE, BLENCATHRA
from East. Departures p.m. 29th tug PROSPEROUS
to (escort?) ULSTER QUEEN. 30th DELHI, BLUEBELL, BRYONY, LA
MALOUINE, CAMELLIA, BARNDALE, Greek KING GEORGE II, tugs EMPIRE
GRIFFIN, WEAZEL to join K.M.S.24. EURYALUS for Algiers, U.S.P.C.
481 for Casablanca.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 302325B to Admty. etc.)

1076

30.8.1943.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

DEMPO Survivors. A.M. 1036/10/7/41. SS. DEMPO. H.M.S. RESOLUTION. (F.O.C.W.Af., 300930Z to Admty).

Movements, Freetown. Departures 1630Z/29 August INKPEN, ST. WISTAN escorting. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 301025Z to Comar Dakar).

Dispositions. Situation at 2002Z/30th.
SWALE, BELLWORT with L.M.4 001° 05' 003° 25' E. to 001° 00' S. 003° 25' thence 123° 10½.
SHROPSHIRE 009° 35' S. 001° 59' 143° 18.

WELLINGTON, ABERDEEN, LOWESTOFT, FOLKESTONE, GORLESTON with T.S.51 006° 05' 010° 58' through 006° 52' 012° 00'.

DUNKERY screening off (?Monrovia).

TURCOMAN screening off Marshall.

SKUDD 6, POLAR V, COPINSAY, 004° 50' 009° 08' through 004° 42' 008° 56' thence 114° 5½.

M.L.1147 off Sassandra. M.L. 1018 off Accra.

MORRIS DANCE, M.L. 274, 277, with T.L. 23 005° 50' 002° 00' E. to Lagos 9.

SARABANDE, M.L. 287, 302 escorting 005° 47' 001° 28' E. to Takoradi 8.

M.L.104 off Kotonu.

(F.O.C.W.A., 301142Z).

Situation at 2000Z/30th August.

ALBATROSS 015° 25' 010° 00' to 012° 05' 010° 01' 15½.

DESPATCH 014° 15' 010° 00' to 012° 04' 010° 01' 17½.

ROEBUCK, QUALITY, TEVIOT, HELFORD, PLYM with CILICIA and 1 Fleet Unit 010° 55' 002° 25' to 019° 01' 010° 01' 12½.

(C. in C. S.A., 301146B).

Situation at 2000Z/30th August. TAY, SHEBA on passage Capetown from Newport NIGELLA, WELLARD, TURFONTEIN with D.C.41 (11 ships) 034° 45' 020° 25' coastal to Capetown 8 knots LOABERG escorting 1 ship 034° 17' 023° 05' coastal to Port Elizabeth 8½. TULIP 34°, 026° (approx) coastal to Capetown 13.

HERTFORDSHIRE, LADY ELSA 029° 42' 031° 30' to Durban 9.

FREESIA escorting 1 ship 027° 40' 032° 52' coastal to Lourenco Marques 8.

HAWKINS, NORMAN, QUIBERON, RAPID with W.S.32 (5 ships) 022° 25' 039° 45' to 019° 32' 041° 03' 12.

(C. in C. S.A., 301203B).

Argentine Ship, Meeting with U/B.

Greek steward who alleges he was placed as observer in Argentine ship JOSEPHINAS by Greek Consul at Buenos Aires reports that at 0400B/25 the vessel was stopped and exchanged signals by lamp with a surfaced submarine in a position about 450 miles west of Capetown. The crew were ordered by Master not to report meeting.

2. Similar meeting occurred with U-boat in April but was not reported.

(S.O.(I) Capetown, 301135B to Admty. C. in C. E.F.)

/Falklands...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.- Contd.

Falklands Met.Stn. N.O.I.C. Falkland Is. has proposed transferring Meteorological station and H.Q. of Falkland Is. Area Fleet Synoptic Organisation to Montevideo. This would require W/T facilities for broadcasts to cover W/T Area "Sugar" and for regular communication to Cape.

2. Request your views on desirability and practicability of such a project.

3. With present arrangements could any further steps be taken to ensure that Met. Station is provided with synoptic data from Coastal Station at Brazil, Argentina and Chile? Present information from first named is nil and from remainder very inadequate. Met. Office, Montevideo, would probably explain minimum datums required.

(C. in C. S.A., 301227B to N.A. Montevideo (R) N.O.I.C. Falkland Is. Admty).

Brazil Movements. Departure 29th BRAZILIAN Sub. Chaser JUNUEMA to join Southbound convoy.
(R.O. Bahia, 301321Z to Admty).

French Cruisers. Arrival 30th August French cruiser DUGUAY - TROUIN and SUFFREN.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 301508Z to Admty. F.O.C.W.Af. Comar, Dakar).

Weekly State. West African Station 28th August 1943.
Cape Blanco Area FOXHOUND, BULLDOG, CATTERICK, NESS, WITCH, BRILLIANT, two fleet units, JOHAN MAURITS, BLACKWOOD, BAZELY, DRURY. Dakar
BOADICEA, CLARNBA. Freetown CORFU, CARNARVON CASTLE, ASTURIAS, DOUGLAS, WOLVERINE, EXE, MILFORD, BRIDGEWATER, MOYOLA, ARMERIA, PETUNIA, SNOWDROP, COMMANDANT DETROYAT, BEAGLE, ENCHANTRESS, LEITH, SANDWICH, VIOLET, ANCHUSA, COLUMBINE, TEST, TRENT, FAL, Submarine P.614. Cape Palmas Area WELLINGTON, FOLKESTONE, ABERDEEN, GORLESTON, LOWESTOFT, SHROPSHIRE. Takoradi Area ROEBUCK, QUALITY, TEVIOT, HELFORD, PLYM, CILICIA, one fleet unit
Lagos BELLWORT, SWALE, COWSLIP. Pointe Noire Area COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES.
(F.O.C.W.A. 301606Z to Admty. etc.)

S.T.75. Intend to sail S.T.75 at 0800Z/31st August consisting of 16 ships escorted by ENCHANTRESS, LEITH, SANDWICH, VIOLET, ANCHUSA, COLUMBINE, TEST, TRENT, FAL.

2. Route "Strand" with additional position Q. 004° 48' N. 001° 040' W. estimated speed made good 9 knots, E.T.A. Lagos a.m. 6th Sept.

3. IDDESLEIGH for South American will be detached at dusk 31st August to proceed independently.

4. TRENT and TEST will be detached at P. escorting SS. TROJAN STAR for Cape through Z. 002° N. 006° E. latter to proceed thence independently to Capetown. TRENT and TEST will proceed to Pointe Noire to refuel.

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South Atlantic.

- 3.T.75. (Contd.)
5. B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire sail TRENT and TEST for Cape after refuelling.
6. N.O.I.C. Takoradi sail local escorts escorting any ships to join convoy at position Q. where Takoradi section of convoy will be detached to be escorted in by local escorts.
7. Remaining escorts and 6 ships continue Lagos. (F.O.C.W.A. 301608Z to N.O.I.C. Lagos, N.O.I.C. Takoradi, B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, (R) Admty. S.O.Escort Group 38, C. in C.S.A.)

Interception of Spanish MONTE ALBERTIA. Admty. 271610.

1. BEAGLE patrols alongside lat. 015° N. between 020° W. and Cape Verde Is. from a.m. 31st August.

2. CORFU arrives on patrol in same area a.m. 1st September. BEAGLE acting under her orders after arrival. If BEAGLE intercepts MONTE ALBERTIA before CORFU arrives she will escort her toward Freetown until CORFU joins.

3. Comar Dakar has been requested to sail French Cruiser MONTCALM to patrol in area of 021° N. 022° 30' W. from 2nd to 6th Sept.
4. CARNARVON CASTLE arrived on patrol in area 022° N. 019° W. a.m. 2nd Sept.*
5. Air patrol will be carried out in Southern Patrol area from 31st August and in Northern-most area from 2nd Sept.
6. French Cruiser MONTCALM or A.M.Cs will place armed guard on board MONTE ALBERTIA if met and order her to proceed to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.W.A. 301711Z to Admty.) *Did not sail, see 021825Z. Admty. 271610 August.* BEAGLE, CORFU sailed to intercept Spanish MONTE ALBERTIA. (S.O.I.Freetown 302031Z to Admty.) *Re MONTE ALBERTIA sailed for Tenerife and Bilbao.

INKPEN. Intend INKPEN to arrive St. Vincent a.m. 3rd September with Diplomatic mails. (F.O.C.W.Af. 301730 to N.C.S.O. St. Vincent, Cape Verde, (R) TUSCALOOSA U.S.S., Admty. Comar Dakar, INKPEN.)

PRUDENT. PRUDENT becomes tender to KONGONI to date 1st September my 201705 (re allocation of PRUDENT to S.At. Station,) refers. (C. in C.S.A. 301758B to Admty.)

Shipping Estimates. It is considered that further signals similar to A.M. 251646 and 251647 are not required. (C. in C.S.A. 301801B to Admty.)

U/B Campaign Mozambique Channel, request for Wellingtons. It seems probable that U-Boats now off Southern coasts of Africa are proceeding to Mozambique Channel and waters south of Madagascar where much shipping is to be encountered and escorts both surface and air are few. C. in C.E.Fs. 271257 refers.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

U/B Campaign
Mozambique
Channel,
request for
Wellingtons.
(Contd.)

2. Ventura aircraft used by S.A.A.F. for A/S duties have a limited range and Catalinas are left to carry out distant escorts and strikes alone. It appears that experience of North Atlantic is being repeated and that enemy is putting himself as far as possible out of range of aircraft.
3. Suggested therefore as an immediate measure that a squadron of Wellingtons should be sent to South Africa to relieve Catalinas of long distance strike duties. These Wellingtons should if possible be those fitted with searchlights.
4. South African Authorities would welcome Wellingtons on their airfields.
(C. in C.S.A. 301811 to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F. F.O.E.A. A.H.Q.E.A)

ALBATROSS.

- It is considered that ALBATROSS should be escorted from Freetown to U.K.
2. She should be included in M.K.F.24 unless earlier opportunity arises.
 3. F.O.C.W.Af. and F.O.I.C. Gibraltar are requested to concert arrangements for escort from Freetown to Gibraltar, reporting their intentions to Admiralty.
(D.O.D.(F) 301829A to F.O.C.W.Af. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C.Med. Commorseafron, C. in C.W.A.)

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Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Movements Alexandria. August 29th 1943. Arrivals CARLISLE, BEAUFORT, TETCOTT, SHOREHAM, WHITEHAVEN, HYTHE, ROMNEY, GAWLER, PINDOS, AMBER. Departure, HENRIETTA MOLLER. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 300647C to Admty).

10th S.F. Movement Summary at 2000/30. P.53 (ULTOR) 037° 02' 017° 24' through 035° 45' 016° 38' to 035° 46' 016° 18' at 2000/31.
2. P.51 (UNSEEN) 037° 06' 017° 25' through 035° 45' 016° 38' to 035° 46' 016° 18' at 2000/31.
3. P.(?54) (UNSHAKEN) 038° 05' 017° 50' to 039° 30' 018° 43' at 2000/31.
4. P.46 (UNRUFFLED) off Brindisi.
5. P.55 (UNSPARING) off Bari.
6. P.49 (UNRULY) leaves Malta at 1500/31 via Eastern Channel. (Capt. S.10, 300710B).

Convoy, Sicily. My 291005B (N.T. in W.R.) sailed consisting of CELEROL, GLARONA and MACOMA for Augusta. DEFENDER, CUSTODIAN, CITY OF NEWCASTLE, FORTH-BANK, PRINCE DE LIEGE, OCEAN VIKING, FORT CHAMBLY, FORT GASSUEAU, FORT GRAHAME. Sicilian destination unknown to me, sent to Augusta for orders. 12 ships. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 300826B to F.O.Sy. N.O.I.C. Syracuse, N.O.I.C. Augusta, N.O.I.C. Catania, Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. LAGAN).

S/Ms Beirut. 29 August 1943 departure TRESPASSER, 30 August 43, arrival TEMPLAR. (S.O.(I) Beirut, 300837C to Admty).

UNRULY Intend sailing P.49 (UNRULY) at 1500/31st August via Eastern Channel passing 035° 56' 016° 31' at 0800/1st 036° 24' 016° 47' at 2000/1st 039° 03' 018° 26' at 2000/2nd, thence through 039° 45' 018° 52' to pass 040° 30' 018° 52' at 2000/3rd thence to patrol north of 041° and east of 018° 45'. Surface passage on 2nd.
(2) M.J.A.O. 24, request bombing restrictions for above passage. (Capt. S.10, 300950 to C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 10, Capt. (S) 1, etc)

8th S.F. movements at 2000B 30th. (1) P.57 (UNIVERSAL) 039° 42' 005° 05' 032° surface 8 knots until dawn/31st thereafter diving by day 2½/7 knots.
(2) P.229 (SPORTSMAN) 038° 29' 009° 05' through 038° 36' 010° 22' at 0300/31st thence 008° 2½/10 knots.
(4) P.219 (SERAPH) and P.217 (SIBYL) in Gulf of Genoa.
(5) P.224 (SICKLE) East Corsica.
(6) P.221 (SHAKESPEARE) North of 040° 00' E. of 013° 00'. (Capt. S.8., 301000B).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

K.M.F.22 Y. Your 292215(?B) (Originated by W.R. requesting repetition). Following is a repetition of my 282247 addressed A.I.G. 259 (R) Cdre. Algiers N.O.I.C. (?Augusta). K.M.F.22 Y arrived VILLE D'ORAN, KOSCIUSCO, LETITIA, RAJULA, with 5 escorts (S.N.O. Philippeville, 301031B to Admty).

Levant dispositions. Following have joined Levant station. Your 241739 refers. B.Y.M.S. 65, 66, 67, 185 (Greek-manned) from U.S.A., M.Ls. 337, 308, 340, 579 from Western Med.
2. Following on passage: CAPETOWN to U.K., NARBADA to Bombay, BARNABY to Eastern Fleet. (C. in C. Levant, 301042C to C. in C. S.A., (R) Admty. etc).

G.U.S.14 Sailing telegram. (2) 0829C/30. (3) Sailed together. (4) (5) (6) as in C. in C. Levant's 272109. Ships for U.S., also G.U.S. standard ocean route. (7) 5 columns 3 3 3 3 3.
(R.A. Alexandria, 301057C to Admty. etc).

Convoy G.U.S.14, sailed 0830/30th August PRINCESS KATHLEEN for Tripoli. CAP SAINT JACQUES for Sicily, and TALMA (Numbers). (D.S.T.O. Alexandria, 301300C to Admty).

LORRAINE,
BUFFALO
WALLOW. Now become necessary to nominate tanker LORRAINE as escort tanker for G.U.S.14. Request ship be discharged to shore at Oran retaining 15,000 barrels and sailed accordingly. Tanker BUFFALO WALLOW is allocated escort tanker for T.O.8. Request ship retain 15,000 barrels and be sailed accordingly.
(C. in C. Med., 301130B to Comnob Oran, (R) F.O. I.C. Gibraltar, Commorseafron, Comnavnaw, Admty) See also 041750B.

SIDI BRAHIM,
GREATHOPE. Intend to sail SIDI BRAHIM for Gibraltar and ?GREATHOPE to Gibraltar for orders at 1700B/30th escorted by GRILSE and IMPERIALIST. S. of A. 10 knots. E.T.A. 1700B/31. Routed through 109, 70 and 16 lettered (F) to (H).
(Comnob Oran, 301150B to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O. I.C. Gibraltar, Admty) Arrived F.O. Gibraltar 011505.
My 301150B. Sailing delayed until 311400B.
(Comnob Oran, 301755B to C. in C. Med. etc).

K.M.S.24 Pass to Cdre. and Escort. Intend sail (list).
(Comnob Oran, 301155B to DELHI (R) F.O. Tunisia, F.O.C. Gibraltar, Admty. etc).

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M.K.S. 23 Your 291304. Destination FORT SLAVE is Oran for Benisaf to Bahamas for New York.
(C. in C. Med., 301200B to N.O.I.C. Philippeville,
(R) COLOMBO, Escort of convoy M.K.S. 23, Admty. etc).

M.K.S. 23 pass to Cdre. and escort. My 291304B amend to read FORT SLAVE Oran for Benisaf.
(S.N.O. Philippeville, 301259B to HOLCOMBE, (R) Admty. etc).

M.K.S. 23. Arrivals.
(S.N.O. Tripoli, 301625B, 310913B to Admty).

AMARAPOORA Arrived.
(Com. Algeria, 301220B to Admty. etc).

EMPIRE SPEY. Your 270030 (Destination of EMPIRE SPEY is Bizerta). Request movement as in my 171756.
(C. in C. Med. (A), 301225B to F.O. Gibraltar, (R) Admty).

3rd M.L.F. Your 292227 (N.T. in W.R.) Consider weather unsuitable. Am remaining in harbour until it improves.
(Motor Launch 3rd Flotilla, 301234B to S.O. 12th M/S (R) Comdre. (N), S.N.O. Tripoli).

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of 2 cargo vessels is 36.25 N., 16.35 E. 090° and 15 knots.
(A/C GPD/P 301302B to Air H.Q. Malta).

N.A.A.F. Report. Opsum 190. N.A. Strategic A.F. 28/29 August. 49 Wellingtons Marshalling yards Taranto 73 tons from 7500/12,000 ft. many hits target area, repair shops and buildings, power house area, believed hit.

29 August. 42 U.S. Fortresses escort 36 U.S. Lightnings Marshalling yards Orte. 3 bombers 4 fighters returned early. Direct hits station rolling stock and entrance yards. Train sheds demolished. 55 U.S. Marauders escort 47 U.S. Lightnings marshalling yards Torre Annunciata. 4 bombers 7 fighters returned early. Iron and steel works hit.

N.A. Tactical Air Force. 28/29 August. 6 Bostons Gun positions San Giovanni 1 returned early. Buildings hit and fires started.

29 August. 48 U.S. Mitchells Cosenza Road and railway junction. Direct hits road and on town. 24 Bostons 12 Baltimores Marshalling yards Lamezia. Direct hits railway line. Large explosion. Reference my Opsum 185 1 of the Mustangs detailed attack Sapri 24 August attacked naval vessel off Sapri. Claims 2 direct hits stern blown off. Left sinking.
(H.Q., N.A.A.F., 301558B).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Fuel Situation. Para. 7. of your 121653 (N.T. in W.D.) Fuel summary. Stock position at ports quoted in para. 6 of my 101101 improving satisfactorily. Palermo is slow due to extensive damage to installations found on entry.

2. Quantities expected from Mid East see C. in C. Levant's 281132 and from West in O.T.8 - U.G.S.15 and 16 convoys is 155,000 tons.
3. Estimated expenditure 50,000 tons per week with considerable reduction on conclusion of current operations.
4. Slate bid of 440,000 tons for each of September and October for stock building.
5. Tankers released PRESIDENT DE VOGUE - A.C. BEDFORD - BEACON - GOOD GULF - GULF DISC to Med. East - Mast. 1016 has reference. MACOMA to United Kingdom GULF OF VENEZUELA to U.S. for repairs - Admiralty 262043 refers. THORSHOLM has returned to U.S. in error.
6. Necessary to retain U.G.S.15 and possibly U.G.S.16 to compensate.
(C. in C. Med., 301604B as amended 031824B Sept. to Admty).

SICKLE P. 224 (SICKLE) leaves Patrol so as to pass through 041° 01' 010° 18' at 0100/1st September 038° 37' 010° 22' at 0330/2nd 038° 28' 008° 21' at 0100/3rd 038° 29' 005° 48' at 0100/4th 038° 14' 003° 52' at 2200/4th F.U. thence to R/V with escort for Algiers in 036° 56' 003° 05' at 0700/5th.
(Capt. S.8., 301630B to 8th S.F. (R) C. in C. Med. etc)

PENELOPE, SIRIUS. On 1st Sept. intend PENELOPE to leave Bizerta at 0900 for Palermo and SIRIUS to leave Palermo at 1100 for Bizerta, E.T.A. 1700 and 1900 respectively. Usual route.
Codeword PENELOPE "Hemingway" SIRIUS "Decade".

2. Ships will be in a position (7037°) 30' N., 011° 00' E. at 1130 and 1645 respectively where dummy torpedo aircraft attack should take place. 242 Group is requested to signal Gibraltar.
(C.S.12, 301722 to C. in C. Med., PENELOPE, SIRIUS, 242 Group (R) F.O. Tunis, F.O. Augusta, N.L.O. Comnob, Palermo, N.L.O. No. (731) Wing, Comnavnaw, Capt. (S) 8).

K.M.S. 23 K.M.S. 23 arrived less Alexandria portion detached.
(N.C.S.O. Port Said, 301746C to Admty. (R) S.O. (I) Levant).

TORBAY

1. Indication that Rhodes traffic mostly used Kos Channel.
2. TORBAY patrol at your discretion near either position F or A. See S.1 N section C para. 6.
(Capt. (S) 1, 301817C to TORBAY (R) P.314 (TACTICIAN), TROOPER).

No opportunity Milo or Santorin so no alarm raised, diving tomorrow southward and westward Kos.
(TORBAY, 301909C to Capt. (S) 1st (R) P.314 (TACTICIAN)).

/Malta...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Malta Air Report. A.I. 1033. Opsum No. 112 (No incidents).
(R.A.F. Malta, 301825).

Movements, Oran. Arrivals today U.S.S. WAINWRIGHT. Departures were U.S. L.C.I.(L)s 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94. (C. in C. Med. pass to Comnavaw).
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 301937B to Admty. etc).

Situation Report No.50. Convoys (A) Departures G.U.S.14 left Alexandria 30th escorted by ANTWERP, four Hunts and six other escort destroyers destination Malta.
(B) Arrivals. K.M.F.22. Six personnel ships, one M.T. Ship arrived Port Said 29th. K.M.S. 23 arrived 29th with seven ships for Alexandria and fourteen for Port Said and beyond.
(2) Alexandria. FORMIDABLE undocked 27, INGLEFIELD, ECHO arrived a.m./28. FORMIDABLE sailed p.m./28 escorted by INGLEFIELD, ECHO, PATHFINDER, QUEEN OLGA, last two having complete short refit. CAPETOWN sailed in company for passage to U.K.
(3) Suez landing rehearsal carried out 25th by BULOLO, KEREN, and three personnel ships, all of Force M.
(4) Levant, ABDIEL arrived Haifa 29th from Malta, sailed 30th.
(5) U-boat reported 29th in 34° 13' N., 35° 34' E. Search in progress. Unescorted sailings suspended North of Beirut.
(6) Submarines TAURUS from Aegean patrol reports encountered two medium M/Vs escorted by 5 aircraft 5 destroyers 2 E-boats periscope damaged by ramming.
(7) Changes on the station. Arrivals M.Ls. 337, 308, 340, 579 from Western Med. H.M.I.S. NARBADA for passage to India. Departures FORMIDABLE, CAPETOWN, PATHFINDER, QUEEN OLGA. (C. in C. Levant, 301958C).

Movements, Bizerta. Arrivals WESTRAY. Arrivals and departures ATHERSTONE, HOLCOMBE, LIDDESDALE, OAKLEY, PENTSTEMON.
Departures FELIXSTOWE, ROTHESAY, PRODIGAL, L.S.T.363, 11, 156, 411, 364.
(Bizerta C.C.O., 302001 to Admty. etc).

ALETTA, DAGO II, BELNOR, SOUTH AMERICA. ALETTA and DAGO II left for Bizerta, no passengers or cargo, also BELNOR which returned too slow for M.K.S.23 for on routeing to Bone, my 290910 refers, and SOUTH AMERICA for on routeing to Algiers with 5285 tons 80 Octane.
(D.S.T.O. Malta, 302030 to D.S.T.)
My 301158B (N.T. in W.D.) Sailed ALETTA for Bizerta, SOUTH AMERICA (T), onward routeing Algiers, BELNOR onward routeing Bone, DAGO II for orders. C. in C. Med. is requested to signal orders for DAGO II. (V.A. Malta, 302037B to F.O.I.C. Tunisia, (R) N.O.I.C. Bone, Admty. F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in C. Med. etc).

/Movements...

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Algiers.

Arrivals AMARAPOORA, HAMBLEDON, INCHCOLM, M.M.S. 58 S/M TALLY HO (P.317).
Departures CHASSEUR 3, S/M LA SULTANE, arrived and departed U.S.S. WAINWRIGHT.
(Com. Algeria, 302100B to Admty. etc).

Situation
report No.
166.

(1) Augusta attacked by about 12 aircraft 0800 28th, slight damage to one L.C.T. outside Harbour.
(2) Messina shelled between 0400/28th and 0500/28th. A number of delay action depth charges both in Harbour and on quays being dealt with. Torpedo electrical and hydrophone workshops available undamaged.
(3) M.T.Bs. and M.G.Bs. operated off Vibo Valentia and Calabrian coast without incident night 28/29 August. Similar patrols were carried out night 29/30 August when M.T.Bs. off Calabrian coast were fired on (?by) batteries in vicinity of Melito and Bovalina, no damage or casualties.
(4) ULSTER QUEEN attacked by aircraft at 2120/29 in position 36° 14' N., 02° 34' W. ship was near missed and one engine damaged has proceeded to Gibraltar under own power.
(5) Air raids at Augusta 1845/29 and between 2100/29 and 2200/29 Bombs fell in harbour and over scattered area, no damage, a few casualties, 3 E/As reported shot down by gunfire.
(C. in C. Med., 302142D to Admty).

Enemy
Units.

P.C. and S. of two large vessels. 38.29 N., 17.51 E. course 010° speed 15 knots.
(A/C HTZ/V 302208B to Air H.Q. Malta).

Movements
Bone.

Arrived PRODIGAL, SEAWOLF, M.M.S. 1 sailed M.G.B.646, M.T.B. 651, M.M.S.4, M.Ls. 238, 273, 280, 283, 336, 456, 451, 478, 461, 299.
(N.O.I.C. Bone, 302232 to Admty. etc).

Movements,
Tripoli.

Arrived VETCH, PENTSTEMON, CONVULVULUS, L.C.T.417, 385, Sailed L.C.I.(L) 299, 309.
(S.N.O. Tripolitania, 302255B to Admty).

Convoy
X.T.1

R.A. Alexandria is requested to sail convoy p.m. September 1st. Consisting of 4 or more ships.
(2) (A) 6 (B) 7 or 8. (3) (Route).
(4) (A) Benghazi detach 361, 0720/5th. Join as required by S.N.O. Cyrenaica (B) Tobruk detach or join 511 1420/3rd.
(5) K.P. (6) Normal "Sandstorm". (7) C (8) (A) GERALDTON, S.O. ISLAY, (B) A/S covering force of destroyers vide separate order not to all addressees.
(C. in C. Levant, 302314C to Admty. etc).

/ARETHUSE...

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Mediterranean - Contd.

ARETHUSE

Leave patrol so as to pass through 042° 19' 006° 23' at 0100/1st Sept. 039° 25' 004° 51' at 2200/2 037° 57' 003° 44' at 2200/3rd to R/V Escort Algiers in 036° 56' 003° 12' at 0700/4th. (Capt. S.8., 302330B to ARETHUSE, (R) 8th S.F., C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C. Gib. N.O.I.C. Algiers).

Enemy
Equipment.

Importance of acquiring handbooks, etc. relating to enemy technical equipment. Details and proposals. (Head of M.I. approved Controller, 302346A, to C. in C. Med. (R) C. in C. Levant) See Lion Copy.

Med. Air
Report.

Signed Eisenhower. Part 3 Air Cositintrep No.51, 29 August. N.W.A. Air Force. Night 28/29 49 Wellingtons dropped 73 tons of bombs on Taranto marshalling yards. Many bursts in yards and repair shops.

Day 29 August. 39 B.17s escorted by 32 P.38s attacked Orte marshalling yards. 41 B.26s escorted by 40 P.38s attacked Torre Annunziata marshalling yards. Cosenza Road and R. Junction attacked by 48 B.25s. Targets well covered. 24 Bostons and 12 Baltimores attacked Lemesia marshalling yards, many direct hits. Warhawks and Spitfires escorted medium and light bombers. Para. 3. Ninth Bomber Command Night 27/28. 11 Halifaxes and 4 Liberators attacked marshalling yards at Cotrone. Fires and explosions. Para. 4. Intelligence. Augusta attacked by F.W.190s and Me. 109s at 1700 and 1830B. August 20. A/A claim one A/C destroyed. No M/T movements observed toe of Italy. (Air C. in C. Med., No T.O.O. Recd. 0220/31).

1086A

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.)

302346A August.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

OUT

To C. in C. Med.
Repeated C. in C. Levant.

Date 30.8.43.

NAVY/CYIPHER (XD PLUG)

From Admiralty.

Enemy Technical Equipment.

DEFERRED.

Great importance is attached to the acquisition of handbooks, maintenance instructions; signal and other logs, drawings, notebooks, loose papers, etc. relating to enemy technical equipment and any such should be sent home with the least possible delay. Photographs of any peculiar machine, instrument or installation should be forwarded wherever possible. Specimens of the smaller items of equipment of an unusual type should be secured whenever possible for examination by experts at home.

2. The collection of information of immediate operational importance such as details of equipment used for the protection of Coasts and harbours and any information about weapons which would be valuable in devising counter-measures should take precedence over less urgent matters. The following subjects are of special interest:-

- (1) A/S warfare. Hydrophones, asdics, S.B.T., depth charges, with special reference to depth settings.
- (2) Submarines. Special methods of underwater propulsion, new or unusual types of fuel, human torpedoes and midget submarines, mine detection units, search receivers.
- (3) Radio and Radar. W/T, D/F or Radar sets and equipment of all types, ship or airborne including aeriels and valves, all types of wireless control sets, I.F.F. equipment, navigational aids, jamming and anti-jamming devices.
- (4) Gunnery. Small calibre automatic guns and associated sights, A.A. ammunition and fuzes.

/ (5)

- (5) Torpedoes. Torpedo pistols, including markings, Curly Taffy or Circling Torpedoes, propulsion units and batteries, anti-torpedo devices for ships under-way or in harbour.
- (6) Mining. Mine units, controlled minefields, with particular reference to methods of underwater detection, mine sweeping devices and technique.
- (7) Aircraft. Gun, bomb and torpedo sights, night landing lights on airfields and carriers.
- (8) Harbour, beach and local defences. Nets and booms, including mined nets, all methods of beach defence, particularly those employed by Germans, demolition methods, including D.A. fuzes and booby traps.
- (9) Machinery. Any unusual propulsion machinery in small craft.
- (10) Infra Red equipment. Request special search for telescopes about 2 ft. long and 6 inches diameter connected by cable to a separate box, possibly with black glass screen over objective. Also for searchlights, signalling lamps or lanterns, screened by black or very dark red glass. Screens may be stowed separately from lamps.

3. Arrangements will, if necessary, be made for experts to be sent out to examine any gear of special importance when this can only be done locally.

4. Request you will inform Military and Air Authorities and pass to No. 30 Commando for action.

302346A

for Head of M.I.(308)
Approved Controller.

Circulation - see overleaf.

1st Lord,
1st S.L. (2).
D.F.S.L.
3rd S.L.
Vice Contr.
5th S.L.

D.D.O.D. (C).
C.F.M.D.
D.N.A.O.
Adl. Blake (4).
I.P. (2).

1086^B

MOST SECRET

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the text must first be paraphrased* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

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

W.D.
D.M.S.
A.C.S. (H).
A.C.S. (H).
A.C.S. (H).

(*Note: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad :
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

Asst. Controller (R and D).)
D.H.I. (4).)
D.L.R.)
D.I/S.M.)
D.I/S.W.)
D.I/U.D.)
D.B.D.)
D.G.D.)
D. of L.D. (3).)
D.T.S.D.)
D.D.O.D. (M).)
D.A.W.T.)
F.O.S. by courier.)
D.U.B.D.)
E. in C.)
D.N.O.)
D.N.C.)
D.N.C.)
D.I.N.D.)
A.M.W.)
C.A.O.R.)
D.T.H.)
D.B.D. (2).)
Hd. of M.I. (27) (M./N.I.D.003285/42) and for)

Dep. Contr.)
D.M.S.M.)
E. in C.)
D.N.O.)
D.N.C.)
D.E.E.)
D.T.M.)
D.S.D.)
C.I.N.O.)
D.A.S.)
Hd. of S.W.R.)

Bath.

D.M.I.
A.C.A.S. (I).
Sec. J.I.C.
Brig. Jacob.)

D. of P. (2).
D. of P. (Q) (3).
D.D.I.C. (2).
D.O.D. (H) (4).
D.O.D. (F) (2).
D.C.H.A.E.
D.A.E.
Hd. of Air Br.
D.A.C.R.
D.T.D. (4).
D.A.W.T.

1087

30.8.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

B.P.93. Sailed 0130Z/30th Route and details.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 300235Z)
List of ships and cargoes.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 300237Z)

Convoy B.M.61. B.M. 61 Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 300300Z to Admty.)

Movements. Arrival CLIVE.
(N.O.I.C. Karachi, 300351Z to Admty.)
Departure IRRAWADI escorting "Pundit" as far as Madras keeping continuous W/T watch on 500 K/cs within 100 miles of Madras changing over to 3000 K/cs thereafter.
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 300716Z to Admty. etc.)
Arrival 0555Z and departure 0850Z August 30th
WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN D.S.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 300909Z to Admty.)
Departure 0230Z PUNJAB. MADRAS with B.P.93.
Arrivals 0900Z. BATHURST, TOOWOOMBA, BALUCHISTAN with P.B.53.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 301147Z to Admty. etc.)
Colombo arrivals 30 August 0100Z FROBISHER. 0200Z KHYBER, 1100Z QUADRANT. Departures 1120Z KHYBER, 1130Z BALTA, 1240Z LAUNCESTON, ROHILKHAND in company.
(F.O. Ceylon, 301450Z to Admty. etc.)

CARTHAGE, Provided that she can arrive Suez before 0600C Sept. 14th request you sail CARTHAGE to Suez for inclusion in M.K.F. convoy.
DURBAN, (2) DURBAN is to take the place of CARTHAGE as
NIEUW HOLLAND. My 261330 (N.T. in W.R.) August refers. (3) F.O.C. Red Sea (Suez) pass to N.O.I.C. Suez.
HOLLAND. (C. in C. E.F. 300650Z to F.O.I.C.Ceylon (R) C. in C. Levant, N.O.I.C Aden, Admty., F.O.C. Red Sea (Suez), CARTHAGE, N.O.I.C. Suez.)

Shipping Routes to South Africa. F.O.N.I.C. 208, pass to N.C.S.O. Meiri. Amendment number 28. As from receipt of this signal existing section (2) A is cancelled and the following are to be substituted.
(1) Shipping to and from South Africa Port is to be routed as follows.
(2) (A) To East Africa from the south. Through Mozambique Channel between lines S.R.Q. and Cape St.Vincent H.J.K. in following position. S. 027 degs. S. 040 E. R. 015 degs. 30' S. 042 degs. E. Q. 011 degs. S. 042 degs E. from Cape St. Vincent on west coast Madagascar to H. 017 degs. S. 042 degs. 40' E. J. 015 degs. S. 044 degs. east port of Comoro Island. (B) To and from Gulf Aden and east coast of Madagascar including Diego Suarez.

Diversely /...

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30.8.1943.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Shipping Routes to South Africa. (Contd.)

Diversely routed east of Madagascar but north and west of line joining following position: LL 030 degs. S. 045 degs. E. MM 030 degs. S. 052 degs. 30' E. NN 021 degs. 30' S. 059 degs. E. (C) To and from Persian Gulf and Karachi. Between line LL MM NN and line joining following position. E 033 degs. 20' S. 045 degs. E. F 033 degs. 20' S. 055 degs. 15' E. G. (?034 degs.) S. 064 degs. E. to and from Ceylon and Indian ports south of Karachi. To south and east of line E F G. (3) Southbound traffic from East Africa. (A) Through Mozambique Channel west of line Q R S and east and south of line joining the following position. D 021 degs. S. 038 degs. E. C 029 degs. S. 038 degs. E. B 033 degs. S. 036 degs. E. A 038 degs. S. 028 S. 028 degs. E. Approaching destination as follows: (B) Durban through approach route in force (See F.O.M.C.192). (C) Capetown. After passing well south of A to cross parallel 036 degs. S. between 022 degs. E. and 024 degs. E thence northward position 180 degs. 15 miles thence position 209 degs. Cape Point light 5 - 7 miles and onward in accordance with current Q.G.A. message. (D) When ordered other destination approach coast at right angles. (E) Direct sailings to Lourenco Marques and South Africa ports south of Durban are suspended for the present. Ships so bound are to be routed to Durban. (C. in C. E.F. 300716Z to (A.I.G.90), F.O.N.I.C. (R) Admty., N.O.I.C.Port Sudan, N.O.I.C.Massawa.)

NIEUW AMSTERDAM. Route for NIEUW AMSTERDAM from Durban through following positions. C. 031 degs. 59' S. 046 degs. 40' E. D 032 degs. 35' 072 degs. 45' E 032 degs. 15' 100 degs. 15' thence Fremantle. (2) Para. 4 of D. of S.T. 202036 not to all addressees refers. (C. in C. E.F. 300746Z to C. in C. S.A. (R) Comsouwestpac, N.O.I.C. Durban, A.C.N.B., (U.S.) Cdr. 7th Fleet, Admty., N.O.I.C.W. Australia.)

OPHIR. After arrival OPHIR, at Colombo, my 160925 refers, request you will sail her as convenient Durban calling Addu Atoll, Diego Garcia, Diego Suarez, Mauritius, to collect invalids for passage Durban. Proposed programme to be reported. (C. in C. E.F. 300803Z to F.O. Ceylon, (R) N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, N.O.I.C. Diego Garcia, S.H.A. 65, F.O. East Africa and Zanzibar, N.O.I.C. Mauritius, C. in C. S.A., Admty. N.O.I.C. Durban.)

India Air Report. A.262 30th August. Daily Opsum 533. 29th August. 2 Beaufighters detailed River craft lower Irrawaddy. 1 damaged many river craft and sunk about 30. Railway installations set on fire. 4 Hurricanes Kaladan River Hunters Bay

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War Diary.30.8.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

India
Air
Report
(Contd.)

area. Sunk 11 River Craft, probably destroyed River Steamer. 6 Hurricanes sunk 21 River Craft Pakokku area. 14th U.S.A.A.F. 27th August. 6 U.S. Kittyhawks P.40 attacked shipping Yochow. 1 Steamer left burning, small gunboat, two other steamers also hit. 6 P.40's with 5 further P.40's attacked truck convoy near Sittang. 6 destroyed 15 damaged. (A.H.Q. India, 300911Z)

SAGAING. Further my 301210 July+ (dredging of SAGAING will be completed about 5th August.) Vessel was successfully sunk in dredged berth on 24th August. + 302210 intended. (F.O. Ceylon, 300953Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F.)

Convoy P.D.53. Bombay portion arrived. (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 301004Z, 310911Z)

Derelict Tanker, (?SAN ERNESTO) Ref. derelict Tanker. My 280710 August refers. Catalina flying from Ceylon to Australia sighted ship apparently drifting at 0615Z/30th August in 01 degs. 09' N. 87 degs. 39' E. This must be SAN ERNESTO. She has made good approx. 543 miles at 1½ knots in a direction 092 degs. since first sighted and must have been within the Orbit of previous air search. (2) As I intend to employ Rescue Tug INTEGRITY in a further effort to salve WILLIAM B. OGDEN, aground on Sacramento Shoal, during mid Sept. Spring tides and derelict is now beyond the limit of Air Search from Ceylon I have no option but to take no further action and to let her go. (F.O. Ceylon, 301040Z to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty. 222 Group)

U.S.A.T.'s. Request following U.S. Army Transports may be routed as follows: (A) ZONA GALE and GRAND WHIELOCK ex Pacific Coast 4th August to Colombo to discharge 8 P.38 aircraft each for on-carriage to Karachi and then to proceed Calcutta. (B) VERNON KELLOG ex Pacific Coast 6 August to Colombo to discharge 8 P.38 aircraft for oncarriage to Karachi and then to proceed Calcutta. (C) HOWARD RICKETTS ex Pacific Coast 8 August to Colombo to discharge 7 P.38 aircraft, 6 P.51 aircraft, 43 fuselages, 15 wings and 11 aeroplane engines all for oncarriage to Karachi and then to proceed Calcutta. (D) BILLY SUNDAY ex Pacific Coast 30th July to Colombo to discharge 5 liaison aircraft and 4 P.38 aircraft all for oncarriage to Karachi and then to proceed Calcutta. (E) IMA COOLTRITH ex Pacific Coast 10th August to Colombo to discharge 10 P.38 aircraft for oncarriage to Karachi and then to proceed Calcutta. (F) ROBERT INGERSOLL ex Pacific Coast 11th August to Karachi for part discharge completing Calcutta. (G) JOSIAH HENDY and ARTHUR P. DAVIS ex Pacific Coast 15th August both to proceed Karachi for complete discharge. (P.S.T.O.I. 301045Z to A.C.N.B., P.S.T.O.M.E., P.S.T.O.Capetown, (R) C. in C. E.F., F.O. Ceylon, etc.)

STRATHAIRD /...

1090

30.8.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

STRATHAIRD. Does STRATHAIRD still comply with proposals contained in your 110235 which is the last signal regarding her onward movements received here? Or, as it intended she goes through to U.K. in either case, is it intended she should call at Bombay on voyage Colombo to Middle East? Request urgent reply. Vessel ready here 2nd.
(S.S.T.O. Ceylon, 301113Z to Admty., for D. of S.T. (R)
P.S.T.O. M.E., P.S.T.O. India, C. in C. E.F.)

Transports. (1) CITY OF PARIS. (2) CITY OF LONDON sailed for Basra 30 August with following.
E.T.A. Rooka 6th Sept.
(D.S.T.O. Bombay, 301141Z to S.S.T.O. P.G. (R)
P.S.T.O.I., D.S.T.)

C. in C. Intend to visit C. in C. S.A. leaving Kilindini by air a.m. Wednesday 1st Sept. and returning a.m. Saturday 11th Sept.
(2) Intend subsequently to proceed to Colombo where my shore headquarters will have been transferred.
(C. in C. E.F. 301310 to Admty.)

ADAMANT. Your 280946/August.
Great importance of safety of this ship will be appreciated. (2) It is for consideration whether, as a precautionary measure, a proportion of the special spare gear, stores, etc., should be transported in another ship.
(D.O.D.(F), 301357A to C. in C. E.F. (R) F.O.S., S.4)
Reply: 011326A Sept.

Ceylon 362618, 68689/C.O.S. cipher 30 August.
Defences. Your 56807 (M.07) dated 7 August addressed Ceylon. Consider the views of C. in C. Ceylon set out in tele. no 17/0902 should be accepted. Request approval proposed target figures 120 HAA and 156 LAA. C. in C. E.F. agrees..
(C. in C. India, 301920 FG to W.O)
Note by M.O.7. The Defence of Bases Committee have in fact recommended these target figures in the revised Defence Plan for Ceylon which will shortly be submitted to C.O.S. for approval.

KEDAH. Your 291226/July (Re employment of KEDAH as overflow accommodation ship for Coastal Force Base.) approved.
(C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. Levant, F.O. Ceylon.)

Naval Air Proposed completion by end of year.
Establishments. (Hd. of N. 302041A to C. in C. E.F.)
See Lien Copy.

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30.8.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Naval Air Establishments. It is proposed to complete the following Naval Air Establishments to full complement by the end of the year: (a) Coimbatore and Cochin, (b) Katukurunda, (c) Puttalam, (d) Colombo Race Course.

Following stations in East Africa will require to be fully manned early 1944:-

- (a) Tanga. Full scale 4 Squadron Station and 48 Reserve.
 - (b) Port Reitz. Full scale when workshops are completed and 48 Reserve.
 - (c) Mackinnon Road 2 Squadrons, no reserves.
 - (d) Nairobi. Full authorised scheme of complement.
- (Hd. of N. 302041A to C. in C.E.F.)

1092

30.8.1943.

Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Movements, St. Johns. St. Johns N.F. August 29th, 1943. Arrivals: MATCHLESS, ORWELL ex U.K. MALPEQUE, ESQUIMALT ex B.W.55. MOHAWK, U.S.S. ARUNDEL, U.S.S. KAWEAH U.S.S., ex G.S.27. HESPERIA ex H.X.253. BURNHAM, MAYFLOWER, BITTERSWEET ex O.N.S.16.
 Departures: SALISBURY, BUCTOUCHE, BARRIE, NIPIGON, QUESNEL to O.N.S.16. VEGREVILLE to W.B.48. LOCKEPORT, GODERICH to J.H.65. M.L.063 to St. Pierre.
 (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 300230Z to Admty.)

MARIPOSA. Arrived New York 29th August.
 (N.S.H.Q., 300307Z to Admty. for D. of S.T.)

Movements, Kingston. U.S. C.G.83379 arrived Kingston, Jamaica 30th August.
 (N.O.I.C. Kingston (Jam.), 300605R to Admty., etc.)

C.U. 4. Departure Bermuda August 30th ORARI to join convoy C.U.4. Destination Mersey for orders. No passengers.
 (B.R.L.O. Bermuda, 301018Z to Admty.)

Stragglers. Arrived week ending August 28th.
 August 24th J.H. SENIOR (U.S.) H.X.252 collision damage. August 26th GEORGE POINDEXTER (U.S.) H.X.253 boiler trouble. August 27th NELSON DINGLEY (U.S.) H.X.253 collision damage.
 August 27th PETER DONAHUE (U.S.) H.X.253 collision damage.
 (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 301142Z to Admty.)

Movements, Bermuda. Bermuda departure French Ships COMMANDANT DELAGE and LA GRACIEUSE.
 (S.B.N.O.W.At., 301215Z to Admty.)

U/B. Aircraft reports submarine on surface 23.28 N. 75.02 W. at 1440Z.
 (Kingston Jamaica, 301226R to Admty.)

HERMITAGE. Admty. pass to C. in C. E.F., P.S.T.O. India, D. of S.T. London and Aluslo Bombay. A.C.N.B. pass to Alusna Melbourne.
 1. When discharged completion present voyage and ready for sea C. in C. E.F. requested despatch U.S.S. HERMITAGE from Bombay to San Pedro California via Melbourne.
 2. Desire to carry maximum number of passengers following categories listed in order of relative priorities.
 3. Insutrctions previous return voyage concerning physical requirements and civilians credentials for entry U.S. apply.

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30.8.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

- HERMITAGE. 4. C.O. HERMITAGE authorised subject to
(Contd.) limitations of C. in C. E.F. and C. in C. U.S.
Pacific Fleet to determine number various
categories to be transported. C. in C. U.S.
Fleet authorises considering Polish refugees
women and children as men as related to number embarked.
5. C. in C. E.F. requested to inform HERMITAGE and Aluslo
Bombay his ruling on above.
(Vice Opnav, 301239 to Aluslo Bombay, U.S.S. HERMITAGE, C. in
C. E.F., (R) Com. South Pacific, Alusna Melbourne, D. of S.T.
London, P.S.T.O. India, Admty., A.C.N.B., etc.)
- Movements, Departure ANNAPOLIS, COBALT, LACHINE escorting
Halifax. H.H.X.254. ANNAPOLIS to Pictou N.S. from
H.O.M.P.
(C. Halifax, 301307Z to Admty., etc.)
- SHERBROOKE Departure SHERBROOKE to L. 26 for escort to
L. 26. Cape Cod Canal.
(Cdre. Halifax, 301308Z to Admty., etc.)
- U/B One 31.30 78.00 by contact 301325, no fresh
Estimates. information other areas.
(Cominch, 301350Z to Admty., etc.)
1200Z/30th August, no fresh information.
(N.S.H.Q., 301357Z U-Boat situation report to
Canadian N.W.At.)
- U.S.A.T. Departure 29th, U.S.A.T. STATE OF VIRGINIA,
due San Juan 31st.
(B.S.N.O. Curacao, 301409Z to Admty., (R)
N.S.H.Q.)
- U.G.S. 16. Admty. 301145 to Bermuda only (W.R. signal
requesting repetition).
Following is a repetition of my 300007 (begins).
Admty., C. in C. Med., F.O.C.W.A. from Bermuda
C.C.O. Following received from U.S.N.O.B. Bermuda for onward
transmission (begins). Cinclant Info. Cominch, Cinmed., Admty.,
C.M.S.F., S.B.N.O.W.At., F.O.C.W.A., Comnavnav, B.A.D., F.L.O.
Bermuda, C.T.F.61 from N.O.B. Bermuda. COMMANDANT DELAGE and
LA GRACIEUSE depart Bermuda 1100Z/30th for R/V with U.G.S.16
at lat. 32.35 long. 62.18 about 1900Z/30th. N.O.B. passing to
U.S. addressees. 300246. (End of repetition).
(Bermuda C.C.O., 301415 to Admty., etc.)
- H.X. 254. S.S. ESSO BAYONNE, pennant position 42, returned
New York from convoy H.X.254. Amend both parts
of my sailing telegram. C.T.U. W.8 pass to
convoy Commodore.
(P.D. New York, 301424A to Admty.)

/Movements ...

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30.8.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Movements, Kingston. Departure 301730R U.S.S. BLAKELEY Guantanamo direct 16 knots, 50 service personnel. E.T.A. 310800R. JAN VAN BRAKEL Guantanamo direct, 13.5 knots, 30 service personnel. E.T.A. 311030R. (N.O.I.C. Kingston, Jam., 301443R to Admty., etc.)

A.T. 64. SS. QUEEN ELIZABETH to comply with War Office signal 63909 28th August. Army will complete embarkation p.m./13th for sailing 14th Sept. (N.S.H.Q., 301445Z to Admty.)

SARNIA, L. 26. Arrival SARNIA ex sub. L.26. (C. Halifax, 301446Z to Admty., etc.)

U.G.S. Escorts, calls at Gibraltar. In approaching Navy Dept. to discuss possibility of escort of U.G.S. proceeding to Gibraltar instead of Casablanca information is requested to what extent facilities would be available at Gibraltar for escorts during lay-over period. (B.A.D., 301527Z to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)
Reply: C. in C. Med. 011207B.

B.Y.M.S. B.Y.M.S. 53, 56, 174, 175 depart Boston Gate in company 0530Q August 31st en route Halifax via: (A) All positions North and West 042° 07', 070° 15'. (B) 042° 56', 065° 18'. (C) 043° 51', 063° 16'. Speed 10.5 knots. Guard B.A.M.S. Hold Q.J.C. 152 and Q.J.A. 226. B.Y.M.S. 174 is senior vessel. C.E.S.F. pass to B.N.L.O. and R.B.N.O. New York. (C.T.G. 02.1, 301557 to (? C. in C. C.N.A.), (R) C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., Admty.)

Movements, Bermuda. Bermuda arrival French ship JEANE D'ARC, H.M.C.S. SAULT (sic) STE MAJIE (sic). (S.B.N.O.W.A., 301620Z to Admty.)

Dispositions. LADY NELSON 045° 53' 050° 21' 080° 13 altering to 060° in 049° 00' W.
O.N.198, W.5 045° 19' 052° 37' 256° 10 altering to 239° in 056° 00' W.
U.S.S. MOHAWK, ARUNDEL escorting U.S.S. KAWEAH 046° 19' 053° 30', 264° 10.
RICHMOND departs St. Johns N.F. to overtake W.1.
O.N.S.16, W.1 (E) 045° 46' 055° 08', 263° 8 alter to 241° in 059° 35' W.
B.W.56, GEORGIAN 036° 06' 054° 30' 083 7.5 alter to 041° in 052° 55' W. and to 014° in 046° 28' N.
W.B. 48, VEGREVILLE 046° 28' 056° 16' 243° 7.5 alter to 288° in 057° 06' W.
NORTHERN SKY, R.T. GRIPER and tow 045° 59' 057° 14' 304° 5 en route Sydney (C.B.)

/MOOSEJAW ...

1095

War Diary.30.8.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

- Dispositions. MOOSEJAW escorting two barges 051° 04' 057° 21' 6.5 en route Rimouski.
(Contd.) (C. in C. C.N.A., 301625Z.)
My 301625Z add U.S.S. MOJAVE 046° 51' 054° 55' to position 046° 47' 055° 02' 12½ thence 244°.
- Amend U.S.S. MOHAWK, ARUNDEL, KAWEAH 046° 19' 053° 30' 264° 10' altering to 236° in 053° 59' W.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 302129Z.)
VILLE DE QUEBEC 047° 30' N. 059° 28' W. 14 en route Halifax. S.B.65 MISCOU 046° 53' N. 059° 50' W. 010° 8 altering to 060° in 048° 36' N.
N.L.17 ALGOINA, ALBERNI 050° 01' N. 063° 33' W. 277°, 9.5 altering to 250° in 064° 18' W. and to 238° in 066° 43' W.
Q.S.66 SWIFT CURRENT, UNGAVA, FOWEY, 2 18th C.S.124, LINERIA 048° 44' N. 068° 22' W. 063° 8, altering to 089° in 049° 22' N. and to 199° in 064° 51' W. 73rd M.L. Flotilla departed 7 Island 2300Z/30th to 049° 22' N. 066° 31' W. at 0400Z/31st thence sweeping 25 miles ahead of Q.S.66. (See amendment 302120Z.)
(C. in C. C.N.A., 301725Z.)
My 301725Z. Amend Q.S.66 SWIFT CURRENT, UNGAVA, ST. KENAN, CAPE MARIATO 048° 44' 068° 22', 063°, 8 altering to 089° in 049° 22' N. and to 119° in 064° 51' W.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 302120Z.)
- KENT. KENT intends (? departing) Gate Argentia at 311100Z direct to Halifax, speed 18, E.T.A. 011200Z.
(C.T.F.24, 301631Z to C. in C. C.N.A., (R) C.C.N.F., RENOWN, Admty., C. in C. H.F., N.S.H.Q., Capt. (D) Argentia, Cdr. Halifax, KENT.)
- Movements, 30th August arrivals B.2 Escort Group, HESPERUS, Argentia. VESPER, MOURNE, CLEMATIS, CAMPANULA and SWEETBRIAR ex O.N.198.
(Capt. (D) Argentia, 301700Z to Admty.)
- T.J. 6. Following ships sailed Trinidad 24th August in T.J.6. Due Rio de Janeiro 13th September.
(N.S.H.Q., 301720Z to F.O.C.W.A., C. in C. S.A., S.O.(I) Jamaica.)
- ORARI. Departed Bermuda 301012. Escorted to R/V with C.U.4.
(U.S.R.O. Bermuda, 301721 to Washington.)
- French S/Ms. Admiral Fenard has informed Combined Chiefs of Staff that 600 ton French submarines PALLAS, CERES and AMPHITRITE have been omitted from C.C.S. 207/10. PALLAS and CERES are being repaired from French resources at Oran and AMPHITRITE at Casablanca and Admiral Fenard suggests that they should be utilized upon completion as Submarine Training Targets in U.S.A. - Bermuda area. Have you any comments?
(B.A.D., 301907Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.)

/AQUITANIA ...

1096

30.8.1943.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

- AQUITANIA. Expected to complete repairs for departure September 30th.
(B.M.W.T. New York, 301945Z to D.S.T.)
- U.T. 2. Convoy U.T.2 leaving New York 5th Sept.
Destinations of troopships will be as follows:
(A) Clyde - EMPRESS OF RUSSIA, ORION, SCYTHIA, MEXICO.
(B) Mersey - STRATHNAVER, SAMARIA, CAPETOWN CASTLE, ERICSSON.
(C) Bristol Channel (Ports at present undecided) - BORINQUEN, EVANGELINE, SHAWNEE, SIMONDS.
2. Request S.O. of escort be instructed to report E.T.A. of the three sections 48 hours before arrival in North Channel.
(D.O.D.(H), 301950A to Cominch.)
- B.X. 71. Convoy B.X.71 sailing telegram, part 2.
(List, etc,) 38 ships.
(P.D. Boston, 301952 to Conroute, C. in C. C.N.A., Admty., C.E.S.F., etc.)
- Russian M/S and M.Ls. A.M. 291744. These ships have been held up by a State Department quibble. Navy Department are doing their utmost and hope to get them away from New York Sept. 1st from where they will be sailed for Newfoundland.
(B.A.D., 302037Z to Admty.)
- M/V Routeing Eastern Sea Frontier. My 241320 suspended along Eastern Sea Boards. Vessels with speeds less than 14.5 knots proceeding into Eastern Sea Frontier shall be sailed to Key West or Guantanamo to join convoy. Vessels with speeds of 11 knots or over may be sailed independently in Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean. Reporting centres pass to Routeing Officers your area.
(Com. 10th Fleet (C. & R.), 302100Z to Admty.)
- KING HAAKON VII. Your 281746, not to all. Upon completion of refit request KING HAAKON VII join W.E. Group W.1 for B.X.72. Comdt. Nav. Dist. Boston pass to KING HAAKON VII.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 302106Z to B.A.M.R., (R) Comeastseafon, Cdr. 1st Nav. Dist. Boston, W.1, F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q., Admty., KING HAAKON VII.)
- Sub. attack and sighting summary. No report 29th August. All times Z.
Para. C. U.S.S. FLAHERTY attacks sound contact 30.41 N. 78.55 W. 291715.
S.C.1018 Radar contact 31.30 N. 78.00 W. 301325.
Admty. pass to Commaveu and H.Q.C.C. for information.
(Cominch, 302116Z to Action Admty. O.I.C.)

/ALCOA ...

1097

30.8.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

ALCOA In position 012° (? 15') N. 076° 10' W. steering
Patriot, 237°, speed 15 knots, chased by 2 submarines.
U/B. Shall I return? Advise.
 (ALCOA PATRIOT, 302215Z to Balboa W/T.)

MAURETANIA. From B.M.W.T. New York. (Begins). MAURETANIA,
referring your 292216 para. 7.
1. View fact vessel drydocked here in May
request you confirm requires docking this voyage.
2. If affirmative must endeavour obtain Navy dock as no
commercial dock large enough.
3. Will not be able to maintain present departure in event
drydocking required. (Ends).
(B.R.L.O. New York, 302301Z to D.S.T.)
Reply: D.S.T., 312159A.

Supply Your 211941 July. Policy arrovod in C.C.S.
policy for 194/1 is being followed and U.S. and French
French authorities concerned agree to its continuance.
African French desirous for technical reasons and for
Naval stability to retain French equipment.
Forces. (B.A.D., 302315Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.)

Escort We have advance information that rate of
Carriers, completion of C.V.E. at Tacoma is going to
Acceleration. accelerate. This will mean a progressively
 longer time elapsing whilst they lie idle
 awaiting modification at Vancouver. At present
 this period is about three weeks. By the end
of this year it will be two months and by the end of the
programme, 3½ months.
2. These idle periods could be eliminated by withdrawing at
intervals a total of five ships from the modification programme
and using them in an unmodified condition until end of present
programme. Suggest they might be used whilst waiting -
(i) Ferrying for Americans in Pacific. (ii) Ferrying across
Atlantic. (iii) Ferrying to India. (iv) As deck landing
training ships (your 252112, para. 3 refers). It appears it
might be necessary to have the first two or three of these
ships manned by Americans whilst on such temporary service.
3. Considered that besides desirability of making utmost of
these vessels, it would be most impolitic to give Americans
an extra lever to get in on our programme. My 272321 refers.
4. If you concur, propose to submit most suitable ships in
which to delay modification.
(B.A.D., 302321Z to Admty.)

ADHERENT. You are to proceed into New York Harbour for
instructions. Shift W/T watch to 4410 k/cs on
crossing 067° W., report E.T.A. to C.E.S.F.
B.A.D. Washington pass N.M.C.J.S.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 302329Z to ADHERENT, (R) Admty.,
B.A.D., Cominch, C.E.S.F., F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q.,
N.M.C.J.S.)

1098

30.8.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Y.F.D.32, About 0800Q/1st September depart Tompkinsville
towage. with TRANSCONA and escort Y.F.D.32 to St. Johns
N.F. Dock will be towed by H.M.R.T. ASPIRANT,
Senior towing officer, and H.M.R.T. ADHERENT.
R/V with dock and tugs near Gedney Channel buoy
about 1000Q/1st September. From this point proceed to point
Zebra. Thence through following points (list) to St. Johns
N.F. Estimated speed of tow 6 knots. While in Eastern Sea
Frontier if 15 miles or more off C.E.S.F.'s 2000Z estimated daily
position inform C.E.S.F. and C. in C.C.N.A. corrected position.
Communications.
(C.E.S.F., 302339Z.)

Australia and New Zealand.

U.S.A.T. U.S. Transport SOMMELSDIJK departed Melbourne
29th August due Auckland 4th September.
(Comsowespacfron, 300244Z to Admty.)

Convoy C.B. 04024 (41) para. 88.
U.S. 22. 1. U.S.22. 2. 0200Z/30th August. 3. 0800Z/7th
Sailing September at M.O.M.P. 001° 06' S. 072° 17' E.
telegram 1200Z/9th at position M where EXHIBITOR is to
(4 ships). be detached. U.S.22 E.T.A. Bombay 0100Z/11th.
4. 15½ knots. 5. Route. 6. SUFFOLK to M.O.M.P.
thence (? 320°). 13A. Capt. Townsend U.S. Navy
U.S.S. HERMITAGE. 13B. Master SS. URUGUAY.
(N.O.I.C. Western Australia, 300503Z to Admty., (R) C. in C.
E.F., Comsowespacseafon, Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet, F.O.C.R.I.N.,
F.O. Ceylon.)
U.S.22, items 10, 11, 12.
F.O. Ceylon pass to FROBISHER and relevant information to
S.N.O.P.G. Cdr. S.W.P.S.F. pass to Cdr. West Sea Frontier and
Connav.
(N.O.I.C. Western Australia, 300505Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F.
(?) Cdr. S.W.A.S.F., Cdr. 7th U.S. Fleet, F.O.C.R.I.N., F.O.
Ceylon.)

Movements. Arrived Port Moresby 29th U.S. Destroyer HELM,
Townsville 29th PIRIE, Brisbane 29th U.S.
Destroyer O'BRIEN, GLENELG, MORESBY.
Departed Cairns 28th SWAN, GYMPIE, ORISSA, BUNBURY
for Milne Bay. Sydney (N.S.W.) 29th WARRAMUNGA for Townsville.
Fremantle 29th Job.227 for Colombo.
(N.B. Melbourne, 301038Z to Admty., etc.)
Arrivals 29th August. Fremantle U.S. Transports BRAZIL, URUGUAY,
Port Moresby H/T KATOOMBA. 30th Brisbane U.S. Transport

/SWARTENHONDT ...

1099

30.8.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements.
(Contd.)

SWARTENHONDT, U.S. Transport CAPE FLATTERY. Departure Port Moresby 29th due Townsville 3rd. Hospital ship MANUNDA departed Sydney 30th due Brisbane 1st September. U.S. Transport VAN HEUTSZ departed Milne Bay 30th due Townsville 1st September.
(C.S.W.P.S.F., 301056Z to Admty.)

Digest
No. 587
August
29th.

Para. 7 covers South Pacific Forces. One cruiser, two C R S/destroyers attacked by night Catalina 45 miles West Northern tip Buka easterly course scoring one near miss on cruiser.

(2) Five Bostons bombed dumps Gasmata forenoon scored direct hit gun position. Same time six

Beaufighters on barge sweep Western end New Britain destroyed two barges Cape Beechey area.

(4) 45 Mitchelles and two Fortresses bombed and strafed Alexishafen - Bogadjim Area same morning dropping 54 tons bombs destroying several barges, buildings and fuel dumps and starting large fires.

(7) One Corsair escorted by another two strafed Kahili airfield and parking area dawn 28th destroying eight grounded aircraft causing fires and explosions. Later same day twelve Mitchells and 18 fighters attacked north-west Isabel Island area destroying four barges and over 20 Huis (sic) single Liberator dropped bombs on vessel off Kieta night hours another aircraft from this area attacked and damaged small gunboat east of Mussau Island on previous day.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 301308Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 301354A, 301355A.)

Submarines Attacked.

S/M attack
and sighting
summary.

24 hours to 1000S/30th August.
Para. A. Escort of S.L.135 sighted surfaced U-Boat 40° 25' N. 19° 10' W. Co. 000° at 1311/29th August. Para. B. French A/C attacked surfaced U-Boat in 29° 00' N. 12° 08' W. at 0535/29th Aug. GRENVILLE detected U-Boat by Radar 41° 50' N. 13° 40' W. at 0001/30th August.
(D.D.I.C., 301023Z to Cominch.)

1100

31.8.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
"Lorry".

1. MUSKETEER and MAHRATTA arrived at Kola Inlet at 0131A today and sailed again for the Faroes at 1300A.

Enemy
Coastal
Batteries.

2. The 9th and 18th M/S Flotillas were shelled off Dungeness this afternoon by enemy coastal batteries in the Boulogne area. The Flotillas retired under a smoke-screen and sustained no damage or casualty.

Biscay A/S
Patrol.

3. Owing to the uncertainty regarding U-Boat routes both surface and air patrols in the Bay of Biscay are in process of adjustment, strong patrol being maintained by day and night in probability areas. CRANE and PELICAN established a new line at daybreak today between 43° 00' N. 13° 50' W. and 44° 48' N. 14° 00' W. WEAR and Escort Group 5 are to join them on this patrol.

Mediterranean.

Sicily &
South Italy. e/

4. Coastal forces operated last night off Vibo Valentia and the tow of Italy, and the destroyers QUILLIAM, QUAIL and QUEENBOROUGH carried out a sweep off the coast of Calabria as far as the Gulf of Squillace, without incident.

Bombardment
by NELSON
and RODNEY.

(Operation "Hammer")

5. At 1000 today NELSON and RODNEY carried out a successful bombardment of two coast defence batteries north-east of Reggio. Spotting aircraft reported both targets well covered and at least one gun knocked out. Good fires, caused apparently by the explosion of ammunition, were seen in one fortification. Battleships, with ORION and destroyers, also engaged batteries in the Cape Pellaro area; these offered ineffective opposition.

1101

31.8.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

6. A 445 ft. merchant ship was left sinking at Hong Kong as the result of air attack today by 3 U.S. P.40s (Kittyhawks).

America and West Indies.

7. The hull of SS. J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON, who was gutted by fire after being torpedoed or damaged in collision in H.X.252 on 19th August, was towed to Sydney C.B. by rescue tug GRIPER today and was beached.

Australia and New Zealand.

8. U.S. aircraft destroyed several enemy barges today during a sweep of the area between Borgen Bay and Cape Büsching (New Britain). Many wrecked barges and burnt out store dumps were seen in Borgen Bay.

U.S. M.T.Bs. report destroying a total of 10 or more enemy barges during night patrols in the Huon Gulf area (New Guinea) during the past week.

9. 12 enemy dive bombers and 5 fighters attacked Allied shipping returning from Vella Lavella today; no damage to our ships is reported, but 4 Warhawks shot down 5 dive bombers without loss.

1102

31.8.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Herring Fishery. Admiralty 152051B July. Herring fishing in this area is extended now until 30th September 1943. (D.T.D., 311131A to C. in C. W.A., Rosyth, Nore.)

S/M Exercise Area in Irish Sea. Approved to move Elswick Torpedo area and to establish submarine exercise area as proposed in A.M. 251820. (A.C.N.S(H), 311135A to C. in C. W.A.)

Weather Reports for North Russia. Your 121404 passed to Air Ministry for action. (b) Reference last sentence Admiralty List of Radio signals is no longer in use. (Head of M.I., 311637A to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

L.C.M. Flotillas for Portsmouth. Request that five built-up flotillas of L.C.M. may be made available in this Command during September 1943.
2. These craft are required for important exercises to be carried out in this command during October.
3. If available they should be based at SEA SERPENT.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 312353A to Admty.)

Movements.

MALAYA. C. in C. H.F. 302323. SCOURGE detailed. MALAYA is requested to detach remainder of screen on completion of exercises and to detach SCOURGE to Scapa when no longer required. (R.A.D.H.F., 311308A and 312230 to C. in C. H.F., MALAYA.)

My 302323. On arrival at Clyde grant 14 days leave each watch. Leave to be completed and ship to be at Fleet notice by a.m./4th October.
(C. in C. H.F., 311701A to MALAYA.)

Group L. A.M. 251605 and 281709.
1. Para. 1. Delete 111th M.M.S. Flotilla. Add B.Y.M.S. 72, 73 and 190.
2. Further orders for sailing of 111th M.M.S. Flotilla will be issued when ships are ready.
3. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail OXNA, if she is ready, with Convoy to Gibraltar for onward routing to Freetown.
(D.O.D.H., 311514A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

S/M Movements. Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/1st and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.(S), 311718A, 011412A, 011826A.)

1103

31.8.1943.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay A/S Operations.

Biscay A/S
Patrol.

Am over one enemy S/M in 45° 16' N. 05° 42' W.
Enemy was on surface, course 100°, speed 8
knots.

(A/C 407 Sqn. Duty R, 310053A to 19 Group.)

Your 301029 BERMUDA will pass through BB at
1545A/31st. E.T.A. 1200A, Gate 1245A/1st
September. Acknowledge.

(BERMUDA, 310417A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

D/Fs 0417A and 0428Z/31st August indicate
U-Boat within 75 miles of 45° 30' N. 15° 00' W.
D/F 2228Z/30th indicates one U-Boat within 120
miles of 48° 30' N. 19° 00' W.

Probably all inward-bound.

(D.D.I.C., 310921A and 311113A to SHEFFIELD,
BERMUDA.)

Am over one enemy submarine.

(A/C 35 Sqn., Duty 'N', 311350 to 19 Group.)

U-Boat previously reported course 350°, 6 knots.
No attack.

(A/C 35 Sqn. Duty 'N', 311500A to 19 Group.)

U-Boat previously reported was on surface and
seen to submerge 44° 55' N. 10° 55' W.

(A/C 35 Sqn. Duty 'N', 311400 to 19 Group.)

Your 310417A. BERMUDA will proceed up harbour
at 1300A/1st to number 8 buoy and is to clean 2
boilers to be completed at 4 hours notice by
1200A/4th. (2) Other boilers to remain at 4
hours notice.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 311448A to BERMUDA.)

My 221153, para. (B). Present intention is
that PELICAN should remain in 1st Escort Group.

(C. in C. W.A., 311558A to Cdre. (D) W.A.)

Escort
Groups
programme.

Your 281118A. Concur generally.

2. As the more southern patrol areas are 2½
days steaming from Plymouth and 3 days from
Londonderry some re-adjustment of dates will
be necessary.

3. The endurance allowed for the 2nd Escort
Group, 11 days, appear to be an underestimation. It is
proposed to extend their first patrol by 3 days and to delay
the sailing of 9th Escort Group until a.m./12th September in
order to cover period from 18th to 20th September.

Also to advance date of sailing of 8th Escort Group to 16th
September to ensure overlap with 9th Escort Group.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 311801A to C. in C. W.A.)

/Disposition ...

1104

War Diary.31.8.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Biscay A/S Operations.Escort
Groups,
programme.
(Contd.)

Disposition at 2000.

- (1) BERMUDA 048° 55', 010° 00', bound Plymouth
20 knots.
(2) E.G.5 in WEAR, NENE, TWEED, EDMUNDSTON 049°
03', 010° 30', south-westbound, 13 knots.
(3) ROTHER, JED, GRENVILLE 047° 22', 012° 45',
13 knots. ROTHER and JED bound Londonderry,

GRENVILLE bound Plymouth.

- (4) CRANE, PELICAN on patrol in vicinity 044° 00', 013° 50'.
(5) SHEFFIELD on patrol vicinity 046° 50', 014° 30'.
(8) ULTIMATUM 046° 00', 007° 50', thence 180° 90 miles a day.
(9) LE CURIE 046° 48', 004° 50' to 046° 30', 006° 01', thence
180° 90 miles per day.
(10) RUBIS in vicinity of 043° 40', 001° 58', thence 320°,
86 miles per day.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 311845A to Admty.)

D/F bearings at 1958Z indicate U/B within 75 miles N.E.
or S.W. of 45° 40' N. 18° 30' W.(D.D.I.C., 312131A to Escorts S.L.135, M.K.S.22, STORK,
STONECROP, SHEFFIELD, E.G.1, E.G.5, CRANE, PELICAN.)ROTHER, JED detaching to Londonderry at position M at
2315, S.O.A. 15 knots. GRENVILLE, E.T.A. Plymouth 1330A/1st.
Have leaking steam-joint, 12 hours to repair, affects fuel
economy only.

(GRENVILLE, 312315A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

General.Operation
"Lorry".Arrived Kola Inlet MUSKETTER, MAHRATTA.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 310131A to F.O.I.C.
Faroes.)
My 310131. Sailed at 1300A.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 311325A to N.O.I.C.
Faroes.)Operation
S.F.My 302052. From 0800 today (1) Group B. (2)
061° 39' N. 012° 48' W. (3) 225° 60 - 60 from
"Apricot".
(C. in C. Rosyth, 310601A to Capt. (D) 17.)
My 302352. "Moorings" area being moved 60
miles 225° from this position as from 0800 today.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 310703A to Capt. (D) 17.)
2000 position Tuesday.ONslow, ORIBI, SARDONYX searching vicinity 061° 39', 012° 48' W.
SAVAGE and MIDDLETON leave Scapa 2100 to Faroes.

(A.C.O.S., 311133 to Admty.)

"Tubular" for 0900/1st. One possibly 3 in "Moorings" 064°
to 065° by 001° to 003° W. One to the west Category B.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 311212A to C. in C. H.F.)

5 trawlers 270, 5 knots 28 00.

(A/C, 311320 to 18 Group.)

/All ...

1105

31.8.1943.

Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation S.F. (Contd.) All further sorties in "Moorings" area cancelled. Weather in area and on south coast unfit. (R.A.F Iceland, 311555A to H.Q.C.C.) R.A.(D) H.F. 301645. Capt. (D) 17 in ONSLOW is to continue operation S.F. until further orders. (C. in C. H.F., 311738A to Capt. (D) 17.) Sailed SAVAGE, MIDDLETON to Skaalefiord, E.T.A. 1100A/1st. (R.A.D., 312105A to N.O.I.C. Faeroes.) My 310601A. From 0001 Sept. 1st (1) Group B. (2) 060° 56' N. 014° 16' W. (3) 225° 60 - 60. (4) "Apricot". My 031615B and 310703A. From 2359A/31st "Moorings" being moved a further 60 miles 225°. Para. 2 (a) 3 (B) 7. (C. in C. Rosyth, 312216A to Capt. (D) 17.)

Operation "Starkey". My 281545A sailed. (12 L.C.P.(L)s of 704 Flotilla.) (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 311135 to C. in C. Portsmouth.) Admiralty's 211944A. Southend 31st August departure with C.W.205 to Spithead for orders EMPIRE COUGAR, KINGSLAND, EMPIRE DERWENT, LORNASTON, DANBY, BARON ELGIN. (C. in C. Nore, 311616A to C. in C. Portsmouth.) Force J's 0850/5/1 of 28th July and N.O.I.C. Newhaven's 281545A. Dover 31st August arrivals L.C.P.(L) 84, 110, 162, 101, 52, 159, 99, 114, 160, 102, 104, 113 and M.Ls. 247 and 297 for onward routing to Richborough. (V.A. Dover, 311753A to Admty.)

Coastal Patrols. (a) LA COMBATTANTE, GLAISDALE to patrol 10 miles South of Convoy route between longitude S. of C.2 and C.3 buoys from 0100A to 0500A. (b) M.L.292, 344 patrol Q.Z.S.384 between F and E.A.5 Buoys. (c) BLEASDALE, WENSLEYDALE, CHASSEUR X immediate notice St. Helens. (d) M.G.B.13, 8, 7 from Portland patrolling 50° 20' N. between 02° 00' W. and 02° 25' W. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 311459A.) M.Ls. 255 and 257 at Inner Lade Buoy. M.Ls. 104, 101, 108, 107, 128, 210, 213 and 573 carrying out operation N.L.96. Route via Dumpton and U buoys each way. E.T.D. 1920, E.T.R. 0500/1. M.T.Bs. 240, 202, 221 and 38 supported by M.G.Bs. 114, 113 and 118 carrying out operation N.L.97 route via Dumpton and U buoys each way. E.T.D.1920, E.T.R. 0445/1. M.T.Bs. 204, 235 and M.G.Bs. 108, 116 and 117 at Berck Buoy. E.T.D. 1830, E.T.R. 0630/1, route via No.10 buoy and Bullock Bank each way. GREY GOOSE, GREY FOX, GREY SEAL and GREY OWL east of Bullock Bank. E.T.D. 1930, E.T.R. 0630/1. M.G.Bs. 611, 614 and 616 patrolling 9 miles S.E. of Dover. E.T.D. 2030, E.T.R. 0530/1. M.Ls. 142 and 138 at No.1 Buoy. E.T.D. 2045, E.T.R. 0515/1. (V.A. Dover, 311754A to Admty.)

1106

31.8.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

- S/M
Patrols.
1. Cancel route given in para. 1 of my 281216.
 2. ULTIMATUM passes through UM 046° 00', 007° 50' at 2000A/31st thence 180° to join route "Gold" in 044° 00', 007° 50' thence by route "Gold" to cross 043° 00' at 2200A/3rd.
 3. LE CURIE joins route "Gold" in 046° 30' at 0200A/1st thence by route "Gold" to cross 043° 00' at 0500A/5th.
 4. Friendly aircraft may operate with flares. They will be informed of S/M movements.
(F.O.(S), 311529A to S/Ms.)
- Positions of submarines at 0800A/1st September and movements for following 24 hours.
- A. TANTALUS vicinity 74° N. 15° E.
 - B. UNTIRING vicinity 62° 50' N. 02° 30' E.
 - F. SAFARI in area J.1.
 - G. RUBIS in area J.5 East of 03° 30' W.
 - H. CURIE 45° 50' N. 06° 01' W. dived by day to southward, daily advance 90 miles.
 - J. ULTIMATUM 44° 58' N. 07° 50' W. dived by day through 44° 01' N. 07° 50' W. thence to westward, daily advance 90 miles.
(F.O.(S), 311718A to Admty.)

Mining.

- Irish Sea. A.M. 251820A. 100 per cent sweep of S/M exercise area referred to in para. 1 is to be carried out forthwith and date of completion reported.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 311756A to Cdr. M/S Liverpool.)

Enemy Intelligence.

- Baltic Approaches Sea Transport. My 271829A.
1. Since August 17th identified German military transports have sailed in convoy of either four or five medium vessels between Oslo and (almost certainly) Copenhagen within a six day period for round voyage. The last reported convoy passing Helsingborg northbound yesterday August 30th consisting of ASKARI, ALDEBRAN, MAR DEL PLATA, DONAU. They should again pass south-about September 3rd provided this cycle is being adhered to.
 2. Each of these transports in past has carried between 1,000 and 1,200 men.
 3. It therefore seems that substance of predicted troop transport arrangements quoted in your 271801A is being realised.
(N.A. Stockholm, 311251 to D.N.I.)
- N.I.D. Comment: It is logical to conclude that these vessels are transporting the normal troop transfers and reliefs formerly conveyed through Sweden, thence via Traelleborg-Sassnitz (alternatively Helsingborg-Elsinore)
2. The number of vessels employed and their part carrying capacity would account for the 6000 troops weekly in either direction.

/KERTOSONO ...

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31.8.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence - Contd.

KERTOSONO.

Report graded B.2 stated that German ship KERTOSONO will leave Nantes on 2nd Septmber for sea trials returning to Nantes in the evening. (D.D.I.C., 312221A to Air Ministry.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat reported.

By D/F at 0947Z/31 position of U-Boat was within 30 miles of 57° 40' N. 5° 20' E. (D.D.I.C., 311116A to C. in C. Rosyth, H.Q.C.C.)

Shipping and Convoys.

S.C. 140.

Your 302306. Intend to detach ICARUS to Londonderry with hospital case at 0600Z today. Speed 25 knots depending on patient's condition. ESSEX LANCE has not yet rejoined. KIRSTEN MAERSK 15 miles astern. Probably no other stragglers. My P.C.S. are 053° 47' N. 026° 08' W., 073°, 7. (C. 2, 310337Z to C. in C. W.A.)

BEN-MY-CHREE.

Proceed from Methil at 0630A tomorrow to R/V with BEN-MY-CHREE off South Sutors at 1629A and escort to Sovaag. (C. in C. Rosyth, 311135A to WOOLSTON.)

O.N. 200.

Escort for O.N.200. DUNCAN, VIDETTE, LOOSESTRIFE, SUNFLOWER, PINK. DUNCAN fitted H/F D/F. (Cdre. (D) W.A., 311137A and 311700A.)

O.G. 93/
K.M.S.26.

COMMANDANT DROGOU is to proceed with convoy Gibraltar for onward routeing to rejoin West Africa Command. (C. in C. W.A., 311301A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

A.T. 61.

QUEEN MARY arrived Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 311424A.)

H.X. 253.

Your 301535.
(1) Fast section of convoy E. BAKKE, S. OPALIN, AKAROA, CAVINA, EMPEROR, CURACOA, J. LANGDON, UMTALI, UMGENI, CORRALES, GALLIA.
(2) NARCISSUS, ORCHIS escort.
(3) Will not be detached until gale moderates.
(4) H.X.253 partly scattered. P.C.S. at 1600Z 055° 03' N. 021° 45' W., 090°, 8 knots.
(B.3, 311605Z to C. in C. W.A.)

/Holm ...

1108

31.8.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Holm
apparatus.

N.O.I.C. Greenock's 291736A. Mark 29 apparatus. Admiralty instructions will be issued as soon as a copy of those issued by the U.S. Navy Dept. is received. These are expected before any further arrivals or departures of ships concerned.

(D.T.D., 311701A to C. in C. W.A.)

Rosyth
Escort
Force.

My 111030 August.

The R.E.F. has been increased to 9 WAIRS and 5 TOWN class. With this number it is intended to supply two escorts from the R.E.F. with each convoy instead of one from R.E.F. and one from Nore Flotillas as at present. This will

release one destroyer per convoy for duty in Nore area.

It will not however be possible to run convoys 7 days a week with 2 escorts unless the number is further increased to 18 running destroyers. My 251431 August to Admty. refers.

2. I therefore intend - (A) To continue F.S. and F.N. convoys running 6 days a week with blank days as before.

(B) To run extra convoys whenever the number of ocean ships make a special convoy worth while, the escorts for these extra convoys being provided from Rosyth and Nore by agreement.

(C) On weeks when extra convoys are run there will be no blank day which I consider will meet all requirements.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 311735A to Admty., C. in C. Nore.)

D.S. 44.

Sailed CHAMPOLLION in accordance with my 300954A.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 312048A.)

K.M.S. 26.

The following ships for Lisbon are to be sailed in Convoy K.M.S.26 on 6th September.

RUGELEY from Liverpool. EMPIRE GALE from Clyde.

NEW YORK CITY from Bristol. PANDORIAN from

Newport. Also STANHOPE from Swansea if loading is completed.

2. The above ships are to be detached in position W.S., or as ordered by F.O.I.C. Gibraltar and proceed direct to Lisbon.

A.M. 301413 refers.

3. Escort from W.S. to Lisbon will be provided by REDPOLE (A/A sloop), GLOVER and PENNYWORT.

5. Unless necessary to refuel escorts are not to enter harbour. They are to proceed to rejoin Group as directed by F.O.I.C.

Gibraltar.

(D.O.D.H., 312326A.)

1109

31.8.1943.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Arrivals Gibraltar. Arrival RESOLUTION, REVENGE, FOXHOUND, BULLDOG, CATERICK, NESS, WITCH, BRILLIANT. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 311015B to Admty. etc.)

CYGNET. Arrival CYGNET ex O.G.91/K.M.S.24 and escort duties Huelva. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 311003B to Admty. etc.)

Dispositions. Situation at 1958B/31st.
 (?C.G.) 60 WESTON 035° 47' (?006°) (46'?) to Gibraltar 5½.
 2. U.G.F. 10, C.T.F. 68, 035° 30' 008° 05' thence through Straits 14. (see amendment 311408.)
 4. G.C. 34 COMMANDANT BORY (035°?) 40' (?006°) 41' through 035° 35' 007° 01' and 034° 30' (?008°) 01' to Casablanca 6½.
 5. SCOTTISH 036° 13' 007° 10' through 036° 55' 009° 05' to Lisbon 9.
 6. FILLA 035° 49' 006° 10' through 035° 15' 003° 01' to R/V U.G.S.15 9.
 7. POPPY, DIANELLA, STARWORT sail Gibraltar 2100/31st through 035° 45' 006° 30' and 035° 15' 008° 01' to R/V U.G.S.15 12.
 8. U.G.S.15, C.T.F. 66, C.T.G. 21.16 034° 49' 012° 48' 084° 9. British escort R/V approx. 1400/1st then American escort parts company and escorts Casablanca Section to Casablanca.
 9. Casablanca section U.G.F. 10, ACTIVE 034° 39' 007° 27' through 035° 44' 006° 28' to R/V with U.G.F. 10, 11.
 10. Small craft convoy POLLOCK 038° 02' 011° 32' through 036° 30' 010° 01' to Gibraltar 6.
 11. 2 Portuguese (?S/MS) one gunboat exercising Cezimbra area. (F.O.Gibraltar 311100B, 311318B.)
 Amend position in para. 2 of my 311100 to read 034° 35' 008° 38' where Casablanca section R/V thence through Straits adjusting (?speed) to arrive off Europa Point 1800/1st.
 (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 311408B.)
 Situation 1956B/31st. U.S.Naval (?Force) U.S.Task Group 21.15 034° 01' 016° 04' 270° 13.
 (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 311107B.)
 Situation 2002B/31st.
 G.U.S.13, C.T.F. 65, 034° 01' 014° 01' 270° 9.
 2. OTUS 035° 25' 016° 59' to 035° 01' 017° 09' at 0040B/1st diving by day 10/2½ thence 201° on surface 10.
 3. O.T.(?41), C.T.G. 21.5 032° 26' 014° 30' (?through) 033° 20' 012° 40' thence 062° 10. (see amendment 312352.)
 7. 2 Swedish relief ships 035° 30' 012° 21' 266° 12.
 8. M.F.V. 23, 040° 43' 013° 42' through 040° 05' 013° 30' thence 143° 6.
 9. U.S.Naval Force T.G. 21.15 034° 00' 016° 04' 270° 13.
 10. Hospital ship VASNA 042° 16' 013° 30' 000° 11.
 11. CRANE, PELICAN patrol between 043° 00' 013° 30' and 044° 48' 014° 00'.
 12. Spanish training ship due Tenerife from Marin September 1st.
 13. Portuguses naval training ship SAGRES sailed Funchal p.m. 29th for Lisbon.
 14. Portuguese naval training ship GALATEA leaving Las Palmas 1st for Azores.
 (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 31114B & 311320B.)

/Amend...

1110

31.8.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Dispositions (Contd.) Amend para. 3 of my 311114B to read O.T.8 032° 47' 013° 45' through 033° 20' 012° 40' 063° 11. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 312352B.)
My 311100B add new para. 12. O.T.8 032° 47' 013° 45' 033° 20' 012° 40' 063° 11. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 312354B.)

EMPIRE MORN, A.M. 171920 July. EMPIRE MORN cannot be accepted in U.K. for repair. Request arrangements may be made instead for FORT BABINE to be towed to U.K. by HUDSON and SCHELDE.
FORT BABINE. 2. EMPIRE MORN should not be sailed beyond Gibraltar but prefer her to remain at Casablanca unless she has already left.
3. Agreed M.O.W.T. (D. of S.T. 311140A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C.Med. Commorseafon, C. in C.W.A.)

MAGDALA. MAGDALA (T) en route Casablanca escorted by P.C. 480. E.T.A. (?1600) September 1st. Request instructions. Your 301637A* refers. (C.M.S.F.F. 311225B to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Commavnaw, Cdre. 10th U.S. Fleet, C. & R. C.T.F. 65, Cdre. Naval Op. Base Casablanca.) arrived 011124.
* re MAGDALA proceeds Alexandria for orders.

G.U.S.13. 1. Sailing telegram, part. 1. 2. From Casablanca R/V in P. 035° 10' 009° 05' at 301400Z. Route and details. (Commorseafon 311258.)
Sailing telegram part 2. (Commorseafon 311437B.)

C.T.F. 68, My 301531B sailed 311230A.
U.G.F.10. (C.M.S.F.F. 311435B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) C. in C.Med. Admty.)

S.R.5. S.R.5 arrived 1600A.
(C.M.S.F.F. 311710B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C.Med. Admty.)
S.R.5 consisting of AORANGI escorted by BLACKWOOD Senior (?DRURY), BAZELY and JOHAN MAURITZ will depart 0700A Sept. 1st routed in accordance with F.O.C.W.Af. (?311936)*.
S.O.A. 13½.
(Commorseafon 311947B.) * 261936 intended. Sailed see C.M.S.S.F. 010854.

BUFFALO WALLOW. BUFFALO WALLOW not arrived Dakar. Your 280902 (T.O.O. intended 280920B?, re approval to exchange destinations of ESSO PHILADELPHIA and BUFFALO WALLOW) August refers.
(N.C.S.O. Dakar 311725Z to C. in C.Med.)

/FORTOL...

1111

31.8.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

FORTOL. Your 302149 reference R.F.A. FORTOL concur. Request vessel be sailed U.K. (tanker message) first opportunity after 10th September. (D. of S. 311950A to C.S.Gibraltar (R) C. in C.Med. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

BRITISH COURAGE. In view of unreliability of BRITISH COURAGE suggest she not be used as stand-by escort oiler if another ship is available. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 312030B to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty.)

P.O.W. Exchange. Your message 593 received without T.O.O. ref. exchange of prisoners of war. Portuguese Consul here was told when GIULIO CESARE sailed Gibraltar. Full information and asked to inform his Government forthwith by cable. This he promised to do. Matter is being taken up again. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 312157 to B.N.A.Lisbon (R) Admty.)

Following received from B.N.A.Lisbon with request to pass to Admiralty. Addressed F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) Admty. (begins): Until Portuguese Consul Gibraltar informs M.F.A. that Italian ships with exchange Party on have left Gibraltar British Party cannot leave Lisbon. Arrangements for tonight have had to be cancelled. Request Consul be approached and matter dealt with. (Ends.) No T.O.O. 2. My 312157B August is reply. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 312159B to Admty.)

Movements Casablanca. Arrivals BAZELY, DRURY, BLACKWOOD, P.C.S. 481, 482, 471. Departures ANTELOPE, ACTIVE, P.C.S. 471, 482, Fr. TEMPETE. Warships August 31. (C.M.S.F. 312215B to C. in C.Med. (W) (R) Comnavaw, Admty. Cominch, F.O.I.C. Gib.)

Departures Gibraltar. Departure French COMMANDANT BORY, CHASSEUR II with G.C. 34. SCOTTISH escort duties Lisbon. FILLA to U.G.S.15, ATTACKER, ISIS, SLAZAK, KRAKOWIAK, to Mers El Kebir, LORD NUFFIELD escort duties Almeria, POPPY, DIANELLA, STARWORT to U.G.S.15. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 312317B to Admty. C. in C.Med.)

1112

War Diary.31.8.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

CERES Sailed CERES to Kilindini routed through:-
 (L) 26 degs. 00' South 38 degs. 00' East,
 (M) 19 degs. 32' South 41 degs. 03' East,
 (N) 11 degs. 25' South 41 degs. 59' East. S. of A
 15 knots.
 E.T.A. 1000Z/5th Sept.
 (2) Shifts to W/T Group V at 0245Z/3rd Sept.
 (Cdre. Durban 310752Z to Admty. etc.).

EMPIRE EMPIRE STANLEY sunk by one torpedo in approx.
 STANLEY 27 degs. 40' S. 50 degs. 04' E. at 1550Z/17th
 August, when sailing independently.
 (2) Ship sank in 3 minutes and fire not opened.
 (3) S.S.S.S. sent at 1550Z.
 (4) 29 men got away in one boat and three rafts. 20 recovered
 by SOCOTRA. C. in C.E.Fs. 20/2207Z refers. Remainder believed
 drowned.
 (5) Submarine which surfaced after attack was about 300 ft. long
 850 tons, very streamlined.
 (Cdre. Durban 310924Z).

Dispositions Situation 1958Z/31st.
 INKPEN, ST. WISTAN escorting 013 degs. 42' 017 degs
 38' to Dakar 10.
 LA GRANDIERE, DUMONT D'URVILLE, F.S. QUERCY
 018 degs. 40' 016 degs. 30' through 018 degs. 00' 016 degs. 09'
 thence 205 degs. 11½.
 BEAGLE 015 degs. 00' 020 degs. 00' patrolling to westward.
 CORFU 013 degs. 05' 019 degs. 53' to 015 degs. 00' 022 degs. 00'
 for patrol.
 CARNARVON CASTLE 008 degs. 37' 013 degs. 45' through 011 degs. 00'
 018 degs. 00' thence 355 degs. 16½.
 (F.O.C.W.A. 311059Z).

Situation at 2001/31st.
 WELLINGTON, ABERDEEN, LOWESTOFT, FOLKESTONE, GORLESTONE with
 T.S.51 007 degs. 34' 013 degs. 24' through 007 degs. 45' 014 degs.
 05' to Freetown 7½.
 SKUDD VIII, POTARI, COPINSAY 004 degs. 20' 173 degs. 10' through
 004 degs. 59' 005 degs. 22' thence 086 degs. 5½.
 DUNKERY screening off Monrovia.
 M.Ls. 1018, 302 and 287 off Accra.
 M.L.10(32?) escorting 005 degs. 07' 000 degs. 04' to Takoradi
 8 knots.
 TURCOMAN screening off Marshall.
 SWALE, BELLWORT with L.M.4 002 degs. 33' South 006 degs. 07' East
 123 degs. 10½.
 M.L.1147 off Sassandra ENCHANTRESS, LEITH, ANCHUSA, COLUMBINE,
 SANDWICH, VIOLET, FAL TEST, TRENT sailing with S.T.75 007 degs.
 29' 014 degs. 06' 120 degs. 9 knots.
 F.S. SUFFREN (?DUGUAY-TROUIN) 003 degs. 41' 003 degs. 08'
 through 003 degs. (?004 degs.) thence 270 degs. 20 knots.
 DESPATCH 007 degs. 31' South 011 degs. 03' East to Pointe Noire
 17½.
 ALBATROSS 007 degs. 22' South 011 degs. 05' East to Pointe Noire
 15½.
 (F.O.C.W.A. 311117Z).

/Situation...

1113

31.8.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dispositions (Contd.) Situation 2000Z/31st.
FRITILLARY escorting 2 Motor vessels (?032) degs. 10' 017 degs. East to 030 degs. 016 degs. 13. SHROPSHIRE, 015 degs. 25' 002 degs. 40' East to 022 degs. 02' 007 degs. 59' 18.
ROEBUCK, QUALITY, TEVIOT, HELFORD, PLYM with CILICIA and one Fleet Unit 014 degs. 45' 005 degs. 50' East to 019 degs. 01' 010 degs. 01' 12 $\frac{1}{2}$.
ALBATROSS 009 degs. 30' 010 degs. 45' to Pointe Noire 15.
DESPATCH 007 degs. 20' 011 degs. 10' to Pointe Noire 17 $\frac{1}{4}$.
(C. in C.S.A. 311135B).

Situation 2000Z/31st.

TULIP 034 degs. 40' 022 degs. 35' coastal to Capetown 10.
ODBERG 033 degs. 28' 027 degs. 37' coastal to Durban 12.
HAWKINS, NORMAN, QUIBERON, RAPID with W.S. 32 5 ships 018 degs. 10' South 041 degs. 10' East to 011 degs. 25' 041 degs. 59' 12.
(C. in C.S.A. 311214B).

Amendment to 311214B.

CERES 028 degs. 25' South 033 degs. 40' East to 026 degs. 02' south 038 degs. 01' east 18 knots.
(C. in C.S.A. 311340B).

Floating Dock. Your 071806 (N.T. in W.D.), not to Admiralty. Request confirmation of date dock will be ready to sail.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 311207Z to Comar Dakar).

Second division M/L 49 Flot. Proposed programme.
(C. in C.S.A. 311237B to C. in C.E.F.).

ESPERANCE BAY. H.M.Transport. Sailed 31st August. E.T.A. Montevideo 12th Sept. Passengers etc.
(S.T.O. Capetown 311492Z to D. of S.T. N.A. Montevideo).

French Cruisers. Sailed 1500Z/31st August French Cruisers DUGUAY-TROUIN and SUFFREN. E.T.A. Dakar 1400Z/3rd September.
(N.O.i/c Takoradi 311548Z to Admty. F.O.C.W.Af., Comar Dakar).

Movements Lagos. Arrivals 31st M.Ls. 274, 277, 1041 MORRIS DANCE.
(R.N.O. Lagos 311711Z to Admty. etc.).

Trawler Refits. Your 232019 not to C. in C.S.A. Strain on Home Dockyards is such that it would be preferred if the seven HILL Class Trawlers could be refitted in turn at South African Ports.

(2) Trawlers to be paid off at commencement of refit. Fresh crews from U.K. will be sent to South Africa on request. On completion and after recommissioning Trawlers to work up in South Africa before returning to Freetown.

/ If...

1114

31.8.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Trawler refits. (Contd.). (3) If you concur request you will concert a programme with C. in C.S.A. (D.O.D.(F) 311758A to F.O.C.W.Af.(R) C. in C. S.A.).

P.614 Intend to sail P.614 at 1900Z/1st September escorted to Dakar by M.L.261 passing through:-
 (A) 08 degs. 28' N. 15 degs. 01' W. at 0515Z/2nd;
 (B) 10 degs. 01' N. 17 degs. 29' W. at 2330Z/2nd;
 (C) 12 degs. 00' N. 17 degs. 50' W. at 1200Z/3rd;
 (D) 14 degs. 00' N. 17 degs. 40' W. at 0545Z/4th,
 thence by Q.L.A.193 estimated speed made good $9\frac{3}{4}$ knots.
 (2) A.H.Q.W.A. is requested to impose total bombing restrictions 30 miles ahead and astern 10 miles either side of track.
 (3) Comar Dakar is requested to sail P.614 after refuelling routed through positions E. 18 degs. N. 21 degs. W. and F.26 degs. 10' N. (?21 degs) W., reporting times of passing each position. A.H.Q.W.A. is requested to arrange T.B.R. accordingly.
 (4) P.614 will proceed on the surface diving only at the discretion of C.O. and will shift to Med. W/T organisation on reaching F.
 (5) Communications.
 (6) F.O.i/c Gibraltar is requested to inform P.614 onward route and instructions from F. My 29/1755 bot to all addressees refers.
 (F.O.C.W.Af. 312114Z to Comar Dakar, F.O.i/c Gibraltar, F.O.(S) A.H.Q.W.A. (R) C. in C. Med. P.614, C. in C.W.A., Admty., C. in C. Plymouth).

S.T.75 Departures. 0946Z/31st August 1943. ENCHANTRESS, LEITH, SANDWICH, ANCHUSA, COLUMBINE, VIOLET, RENT, FAL, TEST with S.T.75. (S.O.(I) Freetown 312205Z to N.O.i/c Takoradi (R) R.N.O. Lagos, Admty.).

ASTURIAS Observations, should it be decided to tow ship without temporary repairs to hull.
 (a) Not yet possible to ascertain visually extent of internal structural damage. Externally keel and bottom plating below bilge keel intact,
 (b) following work necessary - (c) if tow is to be made across South Atlantic consider expected weather conditions make it a good risk as far as Recife slightly less so to North of Caribbean and North of that probable that weather would greatly increase risk. It is clear that with ship in partially flooded condition she could not survive another torpedo.
 (2) If ship is towed in above condition she could be ready to sail possibly in tow of THAMES by end October whereas if arrival of COFFERDAM from U.K. is awaited the date would probably be March 1944.
 (F.O.C.W.Af. 312210Z to Admty. (R) B.A.M.R. ASTURIAS, Cdre. i/c Freetown.).

/CORFU...

1115

31.8.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

CORFU,
BEAGLE
(interception
of Spanish
MONTE
ALBERTIA).

R/V latitude and longitude 015 degs. North 022
degs. West at 0800Z Wednesday September 1st, my
approach course 314 degs. weather report.
(CORFU 312258Z to BEAGLE, (R) F.O.C.W.A.).

1116

31.8.1943.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Movements,
Port Said.

8th August Port Said. Arrivals H.M. Tug HENRIETTA MOLLER, MARYBOROUGH, IPSWICH, RYE Z Lighters Nos. (?39, 40). Departures IERAX, F.S. COMMANDANT DOMINE, PANTHER, ISLAY.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 310031 to Admty. etc.)

Attacks on
U/Bs. in
Spanish
Waters.

Your 291016 (repeated to B.A.D.) See Admty. 1031/21 July, 1942, which is being repeated to you and B.A.D. and which contains Admiralty's standing instructions approved by H.M.G. Signals under reference have been passed to B.A.D. who is requested to inform Cominch. Arrangements have been made for movements of Spanish Submarines, within territorial waters, to be notified. (Hd. of M.I. Approved by A.C.N.S. (H) 310140A to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, B.A.D.)

Enemy
Units.

P.C. and S. of 2 large vessels. 39.20 N. 17.58 E. course 020° speed 15 knots.
(A/C HTV/Z 310315B to Air H.Q. Malta.)

ARETHUSE.

Operation completed. Request return route by Algiers broadcast. L/F receiver unserviceable. (F.S. ARETHUSE 310440B to Capt. (S) 8 (R) C. in C. Med.)

M.K.S.23.

Pass to Cdre. My 271520B sailed less OCEAN STRANGER and OCEAN STRENGTH. Your 281245B pendants are only local in order to assist you in recognising vessels as they approach. New pendant must be allotted on joining.
(N.O.I.C. Bone 310630B to Escorts of M.K.S.23 (R) Admty. etc.)
My 281625 and 300955 sailed plus VANCOUVER and LA FOLLETTE less ISAAC COLE.
(N.O.I.C. Bizerta 310931B to Escorts of Convoy M.K.S.23 (R) Admty. etc.)
Pass to Cdre. Algiers joiners (3 ships).
(N.O.I.C. Algiers 311446B to Escorts of Convoy M.K.S.23 (R) Admty. etc.)
M.K.S.23. Pass to Cdre. and escort, FORT SLAVE sailed.
(S.N.O. Philippeville 311731B to HOLCOMBE.)

10th S/M.F.
summary
at
2000/31st.

(1) P.51 (UNSEEN) and P.53 (ULTOR) 035° 46' (? 016°) (? 42' or 51') to Malta 0800/1st.
(2) P.54 (UNSHAKEN) (? 039°) (?48') (?018°) 43' to patrol off Brindisi. (3) P.46 (UNRUFFLED) from Brindisi to patrol off Valona.
(4) Operation 55 off Bari. (5) Operation (?49) 035° (?50') 015° 10' through 035° 56' 016° 31' to 036° 24' 016° 47' at 2000/1st.
(Capt. S.10. 310702B.)

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War Diary.

31.8.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- A.P.43. List, destinations. E.T.A. Bahrein p.m. 7th September, Rooka 8th September.
(N.C.S.O. Aden 310414Z to Admty. etc.)
- Movements, 30th August arrived HENGIST, SOUTHERN MAID, Malta. B.Y.M.S.23 FORMIDABLE, CAPETOWN, PATHFINDER, QUEEN OLGA, ECHO, INGLEFIELD, ROCKWOOD.
Sailed OAKLEY, LAMERTON, WILTON, B.Y.M.S.209, 11, 14, 24, RYSA, CAVA, CAPETOWN, PATHFINDER, RODNEY, NELSON, ORION, TROUBRIDGE, TYRIAN, PIORUN, OFFA, PETARD, TARTAR, ABERCROMBIE, ROBERTS, EREBUS, LOYAL, APHIS, SCARAB, VISENDA. L.C.Gs. 3,9,10,11, 12, 13, 17. L.C.Fs. 4, 6, L.C.Rs. 171, 147, 167, L.C.I. (L) 245.
(V.A. Malta 310718. to Admty. etc.)
Coastal Force movements 30th August. Arrived H.D.M.L.1242, 1270, 1301. M.T.B.649, M.T.B.268 and 97 returned with defects. Sailed M.T.B.60, 313, 315, 266, H.D.M.L.1221, 1145, 1165.
(N.O.I.C. Malta 310721B to Admty. etc.)
- UNITED. Arrived 30th August.
(V.A. Malta 310719 to Admty. etc.)
- Movements, August 30th. Arrivals 0414Z TAMWORTH and ORISSA Aden. in company. August 31st. Departure 0255Z MAID MARION 0702Z TAMWORTH and ORISSA in company. Arrival 0412Z ALAUNIA.
(Com. Aden 310729Z to Admty. etc.)
- Movements, August 30th 1943 arrivals BELVOIR, EXMOOR, Alexandria. GERALDTON, DURMITOR, KAJMAKALAN.
Departures ANTWERP, HURWORTH, KANARIS, ALDENHAM, CROOME, CESSNOCK, HYACINTH, SAKTOURIS, WOLBOROUGH, ROMNEY, BOXSBURG, LANGLAATE, BEVER.
(R.A. Alexandria 310735C to Admty.)
- RORQUAL. 30th August 1943 departure.
(S.O. (I) Beirut 310823C to Admty.)
- M.E. Air Daily Opsum. 125.29/30 August. No offensive Report. operations. 30 Aug. 4 Beaufighters anti shipping R/C West coast Greece. 1 M/V 2500 tons attacked off Levkas. Near misses with bombs hits with cannon fire. Smoke seen issuing from stern. 1 Beaufighter hit by A/A fire crashed in sea. 5 Beaufighters anti shipping recce Dodacanese. 1 aircraft made cannon attack on 400 ton coastal vessel scoring hits. 4 Baltimores (A.30) anti shipping sweep Aegean. 1 Baltimore (A.30) crashed on take off, crew safe. Remaining 3 found no suitable targets.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 310914Z.)
- K.M.S.24. Intend join 9, ODYSSEUS, 41 Malta for Syracuse, 7½, BOLSTA, 42, Bizerta, 8 Como 51. Bizerta for Syracuse.
(N.O.I.C. Bone 310936B to Escorts of Convoy K.M.S.24. etc.)

/Pass...

1118

War Diary.31.8.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

K.M.S.24. Pass to Cdre. Algiers. Joiners. (8 ships).
(Contd.) Also joining one S/M for Alexandria. Request
allot special position in accordance with
C.A.F.O. 1064/42.
(N.O.I.C. Algiers 311126B to Escorts of convoy
K.M.S.24. (R) Admty. F.O.I.C. Gib. etc.)
Pass to Cdre. and Escorts K.M.S.24. My 301155B sailed less
L.S.T.355 and LORRAINE.
(Cdr. N.O.B. Oran 311416B to DELHI (R) F.O.I.C. Gib. Admty.
etc.)

Repatriations. Your 280624 (280024 Intended German sick and
wounded from French Ports to occupied France).
Oran and Marseilles are the two ports selected.
End of September or beginning of October
appears suitable time. See message 6248 of 26th August from
Freedom to Troopers.
(C. in C. Med. 310942B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

THISBE, German THISBE loaded with 2035 tons Chrome sailed
reported for Bourgas 1530 G.M.T. 30th August.
sunk. (2) Vessel was sunk with all hands by 2 torpedoes
1640 G.M.T. 87 miles off Rumeli Fener. B.2.
(S.O. (I) Istanbul 310955C to S.O. (I) Levant
(R) Capt. (S) 1st, D.N.I.) W.D. Note:- See also
N.L.O. Black Sea 011235 Sept.

8th S/M.F. (1) P.57 UNIVERSAL 040° 13' 006° 22' 032° 2½/7
movements knots. (2) P.229 SPORTSMAN 039° 31' 010° 33' 008°
at to patrol South of Giglio Island. (3) P.219
1959B/31st. SERAPH in Gulf of Genoa. (4) P.217 SIBYL leaving
patrol through 042° 35' 008° 18' at 0130 1st
thence 210° 2½/10 knots. (5) P.224 SICKLE
leaves patrol east (?Gib) through 041° 01' 010°
18' at 0100/1st thence 178° 2½/10 knots. (6) P.221 SHAKESPEARE
patrolling N. of 040° 00' E. of 013° 00'.
(Capt. S.8. 311030B.)

G.U.S.14. List, destinations, etc.
(N.O.I.C. Alexandria 311034C to Admty. etc.)

U.G.F.10. Detail 5 destroyers as onward escorts of U.G.F.10
from Oran to Bizerta reporting names and S.O. to
addressees of this signal on arrival Gibraltar.
(2) Remaining U.S. destroyers enter Oran.
(C. in C. Med. 311035 to C.T.F.68 (R) N.O.I.C.
Tunisia, Comdesron 16, FARNDALÉ, Comnavnav,
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.O.B. Oran.)
Onward route from 035° 56' 000° 50' W. at 1300 September
2nd at S. of A. 11½ knots, through N.A. 036° 33' 000° 19'
N.B. 036° 52' 001° 15'. N.C. 036° 53' 003° 05' at 0700 September
3rd where all necessary sections detach. 2. From N.C. at S. of A.
13½ knots through N.D. 037° 04' 003° 52'. N.E. 037° 14' 006° 29'
N.F. 037° 18' 008° 54' and Q.B.B.149 and Q.B.B.94 to Bizerta
E.T.A. 0800 September 4th. All positions N. and E.

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War Diary.

31.8.1943.

Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.U.G.F.10.
(Contd.)

3. Codeword "Rigmarole" priority high.
 4. Escort 5 destroyers as detailed by C.T.F.68 and FARNDALE and PUCKERIDGE. 5. F.O.I.C. Gib. pass to BATTLER, STALKER.
 (C. in C. Med. 311037B to GERALDTON (? HURSLEY) S.E.C. U.G.F. No.10 (R) Admty. F.O.I.C. Gib.etc.)

Berlin
Situation.

Turkish courier arrived Istanbul 28th states:-
 (1) Last Berlin air raid formidable, food situation acute as result of destruction of large food reserves. Turkish students given six weeks leave and recommended to return Turkey. B.3. Remainder of message concerns D.N.I. only.)
 (S.O. (I) Istanbul 311115C to C.O.I.S. Alexandria. (R) D.N.I.)

Movements,
Haifa.

Arrival 31st August. RORQUAL, F.S. COMMANDANT DOMINE. Departure 31st August. SILHOUETTE (Nor.) F.S. COMMANDANT DOMINE, F.S. COMMANDANT DUBOC. (N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports 311202C to Admty. etc.)

DZIK.

Intend sailing P.52 (DZIK) at 1500 for patrol in Adiabatic (As received ?Adriatic intended) N. of 42° N. via Eastern Channel through following positions 035° 56' 016° 31' at 0800/2nd 036° 24' 016° 47' at 2000/2nd 039° 14' 018° 32' at 2000/3rd. 039° 45' 018° 52' at 0100/4th. 040° 20' 018° 52' at 0600/4th thence course 316° surface passage on 3rd. 2. M.J. A.O.24 request bombing restrictions for passage.
 (Capt. S.10. 311210B to C. in C. Med. etc.)

N.A.A.F.
Report.

N.W.Af. Air Forces Opsum 191. N.W.Af. Strategic Air Force. 29/30 August. 84 Wellingtons marshalling yards Torre Annunziata. 5 returned early. 123½ tons dropped. 30 August. 38 U.S. Fortresses escort 36 U.S. Lightnings Viterbo airdrome. 3 bombers, 3 fighters returned early. Direct hits 3 hangars station administration and control buildings and servicing sheds. Number of aircraft destroyed on ground. 60 U.S. Mitchells escort 48 U.S. Lightnings marshalling yards Civitavecchia. 1 fighter returned early. 88 tons dropped S.E. marshalling yards completely covered. 27 U.S. Marauders escort 48 U.S. Lightnings marshalling yards Aversa. 8 bombers, 4 fighters returned early. (H.Q. N.A.A.F. 311302B.)

Part 2 N.A.A.F. Opsum No.191. 48 U.S. Warhawks swept Southern Sardinia. (?8) x 500 dropped railway bridge Decimomannu. Bridge believed hit. Radar station Pula strafed. N.W.African Tactical Air Force. 28/29th August. (Add) 4 Beaufighters defensive patrols. 29th August. (Add) 36 U.S. Mustangs bombed bridge Angitola. 1 direct hit. 25 U.S. Warhawks Bagnara. 14 returned early due weather. Direct hits railway junction. 24 Spitfires, 32 U.S. Warhawks escorted bombers to Gosenza and Lamezia. 30th August. 24 U.S. Mitchells, 24 Baltimores marshalling yards Maria di Catanzara. 12 U.S. Mitchells did not bomb cloud.

/Remainder...

1120

War Diary.31.8.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

N.A.A.F. Report. (Contd.) Remainder dropped 168 x 500, 68 x 300 bombs among trucks. Several direct hits buildings. 48 U.S. Bostons marshalling yards Paola. 1 aircraft returned early. 12 others returned due insufficient escort. Remainder dropped 164 x 250 target area. Explosion seen among trucks. (H.Q., N.A.A.F. 311436B.)

Movements, Augusta. 30th August arrival OAKLEY, LAMERTON, WILTON, TANGO, STELLA CARINA, HOY, L.C.I.291, 317, 305, 288, 265, L.C.T. 339, 354, BARFOIL. Departures HOY, H.D.M.L.1270, 1301, L.C.T.308, 322, 372, FUAM. (sic). (N.O.I.C. Augusta 311306 to Admty.)

Repatriation of German sick to occupied France. Admiralty 280024A. Para 2. Is it intended that a Hospital ship will be used?. (2) Troopship can not be provided from few vessels at present at my disposal without seriously prejudicing movement of personnel between Mideast/Sicily/Tripoli (L). (P.S.T.O. M.E. 311310 to D.S.T.)

UNITED. UNITED Patrol report blank. (S.10 311330 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

SIDI BRAHIM, GREAT HOPE. My 301150B as modified by my 301755B sailed. (Com. N.O.B. Oran 311419B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) C. in C. Med. Admty.)

CAIRO CITY. Sailed empty, E.T.A. 9th Sept. Require 350 furnace oil. (S.S.T.O. Aden, 311428 to D.S.T.O. Kilindini (R) D. of S.T. etc.)

Red Cross Routes. A.M. 011703/June and your 101302/June. Route for Red Cross Parcels ships between Cape San Sebastian and Marseilles has now been fixed as follows:- 42° 31.5' N. 03° 08.5' E. 43° 01.9' N. 03° 11.4' E. 43° 24.2' N. 03° 54' E. 43° 17.1" N. 04° 38' E. (Head of M.I.311431A to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

Convoy "Collar" Tripoli-Malta. M.S.C.I. 22. Intend sailing at 0930B/1st convoy to Malta. 2. (A) 8 (B) 8½. 3. Route 292, 202, direct 212, E.T.A. Malta boom 1201B/2nd. 6. Code words "Collar" 1,2 and 3. 8. VETCH, PENTSTEMON, (CONVOLVULUS?) escorting NEURALIA (P) EMPIRE KAMEL, AFGHANISTAN for Alexandria. DANIO for onward routeing westward. (S.N.O. Tripolitania 311556B to N.O.I.C.Malta.) Add merchant ships TREVORIAN, San Francisco FORT MACMURRAY to my 311557 (311556 intended). All for onward routeing to U.K. C. in C. Med. 311804 refers. (N.T. in W.D.) (S.N.O. Trip. 312210 to V.A. Malta.)

/TALLY HO...

1121

31.8.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

TALLY HO. C. in C. Levant's 311341. In view of Capt. (S) 8's 301516 request you sail P.317 (TALLY HO) for onward routing to Port Said. (Capt. (S) 1 311714C to Capt. (S) 10 (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

U.G.S.15. Destinations. (C. in C. Med. 311728B to C.T.F.66, Ships escorting U.G.S.15.)

Troop
Transports
in Trade
Convoys. Request advice whether troop transports such as EASTERN PRINCE which are unable to proceed to U.K. in fast convoys owing to speed may be embarked only to limits for trade convoys as laid down in Admiralty's 161140 March or may they be embarked to capacity. Request early reply (P.S.T.O. M.E. 311800C to Admty. for D.S.T.) Reply:- 012005.

Malta
Air
Report. Opsum. No.113. (No incidents). (R.A.F. Malta 311822Z.)

KING
GEORGE V. Your 241849. Retention of the main engines at short notice for so long a period was an operational necessity. I consider that the precautions laid down in C.A.F.O. 56/40 were generally carried out and that a board of enquiry would elucidate little of value. (C. in C. Med. 311941B to C. in C. Home Fleet (R) F.O.H.T., Admty. KING GEORGE V.)

Med.
Air
Report. Signed Eisenhower. Part 3, Cosintrep No.52. Day 30th. 48 Bostons attacked Paola and 24 B.25's and 24 Baltimores attacked Marina Di Catanzara, both formations being escorted by 24 Kittyhawks. Results were not good owing to bad visibility and cloud. A 36's attacked Lamezia Sapri and Pallaro. A large explosion was seen on Pallaro and a direct hit is claimed on the R/R track at Lamezia. Para. 3. Air Intelligence. Augusta was attacked night 29/30 by reported 30 plus enemy A/C including Ju.87's and twice during day 30th by 4 F.W.190. (Air C. in C. Med. T.O.O. Nil. Recd. 2010/31.)

Movements,
Algiers. Arrivals R.A.V. in EURYALUS, PATHFINDER, U.S.P.C. 591. Departures SHEPPEY, ENSAY, MOUSA ST.KILDA, Hospital ship AMARAPOORA. Arrived and departed LIDDESDALE. (Com. Algeria 312014B to Admty. etc.)

/Movements...

1122

31.8.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

<p>Movements, Tunisia.</p>	<p>Arrivals COLOMBO M.L.456, 478, 461, 451, 299, S.C.498. Arrivals and Departures LAUDERDALE, LEDBURY. Departures PRESTOL, POLRUAN, L.C.G.2, S.C.498, 497, P.T.206, L.S.T.308, M.M.S.134, 133, 5. (F.O. Tunisia 312019B to Admty. etc.)</p>
<p>Movements, Oran.</p>	<p>Arrivals today. French S/M KEIEDAE (sic), CHASSEUR III, U.S.S. TRIPPE, RHIND. Departures today IMPERIALIST, GRILSE. (Commob, Oran 312020B to Admty. etc.)</p>
<p>Movements, Port Said.</p>	<p>31st August Port Said arrivals. Z. Lighters Numbers 11, 22, 33, 41, FOINAVON, BULOLO. Departures RYE. (N.O.I.C. Port Said 312139C to Admty.)</p>
<p>Situation report No.167.</p>	<p>(1) At Messina 271 depth charges on land have been rendered safe to date. My 302142, para. 2 refers. (2) My 302142 para. 5. Circling torpedoes were also dropped during the raid at 2110/29. Several exploded at the end of their run, and one has been recovered from the beach. (3) Catania also attacked by five aircraft 29th August. Superficial blast damage to JULIET, no casualties. (4) During the night 30/31st August, coastal forces operated off Vibo, Valentia and Calabrian coast. QUILLIAM, QUAIL and QUEENBOROUGH, carried out sweep to Gulf of Squillace. Nothing was sighted. (C. in C. Med. (A) 312157B to Admty.)</p>
<p>Movements, Augusta.</p>	<p>31 August. Arrived. ORION, ROBERTS, EREBUS, ABERCROMBIE, LOYAL MENDIP, BLANKNEY, BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, BRECON, APHIS, SCARAB, L.C.G.3, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18. L.C.T. (R) 171, 147, 167, L.C.F.4, 6 L.C.I. (L) 245, 849, 625, H.D.M.L. 1145, 1165. Departed. UGANDA, BLANKNEY, QUAIL, TANGO, STELLA CARINA, BARFLAKE, M.T.B.82, 86, 89. (N.O.I.C. Augusta 312205B to Admty. etc.)</p>

/Tugs...

1123

31.8.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Tugs. C. in C. Med. 221824/August (not to F.O.C. W.Af.)
Larch type tugs EMPIRE HARRY and EMPIRE RUPERT
will be sailed from U.K. with FRISKY and Group
"L" on 7/9/43. 2. It is expected to sail
AIMWELL about 20/9/43. 3. EMPIRE HARRY is due at Bombay, EMPIRE
GNOME and EMPIRE MINOTAUR due at Colombo all by 1/11/43.
4. F.O.C.W.Af. is requested to hasten sailing of EMPIRE OBERON to
Gibraltar and C. in C. Med. is requested to report whether
EMPIRE OBERON can comply with A.M. 171657 August after arrival.
(Head of M.II. 312210A to C. in C. Med. F.O.C.W.Af., (R) C. in C.
E.F., C. in C. Levant.) * This can be arranged. 1215133 5 Sept. cin C Med.

Movements, Arrival HYDERABAD. Departure H.D.M.L. 1227
Bone. M.T.B. 654 (under tow).
(N.O.I.C. Bone 312230B to Admty. etc.)
My 312230. Add departure HYDERABAD.
(N.O.I.C. Bone 312358B.)

Movements, Arrived M.T.Bs. 651, 82, 86, 89, M.G.B.646.
Malta. Sailed M.L.554, 555, 556, 559, 560, 575,
M.T.Bs. 633, 634, 636.
(V.A. Malta 312304B to Admty. etc.)

UNRULY. Sailed.
(V.A. Malta 312331B to Admty. etc.)

Movements, Sailed Tobruk and arrived Derna M.L.385, M.L.384,
Tobruk. arrived and left Tobruk ALYNBANK, arrived L.C.Ts.
13, 115, 9, 108, 112.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk 312359C to Admty.)

Movements, Arrivals HOY, LEDBURY, LAUDERDALE, RODNEY,
Malta. NELSON, TROUBRIDGE, TYRIAN, PIORUN, OFFA, PETARD,
TARTAR, UGANDA, BLANKNEY, QUAIL, L.C.I. (L) 161.
Departures L.C.I. (L) 125.
(V.A. Malta 312329B to Admty. etc.)

1124

31.8.1943
Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

STRATHAIRD Your 260624Z para. 2. In order to clear.
(a) certain women and children awaiting passage from India to U.K.
(b) service personnel and families from South Africa and (c) service personnel from West Africa, it is now intended that STRATHAIRD should proceed from Bombay to U.K. via South Africa.
2. (Reports required).
3. Essential that STRATHAIRD should be ready to sail from Capetown by 20 September.
(D.S.T. 310230A to P.S.T.O. India).

B.M.62 Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 310313Z to Admt).

Convoy. (?) 43 C. (6 ships, 3 for Bahia, 3 for Durban)
(A) 31st August (E) 023 degs. 00' 062 degs. 00'.
(F) 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ (List, etc).
(N.C.S.O. Hormuz 310316Z to Admiralty, C. in C. E.F. F.O. Ceylon, Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet, C. and R. KINGSTON).

P.B.54 Departure Bandar Abbas 0300Z/31st. BENGAL.
P.A.51 BURNIE and RAJPUTANA escorting P.B.54, KUMACON escorting P.A.51. Group "Victor" 2000Z/31st E.T.A. for P.B. 1500Z 2nd at 062 degs. 0900Z 4th at Karachi, 1000Z 6th at Bombay. for P.A.0001Z 4th at 057 degs 30'. 1600Z 7th at Aden.
(N.O.I.C. Hormuz 310505Z to N.O.I.C. Bombay, N.O.I.C. Karachi, N.O.I.C. Aden, (R) Admt. C. in C. E.F. F.O. Ceylon, F.O.C.R.I.N. S.N.O. Persian Gulf).

Cables Monthly Report. Completed laying two Naval Harbour cables and 2 Military Tagbor cables at Trincomalee 14th August 1943. Arrived Colombo for refit and dry docking. R.I.N. Cable party completed training and returned to Bombay 16th August, 1943.
(EMILE BAUDOT, 310510Z to Admt. (R) F.O. Ceylon, C. in C. E.F.)

PATNA Arrival.
(N.O.I.C. 310558Z to Admt. etc).

/ India...

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31.8.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

India Air Report. Daily Opsum, No.534. 30th August. 2 Beaufighters offensive R/C Mandalay - Pakokku - Uani areas. 8 River steamers 1 motor ferry damaged. 2 Beaufighters detailed lower Irrawaddy. 1 A/C returned early. Other A/C damaged 80 river craft, 15 rolling stock, 1 locomotive, and 3 factories Kanaung area 4 Hurricanes attacked and damaged 35 river craft near Pagan (Irrawaddy). Outstanding reports. 10th U.S.A.A.F. 28th August (27 or 47?) U.S. Mitchells (B.25) and 21 U.S. Liberators (B.24) detailed Akyab town. 2 B.25 and 1 B.24 did not bomb. 45 A/C dropped over 70 tons. Direct hits on many buildings main jetty and A/A emplacements. 1 Large and many smaller fires started. (A.H.Q. India, 310610Z).

BATHURST Departure BATHURST escorting one ship. (S.O.(I) Bombay 310614Z to Admty. etc).

EMPIRE Intend to sail EMPIRE WOODLARK from Karachi about
WOODLARK. 5th Sept. with 450 Polish Families for East Africa Request port of disembarkation. (P.S.T.O. I. 311051Z to H.Q. East Africa, (R) D.S. T.O. Kilindini, D.S.T., C. in C. E.F., S.T.O. Karachi).

Movements, Colombo. Colombo arrivals 31 August 0430Z KATHIAWAR. My 301450Z, add arrivals 1645Z MAALOY 1645Z HINNOY. Departures 1745Z QUADRANT. (F.O. Ceylon, 311110Z to Admty. etc)

STRATHAIRD Colombo. Arrival 30. (Colombo, 311140Z to Admty).

German Shipping, Portuguese E. Africa. Following correction to my 302 C of 220722 June (re German ships in Portuguese E.A. brought by Portuguese and renamed) DORTMUND? WAMERU and WAGOGO have been renamed LUGELA? HUAMBO and BAILUNDO respectively. (C. in C. E.F., 311147Z to E.I. Stn. 376C (R) F.L.O. Delhi, N.Z.N.B.? A.C.N.B., Admty., C. in C. S.A.)

KHEDIVE ISMAIL MAHARAJA. Armindia now informs me that they (?cannot) despatch troops from Colombo to (?Addu Atoll) in KHEDIVE ISMAIL as accommodation is insufficient for the party and its relief in the island at the same time (?) ISMAIL therefore not required. It is intended to use MAHARAJA for this move. S.T.O. Cochin is requested to place her at disposal of S. S.T.O. Colombo for arrangement of this move in two flights. My 280948Z not to S.T.O. Cochin refers. (P.S.T.O. India, 311201Z to D. of S.T. (R) S.T.O. Kilindini etc).

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31.8.1943.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

- LAHORE Departure LAHORE keeping W/T watch on 3000 k/cs within 100 miles of Vizagapatam then on 500 k/cs until arrival at Western Channel LV then shifting to 3000 k/cs.
(N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam, 311340Z to N.O.I.C. Calcutta, Admty. etc).
- SUSSEX Departure.
(F.O. E.Af. and Zanzibar, 311431Z to Admty).
- PANSY Depature PANSY escorting PHILIP WOUVERMAN as far as Madras.
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 311501Z to Admty. etc).
- Star Shell. Concur with Star Shell expenditure in your 271237 August.
(C. in C. E.F., 311559Z to C. in C. S.A., (R) Admty).
- Flying crews. Your 111117 (Re retention of six flying crews). It is confirmed that Beaufighter and Defiant pilots will be sent from U.K. The former are being trained.
(D.N.A.O. 311727A to R.A.N.A.S. (Indian Ocean)
(R) C. in C. E.F., Com. N.A.S. (.E.A)).
- A/S Situation Your 130623. Further to A.M. 211341 August.
Bay of Bengal. Your aircraft requirements for A/S escort on East Coast of India have been reviewed in conjunction with Air Ministry.
2. No.36 Wellington Squadron is actively employed in Mediterranean and cannot be spared without relief. Any relief squadron would have to be provided at expense of the Bay offensive. This is unacceptable at present.
 3. It is realised that, to provide A/S escort for these troop convoys, you will have to divert a proportion of your T/B force in Ceylon in addition to necessary Liberators and Catalinas. This is considered acceptable in the circumstances.
 4. Meanwhile it is hoped training of Liberator G/R Squadron referred to in your sub-para. 2A will be expedited.
(D.O.D. (F), Approved V.C.N.S. on O.D.1226/43. to C. in C. E.F.,
(R) A.H.Q. India, 222 Group, C. in C. Ceylon).

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31.8.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Movements, St. Johns. St. Johns N.F. August 30th. Arrivals RICHMOND, ST. ELSTAN, SAMSONIA, ex O.N.198. NORTHERN PRIDE ex O.N.S.16. Departures - RICHMOND to O.N.S.16 (WI) ARUNDEL, MOHAWK, KAWEAH to Boston. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 310136Z to Admty.)

T.A.62. Convoy T.A.62 sailed from U.K. 29/8 for Halifax. (2) Details of personnel on board are being communicated by War Office to C.G.S. Ottawa and Milstaf Washington. (D.S.T. 310207A to N.S.H.Q.)

T.A.60. Convoy T.A.60 comprising PASTEUR sailed from U.K. 29/8 for Hampton Roads. (2) For details of personnel on board see W.O. signal 64156 of 29/8 to Milstaf, Washington. (D.S.T. 310218A to B.A.D. etc.)

CHEVREUIL. 30th August arrived San Pedro. Delay due to engine defects. Admty. pass to Algiers, N.Z.N.B. pass to Noumea, Tahiti. (CHEVREUIL, 310350Z to Algiers (R) Admty.etc.)

T.A.60A. As "Chop" is 1230Z/31, Admty. is not diverting to clear C.U.4. (D.O.D.(H), 310836Z to Com: 10th Fleet C. & R.)

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed.
Summary,	T.A.60	49 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^o N. 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^o W.	238 ^o	19 $\frac{1}{2}$
1800 G.M.T.	T.A.62	49 ^o N. 33 ^o W.	242 ^o	26 $\frac{1}{2}$
31st August.	(D.O.D.(F), 311035Z to Opanav, (R) Comnavu)			

Movements, Halifax. Departures ORILLIA and COLLINGWOOD to St. John's N.F. (C. Halifax, 311259 to Admty. etc.)

U/B Estimates. One area 31.00 79.00 from Contact 310030Z. Other areas quiet. (Cominch, 311431Z to Admty. etc.)

U.G.S.16. Comserforlant pass to P.D. Norfolk for information. U.G.S.16 P.D. Norfolk 271504 (Sailing telegram received from Radio Washington under T.O.O. 280831.) delete G.C. BROVIG and ZEBULON PIKE returned to port. (Comtenth Fleet C. & R. 311434Z to F.O. Gibraltar, (R)C. in C. Med. etc.)

JEANNE D'ARC /...

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

JEANNE D'ARC. N.O.B. Bermuda 301936 to C. in C. Lant (N.T. in W.D) approved. N.O.B. Bermuda sail French Cruiser JEANNE D'ARC independently when ready about 1st September to Casablanca. Retain present liaison group aboard. Advise time of departure, route S. of A. Cancel my 252110 (Contained in Commaveu M.S. signal, 261330. Re inclusion U.G.S.17 of French Cruiser JEANNE D'ARC) Commorseafron return liaison personnel to Comcaribseafron as soon as practicable. Comar Dakar hand to North African French Naval Mission (Adml. Glassford.) (Cominch, 311530Z to C. in C. Lant, N.O.B. Bermuda, (R) Commorseafron, Commavnaw, C. in C. Med., Admty. etc.)

GENERAL JOHN POPE. This is Vice Opnav 301439 for action Commandant 5th Naval District and repeated to P.D. Norfolk, C.O. GENERAL JOHN POPE, Commanding General HR port of embarkation, Comsixthphib, Commaveu, and Cinclant, passed to you for information (begins) GENERAL JOHN POPE upon reporting for duty 1 Sept. to Naval Transportation Service and when in all respects ready for sea is to be made available to Comgen. Hampton Roads port of embarkation to load necessary cargo and to embark approx. 6500 troops. Sail GENERAL JOHN POPE (A.P.110) unescorted to U.K. about 5th Sept. as may be requested by Comgen. Upon completion of this mission GENERAL JOHN POPE will load return cargo and passengers and as directed by Commaveu or other competent naval authority will sail for New York. (Commaveu, 311536 to Admty.)
Sail GENERAL JOHN POPE when ready about 5th Sept. (Route) Codeword "Eclipse". Associated callsign 127. (Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet. 311620Z to U.S. P.D. Norfolk (R) Com. N.O.B., Bermuda, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, Cdr. E. S.F., Admty., etc.)

SS. JAMES L. RICHARDS. On passage British Guiana to Trinidad, grounded in 009 degs. 15' N. 060 degs. 35' W. on 29th August. Towed off by H.M.R.T. BUSY arriving 31st August. Report follows. (S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 311557Q, 010937 Sept. to Admty.)

Movements of "Queens". For Searail. To D.Mov. from DD. Mov. (P). Your 64103 (Q(M)2) 29th August, (291115A). (1) Your interpretation of decision on "Queens" correct. We had to produce programme at short notice which we knew would require modification by you and we accepted existing K.M.F. programme and four day avoidance of full moon as basis in absence of any waiver on latter. Presume your revised "Queens" programme will provide ten sailings of each Sept/April inclusive, and will not affect LT programme in para. 5 QM/243. (2) Request your revised "Queens" programme early as we are anxious to discuss with New York. (B.A.S. Washington, 311610Q to W.O)

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31.8.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.

- X.B.72. Following is an estimate of ships joining from O.N.S.16 (list)
Total 21 ships.
(N.C.S.O.Halifax, 311725Z to Admty.)
- ARIES. A.M.161832A (Re: ARIES and CLINTON to be sailed end of August and end of Sept. respectively).
Anticipate ARIES will proceed to U.K. as additional escort R-5 for H.X.256.
(C. in C. C.N.A. Halifax, 311742Z to Admty.)
- ERNE. P.D.Norfolk 291710 (N.T. in W.R.).
From (G) omit (H) and (J) pass through new (K) 046 degs. 12' 052 degs 36'. (L) 047 degs. 30' 052 degs. 17' thence via Q.J.A. 204 to new destination St. Johns. (2) On arrival join mid ocean group C.3 for H.X.255 to U.K.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 311854Z to ERNE (R) C. in C. W.A. Admty. etc.)
- FENNEL. Expected to be ready for sea Thursday 16th Sept. request destination.
(B.A.M.R. Washington, 311902Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) Admty., N.S.H.Q. etc.)
- ATHENE. My 291833 April to Admiralty only. ATHENE sailed in H.X.254. Aircraft load, one Hellcat fully erected, eleven Tarpons erected but with tail units partly dismantled to facilitate stowage. All engines inhibited.
(B.A.D. 311951Z to Admty.)
- KING HAAKON VII. C. in C. C.N.A. 302106 (Requesting KING HAAKON VII on completion of refit join W.E. Group) comply (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 312002Z to C.E.S.F. (R) Admty. etc.)
- FLAHERTY, U/B. All times Z. para. C. from Cominch, U.S.S. FLAHERTY attacks sub contact 31.10 N. 71.00 W. 310030 Admty. pass to H.Q.C.C. and Comnavu.
(Com. B.W.M.T. 312040Z to Action Admty. for O.I.C)
- CAPEL. Sail CAPEL Boston to Bermuda direct when ready about 1st September. Advise time of departure, route, S. of A.
(Cominch, 312050Z to C.E.S.F. (R) Commandant 1st Naval District Boston, Mass. C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet, N.O.B. Bermuda)

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War Diary.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

- U.T.2. Sail U.T. 2 from New York 5 September for U.K. with following. Total 21 ships. Convoy leaves U.K. about 22nd Sept. for U.S. P.D. New York pass to Com.3. Admty. pass to Comnavu. (Cominch, 312051Z to Action Cinclant, Comeastsea- from. Information P.D. New York. Com. 3. Admty. etc.)
- Movements, Arrival PICTOU ex O.N.S. 16, COBALT, LACHINE
Halifax. ex H.X.254
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 312051 to Admty. etc.)
Arrival VILLE DE QUEBEC from Cornerbrook.
(C. Halifax, 312055Z to Admty.etc.)
- S.C.141. Your 302012Z. Destinations (list).
(D.T.D. 312101A to C. in C. C.N.A.)
- MAURETANIA. Your 302301Z. Consider extremely desirable ship be dry docked observing mileage steamed since May, much of which in tropical waters. You should therefore arrange for her enter Navy Yard and sail 12th.
(D.S.T. 312159A to B.R.L.O. New York)
Reply: 032105Z)
- GRIPSHOLM. From B.J.S.M. Following is passed for information (Begins) addressed C. in C. Lant, Cdrs. All T.F. ? Lant, Cdrs. All Sea Frons. Lant, N.O.B. Bermuda. From Cominch,
Diplomatic Exchange ship GRIPSHOLM scheduled depart New York 2nd Sept. for India, should not be molested or interfered with. (Details, Route, etc.) T.O.O.282105 (Ends.)
(B.A.D. 312331Z to Admty.)
- X.B.72. Sailing telegram (4 ships) (2) Halifax
0000Z/1st Sept. (3) E.T.A. Cape Cod Canal
2000Z/3rd Sept. Boston 1900Z/3rd Sept.
(4) 7.5 knots. (5) (Route). (6) COWICHAN.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax N.S. 312345Z, 312349Z)

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31.8.1943.

Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. U.S. Transport CAPE FLATTERY arrived Townsville 31st August.
 U.S. Transport ANHUI departed Milne Bay 30th arrived Goodenough 30th.
 U.S. Transport BOTH departed Brisbane 30th due Sydney 1st September.
 U.S. Transport SWARTENHONDT departed Brisbane 30th due Townsville 2nd September.
 R.A.F.A. KURUMBA departed Gladstone 31st due Brisbane 1st September.
 H/T KATOOMBA departed Port Moresby 30th due Townsville 1st September.
 Hospital Ship TASMAN departed Melbourne 30th due Sydney 2nd September.
 (C.S.W.P.S.F. 311226Z to Admty.)
 Arrival Sydney 30th BUNGAREE. Brisbane 30th CASTLEMAINE, MORESBY, GLENELG.
 Departure Fremantle 30th SUFFOLK for Indian Ocean.
 Port Moresby 30th U.S.S. HENLEY for Bili Bili. U.S.S. HELM for Townsville.
 Brisbane 30th CASTLEMAINE, GLENELG, MORESBY for Sydney.
 GEELONG, LITHGOW for Gladstone.
 Williamstown 30th, STARWELL for Sydney.
 (A.C.N.B. 311236Z to Admty. etc.)

Drifting Ship. Capt. Quantas 1 Q 8 reports sighting ship apparently drifting in position 001° 08 (North 087 degs. 39' E. at 0615Z/30th. (?Group) 222 Ceylon was advised by 1 Q.8.
 (N.O.I.C. W.Australia, 311330Z to C. in C. E.F.
 (R) Cmd. S.W. P.S.F.)

Digest No.588 Aug.30th. Para. 10 covers South Pacific Forces.
 One destroyer with one small merchantman sighted stationary off Queen Carola Harbour Buka forenoon. Similar force unsuccessfully attacked by Fortress during afternoon while entering Buka Passage from West, while one destroyer, one merchantman also unsuccessfully attacked forty miles West of Buka heading Rabaul near midnight (2) Liberator dropped bombs on small convoy which photos show as one small patrol boat, one medium merchantman with barges on deck one sea truck type coaster (265?) miles North of Kavdienu on Southerly course forenoon. (sic) No visible damage. Another convoy described as one destroyer one medium one small freighter observed further North also on Southerly course early afternoon. (4) 1 3000 ton Merchantman, 2 small Coasters Fight Luggers and 25 Barges photographed in Wewak Harbour. (6) 6 Bostons attacked Barges Mape River Finschhafen destroying at least 3 manned? barges and damaging others. (7) Photos Babo during afternoon attack 29th show one small Freighter sunk off Jetty two other small Coasters, 16 Barges including two large 15 Eraus (sic) in harbour.

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest (10) Liberator contacted 5 vessels dispersed
No. 588 North of Bougainville Strait before dawn claiming
Aug. 30th. hit on one. ?Catalina also reported
(Contd.) Merchantman off Choiseul Coast on southerly
course during night hours.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 311355Z)

REPUBLIC. U.S.S. REPUBLIC departed Sydney N.S.W. 30th
August for San Francisco (route). "Chop"
South Pacific 1000Z/31st August. E.T.A.
1900Z/21st Sept.
(A.C.N.B. 311452Z, 030511Z Sept. to Admty.etc.)

Alleged A.M. 061833B/June.
Attacks on International Red Cross also report following
Enemy further attacks on Japanese hospital ships:
Hospital (1) TAKSAGOMARU twice attacked by torpedo from
Ships. submarine on 26th April in position 60 miles
N.E. of Amboina 3 degs. 19' S. 127 degs. 27' E.
(2) MIZUHOMARU attacked by aircraft on 1st April
in position 3 degs. 42' S. 152 degs. 13' E.
(3) MUROMARU attacked by submarine torpedo on 1st April* in
position 7 degs. 17' N. 134 degs. 24' E.
Request you will signal any available information regarding
these attacks stating whether attacking forces were British,
Australian or American.
(Hd. of M.Branch I, 311754A to A.C.N.B.)

* Amended to 1st July (Hd of M.I 151744A/Sept)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Reported.

Estimated (D.D.I.C. 311401A, 311410A)
Positions.

S/M's Attacked.

Sub.attack 24 hours to 1000A/31st August.
and Para. A. STORK and STONECROP attacked and
sighting possibly sank U/B, 40 degs. 25' N. 19 degs. 10'
Summary. W. at 1500/30th August. A/C sighted U/Bs,
one on surface 62 degs. 20' N. 11 degs. 20' W.
course 270 degs. at 1835/30th August and one
on surface 45 degs. 16' N. 05 degs. 42' W. course
100 degs. at 2353/30th August.

Para. C. Shore watcher sighted U/B 60 degs. 22' N. 01 degs.
19' W. at 2120/29th August.
(W.D. Note: Date should be 28 August.)
(D.D.I.C. 310916Z to Cominch)

Weekly /...

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31.8.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Attacked.

Weekly
Summary.

My 221059 July, 1943.

(1) GRENVILLE obtained Radar contact at 0350/28 in 42 degs. 03' N. 12 degs. 10' W. U-Boat was subsequently hunted with depth charges until it was probably sunk at 2000/28. Presence of two bales of sheet rubber amongst wreckage recovered suggests U-Boat was Japanese. (2) STORK and STONECROP escorting convoy S.L.135 sighted U-Boat in 40 degs. 25' N. 19 degs. 10' W. at 1311/29. U-Boat was hunted for 26 hours, after which wreckage, and human remains came to the surface. (3) Owing to uncertainty regarding U-Boat routes both surface and air patrols in Bay of Biscay are in process of adjustment, strong patrols being maintained by day and night in probability areas.
(D.A.U.D. 312040A to Cominch, Comnaveu, B.A.D., N.S.H.Q.)