

Oct 25 - Nov 15

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

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

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

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

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

ADM 199 2276

1.
1.9.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Biscay A/S
patrol.

1. PELICAN sighted a U-Boat on the surface in 43.47 N. 13.47 W. (about 250 miles west of Cape Ortegal) at about 0335A today and attacked. At 0900A CRANE reported that the U-Boat was considered to have been sunk or seriously damaged.

WEAR, PELICAN and CRANE, forming part of the 5th Escort Group, are to patrol between 44 N. 14 W. and 46 N. 14 W.

CALGARY and SNOWBERRY are to sail from Plymouth tomorrow to join E.G. 5.

BERMUDA returned to Plymouth this morning.

Enemy
Coastal
Batteries.

2. Between 0750 and 0900 today enemy coastal batteries fired about 19 rounds at the 18th M.S.F. when near S.W. Gate Buoy, Folkestone. HYDRA was damaged and proceeded to Sheerness for repairs.

The 9th and 19th M.S. Flotillas were shelled during the afternoon when in 50.46 N. 01.09 E., but no damage was caused.

M.G.Bs. 611, 614 and 616 were shelled this evening when in 51.01 N. 01.35 E. (Straits of Dover) and M.G.B. 614 was slightly damaged by near miss.

Convoy
U.T. 4.

3. ~~Convoy U.T.1 (fast troop convoy) arrived at the Clyde and Mersey today.~~

North Atlantic.

4. RESOLUTION and REVENGE (Eastern Fleet) sailed from Gibraltar today with Convoy M.K.F.22, to refit in the U.K.

South Atlantic.

Blockade
runner
patrols.

5. F.O.C.W. Africa sends today details of the patrol areas provisionally arranged with Com. 4th Fleet in the Atlantic Narrows. These include British and U.S. surface and air patrols and French cruiser patrols.

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War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

- Sicily & South Italy. 6. Coastal forces continued their operations off Vibo Valentia and the coast of Calabria last night, without incident.
- S/M Operations. 7. ULTOR reports that at 0814/28 in 39.24 N. 17.09 E. (Western Point of Gulf of Taranto) she fired one torpedo at a stranded PARTENOPE class destroyer. The torpedo hit abreast the mainmast, causing the after part to break off and sink and causing a considerable number of casualties amongst the salvage workers. UNSEEN sank a 1500 ton merchant vessel at 0852/27 in 41.30 N. 17.27 E. (35 miles North-east of Bari) and a 150 ton A/S schooner with demolition charges at 0730/28 in 40.28 N. 19.11 E. (14 miles West of Valona, Albania).
- Convoy X.T.1. 8. The first slow intermediate Mediterranean through convoy X.T.1, (3 M/Vs) sailed today from Alexandria Westbound. Z Convoys have been discontinued in favour of X.T. convoys running at 10 day intervals.
- Black Sea. 9. N.L.O. Black Sea reports that Russian cutters shelled Taganrog on the night of 20th August, and Mariupol on the night of 23rd. Surface forces bombarded Anapa on 23rd August. On 20th Aug. a S/M sunk a 3000 ton merchant vessel off the South coast of the Crimea, and on 30th Aug. a merchant vessel loaded with 2000 tons of chrome for Bourgas, off the entrance to the Bosphorus. Between 20th and 25th August 3 E-boats 2 R-boats and 2 barges were sunk in the sea of Azov and off the Caucasus coast, and one E-boat, a tug and 2 barges were damaged. An enemy minesweeper has been sunk by a mine in the Sea of Azov.

China.

10. 14th U.S.A.A.F. attacked river targets in the Ichang area today; direct hits were made on a vessel believed to be a tanker, and other river craft were damaged or sunk. Shipping was also attacked at Shatow (near Hongkong) and in the Nanchang-Yochow areas.

1.9.1043.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

11. KENT arrived at Halifax today from the U.K. via Argentina.
INDOMITABLE arrived at Norfolk, Virginia today from the Mediterranean for repairs.

Australia and New Zealand.

12. Allied aircraft carried out barge sweeps today in the Finschhafen Island, New Britain and at Lae (New Guinea) area, and destroyed numerous barges.

War Diary.

1.9.1943.
Wednesday.

GENERAL.

DISPOSITIONS AND MOVEMENTS.

Commencing today messages giving non-operational movements of H.M. Ships, which it is considered necessary to record in the War Diary, will (if not included in the Movements Sheet of the Pink List) be bound up in separate volumes of the War Diary entitled "Dispositions and Movements".

Disposition signals such as one made daily by various Cs. in C. and Flag Officers in Charge, will also be bound up in the Dispositions and Movements volumes.

The arrangement of the Dispositions and Movements volumes will follow that of the War Diary, viz, chronological, by Stations. The above change is being made in consequence of the necessity to reduce the volume of typing of the Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Destroyers
under Capt.
D.3.

It is intended that the 4 Canadian TRIBALS shall now form a division within the administration of Capt. D.3 who will also retain Polish Destroyers ORKAN and PIORUN.

2. Pending return to Home Fleet of Capt. D.8 SAVAGE has been directed to act as S.O. of S. Class Destroyers under Capt. D.3.
(R.A.D.H.F. 011315A to C. in C.H.F.)

M.G.B. 679.

BEE's 310942 August. M.G.B. 679 is allocated to the 21st M.G.B. Flotilla based at Dartmouth.
2. Request boat be sailed to Brixham for slipping.
(D.D.O.D.C. 011823A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

M.G.B. 694.

BEE's 310942. M.G.B. 694 is allocated to the 22nd M.G.B. Flotilla based at Lowestoft.
2. Boat can be slipped at Lowestoft on arrival.
(D.D.O.D.C. 011824A to C. in C.Nore.)

Destroyer
for Force S.

One Hunt-Class Destroyer is required to be equipped as an H.Q. Ship and to join Force S at Rosyth by 16th November, she will not then be available for Convoy duty.

2. C. in C.Nore is requested to allocate one destroyer from his Command for this duty observing that a period of 7 to 8 weeks, which may be combined with ordinary periodical refit, will be required for fitting of necessary special equipment.

3. To compensate for the loss of the services of this destroyer with East Coast Convoys C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to provide the escort of C.E./C.W. convoys from the destroyers of his Command.

(D.O.D.H. 012023A.)

War Diary.1.9.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

MALAYA. Scapa departure at 0902 for practice area west of Orkney MALAYA, leaving area about 1900 for Clyde escorted by SCOURGE.
(A.C.O.S. 011107A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

ULSTER. At approx. 1730A tomorrow proceed Northabout to Plymouth by searched channels and standard route through Pentland Firth, Minches, and Irish Sea. S.O.A. to be 20 knots.
(C. in C. Rosyth 011535A to ULSTER.)

T.G. 21.17 F.O.I.C. N.I. is requested to sail U.S. BLOCK BLOCK ISLAND. ISLAND, when ready, with Task Group 21.17 to Argentia for onward routing to Hampton Roads. 2. Route.
(D.O.D.H. 011713Z to F.O.I.C.N.I.)

BLOCK ISLAND's 011131A addressed to Comnavu and to N.O.I.C. Belfast, C. in C.W.A. N.O.B. Londonderry informs as follows: Request routing. Task Group 21.17 ready for sea 1600A/1st September. Expect to sail 1100A/2nd.
(Comnavu 011951 to Admty.)
A.M. 011713Z. Departure T.G. 21.17 from Belfast will be 1430A/2nd. S.O.A. 15.7 knots. E.T.A. Argentia 0800Z/8th.
(C.T.G. 21.17 012237 to N.O.I.C. Belfast.)

S/M Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/2 and movements for movements. following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 001759.)

BRITOMART. BRITOMART sailed for Archangel, E.T.A. Dvina Bar 0001A/3.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 011941A to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

Operations.

S/M Patrols. Request you will sail ULA from Lunna Voe at 1900A/1st Sept. on surface at C.O. discretion through 090° ordered 5 miles and by route "Pink" to 070° 00' N. 011° 39' E. thence in accordance with F.O.S. 191634.
(Capt. S.9 010323A to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

SAFARI proceed after dark first September to patrol vicinity 046° 30' 005° 15'.
(F.O.S. 011409A to S/Ms.)

Positions of submarines at 0800A/2nd and movements for following 24 hours.

A. TANTALUS on patrol vicinity line joining Bear Island and South Cape Spitzbergen.

B. UNTIRING vicinity 62° 50' N. 02° 30' E.

C. ULA 62° 09' N. 00° 28' W. probably on surface through 69° 01' N. 08° 40' E.

G. SAFARI vicinity 46° 30' N. 05° 15' W.

H. RUBIS in zone J.5 east of 03° 30' W.

/J...

1.9.1943.

Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

S/M Patrols. J. CURIE 44° 18' N. 06° 01' W. dived by day through 44° N. 06° W. thence to westward. Daily advance 90 miles.
 (Contd.) K. ULTIMATUM 44° 01' N. 08° 34' W. dived by day through 44° N. 10° W. thence to southward. Daily advance 90 miles.
 (F.O.S. 011759 to Admty.)

At 1915A first September P.66 left Lunna Voe unescorted through position 5 miles East off Muckle Flugga then by route "Pink" to 070° N. 011° 39' E. thence vicinity 069° 35' N. 017° 20' E. proceeding on surface at C.Os. discretion till within 60 miles of Norwegian Coast.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick 011949A to S/Ms.)

Biscay A/S Patrol.

U-Boat sunk or damaged by PELICAN. Submarine sighted on surface by PELICAN in 043° 47' N. 013° 47' W. Submarine dived.
 (CRANE 010335A to C. in C.Plymouth.)
 Am over enemy S/M in 43° 30' N. 10° 00' W.
 (A/C 50 M.F. No T.O.O. to Gibraltar W/T, Recd. 010450.)

My 010335. At 0310/1st PELICAN obtained type 272 echo 5400 yards, closed, and saw U-Boat dive close port bow. Asdic contact obtained and shallow pattern Amatel dropped 688 dive swirl by eye. Contact lost after 2nd content. Both ships observant until daylight when patch light oil found in the vicinity Eddystone (sic). My 010900. U-Boat course was 015°. Considered sunk or seriously damaged. Searching 12 miles radius of position 043° 47' N. 013° 47' W. Aircraft not met. Weather 6882 1754.
 (CRANE 010900A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

U/Bs. Several U-Boats on passage estimated in your immediate vicinity today.
 (D.D.I.C. 010911A to ULTIMATUM.)
 Co-operate with sloop hunting U/B position 43° 47' N. 13° 47' W.
 (H.Q.19 Group 011125 to A/C Duty P.)
 Am over one enemy S/M in 46° 24' N. 09° 07' W. S/M was on surface course 060, speed 12.
 (A/C Duty F. 012234 to 19 Group.)
 U-Boat previously reported was on surface, course 060°, speed 12 knots, when first sighted in 46° 06' N. 09° 12' W. Have attacked U-Boat with depth-charge. Lost touch with U-Boat.
 (A/C Duty F 012300 to 19 Group.)

New Percussion area. My A.C. 232 30th August. Cancel present limits of percussion area F. north and substitute new limits between lats. 47° and 44° N. and long. 12° and 14° W. with effect from 0001/2nd Sept.
 (H.Q.C.C. 011005A to 15 Group.)

BERMUDA. Arrived.
 (C. in C.Plymouth 011129A.)

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay A/S Patrol. - Contd.

- E.G.8. Your 311801. Concur but as 8th Escort Group is not yet formed cannot guarantee it will be ready, by 16th Sept.
(C. in C.W.A. 011256A to C. in C.Plymouth.)
- REDPOLE. My P.C. and S. at 1200A/1st 048° 08' N. 014° 49' W. 075° 15 knots.
(REDPOLE 011307A to C. in C.Plymouth.)
- Tunnymen. 3 Tunnymen in position 46° 50' N. 08° 50' W. course 110, speed 2.P.L.E.
(A/C Duty A. 011442A to 19 Group.)
One Tunnymen position 48° 10' N. 08° 38' W. course 190° speed 3 knots. P.L.E.
(A/C Duty A. 011503A to 19 Group.)
- Dispositions. WEAR, PELICAN, and CRANE are to form part of 5th Escort Group while operating in company.
2. At dark today the following new dispositions are to be taken up.
3. 5th Escort Group less CALGARY and SNOWBERRY patrol on line between GE. 044° 00' N. 014° 00' W. and GF. 046° 00' N. 014° 00' W.
4. SHEFFIELD covering 5th Escort Group from area between 046° N. and 048° N. and between 016° W. and 017° W.
(C. in C.Plymouth 011556A to SHEFFIELD, PELICAN, WEAR, CRANE, E.G.5.)
- Dispositions at 2000.
1. REDPOLE 048° 45' 011° 55' bound Plymouth 15 knots.
2. SHEFFIELD patrolling vicinity 047° 016° 30'.
3. EDMUNDSTON, TWEED, NENE, WEAR, PELICAN, CRANE patrolling vicinity 045° 014°.
4. Hospital ship VASNA 047° 20' 013° 30' bound Barry.
5. P.67, 045° 05' 006° southbound, 90 miles a day.
6. ULTIMATUM, 044° 05' 007° 50' southbound, 90 miles a day.
(C. in C.Plymouth 011644A to Admty.)
Pass Gate at 1100A/2nd and proceed through position J. 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles L. 048° 43' N. 012° 15' W. and thence toward GF. 046° 00' N. 014° 00' W. to make contact 5th Escort Group as ordered by WEAR.
2. WEAR (S.O.), PELICAN, and CRANE form part 5th Escort Group which is to patrol between GE. 044° N. 014° W. and GF.
(C. in C.Plymouth 011710A to CALGARY, SNOWBERRY.)
1900A, P.C. and S. 046° 10' N. 013° 27' W. 220° 11 knots.
R/V in 044° 10' N. 014° 00' W. at 0700A/2nd.
(WEAR 011801Z to CRANE.)
- Air Patrols. H.Q.C.C. 010920A. Intend to withhold cover on C.S.54/K.M.S.25 tomorrow, in order to concentrate all available aircraft on Bay offensive which shows special promise. Admiralty's 261135 refers.
(A.C.H.Q. Liverpool 011951 to Admty. H.Q.C.C.)

War Diary.

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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.General.

- Operation S.F. SARDONYX detached in accordance with C. in C. Rosyth 301547.
(Capt. D.17 011000A to R.A.M.)
My 031615 para. 2. From 1202 to 2358 departure
- 1st A. 5, B. 4. Patrols liable to cancellation owing to weather.
(C. in C. Rosyth 011158A to H.F.)
Faroes arrival SAVAGE and MIDDLETON.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 011215A.)
If not in contact and no aircraft sightings by 2001A/1st, Group B. returns to Skaale Fjord and revert to 4 hours notice.
(C. in C. Rosyth 011458A to Capt. D.17.)
Proceed to establish patrol by 0601A/3rd as follows:
1. Group A. 2. $062^{\circ} 34' N.$ $013^{\circ} 25' W.$ 3. $225^{\circ} - 60 - 60.$
 4. "Apricot" one.
(C. in C. Rosyth 011507A and 011810A to M/S 15.)
Your 011507A. Intend proceeding at 1200A/2nd.
(M/S 15 012014A to C. in C. Rosyth.)
1. C. in C. Rosyth's 011507A. After this phase of operation S.F. anticipate that boiler hours of FRASERBURGH, LLANDUDNO, WORTHING will each be over 700.
 2. Consider it desirable if possible that LLANDUDNO should proceed to U.K. for this in order to grant leave.
(M/S 15 012045A to C. in C. Rosyth.)
After turning over to SAVAGE proceed to Scapa in ONSLOW.
(C. in C. Rosyth 012137A to Capt. D.17.)
- Operation "Starkey". My 311405. Sailed 0930. (L.C.P. Flotilla 471.)
(C. in C. Portsmouth 011135A to N.O.I.C. Newhaven.)
Assume patrol on line joining 180° Dungeness 5 miles to 180° Dungeness 10 miles. Thereafter act as ordered by S.O. M/S F. 9. Destroyer force will be addressed as 1st Division.
(F.O.C. Dover 011250A to BLEASDALE. (R) S.O. Force J.)
- Force J's 0850/5/1 and C. in C.P.'s 311405A/8.
1. Intend to sail serial 33, M.L. 303 escorting 12 L.C.P.(L)s of 471 Flotilla also L.B.Es 344 and 419 at 0700/2 to Rye. Inshore route, speed 8 knots. E.T.A. 1200/2.
 4. M.L. 303 on completion of duty is to proceed to Dover.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven 011420A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
Propose to retain BLEASDALE, LA COMBATTANTE, GLAISDALE, and WENSLEYDALE to operate in the Dover Command until 0530/3rd. C. in C. Nore is requested to sail four V.E.Es. to be at D. Buoy at 0530/3rd and then to operate in the Dover Command until 2030/4th.
(V.A. Dover 011539A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
"Belinda."
(V.A. Dover 011631A to C. in C. Portsmouth, Care, Force J.)
My 011420A/9. Add M.L. 123 to escort.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven 011740A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
Your 011539A. Concur.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 012110A to V.A. Dover.)
Proceed to patrol between 144 Dungeness 10.5 miles and Dungeness $141^{\circ} 20.5$ miles forthwith.
(V.A. Dover 012125A to BLEASDALE.)
Request groups as shown in app. A. and B. to memo. No. 0850/5 dated 21st August and memo. No. D.0850/5 dated 28th August be amended as follows.
Group 4 for L.C.F. 19 read L.C.F. 29. Group 6 for M.L. 190 read

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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation "Starkey". (Contd.) M.L. 269. Group 10, M.L. 293 read M.L. 275. Group 16 for M.L. 269 read M.L. 190. Group 11 add Z.7. Group 12 add Z.8.
2. Captain J. one pass to S.Os. of Groups at Newhaven and Shoreham.
(Cdre. Force J. in VECTIS 012246A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

9th and 18th M/S Fs. shelled. During the afternoon 31st August, enemy coastal batteries from the Boulogne area opened fire on the 9th M/S Flotilla when in 50° 46' N. 01° 09' E. approx. Number of rounds not known. No casualties or damage. Several near misses. Smoke was used to cover retirement. Two rounds were also fired at 18th M/S Flotilla when approx. 8 miles 090 Dungeness. No damage or casualties.
(V.A. Dover 011417A to Admty.)

Operation "Lorry." Submarine sighted and seen to dive in 074° 38' N. 016° 35' E. at 1170A today.
(MUSKETEER 011557A to S.B.N.O. North Russia, (R) C. in C.H.F.)

Coastal Patrols. BLEASDALE, LA COMBATTANTE, GLAISDALE and WENSLEYDALE patrolling from 2 miles south of D. buoy to No. 10 Buoy.
M.Ls. 104, 101, 108, 107, 128, 210, 213 and 573 carrying out operation N.L.98. Route via Dumpton and U. Buoys each way. E.T.D. 1930. E.T.R. 0345/2.
M.T.Bs. 240, 219, 221, and 38 carrying out operation N.L. 99. Route via No. 1 and V. Buoys each way. E.T.D. 2100. E.T.R. 0230/2. M.G.Bs. 114, S.4, and 118 leave Dover eastwards route via No. 1 and V. Buoys each way. E.T.D. 2100. E.T.R. Ramsgate 0600/2. M.T.Bs. 204, 235, 202 and M.G.Bs. 108, 116 and 117 at Berck Buoy, route via No. 10 Buoy and Bullock Bank each way. E.T.D. 2330. E.T.R. 0630/2. GREY GOOSE, GREY FOX, GREY SEAL, and GREY OWL from Newhaven patrolling East of Bullock Bank from 2100. Returning to Dover on completion. E.T.R. 0630/2.
M.G.Bs. 42, 41 and 40 patrolling 9 miles S.E. of Dover. E.T.D. 2030. E.T.R. 0530 /2.
M.Ls. 143 and 203 at No. 1 Buoy E.T.D. 2045. E.T.R. 0515/2.
(V.A. Dover 011724A to Admty.)

Request you will sail M.G.B. 330 and 664 forthwith patrol in vicinity 135° Start Point 15'. Object of patrol, interception of E-Boats.

M.G.Bs. are to leave patrol at 0545A/2 and return to Dartmouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth 012041A to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth.)

"Forfar Beer". "Forfar Beer" will be carried out tonight. M.T.B. 250 will leave harbour 1930.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven 011830 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

1.9.1943.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Exercises.

Exercise C.O. Intend following Tactical Exercise C.O. on 4th Sept
Orders and particulars.
(C. in C.H.F. 012113A.)

Allied Air Activity.

R/C of Channel Ports. Request P.R.U. of Brest, Cherbourg, Havre, Dieppe,
Boulogne, Calais, Ostend and Flushing once daily
for next ten days.
(D.D.I.C. 011720A to A.D.I. Ph.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Jan Mayen. Following from Jan Mayen. A/C crossed Defence
area 0630, south-eastern course.
(A.C.I.C. 011804A to Admty.)

Mining.

S.N. 222B. Your 270904. Para. D. 2. It is not intended to
provide cruiser cover.
(C. in C.H.F. 011202A to R.A.M.)
My 270904A. Para. D.1. For SALADIN and SABRE
read METEOR and SARDONYX.
Para. D. 11 and 1. Delete.
Para. P. Delete and substitute "Port ZA then METEOR to Scapa,
SARDONYX to Skaale Fjord, SCIMITAR to Londonderry, and
LANCASTER to Holyhead".
(R.A.M. 011622A to Admty.)

North Channel Sweep. My 051531 August. Sweep completed.
(Cdre. D.W.A. 011441A to Admty.)

Casualties & Defects.

JED. ROTHER. E.T.A. 020900. Following defects affect seagoing
efficiency. Details.
(ROTHER 011001A to Cdre. D.W.A.)

Unknown Ship. Intercept 0928Z 180.5° Class 2. GONIO A DE
Unknown station S.O.S. S.O.S. short broken signals.
(Port Patrick Radio 011028A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

NITH. N.O.I.C. Leith and Granton's 251612 and Admiralty
262007. Admiralty have decided to lower thrust-
block. Estimated this work will be completed p.m.
7th Sept. This prevents NITH sailing on 2nd.
(A.E.O. Glasgow. 011042 to Admty.)

1.9.1943.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects - Contd.

- L.C.I.(S) 520. My 060012B and 061005B August. L.C.I.(S) 520 was successfully re-floated this morning and has been berthed at Portland for re-survey. (F.O.I.C. Portland 011046A to Admty.)
- M.M.S. 280. My 010935. Returned with engine defect. (F.O.Humber 011205A to F.O.Tyne.)
- L.C.S.201 sunk. L.C.S.202 damaged. Regret to report loss of L.C.S. 201 after collision with L.C.S. 202. Craft sank in 50° 51'.5 N. 0° 43'.7 E. while being towed for the shore. There were no casualties. L.C.S. 202 sustained damage to bow above the water-line but can probably be made seaworthy. (S.O.S.G. in HAIG 011216 to Com. Force J.)
- LAGAN. Commodore D. W.A.'s 312005 LAGAN can be taken in hand 4th September by Harland and Wolff Belfast for renewal of rudder bushes. (D.O.D.H. 011352A to C. in C.W.A.)
- VICTORIOUS. Destination of VICTORIOUS is Liverpool where she will be taken in hand by Messrs. Cammel Laird, Birkenhead. (D.O.D.H. 011840A to B.A.D.)
- Shipping & Convoys.
- W.P. 393. W.P. 393 has numerous stragglers. Position by plot of main portion of convoy at 0435, 240° Longships 4 miles. Position of main portion of P.W. 393 at 0438 253° Lizard 5½ miles. Convoy should meet about Daybreak. (N.C.I.C. Falmouth 010448A to Escorts W.P. 393, P.W. 393.)
- BEN MY CHREE (F.D.12.) My 311135. Sailed May Island 0710A. (C. in C.Rosyth 01759A to N.O.I.C. Invergordon.) Intend sail loaded transport BEN MY CHREE escorted by WOOLSTON to Invergordon at 2000/2nd. E.T.A. 1400/3rd. Route. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 011822A to A.C.O.S.)
- P.S.1. P.S.1 sailed 0800. (C. in C.Portsouth 010820A.)
- QUEEN ELIZABETH. Diverted for submarine reported near track. Delayed bad weather. At 0600Z/1st an. 078° 220 miles from T. New E.T.A. 1200Z/3rd. (QUEEN ELIZABETH 010915Z to C. in C.W.A.)

1.9.1943.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- K.M.S.26. N.C.S.O. Thames 010712A. Request you will sail
BULAN. BULAN to Oban to join K.M.S. 26 for Gibraltar and
onwards to Ceylon.
(C. in C.Nore 010924A to C. in C.Rosyth.)
- Rosyth Your 311735A. Concur.
Escort Force. (C. in C.Nore 011015A to C. in C.Rosyth.)
- T.A.61. A.M. 251952. Route through position L. 270° Oversea
6 miles at 0500A/5 September, to New York.
(D.O.D.H. 011343A.)
- C.U.4. Convoy sailing telegram. 23 ships. Names and
destinations.
(D.T.D. 011548A.)
- U.T.1. Admiralty 161904A para. 3. Approx. E.T.A. Clyde
section 040700A. Mersey section 041330A.
2. P.C. and S. at 2000A, 052° 29' N. 026° 32' W.
060° 14 knots.
(DART 012000Z to C. in C.W.A.)
Convoy U.T.1. is due U.K. about 4/9 comprising:-
A. For Tail of the Bank U.S. CRISTOBAL.
B. For Liverpool U.S. ARGENTINA, U.S. SANTA PAULA.
(D.S.T. 012220A.)

War Diary.1.9.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

U-boat N.R.2. 0545. (N.T. in W.R.) Enemy S/M previously reported was on surface and when first sighted was on course 325 degs. speed 12 knots.
N.R.3. My 0553 lost touch with U-boat last seen in 43.28 N. 09.57 W.
(A/C (?) 50 M/F 010607B to Gibraltar).

U-boat Following read by Freetown W/T from CHASSEUR II :
One S/M submerged bearing 010 degs. 34 miles from 34 degs. N. 8 degs. W. (estimated).
(Casablanca W/T 010630).

French escort vessel attacked sound contact 34.35 North 07.52 West 0550Z/1.

(C.M.S.F. 011920B to F.O.i/c Gibraltar, (R) Cominch, C. in C. Med., Conavnaw, Admty.).

CAPETOWN E.T.A. 1430Z. Request boom 1530Z.
(CAPETOWN 010735Z to F.O.i/c Gibraltar).

S.R.5. My 311947B sailed.
(C.M.S.F.F. 010854B to F.O.i/c Gibraltar (R) C. in C. Med. etc.).

C.G.60 C.G.60 arrived.
(F.O.i/c Gibraltar 010905B to C.M.S.F.F.).

MAGDALA My 311225B, arrived 011000A (Re MAGDALA en route Casablanca).
(C.M.S.F.F. 011124B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., etc.).

U.G.S.15 U.G.S.15. My 301632. Deletions and additions. Alexandria pass to M.W.T. Cairo and F.O.R.S.C.A.
(F.O.i/c Gibraltar 011131B to F.Os. i/c and N.Os. i/c North Africa (Oran to Tripoli).

French Request (A) Time of arrival of trains.
Refugees (B) Number of refugees to be embarked on September 6th from Setubal.
C. in C.M.Fs. 261141 August refers.
(N.O.i/c Gibraltar 011134B to Admty.).

Your 261141. American Embassy Madrid states Spaniards cannot produce rolling stock for evacuation on Sept.6th. They suggest target date Sept.19th. Request information whether this date suitable.

(B.N.A. Lisbon 011750A to C. in C. Med.). See also 021736A, 041812A.

Your 261141B August.

French Mission states they are unable to obtain railway transport in Spain for evacuating on 6th.

They desire to know if 16th or 17th September would be suitable to you.

(B.N.A. Madrid 011953B to C. in C. Med.).

/O.S.54...

1.9.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

O.S.54 O.S.54, intend sailing (list). All ships in ballast.
(F.O.i/c Gibraltar 011223 to F.O.C.W.Af.).

A/S Operations Azores. Cancel my 301211. (Requesting information of anti U-boat operations in vicinity of Azores).
(D.O.D.(H) 011312A to F.O.i/c Gibraltar (R) C. in C. Med.).

M.K.F.22 escort. Sailed RESOLUTION, REVENGE, CHANTICLEER, WRESTLER, USK, ETTRICK, FOXHOUND, INCONSTANT, BOREAS, BARLE escorting M.K.F.22.
(F.O.i/c Gibraltar 011318B to Admty. etc.).
(1) M.K.F.22 (Sailing telegram).
(F.O.i/c Gibraltar 011335B to Admty. etc.).

BARDALAND CAMELIA. Swedish relief ships BARDALAND 2595 tons gross and CAMELIA 1688 tons gross 12 knots sailed 1400B/1st. (Route to Piraeus). White hull with national colours and usual international red cross markings and Sverige on side not to be molested this voyage.
(F.O.i/c Gibraltar 011402B to 8th S.F., F.S. ARETHUSE).
(011403B to S. and A.).

SIDI BRAHIM. Your 301150 arrived.
(F.O.i/c Gibraltar 011505B to Com.N.O.B. Oran, (R) C. in C. Med. Admty.).

P.34 (ULTIMATUM). Following is onward route after crossing 043 degs. North at 2300/3rd W. 038 degs. 50' N. 010 degs. 01' W. at 1715/6th. All following positions are North and West unless otherwise indicated:
(U) 036 degs. 51' 009 degs. 13' at 01(750) 8th
(V) 036 degs. 37' 007 degs. 24' at 0200/9th,
(X) 035 degs. 53' 006 degs. 15' at 1140/9th,
(T) 035 degs. 49' 006 degs. 06' $\frac{1}{2}$ at 1230/9th, thence by Q.L.A. 87 to Gibraltar.
(2) S. of A. diving by day 88 miles per day. Do not cross Meridian 007 degs. West before 0630/9th but thereafter proceed on surface at your discretion at 9 knots.
(3) Submerged bombing restrictions arranged untill 0200/9th thereafter total bombing restrictions 10 miles either side of your route from 35 miles ahead, to 35 miles astern of your estimated position. Report if unable to keep within your bombing restrictions.
(4) All times Zone minus 2.
(F.O.i/c Gibraltar 011548B to P.34 (ULTIMATUM) (R) F.O.S., C. in C. Plymouth, Capt.(S) 8, C. in C. Med., Capt.(S) 3.).

/W.S.33...

1.9.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

- W.S.33 Intend to sail NESS (S.O.) WESTON, TOTLAND, BULLDOG, WITCH, BANN and HYDRANGEA at 0730B September 2nd routed through (R) 35 degs. 45' 06 degs. 30' (S) 34 degs. 05' 08 degs. 06', thence Q.B.A. 102 to Casablanca S. of A. 13 knots all positions north and west, codeword "Savage".
(2) Request you will sail W.S.33 for Freetown as soon as escorts in para. one have refuelled. Route details.
(F.O.i/c Gibraltar 011652B to C.M.S.F.F. (R) Admty. etc.)
See also 020812B.
- G.C.734 G.C. (34?) arrived.
(C.M.S.F.F. 011732B to F.O.i/c Gibraltar).
- C.G.61 MAGDALA C.G.61 sailed from ?Safi 011630A. MAGDALA will join from Casa. accordance my 011738B not to Admiralty.
(C.M.S.F. 011800B to F.O.i/c Gibraltar (R) C. in C. Med., Admty.).
See also 021003B.
- B.5. Group. S.O.B.5 in HAVELOCK, VOLUNTEER, VIMY will be ready to sail for patrol in Bay 2nd September. A.M. 252344 refers.
(2) Admty. pass to H.Q.C.C.
(F.O.i/c Gibraltar 011851B to C. in C. Plymouth (R) Admty. C. in C.W.A., H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Med.).
- ESKIMO CAPETOWN ESKIMO endurance is 1800 miles at 17 knots through water. Should ESKIMO be sailed in company with CAPETOWN? This will involve CAPETOWN speed through water being reduced from 22 to 17 knots.
(2) If this is not approved ESKIMO will have to be sailed in M.K.S.24, as FORTOL is not available for M.K.S.23.
(3) Request destination CAPETOWN and ESKIMO.
(F.O.i/c Gibraltar 011946B to Admty.).
See also 020110A.
- L.S.T.239. DIANELLA Your 011830B (N.T. in W.D.) L.S.T.239 stopped in 035 degs. 05' North 009 degs. 21' West. I am screening her. Westher report.
(DIANELLA 012030B to F.O.i/c Gibraltar (R) Escorts of Convoy U.G.S.15).
L.S.T. in hand steering, course and degrees 80 degs. 6 knots. Expect main steering engine will be repaired by 2200 in which case will not require Tug.
(DIANELLA 012115B to F.O.i/c Gibraltar (R) Escorts of Convoy U.G.S.15).

War Diary.1.9.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

OTUS
 1. From 026 degs. 10' N. 021 degs. 01' W. at 0710Z/3rd proceed on surface at your discretion through following positions.
 T. 020 degs. 01' N. 022 degs. 00' W. at 2000Z/4th
 U. 015 degs. 00', 022 degs. 00' at 0200Z/6th.
 V. 010 degs. 00' 020 degs. 00' at 1000Z/7th. thence to Freetown E.T.A. Boom 0830Z/9th.
 2. S. of A. to position V 10 knots, thereafter 9.
 3. Air H.Q. West Africa is requested to impose total bombing restrictions 30 miles ahead and astern, 10 miles either side of estimated position. OTUS report (?if) unable to remain within bombing restrictions.
 (F.O.C.W.A., 011059Z to OTUS, Air H.Q. West Africa, (R) C. in C. S.A., F.O.I.C. Gib., C. in C. Med., Admty, F.O.S., Capt.(S), 7th)

ALBATROSS Admiralty's 301829. Intend sailing ALBATROSS escorted by two frigates to reach 26.10 N. 15.50 W. on 13th September. Request you will signal onward route and way if escorts can be available on that date to take over in 26.10 N.
 (F.O.C.W.A. 011751Z to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty C. in C. Med. C. in C.W.A.)
 Departure from Pointe Noire 1700Z/1st ALBATROSS routed in accordance with C. in C. S.A.'s 271320 August. E.T.A. Freetown 0930Z/6th September. Request degaussing range on arrival.
 (B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, 011835A to F.O.C.W.A., (R) Admty).

S.L.136
 40th E.G. Convoy S.L.136 will number about 70 ships as far as Gibraltar. 40th Escort Group has only recently been formed and lack experience compared with usual S.L. Escort. Intend to reinforce Escort from Freetown to limit of my Station.
 (F.O.C.W.A., 011755Z to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Commorseafon, C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. Comar Dakr, C. in C. Med. Capt. (D) Freetown).

DESPATCH Departure from Pointe Noire 1700Z/1st. DESPATCH routed through position T. 002 degs. S. 005 degs. E. in accordance with C. in C. S.A. 271600 August not to Takoradi. E.T.A. Takoradi 1730Z/3rd September. S. of A. 21 knots.
 (B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, 011815A to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Takoradi)

A/S Escorts
 for A.M.Cs. Your 291423 August.
 Patrol Areas provisionally arranged with Com. 4th Fleet as follows.
 (A) Between latitudes 01 degs. S. and 06 degs. S. and long. 32 degs. 30 ' W. and 26 degs. 32' W.

/(B)...

War Diary.

1.9.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

A/S Escorts
for A.M.Cs.
(Contd).

(B) Between lat. 04 degs. S. and 09 degs. S.
and long. 14 degs. W. and 21 degs. 30' W.
Later if possible a third Area within a semicircle
of 400 miles to eastwards of the North and South
line running through Ascension.
American surface patrols in area bounded by lines
joining the following points 05 degs N. 39 degs. W. Equator
26 degs. W. 10 degs. S. 20 degs. W. Equator 20 degs. W. 05 degs.
North 25 degs W. British surface and air patrols with surface
patrols working from Freetown and backed up by American Air
Patrols in Area bounded by lines joining the following points:
African Coast in lat. 10 degs. N. Equator 20 degs. W. 05 degs. S.
20 degs. W, 05 degs. S. 15 degs. W. Equator 15 degs W. African
Coast in lat.
French Cruisers to patrol either in area between lat. 05 degs. N.
and 10 degs. N. and long. 25 degs. W. 30 degs. W. working from
Dakar or in British Area working from Freetown.
(F.O.C.W.A. 012019Z to Admty).

War Diary.1.9.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

ARETHUSE. My 310440. Returning by outward route my position $041^{\circ} 58' N. 006^{\circ} 19' E.$ at 0500/1st. E.T.A. Algiers 1200/4th. (F.S. ARETHUSE, 010515B to Capt. (S) 8, (R) C. in C. Med.)

Your 310440. Cancel my 302330 - M.S.874. Leave patrol so as to pass through $042^{\circ} 18' 006^{\circ} 24'$ at 0100/2nd September $039^{\circ} 25' 004^{\circ} 51'$ at 2200/3rd $038^{\circ} 22' 003^{\circ} 17'$ at 2200/4th, to R/V with P.224 (SICKLE) and escort Algiers in $036^{\circ} 56' 003^{\circ} 05'$ at 0700/5th.

2. P.224 (SICKLE) will pass through $038^{\circ} 14' 003^{\circ} 52'$ at 2200/4th proceeding thence R/V as described above. (Capt. (S) 8, 012000B to ARETHUSE (F.S.), (R) 8th S/M.F., C. in C. Med., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Capt. (S) 10, N.O.I.C. Algiers.)

Your 012000B. Left patrol 0500/1st. I am 24 hours ahead of route laid down. My 010515 refers. Request instructions. My position $041^{\circ} 05' 006^{\circ} 00'$ at 2200/1st. (F.S. ARETHUSE, 012230B to Capt. (S) 8, (R) L. 27.)

Flying Boats, Aden. A.284 1st Sept. 0924Z. Your A.X.879 (T.O.O. 261700. Reasons for requirement at Aden for facilities of Flying Boat Squadron.) 26th Aug. Agree facilities exist at Aden and that this will be valuable for flying boat reinforcements from elsewhere. A.O.C. Aden is, however, of opinion that routine G/R operations from Aden during monsoon conditions can be undertaken more economically by land planes owing to impossibility of finding suitable bases for flying boats operating in area off Eastern Arabian Coast. Hence my proposal in A.271 16th August for consideration to be given for land plane squadron to replace flying boat squadron for G/R operations from Aden. Request early decision on this proposal. (A.H.Q.M.E., 010953Z to Air Min.)

UNRIVALLED. Intend sailing P.45 (UNRIVALLED) at 1500/2nd routed Eastern Channel through $035^{\circ} 56' 016^{\circ} 31'$ at 0800/3rd $036^{\circ} 24' 016^{\circ} 47'$ at 2000/3rd $039^{\circ} 10' 018^{\circ} 30'$ at 2000/4th thence through $039^{\circ} 45' 018^{\circ} 52'$ to $040^{\circ} 20' 018^{\circ} 52'$ at 1200/5th, $041^{\circ} 10' 018^{\circ} 00'$ at 0200/6th thence 270° patrol off Bari surface passage 4th. (2) M.J.A.O.24, request bombing restrictions for above passage. (Capt. (S) 10, 011008B to C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8, (R) 10th S.F., Air H.Q. Malta, Admty., R.A. Alex.)

TACTICIAN. Leave patrol either north of Rhodes or through Scarpanto Straits to pass through (A) $035^{\circ} 25' 028^{\circ} 51'$ at 0015C/4th. (B) $034^{\circ} 16' 031^{\circ} 46'$ at 1355C/4th, thence to arrive Beirut 0600C/5th. You are to dive to 250 feet if proceeding through Scarpanto Strait. You may proceed on surface by day on 4th September. (Capt. (S) 1, 011104C to P.314 (TACTICIAN), (R) C. in C. Levant, Cdre. (D) 1st S.F., Com. C/F East Med.)

/N.A.A.F. ...

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1.9.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

N.A.A.F. Report. N.W.A. Air Force Opsum 192.
N.W.A. Strategic Air Force. 30th/31st August. 47 Wellingtons marshalling yards Civita Vecchia. 84 tons from 2900 to 10,000 feet, target area including town and harbour covered with fires. 154 U.S. Fortresses marshalling yards Pisa. 1 returned early, 1 jettisoned. Remainder 1819 x 500 from 18,000 to 23,600 feet. Some bombs fell San Guisto A/D destroying A/C on ground damaging control building, administration buildings, and hangars.
30th/31st August. 12 Bostons gun position and Bivouac area Reggio. Target identified by flares. Fires started gun position, building and road hit Bivouac area.
(H.Q.N.A.A.F., 01114B.)

MAGDALA. Request you will reply (tanker message) to Commorseafron 311225 August. My 291816 and 301637 August not to all addressees refers.
(D.T.D., 011148A to C. in C. Med.)

TALLY HD. P.317 (TALLY HD) sailed in K.M.S.24.
(2) Constant watch on area broadcast reading in addition Rugby main M.S. routines.
(Capt. (S) 8, 011200B to C. in C. Med. (M), C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 10, (R) Capt. (S) 1, R.A. Alex., Admty.)

U.S. Escorts, calls at Gibraltar. Your 301527 (Facilities available at Gibraltar for escorts of U.G.S. Information requested by Navy Department). All normal facilities can be afforded including fuelling and voyage repairs. If reprovisioning is required it would be necessary for U.S. Naval Supply Ship to be stationed at Gibraltar.
(C. in C. Med. (Algiers), 011207B to B.A.D.)

X.T. 1. X.T.1, amendment to route in my 302314 August. Through 224, 10 miles North of 211 at 1240/6th, 10 miles North of 233, through 244 at 0720/7th, Q.B.B.118 route one and four to Tripoli 1700/7th.
(C. in C. Levant, 011231C to Naval and Air Authorities Western Desert, Tripolitania, Admty., etc.)
(1) One X.T.1 (3 ships). (2) 1229C/1st. (3) Sailed together.
(4) (5) (6) As in C. in C. Levant's 302314 August.
(13) (A) Master SS. SEAWATER to Tripoli.
(R.A. Alexandria, 011432C to Naval and Air Authorities Western Desert, Tripolitania, Admty., etc.)

Black Sea. 1. On night August 20th Russian Cutters shelled Taganrog and on night August 23rd Mariupol was shelled. Surface forces bombarded Anapa during night August 23rd.

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1.9.1943.

Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- Black Sea. (Contd.)
2. Enemy shipping. (A) S/M attacks. Off south coast of Crimea 3,000 tons merchant vessel sunk on August 20th. August 30th off entrance Bosphorus merchant vessel with 2000 tons chrome for Bourgas torpedoed sunk.*
- (B) Air attacks. From period August 20th to August 25th following craft sunk or damaged in Sea of Azov and off Caucasus coast: sunk 3 E, 2 R-Boats and 2 barges, damaged one E-Boat, a tug, and 2 barges.
- (C) Enemy M/S sunk by Russian mine in Sea of Azov.
3. Many air attacks carried out on enemy positions in Novorossisk area. Night August 18th 100 Russian aircraft attacked Anapa Aerodrome, large number aircraft were destroyed on ground.
4. No change in situation on Novorossisk front. Heavy shelling of enemy positions by Russian batteries, continues. (? N.L.O. Black Sea, 011235 to Admty.)
- * W.D. Note. - THISBE, see S.O.(I) Istanbul 310955C August.

Med. Air Report. Signed Eisenhower. Part 3, Air, Cosintrep No.53. N.W.A. Air Forces. Night 30th/31st August. 47 Wellingtons bombed marshalling yards at Civita Vecchia. Twelve Bostons bombed gun posts and bivouacs near Reggio. Day 31st. Pisa marshalling yards were attacked by 152 B.17s. Target area well covered. 48 B.25s bombed marshalling yards at Cosenza where a large fire and several explosions were reported. Four later missions of 48 light bombers bombed in vicinity of Cosenza without observed results. Four other missions each of twelve light bombers attacked railroad yards at Catanzara whilst A.36s bombed railroad and seaplane base at Capri and railroad yard and harbour at Cetraro.

Para. 3. 9th Bomber Command. 45 B.24s dropped 379 x 500 lb. bombs on marshalling yards at (? Pellaro). (Air C. in C. Med., No T.O.O., Recd. 1325/1.)

U.G.S. 15. Mediterranean Section U.G.S.15 plus SYMBOL detached with assigned escort, remaining 15 ships including U.S.S. MERRIMACK E.T.A. swept channel 020600Z. Commorseafron pass to all addressees. (C.T.F.66, 011455B to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty., etc.)

Convoy "Collar", Tripoli - Malta. My 311557 (311556 intended), and 312210 sailed. (S.N.O. Trip., 011503B to V.A. Malta.)

CASABIANCA. Intend sail CASABIANCA at 1900/2nd for patrol off West coast Corsica south of latitude 042° 35' north of a line 240° from Cape Muro east 007° 45' routed through 041° (? 23') 007° 02' at 2230/3rd

/041° ...

War Diary.

1.9.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

CASABIANCA. 041° 43', 007° 45' at 0130/4th proceeding on
(Contd.) surface on 2nd and 3rd.
(Capt. (S) 8th, 011530B to C. in C. Med., (R)
N.O.I.C. Algiers, 8th S.F., F.O.(S), ARETHUSE,
CASABIANCA.)

ULTOR, ULTOR reports at 0814/28 in 39° 24' N. 17° 09'
UNSEEN, E. fired one torpedo at stranded PARTENOPE class
R. of P. destroyer. Torpedo struck abreast mainmast
causing after part to break off and sink.
Considerable casualties caused amongst salvage
workers.

(2) (A) UNSEEN reports at 1724/24 in 41° 07' N. 16° 57' E.
fired three torpedoes at 2000 ton M/V, missed, moderate counter
attack of 23 depth charges.

(B) At 0852/27 in 41° 30' 17° 27' fired four torpedoes at 1500
ton M/V, one hit vessel sunk, four survivors picked up later
off raft.

(C) At 0730/28 in 40° 28' 19° 11' engaged 150 ton anti-S/M
schooner with lewis gun as 3" gun failed to fire. Italian
Naval personnel abandoned schooner leaving aged captain and
boatswain on board. These were taken prisoner and vessel sunk
with demolition charges.

(S.10, 011614 to V.A. Malta, S.1, S.8, C. in C. Med., C. in C.
Levant, (R) F.O.(S), Admty., R.A. Alexandria.)

EMPRESS OF Employment once a month U.S.A. to North Africa
SCOTLAND. with American personnel for on-carriage to India.
Re transshipment at Oran.
(War office, 011615A to A.F.H.Q. Algiers).
See Lion Copy.

Enemy My 302346A. Request also information on any new
Equipment. types of enemy bombs and bomb fuzes.
2. Request will inform Military and Air
Authorities and pass to No.30 Commando for
action.
(Head of M.I., 011631A to C. in C. Med.)

C. in C., C. in C. Med. is setting up Operational H.Q. at
Operational Bizerta in LARGS at 0200/7th Sept., main
H.Q. at administration H.Q. remaining at Algiers.
Bizerta, (2) As from 0001B/6th Sept. all signals for
(LARGS). C. in C. Med. are to be routed both to Algiers,
Bizerta, except that:-
(A) Operational signals not affecting merchant
shipping need not be sent to Algiers after

0800/7th September.

(B) Administrative signals not affecting (corrupt group)
efficiency of ships not requiring personal attention of C. in
C. need not be sent to Bizerta. Detached squadron signal concern
expenditure and supply of armaments and special stores and fuel
are to be sent to both Algiers and Bizerta.

Med.
21A.

MOST SECRET

WARNING : This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the text must first be paraphrased* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

MOST SECRET *(*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 011615A/September OUT

To: A.F.H.Q. Algiers pass to C. in C.Med. - Date: 1.9.43.
EMERGENCY OPS.

Repeated: C. in C. M.E. - IMPORTANT
B.A.S. Washington pass to AGWAR - IMMEDIATE.

CIPHER.

*U.S. Personnel on Convoy
North Africa to India.*

From: War Office.

65018 Cipher (Q (M) 2) 1 Sept.

1. As from incl. Oct. EMPRESS of SCOTLAND is scheduled to sail once a month unescorted U.S.A to North Africa with 4,300 American personnel for on-carriage to India. Washington have turned down suggestion that personnel should tranship to the through portion of KMF convoy in U.K. Accordingly we are planning to meet the on-carriage requirement by providing one ship of suitable capacity in North Africa to join each KMF convoy. This ship cannot sail from U.K. in the same KMF as if so transshipment would have to take place at Algiers which would delay the through portion and would add to the congestion in that port.
2. In view of your 8321 Cite FHGDM of 7 August to Troopers only we feel that you would prefer transshipment to take place at Oran if possible and this would have advantage that valuable EMPRESS of SCOTLAND need not proceed further east. As we understand it is proposed that KMF ships turning round in Egypt should return at once to North Africa to operate ferry service in Central Med. before returning in next MKF ex Algiers we suggest that one of these (e.g. MOOLTAN ex KMF 24) should be laid off and taken to Oran for on-carriage of personnel ex EMPRESS of SCOTLAND in next KMF (MOOLTAN would join KMF 25)
3. In addition to foregoing U.S.W.D. wish to despatch by same route a further 3700 by end Oct. and 2700 a month thereafter. These would be shipped in freighters converted for on-carriage PW in UGS convoys to North African ports inside Med. to maximum extent that we can provide on-carriage.
4. In QM/274 of 31 August to Troopers only received 010015A Sep. B.A.S. ask for reply by 1 Sep. giving indication (A) extent to which we can assist in on-carriage and (B) earliest date on which converted freighter can be accepted North African ports. Answer to (A) is that we could provide shipping for on-carriage to extent required on same basis as in para. 2 above if it can be handled by you and if it meets your local requirements. Alternatively observing that UGS ships carrying personnel may arrive at intervals during the month and at more than one North African port can you arrange on-carriage as far as Egypt with Med. shipping joining KMF or other convoys. Whichever method were adopted the provision of the extra shipping N. Africa to India would be made only at the expense

of.....

of BOLERO movement or other commitment agreed at QUADRANT.

5. Request your views and proposals for solving those problems incl. answer to (B) above repeated as this cable.

6. Recommend all cables this subject be addressed or repeated all authorities named beginning this cable and "agreed"

7. Agreed.

011615A.

Recd. in War Reg. 012158/Sept.
War Office Circulation

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. (C)
Hd. of M. (10)
D.D.I.C. (2)
D. of P. (2)
D. of S.T. (6)
I.P. (2)
W.D.
D.C.
Plot
Admiral Blake
D.S. (2)
D. of S. (2)

D.M.O.
D.D.M.O. (O) (H)
M.O. 1.2.3.4.5.12
D.S.D.
D.D.S.D. (A) (B)
S.D. 2.4.5.
V.Q.M.G.
D.Q.M.G.
Brig. Q (Ops.)
Brig. Q (L)
D.Mov.
D.D.Mov. (P) (S)
A.D.Mov. (P) -2
Q(M) 2a 2c
D.Q.
Q.1
War Reg. Admiralty
Comdr. Secker, Admiralty
Comdr. C.A. Jenkins, Admiralty
Air Ministry, D.W.O.
Air Ministry D. of O
" " D. of Mov.
" " Mov. -2
M.W.T. J.N. Wood, for D. of S.T.
ETOUSA Gen. Ross
Chief of Tn. -3.

War Diary.1.9.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

C. in C. Operational H.Q. at Bizerta, (LARGS), (Contd.) (3) C. in C. Med. (A) will be used in S.P. 02409 and 02411 for C. in C. Med. Algiers. Signals sent to C. in C. Med. and C. in C. Med. (A) must include both in address. (4) All correspondence for C. in C. is to continue to Algiers except that of a personal character and that affecting operations immediately in hand or in training. In case of the latter, a copy should also be sent to C. in C. at Algiers. (C. in C. Med., 011700B to Med. Station and Levant Station, Admty., 125B.)

Enemy Units. Nr.1. One medium vessel, three small craft two aeroplanes. Position 43.26 N. 10.08 E. course 350°, speed unknown. (A/C GMC/R, 011725B.) (Nr.2) My 1725B. Enemy previously reported are one merchant vessel 6000 tons, three small craft. 2 Motor Launches?. (3 undecypherable groups). (A/C GMC/R via Alex., 011825B.)

M.K.S. 23. Pass to Cdre. Algiers section sailing as in my 311446. (N.O.I.C. Algiers, 011840B to Escort of Convoy M.K.S.23, (R) Admty., etc.)

Malta Air Report. Opsum No. 114. No incidents. (R.A.F. Malta, 011859Z.)

Repatriations, French Refugees. My 261141. French Admty. have received information that no Spanish train will be available for evacuation in early September and suggest postponing target date of 8th evacuation until about 14th September although to conform with period mentioned in Lisbon telegram 46 of 11th August postponement should be until 20th. Request early comment as to target date. (C. in C. Med., 011900B to B.N.A. Madrid, B.N.A. Lisbon, (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty., Commorseafron.)

Troop Transports in Trade Convoys. Your 311800 August. Embarkation should be limited in accordance with A.M. 161140 March for Trade convoys. (D.O.D.(F), 012005A to P.S.T.O. Middle East.)

Gibraltar Command Signals not repeated to C. in C. Med. It appears to be forgotten at times at the Admiralty that Gibraltar Command is under C. in C. Med. Confusion will be avoided if normal practice is followed of including the Senior Officer of station in the address of all operational message to his Command. The most

/recent ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Gibraltar Command Signals not repeated to C. in C. Med. (Contd.) recent example is A.M. 252146 August (re attacks on S/Ms in territorial waters). An awkward situation resulted as Cdr. M.S. Frontier was directed to attack S/Ms in Spanish territorial waters by A.O.C. Gibraltar. Neither Cdr. N.F.N.W. African waters nor myself knew of Admiralty signal quoted and the direct consequence has been that Cdr. M.S. Frontier is not attacking S/Ms within territorial waters pending authority of Cdr. N.F.N.W. African waters. (C. in C. Med., 012043B to Admty.)

SIMOOM, DOLFIJN. Intend to sail (A) P.225 (SIMOOM) at 1200/3rd through 037 00 00 00 000000/3rd, 000 00 010° 01' at 2330/5th, 040° 28' 012° 51' at 0530/7th to patrol in vicinity 040° 45' 013° 10'. (B) (P.47) DOLFIJN at 1200/3rd through 038° 01' 004° 15' at 2230/3rd, 038° 19' 008° 14' at 2230/5th, 038° 47' 010° 11' at 2230/6th, 041° 17' 010° 19' at 0530/8th to patrol between latitude 041° 30' and 043° (? 05') and longitude 010° 01' and 010° 40'. (Capt. (S) 8, 012102B to C. in C. Med., (R) 8th S/M.F., Capt. (S) 10, N.O.I.C. Algiers, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, S.O. Force H.)

SERAPH, Operation "Burrow". *Gulf of Genoa* Operation "Burrow" completed position 044° 19'04" N. 009° 09'55.5" E., map 94 reference 147370, north-west corner of small rock bound beach at head of Bay a large rock close to barbed wire. Five feet of cord under seaward and of rock. Five yards north end above rock two barbed wire posts white painted near base allowing 7 yards north and above posts a large bush at edge of dense foliage. Stores under bush. Bearing eastern side Bay 195° western side 218° from store. Inhabited hut close to above. (P.219 (SERAPH), 012129B to Capt. (S) 8.) My position course and speed at 2300 042° 30' 008° 40' 090°, 10 knots to 042° 30' 009° 40' thence 180°. (P.219 (SERAPH), 012138B to Capt. (S) 8, (R) S/Ms on Patrol.)

Situation Report No. 16. (1) NELSON and RODNEY carried out successful bombardment of two coast defence batteries N.E. of Reggio at 1000/31*. Spotting aircraft reported both targets well covered and at least one gun knocked out. Good fires were observed apparently from ammunition explosion in one fortification. Battleship, ORION and destroyers also engaged batteries in Cape Pellaro area which offered ineffective opposition. (2) Coastal forces continued operations off Vibo Valentia and Calabria coast during night 31st August/1st Sept. No incidents reported.

** Operation "Hannibal"*

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Wednesday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation (3) 2 fighter bomber attacks on Augusta 30th
Report August at 0655 and 0850. No damage or casualties
No. 16. despite near misses on landing craft. One L.S.T.
(Contd.) attacked at sea by aircraft returning to base.
(C. in C. Med., 012204B to Admty.)

French
Liaison.

Personal from V.C.N.S. Your 191825.
Para. 2. Requirement noted.
Para. 3. Influence you have with French Navy
is not under-estimated, but the Mission will
represent Admty. at Headquarters of French Navy and must be
directly responsible to Admty. The French themselves would
be likely on prestige grounds to resent any other arrangement.
Limitation on this arrangement which is made in para. 2(c) of
my 170016 gives effect to your special relations with French
in Mediterranean Command.
Appointment of Capt. Wharton as No.2 should ensure that
experience of last nine months is available to Mission
particularly as it will be located at Algiers.
While you are in Algiers there should be no difficulty in
Mission keeping you informed on all French naval topics, but it
is not desired that you should have the burden of French affairs
not directly affecting your Command.
(Head, of M.(I), Approved First Lord, 012235A to C. in C. Med.)

Repatriations. Admty. 280024, para. 2 (re British and Axis
repatriates).
A. No objection. B. Date mentioned in para.1
is acceptable. C. Route - Alexandria direct
to position 2 miles South of Castel Rosso, thence by Turkish
territorial waters to Smyrna. Return by reverse route.
(C. in C. Levant, 012355C to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.,
P.S.T.O.M.E.)

War Diary.1.9.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- Convoy J.C.20. Sailing telegram. (2) 0230Z/1st September 1943. (4) 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots. (5) Coastal. (6) AGRA to Madras. J.A.D.1 - 9. (N.C.S.O. Colombo, 010230Z, 010235Z to Admty).
- B.P.93 Karachi portion of B.P. 93 sailed 0230Z/1st Sept. to R/V N.C.S.O. Bombay 300235Z refers. (N.C.S.O. Karachi, 010329Z to Admty)
- O.23, (Refit). Propose D.S.O.23 should sail 11th Sept. for passage to U.K. (Admty. 171247A August refers) proceeding via Mediterranean. Anticipate 4 days at either Algiers or Gibraltar will be required. (Capt. (S) 4, 010445Z to C. in C. E.F. (R) F.O. Ceylon, C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Netherlands Forces, in the East, C. in C. Med. F.O.(S)).
- Cable Repairs. Dar Es Salaam RECORDER 0400Z/1st Zanzibar as from 0500 1st will be repairing Zanzibar Dar Es Salaam cable in 006 degs. 35' 06" south 039 degs. 17' 12" E. (Dar Es Salaam, 010515Z to Admty).
- India Air Report. Daily Opsum No.535. 31st August. 6 Vengeance dive bombed jetty area Buthidaung. Over 2 tons dropped all bombs target area. 2 direct hits on buildings. 6 Hurricanes attacked rivercraft Yesagyo to Pakokku (Irrawaddy).
4. (?1) (?4 or) (?41) large rivercraft sunk, 4 damaged. 4 Hurricanes attacked water transport Hunters Bay area. 4 probably sunk 4 severely damaged. (A.H.Q. India, 010805Z).
- B.P.92 $\frac{1}{2}$ Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Karachi, 011051Z to Admty).
- B.M.63 (2) 1100Z/1st September. (3) E.T.A. position D off Cochin 1000Z/4th September. (3a) E.T.A. Colombo 0400Z/6th September. (4) 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ knots. (5) Route to Colombo. (6) BOMBAY. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 011105Z to Admty).
Sailing Signal part 2 B.M.63.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay) 011107Z to Admty).

/Ceylon...

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. - Contd.Ceylon
Naval
Volunteer
Force.Intended changes resultant on the Ceylon Naval Volunteer Force being taken over by Admiralty on 1st October.
(F.O. Ceylon, 011135Z).CHITRAL,
CANTON,
REDOUBT,After embarkation of Naval H.Q. personnel and baggage take CANTON and REDOUBT under your orders and sail from Kilindini p.m./8th September for Colombo passing through the following positions
(D) 001 degs. 06' N. 046 degs. 28' E.
(E) 005 degs. 42' N. 059 degs. 58' E.

(F) 007 degs. 25' N. (?072 degs) 01' E.

(2) On crossing meridian 044 degs. E. CANTON is to be detached to proceed independently to Colombo routed as above.

(3) Report by Secret Hand Message (A) Intended time of sailing

(B) S. of A. (C) S. of A. of CANTON after being detached (D)

E.T.A. CANTON 070 degs. (?East) (E) E.T.A. CANTON at Colombo

(F) E.T.A. CHITRAL and REDOUBT at Mediterranean.

(4) F.O. Ceylon is requested to sail RACEHORSE to R/V with CANTON to westward of 8 degs. channel and provide A/S escort to Colombo.

(5) CHITRAL, CANTON and F.O. Ceylon acknowledge.

(C. in C. E.F., 011225Z to CHITRAL (R) CANTON, REDOUBT, F.O. Ceylon, F.O.E.A, Admty).

Safety of
ADAMANT

A.M. 301357. This is fully appreciated.

(2) A large proportion of spare gear is already in Ceylon and arrangements have been made to split any vital items remaining in the ship.

(C. in C.E.F., 011326A to Admty (R) F.O.S. S.4).

HERMITAGE.

Limitations regarding carriage of passengers in HERMITAGE (?East Indies Station) (Vice Chief of Naval Operations 301239 August refers) are as follows (A) Total numbers that (?should) be carried

including crew and prisoners of war not to exceed passenger certificate or 75% of boats capacity, whichever is greater.

(B) Not more than 250 of each service.

(C) Not more than 500 prisoners of war, guards for prisoners of war to be included in their own service category.

(D) Concur that Polish refugee women and children be considered as men.

2. P.S.T.O. India pass to HERMITAGE and Aluslo Bombay.

(C. in C. E.F., 011429Z to P.S.T.O. India (R) Admty. etc).

KHEDIVE
ISMAIL.

Your 220908Z. To avoid BURMA making special voyage from Kilindini to Madagascar and return it is proposed subject to C. in C. E. Fleet's concurrence that KHEDIVE ISMAIL sailing Colombo about

12 September for Kilindini should call at Madagascar en route to embark approx. 200 personnel referred to in my 180305A not to last 3 addressees.

2. These personnel could then be distributed as convenient along coast from Kilindini.

(D.S.T. 012226A to D.S.T.O. Kilindini).

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

JAMES L. RICHARDS. My 291622. SS. JAMES L. RICHARDS refloated by H.M.R.T. BUSY and proceeded to Port of Spain under own power.
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 010922Q to S.B.N.O. W.A.
(R) Admty. S.O.(1) Jamaica.)

TEIA MARU, GRIPSHOLM, Repatriations. Japanese now propose route for TEIA MARU from Sunda Strait through.
(A) 04.40 N. 94.40 E. points (B) through (F) same as those your 211631A.
Request urgent concurrence in order notify Japanese prior departure GRIPSHOLM for which safe conduct not yet received.
(Cominch, 010350Z to Admty.)

Your 010350. Route in my 211631 for TEIA MARU was prescribed in order to keep vessel clear of Allied Submarine Patrol Area in vicinity of Position A in your 010350.

(2) Nevertheless in order to prevent breakdown of exchange negotiations we will agree to route from Sunda Strait through 04 degs. 40' N. 94 degs. 40' E. (R) 04 degs. 40' N. 94 degs. 40' E. Thence through position B to F in A.M. 211631 August.

(D.O.D.(F), Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 011116Z to Cominch)

My 311557. Delete "and towed to Trinidad". Ship proceeding under own power, BUSY standing by.
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 010937 to Admty.)

J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON. H.X. number unknown* returned from convoy 1348Z August 31st (U.S) J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON towed by H.M.R.T. GRIPER, fired and gutted.
(N.C.S.O. Sydney (C.B) 011122Z to Admty.)
* (H.X.252)

J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON passed through Gate at 1348Z/31st August in tow H.M.R.T. GRIPER under escort NORTHERN SKY. Local tugs standing by. All holds smouldering and ship except engine room completely gutted. Moored to (?Whirtle) buoy approx. 1530Z and commenced pumping into No.2 hatch. At 1900Z pumped water into all hatches. 2100Z No. 2 hold exploded due to magnesium and ship abandoned. 2230Z ship taken in tow and beached in ballast grounds. No.2 hatch exploded in interval with showers of magnesium sparks. Ship took the bottom at 2345Z near high water. Fore part of vessel burned fiercely throughout night but is now smouldering. Work of removing charred bodies interrupted when ship temporarily abandoned but 7 remains have remains have been landed 17 ready for landing and approx. 10 more to be picked up and tagged.

Further particulars will follow.*

(N.O.I.C. Sydney, C.B. 011237Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) N.S.H.Q. Connav, C.T.F. 24. C.E.S.F. F.O.N.F.)

*021947Z.

GENERAL JOHN POPE. Destination of GENERAL JOHN POPE leaving Hampton Roads about 5th September will be Clyde.
(A.T.62A.) (2) Cominch is requested to report A.T. number allocated.
(D.O.D.(H), 011254Z to Cominch, P.D. Norfolk)
(Number A.T.62 A. (Cominch, 021436Z)).

War Diary.1.9.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.

ROCKAWAY. ROCKAWAY when ready about 1700Z/1 depart Galveston Argentina for Reykjavik (Route). Speed 16. E.T.A. Point J. 0200Z/6. On arrival report to U.S. N.O.B. Iceland for onward routine in accordance with Basic orders. Commaveu pass to C.F. A.W.7. Radio Washington pass to Commaveu, C. in C. W.A. Admty. and U.S. N.O.B. Iceland. U.S. N.O.B. Iceland pass to Iceland (?B) detachment F.A.W.7. (C.T.F.24, 011415Z to ROCKAWAY, U.S. N.O.B. Iceland.(R) F.O.N.F. C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q. etc.)

FENNEL. Your 311902. Request FENNEL be sailed direct to Halifax. B.A.M.R. pass to FENNEL. (C. in C. C.N.A. 011442Z to B.A.M.R. (R) F.O.N.F. FENNEL, Admty. etc.)

U.S. Movements. Arrival September 1st U.S.A.T. GENERAL H.F. RETHERS from Paramaribo and U.S.E.D. Tug KIDWELL from Trinidad. (B.R.O. Georgetown, 011500Q to Admty. etc.)
Departure San Francisco 28th August
HORACE GREELEY for Noumea 29th August LEW MALLACE for Noumea. Both U.S.A.T. (N.S.H.Q. 011830Z to Admty.)

U/B (Cominch, 011540Z to Admty. etc.)
Estimates.

MARGARET K.SMITH. Due St. John's N.F. 17 August from Halifax not arrived. Apparently exploded en route. Wreckage sighted 23rd August in 45 degs. 25' N. 59 degs. 30' W. (N.S.H.Q. 011553Z to Admty. B.R.L.O.New York, N.C.S.O.Montreal.)

U.S. Dispositions. For Admiralty action, received as Cominch 311607 and repeated Commaveu.
Atlantic: IOWA in Argentina; VICTORIOUS COPENS at Sea; MONTEREY in Philadelphia; OMAHA at Bahia; CARD operating vicinity of Azores;
SANTEE operating ahead of U.G.S.16; BLOCK ISLAND escorting N.Y. number 21; CORE due Norfolk 2 September CROATAN operating ahead of G.U.S.13.
Pacific: TRENTON at Antofagasta; CONCORD in Balboa; ALTAHAMA at Karachi; NASSAU in San Diego; PRINCETON and BELLEAU WOOD at Baker Island; INDIANAPOLIS, RICHMOND, DETROIT, RALEIGH, TENNESSEE in San Francisco; NEW MEXICO, MISSISSIPPI, IDAHO, SANGAMON, BARNED, BIRMINGHAM, NEW ORLEANS, WICHITA, SOUTH DAKOTA and ALABAMA at sea.
Change my 241522. Serial 89. (Commaveu, 011646 to Admty.)

29

1.9.1943.

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

H.X.255. (1) Convoy sailing dispatch. (2) Position K.C. at 2330Z Sept. 2. (3) (5) (8) Routes and R/V as per Admty. 162051 June, 041301B July, Cominch C. & R. 181510 June, and C. in C. C.N.A.

291434 August. H.O.M.P. 1200Z Sept. 5. (6) Task unit W.4. COLUMBIA, (S.O), KAMSACK, BATTLEFORD, BLAIRMORE, C.T.U.W.4 has by hand.
(P.D. New York, 011736Z to Admty.)
Part 2, see 021810.
H.X.255 Destinations.
(D.T.D. 011816A to N.C.S.O. Halifax.)

Convoy U.T.2. Request destinations of 6 Service Force Tankers also the escort oilers SEAKAY and GEORGIA.
(B.A.D. 011835Z to Admty.)

U.G.S.16. My 20236 August. Following sailed in U.G.S.16.
(N.S.H.Q. 011950Z to Admty. etc.)

GREENWICH. GREENWICH expected to be ready to sail Saturday 11th. Sept. Maximum speed is 7 knots which is too slow for Convoy. No escorts available from ships refitting or new constructions. Request instructions.
(B.A.M. 012016Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A., S.B.N.O. W.At. GREENWICH)
Reply: 031854.

N.S.H.Q. Attack and Sighting Summary. In view of accessibility to details on sightings contacts and attacks in Canadian Northwest Atlantic N.S.H.Q. proposes to originate to you a daily summary for that Area following procedure outlined in Cominch's 061925Z August. Your comments requested.
(N.S.H.Q. 012035Z to Admty. Cominch.)
Concur (Cominch, 021349Z, Admty. 032006A)

S.C.141. Destinations.
(D.T.D. 012103A to N.C.S.O. Sydney. C.B.)

RICHMOND. RICHMOND date joining Western Escort Force 31st August.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 012106Z to Admty.)

S/M Attack and Sighting Summary. Para.C. Plane Radar Contact 35.52 N. 72.08 W. 011818. All times Z. From Cominch. Action to Admiralty for O.I.C. P.B.M. Radar Contact 35.38 N. 72.16 W. 011315. Admiralty pass to Commaveu and H.Q.C.C. for Information. B.A.D. and N.M.C.J.S. informed.
(Cominch, 012147Z to Admty.)

War Diary.

1.9.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

SS. QUEEN ELIZABETH. Your 011927Z (N.T. in W.D.) Route same from T. will endeavour to arrive Chebucto 1100Z/3rd. My position (7056 degs.) 340 miles from U. (QUEEN ELIZABETH, 012200Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) N.S.H.Q., Admty. Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet, C. & R., F.O.N.F.)

COOKE. Sail COOKE Boston to Bermuda direct when ready about 7th Sept. Advice T.O.D., Route, S. of A. (C. in C. U.S. Flt. 012210 to C.E.S.F. (R). Comdt. 1st N.D. Boston, N.O.B. Bermuda, C. in C. Lant, N.S.H.Q. Admty.)

Docking of "Queens". QUEEN ELIZABETH and QUEEN MARY cannot be certain of drydocking yours after early part of October at latest account weather conditions. Therefore both must be drydocked before then, which will bring following dry-docking to first half next year to coincide with time required for general overhaul and survey. All factors fully considered by Owners and drydocking programme proposed decided as best in interest ships themselves and exacting service they will be required perform throughout winter. Owners do not anticipate anything more than cleaning, painting, and bottom examination will be necessary. Unless there is local difficulty therefore, QUEEN MARY should be drydocked this time and QUEEN ELIZABETH 28th September opportunity about which separate signal is being sent Washington.
(D.S.T. 012233A to B.R.L.O. New York)

DAGHESTAN. Your 211909/August. Noted. DAGHESTAN is expected to be available for trials at Baltimore 5/10th October. (2) M.O.W.T. prepared to accept delay of two to three weeks waiting for trials, and once trials have commenced are prepared to leave ship at Admiralty's disposal until completed. (3) Request you keep us closely informed of all changes in availability of helicopters for trials.
(Head of Air Branch, Approved by A.C.N.S. (U.T.), 012252A to B.A.D.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest No. 589 31st Aug. Paras. 12 to 14 cover South Pacific Forces. One possible light cruiser one large unidentified vessel possible inverted (?converted) carrier reported by Liberator 30 miles North Kavieng

early /...

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
No. 589
Aug. 31st
(Contd.)

early afternoon on Easterly Course. Fifteen aircraft including 14 fighters covering convoy intercepted Liberator preventing accurate observation. (2) Another Liberator reported one destroyer and one possible light cruiser off Cape Ktsge (sic) on S.E. Course afternoon with one aircraft covering. Same Liberator attacked Southbound submarine off Cape Nrord* with unobserved results. (3) Liberator bombed barges and a Jetty at Nea Island afternoon. (4) Nine Mitchells destroyed several barges during sweep of area between Borgen Bay and Cape Busching afternoon 30th. Many wrecked barges and burnt out store dumps observed in Borgen Bay. (5) (Cancelled by 021450Z) (6) At least 4 aircraft and 10 barges active Lae area during day. (9) 2 Liberators dropped bombs K_okas Sorong Boela afternoon 30th without observing results. 1 or 2 small ships sighted Saumlaki. 2 Beaufighters returning strike Tab Rfaje my serial number 588 para. 9 attacked and badly damaged small Coaster off Maikoor Island. (10) Our P.T. Boats report destroying total 10 enemy barges and probably two others during night patrols Huon Gulf Area over past week. (13) Enemy photo R/C aircraft shot down by Corsair near Southern end of Vella Lavella afternoon 30th. Other Corsairs fired two barges and small coaster North East Coast same island previous day. (14) Allied Fighters destroyed additional barges Vella Gulf 30th. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 011230Z to Admty.)* as read.

Movements. Arrivals 1st September Townsville U.S. Transport VAN HEUTSZ, Brisbane, R.A.F.A. KURUMBA. (C.S.W.P.S.F. 011256Z to Admty.)

U.S.N.T's. Arrived Brisbane 31st U.S. Naval Transport MIZAR? departed Port Phillip 31st U.S. Naval Transport WEST POINT for San Francisco. (A.C.N.B. 011453Z to Admty. Connav, Com. 12)

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

Estimated Positions. (D.D.I.C. 011444A, 011447A)

SECRET

Asst.
31^A

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message and the text must first be paraphrased* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

(*Note: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad:
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

MESSAGE.

IN.

Q10640Z/September.

From Allied Air H.Q.

Date. 3.9.43.
Recd. 212QA.

CYPHER.

Addressed Air Ministry Whitehall Repeated A.H.Q. India.,
AIRINTEL Melbourne.

IMPORTANT.

Air Situation - Appreciation.

WX.45641.

A.1444 1 September.

133rd Airsum 28 August.

With occupation Bairoko all New Georgia effectively in Allied hands. Jap interception over Kahuvli on 25th August by 50 to 60 fighters establishes that fighter strength Solomons being maintained though no photo reconnaissance for some days. Of 4 Japs shot down, then 3 were Tony Army T3 indicating continued borrowing from New Britain. Some strength being restored to Wewak airfields but mainly fighters and will probably refrain from basing bombers there for present. From Camera Jap crashed plane Soupac possibility that shortage of raw material for films exists as P glass plates were being used. From captured Jap documents national markings agreed between Army and Navy on 8th March 1943 assigned roundels on fuselage only to Navy. Comment: never any definite indication that above procedure adhered to diagrams compiled from photographs of the 3 known Jap R.D.F. installations at Wake Sourabaya and Vunakanau. Fourth under construction at Koepang. These are medium frequency 300 to 3000 kc/s of Adcock type. Tokio domestic radio 25th August "Evacuation Kiska means shortening line of Homeland defence. Attempts to raid Jap Homeland by enemy planes based Aleutians fully anticipated. War must be regarded now fast approaching our mainland must also expect penetration into our defence no matter how

/complete.....

complete. Compare disastrous destruction Hamburg. Misery is really beyond imagination. Ended with appeals for Jap Home front production and more air-planes production".

010640Z.

Received in War Registry: 0253 4th September.
Air Ministry circulation: V.C.A.S.

C.A.S.

A.C.A.S. (Ops)

A.C.A.S. (I)

D.D.I.3. (Action)(2)

D.D.I.2.

A.I.3.D.

A.M.C.S. (C)(File)

Admiralty (War Reg:)(7)

War Office C.6. Tols(7)

A.O.C.R.A.A.F. H.Q. in Gt.

Britain Kodak House, Kingsway.

O.Ops.2.

A.S.P.3. (2)

A.M.W.R. (2)

A.I.2.G.

A.I.3. (U.S.A)

A.I.3.A.1.

Duty G/Capt.

1st Lord.

1st S.L. (2)

4th S.L.

5th S.L.

D.C.N.A.E.

A.C.N.S. (H)

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.

D.A.W.T.

M. (2)

Ops (2)

Plot.

O.D. (5)

D.N.I. (7) (& for D.N.L.O. (2)

O.I.C. (3)

D. of P. (3)

D. of P. (Q)(3)

D.A/S.W.

D.A/U.D.

I.P. (3)

W.D.

C.N.I.

D.P.D.

D.S.D. (3)

Ad. Blake.

U.S.N. (3)

C.W.R.

D.R.O. (C.O)(2)

War Diary.

1.9.1943.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Attacked.

Attack
and
Sighting
Summary.

24 hours to 1000A 1st September.
Para. A. Aircraft sighted U-Boats, one on surface 44 degs. 55' N. 10 degs. 55' W. course 350 degs. at 1250/31st August, one on surface 43 degs. 47' N. 13 degs. 47' W. at 0235 1st September, and one on surface 43 degs. 30' N. 10 degs. W. course 325 degs. at 0345/1st September. (D.D.I.C. 010940Z to Cominch)

way.

2.9.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Enemy coastal batteries.

1. At 0009 today enemy batteries west of Dunkirk fired about 12 rounds at our M.T.Bs. and M.G.Bs. operating in Dunkirk west channel, M.G.Bs. were fired at in the Straits of Dover at 1216, but no damage or casualties occurred in either case.

Biscay A/S patrol.

2. CALGARY and SNOWBERRY sailed from Plymouth at 1155A today to join Escort Group 5 on patrol. At dark today WEAR, CRANE and PELICAN are to part company with E.G.5 and are to form Force W and take up a new patrol line.

North Atlantic.

Biscay A/S Patrol.

3. S.O.B.5 Escort Group in HAVELOCK with VOLUNTEER and VIMY sailed from Gibraltar today for patrol in the Bay of Biscay.

Air attack on Lisbon/Gibraltar route.

4. H.M.T. SCOTTISH and two merchant ships which she was escorting from Lisbon to Gibraltar were attacked off Sagres by 3 F.W. 200s at 0945A. One was shot down and the other two made off. The convoy was not damaged.

Mediterranean.

Sicily and South Italy.

5. WARSPITE and VALIANT carried out a bombardment of targets near Cape dell Armì at 1000 today. There were small air raids on Catania and Augusta p.m. today. No damage or casualties were caused in either case. Three or 4 raiders were shot down at Catania.

U.G.F.10 attacked.

6. Convoy U.G.F.10 was attacked by torpedo and bomber aircraft 20 miles north-west of Tenez between 2115 and 2150 today. U.S. destroyer KENDRICK was damaged by torpedo and returned to Oran. At least one aircraft is claimed as having been shot down.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Burma

7. Allied aircraft today continued their attacks on river craft in central and southern Burma.

8. The U.S. escort carrier ALTAMAHA sailed from Karachi today for Melbourne.

China.

Hong Kong
bombed.

9. 10 U.S. Mitchells and 5 U.S. Kittyhawks attacked targets in Hong Kong harbour today. 3 oil storage tanks were left on fire and a large building was destroyed.

America & West Indies.

Sub.-
Commands.

A message today from C. in C. C.N.A. gives the limits of the Newfoundland, Halifax and Sydney (C.B.) Sub-Commands which will be established at 0001Z 6 Sept.

Bermuda,
working-up
base.

11. In view of the recent provision by Admty. of additional submarines to the R.C.N. for training purposes, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa consider that their working up bases at Halifax and Pictou can deal with R.C.N. new construction, and no more ships will be sent to Bermuda. N.S.H.Q. ask to be allowed to reconsider this decision if a severe winter hampers working up off Nova Scotia.

12. An unknown ship made a submarine distress report at 1335 (or 1407) G.M.T. today in 55 N. 52 W.

2.9.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

13. Shipping at Wewak was attacked this forenoon by 16 Mitchells escorted by 40 Lightnings. Direct hits and near misses were scored on 3 medium merchantmen which were reported burning and sinking a small coastal gunboat was strafed, and several harbour craft strafed and left burning.

U/B
sunk.

14. It is reported that the U.S. destroyer GILLETT sank a U-boat at 0900 today in 13.10 S. 165.28 E. (about 120 miles N.N.E. of Espiritu Santo Island).

2.9.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

S/M Sanctuaries. A.M.251810. Requested. (1) Elswick (Torpedo) Area referred to in A.M.251820 August may also be established as S/M sanctuary and 100% sweep carried out this Area being closer to Inskip than the present S/M area to be used for exercise which does not require S/M to crash dive. (2) S/M may use Barrow as alternative to Douglas between exercises when operating in above area.
(F.O.C.T. 021522 to Admty.)

In view of Cdr. D. W.A.'s 011441 request new Londonderry submarine sanctuary may now be promulgated. My 111929/5 and subsequent signals and correspondence refer.

(C. in C. W.A. 021657A to Admty.)

SOUTHDOWN. Your 012023. SOUTHDOWN is allocated for fitting out as an H.Q. ship. Ship is due to be taken in hand for annual refit at Chatham on 14th September. (2) If it is intended that conversion should be undertaken at Chatham request early details of special equipment to be fitted.
(C. in C. Nore, 021656A to Admty.)

Movements.

DANAE. Proceed to Clyde passing Hoxa Gate at 0800A/5th to arrive Clyde Boom 0700A/6th.
(2) Route Via Minches and War Channels.
(C. in C. H.F. 020141A to DANAE)

E.G.2. On conclusion of practices request you will sail Second Escort Group to Plymouth at best speed.
(2) My 311112 refers.
(C. in C. W.A. 021209A to Care. D. W.A.)

MALAYA. Clyde arrival MALAYA.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 021358A to A.C.O.S.)

T.G.21.17. Admiralty's 011713Z. Sail C.T.G.21.17 in BLOCK ISLAND with DUPONT, ELLIS, HERBERT. E.T.A. Argentinia 0800Z/8th. S.O.A. 15.7 knots.
(F.O.I.C. N.I. 021436A to Admty.)

North Atlantic Dispositions. (1) Disposition of operational units in North Atlantic: Area Iceland (C) BELFAST, NORFOLK, 1 Destroyer.
Area Scapa: ANSON, DUKE OF YORK, LONDON, TUSCALOOSA, RANGER, AUGUSTA, 10 Destroyers, 5 U.S. Destroyers.

Area Plymouth: PHOEBE, 1 Destroyer.

Biscay Area: SHEFFIELD.

Area Halifax: RENOWN, KENT, 4 Destroyers.

Passage to U.K: RESOLUTION, REVENGE, CAPETOWN.

(2) /....

War Diary.

2.9.1943.

Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

North Atlantic Dispositions. (Contd.) (2) Disposition of escort carriers Gibraltar Area: ATTACKER, BATTLER, HUNTER, STALKER. These four are armed with fighters. (D.O.D.(H), 021544A to C. in C. U.S.Fleet)

S/M Movements. Positions of S/M's at 0800/3 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 021607, 022349A, 030449A)

ONSLOW. Faeroes departure for Scapa ONSLOW. (N.O.I.C.Faeroes, 021619A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Operations.

Biscay A/S Patrol.

U/B Reports. By D/F at 2259Z/1 U-Boat probably inward-bound, estimated within 45 miles of 44 degs. 30' N. 04 degs. 00' W. (D.D.I.C. 020051A to S/M's)

Am over enemy submarine in position 46 degs. 48' N. 10 degs. 26' W.. S/M was on surface, course 270 degs, speed 14 knots.

(A/C 301 Sqdn. Duty S. 020523A to 19 Group)

Am over 4 enemy S/M's in 44 degs. 49' N. 10 degs. 40' W. S/M's were on surface when first sighted on course 300 degs. speed 12 knots.

(A/C 301 Sqdn. Duty T. 020532A to 19 Group)

Have attacked U-Boat with depth charges whilst on surface. Returning to base, fuel. Position 47.30 N. 10.00 W.

(A/C. 301 Sqdn. Duty S. 020540 to 19 Group)

My 0523. U-Boat was on surface 50.53 N. 10.34 W.

(A/C. 301 Sqdn. Duty S. 020550A to 19 Group)

U/B previously reported was on surface Pos. 46.53 N. 10.33 W.

(A/C 612 Sqdn. 020640A)

U/B situation in your area today estimated as follows.

Para. 1. Two inward within 40 miles of 45 degs. 10' N. 14 degs. 10' W. and 45 degs. 00' N. 17 degs. 30' W.

Para. 2. Three outward within 40 miles of 45 degs. 45' N. 11 degs 45' W.

Para. 3. Four westbound within 20 miles of 44 degs. 50' N. 11 degs. 00' W.

Para. 4. One within 20 miles of 46 degs. 50' N. 10 degs. 40' W. westbound.

Para. 5. Two homeward within 50 miles of 45 degs. 20' N. 10 degs. 45' W.

Para. 6. 2 Westbound within 40 miles of 45 degs. 10' N. 09 degs. 30' W.

Para. 7. 3 inward within 30 miles of 46 degs. 20' N. 07 degs. 00' W.

Para. 8. One outward within 20 miles of 46 degs. 30' N. 05 degs. 30' W.

(D.D.I.C. 021009A to E.G.5, SHEFFIELD, PELICAN, CRANE, SAFARI.)

By /...

2.9.1943.

Thursday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Biscay A/S Patrol.U/B
Reports
(Contd.)

By D/F at 0907Z U-Boat estimated within 45 miles of 45 degs. 00' N. 03 degs. 30' W.
(D.D.I.C. 021035A to S/M's)
Am over enemy S/M on surface. When 1st sighted was on course 160 degs. speed 10 knots.
(A/C. 228 Sqdn. Duty M. 021112A to 19 Group)
Am over enemy S/M in 47 degs. 22' N. 11 degs. 36' W.
(A/C. 228 Sqdn. Duty M. 021112A to 19 Group)

Movements.

Your 011856B. Request you will sail S.O. B.5 in HAVELOCK with VOLUNTEER and VIMY for position 043 degs. 01' N. 014 degs. 01' W. for A/S operation as soon as ready.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 021122A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar)

My 011710A. Sailed ROOKE (?CALGARY) and SNOWBERRY. S.O.A.12 knots.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 021155A to Admty.)
Disposition at 2000. (1) PELICAN, CRANE, NENE, EDMUNDSTON, WEAR, TWEED patrolling vicinity 044 degs. 30' N. 014 degs. W.
(2) SHEFFIELD patrol vicinity 047 degs. N. 016 degs. 30' W.
(3) CALGARY, SNOWBERRY 049 degs. 40' N. 006 degs. 35' W. westbound through 048 degs. 43' N. 012 degs. 15' W. thence Southbound 12 knots. (4) CURIE 044 degs. 01' N. 006 degs. 20' W. through 044 degs. N. 010 degs. W. thence Southbound, daily advance 90 miles. (5) ULTIMATUM 044 degs. 01' N. 009 degs. 10' W. through 044 degs. N. 010 degs. W. thence Southbound, daily advance 90 miles.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 021635A)

P.C.S. at 0700Z/3rd, 048 degs. 56', 010 degs. 57' 255 degs. 12.

(CALGARY, 021930Z to C. in C. Plymouth)

Tunnymen.

Over 3 Tunnymen position 48 degs. 23' N. 10 degs. 00' W. Instructions awaited.

(A/C 244 Sqdn. Duty Y. 021413 to H.Q.C.C.)

Have A.S.V. Contact probably U/B.

(A/C. 172/N. 022050)

Suspicious object previously reported is Fishing Boat.

(A/C, 311/N, 022058)

Force "W".

My 011556A. At dark today WEAR with CRANE and PELICAN are to part company with 5th Escort Group and are to form Force "W".

(2) Force "W" is to establish patrol on line between GE and GG 042 degs. 41' N. 013 degs. 06' W.
(3) NENE with TWEED and EDMUNDSTON are to maintain patrol on line between GE and GF. (4) My 011710A. CALGARY and SNOWBERRY are to R/V with 5th Escort Group as ordered by NENE.
(6) Codeword for Force "W". "Porter 11".

(C. in C. Plymouth, 021711A to E.G.5 (R) SHEFFIELD)

CRANE and PELICAN in company. P.C.S. at 2200A/2nd. 044 degs. 29' N. 013 degs. 49' W. 182 degs. 11. Intended P.C.S. at 0700A/3rd. 043 degs. 50' N. 013 degs. 55' W. 157 degs. 11.

(WEAR, 022102Z to C. in C. Plymouth)

Operation /...

War Diary.2.9.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.General.

Operation "Starkey". My 011420A and 011740A. Sailed 0720/2. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 020732A to V.A. Dover.) MACKAY, MONTROSE, WINDSOR, WHITSHED are to raise steam and proceed as necessary to arrive D buoy off Dungeness at 0530A tomorrow. Route via 54 A buoy and A Mess Q.Z.S. 117. They will act under orders of F.O.C. Dover probably until dark on 4th. (C. in C. Nore, 020926A to Capt. D.16)
Your 020732A/9. Arrived 1200. (C.O. HAIG, 021312 to N.O.I.C. Newhaven.)
My 021831A. on relief by MACKAY first division is to proceed by convoy route to Portsmouth. (F.O.C. Dover, 021832A to BLEASDALE)
"Moonshine". (V.A. Dover, 021834A, to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Operation S.F. Faeroes arrivals ONSLOW, ORIBI. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 020946A to C. in C. Rosyth.) Sailed 1100Z/2nd S.O. M/S.F. 15 LLANDUDNO, WORTHING, BEAUEMARIS, DUNBAR in company. (R.N.O. Seidisfiord, 021206A to A.C.I.C.)
All sorties are cancelled owing to bad weather on South Coast. (R.A.F. Iceland, 021400 to H.Q.C.C.)
My 031615. From 0001A till 1202A/3rd Moorings as stated. Para. 2 (A) 5 (B) 6. (C. in C. Rosyth, 022311A to H.F.)

S/M Patrols. Leave patrol at 0300A/4th through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 10 miles to arrive Lerwick 5th. (Capt. (S) 9, 020955A to UNTIRING)
SAFARI is leaving patrol 0700/5th passing through S.X. 47.01 06.01 thence by route Gold to R/V YY 180 degs. Lizard Head 10 miles at 0700/7th. (F.O.S. 021142A to S/M's.)
Request you sail STONEHENGE for Lerwick and anti U-Boat patrol north of Shetlands on 8th Sept. (F.O.S. 021534A to Capt. (S) 3.)
Positions of submarines at 0800/3rd and movements for following 24 hours. (A) TANTALUS on patrol between Bear Island and South Cape Spitzbergen. (B) UNTIRING vicinity 62 degs. 51' N. 02 degs. 29' E. (C) ULA 65 degs. 12' N. 03 degs. 30' E. probably on surface to 69 degs. 01' N. 08 degs. 52' E. (F) SAFARI vicinity 46 degs. 29' N. 05 degs. 17' W. (G) RUBIS in zone J 5 east 03 degs 30' W. (H) CURIE 44 degs. 01' N. 7 degs. 38' W. dived by day, course 270 degs. daily advance 90 miles. (J) ULTIMATUM 43 degs. 33' N. 10 degs. 02' W. diving by day to pass 43 degs. 01' N. 10 degs. 01' W. at 2200A/3rd, then diving by day to south, daily advance 90 miles. (F.O.S. 021607 to Admty.)

"Forfar Beer" "Forfar Beer" phase one completed successfully. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 021029A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

War Diary.2.9.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Coastal Forces shelled HYDRA and M.G.B. 614 damaged. Between 0750 and 0900/1st September enemy coastal batteries from Cap Gris Nez Area fired about 19 rounds at the 18th M.S.F. when in vicinity of S.W. Gate Buoy Folkestone. No casualties. HYDRA was hit and W/T and Gyro Compasses were put out of action. When returning and when just outside Dover she was straddled by 1 2-gun salvo. She sustained hull damage and was ordered to proceed to Sheerness for repairs. Between 1600 and 1700, 9th and 18th M.S.F.s were subjected to further shelling from the same batteries when in 50° 46' N. 01° 09' E. approx. About 15 rounds were fired. Smoke was used by our forces. Firing was inaccurate. No damage was caused. At 1745 M.G.Bs. 611, 614, 616 when in 51° 01' N. 01° 35' E. approx. were fired on by enemy battery at Sangalt. 9 rounds were fired at M.G.B. 614 which suffered slight damage and 1 slight casualty from a near miss. At 1822 3 rounds from Wissant were fired at M.G.Bs 611 and 616 when in same positions. Shells landed about 50 yards astern. No damage. At 0009/2nd September enemy batteries west of Dunkirk fired about 12 rounds on our M.T.Bs. and M.G.Bs. operating in Dunkirk west channel. Firing was fairly accurate. No damage or casualties. (V.A.Dover, 021234 to Admty.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (1) Orders for night 2/3 September.
(A) M.T.B 211, 247, 249 carry out offensive patrol of enemy coastal route within 8 miles either side of 235° YY 15. Objective torpedo targets only including T.L.C. Type 111. Proceed and return by passage four, passing 4 N. outward not before 2130 and returning within 20 miles of own coast by 0530. (B) M.L. 343, 344 Patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between F. and EA 5 Buoys. (C) Chasseur 14 immediate notice St. Helens. (D) M.G.B. 13, 8, 7, patrolling 50° 20' N. between 2° 00' W. and 2° 25' W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 021440A)

Tonight 8 M.L. returning Dover from Eastward passing U-Buoy at 0140/3rd, E.T.A. 0310/3rd.
3 motor gunboats at V buoy. 3 motor gunboats at number 1 buoy.
5 fleet minesweepers anchored off Deal. 4 Steam Gun Boats from Dover patrolling East Bullock Bank until 0500/3rd.
4 Destroyers patrolling between D buoy and number 10 buoy.
6 M.T.B. and 3 motor gunboats returning Dover from southward passing Bullock Bank at 0500/3rd via number 10 buoy.

(V.A. Dover, 021845A to MACKAY.)

A.M. 022151A. A/S Trawlers HELIER II and LEEDS UNITED proceeding at 030001A, from Milford Haven to patrol North Eastern Boundary Nympe Bank Minefield between 51° 20' N. 05° 20' W. to Hartland Point.

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 022325A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

"Forfar Item".

M.T.B. 252 leaves harbour at 1945/2.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 021756A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

/Operation...

2.9.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

Operation Plymouth 01486/622 of 27th August.
"Pound". "Preparatory OP".
(C. in C. Plymouth, 022001A to N.O.I.C. Falmouth)

Allied Air Activity.

KERTOSONO. Admiralty state KERTOSONO is likely to stay at sea night 2nd/3rd September return Nantes 3rd Sept. R/C arranged for 1st Light 3rd September has been postponed to mid-day 3rd September. If this is negative a further R/C will be flown in the evening. (Air Ministry, 021907Z to 8th Air Force.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Jan Mayen Jan Mayen reports that a twin-engined aircraft attacked old station with machine guns at 0645Z today. Fire was opened and aircraft returned eastward. (A.C.I.C. 021936A to Admty.)

Mining.

Operation Carry out the following minelaying operation on
off Dutch night 2nd/3rd September.
Coast. 1. Unit to operate in any convenient position on enemy convoy-route bounded by the following position.
2. 51 M.L. Flotilla and 21 M.T.B. Flotilla
Scheveningen - Noordwyk. Unit Y.
3. 22 M.T.B. Flotilla Zandyoort - Ymuiden. Unit W.
4. 4th M.T.B. Flotilla 052° 30' N. Egmond. Unit X.
5. All lays to be scattered. 6. Times of laying and routes to be followed are to be arranged by C.O. of base.
(C. in C. Nore, 020951A to BEEHIVE)

Operation Intend to carry out operation "Hostile 10"
"Hostile 10". tonight. Force is sailing from Plymouth to pass Gate at 1730A/2nd. Supporting force LIMBOURNE, GOATHLAND, and TANATSIDE are to proceed on completion exercises to reach position (D) 180° Start Point 4 miles by 2130.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 021145A to DEFIANCE.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Unknown Following is a repetition of my 020005.
M/V. Begins. Plot indicates unescorted Merchant Ship in following position:
025° Hartland Point 6 miles at 2357A bound South West, 018° Hartland Point 11 miles at 2357A bound South West. 250° Hartland Point 6 miles at 2358A bound North East. 241° Hartland Point 11 miles at 2358A bound North East.
(C. in C. Plymouth 020131A to PHOEBE.)

/Plot...

2.9.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Unknown
M/V
(Contd.)

Plot indicates your position 244°, Hartland
Point 9 at 0220.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 020228A to PHOEBE.)

KERTOSONO.

A.M. 312221A. Further report graded B.2 states
KERTOSONO is likely to stay at sea night 2nd/3rd
September returning to Nantes 3rd September.
(D.D.I.C. 021207A to Air Ministry.)

Fireworks.

Enemy pyrotechnics observed between 0330 and
0415/2nd, from land or ship vicinity 50° 35' N.
1° 30' E. five star cartridges 2 green 3 red.
(V.A. Dover, 022225A to Admty.)

2.9.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats.

U-Boats
reported.

Report received from aircraft of U-Boat in 053°
55' N. 001° 50' E. at 1300A, course west.
(C. in C.Nore 021948A to Ships.)
Indefinite D/F bearings at 2024Z indicate U-Boat
possibly on line joining:- 51° N. 05° W. and
50° N. 11° W.
(D.D.I.C. 022151A.)

Technical.

Rocket
Glider Bombs.

Captain Madden of Gunnery Division and Lt. Cdr.
Westhead of Signal Department are arriving North
Road 0732/4th.
2. It is requested that they may be given facilities
to see all C.Os. of Second Escort Group together
to advise on counter-measures for Rocket Glider Bombs.
3. It is also requested that they may interview officers of
GRENVILLE re the attack made on her.
(D.G.D. 021817A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Casualties & Defects.

ATLANTIS.

Following from Port Rush Radio. 346° Class 1
distress bearing, ATLANTIS.
(Port Patrick Radio 021429A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Intercepted 1432Z DE ATLANTIS. Addressed All
British Men of War. Your shells are coming dangerously near
this ship 1424. Hospital ship ATLANTIS. You have hit us with
2 shells and I hold you responsible. Cooper Master 1429.
(Port Patrick Radio 021532 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Brief report of circumstances under which ATLANTIS was hit
by shell from unknown British warship is to be signalled as
early as possible.
2. If Second Escort Group is involved in this incident their
sailing is not to be delayed on account of any enquiry. As
much information as possible should be obtained from them prior
to their departure for exercise and onward passage to Plymouth
tomorrow.
(C. in C.W.A. 022021A to F.O.I.C.N.I.)
ATLANTIS arrived. 022336A.
(S.T.O.Greenock 022340A.)

EL ISLEO.

Request escort and tugs be informed destination of
EL ISLEO amended to Scapa.
(D.T.D. 021757A to C. in C.W.A.)

CHANTICLEER.

Request CHANTICLEER may be docked on return to
harbour about 7th for following defects. Details.
2. Request further that boiler cleaning and
essential minor maintenance repairs may be carried
out concurrently.
(Capt. D.Greenock 021830A to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.)

2.9.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

- F.N.16M. F.N.16M sailed 0657A/2nd. 43 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Thames 021053A.)
- C.W.206. As ships for C.W.206 in F.S.9 are required to attend convoy conference at Southend, C.W.206 is postponed 24 hours.
2. Amend time table in my 261757A para. 4 to read C.W.206 x 1500A/4th and add 24 hours to all other times.
(C. in C.Nore 021109A.)
- Express and Super-Fast Convoys. High-speed convoys will in future be known by the following names:-
8½ knots Express of (E). 9 knots or over Super-fast of (S.F.) The speed of the super-fast convoys will always be notified before sailing and a special time table made out.
(C. in C.Rosyth 021559A.)
- F.D.12. F.D.12 sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 021951A.)
- O.S.54/
K.M.S.25. My F.C. and S. 047° 01' N. 016° 41' W. 207° 7½ kts.
(ROCHESTER 022001A to C. in C.W.A.)
My 291121. Sailed SCARBOROUGH.
(Cdre. D.W.A. 022042A.)
- K.M.S.26. In para. 1 of my 312326 August delete PANDORIAN, STANHOPE and insert FORT CUMBERLAND from Mersey.
(D.O.D.H. 022016A.)
- Troopship movements. Following is summary No. 3 of major troopship movements in and out of Clyde and Liverpool during next two weeks to 19/9. Details.
(D.S.T. 022027A.)

45

2.9.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

SCOTTISH AMERICAN. Tanker SCOTTISH AMERICAN arrived with some tanks ballasted. Water is leaking from these tanks into fuel oil through defective suction line and consider it very desirable that ship should discharge ballast and load cargo of oil to complete to 9,000 tons.

2. Present oil stocks are insufficient to do this without embarrassment of normal fuelling operations and early allocation of a further tanker is therefore requested.

(Commodore Supt. Gibraltar, 020025 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. etc). See also 042054A.

ESKIMO,
CAPETOWN.

Your 011946. ESKIMO should be sailed in company with CAPETOWN reduction in speed being accepted.

2. Destination of CAPETOWN is Plymouth and ESKIMO Humber.

3. ESKIMO should part company as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth and proceed North about, calling at Milford Haven for fuel.

(D.O.D. (H), 020110A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

CAPETOWN, ESKIMO sailing 1200B September 2nd. (Route).

S. of A. 16 knots.

3. Codeword "Solvent".

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 021255B to C. in C. Plymouth, (R) Admty. etc).

W.S.33,
WITCH.

My 011652 sailed less WITCH.

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 020812B to C.M.S.F.F. (R) Admty. etc).

DIANELLA,
L.S.T.239.

My P.C. and S. 035° 36' and ½ North 006° 55' W. 068° 9½ knots. E.T.A. Gibraltar 1730B. L.S.T. 239 still in hand steering. Steering engine out of action, no spares carried.

(DIANELLA, 020901B to F.O.C. Gib. (R) Escorts of Convoy U.G.S.15, SALVONIA).

MAGDALA

MAGDALA sailed to join C.G.61.

(C.M.S.F.F., 020955B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) C. in C. Med. Admty).

C.G.61,
P.L.M.21.

C.G.61. Amend my 011800 P.L.M. 21 did not sail.

(C.M.S.F.F., 021003B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) C. in C. Med. Admty).

"Simony"
attack by
A/C.

"Simony" being attacked by enemy A/C in QZTW 0052 (indecypherable) course 180° speed 6 knots.

(A/C P. of No. 48 Squadron No T.O.O./2 to Gibraltar W/T)

/Biscay...

War Diary.2.9.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

Biscay A/S patrol. C. in C. Plymouth, 021122A see Home Commands.

DIANELLA, SALVONIA. If not in company with DIANELLA and L.S.T. 239 return to Gibraltar.
(SALVONIA, 021149B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).
Return Gibraltar forthwith. Acknowledge forthwith.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 022215B to SALVONIA).

German A/C attack. 3 German A/C passed Cape Roca flying south 0830A today Thursday A.O.
(N.A. Lisbon, 021210A to S.O.(I) Gibraltar, (R) Admty).
My 021210. One German aircraft shot down in action against convoy of two ships 0950A today S.W. of Sagres. Neither ship damaged A.O.
(N.A. Lisbon, 021849A to S.O.(I) Gib. (R) Admty).

SIL, PAX CHRISTI. 180 Departure 1st PAX CHRISTI, SIL. Bilbao 6th. (Las Palmas, 021215 to Admty BB).

Convoy W.S.33. E.T.A. outer channel buoy 2200A. WESTON, BULLDOG, TOTLAND, BANN, HYDRANGER in company. Request instructions regarding harbour and berthing.
(NESS, 021220 to C.M.S.F.F., (R) F.O.I.C. Gib).

LE CURIE (P.67). After crossing 043° N., at 0600/5th proceed through following positions at time stated positions north and west.
U. 038° 50' 010° 01' at 0400/8th.
V. 036° 51' 009° 13' at 1445/9th.
W. 036° 37' 007° 24' at 0645/10th. T. 035° 53' 006° 15' at 1435/10
X. 035° 49' 006° 06' 30" at 1525/10th thence by Q.B.A.87 to Gibraltar.
S. of A. diving by day 88 miles per day. After 2230/9th proceeding on the surface at your discretion at 9 knots.
2. Submerged bombing restrictions have been arranged until 1445 9th and thereafter total bombing restricted 10 miles either side your route from 35 miles ahead to 35 miles astern your estimated position. Report if you are unable to remain within your bombing restriction.
3. All times zone minus 2. Do not cross meridian of 007° W. before daylight September 10th.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 021231B to P.67 (LE CURIE) (R) Capt. (S) 3, F.O.(S) C. in C. Plymouth (P.34 ULTIMATUM), Capt. (S) 8, C. in C. Med).

SCOTTISH attacked by F.W. Attacked by 3 F.W.s. 200 at 1045. 1 shot down and other 2 made off.
(SCOTTISH, 021245B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

War Diary.2.9.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

- U.G.S.15 Casa. section U.G.S.15 arrived.
(C.M.S.F.F., 021305B 021845B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar
(R) Admty. etc).
U.G.S.15 disembarked as in my 301632 (N.T. in W.D)
plus WILLIAM DAVIE, General, Bizerta, for
Palermo, less OCEAN FAITH. Cdre. Brodie R.N.R. in JAMES G.
BIRNEY.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 021400B to N.O.I.C. North African Ports,
(R) Admty. etc).
U.G.S.15 arrivals CHISWICK at 1430.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 021903B to Connav (R) C. in C. Med.
Admty).
- O.T. 8 O.T. 8 Arrival ESSO PHILADELPHIA.
ESSO (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 021445B to Connav (R)
PHILADELPHIA. C. in C. Med. Admty).
- French My 011750. Americans now report more suitable
Refugees. target date would be 21st or 22nd. This better
from Portuguese point of view as 19th is Sunday.
Request your views on availability of shipping.
(B.N.A. Lisbon, 021736A to ?EUROPA (R) Admty.etc).
- HAVELOCK, Intend to sail HAVELOCK, VOLUNTEER, VIMY at
VOLUNTEER, 2100B Sept. 2nd.
VIMY, 2. Route (A) 35.47 N., 06.35 W. (B) 36.15 N.,
(Biscay A/S 09.25 W. (C) 43.01 N. 14.01 W. thence as ordered
Patrols). by C. in C. Plymouth. S. of A. 15 knots.
3. Codeword until crossing 40° N. "Relax".
C. in C. Plymouth is requested to allocate
codeword North of 40° N.
4. Admty. pass to H.Q.C.C.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 021813 to C. in C. Plymouth,
(R) Admty. etc).
- U.G. Convoys. A.M. 271831 para. 2. U.G. convoys will normally
be accompanied by a C.V.E. with a roving
commission against U/Bs. It is unlikely that more
precise information regarding her movements
will be available in advance.
(D.O.D. (F), 021818A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) C. in C. Med).
- P.614 F.O.C.W.Af's 312114Z para. 6. Request long. on
parallel of 43° N. for onward route of P.614.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 021901B to F.O.(S) (R)
Admty. etc).
- A/C Convoy One A/C bearing 355° height unknown from centre
"Cockatoo". of convoy "Cockatoo" position 35.55 N. 00.53 W.
course 263° speed 8.25 knots.
(COLTSFOOT via Burhham, 022100 to Gibraltar W/T).

War Diary.

2.9.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

- STIRLING CASTLE. You should arrive Durban by 0400 G.M.T. Sunday 5th Sept. in order to proceed direct to dry dock. Important that you should follow your present route closely. Report immediately to C. in C. S.A. whether you are able to comply and your E.T.A. at Durban.
(C. in C.S.A.020829Z to STIRLING CASTLE (R) Admty.)
- NIEUW AMSTERDAM SHROPSHIRE. NIEUW AMSTERDAM expected time of sailing Durban 10th Sept. SHROPSHIRE E.T.A. Durban 7th Sept. Proposal re your 311218 (not trace in W.R.) will be put into effect.
(C. in C.S.A. 021023B to C. in C.E.F.(R) A.C.N.B.)
- SWALE Arrival Pointe Noire 0700Z/2nd SWALE. Departure 1000Z/2nd routed through position Equator 005 degs. West E.T.A. Freetown 0700Z/7th. S. of A. 17 knots.
(B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire 021115A to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) Admty. N.O.i/c Lagos).
- RANGITATA Capetown 1000Z/3rd (G.S. Z.N.) RANGITATA River Plate via Tristan da Cunha, Tristan da Cunha 10 September River Plate 7 days after Tristan da Cunha, knots (A) 13 (B) 14. (Route.).
(Capetown 021300Z to Admty. B.B.,Connav, South).
Please advise expected arrival River Plate of RANGITATA and if carrying troops or passengers indicate number. Information urgently required by M. of W.T.R. for allocation meat loading programme.
(B.R.L.O. Buenos Aires 022315Z to Admty. for D. of S.T.).
- FOLKESTONE S.L.136 FOLKESTONE requires A and B row of tubes in one boiler to be renewed forthwith owing to pressure of boiler work this cannot be undertaken here without long delay. Intend to sail FOLKESTONE on one boiler to U.K. as additional escort to S.L.136. Request this defect may be taken in hand. Ship has no other serious defects. Requested she may not be delayed beyond time required for retubing and may then return here, where she is urgently required.
(F.O.C.W.A. 021338Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A.).
- ~~FOLKESTONE~~ ↑ My 011755. FOLKESTONE will form additional escort for S.L.136 to U.K.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 021339Z to F.O.i/c Gibraltar, Commorseafon, C. in C.W.A. (R) Admty. C. in C. Med. etc.).
- S.L.136 Intend to sail S.L.136 at 0700Z/3rd Sept, escorted by EXE, BRIDGEWATER, MILFORD, MOYOLA, PETUNIA, ARMERIA, DOUGLAS, SNOWDROP, FOLKESTONE and DUNCTON. CLARKIA joins escort from Dakar to U.K.

/ (2) Convoy...

War Diary.

2.9.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

- S.L.136 (Contd.).
- (2) Convoy consists of two ships for Bathurst 23 for Casablanca 4 for Gibraltar, and 60 for U.K. inclusive of 8 ships joining from Dakar. Commodore C.O. in S.S. SARPEDON, Vice Commodore, Master RANGITIKI.
- (3) Route as in N.C.S.O. Freetown 282316 August and Admty. 271450 August. Estimated speed made good 7 knots.
- (4) DOUGLAS and SNOWDROP will be detached a.m. 6th escorting NEW NORTHLAND and NEWCHWANG to Bathurst. DOUGLAS will rejoin S.L. 136 after fuelling, SNOWDROP remain at Bathurst.
- (5) ARMERIA will be detached to proceed to Dakar for transfer of one officer with BIRDLIP and rejoin S.L.136 after fuelling at Dakar.
- (6) Comar Dakar is requested to sail CLARKIA with Dakar section to join convoy in position L.P. at 1200Z/6th to inform necessary authorities if CORBRAE has sufficient endurance to reach U.K.
- (7) DOUGLAS will be detached as necessary to join escorts W.S.33.
- (8) DUNCTON will be detached as necessary to join escorts O.S.54.
- (9) Escorts shift to Med. W/T organisation at 1200Z/10th.
- (10) Commorseafron is requested to arrange for detachment H.M. Casablanca of NIVOSE, EL BIAR and possibly CORBRAE.
- (11) F.O.i/c Gibraltar is requested to arrange for detachment of NAIRNBANK, ELIZABETH-VILLE, FORT LOUISBERG and HARALD to Gibraltar and R.V. for S.L.136 and M.K.S.21.
- (12) Comar Dakar pass to CLARKIA and CORBRAE.
(F.O.C.W.A. 021403Z to F.O.C. Gibraltar, Comar Dakar, Commorseafron, (R) N.O.i/c Bathurst, Admty. C. in C. Med., C. in C.W.A., Capt.(D) Greenock, CLARKIA, CORBRAE, S.O.40th Escort Group, EXE, BRIDGEWATER).

Convoys Sailing telegram (12 ships).
D.N.59 & (2) 1300Z/2nd September.
D.L.M.8. (4) 7 knots.
(5) (A) 028 degs. 34' S. 032 degs. 30' E.
(B) 026 degs. 038 degs.
L.M. ships will be detached at (A) to proceed coastal escorted to destination remainder disperse at (B) thence as in my Series No. 567 to 573, 575, 577.

(6) GENISTA, FREESIA, LE TIGRE, INDIAN STAR, ARCTIC EXPLORER, HERTFORDSHIRE, NORTHERN DUKE.

(15) H.T.D.1 to 9, L.M. Section H.T.D. 7, "Garter" 207.
(N.C.S.O. Durban 021413Z to Admty. etc.).

Convoy D.N.59. Amended dispersal instructions. From position B convoy is to continue to new dispersal position C. 026 degs. South 045 degs. East. Thence all ships except CITY OF EASTBOURNE and HALVADAN are to proceed direct to nearest positions on individual route, east of 045 degs. east.

(2) The two ships for East Africa mentioned in para. (1) are to be detached in 026 degs. S. 043 degs. E. and instructed to proceed direct positions F and G respectively on individual routes.

Acknowledge.

(C. in C. S.A., 021720B to GENISTA, (R) N.O.I.C. Durban, C. in C. E.F., Admty.)

/Interception ...

2.9.1943.

Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Interception of Spanish MONTE ALBERTIA. My 301711 para. 4, not to F.C. MONTCALM. CARNARVON CASTLE did not sail owing to defect. (F.O.C.W.A., 021825Z to Admty., (R) Comar Dakar, etc.)

EMPIRE BOMBARDIER, BRITISH ENGINEER, ST. WISTAN. (1) Intend to sail EMPIRE BOMBARDIER and BRITISH ENGINEER escorted by ST. WISTAN and M.L.209 and 188 at 0800Z/3rd speed 10 knots, E.T.A. Freetown 1000Z/5th. (2) (Route). (N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 021843Z to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) Comar Dakar, Admty.)

Dakar Group No.8. Sailing telegram. 2. 1800/2nd September. 3. Knots 6. 4. F.F.S. COMMANDANT DETROYAT, ZWARTE ZEE and ST. BASILE for Dakar 6th Sept. 5. P 10.00 N. 16.00 W. Q 11.00 N. 17.18 W. R 14.00 N. 17.38 W. S 14.43 N. 17.38 W. thence by Northern Approach Channel. 11. L.W.D. codeword "Floore". (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 022032Z to Admty.)

Troop Transports, Escorts. F.O.C.W.Af's. 281755Z/August. As date of 29th Oct. quoted by F.O.C.W.Af. would involve an unacceptable delay of about 9 days to sailing of K.M.F.25 from U.K. we are most anxious to advance that date as far as possible.

(2) Request whether the 2 ships sent to West Africa from North Africa ex K.M.F.24 could be turned round at Freetown.

(3) Suggested that the 4,800 troops could be ferried from Lagos to Freetown in 2 flights of ELIZABETHVILLE, THYSVILLE, and NEW NORTHLAND. First flight would have to be accommodated ashore at Freetown but second could be transhipped direct to the 2 ships ex K.M.F.24.

(4) Appreciated this will cause inconvenience but delay to K.M.F. 25 would have most serious repercussions. (D. of S.T. 022041A to D.S.T.O. W.A.).

War Diary.2.9.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- ARETHUSE. Your 012230 acknowledged. Return to Algiers by route given in my 261(7939B) (alternative 261141B) advancing all times by 24 hours and arrive R/V at 0700/4th.
(S.S. 020420B to ARETHUSE (R) 8th S/M.F. CASABLANCA, N.O.I.C. Algiers, C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C. Gib.)
- M.E. Air Report. A. 654 Daily Opsum 127. August 31st/1st Sept. 2 enemy aircraft operated over Cyprus, explosion reported out to sea off Paphos, 1 Beaufighter up, no interception.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 020901Z.)
- K.M.S.24. Pass to Cdre. and Escort (list). 10 ships all for Alexandria.
(V.A. Malta 020958B, 021547B to DELHI, Ships Escorting K.M.S.24, (R) Admty. F.O.I.C.Gib. etc.)
- U.G.S.15. Your 311722B August. (Part 2 of 311728. Request destination all L.S.T's and H.L.PRATT.
2. Request disposal of ?passengers (corrupt group) on board.
(STARWORT 021010B to C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C.Oran.)
U.G.S.15, M.S.C.I.22. Onward route. (details).
(4) Oran 93 1400 Sept. 3rd, Algiers 120, 1500 Sept. 4th. Bougie 036° 58' 005° 03' 0300 Sept.5th, Philippeville 124 1500 Sept.5th, Bone 037° 11' 007° 44' 1930 Sept. 5th, Bizerta 119 0900 Sept. 6th, Tunis 123 1200Sept. 6th, Malta 212 1500 Sept. 7th.
(6) "Taunton" normal. (7) (?Baker) (8) (a) STARWORT (S.O. screen) DIANELLA, POPPY, SAXIFRAGE. (b) FILLA to Algiers. (c) JONQUIL, BERGAMOT to Malta.
(C. in C. Med. 021037B to STARWORT, S.E.C., U.G.S. 15 (R) Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Connav, etc.) see also C. in C. Levant 051835C.
- UNSPARING. Leave patrol to pass 041° 10' 018° 00' at 2000/5
040° 15' 019° 08' at 1200/6 039° 41' 019° 03'
at 2300/6 037° 10' 017° 30' at 2000/7 035° 45'
016° 38' at 1200/8 and R/V minesweepers at
0800/9, 5 miles E. position B. of Q.B.B.147,
surface passage on 7th. 2. M.J.A.O.24, request bombing restrictions for above passage.
(Capt. (S) 10 021101B to UNSPARING (R) 10th S.F., C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 10, Capt. (S) 1, Air H.Q. Malta.)
- STAFFORDSHIRE. P.S.T.O. India's 200959 para. 14. Request early confirmation STAFFORDSHIRE proceeds U.K. in M.K.F.
(P.S.T.O. M.E. 021102C to Admty. for D. of S.T.)

/WELCOME...

2.9.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

WELCOME,
SEAWOLF,
operation.

British Motor Fishing Craft WELCOME and SEAWOLF sailing Bone a.m. 3rd Sept. for special operation off Cape Circeo and N.W. Coast of Sardinia and may be encountered. They are not to be molested.

(Capt. (S) 8th 021214B to 8th S/M.F. French S/M CASABIANCA.)

My 021214. S. of A. these vessels 6 knots. WELCOME's operation about night 5th/6th. SEAWOLF's operation about night 4th/5th.

(Capt. (S) 9th 021612B to 8th S/M.F. CASABIANCA.)

Enemy
Units.

Position of 2 enemy destroyers and 2 medium vessels 43.07 N. 9.24 E. (position based on a fix from terrestrial object at 1300) course 270° speed 8 knots.

(A/C HUX/R 021307B.)

My 1327. (1307 intended) enemy previously reported are 2 destroyers one medium vessel of 8,000 tons and one medium vessel of 6,000 tons in position 43.10 N. 9.28 E. RJZD 1028 (based on fix on terrestrial object within half hour of 1400) course 070° speed 8 knots.

(A/C VAY/R 021430B.)

(F5) (Signification unknown.) P.C. and S. of 2 medium vessels, 2 destroyers, 1 A/C 43.40 N. 9.58 E. (position based on terrestrial or astronomical fix within half hour of 1600) 070° 12 knots.

(A/C VAY/H 021615B.)

My 1615B, enemy reported are one merchant vessel 8,000 tons, one merchant vessel 7,000 tons, two destroyers, one A/C.

(A/C VAY/M. 021625B.)

Two small vessels of 135 tons 42.41 N. 10.07 E.

(A/C BSS/Z 021750B.)

Nr. P.C. and S. of enemy (small merchant vessel) 2 E.Boats 040° 8 knots 43.57 N. 9.44 E.

(A/C VAK/Q 022315B.)

T.O.8.

Request Ocean route for Convoy sailing Algiers about 7th Sept.

(C. in C. Med. 021327B to Admty.)

N.A.A.F.
Report.

N.A.A.F. Opsum 193. N.A.S.A.F. 31st August/1st September, 46 Wellingtons Marshalling Yards Salerno. 77½ tons of bombs from 4,000 to 10,000 feet. Bursts target area and across gas works causing large explosion. 1st Sept. 48 U.S.

Warhawks dropped 8 x 500 Iglosia Zinc Works Sardinia. 5 Direct hits. Factory North Gonnese strafed. N.A.T.A.F. 30th August. Add, 60 U.S. Mustangs 36 with bombs attacked Railway yards Sapri, Catanzaro and Lamezia. Result not observed Sapri. Aircraft failed to locate Catanzaro, bombed Pellart, large explosion observed. Fires and explosion Lamezia. 31st August. 48 U.S. Mitchells Escort 32, Kittyhawks Marshalling Yards, Cosenza, large fire, 4 explosions. 24 U.S. Mitchells, 24 Baltimores escort 32 U.S. Warhawks Marshalling Yards Catanzaro. Bombs across North end of town at Junction Road and Railway. Direct hits Railway. 48 U.S. Boston escort (?32 or 22)

/Kittyhawks...

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Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

N.A.A.F. Kittyhawks Marshalling Yards, Cosenza. Bombed
Report. through cloud gaps. Results unobserved.
(Contd.) 36 U.S. Mustangs (?24 or 34) with bombs
Marshalling Yards Sapri and 12 x 500 in town and
seaplane (?base).
(H.Q. N.A.A.F. 021359B.)

Part 2. 36 U.S. Mustangs, 12 with bombs failed to locate
Sapri, dropped 33 x 500 harbour and railway yards Cetraro.
Results unobserved. 36 Spitfires swept Toe of Italy. 42
Spitfires escorted naval units. 1 September.
(H.Q. N.A.A.F. 021405B.)

Tankers. N.O.I.C. Malta 011050. Tanker BRAZIL is being
sailed to Palermo Vice PRESIDENT DE VOGUE.
2. N.O.I.C. Malta 311054 refers. After discharge
request BRAZIL be sailed to Bizerta to be held
as harbour attendant. N.O.I.C. Malta is
requested to sail PRESIDENT DE VOGUE to Middle East. My 301237
refers.
(C. in C. Med. 021410B to N.O.I.C. Tunisia or C.C.O. Bizerta,
Comnob, Palermo (R) M.W.T.R. Med., and Middle East. F.O.S.Y. etc.)

TRESPASSER, (1) P.312 (TRESPASSER) patrol at your discretion
TACTICIAN. either off Rhodes or between Symi and Piscopi.
(2) P.314 (TACTICIAN) is to make situation report
when clear of area if considered necessary.
(Capt. S.I. 021454C to P.314 (TACTICIAN) P.312
(TRESPASSER) (R) 1st (S) F.)

Support Support ship will be in Cape (?Pellaro) area
Ship all day. Your 021302 (N.T. in W.D.) refers.
(?Italian (C.S.15 021544B to N.L.O. 8th Army (R) N.L.O.
landing.) Group 211 F.O.Sy.)

Med. A.265, signed Eisenhower. Cositintrep No.54.
Air Part 3. Air. N.W.A. Air Forces. Night 31st
Report. August/1st September 46 or 56 Wellingtons one of
which is missing dropped 77 tons of bombs upon
marshalling yards at Salerno. 11 Bostons dropped
24 x 500 B.P. bombs in Bivouac area S.E. of
Reggio Di Calabria 16 x 500 in Pellaro-Casafoia-Callina area.
Day 1st Sept. 40 P.40's dropped 8 x 500 lb. on Iglesias Zinc
Works in Sardinia, 5 direct hits being claimed on Factory
buildings. Another factory near Connesa was strafed. 174 A/C
of Tactical Air Force in 13 missions attacked communication
targets at Sinopoli (?Salino) La Cambatie, Bova Marina (?Olivetto)
and a Radar station at Cap (?Spartivento). 3. Air Intelligence.
During 174 sorties of Tactical aircraft, only four enemy A/C
were seen.
(Air C. in C. Med. No. T.O.O/2).

War Diary.

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

SIBYL, information. Your escort will be STAFFA: (2) CASABIANCA sailed Algiers 1900/2nd 034° 12 knots. (3) Eastbound Convoy passes about 5 miles N. of Algiers at 0700/3rd, Algiers sections joining and detaching. (Capt. S.8. 021610B to P.217, (SIBYL).

Capt. (F), Com. (F). Appointment of Captain (F) has lapsed. As regards trawlers and motor minesweepers his duties will continue to be carried out for the present by Commander M/S Algeria, (C. in C. Med. 021706B to S. & A. (R) Admty.) see also 041800B.

CURIE. Your 271808. Yes. Intend that CURIE should do a working up patrol from Algiers before proceeding to join 10th S.F. (C. in C. Med. 021807 to Admty. (R) V.A. Malta, S.8., S.10., F.O.I.C. Gib., F.O.S.)

P. 714 (ex BRONZO.) Request reply to my 141120 August, concerning disposal of P.714. (C. in C. Med. 021919B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

DERBYSHIRE. SS. DERBYSHIRE is to be sailed to Bombay and should take her Landing Craft, crews being sent with any L.C.'s (M) carried but maintenance personnel only for L.C.A. On arrival Bombay Landing Craft should be disembarked and held for operations; ships will then be used by D. of S.T. for trooping until required. 2. Agreed with D. of S.T. who will be giving further instructions to P.S.T.O. M.E. (Director of Plans 022014A to C. in C. Levant (R) C. in C. Med. P.S.T.O. M.E. P.S.T.O. Med.)

Mobile Crane Equipment. Request (a) That Admty. will confirm with War Office that necessary shipping space will be reserved in British shipping sailing from U.S. for this theatre. (b) That B.A.D. will confirm that following mobile crane equipment can be made available (1st). (C. in C. Med. 022020B (see also 051859B) to Admty. B.A.D.)

Malta Air Report. A.I.1041. Opsum No.115. (No incidents). (R.A.F. Malta 022040B.)

SICKLE, enemy units. Three small craft in 038° 29' 008° 57' at 2110B course 180°. (P.224 (SICKLE) 022121B.)

/OAKLEY...

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Thursday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

OAKLEY.

On arrival off Bizerta OAKLEY is to continue to Oran. Route Warsash Channel 40, 87, 12, S. of A. 18 knots. E.T.A. 1000/5th Sept. Priority low, code word "Rumford".
(C. in C. Med. 022305B to OAKLEY.)

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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

CARTHAGE.

Following is intended programme CARTHAGE your 300650 refers.

Arrives.	Place.	Leaves.
Blank	Colombo	0500/3 Sept.
0800/9 Sept.	Aden	1400/10 Sept.
04(40?)/13 Sept.	Suez	Blank.

All times Z.

(F.O.Ceylon 020514Z to C. in C.E.F. (R) C. in C. Levant, N.O.I.C. Aden. Admty.etc.)

Request destination in U.K. may be signalled to CARTHAGE direct. My 020514 refers.

(F.O.Ceylon 020602Z to Admty.)

EMPIRE

STANLEY
(torp. 17
August.)

Following from THYME. (Begins):

Addressed Com. i/c Durban from THYME. Chief Officer reports EMPIRE STANLEY torpedoed at 1900B August 17th in 27° 40' S. 50° 04' E. 2 rafts with 21 men still missing. T.O.O. 301800B (Ends.)
(C. in C.E.F. 020616Z to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Colombo)

Air Report.

Daily Opsum No. 536. 14th U.S.A.A.F. 31 August. 3 U.S.Kittyhawks (P.40) attacked shipping Stone Cutters Island (Hongkong). 1 x 445 ft. boat left sinking small launch damaged. 4 U.S. Lightnings

(P.38) attacked railway yards Yoyang (Yochow). Hits on yards station destroyed.

(A.H.Q.India 020620Z.)

ALTAMAHA.

Departure U.S.Ship ALTAMAHA for Melbourne.
(N.O.I.C. Karachi 020650Z to Admty.)

Convoy M.K.5.

Sailing telegram (3 ships). 2. 0700/2nd Sept. 3. 0800/Sept. 4. 10½ knots. 5. (Route). 6. SONDR. 13. KIRRIEMOOR. 15. B.V.D.3. Part 2 is my 020739Z.

(N.C.S.O. Diego Suarez 020731Z 020739Z to Admty. F.O.Ceylon.)

L.M.D. 31.

Group sailing L.M.D. No. 31, Lourenco Marques.

3 ships escorted by NORTHERN DUKE, ARCTIC EXPLORER, HERTFORDSHIRE. Expected sailing R/V 130° Cape Inhaca 6 miles 0430Z/4th. S.O.A. 7½ knots. (Names) Expected to arrive Durban 5th September.

(Lourenco Marques 020737Z 021401Z to Admty.)

South East
Asia Command,
H.Q.

Following from Chiefs of Staff C.O.S. (India) 190. 1. We have discussed the set up of Supreme Allied Headquarters, South East Asia, in New Delhi, with the new Supreme Allied Commander His provisional views, with which we are in general agreement, are as follows:

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

South East Asia Command H.Q. (Contd.)

2. Broadly speaking, he proposes:

A. To form a relatively small inter-Service inter-Allied personal staff which, with the assistance of Commanders-in-Chief and their Staffs will formulate higher policy and outline plans.

B. That detailed planning should be the responsibility of the Naval, Military and Air Commanders-in-Chief, under the general co-ordination of the Supreme Commander.

C. To rely for intelligence, in the first instance, while his Headquarters is in Delhi, on the existing intelligence organisation in G.H.Q. India, which may have to be expanded for this purpose. Subsequently he visualises drawing on this organisation to create the intelligence staff he will require when he moves on.

3. His present idea is that his personal staff should consist of: A British Lieutenant General as Chief of Staff. An American Major General and an Air Marshal as Deputy Chiefs of Staff. An American Rear Admiral, a Brigadier General, U.S. Army Air Corps, a British Major General, and possibly also an Air Vice Marshal as Assistant Chiefs of Staff. A Principal Administrative Officer's Organisation in which all three Services will be represented. The head of this organisation will be either American or British with a deputy of the other nationality. A Captain, R.N. as Signal Officer in Chief. A British Major General as Assistant Chief of Staff (Intelligence) Officers representing the Foreign Office, Treasury, Civil Affairs, Political Warfare, S.O.E. etc. Representatives of C. in C. India, if Gen. Auchinleck so desires. A Liaison Officer from Gen. MacArthur's staff, preferably an Australian Officer. In addition there will be Chinese and Dutch representatives.

4. Ref. para. 2, ordinarily the supreme commander wishes the Naval, Military and Air Cs. in C. and their staffs to be located near S.E.A.C. Headquarters and thus be available for consultation as required. Until this can be achieved and to cover any subsequent period during which Cs. in C. may have to be absent, however, it will be necessary for them to establish at S.E.A.C. Headquarters responsible officers and staffs who can speak and act for them.

5. Short title for Supreme Allied Commander's Headquarters of South East Asia Command will be SE.A.C.

6. Admiral Mountbatten will arrive in New Delhi at the end of September. (Air Min. 021430Z to C. in C. India, C. in C.E.F. (by Admty.) A.O.C. in C. India. C. in C. Eastern Army.) W.R.Note: Passed to C. in C. Eastern Fleet under T.O.O. 021658A Sept

CARTHAGE. Following is intended programme for CARTHAGE your 300650 refers. Arriving, place, leaving, blank Colombo 0500/3rd Sept. 0800/9th Sept. Aden 1400/10th Sept. 0400/13th Sept. Suez, Blank. All times Z. (F.O.Ceylon 021623 to C. in C.E.F.)

U.S. Dispositions. A.M. 251347 August. Changes in disposition of U.S. Pacific Fleet. TRENTON at Antofagasta. CONCORD at Balboa. ALTAMAHA at Karachi. NASSAU at San Diego. PRINCETON and BELLEAU WOOD at Baker Island. INDIANAPOLIS, RICHMOND, DETROIT, RALEIGH, TENNESSEE at San Francisco. NEW MEXICO, MISSISSIPPI, IDAHO, SANGAMON, BARNES,

/BIRMINGHAM...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U.S. Dis-
positions.
(Contd.)

BIRMINGHAM, NEW ORLEANS, WICHITA, SOUTH DAKOTA,
and ALABAMA at sea. VICTORIOUS to Atlantic.
(D.O.D.(F) 021657A to C. in C.E.F.)

U-Boat
Campaign,
Mauritius,
Shipping
Leakage,
Security.

No. 866. My telegram No. 829, para. 2. (No T.O.O.
21st August.) For your information incident
reported by the East African Command was distorted.
Submarine Commander did not make statement
attributed to him.
2. My telegram No. 800. Arrangements are being
made to lay the boom defences at Fort Louis.
(Mauritius (Sir D.Mackenzie Kennedy.) No T.O.O.
to S. of S.Colonies.)

No. 685. Security Service consider that useful advice could be
given only by expert visiting the Colony. Proposals.
2. Since the outbreak of war, Defence Security Officers have been
appointed to a number of Colonies. They are members of the
Security Service paid by M.I.5 whose duty is to act as principal
security advisers to Governors to whom they are accredited.
They have no executive functions and their appointment in no
sense curtails the full responsibility of Governors for defence
security measures in their territories.
3. Grateful to learn whether you would wish to receive visit
from person named. Views of Admiralty and War Office on
proposal are being sought here.
(S. of S. Colonies T.O.D. 022045 to Mauritius (Sir D.Mackenzie
Kennedy.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

ARCHER, defect. Your 252112 para.2. (Present employment of auxiliary A/C Carriers).
1. Request brief particulars of serious defect in ARCHER.
2. Allied A/S Board associate themselves with this request.
(B.A.D., 020025Z to Admty.)

U/B. Submarine sighted 20.35 N. 70.00 W. at 020056Z.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 020245R to Admty.)

U.S.A.T. Departure 2nd Sept. BRIGADIER GENERAL H.F. RETHERS (U.S.A.T.) and escort, Trinidad 3rd September.
(B.R.O. Georgetown, 020605Q to Admty., etc.)

S/M CLYDE. Philadelphia sailing 0400 Sept. 2nd CLYDE for New London.
(N.S.H.Q., 020635Z to Admty.)

G.U.F. Convoys, speed. It is my understanding no ship unable to maintain 15 knots should be included in G.U.F.10 or other G.U.Fs. Confirmation requested. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar pass to Admty., Commorseafon, N.O.B. Oran, N.O.I.C. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Bizerta, C. in C. Med., Cdr. U.S. Naval Forces N.W. African Waters. (C.T.F.68, 020722 to Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet (C. & R.), (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Commorseafon, etc.)

Sub-Commands Newfoundland, Halifax, Sydney C.B. Effective 0001Z Sept. 6th the limits of the Newfoundland, Halifax and Sydney (C.B.) Sub-Commands will be established as follows:-
(A) Halifax sub-command Cape Canso N.S. thence to 045° 20' N. 057° 20' W. thence 042° 42' N. 054° 00' W. thence 042° 07' N. 063° 19' W. to Western Head N.S.
(B) Sydney C.B. sub-command Cape Canso Nova Scotia to 045° 20' N. 057° 20' W. thence through Ramea Island Light Newfoundland to coast of Newfoundland thence along south and west of coast Newfoundland to Ferolle Point 051° 01' N. 057° 05' W. thence through East Point Prince Edward Island Canada to Cape George Nova Scotia.
(C) Newfoundland sub-command to be bounded on south-west by limits of Sydney C.B. and Halifax sub-command. Existing line from Ramea Island Light to 042° 42' N. 057° 00' W. to be expunged. A.C.T.M.1601 refers.
2. At the same time the following amended situation report areas will be put into force.
(A) Section north-west is to include the Sydney C.B. sub-command as outlined above, the Gaspe sub-command and Belle Isle Straits.

/(B) ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Sub-Commands, (B) Section south-west 040° 00' N. to 045° 20' Newfoundland, N. between 057° 20' W. and 070° 00' W.
Halifax, (C) Section east 040° 00' N. to 055° 00' N.
Sydney C.B. between 047° 00' W. and 057° 20' W, excluding
(Contd.) Belle Isle Straits.
(D) A.I.G. numbers will remain unchanged.
3. Necessary amendments to publications will be promulgated. B.A.D. pass P/L to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 021339Z General message 0.86, C.O.A.C. Command, (R) B.A.D. Washington, C. in C. W.A., Admty., etc.) Amended - See C. in C. C.N.A. 041250.

G.U.S. Your 171253A. To obtain better air cover from
Convoy Bermuda propose amend standard routes G.U.S.
Route. convoys from 34.03 N. 24.59 W. to pass through
35.25, 35.20, 35.50 45.35, 35.34 54.45, 34.40
63.01, 36.01 69.02. Stragglers route from
33.03 N. 25.04 W. through 34.50 36.15, 35.10
45.46, 35.04 55.20, 34.40 63.01.
(Com. 10th Fleet (C. & R.), 021344Z to Admty.)

N.S.H.Q. Concur your 012035 (Proposal for daily summary
Attack & of sightings and contacts in Canadian N.W.
Sighting Atlantic.)
summary. (Cominch, 021349Z to N.S.H.Q., (R) Admty.)

U.S.A.T. Arrival Vieuxfort 1st U.S.A.T. HUGH J. GALLAGHER.
(B.R.O. Castries, 021412 to Admty.)

GRIPSHOLM. This is re-encypherment of Cominch 282105.
Action C. in C. Lant, etc.
"Diplomatic Exchange ship GRIPSHOLM scheduled depart New York 2nd September for India. Should not be molested or interfered with. Painted white with following markings on each side. (Details). Routed as follows (details). E.T.A. Rio de Janeiro 16th Sept. departing 18th Sept. (details), arriving Montevideo 21st Sept., departing 23rd Sept. thence (details) arriving Port Elizabeth 3rd Oct., departing 4th Oct. through (details) arriving Mormugao, Portuguese India, 15th Oct.
(Radio Washington, 021427Z to Admty., etc.)
Refer to following as re-encypherment of P.D. New York 021310. Action Com. 10th C. & R. information Comeastseafon, C. in C. Lant, Comsolant, N.O.B. Bermuda, Comcaribseafon. "Swedish Diplomatic Exchange ship SS. GRIPSHOLM departed Ambrose 1155Z Sept. 2nd. Speed 15 knots. E.T.A. Rio de Janeiro 2400Z Sept. 16th". Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. passes to Admty., N.S. H.Q., and N.O.B. Rio for information.
(Radio Washington, 021616Z to Admty., N.S.H.Q.)

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- A.T. 62A. Designation GENERAL JOHN POPE will be A.T. 62A. (Com. 10th U.S. Fleet, O21436Z to P.D. Norfolk, (R) Admty., etc.)
- "S" Report. Following has been read:-
Intercept 1335 G.M.T. SSSS de NEGO (undecypherable) 55° N. 52° W. de Camperdown. (C. in C. C.N.A., T.O.D. O21437Z to Admty., (R) A.C.I.C.)
1200Z/2nd September attack reported in 55° N. 52° W. at 1407/2nd. (N.S.H.Q., O21520Z U-Boat situation report in Canadian N.W. A. Area.)
Following has been read: X.329, intercept 1412 G.M.T. SSSS de NEGO. Submarine attack at 1407 G.M.T. de V.C.M. (C. in C. C.N.A., O21544Z to Admty., A.C.I.C.)
- ACONITE. This is Com.8's O20214 being passed by Cominch (begins): Vice C.N.O., (R) C.G.S.F., C. in C. Lant, from Com. 8. Free French Corvette ACONITE arrived New Orleans 1940R/1st Sept. for overhaul. (Radio Washington, O21445Z to Admty., etc.)
- Cominch S/M Estimates. (Cominch, O21522Z to Admty., etc.)
- Dock. My 302219. Dock departed Ambrose 2218Q/1st Lighthouse. Com. 10th Fleet also inform N.M.C.S. and B.A.D. (C.E.S.F., O21659Z to Com. 10th Fleet, C.T.F.24, C.T.G. O2.1, Admty., F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A.)
- JEANNE D'ARC. N.O.B. Bermuda's O11442 addressed to Cominch for action, S.B.N.O.W.At., C.C.S.F., Comar Martinique, Admty., etc., for information, informs as follows:
Your 311530. Departs Bermuda 2100Z/1st Sept. for Casablanca through positions (N) 32.16 N. 64.18 W. (O) 32.10 N. 54.37 W. (P) 31.56 N. 44.49 W. (Q) 31.40 N. 35.20 W. (R) 31.28 N. 25.41 W. (S) 31.11 N. 15.59 W. (T) 34.07 N. 10.21 W. (U) 33.39 N. 08.30 W. thence destination. E.T.A. "Chop" 24° 00' W. 2400Z/6th. S. of A. 17 knots. Guards N.S.S. "Fox" to 20° 00' W. E.T.A. 1200Z/7, then Gibraltar Broadcast G. Holds Anglo French Code S.P.O2281 and C.S.P.1789 and 90. French Cruiser JEANNE D'ARC originator.
(Comnavu, O21734 to Admty.)
Bermuda departure September 1st French Ship JEANNE D'ARC. (S.B.N.O.W.At., O21127Z to Admty., etc.)

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H.X. 255. This completes my O11736. Sailing dispatch H.X.255. 42 ships, 13 columns.
13. Commodore, Cdre. I.W. Whitehorn R.N.R. aboard M.V. ABRAHAM LINCOLN for Mersey, Vice-Commodore W.H.P. Jackson Master aboard SS. MATAROA for Barry Roads.
(P.D. New York, 021810, 022020 to Admty.)

J. PINCKNEY Ref. O11237Z.
HENDERSON. No.2, 3, 4 holds still smouldering. Nos. 1 and 5 fires extinguished. Fog spray in action. No. 2 hold with (? corrupt group) down in 3 and 4 at intervals. Engine room compartments in process of pumping out. Condition of engines, boiler and auxiliaries unaffected by heat. Water in engine room caused by water service to main engines being left open. Representative W.S.A. present has arranged for M. of W.T. engineer to take over and make vessel ready for tow to U.S. port. Present indications are that this may be approx. 10th September. 34 charred remains with no positive identification. Common burial with Naval honours arranged for Sept. 3rd. Bridge telegraph shows full astern on engine room telegraph which is at stop. Lines of main engine in ahead position.
(N.O.I.C. Sydney C.B., 021947Z to C. in C. C.N.A., (R) Admty., etc.)

A/T Gear. As a temporary measure until a universal signal has been promulgated by Com. 10th Fleet and Admty., all vessels sailing in H.X. convoys which are fitted with Mark 29 A/T gear will fly B flag international from aftermost masthead when this gear is streamed.
2. Escort vessels and other vessels in convoy should be warned not to approach or pass within 300 yards of vessels displaying this signal.
3. Request for promulgation of a universal signal has been made by P.D. through C.E.S.F.
(B.R.L.O. New York, 022015Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. C.N.A., etc.)

LUNENBURG. C. in C. W.A. 080812 August (re anticipate LUNENBURG ready to join 5th E.G. on conclusion of Group's next duty). LUNENBURG date of allocation to E.G.5 to be 31st August.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 022047Z to N.S.H.Q.)

CAPEL. 1. CAPEL, B.D.E.266. departs Boston Gate at 1400Q/3rd September holding Q.J.C.152 and Q.J.B.9.
2. En route Bermuda.
(C.T.G. 02.1, 022100 to N.O.B. Bermuda, (R) Admty., etc.)

/R.C.N. ...

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R.C.N. Admty. 281456A August.
 Working 2. Original plan for use of Bermuda as working
 up Bases. up base for R.C.N. New Construction was much
 appreciated.
 3. In view of your 081124B August providing
 additional S/Ms to R.C.N. for training purposes
 it is now felt that our working up bases at Halifax and Pictou
 can deal with new construction under these conditions.
 4. No more ships will be sent to Bermuda.
 5. We would like, however, to be able to reconsider this
 decision if a severe winter hampers working up off Nova Scotia
 when new proposal will be made.
 (N.S.H.Q., 022100Z to Admty., (R) MALABAR, B.A.D, C. in C.
 C.N.A., S.B.N.O.W.At.)

Sub attack Para. C. Action to Admiralty for O.I.C.
 and sighting From Cominch. Attack reported 55° N. 52° W.
 summary. 021335Z.
 (Cominch, 022116Z to Admty.)

KING My 312002 cancel. Sail KING HAAKON VII when
 HAAKON VII. ready about 7th September to Halifax independ-
 ently.
 (Cominch, 022217 to Comeastseafon, (R) Com. 1,
 F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q., Admty., C. in C. C.N.A.)

U.S.A.Ts. Balboa 2nd Sept. 20 hours. U.S.A.T. Y.37
 Salinas, Talara, and return to Balboa, 5th
 Sept. coastal.
 (R.O. Cristobal, 022343 to Admty.)

Balboa 2nd Sept. 2100 U.S.A.T. FREDERICK C. JOHNSON, Corinto
 San Jose, and return Balboa 4th September coastal.
 (R.O. Cristobal, 022346 to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand.

WEST POINT. The U.S. Naval transport WEST POINT departed
 Port Phillip 31st August for San Francisco
 through 038° 57' S. 151° 35' E. thence (A)
 033° 02' S. (? 168°) 59' E. (B) 019° 59' S.
 162° 01' W. (C) 000° 01' N. 145° 58' W. (D) 020° 01' N. 133°
 58' W. (E) 031° 30' N. (? 126°) 35' W. and thence to
 destination, E.T.A. 14th Sept., S. of A. 20 knots.
 (A.C.N.B.; ?020215 to Admty., etc.)

/Movements ...

2.9.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

Movements. Arrivals 1st Sept. Sydney U.S. Transport BOTH. Townsville H/T KATOOMBA. U.S. Transport ANHUI departed Goodenough 1st arrived Milne Bay 1st. U.S. Transport CREMER departed Port Moresby 1st due Townsville 3rd. U.S. Transport CAPE FLATTERY departed Townsville 31st August due Brisbane 2nd. U.S. Transport VAN HEUTSZ departed Townsville 1st due Brisbane 4th. (C.S.W.P.S.F., 021112Z to Admty.)

Digest
No. 590
Sept. 1st.

Paras 11 to 13 cover South Pacific Forces. Catalina reported 10 small vessels of Seatruck type and 30 barges in area 30 miles South Cape Saint George on westerly course night hours August 31st/September 1st. Vessels bombed and strafed without visible results.

(2) Liberator reported sighting convoy one large transport, two other medium merchantmen, two probable destroyers and two gunboats 20 miles off Western tip New Hanover afternoon on N.W. course. Many men reported on deck large transport. 2 float-planes took off from water alongside destroyer but nil interception. Same Liberator sighted small coaster in Dampier Strait on southerly course.

(3) 7 Marauders escorted by 12 Lightnings attacked stores dumps and installations Borgen Bay area forenoon while 12 Mitchells escorted 15 Lightnings on barge sweep Finschhafen Island, N.W. Coast New Britain area. Destroyed 3 loaded barges between Rein and Rottock Bays and observed numerous unserviceable barges Cape Gloucester - Borgen Bay area.

(4) 12 Beaufighters made barge sweep S.E. New Britain coast destroying barges Wide and Waterfall bays, firing fuel dump and silencing A/A position Cape Cunningham area.

(5) Cancel para. 5 my Serial No. 589.

(6) Convoy described as 5 medium merchantmen escorted by 2 gunboats observed 120 miles North-west of Wewak on southerly course midday with 2 float-planes covering. Afternoon Liberator unable locate convoy due bad weather but four medium sized vessels reported entering Wewak harbour near midnight.

(7) 39 Liberators and 43 Mitchells escorted by 25 Lightnings attacked enemy supply positions and administrative buildings Madang - Alexishafen area forenoon dropping 200 tons of bombs destroying over 20 buildings Maran area and several large buildings Alexishafen township firing fuel dumps and silencing anti-aircraft positions. 1 aircraft destroyed on runway which is reported serviceable. At least 4 out of 16 barges sighted coastal area also destroyed.

(8) 11 Fortresses attacked barge mooring points Lae area forenoon dropping 18 tons of bombs in target area starting fires.

(11) 22 Mitchells 16 Avengers 34 Dauntless attacked radio station and defences Vila forenoon 31st probably destroying the former with 5 direct hits also hitting several gun positions including one 5 inch coastal gun. Allied artillery also bombarded Thir area throughout day.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 021450Z.)

War Diary.2.9.1943.
Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 021431A, 021435A.)Submarines Attacked.Sub attack
and sighting
summary.

24 hours to 2100A/2nd September.

Para. A. A/C F/407 attacked U-Boat with D/Cs
at 2134/1st Sept. in 46° 06' N. 09° 12' W.
course 060° (possibly evasive steering).A/C S/612 attacked surfaced U-Boat with D/Cs at
0423/2nd Sept. in 46° 53' N. 10° 34' W. course270°. H.M.S. MUSKETEER sighted U-Boat at 1457/1st Sept. in
74° 38' N. 16° 35' E.A/C T/612 sighted four U-Boats at 0432/2nd Sept. in 44° 49' N.
10° 40' W. course 300° and attacked one.Para. C. French escort vessel attacked U-Boat contact at
0630/1st Sept. in 34° 30' N. 07° 50' W.Ref. A.M. 010940Z. Sighting at 0235/1st September was by
H.M.S. PELICAN which subsequently attacked U-Boat with shallow
pattern.

(D.D.I.C., 021032Z to Cominch.)

3.9.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
"Lorry".

1. MAHRATTA and MUSKETEER returned to Skaalefiord this afternoon from Kola Inlet and sailed later for Scapa.
C.S.10 in BELFAST with NORFOLK and IMPULSIVE returned to Hvalfiord at 1118A.

Coastal
force
operations.

2(a) E-Boats operated in Lyme Bay last night, minelaying being suspected. They were not intercepted.

(b) Albacores dropped bombs and flares on a group of E-Boats at 0118, and at 0155 LIMBOURNE and GOATHLAND, supporting Operation "Hostility 10" (presumably "Hostile 10", minelaying off Channel Is., is meant) succeeded in engaging some E-Boats off Guernsey and possibly destroyed one of them.

3. Hospital ship VASNA, which sailed from Gibraltar on 29th August for Barry, made a distress call this afternoon.

Mining.

4(a) In view of possibly enemy minelaying, traffic between the vicinity of Lundy Island and Trevoise Head is temporarily suspended until the area has been swept.

(b) 72 aircraft of Bomber Command laid 301 mines last night off Bay of Biscay ports and N.W. Germany.

(c) R.A.(M) in AGAMEMNON with MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC and 4 destroyers (LANCASTER, SCIMITAR, METEOR and SARDONYX) left Port ZA this morning to carry out minelaying operation S.N. 222B.

Biscay A/S
patrols.

5. Wellington J/179 attacked and possibly damaged a U-Boat in 42.30 N. 10.09 W. at 0345Z today. (See North Atlantic 8th September.)

North Atlantic.

Escort
Carriers,
Biscay Area.

6. Cominch considers that when the U-Boat situation in the Central Atlantic appears favourable, escort carriers supporting the U.S. - Africa convoys may be profitably employed from time to time to sweep the Biscay Approaches west

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3.9.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

Escort
Carriers,
Biscay Area.
(Contd.)

of "Seaslug" area while proceeding to and from Casablanca. The Admiralty state that any such reinforcement would be very welcome. The most profitable area at present seems that bounded by 40° and 45° N. and 18° and 21° W.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Baytown".
Landing
near
Reggio.

7(a) Assault ships and craft under the command of F.O. Sicily successfully landed the 13th Corps (5th Division and the 1st Canadian Division) dry-shod on beaches between Reggio and Catona at 0430 today. MAURITIUS, ORION, ROBERTS, EREBUS, APHIS and 7 destroyers provided cover and support. There was very little opposition. Our troops passed through Reggio by 1023B and at 1227 white flags were reported to be flying down the coast as far as Cape dell Armi. The population appeared friendly.

(b) During the day the approaches to Reggio were swept: no mines were found.

(c) Small but frequent fighter-bomber raids were made today on shipping in the Straits of Messina, but on at least 3 occasions bombs were jettisoned on the approach of fighters and no reports have been received of damage or casualties.

East Indies.

Base
Defences.

8. To economise men and material, C. in C. Eastern Fleet proposes certain reductions in the existing and projected naval defences of bases in the Indian Ocean.

/Diego ...

3.9.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies - Contd.

Diego
Suarez.

9. C. in C. Eastern Fleet reports a move by the French which he regards as a direct attempt to regain control of the port and dockyard at Diego Suarez. He has therefore not approved it pending the outcome of any discussions now taking place in London with the French authorities.

Convoy.

10. Convoy M.A.1 (Madras to Chittagong with troops) left Madras today escorted by LAUNCESTON and ROHILKHAND.

America and West Indies.

11. H.M.S. SLINGER, new escort carrier, arrived at Port Angeles, south of Esquimalt, this afternoon.

3.9.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

RUBIS,
SATYR,
SEADOG.

Adm. 054009/43 of 31st August.
RUBIS, SATYR, SEADOG are to be transferred from 9th Sub. Flotilla to 5th Sub Flotilla as mutually arranged.
(F.O.(S), 031814A.)

L.C.M.
Flotillas
for Ports-
mouth
Command.
"F" Sqn.

Your 312353 August. Four flotillas can be made available as shown below.
3. Request you will arrange to transfer these flotillas to SEA SERPENT for the period required, returning them to their normal bases on completion.
4. This squadron will be known as "F" Squadron for which a Squadron Officer was applied for in your 4305A/X0500/11/8/2 of 28th August for appointment by 15th September.
(D.R.O. C.O., 031814A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Movements.

ONSLOW.

Scapa arrival ONSLOW.
(A.C.O.S., 030633 to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)

CEYLON.

Proceed Plymouth passing Hoxa Gate 1800A/4th.
(2) Route via Minches and war channel. Lands End is not to be passed before daylight 6th September.
(C. in C. H.F., 031207A to CEYLON.)
Your 031207A. E.T.A. 1300A/6th.
(CEYLON, 031915A to C. in C. H.F.)

S/M
Movements.

Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/4 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.(S), 031544A, 032227A.)

CAPETOWN,
ESKIMO.

F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 021255A. From position (Q) proceed through (R) 049° 19' N. 013° 45' W. (S) 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles, thence CAPETOWN to (T) 180° Lizard Head 3 miles and by Q.Z.S. 410 and 409 to Plymouth: keep west of Lizard Head during dark hours.
(2) From (S) ESKIMO proceed by Q.Z.S. 315, 333, 307, 297, C.W. and A.R. to Milford Haven.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 031722A to CAPETOWN, ESKIMO.)

REVENGE,
RESOLUTION.

On arrival in Clyde REVENGE is to give 21 days foreign service leave.
2. C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail RESOLUTION to Rosyth where ship is to give 21 days foreign service leave.
4. 15-inch guns of RESOLUTION are to be removed at Rosyth for relining.
(D.O.D.(H), 031846A.)

3.9.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay A/S Operations.

U/B Have A.S.V. contact position. Probably U/B.
reports. (A/C 3 Group Duty 'S' No T.O.O. to 19 Group.
Recd. 030111.)
Attack abandoned.
(A/C Duty 'S', T.O.R. 030107 to 19 Group.)
Have A.S.V. contact position 2, probably U-Boat.
(A/C 3 Group Duty 'S', T.O.R. 030142 to 19 Group.)
Attack abandoned.
(A/C Duty 'S', T.O.R. 030144 to 19 Group.)
Have A.S.V. contact, position (? latitude) 09° 00' W.
Probably one U-Boat.
(A/C 3 Group Duty 'N', 030255A to 19 Group.)
Am over enemy submarine in 42° 30' N. 10° 09' W. S/M
on surface, and when first sighted was on course 90°.
Estimated speed 10 knots.
(A/C 467 Sqdn. Duty 'J', 030545B to 19 Group.)
Have attacked U-Boat with depth charges.
(A/C 467 Sqdn. Duty 'J', 030600B to Gibraltar W/T.)
Am over enemy submarine.
(A/C 19 Sqdn. Duty 'L', T.O.R. 031159 to 19 Group.)
Over U/B. Periscope only sighted, 44° 23' N. 12° 53' W.
(A/C Group 6 Duty '2', 031333B to Gibraltar.)

Dispositions. Disposition at 2000.
(1) NENE, LEEDS, EDMUNDSTON patrolling vicinity
044° 40' N. 014° 00' W.
(2) WEAR, CRANE, PELICAN patrolling vicinity
043° 30' N. 013° 40' W.
(3) CALGARY, SNOWBERRY 047° 15' N. 013° 08' W. south-westbound,
12 knots.
(4) CURIE 044° 01' N. 008° 25' W., westbound, daily advance
90 miles.
(5) SHEFFIELD patrolling vicinity 046° 01' N. 016° 30' W.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 031612A to Admty.)
Intended P.C.S. at 0700A/4th, 043° 15' N. 013° 30' W., 335°, 11.
(S.O. Force W, 031803Z to C. in C. Plymouth, (R) SHEFFIELD,
B.5, E.G.5.)

Attacks on U/Bs,
Glider bombs.

Following points of interest occurred during recent trip of 1st Escort Group on Biscay patrol and are based on experience of ROTHER and JED.

A. Attacks on U-Boats. 1. ROTHER at 2300 on 26th August in 44° N. 8° W. Radar contact and simultaneous H.E. of Asdics, Radar contact disappeared and A/S contact obtained. Two 10-charge patterns and two Hedgehog attacks carried out. Hit claimed in first Hedgehog attack. No evidence, result doubtful.

2. Jed - at 0408A/28th August in 41° 38' N. 12° 25' W. Radar contact at 4,500 yards, contact disappeared at 3,800 yards. Asdic contact gained at 500 yards. JED carried out four depth charge attacks and one Hedgehog attack. GRENVILLE two depth charge attacks. No evidence. Submarine considered very deep.

War Diary.

3.9.1943.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay A/S Operations.

Attacks
on U/Bs,
Glider
bombs.
(Contd.)

3. JED, search continued through day. Contact regained at 1853, 30 miles north-eastward. Five depth charge attacks carried out in twenty minutes by JED. Wreckage consisting of wood and two bales of raw rubber, large patch considered diesel oil, after first depth charge attack. Result appears probable, observing depth of water 2,000 fathoms. ROTHER and GRENVILLE

also attacks subsequently.

B. Glider bombs. Aircraft approached from astern in "v" formation, splitting up to work round both quarters. Ships were heading down wind. It is noticeable that no aircraft were forward of the beam. Projectile which approached ROTHER was engaged and hit by bridge Oerlikon. It immediately dived and exploded close alongside.

Suggested that Radar type 271 be trained on approximate bearing from which bomb is approaching since it is thought that powerful pulse from set may dislocate governing mechanism of bomb.

C. Command. Suggest relative seniorities of Commanding Officers of mixed forces in the Bay be passed to ships to avoid confusion as to who assumes command when Senior Officer is a casualty.

D. Aircraft Identification. Cases occurred of aircraft remaining in the vicinity of ships at too great a distance to be recognised visually. Recommend that visual identification of friendly aircraft should always be made until all detached groups of ships are able to identify aircraft by means of I.F.F. (Cdre. (D) W.A., 031721A.)

General.

S/M
Patrols.

Request you will sail UPSTART for anti U-Boat patrol in Bay of Biscay and onward passage to Gibraltar on 8th September.

(F.O.(S), 031041A to Capt. (S) 3.)

UNTIRING leaves patrol given in my 021607 para.

(B) at 0300/4th for Lerwick.

(F.O.(S), 031049A to Admty.)

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

(A) TANTALUS as in my 021607.

(B) UNTIRING 62° 14' N. 01° 28' E., probably on surface for Lerwick.

(C) ULA approx. 68° 22' N. 007° 55' E., probably on surface when more than 60 miles from Norwegian coast through 69° 01' N. 08° 45' E. and 70° 02' N. 11° 39' E., thence to patrol off Malangen Fiord.

(F) SAFARI as in my 021607, leaving patrol 0700/5th to north-westward.

(G) RUBIS as in my 021607.

(H) CURIE 44° 02' N. 09° 38' W., dived by day through 44° N. 10° W. thence to southward to cross 43° N. at 0500/5th.

(F.O.(S), 031544A to Admty.)

3.9.1943.

Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Operation "Lorry". Hvalfjord arrivals. C.S.10 in BELFAST, NORFOLK, IMPULSIVE in company.
(A.C.I.C., 031118A to C. in C. H.F.)
Faroes arrival MAHRATTA, MUSKETEER.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 031330A to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Faroes departure MUSKETEER, MAHRATTA. E.T.A. 0800A/4th.
Your 242009A, para. 10 refers.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 032017A to C. in C. H.F.)

"Forfar Item". "Forfar Item" carried out on night 2nd/3rd.
No prisoners taken. Force successfully withdrawn. One minor casualty sustained.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 031120A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Operation S.F. My 031615. From 1203A to 2358A/3rd para. 2.
(A) 4, (B) 7.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 031125A to H.F.)
Request you will sail SABRE for Skaale Fiord and operation S.F. when ready.
(C. in C. H.F., 031229A to R.A.D.H.F.)

M.G.Bs. shelled in Straits of Dover. At 1216/2nd M.G.Bs. 611, 614 and 616, when in approx. 51° 01.5' N. 01° 34' E. were fired on by an enemy battery in 141° South Foreland 18.5 miles. Nineteen rounds were fired. No damage or casualties. Shooting was accurate, salvoes falling within 100 yards of M.G.Bs.
(V.A. Dover, 031158A to Admty.)

Enemy ships shelled. Eight small from two miles North of Calais at 2107, speed 18 knots, entered Boulogne at 2355. Engaged by our Coastal batteries who fired 40 rounds 9.2 inch. Results unobserved.
(V.A. Dover, 031159A.)

My 031159. Enemy replied with only one round at 2300 which fell to seaward of Dover causing neither damage nor casualties.
(V.A. Dover, 031201A to Admty.)

Operation V.P.-A.N. My 301029A. Sailed at 1206A today M.T.B.626 (S.O.) and M.T.B.619.
(2) Aircraft R/V is 060° Out Skerries 110 miles.
(A.C.O.S., 031227A to Admty.)

Coastal Patrols. Executive O.P.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 031300A to N.O.I.C. Falmouth, PHOEBE, GRENVILLE.)
1. Paragraph 2 (B) and (C). PHOEBE and GRENVILLE will form Force P.

Reference P.L.Y. number 01486/622 dated 27th August, 1943.
2. Paragraph 15 (A). A 3, B nil, C nil.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 031301A to N.O.I.C. Falmouth, PHOEBE, GRENVILLE.)

/M.Ls. ...

3.9.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Coastal Patrols. (Contd.) M.Ls. 104, 101, 108, 107, 128, 210, 213, 573 carry out operation N.L.101. E.T.D. 1915, E.T.R. 0230/4. Route via No. 10 buoy and Bullock Bank each way.
M.G.Bs. 312, 326, 317 patrolling N.W. edge of Vergoyer Bank. E.T.D. 1915, E.T.R. 0630/4.
M.G.Bs. 611, 614, 616 at No.1 buoy. E.T.D. 2045, E.T.R. 0445/4.
M.G.Bs. 42, 41, 40 at "V" buoy. E.T.D. 1930, E.T.R. 0630/4.

(V.A. Dover, 031606A.)

1. Orders for night 3rd/4th September.

(A) BLEASDALE, LA COMBATTANTE, STEVENSTONE, GLAISDALE, WENSLEYDALE, immediate notice at St. Helens.

(B) M.L.291, 344 patrol Q.Z.S.384 between F and E.A.5 buoys.

(C) CHASSEUR X immediate notice St. Helens.

(D) M.L.208, 122, 124, R.M.L.522 patrolling 50° 20' N. between 2° 00' W. and 2° 25' W.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 031616A.)

1. Force D. M.G.Bs. 664, 676 are to patrol in vicinity 125° Start 21 miles.

2. Codeword "Recruit".

3. Force E. M.G.Bs. 324, 330 are to patrol in vicinity 190° Start 19 miles.

4. Codeword "Neutral".

5. Forces D and E are to leave Dartmouth to be on patrol by 2100A leave patrol for Dartmouth 0530A.

6. Forces are not to enter Q.Z.X.1070 amended by following positions unless necessary.

1. 50° 18' N. 03° 24' W.

2. 50° 06' N. 03° 20' W. 3. 50° 10' N. 02° 59' W.

4. 50° 10' N. 02° 45' W.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 031701A.)

M.G.Bs. 118, S.4, 108. M.T.Bs. 204, 235, 38 patrolling at Berck Buoy. Route via No.10 buoy and Bullock Bank each way. E.T.D.1015, E.T.R. 0630/4.

(V.A. Dover, 031807A.)

My 031807. Add MACKAY, MONTROSE, WINDSOR, WHITSHED patrolling from two miles south of D buoy to No. 10 buoy.

(V.A. Dover, 031854 to Admty.)

Your 031701A. "Recruit" and "Neutral" sailed at 1950 and 2031 respectively.

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 032104A and 032214A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

My 031616A. Destroyer Force is organised as 1st Division. 1st Sub Division: BLEASDALE, WENSLEYDALE. 2nd Sub Division: LA COMBATTANTE, GLAISDALE. 3rd Sub Division: STEVENSTONE. Duty Sub Division 1st and 3rd.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 032119A.)

E-Boats engaged. 2 possibly destroyed. 1 damaged.

Last night September 2nd/3rd E-Boats operated in Lyme Bay, minelaying being suspected. 4 groups were plotted from 2330 onwards till about 0230, when they faded on southerly course. The W.P.394 convoy and CONQUEROR escorting 1 merchant ship turned northwards at midnight and successfully evaded attack, they resumed their easterly passage at 0300. M.G.Bs. on patrol South of

Eddystone and South-east Portland endeavoured to intercept North of 050° N. but did not succeed in bringing them to action. Albacores dropped bombs and flares on group of E-Boats at 0118

/and ...

3.9.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

E-Boats engaged.
2 possibly destroyed.
1 damaged.
(Contd.)

and an E-Boat was apparently set on fire (this may have been a decoy). At 0155 H.M.S. LIMBOURNE and GOATHLAND supporting Operation "Hostility 10" were ordered to position 342° Les Hanois 20 to intercept and succeeded in engaging some E-Boats at about (03?)30 losing touch again at 0336. LIMBOURNE reports 1 E-Boat possibly destroyed, 1 damaged. Enemy plots did not get nearer than 2 miles from convoy route.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 031329A to Admty.)

"Forfar Beer".

"Forfar Beer" second phase will be carried out tonight.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 031720A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
Return to Milford Haven.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 031951A to HELIER II, LEEDS UNITED.)

Allied Air Activity.

Bomber Command operations.

On night 2nd/3rd, 71 A/C laid mines.
(H.Q.B.C., 031330.)

S.N. 222B.

Close A/S air escort will not be provided tomorrow. Sunderland, Catalina and Fortress A/C from "Mooring" patrol will be covering your area constantly and when in transit to and from this area will be flying alongside your track.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 032142A to R.A.M.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Scapa.

Unidentified A/C plotted 90° A buoy 20 miles, course north. Changed course north-east, no further Radar information. Fighters investigated negative results. Considered A/C hostile and fleet unit visible.
(A.C.O.S., 032135 to Admty.)

Mining.

Searching sweep of Q.Z.S.315.

C. in C. Plymouth's 022300.
Intend sailing BRECON CASTLE, FINESSE, SCARPON and COMMANDER EVANS at 0100/3. Position 270° Longships, thence sweeping north to limit of command anchoring as convenient at night returning to Falmouth first light 4th or on

completion.

(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 030030A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

/In ...

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3.9.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Searching
sweep of
Q.Z.S.315.
(Contd.)

In view of possible enemy minelaying, traffic between vicinity Lundy Island and Trevoise Head is temporarily suspended until sweep has been carried out.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 030426A to N.O.I.C. Cardiff)

S.N. 222B.

R.A.(M) sailed in AGAMEMNON with MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, LANCASTER, SCIMITAR, METEOR, SARDONYX in company.
(TRELAWNEY, 030608A to Admty.)

F.O. Minelayers with AGAMEMNON, MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, SCOTT, LANCASTER, SARDONYX, METEOR and SCIMITAR will be passing through 061° 56' N. 007° 20' W. at approx. 0700/4th, 062° 51' N. 012° 20' W. at approx. 1800/4th, 063° 20' N. 012° 53' W. at approx. 2100/4th, 060° 00' N. 090° 10' W. at approx. 1600/5th.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 031101A to M/S. 15.)

Enemy Intelligence.

KERTOSONO.

A.M. 021207A. It is now reported KERTOSONO's programme has been postponed 24 hours.
(D.D.I.C., 031225A to Air Ministry.)

Casualties and Defects.M.M.S. 251,
M.M.S. 255.

Report if anything has been seen or heard of M.M.S.255 and 251 on passage St. Johns to Londonderry and overdue.
(C. in C. W.A., 031016A to Escorts U.T.1, S.C.140, S.C.140 Fast.)

Your 031016A. At 150914A August sighted 2 M.M.S. in 051° 08' N. 043° 58' W., steering approx. 052°.

(POLYANTHUS, 031330A to C. in C. W.A.)

POLYANTHUS 031330A. Ships were M.M.S.246 and 247.

(LAGAN, 031720A to C. in C. W.A.)

Request you will inform me of estimated endurance of M.M.S. 255 and 251 which have not yet arrived.

(C. in C. W.A., 032233Z to F.O.N.F.)

EMPEROR.

A.M. 241710A. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange for EMPEROR to proceed to Belfast.
2. She will be taken in hand by Messrs. Harland and Wolff for modifications.
(D.O.D.(H), 031850A.)

AMIENS.

We are returning to Southampton owing to breakdown of starboard cock for draught fan. E.T.A. 1200. Estimated duration of repairs 4 days.
(AMIENS, 031030A to F.O.I.C. Southampton.)

/LAGAN ...

War Diary.3.9.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

- LAGAN. Proceed to Belfast.
(C. in C. W.A., 031323A to LAGAN.)
- ? Tug EMPIRE BASCOBEL arrived Scrabster at 1500 reports tow rope parted and contact lost in bad weather. Subsequent search for tow unsuccessful. Remaining Thurso Bay until required further.
(N.C.S.O. Thurso, 031615 to A.C.O.S.)
Hove to from 2120Z Thursday, same trouble as before. (Paddles?) connected at 0825Z. Resumed course 105° at 1230Z today, speed 3½ knots. Heavy following swell. My position 1600Z, 262° 88 miles from C.
(SAUCY, 031715A to A.C.I.C.)
- VASNA. Intercepted at 1522 G.M.T. Picking up distress call followed by long dash on 600 meters at regular intervals since 1429 from Hospital Ship VASNA. Ends.
(GRZK, 031625 B.S.T. to Wick.)
- ALBURY. Intend to sail ALBURY for Milford Haven category four at 0900/5. E.T.A. 1800/5. One boiler unreliable.
(N.O.I.C. Barry, 031630A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)
- BALMORAL. My 021809. BALMORAL entered Fishguard with broken paddle.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 031735A to N.O.I.C. Holyhead.)
- Shipping and Convoys.
- P.W. 394. 4 sweepers commence sweeping Q.Z.S.315 northwards from Longships about 0700/3 today. P.W. 394 is to keep behind sweepers from 50° 20' N. till past Lundy Island. Turn convoy as necessary.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 030410A to BRECON CASTLE.)
- D.S. 44 (CHAMPOLLION) Your 312048. Arrived Reykjavik.
(A.C.I.C., 031030A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- T.A. 61. Intend to sail QUEEN MARY passing Clyde boom 2359A/4th, thence to comply with A.M. 011343A. S.O.A. 26½ knots. "Chop" date 8th September. E.T.A. Ambrose Light Vessel 0400Z/10th.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 031034A.)

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3.9.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- S.D. 44. Intend to sail CHAMPOLLION escorted by AMAZON and GLENARM from Reykjavik at 2300A/3rd routed in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 111746 June. (A.C.I.C., 031202A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- S.R. 5. Onward route from (B) 046° 30' 019° 29' to (C) 055° 00' 010° 57' (D) 055° 35' 007° 00' Destination AORANGI is Clyde. Escorts leave off Mull of Kintyre. JOHAN MAURITS to Liverpool. Remainder to Belfast. (C. in C. W.A., 031502Z to BLACKWOOD.)
- REINA DEL PACIFICO. REINA DEL PACIFICO arrived K.G.V. Dock 1555/3rd. (D.S.T.O. Clyde, 031914.)
- P.S. 4, P.S. 4 and S.P. 4 cancelled.
S.P. 4. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 031937A.)

3.9.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

SALVONIA Now in 035 degs. 15' N. 008 degs. 01' W. (corrupt group) from L.S.T. 258. Last signal from you 012358.
(SALVONIA 030500 to F.O.i/c Gibraltar).
Position 035 degs. 15' N. 007 degs. 03' W. E.T.A. Gibraltar 1800B.
(SALVONIA 031000B to F.O.i/c Gibraltar).

W.S.33. Your 011652B six escort vessels arrived.
(C.M.S.F.F. 030748B to F.O.i/c Gibraltar (R) Admty. etc.).

U-boat Following read:
Am over enemy S/M in 38 degs. 01' N. 9 degs. 07' E. 0107 S/M has dived. Periscope only sighted.
(A/C GOYL 030750).

U-boat U-boat attacked by aircraft 042 degs. 32' N. 010 degs. 09' W. at 030545 H.N., course 090 degs. 10 knots.
(F.O.i/c Gibraltar 030954B to (P.34) ULTIMATUM, (P.67) LE CURIE).

W.S.33. W.S.33 sailed.
(2) 031000Z. (4) 13½ knots.
(5) Accordance with F.O.i/c Gibraltar's 011652B.
(6) NESS, TOTLAND, BULLDOG, BANN, HYDRANGEA.
(12) Freetown. (13) Cdre. O.H. Dawson R.N.R. Cdre. in DUCHESS OF RICHMOND.
(15) Codeword "Pillbox" B.G.N.
(C.M.S.F.F. 031250B to F.O.C. West Africa, (R) Admty. etc.).

CONGO Portuguese CONGO gross tonnage 3110 speed 7 knots, sailed 1500/3rd for Marseilles following approved route to Cape San Sebastian thence Marseilles.

Not to be molested this voyage.
Ship carries usual National and International Red Cross Marking.
(F.O.i/c Gibraltar 031509B 032356 to S. and A. in Area G. of Med. (R) Admty. etc.).

FINN Sailed 1830B/3rd Swedish (FINN) 1600 g.t. for Marseilles by approved route.
Safe conduct. Speed 7½ knots, usual national and international Red Cross markings on the side. Not to be molested on this voyage.
(F.O. Gibraltar 031843B, 032356 to S. and S.).
(F.O. Gibraltar 031848B, 032353B to 8th S.F. etc.).

Portugal Official source. Eastbound convoy 2 Merchant A/C attack Ships with escort vessel and single air escort on Convoy.

/attacked...

3.9.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

- Portugal
A/C attack
on Convoy.
(Contd.).
- attacked by 3 enemy aircraft 0955A/1st Sept.
off Sagres.
(2) One enemy aircraft was shot down in flames
7 miles South East of Sagres. Remainder vanished
Northward.
(R.O. Portimao 031925A to B.N.A. Lisbon (R) S.O.
(I) Gibraltar, Admty. for D.N.I.).
- W.S.33
- Warships September 3.
NESS, WESTON, TOTLAND, BULLDOG, BANN, HYDRANGEA
departed with W.S.33.
(C.M.S.F.F. 032138B to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.
etc.).
- SCOTTISH
AMERICAN.
- Intend to sail escort tanker SCOTTISH AMERICAN
to join O.S.54 at Gisp. Tanker subsequently
transferring to S.L.136.
(F.O.i/c Gibraltar 031846 to Admty. etc.).
- ULSTER
QUEEN.
(bombed
29th August).
- Established from fragments recovered from ULSTER
QUEEN that air attack at 292110/8, 36.11 North
02.35 West was made with German rocket bombs.
3 in number dropped.
One 10 feet from starboard side of ULSTER QUEEN
slightly abaft beam. Only minor damage sustained
in Engine Room dislocated pipes and some broken
castings. Green flares seen to come from tail of bombs. Aircraft
not sighted in late dusk and only heard faintly by a few.
Height reported by outside sources as 6000 feet. Officers
estimate that ship travelled 35 to 40 feet at 16 knots between
time of bomb hitting water and exploding. Fragments will be sent
by air to D.U.B.D. at first opportunity.
(F.O.i/c Gibraltar 032034B to Admty. (R) D.U.B.D.).
- C.G.61
- C.G.61 arrived 3 ships.
(F.O.i/c Gibraltar 032059 to C.M.S.F.F. Admty.
etc.).
- MALOJA
safe
conduct.
- (?) Not to be molested this voyage Swiss MALOJA
1788 g.t. speed 9 knots, sailed 1730B/3rd for
Genoa routed coastwise Cape San Sebastian thence
042 degs. 20' N. 008 degs. 00' East thence Genoa.
National colour and Switzerland on hull.
(F.O.i/c Gibraltar 032341 to S. and A.).

War Diary.3.9.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- "Q"
Report. Following received QQQQ. Position 09° 56' S.
42° 12' E. Suspicious.
(B.D.4.O.U. Agulhas 031135Z.)
- A/S.
Escort
for A.M.Cs. My 012019, British Patrol Area. Final position
on African Coast is in latitude 06° N.
(F.O.C.W.A. 031240Z to Admty.)
- C.M.45. My 161601 August para. 3. Convoy C.M.45
consisting of following ships will probably leave
Durban Saturday 11th September escorted by
RAMILLIES and available Eastern Fleet destroyers.
(A) For Mideast STRATHEDEN, SIBAJAK, with Imperial
and Union troops. (B) For India STIRLING CASTLE, HIGHLAND BRIGADE
with Imperial troops and NEA HELLAS ex convoy W.S.23 with West
African troops.
(P.S.T.O. Capetown 031255B to C. in C. E.F. (R) D. of S.T. etc.)
- RANGITATA. H.M. Transport RANGITATA sailed for Montevideo
3rd September. No oil or water required South
American ports but vessel will require 1500 tons
diesel at Trinidad or Freetown depending on
homeward route.
(S.T.O. Capetown 031303Z to D. of S.T., N.A. Montevideo, B.A.D.)
- HIGHLAND
CHIEFTAIN. H.M. Transport HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN sailed 31st Aug.
E.T.A. Montevideo 11th September. Passengers, etc.
(S.T.O. Capetown 311331Z to Admty. (for D. of S.T.)
N.A. Montevideo.)
- BELLWORT. BELLWORT E.T.D. 1800Z/3rd E.T.A. Pointe Noire
0600Z/4th.
(N.C.S.O. Matadi 031542Z to Admty. F.O.C.W.Africa,
B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire.)
- ARGO. F.O.C.W.Af's. 021824 to Comar Dakar only, French
S/M ARGO sails from Dakar unescorted 1800Z/7
routed to pass through following positions at
G.M.T. stated. (a) 17° N. 21° W. 1230/8.
(b) 21.30 N. 30° W. 0730/10. (c) 27° N. 43° W. 1700/12.
(d) 30.25 N. 55° W. 1730/14. (e) 31.50 N. 61° W. 1700/15.
thence to Bermuda. E.T.A. 0730/16. S. of A. 13½ knots.
2. Request total bombing restrictions 30 miles ahead and astern
and 10 miles either side of estimated position. 3. Request surface
escort from position (e) to Bermuda. 4. - 6. Call signs, S.Ps. etc.
7. ARGO holds minor war vessels recognition signals only. No
identification flares. P.N.O. Liaison Officer embarked.
8. Proceeds on surface throughout passage but may dive if attacked
(Comar Dakar, 031822Z to Cominch.) (C.C.O. Freetown 080458 to
Admty.)

War Diary.

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

CORFU,
BEAGLE,
(interception
of Spanish
Ship.)

My P.C. and S. 015° (700') N. 022° (707') (?West)
258° 15. Your 031837Z (No trace in W.R.)
received and understood.
(CORFU 031901Z to F.O.C. W.Af. (R) BEAGLE
(?BULLDOG)).

My P.C. and S. at 2000Z 014° 52' N. 018° 52' W.
308° 19 knots. At 040700Z intend commence sweep
on mean course 022° at 20 knots.
(BEAGLE 032002 to CORFU (R) F.O.C.W.Af., F.C.
MONTCALM, B.N.L.O. Dakar.)

My P.C. and S. 016° 02' N. 022° 05' W. 023° 12 knots.
(CORFU 032201Z to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) BEAGLE, F.C. MONTCALM.)

S.L.
Convoy,
bunkers.

Pass to N.O.S.Os. and M.W.T.Rs. Ships bound for
U.K. in S.L. convoys should leave Freetown
bunkered for 30 days based on daily consumption
at 7½ knots, which speed should be emphasised
to Masters. These figures include repeat
include safety margin, and should be adhered to

as closely as possible to avoid vessels arriving in the U.K.
with unnecessarily large surplus of bunkers.
(D.T.D. 031908A to F.O.C.W.A.)

S.L.136.

Sailing telegram (67 ships). 2. 0700/3rd Sept,
4. Knots 7½. 5. L.O. 10° 30' N. 17° 15' W.
L.P.14.44 N. 17.50 W. L.Q. to L.Z. outer
standard route. 6. H.M. Ships EXE (Senior

Officer) BRIDGEWATER, MILFORD, MOYOLA, PETUNIA, ARMERIA, DOUGLAS,
SNOWDROP, DUNCTON, FOLKESTONE. 15. Main JUD G "Child", fast
JUS "Child" slow JUD "Parts" SMO H. 491 S. 427 Y. 404.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 031921Z to Admty.)

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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

R/C, Enemy Ports. P.R.U. 30th August. A. Trieste - Hull of IMPERO Battleship, one CAVOUR Battleship, 2 cruiser hulls, 4 T.Bs. one escort vessel fitting out, 5 Siebel ferries, one liner, 3 tankers, 13 merchant vessels.

B. Pola - one CAVOUR battleship, one destroyer, 2 T.Bs. 2 escort vessels (one in dry dock), 4 U-Boats, one liner, one tanker, one partly stripped Yugo Slav destroyer.

C. Porto Marghera - ten merchant vessels.

D. Monfalcone - 4 U-Boats, one escort vessel, one liner, 2 merchant vessels, one of which is heavily armed.
(D.D.I.C. 030416A to C. in C.Med. V.A.Malta, F.O.Force H, R.A. Force H, R.A.A.)

Enemy Units. Position of enemy convoy one merchant ship 8000 tons, 2 landing barges, one destroyer 38.41 N. 20.51 E. course 190 10 knots, one Me.110.
(A/C GPX/X via Malta W/T 030610.)

Position of enemy 1 M.G. is 3000, 38° N. 41° E. 574.
(A/C GPX/X via Malta W/T 030613Z.)

U-Boat. Am over enemy submarine in 38.01 N. 09.07 E. submarine has dived. Periscope only sighted.
(A/C ?CQ7L 030750.)

A. 656.

M.E.Air Report. Daily Opsum 128. 1/2 September, no offensive operations. 2 September, 4 Beaufighters anti-shipping R/C Dodecanese. 1 aircraft made cannon attack on 80 ton caique anchored off Kos Island, but hit mast and crashed in sea. 2 men believed crew in water near wreckage. Caique appeared beached when remaining aircraft left. 4 Beaufighters anti-shipping R/C west coast Greece. 30 M.T. parked on road near Preveza attacked, 1 explosion, several fires. 1 merchant vessel 1500 tons anchored near Preveza bombed. 1 hit amidships followed by flying debris. Cannon attacks made hits scored.
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 030909Z).

Operation "Baytown" Landing in Italy, Army Reports Situation report. Under cover of heavy and concentrated field and medium artillery fire from Sicilian side assaulting troops of 5th Division and 1st Canadian Division crossed Messina Straits and landed successfully at 0430 today on 3 beaches (?at) Reggio and Catone. 5th division landed on a 2 brigade front and Canadians to the south of them on a one brigade front. Generally very little opposition with some shelling. Canadian advanced elements were on outskirts of Reggio by 0730. Intentions are for 5 division to advance northward along coast, and for Canadians to envelope Reggio, secure air field and push eastward into (corrupt group) from (?Reggio).
(N.L.O. 8th Army Tripoli 030910B to C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant, (R) S.O.Force H.)

/To...

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Operation "Baytown", Landing in Italy, Army Reports. (Contd.) To Agwar, for Combined Chiefs of Staff, to Usfor, for British Chiefs of Staff, signed Eisenhower. Successful landings made by Eighth Army this morning on beaches between Reggio and Gallico Marina. Operations proceeding satisfactorily. Enemy opposition slight. Naval signal timed 1023B hours indicates our troops passed through Reggio, and as far as Cape Dell Armi white flags seen along the coast. (Algiers 031452B to Etousa.)

Situation report 35. 4 brigades now ashore and leading troops are through Cannitello in north and Reggio in south. Aerodrome occupied and fit for fighters. Landings were dry shod. No demolition or mines so far encountered. Italian end of S/M cable intact. Population appears friendly. 2500 prisoners to date, all Italians except (group omitted) German. (N.L.O. 8th Army Tripoli 031701B to C., in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, (R) S.O. Force H.)

UGANDA, MAURITIUS. Request UGANDA be sailed to relieve MAURITIUS on completion of boiler cleaning. (C.S.15 031014B to S.O. Force H, (R) C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta, UGANDA.)

TROOPER. Leave patrol to pass Nikaria during daylight 5th. Dive to 250 feet between 037° 23' N. and 037° 33' N. thence dive to 250 feet at dawn 6th in position A. 036° 02' 027° 24' surface in position B. 035° 32' 027° 34' thence pass C. 034° 11' 031° 01' at 1310C/7th to arrive Beirut 0745C/8th. Air cover will be provided from dawn 8th. (Capt. S.1 031016C to TROOPER, (R) 1st S.F.) See also 081026.

WHEATLAND. Sail at 0600/4th September to Augusta, S.O.A. 20 knots by Q.B.B. 146 direct route and Q.B.B. 164 E.T.A. boom 1045/4th codeword (group incomplete) 941 (group omitted.)

2. You are required as escort for C. in C. Med's 02(?17)54 not to Casablanca (2 groups omitted), N.L.O. 211 Group or N.O.I.C. Augusta. (V.A. Malta 031021 to WHEATLAND, (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C. Sicily, N.O.I.C. Bizerta, N.O.I.C. Augusta, N.L.O. 211 Group.)

M.K.S.24. M.S.C.I. 22. Onward route from 033° 12' 020° 00' E. at 0030 Sept. 7th. 2. A. 8, B. 9. 3. (?Position) 035° 15' 014° 10' 212, 204, 279, 299, lettered LD. to LH. (?Searched) Channel. 79, 36, 65, 92, 120, 39, (?44), 93, 50, 37, lettered LJ. to LS. to Gibraltar.

4. Malta 212, 1600 Sept. 8th, Tunis 123, 1930 Sept. 9th, Bizerta 119, 2230 Sept. 9th, Bone 037° 16' 007° 49' 1130 Sept. 10th, Philippeville 037° 15' 006° 59' 1630 Sept. 10th, Bougie 037° 04' 005° 15' 0306 Sept. 11th, Algiers (?120), 1600 Sept. 11th, Oran 93, 1700 Sept. 12th, Gibraltar E.T.A. 2100 Sept. 13th. 5. V.M. 6. "Riband" normal. 7. Baker. 8. CARLISLE S.O., WHITEHAVEN S.O. of screen ROMNEY, RYE, GLOXINIA, HYTHE, FALK, SOUTHERN ISLE, PROTEA.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- M.K.S.24.
(Contd.)
9. Convoy proceeding at best speed on crossing 020° E. to make Malta R/V providing this does not cause stragglers.
(C. in C.Med. 031025B to CARLISLE, Ships escorting M.K.S.24 (R) Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. Connav, V.A.Malta, etc.)
See also 072132 and 072349.
- R/C enemy ports. Taranto visual 0845. 2 Battleships, 2 Cruisers, outer harbour (?one) Cruiser inner. Cotrone, no sighting.
(V.A.Malta 031105B to C. in C.Med. (R) S.O.Force H. etc.)
- My 031105B Taranto photographs show 4 S/Ms and 3 T.B. have left harbour. Also nets round destroyers and one Contretorpilleur are open at one end.
(V.A.Malta 031357 to C. in C.Med. (R) S.O.Force H. etc.)
- TACTICIAN. G.S.KATSONIS, warned of your movements, leaves Beirut on mean course 270° 8¼ knots at 1945C/4th.
(Capt. S.1, 031112C to P.314 (TACTICIAN), (R) G.S. KATSONIS.)
- H.D.M.L. H.D.M.L. 1292 sails 2200/3rd via Southern Channel direct to position A. 035° 31' N. 011° 15' E.
E.T.A. 1600/4th. Leaves position A. 2300/4th returns through position 035° 23' N. (?012°) 29' E. to Malta E.T.A. 1700/5th. 10 knots. Codeword "Simmer" 224, low priority, single operator period 2150 k/cs. C. in C.Med's 021135, not to all addressees, refers.
(V.A.Malta 031142B to S.O.Force H, (R) C. in C.Med. Capt. S.10, N.O.I.C. Tunisia, N.L.O. M.A.C. Air Hqs. Malta. A.C.P. Troop Carrier Command, Ships escorting G.U.S.14, Ships escorting K.M.S. 24, H.Q.N.W.Af. Coastal Air Force.)
My 031142 postponed 24 hours.
(N.O.I.C. Malta 031904B.)
- ESPIEGLE L.C.Convoy. 1. ESPIEGLE with landing craft convoy in 034° 01' N. 012° 26' E. at 2000/3rd, speed 5½ (?northbound).
(S.N.O.Tripolitania 031148B to Situation report area L.C. of Levant Station South of 33° 30' N. served by Malta Broadcast.)
- French Refugees. Concur with F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 271840 French much prefer that reception base should remain at Casablanca, therefore route Algeciras - Casablanca is preferable from every point of view, second choice being Cadiz - Casablanca and third Malaga - Casablanca. H.M.Ambassador, Madrid, No. 109 of 18th August also refers.
(C. in C.Med. 031203B to N.A.Madrid (R) Admty. etc.)

War Diary.

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

G.U.S. Convoy Route. G.U.S. Convoys A.M. 171253. 1. Amend to read
 A. 34.58 10.02 35.00 18.01 34.03 24.59 35.25 35.20
 35.50 45.35 35.34 54.45 34.40 63.01 36.01 69.02
 B. 34.58 10.02 34.45 18.00 33.03 25.04 34.50 36.15
 35.10 45.46 35.04 55.20 34.40 63.01 36.01 69.02
 2. R.A. Alexandria is requested to include in the
 convoy sailing signal paras. 5 and 8 the letters allotted to ocean
 convoy and straggler route, which should be changed for each
 convoy. R.A. Alexandria 301057 and Mercantile Convoy instructions
 Art 88 refer.
 (D.C.D.(H) 031250A to C. in C.Med. (A) (R) C. in C.Levant, etc.)
 See also 051025.

PRINCE CHARLES, BLACKMORE. E.T.A. PRINCE CHARLES with BLACKMORE 1200 tomorrow
 Saturday 4th.
 (PRINCE CHARLES 031315B to C.O.B. Palermo, (R)
 C. in C.Med. S.O.(H) F.O.Sy.)

N.A.A.F. Report. N.W.A.A.F. Opsum 194. N.A. Strategic A.F.
 1/2 Sept. 40 Wellingtons marshalling yards Aversa.
 1 returned early. 68½ tons from 5000 to 10000
 feet bursts across yards. Direct hits buildings.
 Fires started.

2nd Sept. 82 U.S. Fortresses marshalling yards Bologna. 5
 returned early, 1 jettisoned, remainder dropped 750 x 500 from
 21500 to 23000 feet, severe damage shops, tracks, rolling stock,
 and freight sheds. 20 U.S. Fortresses marshalling yards Trenwo.
 1 returned early. 152 x 500 from 13900 to 14900 feet. Direct
 hit east end highway bridges over river. Hits and near misses
 oil storage. Railway hit. Some bombs in town. 27 U.S. Fortresses
 marshalling yards Bolzano. 3 returned early. 192 x 500 from
 16500 feet good concentration. Hits railway bridge and tracks.
 Hits town area. 73 U.S. Mitchells escort 68 U.S. Lightnings
 marshalling yards Cancellio. 1 bomber returned early. (419 or 415?)
 x 500 from 8000 to 9500 feet southern choke point stores depot
 factory completely covered. South and north ends yards and nearby
 buildings hit causing explosions and fires.
 (H.Q.N.A.A.F. 031412B.)

Parts 2 and 3. N.A. Tactical A.F. 1st Sept. 36 Baltimores
 Sinopoli. Hits town railway and roads. 22 U.S. Bostons Salino 2
 returned early. Bombs northeast town. 12 Bostons Leggambaria.
 Bombs believed southeast and east target. 12 U.S. Bostons same
 target failed locate and returned bombs. 24 U.S. Bostons radar
 station Cape Spartivento. Good pattern target and lighthouse.
 36 Mitchells Bova Marina. Town well covered. 24 U.S. Mitchells
 Olivento. Some bombs in town and on bridge, others wide. 57 U.S.
 Mustangs attacked rail communications southern Italy dropping
 46 x 500 Lamezia, 44 x 500 Catanzaro, 20 x 500 Sapri. 140
 Spitfires escorted bombers and gave cover to naval vessels.
 2nd September. 47 U.S. Bostons, 24 Baltimores gun positions East
 Reggio. Targets well covered. 36 U.S. Mitchells headquarters
 East Orti. Area well covered. 48 U.S. Mitchells headquarters
 southeast Rosarno. 12 aircraft failed locate target and 12 lost
 escort. 24 dropped 48 x 500 159 x 250. 2 large explosions observed
 12 Bostons, 12 U.S. Bostons troop concentrations Bova Marina.
 Target straddled. 12 Bostons, 12 Baltimores radar station
 Spartivento. Bursts among buildings. Near misses (?signal station)

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

N.A.A.F. Report. (Contd.) N.A.Coastal A.F. 31st Aug./1st Sept. (add.)
2 Wellingtons U-Boat hunts. 1 sighted and attacked
U-Boat 90 miles northeast Borgia. Dropping 3 depth
charges. As U-Boat crash dived. Closest depth
charge fell estimated 35 yards astern.
(H.Q.N.A.A.F. 031527B.)

Enemy Units. Following has been read.
Position of 2 medium sized merchant vessels and
3 escort vessels are 44.15 N. 9.25 E. within
half an hour of 1400 hours. Stationary.
(A/C GDZ/W via Alexandria W/T 031424Z.)

G.U.F.10. M.S.C.I. 22. Request you will sail G.U.F.10 at
1800 Sept. 5th* 2. A. 13½. B. 14½.* 3. (Route.)
4. Algiers 120, 1800 Sept. 6th, Oran 93, 0900 Sept.
7th, Gib. 37, 0100 Sept. 8th, Casablanca 034° 06'
008° 10' W. 1700 Sept. 8th.*
5. 7 K Outcon 498. 6. "Irving" normal. 7. Baker. 8. U.S.T.F.
68. S.O.Bizerta to Gib. U.S. MERVINE thereafter C.T.F. 68.
9 (a) and (b) as ordered by Admiralty.
(C. in C.Med. 031443B to N.O.I.C. Bizerta.) *See also 051055B.

ESSO PHILADEL- Your 020025 (request for further tanker to be
PHIA. allocated.) ESSO PHILADELPHIA allocated ex O.T.8.
(C. in C.Med. 031445B to C.S.Gibraltar, (F)
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty.)

TALLY HO. Cancel my 011120 (N.T. in W.R.) P.317 TALLY HO is
to proceed independently from 34° 23' 17° 00' at 1000
5th. Course 98° S.O.A. 11 knots, surface passage.
Capt. S.1 is to arrange onward routeing to Port
Said from 22° East.
2. M.J.A.O. 24, request total bombing restrictions for above
passage.
3. S.O.escorts pass by V/S to P.317 (TALLY HO.)
(V.A.Malta 031505 to Escorts K.M.S.24, TALLY HO, (R) N.O.I.C.
Port Said, C.S.1, C.S.3, C.S.10, 201 N.C.Group, C. in C.Med.
Air H.Q.Malta, C. in C.Levant, Admty. R.A.Alexandria.)
See also 041122C.

D/F of U/Bs delay. Am somewhat concerned at delay to which messages
reporting D/F bearings of U-Boat transmissions
obtained by shore stations are at present subjected.
2. All bearings of German U-Boats obtained by
Levant D/F Station are passed to following
addressees. Admiralty, C. in C.Med. C.O.I.S.Alex.
V.A.M. F.O.C.Gib. S.N.O.Trip. Com. L.A. Messages are routed by
W/T, coded in S.P. 02263, recoded by S.P. 02210.
3. Consider such messages should be passed by L/T in plain S.P.
02263 bearing indication of priority "Immediate", and special
prefix "COFSU" to ensure expeditious handling.

3.9.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- D/F of U/Bs delay. (Contd.) 4. Suggest addressees can be limited to Admiralty, C. in C.Med. C.O.I.S. Alex. and V.A.M. unless it is desired to also include F.O.I.C. Gib. C.O.I.S. Alex. would then be responsible for informing any ships or authorities concerned on the Levant Station.
5. If you concur generally request reciprocal arrangements for passing such messages to C.O.I.S. Alex. may be made by Med. D/F stations. (C. in C.Levant 031525C to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty.)
- N.A.A.F. Report. Final, part 4 of my A.V. 543E dated 3rd Sept. 2nd September. 6 torpedo Beaufighters, 4 anti-flak Beaufighters attacked 2 large barge type vessels 5 miles north (?Corsica) dropping 4 torpedoes. No hits observed. 2 torpedo Beaufighters down by flak. (H.Q.N.A.A.F. 031542B.)
- ILEX, PETARD. V.A.Malta 022110 (N.T. in W.R.) ILEX sailed at approx. 0900/4th from Bizerta overtake and act as additional escort to Malta. (N.O.I.C. Bizerta 031545B to PETARD, (R) S.O.Force H, V.A.Malta, C. in C.Med.)
- U-Boat Assessments. All attacks on submarines inside Mediterranean east of a line 180° from Europa Point are now assessed by a joint British - U.S. Naval and Air Board at Allied Force H.Q. Mediterranean. Ships carrying out attacks in this area are to forward out copy of their reports to C. in C.Med. (C. in C.W.A. 031558A to W.A.G.M. 742N.)
- U.G.S.14. U.G.S.14 arrived less Alexandria portion detached. (N.C.S.O. Port Said 031642C to Admty.)
- EMPIRE VICEROY. Pass to F.Os.I.C. and N.C.S.Os. 33. EMPIRE VICEROY 15 knots is a particularly valuable vessel similar to ships referred to in A.Ms. 052343 May, 1942 and 221201 January, 1943. 2. This ship should not normally sail unescorted. (D.T.D. 031643A to C. in C.Levant, etc.)
- U/Bs. U-Boat dispositions between 07° and 20° E. A. Reliable positions, one German from D/F at 0208B/3 within 60 miles 35° N. 18° 30' E. and positions not recently fixed possibly one between 07° and 09° E. (V.A.Malta 031714B.)
- UNISON. Return to harbour forthwith. (S.10, 031721B to P.43 (UNISON).)

3.9.1943.

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

- DIANELLA. Am detaching DIANELLA to Algiers with A/S defect. E.T.A. 040930B. She requires unit A/S 4 C for type A/S 127 D.V. (STARWORT 031800B to Care. Algeria, (R) Capt. F. Algiers, DIANELLA, C. in C.Med.)
- BATTLER, STALKER, FARNDALE, PETARD. C. in C.Med 311129 (N.T. in W.R.) Onward route from 278 through 280, 212 and Q.B.B. 123 (b). Reverse course as necessary from 212 so as to arrive off Grand Harbour at 0630/5th. (V.A.Malta 031803 to BATTLER, STALKER, FARNDALE, PETARD, (R) S.O.Force H, C. in C.Med. A.H.Q.Malta.)
- Malta Air Report. Opsum No. 116 (No incidents.) (R.A.F.Malta 031855Z.)
- Situation Report No. 169. 1. During the night 1st Sept./2nd Sept. OFFA, LOYAL and O.R.P. PIORUN operated S.E. of Straits of Messina and coastal force 3 operated off Vibo Valentia. No incidents reported.
2. WARSPITE and VALIANT carried out bombardment of targets in Cape Del Annì area at 1000 Sept. 2nd.
3. Air attack by about 9 aircraft at both Catania and Augusta afternoon 2nd Sept. no casualties or damage at either place three possibly four raiders shot down at Catania.
4. Clearance of depth charges in Messina Harbour has been carried out in depths up to 40 feet (?yards) completed and port is now ready to operate.
5. Convoy U.G.F.10 attacked by torpedo and bomber aircraft in two or three waves 2115 to 2150 September 2nd. U.S.S. KENDRICK hit aft by torpedo and has returned to Oran. At least one aircraft claimed shot down.
6. Operation "Baytown" consisting of assault by 5th Division and 1st Canadian Division on beaches between Reggio and Catanzaro was successfully launched at 0430/3rd Sept. Assault ships and craft under the Command of F.O.Sy. consisted of 22 L.S.T. 65 L.C.I.(L), 38 L.C.T. 100 L.C.M. and 70 L.C.A. covering and support were given by MAURITIUS, ORION, QUILLIAM, QUEENBOROUGH, OFFA, LOYAL, O.R.P. PIORUN, ABERCROMBIE, ROBERTS, EREBUS, APHIS and SCARAB. By 1400/3rd second flight was well under way, all first flight loads having been cleared well ahead of programme. (C. in C.Med. 031919B to Admty.)
- R/C Taranto. At 1745 2 cruisers possibly one escort vessel stationary outside harbour, one cruiser in inner harbour. 2 battleships in outer harbour with small boats around nets. Visual Taranto. (V.A.Malta 031930 to C. in C.Med. (R) C.S. 15. etc.)
- DZIK. Middle? diesel out of order, returning Malta from position (038°?) 40' 018° 10' by reverse of outward route diving by day. Position 035° 56' 016° 31' at 1200/5th E.T.A. position B. 0500/6th. (P.52 (DZIK) 032043B to Capt. S.10, (R) 10th S/M F.)

/ROBERTS...

War Diary.

3.9.1943.

Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

ROBERTS, F.O.Sy. 03(712)22 (N.T. in W.D.) ROBERTS
 ABERCROMBIE. requires to recover M/B from Augusta. Propose
 sailing both Monitors from Taormina at 1430.
 If approved request escort at this time.
 (ABERCROMBIE 032046 to F.O.I.C. Sicily, C.S.15.)

12th C.S. E.T.A. LUCA ?(04)70930 (as received) tomorrow
 Saturday. Your 012221 (N.T. in W.D.) refers.
 (F.O.12th C.S. 032047 to S.O.Force H.)

Augusta. Situation report 51. Arrived L.C.T. 377.
 Pumping out not entirely successful owing to
 breakdown of pump.
 Sufficient lift taken to allow defective propeller
 shafts to be removed.
 2. Salvage work on ESSO PROVIDENCE progressing satisfactorily.
 Expect her to be ready to proceed at slow speed by Sunday 5th Sept.
 3. One R/C aircraft over harbour Augusta.
 4. 2nd Division of Force H arrived and sailed. No raids in last
 24 hours.
 (N.O.I.C. Augusta 032150 to C. in C.Med. (R) V.A.Malta. etc.)

Operation Situation report 2100. Patrols are south of
 "Baytown." Scylla. Some enemy bombing of beaches. No damage
 to craft. Approaches to Reggio swept, no mines.
 Minesweeping at Messina in progress.
 (F.O.I.C. Sicily 032210B to C. in C.Med. (R)
 S.O.Force H, C.S.15.)

Med. Air Signed Eisenhower. Part 3, Air Cositintrep No.
 Report. 55, 2 Sept. First part. (similar to 031412B,
 031527B.)
 (Air C. in C.Med. No T.O.O./3.)
 (Second and last part.)

3. Air intelligence - 21 F.W. 190 attacked Augusta and 12 Catania
 four of which Spitfires destroyed and one is claimed by A/A. The
 main enemy air effort was concentrated against our bombing
 attacks in central and northern Italy no enemy air reaction being
 experienced in the toe of Italy.
 (Air C. in C.Med. No T.O.O/3.)

MOST SECRET

has
89A. 3/9

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 :

MOST SECRET. "O.T.P." (excepted from this rule) M I S S I O N T. O. O. Nil/3 September.
IN.

From. A.F.H.G. Algiers.

Date. 4.9.43.

Recd. 2215.

CIPHER.

Alpine Situation Report.
(Italy, etc.)

ADDRESSED. The War Office, and Linrep addresses.

9805 cipher 3 September 152386

Cite FIGURE. Signed Eisenhower.

Linrep 79

Summary of operations 30 August to 1 September.

Para. 1. Ground. Nil.

Para. 2. Naval. Each night coastal craft have operated off Vibo Valentia and Calabrian coast.

One force on night 29/30 August was engaged by batteries near Melito and Bova Marina on South coast of Italy. No damage or casualties were suffered.

Following night destroyers carried out sweeps as far as Gulf of Squillaco off foot of Italy without incident. On 31 August H.M.S. NELSON and ROLNEY bombarded coast batteries NE (or N) of Reggio putting at least one gun out of action and starting a large fire. Battleships cruisers and destroyers also engaged batteries in Cape Pellaro area. Ineffective retaliatory fire encountered.

Para. 3. Air. Concentrated attacks have been maintained upon railway comms. in central and southern Italy. Strong forces of Wellingtons operating at night bombed marshalling yards at Torfe Annunziata and Salerno in Naples area and Civitavecchia north of Rome. Latter target also attacked 30 August by 60 B.25's Mitchells heaviest raid of period was on 31 August when 152 B 17's Fortresses bombed marshalling yards and aircraft factories at Pisa. Principal targets for medium and light bombers were the marshalling yards at Aversa near Naples and other rail installations in southern Italy. Military targets in Sardinia were attacked by fighters and fighter bombers.

Para. Four. Enemy. Nothing to report.

Para. 5/

Para. 5. Political. Within the last four days three meetings of the National Committee of Liberation have been called to discuss new matters of a vital nature which have arisen. The conference evidently dealing with subjects of a very controversial nature have not as yet been able to reach a conclusion during their long sances.

T.O.O. Nil.

C.6. Tels.

Note by C.6.Tels. Copy has been sent to Colonial Office for retransmission to Resident Minister Achimota.

War Office circulation: M.O.1,2,4,5,6,7., G.S.(P), M.I.3,8.(1),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) C.A.2., A.G. Co-ord., H.Q. et usa. Brig. Jacob, Admiralty War Registry, A.M.S. 3.O., C.O.H.Q., Can. Mil. H.Q.

Recd. in War Registry at 0748/6.

1st Lord.

1st S.L. (2)

D.F.S.L.

4th S.L.

5th S.L.

A.C.N.3. (P)

A.C.N.3. (U) (2)

A.C.N.3. (V)

A.C.N.3. (A) (2)

U.W.R.

P.A.S. (3)

Capt. Pin.

Luty Capt.

Plot.

D.O.D. (H) (4)

D.O.D. (F) (2)

D.D.I.C. (2)

D.N.I. (4)

D. OF P. (2)

D. of P. (Q) (3)

D.A/S.V.

Hd. of M. (2)

D.P.D.

W.D.

I.P. (2)

Admiral Blake. (4)

D.D.O.D. (M)

C.N.I.

D.A/U.D.

D.R.O. (C.O.) (2)

H.W.R.

S.O.F. (V) (4)

D.G.D.

C.C.L.S. (2)

3.9.1943.

Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Convoy
K.R.6.K.R.6 arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo 030130Z to Admty.)EMPIRE
STANLEY
(sunk 17
August.)Ref. E.F. 716H/71/27.
A. EMPIRE STANLEY. B. 027° 08' S. 048° 15' E.
1550 G.M.T. 17th August.
C. Submarine. D. Torpedo. E.1. F. 20 picked
up by SS. SOCOTRA, one boat with 9 survivors last
seen sailing west p.m. 18th August.
G. No gun-fire. H. Yes. I. Submarine believed to
have taken one or possibly two survivors aboard. German language
heard. Total complement of EMPIRE STANLEY 54 including two
passengers.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 020512Z to Admty. etc.)India Air
Report.Opsun No. 537, 2nd September. 4 Beaufighters
attacked rail, river and road transport. 2 A/C
destroyed 2 M/T, damaged 11 others on Taungup -
Prome Road and 11 river craft at Pyalo (Irrawaddy).
4 Hurricanes detailed offensive Akyan (?Akyab)
area. 2 A/C damaged, 1 large river transport. 2 A/C saw no tar-
gets. 6 Hurricanes attacked and damaged 17 river craft Kaladan
River area. 6 Hurricanes attacked and damaged Paddle Steamer
Maukkadawb (Chindwin) and 3 boats in tow. 2 set on fire.
Further boat attacked, exploded.
Outstanding reports.
14th U.S.A.A.F. 1st September. 6 U.S. Kittyhawks (P.40) attacked
river targets Ichang Area. Direct hits on believed tanker,
(KM, as received), other river craft damaged. 1 probably sunk.
Troops and barges attacked same area. Many casualties. 3 U.S.
Kittyhawks (P.40) attacked shipping Shatow (near Hongkong) 1
direct hit on boat. 3 U.S. Lightnings (P.38) Nanchang - Yochow
Areas. Damaged or destroyed 3 buildings, A.A. emplacement, 2
locomotives, 3 river craft.
(A.H.Q. India 030641Z.)

O.S.23.

Your 010445 Sept. which has been passed to Admty.
(propose D.S.O. 23 should sail 11th Sept. for
passage to U.K.) approved subject to concurrence
of C. in C.Med. and C. in C.Levant.
(C. in C.E.F. 030740Z to Capt. S.4.)
Concur (C. in C.Levant 082339.)

RANPURA.

Traal satisfactory. Maximum station keeping speed
12 knots. My 311401* refers.
(C. in C.E.F. 030744Z to Admty.)
*W.R.Note see C. in C.E.F. 032209 re repairs to
RANPURA and question of retaining CHITRAL owing to
shortage of A.M.Cs. in Eastern Fleet.

CHITRAL.

Your 011225 Sept. para. 3. A. 1300Z Wednesday
8th Sept. B. 14.25 knots. C. 16.5 knots. D.
1500Z Monday 13th Sept. E. 0100Z Wednesday 15th
September. F. 0100Z Thursday 16th Sept.
(CHITRAL 030900Z to C. in C.E.F. (R) WITHERINGTON,
REDOUBT, F.O.Ceylon Admty. F.O.E.Af.)

/French...

War Diary.3. 9. 1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

French & Diego Suarez. Re-establishment of French authority at Diego Suarez. Further to my 080855 August to Admty. only. Cdr. Galleret has sought authority from N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez to enter the port with a small personal staff and set up his headquarters there about 8th Sept. (N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez 251501, not to Admty.)

2. My 271518 August and N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez 280825 August and 020957 Sept. are being passed separately to Admty. and amplify information concerning the above request.

3. As I regard this move as a direct attempt to regain control of the port and dockyard, I have not approved it, pending the outcome of any discussions now taking place in London with the French authorities concerning the future of Diego Suarez. (C. in C.E.F. 030945Z to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, F.O.E.A.)

A.B.10. Request you will sail NARBADA as additional escort to convoy A.B. 10. (C. in C.E.F. 030945Z to Com. i/c Aden, (R) NARBADA F.O.Ceylon, Admty. Com. R.I.N. F.O.C.R.I.N. F.O.R. S.C.A. ALAUNIA.)

Convoy D.C.42. Sailing telegram (9 ships). 2. 1000Z/4th Sept. 4. 8 knots. 5. Coastal reference 61 to 68 Saldanha Bay YH. 6. NORTHERN CHIEF, JASMINE, DRANGEY, CEDARBERG. 15. S.Q.D. 1 to 9 "Faggot" 299, Q.G.A. 158. (N.C.S.O. Durban 031048Z to Admty. etc.)

China Report. Following is forwarded from U.S. Army Forces in India for information of Prime Minister and Chiefs of Staff, weekly summary of events in China for period 26 Aug. to Sept. 1st transmitted by U.S.A.A.F. China.

4. U.S. Air. Aug. 26. 15 B.24s, 10 P.38s and 7 P.40s successfully bombed Kowloon docks scoring many hits on target area, 5 enemy fighters destroyed, 4 probables. 1 P.40 forced down in friendly territory. Aug 27. 6 P.40s attacked shipping at Yocho many hits on ships and 5 P.40s successfully attacked a truck convoy near Sitang 35 miles S.W. Shanshai. Aug. 31. 7 B.25s and 4 fighters attacked Owchinkow (Shihshow area) hitting a 400 feet boat and doing severe damage to the town. 3 P.40s attacked shipping near Hongkong. 1 445 ft. boat left sinking. 4 P.38s attacked Yoyang (east shore Tungting lake) scoring hits on rail facilities and 1 P.40 attacked locomotives N.E. Ichang. (C. in C. India T.O.O. Nil Recd. 1155/3.) Received in W.R. 040902. To:- M.O.12 (for action.)

Convoy M.A.1. Departure LAUNCESTON and ROHILKHAND escorting convoy M.A.1 keeping continuous watch on 250 k/cs and group N.U. and operating on 3000 k/cs when within 4 hours steaming of Madras and Vizagapatam. (N.O.I.C. Madras 031211 to Admty. C. in C.E.F. F.O.Ceylon, F.O.C.R.I.N. Com. R.I.N. N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam, N.O.I.C. Calcutta, N.O.I.C. Chittagong)

/Convoy...

3.9.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Convoy M.A.1. (Contd.) Convoy sailing telegram part 2. (corrupt group) M.A.1, 10, 11, 12, (13) ELLENGA Troops Chittagong via Vizagapatam (13) ETHIOP(?IAN) Troops Chittagong via Vizagapatam. (N.C.S.O., Madras 031235Z to Admty.)

EMPIRE WOODLARK. Sails 6th September for Kilindini. My 1311051 refers. (Intended sailing of EMPIRE WOODLARK with Polish families.) (P.S.T.O. India 031215Z to H.Q.E.A.)

M.A.1. Convoy sailing telegram part 1. 1. MAI(GE) 1220Z/3rd Sept. 4. 10.5 knots. 5. Coastal. 6. LAUNCESTON, (?ROHILKHAND). 15. S.D.G. 1 - 9. (N.C.S.O. Madras 031230Z to Admty.)

Repatriation Routes. A.M. 280026A August. A.M. 280443A August. Japanese have made last minute representations that route for TEIA MARU from Sunda Strait should be through position A. 04° 40' N. 94° 40' E. thence through positions B. to F. in A.M. 211631A August.

2. As GRIPSHOLM was due to sail on 2nd September and grant of safe conduct by Japanese apparently depended on agreement regarding route for TEIA MARU, Cominch appealed for urgent concurrence in above modification. While the desirability of keeping TEIA MARU clear of position 04° 40' N. 94° 40' E. is fully appreciated, nevertheless, we have reluctantly agreed to above route in order to avoid a complete breakdown in exchange.
3. Request you will inform air and other authorities concerned. (Head of M.Branch I Agreed D.O.D.(F) 031314A to C. in C.E.F.)

Base Defences, Indian Ocean. In order to economize men and material, the existing and projected Naval defences of Bases in Indian Ocean have been under review and following reductions are proposed.

(ii) Manza Bay. (A). Controlled Minefield. Practice system non-flood watch keeping and care and maintenance to be adopted. Field could be transhipped into commission for short period.

(B) Indicator nets to be weighed.
(iii). Diego Suarez. Development of Boom Defence Depot to be limited to requirements for maintenance of Boom during war.

(iv). Mauritius, Grand Port. Reduce controlled minefield to care and maintenance basis.

(v). Seychelles. Boom Defence (?plan). It is considered that the labour, material, shipping and personnel involved in construction of this Boom Depot are too great in comparison with its probable value and that (?construction) should be abandoned. Present Boom Defences can be maintained on periodical visit of Boom Carrier and Boom Defence Vessel.
(C. in C.E.F. 031322Z to Admty.)

/Starshell...

3.9.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Starshell Improved Starshell as control arrangements, A.M. 312704 (consideration for improvement of Starshell in destroyers. control arrangements in destroyers) refers most desirable to facilitate illumination of gun target. Deflection Calculator is a requirement.
2. Present arrangements for control of Starshell from Bridge position and searchlights from searchlight sight to be retained for control of illumination searches during a gun action and also in cruising watches.
(C. in C.E.F. 031517Z to Admty.)

L.C.I.(L)s. Your 011152. Following 3 L.S.I.(L) additional to those in A.M. 211801 August have been allocated: GLENGYLE, SS. SOBIESKI and SS. DERBYSHIRE.
2. SS. DERBYSHIRE is being sailed to Bombay from Suez shortly with her Landing Craft, crews being sent with any L.C.S. (M) carried but maintenance personnel only for L.C.A. On arrival Landing Craft should be disembarked and held for operations, ship will then be used by D. of S.T. for trooping until required.
3. GLENGYLE and SS. SOBIESKI will be sailed to Bombay after operations in the Mediterranean, GLENGYLE will have all her Landing Craft and C.O. personnel, SOBIESKI will have L.C.S.(M) and L.C.A. as for DERBYSHIRE in para. 2 above.
4. One flotilla of 12 L.C.I.(L) will be sailed from Mediterranean with crews and maintenance staff.
5. Request you will pass A.M. 211801 to P.S.T.O. India.
(D. of P. 031620A to C. in C.E.F. (R) F.L.O. Delhi, S.O. Force C, P.S.T.O. India.)

Madagascar. Shipping route in view of U-Boat situation.
(Com. 10 C. & R. 031853Z.) See America & West Indies.

RANPURA, CHITRAL, Eastern Fleet, A.M.Cs. Your 031630A. Signal was routed to you via Aden and Alexandria. Following is a repetition of my 3 311401Z (begins): Admty. (R) R.A.E.F. RANPURA, C. in C. Levant, from C. in C.E.F. Anticipated that repairs to RANPURA will give her 12 knots through the water. On completion of steaming trials 2nd September this figure will be confirmed. If trials are satisfactory propose to sail RANPURA to Suez for inclusion in suitable slow convoy to U.K.
2. The withdrawal of this A.M.C. will leave the Eastern Fleet very short of ocean escorts. Request favourable consideration may be given to the retention of CHITRAL until January 1944.
3. My 251336 refers. (Ends.)
(C. in C.E.F. 032209Z to Admty.)

93A.

MOST SECRET

WARNING : This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the text must first be paraphrased* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

(*NOTE : Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad :
MOST SECRET "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

031140 September
Date 3. 9. 43.
Recd 1020

IN

From C. in C. India

CYPHER

Addressed The War Office

India: Situation Reports.

IMMEDIATE.

362978 69319/C 3 Sep.

Most Secret and Personal for CIGS from Gen. Auchinleck.

CA5. Second half August.

1. Land operations. General situation unchanged. Chindwin sector some patrol activity and exchange of mortar and artillery fire. Weather has been wet and roads have been closed in consequence for several days at a time. Arakan sector reports northward movement Japanese seen connected with relief troops forward area and no firm evidence increase enemy troop Mayu Peninsula or forward of it. Enemy have not shown enterprise lately but are strengthening defence road Maungdaw Buthidaung roads and tracks closed periodically owing to rains. Car Nicobar air recce shows Japanese making landing ground and building barracks. Rangoon enemy convoy five ships arrived 16 Aug. and might have brought 2,500 men but if so these likely to be reinforcements rather than new formation.

2. Air operations. Monsoon continued curtail air activity but improved conditions towards end of period enabled attacks to be carried out on buildings and enemy L of C between Ramree Island and Gwa Bay. One successful night bombing attack on Akyab. Dive bombing attacks in difficult weather conditions were made on enemy troops in villages in area Buthidaung Rathedaung. Enemy positions and communications round Kalemvo and Mawlia were bombed with satisfactory results and 40 river craft on Chindwin damaged. Successful fighter offensive operations were carried out against river craft on Irrawady some 250 being damaged while oil storage tanks, factory buildings and road and rail targets were also attacked. Fighter attacks were made on enemy troop concentrations and river craft in Madu and Akyab areas and on road and river transport on lower Chindwin. Nineteen river craft were sunk or damaged on Irrawady. In spite of bad weather demands for supply dropping have been met 500,000 lbs being dropped by 79 sorties. Convoy escorts have been provided in Arabian sea and also patrols over Ceylon shipping lanes. Photographic recce limited by bad weather but Rangoon, Akyab and Andamans have been covered. Enemy airforce still inactive and has taken no (rpt. no) offensive action. Only 15 enemy aircraft sighted during period.

3. American and Chinese forces. Orders said to have been issued by Chinese authorities for withdrawal troops from/

93B.

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.)

from N.E. Burma. Appears that they are withdrawing. U.S. Air Forces continued their successful attacks on enemy communications in Burma and on Port Blair. Satisfactory conferences with U.S. commanders and staffs in Delhi on future plans have been held.

4. Administration and organisation. Three new RIN ships commissioned in period under review Calcutta and Cuttack in India and Kistna in U.K. Satisfactory progress on repairs of breaches in Grand Trunk road near Burdwan under direction Engineer in Chief who has assumed responsibility for this work. Work on repair railway breaches same area continues.

5. Training. Preliminary planning for conversion 70 Div into long range penetration groups has started. Divisional Commander now in Delhi. Reinforcements for British Infantry battalions will do two months jungle warfare training in British training brigades in Orissa state before joining units in forward areas. Training areas reconnoitred and training expected start November next.

6. Morale and health. No (rpt. no) change generally Sick rates much the same. Anti malarial measures which continue to give good results are being extended as resources permit.

7. Internal situation. No (rpt. no) change but Subhas Chandra Bose activities in Burma may have some harmful results particularly in respect of propaganda designed to make capital out of admittedly bad food situation in Bengal. Offer by him on behalf Japanese supply large quantities of rice for relief Hunger in Bengal is clever move which may have inconvenient results, should it become widely known as food situation in this part of India remains most serious.

031140

Circulated by W.O. to:

S. of S.	D.C.I.G.S.
C.I.G.S.	A.C.I.G.S.
V.C.I.G.S.	D.S.D.
D.H.C.	D.D.S.D.(A)
D.Plans (2)	S.D.2.
D.D.I.C.(O)(H)	D.Air
H.C.1,3,12.	D.D.Air
G.S.(P)	Air Co-ord.
D.I.	A.G.
D.D.I.(I)	Brig.A.G.Co-ord.
First Sea Lord	Q.H.G.
C.A.S.(A.H.)	Brig.Q(Ops)
Brig.Jacob (C.O.)	
India Office (Brig.Thompson)	
M.I.2,2a,2b,2c,17	Q(Ops)1(6)
D.T.	D.C.A.
D.D.K.T.(A)	D.D.C.A.
	C.A.4.

Note/

War Diary.

3.9.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

G.A.T.83 Convoy G.A.T.83 arrived.
(B.R.L.O. Trinidad 031018Z to Admty).

T.A.62 QUEEN ELIZABETH arrived.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 031106Z to Admty).

U.T.1 Unless otherwise directed by me when Transports
disposal. in U.T.1 are ready for return to U.S. sail them
singly and unescorted. Include tankers CANYON
CREEK and ESSO HARRISBURG in convoy U.C.4 leaving
U.K. about 15 Sept. Admty. pass to Comnavu for
action.
(Cominch, 031300Z to Comnavu (R) Admty. Cinclant,
C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q. Comeastseafon).

N.S.H.Q. S/M 1200Z/3rd Sept. No confirmation of attack in
Estimate. 55° N., 52° W. 2nd Sept. but possible 1 between
this position and Belle Isle.
(N.S.H.Q., 031430).

Cominch S/M Cominch, 031430Z.
Estimate.

ENGADINE New York departed 2nd Sept. ENGADINE in H.X.255.
(N.S.H.Q., 031450Z to Admty).

Y.F.D.32 New York arrived 1st Sept. H.M.R.T. ADHERENT from
St. Johns N.F. New York departed 1st Sept.
ASPIRANT and ADHERENT towing Y.F.D.32 escorted by
MIDLAND and TRANSCONA.
(N.S.H.Q., 031452Z to Admty. for C.C.R.T. (R)
B.A.D. C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F., N.M.C.S.)

U.S.A.T. Departure Vieux Fort 3rd U.S.A.T. HUGH J. GALLAGHER
Barbados 3rd.
(B.R.O. Saint Lucia, 031458Q to Admty).

FREJA Swedish FREJA Overdue Durban from Capetown since
21st August. Please advise.
(Com. 10th Flt. C. and R. 031510Z to Admty).

INVER At 1500Z/3rd sail(ed) INVER to Bermuda most direct
route and through A. 032° 29' N. 046° 18' W.
B. 032° 16' N. 064° 18' W. Q.J.B.1 to 9. Speed
12 knots. E.T.A. 0900Z/6th. W/T 105 k/cs. A.M.
211758 (corrupt group) not to all refers.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 031550Z to S.B.N.O.W.At. (R)
Admty. etc).

/Your...

War Diary.

3.9.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

INVER (contd). Your 031902 (N.T. in W.R.) Ref. my 031720Z, carry out A/S search from position of attack in (a) 043° 41' N., 064° 45' W. through (b) 043° 15' N., 065° 00' W. C. 043° 25' N., 064° 15' thence position (a).
2. If not in contact on completion of sweep proceed in compliance with my 021542.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 032120Z to INVER (R) Connav etc).
See C. in C. C.N.A., 040206Z.

Delivery of L.C.I. (L)s. Expectation is that a total of 18 L.C.I.(L)s are known to be assigned to U.K. as follows:-
immediately 2; October, 5; November, 4; December, 6; January, 1.
2. To enable crews to receive training which has been made available by U.S.N. Amphibious Base, request arrangements may be made for personnel for 1st 7 of these craft to be sent forward immediately. The following are needed from U.K. (details).
5. Complete crews will be required for the remaining 7 craft and should arrive towards the end of October.
6. A further signal will be made regarding officers for ocean passage, but with the training now being given here, it is considered possible that at least some of the L.C.I.(L) officers will be capable of ocean navigation, and other requirements may possibly be met from officers awaiting passage to the U.K.
Admiralty pass to C.C.O. and DINOSAUR.
(B.A.M.R., 031642 to Admty).

SLINGER (escort carrier). Washington pass action Admty. B.A.D., N.S.H.Q. Cominch, H.M.S. SLINGER arrived Port Angeles 031400Z.
Z.
(Comnorwestseafron, 031715 to Cincpac, Com. Westseafron).

A/C attack on U/B. A/C attacked S/M at 1530Z in 043° 41' N., 064° 45' W. Proceed forthwith and investigate. 2 A/C call signs CNOY and DSUX.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 031720Z to INVER, (R) Connav, Admty. A.C.I.C., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F. H.Q.C.C., Cdre. (D) Argentia, Cdre. (D) W.A., N.O.I.C. Shelburne).

B.Y.M.S. At 1500Z/3 sailed B.Y.M.S. 194 (S.O.) 53, 56, 174, 175 and 230 in company to St. Johns N.F. through
(a) 44.10 N., 62.00 W. (b) 44.56 N. 60.27 W.
(c) 45.36 N., 58.35 W. (d) 46.10 N. 52.36 W.
(e) 47.30 N., 52.17 W.

Q.J.A.204. Speed 10 knots. E.T.A. 2300Z/5.
2. Request you provide onward routeing to Londonderry.
(?C. in C. W.A. (Not codressed) 031737 to F.O.N.F. (R) Cinclant, C.T.F. 24, N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A., Admty. etc).

/Shipping...

War Diary.3.9.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Shipping Routes, Madagascar. Ref. amendment No.28 Meiri. In view present and prospective S/M situation S. of Madagascar believe establishment of lines LL to MM and E to G will create dangerous focal point for shipping that area. Recommend cancelling of above lines but continuance of lines MM to NN and F to G. This will permit more diversified and safer routing. Promulgation of amendment 28 will be withheld pending receipt your comment.
(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 031853Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F.)

GREENWICH. B.A.M.Rs. 012016Z/Sept. 1. GREENWICH is required to proceed to Ireland. 2. ERNE at present scheduled to sail from Argentia to U.K. with H.X.255 about 7th September can be used if necessary, although it is undesirable that she be delayed. 3. Request you will state if escort can be provided from your resources, using ERNE if unavoidable.
(D.O.D. (H) 031854A to C. in C. C.N.A., (R) B.A.M., N.S.H.Q., GREENWICH, C. in C. W.A.)

U.T.2. A.M. 301950 August. Convoy U.T.2, destination of tankers as follows:- (A) Clyde MATTAPONI, WINOOSKI. (B) Mersey SALAMONIE. (C) Swansea CHEEMUNG, CHIWAWA, SEAKAY. (D) Barry Roads for Avonmouth ESCALANTE, GEORGIA.
(D.O.D. (H) 031859A to Cominch.)

U.S.A.Ts. Arrival San Francisco 31st August PRESIDENT POLK. Departure San Francisco 31st August MORMACPORT for Suva. Departure Port Hueneme 28th August ROBIN WENTLEY for Noumea. All U.S.A.T.
(N.S.H.Q. 031902Z to Admty. C.O.P.C.)

B.Y.M.S. B.Y.M.S.34. 78. Charleston to New York when ready about 6 September. Hold B.Y.M.S. 39 and 54 now in New York pending arrival B.Y.M.S.34 and 78. Sail group in company New York to Halifax direct for onward routing to St.Johns and Londonderry. Cominch 242100 refers.*
(Cominch 031926 to Comeastseafon (R) C. in C. C.N.A., Admty. C.T.F.24, Com.3, Com. 6, F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A., Cinclant.)* Sail B.Y.M.S. 39, 54, when ready.

STRENUOUS, TOURMALINE. When ready about 7th September sail STRENUOUS (B.A.M.129) and TOURMALINE (B.A.M.130) Charleston to Bermuda direct for working up. When ready after working up N.O.B. Bermuda send these vessels to New York direct for spares and stores. Onward routing at later date.
(Cominch 031935 to Comeastseafon N.O.B. Bermuda (R) Cinclant, Admty. Com.3, Com. 6, S.B.N.O. W.At.)

/B.Y.M.S...

3.9.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

- B.Y.M.S. Cdr. North West Sea Frontier sail B.Y.M.S.149, 244, when ready about 9th September to San Francisco. Cdr. Western Sea Frontier route onward to San Diego for working up with B.Y.M.S. 261. When ready after working up sail all 3 vessels onward to Panama, arranging for logisti(?c) requirements enroute. Cdre. Panama Sea Frontier sail onward to Trinidad for further routing by N.O.B. Trinidad to Freetown via Belem and Recife. Action addressees advises time departure, routes, S. of A. Tactical information my 012218 of (?March) applies. Cdr. Western Sea Frontier pass to B.N.L.O. San Francisco.
(Cominch 032003Z to Cdr. N.W.Sea Frontier (U.S.) Cdr.Western Sea Frontier. Cdr. Panama Sea Frontier. (R) C. in C. U.S. Pacific Fleet. S.B.N.O. W.A. Cdr. Caribbean Sea Frontier, Cinclant, F.O.C.W.Af. Cdr. 4th U.S. Fleet, Admty. etc.)
- N.S.H.Q. Your 012035Z. (Re proposal for daily summary for Attack & Sighting Summary. C.N. W. Atlantic Area). Concur. (D.D.I.C. 032006A to N.S.H.Q. (R) Cominch.)
- S/M Attack and Sighting Summary. Para. A. From Cominch. Action to Admiralty for O.I.C., B.A.D., and N.M.C.J., S.C.M.C. have this for information. U.S.S. BARRY attacked sound contact 36.59 N. 23.13 W. 011959Z. Heavy oil slick and no further contact after 3 hours search. Admiralty pass to Comnavu. (Cominch 032040Z to Admty.)
- MAURETANIA. Your 312159 August. (1) U.S. Navy advise unable Use of to drydock MAURETANIA this voyage owing (A) U.S. Navy insufficient notice (B) not long enough period Dry Dock. since last drydocking to justify in their opinion. (2) In connection para. 1 (A) B.A.M.R. request U.S. point out that use of U.S. Navy drydock for British non Naval vessels is regarded by U.S. as privilege which they gladly grant if and when they can, but requires to be dealt with by B.A.M.R. in different manner than reservation of commercial dock. Essential you give us greater notice in future so that proper approach can be made. (3) Propose request drydock for next voyage. (B.M.W.T. 032105Z to D.S.T. (R) B.A.D. etc.)
- S.S.C. Sailing telegram Part 1. (21 ships). 141. (2) Gate 0600Z/4th. (3) Somp 2000Z/4th. (4) 7 knots to Somp then 8 knots. (5) Route. (6) THUNDER, RED DEER, ST. KENAN, CAPE MARIATO.* (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 032117Z, 032119Z to Admty.) * Part 2 is my 032119Z.
- ARIES. My 311742. (Anticipated that ARIES will proceed to U.K. as additional escort R.5 for H.X.256). Owing to unforeseen delays ARIES will not have time for adequate shake down if sailed with H.X.256. Propose to sail her with H.X.257 if delay is acceptable. (C. in C.N.A. 032142Z to Admty.)

War Diary.3.9.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.TEIA,
MARU.

Grant safe conduct to Japanese exchange ship TEIA MARU which departs Yokohama 14th September for India routed as follows. (Details). Instruct air authorities and other necessary commands that TEIA MARU is not to be molested. (Cominch 032150 to C. in C. Pacific Fleet, Cdr. S/M. Pac. Fleet, Cdr. U.S. S.W. Pacific Force, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, Admty.)

C.V.Es.
for
Biscay
Approaches.

When U-Boat situation in Central Atlantic appears favourable and unless you perceive objection consider C.V.Es. supporting U.S. African convoys may be employed profitably from time to time to sweep Biscay Approaches West of Sea Slug Area while proceeding to and from Casablanca. (Cominch 032205Z to Admty.) Reply:- 051305A.

INDOMITABLE.

INDOMITABLE arrived Norfolk 31st. (B.A.D. 032305Z to C. in C. Med. etc.)

*U.S. A/Cs for
Biscay A/S
Patrol.

My D.I.S.072210 August (N.T. in W.D.) am prepared to extend limiting date to 1st Nov. if situation demands. Advise. (Cominch, 031301Z to Admty).

Australia & New Zealand.U.S.S.
REPUBLIC.

My 311452Z August, omit point (d) ship will proceed direct to destination from point (c). (A.C.N.B. 030511Z to Admty. etc.)

Digest
Serial No.
591.
Sept.2.

Paras. 10 to 14 cover South Pacific Forces. Three medium Merchantmen two small Coasters and 2 Destroyers or Patrol Craft reported 60 miles West Mussau Island forenoon on Southerly course. (2) Catalina attacked convoy, 3 medium, two small vessels off Cape Saint G. previous night on Souther Easterly course. One medium vessel believed damaged. Small Coaster trailing oil slick attacked by Beaufort same area afternoon, second, while heading Rabaul. (4) Returning Fortresses bombed Lae and strafed Finschhafen without observed results. Medium size vessel reported stationary 26 miles ?to South Cape Gloucester. (5) 6 Mitchells attacked barges Borgen Bay forenoon destroying or severely damaging remaining possibly serviceable barges. (6) 16 Mitchells escorted by 40 Lightnings attacked shipping Wewak during forenoon scoring direct hits and near misses on 3 medium merchantmen which were reported burning and sinking, strafed small coastal gunboat, and several harbour craft also hit, strafed and left burning. Photos taken during attack show 12 vessels including 1 sunken coaster, 2 medium freighters burning, near misses on another, 1 Destroyer, 1 Gunboat, 4 other small to medium freighters, 2 other small coastals.

/Vessels...

War Diary.

3.9.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest
Serial No.
591.
Sept.
(Contd.)

Vessels unloading and numerous trucks and large (?barges) observed. (8) Hudson reported attacking one of two small vessels vicinity Timika where airstrip appears serviceable but no aircraft observed. (9) Two Liberators attacked shipping Waingapoe afternoon, including three small merchantmen, two barges, two sailing vessels, and praus claiming near miss one merchantman. (10) Photos Kahili first showed 44 fighters, 4 bombers, on drome and one destroyer or gunboat, 5 small cargo vessels, 2 smaller craft and 16 barges in harbour. (11) Catalinas dropped bombs Vila night hours while our fighters destroyed additional barges off Coast Vella Lavella and Choiseul during daylight patrols. (12) Enemy reported to have now evacuated whole of Santa Isabel. (3) 7 Corsairs carried out surprise strafing Kahili morning 2nd destroying 4 aircraft on ground and strafing closely packed line of fighters. Many personnel hit and 2 launches destroyed, trawler damaged, barge burnt in harbour. One Corsair shot down by anti-aircraft fire. Single enemy medium bomber shot down by another Corsair off Rennel Island afternoon (corrupt group).* (14) Mitchells, Dauntless and Avengers struck Vila during the afternoon as diversion to heavy strike on Kahili involving four squadrons of heavy bombers with one hundred fighters covering. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 030758.)* Repetition of corrupt positions being obtained.

Movements.

Arrivals 2nd. Brisbane U.S. Transport CAPE FLATTERY.

(Comswoespaceseafron 031248 to Admty.)

Arrived Brisbane 31st August U.S. MIZAR 2nd.

Sept. U.S.N.T. ROCHAMBEAU Milne Bay 30th August. U.S.S. SONOMA departed Brisbane 1st August U.S. N.T. SUSQUEHAN (? U.C.) for Gladstone Milne Bay (?2nd) U.S.S. MANGROVE, SMITH, CHURCHILL, Port Lock Harbour.

(A.C.N.B. 031252Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 031414A, 031420A.)

War Diary.

3.9.1943.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

S/M attack
and
sighting
summary.

24 hours to 1000A/3rd September.

Para. A. A/C J/179 have attacked U/B with D/Cs. at 0345/3rd September in 42° 30' N. 10° 09' W. course 090°. A/C M/228 sighted U/B at 1012/2nd September in 47° 22' N. 11° 36' W. course 160°.

Para. B. A/C sighted P/S at 0650/3rd September in 38° 01' N. 09° 07' E. Para. D. A/C sighted U/B. at 1200/2nd September in 55° 56' N. 01° 50' E. course 270°. (D.D.I.C. 031121A to Cominch.)

4.9.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- Home Fleet. 1. C. in C.H.F. in DUKE OF YORK with British and U.S. Main Units at Scapa were carrying out a tactical exercise today to the westward of the Orkneys.
- Operation V.P. A.N. 2. M.T.Bs. 626 and 619 returned to Lerwick at 1110A today from a successful operation on the Norwegian Coast.
- Biscay A/S Patrols. 3. BERMUDA left Plymouth at 1651A to support the 5th and B.5 Escort Groups on A/S Patrol between 46° and 48° N. and 16° and 17° W. SHEFFIELD is to leave this area at 2030A tomorrow and return to Plymouth.
- Coastal Batteries. 4. Our coastal batteries in the Dover area fired 42 rounds of 9.2 and 4 rounds of 15 inch at two medium sized Enemy Vessels off Calais at about midnight last night, setting one vessel on fire; and the enemy coastal batteries replied with about 30 rounds of which 11 fell ashore in the Deal and Folkestone Areas causing some slight damage at Deal but no casualties.
- M.G.Bs. Shelled. 5. Between 1700 and 1800 yesterday M.G.Bs. 40, 41 and 42 while searching for mines on the Vergoyer Bank were fired at by an enemy coastal battery at Hardelot Plage. About four 4 gun inaccurate salvos were fired and no damage or casualty was caused.
- Two minesweepers missing. 6. M.M.S. 251 and 255, which left Newfoundland on 24th August for U.K. have not arrived. They have not been sighted on passage and do not reply to signals.
- American Troop Convoy. 7. Both portions of Convoy U.T.1 which left Hampton Roads on 20th August for U.K. via Argentina with troops, arrived in the U.K. today.
8. The fishing trawlers CONISTON and IRANIAN were bombed and machine gunned at 1750 today by a B.V. 138 in 64.48 N. 09.20 W. (about 180 miles N.W. of The Faroes.) The trawlers received superficial damage and report that they damaged the enemy aircraft, which disappeared losing height and smoking.

102

4.9.1943.

Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

MONTE ALBERTIA.9. Spanish SS. MONTE ALBERTIA, Buenos Aires for Teneriffe and Bilbao, was intercepted (in accordance with Admiralty instructions on 27th August) by the French cruiser MONTCALM at 0930 today in 18.19 N. 23.57 W. A French armed guard was placed on board and the ship is proceeding to Gibraltar at 8 knots.

Mediterranean.

Italy,
Operation
"Baytown".

10a. During last night, cruisers and destroyers of Force K operated off the Calabrian Coast covering Operation "Baytown" (invasion of Italy). Reggio harbour is reported clear of under-water obstructions. L.S.T. and L.C.T. berths are expected to be available in 2 days, and four berths alongside the breakwater in 3 days. At San Giovanni, landward approaches to the harbour are reported badly blocked, and there are some wrecks but the outer breakwater is intact.

(b). The ferry service of landing craft across the Straits of Messina continues today ahead of schedule for the build-up of Operation "Baytown".

(c). Enemy air activity over the Straits of Messina was on a reduced scale today and few attacks were directed against shipping. At least 9 enemy aircraft were destroyed in the area.

(d). A Commando Force was landed at Bagnara at 0430 today without opposition. (*Operation "Hooker"*)

(e). EREBUS, monitor, and APHIS and SCARAB, gunboats, are to remain under the command of F.O. Sicily, to assist the advance of the 8th Army. The L.C.Gs. now with F.O. Sicily are also to be retained for up to 14 days.

M.N.B.D.O.

11. Admiralty today informed C. in C. Mediterranean that the reorganisation of M.N.B.D.O. for service in other theatres is under active consideration. They point out that this organisation cannot be counted on as being available for an indefinite period as static defence of an established port, which is a military commitment.

Submarines
for Eastern
Fleet

12. All new construction and refitted T. and S. Class submarines, and ultimately A. class except a few earmarked for training and operations at home, are to join the Eastern Fleet. C. in C.

/Mediterranean...

4.9.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Submarines
for Eastern
Fleet.
(Contd.)

Mediterranean is requested to consider basing his submarines ashore to allow the transfer of MAIDSTONE to the Eastern Fleet in December.

Convoy.

13. M.K.S.24, 17 merchant vessels, left Alexandria today.

Form M.

14. The flag of the Rear Admiral, Force M, was transferred to ENDEAVOUR today from BULOLO. Other ships of Force M are proceeding to Aden for onward routing to Bombay.

East Indies.

15. U.S.Liberators dropped 10 tons of bombs on Rangoon Docks and shipping today.

America & West Indies.

C.V.Es.

16. Recommendations by the Allied A/S Survey Board for the employment of escort carriers built in U.S.A. for the Royal Navy are the subject of a message from B.A.D. Washington today.

Shipping,
St. Lawrence.

17. As the present lull in U-Boat activity may afford opportunity to speed up the turn-round of grain and timber ships from the St. Lawrence, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa is requested by the Admiralty today to consider the independent sailing between Sydney and Montreal of ships for the U.K.

4.9.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

Landing near
Hopoi, New
Guinea.

18. At dawn today an Allied landing was effected near Hopoi, 14 miles east of Lae, New Guinea, from landing craft with air cover and naval support. No ground opposition was encountered during the landing operations, but several enemy air attacks against shipping and the beach head were made during the day.

Solomons.

19. The evacuation of Santa Isabel is confirmed, and Choiseul is also possibly evacuated.

Air operations
in S.W.P.A.

20. The Japanese air force at Rabaul is being built up; when this is completed, a renewal of enemy offensive operations based on Rabaul is considered likely. Apart from a few attacks on shipping the enemy this year have carried out no air operations on the S.W.Pacific area either locally decisive or a cause of serious dislocation.

4.9.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of United Kingdom.Red Sand
Fort.Red Sand Fort construction completed 3 September.
(C. in C. Nore, 041041A to Admty).Movements.MATAGORDA,
HUMBOLT.

Your destination is changed to Pembroke Dock.
(C. in C. W.A., 040223A to MATAGORDA).
U.S. Seaplane tenders MATAGORDA and HUMBOLT
proceeding in company. E.T.A. ?(both) ships
Barry Roads 1840Z/4th.
(MATAGORDA 040633 to Admty).
Arrived MATAGORDA.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 041641A to C. in C. W.A.)

VIGILANT

Subject to satisfactory acceptance trials about
8th September, followed by fire-fighting course
at Rosyth until 10th September, request you sail
VIGILANT to work up at Scapa.
(D.O.D. H., 041417A to C. in C. Rosyth).

SHIKARI

Subject to E.R. Trials being satisfactory intend
to sail SHIKARI for Scapa from Lough Foyle at
2000 tomorrow. E.T.A. Scapa 1700/6th.
(Cdre. D.W.A., 041516A to C. in C. W.A.)

Coastal Craft
Group L.

Admiralty's 251605. Intend to sail LANDGUARD
(S.O.) and SENNEN from Lough Foyle at 1200/6th.
E.T.A. Milford Haven 0900/7th.
(Cdre. D.W.A., 041558A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven)
A.M. 222205. M.F.V. 2029 will not sail with

K.M.S. 26. Ship has now been included in Convoy of Coastal
Craft Group L.

(D.O.D. M., 041925 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

S/M Movements. Positions of S/Ms at 0800/5 and movements for
following 24 hours.

(F.O.S., 041558A, 041908).

L. 27 proceeding unescorted from position Skerryvore 260° 10 miles
at 2230A. BLADE seeking shelter owing to southerly gale.
(BLADE, 042240 to F.O.S.)

CEYLON

Scapa departure CEYLON.
(A.C.O.S., 041809A to C. in C. Plymouth).

ULSTER

Your 011315A. ULSTER arrived 1645A/4.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 042102A to C. in C. Rosyth).

4.9.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Coastal Force Patrols. My 022325A. Arrived HELIER II and LEEDS UNITED. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 040051A to C. in C. Plymouth). Destroyers returned from Dover Command revert to 4 hours notice for steam until 2030A. Ships to come to 1½ hours notice then, but are to remain in harbour for the night. (C. in C. Nore, 041249A to Capt. D.16).

1. Force C. M.G.Bs. 664, 676 are to patrol in vicinity 112° Start 22 miles.
3. Force E. M.G.Bs. 111, 81, 75 are to patrol in vicinity 146° Start 19 miles.
5. Forces C and E. To leave Dartmouth to be on patrol by 2100. Leave patrol for Dartmouth 0530A.
6. Force C and 3. Are not to enter Q. Z. X.1095 unless necessary. (C. in C. Plymouth, 041431A).
 1. Orders for night 4/5th September.
 - (A) C.W.206, escorts MEYNELL, GARTH, passes C.2 buoy at 0525A. BLEASDALE, STEVENSTONE, WENSLEYDALE proceed to patrol 10 miles south of convoy route between long. of C.2 buoy and C.3 buoy from 0001A and join as additional A/A escort after daylight until arrival at Portsmouth.
 - (B) W.P. 395 escorts LIMBOURNE, TANATSIDE, GOATHLAND, TALYBONT arrives Needles 0700A. ALBRIGHTON, LA COMBATTANTE, GLAISDALE patrol 10 miles south of convoy route between long. of Portland Bill and Durlstone Buoy from 2300A and join as additional A/A escort after daylight until arrival at Needles.
 - (C) M.T.Bs. 249, 211, 255 proceed to carry out offensive patrol of enemy coastal route between YY and 073° YY 9 miles. Objective torpedo-targets only, including T.L.C. Type III. Traffic appears to be passing about one mile off shore. Proceed and return by passage two, passing 2 N. not before 2130A and return to be within 20 miles of own coast by 0530A.
 - (D) M.Ls. 292, 291 patrol Q. Z. S.384 between F and E.A.5 buoys.
 - (E) CHASSEUR 12 immediate notice St. Helens. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 041531A). Dispositions at 1600.
9. M.G.B.664, 676, sail Dartmouth 1945 to patrol 112 Start Point 22 returning 0530/5.
10. M.G.B.111, 81, and 75 sail Dartmouth 2000 to patrol 146 Start Point 19 returning 0530/5.
12. M.G.B.13, 7 and 6 sail Portland 2030 to patrol 15' south St. Albans, returning 0550/5. (C. in C. Plymouth, 041628A). Tonight ALBRIGHTON, LA COMBATTANTE, GLAISDALE will patrol between Portland and Durlstone Buoy 10 miles South of convoy route. They will join you after daylight as additional A/A escort. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 041713A to LIMBOURNE). BLEASDALE, STEVENSTONE, WENSLEYDALE will patrol 10 miles southward of convoy route between C.2 and C.3 buoys tonight. Will join you as additional A/A escort after daylight. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 041726A to MEYNELL). M.Ls. 104, 101, 108, 107, 128, 210, 213, 573 carry out operation N.L. 102. E.T.D. 1915, E.T.R. 0350/5. Route via number ten buoy and Bullock Bank each way. M.G.Bs. 114, 116, 117 supporting N.L. 102, then patrolling Vergoyer Bank. E.T.D. 1915, E.T.R. 0630/5. Route via number ten buoy and Bullock Bank each way. GREY GOOSE, GREY FOX, GREY OWL and GREY SEAL at Berck Buoy. E.T.D. 1900, E.T.A. 0645/5. Route via Bullock Bank each way.

/M.G.Bs. ...

4.9.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Coastal Force Patrols. (contd). M.G.Bs. 42, 41 and 40 at V Buoy. E.T.D. 1930, E.T.R. 0630/5. (V.A. Dover, 041748A). My 041748A add:- M.G.Bs. 614 and 616 patrolling 9 miles S.E. of Dover. E.T.D. 2030 E.T.R. 0530. M.A.S.Bs. 38, 32, 29 and 25 E.T.D. Ramsgate at 0415 for No.4 buoy. (V.A. Dover, 041837A). My 1628. Paras. 9 and 10 cancelled owing to weather. M.G.Bs. remaining at immediate notice. (C. in C. Plymouth, 042155A).

Biscay A/S Patrols.

U/B reports. Am over enemy S/M in (position indecypherable). S/M has dived. (A/C 318 Sq. Duty E. 040530 to 19 Group). My P.C.S. 090° Lundy Island 5 miles, 219° 16 knots. (E.G.2, 040630A to C. in C. Plymouth). Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on the surface and seen to submerge. When first sighted was on course 340°. (A/C 318 Sq. Duty E. 040645 to 19 Group). Enemy not met. Returning to base 46° 01' N. 10° 14' W. (A/C 76 Sq. Duty O. 040947 to 19 Group). Am over enemy submarine in 45° 45' N., 11° 12' W. Periscope only sighted. (A/C 224 Sq. Duty F. 041155 to 19 Group). (1) Emergency. 5 unknown. Position 46° 00' N., 11° 15' W. (A/C 201 Sq. Duty Y 041300B to 19 Group). Objective reached. No contact. Request instructions. (A/C 427 Sq. Duty W. 041310A to 19 Group). Have A.S.V. contact. Probably U/B. (A/C 172 Sq. Duty P. 042329 to 19 Group).

BERMUDA,
SHEFFIELD.

BERMUDA is to pass Gate at 1545A/4th and proceed through position BA, 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles, BB 048° 46' N. 010° 02' W. B.C. 048° 01' N. 010° 02' W. BD 047° 08' N. 010° 01' W. and thence to patrol in area between 046° N. and 048° N. and between 016° W. and 017° W. to support 5th and B.5 Escort groups against surface attack and for operation "Regulation" as required. 2. BERMUDA is to pass through (BC) at 0800/5th, speed approx. 20 knots. Beaufighters and Mosquitoes of 19 Group will R/V at this point and escort until 1200A. During this period BERMUDA is to operate and control fighters. 3. If weather signalled as unsuitable for flying BERMUDA is to continue from (BB) through (BE) 048° 35' N., 012° 29' W. and thence to Patrol area. 4. SHEFFIELD is to leave patrol-area at 2030A/5th and proceed through position (SA) 047° 01' N., 010° 59' W. (SB) 048° 01' N. 010° 05' W (SC) 049° 05' N. 010° 01' W. (SD) 180° Boshop Rock 8 miles and thence to Plymouth keeping to westward of Lizard Head during dark hours.

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Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Biscay A/S Patrols.BERMUDA,
SHEFFIELD.
(contd).

5. SHEFFIELD is to pass through position (SA) at 0900/6 speed approx. 20 knots. Beaufighters and Mosquitoes of 19 Group will R/V and escort until 1300A. During this period SHEFFIELD is to operate and control fighters.

6. If weather is signalled as unsuitable for flying SHEFFIELD is to proceed through position SE 048° 45' N. 011° 58' W. to position SC. Onward route Plymouth as before.

8. Codeword for BERMUDA, "Talbot".

(C. in C. Plymouth, 041103A to BERMUDA, SHEFFIELD).

BERMUDA sailed.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 041651A to Admty).

Dispositions. The following patrol-lines are to be taken up at 2000A today. Group B.5 HAVELOCK S.O., VOLUNTEER, VIMY. Between GG. 042° 41' N. 013° 06' W. GH. 043° 43' N. 013° 47' W.

Force W. between GH and GJ 044° 51' N., 014° 00' W.

5th Escort Group between GJ and GF 046° N. 014° W.

2. Force W is to leave patrol-area at 1st light on 5th Sept. and proceed through position (W) 048° 56' N., 012° 42' W.

3. CRANE is to be detached at position (W) to proceed through position (J) 180° Bishop Rock 10 and thence Plymouth.

4. From position (W) WEAR and PELICAN proceed Londonderry as routed C. in C. W.A.

5. On departure Force W, B.5 Group is to patrol between GG and GE 044° N. 014° W. 5th Escort Group between GE and GF.

6. SHEFFIELD is supporting between 040° N. and 048° N. and between 016° W. and 018° W.

8. Codeword B.5 Group "Fisher". CRANE after part company with Force W. "Porter III".

(C. in C. Plymouth, 041139A to B.5, Force W, E.G.5, (R) SHEFFIELD, BERMUDA).

Disposition at 2000. (1) B.5 Escort Group, HAVELOCK, VIMY, VOLUNTEER patrolling between 042° 41' N., 13° 06' W. and 043° 43' N., 013° 47' W.

(2) First E.G., PELICAN, WEAR, CRANE patrol between 043° 43' N. 013° 47' W. and 044° 30' N., 014° 00' W.

(3) 5th E.G. NENE, TWEED, EDMUNDSTON, SNOWBERRY, CALGARY patrol between 044° 51' N., 014° 00' W. and 046° N., 014° W.

(4) ESKIMO, CAPETOWN 044° 38' N., 016° W, northbound, 16 knots.

(5) SHEFFIELD patrol in vicinity 047° 00' N. 017° 00' W.

(6) BERMUDA south of Scilly Isles approx. 2330, westbound, 20 knots.

(7) CURIE 043° 30' N., 010° 10' W. southbound, 90 miles per day.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 041620A 050140A to Ships).

P.C.S. at 0700A/5th. 043° 02' N., 013° 21' W, 334° 11 knots.

VIMY will then have sufficient fuel for 5.5 days, at that speed.

(B.5, 041801 to C. in C. Plymouth (R) SHEFFIELD, BERMUDA, CALGARY, E.G.5, Force W).

/Intend...

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Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Biscay A/S Patrols.

Dispositions. Intend P.C.S. 0700A/5th, 004° 20' N., 013° 54' W.
(contd). 010° 13.
(S.O. Force W, 041927Z to C. in C. Plymouth, (R) SHEFFIELD, BERMUDA, E.G.5, B.5).
Intended P.C.S. at 0700/5th, 045° 16' 014° 01' 180
degs. 9 knots.
(E.G.5, 042015A to C. in C. Plymouth, (R) B.5, Force W, BERMUDA, SHEFFIELD).
Your 030953A and 031117A. Arrived WOODCOCK, STARLING, WILDGOOSE, WREN, KITE at 1742.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 042103A to Cdre. D.W.A.)

General.

Operation Scapa arrival, MUSKETEER, MAHRATTA.
"Lorry". (A.C.O.S., 040820 to N.O.I.C. Faeroes).

S/M F.O.S's 021142. Adjust speed to R/V with
Patrols. Chaser 14 in position (YY) at 0700/7th for escort
to Portsmouth via Portland.
(?Capt. S.5., 041100A to SAFARI).
My 161349 May. Amend mid position (?of) BB to
read 065° 01' N., 005° 50' W.
(F.O.S., 041247A to S/Ms).
(1) My 25/158 August and my 021534 September. Patrol
position 0.15 C.C. STONEHENGE BB.
(2) Subs. diving by day when north of 062° N.
(3) Attention is drawn to amended position BB in my 041247.
(F.O.S., 041249A to Capt. S.9).
Positions of submarines at 0800/5th and movements for
following 24 hours.
(a) TANTALUS as in my 021607.
(c) ULA approaching patrol area off Malagen Fiord, dived by day.
(e) SAFARI leaves patrol 0700/5th through 47° 01' N., 06° 01' W.
thence to northward dived by day. Daily advance 110 miles.
(f) RUBIS as in my 02/1607, leaving patrol p.m./5th through 45°
32' N., 06° 01' W. thence to northward dived by day. Daily
advance 90 miles.
(F.O.S., 041558, 050004A to Admty).

"Forfar B." "Forfar B" second phase carried out night 3/4
Sept. Force successfully withdrawn, no prisoners,
no casualties.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 041130A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Operation Position at 042000. FRASERBURGH, LLANDUDNO,
S.F. WORTHING, DUNBAR searching vicinity 062° 34',
013° 25'.
(A.C.O.S., 041214A to SKEENA, H.Q.C.C.)

If no aircraft sightings and if not in contact at 2000
today group A return to harbour. C. in C. F.H. is requested to
issue any directions considered necessary with regard to
S.O. 15th M/S 0212045.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 041512A to M/S F. 15).

/BOOTLE...

4.9.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation S.F. (contd). BOOTLE having completed boiler cleaning intend to sail her to Seidisfiord at 0900/5th. (A.C.I.C., 041652A to M/S F. 15). Sailed SABRE to Skaalefiord, E.T.A. 1000A/5th. (R.A.D. H.F., 042007A to N.O.I.C. Faeroes).

Operation VP-AN. My 301029A. M.T.Bs. 626 and 619 returned at 1110A today. (2) Operations were successful. (A.C.O.S., 041218A to Admty).

Enemy Craft and Dover Area shelled. Two medium or trawler size from Boulogne at 2340 eastbound at 15 knots. Faded at 0110 6 miles east of Calais. Engaged by our coastal batteries who fired 4 rounds of 15 inch and 42 rounds of 9.2. One vessel but probably not the main target seen to be on fire. M.T.Bs. failed to locate main target owing to smoke from burning vessel.

(V.A. Dover, 041240A to Admty).

My 041240. Enemy batteries replied with about 30 rounds of which 6 fell in Dover Harbour, 3 in Deal Area, 8 in Folkestone Area and the remainder to seaward. Damage by splinters caused to Deal hard DWI. No casualties reported.

(V.A. Dover, 041550A to Admty).

M.G.Bs. shelled. Between 1700 and 1800/3rd M.G.Bs. 40, 41, 42 when searching for mines on the Vergoyer Bank were fired at by an enemy coastal battery from Hardselot Plage. About four 4-gun salvos were fired. No damage or casualties. Shooting was inaccurate, majority of rounds falling about 1 mile astern.

(V.A. Dover, 041317A to Admty).

"Forfar M". "Forfar M" will not be carried out tonight. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 041640A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Unknown operation. Reference Ply. 01486/622 of 27th August. Operation partially successful. Own forces sustained no damage or casualties. (C. in C. Plymouth, 041640A to Admty. (R) S.O. Force J).

Exercises.

Exercise "Sunk". Carrying out exercise "Sunk". (A) September 5th 0945A. (B) CATTISTOCK. (C) 12 Beaufighters. (D) H.3 to 62 D. (E) H.3 (F) 1045A. (C. in C. Nore, 041456A to CATTISTOCK).

Exercise C.O. My P.C.S. at 2240A, 059° 18' N., 003° 54' W. 180° 14 knots. (C. in C. H.F., 042248A to SABRE).

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

Bomber
Command
operations.

On night 3/4th. 45 A/C laid Mines.
(H.Q.B.C., 041530A).

Operation
"Overseer".

"Overseer" position 49.08 N. 02.35 W. Best times during daylight from three hours before to three hours after high water.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 041603A to H.Q.C.C., H.Q.F.C., H.Q.B.C., 10, 19 Groups (R) Admty).

Air Escorts
for Convoys.

Acute temporary shortage recognised to be inevitable and we will do all possible to help but notice another aimless A/S sweep being flown by American Liberator from Lyautey today in area where no U-boats. This is almost daily occurrence.

Know your difficulties but know you will do all you can to stop this waste.

(H.Q.C.C., 041820Z to R.A.F. Gibraltar).

Result of withdrawing one B.24 Sq. U.S.A.A.F. from Lyautey is now apparent as A.O.C. Gibraltar has signalled as follows. Begins: Owing to acute temporary shortage of LR aircraft in this area we shall probably be compelled to ask for considerable assistance from 15 Group with Convoys south of 43° N. for the next few weeks. Ends.

Request convoy commitments be kept to minimum possible.
(H.Q.C.C., 041850A to Admty).

S.N.222 B.

A/S air for tomorrow will be provided as in my 032142 until 1601 when provision will be as in my 022155.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 042307A to R.A.M.)

Mining.

Search of
Q.Z.S.315.

Following is a repetition of C. in C. Plymouth's 022300A to F.O.I.C. Falmouth. Begins. Admiralty 022151A. Sail four Oropesa Trawlers as soon as practicable to commence searching convoy-route from Longships to northward at daylight, anchoring as convenient at dark or after reaching limit of command. Ends.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 040947A to Admty).

Q.Z.X.1095

Request you proposals for clearance of Q.Z.X.1095.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 041524 to GWEAL).

S.N.222 B.

Am proceeding independently by return route.
(SCOTT 041853 to R.A.M.)

M/S 18

R/V with Flotilla off Dover at 0520 tomorrow. LL/SA Gear to be prepared for sweeping.
(M/S F. 18, 041920A to LOYALTY).

War Diary.4.9.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

Main Units. Result Soviet visual R/C Altenfiord area 1845 (C?) Sept. 3rd just received was two battleships or battle cruisers one pocket battleship 5 (?) ?destroyers. No photographs were taken. Admty. pass to H.Q.C.C.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 041720A).

STRASBOURG. Photographs at 031620A show STRASBOURG ex BALOERAN 17000 tons supposed Hospital Ship to be at Ijmuiden North Pier Light 335° one mile six cables apparently aground, with ships head south while tidal stream runs southward. Three powerful discharge-pumps working on Port side. North Coates oblique photographs 309 Sq. forenoon 3 Sept. show vessel in same position abnormally deep especially forward and suggest that vessel bears no kind of Red Cross marking on ship's side.
(R.A.F. Medmenham, 042225A to Admty).

Casualties & Defects.

ATLANTIS Your 022021. (A) On receipt Port Patrick Radio 021429Z following was made to STARLING begins Hospital Ship ATLANTIS has been hit twice. Report if anything is known of this. Ends.
(B) STARLING replied this may have been Second Escort Group H.A. firing.
(C) H.A. firing for 2nd Escort Group took place between 1430A and 1600A.
(D) During this period no other firings were taking place in Londonderry exercise area.
(E) Suggest fuller investigation at Plymouth..
(Cdre. D.W.A., 040016 to C. in C. W.A.).
Commodore (D) W.A.'s 040016. Prior to departure from Plymouth a written report is to be rendered of the circumstances in which Hospital Ship ATLANTIS was hit and damaged by a shell presumed to have been fired by 2nd E.G.
ATLANTIS reports she was hit at 1520 B.S.T. on September 2nd by a shell fired by one of three warships firing on her starboard beam distant about 7 or 8 miles. Position given is 55° 30' N. 6° 47' W.
Previous to being hit several shells had fallen close by and she had called up warships by Aldis. She obtained a reply but was unable to pass any message. She thereupon transmitted a warning on 500 k/cs that shells were falling close.
(C. in C. W.A., 041157A to E.G.2).

HYDRA Admty's 031729A and C. in C. Nore's 032210A. Intend to sail HYDRA at 0930 today to Tilbury.
(Cdre. Sheerness, 040021A to F.O.I.C. London).
Tilbury arrival HYDRA.
(F.O.I.C. London, 041155A to Admty).

URLANA Following received, addressed Admty. Lyness. Coastguard Wick, from Wick Radio.
Intercept at 0929 G.M.T. on 500 k/cs Run LSW to BCTX (URLANA) begins: Proceed at utmost speed. Keep your chin up Ends.
(A.C.O.S., 041031).

/LAGAN...

War Diary.4.9.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects - Contd.

LAGAN A.M. 011352A. H.M.S. LAGAN taken in hand today at Belfast for docking for renewal of rudder bushes. Boilers will be cleaned concurrently. To complete 11th September. (F.O.I.C. N.I., 041151A to Admty).

M.T.B. 686. ST. CHRISTOPHER 311648A August and R.N.O. Inverness 021055A Sept. Request information as to any other work which may have been ordered to be done to M.T.B. 686 as her arrival in Lerwick is urgently desired and if possible every delay should be avoided. (A.C.O.S., 042201A to Admty).

M.M.S. 251,
M.M.S. 255. Report without delay your P.C.S. (C. in C. W.A., 042316A to M.M.S., 251, 255). M.M.S. 251 and 255 sailed from Newfoundland August 24th but have not arrived in U.K. They have not been sighted on passage nor have they replied to signals made on September 2nd. (C. in C. W.A., 042330A to Admty).

Shipping & Convoys.

Hospital Ships. Hospital ships are not to burn distinguishing lights when anchored in open roadsteads around the U.K. or when under way in approach channels. (4th S.L. 040058A to A.I.G. 26).

S.D. 44 (CHAMPOLLION). My 031202. Sailed 0059A. S.O.A. 14½ knots. E.T.A. Greenock 1000A/6th. (A.C.I.C., 040220A to N.O.I.C. Greenock). S.D. 44. P.C.S. at 2000A, 061° 25' N., 019° 10' W. 125° 8. (AMAZON, 041903A to C. in C. W.A.) GLENARM proceed to Londonderry on passing. AMAZON to Greenock with Convoy. (C. in C. W.A., 041757A to AMAZON, GLENARM).

M.K.F. 22 Convoy K.M.F. 22 is due U.K. about 9 Sept. comprising the following troop transports:-
(a) For Clyde. (1) CHRISTIAAN HUYGENS.
(2) BERGENSFJORD. (3) DEMPO. (4) CAMERONIA.
(5) LEOPOLDVILLE (b) For Liverpool. (6) DOMINION MONARCH.
(7) ORBITA.
(D.S.T., 040443A).

U.T. 1 Clyde portion of U.T. 1 arrived.
U.C. 4. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 040906A to C. in C. W.A.) Arrived Liverpool portion U.T. one escorted by WHIMBREL. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 041402A to C. in C. W.A.)

/Convoy...

4.9.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

U.T.1.,
U.C.4.
(contd).

Convoy U.T.1. When unloaded, ships are to be sailed as follows:-
(a) Troopships to New York independently.
(b) Tankers in Convoy U.C.4.
(D.O.D. H., 042107A).

VASNA

Hospital ship VASNA arrived 0925A/4.
(D.S.T.O. Avonmouth, 040930A).

H.X. and
O.N. Convoys.
A.T. Gear.

Pending further instructions ships sailing in H.X. and O.N. Convoys which are fitted with Mark 29 A/T gear will fly B flag International from after mast masthead when this gear is streamed.

(2) Other vessels in convoy and escort are to be warned not repetition not to approach or pass within 300 yards of vessels displaying this signal.
(C. in C. W.A., 041301A).

4.9.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

M.K.S. 23. M.K.S.23 arrived (details).
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 040004B to Admty., etc.)
1. M.K.S.23. 2. 1700B/4. 4. 7½. 5. Ref.
A.M. 052006 August outer standard route omitting
first position lettered BE-BH.
6. HURRICANE, WANDERER, MONKSHEAD, BORAGE, DAHLIA.
15. T.N.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 041702B to Admty.)
M.K.S.23, part 2. List, destinations, etc.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 041804B to Admty.)
Sailed HURRICANE, WANDERER, MONKSHOOD, BORAGE, DAHLIA
escorting M.K.S.23 and M.M.S.80, 81. WALLFLOWER sails as
additional escort when ready.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 041806B to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)
See also 051451B.

French Refugees. Admty. pass to Algiers.
F.O.I.C. Gib. 271840. Americans inform me M.F.A.
told American Ambassador some difficulties had
arisen but he hoped to make Spanish port(s)
available in due course.

M.F.A. asked Ambassador if evacuation could not be done through
Gib., but Ambassador replied he understood congestion there
would make this impossible.

I have advised American Embassy on lines of signal under
reference.

Would there be any objection to ferrying refugees to ships
in Gib. anchorage if foregoing were agreed? This might help
to get agreement.

(N.A. Madrid, 041009B to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty., etc.)

Your 011900 (N.T. in W.D.) (re evacuation from Spain).

My 011750 refers. Target date according to American Legation
should be 21st.

(B.N.A. Lisbon, 041812A to C. in C. Med., etc.)

Air attack on ULSTER
QUEEN. Add C. in C. Med. to repeated addressees of my
032034B. Message is being passed to C. in C.
Med.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 041109B to C. in C. Med.,
D.U.B.D.)

ALBATROSS. Assuming ALBATROSS S. of A. 15 knots two of
13th D.F. will be sailed to R/V as in your
011751.
(2) Onward route from 26.10 15.30 to 28.40 13.10
33.30 09.10 35.45 06.30 lettered (PQ) to (PS) thence Q.B.A.87
to Gibraltar. All positions N. and W.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 041245B to F.O.C.W.A., (R) Admty., etc.)

P. 614. F.O.C. West Africa's 312114Z, para. 3. Request
early advance information of sailing. Intend to
route S/M P.614 direct from 26° 10' N. 21° W.
to 43° N. 16° 30' W. This may, however, have to

/be ...

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Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- P. 614. be amended on account of other traffic. Intend
(Contd.) P.614 to proceed diving by day after crossing
35° N.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 041533B to Comar Dakar, (R)
Admty., etc.)
- X.K. 11. Intend to sail X.K.11 consisting of 7 M/Vs,
PROSPEROUS towing FORT BABINE, LARIAT towing
LANCE. HUDSON towing FANTOME, and SCHELDT spare
tug, escorted by WARWICK, CYGNET, GODETIA, ARCTIC
RANGER, and ST. NECTAN at 1515 September 5th.
(2) Route through (RE) 36.16 12.18. (RF) 40.00 16.00 thence
standard SL route lettered RG to RJ. Estimated S. of A. 5½
knots. Codeword "Quirk".
(4) All positions North and West.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 041607B to Admty.)
- RHODODENDRON. RHODODENDRON in collision with U.S. ammunition
lighter of U.G.S.15. Damage as follows. So
far as can be ascertained ship has sustained no
damage below waterline. Work of reconstruction
and fitting out will take about one month, including about
four days in dry dock.
(C.S. Gibraltar, 041817B to Admty.)
- U.S. Air Result of withdrawal from Lyautey.
Patrols. (H.Q.C.C., 041820A, 041850A.)
See Home Commands.
- Spanish Remaining 4 M.T.Bs. bought from Germany arrived
M.T.Bs. Passajes August 31st.
bought from They will proceed to Ferrol probably calling at
Germany. Santander.
To Reporting Officers: details of appearance
markings etc. required also type wireless aerial.
(N.A. Madrid, 041905A to Admty., (R) S.O.(I)
Gibraltar, R.O. Bilbao, R.O. Santander, R.O.
Gijon, R.O. Corunna.)
See also 071123.
- SCOTTISH SCOTTISH AMERICAN. Does your 020025 to C. in C.
AMERICAN. Med. mean suction line cannot be repaired.
2. If repair not possible, then suggest only
sufficient oil be loaded to meet refuelling
requirements and to enable vessel return Gib.
in oil ballast.
(D.T.D., 042054A to C.S. Gibraltar.)
- Escort Use in U/B offensive, Biscay.
Carriers. (B.A.D., 042055). See America & West Indies.
- MALOJA. Swiss steamship MALOJA leaves Genoa about 12th
for Gibraltar.
(D.E.W.D., 042209A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R)
C. in C. Med.)

4.9.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.SEMBILAN,
MANAAR
(lost April
1943.)

Loss of SS. SEMBILAN and MANAAR off Durban in April 1943. Request brief report by signal as to
 (a) Air and surface patrols on Approach Route No.1 between 15th and 21st April.
 (b) Positions of ships on plot at time of loss.
 (D.T.D., 040132A to C. in C. S.A.)
 Reply: 061241B.

CARNARVON
CASTLE,
MONTCALM.

CARNARVON CASTLE sailed at 2227Z/3rd September to relieve French cruiser MONTCALM. E.T.A. in area 0700Z/6th September.
 (F.O.C.W.Af., 040758Z to MONTCALM, Comar Dakar.)
 W.D. Note:- Interception of MONT ALBERTIA.
 See later signals.

CORBRAE,
CLARKIA.

F.O.C.W.Af.'s 030837 to Comar Dakar only.
 Intend to sail CORBRAE escorted by CLARKIA 0900Z/5th for Casablanca.
 2. C.M.S.F. is requested to coal CORBRAE 100 tons, fuel CLARKIA and sail both ships to join S.L.136.

3. Route from Dakar by British Standard Coastal Route 1 in F.O.I.C. Gibraltar's 091910 June omitting (F) and F.O.C.W.Af.'s 242357 August. S. of A. 8 knots, E.T.A. Casablanca 1700Z/12th. (Comar Dakar, 040912Z to F.O.C.W.Af., C.M.S.F., (R) CLARKIA, CORBRAE, Admty., etc.)

Convoy
D.C. 42A.

Sailing telegram. (2 ships). (2) 0900Z/4th September. (4) 13 knots. (5) Coastal reference 61 - 68 Saldanha Bay YN. (6) Air escort.
 (15) CZ 854 1 to 9, codeword "Rivet. BBK QG 805 denominated.
 (N.C.S.O. Durban, 040916Z to Admty., etc.)

WITCH.

Your 020812. Has WITCH sailed to overtake please? I require her urgently. If not when will she sail?
 (F.O.C.W.A., 041018Z to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

P. 614.

Arrived 0930Z submarine P.614 escorted by M.L. 261. Intend to sail P.614 unescorted 1400Z to comply with F.O.C.W.Af.'s 312114 August. S. of A. 8½ knots. E.T.A. (E) 0100Z/6, (F) 1100Z/8. (Comar Dakar, 041043Z to F.O.C.W.Af., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, A.H.Q.W.A., Admty., etc.)
 My 041043 sailed 1630Z, submarine P.614 2½ hours late.
 (Comar Dakar, 041738Z.)

/Interception ...

4.9.1943.

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

Interception
of Spanish
MONTE
ALBERTIA.

(A) Plot indicates MONTE (? SAIR) sighted by CORFU and A/C may be one day ahead of MONTE ALBERTIA. To cover (? this) and possibility of ship reported by INKPEN off St. Vincent at 1800Z/3rd being MONTE ALBERTIA following revised patrols have been ordered.

(1) BEAGLE in area about 017° 00' N. 021° 10' W.

(2) CARNARVON CASTLE in area about 026° 35' N. 018° 35' W. E.T.A. in area p.m./6th.

(3) CORFU in area about 023° 00' N. 019° 55' W. E.T.A. in area p.m./5th.

(B) Request French Cruiser MONTCALM remain in her previous patrol area to limit of proved endurance and then return to Dakar.

(F.O.C.W.A., 041056Z to Comar Dakar, Admty., BEAGLE, CORFU, CARNARVON CASTLE, French Cruiser MONTCALM, F.O.I.C. Gib., (? C. in C. Med.))

Your 271610 not to Comar Dakar.

F.C. MONTCALM intercepted MONTE ALBERTIA at 0930/4 in 18.39 N. 23.57 W. French armed guard placed on board and ship proceeding to Gibraltar at 8 knots.

(F.O.C.W.A., 041503Z to Admty., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) Comar Dakar, C. in C. Med.)

F.O.C.W.Af.'s 301711 not to C.M.S.F. or Admty. Spanish MONTE ALBERTIA intercepted by MONTCALM 0930Z/4 in position (A) 18.39 N. 23.51 W. Armed guard placed on board and ship proceeding to Gibraltar for examination.

2. Route from (A) through (B) 26.10 16.50. (C) 29.15 11.46.

(D) 33.33 09.22. (W) 35.45 06.30 W. S. of A. 8 knots. E.T.A. 2030Z/11.

3. Air cover arranged to latitude Ta Cape Bojador.

4. MONTCALM proceeding from (A) direct to Dakar at 19 knots. E.T.A. 5th.

(Comar Dakar, 041751Z to F.O.C.W.Af., Gibraltar, C.M.S.F., Admty.)

S.L. 136.

Departures 3rd Sept. EXE, BRIDGEWATER, MILFORD, MOYOLA, PETUNIA, ARMERIA, DOUGLAS, SNOWDROP, DUNCTON, FOLKESTONE with S.L.136. (N.O.I.C. Freetown, 041222Z to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. (Algiers), Commorseafron, (R) C. in C. W.A., Admty., etc.)

ESPERANCE
BAY,
HIGHLAND
CHIEFTAIN
defects.

Your 0338/31 May 1941. ESPERANCE BAY and HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN sailed from Capetown 31st Aug. for U.K. via Plate. First ship requires dry docking and normal voyage repairs. Time required for turn round 14 days. Second ship requires normal voyage repairs. Time required for turn round 14 days to 20 days. No cargo loaded at Capetown in either vessel. (P.S.T.O. Capetown, 041223B to D. of S.T.)

/Troop ...

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Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Troop Transport, Escorts. D. of S.T's 022041. By arranging a programme which makes no allowance for breakdown or delays date of arrival at Gibraltar can be advanced to 20th October. This date can only be made possible providing (A) delay to HIGHLAND PRINCESS can be accepted (B) that F.O.C. Gibraltar will provide escort for ships ex K.M.F.24 to meet and take over escort of STRATHAIRD who should sail Freetown about 28th Sept. D. of S.T's 310230 August not to other addressees refers. (F.O.C.W.Af., 041610Z to D. of S.T., (R) C. in C. W.A., F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med.)

BEAGLE. P.C. and S. 017° 35' N. 020° 53' W., 135°, 18 knots. E.T.A. Bathurst 1300/5th September. (BEAGLE, 041700Z to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) N.O.I.C. Bathurst, B.N.L.O. Dakar.)

CORFU. My P.C. and S. 018° 13' N. 020° 12' W., 162°, (? 13) knots passing through position 010° N. 017° 30' W. Weather report. (CORFU, 042001Z to ? F.O.C.W.A., (R) Comar Dakar.)

KING FREDERICK. Have you any news of KING FREDERICK due Dakar 30th August from Montevideo? (D.T.D., 042053A to S.O.(I) Freetown.) Reply: 061756.

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Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Destroyer. One destroyer bearing 255° distant 2 miles course and speed unknown my position WTPU 3730 (undecypherable). (Not read) via Alexandria, 040048Z.)

DZIK. Your 032043 acknowledged. Return to Malta passing 037° 10' 017° 16' at 2000/4th through 035° 56' 016° 31' to 035° 55' 016° 11' 2000/5th and R/V with M/S 5 miles East position B of QBB 147 at 0800/6th.
 (2) You may encounter P.45 (UNRIVALLED) on 4th.
 (3) MJAO 24, request submerged bombing restrictions for above passage.
 (Capt. S.10, 040100 to P.52, (DZIK) (R) 10th S/M F., Capt. (S)8, Capt. (S) 1., C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Air H.Q. Malta.)

ROBERTS, ABERCROMBIE. Your 032046 (ROBERTS requires to recover M/B from Augusta, proposed sailing of both Monitors from Taormina) approved subject to no further requirements arising a.m. today Saturday. (F.O. Sq. 040140 to ABERCROMBIE, 15th C.S.)

EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND. Ref. Troopers 65018 Q (M) of 1st Sept. 43.
 1. C. in C. Med. will not allow unescorted to Gibraltar or inside Med. Therefore sailing EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND must be timed to join K.M.F. Convoy west of Gibraltar unless additional escorts can be found.
 2. Agreed that transshipment must take place Oran. EMPRESS will leave Mediterranean in M.K.F.
 3. U.S. Troops carried in EMPRESS must await oncarriage by next Med. fast convoy. On provisional programme now being worked out oncarriage from Oran would not be less than 10 days after arrival. Further proposals.
 (A.F.H.Q. H.Q. Algiers, T.O.O. Nil, to War Office; Recd. 031514)

LOYAL, WHEATLAND. F.O.Sy. 031222 (N.T. in W.D.) LOYAL detailed. LOYAL to return Augusta on completion. (C.S.15, 040630 to F.O.I.C. Sicily, S.H.A.111, ABERCROMBIE, (R) C. in C. Med., S.O. Force H.V.A., Malta.)
 My 040630. As WHEATLAND has now arrived for this duty, delete LOYAL. H.M.S. LOYAL returning to Augusta. (F.O.C. 15th C.S., 041406B to S.H.A.116, F.O.I.C. Sicily, C. in C. Med., S.O. Force, "H", Y.A.M., N.O.I.C. Tunisia, ABERCROMBIE.)

M.E.Air Report. Daily Opsum 129. 3rd Sept. 2 Beaufighters anti- shipping R/C, West Coast Greece. 1 Schooner, 150 tons attacked with cannon off Paxos Island. Damage unobserved. (H.Q., R.A.F. M.E. 040931Z.)

/K.M.S.24...

4.9.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- K.M.S.24. Pass to Cdre. My 020958B, sailed. EMPIRE KAMAL has prisoners of war. HIGHLAND PRINCE and EMPIRE PATROL have critical speed $7\frac{1}{2}$ knots. (V.A. Malta, 040948B to S.E.C. K.M.S.24.)
- ARROW. ARROW (damaged following explosion of FORT LA MONTEE in Algiers Bay.) being prepared afloat for passage to Gibraltar under own power for docking about 20th September. My 101835 August (being passed to F.O.I.C. and C.S. Gibraltar) refers.
2. Further details of damage.
3. Further details to be reported by C.S. Gibraltar after docking.
(C. in C. Med., 041001B to Admty.)
- M.N.B.D.O. Your 281900B. 2. Reorganisation of M.N.B.D.O. for service in other theatres is under active consideration.
3. M.N.B.D.O. cannot be counted on as being available for an indefinite period as static defences of an established Port. This is a Military commitment.
4. There is no objection to the present function being continued for the time being and adequate notice will be given when withdrawal from Operations in Mediterranean is required.
(D.L.D. (Approved by V.C.N.S)041022A to C. in C. Med., (R) C. in C. Levant.)
- UNITED,
UNISON. Intend to sail P.44 (UNITED) and P.43 (UNISON) with Malta Section to join M.K.S.24 for passage to Gibraltar. Both submarines are due for refit at Devonport in early October. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to arrange onward passage. Ships in convoy and joiners are to be warned accordingly. (V.A. Malta, 041031B to Ships escorting M.K.S.24 C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant.)
- Enemy M/V. Following has been read:
P.C. and S. of 1 enemy merchant vessel $11^{\circ} 12' E.$
 $42^{\circ} 33' N.X 310^{\circ}$ (as received) 5 knots.
(ANRW 041046B to 45U)
My 1046 Enemy previously reported 1 medium Merchant vessel 4000 tons, weather report.
(ANRW, 041052B to 45U.)
My 1046. Position of enemy, one medium merchant vessel
 $11^{\circ} 54' E., 41^{\circ} 58' N.$
(ANRW, 041100B to 45U.)
My 1046 course and distance made good by enemy since
1046 $310^{\circ} 8$ miles.
(ANRW, 041145 to 45U.)

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O.T.8, arrived. O.T.8 PEROTE, CONTRERAS, SAN ANTONIO (3 ships) arrived.
(Com. Algeria, 041110 to Admty. etc.)

G.U.F.10. G.U.F.10. My 031443. U.S.S. MO(?NTI)CELLO will join from Oran breaking off after passing Q.B.A.87 and proceeding independently at 17 knots. Route as in A.M.032001.
2. Connav pass to Cdr. 10th U.S.Fleet.
(C. in C. Med., 041115B to N.O.I.C. Bizerta)

TALLY HO. (?V.A. Malta's) 031505. Diving by day on 6th Sept. continuing course 098° until 032° 41' E. thence passing through 031° 48' 032° 34' at 0400C 9th to arrive Port Said buoying channel 0600C/9th.
(Captain (S) 1. 041122C to P.317 (TALLY HO) (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, etc.)

EREBUS, APHIS, SCARAB. EREBUS, APHIS and SCARAB are to remain under your Command to assist the advance of 8th Army. The L.C.Gs. now with you should also be retained for up to 14 days.
(C. in C. Med., 041126 to F.O.Sy. (R) N.O.I.C. Malta, S.O. Force "H".)

BATTLER, STALKER, PETARD. My 031803. Fleet carriers sail (corrupt) 0630 5th by Q.B.B.123(B). Delay your arrival until 0730 5th. Attention is called to Capt. (S) 10s 040720 para. 7.
(V.A. Malta, 041131 to BATTLER, STALKER, PETARD. (R) G.S. QUEEN OLGA, ILEX, FARNDALE.)

ESSO PROVIDENCE. Request tanker ESSO PROVIDENCE be sailed for Oran at first convoy opportunity after temporary repairs render ship seaworthy.
(C. in C. Med., 041145B to F.O.Sy. (R) Admty.etc.)

Air R/C Spezia Genoa. P.R.U. photographs taken at 1700 4th of Spezia show one cruiser left Port, another cruiser has moved from berth, and boom for battleship is open. Genoa, no coverage.
(F.O. Tunisia, 041155 to C. in C. Med., S.O. Force H., A.H.Q. Malta, F.O.Sy., Connavnaw, (R) C.T.F., 86, C.T.G. 80.6.)

TROOPER, RORQUAL, TORBAY. Following for information:
(1) A. TROOPER leaves North Aegean to pass Scarpanto Strait during daylight 8th. B. RORQUAL pass Kaso Strait bound north Aegean during daylight 5th.

/(C)...

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4.9.1943.

Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

TROOPER,
RORQUAL,
TORBAY.
(Contd.)

C. TORBAY will be recalled to pass Scarpanto Strait during daylight 6th.
(2) Sign of great alarm in Axis shipping circles resulting from your activity.
(Capt. 041158C to 1st S/M Flotilla.)

CASABIANCA,
operation.

Following alteration of day for operations. Reception Committee will await you from night of 5th/6th not from night 4th/5th as arranged. Reception Point unchanged. Reception Committee will use R/T set. Submarine to call first. If R/T not working, committee will morse pre-arranged letter. (Capt. (S) 8th, 041216B to L.N.729 (CASABIANCA)).

P.316
(TEMPLAR)

P.316 (TEMPLAR) sailed for docking at Port Said 1945C/5th and should be ready for onward passage from Port Said on 9th or 10th. Request F.O.C. Red Sea arrange onward route in accordance with my 03453/431 as amended by my 03488/431. Propose transferring P.316 (TEMPLAR) to 4th S.F. as from p.m. September 5th.
(Capt. (S) 1 041221C to Capt. (S) 4, F.O.C. Red Sea (R) C. in C. Levant, C. in C.E.F., F.O.(S) F.O. Ceylon, ADAMANT.)

Request
for
Cruiser.

Your 032255. (No trace in W.R.) Cruiser will be provided but request she be used sparingly owing to difficulty of replenishing ammunition at this stage.
(F.O. 15th C.S., 041229B to F.O. Sy.)

QUEENBOROUGH,
QUILLIAM,
QUAIL, OFFA,
PIORUN.

(1) At 0600 tomorrow Sunday, QUILLIAM, QUEENBOROUGH and QUAIL leave patrol area and proceed Malta E.T.A. 1030.
(2) OFFA and O.R.P. PIORUN leave Augusta 1530 today Saturday and proceed Malta E.T.A. 2000.
(C.S.15, 041356 to V.A. Malta, Capt. (D) 4, H.M.S. OFFA, (R) C. in C. Med.)

Defence
of Bases.

C.O.S. (M.E.) 4th Sept. 1043. OZ.2661.
Ref. your letter MIL/1/5 of 10th August.
(1) Defence of Bases Committee has been instructed to review Coast defences in Mediterranean. Your proposals will be taken into consideration.
(2) Aden is being dealt with separately.
(3) We note that your proposals do not include 5.25 CA/AA guns. It is proposed, subject to your comments, that installation these guns should proceed at Alexandria and Haifa only.
(4) Ref. your para. 8, we await comments of C. in C. Med. concerning defences of Tripoli (L).
(Air Ministry, 041415Z to Mideast, C. in C. Med.)

/Landing at...

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Landing at Giojo. "Kirkwood" Naval support. Following is a repetition my 041600 (N.T. in W.R. (begins). Addressed C. in C. Med. (R) C.S.15, S.O. Force H, N.L.O. 8th Army Tripoli, S.N.O. Landing (O) 13 Corps. Intend landing 231 Brigade at 0130 Sept. 6th at Giojo 038° 26' 30" N. 015° 53' 30" E. Assault will be (?embarked) as in para. 17 of N.O.B. 1 and supported on 2 L.C.S. and 2 L.C.(?F). Bombarding ship as shown in my 041050 (N.T. in W.R.) Captain Black as S.N.O.L. (Sector Ind.) (O) will be naval force commander. Codeword for operations "Kirkwood". No trace of former version; no trace in W.R. (F.O.I.C. Sicily, 041616 to S.O. Force H., C.S.15.)

C.S.15 MAURITIUS. Intend proceed Malta in MAURITIUS tomorrow 5th Sept. after I have seen UGANDA. E.T.A. Gate 1400. (C.S.15, 041635B to S.O. Force H., V.A. Malta, (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

N.A.A.F. Report. N.A.A.F. Opsum 195. N.W.A. Strategic A.F. 3rd Sept. 54 U.S. Warhawk Radar installation Cape Carbonara and Pula 3 returned early. 6 x 500 Pula 5 near misses 7 x 500 Cape Carbonara 4 direct hits. N.A. Tactical A.F. 2nd Sept. (add) 36 U.S. Mitchells Cotrone airdromes due cloud 12 aircraft dropped bombs 12 miles south Bianco, results unobserved. (?12) bombed Marina di Monasterace hitting road and railway. 12 aircraft dropped pattern North Isolo Cape Renidetto to Southeast corner Cotrone airdrome. 48 U.S. Mitchells cotrone main airdrome due cloud 24 aircraft bombed Locri bursts among railway waggons on roads and in town. 12 aircraft bombed Bianco, hits railway. 12 aircraft attacked Siderno Marina straddling roads railway and town. 24 Baltimores H.Qs. southeast Rosarno area straddled. Direct hits and near misses buildings. 12 Bostons H.Qs. East Orti. Few bombs among tents. Others overshot. 12 Bostons 12 Baltimores gun area East Stefano, good pattern target area. Spitfires Kittyhawks and U.S. Warhawks escorted bombers. U.S. Warhawks attacked shipping Gulf of Eufemia. Hits among barges. (H.Q. N.A.A.F., 041705)

BOUDEUSE. Equipment for BOUDEUSE S.B.N.O. W.A's. 201256 refers. Para. 1, confirmed depth charges and pistols available in North Africa para. 2 noted. Para. 3 important to proceed with rearmament as early as possible B.A.D. requested to arrange ship to embark stores at Bermuda for Casablanca. Para. 4 confirmed. (C. in C. Med., 041730B to S.B.N.O. W.At. (R) B.A.D., Admty.) See B.A.D. 072121Z. (America and West Indies.)

T.O.8 BUFFALO, WALLOW, CONTRERAS. My 301130. Another Tanker has now been selected for duty with T.O.8. Request BUFFALO, WALLOW be given full discharge. (C. in C. Med., 041750B, to Com. N.O.B.Oran,(R) F.O.i/c Gibraltar, C.M.S.F., Admty., Commavnaw.) /Tanker...

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

T.O.8. Tanker CONTRERAS has been nominated as escort
BUFFALO, tanker for T.O.8. Request ship retains 1000
WALLOW, barrels.
CONTRERAS. (C. in C. Med., 041752B to Com. Algeria, (R)
(Contd.) F.O.i/c Gibraltar, C.M.S.F. Comnavnav Admty.)

K.M.F.24 A.M. 251844/August. K.M.F.24 will now leave
U.K. on 15th Sept.
(D.O.D.(F) (546) 041755A to C. in C. Med. etc.)

CROOME, Do not arrive with your convoy at position Z
UGANDA, of QBB 146 before 0400.
HURWORTH. 2. A convoy and Fleet Unit are proceeding to
northward during the night to eastward of (?your)
route.
(V.A. Malta, 041756 to CROOME, (R) UGANDA,
HURWORTH.)

S/Ms. for It has been decided that all new construction and
Eastern refitted T. and S. class and ultimately A Class
Fleet. submarines, with the exception of a few earmarked
MAIDSTONE. for training and operations in home waters, shall
join the Eastern Fleet.
(2) It is also intended to use a number of U Class
for training.
(3) A further signal will be made when these training require-
ments are firmer but in the meantime C. in C. Med. is requested
to give consideration to the basing of his submarines ashore to
allow the transfer of MAIDSTONE to the Eastern Fleet in December
this year.
(D.O.D.(F) 041759A to C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, C. in C.
Eastern Fleet, F.O.S.)

U/B German U/B disposition no change.
disposition. (V.A. Malta, 041826, to All Naval and Air
Authorities concerned.)

PUCKERIDGE, Cancel previous orders for PUCKERIDGE. Request
HAMBLEDON. you will sail her when ready for Oran where she
is required to take the place of HAMBLEDON who
is defective. Avon 1 appendix 1 refers.
(C. in C. Med., 041915B, to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.
(R) Com. N.O.B., N.O.I.C. Algiers, C.T.F.81,
Cdr. U.S.N.F., PUCKERIDGE..)

Situation 1. Monitors and gunboats landing ships and craft
Report continue to support operation BAYTOWN. During
No.17. the night 3/4th September Cruisers and Destroyers
of Force K. operated off the Calabrian Coast
covering the operation. 2. Reggio harbour is
reported clear of underwater obstructions L.S.T.

/and...

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4.9.1943.

Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Situation and L.C.T. berths are expected to be available
 Report in two days and four berths alongside the
 No. 17. breakwater in three days. At San Giovanni, the
 (Contd.) landward approaches to the harbour are reported
 badly blocked and there are some wrecks but the
 outer breakwater is intact. 3. ULTOR reports
 at 0814 28th in 39° 24' N. 17° 09' E. torpedoed
 stranded PARTENOPE class destroyer which was being salvaged
 after part broke off and sank.
 4. UNSEEN reports at 0852 27th in 41° 30' N. 17° 27' E. sank
 1500 ton merchant vessel with torpedo. At 0730 28th in
 position 40° 28' N. 19° 11' E. attacked 150 ton A/S schooner
 with gunfire. Crew abandoned ship leaving ancient Captain and
 Boatswain on board. These were taken prisoner and ship
 sunk with demolition charges.
 (C. in C. Med., 041916B to Admty.)

Oil Margin of furnace oil stocks in central Med.
 Stocks for current operations is small. Ref. Admty.
 in Med. 071633* August request as many of the tankers as
 practicable now being sailed for loading under
 your orders may draw from Haifa and Tripoli (S)
 stocks to shorten turn-round time.
 (C. in C. Med., 042029B, C. in C. Levant, (R)
 Admty.)

Situation Convoys. A. Departures. X.T. 1 with three
 report No. 51. M.V. left Alexandria first to Tripoli at 6 knots.
 Westbound (Z) convoys discontinued in favour of
 X.Ts. running at 10 days intervals. M.K.S. 24,
 17 M.Vs. left Alexandria, 4th.
 B. Arrivals. U.G.S. 14 arrived 2nd with 8 M.Vs. for
 Alexandria and 23 for Port Said and beyond.
 (2) Alexandria. German U/Boat fixed by D/F approx. 50 miles
 N.N.W. at 0521/1st. Escort of U.G.S. 14 re-inforced by three
 "Hunts", air search instituted without result.
 (3) 8 "Hunts" carried out practice bombardment Ras Elckanayis
 from 2nd, then executed A/S sweep convoy route between Mersa
 Matruh and Benghazi before arriving Tripoli, (L) due p.m. 5th.
 (4) Levant area. U/Boat search discontinued a.m. 2nd and
 schooner sailings resumed.
 (5) Canal area. Flag of Rear Admiral Force M. transferred to
 ENDEAVOUR from BULOLO 4th. Other ships of force M. have
 (word omitted) to Aden for onward routing to Bombay.
 (6) NARBADA left Suez for Aden. (7) Departures. MAID MARION
 from Aden. (7) Departures. MAID MARION from Aden to Eastern
 Fleet.
 (C. in C. Levant, 042032C to Admty.)

M.K.S. 25/
 S.L. 136.

M.K.S. 25/S.L. 136 combined total may be permitted
 up to 80 ships. 2. F.O.C.W. Africa, 021403
 (N.T. in W.D.) refers.
 D.T.D., Approved A.C.N.S. (H) 042058A to C. in
 C. Med., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) F.O.C.W. Af.)

War Diary.

4.9.1943.

Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

P.224 (SICKLE) CALPE will R/V with you in 037° 04' 003° 10' at 0645 5th.
 CALPE. (2) One destroyer due Algiers about 0200 and one Motor Minesweeper at 0700 both from Eastward.
 (3) French Chasseur III due from West at 0800
 (4) Two destroyers on patrol off Algiers during dark hours. (5) Local fog may be expected.
 (Capt. 042120B to P.224 (SICKLE))

HURSLEY. Intend following plan. 8 miles north of 347 at 2330, 341 at 0325 5th arriving 333 at 0705 speed of advance 16 knots. Capt. (D) 5 031107 (N.T. in W.R.) refers.
 (HURSLEY, 042212C to N.O.I.C. Tobruk, (R) C. in C. Levant etc.)

Destroyer in Sicilian Straits. One destroyer is to pass through Straits at 0730 tomorrow Sunday and give gun support to North flank.
 (F.O.I.C. Sicily, 042214B Capt. (D) 4 (R) C.S.15.)

Broadcast to Italian Seaman. To: Eisenhower, Freedom Algiers. From: Combined Chiefs of Staff. Ref. Message No. 312341 NCR 11549-S (No record - copy requested from Admiralty). That you determine whether and when use should be made of the proposed broadcast, or an amended version, to the Italian Navy and Mercantile Marine, proposed in message number 312341 - NCR, 11549 -S from Admiralty to Cinmed, is desired by Combined Chiefs of Staff. The decision to initiate these broadcasts lies with you, rather than with London as proposed originally.
 (Agwar 042317 to Etousa, Freedom)

Barcelona potash ships. Request your remarks on a M.W. proposal to send one or two ships per month to Barcelona for Potash for U.K. from end October. This port is reported as less liable to sabotage activity than Huelva the alternative.
 (D.T.D. 042358A to C. in C. Med.) Replies: N.A. Madrid, 070714B, F.O. Gibraltar, 081009B, C. in C. Med., 082305.)

4/9
Med
Lion

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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

IN

No T.O.O./4 September

From C. in C. Middle East.

Date 4/9/43
Recd. 2105

Cypher

Addressed The War Office.

Middle East, Army Situation Report.

MOST IMMEDIATE

. (p 3)

363413 O/05421 cipher 4 September Most Secret

NEWTEL No.25.

Situation review week ending incl. 3 September.

~~1. Order of battle and location statement 3rd September.~~

~~(1) G.H.Q. in Egypt. Unbrigaded troops. Delete 3 Field Regt. FFF 12 Inf. Bn. SDF. Add 8 Inf. Bn. SDF Amirtya. 74 Armd. Bde. redesignated 24 Armd. Bde. with 62 (ex 101) R. Tks.~~

~~(2) G.H.Q. in Cyrdist. Add 65 (ex 102) R.Tks. Tobruk.~~

~~(3) G.H.Q. in Tripolitania. Under 7 Armd. Div. add C. Coy. 1 Cheshire (MG). Delete 2 FF Div. and all detail. Add 2 FF Armd. Div. (forming) with TCHAD Regt. Spahis Regt. FF Armd. Regt. 3 Field Regt. FFF 5 "A" Tk. Bty. FFF Tripoli (L).~~

~~(4) G.H.Q. in Syria. Under H.Q. 7 Agra add 78 Med. Regt. Aartouz and 85 Field Regt. Tripoli (S). Under 9 Armd. Bde. add 11 K.R.R.C. Haifa area. From 234 Inf. Bde. and 25 Ind. Inf. Bde. delete 37 and 36 Bricks. Add 36 and 37 Bricks directly under Command Corps.~~

~~(5) Cyrenaica district. Add 92 Inf. Bn. SDF Tobruk.~~

~~(6) Tripolitania district. Delete 8 Inf. Bn. SDF~~

(7) 9th Army. Army tps. Delete 85 Field Regt.
78 Med. Regt. 83 and 95 A/Tk. Regts. Add 8 Greek Inf.
Bn. Add "B" A/Tk. Gp. with 83 and 95 A/Tk. Regts.
Under 10 Brit. Armd. Div. delete 11 K.R.R.C.

(8) G.H.Q. in Palestine Palbase BPE Malta Aden
Sudan no change.

2. Moves. Completed. 234 Inf. Bde. and 37 Brick
Canal area to 9th Army. 97 Field Regt. Ar Rama to
Dmeir. 68 Field Regt. Affula to Dmeir. 2/7 GR Ar Rama
to Catania. R.Wilts. Yeo. Kabrit to Haifa. In progress.
3 Carpathian Div. PAIC to 9th Army. 12 Inf. Bn. SDF
Cairo area to Tobruk. 8 Inf. Bn. SDF Tripolitania to
Cairo area. 106 and 107 A/Tk. Regts. Cairo area to
Syria. 65 R.Tks. Suez to Tobruk. Future. 1 and 2 FF
Inf. Divs. Tripolitania to North Africa.

3. Own AFV state 3rd September. No change.

4. Gun state 2359 hours 2nd September.

10 Corps. Units 25 pr. 168 med. 32 A/Tk. 6 pr. 214
17 pr. 48. Reserve 25 pr. 9 med. 6 A/Tk. 6 pr. 15 17
pr. 4.

3 Corps. 25 pr. 184 105 mm. SP 24 med. 43 A/Tk. 2
pr. 92 6 pr. 192 17 pr. 24.

G.H.Q. Tps. and Trg. Depots excl. Malta and Cyprus.
3.7 in Pack 4 75 mm. 12 25 pr. 375 105 mm. SP 28 med.
18 A/Tk. 2 pr. 154 6 pr. 590 17 pr. 80 3 in M10 26.

Units of Polish Corps in ME. 25 pr. 96 med. 13 A/Tk.
6 pr. 127 17 pr. 5.

Ord. stocks incl. repairable. 75 mm. Pack Hows 43
75 mm. 2 3.7 in Pack Hows 17 3.7 in Mk. IVP 6 25 pr. 234
105 mm. SP 54 25 pr. SP 30 med. 30 A/Tk. 2 pr. 362 6 pr.
541 17 pr. 7 3 in M10 32.

5. AA. No appreciable change.

~~6. POW. No new figures received.~~

7. Adm.

Sicily. D plus 56 convoy of 9 vessels sailed from
Alexandria with 17500 tons POL and stores.

/ Tripoli.

MOST SECRET

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- 3 -

Tripoli. 11800 tons stores discharged giving daily average 1680 tons. 6500 tons loaded for forward ports giving daily average 920 tons. 1110 personnel disembarked 1380 embarked. 246 medical cases received by air from Sicily.

Benghasi. 5 vessels sailed from Alexandria with 6350 tons bulk M.T. petrol 5450 tons stores total 11800 tons. 5150 tons discharged incl. 1180 tons bulk aviation spirit.

Road L. of C. 900 tons stores lifted in reinforcement vehicles proceeding from Delta to N. Africa by road.

Air freight. 86200 lbs. stores and 156 personnel by air from Cairo.

Activities at base ports. Period 25 - 31 August.

(a) 75 ships and 23 schooners discharging 28 ships and 10 schooners loading total 103 ships and 33 schooners.

(b) 89,700 military tonnage discharged and 36,800 loaded total 126,500 tons. Daily average 12,800 tons discharged 5,270 loaded total 18,070 tons day.

(c) Total 90,000 tons cleared from ports by rail road IWT and by transfers and transshipments.

(d) 6,830 personnel disembarked 3,370 embarked 9,750 transhipped total 19,950.

~~Road and rail moves in M.E. Base. 17,570 personnel moved by rail in 30 special trains. 16,400 moved by rail incl. unit moves.~~

~~R.E.M.E. During period 15 to 21 August following overhauled in base workshops and prepared for issue. (a) Vehs. 239, (b) Vehs. 1,444 Arty. Eqpts. 287, (a) Veh. engines 45, (b) Veh. engines 1,394.~~

Works. 2,100 (or 2,800) tons bulk petrol storage tank at Tmiriya completed. Jerriicans now in production from first plant received from U.K. While awaiting this production following local pattern all

/ welded

welded containers have been manufactured 900,000 4-gal. and 5,750,000 2-gal.

8. Political. Egypt. No important change.
Palestine. Trial of civilians in arms case continues.
Lebanon. Elections passed off without serious disturbances.

9. Palestine recruiting. All men. Jews 3.
~~Arabs 2.~~

10. General. No SOE air sorties flown during week 28 August to 1st September inclusive due to move of 148 Squadron and air despatch base from Derna to Tocra.

No T.O.O./4

War Office circulation -

S. of S.	M.I.2,3,17
C.I.G.S.	D.S.D.
V.C.I.G.S.	S.D.2
D.M.O.	Q.M.G.
D.D.M.O.(O)(H)	C.N.S. Admiralty
D.Plans (2)	H.W.R., Admiralty
M.O.1,4,5 (12)	C.A.S., Air Ministry
D.M.I.	A.M.C.S., Air Ministry
D.D.M.I.(I)	Brig. Jacob, W.C.O.

Received from War Office a.m./5.

1st Lord	D. of P.(2)
1st S.L.(2)	D.C.
4th S.L.	Plot
5th S.L.	Head of M.(2)
D.C.N.A.E.	D.N.I.(4)
V.C.N.S.	I.P.(2)
A.C.N.S.(A)(2)	J.P.D.
A.C.N.S.(F)	C.N.I.
A.C.N.S.(W)	W.D.
U.W.R.	Admiral Blake
D.O.D.(F)(2)	D.D.O.D.(M)
D.C.D.(H)(4)	D.A.W.T.
D.D.I.C.(2)	C.C.L.S.(2)

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4.9.1943.

Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

TROJA "B"
Report. Following received by Mombasa W/T. S/M attack signal, suspicious raft sighted in 4.35 S. 40.15 E. at 040110Z. Sent up Q.N.Y. Rockets - searchlight been shown.
(TROJA 040300Z.)

P.B. 54. Karachi portion P.B.54 arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Karachi 040309Z to Admty.)

Landing
Craft. Re engine overhauls in Bombay, Colombo, etc.
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 040412Z to Admty.)

India Air
Report. A.296. Daily opsum No. 538, 3rd September. 6 Hurricanes detailed offensive Irrawaddy. 1 A/C returned early due technical trouble. 5 A/C attacked rivercraft. Results unobserved. 2 Beaufighters detailed attack rail and river targets S. of Prome. 1 A/C returned early due technical trouble. 1 A/C attacked and damaged 1 locomotive, 3 factories and 2 M/T on railway and 50/70 Sampans, Irrawaddy. 6 Hurricanes on offensive R/C attacked rivercraft Hunter's Bay and building near Pauktaw. Outstanding reports. Tenth U.S.A.A.F. 1 September. 7 U.S.Liberators (B.24) attacked Mandalay railway yards. 14 tons dropped. 2 fires started.
2nd Sept. 17 U.S.Mitchells (B.25) and 7 U.S.Liberators (B.24) attacked Pyawbwe Railway Yards. Total of 32 tons dropped. Much rolling stock and brick warehouses and barracks destroyed. Many fires started. 9 U.S.Mitchells (B.25) detailed Pyawbwe. 6 A/C dropped over 6 tons Chauk. Warehouses and workshops destroyed. 2 oil fires started. 3 A/C dropped over 3 tons Toungoo Direct hits on docks. 12 hits among wharf buildings. 2 September. 10 U.S.Mitchells (B.25) and 5 U.S.Kittyhawks (P.40) attacked targets Hongkong Harbour. Large building destroyed. 3 oil storage tanks left on fire.
(A.H.Q.India 040515Z.)

Aircraft
Maintenance. For D.A.M.R. Further to my 290901 July, following is position regarding maintenance and overhaul equipment and maintenance ratings at R.N.A.R.Y. Nairobi.
(R.A.N.A.S.I.O. 040928Z to Admty.)

Submarines. Admty. 041759A. See Mediterranean.

RANPURA,
CHITRAL. Your 032209 Sept. Approved to sail RANPURA in convenient slow convoy for U.K. via Mediterranean.
2. Destination of RANPURA in U.K. will be signalled later.
3. Further signal will be made regarding retention of CHITRAL.
(D.O.D.(F) Approved by V.C.N.S. 042029A to C. in C.E.F.)

War Diary.4.9.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

INVER. Cancel my 032120 para. 2 further report from A/C indicates U-Boat (Italian) was in 043 degs. 58' 064 degs. 17' when ?attacked from C proceed to this position and carry out sweep as follows (all following positions are N. and W.) D. 044 degs. 08' 064 degs. 00'. E. 044 degs. 08' 064 degs. 22'. F. 043 degs. 48' 064 degs. 22'. G. 043 degs. 48' 064 degs. 00'. 4 additional A/C will co-operate at first light further instructions to follow.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 040306Z to INVER, (R) Cdre. D. W.A., N.O.I.C. Shelburne, C. in C. W.A., Connav, Admty., A.C.I.C., Cdre. (D) Argentina, N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., H.Q.C.C.)

C.I.Bs. in M.W.T.R. New York reports that you advise that U.T.Convoys. it is impracticable to include the new C.I.Bs. in U.T. convoys for the passage from New York to U.K. As in some cases this may make considerable difference to their availability for the training programme in U.K. request report why they cannot be included in U.T. convoys when desirable, observing that it is understood that the U.S. Authorities have agreed when necessary to extend the size of these convoys to 30 ships. (D. of S.T., 040441A to B.A.D.)

L. 27. Sailed L.27 in accordance with F.O.(S) 021231A. (Capt. (S) 7, 041017A to C. in C. C.N.A., (R) Cominch, Admty., F.O.(S), B.A.D.)

U/B A.C.876, 4th Sept. Operations 3rd Sept. All attacked by A/C. times G.M.T. (A) A/S patrols 3102/6 Sorties. Enemy sightings one. Digby Yoce of 161 attacked S/M in position 43.41, 64.45 at 1535 G.M.T. First sighting of U/B in 43.58 N. 64.17 W. U/B was submerged when in position for attack. One D/C dropped using oil slick as marker. Capt. of aircraft believed D/C dropped within range of efficiency ahead of U/B. (H.Q.E.A.C. Canada, 041100 to Air Min., (R) Admty., etc.)

VICTORIOUS. Norfolk arrived Sept. 1st VICTORIOUS for short refit. (N.S.H.Q., 041156 to Admty.)

SLINGER. Portland Oregon sailed Sept. 2nd SLINGER to Seattle for gunnery trial. (N.S.H.Q., 041157 to Admty.)

Sub-Commands My 021339, para. 1 (C) for 042 degs. 42' N. 057 Newfoundland, degs. 00' W. read 042 degs. 42' N. 054 degs. 00' W. Halifax, (C. in C. C.N.A., 041250 to all H.M. & H.M.C. Sydney C.B. Ships and Establishment under Command of C.O.A.C., O-87, B.A.D., C. in C. W.A., Admty., etc.)

War Diary.

4.9.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Convoy B.X.72. Sailing telegram. Part 1.
8 knots U.W. Route. (A) 42.23 N. 70.42 W.
(B) 42.31 70.28. (C) 42.39 67.30 (D) 42.46
65.09 (E) 43.51 63.16 Sept. 5 2100Z at
position (A) E.T.A. Halifax 2100Z Sept. 7.
Task Unit W.1. Comdre. Comdr. Poole R.C.N.R.
in M.S.VANCOLITE, BARRIE (SO) BUCISET, QUESNEL, NIPIGON.
"Chop" 2130Z/6th.
(P.D. Boston 041346Z to Comdre. 10th U.S. Fleet C. & R.
Comeastseafon, N.S.H.Q. C. in C. C.N.A., Admty. etc.)

U.S. (Cominch 041515Z.)
S/M.
Estimate.

N.S.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q. 041525Z.)
S/M.
Estimate.

U.G.S/G.U.S. The higher speed laid down for U.G.S/G.U.S.
Convoys, convoys in your 242230Z August will
Speed. (a) Make it most difficult to meet our commitments
for N. Africa, Middle East and beyond.
(b) Retard the return of our slow tankers to
the U.S. from these areas. 2. On these accounts
we would much prefer the old limit until we have faster tonnage
available for this run.
(A.C.N.S.H.(F) 041527A to Cominch (R) B.A.D.,C. in C. Med.)

Refits, Now that the French Committee of Liberation has
Free French been recognized, we hear that Adml. Fenard is
Ships. likely to begin taking an interest in refits in
U.S.A. of former Free French ships under
British Lease-Lend. See para. 4. Appendix F,
C.C.S. 207/10. This paper did not take these
ships into consideration vide Appendix I. para. 1. Request
we may be briefed as this matter is likely to come to a head.
(B.A.D. 041607Z to Admty.)

Convoy 1. Sailing telegram 1. 2. Gate 1500Z/4 Sept.
H.H.X. 255. 3. Homp 42.58 N. 60.57 W. at 1200Z/5.
5. As C. in C. C.N.A. 291434Z August and
Admty. 041301B July. 7. Total 13 ships.
(list, destinations).
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 041627Z, 041643Z to Admty.)

A.T.63. A.T.63. (1) At request B.A.S. have discussed
overberthing with Master who is prepared accept
1,000 excess over fitted capacity 6600.
(2) Confirm immediately.
(B.R.L.O. New York 041630Z to D. of S.T. (R)
B.A.D., N.S.H.Q.)

War Diary.4.9.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.GENERAL
JOHN POPE.

(1) U.S.S. GENERAL JOHN POPE.
 (2) 052200Z Cape Henry. (3) Passing B 061800Z
 Speed 18.75. (4) "Chop" 47 W. 090500Z. Radio
 shift 35 W. 101100Z. E.T.A. Clyde 122300Z. 5 B.
 37.10 N. 68.15 W. (Route). Code word "Eclipse"
 associated call sign 127.
 (P.D. Norfolk 041712 to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. Admty. etc.)

QUEEN
ELIZABETH,
missing
document.

It has been reported by H.M.T. QUEEN ELIZABETH
 that on the afternoon of 2nd September whilst a
 typed copy was being taken from it, a signal
 was being taken from it, a signal was blown out
 of an open port. (Details). 4. The signal was
 a portion of (this ship's?) situation report.
 The incident occurred at 1645 on 2nd September
 the ship's position was approximately 42.30 N. 54.00 W.
 (C. in C. C.N.A. 041814Z to N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty. QUEEN ELIZABETH.)

FREJA.

Your 031510Z. FREJA arrived Durban 20th August
 sailed 29th for Beira via Quelimane 1st September.
 (D.T.D. 041816A to Comnav.)

Independent
Sailing
Sydney -
Montreal.

As present lull in U-Boat activity may afford
 opportunity to speed up turn-round of grain and
 timber ships from St. Lawrence River, request
 consideration be given to independent sailing
 between Sydney and Montreal of ships for U.K.
 (D.T.D. 041819A to N.S.H.Q. (R) B.A.D.)

U.G.F./G.U.F.
Convoys.
Speed.

C.T.F.68 020722. Minimum speed of ships for
 inclusion in U.G.F./G.U.F. and U.T/T.U. convoys
 is declared speed of 15 knots.
 (Cominch 041831Z to C.E.S.F.)

Convoy
H.F.74.

Sailing telegram part 1. (2) Halifax 1900Z/4th.
 (3) E.T.A. St. John, N.B. 1200Z/6th Cape Cod Canal
 0100Z/7th. (4) 7.5 knots. (5) (Route).
 (6) BAYFIELD, MEDICINE HAT (with St. John, N.B.)
 Section. LETHBRIDGE, OAKVILLE (with Cape Cod
 Section).
 (N.C.S.O. Halifax 041845Z to N.S.H.Q.)

GREENWICH,
ARIES.

A.M. 031854A. Propose (a) N.S. KING HAAKON VII
 escort GREENWICH from Boston to position off Cape
 Race escort available 11th Sept. (b) ARIES onward
 escort to Iceland my 032142. 2. Consider
 ARIES will have time for reasonable shake down
 and short work up by then and this preferable to delaying ERNE.
 Regret no R.C.N. escort available.
 (C. in C. C.N.A. 041859Z to Admty. (R) GREENWICH, B.A.M.R.
 C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q.)

Your 032142. Approved to sail ARIES with H.X.257.
 (D.O.D. (H) 042235A to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) C. in C. Rosyth,
 Cdre. WESTERN ISLES, N.S.H.Q. Capt. D. Halifax, B.A.T.M.
 C. in C. W.A. Cdre. (D) W.A.)

/ARCHER...

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4.9.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

ARCHER defect. Your 020025. Defect was caused by fracture of teeth of port pinion of main gearings. This necessitates removal of pinion and heavy casings over an extensive area. A.M.181632/August and your 212203/August refer. (A.C.N.S. (A) 041910A to B.A.D.)

Convoy O.N.198. 37 ships arrived September 4. 1st Arrival 1542Z. Last arrival 1827Z. All ships accounted for. (P.D. New York 042008 to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)

SHAMROCK. U.S.A. H.S. SHAMROCK departed Ambrose 1649Z/4th. (P.D. New York 042010Z to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)

U/B. A/C report attack on U/B (German) in 045° 31' N. 059° 30' W. (C. in C. C.N.A. 042029Z to G.B.7A) See C.in.C.C.N.A.050540Z C. in C. C.N.As. 0420929Z. Patrol established from EMPIRE MACANDREW at 0421 (?30)Z. (MONTGOMERY 042132Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) MANSFIELD, 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.) My 042132Z. Aircraft landed on, nothing seen. At 2300Z/4th EMPIRE MACANDREW, MONTGOMERY and GUYSBOROUGH 045° 03' N. 060° 24' W. course 090° speed 12 to omit A.G. and avoid area. Weather report. (MONTGOMERY 042300Z to C. in C. C.N.A. F.O.N.F., C. in C. W.A. (R) Connav, Admty. etc.)

S/M attack and sighting summary. All times Z. Para. C. Y.M.S.250 attacked sound contact 36.20 N. 74.06 W. 040430. P.B.M. attacked S/M course 180 36.15 N. 74.20 W. 041054. (Cominch 042035Z to Admty.)

Escort Carriers, Use in Biscay Offensive. Following is extract from Allied A/S Survey Board's report. Serial 0011 of 27th August. "16. Recommendations. The following recommendations are now made:- (a) That a minimum of two British C.V.Es. on station be employed now against the U/Bs. passing in and out of the Southern approaches to the Bay. (b) That one British C.V.E. be allocated to the Cape Mozambique Channel area for offensive A/S operations. (c) That steps be taken to increase the offensive against the Northern Passage and that failing adequate shore based aircraft consideration be given to the employment of a C.V.E. when available. (d) That the inadequacy of A/S offensive measures in West Africa be kept in mind with a view to allocation of a C.V.E. to this area in due course. (e) That failing a drastic reduction in delay in getting British C.V.Es. into operation consideration be given to the U.S. Navy manning some or all of the next 7 C.V.Es. allocated to Britain with a view to a higher proportion of these vessels being employed on A/S operations with the minimum delay". 2. Following is Admiral King's letter to C.C.S. forwarding Allied A/S Survey Board's report. "There is great need for additional C.V.E. type

/ships...

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War Diary.

4.9.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Escort ships in anti-submarine operations.
Carriers. I am aware of the policy of R.N. that basic
Use in and extensive alterations are necessary in C.V.Es.
Bay built in U.S. to U.S. Naval specifications, before
Offensive. these ships can be operated by British. Ref.
(Contd.) para. 16 (E) of enclosure, it is my view that
further efforts should be made to advance the
date of operational readiness of these ships
rather than change allocations already agreed
upon". 3. This paper will be taken by C.C.S. on
Friday 10th Sept. 4. M.272321 August and 302321 refer.
(B.A.D. 042057Z to Admty. (R) Quadrant.)

H.X. 252. H.X. 252 Average speed 9.17 knots. Off Oversay
at 2100Z/27 August. GULFCOAST and JOHN A. BROWN
in collision 25th August. All arrived.
(D.T.D. 042102A to Comnav, N.S.H.Q. (R) C. in C.
W.A., C. in C. C.N.A.)

Convoy 1. Sailing dispatch. U.T. Part 1.
U.T.2. 2. 2030Z/5th. Point Z. seaward end swept channel
3. Position B. at 2100Z/6th. S. of A. 13.5
knots. E.T.A. position G. 2030Z/14th.
4. "Chop" 1830Z/9th. 5. Ocean route.
6. Task Force 67, U.S.S. NEVADA. S.O. U.S.S. NELSON, MURPHY,
GLENNON, JEFFERS, BUTLER, GHERARD, HERNDON, COWIE, EARLE, FITCH,
QUICK, CAPPS, WEBER, FECHTELER. 7. 20 ships.
(P.D. New York 042248Z to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.) as amended 052104Z

TRUMPETER, This is Cominch 032301 addressed to Comwestsea-
SLINGER. fron, Compaseafron, Comwestseafron (R) to
Comcaribseafron, etc. When ready about 15th
Sept. sail TRUMPETER and SLINGER to Balboa as
independent group advising departure time,
S. of A. route. Compaseafron route onward to Norfolk in Trade
convoy or as independent group if satisfactory to other sea
Frontier Commanders concerned and advise departure time, route,
speed of advance. Action addressees furnish protection as
practicable. Desire operate aircraft on passage.
(Commaveu 042334 to Admty.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements. Arrived Milne Bay 3rd U.S. Dest. HENLEY.
Port Moresby 3rd U.S. Patrol Gunboat TULSA.
(A.C.N.B. 040724Z to Admty.)

/Digest...

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4.9.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand - Contd.Digest
No. 592
Sept/3rd.Paras. 8 and 9 cover South Pacific Forces.
All Merchantmen observed to East of Cape Saint George on Easterly course afternoon.

(2) Incomplete photos Rabaul Harbour forenoon show three destroyers, one converted destroyer tender, one S/M tender, three S/Ms. six Sub-chasers, and 14 merchant vessels, totalling 66,000 tons three of which were loaded with barges. Partial coverage Vunakanau showed 54 medium bombers, 14 fighters, while complete coverage Lakunai showed 86 fighters, 31 bombers, including possibly some twin engine fighters one transport aircraft. 7 float planes and flying boat in harbour. (4) Eighteen Mitchells, 9 Marauders, escorted by 25 Lightnings made co-ordinated attack on Cape Gloucester Area forenoon dropping 28 tons of bombs and heavily strafing targets. Direct hits scored anti aircraft positions. Barge hideouts Hapisch Harbour Area strafed during return flight. All aircraft returned safely.

(5) Twelve Beaufighters made barge sweep N. and S. Coasts New Britain later during morning, destroying and damaging barges Garove Island, Borgen Bay, and motor trucks Gasmata. Catalina bombed Gasmata before dawn same morning causing fires and explosions while Liberator bombed Unea Island during afternoon.

(6) Fortress sighted small unidentified vessel Longoi Island (Vetiaz Strait) while Liberator bombed other small island this Area. (8) Further reports enemy has evacuated Santa (?Iaabet)* mainland, leaving quantities foodstuffs and munitions.

(9) Liberator destroyed two large barges off West Coast Hoiseugy (As received) night 2nd. Preliminary reports heavy strike Kahili afternoon 2nd. My serial Number 591 Para. 14 indicate many bombs dropped on strip and enemy fighters reluctant to engage our force.

(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 041440Z.)* as received.

Digest No. 7593,
Sept. 4th. Landing
near
Hopoi.

Convoy described as one Sea Truck Type vessel, two larger Merchantmen, two Escort vessels, attacked by Catalina S.E. of Cape Saint George near midnight third while on Easterly course. Two near misses caused fires on small Merchantmen. Similar force reported off Saint Georges Channel heading Rabaul following dawn.

(2) 11 Catalinas attacked airfields and town Rabaul night 3/4 causing fires. (3) At least one enemy S/M observed off South Coast New Britain Northerly course during day. (4) At dawn 4th Allied Landing effected near Hopoi 14 miles E. of Lae from landing craft covered by Air Umbrella, destroyer and other patrol craft who bombarded area and laid down smoke screen. Series of landings executed according to plan. No ground opposition encountered during landing operations, but several enemy air attacks against shipping and Beach Head throughout day. Our troops moving Westward. Similar reports of air operations indicate approx. 30 medium bombers, 30 fighters and some dive bombers involved in attacks during afternoon. Interception by our Thunderbolts and Lightnings during day accounted for 21 Aircraft destroyed, one probable and four damaged the majority fighters for the loss of two Lightnings. 24 Liberators bombed gun emplacements and defences Lae Area during morning while (9) Mitchells attacked targets Hopoi Area. (7) 10 Beaufighters again made barge sweep

/New...

War Diary.4.9.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.Digest
No. 7593,
Sept. 4th. Landing
near
Hopoi.
(Contd.)

New Britain Coast destroying and damaging barges Borgen Bay and Witu Island Group during afternoon. (8) Liberators attacking Ambon Crei, my serial No.592 para. 7, reported sighting one possible cruiser, one large, 3 medium Merchantmen, one smaller Merchantman, add 5 Coasters in harbour and another freighter approaching Ambon. 12 Aircraft reported on Kuha 9 Float Planes and 2 Flying Boats at Howloig and 2 Fighters Airborne. (9) Five Hudsons attacked Loerang and Tenau night hours 3rd. Another 5 attacking Tenau same night claim hits or near misses small coaster and several buildings destroyed. Former Force reported two small Merchant Vessels off Samo Island. (11) 4 Mitchells with fighter escort attacked possible barge positions to West Vila evening 3rd while others hit same area later same night. Afternoon same day Corsairs straffing Kahili destroyed at least 4 grounded aircraft. Photos this area show possible new strip under construction and 60 per cent graded. (12) Our troops still encountering some enemy resistance Arundel Island. (13) Two Allied destroyers destroyed two enemy barges N. Kolombangara night 3rd.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 042230Z to Admty. etc.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 041418A, 041428A.)Submarines Attacked.S/M attack
and sighting
summary
for 24 hours
to 1000A/4th.

Para. A. P.R.U. Aircraft sighted U/B at 1242/3rd in 68° 23' N. 16° 10' E. Course N. Aircraft E/172 sighted U/B at 0430/4th in 42° 20' N. 10° 30' W. Para. B. Aircraft L/202 sighted periscope of U/B at 1133/3rd in 44° N. 12° 53' W.
(D.D.I.C. 040941Z to Cominch.)

War Diary.

5.9.1943.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Coastal
force
operations.

1. Four S.G.Bs. from Dover, patrolling last night at Berck Buoy, intercepted 7 M. class minesweepers. The enemy's fire frustrated 4 successive attempts to attack. On the fifth attempt, 3 or 4 T.L.Cs. were encountered. During the ensuing action GREY GOOSE obtained a torpedo hit on a T.L.C. and two others were heavily damaged by gun fire at a range of 150 yards, one of them being set on fire. GREY GOOSE was considerably damaged and each of the other three S.G.Bs, GREY OWL, GREY FOX and GREY SEAL was slightly damaged and all sustained some casualties.

M.M.S.
251,
255.

2. M.M.S. 251 and 255, which are overdue from Newfoundland (see 4th September) were reported at 0300Z today in 55.36 N. 11.14 W. M.M.S. 251 was in tow of 255. The corvette AMARANTHUS sailed from Londonderry at 1145A to assist, and towed both M.M.S. to Londonderry, arriving at 061402A.

Captain
class
frigates.

3. In view of the shortage of stores and spare parts of all kinds for Captain class frigates, C. in C.W.A. intends as an interim measure to restrict the use of these ships to the trans-Atlantic route or Bay offensives.

M.L.108
sunk.

4. During a minelaying operation in the Channel last night M.L.108 was severely damaged by the suspected premature detonation of a mine. She was taken in tow but capsized later and was subsequently sunk by gunfire. There were no casualties.

Mining...

5. 34 aircraft of Bomber Command laid 103 mines last night off the west coast of France and the Frisian Islands.

SS. DRESDEN.

6. Photographic reconnaissance of Bordeaux at 1215A today showed that the German SS. DRESDEN had left the port since 1205A yesterday.

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5.9.1943.

Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Attacks on
U/Bs in
Spanish
Waters.

7. C. in C. Mediterranean makes a further signal today on the subject of attacks on U/Boats in Spanish territorial waters. He presumes that the original instructions were only intended to apply to British forces working outside the Mediterranean Station, but urges the necessity for all policy instructions issued to British air and Naval forces at Gibraltar being sent either to the Air C. in C. Mediterranean Air Command, or to himself, and not directed to A.O.C. Gibraltar or F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.

Italy.

8(a). F.O. Sicily intends to have 2 bombarding ships always available to support the left flank of the Army in their move northward. EREBUS is anchored north of Messina when not required to bombard. APHIS and SCARAB are to be based at Messina, and one gunboat is to be at sea giving supporting fire throughout the 24 hours, the other remaining in harbour, the S.O., Gunboats arranging relief. If EREBUS has to be withdrawn, APHIS is either to be at sea or at short notice.

(b) QUILLIAM passed through the Straits of Messina at 0730 today and provided support for the left flank of the 5th Division during the day.

(c) Cruisers and destroyers operated south of the Straits of Messina during today.

(d) The cruiser ORION was unsuccessfully attacked at 1500 today by a Heinkel 111 with a rocket-propelled glider bomb, about 12 miles North of Messina, in 38.24 N., 15.38 E.

East Indies.

Burma.

9. Allied aircraft continued their attacks on river craft in central and southern Burma today.

War Diary.5.9.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Captain Class My 211131 and 261228. The present Captain class Frigates. Frigates will not operate on Tunis runs.
 2. In consequence 37 escort group will be required for escort of O.S. 55/K.M.S.27 leaving U.K. on 17th September and to return to base with S.L. 139 due in U.K. 22nd November.
 3. E.G. 37 will therefore not be available for Bay offensive as intended in my 281118.
 4. Further signal will be made regarding future employment of group 4.
 (C. in C.W.A. 051606A.)

In view of immediate shortage of stores and spare parts of all kinds for Captain Class of Frigate I intend as an interim measure to restrict the use of these ships to trans-Atlantic route or Bay offensives only. It is requested that provision of spares and armament stores etc. may proceed in accordance with existing arrangements so as to allow greater strategic flexibility as early as possible.

(C. in C.W.A. 051616A.)

Movements.

L.27. S/M proceeding unescorted my 041857A refers.
 (C. in C.W.A. 050108A to CEYLON.)

WEAR, PELICAN. C. in C.Plymouth 041139A. From a position W. to X. 055° 01' N. 010° 03' W. thence to Londonderry.
 (C. in C.W.A. 050931A to WEAR, PELICAN, (R) Admty. C. in C.Plymouth, Cdre. D.W.A. A.O.C. in C. C.C.)

RESOLUTION, REVENGE. M.K.F.22. 1.a. AMAZON, GLENARM are to R/V with M.K.F. 22 in 055° 12' N. 010° 00' W. at 1030A/8th course 077° speed 11½ knots and escort RESOLUTION through position 090° Barra Head 12 miles thence by standard route to Rosyth.

b. FOXHOUND is also to escort RESOLUTION to Rosyth.
 c. If necessary to fuel at Moville FOXHOUND is to leave M.K.F.22 in time to overtake RESOLUTION before reaching Cape Wrath.
 d. Subsequently AMAZON is available for Operation S.F. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to sail GLENARM to Londonderry and FOXHOUND to Hull.
 2. On completion of escort (a.) REVENGE, CHANTICLEER, INCONSTANT, WRESTLER, ETTRICK, USK, BARLE proceed to Clyde.
 (b.) BOREAS proceed to Liverpool, fuelling at Moville if necessary.
 (C. in C.W.A. 050949A.)

CAPETOWN, ESKIMO. Request onward routing for CAPETOWN and ESKIMO. My P.C. and S. 048° 20' N. 013° 00' W. 068° 16½ knots weather report 4472 1366.
 (CAPETOWN 051001A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

/Submarines...

War Diary.5.9.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

- Submarines. Positions at 0800/6 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 051636A.)
- Group 8. Owing to late return of M.K.F. 22 and defect in VISCOUNT, group 8 will not be ready to sail until 20th September.
2. Group exercises at Larne are to be arranged for September 17th to 19th.
3. C. in C.Plymouth is requested to sail WHITEHALL to Greenock when ready.
(C. in C.W.A. 051921A.)

Operations.Biscay A/S Patrol.

- U/B reports. By D/F on 4412 k/cs at 2348Z/4 U-Boat possibly outward bound, estimated within 75 miles of 44° 00' N. 15° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 050135A to E.G.5, HAVELOCK, Force W, (R) Escorts of M.K.F.22, REVENGE, RESOLUTION, C. in C.Plymouth, H.Q.C.C. C. in C.W.A.)
- By D/F on 4412 k/cs at 0341Z U-Boat estimated within 45 miles of 46° 30' N. 12° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 050511A to E.G.5, HAVELOCK, Force W, BERMUDA, (R) C. in C.Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.)

- Tunnyboats. Shadowing French trawler 28.40 position 47° 40' N. 11° 20' W. course north, sea is rough. Request instruction.
(A/C 83/Q 050930A to A.O.C. 19 Group.)

My 0930 is Tunnyman.

(A/C 83/Q 051025A.)

Attacked 3 Tunnymen position 046° 55' N. 008° 57' W.

(A/C 502/Q 051043A.)

Have lost contact commenced square search.

(A/C 224/Q 051230A.)

Objective reached shadowing Tunnyboat 2840 340° 3 knots.

My position is 48° 11' N. 11° 23' W.

(A/C 228/J 051305A.)

My 041139, Force W is to proceed to search for Tunny

Fishing Boat number 2840 reported by aircraft in 048° 11' N. 011° 23' W. at 1305A/5th course 340° 3 knots.

2. Number 2840 has on board at least 3 members of air crew of Halifax aircraft who are to be taken on board CRANE.

3. CRANE is then to be detached to proceed through position J to Plymouth keeping clear of Q.Z.X. 246, 259 and 336. WEAR and PELICAN to Londonderry as previously ordered.

4. Aircraft will co-operate in search. Call sign will be signalled

(C. in C.Plymouth 051517A to S.O.Force W, (R) Admty. A.O.C. in C.C.C. BERMUDA, SHEFFIELD, E.G.2.)

A/C P arrived. Enemy previously reported position 48° N. 36' 11° W. 35' course 340° speed 5 knots continuing patrol.

(A/C 228/J 051720A.)

/BERMUDA...

War Diary.5.9.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Biscay A/S Patrol. - Contd.

BERMUDA. Following passed by A/C from BERMUDA for transmission to SHEFFIELD.

BERMUDA will pass through position 20 miles north of GF. steering 260° at 2230A/5th.

(C. in C.Plymouth 051500A to SHEFFIELD, (R) BERMUDA.)

Your 1625 enemy A/C are Ju.88

(BERMUDA 051633A.) (W.R.Note: Presumably 051625 from BERMUDA re bearing of dive planes intended. W.D.Note, N.T. in W.D.)

My P.C. and S. 046° 41' N. 011° 22' W. 260° 19 sea rough weather report 4482 1766.

(BERMUDA 051640A to C. in C.Plymouth, (R) SHEFFIELD.)

You were reported by enemy aircraft at 1622A.

(C. in C.Plymouth 051800A to BERMUDA, (R) SHEFFIELD.)

E.G.2. 2nd Escort Group is passing the Gate at 1600A/6th Sept. and proceeding through position J. 180° Bishop Rock 15, K. 049° 01' N. 010° 02' W. and thence patrol in area K. one between 044° 30' N. 046° 30' N. and between 010° W. and 012° W.

2. Recognition of other force in Bay of Biscay area are given in my 041139A copy of which is being sent E.G.2.

3. Communications. 4. Codeword for 2nd E.G. "Limited."

(C. in C.Plymouth 051600A to E.G. 2nd, (R) BERMUDA, H.Q.C.C. SHEFFIELD, F.O.S. E.G. 5th, Group B.5, N.O.I.C. Falmouth, Adnty. C. in C.W.A)

BERMUDA. Dive planes bearing 270° course 180° position 46.37 N. 11.18 W.
(BERMUDA 051625A.)

Disposition at 2000. 1. E.G.B.5, HAVELOCK, VIMY, VOLUNTEER patrolling between 042° 41' N. 013° 06' W. and 044° N. 014° W.
2. E.G.Force X.L, NENE, TWEED, EDMUNDSTON, SNOWBERRY, CALGARY patrol between 044° 51' N. 014° 00' W. and 046° N. 014° W.
3. PELICAN, WEAR, CRANE 046° 55' N. 12° 55' W. through approx. 48.55 11.45 thence CRANE to Plymouth and WEAR, PELICAN to Londonderry 14 knots.
6. SHEFFIELD leave vicinity of 047° N. 017° W. at 2030 to pass through 047° 01' N. 010° 59' W. thence 180° Bishop Rock 8.
7. BERMUDA 046° 30' N. 012° 50' W. course west westbound 20 knots.
(C. in C.Plymouth 051704A, 051926A.)

General.

Danish Fishing Vessel.

Danish Fishing Vessels in your vicinity making for Humber, provide escort if sighted.
(C. in C.Nore 050645A to WOLFHOUD, CATTISTOCK, (R) N.O.I.C. Humber.)

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5.9.1943.

Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

S/M Patrols. My 041247. For my 161349 May amend to read I.S.O.H. Section VI Appendix 1 copy of which is being sent to A.C.I.C. (F.O.S. 051109A.)

F.O.S. 041249.* Request you will sail O.15 (D.S.) from Lerwick at 1500A/7th September through 090° Mickle Flugga 5 miles thence direct to patrol line C.C.

(Capt. S.9 051145A to S.O.(S) Lerwick (R) A.C.O.S. F.O.S. C. in C.H.F. C. in C.Rosyth.) *Patrol positions of submarines.

Positions of submarines at 0800A/6th September and movements for following 24 hours - all times zone A.

A. TANTALUS as in my 021607.

C. ULA (P.66) diving by day in rough vicinity of 70° N. 17° E.

F. RUBIS 45° 02' N. 04° 03' W. diving by day to pass through 45° 32' N. 05° 59' W. at 0700/7th then course 360° daily advance 86 miles.

(F.O.S. 051636A.)

Coastal Force patrols. Cancel my 291309 Leaders and Vee's are to revert to normal duty and notice for steam. 4 of these destroyers may however be withdrawn from normal duty at short notice.

2. Until further orders therefore 4 are to be available south of the Humber.
3. CAMPBELL and VIVACIOUS will be sent to Harwich tomorrow Monday.
4. Re S.Ps. and C.Bs.

(C. in C.Nore 051218A to Capt. D.16, (R) F.O.C.Dover, Admty.

C. in C.Portsmouth, C. in C.Plymouth, Capt. D.21st D.F.)

1. Orders for night 5th/6th September.

A. 2nd Destroyer Div. immediate notice St. Helens.

B. M.T.B. 211, 249, 255 weather permitting carry out offensive patrol of enemy coastal route between YY. and 073° YY. 9 miles. Objective torpedo targets only including T.L.C. Type III.

Traffic appears to be passing about 1 mile off shore. Proceed and return by passage two passing 2 N. not before 2130 and return to be within 20 miles of own coast by 0530.

C. M.L. 291, 343 patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between F. and E.A.5 buoys.

D. CHASSEUR X immediate notice St. Helens.

E. M.L. 208, 233, 124, R.M.L. 523 patrolling 50° 20' N. between 02° 00' W. and 02° 25' W.

2. Coastal forces to carry Cofox for 5th September, and A.V.S.B. only. 3. Call signs and frequencies, codewords, LIMBOURNE, TALYBONT, TANATSIDE, WENSLEYDALE "Advent".

2nd Destroyer Div. Newhaven M.T.Bs. Portsmouth M.Ls. CHASSEUR X "Device". Portland M.Ls. "Service".

4. Destroyers acknowledge.

(C. in C.Portsmouth 051502A.)

4. M.L. 208, 233, 124, R.M.L. 523 sail Portland 2015 to patrol 15' S. St. Albans, returning 0500/6.

(C. in C.Plymouth 051617A.)

Coastal Forces dispositions night 5/6 September. No escorts or patrols due to weather.

(C. in C.Nore 051754A.)

Dover dispositions for night of 5th/6th September.

M.G.Bs. 114, 116 and 117 patrolling at Vergoyer Bank route via No. 2 Buoy each way. E.T.D. Ramsgate 2000, E.T.R. 0515/6.

M.G.Bs. 108, 3.4 and 118 patrolling at V.Buoy E.T.D. Ramsgate 2000, E.T.R. 0600/6.

M.G.Bs. 317 and 326 patrolling nine miles S.E. of Dover E.T.D. 2030, E.T.R. 0530 /6.

5.9.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Coastal Force Patrols. (Contd.) 24 L.C.M. from Richborough exercising off Ramsgate. M.T.Bs. 235, 202, 231 patrolling at Berck Buoy route via Bullock Bank, E.T.D. 1930, E.T.R. 0630/6. (V.A.Dover 051755A.) QUORN, HOLDERNESS take up patrol 7 and 8A respectively forthwith. (C. in C.Nore 052210A to QUORN, HOLDERNESS, (R) Shore Authorities in U.K. concerned.)

Coastal Force Operation off Le Treport. At 2135/4th S.G.Bs. GREY GOOSE (S.O.), GREY OWL, GREY SEAL and GREY FOX patrolling at Berck Buoy were ordered to intercept enemy shipping plotted by shore based radar southbound from Boulogne on coastal route. Contact was effected at 2225 with enemy force, subsequently observed to consist of seven M Class minesweepers, approx. position 300 degrees Berck Sur Mer 4 miles. Four successive attempts to close to torpedo range were frustrated by accurate starshell and H.E. from enemy until 0030 when in approx. 305° Le Treport 5 miles S.G.Bs. during a final run in to attack, encountered 3 or 4 T.L.Cs. probably patrolling. During the action that ensued GREY SEAL obtained one torpedo hit on a T.L.C. two others were heavily damaged by gunfire at 150 yards, one of which was set on fire. Details. Casualties sustained by GREY GOOSE, GREY OWL, GREY FOX, GREY SEAL Considerable damage to GREY GOOSE and slight damage to each of the other three S.G.Bs. M.L. 108 while minelaying during operation M.L. 102 was severely damaged by suspected premature detonation of mine. After being towed by M.L. 104 to No. 10 Buoy, M.L. 108 capsized and was subsequently sunk by gunfire. No casualties resulted. (V.A.Dover 051559A.)

Operation "Forfar". "Forfar M" will not be carried out tonight 5th/6th September. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 051650A.)

HAVBRIS I. N.O.I.C. Lerwick reports:- Norwegian fishing vessel HAVBRIS I Registration Number M.96 G sunk by S/M P. 59 (UNFIRING) from Godoy Aalesund (?heading) (?S.) off Norwegian Coast. Crew of seven landed today at Lerwick. To avoid reprisals on their families crew ask that B.B.C. should broadcast in Norwegian that vessel was sunk by Naval patrol. T.O.O. 051605. Ends. If no security objection request broadcast may be made. (A.C.O.S. 051737 to Admty.)

Combined Operations Force. C.C.Os. No. CR9015/43 dated 17th August. Request EASTERN WYOMING and SOUTH EASTERN CAROLINA Grade A September 8th and 9th 0600 to 1100. (Care. Force J 052359A to Admty.)

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Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

?STRASBOURG. 0716 10 miles N. of Hook sighted one large 2 decked liner. Single funnel moving very slowly on southerly course escorted by eleven armed trawlers, five in front six dispersed astern of large vessel 5 balloons on escorts. None on large M/V E/Vs attacked A/C with intense light and heavy flak which was very accurate A/C at 200 ft. photos taken. (Northcoates 050840A.) O.I.C.Note: Probably German Hospital Ship STRASBOURG.

Iceland L.C.59 5 Sept. A.C. 55/4.
Air Patrols. 1. Second sortie postponed weather in area. (H.Q.R.A.F.Iceland 051105A.)

Attack on 4 small vessels. Enemy shipping plotted by radar in Dover Strait from 0900/4 to 0900/5. Track E.13 D. Four very small from Boulogne at 2335, speed 25 knots, course N.W. for 12 miles when they returned to off Boulogne then proceeded north at 35 knots, becoming stationary 5 miles north west of Calais, at 0130 returning to Boulogne, speed 24 knots entering harbour escorted by E.20 E. at 0455. 5 Albacore aircraft of 841 Squadron attacked these vessels claiming direct hits on three vessels, one of which was seen to be burning. (V.A.Dover 051133A.)

Mining.

Dutch Coast. Carry out following minelaying operation on first suitable night.
1. Unit to operate between Hook and Ymuiden. Mines to be laid in pairs scattered at a distance of about three miles between each pair, lay to be staggered.
2. Boats employed 51st M.L. and 21st M.T.B. Flotillas.
3. Mines A.S.Y.B. 227. 40 day sterilizers.
(C. in C.Nore 051224A to BEEHIVE, (R) F.O.I.C. Harwich, Admty. V.A.Dover, Capt. C.F.)

Operation S.N.222B. My 042307*. No flying at present owing to weather. (C. in C.Rosyth 051007A to R.A.(M).)
* Re A/S air escort for 5th to be provided.

Casualties & Defects.

SS. URLANA. SS. URLANA ex S.L. 135 went ashore on Sky in 57.20 N. 06.39 W. at 0202Z/5 and became a total wreck. All passengers and crew were taken off. (Principal signals are:- Sheigra Radio 050157Z, Port Patrick Radio 050302A 051027A, C. in C.W.A. 050340A, 051016A F.O.I.C. Greenock 050353A, 050507A, 050905A, F.O.Belfast 050409, C. in C.Plymouth 050724A, A.C.O.S. 051346Z, STORMKING 052000Z.)

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects - Contd.

M.M.S.251,
255.

Request you will sail AMARANTHUS forthwith to assist M.M.S.255 towing 251 reported at 0300Z/5 in 55° 36' N. 11° 14' W. 090° 5 knots. Destination Lough Foyle.
(C. in C.W.A. 050735A to Cdre. D.W.A. (R) M.M.S. 255, Admty.)

LUDLOW.

In collision with SS. LYNN TRADER Sheerness Harbour at 0817 today Sunday. Stem damaged fore peak flooded. Proceeding with convoy maximum 20 knots. Docking required.
(LUDLOW 051144A, 051451A.)

Shipping & Convoys.

T.A.61.
(QUEEN MARY.)

Sailed in accordance my 031034A. Codeword "Damson".
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 050014A, S.T.O.I.C. Greenock 050020A.)

S.D.44.

AMAZON is to proceed to Londonderry on passing if this is necessary in order to comply with my 050949.
(C. in C.W.A. 050952A.)

K.M.F.24.

My 291237 August. Departure K.M.F.24 postponed 48 hours.
(D.O.D.(H) 051619A.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

"Simony"
attacked by
A/C.

"Simony" is being shadowed by one enemy aircraft
course 200° my P.C.S. is 35° 51' N., 1° 35' W.
083° 14 knots.
(E. of C. "Simony" 050910B).

ULTIMATUM,
LE CURIE.

Aircraft sighted S/M 041° 14' N., 011° 02' W.
course 020° 14 knots at 0059B/5th. Not attacked.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 051022B to P.34 (ULTIMATUM),
P.67 (LE CURIE)).

ATTACKER,
CLEVELAND,
SLAZAK.

Sailed ATTACKER, CLEVELAND and O.R.P. SLAZAK at
0610B/5 to join "Liege".
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 051035B to C. in C. Med. etc).

C.G.62

C.G.62, 7 ships (names and details), all for Oran.
Escorts 4 destroyers of Task Force 66 Comdesdiv
36 in U.S.S. BALDWIN (Senior), HARDING, ENDICOTT,
McCORMICK, E.T.D. 061300A, S. of A. 10 knots
(route). E.T.A. Gibraltar 071100A, codeword

"Fantail". Escorts wait in Gibraltar to R/V G.U.S.14 as
directed by F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.
(C.M.S.F., 051129B, 051703B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty.etc)

NORD
ATLANTIC.

German Tanker NORD ATLANTIC now only awaiting
sailing orders. Local fisherman have lodged
petition claiming salvage.
(Guyatt, Corunna, 051220 to Admty. (R) Gibraltar
and B.N.A. Madrid). See also 061228.

DESPATCH

Request refitting Port of DESPATCH.
2. If ship is refitting on South Coast or
Chatham, appreciated if ship could be diverted
to Plymouth.

3. My 291924 August, 051232 and F.O.C.W.A's 021612 refer.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 051230B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Plymouth,
F.O.C.W.A.)

Spain.

Prospective political changes, and likelihood of
Franco forming predominant military cabinet to
forestall action by Army.
(N.A. Madrid, 051301, 051321B to D.N.I.)

X.K.11

My 041607 sailed.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 051348B to Admty).
(1) X.K.11 Sailing telegram. (2) 1400B/5. (4) 6.
(5) R.E. 36° 16' N., 12° 18' W. then Standard

S.L. route lettered RF-RJ (6) WARWICK, GODETIA, ARCTIC RANGER,
SAINT NECTAN, CYGNET (15) J.Q.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 051631B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C.
W.A.)

(Part 2). All merchant ships Belfast for orders -
(details and cargo) Tug LARIAT towing LANCE. Tug SCHELDE,
Tug PROPEROUS towing FORT BABINE. Tug HUDSON towing FANTOME.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. (1) 051632B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. C. in
C. W.A.) See also 071510A.

/M.K.S....

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

M.K.S.23,
WALLFLOWER.

My 041806 WALLFLOWER sailed 1340 to overtake.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 051451B to Admty. C. in C.
W.A.)

C.65

C.65 all French consisting VENDOME escorted by
VICTORIA departed Casablanca 051100A S. of A. 7
knots routed Q.B.A.102 thence coastal 10 miles
from shore to Dakar.
(C.M.S.F.F., 051604B to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. etc)

P.614

Pass through the following positions at times
stated: F. 026° 10' N., 021° W. at 1530/8th.
G. 043° N., 016° 30' W. at 0100/17th thence as
ordered by F.O.C. S/M.

2. Proceed on surface at your discretion at 8½ knots. After
passing lat. 035° N., at 0715/11th proceed diving by day S. of A.
88 miles per day.

3. Total bombing restrictions arranged until 0705/11th there-
after submerged bombing restrictions 20 miles either side of
your route from 50 miles ahead to 50 miles astern of your estim-
ated position. Report if you are unable to remain within your
bombing restrictions. All times zone minus 2.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 051732B to P.614 (R) Cominch, C.M.S.F.,
C. in C. W.A., Admty. etc).

MONTE TEIDE
suspicious
ship.

SS. MONTE TEIDE due Las Palmas for orders about
10th Sept. has in crew man named Juan de
Beascochea Gorordo believed to be employed by
Germans to carry documents between South America
and Spain.

2. H.M. Consul Las Palmas will report departure
to you. If destination either Cadiz or any Mediterranean port
send in for normal examination and for search of Gorordo.

3. Advisable to put small armed guard on board with Boarding
Officer to get hold of Gorordo at once and prevent his destroying
documents if any carried.

4. If any official enemy documents or any documents containing
enemy intelligence found in possession of Gorordo he should
be removed as Enemy Agent.

5. If all else in order release ship when examination of ship
completed, noting that M.E.W. always regards the ship with
strong suspicion.

(D.E.W.D. 051906A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C.C.S.O. Gib,
C. in C. Med).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

DESPATCH Request destination in U.K. of DESPATCH.
(F.O.C.W.A.F., 051001Z to Admty).

MONTE Your 041503. We congratulate you on successful
ALBERTIA interception of this important ship.
(Spanish). (D.O.D. (F) Approved by V.C.N.S. 051246A to
F.O.C.W.A., (R) Comar Dakar, MONTCALM).

S.L.136 Tug EMPIRE OBERON for Gibraltar will join S.L.136
with Dakar section.
2. CLARKIA and CORBRAE sailing independently
to Casablanca will join convoy for U.K. from
Casablanca.
(F.O.W.Af., 051534Z to F.O.I.C. Gib. C.M.S.F.,
S.O. 40th Escort Grp. (R) Admty. C. in C. Med.
Comar Dakar, Escorts of S.L.136).

Provision of C. in C. S.A., 301811.
Air Sqdns. A Wellington Squadron is now on its way to Port
Reitz and should become operational in October.
Another Wellington Squadron will be formed at Aden
about end October. Both can be deployed by Air
Authorities to meet current situation.

2. Regret there is no prospect of sending Leigh Light equipped
aircraft to East African theatre in near future.

3. C. in C. E.F.'s 021351 Sept. It is the Air Ministry's
intention to bring Catalina strength up to full establishment as
soon as the inflow of Catalinas from America allows. Their
inability to do so now is not related to the appreciation of the
U-boat trend. Only means of sending more Catalinas to Indian
Ocean at present is by withdrawal from active operations in
other theatres. This is being investigated and priorities are
being carefully examined.
(D.O.D. (F) 052232A to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., (R) F.O.E.A.,
A.H.Q.E.A., Air Ministry, 222 Group).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- Enemy Unit. Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 42° 35' N., 9° 35' E.
(A/C via Alex. W/T, 050035B).
C. and S. of 1 small enemy vessel 1000 tons are
300 6 knots. Am resuming patrol.
(A/C via Alex. W/T, 050050 to K.T.1).
- Destroyers, Sicily. Q class Destroyers are proceeding to Malta at 0600. LAFOREY and LOYAL are with ORION. Your 042214 and my 041741 (N.T. in W.D.) and 041356 refers.
(F.O. 15 C.S., 050155B to F.O.Sy. (R) Capt. (D) 4)
- M.T.B. Exercises. Request permission to sail M.T.B.295 (V.20), 287, 97 (V.24), 86 and 89 for exercises with 24th D.F. at 1840B today Sunday 5th Sept. returning 0030B Monday 6th. Request gate in M.M. at this time. M.T.Bs. will maintain W/T watch on 2980 k/cs. (C.C.F. Med. 050947B to V.A. Malta, Capt. (D) 24, TYRIAN, V.20, V.24, TUMULT, M.T.B.287, 295, 86, 89, 97, (R) KHM, XDO).
- K.M.S. 24, SOFALA, KINGSTON CORAL. SOFALA escorted by KINGSTON CORAL sails at 0315C 6th at 9 knots through 267 thence direct 355 to join K.M.S. 24 at 1245C/6th codeword "Nipple". Priority normal W/T single operator 425 k/cs. After meeting K.M.S.24, KINGSTON CORAL return to Benghazi by reverse route. (S.N.O. Cyrenaica, 051001C to Escorts of K.M.S. 24, (R) C. in C. Levant, etc).
- G.U.S.14 G.U.S.14 Ocean and stragglers route held by Bizerta joiners Admty. 171253 refers. Admty. 031250 (Route for G.U.S. convoys) received after convoy sailed. ((?N.O.I.C. Tunisia), 051025 to Admty. etc).
- SOKOL. Intend sailing O.R.P. SOKOL at 1500/6th for patrol off Brindisi routed via Eastern Channel (?through) 035° 56', 16° 31' at 0800/7th (?036°) 24' 016° 47' at 2000/7th 039° 10' 018° 30' at 2000/8th 039° 45' 018° 52' and 040° 20' 018° 52' to arrive off Brindisi at 2200/9th surface passage on 8th.
2. M.J.A.O. 24. Request bombing restrictions for above passage. (C. (S) 10, 051032, 051715, to C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, etc)
- G.U.F.10 My 031443. Para. 1 for Sept.5th read Sept. 6th.
(2) Para. 2 add S. of A. Algiers to Oran 11½.
(4) Para. 4 delete and substitute Algiers 120 1800 Sept. 8th entering harbour Gibraltar 37 at time signalled by Comnob, Oran.
(5) Para. 5. , amend Outcon number (?414 or 499).
(6) Add para. 9 A.S.I.S., Comnob Capt. M/S is requested to sail convoy as soon as ready.

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- G.U.F.10 (contd). (7) Para. 10, add A.M. 032001 refers (N.T. in W.D.) (C. in C. Med. 051055B to N.O.I.C. Tunisia, (R) F.Os. and N.O.I.C. N.A. (Oran to Tripoli), Admty. etc).
- WHADDON, EGGESFORD, LAMERTON, WILTON, SCYLLA. Sail at 0600/7th for Bizerta S. of A. 22 knots routed Q.B.B.123 (C) 275 - 299 and 229, 207. E.T.A. Boom 1800/7th. Codeword "Cussed" 46 937 low (N.O.I.C. Malta, 051100 to WHADDON, EGGESFORD, LAMERTON, WILTON, Naval and Air Authorities Bone to Sousse, SCYLLA). See also 071634.
- SPORTSMAN, SERAPH. After sunset tonight 5th P.229 (SPORTSMAN) proceed area SB and P.219 (SERAPH) to area SD P.229 (SPORTSMAN) keeping S. of 042° until 0600 tomorrow 6th thence proceed northern position SB. It is possible P.219 (SERAPH) may not be clear of area SB until 7th. (Capt. (S) 8, 051116B to 8th S/M F. (R) C. in C. Med).
- Taranto R/C. Taranto 0830. Outer harbour 2 battleships, 3 cruisers in nets. Cotrone obscure. (V.A. Malta, 051146 to C. in C. Med. (R) S.O. Force H. etc).
- U.G.S.15 VETCH, CONVULVULUS and PENTSTEMON sailed at 1000 7th with joiners for U.G.S.15 and ships bound for Tripoli by Q.B.B.123 (B) to R/V with convoy in position 212 at 1500/7th.
2. Detach Tripoli section from convoy and escort it together with Tripoli bound ships ex Malta from 212 to 202 E.T.A. Boom 1300/8th S. of A. 8 knots.
 3. JONQUIL and BERGAMOT detach from convoy at 212 and escort ships for Malta and Sicily to Malta by swept channel B.123 (B).
 4. Codeword for para. 1 and 2 "Bluecoat" 929 priority normal and A/S from 212. Codeword for para. 3 "Medium/low".
 5. JAUNTY is to detach with Tripoli section (7292). Pass to JAUNTY. (V.A. Malta, 051148 to VETCH, CONVULVULUS, PENTSTEMON, JONQUIL, BERGAMOT, C. in C. Med. S.E. U.G.S.15, STARWORT, etc). Pass to Cmdre. U.G.S.15 sailed as in my 031157 and 040830 (N.T. in W.D.) less FORT VILLE MARIE (2 corrupt groups). (N.O.I.C. Bone, 051411 to S.O. Escorts of Convoy U.G.S.15, (R) Admty. etc). Onward route vide C. in C. Med. 021037B Sept.
- (2) (a) 8 (b) 9. S. of A. is reduced to 7 knots at 511.
 (3) 355, 1345/9th, 3 miles North 346 2250/9th, 3 miles North 341, through 511, 1150C/10th, 328, 322, 0335/11th, 508, 1640/11th 310, 0410/12th, 309, 306, 303, 300, 399, daylight 13th.
 (4) Alexandria 134 detach and reverse route to arrive 309 daylight 12th. Port Said section adjust speed after 309 to arrive 399 daylight 13th.
 (5) RP. (6) High "Taunton". (7) C.
 (8) STARWORT (S.O. Screen) DIANELLA, POPPY, SAXIFRAGE, GERALDTON, join as in my 041734C Sept.

/(9)...

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Mediterranean.

U.G.S.15 (contd). (9) Escort report boiler hours when South of Malta Ships for Alexandria and order for onward escort follows.
(C. in C. Levant, 051835C to S.E.C. U.G.S.15, S.E.C. M.K.S.24, Naval and Air Authorities Western Desert. Group 209. N.O.I.C. Port Said. Naval and Air Authorities Tripolitania., CLEMATIS, Admty etc).

M.K.S.24 ALDENHAM and KANARIS sail at 1100/8th by Q.B.B. 123 (b) with joiners for M.K.S.24 including P.44 (UNITED) and P.43 (UNISON), to R/V with convoy in position 212 at 1600/8th.

2. Detach ships for Malta and Sicily from convoy and escort them to Malta by Q.B.B.123 (b).

3. WHITEHAVEN, HYTHE, ROMNEY and RYE detach at 212 and proceed to Malta at best speed by Q.B.B.123 (b) to fuel. Sail again immediately on completion by Q.B.B.123, (c) to overtake convoy.

4. When ships in para. 3 have rejoined, HURSLEY and ADRIAS detach and proceed to Malta by Q.B.B.123, (c).

5. Codeword for paras. 1 and 2 "Toilet" 436 and for paras. 3 and 4 "Medium" 930 both low.

(V.A. Malta, 051149B to ALDENHAM, HURSLEY, HYTHE, WHITEHAVEN, ROMNEY, RYE, KANARIS, ADRIAS, (R) C. in C. Med. Capt. S.10, CARLISLE, Escorts of M.K.S.24, P.43 (UNISON), P.44 (UNITED)).

Operation "Baytown", bombarding ships. Following is a repetition of my 051212 Sept. EREBUS, APHIS repeated SCARAB, C. in C. Med. S.O. Force H, N.O.I.C. Goa Lussinpiccolo, N.O.I.C. Augusta, from F.O. Sy.

I intend to have 2 bombarding ships always available to support the left flank of Army in their move northward. EREBUS is anchored North of Messina when not required to bombard, and is to report when 40 per cent of fuel stock remaining. APHIS, SCARAB are to be based at Messina. One gunboat is to be at sea giving supporting fire throughout the 24 hours the other remaining in harbour. S.O. Gunboats is to arrange relief. If EREBUS has to be withdrawn APHIS is either to be at sea or at short notice.

(F.O.Sy. 051212B to EREBUS, C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Augusta, S.O. Force H, N.O.I.C. Goa, Lussinpiccolo).

C.V.Es. for Biscay Approaches. Following received from Cominch. T.O.O. 032205Z Sept. "When U-boat situation in Central Atlantic appears favourable and unless you perceive objection consider C.V.Es. supporting U.S. - African convoys may be employed profitably from time to time to sweep Biscay Approaches west of "Sea Slug" area while proceeding to and from Casablanca. (D.O.D. (H), 051301A to C. in C. Med. F.O. Gib.) W.D. Note. For reply to 032205, see Admty. 051305, in America and West Indies. Reply: C. in C. Med. 091101.

/Genoa...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Genoa,
Spezia
R/C.

P.R.U. Photographs at 1045/5th. Genoa no change
Spezia one cruiser has returned to port. Another
cruiser has returned to berth side boom for
battleship is closed.
(F.O. Tunisia, 051435B to C. in C. Med. etc).

Tankers for
East.

As M. of W.T. require additional tankers for
Service in the East request you will send A.C.
BEDFORD, PRESIDENT DE VOGUE and ARGON to Abadan if
this can be done without undue delay to programme
envisaged in your 281132 August.
(D. of S. 051524A to C. in C. Levant,) See also
061102A.

ORION
attacked by
glider bomb.

Patrolled north of Messina with TARTAR and LOYAL
from 1030 to 1520. In simi communication with
F.3 in approx. position 475 624 no call for fire
and no bombardments. Attacked by one Heinkel III
at 1500 from high level with rocket bomb details
of which follow.
(ORION, 051620 to F.O.Sy. (R) (corrupt group)
UGANDA, ECHO).

At 1500 in position 038° 24' 015° 38' Heinkel III dropped
rocket bomb ? 30 yards astern. Aircraft made 3 runs all clearly
heard, first unobserved due to cloud, second momentarily sighted
in gap at height of 12 - 14 thousand feet, bomb released on 3rd
run in H.L.B. attack on opposite course from gap in cloud.

(2) Vapour trail of rocket first thought to be fighter attacking
Heinkel from starboard quarter. Rocket then observed to descend
making two close spirals before diving and was thought to be
aircraft crashing.

(3) One minute after attack 3 short fast automatic transmissions
heard on 19.2 M C/S during jamming sweep.

(4) Fleeting impression suggests appearance similar to large
paravane black shining body diameter four feet with main plane
near nose. Wing span approx. eight feet cylindrical tail with
four to six Ventura tubes. Left trail of flame and smoke.

(5) Interference to type 279 began approximately one minute
before bomb landed and terminated with explosion. Listening
and jamming was started too late and blind four inch fire with-
held because of Spitfires.

(ORION, 051715B to F.O. 15th C.S. (R) UGANDA, F.O.Sy. EREBUS,
C. in C. Med. N.L.O. Group 211., S.O. Force H). See also 061328A.

ABDIEL

Your 162011 August and A.M. 181946 August neither
to C. in C. Plymouth.

1. It is desired to make ABDIEL available at
Plymouth for two or three days to enable examina-
tion of boilers and machinery to be carried out underway before
ship proceeds to Tyne for refit.

2. Request she may be sailed accordingly.
(D.D.O.D. (M) 051651A to C. in C. Med. (R) C. in C. Plymouth).
Request you will sail (?ABDIEL) to arrive Bizerta p.m./8th.

September.
(C. in C. Med., 051810B to V.A. Malta, (R) S.O. Force H,
N.O.I.C. Bizerta). See also 060916.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

UGANDA,
LOYAL,
TARTAR.

Take LOYAL under your orders and carry patrol between 2000/4th September and 0600/6th September in area to S.E. of Straits of Messina keeping N. of Cape St. Croce and W. of 016°. Coastal forces will not be operating S. of Straits of Messina due to weather.

(S.O. Force K UGANDA, 051701B to TARTAR (R)
LOYAL, Capt. (D) 19th D.F., ORION, F.O.Sy, S.H.A. 117, F.O. 15th C.S., S.O. Force H, C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 10, N.L.O. 8th Army, N.L.O. 211 Group).

UNSHAKEN,
UNSPARING.

Shift patrol to Valona. Keep clear of (P.55)'s (UNSPARING) route.

(Capt. (S) 10th, 051745 to P.54 (UNSHAKEN) (R) 10th S.F., H.M.C.S. PRESERVER).

French
Refugees.

My 011900, B.N.A. Lisbon 021736, and 041812, B.N.A. Madrid 011953 propose conflicting dates. It is now confirmed target date for eighth evacuation should be 21st Sept. at Setubal.

For this date SIDI BRAHIM and LEPINE and 2 French destroyers TEMPETE and HALCYON will be available.

(2) In view of large accommodation of refugees suggest target date for ninth evacuation should be 28th Sept. using same ships and escorts. Will train arrangements permit?

(C. in C. Med. 51820B to N.A. Lisbon, N.A. Madrid (R) Admty. etc)

Attacks on
U/Bs in
Spanish Waters.

A signal has been made from A.O.C. in C. Coastal Command in U.K. to A.O.C. Gibraltar directing that submarines should be attacked even if in territorial waters and burning lights. It is to be regretted that this signal was passed by A.O.C. Gibraltar to Commorseafron in a form which was construed as an order.

(2) Cominch to whom this matter was referred by Comnavnaw has directed that U.S. Naval Forces (which include the air forces in Moroccan Sea Frontier) are not to be so used until U.S. Government has granted authority. Allied C. in C. North Africa is also concerned in this matter which might affect the attitude of Spain towards United Nations.

(3) It is presumed that the original instructions were only intended to apply to British Forces working outside Mediterranean Station, but whole incident shows how necessary it is that all policy instructions issued to British Air and Naval Forces at Gibraltar should be sent either to Air C. in C. Med., Air Command or myself, and not direct to A.O.C. Gibraltar or F.O.I.C. Gibraltar. My 012043 to Admty. only refers.

(C. in C. Med., 051821 to Admty. (R) Comnavnaw, Cominch, Commorseafron, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Air C. in C. Med).

/Mobile...

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5.9.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Mobile Crane
Equipment
Ferryville.

Repair work at Ferryville Dockyard seriously impeded by lack of cranes and Army have been obliged to withdraw mobile equipment on loan.
2. 26 ton and 23 ton mobile long jib cranes are urgently required at Ferryville.
3. Total requirements of mobile cranes are given in my 022020 Sept.*
(C. in C. Med., 051849B to Admty. (R) F.O. Tunisia, C.S. Ferryville, B.A.D.)
*Re shipment of cranes from America to Med. area.

SIMOOM

P.225 SIMOOM after passing 039° 07' 010° 56' at 0530/6th is to proceed patrol in the vicinity 041° 27' 011° 44'. Further instructions P.225 SIMOOM follow which will be decyphered by P.225 SIMOOM only.
(Capt. (S) 10, 051858B to 8th S.F. (R) Admty. C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta, Cdr. T.G.112.1. Capt. (S) 10, S.O. Force H, C.S.12).

R.A.F. Malta
Report.

A.1. 1058 5 Sept. No incidents.
(R.A.F. Malta, 052006B).

Movements,
Oran.

Arrivals today OAKLEY, BLENCATHRA, ISIS.
Departures: ULSTER QUEEN, U.S.S. BOISE, SAVANNAH, PHILADELPHIA, CARROLL, (ONONDAGA?), ANDROMEDA, STANLY, OBERON, ALYON, FUNSTON, JEFFERSON PROCYON, ARCTURUS, ORONTES, BARNETT, DICKMAN, CHASE, DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, MARNIX VAN ST. ALDEGONDE, H.M.S. BOXER, BRUISER, THRUSTER, U.S.S. CLEAVES, NIBLACK, BENSON MAYO, PLUNKETT, WOOLSEY, LUDLOW, ROWAN, TRIPPE, WAINWRIGHT, SUSTAIN, PILOT, PREVAIL, SPEED, SYMNOL, SKILL, STEADY, SEER, H.M.M.L.471, 458, 469, French ship TOULONNAISE.
(Comnob Oran, 052121B to Admty. etc).

M.T.Bs.
670, 640.

M.T.Bs. 670, 640 sailed at 0001 September 6th to Palermo by direct route. S. of A. 18 knots codeword "Titus" 143. E.T.A. 1100/6th.
(N.O.I.C. Bizerta, 052159B to C.T.U. 89.1.1 (R) LANDGUARD, C. in C. Med. etc).

Situation
Report No.
171.

1. Maintenance and support of Operation "Baytown" continues satisfactorily.
2. Small but frequent fighter bomber raids were made on shipping in Straits of Messina on 3rd Sept. but on at least three occasions bombs were jettisoned on approach of fighters, no reports received of damage or casualties.
3. At 0430/4 Commandoes were landed without ^{opposition} at Bagnara.
4. During the night 4/5th September 4th destroyer flotilla operated South East of Straits of Messina. No incidents reported.
5. The first convoy of one M/T ship and three coasters is expected to enter Reggio at 2030/5th September.
(C. in C. Med., 052316B to Admty).

War Diary.5.9.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- Convoy M.A.1. Madras portion M.A.1 arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Vizagapatam 050256Z to Admty.)
Departure LAUNCESTON and ROHILKHAND escorting
convoy M.A.1.
(N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam 051131Z to N.O.I.C.
Chittagong, Admty. etc.)
- U/B. Inconclusive D/F at 2125Z/4 indicates Italian
U/B about 500 miles S. or S.S.E. of Madagascar.
(D.D.I.C. 050401A to C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A.,
C.O.I.S. E.F.)
- O.21. S/M O.21 may be retained in Australia until mid
November to carry out special operation quoted
in para. 2 of F.O. Ceylon's 200500 August.
(2) My 221217 Aug. refers.
(C. in C. E.F. 050648Z to B.S.O. (R) Admty. S.4.
C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med., F.O. Ceylon.)
- U.S.S. HERMITAGE. When HERMITAGE is ready for sea Cdr. Royal Indian
Navy is requested to sail her for Melbourne in
accordance with Vice Opnav 301239/August.
(2) Route from Bombay through position:-
A. 018° 26' N. 071° 34' E. B. 011° 02' N. 069°
40' E. C. 001° 58' S. 071° 52' E. D. 027°
35' S. 099° 58' E. thence as routed Navy Board Melbourne.
(C. in C. E.F. 050931Z to Cdre. R.I.N., A.C.N.B. (R) Cdr. 7th U.S.
Fleet, (?C. in C. U.S. Pacific Fleet), Admty. Cdr. South Pacific
Force, Alusha, Bombay.)
- A.F.Ds. Understand that A.F.D.23 will complete Bombay end
January 1944 but that no date can yet be given of
arrival of a battleship dock from U.S.A. for
Trincomalee or of completion of A.F.D.35.
2. Request confirmation that the first of these big docks to be
made available and mooring materials will be sent to Trincomalee
and the second to Kilindini.
(C. in C. E.F. 051113Z to Admty. (R) Para. 2 confirmed (Hd. of M.II
211938A)
- M.A.1. Sailing telegram. (2) 1125 (A) 5th.
(4) 10. (5) (Route). (6) LAUNCESTON, ROHILKHAND
(15) S.G.D.3.
(N.C.S.O. Vizagapatam 051132Z, 051137Z to Admty.)
- South East Asia Command, H.Q. For Chiefs of Staff from General Auchinleck.
Your O.Z. 2625 of 2nd September C.O.S. (INDIA) 190
(T.O.O. 021430Z.) 1. We agree your para 2.
(c) and have worked out intelligence organization
on these lines as basis for discussion with
Admiral Mountbatten on arrival. In view of this,
suggest that Assistant Chief of Staff (Intelligence) should be
Brigadier in the first instance.
(Armindia 061145 to Air Min.)

/QUICKMATCH...

5.9.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

QUICKMATCH.

Request you will retain QUICKMATCH at Durban until further orders.
(C. in C. E.F. 051309Z to C. in C. S.A. (R) Com. i/c. Durban, Cmdre. D.C.S4, F.O.E.A.)

Base
Defence
Plans.

Your 21675 of 5th August.
1. Your 1st. Admiralty maintain function of Kilindini is "temporary fleet base".
2. Your 2nd. After discussion with General Platt following agreement reached regarding A/A scales of defence for which expect final

approval will be given shortly.

Place	H.A/A.	L.A/A.
Kilindini	16	18
Tanga	4	6
Seychelles	8	3

2. Your 3rd. General Platt agrees that coast artillery guns all ports East Africa be manned on reduced establishment with exception of A.M.T.B. at Kilindini which will be one gun immediate remainder reduced establishment. 4. No change is being made in existing Defence Plan for Mauritius.

5. In view of possible developments plan for Madagascar is being re-examined.

(W.O. 051735A to G.O.C. in C. East Africa.)

Mauritius,
A/S M.Ls.
M/S Tugs.

In view of S/M activity in the Mauritius area Governor of Mauritius has recently been in communication with Colonial Office on subject of the provision of A/S. M.Ls. for Mauritius and also with regard to the non-arrival of the 2 M/S Tugs which were

ordered in May 1941. (C. in C. E.I. 280806 May 1941 refers.) Colonial Office have asked Admiralty for information on the subject and in order that a suitable reply may be made request (a) latest information regarding the provision of the M/S Tugs. (b) whether it is your intention to allocate any M.Ls. to Mauritius.

(A.C.N.S. (F) 051839A to C. in C. E.F.)

Air
Squadrons.

For East African theatre.
(Admty. 052232A) See South Atlantic.

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5.9.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Minesweepers. This is Port Director Tampa 041821.
A.Ms 140. 141. 142 and 143 named respectively
ALARM, ALCHEMY, APE and ARCADE of Russian Navy
departed Tampa S.E. about 1800Z. Four for
Murmansk Russia via Key West, New York, St. Johns and Reykjavik.
MACRI A to Key West for onward routing. Due Key West 1700Z/5th.
(P.D. Tampa, 050440 to Cinclant, Comgulfseafon, C.C.O. Key
West.)
Amended - see P.D.O. Washington, 070330Z. - p. 214

U/B. My 042029. Believe non sub.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 050540Z to G.B. 7A.)

U.S. S/M (Cominch, 051212Z.)
Estimate.

C.V.Es. for Your 032205Z September.
Biscay Any such reinforcement will be very welcome.
Approaches. The most probable area at present seems that
bounded by 40° and 45° N. and 18° and 21° W.
2. Request that you will give Admiralty as
much warning as practicable when C.V.Es. will
be available for this duty, in order that administrative
authorities and ships in the area may be instructed.
(V.C.N.S., 051305A to Cominch, (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C.
Med.)

ARIES, Your 041859Z September.
GREENWICH, (1) Concur in use of ARIES as proposed but
ERNE. consider one escort insufficient for GREENWICH
and ERNE must be used in addition.
(2) Cancel A.M. 042235 September (not to all
addressees).
(D.O.D.(H), 051310A to C. in C. C.N.A., (R) C.
in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., B.A.M.R., GREENWICH, C. in
C. Rosyth, Cdre. WESTERN ISLES, Capt. D. Halifax,
B.A.T.M., Cdre. (D) W.A.)

Convoy Arrived.
J.T. 5. (B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 051432Q to Admty.)

U/B A.C.890. Operations 4th Sept. All times G.M.T.
attacked. (b) A/S patrols 43. Ventura N/113 attacked sub.
in position 45.31 59.30 with one 600 lb. depth
charge. Heavy explosion occurred and violent
air bubbles for 18 minutes. Time of attack 1810.
?R.C.N. consider sighting doubtful.
(H.Q.E.A.C. Canada, 051450 to Air Min., (R)
Admty., etc.)

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

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5.9.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.N.S.H.Q.
S/M Estimate.

(N.S.H.Q., 051456Z.)

TEIA MARU.

Your 032150 gives longitude position C as 074° 03' E. This should read 074° 30' E. as given in A.M. 211631 August.
(D.O.D.(F), 051510Z to Cominch.)

O.N.198.

Following arrived New York 4th. Total 37 ships (list).
(B.R.L.O. New York, 051544Z to Admty.)

U/B.

1 Group E.A.C. From DSXM. S/M 44.22 N. 62.36 W.
(Newfoundland C.C.O., No T.O.O., Recd. 051655 to Admty.)Convoy
W.S.C.141.Sailing telegram (3 ships, list, cargoes, destinations.) 2. 0900Z/6th. 3. 0800Z/7th in 046° 20' N. 049° 18' W. 4. 8 knots. 5. As in N.C.S.O. Halifax N.S. 031753. 6. NORTHERN SKY and ST. ELSTAN.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 051715Z, 051717Z to Admty.)Convoy
U.T. 2.Departs New York 20 ships sailing. Last ship out Gate U.S.S. ESCALANTE 1247/5th. ST. K. SEAKAY cancelled.
(U.S. P.D. New York, 051720Z to Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet.)Fighters
in Escort
Carriers.Certain escort carriers to specialise in operating fighters in support of amphibious operations.
(V.C.N.S., 051748A to B.A.D.) *See Limcom.*

U.S.A.Ts.

THOMAS JESSUP (U.S.A.T.) arrived 4th. 5th arrival MARGOT MORAN (U.S.A.T.).
(R.O. Port of Spain, 052013 to Admty.)Convoy
U.T.2.Convoy sailing dispatch. U.T.2. Part 2. Part 1 is my Dis. 042248. (20 ships, list, cargoes, destinations.)
(P.D. New York, 052104Z to Com. 10th Fleet (C. & R.), etc.)Convoy
B.X. 72.Sailing telegram part 2. (19 ships, list).
(P.D. Boston, 051916 to Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet C. & R., C. in C. C.N.A., Admty., etc.)

Lin A.W!
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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

051748A/September

OUT

To B.A.D.

Date 5.9.43

Naval Cypher (XD) Plug

From Admiralty

Fighters in Escort Carriers

Your 201515/August and 272321/August to Admiralty.

Decision has been made to specialise a certain number of Escort Carriers for the role of operating Fighters in support of amphibious operations. The intention is for each Carrier to operate two Squadrons of 10 I.E. each.

2. By reducing the number of fighters allocated to Trade protection Carriers to 6 I.E. 25% of the total number of Escort Carriers can be allocated to the Fighter role. The trade protection Carriers now in service are allocated a composite Squadron trained in A/S operations consisting of 9 T.B.R. and 6 Fighters. Intention is to increase T.B.R. to 12 I.E. when resources permit.
3. Fighter Carriers so far selected are ATTACKER, HUNTER, and STALKER with Seafires and SEARCHER with Hellcats. BATTER with Seafires is temporarily so employed for the present in the Mediterranean.
4. Intention is for Fighter Carriers to work up in U.K. as their Squadrons must first do Army co-operation training which takes about a month. This can best be done by arranging for the Corsair Squadrons allocated for Fighter Carriers to arrive in the U.K. four or five weeks before their parent Carriers to complete this Army co-operation training before they are required to work up with their ships. This will mean their being given passage in other and earlier Carriers coming to the U.K. before their final parent Carriers. The two Squadrons for any ship need not necessarily take passage together providing they are both available in the U.K. four or five weeks before their ship.
5. Request you examine the possibility of this arrangement and signal your proposals for meeting it including the names of seven ships selected as Fighter Carriers to fit such a programme and the numbers of the Squadrons selected to match them. It is a requirement that ships selected should all come from those completing their fitting out in U.S.A. before August, 1944. The ships provisionally suggested are AMEER, ATHELING, NABOB, SPEAKER or SHAH, PATROLLER, TROUNCER and PUNCHER.
6. The proposals above afford the quickest way of getting

the

the Fighter Carriers operational and the early arrival of the Squadrons in the U.K. is considered to be of such importance that your proposals should include either ferry trips or the use of ENGADINE or ATHENE if absolutely necessary.

7. If it is found that the plan outlined above cannot be arranged the alternative would be to send the Carriers across with their Squadrons as soon as possible after completion, the working up in the U.S.A. being limited to that required to ensure safe decklanding and taking off. On arrival in the U.K. the Squadrons would be trained in their Army co-operation duties in the programme arranged for working up the ships which would consequently have to be extended.

8. Programme for formation of Corsair Squadrons in the U.S.A. will not be changed. The additional Squadrons not allocated to Fighter Escort Carriers will be allocated to Fleet or other Carriers when they arrive in U.K.

9. Trade protection Carriers should work up as far as possible in U.S.A. before being sent to U.K. They should sail with their Tarpon Squadrons and should also carry Corsair Squadrons. On arrival in U.K. they will be supplied with Martlet flights formed in U.K. to complete their composite Squadrons. They will then have a short period with F.O.C.T. and C.in C. W.A., to complete their A/S training. To meet the requirements of para. 6 of your 272321 we suggest that some of the Corsairs embarked for passage in the Trade Protection Carriers be dismantled. This will allow the Trade Protection Carriers to be fully operational with their Tarpon Squadrons for their first voyage and at the same time ensure the transport to the U.K. of complete Corsair Squadrons.

10. Your 201515 August. SLINGER will be allocated a composite A/S Squadron after completing modifications in U.K.

11. Para. 8 of your 272321 is being answered separately.

051748A

for D.N.A.O.

Approved by V.C.N.S.

m. s	1st Lord	D.T.D. (4)	D.A.C.R.
	1st S.L. (2)	U.W.R.	Hd. of Air Br.
	D.F.S.L.	Capt. Pim	I.P. (2)
	2nd S.L.	D.T.S.D.	W.D.
	3rd S.L.	D.O.D. (H) (4)	Ad. Blake (4)
	Vice Contr.	D.O.D. (F) (2)	Plot.
	5th S.L.	D.G.D.	D.A.M.R.
	V.C.N.S.	D.C.	N.A. 2nd S.L. (O.D.)
	A.C.N.S. (H)	D.D.I.C. (2)	
	A.C.N.S. (F)	Hd. of C.W.	
	A.C.N.S. (U.T) (2)	D.P.S.	
	A.C.N.S. (A) (2)	D.A./S.W.	
	A.C.N.S. (W)	Hd. of M. (2)	
	D.C.N.A.E.	D. of P. (2)	
	Sec.	D.N.A.O.	
	P.A.S. (S)	D.A.U.D.	
	N.A. 2nd S.L. (Air)	D.A.W.T.	
	D. of P. (Q) (3)	D.A.E.	

War Diary.

5.9.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.- Contd.

L. 26. Philadelphia arrived Sept. 5th.
(N.S.H.Q., 052210Z to Admty. for F.O.(S).)

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Arrivals 4th Sept. Brisbane U.S. Transport VAN HEUTSZ. U.S. Transport CAPE FLATTERY departed Brisbane 4th due Sydney 6th.
(C.S.W.P.S.F., 050759Z.)
Departed Townsville 4th U.S.S. HELM for Port Moresby.
(A.C.N.B., 051146Z.)
Arrived Townsville 4th U.S. Ship SUTRUEHANNA. Departed Brisbane arrived U.S. Naval Transport MIZAR for Sydney (N.S.W.), arrived Sydney (N.S.W.) 4th MIZAR.
(A.C.N.B., 051149T.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 051338A, 051341A.)

Submarines Attacked.

Sub attack and sighting summary for 24 hours to 1000A/5th. Para. B. Aircraft F/224 sighted periscope of U-Boat at 1055/4th in 45° 45' N. 11° 12' W.
Para. D. Mosquito aircraft sighted U-Boat at 1200/4th in 55° 20' N. 01° 00' E. course 045°, Halifax aircraft sighted U-Boat at 1444/4th in 55° 04' N. 08° 01' E. course 115°.
(D.D.I.C., 051010Z to Cominch.)

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6.9.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Eastern
Fleet
cruisers.

1. CAPETOWN arrived at Plymouth this morning. DANAE sailed from the Clyde this evening for Gibraltar, to rejoin the Eastern Fleet.

Biscay
A/S patrol.

2. STARLING, WREN, WILD GOOSE, WOODCOCK and KITE sailed from Plymouth this afternoon for Biscay A/S patrol. Cominch has proposed that one of the escort carriers carrying out A/S patrol near the Azores, (SANTEE is suggested) should carry out a sweep in the area (see 10th September). C.T.G. 21.5 left patrol in 36.31 N. 42.13 W. at 062400Z for a sweep north easterly from about 33.05 N. 27.15 W. SHEFFIELD left patrol this evening to return to Plymouth (arrived 7th September). Wellington C/179 attacked a U-Boat in 43.08 N. 09.24 W. at 2318 today and probably damaged it. (See North Atlantic, 8th September.)

Fishing
vessels.

3. A message from F.O.(S) today gives instructions for the attack by submarines on fishing vessels in Home Commands and the Biscay area.

4. Enemy coastal batteries in the Boulogne area fired about 16 rounds this forenoon at M.Ls. escorting the 18th M.S.F. when in 50.39 N. 01.19.5' E. (12 miles S.S.E. of Hastings). No damage or casualties were caused.

S.N.222B.

5. R.A.M. in AGAMEMNON returned to Port ZA this afternoon from minelaying operation S.N.222B, with MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, LANCASTER, SCIMITAR and SARDONYX in company.

Mines off
Dungeness.

6. Two mines were swept and 5 acoustic mines were detonated off Dungeness today. Three explosions were reported off Orfordness.

South Atlantic.

Sailing
in Bight
of Benin.

7. In view of the present estimated disposition of U-Boats the Admiralty consider that independent sailings between Freetown and ports to the eastward could be resumed with advantage until

/any ...

6.9.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

Sailing
in Bight
of Benin.
(Contd.)

any change in enemy dispositions should make a resumption of convoy necessary.

Mediterranean.

PUCKERIDGE
sunk.

8. The destroyer PUCKERIDGE was sunk by a U-Boat at 2015 today in 85° Europa Point 40 miles (another report says 83° Europa Point 36 miles). No torpedo track was seen. The Spanish cruiser ANTEQUERA picked up some or all of the 129 survivors.

Minefield
off Malta.

9. SS. SELLINGE and SS. FORT DREW, in convoy from Sicily to Malta, were mined north-east of Malta this morning. Both vessels reached Malta.

Air raid
on Bizerta.

10. Circling torpedoes were dropped at Bizerta in an air raid by over 100 aircraft about 2100 today. No damage or casualties were caused. Parachutists were dropped near Protville.

Italy.

11. Destroyers carried out a patrol off the coast of Calabria last night. No incidents are reported.

East Indies.

Burma.

12. 25 U.S. Liberators in 4 waves attacked shipping at Rangoon today; two or more freighters were hit several times and several enemy fighters were shot down or damaged.

6.9.1943.

Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

w/ 13. Allied aircraft attacked shipping today at Shihhoweyao (63 miles S.E. of Hankow) with good results.

Australia and New Zealand.

14. Eight Beaufighters made a barge sweep in the Awitu Islands and along the south coast of New Britain today and destroyed barges.

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6.9.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

BEDLINGTON Return to base. Acknowledge.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 060925A to BEDLINGTON).

CAPETOWN Arrived.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 060932A).

DANAE A.M. 180910. Route for DANAE as follows:
A. 55.02 N. 10.01 W. B. 50.01 N. 15.02 W.
C. 40.03 N. 15.03 W. D. 36.00 N. 10.02 W.
thence to Gibraltar.
(D.O.D. (H), 061012A to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
Sailed DANAE to comply with A.M. 180910A August.* Estimated
S. of A. 18½ knots. E.T.A. 1600A/10. Codeword "Eager".
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 061714A). *Vice Admiral Burrough and 3
Officers to take passage in DANAE.

ESKIMO Arrived.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 061221A).

CEYLON C. in C. H.F., 031207A CEYLON arrived.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 061459A).

S/MS Positions at 0800A/7 and movements for following
24 hours.
(F.O.S. 061602A, 091946A) See Operations.

GODAVARI Your 041715.* GODAVARI is not to sail with C.2
group but is to sail with 37 group as additional
escort for O.S.55/K.M.S.27 due to leave U.K.17th
Sept.
(2) Ship is to be detached to or with K.M.S.27 and F.O.I.C.
Gibraltar is requested to sail her to U.K. with next convenient
homeward convoy.
(3) In view of lack of previous Western Approaches experience
GODAVARI will not carry out duties of S.O. escort.
(C. in C. W.A., 061716A)*Sailed H.M.T. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN
Norwegian Whaler NARVIK to meet S.L.135.

U.S.S. To sail from Pembroke Dock to Reykjavik on 8 Sept.
MATAGORDA or when ready (route) for onward passage to
Norfolk.
(D.O.D. H., 061916A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

Operations.

Biscay A/S Patrol.

Tunneyman Tunneyman LGX/2849 searched by CRANE in 049° 12'
N., 011° 50' W. No airmen on board. 3 refugees
have been taken aboard CRANE.
(WEAR, 060702Z).

/over...

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Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay A/S Patrol.

Tunneyman.
(contd).

Over one Tunneyman 489 49° 07' N., 11° 08' W.
(Air Rescue Duty G.5 UZ 061415A).

SHEFFIELD

My 041103A para. 5 last section of fighters call sign "Charcoal" will not take off till 1500 continue on your passage as previously ordered. (C. in C. Plymouth, 061032A to SHEFFIELD (R) Gp. 19).

EDMUNDSTON

EDMUNDSTON is to be detached at last light today 6th September to proceed through position (E) 049° 31' N., 012° 50' W. and thence to Londonderry as routed by C. in C. Western Approaches.

(2) Anticipate that remainder of E.G.5 will remain on patrol until p.m./8 S.O. 5th E.G. report if endurance will not permit.

(3) Codeword for EDMUNDSTON Portion IV.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 061035A).

SHEFFIELD,
CRANE

Anticipate CRANE at 0100/7th SHEFFIELD at 0300/7 10 and 8 miles respectively 180° from Bishop Rock bound Plymouth. Expect E.G.2 westbound will pass through 180° Bishop Rock 15 miles about 0100 7th.

2. SAFARI from southward is due to R/V with Chaser 14 at 0700 7th in position YY 180° The Lizard 10 miles bound Portland. (C. in C. Plymouth, 061106A).

CRANE and SHEFFIELD pass about 9 miles south of Bishop Rock at 0100 and 0300/7th September respectively bound for Plymouth. E.G.2 westbound is expected to pass through position 180° Bishop Rock 15 miles about 0100/7th September. All have been informed of your movements.

(F.O.(S), 061444A to SAFARI).

Air
patrols.

Able 195 6 September following patrols will be flown daily from 7th to 12th September inclusive first two Sorties take off 0230 hours third Sortie 0500 fourth 0800 hrs. and last two Sorties at 1100 hrs.

Squadron	Patrol No.
10	Percussion A 8 A 10
228	Percussion A 9 A 9
461	Percussion A 8 A 10

(19 Group 061125A).

A.C.56 6th Sept. Programme night 6th (?7th) September 4 A/C 179 A/S patrol in Percussion EE 1800/6 2200 0700/7 110, (1100*) consecutive. Times B.

(R.A.F. SSS 061910B) *As received.

/B.5...

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Monday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay A/S Patrol - Contd.

B.5 Group. B.5 Group is to leave patrol line at last light 7th Sept. and proceed through position (H) 048° 56' N., 012° 43' W. (D) 27° Trevoise Head 6 miles and thence by Q.Z.S.315 and standard convoy route to Liverpool.
2. Ships may fuel at Falmouth or Milford Haven if necessary. (C. in C. Plymouth, 061506A to B.5 Group).

Dispositions. At 2000.
(C. in C. Plymouth 061652A) See dispositions and movements volume.

E.G.2 STARLING, WREN, WILD GOOSE, WOODCOCK, KITE sailed latest messages held Q.B.121 Q.B.A.109. (C. in C. Plymouth, 061735A).

Spanish craft. 2 Spanish small craft 45° N. 45' 11° W. 38' going into attack with gunfire. (A/C G.10 061925A).

U/B reports. Have A.S.V. contact probably U/B. (A/C R/612, 062206A).
No enemy sighted in area. (R.612 062214).
An over enemy S/M in 43.14 N., 09.15 W. S/M was on surface. When first sighted was on course 045° 10 knots. (A/C C/179 062330B).

General.

Operation "Starkey". A0790 6th Sept. Combined Plan Appendix "J" read "Calendar". (H.Q.F.C., 060835).
(1) Request you will make necessary arrangements for dispersal of Merchant Ships from Solent Area on completion of "Starkey" either in Channel Convoys or with Special destroyer escort as convenient.
(2) Following ships are concerned: (a) 45 ships of Coastal traffic to Eastward ready D day.
(b) 19 special M.T. ships for West Coast Ports read A.M. D + 1 day. (c) Approx. 40 ships of Coastal traffic to westward ready D + 1 day.
(3) Request dates for regular resumption of Channel Convoys both Eastward and Westward may be signalled. (D.O.D. (H), 061626A to C. in C. Portsmouth).
Dispersal destinations of M.T. ships ex "Starkey". (D. of P. 061914A to C. in C. Portsmouth).

/Operation...

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Operation S.F. Request MIDDLETON may be sailed for Scapa on arrival SHIKARI at Skaalefiord 7th Sept.
2. R.A.D. H.F. is requested to sail METEOR for Skaalefiord and operation S.F. leaving Scapa p.m./7th.
(C. in C. H.F., 061207A).

Coastal patrols. 1. Orders for night 6/7 Sept. (A) BLEASDALE, GARTH, MEYNELL, LA COMBATTANTE proceed to carry out patrol in vicinity of 254 degrees YY 17 minutes passing E.A.5 at 2100 and returning within 20 miles of our coast by daylight. Proceed and return by passage four. Keep north of lat. 49° 38' N., and west of long. 0° 40' E. unless in pursuit of enemy.
(B) M.T.B. 211, 249, 255 immediate notice at Newhaven.
(C) M.L. 343, 344, patrolling Q.Z.S. 384 between F and E.A.5 buoys.
(D) CHASSEUR 12 immediate notice St. Helens.
(E) M.G.B. 13, 6, 7 patrolling 50° 20' North between 2° 00' W. and 2° 25' W.
3. Call signs, frequencies and codewords:
4. Destroyers acknowledge.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 061501A).
Dover Dispositions for night of 6/7th Sept.
M.T.Bs. 219, 38, 204, 240, M.G.Bs. 118, 117, S.4 patrolling at Berck Buoy. Route via Number Ten Buoy and Bullock Bank each way. E.T.D. 1915. E.T.R. 0645/7 M.G.Bs. 611, 614, 616, patrolling N.W. Edge of Vergoyer Bank route via Number Ten Buoy and Bullock Bank each way. E.T.D. 1930. E.T.R. 0630/7.
M.G.Bs. S.2, 41, 40 patrolling nine miles south east of Dover.
E.T.D. 2030. E.T.R. 0530/7.
M.Ls. 104, 101, 107 at V Buoy. E.T.D. 1945 E.T.R. 0630/7.
M.Ls. 210, 213, 573, at Bullock Bank. E.T.D. 1900. E.T.R. 0700/7.
(V.A. Dover, 061714A).

S/M Patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800A/7th Sept. and movements for following 24 hours.
(A) TANTALUS (P.318) see 061939A.
(B) ULA (P.66) as in my 051636.
(C) O.15 leaves Lerwick 1500/7th Sept. unescorted through 090° Muckle Flugga 5 miles thence direct to patrol vicinity 64° 40' N., 03° 25' W. probably on the surface to 62° north 9 knots. All times Zone A.
(F.O.S., 061602A, 061946A).
P.318 is moving diving by day as much as possible p.m./6th Sept. to position 075° 30' N., 010° 01' E. thence patrol within 10 miles southwest coast Bear Island.
(F.O.(S), 061939A to S/Ms operating north of 51° N).

Coastal Forces. A0660 6 Sept. my A0790 6th Sept. "Inkpot" "Calendar".
(H.Q.F.C., 061825A).

/Your...

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Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Coastal
Forces.
(contd).

Your 061825A. Am assuming intention is to postpone operation 24 hours. Intend to make signal "Inkpot" "Ashtray" be 0800/7 in accordance with procedure. In combined Plan Appendix J. Request procedure in para. 8 may be followed in order that I may keep S.Os. informed of the position.

(Cdre. Force J, 062322A to H.Q.F.C.)

Operation
"Tunnel".

Carry out operation "Tunnel" today 6th Sept. in close direction proceeding from a position BB to position AA.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 061932A to PHOEBE, ULSTER, GRENVILLE).

Spitzbergen

Following for F.O. Norwegian Force. (?Provisions) should be sent to Sveagruva and 5 huts in bells (?available) during September, and it is proposed to inspect King Bay. When can KAPP 1 be expected.

Your Admty. ?2337 refers.

2. 1 cruiser with personnel and stores sent direct to Long Year, and the other with personnel and stores direct to Barentsburg is most desirable. If this cannot be arranged, stores Long Year and Barentsburg should be put on board separate ships.

3. When can new paymaster be expected.

4. Your 021656A.* Can 3 or 4 officers return with Catalina. (LOCOMOTIVE, 062038Z to Admty).

*Re plane to take Capt. Wendells to LOCOMOTIVE.

Instructions
for attack on
fishing
vessels.

(1) Following instructions for fishing vessels are to be brought into force forthwith.

(2) Fishing vessels in sink at sight areas defined in ISOH section (6) appendix 3 part 1 para. 1, 2 and 3 and in FSL 2 appendix 2 may be treated by S/M as follows: (1) North of 058° N. no fishing vessel is to be attacked.

(2) South of 058° N. any fishing vessel may be attacked subject to following restrictions:

(A) Danish, Dutch and Belgian vessels are not to be attacked within 30 miles of Danish or 20 miles of Dutch coast.

(B) In Bay of Biscay south of 049° North French fishing vessels are not to be attacked east A A line drawn along long. 002° 30' W from south limit of sink at sight zone to 045° 34' N. thence position 049° N., 007° 30' W.

(3) To avoid compromising our patrol zone attack permissible in para. (2) should generally only be carried out on passage or when about to leave area where attack is carried out. In Bay of Biscay area attack should never be initiated by S/M unless fishing vessel is committing a hostile act.

(F.O.S., 062123A to 61 SMZ, (R) Admty. H.Q.C.C.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Operations.

8 small
vessels.

Enemy Shipping plotted by Radar in Dover Strait
from 0900/5 to 0900/6.

8 Trawler-size from 8 miles north west of Etaples
at 0245, Northbound at 6 knots. Split into two
parts at 0355, part one entering Boulogne at
0410, and part two at 0445. Attacked by Albatrosses,
who claim one vessel sunk.
(V.A. Dover, 060950A).

Increase in
A/S Patrol.

A.85 6 Sept. My A.837 28 August.
A/S Patrol to be flown once daily with effect
from 7th Sept. until further orders. Remaining
available aircraft to be offered Moorings as
hitherto.
(H.Q.C.C., 061230A to A.H.Q. Iceland).

Aircraft
for FURIOUS.

To provide the Home Fleet with two operational
Barracuda Squadrons trained as a Wing at the
earliest date.
(A.C.N.S. (A), 061920A).

Iceland Air
Patrols.

A.C.78 6th Sept. Programme. All aircraft recalled
before dark owing to weather on coast.
(R.A.F. Iceland, 062220A).

A.C.80 6 Sept. my A.C.79*6 Sept. Amend programme
as follows. *062320.

2. 1st sortie not cancelled but postponed. Details Moorings
area by F/120 C/S L.18 E.T.D.0635 on 0815 off 1835 E.T.A.
2045.
(R.A.F. Iceland, 062335A).

Enemy Air Operations.

Two Trawlers
bombed.

Fishing Trawlers CONISTON GY 32 and IRANIAN
GY 728 bombed and machine gunned by B.V.138 in
position 064° 48' N., 009° 20' W. at 041700.
Aircraft last seen losing height and smoking.
Trawlers now at Seidisfiord (Iceland) with
superficial damage due to gunning.
(A.C.I.C., 061052A).

Mining.

Clearance of
Q.Z.X.1095

Your 051006.* Codeword "Brasserie".
(C. in C. Plymouth, 060121A to GWEAL).
*Requesting proposals for clearance of Q.Z.X.
1095. Request codeword.
Amend my 060121 to read your 051006. Codewords
allotted para. 1. "Brasserie". 2 "Ouncel II".
(C. in C. Plymouth, 060702A).

6.9.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. - Contd.

4th M.S.F.

Intended movements.
(M/S 4, 061013A, 061524A, 071531A).Off
Orfordness.2 Plumes of explosions reported at 0647 approx.
position 52° 0.14' N., 01° 46.15' E. Nearest ship
to trawler 3 miles distant, further signal will
be made.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 061247).My 061247.* Reporting Vessel CORENA in vicinity 54 B. buoy.
Plume of 1st explosion ragged and as engineers report quadruple
shocks, may have been two explosions nearly in line. 2nd plume
appeared 5 seconds later and ½ mile E.N.E. of 1st plume.
Identified as typical ground mine effect. Further sweeping of
area being continued tomorrow.(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 061856A). *Re 2 plumes of explosions
reported.NORELAND and WYOMING report mine explosion at 2136 in
position 1 miles south of 54 B buoy.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 062341).

Biscay and
N.W. German
ports.Minelaying: 16 Wellingtons of 1 Group, 11 Stirlings
of 3 Group and 9 Wellingtons of 6 Group laid mines
successfully in enemy waters.
(H. Q. B. C., 061300A).Operation
S.N. 222 B.R.A.(M) arrived in AGAMEMNON with MENESTHEUS,
PORT QUEBEC, LANCASTER, SCIMITAR, SARDONYX in
company.
(TRELAWNEY 061700A).Enemy Intelligence.

KERTOSONO

A.M. 031225A. Further report graded B.2 states
programme of KERTOSONO was again delayed 24 hours
until 4th September.
(D.D.I.C., 061824A to Air Min).U-boats.

U/B reports.

By D/F on 4412 k/cs at 0406Z Submarine vicinity
44.30 N., 5.00 W. probably inward.
(D.D.I.C., 060542A to RUBIS).
By D/F at 0527/6 on 4412 k/cs U-boat was in your
immediate vicinity.
(D.D.I.C., 060652A to SCARBOROUGH).Sighting by
TAVYC.A.F.O. 1342/43. (A) H.M.S. TAVY. (B) 2347A/5th
(C) A/S. After sighting report by officer in SS.
GASCONY. (D) 038° 33' N. 018° 03' W. (E) 2.
(F) 0100A/6th contact considered doubtful.
Sighting not confirmed by any other ship.
2. My P.C. and S. 037° 09' N. 016° 45' W. 142°
7½. 038° 25' N., 017° 54' W. weather report 6381
0824.
(ROCHESTER, 061201A).

/Bay...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-boats. - Contd.

Bay of Biscay. 3 inward and 3 outward bound U-boats in Bay of Biscay East of 008° W. (F.O.(S), 061437A to S/Ms operating south of 51° N)

Technical.

A/A S/L Trials. Have so far been inconclusive owing to absence of darkness.
(2) Trials during twilight indicate that searchlights do not hinder attacking aircraft under these conditions.
(3) Re trials using a Radar controlled searchlight, 1942. (C. in C. H.F., 061057A).

Casualties & Defects.

M.M.S. 251, 255. M.M.S. 255 with 251 in tow reported 0300Z/5th 055° 36' N., 011° 14' W. my 042330*refers. (C. in C. W.A., 050730Z).
*Re M.M.S. 251 and 255 sailed from Newfoundland August 24th but have not arrived in U.K.
Request you will sail AMARANTHUS forthwith to assist M.M.S. 255 towing 251 reported at 0300Z/5 in 55° 36' N., 11° 14' W. 090° 5 knots. Destination Lough Foyle. (C. in C. W.A., 050735A to Cdre. (D)W.A., (R) M.M.S.255, Admty) Note, See 042330 also.
AMARANTHUS sailed. (Com. D.W.A. 051145A).
Arrived M.M.S.255, 251 in tow of AMARANTHUS. (Com. D.W.A., 061402A).

SS. URLANA SS. URLANA ex S.L.135 went ashore on Skye under a high cliff in 57° 20' N., 06° 39' W. at 0202Z/5.
(2) All passengers and crew have been taken off and 108 survivors were landed at Aultbea by SS. THURLAND CASTLE.
(3) URLANA who was holed in numbers one two and three holds has now broken her back at number 2 hold and STORMKING reports her to be total wreck.
(4) All craft standing by have been ordered to return to bases.
(5) Mr. Thomas of Liverpool and Glasgow Salvage Association is proceeding to wreck.
(PETER HENDRIKS, 060800A, STORMKING 060939A, F.O.I.C. Greenock, 061124A etc).

BERMUDA BERMUDA 021705A.* Boiler brickwork of all boilers must be renewed on next return of ship to harbour about 11th Sept. and will take approx. 3 weeks.
Is it desired to refit ship concurrently and if so to which refitting port should she be sent observing that Devonport can undertake renewal of boiler brickwork only owing to other commitments.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 061038A to C. in C. H.F.) *No trace.

/M. G. B....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.- Contd.

M.G.B. 324,
pom-pom
accidentally
fired.

N.O.I.C. Dartmouth report:- M.G.B. 324 reports that at 1057 today 35 rounds were accidentally fired from the after 2 pounder pom-pom shortly after clearing the boom. Projectiles landed ashore doing superficial damage to houses and inflicting the following casualties to civilians:- One man killed, one woman wounded.
2. Board of inquiry is being convened.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 061209).

SAUCY,
EMPIRE
BASCOBEL.

My position at 1233 G.M.T. today 276° 76 miles Butt of Lewis. Running before sea course 068° speed 3 knots. Tow must not roll am penalized by direction of wind and sea causing delay. Tow behaving well.
(SAUCY 061345A to A.C.O.S.)

S O S

Heard by IRISH ELM since 1300 G.M.T. presumably enemy A/C. Very approx. 51.15 N. 09.35 W.
(Port Patrick, Radio, 061549A etc).

Shipping & Convoys.

C.W. 207

C.W. 207 is cancelled.
(C. in C. Nore, 061428A).

S.L. 136

(2) 3rd Sept. (4) 7½ knots. (6) H.M.S. EXE.
(7) 58 ships for U.K.
(D.T.D., 061432A).

A.T. and U.T.
convoys.

A.M. 261243A August. Request attention of Port Director New York be drawn to the fact that F.O.I.C. Greenock and not F.O.I.C. Glasgow is the Authority to whom Signals referring to A.T. and U.T. convoys should be addressed. Port Directors 04228Z refers.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 061644A to Admty).

Convoy K.M.F.
24.

Will leave U.K. on 15th Sept. for destinations shown. 2. Ships, speeds, destinations.
3. Escort. (a) To Algiers E.G.1 consisting of PELICAN (S.O.) ROTHER, EVENLODE, JED, WEAR and SPEY
(b) Additional escort to Gib. BICESTER, CHIDDINGFOLD, ZETLAND and THEMISTOCLES joining command of C. in C. Med. and MALCOLM for F.O.C.W.Af. . 5. Admty. will promulgate route. 6. Fighter protection codeword "Sparrow." 7. F.O.I.C. Gib. is requested to sail MALCOLM for Freetown as requisite. 9. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange sailing of both portions and escorts to R/V as requisite. 10. Owing to short endurance destroyers in para. 3 (b) they should after fuelling at Merville be sailed to R/V as requisite to economise fuel.
(D.O.D. (H) 061959A).

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Task Forces. Cinclant's 051906 Info N.O.B. Bermuda Comorsea from C.T.F. 66, 65, 61, 62, C.T.G. 21.11, 21.14, is re-encyphered for information (begins) Task forces escorting convoys follows:- Task force 61, U.G.S. 16; 62, U.G.S.17; 65, G.U.S. 13; 66, G.U.S. 14; scheduled depart 9th Sept. Escort groups 21.11, 21.12, 21.14, 21.15 are SANTEE, BOGUE, CARD, CROATAN respectively accompanied by 3 destroyers.
(C.M.S.F.F., 061038B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty., C. in C. Med.)
Following is re-encypherment of C. in C. Lant's 051940 action to C.T.G. 21.15 (begins) When appropriate discontinue support Task Force 65, operate against concentrations reported until such time required support Task Force 66 escorting G.U.S.14 scheduled depart Sept. 9th. Return with Task Force 66 unless otherwise directed.
(C.M.S.F.F. 061041B, F.O.I.C. Gib., Admty., C. in C. Med.,

Merchantman in Bilbao. M.E.W. Telegram 144, Sept. 6th, repeated Admty. B.N.A. Madrid, S.O.(I) Gibraltar. Merchantman fully loaded with Iron Ore in outer harbour ready for sea.
(Consul, Bilbao, 061140 to Admty.)

PUCKERIDGE, BLENCATHRA, ISIS. Intend to sail (? PUCKERIDGE) at 1800B Sept. 6th to overtake OAKLEY and BLENCATHRA.
(2) AVON 1 appendix 1 and AVON 2 appendix 1 para 11 refer.
(3) Request ISIS may return Gibraltar on relief.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 061155B to C. in C. Med.
(R) Com. N.O.B. Oran, C.T.F.81 COMNAVNAV.)

NORD ATLANTIC. Corunna's 051220, Request immediate report of Minister of Marine's intentions concerning NORD ATLANTIC.
(2) Considerable restraint has been exercised in not attacking this valuable enemy tanker, which has in the past been used as U-Boat supply ship within a Spanish port. We feel entitled to most positive assurances that NORD ATLANTIC will now be taken to nearest Spanish port and not allowed to sail again, except with H.M.Government's agreement. Reports of Spanish intentions in your 110800 August not to all addressees are not sufficient to re-assure us.
(Head of M.I. Approved by A.C.N.S.(H) 061228A to N.A. Madrid,
(R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Mediterranean, C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C., F.O.(S), C. in C. Mediterranean (A))
Reply 080928.

Trawler Conversions. Request the following information may be despatched by air: Specifications and complete sets of drawings for conversion of trawlers for A/S and minesweeping duties, including special fittings for tropical service.
(B.N.A. Lisbon, 061301A, to Admty.)

War Diary.

6.9.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

C.G.62. C.G.62. sailed accordance my 051129B (Re: Sailing of C.G.62 for Oran, Codeword "Fantail") substituting HOPPING for ENDICOTT. (C.M.S.F.F. 061716B, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) Admty. etc.)

TEMPETE, French escort TEMPETE departs Casa. 0800A Sept.
JEANNE D'ARC. 7th routed through Q.B.A. 102 34.08 N. 10.28 W. 32.18 N. 13.46 W. to R/V with French Cruiser JEANNE D'ARC at 0930A Sept. 8. S. of A. 14. Returns in company through prescribed route for JEANNE D'ARC at 17 knot speed. Guards 2150 Kcs. and Gibraltar Broadcast. (C.M.S.F.F. 061909B, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) C. in C. Med. (W) Admty., Commavnaw.)

NORD State oiler PLUTON now salved over 3000 tons oil
ATLANTIC. fuel from NORD ATLANTIC and expect to make two further trips. Oil is being taken in Ferrol. About half German crew have left for Ferrol. (N.A. Madrid, 062058B to Admty.)

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Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

SHROPSHIRE, Sailed SHROPSHIRE for Durban by route 10.
(1) E.T.A. 0500Z/7th. (2) Shift to W/T
organisation for area Jig at 2200Z/6th.
(C. in C. S.A. 060017 to Admty. etc.)

Appreciated if slight delay in departure of SHROPSHIRE from Durban could be accepted in order to include her if required in a possible anti raider operation. Further signal will be made when details are decided but delay in any case would not be more than a week. (2) This will involve NIEUW AMSTERDAM sailing without ocean escort.
(C. in C. S.A. 061617B to A.C.N.B. (R) C. in C. E.F.)

ROBIN
SHERWOOD,
suspicious
ship.

Master ROBIN SHERWOOD reports having sighted suspect ship steering N.N.W. resembling Japanese YAMABIKO MARU at 0945Z/1st September in 17.04 N. 35.15 W. 2. Ship maintained a steady course when ROBIN SHERWOOD altered away. 3. Master holds U.S. silhouette publication O.N.S. 209.
(N.L.O. Dakar 060849Z to F.O.C. West Africa, (R) Admty.)

DRESDEN.

Photographic R/C of Bordeaux at 1215A/5th Sept. show SS. DRESDEN had left the port since 1205A/4th September. Rouen, Le Verdon and part of Pauillas however not covered on 5th September.
(D.D.I.C. 061124A, 061332A to C. in C. S.At., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.S., H.Q.C.C., Comnavu, Cominch.)

Trawler
Refits.

Your 311758 August. (Re proposed refit of Hill Class Trawlers at South African ports owing to strain on Home Ports.) Suggestion in para. 2 not considered desirable because:-
(A) Home trawlers will be due to recommission before they can be spared for refit. (B) Experience has shown that it is most important that crew should stand by during refit. Propose that relief crews should be sent to Freetown when required and ships should recommission here. Recommissioning in South Africa would inevitably cause delay due to additional length of passage involved. Recommissioning at Freetown should result in ultimate saving of Man/unemployed/Days
(F.O.C.W.A. 061221Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.At.)

SEMBILAN,
MANAAR
(lost
April
1943.)

Your 0401(?28). (?040132 intended requesting report on loss of SS. SEMBILAN and MANAAR off Durban). (A) Convoy D.N. 33 escorted by FREESIA, SONDRRA, ST.LOMAN, dispersed in 033° 00' S. 036° 00' E. at 2359B/15th April. Escorts returned to Durban at 9 knots passing through position of sinkings about 2000B/16th April. Air escort was provided for D.N.33 until after dispersal. Special air search for survivors of MANAAR ordered 21st April. (B) SEMBILAN plotted into Durban at 0500Z/16th April but position considered very uncertain as

/there...

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SEMBILAN,
MANAAR
(lost
April
1943.)
(Contd.)

there had been no report of ships position since dispersing from convoy O.S.44. MANAAR. Plotted position at time of sinking $031^{\circ} 35'$ S. $034^{\circ} 38'$ E. Expected Durban 1700Z/18th April.
(C. in G. S.A. 061241B to Admty.) Further remarks for (Admty. 072009A) Reply (C. in C.S.A. 081511B.).

KING
FREDERICK.

Your 042053. Ship arrived Freetown 3rd Sept., owing to unorthodox wording of Com. 10th Fleet's 141847 August, Master steered for positions $07^{\circ} 50'$ S. 05° E. and $01^{\circ} 25'$ N. 04° E. Ship was sighted off Liberian Coast by Aircraft and ordered to Freetown. Submit this may occur again unless positions are indicated as in (?C.A.M.S.I.) (F.O.C. West Africa 061756Z to Admty.) Reply:- Admty. 090019A.

Movements,
Bathurst.

(1) Arrived 1440/6th DOUGLAS and 1545/6th SNOWDROP escorting NEW NORTHLAND, ELIZABETHVILLE and NEWCHANG. Arrived 1610/6th BOADICEA.
(2) Departure 1900/6th DOUGLAS to rejoin S.L. 136. (3) Intend to sail BOADICIA, BEAGLE and SNOWDROP 0900/7th escorting NEW NORTHLAND and ELIZABETHVILLE to Freetown. Speed 10 knots, E.T.A. 1000/9th. (4) Route from Gambia Fairway Float to Freetown searched channel. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst 061820 to F.O.C. West Africa. (R) Admty. Comar, Dakar.)

DESPATCH. Intend to sail DESPATCH at 0800Z/8th Sept, to Dakar, S. of A. 18 knots routed
A. 09.23 N. 14.27 W. B. 10.43 N. 17.46 W.
B. 10.43 N. 17.46 W. C. 1443 N. 17.38 W.
E.T.A. 1430Z/9th. (2) Comar Dakar is requested to sail DESPATCH at 1700Z/10th, S. of A. 18 knots, routed.
D. 15 N. 18 W. E. 24 N. 18 W. F. 26.10 N. 16 W.
(3) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to provide onward route to Gibraltar, E.T.A. a.m. 14th September.
(F.O.C.W.A. 061827Z to Comar, Dakar, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med. Commorseafon, Admty. DESPATCH.)

Independent
Sailings,
Freetown.

A.M. 051341 and 061355. In view of present estimated disposition of U-Boats consider independent sailings between Freetown and ports to Eastward could be resumed with advantage. 2. Convoy should again be resorted to if a change in enemy dispositions make this necessary.
(D.T.D. Approved A.C.N.S. (U.T) 062340A to F.O.C.W.A.)

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- CASABIANCA. Operation completed, proceeding submerged to South-west of area.
(CASABIANCA, 060155B to Capt. (S) 8th.)
Leave patrol area passing through 041° 43' 007° 46' at 0045/7th, 041° 28' 006° 35' at 0515/7th thence R/V escort Algiers 037° 04' 003° 12' at 0700/8th proceeding on the surface at discretion.
(Capt. (S) 8, 061200B to CASABIANCA, (R) 8th S/M.F., C. in C. Med., etc.)
- U.G.S. 15. My P.C. and S. 037° 15' 010° 19' in war channel 5½ knots RAVENSPOINT and TORFINN JARL in company.
JONQUIL, (JONQUIL, 060501 to C. in C. Med., (R) V.A. Malta, POPPY, Capt. (F) Malta, STARWORT.)
LISMORE. U.G.S.15. From Cdre. SS. TORFINN JARL and RAVENSPOINT joiners from Bone unable to make convoy speed. Have detailed JONQUIL to escort these ships to destination Malta.
(2) JONQUIL report P.C. and S.
(STARWORT, 061125 to C. in C. Med., (R) V.A. Malta, N.O.I.C. Bone, JONQUIL.)
U.G.S.15. POPPY requires fuel. Intend detaching her 0500B/7th for Malta. E.T.A. 1400B/7th.
(STARWORT, 061145B to V.A. Malta, (R) C. in C. Med., POPPY.)
Proceed through following route to reinforce escort for U.G.S.15 792 speed of advance 12 knots.
(2) 309 1500/7th, 310, 505, 329 1030/8th, 337, 346, 2330/8th, 355 0540/9th joining U.G.S. (groups omitted) 033° 18' N. 020° 05' E. at 0845/9th. (3) QV time C. (4) F.O. Beaufighter "Neighbour".
(C. in C. Levant, 061842C to LISMORE.)
- SELLINGE SELLINGE has been mined, have ordered M.L. stand (mined). in position 062° Delimere 7. She is proceeding slowly.
(G.S. KANARIS, 060730 to ALDENHAM.)
- G.U.S. 15. My 052125B (re sailing BALTEAKO and DEVON COAST) sailed less BALTEAKO.
(N.O.I.C. Tunisia, 060804B to Ships escorting G.U.S.15, (R) Admty., etc.)
R.A. Alexandria is requested to sail G.U.S.15 a.m./9th Sept.
(2) (a) 8, (B) 9. (3) 309 1000/9th, 310, 509 2120/9th 10 miles North 322 0900/10th, 510, 331 2000/10th, 344 0655/11th 3 miles North 346, 355 at 2015/11th then as ordered by C. in C. Med. (5) HM. (6) High, "Trafford". (7) C. (8) SHOREHAM (S.O.), MARYBOROUGH, PRIMULA, SOUTHERN SEA, FALK, SOUTHERN MAID joined in 033° 04' N. 021° 30' E. 1600/11th from Benghazi.
(C. in C. Levant, 062152C to Ships escorting G.U.S.15, Ships escorting U.G.S.15, (R) Admty., etc.)

/ABDIEL ...

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ABDIEL.

Sail at 0630/8th to Bizerta S.O.A. 27 knots by Q.B.B.123 (C) 278 037° 00' 011° 12' thence by war channel and Q.B.B.215, E.T.A. Boom 1600/8th. Codeword "Nitwit" 914 low. C. in C. Med. 051810 refers.

(V.A. Malta, 060916 to ABDIEL, (R) S.O. Force H, C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Bizerta, N.L.O. Gp.242.)

PENELOPE,
DIDO.

PENELOPE and DIDO are to sail from Palermo at 0700/7th Sept. by usual route to Bizerta, E.T.A. 1500/7th Sept. Codeword "Annexe".

(C.S.12, 060918B to PENELOPE, (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Med. (A), N.O.I.C. Tunisia, DIDO, S.O. Force H, Com. N.O.B. Palermo, N.L.O. M.A.C. No. 278 Ad. Wing.)

Attacks on
U/Bs, August.

Summary of attacks on U-Boats inside Mediterranean during August. Med. 00225 of 19th August para. 7, refers.

(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)
One	030015	U.S.S. BUCK	36.52 N. 12.08 E.	A	ARGENTO
Two	032100	Albacore A/C, PIROUETTE & INCHCOLM	36.23 N. 13.11 E.	I	-
Three	051240	Fighter A/C	Off S. Antioco Sardinia.	Not yet assessed	-
Four	130105	S/M UNSHAKEN	40.23 N. 18.53 E.	G	-
Five	161638	U.S.S. BENSON	38.04 N. 13.53 E.	Not yet assessed	-
Six	181230	GODETIA	36.53 N. 02.45 E.	Not yet assessed	-
Seven	222315	EASTON & PINDOS.	36.24 N. 12.14 E.	A	U. 458.
Eight	270745	FARNDALE and LOTUS	37.05 N. 04.02 E.	Not yet assessed	-
Nine	312308	Wellington A/C	37.52 N. 05.42 E.	Not yet assessed	-

(C. in C. Mediterranean, 061000 to Admty., Cominch.)

TORBAY,
Amorgo
bombardment.

Loading station in Amorgo position 036° 53'42" 026° 03'30" worth bombarding at your discretion. (Capt: (S) 1, 061006C to TORBAY, (R) TROOPER, P.312 (TRESPASSER).)

Taranto
R/C.

Taranto 0845. 2 battleships, 3 cruisers in Outer Harbour. Cotrone, no shipping. (V.A. Malta, 061057B to C. in C. Med., (R) S.O. Force H, F.O. 2nd in Com. Force H, Comnavaw, etc.)

/Tankers ...

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Tankers in East. Cancel my 051524 in view of C. in C. Med. 042029. (Director of Stores, 061102A to C. in C. Levant.)

M.G.Bs. E-Boat search. 3 M.G.Bs. operating in co-operation with A.S.(?V). aircraft northward of convoy route night 6th/7th Sept., object (? finding) E-Boats. Aircraft patrolling off southern end of Sardinia 2030 till 0200. M.G.Bs. patrolling to northward of Galita Island 1900 till 0500 lying off Galita during day 7th September. Codeword "Faust" a constant watch on 2150 k/cs. (F.O. Tunisia, 061205 to Escorts of N.S.F.1, (R) C. in C. Med., M.G.B.20, 242 Group.)

SIMOOM. P.225 (SIMOOM) will be operating in an area S.E. between 041° 15' and (? 042°) and 011° 30' and 012° 30' from a.m./7th until further directions. P.225 (SIMOOM) is not to attack warships by night unless certain of their hostile identity. (Capt. (S) 8, 061300B to 8th S.F., (R) C. in C. Med., S.O. Force H, C.S.12.)

ORION attacked by glider bomb. Your 051715 para. 5. Further information required as to character and exact frequency of interference. Was this (A) Pulse, (B) C.W. (C) W/T, (D) R/T or (E) Nondescript. 2. The above information is required to reach Admiralty by 1200 tomorrow Tuesday and should be made on next occasion of breaking W/T silence. (D.S.D., 061328A to ORION.)

Your 061328A. Carrier frequency unknown. Type 279 operating on 40.2 m/cs. Modulation frequency approximately 400 cycles per second. Superimposed modulating frequency (corrupt group) (? approx.) 1 cycle per second suppressing note in phones of constant pitch varying in intensity (corrupt group) full strength practically to zero every second. Suggest 415 was frequency modulated because receiver was completely saturated entirely erasing ground wave and land echoes while screen showed only (? 30) inch signal due to interference. No interference on type 285. (ORION, 061909B to Admty., (R) F.O. 15th C.S., F.O.I.C. Sicily, UGANDA, C. in C. Med., S.O. Force H.)

Enemy. One enemy destroyer and one medium sized M/V in position FXZH 0736 (indecypherable) "fixed" with half an hour of 1400 hours. Course 310°, speed 12 knots. (A/C GBS/M via Malta W/T, 061425B.) My 061425B. Enemy previously reported was 2500 ton M/V. (A/C GBS/M via Nore W/T, 061450.)

/FURY ...

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FURY,
FAULKNOR. For information. FURY completed 250,000 miles steaming since outbreak of war on 20th August and FAULKNOR 245,000 miles 2nd Sept. (S.O. Force H, 061526B to Admty., etc.)

Force Z. C. in C. Med. 041838 (N.T. in W.R.), para. (c). Intend to remain to westward of longitude 17° E. and to southward of latitude 038° 10' N. (S.O. Z, 061616B to C. in C. Med., etc.)

U/B. U-Boat reported by A/C in 33° 05' N. 22° 25' E. at 1257C. (A/C of 95 Sqdn., 061625Z.)

DZIK. Intend sail DZIK for patrol in North Adriatic at 0430/8th routed through 035° 56' 016° 31' to 036° 17' (? 016°) 43' at 2000/8th, 039° 08' 018' at 1000/10th thence course 316° surface passage on 8th and 9th. (2) M.J.A.O.24. Request total bombing restrictions for above passage. (Capt. (S) 10, 061727B to C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 1, (R) 10th S/M.F., Air H.Q. 3rd.) See also 080031.

LAMERTON. LAMERTON unable to sail in accordance with my 051100 owing to defects. Estimate completion a.m./9th. (V.A. Malta, 061734 to C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Tunisia, N.O.I.C. Bizerta, (R) WHADDON, LAMERTON.)

Enemy M/Vs. and M.T.Bs. P.C. and S. of one enemy M/V and 3 M.T.Bs. are 43.25 N. 10.07 E., 360°, 8. (A/C AOP/G via Alex. W/T, 061737B.)

Enemy tanker and escorts attacked. P.C. and S. of one enemy tanker, three escort vessels 005 Datum 57 090° 5 knots. Have attacks enemy with torpedoes and estimate no hits. (A/C GPF/Q via Alex. W/T, 061800B to Base 45 U.)

Medars issue to U.S. ships. A document called Medars incorporating instructions for Mediterranean convoys and approach routes for Mediterranean ports was issued by N.C.S.O. Mediterranean last June to U.S.R.Os in America without previous submission to Cominch. It was intended that Medars should be issued to merchant ships leaving U.S.A. for the Mediterranean. Com. 10th Fleet convoy and Routeing in his 241705, not to C. in C. Med. or B.A.D. rather naturally ordered U.S.R.Os. not to issue this document.

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Mediterranean.

Medars,
issue to
U.S. ships.
(Contd.)

2. It is very desirable that ships entering Mediterranean should have received some general convoy instructions for the conditions peculiar to Mediterranean before they pass Gibraltar, and I should be glad therefore if you would express my regret to Cominch and re-open the matter with a view to reversing his decision.

3. Although it is possible for Mediterranean escorts to pass such instructions to ships while they are at sea this is necessarily a lengthy process, particularly with large convoys, and involves diverting escorts from their proper task.

4. If Cominch would prefer it the convoy instructions in Medars could be separated from the approach route section and only the former issued to ships leaving U.S.A. for Mediterranean. It is however suggested that the approach route section incorporates all relevant Q information in a form which routing officers may find convenient for issue. Com.10th Fleet Convoy and Routing objected that the issue of Medars would involve corrections by Masters to bring the approach routes up to date. It is agreed that this would be undesirable. The intention was that any out of date information in Medars should be erased before they were issued and replaced by up to date information in a stop press sheet. Such measures and replacements should never be very numerous for new editions of Medars would be issued from time to time.

(C. in C. Med., 061924 to B.A.D., (R) Admty.)

U/B.

Escort vessel reports submerged U-Boat 36.50 N.
01.51 E., at 1852/6th.
(C/S 79 P via Malta, 062015B to A/C C/S GLW/G.)

French
Liaison.

After further consideration of your 012235 I think operation of Mission as proposed will be satisfactory from the purely British aspect.
2. I shall be grateful to be relieved of the following matters, particularly when A.F.H.Q.

moves away from Algiers.

A. Material details of French re-armament.

B. Financial adjustment arising from claims in North Africa and transfers of armament and harbour defence material.

C. French naval affairs outside my command.

3. Proposal in para. 2 (C) of V.C.N.S. 170016 should ensure that I am fully informed and consulted, in all matters of naval policy affecting Mediterranean (Command), particularly as regards distribution and employment of naval forces and responsibility for ports and coastal areas.

4. My original reasons for wishing Mission to be responsible entirely through me was to ensure continuity in Allied re-armament policy and to retain the joint Allied element in any action taken.

5. It appears particularly important to avoid any suspicion of unilateral action by British Service Ministries and I feel establishment of British Naval Mission will almost certainly result in establishment of corresponding American Mission in Algiers.

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Liaison.
(Contd.)

6. In the event of any divergence of policy or lack of co-ordination between two such Missions it appears that I am the most suitable authority to advise both C. in C. Allied Forces and Admiralty on action required.

7. Provided implications in para. 5 and 6 above are acceptable I agree that proposal for Naval Mission should be placed before C.O.S. as soon as possible.
(C. in C. Med., 062021B to Admty. (Personal for Deputy First Sea Lord.))

Proposed
Appt. of
Capt. M/S.

Administration of Trawlers, M.Ms. and B.Y.M.S. on Med. Station requires to be centralised owing to the continual movement of Port Parties and vessels provided for local defence requirements.

2. Therefore desired to appoint a Capt. M/S Med. to carry out administration of all Fleet Sweepers, Trawlers and Motor Minesweepers, except Escort Trawler Groups.
3. Propose Capt. J.W. Boutwood D.S.O. be appointed HANNIBAL additional as Capt. M/S Med. being relieved as S.O. 12th M.S.F. by Cdr. G.N. Rawlings, D.S.O.
4. Not intended to apply for any increase of staff.
(C. in C. Med., 062125B to Admty.)

Shipping
at Ajaccio.

Reliable source reports following shipping in Ajaccio on 4th September.
2 merchant ships, 1 tanker, 3 Italian S/Ms., 2 Italian destroyers, 2 French transports and several small craft.
(CASABIANCA, 062151B to Capt. (S) 8, (R) C. in C. Med.)

Situation
Report
No. 172.

1. Enemy air activity over Straits of Messina was on a reduced scale on 4th Sept. and few attacks were directed against shipping. 9 enemy aircraft were reported destroyed, one probable and 2 damaged by fighters in the area during the day.
2. QUILLIAM passed through Straits of Messina 0730/5th Sept. and provided support for North side of the Army during the day.
3. Force K operating South of Samos during 5th Sept. and destroyers carried out patrol off Calabrian coast during night 5th/6th Sept. No incidents reported.
(C. in C. Med., 062159B to Admty.)

Enemy
Units.

Have obtained A.S.V. contact in position 42.15 N. 9.40 E.
(A/C FCY/V, 062215B to Air H.Q. Malta.)
P.C. and S. of one destroyer 42.15 N. 9.40 E. 340°, 25 knots.
(A/C FCY/V via Alexandria, 062220B to Malta Air H.Q.)

/Have ...

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Mediterranean.

Enemy
Units.
(Contd.)

Have obtained A.S.V. contact in position 41.28
N. 8.55 E.
(A/C HTC/J, 062240B to Air H.Q. Malta.)
Have lost touch with (? enemy). Am resuming
patrol.
(A/C HTC/J, 062246B to Air H.Q. Malta.)

G.U.F. 10.

Intend sailing G.U.F.10 at 1800 September 7th
in accordance with C. in C. Med. 031443B as
amended by C. in C. Med. 051055B.
(N.O.I.C. Tunisia, 062320B to C. in C. Med., (R)
Commorseafon, Admty., F.O. Gibraltar, M.W.T.,
etc.)

War Diary.6.9.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Navigation,
Indian
Ocean.

Full information is required by Prime Minister in Washington about sea and swell conditions in the Indian Ocean, both off-shore and in open sea. Following information has been compiled from data available in Admiralty. Request you will amplify it as far as possible from your local knowledge.

2. In area between Ceylon and Sumatra, and in eastern Bay of Bengal, sea or swell will seldom be appreciable from November to March. It is at its worst and is most frequent from June to September, period of the Monsoon.

A. Swell. During these latter months the worst swells likely to be experienced will be from directions between S. and S.W. about 800 feet in length, and 12 feet in height. These are unlikely to be experienced on more than three days a month. Depth of water makes no difference over 100 fathoms and only slight difference in 10 fathoms, reducing length to about 550 feet and increasing height slightly to perhaps 13 feet. A more frequent swell, say 10 to 15 days a month will be of 400 to 600 feet in length and 3 to 6 feet in height from directions between S.W. and S.S.E.

B. Sea. Prevailing wind from June to September will occasionally raise a sea in Bay of Bengal (north of a line drawn 090° from Ceylon) 300 to 400 feet in length and up to 20 feet in height, and often, say, 10 days a month, be 250 feet in length and 12 feet in height. South of this line the state of the sea improves towards the equator.

3. Off coast of Burma, the long swells referred to in 2A will be less high and less frequent, but same length, while sea and swell will be slightly below the figures given in 2B. (D.O.D.(F) Approved V.C.N.S., 060034A to C. in C.E.F. (and personally) (R) J.S.M. Washington for Ismay, F.O. Ceylon.)

P.A.52.

Departures Bandar Abbas 0200Z 6th PUNJAB and MADRAS escorting P.A.52.
(2) E.T.A. 057° 30' E. 1900Z 9th. E.T.A. Aden 1000Z 13th.
(N.O.I.C. Hormuz, 060224Z to N.O.I.C. Aden.)

Convoy
P.A.52.

(1) Sailing telegram (9 ships, list etc.)
(2) 0200Z/6. (4) 8 knots from BB 9½ knots
(5) route 4. (6) MADRAS, PUNJAB. (8)(a) Master DIPLODON Aden. (b) Master BRITISH HUSSAR, Aden.
(14) as from loading port. (15) EY.

(10)(11)(12).

(N.C.S.O. Hormuz, 061240Z to A.I.G.357, Admty., etc.)

Convoy
J.C.21.

Sailing telegram (2 ships)
(2) 1225Z/4th. (4) 9½ knots. (5) Coastal.
(6) NETRAVATI.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 060334Z, 060336Z to Admty.)

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

P.B.54. Arrivals BENGAL, BURNIE, RAJPUTANA with P.B.54 (S.O.(I) Bombay, 060403Z to Admty. etc.)
Convoy P.B.54 Bombay portion arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 06052Z to Admty.)

?B.M.63. Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 060946Z to Admty.)

Convoy M.A.2. Departure KATHIAWAR and CARNATIC escorting M.A.2.
(N.O.I.C. Madras, 061122A to Admty. etc.)
Sailing telegram (2 ships).
(1) M.A.2. (2) 1120Z 6th. (4) 10 knots.
(5) Coastal. (6) KATHIAWAR, CARNATIC.
(N.C.S.O. Madras, 061128Z, 061135Z to Admty.)

Shipping Route. Com. 10th Fleet's 031853. Request your remarks.
Madagascar. (D.T.D. 061441A to C. in C.E.F.)

BLENHEIM, A.M. 310220 July. Essential defects and
WOOLWICH. improvements to ventilation in BLENHEIM will not
be completed in time for her to reach Alexandria
before the beginning of November.
2. Intended that WOOLWICH should not leave
Alexandria before BLENHEIM arrives.
(A.C.N.S. 061622A to C. in C.E.F., (R) C. in C.
Levant, C. in C. Med.)

W.S.32. Convoy W.S.32 position 1600Z 6th Sept. 010° 16'
053° 20' 063° expected mean S. of A. 13.7 knots.
STRATHMORE, E.T.A. Aden, 0500Z 8th Sept. Weather
report.
(EMERALD, 061757Z to N.O.I.C. Aden, F.O. E.Af.,
C. in C.E.F., F.O.R.S.C.A. (?F.O. Ceylon) Com.
R.I.N.)

U/B attacks on shipping, AX.737. Ref. para. 7 of C. in C. E.F. 271257Z/
E.Africa August situation could be eased by basing
and Madagascar. Catalinas on SS. MANELA on West Coast of
Madagascar. Possible suitable conditions may be
found in Morondava-Belo area. Request you
investigate any likely base and forward comments.
(Air Min. 061810Z to A.O.C.222 Group, A.O.C.E.Af.,
(R) Admty.)

/Mauritius...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Mauritius,
Security.

I should welcome visit from Webster and appointment of M.I.5 Security Adviser. Present arrangement is that Military Security Officer is furnished by East African Command, and is locally responsible to O.C. Troops. From my viewpoint it is not entirely satisfactory. (Mauritius (Sir D.Mackenzie Kennedy.) No. T.O.O. 6th Sept. to S. of S. Colonies.)

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

U.S.S. Re my 041712Z. Departed Cape Henry 2150Z/5th Sept.
 GENERAL JOHN (U.S.P.D.Norfolk 060056 to Cdr. 10th U.S.Fleet,
 POPE. Admty. N.S.H.Q.)

Convoy New York Section 25 ships including PIERRE LACLAEDE
 G.U.S.12. arrived 051800Z. Delaware section 2 ships arrived
 052400Z. Chesapeake section of 12 ships. 11 ships
 arrived 051930Z. HENRY DUNDAS diverted from New
 York to Norfolk arriving independently.
 (P.D.New York 060102 to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.
 (R) Com. 3, Com. 4. Com. 5, Admty. N.S.H.Q. C.E.S.F.)

VICTORIOUS, My 241631. VICTORIOUS now ready to sail a.m. 16
 ROYAL Sept. as OPPORTUNE, and OBDURATE will not now be
 SOVEREIGN, released from present duty in time to join escort.
 Escorts. Intend as follows
 2. VICTORIOUS be escorted by CALDER and DUCKWORTH
 who will be required to arrive Norfolk 15 Sept.
 3. ROYAL SOVEREIGN to be escorted by FINDHORN,
 CAPEL and INVER, who will probably not be required at Norfolk
 before 24 Sept.
 (B.A.D. 060321Z to Admty. (R) 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. Cominch, VICTORIOUS, ROYAL SOVEREIGN.)

Subchasers We pass Comgulfseafon 042014 received as Radio
 and mine- Washington 051458 addressed to Subchasers 719, 1073,
 sweepers. 1286, A.Ms. 140, 141, 142 and repeated to Tavsta
 Key West, Convoy Control Officer at Key West.
 Com. Fleet Optracomlant, Comeastseafon, Cominch,
 Alusna Moscow, Senior Representative U.S.S.R.
 Minewarfare Mission, B.A.D. N.M.C.S. Washington, Admty. Naval
 Attache, U.S.S.R. (begins):
 Subchasers 719, 1073, 1286 of Russian Navy and A.Ms. 141, 142,
 140 report to convoy Control Officer Key West for communications,
 routeing and any and all information necessary for safe voyage.
 When ready for sea about 7 Sept. proceed in company to Norfolk
 where report to Cotclant for two days training. U.S.Subchaser 1331
 will accompany to Norfolk. Comeastseafon route to New York on
 completion training at Norfolk. Advise Comgulfseafon and
 Comeastseafon all departures and arrivals.
 (Commaveu 060411 to Admty.)

Air report, A.C. 898. Operations 5th September. All times
 U/B attacked. G.M.T. B. A/S patrols 27 sorties. Enemy
 sightings 1. Digby Monkey of 161 Sq. sighted and
 attacked what believed to be enemy submarines at
 1459 in 44.22 N. 62.36 W. Sighted Wake 1 mile
 away, dropped 600 K/C from 300 ft. slightly to starboard of
 forward end of wake. No results seen.
 (H.Q. E.A.C. Canada 060900Z to Air Min.)

U.T.2. Your 051720 states 20 ships sailed in convoy U.T.2.
 2. Information here is that convoy consists of 12
 troopships (as in A.M. 301950 August) and 7 tankers

/(as...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

- U.T.2. (Contd.) (as in A.M. 031859 less SEAKAY) total 19 ships.
3. Request name of 20th ship.
(D.O.D.(H) 061215Z to P.D.New York.)
Ref. your 061215 see my 052104 (convoy sailing telegram.)
(P.D.New York 061924Z to Admty.)
- U.G.S.17. Sailing telegram part 2.
(P.D.Norfolk 061240 to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty.etc.)
- U.T.2. Convoy U.T.2. SS. EMPRESS OF RUSSIA returned to port. Unable to maintain convoy speed due to nature of coal. Amend both parts of my sailing despatch.
(U.S.P.D.New York 061314Z to Cdr. 10th U.S.Fleet C. & R. (R) Admty. etc.)
For Seairail. EMPRESS OF RUSSIA returned from U.T.2 on account of low speed and smoke. Proposed include her in H.X.256 sailing 8/9 Sept. U.S.War and Navy Departments concur. She carries 3,029 personnel including 555 Navy. Request your approval.
(B.A.S.Washington 061300Q to W.O.)
- Task Force 63. Cinclant's 052316 addressed to U.S.C.G.BIBB for action informs as follows.
Cdr. Raney in BIBB, INGHAM, Desdiv 26, less NICHOLSON, Division Commander in WILKES, KEITH, J.R. WARD, MOORE, CHASE, HOUSATONIC constitutes Task Force 63. Escort U.G.S.18 convoy scheduled to sail from Hampton Roads 15 Sept. for North African Ports. Return to Hampton Roads escorting G.U.S.17 when directed by Commorseafon. All vessels of this task force have been directed to report to you at Hampton Roads.
(Comnavu 061311 to Admty.)
- TEIA MARU. Reference your 051510Z. Long. decodes 074.03 E. in your 211631 August as received and agrees thus with Swiss note.
(Cominch 061322Z to Admty.)
W.R.Note, A.M. 211631 was correctly coded as 074° 30' E.
- N.S.H.Q. S/M Estimate. (N.S.H.Q. 061429Z.)
- A.T.63. (MAURETANIA) Sail A.T.63 MAURETANIA via P.39.28 65.10 Q. 42.05 55.40 R. 44.10 43.30 S. 49.45 32.02 T. 53.30 19.59 U. 55.35 08.30.
(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 061519Z to P.D.New York.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

MARIPOSA. Sailing MARIPOSA about 9th Sept. to Rio via (route). Request C. in C.S.At. provides onward route Rio to Bombay. Port of return U.S. is Los Angeles. (Cdr. 10th U.S.Fleet C. & R. 061522Z to U.S.P.D.New York, C. in C.S.At. (R) C.E.S.F. N.O.B.Bermuda, Admty. N.S.H.Q. C. in C.Lant, U.S.N.O.B. Rio de Janeiro.)

U.S.Landing Craft. Recent experience indicates necessity for again calling attention of personnel in charge of unloading U.S.Landing Craft that they are not operational on arrival and are not to be operated until placed in operational condition. (Comnavu 061536Z to Admty. (R) Chief of Army Transportation Corps. S.O.S.Etousa.)

KALDFONN, BRADBURN, Special Float trials. M/V KALDFONN has on board two special floats for trial on passage. 2. Request you will report by signal Master's impressions on buoyancy, visibility and steadiness in tow. 3. Reports show that your twin eight and one third gallon drums towed very satisfactorily on bilge. (D.T.D. 061554A to B.R.L.O.New York.)

SS. BRADBURN in O.N.S.17 has on board experimental floats for trial on passage. 2. Master is preparing full report on performance. Request he be contacted on arrival and his report sent to D.T.D. Admty. by air mail. (D.T.D. 061823A to B.R.L.O. New York.)

C.V.Es. Offensive A/S sweeps, SANTEE. A. In agreement with Admty. C.V.Es. supporting U.S.African convoys may conduct offensive A/S sweeps in Biscay approaches west of 15 W. Accordingly I will advise you from time to time when the U/B situation appears favourable for such operations. B. Inform Admty. as early as practicable of each such operation in order that British administrative authorities and ships in the area may be instructed. C. As U/B situation in Central Atlantic now appears favourable it is suggested that one of the C.V.Es. now operating in vicinity of Azores, preferably SANTEE due to her size and armament, be employed to sweep area 40 N. to 45 N. and 18 W. to 21 W. (Cominch 061555Z to C. in C.Lant, (R) Admty.)

U.S. S/M Estimate. (Cominch 061556Z.)

STRENUOUS, TOURMALINE. Compliance Cominch 031935 about 1900Q/7 Sept. depart Charleston Seabuoy proceed Bermuda via following points. A. 32.39 N. 64.18 W. B. 32.16 N. 64.18 W. thence destination. (C.T.G. 02.6 061603 to STRENUOUS (B.A.M.129), TOURMALINE (B.A.M.130) (R) N.O.B.Bermuda, C.E.S.F. C. in C.Lant, Admty. C.T.G. 02.3, S.B.N.O.W.At. Cominch.)

/Cominch...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

STRENUOUS,
TOURMALINE,
(Contd.)

Cominch's 031935. It is requested that these ships should have only short A/S work up not exceeding 7 days at Bermuda.
(B.A.D. 062105Z to S.B.N.O.W.At. (R) Admty.)

BUXTON.

Reference C.A.F.O. 1555/43 BUXTON's condition such that further repairs considered uneconomical.
2. Written report being forwarded.
3. Not considered fit to make passage to U.K. as only one boiler now operating.
4. Propose ship be paid off immediately. R.C.N. to submit proposals if further investigation indicates possible use in some training capacity worthwhile.
(N.S.H.Q. 061634Z to Admty. (R) S.C.N.O. London, C. in C.C.N.A.)

GREENWICH.

Request GREENWICH escorted by KING HAAKON VII be sailed on Sept. 11th or when ready for Iceland routed through, (all following positions are N. and W. unless otherwise indicated):-
D. 043.00' 062. 00' E. 045.00' 053.30' F. 047.45' 051.00'
G. 051.00' 048.00' H. 057.00' 040.00' J. 062.00' 030.00' K.
063.44' 024.32' thence Q.Z.S. 412 and 405.
2. ARIES will relieve KING HAAKON VII as onward escort in position F.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 061857Z to Cominch, (R) GREENWICH, C.E.S.F. B.A.D. B.A.M.R. N.S.H.Q. Admty. KING HAAKON VII, ARIES, A.C.I.C.)

J.PINCKNEY
HENDERSON.

Further to my 021947 fires appear to be extinguished in all holds except No. 4 which shows continued improvement. Various fire fighting methods tried out but fogging only finally resorted to. Boilers apparently out of commission due to distortion. No. 2 hold half full of water.
(N.O.I.C. Sydney 061957Z to C. in C.C.N.A. (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q. C.E.S.F. F.O.N.F. C.T.F. 24, Connav.)

L.S.I.(L)s.
in U.T.
Convoys.

Your 040441. There will probably be no objection to inclusion of L.S.I.(L)s in U.T.convoy.
2. We advised that the flow of H.X.convoys at 6½ day intervals normally entailed less waiting time than the infrequent U.T.convoys observing that the difference in sea time is only three days.
3. If in due course any U.T.convoy presents a faster connection this fact will be taken advantage of.
(B.A.D. 062003 to D. of S.T.)

A.Ms. &
S.Cs.

When ready for sea about 1300Z/7th Sept. depart New York Gate. Proceed St. Johns N.F. via New York approaches to point Z. 040° 04' 50" N. 073° 31' 45" W. Thence point D. 040° 22' N. 066° 57' W. Point E. 044° 45' N. 055° 35' W. Point F. 046° 27' N. 052° 05' W. Point G. 047° 33' 35" N. 052° 35' 41" W. Thence St. Johns N.F. via approaches arrival report F.O.Newfoundland Forces for onward routeing. S.C. 1061 will accompany you to

/040°...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

A.Ms. and S.Cs. (Contd.) 040° 18' N. 068° 17' W. F.O.Newfoundland Forces requested to furnish escort to St. Johns from point G. Estimated speed 12 knots. Guard 2716 k/cs voice or C.W. until Sept. 081800Q. Then guard 2410 k/cs to St. Johns none use C.S.P. 1405 and 1406. Call sign for these vessels will be NFRS. Use 3000 k/cs voice at scene of action. V.Opnav and B.A.D. and Senior Representative U.S.S.R.Washington.
(C.E.S.F. 062025Z to A.M. 138, A.M. 139, S.C. 1283, S.C.1284, S.C. 1285, (R) Com. 10th Fleet, Alusna Moscow, S.Representative U.S.S.R. C. in C.U.S.Atlantic Fleet, C. in C.C.N.A. Cdr. Task Force 24, S.C. 1061, Admty. B.A.D. N.S.H.Q. N.O.B.Iceland, Cdr. Task Group 02.3 Cdr. T.G. 02.2. Cdr. T.G. 02.1

Sub. attack & sighting summary. All times Z. No report on 5th. Para. A. Jap. sub. attacked convoy area 13.20 165 E. 012000, two torpedo misses. U.S.S. GELLET attacked radar and sound contacts with 20 D.Cs. 13.10 S. 165.28 E. Explosion after last attack followed by large oil slick and bubbles. Sub.

reported sunk. Para. C. B.24 radar contact 37.05 N. 73.04 W. 052145. (Cominch 062135Z to Admty.)

KING HAAKON VII. Cancel Cominch 022217. Delay rept. delay sailing KING HAAKON VII pending readiness GREENWICH about 11 Sept. C. in C.C.N.A. 061606Z not to all addressees (N.T. in W.R.) (Cominch 062138 to Comeastseafon, (R) C. in C.C.N.A. N.S.H.Q. Com. 1, Admty.)

P.614. On course 011° P.614 passes 029° 22' N. 020° 12' W. at 091200Z speed 8.5 knots with total bombing restrictions effective until 110515Z at lat. 035° 01' thereafter submerged bombing restrictions and average speed 7. Area limits 20 miles either side and 50 miles ahead and astern of estimated position. (Cominch 062140Z to U.S.T.F.61, U.S.T.G.21.11, U.S.T.G. 21.15, (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar,(U.S.) C.M.S.F. Cinclant, F.O.(S).) See also 081457Z to F.O.C.Gibraltar.)

T.J.7. Following ships sailed Trinidad Sept. 3rd in T.J.7 due Rio de Janeiro Sept. 23rd. (N.S.H.Q. 062215 to F.O.C.W.A. C. in C.S.At. Station, (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

Speed for U.G.S/G.U.S. Convoys. Your 041527. No alteration in the speed of advance of convoy was intended in Cominch 242230 August. The instructions for U.G.S.convoys are to sustain a speed of 9 knots and Navy Dept. has held the view that in order to sustain this speed ships should in fact have a margin in hand. It was pointed out that ships could only be properly presented on a declared speed. Cominch considered that a margin

/of...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Speed for
U.G.S/G.U.S.
Convoys.
(Contd.)

of 1 knot is required between declared, and sustained speed and therefore gave consideration to either 10 to sustain 9 or 9 to sustain 8 knots. The former was prescribed and it is unlikely a change will be made in view of past performances of the under 10 knotships with regard to smoke and dropping back.

2. If the old or present limit if continued ships of 9 knots will probably be sent back for speed and/or smoking which might cause more dislocation than finding some means of providing ships of adequate speed.

3. Would a declared speed of $9\frac{1}{2}$ knots meet your requirements. (B.A.D. 062305Z to Adnty.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements.

Arrivals 6th Sydney U.S. Transport CAPE FLATTERY,
U.S. Transport BONTEKOE departed Townsville 5th
Port Moresby 8th.
(C.S.W.P.S.F. 061202.)

Departed Brisbane 4th U.S.S. ROCHAMBEAU for Milne Bay, Townsville
4th U.S.S. SUSQUEHAPENA for Milne Bay.
(A.C.N.B. 061309Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 061353A, 061355A.)

Submarines Attacked.

Sub. attack
& sighting
summary for
24 hours to
1000A/6th.

Para. A. Aircraft sighted U-Boat at 2259/4th
in $41^{\circ} 14' N. 11^{\circ} 02' W.$ Ref. A.M. 051010Z.
Para. D. Position of Halifax aircraft sighting
was in $55^{\circ} 04' N. 03^{\circ} 01' E.$
(D.D.I.C. 060931Z to Cominch.)

SECRET

Lion Australia

190A.

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

IN

061225Z/September.

From: A.H.Q. Brisbane.

Date: 6.9.43.

Recd: 2220A

Cypher

Air Situation Report SW. Pacific.

Addressed: Air Ministry Whitehall. A.H.Q. India.

IMPORTANT.

WX.46509.

AI.496 6 Sept. Airsum 135 Sept. 4. Situation review Marcus Island raid with its implications against Japanese mainland may arrest partially air movements South. Solomons evacuation of Santa Isabel confirmed Choiseul also possibly evacuated. New Britain photographs Lakunai and part of Vunakanau show 100 SSFS 66 medium bombers and 19 twin engine airplanes fighters or Dinahs. Allowing for operational losses areas not covered and probable diversion of some Naval air strength to New Guinea these figures confirm view that replacements have come into Rabaul Area since last coverage of 13 August. 2 further convoys sighted making for Rabaul. On completion of Rabaul build up renewal of offensive air operations based on Rabaul likely. Over 8 months in SWPA enemy bomber attack sorties average less than 1 sortie per bomber per month. Except for a few shipping attacks no enemy air operations in this period either locally decisive or a cause of serious dislocation. Allied air attacks continue in New Guinea. On 1 September 112 bombers simultaneously over various targets mainly in Alexishafen-Madang Area. More shipping reinforcing Wewak Area. B-25RV attacking Wewak shipping intercepted by fighters majority reported as Naval types. This confirms suggestion that Naval types are probably flown from Rabaul to cover shipping at Wewak barrage balloons used at Wewak as counter measure to mast head attacks. Northwestern? Area movement of airplanes to Northeast continues. This movement may decrease because Northeast has been recently supplied from Northern Bases.

/Sightings.....

(2)

Sightings of airplanes on Wambang Bima Den (Pasam or Pasar?) indicate wide dispersal of enemy air strength in Northwest. End situation review. Resume of Japanese barge types.

061225Z

1st Lord.
1st S.L.(2)
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
D.C.N.A.E.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(A)(2)
A.C.N.S.(W)
A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)
U.W.R.
Ops.(2)
Plot.
O.D.(5)
D.A.W.T.
C.C.L.S.(2)
O.I.C.(3)
D.of P.(3)
M.(2)
I.P.(3)
C.N.I.
W.D.
D.N.I.(5)
Ad. Blake.
D.D.O.D.(M)
A.L.O.
D.P.D.
D.A/S.W.
D.A/U.D.

Recd. from Air Min.0420/7
Air Ministry Circulation.
C.A.S.
V.C.A.S.
A.C.A.S.(Ops)
A.C.A.S.(I)
D.D.I.III.(Action)(2)
D.D.I.II.
A.I.3.D.
O.Ops.2.
A.S.P.3.(2)
A.M.W.R.(2)
Admiralty War Registry.(7)
War Office.(C.6.Tels)(7)
Duty Group Captain.
A.I.3.A.1.
A.O.C. RAAF Hqrs. in Gt.Britain
Kodak House, Kingsway.
A.I.3.USA.
A.I.2.G.
A.M.C.S.(C)(File)

HA

7.9.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Coastal
batteries.

1. The 18th M.S.F. was shelled from Gris Nez this morning when in 50.46 N., 01.09 E. (about 30 miles S.W. of Dover). The Mine sweeper QUALICUM, whilst assisting in laying smoke to cover their retirement sustained a few casualties and superficial damage from a near miss.

Several rounds were also fired from the Wimereux area, but no casualties or damage were caused.

Biscay
A/S
Operations.

2. Cinclant today ordered C.T.G.21.10 to cease the support of Task Force 61 and proceed to carry out an offensive sweep in the area 40 N., to 45 N. and 18 W. to 21 W.

Wellington Q/172 attacked a U-boat with depth charge in 46.42 N. 09.15 W. (185 miles N.N.W. of Cape Ortegal) at 2255 today and reported it on the surface apparently disabled, but lost touch with the enemy shortly afterwards.

HAVELOCK (with E.G.B.5) VIMY and VOLUNTEER attacked a U-boat which was detected by Radar at 2330A today in 44.57 N., 13.48 W. Contact was lost after the eighth attack. Calcium flares set fire to some substance on the surface of the water.

Mediterranean.

C. in C. Med.

3. C. in C. Med. set up his operational H.Qs. at Bizerta in LARGS at 0200 today. The main administration H.Q. remains at Algiers.

Operation
"Avalanche"
(attack on
Naples).

4. HOWE and KING GEORGE V sailed from Algiers at 2014B today, with JERVIS (D.14) PENN, PANTHER, PALADIN, PATHFINDER.

Sicily and
South Italy.

5. M.G.Bs. operated north of Galita Island last night on anti E-boat patrol. Nothing was sighted. Gunboats continued to support the left flank of the 5th Division today.

7.9.1943 ¹⁹²
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- S/M reports. 6. (a) UNRUFFLED reports sinking a 4000 ton merchant vessel on 27 August in 40.36 N. 18.37 E. whilst on patrol in the Southern Adriatic, and SICKLE a 3,000 ton armed merchant vessel in convoy on 28 August in 42.26 N., 09.50 E. (off the east coast of Corsica).
- U/B sunk. (b) SHAKESPEARE reports sinking a U-boat in the Naples area at 2121 today. Two more German U-boats were also reported on patrol in the vicinity.
- Swiss Ship attacked. 7. 4 Beaufighters today attacked in error a Swiss merchant vessel 10 miles north of Revellata Point, Corsica. Four torpedoes were dropped before the nationality of the ship was discovered. It is believed that one torpedo hit the ship. (Swiss Radio stated that the Swiss MALOJA was sunk near Corsica between 4 and 12 September, the implication apparently being that the ship was sunk by a U-boat).
- Levant area. 8. A U-boat attacked one or more Egyptian Schooners at 1030 today in 34.02 N. 33.05 E. (south of Cyprus); unescorted sailings were suspended until 9 September.

East Indies.

- T 9. SS. LYMAN STEWARD (U.S. 7176 tons), Colombo for Durban, was hit by one of 4 or 5 torpedoes fired at her at 0435Z today in 03.30 N. 75.00 E. (about 260 miles N.N.E. of Addu Atoll). The torpedo did not explode. A periscope was sighted three hours later, and at 0400Z/9 a third possible attack took place in 07.25 N. 73.12 E. The ship escaped all damage.
- c/

Australia & New Zealand.

10. 23 Mitchells attacked the barge depot and supply areas on the south-west coast of Kolombangara (Solomon Is.) causing large fires. An enemy attempt to land reinforcements on the north coast of Arundel Island (off westend of New Georgia) was repulsed.

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7.9.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.R.M.L.549,
548.

In view of weather deterioration to be expected in the near future request I may be informed whether R.M.L.549 and 548 are to be retained at Faeroes later than end of this month.

(N.O.I.C. Faeroes 071114A.)

Danish
Naval
Officers.

There are now a dozen Danish Naval Officers escaped to Sweden mostly good type with recent sea experience. They are anxious to enter our service and keen to kill Germans. Among them are two experts on magnetic minesweeping two or three (?submarine) officers and an officer recently on Naval

Intelligence staff. 2. In view of C.A.I.F.O.1793 is there any possibility of absorbing them in this scheme or of making use of their services in any other way. 3. They would naturally welcome some form of encouragement if this can possibly be given. I should also like to convey to them some expression of your approval for careful plans and (so far as we can now judge) efficiently performed scuttling of their ships concerning which I am informing you in detail. (N.A. Stockholm 071741 to D.N.I.)

U.S.N.A.T.B.
St. Mawes.

U.S. Naval Amphibious Training S/M Base at St. Mawes, Cornwall placed in commission September 7th.
(Commaveu 071837).

Movements.

MATAGORDA.

Asking permission to proceed 8th September.
(MATAGORDA 061530A to Admt. for Commaveu.)

E.G.40.

Enemy forces insignificant E.T.A. Bar L/V.
0700A/8.
(E.G.40 071530Z.)

S/M
movements.

Positions at 0800A/8 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 071711A, 072146A, 080019A.)
Forecast of movements of TUNA (to Scapa).
SATYR, SEADOG (to Portsmouth).

(2) A.C.O.S. Capt. (S) 3, Capt. (S) 9 are requested to sail S/Ms. accordingly.
(F.O.S. 071821.)

U.S.S.HUMBOLT.

Is to sail from Bristol to Iceland (C) for onward passage to Norfolk. (2) Request you will sail HUMBOLT on 9th September by following route through to Reykjavik.
(D.O.D. (H) 071906A to F.O.I.C. Cardiff.)

7.9.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

M.S.F.9. 4 ships of 9th M/S.F. will be required to sail for Dover Command at 0600A/8th. (C. in C. Portsmouth 071946A to M.S.9.)

Operations.Biscay A/S Patrols.

U/B reports. Have A.S.V. contact probably U/B. (A/C 407/T No T.O.O/7 Recd. 10147). No enemy sighted in area. (A/C 407/T No. T.O.O. 0203.) U/B previously reported course 235° speed 10 knots when first sighted in position 45.30 N. 10.11 W. was on the surface. (A/C 407/W 070245.) Have attacked enemy with depth charges, position 45.36 N. 10.13 W. (A/C 407/W No. T.O.O. 0359.) Am over enemy S/M. (A/C. P.19 Group 071121.) U/B previously reported, periscope only sighted have attacked U/B with depth charge. Investigating possible wake and swirl. U/B has dived. (A/C. P.19 Group 071149.) Have attacked U/B with bombs (?5). Investigating possible periscope position 45.35 N. 10.12 W. (A/C P.19 Group (U.S) 071210.) Have again dropped depth-charge on wake at 1305 leaving area. (A/C. P.19 Groups (U.S.) 071326.) Am over enemy S/M in position VDY 3500 (Indecipherable). (Duty 4 15 Group via Plymouth W/T 072205.)

Enemy S/M previously reported is still on surface. (Duty Q. 15 Group 072215). Enemy S/M previously reported, when first sighted, was on course 280° estimated speed 10 knots. (Duty Q. 15 Group 072235.) Have attacked U/B with depth charge. U/B on surface position 46°N. 42' 09°W. apparently disabled. (Duty Q. 15 Group 072255.) Lost touch with U/B last seen position 46° 45' N. 09° 46' W (Duty Q. 15 Group 072330A.) Have attacked U/B with depth charges. (Duty Q 15 Group 072359A.) Have A.S.V. contact probably U/B. (A/C 407/4 No. T.O.O 2341.)

CRANE.

My 061106A CRANE arrived.
(C. in C. Plymouth 070805A.)

War Diary.7.9.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

SHEFFIELD.

My 061106. SHEFFIELD arrived.
(C. in C. Plymouth 070946A.)Enemy
A/Cs.(NR1) Four A/C Junkers position 46° 08' N.
11° 20' W. course 200° height 500 feet.
(A/C 224/R 071033A.)Disposition
at 2000.(1) NENE, TWEED, SNOWBERRY, CALGARY, patrol
vicinity 045° 10' N. 014° 01' W.
(2) E.G.2. WILDGOOSE, WREN, KITE, STARLING,
WOODCOCK 047° 45' N. 010° 32' W. southbound
12 knots. (3) EDMUNDSTON 050° 30' N. 012°
20' W. bound Londonderry 12. (4) BERMUDA patrol vicinity
047° 01' N. 016° 30' W. (5) RUBIS 046° 01' N. 006° 00' W.
bound 180°. The Lizard 10 daily advance 86 miles.
(6) E.G.B.5 HAVLOCK, VIMY, VOLUNTEER 044° 01' N. 014° 01'
West Northbound 12 knots.
(C. in C. Plymouth 071607A.)Spanish
Trawlers.Shadowing 2 Spanish trawlers request
instructions 47° 00' N. 11° 45' W. Course
020°.
(A/C 461/T 071550 to A.O.C.19 Group.)
Continuing with search at Tacko on return.
(A/C 46/T 071619 ? 461/T intended)
Have attacked Spanish Trawler. Resumed patrol.
(A/C 461/T 071705.)
Enemy previously reported P.C. and S. 47°
08' N. 11° 42' W. 21 knots 08°.
(A/C 461/T 071715.)
Search abandoned. Returning to base fuel low position
45° 35' N. 12° 00' W.
(A/C 461/T 081701.)Operations.General.Coastal
patrols.1. Orders for night 7/8 September.
(A) M.T.Bs. 211, 249, 255 carry out offensive
patrol of enemy coastal route between
position 8 miles either side of position YY.
Objective torpedo targets only, including
T.L.C. Type 111. Traffic appears to pass about 1 mile off
shore. Proceed and return by passage two passing 2 N. not
before 2130A and returning to be within 20 miles of own coast
by 0530A. (B) LIMBOURNE, TALYBONT, TANATSIDE, WENSLEYDALE,
M.Ls. 291, 1274 at St. Helens. Immediate Notice.
(C) M.Ls. 292, 344 Patrol Q.Z.S.384 between F and F.A.5 buoys.
(D) M.Ls. 208, 233, 124 R.M.L.532 patrolling 50° 20' N.
between 02° 00' W. and 02° 25' W. 3. Call signs. Frequencies
and code words. 4. Destroyers acknowledge.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 071201).
My 071201 para. 1 (B). M.L.291, 1274 patrol between
N.A.B. and F. Buoy.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 071542A.)

/Para...

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7.9.1943.

Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Coastal
patrols.
(Contd.)

Para. 1B of my 071201A. Destroyers are to patrol on 50° 25' N. between 00° 35' W. and 01° 15' W. passing E.A.3 outward 2300A and inside 0500A. It is considered possible that enemy may try to lay mines in Portsmouth Approaches. (C. in C. Portsmouth 072012A)

Dover dispositions for night of 7th/8th September. M.G.Bs. 114, 118 and 116 from Ramsgate patrolling 9 miles S.E. of Dover. E.T.D. 1945. E.T.R. 0615/8. M.G.Bs. S2 and S1 at D Buoy. E.T.D. 1950. E.T.R. 0610/8. M.Ls. 104, 107 and 101 at V buoy route via No.1 Buoy each way. E.T.D. 1915, E.T.R. 0645/8.

(V.A. Dover 071818A.)

Enemy
Coastal
batteries.

During the forenoon 6th September enemy coastal batteries from the Boulogne area opened fire on the M.Ls. escorting 18th M.S.F. when in 50° 39' N. 01° 19.5' E. About 16 rounds were fired no damage or casualties although shooting was fairly accurate.

Smoke was used to cover retirement,
(V.A. Dover 071228A.)

Spitzbergen.

Report for month August. 1. 19th and 20th August, one perhaps two U/Bs. in ice Fiord. My 200844Z refers. 2. (?24) German planes observed during month and fired at on 2 occasions. Probably meteorological and R/C flights. 3. R/C parties have been sent out. 4. Meteorological and Ionospheric observations regularly carried out. 5. Barracks Cap Heer destroyed by fire. My 121553Z refers. My 071427Z part 2 follows.

(LOCOMOTIVE 071425Z.) Remainder of message not received.

V.P.Operations
SLEIPNER.

F.O.I.C. N.I. 061631. A relief for CHARLESTOWN will be necessary for escort duties. It is requested that SLEIPNER may be allocated in order to make her thus available also for operations with M.T.Bs. on the Norwegian coast for which she would be suitable.
(A.C.O.S. 071536 to Admty.)

S/M.
patrols.

0.15 DS sailed for patrol.
(S.O. (S) Lerwick 071523A.)
Positions of S/MS. at 0800A/8 and movements for the following 24 hours. (A) TANTALUS (P.318) in approx. 75° 28' N. 10° 22' E. proceeding dived by day to patrol position close S.W. of Bear Island. (amended by F.O.S. 081021A.) (B) ULA P.66) proceeding to Lerwick. (C) 0.15 in position 62° 04' N. 01° 30' W. proceeding dived by day to patrol vicinity 64° 40' N. 03° 25' W.
(F.O.(S) 071711A, 072146A, 080019A.)

/(1)...

7.9.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

S/M patrols (Contd). (1) P.318 (TANTALUS) is leaving patrol p.m. 10th proceeding on the surface at C.Os. discretion through:- (A) 074° 20' 018° 40' E. (B) 064° 40' N. 002° 01' W. (C) 062° 01' N. 004° 40' W. to R/V in D. 270° Cape Wrath 5 miles at 0800/15. (2) Estimated S. of A. 10 knots. (3) Capt. (S) 3 is requested to arrange escort from D. (F.O. (S) 071746A.)

S/M Patrols are forecast as follows and are to be acted on without further signals. 1. Anti U/B patrols N. of Shetlands. Submarines. Leave Base. Arrive Base.

P.232 (STONEHENGE)	8th Sept.	26th Sept.
P.231 (STOIC)	21st Sept.	9th Oct.
P.61 (VARANGIAN)	21st Sept.	8th Oct.
P.66 (ULA)	24th Sept.	10th Oct.
P.218 (SEA ROVER)	6th Oct.	24th Oct.
2. Anti U/B patrol Bay of Biscay.		
P.65 (UPSTART)	11th Sept.	On passage Gibraltar.
P.59 (UNTIRING)	18th Sept.	On passage Gibraltar.
F.S.MINERVE	21st Sept.	On passage Gibraltar.
P.214 (SATYR)	30th Sept.	17th Oct.
P.216 (SEADOG)	30th Sept.	17th Oct.
(F.O.S. 071826A.)		

Operation S.F. Your 061232 not to all addressees. Request you will sail Collier to Skaale Fiord when ready escorted by CAPE PALLISER, NORTHERN WAVE. (2) On arrival Trawlers to act as ordered by C. in C. Rosyth for operation S.F. (C. in C. H.F. 071838A to A.C.O.S.)

Exercises.

C.P. Intend following exercise C.P. on 10th Sept. to exercise RANGER's Air Strike. (C. in C. H.F. 071605, 071608A.)

Allied Air Activity.

? Search abandoned returning to base. (A/C 209/T 070540A.)

? Operation Starkey. A.O.661 7/9 A.O.660 6/9. Calendar. (H.Q.F.C. 070945A.) (NR) No trace of survivors returning to base immediately. (A/C 248/C 071230.)

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity - Contd.

FURIOUS? aircraft. Re 827, 830, 822 and 823 Squadrons.
(Admty. 071258A.)

Enemy Air Activity.

LOCOMOTIVE. From 23rd. August to 7th Sept. 1 German plane has passed early every morning, except on 24th, 25th, 26th, 31st August and 6th September. Today 7th September, 1 plane passed at 0552Z, and 1 at 1054Z.
(LOCOMOTIVE 071143Z to Admty.)

South Coast Naval Air Stations. It is possible that operation to be carried out during next 48 hours may provoke enemy re-action and result in bombing of South Coastal Naval Air Stations, Necessary precautions should be taken.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 071312A to F.O.N.A.S. (R) H.Q. Fighter Command, Admty, Commodore Force J at Dover.)

Mining.

Thames. Owing to suspected enemy mine laying navigation is prohibited within an area of 4 cables each side of Scars Elbow Boom Channel will be swept at 0530/7th.
(F.O.I.C. London 070045A.)
Cancel my 070045.
(F.O.I.C. London 070825A, 070830A.)

Off Dungeness. Two Mines Swept yesterday Monday.
1. Red 50° 54' 35 secs. N. 01° 08' 44 secs. E.
2. Blue 50° 41' 22 secs. N. 01° 12' 54 secs. E.
Mines Detonated by Coastal Craft.
Five Acoustic in vicinity of 50° 41' 30 secs. N. 01° 03' 00 secs. E.
(V.A. Dover 071027A.)

Operation S.N.222 C. Anticipate 4 destroyers will be required as escort from p.m. 20th until a.m. 24th inclusive. Further signal will be made as soon as firm dates can be given.
(R.A. (M) 071612 to Admty.)

Sweep. By SIDMOUTH, (S.O) TENBY, EASTBOURNE and BANGOR.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 072357A to V.A. Dover.)

Enemy Intelligence.

North Norway and Finland. (A) A well-placed and reliable informant states plan for evacuation of this territory is now receiving detailed consideration in (?Berlin) where General Dietl is at present attending for

/Conference...

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

North
Norway and
Finland
(Contd.)

Conference. (B) Though military requirements demand evacuation of troops from this area, political considerations and questions of prestige are likely to have over-riding influence for the present. (C) Evacuation would be mostly via Baltic and is estimated to take five weeks. Graded A.3.

(N.A. Stockholm 071516.) N.I.D. Comment:-
(A) and (B). General Dietl's presence in Germany is believed correct and this report presents a reasonable summary of the situation. (C) Evacuation is likely to take more than five weeks.

U-Boats.

Continuing U/B hunt.
(A/Cs. of 228 Sqdn. 071354.)

Information
for
RUBIS.

By D/F on 5100 k/cs. at 0041Z. U/B within 75 miles of 46° N. 6.30 W.
(D.D.I.C. 070227A to RUBIS.)

Technical.

Oiling
at
sea.

Re trials to be arranged by Cdre. D. W.A.
(D.T.D. 071805A.)

Casualties & Defects.

Search in position 184° Lyme Regis (78 miles).
Rescue Launch S.T.1515 from Lyme Regis also searching this position.
(N.O.I.C. Portland 070200A.)

LORNA DOONE.

My 061432A. LORNA DOONE sailed, but returned 0805A/7. Main condenser leaking very badly. Main feed pump plunger probably fractured. Further signal will be made after inspection by Base Engineer Officer.
(N.O.I.C. Isle of Man 071027A.)

WEAR,
PELICAN.

E.T.A. Merville 0700A/8th. WEAR has leaking rudderhead gland necessitating docking or tipping. PELICAN requires diver for examination of rudderhead and propeller shaftings and boiler defects already signalled. Boiler hours WEAR

No.1 boiler 253, No.2 288, PELICAN, No.1 boiler 231, No.2 315.
(WEAR 071306Z.)

TYNE.

TYNE requires docking for survey of plates and frames and examination of underwater fittings. Lifting appliances require testing and air bottles and systems require water pressure testing. Ship has not been docked since November, 1940 and will be available after 12th October for approx. 14 days. Request yard may be allocated.
(R.A. (D) H.F. 071417A.) /?...

War Diary.7.9.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects - Contd.

? EMPIRE SANDY. Following received by Wick Radio. Have broken away from tow. Towing hook collapsed have no towing wire left. Standing by awaiting further instructions.
(?EMPIRE SANDY 071700Z.)

KINGSTON, CHRYSOLITE. Request information regarding A/S Trawler KINGSTON, CHRYSOLITE, reported to have left Methil 29th August for Tobermory.
(D.O.D. (H) 071935A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

TRUANT. Owing to fitting of shock proof battery containers and renewal of main engine piston ring TRUANT will not be ready to sail till about end of September. Your 021239 August refers.
(F.O. (S) 071828A to Admty.)

CROCUS. Ref. Com. (D) W.A. 1251/5.* E.T.A. Tyne amended 0700A/9th owing number 1 boiler trouble. Speed 7 kts. WOODRUFF instructed to proceed independently. * re sailing CROCUS and WOODRUFF.
(CROCUS 072311A.)

Shipping & Convoys.

P.S.8. P.S.8 and S.P.8 cancelled.
S.P.8. (C. in C. Portsmouth 071645A.)

C.E.205. C. in C. Nore's 061648A, C.E.205 will be postponed 24 hours.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 071801A.)

O.G.93/K.M.S.26 (A) 1730Z/7. (C) B.4. HIGHLANDER HF/DF, WINCHELSEA HF/DF, WALKER HF/DF, WESTCOTT HF/DF, CLOVER, ABELIA, ASPHODEL, PENNYWORT, COMMANDANT DROGOU, REDPOLE and ANEMONE sail late to overtake Rescue Ship COPELAND HF/DF. Convoy codeword "Clasp".
(D) 50 Names.
(C. in C. W.A. 071904Z, 071914Z.)

Convoy U.T.2. A.M. 301950 August and 031859. Delete Troopship EMPRESS OF RUSSIA and tanker SEAKAY.
(D.O.D. (H) 072014A.)

Convoy U.T.2. My 031859 not to all. Destinations of Bristol Channel Section area:- Avonmouth SIMONDS, Cardiff EVANGELINE, Newport SHAWNEE, Swansea BORINQUIN. 2. Destination of escorts. Belfast. U.S.S. NEVADA and 10 destroyers. Londonderry, 4 destroyers. 3. Acknowledge when reporting E.T.A.
(D.O.D. (H) 072225A to C.T.F.67.)

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7.9.1943.

Tuesday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

PUCKERIDGE
sunk 6th
Sept. 1943.

Following is repetition of ANGLIA 070225 (N.T. of previous receipts) (begins):
Am taking Spanish ANTEQUERA, 20 survivors
PUCKERIDGE sunk by S/M in position 085° Europa Point 40* at 2015. Request inform (corrupt group) 3 Cot Cases (rest of signal corrupt) (ends.)
2. ANTELOPE (and?) ANTHONY sailing to hunt.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 070410B to Admty. C. in C. Med. Cdre. Algeria.) *W.D. Note: Corrected position 071204

My 070410. 79 officers and about 120 survivors picked up by merchant ship ANTEQUERA. Further signal follows.

(F.O.C. Gibraltar 070812B to C. in C. Med. Admty. etc.)

At 2015B Sept. 6th position 083 Europa 36 PUCKERIDGE, Lt. M.C. Cartwright D.S.C. R.N. proceeding at 20 knots course 083° when ship was struck by 2 torpedoes aft and possibly 1 on stem, two further explosions heard and seen some distance away 2 minutes later.

2. After magazine exploded and gearing room bulkhead collapsed flooding engine room. Ship sank in about 6 minutes.
3. PUCKERIDGE was not zigzagging.
4. No torpedo tracks observed.
5. It is not considered C.Bs. and S.Ps. compromised. Special operation orders were thrown overboard by C.O. in weighted bag.
6. C.O. saved. Details of casualties follow.

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 071204 to Admty. C. in C. Med.)

Barcelona, Your 042358 (proposal to send two ships a month
potash ships. to Barcelona for potash for U.K.) I consider this proposal excellent. I can lay necessary security and anti-sabotage measures. Please confirm proposal is to be put into force.

Whoever reported Barcelona as less liable to sabotage activity than (?Huelva) was in error. It is just as liable in fact more so because it is bigger, only as no British ships have been there no German sabotage organization has existed so far.

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

(N.A. Madrid 070714B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. (A) F.O.I.C. Gib.)

"Bonbon"
shadowed
by A/C.

One A/C shadowing convoy "Bonbon" 37° 25' N. 8° 8' W
(SCOTTISH via Burnham Radio 070830 to Gibraltar W/T)

O.S. 54.

Sailed Gibraltar section O.S. 54 Local Escorts
WITHERINGTON, VELOX.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 070753B to Admty. (R) C.M.S.F.
Comar Dakar, F.O.C.W.A.)

O.S. 54 routes. Following ships colour routes in accordance with Admty. 211746 and 311740 August.

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 070831B to Admty.)

O.S. 54 sailed (list, 8 ships). All ships in ballast.

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 070837B to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

/ANTELOPE...

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7.9.1943.

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

ANTELOPE, BRILLIANT. ANTELOPE, BRILLIANT are to proceed at 2100 Sept. 7th to Casablanca for fuel.
 2. Route Q.B.A. 87, A. 035° 45' 006° 30'
 C. 034° 05' 008° 06' and Q.B.A. 102.
 S.O.A. to be adjusted to arrive Casablanca at 0800B/8th Sept.
 3. Commorseafon is requested to sail destroyers to R/V S.L. 136 in approx. 025° N. at 1200B Sept. 10th to act as additional escort.
 (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 071054B to ANTELOPE, BRILLIANT, Commorseafon, (R) Admty. etc.)

Spanish M.T.Bs. My 041905 (re 4 M.T.Bs. bought from Germany arrived Pasajes 31st August.)
 4 M.T.Bs. have left Pasajes for Ferrol, perhaps calling at Gijon en route.
 Eventually all 6 will proceed to Cadiz via Lisbon if the Portuguese Government consents.
 They are officially Spanish Naval Ammunition Units, from Sept. 6th as L.T. 23, L.T. 24, L.T.25 and L.T.26.
 (N.A.Madrid 071123B to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Gibraltar, Consuls Bilbao, Corunna, Gijon, Santander, Vigo.)

?U/B My 071240 part 2 final.
 Dispositions. 3 others outward north of 045° E. of 012° of which one attacked at 0035Z/7th in 045° 30' 010° on course 235°.
 2 possibly 3 inward anywhere within 200 miles N.W. of Corunna of which one attacked by aircraft 2138Z/(?6th) in 043° 14' 009° 15'.
 Italian. None on station.
 (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 071240B to S.O.Force H.)
 W.R.Note: No trace of part 1 in W.R.

C.G.62. C.G.62 arrived (7 ships).
 (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 071427B to C.M.S.F.F.)

Task Forces. Following is C.T.G. 21.5's 070320 (N.T. in W.D.)
 Action to Cinclant Info. to C.M.S.F. Com. 10th Fleet, C.T.F. 65 C.T.F. 66, C.T.G. 21.12 (begins):
 Discontinued support and departed Task Force 65 at 062400Z position 36.31 N. 42.13 W. advance 9.5 proceeding easterly advance 13 knots to about 33.05 N. 27.15 W? thence for sweep north easterly to intercept subs. estimated en route eastward Azores.
 Request be kept advised movements G.U.S.14. Weather. (Ends.)
 (C.M.S.F. 071447B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty.)
 Beginning a re-encypherment of C. in C.Lant's 061509B.
 Action to C.T.G. 21.11, info. to Commorseafon, C.T.F. 61 and 66, T.G. 42.1 (begins):
 Support task force 61 until clear then operate against concentrations reported until time arrived Casablanca 3 days prior sailing G.U.S.15 scheduled for Sept. 19. Sail to support latter when directed by Commorseafon. Task force 66 scheduled depart Sept. 9th with G.U.S.14.
 (C.M.S.F.F. 071509 to C. in C.Med. Admty.F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

/K.X.11...

7.9.1943.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

X.K.11. X.K.11. Your 051632 shows 6 M/Vs in convoy, not counting FORT BABINE. Request verification, your 041607 para. 1 refers. (D.T.D. 071510A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.) See 072359.

U.S.Liberators Your 031301Z. The U.S.Liberators are playing a most important part in the Bay Offensive and their retention until 1st November is certainly justified and would be much appreciated.
 2. Present situation is that U-Boats have been forced to make their passage so far as possible submerged and surface at night only long enough for charging. By use of Leigh Lights, flares and surface forces, we are trying to make charging at night both difficult and dangerous, thus forcing them to be on the surface by day. U.S.Liberators form a large part of forces suitable for day attack.
 3. Owing to tendency of enemy to use southern part of Bay approaches and to the operation of their long range fighters, U.S.Liberators with their long range and good armament are particularly valuable. (A.C.N.S.(H) 071514Z to Cominch, (R) Chief of Staff, Army.)

Danish ships (Admty. recypher and pass to N.O.I.C. Freetown at Las and R.O.Las Palmas.)
 Palmas. Several telegrams from Foreign Office, Las Palmas, and L.W.representative Gibraltar in last week have referred to plans for getting 2 Danish ships THYRA and SLESVIG sailed from Las Palmas.

These plans depend absolutely on Spanish consent which will only be forthcoming if Danish Consul gives clearance (vide) (corrupt group) 1500/28th Oct. 1942) and this probably depends on Spanish Minister here.

H.M.Charge D'Affaires is seeing Danish Minister at San Sebastian on Sept. 9th and will endeavour to learn his attitude. Meantime H.M.Consul, Las Palmas, should ascertain if possible whether Danish Consul there could now be persuaded to give clearance even if Foreign Office dare not order it. What is prestige of Consul and would money help? Please inform M.W.T. and Foreign Office. (N.A.Madrid 072024B to Admty. (R) F.O.Gibraltar, R.O.Las Palmas.) Reply: Admty. 111315A.

X.K.11. Your 071510A. Confirm composition X.K.11 as in my 051632B. 7th M/V PINZON did not sail owing to engine trouble. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 072359B to Admty.)

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7.9.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

BELLWORT, Departure from Pointe Noire 1700Z/6th BELLWORT
THYSVILLE. to meet THYSVILLE and escort to Bahrein.
Routed in accordance with N.C.S.O. Matadi
051520. E.T.A. Lagos, 0900Z.
(B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, 070815A to F.O.C.W.A.,
(R) Admty., etc.)

On crossing Equator proceed to position D, omitting B and C.
E.T.A. Lagos, 0600Z/10th.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 071621Z to BELLWORT, (R) N.O.I.C. Lagos, Admty.)

TEST Arrival Pointe Noire 0900Z/7th TEST, TRENT.
(defect), (B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, 071005A to F.O.C.W.Af.,
TRENT. (R) Admty., C. in C. S.A.)
My 071955 (sic, 071005 intended?). TEST
reported losing her starboard propeller at
0749Z/7th. Inspection by diver reveals shaft
sheared off outside stern gland, starboard A bracket and 40 feet
of tail shaft missing. Hull apparently undamaged. Damage
believed due to striking submerged object off Freetown
previously reported.

(B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, 071037A to C. in C. S.A., (R)
F.O. South America Div., S.A., N.O.I.C. W.Af., (corrupt
group).)

Departure Pointe Noire 1800Z/7th TEST, TRENT routed
through position (A) 010° S. 010° E. (B) 020° S. 010° E.
S. of A. 10 knots. E.T.A. Capetown a.m./16th. Shift to area
Q W/T 0300Z/9th.

(B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, 071935A to N.O.I.C.W.A., (R) Admty.,
C. in C. S.A.)

DOUGLAS, (1) My 061820 para. (2) DOUGLAS returned to
BOADICEA, harbour with engine defects and sailed 2345Z/6th
BEAGLE, to join W.S.33 at 1300Z/7th.
SNOWDROP. (2) Sailed 0900Z/7th BOADICEA, BEAGLE and
SNOWDROP escorting NEW NORTHLAND and ELIZABETH-
VILLE. Embarkation completed to time. My
061820 refers.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Gambia, 071016 to F.O.C.W.A.,
(R) Admty., etc.)

ALSACE, Intended programme of French repairs ship ALSACE
cables. is as in following repetition of Comar Dakar
251706Z August. (Begins). My 211231 and 241557
priorities for cable repairs by ALSACE allocated
by direction transmissions at Algiers as follows:
(First) Conakry/Monrovia and Monrovia/Bassam. (Second) Cotonou/
Libreville. (Third) Cotonou/Douala. (Fourth) Port Gentil
/Point Noire?).
2. First, third and fourth items present no difficulty since
Cotonou - Libreville cable is now Lagos - Libreville cable.
Some difficulty is foreseen over item 2.
3. Submit that this matter and that of the in Fernando Moronha
cable be taken up with the French National Committee.
4. Letter follows by Air Mail.
(F.O.C.W.A., 071026Z to Admty.)

/DESPATCH ...

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South Atlantic - Contd.

DESPATCH. My 061827, para. 1. Amend time of departure 0200/9, E.T.A. Dakar 0730/10. (F.O.C.W.Af., 071111Z to Comar Dakar, (R) Admty.)

Transport Movements. Bathurst arrival 1530Z/6th Sept. SS. ELIZABETHVILLE, NEW NORTHLAND and NEWCHWANG. Bathurst departure 0900Z/7th SS. ELIZABETHVILLE and NEW NORTHLAND, E.T.A. Freetown a.m./9th Sept. (Bathurst, 071102Z to Admty.)

MAJUNGA. Amend programme in my 311237 August as follows: sail MAJUNGA 1st October. Arrive Diego Suarez 2nd October. (2) Request you will arrange programme for onward passage from Diego Suarez. (C. in C. S.A., 071151B to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty., etc.)

CORFU (search for Spanish ship). Arrivals 0816Z/7th Sept., CORFU from search. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 071627Z to Admty.)

French S/Ms. Your 011350 August. C. in C. Med.'s 081214 and 15805. Request you will report arrangements made with Comar Dakar and how long submarines concerned are likely to be available to you. (Head of M. Branch II, Approved A.C.N.S.(F), 071804A to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) C. in C. Med., B.A.D., S.B.N.O.W.At.)

French Cruisers, Dakar, Anti-de Gaulle attitude. Governor General is very concerned at violent anti-de Gaulle attitude displayed by officers and men of French Cruisers from Alexandria. 2. Since SUFFREN and DUGUAY TROUIN arrived there have been many small incidents ashore. These include molestation of women wearing badge of not only Croix de Lorraine but also of Allied National Flags. Governor General has informed Consul General that he feels his authority is being deliberately undermined and that unless de Gaulle's visit to Dakar materialises soon he will go to Algiers to see him with a view to getting these cruisers based elsewhere. This would not affect MONTCALM. 4. I think from personal experience that it is most unlikely Adm. Godfroy or officers of DUQUESNE are in any way connected with anti-British feeling, but cannot answer for other ships. All ships feel bitter towards the fighting French.

/5. So ...

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South Atlantic.

French
Cruisers,
Dakar,
Anti-de
Gaulle
attitude.
(Contd.)

5. So far R.N. personnel ashore have kept clear of trouble.
6. Godfroy has paid a fleeting visit to Algiers but is now back in Dakar. He is shortly to be relieved of the Alexandria Squadron by Rear-Admiral Dillard now flying his Flag in (? SUFFREN). Dillard was promoted by Vichy while at Alexandria.
(B.N.L.O. Dakar, 071831 to F.O.C.W.A.)
Passed to C. in C. Med. and B.A.D.)
(Admty., 111530A.)

MANAAR
(lost April,
1943.)

Loss of MANAAR has been put down for discussion by Shipping Defence Advisory Sub-Committee on grounds that air R/C and protection along approach route was ineffective. Would appreciate your further remarks by signal. Your 061241 refers.
(D.T.D., 072009A to C. in C. S.A.)
Reply: C. in C. S.A., 081511B.

RAMILLIES,
destroyers.

Capetown departure 1800B/7th Sept. RAMILLIES, ROEBUCK, QUICKMATCH, PLYM for Durban, route R.10, S.O.A. 12½ knots, E.T.A. 1200B/10th Sept. Shift to W/T organisation "Jig" at 2300B Sept. 9th.
(C. in C. S.A., 072124B to Admty., etc.)

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Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Broadcast
to Italian
Navy,
shipping.

Following amendments have been approved to broadcast to Italian Navy and Mercantile Marine. Following signals refer, A.M. 312311, 312341 July, 021948, 022205 August. A.M. 142334, C. in C. Levant's 131338, A.M. 191122 August contain amendments summarised in my 051040 Sept. to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.

- (2) English text. Para. 1. For "Is about to terminate" read "Has terminated". Para. 4 should now read "Ships in the Mediterranean - Sail to a place safe from the interference of the German armed forces. Sail if you can to North Africa or Gibraltar, to Tripoli or Malta, to Haifa or Alexandria or to Sicily, there to await the outcome of events." Para. 6 should now read "When you meet forces of the United Nations identify yourself: (A) by day, by flying a large black or dark blue pendant from the mainmast. By showing large circular black discs on your decks as identification to aircraft. (b) By night, if darkened ships are met, burn dimmed navigation lights and flash the letters G.A. towards the darkened ships".
- (3) (Italian text.) (4) If it is desired to start this broadcast a signal will be made in the form "Broadcast Sailor is to commence now or at time indicated".
- (5) Stations should broadcast message as soon as ordered and repeat it every four hours for two days.
(C. in C. Med., 070124B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, V.A. Malta, C. in C. Levant, Admty.)

?Enemy
Unit.

Have obtained A.S.V. contact in position 43° 30' N. 9° 37' E.
(A/C FCY/E 070318B to 45U.)
Have lost touch with enemy. Am resuming patrol.
(A/C FCY/E 070338B to 45U.)

TORBAY.

Leave patrol via Scarpanto Strait during daylight
9th diving to 250 feet, between A. 036° 02' 027° 24'.
B. 035° 32' 027° 34' thence on surface at 11

knots through.

C. 034° 18' 032° 47' to arrive Beirut 1020C/11th.

(2) Air escort will meet you dawn 11th.

(Capt. (S) 070932C TORBAY (R) 1st S/M F. C. in C. Levant, Cdre. (D) C.C.F. Eastern Med.)

ULTOR.

Intend sailing P.53 ULTOR at 1500 8th for patrol off Bari routed via Eastern Channel through 035°

56' 016° 31' at 0400 9th, 037° 52' 017° 41' at 2000 9th, 039° 45' 018° 52' at 2359 10th, thence

040° 20' 018° 52' and 041° 11' 017° 47' to patrol area. Surface passage on 8th and 9th.

(2) MJA0 24. Request total bombing restriction for above passage.

(Capt. (S) 10th, 070950 to (A.I.G.66) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 10, Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 1, (R) A.H.Q. Malta, 10th S.F.) See also 080031.

/Enemy...

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- Enemy M/V. P.C. and S. of 1 medium sized M/V based on a fix obtained within half an hour of 0900. Position 44.03 N. 9.17 E. course 245° speed 6 knots.
(A/C GKS/D Via Alexandria, 071010B to C/S 45U.)
My 1010. Enemy previously reported was one M/V of 2500 tons.
(D. A/C GKS/D Via Alexandria, 071030B to C/S 45U.)
- SHAKESPEARE. SHAKESPEARE after passing 039° 28' N. 012° 01' E. at about 2200 9th is to proceed diving by day on course - degrees 245.
(Capt. (S) 8, 071020B to 8th S.F. (R) C. in C. Med. Fleet, S.O. Force "H" N.O.I.C. Malta, Capt. (S) 10th S.F.)
- SPORTSMAN, DOLFIJN, SERAPH. SPORTSMAN, DOLFIJN and SERAPH in areas SB SC and SD respectively are to keep N. of 042° 01' where practicable after 0600 8th. It is realised DOLFIJN may not be N. of 042° 01' until p.m. 8th.
(Capt. (S) 8th, 071024B to 8th S.F.)
- U.G.S.15. U.G.S.15. Pass to Cdre. (1) My 051245B (N.T. in W.D.) sailed (details).
(N.O.I.C., Malta, 071037B to Escorts of Convoy U.G.S.15 (R) Admty. etc.)
- UNSHAKEN. Leave patrol to pass 040° 15' 019° 08' at 1200 9th. 039° 41' 019° 03' at 2300 9th. 037° 10' 017° 30' at 2000 10th. 035° 45' 016° 38' at 1200 11th and R/V with M/S at 0800 12th 5 miles East of position B. of QBB 147 Surface passage on 10th.
(2) MJ AO 24. Request bombing restriction.
(Capt. (S) 10, 071115, to P.54 (UNSHAKEN) (R) 10th S.F., C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Air H.Q. Malta, Capt. (S) 8, Captain (S) 1.)
- M.G.B. E/Boat Hunt. M.G.Bs. operating in co-operation (A/C ? 7 groups missing) Aircraft north of Galita night of 7th/8th Sept. Object destruction of E/Boats.
(N.O.I.C. Tunisia, 071130B to HOWE, Escort N.S.F.1., F.S.F.2., G.U.F.10, (R) C. in C. Med., F. M.G.B.20.)
- G.U.S.15. M.S. C.I. 22. Onward route (details)
6. "Trafford", normal. 7. Baker.
8. SHOREHAM S.O., MARYBOROUGH, IPSWICH, PRIMULA, SOUTHERN SEAS, SOUTHERN MAID, FLAK.
9. Proceed at full speed of convoy after crossing 020° E. to make R/V at Malta providing this does not cause stragglers.
10. (A) and (B) lettered as ordered by R.A.L.
(C in C. Med, 071155B to SHOREHAM, F.Os. i/c & N.Os. i/c N. Africa (Oran to Tripoli) Admty., F.O. i/c Gibraltar, Connav, V.A. Malta, C. in C. Levant, Cdre. Algiers.)

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- P.A.51. Convoy P.A.51 arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 071215Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F. etc.)
- REDWOOD HEKTOR VII. Intend sailing REDWOOD, HEKTOR VII M.L. 1305 escorting 8 Z Lighters at 0615B 8th to Syracuse staging at Malta. Route 292, 202, 248, 212 E.T.A. Malta Boom 0630B 10th. S. of A. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ code word "Nonce" priority low.
(2) V.A. Malta is requested to provide onward routing and provide one H.D. M.L. to replace 1305 who is urgently required back at Tripoli. F.O.Sy. is requested to arrange immediate return to Tripoli of REDWOOD and HEKTOR VII.
(S.N.O. Trip. 071314B to V.A. Malta, (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant etc.)
- U.G.S.15 POPPY. Propose sail at 1600 to rejoin U.G.S. 15 speed 13 knots.
(POPPY, 071426 to N.O.I.C. Malta, (R) STARWORT.)
- N.A.A.F. Report. Opsum 198. N.A.S.A.F. 6th September.
Fortresses dropped 176 x 300 bombs Gaeto Harbour.
(N.A.A.F. 071452B.)
- French Submarines. PALLES CERES and AMPHITRITE referred to in B.A.D. Washington's 301907 are in bad state after long submersion. French Admiralty have commenced work but expect reconditioning in North Africa may take at least six months.
2. Propose no decision taken on employment till reconditioning is more advanced.
(C. in C. Med. Algiers, 071635 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)
- HURWORTH, ALDENHAM, CROOME, KANARIS. Request you will sail HURWORTH, ALDENHAM, CROOME, G.S. KANARIS to Sousse forthwith.
(C. in C. Med., 071709 to V.A. Malta, (R) KANARIS, F.O.Sy., N.O.I.C. Sousse, HURWORTH, CROOME, ALDENHAM.)
On arrival destroyers in address Sousse Port Party is to be embarked. Completion at about noon destroyers are to sail for Malta with despatch for fuel and to await further orders.
(C. in C. Med. 071936, to N.O.I.C. Sousse, (R) V.A. Malta, HURWORTH, ALDENHAM, CROOME, KANARIS (G.S.)
HURWORTH is to proceed to Sousse.
(V.A. Malta, 072310 to F.O.I.C. Sicily, N.O.I.C. Syracuse, N.O.I.C. Augusta, N.O.I.C. Catania, HURWORTH. (R) C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Sousse.)

/Sail...

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HURWORTH, Sail forthwith to Sousse, S. of A. 20 knots
ALDENHAM, by Q.B.B. 123 (C) position 239, 210 and Q.B.B.145
CROOME, E.T.A. 1000 8th. Codeword "Cussed" IX low.
KANARIS. Acknowledge.
(Contd.) (V.A. Malta, 072314B to H.M.S. ALDENHAM, CROOME,
KANARIS (G.S.) (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

Disposition U/Boat between 007° and 020° E.
of Enemy Italian. About 2, W. of 020° E. and between 038°
S/Ms. N. and 041° N. Patrol area for 2 or 3 out from
Maddalena not identified.
German. In the Palermo area probably 1. Off
the South Sicilian coast, one. Between 007° E.
and 009° E. and within 30 miles of the coast, one.
(C. in C. Med. (A), 071710B.)

Med. Air, Signed Eisenhower. Cositintrep No. 59 6th Sept.
Report. Part Three. Air.
N.W. African Air Forces. Day 6th Sept. Approx.
100 enemy A/C attacked Bizerta from 2040 hours
in 3 waves. Beaufighters claim 4 H.E.111s
destroyed and another enemy A/C damaged.
2. Air Intelligence. In addition to the 4 A/C claimed at
Bizerta by Beaufighters, A/A report 3 A/C destroyed and 4
probably. No damage reported to our shipping.
(Air C. in C. Med., 071026B to Etousa.)

ABDIEL. Sail at (?19)00 7th tonight (?Bizerta) QBB.123.
(C) Positions 278, 036° 53' 011° 13' then War
Channel. Report S.O.A. and E.T.A. before
sailing. Codeword "Wilfred" 908 normal.
(V.A. Malta, 071728B to ABDIEL, (R) S.O. Force
"H" etc.)

French S/Ms. 061920 August and B.A.Ds. 301907. Arrangements
Employment. concerning French submarines have now been
approved by C.C.S. (except that MARSOUIN may
possibly be refitted for combat patrol) and we
understand accepted by the French.
2. Admiral King proposes that three of (A) should be allocated
to British and 4 to U.S. control, and that as and when vessels
in (B) become available for A/S training, they should be assigned
to U.S. and BRITISH in equal proportion.
3. It would therefore, be appropriate for two of PALLAS, CERES
and AMPHITRITE to proceed to Halifax and Bermuda to meet urgent
British and Canadian A/S training commitments.
4. The suitability of these vessels would largely depend on
when they will be available and you are requested to state, if the
submarines quoted in B.A.Ds. signal are likely to be long
delayed, whether any of the submarines in A.M. 061920, paragraph
B would be available.
(Head of M.(II) approved A.C.N.S.(F) 071803A to C. in C. Med.,
(R) B.A.D.)

/Movements...

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Mediterranean. - Contd.

Movements, (Taranto Occupation). Departures HOWE, KING GEORGE V, JERVIS, (D.14), PENN, PANTHER, PALADIN, PATHFINDER, WISHART, TWO-STEP, M.M.S.100, M.L. 443, U.S.S. LEA, PRODIGAL. (Cdre. Algeria, 072014B to Admty. etc).

M.K.S. 24 Your 031025. Please verify position 279. (V.A. Malta, 072132B to C. in C. Med. (R) CARLISLE).
For 279 in my 031001*read 278.
(C. in C. Med. (A), 072349B to CARLISLE, Escorts of Convoy M.K.S.24) *First part of C. in C. Med's 031025 Most Secret regarding route for M.K.S.24.

Situation Augusta. Situation report 55. No airraids on Augusta harbour in last 24 hours.
(2) Lydney ammunition dump (?and) Army Control blew up with great violence at 1700 today Tuesday.
Naval fire party sent to assistance.
(3) Current from Syracuse now connected to (?pump) (?full stop) dock now pumped dry. Intend docking L.C.T.311 10th Sept. and L.C.I.27 to follow.
(4) Bomb disposal XO reports dump of 10,000 bombs and 300 "G" type mines (?vicinity) Comiso aerodrome.
12 "G" type mines of 3 different types 6 handed to American authority and 6 being prepared for transit to VERNON.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 072138 to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.Sy. etc).

Port capacity. For Eisenhower, Freedom Algiers. From. Combined Chiefs of Staff. Can we do anything to help you to improve port capacity, such as providing more gear for loading and unloading?
(Agwar 072218Z to Freedom and Usfor for Action).

U.G.S.15 My 051149. For ALDENHAM and KANARIS read BERGAMOT.
(ii) HURSLEY is to detach with Malta and Sicily sections and escort them to Malta with BERGAMOT in accordance with para. 2 of my 051149.
(iii) Delete HURSLEY from para. 3 of my 051149.
(V.A. Malta, 072233 to ALDENHAM, HURSLEY, G.S. ADRIAS, WHITEHAVEN, KANARIS, Capt. (S) 10, Ships escorting convoy M.K.S.24, UNISON, UNITED, (R) C. in C. Med).

A/C Shadowing. Following received Malta from Convoy Using call sign L Q K 1. 1 Shad.-180 = FERGUSON I.
Q.Z.Q./U4334.
(Nore W/T, 072305B to Whitehall W/T).

Situation report No. 173. (1) In convoy from Sicily SS. SELLINGE and SS. FORT DREW were mined off Hurd Bank at 0630/6th. Both vessels have arrived at Malta.
(2) Air raid on Bizerta area about 2100/6th by over 100 A/C. Parachutists were dropped near Protville and circling torpedoes at Bizerta. No damage or casualties.

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Mediterranean.

Situation
report no.
173.
(contd).

(3) PUCKERIDGE reported sunk by U-boat 085° Europa Point 40 miles at 2015/6th (W.D. Note - See also North Atlantic, position corrected to 083° Europa 36). 9 officers and about 120 ratings survivors rescued. Destroyers hunting.

(4) M.G.Bs. operated from Bizerta north of Galita Islands for interceptions of E-boats during night of 6/7th Sept. Nothing was sighted.

(5) P.46 (UNRUFFLED) reported sinking by torpedo 4,000 tons merchant ship in position 040° 36' N., 018° 37' E. at 1038/27th. August.

(6) P.224 (SICKLE) reports at 0658/28th August, in position 042° 26' N., 009° 50' E., sank 3,000 tons armed merchant vessel in convoy.

(C. in C. Med., 072315B to Admty).

Movements,
Bizerta.

Arrivals and departures. U.S. cruiser PHILADELPHIA U.S. Cruiser SAVANNAH, U.S. destroyer EDISON, U.S. destroyer PLUNKETT, BRISTOL. Arrivals U.S. Cruiser BOISE, departures U.S. destroyer TILLMAN, BEATTY.

(N.O.I.C. Bizerta, 072345 to S. and A. area G.C.)

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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

LYMAN STEWART
(American)
torpedoed. A.M. A.F. 03° 30' N. 075° 00' E.
(Colombo W/T, 070452Z to B.A.M.S.)
Following is a repetition of my 070551Z.
(Begins). At 0435Z/7th LYMAN STEWART torpedoed
in position 03° 30' N. 75° 00' E. Ends.
(C. in C. E.F., 071128Z to S. & A. E.I. Station,
(R) N.O.I.C. Durban, Admty., C. in C. S.A.,
246 Wing.)

TEIA MARU. A.M. 211631 August. Cominch reports that
longitude position C on route for TEIA MARU has
been communicated to Japanese as 074° 03' E.
(2) In order to avoid further representations
to the Japanese regarding routes, this longitude has been
accepted.
(3) Position C is therefore amended to read 006° 00' N. 074°
03' E.
(4) Request you will inform air and other authorities concerned.
(D.O.D.(F), 071841A to C. in C. E.F., (R) Com. 10th Fleet (C. &
R.), Commaveu.)

India Air Report. A.339. Daily Opsum No.541.
Outstanding Reports 10th U.S.A.A.F. 3rd Sept.
3 U.S. Liberators (B.24) Car Cicobar Island.
3 tons dropped dock area N.E. end of Island.
Hits in target area. 1 A/C jettisoned bombs
due engine damage from ground fire.
4th Sept. 7 U.S. Liberators (B.24) detailed Rangoon docks
and shipping 1 A/C returned early due engine trouble. 12 tons
dropped. Hits on Monkey Point installations and near Dala
dockyards.
5th Sept. Rangoon 4 M/Vs arrived since 3rd September. Oil
barge on fire midstream.
(A.H.Q. India, 071856Z to Air Min.)

BRITANNIC. N.Z.N.B's 030335 August.
2. It is under consideration to use BRITANNIC
arriving Bombay 12th in W.S.32 for movement of
5,000 troops returning to Middle East from New
Zealand.
3. Request your proposals for escort to Middle East.
(D.O.D.(F), 072103A to C. in C. E.F., (R) N.Z.N.B., A.C.N.B.,
C. in C. Levant, F.O.C.R.I.N., P.S.T.O. India.)

Troop Transport. There is a most urgent operational requirement
to be met from the Middle East in second half
of September.
(2) We are most anxious to avoid using any ships
of M.K.F.24.
(3) Request immediate report whether there are any troopships
at present under your control which can be spared so as to
arrive Middle East not later than 25th Sept.
(D. of S.T., 072116A to P.S.T.O. India, (R) P.S.T.O.M.E.,
P.S.T.O. Med., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

- T.A.61
(QUEEN MARY). Convoy T.A.61 sailed from U.K. 4 September for New York.
2. Details of personnel on board have been communicated by War Office to Milstaf Washington and C.G.S. Ottawa.
(D. of S.T. 070224A to B.A.D., B.M.W.T. New York, (R) N.S.H.Q.)
- C.T.G.21.10 This is Cinclant's 061940Z to C.T.G.21.10, information (R) to Admty. Comnaveu, Commorseafon, Comnavaw, Cominch, C.T.G.21.15, C.T.G.61.1. Cease support task force 61 at appropriate point proceed conduct offensive sweep area 40 N., to 45 N. and 18 W. to 21 W. During this sweep of Bay of Biscay approaches keep west of 15 west. Advise Admiralty and myself of E.T.A. in area if security permits. Modify my 051910 accordingly but arrive Casablanca as directed therein.
(Comnaveu, 070246Z to Admty).
- INVER Your 062315 (N.T. in W.R.) E.T.A. 071400Z. Wind N.N.W. (corrupt group) cloudy heavy northerly swell, 10, 29, visibility 6.
(INVER, 070323Z to S.B.N.O.W.At. (R) N.O.I.C. Bermuda).
- A.M.143
(ARCADE). Following is Port Director's Tampa's 061330 to same addressees as reference dispatch "My 041821. Delete A.M. 143".
(R.D.O. Washington, 070330Z to Admty. N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C. in C. C.N.A.)
- U.S.A.T 7th 0200 U.S.A.T. IRVIN L. HUNT Honolulu 19th.
(R.O. San Francisco, 070510 to Admty).
- Convoy X.B.72 Cape Cod Canal section arrived 062230Z.
A. (P.D. Boston, 071226Z to Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet C. and R).
- ERNE,
GREENWICH. A.M. 051310 now propose following to obviate delay in return of ERNE to operational duty SHERBROOKE and KING HAAKON VII escort GREENWICH to position (F) thence ARIES and ROSEBAY onward to Iceland. Vide my 061857 (?not) to all.
(2) It may be possible also to prepare ANTARES as additional escort subject to early completion. Your 251932 August refers. (C. in C. C.N.A., 071436Z, 071729Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A., B.A.T.M., N.S.H.Q., Cdre. (D) W.A., B.A.M.R., C. in C. Rosyth, Cdre. WESTERN ISLES, GREENWICH, D. Halifax).
- U.S. S/M Cominch, 071500Z.
Estimate.

/N.S.H.Q...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.- Contd.

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

N.S.H.Q., 071504Z.

U.S.
Liberators in
Bay
Offensive.

Admty. 071514Z to Cominch *see page 263.*

Convoy
U.G.S.17.

Following is re-encypherment of P.D. Norfolk 061240
action Com. Tenth Fleet C. and R. V.A. Gibraltar
"Sailing Telegram Part 2."
(Radio Washington, 071538Z to Admty).

SCYTHIA

C.T.F.67 reports SCYTHIA being sent back from
U.T. 2 with continuous boiler trouble. He
estimates 18 hours required repair latest break-
down with no prospect that it will be satisfactory.

Present maximum speed 11 knots E.T.A. New York p.m./7th.
C.T.F.67 also remarks that two of the six British transports in
U.T.2 have not been returned and the performance of two others
gives cause for concern.

2. If repairs completed in time SCYTHIA could be included in
H.X.256 sailing 9th Sept. otherwise in H.X.257 on 15th September.
U.S. War and Navy Departments have no objection to SCYTHIA
carrying full complement of 5,000 U.S. troops in either H.X.
convoy.

3. Only alternatives are - (A) U.T.3 on 8th Oct. or (B) with
ROYAL SOVEREIGN about 24th Sept.

4. (A) SCYTHIA only just qualifies for U.T. speed and a months
delay to sail in U.T.3 might only result in another failure. (B)
is not considered entirely satisfactory with an escort of only
three new frigates two of which will have had a short work up.
Also undesirable to reduce speed of ROYAL SOVEREIGN and escort
below 15 knots.

5. Request your immediate remarks.
(B.A.D., 071641Z to Admty).

TOURMALINE,
STRENUOUS.

Your 061603 request confirmation TOURMALINE,
STRENUOUS guarding Louisburg L broadcast in
addition to 4410 k/cs.
(N.O.B. Bermuda, 071855 to C.T.G.02.6 (R)
STRENUOUS, TOURMALINE, C.T.G.02.3, C.E.S.F.,
C. in C. Lant, Admty).

RICHELIEU

Arrival Norfolk 27 August French Battleship
RICHELIEU for working up and short refit.
(N.S.H.Q., 071915Z to Admty. (R) B.A.D., C. in C.
N.A., F.O.N.F.)

7.9.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.- Contd.

NEWFOUNDLAND, H.E. The Governor of Newfoundland considers that suggested visit to St. Johns. a short visit by NEWFOUNDLAND to St. Johns when returning to European waters would be greatly appreciated by the people of Newfoundland and has asked me to forward this request to Their Lordships. She can be accommodated in the harbour. If this proposal is approved His Excellency would appreciate early advice. (F.O.N.F., 071936Z to Admty, (R) B.A.D., B.A.M.R.)

GREENWICH Comply C. in C. C.N.A. 061857Z. When relieved KING HAAKON VII proceed Halifax or as directed by C. in C. C.N.A. (Cominch, 072015 to Comeastseafron (R) Com.1, N.S.H.Q., Admty, A.C.I.C., F.O.N.F., C. in C. C.N.A.)

Dispositions U.S. Warships. COLORADI, MARYLAND, NORTH CAROLINA, COPAHEE, ALTAMAHA, COWPENS, CONCORD, TRENTON, HONOLULU, CHESTER at sea. PRINCE WILLIAM in South Pacific. PENNSYLVANIA, SANTA FE, BIRMINGHAM, NEW ORLEANS at Pearl.

NEW MEXICO, WICHITA in Seattle. MISSISSIPPI, IDAHO, SANGAMON, BARNES at San Francisco. Atlantic. NEVADA, BOSTON, OMAHA at sea. CARD due Norfolk September 9th. SANTEE supporting U.G.S.16. BOGUE with U.G.S.17. BLOCK ISLAND due Argentia September 8th. CROATAN proceeding vicinity Azores. TEXAS in Northwest Africa. NEW JERSEY at Philadelphia, CORE, BUNKER HILL, PHOENIS at Norfolk. MILWAUKEE at St. Thomas. CINCINNATI in Recife, MARBLEHEAD at Miami, MEMPHIS in Bahia. BROOKLYN at Boston. (Comnaveu, 072032 to Admty).

U.S.A.T. Arrival 7th Sept. T.W. DRENNAN (U.S.A.T.) and escort. (B.R.L.O. Georgetown, 072107Q to Admty).

L.23 My 262302 August L.23, Sailing New London deferred until a.m./12th Sept. (B.A.R.M. Washington, 072120Z to 11th S.F. (R) S.B.N.O.W.At. F.O.S. L.23, N.S.H.Q., C.O. At. Coast, Capt. (S) Sub. Flot. 7).

BOUDEUSE, C. in C. Med. 041730. Para. 3. No prospect Stores for diverting ship from U.G.S. to embark stores and Casablanca. rejoin. (2) Stores could be embarked in a British ship loading at Philadelphia for Casablanca and sailing in U.G.S.19 on 25 Sept. provided they reach Philadelphia by 15th Sept. (3) Possibly CALDER could transport them to Philadelphia on passage to Norfolk in accordance my 060321 not to C. in C. Med. (4) Request early advice if this opportunity is accepted and if so number, description, dimensions and weights of packages involved. (B.A.D., 072121Z to S.B.N.O.W.At., (R) C. in C. Med. Admty).
/MIDLAND...

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

- MIDLAND When tow is ready proceed through positions H 040° 09' N., 070° 19' W. and J. 042° 30' N., 065° 06' W. thence position C on original route. Report estimated time of departure.
(C.E.S.F. 072121Z to MIDLAND (R) C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q., C.T.G. 02.1, F.O.N.F., Admty, 10th Fleet, C. in C. At. Fleet (U.S.)).
- MANSFIELD E.T.A. (064° or 152°) Cape Spear 5 miles 0300Z/8th. Boiler hours. In company, SUDBURY boiler hours, NANAIMO boiler hours, MANSFIELD N.S. after condenser leaking. E.T.A. (?BATTLEFORD or BURLINGTON) 0500Z boiler hours, defects.
(MANSFIELD, 072139Z to F.O.N.F. (R) Capt. (D) St. Johns N.F.)
- U.G.S. convoys. Beginning 4th Nov. U.G.S. convoys can be sailed from U.S. at seven day intervals. Request confirmation that this schedule will be satisfactory.
(Cominch, 072153Z to Admty. C. in C. A.F. (General Eisenhower) (R) Comorseafon, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Lant, C. in C. Med).
See also 091613 to C. in C. Med.
- Convoy H.F. 74. 5 ships arrived New York 1800Z/7th.
(P.D. New York, 072154 to Com. 10th Fleet C. and R)
- U.S.S. TALBOT E.T.A. Merville 1000A/8th.
(TALBOT, 072206Z to Capt. (D) Londonderry, (R) C. in C. W.A., N.O.I.C. Greenock).
- Landing Craft reports. J.S.M. 1162/7th. At their 117th meeting 3rd Sept. C.C.S.:- A. Approved the recommendation of the U.S. Chiefs of Staff that a detailed report covering the status of all types of landing ships and craft should be submitted by the Commanders concerned immediately and on the 1st of each month hereafter.
B. Agreed that the U.S. and British Chiefs of Staff should be responsible for collecting the data regarding the theatres and area for which they were responsible and should forward them to the Combined Chiefs of Staff, data from a combined theatre such as North Africa to be submitted direct to the Combined Chiefs of Staff.
C. Directed the secretaries to work out in direct touch with the Naval Staffs the form that the reports should take.
2. Agreed form of report is that set out in Fan 218.
(J.S.M. 072225Z to W.C.O. London).

/VICTORIOUS...

7.9.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

VICTORIOUS, ROYAL SOVEREIGN, Escorts. Your 060321 para. 2. Owing to distortion of one of turbine covers DUCKWORTH will not be ready and date cannot yet be forecast.
(2) Suggest following alternatives (A) CALDER and FINDHORN arrive Norfolk 15 Sept. to escort VICTORIOUS to Bermuda where she could remain until OPPORTUNE or OBDURATE are available or DUCKWORTH if repaired and worked up in reasonable time.
(FDJTE) escort for ROYAL SOVEREIGN to depend on alternatives in para. 2 above.
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 072230Z to B.A.D. (R) Admty).

Escort Carriers. There is a temporary bottleneck in the crating and preparation of aircraft at Roosevelt Field for commercial shipment (details).
(7) It is therefore necessary to propose that C.V.E. should be sent across to collect the aircraft which cannot be crated or prepared for deck stowage. Return of ENGADINE or ATHENE would help but they could not take the full number of aircraft available.
(8) We should have enough aircraft available to fill one C.V.E. at the end of this month.
(9) The above proposal is made irrespective of your 051748 which is being dealt with separately.
(B.A.D., 072243Z to Admty).

Sub. attack and sighting Summary. All times Z. Para. (C) U.S.S. HAKE contact 25.34 N., 69.57 W.1920/6.
(Cominch, 072249Z to Admty)

W.8 W.8 E.T.A. Sambro 0900Z ROXBOROUGH, SASKATOON, SHEDIAC, KENOGAMI boiler hours, ROXBOROUGH and SASKATOON defects.
(ROXBOROUGH, 072345Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) D. Halifax).

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest No. 594 Sept. 5th. (Paras. 10 - 12 cover South Pacific Forces).
1 Medium merchantman with destroyer escort unsuccessfully attacked by Catalina 30 miles West Buka on S.E. course shortly after midnight 4th.
2. Possible destroyer observed off Saint George forenoon on Westerly course. Beaufort attacked barge Samfebrea heading Rabaul from Solomons. Another destroyer reported in Wide Bay heading Rabaul same morning.
3. 1 Northbound and 1 southbound Submarine reported Cape Orford area during day.

/Under...

War Diary.

7.9.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest 4. Under cover of extensive air operations large
No. 594 Sept. force of Paratroops dropped Nanzab area from 82
5th. transport aircraft forenoon. 68 Mitchells
(contd). commenced operations by strafing and bombing
ground installations and defensive positions
vicinity of dropping area after which 7 Bostons
laid down smoke screen for dropping operation. 92
Fighters provided cover for Bombers and Transports. Meanwhile
23 Liberators 1 Fortress attacked defences and ground installa-
tions guarding Western Approaches to Lae completely destroying
Deck and Heath Plantation Area and Buildings both sides Markham
Valley Road also scoring direct hit anti-aircraft position Lae
Airfield. No enemy air opposition encountered and all our
aircraft returned safely.
5. Northern Bank Barkham River reported clear of enemy between
Ramu and Erap Junctions but some resistance encountered south
Bank 6 miles from River Mouth. Paratroops moving Westward from
landing beachhead while others approaching Nazab from West.
8. Further reports shipping sighted a.m. on/3rd suggest Cruiser
possibly heavy Cruiser.
9. 3 Liberators attacked shipping Manokwari forenoon scoring
several near misses on medium merchantman and strafing gunboat.
Several other small craft observed stationary and small coaster
sighted heading Norong from East. Interception by 2 Twin
Engined Fighters 1 probably destroyed.
12. Allied patrols active on Vella Lavella clearing enemy
positions while some enemy delaying action continues North Eastern
Arundel Island. Our P.T. boats remain active against enemy barge
traffic during night hours.
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 070200Z).

Digest (Paras. 12 to 14 cover South Pacific Force).
serial No. Two small vessels strafed by Fortress off Cape
595 Sept.6. Saint George on easterly course afternoon 5th.
Two vessels described as escort vessels reported
by Catalina in same area late same night also on
easterly course.

- (2) During forenoon 6th Beaufort reported destroyer to east
Cape Saint George on northerly course and attacked another small
vessel this area probably damaging same.
(3) One Hospital ship sighted to north Muspau Island on northerly
course shortly after noon. Another was sighted west of New
Hanover on course 280°.
(4) Eight Beaufighters made barge sweep Awitu Islands and along
South coast New Britain between Wide Bay and Gasmata destroying
barges Garove Island Walasei and Wide Bay.
(5) Six Fortresses and 180? Liberators with 35 Thunderbolts
escorting again attacked Lae area dropping 18 tons bombs
Jacobsen's Plantation area forenoon firing fuel and ammunition
dumps and destroying buildings. No interception one aircraft
damaged by A/A but returned safely. Meanwhile 48 Mitchells
attacked Malahango Strip and plantation area dropping 65 tons of
bombs, and heavily strafing area.
(6) Early afternoon 20 enemy medium bombers and 10 fighters
were intercepted over Huon Gulf by patrolling Lightnings, 2 shot
down, 2 bombers and one fighter for loss of one Lightning.
(7) Our troops control Madzab air strip which is now being used
by transport aircraft. Our beachhead considerably extended with
troops advancing further towards Lae.

/(8)...

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7.9.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial No. 595 Sept. 6th. (contd).
(8) Further reports indicate our Naval Surface Forces destroyed additional two medium bombers and four dive bombers during operations Huon Gulf Sept. 4.
(10) Shipping Manokwari 5th shown by photos as one patrol boat, one medium freighter, one coaster, five barges, five lighters and 7 small launches.
(13) Liberator probably sank one of two vessels contacted Bougainville Strait night 4/5. Following night another Liberator successfully evaded 12 Zeros off Kieta.
(14) Resistance continues Arundel Island with enemy holding strong position on high ground opposite Vipa River mouth. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 070905Z).

Movements U.S. transport ANHUI departed Milne Bay 6th due Kiriwina 7th. (C.S.W.P.S.F., 707/113Z). Arrived Brisbane 5th U.S. Seaplane Tender HERON, Milne Bay 6th U.S.S. OTUS. Depart Milne Bay 5th U.S.S. BAGLEY. (N.B. Melbourne, 071224Z)

MATSONIA U.S. Transport MATSONIA arrived Brisbane 2205Z 6th Sept. (C.S.W.P.S.F., 071116Z to Admty).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions. (D.D.I.C., 071352A, 071411A).

Submarines Attacked.

S/M attack and sighting summary for 24 hours to 1000A/7th. Para. A. H.M. ship attacked at 1815/6th in 36° 11' N., 04° 33' W. A/C C/179 attacked U-boat at 2130/6 in 43° 14' N. 09° 15' W. course 045°. A/C W/407 attacked U-boat with depth charges at 0145/7th in 45° 36' N., 10° 13' W. course 235°. U-boat reported by A/C at 0957/6 in 33° 05' N. 22° 25' E. U-boat reported by escort vessel at 1652/6th in 36° 50' N., 01° 51' E. Para. C. TAVY attacked on doubtful contact after unconfirmed sighting by Br. GASCONY at 2247/5th in 38° 33' N. 18° 03' W. (D.D.I.C., 071010Z to Cominch).

8.9.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Hostilities
with Italy.

1. At 2010A today the Admiralty issued a general message that, outside the Mediterranean, attacks are to be continued against U/Boats or other Italian units unless they show unmistakable signs of surrender.

Home Commands.

Enemy
raid
on
Spitzbergen.

2. At 0108 today Russian D/F indicated an unknown warship in 74.15 N. 18.50 W. and Spitzbergen W/T Station reported 3 cruisers and 7 destroyers near Ice Fiord, Spitzbergen at 0145. No communication could be established with the station subsequently. It is thought that the enemy cruisers may be main units, since photographic reconnaissance of Alten Fiord yesterday showed that TIRPITZ and SCHARNHORST had left and only LÜTZOW was present of the heavy ships. The S/M TANTALUS who had moved p.m./6 to patrol off the south-west coast of Bear Island was ordered at 0427A to close Ice Fiord with all despatch, and the Home Fleet sailed to the north-eastward from Scapa practice area at about 1936A, C.S.10 in BELFAST, with IMPULSIVE leaving Hvalfiord at 1656 to R/V with him, Air reconnaissance was arranged for first light tomorrow.

Coastal
force
engagement.

3. At 0025 today M.T.Bs. 211, 249 and 255 attacked 3 L.C.Ts and 2 Flak trawlers about a mile from Fecamp. One L.C.T. was blown up and disappeared and a second L.C.T. was seen to be stopped. One Flak trawler was sunk. Our vessels sustained a few slight casualties but no damage.

North Atlantic.

Damaged
U/Boat
at Vigo.

(U.760)

4. A German submarine was towed into Vigo harbour at 1015 today by a Spanish fishing boat, and was berthed alongside the Spanish cruiser NAVARRA. The submarine is reported to have had her engines seriously damaged by depth charges. It is thought that this may be the U/Boat attacked by Wellington C/179 at 2318/6 in 43.08 N. 09.24 W.

8.9.1943.

Wednesday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.

Landing
at Vibo
Valentia.
(Operation "Ferdinand")

5. The 231st Brigade was landed from 50 craft at Vibo Valentia (Gulf of Eufemia) at 0130 today. Slight opposition was encountered and M.T.B. 77 was sunk by a near miss. R.A. McGrigor was slightly wounded. (F.O. Sicily.)

Surrender
of Italy.

6. At 2010A today the Admiralty sent out a general message that the Italians had surrendered unconditionally and ordered their forces to cease hostilities wherever they may be. An armistice with Italy has been declared. At 2048B C. in C.Med. informed the Mediterranean and Levant Stations that operations now in progress were to proceed as ordered, but Italian armed forces, including aircraft and merchant ships should be treated as friendly unless they take or threaten hostile action. Italian naval ships were instructed to sail for ports under the control of the United Nations. Instructions were broadcast to Italian Merchant ships to proceed to United Nations ports.

Operation
"Avalanche"
(Attack
on Naples).

7. The 1st Division of Force H. NELSON (Flag of V-A. Willis), RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, 2nd Division WARSPITE (Flag of R-A Bissett), VALIANT, ILLUSTRIOUS) with destroyers sailed from Malta today. Force H. was attacked during the first watch by 20 plus torpedo aircraft, 2 of which were shot down. No damage was caused to our ships. There was no evidence of glider bombers. The flag of V-A. Power was hoisted in HOWE at sunset today. HOWE and KING GEORGE V (who constitute the 3rd Division of Force H.) are proceeding on a separate mission, see 9th September. Whilst acting as escort of convoy F.S.S.2 (slow convoy from North Africa) the destroyer MENDIP was damaged by a near miss bomb at 2130 today. There were no casualties.

Black Sea.

8. The Russians report that naval ratings from vessels of the Azov Flotilla have landed near Budenovka and did much damage, seized two small enemy minesweepers, and sank an R/Boat. Russian torpedo aircraft on 28th August sank a 6000 ton merchant ship and a 600 ton armed auxiliary off Sevastapol. In the Sea of Azov, between August 26th and September 1st, the Russians sank 8 R/Boats and several landing craft, barges and tugs and damaged a number of other similar vessels.

8.9.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

9. U.S. Liberators laid 31 mines in Rangoon estuary today.

Australia and New Zealand.

10(a) Last night Allied destroyers bombarded the Malahang waterfront.

(b) M.T.Bs. destroyed and damaged further barges off the north and east coast of Kolombangara (Soloman Is.) today.

(c) Another attempted barge landing by the enemy on Arundel Island, (Kula Gulf, New Georgia) was repulsed tonight.

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8.9.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

BITER. Since the ship was last at sea reliefs have been appointed for eight out of the 16 executive officers borne, a short work up is considered desirable before the ship is again sailed for operations. The training of 811 Squadron with its new anti U-Boat weapons and devices will be continued giving priority to night operations and combined day attacks. (BITER, 080924.)

REVENGE, C. in C. W.A. is requested to administer REVENGE
RESOLUTION. and C. in C. Rosyth RESOLUTION.
(D.O.D.(H), 081604A.)

Movements.

C.T.G. 21.6. Cdr. Task Group 21.6 in U.S. Destroyer MADISON plus U.S. Destroyers HILARY P. JONES, LANSDALE, CHARLES F. HUGHES, SIMS, DONNELL arrived. (C.T.U. 21.9.3., 080736Z.)

PRINCE To sail in convoy for Alexandria. She should
SALVOR leave Humber not later than 12th instant.
(salvage Report movements.
vessel.) (Admty., 081240A.)

MATAGORDA. Sailed at 1335A/8 for Reykjavik. Route &c.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 081419A.)

E.G. 5. From position (E) in C. in C. Plymouth's 081047* proceed through (G) 055° N. 010° W. thence Londonderry.
(C. in C. W.A., 081432A to E.G.5.)
* Re E.G.5 to leave patrol line.

Home Scapa departure C. in C. H.F. in DUKE OF YORK,
Fleet. F.O. 2 i/c in ANSON, C.S.1 in LONDON, C.T.G. 112.1 in RANGER, TUSCALOOSA, AUGUSTA, ONSLOW, HURON, ROCKET, ORKAN, IROQUOIS, MAHRATTA, U.S.S. BELL, U.S.S. ISHERWOOD, U.S.S. FOREST, U.S.S.

CORRY, U.S.S. HOBSON.
(A.C.O.S., 081625A.)

Note. This signal was received as a corrected version. There is no trace of the original version in War Registry.

MIDDLETON, Intend to sail MIDDLETON a.m./10th to Hvalfjord
IMPULSIVE. to relieve IMPULSIVE.
(R.A.(D) H.F., 081705A to C. in C. H.F.)

/U.S. HUMBOLT

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8.9.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

U.S. Intend to sail U.S. HUMBOLT at 1300/9th.
HUMBOLT. Route &c.
(N.O.I.C. Avonmouth, 081747A.)

C.T.F. 67. A.M. 072225 (see Shipping). Name of C.T.F. 67
in U.S.S. NEVADA is Rear-Admiral Blunt.
(D.O.D.(H), 081901A to F.O.I.C.N.I.)

U.S.S. Depart from Reykjavik at 091100Z for Pembroke
ROCKAWAY. Dock. Route &c.
(N.O.B. Iceland, 082032.)

Operations.

Biscay A/S Patrols.

U/B One S/M submerged bearing 305° distant 2 miles
attacked by course unknown. My position 44.57 N. 13.48 W.
HAVELOCK. "fixed" within half an hour of 2000 hours.
(HAVELOCK, 080017.)
My 080017A. S/M was sighted on surface and seen
to dive. Number of attacks carried out. Contact
has now been lost. Have sufficient fuel to continue search
till daylight my position 044° 57' N. 013° 48' W.
(HAVELOCK, 080151A.)
See also S.O. E.G.B.5 081032A, postea.)
My 080151* have been relieved at position of attack by E.G.
5. With good weather destroyers should be able to reach
Milford Haven to fuel. Further signal will be made. C.A.F.O.
1342 1943. A. VOLUNTEER. B. 2330A/7th. C. Radar following
sightings by C.O. and officers of watch on course 060° or 240°.
D. 044° (57'?) N. 013° 48' W. E. 1 Hedgehog and 8 depth
charges by group. F. 0730A/8th but was continued by Escort Group
5. For 1 hour 8 depth charge attacks were made on firm
contacts, after last attack contact was lost and not regained.
After one attack calcium flares set fire to some substance on
the surface of the water.
(S.O. E.G.B.5, 081032A.)
* Re S/M sighted on surface and seen to dive. Number of
attacks carried out. Contact has now been lost.

U/B Have A.S.V. contact position 46.48 N. 09.14 W.
reports. probably U/B.
(A/C N 18 Group, 080420A.)
My 072329. U-Boat reported position 046° 45' N.
009° 15' W. at 2330A/7th, course 315°, speed 10
knots.
My 080159 to E.G.2 only amend position of U-Boat to read 046° 45'
N. 009° 15' W.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 080454A to S.O. E.G.2, (R) Admty.,
H.Q.C.C., C. in C. W.A.)
Am over enemy S/M in 46.10 N. 09.23 W. S/M was sighted on
surface on course 310°, speed 10 knots.
(A/C M 18 Group, 080518.)

/E.G.5. ...

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8.9.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Biscay A/S Patrols - Contd.

E.G. 5. E.G.5 is to leave patrol line at last light today 8th Sept. and proceed through position (E) 049° 31' N. 012° 50' W. and thence Londonderry as routed by C. in C. W.A. (C. in C. Plymouth, 081047A.)
Intended P.C.S. at 0700/9th 047° 39', 012° 55', 002°, 12 knots.
(S.O. E.G.5, 082022A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

A/C Reports. A/C No. 5 type Junkers position 46° 20' N. 09° 44' W., course 120°, height 0 feet.
(A/C 224/F, 081142A.)

Spanish vessel. 1 medium vessel bearing 000° distant 0 miles course 090°. My position 42.53 N. 10.45 W. Based on estimate.
(A/C 461/7, 081720A.)
Enemy previously reported is type Cargo Liner 5000 tons Spanish marking name MAGALLANES ESPANA.
(A/C 461/7, 081805A.)

U.S.S. SANTEE. U.S. Escort Carrier SANTEE, with screen of 3 destroyers, will be carrying out A/S sweep in the area 40° N. to 45° N., 18° W. to 21° W. during the next few days. Aircraft with U.S. markings may therefore be sighted.
2. Information regarding times and dates of this operation will be signalled when known.
(D.O.D.(H), 081947A to H.Q.C.C., A.I.G.62, less certain addressees.)

Enemy Units at Spitzbergen.

Enemy reports. Emergency. 7 destroyers, 3 cruisers. ("Locomotive" 080145 to Iceland W/T.)
Following has been read. Addressed: Iceland from "Locomotive". Emergency. 7 D/R, 3 Cr. (Whitehall W/T, 080145 to C. in C. H.F.)
Russian D/F indicates unknown warship in 074° 15' N. 018° 50' E. at 0108A/8.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 080705A, 0900A.)
S.B.N.O. North Russia reports Russian D/F indicates unknown warship in 074° 15' N. 018° 50' E. at 0108A/8.
(D.S.O., 081729A to C. in C. H.F.)

Orders to TANTALUS. 7 destroyers, 3 cruisers which are possibly main unit (? reported) vicinity Ice Fiord Spitzbergen 0145/8th. Close with all despatch. Bombing restrictions arranged.
(F.O.(S), 080427A to P.318 (TANTALUS), (R) Admty., C. in C. H.F., H.Q.C.C.)

/My ...

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Enemy Units at Spitzbergen - Contd.

Orders to
TANTALUS.
(Contd.)

My 080427. It seems likely enemy units have been in Icefiord, Spitzbergen and it is possible they are still there now. It is probable it is enemy main units and not cruisers.
(2) My 071746. Take no action until further orders.
(F.O.(S), 081751A to P.318 (TANTLUS), (R) C. in C. H.F., Admty.)

No communi-
cations with
Spitzbergen.

Has anything been heard of Spitzbergen since enemy report timed 0145.
2. Endeavour to re-establish W/T contact without drawing undue attention to transmissions since enemy may not be aware that he was reported.

(D.S.D., 081037A to A.C.I.C., (R) C. in C. H.F.)
Nothing further has been heard, A.M. (081?)037*refers.
A.M. (08?)1108*, para. 1. Report received direct from M.J.L. on 1570 k/cs. Para. 2. Yes quite normal.

(A.C.I.C., 081214A to Admty., (R) C. in C. H.F.)
* Re whether anything has been heard of Spitzbergen since enemy report.

* Re requesting frequency and station on which enemy report from M.J.L. received.

Para. 2 of A.M. 081037*. M.J.L. was called at 1240A, 1400A and 1640A on 4740 k/cs and 8290 k/cs but no answer was received.

(A.C.I.C., 081920A to Admty., (R) C. in C. H.F.)

* Querying if anything heard of Spitzbergen.

Home Fleet
sails.

Proceed in BELFAST with IMPULSIVE to position 067° 50' N. 006° 15' W., S. of A. 19 knots.

(2) Report E.T.A.

(C. in C. H.F., 081125A to C.S.10, (R) A.I.G.47 - H.F. Operational.)

Intend proceeding in DUKE OF YORK with ANSON, U.S. A/C RANGER, LONDON, U.S.(C) TUSCALOOSA, U.S.(C) AUGUSTA and 11 destroyers leaving Scapa practice area at 1936A/8th.

(2) Route through position (a) 064° 30' N. 006° 10' W. (b) 067° 50' N. 006° 15' W. thence to the northward. S. of A. 17 knots.

E.T.A. position (b) 0330A/10th.

(3) C. in C. Rosyth is requested to provide A/S air escort during 8th and 9th September. Codeword "Cravat".

(C. in C. H.F., 081245A to A.C.I.C., F.O.(S), A.C.O.S., Admty., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Rosyth.)

Your 081125A.

E.T.A. 0300Z/10th, September.

(C.S.10, 081335Z to C. in C. H.F., (R) Home Fleet Operational.)

My 081125 and 081245.

From position (b) intend proceed on course 60°, S. of A. 17½ knots, weather permitting.

2. R/V with me in daylight/10th.

3. Battle Fleet may be delayed by bad weather.

(C. in C. H.F., 081432A to C.S.10, (R) H.F. Operational.)

/Your ...

8.9.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Enemy Units at Spitzbergen.

Home Fleet sails. (Contd.) Your 081245 and my 081335A* intend remaining 20 miles to westward of you until dawn. (C.S.10, 081635A to C. in C. H.F.)
* E.T.A.
Hvalfjord departure F.O. C.S.10 in BELFAST with IMPULSIVE. C. in C. H.F. 081125 refers. (A.C.I.C., 081656A to Home Fleet Operational.)

Information to Fleet. My 081245.*
(1) Spitzbergen W/T station reported 7 destroyers, 3 cruisers in Icefiord early this morning. Nothing further heard from Spitzbergen W/T.
(2) P.318 (TANTALUS) might contact German forces late today Wednesday.
(3) Enemy may not be aware he has been reported. Vessels reports as cruisers may be main units. (C. in C. H.F., 081320A to H.F. Operational.)
* Re route for C. in C. H.F. in DUKE OF YORK.

Air R/C. F.O.(S) 080427.
Dispositions and movements of enemy units obtained visually from Spitfire sorties should be signalled without waiting for photograph interpretation.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 081334A to S.B.N.O. North Russia,
(R) C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Rosyth, H.Q.C.C.)
RO/G/2/8 Sept. Confirming telephone instructions.
(1) One Catalina of 190 Sqdn. is to carry out a search of Icefiord and its vicinity for enemy naval units or other activity. A/C to be on patrol at first light 9th Sept.
(2) A/C is to continue search or if enemy units are sighted report and continue to shadow until P.I.E. returning to Graznaya to refuel.
(3) If enemy units not sighted in vicinity of Icefiord A/C is to search back along track to Altenfiord.
(4) "Locomotive" procedure is to be applied where necessary.
(5) A/C to remain Graznaya until further orders received through S.B.N.O.
(18 Group, 081342A to Sullom, (R) H.Q.C.C., C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S., A.L.O. O.I.C. Admty.)
My 081245. Request maximum air R/C may be carried out of
(a) Icefiord and Barentsburg (?) Point Spitzbergen to establish what is happening.
(b) Altenfiord to establish what is there.
(c) If main units are not located by (a) or (b) search of tracks between Altenfiord and Icefiord. Request priority for this task over trade protection.
(C. in C. H.F., 081400A to Admty., (R) H.Q.C.C., A.O.C. 18th Group C.C., C. in C. Rosyth, A.C.I.C.)

/Warning ...

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Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Enemy Units at Spitzbergen.Air R/C
(Contd.)

Warning: Catalina V/190 call sign DX7 will R/C "Locomotive" first light 9th Sept. landing Graznaya on completion. E.T.A. between 1400A and 1800A/9th Sept. Asking for facilities. (18 Group, 081750 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

A.C. 240, 8th September.

Special Fleet R/C must now take precedence over trade protection in 18 Group only.
(H.Q.C.C., 081810A.)

General.S/M
Patrols.

Para. (A) of my 071711 cancel and substitute TANTALUS (P.318) in approx. 75° 40' N. 10° 40' E. closing Icefiord Spitzbergen probably on the surface at 12 knots.
(F.O.(S), 081021A.)

F.O.(S) 041249.* Request you will sail P.232 (STONEHENGE) from Lerwick at 2100A/10th through 090° Muckle Flugga 5 miles thence direct to patrol line BB.

(Capt. (S) 9, 081025A to S.O. Subs. Lerwick, (R) F.O.(S), A.C.O.S., C. in C. Rosyth, C. in C. H.F., S.3.)

* Re submarine positions.

Positions of submarines at 0800A/9th and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) TANTALUS as before.

(B) ULA (P.66) in approx. 68° 48' N. 11° 58' E. proceeding dived by day to Lerwick through positions 68° 01' N. 10° 20' E.

(C) O.15 in 63° 29' N. 02° 30' W. proceeding dived by day to patrol vicinity 64° 40' N. 03° 25' W.

(I) STONEHENGE (P.232) escorted by WHITE BEAR leaves Scapa 0700/10th for Lerwick. Speed 11 knots.

(F.O.(S), 081706.)

Your 071746. Route for P.318 (TANTALUS) crosses both the Orkneys - Linnhe routes and the North Scotland convoy routes consider it inadvisable P.318 (TANTALUS) should proceed unescorted south of 062° 30' in vicinity of Faroes and South of 060° 30' N. in vicinity of Shetlands. Escort to combined manoeuvres from vicinity of Faroes or Shetlands can be made available from this command.

(A.C.O.S., 081848A to F.O.(S).)

Coastal
batteries.

During the forenoon 7th Sept. enemy batteries from Gris Nez fired about five 2-3 gun salvos at the 18th M.S.F. when in 50° 46' N. 01° 09' E. Smoke was used to cover retirement. Shooting was accurate. One shell of the 4th salvo very near

missed QUALICUM, who was assisting in laying smoke. One rating killed. C.O., 1st Lieut. and 2 ratings wounded. Only superficial damage. Several shells were also fired from the Wimereux area when in 50° 39' N. 01° 19.5' E. Shooting was inaccurate. No damage or casualties.

(V.A. Dover, 081049.)

/Operation ...

War Diary.

8.9.1943.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Operation "Starkey". C. in C. Nore. 061655.
1. Four destroyers will be required to escort C.E.205 sailing from Portsmouth a.m. on day of Operation "Starkey" subject to operational requirements you will be ordered by me each to detail two destroyers for this purpose.
2. LA COMBATTANTE, GLAISDALE, MEYNELL and GARTH should be detailed if convenient. Acknowledge.
(Com. Force J, 081149 to Capt. J.3, Capt. J.2.)
Arrangements in your 072357A para. 3 have been made.
(V.A. Dover, 081213A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
Your 072358. Arrived and anchored off Newhaven.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 082229 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
(1) M/S will be carried (? out) as follows.
(2) M/S 18 will sweep passage from D buoy passing position AA 0630, BB 0705, AA 0750, C.1 buoy 0920 thence Dungeness.
(3) The 3 M/S will pass to eastward of AA on outward route turning to starboard at BB passing close to westward of AA on return thence to C.1 buoy.
(4) Width swept by 3 ships is 7½ cables.
(5) Groups 1 and 2 are to adjust speed to arrive position AA and BB respectively at 0900.
(6) Ships and craft other than smoke layers are to keep in the swept water as much as possible.
(7) S.O. Groups 1 and 2 acknowledge.
(Cdre. Force J, 082240 to S.O. Group 1, S.O. Group 2, (R) C. in C. Portsmouth, F.O.C. Dover, A.O.C. 11 Group, S.O. Group 6, S.O. Group 8.)

Coastal force engagement. At 0025/8th in position one mile off Fecamp, M.T.Bs. 211, 249, 255 under the command of Lieut. D. Rigg, R.N.V.R. encountered 3 L.C.T. and 2 Flak trawlers proceeding eastwards. An unseen attack was carried out from landward, one L.C.T. was seen to blow up and disappear. Another explosion was felt and a second L.C.T. was seen to be stopped. One Flak trawler was hit and sunk. Area was covered after attack and only 2 vessels sighted. Slight injury to 1 officers, 1 rating of M.T.B.255 from wood splinters and superficial damage to her bridge superstructure. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 081220A.)

Coastal patrols. Patrols 8th September.
1. Force. M.G.Bs. 664, 676, 679 are to patrol in vicinity of 167° Start 18 miles.
3. Force D. M.G.Bs. 80, 111 are to patrol in vicinity of 112° Start 22 miles.
5. Force C and D are to leave Dartmouth to be on patrol by 2045A leave patrol for Dartmouth 0530A.
6. Force E. M.T.Bs. 94 (S.O.), 96, 98, 90 are to leave Dartmouth at 1930 and proceed at 25 knots to position (FF) 270° Les Hanois Lt. 15 thence to carry out sweep for enemy shipping at reduced speed through position (GG) 180° Les Hanois 10 miles to position (HH) 49° 18' N. 02° 20' W. and return by same route. Force E to be within 30 miles of own coast by first light.

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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Coastal
patrols.
(Contd.)

8. The following restrictions are in force no coastal forces are to pass west of a line Bolt Hd. to La Heaux Light unless ordered. Forces C and D are not to pass south of a line 075° and 255° from position 180° Start 22 miles unless ordered. Area within 2½ miles radius of 49° 07' N. 2° 35' W. is dangerous.

Attention is drawn to Q.Z.X.1095.

2, 4, 7. Communications.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 081515A, 081702A, 081758A, 081845 to M.G.Bs. 664, 676, 679, 80, 111, M.T.Bs. 94, 96, 98, 90, (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, (R) F.O.I.C. Falmouth, F.O.I.C. Portland, C. in C. Portsmouth, Admty., 10 Group, R.A.F. Exeter, PHOEBE, GRENVILLE, ULSTER.)

"Spout". M.T.Bs. 94, 96, 98. Plymouth's 081515A.*

M.T.B.90 did not sail.

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 081939A.)

* Patrols 8th September.

"Scent I" and "Scent II" left at 1939 and 2003

respectively. Your 081515,* refers.

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 082044 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

* re patrols 8th September.

Operation
"Tunnel".

Carry out Operation "Tunnel" today 8th Sept. in west to east direction proceed from BB to AA. (C. in C. Plymouth, 081706A to PHOEBE, ULSTER, GRENVILLE, (R) N.O.I.C. Falmouth, N.O.I.C. Portland, Admty., N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, C. in C. Portsmouth, Group 10, Group 19 R.A.F. Exeter.)

Exercises.

C.P.

Exercise C.P is postponed until further notice. Cancel my 071608 and 071615. (C. in C. H.F., 081200.)

Allied Air Activity.Iceland
Air patrols.

A.Q.98, 8th Sept. My A.C.93, 8th Sept. programme. (2) Both sorties postponed weather. (6) First sortie postponed weather in area. (1) Third sortie cancelled weather on coast. (R.A.F. Iceland, 080933A.)

A.E.100, 8th Sept. My A.C. 93/8.

(2) V/120 E.T.D. 1230 on patrol 1430 off 2000, E.T.A. 2210. (R.A.F. Iceland, 081103A.)

A.C.101, 8th Sept. My A.C.3 93/8.

(2) Second sortie N/120 cancelled.

(3) S/190 and 5 I/128 postponed pending weather report from V/120.

(R.A.F. Iceland, 081138A.)

A.C.103, 8th Sept. My A.C. 93/8.

3(5) I/128 0128 - sortie cancelled. C/269 amend times E.T.D. 1610 on 1800 off 2000 E.T.A. 2155.

(3) S/190 and (4) V/330 cancelled. (5) second sortie cancelled. (R.A.F. Iceland, 081331A.)

/?Operation ...

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Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity - Contd.

? Operation A.O.791 8th Sept. A.O.661 7th Sept. (T.O.O.
"Starkey". 070945 "Ashtray".
(H.Q.F.C., 080955A.)
A.O.792 8th Sept. My A.O.791 8th Sept.
"Spectacle".
(H.Q.F.C., 081455A.)

Special Enemy activity may develop in Northern Waters.
Fleet R/C. Special Fleet R/C must now take precedence over
trade protection.
(D.O.D.(H), 081347A to A.O.C. in C. C.C., (R)
C. in C. H.F., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Rosyth,
C. in C. Plymouth, A.C.I.C., V.A.2, R.A.D.,
C.A.1.)

Following received from 18 Group. (Begins).
(As 081750 see Operations.)
(C. in C. Rosyth, 081500A to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Enemy Enemy shipping plotted by Radar in Dover Strait
minesweeper from 0900/7 to 0900/8.
sunk. Track E. 31 D. 3 small from Boulogne at 2135,
southbound at 5 knots. Faded 8 miles West of
Etaples at 2340. E.29 D and E.31 D identified
as 12 minesweepers by 3 Albacores of 841
Squadron, who attacked and claim one vessel sunk.
Track E.34 D. 2 trawlers and 2 very small from 2 miles north
of Cap Gris Nez at 0140, eastbound at 13 knots. Faded 6 miles
north-east of Calais 0220. Attacked by Albacore aircraft of
841 Squadron. One vessel claimed as damaged.
(V.A. Dover, 080945A.)

Mining.

S.N. 222C. R.A.(M) 071612.
Request 4 destroyers capable of manoeuvring on
Fleet Wave Low Power be detailed as follows:-
2 by C. in C. H.F. 2 by C. in C. W.A.
(D.O.D.(H), 081616A.)

Enemy Intelligence.

German U/B A.M. 081350A. B.2 report states German U-Boat
at Vigo. has serious damage to engines due to depth charges.
Damage is now being examined but repairs will
probably take some time. U-Boat is now alongside
Spanish Cruiser NAVARRA.
(D.D.I.C., 082214A to C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C.
Gibraltar, H.Q.C.C.)

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8.9.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HDME COMMANDS.

U-Boats.

U/B reports. By D/F on 4412 k/cs at 2210Z/7. U-Boat estimated within 75 miles of 47° 00' N. 17° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C., 080001A to BERMUDA, E.G.5, B.5, (R) C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.)

By D/F on 4412 k/cs at 2107Z/7. U-Boat estimated within 45 miles of 61° 20' N. 3° 20' E.
(D.D.I.C., 080031A to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Rosyth, A.C.O.S., A.C.I.C., H.Q.C.C.)

Have A.S.V. contact position 47.10 N. 08.44 W., probably U-Boat.
(A/C 612/N 080346.)

Casualties and Defects.

BERMUDA. Your 061038.*
Seven bricklayers from Scapa will arrive Plymouth by 10th Sept. and a further five from other sources as soon as possible afterwards. Hope with these and other assistance from H.F. ships at Devonport that work in BERMUDA can be fully manned up and by working day and night shifts the time required reduced to about seven days. No Home Fleet cruiser can be provided as relief for BERMUDA during this time.
(C. in C. H.F., 080817 to C. in C. Plymouth.)
* Re whether refit of BERMUDA is to take place and where.

B.Y.M.S.190. Damage sustained in Caledonian Canal.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 081831A.)

CLYDE. B.A.M.R's 062028 Sept. and Admty. 150916 August. Propose CLYDE be sailed to U.K. for repairs &c.
(F.O.(S), 082242B to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys.

H.X.254. (1) 83 ships 054° 50' N. 018° 37' W. (x) 072°
SAN ADOLPHO 9 knots.
damaged. (2) H/F D/F bearings enemy naval "Enigma" at 0110Z 152° 3 second class and at 0646Z strength 2 third class.
(3) H.M.S. ATHENE request destination.
(4) Request ownership SS. SAN ADOLPHO be informed ship (3 corrupt groups) in collision.
(5) (? Cdre.) request confirmation Bristol Channel ships no longer call Belfast.
(6) Weather 3772 9747.
(C.4, 081159Z to C. in C. W.A.)

/Convoy ...

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8.9.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Convoy of 19 M.T. ships. A.M. 061626A, intend sailing 19 M.T. ships and one ship for Plymouth from Needles at 0630/10th in special convoy, 2 ships for Clyde, 2 for Liverpool and remainder for Bristol Channel ports.
(2) Routed standard convoy route speed 8 knots.
(3) Escort LIMBOURNE (S.O.), TANATSIDE, GOATHLAND, TALYBONT, and WENSLEYDALE to Lands End or as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth.
(7) Air escort will be arranged during daylight 10th.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 081624A.)

Merchant ships in Solent area after Operation "Starkey". Your 061626A. Intend to disperse merchant shipping as follows. 30 coasters to east in C.E.205 on 9th Sept., 19 M.T. ships to west in special convoy on 10th Sept., 18 coasters to east in C.E.206 on 11th Sept., 20 coasters to west in P.W. convoy on 11th Sept., 20 coasters to west in P.W. convoy on 12th Sept.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 081626A to Admty.)

P.S. 9, S.P. 9. P.S.9 and S.P. 9 cancelled.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 081701A.)

K.M.F. 24. My 061959. Route. (D.O.D.(H), 082009A.)
My 061959. K.M.F.24. SS. EMPIRE GRACE and SS. POTARO from Mersey for South America are to be included in convoy and will be detached in about 39° N. to proceed independently to destinations. Routes will be signalled by Admiralty.
(D.O.D.(H), 082020A.)

8.9.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

NORD
ATLANTIC. Your 061228. Corunna's 051220 is badly worded. Minister of Marine's intentions are still as stated in my 112019 and amplified in my 122057 August.
Spanish D.N.I. just given me guarantee NORD ATLANTIC will not be allowed to sail again except to Ferrol. He states Spanish Navy intend to remove all oil to storage in Ferrol and then attempt to tow tanker which is afloat to Ferrol. He undertakes to advise me in advance of time of attempt etc. and give me details of navigating party. At Ferrol tanker will be examined to estimate repairs necessary. It will be decided then whether or not approach is made to H.M.G. to agree to change of flag if tanker is purchased from Germans. In any case tanker will not be repaired for Germans or they allowed to complete repairs themselves or tanker allowed to leave as she is even if she could which appears out of question but needs confirming.
Ministry of Marine has been given clearly to understand that if movement of tanker even to Ferrol takes place without advice she may be attacked no matter where she is. I did this through an A.N.A. so I can repudiate it if it is ever quoted. (N.A. Madrid, 080928B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.C. (S), H.Q.C.C., Air Ministry, N.O.I.C. Gibraltar etc.)

Barcelona,
Potash
Ships. Ref. A.M. 042358 and N.A. Madrid's 071714 (070714 intended approving proposal). If ships are to be sailed to Barcelona from Gibraltar proposal is considered impracticable owing to shortage of suitable escort and proximity of enemy air bases under present conditions. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 081009B to C. in C. Med. (R) N.A. Madrid, Admty.)

Damaged
U/B
at Vigo. German submarine arrived Vigo Harbour on the surface 1015 today with damage in tow of Spanish Fishing boat. (B. Consul Vigo, 081030 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar, (R) Admty. N.A. Madrid.)
(U.760)
My 081030. German S/M is berthed alongside Spanish Cruiser NAVARRA. Appears about 700 tons no visible damage. Has central C/T appears about 230 feet waterline. No Armament except 3 small A/A on C/T unharmed (sic). (B. Consul Vigo, 081207 S.O.(I) Gibraltar. (R) Admty. (D.N.I.) N.A. Madrid.)

My 081030. Spanish Ministry of Marine confirms German submarine has entered Vigo in tow of 2 Spanish fishing boats. Damage unknown yet. She is alongside Spanish Cruiser NAVARRA and can be seen from shore. C. in C. Ferrol ordered to send experts on board at once to estimate time required to effect repairs only to navigate on surface. I have given very definite warning that no monkey business will be tolerated. (N.A. Madrid, 081510B Admty. (D.N.I.), (R) C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- U/B's
Using
Spanish
Cove. Submarines reported frequenting small cove near Malpica named Razo latitude 043 degs. 14' 32" N. (See S.O(I) Gib. 090428B) longitude 008 degs. 43' 27" W. on August 31st small submarine painted grey was there one hour. On August 30th Germans in motor car were seen in neighbourhood.
(Coruna, 081225 to Admty. (R) Gibraltar and B.N.A. Madrid)
- ANTELOPE,
BRILLIANT,
S.L.136. Depart Casablanca 081400A to comply with F.O.C. Gibraltar's 071054B para. 3.
(Comorseafon, 081317B to ANTELOPE, BRILLIANT etc.)
- P.614. Request your 062140Z may be amended as follows:
"Submarine P.614 dives during daylight hours at 2 knots after passing latitude 350 degs. 01 longitude 18 degs. 46 at 110515Z with submerged bombing restrictions and average speed of 88 miles per 24 hours. Area limits 20 miles either side and 50 miles ahead and astern of estimated position. Submarine P.614 is routed through 43 degs. 01 N. 16 degs. 30 W. at 162300Z thence as ordered by F.O.S". (2) Regret confusion occurred due to M.J.A.O. Z4 which orders surface speed only to be signalled.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 081457Z to Cominch, (R) F.O.S., C.M.S.F.)
Request onward routeing. My position is 026 degs. 34' N. 020 degs. 53' W. course 011 degs. in accordance with F.O.C. W.Africa's 071209 (Probably 071211) S. of A. 8 knots.
(P.614, 082003Z to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty.
C. in C. Mediterranean, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.S.)
- G.U.S.14. G.U.S.14 sailed as in my 041104.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 081508 to C.M.S.F.F. (R)
C. in C. Med. Admty.)
- MARIE LOUISE
MACKAY. MARIE LOUISE MACKAY reports cable operations (B) completed, my 221215 August refers.
(2) MARIE LOUISE MACKAY proceed 1710B September 8th to 037 degs. 32' N. 002 degs. 20' E. for next cut in.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 081757B to C. in C. Med.
(R) Admty. N.O.B. Oran.)
- SCARBOROUGH. My P.C. and S. at 2000B/8th. 034 degs. 20' N. 010 degs. 53' W. (X) 128 degs. 12 knots.
Estimate fuel remaining 0800B/9th. 40%.
SCARBOROUGH, 081844B to F.O.C. Gib. (R)
ROCHESTER.)

8.9.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Movements.

Departures: U.S.S. BALDWIN, HARDING,
MCCORMICK, HOPPING to G.U.S.14.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 082132B to Admty. Cominch,
C.M.S.F.)

Gibraltar

A.H.Q.

Report.

A.I.402. Opsum 7/Sept.

1 Hudson for survivors of torpedoed D/R sighted
rafts and directed Drs. to rescue at 0915

36.08 N. 04.50 W. 7 hrs. U/B 1044

36.15 N. 04.30 W. 045 (049? - 10-G. 48 transit

U/B Tafaraoui, not attacked, sea marker

dropped, 3 Cdrs 10 miles distant directed to position,
dropped approx. 8 D/Cs.

(A.H.Q. Gibraltar, 082303)

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War Diary.8.9.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- ARGO. Sailed 1800Z/7th ARGO.
My 031822 refers.
(Comar Dakar, 080858Z to F.O.C. West Africa, Cominch, Admty., F.O.S. C. in C. Med. C. in C. Lant, B.A.D., S.B.N.O. W.At.)
- NIEW
AMSTERDAM. In view of possibility U/Boat concentration to South of Madagascar propose route for NIEUW AMSTERDAM in your 040613 be amended. Intend to route ship from Durban direct to 039° S. 035° E. thence as ordered by you.
(C. in C.S.A. 081055B to C. in C.E.F. (R) Cdr. S.W. Pacific Sea Frontier, N.O.I.C. Western Australia, N.O.I.C. Durban.)
- DESPATCH. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar's 051230. Destination Portsmouth but no objection to diversion to Plymouth en route.
(Head of M.(II) 081147A to F.O.C.W.A. (R) F.O. Gib. etc.)
- MARIPOSA. (U.S.) Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet C. & R. 061522 (not to C. in C.E.F.) MARIPOSA onward route from Rio de Janeiro to Bombay:
A. 028° S. 036° W. B. 037° S. 020° W.
C. 041° S. 009° W. D. 044° S. 003° E. E. 045° S. 010° E.
F. 045° S. 024° E. G. 045° S. 04° E. H. 035° S. 057° E.
J. 020° S. 068° E. K. 014° N. 068° E. thence direct to Bombay.
(C. in C.S.A. 081314B to U.S. N.O.B. Rio de Janeiro, (R) Admty., C. in C.E.F., (U.S.) C. in C. U.S. Pacific Fleet, (.U.S.) Cdr. 10th Fleet C. & R.)
- ORDUNA. Your 041608Z. ORDUNA is proceeding from South Africa to U.K. Via East Coast of Africa and through Mediterranean.
(D.S.T., 081420A, to F.O.C.W.Af, (R) C. in C.S.A.)
- C.M.45. Para. 1. Your 070640. Bombay section C.M.45 will also include NEA HELLAS ex. W.S.32 delayed for repairs at Durban. S.T.O. Capetown 031255 refers.
(C. in C.S.A., 081434B to C. in C.E.F.(R)
RAMILLIES, FROBISHER, R.A.E.F. Cde. (D) F.O.C. Red Sea, Cde. R.I.N. Cde. Aden, Cde. I.C. Durban.)
- Loss of
MANAAR
(April,
1943.) Your 072009. Escort commitments at this time were very heavy. There were six convoys under surface and air escort spread over 1000 miles of sea and in addition two special ships under escort. Out of six corvettes and 21 trawlers comprising the South Atlantic Escort Force four corvettes and six trawlers were refitting or boiler cleaning.

/Of...

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Loss of
MANAAR.
(April
1943)

Of the remainder only three trawlers were in
harbour.

2. These commitments precluded the meeting by
surface or air escorts of individual inward bound
ships or the patrolling of approach lanes.

3. To economise in escorts D.N.34 which consisted
of nine ships for Persian Gulf, Aden, Kilindini
or Lourenco Marques was sailed by a coastal route on 17 April
The escorts from D.N.33 had returned to Durban by 17.
Consequently there were no escort forces at sea on No. 1 approach
route at the time of sinking of MANAAR and none were available.
Aircraft could only have been used to patrol the approach route
at the expense of direct escort to convoys.
(C. in C.S.A., 081511B to Admty.)

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Cessation of Hostilities against Italy.Orders to
S/Ms.

Until further orders enemy cruisers and destroyers are not to be attacked.
(C. in C.Med. 080956 to SIMOOM, SPORTSMAN, Capt. S. 10, (R) Capt. S.8, D.S. DOLFIJN.)
C. in C.Med. 080956 does not concern UNIVERSAL.
D.S.DOLFIJN should have been included in the address (Capt. S.8 081700B to 8th S/M F. (R) C. in C.Med.)

Instructions
to S/Ms.

Cease hostilities against Italy. Submarines identified as German are to be sunk. Maintain all normal precautions for your own safety. O.R.P. SOKOL return to Malta by reverse of outward route E.T.A. 0800/11th P.49 (UNRULY) conform with my 080955, 24 hours early. P.45 (UNRIVALLED) is to return, by same route 24 hours after P.49 (UNRULY). P.54 (UNSHAKEN) conform with my 071115.
2. M.J.A.O. 24. Request total bombing restriction 15 miles either side of line running due east from Delimara light to 016° 35' E thence 026° to 038° 30' N. forthwith until further signal. (Capt. S.10, 081932B to 10th S.F. C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant, V.A.Malta, Capt. S.1, Capt. S.8, Capt. S.10, (R) A.H.Q.Malta, Admty. R.A.Alexandria.)

Instructions
to Italian
Ships.

Italians have surrendered unconditionally and ordered all their forces to cease hostilities wherever they may be.
2. All Italian Naval or Merchant Ships are being instructed by broadcast:-
A. to approach United Nations ports in full daylight and at speed not exceeding 12 knots, stopping as soon as challenged and awaiting instructions;
B. to identify themselves by day by flying a large black or large blue pendant from the main mast or only mast; marking their decks with large circular black disc;
by night by burning dimmed navigation lights and flashing letters G.A. toward vessels sighted.
C. If it is necessary to make a signal by W/T ships are to use 500 k/cs. United Nations stations addressed will then order them to shift frequency should this be considered desirable.
3. Within the Mediterranean action towards Italian forces is to be governed by the orders of C. in C.Mediterranean.
4. Outside the Mediterranean, attacks are to be continued against U-Boats or other Italian units unless they show unmistakable signs of surrender as in paragraph 2 or otherwise.
(Head of M.(I) 082010A to A.G.M. Home & Abroad 565A.)

Orders
following
Italian
Armistice.

An armistice with Italy has been declared. Operations now in progression are to proceed as ordered but Italian Armed Forces including aircraft should be treated as friendly unless they take hostile action or threaten hostile action.
2. Plans for covering fire on beaches are to proceed as ordered but coast defence batteries should not be engaged unless they open fire.
3. My 061639 (hush N.T. in W.D.) refers.
4. S.Os. pass to non-holders of Naval Cypher at first opportunity.
(C. in C.Med. 082048B to Med. Stn. and Levant Stn. 138B.)

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General.

- DZIK,
ULTOR. Cancel my 061727 and my 070950.
(Capt. S.10, 080031 to C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant,
V.A.Malta, Capt. S.8, (R) 10 S.F. Air Hq. Malta,
Capt. S.1.)
- Landing Form of report to be rendered immediately and on
Craft. the first of each month.
(Agwar (C.C.S.) 0114Z/8 to Eisenhower.)
- A.B.10. 1. A.B.10, sailing telegram. 2. 0400Z/8th Sept.
3. E.T.A. Sunk Rock 0600Z/14th Sept. 4. 11 knots.
4. U.12° 30' 46° 40' V. 14° 55' 53° 01'
W. 18° 20' 70° 05'. 6. NARBADA, ALAUNIA.
13. A. Master WINCHESTER CASTLE. B. Master ASCANIA. 15. (?0) R.D.
3.
(N.C.S.O. Aden 080421Z to C. in C.Eastern Fleet, C. in C.Levant,
F.O.R.S.C.A. F.O.C.R.I.N. F.O.Ceylon.)
A.B. 10 T.B. 13½ ASCANIA, 16 EMPIRE PRIDE, 17 WINCHESTER
CASTLE, 13½ DILWARA, 12 DUNERA, 16½ CIRCASSIA 12 Bombay.
(N.C.S.O. Aden 080424Z to Admty. C. in C.E.F. C. in C.
Levant, F.O.R.S.C.A. F.O.C.R.I.N. F.O.Ceylon.)
- G.U.F.10. G.U.F.10. Intend to sail G.U.F.10 at 091600B
with following ships from Oran (15 ships, names)
E.T.A. position 37 at 101030B Sept.
(Commob Oran 080601B, 082307B.)
- A.P.?44. 1. A.P.(?44) sailing telegram. 2. 0700Z/8th Sept.
3. Long. 057° 30' 2000Z/11th Sept. lat. (group
missed) 0500Z/13th Sept. ?Ascendian 2300Z/14th
Sept. 4. 9 knots. 5. G.A.N. (O) 022° 15' 060° 41'
P.G.W. 6. KUMAON to Hormuz. 7A. Master BRITISH
DILIGENCE. B. Master BRITISH ARCHITECT.
(N.C.S.O. Aden 080712Z to Admty. C. in C.E.F. C. in
C.Levant, F.O.R.C.S. (R) F.O.C.R.I.N. F.O.Ceylon,
S.N.O.P.G. N.O.I.C. Hormuz.)
- M.E.Air A.666 Sept. 8th 0718Z. Daily opsum 133.
Report. 7th Sept. 3 Baltimores (A.30) anti shipping R/C
Aegean. 1 caique 80 tons damaged by bombs and
machine gun-fire off Naxos Island. Crew abandoned
ship before attack. Following delayed details
6th Sept. 6 Beauforts, 1 Bisley attacked suspected submarine
off Derna with 2 depth charges. Results unobserved. Further
searches made no sighting.
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 080743Z.)
- Fuelling Sailing at 1400/8th Termini S.O.A. 8 knots by N.W.
Vessels. Channel 036° 55' 011° 50' 037° 20' 011° 35' 037°
42' 011° 35' 038° 03' 011° 55' 038° 15' 012° 30'
(?038°) 20' 013° 30' 038° 05' 013° 44' (?E.T.A.)

War Diary.8.9.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean

Fuelling . 0600/10th codeword "Simmer". Wireless call sign
Vessels. 224 fighter priority low. Keep constant R/T
(Contd.) watch on 2150 k/cs.

2. VIDONIA delayed by defects.
(N.O.I.C. Malta 080756 to OUIPOST, VINDELECIA,
(R) Comnavaw, C. in C.Med. etc.)

My 080756 sailed 2 hours late.

(V.A.Malta 081622 to C. in C.Med. etc.)

SHARPSHOOTER, Sail at 1000/8th by Q.B.B. 146 thence to 037° 55'
HEBE, 016° 30' at 0001/9th S.O.A. 11 knots, codeword
HAZARD. "Swing", 942 normal.
(N.O.I.C. Malta 080809B to SHARPSHOOTER, HEBE,
HAZARD, B.Y.M.S. 12, (R) N.L.O. 8th Army, Tripoli,
C. in C.Med. N.L.O. 211 Group, HOWE, N.L.O. M.A.C.
Capt. D.14th D.F. etc.)

My 080809*. From position 037° 55' 016° 30' proceed at best
speed to pass 10 miles off Cape Colonne and Point Alice thence
position 206 Cape San Vito 12. Support will be close at hand.

2. SHARPSHOOTER pass to B.Y.M.S. 12.

(V.A.Malta 081216B to SHARPSHOOTER, HEBE, HAZARD, B.Y.M.S.
12, (R) C. in C.Med. HOWE, C.S.12, Capt. D.14, N.L.O.8th
Army Tripoli. etc.) * re sailing orders of "Swing."

UNRULY. Leave patrol to pass position in my 071115 48 hours
later.
(Capt. S.10th 080955B to P.49 (UNRULY) (R) 10th S/M
F. C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant, V.A.Malta, Capt.
S.1, Capt. S.8, Capt. S.10, Admty. Air H.Q.Malta,
R.A.Alexandria.) see also 081932.

TROOPER. 1. My 031016 last para. One Baltimore will meet
you at dawn 10th and 2 more shortly afterwards.
2. By arrangement with them you are to ignite a
flare and dive for exhibition to pilots and crew.
3. Spare C.O. will meet you outside harbour for noise trial if
conditions are suitable.
(Capt. S.1, 081026C to TROOPER, (R) Cdr. Levant Area.)

V.A.Power. The Flag of Vice Admiral A.J.Power C.B., C.V.O.
is to be hoisted in HOWE at sunset conjointly and
struck in ST. ANGELO at the same time.
(V.A.Malta 081101B to HOWE, ST. ANGELO, (R)
C. in C.Med. F. Force Z.)

Enemy M/Vs. Position of one merchant vessel of 3,000 tons
and 1 merchant vessel of 2,000 tons *5 A 1
* R A S.
(A/C C/S VBJ/X via Malta 081115Z to No. 201 Group).
* as received.

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Black Sea. 1. A landing was carried out by naval ratings from vessels of Azov Flotilla in vicinity of Budenovka (East Bgupol.) Budenovka possibly occupied by Red Army) on night August 30th. ?Party destroyed 3 tanks 200? loaded lorries ?5 ammunition and supply dumps. 10 Germans were taken prisoner and estimated that 200 enemy troops were killed and wounded. Russians lost 1 killed and ?8 wounded. During raid ratings from vessels seized 2 small enemy minesweepers with their crews and sunk an R-Boat with its German crew of 10.

2. Enemy shipping: Air attacks.
A. Russian torpedo A/C sunk 6000 tons merchant vessel and a 500 ton armed auxiliary vessel in an attack on latter off Sevastopol on August 28th.
B. Sea of Azov. During period August 26th to Sept. 1st following enemy vessels were sunk or damaged:
Sunk 8 R-Boats, 8 landing craft, 2 barges and tugs.
Damaged 15 R-Boats, 12 landing craft, 5 barges, one paddle steamer and small sailing ship.

3. Novorossisk area: activity confined to exchange of artillery fire and frequent air attacks on enemy positions. Russians daily expecting enemy to withdraw from Taman Peninsular in view of Red army advance along North West coast of Sea Azov. (N.L.O. Black Sea 081135C to Admty. etc.)

OAKLEY,
BLENCATHRA,
WHEATLAND,
WILTON.

OAKLEY and BLENCATHRA will be required to replace WHEATLAND and WILTON who have been detailed for other service.
2. N.O.I.C. Bizerta is requested to sail them as escorts for T.S. 3.1.
(C. in C.Med. 081139B to C.T.G. 80.5, (R) N.O.I.C. Bizerta, C.T.F. 81, Cdr. U.S. Naval Forces N.W. African Waters, OAKLEY, BLENCATHRA, WHADDON.)

N.S.S.1
("avalanche
convoy")
LAMERTON.

N.S.S.1 will sail from Bizerta at 1200/9th Sept. Request you will sail LAMERTON to join at sea. (C. in C.Med. 081151 to V.A. Malta, (R) N.C.S.O. Tunisia, etc.)

"Avalanche"
movements.

Following is a repetition of my 072310 (N.T. in W.D. Arrived JAUNTY, BERGAMOT, SCYLLA, CHARYBDIS, HUNTER, HOLCOMBE, ATHELSTONE, KRAKOWIAK, ATTACKER, SLAZAK, CLEVELAND, UNICORN, CALPE, LIDDESDALE, CATTERICK, M.L. 566.

Sailed F.O.H. in NELSON, RODNEY, WARSPITE, VALIANT, ILLUSTRIOUS, FORMIDABLE, RAIDER, TUMULT, QUILLIAM, QUEENBORO', QUAIL, PETARD, FAULKNER, FURY, TROUBRIDGE, PIORUN, ECHO, ECLIPSE, INGLEFIELD, INTREPID, ILEX, QUEEN OLGA, TYRIAN, OFFA, ABDIEL, WHADDON, EGGESFORD, WILTON, VETCH, PENTSTEMON, CONVULVULUS.
2. G.B. 647, 643, M.L. 566, L.C.T. 267 (313). Arrived and sailed POPPY.
(V.A. Malta 081211 to Admty. C. in C.Med. C. in C. Levant.)

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

"Rockfield" "Rockfield" being attacked by one enemy A/C in
 attacked position 40.08 N. 13.57 E.
 by A/C. (Escorts of Convoy "Rockfield" 081400B to Malta W/T)
 "Rockfield" being attacked by 4 enemy A/C position
 40.05 N. 13.59 E. course 032° speed 4 knots.
 (Escorts of "Rockfield" No T.O.O/8 to Bizerta W/T.)
 "Rockfield" being attacked by 1 enemy A/C in position 40.19 N.
 13.56 E.
 (Escorts of "Rockfield" 081700 to Malta W/T.)
 Convoy code name "Rockfield" II whose P.C. and S. are 40.23 N.
 14.15 E. 062° 7 knots is attacked by many enemy aircraft.
 (HJQ/2, 052138 to GQR/1.)

BLANKNEY Am being attacked by enemy A/C.
 attacked (BLANKNEY 081435 to Malta Whitehall.)
 by A/C.

Med. Air Signed Eisenhower. Part three, air cositintrep No.
 Report. 60. N.W.A. Air Forces. Night 6/7 Sept.
 Ten Beaufighters on a rover patrol attacked a M/V
 and three E-Boats W.S.W. of Leghorn with 6
 torpedoes but no hits were observed but an E-Boat
 attacked by cannon fire was left burning. Three Ju.52s were
 encountered nearby and one is claimed destroyed. 42 P.40s
 straffed a tug and four barges off Porto Scuso. Coastal air force
 Spitfires and P.38s continued to patrol Bizerta Harbour at high
 altitude and Spitfires claim one F.W.190 destroyed and another
 damaged.
 (Air C. in C.Med. No T.O.O/8th Sept.)

N.A.A.F. A.V. 569E 8 September. M.S. 19239. N.W.A. Air
 Report. Forces Opsum 199. N.W.A. Strategic A.F. 7th Sept.
 42 U.S. Warhawks bombers straffed tug and left
 burning off Porto Scuso.
 Enemy activity 6/7 September. Approx. 100 enemy
 aircraft in 3 waves attacked Bizerta. No damage to military
 installations few houses damaged. Small number minor casualties
 due shell splinters. 4 new type land mines or torpedoes dropped.
 All unexploded. 5 He.111 destroyed by Beaufighters as reported
 above. A/A claim 4 destroyed.
 (H.Q.N.A.A.F. 081601B.)

ALBA JULIA. ALBA JULIA expected to complete cargo "Chrome"
 and other Turkish products for Trieste 12th Sept./
 13th. B.3.
 (S.O.(I) Istanbul 081610C to C. in C. Levant,
 S.O.(I) Levant, (R) Capt. S.1, Capt. S.10, D.N.I.)

/Report...

War Diary.

8.9.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Report from S.O.Force Z. C. in C.Med.'s 080945 (N.T. in W.D.) Intend to sail with HOWE, KING GEORGE V and 14th D.F. from Malta at 2200/8th through Q.B. B. 146 and position 036° 58' 016° 32' to R/V with C.S.12 in 037° 40' 016° 30' at 0600/9th. S.O.A. 20 knots.

2. Onward route for Force Z through 039° 00' 017° 50' to 040° 14' 017° 06' at S.O.A. 20 knots codeword for Battleships till R/V and for whole Force subsequent "Trial" 941 high.

3. V.A.Malta is requested to sail HURWORTH, ALDENHAM, CROMER, KANARIS by route in para. 1 and 2 above at S.O.A. 20 knots reporting times of departure. Codeword "Wilfred" 908? normal. (S.O.Force Z 081615 to C.S. 12, etc.)

C.O.S.(M.E.) 420. Following for Chiefs of Staff from Commanders in Chief.
Ref. C.O.S.(M.E.) 420.
1. Your 1, 2 and 4 noted. 2. Your 3 agreed. (Mideast 081615Z to Air Min.)

Italian A/C not to be attacked. A single A/C with Italian markings will approach Bizerta from north p.m. today and is not to be attacked.
(Bizerta 081626B to Any British Man-O-War.)

CROOME, HURWORTH. Embark N.O.I.C. Sousse and sail Malta with despatch for fuel. My 071936 refers. (re on arrival destroyers in address Sousse Port Party is to be embarked.)
(C. in C.Med. 081635B to CROOME, (R) HURWORTH.)
My position 036° 02' N. 013° 04' E. through 264. E.T.A. 2359.
(CROOME 082005B to V.A.Malta, (corrupt group) (R) Capt. D.22.)

LAMERTON. Sail at 0230/9th S.O.A. 18 knots by Q.B.B. 123 (C) position (D) 036° 58' 011° 12' then War Channel to R/V with N.S.S. 1 in position 037° 14' 010° 28' at 1530/9th. Codeword until R/V "Rubble" 912 low. C. in C.Med. 081151 (N.T. in W.D.) not to N.L.O. 242 Group, refers.
(V.A.Malta 081637 to LAMERTON, (R) C. in C.Med. WHADDON, F.O.Tunisia, N.L.O.242 Group.)

L.C.Ts. material for R.A.F. If directed by F.O.Sy. send at once all available L.C.T. to Milazzo to load R.A.F. material for Salerno. Report action.
(N.C.W.T.F. 081728B to Comnassic, (R) C. in C.Med. C.T.F.85, F.O.Sy.)

Force Z. Unless otherwise ordered no ship of Force Z should be nearer than 75 miles from Taranto at 1200 tomorrow 9th. This includes minesweepers.
(C. in C.Med. 081854 to V.A.Malta, S.O.Force Z.)

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Operation "Avalanche". AVON, 6 para. 27.
Flight will not take place tonight. Navigational aids are not to be made.
(C. in C.Med. 081912B to S. & A. in "P" "Avalanche").

"Liege" attacked by A/C. Following has been read by B.N.
Convoy codeword "Liege" P.C. and S. 40.15 N. 14.17 E. 067° 5 knots is being attacked by enemy A/C.
(A.Z.H.1 082114 to Malta W/T.)

Operation "Gibbon". Carry out operation "Gibbon". Instructions contained in para. C. 759 given by C. in C.Med. at the appropriate time.
2. Ships not holding envelope "Gibbon" will be informed of contents by S.O. in company in due course.
(C. in C.Med. 082132B to All S. & A. British and U.S.Med. Station (R) C. in C.Levant.)

Landing S.W. of Pizzo. Situation report 39. 231 Brigade were landed successfully last night in the bay S.W. of Pizzo and have met a certain amount of opposition. On the right flank a Canadian column has reached Locri.
(N.L.O. 8th Army 082141 to C. in C.Med. C. in C. Levant, (R) S.O.Force H, F.O.I.C. Sicily.)

GLOXINIA, SOUTHERN ISLE, PROTEA. (Corrupt group). Request arrangements be made to detach GLOXINIA for fuelling at Bizerta and SOUTHERN ISLE and PROTEA at (corrupt group) also that fresh provisions may be available on arrival.
(Corrupt group) 082158 to V.A.Malta, (R) S.E.C. M.K.S.24, C. in C.Med. etc.)

Situation Report No. 174. 1. All movements for Operation "Avalanche" proceed according to plan.
2. EREBUS, APHIS, SCARAB continue to give support to left flank of Operation "Baytown".
3. 231 Brigade was landed at Vibo Valentia at 0130/8th September by 50 craft. All troops landed by 0530 and craft discharged by 0930 slight opposition from shore batteries one L.S.T. and two L.C.T. damaged. M.T.B. 77 sunk by near miss off Vibo Valentia. Casualties few. R.A.McGrigor slightly wounded. (E.O. Sicily.)
4. P.221 (SHAKESPEARE) reports sinking U-Boat (German)* in Naples area at 2121/7th. 2 more U-Boats (G) also reported on patrol in that vicinity.
5. M.G.Bs. carried out anti E-Boat patrol north of Galita Islands night 7th/8th September without incident.
6. Floating dock at Augusta now in full operation for landing craft.
(C. in C.Med. 082207B to Admty. etc.)

*W.A. Note: * U/B was Italian, the last to be sunk in the war.*

Potash ships Barcelona. A.M. 042359. Regret this cannot be done at present.
(C. in C.Med. 082305 to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

0.23.

Quite acceptable your 030740Z Colombo C.C.O.
pass to Dutch Submarine Officer.
(C. in C. Levant, 082339C to C. in C.E.F. (R)
C. in C. Med. Admty. etc.)

Enemy M/V.

P.C. and S. of enemy (?uncertain) 1 small merchant
ship of 500 tons 43.10 N. 10.20 E. 360° 8 knots.
(GMK/L 082355B to Fighter H.Q. Malta.)

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- B.P. 94. Sailing telegram, part 2.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 080123Z to Admty.)
- O.23. Request your concurrence with Capt. (S) 4010445
(Re D.S.O. 23 should sail 11 Sept. for passage
to U.K.) My 030740 refers.
(C. in C. E.F. 080337Z to C. in C. Med. C. in C.
Levant, (R) F.O. Ceylon, F.O.S. Capt. (S) 4.
Admty. C. in C. Netherlands Force in East (B.S.O.)
- Troop Transport. All ships under my control are fully employed,
but if essential can sail CUBA 12th Sept. due
Suez 22nd Sept. This is the only available ship
which could reach Suez by the date required.
Confirm urgently if ship should be despatched.
Your 072116A refers.
(P.S.T.O., India, 080825Z to D.S.T. (R) P.S.T.O.
M.E., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Levant, P.S.T.O.
Med., C. in C. Med.)
- B.P.94. Departure 0145Z KONKAN, BALUCHISTAN, KARACHI with
B.P.94. Arrival 0230Z RAMDAS with 1 ship.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 080946Z to Admty.)
- S.E. Asia Command, H.Q. Personal for 1st. S.L.
Ref. para. 4 of A.M. 021658 (see W.R. Note on
021430Z) and the discussions I had with you and
Prime Minister concerning position of Naval C. in
C. in S.E.A.C. set up, I assume that providing
S.O. Force C. and his Staff are available near
S.E.A.C. H.Q. it will not be essential for the Naval C. in C.
and Staff also to be located near S.E.A.C. H.Q.
2. My intention at present is to (A) Pay frequent visits to
Delhi or wherever the S.E.A.C. H.Q. is located. (B) Be present
at S.E.A.C. H.Q. prior to and whilst combined operations are in
progress. (C) Supervise training of Fleet and maintain per-
sonal touch with Naval forces and bases under my orders.
3. I shall of course discuss administration Supreme Commander
on his arrival but wish you to know what I have in mind.
(C. in C. E.F. 081051Z to Admty.)
- Transport movements. Para 4. My 031202Z add 1 more personnel ship
NEVASA for Calcutta. Revised date of sailing
both ships 15th Sept., Para. 6. Cancel CUBA and
NEVASA and substitute CIRCASSIA and ASCANIA.
Following extra moves have been arranged.
1. Bombay to Suez. CUBA with approx. 200 mercantile crews
sailing 13/9. 2. Bombay American via Australia. HERMITAGE
with 750 Polish children for American and BRAZIL and URUGUAY
with 500 P.O.W. and 150 escort each ship for Australia. All 3
ships sailing about 15th Sept.
(P.S.T.O.I. 081135Z, to C. in C. E.F. (R) F.O. Ceylon
D. of S.T. N.C.S.O. Bombay, N.O.I.C. Bombay.)

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East Indies Contd.

W.S.32. Request urgent reply to para.1 of my 260624Z Aug.
C.M.45. regarding disposal instructions for W.S.32 and
C.M. 45 ships.
(P.S.T.O.I., 081217 to D.S.T.)

Navigation, There is little reliable local knowledge avail-
Indian Ocean. able to supplement statements in Admty.'s 060625
(? 060034 intended) but the following points are
considered worthy of mention.

(A) Para.2. (1) Consider the period Nov. to
March should be extended to include April.

(2) During this period moderate seas and swell are frequent on
Southern east coasts of India, east coast Ceylon eastern shores
of Ceylon eastern shores of Andamans and Nicobars and northern
extremity Sumatra.

(B) para.3. It could be emphasized that the sea and swell off
Burma coast are generally confined to S.W. Monsoon and that sim-
ilar conditions prevail for western shores of Andamans and Nico-
bars and North Sumatra.

(C) Particular attention should be drawn to the tropical
depressions and cyclones which affect this area and which will
apset the conditions already described to a varying extent
depending on the size and severity of the storm.

Admty.'s 060625 has been passed to F.L.O. Delhi with request
that any further information held by I.S.T.D. Delhi or any
other authority may be passed to Washington for Ismay direct.

(C. in C. E.F. 081222Z to Admty. J.S.M. for Ismay, (R)
F.L.O. Delhi.)

Convoy Arrival M.A.1.
M.A.1. (N.O.I.C. Chittagong, 081431Z to Admty.)

U.S. COLORADO, MARYLAND, NORTH CAROLINA, COPAHEE,
Pacific ALTAMAHA, COWPENS, CONCORD, TRENTON, HONOLULU,
Fleet. CHESTER at sea. PRINCE WILLIAM in South pacific
Changes in PENNSYLANIA, SANTA FE, BIRMINGHAM, NEW ORLEANS
disposition. at Pearl. NEW MEXICO, WICHITA in Seattle.
MISSISSIPPI, IDAHO, SANGAMON, BARNES at San Fran-
cisco. A.M. 021657/Sept. refers.
(D.O.D. (F) 081825A to C. in C. E.F.)

MARIPOSA. U.S.S. MARIPOSA with approx. 5,500 U.S. troops
will leave New York about 9th Sept. for Bombay
via Rio. 2. Port of return in U.S.A. is
Los Angeles.
(D.O.D. (F) 081842A to C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.R.
I.N., (R) B.A.D. C. in C. S.A.)

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SCYTHIA

Your 071641. SCYTHIA should be sailed in H.X.256 if ready and otherwise in H.X. 257.
(2) Alternatives in para. 3 of your 071641 Sept. are not acceptable.
(A.C.N.S. (H), 080020A to B.A.D.)

GENERAL
GEORGE S.
SIMONDS,
defect.

This is re-encypherment of 072230 from C.T.F.67 U.S.A.T. GEORGE SIMONDS reports serious condition in fire room. Bad leak in fuel tank. All pumps required. On recommendation Mastern that ship cannot complete voyage and that on return nearest port am ordering him to Halifax escorted by HERN-DON who is ordered rejoin. Master believes he can make Halifax without further assistance. Speed 18. Unable transfer convoy Commodore, Capt. Balau, from SIMONDS account rough seas. Present position 40.42 N., 60.08 W.
(Radio Washington, 080225Z to Com. 10th Fleet, C. and R. C.E.S.F. Cinclant, (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F.)
U.T.2. U.S.A.T. GENERAL G.S. SIMONDS arrived Halifax 2001Z Sept. 8th with engine room defects.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 082046Z to Admty. Com. 10th Fleet C. and R. etc).

MARIPOSA

My 061522Z correct position J to read 019° 55' S. 033° 20' W.
(Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet C. and R. 080245Z to C. in C. S.A. U.S.P.D. New York, (R) C.E.S.F., N.O.B. Rio, N.O.B. Bermuda, Admty. N.S.H.Q., C. in C. Lant).

MIDLAND

Change 040° 09' N., to 042° 09' N. My 072121.
(C.E.S.F., 080355Z to MIDLAND (R) C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q., C.T.G. 02.1, F.O.N.F., Admty. etc).

CLAYOQUOT

Relieved by BITTERSWEET returning by most direct route Sydney (C.B.) at 10 knots E.T.A. Sydney (C.B.) 1300Z/8th.
(CLAYOQUOT, 080422Z to N.O.I.C. Sydney, (C.B.) (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A.)

C.U.4

080531Z C.U.4 oil convoy may be held over in U.K. up to 24 hours beyond authorized 6 day layover period if possible to complete discharge. Action Comnaveu (R) Admty, C. in C. Lant, from Cominch as 072135.
(Comnaveu, 080531 to Admty).

T.A.61
(QUEEN MARY).

E.T.A. Ambrose Light Vessel 0900Z/10th Sept.
(T.A.61, 080800Z to Com. 10th U.S. Fleet).

/TURQUOISE...

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TURQUOISE U.S.S. TURQUOISE departure Kingston 1200R/8th direct Guantanamo E.T.A. 0600R/9th speed 12 knots. (N.O.I.C. Kingston, 081103R to Admty. etc).

?U/B Aircraft reports dropped charges in 047° 37' N. 047° 11' W. (S), at 1310Z. SKEENA investigating. (C.3., 081345Z to Connav, (R) C. in C. C.N.A., H.Q.C.C., Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F. Cdre. (D) Argentia, Cdre. (D) W.A.)

Convoy H.X. 256. Sailing dispatch. Part 1. 2. Position FB at 1830Z Sept. 9, 3, 5, and 8. Routes and R/V as per Admty. 162051 June 041301B July, Cominch C. and R. 181510 June and C. in C. C.N.A. 052120 Sept. H.S.M.P. 1200Z Sept. 12.

6. Task unit W.3. CHELSEA. S.O. LETHBRIDGE, SHAWINIGAN, GRANBY. (P.D. New York, 081426 to Admty. (R) Com. 10th Fleet, C. and R. C.E.S.F., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C. in C. C.N.A.)

DUFF When ready about 10 September sail DUFF Boston to Bermuda direct for working up. Advise time of departure, route, S. of A. (Cominch, 081445Z to C.E.S.F.)

U/B attacked by A/C. S/M periscope sighted and attacked by A/C at 1256Z/8th in 046° 59' N., 047° 45' W. (C. in C. C.N.A., 081450 to G.B.7A). Cominch 082150.

STRENUOUS, TOURMALINE. My 061603 E.T.A. 1012000Z. (C.T.G.02.6 081451 to N.O.B. Bermuda, C.E.S.F., Admty. etc).

X.B.80 X.B.(?80) delayed due to fog, endeavouring to sail at 1500Z/9th. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 081511Z to Admty).

C.V.Es. offensive, sweeps in Bay, signals. This is Comnav's 081512 addressed Cominch (R) Cinclant, Admty. So that Admty. can make suitable disposition of their surface forces in the Bay and vicinity and so that Coastal Command may be able to give essential instructions to their long range aircraft operating in this area it is requested that C.V.Es. upon leaving G.U. and U.G. convoys for offensive sweeps signal Admty. their current position and their intentions for following 24 hours. Signal to be made from carrier or aircraft and if possible to be made daily. (Comnav, 081513 to Admty).

N.S.H.Q. S/M Estimate. N.S.H.Q., 081513Z.

/U.S...

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U.S. S/M
Estimate.

Cominch, 081550Z.

ERNE,
GREENWICH.

Your 071436, para. 1 approved.
Your para. 2. This is desirable if ANTARES is ready.

(D.O.D. (H), 081620A to C. in C. C.N.A., (R) C. in C. W.A., B.A.T.M., N.S.H.Q., Cdre. (D) W.A. B.A.M.R., C. in C. Rosyth, Cdre. WESTERN ISLES, GREENWICH, Capt. (D) Halifax).

U.S. Troops,
Escort.

Cite NATPN 420. Signed Eisenhower.
This is in reply to your 7069 of 7th September (?072218) and Troopers 66466 (Q(M)2) of 5th September. (No T.O.O. 5th Sept. re use of EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND). Use of unescortees between United

States Ports and Casablanca is accepted. Proposal that all movements of U.S. troops to India via Mediterranean be in freighters converted for prisoners of war in U.G.S. convoys is also accepted provided this personnel is carried only in ships scheduled for discharge at Oran and Algiers. Action proposed in our NATPN 151 May be abandoned. Consider use of EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND, PASTEUR and ANDES a matter to be settled between you and Troopers. However, desire schedule when available. (Natousa, 081640B to Agwar, (R) The War Office, S.O.S. Natousa, Usfor, Usafime.)

COOKE

COOKE (B.D.E.267) En route Bermuda via:
(A) 42.07 N., 70.15 W. (B) 42.07 N., 69.20 W.
(C) 40.01 N., 69.01 W. (D) 32.39 N., 64.18 W.
(E) 32.16 N., 64.18 W. (F) 32.18 N., 64.29 W.

Departs point B. Boston swept channel 1000Q/9th. Speed 15 knots. (C.T.G. 02.1, 081718Z to N.O.B. Bermuda).

WASKESIU

R.D.O. Wash. pass for action to C. in C. C.N.A. WASKESIU about 1930Z/8 for Halifax. Through positions:- (G) lat. 32.16 long. 64.18 (H) lat. 32.39 long. 64.18. (J) lat. 36.45 long. 64.(?) 34. (K) lat. 40.43 long. 64.15. (L) lat. 43.35 long. 63.34. S.B.N.O.W.At., 051436.

Advancing 17 knots. E.T.A. 1630Z/10. (Bermuda, 081720 to Admty).

Escort
Carrier
T.B. Fs.
operating
lessons.

5th S.L. from N.A.R. Your letter to me of 16th August. I assume you have seen letters of proceedings of CHASER and RAVAGER and B.A.D's 230051 June. which gives an outline of the original lessons learnt by U.S.S. BOGUE operating T.B.Fs. One point not mentioned in this signal was that BOGUE used her catapult for launching aircraft approx. in the ratio 284 times to 32 deck take-offs.

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Escort Carrier T.B.Fs. operating lessons. (contd). (2) American C.V.Es. CARD, CORE and SANTEE have been operating T.B.Fs. extremely successfully in Central Atlantic. (3) The only American experience of operating T.B.Fs. from a C.V.E. in bad North Atlantic weather is that of BOGUE, who reported on them unfavourably as being too large and unwieldy. This report was on result of ship's first trip with very inexperienced personnel. A copy of her full report is being forwarded to you shortly. (4) T.B.Fs. have been operated from C.V.Es. successfully in Pacific (5) My personal answer to your para. 3 would be a definite yes in case of Tarpon and also in case of Barracuda if it can be operated from the American catapult. (B.A.D., 081821Z to Admty).

Convoy O.T.9. This is P.D. New York 081846 (R) Admty, N.S.H.Q. Convoy O.T.9. 6 ships departed. Last ship CHURUBUSCO out gate 1351 (Q) 8th. VERA CRUX cancelled. (P.D. New York, 081850).

NIEUW AMSTERDAM. Ref. your 202036. NIEUW AMSTERDAM. 1. Advise if dry docking required and if so extent underwater and other repairs. 2. Request approx. E.T.A. San Francisco. (B.M.W.T. New York, 081851Z to D. of S.T. (R) B.A.D.)

Minesweepers Cdr. N.W. Sea Frontier sail CATHERINE (B.A.M.9) and CATO (B.A.M.10) when ready by 13th Sept. to Esquimalt to complete with stores thence to San Diego. Cdr. Western S.F. sail onward to Panama. Cdr. Panama S.F. sail to Bermuda for working up. Endurance 6000 miles at 14 knots. Action addressees arrange Logistic requirements en route and advise times of departure route and S.O.A. Cdr. Western Sea Frontier pass to B.N.L.O. San Francisco. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 081915Z to Cdr. N.W.S.F., Cdr. Western S.F., Cdr. Panama, S.F. (R) Admty. etc).

Convoy S.G.30. Convoy sailing telegram. (15 ships). (A) S.G.30 Hudson Bay. Greenland (B) 1130Z/9th. 8 knots. E.T.A. position (F) 2330Z 14th (C) A. 054° 01' N., 052° 59' W. B. 059° 02' N., 054° 59' W. Ships for Hudson Bay continue through E. 061° 16' 063° 42' F. 061° 57' 063° 42'. Ships for Greenland through D. 061° 06' 048° 49' to Kugnait Bay. (E) Cdr. T.U. 24.8.2., in U.S. MODOC, ALGONQUIN, TAHOMA, COMANCHEE, TAMPA. C.T.U.24.8.3., in ALGONQUIN escorting Greenland Section from position B. Convoy call letter WG. For information Air Escort Greenland Section voice call is "Tiger" W/T call is UAC. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns 082032Z to Senior U.S. Officer Present afloat Greenland, Connav, Admty. C.T.F.24, C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q., C.T.U. 24.8.2, C.T.U. 24.8.3., C.T.U. 24.8.19).

/U.T....

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- U.T.2 Following is a re-encyphered version of my 082046Z. U.T. 2 (U.S.A.T.) GENERAL G.S. SIMONDS arrived Halifax 2001Z September 8th with engine room defects.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 082046Z to Admty).
- Convoy
O.T.9. Convoy sailing dispatch. O.T.9 part 2. Part 1 is my Dis. 071912 and 082110.
6 ships (list).
(P.D. New York, 082114Z 082244Z to Com. 10th Fleet C. and R).
- HERNDON Arrival U.S.S. HERNDON ex U.T.2.
(C. Halifax, 082201Z to Admty. etc).
- T.G.21.6 At 0600A Sept. 14 Task Group 21.6 will be ready for sea but to permit a night and day game with CHILANTE would prefer R/V with convoy at usual place 0630A Sept. 15th. No defects in fuelling at sea gear but provision for blowing out hose or taking a back suction after fuelling completed would be desirable. Request 2 escort oilers each to carry 1500 tons of fuel for escorts. This C.T.U. 21.9.3 Action Comnavu (R) C. in C. W.A.
(Comnavu, 082131Z to Admty).
- C.T.G.21.11
Sweep. This is from C.T.G.21.11 to Cinclant as 081000Z, (R) Admty. Comairlant, Commorrocansseafon, and Comnavu. Your 061940Z C.T.G.21.11 will begin sweep through area Dawn 10th position 0800Z today 34.09 N. 25.47 W. Weather 5470 2015. Have terminated support C.T.F.61.
(Comnavu, 082151Z to Admty).
- MARIPOSA Departing New York 1600Z Sept. 9 at Ambrose MARIPOSA Rio de Janeiro E.T.A. 0400 Sept. 21. Speed of Advance 19 knots. Route. Communications. Fighter protection codeword "Active" with 3 figure associated call sign 108.
(P.D. New York, 082304 to Com. 10th Fleet, C. and R. (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q., C.E.S.F., Com. 3, N.O.B. Bermuda, Comcaribseafon) As amended 091410.
- U.G.S.
Convoys
termination
place of
voyage. My 301527 August. Navy Dept. have been approached and Adm. King has replied as follows (begins).
"1. C. in C. U.S. Fleet does not consider it feasible or desirable to have U.S. Escorts of U.G.S. convoys terminate their voyages at Gibraltar rather than Casablanca as proposed in reference (A).
2. Casablanca Section of U.G.S. convoys will continue to be fairly large, and since adequate escorts are not available in the Moroccan Sea Frontier to meet these sections. U.S. Escorts must necessarily continue on to Casablanca. Furthermore, during the layover in Casablanca, U.S. Escorts are made available to Commander Moroccan Sea Frontier

/for...

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U.G.S. for various patrol and escort duties. A procedure
Convoys that must continue in view of the small number
termination of escort vessels assigned to the Moroccan Sea
place of "Frontier". (ends).
voyage. (B.A.D., 082311Z to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty).
(contd).

Escort Your 072225 (Hush N.T. in W.D.) Consider Adm.King's
Vessels proposal should not be opposed as:-
for French. (a) It is substantially in agreement with policy
in A.M. 061440A to employ French Naval personnel
in escort vessels.

(b) It gives guidance we require about present
U.S. view of C.C.S. 194(1) on which we do not wish to postpone
clarification any further.

(c) It will enable us to carry through loan of frigates immediately and ease present awkward situation with French in U.K. where numbers of French Naval personnel available for service are increasing, some of whom have been kept doing nothing for a considerable time pending discussions on policy.

(d) U.S. assignments of destroyer escorts will relieve us from pressure to lend British built destroyers or sloops to French.

2. For best prosecution of war, consider vessels assigned to French should work under British or U.S. operational control and that assignments should be on conditions to ensure this, vide C.C.S. 207/10 Appendix D. para. 2 (a) 2 (c).

3. We should regard any vessels assigned from U.S. allocation to French as still part of U.S. proportion in estimating ratio of assignments to us.

(Hd. of M.II Approved First Lord, 082340A to B.A.D.)

Australia & New Zealand.

NIEUW
AMSTERDAM.

As Australian Army desire to move Brigade Group from West Australia to New South Wales mid Sept. consisting of approx. 4,000 personnel intend embark in NIEUW AMSTERDAM for disembarkation Melbourne, from Melbourne NIEUW AMSTERDAM will be

sailed for Wellington to embark 1410 personnel for U.S.A.

2. Intend to embark at Melbourne any R.A.A.F. personnel on draft for Ceylon and U.K.

(A.C.N.B., 080116Z to D.S.T. (R) N.Z.N.B., N.O.I.C. Fremantle, B.A.D. C. in C. E.F.)

/Explosive...

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Explosive Japanese S/Ms have probably placed Sonic Explosive
Boxes from Floating Boxes in vicinity of 006° 50' S. 150°
U/Bs. 20' E. and 007° 22' S. 152° 31' E. to 007° 48' S.
152° 23' E. and possibly in other areas. Similar
contraption was exploded recently when aircraft
approached to investigate.
(A.C.N.B., 080247 to All Allied Senior Officers,
Allied Ships and S.H. Auth. W/T Stations, and
other establishments concerned in S.W. Pacific (R)
C. in C. E.F., N.Z.N.B.)

Kiwi No. 103. Allied A. Torpedoe (?d) p.m. 31 August near
Malekula New Hebrides. SS. sighted 1115M/3rd
on 69.15 E. 20 S. Allied A.S.C. sighted and
attacked 1458M/7 20.35 S. 178.19 E. results
unobserved. Indications of U.S. D.D. having destroyed Jap. SS.
(?night) 3rd North of Espiritu Santo. U.S. D.D. ELLIOT obtained
Radar contact of SS. and attacked with depth charges 2105M/3rd
on 17° S. 165° 28' E. Enemy type 1 M.B. shot down p.m./2nd off
Isabel Island Scouts confirm Japs have evacuated Santa Isabel
leaving food and ammunition.
(C.W.R. Wellington 080352Z to Admty).

HERMITAGE C. in C. E.F. 050931Z. Onward route for HERMITAGE
as follows: E. 036° 17' S., 114° 22' E.
F. 038° 01' S. 120° 01' E. thence in accordance
with Q.F.A. 108 to Melbourne.
(C.S.W.P.S.F., 080431Z to Com. R.I.N. (R) C. in C.
E.F., Cdr. 7th U.S. Fleet, C. in C. U.S. Pacific
Fleet, Admty. Cdr. South Pacific Force, Alusna,
Bombay, HERMITAGE.)

Digest Another convoy described 2 large 1 small merchant-
serial No. men sighted by Catalina off Cape Saint George on
596 Sept. 7th. easterly course night hours.
4. Four Beaufighters carried out another barge
sweep coast Western New Britain and Witu Islands
afternoon destroying and damaging some barges
Garove Island Williamez Peninsula Borgen and Rein Bays. Meanwhile
4 Bostons attacked Gasmata scoring direct hit on gun position
and straffing small vessel.
5. Nine Mitchells bombed and straffed Long Island area (Vitiaz
Strait) including two barges and small lugger.
Enemy holds positions south west coast Kolombangara where our
fighters remain active against barge traffic.
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A. 081234Z).

Movements Depart Port Moresby 7th U.S.S. HELM for Townsville.
(A.C.N.B., 081453Z).

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 081451A, 081452A).

Submarines Attacked.

Submarine
attack and
sighting
summary for
24 hours to
1000A/8th.

Para. A. Aircraft attacked surface U-boat 2105/7
46.45' N., 09.15 W. H.M. Ship, W.D. Note. (HAVE-
LOCK E.G.B.5) sighted and attacked U-boat 2317/7
44° 57' N., 13° 48' W. Aircraft sighted surfaced
U-boat 0418/8th. 46° 35' N., 009° 00' W.
SS. LYMAN STEWART torpedoed 0435/7th Sept. 03°
30' N. 75° 00' E. Probably Japanese U-boat.
(D.D.I.C., 081020Z to Cominch).

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SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Spitzbergen.

1. Air reconnaissance by Catalina of Ice Fjord today showed no trace of enemy units, but the settlement was destroyed and on fire. At 1600A today C. in C.Home Fleet abandoned the operation against the enemy forces reported yesterday at Spitzbergen.

It is stated in the press that the Germans claim to have occupied Spitzbergen, including the town of Barentsburg. A later broadcast stated that their force returned to its base with troops re-embarked after destroying coalmining and other installations. Visual result of photographic R/C carried out at 1330A today of Altenfjord showed the LUTZOW, 2 destroyers and ALTMARK to be present.

Operation
off coast
of Norway.

2. H.N.M.S. HORTEN and RISOR sailed from Lerwick at 1200A today with M.T.B. 618 (S.O.) and M.T.B. 622 in tow.

REVENGE.

3. REVENGE (Eastern Fleet) arrived at the Clyde this morning to refit.

Operation
"Starkey".

4. An amphibious exercise took place in the Channel this morning. There was practically no enemy reaction.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Avalanche"
(attack on
Naples and
occupation
of Taranto.)
Landings at
Salerno.

5(a). A combined British and U.S. Force was landed in the Gulf of Salerno in the Early hours of today, with the object of capturing Naples, the adjacent minor ports and airfields as a base for invasion. The landings were carried out according to plan in calm weather. There were some enemy air attacks on the convoy, but damage was light: 5 enemy planes were destroyed. Damage is reported to LAFOREY and LOYAL, whose speed is reduced to 20 and 24 knots respectively.

The attack was launched at 0400 at two adjoining sectors in the Gulf of Salerno, by the 10th Corps - British - (Northern Assault Force) and the 6th Corps U.S. - (Southern Assault Force).

(b). The combined naval force is known as the Western Task Force. It is commanded by Vice Admiral H.X.Hewitt, U.S.Navy. The force consists of Force H. 1st Divn. NELSON (Flag of V.A.Willis), RODNEY, FORMIDABLE. 2nd Divn. WARSPITE (Flag of R.A.Bissett), VALIANT, ILLUSTRIOUS, KING GEORGE V. 3rd Divn. HOWE. 4th, 8th, 14th and 24th. D.F. (total 23 destroyers.)

9.9.1943.

Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Avalanche"
(attack on
Naples and
occupation
of Taranto.)
Landings at
Salerno.
(Contd.)

Force V. EURYALUS (Flag of R.A.Vian) SCYLLA, CHARYBDIS, UNICORN, HUNTER, ATTACKER, STALKER, BATTLER 10 destroyers.
Force Q. AURORA (Cdre. Agnew), PENELOPE, SIRIUS, DIDO, LE FANTASQUE, LE TERRIBLE.
Force K. MAURITIUS (Flag of C.S.15 - R.A.Harcourt) ORION, UGANDA, 5 destroyers.
Demonstration and minelaying groups. Southern Attack Force. Cruisers PHILADELPHIA (Flag of Cruiser Divn. 8) BOISE, SAVANNAH, 11 destroyers. Monitor ABERCROMBIE.

(c). The moving of ships shoreward was delayed by mines in the Gulf of Salerno, many of which were exploded during the sweeping of the boat lanes. The northern attack force was landed successfully and captured both beaches. There was considerable initial activity from beach batteries and moderate enemy air activity. Four brigades were ashore by 0600 and the landing of two more was in progress. The first return convoy of personnel ships sailed at 0630. The southern attack force landing commenced satisfactorily on time, but was temporarily held up, considerable opposition being encountered. The southern beaches were under enemy fire, but support by cruisers and destroyers improved the situation by 1700, and follow up and return convoys proceeded according to plan.

(d). Three Ranger Battalions and Nos. 2 and 41 Commandos landed near Vietri Sul Mare, the former without opposition. *(Reoccupied by enemy, p. 293)*

(e). Ventotene Island (west of Naples) was captured at 0001 today: the Italian garrison surrendered without opposition. *(p. 275)*

(f). At 1730 the monitor ABERCROMBIE was damaged by a mine. The minesweeper CADMUS also sustained slight damage from a mine, and the destroyer MENDIP was damaged by a near miss.

Occupation
of Taranto.

*(Operation
"Slapstick")*

(g). Force Z, part of the Naval covering and Supporting Forces, namely the 3rd Division of Force H (HOWE (Flag of V.A.Power) and KING GEORGE V) with troops carried by the 12th Cruiser Sqdn. proceeded to Taranto. By 1930 today HOWE, 12th C.S., U.S. Cruiser BOISE and ABDIEL with destroyers had berthed inside the harbour. KING GEORGE V and 3 destroyers remained at sea to the southward.

ABDIEL sunk.

(h). About 2300 today the fast minelayer ABDIEL was sunk in Taranto Bay, probably by a ground mine. The ship had not unloaded her military personnel and stores, and casualties amongst the troops are believed to be heavy.

The reception at Taranto appeared friendly.

Italian
Fleet.

6(a). The Italian Fleet carried out the terms of the Armistice scrupulously.

(b). The 3 LITTORIOS with 6 cruisers and 12 destroyers left Spezia and proceeded west of Corsica, where they were sighted at 0941 in 42.10 N. 08.15 E. (60 miles N.W. of Ajaccio). The fleet then proceeded at 15 knots into the Gulf of Asinara (N.W. corner of Sardinia), apparently

/wasting...

War Diary.

9.9.1943.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Italian
Fleet.
(Contd.)

* and the
battleship
ITALIA was
damaged by
a rocket
bomb.

wasting time in order to avoid arriving off the north coast of Africa at night. German aircraft made a high dive bombing attack on the fleet about 1600^h and the battleship ROMA was hit and sunk by one bomb in 20 minutes.* Two destroyers appear also to have been sunk, for SPORTSMAN picked up survivors at 121717 in 41.36, 07.12. The fleet then split up; 2 battleships, 5 cruisers and 5 destroyers were reported to have turned to the westward and later to the southward towards Bone. WARSPITE and VALIANT were detached from Force H. to R/V with the Italian Fleet off Bone at 0600.

(c). The Taranto Squadron left port during the day. It consisted of two battleships, 2 cruisers and a destroyer (for names see 10th September.)

(d). Italian submarines are also proceeding to Allied ports. One of them MENOTTI, showed fight to UNSHAKEN who intercepted her at 1900 in 39.51 N. 19.04 E. whilst MENOTTI was northbound. UNSHAKEN put an armed guard on board and escorted her to Malta.

Germans
evacuate
Bastia.

7. A German light force evacuated Bastia at daylight today. It was heavily but ineffectively engaged by shore batteries, an Italian destroyer and by the S/M SPORTSMAN. (p. 284)

America & West Indies.

Gulf of
St. Lawrence.

8. In view of the present U-Boat situation convoys S.Q/Q.S. S.B/B.S. are being temporarily discontinued and ships proceeding between Quebec and Sydney C.B. and Cornerbrook are to be sailed independently. The escort ships at present employed on duty with these convoys are to be used to keep the Gulf of St. Lawrence clear of U-Boats.

Australia & New Zealand.

9. 21 Mitchells escorted by fighters carried out a barge sweep on the north-east coast of New Guinea today, destroying 10 barges and damaging others.

War Diary.

9.9.1943.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

BITER Your 080924* approved.
(C. in C. W.A., 091110A to BITER).
Re desirable changes before ship is again sailed for operations. BITER's 080924.
Working up will be arranged. Date of ready for service will be signalled.
(F.O.C.T. 091247A). *Re desirable changes before ship is again sailed for operation.

B.Y.M.S. Admiralty's 111835 August. B.Y.M.S. 32, 70, 71, on east and 211 are not suitable for convoy duty on coast. East Coast. These small ships have done good work during the short time they operated in this Command and have tried hard to keep running but the steep seas met on the East Coast and Pentland Firth have caused seams to open with resultant flooding of ship.
(2) Intend to sail B.Y.M.S. to Harwich when ready for sea.
(3) All B.Y.M.S. are due for engine overhaul and leave.
(4) Full report is being forwarded direct to D.M.S.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 091205A).

R.M.Ls. at N.O.I.C. Faroes 071114A. * Although R.M.Ls. will Faroes. frequently be unable to operate when required to do so in winter it is considered that so long as air patrols are maintained between Faroes and Iceland some fast shallow draught craft should be at hand to act in collaboration with air sea rescue trawlers which cannot enter minefields.
N.O.I.C. Faroes is requested to report on present condition of R.M.Ls. so that if necessary they may be relieved before weather makes change more difficult.
(A.C.O.S., 091808A).
*Re: request information whether R.M.L. 548 and 549 to be retained at Faroes later than end of month.

Movements.

U.S.S. From (E) Steer for (G) omitting (F).
ROCKAWAY. (C. in C. W.A., 292205Z to U.S.S. ROCKAWAY).

U.S.S. Ref. my 0817A. * Amend to read E.T.D. 1500. E.T.A. HUMBOLT. Reykjavik 1900/12th. Speed 15½ knots.
(N.O.I.C. Avonmouth, 091144A).
*?081747 intended. Re sailing of HUMBOLT to Reykjavik.
Sailed 1519/9th.
(N.O.I.C. Avonmouth, 091420A).

E.G.5 If fuel permits E.G5 proceed position 048° 05' N. 014° 25' W. to search for aircraft dinghy with 4 crew. Search until dark 9th Sept. Report action taken. Aircraft co-operating call sign P.M. 7 H.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 091209A to E.G.5).
Your 091209A. NENE and TWEED proceeding to position E.T.A. 1700. CALGARY, SNOWBERRY proceeding Londonderry at 12 knots. In touch with aircraft.
(S.O.E.G.5, 091307A to C. in C. Plymouth). /BELLONA...

War Diary.

9.9.1943.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

BELLONA Request you will sail BELLONA for Scapa to work up on satisfactory completion of trials. (D.O.D. (H), 091344A to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

MIDDLETON Proceed passing Switha 1100A/10th (route), to Hvalfiord. (2) On arrival act under orders of A.C.I.C until return of C.S.10. (R.A.(D) H.F. 091501A to MIDDLETON).

S/Ms Positions at 0800A/10 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S., 091704, 101036A).

Operations.

Enemy main Units at Spitzbergen. Remain in the vicinity Icefiord but do not enter Fiord. (F.O.S., 090114A to TANTALUS). You were probably reported by enemy aircraft at 0555. (D.D.I.C., 090829A to C. in C. H.F. (R) C.S.10, V.A.2, C. in C. Rosyth, A.C.O.S., H.Q.C.C.)

One Russian S/M has been ordered to area 2 A and should have arrived a.m./9th. Area 2 is unoccupied. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 091025A).

My 081432. Unless you have other views, intend to cancel operation at 1600A/9th without further signal. (C. in C. H.F., 091205A to Admty. (R) H.F.) Your 091205 September. Concur.* (V.C.N.S., 091614A to C. in C. H.F. (R) A.I.G.47). A.M. 081347 is cancelled. (D.O.D. (H), 091950A to A.O.C. in C. C.C.) *Re 081432. Most Secret - Intend to cancel operation.

Biscay A/S Patrols. No enemy sighted in area. (A/C 172/B 090211). SHEFFIELD is passing Gate at 1730A/10th Sept. and proceeding through position (SA) 180° Bishop Rock 10 (SB) 049° 08' N., 010° 07' W. (SC) 048° 01' N. 010° 07' W. (SD) 046° 20' N., 010° 08' W. and thence 270° to patrol in area between 046° N., and 048° N., and between 014° 30' W. and 015° 30' W. to support E.G.2 against surface attack and for operation "Regulation" if required. (2) SHEFFIELD is passing through position (SC) at 1200A/11th speed approx. 20 knots. At (SC) Mosquitoes and Beaufighters of 19 Group will R/V and escort until 1900A. SHEFFIELD is to direct and control fighters. (3) If weather is signalled as unsuitable for flying SHEFFIELD is to continue from (SB) through (SE) 048° 29' N., 012° 29' W. and thence 230° to patrol area. If information is signalled that aircraft have discontinued flying after starting operations SHEFFIELD is to withdraw on course 270°. (4) BERMUDA is to leave patrol area at 1400A/11th and proceed through positions (BF) 048° 44' N., 012° 50' W. and (SA) to Plymouth keeping west of Lizard Head during dark hours. (5) Communications.

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Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Biscay A/S Patrols. (contd). 6. Codeword for SHEFFIELD "Scent".
(C. in C. Plymouth, 091637A to BERMUDA, SHEFFIELD
(R) E.G.2, Admty. C. in C. H.F. C. in C. W.A.,
N.O.I.C. Falmouth, A.O.C. in C. C.C., F.O.S.,
A.O.C.19 Gr. C.C.)
Disposition at 2000.

(4) E.G.2 WILD GOOSE, WREN, KITE, STARLING, WOODCOCK patrolling
vicinity of 045° 30' N., 011° W.

(6) BERMUDA patrolling vicinity of 047° N., 016° 30' W.

(7) REDPOLE 180° Bishop Rock 7 miles westbound 15 knots.

(8) LANDGUARD and SENNEN with Coastal Force Group off Trevoze
Head 2300 Westbound 9½ knots.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 091648A, 1914A).
My P.C.S. 100700A 046° 15' N., 012° W. 090° 10½.
(S.O.E.G.2, 092002A).

General.

Operation "Starkey". Com. Force J. has transferred his flag to ALBRIGHTON.
(V.A. Dover, 090332A).

Operation off Coast of Norway. My 301121A August. Sailed at 1200A/9 H.N.M. Ships
HORTEN and RISOR with M.T.B.618 (S.O.) and
M.T.B.622 in tow.
(A.C.O.S., 091236A).

Coastal patrols. 1. Orders for night 9/10th Sept.
(a) M.T.B.211, 249, 255 carry out offensive patrol
of enemy coastal route between positions 8 miles
west and 15 miles east of position YY. Objective
torpedo targets only including T.L.C. type 111. Proceed and
return by passage two passing 2 N. not before 2130 and returning
within 20 miles of own coast by 0545.
(b) M.L. 292, 291 patrolling Q.Z.S.384 between F and E.A.5 Buoys.
(c) ALBRIGHTON, STEVENSTONE, CHASSEUR 12 immediate notice St.
Helens.
(d) M.L. 208, 233, 124, R.M.L. 523 patrolling 50° 20' N., between
2° 00' W. and 2° 25' W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 091351A to F.O.I.C. Portland, N.O.I.C. New-
haven, X.D.O., East, D.I., S.O. 14th M.T.B.F., (R) Admty.
C. in C. Plymouth, V.A. Dover, R.A.F. Tangmere and for 841 Sqdn.
ALBRIGHTON, STEVENSTONE).
Patrols 9th Sept. 1. Force A. M.Ls. 183, 259, 184 are
to patrol in vicinity of 240° Eddystone 6 miles.
3. Force F. M.G.Bs. 329, 330, 324 are to patrol in vicinity of
146° Start 19 miles.
2,4. Communications.
5. Forces A and F are to sail to be on patrol by 2045A. Leave
patrol for Plymouth and Dartmouth, 0530A.
6. Force A on patrol is to keep clear of Q.Z.S. 409. No coastal
forces are to pass south of a line 255° and 075° from position
180° Start 22 miles unless ordered. Attention is drawn to
Q.Z.S. 1095.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 091433A).

/Cancel...

9.9.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

Coastal patrols. (contd). Cancel my 091433A*due to weather. M.G.Bs. and M.Ls. revert to normal notice. (C. in C. Plymouth, 092145A)
*Re patrols 9th September.
Dover dispositions for night of 9/10 Sept.
M.G.Bs. 118, S.4 and 117 from Ramsgate at V buoy, E.T.D. 2000, E.T.R. 0600/10.
M.G.Bs. S.2 and S.1 at No.3 buoy E.T.D. 2030, E.T.R. 0530/10.
M.G.Bs. 611, 614 and 616 patrolling south of Dungeness. E.T.D. Dover 1945 leaving patrol at 0500/10 for Newhaven.
(V.A. Dover, 091807A, 092040).

S/M Patrols. Patrol zone for my 031041 (P.65, UPSTART) is radius 20 miles from Cape Ortegale Approach by route Gold. Instructions for leaving patrol and onward route will be signalled later. I.S.O.H. 200.
(2) Objects F.A.
(F.O.S., 091658 to Capt. (S), 3 (R) Admty. C. in C. Plymouth).

Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/10 and movements for following 24 hours.
(A) TANTALUS (P.318) on patrol off Icefiord Spitsbergen.
(C) O.15 on patrol vicinity 64° 40' N. 03° 25' W.
(H) STONEHENGE (P.232) escorted by WHITEBEAR in position 58° 56' N. 02° 30' W. to Lerwick. Speed 11 knots. E.T.A.1700/10.
Leaves Lerwick, 2100/10 probably on surface through 90° Muckle Flugga 5 to vicinity 65° 01' N., 05.50 W. diving by day after 62° N.
(I) SEA ROVER (P.218) escorted by 9th escort group leaves Hebrides West area 0800 10th to Larne Speed 11 knots.
(F.O.S., 091704, 101036A).

Exercises.

C.P. Signals dealing with exercise C.P. (carried out 10th Sept.)
(C. in C. H.F., 091621 R.A.D. (H.F.) 091851A, C. in C. Rosyth, 092322A, Admty. 092247A etc).

Allied Air Activity.

Special Fleet R/C. AC 243 10th Sept. Cancel our AC 240 8th Sept.
(H.Q.C.C., 100920A).

Resume for U.S. Squadrons week ending 7th Sept. Sorties and hours flown Biscay area 4 Squadron 16 Sorties 134 hours. 6 Squadron 8 Sorties 87 hours. 19 Squadron 14 Sorties 127 hours. 22 Squadron 9 Sorties 97 hours. 63 Squadron 21 Sorties 265 hours. 103 Squadron 14 Sorties 108 hours. 2 Aircraft 103 failed to return to base. 1 after being attacked by enemy aircraft.
(H.Q.C.C., 091145A).

9.9.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation
S.N.222 C.

Admiralty 081616. SALADIN, SCIMITAR will be required for service with R.A. (M) from p.m. /20th to a.m./24th.
(C. in C. W.A. 090953A).

Enemy Intelligence.

R/C of
Altenfiord.

Visual result of P.R.U. carried out at 1330A/9th of Altenfiord shows LUTZOW, 2 destroyers, ALTMARK, tanker, A/A guard ship, and 3 merchant ships or depot ships.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 091502A).

U-boats.

A/C Report.

Have obtained A.S.V. contact probably U/B.
(A/C MZ/B 090206).

Navigational.

Weather
reports.

A.C.I. Art. 43. In view of the small number of weather reports received under present conditions this report is to be made by S.O. Escort of Convoys and by Warships routed independently at least once whilst on passage, between the meridians of 20° W. and 40° W. when North of lat. 50° N.
(C. in C. W.A., 090002A).

Casualties & Defects.

SAN ADOLPHO.

Following is a repetition of my 081159Z (corrupt group) H.X. 254 - 83 para. (4). Request owner of SS. SAN ADOLPHO be informed ship (corrupt group) wrecked in collision.
Para. (5). Commodore request confirmation Bristol Channel ship no longer calling at Belfast.
(C.4, 090157Z to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connnav, Admty. etc).

INVERLANE

INVERLANE beached in Longhope and the necessary compartments flooded. Vessel can be relocated on 2 weeks notice.
(M.C. S.V.O. Lyness, 091002 to A.C.O.S. (R)
A.S. Orkney, S.V.O. Admty).

RINALDO

RINALDO sails with F.S.16 to Nore for onward routing to Plymouth. Her 4" gun mounting has defective training which required dockyard assistance. Request this be given at Plymouth as it is understood that arrival of ship is an urgent requirement.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 091208A to C. in C. Plymouth (R), C. in C. Nore, RINALDO, Admty).

9.9.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

M.L.
Collision.

M.L. 343 and 344 were involved in collision at 0400 Sept. 9th M.L. 343 badly holed in engine room which will necessitate paying her off. M.L. 344 remains seaworthy. Report follows. (HORNET, 091723A to C. in C. Portsmouth, (R) Admty. etc).

Shipping & Convoys.

M.K.F.22,
REVENGE.

M.K.F.22 Clyde Portion arrived in company REVENGE, WRESTLER, CHANTICLEER, INCONSTANT, USK, BARLE. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 090614A).

Convoy of
19 M.T.ships.

My 081624A sailed 0823. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 100848A).

P.W./W.D.
convoys.

Further to my 311751/A August. P.W./W.P. convoys will revert to normal routine commencing with P.W. and W.P. 399.

P.W.398 and 399 will sail from Portsmouth on 11th and 12th Sept. respectively to Bristol Channel

Ports W.P. 399 will sail Bristol Channel ports 11th Sept. for Portsmouth. (C. in C. Plymouth, 091341A).

Ocean
escorts.

Ocean escort detailed for the B portion of homeward bound convoys is not to leave the convoy until the relevant information in the signal referred to in W.A.G.M.722 N has been passed to and acknowledged by the local escorts detailed for the Liverpool and Bristol Channel sections. (C. in C. W.A., 091747Z).

H.X.254 ,
SAN ADOLFO.

H.X. 254 following changes in destinations have taken place B.H. LATROBE to Belfast with degaussing defective. JAS. I. MCKAY to Clyde with counter badly damaged in collision. SAN ADOLFO not seen today did not straggle during the night presume broke convoy during repairs of station. (C.4, 092047Z).

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9.9.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Enemy Unit. P.C. reports sound contact 034° 33' N. 007° 44' W. 082230A.
(Commorseafron 090115B to F.O.C. Gibraltar (R) Admty. C.T.F.66, Comfairwing.)

U/B. By D/F on 5100 k/cs at 2213Z U/B estimated within 120 miles of 39° N. 22° W.
(D.D.I.C. 090144A to F.O. Gibraltar.)

U/Bs. using Spanish cove. Your 081225B. (Report of S/Ms. frequenting small cove near Malpica.) Latitude received as 043° 14' 32" N. should this read 043° 17' 30" (?).
(S.O. (I) Gibraltar 090428B to British Consul Corunna.) Reply: Checked by master, result: 43° 17' 33" (Corunna 111135B.)

U/B attacked. Following read by Plymouth:-
Am over enemy S/M on surface in position 42.45 N. 09.56 W.
(A/C. P. of 179 Squadron 090540 to Gib. W/T. P. 0595.)
Have attacked U/B with depth charges.
(A/C P.179 Squadron 090546B.)

JEANNE D'ARC. Arrived 1000A/9.
(Commorseafron 090911Z to U.S.N.O.B. Bermuda (R) Cominch, Admty. C. in C. Lant, Comnavnaw, etc.)

P.614. Received your 051732. Request revised bombing restriction and time of passing position G. My 082003 refers.
(BURAKREIS(? P.614 intended) 091006B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) Admty. F.O.S., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A., Cominch, C.M.S.F.)

TEMPETE. French destroyer TEMPETE departs Casa 091700A for Algiers, S. of A. 24 knots, route Q.B.A. 120 (M) 35.44 N. 06.28 W. Q.B.A.87. Request onward routing and code word.
(Commorseafron 091011B to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med. Comnavnaw, Cdre. Algeria, Admty.)
Amend my 001011B. TEMPETE depart 1800A/10th, S. of A. 18 knots.
(Commorseafron 091231B.)

Axis Shipping, Bilbao. Arrival 8th CABO CORONA, CABO QUINTRES. Depart 8th CABO CARBOEIRO, GENERALIFE, depart 9th.*Repeat S.O. (I) Gibraltar.
(Consul Bilbao, 091145 to Admty.) * KAULDI.

/KAULDI...

War Diary.

9.9.1943.

Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

KAULDI. Telegram 148 Sept. 9th (R) D.N.I., B.N.A. Madrid (S.O. (I) Gibraltar. 59 sailed 0145 Sept. 9th for France. (Consul Bilbao 091200 to M.E.W.)

G.U.S.14. 1. Sailing telegram G.U.S.14 part 1.
2. From Casablanca R/V in position (RZ) 035° 01' N. 008° 01' W. at 090700Z. 3. (RA) 091800Z speed 9. 4. First Chop 10° W. 092200Z second (B) 024° W. 130200Z, radio shift 020° W. 112400Z. 5. (Route).
6. U.S. Cdr. Task Force 66 U.S. Dest. MCCORMICK, CHARLES LAWRENCE, BALDWIN, HARDING, ENDICOTT, HOPPING, REEVES, MERRIMACK. W.D. Note. DANIEL T. GRIFFIN added (102358B.) 7. 44, including MERRIMACK. (13) (A) Cmdr. Packright, U.S.N. in E. WHEELOCK. (B) Master of HELEN MIDDLETON.
(C.M.S.F. 091224Z as amended 101305Z, 102358B to P.D. Norfolk (R) Admty. etc.)

U/B (F.O.C. Gib. 091258B to C. in C. Med.)
Dispositions.

LUCIA Italian ship LUCIA has 160 tons oil fuel and crew (Italian) 10. No cargo. Vessel generally in good Vigo. condition but has 6 inch Marine growth on bottom and boiler tubes and exhaust tube rusty. Marine Commandant proposes to have vessel moved to new anchorage near Naval Base for better security.
(British Consul Vigo 091515 to N.A. Madrid (R) S.O. (I) Admty. for D.N.I.)

Damaged Your 081030 to Admty. only. Request you consult U/B at H.M. Minister with a view to immediate Vigo. representations:- (a) for internment of this U/B if she remains in Vigo after elapse of 24 hours. (b) failing internment to obtain very early statement of time allotted for repairs

to make U/B seaworthy. Spaniards should be reminded of serious complaints made by H.M.G. in this connection on previous occasions, and pressed to grant very short period for repairs. 2. You should also consult U.S. Naval Attache with view of U.S. backing up our representations.

(Hd. of M.I. 091559A to N.A. Madrid (R) F.O.I.C. Gib., C. in C. Med., H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Plymouth, B.A.D.)

Damaged German S/M reliably reported arrived Sept. 8th Vigo towed by two Spanish fishing vessels after hailing Spanish cruiser NAVARRA. S/M. minus periscope, totally incapable of putting back to sea.

(Commorseafon 091709B to S.O. (I) Gibraltar (R) V.C.N.O. (I) Admty. Comnavaw, C. in C. Med.)

Admty. pass to H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Plymouth. My 081510. Report on damage not yet received in Ministry. Warning repeated. (N.A. Madrid 091956B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C. F.O.I.C. Gib.)

9.9.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

Exchange of
Prisoners,
Goa.

Portuguese authority wishes to know if you would consider a head per head rank for rank exchange of the German crews in Goa for British merchant seamen prisoners in Germany. Taking into consideration behaviour of German crews consider this would be very much to our advantage.

(Shipping Attache Lisbon 091714A to Admty.).

French
Refugees.

Your 051820. Americans now state trains cannot arrive Setubal before 23rd. Ships should arrive not later than forenoon tide on this day.

2. In view of this and of fact that any date after 26th will give only 4 hours or less of darkness, suggest date 8th October for following evacuation, which will be the 8th evacuation. (3) Can it be guaranteed that unless unforeseen circumstances arise shipping will be available for 2 embarkations per month in October and November? (N.A. Lisbon 091722A to C. in C. Med. (R) N.O.I.C.Gib., Admty.etc.)

ULTIMATUM.

ULTIMATUM patrol report blank.

(S.O. S/MS. Gib. 091806B to F.O.S. (R) S.O.8. S.O.3., ULTIMATUM).

Italian
Ships, Las
Palmas.

Ref. Embassy Telegrams 12 and 13. I have handed over personal copies in English and Spanish message to Italian Consul who will deliver other copies addressed to Masters of Italian ships in Port. (2) Ships have no bunkers but I am informed they have sufficient crew on board full details later also in regard condition of ships. I am informed by Italian Consul that parts (group missed) machinery of ships in hands of Woerman Line for repairs who are already owing about Pesetas 100,000. (3) Only bunker coal available for these ships is Ministry of War Transport reserve stock (?) 850 tons. (4) Your para. No.6. I have informed Naval Authorities accordingly and steps have been already taken ensuring safety of ships. (5) Italian Consul awaiting instructions from Government in Rome. (Consul, Las Palmas 091850 to B.N.A. Madrid (R) Admty., and S.O.(I) Gibraltar).

O.S.54

GERANIUM sailed 1800A speed 13 to rejoin. (C.M.S.F. 091918B to F.O.I.C. Gib.(R) (?ROCHESTER) C. in C.Med.etc.).

Enemy A/C

One German A/C sighted 1145A/8th off Cape Roca A.O. (N.A. Lisbon 091922A to S.O.(I) Gib.(R) Admty.).

U.G.S.16,
G.U.S.15.

U.G.S.16 position 20 hours G.M.T. 9th Sept. bearing (true) 254 degs. plot 109 miles from (?C) P advance 9 knots course 071 degs. Air support group G.T.G.21.11 operating accordance C. in C.

/Lant...

9.9.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

U.G.S.16,
G.U.S.15.

Lant 051910 Sept. Ref. C. in C. Lant 151948
and 152029 August, Commorseafron 081526B Sept.
Request I be included as addressee in connection
with G.U.S.15.

(C.T.F.61 091940Z to Admty. Commorseafron (R)
C. in C. Lant, Com. 10th U.S. Fleet, Comdt. 5th
Nav. Dist. Norfolk, Com. Eastseafron, Comnaveu.)

DANAE,
damage.

Amended time of arrival Boom 1700B/10th Sept.
Request dockyard assistance to effect temporary
repairs forecastle deck plating damaged by
weather. Estimated 48 hours.

(DANAE 092025B to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) A.S. Gib.)

War Diary.9.9.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.KING
FREDERICK
(incorrect
routeing).Your 061756. Comnavu will be informed.
(D.T.D., 090019A to F.O.C.W.Af.)

L.M.D.32.

Group sailings L.M.D.32, Lourenco Marques. 3
ships (list) escorted by ARCTIC EXPLORER, ST.
LOMAN (6 groups missing) Cape Inhaca 6 miles
at 0430Z/11th. S. of A. 8 knots, E.T.A.
Durban 12th Sept.
(Lourenco Marques, 090741Z to Admty., etc.)

ALBATROSS.

My 011751. R/V one day late.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 091026Z to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)COMMANDANT
DETROYAT.Comar Dakar's 080844. Request you arrange
onward passage COMMANDANT DETROYAT to Gibraltar.
C. in C. Med.'s 131151 August refers.
(F.O.C.W.A, 091032Z to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R)
Commorseafron.)

S.T.L.1.

Intend to sail S.T.L.1 at 1500Z/10 consisting
of ELIZABETHVILLE and NEW NORTHLAND escorted by
WELLINGTON, ABERDEEN and LOWESTOFT. Route
"Oxford" estimated speed made good 10 knots.
E.T.A. 1900Z/15.
(F.O.C.W.A, 091405Z, 091630Z to R.N.O. Lagos, (R)
N.O.I.C. Takoradi, Admty., WELLINGTON.)ALBATROSS,
NESS,
SWALE.(1) Intend to sail ALBATROSS escorted by NESS
and SWALE at 1900Z/10th Sept. to Gibraltar.
(2) Route (PN) 11.01 N. 19.01 W. (PO) 22.18 N.
19.01 W. (PP) 26.10 N. 15.30 W. thence in
accordance with your 041245 Sept. S. of A. 15
knots, R/V for Gibraltar escorts in (PP) at
1330Z/14th Sept., E.T.A. Gibraltar 1930/16th Sept.
(3) ALBATROSS changes to Med. W/T organisation at 1600Z/14th.
(4) After ?the R/V, NESS and SWALE will be detached to return
to Freetown by direct route, fuelling at Dakar if necessary.
(F.O.C.W.A, 091412 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty., C. in C.
W.A., C. in C. Med., ALBATROSS, Comar Dakar, NESS, SWALE.)

D.N. 60.

Destinations of 3 merchant ships in convoy
D.N.60 have been changed as follows: BLACKHEATH
to Colombo, JERSEY CITY to Alexandria, STORVIKEN
to Aden. Ships are to be informed and last 2
names instructed to remain in convoy to Kilindini where they
are to put in for onward routeing.
BLACKHEATH to be instructed to proceed as direct as safe

/navigation ...

9.9.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

D.N. 60.
(Contd.)

navigation permits from position K on her route to Colombo.
(C. in C. S.A., 091529B to NIGELLA, (R) Admty., etc.)

U/B
Campaign.
Use of
Portuguese
East African
Ports.

Sictel No.20 (not to High Commissioner) refers to use about to be made of Azores by British surface and air forces in anti U-Boat campaign.
(2) Portuguese East Africa has the ports of Lourenco Marques, Beira and Mozambique on the flank of convoys proceeding up and down the Mozambique Channel. If U-Boats appear in these waters the use of these ports for operational and fuelling purposes by escorts might be

of great importance.

(3) Latest information shows that airfields are not good although Lodestars have been using some of them. Airfields are mostly in malarial districts. B.O.A.C. have excellent flying boat bases in full use now.

(4) Latest intelligence on local seaward defences is contained in C.B. 1805 X/21/43. Three miles of B.I. nets are in reserve at Port Elizabeth.

* (C. in C. S.A., 091755B to Admty., C. in C. E.F., (R) High Comm. Pretoria.)

W.R. Note:- Sictel No.20 not received in War Registry.

BARBETTE.

(1) Intend sailing BARBETTE independently to Takoradi at 1800Z/10th Sept. Route "Strand". Estimated speed made good $8\frac{1}{2}$ knots. E.T.A. Takoradi a.m./15th.

(2) W/T watch will be kept on FX routeing.

(3) BARBETTE is to come under the orders of N.O.I.C. Takoradi. (F.O.C.W.Af., 091847Z to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, (R) Admty., BARBETTE.)

W.S. 33.

Arrivals 9th Sept. NESS, BULLDOG, BANN, HYDRANGEA, WESTON, TOTLAND with W.S.33.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 092226 to Admty., etc.)

* Reply to this is in Admty 221623A/September, HUSH distribution.

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 Service.

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN
(NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad Date 9.9.43
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.) Rec'd. 1620

From ...F.H.Q. Algiers

Cipher

Sicily + Nef Army Situation Report.

Addressed War Office Rept. Agwar, Usfor

153798 . W9506/2254 9th Sept.

CITE FHGOT Signed Eisenhower
From G3 Ops D. Sect.

26 Weekly summary. Summary of operations. 31 Aug. to 5th Sept.

1. Ground. 3rd Sept. Thirteen Corps landed on Italian mainland between Reggio and Catona 0430 hrs. Assault made by 1 Cdn. Div. and 5 Div. Initial assaults encountered little opposition and beach heads were quickly secured. Canadians on right occupied Reggio town and airfield 5 Div. secured San Giovanni D 45 and forward elements reached Cannitello D.46.

Sept. 4. While 2 Cdn. Bde remained in reserve in Reggio 1 Cdn. Bde. advanced inland and reached Straorini D.55. 3 Cdn. Bde occupied Melito D 52 with patrols forward to Bova Marina D 62. 13 Bde reached Orti D 55 patrolling to San Stefano D 55. 15 Bde advanced along N Coast Road to Bagnara D 56 and joined Commando Unit which had landed North of Bagnara at 0430 hrs. and had occupied the town without opposition. Sept. 5. 3 Cdn. Bde held up by craters South of Bagaladi occupied Bova Marina with 1 Cdn. Bde. in area eight miles south of Bagnara facing extensive demolitions. 2 Cdn. Bde was directed on Doliamiova D 66. 5 Div. 15 Bde continued advance East and South of Bagnara. 13 Bde forced North by demolitions is following 15 Bde along Coast Road. 17 Bde concentrating between Scilla and Cannitello.

2. Locations. Fifteen Army Group Cassibile. 82 Airborne Div. Licata. Seven Army Palermo. Two Corps D 8831. 1 Div. G 8446. 3 Div Trapani. 9 Div. Cofalu. 45 Div B 7829. Prov Corps Palermo. Two armed Div B 2343. Eight Army Main Falcone C 94. TAC D 4652. Thirty Corps D 2762. 50 Div. D. 317. 51 Div. D 1457. 78 Div C 9248. Thirteen Corps D 4652. 1 Cdn. Div. D 4548. 5 Div. D 4557.

3. Movements nil.

4. Estimated casualties. Seven Army to 1800 hrs. 2nd Sept. 464 Offrs. 7,096 O.Rs. Eight Army to 0600 hrs. 1st Sept. 881 Offrs. 10,966 O.Rs.

5. Estimated Baytown prisoners to 1800 hrs 3rd Sept. 1,000.

6.

(Copy ending)

6. Administrative. Port capacity Palermo now fourteen liberty ships and six coasters. Eight Army reports cases of suspected sabotage of railways such as small fires, fishplates removed and set of points wedged. Evacuation. Seven Army to follow. Eight Army to 2nd Sept. casualties including sick 17,255 PW 25,542. Eight Army report 8,375 cases Malaria to 26 Aug. General Administrative situation satisfactory.

082103B

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.
Plet
Hd. of M.(2)
D.H.I.(4)
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D.P.D.
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W.D.
Ad. Blake
D.D.O.D.(M)
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Odn. Mil. H.Q.

M.S

9.9.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Avalanche".

NCWTF 091006 (indecipherable)
repeated in C. in C. Med 181532
page 605, 2.v.

Force 'H',
Air
Attack. 20 plus Torpedo aircraft attacked Force "H"
from 2100 to 2215 and later in first watch.
Aircraft came from Northerly direction and
attacked singly and persistently. Red flares
seen probably by Homing Shadower. Several
ships sighted torpedoes. No damage, 1
aircraft shot down. No confirmed evidence of glider bomber.
(2) During rest of night fire had to be (?opened) frequently
on unidentified aircraft of (corrupt group). There were
many in restricted flying area. Some were enemy;
perhaps others were Italian. (3) Weather report.
(S.O. Force "H" 090921B to C. in C. Med. (R) Cdr. U.S. Naval
Forces, N.W. African Waters, S.O. Force "Z", C.S.15,
S.O. Force "V", Admty.)
My 090921B, 2 aircraft definitely shot down.
(S.O. Force "H", 091020B to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. etc.)

Situation (1) Operation "Avalanche" all movements carried
Report out according to programme, weather calm.
No.175. (2) Northern attack Force. Considerable initial
activity beach batteries. Both beaches captured
moderate enemy air activity, 4 brigades landed
by 0600/9th, landing of 5th and 6th Divisions
proceeding. (3) First returning convoy of personnel ships
sailed at 0630. (4) Rangers and Commandos landed successfully,
former encountered no opposition. (5) Southern attack
force landing commenced satisfactorily to time.
(C. in C. Med. 091021B to Admty.)

Force "H". "Avon" 6 para. 27 flight will not take place
tonight. Navigational Markers and aids are
not required.
(C. in C. Med. 091525 to S. and A. taking part
in Operation "Avalanche".)
Rejoin as previously arranged. C. in C. Med's 091525 refers.
(S.O. Force "H", 091840 to ECLIPSE (R) R.A.(A) Capt. (D) 24,
FORMIDABLE)
ECLIPSE detached as marker number 4 "Avon" 6 para. 27 and
28 before cancellation received. May be encountered N. of
040 degs. N. She rejoins me in 040 degs. N. 014 degs. E. at
0630/10th.
(S.O. Force "H", 091925B to C.T.F. 85, F.O.15th C.S?
repeated (?NC) West Naval T.F. ECLIPSE.)
Second (?Division), 6 Destroyers and F.F.S. TERRIBLE will
pass through 038 degs. 35' N. 011 degs. 10' E. at 2100,
000 degs. Galita 20 miles at 0245 thence to R/V. Your 091028
(N.T. in W.D.) refers. Request fighter protection high from
0630 to-morrow Friday.
(R.A.E., 091620B to C. in C. Med. (R) S.O. Force H.
N.A.C.A.F.)

Force "V" /...

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9.9.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Avalanche".

- Force "V". Am sending back rescue M.T.B's to Palermo this evening. Urgently require these to meet me in position 039 degs. 46' N. (?014 degs.) 20' E. at 0630 tomorrow Friday 10th. (S.O. Force "V", 091831B to Capt. Coastal Force Med.)
- Monte Corvino airfield. Monte Corvino airfield not yet made serviceable (?but) expect to fly off at 0615 tomorrow from square E for Easy tomorrow approaching from Southward. (S.O. Force "V", 091835B to Cdr. W.N.T.F. S.O. Force "H", R.A. "A" Home Fleet)
- Force Z. KING GEORGE V. KING GEORGE V. KING GEORGE V and 3 fleets remaining at sea south of latitude 40 degs. Remainder berthed inside harbour. Rate of unloading cannot yet be estimated but natives appear friendly. (S.O. Force Z, 091928 to C. in C. Med.)
- Force H, Anti E-Boat Patrol. U.S. Anti E-Boat patrol established tonight by (?torpedo) boats covering approaches from Bocca Piccola and vicinity of Capri not eastwards of (?Pont)a Campanella. ?Base Maiori. (S.O. Force N, 092007 to C.S. 15 (R) C.T.F.80)
- MENDIP damaged by A/C. MENDIP has suffered the following damage as the result of a near miss by large bomb at 2130 on Sept. 8th when acting as escort to F.S.S.2. (2) Main engines, (details). (3) Maximum safe speed at present for port engine is considered to be 11, starboard engine 20 knots. (4) No.2 boiler. Left hand fixed foot bolts and keep plates distorted. (5) Port Turbo and No.2 Diesel generators out of action. (6) Master gyro compass out of action. (7) Hull. A few minor leaks and distortions. (8) No casualties to ship's company. (Capt. D. 21, 092109B to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. etc.)
- Force H. LE TERRIBLE. French Light Cruiser LE TERRIBLE has been instructed to rejoin you at 0800 tomorrow Friday in approximate position 040 degs. N. 014 degs. E. C. in C. Med. 091806 refers. (F.O. 2nd i/c Force "H", 092202B to S.O. Force "H", (R) C. in C. Med.)

C. in C. /...

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9.9.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Operation "Avalanche" - Contd.

C. in C. Med. Report. Situation report No.176.
 (1) Force "H" was attacked by about 20 torpedo Bombers between 2100 and 2215/8th September. 2 aircraft were shot down. No damage.
 (2) (?cle)ary group captured Ventotene Island 0001/9th. Italian garrison surrendered without opposition. 1 Italian and 60 Germans found barricaded in Town Hall. (3) Unloading of ships into Salerno Bay beaches continues well. LAFOREY and LOYAL damaged in boiler by enemy action speed reduced to 20 knots and 24 knots respectively.
 (4) All major units of Italian Fleet now appear to be carrying out terms of Armistice. Battle fleet from Spezia proceeded W. of Corsica and turned into Asinara Bay about 1300/9th but later turned W. R/C aircraft report Fleet was attacked by German aircraft about 1600/9th. One battleship or large cruiser hit. Second division of Force "H" detached to R/V with Italians off Bone 0600/10th.
 (5) Force "Z" preceded by Sweepers passed up swept channel to Taranto with pilot on board 1700/9th. Italian fleet had then left harbour and were proceeding to Sea. By 1930/9th HOWE, 12 Cruiser Squadron U.S. Cruiser BOISE and ABDIEL with destroyers had berthed inside the harbour. KING GEORGE V and 3 destroyers remained at sea. Reception at Taranto appeared friendly. (6) Italian U-Boat VORTICE encountered on surface by HURWORTH at 0900/9th and ordered into Augusta. (C. in C. Mediterranean, 092205 to Admty.)

HURSLEY. Sail at 0200/10th by Q.B.B.146 to arrive 036 degs. 00' 015 degs. 30' by 0500. Remain that position in order to comply with para.2 of C. in C. Med. 091918 if required codeword "Cussed" 937 low. (2) Expect Wellingtons to shadow Taranto Squadron being relieved by Baltimores at 0700. Both fitted with mark 2 N, IF F. (3) Set additional watch on R.A.F. R/C wave when within 50 miles of estimated position of Italian Squadron.
 (V.A. Malta, 092342B to HURSLEY, (R) C. in C. Med., S.O. Force "Z", S.O. Force "H", A.O.C. Malta.)

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9.9.1943.

Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Disposal of Italian Fleet and Merchant Ships.

Orders following Italian Armistice.

Italian merchant ships should also be treated as friendly. C. in C. Med. Fleet 082048 refers. Do not relax precaution for your own safety. Continue to attack German vessels. You are to report movements of important Italian units. (Capt. (S) 8th S/M.F., 090130B to 8th S/M.F., (R) C. in C. Med. Fleet.)

Instructions to Italian Authorities.

Following is substance of instructions given to Italian Authorities.

- (A) All Italian Naval ships to sail as soon as possible after dark, and if possible in groups and proceed at their highest speed as follows.
- (B) Warships north of 042° N. to proceed north and west of Corsica and west of Sardinia to Bone.
- (C) Warships south of $042^{\circ} 00'$ N. to proceed north hugging west coast Italy as far as $042^{\circ} 00'$ N. thence due west to Corsica thence south hugging the east coast of Corsica and Sardinia thence to Bone.
- (D) Submarines in harbour to sail by same route as surface vessels proceeding on surface if possible with escort.
- (E) Submarines at sea to proceed on the surface to nearest of following ports - Gibraltar, Palermo, Malta.
- (F) Merchant ships (G) west of $017^{\circ} 00'$ E. and north of $042^{\circ} 00'$ N. to proceed north of Corsica or through Straits of Bonifacio thence direct to Gibraltar but may call at Bone or Algiers for fuel.
- (G) All Italian Naval or merchant ships to fly a large black or blue pendant from the main-mast by day and to burn dimmed navigation lights and flash letters GA if challenged by night.
- (H) United Nations ports to be approached in full daylight at less than 12 knots.
- (Capt. (S) 8th, 090210B to 8th Sub. Flot., (R) C. in C. Med.)

Movements reported.

Enemy P.C. and S. 3 battleships, 6 cruisers, 6 destroyers 42.10 N. 8.15 E., 210, 15.
(A/C FMS/E, 090741B.)

Spazio ships
Enemy P.C. and S. 3 battleships, 6 cruisers, 7 destroyer 41.57 N. 8.16 E. X(based on a fix at 1100) 1 1 160, 20.

(A/C FMS/D, 091100B.)

My 091100B. Position OECS (indecypherable) course 180, speed 20.

(A/C FMS/D via Algiers W/T, 091145B to 45 U.)

My 091100B. Enemy previously reported are 3 Italian battleships: 1 BOLZANO, 1 GORIZIA, 1 GARIBALDI, 2 ATTENDOLO, 1 REGOLO.

(A/C FMS/D via Algiers W/T, 091150B to 45 U.)

My 1100B. P.C. and S. of enemy are 41.18 N. 8.28 E. (fixed within $\frac{1}{2}$ hour of 1300) 120° , 20 knots.

(A/C FMS/D via Algiers W/T, 091300B to Base 45 U.)

My 1100B P.C. and S. of enemy is 41.17 N. 8.59 E., 90° , 20 knots based on a fix obtained within $\frac{1}{2}$ hours of 1400.

(A/C FMS/D, 091420B.)

/Enemy ...

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9.9.1943.

Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Disposal of Italian Fleet and Merchant Ships.

Movements reported. (Contd.) Enemy previously reported are 3 Italian battleships, 5 CONDOTTIERI class 1 unknown cruiser and 12 destroyers.
(A/C FMS/E via Algiers W/T, 091110B to 45 U.)
My 0940 - bearing and distance of enemy ships from me.

One battleship 360°, 1 mile. One battleship 360°, 2 miles. One destroyer 045°, 1 mile. One destroyer 315°, 1 mile. One destroyer 015°, 2 miles. One destroyer 345°, 2 miles. 2 cruisers 360°, 3 miles. 2 cruisers 360°, 4 miles. 2 cruisers 360°, 5 miles. 2 destroyers 360°, 6 miles. One destroyer 360°, 1 mile. 4 destroyers 360°, 10 miles. One battleship.
(A/C FMS/E via Algiers W/T, 091120B to Base K.T.1.)
Gate open. 1 cruiser has left Taranto.
(V.A. Malta, 091117B to S.O. Force Z.)
Two S/Ms in 038° 35' N. 017° 11' E. proceeding S.W. on the surface.
(HURWORTH, 091126B to C. in C. Med., (R) V.A. Malta, F.O. Sy., N.O.I.C. Augusta.)
P.C. and S. of 1 enemy medium vessel, 2 destroyers 41.34 N. 12.23 E., 315°, 12 based on a fix obtained within ½ hours of 1400.
(A/C BWX/S NRI, 091410B to 45 U.)
My 1410. Enemy previously reported 1 medium sized M/V of 8000 tons, 2 destroyers.
(A/C BWX/S, 091415B.)
3 enemy battleships, 6 cruisers and 13 destroyers in 41.08 N. 8.57 E., course 285°, speed ? 20 knots.
(A/C BWX/M, 091510B.)
Position of 7 small enemy merchant vessels, 3 seaplanes at 1350Z was 36.08 N. 26.50 E.
(A/C GGL/S via Alexandria W/T, 091515Z.)
High diving bombing attack in progress.
(A/C BXW/M, No T.O.O./9, Recd. 1516/9.)
One Italian battleship hit and burning.
(A/C BWX/M via Algiers, 091600B, to 45 U.)
Positions of 3 small enemy vessels 37.12 N. 26.48 E., 135, (? 25).
(A/C GGL/S via Alex. W/T, 091517Z.)
My 1510. Enemy previously reported are 3 Italian battleships, 2 GARIBALDI class, 3 ATTENDOLO class, one REGOLO class, one battleship.
(A/C BWX/M via Algiers W/T, 091535B to 45 U.)
My 1410B. P.C. and S. of enemy 1 medium vessels, 2 destroyers 41.42 N. 12.12 E., 315, 12 knots based on a fix within ½ hour of 1500.
(A/C BWX/S via Algiers W/T, 091545B.)
My 1510. P.C. and S. are 41.22 N. 8.34 E., 205°, 20 knots.
(A/C BWX/M via Algiers W/T, 091625B.)
My 1510 P.C. and S. of enemy ?41.22 N. 8.22 E., 250, 20.
(A/C BWX/M via Algiers W/T, 091655B to 45 U.)
My 1510 force split. Force A P.C. and S. 2 battleships, 5 light cruisers, 5 destroyers 41.16 N. 8.10 E., 270, (? 28).
(A/C BWX/M, 091751 to 45 U.)
My 1805. Force A, 2 battleships, 5 light cruisers, 7 destroyers 41.27 N. 7.41 E., 270°, speed 20 knots.
(A/C BWX/M 091840.)

/My 1820 ...

Roma.Spezia

9.9.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Disposal of Italian Fleet and Merchant Ships.

Movements reported. (Contd.)	My 1820, enemy are concentrated as follows.
	1 LITTORIO class bearing 000° distant 1 mile.
	1 GARIBALDI " " 010° " 6 miles.
	1 GARIBALDI " " 020° " 5 "
	1 ATTENDOLO " " 330° " 5 "
	1 " " 340° " 5 "
	1 " " 350° " 6 "
	1 Destroyer " 000° " 9 "
	1 " " 050° " 2 "
	1 " " 090° " 1 "
	5 " " 135° " 2 "
	1 " " 255° " 2 "
	1 " " 270° " 1 "
	1 " " 310° " 2 "

Spezia group

(7 G 29) (Signification unknown.)
(A/C BWX/M (Nr.11) (via Algiers), 092000B.)

My 1805. Force A, 2 battleships, 5 light cruisers, 7 destroyers 41.27 N. 7.41 E., 270°, 20 knots.
(A/C C/S 65R, 092100B to A.H.Q. Malta.)
P.C. and S. (EDR) (signification unknown) 8 unknown 40.42 N. 6.36 E., 180°, 20 knots.
(A/C GPM/X, 092200B to 65 RV.)
P.C. and S. of 8 enemy cruisers and 8 unknown ships is 40.42 N. 6.374 E., 180°, 20 knots.
(A/C GPM/K via Malta, 092300B to 45 U.)
P.C. and S. of enemy is (sic., WJ = 40° N. XE = 6° E.) 230°, 15 knots. 10 unknown ships.
(A/C GPM/W via Malta, 092110B to Air H.Q. Malta.)
Enemy has altered course to 180° F approx.
(A/C GPM/V via Malta, 092235B to Air H.Q. Malta.)
P.C. and S. of 2 battleships and 4 destroyers are 40.36 N. 6.44 E., 180°, 20 knots. Weather report.
(A/C GPM/W, 092300B to Air H.Q. Malta.)
Have obtained A.S.V. contact in position 42.20 N. 8.00 E.
(A/C GPM/L, 092303 to 45 U.)

Operation "Gibbon" para. 1 (A) clause 1 sub-clause A.
"Gibbon". Are LITTORIOS playing the game?
(S.O. Force H, 091535B to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O. 2 i/c Force H, R.A.(A).)

Situation at 1626B. Italian Battle Fleet consisting of 3 LITTORIOS, 6 cruisers and 12 destroyers was sighted at 0941 in 42° 10' 08° 15'. Fleet then proceeded at 15 knots into Gulf of Asinara apparently wasting time to avoid arrival off North African coast at night. Our R/C aircraft report high dive bombing attack by German aircraft shortly after Fleet had turned west again. One battleship hit and on fire.
(C. in C. Med., 091626B, 091735B to Admty., S.O. Force Z.)

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9.9.1943.

Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Disposal of Italian Fleet & Merchant Ships - Contd.ECLIPSE,
Italian
U/Bs.M.T.B.266 with W/T broken down reports he has 2 Italian S/Ms in 039° 55' N. 013° 40' ^{W.} who insist on going to Bizerta contrary to his orders to go to Palermo. M.T.B.266 is escorting them.

(ECLIPSE, 091651B to R.A.(V), (R) C. in C. Med., S.O. Force H.)

My 091651.* Italian S/Ms BRIN and GALATEA in 040° 15' N. 013° 25' E. proceeding Bone. Routed to 042° N. and down east coast Sardinia. Unescorted.

(ECLIPSE, 092214B to S.O. Force H, (R) C. in C. Med., S.O. Force V.)

* Re 2 Italian S/Ms proceeding Bizerta.

SERAPH
report of
enemy units.

Throughout today a considerable traffic small coastal craft, F-Boat and R-Boat have been proceeding northward close inshore between Argentario Promontory and Piombino. Mainly wearing Italian ensign but no further form of recognition. One R-Boat wearing German ensign.

Small merchant ship boarded had no instructions re recognition.

(P.219 (SERAPH), 092021B to Capt. (S) 8.)

KING GEORGE
V.My 091950 ^{No trace} (N.T. in W.R.) ^{Was Reported} Enemy course and speed 155°, 22 knots.

(KING GEORGE V, 092025B to C. in C. Med., (R) S.O. Force Z.)

My 091950, enemy P.C. and S. 39.12 N. 17.41 E. 130°, 22 knots.

(KING GEORGE V, 092132B to C. in C. Med., (R) S.O. Force Z.)

UNSHAKEN,
MENOTTI.

Have Italian S/M ?MENOTTI in company with armed party on board. Request escort to R/V dawn (? tomorrow).

(P.54 (UNSHAKEN), 092035 to Capt. (S) 10, (R) C. in C. Med., 10th S/M.F.)

2nd Div. 1st
Battle Sqdn.

2nd Div. 1st Battle Sqdn. 6 destroyers codeword "Lester" from 038° 35' 011° 10' at 2100 through 000° Galita 20 miles to 000° Cape de Garde 20 miles at 0600B to R/V Italian Battle Fleet thence proceed eastward in company.

Above is para. 9 of my 091159 (N.T. in W.R.) (N.O.I.C. Algiers, 092259B to A.I.G. 411.)

SCIPIONE.

Following bearings on Italian Cruiser SCIPIONE 1311 bearing 031 from Malta, 1318 bearing 033, 1436 bearing 030, 1844 bearing 016, 2014 bearing 010, 2034 bearing 008. These may indicate that

she is proceeding up the Adriatic.

(V.A.M., 092301B to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty., C.O.T.S. Alexandria.)

War Diary.

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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.General.

- Force Z. C. in C. Med's 081854 and your 081941.
Am off Alice Point course till 1000 175° then
355° E.T.A. R/V 1605.
(S.O. 17th Minesweeping Flt. 090800 to S.O. Force
Z. (R) C. in C. Med.)
- K.M.S. 24. K.M.S. 24. Arrived and sailed again for Sicily
7 ships (names.)
(V.A. Malta 090938 to Admty. etc.)
- X.T.1. Following is a repetition of my 072337 (N.T. in
W.D.) (begins):
Addressed A.I.G. 259 negative Connav from S.N.O.
Trip. Convoy X.T.1 arrived. "Nailseamoor". (Ends.)
(S.N.O. Tripoli 090959B to Admty. etc.)
W.D. Note: T.X.1 See also 091842B.
- M.E. Air Report. A. 668 9th Sept. 0941Z. Daily Opsum 134. 7/8 Sept.
3 Wellingtons anti-shipping R/C west coast Greece.
2 bombed 3 M/Vs in Corfu Harbour. Bombs fell
among vessels but damage unobserved. Third air-
craft made no sightings.
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 091003Z.)
- M.T.B. 263. M.T.B. 263 sailing 1403C/9th at 20 knots for
Malta through 267 direct to Bone, thence G.B.B.
Eastward B E.T.A. boom 0931C/10th codeword
"Nipple" low priority single operator 150 k/cs.
(S.N.O. Cyrenaica 091019C to V.A. Malta, (R) C. in
C. Mediterranean, C. in C. Levant, etc.)
- G.U.S. 15. 1. Sailing telegram. 2. 0745C/9th. 3. Sailed
together. 4. 5. 6. As in C. in C. Levant 062152.
Ships for U.S. also hold G.U.S. standard ocean
route as in A.M. 061250 September letters for
ocean route PP. TT. MM. VV. ZZ. NN. YY. XX.
- 13.A. Cdre. Sir Arthur Davies in NAIRUNG to Gibraltar.
B. Master PLAIN OF WINDSOR to Malta. 15. H.M.
(R.A. Alexandria 091027C to Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med.)
- HURWORTH,
ALDENHAM,
KANARIS,
CROOME
Convoy
S.T.M. 1. Request that HURWORTH, ALDENHAM, KANARIS, CROOME,
may be saild for Malta as soon as (?favourable)
(corrupt group) is one for Ofts Mersa Matruh
(corrupt group) destroyer detailed in "Avon."
(C. in C. Med. 091029 to (groups missed), (R)
V.A. Malta, HURWORTH, (groups missed).)
"Avon" N date 31. A. S.T.M. 1 0930B/9th August
Sousse and Tripoli B. 18 L.C.I. C. Empty.
D. 2 M.Ls. E. 11 knots. F. R. for Roger "Avon".
G. Tripoli 1030B/11th. H. Frigid 1 call sign 202 1.
(Cdre. N. 091252B to C. in C. Med.)

"Taranto..."

War Diary.

9.9.1943.

Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- Taranto R/C. Taranto visual 0900. 2 BB. 3 CR. outer harbour in nets steam up. Gates closed. No (?photographs) yet.
(V.A. Malta 091036B to C. in C. Med. (R) S.O. Force Z, F.O. Sy. C.S. 12.)
- Swiss ships. A.M. 012153 July. Is the route in your 040032 August to be regarded as standard route for Swiss ships?
(Head of M.I. 091040A to C. in C. Med. (A), C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)
- Patrol "Weight" UNSHAKEN, UNRULY. ^{No trace} Cancel my 081935 (N.T. in W.D.) Hostilities against Italy have ceased. Patrol "Weight" continues pending further instructions, P.54 (UNSHAKEN) and P.49 (UNRULY) returning to Malta as ordered in my 071115 and my 080955. Only German vessels are to be attacked. Italian shipping has been directed to proceed to United Nations ports.
(Capt. S.10, 090155 to 10th S.F. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)
- C.V. Es. for Biscay Approaches. Cominch's 051301? (Admty. 051301 intended). Consider this will be most useful.
(C. in C. Med. 091101 to Admty. (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar.)
- HAMBLEDON. Intend to sail HAMBLEDON at 1330B September 9th through 90, 738 War Channel to Bizerta.
2. S.O.A. 23 knots. 3. Codeword "Denison".
(N.O.I.C. Algiers 091145B to C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Tunisia, (R) HAMBLEDON, Capt. D.21.)
- UNIVERSAL, SPORTSMAN, DOLFIJN. P.57 (UNIVERSAL) proceed forthwith to patrol between 005° 30' E. and 006° 30' and north of 042° 30'. Object German U-Boats and German shipping.
2. After sunset today Thursday P.229 (SPORTSMAN) P.47 (DOLFIJN) proceed to area SA. and S.B. respectively and act in accordance with my 090100.
(Capt. S.8 091242B to 8th S/M F. (R) C. in C. Med. C.C.S.O. Malta.)
- LAFOREY, LOYAL, damaged. LAFOREY has one boiler out of action speed reduced to 20. LOYAL has small hole in one boiler and electric lead cut speed reduced to 24. Both results of enemy action.
(C.S.15, 091326B to C. in C. Med. (R) C.W.N.T.F. Car. (N).)
- Sail tomorrow Friday as follows - begins:-
1. LOYAL at 1030B to Palermo for ammunition. Route through NQ. and NM. E.T.A. 1830B/10th. Codeword "Judith" callsign 376 C. Return Salerno on completion unless otherwise ordered.
2. LAFOREY at 1400B or when temporary repairs are completed to Malta for repair. Route R. for "Roger" "Avon" 2. E.T.A. 1030B/11

LOYAL = 3-in shell hit

/codeword...

War Diary.

9.9.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

LAFOREY,
LOYAL,
damaged.
(Contd.)

codeword "Pamela" callsign 384 normal. Salvage party will embark at 1030B.
(S.O.Force N 092358B to LAFOREY, LOYAL, (R) C. in C.Med. N.O.I.C. Malta, Com. N.O.B.Palermo, C.S.15, F.O.Sy. M.A.C.N.A.T.Af.)

L.S.I.

Destination of all L.S.I. in the address is Bizerta.
(C. in C.Med. 091432 to S.O.Force N, (R) PRINSES BEATRIX, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, ULSTER MONARCH.)

UNSPARING
sinks M/V.

UNSPARING reports at 1800/31st August in 41° 31' N. 16° 57' E. fired 2 torpedoes at vessel resembling auxiliary petrol carrier (?ships) of 1340 tons. One hit, vessel sank.
(S.10, 091530B to C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant, V.A.Malta, Capt. S.1, Capt. S.8, (R) F.O.S. Admty. R.A.Alex.)

U.G.S.
Convoy
Cycles.

If an increase in the numbers in U.G.S. convoys is anticipated, the closing of the cycle of these convoys is necessary. It is, however, undesirable to do this until essential.
2. Our escort position precludes a shortening of the K.M.S./O.S. and K.M.S./OG. cycles to correspond, except at the expense of the Bay offensive. Volume of C.S/K.M.S. and S.L/M.K.S. shipping will not allow this cycle to be opened.
3. It is understood that Cominch would agree to an 8 day cycle for the U.G.S. if this was preferred.
4. Sailing dates of K.M.S. convoys can be adjusted to ensure that their arrivals at Gibraltar do not clash with the arrivals of U.G.S. convoys.
5. Request early reply. Cominch's 072153 refers.
(D.T.D. 091613A to C. in C.Med. C. in C.Med. (A), (R) B.A.D.)
Reply C. in C.Med. 102107.

L.C.T. for
Milazzo.

N.C.W.N.T.F. 081728. 6 L.C.T. should be sent Milazzo to complete lifting of R.A.F. vehicles.
(F.O.Sy. 091725B to Comnabsci (R) C. in C.Med. etc.)

French Co-
operation
D/F Code.

My 101941 August and reference C. in C.Med's 161525 August and F.O.C.W.Af.'s 171602 August, approval given for the issue to the appropriate French Authorities of C.B. 4002, C.B. 4003, S.P. 02263 (4)* and the appropriate recoding tables for the D/F bearing code.
(Head of M.I. Approved V.C.N.S. 091828A to C. in C.Med. C. in C.Med. (A) F.O.C.W.Af.)
*D/F bearing code.

/Convoy...

War Diary.

9.9.1943.

Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Convoy T.X.1. M.S. convoy instructions 22. Intend sailing convoy T.X.1 at 1400B/10th, ORNA towing EMPIRE, FORT GEORGE, PELLICULLA. 2A. and B. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$. 3, 218. 5. 10 miles North of 233, 10 miles North 211, 224, 267, E.T.A. Benghazi Boom 1501B/12th.

6. Normal and A/S (?Work)er (?sweep). 7. B.

8. ISLAY, LEONIAN, L.C.T. 116, 117, M.L. 456, 461, 478, ships and escorts 25 for onward routing to Alex. (?except M.Ls.) (S.N.O. Tripolitania 091842B to S.N.O. Cyrenaica, (R) C. in C. Levant, Admty. etc.)

TORBAY. Bottom struck in 30 fathoms in 035° 56' 027° 29' Shoal water appears to be running 2.5 miles, (?westwards of) this position. No damage. (TORBAY 091845 to Capt. S.I, S/M F.)

Coast Defences, Personnel. British Army through A.F.H.C. are pressing for the release of as many coast defence personnel from Mediterranean as soon as possible. Consider acceptable that all British Coast Defence except close harbour defences can be withdrawn from all North African and captured ports. Army request information whether M.N.B.D.O. 6" batteries will remain available to meet any immediate requirement of coast defence that may arise. My 281900 August also refers. (C. in C. Med. 091921B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med. (A).)

PRINSES ASTRID, PINDOS. E.T.A. daylight escorted by G.S. PINDOS. Require 60 tons furnace fuel. 50 tons fresh water. Request transport for 3 casualties other ranks. (PRINSES ASTRID 092001B to N.C.I.C. Palermo.)

Arrivals Algeria. Arrivals U.S.S. LEA, H.D.M.L. 1050, 1302. (Com. Algeria 093009B to Admty. C. in C. Med. etc.)

Situation Report No. 52. Convoys departure G.U.S.15, 16 motor vessels left Alex. 9th arrivals K.M.S.24 9th 11 motor vessels for Alex. and 19 for Port Said and beyond. 2. Cyrenaica. Mersa Matruh reduced care maintenance party from 8th. 3. Levant area. Egyptian schooners sunk 1 damaged by U-Boat in position 034° 02' N. 033° 05' E. at 1030/7th and U-Boat fixed by D/F in approx. same position at 1021/7th. Air search without result. Unescorted sailings suspended 7th resumed 9th. 4. Red Sea. Trial docking satisfactorily completed 7th in A.F.D. 29 at Massawa. 5. BULOLO sailed Suez 7th for Aden. 6. TACTICIAN from Aegean patrol reports special operation carried out 26th otherwise blank patrol. 7. Changes on the station. Arrival H.H.M.B. KING GEORGE II with K.M.S.24 departure H.M.I.S. NARBADA from Aden 8th for Bombay. 8. Correction reference situation report number 51 para. 7 MAID MARION sailed from Aden 6th. (C. in C. Levant 092036 to Admty.)

/Bastia...

War Diary.9.9.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Bastia
evacuated.

German light force evacuated Bastia at daylight today being heavily but ineffectively engaged by shore batteries, 1 Italian destroyer and SPORTSMAN.
(SPORTSMAN 092045B to Capt. S.8, (R) C. in C.Med. DOLFIJN.)

X.T.2.

X.T.2. R.A.Alex. is requested to sail convoy a.m. Sept. 11th. Consists of 12 ships. 2. A. 7.
3. 309 1200/11th, 310, 502, 507, 0110/12th, 316, 321, 1430/12th, 328, 332, 0610/13th, 341, 3 miles North 346. 2130/13th, 3 miles North 350 through 356 0555/14th. 359, 361, 1715/14th, 224, 211, 1820/15th, 10 miles north 233 0315/16th, through 244, 1115/16th, Q.B.B. 118 routes one and four to Tripoli 1905/16th.
4A. Tobruk detach or join 332 daylight 13th.
B. Benghazi detach or join 361 1715/14th.
6. Normal blanket. 7C. 8. ROMEO, BURRA.
(C. in C.Levant 092145C to Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. etc.)

G.U.F.10.

Request you will sail G.U.S.10 a.m. 10th Sept. Com. N.O.B. to signal times of R/V for Gibraltar section.
(C. in C.Med. 092147B to Com. N.O.B.Oran, (R) Admty. etc.)

Oran
Movements.

Arrivals today U.S.S. BEATTY, TILLMAN, DAVISON, SUPANAR, ANTHONY, U.S.A.F. SANTA ELENA, U.S.A.T. BARRY.
(Com. N.O.B.Oran 092200B to Admty. etc.)

SHAKESPEARE.

My 071020 (programme for SHAKESPEARE) and your 091924 (not received). Pass through 038° 38' 009° 39' at 2100/10th and 038° 17' 004° 32' at 2100/11th to R/V with escort for Algiers in 037° 04' 003° 09' at 0700/12th. Proceeding on surface at discretion on 11th and 12th.
(Capt. S.8 092330B to P.221 (SHAKESPEARE) (R) 8th S.F. C. in C.Med. Force H, N.O.I.C. Algiers, etc.)

Adoption
of "A" time
26th Sept.

Signed Eisenhower. "A" time, G.M.T. plus one hour, will be introduced for Algeria, Tunisia, and Areas controlled 15 Army Group by putting back the clock one hour at 0200B hours 26 Sept. Civil authorities are conforming in North Africa. Action all concerned.
(A.F.H.Q. Algiers T.O.O. Nil/9th Sept. Recd. 1745/10)

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9.9.1943.

Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Troop
Transport.

Your 080825Z. CUBA should be sailed for Suez as you propose.
(D. of S.T., 090205A to P.S.T.O. India, (R) P.S.T.O.M.E.D., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med., P.S.T.O. Med.)

BRITANNIC.

Propose to escort BRITANNIC from usual M.O.M.P. to Aden.
2. Admty. 072103 refers.
(C. in C. E.F., 090452Z to Admty., (R) N.Z.N.B., A.C.N.B., C. in C. Levant, F.O.C.R.I.N., P.S.T.O. India.)

HERMITAGE,
BRAZIL,
URUGUAY.

1. Expect to embark in HERMITAGE approx. (numbers) for Australia.
2. BRAZIL and URUGUAY 500 P.O.W. and 150 escorts each ship for Australia. All three ships should be ready to sail 15th Sept.
(P.S.T.O. India, 090629Z to B.A.D., (R) A.C.N.B., D. of S.T.)

India Air
Report.

A.206. Daily Opsum No.543, 7th Sept. Outstanding reports 10th U.S.A.A.F. 6th Sept. 6 U.S. Liberators (B.24) attacked shipping Rangoon. 12 tons dropped. 5 direct hits 400 ft. freighter. 7 fighters attempted interception. 3 E/A probably destroyed. 1 U.S. Liberator (B.24) damaged. 7 U.S. Liberators (B.24) attacked shipping Rangoon. 14 tons dropped. 3 direct hits (? 400) ft. freighter. 7 enemy fighters attempted interception. 1 E/A destroyed. 1 E/A probably destroyed. 5 U.S. Liberators (B.24) attacked shipping Rangoon. 10 tons dropped. 3 direct hits 400 ft. freighter. Attempted interception by 10 enemy fighters. 2 E/A destroyed. 4 E/A probably destroyed. One E/A damaged. 7 U.S. Liberators (B.24) attacking shipping Rangoon. 14 tons dropped. 2 direct hits 350 ft. freighter. Attempted interception, 8 enemy fighters. 2 E/A destroyed. 2 E/A probably destroyed. 3 U.S. Liberators (B.24) damaged. 7th Sept. 3 U.S. Liberators (B.24) shipping search Andaman sea. No shipping observed. Bombs brought back. 8th Sept. 8 U.S. Liberators (B.24) minelaying Rangoon estuary, 31 mines laid. Outstanding reports 14th U.S.A.A.F. 26th Sept. 2 U.S. Lightnings (P.38), 4 U.S. Kittyhawks (P.40) dive-bombed shipping and wharves Shihhweiyao (south-east of Hankow). Damage caused shipping and railway. S/E enemy transport plane attacked and destroyed.
(A.H.Q. India, 090803Z to Air Min.)

CITY OF
EASTBOURNE
aground.

Understand you are aground on Juan da Nova. Assistance is being sent. Report immediately if you refloat and are able to proceed.
(Adm. Colombo, 091039Z to CITY OF EASTBOURNE.)

/Convoy ...

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9.9.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Convoy B.M. 64.	Sailing telegram, part 2. (5 ships, list, etc.) (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 091043Z to Admty.) Departure BERAR, POONA with B.M.64. (S.O.(I) Bombay, 091101Z to Admty.)
Convoy M.A. 3.	Sailing telegram. (2 ships, names, destinations) (2) 1055Z/9th. (4) 10.5 knots. (5) Coastal. (6) PANSY, NETRAVATI. (N.C.S.O. Madras, 091109Z, 091116Z to Admty.)
LYMAN STEWART torpedoed 7th Sept. FROBISHER.	As search of LYMAN STEWART found nothing, ask ship (A) Where from and bound. (B) Why in present position. (C) Whether attacked by S/M on passage. (D) If so details of incident. (2) LYMAN STEWART was bound Durban from Colombo. (3) If you are satisfied proceed in execution of previous orders. (C. in C. E.F., 091515Z to FROBISHER, (R) Admty.)

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9.9.1943.

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

- L.27. From position D pass through E.053° 40' N. 043° 28' W. at 0100Z 11th F. 049° 00' N. 051° 00' W. at 2130Z 12th thence to St. Johns (N.F.) via QJA 204. Your E.T.A. St. Johns (N.F.) 1030Z 13th. (C. in C.C.N.A. 090148Z to L.27 (R) F.O.S. Admty., etc.)
 (1) My 090148. Position E. to read 053° 35' N. 045° 00' W. 0600Z Sept. 11th.
 (2) Floating mine reported in 053° 16' N. 044° 27' W. at 2140Z Sept. 8th. (C. in C.C. N.A. 092214Z to L.27 (R) F.O.S. Admty. etc.)
- O.N.199. Arrivals ROXBOROUGH, SASKATOON, SHEDIAC KENOGAMI escorting O.N.199. (C. Halifax, 090414Z to Admty.)
- HERNDON. Departure U.S.S. HERNDON to U.T.2. (C. Halifax, 091130Z to Admty. etc.)
- Convoy S.G.30. My 082032 last vessel cleared Gate, 1135Z 9th. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns. N.F., 091144Z to S.O.P.A. Greenland (R) Admty., etc.)
- Convoy B.X.72. Arrived Halifax between 2350Z Sept. 7th. and 1125Z Sept. 9th dense fog Halifax approaches. (T.N.C.S.O. Halifax N.S., 091150Z to Admty.)
- Convoy H.X.253. Average speed 9.5 knots. Off Oversay at 0030Z/3. All arrived. (D.T.D. 091227A to Connav, N.S.H.Q., (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.A.)
- U.S.A.T. Arrival 8th U.S.A.T. BRIGADIER GENERAL RETHERS. (B.S.N.O. Curacao, 091353 to Admty.)
 Departure 9th U.S. A.T. F.S. LEISENING due Jamaica 12th. Has British Army draft for Jamaica. (B.S.N.O. Curacao, 091356Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. S.O.(I) Jamaica.)
 Arrival 8th U.S.S.T. MATTOLE. (Aruba, 091611Z to Admty.)
- O.N.200 Intense tropical disturbance centred in 45.30
 O.N.S.17. N. 60.30 W. at 1230Z/9th travelling N.N.E. at
 U.T.2. about 35 knots. Estimate will reach 52.30 N.
 Suggested diversion. 50.30 W. at 0630Z/10th thence move N.E. Request
 you consider diverting O.N.200, ON.S.17, and
 U.T.2 to Southward.
 (C. in C.C.N.A. 091429Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C., C.C.H.Q., F.O.N.F., Com.10th Fleet C. and R., N.S.H.Q.)

/Convoy...

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9.9.1943.

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

Convoy X.B.73. Sailing telegram Part 1. (2) Halifax 1500Z 9th (3) E.T.A. Cape Cod Canal 1500Z/11th. Boston 1400Z 11th. (4) 7.5 knots. (5) Route). (6) SALISBURY. GUYSBOROUGH. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 091445Z to Admty.)

Convoy S.C.140. Average speed 7.7. knots. Off Oversay at 2030Z/3 All arrived. (D.T.D. 091510A to Connav, N.S.H.Q., (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.A.)

N.S.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q. 091549Z)
S/M
Estimate.

U.S. (Cominch, 091551Z)
S/M
Estimate.

MARIPOSA. MARIPOSA departed New York 1530Z 9th for Rio de Janeiro. E.T.A. 0400 21st. S. of A. 19 knots. (P.D. New York, 091720 to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)

CALDER. Following received from N.O.B. Bermuda Addressed Com. 5 Information Cominch C. in C. Lant C.E.S.F. Com. 6 C.G.S.F. Admty. etc. CALDER departs Bermuda 2100/9 through positions (A) Lat. 32.16 Long. 64.18. (B) Lat. 32.03 Long. 64.18 thence direct to (C) Lat. 30. Long. 68 to arrive 1300/10. Thence on course 200° true at 10 knots exercising with R.A.F. aircraft from Nassau during daylight returning to point (C) during darkness. Above exercises continue 3 days, then CALDER proceeds to point (Z9X) Lat. 32.25 Long. 68.40 to arrive at 1500/13 thence direct to point X.S. and destination. NORFOLK advancing 18 knots from point D. E.T.A. 1800/14. (S.B.N.O. W.At., 091759Z to Admty. N.S.H.Q., B.A.D., R.N.O. Nassau.)
Bermuda departure CALDER for Norfolk carrying out air co-operation exercise with Nassau training aircraft en route. (S.B.N.O.W.At., 092027Z to Admty.)

C.T.W.21.9.3. Urdis 081541 R/V 0630A Sept. 15 satisfactory. Admty. advises that C. in C.W.A. concurs. Request you arrange with C. in C.W.A. accordingly. (Comnav, 091822 to C.T.U. 21.9.3.(R) C. in C. W.A., Admty.)

/ST. CATHARINE...

War Diary.

9.9.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATION.

America and West Indies.

ST.

CATHARINE.

This is re-encypherment of N.S.H.Q. 081702Z being passed by C. in C. U.S. Fleet (begins.) N.M.C.S. (R) S.O.T.G. 92.4 FRIGATE "ST CATHARINE" will depart Esquimalt Sept. 11th en route

Halifax. Programme is as follows: Place arrived departure Esquimalt - Sept. 11th, Panama Sept. 24th Sept. 25th, Halifax October 18th - speed of advance 13 knots.

2. Request arrangements may be made with U.S. authorities to supply the following: (A) Necessary fuel at Panama approx. 410 tons. (B) December provisions as required. (C) Onward route from Panama to Halifax.
(Radio Washington, 091826Z to Cdr. Panama S.F.)

PASTEUR.

PASTEUR will embark at Hampton Roads Sept. 19th for departure Sept. 20th.
(B.M.W.T. New York, 091903 to D. of S.T. (R) B.A.D. N.S.H.Q.)

U.S.A.T.

Arrival U.S.S. HERNDON and U.S.A.T. GEORGE SIMONDS ex. D.T.2.
(C. Halifax, 092002Z to Admty. etc.)

Sub. attack and sighting summary.

Para. A. Croatan plane attacked sub. 35.31 N. 25.52 W. 091320Z. Sub apparently undamaged plane damaged by gunfire.
(Cominch 092029Z to Admty.)

Convoy H.X.256.

Sailing dispatch. (49 Ships, list, cargoes destructions). Part 2. Part 1 is my dis. 081426 and 092030.
(P.D. New York, 092030, 092118 to Admty.)

SCYTHIA.

SCYTHIA sailed H.X.256.
(B.M.W.T. New York, 092043Z to D. of S.T.(R) B.A.D.)

A.T.64.
(QUEEN ELIZABETH)

Convoy A.T.64. Request you will sail QUEEN ELIZABETH from Halifax so as to arrive Clyde on 18th Sept. (p.m. arrival preferred).
2. Fighter protection code-word "Skunk".
(D.O.D.(H) 092055A to C. in C.C.N.A.)

EMPRESS OF RUSSIA.

Your 072257 (N.T. in W.R.) not to N.S.H.Q. EMPRESS OF RUSSIA sailed H.X.256. Ordered back. Remarks re speed and type of coal.
(B.M.W.T. New York, 092120Z to D. of S.T.(R) B.A.D. N.S.H.Q.)

/DACRES...

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9.9.1943.

Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

- DACRES. When ready about 12th sail DACRES. (Ex. De -268) Boston to Bermuda direct. Report time of departure route and S. of A.
(C. in C.U.S. Fleet, 092132Z to C.E.S.F. (R) Com. 1, C. in C. Levant, Admty. S.B.N.O., W.At. N.O.B. Bermuda, N.S.H.Q.)
- CLYDE. F.O.S. 082242 B.A.M.R. Washington 062028 and A.M. 150916 August (not to B.S.O. Philadelphia). Request CLYDE be sailed to U.K. as arranged.
2. Repairs to defective main motor armature will be undertaken at Portsmouth.
(D.O.D. (H), 092135A, 101105A to B.A.M.R. Washington, (R) F.O.S., B.S.O. Philadelphia, CLYDE.)
- Convoy Arrived off Oversay 0600Z/8th. All arrived.
C.U.4. (D.T.D. 092136A to Connav, N.S.H.Q., (R) C. in C.W.A.)
- F.T.16. F.T.16 manned by special ferry crew from Small Vessels Pool has returned to New York with engine defects involving a delay of approx. one month.
2. Ship's company have requested permission to return to U.K. forthwith as the further delay is unacceptable to them.
3. Exceptions to this request are (details)
4. Propose to arrange accordingly and provide runner crew for F.T.16 in due course from local resources. Admty. pass to Director of S.V.P.
(B.A.M.R. Washington, 092238Z to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand.

- NIEUW
AMSTERDAM. D.S.Ts, 202036 August. Request early indication numbers on board NIEUW AMSTERDAM for (A) Australia (B) New Zealand (C) U.S.A..
2. It is the intention for NIEUW AMSTERDAM to carry out the following programme in Australian waters. (details.)
(A.C.N.B. 090330Z to S.S.T.O. Durban, (R) N.Z.N.B., N.O.I.C., Fremantle, 989, D.S.T.)

/DURHAM...

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War Diary.

9.9.1943.

Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

DURHAM
fire. Following has been read by Simonstown W/T:-
Position 253° 50 miles from L serious fire last
36 hours No.5 shelter deck. Much difficulty
keeping under. Danger explosives adjacent
hatch. Fire-fighting gas near (corrupt)
exhaust multiple if position not improved next 12 hours proceed
Tahiti. Please advise promptly.
(GWWK) DURHAM, 090430Z to Admty. N.Z. Sea Frontier.)
Ref. my090430Z. Position 281° 71 miles from L.
Condition unchanged now proceeding Tahiti course 297° speed 15
knots. Please confirm.
(DURHAM 090730Z to Palo Alto Radio California.)

Digest
Serial
No. 597
Sept.8th. Night Catalina claim sighted small convoy off
Cape Saint George near midnight 7th comprising
2 medium, 1 small freighter on easterly course.
Near miss damaged 1 freighter. Same aircraft
later attacked and damaged subchaser 65 miles E.S.E
of Cape on course 270°.
Photos forenoon shewed ? 20 to 30 barges Hansa
Bay. (3) During night hours 7th/8thour destroyers bombarded
the Malahang waterfront with (1 group missing)(differing?)
results and during an offensive sweep off (same?) area shot down
two enemy aircraft and probably destroyed another. Same night
our (?destroyers) strafed beach area near Finschhafen. 1 boat
was bombed without effect.
(8) 3 enemy destroyers escorting 3 larger Merchantmen sighted
110 miles N. by E. of Kavieng forenoon on S.Westerly course with
5 zeros float planes covering. (9) 4 P.Ts. attacked and
damaged 3 enemy barges Northern Vella Lavella forenoon 7th.
Two P.Ts. grounded during attack and later destroyed.
(10) 23 Mitchells attacked barge depot and supply areas South
West Coast Kolombangara Folcaoon 7th causing large fires while
12 Avengers 21 Dauntless bombed and strafed same area during
afternoon. (12) Enemy troops east coast Vella Lavella Bokm-
Kokoldpe Bay area believed preparing for defence and further
reinforcement despite our harassing patrols. Enemy attempt
to land from barge northern coast (Brundel)- thwarted.
Concentration in North Eastern coast now believed surrounded
three sides.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 090900)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 091410A , 091416A.)

10.9.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- ATHENE 1. The aircraft transport vessel ATHENE arrived in the Clyde from New York this afternoon.
- RESOLUTION. 2. RESOLUTION (Eastern Fleet) arrived at Rosyth this morning, to refit.
- Biscay A/S Patrol. 3. SHEFFIELD sailed from Plymouth this afternoon for patrol in the Biscay area and to support E.G.2 against surface attack and for operation "Regulation" if required. BERMUDA is to leave the area tomorrow afternoon, to return to Plymouth. U.S. Escort Carrier SANTEE commenced operating in the area at dawn today (see 6th Sept.) Since 1st Sept. there have been 15 U-boat sightings in the Bay area, of which all except 2 have been by night. Nine attacks were carried out on these U-boats.

South Atlantic.

- Escort Groups formed. D.K./K.D. convoys. 4. South Atlantic Escort Group No. 1 has been formed by 2 corvettes and 3 A/S trawlers. Other groups are to be formed later. On 13th Sept. C. in C. S.A. reported that 3 escort groups were in process of formation to escort the D.K./K.D. convoys (Durban - Kilindini), of which D.K.1 is to sail on 17th Sept. and K.D.1 on 29th Sept. Frigates will be employed as support groups in the most threatened section of the Mozambique route. It is intended to embody in these convoys the former D.L.M. L.M.D., C.B. and B.C. sailings, routing the D.K./K.D. convoys close to Lourenco Marques and Beira.

Mediterranean

- Operation "Avalanche". Taranto. 5 (a) At 100021 S.O. Force Z ordered KING GEORGE V to proceed to Malta. Another mine exploded in Taranto Harbour this morning and Admiral Power did not consider the presence of HOWE justified. He transferred his flag to PALADIN at 1500 and sent HOWE to Malta with JERVIS and WISHART at 1700.

/AURORA...

10.9.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Avalanche".
Taranto.
(contd).

AURORA (C.S.12) DIDO, PENELOPE, SIRIUS and U.S. Cruiser BOISE sailed for Bizerta at 0710 today. At 1920 S.O. Force Z reported that a port party of 16 officers and 22 ratings was established ashore at Taranto. No demolition or sabotage appears to have taken place and the port is ready to operate normally. The Italians are co-operating well and guarantee to maintain the defences of the port on the maximum scale. The Italian C. in C., called on Admiral Power this morning in HOWE, and the meeting was very satisfactory. German troops are about 15 miles from the port, but it is thought they are withdrawing. Four mines exploded in the harbour today, apparently by some timing device. Allied sweepers are operating.

Salerno

(b) Determined German resistance was reported in the "Avalanche" area today. The Commando beach-head at Vietre Sul Mare was occupied by the enemy. The port party arrived at Salerno p.m. today. The harbour is reported to be heavily mined and booby trapped. Salerno was occupied by our troops at 1045 today. At 1840B it was reported that Monte Carvino airfield (Naples) could be used for emergency landing but the R.A.F. suggested that Seafires should not land at Monte Carvino until the enemy artillery was overcome and full control established which is expected tonight.

Italian
Fleet.
Spezia
Fleet.

6. (a) The major portion of the Italian Fleet from Spezia sighted at 0705B today in 38.13 N. 06.30 E. (about 110 miles north-west of Bone), steering south. They were met by the 2nd Division of the Battle Fleet group at Bone and escorted to Malta, where they arrived at 0700/11.

150 Italian survivors (presumably from the ROMA (and destroyers)) were reported p.m. today to be on rafts 25 miles N.W. of Sardinia.

(b) The destroyers CARABINIERE, FUCILIERE and MAESTRALE and the Italian cruiser ATTILIO REGOLO were reported this evening at Port Mahon, Minorca, with some dead and wounded on board and short of fuel. (But FUCILIERE is one of the destroyers reported by the Admiralty on 15 Sept. to be under Allied control. V.A. Malta reported on 13th Sept. that FUCILIERE arrived at Malta today, and the ship is in the list of all Italian ships at Malta on 13th Sept.) (page 422).

(c) The destroyers ORSA, PEGASO and IMPETUOSO arrived at Pollenza, Balearic Is. today and were ordered by the Spanish authorities to proceed to Port Mahon (see 11th Sept.).

Taranto
Squadron.

(d) At 0646 today the Taranto Squadron, consisting of the battleship ANDREA DORIA and CAIO DUILIO, the cruisers LUIGI, CADORNA and POMPEO MAGNO, and destroyer DARRECO was in 36.42 N., 16.30 E. steering 240°. The squadron arrived at Malta at 1730 today.

/Adriatic...

10.9.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Adriatic
Ships.

(e). SOKOL reports that a cruiser and a destroyer entered Brindisi from the north at 1430, and a tanker and a number of small vessels entered harbour during daylight; none of these were molested by SOKOL.

S/Ms

(f) 5 Italian S/Ms entered Augusta at 2135 and were immobilised. A sixth arrived on 11th Sept.

Italian
Merchant
Ships.

7. UNRIVALLED entered Bari Harbour and reports that 4 Italian merchant ships have been sunk there by the Germans; he intends to sail in convoy with the remaining 8 merchant ships p.m. today for Malta. (These 8 ships were subsequently brought out by UNRIVALLED and escorted to Malta, assisted by UNRULY, and arrived at Malta on 14 Sept.).

T.X.1

8. Convoy T.X.1 sailed from Tripoli for Alexandria today (arrived at Alexandria 15 Sept.).

War Diary.

10.9.1943.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

CYCLAMEN,
E.G.40. On conclusion of working up request you will sail CYCLAMEN to Greenock to join 40th E.G. (C. in C. W.A. 101059A to WESTERN ISLES)

Escaped Danish Officers. Your O71741. Request names and fullest particulars possible of the two magnetic mine experts and the Naval Intelligence Officer; as it may be desirable to use them in U.K. A further reply will be made to the remainder of your signal. (D.N.I. 101124A to N.A. Stockholm)

Movements.

ULA. Ref. A.C.O.S. 091038A not to all addressees my position by D.R. is 63 degs. 05' N. 03 degs. 16' E. Request Force referred to be informed. (?Request instructions). Have altered course 30 degs. 9 knots (2 corrupt groups). (ULA, 100101A to A.C.O.S., F.O.S., Capt. S.9 (?S.O.) S/MO Lerwick, N.O.I.C. Lerwick.) Forces referred to have been warned. Proceed on surface at your discretion to Lerwick passing through 061 degs. 59' N. 002 degs. 01' E. Your 100101 refers. (F.O.S. 100857A to P.66)

RESOLUTION. Arrivals. RESOLUTION, FOXHOUND, GLENARM, AMAZON,. Departures. FOXHOUND, GLENARM. (C. in C. Rosyth, 100750A)

LANDGUARD. Abandoning search. Wreckage found but no body. Group reforming P.C. and S. 053 degs. 34' N. 005 degs. 32' W. 264 degs. 11 knots. (LANDGUARD, 100801A, 100946A)

Home Fleet. Scapa arrival C. in C. H.F. in DUKE OF YORK V.A. 2 in ANSON, ORKON, ONSLOW, ROCKET, IROQUOIS, MAHRATTA. (A.C.O.S. 101202A)

TEAZER. After satisfactory completion of acceptance trials about 13th Sept. TEAZER is to be sailed to work up at Scapa. (D.O.D.(H), 101224A)

ENGADINE. My 301752 August. As arrangements can now be made for aircraft to be unloaded there destination of ENGADINE is now Liverpool. (2) On completion of unloading request you will sail ENGADINE to the Clyde. (D.O.D.(H), 101420A to C. in C. W.A.)

C.S.10 /...

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War Diary.10.9.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

C.S.10. Arrived C.S.10 in BELFAST with IMPULSIVE.
(A.C.I.C. 101520A)

C.S.1,
C.T.G.112.1. Scapa arrivals. C.S.1 in LONDON, C.T.G.112.1
in U.S.S. RANGER with AUGUSTA, TUSCALOOSA, BELL,
ISHERWOOD, FORREST, CORRY, HOBSON and H.M.C.S.
HURON.
(A.C.O.S.101627A)

Liverpool
Movements. The following tentative programme of movements
in Gladstone Dock is proposed subject to
weather Sept. 28th FURIOUS sails.
Oct. 2nd VICTORIOUS arrives. Oct. 4th GAMBIA
sails. Oct. 5th ACTIVITY arrives.
(N.O.I.C.Liverpool, 101648A)

ATHENE. Clyde arrival ATHENE.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 101706A)

Operations.Biscay A/S Patrols.

U/B
Reports. D/F Bearings on 4412 K/Cs at 0509Z indicate
U-Boat within 75 miles of 46 N. 13.30 W.
(D.D.I.C. 100701A to E.G.2, BERMUDA, C.T.G.21.11.
(R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, Cominch,
H.Q.C.C.)

Am over enemy submarine in 43.22 N. 09.38 W. (corrupt group)
Enemy submarine previously reported was sighted on the surface
and observed to submerge.
(A/C 502/T 101241A)
U/B previously reported was on surface and seen to
submerge CUSP UN no attack.
(A/C 502/T, 101241A)
Am over enemy submarine.
(A/C 502/J, T.O.R.101249)
Am over one enemy submarine in 45. 50 N. 11.56 W.
Periscope only sighted. Submarine was on course 150 degs.
estimated speed 8 knots.
(A/C 224/D, 101350A)

9th Group. On conclusion of exercises 9th Group is to be
sailed for Plymouth to come under orders of
C. in C. Plymouth as a support group for Bay
offensive.
(C. in C. W.A. 100949A to N.O.I.C.Larne)

Spanish /...

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10.9.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Biscay A/S Patrols - Contd.Spanish
Fishing
Vessels.No.1 over 2 Spanish fishing vessels 44 degs. 22' N.
10 degs. 35' W. Request instructions.
(A/C UTU 3 U, 101240A)

Dispositions. Disposition at 2000. (1) SHEFFIELD 085 degs. The Lizard 20' Westbound 20 knots.
(2) BERUDA patrolling vicinity 047 degs. N. 016 degs. W. (3) REDPOLE searching vicinity 048 degs. 27' N. 013 degs. W. (4) E.G. 2nd. WILD GOOSE, WREN, KITE, STARLING, WOODCOCK patrolling vicinity 045 degs. 30' N. 011 degs. W. (5) Hospital Ship LADY NELSON 46.40 N. 012 degs. 00' W. Southbound 13½ knots. (6) Hospital Ship ATLANTIS 050 degs. 30' N. 012 degs. W. southbound 14½ knots. (7) LANDGUARD, SENNEN, OXNA with coastal force group 050 degs. 20' N. 008 degs. 43' W. South-West bound 8 knots.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 101632A, 110555A)

SHEFFIELD.

My 091637A. Sailed SHEFFIELD 1739/10th.
Latest messages held Q.B.A. 109, Q.B.123.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 101759A)General.Coastal
Patrols.(1) Orders for night 10/11 Sept.
(A) M.T.B's 211, 249, 255 carry out offensive patrol of enemy coastal route between positions 8 miles W. and 15 miles E. of position YY.
Objective torpedo targets only including T.L.C.Type 111. Proceed and return by passage two passing 2 N not before 2130A and returning within 20 miles of own coast by - 0545A. (B) M.L's 291, 344 patrolling Q.Z.S. 384 between F. and E.A.5 Buoys. (C) CHASSEUR 12 immediate notice St. Helens. (D) BLEASDALE, STEVENSTONE immediate notice Yarmouth. (E) M.G.B's 13, 6, 7 patrolling 50 degs. 20' N. between 02 degs. 00' W. and 02 degs. 25' W. (3) Call signs frequencies and codeword: (4) Destroyers acknowledge.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 101452A)

Patrols 10th September. (1) Force A. M.Ls. 183, 184, 488 are to patrol in vicinity of position 240degs. Eddystone 6 miles. (3) Force C. M.G.Bs, 664, 676 are to patrol in vicinity of position 125 degs. start 21 miles. (5) Forces A and C are to sail to be on patrol by 2045A. Leave Patrol for Plymouth and Dartmouth 0530A. (6) Force D. M.T.B's 94 (S.O), 90, 96, M.G.B's 111, 81 are to leave Dartmouth at 1930 and proceed at 25 knots to position (FF) 270 Les Hanois Lt. 15 thence to carry out sweep for enemy shipping at reduced speed through position (GG) 180 Les Hanois Lt. 10 to positions (HH) 49 degs. 18 mins. N. 2 degs. 20' W. and return by same route. Force D to be within 30 miles of own coast by first light. (7) Force E. M.G.B.s 80 (S.O) 75, M.T.B's 98, 92 are

to /...

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10.9.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Coastal Patrols. (Contd.) to sail in company with Force D to position (FF) thence through position (YY) 270 Barnouic Bank West Light 7 to intercept enemy shipping in vicinity of position (ZZ) 180 Barnouic Bank 5 Force E to return through position (YY) and position (XX) 270 degs. Les Hanois Lt. 20. thence to start point to be within 30 miles of own Coast by first light. (2) (4) (8) Communications. (9) The following restrictions are in force. No Dartmouth Coastal Forces are to pass West of a line Bolt Head to Les Heaux Light unless ordered. Forces A and C are not to pass South of a line 075 degs. and 255 degs. from position 180 degs. start 22 miles unless ordered. Attention is drawn to Q.Z.X.1095 and Q.Z.X. 1103. Force A on patrol is to keep clear of Q.Z.S. 409. (10) Albacores of 841 Squadron will co-operate with Forces D and E weather permitting. (C. in C. Plymouth, 101608A)

S/M Patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800A/11 and movements for following 24 hours. (B) TANTALUS (P.318) on patrol off Ice Fiord Spitzbergen. (C) O.15 on patrol in vicinity 64 degs. 42' N. 03 degs. 26' W. (D) STONEHENGE See S.O.(S) Lerwick, 102109A. (F) UPSTART (P.65) escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE leaves Sanda Island 2000A/11th for Scillies 10 knots. (F.O.S. 101644A, 101914A) 2105A/10th September P.232 sailed from Lerwick through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 5 thence direct to patrol in vicinity 065 degs. 02' N. 005 degs. 49' W. Proceeding on the surface at C.O.'s discretion till 062 degs. N. then diving by day. Unescorted. (S.O.(S) Lerwick, 102109A)

Operation "Tunnel". Carry out Operation "Tunnel" today 10th Sept. in West to East direction passing Gate at 2100A and sweeping through positions (DD) 000 degs. Ile Vierge Light 9 and (CC) 000 degs. Triagoz Light 9.

Allied Air Activity.

Iceland Patrols. A.C.118 10 Sept. programme for 10 Sept. E.T.D. 0705A E.T.A. 2100. (2) Moorings one/A by A.O.C.X/269 and I.K.128 Sqdn. C/S L 26, 27, 28, 29, 1 E.T.D. first A/C 0710A on 0900A off 1100 E.T.A. 1255A remainder on patrol 1100, 1700, 1900, 1300 (1310x) 1500. (3) Moorings area by N/120 Sqdn. C/S.L.17 E.T.D. 0730A on 0840A off 1900A. E.T.A. 2110A. (4) A/S sweep along track of U.S.S. ROCKAWAY. (5) Fox patrol. (H.Q. R.A.F. Iceland, 100025A) x as received. A.C.121 10 Sept. A.C.118 10 Sept. Programme. (1) Amend E.T.A. 1730A. (2) First Sortie cancelled. (3) Cancelled weather. (A.H.Q. R.A.F. Iceland, 100530A)

A.C. /...

War Diary.10.9.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.

Iceland
Patrols.
(Contd.)

A.C.123 10 Sept. My A.C.118 10 Sept. Programme
(2) second sortie postponed one hour weather.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Iceland, 100725A)

South
Coast
R.N.A.S.
Stations.

My 071312A. Precautions may now be relaxed.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 101530A)

Enemy Air Activity.

Faeroes. Since noon/9th 4 R/C flights by JU.88 have
been made in and around Skaalefiord and Thorshavn,
2 at very low altitude H A/A and L A/A went
into action each occasion no hits claimed.
(N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 101057A)

Single enemy A/C on R/C 1300 and 1700/9th and 1015/10th.
Thorshavn and other areas Faeroe Islands. No hostile action
by A/C.
(O.C. Troops Faeroe Islands, T.O.O. Nil.)

C.S.1
C.T.G.112.1.

You may have been reported by enemy A/C at
0920A/10th.
(D.D.I.C. 101353A)

Mining.

Tees
Bay.

Details of one ground mine detonated 0750 in 54 degs.
40' 10" N. 01 degs. 04' W. (II) Date unknown
last suspected mine laying 22nd March 1943.
(I) No damage sustained by either M/S electrode
and floats disintegrated.
(N.O.I.C. Tees, 101450A)

Q.Z.X.

Limits of Area swept. No mines encountered.
(2) Intend to proceed at 0600A/11th to continue
clearance.
(PROSPECT, 101751A)

Brightlingsea. Arrival MARIE ELENA and STERNUS result of sweep
negative.
(N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea, 101927A)

U-Boats.

U/B
attacked.

Am over enemy submarine.
(A/C 224/D, 101350A)
Have attacked U-Boat with bombs estimate hits.
(A/C 224/D, 101350A)
No traces of result.
(A/C 224/D, 101420A)

U/B /...

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10.9.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats. - Contd.U/B
survivors.

Am over dinghy containing U-Boat survivors in 48 degs. 39' N. 13 degs. 07' W. (A/C on Sea Rescue Service, 101539A) Investigating possible conning tower position 61 degs. N. 31 degs. W. (A/C 202/F, 101745)

Casualties and Defects.M.L.585
damaged
in
collision
with
HAVELOCK.

HAVELOCK in collision with M.L.585 in position 270 Trevoze Head 12 miles. M.L. sustained serious damage to starboard quarters and stern, is now in tow. Lieutenant J.H. Hammond R.N.V.R. C.O. missing. No other casualties. LANDGUARD is searching. (HAVELOCK, 100320A) HAVELOCK is taking M.L. in tow to Milford Haven. My position 50 degs. 34' N. 05 degs. 23' W. (LANDGUARD, 100415A C. in C. Plymouth 101135A)

Your 101135A arrived.

(N.O.I.C. Appledore, 101915A to C. in C. Plymouth)

* Re M.L.585 being towed to Appledore by HAVELOCK after collision with same.

My 091305. Returning in tow after collision M.L.585. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 101255A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar)

5 R.A.F.
Survivors.

Your 091730A if you consider it necessary it is at your discretion to send survivors to Falmouth in one of E.G.2 other than STARLING or WILD GOOSE keeping clear of SHEFFIELD and BERMUDA. (2) Report if you do so. (C. in C. Plymouth, 101332A to 80 E.G.2)

REDPOLE,
4 airmen
in dinghy.

Liberator C reports 4 airmen in dinghy 255 degs. 50 miles. Am proceeding with all despatch my P.C. and S. 048 degs. 45' 011 degs. 50' 255 degs. 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots. (REDPOLE, 101800Z)

GREY
GOOSE.

Intend to sail LADY BRASSEY, towing S.G.B. GREY GOOSE escorted by ANDRADITE at 0700/11 for Southend for O/R to Tilbury. Arrangments. (V.A. Dover, 101804A)

LANCE
FANTOME.

Convoy X.K.11. Final destination of LANCE in tow of LARIAT is Chatham and FANTOME in tow of HUDSON is Devonport. (2) C. in C. W.A. is requested to detail escort as requisite to part company with convoy and escort these two tows to Plymouth from approx. 49 degs. N. (3) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to arrange onward routing for LANCE. (D.O.D.(H), 102057A)

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10.9.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

- O.N.201. My 061520A add LINENBURG.
(Cdre. W.A. 100904A)
- 19 M.T.
Ships. My 081624A Names and destinations.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 100938A)
- K.M.F.24. Intend to sail BICESTER, CHIDDINGFOLD,
MALCOLM to arrive Greenock a.m./13th to comply
with Admty. 291237 August.
(R.A.(D), 101005A)
- A.M.082020. (1) EMPIRE GRACE to detach in crossing
longitude 12 degs. W. thence direct to Las Palmas. Onward
route through A 18 degs. N. 20 degs. W. thence by Silver
253 to Buenos Aires. (2) POTARO to detach in 39.00 N. 18.30
W. and proceed by Amber 75 and 115 to Gold 130, 170 and 204
lettered H to M to Rio De Janeiro. (3) Admiralty will
promulgate times of breaking off from Convoy and "Chop"
dates.
(D.T.D. 101334A)
- C.E.206. My 261757A August. C.E.206 now sails
Sept. 11th. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested
to promulgate time table.
(C. in C. Nore, 101134A)

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10.9.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Air report Part 2 my A.I. 412 T.O.O. 100220B.
Attacks on A. U.S. Lib. K.19 A.S. (B) 0655 (Dunkeswell) (C)
U/Bs. 1655 (Gib.) (D) 0834 (E) S/C for 1Y.B. 1302. (F)
A/S (G). Percussion A.1 (?Z.E.) P.179 - 0538 -
night - M.K.111 - 42.45 N. 09.56 W. - 070° - 10 -
500 ton slate grey with black stripes at various
angles on C/T and hull. No big gun. Attacked surfaced 100°
Green, A/C 400 rounds and U-Boat opened fire, hits on hull just
aft C/T, no hits on A/C 6 x 250 lb. Torpex spaced 60 ft. from
60 - 70 ft. 3 D/C explosions seen just fore of C/T and thought
to have undershot but bows lifted 15 - 20 ft. out of water. U-
Boat not seen again.

Ref. G.R. Opsum 6th Sept. C.179 - 2318/6 night A. M.K.G.III 43.08
N. 09.24 W. 045° 10, large grey U-Boat, jamming wires fore aft -
large C/T - platform at Rear-Wire cutter at bowl - no large
gun - 2 or 3 crew in C/T, illuminated and attacked surfaced
100° Green, A/C 40 - 50 rounds, hits estimated, Ricochets
observed, fire not returned, 6 x 250 lb Torpex spaced 60 ft. from
100 ft. straddle just aft C/T. D/Cs exploded obliterating U-
Boat, wake seen continuing through disturbance, U-Boat not seen
again and no contact attained after attack.
(R.A.F.Gibraltar 100345B.)

P.614. My 091006 (N.T. in W.D.) Can now comply with
your 051732 proceeding economical speed.
(P.614 100836B to F.O.C.Gibraltar, (R) Admty.
F.O.S. etc.)

ULTIMATUM. ULTIMATUM (P.34) patrol report blank on arrival
Gibraltar.
(F.O.S. 101006A to Admty.)

UPSTART. P.65 (UPSTART) leaves Scilly Isles at 1200A/15th
Sept. diving by day by route "Gold" 106 miles a
day to patrol in accordance with F.O.(S) 091658A
not to all addressees thence to Gibraltar.

2. Communications.

3. P.65 (UPSTART) carries S.Ps. in accordance with A.2 C
articles 44 A list one, last Q.B.27, last Q.B.A.103 and is painted
blue.
(Capt. S.3 101007A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) F.O.S. C. in C.
Plymouth, C. in C.Med. etc.)

Enemy Air During attack on large (service?) convoy by several
Attack on enemy aircraft a Beaufighter II was shot down in
Convoy 7th flames by enemy aircraft at Barranqueira, about 3
Sept. miles inland near Cape Sardao, 0700A/7.
2. Crew killed. Bodies sent to Lisbon.
3. Aircraft exploded on crashing.
4. No ship of convoy reported hit.
(R.O.Portimao 101055 to B.N.A.Lisbon, (R) S.O.(I)
Gibraltar, Admty. D. of N.I.)

My 101055. Fiscal Guard witnesses from Almogrove say Beaufighter
before crashing shot down 2 enemy aircraft over the sea.
2. Tanker also affirms an enemy aircraft (possibly will be same one)
shot down another British fighter which crashed in flames into
sea at 0720A.
(R.O.Portimao 101650A to as former.)

/K.M.S.25...

War Diary.

10.9.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

- K.M.S.25. K.M.S.25 arrivals (list), 17 ships.
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 101114B to Admty.)
- Danish ship at Las Palmas. Ref. Admty. 081446A (N.T. in W.D.) addressed N.O.I.C. Gib. Spanish Naval Authorities still acting on 1941 instructions preventing sailing of Danish ship in port but at my request have referred matter to Consular Agent for confirmation of amendment. Danish Consul is prepared to give clearance.
(Consul Las Palmas 101215 to M.of W.T. Mast 130, Foreign Office 18, (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, B.N.A.Madrid.)
- DESPATCH. Onward route from F. all positions North and West.
G. 027° 50' 015° 00' H. 030° 00' 014° 28'
J. 034° 00' 009° 00' K. 035° 45' 006° 30'.
2. P/V are to be streamed as convenient before 007° W.
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 101229B to DESPATCH, (R) Comar Dakar, Commorseafon, Admty.)
- G.U.S.14. My 091224Z amend to read 4. 1st "Chop" 010° W. 2200Z/9, 2nd "Chop" 024° W. 0200Z/13, Radio shifting 020° W. 0400Z/12. 7. 44 including MERRIMACK. (C.M.S.F. 101305Z to P.D.Norfolk.)
My 091224 para. 6 add DANIEL T.GRIFFIN. (C.M.S.F. 102358B to P.D.Norfolk.)
- MALOJA. Due to leave Genoa about 12th Sept. for Gibraltar, Swiss MALOJA, 1788 tons gross. Routed to 042° 20' N. 008° 00' E. thence Cape San Sebastian thence coastwise. Speed 9 knots, carries national colours, and Switzerland on hull. Not to be molested on this voyage.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 101406B to S. and A. in Area. (G), etc.)
- U/Bs. Estimated U-Boat disposition as at 0800 Sept. 11th. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 101417C to C. in C.Med.)
- TAGUS. Sailed Gibraltar 1430/10th Sept. Portuguese TAGUS, 1092 tons gross, speed 9 knots, for Marseilles following approved route to San Sebastian thence (route) to Marseilles. She carries usual National and International Red Cross marking and is not to be molested this voyage.
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 101442B to 8th S/M F. CASABIANCA, and 101446B to S. & A. Area G.)
- DANAE. Arrived DANAE with V.A.Sir Harold Burrough and Staff (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 101642B to Admty. C. in C.Med.)

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10.9.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Damaged U/B at Vigo. Your 091559. Chief of Naval Staff informs me damage report expected tomorrow but damage is to both diesels and serious and it is probable time required for repair would be so long she will be interned at once.

I emphasized all points in your instructions. He replied situation was very different from previous cases and that no convincing pressure would now have any effect.

Embassy and Americans are supporting my representations.

Admty. pass to H.Q.C.C. C. in C.Plymouth.

(N.A.Madrid 101650B to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, H.Q.C.C. C. in C.Plymouth.)

My 091559. If this U-Boat leaves Vigo action is to be taken within Spanish territorial waters in accordance with paras. A. B. and D. of Admty. 1031/21 July 1942. Para. C. of that signal does not apply to this U-Boat.

(Head of M.Branch I Approved A.C.N.S.(H) 101803A to H.Q.C.C. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C.Plymouth, F.O.S. (R) C. in C. Med. N.A.Madrid.)

Italian Ships, Canary Is. Your 082325 (N.T. in W.D.) Chief of Naval Staff informs me orders have been given to all port authorities to take necessary steps to prevent sabotage of Italian merchant ships.

I am afraid Spanish Govt. will be difficult if we attempt later on to remove vessels in Canary Islands as they still believe they can buy them. Please inform Foreign Office and L.W.T. (As recd. ?M.W.T.intended) (N.A.Madrid 101801 to Admty.)

TEMPETE. My 091011 as amended sailed 101823A, Med. route accordance F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 091250. (Commorseafron 101937B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C.Med. Admty. Com. Algiers, Comnavnaw.)

Italian ships Teneriffe. Ref. Embassy telegrams 49 and 50. Instruction carried out and anti-sabotage precautions taken.
2. 2 ships could probably sail in 3 weeks if Italian Consul thus instructs.
3. Coal bunkers might be lent from their stock by

Cia Trasmediterranea.

4. 3rd armed yacht SS. MADDA has been damaged boiler tubes which I am informed cannot be repaired or replaced locally.

5. None of the ships has wireless operators or full complement of officers and men.

6. Port authority states present orders are to prohibit sailing of these ships.

7. Further report follows.

(British Consul Teneriffe 102015A to B.N.A.Madrid, (R) Admty. and S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)

Italian Destroyers. Arrival at Mahon, Balearics. (Commorseafron 102112B amended 111805Z to Comnavnaw). See Mediterranean.

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10.9.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Convoy
D.C.43.

Sailing telegram (4 ships).
 (2) 0800Z/10th Sept. (4) 8 knots. (5) Coastal reference 61 to 68 Saldanha Bay A.T.
 (6) ROCKROSE, VEREENIGING, DRANGEY, NORTHERN DAWN.
 (13) (a) Master, ALCOA POLARIS. (b) JAMES MCHENRY
 (15) Y.T.D.1 to 9 "Playmate" 391. Q.G.A.159.
 (N.C.S.O. Durban, 101007, to Admty. etc).

NIEUW
AMSTERDAM

NIEUW AMSTERDAM sailed 1100Z/10th Sept. due Fremantle 2300Z/19th Sept. knots (a) 19 (b) 21. Days 14. O.F. route:- (H) 039° S., 035° E. (J) 034° 30' 080° 10' (K) 032° 10' 110° 00' thence Fremantle approaches.
 (N.C.S.O. Durban 101102Z to Admty etc).

DUNCTON,
S.L.136.

After destroyer joins detach DUNCTON to return Dakar by most direct route.
 (F.O.C.W.A., 101136Z to S.O. Escort Group 40 (R) Escort S.L.136).

NIEUW
AMSTERDAM.

Position 10th Sept. NIEUW AMSTERDAM (A) Sailed for Fremantle.
 (D.S.T.O. Durban, 101324Z).

W.S.33
LORRAINE,
STRATHAIRD.

Intend following arrangements for fuelling and exchange of escorts French battleship LORRAINE and W.S.33.
 (a) LORRAINE and STRATHAIRD anchoring off Pointe Noire at first light 2nd October. BELLWORT and F.S.D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES will be available to assist screening. Escort fuelling inside Pointe Noire.
 (b) W.S.33 arriving off Pointe Noire 1600Z/2nd October. South Atlantic destroyers will escort and West Africa destroyers proceed Pointe Noire to fuel and take over escort of LORRAINE and STRATHAIRD.
 (c) French Battleship LORRAINE and STRATHAIRD sail for Freetown as soon as escorts have fuelled.
 (2) Request E.T.A. of LORRAINE and STRATHAIRD at Pointe Noire may be arranged accordingly.
 (F.O.C.W.Af, 101507Z to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty. WOLVERINE, B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire.)

Convoy S.T.L.
1.

Sailing telegram. (2) 1500/10 Sept. (3) knots 10. (4) NEW NORTHLAND and ELISABETHVILLE, both for Lagos, 1900/15 Sept. (5) Route "Oxford".
 (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 101635Z to Admty).

/W.S.33...

10.9.1943.

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

W.S. 33

1. Intend to sail convoy W.S. 33 at 0700Z/14th. escorted by WOLVERINE, BEAGLE, BULLDOG, BOADICEA and BANN.
2. Route. (A) 07° 38' N., 14° 20' W. (B) 03° 21' N., 08° 09' W. (C) 03° 55' N., 02° 43' W. (D) 04° 52' N., 01° 41' W. (E) 04° 30' N., 00° 48' W. thence Lagos, Estimated speed made good 13 knots.
3. ORMONDE, BOISSEVAIN, DUCHESS OF RICHMOND and BEAGLE will be detached in position (D) to Takoradi. E.T.A. 0800Z/17th. INDRAPOERA, ANTENOR, JOHANN DE WITT and remaining escorts E.T.A. Lagos 1000Z/18th. BULLDOG and BANN boiler clean on arrival.
4. R.N.O. Lagos sail ANTENOR and JOHANN DE WITT a.m./21st to Takoradi. E.T.A. a.m./22nd Escorts WOLVERINE BOADICEA, BELLWORT and D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES.
5. N.O.I.C. Takoradi sail BOISSEVAIN, DUCHESS OF RICHMOND, and BEAGLE a.m./22nd to meet ANTENOR convoy off Takoradi. WOLVERINE and BELLWORT transfer and with BEAGLE escort BOISSEVAIN and DUCHESS OF RICHMOND to Lagos. E.T.A. a.m./23rd. BEAGLE return Takoradi E.T.A. a.m./24th without entering Lagos.
6. N.O.I.C. Takoradi sail BOADICEA to arrive Freetown 26th.
7. N.O.I.C. Takoradi sail ANTENOR, JOHANN DE WITT, COWSLIP and D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES a.m./24th Lagos. E.T.A. a.m./25th. BEAGLE join escort off Takoradi.
8. R.N.O. Lagos sail WOLVERINE and BULLDOG to arrive Takoradi 27th and BELLWORT and D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES to arrive Pointe Noire 30th.
9. ORMONDE will sail from Takoradi on 28th and remainder of convoy from Lagos on 29th. Further orders follow.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 101741 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi R.N.O. Lagos (R) Admty. BANN, WOLVERINE, BEAGLE, BULLDOG, BOADICEA, Capt. D.F.E.F. N.C.S.O. Freetown, D.S.T.O. W.A.)

DUGUAY
TROUIN.

- Intend to sail DUGUAY TROUIN 0900Z/11 for Casablanca. S. of A. 20 knots. E.T.A. 1000Z/14.
2. Standard British coastal route omitting (J) and (H) and (F). Gibraltar's 091910 to B.N.L.O. Dakar only refers.
3. DUGUAY TROUIN shifts from Freetown to Gibraltar W/T organisation 0001/13. British Liaison staff embarked.
(Comar Dakar, 101749Z to F.O.C.W.A. C.M.S.F., Gib. C. in C. Med. DUGUAY TROUIN, Admty).

DESPATCH

- Arrived 0730Z DESPATCH sailed 1730Z to comply with F.O.C.W.A's 061827. DESPATCH (?shifts) from Freetown to Gib. W/T organization 1200Z/12th. E.T.A. Gib. 1200Z/14th but route from (F) not yet known.
(Comar Dakar, 101757Z to F.O.C.W.A. F.O.C. Gib. (R) DESPATCH, C. in C. Med. Commorseafron, Admty).

/Escort...

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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Escort
Group No.1.

Following ships now form south Atlantic Escort Group No. 1. FRITILLARY, S.O., TULIP, NORTHERN ISLE, CAPE WARWICK, NORWICH CITY.
2. Whenever possible they will be operating together as a group. Their composition of other groups will be promulgated as they are formed.
(C. in C. S.A., 101826B to S.A. Stn. 704 G).

10.9.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Avalanche".

(a) Taranto (Force Z).

KING My 091950B (N.T. in W.R.) P.C.S. 38.38 N. }
 GEORGE V. 17.15 E., 175°, 20 knots. }
 (KING GEORGE V, 100020 to C. in C. Med., (R) }
 S.O. Force Z.) }
 Proceed Malta with (? 22nd) D.F. through 090°
 Cape Colonne 15 at 0700/10 thence 090° Cape Passero 10 and
 Q.B.B. 146, E.T.A. boom 1900/10. S. of A. 20 knots.
 Codeword "Rhysland", 312 high.
 (S.O. Force Z, 100021 to KING GEORGE V, (R) C. in C. Med.,
 V.A. Malta, C.S.12, D.22, CANSO, 211 Group, N.L.O. 8th
 Army, N.L.O. M.A.C., N.L.O. N.A.A.F., N.L.O. N.A.S.A.F.,
 N.L.O. N.A.T.A.F., N.L.O. N.A.C.A.F., A.H.Q. Malta.)
 My 091950 (N.T. in W.R.) P.C. and S. 38.14 N. 18.21 E.
 195°, 22 knots. Am returning Taranto.
 (KING GEORGE V, 100125B to C. in C. Med., (R) S.O. Force Z)

ABDIEL sunk. ABDIEL sunk in Taranto Bay. From evidence of
 Capt. who is a survivor and others cause was
 a ground mine.
 2. All military equipment and vehicles lost
 and it is feared heavy casualties among soldiers.
 (S.O. Force Z, 100205 to C. in C. Med.)

Italian Government. For information it is probable that Italian
 Government left for Taranto at about 2000/9.
 (C. in C. Med., 100240B to S.O. Force Z.)

W/T Communi- Request you will organise W/T communication
 cations. between Taranto Malta and C. in C. Med. leaving
 a minesweeper for the purpose if necessary.
 (2) W/T watch should be maintained by minesweeper
 on broadcast M, call sign BRL, D/G for S.H.A.142.
 (3) Shore wireless station when established should keep M.X.
 fixed service to Bizerta frequencies 7000 k/cs, 3100 k/cs
 and port wave.
 (C. in C. Med., 100251B to S.O. Force Z, (R) V.A. Malta.)

AURORA, F.O. (12) C.S. in AURORA with DIDO, PENELOPE,
 DIDO, SIRIUS and U.S. Cr. BOISE sail 0710/10th for
 PENELOPE, Bizerta routed 090° Cape Colonne 15 thence 283
 SIRIUS, 10 miles north 273, 280, 278, 036° 59' 011° 17'
 BOISE. position (B) of Q.B.B.150 thence channel. S. of
 A. 24 knots. E.T.A. boom 0630/11th. Codeword
 "Titus", priority high.
 (S.O. Force Z, 100658 to C. in C. Med., V.A.
 Malta, N.O.I.C. Tunisia, (R) F.O. Sicily, N.L.O. 8th Army,
 Tripoli, U.S. Cruiser BOISE, N.L.Os. 21 Group, M.A.C., N.A.A.F.,
 N.A.S.A.F., N.A.T.A.F., N.A.C., N.O.I.C. Bizerta, F.O. 12th C.S.,
 C.S.12, Capt. (D) 22, A.F.A.H.Q. Malta.)

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10.9.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Operation "Avalanche".(a) Taranto (Force Z) - Contd.

Orders to HURSLEY. E/ P.C.S. of Taranto Squadron at 0646/10th 036° 42' 016° 30', 240, 20 knots. Proceed to comply with para. 2 of C. in C. Med.'s 091918. (V.A. Malta, 100759 to HURSLEY, (R) C. in C. Med. KING GEORGE V, S.O. Force Z, A.O.C. Malta.) Route to be outside 100 fathom line and Q.B.B. 123B. (V.A. Malta, 101047 to HURSLEY.)

Position in Taranto. Intend to sail HOWE, JERVIS, WISHART for Malta at 1600 today and remain myself in PALADIN until situation enables me to turn over S.N.O. Taranto to Capt. Orr-Ewing. 2. Another mine has gone up and I do not consider HOWE's presence here is justified providing a battleship is kept available to come to Taranto if situation deteriorates. (S.O. Force Z, 100933 to C. in C. Med.)

HOWE. HOWE sailed for Malta with destroyers addressed at 1700/10th through position 090° Cape Colonne 30, 090° Cape Passero 10 and Q.B.B. 146. S. of A. 23 knots, E.T.A. boom 0900/11th. Codeword "Longfield" 163, high. (S.O. Force Z, 101040 to HOWE, Capt. D.14, JERVIS, WISHART, (R) C. in C. Med. (M), V.A. Malta, F.O. 2nd i/c Force H, N.L.O. 8th Army, Air H.Q. Malta, N.L.Os. 211 Group, N.A.A.F., N.A.S.A.F., N.A.C.A.F., N.A.T.A.F., M.A.C. 211 Group.)

Flag of S.O. Force Z. Flag of S.O. Force Z is to be transferred to PALADIN at 1500/10th Sept. (S.O. Force Z, 101046 to PALADIN, HOWE, (R) N.O.I.C. Malta, C. in C. Med., C.S.12.)

Eisenhower's appeal to Badoglio. Pass following to Marshal Badoglio by quickest means possible and report when delivered. (Begins): The whole future and honour of Italy depends upon the part which her armed forces are now prepared to play. The Germans have definitely and deliberately taken the field against you. They have mutilated your fleet and sunk one of your ships, they have attacked your soldiers and seized your ports. 2. The Germans are now being attacked by land and sea and on an ever increasing scale from the air. Now is the time to strike. If Italy rises now as one man we shall seize every German by the throat. I urge you to issue immediately a clarion call to all patriotic Italians. They have done much locally already but action appears to be unco-ordinated and uncertain. They require inspired leadership and, in order to fight, an appeal

/setting ...

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appeal to
Badoglio.
(Contd.)

setting out the position to your people as it now exists is essential. Your Excellency is the one man that can ~~that can~~ do this. You can help free your country from the horrors of the battlefield. I urge you to act now: delay will be interpreted by the common enemy as weakness and lack of resolution. Signed, Dwight Eisenhower. (Ends).

(C. in C. Med., 101357B to S.O. Force Z.)

Your 101357. Message has been delivered personally to Naval C. in C. Taranto who is unable to trust 'phone (3 corrupt groups) Badoglio whom he believes to be in Brindisi. He is sending message by hand of an officer with (? armed guard) by car first light tomorrow.

(S.O. Force Z, 101941A to C. in C. Med. (M).)

Situation
Report No.1.

Port party 16 officers and 22 ratings established ashore.

(Taranto)

2. No demolition or sabotage appears to have taken place and port is ready to operate normally including workshops and docks.

3. Receiving good co-operation from Italians who guarantee to maintain defences of port on maximum scale.

4. German troops about 15 miles from port but thought to be withdrawing. No Germans known to be in Taranto.

5. 4 mines exploded today apparently by some timing device. Sweepers operated inside harbour and (? seaward channel) and Italians will assist (? in future).

6. Italian naval C. in C. called on me in HOWE, this morning and meeting was very satisfactory.

(S.O. Force Z, 101920 to C. in C. Med.)

See also 111219 re mines.

311

10.9.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Operation "Avalanche".

(b) Attack on Naples, Salerno

Allied
A/C in
restricted
area.

Large numbers Allied A/C in restricted flying area B last night. Some show I.F.F. others not until fired at. Frequent barrages were fired at unidentified up to 2330. Several bore all the appearances of enemy torpedo A/C attacks but may have been friendlies flying B.
2. Can something be done to keep our A/C out of the restricted area in accordance with the order. If not possible beg I may be informed of time and route.
(S.O. "H", 100835B to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.A.C.)

Landing
at Salerno.

Following is a repetition of N.C.W.T.F.'s 091006B (begins) addressed C. in C. Med., C.W.N.T.F. from N.C.W.T.F. Cositintrep. Both 6th and 10th Corps first waves reached beach 0345B. 10th Corps beaches secured at 0545B. Southern Attack Group considerable opposition yellow and green beaches reported ready receive L.S.T. Mine situation delayed moving ships shoreward many mines exploded in sweep of boat lanes, right flank well inshore of suspected fields. Number of floaters in channel. G.O.C. 36 Div. has landed. Several air attacks on assaulting convoys by small groups since H hour. 2 attacks reported 8 and 10 planes turned away by fighter cover. Diversionary group captured Ventotene at midnight. Italian garrison surrendered without opposition. 1 German prisoner and 60 more barricaded in town hall to be dealt with shortly. From inhabitants Ventotene reported Mussolini departed (Potzanor Monza?) for Sardinia forenoon of 8th. Insufficient information to assess attitude of Italians except at Ventotene, where co-operative. Rangers and Commandos landed according to plan. No opposition at Maiori.
(C. in C. Med., 100951B to Cositintrep.)

Carriers.

If required to operate tomorrow the 5 carriers should be able to maintain a patrol of average strength of 12 for first part of day.
(S.O. Force V., 101646B, to Cdr. T.F. Western Naval T. Force (R), C. in C. Med., S.O. Force H., F.O.C. Aircraft Carriers H.F.)

Montecorvino .

Landing ground under frequent bombardment. Disposal area good. A/A ready to move in R.A.F. servicing unit disembarked but not yet moved in. Landing ground may be mined and has a few bomb holes. Suggest Seafire not landed at Montecorvino until enemy artillery overcome and full control established. (?Gunfire) or (?delaying) value only but keeps landing ground clear. 169 Brigade expect enemy artillery to withdraw or be overcome tonight. Area well under our ground troops control. Landing-ground can be used for emergency landing.
(R.A.F.St. GXL1., 101840B to S.O.F.(V)

/C. in C. Med. ...

312

10.9.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Operation "Avalanche".(b) Attack on ~~Naples~~ Salerno

- C. in C. (1) Italian Fleet from (?Spezia) was met by
Med. to 2nd Division of battle fleet group Bone a.m.
Admty. 10th Sept. Both forces are proceeding to
Situation Malta arriving a.m. 11th September. Italian
report number battle fleet consists of 2 LITTORIO class,
177. 2 SAVOIA Class, 1 ATTENDOLO class, 2 GUISEPPE
GARIBALDI class and 7 destroyers. ROMA sank
in twenty minutes as a result of one bomb hit
during air attack by Germans p.m. 9th September.
Senior surviving Italian officer Admiral De Divisione Romeo
Oliva.
- (2) Taranto section of Italian Fleet of 2 CAVOUR class, 2
REGOLO class, 1 6 inch cruiser and 1 destroyer were due at Malta
p.m. 10th September.
- (3) 3 Italian U/Boats have now reached Allied harbours.
5 others have been identified and are proceeding to port.
- (4) ABDIEL was sunk in Taranto Bay probably by ground mine
about 2300 9th September. C.O. amongst survivors. Ship had
not unloaded military personnel and stores and casualties among
soldiers are feared heavy.
- (5) 12th Cruiser Squadron and U.S. Cruiser BOISE sail from
Taranto after unloading, HOWE also sails. Vice Admiral Power
remains in PALADIN as S.N.O. Taranto.
- (6) Operation "Avalanche". Presence of extensive minefields
considerably hampered unloading in initial stage. Southern
beaches were under enemy fire but support by cruisers and
destroyers improved situation by 1700.
- (7) ABERCROMBIE damaged by mine 1730 9th starboard bilge
flooded. CADMUS also sustained slight mine damage. MENDIP
damaged by near miss.
- (8) (P.45) UNRIVALLED reports entering Bari a.m. 10th September.
4 Italian merchant ships sunk by Germans. P.45 (UNRIVALLED) is
to proceed with convoy of remaining 8 merchant ships to Malta.
(C. in C. Med., 102159 to Admty., etc.)
- C. in C. (3) British Naval Forces except one destroyer
Med. have left Taranto, the cruisers after
Cositintrep. disembarking army personnel and stores. Vice
Admiral Power remained as Senior Naval Officer
Taranto.
- (4) Operation "Avalanche". Follow up and return
convoys proceeding according to plan.
(C. in C. Med., 102252 to Cositintrep.)

SECRET

Med. Lion
312A.

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

100130B September

IN

Date 10. 9. 43.

From TAC H.Q. 15 Army Group

Received 0615

Cipher

Operation Avalanche. (Italy)

Addressed The War Office Cositintrep Addressees

MOST IMMEDIATE

153892 0/1442 cipher 10 Sep. SECRET

Cositintrep Number 62 to 1000B hrs 9 Sep.

Part One being p. Section one. Intelligence.
Five Army front. 16 PZ Eng Bn identified H5527 090632B.
Same time tanks identified close to shore area N779139-
766168 presumably from Two PZ Regt. 04 PZ Gren Regt
identified on Monte Corvino Airfield. All above from
10PZ Div.

8 Army front. A few PSW from 302 Army Flak Bty.
GHC/R reports of heavy MT movement between Castrovigliari
and Eboli and very slight degree of opposition to Eight
Army advance suggests withdrawal of 26 and 29 Divs from
Calabria being accelerated.

Section Two. Ground operations.

First. Eighth Army. Eighth Army Tac HQ 682877.
13 Corps Tac HQ Pizzo 8717. 231 Bde successfully
completed landing in Pizzo area according to plan in the
face of some enemy opposition and are now directed
North. Five Div 13 Bde Fwd Tps established contact with
231 Bde at 2100 hrs 8 Sept at Vibo Valentia. Div recon
elements pushing North have reached R Angitola 9221.
One Can Div. Fwd Tps Three Can Bde continued advance up
East coast road and were reported at Adolato 2400 at 1400
hrs today. Adv of remainder of Div hampered by demolitions.
Little contact with enemy over whole front.

Second. Fifth Army. Convoys arrived in transport area
on schedule. Boats lowered 090200B hrs. Sea calm. Some
enemy air attack on convoys damage light five enemy planes
destroyed. 0400B hrs attack commenced. Ranger and
Commandos landed according to plan. No opposition at
Maieri. Initial landings generally successful. Some
German PW taken. 0800B hrs situation generally
favourable. Considerable opposition some beaches but
46 Div 56 Div and two landings 56 Div successful. Large
number water mines delayed movement in shore. Ten Corps
advance satisfactory considering strength of opposition.
Six Corps temporarily held up.

/Third.

- 3 -

Third. First Airborne Div. Naval report states convoy has entered Taranto Harbour and inhabitants appear friendly. (Section Two ends)

Section Three. Air. Tac/R throughout the day reported steady movement of MF Northwards particularly in area Lagonegro (T5071)- Sala Consilina (O3571). In area of Avalanche landings no general movement West was observed. Considerable AA was reported at most road junctions on main roads leading North from toe of Italy.

Bomblinc. Eighth Army bomblinc as at 1200 hours - Y8447-21047-21040 then East. Avalanche bomblinc as at 1700 hours 89873-9591-9994-(700593)-00013-19025-7530-6827. Section Three Ends. Part One Ends.

100150B
Received in War Registry 1047/10

1st Lord	War Office circulation
1st S.L.(2)	S. of S.
D.F.S.L.	C.I.G.S.
4th S.L.	V.C.I.G.S.
V.C.H.S.	D.C.I.G.S.
A.C.H.S.(F)	D.M.O.
A.C.H.S.(U.T.)(2)	D.D.M.O.(0)
A.C.H.S.(A)(2)	M.O.1.5.6.
A.C.H.S.(W)	M.O.4.(3)
U. R.	
Capt. Pim	D.Plans (2)
Ops.(2)	D.M.I.
Plot	D.D.M.I.(I).(F)-Rm.226
O.D.(5)	M.I.3.14.17
O.I.C.(3)	D.Air
D.H.I.(5)	D.D.Air
D. of P.(3)	Air Co-ord.
D.A/S.W.	D.D.I.P.
D.A.U.D.	I.P.1.
D. of P.(0)(5)	Brig.Jacob (22)
M.(2)	War Reg. Admiralty
C.N.I.	Upper War Rm.Admiralty
D.F.D.	A.M.C.S. Air Ministry
W.D.	Brig. Rodger (Can.Military H.Q.)
I.P.(3)	C.O.H.Q.(Maj.General Haydon)
Ad.Blake (4)	
D.D.O.D.(M)	
D.R.O.(C.O.)(2)	Advance copy sent Duty Capt.
S.O.F.(V)(4)	
C.C.L.S.(2)	

en

313

10.9.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Disposition of Italian Fleet and Merchant Ships.Aircraft
Reports.

W.D. Note:- Numerous aircraft reports of the passage of Italian ships were made during the day.

A/C GPM/V at 0705B reported the Spezia Fleet, 2 Battleships, 5 cruisers, 5 destroyers in 38.13 N. 06.30 E.

A/C CXV/H at 0810B reported the Taranto Sqdn., 2 battleships, 3 cruisers, in 36.42 N., 16.30 E.

Other aircraft messages bore the following code times:-

100030B, 100126, 100137B, 100150B, 100245B, 100253, 100300B, 100310B, 100330B, 100336B, 100340B, 100415B, 100450, 100454B, 100650B, 100713B, 100745B, 100755B, No T.O.O., recd. 0807, 100820, 100932B, 101115B, 101300B, 101431B, 101505B, 101515B, 101521B.

UNSHAKEN,
MENOTTI.

Your 092035 (Re: Have Italian S/M MENOTTI in company, request escort.) acknowledged, escort will R/V with you in position 5 miles east of B in QBB 147 at 0800 11th.

(2)MJA0 24 request total bombing restrictions from 38° 30' 18" 20' through 35° 45' 16' 38' to Delimara point forthwith until further signal.

(Capt. (S) 10, 100050B to UNSHAKEN (R) 10th S/M F. C. in C. Med. Air H.Q. Malta.)

Will be 6 hours late at R/V MENOTTI in company. 4 prisoners on board.

(P.54 (UNSHAKEN) 102130B to Capt. (S) 10 (R) 10th S.F.)

DOLFIJN
CORRIDONE.

Have intercepted Italian cargo S/M CORRIDONE. Escaped from Maddalena. Has no oil to make Allied port. Proposes to enter Elba to fuel and request orders. Am keeping her with me awaiting orders if possible before daylight. (DOLFIJN, 100236B to Capt. (S) 8 (R) C. in C. Med. 8th S/M F.)

Your 100236. Yes. Thence to vicinity East coast Sardinia thence to Bone reporting her P.C. and S. when South of Sardinia. Many other Italian S/Ms are on their way to join Allies. At your discretion contact Italian S/M after she leaves Elba and then resume patrol.

(Capt. 100540B to P.47 (DOLFIJN (R) C. in C. Med.)

VORTILE. and
S/Ms Augusta.

B.Y.M.S.28 arrived with memorandum from S.10 giving instructions for unmolestation of Italian submarine VORTILE.

2. Para. 5 stating submarine to be ready to sail for Malta A.M. 11th September escorted by B.Y.M.S.28.

3. Request confirmation that this vessel is to be sailed on that date.

4. 2 more submarines entering harbour A.m. today Friday 10th. (N.O.I.C. Augusta, 100752B to C. in C. Med. (R) V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 10th F.O.I.C. Sicily.)

/Italian U/B...

314

10.9.1943.

Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Disposition of Italian Fleet and Merchant Ships.

VORTILE
(Contd.) Italian U/Bs in Augusta, see 102125 Med.
(General) Arrived Italian S/Ms VORTILE, ONICE,
ZOEIA, (?) SETTEMBRINI.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 102135 to Admty., C. in C.
Med.)

Battle
Fleet
from
Spezia. 2 battleships, 3 cruisers 40 miles, 10 knots
course 2000° Position 36.09 N. 15.30 E. based on
a fix within $\frac{1}{2}$ hour of 0800.
(HURSLEY, 100917, to Malta.)

GALATEA,
BRIN. Italian submarines GALATEA and BRIN in 040° 15'
N. 013° 25' east, at 092214. Routed unescorted
to 042° N. thence down E. coast Sardinia to Bone.
(Capt. (S) 8th, 100944B to 8th S.F. (R) C. in C.
Med.)

Situation
at Bari. Situation Bari 4 Italian merchant ships sunk by
UNRIVALLED. Germans. Intend sailing in convoy with
remaining 8 merchant ships p.m. today for Malta
as routed in Capt. (S) 10th 071115B S. of A.
8 knots. Request additional escort to meet me
and to escort convoy to required destination.
(P.45 (UNRIVALLED) 101158B to Capt. (S) 10th
(R) C. in C. Med.)

REGOLO
and
destroyers
at Mahon
and
Pollenza. N.A. Madrid reports that a.m. today 10th Sept.
Italian Cruiser REGOLO and 3 destroyers arrived
Port Mahon and an unidentified Italian warship
arrived Pollenza.
(D.D.I.C. 101620A, to C. in C. Med., S.O. Force
H., R.A. Force H., R.A.A. H.F., V.A. Malta,
C.S. 12, C.S. 15, N.C.W.T.F., (R) F.O.I.C. Gib.)
My 101620A. Unidentified warship at Pollenza
is a destroyer. Two more destroyers have
arrived there and all three have been told by Spaniards to
proceed to Port Mahon.
(D.D.I.C. 101819A to C. in C. Med. etc.)
Grade A.1. report states 3 Italian warships entered
Pollenza Bay today coming from Spezia and are disembarking
wounded. Ships are interned at port Mahon.
(Palma Mallorca, 101805B, to Admty., (D.N.I.) (R) S.O.(I)
Gibraltar Charge D'Affaires Madrid No. 62 and British Naval
Attache Madrid and Vice Consul (Port Mahon) No.7.)

/Three...

10.9.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Disposition of Italian Fleet and Merchant Ships.

REGOLO
and
destroyers
at Mahon
and
Pollenza.
(Contd.)

Three Italian destroyers CARABINIERE, FUCILIERE and MITRAGLIERE and two other unidentified Italian vessels* reliably reported to have arrived today at Mahon Balearics some dead and wounded aboard. Spanish Government has ordered all Italian ships in Spanish Ports interned.

(Commorseafron, 102112B to Commavnaw, (R) V.C.N.O. (D.N.I.) S.O.I. Gibraltar, Admty., C. in C. Med.)* 2 vessels amended to read cruiser REGOLO (111805Z).

Taranto
Squadron.
Malta
arrival.

AI. 1072 10th Sept. Opsum No.123 9/10th Sept. 1 Wellington made search East of Toe of Italy for Italian Naval units leaving Taranto for Malta. 10th Sept. 6 Spitfires made photo R/C of harbour aerodromes and special area in Southern Italy. 8 Baltimores patrolled over Italian Naval Units consisting of 2 Battleships

2 Cruisers and 1 destroyer until their safe arrival in harbour at 1600 hrs. 8 Spitfires provided fighter cover to these Naval Units.

(H.Q.R.A.F. Malta, 101825Z, to Air Cmd. Post Med. Air Cmd. N.A.A.F. Adv. 201 Group. H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. for U.S. Armed Forces Cairo A.M. Whitehall, 9th U.S. Bomber Cmd. Adv. N.A.S.A.F. Adv. T.A.F. A. A.H.Q. D.A.F. Main 15th Army Group.)

Arrivals 1730 Italian Battleships ANDREA DORIA and CAIO DUILIO. Italian Cruisers LUIGI CADORNA and POMPEO MAGNO, Italian Destroyer DARRECO.

(V.A. Malta, 102210, to Admty., C. in C. Med. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

Treatment
of Naval
personnel.

The Italian fleet having scrupulously honoured the engagement entered into by their Government, Officers and Ships companies are to be treated with courtesy and consideration on all occasions.

(2) For the present there should be no communication with the shore.

(C. in C. Med., 101840B to S. and A. Med. S. Admty. C. in C. Levant.)

Disarming.

Operation "Gibbon". Disarming is only to take place at ports of destination i.e. Malta and Alexandria.

(C. in C. Med. 101947A to F.O.I.C. Sicily, N.Os. I.C. Sicily, C. in C. Levant, F.Os. I.C. & N.Os. I.C., N.Africa, Admty., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta, Cdre. Algiers.)

/SOKOL...

316

10.9.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Disposition of Italian Fleet and Merchant ShipsSOKOL
ships in
Brindisi.

1 Cruiser, 1 destroyer entered Brindisi from North at 1430. 1 tanker and number of small vessels entered harbour during daylight. All unmolested.

(O.R.P. SOKOL, 102001B to Capt. (S) 10 (R) C. in C. Med. 10th S.F.)

(P.45) UNRIVALLED appears to have contacted Italian authorities at Bari and got out 8 Merchant Ships. If you find yourself able to do the same at Brindisi do not enter harbour unless absolutely necessary. Taranto is in our hands. (Capt. (S) 10, 102124, to O.R.P. SOKOL (R) UNRULY (P.49) (P.45) UNRIVALLED.)

ABERCROMBIE
and Italian
S/M.

This is re-encypherment of N.C.W.T.F. 101916B. Addressed to A.R.B. 47 repeated ABERCROMBIE C.T.F. 81, 85.1. from N.C.W.T.F. Begins inform Italian S/M that he is directed to proceed in your company and report to C.O. ABERCROMBIE and will accompany that ship to Palermo in convoy

to be sailed tonight by C.T.F.81. After delivering Italian S/M to ABERCROMBIE return to Augusta. Cancel my 101344B to C.T.G.85.1. Ends.

(N.C.W.T.F., 102132B, to ABERCROMBIE.)

Italian S/M will accompany your force to Palermo. On arrival Comnabsic will arrange for further escort to Bone or such port as C. in C. Med. may direct. Personnel from my staff when relieved will be returned "Fagtrans" to my H.Q. Algiers.

(N.C.W.T.F., 102326B to ABERCROMBIE. (R) C. in C. Med., Comnabsic.)

S.T.S.I.

Italian S/M in company should be detached to Augusta.

(C. in C. Med., 102256 to Escorts of S.T.S.I. (R) C.T.F.80, N.O.I.C. Augusta.)

Italian
survivors.

Following received from call sign ERE (not known) 150 Italian survivors on raft in position 40.52 N. 07.34 E. Bearing from Burnham-on-sea Radio 156 class 2.

(Burnham Radio, No. T.O.O. to Admty.) W.R. Note: Message has been passed to Malta W/T, Gibraltar W/T and Algiers W/T.

317

War Diary.10.9.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.General.

U/B At 2237C/9th a German U/B was within 20 miles of 34° 30' N., 22° 50' E. (C.O.I.S. Alexandria. 100018C to Ships Western Desert, Levant Fleet, C. in C. Levant, etc.)

EREBUS Your position 0458 was 051° Saint Elmo 15.5 miles. (V.A. Malta, 100500 to EREBUS).

PRINSES Proceed to Malta escorted by PINDOS. (C. in C. Med., 100525B to PRINSES ASTRID (R) PINDOS. N.O.I.C. Malta, PINDOS, Com. N.O.B. Palermo).

G.U.F.10 G.U.F.10. Arrived September 9th (names). (Comnob Oran, 100911B to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. etc).

UNRIVALLED Leave patrol to pass 040° 15' 019° 08' at 1200 13th 037° 10' 017° 30' at 2000/14th 035° 45' 016° 38' at 1200/15th and R/V with escort in a position B of Q.B.B. 147 at 0800/16th. Surface passage in 14th. 2. M.J.A.O. 24. Request bombing restrictions. (Capt. (S) 10th, 100955 to P.45 UNRIVALLED (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8, Admty. R.A. Alexandria, Air H.Q. Malta, 10th S.F.)

Sailings Expected sailings from Suez Week Ending 16th:- East from with over 100 personnel about 13th Sept. SELANDIA, Suez. Aden, Jibouti, Durban; 16th Sept. ORANJE, Kilindini SELANDIA, Durban. Valuable ship about 11th Sept., BURMA, ORANJE, Aden, Kilindini. Cancel last ship in my 031143. BURMA. (N.T. in W.D.) (F.O. Red Sea and Canal Area, 101023C, Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Eastern Fleet, Com. Aden, C. in C. S.A. Station).

Movements. Amend my 092200B. U.S.A.H.S. ARCADIA did not Oran. (?sail). C. in C. Med. pass to Comnavnaw. (Comnob Oran, 101038B to Admty. etc).

C. in C. Med. A.291 cipher 10th Sept., signed Eisenhower. A. Report. Part 3. Air Cosintrep No. 62 9th Sept. N.W.A.A.F. night 8/9 Sept. Small number of Wellingtons also attacked shipping and the harbour at Gaeta and Forio and gun emplacements at Formia.

Day 9th Sept. 38 P.40s carried out an intruder mission in South Sardinia. Fighters shot down one of 29 F.W.190s attacking the beaches. (Air C. in C. Med. no T.O.O./10).

/G.U.S....

318

10.9.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

G.U.S.15 Sailed 0830/9th Sept. SONTAY, FORT AUGUSTUS, CITY OF WINDSOR, BENREOCH. (numbers).
(D.S.T.O. Alexandria, 101100C to Admty).

T.S.S.4 Intend sailing T.S.S.4 at 1400/11th (names).
(2) Route "T" of Avon/N 5 E.T.A. position 176 0600/13th.
(3) Escort HURWORTH (S.O.) ALDENHAM, CROOME, KANARIS.
(4) Codeword "Liege" 4 call sign AZH 4 priority high and A/S.
(V.A. Malta, 101222B to Cdre. (N) (R) N.L.Os. M.A.C. etc).

N.O.I.C. Malta's 101222. On arrival of T.S.S.4, request you will sail HURWORTH, ALDENHAM, CROOME, KANARIS to Augusta for fuelling.

(2) N.O.I.C. Augusta to sail them when refuelled to Alexandria for escorting M.K.F.24 leaving Alexandria on the 17th Sept. (C. in C. Med., 102152B).

Convoy "Shell". M.S.C.I.22. Intend sailing CAP ST. JACQUES (P) TALMA (P) WELSH TRADER, ROMNEY, LWOW for onward routeing to Alexandria and NAILSEA, MOOR (8½) for onward routeing to U.K. at 0901B/11th.
(2) A and B. 8½.

(3) E.T.A. Malta Boom 1130B/12th.
(6) Normal and A/S. Codeword (incomplete group) "Shell" (corrupt groups).
(8) VETCH, PENTSTEMON, CONVULVULUS.
(S.N.O. Trip. 101231B to N.O.I.C. Malta).

N.A.A.F. Report. Part 1. AV. 585E/10th Sept.
N.W.A.A.F. Opsum 201. N.W.S.A.F. 12 tons from 6/7,000 feet town.
8/9 Sept. 4 Wellingtons Gaeta. 8 tons from 6/8,000 feet. Bombs across harbour and east portion town.

Part 2. 46 x 250 (238 or 235?) x 40 gun position Vibo Valentia and transport concentrations Catanzaro/Leonardo Road. Several vehicles destroyed and damaged. 1 Me.109 damaged. 1 Kittyhawk (P.40) destroyed. 8 Sept. 269 Spitfires covered landing operations Pizzo? and escorted bombers. 8/9 Sept. 70 U.S. Mitchells (B.25) 34 Bostons (A.20) 8 Baltimores (A.30) attacked road communications leading to beaches Salerno (N.A.A.F., 101436B).

SPORTSMAN, UNIVERSAL, SERAPH. P.229 (SPORTSMAN) leave patrol to pass 043° 28' 009° 01' at 0530/11th, 042° 03' 007° 26' at 0500/12th 041° 23' 007° 05' at 2130/12th, 038° 04' 005° 17' at 1900/13th. Thence R/V escort Algiers in 037° 05' 003° 05' at 0700/14 (P.229) SPORTSMAN is to proceed on surface at discretion on 13th and 14th.
(Capt. (S) 8th, 101546B to 8th S/F (R) C. in C. Med. S.O. Force H, Capt. 10th S.F., F.O. Gib. N.O.I.C. Algiers.

War Diary.10.9.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.MediterraneanSPORTSMAN,
UNIVERSAL,
SERAPH.
(contd).

P.219 (SERAPH) leaves patrol to pass through 042° 01', 010° 56' at 0001/12 038° 31' 010° 05' at 2100/13th 038° 24' 008° 12' at 0530/14th thence on surface at discretion through 038° 11' 004° 50' 2130/14th to R/V escort Algiers in 037° 05' 003° 14 mins. at 0700/15th.

(Capt. (S) 8, 101610B to 8th S/M Flot. (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.C. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Algiers, S.O. Force H).

P.57 (UNIVERSAL) leaves patrol to pass through 042° 30' 005° 57' at 2130/11th. 040° 56' 005° 45' at 2130/12th, 039° 53' 005° 34' at 0500/13th, 038° 01' 004° 09' at 2130/14th, thence R/V P.229 (SPORTSMAN) and escorts Algiers in 037° 05' 003° 05' at 0700/14th. P.57 (UNIVERSAL) to proceed on surface at discretion on 13th and 14th.

(Capt. (S) 8, 101700B to 8th S/M Flot. (R) C. in C. Med. S.O. Force H, Capt. (S) 10, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Algiers).

G.U.F.10

My 081601B sailed (names.)
(Cdr. N.O.B. Oran, 101646B to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. etc).

SILHOUETTE

Royal Norwegian Naval ship SILHOUETTE transferred to Royal Hellenic Navy today Friday 10th Sept. 1943 at 1700.
(N.O.I.C. Beirut, 101701C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant, Comla).Situation
report 41.
Operation
"Baytown".

On the left 231 Brigade and elements of 5 divisions are up to river Amato. Slight opposition being encountered. In the centre 2 Canadian Brigades are in Cittanova area. On the right one Canadian Brigade is being ferried today to Catanzara, whilst 3 Brigades moved on up coast road toward same locality and will probably be helped on tomorrow by Ferrying. Very heavy motor transport movement general trend Northward has been observed all day North of 40 parallel.

(N.L.O. 8th Army, 101746A to C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, (R) F.O.I.C. Sicily, S.O. Force H).

Tugs
Disposition.

Reference A.M. 171657A. Re manning two tugs to be allocated by C. in C. Med. to C. in C. Levant (Capt. in Charge, Rescue Tugs, 101753A to C. in C. Med).

K.M.S.24

K.M.S. 24 arrived less Alexandria portion detached. (N.C.S.O. Port Said, 101808C to Admty).

Convoy T.X.1

My 091842 sailed. All hold S.P. 02272(25) and (26).
(S.N.O. Trip., 101830B to S.N.O. Cyrenaica, (R) Admty. etc).

War Diary.10.9.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

- T.O.8 T.O. 8 Sailed as in my 081156 (N.T. in W.D.) (details).
(N.O.I.C. Algiers, 101850B to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. etc).
- M.T.Bs. for Palermo. Am sending M.T.Bs. to Palermo this evening. Their services invaluable, request same assistance tomorrow.
(L. 681 BERRY, 101908B to S.H.A. 100, Capt. Coastal Force Med).
- U.G.S.17 British SS. MOORBY contains valuable stores for Abadan cracking plant extension, which could not be readily replaced.
2. Some delay in onward passage would be acceptable to ensure maximum possible protection.
(D.T.D., 101913A to C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, C. in C. E.F. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).
- SERAPH enemy intelligence. Heavy traffic German armed transport barge tank landing craft and light force loaded with troops and stores passing Troja Island northward. 3 inch ammunition expended. 7 torpedoes and stern torpedo remaining.
(P.219 (SERAPH) 101950B to Capt. (S) 8, (R) C. in C. Med. S/MS on patrol).
- Movements, Oran. Arrivals French CHASSEUR III. Departures French submarine LA PERLE, CHASSEUR III, U.S.A.T. MCANDREW, U.S.S. KING, SS. SANTA ROSA, U.S.A.T. GOETHALS, U.S.S. ARUNDEL, U.S.A.T. THURSTON, U.S.A.T. GIBBONS, U.S.S. NIGHTINGALE, U.S.A.T. ALEXANDER, U.S.A.T. PARKER, SS. MONTELEY, SS. H. SKIPPER, U.S.A.T. SIBONEY, SS. SANTA ELENA, Dutch Sloderkijk? U.S.A.T. BERRY, U.S.S. ANTHONY, U.S.A.T. SEATRAN TEXAS and SEATRAN New Jersey, U.S. MONTICELLO, U.S.S. MERVINE?, PARKER, LUB, MACKENZIE, MACLAHAN, DAVISON, BEATTY, TILLMAN, BOYLE, CHAMPLIN, NIELDS, ORLROUX. (Comnob Oran, 102040B to Admty etc).
- U.G.S. convoy cycles. Your 091613. If U.G.S. cycle is closed there are following possibilities:
(a) To adjust K.M.S. cycle to conform so that K.M.S. combine with U.G.S. at Gibraltar. This has proved most unsatisfactory in the past, moreover, convoys at 7 or 8 days intervals are not frequent enough to make best use of ports.
(b) To adjust K.M.S. cycle to run alternately with U.G.S. as at present, this means splitting up available escorts into even smaller groups than at present.
(c) Not to adjust K.M.S. cycle and to let K.M.S. and U.G.S. run independently at irregular intervals. In this case it would be difficult to ensure smooth working of ports or economical use of escorts.

War Diary.

10.9.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

U.G.S.
Convoy
cycles.
(contd).

3. Would therefore much prefer that present
convoy cycle should continue. Appreciate this
may mean that U.G.S. convoys will be very big ones
but resulting 5 day interval inside the
Mediterranean is most convenient from all points
of view.

4. If it is insisted that U.G.S. cycle should
be closed would prefer 8 days interval, with K.M.S. running
alternately with U.G.S., to 7 day interval.
(C. in C. Med., 102107 to Admtty (R) B.A.D., etc).

Augusta
situation
Report.

Sitrep. No enemy E-boat activity over Augusta
area in last 24 hours.

(2) 5 Italian S/MS entered harbour in accordance
with terms of Armistice and since immobilised.

(3) (?4) S/MS sailing for Malta a.m. tomorrow 11th
Sept.

(4) All C.Os. quite friendly in manner.

(5) L.C.T.311 docked holed below waterline and damaged rudder.
Estimated day of completion (?18th).

(6) Laying of type 135 at northern most entrance completed and
ready for Malta operation.

(7) Discharge tonnage includes 143 tons Pol.

(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 102125 to C. in C. Med).

Med.
Situation
Reports.

C. in C. Med., 102159, 102252.
(See Operation "Avalanche").

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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

O.23. Re sailing O.23 (D.S.) 11th Sept. to arrive Aden 21st, my O1(?04)45Z not to Cmdre. i/c Aden or F.O. Red Sea and Canal Area refers.
(2) Cmdre. i/c Aden is requested to arrange onward passage to Suez, thence as ordered by C, in C. Levant and C. in C. Med. (3) Route to Aden follows.
(Capt. (S) 4 100315Z to C. in C. E.F., Cmdre. I/C Aden,
(R) F.O. R.S.C.A. C. in C. Med, C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Netherlands Forces in East (B.S.O.)

ENGADINE, R.A.N.A.S. Indian Ocean's 061109, request at least
ATHENE.. one of these ships be allocated to Eastern Fleet as soon as available.
(C. in C. E.F. 100756Z to Admty. (R) R.A.N.A.S. Indian Ocean.)

U.S.22. Arrival SUFFOLK with U.S.22.
(S.O.I. Bombay, 100811Z to Admty.)

STRATHAIRD. Transport STRATHAIRD sailed 9th for U.K. via Capetown. Requirements at Capetown. E.T.A. Capetown 23rd Sept.
(D.S.T.O. Bombay, 101055Z to D.S.T. (R) P.S.T.OI

Convoy W.S.32. Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 101230Z to Admty.)

America and West Indies.

Broadcast C. in C. Med's 070124 Navy Department are anxious to know as quickly as possible names of vessels responding to this broadcast. Request these names be briefly signalled when available.
to Italian Navy and Shipping. (B.A.D. 101451Z to Admty.)

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10.9.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

U.S.A.T. Departure 10th T.W. DRENNAN U.S.A.T. Trinidad
11th.
(B.R.O. Georgetown, 100010Q to Admty.)

Escort Your 042057. The following is intended to
Carriers. clear up outstanding problems concerning C.V.E.
The problems are:-

(a) U.S. criticism of delay in C.V.Es. becoming
operational in British service. Raised in your
252149Z August and 272321Z August, replied to by A.M. 051748A
and M.054165/43. (In transit by air).

(b) Recommendations by A/S Board as to employment of C.V.E.
and proposal to give to U.S. Navy some or all of next 7 C.V.E.

(c) Acceleration of completion of C.V.E. at Tacoma referred
to in your 302321Z August.

2. Two considerations affect all these problems:

(a) Our manpower resources govern rate at which C.V.E. could
be commissioned. To accept unmodified Carriers now would
result in accelerated commissioning programme, which manning
situation would not permit.

(b) Our future commitments in amphibious operations, and the
fact that some of our trade routes require fighter protection,
make it necessary to modify all C.V.E. to enable them to operate
high performance fighters, as explained in M.054165/43. This
does not affect their suitability for A/S work.

3. Reference A/S Board recommendations para. 16 (a). No
material improvement can be expected in time required to make
C.V.E. operational in British service because of the manning
situation referred to in para. 2 (a) and reasons given in A.M.
051748A and M.054165/3.

4. If it be confirmed that C.V.Es. will be kept waiting for
conversion at Vancouver we are prepared to give up 5 to the
U.S. Navy, but in this event and if our manning situation
should permit we would want substitutes for these C.V.Es.
provided during 1944. We are of course counting on getting 2
per month from the follow on programme commencing April 1944
as stated in your Lorsa 1009, para. 5. The figure 5 is chosen
as it is understood from your 302321Z August that this would
release the congestion at Vancouver and avoid delay during
which C.V.E. are kept waiting.

5. Other remarks on A/S Board recommendations in para. 16
as follows:

(a) Fully concur but in view of other operational requirements
no British C.V.Es. will be available before the end of Sept.

(b) One C.V.E. has been allocated and will leave when released
from Mediterranean.

(c) C.V.Es. will rarely be of value in Northern passage in
winter owing to weather and long nights and provision would
be low in priority.

(d) Concur.

6. Please obtain 1st Sea Lord's concurrence.

(V.C.N.S., 100035A to B.A.D.)

If the proposal in para. 4 of A.M. 100035A is accepted,
Admiralty would wish to be consulted in the selection of the
five ships as in para. 4 of your 302321.

(Admty., 101353A to B.A.D.)

/ U/B ...

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10.9.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- U/B. Following has been read by Burnham Radio. Passed through position "Oboe". Submarine sighted 9th Sept. 1955 G.M.T. 135 miles 311° "Oboe".
(TALISMAN, 100430Z to Admty., (R) Connav.)
- C.T.G. 21.12. This C. in C. Lant 092050 addressed to C.T.G. 21.12 (R) for N.O.B. Bermuda, C.T.F.66, Commorseafron, C.T.F.62, Connaveu, Connav, Radio Algiers for Connavnaw, C.T.F.65, C.T.F.61, C.T.G. 21.15, C.T.G.21.11, C. in C. Med., Admty.
Cease support T.F.62 after destroyers have been refuelled and proceed toward area of Azores to operate offensively against submarines reported until time support T.F.62 as it nears submarines reported positions. Further orders later.
(Connaveu, 100856 to Admty.)
- KAIA
KNUDSEN. T.J.7 destination tanker KAIA KNUDSEN changed to Pointe Noire.
2. Recommend leave convoy on crossing 05° S. thence direct.
(D.T.D., 101110Z to Connav, (R) B.A.D.)
- Convoy arrivals. Convoys G.Z.42 arrived 1st Sept., G.Z.43 arrived 10th Sept., Guantanamo 144 arrived 8th Sept., and A.Z.5 arrived 9th Sept.
(B.R.L.O. Cristobal, 101149R to Admty.)
- QUEEN MARY. Arrived New York 0921Z/10th.
(P.D. New York, 101300Z to Admty.)
- STRATHNAVER,
EARLE. Refer to this as U.S.S. EARLE dispatch 101028Z action Cinclant, Admty. 0800 position 47.09 45.40 speed 12.5, course 276. U.S.S. EARLE escorting SS. STRATHNAVER straggler from U.T.2 returning Saint Johns due to engine trouble.
Request arrangements be made to fuel to expedite return to U.T.2. All times Z.
(C. in C. Lant, 101323Z to Admty., (R) O.I.C. Newfoundland.)
- U.G.S./G.U.S. Convoys, speed. Your 062305, para. 3. M.W.T. state, that, although a declared speed of 9½ knots will add considerably to their difficulties in finding sufficient ships, they are prepared to work to this limitation, and will ask for a review of the position if difficulties become too serious.
It is hoped, therefore, that you can persuade Cominch to agree to a declared speed of 9½ knots instead of 10 knots for U.G.S. and G.U.S. convoys.
(A.C.N.S.(U.T.), 101418A to B.A.D.)

/Convoy ...

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10.9.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Convoy O.N. 199. 44 ships arrived New York. First arrival 2015Z/9. Last arrival 0705Z/10. All ships accounted for.
(P.D. New York, 101430Z to Com. 10th Fleet (C. and R.))

Amend Mydis. 101430. Convoy O.N. 199 total 45 ships arrived including BRITISH RESPECT.
(P.D. New York, 102024.)

Italian Shipping. See page 322. (B.A.D. 101451Z to Admty)

Movements. Departure U.S.S.T. MATTOLE. Arrival U.S.S.T. SAPELO.
(B.R.O. Aruba, 101511Z to Admty.)

U.S. S/M Estimate. (Cominch, 101552Z.)

Convoy H.X. 256. Additions and deletions.
(B.R.L.O. New York, 101603Z, 102130Z to Admty.)

B.Y.M.S. B.Y.M.S. 194 (S.O.), 174, 56, 175, 53 and 230 sailed St. Johns 1630Z/10th for Londonderry. Speed 9.5 knots. Route and W/T routine as in my 081537Z August.
(F.O.N.F., 101755Z to Admty.)

B.E.C. 4. Cominch 091902, B.E.C.4 sailing from Chicago about 10th Sept. Request same arrangements as in my 271432 (271431 intended) August.
(B.A.D., 101841Z to N.S.H.Q.)

Convoy X.B. 72B. Cape Cod coastal (? section) arrived 1900Z/10th.
(P.D. Boston, 102006 to U.S. Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet. (C. and R.))

Convoy O.N. 199. Following arrived New York 9th/10th. Total 45 ships (list).
(B.R.L.O. New York, 102010Z to Admty.)

TEIA MARU. Your 011116Z. Japanese have corrected latitude position A to 04.40 S. Concurrence requested.
(Cominch, 102011Z to Admty.)

Sub. attack and sighting summary. Para. C. SS. TALISMAN sighted sub. area 10.05 N. 42.15 W., 1955Z/9th.
(Cominch, 102122Z to Admty.)

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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest Serial No. 598 Sept. 9th. Small merchantman sighted off Cape St. George heading Rabaul afternoon.
2. One medium freighter, 3 small vessels reported 75 miles to North-east Lorengai on south-westerly course forenoon.
3. Five Beaufighters strafed and silenced two anti-aircraft positions Garove Island morning but sighted no barges.
4. Photos Wewak area same morning showed mostly sunken vessels in harbour including 2 medium sized freighters also several wrecked luggers. Barge activity continued with 24 barges visible.
5. Our P.T. boats again strafed beach area vicinity Finschhafen night 8th.
7. 21 Mitchells escorted by 14 fighters on barge sweep North-east coast New Guinea from Alexishafen to Langembk (as received) Bay dropped 15 tons of bombs and thoroughly strafed target area destroying 10 barges and damaging others also probably destroying 1 lugger, several buildings and firing fuel dump. Nil interception but one bomber crashed.
9. 4 Mitchells bombed Laha night 7th while three Catalinas bombed waterfront Ambon and on Longoer strip following night without observing results.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 101025Z.)

Movements. Arrived Townsville 9th U.S.(D) HELM.
(A.C.N.B., 101127Z.)
Arrived Milne Bay anchorage U.S.Ship SUSQUEHANNA.
Departed (? Townsville 9th) U.S.Ship GOLD STAR
for Port Moresby.
Port Moresby 8th U.S.Ship TRINITY for (? Townsville).
(A.C.N.B., 101128Z.)

U.S.A.T. U.S. Transport LUIS ARGUELLO departed Gladstone 9th due Cairns 11th.
(C.S.W.P.S.F., 101132 to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 101333A, 101335A.)

/Submarines ...

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10.9.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

Submarine
attack and
sighting
summary
for 24
hours to
0900Z/10th.

Para. A. HURWORTH sighted 2 Italian U-Boats at 0926/9th in 38° 35' N. 17° 11' E., course S.W.
Para. A. One German U-Boat reported at 1130/9th in approx. 37° 15' N. 06° 30' E.
All times used in these signals are G.M.T. (D.D.I.C., 100948Z to Cominch.)

Sub. attack
and sighting
summary.

My 221059 July, 1942.

1. At 0235Z/1 in 47° 47' N. 13° 47' W. PELICAN and CRANE carried out two attacks on a U-Boat which had been sighted on surface after Radar contact. No visible results except slight oil patch.
2. At 0017Z/8 HAVELOCK with two other destroyers carried out a number of depth charge attacks on a U-Boat detected by Radar and then sighted in 44° 57' N. 13° 48' W. Contact was lost after 8th attack.
3. It has been reported that German U-Boat arrived Vigo 1015/8 in tow of Spanish fishing boat. This is possibly U-Boat attacked by Wellington J/179 in 42° 30' N. 10° 09' W. at 0345Z/3.
4. SHAKESPEARE reports sinking a U-Boat in Naples area p.m./7th. Nationality not stated.
5. Since 1st Sept. there have been 15 U-Boat sightings in the Bay area, of which all except two have been by night. Nine attacks were carried out on these U-Boats. Attack by Wellington Q/172 at 2205/7 in 46° 45' N. 9° 15' W. appeared very promising and attack by Wellington J/179 at 0345Z/3 probably damaged the U-Boat as stated in para. 3 above. (D.A.U.D., 101641A to Cominch, Comnavu, B.A.D., N.S.H.Q.) Paras. 3 and 5 amended - see 111246A.

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

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

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

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

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

ADM 199

2277

War Diary.11.9.1943.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.A/S
Offensive
in Denmark
Straits.

1. C. in C. H.F. considers that Denmark Strait will shortly be used by U-boats as exit route, in preference to or in parallel with the Iceland - Faroes Passage. If air saturation can be achieved he intends if possible to provide the necessary surface forces to co-operate in an anti U-boat operation. In the first instance one mine-sweeping flotilla will be detailed, capable of occupying a 60 mile square as in Operation S.F. The objections of A.C.I.C. to the proposed operation and his suggestions are in message A.C.I.C. 121458A H.Q.C.C. though they agree that U-boats will probably use the Denmark Strait during the next 2 or 3 months, are not in favour of the offensive proposed by C. in C. H.F. partly for climatic reasons but also because they have no available aircraft.

Spitzbergen.

2. TANTALUS is remaining near Ice Fiord.

Norwegian
Coast
Operation.

3. In the early hours of today Norwegian M.T.Bs. carried out an operation on the coast of Norway near Kristiansund North. One medium sized enemy merchant ship was sunk. H.N.M.S. HORTEN and RISOR and M.T.Bs. 618 and 627 returned to Lerwick today (See 9 Sept.).

Coastal
Force
Engagements.

4. 3 M.T.Bs. from Portsmouth attacked with torpedoes at 0207 today an enemy force of 5 T.L.Cs. and possibly one smaller vessel 4 miles north of St. Valery. No hits were seen on the enemy. M.T.B. 211 was damaged by shell fire. There were no casualties. M.T.Bs. and M.G.Bs. from Dartmouth had an inconclusive engagement in the early hours of today with a convoy of small vessels near the Channel Is. One small enemy Trawler was hit. Air forces suffered no damage or casualties.

Biscay A/S
Patrols.

5. U.S. Naval Force T.G.21.11 is patrolling in the area 40.45 N., 18.21 W.

HOWE,
KING GEORGE V,
class.

6. It is considered that a refit of not less than 3 months will be necessary to undertake the essential alterations to render ships of the HOWE and KING GEORGE V class suitable for operations in the Far East.

7. 18 Marauders of U.S. VIII Air Support Command attacked Le Trait shipyards today.

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11.9.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Salerno

8. The port of Salerno was opened today and A/A defences were established. Unloading of ships and craft has progressed well. Owing to Monte Corvino Airfield still being under enemy fire the aircraft carriers continued to provide fighter cover today. R.A.V. (Carrier Force) at 0944B today asked permission to withdraw to Augusta at the end of the day, to fuel the destroyers. He hoped to have a few serviceable aircraft remaining, which could be flown ashore for further operations if desired by N.C.W.T.F. Admiral Hewitt agreed to release the carriers tonight, though at 1611B the status of the airfields was still uncertain. (The force did not withdraw until 12 Sept.).

U.S. cruiser SAVANNAH was damaged by a direct hit by rocket bomb this morning and later proceeded to Malta. The Dutch gunboat FLORES was also damaged by a near miss.

Taranto.

9. The port is ready to operate and the Italian Authorities are co-operating fully. The Italian battleship GIULIO CESARE and aviation transport MIRAGLIA arrived at Taranto from the northward today. The former was last reported at Paola on 2 Sept. Both ships left Taranto p.m./12 for Malta. The cruisers of 12th C.S. returned to Bizerta reloaded with army personnel and stores and sailed for Taranto p.m. today.

Brindisi

10. A small party arrived at Brindisi today without opposition and received an enthusiastic welcome.

Operation
"Baytown".

11. S.N.O. Reggio area (S.N.O.R.A.) in charge of Reggio, Messina and San Giovanni has established his headquarters at Reggio.

Italian
Fleet.

12. The Spezia Fleet arrived at Malta at 0700 today. It consisted of the battleships ITALIA and VITTORIO VENETO, 5 or 7 cruisers, and 74 destroyers.

At 1038B today C. in C. Med. informed the Admty. that the Italian battle fleet lay at anchor under the guns of the Fortress of Malta.

/N.A....

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Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Italian
Fleet.
(contd).

N.A. Madrid reports that the destroyers PEGASO and IMPETUOSO left Pollenza (Majorca) at 0445B today and scuttled themselves outside territorial waters. The ORSA remains at Pollenza, damaged and immobilised by lack of fuel. When the destroyers arrived at Port Mahon (See 10 Sept.) they requested fuel under Article 19 Hague Convention 13, thus confessing themselves belligerents. As no fuel could be available inside 48 hours the request was refused. The ships were still there on 14 Sept.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

GAMBIA. GAMBIA will commission as a unit of the New Zealand Navy towards the end of September.
2. She will for the time being remain under the operational control of the Admiralty.
(D.O.D.(H) 110010A.)

Danish Naval Officers. Your 101124A. Names and particulars were sent in my R.S. 1804 of Sept. 8th which should by now be in your possession.
4. I am expecting possibly two more Officers who should be of value for their knowledge of German organization and German shipping routes, respectively.
(N.A.S. Stockholm 111114 to D.N.I.)

Information to S/Ms. Your 101424A Nov. 1942. para. C. (N.T. in W.R.)
1. Confusion has recently arisen in the passing of information of coastal forces.
2. It is proposed that S.O.(S) Lerwick should be responsible passing all information of own coastal forces to S/Ms.
3. It is understood that A.C.O.S. concurs.
(S.O.(S) Lerwick 111125A to F.O.S.)

E.G.41
E.G.10. My 051606. 1. It is necessary to form another group for O.S/S.L. convoys.
2. Following ships are to form 41 groups (?E.G.41 intended) basing at Liverpool ERNE, WAVENEY, BALINDERRY, STONECROP, AUBRETIA, CYCLAMEN, ODZANI.
3A. ERNE will refit on return with H.X. 255.
B. Remainder of group will sail with O.S.56 on October 7th.
4. 10th Group is to be disbanded. CLARE will remain unallocated for the present.
(C. in C.W.A. 111911A.)

TRACKER. When ready for service TRACKER is to be placed under orders of C. in C.W.A.
(D.O.D.(H) 112035A.)

Force J - use of term "squadron" C.C.O's 091652B August. In future the use of the term "group" for a number of flotillas of landing craft will be replaced by the term "squadron". The senior officer being known as "Squadron Commander." The short titles of S.O. L.C.I(S) and S.O.L.C.P.(L) will, however, continue to be used in signals. The above does not apply to the support group which will remain unchanged.
(Cdre. Force J 112247A.)

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Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

MALABAR. Your 091515 Sept. Approx. sailing date from Norfolk to U.K. 26th Sept. (MALABAR 111640Z to C. in C.W.A.)

ATHENE. ATHENE has 150 tons of cargo and 13 aircraft to disembark and it is understood that this will require about 48 hours.

2. As the ship has been on service abroad for nearly two years it is considered very desirable that she should give at least a short period of leave to each watch unless she is urgently required for immediate service. Four or five days to each watch is suggested the balance being given as soon as an opportunity can be provided.

3. It is further considered that concurrently with giving the balance of leave the ship should be dry docked and clean boilers. She is now nine months out of dock. Boiler hours are now about 1800.

4. It is presumed that most if not all of the above conditions will also apply to ENGADINE. (F.O.C.T. 111521A to Admty.)

Coastal craft Convoy Group M are to be sailed to Gibraltar for O.R. as directed by C. in C.Med. on 26th September or when weather is suitable:-
B.Y.M.S. 190, 212, 74 and 75.
M.M.S. of 11th and 122nd Flotillas.

M.L. 576, escorted by DART.

2. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail ships as requisite. (D.O.D.(H) 111525A.)

My 102317 August, my 131358 August, my 111525. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to sail MINER VI and DABCHICK to arrive Milford Haven by 24th Sept. for onward passage to Gibraltar on 26th Sept. with Coastal Craft convoy group M. (D.O.D.(H) 111639A.)

BERMUDA. BERMUDA will pass through S.A. at 1000A. E.T.A. 1520A Gate 1200A/12th. Fuel short 1400 tons acknowledge.
2. Weather report 5772 0725 49 N. 12 W. (position). (BERMUDA 112231A.)

Operations.

CURIE, Blank patrol report from CURIE (P.67).
patrol. (F.O.S. 110909A.)

Coastal Force encounter off St. Valery. 1. M.T.Bs. 211, 249, 255 encountered an enemy force of 5 T.L.Cs. and possibly 1 smaller vessel steering east in position 4 miles north of St. Valery at 0207/11th. M.T.Bs. attacked with torpedoes at range of 600 yards the first two attacks being unobserved.

2. No hits were observed on the enemy.

3. Casualties nil. 4. Heavy and accurate fire was directed

/against...

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11.9.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal
Force en-
counter off
St. Valery.
(Contd.)

against M.T.B. 211 while disengaging. Port
torpedo tube was badly damaged also superficial
above water damage to hull and suspected damage
to petrol tank.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 110959A.)

Coastal
Force en-
counter near
Channel Is.

A. Force D. M.T.Bs. 94 and 90, M.G.Bs. 111 and 81
proceeded on patrol ref., your 101608A*para. 7.
At 0126 Force steering towards and 3 miles short
of position HH. speed 13 knots observed cluster
of Red and Green vereys lights bearing 030° 5
miles. Visibility maximum. At 0140 sighted 4
small ships bearing 010° 1½ miles steering south.

Force passed unobserved 5 cables ahead of enemy and A/C 90° to
port. 0151 M.G.Bs. detached engaging each ship on reciprocal
course range 400 yards enemy opened fire simultaneously.

Enemy now appeared as two large trawlers, 1 small Dutch Schoote
and one small trawler in that order ½ mile between first and last
ships. M.G.Bs. concentrated on last ship silencing her and
seeing a number of explosions. 0516 M.G.Bs. disengaged owing to
pom pom in M.G.B. 111 jamming, and shadowed from position 1500
yards astern. Meanwhile at 0151 M.T.Bs. turned slowly a complete
circle to starboard and at 0154 M.T.Bs. 94 fired two torpedoes
and at 0156 M.T.B. 90 fired one, both at leading trawler, range
600 yards. No hits claimed.

M.G.B. 111 reports hearing two muffled explosions at 0155. M.T.Bs.
then became separated from each other and disengaged slowly to
port passing astern of convoy and proceeded to westward.

M.G.Bs. having received no "attack complete" signal continued to
shadow.

Moon had set and visibility 1 mile. Finally at 0245 when in 300°
La Cordiere 3 miles, light was on, convoy were observed in a
huddle and M.G.Bs. attacked again at 0256 from starboard quarter
range 400 yards increasing speed to 30 knots. M.G.B. 111 had not
been able to clear pom pom. Enemy opened fire when M.G.Bs. were
abeam.

At 0258 M.G.B. 81s pom pom jammed and as enemy fire was becoming
more accurate and intense S.O. decided to break off the action.
Small trawler was observed still smoking badly and many hits are
claimed. No star shell was used by enemy and they do not appear
to have been on the alert.

Communications. Inter communication between M.G.Bs. was good on
1579 k/cs on 2500 k/cs difficulty found in passing signals
owing to other traffic. B. Nil. C. Nil.

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 111221A.) * re patrols 10th September.

Coastal Force
Patrols.

1. Orders for night 11/12 Sept.

A. M.G.Bs. 611, 614, 616 anti E-Boat patrol from
2130 to 0500 10 miles south of convoy route
between the longitudes of C.2 and C.3 Buoys.

B. M.L. 292, 291 patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between F. and
E.A.5 buoys.

C. M.L. 208, 233, 124, R.M.L. 522 patrolling 50° 20' N. between
2° 00' W. and 2° 25' W.

3. Communications.

(C. in C.Portsmouth 111301.)

C. in C.The Nore's 110545A. WALPOLE, CAMPBELL and COTTESMORE
detailed respectively for patrol 5, 6 and 7 for exercise "Ogden"
Sunday 12th.

(Capt. D.16, 111317A.)

/Patrols...

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11.9.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal Force Patrols 11th September.

Patrols.
(Contd.)

1. Force B. M.Ls. 186, 179, 259 are to patrol in vicinity of 240° Eddystone 6.
 3. Force C. M.G.Bs. 329, 324, 330 are to patrol in vicinity of 146 Start 19
 5. Forces B. and C. are to sail to be on patrol by 2045A leave patrol 0545A/12.
 6. Force D. M.G.Bs. 80 (S.O.), 75, 111, 81 are to leave Dartmouth at 2000 and proceed at 25 knots to position RR. 317 Cap De la Hague light 5 miles. Thence to patrol in this vicinity for the interception of enemy shipping. Force D to leave position RR. to be within 30 miles of own coast at first light.
 8. Force E. M.T.Bs. 94 (S.O.), 98, 92, 90 are to leave Dartmouth at 1930 and proceed at 25 knots to position SS. 010 Triagoz Light, 5, thence to carry out sweep for enemy shipping from position SS. to position TT. 318 Ile de Bas light 8. Force E. to leave position SS. in time to be within 30 miles of own coast by first light.
 - 2, 4, 7, 9. Communications.
 10. The following restrictions are in force. Force B. on patrol is to keep clear of Q.Z.S. 409. Attention is drawn to Q.Z.X. 1095 and Q.Z.X. 1092. Force D is not to cross Q.Z.X. 1095 on passage.
 11. Albacores of 841 Squadron will co-operate weather permitting. (C. in C.Plymouth 111510A.)
- Dover dispositions for night of 11/12 September.
- M.A.S.Bs. 25 and 31 from Ramsgate patrolling 11 miles S.E. of Dungeness. E.T.D. 1845. E.T.R. 0715/12. Route via No. 10 Buoy each way. M.G.Bs. 117 and S.4 from Ramsgate at V.Buoy. E.T.D. 1945. E.T.R. 0615/12. M.G.Bs. S.2 and S.1 patrolling 9 miles S.E. of Dover. E.T.D. 2015. E.T.R. 0545/12.
- (V.A.Dover 111727A.)
- Spout M.T.Bs. 94, 90, 98, 92, M.G.Bs. 80, 75, 111, 81. Plymouth's 101608A. M.T.B. 96 did not sail.
- (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 101954A.)

A/S offensive
in Denmark
Strait.

1. I appreciate Denmark Strait will be shortly used by U-Boats as exit route in preference to or in parallel with Iceland - Faroes passage.
2. If air saturation can be achieved intend providing necessary surface forces to co-operate in anti U-Boat operation, other direct operational commitments permitting.
3. In first instance one minesweeping flotilla will be detailed, capable of occupying a 60 mile square as in operation S.F.
4. It appears such a square can best be positioned south west of mine barrier with its edge about 25 miles off Saebel R.D.F.station.
5. A.C.I.C. would be requested to conduct surface operations using system developed in "Moorings" and "Musketry".
6. H.Q.C.C. and A.C.I.C. are requested to remark on this proposal. (C. in C.H.F. 111229A.)

Off Coast
of Norway.

1. My 091236A. Towing successfully accomplished..
2. 1 medium sized merchant ship torpedoed and sunk at 0050A today Saturday.
3. 1 petrol (?patrol) vessel engaged with gunfire.
4. RISOR, HORTEN E.T.A. Lerwick 1500A M.T.Bs. E.T.A. Lerwick 1630A.
5. Further report follows. (A.C.O.S. 111231A.)

/My...

War Diary.

11.9.1943.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Off coast of Norway. (Contd.) My 301121A August. H.N.M.S.HORTEN and RISOR and M.T.B. 618 and 627 returned at 1730 today Saturday. 2. My 111231 refers and a further report follows. (A.C.O.S. 111829A.) My 111231. Propose following communique for B.B.C. and Norwegian broadcast begins at one o'clock this morning (11th Sept.) Norwegian light forces engaged patrol and escort craft in the area of Kristiansund North. A 4000 tons merchant ship was torpedoed and sunk. The force has returned to base undamaged and without casualties. (A.C.O.S. 111831A.)

Operation S.F. 2. On arrival Seidisfjord after exercises S.O.M/S F.1 take minesweepers of first and 15th M.S.F. at Seidisfjord under his orders for operation S.F. as directed by C. in C.Rosyth. (R.A.D.H.F. 111245A.)

Spitzbergen. Air R/C by Catalina of Ice Fjord on 9th Sept. shows no trace of enemy units but settlement destroyed and burning. One Ju.88 sighted near south Cape on northerly course. Further R/C expected during next 48 hours.

2. Remain in vicinity Ice Fjord. (F.O.S. 111527A to TANTALUS, (R) C. in C.H.F. S.B.N.O.N.Russia.) My 111527 (N.T. in W.R.) Enemy submarine may reconnoitre Spitzbergen and it is to be expected enemy will appreciate we may well carry out a similar operation. Enemy submarines are likely to approach with caution and probably submerged. 2. Withdraw at your discretion bombing restrictions extend to 007° E. (F.O.S. 111816A to P.318 (TANTALUS) (R) C. in C.H.F.)

S/M Patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800/12th and movements for the following 24 hours. All times Zone A. A. TANTALUS (P.318) on patrol off Ice Fjord Spitzbergen. B. O.15 on patrol vicinity 64° 42' N. 03° 26' W. C. STONEHENGE (P.232) 63° 22' N. 03° 40' W. dived by day to patrol vicinity 65° 01' N. 05° 50' W. (F.O.S. 111729A, see amendment, 120901A.)

Allied Air Activity.

Iceland Air patrols. U.C.139 11 Sept. Programme. Allam series cancelled owing to weather at Base. E.190 Sqdn. postponed. (H.Q.R.A.F.Iceland 110920A.) A.C.142 11 Sept. All remaining sorties cancelled weather at base. (H.Q.R.A.F.Iceland 111153A.)

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

SHEFFIELD. Emergency Air Attack. 6 Junkers bearing 240 degs. My position 24³⁰ 47 N. 10 W. 22 miles. (SHEFFIELD 111627A)
My 1627. My P.C. and S. 046 degs. 48' N. 010 degs. 27' W. 270 degs. 22 knots Mosquitos engaging. (SHEFFIELD, 111637)
One A/C bearing 100 degs. distant 3 miles.
My position 137 degs. 47 N. 11 W. 17 course 270 degs. speed 21 knots.
(SHEFFIELD, 111707A)

Mining.

Eyjafiord. Request information regarding progress of installation of C.M.(L) Field in Eyjafiord. (C. in C. H.F. 111041A to A.C.I.C.)

U-Boats.

U/B Report. By D/F on 4412 K/cs at 0527Z/11 U-Boat estimated within 45 miles of 44 degs 40' N. 16 degs. 30' W.
(D.D.I.C. 110707A to E.G.2, C.T.G.21.11, T.G.21.15. (R) C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C. Commorseafon, Cinclant, Cominch, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

REDPOLE. Following up D/F bearing 230 degs. position 048 degs. 33' N. 012 degs. 55' W. speed 18¹/₂ knots weather report 9090 0824. (REDPOLE, 111255Z)

Casualties and Defects.

4 airmen in dinghy. Your 101800. If rescue is effected fact is to be reported. (C. in C. Plymouth, 110006A to REDPOLE)

O.N.201, BRITISH VALOUR and EXANTHIA in collision. BRITISH VALOUR and EXANTHIA in collision. SAPPER and STORM KING standing by. Return to port essential. My P.C. and S. 055 degs. 058' 009 degs. 06' S. 278 degs. 8 knots. Weather report 4943 1923. (ASSINIBOINE, 110206Z)
Am escorting BRITISH VALOUR and EXANTHIA to Clyde. Both ships damaged in collision EXANTHIA badly. BRITISH VALOUR unable to anchor on arrival. My P.C. and S. at 0630Z 55 degs. 48' N. 08 degs. 16' W. 100 degs. 7 knots. (SAPPER, 110730Z)

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

- O.N.201. Ref. ASSINIBOINE's 110206 EXANTHIA was 158
BRITISH miles ahead of position as plotted in Admiralty
VALOUR, and 24 miles to northward of route ordered.
EXANTHIA (2) Ship is proceeding to Clyde.
in (3) Position should have been reported on
collision. crossing 18 degs. W. (4) No out of position
(Contd.) report was received from ship in accordance
with A.M.111748 January, 1943.
(5) Request this matter may be investigated.
(6) MARI Section 2 para. 11 and 12 refer.
(D.T.D. 111317A to Comnavu)
- HEBRIDES. Following received at 0842Z from HEBRIDES:-
"After leaving Port Oaskaig vessel grounded
north west off MacArthurs Head. Endeavouring
to refloat with flowing tide. Steamer LOCH
DUNVEGAN standing by no apparent leakage and weather light
Easterly wind advise later Captain Campbell". Ends.
(P.Patrick Radio, 110942A)
Following received at 1357Z de HEBRIDES 2.40 p.m. vessel
refloated under own power proceeding full steam Greenock.
All well - Campbell.
(Port Patrick Radio, 111457A)
- SOUTHERN Delayed at Rosyth with main feed pump defects
WAVE. which makers are investigating.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 111010)
- LANCE, (1) WARWICK, ARCTIC RANGER, ST. NECTAN are escorts
FANTOME. LANCE and FANTOME in tow to Plymouth from a
position 049 degs. N. 016 degs. W.
(2) C. in C. Plymouth is requested: (a) to
signal route (b) to sail WARWICK to Liverpool
R
ACTIC RANGER, ST. NECTAN to Grimsby on completion of escort.
(3) Destination of CYGNET to Clyde for onward routeing to
Dunstaffnage, GODETIA Liverpool.
(C. in C. W.A. 111503A)
- M/S.T. Norwegian M/S.T. MANDAL struck portion of
MANDAL wreck of CARONI RIVER at approx. 1000A/11 in
Sunk. 200 degs. St. Anthony Lighthouse 1.5 miles.
Salvage department towed vessel into harbour
where she sank in position 062 degs. Black
Rock 5.25 cables. Consider vessel can be
salved.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 111507A)
- VICTORIOUS. A.M.011840. As VICTORIOUS cannot now be taken
in hand until 2nd October first destination is
Clyde. (2) C. in C. W.A. is requested to
sail her for Liverpool as necessary.
(3) F.O.C.T. is requested to administer VICTORIOUS after her
arrival.
(D.O.D.(H), 111636A)

War Diary.

11.9.1943.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

BIRMINGHAM. Owing to defects discovered since preliminary basin trial it has been necessary to defer the date of readiness for service of BIRMINGHAM to 20th Sept.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 111721A)

HOWE,
KING
 GEORGE V. By my instructions a report has been prepared by HOWE and KING GEORGE V making recommendations for alterations to make ships of the class suitable to operate in hot climates.
(2) The report has been received and will be forwarded at an early date. The proposals are comprehensive and it is considered a refit of not less than three months will be necessary to undertake the essential alterations to make the ships of this class satisfactory for operations in the Far East.
(C. in C. H.F. 111818A)

Shipping and Convoys.

C.W. 208. Is postponed 24 hours.
(C. in C. Nore, 111142A)

Clyde Troopship Movements. Following is Summary No.4 of major troopship movements in and out of Clyde and Liverpool during next two weeks to 25/9.
(D. of S.T. 110248A)

U.T.2,
T.U.2. Convoy U.T.2 comprising the following troopships is due Bristol Channel a.m. 16/9.
(a) For Avonmouth U.S. SHAWNEE.
(b) For Newport U.S. EVANGELINE.
(c) For Swansea U.S. BORINQUEN.
(2) Details of personnel etc. on board will be communicated separately. (3) Vessels will sail again as Convoy T.U.2 on 19/9. As far as known no personnel will embark.
(D. of S.T. 110317A).
Convoy U.T.2 comprising the following troopships is due Clyde and Liverpool a.m. 15th and p.m. 15th respectively:
(a) For Clyde: (1) U.S. MEXICO. (2) ORION.
(b) For Liverpool: (3) U.S. ERICSSON. (4) SAMARIA. (5) CAPE-TOWN CASTLE. (2) Details of personnel, etc. on board will be communicated separately. (3) U.S. ERICSSON and U.S. MEXICO will sail again as Convoy T.U.2 on 31st Sept. As far as is known no repetition no personnel will embark.
(4) Future service of remaining troopships will be given in due course.
(D. of S.T. 110337A)

Merchant /...

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11.9.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.- Contd.Merchant
Ships at
Archangel.EMPIRE SCOTT, EMPIRE FORTUNE and EMPIRE BARD
escorted by Soviet Destroyers and BRITOMART
sailed Dvina Bar 1335 for Kola Inlet.
S. of A. 8 knots.
(S.B.N.O.Archangel, 111207A)Convoy
U.T.2.Troopships STRATHNAVER and SIMONDS will not
arrive with convoy.
(D.O.D.(H), 111340A)
Convoy U.T.2. Amended destinations.
(D.O.D.(H), 111453A)Escorts
of P.W.
W.P.
Convoys.Your O12023A para. 3. Portsmouth destroyers
are at present providing one destroyer on
each P.W./W.P. convoy between Needles and
Plymouth. If 2 destroyers are to be provided
for each C.E. and C.W. convoy it will not be
possible to continue the escort of P.W. and W.P.
convoys.Request I may be informed whether it is intended destroyers
first flotilla should no longer help with P.W. and W.P. escorts.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 111238A to Admty.)Convoy
K.M.F.24.A.M.061959. Para. 2. Delete CHAMPOLLION and
DEMPO.
(D.O.D.(H), 111335A)

IRIS

H.M. Telegraph Ship IRIS is to sail from Clyde
with K.M.S. 27 on 17th Sept.
(2) She is required to proceed to Horta and is
to part company from convoy as requisite.(3) C. in C. W.A. is requested to detail 2 escorts from convoy
to accompany IRIS to vicinity of the Azores. (4) Escort is
to be instructed not to proceed within sight of the Islands
while in company with IRIS, who is to be detached to enter
harbour independently. Escorts should then rejoin convoy.
(D.O.D.(H), 111637A)

U.C.4.

Following ships will sail in U.C.4 with destina-
tions Curacao f/o.
(D.T.D. 111738A)

P.S.12.

My 111646 cancel P.S.12.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 111852)A.T.62,
T.A.62.Convoy A.T.62A comprising U.S. GENERAL JOHN
POPE is due Clyde 13/9. (2) Details of
personnel etc. on board will be communicated
separately. (3) Vessel will sail again as soon
as Convoy T.A. 62A. As far as known no
personnel will embark.
(D. of S.T. 112010A)

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Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

X.K.11. A.M.102057. SS. FORT BABINE in tow of
PROSPEROUS is required to proceed to Milford
Haven to exchange tugs.
 (2) FORT BABINE should with PROSPEROUS and
SCHELDT leave convoy in company with LANCE and FANTOME and
proceed by Southern route to Milford Haven. (3) C. in C.
W.A. is requested to detail an escort additional to that
referred to in para. 2 of A.M.102057.
(D.O.D.(H), 112150A)

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11.9.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

CORBRAE. E.T.A. 0900Z/12th. Will require 14 hours in port to clean back end of boiler tube. (CORBRAE, 110710Z to Commorseafon, (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

U/Bs using Spanish cove. Your 090428B. Latitude checked by fishing master. Result 043° 17'33". (Corunna, 111135B to S.O.(I) Gibraltar, (R) Adnty., B.N.A. Madrid.)

L'ALCYON. French Destroyer L'ALCYON destination Algiers departs Casablanca 111800. A. S. of A. 18 knots route Q.B.A.102. B. 35.44 N. 06.28 W., Q.B.87. Ship guards 2150 k/cs. holds appropriate Mediterranean Approaches.
(2) Request onward route. (C.M.S.F., 111202B to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med., Adnty., etc.)
My 111202B. Sailed 1816A/11. C. in C. Med. pass to Com. Algiers. (Commorseafon, 111940B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

Danish ships at Las Palmas. N.A. Madrid's 072024B. Danish Minister, San Sebastian, has requested Danish Vice-Consul, Las Palmas, to give clearance. As latter is a Norwegian and pro-Ally it is expected that he will act as requested. No question of money should be introduced.
2. Assumed that Spanish consent will now be forthcoming. Crews and bunkers will be despatched at early date for Las Palmas.
3. British Consul, Las Palmas, should inform F.O.I.C. Gibraltar and F.O.C.W.Af. immediately these vessels are ready to sail for Gibraltar.
(Hd. of M.I., Approved A.C.N.S.(H), 111315A to N.A. Madrid, British Consul, Las Palmas, (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.O.C.W.Af.)
Reply: Madrid, 131002B.

U.G.S. 16. (1) P.Cs. 474 (Senior), call sign NADW, 471, 480
T.F. 61. and 482 will R/V position 34.33 N. 08.31 W. at 121200A.
(2) Break off Casa. section at 121900A with three of your escorts, Senior as designated by you plus P.C. proceeding Casa. to arrive seaward end swept channel daylight 13th.
(3) Remainder T.F.61 NR.S. COMMANDANT DELAGE and LA GRACIEUSE continue escort main convoy routed (F) 35.45 N. 06.30 W. Q.B.A. 87 to Europa Point, E.T.A. 130700A where British escorts relieve.
(4) T.F.61 then proceed Casa. routed Q.B.A.87 (G) 35.45 N. 06.30 W. Q.B.A.102. Following is re-encypherment my 111530B to C.T.F. 61.
(C.M.S.F., 111536B to C.T.F.61, (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med., Comnavnaw, Adnty., etc.)

/Italian ...

War Diary.11.9.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.Italian
Destroyers.Reported arrived at Pollenza.
(C.M.S.F., 111558B.)
See Mediterranean.

REGOLO.

Arrived at Pollenza.
(C.M.S.F., 111805Z.)
See Mediterranean.

Movements.

Arrival ALISMA from K.M.S.25 with defects.
Departure U.S.S. TEXAS, CHICOPEE to join G.U.F.10.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 111931B to Admty., Cominch,
C.M.S.F.)Damaged
U/B at
Vigo.Admty. pass following to H.Q.C.C., C. in C.
Plymouth. My 101650. Chief of Naval Staff
informs me damage report not yet received but
telephoned information saying repairs would take
many weeks; he will inform me reports
recommendation as soon as received. Doubt
submarine will not be allowed to leave pending Spanish
Government's decision on report and work is allowed on board.
As Reporting Officer, Vigo, states crew are working on engine
I queried this work. He explained it as work necessary for
examination. This Embassy and American have made official
representations.
(N.A. Madrid, 112033B to Admty., (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C.
Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.)ACTIVE,
ANTHONY,
ALBATROSS.Sailed ACTIVE S.O. and ANTHONY at 2115B/11th
routed through Q.B.A.87 to (a) (all following
positions are N. and W.) (B) 034° 05' 008° 06'
Q.B.A.102 to Casablanca. S. of A. 20 knots.
(2) On completion fuel request you will sail
them routed through (C) 033° 30' 009° 10'.
(D) 031° 00' 010° 35'. (E) 028° 00' 013° 45'. (PP) 026° 10'
015° 30'. S. of A. 15 knots to R/V ALBATROSS in (PP) at
1530B September 14th.
(3) My 041245 not to all addressees which is being passed to
you refers.
(4) NESS pass to ALBATROSS.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 112312B to C.M.S.F., (R) Admty., ACTIVE,
ANTHONY, F.O.C.W.Af., ALBATROSS, NESS, SWALE.)

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War Diary.

11.9.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Troopships River Plate. Following received from N.A. Montevideo (Begins) Your 040414 (to N.A. Montevideo only). Uruguayan Government have agreed to men from HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN and ESPERANCE BAY being landed and billeted here. May we expect other troopships due to load River Plate shortly will also be carrying troops in transit for U.K.? (Ends)
2. Request you will reply regarding vessels intended to proceed to Plate to load for U.K. 3. After HIGHLAND MONARCH and ARAWA sail from South Africa no further sailings are foreseen (D.S.T. 110335A to P.S.T.O. Capetown, (R) D.S.T.O. Durban N.A. Montevideo.)

ARAWA. Sailing telegram. Durban 1200Z/12th Sept. ARAWA U.K. via Montevideo 26th Sept. Knots in convoy 13. (A) 12½ (B) 13½, in convoy D.C.43A to position G. 034 deg. 55' S. 019 deg. 26' E. thence (Route). (Durban 111028Z to Admty. etc.)

HIGHLAND MONARCH. Sailing telegram. Durban 1200Z/12th Sept. HIGHLAND MONARCH U.K. via Montevideo 25th Sept. knots in convoy 13 (A) 13½ (B) 15 in convoy. D.C. 43 to Ind.G. 034 deg. 55' S. 019 deg. 26' E. Thence route. (Durban 111037Z to Admty. etc.)

DUGUAY TROUIN. Sailed 0855Z DUGUAY TROUIN. My 101749 Refers. (Comar Dakar, 111043Z to F.O.C.W.Af., C.M.S.F. Gib., Admty., C. in C. Med.)

S.T.L.I. Departures 1539Z/10th Sept. WELLINGTON, ABERDEEN, LOWESTOFT with S.T.L.I. (S.O.I. Freetown, 111527Z to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, (R) Admty., N.O.I.C. Lagos.)

Personnel Transport, Rio. Accumulation of merchant seamen at Rio requiring urgent removal to U.K. total being about 200 plus 60 Polish and British volunteers.
2. We are anxious to use HIGHLAND MONARCH. Request urgent confirmation that accommodation is available within unescorted limits. (D. of S.T. 112031A to D.S.T.O, Durban, P.S.T.O. Capetown.)

11.9.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Avalanche".

(A). Taranto. Force Z.

Eisenhower's appeal to Badoglio. Your 101357 (re message to be passed to Marshal Badoglio) message was received by Marshal Badoglio at 0800 today.
(S.O. Z. 111029 to C. in C.Med.)

12th C.S. PENELOPE, PATHFINDER, PANTHER. When embarkation is complete sail with 12th C.S. to Taranto. Route as in my 080945 (N.T. in W.R.) to 283 then through 39° 00' 17" 40'.
2. V.A.Malta is requested to sail 2 destroyers of 14th D.F. to join your force at 0600/12th Sept.
3. Request you will signal E.T.D. and E.T.A. and R/V for destroyers in para. 2.
4. Priority high codeword "Titus".
(C. in C.Med. 111052B to (corrupt group), (R) N.O.I.C. Bizerta, N.O.I.C. Taranto, HOWE, Capt. D. 14, V.A.Malta, 12th C.S. Comnavu, F.O.I.C. Sicily, N.L.Os. M.A.C. 15th Army Group 8th Army 211 Group Air H.Q.Malta.) see also 120231.

12th cruiser sqdn. leave Bizerta 1900. 2. C. in C.Med.'s 111052 refers. 3. Destroyers R/V 036° 42' N. 015° 24' E. course 40° 25 knots at 0600. 4. E.T.A. Taranto (?Gate) 1700/12th Sept. 5. Unloading requirements 6 lighters and one floating crane in addition to tugs PENELOPE to berth in mercantile harbour.

(F.O.12th C.S. 111732B, 111832B to C. in C.Med. etc.)

Sail at 0230/12th by Q.B.B. 146 to R/V with F.O.12th C.S. in position 036° 42' N. 015° 24' E. at 0600/12th.
2. C. in C.Med.'s. 080945, 111052 and F.O.12th C.S.'s 111732 none to all refers. S.O.Force Z is requested to pass to N.O.I.C. (corrupt group).

(V.A.Malta 112249 to PATHFINDER, G.S.PANTHER, (R) C. in C. Med. LIVELY, S.O.Force 2, HOWE, F.O.12 C.S. Capt. D.14th, N.O.I.C. Taranto.) see also 120231.

Ground mines in Taranto area. Your 101920 to C. in C.Med. para. 4 implies German ground mines firing by clock, danger period 6 days. Such mines cannot be swept. Diver or water gazing might show whether ships berths are mined.
(D.T.M. 111219A to S.O.Force Z, (R) C. in C.Med.)

Situation Report No. 178. 1. Port party moved into Salerno p.m. 10th Sept. Harbour reported heavily mined and booby trapped. 2. Owing to Monte Corvino still being under enemy fire Escort Carriers continued to provide air cover on 11th Sept. U.S.Cruiser SAVANNAH damaged by direct bomb hit a.m. 11th Sept. and is returning to Malta. FLORES damaged by near miss. 4. Unloading of ships and craft on to beaches has progressed well and returning and following up convoys are proceeding according to programme. 5. Situation Taranto. Italian authorities are fully co-operating and port is ready to operate. A total of 14 (?ships) have now arrived in the outer harbour, Italian GIULIO CESARE and aviation

/transport...

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11.9.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Avalanche".

(A). Taranto. Force Z.

Situation
Report No.
178. (Contd.)

transport MIRAGLIA arrived Taranto p.m. 11th Sept.
A small party has entered Brindisi without
opposition.

6. 12th C.S. returned to Bizerta re-loaded with
army personnel and stores and sailed for Taranto
p.m. 11th September.

(C. in C.Med. 112339B to Admty.)

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Operation "Avalanche".(b) Attack on Naples.

LE TERRIBLE,
LE FANTASQUE.

Proceed Algiers forthwith, report route and E.T.A. to C. in C. Med.
(2) F.S. LE FANTASQUE detaching in 040° N., 014° E. at 0700/11th routed through 10, 35 and 90. (S.O. Force H, 110627B to F.S. LE TERRIBLE (R) F.S. LE FANTASQUE, C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Algiers, Com. N.O.B. Palermo).

French light cruisers LE FANTASQUE and LE TERRIBLE may leave Algiers about 1000/12th at H.S. in N.E. direction as far as 042° N., leaving lat. 042° N. early a.m./13th and returning Algiers. They will be informed of S/M movements affecting themselves. (Capt. S. 8th S.F., 111400B to 8th S.F. (R) C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Algiers).

Gulf of Gaeta, demonstration.

Unless good reason to the contrary appears you should arrange a demonstration in Gulf of Gaeta tonight 11th/12th with object of containing enemy reserves in that area. (C. in C. Med? 111017B to N.C.W.N.T.F. (R) M.A.C.T.G. 80.4, 15th Army Group).

Force V (Carrier Force).

My 110944 (see 111644Z). Intend Force V, pass through position CA and Straits of Messina at time to be signalled later arriving Augusta 0800 tomorrow Sunday. Destroyers can be refuelled from own resources if desired. F.O.Sy. arrange light. F.O.Sy. pass N.O.I.C. Messina. (23rd D.F., 111050 to C. in C. Med. R.A.(A) N.C. Western Naval Task Force. F.O.Sy. S.O. Force H., N.O.I.C. Augusta. N.O.I.C. Messina. N.L.O. 8th Army. N.A.T.A.F., N.A.C.A.F.)

Your carriers will be released tonight. Decision as to basing your aircraft ashore will be made at 1600. Keep me informed of your situation. No definite information on Monte Corvino yet. Last report indicated Monte Corvino airfield would be ready for operational use 1500 today. Please express to personnel of your ships and your airmen our sincere thanks and appreciation of job well done.

(N.C.W.T.F., 111409B to Cdr. Carrier Force V, (R) PALOMARES, ULSTER QUEEN, C. in C. Med. 12th Air Support Command.)

(Several groups missed) (respect?) Air situation here critical. Status Air fields uncertain. Can your Carrier Force remain on station and furnish early morning cover tomorrow?.

((Groups Missed) 111611B to Cdr. Carrier Force).

Following received: From: R.A.V., as 110944B To: N.C.W.T.F. (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.H., R.A.A., N.A.T.A.F. - pass to R.A.A. C.G.12 A.S.C.

My bolt will be shot by this Saturday evening possibly earlier if fortune fails to smile. I must ask your consent therefore to withdraw to Augusta at the end of the day to fuel destroyers which by tomorrow morning can no longer be delayed. I hope to have remaining a few serviceable aircraft which can be flown ashore for further operations should you so desire.

(Comnavau, 111644Z to Admty).

/CLEVELAND...

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Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Avalanche".

(b) Attack on Naples - Contd.

Force V (Carrier Force). (contd). CLEVELAND and O.R.P. KRAKOWIAK being detached from Force V tonight to oil with all despatch at Palermo. (R.A.V., 111830B to Cdr. N.O.B. at Palermo (R) C. in C. Med. S.O. Force H). Your 1858 my position at daylight tomorrow Sun. will be Centre Force V area. (S.O. Force V, 111917B to S.O. Force H). Carrier Force arrives Palermo tomorrow Sun. before dark to oil 8 destroyers. Request berths for all ships tomorrow night. Acknowledge. (R.A.V. 111951B to U.S. Cdr. Naval Op. Base Palermo (R) N.C.W.T.F.) Repetition of my 111808 (N.T. in W.D.) Cancel my 1050*and my 0944 (N.T. in W.D.) (S.O. Force V, 112055B to N.O.I.C. Sicily, N.L.O. 8th Army Augusta W/T) *Force V passing through Straits of Messina etc.

BOISE Request you will sail BOISE forthwith to join N.C. Western Naval T. Force. Route L then as ordered by N.C.W.N.T. Force. BOISE signal E.T.A. position C.B. Priority low codeword "Entity". (C. in C. Med., 111131 to N.O.I.C. Bizerta, (R) BOISE, S.O. Force H, N.C. Western Naval Task Force, C.S.12). Sailed U.S. C. BOISE at 1600/11 to position C.B. via route L. S. of A. 23 knots, codeword "Lilac". Call sign 301. Fighter priority normal. At C.B. report to Comnavaw for further assignment. E.T.C. 0630 12th Sept. (Cdr. T.G. 85.9, 111641B to Cdr. U.S.N.F.N. W.Af. Waters, (R) C. in C. Med. etc).

SAVANNAH Prepare to despatch U.S. Cr. SAVANNAH with escorts to Malta this p.m. C. in C. Med. pass to N.A.T.A.F. (N. Cdr. W.N.T.F., 111316B to C.T.G. 81.5 (R) C. in C. Med. (V.A. Malta) M.A.C., SAVANNAH, N.A.T.A.F., C.T.G. 85).

Force H. Intend Force H., to pass through Straits of Messina about 2359 tonight ahead of Force V thence to Malta. Will signal amended time if plus or minus more than one hour. 2. Request F.O. Sicily arrange lights. 3. S.O. Force V 1110? (corrupt group) refers. (S.O. Force H., 111427B to C. in C. Med. etc). Cancelled by 111725B. Cancel my 111427 and my 111559 (N.T. W.D.) Force H will proceed Malta passing west of Sicily. (S.O. Force H, 111725B to C. in C. Med. F.O.Sy. N.C. Western Naval Task Force, S.O. Force V, V.A. Malta, S.A.A.G.s N.O.I.C. Augusta, N.O.I.C., Messina, N.L.O. 242 Group, N.L.O. M.A.C., N.L.O. N.A.S.A.F., N.L.O. 211 Group, N.L.O. N.A.C.A.F., N.L.O. 8th Army Tripoli) /By...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Avalanche".

(b) Attack on Naples.

Force H.
(contd).

By D/F German U-boat transmission on 8805 k/cs at 1528 was 302° 2nd class near (as received). My position 039° (750') N., 014° 12' E. (S.O. Force H., 111615B to C. in C. Med. C. in C. Med. A, N.C.W.N.T.F., S.O. Force V).

Your 111201 (N.T. in W.D.) just received. Force H fighters are providing protection for Force V until the end of the day when Force V has to withdraw vide S.O. Force V 110944. (?I am then) proceeding via west of Sicily. My 111427 is cancelled.

(2) V.A. Malta pass to C. in C. Med.

(S.O. Force H, 111645B to C. in C. Med. Fleet (R) S.O. Force V, N.O.I.C. Malta).

Flag of R.A. from Force H is to be transferred from WARSPITE to HOWE at 0800/12th Sept.

(C. in C. Med., 111811 to Med. Station, (R) C. in C. Levant, Admty).

Request you will sail WARSPITE, VALIANT and one aircraft carrier as soon as possible to Gibraltar.

(2) R.A.(A) Home Fleet should (?proceed) with this force so that he can sort out the A/C when force V arrives at Gibraltar shortly.

(C. in C. Med., 112247B to S.O. Force H, (R) V.A. Malta.

(?Comnav) R.A.(A) H.F., S.O. Force V, Admty. F.O.C. Gibraltar). See V.A(A) H.F., 141450.

N.A.A.F.
Report.

M.S.18409 Part 2. T.O.O.111512B. My A.V.589 E Opsum. N.A.T.A.F. 9 Sept. (add). 288 R.A.F. and U.S. Spitfires 309 U.S. Lightnings, 199 U.S. Mustangs patrolled invasion beaches Salerno.10 Sept Polaa/Brienza area. 20 Spitfires naval escort

and interception patrols. N.A.C.A.F. 7 Sept. (add). 6 Torpedo Beaufighters, 4 Anti-flak Beaufighters shipping strike, sighted and attacked merchant vessel 2,000 to 3,000 tons 10 miles north Revellata Point, Corsica. At 1,000 yards range, leader identified vessel as Swiss and order to attack to be discontinued. 4 torpedoes had been dropped. 1 hit. (N.A.A.F., 111552B).

Force H
DELHI,
BISCAYNE.

DELHI proceed to Southern Attack Force area and report to U.S. BISCAYNE as extra A/A protection. (Cdre. Force N, 111615B to DELHI (R) C. in C. Med. W.N.T.F.)

Request DELHI be sent to close NARRAGANSETT, a.m. 12th. Sept. for repairs. Materials arranged.

(C.C. Force N, 112010B to N.O.I.C. Bone, (R) C.T.F.80, DELHI).

Proceed to Maiori and ensure that all British landing craft return after discharge of present loads to HILARY with all despatch. Matter is most urgent.

(From S.O. Force N, 112104B to C/S J.F.H. LAMERTON).

/PHILADELPHIA...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Avalanche".

(b) Attack on Naples. - Contd.

PHILADELPHIA,
BARKER.

U.S. Cruiser PHILADELPHIA will accompany U.S. Destroyer BARKER until 120230B returning to Salerno reverse of onward route. E.T.A. 1207B C. in C. Med., pass to N.A.T.A.F., M.A.C. for information. (U.S. Cdr. Task Force (?86) 111845B to C. in C. Med. Comnwt Task, (R) (Groups missed)).

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Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Disposition of Italian Fleet.

C. in Cs.
Report.

Be pleased to inform Their Lordships that the Italian battle fleet now lies at anchor under the guns of the Fortress of Malta.
(C. in C. Med., 111038B to Admty).

Thanks to
Fleet.

I have this day informed the Board of Admiralty that the Italian Fleet now lies at anchor under the guns of the Fortress of Malta. So ends a chapter of the warfare. For just over 3 years the Royal and Merchant Navies in close concert with the sister services have fought the battle of the Mediterranean so that our object has now been achieved, and the Mediterranean is once more fully in our control.
2. The way has been long. We have had our great moments and our bad times when the horizon looked black. During that time except for a short break it has been my privilege and pride to command the main forces at sea in the Mediterranean. At this moment when all for which we have worked so long has at length come to pass, I send to every officer and man in the Royal and Merchant Navies who has contributed to the achievement my thanks and admiration for the resource and resolution and courage which has made these things possible. In so doing I address my words to these whom it is my honour to command, but let us not forget what we owe to the sister services, in particular to the devotion of those in the R.A.F. to whose loyal help we owe so much for what has been achieved.
(C. in C. Med., 111556B to Med. Station, C. in C. Levant).

Aircraft
Sightings.

Aircraft reports of Italian units were made at the following code times:-
111200, 111230, 111326Z, 111333, 111343Z, 111530Z, 111543Z.

Med Air
Report.

Signed Eisenhower. Part 3 Air Cositintrep No.63
Sept. 10.
N.W.A.A.F. Night 9/10 Sept.
Wellingtons shadowed the Italian fleet. Day 10
Sept. Coastal aircraft shadowed the Italian fleet,
escorted friendly shipping, and carried out U-boat
hunts throughout the day.
(Air C. in C. Med. No T.O.O.)

ABERCROMBIE,
NICHEL,
OAKLEY,
BLENCATHRA,
EGGESFORD.

ABERCROMBIE should proceed to Bizerta. Comnabsic is requested to sail Italian S/MS to Augusta.
N.C.W.N.T.F's 102326 Re Italian subs. to Palermo, refers.
(C. in C. Med., 111024).
ABERCROMBIE Italian submarine NICHEL, destroyer OAKLEY, S.C. (?915) and S.C. (?977) depart Salerno 1035 for Palermo S. of A. 5, E.T.A. 1135 Sept. 12th codeword "Hettie" 2. W/T call sign 499.
(N.C.W.T.F., 111202B to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.Sy. ABERCROMBIE, C.T.F.85, Comnob Palermo).

/OAKLEY...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Disposition of Italian Fleet.

ABERCROMBIE, OAKLEY remain with ABERCROMBIE. Return BLENCATHRA and EGGESFORD to southern assault area forthwith. My 111103 (N.T. in W.R.) addressed OAKLEY only. (N.C.W.T.F., 111500B to OAKLEY, (R) ABERCROMBIE, BLENCATHRA, EGGESFORD, C. in C. Med).
NICHEL,
OAKLEY,
BLENCATHRA,
EGGESFORD.
(contd).

SOKOL, Am communicating with authority in Brindisi. Cruiser still in harbour, no Germans in vicinity. Have directed SATURNIA to Taranto. (O.R.P. SOKOL, 111405B to Capt. S, 10, (R) C. in C. Med).
SATURNIA, Have S/M PISANI in company with armed party on board. Am directing her to Taranto E.T.A. 1200/1200 Liaison officer? and 2 ratings left ashore at O.R. (corrupt group).
cruiser in Brindisi. (O.R.P. SOKOL, 111645B to Capt. (S) 10, C. in C. Med).
PISANI,
OTARIA.

Concur Italian S/M PISANI being sent to Taranto. Remain off Brindisi and keep me informed of the situation. Italian Fleet is confirming to Armistice conditions and main units are in Malta.

(Capt. (S) 10th Sub. Flot. 111905B to O.R.P. SOKOL (R) C. in C. Med).

Intercept Italian S/M OTARIA on sailing and sent her to Taranto 3 hours after S/M PISANI.

(SOKOL O.R.P., 112330B to Capt. (S) 10th (R) C. in C. Med).

Italian Three Italian destroyers ORSA, PEGASO and IMPETUOSO cruiser reliably reported to have arrived Sept. 10th and destroyers, at Pollenza Balearics.
Pollenza. (C.M.S.F., 111558B to Comnavnav, (R) V.C.N.O. (D.N.I.) (R) D.M. C.N.O. (D.N.I.) C. in C. Med. F.O.C. Gib. Admty).

Following from N.A. Madrid (begins):-

A. Two destroyers at Pollenza, PEGASO and IMPETUOSO left at 0445B today and scuttled outside territorial waters. ORSA remains Pollenza damaged and will be interned.

B. When ships arrive Mahon they requested fuel under article 19 Hague Convention 13 thus confessing themselves belligerents. As no fuel could be available inside 48 hours request was refused and ships were interned after 24 hours.

C. Ministry of Marine states Spanish Government has no official intimation of armistice or any change in Italy's status as belligerent. Of course Ministry of Foreign Affairs may take different attitude later.

D. Italian Embassy is still without any instructions whatever. (Ends).

2. Malta pass C. in C. Med.

3. B.A.D. pass to Prime Minister and First Sea Lord. (D.D.I.C., 111620A to C. in C. Med. S.O. Force H, R.A. Force H, R.A.A. H.F., V.A. Malta. C.S.12, C.S.15, N.C.W.T.F., (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, B.A.D.)

My 102112B, amend to read Italian Cruiser REGOLO instead of two other unidentified Italian vessels.

(Commorseafron 111805Z to Comnavnav (R) Vice C.N.O., F.O.C. Gibraltar, Admty. C. in C. Med).

/REGOLO and...

11.9.1943.
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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Disposition of Italian Fleet.

OLIVA?
Italian cruiser and destroyers, Pollenza. (contd). REGOLO and destroyers at Puerto de Mahon were ordered by Admiral Commanding Spezia Forces (Admiral Oziva) to proceed to Bone after landing survivors and have now been ordered to Gibraltar by Acting C. in C. Italian Fleet (Admiral De Zara). (Malta, 111831 to Admty).

ITALIA, VITTORIO VENETO, 4 cruisers, 5 destroyers, for Alexandria. An Italian squadron consisting of battleships ITALIA and Italian battleship VITTORIO VENETO 4 cruisers and 5 destroyers are to be sailed for Alexandria, p.m./12th Sept. escorted by HOWE flying flag of R.A.H., KING GEORGE V with 8th F. less ECLIPSE, ILEX and INGLEFIELD.
(2) S. of A. 20 knots and T. of A. to be adjusted as required by C. in C. Levant, ITALIA drawing 37 foot forward due to damage.
(3) Operation "Gibbon," para 4 is not to be carried out at Malta.
(C. in C. Med., 111833B to C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, (R) C. in C. Med. (A) R.A.H., S.O. Force H, Capt. (D) 8th D.F.)

Ships at Port Mahon and Pollenza. Following from Palma (Majorca) (begins) Following Italian Warships are at Port de Mahon; ATTILIO, REGOLO, FUCILIERE, CARABINIERE, MITRAGLIERE, and at Pollenza destroyers ORSA and PEGASO, IMPETUOSO. They were attacked by German aviation in Straits of Bonifacio, ROMA being sunk.
(B.N.A., Madrid, 111943 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. F.O.C. Gib) W.R. Note. Paras 3 and 4 of this message have been circulated to D.N.I. and D.D.I.C. only.

Malta Air Report. A.I. 1073 11 Sept. Opsum No. 124. 11 Sept. 5 Spitfires made photo R/C of Harbours, Aerodromes and Special areas in Southern Italy and Harbours and Aerodromes in Corfu and Albania. 6 Baltimores made searches for Italian Shipping southeast of Italy and off West Coast of Greece. Italian Naval Units from Spezia area consisting of 2 battleships 5 cruisers and 5 destroyers arrived in harbour at 0700 hrs. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 111955B).

BRAGANDINO 11th Sept. Arrival. Minelaying S/M BRAGANDINO (Italian). (N.O.I.C. Augusta, 112117B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med).

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.General.

DOLFIJN. DOLFIJN patrolling in area S.A. and S.B.
(Capt. (S) 8th S.F. 110930B to 8th S.F. (R)
C. in C. Med.)

K.M.S.25. My 091157B (17 ships for Port Said) sailed.
(C. in C. Med. pass to Comnavnaw.)
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 110939 to Admty. etc.)
K.M.S.25. Arrivals (list).
(Com. N.O.B.Oran, 111123B to C. in C. Med.)

K.M.S.25. 9 FORT WALSH, 9¹/₂ LAMBROOK, 10 EMPIRE GRANGE,
for Malta, Government stores.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 111140B to K.M.S. 25, S.O. escort, (R)
C. in C. Med., C. in C. Med. (A), V.A. Malta, N.O.I.C. Tunisia)

T.O.8. T.O.8. My 091316B sailed.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 110941B to C. in C. Med.
(R) Admty. etc.)

U/B U-Boat disposition No.78.
Disposition. Consider one still operating between Benghazi
and Derna.
(Capt. on Staff Alexandria, 111142C to C. in C.
Levant etc.)

Probable Am attacking suspicious contact in position
U/B 035 degs. 44' N. 013 degs. 50' E.
Contact. (G.S. PINDOS, 111200B to S. & A. West of
PINDOS, 020 degs. W. North Atlantic Stn.)
PRINSES Lost contact after 3rd attack (local spare
ASTRID. groups, signification unknown.) probable
S/M am rejoining PRINSES ASTRID.
(G.S. PINDOS, 111245B to V.A. Malta,
C. in C. Med.)

FIRUZ. My 101820C. August. FIRUZ temporary repairs
completed; vessel sailed 0400 G.M.T. today
into Marmora to undergo trials which expected
to last 36 hours. If successful vessel will
return Istanbul await sailing orders for Black Sea. B.2.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 111210C to C. in C. Levant, S.O.(I) Levant,
Capt. S.1, Capt. (S) 10, D.N.I.)

CASABIANCA, CASABIANCA leaves Algiers about 1800 today
SPORTSMAN. 11th speed 15 knots through 037 degs. 45' N.
003 degs. 01' E. at 2200/11th, 040 degs. 55'
006 degs. 10' at 1400/12th, thence 062 degs. to
operate between latitudes 041 degs. and 042 degs.
20' and East of 007 degs. CASABIANCA and SPORTSMAN may meet
p.m. 12th.
(Capt. (S) 8, 111214B to 8th S.F. (R) C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C.
Algiers, CASABIANCA, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

CASABIANCA /...

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11.9.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.CASABIANCA,
SPORTSMAN.
(Contd.)CASABIANCA sails 2000. Add two hours to all times in my 111214.
(Capt. (S) 8, 111944B, 8th S/M.F. (R) C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Algiers, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

X.T.2.

Sailing telegram. (1) X.T.2. (2) 0945C/11th. (3) Sailed together. (4) (5) (6) as laid down in C. in C. Levant 092145 additional escort part way JUMNA. (13) (A) Com. W.H. Austin R.N.R. in CEDARDALE to Tripoli. (15) Q.A. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 111402C to C. in C. Levant, Admty. etc.)

FLORES,
ABERCROMBIE.Following message was received visually at 1051B/11th (Begins). D.S. FLORES information ABERCROMBIE from C.T.G.81.5. Report to ABERCROMBIE as additional escort. T.O.O. 101718B. (Ends.)
Your 111350B refers.
(FLORES, 111430B to C.T.G.81.5)

U.G.S.16.

Destinations follow (Details)
(C. in C. Med. (Algiers), 111430B to C.T.F.61, Ships escorting Convoy, U.G.S.16, Admty. etc.)Movements
Aden.Arrival 0504Z BULOLO.
Departures B.V. BARNABY, BULOLO and KEREN in company.
(Commodore Aden, 111436Z to Admty, C. in C. Levant, F.O.R.S.C.A., S.O.(I) Kilindini, S.O.(I) Colombo, S.O.(I) Bombay.)ISLAY
? U.B.A.S.V. aircraft obtained a contact possibly a S/M, in 031 deys. 58' N. 017 degs. 12' E. at 1316C/11th. Baltimore will be carrying out an area search until dusk. No. A.S.V. aircraft available at night.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 111527C to ISLAY (R) N.L.O. 8th Army, S.N.O.I.S., N.O.I.C. Tripoli, C. in C. Levant, V.A.M. A.H.Q. Med, S.10, R.A. Alexandria, (201, 247, 211 & 212 Groups Benghazi Sector)French
Cruisers.B.M.L.O. Dakar's 071831 Sept. (re anti de-Gaulle attitude displayed by crews of French Cruisers from Alexandria) is being passed to you for information.
(H.W.R. 111530A to C. in C. Med. B.A.D. Washington)

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.PROMESTHEUS,
BENEDICT,
ALCINOUS.

PROMESTHEUS and BENEDICT on return to Malta are to be sailed to Philippeville and Tripoli respectively by first convoy. They will therefore not be available to load Army personnel and vehicles Malta to North Africa as arranged. Suggest you ship to Bizerta in ALCINOUS and thence en route to Gibraltar for release. (P.S.T.O. Med. 111535 to D.S.T.O. Marea (R) D. of S.T. P.S.T.O. Bizerta.)

Return
of
teams
for
"Copp".

It is now urgently necessary to commence "Copp" operations in Home Waters. All available units will be required, so that operations may commence as soon as possible owing to weather limitations. (2) It is requested therefore that teams 5 and 6 may be returned as soon as you can spare them. Unless immediate sea passage is available request you will consider sending operational officers and men by air to be followed by maintenance portion with stores by sea at first opportunity. (D.R.O.(C.O), 111605A to C. in C. Med. (R) C.C.O.)

G.U.F.10.

Sailing Telegram Part 1. (2) 1800B/10.
(3) N.T.35.59 N. 05.21 W. at 1030B/11.
(4) First "Chop" 10 degs. W. 0130Z/12.
Second "Chop" 24 degs. W. 0500Z/14.
Radio shift 20 degs. W. approx. 1400Z/13, 13½ knots.
(5) (Route) U.S.S. MONTICELLO detaches in position H.F. to proceed independently to Panama Canal. (6) C.T.F. 68, U.S.S. TEXAS, MERVINE, PARKER, GAUB, MACKENZIE, MCLANAHAN, DAVISON, BEATTY, TILLMAN, BOYLE, CHAMPLIN, NIELDS, ORDRONAU, CHICOPEE. (7) 21 including CHICOPEE. (13) (A) Captain Colyear U.S.N. in MONTICELLO for Panama Canal. (B) Capt. Schulten U.S.N. in DOROTHEAD DIX for New York. Commodore Capt. Mason U.S.N. in ANEW ARUNDEL for New York. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 111645 to P.D. New York.)

G.U.S.15.

Sail at 1100/13 with Joiners for G.U.S.15 and ships bound for Tripoli (?by) Q.B.B.123 (B) S. of A. 8 knots to R/V G.U.S.15 in position 212 at 1600/13. (2) HURSLEY and A.D. as (group missed) then escort ships bound for Malta and Sicily at Malta. (3) VETCH, CONVULVULUS and PENTSTEMON detach ships for Tripoli from convoy and proceed with them and ships ex Malta for Tripoli from 212 to 202. S. of A. 8 knots. E.T.A. Tripoli (Libya) Boom 1500/14. (4) Codeword for para. 1 and 3 "Bleeding" 265, Normal and for para 2, "Toilet" 436 Low. (V.A. Malta, 111701B to VETCH, CONVULVULUS, PENTSTEMON, HURSLEY, (R) S.E. Convoy G.U.S.15 (Groups Missed) 201 Group. etc.)

ALBA JULIA /...

11.9.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

- ALBA JULIA. A. My 081610 C. ALBA JULIA expected complete Sept. 12th. B. Destination now reported B.4 to be Salonica. ?Comment: More probable vessels will sail for Black Sea Port. C. N.L.O. Black Sea informed. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 111707C to C. in C. Levant, S.O.(I) Levant, S.1, D. of N.I.)
- CARTHAGE. Destination for CARTHAGE in U.K. is Clyde. (2) On arrival about first week in Oct. and after disembarkation of passengers, F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail ship for London to be taken in hand by Messrs Green and Silley Weir for conversion to M.O.W.T. (3) C. in C. Levant pass to CARTHAGE. (D.O.D.(F), 111806A to C. in C. Levant, F.O.I.C. Greenock., (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)
- 1st S/M.F. Sept. 11th. A. Refitting; MATROZOS completes Disposition. 12; NEREUS, NEBOJSCA, TALLY-HO in dock. B. Operational: TACTICIAN Beirut; TAURUS Beirut; RORQUAL patrol North Coast (Africa?); TROOPER Beirut; TRESPASSER patrol West of Rhodes; TEMPLAR Suez; TORBAY Beirut; KATSONIS patrol east of Andros; PAPANICOLIS, Beirut. (C. in C. Levant, 111845C to C. in C. Med.)
- H.D.M.L.s F.O.I.C. Milford Haven's 091305. for (2) H.D.M.L.s 1243, 1245, 1282 and 1294 are on Turkey. passage to Gibraltar for transfer to the Turkish Government on arrival in Middle East. (3) C. in C. Med. is requested to sail H.D.M.Ls to Alexandria. (4) C. in C. Levant is requested to arrange with N.A. Ankara regarding transfer. (D.D.O.D.(C), 111908A to C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, (R) C.C.F. Med. etc.)
- M.K.S.25. N.O.I.C. Alexandria is requested sail M.K.S.25 a.m. Sept. 14th. (2) (A) 8 (B) 9. ((3) 309, 1000/14th, 310, 509 2125/14th, 329 1530/15th, 340 0440/16th 3 miles north 346 1130/16th, 033 degs. 03' N. 020 degs. 00' W. 0130/17th thence as ordered by C. in C. Med. (5) AN. (6) High "Cockatoo" AM C. (8) BLUEBELL, BRYONY, CAMELLIA, F.S. LA MALOUINE, GAWLER. JUMNA reinforce escort as arranged by S.N.O. Cyrenaica V.A. Malta is requested to sail JUMNA and GAWLER for Alexandria after fuelling at Malta. (C. in C. Levant, 111940 to S.E. Convoy M.K.S.25, S.E. Convoy K.M.S.25, S.E. Convoy T.X.1, Naval and Air Authorities Western Desert etc.)

R.A. /...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

M.K.S.25 (Contd.) R.A. Alexandria is requested to sail M.K.S.25 A.M. Sept. 14th. (2) (A) 8 (B) 9.
(3) 309 1000/14th, 310 (?323) (?21)25/14th, 329 1530/15th, 340 0440/16th, 3 miles North 346 1130/16th, 033 degs. 03' N. 020 degs. 00'
(?352) 0130/17th by rail as ordered by C. in C. Med.
(6) High "Cockatoo". (8) BLUEBELL, BRYONY, CAMELLIA, F.S. LA MALOUINE, GAWLER, JUMNA to reinforce escort as arranged by S.N.O. Cyrenaica (?after fuelling) V.A. Malta is requested sail JUMNA and GAWLER for Alexandria after fuelling at Malta. (C. in C. Levant, 111945C to Ships Escorting M.K.S.25 Ships Escorting K.M.S.25. Ships Escorting T.X.1. C. in C. Levant, R.A. Alexandria, S.N.O. Cyrenaica etc.)
See also 121620

SHAKESPEARE. STAFFA will be your escort. (2) CASABIANCA sails Algiers 2000/11th course degs. 356 15 knots. (3) LE FANTASQUE and LE TERRIBLE due Algiers a.m. 12th from East at H.S.
(4) Convoy from West due position 120 at 1400/12th where Algiers section joins and detach. (5) LE TEMPETE due Algiers from West about 0400/12th. (6) Convoy sail 0001/12th to eastward. (7) Visibility may be low off Algiers in morning (8) On arrival berth alongside P.239 (SURF) at Submarine trot No.3 buoy as MAIDSTONE will be shifting billet. (Capt. (S), 8th, 11200B to P.221 SHAKESPEARE)

Exchange of British and German Prisoners. Date of exchange referred to in My 280024A August, not to P.S.T.O. Middle East, will probably be 8th October. (2) Request you propose route from Marseilles to Oran and back and formulate your requirements as to time of arrival, method of identifications, pilotage and broadcasting of position. (Head of M.Branch 1, 112052A to C. in C. Med.(A) C. in C. Med. (R) C. in C. Levant, P.S.T.O. Middle East.)

German U/B attacked. Am over enemy submarine in position 38.35 N. 9.20 E. (? course 372 degs.) 15 knots. (5 YBO via Malta, 112100 to 79P) Submarine previously reported when first sighted was on course 260 degs. Have attacked enemy with depth charges BBMO 2210 (indecypherable). (HIB/O, 112145 to 79P)

Augusta. Situation report 59. No enemy air activity in last 24 hours. (2) One more U-Boat (Italian) arrived a.m. today making total 6. (3) Work on indicator loop laying and H.D.A's completed. (4) Sunken (corrupt group) legs raised by Salvage party. (5) Crew of ERINNA threaten to cease work at 0600 tomorrow 12th Sept. unless definite

promise /...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Augusta
(Contd.)

promise to return to Alexandria is given.
(6) LINNET arrived to survey entrance of harbour for laying of milled loops.
(7) Disembarked 102 personnel.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 112125B to C. in C. Med. (M)).

PRINCE
LEOPOLD,
PRINSES
JOSEPHINE
CHARLOTTE,
BLACKMORE,
LEDBURY.

My 111202 (N.T. in W.R.) PRINCE LEOPOLD.
PRINSES JOSEPHINE CHARLOTTE are delayed and will sail separately at 20 knots escorted by BLACKMORE. LEDBURY is to remain at Augusta until they arrive and sail with them to Taranto. (2) Priority high, codeword "Placid". (C. in C. Med. (B), 112134 to N.O.I.C. Augusta, N.O.I.C. Catania, allocated C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Tunisia, V.A. Malta, BLACKMORE, PRINCE CHARLES, PRINCE LEOPOLD, BEAUFORT, N.L.O. PG.Z, N.L.O. 15th Army Group.)

ISIS.

On arrival of ISIS request you will sail her for Bizerta.
(C. in C. Med. 112255 to V.A. Malta, (R)
N.O.I.C. Tunisia, ISIS)

Med.
Situation
Report.

Situation Report No.178 (C. in C. Med. 112339B)
See Operation "Avalanche".

Enemy
Unit.

Position course and speed of enemy (2 unknown)
RJZM 1042 indecypherable.
(VBD/Y via Malta, 112355 to 45 U.)

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

NIEUW
HOLLAND.

NIEUW HOLLAND on completion of disembarkation in East Africa should proceed to Middle East.
2. She should be used for movement of A.A.P.C. en route. 3. Vessel should then continue to U.K. in M.K.F. 25 unless other requirements necessitate her temporary retention in the Med.
(D. of S.T. 110254A to D.S.T.O. Kilindini, (R) C. in C. E.F. P.S.T.O. M.E., F.O.R.S.C.A., C.in. C.Levant, C. in C. Med., P.S.T.O. Med.)

Ships
ex.W.S.32.

Your 081217 to D. of S.T. only. Of the ships in W.S.32 MALOJA, NEA HELLAS and BRITTANNIC will proceed from Bombay to the M.E. for inclusion in M.K.F.25 for U.K.

TAMAROA. 3. STRATHEDEN, SIBAJAK and STIRLING CASTLE should proceed also as in para 1 above. Further signal will follow regarding HIGHLAND BRIGADE.

(D. of S.T. 110330A to P.S.T.O. India.)

Convoy
M.A.2.

Arrival.
(N.O.I.C. Chittagong, 110335Z to Admty.)

Convoy
B.S.200.

Cochin portion arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Cochin, 110435Z to Admty.)

OSIRIS
damage.

OSIRIS sustained damage when attempting to berth alongside ADAMANT on 9th. Principle items affecting readiness are as follows:-
(A) Damage to bow buoyancy and No.1 main ballast tanks repairable without docking by Kilindini

Dockyard. (B) Gun mountings damaged beyond repair & has been removed. (C) 9½' periscope bent and unserviceable at present Estimate that OSIRIS will be ready for A/S exercises by 22nd. No mountings are available in Durban, Simonstown or Colombo. Capt. S.I. is requested to supply periscope and gun mounting if available.

(ADAMANT 110829Z to C. IN C. E.F., F.O.C. Subs, Capt. S.I. Capt. S.4. (R) F.O.E.A., F.O. 2nd i/c E.F., A.S. Kilindini, OSIRIS.)

Convoy
M.A.3.

Sailing telegram (4 ships). (2) 0846Z. (4)8½ (Route) (6) LAUNCESTON, ROHILKHAND.
(N.C.S.O. Vizagapatam, 110849Z, 110852Z to Admty

CITY of
EASTBOURNE
damage.

Sailed ROSALIND with diving and salvage equipment and dredger to Majunga to CITY OF EASTBOURNE
2. Ship grounded region of Juan Da Nova Island on 9th Sept. arrived Majunga with numbers 1 and 2 tanks down owing to ?? leaks beyond capacity of

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Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

CITY OF EASTBOURNE damage. (Contd.)

ship's pumps.
3. Intend if necessary to dock temporarily at Diego Suarez.
4. Further report will be made after examination by salvage party.
5. E.T.A. ROSALIND 0550/13th.
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, 110906Z to F.O. E.Af., (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A, N.O.I.C. Durban, D. of S.T., M.W.T. (Antananarivo).)

TEIA MARU. A.M. 031314 not to Comnavu.
2. Cominch reports latitude position A for TEIA MARU has been corrected to read 04 degs. 40' S. This has been agreed.
3. Request you will inform Air and other Authorities concerned. (D.O.D.(F), 111244A to C. in C. E.F., (R) Comnavu.)

HUZAN. With reference to employment of HUZAN due here shortly for East African island base requirements propose that vessel be placed under my jurisdiction for the (? urgently required) transportation of personnel and supplies for all (? services) and to be operated as an H.M. Transport.
(D.S.T.O. Kilindini, 111317Z to F.O. E.Af., (R) C. in C. E.F., D. of S.T.)

China, U.S. Air Report. 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 2nd Sept. to 8th Sept. transmitted by U.S.A.A.F. China. Begins.
4. U.S. Air. 2nd Sept. 5 P.40s and 10 B.25s attacked Hong Kong Harbour area all bombs hitting in the target area. 1 direct hit on 200 foot ship. 6th Sept. 2 P.38s attacked shipping at Shihhweiyao (63 miles S.E. Hankow) with good results.
(C. in C. India, No T.O.O., Recd. 111220 to W.O.)

BRITANNIC. In view of N.Z.N.B's 092150 BRITANNIC will now proceed as in D. of S.T's 110330. Escort offered in your 090452 will therefore not now be required.
(D.O.D.(F), 111655A to C. in C. E.F., (R) A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B., F.O.C.R.I.N., C. in C. Levant, P.S.T.O. India.)

H.Ls. Your 200303 August to Admiralty only.
My 232103A August to C. in C. only. Following 6 H.Ls. (P) have been allocated to Eastern Fleet as replacements for those lost in transit. H.Ls. (P) 42750, 42751, 42764, 42960, 42961, 42572. A further signal will be made regarding shipment.
(D.S.V.P., 112116A to C. in C. E.F., (R) C.O. BRAGANZA, F.O. Ceylon, F.L.O. Delhi, SALSETTE.)

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Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

TEIA MARU. Your 102011 Concur.
(D.O.D.(F), 111145Z to Cominch)

U.S.A.T. Departure 10th 1600 U.S.A.T. KIDWELL Port of
Spain 15th.
(Alusno Cayenne, 111200 to Admty.)
Port Hueneme Sept. 7th and Sept 10th respectively
A.Ts. YOUNG AMERICA (U.S.) and CAPE GEORGIA (U.S.) for
Espiritu Santo and Noumea.
(N.S.H.Q. 112209Z to Admty.)

Convoy X.B. 73 Boston Section arrived 111142Z. Cape
X.B.73. Cod Canal section arrived 111105Z.
(U.S.P.D. Boston 111302 to Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet
C. & R.)

U/Boat. Submarine sighted at 1645 G.M.T. 1152 N. 57.39 W.
(Kingston, 111303R to Admty.)

Convoy Departed Ambrose 1132Z 11th.
New York.25. (P.D. New York, 111430 to Com. 10th Fleet C.
and R.)

H.H.X.256. (1) Sailing telegram Part 1.
(2) Gate 1500Z/11 September. (3) Homp 43.02 N.
60.50 W.at. 1200Z/12. (5) As C. in C., C.N.A.'s
052120Z and Admiralty's 041301B July.
(7) Total 14 Ships.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 111501Z to Admty.)

N.S.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q. 111520)
S/M
Estimate.

U.S. (Cominch, 111540Z.)
S/M
Estimate.

U.S.A.T. Departure 11th U.S.A.T. BRIGADIER GENERAL
RETHEERS due Aruba 11th.
(B.S.N.O. Curacao, 111553 to Admty.)

GREENWICH. GREENWICH escorted by SHERBROOKE and KING
HAAKON VII departs Boston Gate 1500Q 11th en
route Iceland via:- All the following
positions are North and West unless otherwise
indicated. (Route) Speed 7.5 knots. KING HAAKON VII
will be relieved as escort ARIES at position Fox then proceed
to Halifax at a speed of 15 knots.

/C. in C. ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

GREENWICH.
(Contd.)

C. in C. C.N.A. please pass to ARIES.
(C.T.G. 02.1, 111604, 120119 to C. in C.N.A.,
A.C.I.C. (R) C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Comeastseafon.
F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q., Admty., B.A.M.R., N.S.S.,
B.A.D.)

PASTEUR.

Referring our 091903 PASTEUR. Now expect embark
18th for departure 19th.
(B.M.W.T. New York 111623Z to D. of S.T. (R)
B.A.D, N.S.H.Q.)

QUEEN MARY.

Assuming no delay in drydocking expect maintain
20th departure.
(B.M.W.T. New York, 111625Z to D. of S.T.(R) B.A.D.)

CANELO.

Departure U.S.S.T. CANELO for high seas.
(Aruba 111631Z to Admty.)

Convoy B.X.73.

Sailing telegram part 2. (31 ships)
(P.D. Boston 111640 to Com. 10th U.S. Fleet C.& R)

F.T.2.

F.O.N.F.281735 and Com. (D) W.A. 061614 and
061820. Request information if F.T.2 has
arrived in U.K.
(B.A.D. 111641Z to Admty., (R) Com. (D) W.A.)

H.H.X.256.

Departures SASKATOON, SHEDIAC, KENOGAMI,
escorting H.H.X.256.
(C. Halifax, 111715Z to Admty.)

Shipping
Casualties.

Com.10th Fleet C&R. 101939 reports the following:
The GOVERNOR WRIGHT was bombed and sunk 12.55 N.
123.55 E. No information on the ELCANO and the
WIROS.
Explosion on ADOLPH ROBERT about 47.00 N. 55.00 W.
reported total loss. There is no report of any
attack on the REGENT or the ITAPURA.
(Comnaveu, 111653 to Admty.)

A.T.63.
(MAURETANIA)

Departing New York 1600 12th. MAURETANIA
(A.T.63) Clyde. E.T.A. Clyde Boom 0300Z 19th.
S. of A. 20 knots. (Route) Communications.
Fighter protection codeword "Bellows" with call
sign 175. "Chop" 0800Z 15th.
(P.D. New York, 111802 to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)

/Escort...

11.9.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Escort Carriers. Your 100035A. Confirmed that C.V.E.'s are likely to be kept waiting for conversion in Vancouver as detailed in my 302321 August. There is no question of giving up five to the U.S.N. See Adml. King's statement in my 042057 for your "Off the record" information we understand this is caused by manning difficulties in U.S.N. We suggested in our 302321 that five A.C.Vs. awaiting conversion should be used on ferry service. Could these not be manned for Ferry Service only and possibly under Red Ensign.

2. Lorsa 10091 made no promise. Our follow on programme is at the moment uncertain and we much doubt whether we shall get 16, and we are in no position to press our case without assurance that ships can be manned.

3. There has been no opportunity to discuss the matter with the 1st S.L. who returns to Canada today.
(B.A.D., 111815Z to Admty.)

VICTORIOUS Escorts. 1. Sailed VICTORIOUS escorted by CALDER and FINDHORN, when ready 16th Sept. Norfolk to Argentia as follows; (K) 036° 57' 38" N. 074° 40' 20" W. (L) 040° 00' N. 067° 00' W. (M) 043° 30' N. 059° 00' W. (N) 046° 00' N. 055° 00' W. VICTORIOUS will operate aircraft.

2. On arrival Argentia VICTORIOUS and CALDER act as ordered by C. in C. C.N.A. in compliance Admty. 091333.

3. FINDHORN when available escort on return Norfolk where required by 25th Sept. for compliance B.A.D.'s 081425 (Hush, Most Secret.)
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 111845Z to C.E.S.F., (R) C. in C.W.A., C.C.N.F., Com. 5, S.B.N.O. W.At., Admty., C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, C. in C.H.F., C.T.F. 24, C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q.)

NIEUW AMSTERDAM. For your guidance we have allocated NIEUW AMSTERDAM for 2 voyages from San Francisco to South West Pacific with U.S. Personnel. The urgency of these personnel is such that it is imperative to arrange the quickest possible turnround at San Francisco on each occasion. We rely on you to ensure this.

2. The main overhaul of this ship is envisaged as taking place after these 2 trips have been completed but we consider it highly desirable to drydock this ship on her first call at San Francisco for inspection, bottom cleaning and painting bearing in mind (a) the length of time she has been out of dock and (b) the service on which she has been employed.

3. Request you arrange accordingly and also endeavour to increase to the maximum possible in the time available the troop capacity so as to ensure that maximum value is obtained from

/these...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

NIEUW
AMSTERDAM.
(Contd.)

these two voyages. We would like standees to be fitted wherever practicable.
4. Vessel should arrive San Francisco about 18/10.
(D. of S.T., 111955A to B.M.W.T. New York, (R) B.A.D.)

Sub. attack and sighting summary.

All times Z para. B. U.S.S. BABBIT Radar contact 29.50 N. 65.40 W. 110100 S.S, JARED INGERSOLL sighted sub. 11.52 N. 57.39 W. 111645. (Cominch, 112025Z to Admty.)

S.Q./Q.S.
S.B./B.S.
Convoys temporary discontinuance.

(1) It has been decided that in view of present U/Boat situation S.Q./Q.S. and S.B./B.S. Convoys be temporarily discontinued and ships proceeding between Quebec and Sydney and Corner Brook be sailed independently.
(2) Normal Convoys will be immediately resumed if and when U/Boat situation warrants.
(3) Reference ORS Article 171 ships proceeding independently in Gulf should be provided with special DPSL envelope which may be used for their diversion.
(4) Escort ships at present employed on Convoy duty are to be used to best advantage in keeping Gulf clear of U/Boats.
(N.S.H.Q., 092125Z to C. in C. C.N.A., (R) Admty., F.O.N.F., N.O.I.C. Sydney, N.O.I.C. Gaspe, N.O.I.C. St. John N.B. N.O.I.C. Quebec, N.O.I.C. Montreal.)

GENERAL
RUGE,
U/B.

Believe trailed submerged submarine 13.38 N. 81.42 W.
(GENERAL RUGE via Washington 112235Z to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements.

Arrivals Sydney (N.S.W.) 9th U.S.S. COLUMBIA CHEVALIER, Milne Bay 10th. U.S.S. COUCAL. (A.C.N.B., 110656Z)

TROCUS.

Please pass following to BROCKLEBANK (Begins) SAMOVAR standing by Tanker TROCAS in 035° 01' S. 165° 45' W. at 102359Z. Endeavour will be made to tow TROCUS towards Auckland pending arrival of Tug TOIA. (Ends.)
(N.Z.N.B., 110743Z to Admty. (R) C.S.W.P.S.F.)

/MATSONIA...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

~~AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND.~~
~~America and West Indies~~ - Contd.

MATSONIA. U.S. Transport MATSONIA departed Brisbane 11th due Suva 14th.
(C.S.W.P.S.F., 110749Z to Admty.)

Digest serial No. 599 Sept. 10th. Catalina unsuccessfully attacked small freighter to South Cape Saint George heading Rabaul midnight 8th. 1 destroyer, 1 medium freighter reported south end Saint George Channel on South Easterly course midday 10th R/C Fortresses unsuccessfully attacked by 7 covering fighters. Convoy 5 small vessels including 1 destroyer

reported late same night this area heading South.

(2) Further report interpretation photos Wewak area 9th indicate 68 barges in harbour.

(3) Further reports enemy submarine traffic off South Coast new Britain. Possible enemy submarine also reported off Fremantle evening 9th.

(8) Our P.Ts. destroyed and damaged further barges off North and East Coast Kolombangara during 8th but encountered fire from 3 inch gun Paraputu Point South East Coast and others to North. Corsairs also remain active against this traffic.

(11) Photos Buin Shortlands same day show 1 small freighter, 1 small tanker, 3 small Naval craft, 22 barges and at Buku 2 small freighters, 1 other small craft, 6 barges.

(12) 8th Catalina landed direct hit on medium freighter 15 miles West Vella Lavella.

(13) Our troops advancing against enemy resistance North Eastern Arundel. Another attempted barge landing this Island repulsed night 8th.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 110815Z)

CAPE FLATTERY. U.S. Transport CAPE FLATTERY departed Sydney 10th Sept. due Melbourne 12th.
(C.S.W.P.S.F. (via N.Y.), 111037Z to Admty.)

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 111406A, 111409A.)

/Sub...

War Diary.11.9.1943.
Saturday.U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Attacked.

Sub attack and sighting summary for 24 hours to 0900Z/11th. Para. A. Egyptian schooners, one or more, sunk by U/Boat at 0730/7th in 34° 02' N. 33° 05' E. Halifax T/502 sighted U/Boat on surface at 1141/10th in 43° 22' N. 09° 38' W. Submarine seen to submerge. (D.D.I.C., 110942Z to Cominch.) My 101641A, paras. 3 and 5. Attacks referred to were by Wellington C/179 in 43° 08' N. 9° 24' W. at 2318/6, not by J/179 at 0345Z/3. (D.A./U.D., 111246A to Cominch, Comnavu, B.A.D., N.S.H.Q.)

U/B offensive, Monthly Tactical Signal. A.X.93. 1. Coastal Command. During August, U/Boats tactics have altered once more. Instead of sailing in groups and remaining on the surface to fight it out with aircraft they now dive by day and proceed on surface by night. May be only temporary measure. Coastal's reply has been to flood the probable areas by day and night. By Night: with S/L aircraft and others which act as scarecrows by dropping flares at intervals. 2. U/Boat flak armament seems to have been standardised for 740 and 500 tons U/Boats as follows:- 2 single 20 mm. on upper bandstand and quadruple 20 mm. mounting on lower bandstand and 1 or 2 twin m.g. on bridge. This armament does not yet apply to supply or mine-laying types whose armament varies from single raised bandstand entirely separate from C.T. with quadruple 20 mm. to normal lower bandstand with quadruple or twin mountings, both types with or without 37 mm. forward. 3. South Atlantic. Present methods of identification senior officer's ship in these waters is to switch on ten inch signal projector. 4. U/Boats have been on surface acting with impunity within two hours of a night attack. To combat this orders issued that after unseen and undetected night attack, surface escorts are to act immediately to fix U/Boat and to force it to dive by illuminating area and attacking all likely contacts. Meantime, fresh A/C will be despatched to maintain continuous A.S.V. patrol within 60 miles of attack position for next 24 hours when possible. S.O. escort should immediately inform air escort of attack by R/T code word "Broken Axle" T.O.O. when aircraft proceed to a position three miles in rear of convoy and lay a line of three flares with one flare three miles each side of M.L.A. aircraft then continue patrol within approx. ten miles of centre flare until recalled to convoy P.L.E. S.O. escort prohibits flares by R/T code word "Darkie" and requests more flares with R/T code word "Blondie" together with bearings and distance. 5. Fighter Command. Fighter reaction to Fortress raids on captured territories has been moderate but during Fortress raids on Germany, fighters have carried out harrying tactics until own fighter escort has turned back. Then the main attack has developed with large concentrations of fighters. Little reaction to medium bomber raids. The R.P. or Hurricane IV has been used successfully against light naval craft during moon period. (Air Min. 111200Z.)

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Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Enemy main units.

1. Soviet visual R/C of Kaa Fiord and Lang Fiord at 1600A today reported TIRPITZ and SCHARNHORST and 8 destroyers in Kaa Fiord. LUTZOW was not seen.

Coastal batteries.

2. At 0240 today enemy guns near Cap La Hague fired a few salvos at four of our M.T.Bs. who were on patrol in the neighbourhood. No damage or casualties were sustained by the M.T.Bs.

Fog

3. Harwich was closed on account of fog from 1807A today until 0009A/13. The fog interfered with patrols in the Thames approaches.

4. BERMUDA returned to Plymouth at 1606A today from Biscay patrol.

O.G.93/
K.M.S.26
WINCHELSEA
damaged.

5. Convoy O.G.93/K.M.S.26 was bombed at 1745Z today in about 44.35 N., 18.29 W. (400 miles W.N.W. of Cape Finisterre). The convoy escaped damage but the destroyer WINCHELSEA was damaged by a near miss.

North Atlantic.

U/B
destroyed.

(U.617)

6. At 0105B today, searchlight Wellington 179/P attacked and disabled a submarine on the surface in 35.30 N. 03.28 W. The U-boat made for neutral waters and beached in 35° 13' 40" N., 03° 20' W. (near Melilla). During passage and whilst grounded one Wellington, 6 Hudsons and 2 Swordfish aircraft attacked. The Gibraltar A/S Trawler HAARLEM and corvette HYACINTH bombarded the U-boat and left it on its side and on fire.

7. Vice-Admiral Sir Harold Burrough assumed the duties of F.O.I.C. Gibraltar at 0001B today.

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War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

- R.A.H. 8. The flag of R.A. Force H was transferred from WARSPITE to HOWE at 0800 today.
- Operation "Avalanche" Salerno. 9. The carrier force withdrew today on the establishment of an airfield at Paestum. The force proceeded to Palermo to oil the destroyers. All Seafires that could be spared, 26 in all, landed at Paestum at 1430, to be based ashore. Monte Corvino Airfield was still under bombardment at 09300B and unfit for use, except for forced landing. C. in C. Med. reports that the U.S. cruiser PHILADELPHIA was slightly damaged when an enemy aircraft crashed alongside. Other reports state that the ship was damaged by rocket bomb. Our troops were driven out of Battipaglia today.
- Gaeta 10. The U.S. destroyer KNIGHT with British and U.S. Coastal forces carried out a demonstration in the Gaeta area last night with the object of containing enemy reserves in that area.
- Capri 11. The island of Capri was occupied p.m. today. The Italian naval and military commanders, who are co-operating with us, continue to undertake the defence of the island.
- Taranto 12. All allied Naval forces have left Taranto after disembarking the 1st Airborne Division and stores, with the exception of PALADIN (Flag of V.A. A.J. Power).
- S.O.Z. 13. V.A. Power has been designated by the Allied C. in C. as temporary Head of the Allied Military Mission for Administration of the Italian Government. For convenience in communications he will retain the title of S.O.Z, the 3rd Division of the 1st Battle Squadron will no longer be known as Force Z.
- Cotrone 14. Our forces occupied the port of Cotrone today. Installations were found to be intact.
- U.S.S. ROWAN sunk. 15. C. in C. Med. reports that U.S. destroyer ROWAN has been reported sunk by E-boat attack whilst on convoy duty.
- U/B Sunk. 16. Last night a Hudson of N.W.A.A.F. sighted a fully surfaced S/M off the south-west coast of Sardinia. The submarine which was not showing navigation lights or flags, made no attempt to identify itself. The Hudson attacked but saw no result. A submarine was attacked last night 28

/miles...

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Sunday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.U/B Sunk.
(contd).

miles S.W. of Cape Carbonara ^{by a Bistley aircraft (p. 427)} under precisely similar circumstances; one depth charge burst within 20 ft. of the starboard bow and one within 10 ft. of the conning tower. About 20 survivors were seen in the water.

A U-boat was reported off Paola at 1034 today in 44.45 N., 13.45 W.

Italian
ships.

17. SOKOL reports that the Italian Light Cruiser SCIPIONE AFRICANO is in Brindisi. 6 Merchant ships sailed for Taranto at 0030B today. The battleship GUILIO CESARE and aviation transport MIRAGLIA sailed from Taranto at 1400 today for Malta, being met off Cape Passero by JONQUIL. Three small submarines were taken over by the Army when they entered Cotrone. Fourteen Italian submarines are now in Allied ports and at least three others are known to be en route. The destroyer LEGIONARIO and S/M MENOTTI arrived at Malta today. Two more Italian destroyers are proceeding to Malta. Six T.Bs. one M.T.B. and a submarine arrived at Palermo today. Admiral Nomis di Pollone was on board ALISEO, with the Duke of Aosta as passenger.

Australia & New Zealand.Salamaua
occupied.

18. The port, peninsula and town of Salamaua were reported occupied by our troops this evening.

U/B destroyed.

19. A Japanese submarine is reported to have been destroyed this afternoon by patrol aircraft 70 miles S.W. of Rendova (S. side of New Georgia). Cominch reports that Allied aircraft attacked a submarine on the surface in 09.37 S. 156.35 E. (Louisiade Archipelago) at 1141Z today; one bomb hit the U-boat's tail but apart from an oil slick no result was seen.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

U.S.S. Arrived.
ROCKAWAY. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 120719A)
Your 121113. Request you will sail U.S.S. ROCKAWAY when ready to Argentinia by following route (details).
(D.O.D.(H) 122030A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

ATHENE. There is an urgent requirement for ferrying Fleet Air Arm aircraft from U.S.A. to U.K. B.A.D.'s 072243 refers.
2. ATHENE is to give maximum leave and be ready to sail in O.N. 204 on 29th Sept.
3. C. in C.W.A. is requested to sail ATHENE in this convoy.
4. B.A.D. is requested to arrange for aircraft to be loaded and ATHENE sailed for U.K. in convoy as soon as possible.
5. It is intended to grant balance of foreign service leave on return to U.K.
(D.O.D.(H) 121114A.)

WINDWARD Approx. position 53° 30' N. one degree 20' 40" E.
HO. (WINDWARD HO, 121645A.)

EMPIRE It is intended to test the organisation for
MACANDREW. disembarking aircraft from M.A.C. ships in the Mersey Area, therefore it will be necessary to retain one aircraft on board for hoisting out on arrival at Liverpool.
2. If weather conditions are suitable for flying and there are no unserviceable aircraft a serviceable aircraft should be retained on board for this purpose. The remainder should be flown off on approaching North Channel.
3. If weather conditions are not suitable for flying, the ship should proceed direct to Liverpool and all aircraft will be hoisted out on arrival.
4. Signal as soon as practicable. (A) Number of unserviceable aircraft on board. (B) Any repairs or alterations likely to take longer than four days after arrival in Mersey.
(C. in C.W.A., 121732A to S.O.E.G.B2 pass to EMPIRE MACANDREW.)

VICTORIOUS. A.M. 111636. Cancel para. 2.
2. After disembarking passengers and stores in the Clyde, VICTORIOUS will proceed to Scapa as ordered by C. in C.H.F. who is requested to sail her for Liverpool as required by F.O.I.C. Liverpool.
(D.O.D.(H) 122029A.)

Operations.

Biscay A.M. 081947/Sept. U.S. Escort Carrier SANTEE
A/S commenced operating in area at dawn 10th Sept.
patrols. (D.O.D.(H), 120130A.)
Anticipate 4th Escort Group comprising BENTINCK
S.O. BLACKWOOD, BURGESS, BYARD, BAZELY, DRURY will

/be...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay be available for Bay patrol sailing Belfast Sept. 24th returning Belfast October 4th.
 A/S (C. in C.W.A. 121139A.)
 Patrols. RUBIS reports: (A) 29th August in 44° 53' N.
 (Contd.) 02° 34' W. fishing vessels were sighted at 0445.
 One fishing vessel probably fitted with S/M detecting gear. 4 HARVIK class destroyers appeared at about 1200 carrying out A/S tactics and remained in vicinity till dark. After dark star shell fired by destroyer and shore battery.
 (B) Air and M.T.B. patrols on coastal route south of 44° N. appear to have been strengthened since July, 1943.
 (F.O.S. 121147A.)

A225 12th September. Following patrols will be flown daily from 13th September to 19th September inclusive first three sorties take off 0345 next two sorties take off P. 0800. Last two sorties take off 1200. Squadron patrol No.5 Sunderlands from Pembroke Dock - Percussion A. 8 9 10 8 10 10 Squadron - Percussion A 8 10. on alternate days commencing 14th September Squadron will provide a third aircraft in addition to the above which will fly Percussion A 9 patrol taking off at 1200 hours.

(19 Group, 121600A.)

My 091637 BERMUDA arrived.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 121606A.)

1. SHEFFIELD patrolling vicinity 047° 00' N. 015° 00' W.
2. E.G.2, WILD GOOSE, WREN, KITE, STARLING, WOODCOCK patrolling vicinity of 45° 30' N. 011° 00' W.
3. LANDGUARD, SEINEN OXNA with coastal force group 045° 40' N. 013° 43' W. Southbound 9½ knots.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 121607A.)

S/M Positions of submarines at 0800 13th and movements for following 24 hours.
 patrols. (A) TANTALUS (P.318) on patrol off Ice Fiord Spitzbergen may withdraw to westward for charging.
 (B) O.15 on patrol vicinity 64° 42' N. 03° 26' W.
 (C) STONEHENGE (P.232) on patrol vicinity 65° 01' N. 05° 50' W.
 (F) UPSTART (P.65) escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE off Lands End to Bishop Rock at 1200 13th thence unescorted probably on the surface to 49° N. 06° W. at 9 knots. From here dived by day to southwards, daily advance- 106 miles.
 (F.O.S. 121709A.)

Enemy Your 111510A para. 6 following report received coastal from S.O. 8th M.G.B. Flotilla.
 battery. At 0232 lights on Alderney and Cap La Hague were switched on which seemed to indicate that shipping was expected.
 At 0240 guns situated very close and a little to west of Cap La Hague opened fire on the unit which was cut in 302°. Gros Du Ruz light 6.6 miles. All splashes were not sighted appeared to be 4 gun salvos of medium calibre. Some splashes were 70 to 80 feet high. First two salvos extremely accurate not more than 10 yards from M.G.Bs. 111 and 75. Water and bits of shrapnel fell on board. No casualties or damage. 4 salvos were fired while unit was retiring.

/Considering...

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Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Enemy Coastal battery. (Contd.)
 Consideraing the size of the target and the range the gunfire was most accurate. As visibility was maximum and chance of surprise attack on any shipping that might appear was remote S.O. decided to retire. Force C. and E. nothing to report.
 (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 121031A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Operation S.F. SAVAGE turn over S.O. operation S.F. to SHIKARI and proceed to Scapa forthwith (2) OBEDIENT proceed to pass Switha 2030A today Sunday to Skaalefiord. On arrival act under orders of SHIKARI for operation S.F. Report L.T.A. to me before sailing.

(R.A.(D) H.F. 121403A.)

After completion of A/S repairs and two days instruction on A/S attack teacher intend to sail AMAZON to Scapa 1900 14th.
 2. Request you will sail her as convenient for operation SF. C. in C. W.A. 050949 refers.
 (C. in C. Rosyth 121450A to C. in C.H.F.)

Coastal patrols. 1. Orders for night 12/13th September.
 (A) M.T.Bs. 255, 247, 205 carry out offensive patrol of direct route between Le Havre and Cape Barfleur. Coast is not to be approached within five miles. Objective torpedo targets only including T.L.C. Type III. Proceed and return by passage four. Passing 4N for Nan not before 2200A and returning within 20 miles of own coast by 0645A.
 (B) GLAISDALE and LA COMBATTANTE carry out anti-E/Boat patrol on 50° 20' N. between 00° 20' W. and 01° 00' W. from 2130A until 0500A. (C) M.Ls. 292, 291, patrol G.Z.S. 384 between F. and E.A.5 buoys.
 (D) CHASSEUR 5 immediate notice at St. Helens.
 (E) M.G.Bs. 13, 7, 6 from Portland patrolling 50° 20' N. between 02° 00' W. and 02° 25'.

Communications and codewords.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 121446A.)

Dover dispositions for night of 12th/13th September.
 M.A.S.Bs. 38 and 29 from Ramsgate 11 miles S.E. of Dungeness E.T.D. A 1845 E.T.R. RX. 0715 route via No. 10 buoy each way
 M.G.Bs. 114, 116 and 118 from Ramsgate at "V" buoy E.T.D. 1945 E.T.R. 0615/13. M.G.Bs. 42, 41 and 43 9 miles South East of Dover E.T.D. 2015 E.T.R. 0545/13.
 (V.A. Dover, 121720A.)

Visibility permitting proceed Yarmouth be prepared to carry out patrols 7 and 6 respectively vice GARTH and WHITSHED if ordered by C. in C. Nore. GARTH revert to normal Notice for Steam. WHITSHED enter Harwich if visibility permits.

(Capt. (D) 16 121746A to CAMPBELL, COTTESMORE.)

/Your...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal Patrols (Contd.) Your 121746A. Visibility nil. Intend to remain here unless ordered to carry out patrol 7. (CAMPBELL, 121949A to Capt. (D) 16.) Your 121446A* part 1 (A) M.T.B. 249 returned due to engine defects. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 122120A to C. in C. Portsmouth)
* Re:- orders for night 12/13 September.
QUORN, COTTESMORE, CAMPBELL carry out number 5, 6 and 7 patrols respectively when visibility permits. (C. in C. Nore, 122221A to QUORN, COTTESMORE, CAMPBELL, S.E.E.C.C.D., Capt. (D) 16th Capt. (D) 21st. To shore Authorities in the U.K. concerned.)

A/S offensive in Denmark Strait. C. in C. H.F. 111229*. With aircraft now available in Iceland air situation cannot be achieved unless all Iceland based aircraft are withdrawn from Moorings.
2. If all Iceland based aircraft are available the whole area would be swept every hour and a half throughout the 24 hours, but operation in, Denmark Strait area is unlikely to be as effective as Moorings because (1) probable track of U/Boats is not so well known. (2) weather conditions are not so suitable and with the approaching winter season will deteriorate rapidly. (3) no alternative landing grounds are available to which long range aircraft can be diverted.
3. Efficiency will also be reduced by the long hours of darkness observing that no searchlight aircraft are available in Iceland.
4. Suggest in the first instance position of square be centred 066° 20' N. 025° 44' W. with Axis 030°. This would give surface craft opportunity of a periodical firing by Saebol Radar in N.E. of area.
5. It is very doubtful if Q.Z.X.363 which was laid more than 2 years ago remains a serious menace but ships should not deliberately enter it.
(A.C.I.C. 121458A to C. in C.H.F., H.Q.C.C.)* Re use of Denmark Strait as exit route for U/Boats.

Enemy Air Activity.

ULA's report. S/M ULA (P.66) reports, (A) 0854/6, one Dornier 26 or 18 in 69° 54' N. 14° 15' E. course 320° and (B) Similar aircraft course 050° at 1715/6. (C) 1636/8 one Ju. 88 course 130° in 65° 22' N. 06° 41' E. (D) 9th Sept. unidentified A/C course 210° in 63° 56' N. 04° 22' E. (F.O.S. 121144A.)

WINCHELSEA damaged. Convoy Clasp is being shadowed by one enemy aircraft at 280° 20. Position 44.55 N. 18.15 W. based on a "Fix" within half an hour of 1300. Course 204°, Speed 8. (S.O. Convoy Clasp, 121645Z.)

/My...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

WINCHELSEA My 121645 2 aircraft shadowing.
damaged. (S.O. Convoy "Clasp", 121659Z.)
(Contd.) Enemy A/C bombing.
(S.O. Convoy "Clasp," 121745Z.)
O.G.93/K.M.S.26. No damage to convoy.
WINCHELSEA near miss further report when extent
of damage is known. Bombing at 12,000 feet by 3 to 4 F.W.
200 with possibly one He. 177.
My position 044° 35' N. 018° 29' W. 180° 8 knots. Weather
report 4488 0585.
(B.4. 121901Z.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy 1. Report of Soviet coverage Kaa Lang Fjords
main at 1600A Sept. 12th shows TIRPITZ and SCHARNHORST
units. and 8 destroyers in Kaa Fjord. LUTZOW not seen.
2. Oblique photographs taken. Own attempt at
above R/C made earlier in day unsuccessful owing
to weather. 3. Intend to cover Narvik for
LUTZOW when weather permits subject to photographs confirming
paral.1.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 122015A.) Note: Passed F.O.S. & H.Q.C.C.
by War Reg.

Navigational.

Harwich. Port closed owing to fog.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 121807A.)

Casualties and Defects.

BRITISH BRITISH VALOUR and EXANTHIA arrived Clyde with
VALOUR, Collision damage.
EXANTHIA. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 120646A.)

Shipping and Convoys.

FORT BABINE. X.K.11. My 111503* Admt. 112150.
(1) FORT BABINE, PROSPEROUS, SCHELDT are to be
detached with LANCE, FANTOME and escorts.
(2) Destination of FORT BABINE is Milford Haven
to exchange tug. (3) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to arrange
escort for FORT BABINE from Scilly Isles if considered necessary.
(C. in C.W.A., 121046A.)* Instructions for FORT BABINE.

K.M.F.24. My 101157A September. Code word "Label" sailed.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 121100A.)

P.W./W.P. Reference C. in C. Portsmouth 111238A it is hoped
convoys. that Portsmouth destroyers will continue to assist
in the escorts of P.W. and W.P. convoys, as their
removal will seriously affect the strength of

/escorts...

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12.9.1943.

Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

P.W./W.P. escorts to convoys, and other operations in the
Convoys. Western Channel.
(Contd.) (C. in C. Plymouth, 121320A to Admty.)

U.T.2. Your 072225A and 111453A. Position of convoy
U.T.2 at 1857Z 12th 053° 04' N. 025° 17' W.
Arriving position G. 2000Z 14th. Expected time
of arrival sections as follows all times G.M.T. on
15th. Clyde 0600 Belfast 0400. Mersey 1100. Bristol
Channel 2100. WINOOSKI is escort tanker and will accompany
battleship and destroyers to Belfast unless otherwise directed.
(C.T.F.67, 121614Z to Admty.)

C.W.208. Visibility in Dover Area nil. Anchor C.W.208
as convenient in swept channel in Knob area
acknowledge.
(C. in C. Nore, 121647A.)

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12.9.1943.

Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

F.O. Vice-Admiral Sir Harold Burrough has assumed
Gibraltar. duties of F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 120001B to Admty., etc.)

U/B attacked Am over enemy submarine in position JPRV 3833
by A/C (indecipherable). Enemy S/M previously reported
HAARLEM and was on surface when first sighted was on course
HYACINTH. 090° speed estimated 15 knots.
(A/C 179 Sqn. Duty 'P' via Plymouth, 120053B
to Gib. W/T.)
Have attacked U-Boat with depth charge. U-Boat
on surface 35.30 N. 03.28 W.
(A/C 179 Sqn. Duty 'P', 120105^B to Gib. W/T.) = 2305/11 GMT.
Am over enemy submarine in 35.17 N. 03.20 W.
(A/C NIP/J, 120119Z to Gib. W/T.)
Escorting enemy submarine on surface, 35° 28' N. 03° 21' W.
can see target in moonlight.
(A/C 179 Sqn. Duty 'P', 120145B to Gib. W/T.)
Enemy submarine making for neutral waters 35° 25' N. 03° 21'
W. Course 180. Speed 2 knots.
(A/C 179 Sqn. Duty 'P', 120205 to Gib. W/T.)
U/B on surface apparently disabled, 35° 25' N. 03° 20' W.
(A/C 179 Sqn. Duty 'P', 120300B to Gib. W/T.)
Over U-Boat, course 090°, 2 knots.
(A/C 'P' 179 Sqn., 120345B to Gib. W/T.)
Am over enemy S/M in 35.13 N. 03.18 W. sighted on surface.
(? A/C 179 Sqn. Duty 'P', 120745B to Gibraltar.)
Submarine beached.
(A/C via Gibraltar W/T, 120750B.)
Have attacked U-Boat with bombs and depth charges 047° N.
Estimate 2 hits.
(A/C via Gibraltar W/T, 120755B.)
U/B sunk aground 35° 15' N. 03° 20' W.
(? A/C 179 Sqn. Duty 'P' via Gibraltar, 120755B to
Gibraltar.)
Following read: Have attacked U-Boat on surface position
035° 13' N. 003° 18' W. apparently disabled.
(Gibraltar W/T, 120825B.)
Following read: Have attacked U-Boat with bombs, and is
on surface position 035° 58' N. 003° 18' W. apparently disabled.
(Gibraltar W/T, 120836B.)
U-Boat destroyed and left burning.

(2) Am returning to R/V position. Weather report.
(HAARLEM, 121100B to F.O.C. Gibraltar.)
W.D. Note - See also Gibraltar Air Report, 121415B.
At 0105B September 12th searchlight Wellington attacked
and disabled U-Boat in position 35.30 N. 03.28 W.
2. U-Boat made for territorial waters and beached in position
35.13 N. 03.29 W. During passage and whilst grounded one
Wellington, six Hudsons and two Swordfish aircraft attacked.
HAARLEM completed destruction by gunfire leaving U-Boat burning.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 121801B to Admty., C. in C. Med., A, B.)
HYACINTH also bombarded, see 151010B.

/T.G. 21.15 ...

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12.9.1943.

Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

T.G. 21.15. We re-encypher Comtaskgroup 21.15's 111835 action to Cinclant, Info. to Commorseafon, Cominch, C.T.G. 21.11, C.T.F.66, passed to you for information (begins). Extensive air search my 091445 (N.T. in W.R.) negative. Proceeding support Taskforce 66 and fuel destroyers arriving 24.40 N. 20.40 W. dawn/12th. Weather. 1800Z position 36 N. 23 W. (Commorseafon, 120500B to F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med., Admty., Comnavnaw.)

U/Bs. Your 111406, para. 1. (Estimated positions if U/Bs.) Request details of sighting at 0743Z/9. U-Boat D/F'd at 0449/11 is believed here to have been in this area since 6th when PUCKERIDGE was sunk. There has been one other D/F and one sighting between Alboran and Gibraltar in this time. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 121027B to Admty.)

Your 121027B. Sighting by aircraft A/179 reported in Gibraltar Opsum. time of origin 101600B in enemy sighting section as one at 0843 in 36.11 N. 07.07 W. course 105°, 10 knots. If not considered reliable enemy report please notify Admiralty.

(D.D.I.C., 122006A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

Reply: S/M was ULTIMATUM.

(F.O. Gib., 131010.)

ACTIVE,
ANTHONY.

ACTIVE and ANTHONY arrived now refuelling. Will depart 1900A/12th to comply with F.O.C. Gibraltar's 112312B and 041245B.

(Commorseafon, 121315B to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) ALBATROSS, NESS, F.O.C.W.Af., ACTIVE, ANTHONY, Admty.)

Gibraltar
Air Report.

Second part my A.I.425, T.O.O. 121300.

(A) P/179 (B) 2039 (C) 0445 (D) 2157 (E) attacked U-Boat, Sec. ZE refers. (F) A/S (G) XMNJ 1853-XMFZ 4340-JPFZ 1340 JPQH 3020.

(A) HB 179 (B) 1805-2020 (C) 0524 or 01512?-

0640. (D) 2215 - 2346 (E) 0030 - 0207 (F) A/S (G) SFYI0000 or SFYTO700?-RJYT 3000-PJAV 3030-SFAV0030 0030 (ZE).

P.179 - 0003 or 0053? - night M.P.111 - 35.30 N. 03.28 W. 090° 15, grey 740 ton, wide oval C/T, stopped bearing fig. 18-1. gun aft - illuminated and attacked, surfaced 0° red. U-Boat opened fire 1/4 mile, A/C not hit, did not return fire, 6 x 250 lb. torpex, spaced 60 ft. from 30-40 or 42? ft. straddle across C/T. 3 D/Cs each side. U-Boat remained surfaced apparently disabled surrounded with oil and continued firing, 2 1/2 miles range. After 1/2 hour U-Boat S/C 180°, 2 knots with P.179 circling overhead until relief Wellington arrived.

(H.Q. R.A.F. Gibraltar, 121415B.)

/EDERA ...

War Diary.12.9.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

EDERA. Italian steamer EDERA at Ferrol has now armed guard on board.
(Guyatt, Corunna, 121615B to B.N.A. Madrid, (R) Admty., S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)

U/B attacked. Following read. A/C attacked U-Boat 121400A 30.40 N. 11.00 W.
(Casablanca, 121618.)

MALOJA. Due to leave Genoa for Gibraltar about 12th Sept. Swiss MALOJA 1788 g.t., speed 9 knots, routed to 042° 20' N. 008° 00' E. thence Cape San Sebastian, thence coastwise Gibraltar.
Not to be molested on this voyage, carries National colour and Switzerland on hull.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 121621B to CASABIANCA.)

CURIE. Intend to sail French S/M CURIE on the surface for Algiers p.m. September 14th routed:
R. 180° Cape Calaburras 10 at 0250/15th. Q. 180° Cape de Gata 10 at 1550/15th and unless otherwise ordered by Capt. (S) 8.
P. 135° Cape Palos 10 at 0230/16th.
2. Capt. (S) 8th is requested to assume operational control at 1550/15th speed 10 knots until 0800/15th 9 knots thereafter.
3. Gibraltar broadcast west of Greenwich meridian Malta broadcast east of Greenwich shifting to read M.S. routine.
All times zone minus 2.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 121719B to C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 8, (R) CURIE, 8th S/M Flot., V.A. Malta, S.O. Force H, N.O.I.C. Oran, N.O.I.C. Algiers.)

DESPATCH. Present position 028° 29' N. 014° 49' W., E.T.A. 0930Z/14th.
(DESPATCH, 121801Z to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

Italian Fleet Units. At Port Mahon and Pollenza.
(P.R.U. Gibraltar, 121835Z.)
See Mediterranean.

MARIA VIRGINIA. Portuguese fishing vessel MARIA VIRGINIA will carry out whale fishing exercises off Portuguese coast beginning 14th. She has usual Portuguese fishing vessel markings but is armed with Harpoon guns.
(N.A. Lisbon, 121842A to S.O.(I) Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)

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12.9.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

U.G.S. 16. Onward route from Q.B.A.87 to 036° 01' 005° 21' 036° 10' 003° 00', 035° 56' 000° 50', 036° 52' 001° 15' E., 036° 53' 003° 05' E. letters CR to CV all positions north and west unless otherwise stated.

S. of A. to be adjusted to pass positions CR, CT and CV at 0800B Sept. 13th, 0900B Sept. 14th, 1017B Sept. 15th where Gibraltar Oran and Algiers section join and leave. Onward routes will be signalled by C. in C. Med.

Ships bound for Casablanca are to be detached in accordance with C.M.S.F.'s 111536.

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 111846B to S.E.C. U.G.S.16 for Cdre., (R) Admty., N.O.I.C. Algiers, C. in C. Med., C.M.S.F., N.O.B. Oran.)

P. 614
U/Bs.

Possibly 6 U-Boats eastbound in your vicinity.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 122143B to P.14 - presumably P.614 intended.)

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12.9.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- W.S. 33. Following is a repetition of my 092226Z (begins). Arrivals 9th Sept. NESS, BULLDOG, BANN, HYDRANGEA, WESTON, TOTLAND with W.S.33. (Ends). (S.O.(I) Freetown, 120415Z to Admty., etc.)
- M.Ls. for Durban. M.Ls. 381, 831, 832, 846 escorted by VIRGINIA sailed 0640B/12th Sept. for Durban calling Port Elizabeth 13th Sept. and East London 16th Sept. Route coastal, S. of A. 12 knots, E.T.A. Port Elizabeth 1700B/13th Sept.
- My 311237 August and 071151 Sept. not to N.L.O. Port Elizabeth or N.L.O. East London refers. M.Ls. require 3000 gallons 87 octane aviation spirit on arrival Port Elizabeth. (C. in C. S.A., 121123B to N.L.O. Port Elizabeth, N.L.O. East London, Admty., C. in C. E.F., etc.)
- D.C. 43A. Sailing telegram. (4 ships and LORRAINE). (2) 1200Z/12th Sept. (4) 13 knots PD. (Route). (6) PLYM, TAY, KALE. (10) 15 knots HIGHLAND MONARCH, 15 knots PARDO, 14 knots ARAWA, all to River Plate. 15½ knots ROWALLAN CASTLE to Port Elizabeth, E.T.A. 1600Z/13th Sept. (13) Master HIGHLAND MONARCH (B) ARAWA. (15) M.W.D. 1 to 9, codeword "Service". B.D.G. LORRAINE also sailed in convoy for Capetown. (N.C.S.O. Durban, 121212Z to Admty., etc.)
- LORRAINE, D.C. 43A. Sailed F.S. LORRAINE in Convoy D.C.43A. N.C.S.O. Durban 121212 refers. (2) F.S. LORRAINE, TAY, KALE, PLYM, E.T.A. Capetown 0500Z/15th. (3) F.S. LORRAINE and escorts shift to W/T Group S.L. at 0001Z/13th. (Com. i/c Durban, 121232Z to Admty., C. in C.S.A., C. in C. E.F., N.L.O. Capetown.)
- LE CENTAUR. A.M. 071804. LE CENTAUR is expected Freetown for training purposes about 15th, future arrangements under discussion. Further signal will be made. (F.O.C.W.Af., 121744Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.)
- A/S Escorts for A.M.Cs. Your 012019. Concur in your provisional arrangements. (Head of M.II. Approved A.C.N.S.(F), 121806A to F.O.C.W.A.)

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12.9.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Operation "Avalanche".

C.S.12 C. in C. Med. Fleet's 111052 (Sailing 12 C.S. for Taranto) my 112249 for LIVELY read 12th Cruiser Squadron throughout. F.O.20th C.S. in C. in C. Med. Fleet's 111052 should read F.O.12th Cruiser Squadron repeat F.O.12th Cruiser Squadron. (N.O.i/c Malta 120231B to PATHFINDER).

Force "V" Sail forthwith with despatch by Q.B.B.146 positions 283, 287 and Straits of Messina to R/V S.O. Force "U" off Salerno. Codeword "Nitwit" 914. (V.A. Malta 120705 to JERVIS, WISHART (R) HOWE, C. in C. Med. N.A.C.A.F. S.O. Force "U", N.L.O.211 Group, Capt.(D) 14., S.O. Force "A".

V.A. Malta's 120705. Return Malta. (S.O. Force "V" 121055B to Capt.(D) 14, (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta).

Your Force released. Operate in accordance with orders of C. in C. Med. Good luck and thank you again.

(N.C.W.T.F. 120808B to Cdr. Carrier Force "V" (R) 12th Air Support Command, C. in C. Med., S.O. Force "H", PALOMARES, ULSTER QUEEN).

Following is a repetition of my 120906 addressed Cdr. Carrier Force "V" (R) C. in C. Med. (M) S.O. Force "H", PALOMARES, ULSTER QUEEN from N.C.W.T.F. Begins: Send as many aircraft as you can spare to Base Ashore at Paestum. Landing ground 2 miles North of Roman Intersects.

(N.C.W.T.F. 120915B to PALOMARES, ULSTER QUEEN).

Your 0929 (N.T. in W.R.). Act under orders (?of) N.C.W.T.F.

(S.O. Force "V" 120945B to PALOMARES).

My P.C. and S are 040 degs. 05' North 014 degs. 34' East 200 degs. 14 knots.

(S.O. Force "V" 121005B to F.O.C.A.C. Captain (D) 14., CALPE).

My position at 1000 040 degs. 05' North 014 degs. 34' East course 200 degs. S. of A. 14 knots.

(S.O. Force "V" 121010B to Cdre. (N) CLEVELAND, O.R.P. KRAKOWIAK, N.O.i/c Palermo, SLAZAK).

E.T.A. boom 2000 with Force "V" 10 destroyers (corrupt group) (?to) oil. Acknowledge.

(S.O. Force "V" 121052B to U.S. N.O.B. Palermo).

N.C.W.N.T.F. 120808. Force "V" arrived Palermo this evening to oil destroyers. My P.C. and S at 1100 039 degs. 51' North 014 degs. 26' East 200 degs. 14.

(S.O. Force "V" 121057B to C. in C. Med.).

N.C.W.N.T.F. 120915 to Palomares 10 Seafire 2C and 16 Seafire L 2C landed Paestum 1430 today Sunday.

(S.O. Force "V" 121545B to N.C.W.N.T.F. (R) C. in C. Med. Force Q., R.A.A., F.O.H.).

Route for Force "V" from war channels through 79.40 12.64? 13.8 T.G. to Gibraltar.

(2) Request you will signal E.T.A. position 79 and speed of advance.

(C. in C. Med. 121926B to S.O. Force "V" (R) A.I.G.260 (negative S.N.O. Tripolitania F.O.Sy.) F.O.C. Gib. F.Os.i/c and N.Os.i/c North Africa (Oran to Tripoli).

/ Capt.D.14...

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12.9.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Operation "Avalanche" - Contd.

Force "V" Contd. Capt.D.14 take QUEENBOROUGH, TUMULT and WISHART under your orders and sail at 2359/12 for Malta. Route Westabout. Codeword "Rivers" priority low. Report E.T.A. to V.A. Malta.
(S.O. Force "V" 122300A to S.O. 14th D.F. (R) S.O. Force H., C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta).
Intend sailing with Force "V" at 0600 tomorrow Monday 13th Sept. to Bizerta.
(S.O.V. 122359 to C. in C. Med.).

Flag Appointments R.A. A.M. Peters will assume duties as F.O. Taranto area (F.O.T.A.) tomorrow 13th Sept. with H.Q. at Taranto. Intend responsible for establishing and operating ports of Taranto, Brindisi and Bari.

(2) V.A. A.J. Power has been designated by Allied C. in C. as temporary Head of the Allied Military Mission for Administration of Italian Govt.

(3) For convenience in communications he will retain title of S.O.Z. Third Division first Battle Squadron will no longer be known as Force Z.

(C. in C. Med. 120831B to Med. Station, Levant Station, 143B.).

Rear Admiral A.M. Peters will hoist his flag on shore at Taranto as F.O. Taranto Area at 0800 Monday 13th Sept.

(C. in C. Med. 120957B to Admty. C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, S.O. Force H., R.A.V. (R) F.O.T.A.).

Request following may be generally promulgated. Flag of S.O.2nd in Command Force H transferred to HOWE. Signals and correspondence are to be routed accordingly.

(S.O.2nd in Command Force H 121132B to C. in C. Med. C. in C. Med. (A) (R) Admty. S.O. Force H.).

Montecorvino Montecorvino still under bombardment (?but) should not be used except for forced landing. Pilot forced landing should be warned to quit aircraft immediately on arrival and prepare to disperse as soon as artillery ceases fire. Have decided to remain temporarily.

(N.L.O. Advanced Landing Ground 120930B to U.S.S. ARCON (R) S.O. Force "V", F.O. Force "H").

NUBIAN Ammunition requirements could not be satisfied at Palermo, proceed to Augusta or Malta to complete. Returning Salerno on completion.
(Cdre. N.7. 121108 to NUBIAN (R) C.S.15, F.O.i/c Sicily, V.A. Malta).

Hunt destroyers (Group missed) disembarkation (2 groups missed) will sail L.S.I. and VILLE D'ORAN with all Hunt class destroyers to Augusta. VILLE D'ORAN to detach off Augusta and proceed Malta escorted by WHEATLAND, WILTON.
VILLE D'ORAN
L.S.I.
WHEATLAND
WILTON. (C. in C. Med. 121115 to (Corrupt group) (group missed) (R) N.O.i/c Augusta etc.).

/Do...

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War Diary.12.9.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Operation "Avalanche" - Contd.

Hunt
destroyers
VILLE D'ORAN
L.S.I.
WHEATLAND
WILTON.
Contd.

Do not expect majority of Hunts of Force "V" will have received sufficient oil before morning to take themselves further than Malta.
(S.O. Force "V" 122029B to C. in C. Med.).

Force H

As soon as Destroyers of Force "H" have had 24 hours in harbour they are to proceed to Augusta, whence one division is to operate against coastal traffic north of Naples each night as ordered by

C. in C. Med.

14th Destroyer Fleet will take (WARSPITE?) VALIANT and Carrier to Gibraltar and return.

(C. in C. Med. 121455B to S.O. Force "H" (R) N.C.W.T.F. N.O.i/c Malta., Capt.(D) 4, Capt.(D) 24, Capt.(D) 14, Capt.(D) 8.).

Taranto
bombed.

Enemy aircraft bombing.
(Taranto 121745Z to ?Malta).

D.Ds. and
O.D.Ds.

A.M. 091613 September.

Cominch has informed 1st S.L. that the 15 D.Ds. and three O.D.Ds. can, so far as can be foreseen at present, be left in the Mediterranean a sufficient length of time to assist in the

"Avalanche" build up. Cominch will endeavour to give 1 month's notice before they are withdrawn.

(2) As a result of above decision, the closing of the U.G.S.-G.U.S. convoy cycle will have to be deferred until such time as new construction coming into service will permit the establishment of the two additional escort Groups required.

(D.O.D.(F) Approved V.C.N.S. 121955A to C. in C. Med., (R) C. in C. Med. (A)., B.A.D.).

PENELOPE
PATHFINDER
PANTHER

Sail at 0600B/13th to Augusta PENELOPE, PATHFINDER PANTHER. S. of A. 25 knots routed from Taranto approach channel. 038 degs. (253') North 017 degs. 38' East 037 degs. 55' North 016 degs. 35' East and position 277 thence Augusta approach channel E.T.A. 1600B/13th priority normal codeword "Prince" (N.O.i/c Taranto 122215B to AURORA, PENELOPE, (R) PATHFINDER, C. in C. Med. F., PANTHER, F.O.T.A., F.O.C.12th C.S., F.O.Sy., N.O.i/c Augusta, Capt.(D) 19th, N.L.O. 211 Group).

HILARY and
destroyers

Request you will send destroyers addressed to close HILARY for orders a.m. 13th. They are required for bombardment.

(Cmdre. Commanding N 122322B to C.T.F.89 (R) BLENCATHRA, EGGESFORD, C.T.F.80, C.S.15.).

Situation
Report 179.

C. in C. Med. 122236.
(See Mediterranean General).

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12.9.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Disposition of Italian Fleet.

UNRIVALLED. My 101158B P.C. and S. at 0600/12th 038° 56' 018°
(8 M/Vs from Bari.) 35' 206° 6 knots. Arrive position B. of Q.B.B.
147 at 0800/14th (corrupt group) T.A.49 join
convoy.

(P.45 (UNRIVALLED) 120430B to Capt. S.10, (R)
C. in C.Med.)

Your 120430. Stick it. Escorts will be sent when they can be
spared.

(Capt. S.10, 120605B to P.45 (UNRIVALLED) (R) C. in C.Med.)

UNSHAKEN,
MENOTTI.

UNSHAKEN reports at 1442/5 in 40° 36' N. 18° 8' E.
fired 4 torpedoes at 7000 ton tanker in ballast
one hit.

2. At 1900/9 in 39° 51' 19° 4' stopped northbound
Italian submarine MENOTTI by firing shot across
bows. Machine gun fire was returned but UNSHAKEN adjusted course
to fire torpedoes. Machine gun-fire stopped and an army party
was placed on board and MENOTTI escorted to Malta.

(S.10, 120645 to C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant, V.A.Malta, Capt. S.1,
Capt. S.8, (R) F.O.S. Admty. R.A.Alexandria.)

UNSHAKEN arrived.

(V.A.M. 120733 to Admty. C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant, S.1, S.8)

Units in
Brindisi.

One cruiser Italian light cruiser SCIPIONE
AFRICANO (?8) T.B. one unseaworthy S/M in Brindisi.
Authorities insist warships are granted permission
to stay in harbour. 6 merchant ships sailed for
Taranto at 0030B/12th speed 6 knots by coastal
route. Shore party received enthusiastic welcome.
(O.R.P, SOKOL 120920 to Capt. S.10, (R) C. in C.
Med. (M).)

Battle Sqdn.
at Malta.

Request you will sail Italian Squadron so as to
reach long. 020° 00' E. at 1030C Sept. 13th. C. in
C.Med. 111833.

(C. in C.Levant 120948 to V.A.Malta, (R) C. in C.
Med. R.A.H. (?S.O.Force H.) Capt. D.8.)

Take HOWE, KING GEORGE V and destroyers of 8th Flotilla less
ECLIPSE, ILEX and INGLEFIELD under your orders and sail at 1800/
12th to escort Italian Squadron as in C. in C.Med. 111833 to
Alexandria. 2. S.O.A. 20 knots. 3. Route by Q.B.B. 123 (B)
position 212, 235, 242 to 033° 00' N. 020° (712') E. at 1245/15th
then as ordered by C. in C.Levant. 4. Codeword "Sampler" (corrupt)
priority high and A/S.

(V.A.Malta 120952 to S.O.92) Force H, (R) C. in C.Med. C. in
C.Med. (A), C. in C.Levant, N. & A.Authorities Tripolitania,
N. & A.Authorities Western Desert, Capt. D.8th, HOWE, KING
GEORGE V, 8th D/F Negative, ECLIPSE, ILEX, INGLEFIELD, N.L.O.
Misurata Sector, S.O.Force H.)

My 120952. Sailing postponed until 1445/13th amend E.T.A.
at position 033° 00' N. 020° 00' E. to read 0930B/14th.

(V.A.Malta 121219 to R.A.(H), etc.)

/C. in C.Med...

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Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Disposition of Italian Fleet.

Battle Sqdn. C. in C.Med.'s 111833 onward route for Italian
at Malta. Squadron from 020° 00' E. (?through) 352 at 1340/
(Contd.) 13th. 513, 5 miles north 337 through 510 2310/13th.
5 miles north 322 5 miles north 505 through 310
309 1100/14th.

2. Fighter and A/S defence high priority codeword

"Tryst".

3. All times C.

4. S.O.A. 20 knots.

5. Shifting to Libyan broadcast at 1300 Sept. 13th.

(C. in C.Levant 121216C to R.A.H. S.O.Force H, Naval and
Air Authorities Western Desert, Naval and Air Authorities
Tripolitania, V.A.Malta, C. in C.Med. Admty. N.O.I.C.
Alexandria, Cdre. D. D.8, Ships escorting convoy M.K.S.25,
30th D.F. X.T.2.)

CAGNI.

Italian S/M CAGNI is in the Indian Ocean and has
received orders to make for Colombo holding to the
terms of Armistice.
(S.O.Force Z 121241 to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med.
C. in C.E.F.)

Orders for
ships making
for Port
Mahon.

Admty. pass to Algiers.
Algiers reports possibly more Italian warships,
making for Port Mahon. Trying to get them to
leave again immediately. You can state orders
are (from?) Italian C. in C. If no fuel say (they
will?) refuel at sea.
(Madrid 121314B to Consuls Port Puerto, Mahon,
Palma, Admty. C. in C.Med.)

Units at
Port Mahon
and Pollenza.

A. 830 12 Sept. P.R.U. Gib. W. 1/12 Sept. Gib./
G.13/11 Sept. Sortie G.503 dated 12 Sept. time 1030
shows Port Mahon. Italian Naval Units present are
one REGOLO Class Cruiser and three AVIERO/ORIANI
Class Destroyers together in midstream at Western
extremity of Mahon Creek. One Spanish CHURRUCA
Destroyer at Town Quays. Pollenza Bay. One Italian ORSA Class
Torpedo Boat being towed in midstream by a Spanish JUPITER
Minelayer. One Naval Unit 275 seen leaving the Bay on East Course.
A.831 12 Sept. P.R.U. Gib. W.1/12 Sept. Gib. G.13/11 Sept. Sortie
G.503 12 Sept. time 1030 shows Majorca Palma no Naval Units present.
(P.R.U.Gibraltar 121835Z.)

SPORTSMAN
Survivors
off Sardinia.

At 121717 in 041° 36' 007° 12' rescued 44 survivors
from 2 Italian destroyers sunk off Sardinia 9th
Sept. Probably more in the vicinity drifting
westward.
(SPORTSMAN 122031B to Capt. S.8, (R) C. in C.Med.)

Situation
Report.

C. in C.Med. 122232B to Cositintrep given in
Mediterranean General. *p 387*

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Disposition of Italian Fleet - Contd.

MIRAGLIA,
GIULIO
CESARE.

R/V with Italian Aviation Transport and Tender MIRAGLIA and GIULIO CESARE in position 090° Cape Passero 10 miles at 0730/13th and lead them to Malta by Q.B.B. 146. Ships sailed from Taranto at 1400/12th. Codeword "Spirit Level" priority normal.

(V.A.Malta 122354 to JONQUIL, (R) C. in C.Med. F.O.Sy. Bougie, 211 Group, N.O.I.C. Taranto.)

ISIS to
escort S/Ms.

Following is a repetition of my 121107B (on arrival ISIS request you will sail her Bizerta, N.T. in W.D.) (begins):

V.A.Malta repeated ISIS, N.O.I.C. Bone, Capt. S.10th F.O.I.C. Tunisia from C. in C.Med. My 112255 ISIS is to proceed Bone and escort all Italian S/Ms there to Malta. (Ends.)

(C. in C.Med. 122359B to V.A.Malta, (R) ISIS, N.O.I.C. Bone, Capt. S.10th, F.O.I.C. Tunisia.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General.

HAMBLEDON HAMBLEDON sailed at 0100 September 12th route L. Codeword "Globe". HAMBLEDON to signal E.T.A. at position C.B. N.C.W.T.F.'s 111411B(N.T. in W.D.) refers.
(N.O.I.C. Tunisia, 120120B to C.T.F., N.O.I.C. Aden, C. in C. Med. N.C.W.T.F., C.T.G.85.9, 242 Group, C.T.G.80.5).

INTREPID, ECHO, RAIDER, G.T.X. Sail at 0800 today Sunday and anchor in area B. Acknowledge.
(Capt. (D) or S.O. 8th D.F., 120227B to INTREPID, ECHO, RAIDER (R) Ships escorting convoy G.T.X. N.O.I.C. Malta).

U/B Am over enemy submarine in position ?34.47 or 14.47 JPRU ERRU (sic) JP = 35 N. RU = 4 W.
(A/C 03 RL, 120745 to T.O.8).

DOLFIJN, SIMOOM. P.47 (DOLFIJN) operating north of a line 225° from Spezia.
P.225 (?SIMOOM) proceeding west of Elba to operate south of above line but north of 043° (R) 043°. Both S/Ms keep east of 008° E.
All ships north of 043° N., may be attacked except those referred to in para. G of my 0902(?40).
(Capt. (S) 8, 120758B to 8 S/M F. (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.C. Gibraltar, Force H).

U/B P.C. and S. of one enemy S/M on surface are 37.748 N., 8.40 E. 220° 8 knots.
(A/C TBV via Malta W/T, 120855 to Base 79P).

CASABIANCA Following from Naval France No. 50418. Departure 10th D.C.T. delayed. Attempt landing in port Ajaccio. Pilot will await you from 2200B midway Muro and Sanguinaires. Recognition letter from pilot will be P your reply to be F. Ends.
(Capt. (S) 8, 120940B to CASABIANCA).
Report situation with regard to approaches and in port Ajaccio as convenient.
(2) Information received that area between (bounded by) St. Florent and Ajaccio is safe and green rocket and light signal may be expected by day and night.
(Capt. (S) 8, 122218B to CASABIANCA).

LE FANTASQUE, LE TERRIBLE. 1. LE FANTASQUE, LE TERRIBLE now leaving Algiers 0800/13 speed over 30 knots, leaving lat. 042° N. early a.m./14th and returning Algiers.
2. If LE FANTASQUE wishes to communicate with CASABIANCA by W/T she will do so through Algiers C.C.O. and Capt. (S) 8, in British surface ship
(Corsica)

/cypher...

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LE FANTASQUE, cypher. Capt. (S) 8 will recypher and pass to
LE TERRIBLE CASABIANCA in table Discourage.
(Contd). (Capt. (S) 8, 121002B to 8th S/M F. CASABIANCA,
(R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. Med. (A). N.O.I.C.
Algiers).

My 121002 FANTASQUE and TERRIBLE passing through
041° 01' N., 006° 50' E. at 2030/13th thence so as to arrive
destination 0001/14th leaving that area about 0200 14th to return
Algiers by reverse route.
(Capt. (S) 8, 121912B to 8th S/M F. CASABIANCA).

PRINCE CHARLES, PRINCE CHARLES escorted by LEDBURY proceeding to
LEDBURY. Augusta 1200/12th for fuel. S. of A. 18 knots
E.T.A. 1900. Sailing on completion to R/V convoy
off Augusta.
(PRINCE CHARLES, 121004 to N.O.I.C. Augusta (R)
C. in C. Med. F.O. Sicily, V.A. Malta, A.H.Q. Malta)

Enemy Units. My 1022 (N.T. in W.D). Enemy previously reported
one M.V. 8000 tons one M.V. 3000 tons.
(A/C HTV/P via Malta W/T, 121025B).

L.S.Ts. In order to speed up turn round of L.S.T.
particularly those working to Tripoli you at
discretion sail empties independently along
established routes. 2 laden L.S.Ts. may sail
independently between Africa and Sicily and should be assembled
into escorted convoys in Messina - Milazzo area and Palermo - Ter-
mini area.
(C. in C. Med., 121057B to (?N.C.)W.T.F., (R) S.N.O. Tripoli,
F.O. Tunisia, C.T.G. 85.9 F.O. Sy. Cdre. N. C.T.G., 89.1 S.N.O.R.A
C.T.F. 89).

U/B S/M on surface am over in 38.39 N., 9.22 E.
course 314° speed 8 knots.
(A/C FMT/I via Malta, 121117B to 45U).

Enemy Units. 2 enemy (?merchant vessels) 4,000 tons 40.28 N.
19.18 E.
(A/C FDO/S via Malta W/T, 121145Z to Base 7 WM).

MONTCALM. General Giraud has formally requested C. in C.
(Corsica) Allied Forces that Cruiser MONTCALM may come to
Algiers at once to assist exploitation in Corsica.
(C. in C. Med. (Algiers, 121213B to C. in C. Med.
(M), (R) F.O.C.W.Af).

/ANCON...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

ANCON.
ULSTER
QUEEN. Following is a repetition. My 121005 (N.T. in W.D.)
Addressed ULSTER QUEEN (R) ANCON, C.T.F.86, C.T.F.
85 C.T.F.89, PALOMARES from N.C.W.T.F. (begins):-
ANCON and ULSTER QUEEN designated radar Guard
Ship southern area pending repair of (SPARFRAY)?
and with radar. C.T.F.89 designated relief for
ANCON on her departure. (Ends).
(N.C.W.T.F., 121230B to ULSTER QUEEN, C.T.F.85,
PALOMARES).

G.U.F.10 Sailing telegram part 2. (details) .
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 121235Z to P.D.s New York,
Norfolk).

Enemy M/V Following read. P.C. and S. of enemy 1303C 3 M/V
1000 tons Syros.
(Malta, W/T, 121310Z).

M.K.S.25 M.K.S.25. Request you will sail (details).
(C. in C. Levant, 121312C, 130929C to N.O.I.C.
Alexandria, (R) Admty. etc)
Amend para. 3 of my 111945 (re R.A. Alexandria is
requested to sail M.K.S.25 a.m. Sept. 14th)
as follows. 340 0445/16th 3 miles north 346 1105/16th 033° 03' N.
020° 00' E. 0050/17th.
(C. in C. Levant, 121620C to S.E.C., M.K.S. 25, K.M.S.25, T.X.1,
Admty. etc).

Tugs A.M. 312210 Aug. para. 4. This can be arranged.
(C. in C. Med. 121313B to Admty. (R) C. in C.
E.F.)

JERVIS,
WISHART. JERVIS, WISHART, E.T.A. Palermo 2030.
(Capt. (D) 14, 121326 to S.O. Force V, N.O.I.C.
Palermo).

N.A.A.F.
Report. AV. 598E Sept. 12. N.W.A.A.F. Opsum 203.
N.W.A.C.A. 10 Sept. (Add) 1 U.S. Liberator on
U-boat hunt destroyed 1 D026, 2 D024 on water
72 miles West North West Caprara Point.
1 Hudson 1 Swordfish convoy escort.
11 Sept. 2 Baltimores 3 Marauders R/C West Coast Sardinia
Corsica and North Tyrrhenian Sea. 1 Marauder on R/C Italian
Naval Units reported at Port Mahon found no trace.
(H.Q.N.A.A.F., 121345B).

X.T.2 (1) Sailing telegram part 2.
(R.A.Alexandria, 121453C to C. in C. Levant,
Admty. etc).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

U.G.S.16. M.S.C.1 22 onward route. F.O.C. Gibraltar's 111846 refers.
2. A.8, B.9. S. of A. Gibraltar to Oran 7 knots.
3. From C.V.120 through 51,43,36,121,79. lettered DA to DE. War Channel 299, 293, 275, 212, 235, 355 letter DF to DL omitting DI, thence as ordered by C. in C. Levant.
4. Oran 93 1500 Sept. 14th Algiers local 1630/15th Bougie 036° 58' 005° 05' 0430/16th Bone 037° 11' 007° 38' 2000/17th Bizerta 119 1000/18th Tunis 123 1300/18th Malta 212 1500/19th.
6. "Dunnock" normal. 7. B. 8. HYACINTH (S.O.) SAKTOURIS, CESSNOCK CAIRNS, WOLBOROUGH, ROMEO, CUCKMERE and ALISMA, last 2 to Malta only.
(C. in C. Med., 121530B? to HYACINTH, S.E.C., U.G.S.16, (R) S.N.O.C.A. etc).

T.X.1 C. in C. Levant's 121046C (N.T. in W.D.) M.Ls. 384, 385 sailed 1545C to overtake and join T.X.1. M.L.384, 385 detach with section for Tobruk my 111503C (N.T. in W.D.) para. 2 refers.
(S.N.O. Cyrenaica, 121546C to Escort T.X.1 (R) C. in C. Levant etc).

8th Army H.Q. Main (8th)Army H.Q. Moving tomorrow 13th Sept. at Palmi. My W/T reception will be doubtful and transmission unpracticable from 130600 until 132000 or later.
(N.L.O. 8th Army Tripoli, 121554B to C. in C. Med. Fleet, S.O. Force H, S.O. Force V, S.H.A., 116, F.O. 2nd I/C Force H, N.O.I.C. Malta, C.S.15th, F.O.C. 12th C.S., N.L.O. 221 Group, N.L.O. 15th Group, (R) N.O.I.C. Messina, Catania, Augusta, Syracuse.)

Med. Air 12 Sept. 154523. Signed Eisenhower. Part 3. Report. Air. Cositintrep No. 64 11 Sept. N.W.A.A.F. night 10/11 Sept. 741 fighter sorties were flown over the beaches in the Salerno area and 120 enemy A/C were encountered during the day. All were fighter and fighter bombers 8 of which are claimed destroyed and two probably for the loss of 6 of our aircraft.
(Air C. in C. Med., T.O.O. Nil).

Warships Your 112247. Following are first priorities to return to U.K. Fleet Carrier ILLUSTRIOUS. and U.K. Destroyers QUILLIAM, QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, RAIDER, MENDIP, BLENCATHRA, HAMBLEDON.
(D.O.D. (F) Approved A.C.N.S. (F), 121722A to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O. Force H, V.A. Malta, R.A. Air).

/Intend...

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Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Warships
for Gibraltar
and U.K.
(contd).

Intend ILLUSTRIOUS flying flag of F.O.C. A/C Carriers, H.F., VALIANT, WARSPITE and 8 Fleets to sail p.m./13th so as to pass through war channel in daylight (?14) and arrive Gibraltar a.m./16th.

2. Fighters as arranged by C. in C. Med. (A) observing that ILLUSTRIOUS has few fighters on board.

3. V.A. Malta after consultation with F.O.C. A/C Carriers H.F. is requested to order the movements and inform necessary authority

4. C. in C. Med's 112247 (Re sailing of WARSPITE, VALIANT and 1 A/C carrier to Gibraltar) refers.
(S.O. Force H, 121801B as amended by 121005B (122005B intended?) to C. in C. Med. (R) C. in C. Med. (A), F.O.C. A/C Carriers H.F., N.O.I.C. Malta, Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, S.O. Force V, F.O. 2nd in Command Force H).

Ships
available
for N.C.W.T.F.

In view of your 121036 (N.T. in W.R.) cancel my 121130 (N.T. in W.R.) WHADDON, EGGESFORD (?), LAUDERDALE, LAMERTON, BLENCATHRA will remain available to you but may be required at Malta on 6th for escorts of T.S.S. 5. Further signal will be sent.

2. It is intended to retain OAKLEY on arrival with ABERCROMBIE for escorts of N.S.S.2 with DULVERTON, TETCOTT, BELVOIR. (C. in C. Med., 121809 to N.C.W.T.F., (R) Comnabsic, WHADDON, OAKLEY, N.O.I.C. Tunisia, S.O. Force N, DULVERTON, C.T.F.89, ?Com. N.O.B. Oran).

R/V as ordered by S.O. and sail 1200B/13th to Bizerta.
Route B for Baker Avon 2. Speed 20 knots. E.T.A. daylight 14th codeword "Isabel" 397.

(Cdre. N. 122033B to WHADDON, EGGESFORD, LAUDERDALE, LAMERTON, BLENCATHRA, (R) C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Tunisia, C.T.F.89, C.W.N.T.F., F.O.Sy. M.A.C., N.A.C.A.F., N.A.T.A.F)
Your 121417 (N.T. in W.R.) OAKLEY should escort ABERCROMBIE to Bizerta. WHADDON return to assault area and report to N.C.W.T.F. (C. in C. Med., 122318 to C.T.U. 89.1.1. (R) N.C.W.T.F.)

U.G.S.,
G.U.S.
convoys.

Cycle. 122029B. See "Avalanche".

Situation
Report No.
179.

(1) An airfield having been established ashore at Paestum Force V has withdrawn and is proceeding to Gibraltar.

(2) Salerno port open a.m./11th Sept. 3 coasters and 4 L.S.T. berths available in harbour now with another coaster berth later, beach for 12 (L.S.T.) also available. A/A defence installed. Good workshops and E-boat building yards.

(3) U.S. Cruiser PHILADELPHIA slightly damaged when enemy aircraft crashed alongside. U.S. Destroyer ROWAN reported sunk by E-boat attack while escorting convoy. Both on 11th Sept.

/(4)...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation
Report No.
179.
(contd).

(4) A demonstration was carried out in the Gaeta (area?) during the night 11/12th Sept. by U.S. Ship KNIGHT and coastal forces with the object of containing enemy reserves in that area.

(5) 7 L.S.I. (M. and S) sailed Bizerta p.m./11th Sept. with reinforcements for Taranto.

(6) Italian destroyers LIBRA and ORIONE proceeded from Bone to Malta p.m./11th Sept. 14 U-boats (Italian) are now in Allied ports and at least 3 others known to be en route.

(7) HAARLEM proceeded 0254/12th to destroy damaged U-boat reported stranded in 035° 13' N., 003° 29' W.

(C. in C. Med. 122236 to Admty).

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Sunday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Tugs,
M.L's.

Para. A. of A.M. 051839 1 Tug expected to be ready for shipment from Calcutta October and one November.

(2) Para. B operational commitments in other areas make it unlikely that any M.L's will be available for many months to come.

(C. in C. E.F. 120518Z to Admty.)

LYMAN
STEWART
attacked
by U/B
7th Sept.

With reference to my 070551 and 091515 following are details of U-Boat attacks on LYMAN STEWART at 0435Z on Sept. 7th first attack in 3 degs.

30' N. 75 degs. nil mins. E. One torpedo hit out of 4 or 5 fired but did not explode.

Three hours after this attack in position 3 degs. 32' N. 74 degs. 41' E. periscope was sighted on 9th at 0400Z a third possible attack

in 7 degs. 25' N. 73 degs. 12' E. No damage sustained.
(C. in C. E.F. 120608Z to Admty.)

VITA.

C. in C. Levant 041349 requests approval to discharge a Nursing Sister to U.K. in H.S.VITA, no knowledge here of VITA returning to U.K.

Request confirmation that as soon as she can

be spared from Levant VITA will be returned to Eastern Fleet.
(C. in C. E.F. 120632Z to C. in C. Levant, (R) Admty.)Convoy
M.A.4.

Sailing telegram (2 ships). (2) 0640Z/12th September. (4) 9 knots. (5) Coastal.

(6) BOMBAY, AGRA.

(N.C.S.O. Madras, 120646Z, 120652Z to Admty.)

B.P.95.
B.M.15.

(1) Para. 6 my 031202Z and 081135Z sailing of B.P.95 delayed 48 hours. Now sails 16th Sept.

(2) Para. 4 revised date of sailing of B.M.15 Bombay Colombo is now 16th Sept.

(P.S.T.O.India, 120712Z to C. in C. E.F.)

W.S.32.

Following is repetition of my 101223Z (Previously received undecypherable). (Begins) Arrival

EMERALD with W.S.32 (Ends.)

(S.O.(I) Bombay, 121051Z to Admty.)

Vizagapatam,
dock,
Escort base.

Admty. are negotiating for a dock of 4500 tons lifting capacity to be sited at Vizagapatam.

(Dimensions). (2) Proposed to site this dock at north end of northern basin, but berth will require dredging and accommodation will need to be built for white dock personnel and crew of

ship /...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Vizagapatam ship in dock. (3) To fit Vizagapatam for dock, use as base for escort forces, desirable to Escort base. widen the western arm and carve out a turning (Contd.) basin at end of arm for escort vessels. Understood this work could be completed in two months. Request you will consider undertaking the work mentioned in para. 3 and 2 above in that order at highest priority and inform me, repeated Admiralty. (a) when it is anticipated work on western arm and turning basin can be completed, and (b) when the berth at north end of northern basin will be ready for the floating dock. (C. in C. E.F. 121229Z to Armindia. (R) Admty. F. Q.C.R.I.N., D.G.S.R., F.L.O. Delhi.)

CAGNI. (Italian S/M) In Indian Ocean, ordered to Colombo. (S.O. Force Z, 121241) See Mediterranean - Disposition of Italian Ships.

CITY OF Request following from Master CITY OF EASTBOURNE EASTBOURNE, be passed to Hall Line, Tower Buildings, damaged 9th Liverpool (Begins). Struck coral reef 0310 July. morning 9 Sept. refer Admiralty details successful in relocating without assistance 0844 same morning, arrived here under own steam. Quantity cargo jettisoned to refloat. Position 11th, estimated damage. (details). Making every endeavour to preserve vessel and cargo, covering all emergencies working with object subject your approved seaworthy certificate and may use material on hand to effect temporary repairs to proceed suitable port for permanent repair without undue risk. Capetown and local M.W.T. informed position regarding cargo signed "Paton". (S.O.(I) Diego Suarez, 121631Z to Admty. (R) D. of S.T.)

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

- A.T.64
(QUEEN
ELIZABETH). Presailing telegram ref. Admty. 092055A.
(2) Chebucto 1400Z/14th. (3) E.T.A. Rothesay
1600Z/18th. (4) Knots 26 $\frac{1}{2}$.
(5) Route. "Chop 1900Z/15th.
(15) Codeword "Skunk". Standard communications
plan.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 121314Z to Admty., Cdr. 10th
Fleet C. & R.)
- STRATHNAVER. Anticipate STRATHNAVER will be ready to sail
in about one week. Request information what
arrangements are to be made for her future
movements.
(F.O.N.F. 121505Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R)
Com. Task Force 24, Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.
C. in C. Lant, N.S.H.Q. Admty.)
- N.S.H.Q.
S/M
Estimate. (N.S.H.Q. 121515Z)
- U.S. S/M
Estimate. (Cominch, 121550)
- A.T.63
(MAURETANIA). Departed New York 1535Z/12 at Ambrose. Clyde
Boom 0300Z/19. S. of A. 20 knots.
(P.D. New York, 121632 to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R)
- ST. FRANCIS. Cdore. (D) W.A. 081642A. Consider that
ST. FRANCIS should return to Canada. Regretted
that no relief will be available.
(N.S.H.Q. 121632Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty.
C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F. Cdore. (D) W.A.)
- T.J.7. Following is recoded version of my 062215
(Begins) - F.O.C.W.Af. C. in C. S.A.S. (R)
S.O.(I) Jamaica. Following ships sailed
Trinidad 3rd in T.J. 7 due Rio De Janeiro 23rd.
(list).
(N.S.H.Q. 121700Z to Admty. C.C.O. Freetown,
C.C.O. Simonstown, C.C.O., Jamaica C.C.O.)
- H.X., S.C.
Convoys. Request indication in advance and sailing
telegrams when ships for Mediterranean and beyond
are routed in H.X. or S.C. convoys.
(2) M.A.R.I. Section 1 para. 7 E sub-para 2 (a)
refers.
(D.T.D. 121827A to Connav, N.S.H.Q. (R) C. in C.
C.N.A., B.A.D.)

Sub. /...

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Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Sub.attack
and
sighting
Summary.

Para. B. All times Z. Plane sights sub.
submerging 30.58 N. 65.44 W. 1121/12.
Para. C. U.S.S. RAPIDAN sights torpedo track
33.19 N. 72.47 W. 1758/11.
(Cominch, 122055Z to Admty.)

C.V.E's
reports.

Direct Radio movement reports from C.V.E. or her
planes as requested in Comnaveu 081512 considered
undesirable except in emergency. My 061555
should normally provide ample information.
This is Cominch's 121832 addressed to Admty.

for action via Comnaveu.

Ref. Comnaveu 081512. This was passed to Admty. as
Comnaveu's 081513Z. "So that Admty can make suitable
disposition of their surface forces in the Bay and vicinity
and so that Coastal Command may be able to give essential
instructions to their long range aircraft operating in this
area it is requested that C.V.E's upon leaving G.U. and U.G.
convoys for offensive sweeps signal Admty. their current
position and their intentions for the following twenty-four hours
Signal to be made from Carrier or aircraft and if possible
to be made daily."

Ref. Cominch 061555: Not held by Comnaveu.
(Comnaveu, 122246Z to Admty.)

S.O.S.
Report.

Following intercept received at 122310Z
(Begins) - S.O.S. TERRA NOVA position
060 degs. 15' N. 046 degs. 48' W. (Ends.)
(C. in C. C.N.A. 122357Z to G.B.7A)

Australia and New Zealand.

A/C
sighted.
M/V.

At 0510Z/8th A/C sighted vessel in ? 046 degs. x
30' S. 116 degs. 00' E. course 280 degs. speed
5 to 10 knots. Description slightly raked
stem counter stern part of bridge funnel
amidships 2 sets of Goalpost masts forward of
bridge and 2 sets aft. Ship was challenged

but identification signals and signal letters were corrupt.
(2) Selected positions of sightings conform to routeing policy
and was within 40 miles of coast in broad daylight consider
vessel was probably BINGER HERMANN or TIRADENTES incorrectly
described. (3) (? other) vessels cannot be identified.
(C.S.W.P. 120208Z to Admty. C. in C. E.F. (R) (?F.O. Ceylon),
N.O.I.C. W.Australia, Com. 7th U.S. Fleet.)
x Alternatives 035 degs. and 079 degs.

Movements /...

12.9.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand. - Contd.

Movements. U.S.S. FLAGG STAR arrived Port Moresby 10th.
U.S.S. MIZAR departed Sydney N.S.W. 11th for
Brisbane. U.S.S. SHIKELLAMY departed Sydney
N.S.W. 10th for Brisbane.
(A.C.N.B. 121216Z)

Arrivals. Sydney N.S.W. 10th U.S.S. BAGLEY, 11th U.S.S.
TAYLOR.
(A.C.N.B. 121217Z)

Digest 1 Destroyer 2 small freighters and 4 landing
Serial craft reported to westward Buka Passage forenoon
No.600 on easterly course and strafed by R/C aircraft.
Sept. 11th. Another aircraft reported 2 small freighters
approx. 20 miles out from Buka Passage during
afternoon on similar course. (2) Late report
of Catalina attacking 1 small freighter,
1 unidentified vessel northeast of Cape Saint George night
hours 9th damaging the freighter. (3) 1 medium freighter,
2 small cutters sighted approaching Wewak from the east flown
on and bombed without visible result. (4) Our P.T. boats
sank 3, and damaged another barge at Blucher Point, 22 miles
north Finschhafen night 10th - 11th. Our boats driven off
by 3 inch guns this area and unsuccessfully bombed by enemy
aircraft south Cape Cretin. Enemy barges also reported
Llingan Harbour (between Bogia Madang) following forenoon and
3 active Lae Harbour during night hours.
(8) 1 Catalina bombed Garove Island and 1 attacked and damaged
3 barges heading south-west in Dampeer Strait night 10th.
(11) Our P.T. boats and Corsairs remain active against enemy
barges around Kolombangara and northeast coast Vella Lavella.
Enemy shore batteries again shelled our boats southeast coast
Kolombangara while enemy float planes unsuccessfully bombed
and strafed others off west coast Vella Lavella.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 121345Z)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C.121301A, 121302A)

Sub.attack and sighting summary for 24 hours up to 0900Z/12th. Para. A. (1) A/C P.179 attacked U-Boat with depth charges 35 degs. 30' N. 03 degs. 28' W. at 2305Z/11th U-Boat reported sunk and aground in 35 degs. 15' N. 03 degs. 20' W. by 0655Z/12th. (2) A/C attacked U-Boat with depth charges 38 degs. 35' N. 09 degs. 20' E. course 260 degs at 2000Z/11th. (3) A/C sighted U-Boat 36 degs. 11' N. 07 degs. 07' W. course 105 degs. at 0743Z/9th.

Para. B /...

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12.9.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported - Contd.

Sub.attack
and
sighting
summary for
24 hours
up to
0900Z/12th.
(Contd.)

Para. B. (1) PINDOS attacked contact
35 degs. 44' N. 13 degs. 50' E. at 1000Z/11th.
(2) Civil aircraft sighted U-Boat 46 degs. 52'
N. 08 degs. 52' W. course 270 degs. at 2150Z/11.
Para. C. A/C obtained contact 31 degs. 58' N.
17 degs. 12' E. at 1016Z/11th.
(D.D.I.C. 120926Z to Cominch)

13.9.1943
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
V.P.-S.G.

1. M.T.Bs. 618 (S.O.) and 686 sailed from Lerwick at 1000A for this operation, but returned at 2200A as weather conditions prevented completion of the operation.

2. WHITE BEAR hunted a submarine this morning in 58.56 N. 02.17 W.

U.K./
Gibraltar
route.

3. C. in C.W.A. is concerned at the growing threat to southerly routed convoys from F.W.200s and Dornier 217, and the absence of effective counter measures. He proposes that definite steps should be taken to deal with the menace and puts forward certain possible courses of action for consideration.

North Atlantic.

Air attack
on X.K.11,
PROSPEROUS
damaged.

4. PROSPEROUS (H.M.R.T.) with SS. FORT BABINE in tow (part of Convoy X.K.11 but separated owing to weather) and A/S Trawler ARCTIC RANGER escorting X.K.11 were attacked at 1035A today in 41.38 N. 14.30 W. (about 260 miles west of Vigo) by enemy aircraft; PROSPEROUS was hit and SS FORT BABINE was abandoned. PROSPEROUS reports that the guns of the escorts will not reach the high level bombers. KITE and WOODCOCK from E.G.2 on Bay patrol were detailed to reinforce X.K.11 and H.M.R.T. FRISKY was ordered to relieve PROSPEROUS.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Avalanche"
Salerno
Area.

5. Bombardment of targets in the assault area was continued by British and U.S. cruisers and destroyers throughout today. An attack by rocket bombs was made at 1440 on the bombarding ships. UGANDA was hit aft and has 1300 tons of water on board which cannot be pumped. She was sent to Malta (sailed from

/Salerno...

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13.9.1943.
Monday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.

- Operation "Avalanche" Salerno Area. (Contd.).
Salerno area a.m./14 in tow of tug, and using one engine arrived at Malta 15th Sept.), 850 tons was discharged at Salerno in the 24 hours ending 2000 today.
- Hospital ships attacked.
6. The Hospital ships LEINSTER, ST. ANDREW and NEWFOUNDLAND were attacked by enemy aircraft in the early hours of today in about 40.14 N. 14.20 E. (about 40 miles S.S.W. of Salerno). NEWFOUNDLAND was hit and sank on 15th Sept.
- BROOKLYN
7. The U.S. Cruiser BROOKLYN has been ordered to proceed to the Mediterranean, (left Boston 0300/15). The U.S. Destroyer BUCK is to escort her and relieve KNIGHT.
- Taranto Area.
8. Rear-Adm. A.M. Peters hoisted his flag on shore at Taranto as Flag Officer Taranto Area at 0800 today. He will be responsible for establishing and operating the ports of Taranto, Brindisi and Bari. SOKOL reports that Brindisi is congested with merchant ships and more are expected.
- Corsica
9. The French S/M CASABIANCA reported that a successful minor landing was made at Ajaccio at 0100 today. Italian troops assisted by patriots have been fighting the Germans in the North and West part of the island since 11th Sept. and now control Ajaccio and a great part of the interior, the Germans hold Bastia and the south-east corner of the island. General Giraud wishes to employ the French cruiser MONTCALM in operations to secure control of Corsica. MONTCALM is the only cruiser at the disposal of F.O.C.W.Af., with sufficient endurance to operate against blockade runners in the South Atlantic; and the Admiralty suggest that one or two of the cruisers of Force X now at Dakar would be suitable. However, it was agreed that MONTCALM should be sent.
10. UNSHAKEN reported that at 1441.5 today she secured one torpedo hit on a 7000 ton tanker in ballast in 40.36 N. 18.08 E.
- Italian ships.
11. A message from V.A. Malta today gives a list of all Italian naval ships at Malta. SOKOL at Brindisi reported at 0940B that more ships were arriving from the north and that 2 Italian patrol vessels were collecting them and

/sending...

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13.9.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Italian
ships.
(Contd.).

sending them to Brindisi.
The 8 Italian merchant ships being escorted by UNRIVALLED from Bari to Malta (see 10th Sept.) were attacked at 0820B today in 36.52 N. 17.28 E., but no ships were damaged. The battleship GIULIO CESARE, seaplane carrier GIUSEPPE MIRAGLIA, S/Ms. JALEA, BANDIERA and ATROPO, T.B. RIBOTY and tanker NETTUNO arrived at Malta today.

Australia and New Zealand.

Japanese
destroyer
hit.

12. Allied aircraft attacked a convoy of 6 ships last night off Lieta (?New Georgia) and made a direct hit on the bridge of a destroyer, followed by a heavy explosion.

13.9.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

U.S.Des- C.T.G. 112.1. 111051.
troyers Request BELL and ISHERWOOD be sailed as convenient
with H.F. to Liverpool to give leave before returning to
U.S.A. with T.U.2 about 19th Sept.
2. Reliefs for above 2 destroyers in Home Fleet
are FITCH and CAPPS who arrive U.K. with U.T.2
on 17th Sept.
(D.O.D.(H) 131854A to C. in C.H.F. D.O.D.(H)
162048A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

18th M/S F. Your 091638A. Approved for HOUND to take over
operational control of 18th M/S F. during absence
of READY.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 132210A to M/S 18.)

Movements.

U.S.S. This is N.O.B.Iceland's 122004. At 121830Z
HUMBOLDT. U.S.S. HUMBOLDT arrived.
(Comnavu 130126.)

NORFOLK. Hvalfjordur departure NORFOLK. C. in C.H.F's
071730 refers.
(A.C.I.C. 130732.)

SEADOG to 1. P.216 (SEADOG) is to sail as soon as ready for
go to Icefjord Spitzbergen.
Icefjord. 2. Route as ordered by A.C.O.S. on leaving Scapa
to 063° 15' N. 002° 30' W. thence direct to Ice-
fjord. A.C.O.S. is requested to provide escort to
lat. 061° N. on the surface at C.O.discretion S.
of A. 10 knots till lat. 074° N. then diving by day as much as
possible S. of A. approx. 60 miles per 24 hours.
3. Object to land stores and Norwegian personnel in vicinity of
Barentsberg. Until landing is completed only cruisers and above
are to be attacked. Wounded personnel should be evacuated at
C.O's discretion. Return by reverse of outward route and signal
brief situation report when south of 074° N.
4. 2 medical officers, 8 Norwegian personnel, about 12 tons
special stores and 2 collapsible boats are to be embarked and
reloaded torpedo disembarked. Normal stores and provision for
21 days.
5. Communications A.F.O. "S" 2/43 table 2 (3)
6. Latest A. A.Z. Q.Z. W.Z. messages to be obtained from A.C.O.S.
7. Books in accordance with I.S.C.H. section (4) appendix (1).
List of books carried to be given to A.C.O.S.
8. S.O.(I) A.C.O.S. is requested to provide intelligence.
9. Bombing restrictions will be arranged by F.O.(S).
10. P.216 (SEADOG) acknowledge and report intended time of
sailing. A.C.O.S. is requested to sail P.216 (SEADOG) accordingly.
A.C.O.S. pass to P.216 (SEADOG.)
(F.O.S. 131809A.)

M/S 1. Cancel my 131517. C. in C.H.F. 131574 refers.
My P.C. and S. 060° 32' N. 012° 01' W. 339° 13½ kts.
Weather report 9952 0321.
(S.O. M/S F.1 132008A.)

13.9.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation S.F. Your 121403A arrived (SHIKARI).
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 130901A to R.A.D.)

Operation V.P. S.G. Sailed at 1000A/13th. My 301042 August, M.T.B. 618 (S.O.) and M.T.B. 686.
(A.C.O.S. 131040A.)
M.T.B. 618 and 686 returned at 2200A today Monday.
2. Weather conditions prevented completion of operation.
(A.C.O.S. 132208.)

Coastal Patrols. 1. Orders for night 13/14 September.
A. S.G.Bs. GREY SEAL, GREY OWL, GREY FOX carry out offensive patrol of direct route between Le Havre and Cap Barfleur. Primary objective to search for torpedo targets trawlers M Class sweepers, T.L.Cs. and larger ships. Coast is not to be approached within 5 miles. Proceed and return by passage 4 passing position 4 N. not before 2200A and returning to within 20 miles of own coast by 0545A.
B. M.G.Bs. 611, 616 carry out anti E-Boat patrol on 50° 20' N. between 00° 20' W. and 01° 00' W. from 2130A to 0500A.
C. M.Ls. 292, 344 patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between F. and E.A.5 Buoys.
D. ALBRIGHTON, CHASSEUR 41 immediate notice St. Helens.
E. LA COMBATTANTE, MELBREAK immediate notice Yarmouth.
F. M.G.Bs. 13, 6, 7 patrolling 50° 20' N. between 02° 00' W. and 02° 25' W.

2. and 3. Communications and codewords.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 131538A.)

Dover dispositions for night of 13th/14th September.
M.A.S.Bs. 32 and 24 eleven miles south east of Dungeness, E.T.D. Ramsgate 1845, E.T.R. 0715/14.
M.G.Bs. 117 and S.4 at V.Buoy E.T.D. Ramsgate 1945 E.T.R. 0615/14.
M.G.Bs. S.2 and S.1 nine miles S.E. of Dover E.T.D. 2015, E.T.R. 0545/14.

(V.A.Dover 131629A.)
M.G.Bs. 676 and 679 leave Dartmouth 2045 to patrol 125° Start Pt. 21 returning to Dartmouth 0630/14.
(C. in C.Plymouth 132016A.)

S/M Patrols. Position of submarines at 0800/14 and movements for following 24 hours.
A. TANTALUS (P.318) on patrol off Icefjord, Spitzbergen, may withdraw to westward for charging.
B. O.15 on patrol vicinity 64° 42' N. 03° 26' W.
C. STONEHENGE (P.232) on patrol vicinity 65° 01' N. 05° 50' W.
F. UPSTART (P.65) in position 47° 29' N. 06° 01' W. proceeding through position 45° 50' N. 06° 01' W. dived by day course south daily advance 106 miles. All times zone A.
(F.O.(S) 131709A.)

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13.9.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

Iceland A.C. 159 13 Sept. A.C. 158 12 Sept.
 Air Patrols. 4 "Fox" patrols cancelled weather in area.
 (R.A.F.Iceland 130119A.)
 A.C. 160 13 Sept. A.C. 158/12.
 2 and 3 first sorties postponed weather in area.
 (R.A.F.Iceland 130227A.)
 A.C. 161 13 Sept. A.C. 158/12 Sept.
 1 postponed weather in area.
 (R.A.F.Iceland 130421A.)

Enemy Air Activity.

PROSPEROUS My 122103. Detaching GODETIA to assist PROSPEROUS.
 (damaged by ARCTIC RANGER should be with PROSPEROUS as she was
 air attack instructed to maintain contact if convoy got
 on North separated. Convoy alter to 010°. Weather report.
 Atlantic 3, 3, 8, 1, 10, 0, 5. Uncoded position 42 16.
 Station.) (WARWICK 131120A to C. in C.W.A. (R) PROSPEROUS,
 C. in C.Plymouth, F.O.C.Gib. Admty. ARCTIC RANGER.)
 Note: PROSPEROUS and ARCTIC RANGER attacked by A/C.
 Detach two ships to act as extra escorts of convoy

X.K.11.

2. Convoy was in 042° 10' N. 016° 25' W. at 0935A/13th course 345° 4 knots.

3. PROSPEROUS with FORT BABINE in tow reported hit by bomb in 042° 00' N. 015° 30' W. at 1035A/13th. Tug SCHELDE may be in company with PROSPEROUS.

4. ARCTIC RANGER reports being attacked by enemy aircraft in 042° 00' N. 014° 30' W. at 1033A/13th.

5. Escort WARWICK, S.O., CYGNET, ARCTIC RANGER, GODETIA, ST. NECTAN.

(C. in C.Plymouth 131327A to S.O.E.G. 2nd. (R) S.E.Convoy X.K.11, C. in C.W.A. F.O.C.Gibraltar, Admty. SHEFFIELD, H.Q.C.C. F.O.S.)

Report situation regarding FORT BABINE tow and condition of PROSPEROUS.

(C. in C.W.A. 131550A to GODETIA, ARCTIC RANGER.)

Detach tug FRISKY forthwith to assist PROSPEROUS and SCHELDE towing FORT BABINE in 042° N. 015° 30' W.

(C. in C.W.A. 131613A to LANDGUARD, (R) Admty. C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.C.Gibraltar, S.E.C. No. X.K.11, E.G.2.)

Your 131550A.* Ships referred to not met. Am rejoining convoy as instructed by S.O. My P.C. and S. 1630Z 042° 15' 015° 17' 315° 14 weather report 5471 1076.

(GODETIA 131620Z to C. in C.W.A.)

* Report situation regarding FORT BABINE tow and condition of PROSPEROUS.

Your 131613A. FRISKY detached. My P.C. and S. 042° 01' 013° 31' 180° 9½. Weather report 4372 8875.

(LANDGUARD 131900A to C. in C.W.A.)

Am directing course to Milford Haven in company ARCTIC RANGER and SCHELDE pending orders.

FORT BABINE had 7 men killed in action, survivors on board SCHELDE. Request fighter protection at daylight as our guns will not reach high level of bombers. Position at 0630/14th will be 043° 46' N. 015° 30' W. course then 360° speed 9 knots.

(PROSPEROUS 131955Z to C. in C.W.A.)

13.9.1943.

Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity - Contd.

Threat to U.K./Gib. convoy route. I am concerned at the growing threat to Southerly routed convoys by F.W.200s and Dornier 217. Their recent successes and the present absence of effective counter measures may well encourage them to increase their efforts in this respect. It is proposed that definite steps be taken to deal with this menace and the following possible courses of action are put forward for consideration -

- A. Bombing of enemy bases.
- B. Interception and/or convoy cover by long range Mosquitoes using fighter direction ships.
- C. Employment of TRACKER and BITER when available and later FENCER with convoys on this run to provide fighter cover. Readjustment of squadrons being undertaken to the maximum extent possible.
- D. Employment of ATTACKER, HUNTER and STALKER with northbound convoys on their return from the Mediterranean to provide fighter cover or alternatively the employment of these carriers for a period of a month or so with both northerly and southerly routed convoys on this run.
- E. Re-employment of Cam ship with these convoys.
(C. in C.W.A. 131342A to Admty.)

Skerryvore. Norwegian SS. NANDI reports having sighted unidentified aircraft at 1645A/7th in Skerryvore Lighthouse 190° 15 miles which dropped an object into the sea and disappeared in westerly direction. Plane was dark in colour no markings and had conspicuously large rudder and twin engines thought to be Heinkel. NANDI reported the incident by visual signal to Corvette proceeding with outward bound convoy from Oban.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 131720A.)

Mining.

Humber. Particulars re mine detonated 1823/13 in 236° H.4 Buoy, 1.8 miles N. 10 W. Probably laid 25th July, 1943. No casualties or damage.
(F.O.Humber 132057A.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Norway Sea Traffic. N.A.Stockholm 131829 see Lion Copy.

Enemy Main Units. Soviet visual R/C of Kaa Fjord and Lang Fjord at 1600A/12th reported TIRPITZ and SCHARNHORST and 8 destroyers in Kaa Fjord. LUTZOW not seen. Photos taken.
(D.D.I.C. 131551A.)

SECRET

405A.Σ

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

IN.

131829/September.

Date 14. 9. 43.
Recd. 0357.

From N.A. Stockholm.

I.D.C. O.T.P. BY CABLE

Addressed: Following for D.N.I.

Baltic Approach: Sea transport between Oslo and German controlled ports.

My 311251 / and 271829./

During period August 16th to 31st 27 German transports arrived in Oslo having sailed in convoys of 5 or 6 vessels. Approximately same number sailed southward and of this number 63% were routed via Sound. These numbers appear to be at least double those for first 2 weeks in August, the convoys being larger and of greater regularity.

2. Transports arriving Oslo did not appear carrying troops in any great force but vessels leaving Oslo were frequently loaded with troops and carried war material on deck.

(A) Number of troops which arrived Oslo during August may be estimated as between 20,000 and 25,000.

(B) Number of troops which left southbound during month was approximately 30,000 to 35,000.

(C) Personal number 3 estimates nett movement from Norway to Denmark latter part August to be approximately One division.

3. Transport traffic through Sound during early September shows that above increase has not been maintained.

131829.

/ German military transports between Oslo and Copenhagen.

Circulation overleaf....

Advance Copy D.N.I.

1st Lord
1st S.L. (2)
D.F.S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)

Sec.
Nav. Sec.
P.A.S. (S)
U.W.R.
Ops. (2)
O.D. (5)
O.I.C. (3)
D.N.I. (5)
D.S.D. 9 (2)
D.T.D. (4)
Plot.
D.T.D. (C)
Capt. Pim
D. of P. (3)
D.A/S.W.
D.A/U.D.
I.P. (3)
W.D.

M. (10) and for F.O.

W.O.
A.M.

Brig. Jacob

D.E.W.D. (3)
Ad. Blake

/JM.

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13.9.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats.

Attack by WHITE BEAR. Contact with submerged S/M in 058° 56' N. 002° 17' W. attack being carried out.
S/M proceeding towards R/V unescorted.
(WHITE BEAR 130700.)
Your 130700A. By plot 0706 position was 075° Mull Head 11.5 miles.
2. Known non-sub. contact exists 079° Mull Head 12.3 miles.
3. Continue hunting until certain of approximate of contact.
4. If non sub, continue to R/V position.
5. Report intention to me.
(A.C.O.S. 130759A to WHITE BEAR.)
Am retaining contact. All depth charges expended.
Periscope sighted once.
(WHITE BEAR 130830A.)

U/B attacked by ROCKET. Am in contact S/M position 058° 54' N. 003° 29' W. RIPLEY, JANUS in company.
(ROCKET 131621A to A.C.O.S. R.A.(D) H.F.)

Navigational.

Fog. Cancel my 121807 (re port closed.)
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 130009A.)
My 100926, 111033A and 121143A codeword "Cradle" sailing postponed further 24 hours due to low visibility.
(N.O.I.C. Tees 131053A.)
My 111201 (re forecast of convoy sailings) OCEAN and OCEAN II postponed 24 hours.
(C. in C.Rosyth 131456A.)
Convoy "Barefoot" postponed 12 hours.
(C. in C.Rosyth 131457A.)

Technical.

Smoke Signals. Your 261955*.
1. The British smoke pyrotechnics have been tried and are practically useless as a means of "last resort" identification of ships of the Home Fleet. American type signals are the most suitable for the purpose and request early action may be taken to introduce them.
(A.C.H.F. 131331A to Adnty.)
* ?281955 intended. re tests on British and American smoke generators.

Casualties & Defects.

WINCHELSEA. S.O. E.G.B.4. 122001A. Request you will sail tug DEXTEROUS escorted by LUNDY as soon as possible to R/V with WINCHELSEA and ABELIA in 049° 30' N. 015° 30' W. passing through position 180° Bishop Rock 7 miles and escort to Plymouth.
Your codeword to limit of fighter range is "Harris".
(C. in C.Plymouth 130035A to N.O.I.C. Falmouth,
(R) LUNDY, S.O.E. P.W. 399, S.O.B.4, E.G.
WINCHELSEA, ABELIA, Adnty.)

/Detach...

13.9.1943.

Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

WINCHELSEA. Detach LUNDY forthwith to meet tug DEXTEROUS off
(Contd.) Falmouth and act as escort and carry out my
130035. Colonel Ansturther to be transferred before
leaving convoy.
(C. in C.Plymouth 130038A to S.O.E.G. Ships
escorting P.W.convoy 399, LUNDY, (R) N.O.I.C.
Falmouth.)

Sailed rescue tug DEXTEROUS in accordance with your 130035A.*
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 130305A.) * re S.O.B.4.

Detach one escort to relieve ABELIA as escort to WINCHELSEA.
Estimated P.C. and S. at 1200A/13th 046° 00' N. 017° 35' W.
022° 8 knots. ABELIA on relief rejoin K.M.S.26/O.G.93 further
signals follow.
(C. in C.W.A. 131002A to Escorts of convoy M.K.S.23, (R)
WINCHELSEA, ABELIA, Admty. C. in C.Plymouth, Escorts of
convoy M.K.S.26, Ships escorting convoy O.G.93, H.Q.C.C.
Cdr. D.W.A.)

WINCHELSEA damaged by near miss max. speed about 8 knots.
Tug DEXTEROUS escorted by LUNDY sailed from Falmouth to R/V with
WINCHELSEA in 049° 30' N. 015° 30' W. thence to Plymouth. My
131002 refers.
(C. in C.W.A. 131052A to Escorts M.K.S.23 etc.)

Escorts of M.K.S.23 one escort to relieve ABELIA as escort
to WINCHELSEA.

Report situation and prospects of reaching port under your
own steam.
(C. in C.W.A. 131559A to WINCHELSEA.)

After passing position 049° 30' N. 015° 30' W. proceed
toward position 180° Bishop Rock 7 miles.

2. Estimated position tug DEXTEROUS escorted by LUNDY at 2000A/13th
049° 40' N. 009° 20' W. course 268° 10 knots.

3. WALLFLOWER relieved ABELIA as escort WINCHELSEA at 2359A/13th.
LUNDY pass to DEXTEROUS.
(C. in C.Plymouth 131625A to WINCHELSEA, (R) DEXTEROUS,
LUNDY, WALLFLOWER, Admty. C. in C.W.A. S.O.Group F.V. A.C.O.S.
Cdre. D.W.A.)

Lower part of stem and bow plating fallen off. Now flooded
to waterline forward of Stations 17.
Bulkhead holding satisfactorily speed 5 knots.
(WINCHELSEA 132155Z.)

SS. ARTHUR At 0848 B.S.T. in thick fog steamer ARTHUR WRIGHT
WRIGHT. struck port bow tearing hole above water line.
Am (word omitted). Other vessel disappeared in
fog appeared to be in safe condition. Approx.
position 2 miles east Helwick.
(R.C.STONIER 130905Z.)

EXANTHIA, Re damage and docking.
BRITISH (F.O.I.C. Greenock 130948A.)
VALOUR.

SS. BROCKLEY. F.S.17 all arrived, except SS. BROCKLEY reported
aground in Knock Deep.
(N.C.S.O. Thames 131231A.)

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13.9.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects - Contd.

DEPTFORD. Further trials (?) shows following stern gland temperature running at 220 R.P.M. Starboard 133° F. Port 155° F. Returning to harbour for further investigation.
(DEPTFORD 132015A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

ELDORADO. ELDORADO in tow approx. E.T.A. Loch Ewe 0600A/14th.
(WINDERMERE 132145A.)

Shipping & Convoys.

O.S.55/K.M.S. O.S.55/K.M.S.27. Admty. 111637. My 130047 (1)
27, IRIS, Orders for HASTINGS S.O., AMARANTHUS.
HASTINGS, (A). Escort H.M.Telegraph Ship IRIS from position
AMARANTHUS. YP. to vicinity Horta.
(B). Detach IRIS to Horta when still out of sight
of land.
(C). Proceed Ponta Delgada to fuel remaining out
of sight of land till San Miguel.
(D). Rejoin O.S.55 and proceed Freetown where HASTINGS joins 39th
Group.
(1). AMARANTHUS rejoin F.O.C.W.Af.
(11). Cdre. D.W.A. is requested arrange fuelling at Ponta Delgada.
(C. in C.W.A. 131050A.)

P.W.D. Commencing with P.W.401 16th Sept. and until
Convoys. further orders. P.W.D. convoys, escorted by an
escort trawler group, will sail from Plymouth
to Falmouth at 1000 on the mornings that the P.W.
sails from Needles.

2. F.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to resail the escort trawler
group as escort to P.W.F. and relieve the trawler group with the
P.W. at D.1 buoy.
3. The relieved escort trawler group then proceeds to Plymouth.
(C. in C.Plymouth 131055A.)

Convoy C. in C.W.A. is requested to sail BUTTERCUP as
X.K.11. soon as possible to relieve WARWICK. WARWICK's
122103 refers.
2. C. in C.Plymouth is requested to instruct S.O.
2 E.G. to detail 2 sloops to R/V with convoy as
soon as possible and escort tows to P.L.E. reporting intentions.
3. After 2 E.G. sloops have joined at discretion of S.O.escort
undamaged ships escorted by escort vessels short of fuel may be
detached to proceed ahead at best speed.
4. Position of convoy at 0912/13 42.00 N. 15.30 W. course 350
speed 4 knots.
(V.C.N.S. 131349A.)

Your 131321A* KITE and WOODCOCK detailed.
(S.O.E.G.2 131545A to C. in C.Plymouth.)
* circulated with T.O.O. 131327A (re escorts for X.K.11.)
X.K.11. Part company at P.L.E. and proceed to Milford
Haven Q.Z.L. 53. 2. Report E.T.D.
(C. in C.W.A. 131557A to WARWICK.)
P.C. Admty. 131349A, and C. in C.Plymouth 131321A. Request your
and 3.
(KITE 131659Z to S.O.E. X.K.11.)

/Reference...

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Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Convoy X.K.11. (Contd.) Reference A.M. 131349 which is being passed. Request you will comply substituting STONECROP for BUTTERCUP.
2. WARWICK's 122103 is being passed and refers. (C. in C.W.A. 131823A to N.O.I.C. Liverpool.) Orders to proceed. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 132108A to STONECROP.)

Ships in N.Russia. Kola Inlet arrival (?BRITOMART), EMPIRE SCOTT, EMPIRE FORTUNE, EMPIRE BARD. (S.B.N.O.N.Russia 131331A.)

U.T.2. My 121614Z. Corrected time of arrival of U.T.2. position G., 1500Z/14th. Correct E.T.A. all sections accordingly. Are escorts for Mersey and Bristol Channel sections required of me. Following ships were returned to U.S. EMPRESS OF RUSSIA, SCYTHIA, SIMONDS, STRATHNAVER. (C.T.F. 67, 131430 to Admty.)
U.T.2 sailed BENTINCK to R/V with U.T.2 in 055° 35' N. 007° 00' W. at 1530Z/14th speed 13½ knots thence to escort convoy to Barry Roads detaching Clyde and Mersey ships as requisite unescorted. 2. 15 ships, names and destinations.
3. S.O.Escort U.S.Battleship NEVADA, Cdre. Capt. Twomey, U.S. Navy CHEMONG. (C. in C.W.A. 131552Z, 132328Z, 140421Z.)

SS. CHAMBIRA. Re towing to Llandudno for use as a target ship. (D.O.D.(H) 131938A.)

War Diary.13.9.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

U/Boat. U/Boat (German) made B barred signal near convoy at 0530A. My position $049^{\circ} 20' N.$ $016^{\circ} 24' W.$ (S.O.E.G.B.1., 130558A to C. in C. W.A.(R) Admty.)

WARWICK enemy etc. (X.K.11.) Following read - Addressed Whitehall, W/T. Am being shadowed by 1 enemy aircraft bearing 030° distance 4 miles from centre of convoy "Quirk". Position $42.16 N.$ $16.25 W.$ based on a fix obtained within half an hour of 0700. Course 345° . Speed 4 knots. (WARWICK (Via Burnham), 130835Z.)

PROSPEROUS A/C attack. (Emergency Air Attack) (Missed) position $42^{\circ} N.$ $15.30 W.$ course 350° Speed 4 knots. (PROSPEROUS, 130912Z)(Valentia Radio, 130916Z to Admty.) Help position $42 N.$ $15.30 W.$ hit astern. (PROSPEROUS, 130935Z)(Niton Radio, 131107)

ARCTIC RANGER A/C attack. Am being attacked by 3 enemy aircraft. Position $42.00 N.$ $14.30 W.$ estimated at 0900 course 350° speed 5 knots. (ARCTIC RANGER (via Burnham), 130933Z to Gib.W/T.)

Danish ships at Las Palmas. Admty. pass to R.A.W.A.F. Your 111315. According to Minister of Marine and Under Secretary Merchant Marine, date and consent is automatic on confirmation by Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs of instructions and V. Consul to give clearance. This is being done. There will be no objection to additional crew or bunkers. (Madrid, 131002B to Admty. (R) R.O. Las Palmas, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, R.A.W.A.F.)

U/B Report. Your 122006A. Submarine was ULTIMATUM. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 131010 to Admty.)

C.T.F.61. Departed Sept. 13 Europa Point 1010B for Casablanca to Casa swept channel via Point G. E.T.A. Casa swept channel 0630A Sept. 14. Request pilot. S. of A. 10 knots. Relieved by British 0820A this date. KALK and GILLESPIE detached Gibraltar to escort convoy to Casa accordance with 1309596 from F.O.C. Gibraltar. (N.T. in W.D.) (C.T.F.61, 131010Z to Commorrocansafon (R) Admty., Commaveu F.O.C. Gibraltar, Com. 10th (C. & R.), Cinclant, C.E.S.F., Com. 5.) (Commorseafon, 131442 to F.O. Gib., etc.)

/G.U.S.14...

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13.9.1943.

Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- G.U.S.14. Sailing telegram G.U.S.14 part 2.
(Commorseafron, 131039 to P.D. Norfolk.)
- CONGO. Will leave Marseilles for Gibraltar 17th Sept.
Portuguese CONGO 3110 G.T. (Route) to Cape San
Sebastian, thence by approved route Gibraltar.
Not to be molested on this voyage. Carrying
usual national and international Red Cross markings. Speed
7 knots.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 131115B to S. and A. Area G. etc.)
- U/Boat. Unconfirmed report states a large submarine
nationality unknown was seen off coast of Telde
South of Las Palmas on night of 8th - 9th
September.
(Las Palmas, 131136 to Admty.)
- U.G.S.16. U.G.S.16 sailed as in C. in C. Med.'s 111436B
and 121547 EMPIRE LIVINGSTONE and GUDRUN to Oran
for onward routing to Bone and Bizerta for
Palermo respectively. Cdre. Hubbard R.N.R.
embarked in NEWBROUGH.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 131230 to N.O.I.C. Bone
Bizerta Palermo Algiers Oran. (R) C. in C. Med.
Admty., N.O.I.C. Alexandria.)
- M.K.S.24 M.K.S.24 consisting of 18 ships escorted by
S.L.136. WITCH, S.O. VELOX BENGALI (sic, LORD NUFFIELD
intended?) will R/V in position (TA) at 1600B
Sept. 14th.
2. When R/V has been made.
(A) ANTELOPE and BRILLIANT are to part company and proceed to
Gibraltar. (B) Gibraltar section S.L.136 is to be detached
and will be escorted by escort named in para. (1).
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 131542B to Escort S.L. 136 for Cdre. etc.)
Sailed M.K.S.24 to R/V and join S.L.136. Local escorts
WITCH, LORD NUFFIELD, VELOX.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 132010B to Admty., etc.)
1. M.K.S.24 Sailing telegram (18 ships). 2. 2000 B/13
4. 7¹/₂. 5. (Route) 06° 30' W. (T.A.) 35° 01' N. 07° 30' W.
to 6. WITCH, VELOX, LORD NUFFIELD.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 132045B, to Admty.)
- G.U.S.15. Intend sailing. (List) Roads in ballast.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 131552 to Com. Algeria, Comnob.
Oran, C.M.S.F.F., (R) C. in C. Med., Admty.)
5 additions (151645B.)

/U.G.S.16,...

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13.9.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

- U.G.S.16. Casablanca section arrived consisting (list) escorted by HOBBY, BROWN, DUSLER of T.F.61. (Commorseafron, 131714 to P.D. Norfolk. (R) Admty., etc.)
- G.C.36. Sailed? G.C.36. GILLESPIE and KALK escorting HARRIS TAYLOR at 1630B Sept. 13 by Standard route omitting B. to Casablanca. S. of A. 10 knots. Codeword "Myscot".
2. E.T.A. 1530B Sept. 14th. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 131730B to C.M.S.F. (R) C. in C. Med. Admty.)
- DESPATCH. Intend to sail DESPATCH p.m. Sept. 14th for Plymouth.
(2) Route (A) 35.30 N. 10° W. (B) 38° N. 15° W.
(C) 41° N. 17° W. (D) 45° N. 17° W. S. of A.
20 knots. (3) Request onward route be signalled.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 131734 to C. in C. Plymouth, (R) C. in C.W.A. Admty., H.Q.C.C.)
- Damaged U/B Vigo. Admty. pass to H.Q.C.C. C. in C. Plymouth: My 112033. Spanish D.N.I. told A.N.A. today (a) report is expected tonight (b) Spanish Navy have removed cam shaft from diesels. Batteries are completely discharged. No work on damage pending decision. (N.A. Madrid, 131801B to Admty.)
- M.K.S.24. Sailing telegram, part Z. (F.O. Gibraltar, 132049B to Admty.)
- NORD ATLANTIC. Ministry of Marine informs me that Tanker NORD ATLANTIC will be towed to Ferrol by Spanish Naval Tug and escorted by training ship VIRGEN DE LA MOONIDAD. Some German crew remain on board but Spanish Naval personnel are in charge. Ship cannot proceed under own steam. Movement will take place as soon as weather moderates. My 080928 refers. I have informed Ministry that movement will not be interfered with if carried out exactly as advised. Pass to C. in C. Plymouth C. in C. Mediterranean., H.Q.C.C., F.O.S. (N.A. Madrid, 132100B to Admty.)
- S.L.136. Casablanca joiners with CORBRAE, EXMOOR sailed 1930/13. (Commorseafron, 132108B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) C. in C. Med., Admty., F.O.C. W.A. Escorts S.L. 136.)

War Diary.

13.9.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

C.65 Arrived 0415Z VICTORIA escorting VENDOME Commorsea-
fron's 051604 refers (Re departure C.65)
(Comar Dakar, 130034 to F.O.C.W.A. etc).

HIGHLAND MONARCH, ARAWA. HIGHLAND MONARCH and ARAWA sailed 12th September
for Montevideo. E.T.A. 25th and 26th Sept.
respectively. Personnel on board for U.K. (details
(D.S.T.O. Durban, 130844Z to N.A. Montevideo (R)
D. of S.T., B.R.L.O. Buenos Aires, P.S.T.O.
Capetown).

WITCH F.O.C. Gibraltar reports WITCH ready to sail.
Propose ship should proceed to U.K. to retube
boilers. F.O.C. Gibraltar's 111154 not to Admty.
and 081503 refers. Report on state of West
African destroyers sent by air mail.
(F.O.C.W.A., 131005Z to Admty. (R) F.O.C. Gib).

D.K. - K.D. In view of C. in C. E.F's 071050 and 120931 intend
convoys. to commence Durban - Kilindini convoys with D.K.1
on 17th Sept. A.M. 042010 para. 7. Sailings from
Durban will take place at alternative 11 and 10 day
intervals. This will result in D.K. convoys
leaving on Fridays or Tuesdays which days are most suitable from
Port Authorities point of view.
2. K.D. convoys will leave Kilindini on D plus 12 commencing
with K.D.1 on 29th Sept.
3. To implement this, three escort groups are in process of
formation. Frigates will be employed as support groups in the
most threatened section of Mozambique route.
4. It is intended to embody in these convoys the former D/L.M.,
L.M.D., C.B. and B.C. sailings, routeing the D.K. K.D. convoys
close to Lourenco Marques and Beira.
(C. in C. S.A., 131051B to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty. Com. 1/c
Durban, F.O.E.A., C.S.A. Beira, C.S.A. Lourenco Marques).

ALBATROSS ALBATROSS 5 hours late at PP and intends S. of A.
18 knots after destroyers join.
(F.O.C.W.A., 131059Z to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) ACTIVE,
ALBATROSS).

Following received through aircraft: ALBATROSS speed reduced
to 13 knots.

2. Estimate she will be 6 hours late at R/V, adjust speed
accordingly.

(F.O.C.W.Af, 132359Z to ACTIVE, F.O.C. Gibraltar, NESS,
ALBATROSS).

OTUS Intend to sail OTUS at 1600Z/15th Sept. to pass
through positions (A) 08.28 N., 14.00 W. at 2000Z
15th. (B) 04.28 N., 14.00 W. at 2000Z/16th.
(C) 01.35 N., 10.10 W. at 2000Z/17th.
(D) 10.00 S., meridian at 2000Z/21st.

/ (E) ...

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Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

OTUS. (E) 26.15 S. 11.00 E. at 2000Z/26th.
(Contd.) (F) 29.39 S. 13.27 E. at 2000Z/27th.
(G) 33.00 S. 1600 E. at 2000Z/28th thence to
Capetown. Speed made good 10 knots.
(2) Total bombing restrictions for 30 miles
ahead and astern and 20 miles either side of track.
C. in C. S.A. is requested to enforce similar TBR's in his
area. OTUS will report if unable to comply with his TBR's.
(3) OTUS shifts to South Atlantic W/T organisation at position
(D). S.P's carried in accordance with S.P. form 2.
(4) Para. 44 B S.P.02475 (4) and (5) carried in addition.
(5) OTUS proceeds on surface throughout but may dive at her
discretion.
(F.O.C.W.A. 131211Z to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

Italian Request I may be informed as to future conditions
P.O.W. of employment of Italian P.O.W. Provided previ-
ous rules for guarding them can be relaxed there
is ample work for them here. Given the
right type it would speed up repair work, lessen
repairs and lessen demands for spares from home, besides
permitting release of own personnel.
(F.O.C. W.A.F. 131237Z to Admty. (R) N.L.O. Accra.)

T.P.1 A. Tactical policy series 1 A. Experience has
shown that following modifications GJTP 1 are
necessary. (1) When aircraft is certain
beyond reasonable doubt that a ship has been
torpedoed she should carry out procedure laid down in T.P.1
without waiting for order from S.O. escorts. (2) Since most
aircraft's R/T is inoperative when A.S.V. is switched on and
since R/T is limited to an air to surface range of 5 miles all
important signals should be passed to aircraft on R/C wave as
well by R/T. The initial report of a torpedo therefore should
be passed to the aircraft at once by ship keeping 731 wave guard.
Subsequently S.O. Escort should guard the frequency as well,
having 1 escort A/S guarding on area broadcast. (3) A new
aircraft joining the escort after dark should flash last
letter of his wireless callsign on the downward recognition
light over convoy for one minute. S.O. Escorts will then
establish communication by R/T. (4) After an attack escorts
and aircraft should pay particular attention to illumination
of the "downward" side of convoy if there is considerable wind
and sea, since it is almost certainly in that direction in
which submarine will attempt to escape, if remaining on surface.
(C. in C. S.A. 131246B to S.A. Station, G.705.)

SHROPSHIRE. Sail SHROPSHIRE a.m. 14th Sept. for Fremantle rout-
ed as in C. in C. E.F. 090421, not to Admty.
(C. in C. S.A. 131651B to Com. I/C Durban, (R)
A.C.N.B., C. in C. E.F., Admty.)

Bathurst /...

War Diary.

13.9.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Bathurst. Working Bathurst Port now civil responsibility. Intend handing over all lighters to M.W.T.R. except lighters L.27 and V.13 being transferred to Freetown. Confirm agreement. Agreed M.W.T.R. (W.A.) (G.O.C. in C. West Africa, 131715ZA to War Office.)

Shipping Routes. Ships of 13 knots and over bound Persian Gulf and India and ships of 14½ knots and over bound for Aden are to be routed independently by approach route No.2 and thence in accordance with Meiri. (2) All other north bound traffic is to be sailed in D.K. convoy to Kilindini for onward routeing. (3) Route for D.K. convoys will be signalled. (C. in C. S.A. 131731B to Com. I/C. Durban. (R) C. in C. E.F. Admty. F.O.E.A., C.C.S.O. Durban.) See also 161159B.

LADY DENISON
PENDER. Sailing delayed because charts and necessary electrical data stated to have been despatched from Malta and arrived Gibraltar have not yet arrived in Freetown. (F.O.C.W.A. 131808Z to Admty.) Reply: Admty. 141720A.

13.9.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Avalanche".

Capture of Cotrone. Cosintrep No. 65 to 1600B hrs. 12 Sept. Eight Army. R/C Group entered Cotrone 111200B found port in good order and took over three small submarines. Patrols now two miles north of the town.

Fifth Army. Beach head firmly established S8193 including Torchiara S8912 - Trentinara N9400 - Apaccio road (?and) track junction 921073 - 9010 including Pertano 8916. Strong German resistance along entire beach head. (Tac H.Q., 15 Army Group, 130215B to W.O. etc).

ANTWERP ANTWERP 121045 (Requesting instructions re refuelling) As ANTWERP will be required for air-borne operation on night of 14/14th Sept. request you will sail her to Palermo for fuel forthwith. (C. in C. Med., 130241 to N.C.W.T.F.)

Hospital Ships bombed off Salerno. Following received from Niton Radio. Intercept. 0314 G.M.T. 500 k/cs (begins) S O S de G C G 2. Hospital Ship LEINSTER being bombed, position 40.15 N., 14.17 E. at 0313. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 130414 to Admty). 0341 G.M.T. 500 k/cs (begins) Hospital ship

LEINSTER (unread), no damage (ends). (C. in C. Portsmouth, 130441)

0354 G.M.T. 500 k/cs (begins): C Q G P G W (WAIMARAMA, Brit) Hospital Ship ST. ANDREW 40.13 30 N., 14.21 E, has been attacked. Hospital Ship NEWFOUNDLAND on fire. We are going to her assistance Master (Ends).

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 130454).

0358 G.M.T. 500 k/cs (begins) Hospital ship LEINSTER also going to assistance of hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND (ends).

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 130458).

0403 G.M.T. 500 k/cs (begins) Hospital ship TAIREA also going to assistance of Hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 130503, 130508).

LAMERTON,
LAUDERDALE,
WHADDON.

Commodore (N) 122033B as amended by his 122333, not for Comnob, Palermo. LAMERTON and LAUDERDALE are to R/V with WHADDON in position PR at 1800 today Monday.

(WHADDON, 130448B to LAMERTON, LAUDERDALE, Cdre. (N), (R) C. in C. Med., C.T.F.89, C.T.F.80, N.O.I.C. Tunisia, F.O.Sy. N.A.C.A.F., N.A.T.A.F., Comnob Palermo).

Cancel my 122033B.

(Cdre. Com. N. Force, 130818B to WHADDON etc).

SOKOL.

Leave patrol pass 039° 45' 018° 52' at 1200/14th 035° 56' 016° 31' at 2330/15th to R/V 5 miles east of B in Q.B.B. 147 at 0800/16th. Surface passage as necessary. F.O. Force Z pass to N.O.I.C. Taranto.

(Capt. (S) 10, 130705B to O.R.P. SOKOL (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, S.O. Force Z, etc)

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13.9.1943.

Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Operation "Avalanche".- Contd.

- 22 D.F. Am proceeding to Augusta with ALDENHAM, CROOME, G.S. KANARIS by direct route at 22 knots. E.T.A. 1900. GLENELG's 102152 refers. (Capt. (D) 22, 130831B to F.O.Sy. (R) N.O.I.C. Augusta, C.T.F.80, Cdre. (N)).
- S.O. Force V EURYALUS, UNICORN. To release EURYALUS propose to strike my flag at Bizerta and await onward passage to Windsok by merchant packet transferring command of Force V less EURYALUS to Capt. Graham's UNICORN. (S.O. Force V, 130905B to C. in C. Med. (R) S.O. Force H, C.S.12).
- Airborne Landing. Following is a repetition of my 131341B to C.T.G. 89.8 and C.T.U. 89.8.1 (begins). U.S. Airborne troops will be dropped by parachute in area between AG(?RO) Poli and Paestum about 1800 today. Take necessary precautions to ensure these planes are not shot at. Advise (?all ships) in your area. (?C.T.F.89, 131413A to DELHI, PALOMARES, ULSTER QUEEN (corrupt addressee)).
- Convoy T.S.S.5. Intend sailing convoy T.S.S. 5 consisting of L.S.T 361 S.O. 320, 362 (4 corrupt groups) escorted by M.L. (?566), 556, (corrupt group) at 1730/13th route as in AVON/N 5 route G adjusting speed to arrive Salerno 0630/16th S. of A. 10 knots.
- Codeword "Liege" part wireless call sign AZH 5. Priority normal and A/S. (S.N.O. Trip. 131421B to S.O. Force N (R) C. in C. Med. etc).
- Force H. Have steam for 24 knots and be under way by 0925 tomorrow Tuesday. Be prepared to leave by E. E swept channels. Set watch in accordance with F.H.C.M. 26, at 0830 ships will be turned port beam wave "Chop" on auxiliary wave 1761 k/cs. Ships addressed and Capt. (D) 8 acknowledge. (F.O. 2nd i/c Force H, 131810 to HOWE, KING GEORGE V, INTREPID, ECLIPSE, (?FAULKOR) G.S. QUEEN OLGA, FURY, ILEX, (R) S.O. Force H, V.A. Malta, Capt. (D) 8).
- C.S.12 Sail with AURORA and PENELOPE to arrive off Salerno at 0600(?A) 14th Sept. (C. in C. Med., 131858B to C.S.12, (R) C.T.F.89, AURORA, PENELOPE, S.O. Force N, N.C.W.T.F., N.O.I.C. Tunisia, N.O.I.C. Augusta).

/SIRIUS...

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Mediterranean.

Operation "Avalanche". - Contd.

SIRIUS,
DIDO.

Request you will sail SIRIUS and DIDO to arrive
Augusta p.m. tomorrow Sept. 14th.
(2) On arrival SIRIUS and DIDO are at the disposal
F.O.Sy. for support of operations of 8th Army.
(C. in C. Med., 132207 to F.O.(?Bizerta) (?C.S.12)
V.A. Malta, SIRIUS, DIDO F.O.Sy. etc).

Situation
Report.

C. in C. Med., 132301B. See Mediterranean, General.

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UNRIVALLED, (8 M/V's from Bari.) Attacked by enemy aircraft in 036 degs. 52' 017 degs. 28' course 210 degs. speed of convoy 6 knots, no damage, request fighter protection. (UNRIVALLED, 130820B to Capt. (S) 10, (R) C. in C. Med.)
Your 130901B (Italian M.V's to be brought to Malta fuelled if necessary and sailed under escort for Algiers - N.T. in W.D.) Convoy proceeds Malta first for provisions.
UNRULY will conform with Malta's 121138B. UNRIVALLED will remain in Convoy to assist BERGAMOT. Arrive position B of Q.B. Message. B.147 at 1530B/14th. (UNRIVALLED, 131510B to C. in C. Med. (R) Capt. (S) 10th S.F. N.O.I.C.Malta, UNRULY, BERGAMOT)

SOKOL (Brindisi). More ships arriving from North. 2 Italian patrol vessels collecting and directing to Brindisi. Request confirmation whether further sending of merchant ships to Taranto is required and whether any escort available for warships. No air activity here and harbour available for Naval Unit.
(SOKOL, 13090B to Capt. (S) 10th. (R) C. in C. Med.)
My 130940B, delete sentence concerning escort for expected sailings. Brindisi congested with merchant ships. More expected including VULCANIA.
Authority wish to get rid of them but consider Taranto no solution.
Desire draw for Malta or elsewhere.
Next convoy ready to sail in 2 days.
(SOKOL, 131501B to Capt. (S) 10 (R) C. in C. Med.)

Battle Sqdn. from Malta. My 121216. All times 25 hours late. After 510 proceed to point 5 miles North 505 omitting point 5 miles North 322.
(C. in C. Levant, 130955C to F.O. 2nd in Command Force 'H', N.O.I.C. Malta, C. in C. Med. S.O. Force 'H', Admty. etc.)

Treatment of Italian Personnel. Following for Chiefs of Staff (R) Gen. Eisenhower from C. in C.
Urgently request clear directive on treatment of Italian personnel and ships reaching Mideast as result of Italian surrender. Should former be treated as P.W., internees or Allies?
(2) Directive required particularly in connection with units Italian Fleet which reach Alexandria fully armed 14 Sept. and merchant vessels and naval auxiliaries now arriving.

(3) /...

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Treatment of Italian Personnel. (3) Request instructions also regarding civilians. (4) R.A.F. here have been instructed by MA (or MLC?) to disarm Italian aircrew on arrival and restrict to area of billets. They are not being treated as P.W. pending further instructions but are being segregated in P.W. camps and given extra amenities. (Mideast, 131015Z to Air Ministry (R) Freedom)

2 E/V's, 2 M/V's. P.C. and S. of enemy 2 escort vessels 2 small merchant vessels 42.00 N. 11.14 E. based on fix taken within 2 hours of 1100 (?360 degs.) 10 knots (A/C ASJ/S, 131140 to 45 U)

3 M/V's. Position of enemy at 1049Z 2 medium sized M/V 3000 tons, 1 small M/V 3000 tons (?) course 000 degs. -JXD 2628 (?40.26 N, longitude indecypherable). (A/C GPN/X, 131145Z to A.H.Q. Malta.)

P.C. and S. of (enemy) at 1105A 3 medium merchant vessels Italian, 3000 HJLU 4048 (indecypherable) 180 degs. 8 knots. (A/C GPN/X, 131147Z to Air H.Q. Malta.)

P.C. and S. at ?1113 of one Italian M/V 6900 tons 40.35 N. 18.31 E. 189 degs. (?) 8 knots. (A/C GPN/X, 131150Z to A.H.Q. Malta.)

Alexandria. Arrangements for reception and anti-sabotage guards. (C. in C. Levant, 131151C) W.R. Note - Para. 1 not intercepted. See also 141840C.

Congestion at Malta. Your 122201 to F.O.H. (N.T. in W.R.). Owing to overcrowding in anchorage and lack of maintenance facilities particularly water boats request Italian M/SS. may be sailed to ports other than Malta. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 131205B to C. in C. Med. (R) S.O.Z., N.O.I.C. Taranto, F.O.H.)

Future of Italian Ships. Following received from my Liaison Officer in Flagship of Acting C. in C. Italian Fleet. (Begins.) (2) Copy of Prime Minister's and President's call to Italian people delivered to Adm. Da Zara. Admiral stated he and his men had been

much /...

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Mediterranean.

Disposition of Italian Ships.

Future of
Italian
Ships.
(Contd.)

much influenced by Adm. Cunningham's appeal issued immediately after Armistice. They assumed that the Merchant Marine would be used to supply Italy and that after a reasonable interval Italian warships might be allowed to escort their own convoys. He said that for four years the Italian sailors had been taught by every means that "green was red" and that it would take time to teach them that "green was really green". The worst thing for sailors was inactivity. He hoped, therefore, that as many ships as possible would be employed as soon as reasonable and that remainder would be reduced to skeleton crews. He will write to Adm. Cunningham. Italian Admiral had no reply or acknowledgement of his signal to REGOLO and destroyers. (Ends.)
(C. in C. Med. 131557B to Admty.)

Air
Report.

Opsum No.126. W.X.48640.
13 Sept. 15 Spitfires provided escort and 1 Baltimore made A/S patrol for incoming Italian Naval units consisting of 1 CAVOUR, Battleship. Aircraft carrier MIRAGLIA, and British Naval escort. (R.A.F. Malta, 131810Z)

Ships at
Port Mahon
Minorca.

(Please pass following to Algiers). Letter follows. My 111420 (N.T. in W.R. 111943 appears to relate). Following information from Spanish D.N.I. cannot quote but can be regarded as entirely reliable.
(Begins) When Italian ships arrived Port Mahon they had not enough fuel to reach Bone and asked for fuel expressly quoting article 19 referred to. On receiving refusal as reported Italian S.N.O. telephoned to Italian Naval Attache for advice. Latter consulted Italian Ambassador and replied advising (or ordering) ships to remain Port Mahon. Naval Attache told D.N.I. he and Ambassador were influenced by idea that internment would mean ships would be available to Italy after war.
Italian Captains signed document apparently agreeing internment. Italian Naval Attache left for Port Mahon Sept. 12th (Ends. Foreign Office telegram 1412 of Sept. 12th is being acted on forthwith. ORSA could sail but has no fuel. Ships at Port Mahon have not enough. We should have to send tanker. Spaniards say there are about 500 survivors from I.S. ROMA. (N.A. Madrid 131903B to Admty. (R) F.O. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med)

Malta
Arrivals.

Arrived 11th Sept. Battleships VITTORIO VENETO, ITALIA. Cruisers SAVOIA, MONTECUCCOLI, AOSTA, GARIBALDI, ABRUZZI. Destroyers. GRECALE, ORIANI, ARTIGLIERE, (?ORIANI) FUCILIERE, ELITO, LIBRIV (?RECCO). Arrived 12th Sept. Destroyer LEGIONARIO, Submarine MENOTTI.
(V.A. Malta, 131909B to Admty. etc.)

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Mediterranean.

Disposition of Italian Ships.

Arrivals Malta. (Contd.)	Arrivals Italian Battleship GIULIO CESARE, Italian Seaplane Carrier MIRAGLIA, Italian M/V NETTUNO, Italian S/M's JALEA, BANDIERA, ATROPO, Italian T/B RIBOTY. (V.A. Malta, 132301 to Admty. etc.)
Situation Report.	C. in C. Med. 132301B. See Mediterranean, General.
? M/V	P.C. and S. of enemy One small vessel 42 degs. 35' N. 8 degs. 46' E. 260 degs. 6 knots. (A/C GQW/X, 132335A to 45 U.)
List of Arrivals.	Your 131638 (N.T. in W.R.). (1) At Malta (A) Battleships. Italian Battleships CAIO DUILIO, ANDREA DORIA, VITTORIO VENETO, ITALIA, GIULIO CESARE. (B) Cruisers. Italian Cruisers EUGENIO DI SAVOIA, EMANUELE FILBERTO DUCA D'AOSTA, RAIMONDA MONTECUCCOLI, ABRUZZI, GIUSEPPE GARIBALDI, LUIGI CADORNA, Light Cruiser POMPEO MAGNO. (C) Destroyers and T.B's. DA RECCO, ALREDO ORIANI, VELITE, ARTIGLIERE, FUCILIERE, GRECALE, LEGIONARIO, LIBRA, ORIONE, RIBOTY. (D) Seaplane Carriers. Italian Aviation Transport and Tender MIRAGLIA. (E) Submarines. MENOTTI, JALEA, ATROPO, BANDIERA. (2) In Spanish waters. (2) Italian Light Cruiser ATTILIO REGOLO and (???) destroyer, names not known. (B) T.B's PEGASO and IMPETUOSO reported scuttled off Majorca. See Admiralty 121821 (Natel). (V.A. Malta, 132323B to S.O. Force Z.)

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General.

CASABIANCA,
operation
at Ajaccio.

Please inform French authorities (? minor) landing (? successful) at Ajaccio at 0100/13th. Italian giving (up) Ajaccio aerodrome to 40 French troops, main run-way serviceable. Port controlled and serviceable - Germans at 50 kilometres.

Disposition German troops according to Italian H.Q. Ajaccio - motorised brigade moving down east coast to Bonifacio and Porto Vecchio 2 armoured battalions left Gulf of Valinco, Olmeto and Sartene for Bonifacio. Part of Panzer Corps in Sardinia (about 1500 men plus material) has arrived Bonifacio, remainder remaining Maddalena. Germans yesterday evacuated Propriano, Sartene and Petreto Bicchisano - now isolated by Italians without fighting. 22 German aircraft in Ghisonaccia aerodrome, ground defence installed. Remaining Germans isolated in the north making for junction with southern force. This information from Cyprien for Colonel de Villenguve, French S.R. (CASABIANCA, 130358B to Capt. (S) 8.) See also 131230B.

S.N.O.
Reggio.

S.N.O. Reggio area (S.N.O.R.A.) in charge of Reggio Messina and San Giovanni has established headquarters at Reggio. There are also N.Os. i/c at Reggio/Messina but not at San Giovanni. (San Giovanni) code and cypher office will close down and allocation of call sign GXD and S.H.A.140 is cancelled. S.H.A.140 is allocated to S.N.O.R.A. call sign VWP and S.H.A. 143 allocated Cotrone, amend P.O.N.C.O. appendix 2, section 1 page 9 and section (3) page 18. (C. in C. Med., 111149B to Med. Stn., Levant Stn 140B, Admty., - Recd. 130702.)

M.E. Air
Report.

A.301, 13th Sept. Daily Opsum 138. Sept. 12th. 43 U.S. Liberators (B.24) Calato and Maritza aerodromes Rhodes. 5 returned early. 15 bombed Calato. 23 bombed Maritza aerodrome.

Following delayed details. 11th Sept. 1 Baltimore (A.30) on R/C for Italian shipping off Crete sighted 300 ton vessel unloading cargo off Gavdos Island. Baltimore attacked after vessel had opened fire scoring 1 hit 2 near misses with bombs, crew abandoned ship and vessel was left burning with dense black smoke and slightly down at stern. My Opsum. 137. Beaufighter attack on Maritza was made shortly after dusk. 11th/12th Sept. No aircraft seen on aerodrome owing to darkness and Beaufighters attacked hangars with bombs and cannon fire results unobserved. Attack on Calato, 11th/12th Sept., made by 4 Wellingtons, another Wellington failed to locate target.

(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., 130951Z.)

/ U/B ...

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- U/B. Am over enemy submarine in position 39.15 N. 15.16 E. which when previously reported periscope only sighted and when first sighted was on course 258°, speed 4 knots. (A/C 68YR via Malta, 131015B.)
- TRESPASSER. Leave patrol either north of Rhodes or via Scarpanto Strait proceeding on surface from (A) 035° 22' 029° 27' at 0430/15th through (B) 034° 17' 032° 28' at 1830/15th to arrive Beirut 0745/16th.
If using Scarpanto Strait dive to 250 feet and keep clear to eastward of 35° 56' 027° 29', M.S.326 refers. Air escort will meet you dawn/16th.
(Capt. (S) 1, 131029C to P.312 (TRESPASSER), (R) C. in C. Levant, Cdre. (D), Cdr. C.F.E. Med.)
- U.G.S. 16. My 121519 (N.T. in W.R.), para. 4. Amend last 4 dates to read 1 day earlier, i.e. Malta Sept. 18th.
(C. in C. Med., 131045B to HYACINTH, Escorts of Convoy U.G.S.16, (R) A.I.G.259, A.I.G.260 negative F.O.I.C. Sicily, etc.)
- WARSPITE,
VALIANT,
ILLUSTRIOUS. WARSPITE, VALIANT and ILLUSTRIOUS will arrive Gibraltar about 16th Sept. Could escorts be sent from U.K. to take home? Owing to casualties and to heavy troop movement required by present situation it is quite impossible to spare any destroyer from Mediterranean at the moment.
(C. in C. Med., 131052 to Admty., (R) C. in C. H.F. F.O.C. Gibraltar.) Admty. reply: 160035.
- S.T.S.1. Your 121942 (N.T. in W.R.) Request you will sail BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK to Augusta for fuel (?) departing subsequently to Syracuse.
2. S.T.S.1 should proceed with BRECON, BROCKLESBY and the M.Ls. only.
3. Further orders for BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK follow.
(C. in C. Med., 131144 to Cdr. Cmdg. N. Force, (R) BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, BRECON, N.O.I.C. Augusta, N.O.I.C. Syracuse, F.O.I.C. Sicily.)
- G.U.S. 15. My 111059B. Sail less ANTONIA, PACHECO, plus NAILSEA MOOR, SPERO, MARITA, PORTSEA, CHARLES GOODYEAR, BRISK. 12 ships, destination of CHLORIS is now Bizerta.
(V.A. Malta, 131206B to S.O. Escort G.U.S.15, (R) Admty., etc.)
Following left in G.U.S.15 for Bizerta (list etc.)
(D.S.T.O. Malta, 131300 to D.S.T., etc.)

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K.M.S. 25. List, etc. 10 ships all for Alexandria.
(V.A. Malta, 131211 to Ships escorting K.M.S.25,
(R) R.A. Alexandria, P.S.T.O. Middle East, C. in
C. Med. (A), etc.)

Sail at 0730/15th by Q.B.B.123 (B) with joiners for K.M.S.
25, including motor minesweepers addressed for Alexandria to
R/V with convoy in position 212 at 1230/15th.

2. On meeting detach ships for Malta and Sicily and escort them
with SPIREA and AIRE to Malta by Q.B.B. 123 (B).

3. Codeword throughout "Medium" priority low.

(V.A. Malta, 131827 to ?ADRIAS, (R) C. in C. Med.,
COLTSFOOT, SPIREA, AIRE, Escorts of Convoy K.M.S.25,
C. in C. Levant, M.M.S.100, 101, 104, 108.)

Your 131656 (N.T. in W.R.) Have handed over S.O. of
Escort K.M.S.25 to COLTSFOOT. E.T.A. Algiers 1200/14.

(AIRE, 132209B to C. in C. Med., (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers.)

LANDGUARD,
SENNEN,
LULWORTH,
BANFF.

A.M. 211105 August.

LANDGUARD and SENNEN are due at Gibraltar about
18th Sept. with Coastal Force Group.

2. LULWORTH and BANFF are expected to leave U.K.
with K.M.S.27 arriving Gibraltar about 29th Sept.

3. C. in C. Med. and C. in C. Levant are

requested to arrange for their onward passage

to Eastern Fleet without delay keeping C. in C. E.F. informed.

(D.O.D.(F), 131221A to C. in C. Med. (A), C. in C. Levant, C. in
C. E.F., (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.O.R.S.C.A.)

CASABIANCA,
Ajaccio.

At your discretion endeavour to contact French
light cruiser LE FANTASQUE and LE TERRIBLE at
approach point to Ajaccio. You are to return to
Algiers passing through $041^{\circ} 40' 007^{\circ} 25'$ at
 $0700/14$, $037^{\circ} 55' 003^{\circ} 14'$ at $0400/15$ thence

R/V P.219 (SERAPH) and escort for Algiers in $037^{\circ} 05' 003^{\circ} 14'$
 $0700/15$ th.

(Capt. (S) 8, 131230B to CASABIANCA (French Sub.), (R) C. in C.
Med., N.O.I.C. Algiers, 8th S.F.)

Loss of
PUCKERIDGE.

Your 071204. Request you will order a board of
enquiry if this has not already been done.

(C. in C. Med., 131305B to F.O.C. Gib., (R)
Admty.)

LE CURIE.

F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 121719. Onward routeing
through 135° Cape Palos 10 at $0230/16$ th, $038^{\circ} 03'$
 $000^{\circ} 28'$ at $1000/16$ th, $038^{\circ} 03' 002^{\circ} 47'$ at $2330/$
 16 th thence R/V escort Algiers in $037^{\circ} 04' 003^{\circ} 11'$
at $0700/17$ th. Proceed on surface at discretion.

2. Read Algiers broadcast after $0630/16$ th shifting to read M.S.
routine.

4. Positions N. and W. Times Zone minus 2.

(Capt. (S) 8, 131400B to LE CURIE, (R) 8th S/M.F., F.O.I.C.
Gibraltar, C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Oran.)

/PERLE ...

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- PERLE. F.S. PERLE leaves Algiers 1900/14th routed through 038° 10' 003° 58' at 0500/15th, 041° 35' 007° 01' at 0800/16th to operate in area between latitude 041° 00' and 042° 20' and East of 007° E. (Capt. (S) 8, 131416B to 8th S/M.F., F.S. CASABIANCA, F.S. PERLE, (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers, C. in C. Med.)
- BERGAMOT. My 121138 (N.T. in W.R.) Cancel para. 4 and amend para. 2 to read "proceed with M.Vs. to Malta through position 273 and Q.B.B.146". BERGAMOT pass to S/Ms in company. (V.A. Malta, 131432 to BERGAMOT, (R) A.H.Q. Malta, S.N.O. Tripolitania, R.A. Alexandria, S.N.O. C.S.10, etc.)
- MONTCALM, use in Corsica. General Giraud has made a formal request to be allowed to employ MONTCALM in Corsica operations. I strongly support his request as I am at present unable to spare any forces to assist in what appears a good chance of wresting Corsica from the Germans. (C. in C. Med., 131513 to Admty. for 1st S.L.) Reply: Admty., 141105A. See also B.A.D.141549Z, America and West Indies.)
- Aegean, German Control. Information so far received indicates Germans control whole of Aegean Area. (Capt. (S) 1st, 131551C to RORQUAL, KATSONIS G.S., TRESPASSER.) See also 140045.
- Turkey and Asdic information. In Istanbul, it is known from reliable but (three corrupt groups) source that Germany is making special efforts to obtain latest developments of asdic.
2. They claim to have a contact among Turkish Officers in A/S School, Istanbul.
3. All British advisers have been warned accordingly but so far there is no evidence of any Turkish Officers attempting to obtain any information beyond that which is permitted by Admty. to be taught here. (B.N.A. Ankara, 131631C to D.N.I.)
- FIRUZ. A. My 111210C. FIRUZ returned Istanbul. Trials successful. Vessel now awaiting orders to sail for Black Sea. B.2. Reported balance of cargo will be discharged into tanker expected to arrive Istanbul shortly from Aegean. B.5. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 131752C to C. in C. Levant, S.O.(I) Levant, S.1, D.N.I.)

/ALBA ...

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Mediterranean - Contd.

ALBA JULIA. My 111707C. Further cargo has become available and ALBA JULIA now expected complete Sept. 17th or Sept. 18th. ?B.3.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 131810C to C. in C. Levant, S.O.(I) Levant, S.1, D.N.I.)

ILLUSTRIOUS, VALIANT, WARSPITE. Intend movements in my 121801 to take place sailing p.m./14th Sept.
(S.O. Force H, 131821 to C. in C. Med., (R) C. in C. Med. (A), S.O. Force V, Admty., R.A. MAURITIUS, N.O.I.C. Malta, F.O.C. Gibraltar, R.A.(A) H.F.)

Augusta, Situation Report. (? Latest report) re H.M. Sub. VARANGIAN. No enemy air activity in last 24 hours.
(2) Carried out fuelling operations throughout the night.
(3) Visited S.O. of Italian S/M. All S/Ms provisioned and watered.
(4) Salvage work on OCEAN VIRTUE proceeding very satisfactorily.
(5) Landed 20 casualties from AURORA and 398 casualties from PENELOPE and 2 South African ex prisoners of war.
(6) Work proceeding on diesel pipe line.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 132120 to C. in C. Med., etc.)

BROOKLYN. Ordered to Mediterranean.
(Commaveu, 132131Z.)
See America and West Indies.)

N.A.A.F. Report. Attacks on U/Bs. N.W.A. Air Forces Opsum 204. N.W.A. Strategic Air Force. 11th/12th Sept. N.A.C.A.F. 11th/12th Sept. Hudson sighted fully surfaced submarine off south-west coast Sardinia. Submarine was not showing navigation lights or flags and made no attempt at identification. Hudson attacked with 4 depth charges. Only depth charge scum observed after attack. The Wellington was forced to ditch 40 miles North Cape Rosa. Crew rescued. 12th Sept. 28 miles south-west Cape Carbonara Bisley sighted fully surfaced submarine. No pennant flown and no attempt made by submarine to identify itself. Bisley attacked with 4 depth charges. 1 depth charge burst within 20 feet of starboard bow and 1 within 10 feet of C/T. Large oil slick? seen and about 20 survivors in water. Considered promising attack.
(N.A.A.F., 132141B.)

U/B. Following received. (Begins). Addressed U.S.S. WAINWRIGHT, H.M.S. STORK, C. in C. Med. from N.O.B. Oran. Aircraft on A/S patrol report sighting S/M in crash dive in 036° 22' N. 000° 22' E. at 2006B/13th.
(C. in C. Med. (A), 132247B to all concerned.)

*Italian
S/M
TOPAZIO*

/Situation ...

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Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation
Reports.

Situation report No. 180.

- (1) My 122236, para. 7. U-Boat was originally attacked and disabled by searchlight Wellington. U-Boat made for territorial waters being continually attacked by A/C until HAARLEM completed destruction by gunfire leaving U-Boat burning.
- (2) Hospital ships LEINSTER and NEWFOUNDLAND were both attacked by A/C about 0500/13th. The former was not hit but the latter has been damaged.
- (3) The port of Cotrone was occupied on 12th Sept. Installations found intact.
- (4) Six Italian torpedo boats, one M.T.B. and one U-Boat arrived at Palermo 12th Sept. Admiral Nomis di Pollone was on board ALISEO with Duke of Aosta as passenger.
- (5) Four rocket bombs were dropped during raid on bombarding ships at about 1440/13th. A/C attacked from 10,000 feet. Bombs seen to turn 90° through the air during attack. UGANDA hit by one bomb aft and steering gear put out of action.
- (6) UNSHAKEN reported at 1442/13th (W.D. Note - 5th intended) in 040° 36' N. 018° 08' E. scored one torpedo hit on 7,000 ton tanker in ballast.

(C. in C. Med., 132237 to Admty.)

Cosintrep No. 64, part 2.

1. The U-Boat in Cosintrep No. 63, para. 7 was originally attacked and disabled by aircraft and finally destroyed and left on fire by Trawler HAARLEM.
2. An attack was made with rocket bomb on bombarding ships in Salerno area, p.m./13th Sept. UGANDA was hit aft. Evidence now indicates that the attack on U.S.S. SAVANNAH and U.S.S. PHILADELPHIA were made with similar weapons.
3. The port of Cotrone was occupied by our forces on 12th Sept. Installations were found intact.
4. Hospital ships LEINSTER and NEWFOUNDLAND were both attacked by enemy aircraft a.m./13th Sept. The latter ship was hit.
5. During a recent patrol in the Adriatic H.M. Submarine UNSHAKEN reports having hit a 7,000 ton tanker on 5th Sept.
6. Six Italian torpedo boats, one motor torpedo boat and Italian U-Boat arrived at Palermo 12th Sept.

(C. in C. Med., 132301B to Admty.)

UGANDA,
damaged
by A/C.

UGANDA has split in bottom of after engine room starboard side 30 feet long. There are 1300 tons of water on board which cannot be pumped before patch. All bulkheads adjacent damaged compartments have been strengthened. Port outer shaft and steering gear in action and ship can steam.

Ship drawing 25 feet aft.

2. Deputy salvage officer recommends ship proceeds Malta as quickly as possible. Hole cannot be patched here.
- (C.S.15, 132316B to C. in C. Med., (R) V.A. Malta, UGANDA, S.O. Force N, Admty., C. in C. Med., (A).)

/PATHFINDER ...

13.9.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

PATHFINDER,
PANTHER.

Sail PATHFINDER, PANTHER to Malta.
(C. in C. Med., 132327 to N.O.I.C. Augusta, (R)
F.O.I.C. Sicily, V.A. Malta, S.O. Force H, etc.)

Army
Report.

Cositintrep No.66 to 1600 hours 13th Sept.
3. 5th Army. 10th Corps situation difficult.
56 Div. who have suffered heavy losses forced
out of Battipaglia. 46 Div. maintaining position
in passes but subjected to infiltration from
North. No change Ranger front. 6 Corps left flank withdrawn
after several counter attacks to conform to 56 Div. 157 R.C.T.
now North of Sele River.
(Tac H.Q. 15 Army Group, 132359.)

13.9.1943.

MondayWar Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

NIEUW HOLLAND, SALWEEN. Intend NIEUW HOLLAND sail in company with SALWEEN from Kilindini to Aden.
 2. This may delay SALWEEN about four days but will enable escort to be provided for both ships.
 3. D. of S.T.'s 110254 refers.
 (C. in C. E.F. 130508Z to F.O.E.A. (R) D. of S.T., D.S.T.O., Kilindini, P.S.T.O., M.E., S.S.T.O. Colombo, F.O.R.S., C.A. C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med., Cdre. Aden.)

TRIDENT. Propose. TRIDENT should return U.K. on completion of rest period at end of Sept. unless operational requirements at present unforeseen make it imperative that she carries out another patrol on this station, a.m. 221349A August.
 (Capt. (S) 4th, 130517Z to C. in C.E.F. (R) Admty., F.O.(S) C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1st C. in C. Levant.)

Treatment of Italian crews. It is intended to land crews of any surrendered Italian submarines and to treat them as prisoners of war. Parole will be offered and if accepted they will be accommodated in a camp outside Colombo. Prisoners refusing parole will be confined in detention barracks. Request very early information whether this policy is approved. S.O. Force Z 121241.
 (C. in C.E.F., 131125Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F., (Kilindini), C. in C. Ceylon, Gen. Com. F.O., Ceylon.)

Enemy A/C. Following report received from James. Hostile aircraft over Island 0600Z/13th. Departed N.E. direction 0620Z/13th.
 (C. in C.E.F., 131131Z to Admty., (R) F.L.O. Delhi, A.C.N.B.)

Tanker messages. M. of W.T. state you wish Tanker Messages in accordance with your 122359 May 1941 discontinued forthwith. Request confirmation.
 (P.S.T.O. India, 131137Z to D.S.T.)

C. in C.E.F. Intend to embark in HAWKINS and sail from Kilindini on 15th for Colombo. E.T.A. 21st.
 (C. in C.E.F. 131346C to Admty., (R) C. in C.S.A., F.O.C.R.I.N., F.O. Ceylon, F.L.O. India, F.O.E.A., S.O. Force C., C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant.)

Convoy P.A.52. Arrived.
 (N.C.S.O. Aden, 131415Z to Admty.)

/South...

430

13.9.1943.

Monday

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

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Convoy P.A.52. Arrived.
 (N.C.S.O. Aden, 131415Z to Admty.)

/South...

13.9.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

South
East Asia
Command.
H.Q.C. in C.
E.F.

Personal from V.C.N.S. Your 081051Z to 1st S.L.
We have consulted the Supreme Allied Commander,
who would prefer your H.Q. to be situated in same
locality as S.E.A.C.
2. We are in general agreement with him because
it is clear that easy access by S.A.C. to all
three Cs. in C. will greatly simplify the direction
of affairs, both from his point of view and theirs.
3. It is equally important that you should maintain personal
touch with your naval forces and bases; as to this we entirely
sympathise with your views.
4. We, therefore, visualise decentralisation on the following
lines which, we understand, were provisionally agreed between
the 1st S.L. and yourself when you were last in U.K.:-
(a) Station H.Q. under Dep. C. in C. permanently in Ceylon.
(b) F.O. afloat responsible for Eastern Fleet.
(c) Naval Force Commander.
5. This should enable you to move freely, provided that when
absent from S.E.A.C. you are represented there by your Chief
of Staff or other officer as may be required to act for you in
the circumstances of the time.
6. The functions of D.C.O. India are still under consideration,
but it appears that he will have to be responsible jointly to
S.A.C. and C. in C. India for C.O. training and development.
7. The position of F.O.C.R.I.N. will remain unchanged.
8. Your remarks on the above proposals and on any other
questions arising out of A.M. 021658 would be appreciated,
though you may wish to defer these until after Mountbatten's
arrival.
9. As regards your 261922 August 5th S.L. has taken up the
matter and will reply to you.
(V.C.N.S., 131423A to C. in C. E.F.) Reply: 150619Z.

L.S.T.(2)s.

Following is text of Air Min. O.Z. 2771 T.O.O.
131155Z, to C. in C. India, and repeated to you.
(Begins) Following from Chiefs of Staff (C.O.S.
(India.)(192)).

1. Combined Chiefs of Staff have informed Gen. Eisenhower
that the 18 L.S.T.(2) at present in the Mediterranean en route
to India may be retained in that theatre for present operations.
2. We hope to be able to withdraw these ships from Gen.
Eisenhower by Oct. 10th. (Ends.)
(Admty., 131625A to C. in C.E.F.)

13.9.1943.
Monday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Air Report. Daily G.R. Opsum 2, period ending 0100 G.M.T.13th.
(3) A. Dig G/161 B. Cover H.X.-256 C.1745
D. 4335 6120 W G. 1 600 lb. D/c from 300 ft.
(1) No explosion, bubbles rising and small black objects in swirl.
(H.Q. E.A.C. 130750 to Air Min.).

Convoy G.A.T.85 Arrived p.m. 12th.
(B.R.L.O. Trinidad 130941Q to Admty.).

H.F.74 Your 112140A. Following is repetition of N.C.S.O. Halifax's 111305Z (Begins) - Admty. from N.C.S.O. Halifax. Your 091902A X.B.72A was cancelled. Vessels for Cape Cod Canal sailed as Cape Cod section of H.F.74. Sailing telegrams H.F.74 are being passed to you.
(Halifax C.C.O. 131210Z to Admty.).
W.R. Note. Requesting repetition of 111305Z received undecypherable originated by D.T.D. requesting X.B.72A sailing telegram.

Stragglers arrived week-ending 11th. 5th CHARLES SUMNER (U.S.) O.N.199 engine trouble, Sept 6th FORT CAPOT RIVER O.N.199 lost convoy, 11th STRATHNAVER U.T.2 engine trouble.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 131404Z to Admty.).

U.S. S/M Estimate. (Cominch 131450Z).

VICTORIOUS Cominch 111845 para.2. Destination of VICTORIOUS is Clyde.
(B.A.D. 131515 to C. in C.C.N.A. (R) Admty. etc.).
For Capt, Mackintosh from Adm. Noble.

On leaving U.S.A. I wish to congratulate you, your officers, and ship's company on the splendid manner in which your ship has upheld prestige of the Royal Navy during your period in the Pacific. From many sides I have heard most complimentary remarks on the high morale of VICTORIOUS and excellent spirit of co-operation with U.S. Navy. It must be matter of considerable pride to all of you as it is to me to know that the name of the Royal Navy in general and VICTORIOUS in particular is held in such esteem by U.S. Navy in the Pacific.
Goodbye and good luck to you.

(B.A.D. 132217Z to VICTORIOUS (R) Admty.).

Iceland employment, of U.S. Aircraft. J.S.M.1172.
(1) U.S. Chiefs of Staff have proposed that U.S. aircraft, both military and naval stationed in Iceland should be employed in any operation plan against enemy capital ships attempting to break out into the Atlantic. They propose following agreement should cover such employment.

(a) All plans to be prepared and approved by the British,

/including...

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Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Iceland employment of U.S. Aircraft. (Contd.). including those for employing combined air forces based upon Iceland, as the operation would be a British responsibility.
 (b) Local U.S. Commanders will keep the responsible British Commander informed of the number of U.S. aircraft that can be made available.
 (c) Responsible British Commander will decide when such operations are to be undertaken.
 (d) U.S. Forces will be commanded by their regularly assigned Commanders who will be given missions for the forces they make available.
 (e) U.S. forces present will normally be made available for this operation.
 (2) May we please have your comments.
 (Britman Washington 131531Z to Air Min.).

U.G.S. - G.U.S. Convoys, speed of ships. My 242230 August (?terms) modified to permit inclusion in U.G.S. - G.U.S. convoys of ships having declared speeds for $9\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
 (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 131705Z to C.E.S.F. (R)
 C. in C.U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Cdr. 5th N.D. Norfolk. Cdr. 3rd N.D. New York, Admty., F.O.1/c Gibraltar, Comnavau, C. in C. Med. Cdr. Morseafront, P.D. New York, P.D. Norfolk, B.A.D.).

Spanish Fishing Vessels. Admty. 172248A August. Spanish fishing vessels reported by army aircraft in position 67.00 N. 55.00 W. on 8th Sept.
 (Naval Service Ottawa 131715Z to Admty. (R) B.N.A. Madrid).

Corsair Squadrons for Fleet Carrier. To meet requirements for future operations it may be necessary to re-arm three Squadrons with Corsairs for a Fleet Carrier. Request you estimate of the time required for:-
 (a) Martlet II to Corsair II.
 (b) Seafire to Corsair II.
 The Squadrons concerned are now operational on their present types and are embarked. The formation of three Corsair Squadrons planned in the extension programme would be deferred to provide aircraft spares and key maintenance ratings.
 (D.N.A.O. 131820A to B.A.D.).

Fighters in Escort Carriers. Your 051748.
 First examination of problem shews promise of being able to implement your paragraph L but with your proposed ships slightly changed.
 (2) However, U.S. Navy are now finding it difficult to adhere to original Turbine Re-blading programme, and revised programme will affect completion dates at Vancouver adversely.
 (3) It is therefore too early to make a firm forecast of actual ship-squadron matching until revised re-blading programme is firm.
 (4) Further signal will be made as soon as practicable.
 (B.A.D. 131921Z to Admty.).

/B.X.73...

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

B.X.73 Arrived Halifax 1837Z/13th.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 131936Z to Admty.).

U.S.A.T. Arrival 13th Y-1 (U.S.A.T.).
(B.R.O. Georgetown 131943Q).

Aircraft One unidentified aircraft bearing 265 degs. from
Convoy codeword "Stratum" 41.47.N. 46.31 W. 180
9.
(LANDGUARD 131945A to Whitehall W/T).

Iceland U.S. Fuel facilities. Cominch proposes that the supply of all petroleum
products to Iceland should become a British
responsibility.
(2) Apart from other considerations he points out
that the advantages of this proposal would be:-
(a) the elimination of the unecomomical employ-
ment of four fast tankers now maintaining this supply
(b) the release of about three destroyers for other escort
duties.
(3) It is understood that the M.O.W.T. have already consulted
you regarding supply considerations. Bilge 2502 Bilge 2527
and Bilge 3387 refer.
(4) If this proposal is acceptable request date from which it
should be operative.
(5) Please also see my 302311 August. (Re U.S. Navy's intention
to reduce naval facilities in Iceland).
(B.A.D. 132041Z to Admty.).

Sub attack and sighting summary. P.C.576 sound contacts 08.23 N. 58.05 W.
2144/12.
(Cominch 132046Z to Admty.).

French S/Ms. My 301907~~Z~~ August. U.S. Chiefs of Staff are
anxious to receive our comments. May we assume
that C. in C. Med's. 071635~~ø~~ is the reply we
may give as it appears to have crossed A.M.
011803+.
(B.A.D. 132057Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.).
* Suggested French submarines PALLAS, CERES and AMPHITRITE be
utilized upon repair completion as Submarine Training Targets
in U.S.A. Bermuda area.
ø Re PALLASCERES and AMPHITRITE being repaired from French
resources.
+ Re Subs to meet urgent British and Canadian A/S training
commitments.

STRATHNAVER F.O.N.Fs. 121505+. Request you reply.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 132129Z to Com.Tenth Fleet C and
R (R) Admty., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C. in C. Lant.,
C.T.F.24.).
+ M/S circulation.

/BROOKLYN...

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13.9.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.

- BROOKLYN This is Cominch 131910 addressed Cinclant and (R) Admiralty, C. in C. Med, C. in C.A.F., Comnavnaw, Chief of Staff Army. (Begins) Radio Algiers pass to locals. Direct BROOKLYN proceed earliest practicable and best speed consistent with logistics independently to Mediterranean port and upon arrival report to Com. Eighth Fleet for duty. Com. Eighth Fleet will designate port.
(Comnaveu 132131Z to Admty.).
- DOMETT Sail H.M.S. DOMETT when ready about 18th September Boston to Bermuda direct advising time of departure route speed of advance.
(Cominch 132134 to Comeastseafon (R) Comome, C. in C. Lant, N.O.B. Bermuda, N.S.H.Q., Admty.)
- B.Y.M.S. Sail B.Y.M.S.79. 80 when ready about 19th Sept. New York to Halifax for onward routeing to Londonderry via St. Johns N.F. Comply with instructions for previous sailing of this type of vessel. S.O. in B.Y.M.S.79.
(U.S. C. in C.U.S. Fleet 132136Z to U.S.C.E.S.F.).
- Points from 24th Meeting A.U. Committee, 8th September. (A) Considered report on value of net defence, and in view of labour and time required to fit existing ships agreed that for the present only new ships under construction should be fitted. Policy to be reviewed periodically, and to be discussed by Admiralty with Adml. Vickery, U.S.N. who is to visit U.K.
(B) Considered Admiralty paper on radar in independently routed merchant ships. Paper quoted statistics indicating improved chances of escape of vessels which sighted U-boats before being attacked. Extension of fitting programme desirable, but American portable set fitted P.P.I. probably best solution as manning problem is acute.
Possibilities of some form of improvised sets from radar equipment already in production being investigated by M.A.P.
(2) This message has been passed to 1st S.L.
(D.A.U.D. Approved A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 132138A to B.A.D. (R) A.O.C. in C.C.).

Australia and New Zealand

- Movements Arrival Milne Bay 11th U.S.S. ROCHAMBEAU
Brisbane 12th U.S.S. MIZAR.
(A.C.N.B. 131122Z).

/Digest...

13.9.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand. - Contd.

Digest
No.601 Sept.
12th.

Paras. 13 to 15 cover South Pacific Forces.
Part 1 Beaufort reported 1 Destroyer with 2
Merchantmen 60 miles to South East Cape Saint
George forenoon.

(2) 4 Bostons sighting no barges South coast New
Britain bombed radio station vicinity Gasmata.

2 Bostons made forced landing in sea.

(3) Navy Catalina attacked large submarine off Cape Orford before
dawn with unobserved results.

(4) 3 Beaufighters followed by 9 Mitchells made large sweeps
West of New Britain covering area between Cape Bushing and Rein
Bay afternoon, destroying several barges vicinity Cape
Gloucester but relatively few others observed.

(5) One Liberator bombed Finschhafen same afternoon while
another bombed Cape Gloucester Strip. Navy Catalina dropped
depth charges on buildings Garove Island night 11th and
reported sighting 1 tug, 2 barges.

(7) 9 Mitchells on barge sweep North Coast Cuon Peninsular
reported.

(10) 10 Dive Bombers escorted by Fighters attacked shipping
Corobe Area forenoon (corrupt groups) and causing several
casualties. A/A defences claim 2 Dive bombers.

(13) Shipping Buin Shortstars included 5 small freighters 3
small craft, 39 barges and at Buka 1 patrol craft, 2 small
freighters, 6 small craft and 9 barges.

(15) P.T. Boats several Corsairs attacked barges South East
and South West Coast (corrupt groups) night 10th/11th destroying
several and damaging others. Some barges returned fire
causing minor damage our P.Ts. Shore batteries also (?opened)
(2 corrupt groups).

(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 131145).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 131356A, 131358A).

Submarines Attacked.

Submarine
attack and
sighting
summary for
24 hours to
0900Z/13th.

Para.A. According to Swiss radio Swiss MALOJA
sunk near Corsica between 4th and 12th Sept.
Aircraft sighted U-boat on surface at 0655/12 in
37 degs. 48' N. 08 degs. 40' E. course 220 degs.
Aircraft sighted U-boat on surface at 0917/12 in
38 degs. 39' N. 09 degs. 22' E. course 315 degs.

/ (Amended)...

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Monday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

Submarine
attack and
sighting
summary for
24 hours to
0900Z/13th.
(Contd.).

(Amended - see 141000Z).

Para. B. WHITE BEAR attacked a contact at
0600/13 in 58 degs. 56' N. 02 degs. 17' W.

Para. C. Aircraft attacked U-boat at 1300/12 in
30 degs. 40' N. 11 degs. 00' W.

(D.D.I.C. 131035Z to Cominch).

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14.9.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| U.S.S.
NEVADA. | 1. The U.S. battleship NEVADA and destroyers NELSON, JEFFERS, MURPHY, GENNON, GHERARDI, COWIE, BUTLER, QUICK and HERNDON arrived at Belfast at 2230A today from escorting Convoy U.T. 2. |
| U/B
offensive. | 2. C. in C. W.A. is of the opinion that when the enemy resume their U-Boat offensive they will resort to submerged patrol accompanied by W/T silence on the part of the U-Boat, as is the British practice. He discussed the matter in a message to the Admiralty today. |
| M.T.Bs. off
Dutch Coast. | 3. M.T.Bs. from the Nore Command, operating off the Dutch coast between Ymuiden and the Hook in the early hours of today attacked a southbound convoy. It is believed that a 1,000 ton ship was sunk. Another force of M.T.Bs. was engaged by the rear escorts of the same convoy which was entering the Hook at the time; no damage or casualties were caused. |
| X.K.11. | 4. PROSPEROUS reported being attacked by enemy aircraft at about 1000 G.M.T. today in 43.30 N. 15.30 W. and WOODCOCK with PROSPEROUS, ARCTIC RANGER and SCHELDE reported being unsuccessfully attacked by F.W. aircraft at 1250Z today in 43.39 N. 15.41 W. KITE with the rear part of Convoy X.K.11 reported being bombed at 1241Z in 43.41 N. 16.18 W. |
| Eagle
ships. | 5. The Admiralty are asking C. in C. Nore to reconsider the value of Eagle ships on their present duty (A/A protection in Thames Estuary), having regard to the Maunsell Towers and the fact that Eagle ships are not suitably armed to deal with the increased height at which the enemy can now drop mines. |
| Biscay
A/S Patrol. | 6. The Spanish Ministry of Marine have quoted several cases recently of trawlers being attacked by our aircraft well clear of the prohibited area; in the only instance in which they quote a position this is just outside the area. (On 15th September, however, the Spanish Ministry of Marine quoted certain specific instances of attacks outside the prohibited zone and asked that they should cease.)
Bad weather has caused a considerable curtailment of flying in the Bay of Biscay area during the past week, particularly at night, and there has been no promising attack since 7th September. |

/Coastal ...

14.9.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands - Contd.

Coastal
Command.

7. It has been decided to redistribute the geographical areas of 15, 18 and 19 Groups Coastal Command, to meet present and future strategical requirements. The new boundaries, details of which are given in a message from H.Q.C.C. today, are to become effective as from 0001/25.

North Atlantic.

8. Aircraft at 1205A today sighted an abandoned 5,000 ton merchant vessel with shell holes in the hull in 42° N. 13.45 W. This is thought to be SS. FORT BABINE (see 13th September). F.O.I.C. Gibraltar was instructed to try to locate and salve the ship.

U/Bs.

9. On 12th September the Admiralty appreciated that there were about 6 U-Boats between the Azores and longitude 15° W. of which some may attempt to enter the Mediterranean. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar asks that a support group may be based temporarily at Gibraltar for offensive A/S operations. None of the Gibraltar Escort Force is available owing to heavy escort commitments which have compelled him to withdraw the trawler on patrol in the Straits. On 18th September the Admiralty refused his request, stating that present indications do not justify basing a group at Gibraltar. On 16th September he asked for four additional trawlers for the Gibraltar Escort Force, in view of the increase of Lisbon traffic.

South Atlantic.

10. The Australian cruiser SHROPSHIRE sailed from Durban this morning for Fremantle. RAMILLIES (Eastern Fleet) sailed from Durban today escorting C.M.45 for Kilindini.

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14.9.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.

Salerno.

11. Unloading over the beaches of Salerno Bay continued satisfactorily today. British and U.S. Cruisers and destroyers bombarded enemy positions and troop concentrations. Shelling of the port of Salerno was on a reduced scale. Destroyers last night carried out a sweep north of Cape Circeo and coastal forces operated in the Gulf of Gaeta without incident. R.F.A. DERWENTDALE (Oiler) was hit by bombs off Salerno today and her engine room was demolished; she was taken in tow for Malta. SS. BUSHROD WASHINGTON was also hit p.m. today and sank subsequently a.m./15th September. N.C.W.T.F. reported this evening that the military situation ashore continued to be unsatisfactory. Enemy counter attack has created a deep salient some 2 miles wide on the Sele River between the 10th and 6th Corps. There is little depth now in the beach head and our forces are on the defensive. Gunfire from ships is being used to break up the enemy tank attacks 3 miles from the beach. Plans are being made with the army to embark the army H.Q. in HILARY and employ all available craft in the assault area to transfer troops from the Southern Area to the Northern Area or vice versa. The port party has been reduced on account of enemy action and at 1600 it was reported that the port of Salerno was under shell fire and was not in use. The unloading of M.T. ships in the Southern Area has been stopped preparatory to possible withdrawal, storeships placed at half an hour's advice preparatory to a possible withdrawal out of range of shore artillery. WARSPITE and VALIANT sailed for Gibraltar and the U.K. with ILLUSTRIOUS, from Malta, late this morning but were recalled and the two battleships and 6 destroyers sailed instead to arrive in the assault area by daylight tomorrow for bombardment; and NELSON and RODNEY and all available destroyers were ordered to proceed to the northward. AURORA and PENELOPE arrived this morning in the Salerno Area to augment the bombarding forces. EURYALUS, SCYLLA and CHARYBDIS were sent to Tripoli to embark reinforcements. At 1900 C. in C. Med. obtained for General Alexander a report on the situation ashore from the 12th Air Support Group with the 5th Army. There was little change on the 6th Corps front; the position had been consolidated and the enemy attack held. The 10th Corps reported no activity.

Force Z.

12. V.A. Power relinquished duty as S.O. Force Z and the title lapsed.

/Capri ...

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14.9.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean - Contd.

- Capri. 13. An M.T.B. base is being established and Radar installed.
- Brindisi. 14. The port of Brindisi was opened today. Italian Naval authorities co-operated and on 16th September C. in C. Med. reported that the port was undamaged and was in full working order, but there is a lack of stevedores. There are two small floating docks and complete workshops.
- Corsica. 15. The French ships LE FANTASQUE and LE TERRIBLE landed 600 troops at Ajaccio last night.
- Greek Islands. 16. Admiral Kelly reports that the 6,000 German troops in the Dodecanese have disarmed the 50,000 Italians. The Germans appear to be in control at Rhodes. However Samos, Leros and Kos are reported at present in Allied control. KATSONIS is to patrol N. of Nikaria on completion of a special operation and RORQUAL is on patrol, both as a defence against a possible enemy expedition from Piraeus.
- Italian Fleet and shipping. 17. The arrangement for disarming Italian ships (Operation "Gibbon") are given in a message from the Admiralty to C. in C. E.F. today. An Italian Squadron consisting of the battleships VITTORIO VENETO and ITALIA, cruisers CADORNA, MONTECUCCOLI, D'AOSTA and SAVOIA, and destroyers LEGIONARIO, GRECALE, ARTIGLIERE, ORIANI, VELITE and DA RECCO sailed from Malta for Alexandria today, escorted by the 3rd Divn. of the Battle Fleet (HOWE and KING GEORGE V.) 28 more small Italian naval craft arrived at Palermo during 13th/14th September. The 8 Italian merchant ships brought out from Bari by UNRIVALLED (see 10th September) arrived at Malta today.
- A/A cruisers. 18. C. in C. Med. reports that he considers it essential to retain at least two A/A cruisers in the Mediterranean for the escort of through convoys. Consequently, it does not appear that DELHI and CARLISLE can go to the Eastern Fleet.

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14.9.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

ERITREA. 19. The Italian escort vessel ERITREA arrived at Colombo this morning in order to surrender, and was disarmed.

Burma. 20. Further attacks on river craft on the Irrawaddy are reported today.

China.

Air attack on Hong Kong and Haiphong. 21. It is reported that 10 U.S. Lightning bombers attacked Hong Kong harbour today. Direct hits were made on two merchant ships one of which was destroyed. 9 U.S. Mitchells with Kittyhawk escort attacked Kowloon docks. Eight U.S. Liberators bombed Haiphong and made hits on the dry dock and two small vessels building.

America and West Indies.

22. A U/B was attacked at 0337Z today in 43.35 N. 58.05 W.

Australia and New Zealand.

Ambon. 23. 3 Catalinas bombed and gunned the Ambon area last night, damaging float-planes and a flying boat.

New Guinea. 24. 16 Mitchells with fighter escort attacked the Hansa Bay/Sepik River area today, damaging barges and installations.

14.9.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

S/Ms. for Eastern Fleet. 1. Following additional submarines could be sent from Mediterranean to reinforce Eastern Fleet temporarily by Nov. 1943.

Submarine	Due leave E.F.	Due Refit U.K.
TORBAY	February, 1944	April, 1944
SICKLE	April, 1944	June, 1944
SHAKESPEARE	May, 1944	July, 1944

2. This would leave in Mediterranean one T class, three S class, 16 U class including one F. French, two Polish, one Dutch and F.F. MINERVE. The Poles will probably return to U.K. before long. In addition there will, of course, be in the Med. the Greek and French submarine Flotillas. (F.O.(S) 141514A to Admty.)

Home Fleet Cruisers. Your 211059 August. It is expected that AUGUSTA and TUSCALOOSA will leave Home Fleet on return of FURIOUS.

2. If both JAMAICA and SHEFFIELD are required for Eastern Fleet and Home Fleet cruisers at Plymouth cannot be relieved by ships now in Mediterranean, it may be necessary to ask Cominch to lend Home Fleet a cruiser.

3. LONDON may now be retained in Home Fleet until end of November. She will be replaced by DEVONSHIRE when ready for service.

4. GAMBIA may be retained in Home Fleet until CUMBERLAND is available.

5. It may then be necessary to defer refits as follows -

- (a) KENT until DEVONSHIRE joins in February.
- (b) GLASGOW until BERWICK is available in December.
- (c) BERMUDA until NIGERIA is available late January.

6. The retention of CRYLON cannot be approved. (A.C.N.S.(H) 141811A to C. in C.H.F.)

Eagle Ships. Your 071158B*July approved.

2. Request you will reconsider value of Eagle Ships on their present duty, having regard to the Maunsell Towers, and fact that Eagle Ships are not (R) not suitably armed to deal with increased height at which enemy can now drop mines.

3. It is desired to pay off as many as possible to ease manning situation and in some cases to prepare them for other future operational requirements. (A.C.N.S.(H) 142118A to C. in C. Nore.) * GOATWELL and SCAWFELL considered suitable to replace MONA'S ISLE and GRUNO.

Movements.

U.S. ROCKAWAY. A.M. 122030. Sailed at 0745A/14 for Argentina. Route A thence in accordance with A.M. 122030 Codeword "Rival" speed 16 knots. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 140751A.)

STONECROP. My 132108A. Sailed codeword "Label". (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 140915)

/SEADOG...

14.9.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

SEADOG. F.O.(S) 131809A. Intend sailing (P.216
(for SEADOG through 330° Dunnet Head 10 miles thence
Spitzbergen) to 063° 15' N. 002° 30' W. thence as ordered by
F.O.(S) signal. 2. Time of sailing will be
reported in accordance with paragraph 10 F.O.(S)
signal as soon as possible.
(A.C.O.S. 141227A to F.O.S.)

My 141227A* as early as possible owing to non-arrival of
stores from Shetlands you are to proceed passing Switha Gate
tomorrow Wednesday as requisite in company with SCALBY WYKE so
as to arrive Lerwick as soon after 1st light as possible on 16th
Sept. 2. You are to pass eastward through Pentland Firth and
5 miles east Fair Isles. 3. On arrival in Lerwick embark
stores and proceed unescorted as ordered by S.O. 3/M Lerwick
to comply with F.O.S.'s 131809A+ 4. Acknowledge. Orders
Switha Gate as required and report your E.T.A. Lerwick as soon
as possible.
(A.C.O.S. 141618A to SEADOG.)* Re intended sailing of P.216.
+ Re sailing of P.216.

U.S.S. BELL, R.A.(D) H.F. is requested to sail U.S.S. BELL and
ISHERWOOD. U.S.S. ISHERWOOD for Londonderry p.m./14th.
2. On arrival U.S.S. BELL and U.S.S. ISHERWOOD
to turn over liaison personnel charts Home
Fleet's serial orders charge documents C.B.'s
S.P.'s flags and other stores supplies used in Home Fleet to
FITCH and CAPPS.

3. After transfer N.O.I.C. Londonderry is requested to sail
U.S.S. BELL and U.S.S. ISHERWOOD for Liverpool in accordance
with A.M. 131854 and FITCH and CAPPS to Scapa.
(C. in C.H.F. 141725A.)

Orders to sail to Londonderry.

(R.A.(D) H.F. 141838A.)

Sailed at 1945A/14 E.T.A. 1600A/15.

(R.A.(D) 142130A to Cdre. Londonderry.)

Owing to congestion at Liverpool request BELL and ISHERWOOD
may be sailed to the Clyde to give leave.
(D.O.D.(H) 142217A to C. in C.H.F.)

Coastal A.M. 111525. Para. 1 add: B.Y.M.S. 191.
craft (D.O.D.(H) 141745A.)
Group M.

U.S.S. U.S. Seaplane tender MATAGORDA depart Reykjavik
MATAGORDA. 0815Z/14th, for Quonsett Point. Route etc.
(A.C.I.C. 141746A.)

P.614. From position (G) in F.O.C. Gibraltar's 051732
proceed diving by day through position
PA 047° 23' 014° 48' PB 049° 10' 012° 27'.
to R/V escort in PC 340° Round Island Scilly Isles 10 miles at
0700A/23 thence Falmouth. S. of A. 100 miles per 24 hours.
2. Communications. 3. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to
arrange escort as in para (1).

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War Diary.14.9.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

- P.614. (Contd.) 4. Bombing restriction will be arranged. (F.O.S. 141919A to H.M.S. P.614, (R) Admty., C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C., C. in C.W.A., F.O.C. Gibraltar, Cominch, N.O.I.C. Falmouth.)
- C.3. E.T.A. 0830A, 15th. In company, SKEENA, SOREL, MAYFLOWER. C.3 group major defects, SKEENA, evaporator. H.M.S. BURNHAM request permission to defer fuelling on arrival owing to leaky residue suction pipes also has burnt out rheostat on turbo generator. Acknowledge. (C.3. 142001A to Cdre. (D) W.A.)

Operations.

- Operations S.O. S/Ms Lerwick 111125. Subject concurrence
V.P. of A.C.O.S.
(a) S.O. S/Ms Lerwick is assuming responsibility forthwith for informing S/Ms of movements of own coastal force engaged on Operation V.P.
(b) Para. (C) of my 101424 Nov. 1942 should be amended accordingly.
(F.O.S. 141121A.)

- Coastal Carry out C.F.P.M.38 tonight Tuesday.
craft (A) VIVACIOUS at 3 C Buoy.
operations. (B) Convoy. (C) Proceeding up swept Channel.
(D) 10 knots. (E) 2 M.T.B. (F) 2000 14th
Sept. (G) 2115. (H) 2333 Kc/s.
(Capt. (D)16, 141222 to VIVACIOUS.)
1. Orders for night 14/15 September. (A) M.T.B. 255, 205 249 offensive patrol of direct route between Le Havre and Barfleur. Objective to search for Torpedo Targets, Trawlers, M-Class Sweepers, T.L.Cs. and larger ships. Coast is not to be approached within 5 miles. Proceed and return by passage 4 passing position 4 N. not before 2200 and returning to within 20 miles of own coast by 0545.
(B) GLAISDALE, STEVENSTONE carry out anti-E/Boat patrol on 50° 20' N. between 0° 50' W. and 1° 30' W. from 2130 to 0500.
(C) M.L.292, 344 patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between F. and E.A. 5 buoys.
(D) Chasseur 10 immediate notice St. Helens.
(E) M.L. 208, 233, 122, R.M.L. 532 patrolling 50° 20' N. between 2° 00' W. and 2° 25' W.
- 2, 3. Communications and codewords.
4. St. Catherines Light required 5 minutes after each hour from 2200 to 0505. 5. Destroyers acknowledge.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 141300A.)

/Biscay...

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14.9.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

Biscay A/S patrols. My 091637A. Amend patrol area to read between 047° 30' N. and 049° N. and between 014° 30' W. and 015° 30' W.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 141501A to SHEFFIELD, (R) E.G.2, C. in C. W.A., WINCHELSEA, Admiralty, H.Q.C.C., C. in C. H.F., F.O.S., Ships Escorting Convoy X.K.11, LUNDY.)
Amend my 141532A (? 141552A intended, not recd.) SHEFFIELD patrolling vicinity of 048° 30' N. 015° W.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 141726A.)

S/M patrols. P.318 (TANTALUS) is leaving patrol forthwith diving as much as possible to (A) 074° 01' N. 011° 01' E. then on surface at C.O.'s discretion to (B) 090° Muckle Flugga 5 thence Lerwick.
(2) S. of A. from (A) 10 knots. (3) My 071746 is cancelled.
(F.O.S. 141703A.)

Operations "Forfar." Re discussion to be held about possibility of mounting "Forfar Beer". Revised September as an all seaborne operation; also of mounting a further raid by a military force of about 60 in another area.
(C.C.O. 141835A.)
Following steps are proposed to widen the scope of the "Forfar" series of Operations during the forthcoming dark period.
(C. C.O., 141911A.)

Attack on Enemy convoy off Dutch Coast. Preliminary report of operations by 11th M.T.B. Flotilla under Lieutenant I.C. Trelawney D.S.C. R.N.V.R. last night 13th/14th Sept.
1. Weather calm visibility extreme moon one day from full.
2. 11th Flotilla ordered to sweep south along enemy convoy route from Ijmuiden, started sweep at 0025. At 0044 southbound convoy sighted 4 miles ahead about 10 miles S.W. of Ijmuiden.
3. 1st Div. M.T.B.356 (S.O.) 355 and 360 worked round to attack from starboard bow of Convoy. At 0120 M.T.B. 356 fired both torpedoes at large trawler to clear way through escort for other boats to attack. Torpedoes missed. 355 and 360 attacked from starboard beam. Boats came under heavy fire and fired 4 torpedoes at merchant vessels of about 1000 tons. Result unobserved.
4. Senior officer in 356 then proceeded to join 2nd Div. M.T.Bs 349 and 350 who were working round to port quarter of convoy. At 0100 2nd Div. had encountered four E or R boats astern and on starboard quarter of convoy, one of whom challenged, 349 at once made same challenge Y.G. to another enemy who replied S which was then made to original challenger. Enemy did not open fire. At 0223 M.T.B. 356 sighted convoy of 3 merchant ships (one 250 feet

/one...

War Diary.

14.9.1943.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

- Attack on Enemy convoy off Dutch Coast. one 300 feet one small) and four escorts two of which appeared to be gun coasters. At 0235 2nd Div. sighted convoy and while 356 carried out diversion on seaward side 349 and 350 attacked from landward side, 349 fired both torpedoes unobserved at large trawler at 600 yards. Result unobserved. At 0238 M.T.B. 350 (Sub. Lieut. H.G. Franklin R.N.V.R.) fired both torpedoes at 1000 ton merchant ship at 600 yards 6 foot setting $5\frac{1}{2}$ knots on sight. Hit seen by 349 and 350 and flash seen by 356. 2nd Div. made smoke and withdrew under fire.
5. At 0247 divisions joined up. 349 and 350 and 360 returned to base while 356 and 355 remained to shadow for 22nd M.T.B. Flotilla which had been operating north of Ijmuiden and was coming south.
6. While shadowing 356 counted 5 ships in convoy on merchant ship and one trawler being missing. Later at 0350 trawler was observed to join from astern making six ships in all. From this it is considered that the merchant ship seen to be hit by 350 sank. Convoy reached the Hook at 0430.
7. During first action enemy were seen to fire projectiles at low angle that broke into green flames on striking water.
8. Casualties. One rating in 350 slightly wounded.
9. Damage. 349 hits starboard dumb flow and starboard tube and slight damage to fore peak. 350 slight damage to transome and upper deck.
10. 22nd M.T.B. operating North of Ijmuiden acting on 11th Flotilla's reports just failed to overtake convoy before its arrival at the Hook. Further signal will be made on receipt of report from MANTIS.
(C. in C. Nore, 141926A.)

My 141926A* 22nd M.T.B. F. operating between the Texel and Ijmuiden proceeded south on receipt at 0120 of 11th Flotilla's enemy report. Positions given in subsequent enemy reports from 11th Flotilla were considerably in error. This combined with very bad atmospheric conditions for W/T which prevented communications between Flotillas caused considerable delay in 22nd Flotilla's movement south. Flotilla arrived off the Hook at 0423 and was engaged by rear escorts of convoy which was entering the Hook at that time. No damage or casualties.
(C. in C. Nore, 142204A.)* Re report of operations by 11th M.T.B. Flotilla.

Allied Air Activity.

Iceland air patrols. A.C.172 14th Sept. Programme 2 1st Sortie cancelled - Weather on coast. (H.Q.R.A.F. Iceland 141100A.)
A.C.176 14th Sept. My A.C.169 13th Sept. programme first sortie cancelled weather. (H.Q. R.A.F. Iceland, 141612A.)

/Proposed...

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War Diary.14.9.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity. - Contd.Proposed
A/S
offensive
in Denmark
Strait.

A 863 14th Sept. your 111219A agree that Denmark Strait will probably be used by U/Boats during next 2 or 3 months. Anticipate they will also use Iceland (C) / Faeroes and Faeroes / Shetlands passages at same time so as to stretch our air and surface forces to limit.

(2) Bad weather and long hours of darkness coupled with shortage of Leigh Light A/C owing to set back with Catalina IV and delay in production of Liberator fittings will make it extremely difficult to maintain air A/S patrols of efficiency approximating to those in Bay.

(3) Due to weather conditions in North and unlikelihood of air patrols being really efficient I consider it would be wrong to concentrate in these areas if it can only be done at expense of Bay area where traffic is normally so much greater and climatic difficulties less frustrating.

(4) In any event it will not be possible with present resources adequately to cover Denmark Strait Shetlands/Faeroes Channel, Bay and at same time to provide necessary cover for North Atlantic and Gibraltar convoys. (5) 2 Liberator Squadrons number 120 and 53 are being converted to Leigh Lights and it is anticipated that 15 of these aircraft will be ready by end of October. In addition 304 Wellington squadron is also being converted to Leigh Lights.

(6) In the event of a large number of U/Boats attempting a break out together I am quite prepared to reinforce the situation temporarily at the expense of the Bay. To this end a Wellington Leigh Light pack up is being despatched to Iceland now. (7) This subject has recently been under discussion between Admiralty for Cominch and ourselves. I am hoping Cominch may be able to assist us with an American searchlight squadron in Iceland. There is also a possibility that a Wellington squadron may be able to be withdrawn from the Mediterranean shortly.

(H.Q.C.C. 141200A to C. in C.H.F.)

15, 18,
19 Groups.
New
boundaries.

A.P./877 14/9. It has been decided to re-distribute the geographical areas of 15, 18 and 19 groups to meet present and future strategical requirements. The revised limits are now as follows:

18 Group. (1) Southern boundary. No change.
(2) Western boundary. A line drawn from the Southern extremity of the Island of Lewis to Portland, Iceland (C)

15 Group. (1) Northern Boundary. From the Southern extremity to Lewis co-incident with new 18 Group boundary to 60° 40' N. 13° W. (2) Western Boundary. From 60° 40' N. 13° W. to 57° N. 26° W., thence to 48° N. 32° W. (3) Southern Boundary. From 48° N. 32° W. to 43° N. 20° W. thence to 43° N. 15° W. (4) Eastern Boundary. From 43° N. 15° W. to 51° N. 15° W. thence, to Dursey Head (Eire).

19 Group. (1) Western boundary. Co-incident with 15 Group boundary. (2) Irish sea boundary. Latitude of Bardsey Island. (3) Eastern Boundary. (English Channel. Longitude 03° W. thence coastwise along the South coast to Longitude 01° 20' W.

16 Group. No change. The new boundaries are to become

/effective...

14.9.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.15, 18,
19 Group.
New
boundaries.
(Contd.)

effective without further notification as from 0001 hours on 25th September. It is emphasised that new boundary areas bear no relation to those of associated Naval Commands and are therefore to be considered as nominal, flexible, and in now way limiting the movement of aircraft to meet operational commitments. Acknowledge. (H.Q.C.C. 141715A.)

Enemy Air Activity.Survivors
of J.U.88.

Following received begins XXX DE DAS. The Swedish SS. BIABIA which took on board the two man crew of a Ju.88 in 55.08 N. 13.25 E. should anchor on position. A sea rescue boat will take over the two men in an hour's time. (Burnham Radio N.O. T.O.O.)

X.K.11.
PROSPEROUS.

Rejoin Group L.
(C. in C.W.A. 140939A to FRISKY (R) LANGUARD, F.O., G.C. in C. Plymouth, Admty. WOODCOCK.)
AAAA DE HSFL. Position 4330 N. 1530 W. being attacked.
(Gib. W/T 141006Z.)

Received 0959 G.M.T. de PROSPEROUS AAAA 4330N 1530W.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 141100A)

Have PROSPEROUS, ARCTIC RANGER, SCHELDE in company.

My P.C. and S. 043° 29' N. 015° 54' W. 028° 8 knots. E.T.A. Milford Haven 180800 (?A). Request permission to proceed through Q.Z.L.53. Have engaged Fock-Wulf 200 which continues to shadow. Weather report 3481, 1573.

(WOODCOCK, 141100Z.)

Enemy aircraft are bombing my position 43.39 N. 15.41 W. course 028° speed 8.

(WOODCOCK 141250Z.)

ARCTIC RANGER report FORT BABINE sunk by enemy aircraft in position 041° 38' N. 014° 30' W. 7 survivors in SCHELDE. Attack by F.W. Aircraft unsuccessful and now ceased.

(WOODCOCK, 141458Z.)

Cancel my 141100* Am joining CYGNET in accordance with

C. in C.W.A.'s 140851/ Weather report 5961 1365.

(WOODCOCK, 141623Z to C. in C. Plymouth (R) Admty. F.O.I.C.

Gibraltar, C. in C.W.A., N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, H.M.S. CYGNET. S.O. Escort Group 2.) / Re engagement with Focke Wolfe.

* Ships joining X.K.11.

Leave harbour as directed by Capt. D. so as to pass Bar LV.0830A/14th and proceed with despatch via Q.Z.S.315 to relieve WARWICK escorting X.K.11. P.C. and S. at 2103/12 041° 38' N. 016° 14' W. 345° 3 knots. Relevant signals from WARWICK are being forwarded. Fighter protection codeword "Label". (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 132108A to STONECROP.)

/X.K.11...

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War Diary.

14.9.1943.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity - Contd.

X.K.11. Enemy aircraft are bombing QUIRK 2 position
(Rear.) ? 43.41 N. 16.18 W.
(KITE, 141241Z.)
My P.C. and S. 044° 01' N. 016° 10' W. 002° 3
knots. GODETIA in company escorting to
FANTOME and LANCE. Unless otherwise ordered intend leaving
convoy and proceeding Plymouth on reaching P.L.E. at 2000Z 18th.
At present speed GODETIA can escort convoy to Plymouth arriving
with 18% fuel. She has only 30 rounds 4 inch ammunition
remaining + 5471 0963.
+ Weather Report. 5 Height of low cloud 09 Pressure,
4 Amount of low cloud, 6 Direction of Wind. 7 Visibility,
3 Force of Wind. 1 Weather.
(KITE 141900 to C. in C.W.A.)

Hvalfiord. One unidentified enemy aircraft plotted over head
of Hvalfiord at 0930A course N.N.E. Course
altered to (347° ?) at 0938A and plot faded at
0946A. Cloud 7/10 20 (?00) feet visibility
20 miles.
(A.C.I.C. 141130A.)

Mining.

Dover. One red mine swept yesterday 14th September in
the following position:
50° 42' 25" N. 01° 03' 35" E.
(V.A. Dover, 150949A.)

Two ground mines were swept yesterday 13th September in
the following positions: 1 Blue 50° 39' 24" N. 01° 00' 35" E.
2 Red 50° 42' 04" N. 01° 00' 09" E.
(V.A. Dover, 141747A.)

Thames 1 ground mine detonated 277° K.1 buoy 5½ cables.
approaches. 1 ground mine detonated 250° K.1 buoy 1 mile
7 cables.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness, 141414A.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Jersey. AIR/INT 810 14th Sept. 140 Squadron R/C
Sortie 13th Sept. shows Jersey St. Helier. No
Naval Units present. All shipping other than
barges and small craft departed. One balloon
seen flying from barge.
(R.A.F. Medmenham, 140345A.)

Prohibited According to a notice published by S.N.O. Bergen
area Bergen. in local press of August 31st all fishing and
Navigation is forbidden in following areas.
South boundary. From 60° 21.1' N. 5° 10.5' E.
(Bjornestangen Light) to 60° 14.54' N. 5° 15.9' E.
North boundary. From 60° 15.15' N. 5° 8.05' E. to 60° 15.15' N.
5° 14.6' E. Navigation in this area is by compulsory route.

/Vessels...

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14.9.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence - Contd.

Prohibited
area Bergen.
(Cobtd.)

Vessels which have not received instructions from Harbour Master or control vessels shall place themselves in following position.
(A) 60° 11.9' N. 5° 12.6' E. (B) 60° 15.25 N. 5° 09.35' E. Vessels disobeying these instructions will be fired on without warning (N.A.Stockholm, 141039.)

Message
in German.

Report SS. BRITISH TRADITION intercepting message at 1200A 1st 500 kcs. giving position 055° 08' N. 013° 45' West in German. Nothing seen when H.X. 255 passed 4 miles North of this position about 0800A. SKEENS guarding 500 kcs.heard nothing.
(C.3 141317A, 142124A, C. in C.W.A., 141725A.)

German
ships at
Bordeaux.

C.3 report dated 1st Sept. states TANNENFELS, DRESDEN, ALABAMA and another ship at Bordeaux were loading with machine tools for Japan and munitions, food, oil and other stores for U/Boats in South Atlantic. They were due to sail on 15th Sept.

Comment. Recent photographic R/C has shown increased activity on potential blockade breakers at Bordeaux. HIMALAYA and TANNENFELS and possibly DRESDEN are believed to be loaded with goods for Japan. Stores for U/Boats may be carried by these vessels to build up a U/Boat base in Japanese occupied territory. Date of sailing from Bordeaux is likely to be deferred until darker nights.
(D.D.I.C. 141710A.)

U/Boats.

U/B
attacked
by
ABELIA.

Have sighted S/M in 046° 50' N. 017° 00' W. When attacked S/M was observed to dive.
(ABELIA, 140420Z to C. in C. Western Approaches (R) H.M.S. WINCHELSEA, H.M.S. WALLFLOWER.)
Informing SHEPFIELD and E.G.2.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 140706A.)

Prospective
U/B patrol
methods.

Consideration of the U/Boat situation leads me to appreciate that the enemy when their offensive is renewed will resort to submerged patrol accompanied by W/T silence on the part of the U/Boat as is the British practice.

To render this form of attack effective it will be necessary for them to have fairly accurate information of the position and routes of convoys they intend to attack and also to have a means of submerged reception similar to our own.

2. It would appear therefore, that they are likely in the first instance to choose southerly routed convoys for their main offensive using long range aircraft for R/C and co-operation.

3. I should be interested to know whether there is any confirmation of prisoner of war reports that submerged reception has been fitted. The report that two high powered W/T stations

/have...

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14.9.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.U/Boats - Contd.

Prospective U/B patrol methods. (Contd.) have recently come into operation would appear to be an indication that the increased use of submerged communication is intended. (C. in C.W.A. 141907A to Admty.)

U/Boat report. Have A.S.V. contact probably U/Boat. (A/C 172/M T.O.R. 142318)

Navigational.

Wick. Wick harbour opened. (R.N.O. Wick, 140707A.)
Wick harbour closed through weather. (R.N.O. Wick, 141050A.)

In view of heavy easterly swell off Wick, and gale warnings, movement postponed.

(S.C.V.O. EL ISLEO 141310.)

Wick Harbour closed. Proceed to Scapa for disembarking Officers. Report E.T.A. Switha Gate. (A.C.O.S. 141114 to M.T.B. 625)

Weather. W.P.400. My 131221A* cancelled owing to weather. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 141005A.)* Re sailing LIBERTY.

Casualties and Defects.

BRITISH VALOUR, J.I. MACKAY, EXANTHIA. Stragglers return for week ending 0900/14/9. Returned from O.N. 201 BRITISH VALOUR with collision damage. Put into Clyde ex H.X.254 JAMES I MACKAY (U.S.) with collision damage. Put into Clyde EXANTHIA (U.S.) independent with collision damage. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 140905A.)

WINCHELSEA. My 131625A* not to SHEFFIELD. WINCHELSEA alter course forthwith to pass through position (P) 49° 32' N. 13° 14' W. thence towards (Q) 180° Bishop Rock 7. 2. LUNDY with DEXTEROUS proceed as requisite to join WINCHELSEA who is to keep LUNDY informed of her P.C. and S. LUNDY pass to DEXTEROUS. (C. in C. Plymouth, 141142A to WINCHELSEA, WALLFLOWER, LUNDY DEXTEROUS, (R) C. in C. W.A. F.O.I.C. Falmouth, H.Q.C.C. Admty., SHEFFIELD.)* Re route of 5 ships.
My P.C. and S. 048° 15' N. 015° 44' W. 052° 8 knots. (WINCHELSEA, 141652Z.)

/Situation...

War Diary.

14.9.1943.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

WINCHELSEA
(Contd.)

Situation Report at 2000 Section S.E.
WINCHELSEA, WALLFLOWER, Amend P. and C. 048° 55'
015° 14' to R/V LUNDY and tug thence 180° Bishop
Rock 7 miles. WARWICK amend P. and S. 045° 25'
016° 08' 12. 1 tug LUNDY amend position 048°

57' 015° 06'.
(C. in C.W.A. 141726A.)

ELDORADO.

Arrived in tow by WINDERMERE.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 141055A.)

SS.
BROCKLEY

Refloated 1300. Now proceeding Southend in tow.
(M.L.221, 141305A.)
SS. BROCKLEY arrived Southend in tow of tugs.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 142117A.)

Shipping and Convoys.

U.T.2.

Amendment to his 131552.
(C. in C.W.A. 140421Z.)
Your 140421.* If it will facilitate matters for
WINOOSKI to proceed direct Clyde U.S.S. NEVADA
and destroyers will be glad to go there.
(C.T.F.67, 140910 to Admty.) * Originated by C. in C.W.A.
Note - This message has been received by C. in C. W.A. direct
from Burnham Radio.

K.M.S.26/
O.G.93.

Your 131002.* WALLFLOWER detailed. E.T.A.
2359 13th.
(S.O.E.G.B.1., 131228A to C. in C.W.A.)* Relief
H.M.S. ABELIA.

O.N.200.

Cmdre. O.N.200 reports following ships not present
EMPIRE LANCER, HENRY FLAY, SOUTHERN SUN, ELK,
ISLAND PARK.
(W.10 141923Z.)

S.C.141.

A.C.1. 36 para. 40. Re-routeing of Bristol
Channel ships to conform with Q.Z.S.429 and Q.Z.H.
515, 516 and 517 is being broadcast to ships of
S.C.141 by B.A.M.S. code time 142159Z. Before
parting company with convoy S.O. Escort of each section is to
confirm that this signal has been received by ships.
(C. in C.W.A. 142302A to Es. convoy S.C. No. 141, CLEMATIS.)

War Diary.

14.9.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

S.L.136. Following received from S.O. E. S.L. 136 (begins)
Addressed Catalina 28 from Escort Commander S.L.136
Pass to F.O.C.W.Af. Request I may be informed.
if ANTELOPE and BRILLIANT are to continue with
convoy S.L.136 to U.K. T.O.O. 131712 (Ends.)
My 131542 being passed to you refers.
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 140047B to F.O.C.W.A.)
Arrived EL BIAR and NIVOSE from S.L. 136. Request information of
EMPIRE OBERON which did not arrive.*
(Commorseafron 141914 to F.O.Gibraltar.)
* arrived (F.O.Gibraltar 151630B.)
Arrival ANTELOPE, BRILLIANT, S.L. 136.
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 142136B to Admty.)

U/Bs. By D/F on 5412 k/cs at 2346Z/13 U-Boat estimated
within 75 miles of 41° 30' N. 16° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C. 140201A to Escorts of X.K.11, Escorts
of K.M.S.26/O.G.93, ABELIA.)
By D/F on 6792 k/cs at 2224Z/13 U-Boat estimated within 150
miles of 34° 00' N. 27° 30' W. Indefinite position.
(D.D.I.C. 140401A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)
U-Boat activity still in your vicinity.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 140929B to P.614 (?BURAK REIS).)

M.K.S.24. Arrivals (list), 15 ships.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 140804B to A.I.G. 259, Admty.
etc.)

Attacks on Spanish Trawlers. Spanish Ministry of Marine have quoted several
cases to me recently of trawlers en route (corrupt
group), well clear of prohibited area being
attacked by our aircraft but have not so far
quoted positions except in following instance.
September 11th 2 trawlers from Gijon arrived
Corunna with 3 wounded having been machine gunned in 043° 52' N.
010° 50' W. This appears to be just south of zone.
(N.A.Madrid 141033B to Admty.)

T.G.21.11. T.G.21.11 arrived.
(C.M.S.F. 141042Z to Cinclant, (R) Admty. etc.)

Shipping Bilbao. Arrival 13th CABO HUERTAS, departure 13th nil,
departure 14th JACQUELINE.
(Consul Bilbao 141050 to Admty.)

ATLANTIS Request immediate instructions where hospital
repatriations. ship ATLANTIS should be sent. Please advise
transport.
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon 141127A to Admty.)

14.9.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

U/B, Las Palmas. Following received from British Consul, Las Palmas (begins): Unconfirmed report states a large sub. Nationality unknown, was seen off the coast of Telpe, South of Las Palmas, on night 8th/9th Sept. 131136 Sept. (Ends.)
(S.O.(I) Gib. 141155B to Admty. D.N.I. Navy Charge (?Lagos), Casablanca.)

BESSEL (German.) Report received that BESSEL has received cases of provisions today. This suggests preparation for sailing.
(Consul, Vigo 141310 to S.O.(I) Gib. (R) Admty. for D.N.I. N.A.Madrid.)

U/B Dispositions. Estimate 150800.
(F.O.Gibraltar 141401B to C. in C.Med.)

C.G.63. JEANNE D'ARC. C.G.63, French cruiser JEANNE D'ARC, for Algiers escorted by FORTUNE (senior), and BASQUE, E.T.D. 151800A, S.O.A. 17, route Q.B.A. 10 two (P) 35.44 N. 06.28 W. Q.B.A. 87 to Gibraltar, E.T.A. 160700A. Escorts guard 2150 k/cs. Convoy guard 500 k/cs, codeword "Tarbat".
(Commorseafron, 141600B to F.O.C.Gibraltar, (R) C. in C.Med. Cdre. Algeria, Comnavnav, Admty.)

Escorts, A/A ammunition. H.L.B. attacks by F.W. aircraft on coastal traffic from Lisbon make it imperative that local escorts can attain maximum ceiling possible.
2. Understood that Bofors ammunition with special fuze to attain a height of 15,000 feet is available in U.K. Request supplies of this ammunition be forwarded to Gibraltar as soon as possible for use in SCOTTISH, IMPERIALIST and LOCH OSKAIG.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 141607 to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med.)

U/B destroyed by HAARLEM etc. 12th Sept. Admty. for D.N.I. Report received from Melilla states that German submarine was beached in vicinity of Punta Negri. Crew consisting of 4 officers and 50 ratings were entertained by Spanish authorities at Zoco El Had and interned at Taduima. My 121801B refers.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar 141629 to Admty. C. in C.Med. A. and B.)

A.835 14 Sept. P.R.U.Gibraltar. Sortie G.504 14 Sept. Time 1600, shows on obliques U-Boat aground at confirmed position of 35° 13' 40" N. 3° 15' W.
(P.R.U.Gibraltar 141830Z to Admty. etc.)

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14.9.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

MONTE TEIDE
(Spanish).

Ship MONTE TEIDE dealt with, Admty. 051906 Sept.
No documents or correspondence found.
2. Quantity of tobacco hid in after peak removed
and disposed of in accordance with recent instruc-
tions.
3. Ship released.
(Gibraltar 141630B to Admty.)

Request for
Support
Group.

In view of Admty. 121302 (re position of U-Boats)
request early consideration be given to basing
temporarily one support group at Gibraltar in
order to carry out offensive anti U-Boat operation.
2. None of Gibraltar escort force is available
owing to heavy escort commitments, which have
compelled me to withdraw the trawler on patrol in Straits.
(F.O.Gibraltar 141803B to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med. A. & B. C. in
C.W.A. C. in C.Plymouth.) Reply: 181220A.

K.M.S.26,
O.G.93.

Lisbon portion escorted by REDPOLE, CLOVER,
PENNYWORT sailed after dark Sept. 16th and proceed
through QQ. 037° 01' 009° 35'.
2. Admty. 312326 August and HIGHLANDER 141130 not
to all addressees refer.
3. Admty. pass to A.O.C. in C.Coastal Command.
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 141815B to Escorts of convoy
K.M.S.26, O.G.93, pass to Cdre.)
Cancelled by 161315B, q.v.

STALKER,
Seafires.

Of the Seafires embarked for the operation the
present state of unserviceability is as follows:
Category Y - 6. Category Z - 5.
(STALKER 141847B to Admty.)

Abandoned
M/V.

Aircraft sighted abandoned merchant vessel with
shell holes in hull position 42° N. 13° 45' W. Sept.
14, 1205A. 5,000 tons.
(Commorseafon 141856 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R)
Admty. A.C.H.Q. Gibraltar.)
Commorseafon 141856B, not to C. in C.W.A. or C. in C.Plymouth.
Request you will initiate any necessary action.
(F.O.Gibraltar 142017B to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A. C. in C.
Plymouth.)

BACHI
(Spanish).

Arrival 14th BACHI from Seqruto, Iron Ore.
(Valencia 141915 to Gibraltar, M.E.W. Bank Block.)

DESPATCH.

Sailed DESPATCH with Admiral Sir F. Edward Collins.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 142106 to C. in C.Plymouth, (R)
C. in C.W.A. H.Q.C.C. Admty. C. in C.Med. (A).)

/Movements...

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14.9.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Movements
Casablanca.

Arrived U.S.S. EVAYTS, U.S.S. WYFELLS, U.S.S. DECKER, U.S.S. SMARTT, LA GRACIEUSE French, COMDT. DE LAGE French, U.S.S. SANTEE, U.S.S. SIMSSON, U.S.S. FAINBRIDGE, U.S.S. MAC LEISH, U.S.S. GILLESPIE, U.S.S. KALK, Sept. 14.
(Commorseafron 142240B to C. in C.Med.)

Italian
Ship,
Canaries.

This is a re-encypherment of my 141701B which was encyphered incorrectly (begins):
Italian vessel SURTO reported possibly arrived in Las Palmas, Canaries, no further identification possible at present.
(Commorseafron 142255B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R)
Vice C.N.O. (L) Admty. Comnavnaw, C. in C.Med.)

JEAN BART
trials.

Following is a re-encypherment of my 141550B (received undecypherable) (begins):
French JEAN BART with four escorts U.G.S. HOBBY SENIOR will depart Casa. 150700A to conduct trials vicinity 34.05 N. 08.06 W. returning p.m. same day. (ends.)
(?Comnavnaw 142352B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R)
C. in C.Med. Admty.)

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14.9.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

SHROPSHIRE. Sailed SHROPSHIRE to Fremantle routed through (H) 039° 00' S. 035° 00' E. (J) 034° 30', 080° 10'. (K) 032° 10', 110° 00', S. of A. 20 knots, E.T.A. Fremantle 0100Z/24th Sept.
(2) Keeping watch on W/T group S.L. shifting to N.U. at 0400Z/17th and to Bells at 0700Z/22nd.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 140924Z to Admty., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., etc.)

FAL,
SWALE.

Your 101250. Intend to retain FAL and sail SWALE with S.L.137 for refit.
(F.O.C.W.A., 141116Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A.)

CORFU.

Request information whether CORFU can be accepted for docking after completion of CILICIA. Propose CORFU should proceed to Cape through position Equator 20° W. and CILICIA should return Freetown by similar route, sailing dates being arranged for ships to pass each other in Ascension Area.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 141140Z to C. in C. S.A., (R) Admty.)

LADY
DENISON
PENDER,
escort.

My 131808. Sufficient data has now been received by cable for LADY DENISON PENDER to sail. Charts are still required.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 141140Z to Admty.)
Intend to sail RUMBA, SOUTHERN PRIDE and SOUTHERN GEM at 0700Z/15th escorting LADY DENISON PENDER to repair cables in position (Q) 02° 35' N. 30° 49' W. S. of A. 9 knots. LADY DENISON PENDER later moves to position (Z) 00° 25' N. 28° 50' W.
(2) RUMBA parts company at (Q) and proceeds Recife E.T.A. 23rd Sept. Comfourthfleet is requested to sail her to Freetown escorting group of Fleet tenders.
(3) SOUTHERN PRIDE, SOUTHERN GEM and LADY DENISON PENDER proceed Recife on completion of repairs and intermediately to refuel if repairs are protracted. Comfourthfleet is requested then to sail SOUTHERN PRIDE and SOUTHERN GEM to Freetown. Admty. is requested to give instructions for LADY DENISON PENDER.
(F.O.C.W.A., 141509Z to Comfourthfleet, (R) Admty., B.A.D., S.B.N.O.W.At.)
My 141509Z Sept. Ships will set watch in accordance with Area F W/T organisation at 2359/18th. They have been ordered to read Recife broadcast.
(2) SOUTHERN PRIDE and SOUTHERN GEM hold full signal publications.
(3) Communication with RUMBA after she has parted company should be in S.P. 02272 series.
(F.O.C.W.A., 141635Z to Cdr. 4th Fleet, (R) Admty., etc.)
Your 131808.

Cable and Wireless wired to Master sufficient details of positions and electrical data to enable work to be carried out. 2. Understand charts etc. arrived Casablanca by air nearly fortnight ago. Local Cable and Wireless Manager has been instructed contact Air Transport and get material forwarded to Freetown urgently.

(D.S.D., 141720A to F.O.C.W.A.)

/ U/B ...

14.9.1943.

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

U/B Assessments. Your 252027. Request assessments for July and August earliest attack for which assessments not yet received Sunderland J.95 and Sunderland H.204 5th April.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 141207Z to Admty.)

C.M. 45. Sailed RAMILLIES, NEPAL, ROEBUCK, NAPIER, RELENTLESS, QUICKMATCH escorting C.M.45. Destroyers. N.C.S.O. Durban 141414 and C. in C. E.F. 131610 refers.
2. Shift to W/T Group V at 1415Z/18th Sept.
3. E.T.A. Kilindini 0600Z/21st, Boom 0630Z/21st.
(Cdre. Durban, 141341Z to Admty., etc.)

Convoy W.S. 33. Sailing telegram (6 ships). (2) 0700/14th Sept. (3) Nil. (4) Knots 13. (5) Route to Takoradi. Lagos ships proceed through (E) 04.30 N. 00.48 W. to Lagos. (6) WOLVERINE, BEAGLE, BULLDOG, BOADICEA and BANN (first named S.O.) (15) L.K.D. Q.L.A.203.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 141414Z to Admty.)

Convoy C.M. 45. Sailing telegram (5 ships). (2) 1400Z/14th Sept. (4) 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots. (5) Route to Bombay. Aden section will be detached in 008° 30' N. to proceed independently (route). (6) RAMILLIES, NEPAL, NAPIER, ROEBUCK, RELENTLESS, QUICKMATCH.
(15) H.T.D. 1 to 9, "Bedrock" Q.C.A.246, Q.C.B.207, E.T.A. 010° N. p.m./23rd Sept. "Chop" 020° S. 17th Sept.
(N.C.S.O. Durban, 141414Z to Admty.)

SUFFREN. At Dakar. Re use in Mediterranean.
(B.A.D., 141549Z.)
See America and West Indies.)

ALBATROSS. (1) NESS and SWALE proceed Dakar for fuelling. Alexandretta*1600Z/16th. S. of A. 15 knots.
(2) ALBATROSS, ACTIVE, ANTHONY, E.T.A. Gibraltar 1600Z/16th. S. of A. 18 knots (2 corrupt groups)
277. My estimated position 025° N. 015° W.
(ALBATROSS, 141601Z to Comar Dakar, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.O.C. W.Af., (R) NESS.) * (sic) (? E.T.A. intended).

Shipping Routes. My 181942Z August.
(1) Bring Fish Routes into force for any shipping sailed after 0001Z/22 Sept.
(2) For independently sailed Merchant Shipping, Trout, Pike and Minnow routes are allocated for eastbound sailings, and Carp, Bream and Perch routes for westbound sailings.
(F.O.C.W.A., 141853Z to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, R.N.O. Lagos, (R) C. in C. S.A., Admty.)

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14.9.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Operation "Avalanche"

WHADDON Cmdre. N's. 121942 and 132154 neither to all.
 LAUDERDALE WHADDON, LAUDERDALE, BRECON, BLANKNEY should be
 BRECON retained at Malta and sailed for assault area as
 BLANKNEY escort for T.S.S.5. "Avon 2" Appendix 7 serial 9.
 T.S.S.5. (C. in C. Med. 140914 to Cdre. Cdg. Force N.,
 V.A. Malta., N.C.W.T.F.).
 Request MACOMA (T) be loaded furnace oil and
 sailed to join Convoy T.S.S.5 leaving Malta for
 Assault Area on 16th Sept.

(2) Cdre. N. 130942 (N.T. in W.D.). EMPIRE RHODES not
 available.

(C. in C. Med. 141334 to F.O.Sy. (R) Cdre. N. ? N.O.i/c Augusta
 N.C.W.N.T.F., C. in C. Med., A. Admiralty, N.O.i/c Malta.).

ORION Intend ORION sails 1900/14th Sept. for Malta
 route R. S. of A. 24 knots. E.T.A. Malta 0800/
 15th.

Complete with fuel and ammunition with all des-
 patch and return Salerno.

Request Messina light from 0030 to 0200.

(F.O.(C) 15 140921B to S.O. Force H, N.C.W.T.F., C. in C. Med.,
 N.O.i/c Malta, F.O.Sy. ORION, Cdre. N.S.N.O.R.A., M.A.C.,
 N.A.C.A.F., N.A.T.A.F., N.A.A.F., N.A.S.A.F., H.Q.R.A.F.M.E.).

24 D.F. S.O. Force H 131809 (N.T. in W.D.). On arrival
 in assault area report to N.W.C.T.F. in U.S.
 Seaplane Tender BISCAYNE. Carry out sweep during
 the night 14th /15th Sept. to North Westward of
 assault area as arranged by N.C.W.T.F. with object of inter-
 cepting enemy coastal traffic to Naples.

(2) On return your force is available to relieve destroyers of
 19th D.F. in Force K if required by N.C.W.T.F. during daylight
 15th and carry out further sweep night 15th/16th Sept.

(C. in C. Med. 141121 to Capt.(D) 24 (R) N.L.Os. M.A.C. N.A.S.A.F.
 N.A.T.A.F., N.C.W.N.T.F., S.O. Force N., S.O. Force H., TARTAR).

Enemy coastal traffic reported north of Gaeta to Civita
 Vecchia. Enemy A/S mines off Cape Circeo and Cape D'Amzio and
 mines in Gulf Gaeta. No friendly surface force north of
 Circeo. Conducting sweeps tonight against coastal trade route
 north of Circeo during darkness. Return Salerno area reporting
 Cmdre. N. not before daylight. Conducting further sweeps
 night 15/16. C. in C. Med's. 141121 refers.

(U.S.) Comdr. W.N.T.F. 141831B to Capt.(D) 24th D.F. (R)
 U.S.Cdr. T.F. 85 U.S. Cdr. T.G. 80.4., C. in C. Med.).

C. in C. Med's. 141121. In the event of not contacting
 you before dark intend sweeping up the coast to north westward
 and return assault area at daylight.

(Capt.(D) 24, 141856 to N.C.W.T.F.).

Taranto Operational requirements for Taranto increased.
 Transport Second loading of FORTHBANK will not necessitate
 requirements. cover at present commitment. Request use of CITY
 OF NEWCASTLE for 2nd load after completion

/discharge...

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14.9.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Avalanche".

Taranto discharge Taranto.
Transport (2) Anticipate sufficient traffic Sicily to requirements. Taranto to enable me to use 2 ships indefinitely (Contd.). for this purpose, request you concur and nominate ships but would advise early relief of FORTHBANK and CITY OF NEWCASTLE owing to stores position, my 131107B refers.
(3) Intend to divert to Taranto one or more suitable loaded ships out of each convoy due Sicily in future. Agreed.
(D.S.T.O, Sicily 141159B to P.S.T.O.Med. (R) C. in C. Med. P.S.T.O., Middle East, D.S.T.O. Malta., D. of S.T.).

T.S.M.3 Intend to sail convoy T.S.M.3 consisting of L.C.I. 210, 175, 247, 248, 244 escorted by M.L.561, 562 at 1700B 14th route as in "Avon" N/5 route 6 adjusting speed to arrive Salerno at 0630B/17th.
S. of A. 10 knots codeword "Ropsley's" 3 W/T call sign PBR 3 priority normal.
(S.N.O. Eastern Med. 141204B to S.O. Force N. (R) S.N.O.L.(J.H) N.L.O.211 Group etc.).

Aircraft Navigation aid as in your 130805 (N.T. in W.D.) Operation. not required tonight 14/15th.
(2) Operation tonight planned for 40 aircraft (?otherwise) than my 131747.(N.T. in W.D.).
(3) Aircraft depart from Rosoco 2200 to 2400 approximately.
(N.L.O. T.C.C. 141205 to C. in C. Med. (R) N.L.O. 15th Army Group, N.L.O. M.A.C.).

Forces H, Take QUEENBOROUGH, QUILLIAM, QUAIL and RAIDER 4th D.F. under your orders and proceed at 1500/15th to Augusta, speed of advance 25 knots route through position 283 and 287 fighter priority low. Code-word "Nitwit" (?125). (Could also be (?139) or (?493) or (?914)).
(2) You will act under orders C. in C. Med. for operations on coast of Italy.
(3) Acknowledge forthwith.
(S.O. Force H 141259B to S.O.4th D.F. (R) QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, RAIDER, V.A. Malta etc.).
Bring NELSON and RODNEY to short notice collect available destroyers not already employed.
(A) With WARSPITE, VALIANT (B) escorting Italian Fleet east (C) Operating North of Naples. As soon as (?ready) proceed northward putting into Augusta failing other orders. My 141829 refers.
(C. in C. Med. 141845B to S.O. Force H (R) V.A. Malta, F.O.Sy., F.O.C.Aircraft Carriers, VALIANT, N.O.W.T.F., N.O.I.C. Augusta).
Return Malta with QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL and RAIDER with all despatch. Report E.T.A.
(S.O. Force "H" 142118B to Capt.(D) 4, (R) V.A.Malta, N.O.i/c Augusta).

/Zero...

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Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean.Operation "Avalanche"Forces H,
4th D.F.
(Contd.).

Zero hour will be the time NELSON is to slip and proceed out of harbour and will be signalled. RODNEY to follow. Force will proceed by north east searched channel.

(2) WISHART and INGLEFIELD be off Grand Harbour by Zero hour understood.

(3) Capt.(D) 4th D.F. with destroyers addressed form screen.

(4) V.A. Malta send tugs to attend NELSON and RODNEY by Zero (minus) 10 minutes.

(5) Speeds, battleships full speed, destroyers 24 knots.

(6) Communication as in FHCM 26. R.D.F. policy Nan. FHTI 7 para. 9 is in abeyance until further directions.

(7) RODNEY Capt.(D) 4th D.F. WISHART, INGLEFIELD and V.A. Malta acknowledge.

(S.O. Force "H" 142245B to RODNEY, QUILLIAM, QUAIL, QUEENBOROUGH, RAIDER, WISHART, INGLEFIELD, V.A. Malta.).

PALOMARES
ULSTER
QUEEN.

PALOMARES 132256. PALOMARES and ULSTER QUEEN should remain to provide A/A protection of shipping in the assault area.

(C. in C. Med. 141628A to N.C.W.N.T.F., (R) Cmdre. N.,N.L.O.12th A.S.C. PALOMARES).

HECTOR
REDWOOD.

Sail Reggio at 0600/15th for Tripoli. 276, 281 at 0600/16th, Q.B.B. 210 E.T.A. at 1200/17th. Speed 7 knots, codeword "Customer" Call sign 257, priority low, constant watch 2150 k/c's.

(S.N.O.R.A. 141642B to HECTOR, REDWOOD, (R) N.O.i/c Reggio, etc.).

Force "V"

As soon as troops have been embarked at Tripoli sail with EURYALUS, SCYLLA, CHARYBDIS with all despatch to northern attack area. Route "Sugar" priority high codeword "Bootleg".

(C. in C. Med. 141732 to S.O. Force "V" (R) EURYALUS, SCYLLA, CHARYBDIS, S.N.O. Tripolitania, V.A. Malta, F.O.Sy., N.C.W.F.F., S.O. Force N., A.H.Q.,Malta, N.L.O's M.A.C.N.A.A.F. 211 Group 12th A.S.C.N.A. (?H) F.

T.S.M.4.

My 141305B (N.T. in W.D.) Sailed 1 hour late. Amend S. of A. and E.T.A. to read 8½ knots, and 1000/17th.

(S.N.O. Inshore Squadron Tripolitania 141817B to Cdre.N.).

VALIANT,
WARSPITE
bombardment.

VALIANT and WARSPITE and 6 destroyers proceed to "Avalanche" and report to N.C.W.N.T.F. for bombarding purposes arrive as soon as possible after daylight.

(C. in C. Med. 141829 to VALIANT, (R) WARSPITE, V.A. Malta, N.C.W.N.T.F., S.O. Force "H", N.O.i/c Tunisia, (corrupt group) F.O.C. Aircraft Carriers).

/VALIANT...

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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Operation "Avalanche"VALIANT,
WARSPITE
bombardment.
(Contd.).

VALIANT and WARSPITE sailed from Malta about 2000 tonight by route S.L. "Avalanche" to arrive daylight Sept. 15th. Priority special. M.A.C. pass to N.A.C.A.F., N.A.T.A.F., N.A.S.A.F. (C. in C. Med. 141843B to M.A.C. (R) N.A.C.A.F., N.A.T.A.F., N.A.S.A.F., 242 Group, Air H.Q. Malta, N.L.O. 211 Group, 12th A.S.C., VALIANT, V.A. Malta).

C. in C. Med. 141829. VALIANT, WARSPITE and 6 destroyers proceeding 23 knots to position 040 degs. 30' N. 014 degs. 40' E. E.T.A. 1030B/15th Sept. E.T.A. position S.L. 0600B/15th Sept. Malta pass to M.A.C.

(VALIANT 142220B to N.C.(U.S.) W.N.T.F. (R) N.O.i/c Tunisia, C. in C. Med., S.O. Force "H", S.O. Force "N", V.A. Malta, M.A.C. F.O.i/c Sicily).

G.O.C.
Situation
"Avalanche"
CQFFA

Grateful if you would obtain latest land situation "Avalanche" from 15 Army group and signal OFFA tonight.

(Gen. Alexandria 141900B to C. in C. Med.).

Following received from N.C.W.T.F.(Begins).

Military situation continues unsatisfactorily.

Depth of beach head narrow and group force now taking defensive. (Corrupt group) existing enemy drive about 2 miles wide penetrated deep salient Sele river between 10 and 6 corps. Naval gunfire being employed break up enemy tank offensive (3 corrupt groups) 3 miles from beach. Plans being devised with army to embark Army H.Q. with principal elements in HILARY and employ all available craft in assault area, to transfer troops from Southern Area to Northern Area or vice versa. Unloading of M.T. store ships in Southern Area has been stopped preparatory to possible withdrawal and store ships placed on half steam notice preparatory to moving seaward beyond range of shore artillery. ANCON ordered Palermo stand by you call to resume duty as H.Q. (corrupt group). Naval implications of general situation suggest employment of heavy air bombardment and Naval bombardment by major vessels behind enemy positions. Are heavier Naval forces available? T.O.O. 141448 (Ends).

(C. in C. Med. (Fleet) M, 141929 to C.F.F.A. for General Alexander).

Hope to contact you at 0345/15th in 040 degs. 18' N. 014 degs. 41' E.

(H.M.S. OFFA 142231B to N.C.W.T.F. (R) S. and A "Avalanche"

Reported as follows timed 141900 hours from 12 Air Support Command at 5 Army. (Begins) Little change 6th Corps front. Position consolidated enemy attack held. No activity 10th Corps. (Ends) T.A.C/R show practically no enemy movements on 5 Army front today.

(C. in C. Med. Fleet 142312 to OFFA for General Alexander).

Please pass to Admiral Hewitt and General Clark. E.T.A.

0415, will contact BISCAYNE.

(General Alexander 142330B to C. in C. Med.).

/T.S.M.5...

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T.S.M.5. Intend sailing Convoy T.S.M.5. consisting L.S.Ts. 406, S.O.173, 411, 252, 163, 304, 365 L.C.1. (L)s 243, 182, 103, 254 escorted by M.Ls. 338, 462, at 0731B/15th route as in Avon/N5 route G.

E.T.A. Salerno 2031/17th. S. of A. 9 knots codeword "Ropsley". 5 Wireless call sign P.B.R.5 priority normal and A/S. (S.N.O. Trip. 142117B to Cdre (N)).

Situation report No.181. (1) Capri was (?occupied) p.m. 12th Sept. The Naval and Military commanders were co-operative and have undertaken to find defence of the island. Intended to establish an M.T.B. base at Capri. Radar is being installed.

(2) 1850 tons discharged at Salerno during 24 hours period ending 2000/13th. Port party has now had to be reduced to (corrupt group) holding nucleus on account of enemy action.

(3) AURORA and PENELOPE arrived in Salerno area a.m. 14th Sept. to augment bombarding force. WARSPITE and VALIANT proceeded from Malta p.m. 14th Sept. to carry out bombardment at Salerno.

(4) EURYALUS, SCYLLA and CHARYBDIS are to proceed to Tripoli to embark reinforcements for operation "Avalanche"

(5) UGANDA left Salerno area a.m. 14th Sept. in tow of tug and using 1 engine for Malta. Steering gear has been temporarily repaired.

(6) 2 Italian battleships, 4 cruisers and 4 destroyers escorted by Third Division of Battle Fleet sailed from Malta 14th Sept. for Alexandria.

(C. in C. Med. 142216B to Admty.).

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Tuesday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Dispositions of Italian Fleet.

Warships and
M/Vs at
Malta.

Movement of Italian Shipping 14th Sept.
Arrived - Merchant vessels LUANA, GELIA, MONTEBELLO
CONSTANTINE, LUCEANO, RINNUCI, BELUGOSA,
AFRUNANIAN. Departed - Warships VITTORIO VENETO,
LUIGI CADORNA, LUIGI DI SAVOIA, DUCA D'AOSTA,
RAIMONDO MONTECUCCOLI, LEGIONARIO, GRECALE,
ITALIA, ARTIGLIERE, A. ORIANI.
(V.A. Malta, 140911 to Admty. C. in C. Med.
C. in C. Levant, (R) F.O. H).
Correct list, A.M. 152335.

Ships in
Spanish
Ports.

1. For information, one Italian light cruiser
and 3 Italian destroyers are at Port de Mahon and
3 more destroyers at Pollensa.
2. It is possible more Italian warships will make
for Port de Mahon.
3. All these vessels may make for North African
Ports later.
(Capt. (S) 8, 141102B to 8th Sub. Flot. CASABIANCA,
(R) C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Algiers).

Following from Port Mahon timed 131117 (begins) 1 Italian
E-boat type 438 entered harbour a.m. today asked to be interned.
(Ends).

(N.A. Madrid, 141859B to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar,
C. in C. Med.(Admty. pass to C. in C. Med)).

Following signal received from (?Port Mahon) times 131620
(Admty. pass to C. in C. Med) begins: My 1117 of 13th. Craft
referred to is Italian Sea rescue launch not an E-boat.
Name of 3 destroyers here are: FUCILIERE, MAESTRALE, CARABINIERE.
Of wounded brought here 19 have died. Ends.

(N.A. Madrid, 141919B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.C.
Gibraltar)

Battle Sqdn. Following is a repetition of my 140036 (N.T. in
from Malta W.D.) begins:- Addressed V.A. Malta, R.A. Force H,
for Alexandria.(R) N.O.I.C. Alexandria, C. in C. Med. (?C. in C.
Med. (A)) from C. in C. Levant, Soundings taken
today in Great Pass reveals that ITALIA at 37
feet draught cannot transit Great Pass without grave risk.

2. Request all possible measures be taken to reduce (?draught)
to maximum of (?30) feet (?on arrival).

(?)3. Request force be sailed dark hours (corrupt group) off
(corrupt group) (?buoy) by 0800/16th so investigation can take
place on board before high water and decision be made as to ships.
((C. in C. Levant?) 140116C to R.A. Force H).

Your 131151C para. (1). My flag is in HOWE. Intend HOWE
and KING GEORGE V to exchange berths in view of better communica-
tions.

(2) British N.L.Os. and signal parties are on board Italian
flagships EUGENIO DI SAVOIA and VITTORIO VENETO for passage.

(3) Will pass 20° E. at 0600C 15th Sept. E.T.A. Shoulder buoy
0800C/16th Sept.

(4) Anticipate maximum draught of ITALIA will not exceed 36 feet.
(F.O. 2nd in Cd. Force H, 141430Z to C. in C. Levant, (R)
R.A. Alexandria). W.R. Note:- Sub. para (1) not received.

/My...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Dispositions of Italian Fleet.

Battle Sqdn. My 131151 amend para. 1 to read: (A) HOWE to B.1
from Malta and B.1 A buoy. (B) KING GEORGE V moored at open
for hawser, stern to S buoy off Gabarri.
Alexandria. (C) Cruisers and VITTORIO VENETO in succession to
(contd). Mexroad all by Great Pass.
(D) ITALIA anchor in position 315° 5 cables from
Great Pass beacon.
(E) As in original.
(F) Subject to draught being satisfactory ITALIA will transmit
Great Pass about noon 16th and anchor in Mexroad.
(C. in C. Levant, 141840C to R.A. Force H, 39th Escort Group
N.O.I.C. Alexandria, N.S. H.M. Dockyard, Alexandria).
Cancel my 121216 and my 130955. 18th force will pass 355
at 0815/15th approx, thence through 513, 344, 331, 1810/15th,
510, 509, 310, 309, 0800/16th.
(ii) Fighter and A/S defence high codeword Tryst.
(iii) All times C. (iv) S. of A. 20 knots.
(C. in C. Levant, 142236C to R.A. Force H, S.O. Force H.etc).

8 M/Vs from S.10, 141210. See Med. General.
Bari.

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RORQUAL.

Cancel my 131554. Samos Leros and Kos as present in Allied control.
 (2) G.S. KATSONIS patrol north of Nikaria on completion of special operation.
 (3) RORQUAL patrols vicinity position A. and F.
 (4) Patrols are defence against possible

enemy expedition from Piraeus.

(Capt. (S) 1, 140045C to RORQUAL, G.S. KATSONIS, (R) P.312 (TRESPASSER))

In order to comply with my 140043 (?140045) you have freedom of action North of lines running 074 degs. and 311 degs. from Stapodia Island except that you are not to enter Trikirri Channel.

(Capt. (S) 1, 141029C to KATSONIS G.S. (R) RORQUAL)

2
E-Boats.

P.C. and S. of 2 enemy (E-Boats) are
 42.56 N. 10.28 E. 030 degs. 30.
 (A/C GQW/X, 140115)

CASABIANCA,
PERLE,
ARETHUSA,
D'ALCYON,
TEMPETE,
SERAPH,
UNST,
EGILSAY.

Your 131213. (N.T. in W.R.). Regret speed reduced to 11 knots. Returning by route laid down passing through first position 0815/14th If no orders to the contrary will be at R/V 1415B/15th. Acknowledge.
 (CASABIANCA, 140302B to Capt. (S) 8).
 Your 140302 acknowledged. From 041 degs. 40' 007 degs. 25' at 0815/14th pass through 037 degs. 55' 003 degs. 14' at 1015/15th thence R/V escort Algiers in 037 degs. 05' 003 degs. 14' at 1415/15th.
 (Capt. (S) 8, 140700B to CASABIANCA F.S. (R) C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Algiers, 8th S.M.F.)

F.D. L'ALCYON Class and TEMPETE leave Algiers 0430B/15th Sept. at speed of 20 knots passing 041 degs. 11' 007 degs. 12' at 2030B/15th thence at maximum speed to Ajaccio, leaving there not later 0200B/16th to return Algiers by reverse route.
 (Capt. (S) 8th, 140950B to 8th S.M.F., F/Sub. CASABIANCA, (R) C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Algiers.)
 Cancelled Capt. (S) 8, 150930.

ARETHUSA leaves Algiers 1900/15th through 38 degs. 01' 03 degs. 05' at 0300/16th 041 degs. 28' 007 degs. 01' at 1000/17th thence approx. course 67 degs. to operate in area between 041 degs. 00' and 042 degs. ? 20' ?and? East of 007 degs. 00'.

(Capt. (S) 8, 141100B to 8th S/M Flotilla, CASABIANCA, PERLE, ARETHUSA, (R) C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Algiers.)
 See also 152209.

UNST will R/V P.219 (SERAPH) at 0700, EGILSAY will R/V L.N.729 (CASABIANCA) at 1415.

(2) L.N.733 (PERLE) sails Algiers 1900 course 062 degs. 9 knots.
 (3) French destroyers L'ALCYON and TEMPETE sail 0430/15th course 035 degs. (20 or 21) knots. (4) 2 fishing vessels due Algiers from Eastward at 0600/15th. (5) Westbound and Eastbound convoys pass North of Algiers at 1600 and 1630/15th respectively. Sections join and detach.

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CASABIANCA, (6) Usual M.L's patrolling.
 PERLE, (Capt. (S) 8, 141744B to P.219, (SERAPH),
 ARETHUSA, L.N.729, CASABIANCA.)
 D'ALCYON, (1) LE FANTASQUE and LE TERRIBLE leave Algiers
 TEMPETE, 1000B/15th at speed 30 knots for position 041
 SERAPH, degs. 05' N. 006 degs. 40' E. thence direct to
 UNST, Ajaccio. E.T.A. 2230/15th.
 EGILSAY. (2) Ships will sail thence not later 0200/16th
 for Algiers at best speed by reverse route.
 (Capt. (S) 8th, 142220B 8th S/M.F. CASABIANCA,
 PERLE, (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers, C. in C. Med.(A)).
 Cancelled. Capt.(S) 8, 150930.

SOKOL. SOKOL O.R.P. 039 degs. 30' 018 degs. (743') to
 036 degs. 25' 016 degs. 47' at 2000/15th.
 (2) 10th S/F Summary at 2000/14th.
 (Capt. (S) 10, 140700B to S. & A. Area G.C.)

ANTWERP. Your 130241. Have fuel for Palermo and am
 now proceeding to take station in accordance
 with Avon I para. 29 thence in accordance with
 Avon 6 para. 27.
 (ANTWERP, 140835B to C. in C. Med. (R) N.C.W.T.F.
 Cdre. N. F.O. Syracuse, 242 Group (A.R.B. Section).)

8th S/M.F. Movements at 2000B/14th. (2) P.47 DOLFJIN
 and P.225 SIMOOM in Gulf Genoa.
 (Capt. (S) 8, 141012B to S. and A. Area G.C.)

PROMETHEUS. My 111535 destination of PROMETHEUS is now
 Bone and not Philippeville.
 (P.S.T.O. Mediterranean, 141030B to D.S.T.O.
 Malta, (R) D. of S.T. S.T.L.O. Bizerta)

X.T.2. Convoy X.T.2 passes position 361 at 0400C/15th.
 Benghazi ships arrive daybreak. Request light.
 (H.M.I.S. JUMNA, 141031C to N.O.I.C. Benghazi,
 C. in C. Levant. etc.)

ILLUSTRIOUS, Para. 3 of S.O. Force H's 121801 (intended
 VALIANT, sailing of ILLUSTRIOUS, VALIANT and WARSPITE.)
 WARSPITE. sailing at 1800/14th by Q.B.B.123 (B) 035 degs.
 40' 014 degs. 10' positions 274 036 degs. 30'
 012 degs. 40' 275, 293, 299 and 229 Channel to
 79 at 1445/15th then as ordered by C. in C. Med.
 (2) S. of A. 16 knots to 299 then 16½ codeword "Flaw" 344
 priority high and A/S.
 (V.A. Malta, 141102B to F.O.C. Aircraft Carriers (R) C. in C.
 Med. etc.)
 V.A. Malta's 141102. Onward route from 79 at 1445 (?B)
 Sept. is through 40.90 to Algiers. (2) S. of A. 16 knots,
 E.T.A. 0900B/16th. (3) Codeword "Suffer" priority high.
 (C. in C. Med. 141701B to R.A.(A) H.F. etc.)

Cancel /:..

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

ILLUSTRIOUS, Cancel my 141701.
VALIANT, (C. in C. Med. 141817B)
WARSPITE.
(Contd.)

MONTCALM, Your 131513. MONTCALM is the only cruiser at
Force X. F.O.C.W.A.F's. disposal with sufficient endurance
to operate against blockade runners in South
Atlantic and because of her allocation we were
able to release DESPATCH for paying off.

(2) If ferrying troops and showing the French Flag is the main
requirement would one or two cruisers of Force X now at Dakar
be suitable. (3) If you agree matter will be raised immediately
with Combined Chiefs of Staff.

(V.C.N.S. 141105A to C. in C. Med.)

These ships have no A/A armament and in every other
respect are unsuitable. Your 141105 para. 2 refers.

(C. in C. Med. 141913B to Admty.)

Enemy Position of enemy medium vessel of 2500 tons
Units. and 2 destroyers 39.40 N. 19.55 E.
(A/C GPN/Y via Malta, 141120 to 201 Group.)
Position of one enemy merchant vessel 4000 tons,
one M/S 2000 tons, one merchant vessel of
1000 tons is 40.27 N. 19.28 E.
(A/C GPN/Y, 141130 to 201 Group)

GUISEPPE Request following details of Italian GUISEPPE
MIRAGLIA. MIRAGLIA: (a) Endurance at 10, 15 and 20 knots.
(b) If suitable without further conversion as
either Aircraft Engine repair ship or aircraft
component repair ship. (c) If suitable without
further conversion as aircraft transport. (2) If drawings are
available request they be sent home by air.
(Controller, 141120A to C. in C. Med.)

M.K.S.25. Convoy M.K.S. 25 sailed 0830/14th Sept. Numbers
embarked.
(D.S.T.O. Alexandria, 141130C, 150916C to Admty.)

M.K.S.24. M.S.C.1 22, onward route. (2) (A) 12 (B) 14.
(3) From 033 degs. 03' N. 020 degs. 00' E. at
2325 Sept. 19th through 242, 275, 293, 299 lettered
(?E) to H war channels. 79, 36, 61, 92, 120
letters J to M to Algiers. (4) Algiers E.T.A. (706)00 Sept.
23rd (?Q) U.J. (6) "Manicure" High. (7) "Baker".
(8) HURWORTH (S.O), ALDENHAM, CROOME, ROCKWOOD, KANARIS,
MIAOULES.
(C. in C. Med. 141151 to HURWORTH, Ships escorting M.K.F.24
(R) Admty. etc.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- Use of Star Shell. Your 311704 (proposed scheme for improvement of Star shell Control arrangements in destroyers). Improved arrangements proposed are most desirable. In addition following are recommended for future constructions. (details) (C. in C. Levant, 141226C to Admty.)
- DOLFIJN. DOLFIJN leaving patrol to pass through 043 degs. 12' 008 degs. 01' at 2330/15th 042 degs. 01' 006 degs. 05' at 0130/17th. 041 degs. 02' 005 degs. 33' at 2130/17th. thence on surface at discretion to R/V escort speed Algiers in 037 degs. 02' 003 degs. 13' at 0700/19th. (Capt. (S) 8th 141202B to BOUCHER F.S. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)
- UNRULY, M/V attacked UNRIVALLED. UNRULY reports at 0701/5 in 41 degs. 16' N. 19 degs. 24' E. fired four torpedoes at 3,000 ton merchant vessel, missed. (2) On return voyage to Malta assisted UNRIVALLED with escorting 8 Italian M/V's from Bari. (S.10, 141210 to Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8, C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, (R) Admty. etc.)
- M.K.S.25. Sailing telegram. (2) 0802C/14th. (4) (5) (6) as in C. in C. Levant's 111945 and 121620. (13) (A) Cdre. Wakeham - Colville, R.N.R. in CLAN MACNAIR for U.K. (B) Master GREYSTOKE CASTLE for Sicily. (15) A.N. (R.A. Alexandria, 141342C to Admty. etc.)
- Seafire movements. 23 Seafires leaving Roger landingground 1500 today for passing Falcone landing ground North East (Sicily?). Thence probably to proceed F.A.A. reserve landing grounds Sicily and Bizerta. (GXL/17, 141345B to ULSTER QUEEN (R) Malta etc.)
- 36 Air Sqdn. A.M.141353 (Hush, N.T. in W.D.) Subject to your concurrence, it is proposed to ask Air Ministry to return No.36 Squadron to Indian Ocean as quickly as possible. (2) Request very early reply to C. in C. Med. (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Levant, Air Ministry.)
- G.U.S.15. Arrivals. (V.A. Malta, 141419B to Admty. etc.)

HURWORTH /...

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HURWORTH,
CROOME. Take CROOME under your orders and proceed to Haifa with all dispatch. Report E.T.A. Haifa in due course. ALDENHAM and KANARIS are to proceed as previously arranged.
(C. in C. Levant, 141440C to HURWORTH.)

N.A.A.F. Opsum 205. N.A.T.A.F. 11 Sept. (Add).
Report. 219 Spitfires 59 U.S. Spitfires 248 Lightnings
118 U.S. Mustangs provided cover beaches
Salerno area.
12 Sept. (Add). 72 U.S. Spitfires 46 U.S.
Mustangs cover patrol Salerno beaches.
(Spaatz, N.A.A.F. 141445B)
Part 3 N.A.A.F. Opsum 205. 12th Sept. (Add).
1 Wellington R/C Balearics in search for Italian Fleet Units.
12/13th Sept. 1 U.S. Liberator attacked surfaced submarine
West Sardinia with 7 Depth charges, straddling submarine.
(N.A.A.F., 141455B)

Aircraft of Force V. Your 112247. (2) Estimate I shall require 4 days in company with Force V for this purpose.
(V.A. (A) Home Fleet, 141450 to C. in C. Med.
(R) C. in C. Med. (A), Admty. F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

H.D.M.L.'s. F.O. i/c Milford Haven's 091303. Request allocation of H.D.M.L.s 1243, 1245, 1282 and 1294. Suggest 142 H.D.M.L. Flotilla with view to meeting possible requirements in captured Italian ports.
(C.C.F. Med. 141505A to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O. Gibraltar, Admty.)

Ships for Eastern Fleet. A.M. 141353 (Hush, N.T. in W.D.)
You are requested to sail following ships to arrive Aden by 1st October:
(a) BATTLER. A.M. 141528 refers.
(b) Eastern Fleet Sloops and "Bathursts" for which reliefs have already reached Mediterranean.
(c) Remainder of E.F. "Bathursts", as reliefs mentioned in para. 1 sub. paras. (a) (b) and (c) of A.M. 211105/August reach Med.
(D.O.D.(F), Approved A.C.N.S.(F), 141525A to C. in C. Med.
(R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Levant, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. S.A.)

MONTCALM. Proposed to employ in Mediterranean.
(B.A.D. 141549Z) See America and West Indies.

A/A Cruisers. A.M. 310059A and 291714A (Re two A/A cruisers to be sent to Eastern Fleet). I consider it essential to retain at least two A/A cruisers in Mediterranean for escort of through convoys. It does not appear therefore that DELHI and CARLISLE can go to Eastern Fleet.
(C. in C. Med. 141633B to Admty.) Medars /...

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- Medars. Re issue to American ships (B.A.D. 141641Z).
See America and West Indies.
- Dodecanese Report, Italian Refugees in Turkey. Following from Admiral Kelly. Saw Marshal Cakmak who states from Dodecanese 500 refugees and more coming have landed neighbourhood of Marmarice half civil half military, who say 6,000 German troops in Island have disarmed 50,000 Italian. Last Turkish information 5,000 German and 20,000 Italian troops in Rhodes. Much fighting and destruction at night but friendly appearance during daylight. Majority of artillery said to have been sabotaged, wireless station destroyed and 10 tanks claimed destroyed, all this in Rhodes. Also stated oil fuel stock had been destroyed, column of smoke to be seen from mainland might support this. Part 2 follows. (H.M. Ambassador Ankara, 141725C to C. in C. Levant. (R) Admty.) W.D. Note: Part 2, 141845C, chiefly Military and Air. Lion Copy only.
- U/B. Am over enemy S/M in 39.35 N. 15.40 E. (A/C CYY/A via Malta, 141738B to 45U) S/M observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 180 degs. estimated speed was 7 (?) knots. (A/C CYY/A, 141815B to 45U.)
- UGANDA. E.T.A. Malta, 1500 tomorrow Wed. boom at 1615. Passing Straits of Messina 2330 tonight Tues. S. of A. about 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ knots. (UGANDA, 141747 to V.A. Malta, (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)
- VITA. C. in C. E.F. 120632. My 041349 should read "to discharge her to U.K. on relief in VITA". Confirmed VITA will return to Eastern Fleet. (C. in C. Levant, 141822C to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F. etc.)
- Group Sailing, Malta-Bizerta. M.S.C.I. No.22. (1) Intend sail TOREJARL, LA GALLIUM both for onward routeing to Algiers, NASPRITE (T) for onward routeing to Bone, and ANTONIA (T) to Bizerta for orders at 1800/15th. (2) (A) and (B) 7 adjusting as necessary to arrive Bizerta at Boom 0600/17th. (3) (Route) (5) 26. (6) "Bleeding" normal. (8) FELIXSTOWE, POLRUAN, RYSA. (9) On arrival off Bizerta RYSA proceed independently to Sousse by War Channel, Q.B.B.'s 51 and 145, at S. of A. 9 knots. Codeword "Bleeding", 265 Low. E.T.A. Boom 2330/17th. (V.A. Malta, 141832B to N.O.I.C. Tunisia, (R) FELIXSTOWE, POLRUAN, RYSA, C. in C. Med. etc.)

MOST SECRET

Med 14
9

472A

141845C/September

MOST SECRET MESSAGE

From Admiral Kelly

Date 16.9.43
Rec'd. 1120

N.S.C. O.T.P. by W/T

Dodecanese - Report

Addressed C. in C. Levant, repeated Admiralty H.M.A. Ankara.
IMMEDIATE

Following from Admiral Kelly. Part 2. Marshal continued two Turkish Air Missions recently returned from Germany were in Berlin during last raid. Officers watched about 30 machines caught in searchlight none brought down. Damage considerable but not crippling. Our phosphorous principal trouble but Germans think they have found antidote and also improvement which will be tried on us. Germans talk much of new method of avoiding air attack on submarines which troubled them and others hope for future to bolster morale which except for women and aged is still good. They were shown no new machines only heard of them. Great developments in German parachute troops now brought up to 3 divisions of pick of Army. 3 parachute schools within 40 miles of Berlin situated in forest where nothing can be seen except clearing which is aerodrome, all machines and buildings hidden in forest. Confirmed that 200,000 killed at Hamburg by German accounts.

3. From this and other sources he deduces Germans may withdraw to line of Dnieper and Dvina from Crimea to Riga but holding Crimea and attack again in Spring. No hope of German victory but they cling to hope Allies will tire and accept compromised peace.

4. No Bulgarian developments parties equally balanced not certain Bulgarians would fight against British.

5. Filled down to explain exactly what Prime Minister meant in talking of policing Balkans he said Turkey would avoid clashing with Germany or Russia but if Germans were retreating and Russians were still beyond Odessa if there was trouble in Bulgaria or Roumania Turkey might feel called on to take action to restore order.

6. Turkish army now practically on peace time basis with 3 years service, about 600 thousand, 500 thousand normal, remainder missed muster etc. This year manoeuvres of division or army corps only.

7. Confirmed that Turkey will allow no more German Landing Craft through Straits.

C. in C. Levant please pass to Admiralty.
141845C.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L. (2)
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (A) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (UT)
- A.C.N.S. (W)
- Sec.
- P.A.S. (S)
- D. of P. (2)
- D. of P. (Q) (3)
- Advance Copy Sent D.D.I.C.
- D.C.D. (F) (2)
- D.O.D. (H) (4)
- D.C.
- Plot.
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- D.N.I. (4)
- Hd. of M. (2)
- D.S.D. 9. (2)
- W.D.
- I.P. (2), A.C. Blom.

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ABERCROMBIE, Request you will report when ABERCROMBIE may
OAKLEY. be expected to be ready to sail for Bizerta.
(2) Unless ABERCROMBIE has already sailed
OAKLEY should be sailed to join N.S.S.2.
E.T.A. position T.M. 0900/15th Sept.
(C. in C. Med. 141906 to Com. N.O.B. (R) D.5,
OAKLEY).

?Enemy Italians (?type unknown) TQQC 4141 (indecypherable)
Units. 39.41 N. ?) steering 072 (? H.
(A/C HUG/P. (via Malta), T.O.R.141950 to
A.H.Q. Malta.)

Group M.S.C.1 Article 22. (1) Intend to sail
Sailing, FORT FIDDLER, NIRVANA, BIALYSTOCK, APPLIEDORE,
Malta, FORT GLOUCESTER, FORT ST. JAMES and EMPIRE
Sicily. NEWTON for Syracuse and FORT CARILLON, FORT
LEMAUNE, EMPIRE USK and LEWANT for Augusta at
2000/15th. (2) (A) 9 (B) 9.
(3) QBB 146 Positions (P) 3624, 15, 20 to (Q)
3703, 15, 24 Syracuse Section then to BY QBB 162 E.T.A. Bilbao
(sic) 0800/16th and Augusta Section BY QBB 164 E.T.A. boom
1000/16th. (5) 43. (6) Normal "Toilet". (8) CROMARTY,
POOLE, BOSTON, BONITO. (9) 2 pairs proceed with Syracuse
section into Harbour remainder continue to Augusta.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 141952 to F.O.I.C.Sicily. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

French My 051820. In view of B.N.A. Lisbon 091722,
Refugees. target date of holding next evacuation from
Setubal is postponed from 21st to 23rd Sept.
and for following evacuation to 8th Oct.
It is confirmed that ships will be available
for at least 2 embarkations per month in October to November.
(C. in C. Med. 142010B to B.N.A. Lisbon (R) B.N.A. Madrid,
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty. Commorseafon.)

U.G.S.16. Arrivals.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 142035B to C. in C. Med.
(R) Admty. etc.)

U.S. Following arrived today. U.S.N. WAINWRIGHT,
Movements, WOOLSEY, TRIPPE, RHIND, COLE, BERNADOU, BRISTOL,
Oran. LUDLOW, DALLAS and EDISON.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 142054B to Admty.etc.)

BUDE. On arrival of BUDE escorting BOLLSTA request
BUDE may be sailed to Bizerta.
(C. in C. Med. 142251 to Cdre. Cdg. Force N.
(R) BUDE, N.O.I.C. Bizerta, C.W.N.T.F.)

G.U.S.15 /...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

G.U.S.15.
ISIS.

Warn Cdre. that during night you are likely to meet ISIS escorting six Italian Submarines steering East.
(C. in C. Med. (B), 142309B to Ships escorting Convoy G.U.S.15, ISIS etc.)

V.A. Power,
Force Z.

Para. 2 and 3 of 143B.
Vice Adm. Power has relinquished this duty and title of S.O. Force "Z" has lapsed.
(C. in C. Med. 142334B to S. and A. Med. Stn. S. and A. Levant Stn. (R) Admty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Convoy M.A.4. Arrivals BOMBAY and AGRA escorting M.A.4. (N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam, 140312Z to Admty.)

B.M.64. Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Colombo 140410Z to Admty.)

U.S.A.T.'s routeing. U.S. Authorities now require vessels mentioned my 301045 August to be routed as follows. (A) BILLY SUNDAY, ZONA GALE, BRAND WHITLOCK VERNON KELLOG, HOWARD RICKETTS and IMA COOLBRITH to Madras to discharge aircraft parts previously indicated and then to proceed Calcutta. (B) ROBERT INGERSOLL to Karachi for orders. (C) JOSIAH HENDY and ARTHUR P. DAVIS to Karachi as already arranged. (P.S.T.O.1, 140504Z to A.C.N.B., P.S.T.O.M.E.)

A.B.10. Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 140527Z to Admty.)

BRAGANZA II. BRAGANZA II has been commissioned as from 1st Sept. C. in C. Eastern Fleet's 181046Z August refers. (S.O. Force C. 140333Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F., F.O. Ceylon, F.L.O. (1) SALSETTE, BRAGANZA, S.O.A.S.C. (1) D.C.O. (1) Armindia, F.O.C.R.I.N. Com. R.I.N.)

Convoy M.A.? M.A. Number omitted arrived. (N.O.I.C. Chittagong, 140630Z to Admty.)

India Air Report. A. 256 14 Sept. Daily Opsum No.548 13 Sept. (2) U.S. A/C 12 Sept. 10 U.S. Lightning bombers (P.38) Hongkong harbour. Direct hits 2 M/V's, 1 destroyed, 1 M/V machine-gunned, 1 Lightning shot down. (A.H.Q. India, 140631 to Air Min.)

Convoy P.B.55. Bombay portion arrived. (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 140907Z to Admty.)

ERITREA. Italian Escort Vessel ERITREA arrived Colombo at 0930Z/14th in order to surrender. Breech Blocks are being removed and all ammunition landed. (F.O. Ceylon, 140947Z to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty. C. in C. Ceylon.)

Base /...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.- Contd.

- Base ships in Eastern theatre. Your 292005 August refers.
2. Base ships for coastal forces.
 - (A) KEDAH has been earmarked for H.Q. Ships. She will require modifications to her W/T equipment and some structural alterations.
 - (B) Proposals for other requirements under this head will be forwarded separately.
 3. Base ships for N.Os. I.C. at captured ports. At least 2 will be required, none are available on station.
 4. Base and repair ship Palk Strait.
 - (A) HAITAN suitable as base ship after refit. Conversion to oil burning entails too much work to be undertaken on this station. S/T equipment detailed in F.O. Ceylon's No. C. 788/1/3 of 13th July 1943 will be provided. Reported on modifications required will be made after ship arrived at Colombo.
 - (B) Since HAITAN has no repair facilities it will be necessary to station a repair ship at Palk Strait to maintain the many harbour craft, patrol vessels and sweepers which will be working there. LUCIA might be suitable when she can be spared from Kilindini. Otherwise request ship may be allocated.
 5. Base ships for escort vessels.
 - (A) PANGKOR has been proposed for this use. My 091031 refers.
 - (B) TARANTULA is now in use for this purpose at Colombo.
 - (C) At least two further ships required for this purpose, preferably ships of not less than 3,000 tons gross with repair facilities. No ships available on the station.
 6. All base and repair ships should fly the white ensign.
 7. Suggest close investigation be made of surrendered Italian ships with a view to meeting some of above requirements.
 - (C. in C. E.F., 140948Z to Admty. (R) F.O. Ceylon).

Convoys Arrivals 0545Z ALAUNIA, NARBADA with A.B.10.
A.B.10, 0730Z TAMWORTH, ORISSA with P.B.55.
P.B.55. (S.O.(I) Bombay, 141204Z to Admty).
Officers of Italian Sloop ERITREA take the line that they have come here by orders of their C. in C. to collaborate with the Royal Navy.

I have informed C.O. that I have accepted their surrender unconditionally and until further instructions from Admiralty they will remain in their ship in harbour and that Italian ensign is not to be hoisted.
(Dep. C. in C. E.F., 141205Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Med.).

TRIDENT Proposal in your 130517 approved.
(C. in C. E.F., 141008Z to Capt. (S) 4, (R) Admty. F.O.(S) Capt. (S) 1, C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant).

Convoy M.A.4. Sailing telegram (4 ships). (2) 1033Z/14th.
(4) 9½. (5) (Route). (6) BOMBAY, CARNATIC.
(N.C.S.O. Vizagapatam, 141037, 141041 to Admty).

/U/B...

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U/B. U-Boat Warning Broadcast to Merchant Ships.
Ref. A.M. A.F. 08 degs. 02' N. 66 degs. 28' E.
Colombo W/T. 141250Z)
U-Boat in 008 degs. 02' N. 066 degs. 28' E.
at 1250Z/14th Course Westerly.
(C. in C. E.F. 142158Z at S. & A. E.I.Stn.)

Convoy B.C. 6 (2) 1250Z/14th August (?Sept. intended).
B.C.6. (3) 1500Z 110 degs. Beira Fairway Buoy 3 miles.
(4) 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots. (5) Coastal. (6) NIGELLA,
THYME, WELLARD, LADY ROSEMARY.
(12) All for Durban.
(C.S. Beira, 141405 to Admty.)

Information of S/M movements. With prospective reinforcement of submarines on Eastern Station you will appreciate that more precise information will be required of their movements and intentions.
(2) Following series of signal is made on other stations and has been found to give a comprehensive picture:-
(a) Intention signal giving anticipated date of sailing and patrol area. (b) Submarine Situation Report, giving approx. position of submarines at sea at 2000 zone time.
(c) Normal arrival and departure signals.
All these signals are initiated by the Administrative Authority. (3) If you concur request you will instruct Capt. S. accordingly.
(A.C.N.S. 141655A to C. in C. E.F.)

Italian Ships, Treatment on arrival in port. Your 131125, 141205 Sept. not to C. in C. S.A., B.A.D. and F.O.C. W.Af. On arrival of Italian ships in port following arrangements are being carried out in Med. to which you should conform: (1) (A) The breech blocks of guns and pistols of torpedoes are to be removed.
(B) Aircraft are to be rendered unserviceable.
(C) W/T equipment is to be put out of action.
(D) Anti-scuttling guards are to be placed on board.
(E) Small craft patrols are to be maintained in anchorage.
(F) The necessary provisions and fuel are to be provided.
It may be necessary to draw upon the personnel of ships in harbour to carry out these duties. (2) Ships and their crews are to be treated as internees and not as prisoners of war, pending further instructions. (3) Italian ensign is to be left flying.
It is at your discretion to accommodate ship's company in camp ashore but in any event ships should be rendered incapable of movements.
(Head of M.1, Approved 1st Lord, 142341A to ^cF. in C. E.F.)
(R) C. in C. Ceylon, C. in C. S.A., F.O.C. W.A., B.A.D.)

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Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.U/B
attacked.S/M attacked in 043° 35' N. 058° 05' W. at
0337Z/14th.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 140710 to G.B. 7A.)
(Cominch, 142020 to Admty.)BUCK,
KNIGHT.This is from C. in C. Lant as 132110Z addressed
to U.S.S. BUCK, U.S.S. BROOKLYN, Comnavnaw, (R)
Comnavu, Comdeslant, Com. Fleet Optracomlant
and Cominch.BUCK relief for KNIGHT. BUCK when ready proceed
Boston report BROOKLYN as escort. Upon reporting about Sept.
15th both vessels proceed Mediterranean and report Comnavnaw
temporary duty. It is requested that Comnavnaw expedite
departure KNIGHT as previously arranged. The services of the
latter urgently required early October for troop convoy duty
Comnavnaw inform those who need to know this area. BUCK follow
to Mediterranean and if escort will delay arrival BROOKLYN
proceed independently.
(Comnavu, 140832Z to Admty.)Convoy
J.T. 6.Arrived.
(B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 140921Q to Admty.)ALBEMARLE
escorts.This is Comairlant's 132309Z to U.S.S. ALBEMARLE
(R) Cominch, Comnavu, Cinclant, C.T.F. 24,
C.F.A.W. 7, BARKER, BULMER, Com. 10th Fleet (C.
and R.), N.O.N.-N.A.S.-SENAV Fairwing 7 at
Argentia and Admty.ALBEMARLE with BARKER and BULMER escorting proceed from Norfolk
to Avonmouth U.K. via Argentia when ready on Sept. 16th.
Transport to Comfairwing 7. From Norfolk and Argentia
personnel and material listed paras. A and B my 111700Z. This
movement must be expedited. Return via Argentia to Norfolk.
(Comnavu, 141146Z to Admty.)A.T. 63
(MAURETANIA)On crossing longitude 050° W. steer for new
position (v) 051° N. 039° W. thence to (w) 054°
N. 026° W. thence to position (u) of original
route.
(Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet, 141224Z to A.T.63, (R)
Admty., Cinclant, N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A., C. in
C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F.)J. PINCKNEY
HENDERSON.Ref. 021947. Links of main engine are in astern
position. Holes have been cut in four and hold
flooded giving free access to sea water.
Occasional surface flame from escaping hoses
occurs. Remainder of ship cooled completely.Vessel resting easily and good prospects of salvage exists
(N.O.I.C. Sydney, 141227Z to C. in C. C.N.A., (R) Admty.,
N.S.H.Q., Connnav.)

/A.T.64 ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

A.T.64 (QUEEN ELIZABETH). A.T.64 (QUEEN ELIZABETH) sail as in my 121314Z.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 141235 to Admty. Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet C. & R.)

L.27. Your 131724. It is intended to employ L.27 on completion of defects at Pictou N.S. at working up base.
2. In the event of it being considered desirable to land spares and gear not required for training work she should be sailed to Halifax in the first instance.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 141306Z to F.O.N.F. (R) N.S.H.Q. F.O.C.S/Ms. Admty.)

Convoy Arrived.
A.Z.6. (B.R.L.O.Cristobal 141407R to Admty.)

N.S.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q. 141425Z.)
S/M Estimate.

ALGONQUIN. This is restricted and is U.S.Fleet 22. The War Department has designated the ALGONQUIN as a Hospital Ship 387 feet five inches 5854 gross tons. One funnel two masts (white hull and superstructure horizontal green band. Red Cross each side. Red Cross on deck and funnel illuminated at night. Name on each side and U.S.Army Hospital Ship ALGONQUIN on stern. Life boats will be similarly painted. Pass to appropriate Air Commands.
(Cominch 141427Z to U.S.Fleet, Info. To Admty. N.Z.N.B. A.C.N.B. N.S.H.Q. C. of S.Army.)

A/S Sqdns. J.S.M. 1173.
Schemes At their last meeting, the Combined Chiefs of Staff to improve considered the memorandum by Allied A/S Survey mobility. Board on logistic organisation to improve mobility of A/S squadrons (C.C.S. 272/2.)
2. Combined Chiefs of Staff accepted the recommendations contained in para. 14 of this paper and took note that these recommendations would be implemented in close co-operation between the U.S. and British authorities concerned.
3. We suggested that a strategic survey should be prepared so that the logistic details necessary to improve the mobility of the A/S squadrons could be worked out. This survey would bring out the most likely moves which might be required.
4. Adm. King would not, however, agree to this proposal. We have therefore no alternative but to leave it to the Navy Department and the Admiralty to work out together such reinforcement schemes as are possible and improve the mobility of A/S squadrons.
5. Air Marshal Welsh, who is returning to U.K. shortly, will discuss whole subject with Admiralty and Air Min.
(J.S.M. Washington 141445Z to W.C.O.London.)

/United...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

United Nations Vessels, independent sailings to U.K. *ed* Action all routeing officers East and Gulf Coasts of U.S. Bermuda, Iceland and all reporting centres Western Atlantic Area from Com. 10th Fleet (C. & R.) Cancel my 081939Z of July. For the present regardless of speed no United Nations vessel shall be sailed independently to U.K. or Iceland until approval obtained from Com. 10th Fleet (C. & R.) (Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 141456Z to Admty. C.E.S.F. Com. Gulf Sea Frontier, N.S.H.Q.)

Special Convoy. A. Kingston, Guantanamo Special Convoy, Guantanamo. B. 142200Z, 12.5 knots, 151200Z. C. (Route). D. RIMUTAKA, U.K. (N.O.I.C. Kingston 141500Z to Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet, C. & R.)

GREENWICH, escorts. My 121606 not to all addressees request you sail ARIES and ROSEBAY to relieve GREENWICH escorts in position F. On relief request you choose SHERBROOKE and sail ship to Halifax. KING HAAKON VII rejoins Newfoundland Force.

2. Anticipate sailing ANTARES earliest possibly 1300Z/15th to St. Johns N.F. Refuel thence overtake. (C. in C.C.N.A. 141531Z to F.O.N.F. (R) N.S.H.Q. Admty. (U.S.) Cdr. Eastern Sea Frontier, Cominch, C.T.G. 02.1, B.A.R.M. A.C.I.C.)

Escort Carriers. At the meeting referred to in my 042057 the C.C.S. (A). Agreed that the recommendations contained in para. 16 A. to D. should be implemented as and when possible (B). Agreed that all possible steps should be taken to obviate the present delay in making British manned C.V.Es. operational. (C). Took note that these recommendations had been referred to the British Admiralty. (B.A.D. 141547Z to Admty.)

My 302321 August and my 111815 Sept.

1. To ensure uniform flow of work at Vancouver it is necessary to extract following ships from programme

A.	B.	C.
Ship.	Complete Tacoma.	Can start modification at Vancouver
C.V.E. 38	Complete	15th March.
C.V.E. 44	11th October	1st April.
C.V.E. 45	25th October	15th April.
C.V.E. 50	6th December	1st May.
C.V.E. 53	17th January	15th May.

2. Dates when ships could sail from Puget Sound depend on intended use between dates in Column B and C. and on manning situation.

3. If used for ferrying only with existing turbine motors with 10th row blades removed and no alterations carried out, ship could sail three weeks after dates in column B if crews can be found.

4. Request confirmation that (a) para. one is acceptable, (b) ships will not be used operationally and that proposals in para. three are accepted.

/ (c) ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies .

Escort Carriers. (Contd.) (c) ships will be made available for modification at Vancouver on dates in column C.
5. Investigation is meanwhile being made by B.A.M.R. to ascertain to what extent manning situation can be eased from available sources here. Possibilities are reduction of INDOMITABLE during refit and reduction of crews of C.V.E. 32 and 39 to ferry status only for Atlantic crossing. Engine room complements of all ships however, will in any case be required from U.K.
(B.A.D. 141841Z to Admty.)

MONTCALM, SUFFREN. Admiral Fenard has asked that MONTCALM be sent to the Mediterranean for operations now in progress. He states that C. in C. Mediterranean has undertaken negotiations to obtain Combined Chiefs of Staff approval for this. He further states that SUFFREN is now available at Dakar, Cominch concurs. In view of your 112340 August request immediate concurrence or comments. C.C.S. 207/10 appendix D. para. 2 B. refers.
(B.A.D. 141549Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

U.S.S/M Estimate. (Cominch 141549.)

Medars. Medars have been reconsidered in the light of C. in C. Mediterranean 061924 not to F.O.I.C. Gib. 2. Comtenth Fleet (C. & R.) is willing to furnish vessels with that part of Medars which contains convoy and general instructions.
3. Admiralty is requested to furnish a current copy of that part referred to in para. 2 above and future amendments to Comtenth Fleet (C. & R.) by Air Mail. These will be reproduced and forwarded to the routeing officers concerned for issue to Masters of Vessels bound for the Mediterranean.
4. In view of satisfactory operation of "Q" System and for reasons stated in Comtenth Fleet (C. & R.) 241705 July approach routes to Mediterranean Ports will be furnished to Masters in accordance with the "Q" System and not by the medium of Medars.
(B.A.D. 141641Z to C. in C. Med. Admty. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)
Admty. reply 162236 Add. to C. in C. Med.

TEIA MARU. Japanese have corrected position A. in route of diplomatic ship TEIA MARU to 0440 S.94.40 E. Refer to my 032150 Sept. B.T. 141/45.
(Navcom Washington 141745 to C. in C.U.S.Fleet, C. in C. U.S. Pacific Fleet, Cdr. (U.S.) S/M Pacific Fleet, Cdf. U.S. Southwest Pacific Force, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, Admty.)

ASSINIBOINE, AGASSIZ. ASSINIBOINE and AGASSIZ may proceed Halifax from Westomp for visit during layover at C.Os. discretion. Remainder of group proceed St. Johns N.F. on relief.
(F.O.N.F. 141856Z to ASSINIBOINE, (R) C. in C. C.N.W.A. F.O.N.F.)

/Convoy...

14.9.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

- Convoy H.X.257. Convoy sailing dispatch. Part 1, 2. Position D.C. at 2400Z/15th. 3, 5, 8. Standard routes B and R/V as per Admiralty 051012A Sept. and C. in C.C.N.A. 101938 Sept. Homp 1700Z Sept. 18th. 6. Task unit W.6. MONTGOMERY, S.O. SAINT CLAIR, COBALT, COWICHAN, LACHINE. (P.D.New York 141922 to Admty.)
- NIEUW AMSTERDAM. Referring your 111955. NIEUW AMSTERDAM.
1. Have requested use of naval drydock San Francisco and will do utmost turn vessel round quickly.
2. On basis three/four days for drydocking and four days for storing, etc., vessel should be ready for departure eight days after arrival.
3. Mast 25324 to Cunard N.Y. states boiler cleaning also necessary. If this is correct vessel will require minimum of twelve days in port. Advise if boiler cleaning to be carried out.
4. Is it intended main overhaul of vessel will be carried out New York. If so advise approx. period allotted for same. (B.M.W.T. New York 142045Z to D. of S.T. (R) B.A.D.)
- Transport Dockings. Referring your 040440 and Mast 25325.
1. U.S.Navy have agreed drydock QUEEN ELIZABETH September.
2. As MAURETANIA not coming New York end October have requested use of Navy Dock Boston for Oct. 1st. (B.M.W.T. New York 142041Z to D. of S.T. (R) B.A.D.)
- GAZELLE. My 271427 to Admiralty only.
Propose sailing GAZELLE about 21st for short A/S work up only and so as to arrive U.K. about one week after STRENUOUS and TOURMALINE. (B.A.D. 142101Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.Rosyth, S.B.N.O.W.At.)
- GRENADIER lost. Navy Dept. announced today presumed loss on patrol operations of U.S.submarine GRENADIER. Crew numbered about 65. (The Times 15th Sept., 1943.)

Australia & New Zealand.

- Vessel sighted by A/C. My 120208. Further information received strongly suggests vessel sighted was TIRADENTES. (C.S.W.P.S.F. 140126Z to Admty. C. in C.E.F. (R) F.O.Ceylon, N.O.I.C. W.Australia, U.S.Cdr. 7th U.S.Fleet.)

War Diary.

14.9.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.

Digest serial Hospital ship sighted 30 miles northwest New
No. 602 Sept. Hanover on northwesterly course afternoon.
13. 2. 21 Liberators escorted by four squadrons of
fighters attacked Wewak area forenoon dropping
63 tons of bombs on But and Dague airfields
destroying approx. twenty aircraft on the ground
causing large fires in dispersal areas and among installations
and firing an oil dump. During interception by 24 fighters
our Lightnings destroyed 7 and probably destroyed another two
for the loss of three Lightnings. Liberators claim one definitely
destroyed and two probable.
5. At least 1 small freighter reported off Wewak apart from
luggers and barges.
10. 4 destroyers, 2 merchantmen reported off Tinput Harbour
Northern Boscin same forenoon 12th, while 6 ships reported off
Kieta same night.
12. 3 small freighters unsuccessfully attacked by Catalina
North East of Cape Saint George before dawn while another aircraft
attacked 4 barges off East Cape New Ireland and same night
without scoring hits.
13. Japanese submarine reported destroyed by patrol aircraft 70
miles south west Rendova afternoon 12th.
16. Shipping Buin, Faisi included 2 small freighters, 2 small
craft, 22 barges.
17. P.T.Boats operating off West Coast Kolombangara and East
Coast Vella night 11th again bombed and strafed by enemy float
planes.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 141046Z.)

Movements. Departed Milne Bay 13th U.S.S. NICHOLAS for
Townsville.
(A.C.N.B. 141153Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 141411A, 141529A.)

Submarines Attacked.

Submarine attack & sighting summary for 24 hrs. to 0900Z/14th. Para. A. ABELIA sighted U-Boat on surface which dived when attacked at 0420/14th in 46° 50' 17" 00' W., U-Boat reported off Pola at 1054/12th in 44° 45' N. 13° 45' W.
Para. C. Unconfirmed report of large S/M sighted night 8th/9th in 28° N. 15° 30' W. A/C reported P/S at 0815/13th in 39° 15' N. 15° 16' E. course 258° Speed 4 knots.

/Para. D...

484

14.9.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

Submarine
attack &
sighting
summary for
24 hrs. to
0900Z/14th.
(Contd.)

Para. D. ROCKET reported S/M contact at 1531/13th
in 58° 54' N. 03° 29' W.
Ref. A.M. 131035Z. Para. A. A/C sighting in
38° 39' N. 09° 22' E. should read Bisley A/C
sighted U-Boat, course 318° and attacked.
(D.D.I.C. 141000Z to Cominch.)

Weekly
Summary.

My 221059 July, 1942.

1. At 2353/11 Wellington P/179 attacked a fully surfaced U-Boat in 35° 30' N. 03° 28' W. Depth charges straddled across conning tower and U-Boat made for territorial waters and beached itself in 35° 13' N. 03° 29' W. After further air attacks this U-Boat was reported by one of H.M. Ships to have been destroyed.
2. On 12th Bisley aircraft attacked off Sardinia a fully surfaced U-Boat showing no identification marks.* 20 survivors seen in water.
3. Bad weather has caused considerable curtailment of flying in Bay of Biscay area during past week, particularly at night. There have been no attacks by aircraft in this area since my 101641A.
(D.A.U.D. 142315A to Cominch, Comnaveu, B.A.D. N.S.H.Q.)

* Italian S/M TOPAZIO

15.9.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Bay
Patrol.

1. The 9th Escort Group (R.C.N.) with CRANE in place of ST. FRANCIS, sailed at 1751A today from Plymouth to act as support group to North Atlantic convoys, first carrying out a sweep from the Scillies, westward along the parallel 49 degs. 45' N.
2. U.S. destroyer COWIE collided with M/S Trawler RIVER SPEY in Belfast harbour today. The RIVER SPEY sank. Salvage operations are being undertaken.
3. The Downs were closed to traffic from 2228A today until 161016A, owing to suspected enemy minelaying.
4. Polyarno was bombed in daylight today. No naval damage and only one naval casualty were caused.

North Atlantic.

5. The French cruiser JEANNE D'ARC with 2 French destroyers left Casablanca for Algiers late this evening.

Mediterranean.

Salerno

6. Destroyers under D.24 last night carried out a sweep against enemy coastal traffic reported north of Gaeta to Civita Vecchia. Four or five E-boats were encountered in 40.27 N. 14.10 E. at 0050 and were driven off to the westward. VALIANT and WARSPITE joined the forces bombarding shore targets in support of the Army today. The position ashore was restored. S.S. J.W. MARSHALL was damaged when a rocket bomb hit a tank landing craft unloading alongside today. The Island of Procida and Ponza in the Bay of Naples were occupied by Allied forces today and their surrender received.

/Corsica...

15.9.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- Corsica 7. The Germans are reinforcing Corsica from Sardinia. French troops are being sent from North Africa.
- Aegean patrols 8. TROOPER on return from patrol in the Aegean reports having bombarded Karlovassi, Samos at 1745/31 August. TORBAY bombarded the bauxite loading station at Nikaria at 1825/7. Both S/Ms. sank a few small ships.
- Italian Fleet and Merchant shipping. 9(A). At noon 15th Sept. the following warships are known to have arrived Allied ports or come under Allied control.
(a) Battleships: VENETO, ITALIA, DUILIO, DORIA, CESARE.
(b) 6" Cruisers: ABRUZZI, GARIBALDI, D'AOSTA, SAVOIA, MONTECUCCOLI, CADORNA.
(c) 5.3" Cruisers: MAGNO, SCIPIONE.
(d) Destroyers: DA RECCO, GRECALE, VELITE, ARTIGLIERE, LEGIONARIO, ORIANI, RIBOTY, FUCILIERE.
(e) Torpedo Boats: LIBRA, ORIONE, ALISEO and 5 unknowns.
(f) Submarines: VORTICE, BRAGADINO, ONICE, ZOEIA, SETTEMBRINI, SQUALO, MENOTTI, ATROPO, JALEA, BANDIERA, OTARIA, PISANI, NICHELIO, CORRIDONI, GALATEA, BRIN, one name unknown.
(g) Sloops: ERITREA (at Colombo).
(h) M.A.S.: One unknown.
(j) Seaplane Carrier: MIRAGLIA.
- (B) In view of the destruction of the Hospital Ship NEWFOUNDLAND by enemy air attack on 13th Sept. and attacks on two other Hospital Ships C. in C. Med. is instructing submarines operating in the Gulf of Genoa and lines to place armed guards on board any Hospital Ships encountered and send them to Bone.
- (C) A number of merchant ships have been reported as coming into ports under Allied control but detailed information is not yet available.
- (D) C. in C. Levant is asking for authority to requisition Italian merchant ships for current operations in the Eastern Mediterranean and to substitute Allied crews. He points out that paragraph 8 of the broadcast to Italian seamen does not accord with paragraph 5 of the armistice terms.
- Port Sudan 10. The Port War signal station and Naval Control Service at Port Sudan were closed down today and the examination service withdrawn.

15.9.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

C. in C.
E.F.

11. C. in C.E.F. in HAWKINS sailed from Kilindini for Colombo today.

Burma

12. During the first half of September fighter attacks on water transport on the Irrawaddy, Chindwin, Mayu and Kaladan Rivers destroyed or damaged some 400 river craft including oil barges and river steamers.

China.

Italian
S/Ms.

13. C. in C. Eastern Fleet forwarded today a report from the Italian Navy giving such information as is available regarding the Italian S/Ms. in the Far East, viz. R. CENTURIONE GIULIANI L.TORELLI and COMMANDANTE A. CAPPELLINI. These were blockade runners and have been stripped of all offensive weapons except M.G's.

Australia and New Zealand.

U-boat
destroyed.

14. A U.S. destroyer and a Catalina attacked a U-boat in the area 11.30 S. 163.35 E. p.m. today (95 miles south east of San Cristobal, Solomons.) Depth charges brought the U-boat to the surface, where five-inch shell fire drove her under. An underwater explosion ensued, followed by a large amount of debris and oil. The U-boat is reported probably sunk.

15.9.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

- U.S.S. NEVADA, & 9 destroyers. Arrived from U.T.2 at 2230A/14 U.S.S. NEVADA, U.S. Destroyers, NELSON, JEFFERS, MURPHY, GLENNON, GHERARDI, COWIE, BUTLER, QUICK, HERNDON and U.S. Fleet Oiler WINOOSKI. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 150415A.)
- U.S.S. BELL, ISHERWOOD. My 141725, A.M. 142217. Destination of U.S.S. BELL and U.S.S. ISHERWOOD after turn over to Fitch and Capps at Londonderry is Clyde. (C. in C. H.F. 150909A.) BELL, ISHERWOOD arrived. (U.S. Escort Control, Londonderry 151500A.)
- U.S.S. BUCK. This is Cinclant's 142159 addressed to U.S.S. BUCK. Proceed as indicated last sentence my 132110 if BROOKLYN has sailed without you. (Comnaveu 150921.)
- SHAKESPEARE. For SHAKESPEARE read SPORTSMAN in my 141514. (Not received by W.D.) (F.O.S. 151106A.)
- SEADOG (for Spitzbergen). Do not arrive destination given in my 131809 before 23rd Sept. (F.O.S. 151129 to H.M. S/M. P.216 (SEADOG) (R) Admty. C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Rosyth, A.C.I.C., S.O. S/Ms. Lerwick, Capt. (S) 9.)
- DESPATCH. F.O.I.C. Gib. 131734 from position D.045° N. 017° W. proceed through E. 049° 000° N. 013° 09' W. F. 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles G 180° Lizard Head 3 miles thence by Q.Z.S.410 and 409 to Plymouth, keeping W. of The Lizard during dark hours. (C. in C. Plymouth 151143A to DESPATCH.)
- SPARTAN. When SPARTAN is ready for service request C. in C. H.F. to sail her for Clyde to embark passengers and stores. 2. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail SPARTAN for Gibraltar. 3. C. in C. H.F. pass to SPARTAN. (D.O.D. (H) 151525A.)
- Hunt class destroyer. Cancel my 012023.* (D.O.D. (H) 151616A.)*Hunt Class destroyer required to be equipped as H.Q. Ship and Join Force S at Rosyth.
- S/M movements. Positions of S/Ms. at 0800A/16th September and movements for following 24 hours. (A) SEADOG (see 131809). (B) TANTALUS (P.318) approx. 76° 30' N. 12° 15' E. dived by day course 186° daily advance 65 miles. (C) 0.15 on patrol in vicinity 64° 41' N. 03° 29' W. (D) STONEHENGE (P.232) on

/patrol...

War Diary.15.9.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M movements. (Contd.) patrol in vicinity 65° 02' N. 05° 50' W. (G) UPSTART (P.65) 44° 02' N. 06° 01' W. dived by day along 44° 01' N. to patrol within 20 miles of Cape Ortegal. (H) P. 614 see North Atlantic. (F.O.S. 151732A.)

Operations.

Biscay A/S patrol. CRANE is to form part of E.G.9 while operating in company during forthcoming Bay patrols. This is to take effect from 1200A/15.
2. E.G.9 is to pass Gate at 1700A/15th and proceed through position:-
(F) 180° Bishop Rock 10. (G) 048° 42' N. 012° 43' W. and thence to carry out anti U/B patrol in area K.2 between 045° N. and 047° N. and between 013° 40' W. and 014° 30' W.
3. E.G.2 is patrolling in area K one between 044° 30' N. and 046° 30' N. and between 010° W. and 012° W. 4. SHEFFIELD is operating in area between 047° 30' N. and 049° N. and between 014° 30' W. and 015° 30' W. in support of escort group.
5. Communications. 6. Codeword for escort group 9 "Bailey". (C. in C. Plymouth 150947A.)
My 150947/15th amend route to read from position (F) proceed through position (H) 050° 01' N. 007° 38' W. and thence 270° until further orders. 2. Anticipate WINCHELSEA Eastbound with WALLFLOWER, LUNDY and DEXTEROUS in company will pass 20 miles to Southward of E.G.9 at about 1000A/16th.
(C. in C. Plymouth 151340A.)
When W. of Scillies request 9th E.G. sailing Plymouth p.m. 15th Sept. be instructed to proceed Westwards along parallel 49° 45' N. until ordered either. (1) to operate in "Percussion" area or (2) to act as support group to North Atlantic convoys. (D.O.D. (H) 151346A to C. in C. Plymouth.)
Amend patrol area to read between 047° 03' N. and 049° N. and between 014° 03' W. and 016° W. My 141501A* refers. (C. in C. Plymouth 151549A to SHEFFIELD.)
My 150947 September sailed CRANE, ITCHEN, ST. CROIX, CHAMBLY, SACKVILLE and MORDEN. (C. in C. Plymouth 151751A.)
My P.C. and S. are at 0700A/16 045° 49' N. 010° W. 270° 11. (S.O.E.G.2. 151855A.)* Re amending patrol for SHEFFIELD.

V.P.operations S.O. S/Ms. Lerwick 111125A.* A.C.O.S. concurs. (A.C.O.S. 151051A.)* Passing of information about coastal forces.

BOGUE. U.S. Escort Carrier BOGUE with screen of 4 destroyers will be carrying out A/S sweep in an area with a radius of 150 miles from 48° N. 28° W. 2. BOGUE will pass through position 43° N. 33° W. a.m. 15th en route to this area. 3. Aircraft with U.S. markings may therefore be sighted. (D.O.D. (H) 151316A to H.Q.C.C., A.I.G.62 (Delete ships and Authorities in Portsmouth Command.)) (R) Commaveu.)

/Coastal...

War Diary.15.9.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.- Contd.

Coastal patrols. 1. Orders for night 15/16 Sept.
A. S.G.B. GREY SEAL, GREY OWL, GREY FOX, immediate notice at St.Helens. B. Chasseurs 11 and 12 patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between F. and E.A.5. buoys. C. GLAISDALE immediate notice at Yarmouth. D. M.L.344 immediate notice at St.Helens. E. M.G.Bs. 13, 6, 7 from Portland patrolling 50° 20' N. between 02° 00' W. and 02° 25' W. 2,3, Communications and Code words.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 151446A.)

Dover Dispositions for night of 15th/16th Sept.
M.G.Bs. 114, 117 at No.3 buoy E.T.D. Dover 2015 E.T.R. Ramsgate P. 0615/16. M.G.Bs. S.2, S.1 patrolling 11 miles S.E. of Dungeness E.T.D.1930, E.T.R. 0630/16. M.A.S.Bs. 25, 29 E.T. "V" buoy E.T.D. Ramsgate 1945 E.T.R. 0615/16.
(V.A. Dover 151700A.)

Patrols cancelled, anchor Ramsgate or Yarmouth Roads as convenient.

(C. in C. Nore 152155A. to Capt. (D) 16th D.F., WINDSOR, WHITSHED, HOUND, MALLARD (R) N.O.I.C. Harwich, N.O.I.C. Yarmouth, Ships E.E.C.C.D.)

Operation S.F. Take destroyers under your command and proceed at moderate despatch at 0630/16th to establish patrol as follows:- (1) Group B. (2) 062° 27' N. 013° 40' W. (3) 225° 60 60. (4) "Apricot".
(C. in C. Rosyth 151759A to SHIKARI.)

On completion of A/S exercises at 1200A/16th MAHRATTA proceed Skaalefiord. Report E.T.A. to me before sailing.
2. On arrival act under orders of SHIKARI for operation S.F. as directed by C. in C. Rosyth. 3. N.O.I.C. Faeroes is requested to sail METEOR to Scapa on arrival MAHRATTA to arrive a.m.17th.
4. Enclosed copy of A.C.O.S.121822A* is to be given to SHIKARI when met.

(R.A. (D) 151523A.) * N.T. in W.R.

Operation S.F. My 151759 negative METEOR which is required at Scapa a.m. 17th.

(C. in C. Rosyth 152213A.)

Allied Air Activity.

Wick. Instructions have been given for the immediate formation at R.A.F. Station, Wick, in 18 Group, of a unit consisting of six Ansons. The purpose of this unit is to undertake A/S patrols in the

Home Fleet practice area.
(Air Min. 151635A.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Jan Mayen. Aircraft crossed Island 0715 course S.E.
(A.C.I.C. 151548A.)

15.9.1943.

Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

S.N.222 C. Intend to carry out operation S.N.222 C. as follows:- (A) Deep minefield from Southward to Northward. (D) (1) AGAMEMNON (F.O. (M)). PORT QUEBEC, MENESTHEUS and SCOTT. (2) 2 destroyers detailed by C. in C. H.F. (3) SALADIN and SCIMITAR. (4) 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 practicable N. of Minches and to ensure that this is continuous between 0700A and 2100A/22nd Sept. as squadron will then be on steady course. Codeword allocated "Vertigo". (F) From 062° 56' 30" N. 012° 26' W. to 063° 14' 30" N. 012° 51' W. (G) 0530A/21. (I) 059° 45' N. 005° 30' W. at 1830A/21. (J) Through position all positions N. and W. A. 059° 45' 005° 30'. B. 060° 22' 006° 50". C. 061° 20' 007° 20'. D. 061° 56' 007° 20'. E. 062° 54' 012° 22'. (K) 12 knots. (L) 1835A/22. (N) Through positions (all the following positions are N. and W. unless otherwise indicated.) F. 063° 11' 013° 07'. G. 060° 00' 009° 06'. H. 058° 32' 006° 00'. (O) Port Z.A. 0900A/24. (P) Port Z.A. then as ordered by C. in C. H.F. and C. in C. W.A. (R) 1800A/20. (T) As in (J). (U) 062° 54' 012° 22'. (V) Port Z.A. (W) 21 miles at 12 knots. (X) M. Mark One/XVII. One star set at 95, 185 and 275 feet in rotation. (Y) Full outfit. (Z) As for 2 line ships in area B throughout. (R.A. (M) 150902A.)

Downs. Downs closed to traffic. Suspected enemy minelaying. (V.A. Dover 152228A.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Intercepted message. Your 141725A.* Further evidence indicates transmission probably from shore station referring to aircraft down in Baltic. Full text reading by BURNHAM being forwarded by letter. (C.3. 152045A to C. in C. W.A.) * Ships in convoy reporting intercepting message.

U-Boats.

U/B Report. Immediate to:- Escorts of X.K.11, X.K.F.11, WARWICK, SHEFFIELD. D/F bearings on 4412 kc/s at 0225Z indicate U/B within area 40 miles either side of line joining 47° N. 15° W. and 45° N. 18° W. (D.D.I.C. 150410A.)

Ronas Voe. N.O.I.C. Lerwick reports Skipper F. Chapman in S/T RIANO G.Y.181 now lying Ronas Voe reports 1300/13 sighted S/M in 60° 56' N. 2° 20' W. steering S.E. by S. no escort. Weather very thick. T.O.O. 141625A ends. (A.C.O.S. 151040A.)

War Diary.15.9.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

- S.C.141. Your 141302. Following ships for Bristol Channel absent since 14th Sept. ESKDALE GATE, BERKEL. Also absent INGERTRE since 12th Sept. THISTLEFORD since 14th Sept. Weather report 3865, 0048.
(HESPERUS 150758Z.)
- WINCHELSEA. P.C. and S. 1200A 049° 34'. N. 011° 40' W. 086° 9½. E.T.A. Plymouth 2000A tomorrow Thursday. LUNDY and DEXTEROUS both. (as received) Request instructions to detach WALLFLOWER. Weather report 57721863.
(WINCHELSEA 151345A to C. in C.W.A.)
Detach WALLFLOWER off Scilly Isles to proceed to Londonderry fuelling at Milford Haven if necessary.
(C. in C. W.A. 151858A to WINCHELSEA.)
My 151340A para. 2. Anticipate WINCHELSEA will pass 10 miles S. of E.G.9 at about 0600A/16th. (2) If no longer required, on passing Falmouth WINCHELSEA is to detach DEXTEROUS to proceed into Falmouth. (3) STONECROP bound S.W, may be met by WINCHELSEA at about 2000A/15th. (4) WINCHELSEA pass to DEXTEROUS.
(C. in C. Plymouth 151902A to E.G.9, WINCHELSEA.)
- BICESTER. Sailed MALCOLM, CHIDDINGFOLD, ZETLAND and THEMISTOCLES in accordance with my 141008, BICESTER not sailing owing to defects.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 151424A.)
- H.44. H.44 unable to join C.W. 209 owing to defects.
(C. in C. Nore 151516A.)
- STRATHLYON. Your 151035 STRATHLYON sailed from Scrabster for Iceland fishing ground at 1030/20th August. No further information to hand.
(N.C.S.O.Thurso 151540A to F.O.I.C. Humber.)
Niton Radio intercept 2249 G.M.T. S.O.S. D.E. unknown.
S.O.S. 42.12 N. 06 Point 25 O.S.T.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 152349.)
Following received from Lands End Radio:- Intercept 2248 G.M.T. D.E. unknown station S.O.S.43.12 N. 06.25 O S.T.
(C. in C. Plymouth 152350A.)

Shipping & Convoys.

- MAURETANIA. A.T.63 is due Liverpool 19/9. 3. T.A.63 is to be ready to sail p.m. 22/9. 4. Approx. 2,400 personnel will embark p.m. 21/9 and a.m. 22/9.
(D. of S.T. 150255A.)

War Diary.15.9.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.SS.QUEEN
ELIZABETH.

A.T.64 is due Clyde p.m. 18 September.
3. T.A.64 is to be ready to sail p.m.22 Sept.
4. Approx. 4,000 personnel will embark at
Tail of the Bank p.m. 21 Sept. and a.m. 22 Sept.
(D. of S.T. 150302A.)

C.T.G.21.6.

C.R. No.1143. C.T.G. 21.6 in MADISON plus
LANSDALE, HUGHES, JONES, DONNELLAND, SIMS at
0445 sailed for U.C.4. Latest Q.J.A. held 227.
(Escort Control Derry 150950.)

STONECROP.

Proceed to join slow portion of convoy X.K.11
consisting of 2 tows escorted by KITE and GODETIA.
P.C. and S. at 1900Z/14 044° 01' N. 016° 10' W.
002° 3 knots.
(C. in C. W.A. 151105A to H.M.S. STONECROP,
(R) H.M.S. KITE, GODETIA, C. in C. Plymouth,
Admty. H.M.S. CYGNET, E.G.2.)

C.E.207.

Postponed 24 hours owing to lack of shipping.
(C. in C. Nore 151215A, 1418A.)

K.M.F.24.

The following sailed at 2050Z/15. LLANGIBBY
CASTLE, ALMANZORA, HIGHLAND PRINCESS, BERGENSFJORD
EMPIRE VICEROY, MOOLTAN, ATHLONE CASTLE, CAMERONIA.
(S.T.O.I.C. Greenock 152055A.)
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 152056A.)

494

15.9.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Abandoned
M/V.
(sighted 14th
September).My 141856B. Photographs taken by aircraft disclose resemblance to British Empire Type, Cruiser stern, raked bow, Kingpin mast, flush deck with split superstructure, length 400, no camouflage or markings.
(Commorseafon, 150116B to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty., A.C.H.Q. Gibraltar.)
W.D. Note: Presumed FORT BABINE, see Admty. 160026A.UNITED,
UNISON.

Intend to sail UNITED 0900/16 for U.K. routed (B) 35° 49' 06" 06½' at 1320/16. (V) 35.53 06.15 at 1430/16. (T) 36.37 07.24 at 0001/17. (Q) 36.51 09.13 at 2230/17.

2. Intend to sail UNISON 1100/16 passing through same positions two hours later thence through (M) 38.40 10.28 at 0230/19. (S) 43.01 10.28 at 1400/21.

3. After passing position (Q) UNITED is routed (R) 38.50 10.01 at 0030/19. (O) 43.01 10.01 at 0530/21.

4. Both submarines shift W/T watch at times stated for latitude 43° N. thence as ordered by F.O.(S), HOOD, F.S.L.2 and I.S.O.H.

5. F.O.(S) 1149/8/1/42. (A) UNITED 4 mark 8, UNISON 3 mark 2. (B) 7½ knots until 0700/17 thereafter 8 knots. (105 miles per day). (C) Ready for patrol 100% fuel. (D) (1) 1 in UNITED. (2) Nil.

6. W/T watch. Both painted dark blue. All times Z minus 2. (F.O. Gibraltar, 150132A to Admty., etc.) Amended by 161539B, q.v.

My 150132 para. 5(c). UNISON is ready for patrol in an emergency only owing to a number of defects. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 151602B to F.O.(S).)

S.L. 136.

Arrived Gibraltar section S.L.136 tug EMPIRE OBERON escorted by VELOX, WITCH, LORD NUFFIELD. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 150845B, 150955B to Admty.)

Attack on
U/B 12th
September.My 121801B.
A report has since been received from HYACINTH stating that she bombarded the U-Boat subsequent to HAARLEM's bombardment and left it lying on side and on fire. Madrid is being informed. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 151010B to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med. A. and B.)
See also 152005A.Italian
ships at
Las Palmas.

Coal suppliers have been notified by port authorities on instructions from Madrid that no bunkers may be supplied to 3 Italian ships in port. (Consul Las Palmas, 151248 to B.N.A. Madrid, (R) Admty., S.O.(I) Gib.)

Request for
Bombers.*Request Air Ministry be asked to consider basing one squadron of Bombers at Gibraltar for protection of Lisbon Convoys. Med. Air Command state none available in Med. (F.O. Gibraltar, 151245B to Admty.) Reply: 271252.*

/LANDGUARD ...

495

War Diary.15.9.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.LANDGUARD,
FRISKY.E.T.A. 161315 -FRISKY not yet rejoined.
(LANDGUARD, 151503A to F.O.C. Gibraltar.)EMPIRE
OBERON.EMPIRE OBERON was able to make Gibraltar.
Your 141914 refers.
(F.O.C. Gib., 151630B to C.M.S.F.)

G.U.S.15.

My 131553B (131552 intended). 5 additions.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 151645B to Com. Algeria,
Comnob. Oran, C.M.S.F.F.)

C.G. 64.

7 ships all French except RENE PAUL (British) 9
QUERCY 12.5, GOVERNEUR GENERAL LEPINI 12 all
for Gibraltar. PARAME 8, CAP PINEDE 10, SAINT
LOUIS 8, CHATEAU LATOSR 9, all for Oran.Escorts LA GRANDIERE Senior, COMMANDANT BORY and LA GRACIEUSE.
E.T.D. 170900A, S. of A. 7.5 knots. Route Q.B.A. 102 (V) 85.44
N. 06.28 W. Q.B.A.87, E.T.A. Gibraltar 181500A, escorts guard
2150 k/cs. Convoy guard 5006Z00NKCS (as received). Codeword
"Fantail".
(Commorseafon, 151748B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C.
Med., etc.)Vigo,
Huelva
R/C.
Italian
ships.P.R.U./Gib./W.1 15 Sept., Gib.'s ? G2. Sortie
G.505, 15 Sept., time 1340, shows Vigo. M/Vs
415 reported Italian LUCIA - C(M.594 290)
reported German vessel (M.62) show no change.
Huelva. Minor naval units remain as on 4th
Sept. Merchant. Italian GAETA (M.579) moored
down stream since prior to 26th July 1941 now
alongside North Pier.
(P.R.U. Gibraltar, 151755Z to Admty.)

ATLANTIS.

H.S. ATLANTIS arrived with 547 Italian wounded
for exchange on board. Request instructions.
(S.T.O. i/c Gibraltar, 151827 to P.S.T.O. Med.,
(R) D. of S.T.)Damaged U/B
at Vigo.*? Gibraltar*My 131801. I saw Chief of Naval Staff today
with U.S. N.A. Report received stated only
damage to stationary main engine caused by depth
charge. Chiefly exhaust pipe broken, cylinder
heads cracked. Report recommends 5 weeks.Ministry of Marine knows, however, Germans believe they can
execute repairs in 17 days and consider engineers who made
report were taken in.Ministry of Marine has accordingly reported to M.F.A. as 17 days.
No work can be done till M.F.A.'s decision and 17 days will
start from then. Batteries are maintained but not charged.
(N.A. Madrid, 151856B to Admty., (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in
C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.)SPANISH-
/Italian ...

15.9.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.Spanish
vessels
attacked
by British
A/C.

I have today received report from Ministry of Marine - quoting Vigo Port Captain who states 2 Spanish fishing vessels ANDONAEGUI I and II were attacked by British 4 engined seaplane at 2000B/6th Sept. in position 045° 23' N. 012° 03' W. After machine gun attack a bomb was dropped which exploded few yards off. At 1300 next day ANDONAEGUI I was machine-gunned by A/C unknown nationality in position 043° 30' N. 010° 10' W. while stick of bombs was dropped round sister ship. No lives were lost. I am asked to request that our A/C be instructed to respect ships outside prohibited zone. (N.A. Madrid, 151922B to Admty.)

U/B destroyed
by A/C
HAARLEM and
HYACINTH
12th Sept.

Tangier telegram to Governor Gibraltar No.165 dated 12th Sept. repeated to Madrid No.274 (not to C. in C. Med.) and F.O.I.C. Gibraltar's 121801 (not to Consul General, Tangier). 2. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to furnish full report concerning attack on this U-Boat repeating to N.A. Madrid for information of H.M. Minister.

3. Report received in Admty. indicate that U-Boat was first attacked about 35 miles from Spanish Moroccan Coast and then to have been pursued relentlessly until destroyed within Spanish territorial waters.

4. When enemy tanker BENNO was destroyed in similar circumstances off North Spain, Spanish Govt. showed disposition to accept doctrine of hot pursuit and N.A. Madrid is referred to instructions sent on that occasion to H.M. Ambassador (F.O. telegram 16th Saving of 29th Jan. 1942). In any discussion with Spanish authorities concerning attack on U-Boat, N.A. Madrid should be guided by those instructions and prepare the way for adoption of similar argument. U-Boat crew are at present reported to be interned and it should not be admitted that fact of attack in territorial waters gives crew right to be released.

(Head of M.(I), Approved 1st Lord, 152005A to N.A. Madrid, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med., Consul General Tangier.)

Italian
Warships
in Spanish
Ports.

N.A. Madrid, 152020 to Admty.
See Mediterranean.

JEANNE D'ARC.

JEANNE D'ARC sailed as my 141600B.
(Commorseafon, 152225B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar,
(R) C. in C. Med., Com. Algiers, Comnavnav,
Admty.)

15.9.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

- W.S.33. Departure 14th WOLVERINE, BULLDOG, BEAGLE, BOADICEA, BANN with W.S.33. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 151040Z to C. in C.S.A. etc.)
- LORRAINE, escorts. Arrived Capetown, LORRAINE, TAY, KALE, PLYM, TEST, TRENT. (C. in C.S.A., 151227B to Admty.)
- C.M.45B. Convoy C.M.45B sailed 14th Sept. for Bombay E.T.A. 28th Sept. Total personnel on board for (A) Bombay (B) P.A.I.C. (C) Ceylon, in (1) STIRLING CASTLE. (2) HIGHLAND BRIGADE, (3) NEA HELLAS (D.S.T.O. Durban, 151344Z to D.S.T.O. Bombay (R) C. in C.E.F. etc.)
- MONTCALM. Subject to approval of Combined Chiefs of Staff it has been agreed that MONTCALM should be sent to Mediterranean forthwith. (D.O.D.(F), Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 151446A to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) C. in C. Med.)
- Forces for Trade Protection. 1. Following are my present intentions in regard to A.M. 141527 (Regrouping of air and surface A/S forces for trade protection in certain areas.) para. 2.
2. D.K. 1 will leave Durban 17th Sept. escorted by FRITILLARY, TULIP, CAPE WARWICK, NORTHERN ISLES, NORWICH CITY, supported by DERG, TAY and FREESIA.
3. NIGELLA and THYME now escorting B.C.6 due Durban 18th Sept. will boiler clean and be at disposal of C. in C.E.F. 26th Sept.
4. ROCKROSE and JASMINE will be sailed from Capetown to arrive Durban 19th Sept. at disposal of C. in C. E.F.
5. TRENT will be sailed from Capetown to arrive Durban 25th Sept. for orders from C. in C.E.F.
6. TEVIOT, KALE, PLYM, will escort W.S.33 due Durban about 11th Oct.
7. Note. D.K.2 will be ready to leave Durban 28th Sept.
8. Following specialist officers will be sent in frigates: A/S Radar and H.F./D.F. (C. in C.S.A. 151623B to C. in C.E.F. (R) Admty., etc.)
- Transports. Arrivals 15th H.M.transports ELIZABETHVILLE and NEW NORTHLAND. (N.C.S.O. Lagos, 151920Z to Admty.)
- EMPIRE MIGHT. Now at Freetown, declared speed 14.2 knots, has cargo of 25,000,000 oranges for U.K. Liable deterioration by delay. Should ship sail independently? (F.O.C.W.A. 152120Z, to Admty.)

War Diary.

15.9.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Avalanche".

RODNEY,
NELSON,
destroyers.

Zero hour 0400/15th Sept. My 142245 (N.T. in W.D.) refers. Acknowledged.
(S.N.O. (afloat) Malta 150116B to RODNEY, NELSON, Capt. D.4th D/F, WISHART, INGLEFIELD, V.A.M.)

Telegram
from P.M.

M.A.141 T Personal for General Eisenhower from General Alexander. (Begins).
I have received telegram from Prime Minister in which he says "ask for anything you want and I will make allocation of necessary supplies with highest priority irrespective of every other consideration." (General Alexander 150445B to C. in C.Med. (B).)

12th M.S.F.
WARSPITE,
VALIANT,
6 destroyers.

My 140412 (N.T. in W.D.) 12th M/S Flot. may be required to proceed Wed. 0800/15th to sweep WARSPITE and VALIANT into Gulf of Naples for (?bombardment) of Castellamare and Torre Annunziata. Channel should be width 5 cables and (?dan)ned by 13th M/S F. at 2 mile intervals. Centre line to run from 040° 35' N. 014° 08' E. in (A) (?226° 036°) direction for 12 miles. If battleships required to (?proceed) closer inshore channel should be extended either (?side) from 040° 44' (?40") N. 014° 17' 20" E. in a 105° direction for 5 miles or (B) from 040° 41' 30" N. 014° 14' 15" E. in 090° direction for 5 miles according to which position battleships prefer. On completion turn to port after (A) and to starboard after "Chop" and outer channel further 2.5 cables to southwards on way out. M.L. 121 and 126 to proceed in company for sweep ahead as early as possible executive orders will follow. (S.O.Force N 150548B to S.O.M/S.F.12, (R) WARSPITE, VALIANT, N.C.W.N. T.F.)

Request you will arrange night cover for VALIANT, WARSPITE 6 destroyers. Taking departure southern attack area at dusk returning at daylight tomorrow Thursday intend passing through following position 40 (?) 10 N. 13.45 E. at 2300. 39.20 N. 14.40 (?) E. at 0300 thence Q.B.D. 219. C. in C.Med. pass to N.A.C.A.F. and N.A.T.A.F.

(C.W.N.T.F. 151841B to C. in C.Med. (R) LOCUST, C.A.F.N.A.T.A.F. VALIANT, WARSPITE.)

Request you will sail SLAZAK, ATHERSTONE, CLEVELAND, CATTERICK, HAYDON and CALPE forthwith to Salerno to join VALIANT.

(C. in C.Med. 152201 to Com. Convoy B. (R) SLAZAK, VALIANT.)

Following is repetition of my 152107 (N.T. in W.R.)

Returning (?tomorrow) Thurs. are VALIANT, WARSPITE, 6 destroyers. Request additional air cover be provided.

5th Army will advise duration of bombardment. Attention General House.

(N.C.W.N.T.F. 152209B to 12th Air A.G.Command (Enhanced) (R) VALIANT, WARSPITE.)

War Diary.15.9.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Operation "Avalanche" - Contd.

LAMERTON Fuelled at Augusta. E.T.A. "Avalanche" 151730B.
U.S. L.S.Ts. (LAMERTON 150835B to Cdre. C.N.Force.)
Proceed to Milazzo and escort U.S. L.S.Ts.
awaiting escort for Salerno.
(Cdre. N. 151242B to LAMERTON, (R) C. in C.Med.
etc.)

Your 151242 and N.O.I.C. Milazzo 151157*. L.S.Ts. sail for
Palermo 151100. Intend proceed to Palermo immediately to
escort them as in your 151242.
(LAMERTON 151900B to Cdre. N.) *N.T. in W.R.
E.T.A. 0001B/16th to escort L.S.T. 307 and 335 to Vulnhe
(sic). Request they be ready to sail on my arrival.
(LAMERTON 151901B to N.O.I.C. Palermo, (R) C.C.F.N.)

U/B. Enemy S/M sighted ship 7 miles west of Point
Ventroso "Avalanche" at 2230/14th Sept. S/M
fired one torpedo and dived.
(C.T.F. 85 150908B to S. & A. in "Avalanche" Area.)

Airborne Airborne operation (?tonight) 15th/16th. About
Operation. 130 A/C towing gliders. Length of column 2
(?miles).
2. Leading A/C leaves Gela over sea along south
and east coast of Sicily to Straits of Messina at
2330, thence coastwise to Licosia and inland to dropping area
arriving there about 0100.
3. Outward flight at 1000 feet returning above 8000 feet.
Balloons should be close hauled as necessary.
4. Safety zone as in "Avon" 6 para. 28 applies.
5. S.O. of escorts pass to all ships in company.
(C. in C.Med. 150927B to S. & A. taking part in Operation
"Avalanche" (R) M.A.C. N.L.O.T.C.C.)
Tonight's operation will be repeated tomorrow 16th/17th
with similar numbers at the same time.
Request repetition of arrangements as in your 150927.
(N.L.O. T.C.C. 151730 to C. in C.Med. (R) F.O.Sy. Admty.
M.A.C.N.L.O. 15th Army Group.)
Cancel my 150927. Flight will not take place.
(C. in C.Med. 151741B to S. & A. in Operation "Avalanche"
(R) M.A.C. N.L.O.T.C.C.)
Airborne assault will take place tomorrow night 16th/17th.
Details as in my 150927.
(C. in C.Med. 152226B to S. & A. taking part in operation
"Avalanche" (R) N.L.O.T.C.C. M.A.C.)

SLAZAK, My 142139* and 150240* neither to 23. Proceed
ATHERSTONE, with ships under your orders to Salerno to join
VALIANT, 6 2nd division 1st B.S.
Hunts to (C., in C.Med. 130929B to SLAZAK, ATHERSTONE, (R)
join. Cdre. N. Ships escorting U.G.F. N.C.W.T.F.
Comnob Palermo.) *Not received.

War Diary.

15.9.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Avalanche".

SLAZAK,
ATHERSTONE,
VALIANT,
6 Hunts
to join.
(Contd.)

6 Hunts being sent to join you with a view to augmenting your air defence. My 150929 refers. (C. in C.Med. 150935B to VALIANT, (R) N.C.W.T.F. Cdre. C.Force N. SLAZAK.)

ORION.

Sail 1900/15th to Salerno S.O.A. 24 knots by Q.B.B. 146 position S.H. thence route S. E.T.A. 0800/(?16) codeword "Swing". (?Priority) normal request Messina lights from 0100 to 0230/16th. (V.A.Malta 151159B to ORION, (R) C. in C.Med. C.S.15, N.O.I.C. Messina, F.O.Sy. S.O.Force H, S.N.O.R.A. Cdre.N. N.L.O. N.A.S.A.F. M.A.C. N.L.O. N.A.T.A.A.F. N.L.O.N.A.A.F. N.L.O.N.A.C.A.F.)

Enemy
Landing
Craft.

Following has been read:
4 landing craft, hits observed, 3 possible 40.54 N. 13.00 E. (A/C call sign AOR/A via Alexandria W/T No T.O.O. 15th.)
4 Landing Craft in 40.54 N. 13.00 E. Attacked, result unobserved. (A/C call sign AOR/A via Malta W/T No T.O.O. to Base K.T.1.)

OFFA.

OFFA is remaining at Palermo and will be required and will be required 1200/16th Sept. to take (?me) from (?Palermo) to Salerno. (?C. in C.Med. 151757 to N.O.B. Palermo, (R) S.O. Force H, PRINS ALBERT, Cdre. N.N.C.W.T.F.)

After landing your passengers proceed Bizerta to arrive not later 1600B Sept. 16th. Cancel my 151757.

(C. in C.Med. 152239B to OFFA, (R) Comnob Palermo, F.O.H. N.O.I.C. Tunisia, N.C.W.T.F. C.C.N. Force.)

Force V.

When troops have been disembarked sail with ships in the address to Bizerta. Route "Baker" codeword "Bootleg" priority low. (C. in C.Med. 151929 to S.O.Force V, (R) SCYLLA, CHARYBDIS, Comnob Palermo, N.L.O. N.A.F. N.L.O. 12th A.S.C. H.C. (U.S.)W.N.T.F. S.O. Force H, N.O.I.C. Bizerta, EURYALUS.)

R.A.Peters
flag at
Taranto.

The Flag of R.A. A.M. Peters was hoisted on shore at Taranto as F.O.Taranto Area at 0800 Monday 13th Sept. (F.O.T.A. 152206B to Admty. C. in C.Med.)

Situation
Report.

Cositintrep No. 66 Part 2.
1. During 14 Sept. unloading over the beaches of Salerno Bay continued satisfactorily. British and U.S. cruisers and destroyers bombarded enemy positions and troop concentrations. Shelling of

/the...

War Diary.

15.9.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Avalanche".

Situation
Report.
(Contd.)

- the port of Salerno was on a reduced scale.
2. During the night 13th Sept./14th Sept. des-
troyers carried out sweep north of Cape Circeo
and coastal forces operated in Gulf of Gaeta.
No incidents reported.
 3. WARSPITE and VALIANT bombarded targets in
Salerno area on 15th Sept.
 4. During the night 13 Sept./14th Sept. F.S. LE FANTASQUE and
LE TERRIBLE landed 600 troops at Ajaccio.
 5. 28 more small Italian Naval craft arrived at Palermo during
13 Sept./14th Sept.
 6. Hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND which had been
bombed on 13 Sept. sank 15 Sept.
(C. in C.Med. 152349B to Cositintrep.)

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 151255Z September.

MOST SECRET OUT.

To: Britman Washington. Date 15.9.43.
Repeated A.F.H.Q. through ETOUSA (No. 5000
for General Eisenhower (Eyes only).

CYPHER.

Op. Avalanche - build up

From Air Ministry.

OZ 2796. 15th September, 1943.

Following for Combined Chiefs of Staff from
British Chiefs of Staff C.O.S.(W) 808.

1. Many telegrams have now been passed between Combined Chiefs of Staff, British Chiefs of Staff and A.F.H.Q. relating to assistance which might be given to accelerate build up in Italy in general and AVALANCHE in particular.

2. At various stages limiting factors have been indicated as port capacity in North Africa and beach captivity in Italy, availability of shipping and landing craft and as readiness of formations. Some of the telegrams referring are:-

NAF 330	FAN 197
COS(W) 779	JSM 1158
COS(W) 796	JSM 1165
FAN 226	NAF 398
FAN 225	JSM 1170
3852 (FHGDM)	

3. We are most anxious to give all help possible at earliest moment. We therefore suggest that General Eisenhower should be asked to state clearly what are the limiting factors affecting build-up and what further steps we can take to help.

151255Z.

Recd. in War Registry AM/16/9.

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (2)
D.F.S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (W)
N.A. Mails.
P.A.S. (S)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.O.D. (H) (4)
D.N.I. (4)
D. of P. (2)

D.C.
D.D.I.C. (2)
D. of P. (Q) (3)
Hd. of M. (2)
I.P. (2)
W.D.
Admiral Blake.

Circulation:

Brig. Jacob.
Foreign Sec.
First Sea Lord.
C.6. Tels., W.O.
A.M.C.S. (C)
C.C.O.

MOST SECRET

WARNING : This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the text must first be paraphrased* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

MOST SECRET ^{(*) Note: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad :} MESSAGE IN
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

150230B Sept. '43

FROM:- C. in C. Med.

DATE:- 15.9.43.

RUCD:- 0701

NAVAL CYHER (D) BY /T

Operation "Avalanche"
Italy

ADDRESSED:- H.H.S. OPTA

Report from Gen. Clark

EMERGENCY

Personal for General Alexander from Clark begins -
Addressed TAC HQ 15th Army Group and Main H.Q. 15th Army
Group From 5th Army.

Have visited front areas north and south of River
Sele this morning. Situation on 45 Front north of Sele
River favourable at present time although it was
necessary for 45th Division to withdraw right flank
to conform to line east of river. 45th and 56th
Divisions are co-ordinating front. 56th Division has
arranged for counter attack to south east to assist
45th Division should that become necessary. The 36th
Division front yesterday was penetrated in 2 places.
Corps Commander ordered withdrawal but not all of
Division was able to withdraw and its (word omitted)
are still unknown. Altavilla and Albanella were lost
by 36th Division. 36th Division line now follows
(?LA)COA River running south from Cllore (?) River.
This line held by one Battalion Engineers, two battalions
airborne, and one tank destroyer battalion and one
battalion 36th. This position is vulnerable but all
efforts are being made to correct that condition.
180th RCT unloading personnel and vehicles noon this
afternoon and will be placed in Army reserve south
of River Sele. Am urgently looking forward to
arrival of additional 82nd air borne division troops.
Favourable opportunity will be sought to counter attack.
10th Corps situation unchanged. General Mooreery
feels that he is over extended and will have difficulty
in resisting a strong attack. Elements of 7th armoured
division started unloading this afternoon. Enemy tank
action over entire front sporadic. 179th R.C.T. put 15
out of action this morning. Expect that the enemy will
renew his attack again tonight with favourable moonlight
and under conditions where he will be able to avoid effect
of our splendid air support. Naval support has been
excellent.

150230B

Advance copy sent Duty Capt. D.O.D. (F) D.D.I.C.

1st Lord	A.C.N.S. (U.T.) (2)	Plot.	Ad. Blake
1st S.L. (2)	A.C.N.S. (A) (2)	D.D.I.C. (2)	W.D.
D.F.S.L.	U.W.R.	D.N.I. (4)	I.P. (2)
V.C.N.S.	D.O.D. (F) (2)	D. of P. (2)	
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.O.D. (H) (4)	D. of P. (Q) (3)	
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.C.	Hd. of M. (27)	

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

No TOO/15th Sept. IN

From A.F.H.Q. Algiers

Date 15.9.43.
Recd. 2145

CYPHER

Mediterranean
Allied Situation Report

Addressed The War Office and Linrep addressees.

155571. 4789 cipher 15th Sept.

Cite FIGCT signed Eisenhower.
82nd Linrep.
Summary of operations 9 to 12 September.

(1) Ground. Five Army. Six US Corps on right consisting 36 US Div and 10 Corps consisting 46 Br and 56 Br Divs landed on beaches south of Salerno at 0345 hrs 9 Sept. 36 Div found considerable opposition and beaches under shell fire. 45 US Div since landed in support. On left early progress of 56 Div was halted by counter attack although Montecorvino airfield was partly surrounded and later captured. On 46 Div front immediate counter attacks endangered beaches but were finally held. Commandos landing west of Salerno occupied western half of town while Rangers landing at Maiori secured mountain pass at Nocera. Salerno was later occupied and beach head extended some four miles inland. Strong enemy pressure continues and our positions still under artillery fire. Battipaglia was lost on 12 Sep. and Montecorvino airfield is not yet serviceable. Eight Army maintained rapid advance against little opposition and latest reports show patrols in Scalea T53 San Sosti T71 and Cosenza Y97. One Airborne Div landing without opposition Taranto 9 Sept. and quickly extended our bridgehead. On 10 Sept. the area south of line Taranto-Brindisi reported clear and following day patrols pushed forward through Locorotondo P84 to Bari on east coast.

(2) Naval. Operations by British and US units in support of land forces in Gulf of Salerno include seizure of Ventotene Island on 9 Sept., supporting gunfire and employment of carrier-borne aircraft. ROMA flagship of Italian battle fleet from Spezia sank after attack by German aircraft west Corsica. Remaining two battleships five cruisers and seven destroyers were met by second division British battle fleet off Bone and proceeded to Malta. Two battleships three cruisers and one destroyer from Taranto with two other destroyers also due Malta. Fourteen of nineteen Italian submarines identified on the surface have reached Allied ports. On 10 Sept. British submarine UNRIVALLED entered Bari Harbour P57 and escorted eight Italian merchant vessels to Malta. Four others had already been sunk by Germans. On night 11/12 Sept. USS KNIGHT and US and British coastal forces carried out a demonstration in Gaeta area north of Naples.

3. Air. The airforces supported our landings south of Salerno and continued their relentless attacks on enemy lines of communication in central Italy and the Naples area. By night large formations of Wellingtons attacked railroad installations whilst during the day B-17s (Fortresses) attacked roads and road junctions and the airfield at Frosinone near Rome. Medium and light bombers attacked communications lines leading to Salerno beaches as well as those in the interior. Our fighters maintained continuous patrols over the beaches on the Gulf of Salerno in support of our landing operations.

4. Enemy in Calabria enemy continues to avoid major combat and elements of two divisions in this area appear to have been withdrawn to reinforce the Naples-Salerno area. Between Gaeta and the Gulf of Salerno enemy has now equivalent of four divisions. To some extent these have been occupied with local security as a result of Italian armistice but indications that forces are being concentrated in the operational area. German resistance stubborn. In Apulia where enemy has only light forces our troops have not been opposed. No indications of movements southwards from Rome area or northern Italy where Germans are constrained to ensure their own security and lines of communications. Position in Corsica and Sardinia is obscure but hostilities appear to have taken place in the former between Germans and Italians. In the Balkans for most part Italians appear to have accepted disarmament by Germans.

5. Political. Nil.

No T.O.O./15th.

Note by C.6. Tels:- Advance copy sent to Colonial Office for retransmission to Resident Minister Achimota.

1st Lord.		
1st S.L.(2).	Received in War Reg. 172252.	
4th S.L.		
5th S.L.	<u>War Office distribution by M.O.4.</u>	
D.C.N.A.E.	M.O.1.2.4.5.6.7.	
V.C.N.S.	G.S.(P).	
A.C.N.S.(A)(2)	M.I.3.8.(L)14.17.	
A.C.N.S.(F).	S.D.2.5.	
A.C.N.S.(W).	Air Co-ord.	
U.W.R.	L.M.5/S.D.W.	Admiralty War Reg.
D.O.D.(F)(2).	R.A.8.	A.M.S.S.O.
D.O.D.(H)(4).	R.A.C.1.	C.O.H.Q.
D.D.I.C.(2).	Sigs. 5.	Cdr. M.I. H.Q.
D. of P.(2).	E.Ops.	
D.C.	Q.(Ops.)2 (4 copies).	
Flot.	A.G.Co-ord.	
Hd.of M.(2).	G.A.2.	
D.N.I.(4).	H.Q. E.T.O.U.S.A.	
I.P.(2).	Brig. Jacob.	
D.P.D.		
C.N.I.	D.D.O.D.(M).	D. of P.(Q)(3).
W.D.	D.A.W.T.	S.O.F.(V)(4).
Adl.Blake.		

War Diary.

15.9.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General.

3 E-Boats. Following has been read:
3 E-Boats bearing 355° distance 4 miles, course 170° position (of reporting ship) 40.40 N. 14.20 E. (D.24 via Burnham Radio 150018 to Malta.)
Following has been read: My 150018 enemy's course is 240° (D.24 (via Burnham) 150037 to Malta.)
My 150018 have driven off enemy to N.W. and lost touch.
My position now is 040° 20' N. 013° 50' E. (D.24 150225 to Malta.)

FARNDALE Very much regret on leaving Ferryville FARNDALE damaged. struck a wreck and flooded both engine room and gear room. Extent of damage not known. (FARNDALE 150135 to C. in C.Med. (R) S.O.Force V, S.N.O.Tripolitania, JOCELYN.)

A.P.45. 1. A.P.45. 10. 9 BEACON, 10 EMPIRE SILVER, 11½ ORA. 12. Abadan, E.T.A. Rooka, p.m. 23rd Sept. (N.C.S.O. Aden 150427Z to Admty. etc.)

K.M.S.25, My 131211B sailed. LOTUS. (V.A.Malta 150846B to S.O.Escort K.M.S.25, (R) Admty. etc.)
My 140847 (N.T. in W.D.)
LOTUS should detach from K.M.S.25 at Malta and join 36 Escort Group temporarily. She should rejoin 50 Escort Group with G.U.S.16 on 23rd Sept. Amend my 061835 not to all accordingly.
(C. in C.Med. 151218 to N.O.I.C. Malta, (R) C. in C. Levant, Ships escorting K.M.S. 25, etc.)

Enemy In view of destruction of Hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND Hospital Ships. by air attack and of attacks on two other hospital ships am instructing S/MS operating in Gulf of Genoa and Lions to place armed guards on board any enemy hospital ships encountered and to send them to Bone.
(C. in C.Med. 150857B to Admty.)

Endeavour to place armed guard on board any enemy hospital ships encountered and sail them to Bone routed West of Corsica and Sardinia.

(Capt. S.8 151220B to 8th S/M Flot.)

[Administrative instruction to cancel this order re 011454A October.]

L'ALCYON, Cancel my 140950 (re L'ALCYON and TEMPETE leaving TEMPETE, Algiers) and my 142220. L'ALCYON, TEMPETE, F.S. LE FANTASQUE and F.S. LE TERRIBLE are now not sailing. FANTASQUE, (Capt. S.8 150930B to 8th S/M F. CASABIANCA, PERLE, TERRIBLE. (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers, C. in C.Med. (A).)
LE FANTASQUE, L'ALCYON class and TEMPETE leaving Algiers 0001/16th pass 041° 10' 007° 10' at 2030/16th thence to Ajaccio, leaving Ajaccio early a.m. 17th and returning to Algiers by reverse of outward route.
(Capt. S.8 151800B to PERLE, ARETHUSE, (R) 8th S/M F.)

War Diary.15.9.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Enemy Units. 1 tanker, 1 small merchant vessel and 4 escort vessels in approx. position 43.32 N. 10.16 E. (considered to be accurate). Course 170° speed 5 knots.

(A/C ARM/H via Malta W/T 150940B.)

My 0940. Enemy previously reported is 1 tanker, 5000 tons, 1 small M/V, 700 tons and 2 escorts ahead and 2 astern.

(A/C ARM/H (via Alexandria W/T.), 151055B).

One M/V and 4 destroyers in 43.01 N. 9.55 E. course 200° speed 8 knots. Have attacked enemy.

(A/C CYD/X via Malta W/T, 151259B to Base 45U).

Position of one small vessel of 1000 tons 42.49 N. 10.14 E. Am resuming patrol.

(A/C GPL/X via Alexandria 152200B to Air H.Q. Malta.)

Posn. of 1 small vessel 43.32 N. 10.05 E. course 090° speed 6 knots.

(A/C GPL/J via Alexandria 152230 to 45 U.)

ARETHUSE. (all before gr. 80 missed) ?French submarine ARETHUSE (?sails) 1900/15th through 36° 01' 3" 05' 530 0300/16th thence (?340°) St. Lucia 9 25. (Malta Broadcast 151001 to C/S R5B3 A6R7.)

Fleet Movements. Following movements are to take place forthwith. BEAUFORT, PINDOS, HURSLEY, ADRIAS to be sailed for Alexandria. HOLCOMBE and LIDDESDALE to sail for Malta to take place of HURSLEY and ADRIAS. (C. in C.Med. 151037 to N.O.I.C. Tunisia, V.A. Malta, (R) F.O.I.C. Sicily, C. in C.Levant, R.A.V. N.O.I.C. Augusta. etc.)

Sail at 2000/15th to Alexandria, S.O.A. 20 knots (?by) Q.B.B. 123. (B) Positions 212, 235, 033° 20' 020° 00' at 1500/16th thence as ordered by C. in C.Levant. Codeword "Trial" 941 low. C. in C.Med. 151037 refers.

(V.A.Malta 151632 to HURSLEY, ADRIAS, (R) C. in C.Levant, V.A.M. A.H.Q. Med. etc.)

LAUDERDALE. Your 141836 (N.T. in W.R.) para. 2 (?approved) to boiler clean LAUDERDALE. Delete LAUDERDALE from escort of T.S.S. 5. (C. in C.Med. 151105B to V.A.Malta.)

German U/B dispositions. Estimated 6 German U-Boats in Tyrrhenean Sea majority of which are in Salerno area and off West Coast of Italy. (?C. in C.Med. 151114 to All N. & A.A. concerned.) U-Boats between 009° E. and 020° E. Estimated 3 all within 40 miles of 040° N. 014° E. In the Adriatic 1 unfixed. (C. in C.Med. (A) 151807 to U-Boat disposition Med. Stn. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

/LOTUS...

War Diary.15.9.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- LOTUS. My 140847. LOTUS should detach from K.M.S. 25 at Malta and join 36 Escort Group temporarily. She should rejoin 50 Escort Group with G.U.S.16 on 23rd Sept. Amend my 061835 accordingly. (N.T. in W.R.) (C. in C.Med. (B), 151118 to V.A.Malta, (R) C. in C.Levant, S.E.C. K.M.S. 25, STARWORT, LOTUS, COLTSFOOT.)
- RORQUAL. Leave patrol daylight 18th via Scarpanto Straits dive to 150 feet between 035° 57' N. and 035° 37' N. keep clear to eastward 035° 56' 027° 29' M.S. 326 refers. Thence pass through
A. 035° 34' 027° 39' at 2030/18th,
B. 034° 22' 032° 20' at 1801/19th
to arrive Beirut 0940/20th. Air escort will meet you dawn 20th. (Capt. S.1, 151136C to RORQUAL, (R) C. in C.Levant, Cdr. D. C.C.F.E.M.)
- M.K.S.25. 1. M.K.S.25 (list destinations, etc.) (R.A.Alexandria 151155 to Admty. etc.)
- HOLCOMBE, LIDDESDALE. Sail when ready to Malta. S.O.A. 18 knots.
2. Route war channel to 299, 275 Q.B.B. 123 (C).
3. Report E.T.D. and E.T.A.
4. "Groom" priority low C. in C.Med's 151037 refers. (N.O.I.C. Tunisia 151242B to HOLCOMBE, LIDDESDALE, (R) C. in C.Med. etc.)
- Dispositions of Italian Ships. List under Allied Control. Admty. 151307B to B.A.D. See America & West Indies. Arrivals, Italian ships LEGIONARIO, ORIANI. (Com. Algeria 152116B to Admty. C. in C.Med. etc.) Corrected version of my 140911. Movements of Italian Shipping 14th Sept. Arrived merchant vessels LUANA, GELIA, MONTEBELLO, CONSTANTE, LUCRINO, RENNUCI, PELAGOSA, APUANIA (8). Departed Warships VITTORIO VENETO, CADORNA, EUGENIA DI SAVOIA, DUCA D'AOSTA, MONTECUCCOLI, LEGIONARIO, GRECALE, ITALIA, ARTIGLIERI, VELITE, ORIANI, DA RECCO. (V.A.M. 152335A to Admty. C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant.) Movements of Italian shipping 15th Sept. Arrived hospital ship TOSCANA. (V.A.Malta 152345Z to Admty. C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant, (R) F.O.H.)
- MONTCALM. Proposed to employ in Mediterranean. (Admty. 151440A* 151446A*) * See America & West Indies. + See South Atlantic.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

N.A.A.F. Report. A.V. 613 E. Sept. 15. N.A.A.F. Opsum 206.
N.A.C.A.F. 13/14 Sept. 1 U.S. Liberator U-Boat hunt sighted 2 S/Ms on surface 60 miles south west Guardia Point. Attacked 1 with 6 depth charges. All fell short. After attack submarines identified themselves as Italian.
(N.A.A.F. 151523B.)

VILLE D'AJACCIO, ARETHUSE. From Adm. Lemmonier. On arrival at Ajaccio order French ship VILLE D'AJACCIO to leave if possible during night 16th/17th or if this is not possible to leave early during night 17th/18th for Algiers routed through 041° N. 006° E. thence direct to Algiers. Put one of your officers on board her and if necessary some of your own crew. ARETHUSE arriving Ajaccio p.m. 17th has orders to ensure the ship leaves that night. Impress on crew of ship that they will be treated as friends. On your leaving Ajaccio report situation of this ship. (Capt. S.8 151710B to PERLE, (R) ARETHUSE, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C.Med. N.O.I.C. Algiers.)

OAKLEY, ABERCROMBIE. On arrival of N.S.S.2 request you will sail OAKLEY to Palermo. Comnob Palermo is requested sail ABERCROMBIE escorted by OAKLEY to Bizerta. (C. in C.Med. 151711B to S.O.N. (R) Capt. D.5, C.W.N.T.F. Comnob Palermo, OAKLEY, ABERCROMBIE, N.O.I.C. Bizerta.)

CARTHAGE, M.K.F.24. Suez 15th Sept. Departure CARTHAGE at 1230. E.T.A. Port Said 1130 Sept. 16th. (F.O.R.S.C.A. 151716C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant, etc.)

STAFFORDSHIRE, STRATHMORE, CLAN CAMPBELL, H.M.S. CARTHAGE. M.K.F.24 request you will sail (?for) U.K. (C. in C.Levant, 151815C to N.O.I.C. Port Said, (R) Admty. etc.)

Requisition of Italian M/Vs. Request immediate authority to requisition such Italian merchant ships as are most suitable for current operations in Eastern Mediterranean and to substitute Allied crews. Have in mind for immediate use one ship, POLA, 200 tons, now at Cyprus.

(C. in C.Levant, 151721C to Admty.)
My 151729 (?151721 intended) add observing para. 8 of the broadcast to Italian seamen does not accord with para. 5 of the armistice terms.
(C. in C.Levant, 151843C to Admty.)

CONVOLVULUS, VETCH, PENTSTEMON. Intend to sail CONVOLVULUS, VETCH, PENTSTEMON at 1202B/16th route 292, 248, 212, E.T.A. Malta Boom 0700/17th. S.O.A. 12 knots. Codeword "Immense" (corrupt group)? Constant W/T watch on Malta broadcast. Priority low. No joiners for M.K.S. 25, U.G.S.16.
(S.N.O. Tripolitania, 151759B to V.A.Malta.)

/Situation...

War Diary.

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation in Cephallonia. Following messages made today 15th in P/L on 5770 k/cs ?all from General Gandin.

1. To 7th Army in Corfu. Please inform authorities that today I have been forced to retire to Cephallonia owing to hostilities with Germans.

Time of intercept 1620C.

2. To 18th Infantry Regt. Corfu for 7th Army. At 1530/?C Stukas have bombed and machine gunned my position. 2 enemy A/C in flames.
3. To Naval Command Gallipoli for High Command and to 18th Infantry Regt. Corfu, time of intercept 1630C. Germans do not accept my request that Div. ?retain its arms. I shall meet force with force.

(C.O.I.S. Alexandria 151802C to C. in C.Med. D.N.I. (R) C. in C.Levant.)

PALADIN. Sail at 1300/16th to Augusta S.O.A. 22 knots by Q.B.B. 146 direct route. E.T.A. Boom 1615/16th, codeword "Nitwit" (all?) priority normal. S.O. Force H, 151525* refers.

(N.O.I.C. Malta 151836B to PALADIN, (R) S.O. Force H, F.O.Sy. N.O.I.C. Augusta, N.L.O. 8th Army Tripoli, Group 211, C. in C.Med.)

*W.R.Note S.O. Force H would like PALADIN in lieu of WISHART. Not circulated in Admiralty.

Aircraft A/S Hunt. M.J.A.O. A/S hunt by Wellington in area between 039° 47' to 040° 43' and 012° 43' to 014° 20' by Liberator 040° 40' to 041° 47' and 011° 00' to 012° 25'. Both 2000 and 0615.

(C. in C.Med. 151837B to S. & A. in Area G.C.)

CUCKMERE. Cdre. Algiers 141645 (N.T. in W.D.) Onward route through E. 036° 53' 012° 00' F. 036° 20' 015° 00' G. 036° 40' 015° 21' H. 037° 03' 015° 25' and Q.B.B. 162.

2. E.T.A. Syracuse 12 O B (?to) 311, 499 codeword "Courier" (incomplete group) priority low. CUCKMERE pass to U.S.L.S.T. 21. (C. in C.Med. Fleet 151919B to CUCKMERE, U.S.L.S.T. 21, (R) N.O.I.C. Tunis, V.A.Malta, F.O.I.C. Sicily, N.O.I.C. Syracuse.)

S/M Movements. UNSEEN, ULTOR, (P.31) UPROAR and DZIK sail at 2200/15th escorted by B.Y.M.S. 28 route via N.W.Channel through 275, 036° 55' 011° 13' thence by War Channel. S.O.A. 8½ knots. Expected to pass 037° 18' 008° 55' at 1000/17th.

2. B.Y.M.S. 28 has been ordered to return to Malta by reverse of outward route when S/Ms have been detached by you.
3. S/Ms will shift to Algiers broadcast on passing 012° E.
4. Each S/M carries small armed guard.
5. Codeword "Rubble" 912 priority normal. C. in C.Med. 150921 (N.T. in W.R.) refers.

(Capt. S.10, 151920B to Capt. S.8, (R) C. in C.Med. 10th S.F. 8th S.F. V.A.Malta, Air H.Q.Malta, N.W.A.C.A.F.)

/L.S.I.(L)...

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Wednesday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

L.S.I.(L). 1. According present arrangements unlikely that any of 5 large L.S.I.(L) now in Oran can be returned in M.K.F. 24.
2. 2 are definitely required D. plus 12 "Avalanche" and remainder held for special operational reasons. Will advise further when arrangements are finalised. C. in C.Med. signal 131054 not to D. of S.T. and my 051045 (Bigot) (N.T. in W.D.) No. 55 refer.
3. Agreed. 4. This is McDavid's No. 67.
5. Admiralty pass D.S.T. Alex. pass to P.S.T.O.M.E. (P.S.T.O.Med. 151930B to D. of S.T. (R) C. in C.Med. P.S.T.O.M.E.)

Situation 1. Convoys. A. Departures, X.T.2 11 M/Vs left Report No.53. Alexandria 11th routed to Tripoli (L) M.K.S.25 22 M/Vs left Alexandria 14th. B. Arrivals, U.G.S. 15 arrived 12 with 5 M/Vs for Alexandria 25 for Port Said and beyond. T.X.I arrived 15 with LEONIAN and 4 M/Vs for Alexandria, 2 M/Vs for Port Said and beyond.
2. Cyrenaica party W. sailed from Tobruk 10th in SS. VILLE D'ORAN for Malta.
3. Alexandria. Italian Cant Floatplane alighted Dekheila 11 towed into Alexandria 12th. H.M.S.V. VALKYRIEN commissioned 15.
4. Red Sea. P.W.S.S. and Naval Control Service closed down at Port Sudan 15, examination service withdrawn.
5. Submarines. TROOPER from Aegean Patrol reports 1745/31 Aug. bombarded Karlovassi, Samos. 1645 Sept. 5 sank 250 ton schooner and small tug by gunfire northbound through Skepelos Channel. TORBAY from Aegean Patrol reports 1200 Aug. 31 sank 40 ton caique by gunfire between Kos and Stampalia, at 0656/2nd Sept. sank 1,000 ton M/V in escorted convoy of 3 in position 37° 14' N. 26° 40' E. Night 5th/6th sighted while attempting to attack escorted 4,000 ton ship south of Nikaria. At 1825/7th fired 93 rounds 4 inch at Bauxite loading station transporter badly damaged.
5? Changes on Station. A. Arrivals. CARTHAGE at Port Said for passage to U.K. LEONIAN, L.C.Ts. 17, 18, 132, 157, M.Ls. 451, 456, 461, 478 from West Mediterranean. Departures BULOIO, KEREN, BARNABY from Aden 11 to Bombay.
(C. in C.Levant 152011C to Admty.)

MAGDALA. No knowledge of tanker MAGDALA. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 071147 (sailing telegram K.M.S.25). Request early instructions.
(C. in C.Levant 152020C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. A. M. of W.T. Alexandria, M.of W.T.Med.)
Admty. reply 161942.

Italian Ships in Spanish Ports. Admty. pass to Algiers. Addressed Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C.Med. With U.S.Naval Attache I saw Chief of Naval Staff. He said when Italian Captains claimed fuel under Article 19 and regarded themselves as belligerent Spaniards had no option but internment as they knew nothing of Armistice terms. He ventually agreed however matter remains open, that Armistice may alter everything and that even article 19 might be capable of various interpretations. He has given orders that ships company are to

War Diary.15.9.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Italian
Ships in
Spanish
Ports.
(Contd.)

remain on board in case M.F.A. agrees to departure of ships. We said we could send fuel. He said Italian N.A. had been sent Puerto de Mahon in Spanish Gunboat EDUARDO DATO there being no other means available. N.A. is now in Palma (Majorca.)

We have at last contacted Cdr. Tucci, Assistant N.A. and we are seeing him tonight. We proposed giving him orders in sense of my 132026*. Please have definite instructions in same sense sent to N.A. from Admiral de Hastara or some other Senior Naval Authority.

Other Assistant N.A. left for Rome 3 days ago.

6 Italian seaplanes have arrived in Balearic Islands. (N.A. Madrid 152020B to Admty.)

* Amended by 152043 from N.A. Madrid. re Italian Naval Attache gone to Port (Puerto de Mahon.)

My 152020. Please see Ambassador's telegram No. 1587 to Foreign Office and 120 to Algiers.

(B.N.A. Madrid 152147 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

K.M.S.25.

Arrived (names).
(V.A. Malta 152140B to Admty. etc.)

Sailings to
Alexandria.

My 151632 disembarked 2 hours late.
(N.O.I.C. Malta 152152B to C. in C. Levant.)

ARETHUSA.

Add 24 hours to all times in my 141100.
(Capt. S.8, 152209B to 8th S.F. PERLE, ARETHUSA, (R)
N.O.I.C. Algiers, C. in C. Med.)

Group
Sailing
Malta,
Bizerta.

My 141832 sailed 2300/15th less NASPRITE (T).
NASPRITE has sailed Augusta.
(V.A. Malta 152226B, 152258 to F.O.I.C. Tunisia,
(R) Admty. etc.)

Position
in Corsica.

Signed Eisenhower. Cositintrep No. 67, 15 Sept. Part 4, no Cositintreps part four Nos. 41 to 66 issued.
Paras. 1, and 2. Italian troops assisted by patriots fighting Germans in North and West of Corsica since 11 Sept. and now control Ajaccio and great part of interior. Germans hold Bastia and S.E. corner of Island. Also reinforcing from Sardinia. Reinforcements already sent from North Africa include 600 French troops.
(A.F.H.Q. Algiers No T.O.O. to W.O. and Cositintrep Addressees.)

LOOKOUT.

Intend sailing LOOKOUT 1900/16th Sept. for Malta returned from Philippeville in "Avon" 2 S.O.A. 22 knots E.T.A. 0930/17th. Request Messina light from 0200 to 0300.

2. Ship has burned out armature of 17½ inch engine room supply fan. If spare is not available request consideration of use of one from LAFOREY.

3. Ship requires almost full outfit thoroughly overhauled and

/should...

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

LOOKOUT. should return to Casablanca as early as possible.
(Contd.) (F.O.15th C.S.? 152248 to C. in C.Med. etc.)

CROOME, CROOME and HURWORTH passing through 035° 18' 030°
HURWORTH. 02' at about 1900C/16th to arrive within 60 miles
of Leros by dawn 17th. They sail after dark 17th
for Alexandria through 034° 30' 028° 13' disperse
about 0600C/18th. They are ordered not to attack
S/MS.
(Capt. S.1, 152311C to RORQUAL, KATSONIS.)

Glider Bomb.

1. Following evidence obtained on Rocket Glider Bomb to date in "Avalanche" Area.
2. Facts A. bomb is Rocket assisted and resembles a paravane with flame and white smoke from tail.
B. Bomb is fitted with wings and capable of turning in mid air.
- C. Bomb is released from twin engine aircraft from approx. 15,000 to 25,000 feet.
- D. It has 2 phases of flight (1) gliding, (2) diving vertically.
- E. It is a low velocity armour piercing bomb of about 19 inch diameter with delayed fuse. Bomb penetrated 7 decks in UGANDA before exploding outside the bottom of the ship.
- F. It has been used only in daylight and preferably at target clear of other shipping by at least 300 to 400 yards.
- G. During one attack call sign "Segelflinver" was heard on frequency 41.6 M.C.
- H. A noise has been heard in earphones of type 279 R.D.F. during this type of attack. Noise was a rushing sound and lasted $\frac{3}{4}$ of minute.
- J. Bomb is released in level flight and shoots ahead of aircraft into apparently a shallow glide. When above target bomb dives vertically downward.

3. Deductions (A) Aircraft controls during glide bomb selects moment for dive and is self controlled during dive probably with homing device which may be R.D.F. optical or magnetic. A combination of optical and magnetic seems most likely.
B. Homing on to ship W/T or R.D.F. transmission appears unlikely on account of diversity of vessels hit.
4. Written report by air mail.
5. C. in C.Mediterranean pass to M.A.C.N.A.T.A.F. and N.A.C.A.F. N.C. W.T.F. has by other means.
(S.O. Force N 152324 to Admty. C. in C.Med.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

ASCANIA. Intend embarking 500 Polish families in ASCANIA for Kilindini sailing from Karachi 21st September. Can you accept.
(A.P.S.T.O.I. Bombay, 150424Z to H.Q. E.Af.)

P.A.53. Sailing telegram (10 ships). (2) 0400Z/15th. (4) 8 knots from Z.Z. 9½ knots. (5) Route 4. (6) BALUCHISTAN, KONKAN. (8) Route 4 (S), (13) (A) Master BRITISH ENERGY Kilindini.
(B) Master NORAVIND Aden.
(N.C.S.O. Hormuz, 150440Z to C. in C. E.F. F.O. Ceylon etc.)
Departure Bandar Abbas 0400Z/15th BALUCHISTAN, KONKAN escorting P.A. 53. (2) E.T.A. 057 degs. 30' E. 0500Z/19th. E.T.A. Aden, 0200Z/23rd.
(N.O.I.C.Hormuz, 150502Z to N.O.I.C. Aden.)

ERITREA, instructions from Italian High Command. Following received from ERITREA: (Begins) for S/M High Command, Royal Italian Navy. GUILIANI and TORELLI had been given depth charges for self destruction; CAPPELLINI had some possibility to escape from Sabang, as previously arranged, by diving into the bay. Navy High Command's orders to all ships and S/Ms to go into British ports or scuttle, addressed to Royal Navy Senior Commander in Far East, was intercepted and (?same) order was immediately given to all "transport S/Ms" No further communication has been possible between ERITREA and S/Ms in harbour or at sea. My mission has been completed. Signed ERITREA (Ends.)
(C. in C. E.F. 150601Z to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.)

S.E. Asia Command, H.Q. of C. in C. E.F. Personal for V.C.N.S. I propose to defer remarks until I have had opportunity to meet and discuss matter with S.A.C. Para. 8 of your 131423 refers.
(C. in C. E.F. 150619Z to Admty.)

MALOJA, BRITANNIC. Intend sailing MALOJA and BRITANNIC 22nd Sept. with approx. following number.
(S.T.O. Bombay, 150629Z to P.S.T.O.M.E.)

19th D.F. C.X.8. Arrival 0700Z/15th 19th D.F. escorting convoy C.X.8.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 150702Z to Admty.)

B.M.65. Sailing telegram (3 ships).
(1) B.M.65. (2) 0730/15th Sept.
(3) Estimated time passing Cochin 1730Z/17th Sept. (a) E.T.A. Colombo 0330Z/19th Sept.

War Diary.15.9.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- B.M.65. (4) 10 knots. (5) (Route). (6) RAJPUTANA.
(Contd.) (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 150854Z, 150856 to Admty.)
- CERES. Intend sailing CERES for U.K. via Mediterranean leaving Aden about Oct. 14th.
(C. in C. E.F. 151040Z to Admty. (R) R.A.E.F., F.O.RSA, C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med.)
- Overdue Shipping. LARCHBANK due Colombo 11th from Aden overdue.
(S.O.S. Colombo, 151104Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F., S.O.(I) Levant, S.O.(I) Aden, S.O.(I) Bombay.)
- NEVASA. Transport NEVASA sails 15th Sept. for Calcutta via Colombo with following:
Requirements Calcutta. E.T.A. Colombo 0330Z/19 Sept.
(D.S.T.O. Bombay, 151109Z to S.S.T.O. Colombo (R) D. of S.T. etc.)
- M.A.5. Sailing telegram (2 ships) (1) M.A.5.
(2) 1120Z/15th Sept. (4) 10.5. (5) Coastal
(6) PANSY, NETRAVATI. (15) B.M.D.1 (?).
(N.O.I.C. Madras 151122Z, N.C.S.O. Madras, 151129Z 151135Z to Admty. etc.)
- ERITREA, CAGNI, information. Request you will signal as early as possible any information already obtained from ERITREA or obtainable from CAGNI in future particularly concerning intentions of U-Boats in Indian Ocean or Far East. F.O. Ceylon's 140947Z and S.O. Force Z's 121241 not to F.O. Ceylon refer.
(D.D.I.C. 151151A to C. in C. E.F. (R) F.O. Ceylon) *Reply: 170307, page 576.*
- A/S Trade protection, Arabian Sea. A.X.340. Admty. appreciate that U-Boat threat is likely to develop in Arabian Sea by beginning Oct. C. in C. E.F. has been requested to regroup available A/S forces and institute such other measures as are required for trade protection in area now threatened rather than Madagascar area. Request you keep in close touch with C. in C. E.F. and keep us informed of intentions concerning air forces. Would like to return you 36 Squadron to assist in this but in view of critical situation in Mediterranean, Admiralty agree with us not possible to press Med. Command to release anything in immediate future. Will keep this under review and give you immediate notice of any change in situation.
(Air Min. 151440Z to 222 Group (R) A.H.Q. India, M.A.C. E.Af. Admty.)

5118-1.

MOST SECRET

WARNING: This message must first be paraphrased if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

151300/FG/September.

Date: 15.9.43.

From: C. in C. India.

Read: 1245

CY1HR

Addressed: The War Office.

India, Situation Report.

IMMEDIATE

71550 C cipher 15th September MOST SECRET

Most secret and personal for C.I.G.S. from General Auchinleck.

C.A.6. First half September.

1. Land operations. General situation unchanged some patrol activity 4 Corps front. Roads in 4 Corps area frequently closed or partially closed owing to rain. On Arakan front our patrols have been active and retain initiative in spite increased enemy patrol activity. No major changes perceptible in enemy dispositions. Enemy seem to have suffered heavily from R.A.F. bombing raids. Relief of 26 Div by 7 Div continues according to plan.

2. Air Operations. Owing slightly better weather conditions our air activity increased. Regular patrol of Arakan Coast continued coupled with bombing attacks on Kyaukpyu Gwa and Sandaway. Shipping escorts and antisubmarine patrols were continued in Indian and Ceylonese Coastal waters and Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal. Enemy troops and supply depots in Mayu peninsula bombed effectively and successful raids were made on oil installations at Akyab and also on Taungup and Akyab town. Fighter attacks on water transport on Irrawaddy Chindwin Mayu and Kaladan Rivers destroyed or damaged some 400 river craft including oil barges and river steamers., and were successful also against engines and rolling stock in Iyinnana and Henzade areas. Severe damage was inflicted also on engine sheds and railway buildings. Supply dropping was on reduced scale but demands were met 50 sorties being carried out and over 380,000 lbs. of supplies dropped. Photo Recce increased considerably 35 sorties being flown over Burma. Bad weather hampered photo recce. of Andamans and Nicobars from Ceylon. Enemy air activity remained slight. Enemy again reconnoitred Cocos Island from air. On 6th September U.S. bombers were intercepted over Rangoon by about 20 enemy fighters and fighting ensued, enemy losing probably 14 while three of our aircraft were damaged. One enemy aircraft shot down over Akyab.

3.

3. American and Chinese forces. U.S. aircraft made highly successful attacks on Hong Kong including Kowloon Docks and also damaged or destroyed much river transport including large steamers and other craft. U.S.A.A.F. claim 28 destroyed and 12 probably destroyed during period. In Northern triangle Chinese troops have withdrawn and we are sending Liaison Officers to contact Kachins.

4. Administration and organisation. Recce of Chittagong carried out to determine how port capacity can be raised. Progress on road breaches in recent floods continues. August intake of recruits for Indian Army about 5,000 below average largely because of stricter selection, already heavy drain on suitable classes, good grain prices and high wages in labour market. R.I.N. recruitment steady. Air Forces dropped to 2,000 in August. Expect all British ranks with seven years service overseas will have been sent home by end Sep. but number affected will again increase unless shipping can be made available and strength of drafts increased.

5. Training. Nothing special to report.

6. Morale and health. Morale of formations in forward areas of Eastern Army is satisfactory and rising. Health continues good. Malaria incidence shows improvement over last year.

7. Internal situation. Food situation in Bengal continues bad and food supplies in South India are reported short. Essential that labour employed on munitions work shall be fed and Government is working on this problem.

151300 F.G.

Distribution by M.O.12:-

1st Lord.	S. of S., C.I.G.S., V.C.I.G.S., D.M.O.
1st S.L.(2)	D. Plans.(2), D.D.M.O.(0) (H), M.O.1.12.,
4th S.L.	G.S.(P), D.M.I., D.D.M.I.(I), N.I.2.2a, 2b,
5th S.L.	2c, 17., D.C.I.G.S., D.S.D., D.D.S.D.(A), A.G.
D.C.N.A.E.	S.D.2., D. Air, D.D. Air., Air Co-ord, Q.M.G.
V.C.N.S.	Brig. Q(Ops), Q(Ops.)1. (6), D.C.A., D.D.C.
A.C.N.S. (A)	C.A.4., C.A.S. (Air Ministry), First Sea Lord
A.C.N.S. (F)	(Admiralty), Brig. Jacob. (W.C.C.). India
A.C.N.S. (W)	Office. (Brig. Thompson).
A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)	U.S.N.(3)
U.W.R.	D.D.I.C.(2)
D.A.W.T.	D. of F.(2)
Hd. of M.(1)	D. of F.(Q)(3)
D.C.D.(F)(2)	D.A./S.W.
D.C.D.(H)(4)	D.A./U.D.
D.C.	I.F.(2)
Flot.	W.D.
D.N.I.(6) and for	D.I.D.
D.N.L.O.(2)	C.N.I.
	D.S.D.
	Admiral Blake.
	C.W.R.
	D.R.O.(CO)(2)
	D.T.D.(3)
	Ad. Usberne.
	D.I.S.

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

H.X. 226 (1) On crossing 047° 10' N., pass through new TDFK 050° 45' N., 046° 00' W. thence rejoin route at FF.
(2) Amend stragglers route from A passing through new G. 051° 25' N., 046° 40' W. thence to B. (C. in C. C.N.A., 150202Z to Ships escorting H.X.256 (R) Admty. etc).
Cancel my 150202Z alter course forthwith passing through 050° 00' N., 044° 00' W. thence to (?Halifax).
(C. in C. C.N.A., 151101Z to Ships escorting H.X. 256 (R) Admty).

BROOKLYN This is U.S. cruiser BROOKLYN 150306. (begins)
At 2200Q/14th, Originator BROOKLYN departed
Asir Light vessel speed 18 without escort proposed
routing to point A. 042° 36' N., 067° W.
B. 039° N., 055° W. C. 036° N., 025° W. thence to Med. (Ends).
(Radio Washington, 150807Z to 1st Naval District Boston Mass.
Comeastseafon, (R) C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet, C. in C. U.S.
Fleet, Admty. U.S. Destroyer BUCK, Comnav, C.O. Boston, Cmdr.
U.S. Naval Forces, N.W.A.F., Waters, Comcrudiv 8.)

W.B.53, CLAYOQUOT, U/B attacked. W.B.53 position at 0608Z/15th. 046° 31' 30" N., 057° 30' 30" W. Dropped 1 Pattern contact lost carrying out observant. Rejoining convoy. Weather (CLAYOQUOT, 150842Z to N.O.I.C. Sydney C.B., C. in C. C.N.A., (R) Connnav, Admty. etc).

RUPERT E. CRAFT foundered 8th Sept. Trinidad reports auxiliary ship RUPERT E. CRAFT foundered 8th 15° 23' 72° 00' confidential papers down with ship in weighted canvas bag. Master all crew at Trinidad.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 151017R to N.S.H.Q. Admty).

Italian Warships. Your 101451Z. At noon 15th Sept. the following warships are known to have arrived Allied Ports or come under Allied control.
(a) Battleships: VENETO, ITALIA, DUILIO, DORIA, CESARE.
(b) 6" Cruisers: ABRUZZI, GARIBALDI, D'AOSTA, SAVOIA, MONTECUCCOLI CADORNA. (c) 5.3" Cruisers: MAGNO, SCIPIONE.
(d) Destroyers: DA RECCO, GRECALE, VELITE, ARTIGLIERE, LEGIONARIO, ORIANI, RIBOTY, FUCILIERE.
(e) Torpedo boats: LIBRA, ORIONE, ALISEO and 5 unknowns.
(f) Submarines: VORTICE, BRAGADINO, ONICE, ZOEIA, SETTEMBRINI, SQUALO, MENOTTI, ATROPO, JALEA, BANDIERA, OTARIA, PISANI, NICHELIO, CORRIDONI, GALATEA, BRIN, one name unknown.
(g) Sloops: ERITREA. (h) M.A.S. One unknown. (j) Seaplane carrier MIRAGLIA.

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Italian Warships. (contd). 2. A number of merchant ships have been reported as coming into ports under Allied control, but detailed information is not yet available. (Head of M.I. 151307A to B.A.D.)

Movements, Trinidad. 1200 HUGH J. CALLAGHER U.S.A.T. St. Lucia. 16th
1100 MARQUES DE COYLLAS Span. Jamaica 18th.
Departures from R.O. Port of Spain 15th.
(R.O. Port of Spain 151327 to Admty).

Y.F.D.32 Following for C.C.R.T. ASPIRANT, ADHERENT arrived St. Johns 0955/14/9 with Y.F.D.32 in tow. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 151328Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A.)

U.G.S.18 Sailing telegram part 1. (1) U.G.S.18. (2) 1220Z/15th Sept. (3) 170600Z passing E.A. speed 9 B. (4) "Chop" 24° W. 272300Z. Shift Radio watch 20° W. 282300Z.
(5) Standard Ocean route E.A. through E.H.
(6) C.T.F.63, BIBB, INGHAM, R. WILKES, SWANSON, PIE, MOORE, J. RICHARD WARD, R. CHASE, KEITH, HOUSATONIC, WEIGHT.
(7) 67 when WEIGHT and HOUSATONIC are in formation.
(P.D. Norfolk, 151356 to Com. 10th Fleet, C. and R. etc).

F.T.6 Sail 1 British F.T.6 (ex A.P.C.56) when ready about 17th following procedure my 202056 July. Same tactical information applies. Ultimate destination is Med. via Gibraltar and Freetown. (Cominch, 151417Z to C.E.S.F. (R) Cdr. Gulf S.F. Cdr. Caribbean S.F. Cdr. 4th U.S. Fleet, F.O.C.W.A., Admty. C. in C. Med., Cdr. Naval Op. Base Trinidad, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Lant).

MONTCALM Your 141549/Sept. Concur. 2. It is hoped that MONTCALM will return to West Africa as soon as operations in the Med. permit.
(D.O.D. (F) Approved A.C.N.S. (F), 151440A, to B.A.D., (R) C. in C. Med).

N.S.H.Q. S/M Estimate. N.S.H.Q., 151443Z.

GREENWICH, ANTARES. At 2230Z/15 sailed ANTARES to St. Johns N.F. route. Speed 13 knots, E.T.A. 1930Z/17.
(2) Request you fuel ship and sail her with despatch to overtake GREENWICH and augment escort. (C. in C. C.N.A., 151453Z, 152240Z to F.O.N.F. (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A., B.A.M.R., Admty).

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.Enemy
Radar
Deception.

CR. No. 882. Report any occurrence. Expect Radar deception in form of drifting reflecting balloons released for U-boats west identification by plotting echos. This is Cominch 142112, addressed for action to Lantflt. and Eighth Fleet. (Comnaveu, 151529 to Admty).

U.S.N.T.

Arrival U.S.N.T. ASHTABULA 14th.
(Broutoff, Aruba, 151530Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)U.S. S/M
Estimate.

Cominch, 151540Z.

U.G.S.
Convoys.

Following received from C. in C. A.F. repeated to you as possibly affecting your reply my Dis. 072153 (re sailing of U.G.S. convoys from U.S.) "Convoy schedules should remain on present cycle as 7 day intervals does not permit sufficient time to discharge ships, signed Eisenhower". Early reply requested. (Cominch, 151640Z to Admty).

S.C.142

(1) Sailing telegram, Part 1 (34 ships).
(2) Gate 1400Z/15th Sept. (4) 8. (5) Ocean route.
(6) W.I. (8) As C. in C. C.N.A.'s 110002Z Sept. and Admty. 041301B July. (15) "G.K."
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 151703Z to Admty).

S.C.142

Departure RICHMOND, BARRIE, BUCTOUCHE, NIPIGON escorting S.C.142.
(C. Halifax, 151742Z to Admty. etc).MATCHLESS,
ORWELL.Sailed MATCHLESS and ORWELL at 1330Z/15th in accordance with C. in C. C.N.A., 150503Z/9th. (Hush, Most Secret).
(F.O.C.N.F., 151750Z to RENOWN, KENT, NORFOLK, (R) Cdre. (D) W.A., Admty. C. in C. H.F., C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q., B.A.D., Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet, C. and R).Convoy
U.G.S.18.This re-enciphers P.D. Norfolk 151356. Action Com. 10th Fleet, C. and R. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Lant. Sailing telegram part 1.
(1) U.G.S. 18. (2) 1220Z/15. (3) 0600Z/17th passing E.A. speed 9. (4) "Chop" 24 W. 2300Z/27th. Shift radio watch 20 W. 2300Z/28th. (5) Standard Ocean route E.A. through E.H. (6) C.T.F.63, BIBB, INGHAM, WILKES, SWANSON, ROI, MOORE, J. RICHARD WARD, CHASE, KEITH, HOUSATONIC, WEIGHT.
(Radio Washington, 151825Z to C. in C. Med. Commorseafron, N.O.B. Oran, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Levant).

/BAFFIN...

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

- BAFFIN, E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 0900Z/16 BAFFIN and (4?)
VEGREVILLE. merchant ships. VEGREVILLE proceeding to Wabana
with 3 ships E.T.A. Wabana 1300Z/16. VEGREVILLE
boiler hours and defects. BAFFIN boiler hours.
(VEGREVILLE, 151930Z to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C.
C.N.A., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, N.O.I.C. Sydney, Cape
Breton).
- A.T.66 Convoy A.T.66. Request QUEEN MARY be sailed so
(QUEEN as to arrive Clyde on 25th (arrival p.m. preferred)
MARY). (D.O.D. (H), 152011A to Cominch, P.D. New York)
- GATESHEAD Anticipate GATESHEAD will be ready to proceed to
U.K. as additional escort S.C.143.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 152059Z to Admty).
- Sub. attack All times Z. Para. C. aircraft has Radar contact
and sighting 09.55 S., 35.15 W. 150110. CLAYOQUOT attacked
summary. sound contact 46.31 N., 57.30 W. about 150608.
(Cominch, 152104Z to Admty).
- S.S.C.142. Sailing telegram part 2. S.C.142.
Total 18 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 152119Z to Admty).
- Routeing A dividing line for independently routed ships in
Gulf of Gulf of and River St. Lawrence has been established
and River as follows. Ships are to keep to starboard of
St. Lawrence. the lines (A) 47° 14' N., 60° 08' W.
(B) 48° 04' 30" N., 60° 47' W. (C) 49.07 N. 63.54
W. (D) 49.33 N., 65.05 W. (E) 49.31 N., 66.06 W.
(F) 49.16 N., 66.59 W. (G) 48.35 N., 68.30 W.
Ships from Canso Cross dividing line within 10
miles east of position ("Chop").
(N.S.H.Q., 152226Z to Admty).
- L.23 My 072120 not to all. L.23 slightly damaged in
damaged. collision today Wednesday in New York Harbour.
Docking New York Navy Yard for examination and
repairs. Damage not thought serious. Completion
date will be signalled when known.
(B.A.M.R., 152240Z to Admty. etc).
- U.S.A.T. Arrivals San Francisco 12th KLIPFONTEIN (Du).
13th Maui. Departure 11th DAVID GAILLARE for
Espiritu Santo. All U.S.A.T.
(N.S.H.Q., 152316Z).

War Diary.

15.9.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest
Serial No.
603 Sept.
14th.

Liberator reported sighted two convoys off Cape Saint George heading southeast afternoon. Both convoys reported to include 1 small escort vessel or destroyer with 6 small 1000 ton coasters. Photos confirm one group.

2. One merchant man reported 95 miles west south west New Hanover on westerly course forenoon while Liberator ineffectively attacked small escort vessel 80 miles west north west of Lerengau shortly after noon.
4. 16 Mitchells with fighter escort attack Hansa Bay, Sepik River area, forenoon dropping 25 tons of bombs and thoroughly strafing barges and installations. 20 barges including some already unserviceable believed seriously damaged, one anti-aircraft position destroyed and machine gun emplacement silenced, buildings and supply dumps and warehouses both Hansa Bay and lower Spefire (?valley) destroyed. Nil interception or losses.
8. 3 Catalinas bombed and strafed Ambon area night 13th damaging 2 floatplanes and 1 flying boat and starting fires. 2 warships including possible cruiser sighted in area. Same night Catalinas bombed Babo.
11. Further report from aircraft attacking 6 ships convoy off Lieta night 12th indicates 1 direct hit on bridge destroyer followed by heavy explosion. Seven covering fighters failed to intercept our search plane.
13. Evening 12th four Corsairs strafed Kahili destroying one of six aircraft on strip, damaging 3 barges. One Corsair missing. No barges ? contacted by our P.T. boats sweeping east coast Kolombangara night 12/13th.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 150905Z).

Movements

Dutch Naval Store Ship SOEDOE arrived and departed Cairns 14th Sept. due Thursday Island 17th.
U.S. Transport BONTEKOE departed Townsville 14th arrived Bowen 15th.
(C.S.W.P.S.F., 151036Z to Admty).
Mackay 14th U.S.S HELM for Melbourne. (Departed).
(N.B. Melbourne, 151211Z to Admty. etc).

MUROMARU
Japanese
Hospital
Ship.

A.M. 311754A August. Date of alleged attack on MUROMARU should read 1st July. Have you any information?
(Head of M.E., 151744A to A.C.N.B.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Report.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 151320A, 151325A).

Sub. attack
and sighting
summary for
24 hours to
0900Z/15th.

Para. A. A/C sighted U-boat crash diving at 1806 /13th. in 36° 22' N. 00° 22' E.
A/C sighted U-boat at 1538/14th in 39.35 N. 15.40 E. course 180°
(D.D.I.C., 150926Z to Cominch).