

16.9.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- Spitzbergen. 1. S/M SEADOG sailed from Lerwick today for Spitzbergen, with doctors, Norwegian personnel and stores.
- Operation S.F. 2. SHIKARI and OBEDIENT sailed from Skaalefiord today to establish this patrol. The patrol was withdrawn on the morning of 18th Sept.
- Bay Patrol. 3. SHEFFIELD left the Biscay area this evening for Plymouth.
- WINCHELSEA. 4. The destroyer WINCHELSEA, damaged by air attack on 12 Sept., arrived at Plymouth this evening.
- Air attacks on Nantes and La Pallice. 5. 79 escorted Fortresses of U.S.A. VIII Bomber Command attacked Nantes today and 58 La Pallice. Photographs show that at Nantes a destroyer was sunk alongside the quay.
- Mining. 6. 30 enemy aircraft were engaged last night in minelaying in the Thames Estuary.

North Atlantic.

- A/A defence on Lisbon Route. 7. The A/A cruiser CARLISLE sailed from Gibraltar today, to R/V with Convoy K.M.S. 26/O.G.92 and escort 4 merchant ships to Lisbon.

South Atlantic.

- Routeing, East Africa. 8. Ships over 13 knots between Durban, Lourenco Marques and Beira in either direction and ships under 13 knots plying between Lourenco Marques and Durban in either direction are to be sailed independently for the present.

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Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.

9. A message from the Admiralty today gives a list of ships (escort vessels) being sent during the remainder of this month, to join the Mediterranean Command.

Salerno.

10. Capt. D. in TROUBRIDGE with 3 destroyers carried out a sweep again last night, up the coast as far as the Tiber and back. No shipping was encountered. U.S. M.T.B's operated in the Gulf of Gaeta. VALIANT and WARSPITE and British and U.S. cruisers and destroyers continued the bombardment of targets ashore today. WARSPITE was hit by 2 glider bombs and near missed by 2 more about 1500 in Salerno Bay and was taken in tow for Malta. My 2332B VALIANT reported being bombed by enemy aircraft in 39.29 N. 14.39 E.

Ischia.

11. The island of Ischia in the Bay of Naples surrendered to Naval forces today and steps were taken to instal a garrison.

N.S.S.2  
Bombed.

12. DULVERTON reported that his convoy (N.S.S.2) was bombed at 0348B in 39.53 N. 14.56 E. but no damage was caused.

Mines off  
Cotrone.

13. Seventeen moored German mines are reported to have been cut today in 198 degs. Cotrone Nuovo Light 7 miles.

Corisca  
and  
Sardinia.

14. It is reported that last night two squadrons of Italian bombers from Alghero (Sardinia) bombed German craft in the Straits of Bonifacio (c.f. 18 Sept.)

Italian  
Fleet.

15. HOWE and KING GEORGE V with 6 destroyers arrived at Alexandria this morning escorting the ships of the Italian fleet which left Malta on 14th. viz. battleships ITALIA (with bomb damage) VENETO, Cruisers SAVOIA, MONTECUCCOLI, CADORNA, FILIBERTO and D'AOSTA and destroyers GRECALE, DA RECCO, ARTIGLIERE and VELITE.

Black  
Sea.

16. There are no reports of any Italian vessels having arrived in Black Sea ports. It was reported from Istanbul on 10 Sept. that 5 Italian submarines and some M.T.B's were operating in the Black sea under German colours. (graded C.3)

It is /...

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War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Black  
Sea.  
(Contd.)

It is reported that Russian Aircraft between 2 Sept. and 9 Sept. sank 2 R-Boats and a lighter and damaged others in the Sea of Azov. On 5 Sept. barges with troops on board were attacked N.W. of Anapa and it is estimated that 400 troops perished. On 6 Sept. 2 R-Boats, 2 barges and a tug were sunk during a raid on Yalta.

America and New Zealand.

VICTORIOUS

17. VICTORIOUS who has been serving in the S.W. Pacific, departed from Cape Henry (Norfolk Va.) escorted by CALDER and FINDHORN this afternoon via Argentia for the U.K. where the ship will refit.

Australia and New Zealand.

Lae  
Captured.

18. Lae (New Guinea) was captured today, 12 days after the Allied landings at Balu Plantation. It is believed that Lae was almost the Keystone of a major plan to control New Guinea. Its fall opens up extensive offensive possibilities to the Allies. Last night, 23 Mitchells with fighter escort swept the coastal area between Alexishafen and Finschhafen, dropping 26 tons of bombs and destroying barges and supply centres.

New  
Georgia.

19. Enemy aircraft raided Munda (south side of New Georgia) three times last night, but caused only minor damage. The enemy made attempts to land reinforcements from barges on the north-eastern part of Arundel Island (Kula Gulf, New Georgia) last night, but few of the barges were successful.

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Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

2 M.M.Ss. 2 M.M.Ss. are to be lent to Dover temporarily and are to be sailed as soon as possible.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 161209A to N.O.I.C. Newhaven).

U.S. A.M. 131854 for about 21st Sept. read about 19th  
destroyers Sept. My 142217 refers.  
with H.F. (D.O.D. (H), 162048A).

Movements.

U.S. WINOOSKI. Arrived Clyde.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 160358A).

T.G.112.1 (Corrupt Group) Scapa departure C.T.G.112.1 in  
U.S. A/C RANGER, U.S.S. FORREST, H.M.S. CORRY and  
U.S.S. HOBSON at 0937.  
(A.C.O.S., 161102).

MATAROA Arrived 1010A/16.  
(D.S.T.O. Avonmouth, 161012A).

SEADOG At 1210A/16. P.216 (SEADOG) sailed from Lerwick unescorted and on the surface at C.O's discretion till 074° N. thence diving as much as possible routed through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles and 063° 15' N., 002° 30' W. thence direct to Ice Fiord (Spitsbergen). Painted grey and light blue with pendants.  
(S.O. S/Ms Lerwick, 161210A, 161214A).

Following amendments are made to my 071821.  
(1) Para. 1 (b) delete SEADOG and amend 21st Sept. to read 25th Sept.  
(2) Add para. 1 (c) on completion of present duty SEADOG will return to (?Dundee) and is to be sailed for Portsmouth when ready.  
(F.O.S., 161414A).

CAPPS, Ref. my 16/1410Z, route of CAPPS and FITCH  
FITCH. (details).  
(Escort Control, Londonderry, 161519Z).

S/Ms Positions at 0800/17 and movements for following  
24 hours.  
(F.O.S., 161724A).

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Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation VP - AH. Carry out VP. 1. Patrol AH. 2. VP 151A. 3. p.m./17th Sept. or 1st suitable day thereafter. 4. One. 5. No. 6. No. 7. 060° Out Skerries 110 miles. (A.C.O.S., 161059A to Admty).

A/S patrols North of Shetlands. Following amendment to be made to my 071826 para. 2 (A) Amend dates P.214 (SATYR) to read 4th October and 22nd October. (B) Delete P.216 (SEADOG) (F.O.S., 161228A).

Bay Patrol. A.M. 151346. E.G.9 is placed under the orders of C. in C. W.A. to act as Support Group to North Atlantic convoys. (D.O.D. (H), 161251A).

SHEFFIELD is leaving patrol area so as to pass through: (SF) 046° 30' N., 010° 59' W. at 1400A/17. Speed approx. 20 knots From position (SF) proceed through position (SG) 046° 30' N., 010° 05' W. (SH) 048° 47' N., 010° 04' W. (SJ) 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles and thence Plymouth keeping west of The Lizard during dark hours.

(2) Mosquitoes and Beaufighters of 19 Group will R/V with SHEFFIELD in position (SF) at 1400A/17th and escort until dark. SHEFFIELD is to direct and control fighters.

(3) If weather is signalled as unsuitable for flying SHEFFIELD is to proceed through position (SK) 048° 40' N., 012° 29' W. to (SJ). Thence as previously ordered. If required this signal will be made at 0600A/17th.

(4) Communications.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 161412A, 161846A to SHEFFIELD, (R) A.O.C. 19 Group, S.E.C. X.K.11, N.O.I.C. Falmouth. C. in C. H.F., Admty. E.G.2nd E.G.9th, DESPATCH, H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Western Approaches, F.O.S.)  
Following a repetition of my 161453A begins - E.G.2 (R) E.G.9, SHEFFIELD, escorts X.K.11. P.614, Admty. H.Q.C.C., F.O.S. N.O.I.C. Falmouth, C. in C. W.A., From C. in C. Plymouth. STARLING, WILD GOOSE, WREN are to proceed First Light tomorrow 17th Sept. to patrol area between 045° N., and 047° N., and between 013° 30' W. and 015° W.

(2) If fuel permits ships are to remain in area until last light on 18th Sept. and then proceed through position (L) 048° 27' N. 012° 41' W.

(M) 180° Bishops' Rock 12 and thence Plymouth.

(3) Estimate P.614 will be in 043° 45' S., 016° 10' W. at 0800A 17th steering 15° Submerged by day. Ends.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 161523A to P.614).  
Proceed forthwith to join E.G.2 at time and R/V to be arranged by E.G.2. C. in C. W.A., 162050Z refers. Indicate present position and intended speed.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 162205A to CRANE, (R) E.G.2, SHEFFIELD, E.G.9, C. in C. W.A., Admty).  
Intend P.C.S. at 0700A/17 045° 45' N., 013° 38' W. 270° 11 knots.  
(S.O.E.G.2, 162006A).  
Your 161909. Am rejoining E.G.2. E.T.A. with 30% fuel remaining. Request 0700Z/17th position of E.G.2.  
(WOODCOCK, 162023Z to C. in C. Plymouth).  
Intend to patrol on 045° 45' N., between 013° 30' W. and 015° 00' W. tomorrow 17th. Expect to be Eastern end of patrol

/at...

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Bay Patrol (contd.) at 1800A. Report your expected time of joining me. Decode BN. 967.  
(S.O.E.G.2, 162330A to CRANE, WOODCOCK).  
My P.C.S. 0001A/17 050° 08' N., 011° 34' W. 208° 14 knots. Weather report 4561 1564.  
(CRANE, 162359A to C. in C. Plymouth).

Coastal patrols. 1. Orders for night 16/17 Sept.  
(A) 41, 10 Patrol Q.Z.S.384 between F. and E.A.5 buoys.  
(B) FERNIE, COTTESMORE, M.L.291 immediate notice St. Helens.  
(C) STEVENSTONE, GLAISDALE immediate notice Yarmouth.  
(D) M.Ls. 208, 122 patrolling 50° 20' N., between 02° 00' W. and 02° 25' W. 2, 3. Communications and codewords.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 161331A).

Dover Dispositions for night of 16th/17th.

M.G.Bs. S.1 and 40 patrolling 11 miles S.E. of Dungeness  
E.T.D.1930 E.T.R. 0630/17. M.G.Bs. 116, and S.4 at No. 3 buoy  
E.T.D. Dover 2015 E.T.R. Ramsgate 0615/17.  
M.A.S.B's 32 and 24 from Ramsgate at V buoy E.T.D. 1945 E.T.R. 0615/17.

(V.A. Dover, 161803A)

Coastal Forces disposition night 16/17th Sept.

No patrols due to weather.

(C. in C. Nore, 161932A)

S/M Patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800/17th and movements for following 24 hours. All times zone A.

(A) TANTALUS (Returning from Icefiord patrol - details). (C) STONEHENGE (P.232) and O.15 as in my 151732. (G) P.614 43° 45' N. 16 degs.

05' W. dived by day through 47° 23' N 14° 48' W.

Daily advance 100 miles. (H) UPSTART (P.65) on patrol within 20 miles of Cape Ortegal.

(F.O.S.161724A)

(P.65) UPSTART is to leave patrol p.m./21st and proceed diving by day inside 100 fathom line to cross 043 degs. N. in 009 degs. 30' W. at 0800A/22nd. thence as ordered by F.O.C. Gibraltar. Bombing restrictions to 043 degs. N. will be arranged.

(F.O.(S), 161802A to S/Ms operating south of 51 degs. N.

(R) Shore authorities in U.K. concerned F.O.C. Gib.)

(1) From position S in F.O.C. Gibraltar 150132. P.43 (UNISON) proceed diving by day via route "Rose" to R/V with escort in YY 180 degs. Lizard Head 10 miles at 0900A/27 thence Plymouth.

(2) From position O in above quoted signal P.44(UNITED) proceed diving by day via route Gold to point Q thence direct to carry out anti U-Boat patrol in zone J.7 Onward route will be signalled later. (3) Bombing restriction follows.

(4) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to provide escort as in para. (1)

(F.O.(S), 161809A to as 1802A)

Request /...

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S/M  
Patrols.  
(Contd.)

Request you will recall (1) O.15 (D.S.) to arrive Lerwick 21st Sept. for onward passage to Dundee. (2) P.232 (STONEHENGE) to arrive Lerwick 24th Sept. for onward passage Holy Loch. (F.O.S. 161942 to Capt. (S) 9)

Skirmish  
off Dutch  
Coast.

Preliminary Report of Operations by 21st M.T.B. Flotilla, under Lt. H. Hollings, R.N. on night 14/15th Sept.

(1) Weather. Wind S.E.2 later becoming S.S.W.4  
Visibility extreme.

(2) 21st Flotilla ordered to sweep south along convoy route from Egmund, avoiding patrols. Started sweep at 2325.

(3) Two groups of patrols or minesweepers were sighted and avoided between 2325 and 0030. Another group of ships was subsequently sighted and while unit stopped to investigate 6 E or R boats came up on starboard beam. Unit crash started. Enemy challenged S and opened fire. M.T.B. 224 returned fire and dropped a flammfloat.

M.T.B's 225 and 232 making smoke.  
Unit disengaged to N.E. then N.W. Radar mast of M.T.B. 224 was hit and splinter from this shell wounding C.O. the only casualty. Action damage slight.  
(C. in C. Nore, 161705A)

Enemy Air Activity.

Polyarno. Bombs dropped in Polyarno in daylight Sept. 15th.  
(3) No damage H.M. Ships or establishments, one officer wounded.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 160920A)

Mining.

Sheerness. Details of one ground mine detonated 1250A/14 by M.M.S. 17 268- $\frac{1}{2}$  degs. K.1 Buoy 6 cables course 208 degs. Date of laying not known. No damage.  
(Capt. M/S Sheerness, 161125A)

Details of one ground mine detonated 1258A/14 by M.M.S. 17, 241 degs. K.1 Buoy 1.95 miles. Course 208 degs. Date of laying not known. No damage.  
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 161130A)

Downs. Cancel my 152228A Downs now open to traffic.  
(V.A. Dover, 161016A)

Clearance  
by M.S.1. Your F.O.1/2 dated 2nd Sept. The work you have carried out in the prolonged and difficult operation of clearing the field is much appreciated. The additional practice areas now made available should make a substantial contribution to the successful prosecution of the U-Boat war.  
(C.inC. W.A. 161938A to M.S.1)

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Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

U/B Report. Over U-Boat. U-Boat has dived in 48 degs. 40' N. 11 degs. 40' W. at 1055.  
(A/C 311/C, 161105A)  
(NR 3) Have lost touch with U-Boat last seen in 11.05 (sic) 140 degs. 10 knots.  
(A/C 311/C, 161215A)  
No traces of Sub. continuing patrol.  
(A/C A 161650A)

Casualties and Defects.

RIVER SPEY sunk. U.S. Destroyer COWIE in charge of local pilot while berthing in Pollock Basin p.m. yesterday collided with H.M. M/S Trawler RIVER SPEY berthed alongside.  
RIVER SPEY subsequently sank alongside wharf. Salvage operations being carried out.  
(F.O.I.C. N.I. 161515)

Shipping and Convoys.

F.D.13. Delayed by weather.  
(N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 161020A)

MAURETANIA. On crossing long. 32 degs. W. alter course direct to Y.  
Single ship Eastbound traffic will be overtaken when East of 32 degs. W.  
(D.O.D.(H), 161050A to MAURETANIA)  
053 degs. 06' N, 033 degs. 16' W. Your 161050A position Y not received.  
(MAURETANIA 162200A to Admty. QUEEN ELIZABETH.)

X.K.11. P.C. and S. 1200Z 048 degs. 35' N. 014 degs. 04' W. 246 degs. 13 knots.  
(STONECROP, 161235Z to KITE)  
X.K.11. Request you will give necessary instructions for WOODCOCK and KITE leaving X.K.11 and rejoining Group 2.  
(C. in C. W.A. 161443A to C. in C. Plymouth)  
C. in C. Western Approaches's 161443A part company with X.K.11 in lat. 049 degs. 01' N. and if fuel permits proceed to R/V with 2 E.G. as ordered by S.O.E.G. 2 and thence to act in accordance with my 161453A.  
(2) If fuel does not permit proceed through position (F) 180 degs. Bishop Rock 7 and thence Plymouth.  
(3) Report intention.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 161909A to WOODCOCK, (R) S.O.E.G.2, S.O.E.G.9, SHEFFIELD, DESPATCH, CYGNET, F.O.S., H.Q.C.C. C. in C. W.A. Admty.)

C. in C. /...



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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

X.K.11. C. in C. W.A. 161443A. Remain in company  
(Contd.) with X.K.11 (slow) until P.L.E. and then  
proceed through position (F) 180 degs. Bishop  
Rock 7 miles and thence to Plymouth.  
(2) Report intentions.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 161922A to KITE)

Mid-Ocean Groups.	Order of sailing.		Take out.	Bring Back
	Group.	Sailing Liverpool.		
	C.5.	5th October	O.N.205	H.X.262
	4	9th "	O.N.S.20	H.X.263
	B.6	11th "	O.N.206	S.C.145
	C.1	18th "	O.N.207	H.X.264
	C.2	22nd "	O.N.S.21	H.X.265
	B.3	24th "	O.N.208	S.C.146
	C.4.	31st "	O.N.209	H.X.266

(2) B.7 Group will be withdrawn from mid ocean escort for one  
turn. Available ships of the group will act as support group.  
(C. in C. W.A. 161256A)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

- FORT BABINE. WOODCOCK reports FORT BABINE not seen to sink although hull half flooded and apparently sinking at 1235/13th September. Abandoned vessel referred to in A.M. 150137 Sept. (N.T. in W.D. But 150116B refers) presumed to be FORT BABINE.
2. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested - A. to arrange for aircraft in area to try to locate derelict;  
B. to sail a tug to salve her if she is found.  
3. Admty. will make arrangements for escort of tug and tow. (D.O.D.(H) Approved A.C.N.S.(H) 160026A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C.Plymouth, C. in C.W.A.)
- Suspicious Ship. Unidentified (?vessel) 40.50 N. 05.50 W. course 140 speed 17. (A/C VAP/J 160114 to 45V.)
- K.M.S.26. There are indications that the enemy is aware of destination of Lisbon section of convoy. (D.O.D.(H) Approved V.C.N.S. 160200A to Escorts of K.M.S.26, (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)  
Ref. Admty. 160200A request that good air support be provided. Escort concerned are not fitted with A.C.W.R.D.F. P.C. and S. 035° 40' N. 011° 54' W. 103° 8 knots. Weather. (B.4 161250Z to F.O.Gibraltar, (R) Admty. REDPOLE.)
- Italian Units. 2 Invasion barges arrived Barcelona. (S.O.I. Gibraltar, 160345B.) See Mediterranean.
- U.G.Convoys control. Considerable difficulty is arising due to American escorts of U.G. convoys not (?realising) that R/V with relieving British escorts is ordered by F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.  
2. Requested that American authorities may be informed that C. in C.Med. has delegated his authority for control of convoys in Atlantic to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 161001B to Admty. C. in C.Med. B.A.D.) Concur with para. 2 (C. in C.Med. 201927.)
- Request for Trawlers. Consequent on increase of Lisbon traffic it is strongly recommended that four additional trawlers with armament and speed similar to military (class?) should be allocated as early as possible to Gibraltar Escort Force.  
2. These trawlers should have Bofors guns fitted to enable them to deal with the air attacks which these convoys invariably get in vicinity of Cape St. Vincent. (F.O.C.Gibraltar 161005B to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty.) C. in C.Meds. reply 201932.
- Shipping Control. Strongly urged that control of all shipping in Atlantic east of "Chop" line between 26° 10' N. and 43° N. should be vested in F.O.C.Gibraltar action on behalf of C. in C.Med.  
2. The fact that Admty. assumes control of U.G. and

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Shipping Control. (Contd.) G.U. convoys between 24° W. and 10° W. is not in agreement with the terms of A.M. 171935 April. (F.O.C.Gibraltar 161009B to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty. B.A.D.)

NORD ATLANTIC. Movement will take place this afternoon. My 132100 refers. Admty. pass to last three named addressees. (N.A.Madrid 161048B to Admty. (R) Gibraltar C. in C.Plymouth, H.Q.C.C. F.O.S.) German tanker NORD ATLANTIC at Camarinas expects to leave with her crew in tow for Ferrol morning Sept. 17th. (Coruna 161830 to Admty.)

UNITED, UNISON. My 150132 sailed. Only such Q Messages affecting passage to Port of destination carried. (F.O.C.Gibraltar 161102B to Admty. F.O.S. (R) C. in C. Plymouth, S.3, S.8, C. in C.Med.)

Damaged U/B, Vigo. My letter 12th about German S/M at Vigo. According to reports from good source, new propeller arrived Vigo 14th and dented plate underwater has been welded. Rumoured vessel had touched rock when preparing to enter bay which would account for this, and damage to rudder, which is also rumoured. Crew are working daily on engines. (British Consul Vigo 161248 to N.A.Madrid, (R) Admty.(D.N.I.) S.O.I. Gib.)

French Refugees. Your 142010. Only 700 French refugees will be available for embarkation on 23rd Sept. Target dates for future embarkation are 8th October, 22nd October, 5th November, 19th November. All these for 1200 to 1400 persons. (B.N.A.Lisbon 161255A to C. in C.Med. (R) B.N.A. Madrid, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty. Commorseafiron.)

K.M.S.26, O.G.93. Cancel my 141815. CARLISLE and VELOX R/V in position T. 035° 35' 008° 10' at 0800B Sept. 17th. (amended by 161747B q.v.)  
2. Lisbon portion is to part company as necessary during daylight Sept. 17th to pass through RR. 037° 01' 009° 04' at 2130B Sept. 17th thence direct to ZZ. 235° Fort Bugio light 5 miles at Beamer. Escorts CARLISLE, REDPOLE, BRILLIANT, CLOVER, and PENNYWORT.  
3. On arrival in ZZ. CARLISLE will return independently to Gibraltar. REDPOLE to take remaining escorts in para. 2 under his orders and proceed Gibraltar routed through RR. WU. 035° 45' 006° 30' Q.B.A. 87, S.O.A. 12 knots. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 161315B to Escorts of convoy K.M.S.26/O.G.93 for Cdre. ANTELOPE, BRILLIANT, (R) Admty. A.O.C. in C.C.C.)

/Your...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

K.M.S.26. Your 161315 request confirmation of the exact  
O.G.93. position of ZZ.  
(Contd.) (B.4 161739Z to F.O.C.Gibraltar, (R) REDPOLE.)  
Amend R/V in para. 1 of my 161315 to read position  
L. 035° 30' N. 009° 09' W.  
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 161747B to as former.)

Black List Schooners. The following schooners on ships black list have  
changed their name, MARIA BONMARTI now MARIA DEL  
PILAR G: DELFIN now SAN RAFAEL ARCHANGEL.  
(Las Palmas 161511 to Embassy Madrid, Commercial,  
41, (R) Admty. S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)

UNITED, Amend my 150132B and sailing orders as follows:  
UNISON. UNITED is to pass through T. at 0500/17th, Q.  
at 0310/18th, R. at 0520/19th and O. at 2100/21st.  
UNISON is to pass through T. at 0700/17th, Q. at  
0500/18th, M. at 0710/19th, S. at 0001/22nd.  
All times zone minus 2.  
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 161539B to UNISON, UNITED, (R)  
Admty. F.O.S. Capt. S.8, Capt. S.3, C. in C.Med.  
C. in C.Plymouth.)

U/B destroyed by A/C, HAARLEM, etc. Following is repetition of a message from  
Governor Gibraltar to Ambassador Madrid in reply  
to Madrid message 583 of 15th Sept. addressed  
Foreign Office. (Begins):  
Admiral and A.O.C.Gibraltar claim that the excuse  
of continuous pursuit can be sustained. U-Boat  
was attacked and disabled by aircraft and made for the coast.  
During pursuit aircraft were engaged by U-Boat and casualties  
and damage were suffered by our aircraft from gunfire U-Boat  
while in territorial waters. Pursuit by H.M.ships followed  
the above action. (Ends.)  
(F.O.Gibraltar 161601B to Admty. C. in C.Med. A. and B.)  
W.R.note: No trace of Madrid message 583 in W.R.

BESSEL Your 151310 (understanding that Spaniards are  
(German.) under obligation to prevent sailing of BESSEL  
report required N.T. in W.D.)  
Acting on instructions this Embassy repeatedly  
requested interning BESSEL on grounds that  
she had extra tankage installed at Ferrol October 1941 and was  
consequently a potential supply ship (see Embassy's 343  
(282/3/42) of Sept. 29th 1942 to Counsel and enclosure, also  
Embassy's telegram 1314 of Sept. 30th 1942). These represen-  
tations eventually resulted in mooring BESSEL under observation  
of Spanish Naval Station at Rios and placing on board at night.  
Spanish Govt. never accepted our argument for actual internment  
and every subsequent attack has met with no result.  
I am now asking H.M.Charge d'Affaires to press matter again.  
(N.A.Madrid 161655B to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Gibraltar, R.O.Vigo.)

War Diary.

16.9.1943.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

ALBATROSS. A.M. 301829 August, not to C. in C.Plymouth, destination of ALBATROSS in U.K. is Plymouth.  
2. F.O.Gibraltar is requested to keep C. in C. Plymouth informed.  
(D.O.D.(F) 161857A to F.O.Gibraltar, (R) C. in C.Plymouth, C. in C.W.A. C. in C.Med. and (A), ALBATROSS.)

GRYFEVALE Gibraltar Water Supply. For D.M.O. for Chief of Staff. Ref. para. 2. of my G/394/43 of 8 Sept.  
C. in C.Med. has ordered distilling ship GRYFEVALE to Malta. F.O.C.Gib. has despatched following agreed tel. to C. in C.Med. Withdrawal of GRYFEVALE has caused concern here about water situation. Position is that at present rate of consumption and falling early rain stocks will be so low by 19 (?Oct.) that no water will be available for shipping. Will keep you informed of the position.  
(Govr. Gibraltar 162015B to W.O.)

Reference Gibraltar telegram 25641 cipher of 16 Sept. 43. G/394/43 of 8 Sept. 43 has now been received. Para. 2 reads:-  
"Now that distilling ship GRYFEVALE is being used to fetch water in her tanks from Malaga situation has improved very slightly; but unless rains commence up to time I will be left with little if any margin, and my reserves will definitely be far below safety figure to which I have always wished to work. This figure is not only a reasonable working balance but represents minimum with which I would like to commence a period of seige conditions should they arise."

(M.O.4 No T.O.O. to Admty.)

C.G.63, K.M.S.26, O.G. 93. Arrivals C.G.63. French ships JEANNE D'ARC, LE FORTUNE, BASQUE. Departures LORD HOTHAM, escort duties Malaga. CARLISLE, ANTELOPE, BRILLIANT, VELOX to R/V K.M.S.26/O.G.92.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 162118 to Admty. C. in C. Med. C.M.S.F.)

Italian Seaplanes. Arrival in Balearics.  
(Commorseafron 162128B.) See Mediterranean.

ULTIMATUM. Intend to sail P.34 (ULTIMATUM) for patrol off Toulon p.m. Sept. 18th on surface through  
P. 180° Cape Calaburras 10 miles at 0220/19th.  
Q. 180° Cape de Gata 10 miles at 1630/19th and unless otherwise ordered by Capt. S.8  
R. 135° Cape Palos 10 miles at 200430.  
2. Capt. S.8 is requested to assume operational control at 191630. Speed 10 knots until 190700, 8 knots thereafter.  
Gibraltar broadcast west of Greenwich, Malta broadcast east Greenwich, shifting to read M.S. routine. Time zone minus 2.  
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 162153B to C. in C.Med. Capt. S.8, (R) Com. Algiers, P.34 (ULTIMATUM), VA.Malta, S.O.Force H, 8th S/M F. Commob Oren.)

Morocco R/C. A.837 16 Sept. P.R.U./Gib./W.1/16 Sept. Sortie G.506 dated 16 Sept. time 1515 shows Spanish

/Morocco...

War Diary.

16.9.1943.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Morocco R/C.  
(Contd.)

Morocco. U-Boat aground west of Kert Estuary with stern under water no accurate length measurement possible. Algeciras. VILLA REAL DE ALAVA present. No change in Italian tanker OLTERRA. T.529.  
(P.R.U.Gibraltar 162240Z.)

16.9.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- PRUDENT. Tug PRUDENT is to be sailed in D.K.1 to Kilindini to operate temporarily under orders of C. in C. E.F.  
 (C. in C. S.A., 161149B to Com. i/c Durban. (R) C. in C. E.F., F.O.E.A., Admty.)
- ROCKROSE, Sailed ROCKROSE and JASMINE for Durban route R.10  
 JASMINE. E.T.A. 1500B/19th Sept. S. of A. 10.5 knots, shift to broadcast J at 0017B/19th Sept.  
 (C. in C. S.A., 161152B to Admty., etc.)
- Shipping Routes. Following points implement instructions contained in my 131731.  
 2. Ships over 13 knots between Durban Lourenco Marques and Beira in either direction are to be sailed independently for the present.  
 3. All ships for Madagascar ports and Mauritius to be sailed independently by approach route No.2 and thence direct.  
 4. Ships under 13 knots plying between Lourenco Marques and Durban in either direction are to be sailed independently for the present.  
 (C. in C. S.A., 161159B to Com. i/c Durban, (R) C. in C. E.F., F.O.E.A., Admty., N.C.S.O. Durban.)
- VIRGINIA VIRGINIA with second division 49 M.L. Flotilla  
 M.Ls. is expected to reach Durban p.m./18th Sept. Intend to hold her at your disposal and to provide trawler escort for M.Ls. when arrangements for their fuelling at Madagascar ports are complete. My 151623 para. 4 refers.  
 2. Endurance VIRGINIA limited by fresh water to 21½ days otherwise 7200 miles at 14 knots.  
 (C. in C. S.A., 161225D to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty., F.O.E.A., Com. Durban.)
- GUAYTECAS. Telegram received 16th August by shipbrokers indicates GUAYTECAS may have arrived at a South American port. Your 241038 August refers.  
 2. Request you investigate and report.  
 (D.T.D., 161245A to A.B.N.S.O. Recife.)  
 Reply: 181329Z.
- U/B Reports. Following received from B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire.  
 WELLINGTON, (Begins). Sabena aircraft reporting definite sub. sighted at 0705Z/16th in position 135° 158 miles from Lagos (Nigeria) also doubtful S/M sighted at 0715Z 135° 225 miles from Lagos. (Ends)  
 LOWESTOFT, WELLINGTON, LOWESTOFT, ABERDEEN are sailing from Lagos at 1530Z/16th for position. Catalina aircraft are endeavouring to keep continuous patrol of area.  
 ABERDEEN. (N.O.I.C. Lagos, 161410Z to F.O.W.Af., (R) B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, Admty., N.O.I.C. Takoradi, S.O. Escort Group 42, WOLVERINE.)

War Diary.16.9.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.U/B Reports.  
WELLINGTON,  
LOWESTOFT,  
ABERDEEN.  
(Contd.)

Photograph taken by R.A.F. search aircraft in position about half way between positions of 2 sightings reported in my 161410 show clearly a can buoy with tubular superstructure which could easily be mistaken for conning tower and short periscope. Consider reported sighting of S/M most doubtful.  
(N.O.I.C. Lagos, 162111Z to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) Admty., etc.)

TAY.

Sailed TAY for Durban route R.10 E.T.A. Durban 1300B/18th Sept. S. of A. 17 knots, shift to broadcast "Jig" at 0330B/18th Sept.  
(C. in C. S.A., 161449B to Admty., Cdre. i/c Durban, (R) N.L.O. Port Elizabeth, N.L.O. East London, C. in C. E.F., F.O.E.A. & Z.)

D.R. 2.

Your 152323A.

Convoy D.R.2 composed as follows. For Port Etienne BRITISH COAST towing barge, Tug APPLIQUE towing barge. For Casablanca F.S. COMMANDANT

DETROYAT. Escorts F.S. AMIRAL MOUCHEZ. M.Ls. 261, 574.  
(D.S.T.O. Dakar, 161500Z to Admty., (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)

LORRAINE.

Request you will pass following (begins): C. in C. French Naval Forces Algiers, (R) S.N.O.Dakar. F.S. LORRAINE arrived Capetown 15th Sept. (Ends)  
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 161630B to N.O.I.C. Algiers, (R) F.S. LORRAINE.)

PRESIDENT  
HOUDUCE.

F.S. PRESIDENT HOUDUCE sailing 161700 to patrol off Cape Formosa. Civil aircraft report 2 submarines that area. Expect to return Duala 20th.  
(R.O. Duala, 161701 to Admty., etc.)

THYSVILLE.

Arrival 16th.  
(N.C.S.O. Lagos, 161750Z to Admty., etc.)



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16.9.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Operation "Avalanche".INGLEFIELD,  
RAIDER,  
WISHART.

(Corrupt group). INGLEFIELD, RAIDER and WISHART sail from Augusta at 0900/16 to comply with your 152231 (N.T. in W.D.) Codeword "Snore" 199.

(S.O. Force H. 160731B to C. in C. Med. Fleet)

On completion of patrol tonight 16/17th Sept.

WISHART is to proceed to (?122). Route from Strait of (?Otranto) direct to 283 - 10' N. of 273 - one - 036 degs. 59' 011 degs. (?29') - entering War Channel at position B of (?Q.B) B 150. S. of A. 20 knots. E.T.A. 0800/18. Priority low codeword "Globe". (2) S.O. Force 'H' is requested to detail another destroyer to (?join) INGLEFIELD, RAIDER for patrol on night 17th/18th Sept.

(C. in C. Med. 161507B to INGLEFIELD, N.L.O. 8th Army Tripoli, WISHART., S.O. Force 'H' etc.)

24 D.F.  
Sweeps up  
Coast.

Your 141121. During sweep track 14/15 Sept. 4 of 5 E-Boats were encountered 040 degs. 27' 014 degs. 10' at 0050 and were driven off to the westward. Touch was lost at 0215 in position 040 degs. 20' 013 degs. 47'.

During night 15/16th sweep was carried out up coast as far as Tiber and back. No shipping encountered. (Capt. D.24, 161151 to C. in C. Med. (B))

D.14.

Capt. D.14 with ILEX, PETARD, PENN sail for Augusta at 1115/16th Sept. S. of A. 26½ knots. Route R.

PETARD has shell hole above waterline. Fighting efficiency not impaired.

(VALIANT, 161143 to C. in C. Med. (R) Capt. (D) 14th, C.W.N. T.F., S.O. Force H, F.O. Sicily, N.O.I.C. Augusta M. &amp; C.)

CHARYBDIS.

Detail CHARYBDIS to Palermo to be at the disposal of Allied C. in C.'s from 0800/17th. Probable programme.

(C. in C. Med. 161336B to R.A.V. etc.)

T.S.S.5.

My 151144B\*(N.T. in W.D.) sailed less MAKEFJELL.

(V.A. Malta, 161339B to Cdre. Force N. (R) Admty. etc.)

x Intend to sail T.S.S. 5)

VALIANT,  
WARSPITE.

Upon completion of today's bombardment of (corrupt group) ment services VALIANT and WARSPITE will no longer be required. Unless otherwise ordered proceed with escort in company via points CA MH MJ to Augusta. C. in C. Med. requested

to/...

War Diary.16.9.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Operation "Avalanche".VALIANT,  
WARSPITE,  
(contd).

to arrange night fighter cover for this movement. F.O.Sy. arrange for Messina lights as required. VALIANT advise all addressees E.T.D. speed and E.T.A. C. in C. Med. pass information to M.A.C.N.A.C.A.F., and F.O.Sy. (N.C.W.N.T.F., 161436B to VALIANT, (R) WARSPITE, C. in C. Med. M.A.C.N.A.C.A.F., S.O. Force H, C.T.Fs. 85, 86, 89, F.O.Sy).

C.W.N.T.F. 161436 VALIANT escorted by 3 Hunts left 1945 for Augusta S. of A. 18½ knots E.T.A. Boom 0800. C. in C. Med. pass to M.A.C. and N.A.C.A.F.

(VALIANT, 162020B to C. in C. Med. F.O.Sy. S.O. Force H, Enemy aircraft bombing 39.29 N., 14.39 E.

(VALIANT, 162332B to Malta W/T).

WARSPITE  
damaged by  
glider  
bomb.

Regret to report damage by 2 hits and 2 near misses from glider bombs diving vertically. Am proceeding from Salerno towards Malta with 5 destroyers. Present speed 4 knots. Request special air cover. My position 000° Licosa Point 6. 2, 3, 4 and 6 boiler rooms flooded. All engine rooms now out of action. Tug taking me in

tow. Am proceeding toward Malta. Ship upright and stable and not likely to sink, unless something unexpected occurs. On 15th and 16th WARSPITE carried out 3 successful bombardments in support of 6th U.S. Army Corps. (2) On completion third bombardment WARSPITE was proceeding slow speed close inshore when she and a large number of ships anchored off (beaches?) were attacked as usual by 10 to 12 (corrupt group) (?Junkers). (3) This was immediately followed by a glider bomb attack on WARSPITE by 3 or 4 parent A/C flying in (?formation) above 200 (corrupt group). (4) Glider bombers first sighted flying horizontally in formation towards beam of ship at about 6,000 feet and directly beneath parent A/C. (5) When vertically overhead glider bomb order opened out a little and then dived vertically at great speed converging in a very close pattern on the ship. (6) In spite of the very large number of ships present neither parent A/C nor glider bombs were in sight long enough to be engaged before attack owing to extreme conditions of heat haze. (7) W/T jamming precautions cannot be effectively carried out in WARSPITE. (8) Dive of glider bombs lasted only about 2 seconds and any avoiding action in that time is valueless.

(9) Casualties 6 killed and about 20 wounded. List follows. (WARSPITE, 161521B to C. in C. Med., N.L.O. 8th Army Tripoli, S.O. Force H, V.A. Malta, N.C.W.N.T.F.)(C. in C. Med. 162001B).

WARSPITE hit by two glider bombs proceeding with 4 destroyers at slow speed towards Malta. VALIANT preparing to bombard in "Avalanche" North.

(VALIANT, 161625 to C. in C. Med. (R) Cdre. (N), S.O. Force H, WARSPITE, V.A. Malta, M.A.C., C.W.N.T.F.).

/My...

War Diary.

16.9.1943.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Avalanche".

WARSPITE  
damaged  
by  
glider  
bomb.  
(Contd.)

My 161625. WARSPITE reports she has no steam or radar otherwise all right. In tow small tug position 000 degs. Licosa 6 course degs. 240 speed 3 knots. (VALIANT, 161745 to C. in C. Med.)

U.S.S.  
GLEAVES.

Sail at 2000/16 to Salerno. S. of A. 25 knots by QBB (745) 36, 15, 45, 37, 45, then by route S of Avon 2 E.T.A. 1000/17th navigable lights from 0130 to 0300/17th Codeword "Bluecoat" 929 low. (V.A. Malta, 161738 to U.S.S. GLEAVES, (R) N.L.O's, M.A.C.N.A.TA.F. N.A.A.F. N.A.C.A.F. N.A.S.A.F. C. in C. Med. Comnavnaw, C.W.N.T.F. C.T. F.86 F.O.I.C. Sicily 211 Group. N.L.O. 8th Army Tripoli.)

Petrol.  
Situation  
in Salerno  
Area.

Cdr. (NAFAR?) reports no (corrupt group) or (corrupt group) Octane in Northern Attack Force area. Sail tanker ANTICLIVE to meet the requirements during period until relief on passage can arrive. Matter is urgent. (C. in C. Med. 162137B to Com. N.O.B. Palermo (R) N.C.W.T.F., Cdr. Task Force 85, S.H.A. 117, C. in C. Med. in OFFA.)

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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.General.

Enemy sightings. Position of one small vessel 42.57 N. 10.25 E. 360° 5 knots. Am resuming Patrol. (A/C 160026B, 160027B.)  
 Position of one small M/V is 37.26 N. 24.23 E. (A/C FAV/R 160645Z to C/S 7 W.M.)  
 Position of 3 medium merchant vessels and 2 unknown vessels 42.36 N. 11.03 E. (H.U.J.J. 161030, 161035B to K.T.1.)  
 My 1035. Enemy previously reported are of following type:-  
 2 L.Cs. 1 transport barge (3,000 tons) 2 E boats.  
 Visibility 10 miles. State of sea, smooth. (A/C H.U.J/P 161050B to 45 U.)  
 P.C. and S. 4 landing craft 1500 tons based on a fix taken within ½ hour of 1300. 060° 4 knots, 42.15 N. 11.25 E. (H.U.J/C 161305B to A.H.Q. Malta.)  
 (N.R.1.) P.C. and S. 2 medium merchant vessels 1000. 39.27 N. 20.16 E. Course 315°. Speed 8 knots. O.E. O.D.2. (A/C FAV/N (via Malta) 161245 to Air H.Q. Malta.)  
 P.C. and S. of 1 medium M/V, 2 small M/Vs. 1 aircraft 43.22 N. 10.06 E. (based on fix taken within half an hour of 1600) 100° 8 knots. (H.T.T/M 161628B to Air H.Q. Malta.)  
 My 1628B enemy previously reported was one medium merchant vessel of 2000 tons with balloon and 2 E-Boats. (H.T.T/M 161645B to Air H.Q. Malta.)

Reinforcements Reinforcements leave U.K. to join your Command for on the following dates:-  
 Fleet. BICESTER, ZETLAND, CHIDDINGFOLD, THEMISTOCLES, 15th September with K.M.F.24.  
 ANEMONE, USK, BARLE 18th September with K.M.S.27.  
 DART 26 September with coastal convoy.  
 SPARTAN 26th September. PHOEBE 28th September.  
 2. Your 131052/Sept. 6 Home Fleet destroyers could if necessary be sent to escort WARSPITE, VALIANT, and ILLUSTRIOUS home.  
 (D.O.D. (F) Approved V.C.N.S. 160035A to C. in C. Med. (R) C. in C. Med. (A) F.O.C. Gib., C. in C. Home Fleet.)

22 D.F. After 1900/16th position intend to proceed through positions:- (A) 035° 18' N. 027° 54' E. (B) 036° 28' N. 026° 56' E. thence Leros. Mean speed 18 knots. (2) Leave Leros 2045/17th and (3 groups missed) (B) and (A) at 22 knots. (3) Intend using codeword "Daniel" throughout. (4) C. in C. Levant 142020 (N.T. in W.R.) refers. (Capt. (D) 22 160135C to C. in C. Levant, 201 Group.)

Italian Units, Barcelona. Barcelona reports that 2 Italian Craft of Invasion Barge type numbers M.Z.780 and M.Z.800 arrived Barcelona 164B/15. (S.O.I. Gibraltar 160345B to S.O.I.Gib.)

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War Diary.16.9.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

NSS2  
bombed. Enemy aircraft bombing "Link" 2 in 39.53 N.  
14.56 E.  
(DULVERTON 160348B to Malta.)  
My 160348 no damage.  
(DULVERTON 160412B to Malta.)

HURSLEY,  
ADRIAS. Onward route (incomplete) etc. to Malta.  
(C. in C. Levant 160816C to HURSLEY, ADRIAS.)  
Re Sailings for Alexandria and Malta.

TROUBRIDGE  
24th D.F. Details of damage sustained by TROUBRIDGE  
due to premature at B gun. 4. Dockyard  
assistance will be required when opportunity  
offers. Fighting efficiency unimpaired.  
(Capt. (D) 24 160913 to C. in C. Med. (B) (R)  
S.O. Force "H").  
E.T.A. Gate 1700B/16th Sept. TROUBRIDGE, TUMULT, TYRIAN,  
O.R.P. PIORUN in company.  
(Capt. (D) 24th D/F 160916B to N.O.I.C. Augusta.)

UNRIVALLED. UNRIVALLED reports at 1329/8 in 41° 12' N. 16°  
59' E. fired 3 torpedoes at 1000 ton merchant  
vessel missed. 2. On 10th Sept. entered Bari  
and made arrangements for escorting Italian  
Merchant shipping to Malta. 8 merchant  
vessels were successfully escorted arriving  
Malta 14th Sept.  
(S.10 160925B to C. in C. Med. Levant, etc.)

MACOMA. Arrangements for joining Convoy "Liege".  
(N.O.I.C. Augusta 160950 to WHADDON.)

S/M  
Patrol  
areas. Following Submarine patrol areas are established.  
1. Zone SN, BM repetition (5 groups omitted)  
a line drawn from Cape Mele to 043° 25' 009°  
01' thence Eastward along latitude 043° 25'.  
Line drawn 045° from 043° 45' 008° 30'  
dividing SN from SO and a line drawn 045°  
from 043° 25' 009° 01' dividing SO from SP.  
2. Zone SQ and SR between latitude 042° 30'  
and 043° 25' SQ being between longitude  
(?009°) 109° and 009° 50' and SR being East  
of 009° 50'.  
(Capt. S.8. 161000B to 8th S/M.F. (R) Capt. S.10, C. in C. Med.  
F.O.I.C. Tunis.)

/Operations...

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16.9.1943.

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

Operations in Black Sea. 1. No information received of arrival of any Italian vessels in Black Sea ports. Istanbul reported on Sept. 10th (03) that 5 Italian S/Ms. (?14) M.T.B. operating in Black Sea were under German Flag. 2. Enemy shipping (A) On Aug. 28th Russian S/M sank 2000 ton tanker off South Coast off Crimea. (B) Air attack. In sea of Azov during period Sept. 2nd to Sept. 9th two R boats and a lighter sunk and 3 R boats and a barge damaged. On Sept. 5th N.W. of Anapa R/C A/C attacked 7 F barges with troops on board, 5 barges were damaged and on fire and estimated that 400 troops were destroyed. 3 enemy fighters were shot down without any Russian losses. On September 6th during raid on Yalta 2 R boats, 2 barges and a tug were sunk. 3. Novorossisk: Germans report fighting is taking place in streets of town but Russians have only reported usual exchange of artillery fire in area. (Naval L.O. Black Sea 161044 to Admty. C. in C. Med. etc.)

VILLE D'AJACCIO. French Merchant Ship VILLE D'AJACCIO may leave Ajaccio night of 16th/17th or 17th/18th routed through 041° N. 006° E. for Algiers. Not to be molested. (Capt. (S) 8 161130B to 8th S/M.F. (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers.)

U.G.S. 16. List, destinations. 9 ships. (V.A. Malta 161147B to S.O. Escort Convoy U.G.S. 16 (R) C. in C. Med. (A) etc.)

JAN DE WAELE, DARIEN II. Intend sailing JAN DE WAELE, B.S. DARIEN II escorted by M.Ls. 478 (S.O.) 456, 386, H.D. M.L. 1292 at 2115C/16th to meet K.M.S. 25 at 511 a.m. 18th. (2) S. of A. 7 knots. (3) 267, 357, 3 miles N. 354, 351, 384, 342, 0031/18th 339, 336, 511, 0915/18th. (4) Priority low codeword "Sooty". (5) Constant watch (?96, 404, 425, 603, or 886) kc/s. (6) All times C repetition C. (7) JAN DE WAELE, B.S. DARIEN II H.D. M.L. 1292 continue with K.M.S. 25 to Alexandria. (8) FAIRMILE detach at 511 and proceed at 12 knots through 342 to Derna retaining codeword "Sooty". (S.N.O. Cyrenaica 161245C to C. in C. Levant, etc.)

Mines off Cotrone. Have cut 17, moored mines German X or X star type in a position to 198° Cotrone Nuovo Light 7 miles depth 120. Approximate area not defined. (PIORUN (Sic) 161320B to F.O.I.C. Sicily, (R) V.A. Malta, N.O.I.C. Augusta, Cmdr. M/S Sicily, C. in C. Med. F. N.O.I.C. Cotrone.)

G.U.S. 16. R.A. Alexandria is requested to sail G.U.S. 16 a.m./19. Arrangements. (C. in C. Levant 161336C to Ships escorting convoy G.U.S. 16 etc.)

/UPROAR...

War Diary.16.9.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

UPROAR, P.31 (UPROAR) P.51 (UNSEEN) P.52 (DZIK) and  
 UNSEEN, P.53 (ULTOR) are to proceed escorted by B.Y.M.S.  
 DZIK, 28 to 037° 40' 008° 30' arriving about (?15)00B  
 ULTOR, 17th when B.Y.M.S. 28 is returning to Malta as  
 previously ordered and S/Ms. proceeding as  
 follows:- (UNSEEN) and (ULTOR) on the surface  
 (?at) discretion until daylight 18th (UPROAR)  
 (DZIK) (?submerged) by day. S/Ms. are to cross latitude 039° 01'  
 in longitudes as follows:- (UNSEEN) in 010° 15' at 0630/18th  
 (ULTOR) in 010° 43' at 1200/18th (DZIK) in 010° 27' at 2200/18th  
 (UPROAR) in 011° 01' at 0001/19th. All 4 S/Ms. are then to  
 proceed 360° as far as lat. 042° N. Further orders follow.  
 Total bombing restrictions arranged until daylight 18th  
 thereafter submerge.  
 (Capt. (S) 8 161400B to (?C. in C. Med. (A) ). 9th S/F. (R)  
 C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 10. H.Q. N.W. A.C.A.F.)

DIDO, Request you will sail DIDO to "Avalanche" to  
 MAURITIUS, relieve MAURITIUS, ORION who are to continue to  
 ORION. Malta on relief. 2 British Liaison Officers  
 should be transferred.  
 (C. in C. Med. 161428 to F.O.I.C. Sicily (R)  
 N.O.I.C. Augusta, SIRIUS, DIDO, F.O.C. 15th C.S.,  
 ORION, V.A. Malta, S.O. Force 'H'.)

Seafire 2C. Experience in "Avalanche" has established that  
 Seafire 2C cannot operate from escort carriers  
 in condition of wind less than 7 knots.  
 Admiralty 141528 (N.T. in W.D.) refers.  
 (UNICORN 161440B to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.  
 R.A.A. Home Fleet.)

CROOME, My 152311 not to Capt. D.22. Onward route after  
 HURWORTH. 1901C/16th as follows:- (A) 035° 18' 027° 54'  
 at 0050/17th. (B) 036° 28' 026° 56' at 0350/17th.  
 They leave Leros at 2045/17th speed 22 knots  
 through (B) and (A).  
 (Capt. S.1. 161528C to RORQUAL (R) Capt. D.22.)

SEAWOLF? Felucca, SEAWOLD leaves Algiers 1800B/16th  
 passing through 039° 50' 004° 45' at approx. 0300B  
 18th 041° 006° 50' at approx. 0300B/19th thence  
 Porto Gulf, arriving there about 2300B/19th and  
 may remain there or at Port Calri for 3 nights finally returning  
 Algiers via reverse route. Not to be molested.  
 (Capt. (S) 8th 161532B to 8th S.F. PERLE, ARETHURSE, (R) N.O.I.C.  
 Algiers.)

/BATTLE...

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

- BATTLE. Request immediate decision whether BATTLE is to be equipped with Seafire C. or L. II C. Admty. 081959, 141528 Bigor and UNICORN's 161207B (N.T. in W.D.) refer.  
(C. in C. Med. 161601B to Admty. (R) R.A. (A) H.F.)  
Your 161601. BATTLE should be equipped with Seafire II, as in my 141528 and any operational limitations must be accepted. Seafire L.II.C. cannot be spared from future operational requirements.  
(D.N.A.O. 162310A to C. in C. Med. (R) R.A.A. Home Fleet.)
- ATLANTIS. Hold hospital ship ATLANTIS for further orders.  
(P.S.T.O. Med. 161618B.)
- U/B. Enemy S/M sighted by aircraft in 037° 55' 011° 45' at 1125. Course unknown.  
(C. in C. Med. 161625 to S. and A. "GC".)
- TOSCANA. Italian Hospital ship FANGSCANA (? TOSCANA) sailing 2000B/16th for Taranto 9 knots E.T.A. 1200B/18th.  
(V.A. Malta 161656B to N.O.I.C. Taranto (R) F.O. Sy. Admty. etc.)
- G.U.S.15. G.U.S.15. Arrivals (Names.)  
(Com. Algeria 161701B to C. in C. Med. Admty. etc.)
- N.A.A.F. Report. A.V.619E 16 Sept. N.A.A.F. Opsum 207.  
N.W.A.C.A.F. 15th Sept. 5 Anti Flak Beaufighters sighted and attacked convoy of 1 tanker 6,000 tons and 4 escort vessels 5 miles East Capraia Island. 6 Torpedoes dropped. Hit observed on stern largest E/V, 2,000 tons. 2 Anti Flak Beaufighters shot down by flak. 1 Torpedo Beaufighter ditched. 2 U.S. Mitchells attacked 4 barges off Anzio firing 7 shells. 1 barge hit.  
(H.Q. N.A.A.F. 161739B.)
- Control of Italian Shipping. It is important to obtain very early policy from C.C.S. in regard to control of Italian shipping as signals are already being received by Allied C. in C. from Washington directing him to collect both passenger and cargo ships for various purposes. My present line of action is to collect surrendered Italian shipping to Algiers and there turn them over to North African shipping board.  
(C. in C. Med. 161842B to Admty.)
- EREBUS. Request you will sail EREBUS for U.K. in M.K.S.25.  
(C. in C. Med. 161924B to V.A. Malta (R) Admty.)



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16.9.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

- 14 D.F. My P.C. and S. 037° 24' N. 015° 26' (?010°) 28 knots. Request lights 2030 to 2130. Average percentage oil fuel remaining 40. (D.14. 161927 to N.O.I.C. Sicily (R) C. in C. Med.)
- MAGDALA.. Your 152020C (Tanker Message) Destination MAGDALA Abadan. C. in C. Med. (A) pass to F.H.P.E.T. (D. of S. 161942A to C. in C. Levant.)
- Tripoli defences. Concur in reduction of coast defences at Tripoli (L). Proposed in C.O.S. M.E. letter MIL/11/5 of 10th August, 1943. 2. Request Admiralty inform Chiefs of Staff and C. in C. Levant inform C.O.S. M.E. (C. in C. Med. 162043 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med.(A) ).
- Italian Seaplanes. Italian seaplane reliably reported arrived Mahon, Balearic on 0920 Sept. 14 and reported another Italian seaplane forced down 80 miles bearing 150° from Mahon. (Commorseafron 162128B to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) V.C.N.O., (GDI) Admty. C. in C. Med., Commavnaw.)
- Repatriation Ships. VULCANIA and SATURNIA arrived Taranto approx. August 21st. DUILIO and GIULIO CESARE arrived August 31st. (C. in C. Levant 162139C.)
- SIBYL. P.217 (SIBYL) leaving Algiers 1900 on surface at discretion through 038° 18' 003° 17' at 0400/19th 040° 41' 005° 41' at 2200/19th. Thence diving by day through 042° 26' 006° 39' at 2100/20th 043° 50' 008° 24' at 2100/21st. Thence to patrol in zone S.N. and S.O. (Capt. (S) 8th 162200B to 8th S/M.F. (R) C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Algiers, PERLE, ARETHUSE.)
- Situation at Augusta. Sitrep 64. No enemy air activity over Augusta in last 24 hours. (2) Oiling operation continued day and night. (3) No furnace oil tanker now in Augusta. (4) Expect complete floating pipe line p.m. tomorrow 17th Sept. (5) Salvage was proceeding on M.T.B. 288 (W.D.Note. Sunk 21/22/7) and OCEAN VIRTUE. (6) A/A defence being reduced by ? (30) Bofors. (N.O.I.C. Augusta 162210 C. in C. Med.)
- Situation report. No.183. (1) The Port of Brindisi was opened on 14th Sept. with Italian Naval Authorities co-operating. The Port is undamaged with two small floating

/docks...

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Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Situation report No.183. (Contd.)

docks and complete workshops. There is a lack of stevedores.

(2) R.F.A. DERWENTDALE was hit by bombs on 14th Sept. (? off Salerno) and engine-room demolished. Ship is proceeding to Malta in tow. SS. BUSHROD, WASHINGTON bombed p.m. 14th Sept. and subsequently sunk a.m. 15th Sept. SS. J.W. MARSHALL damaged a.m. 15th Sept. when rocket bomb hit L.C.T. alongside.

(3) Islands of Procida and Ponza were occupied by allied Forces. Surrenders received on 15th Sept.

(4) Capt. (D) 24 in TROUBRIDGE with 3 destroyers operated N. of Cape Circeo during the night 15th/16th September and (?M.Ls.) carried out sweep in the Gulf of Gaeta. No incidents reported.

(5) WARSPITE and VALIANT carried out bombardment of targets in Salerno Area on 16th Sept. WARSPITE was damaged by rocket bombs about 1500/16th as reported in my 162001.

(6) SEAHAM swept 17 mines in the Cotrone Area on 16th September. (C. in C. Med. 162218, 162221.)

Medars. Ref. B.A.Ds. 141641 para. 3. Admiralty will despatch by air mail to Com. Tenth Fleet C. and R. Medars articles 1 to 5 inclusive amended by correction No. 1 dated 10th July.

2. Request you will supply direct to Com. 10th Fleet C. and R. (a) Corrections subsequent to No.1. (b) The 2nd edition referred to in M.N.C. 1/5 dated 16th July. (D.T.D. 162236A to C. in C. Med. (A) (R) N.C.S.O. Med. B.A.D., F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

Air C. in C. Med. Report. A. 206 Cipher 16th Sept. Signed Eisenhower. Part 3. Air Cositentrep No.68 16 Sept. (Air C. in C. Med. No. T.O.O./17.)

"Malta movements". Arrivals. 289. Italian S/Ms. ALAGI, BRIN, GALATEA, MAREA, GIADA, PLATINO. Departures. Italian hospital ship TOSCANA arrived and sailed. U.S.S. GLEAVES. (V.A. Malta 162313 to Admty. C. in C. Med. etc.)

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Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

P.B.56                   Sailing telegram (11 ships).  
                           (2) 0300Z/16th.  
                           (3) (A) Ascension Group to (corrupt group)  
                           1900Z/16th.  
 (B) 062 degs. East 1600Z/18th. (C) Karachi 1000Z/19th.  
 (D) Bombay 1200Z/21st.  
 (4) 9 knots (5) Route 3. (6) KUMAON, KARACHI.  
 (N.C.S.O. Hormuz 160340Z to C. in C.E.F. etc.).

Trincomalee            Re disposal of sullage and ashes.  
                           (3) Provision of 2 propelled hopper barges with  
                           bottom opening doors appears only satisfactory  
                           solution.  
 (4) No such hoppers are available on this station. Request  
 provision may be made from elsewhere.  
 (C. in C.E.F. 160457 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.R.I.N. etc.).

India                   Daily Opsum No.550.  
 Air                    15th Sept. 2 Beaufighters damaged 2 barges 30  
 Report.               Sampans between Monywa and Myingyan, a 50 ft.  
                           tanker at Pakokku and an oil tank at Yeaang A.T.  
                           2 Beaufighters detailed Hunters' Bay - Taungup.  
                           1 A/C attacked 35 Sampans S.W. Granrae and the  
                           jetty and buildings at Kyaukpyu. 3 Beaufighters  
 detailed Shwebo-Katha and 4 Hurricanes detailed Kanadav? River  
 abandoned operations due weather.  
 (A.H.Q. India 160505Z).

NARINGA                Transport NARINGA arrived 16th Sept.  
                           disembarking (numbers).  
                           (?S.T.O. Chittagong 160601Z to P.S.T.O.I.).

SALWEEN,  
 NIEUW  
 HOLLAND.              Cancel all references to convoy K.A.9.  
                           (2) SALWEEN and NIEUW HOLLAND will join C.M.45.  
                           (3) Admty. pass to D. of S.T.  
                           (C. in C.E.F. 160654Z to F.O.E.A. (R) Admty.  
                           for D. of S.T. etc.).

SALWEEN and NIEUW HOLLAND sailing held up pending  
 your reply to my 140701Z marked Immediate.  
 (D.S.T.O. Kilindini 160615Z to D. of S.T. (R) F.O.E.A.).  
 Not received in W/R. Repetition being obtained.  
 Arrangements made for SALWEEN and NIEUW HOLLAND to sail  
 from Kilindini Sept. 19th to join (?C.M.) 45.  
 (2) If possible request this date may be adhered to in view of  
 present escort commitments.  
 (C. in C.E.F. 161428Z to Admty. for D. of S.T. (R) F.O.  
 E.A., D.S.T.O. Kilindini).

Convoy                 Sailing telegram (2 ships).  
 B.P.95½.               (2) 0730Z/16th. (3) E.T.A. Karachi 30Z 18th (sic).  
                           (4) 11½ knots. (Route).  
                           (6) BENGAL.  
                           (N.C.S.O. Bombay 160755Z, 160757B to Admty.).



# MOST SECRET

---

*Flying Boats, Indian Ocean,  
dispositions.*

**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    161102Z/Sept.    IN  
From: 222 Group.                      Date: 19.9.43.  
    Recd:    2114A

Addressed: AHQ Aden 215 Group 225 Group repeated  
                                 AHQ India AHQ E Africa AHQ Iraq Persia  
                                 C. in C.E.F. C. in C.S.A. Air Ministry  
                                 Whitehall.

~~MS 18719~~ A119 16 Sept.

In agreement C. in C.E.F. following dispositions of flying boats to be implemented earliest possible.

2. 1 Sqdn only to remain based on Durban throwing off detachments to Langebaan as necessary. This to be known as South African Sqdn. AOS. to remain Cape Town.
3. 230 Sqdn. return all detachments to Dar es Salaam except 3 to remain Pamanzi.
4. Remaining 3 Catalina Sqdn. withdraw all detachments to bases Mombasa and Diego Suarez. Allocations all between Mombasa and Diego Suarez to be arranged by Air HQ East Africa according to accommodation and facilities available. This in future to be known as 246 Wing Pool.
5. 246 Wing Pool despatch 2 Catalinas to Aden to bring detachment there up to 6.
- 6? 4 Amphibians from South Africa to proceed (SU-OTRA?) earliest possible.
7. Remaining 2 Amphibians from South Africa to proceed Masirah earliest possible. So get? first priority.
8. 222 Group despatch 4 Catalinas Red Hills Lake earliest possible. On arrival Ceylon Catalinas detachment of 4 Catalinas from Karachi will proceed to Karachi remaining 3 Bombay for operations earliest possible. 3 Catalinas for Bombay may operate from Cochin or Bombay as desired according to facilities and commitments.
9. 222 Group to despatch 1 Amphibian Catalina to Masirah earliest possible to bring detachment at that place up to 3 amphibians.

10/.....

10. Catalina strength at Aden to be maintained at 6 operational aircraft by reinforcements from 246 Wing Pool as necessary. Ceylon boats in detachment at Aden when returning Ceylon for major inspection will be replaced by 246 Wing Pool.

11. Detachment of 205 and 413 Sqdns now in East Africa to return Ceylon forthwith.

12. 215 Group to notify as soon as UMM? RASAS? fit for flying boats when amphibians may be replaced if necessary.

13. All moves to be effected by local headquarters concerned and to be carried out with least possible delay. Rearrangement to be completed by 22 September. Amphibians from South Africa to carry maximum possible spares and equipment. Amphibians within 50 hours of major to be overhauled before despatch. Movement of 2 boats from 246 Wing Pool to Aden not to be carried out until Aden notifies 246 Wing moorings in position. 225 Group to notify earliest possible date 4 Catalinas from Ceylon can be accepted Red Hills Lake.

14. Signals in connection with above moves to be notified priority immediate including this Headquarters in address. Acknowledge.

161102Z.

Recd; in War Reg. 1455/21

1st Lord.  
1st S.L. (2)  
5th S.L.  
D.C.N.A.E.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)  
A.C.N.S. (F)  
Duty Capt.  
D.D.O.D. (H) (4)  
D.O.D. (F) (2)  
D.D.I.C. (2)  
D.N.I. (4)  
D.N.A.O.  
D. of L.D.  
Hd of Air  
Hd of M.  
D. of P. (2)  
C.C.L.S. (2)  
Ad. Blake (4)  
I.P. (2)  
W.D.

Circulation

D.C.A.S.  
A.C.A.S. (Ops)  
A.C.A.S. (P)  
D.O. Ops.  
D. of Policy. (2)  
D.W.O.  
D. of Ops (AUB) (Action) (2)  
Admiralty (War Reg. for  
D.D.O.D.F (2)

War Diary.16.9.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

N.S.H.Q. Sub. attack and sighting summary. This is N.S.H.Q.'s first summary of U/Boat sighting and attack reports. All times Z. Para. D. CLAYOQUOT attacks contact 46.31 N. 57.30 W. at 0608/15. (N.S.H.Q., 160152Z to Admty. Cominch (R) C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F., N.M.O.S.)

VICTORIOUS escorts. C.E.S.F. Com Tenth Fleet C. and R., C. in C. Lant, (R) C. in C.W.A., F.O.N.F., S.B.N.O. W.At., Admty., C. in C.H.F., C.T.F. 24 C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q. from P.D. Norfolk. Radio Washington re-encyphers "Expected departure VICTORIOUS 1300Z/16 September. Escorted by CALDER and FINDHORN. ?Routed in accordance with Cominch 111845Z Sept. Speed 15. (Radio Washington, 160156Z to Admty.) C. in C.U.S. Fleet's 111845 E.T. departure Cape Henry 1300Z 16th. S. of A. 15 knots. E.T.A. Argentia 2100Z 19th. (VICTORIOUS 160244Z to F.O.N.F.) Norfolk arrived 2000Z Sept. 14 CALDER to escort VICTORIOUS. (N.S.H.Q., 160307Z to Admty.) My 151815. (Circulated in Admty. under T.O.O. 160156Z.) Vessels departed Cape Henry 16th Sept. 1320, 1245 and 1232 respectively. Radio New York pass to C.E.S.F. for action. Radio Washington pass to Comtenth Fleet C. and R. and Cinclant for action; pass to C. in C.S.A., F.O.N.F., S.B.N.O. Admty., C. in C. Home Fleet, C.T.F.24, C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q. for information. (P.D. Norfolk, 161359Z to Admty.)

U.S.A.T. Arrival Vieuxfort 16th U.S.A.T HUGH J. GALLAGHER (B.R.O. Castries, 161010 to Admty.)

Convoys T.A.G.85 G.N.85. 1. Sailing telegram (18 ships) 2. 1300Z 16th Sept. 4. Eight knots. (Nine knots Curacao.) 5. Route. 6. U.S.S. BLAKELY, U.S.S. P.C.573, 612, 613 and 1203. (B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 161033Q, 161036Q to Admty.)

Convoy Cycles, North Atlantic. To economise in escorts, we intend to maintain existing North Atlantic convoy cycles until at least the end of October. 2. It will greatly help if every effort is made to avoid peak numbers which make any one convoy unacceptably large. (A.C.N.S.(U.T.), 161153A to B.A.D. (R) Connav, C. in C.W.A., C. in C.C.N.A., N.S.H.Q.)

GREENWICH. GREENWICH entering St. Johns with defects will be sailed on completion about Sept. 17th. (F.O.N.F. 161235Z to F.O.C. Iceland (R) C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q. Admty. Com 10th Fleet, C. and R. B.A.D., C.T.F.24.)

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War Diary.

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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.GREENWICH  
(Contd.)

My 161235. (1) GREENWICH escorted by ARIES, ROSEBAY sails St. Johns 1330Z 17th for Reykjavik. (2) Route via Great Circle from 48.00 N. 52.00 W. to 63.44 N. 24.32 W. thence via Q.Z.S. 412 and 405 to destination. (3) Speed 8.5 knots. (4) Communications as in C.T.G. 02.1. 111604. (F.O.N.F., 161731Z, 171313Z to F.O.C. Iceland (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A., B.A.D. Com. 10th Fleet, C. & R. C.T.F.24.)

DUFF,  
DACRES.

Cancel my 151117. DUFF, DACRES developed engine trouble and have returned to Boston. (C.T.G. 02.1 161326 to U.S.N.O.B. Bermuda.) Boston departed 15th. DUFF, DACRES for Bermuda. (N.S.H.Q. 161500Z to Admty. (R) B.A.D., C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F., S.N.O.B., W.At.)

U.S.A.T.

Departure 15th U.S.A.T. BRIGADIER GENERAL RETHERS due Trinidad 18th. (B.S.N.O. Curacao, 161356 to Admty.)

U.S. S/M.  
Estimate.

(Cominch, 161509.)

A.T.66.  
QUEEN MARY.

Route via (route). (Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 161528Z to P.D.New York.)

H.X.254

Average speed 8.7 knots. Off Oversay at 1300Z/10 All arrived. (D.T.D., 61525A to Connv, N.S.H.Q. (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C.C.N.A.)

OPPORTUNE,  
OBDURATE.

In view of fuel situation and urgent despatches to be landed propose OPPORTUNE and OBDURATE proceed to St. John's (N.F.) to fuel leaving to arrive at Argentia at same time as VICTORIOUS. (OPPORTUNE, 161630Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) F.O.N.F. Cdre. (D) Argentia, VICTORIOUS.)

ROCKAWAY.

N.O.I.C. Milford Haven's 140751A. The route for U.S.S. ROCKAWAY is requested as this ship will be under air coverage from Newfoundland and will enter the Canadian coastal zone. (N.S.H.Q. 161703Z to Admty. (R) C. in C., C.N.A., F.O.N.F., S.C.N.O. London.)

/BRISBANE...



War Diary.16.9.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.

BRISBANE  
STAR.  
"S" Report.      Following intercepted 1655 G.M.T. SSS. from  
(BRISBANE STAR) 39.42 N. 51.29 W.      Sighted  
periscope twice.  
(C. in C. C.N.A., 161709Z to A.C.I.C. (R) Admty.)

Canadian  
"Algerines"  
for U.K.      Admty. 121032A.      The "Algerines" exchanged  
for Corvettes will not be ready until 1944  
which precludes Canadian crews steaming them to  
U.K. in time to take over Corvettes.      Admty.  
140326 and 291146 July refer.  
(2) As other "Algerines" building in Canada  
to Admty. account will be ready before those mentioned in para.  
(1) R.C.N. might well man some of them for passage to U.K. as  
their dates will probably fit in well with Corvettes.      Early  
decision which ships R.C.N. should man for this purpose.  
(N.S.H.Q. 161926Z to Admty. (R) B.A.D. etc.)

C.I.Bs.      Your 062003 to D. of S.T. paras. 2 and 3.  
H.X. Convoys.      There is no objection to inclusion of C.I.Bs. with  
troops on board in H.X. convoys at present with  
proviso that this may be cancelled at short notice  
either by Admiralty or Cominch should U/Boats  
return to northern route.  
2.      In latter event inclusion in U.T. would be required.  
3.      Presume U.S. Authorities are fully aware of capacity of  
boats in these ships.  
(A.C.N.S. (H) 161927A to B.A.D.)

H.X.257.      This completes MYDIS 1419272 amended by my  
150324.      Convoy sailing dispatch.  
H.X.257.      Part 1.      7. 60 ships.  
(P.D. New York, 162016 to Admty.)      Part 2 (P.D.  
New York, 162133Z.)

LINARIA.      My 101754 sailed LINARIA 2000Z/16 direct to  
Bermuda speed 12 knots E.T.A. 1100Z/19.  
(C. in C.C.N.W.A.      162046Z to S.B.N.O. W.At.,  
Cominch., C. in C. W.As., Cinclant., F.O.N.F.,  
B.A.D., LINARIA, Admty., N.S.H.Q.)

Group 5.      N.S.H.Q. 011600 August (re ships comprising group  
5) Delete para. 3 and insert new para. 3 as  
follows:      PRESCOTT and CAMROSE now refitting in  
Canada will join on completion.  
(N.S.H.Q. 162051Z to Admty.)

LOCKEPORT.      E.T.A. 170400Z, boiler hours escorting H.S.107  
LIVERPOOL ROVER.      Weather report.  
(LOCKEPORT, 162100Z to H.O.I.C. Sydney.)

/Sub. ...

War Diary.16.9.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Sub. attack and sighting summary. Para. A. Allied aircraft attacked sub. on surface 09.37 S. 156.35 E. 121141Z dropped 3500 pound bombs. One hit subs. tail sub. submerged leaving oil slick 200 feet in diameter. Following sunk from Marine causes ROBERT E. CRAFT British 15.25 N. 72.05 W. on eight. NIRIANA U.S./U.S. Seven 762 tons 22.11 N. 77.40 W. on Third. Lighter number 579 U.S./U.S. 250 tons 27.13 N. 134.16 W. on Third. (Cominch, 162132Z to Admty. etc.)

U.G.S. Convoy Cycle. Closing of U.G.S. cycle would entail corresponding alteration of our K.M.S./O.G., K.M.S./O.S and through Mediterranean convoy cycles. The additional escort forces required for the closer cycles could for some time to come only be made available at the expense of our A.U. offensive.

Though we appreciate that large U.G.S. convoys may result we should much prefer that the present cycle be retained at least until the Mediterranean situation is cleared up. Your 072153 refers.

(A.C.N.S. (U.T.) 162304A to Cominch, (R) B.A.D., C. in C. Med., C. in C. Med. (A).)

BUCK. With Q.B.A. 109, Q.B.B. 203, U.S. Dest. BUCK - (?414Z originally) departed (?Hull) 1000 17th for Oran through position A. 34.30 50.00  
B. 34.30 40.00 C. 34.30 30.00 D. 35.30 (?20) 00, thence through Swept channel - Skegness thence through E. 36.00 05(?00) F. 36.10 03.00, thence through swept channel and destination. S. of A. 19 knots. E.T.A. "Chop" 24 W. 2400/21st. E.T.A. 10 W. 1300/23rd. E.T.A. City Strait, 2300/23rd. Oran 1500 24th. Times Z. (U.S. N.O.B. Bermuda, 162310 to Cdr. Dest. Task Group 112.1, U.S. N.O.B. Oran, (R) U.S. Cdr. Naval Forces, N.W. African Waters, C. in C. Lant, Admty., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Cominch, Comdesron 13.)

Corsair Squadrons for Fleet Carrier. Your 131820. A minimum of 30 flying days starting from the date on which the Squadron gets full establishment of I.E. aircraft. Air firing facilities assured to be available during this period. (2) Answer is the same for (A) and (B). (B.A.D. 162315Z to Admty.)

F.T.22. Your 031042Q. Sept. Request present whereabouts of H.M.F.T.22. (D.S.V.P., 162351A to S.B.N.O. Trinidad, (R) S.B.N.O.W.At., B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., S.O.(I) Jamaica.) Reply: 171602Q.

549

War Diary.16.9.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Air Pt. 2 and 3 of A.I. 584.  
 Situation Northwestern area further R/C of Cocos Island  
 Review. suggests watchful eye kept in this area against  
 suspected offensive allied move. Italian Liner  
 CONTE VERDE reported scuttled by Italians at  
 Shanghai. Assessment of potential Japanese  
 Carrier strength takes into account its possible conversion.  
 End situation review.  
 New Memorandum No. 30 lists airfields and Seaplane bases in  
 Japanese Empire.  
 (A.A.H.Q. Brisbane, 160510Z to Air Min.)

Movements. Arrived Milne Bay 15th U.S. O/BANNON.  
 (A.C.N.B. 161148Z.)

Digest Paras. 12 to 15 cover South Pacific Forces.  
 No.604 Night 14th Navy Catalina attacked convoy 1  
 Sept.15. destroyer escorting 1 large, 1 small merchantman  
 26.5 South South West Buka Passage on Westerly  
 course scoring near misses. Enemy night  
 fighter successfully evaded.

2. Following afternoon Liberator attacked small freighter  
 Fame (?same) Area claiming direct hit? and leaving vessel  
 listing and burning.

3. Night 15 Navy Catalina reported one ?destroyer or possible  
 cruiser with 1 merchantman to North East Cape Saint George on  
 Northerly course another strafed small craft Borgen Bay and  
 dropped bombs Garovesland night 14th.

6. 23 Mitchells with fighter escort swept coastal area between  
 (Alexishafen?) and Finschhafen dropping 26 tons of bombs and  
 thoroughly strafing barges and supply centres. At least  
 15 barges destroyed in addition to supply and ammunition dumps.  
 Nil interception and all aircraft returned safely.

9. Allied troops pursuing enemy North of Salamua have have  
 reached Bwussi River while others have made unopposed landing  
 further North Mouth Buang River.

11. Three Catalinas again bombed Ambon night 14th causing fires  
 barracks and reported sighting three probable destroyers and four  
 merchantmen apart from small craft. Same night 12 Liberators  
 attacked Kendari Township and drome causing several large fires.  
 Many aircraft reported on airfield but results of bombing not  
 observed. One vessel reported in Bay.

12. During 14th 25 Avengers 34 Dauntless and 43 heavy bombers  
 with 127 fighters covering involved in strikes against Southern  
 Bougainville airfields. Preliminary reports indicate attacks  
 very successful. Three Mitchells also bombed Vila. 13. Our  
 night fighter intercepted single enemy bomber attacking allied  
 P.T.Boats south east Kolombangara night 13th/14th. Enemy float  
 planes later ineffectively bombed P.T. Boats operating West  
 Ferguson Channel. 15. Enemy believed occupied several small  
 Islands off Northern Tip Choiseul where barges and one small  
 freighter reported recently.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 161809K to Admty.)

16.9.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C.161506A.)

Submarines Attacked.

Submarine  
attack  
and  
sighting  
summary  
for 24  
hours  
to 0900Z/  
16th.

Para. A. UNKNOWN missed by torpedo at 2030/  
14th in 40° 32' N. 14° 04' E.  
Para. B. Steam Trawler RIANO sighted U/Boat  
at 1200/13th in 60° 56' N. 02° 20' W.  
On course S.E.X.S.  
(D.D.I.C. 160931Z to Cominch.)

17.9.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

U-Boat concentrations in Norway.

1. C. in C. Home Fleet considers that the evidence now becoming available necessitates a re-appreciation of how best to employ forces against U-Boats in northern waters. It appears that an accumulation of U-Boats is being formed in Norway and C. in C. H.F. concludes that they are building up for a sortie in force into the Atlantic, either through the S.F. area or the Denmark Strait. In order to obtain more advance information of when and where the U-Boat sortie is to be made C. in C. H.F. proposes some reduction of the offensive effort in the S.F. area; aircraft should be diverted from this area to carry out searching sweeps by day and night on approx. 340 degs. from the Shetlands as far as 70 degs. N.; and long range aircraft from Iceland (C) should carry out searching sweeps by day and night north and east of North Cape. He intends whenever possible to hold Home Fleet destroyers in reserve to reinforce either area at short notice. A.O.C. in C. Coastal Command pointed out that the proposed long range sweeps were wasteful of air effort and had not in the past proved productive, and on 18th September C. in C. H.F. cancelled his appreciation. The Air Ministry have been asked to bomb the concentrations of U-Boats at Bergen and Trondheim.

V.P. Operations.

2. M.T.B.688 sailed today for Operation V.P.-S.G., and M.T.B.625 for V.P.-A.H. The latter returned at 1215A/18. Operation V.P.151 was not successful, but mines were laid. H.N.M.S. HORTEN and RISOR sailed this evening with M.T.Bs.619, 627, 626, 686 in tow.

Bay Patrol.

3. STARLING, WILD GOOSE and WREN of E.G.2 are on patrol between 45 N. and 47 N. and between 13.30 W. and 15 W. until last light tomorrow.

South Atlantic.

D.K. 1.

4. Convoy D.K.1 sailed from Durban for Kilindini today.

War Diary.

17.9.1943.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

- Allied C. in C. 5. General Eisenhower left Palermo in CHARYBDIS this morning for Salerno, he left Salerno again for Bizerta at 2014B today.
- Salerno 6. The Enemy began thinning out in the southern sector this afternoon. The supply of the 5th Army through Salerno beaches continues. In the 24 hours ending at 1800/17, 2553 tons, 1245 vehicles and 4692 personnel were unloaded over the northern beaches. Last night, coastal forces carried out a sweep in the Gulf of Gaeta. No incidents are reported. VALIANT returned to Augusta today. Cdre.(N), reports that the Northern assault area anchorage was under shell fire today. There were rocket bomb and fighter bomber attacks but no ships were hit. The U.S. cruiser PHILADELPHIA and destroyer NIBLACK carried out a bombardment today in support of the assault, with good results. PHILADELPHIA was near missed by rocket bombs, and other rocket bomb attacks were made in the Northern assault area without causing any damage.
- CLEVELAND damaged. 7. WARSPITE and escorts were bombed this morning and the destroyer CLEVELAND was damaged by a near miss in the Tyrrhenian Sea. Temporary repairs were effected and her speed is now 22 knots.
- SOMERSETSHIRE bombed. 8. Hospital ship SOMERSETSHIRE reported at 0420 being bombed in 40.26 N. 14.41 E. (between Salerno and Sicily). No damage ensued.
- Bari 9. Elements of the Taranto force were reported in Bari this evening.
- 8th Army. 10. The supply of the 8th Army has commenced through Cotrone. Gioja was evacuated by the enemy today.
- TOSCANA bombed. 11. The Italian hospital ship TOSCANA which sailed from Malta today was bombed by German aircraft at 1544 today in 38.00 N. 17.13 (715) E. (about 65 miles south of Cotrone).
- Straits of Otranto patrol. 12. Destroyers operating from Otranto established a patrol last night across the Straits, with the object of intercepting any enemy shipping attempting to break out of the Adriatic. Nothing was sighted.

17.9.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Aegean

13. 8 Beaufighter bombers attacked a convoy of 4 ships south-east of Naxos at 1147Z today and left a 1000 ton coaster sinking. FAULKNER (D.8), ECLIPSE and QUEEN OLGA left Alexandria at 0800 today to carry out an anti-shiping sweep between Rhodes and Stampalia.

Dodecanese

14. HURWORTH (D.22) and CROOME arrived at Leros at 0800 today with a communications party, 300 troops, and stores from Haifa. They reported a friendly reception and the harbour in full working order; the ships left later for Alexandria. LA MOQUESE and COMMANDANT DOMINE unloaded a cargo of fuel at Kastelorizo last night and returned to Haifa. KONDOURIOTIS is carrying personnel and stores from Haifa to Kastelorizo.

East Indies.

Routeing

15. C. in C. Eastern Fleet anticipates an increase in U-boat warfare in the Arabian Sea and he intends that ultimately all shipping approaching focal points shall be brought into convoy. Until the full convoy scheme is in operation it is intended to establish approach positions outside focal areas where independent shipping will be routed, air patrols being provided to cover this work between approach positions and ports. The various proposed approach positions are given in a message from C. in C. E.F. today.

Penang  
and  
Sabang.

16. There are indications of the development of German submarine bases at Penang. Two German U-boats have arrived at Penang and more are expected. There are also indications that the Japanese are developing an important naval and air base at Sabang.

War Diary.17.9.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

DESPATCH.

On arrival of DESPATCH she is to be destored and reduced to C. and M. The minimum number of personnel should be retained and details should be reported.  
(D.O.D. (H) 171156A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Defence of U.K.Shivering  
Sand Fort.

First Tower should leave Gravesend at 0400A/18 to pass Thames Boom at 0830A and arrive at site at 1130A for sinking at 1200A.  
(C. in C. Nore 171101A.)

Movements.

BOGUE.

Estimated situation at 1903Z/17 U.S.S. BOGUE 3 U.S.D. 045° 40' 030° 29' 035° 16 knots.  
(C. in C. W.A. 171038Z.)

SPARTAN.

Your 151525. Intend sailing SPARTAN for Clyde on 23rd September.  
(C. in C. H.F. 171057A to Admty.)

Group M.  
122  
M.M.S.F.

My 111525. M.M.S. of 122nd Flotilla are not to sail with Group M. Further signal will be made.  
(D.O.D. (H) 171119A.)

U.S.S. FITCH,  
CAPPS.

Arrived Scapa.  
(A.C.O.S. 171204.)

RENOWN.

Unless you have other view intend you should sail for Scapa a.m./21 escorted by SCORPION and SCOURGE.  
(C. in C. H.F. 171249A to RENOWN.)

S/Ms.

Positions at 0800A/18 and movements for following 24 hours.  
(F.O.S. 171641A.)

U.S.S.  
EARLE.

Arrived.  
(F.O.I.C.N.I. 171755A.)

Operations.

Bay Patrol.

Unless in contact with enemy proceed with group or at your discretion detach one ship to rescue 6 air crew in dinghy reported in 045° 20' N. 011° 08' W. at 0310A/17th. Air co-operation (details).  
(C. in C. Plymouth 170410A to S.O. E.G.2. (R) CRANE, WOODCOCK, SHEFFIELD, DESPATCH, C. in C. W.A. Admty.)

/Your...



War Diary.17.9.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Bay Patrol Your 171010 am proceeding towards 045° 52' N. (Contd.) 010° 02' W. to search for U-Boats. R/V will be made later.  
(S.O. E.G.2. 171109A to H.M.S. CRANE (R) WOODCOCK, C. in C. Plymouth.)

ULSTER, take GRENVILLE under his orders and pass Gate at 1600A/18th September. Proceed through position (N) 180° Bishop Rock 7 miles (O) 048° 39' N. 012° 37' W. and thence to carry anti U-Boat patrol in accordance with Mem. No. OP. as follows:-  
2. Day's patrol. Area No. K.3 between 045° N. and 047° N. and between 013° 30' W. and 015° W. 3. Night patrol. At 2 hours before sunset leave eastern limit of patrol area and sweep Eastward between 045° N. and 047° N. retiring to westward in time to be W. of longitude 013° 30' W. by 2 hours after sunrise.  
4. When E.G.2 leaves patrol area CRANE is to remain in Company and is to be detached to join ULSTER, and GRENVILLE when forces pass. 5. ULSTER, GRENVILLE and CRANE while operating in Company will be addressed as Force "U". 6. Communication in accordance with J. No. O.P. R/T callsign S.O. Force "U" "Jumble".  
7. Codeword for Force "U" "Cabman".

(C. in C. Plymouth 171801A to ULSTER, GRENVILLE, CRANE, S.O.E.G.2nd. (R) C. in C. W.A. Admty., F.O.S., H.Q.C.C., N.O.I.C. Falmouth, KITE, CYGNET.)

O.15. Leave patrol at 0600/19 through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles thence to Lerwick. Diving by day N. of 062° N.  
(Capt. S.9. 170943A to O.15.)

Coastal Patrols tonight.  
patrols. (C. in C. Nore 170957A, 171241A, 171518A.)  
1. Orders for night 17/18 Sept.  
(A) S.G.B. GREY SEAL, GREY OWL, GREY FOX anti-E-Boat patrol 50° 25' N. between 0° 40' W. and 1° 25' W. from 2130A to 0500A.  
(B) Chasseurs 11 to patrol Q.Z.S.384 between F and E.A. 5 buoys.  
(C) M.L.292 immediate notice St. Helens.  
(D) STEVENSTONE immediate notice Yarmouth.  
(E) M.G.B. 13,7,6 patrolling 50° 20' N. between 2° 00' W. and 2° 25' W. 2. St.Catherines light required 5 minutes after each hour from 2200A to 0505A.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 171301A.)

Patrols 17th September weather permitting.  
1. Force C. M.G.Bs.330, 324, are to patrol in vicinity of 146° Start 19. 3. Force D. M.T.Bs. 677, 679, 664 are to patrol in vicinity of 180 Eddystone 8. 5. Forces C. and D. are to leave Dartmouth to be on patrol by 2030A. Leave patrol 0600A.  
6. Force E. M.T.Bs. 98 (S.O) 92, 90, 227 are to leave Dartmouth at 1915 and proceed at 25 knots to position (PP) 351 Les Heaux L.T.3. thence to carry out sweep for enemy shipping through position (SS) 008 Triagoz L.T.5 to position (QQ) 000 Ile De Bas 8 and return Force E to leave patrol line so as to be within 30 miles of our coast at first light. 8. Attention is drawn to Q.Z.X.1095 and Q.Z.X.1103.

(C. in C. Plymouth 171452A.)

Dispositions for night Sept.17/18.

(C. in C.Nore 171554A.)

War Diary.17.9.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

UNTIRING. P.59 UNTIRING departs vicinity Bishop Rock at 1000A/20 diving by day by route Gold. 105 miles a day to 047° N. then 119° to patrol in zone J.2 thence to Gib. as ordered by F.O.S.

(2) (3) Communications.  
(Capt. S.3. 171033A.)

Operation My 301042A August sailed at 1015A/17 M.T.B.688.  
VP-SG. (A.C.O.S. 171044.)

Operation One rating seriously injured through explosion  
F.S. of Snowflake Rocket a.m. returning Thorshavn with all despatch. OBEDIENT has assumed S.O. operations S.F. E.T.A. Thorshavn 2200A today Friday. Following is weather report 58821152. (SHIKARI 171110A to C. in C. Rosyth (R) C. in C. H.F., N.O.I.C. Faeroes, A.C.O.S. R.A.(D) H.F., OBEDIENT, SHIKARI.)

My 171110A. Submit that after landing injured rating at Thorshavn SHIKARI should fuel at Skaalefiord and return to operation S.F. in company with MAHRATTA.

(SHIKARI 171121A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Your 171121 after fuelling remain at Skaalefiord.

(C. in C. Rosyth 171435A to SHIKARI.)

Faeroes arrival SHIKARI.

(N.O.I.C. Faeroes 172201A.)

If not in contact and no sighting by 1201/18th return Skaale Fjord refuel and group B revert to 4 hours notice.

(C. in C. Rosyth 172328 to OBEDIENT (R) H.F. Operational, N.O.I.C. Faeroes, SARDONYX.)

Operation My 161058A. Sailed at 1120A today M.T.B.625.  
VP-AH. (A.C.O.S. 171233A.)

R/C of (B) Special R/C 8 Sept. 1717 remna stacks S/C  
Spitzbergen. South Cape (Spitzbergen) 0250/9 DBTX 5030  
S/Y visually Ice fjord 03.19 commenced visual search circled fjord at nought feet. Visibility excellent and no cloud 03.22 Barentsburg. Flames and considerable smoke sighted, R.2 photos taken proceeded coastwise to Kapt Laila 03.28, appeared relatively undamaged. Continued coastwise N.E. to Grumantby 03.30 severely damaged. 2 photos taken of burning wreckage 03.40 long. nearby, further smoke observed. Further R/C of Sasson Fjord, small settlement at Gipsvika untouched 0355 Nord Fjord 0425 main R/C of Ice fjord completed proceed to photograph burning settlements 04.43. Long. nearby. 24 photos taken of wrecked settlement 04.50 Grumantby, 4 photos taken 0500 Barentsburg, 32 photos taken of extensive and thorough damage 0510 Cape Linne, visually to S. Cape 0625 270°. Stormbukta 12 miles height 500 feet sighted one Ju.88 at 200 feet height, C.O.360° 2 miles, V/190 took evasive climbing into cloud, E/A not seen again.  
(18 Group 171500A.)

Operation My 301052A August. Sailing at 2100A/17 HORTEN  
VP-DD. and RISOR with M.T.B.619, 627, 626, 686 in tow.  
2. (A) Northern Division M.T.B.619, S.O. and  
M.T.B.627 (B) Southern Div., M.T.B.626 (S.O.) and  
M.T.B.686  
(A.C.O.S. 172136A.) S/M...

557

17.9.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.S/M.  
Patrols  
E  
of Iceland.

Para. 1 of my 071826 patrol zone allocated as follows:- (A) P.66 (ULA) JJ. (B) P.61 (VARANGIAN) CC. (C) P.231 (STOIC) Line 40 miles 180° 000° mid point 066° 01' N. 002° 01' W. 2. Object Isoh 200. 2. F. and A. (F.O.S. 172256A.)

Allied Air Operations.Iceland  
patrols.

A.C.295 17 Sept. My R.C.201 16 Sept. All airborne aircraft recalled remaining sorties cancelled weather base. (H.Q. R.A.F. Iceland 171315A.)

Mining.Operation  
S.N.222.C.

Your 150902 para. 4. It is not intended to provide Cruiser cover. (C. in C. H.F. 171009A to F.O. (M)).

Enemy Intelligence.NORD  
ATLANTIC.

Tanker and escort referred to in my 171507 (Tanker NORD ATLANTIC towed by Spanish Tug and escorted by Spanish training ship VIRGEN DE LA MOONIDAD not to be attacked. (See U-Boats.) were reported by aircraft at 0900A/17th as not having got under weigh. (F.O.S. 172209A to S/Ms. operating S. of 51° N.)

U-Boats.U/B  
report.

Investigating possible wake and swirl in 45° 52' N. 10° 02' W. (A/C 18 Gp/A 170850A.) Sonic buoy show presence of submerged S/M. (A/C 19 Gp/A 170946) Informing addressees. (C. in C. Plymouth 171030A to S.O. E.G.2nd (R) CRANE, SHEFFIELD, WOODCOCK, C. in C. W.A. Admty. F.O.S., A.O.C. in C.C.C.)

AI.1 17 Sept. Ref. STE/04 17th Sept. P.B.4 YA/103 Squadron having sighted periscope on course 180° in 45.37 N. 09.57 W. at 0850 released marine marker and Sonic buoys. Strong transmissions were received from red buoy, which were definitely identified as a U/B. As no other buoys carried, no further steps could be taken to locate U/B and at 0925 pilot S/C on baiting. Transmissions gradually faded and became inaudible about 10 to 15 miles distant, and were not heard again during remainder of search. (St.Eval 171830A.)

U/B...

17.9.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats. - Contd.

U/B Concentrations in Norway. My 111229 H.Q.C.Cs. 141200, A.C.I.Cs. 121458 and Admiralty's 142344. I consider that evidence now becoming available necessitates a re-appreciation of how best to employ forces against U-Boats in northern waters.

2. From lack of sightings in the S.F. area or in the North Atlantic and from P.R.U. reports of increasing number of U/Bs. at Bergen and Trondhjem it appears that an accumulation of U/Bs. in Norway is being formed. The fact that these U/Bs. are willing to linger within Fortress range makes it appear unlikely that they are destined for North Norway and I conclude that they are building up for a sortie in force into the Atlantic. The mass movement being either to reduce dangers on passage out or to bring about a sudden concentration in the Atlantic. 3. We must be prepared for this sortie to be either through the S.F. area or the Denmark Strait but it would be wasteful use of forces to commence offensive air and surface patrols in the latter area until more evidence is available that it will be used. Similarly we should now consider some reduction of offensive effort in the S.F. area in order to obtain more evidence information of when and where the U/B sortie is to be made. 4. It is proposed therefore (A) That long range aircraft from Iceland (C) should carry out day and night searching sweeps N. and E. of North Cape. (B) That a proportion of the aircraft from 18 group now employed in the S.F. area should carry out day and night searching sweeps on approx. 340° from Shetlands as far as 70° N. 5. It is intended to hold in reserve whenever possible home fleet destroyers to reinforce either area at short notice.

*Cancelled by 181234, page 592.*  
(C. in C. H.F. 171117A to Admty., A.C.I.C., C. in C. Rosyth, 18 Group, H.Q.C.C., C. in C.W.A., R.A.D.) *See also C. CWA. 181457A.*

There is evidence of a concentration of U-Boats in the Bergen Area and to a lesser degree at Trondhjem. 2. These may be U-Boats on passage from the Baltic to Atlantic. 3. Request Navtar No.10 may be amended placing Bergen and Trondhjem No. 1 and 2 in order of priority in Section B.

(A.C.N.S. (U.T) 172250A to Air Min.)

Far North.

By D/F on 3750 kc/s at 1155Z (?U-Boat) bearing 328° from station 24 1st class at 1236Z bearing 330° from station 23 1st class.  
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia 171420A.)

NORD ATLANTIC U/B at Vigo.

1. Tanker NORD ATLANTIC which left Camarinas a.m. 17th September tow by Spanish tug and escorted by Spanish training ship VIRGEN DE LA MOONIDAD destination Ferrol is not to be attacked. 2. Damaged German U/B now in Vigo may be attacked within Spanish territorial waters if she sails. F.S.L.2 para.8. (3) refers. (F.O.S. 171507A to S/Ms. operating S. of 51° N. (R) Admty. C. in C.Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Gib.)

War Diary.17.9.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

P.W.402.

Cancelled.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 171550A.)

H.X.256.

P.C. and S. at 2000. 052° 41' N. 035° 03' W.  
X. 067° 10 knots. 051° 53' N. 038° 03' W.  
61 Ships in company. SS. BELGIAN FREIGHTER  
arrived Halifax with engine trouble (corrupt  
group) 15th. SS. JAMES BOWDORT straggled in  
dense fog a.m. 15th and has not rejoined.Weather report 35.61 21.55.  
(S.O.C.5. 171821Z.)Convoy  
T.U.2.5 Transports, 8 tankers all empty. Ready to sail  
by 19th September. Names, etc.  
2. Escort. T.F. 67. U.S.S. NEVADA, S.O.  
U.S.S. NELSON, MURPHY, GLENNON, JEFFERS, BUTLER,  
GHERARD, HERNDON, COWIE, EARL, BELL, QUICK,  
ISHERWOOD, WEBER, FEETHELER. 3-8. Route etc. 9. C. in C.W.A.  
is requested to arrange sailing of T.F.67, and of Bristol  
Channel, Milford Haven, Mersey and Clyde portions of convoy,  
all as requisite to reach vicinity of positions T.A. 270°.  
Oversay 6 miles at 1200A/20.  
(D.O.D. (H) 172012A.)

War Diary.17.9.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- C.T.G.21.11 Re-encypherment of C.T.G.21.11 170745 action  
A/S to Commorseafron. Passed to you for information  
Operations. (begins) Originator C.T.G.21.11. Under way  
Casablanca 1300 per Commorseafron 161720.  
(B) Passing entrance swept channel 1540 thence  
course 28 2 S. of A. 13.5 to lat. 36 North 20  
West E.T.A. 1300/19th. All times Z. Thence conduct operations  
against enemy submarine concentrations vicinity Azores until time  
to support C.T.F.61 longitude of 20 West or as otherwise  
directed. Pass to Cominch, Cinclant, Comairlant, Comtaskfor 61  
F.O.C.Gib. C. in C. Med. Comnavnaw, Admty. for Info. Latest Q.B.A.  
109.  
(Commorseafron 170745 to F.O.C. Gib., Admty.).
- G.U.S.15 (1) MANCHESTER EXPLORER destination now New York  
should continue in convoy.  
(2) EMPIRE CLARION destination now Casablanca  
should continue in convoy and detach at  
Casablanca. R/V.  
(3) P.L.M.13 for Casablanca and EMPIRE PRINCE and BARON FAIRLIE  
for Safi will join convoy with Gibraltar section and detach as  
above.  
(F.O.C. Gib. 171018B to Escorts of convoys G.U.S.15 (R) C.M.S.F.F.  
C. in C. Med., Cdre. Algeria, Com N.O.B. Oran, Admty.).  
My 171018B para (2) EMPIRE CLARION destination now Gib.  
para.(3) delete P.L.M.13. Pass to Commodore.  
(F.O.C. Gib. 171527).
- C.G.64 My 151748B sailed 170930A.  
(Commorseafron 171151B to F.O.C. Gib. (R) C. in C.  
Med., Comnobran, Comnavnaw, Admty.).
- Danish Admty. pass to F.O.C. West Africa.  
Ships at My 131002. Danish has done this verbally (both  
Las Palmas. he and Spaniards anxious Germans should not know  
of it yet).  
I am confirmed that Minister Marine has sent  
necessary instructions to Las Palmas.  
(N.A. Madrid 171244B to Admty. (R) Consul Las  
Palmas, F.O.i/c Gibraltar, F.O.C.W.A.).
- LUCIA My 091515 (re Italian ship LUCIA new anchorage for  
(Italian) better security). Italian ship has been moved to  
berth inside Trans-Atlantic vessel at Vigo  
opposite Marine Commandant's Office.  
(R.O. Vigo 171250 to B.N.A. Madrid, (R) Admty.  
(For D.N.I.) S.O.(I) Gibraltar).
- U-boat Am over enemy submarine in 37.43 N. 09.33 W.  
sighted on surface and observed to submerge.  
(A/C duty O, 233 Sqdn. 171344B to R.A.F. Gib.).

/ U-boat...

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Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

U-boat (Contd.). U-boat previously reported was seen to submerge course South, speed (15?) knots, position 37.45 N. 09.40 W. (Duty O.233 Sqd. 171409B). Enemy S/M sighted by aircraft 037 degs. 43' N. 009 degs. 33' W. at 1344B on the surface and observed to dive. Probably southbound. (F.O.i/c Gibraltar 171708B to P.43 (UNISON) P.44 (UNITED)).

NORD ATLANTIC. My 161048. Ministry of Marine now state cargo was gas oil, not fuel. There was also some lubricating oil. PLUTON discharged it into Naval storage at Ferrol. Following is unofficial: same gas oil will probably be exchanged with CAMPSA for fuel oil. Navy keeps cargo on account charge for salvage. It is expected that examination will confirm belief that damage to engine is too extensive to make purchase of vessel worth considering. If Germans contemplate repairs these cannot be completed before end of war. (B.N.A. Madrid 171928 to Admtly. (R) F.O.i/c Gibraltar, C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C., F.O.S.).

Damaged U-boat, Vigo. Pass to F.O.S., C. in C. Plymouth., H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Med. (Begins): Addressed Admtly. (R) F.O.C.Gib., C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Med. Official Note just received from Spanish Government states German S/M at Vigo is interned. Report follows. (N.A. Madrid 172056B to Admtly.).

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

?U/B. R.N.O. Lagos 162111 and 161410. Interrogation of pilot of aircraft confirms probability that submarine reported was buoy photographed. (B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, 170945A to F.O.C. W.Af. (R) Admty. etc.)

DOUGLAS, (1) Cancel my 141311 (not to Admty.)  
W.S.33. (2) Intend to sail DOUGLAS to arrive Takoradi 21st Sept.  
(3) Amend my 101741 as follows:  
Para.4 Delete BELLWORT. Part 5 Cancel escort arrangements. N.O.I.C. Takoradi sail BEAGLE BOADICEA and DOUGLAS as escorts. BEAGLE return Takoradi E.T.A. a.m.24.  
Para. 6 Cancel. Para. 7 For COWSLIP read WOLVERINE.  
Para. 8 For WOLVERINE read BOADICEA. BOADICEA and DOUGLAS will join escort of W.S.33 to Pointe Noire. Shore Authorities pass to ships in address of my 101741 which has been passed to DOUGLAS.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 171252 to N.O.I.C. Lagos, N.O.I.C.Takoradi, (R) Admty. etc.)

Co-operation Brig. Willmott of S.A. A.F. is proceeding between to U.K. by air shortly, and will discuss S.A.A.F. C.Sq. with Air Ministry a suggestion that 1 complete air crew from each S.A.A.F. Coastal Sqdn. and should always be operating with an R.A.F. R.A.F. Coastal Sqdn. in U.K. with a turnover every 6 months.  
(2) I strongly support this suggestion as tending to increase A/S efficiency of S.A.A.F.  
(C. in C. S.A. 171324B to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F.)

Docking In South African ports as at 15 Sept. 1943.  
situation. (C. in C. S.A. 171337B to Admty.)

Arrivals Arrivals Sept. 17th DUCHESS OF RICHMOND,  
Takoradi. ORMONDE, BOISSEVAIN.  
(N.C.S.O. Takoradi, 171351Z to Admty. BB)

Convoy Sailing telegram. 10 ships.  
D.K.1. (2) 1400Z/17th Sept. (4) 7 knots.  
(5) Coastal to (A) 025 degs. 59' S. 033 degs. 08' E. (B) 020 degs. 01' S. 035 degs. 05' E. thence through (C) 019 degs. 50' S. 035 degs. 44' (D) 016 degs. 06' S. 041 degs. 08' (E) 012 degs. 10' S. 041 degs. 44' (F) 009 degs. 50' S. 041 degs. 37' (G) 007 degs. 10' S. 041 degs. 06' to Kilindini (6) FRITILLARY, TULIP, CAPE WARWICK, NORTHERN ISLE, NORTHWICH CITY, FREESIA. H.M. Tug PRUDENT also sailed in convoy. In the event of ships dispersing all ships have independent route from 010 degs S. as in my serial number 602 to 610.



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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- Convoy (15) U.V.D. 1 to 9 "Garter" 207. E.T.A.  
D.K.I. R/V R/V position (A) 0900Z/19th Sept.  
(Contd.) E.T.A. R/V position (B) 0430Z/22nd Sept. E.T.A.  
Kilindini a.m. 29th Sept. "Chop" 020 degs.  
S. 22nd Sept.  
(N.C.S.O. Durban, 171417 to Admty. etc.)
- Sailed FRITILLARY, TULIP, NORTHERN ISLE, CAPE WARWICK,  
NORWICH CITY, escorting convoy D.K.I. to Kilindini with  
FREESIA as support and H.M.R.T. PRUDENT in convoy (N.C.S.O.  
Durban 171417 refers.)
- (2) TAY, DERG, E.T.S. (? E.T.A.) 1500Z/18 to join FREESIA  
in support.
- (3) Continuous W/T guard by E/Vs and continuous W/T watch by  
FREESIA on group J shifting to V at 0245Z/25 Sept.  
PRUDENT keeps continuous watch, 500 K/cs shifting to read  
BAMS routine.  
(Cdre. Durban, 171454Z to Admty. etc.)
- Walvis Bay. It is considered the proposed fixed defences  
at Walvis Bay are not now required and that  
expenditure by Union Government of large sum  
involved is no longer justified. Request  
authority to cancel arrangements already made.  
(C. in C. S.A. 171534Z to Admty.)
- ROCKROSE, Sailing ROCKROSE and JASMINE to comply with  
JASMINE. C. in C. E.F.'s 170812Z (N.T. in W.D.)  
(C. in C. S.A. 171542B to N.O.I.C. Durban,  
(5) Admty. etc.)
- EMPIRE Your 152120 to Admty. only. Sail EMPIRE  
MIGHT. MIGHT independently to Gibraltar for inclusion  
in M.K.F. 24 due to leave Gibraltar 25th Sept.  
(D.T.D. 171629A to F.O.C. W.Af. (R) F.O.I.C.  
Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. (A)
- Bahia Degaussing range at Bahia is now in operation.  
D/G. Pilots have been instructed to take incoming  
Allied ships over range when proceeding to  
anchorage.  
U.S. Authorities will promulgate details shortly.  
(B.N.S.O. Rio De Janeiro, 171808Z to Admty.  
(R) C. in C. S.A., S.O.(I) Freetown.)
- P.552. (1) Sailed P.552 escorted by DRANGEY to Durban  
route R.10. (2) S. of A. 8 knots. E.T.A.  
0320S. 2300B/20th Sept. E.T.A. Durban  
1400B/21st Sept. (3) Shifting to broadcast  
Jig at 2300B/20th.  
(C. in C. S.A. 172017B to Admty. N.O.I.C.  
Durban, (R) C. in C. E.F. etc.)

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Italian Diplomatic organisations. Gen. Castellano has received authority from Badoglio that Italian diplomatic organizations abroad should place all information concerning Germany at disposal of Allies. (Algiers. No. T.O.O. 0020/17 Sept. to Etoussa (Action))

SOMERSETSHIRE bombed. SOMERSETSHIRE. Unread. Bombed 40.26 North 14.40 East. No damage. (Valentia Radio, 170320Z to Admty., C. in C. Plymouth.)(Wick Radio, 170413 C. in C. Portsmouth 170420).

PERLE, DOLFIJN. Leave patrol through 042° 01' 007° 01' at 1800/17 thence on surface at discretion to R/V with P.47 (DOLFIJN) and escort for Algiers in 037° 02' 003° 13' at 0700/19 your 170043, acknowledge. (Capt (S) 8, 170422B to PERLE (R) ARETHUSE 8th S/M F. C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Algiers.)

TYRIAN, TUMULT. Proceed with TYRIAN and TUMULT to Oran S.O.A.22 knots.  
2. V.A. Malta is requested order route and fighter priority, allocate codeword and inform air authority.  
3. C. in C. Med. 162319 (not to Admty.) not to all refers. (S.O. Force "H", 170627B to Capt. (D) 24, (R) C. in C, Med. etc.)  
Route through 278 036° 55' 011° 13' thence by War Channel to 79 at 2100 17th for onward routeing by C. in C. Med. codeword "Swing." Low S. of A. (?22) knots F.O. H.'s 170627 not to all refer.  
(V.A. Malta, 170930B to TYRIAN, TUMULT, Capt. (D) 24th D.F. Stn.)  
N.O.I.C. Malta 170930. Onward route through 40 20 109 to Oran. Codeword "Swing." (?Estimated) S. of A.22 knots.  
E.T.A. Oran 1930 Sept. 18th.  
(C. in C. Med., 171440B to Capt. (D) 24.)

Enemy Sightings. P.C. and S. of 1 M/V 3000, 1 M/V 2000, 1 E/B 37.00 N. 24.47 E. 160 7.  
(A/C. HUR/W 170715 .)  
P.C. and S. of 3 landing craft of 800 tons is 41.25 N. 11.35 E. 020° and 10 knots. The geographical position is uncertain.  
(A/C FBG/C Via Alex, 170915B to 45 U.)  
Position of 9 small and one auxiliary vessel 43.23 N. 10.19 E. Position based on territorial or astronomical fix within half an hour of 1000. Course 170° Speed 7 knots.  
(A/C HTT/Y via Malta, 171000B to 16 T.)  
Enemy previously reported in my 171000 are of type:-  
8 Siebel Ferries, one escort vessel.  
(A/C HTT/Y 171015B to 45U.)

/Position...

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Sightings (Contd.) Position of 2 enemy L/C and 1 Escort Vessel 41.25 N. 9.18 E. 210° S. 8 knots (10535?) (A/C FBG/G via Malta, 171100B to 16 T.) P.C. and S. of 2 M/Vs 37.00 N. 24.47 E. 160° and 7kts. (MJA, 171104C to C. in C. Levant, Beirut W/T Stn.) Position of 4 enemy L/C 43.50 N. 7.54 E. (based on fix obtained within half an hour of 1300) 060° S.6 knots. (A/C HTT/D via Malta, 171255B 45U.) P.C. and S. of 3 L/C is 43.40 N. 7.20 E. (based on a fix obtained within half an hour of 1300), 060° and 8 knots. (A/C HTT/D 171306 to 45U.) Position of 12 enemy Siebel Ferries, 1 transport, small vessel at 1353B is 43.15 N. 09.57 E. (A/C BSJ/D 171419B to 45U.) P.C. and S. of 9 L/C and 1 E/V is 43.00 N. 9.40 E. 270° and 12 knots. State of sea is slight. (A/C ASK/R 171540B to Air H.Q. Malta.) P.C. and S. 1 small vessel 43.33 N. 10.17 E. 120 5 knots. Weather report. (A/C ASK/R 171600B to Air H.Q. Malta.) Enemy previously reported are 9 landing barges and 1 E/V. Medium flak. (A/C ASK/R, 171620B to A.H.Q. Malta.) P.C. and S. of 1 enemy tanker of 3,000 tons, 1 enemy small vessel of 1,000 tons, 1 enemy war motor-boat is 36.45 N. 25.50 E. 110° and 6 knots. (A/C FBO/S, via Alexandria, 171600Z to 7 WM.) P.C. and S. 1 M/V 1,200 tons. 1 M/V 1,000 tons 36.39 N. 26.29 E. 1 M/V 500 tons. 1 M/V 300 tons 36.34 N. 26.26 E. (A/C HUA/E 172145Z to 7 WM.)

ILEX. Request you will detach ILEX as soon as you can spare her to Augusta to fuel thence Taranto if she can make it. She is then to join INGLEFIELD for Otranto Straits patrol.

2. C. in C. Med. 161507 (N.T. in W.D.) not to F.O.T.A. refers. Correction: after alteration Taranto add or direct to Taranto. (S.O. Force H, 170721B, S.O. Force "V" (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.T.A. INGLEFIELD.)

4.D.F. D.4 in QUILLIAM and QUAIL proceeding Augusta E.T.A.1300/17th Sept. and are at your disposal or as ordered by C. in C. Med. (S.O. Force H, 170723 to S.O. Force V. (R) C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Augusta, Capt. (D) 4th N.O.I.C. Malta, VALIANT.)

WARSPITE. P. C. and S. 039° 27', 015° 05' 160° 4½ WARSPITE reports slight increase in list otherwise no change. Routeing instructions? and low cover and codeword required. (R.A.V. 170800 to C. in C. Med. (R) QUEENSBOROUGH, N.O.I.C. Malta.)

/DELHI...

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

WARSPITE. DELHI detached off Stromboli at 1930 today to  
(Contd.) rejoin you. HOPI and MORENO will be detached  
at daybreak tomorrow to you.  
(S.O. Force V, 172335B, N.C.W.T.F. (R) WARSPITE.)  
As soon as WARSPITE has passed Messina request you will  
return to Bizerta with EURYALUS and SCYLLA.  
(C. in C. Med. 172341 to S.O. Force V.)  
WARSPITE off Messina speed 6 knots in tow of HOPI, MORENO,  
NIMBLE and ORIANA. After dark tonight SALVEDA and NARRAGANSETT  
joined and will relieve HOPI and MORENO at daybreak tomorrow who  
will return to "Avalanche".  
(R.A.V., 172345 to C. in C. Med. S.O. Force H., V.A. Malta.)

Eisenhower's visit to Salerno. Following received from Gen. Clark (begins):  
Delighted to learn of Gen. Eisenhower's visit  
tomorrow. Please arrange to have his Cruiser  
contact Adm. Hewitt's ship, the ANCON, as soon  
as he reaches Salerno Bay. My representative will  
be aboard ANCON starting 1200 17th and will  
guide Eisenhower's party to my H.Q. with arrangements similar to  
those for your arrival. (Ends.)  
Eisenhower leaves Palermo in CHARYBDIS at 0830B today.  
(C. in C. Med., 170815 to N.C.W.N.T.F., CHARYBDIS, (R) OFFA.)  
Left Salerno with Allied C. in C. 1900 for Bizerta by Route  
B. E.T.A. 0900/18th Sept. Acknowledge. C. in C. will proceed  
LARGS in (message incompletely received.)  
(CHARYBDIS, 172014B to N.O.I.C Bizerta, (R) C. in C. Med.  
A.F.H.Q. U.S. Cdr. N.O.B. Palermo, N.C.W.T.F., S.O. Force V.)

CROMARTY. Proceed with all despatch to Cotrone to arrive  
daylight.  
2. Routed through 036° 28' N. (?015°) 38' E.  
037° (?24) N. 016° 07' E. 038° 24' N. 016° 40' E.  
038° 54' 30" N. (?017°) 16' E. 039° 02' 06" N. 017° 15' E.  
039° 04' 12" N. 017° 09' 12" E. 039° 05' 36" N. 017° 08' 48" E.  
3. Report E.T.A. to N.O.I.C. Cotrone.  
(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 170830 to CROMARTY (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

NARRAGANSETT. Sail NARRAGANSETT at best speed by route S. of  
"Avon" 2 to Messina for further orders. C. in C.  
Med. 162351\*not to all refers codeword "Spirit"  
974 B keep constant watch 2150 kcs.  
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 170846B to F.O.Sy. (R) C. in C.  
Med. etc.) \* No trace in W.R.  
Lights from 2300. NARRAGANSETT should steer 340° from  
Cape Peloro.  
(S.O. Force "V", 171410 to F.O.Sy. (R) S.O. 15th C.S.)

Glider bomb. My 152324B\* para. 2 F - attacks continue  
(?establishing) marked preference for isolated  
units of this form of attack.  
(S.O. "N" 170851B to Admty. C. in C. Med.)\* Re  
evidence obtained on rocket glider bomb in  
"Avalanche" area.

/POOLE...

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- POOLE. When convoy has entered Malta proceed with all despatch to Cotrone to arrive daylight.  
(2) Routed through position  $037^{\circ} 28' N. 015^{\circ} 14' E.$   $037^{\circ} 45' N. 015^{\circ} 40' E.$   $037^{\circ} 51' N. 016^{\circ} 07' E.$   $038^{\circ} 24' N. 016^{\circ} (?40') E.$   $038^{\circ} 54' 30" N. 017^{\circ} 16' E.$  thence approaching from deep water through position  $039^{\circ} (?09')$   $06" N. 017^{\circ} 15' E.$   $039^{\circ} 04' 12" N. (?017^{\circ}) 09' 12" E. (?039^{\circ}) 05' 36" N. 017^{\circ} 08' 48" E.$   
(3) Report E.T.A. to N.O.I.C. Cotrone.  
(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 170855 to POOLE.)
- BROCKLESBY QUANTOCK. Request you will sail BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK (?to) arrive Philippeville p.m. 18th Sept.  
(C. in C. Med., 170911B to N.O.I.C. Augusta.)
- SOKOL. SOKOL Patrol report blank.  
(S.10, 170923 to C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, etc.)
- MAURITIUS, ORION. Intend sailing in MAURITIUS with ORION 1900 today 17th route R. ("Avon" 2) S. of A. 24 knots E.T.A. Malta 0800. Request Mersina light 0100 to 0215.  
(C.S. 15, 170929B to V.A. Malta, Cmdre. N.(R) C. in C. Med. etc.)
- Movements of Italian ships. 2 Italian destroyers ORIANI Class leaving Algiers 0400 18th speed 20 knots through  $040^{\circ} 51' 007^{\circ} 23'$  arriving Ajaccio about 2330 18th, leaving there before 0200 19th and returning by reverse route at best speed to Algiers. No to be attacked.  
(Capt. S.8., 170930B to 8th S/M F. PERLE, ARETHUSE (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)  
HOWE and KING GEORGE V with 6 destroyers 8th D.F. arrived Alexandria 0800 16th escorting Italian squadron of two battleships VITTORIO VENETO, ITALIA, 4 cruisers EUGENIO DI SAVOIA, RAIMONDO MONTECUCCOLI, LUIGI CADORNA, EMANUELE, DA RECCO, ARTIGLIERE, FILIBERTO, DUCA D'AOSTA and 4 destroyers GRECALE, VELITE. Italian Battleships and cruisers berthed in Mex Roads destroyers in El Kot. ITALIA drawing 34 feet 6 inches forward due to damage by rocket bomb sustained off Sardinia.  
(C. in C. Levant, 171211C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Mediterranean etc.)  
Following Italian Merchant Ships left in special convoy E.T.A. 1600 Sept. 21st (Details of ships cargo) All ships refuelled and watered for passage to Algiers only.  
(D.S.T.O. Malta, 171800B to D.S.T.O. Algiers, P.S.T.O. Med., (R) D. of S.T., C. in C. Med.)

/(Admiralty...

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements  
of Italian  
Ships.  
(Contd.)

(Admiralty pass to Algiers). Two Italian L/C Nos. MZ. 780 and MZ 800 arrived Barcelona 1645B/Sept. 15th. I instructed Consul same evening to order them out etc. but he has not been able to get near them and Italian Consul won't play.  
(N.A. Madrid, 172002 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

R.O. Port Mahon reports Italian L/C arrived. Admty. pass to C. in C. Med.

(N.A. Madrid, 172013B to Admty.)

17th September Departures Italian S/M SETTEMBRINI, BRAGADINO, VORTICE, ONICE, ZOEAL, SQUALO.

(Augusta, 172135B to Admty.)

Arrivals and Departures, 17th Sept. Arrived POOLE and SHIANZI escorting Italian submarines ZOEAL, SQUALO, ONICE, VORTICE, SETTEMBRINI, BRAGADINO. Departed ISIS, VISENDA escorting Italian M/V CONSTANTIC, GELIA, APUANA (APUANIA) MONTEBELLO, LUCRINO, RENUCCI, PELAGOSO,

(V.A. Malta, 172340 to Admty. etc.)

M.E. R.A.F.  
Report.

A.309 17th Sept. 43. Daily Opsum. 142  
16th Sept. 1 Baltimore (A30) anti-shipping R/C Aegean. 2 Caiques in bay on Gavdos Island straddled by bombs. Vessels also machine gunned. Damage unobserved. End Part 1.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 170943Z.)

Part 2 and final of A.309 17th Sept. 170943. Following delayed details. 15th Sept. 4 Beaufighters anti-shipping R/C Aegean. S/M seen on surface 50 miles west of Cyprus crash dived before aircraft arrived over area. No other sightings.

(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 170950Z.)

Position  
in  
Dodecanese.

MS. 18746 A.O.C. 244 17th Sept.  
Personal for C.A.S. (R) Tedder from Douglas.  
Further my A.O.C.236 14th Sept.

(3) At present our shipping including destroyers is moving freely between Castel Rosso, Cos, and Leros but no doubt this will become much more difficult when the enemy have repaired aerodromes in Rhodes and put air forces there. In the meanwhile we are rushing in fuel and equipment while the going is good. After that we should be able to keep maintenance going at a pinch with supplies from Turkey and by air transport.

(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 170958Z to Air Ministry (R) Air Command Post.)

UNSEEN,  
ULTOR,  
DZIK,  
UPROAR.

Onward routeing my 161400 refers. Tactic to cross latitude 042°. P.51 UNSEEN alongside 010° 15' about 0230 20th thence zone SR North of 043°. P.53 ULTOR alongside 010° 43' about 0430 20th thence zone SQ North of 043°. P.52 DZIK alongside 010° 27' about 1430 20th thence zone SQ South of 043°.

P.31 (UPROAR (?onward routeing) 011° 01' about 2130 20th thence

/zone...

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.UNSEEN,  
ULTOR,  
DZIK,  
UPROAR.  
(Contd.)

zone SR South of 043°  
Submarines may withdraw from zone if necessary as follows.  
P.51 (UNSEEN) into S.P. P.53 (ULTOR) into S.P. or to Westward of S.Q. P.52 (DZIK) and P.31 (UPROAR) to South of 042° 30'. Submerged bombing restrictions permanently in force East of 008° and North of 042°.  
(Capt. (S) 8th, 171004B to 8th S.M.F. (R) Capt. (S) 10th, C. in C. Med.)

Enemy  
hospital  
ships.

If enemy hospital ships encountered endeavour to place armed guard on board and order them to Bone routed well west of Corsica and Sardinia or or else to Palermo routed down centre Tyrrhenean Sea.  
(Capt. (S) 8, 171006B to 8th S/M Flot. (R) C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 10, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

KRAKOWIAK,  
ISIS.

Request you will sail KRAKOWIAK to relieve ISIS escorting VILLE D'ORAN expected to pass position 119\* at 2100 17th Sept. My 151225 (N.T. in W.R.) not to O.R.P. KRAKOWIAK refers.

(?) ISIS on relief proceed to Bizerta.

(3) KRAKOWIAK on arrival Philippeville return Bizerta by reverse route at 18 knots. E.T A. 1600 18th Sept. Codeword "Entity". (C. in C. Med., 171037 to N.O.I.C. Tunisia, (R) KRAKOWIAK, ISIS, N.O.I.C. Philippeville.)\* As received.

Sail as requisite to relieve ISIS in accordance with C. in C. Med.'s 171037. C. in C. Med.'s 151225B refers.

(N.O.I.C. Tunisia, 171457, O.R.P. KRAKOWIAK)

Delete WISHART from my 171559 (N.T. in W.R.) not to KRAKOWIAK. KRAKOWIAK is to join BATTLER, ISIS, OAKLEY in War Channel in 009° 10' at 1430 18th Sept. and proceed with them to Gibraltar. Amend Para. 3 of my 171037 accordingly.

(C. in C. Med., 172119 to KRAKOWIAK, F.O.'s I.C. and N.Os.I.C. N.A. (Oran to Tripoli) (neg. F.O. Sy.), S.N.O. Tripoli, BATTLER, F.O.I.C. Gib. N.O.I.C. Tunisia, ISIS, OAKLEY.)

FAULKNER,  
ECLIPSE,  
QUEEN OLGA.

FAULKNER, ECLIPSE and QUEEN OLGA on anti-shipping sweep in Aegean passing.

P.035° 00' 027° 54' at 1900 17th through Scarpanto Straits to Q. 036° 17' ½ 027° 17' thence to sweep probably towards Stampalia.

They return through (Q) to (R) 035° 00' 028° 54' thence to Haifa at unknown time C. in C. Levant pass to Cdre.(D) (Capt. (S) 1, 171038C to RORQUAL (R) C. in C. Levant, Cmdr.(D))

M.K.S.25  
U.G.S.16.

EREBUS, PENTSTEMON, VETCH, BERGAMOT and LOTUS sailing at 1100 18th by Q.B.B.123 (B) odd joiners for M.K.S.25 to R/V with Convoy in position 212 at 1600 18th.

2. On meeting PENSTEMON and VETCH detach ships

/for...

War Diary.

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- M.K.S.25 for Tripoli from Convoy and proceed with them to  
 U.G.S.16. R/V CONVULVULUS and ships ex. U.G.S.16 Convoy  
 (Contd.) for Tripoli in position 5 miles West of Bone at  
 1645 18th. My 171047 para. 3 refers. When  
 met proceed through position 202 to Tripoli.  
 E.T.A. boom 1500/19th, S. of A. 8 knots.
3. LOTUS, JUMNA and GAWLER detach ships for Malta and Sicily  
 from Convoy and escort them to Malta by Q.B.B.123 (B) 4.  
 EREBUS and BERGAMOT continue with M.K.S.25.
5. Codeword for para. 1 and 2 "Trial" 941 normal and for para.3  
 "Wilfred" 908 low.  
 (V.A.Malta, 171046B to PENSTEMON, etc.)
- LIDDESDALE, WHEATLAND and CONVULVULUS sail at 0930 18th with  
 joiners for U.G.S.16 ILQB B.123 (B) to R/V with convoy in  
 position 212 at 1500 18th.
2. On meeting LIDDESDALE, WHEATLAND and ALISMA detach ships for  
 Malta and Sicily and escort them to Malta by QBB 123 (B).
3. CONVULVULUS detach ships for Tripoli if any and proceed  
 to R/V PENSTEMON, VETCH and Tripoli bound ships ex M.K.S.25 in  
 position 5 miles West of 212 at 1645 18th then proceed Tripoli  
 as in para. 2 my 171046 (N.T.in W.D.)
4. Codeword for paras. 1 and 2 "Simmer" 224 Low.  
 (V.A. Malta, 171047 to LIDDESDALE etc.)

Zones S.Q. and S.R. have been well covered by own  
 S/M in recent months including all round Gorgona  
 Capraia Elba and Giglio. S/M have occasionally  
 crossed shallow patch north of Cape Corse.  
 Your best indication of absence of mines is by  
 observing movements of fishing craft which abound  
 and of patrol vessels and traffic along W. coast of Italy and  
 E. coast of Corsica. Enemy surface patrol activity should be  
 southward and westward. Attention is called to Q.B.15 despite  
 its vintage.  
 (Capt. (S) 8, 171202B to 8th S/M F. (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. (S)  
 10.)

PIORUN. Sail at 1700 17th to Augusta. S. of A. 24 knots  
 E.T.A. 2101 17th codeword "Wicked". urgency low.  
 (N.O.I.C. Malta, 171213 to PIORUN.)

Situation FAULKNER (D.8) ECLIPSE, QUEEN OLGA left  
 Report Alexandria 0800 17th to carry anti-shipping sweep  
 No. 54. between Rhodes and Stampalia passing through  
 Scarpanto Straits at 2130.  
 (2) HURWORTH (D.22) and CROOME arrived Leros  
 0800/17th with communications party, 300 troops  
 and stores from Haifa. Reported reception friendly and harbour  
 in full working order, due to leave dusk 17 for Alexandria.

/LA MOQUEUSE...



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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Situation Report No. 54. (Contd.) LA MOQUEUSE and COMMANDANT DOMINE unloaded cargo of fuel Kastelorizo night 16th/17th and returned Haifa. Aviation spirit, being transported, Kos by caique. M.Ls. escorting M.V. to Kos and 1 ? L.C.T. to Kastelorizo with stores. KOUNDOURIOTIS carrying personnel and stores from Haifa to Kastelorizo and returning. 2 M.Ls. with 2 R.A.F. Recovery launches and 2 seaplane tenders due Kastelorizo a.m. 16th from Paphos not yet arrived. 3. TRESPASSER from Aegean patrols reports 2330 3rd she attacked south bound escorted convoy of two M.Vs. off Cape Krio, missed, 0307 9th missed small north bound M/V escorted by 1 trawler 0605 10th attacked Sauro class destroyer approaching Rhodes, missed. 1700 11th observed 2 E Boats leaving leaving Rhodes under fire from shore. (C. in C. Levant, 171433C to Admt.)

Divisions for Palermo. Following is Combob Palermo's 170953 (N.T. in W.R.) to C.T.G.85.1. C.T.F.89 Macnacaf, N.A.T.A.F. N.O.I.C. Malta, C. in C. Med. C.W.N.T.F. my 170911\*add L.S.Ts. carrying 1st, 3rd divisions from Palermo. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 171438 to C.T.G.85.1)\*(N.T. in W.R.)

French Naval representative in U.S.A. B.A.D.'s 041607Z which is being repeated to you. Request you will obtain clarification from French Authorities of Admiral Fenard's position as Chief French Naval rep. in U.S.A. and particularly whether he has taken over functions formerly exercised by Capt. Gayral. 2. Admiral d'Argenlieu as C. in C. French Navy in G.B. is not responsible for former Free French vessels unless actually operating from U.K. (Hd. of M.II 171454A to C. in C. Med.(R) B.A.D.)

Convoy titles. Intend to allocate convoy short titles as follows: (1) Valetta - Tripoli (Libya) VT. (2) Valetta - Cyrencaica VC. (C. in C. Med. Fleet, 171510 to Admt.)

X.I.F.1. R.A. Alexandria is requested to sail X.I.F.1. A.M. Sept. 20th. 2. (A) 12. (B) 14. 3. 309, 1000 20th, 310 509, 1735 20th, 510 0600 21st, 337 3 miles North 344, 1625 21st through 347 033° 14' N. 020° 00' E. 0440 22nd then as ordered by C. in C. Med. 5. W.A. 6.High "Venus". 7. C. 8. HURWORTH, F.S. COMMANDANT DOMINE, BEAUFORT, HURSLEY, CROOME, PINDOS, ADRIAS. (C. in C. Levant, 171515C to Ships escorting Convoy X.I.F.1, Naval and Air Authorities Bone to Sousse, Ships escorting convoy G.U.S.16, F.O.T.A.etc.)

/X.I.F.1...

War Diary.17.9.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

X.I.F.1. (Contd.) X.I.F.1. Request you will sail for Taranto DERBYSHIRE, RUYS, TEGELBERG, ARUNDEL CASTLE, MONARCH OF BERMUDA, EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA. (C. in C. Levant, 171745C to N.O.I.C. Alexandria (R) Admty. etc.)

ALBA JULIA, FIRUZ. My 111707C. Further report B.4 destination of ALBA JULIA and FIRUZ will be Salonica. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 171519C to C. in C. Levant, S.O.(I) Levant, S.1, D.N.I.)

M.K.F.24. 2. 1545C/17 Sept. 3. Sailed together. 4. 5. 6. As in C. in C. Levant's 132355C and C. in C. Med.'s 141151 neither to all. (W.R. note: Amended by 181128) 13. (A) Cdre. Crabbe in STRATHMORE for U.K. (B) C.O. H.M.S. CARTHAGE. (N.O.I.C Port Said, 171537C to Admty.etc.)

TOSCANA bombed. S.O.S. NAVE OSP EDALE TOSCANA bombarded DATRO SCO NOSCIUTO 38° 00' N. 17° 13' E. (Malta, W/T T.O.R. 171544.)

ULTIMATUM. F.O.I.C Gibraltar's 162153 onward routeing through (?135°) Cape Palos 10 miles at 0430 20th 038° 32' 000° 36' at 1500 20th 039° 47' 001° 11' at 0115 21st, 042° 008° 004° 54' at 0430 22nd, thence diving by day through 042° 30' 005° 30' to patrol between 005° 00' and 006° 30' N. of 042° 30'

2. Do not patrol inside 100 fathom line unless absence of mines is indicated by movements of shipping.

3. Land targets in France are not to be attacked.

4. After 1000 20th set watch on Algiers broadcast shift to read M.S. routines.  
(Capt. (S) 8th, 171602B to P.34 (ULTIMATUM), (R) 8th S.F. C. in C. Med., F.O.I.C.Gibraltar, Commob, N.O.I.C. Algiers.)

OAKLEY. Detach OAKLEY to arrive Bizerta at 0800 Sept. 18th.  
(C. in C. Med., 171603 to ABERCROMBIE. (R) OAKLEY, N.O.I.C. Tunisia.)

N.A.A.F. Report. Part 4 and final. My A.V.627 E. 17th Sept. N.W.A.Strategic Air Force 16th Sept. 4 U.S. Mitchells (B.25) on shipping strike attacked 2 large landing barges with 5 escort vessels 8 miles northeast Giglio. 9 75 M.M. shells fired. Hit seen on 1 escort vessel which was left on fire. Explosion observed on another escort.  
(N.A.A.F. H.Q. 171643B.)

War Diary.

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

G.U.S.16. Request you will sail for (A) Malta (Destinations and names.)  
(C. in C. Levant, 171655C to N.O.I.C. Alexandria.  
(R) Admty. etc.)

GREER,  
SAKTOURIS. "Dunnock" E.T.A. position 212 1300/18th.  
Intend to detach U.S. Destroyer GREER and  
G.S. SAKTOURIS A.M. 176 to Malta to Fuel and  
rejoin.  
(HYACINTH 171735B to V.A. Malta (R) C. in C.  
Med., SHOREHAM.)

Petrol for  
Salerno. Action: Eisenhower, Information: Commavnav  
Commaveu (Pass to Usfor and Britfor.)  
Sailed in U.G.S.18 (details.)  
(A.N.P.B. via Usfor, 171804 to Usslo.)

U/B  
dispositions. U/Boats (German). 4. Disposition.  
2, established in lane of Salerno and off the  
coast to Southward of it,  
1 fixed 2300 16th in 040° N. 009° 50' E. which  
may indicate that passage Toulon-Tyrrhenean  
Sea is embracing North, (corrupt group) East of Corsica.  
Unconfirmed report of 1 off Marittimo 161145.  
(C. in C. Med. (A) 171826B to S. and A. in Area G. Med. (R)  
F.O.C. Gib.)

Oran  
arrivals. G.U.S.15 U.S.S. Salem KEOKUK, WEEHAWKEN, E.J.  
MCGUIRE, P. WISGATE, W. SEWARD and D. HKGER  
(As received.) arrived.  
(Commob Oran, 171916B to C. in C. Med. (R)  
Admty. etc.)

LE FORTUNE,  
VILLE  
D'AJACCIO. LE FORTUNE leaving Algiers 0001B 18th at 15  
knots through 041° 01' 005° 59' to meet and  
escort French Merchant Ship VILLE D'AJACCIO to  
Algiers. My 161130 (Instructions not to  
molest French Merchant ship.) refers.  
(Capt. (S) 8th S/F, 171938B to 8th S/F  
ARETHUSE (FS) PERLE (FS) (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers.  
C. in C. Med.)

Algiers  
movements. Arrivals - Hospital Ship ATLANTIS, LA SABLAISE  
(Fr.) JEANNE D'ARC (Fr) BASQUE (Fr) LE FORTUNE  
(Fr) FANTASQUE (Fr) TEMPETE (Fr) LYON (Fr)  
S/M LE CURIE (Fr.)  
Departures - (U.S.S.) L.C.T. 288 (U.S.S.) Y.T.  
207.  
(Com. Algeria, 172030B to Admty. C. in C. Med.,  
etc.)

/Oran...

**MOST SECRET**

THIS DOCUMENT IS UNCLASSIFIED  
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DATE IT TO PERSONS OUTSIDE OFFICE OR ALLIED  
 GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 171915C/September IN

From: C. in C. Levant.

Date: 18.9.43.  
 Recd. 0617

NAVAL CYPHER (XF) PLUG BY W/T Italian ships  
at Alexandria

Addressed: Personal, Admiralty, C. in C. Mod.

IMPORTANT.

Please see Cairo telegram 1734 of 13 September to Foreign Office. Italian ships are now berthed inside the Great and Bogha Passes but outside Alexandria Harbour proper. These berths are quite unsuitable for winter conditions and even now are sufficiently exposed to complicate considerably the problem of supply. The ships are crowded with men who appear to have expected to be allowed freely to visit their many friends in Egypt and to be supplied with a full peace time diet of fresh meat, fruit, vegetables and luxuries. At present they seem anxious to co-operate in disarmament measures imposed upon them, but regard these as merely temporary pending their further participation in the war (though probably on an even less active scale than hitherto on a new side). There is so far no intimation of any intention to sabotage their ships but I must point out that the strength of the Italian crews and the paucity of British officers and ratings on the Levant Station makes it quite impossible repeat impossible to take any anti-sabotage measures which could be effective in the event of organised sabotage sponsored by the officers similar to that of German Fleet at Scapa. I consider that if all these men remain cooped up on board their ships for very long we must expect growing discontent which will provide fertile soil in which malcontents (of which there must be several) will sow the seeds of serious trouble and I would therefore urge that very early decision should be taken regarding the disposal of both ships and crews. The great volume of Mercantile shipping which must use Alexandria during the forthcoming winter makes it impossible to berth the Italian ships inside the harbour and it is therefore essential that the battleships and cruisers should be removed from Alexandria preferably to the Canal area as soon as arrangements can be made for disposing of the major portion of their crews unless it is decided very shortly that they are going to fight on the Allied side.

171915C.

Advance Copy V.C.N.S.

Circulation Over/.....

1st Lord.

1st S.L. (2)

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

D.N.I. (4)

Duty Capt.

D.S.D.

D. of P. (Q) (3)

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

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

D of P (2)

HJ of M.I. (30) (and for  
W.C.O. & F.O.)

S.O.F. (V) (2)

Plot

War Diary.17.9.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Oran  
movements.Arrivals U.S.S. WEEHAWKEN, SALEM, KEOKUK.  
Departures U.S.S. WAINWRIGHT, RHIND, DALLAS,  
BERNADOU, COLLEEN, TRIPPE.  
(Comnob Oran, 172048B to Admty. etc.)Situation  
report  
No. 7  
Northern  
assault.  
area.p.m. 17th Sept. Anchorage under shell  
fire. Shifted  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile Rocket bomb and fighter  
bomber attacks. No hits. 2 (?) E.A.  
Destroyed by fighters. Operation otherwise  
proceeding normally.  
(Cdre. (N) 172105B to N.C.W.T.F. (R) C. in C.  
Med.)22D.F.  
Enemy  
Convoy.Am proceeding North and West of Stampalia Is.  
to  $036^{\circ} 24' N.$   $026^{\circ} 19' E.$  at 2330 to intercept  
enemy convoy. Then course - degrees 174 to  
keep clear Capt. (D) 8th. 23 knots.  
(Capt. (D) 22nd, 172120C to C. in C. Levant,  
Capt. (D) 8th.)VILLE  
D'ORAN.M.S.C.I 22. Sail VILLE D'ORAN at 2000B Sept.  
18th to Taranto. 2. A.18. 3. 124 - 79  
War Channel to  $036^{\circ} 59' 011^{\circ} 17'.$  278, 273, 276,  
 $038^{\circ} 58' 017^{\circ} 24' 040^{\circ} 15' 017^{\circ} 05' Q.B.B.$  218.  
4. E.T.A. Taranto 0900 Sept. 20th.  
6. ("Sable") High. 8. BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK.  
(C. in C. Med. 172209B to N.O.I.C. Philippeville.)Air C. in  
C. Med.  
Report.Part 3 Air Cositintrep No. 69 17th Sept.  
Signed Eisenhower. N.W.A.A.F. Day 16th Sept.  
Tactical Air Force. Fighters patrolled the  
beaches others claim a Ju. 88 destroyed off  
Lipari Islands whilst fighter bombers report 9  
Me.109s destroyed on the ground at Fresinone  
a/d. B.25s attacked 2 landing barges and 5 (? M.T.Bs.) south  
of Negiglio scoring hits on two of the (?M.T.Bs.)  
(Air C. in C. Med. No. T.O.O./17.)1st Special  
Service  
Force.To: Eisenhower, Freedom, Algiers.  
From: Combined Chiefs of Staff.  
Agreed by Combined Chiefs of Staff that First  
Special Service Force should be assigned to your  
Command without delay. As soon as necessary  
details can be arranged, this will be accomplished.  
(Agwar, 172307Z.)

H.T.2.

Arrived H.T.2, CEDARDALE, ALGORAB, ARGO,  
SVANHOLM, KROOMAN, TEMPLE YARD.  
(N.S.O. Trip, 172346B to A.I.G.259 (Neg. Connav.)

/Situation...

War Diary.

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation  
report  
No. 184.

(1) Supply of 5th Army through Salerno Bay beaches continues. Supply of 8th Army has commenced through Cotrone.

(2) Bombardment of targets in Salerno area was continued on 16th Sept. by U.S. Cruiser (?BOISE) and U.S. Cruiser PHILADELPHIA and Cruisers and destroyers of Med. Fleet also.

(3) The islands of Ischia surrendered to naval forces on 16th Sept. and are now being garrisoned by One Army Company.

(4) Coastal craft carried out sweep in Gulf of Gaeta during night 16/17th September. No incidents reported. (5) INGLEFIELD and 2 destroyers established patrol across Straits of Otranto during night 16/17 September to intercept any enemy shipping breaking out in Adriatic. Nothing was sighted. Otranto is open and being used as base for this patrol

(6) Hospital ship SOMERSETSHIRE was bombed off Salerno a.m. 17th Sept. no damage. Italian Hospital Ship TOSCANA attacked by German aircraft p.m 17th Sept. in 038° N. 017° 15' E.  
(C. in C. Med. 172356B to Admty.)

War Diary.

17.9.1943.

Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Enemy Intelligence ERITREA. Your 151151A September. There are indications of development of German repetition German submarine bases at Penang. Stock of 200 (?torpedoes), (electric type) technical staff and repair depot already established with German personnel. Base estimated to accommodate 6 submarines but capable of rapid expansion. One German U-Boat arrived Penang in July and proceeded to Japan with message from Stromboli to Emperor; another arrived and is due for docking at Singapore mid September. More submarines are expected. Policy appears to be for German U-Boats to operate west of long. 070° east and for Japanese (?to) east of 070° East. Areas of operation thought to be focal areas Aden and Persian Gulf for German and Bay Bengal for Japanese. German ships BOGATA at present at Singapore expected to be supply ship possibly also QUITO. Italian submarines GUILIANI and TORELLI were given depth charges while at Singapore for self destruction. CAPELBAYM was given order to scuttle or escape Sabang. These submarines were blockade runners and had been stripped of all offensive (?weapons) except M.Gs. ERITREA had been employed escorting Italian blockade runners from eighty miles west of Sabang to Singapore on the inward journey and vice versa on the outward. Italians state Japanese aircraft carrier did not take aircraft to Sabang during August. There is indication Sabang is being developed into important Naval and Air base. Japanese warned (?warships) while at Sabang that any aircraft sighted with more than two engines should be considered hostile. Italians state no mines or boom defence exist at Sabang. All Japanese ships are fitted with anti-magnetic belts. Italians also report most Japanese merchant ships are fitted with field gun or machine gun forward and wood dummy gun aft. (C. in C.E.F. 170307 to Admty. (R) F.O.Ceylon, F.L.O. Delhi, C. in C.Ceylon.)

HERMITAGE. E.T.A. Melbourne 1300 local 2nd Oct. Shifting W/T watch from Group V. to N.U. at 0001Z Sept. 20th. Group N.U. to V.H.C. (Radio Belconnen) at 0001Z Sept. 26th. E.S.O.A. 16½ knots. (N.O.I.C. Bombay 170401Z to C. in C.E.F. A.C.N.B. Melbourne, Opnav Washington, Admty.)

U-Boat Campaign, shipping Approach Routes. An increase in U-Boat warfare in Arabian Sea is anticipated. 2. It is intended that ultimately all shipping approaching focal points shall be brought into convoy, a proportion of southbound ocean sailings from focal area being dispersed from convoys at suitable points.

3. Until full convoy scheme is in operation it is intended to establish approach positions outside focal areas onward where independent shipping will be routed, air patrols being provided to cover the route between approach positions and ports.

(W.R.Note: No para. 4 indicated.)

5. After consideration increased air force which will be available to cover both convoys and independent shipping following approach positions are intended.



War Diary.17.9.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.U-Boat  
Campaign,  
Shipping  
Approach  
Routes.  
(Contd.)

6. Kilindini. Approach position No. 1 001° 24' S. 044° 05' E. 2. 004° 00' S. 044° 00' E. 3. 008° 20' S. 042° 10' E. thence swept channel. 7. Gulf of Aden (A) all independent routing through Guardafui Channel to cease (B) approach position No. 1 013° 00' N. 056° 00' E. 2. 015° 20' N. 056° 50' E. (C) new position X. to be inserted in G.A.N. 015° 45' N. 054° 00' E. (D) position G. of G.A.S. to be moved to new position 013° 00' N. 051° 00' E. (E) ships to proceed approach position to X. or H.

8. Gulf Oman. (A) Approach position number 1. 021° 30' N. 061° 30' E. 2. 024° 00' N. 062° 00' E. thence to join convoy route to Hormuz. (B). It will be necessary to promulgate northern convoy route along Makran coast. 9. Karachi. Approach position number 1. 022° 30' N. 065° 00' E. thence swept channel. 10. Bombay approach position number 1. 018° 20' N. 069° 00' E. 2. 016° 15' N. 069° 30' E. thence swept channel. 11. Authorities addressed are requested to confirm the suitability of above positions as soon as possible and state which position they recommend should be used initially.

(C. in C.E.F. 170415Z to F.O.E.Af. S.N.O.P.G. Cdre. i/c Aden, Cdre. R.I.N. (R) F.O.C.R.I.N. F.O.C.Red Sea, N.O.I.C. Karachi, N.O.I.C. Hormuz, 222 Group, H.Q.E.A. Admty.)  
See C. in C.E.F. 180946Z.

India Air  
Report.

A.284. 17 Sept. Daily Opsum No. 551. 16 Sept. 2 Beaufighters attacked over 30 Sampans Ramree area majority damaged. Kyaukpyu village machine gunned fires started. Four Hurricanes detailed offensive R/C waterways East of Kaladan River abandoned operations due weather. 14 Sept. Nine U.S.Mitchells (B.25) Bhamo area. Over 9 tons dropped. Near misses on river shipping. Hits on shore installations. Fires started. 14th. U.S.A.A.F. 14 Sept. 8 U.S. Liberators (B.24) Haiphong Harbour. Hits on dry dock 2 small vessels, buildings. 4 U.S.Lightnings (P.38) Kiuliang. 2 vessels damaged. 1 set on fire 1 sinking. 5 U.S. Kittyhawks (P.40) Nanchang storage dumps attacked. 1 A/C missing. 9 U.S.Mitchells (B.25) escort 11 U.S.Kittyhawks (P.40) Kowloon Docks. Results unreported. 15 Sept. Six U.S.Mitchells (B.25) escort 14 U.S.Kittyhawks (P.40) Wuchang. Damage to buildings vicinity cotton mills. 5 U.S.Liberators (B.24) Haiphong. Attacked cement plant, results unobserved. (A.H.Q.India, 170636Z.)

Forces for  
Trade  
Protection.

Request ROCKROSE and JASMINE be sailed from Durban to Kilindini (?in accordance with) your 151623 Sept. para. 4 refers. 2. It is intended that these 2 corvettes strengthen escort of Aden ships in D.K.1 from Kilindini to Aden, remaining at Aden for escort duty. 3. Request ships in D.K.1 other than Kilindini and Aden ships be dispersed to destinations on reaching 010° S. 4. F.O.East Africa is requested to sail the Aden ships as convenient from Kilindini escorted by ROCKROSE and JASMINE.  
(C. in C.E.F. 170812Z to C. in C.S.A. (R) F.O.East Africa, etc.)

War Diary.

17.9.1943.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

VIRGINIA. Request you will sail VIRGINIA independently to Kilindini as soon as convenient after her arrival at Durban. Your 161225\* Sept. refers.  
2. VIRGINIA will remain at Kilindini for escort duties for the present.  
(C. in C.C.E.F. 170815Z to C. in C.S.A. (R) F.O.E.A. Comin Durban, Admty.) \* VIRGINIA expected to reach Durban 18th Sept.p.m.

Departures Karachi. Departure BARJORA 0630Z/17th Sept.  
Karachi. JIWANI 18th.  
(Karachi 170829Z to Admty. B.B.)

Convoy Sailing telegram part 2. 15. APPLELEAF oil  
?X.C.6. Colombo. 11. MAHARAJA troops Colombo.  
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 170843Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F. F.O.Ceylon.)  
Departure 1200Z/17th Sept. KHYBER escorting convoy X.C.6.  
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 171227Z to N.O.I.C. E.Africa, F.O.Ceylon, S.O.I. Aden, S.O.I. Bombay.)

U-Boat Japanese: 1 by attack on U.S. LYMAN STEWART 350  
disposition miles S.W. Colombo 7th Sept.  
No. 28. 1 more possibly attacked above vessel in 007° N. 073° E. 9th Sept. 1 sighted near 008° N. 066° 30' E. 14th Sept.  
The above incident probably refers to 1 U/B only.  
German one by poor D/F fire about 300 miles south of Mauritius, possibly northbound, 13th Sept. Up to 5 others unfired, probably still in South Western Indian Ocean.  
2. The following Y messages are cancelled: Y 309 of 2nd July, Y 315 of 9th July Y 322 of 16th July.  
(C. in C.E.F. 170937 to E.F. 366 Y, (R) Admty. etc.)

BRAZIL. U.S.Transport BRAZIL sailed 17th Sept. for U.S.A. via Sydney with following for Australia.  
(D.S.T.O. Bombay 171017Z to A.C.N.B. (R) D.S.T. P.S.T.O.I. New Delhi, 171021Z to C. in C.E.F.)

Chittagong Troopers signal No. 7384/2 dated Sept. 8th to  
Moorings. Arminia (N.T. in W.R.)  
2. In view of heavy movements of troops into Eastern Bengal, Chittagong has been called upon to accommodate a large increase in shipping, necessitating the use of extra berths.  
3. Immediate requirements have been met by transfer of river moorings from Calcutta and buoys earmarked for emergency searched channel at that port.  
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 171025Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F.)

MATIANA. MATIANA sailing 17 due Bombay 23 embarked personnel.  
(S.S.T.O. Ceylon 171047 to D.S.T.O.Bombay, (R) P.S.T.O.India, etc.)

/Transports...

War Diary.

17.9.1943.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Transports  
for  
Chittagong.

Transports 1 ETHIOPIA, 2 ELLENGA 3 ITARA 4  
RISALDAR sailed 17th with following for Chittagong.  
(S.T.O. Vizagapatam 171050Z to S.T.O. Chittagong,  
P.S.T.O. India, (Bombay), etc.)

M.A.5.

Sailing teletram, part 2 (4 ships).  
(N.C.S.O. Vizagapatam 171229Z to Admty.)  
Departure (?LAUNCESTON) and ROHILKHAND escorting  
convoy M.A.5 keeping continuous watch on 500 k/cs  
and N.U. and operating on 3000 k/cs when within  
4 hours steaming of Vizagapatam and Chittagong.  
(N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam 171239Z to N.O.I.C.  
Chittagong, Admty. C. in C.E.F. etc.)

War Diary.17.9.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

U.G.S. Convoys. 1. Linking of 10 day U.G.S. cycle with 20 day K.M.S/O.G. and K.M.S./O.S. cycles ensures regular feeding of Mediterranean convoys every five days and makes most economical use of escorts throughout

2. Shortened cycles to fit an 8 day U.G.S. would further split up Mediterranean escort groups and require an additional group for both the O.G. and O.S. run. A.M. 091613 and C. in C. Med's 102107 refer.

3. Mediterranean escort position is not helped by Cominch's inability to send U.G.S. escorts to Gibraltar. Your 082311 refers

4. Though it is understood that shorter U.G.S. cycle is not now imminent vide A.M. 121955, request you will amplify my 162304A Cominch to defer this decision as long as possible. (D.T.D. Approved A.C.N.S. (U.T.) 170005A to B.A.D. (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Med. (A)).

M.L. 054 Your 151901 and 161403 (N.T. in W.D.) M.L. 054 was in approx. 051° 23' N., 056° 44' W. at 0530Z on Sept. 14th A/S search on east and west courses. Moonlight, good visibility. (PRESERVER, 170110Z to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C. C.N.A. N.S.H.Q.)

S.C.142 S.C.142 not met. P.C. and S. S.S.C. 142 at 170200Z 045° 19' 058° 56' 071° 6 knots. Weather. (THUNDER 170212Z to C. in C. C.N.A., N.O.I.C. Sydney C.B., (R) N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F. W.1).

(1) Group B.7 DUNCAN H.F/D.F., S.O. VIDETTE, LOOSESTRIFE, SUNFLOWER, PINK will relieve in Westomp 046° 33' N., 048° 25' W. at 1500Z Sept. 19th.

(2) W. S.C. section one ship - escorted by NORTHERN PRIDE (S.O.) COLDSTREAMER with tug GRIPER also join in Westomp.

(3) "Chop" 1500Z Sept. 20th. (F.O.N.F., 171339Z to S.E.C., S.C.142 (R) C. in C. C.N.A., C. in C. W.A., Admty. Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet C. and R. N.S.H.Q., Cmdre. (D) W.A., S.O.B. 7 in DUNCAN, Capt. D. Argentina).

Escort Carriers. Prospective dates of completion. (B.A.D., 170323Z to Admty).

WELLES, TRUMPETER, SLINGER. BATGA escorted by U.S.S. WELLES to 32.41 20.01 thence WELLES proceeds through 32.33 19.08 to San Diego. TRUMPETER and SLINGER departed Port Angeles 170100Z for Balboa through following positions (list). E.T.A. Balboa 29th. (Washington 170329 to Admty).

T.G.21.14 U.G.S.19. We are sending Cinclant 162236 addressed U.S.S. CARD and (R) Admty. Comnavu, Comdeslantflt. Cominch, Commorseafron, Comdesron 19 and C.T.F.28. Starts. Attention my 102109 of July. Task Group 21.14 Captain Iswell in CARD, BARRY, BORIE, GOFF hereby constituted. In co-operation with C.T.F.64 support T.F. 64 escorting convoy U.G.S.19 sailing Hampton Roads Sept. 25th. (Note: You have Cinclant's 102109 of July as our 291234 August) (Comnavu, 170606Z to Admty).

/T.F.64...

# MOST SECRET

Warning: This message must first be paraphrased if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Services.  
MOST SECRET MESSAGE 170323Z September 43

Date 17. 9. 43.  
Recd. 1010

From B.A.D. Washington

Naval Cypher (XD) by cable

*Great Carriers*

Addressed Admiralty.

*Completion Dates.*

Your 221946 December.

If my 141841 is concurred in completed dates will be as follows -

(A) CVE Number.	(B) Completion Date U.S. Yard.	(C) Completion Modification Vancouver.
35	Complete	7th October
33	Complete	24th October
36	Complete	22nd November
41	Complete	2nd December
43	27th September	2nd December
40	20th October	14th December
42	3rd November	31st December
48	8th November	14th January
49	22nd November	31st January
51	20th December	14th February
52	3rd January	29th February
45	28th December	14th March
47	1st January	31st March
54	31st January	14th April
38	Complete	31st April
44	11th October	14th May
46	25th October	31st May
50	6th December	14th June
53	17th January	30th June

<u>CVE Number</u>	<u>Estimated sailing date - East Coast</u>
32 37 39	Late October
35	Early December
33	Late December

170323Z

- D. of D.
- D.N.C.
- A.C.N.S. (W)
- E.A.P.
- D.C.N.A.E.
- Secy.
- F.A.S. (S)
- N.A. 2nd S.L. (A)
- D. of P. (Q) (3)
- D.T.D. (4)
- U.W.R.
- Capt. Pim
- D.T.S.D.
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- D.O.D. (H) (4)
- D.C. (2)
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- E. in C. + Most Secret
- Hd. of M. (2)
- D. of P. (2)
- Ad. Usborne
- D.A.M.R.
- Plot
- D.N.A.O.
- D.A.U.D.
- D.A.W.T.
- D.A.E.
- Hd. of M.A.S.
- D.A.C.R.
- Hd. of Air
- Ad. Blake (2)
- D. of S.T. (6)
- N.A. 2nd S.L.
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- Dep. Centr.
- D. of D.
- D.N.C.
- E. in C.
- P.Br.
- Hd. of S.W.R.

MW

581

17.9.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

T.F.64,  
U.G.S.19. Following is Cinclant 162238 addressed to Comdesron 19 and C.T.F.29 (R) Comeastseafon, C.T.F.23, Comairlant, Com. 5., U.S.S. CARD, C.T.G. 23.9, Comnavnaw, C. in C. Med. Admty. T.F.64, Comdesron 19, Cdr. Conner in STEVENSON hereby constituted as follows: Desdiv 37, SPENCER, Cortdiv 3, less BLAIR BROUGH, Cortdivcom in JACOB JONES KENNEBEC. Escort Convoy U.G.S. 19 which is expected to sail Hampton Roads Sept. 25 to Ports in North Africa. When directed by Commorseafon return Hampton Roads escorting G.U.S.18. Expected MERAK and French Naval Tanker ELORN will sail in convoy. Comservfor direct KENNEBEC report to you at Hampton Roads. (Comnavneu 170646 to Admty).

U.S.A.T. Balboa 17th Sept. U.S.A.T. KING. (R.O. Cristobal, 170951 to Admty). Army transports ANTIGUA (U.S.) and MORMACTERN (U.S.) arrived San Francisco Sept. 14th. (N.S.H.Q., 171015Z to Admty. (R) C.O.P.C.)

U/B estimated Cominch, 171225Z to Admty. etc. positions.

Iceland (C). Following from Chiefs of Staff C.O.S (W) 815. J.S.M. 1172. Concur with views of U.S. Chiefs of Staff which conform to Joint Plan already made by U.S. and British authorities concerned in Iceland.  
(2) A copy of this plan signed by Commanding General, A.C.I.C., A.O.C., R.A.F. Forces and Commandant U.S. N.O.B. Iceland (C), was forwarded to Admty. on 1st August 1942. (Air Min. 171230Z to Britman Washington).

U.S.A.T. Departures 170600 (U.S.A.T.) COLONEL FRANKS LEISENRING San Juan 20th Sept. (B.R.O. Kingston Jamaica., 171350 to U.S. C.C.S.F., (R) U.S. N.O.B. Guantanamo).

B.Y.M..S At 1100Z/17th sailed B.Y.M.S. 34 (S.O.) 39, 54, 78 in company to St. Johns N.F. routed:  
(B) 44.08 N., 62.55 W. (C) 45.25 N., 60.00 W.  
(D) 45.50 N., 57.00 W. (E) 46.12 N., 52.36 W.  
(F) 47.30 N., 52.17 W. Q.J.A. 204 speed ten knots.  
E.T.A. 2000Z/19th W/T A.F.O. S1/43 section W.A. table 2. (C).  
(2) Request you sail ships in company to Londonderry. Cominch 242100Z/8th not to all refers.  
(C. in C. C.N.A., 171430Z to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q. Admty. Cominch, B.A.D.)

U/B 1200Z/17th Sept. possibly one in Canadian coastal  
Estimated waters.  
positions. (N.S.H.Q., 171436).

/U/Bs...

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

U/Bs 1200Z/18th Sept. No good evidence of any U-boats in Canadian area.  
(N.S.H.Q., 171441Z ?181441Z intended)

French Admty. 171454 to C. in C. Med. refers.  
Naval  
report.  
U.S.A.

F.T.22 Your (Requesting whereabouts of H.M.F.T.No. 22) 162351. F.T.22 sailed in convoy T.J.8 13th Sept. E.T.A. Recife 1630Z/27th.  
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 171602Q to Admty).

H.X.254, This is Port Director N.Y. 161606 addressed Com. 10th Flt. C. and R. (R) Comeastseafron "Ref. H.X.255. Admty's 141608 re-addressed by Com. 10th Flt. C. and R. 151316. Ships for Bristol Channel and Ports to southward in convoys H.X. 254 and 255 were not routed by this office to Belfast. Commodore's destination sheets gave destinations as directed by dispatches from Admty. Standard and Straggler route instructions were issued in accordance with amendment 117 para. 4, section 3 of Mari".  
(Com. 10th Flt. C. and R. 171608Z to (?B.A.D.) (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A.)

Halifax, The point of arrival at Halifax is established as the position of Halifax number 6 light vessel or the outer end of any existing swept channel. E.T.A. reports. All (group missed) E.T.A's are to be made with reference to this point and are to be stated as such.

(2) If possible E.T.A's are to be made at least 12 hours before arrival. B.A.D. pass P/L to Cominch.  
(C. in C. C.N.A., 171640Z to all ships etc).

Landing Ref. para. 12 of C.C.S.329/2, it is not considered  
Craft. that present rate of production of present types of British Landing Craft need be maintained after April, 1944 for British use.  
2. Before consideration is given to making considerable alteration in types of British Landing Craft and using any surplus capacity either (a) for other construction altogether or (b) for the production of new types of Landing Craft and of types now built in U.S.A. only, request you will approach the Americans and ask with reference to above quoted para. of C.C.S.329/2 whether they will require any of the following types on reverse Lend-Lease Basis: L.C.T.3 or 4, L.C.G. (M) and L.C.A.  
3. In considering L.C.Ts.any requirements for L.C.T.(R)s or L.C.G. (L)s should be taken into account.  
4. An early reply is requested owing to necessity of making a decision this month.  
(D. of P., approved Vice Controller, 171650A to B.A.D.)

War Diary.17.9.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

H.X. 257

Additions and deletions.  
(B.R.L.O. New York, 171715Z to Admty).Warship  
Construction  
in U.S.A.Lorsa 12553. Salors 7189 (A.T.I.P.), 7283  
(042047 May), 7274 (041329 May), and Lorsa 12490.  
After 4½ months consideration of our request for  
follow-on programmes Navy Department have stated  
that no further contracts can be undertaken.

Reasons given are:

- (A) Shortage of steel, which will probably continue until the end of this year.
- (B) Shortage of valves, electrical machinery and equipment, wiring and piping.
- (C) Additional Naval construction would interfere with planned U.S. construction programmes.
- (D) Inability of the Admiralty to man vessels already assigned to them.

2. With reference to (D) letter states that Admty. has recently been unable to furnish crews for a number of their own landing craft. Suggest statement presumably refers to a proposal to man 4 L.S.T. with Greek crews, in which case it seems irrational to hang a complete follow-on programme of several classes of ships on a particular case of 4 L.S.T.s.

3. Consider this statement should be uncompromisingly denied, as otherwise it may prejudice the assignment to U.K. of ships, particularly escort vessels, on the present programme.

(B.A.D., 171811Z to Admty).

VICTORIOUS,  
escorts.My 171620 (N.T. in W.D.) add VICTORIOUS, CALDER,  
FINDHORN 040° 02' 066° 58' 060° 15 altering to  
049° in 059° 00' W.  
(C. in C. C.N.A., 171829Z to Situation report  
section south west).

CLYDE

Direct (U.S.) Cdr. Subs. Atlantic sail CLYDE  
New London to Portsmouth England when ready about  
22nd Sept. advising all addressees T.O.D., route,  
S. of A.(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 171911Z to C. in C. U.S.  
Atlantic Fleet (R) Cdr. Eastern Sea Frontier,  
C. in C. C.N.A. etc).

O.T.9.

Sailing telegram Part 1. (8 ships).

2. 172200Z. 3. Passing position (J) 191400Z S.  
of A. 13.5 knots. 4. "Chop" at 26.58 N. 25.50 W.  
260300Z. "Chop" 10° W. 290100Z.6. Task Group 21.4, U.S. LEARY, SCHENK, BABBITT, FECHTELER.  
15. W/T call AU. 16.(C.A.F.A.C., 171940 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) C. in C. U.S. Atlantic  
Fleet, Cdr. U.S. 10th Fleet C. and R. Admty. V.A. Gibraltar etc).Sailing telegram part 2. 1. All ships U.S. flag. All  
destinations Gibraltar or North Africa. All ships have deck  
cargo planes except TICONDEROGA.

(C.A.F.A.C., 172010 to Admty).



War Diary.

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

ROYAL  
SOVEREIGN.

Has returned to Philadelphia with turbine bearing defects. Anticipate delay of about 10 days from today. Ship proceeds to Chesapeake on completion for working up period about 10 days.  
(B.A.M.R. Washington, 172134Z to Admty. (R) N.S. H.Q., S.B.N.O. W.A., ROYAL SOVEREIGN).

S/M attack  
and Sighting  
Summary.

Admty. pass to Comnavu, H.Q.C.C. - Para. A.  
SS. SCHENECTADY sights sub. 2536 N., 65.17 W.  
171807Z. U.S. destroyer and Catalina attacked Sub.  
area 1130 S.163° 35' E. p.m./15th. Depth Charged  
to surface driven under by 5 x 5" hits on C/T.  
Large amount of debris and oil followed underwater  
explosion. Claimed probably sunk.  
(Cominch, 172155Z to Admty. etc).

FOLEY

Sailing (?) FOLEY Boston to Bermuda direct when  
ready about 23 Sept. Advise time of departure,  
route, S. of A.  
(Cominch, 172157 to Admty).

MATSONIA

Auckland 16th MATSONIA San Francisco 29th Sept.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 172157Z to Admty. etc).

DUFF,  
DACRES.

DUFF (B.D.E.64) and DACRES (B.D.E.268) depart  
at a speed of 15 knots. BOSTORGAUE in company  
at 0945 Q 18 Sept. holding Q.J.C.153 and Q.J.B.9.  
DUFF is senior vessel. En route Bermuda via  
following positions (list). E.T.A. position M.  
1400Q/20 Sept. C.E.S.F. pass to B.N.L.O. New York.  
(C.T.G.02.1, 172203 to N.O.B. Bermuda, (R) C. in C.  
Lant, Cominch, Admty. etc).

U.S.A.T.

Balboa 17th Sept. 2000 hours U.S.A.T. FRED C.  
JOHNSON Galapagos Salinas and return Balboa 20th  
Sept. coastal.  
(U.S.R.O. Cristobal, 172340 to Admty).

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements.

Arrivals 16th Sept. Milne Bay U.S. transport  
SWARTENHONDT, 17th Brisbane U.S. transport ANHUI.  
U.S. transport VAN HEUTSZ departed Townsville  
16th due Port Moresby 19th.  
(Comsouwestpacseafon, 171227Z to Admty).

/Movements...

War Diary.

17.9.1943.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements  
(contd).

Arrived Townsville 15th U.S. destroyer NICHOLAS,  
Brisbane 15th U.S. destroyer BALLARD.  
Departed Townsville 16th U.S. Destroyer NICHOLAS  
for Brisbane.  
(N.B. Melbourne, 171244Z to Admty. etc).

Digest  
Serial  
No. 605 Sept.  
16th.

Paras. 11 to 15, cover south Pacific Forces. Early  
hours 16th Navy Catalina reported one Merchantman  
six Barges 55 miles East by South Cape Saint  
George on south easterly course.  
(2) Early afternoon Fortress reported 2 small  
Merchant men 1 barge covered by 2 Float Planes 37  
miles West by North Buka passage on course 150°  
1 Merchant man and barge attacked without visible result.  
(3) Beaufort attacked 2 Luggers off Cape Saint George forenoon  
while Navy Catalina reported 2 small vessels this area same night  
heading south east.  
(4) Early forenoon Liberator reported Convoy 3 destroyers, 5  
medium freighters 60 miles to north Mussau Island on Southerly  
course and claimed 2 near misses. Same aircraft again sighted  
this convoy further south 3 hours later but only 7 vessels  
observed in limited visibility.  
Lae reported occupied by our ground troops shortly after noon.  
(9) Liberator reported large transport with escort Gulf of Bone  
(Celebes) on Westerly course evening 15th and 3 merchant men  
Macassar Harbour.  
(15) Our P.T. boats destroyed 3 enemy barges North Coast Vella  
Lavella and 2 off North west coast Sept. 15th in addition to  
straffing buildings ashore. During night 14/15 4 barges  
reinforced Japanese positions on Island north east Arundel;  
there an enemy attack on our positions was repulsed with 33 enemy  
dead.  
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 171715Z).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated  
positions.

No new reliable reports during past 24 hours.  
(D.D.I.C., 171250A, 171255A).

Submarines Attacked.

Submarine  
attack and  
sighting  
summary.

24 hours to 0900Z/17th Sept.  
Para. A. Liberator J/311 sighted U-boat on surface  
at 0956/16th Sept. in 48° 33' N. 11° 42' W. course  
140° 5 knots. A/C sighted U-boat at 1025/16th  
Sept. in 37° 55' N., 11° 45' E.  
Para. D. Sabina A/C sighted possible U-boat at 0705  
16th Sept. in 04° 40' N., 05° 25' E. Searching  
A/C later sighted can Buoy with staff at 0715/16  
in 03° 55' N. 06° 10' E.  
(D.D.I.C., 170946Z to Cominch).

18.9.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Impending  
U/B  
offensive.

1. In view of the indications of renewed U-Boat activity in the North Atlantic C. in C. W.A. considers it important to prevent the enemy from achieving any big initial success to bolster up his morale. He is therefore asking for all available support groups to be replaced at his disposal. He proposes to use the 5th and 2nd Escort Groups, BITER and TRACKER in the North Atlantic, in addition to the 9th Escort Group as soon as they are ready to operate.

H.X.256.

It is reported that Convoy H.X.257 was attacked by U-Boat about 1740 today in 54.01 N. 29.23 W. (about 660 miles west of Blacksod Bay, Ireland) and SS. WILLIAM PEPPERELL was reported to have been torpedoed. The ship had Mark 29 gear and her hull was not damaged, though 4 shaft bearings were damaged. She remained with the convoy. E.G.9 was directed to support H.X.256. After two further explosions at 1650/20 S.O. Group C.5 reported that he considered the explosions were due to defective Mark 29 gear. WILLIAM PEPPERELL was proceeding at 8½ knots with rescue tug ALLEGIANCE standing by.

Bay  
patrol:  
Force U.

3. ULSTER and GRENVILLE sailed from Plymouth this afternoon for Bay patrol. With CRANE they constitute Force U.

DESPATCH.

4. DESPATCH arrived at Plymouth this morning from the Eastern Fleet. She is to sail for Portsmouth tomorrow where the ship is to be reduced to care and maintenance.

South Atlantic.

5. NEWCASTLE left Simonstown at 1504B for Kilindini after repairs.

6. The French cruiser SUFFREN left Dakar at 0812Z for patrol S.S.W. of Verde Islands.

18.9.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Corsica &  
Sardinia.

7. It is reported that the Germans have almost completed the evacuation of Sardinia to Corsica after attacks by two Italian divisions. (Note: The first report in W.D., that the evacuation of Sardinia by the Germans was complete, is a summary of events by A.F.H.Q. Algiers, dated 23rd September.)

In Corsica, patriots and Italians have made local gains in the south. The Germans hold a narrow strip along the east coast where fighting continues.

Brig.-Gen. Roosevelt was landed this morning by M.G.B. at Cagliari and had a friendly reception. The town is held by the Italians.

Salerno &  
Naples.

8. The Flag of C.T.F.86 was transferred to BOISE today.

The aqueduct by which Naples is supplied with water is reported to have been cut by bombing and the water situation is bad.

U.S. M.T.Bs. carried out a sweep in the northern part of the Tyrrhenian Sea last night. No incidents are reported.

Aegean &  
Dodecanese.

9. FAULKNER, ECLIPSE and QUEEN OLGA carried out a shipping sweep in the Aegean last night. Two merchant vessels were sunk close inshore north of Stampalia at 0100 today, and an escort vessel was sunk, the crew being taken prisoners by the Italians. The convoy was located by aircraft at 0715/17, and is believed to have been bound for Rhodes.

A Wellington A/C machine-gunned one merchant vessel of 500 tons in Porto Maltesana, Stampalia. A raiding party despatched to Stampalia last night by caique made a successful attack.

Cotrone.

10. SS. MARGA was damaged by a mine outside the harbour at 0900 today.

Otranto  
Straits.

11. Three destroyers maintained a patrol in the Straits of Otranto last night without sighting anything.

TEMPLAR.

12. S/M TEMPLAR left Aden today to join the Eastern Fleet.

War Diary.

18.9.1943.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

13. Allied aircraft made widespread sorties in the S.W. Pacific area today and sank or heavily damaged 2 freighters, 3 coasters and a number of barges.

War Diary.

18.9.1943.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

- A.F.D.16 Request A.F.D.16 may be retained at Invergordon for use of Force S craft.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 180955A).
- JASON,  
BRITOMART Soviet Navy staff wish to know whether Admty. would consider an offer to purchase M/S JASON and BRITOMART and say that these ships are now fulfilling duties for Soviet Navy which has surplus personnel but lacks ships.  
(2) Will S.B.N.O. North Russia please remark.  
(Admiral Miles, 181220C to Admty).
- Reports  
by A/Cs. My NOWA 3140/0693/4 of 13th Sept. 1943 para. 2 sub-para. (K). After further discussion and perusal of analysis of result in the Bay it is considered that one hours' delay in initiating Homing is not acceptable. It is recommended that Homing on M/F should be commenced automatically by the sighting A/C as soon as possible. It is still considered desirable that a position should be given in initial sighting report.  
(C. in C. W.A., 181242A).
- VOUL'ACH. French motor fishing vessel A.R. VOUL'ACH registered number D.3206 arrived Newlyn with 18 personnel on board from Douarnenez Brittany. Vessel in care of R.N.O. Penzance. Personnel in hands of Security patrol.  
(R.N.O. Penzance, 181530A to Admty).

Movements.

- DESPATCH Arrived 1142/18.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 181221A).
- ENGADINE A.M. 101420 para. 2. After arrival in the Clyde, ENGADINE is to give maximum leave and be ready to sail in O.N. 206 on 11th October for U.S.A.  
2. C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail ENGADINE in this convoy.  
3. B.A.D. is requested to arrange for aircraft to be loaded and ENGADINE sailed for U.K. in convoy as soon as possible.  
4. It is intended to grant balance of foreign service leave on return to U.K.  
(D.O.D. (H), 181615A).
- EREBUS EREBUS is being sailed to U.K. in M.K.S.25. Destination is Plymouth where 15 inch guns will be changed.  
(D.O.D. F., 182240A to C. in C. Plymouth).

18.9.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation S.F. My 172328\* for 1201/18th read 0959/18th.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 180908A to OBEDIENT, SARDONYX).  
\*Orders for H.M.S. OBEDIENT, return Skaale Fjord.  
Take OBEDIENT, SARDONYX, MAHRATTA, under your  
command and proceed with moderate despatch to  
establish patrol by 1600/19th.

1. Group B. 2. 062° 27' N., 013° 40' W. 3. 225° - 60 - 60.
4. Apricot.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 181535A to SHIKARI, (R) H.F., Admty. C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C., A.C.O.S., F.O.(S), N.O.I.C. Faeroes).

Bay Patrol. My 161412A. SHEFFIELD arrived 1015/18.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 181027A).  
When TRACKER and BITER are ready for service  
request you will operate them with Escort Groups  
against U-boats to the Westward of the Bay.

2. Under present conditions the following areas are recommended:-  
(A) When two Carrier Groups are available:- (i) 48° N., 23° W.  
45° N., 19° W. (ii) 45° N., 19° W. 42° N., 23° W.  
(B) When one Carrier Group is available:- 48° N., 23° W.  
44° N., 19° W.  
(A.C.N.S. (H), 181255A to C. in C. W.A., (R) C. in C. Plymouth,  
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, H.Q.C.C., C. in C. H.F., F.O.C.T.)  
Am leaving patrol now. My P.C.S. 190700A 048° 41' N.,  
011° 34' W. 073° 11 knots. E.T.A. point of arrival 200730A.  
(S.O.E.G.2, 182030A).  
My 171801A\*sailed ULSTER and GRENVILLE.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 181810A to Admty. CRANE, S.O.E.G.P.2nd  
(R) C. in C. W.A., F.O.S., H.Q.C.C., N.O.I.C. Falmouth,  
KITE, CYGNET). \*Re ULSTER to take GRENVILLE under his orders  
and carry out anti U-boat patrol

Coastal Patrols. 1. Orders for night 18/19th Sept.  
A. LA COMBATTANTE, STEVENSTONE anti E-boat patrol  
on 50° 25' N., between 00° 25' W. and 01° 00' W.  
from 2130A to 0500A.  
B. Chasseurs 12 and 11 to patrol Q.Z.S.384 between  
F and E.A.5 buoys.  
C. M.Ls. 344, 1276 immediate notice at St. Helens.  
D. M.Ls. 208, 1222, 233 short notice at Portland.  
E. M.G.Bs. 317, 326 pass Needles at 1830A and patrol on 50°  
20' N., between 01° 31' W., and 02° 21' W. Leave patrol line  
from position 50° 20' N., 02° 10' W. so as to anchor 285° St.  
Albans Head 3.75 miles at 0615A.

2. Re lights.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 181344A).  
Patrols 18th Sept. weather permitting.

1. Force C. M.G.Bs. 330, 324 are to patrol in vicinity of  
position 112 Start 22.
3. Force C. is to leave Dartmouth to be on patrol by 2030A.  
Leave patrol 0600A.
4. Attention is drawn to Q.Z.X.1095.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 181421A).

/Movements...

War Diary.

18.9.1943.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal Patrols. (contd). Movements at 2003/18. Trawler sails Aberdeen to patrol 27 to 29 buoys. (C. in C. Rosyth, 181610A).

VP - SG. My 171044. M.T.B. 688 returned at 1500A today. 2. Bad visibility prevented operation from being carried out. (A.C.O.S., 181736 to Admty).

Operation VP 151. My 171233A. M.T.B. 625 returned at 1215A today. 2. Operation VP 151 not successful but mines were laid. (A.C.O.S., 181742A).

UNISON, UNITED. (1) From position S in F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 150132 P.43 (UNISON) proceed diving by day via route Rose to R/V with escort in YY 180° Lizard Head 10 miles at 0900A/27th thence Plymouth. (2) From position O in above quoted signal P.44 (UNITED) proceed diving by day via route Gold to point Q thence direct to carry out anti U-boat patrol in Zone J.7. Onward route will be signalled later. (3) Bombing restrictions follow. (4) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to provide escort as in para (1). (F.O.(S), 161809A to Subs. Operating South of 51° North).

Operations "Forfar" and Toboggan". All "Forfar" series and "Toboggan" are cancelled for this dark period. Troops are to continue in training pending further instructions. (C.C.O., 182100A).

Allied Air Activity.

Cover for S.L.136. AC.1 18 Sept. Ref. Stipple for 19th Sept. In view of shortage of V.L.R. aircraft and Gibraltar's inability to cover in their area it is not intended to provide cover for S.L. 136 tomorrow unless change in U-boat position requires the extra effort (15 Group, 181233A to Admty. H.Q.C.C., (R) F.O.G.)

Increase in Iceland A/S patrol. AC. 252 18th Sept. My A.85\* 6th Sept. Cancel first para. as from 18th Sept. (H.Q.C.C., 181505A)\*Re: A/S patrols.

Enemy Air Activity.

Glider bomb. S O S. Enemy fighter 45.50 N., 10.58 W. glider dropped. (GBB/Q 181115). Proceed to 045° 50' N. 010° 58' W. and squadr (?square) search for Glider. (A.O.C. 19 Gp. 181140A to 106/C and H). Proceed to position 045° 50' N., 010° 58' W. and search for Glider. (S.O. E.G.2, 181209 to CRANE, (R) C. in C. Plymouth).



18.9.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Yarmouth  
area.

LL Sweepers detonated 2 blue magnetic mines at 1022/18 in 52.43.4 N., 01.51.2 E. and 1031/18 in 52.44.1 N., 01.52.6 E. Details. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 181107A, 181940A, 181945A, 182325A).

Q.U. 6 A.

Prepare to carry out operation Q.U. 6 A, initial position 53° 04' N., 04° 32' E. on first suitable night on or after 24th Sept.

(2) Forces employed. 22nd M.T.B. Flotilla 21st

M.T.B. Flotilla 51st M.L. Flotilla.

(3) Mines.

(4) Laying instructions.

(C. in C. Nore, 181305A to BEEHIVE, MANTIS).

Q. Z. X. 1095

Progress of clearance.

(PROSPECT 181515A, C. in C. Plymouth, 181927).

Enemy Intelligence.

Alten Fiord.

Photographic R/C (?A1)ten Fiord at 1300A today unsuccessful due to weather.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 181441A).

U-boats.

Impending  
U/B  
offensive.

A.869 18 Sept. Your 171109A. These long range sweeps have not in the past proved productive and are considered wasteful of air effort.

They can only sight U-boats by pure chance. We used to do that sort of patrol in Bay area but gave it up. Prefer to stick to proven principles

of search of adequate intensity in transit area through which U-boats are bound to pass. We should get warning of intended or actual departure of U-boats from Norwegian ports to enable us to thicken up Moorings as appropriate. Latest special information points to improbability of U-boats using Denmark Strait at present but we are taking certain steps to enable us to deal with them more adequately than we could at present should they attempt to use that passage later.

(A.O.C. in C. C.C., 181045A to C. in C. H.F.)

In view of indications of renewed enemy activity in the North Atlantic I think it is important that every step should be taken to ensure that the enemy does not achieve any big initial success to bolster up his morale.

(2) I consider it is essential therefore that all available support groups should be replaced at my disposal. I propose to use E.G.5, E.G.2 BITER and TRACKER on the North Atlantic, in addition to E.G.9 as soon as they are ready to operate. It is requested therefore that E.G.2 may be directed to return to Liverpool on completion of their present patrol in the Bay.

(C. in C. W.A., 181957A to Admty. (R) C. in C. Plymouth).

In view of later information cancel my 171117.

(C. in C. H.F., 181234).

Submerged  
reception

Technical.  
(A.M., 181245A).

War Diary.18.9.1943.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects

USK Delete USK from my 180008A. Ship returned to Clyde with engine defects. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 180628A).

BRUREY Has sustained damage. Repairs are beyond resources of Port Edgar. Request BRUREY may be sent to Rosyth a.m. tomorrow for repairs to be carried out by Dockyard as soon as possible. Vessel urgently required. A.M. 101425 refers.\*  
(\*Re request ensure that H.M.T. BRUREY, WHALSEY, HAYLING, MANGROVE VASCAMA, and CAPE PORTLAND are ready for sea).  
(Capt. I/C Port Edgar, 181218A).

STRATHLYON Trawler STRATHLYON referred to in your 160810 (N.T. in W.R. F.O. Humber's 151035A refers. (Re STRATHLYON overdue)), did not arrive at Seidisfiord and no information as to the movements or whereabouts is available. Admty pass to N.C.S.O. Thurso. (A.C.I.C., 181421A to F.O.I.C. Humber).

Shipping & Convoys.

D.S.45 LEOPOLDVILLE will comprise convoy D.S.45 sailing Clyde 28 Sept. (D. of S.T., 180342A).

IRIS Sailed H.M. Telegraph Ship IRIS with K.M.S.27 to comply with A.M. 111637A.\* (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 180948)\*H.M. Telegraph Ship IRIS to proceed to Horta.

U.R.91 Departure delayed until p.m./21st. (C. in C. W.A., 181133A).

A.T.64 SS. QUEEN ELIZABETH arrived. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 181448A).

T.U.2 Intend sailing Clyde portion escorted by U.S.S. BELL and U.S.S. ISHERWOOD passing Clyde Boom 0230A 20th to comply with ref. A.M. 172012A. Codeword Princess to R/V. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 181518A)  
"Princess" sailing delayed 24 hours. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 181804A., Admty. 181835A).

/U/B...

18.9.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

U/B attack  
on H.X.256  
W. PEPPERELL  
torpedoed.

My 181425Z (re E.G.9 to join O.N. 202 if H.X.256  
not threatened) proceed direct to O.N.202 now.  
(C. in C. W.A., 181754Z to E.G.9).  
H.X.256 attacked in 054° 01' N., 029° 23' W.  
WILLIAM PEPPERELL 1915 torpedoed.  
(C.5 181801Z).

Cancel my 181752. (?181754 intended). Proceed  
at best speed to support H.X. 256 attacked in position 054° 01' N.  
029° 23' W. at 1801Z.

(C. in C. W.A., 182013Z to E.G.9th (R) Connav, H.Q.C.C. Admty.  
S.E.C. O.N.202, S.E.C. H.X.256. S.E.C. O.N.S.18, N.S.H.Q.,  
Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C. in C. C.N.A., A.C.I.C. Com. (D) Argenticia,  
Com. (D) W.A.).

My 181801. (?171821 intended) Details of attack. A.C.I.  
Art. 39 para. 5.

- (A) About 1740/18 in estimated position 054° 01' N., 029° 23' W.
- (B) Probably on surface.
- (C) Suspect port quarter.
- (D) Nil.
- (E) WILLIAM PEPPERELL still in company. Mark 29 gear on port  
side exploded. Hull intact. 4 shaft bearings damaged.  
Rescue ship and 2 tugs in company.
- (F) Hunt unsuccessful.
- (G) Nil.
- (H) Weather report 0924 2154.  
(C.5, 182352Z).

War Diary.18.9.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

ATLANTIS. ATLANTIS should be sailed from Gibraltar to Algiers for disembarkation of Italian personnel at present on board. 2. She should then be embarked with sick personnel and sailed for U.K. as soon as possible. Her arrival date in U.K. must not be later than 28 Sept.

(D.S.T. 180246A to S.T.O.I.C. Gib. (R) P.S.T.O. Med., C. in C. Med.)

Your 180246A. ATLANTIS ordered by C. in C. Med. to proceed Algiers on leaving Gibraltar 16th Sept.

(S.T.O.I.C. Gibraltar 181006B to D.S.T. (R) P.S.T.O. Med.)

K.M.S.26. K.M.S.26 sailed as in my 151643 and C. in C. Med's 161719 (not to all addressees) less OCEAN FAITH, BARON SCOTT, FORT MACPHERSON, COULBEC (Last three ships sailed in U.G.S.16). Plus GRYFEVALE for Malta. 2. Tug EMPIRE OBERON must bunker Tripoli or other suitable port.  
(F.O.C. Gib. 180828B to N.Os.1/c. North African Ports.)

G.U.S.15. MANCHESTER EXPORTER insufficient bunkers to proceed to New York.  
(PRIMULA 180920B to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med. Admty.)

Your 181107B (N.T. in W.D.) MANCHESTER EXPORTER maximum speed  $9\frac{1}{2}$  knots. Bunkers 200 tons. Also reliefs for 4 firemen sick. No trimmers required. E.T.A. 1830B.

(F.O.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med. Admty.)

G.U.S.15 sailed as in my 131553 and 151645 plus  $9\frac{1}{2}$  STANRIDGE ballast. Also sailed CARDINAL GIBBONS for Casablanca, EMPIRE PRINCE, BARON FAIRLIE for Safi. EMPIRE SERVICE requires deperming for P.L.M.L. minus.

(F.O.C. Gibraltar 181927B to C.M.S.F.F. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

G.U.S.15 Arrivals (list).

(F.O.I.C. Gib. 181947B to Admty. etc.)

K.M.S.26/O.G.93. Arrivals.  
(F.O.C. Gib. 181010 to Admty. )  
Arrived HIGHLANDER, WALKER, WESTCOTT, ABELIA, ASPHODEL, COMMANDANT DROGOU, BARHOLM, VELDA, BULAN.  
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 181134B to Admty. etc.)

Request for support group.

Your 141803. The employment of Support Groups is under constant review. Present indications do not justify basing one Group at Gibraltar.  
(D.O.D. (H) 181220A to F.O. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

/G.C.37...

War Diary.

18.9.1943.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

G.C.37. Intend sailing G.C.37 P.L.M. 722 escorted by SOUTHERN ISLES at 2100B Sept. 18th by standard route omitting B. S.O.A. 7½ knots codeword "Cygnet" E.T.A. 0800B Sept. 20th.  
2. Request you will sail SOUTHERN ISLES to Gibraltar as necessary to arrive p.m. Sept. 21st.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 181303 to C.M.S.F.)

G.U.S.15, S.O.A. 9 knots. Depart Gibraltar net 15 hours  
C.T.F.61. B. with Cortdiv 5 plus KALK and GILLESPIE with Gibraltar Section G.U.S.15. Latest Q.held J.B. 9, J.C. 153, B.A. 109, B.B. 2221. Estimate R/V at 35.57 N. 04.55 W. 1815 Sept. with Med. Section. Estimate R/V Casablanca Section 35.07 N. 07.50 W. at 11 hours Sept. 19 then proceed via prescribed route to U.S.A. (C.T.F. 61 (in U.S.S. EVARTS) 181440B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.) (F.O.Gib., 181551B. to Admty. C. in C.Med.)

Danish A.M. 111315.  
Ships at 2. Ship carrying crews and bunkers for these  
Las Palmas. ships left U.K. 15th Sept. in convoy K.M.F.24 breaking off to arrive Las Palmas 23rd Sept.  
3. As enemy may attempt to prevent them reaching Gibraltar, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to provide A/S escort, informing B.C. Las Palmas, of required time of departure, route and R/V with escort.  
4. B.C. Las Palmas, should arrange that ships do not sail before time required by F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.  
5. Understood that condition of hulls will restrict speed to 7 knots and that ships are not degaussed.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) (M/054233/43) 181510A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, B.C. Las Palmas, (R) N.A.Madrid, F.O.C.W.Af.)

K.M.S.26. Your 311326 August (re ships for Lisbon to be sailed in K.M.S.26, 312326 intended) and 022016. Convoy arrived Lisbon safely 1300A today. Escort sailed without entering harbour.  
(N.A.Lisbon 181608A to Admty.)

Damaged My 172056\* (not to R.O.Vigo). Minister of Marine  
U/B at has received no reply from M.F.A. to his report  
Vigo. and submarine is consequently not interned.  
He is seeing M.F.A. at once. Meantime at my insistence he has telephoned Vigo ordering extra vigilance and emphasizing no work whatever can be done on engine.

Battery is being charged as only way maintaining it.  
(N.A.Madrid 182000B to Admty. etc.)  
\* re German S/M at Vigo interned.

U.S.Movements. Arrivals U.S.S. EVARTS, WYFFELS, DECKER, KALK, GILLESPIE, SMARTT, W.S.BROWN, BOBLER from Casablanca  
Departures U.S.S. EVARTS, WYFFELS, DECKER, KALK, GILLESPIE, SMARTT, BOBLER, W.S.BROWN to join G.U.S.15.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 182216B to Admty. etc.)

War Diary.18.9.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

SUFFREN. Sailed 0812Z SUFFREN for patrol S.S.W. of Verde Island. My 151644 to F.O.C.W.Af. only refers. (Comar Dakar, 180949Z to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) Admty.)

TRENT. Owing to necessity for docking KALE regret TRENT must now join escort of LORRAINE and W.S.33. My 151623 paras. 5 and 6 refer. (C. in C. S.A., 181025B to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty., F.O.E.Af.)

Transports, Arrivals ANTENOR, JOHAN DE WITT, INDRAPOERA. Lagos. (N.C.S.O. Lagos, 181105Z to Admty., etc.)

BUTSER. Your 081741. Intend to sail BUTSER 0800Z/19th to relieve FANDANGO. Standard British coastal route omitting (P). S. of A. 10 knots. (Comar Dakar, 181156Z to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, etc.)

Escort of M.W.T.R. represents that in view of low stocks Colliers under 8 knots. of coal held in various ports of Eastern theatre, especially at Mombasa and Mideast, his Ministry view with "utmost alarm" the speed of convoys having a low limit of 8 knots. 25 to 30 colliers have lower speed than this. 2. To include such ships in ordinary convoys raises difficulties, but proposal is now being considered that colliers under 8 knots might for the present be employed no further north than Mombasa. 3. Probable that trawlers can be made available to escort these vessels in separate convoys. Alternatively they might be included in southbound convoys as far as 10° S., and then slipped. On northbound route they might proceed independently to Beira and from there join D.K. convoys. 4. At moment there are no colliers under 8 knots held at Durban or Lourenco Marques. (C. in C. S.A., 181240 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., (R) F.O.E.A.)

GUAYTECAS. GUAYTECAS arrived Parangua 11th August and sailed 16th Sept. for Capetown. Your 161245A refers. (A.B.N.S.O. Recife, 181320Z to Admty.) Cancel my 241038 August. GUAYTECAS arrived Parangua 11th August. (A.B.N.S.O. Recife, 181342Z to Admty., etc.)

Transports, MORETON BAY, RANGITATA, PIETRINA (? arrived). Montevideo. (R.O. Montevideo, 181505 to Admty.)

/NEWCASTLE ...

War Diary.18.9.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

NEWCASTLE. Simonstown departure 1504B/18th Sept. NEWCASTLE for Kilindini S. of A. 18 knots, E.T.A. 1200Z/24 Sept.

2. Route. 3. Shift to W/T organisation J at 0530Z/20 Sept. and to W/T organisation V at 2130Z/22 Sept.  
4. Usuable fuel remaining on arrival 29%.  
(C. in C. S.A., 181505 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., etc.)

S.L. 137. Sailing destinations.  
(D.T.D., 181525A to N.C.S.O. Freetown.)

Convoy Arrived TAY.  
D.K. 1. (2) Sailed TAY, DERG in accordance with my 171454 para. (2) (sailing of escort to Convoy D.K.1.) S. of A. 17 knots.  
(3) Keep continuous watch on W/T group J shifting to V at 0245Z/25th.  
(Cdre. Durban, 181551Z to Admty., etc.)

STRATHAIRD. On reaching 045° E. steer direct for route position Z omitting (R) omitting positions (W), (X) and (Y).  
2. Ship will proceed from Capetown to U.K. on escorted basis.  
3. Report immediately your E.T.A. Capetown. Important you should arrive p.m./22nd Sept. Shore lights will be exhibited if necessary.  
(C. in C. S.A., 181603 to STRATHAIRD.)  
E.T.A. a.m./23rd Sept.  
(STRATHAIRD (via Burnham Radio), 181930Z, 182030Z to C. in C. S.A.)

War Diary.18.9.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Sightings. 2 medium M/Vs. course 220 degs. 4 knots position 36.41 N. 26.24 E. (Capt.(D) 8 180027C to Alex W/T.). Following has been read by Malta W/T. My 0027C enemy C. and S are 115 degs. 7 knots. (Capt.(D) (8) 180031C to Alex. W/T).  
Following has been read.  
N.R.2 P.C. and S of 4 E-boats 43.00 N. 9.37 E. 270 degs. 10 knots. (Duty GOTH No T.O.O./18 Sept. to 45 U.). Following has been read. Position of 4 stationary enemy transport barges is 43.07 N. 10.23 E. fixed within ½ hr. of 1000. (ASK/Y 180959B to Base 45 U.). Following received. My 180959B enemy previously reported are 4 transport barges and one aeroplane. (A/C ASK/Y 181020B to 45 U.). Position of enemy vessel class unknown 43.00 North 09.35 East course 055 degs. 10 knots. (A/C FCY/E No T.O.O. to K.T. One ). P.C. and S of 1 enemy destroyer and one medium vessel 43 degs. 00' North 09 degs. 35' East 90 10 knots. (A/C FCY/E 181320A). P.C. and S. of 2 enemy vessels (class unknown) are 043 degs. 00' North 009 degs. 35' East 060 degs. 10 knots. (A/C FCY/E T.O.R. 181626A to Base K.T.1.). 2 enemy M/Vs. previously reported were of 3,500 tons. (A/C FAH/W 181320). P.C. and S of 2 enemy medium size M/Vs. (indecypherable T.N. = 9 E) 090 degs. 8 knots. (A/C FAH/W 181330). Following has been read. P.C. and S of 6 enemy L.C. is 43.08 N. 9.55 E. 260 8 knots. (A/C FAH/W 181335).

PASTEUR To Eisenhower Freedom Algiers.  
From: Combined Chiefs of Staff.  
Ref. Your N.A.F. 396/14 Sept. F.A.N.236.  
(1) You may divert PASTEUR after its arrival Casablanca about 27th Sept. for 3 voyages Casablanca Dakar for purpose of moving troops of 10th Colonial Infantry Division to Casablanca (details).  
(5) After completion of 3 voyages with French Colonial Troops PASTEUR to be returned to U.S.A. as soon as possible. (Agwar 180035Z to Etousa R. 3233, Algiers 8003 for action).  
+ Recd. in War Registry. 1145/18 Sept.

U.G.S.16 Onward route. M.S.C.I.22.  
(2)(A) 8 as far as 510 then 7. (B) 9.  
(3) 355 1500/20th 347 2345/20th 10 miles North 331 1545/21st through 510 2040/21st 322 0500/22nd 316 1400/22nd 310 309 0650/23rd 306, 303, 300, 399.  
(4) Port Said section adjust speed after 309 to arrive 399 daylight 24th.  
(5) A.G. (6) High "Dunnock" (7) C.  
(8) HYACINTH (S.O.) SAKTOURIS, CESSNOCK, CAIRNS, WOLBOROUGH. SHOREHAM and MARYBOROUGH join and SHOREHAM then become S.O. (C. in C. Levant, 180058C to Ships escorting U.G.S.16, Admty. etc.)  
/U.G.S.16...



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U.G.S.16. U.G.S.16 pass to Cdre. My 161147B sailed.  
(Contd.). Destination FORT CHAMBLY now Alexandria. 9 ships.  
(V.A. Malta 181039B to Escorts of U.G.S.16 (R)  
Admty. etc.).

22nd D.F. Arriving with CROOME at 1515. Have 2 prisoners  
for disposal.  
(Capt.(D) 22nd D.F. 180104C to N.O.i/c Alex.  
(R) C. in C. Levant, Cdre.(D).

L.C.Is. Following is a repetition of 160932 (N.T. in W.D.)  
L.S.T. addressed N.O.i/c Messina.  
In accordance with F.O.Sy. 132101 (N.T. in W.D.)  
E.L. S.P F/4/S consisting of L.C.I. 114, 121, 123,  
173, 245, 279, 284, 303, 312 sailed at 0900/16  
via C.A. and M.H. to Messina. S. of A. 12 knots.  
E.T.A. 2130/16 codeword "Aertex" 4/S callsign 342/4/S fighter  
priority 3. (?E) P.A. in L.C.I. 173 (ends).  
(C. in C. Med. 180352B to Admty.).  
Intend to sail U.S. L.S.T. and L.C.I. 265 for Cotrone at  
1900B/18.  
(2) Routed via Q.B. B. 218 thence through 039 degs. 30' North  
017 degs. 23' East 039 degs 06' 30" North 017 degs. 17' East and  
040 degs. Cape Collope Light 1 mile.  
(3) S. of A. 9 knots adjusted to arrive 0630/19.  
(4) Codeword "Ta(?lg)arth" Wireless callsign 372 constant guard  
on 2150 kc/s.  
(N.O.i/c Taranto 181540 to Cotrone (R) C. in C. Med. etc.).  
Following U.S.A. L.S.T. were allocated to C.T.F. 85.9  
C.T.F. 80's signal 111126B (not to all addressees): L.S.T.379,  
16, 348, 389, 356, 337. These should have been employed on 56th  
Div. lifts from Tripoli but may have been sent elsewhere in  
error.  
(2) Request they may be ordered to report to me immediately on  
completion of present task as they are urgently required for 7th  
Armour Division lifts.  
(Cdre. (N) 181628B to C.T.G. 85.1, C.T.F.89. C.T.G.85.9,  
Comlan crabnaw).  
N.O.i/c Tunisia is requested to sail U.S. L.S.T. 17, 73,  
208, 281, 176 and H.M. L.S.T. 215, 80, 273 and 239 to Syracuse.  
Aegean my 181649 (N.T. in W.D.) refers.  
(B) (N.O.i/c Syracuse) is to sail these 9 L.S.Ts. as follows  
107, 2, to Catania to load for Taranto.  
(2) Remaining 7 to Taranto with 78th Division.  
(C) F.O. T.A. is requested to sail all 9 L.S.T. as follows  
unless otherwise requested by F.O.Sy. (1) 2 to Cotrone to join  
Cotrone Taranto ferry. (2) 4 to Catania for further load to  
Taranto.  
3 to Bizerta for further load to Taranto.  
(C. in C. Med.(Malta) 182216 to N.O.i/c Tunisia, N.O.i/c  
Syracuse etc.).

INGLEFIELD Your 180615 (N.T. in W.R.).  
Proceed to position 277 degs. light 23 miles  
thence 277 degs. 16.5 miles thence 277 degs. light  
4.5 miles thence 249 degs. light 3.5 miles thence  
/216 degs...

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INGLEFIELD (Contd). 216 degs. light 2.75 miles thence 156 degs. light 6.2 cables thence course 216 degs. to entrance. All bearings from Traversa light. Danger exists 270 degs. light 2 miles. Request your E.T.A. (N.O.i/c Brindisi 180805B to INGLEFIELD).

R.A.F.M.E. Report. A.311 19th Sept., 1943. Daily Opsum 143. 17th Sept. 8 Beaufighter bombers attacked convoy of 4 ships South East of Naxos Island. 1 Coastal vessel 1000 tons left sinking. Other vessels hit by cannon fire. 2 Escorting Arados damaged. 2 Beaufighters crash landed on return. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 180937Z).

Convoy T.X.2. (Corrupt) (corrupt) sailed at 1401B/8th. EVERLEIGH. (2) (A) and (B) 8½. (3) 292. 218,244, 10 miles North East 233 10 miles North North 226 to 031 degs. 10' North 017 degs. 53' East 10 miles South 203. 217, 267. (4) Benghazi 267, 1502/20th. (6) Normal BRILLIANT 910. (7) B.A. (8) BURRA, ROMEO. (9) C. in C. Levant is requested to order onward routeing to Alexandria. (Corrupt group) 181012B to R.A. Alexandria (R) Admty. etc.). My 181012B sailed. (S.N.O. Inshore Squad. Tripolitania 181830B to N.O.i/c Alexandria, Admty. etc.).

CLEVELAND damaged. WARSPITE. CLEVELAND reports following damage from near misses. Starboard engines H.P. sliding feet bolts badly bent. L.P. sliding feet shear bolts broken. Temporary repairs have been made and ship good for 3 knots at present. CLEVELAND in company with WARSPITE. (S.O. Force "V" 181018B to C. in C. Med. (R) V.A. Malta, CLEVELAND.). Your 181547 (N.T. in W.R.) (not to Capt.(D) 14 and Capt. (D) 4 ) JERVIS, PENN, CLEVELAND, SLAZAK, (ATHERSTONE) PATHFINDER, PANTHER, PALADIN, PETARD, QUILLIAM, QUEENBOROUGH, and QUAIL. Capt. (D) 14 is detaching last 3 named to (?Augusta). (WARSPITE 181725B to S.O. Force "H" (R) C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta, Capt.(D) 14, Capt.(D) 4.).

Glider bomb investigation S O. Force H is requested arrange for thorough investigation into Rocket Glider bomb attacks on WARSPITE, UGANDA and U.S. SAVANNAH. (2) F.O.Sy. is requested 2nd Lieut. Cdr. Lincoln attached to 30 Commando to report to Force H to assist in investigation. (C. in C. Med. 181030 to S.O. Force "H", F.O.Sy., (R) V.A. Malta, WARSPITE, UGANDA, SAVANNAH). Admiralty 151547. German winged rocket bomb being used in "Avalanche" is described in Cdre. N's. 152312. This is confirmed by attack on WARSPITE known details of which are given WARSPITE 161521 which is being passed.

/(2) Experience...

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Glider bomb investigation. (2) Experience indicates that all weapons used in Med. to date correspond nearly to H.S.293 but (Contd.) control by high flying A/C. No evidence F.X.2. being used yet. (Winged) bombs appear to unload vertically from a height of not less than 6,000 feet after initial shallow gliding.

(3) Following steps are being taken in addition to counter measures in A.G.M.532.

(a) Attempts being made to locate and dive on an unexploded specimen in Salerno Bay.

(b) Attempts being made by U.S. signal ships to jam with motor driven tune condensers sweeping Resonant plate circuits from 17 to 21 megacycles.

(c) Attempts being made by British in suitable ships to jam between 17 and 21 megacycles by use of short wave sparks operated on diathermy instruments borrowed from French hospital.

(d) Further enquiries from Italians being pursued.

(e) Further investigations being carried out at Malta by S.O. Force H.

(C. in C. Med., 181521B to Admty., (R) S.O. Force H, Cdre. (N), C. in C. Levant.)

Cdr. J. Holmes of EXCELLENT and Lieut. Rae of D.S.R. Dept. arrive Malta by air p.m./21st Sept., (to investigate glider bomb attacks.)

(6) Urgently desired to have Holmes and Rae back as soon as investigation has been made which we think should take about 10 days.

(D.G.D., 181545A to C. in C. Med., (R) V.A. Malta, F.O. Force H, EXCELLENT.)

Convoy (Corrupt group) M.S.C.I. article 22.  
?N.S.S.3. Intend sailing N.S.S.?3 at 1900/19th as follows: Destinations.

(2) (A) 8. (B) 9.

(3) Q.B.B.146, 36, 24, 15, 20 position 287 where Syracuse section detaches. With U.S. Sub. GRAYLING by Q.B.B. 162. E.T.A. boom 0700/20th, thence 37.12 15.21 where Augusta section detaches with BONITO by Q.B.B.164. E.T.A. boom 0815/20th. Thence position 282 where Catania section detaches with SHIANT by Q.B.B.194. E.T.A. boom 1000/20th. Thence position "SJ" and by route S of "Avon" 2. E.T.A. position CB 0630/21st. Then as ordered by Cdre. (N). (5) K.O. (6) High "Links" 3. (7) B. (8) HOLCOMBE (S.O.), LIDDESDALE and WHEATLAND to Salerno. SHIANT to Catania. BONITO to Augusta and GRAYLING to Syracuse. (V.A. Malta, 181054B to Cdre. (N), F.O.Sy., (R) Admty., etc.)

K.M.S.26. Intend to sail. Destinations.  
(N.O.B. Oran, 181102B to WHITEHAVEN, (R) Admty., etc.)

S/Ms. 1. C. in C. Med. has directed that (A) USURPER (P.56) UNIVERSAL (P.57), ULTIMATUM (P.34), UPSTART (P.65) LE CURIE (G.67) are to remain in 8th S/M.F.,

/for ...

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Submarines for the time being.  
(Contd.) (B) 4 S/MS. of 10th S/F are to proceed to Algiers after their patrols for subsequent patrols in Gulf of Genoa and Lyons.  
(2) ULTOR P.53, UPROAR P.31, UNSEEN P.51, DZIK P.52, are accordingly being directed to proceed to Algiers after their present patrols. Request you will despatch their personnel gear. Spare gear not required.  
(Capt.(S) 8, 181108B to Capt.(S) 10 (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.S.).

ALBA JULIA My 171529C (?171519) (Not repeated Malta).  
FIRUZ. ALBA JULIA and FIRUZ have taken clearance for Salonica. Sailing orders expected today or tomorrow.  
B.2. Presume FIRUZ will repair at Piraeus.  
(S.O.(I) Istanbul 181115C to C. in C. Levant, S.1.,S.10.,D.N.I.).

KATSONIS Adjust your patrol to pass Kao Strait diving to 50 metres during daylight 21st. Thence proceed so as to pass  
(A) 033 degs. 56' 027 degs. 14' at 0555C/22nd.  
(B) Outer end of Beirut searched channel at 0645C/24th. You may proceed on surface by day on 22nd and 23rd. Allied surface forces are active in South East Aegean and between Scarpanto Strait and the Levant.  
(Capt.(S) 7 181134C to KATSONIS (R) C. in C. Levant, Cdre.(D) Cdr. C.F.E.Med.).

2 M/Vs. sunk D.8. reports having sunk 2 M/Vs. close inshore  
by 8 D/F. north of Stampalia at 0100/18th. My 171433.  
Details follow.  
(C. in C. Levant, 181208C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.).

MARGA Regret S.S. MARGA damaged by mine outside harbour  
damaged. 0900/18 full details follow.  
? U-boat (N.O.i/c Cotrone 181208B to F.O.i/c Sicily, (R)  
report. C. in C. Med., S.N.O.L.A.).  
MARGA 181105 (N.T. in W.D.) incompletely  
received from Malta W/T Station. American air  
crew consisting of 3 officers and 5 ratings  
rescued in 038 degs. 17.8' North 016 degs. 35.6'

East. A, proceeding to Cotrone.  
A/C number 42-637 58 belonging 98th bombing group U.S.A.A.F. left Benghazi 0900/15th and crashed 1538 same day.  
Pilot reports having heard S/M charging battery on surface during last 3 nights and sighted 2 S/MS. at 0500 this morning.  
(POOLE 181231B to C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta, F.O.i/c Sicily, (R) N.O.i/c Cotrone).

/POOLE'S...

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MARGA damaged. ? U-boat report. (Contd.) POOLE'S 181231+ Number of L.C.I.(L)'s have passed through ø maritime position every night during this period. It is possible they may have been mistaken for S/Ms. on the surface. (F.O.Sy. ?182209 to C. in C. Med. (R) V.A. Malta, N.O.i/c Cotrone). ø As rec'd. + Re American air crew rescued. Ship proceeding to Cotrone.

U-boat situation German U-boat situation - 2 in Gulf of Salerno and off coast to southward of (?Scarpanto). 1 in 040 degs. North 009 degs. 50' East at 2300/16, indicating that passage Toulon to Tyrrhenian Sea is possibly via North and East of Corsica .  
(Capt.(S) 8 181210B to 8th S/M R.).  
U-boats (German). Estimated 3 in Gulf of Salerno and to the south of it. One on patrol in the vicinity of 038 degs. North 017 degs. East. Probably one more at sea but unlocated.  
(C. in C. Med.(A) 181819B to U-boat disposition Med. Station, (R) F.O.i/c Gibraltar).

Naples Food shortage. (Air Min. 181255Z).  
See America and West Indies.

Ships for Eastern Fleet. A.M. 141525. Intend to sail ships for Aden for Eastern Fleet.  
(2) JUMNA leaves Alexandria Sept. 19th.  
(3) CESSNOCK, CAIRNS, WOOLONGONG, SHOREHAM, MARYBOROUGH leave Alexandria about Sept. 25th.  
(4) IPSWICH leaves Alexandria about Sept. 28th  
(5) SUTLEJ will be sailed when boiler repairs have been completed  
(C. in C. Levant, 181318C to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F., F.O.R.S.C.A. C. in C. Med., Cdre.(D)., R.A. Alexandria).  
Amended list 201346.  
Sail following ships to Eastern Fleet as soon as ready.  
(A) JUMNA who will not now sail with G.U.S.16.  
(B) CAIRNS, CESSNOCK, WOOLONGONG, SHOREHAM, MARYBOROUGH on return with U.G.S. 16.  
(C) IPSWICH on return from Western Mediterranean.  
(2) GERALDTON, GAWLER, LISMORE to be retained for the present. SUTLEJ to be retained until boilers have been refitted.  
(C. in C. Levant, 181758C to N.O.i/c Alex. Comm.(D), F.O.C. Red Sea, (R) Admty. C. in C.E.F., C. in C. Med.).

VILLE D'ORAN Intend to sail VILLE D'ORAN at 2000/18th to Taranto as in C. in C. Med. 172209B+not to all. (N.O.i/c Philippeville 181356B to VULCAN, Admty. C. in C. Med.).  
+ Re M.S.C.I.22 sail VILLE D'ORAN at 2000B Sept. 18 to Taranto.  
C. in C. Med. 172209B and my 181356B. VILLE D'ORAN sailed. (N.O.i/c Philippeville 182002B to Admty. etc.).

S.T.S.2. Sailing telegram.  
Avcn/N (?Article 31).

/ (A) S.T.S....

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S.T.S.2. (A) S.T.S.2. at 1924B/18 to Malta.  
(Contd.). (B) Names. (C) Empty. (D) EGGESFORD (S.O.),  
LAMERTON, BLENCATHRA, ESPIEGLE, CADMUS.  
(E) 8 knots. (F) Route R. (G) 1100B/20.  
(H) "Scream" 2 call sign 2732.  
(S.O. Force N 181454 to C. in C. Med. (R) M.A.C.,  
N.A.C.A.F., N.A.T.A.F., N.O.i/c Malta., F.O.Sy.,  
Cdr. Task Force 80.).

Hospital Ships. Your 150857 to Admty. only. According to our information, there are no notified German hospital ships left in Mediterranean.

(2) No objection in present circumstances to Italian hospital ships being brought in under guard and detained.

(3) C.C.O.S. have laid down that on grounds of self-interest, policy of United Nations must be to preserve respect for hospital ship conventions, if possible. It is, therefore, not desired to capture a notified German hospital ship except (a) if under suspicion of improper activities, (b) there is unmistakable evidence of deliberate attacks on our hospital ships.

Request early report giving further details of attacks and stating whether NEWFOUNDLAND, LEINSTER and ST. ANDREWS, were showing their illuminations at the time.

4. C.C.O.S. memorandum on hospital ship policy is being promulgated as C.B.

(Head of M.(I) Approved 1st Lord, 181515A to C. in C. Med., (R) C. in C. Levant.)

Reply: C. in C. Med., 212357.

Operation "Avalanche" initial landings 9th Sept. Your 72/949 and 72/832 refer. Following is a repetition of N.C.W.T.F.'s 091006 (begins). Addressed C. in C. Med., C.W.N.T.F. from N.C.W.T.F. Cosintrep. Both sixth and tenth Corps first waves reached Beach 0345B. Tenth Corps Beaches secured at 0445B. Southern attack group considerable opposition. Yellow and green beaches reported ready receive L.S.Ts. Mine situation delayed moving ships shore-wards. Many mines exploded in sweeping of boat lanes right flank well inshore of suspected fields. Number of floaters in channel. Commanding General 36 Division has landed. Several air attacks on assaulting convoys by small groups since H hour. Two attacks reported, eight and ten planes, turned away by fighter cover. Diversionary group captured Ventotene at midnight. Italian garrison surrendered without opposition. One German prisoner and sixty more barricaded in Town Hall to be dealt with shortly. From inhabitants Ventotene reported Mussolini departed (Poyza or Monza) for Sardinia forenoon of 8th. Insufficient information assess attitude Italians except at Ventotene where co-operative. Rangers and Commandos landed according to plan. No opposition at Maiori (ends).

(C. in C. Med., 181532 to Admty.) W.R. Note: The procedure signals were sent by W.R. informing originator that message 091006 was undecipherable.

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

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

N.A.A.F. Report. A.V. 636. 18 Sept.  
 N.W.A.A.F. Opsum 209.  
 N.W.C.A.F. 15/16 Sept. (Add) 2 Hudsons U-boat hunt. 5 Hudsons convoy (?) escort. Submarine sighted surfacing 50 miles east north east Ustica. Attacked but no damage observed.  
 17 September. 5 U.S. Mitchells anti shipping strike. 2 A/C? attacked and destroyed large barge towed by tug 4 miles S.W. Fiumara Grande with 7 X 75 M.M. shells. 3 A/C attacked 3 Seibel ferries 24 miles S.W. Leghorn with 12 X 75 M.M. 2 hits on leading ferry.  
 (H.Q. N.A.A.F. 181535B).

STRATHMORE Sailed 1500 hours 17th September.  
 (D.S.T.O. Port Said 181537C to D. of S.T. London etc. ).

EZILDA CROCE Italian steamer EZILDA CROCE sails 1630/18 coastwise as far as Santa Maria Di Leuca 0220/19 arriving at 1330/19. W/T codeword "Milano" S. of A. 7 knots.  
 (N.O.i/c Brindisi 181541B to F.O.T.A. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.).

M.K.F.24 Sailing telegram, part 2.  
 (10) (11) (12) 14.5.  
 (N.O.i/c Port Said, 181547C to Admty., etc.)

TEMPLAR Departure TEMPLAR 0707Z.  
 (for E.F.) (Cdre. Aden, 181609Z to Admty., etc.)

C.T.F.86 Flag. The flag of C.T.F.86 has been transferred to BOISE.  
 (C.T.F.86, 181620B to Cdr. W.T.F., C. in C. Med. (B), (R) All S. and A. Operation "Avalanche".)

Otranto patrol. My 180918 (N.T. in W.R.) not to N.O.I.C.Brindisi. Brindisi Straits of Messina appears most suitable port from which to carry out Otranto patrol. Supply of fuel water some freight provisions and a certain amount of stores apparently available. Further signal will be made when this has been tried out.  
 (INGLEFIELD, 181630 to C. in C. Med., F.O.T.A., (R) S.O. Force H Taranto, etc.)

Convoy S.P.S.9/S. Consisting of EMPIRE CHARMIAN, M.Ls. 560, 559 sailed from Safta at 181600B (? for) Messina Major points CA and MN. S.O.A. 9 knots. E.T.A. 190830B. Codeword "Hettie" (? stroke) 9/S. Call sign 499/9/s. Fighter priority 3. S.O.P.A. in M.L.560.  
 (C.T.F.89, 181631B to N.O.I.C. Messina.)

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Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- H.D.M.L.1132. Intend transferring to French Navy a.m. Sept. 20th.  
(Com. Algeria, 181700B to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty., etc.)
- P.Ts. 211, 217. Leave Capri 0700/19th for Palermo for onward routeing. E.T.A. 2100/19th.  
(S.O.N., 181709 to Com. N.O.B. Palermo, etc.)
- M.E. Sit. Rep. Newtel No. 27. Situation review week ending incl. 17th Sept.  
1. Order of battle and location statement 17th Sept.  
6. Adm. Sicily. Convoy five vessels sailed from base ports on 14th Sept. with 14,200 tons Pol. and stores.  
Tripoli. 3,900 tons discharged. 200 personnel disembarked 2,100 embarked.  
Benghazi. 1,420 tons discharged. Five vessels sailed from base ports with 9,450 tons Pol. and stores. Policy to build up reserves as insurance against interruption to shipping by weather during winter months.  
Dodecanese. Small tonnages supplies etc. despatched by sea and air for maintenance small garrisons now established islands of Castelrosse (? Kastellorizo), Cos, Leros, and Samos. Activities at base ports: Period 8 to 14 Sept. 69 ships and 18 schooners discharging, 69 ships and 12 schooners loading, total 138 ships and 30 schooners. 79,600 military tonnage discharged, 50,800 loaded. Total 130,400 tons. Daily average 11,370 tons discharged, 7,270 loaded. Total 18,640 tons day. Total 80,900 tons cleared from ports by rail, road, I.W.T. and by transfers and transhipments. 7,800 personnel disembarked, 2,840 embarked total 10,640.  
(C. in C. M.E., 181815C to W.O.)
- 1st S/M.F. First S/M.F. Sept. 18th.  
A. Refitting: TALLY HO, TAURUS, NEREUS, NEBOJSCA, PAPANICOLIS (completes 20th).  
B. Operational: TACTICIAN Beirut, RORQUAL patrol South Aegean, TROOPER Beirut, TRESPASSER Beirut, TORBAY Beirut, KATSONIS patrol North of Andros, MATROZOS Port Said.  
(C. in C. Levant, 181832C to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty., S.1, S.8, S.10.)
- PERLE. Your 181802 (N.T. in W.D.) acknowledged. From 039 degs. 14' 004 degs. 45' at 1800B proceed R/V escort Algiers in 037 degs. 02' 003 degs. 13' at 1200/19th.  
(Capt. (S) 8, 181910B to PERLE, (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers.)

/Position ...



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Position 396. To holders of M.S.C.I and M.J.A.O.  
Add to M.S.C.I 21 appendix 1 and M.J.A.O.48 -  
position 396: 031 degs. 41' N. 032 degs. 00' E.  
(C. in C. Med., 181911 to Med. Station, Levant  
Station B.154.)

VIDONIA, Your 170915 (N.T. in W.D.) not to all addressees.  
OUTPOST, Route for VIDONIA, OUTPOST and VINDELICIA through  
VINDELICIA. Straits of Messina (037 degs.?) 55' 016 degs.  
15' 039 degs. 00' 017 degs. (25'?) 040 degs. 15'  
017 degs. 05' to Taranto.  
(C. in C. Med., 181941B to Com. N.O.B. Palermo,  
(R) F.O. Syracuse, S.N.O.R.A., F.O.T.A.,  
Comnavnaw.)

Force H, On completion of patrol tonight 18th/19th Sept.  
patrols. INGLEFIELD and RAIDER are to return to Malta.  
(2) S.O. Force H is requested to sail one other  
destroyer on 20th Sept. to join ILEX for Otranto  
patrol.  
(3) No patrol on night of 19th/20th Sept.  
(C. in C. Med., 181943 to S.O. Force H, F.O.T.A., (R) N.O.I.C.  
Taranto, INGLEFIELD, ILEX.)

"Avalanche" After arrival of T.S.S.6 it will be necessary  
Follow-up for "Avalanche" follow-up convoys to fit into  
Convoys. the regular Mediterranean convoy cycle in order  
to reduce the present 30 heavy escort commitments.  
2. These convoys will be combined with traffic  
for Eastern Sicily and will leave Malta on the  
day after arrival there of ships from the main through convoys.  
3. Through convoys both eastbound and westbound are due Malta  
23rd Sept. and subsequently every 5 days. Following up convoys  
should, therefore, arrive in the "Avalanche" area on 26th Sept.  
and every five days but may sometimes be delayed 24 hours if  
eastbound main convoy is late.  
4. It is intended that ships for ports in the heel of Italy  
should also sail from Malta with these following up convoys  
detached off Eastern Sicily with separate escort.  
5. Returning from southwards to northwards from "Avalanche"  
should be sailed for Malta immediately on arrival each following  
up convoy.  
(C. in C. Med., 181945 to Cdre. (N), V.A. Malta, N.C.W.T.F.,  
C.T.F.89, (R) A.F.H.Q., F.O. Sicily, F.O.T.A., N.L.O. 5th Army,  
C. in C. Med., A., N.L.O. 15th Army Group.)

CALPE, Request you will sail CALPE, CATTERICK, HAYDON  
CATTERICK, at 0600/19th Sept. to Bizerta (348?), 287, 283 -  
HAYDON. 10' N. of 273, 278 - 036 degs. 59' 011 degs. 17'  
and War Channel. S. of A. 18 knots. E.T.A.  
2300/19th Sept. Priority low codeword "Ribbon".  
(C. in C. Med., 181951 to N.O.I.C. Augusta, (R)  
V.A. Malta, VALIANT, N.O.I.C. Sicily, CALPE, S.O.  
Force H, N.O.I.C. Tunisia.)

/SLAZAK ...

War Diary.18.9.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.SLAZAK,  
CLEVELAND,  
ATHERSTONE.Request you will sail SLAZAK, CLEVELAND, ATHERSTONE after refuelling to Bizerta.  
(C. in C. Med., 181953 to N.O.I.C. Malta, (R) S.O. Force H, etc.)Algiers  
movements.Departures LEGIONARIO, ALFREDO ORIANI (Italian).  
(Com. Algeria, 182001 to Admty., etc.)

Italy.

Problems arising from tactical and strategical build-up.  
(Algiers, 182005B to Agwar and Etousa.)  
See Lion Copy.Italian  
Fleet.Personal. Future of Italian Fleet is under urgent consideration in accordance with FAN. 233 which is being passed to C. in C. Levant and I hope to settle the matter next week. Included among the intentions will be the reduction of the battleships to a care and maintenance status. 2. The complex problem of taking over a large enemy fleet must necessarily take time. We are very busy.  
(C. in C. Med., 182006B to Admty., C. in C. Levant.)Situation  
Report  
No. 55.FAULKNER (D.8), ECLIPSE, QUEEN OLGA sank two 3,000 ton merchant vessels, probably sank escort vessel at 0130/18th just north of Stampalia. Convoy located by aircraft 0715/17th and believed bound for Rhodes.  
(2) HURWORTH (D.22) and CROOME arrived Alexandria 1530/18th from Leros having swept north of Stampalia. No sightings. INTREPID and ECHO left Alexandria 0830 for Haifa, thence to arrive Leros 20th with 600 personnel and stores. Senior British Naval Officer Aegean reports full co-operation obtained from Italian authorities Leros. M.Ls. and R.A.F. craft previously reported overdue at Kastelorizo arrived and sailed 16th, reached Leros 17th. Raiding party despatched to Stampalia by caique night 17th/18th made successful attack.  
(3) Convoy M.K.F.24. CARTHAGE and 3 M/Vs left Port Said 17th for Algiers with escort of four HUNTS.  
(4) Departures S/M TEMPLAR from Aden 18th to join Eastern Fleet.  
(C. in C. Levant, 182020C to Admty., etc.)Italian  
M.T.B.Permit 1 Italian M.T.B. to sail at dawn tomorrow and 1 merchant ship escorted by 2 (? armed tugs) to sail later to fetch troops from Port Edda. Obtain details of movement and fully inform INGLEFIELD.  
(F.O.T.A.(?), 182025 to N.O.I.C. Brindisi, (R) INGLEFIELD.)

/Situation ...

18.9.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- Situation Report No. 185.
1. 2552 tons 1295 vehicles and 4692 personnel were unloaded over northern beaches during 24 hours ending 1800/17th.
  2. U.S.S. PHILADELPHIA and U.S.S. NIBLACK supported the assault by bombarding on 17th Sept. with good results. PHILADELPHIA was near missed by rocket bomb about 1645/17th (? and) other rocket bomb attacks were made in northern assault ships during the day without damage.
  3. Report from refugees states Cholera and Typhus are rampant in Naples. Water situation bad as aqueduct has been cut by bombing.
  4. U.S. P.T. boats carrying out sweep in northern part of Tyrrhenian Sea during night of 17th/18th Sept. no incidents reported.
  5. 3 destroyers maintained patrol in Straits of Otranto during the night 17th/18th Sept. without sighting anything.
  6. 2 M.G.Bs. landed Brig.-Gen. Roosevelt at Cagliari a.m./18th Sept. Town in hands of Italians. Reception friendly.
  7. WARSPITE in tow of 4 tugs passed Messina 2345/17th. S. of A. 6 knots, E.T.A. Malta 0630/19th.
  8. CLEVELAND damaged by near miss in Tyrrhenian Sea on 17th Sept. Temporary repairs have been effected, speed now 22 knots. SS. MARGA damaged by mine near Cotrone 0900/18th.
  9. Addressees will form A.I.G.264 to which future Situation Reports will be addressed. Admiralty is requested to amend S.5. (C. in C. Med., 182307 to Admty.)

Bizerta movements.

Departure (? U.S.S. INDIANA), U.S.S. BOISE, U.S.S. MAYO.  
((?) N.O.I.C. Bizerta, 182357 to Admty., etc.)

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lines  
lin

# MOST SECRET

~~WARNING: This message must be paraphrased if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.~~

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

182005B/September

IN

From Algiers

Date 19.9.43

Rec'd. 0115A

Mediterranean Situation Report

Addressed AGWAR and ETX USA for action

Build-up in Italy.

NAF 408 18th Sept. 1943

Ref. NL. W. 380/6509

Edited Literal Text

Interior Addresses:

To: AGWAR  
For: Combined Chiefs of Staff  
Thru: USFOR  
From: British Chiefs of Staff  
Signed: Eisenhower  
Info: THOS

Ref: FAN 232 (and C.C.S. (W) 808)

1. Problem of build up in Italy is considered under two headings.

A. Tactical Buildup

2. The initial problem was to put the maximum fighting forces, together with their minimum maintenance requirements, ashore as quickly as possible in order to secure ports and to obtain a firm foot-hold. During this stage rate of build-up is limited by the numbers of landing craft and L.S.T. available for vehicle lift. All available craft have been and are being used to the maximum extent and no action can now be taken to influence the immediate situation in any way. Use of 18 L.S.T. recently authorized is being of great assistance.

B. Strategic Build-up.

3. Once we have secured Naples and the ports in the heel, our object will be to build up as rapidly as possible a balanced force in order to exploit our initial success. Port capacity, ability to clear ports, numbers of ships and craft, and readiness of formations are possible limiting factors to the rate at which the buildup can be accomplished. Although these factors have been examined in great detail, calculations made in advance cannot be exact, owing to such unknown factors as dates of occupation of ports, condition of ports when captured and losses at sea.

4. Port capacity. On present estimates this seems likely to be the principal bottleneck, the main problem being loading and

off-loading ...

off-loading vehicles (including tanks and guns). Moreover, as forces on the mainland increase, so requirements for maintenance increase, thereby cutting down capacity available for build-up. The best method of overcoming this limiting factor is use of L.S.T., which do not take up store ship berths. We have allowed for use of all L.S.T. allotted to this Theatre by QUADRANT decisions, but the longer additional L.S.T. can be retained the more the problem will be eased. Port capacity could be increased to the maximum clearance capacity by loading and offloading ships at anchor, using large numbers of tugs and lighters. Requests for tugs and lighters have already been submitted.

5. Shipping. Our aim must be to insure that all port capacity is fully employed at all times. For this purpose 140 store ships may be required; this is 14 more than provided by QUADRANT decisions.

6. Readiness of formations. As pointed out above the limiting factor is likely to be port capacity. In general formations are likely to be ready by the time that they can be moved, but the margin of time is extremely fine and it is most important that we run no risk of formations being unready to embark when required. The main difficulty is provision of load carrying vehicles for British formations and the shipment of these as early as possible would be of great assistance.

7. To sum up, our main requirements in order to speed up the rate of build-up are:

A. The retention of all L.S.T. now in the Theatre until the build-up has reached the stage at which they can be released without running grave risks in Italy. However, if this is agreed in principle, every effort will be made to release L.S.T. in the numbers and on the dates laid down in the QUADRANT decisions.

B. Increase in flow of vehicles for British formations.

C. An increase of 14 MT/Store ships to the present Mediterranean allotment of 126.

182005B

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.  
Ad. Blake

Circulation  
Brig. Jacob.  
Foreign Secy.  
1st S.L.  
C.6 Tels. W/O  
C.A.S.  
C.O.H.Q.

# MOST SECRET

Lin 1979.

610B

WARNING: This message must first be paraphrased if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

MOST SECRET.                      M E S S A G E    T.O.O. Nil/18th September.  
IN.

From. A.F.H.Q. Algiers.

Date. 19.9.43.

Recd. 1125.

CIPHER.

*Italy: Army Div. Rep.*

ADDRESSED. War Office, repeated AGWAR, USFOR.

*Sept 6-12.*

W308/6136 cipher 18 September. 156506.

Cite FHGCT signed Eisenhower.

Summary of operations. 27th Weekly summary. 6 to 12 September.

1 Ground. 6th Sept. Eighth Army. Cdn. Div. captured Delianuova D66 and pushed patrols to North and East while Five Div. met slight opposition at Gioja D68. 154 Bde. of 51st Div. now under 13 Corps. took over Reggio from 3 Cdn. Bde. 7 Sept. Eighth Army. Further demolitions slowed mixed Cdn. column advancing on east coast road to area Locri D96. 13 Bde. of 5th Div. moving by sea to area Gioja passed through 15 Bde. to find slight enemy mortar and machine gun fire north of Roaranno D78. 8 Sept. Eighth Army. Cdns. took Locri Cittanova D88 and Polistena D89 without contact. 5 Div. Thirteen Bde. captured Rosarno. 231 Bde. and Commando parties landed southwest of Pizzo Y81 during morning in face of shelling from both north and south. 9 Sept. Eighth Army. Three Cdn. Bde. continued along east coast road to Badolato Z20 while demolitions checked remainder of division. Five Div. 13 Bde. made contact with 231 Bde. at Vibo Valentia Y81 and Raert patrols pushed forward. First Airborne Div. First lift First Airborne Div. entered Taranto harbour where inhabitants friendly. Five Army. Convoy reached transport area on timetable and craft lowered (20200)B hrs. Sixth Corps. Thirty Six. Div. retarded by water mines and opposition on beaches but beach head established after repulse of five light tank counter attacks Ten Corps. 46 and 56 Divs. established beach head against some opposition from coast batteries. On left Rangers and Commandos landed according to plan and secured Mairi N52 without opposition. 10 Sep. Eighth Army. One Cdn. Div. continued advance up east coast road. Two Cdn. Bde. concentrated area Cittanova. Forward troops 231 Bde. at Z0735. One Airborne Div. completed unloading at Taranto. Two Para. Bde. at S Giorgio P81 and elements Four Para. Bde. occupied Palagiano P52 and Francavilla and Grottaglie where airfield found unuseable. Six Corps. 36 Div. with one and one half bns. tank destroyer extra bn. 105 mm and two coys. medium tanks established beach head four miles inland. 179 BKT of 45 landed south of Sele river. Ten Corps. Salerno captured 1045 hours and/

and beach head extended to line Battipaglia - Pontecagnano Faino - Nocera - Pagani N53. Eleven Sept. Eighth Army. First Cdn. Bde. occupied Catanzaro Z23 where roads found badly mined. Patrols reached Z44 and Entone Z24. 51 Div. made contact with Cdns. and Seventeen Bde. reached Nicastro Z04. One airborne Div. confirmed area south of line Taranto - Brindisi clear. Five Army. Strong enemy pressure on army front continued. 45 Div. under Six Corps. holding position astride of Sele River from N9010 to just south of Eboli. Adv. element 46 Div. in mountains four miles north of Salerno and two miles north Vietri N63. Rangers reinforced by one Bn. 82 Airborne Div. hold high ground south of Pagani - Nocera. Twelve Sept. Eight Army. Recce. group Cdn. Div. entered Crotone Z75 while remainder concentrated Catanzaro area. Patrols of Five Div. reached Z06 and with Div. concentrating Nicastro. One Airborne Div. no important change. Five Army. Strong resistance along whole front, with Six Corps consolidating beach head from S8193 - Torchiara - Trentinara - Persano H8916. Ten Corps. On 56 Div. front enemy remains in strength in Battipaglia. 46 Div. continued occupation of Salerno.

2. Locations. Fifteen Army Group Tac H.Q. Bizerta main H.Q. Cassibile. 82 Airborne Div. Licata. Seven Army Palermo. Two Corps B8831. One Div. G8346. Three Div. Trapani. Nine Div. Cefalu. Prov. Corps Palermo. Two Armd. Div. B2343. Eighth Army main C9646. Eighth Army Tac Y8208. Thirteen Corps Y8717. One Cdn. Div. Z2437. Five Div. Y8211. Thirty Corps. D2661. Fifty Div. D1317. 51 Div. D1457. 78 Div. C9248. One Airborne Div. Taranto.

3. Movements. Nil.

4. Estimated casualties. Eighth Army for Baytown 3 Sept. to 0600 hours 8 Sept. 17 offrs. 160 O.R's incl. 3 Cdn. offrs. killed and 2 Cdn. O.R's wounded. Five Army for AVALANCHE up to 1800 hrs. 9 Sept. 545 all British. No other details available.

5. Estimated prisoners up to 1600 hrs. 10 Sept. 5 Army. 400 German. 8 Army. none reported.

6. Administration summary week ending 9 Sept. Baytown beaches and exits reported good but shortage army track and low bridges caused difficulties on D day. Reggio. Stores being discharged satisfactorily. 3 Coasters called forward from Sicily 5 Sept. S Giovanni. Two berths 19 and 15 feet draught and 11 berths for craft. Extensive damage to rail facilities. 5 locos. 110 wagons intact. Access to docks by road good. Estimated daily road clearance 550 tons. Salerno. 10 Corps only no reports received from 6 U.S. Corps. Beaches. Reported 9 Sept. no immediate adm. difficulty but difficulty anticipated in unloading stores ships owing shortage L.C.T's and present distance of ships from shore due enemy action. Discharged up to 1800 hrs. 9 Sept.

Stores/

# MOST SECRET

stores nil personnel 23,947 tks. and half tracks eighty guns 325 vehs. inc. trailers two 2,155. Rds. and rys. NTR. Taranto. Opening up of Traanto port with skeleton party from Fortbase proceeding. Provision of units based on needs One Airborne Div. plus some air force on assumption port clearance tpt. and bulk of labour available from Italian sources. Ultimate intention switch maintenance Eight Army and Eight Indian Div. to Taranto and other ports heel of Italy. General adm. situation. Baytown and AVALANCHE satisfactory. SLAPSTICK no information.

T.O.O. nil.

M.O.4. Distribution:

C.6.Tels.

- Copies to: M.O.1.2.4.5.6.7.  
 G.S.(P)  
 M.I.3.8.(L)14.17.  
 S.D.2.5.  
 Air Co-ord.  
 L.M.5/S.D.W.  
 R.A.8.  
 R.A.C.1.  
 Sigs. 5.

- E.(Ops)  
 Q.(Ops) 2.(4)  
 A.G. (Co-ord)  
 H.Q. ETOUSA.  
 Brig. Jacob.  
 Admiralty (War Registry)  
 A.M.S.S.O.  
 C.O.H.Q.  
 Cdn. Mil. H.Q.

Recd. in War Registry at 1658/20.

Advance Copy Sent D.C., D.D.I.C.

- 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.F. (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.
- Plot.
- Hd. of M. (2)
- D.N.I. (4)
- I.P. (2)
- D.P.D.
- C.N.I.
- W.D.
- Admiral Blake.
- D.D.O.D. (M)
- D.A.W.T.
- S.O.F. (V) (4)
- D.T.S.D.

N.I.



War Diary.18.9.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

ERITREA. Difficulty is being experienced with the C.O. Italian ERITREA which surrendered at Colombo. On arrival in absence of Admiralty instructions that Italian ensign could be worn ship was ordered to strike colours. On receipt of Admty. instructions C.O. was informed that colours could be flown but he refused to hoist ensign until it was publicly and officially admitted that order to strike was a mistake. He added that had he anticipated this order he would not have hesitated to sink ship in Japanese waters or steer her to a neutral port.

2. He also requested return of rifles and ammunition in order to pay respects to rehoisting of colours and this was conceded.

3. C.O. was informed that he has been ordered to strike flag in accordance with principles of war. He still refuses to hoist colours, however, maintaining that presence of armed guard on board signifies British Sovereignty of ship and that crew are prisoners despite the fact that it has been explained to him verbally and in writing that he and his ship's company were to be treated as internees.

4. In effect C.O.'s attitude is that he considers he has been differently treated from ships in Mediterranean.

5. As it is particularly necessary to rectify this as soon as possible in order to obtain information about Japanese occupied territory that is held by the ship it is requested that C. in C. Italian Fleet may be instructed to give directions to ERITREA to rehoist her colours and to comply with Admty. instructions in regard to ships of Italian Fleet.

6. It would also be of assistance if you could tell me whether Italian ships in Mediterranean have accepted without difficulty the wearing of their colours with British guards on board.

7. Have any steps been taken to obtain access to their signal books?  
(C. in C.E.F., 180257Z to C. in C. Med.(R) Admty.) Reply: C. in C. Med. 191741B, *page 633.*

HERMITAGE. Ship delayed due to defective machinery. Cancel my 170401Z.  
(N.O.I.C. Bombay, 180422Z to C. in C.E.F., A.C.N.B. Opanav, Admty.)

M.E.I.R.I. F.O.N.I.C. 220, pass to N.C.S.O.'s. M.E.I.R.I. amendment number 31. Section IX add new para.  
C. (7) F.O. Ceylon 160731Z Nov. 1942 in hereby cancelled.  
(C. in C.E.F. 180445Z to various.)

Convoy M.A.6. Convoy sailing telegram (3 ships).  
(2) 0631Z 18th. (4) 9 knots. (5) Coastal.  
(6) IRRAWADI, AGRA.  
(N.C.S.O. Madras, 180635Z, 180641Z to Admty.)

/Convoy...

18.9.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Convoy  
B.P. 95 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. Karachi, 180732Z to Admty.)

Shipping  
Gulf  
of Oman.

Your 170415 para. 3 and 8. As Bisley aircraft cannot cover proposed route recommend that inward bound ships should continue to pass 30 miles from Ras Al Hadd until Bisleys have in fact been relieved by long range aircraft.  
2. Arrangements for inward convoys to cross out bound routes off Jask will be signalled when paragraph 8 (?k) has been promulgated if this has not been included by Cdre. Royal Indian Navy.  
(S.N.O.P.G. 180735Z to C. in C.E.F.)

U/Boat  
Campaign  
Shipping  
Approach  
Routes.

Following is repetition para. 4 and 5 my 170415 (Begins).  
4. Only one approach position will normally be in force at a time.  
5. After consideration increased air forces which will be available to cover both convoys and independent shipping following approach positions are intended. (Ends.)

Delhi 180325 to Colombo refers.  
(C. in C.E.F. 180946Z to N.O.I.C. East Coast of Africa, S.N.O., Persian Gulf, N.O.I.C. Aden, Cdre. R.I.N. (R) F.O.C.R.I.N., F.O.C., Red Sea, N.O.I.C. Karachi, Group 222, Admty., H.Q.E.A., N.O.I.C. Hormuz.)

URUGUAY.

U.S. Transport URUGUAY sailed 18th Sept. for U.S.A. via Sydney with P.O.W.S. for Australia. Expected time of arrival Sydney 3rd Oct.  
(D.S.T.O., Bombay, 180946Z to C. in C.E.F. (R) F.O.C.R.I.N. F.O., Ceylon, A.C.N.B., P.S.T.O.I. New Delhi, B.A.D.)

Overdue  
shipping.

BENCLOE due Beira 15th Sept. from Aden. Ship not yet arrived.  
(C.S.A. Beira, 180947Z to Admty., C. in C. South Atlantic, (R) C. in C.E.F., Cmdre. Durban.)  
Arrived. See C.S.A. Beira 211409Z.

Sloops  
minesweepers  
Cutters.

Para. (D) of A.M. 211105. Request early information when these ships may be expected to sail from U.K.  
(2) As these ships are urgently required as A/S escorts in the Indian Ocean C. in C. Med. and C. in C. Levant are requested to expedite their passage to Aden as much as possible.  
(C. in C. E.F., 181000Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med. Admty.)  
Reply C. in C.W.A., 192302A.

/Ships...

War Diary.

18.9.1943.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Ships for  
Eastern  
Fleet.

In order that A/S Escort arrangements for  
convoys on E.I. Stations may be planned ahead  
request early information when ships quoted in  
B. and C. of A.M. 141525 will arrive at Aden.  
(C. in C.E.F. 181015Z to C. in C. Med. (R)  
Admty.)

MARIPOSA,  
GEORGE  
WASHINGTON.

Understand MARIPOSA and GEORGE WASHINGTON are  
proceeding Bombay in near future. Request  
E.T.A. as soon as possible.  
(A.P.S.T.O.I. Bombay, 181145Z to B.A.D. (R) D.S.T.  
P.S.T.O. I., New Delhi.)

Persia  
Sit-Rep.

O/48501 cipher 18th Sept. Persia.  
1. Persia declared war on Germany 9 Sept.  
Country appears indifferent.  
(C. in C. Persia/Iraq 181410C to W.O.)

A.B.T.U.

To provide torpedo maintenance facilities for  
50 in No. reserve Torpedoes for M.T.Bs. and  
Aircraft in the Calcutta area the following is  
a list of principal items of equipment for an  
Advanced Base Torpedo Unit, short title

A.B.T.U. No. 1., now being forwarded to Calcutta:- (details).  
2. The full list of equipment and stores being provided is  
being sent.

(Hd. of M.II, 182359A to C. in C.E.F., (R) F.O.C.R.I.N.,  
F.O. Ceylon, N.O.I.C. Calcutta, D.D.A.S. E.T., S.A.S.O. Bombay,  
C.C.A.S. Calcutta, R.A.N.A.S. I.O., R.A.T.E. Durban.)

614

War Diary.18.9.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

SEMINOLE. Admty. pass to F.O.C.W.Af. F.O.C. Gibraltar. C. in C. Med. Commorrocaneafon who are also information addressees.

Route proposal. Departing Ambrose 1300Z Sept. 20th. U.S.A. H.S. SEMINOLE Gibraltar for onward routeing to Oran. Speed 15 knots. (Route). No codes held. Running fully lighted. Unarmed. Carrying 338 Army personnel for hospital units. (P.D. New York, 180012 to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R., (R) N.O.B. Bermuda, Comnavu, Admty., N.S.H.Q., C.E.S.F.)

U.G.S. Convoys. Your 170005. Cominch 072153 was a direct result of reference C.C.S.(A) 222/4. (C.C.S. 116th Meeting).

2. Admiralty and C. in C. A.F. reply will be presented C.C.S. with Cominch recommendation existing 10 days cycle should be unaltered.

3. It is understood that no further signal will be made by Cominch before the C.C.S. decision.

(B.A.D., 180209 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN. Cancel my 091745 to S.B.N.O.W.At. only. My 060321. ROYAL SOVEREIGN delayed. Escorts will not be required at Norfolk before 7th October.

2. FINDHORN is returning to Norfolk on completion present duty in accordance my 081425 and for repairs to fuel tanks. Time required not yet known.

3. Further signal will be made as soon as possible giving accurate sailing date for ROYAL SOVEREIGN when you may find it more satisfactory to detail different escorts.

(B.A.D., 180215Z, 181443Z to S.B.N.O.W.At., (R) C. in C. W.A., Admty.)

MAURETANIA docking facilities. 1. U.S. Navy have agreed drydock Boston. 2. As B.A.S. and U.S. War Dept. are agreeable to embarkation at Boston request you send vessel direct that port westbound. (B.M.W.T. Boston, 180251Z to D. of S.T., (R) B.A.D.)

KHEDIVE. Commorwesseafon sail KHEDIVE when ready about 22 Sept. Puget to Balboa. This Cominch 171912 addressed to Commorwestseafon, Comwestseafon, Compaseafon, Radio Norfolk. Advise time of departure, route S. of A. As practicable action Adees. furnish protection. No operating planes on board. Compaseafon route onward to Norfolk in trade convoy or independently if satisfactory to other sea frontiers Commanders concerned advising time of departure, route, S. of A. (Comnavu, 180301 to Admty.)

/French ...

War Diary.18.9.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.French  
S/Ms.

Your 132057, Yes. A further signal about allocation of French submarines to A/S training (your 112303 August) will be made on receipt of reply to para. 4 of my 071803 addressed C. in C. Med.  
(A.C.N.S.(F), 180313A to B.A.D., (R) C. in C. Med.)

BARFLEUR.

Comcaribseafron sail French Cruiser (XCL) BARFLEUR when ready to Bermuda. Place Liaison Group on board if considered necessary. C. in C. Lant include this ship in U.G.S.19 destination Casablanca and direct N.O.B. Bermuda furnish Liaison Group as necessary. This is Cominch 172020 addressed to Comcaribseafron and (R) Commoroccan Seafron, Alusnob Martinique, Comar Antilles, C. in C. Med., French Naval Authority Algiers, Admty., N.O.B. Bermuda, Com. 8th Fleet, Chnavnis Dakar.  
(Comnaveu, 180419 to Admty.)  
Trinidad departure 18th Sept. French Warship BARFLEUR for Martinique.  
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 181002Q to S.B.N.O.W.At., (R) Admty., B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

O.T. 9.

Convoy sailing O.T.9. My 171915 (171940 intended). Sailing delayed 16 hours. Amend all times accordingly.  
(C.A.F.A.C., 180430 to F.O.C.W.Af.)

U.S.A.T.

Departure September 18th U.S. Army Transport Y.1 ISLES DE SALUT French Guiana Sept. 20th.  
(B.R.O. Georgetown, 180640Q.)

BUSY.

H.M. Rescue Tug BUSY sailed to tow schooners VALORIE M. and ENTERPRISE S. to Trinidad. Ships in distress at Carupana and Rio Caribe Venezuela respectively.  
(B.S.N.O. Trinidad, 180952Q to S.B.N.O.W.At., (R) Admty., S.O.(I) Jamaica, R.O. Monserrat.)

BITTERSWEET.

Departure BITTERSWEET to relieve? ARROWHEAD with cable ship NORSEMAN thence to Baltimore for refit.  
(C. Takau, 181225Z to C.E.S.F., Admty., etc.)

Naples,  
food  
shortage.

Following is text of telegram to A.F.H.Q. Algiers repeated to you as C.O.S.(W) 818. (Begins).  
Following from Chiefs of Staff. Presume you are anticipating considerable food shortage in Naples and are making necessary arrangements to provide early relief. (Ends).  
(Air Min., 181255Z to J.S.M.)

/GEORGE ...

War Diary.18.9.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

GEORGE WASHINGTON. 18th 2100 GEORGE WASHINGTON escorted Baltimore via Hampton Roads, Sept. 20th. Knots (A) 13.5. (B) 15. (Route). Carrying 678 tons. (U.S.R.O. Bermuda, 181316 to Admty.)

X.B. 74. Arrived 181145Z. (P.D. Boston, 181321Z to Cominch C. & R.)

Russian A.Ms. and S.Cs. (1) Russian Navy craft A.M.138 (S.O.), A.M.139 S.C.1283, S.C.1284, S.C.1285 sailed St. Johns 1300Z/18th to Reykjavik 12 knots via (route). E.T.A. Sept. 23rd. (4) Ships have been instructed to signal E.T.A. on alternative Iceland port wave 2000 k/cs group call sign NFRS. (5) Request ships be escorted from vicinity Skagi Light. (F.O.N.F., 181411Z to C.O.C. Iceland, (R) C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q., Com. 10th Fleet (C. & R.), Alusna Moscow, C.T.F.24, Senior Repr. U.S.S.R., C. in C. Lant, Admty., N.O.B. Iceland, Vice Opnav, B.A.D.)

Destroyers for conversion to R.C.N. A.M. 071519 August. Regret that INGLEFIELD is still engaged in operations in Mediterranean and will not be available for early conversion. (2) FOXHOUND is now being taken in hand for conversion and should be ready in December, and subject to your concurrence, we propose to make her available for transfer to R.C.N. (A.C.N.S.(H), 181429A to N.S.H.Q.) Reply - Concur. (N.S.H.Q., 201444Z to Admty.)

OPPORTUNE, OB DURATE. Intend sailing OPPORTUNE, OB DURATE at 2130Z/18th coastwise to Argentia, E.T.A. 1030Z/19th. (F.O.N.F., 181462 (as received) to S.O.P.A. Argentia.)

Iceland employment of U.S. aircraft. J.S.M. 1187. U.S. proposals in J.S.M. 1172 (T.O.O. 131531Z) were yesterday approved by C.C.S. U.S. object was to turn a local agreement into a general agreement. (J.S.M., 181525Z to W.C.O.)

Secret equipment, information to Russia. J.S.M.1188, C.O.S.(W) 789 (T.O.O. 071245). C.C.S. yesterday agreed to the desirability of exchanging information with U.S.S.R. regarding items of secret equipment, and instructed C.I.C. as a matter of urgency to prepare a list of such items regarding which information. (a) Should be given to U.S.S.R. (b) Should not be given and (c) about which they are in doubt. (J.S.M., 181527Z to W.C.O.)

War Diary.18.9.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Canadian "Algerines" for U.K. My 161926 (re "Algerines" exchanged for corvettes. Arrangements for R.C.N. crews to steam them to U.K.) As commissioning of ships round freeze up period is bound to be problematical consider suggestion most acceptable. Present situation as follows (list etc.) (B.A.T.M. Ottawa, 181601 to Admty.)

U.S. S/M Estimate. One westbound estimated general area 25.00 67.00 from sighting 171808. One unlocated estimated patrolling between Trinidad and Amazon. One unlocated estimated patrolling within 600 miles east to south-east of Recife. Other areas quiet. (Cominch, 181602Z.)

Routeing U.S. controlled shipping. Whenever submarine situation permits request U.S. controlled shipping routed South of Cape of Good Hope be diverted so as not to pass south 40° S. (Com. 10th Fleet (C. & R.), 181612Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A.)

ASHTABULA. Departure 18th U.S.N.T. ASHTABULA for high seas. (B.R.O. U.T. Aruba, 181623Z to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q.)

GAZELLE. Sailing GAZELLE Charleston to Bermuda when ready about 22nd after dark not more than one week working up. Upon completion N.O.B. Bermuda route onward to Halifax to embark minesweeping gear thence as directed by C. in C. N.W.A. to U.K. as additional convoy escort. Action addressees advise times of departure, routes, Speeds of advance. Endurance is 6000 miles at 14 knots. (Cominch, 181642Z to C.E.S.F., N.O.B. Bermuda.)

DUFF, DACRES. My 172203. DUFF, DACRES. Movement delayed 4 hours. (C.T.G. 02.1, 181906 to N.O.B. Bermuda, (R) C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Cominch, Admty., etc.)

ROXBOROUGH, X.B. 74A. At 2000Z/18th sailed ROXBOROUGH escorting X.B.74A. E.T.A. Boston 0300Z/21st. (2) Request ship be taken in hand for defects in accordance with B.A.R.M's 141(?614) and 152138A (C. in C. C.N.A., 181954Z to Comdt. 1st Naval District Boston, (R) B.A.R.M., Admty., N.S.H.Q., C.E.S.F., Cominch.)

/Convoy ...

618

18.9.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

- Convoy O.N.200. 35 ships arrived New York including ESSO NASHVILLE unexpected and 2 stragglers AMELIA EARHART at 172139Z and EMPIRE LANCER at 171854Z. First ship arrived 181546Z last arrived 181741Z. BRITISH RESTRAINT unaccounted for. (P.D. New York, 182156 to Com. 10th Fleet C. and R.)
- A.T. 66 (QUEEN MARY) Departing New York 1700Z/20th at Ambrose QUEEN MARY (A.T.66). Clyde, E.T.A. Clyde Boom 1430Z/25th. S. of A. 26½ knots. (Route). Dawn R/V at 0500Z/25th in 55.18 N. 10.15 W. (R) 55.30, 08.30 thence in accordance instructions C. in C. W.A. Fighter protection code-word "Duplicate" with call sign 192. "Chop" 2000Z/22nd. (P.D. New York, 182206 to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)
- H.H.X.257. Departure ST. ALBANS, BLAIRMORE, BAYFIELD escorting H.H.X.257. (C. Halifax, 182305Z to Admty., etc.)
- Italian Military Mission, Naval representatives. Military Mission under Lieut. General Mason MacFarlane to Badoglio is being formed by Allied C. in C. Admiralty at request of C. in C. Mediterranean are appointing one Commodore and one Commander as British Naval representatives. They will be flown out as soon as possible. 2. C. in C. Mediterranean represents desirability of U.S. Naval representation and suggests you designate officer. (2nd S.L., 182316A to Cominch, (R) B.A.D., C. in C. Med.)

Australia and New Zealand.

- Movements. Arrived Port Phyllis 17th U.S. Dest. HELM. Departed Brisbane 17th U.S. Dest. BALLARD for Sydney (N.S.W.) (A.C.N.B., 180701Z.)
- Digest No. 606 Sept. 17th. Paras. 9 - 12 cover South Pacific Forces. Beaufort reported two small vessels, one barge with aircraft covering 27 miles E.S.E. Cape St. George on easterly course forenoon.



War Diary.18.9.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Digest  
No. 606  
Sept. 17th.  
(Contd.)

2. Liberator attacked three small coasters 65 miles Musmu Island in south-easterly course same morning damaging at least one.

4. Southbound submarine observed off Cape Orford during afternoon.

5. Six Mitchells swept north coast Huon Peninsula forenoon attacking enemy barges, personnel, and supply dumps particularly in vicinity of Siow Lage. Single Mitchell intercepted over Markham Valley by at least six enemy aircraft one of which was destroyed. Four aircraft damaged but returned safely. Other air operations confined to R/C due weather condition.

6. Complete details capture bag not yet available but Navy reported to have suffered heavy casualties. Captured documents indicate remnants endeavouring to escape overland to S.O. on north ?coast Huon Peninsula. Some enemy strong points still reported vicinity Markham Point. Our troops from Salamaua area reported killing 60 Japanese 15th and now mopping up Labu Swamp areas to (south ?) of Lae.

7. Afternoon 16th 3 Liberators bombed Gtarom runway and buildings Sorong and reported following shipping. Two small coasters at Sorong, one unidentified vessel near Kokas, four small coasters at Utaom and two at Kaitana, and four off east coast Ceram in addition to barges and small craft.

8. Five Hudsons attacked Taberfane before dawn causing several fires and explosions float-plane beach and village area. 7 Beaufighters attacked same target later forenoon destroying one float-plane and A/A position and fuel laden barge. Three float-planes intercepted slightly damaging one Beaufighter.

12. Our artillery prevented enemy barge reinforcing north eastern Arundel night 15th.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 180755Z to Admty., etc.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 181345A, 181420A.)

Submarines Attacked.

Submarine  
attack and  
sighting  
summary  
for 24  
hours to  
0900Z/18th.

A. Aircraft A/103 sighted periscope at 0750/17th in 45° 37' N. 09° 57' W., course 180°.  
Aircraft O/233 sighted U-Boat on surface at 1144/17th in 37° 43' N. 09° 33' W., course 180°.  
(D.D.I.C., 180942Z to Cominch.)

19.9.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

Impending  
U-Boat  
offensive.

1. Admty. have today approved C. in C. W.A.'s proposal that all available Support Groups should be placed at his disposal. BITER, TRACKER, and the 5th and 9th Escort Groups were today ordered to revert to North Atlantic Convoy Support Groups accordingly and will be used to support Convoy H.X.257, and the 2nd Escort Group with KITE is proceeding from the Bay Patrol to Liverpool. On 20th September C. in C. W.A. asked that the 7th Escort Group should be reconstituted as soon as possible.

The Admiralty appreciation is that the attacks on U-Boats and a possible attack yesterday on H.X.256, indicate that a resumption of activity against convoys in the N.W. Approaches is imminent. The most likely area for the first attacks is between 52° N. and 57° N. and 25° W. and 40° W.

Enemy M/V  
torpedoed.

2. M.T.B.617 reported at 2345A that she had scored one hit upon an enemy M/V stopped off Ijmuiden: this may be STRASBOURG. Three M.G.Bs. on the same patrol engaged enemy trawlers and left 2 on fire, one M.G.B. was damaged and had a fatal casualties, and returned to harbour.

M.G.Bs.  
shelled.

3. Between 2143 and 2150 yesterday M.G.Bs. 116 and S.4 were shelled by enemy coastal batteries when off the South Foreland. About 18 rounds were fired with accuracy but no damage or casualty was caused.

RENOWN.

4. RENOWN arrived at the Clyde this morning, *with the Prime Minister on his return from Canada.*

Task Group  
112.1.

5. The U.A. Aircraft Carrier RANGER with 3 U.S. destroyers arrived at Scapa at 0951 today.

O.N.S. 18,  
U/Bs.  
attacked.

6. ESCAPADE, escorting O.N.S.18, counter-attacked 2 U-Boats at 2135 in approx. 56.56 N. 29.00 W. (see 20th September).

Liberator A.I/10 covering O.N.S.18 at 0857 today attacked a surfaced U-Boat in 58.40 N. 25.30 W. After the first attack the U-Boat's bow lifted sharply, an effect like a small explosion was noted at the bow and 4 gunners disappeared from the deck. The U-Boat stopped and settled, disappearing in 48 seconds.

A second attack was made, the depth charges exploding in the centre of the conning tower swirl.

U/B sunk.

Aircraft A/420 attacked a U-Boat at 0910Z today in 58.40 N. 25.10 W. and estimated 4 hits. The aircraft considered the U-Boat was sunk.

19.9.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

7. SS. WILLIAM JAMES, Calcutta to U.S.A., made an "S" report at 1845Z from 34.34 S. 21.27 E. It is possible that a friendly submarine was concerned.

Mediterranean.

WARSPITE.

8. WARSPITE arrived at Malta in tow today.

Corsica.

9. The Italian destroyers LEGIONARIO and ORIANI landed troops and supplies at Ajaccio last night and returned to Algiers. The cruiser JEANNE D'ARC with the destroyers FANTASQUE, ALCYON and TEMPETE sailed from Algiers for Corsica today carrying troops.

Salerno.

10. Several air attacks were made on shipping off "Avalanche" beaches today, but the attacks were not pressed home and no damage is reported. Aircraft minelaying was suspected in raids last night, but sweeping of channels produced negative results.

Mines off  
Cotrone.

11. CROMARTY, (14th Minesweeping Flotilla) reports that B.Y.M.S. 19 was mined in a position 345° Collone light (Calabria) 2.9 miles (approaches to Cotrone) and her bow was blown off. The after part is afloat and was towed to harbour, where however, it sank during the night. There were several casualties.

12. An aircraft reported having bombed six small enemy vessels at 0142B in 42.55 N. 9.40 E. (N.E. of Corsica), and claimed probable hits.

Levant.

13. INTREPID and ECHO embarked 600 personnel and stores at Haifa and sailed at 0700 for Leros (Dodecanese) via Scarpanto Straits. One merchant vessel and one L.C.T. with motor launch escort arrived at Kastelorizo this morning, and the M/V is proceeding to Leros to continue the build-up.

Italian  
Fleet.

14. The Chiefs of Staff consider that no Italian ship whose defection might seriously embarrass us should continue to be operated by an Italian crew. Consequently, battleships and submarines

/are...

19.9.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Italian  
Fleet.  
(Contd.)

are to be at once demilitarized completely and crews reduced to care and maintenance basis. Submarines will be considered later for employment. Italian units, including cruisers and MIRAGLIA, are to be used to further our war effort, crews and flags being transferred if thought best.

Italian  
Ships in  
Balearic  
Islands.

15. N.A. Madrid reports a statement by the Spanish Minister of Marine that the Italian ships in the Balearic Islands are only provisionally interned. It appears that the Minister is maintaining 2,300 Italians in port, a very awkward matter, especially as they have formed two parties, one for Badoglio and one for Mussolini, and fights are frequent. The Minister hopes we can persuade the Italian Ambassador to request that the ships can leave, and he believes the M.F.A. would agree to this.

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19.9.1943.  
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

ODINN II. Norwegian trawler ODINN II now on passage to Faroes having escaped from Lofoton Is. and having landed by boat on isolated (?apex) of North East coast of Iceland at 180200 Icclander Jen Thomson Fridriksson until recently living in Denmark. ODINN II is reported to be a vessel of 425 tons. (A.C.I.C. 191522A to Admty.)

Movements.

ENGADINE. ENGADINE arrived Clyde. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 190658A to N.O.I.C. Liverpool).

RENOWN. RENOWN escorted by SCORPION and SCOURGE arrived Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 190904.)

T.G.112-1. Scapa arrivals C.T.G.112.1 in U.S. Aircraft carrier RANGER with FORREST, CORRY, HOBSON. (A.C.O.S. 190951 to Admty.)  
RANGER,  
FORREST,  
CORY,  
HOBSON.

KENT. Proceed to Chatham passing Hoxa Gate at 0900A/20. 2. Route via War Channels, speed being adjusted as necessary to R/V with escort and arrive Chatham in accordance with C. in C.Nore's 181052. (C. in C. H.F. 191033A to KENT.)  
Scapa arrival KENT.  
(A.C.O.S. 191515 to C. in C.H.F.)

MATCHLESS, Arrived fuelled and sailed MATCHLESS and ORWELL.  
ORWELL. (Cdre D.W.A. 191335A to C. in C. H.F.)

NORFOLK. Scapa arrival NORFOLK.  
(A.C.O.S. 191444 to A.C.I.C.)

LONDON, Intend following movements. p.m.22nd September.  
AUGUSTA, C.S. One in LONDON with AUGUSTA leaving Scapa  
BELFAST. for Hvalfjord. 2. After conference with C.S. One  
at Hvalfjord C.S.10 is requested to proceed in  
BELFAST to Scapa.  
(C. in C. H.F. 191836A.)

Operations.

Operation Faeroes departure:- SHIKARI, OBEDIENT, SARDONYX,  
S.F. MAHRATTA.  
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 190635A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

/My...

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War Diary.19.9.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Operations  
S.F.  
(Contd.)

My 031615B August. "Moorings" patrols 1201A to 2359A/19th Sept. 2. (a) Nil. (b) 10.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 191132A to H.F.)  
SHIKARI reports his P.C.S. at 1800A/19 062° 12' N. 010° 30' W. 285° 10 knots.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 192222A to OBEDIENT, MAHRATTA.)

Bay  
Patrol.

Focke Wulf aircraft active and may be expected in your vicinity.  
(D.D.I.C. 190931A to Escorts S.L.136, M.K.S.24, K.M.F.24. (R) JED, CRANE.)

A S/M on surface at night recently passed within 2,000 yards of a group of fishing vessels Bay of Biscay. 10 hours later 4 Narvik-class destroyers arrived and carried out a prolonged search of vicinity. She was obviously reported.

(F.O.S. 191828 to 62 S.M.Z.)

Am joining 2nd Escort Group.

(KITE 191832A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

1. E.G.2. is to proceed to Liverpool, calling at Falmouth or Milford Haven for fuel if necessary. S.O. to report intentions.

2. Fuel permitting KITE is to R/V with E.G.2. as arranged by S.O. E.G.2.

(C. in C. Plymouth 191852A to E.G.2.)

Your 191825A. Am proceeding to Liverpool E.T.A. a.m. 21st. WOODCOCK will top up with O.F. at Milford Haven arriving approx. 1500/20. (?KITE) now in company with E.G.2.

(E.G.2. 192107A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

STONEHENGE.

Leaving patrol at 0300A/22nd for Lerwick passing through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles diving by day N. of 062°.  
(Capt. S.9. 191129A to STONEHENGE.)

Special  
Operation.  
FENCER.  
E.G.8.

8th Escort group and FENCER are required for a special operation sailing U.K. about 1st October.  
2. It has not yet been decided whether the whole group will act as screen for FENCER and single ship convoy or whether WRESTLER, WHITEHALL, VISCOUNT, will screen FENCER while INCONSTANT, BURZA, GARLAND act as A/S screen for the convoy.

3. Every opportunity is to be taken to carry out exercises using a S/M whenever possible to cover both alternatives in para. 2. FENCER is to signal proposals after discussion with S.O. E.G.8, F.O.C.T., F.O.I.C. Greenock, Capt.(D) Greenock.

(C. in C. W.A. 191238A to E.G.8, FENCER.)

Coastal  
Patrols.

1. Orders for night 19/20th September.  
(A) GREY SEAL, GREY OWL, GREY FOX, Anti E-Boat patrol 10 miles S. of convoy route between C3 and C2 buoys from 2130A to 0530A. (B) CHASSEUR 41 12 patrol Q.Z.S.384 between F. and E.A. 5 buoys.

(C) M.L.344 immediate notice St. Helens. (D) TALYBONT. WENSLEYDALE. Immediate notice Yarmouth. (E) M.G.Bs.13,7,6, patrolling 50° 20' N. between 2° 00' W. and 2° 25' W.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 191423A.)

/Patrols...

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War Diary.19.9.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Coastal  
Patrols.  
(Contd.)

Patrols 19th September. 1. Force C. M.T.Bs. 415 (SO) 430, 413 are to leave Dartmouth at 1900 and proceed at 25 knots through position (AA) 340 Les Hanois 15 to position (FF) 270 Les Hanois 15. Thence to sweep for enemy shipping at reduced speed through position (GG) 200 La Corbiere LT.6 to position (HH) 161 La Corbiere LT.6. Return route from position (HH) keeping 6 miles clear of La Corbiere LT. Through position (JJ) 163 St. Martins PT.8 and (FF) so as to be within 30 miles of own coast at first light. Return course to be set for Dartmouth. 2. Codeword "Occasion".

3. Force D. M.T.Bs. 677 (SO) 664 are to leave Dartmouth at 1815 and proceed at 18 knots to position (SS) 010 Triagoz LT.5. Thence to sweep for enemy shipping between position (SS) and position (TT) 000 Ile De Vierge 7 leave patrol line from Western end to be within 30 miles of own coast at first light. Course on return to be set for Prawle PT. 4. Codeword "Plumb".

5. Force E. M.T.Bs. 98 (SO) 90, 92, 227, are to leave Dartmouth at 1913 and proceed to position (PP) 352 Les Heaux LT.3. Thence to sweep for enemy shipping at reduced speed through position (QQ) 166 Barnouic West Light 5 to position (RR) 072 Grand Lejon 15 and return through QQ and PP to be within 30 miles of own coast at first light. Return course to be set for Start Point. Speed on passage 25 knots. 6. Codeword "Porter".

(C. in C. Plymouth 191501A.)  
My 191501. Cancel Force D.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 191925A to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth.)  
C. in C. Plymouth's 191501A. Force D. remaining in Harbour at immediate notice.  
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 192038A to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
Force F. M.G.Bs. 330, 329, 324 are to be sailed forthwith to carry out anti E-Boat patrol in vicinity of 135° Start 18'.  
2. Leave patrol 0600A/20 and return Dartmouth. Codeword "Talbot"  
(C. in C. Plymouth 192337A.)  
Add to my 191525A. Para. 14 M.G.B. 330, 329, 324, sail Dartmouth 2359 to patrol in vicinity 135°. Start 18.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 192344A.)

M.G.Bs.  
shelled.

Between 2143 and 2150 yesterday M.G.Bs. 116 and S4 when in position 118° S. Foreland 9 miles, were fired on by enemy coastal batteries, one on Cap Gris Nez, and one W. of Calais. Approx. 18 rounds of estimated calibre 6" were fired, but, though accurate, no damage or casualties were sustained.  
(V.A. Dover 191727A to Admty.)

Enemy  
M/V.  
hit.

My 2320. Enemy's speed is stopped.  
(M.T.B. 617 192335 to Nore.)  
Two auxiliary vessels. My position 090°. 2.5 miles from Ijmuiden.  
(M.T.B. 617 192340 to Nore.)  
One M/V hit.  
(M.T.B. 617 192345A to Nore.)

19.9.1943.  
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.

S.L.136. Reference Stipple for 20th September. In view of necessity to conserve V.L.R. aircraft to meet changing situation in North Atlantic it is not intended to provide air escort for S.L.136 on 20th September unless it becomes threatened. (A.C.H.Q. Liverpool 191255A to Admty.)

Mining.

Thames Estuary. My 171345A. One ground mine detonated by Sweeper at 171214A in 262° Tongue Sand Tower 3.2 miles. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 191008A.)

S.N.222C. My 150902A para. D2, D3 and P. Screen will now be FLEETWOOD (S.O) SALADIN, ROCKET, and HARDY. On return Port ZA, 2 former will proceed to Londonderry and 2 latter to Scapa. (R.A.M. 191504A to Admty.)

Newhaven. Lt.Cdr. MM/S reports one German Mine V type sunk by gunfire 164° Newhaven breakwater 6 point 8 miles today. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 191645 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Alten Fiord. W.N. photographic R/C Alten following at 0930A today unsuccessful. Every effort made but conditions quite impossible even for visual and no likelihood improvement today. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 191144A to Admty.)

Off Aalesund. My 1102. P.C.S. of one merchant vessel 1500 tons small escort vessel 62° 13' N. 05° 13' E. 220° 8 knots. (A/C 190 Sq. Duty B. 191210A to 18 Group.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat attacked. Am over enemy S/M in 58° 40' N. 25° 10' W. Enemy is on surface and when first sighted was on course 270° speed 10 knots. (A/C 420 Sq. Duty A. 190857Z to 93 Group.) Have attacked enemy with depth-charges and estimate four hits. (A/C 420 Sq. Duty A. 190910Z to 93 Group.) My 190910. Large patches of petrol appear on the surface. Believed sunk. Flak damage, starboard wing. (A/C 420 Sq. Duty A. 190930Z to 93 Group.)



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19.9.1943.  
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

U-Boat attacked. (Contd.) O.N.202. ICARUS detached to search for U-Boat attacked by A/C in  $058^{\circ} 40' 025^{\circ} 10'$ . Request A/C be ordered home by procedure C. My P.C.S.  $056^{\circ} 43' 024^{\circ} 54' 287^{\circ} 9$ . No stragglers. (C2. 191102Z to C. in C. W.A.) Rejoin ON.202 forthwith. (C. in C.W.A. 191333Z to ICARUS.)

S.O. Group C2's 191102Z. Aircraft has left the vicinity of S/M sighting and is proceeding to Gander. (A.C.I.C. 191350A to C2.)

U-Boats reported. At least one U-Boat estimated in your vicinity today. (D.D.I.C. 191107A to Escorts O.N.S.18, O.N.202.) Inconclusive D/F of transmissions on 10310 kc/s at 1227Z and 1234Z suggest one or more U-Boats may be in area of convoys. (D.D.I.C. 191404A to Escorts O.N.202, O.N.S.18, E.G.9.)

By D/F on 10310 kc/s at 1421Z U-Boat estimated within 75 miles of  $56^{\circ} 30' N. 27^{\circ} 30' W.$  (D.D.I.C. 191554A to Escorts O.N.202, O.N.S.18, E.G.9.) (1) Short Naval Enigma considered close bearing  $210^{\circ}$  from  $056^{\circ} 42' N. 027^{\circ} 31' W.$  at 1528Z. Investigated without result. Otherwise nothing yet to indicate O.N.S.18 sighted. (2) Course  $280^{\circ}$  speed  $6\frac{1}{2}$ .

(B.3. 191700Z to C. in C.W.A.) U/B sighted by A.T.C. A/C 1225Z position  $62^{\circ} 52' N. 36^{\circ} 29' W.$  course  $109^{\circ}$  on surface and seen to submerge. (R.A.F. Iceland 192045A to H.Q.C.C. 15 and 18 Groups.) As ON.202 is unexpectedly bearing  $115^{\circ}$  from me consider many of bearings obtained could have been of S/Ms. in its vicinity and some in vicinity of escort group 9. My 191700 refers. (B.3 192130Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Impending U-Boat offensive. C. in C. W.A. 181957 which has been passed to H.Q.C.C. Concur with proposal in para. 2. 2. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to order 2nd Escort Group to Liverpool. (A.C.N.S.H. 191340A to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth.)

In view of indications of renewed enemy activity in North Atlantic the following will revert to North Atlantic convoy support groups:- 2nd Escort Group, 5th Escort Group, 9th Escort Group, BITER, TRACKER.

(C. in C.W.A. 191834Z.) E.G.5 is to sail p.m. 20th towards  $057^{\circ} N. 040^{\circ} W.$  making good 12 knots. (2) Intention is for Groups to meet and support H.X.257.

(C. in C. W.A. 192029Z to Cdre. D. W.A. E.G.5.)

Casualties & Defects.

RINGDOVE. Sailed RINGDOVE with RU.90 in accordance with my 181330. (A.C.I.C. 190828A to Admty.)

/DILWORTH...

19.9.1943.  
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

DILWORTH. Received 0735Z DE DILWORTH. Have received under-water damage fore peak and deep tank leaking oil badly. Proceeding back to Port will arrive examination vessel Clyde. 1900 hours. (Port Patrick Radio 190835A to N.O.I.C.Greenock.)

BALMORAL. Your 181240. Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Stranraer 191415A to N.O.I.C.Holyhead)

TEES. TEES has several turns of wire round port propeller shaft. Divers have been at work for 2 days. Work proceeding. (WESTERN ISLES 192234A to C. in C. W.A.)

Shipping & Convoys.

A.T.63 (MAURETANIA). A.T.63 arrived. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 190530A.)

SUFFOLK. Intend sailing SUFFOLK 1915Z/19 Sept. Route. Estimated passing 007° W. 0415Z/20 Sept. Chop first October 3rd October. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 190935Z to Admty.)

T.U.2. If possible CHRISTIAAN HUYGENS should be sailed in convoy T.U.2. My 110337A para. 3 refers. 2. No personnel will embark. (D.S.T. 192010A.)

D.S.45. My 180342A. As LEOPOLDVILLE cannot be ready for convoy D.S.45 CHAMPOLLION is to be substituted. (D.S.T.192011A.)

War Diary.19.9.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Italian  
Ships,  
Balearics.N.A. Madrid, 190945B to Admty.  
See Mediterranean.

G.U.S.15.

My 181947 (? 181927 intended) delete FONTAINE,  
ARGONNE, add GLARONA (12 ships).  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 190959 to Admty., etc.)

MINERVE.

F.S. MINERVE leaves vicinity Lizard Head at  
2230/22nd Sept. diving by day by route "Gold"  
105 miles a day to 044° 01' N. 007° 33' W. to  
patrol within radius 20 miles of Cape Ortegal  
thence to Gibraltar as ordered by F.O.(S).  
(ii) Communications. (iii) MINERVE carries S.Ps. in accordance  
with A.2 C. Article 44 A list 1. (iv) Last Q.B.A.108.  
S/M painted dark blue.  
(Capt. (S) 5, 191021A to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) F.O.S., C. in C.  
Med., S.O.(S) Gibraltar, etc.)

LEPINE.

B.N.A. Lisbon's 161255 and your 051820 as amended  
by your 142010. Intend to sail LEPINE only  
escorted by French LA GRACIEUSE, LA GRANDIERE.  
2. LEPINE passenger capacity is 750. Your  
261141 August refers.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 191022B to C. in C. Med.,  
(R) Admty., etc.)

T.F.21.11.

Situation 191956B. U.S. Naval Force T.F.21.11  
patrolling vicinity Azores.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 191057B to area Y.)STANRIDGE,  
G.U.S.15.STANRIDGE returned. C.T.F.61 190455 (N.T. in  
W.R.) refers.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 191109B to C.M.S.F.F., (R) C. in  
C. Med., Admty.)C.T.F.61's 190455. STANRIDGE visited on return. She is structur-  
ally same as when she left Gibraltar. No repair work has  
failed. No reason can be seen for ship's return.\*  
(A.S.Gibraltar, 191426B to Admty.) \* W.D. Note: Speed too slow  
for convoy, see 201738B.REDPOLE,  
Convoy.Convoy "Gnome" P.C. and S. at 1200B 036° 44' 007°  
41' 126° speed 9 knots. Intend bearing (due?)  
180° at 1700B. and 2000B. E.T.A. 0800B  
tomorrow Monday 20th Sept. Weather.  
(REDPOLE, 191116B to F.O.C. Gib., (R) Capt. (D) Gib.)

MONTCALM.

Onward route from (C) to (A) 035° 45' 006° 30'  
thence 035° 49' 18" 006° 06' 30", 035° 50' 54" 005°  
56' 48", 035° 54' 00" 005° 50' 54", 035° 54' 54" 005°  
43' 12", 035° 59' 005° 21', 036° 10' 003° 00', 035° 53' 000° 38'  
lettered (O) to (U).  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 191214B to F.C. MONTCALM, (R) Comnob.Oran,  
Cdre. Algeria, C. in C. Med. (A), C.M.S.F., Navale France.)Italian  
ships in  
Balearics.N.A. Madrid, 19130? B.  
See Mediterranean.

/AMBRIZ ...

War Diary.19.9.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- AMBRIZ Sailed Gib. 1330B/19th for Marseilles.  
safe conduct. Portuguese AMBRIZ 920 tons speed 9 knots, routed coastwise to Cape San Sebastian thence coastwise to (details), thence to Marseilles. Not to be molested on this voyage, carries usual National and International Red Cross markings.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 191325B to S. and A.)
- NORD ATLANTIC. Following for Admty. pass to H.Q.C.C. F.O.(S), C. in C.Plymouth, (begins):  
My 171928. Minister of Marine tells me amount of cargo salvaged was 6500 tons gas oil and about 1000 tons lubricating oil.  
(N.A.Madrid 191357B to Admty.)
- U/B destroyed by A/C, HAARLEM, HYACINTH, 12th Sept. Please pass following to C. in C.Med. R.O.Tangier (begins): Your 152005.  
Minister of Marine casually raised matter with me today. He was more amused than annoyed and said C.Os. of H.M.Ships concerned ought to be punished for expending (?200) rounds without destroying S/M. I said I had not received full details yet but I understood S/M after entering territorial waters continued firing at her pursuers when they were still outside. Argument envisaged in your signal can be developed from this when we receive Official protest. S/M is badly damaged but they believe she can be salvaged. In any case she can not be left where she is. Artificers are now (?endeavouring) remove one unexploded aerial bomb and unexploded charge left by Germans to destroy her. Second charge went off. If she can be floated Spanish Govt. will ask our agreement for her to be (?escorted) Cartagena and interned. In his view crew will be interned any way but M.F.A. will have to confirm this.  
(N.A.Madrid 191411B to Admty.)
- UPSTART. Pass through following positions at times stated: all positions north and west.  
D. 043° 01' 009° 30' at 0900/22nd. E. 039° 30' 010° 01' at 1900/24th. F. 038° 50' 010° 01' at 0230/25th. G. 036° 51' 009° 13' at 0630/26th. H. 036° 37' 007° 24' at 0350/27th. J., 035° 53' 006° 15' at 1200/27th. K. 035° 49' 006° 06' 30" at 1300/27th thence by Q.B.A. 87 to Gibraltar.  
2. P.44 (UNITED) passes through (?043°) north 010° W. at 2100/21st and UNISON through 043° N. 010° 25' W. at 0001/22nd diving by day 105 miles per day on route "Gold" and "Rose" respectively.  
3. UPSTART S.O.A. diving by day 95 miles per day. Proceed on surface at your discretion at 9 knots from 2130/26th but do not cross meridian 007° W. before 0700/27th. Submerged bombing restrictions arranged until 2130/26 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. All times zone minus 2.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 191344B to P.65 (UPSTART), (R) Capt. S.8, Capt. S.3, Capt. S.5, P.43 (UNISON), P.44 (UNITED), F.O.(S), C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C.Med.)
- G.C.37. Arrived 2115A/19th.  
(Commorseafron 192205B to F.O.Gibraltar.)

War Diary.19.9.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- L.T.S.2. Sailing telegram. (2) 0700Z/19th Sept.  
(3) Knots  $9\frac{3}{4}$ . (4) NEW NORTHLAND (Cdre),  
ELIZABETHVILLE Freetown 1600Z/24th Sept.  
(5) Route "Oxford" omitting position Y.  
(6) All ships 5 route. (7) Q.T.O. (10) Nil.  
(11) T.W.D., codeword "Greenhorn".  
(N.C.S.O. Lagos, 190710 to Admty., etc.)
- TROILUS. Passed SS. TROILUS approximate course  $128^{\circ} 12'$   
knots bound Takoradi position  $006^{\circ} 40' N. 012^{\circ}$   
 $30' W.$  Weather report.  
(DOUGLAS, 190731 to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) N.O.I.C.  
Takoradi, Admty.)
- CORFU docking. Your 141140. CORFU can be accepted mid October  
Firm date will be signalled, when completion date  
CILICIA definitely known.  
(C. in C. S.A., 190917 to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) Admty.,  
Com. Supt. Simonstown.)
- BUTSER. Sailed 0800Z. My 181156 refers.  
(Comar Dakar, 191102Z to F.O.C.W.Af., Admty.,  
etc.)
- RANGITATA. 18th, 1700 RANGITATA Buenos Aires 19th.  
(R.O. Montevideo, 191501 to Admty.)
- WILLIAM JAMES. Following read on 500 k/cs. S O S. SSSS from  
WILLIAM JAMES 34.34 S. 21.27 E. WX.09093.  
(Simonstown W/T, 191845Z to Admty.)
- O.S. 54. Arrivals 18th Sept. ROCHESTER, SCARBOROUGH,  
GERANIUM, AZALEA, BALSAM, TAVY with O.S. 54.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 191943Z to Admty., etc.)
- STRATHAIRD. Your 191850Z (? 181603 intended) impossible  
arrive before a.m./23rd Sept.  
(STRATHAIRD, 192330Z to C. in C. S.A.)

War Diary.19.9.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy sightings. P.C. and S. of 6 small enemy vessels 43.00 N. 9.40 E.  
(A/C GQY/W 190050B to Malta A.H.Q.)  
Have attacked enemy with bombs level. Results of attack hits probable.

(A/C GQY/W via Malta, 190142B to A.H.Q. Malta).  
Have attacked 2 enemy, bombs level. Result of attack - hits probable. Position 42.55 N., 9.40 E.  
(A/C GQY/W 190317B to A.H.Q. Malta).

Italian ships:- Following is a repetition of Fan 233. Begins:-  
Use, Colours, position in Balearic Isles, arrivals Cyprus, Algeria. For Eisenhower, Freedom Algiers. From - Combined Chiefs of Staff. "Avalanche". Chiefs of Staff direct that in consultation with Adm. Cunningham you should list the needs that can be served by Italian ships under your control and locations where, in opinion of C. in C. Med. Italian Units can be best utilized to meet the needs, using Italian ships, Italian personnel and Italian flag.  
When in your opinion it would best serve our war needs to transfer crews and flags, do so.

Give consideration to employment of Italian ships as transports, including cruisers. The criterion is greatest use of Italian ships for our war effort. Methods of employment are of lesser importance.

No Italian ship whose defection might seriously embarrass us should continue to be operated by Italian crew. Accordingly,  
(a) Battleships should at once be demilitarized completely and crews reduced to care and maintenance basis,  
(b) S/Ms should be treated on similar lines with view to being afterwards considered for employment.

Cruisers and aircraft transport MIRAGLIA may be employed with Italian crews at discretion of Allied Command.  
Destroyers and small craft should be employed to maximum extent possible by Allied Command.

It is important that Italians be made to understand that all ships however employed continue to be at the complete disposal of Allies under the Armistice. No objection to Italian flag continuing to fly, on this understanding. 162220Z. Note:- N.A.F.368 = T.O.O. 131540/9. (Ends).

(Hd. of M.I., 190126A to C. in C. Levant, etc).

Minister of Marine said Italian ships in Balearic Is. are only provisionally interned. Proof is that he is maintaining 2300 Italians in port - a very awkward matter specially as they have formed 2 parties, 1 for Badoglio and one for Mussolini and fights are frequent. Would like to move men to mainland but is hanging on in the hope that we can persuade Italian Ambassador to request that ships can leave. He had every belief M.F.A. would agree to this. But he advised us to get Badoglio representative at once and if ships left to have our own ratings on board or Italians might try to scuttle.

Germans did not appear to be showing any interest in Warships but only in Merchant ships.

(N.A. Madrid, 190945B to Admty. (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med).

/Italian...

War Diary.19.9.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Italian ships:-  
Use, Colours, position in Balearic Isles, arrivals Cyprus, Algeria.  
(contd).

Italian N.A. and Assistant N.A. met U.S. N.A. and me today.  
Italian was definite that he could not act without Ambassador's Authority and Ambassador had informed him that Spanish Govt. would reject any request for release of Italian ship without production of credentials from Italian Govt. (We have no reason to believe this). Both U.S. N.A. and I formed impression Italian N.A. does not credit telegram from Badoglio received via U.S.  
He agreed that question of internment remains open. Survivors of ROMA and two scuttled destroyers will probably be moved to Madrid but crews of existing

ships will remain on board. All he would undertake was  
(a) To assist by keeping matter open (b) Co-operate with us when written authority arrived.  
He promised to find what fuel will be required to enable ship to reach Algiers.

From Minister of Marine I learn (corrupt group) Admiral commanding Balearic Islands had quarrel with Italian N.A. whom he unjustly suspected plotting sailing ship without permission. Please inform Resident Minister, Algiers, and Foreign Office. (B.N.A. Madrid, 19130?B to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty).

Italian warships in Med. have been allowed to keep their colours flying but in accordance with Armistice terms have been directed by their C. in C. to submit to such disarmament as may be directed by Allies. Your 180257 refers. Armed guards have not been placed on board as I consider them (?unnecessary) but we have the right to do so.

2. Suggest line to take is that whether C.O. hoists or does not hoist Italian flag is entirely his own affair.

3. For your information there is every prospect of Italian light forces co-operating under our orders in Mediterranean.

(C. in C. Med., 191741B to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty).

See also C. in C. Eastern Fleet 190447Z.

Arrivals 19th Sept. 6 small Italian auxiliaries from Cyprus.

(N.O.I.C. P.P., 192020C to Admty. C. in C. Levant).

Arrivals LEGIONARIO (It). ALFREDO ORIANI (It).

Departures, LA SABLAISE (Fr). JEANNE D'ARC (Fr). FANTASQUE (Fr). TEMPETE (Fr). L'ALCYON (Fr).

(2) B. D. Z.

(Com. Algeria., 192131B to Admty).

WARSPITE

Your position at 0150 046° Saint Elmo 30 miles.  
((?) 190204 to WARSPITE).

ARETHUSE

Operation complete, request in route.

(ARETHUSE, 190220B to Capt. (S) 8).

Leave patrol through 041° 32' 007° 01' at 1815/19th  
038° 05' 005° 00' at 2000/20th thence R/V P. 225

(SIMOOM) and escort (corrupt group) in 037° 04' 003° 20' at 0700/21st. Proceed on surface at discretion.

Your 190220 acknowledged.

(Capt. (S) 8th, 190900B to ARETHUSE (R) 8th S/F).

/INGLEFIELD...

634

19.9.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

INGLEFIELD, C. in C. Med. 181943. E.T.A. Malta 0600/20 Sept.  
RAIDER. (INGLEFIELD, 190605 to V.A. Malta (R) C. in C. Med  
etc).

CALPE, Your 181953B (?181951). Intend sailing 1000B Sept.  
CATTERICK, 19th. E.T.A. Augusta 2330B/19th.  
HAYDON. (Com. N.O.M Palermo, 190726B to C. in C. Med.  
VALIANT, N.O.I.C. Augusta).

VILLE D'ORAN My 132044 amended E.T.A. of VILLE D'ORAN and  
escort at Taranto 1230 Sept. 20th.  
(C. in C. Med., 190819B to F.O.T.A.)  
(?Bizerta) arrived, VILLE D'ORAN, S.N.S.1.  
(F.O. Tunisia, 191351 to Admty. etc).

Air R/C P.R.U. Sept. 18th. Toulon. 2 GALISSONIERE class  
Toulon, cruisers, 1 MOGADOR, 3 LE HARDI class destroyers  
Marseilles. (1 in dock) ex Battleships CONDORCET and L'OCEAN,  
4 POMONE class T/Bs (1 in dock). 2 ELAN class  
escort vessels. COMMANDANT TESTE. Probably 8  
E or R-boats, 8 T.L.Cs. and at least 14 U-boats  
and French submarines. 2 liners 510 - 530 feet 1 tanker 400 feet.  
Marseilles. 1 escort vessel 260 feet in dock. 2 tankers 530 -  
380 feet, 5 liners 480 - 310 feet. 15 M/Vs 350 - 200 feet,  
2 of which damaged.  
(D.D.I.C., 190900A to C. in C. Med. etc).

FANTASQUE, LE FANTASQUE, JEANNE D'ARC, destroyer L'ALCYON  
JEANNE D'ARC, class and TEMPETE leaving Algiers at 0300B/20th,  
TEMPETE, passing through 041° 10' 007° 10' at 2100B/20th  
L'ALCYON. Thence to Ajaccio leaving there early a.m./21st  
to return Algiers by reverse route.  
(Capt. (S) 8, 190958B to ARETHUSE (R) S.8).  
My 190958. These 4 ships now leaving Algiers at  
2000B/19th.  
(Capt. (S) 8, 191258B to CASABIANCA, (R) S.8).

K.M.S.26 My 181102B sailed.  
(N.O.B. Oran, 191027B to WHITEHAVEN, (R) Admty. etc)

G.U.S.16 Sailing telegram (23 ships) (ii) 0801C/19th  
(iii) Sailed together. (iv) (v) (vi) as in  
C. in C. Levant, 161336 less JUMNA.  
(xiii) (A) Cmdre. Brodie, in EASTERN PRINCE to Gib.  
(xv) T.C.  
(N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 191042C to C. in C. Levant,  
Admty. etc).

Ships for Request you will sail SCYLLA, CHARYBDIS,  
Gibraltar. UNICORN, CLEVELAND, (?BICESTER), CALPE, HAYDON,  
CATTERICK, (?KAPUNDA), HUNTER, STALKER, ATTACKER,  
SLAZAK at 1800/20th for Gibraltar.



War Diary.19.9.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Ships for Gibraltar. (contd).  
 2. Route war channel 96, 037° 20', 006° 29', 90, 120,39,29,8.  
 3. S. of A. 15 knots.  
 4. Ships enter Algiers E.T.A. 1600/21st (corrupt group) Carrier embarking passengers and mail for U.K. Sailing again at 2000/21st.  
 5. E.T.A. Gibraltar 2359 22nd all times B.  
 6. Priority high, codeword "Globe". F.O.C. Gibraltar pass to R.A.A. on arrival.  
 (C. in C. Med., 191045B to N.O.I.C. Bizerta (R) N.O.I.C. Bone, N.O.I.C. Algiers, N.O.B. Oran, F.O.C. Gibraltar, Admty. etc).  
 Reply 202252 from F.O.C. Gibraltar.

R.A.F. M.E. Report. A.313 19th Sept. Daily Opsum.144. 17/18 Sept. 3 Wellingtons despatched in co-operation with Naval Units to locate convoy attacked previous day by Beaufighters off Naxos. A/C found convoy being attacked off Nios Island and report 1 tanker 3000 tons destroyed, 1 E/V probably sunk by destroyers, 1 Wellington machine gunned 1 M/V 5000 tons in Porto Maltesana, Stampalia. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 191107Z).

BRITTANY Request you will sail BRITTANY independently to Malta to embark smoke floats from GLENIFFER.  
 2. V.A. Malta is requested to sail BRITTANY to Salerno area to report to Cdre. (N).  
 (C. in C. Med., 191143B to N.O.I.C. Tunisia, (R) V.A. Malta etc).

X.I.F.1. My 171515. All times for X.I.F.1, 9 hours 20 mins. late. Time of passing 309 1920/20th. Time at 033° 14' N., 020° 00' E. 1400/22nd.  
 (C. in C. Levant, 191149C to Ships escorting convoy X.I.F.1, S.E.C. G.U.S.16, etc).

Mines in Zones S.Q. and S.R. My 171202. Pending further information S/Ms off West Coast Italy should not go inside 100 fathom line between lat. 043° 50' and 044° 10'.  
 (Capt. (S) 8th, 191200B to 8th S.F. (R) Capt. (S) 10). Cancelled by 220926B, q.v.

Cotrone Sit. Rep. B.Y.M.S.19. Situation report 19th Sept. (Movements). Minefield being swept. Cdr. M.S. signal refers. B.Y.M.S.19 seriously damaged by air mine, casualties 2 killed 1 missing 7 injured. Cdr. M.S. sending detailed report. With movement of 78 Division extra quay labour essential at present quite insufficient. S.N.O.L.(L) at Bollita. (N.O.I.C. Cotrone, 191315B to F.O.Sy. C. in C. Med. S.N.O.L.(L)).

/Air...

War Diary.

19.9.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Air C. in C. Med. report. Signed Eisenhower. Part 3 Air Cositintrep No. 71 19 Sept. N.W.A.A.F. 2nd and last para. Day Sept. 18th. Spitfires carried out 83 fighter sorties over the Salerno beaches. 12 Beaufighters 6 with torpedoes attacked a small convoy off Cape Corse but results were unobserved. (Air C. in C. Med. T.O.O. nil to W.O.)

N.A.A.F. report. MS. 18904. AV. 642E 19th Sept. N.A.A.F. Opsum 210. N.A.C.A.F. 18 Sept. 2 U.S. Mitchells sighted 1 motor vessel, 1 destroyer escort 24 miles East Cape Corse. 2 shells fired at destroyer. No results observed, other 4 Mitchells dispatched to look for 6 barges, made no sightings. 1 U.S. Mitchell crash landed on return. Aircraft destroyed, crew safe. Beaufighter sighted 13,500 ton merchant vessel and one 1,500 ton vessel 16 miles northwest Capraia Island. 5 torpedoes dropped, no results observed, cannon hits on larger vessel resulted in 2 large red flashes below funnel. 1 Beaufighter shot in engine landed in sea. 1 Beaufighter returning early landed in sea 55 miles from Bizerta. (H.Q., R.T.S., N.A.A.F., 191543B to Air Min. etc).

Position in Sardinia, Corsica. Germans appear to have evacuated Sardinia and apparently hold only Northern most and Eastern portion of Corsica including Bastia against Allied and Italian attack. Allied reinforcements are reaching Ajaccio and it is possible therefore Germans may try to evacuate Corsica altogether. (Capt. (S) 8, 191600B to 8th S.F.)

Gas oil for N. assault area. Tact. Request MORAY COAST loaded pool gas oil and 87 Octane be sailed northern assault area at 1st convoy opportunity. When discharged to return to Bizerta to reload. C. in C. Med. 031650 (Re:- Requesting MORAY COAST be sailed to Bone to complete with 87 Octane and return to Bizerta to be held for orders) (C. in C. Med (A), 191738B to N.O.I.C. Bizerta, (R) C. in C. Med. Comnavnaw, Cdre (N).)

Standard Positions. Following 8 new positions are to be inserted in M.S. C.1 21 appendix 1 and M.J.A.O.48 and will be brought into force 0001 Sept. 27th. (2) 6.039° 01' 017° 25', 14. 039° 00' 017° 32'. 26. 040° 08' 017° 00'. 31. 040° 08' 017° 06'. 47. 037° 50' 016° 07' 62. 037° 47' 016° 14' 81. 037° 00' 011° 13' 19. 037° 20' 006° 29'. All north and east. (3) 142 B has not been used. (C. in C. Med., 191755 to Med. Station, Levant Station 156.B).

War Diary.

19.9.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- G.U.S.16 Convoy G.U.S.16 sailed 0630/19th Sept. NEURALIA, GEORGE W. CARVER, FORT LAJOIE, J.C. HIBBEN, LIBERSTERN PRINCE. (Numbers on board). (S.S.T.O. Alexandria, 191800C to Admty).
- H.D.M.Ls. Your 141505 (Requesting allocation H.D.M.Ls. 1243, 1245, 1282, and 1294) approved. (C. in C. Med., 191802 to C.C.F. (R) Admty. etc).
- N.S.S.3 My 181054B sailed (Amendments to list).  
2. SHIANT detach to Augusta.  
(V.A. Malta, 191924B to Cdre. N. F.O.Sy. (R) Admty. etc).
- Levant Situation report No.56. INTREPID and ECHO embarked 600 personnel and stores Haifa sailed 0700/19th for Leros routed through Scarpanto Straits. One M/V and one L.C.T. with motor launch escort arrived Kastelorizzo a.m. and M/V proceeding Leros, build up continuing. (C. in C. Levant, 192015C to Admty. etc).
- French Refugees. My 142010. French Admty. have heard that Portuguese or Spanish Govt. are only giving visas for 700 refugees therefore they are sending LEPINE only with French Sloop LA GRANDIERE and French Sloop Minesweeper LA GRACIEUSE as escort for embarkation at Setubal 23rd September.  
(2) They ask that one British escort should be supplied for political reasons but have informed them this will probably not be possible. French confirm that this will be 8th evacuation. (C. in C. Med., 192019B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Casablanca, C. in C. Med. B.N.A. Lisbon, B.N.A. Madrid, Admty. Commorseafron).
- Mines off Cotrone. Mined area confirmed to northward of a line joining: (A) 039° 04.4' 017° 10.2'. (B) 039° 03.15' 017° 12.25'.  
Note searched channel clear to a width  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile on either side of centre line joining following positions (C) 039° 02' 06" 017° 13' (D) 039° 04' 12" 017° 09' 12".  
Regret to report B.Y.M.S.19 mined in position 345° Collone Light 2.9 miles. Bow blown off, after part still floating towing to harbour, casualties.  
(CROMARTY, 192027B to C. in C. Med. (R) F.Os. I.C. Sicily, Cotrone, Taranto, V.A. Malta).
- Augusta Situation. Situation report 67. No enemy air activity in last 24 hours.  
(2) (Corrupt group) arrived from Syracuse to assist in lifting wreck at Cala Del Molo.  
(3) Numbers 1, 3 and 4 only now operating, number 2 out of action.  
(4) Type 277 R.D.F. now reconditioned repaired and in operation.

/ (5) ...

War Diary.

19.9.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Augusta  
Situation.  
(contd).

(5) Supplies of diesel oil now exhausted.  
(6). Endeavouring to obtain civil labour from Catania for discharge of coal from EMPIRE THACKERAY and EMPIRE TAKK (sic). None available locally.  
(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 192130 to C. in C. Med).

Movements.

Arrivals WARSPITE, JERVIS, PALADIN, PENN, PETARD, PANTHER, PATHFINDER, DERWENTDALE etc.  
(V.A. Malta, 192218 to Admty. etc).

War Diary.19.9.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

B.M.65. Colombo portion arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. Colombo 190320Z to Admty.)

B.P.95. Karachi portion BP 95 sailed 0300Z/19th to  
R/V N.C.S.O. Bombay 160944Z refers.  
(N.C.S.O. Karachi 190331Z to C. in C. E.F.)

ERITREA. Colours have now been rehoisted in ERITREA.  
Situation greatly improved but C.O. is still  
raising objections to Anti-scuttling guards  
being armed. 2. The order in para. 5 of my  
180257 is not therefore now required, but I should be grateful  
for information asked for in paras. 6 and 7.  
(C. in C. E.F. 190447Z to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.) (See also  
C. in C. Med. 191741B.)

Convoy MB.45. Convoy sailing telegram Part 1 (2 ships).  
2. 0600Z/18/9/43. 4. 8 knots. 5. Coastal  
6. ST.ANTHONY.  
(N.C.S.O. Colombo 180619Z to Admty.)

HERMITAGE. Departure U.S.S. HERMITAGE.  
(S.O. (I) Bombay 190516 to Admty. etc.)  
HERMITAGE E.T.A. Melbourne 1000 local 4th Oct.  
Estimated S. of A. 16½ knots.  
(N.O.I.C. Bombay 190631Z to C. in C. E.F.  
A.C.N.B., Opnav, Admty.)

SALWEEN,  
NIEUW  
HOLLAND. 19th SALWEEN and NIEUW HOLLAND Aden 26th Sept.  
with escort to R/V with C.M.45 in 004° 02' S.  
043° 56' E. at 1300Z/20th Sept. SALWEEN 13  
knots. NIEUW HOLLAND 15 knots.  
(N.C.S.O. Kilindini 190945 to A.I.G.89, Admty.  
etc.)

Convoy J.C.22. Sailing telegram (2 ships). (1) J.C.22.  
(2) 1130Z/19th. (4) 10½ knots. (5) Coastal.  
(6) BERAR.  
(N.C.S.O. Colombo 101136Z. ?191136Z intended,  
191138Z to Admty.)

U/B and Dhow. U-Boat and Dhow 24° 04' N. 61° 08' E. do not  
leave protem.  
(C/S F8M Via Colombo 191225Z to C/S BBF (R)  
C/S 8BH C/S 4QS.)

/L.S.C.(M)s...

War Diary.

19.9.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

L.S.C.(M)s. 6 L.S.C. (M) complete with officers, crews and operational stores have been shipped to Bombay as follows:-

Ship	Date	Craft	Officers	Ratings
	Departed U.K.	Embarked	Embarked	Embarked.
TJIBADAK	16th Sept.	46,50,51,54,	5	50
DURENDA	7th Sept.	53.	1	2
MOOLTAN	11th Sept.	Nil	Nil	8

2. D. of S.T. is informing Sea Transport authorities concerned. (D.O.D. (F) 191621A to F.O.C.R.I.N. (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, C. in C.E.F., SALSETTE, S.O.A.S.C. (India) BRAGANZA II.)

QUICKMATCH, CYGNET. (?E.T.A.) (?06)00C/20th estimated time of departure 1200C/20th R/V in 001° 15' S. 044° 58' E. at 0600C/21st. New A/S H.F.M. practice pattern A.460 required. (QUICKMATCH 192131C to CYGNET F.O.E.Af (R) Cdre. D. C. in C.E.F. FROBISHER.)

A/S escorts, Indian Ocean. Your 181000. First four ships sailed as in a.m. 131221. FISHGUARD due to complete refit early November. (C. in C.W.A. 192302A to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty., C. in C. Med. (A) C. in C. Levant.)

19.9.1943.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

ARROWHEAD. My position 038° 32' N. 063° 57' W. 2 lighted buoys in area.  
(ARROWHEAD, 190358Z to BITTERSWEET.)

BITTERSWEET. My 191002 (N.T. in W.R.) still unable to contact  
My 038° 29' N. 064° 00' W. Weather report  
(ARROWHEAD, 192152Z to C. in C.N.A.(R) D. Halifax, BITTERSWEET.)

Convoy G.A.T.86. Arrival p.m.18th.  
(B.R.L.O. 190856Q to Admty.)

ANTARES. ANTARES has defects requiring about 2 days to complete. Is Ship still to be sailed direct to Reykjavik.  
(F.O.N.F. 191241Z to Admty. C. in C.W.A., C. in C. C.N.W.A., N.S.H.Q., A.C.I.C.)

BUSY. My 180952 H.M.R.T. BUSY arrived with both Schooners in tow.  
(B.S.N.O. Trinidad, 191302Q to S.B.N.O. W.At. (R)Admty., S.O.(I) Jamaica, R.O. Montserrat.)

STRATHNAVER. N.S.H.Q.'s 181632 and Admty. 190144. Sail STRATHNAVER to junction with H.X.257. Your 171309 and 151741 and Com. 10th Fleet C. and R. 181919 refer pass instructions Commodore H.X.257.  
(C. in C.C.N.A. 191325Z to F.O.N.F.(R) Admty., N.S.H.Q., Com.10th Fleet, C. and R., Cinclant, C. in C.W.A., B.A.D.)

N.S.H.Q. S/M Estimate. 1200Z 19th September. No evidence of U/Boats in area.  
(N.S.H.Q. 191458Z)

U.S. S/M Estimate. (Cominch, 191525Z.)

VICTORIOUS, escorts. (?Cominch) 111845. When ready propose sailing VICTORIOUS escorted by OPPORTUNE, OBDURATE and CALDER to Clyde routed through A. 046° 22' N. 052° 25' W. B. 052° 00' N. 046° 01' W. C. 056° 39' N. 037° 32' W. D. 058° 02' N. 028° 30' W. E. 056° 30' N. 013° 05' W. F. 055° 40' N. 007° 30' W. thence Q.Z.S 398 and 53 speed 17 knots.  
(C. in C.C.N.A. 191526Z to Admty. (R) VICTORIOUS B.A.D. C. in C. W.A., S.B.N.O. W.At. Cominch, N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.T.F.24, Capt. D. Argentia.)  
VICTORIOUS and CALDER arrived Argentia FINDHORN reported six hours behind 192200.  
(C.T.F.24, 192351 to C. in C.C.N.A., F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q., (R) Admty., Cominch, Cinclant.)

FINDHORN...

19.9.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

FINDHORN. Sailing FINDHORN from Norfolk when ready in compliance with Cominch's 171910 not to all addressees (N.T. in W.R.) (C. in C. C.N.A. 191529Z to F.O.N.F.)

Convoy B.X.74. Sailing telegram part 2 (21 ships) (P.B. Boston, 191615 to Com. 10th Fleet, C. & R.)

DOMETT. C.E.S.F. pass to B.N.L.O. New York. N.O.B. Bermuda pass to C.T.G.231. DOMETT (BDE 269) en route Bermuda at speed 15 knots departs Boston Gate 1500Q 19th Sept. Route. (C.T.G. 02.1 191810 to N.O.B. Bermuda, (R) Cominch, C. in C. Land, N.S.H.Q. Admty. C.E.S.F., C.T.G.23.1.)

ESSINGTON. Sail H.M.S. ESSINGTON direct from Boston to Bermuda for working up when ready about 23rd Advise time of departure, route, S. of A. (Cominch, 191825B to Admty.)

Convoy O.N.201. E.T.A. Homp 2300Z 20th. (W.3 192001Z to C. in C.C.N.A.)

T.A.62A (GENERAL JOHN POPE). Convoy T.A.62A comprising U.S. GENERAL JOHN POPE sailed from U.K. 17.9 for New York. (D. of S.T. 192013A to B.A.D., B.M.W.T. New York.)

TRUMPETER, SLINGER. This is Comorwesseafon 191555 passed for info. Your 181815. My 170329 change E.T.A. Balboa? to 28th. (Radio, Wash, 192015Z to Admty. N.S.H.Q. C. in C. Land.)

U.S.A.T. San Francisco Sept. 17 A.T. MORMACHAWK (U.S.) Dutch Harbour. (N.S.H.Q. 192034Z to Admty.)

Escort Carriers. My 141841. (1) Intend to sail C.V.E.'s 32 and 37 to U.K. ferrying aircraft in mid. October. (2) These ships will require to return to Norfolk, Virginia for fitting rebladed rotors. It is desirable that they should arrive at interval of not less than three weeks owing to congestion of turbine work. (B.A.D. 192111Z to Admty.)

FENNEL...



War Diary.

19.9.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

FENNEL

Norfolk arrived 2100/18 Sept. FENNEL for  
onward routing instructions.  
(N.C.S.Q. 192301Z to Admty. (R) B.A.D. C. in C.  
C.N.A., F.O.N.F.) As amended N.S.H.Q. 202032Z.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest  
No. 607  
18th Sept.

Paras. 7 - 10 cover South Pacific Forces.  
Fortress attacked two small freighters-25 miles  
East of Cape Saint George midday on Westerly  
course damaging one.  
(2) Five Beaufighters attacked new strip and  
shipping Cape Hoskirs area East Talasea  
scoring hits on three small vessels and three  
barges and straffing stores dump and installations.  
(3) Navy Catalina straffed and fired two barges Rein Bay  
night while single Liberators straffed buildings Rooke Island  
following morning. Late report indicates Navy Catalina  
attacked two small freighters near Hansa Bay night 16th one of  
which burned to waterline.  
(4) Allied P.T. Boats attacked two loaded barges off Coast  
North of Finschhafen night 17th probably destroying both.  
Artillery fire encountered from shore.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 190900 to Admty. etc.)

Movements.

Arrived Brisbane 17th U.S.S. NICHOLAS, Sydney  
(N.S.W.) 18th U.S.S. BALLARD, Port Phillip  
18th U.S.S. ALTAMAHA.  
(A.C.N.B. 191113Z.)

LEANDER.

LEANDER should be ready for sea 13th November.  
Admty. 200239 August not to B.A.M.R. Refers.  
(N.O.W. 192236Z to Admty. (R) B.A.M.R. Washington.  
H.C.N.Z.)

War Diary.

19.9.1943.  
Sunday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Situation  
and U/B  
Estimated  
positions.

Attack by aircraft 0857Z Sept. in 58° 40' N.  
25° 10' W. and possible attack on H.X.256 at  
1744Z 18th Sept. corroborate appreciation that  
resumption of activity against convoys in N.W.  
Approaches is imminent. Most likely area for  
first attacks is between latitudes 52° 00' N.  
and 57° 00' N. and between longitudes 25° 00' W.

and 40° 00' W.  
(D.D.I.C. 191420A, 191425A.)

Submarines Attacked.

S/M attack  
and  
sighting  
summary  
for 24  
hours  
to 0900Z 19th.

Para. A. American WILLIAM PEPPERELL unsuccessfully  
attacked at 1744/18th in 54° 01' N. 29° 23' W.  
(D.D.I.C. 191052A to Cominch.)

War Diary.

20.9.1943.  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

O.N.S.18  
ESCAPADE  
damaged.  
ST. CROIX,  
POLYANTHUS  
sunk.

1. S.O.E.G.B.3 reported at 0002Z today that apparently a submerged U-boat attack was made on convoy O.N.S.18 at 2135Z yesterday in about 56° 56' N., 29° 21' W. which was frustrated by ESCAPADE (See 19 Sept.) During the hunt for the U-boats ESCAPADE's hedgehog exploded and stove in the middle of the bridge, causing several casualties and damaging the steering. S.O.E.G.B.3 ordered ESCAPADE to return to the Clyde, where she arrived on 22 Sept. ST. CROIX was hit by 2 torpedoes at 1956Z, whilst hunting a U-boat which had been attacked by aircraft half an hour earlier. She was hit again at 2047Z and sunk in approx. 57 N., 29 W. POLYANTHUS was torpedoed at 2336Z whilst attacking a U-boat put down after a Radar chase, and sank later in approx. 56½ N., 30 W. ITCHEN was attacked by torpedo whilst screening ST. CROIX, but the torpedo exploded 30 feet on her port quarter. During most of tonight there was a fierce battle between ITCHEN, NARCISSUS and U-boats near the survivors of ST. CROIX and POLYANTHUS.

Convoy  
O.N.202  
LAGAN  
and 2 ships  
torpedoed.

2. LAGAN of E.G.2, supporting convoy O.N.202 reported that she was torpedoed at 0256 today in 57.05 N., 27.30 W. during a Radar chase. DESTINY took her in tow and LANCER stood by. A second U-boat was detected and counter attacked. The damage was apparently caused by an acoustic homing torpedo, and C. in C. W.A. issued a warning and instructions for avoiding these weapons. At 0806 S.O. Group C.2 reported that O.N.202 had been attacked by U-boats when in 57.29 N., 28.26 W. (about 410 miles S. by E. of Reykjanes): THEODORE DWIGHT WELD (U.S. 7176 tons) was sunk and FREDERICK DOUGLASS (U.S. 7176 tons) was abandoned afloat as there was no tug available. Convoys O.N.202 and O.N.S.18 were ordered to R/V and proceed in company whilst threatened.

SHEFFIELD,  
SPARTAN.

3. The Admiralty today ordered SHEFFIELD to join the Mediterranean Fleet temporarily. (Sailed 21 Sept.) SPARTAN, on completion of working up, is to be under the orders of C. in C. Plymouth until SHEFFIELD's return.

U-boat  
offensive  
renewed.

4. In addition to the U-boat activity against Convoys O.N. 202 and O.N.S.18 numerous D/F bearings, attacks and sightings indicate about 20 U-boats between 53° N., 58° N., and 28° W. and 33° W.

War Diary.

20.9.1943.  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands. - Contd.

5. When allocating special rescue ships priority is now to be given to O.N. and O.N.S. convoys over convoys bound for Gibraltar.

South Atlantic.

CAGNI 6. The Italian S/M AMIRAGLIO CAGNI, having surrendered, entered Durban today.

Mediterranean.

R.A.H. 7. The Flag of R.A.H. was hoisted in WARSPITE at noon today.

X.I.F.1 8. Convoy X.I.F. one (six personnel ships for Taranto) sailed from Alexandria this afternoon escorted by 6 Hunts.

R.A.V. 9. The appointment of R.A.V. has terminated.

U. VIVALDI 10. Two boat loads of survivors from the Italian destroyer UGOLINO VIVALDI have arrived at Palamos (Spain). It is believed that the destroyer was sunk at the same time as the ROMA.

Carriers.  
Cruisers. 11. UNICORN, HUNTER, STALKER, ATTACKER sailed from Bizerta this evening for the U.K. via Gibraltar, with SCYLLA and CHARYBDIS and 6 destroyers. UNICORN on arrival in U.K. is to be fitted out as an Aircraft Repair Ship. C. in C. Med. intends SCYLLA and CHARYBDIS to resume their former duties under F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, but the former needs to proceed to U.K. to make good defects. ILLUSTRIOUS, FORMIDABLE left Malta today for U.K. via Gibraltar, with 6 destroyers. DANAE (Eastern Fleet) sailed from Malta for Port Said.

/Salerno...

20.9.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- Salerno 12. Some of the bombarding ships have been withdrawn for fuel and ammunition and are awaiting further call at Palermo and Malta.
- Taranto 13. SS. ALMENARA a straggler from a convoy to Taranto was mined and sank in the approaches to the port about 1840 today.
- Sardinia and Corsica. 14. The Allied C. in C. reported today that the remaining elements of the German forces in Sardinia have been transported to Corsica, disembarking at Bonifacio and Porto Vecchio. Embarkation (evacuation to the mainland of Italy) of German forces has commenced at Bastia, to which port German forces are moving from the Bonifacio area by road and rail.
- Air operations. 15. Last night aircraft bombed a 17000 ton merchant ship and 4 escort vessels 6 miles S.W. of Leghorn; the ship was near missed and 2 of the escort vessels were possibly hit.
- Dodecanese 16. INTREPID and ECHO disembarked personnel and stores, including 4 Bofors, at Leros today and sailed after dark for Alexandria. The merchant vessel from Haifa which called at Kastelorizo yesterday arrived at Leros safely today accompanied by an Italian motor vessel with stores from Kastelorizo and unloading proceeded. The enemy made 3 air raids on Antimachia airfield, Cos today. Slight damage was caused. One or more enemy aircraft were destroyed.
- Italian vessels. 17. 8 Italian minor war vessels arrived at Malta from Palermo today. A further 31 are on passage.

20.9.1943.

Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

SHEFFIELD,  
SPARTAN.

SHEFFIELD to join Mediterranean Command temporarily. SPARTAN to be under orders of C. in C. Plymouth until SHEFFIELD's return. (Admty., 200001A.) See Mediterranean.

JASON and  
BRITOMART.  
Proposed  
purchase  
by Russia.

Admiral Fisher 181220. These minesweepers are performing equally useful service for British in North Russia and I would not like to be without some H.M. Ships. I have little confidence in ability of Soviet Navy to conduct minesweeping operations and while British and American merchant vessels are using River Dvina, the approaches to which are particularly vulnerable, consider British minesweepers should be available for their protection. S.B.N.O. Archangel concurs. Further, British coasting convoys are far better handled when an H.M. Ship forms part of escort, her C.O. by tacit agreement assuming duties of S.O. of escort irrespective of seniority.

2. Am gratified to learn Soviet Navy staff realise British are performing useful service for them. I wish other Soviet organisations would do likewise and abandon their pin pricking tactics.

3. As regards Admiralty policy on technical installation of ships, if (? carried) through in this instance, assume list of items such as type 271 to be removed will be furnished. It is for consideration however that this might be a move to dispense with ? any H.M. Ships in these waters as part of process of elbowing out British.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 201434A to Admty.)

SLEIPNER,  
CHARLESTOWN.

A.C.O.S. 071536 and C. in C. Rosyth 091145. Destroyers are re-allocated as follows:-  
(a) SLEIPNER to Orkneys and Shetlands Command.  
(b) CHARLESTOWN to Rosyth Command.  
(D.O.D.(H), 201713A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Hvalfjord  
Fuel  
Installation.

Your 102124 July. Approval has been given to the taking over of the oil fuel installation at Hvalfjord and the salvage equipment and stores. The date of transfer should be reported by signal.

2. It will be necessary for the U.S. Authorities to leave behind the necessary accommodation and amenities, equipment, small boats, small tankers etc., essential for the operation of the installation.

(Head of M.II., 201822A to A.C.I.C.)

20.9.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

- ONSLAUGHT. Your 171430A. Arrived.  
(A.C.O.S., 200553 to F.O. Humber.)
- MATCHLESS,  
ORWELL. Your 191335A. Arrived 0730.  
(A.C.O.S., 200829 to Cdre. (D) W.A.)
- KENT. Scapa departure KENT.  
(A.C.O.S., 200902 to C. in C. Nore.)
- FURIOUS. F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to sail FURIOUS  
for Clyde when ready.  
2. Destroyer escort to Clyde is not intended.  
3. FURIOUS is to work up in Clyde area under  
F.O.C.T.  
(C. in C. H.F., 201243A.)
- ENGADINE. Request you will sail ENGADINE with O.N.206.  
(C. in C. W.A., 201407A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- SHEFFIELD. Intend sailing SHEFFIELD, Admiralty's 200001A  
refers, passing Gate at 0400/21st September.  
2. Routed through position (SA) 180° Bishop  
Rock 12 miles, (SB) 048° 36' 012° 16', (SC)  
047° 10' 014° 01', (SD) 043° 01' 014° 01'.  
3. S.O.A. 27 knots, E.T.A. position (SD) 0630A/22nd.  
4. C. in C. Med. is requested to provide onward route from  
position (SD).  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 201614A to C. in C. Med.)
- S/M Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/21 and movements  
Movements. for following 24 hours.  
(F.O.(S), 201703A, 210959A.)

Operations.

- Coastal Ship as soon as ready and proceed to patrol in  
Patrols. position 180° Start 30 miles.  
2. Object to support M.T.Bs. operating to  
southward.  
3. If nothing received by 0430 proceed to convoy  
W.P.403.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 200028A to MELBREAK.)  
1. Orders for night 20th to 21st September.  
A. BLEASDALE, GLAISDALE anti E-Boat patrol on 50° 25' N.  
between 00° 40' W. and 01° 25' W. from 2130 to 0500.  
B. Chasseurs 14, 41 patrol Q.Z.S.384 between F and E.A.5 buoys.  
C. M.L. 291 immediate notice St. Helens.  
D. M.L.208, 122, 233, R.M.L.532 patrolling 50° 20' N. between  
02° 00' W. and 02° 25' W.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 201332A.)

/Patrols ...

War Diary.20.9.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Coastal Patrol 20th September weather permitting.  
patrols. 1. Force C. M.T.Bs. 677, 664 are to patrol in  
(Contd.) vicinity 125 Start 22.  
2. Codeword "Occasion".  
3. Force D. M.G.B. 330, 324 are to patrol in  
vicinity 167 Start 18.  
4. Codeword "Porter".  
5. Forces C and D are to be on patrol by 2030A. Leave patrol  
for Dartmouth 0600A.  
6. Attention is drawn to Q.Z.X.1095.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 201351A.)  
M.G.Bs. S.2 and S.1 two miles South of D Buoy. E.T.D.  
1915, E.T.R. 0615/21.  
M.G.Bs. 118 and 116 at V buoy. E.T.D. Ramsgate 1915. E.T.R.  
0615/21.  
(V.A. Dover, 201728A.)

Operation "Moorings" patrols 0001A to 1201A/20th Sept.  
S.F. 2. (A) 3. (B) 6.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 200703A.)  
"Moorings" patrols 1159A to 2359A/20.  
2. (A) 3. (B) 4.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 201117.)

Position at 202000. SHIKARI, SARDONYX, OBEDIENT,  
MAHRATTA searching vicinity  $062^{\circ} 27' 013^{\circ} 40'$ .  
(A.C.O.S., 201236A.)

From 0001 to 1201/21st patrol "Moorings".  
(2) (A) 4. (B) 2.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 202331A.)

Owing to the very short period for working up, and the  
unsettled time AMAZON has had since commissioning, I consider  
a period of 12 days necessary in order to make good defects and  
carry out practices.

(2) I intend therefore to carry out the following programme.  
(C) 28th Sept. available for Operation S.F.  
(R.A.D., 201325 to C. in C. H.F.)

Bay Disposition at 2000.  
Patrol. (1) ULSTER, GRENVILLE, CRANE patrolling vicinity  
of  $046^{\circ} 014^{\circ}$ .  
(2) UNTIRING  $049^{\circ} 15' 006^{\circ} 00'$ , southbound,  
105 miles per day.  
(3) P.614  $048^{\circ} 45'$ ,  $013^{\circ}$  through  $049^{\circ} 10' N. 012^{\circ} 25' W.$  to  
Falmouth, 100 miles per day.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 201446A to Admty.)

Enemy M/V Preliminary report of operations by 31st M.T.B.  
(probably and 17th M.G.B. Flotillas last night 19th/20th  
STRASBOURG) September.  
hit by 1. Unit of 3 M.T.Bs. and 3 M.G.Bs. under Lieut.-  
Commander D.G. Bradford, D.S.C., R.N.R. in M.T.B.  
M.T.B. 617. 617 was ordered to sweep north from the Hook and  
M.G.B. 610 & attack any enemy forces met.  
M.G.B. 606  
damaged. 2. Visibility was good; sea calm, wind force one  
freshening later to S.W. 5.

/3. Unit ...



First use of 2-pdr. star shell invented by Dr. F.D. Richardson.  
(Evidence before Royal Commission on Awards to Inventors, 23.4.1951).

War Diary.20.9.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Enemy M/V  
(probably  
STRASBOURG)  
hit by  
M.T.B. 617.  
M.G.B.610 &  
M.G.B.606  
damaged.  
(Contd.)

3. Unit started sweep at 2030. White Verys lights fired by shore station were thought to indicate that enemy suspected activity by our coastal forces.  
4. At 2300 Radar contact made with larger ship off Ijmuiden. 20 minutes later ship estimated 8000 tons was sighted apparently stopped in 6 fathoms. Radar also indicated presence of protecting screen. Two trawlers were clearly seen. Unit approached large ship unobserved at slow speed and at 2336 M.T.B. 617 fired both torpedoes. Two hits were scored between funnel

and foremast.

5. Unit then attacked two trawlers which were successfully illuminated with 2 pounder star-shell and at once engaged with all guns of the Unit. First trawler was silenced in 30 seconds and left burning fore and aft with stern awash. Before second trawler could be completely destroyed unit attacked by M class sweepers from Ijmuiden. Unit engaged and then withdrew under smoke. M.G.B.610 being hit in petrol tank and set on fire, which was got under control during withdrawal. M.G.B. 606 also damaged.

6. M.G.Bs. 606 and 610 then ordered to return to base. Remainder resumed sweep to northward and sighted 3 M class and 2 possible T.L.Cs. steaming south. Long range engagement took place lasting 13 minutes. Two pounder star-shell and Holman flares successfully blinded enemy. Unit withdrew at 0200 and in receipt of C. in C. Nore's recall at 0228 set course for base.

8. Casualties two killed, two wounded, superficial damage to three boats.

9. From S.O's description of torpedoed ship it is thought that vessel was almost certainly STRASBOURG, but as ship was showing no lights, I consider attack was entirely justified and most ably carried out.

(C. in C. Nore, 201543A to Admty.)

S/M Patrols. Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/21 and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) SEADOG approx. 75° 13' N. 09° 20' E. diving as much as possible by day through 76° 30' N.

11° 01' E., daily advance 60 miles.

(D) STONEHENGE as in my 161724, leaves patrol 0300/22.

(E) UNTIRING approx. 48° 04' N. 06° 01' W. dived by day to southward, daily advance 105 miles.

(F) P.614 approx. 49° 18' N. 11° 42' W. diving by day to 340°. Round Island (Scillies) 10 miles. Daily advance 100 miles.

(G) UPSTART on patrol within 20 miles of Cape Ortegal leaves p.m./21st.

(H) UNISON passes 43° 01' N. 10° 30' W. at 2300/21st, dived by day to northward advance 105 miles.

(J) UNITED passes 43° N. 10° W. at 2000/21st September through 44 degs. North 10 degs. West. and thence dived by day to the eastward, daily advance 105 miles.

(F.O.(S), 201703A to Admty.)

War Diary.

20.9.1943.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

- Thames Estuary. Ground mine detonated 214° Tongue Sand Tower nine cables.  
(Capt. M/S Sheerness, 201327 and 251545A.)
- Q.Z.X.1095. Area of Q.Z.X.1095 now cleared to north of line joining following positions.  
One G.P. mine detonated in 50° 24'24", 02° 52' 48".  
(PROSPECT, 201450A to C. in C. Plymouth.)
- Q.Z.S.117, My 171551. Q.Z.S.117 and Q.Z.S.151 searched  
Q.Z.S.151. 50% double Oropesa 7 cables either side of centre line at depth of 7 fathoms. Negative results.  
2. One floating British Mark XIX mine met in 51° 46'30" N. 01° 48'42" E. and sunk.  
(M/S.4, 201549 to C. in C. Nore.)

Enemy Intelligence.

- Off Ijmuiden. Three unknown vessels bearing 330° one mile. Course unknown. My position 260° 9 miles from Ijmuiden.  
(M.T.B.617, 200007 to Nore.)
- 170° 2 miles. Three minesweepers and two unknown vessels bearing  
Ijmuiden. Course unknown. My position 278°, 6.5 miles from Ijmuiden.  
(M.T.B.617, 200140 to Nore.)

Antwerp, Hoboken, Terneuzen. P.R. sortie 1530A/19th Sept. shows:- Antwerp cloud obscures Port between South end of Bassin Albert and North end of Bassin Kattendijk. Naval shipping present wo possible T.L.C. type three and the usual Siebel Ferries. Only change of note is departure since 16th September of one Scandinavian type T.B. 160 feet which is seen on this sortie north of entrance lock at Hansweert and some reduction in number of T.L.C. No change in merchant shipping. Hoboken since 15th August M/V M.289 has departed and has since been seen in Antwerp. An M/V 300 feet has been launched and now alongside. No other change. Terneuzen since 15th August five small auxiliaries new arrivals are only shipping of note present.  
(P.R. Benson, 200015A to Admty.)

Amsterdam, Ijmuiden, STRASBOURG. P.R. sortie 1700A/20th shows Amsterdam: Naval Units present are two M class minesweepers. One in dry dock. Nine E/R Boats, one T.L.C. Sperrbrechers BA and BI. Only change of note in merchant shipping since 5th Sept. is movement of M/V 103 from dry dock to mooring off Sumatra

/Quay ...

War Diary.20.9.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.Amsterdam,  
Ijmuiden,  
STRASBOURG.  
(Contd.)

Quay. Other coded vessels as on that date. Ijmuiden: Naval units present are seven E/R Boats, one of which seen turning in entrance channel, four T.L.C. Type III, and eighteen auxiliaries showing increase of seven E/R Boats, three T.L.C. and five auxiliaries since 17th September. Liner STRASBOURG L.12 lying off in same position as on 17th September no protecting vessels visible Amsterdam/Schellingwoude S.P.B. Two do. 24 visible. (P.R. Benson, 202230A to Admty.)

U-Boats.Impending  
U-Boat  
offensive.

Intend to sail 5th E.G. at 2300 today to comply with your 192029Z.  
(Cdre. (D) W.A., 201012A to C. in C. W.A.)  
My 181957. Apart from the Second Escort Group, the groups referred to in para. (2) of the above signal cannot be considered highly trained or

experienced in support work. The breaking up of the late Fortieth Escort Group for service abroad, the necessity for using First Escort Group with K.M.F.24, and the employment of two potential support groups on a forthcoming operation leaves me with very weak forces to combat the impending U-Boat attack in the North Atlantic.

2. It is requested therefore that the Seventh Escort Group may be reconstituted as soon as possible, and returned to me for use as a support group.

(C. in C. W.A., 201502A to Admty.)

It is probable that U-Boats are now using torpedoes which home by acoustic. In consequence the following modifications to present tactics while approaching a U-Boat Radar contact at night are to be adopted:-

- (A) Position directly astern of the U-Boat must be avoided.
- (B) A steady course must not be maintained for more than 5 minutes when escort has been detected by U-Boat.
- (C) Maximum speed must be maintained.

2. Following tactics are recommended.

U-Boat may be close on a steady bearing until plot indicates that it is changing course. Escort should then alter course to place U-Boat at least 030° on the opposite bow and subsequently to maintain this relative bearing.

This manoeuvre being repeated thereafter on every alteration of course by the U-Boat which tends to bring the escort vessels astern. Any consequent opening of range must be accepted.

3. Illuminants and gunfire should be used to induce U-Boat to dive and broad zig-zag must be maintained for at least 5 minutes after diving.

(C. in C. W.A., 201550Z.)

Sailed NENE, TWEED, SNOWBERRY, CALGARY in accordance with my 201012. EDMUNDSTON sailing to overtake.

(Cdre. (D) W.A., 202156A to C. in C. W.A.)

/U-Boats ...

654

War Diary.20.9.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats. - Contd.

U-Boats reported. Am over enemy submarine in 57.49 N. 28.36 W. Enemy was on surface.  
(A/C BB1L7, 201045A to Artunshofdi.)  
Am over 2 enemy submarines in 57.45 N. 30.26 W. Enemy was on surface.  
(A/C BBKI, 201505A to Artunshofdi.)  
Am over enemy submarine in 57.44 N. 30.07 W. Enemy was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 270°.  
(A/C 150LI, 201525A to C7N.)  
U/B sighted on surface by X/120 position 57° 45' N. 30° 26' W. at 1505A.  
(R.A.F. Iceland, 201535A to H.Q.C.C., 15 & 18 Groups.)  
U/B sighted on surface by A/C 247 20th Sept. F/120 GN position 57° 44' N. 30° 07' W. at 1525, course 270°, speed 12 knots. Seen to submerge.  
(R.A.F. Iceland, 201557 to H.Q.C.C., 15 & 18 Groups.)  
Am over enemy S/M in 55° 45' N. 28° 12' W.  
(A/C BB1L1, 201714 to Artunshofdi.)  
Am over enemy S/M in 52° 43' N. 28° 12' W. S/M has dived.  
(A/C BB1L1, 201714A to C/S C7N.)  
Remain in contact. H.S.L. being sent.  
(C/S 93Q, 201750 to A/C ANOX.)  
W/T activity since my 200900A and including transmissions at 1636Z and 1722Z indicate U/Bs still in general vicinity of convoys.  
(D.D.I.C., 201924A to Escorts O.N.202, O.N.S.18, E.G.9, TOWY)  
Am over enemy S/M in 57° 00' N. 31° 10' W. Enemy was on surface, 300° 10 knots.  
(A/C BBIL2, 202009A to C7N.)  
Indefinite D/F bearings at 2001Z indicate U/B possibly within 150 miles of 49° N. 25° 30' W.  
(D.D.I.C., 202307A to C.T.G. 21.12.)

U-Boats attacked. Am over enemy S/M in 57° 45' N. 29° 48' W. When first sighted was on course 300 estimated speed 10.  
(A/C 150L1, 201048A to Artunshofdi.)  
Have attacked enemy with depth charges.  
(A/C 150L1, 201050A to Artunshofdi.)  
A/C.242 (262 20 Sept.) U/B sighted at 1048A by F/120 in 57.45 N. 29.48 W. co. 300°, speed 10 kts. on surface attacked with D/Cs at 1050A. U/B sighted at 1045 by X/120 on surface in 57.49 N. 28.36W.  
(R.A.F. Iceland, 201127A to H.Q.C.C., 15 & 18 Groups.)  
Am over enemy S/M in 57.37 N. 31.02 W. Enemy was on surface.  
(A/C BBL3, 202046A to 7NV.)  
My 2046A. Have attacked U/B with depth charge.  
(A/C BBL3, 202155A to Artunshofdi.)

Casualties and Defects.

TYKE. Whilst going alongside TRADE WIND at 0735A today the tug TYKE struck heavily, causing underwater damage. Vessel has been placed in No.5 dock.  
(A.S. Chatham, 201647A to Admty.)

ASHANTI. A.L.D.022948/43 of 13.9.43, para.4. All work of arcticisation is complete in this area and the alterations cannot be fitted in the time available. Sailing date provisionally fixed for 7th Oct. but if work is to be carried out sailing will be deferred to approx. 14th Oct. Immediate instructions requested.  
(F.O.I.C. London, 202921A (? 200921 intended) to Admty.)

War Diary.

20.9.1943.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

O.N.S.18  
ESCAPADE  
damaged.  
ST. CROIX  
sunk.

Apparently submerged attack at 2135Z by 2 S/Ms in close company frustrated by ESCAPADE who after numerous attacks is now in contact with 1 S/M which is (corrupt group). Ships of E.G.9 will join ESCAPADE shortly.

(2) O.N.S.18 P.C.S. at 2359Z, 056° 56' N., 029° 21' W, 280° 7.

(B.3, 200002Z to C. in C. W.A.)

During hunt, see my 200002Z, ESCAPADE's Hedgehog exploded and stove in middle of bridge killing 5 and wounding 12, of these 6 seriously. Ship in after steering wrecked.

(2) Have ordered her to return Clyde independently at 1645 reporting all (corrupt group) direct.

(3) O.N.S.18 altering to (?) course at 0700Z and back to track at 0900Z.

(B.3, 200655Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Proceeding independently to Clyde through 056° 30' N., 020° 00' W, 056° 07' N., 015° 00' W. E.T.A. 1700Z/22nd. Have following casualties: killed 3 officers, 12 ratings. Missing 1 rating. Names.

Request medical officer be sent to meet ship on route as soon as possible. Capt. among wounded. My P.C.S. at 0800Z, 057° 09' N. 029° 49' W. course 097° speed 15 knots.

(ESCAPADE, 201149A to Admty).

P.C.S. at 2000Z, 056° 39' N., 021° 49' W. 97° 22 knots.

E.T.A. will be amended.

(ESCAPADE, 201421A to C. in C. W.A.)

Detach rescue ship GOTHLAND with 1 escort to R/V with ESCAPADE for treatment of urgent case.

Estimated P.C.S. 0400/21, 056° 19', 017° 12', 097° 22 knots.

(2) Report name of escort detached.

(3) ESCAPADE report if services of GOTHLAND not required.

(C. in C. W.A., 201950A to Escort H.X. 256).

Your 201950A. KITCHENER.

(C.5, 202020Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 201950A. GOTHLAND not required.

(ESCAPADE, 202039A to C. in C. W.A., H.X.256).

Cancel my 201950A.

(C. in C. W.A., 202306 to H.X. 256).

O.N.S.18 and O.N. 202 of Escort and a number of S/M joined in 057° 22' N., 031° 03' W. at 2020Z.

(B.3, 202133Z to Connav).

Several U-boats severely harried by air and surface craft.

2. ST. CROIX torpedoed and sunk whilst hunting. ITCHEN will report.

(B.3, 202208Z to C. in C. W.A.)

O.N.202,  
LAGAN  
torpedoed.

THEODORE  
DWIGHT

WELD

sunk.

FREDERICK

DOUGLASS

torpedoed  
and abandoned,  
afloat.

LAGAN torpedoed 057° 09', 027° 28'. My P.C.S. 057° 17', 027° 22'.

(C.2, 200329Z to C. in C. W.A.)

My 200329Z. One B barred on series 2 line 2 resulted in Radar Chase by LAGAN during which she was torpedoed aft. HARE detached LANCER and DESTINY to tow her east. One other U-boat

detected and counter-attacked. Probably no merchant

/ships...

War Diary.20.9.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

O.N. 202, ships sunk nor stragglers. My P.C.S. 57° 25',  
LAGAN 28° 09' 287° for (NJ) 8.  
torpedoed. (C.2, 200620Z to C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C.)  
THEODORE Torpedoed 0256/20th whilst chasing S/M which was  
DWIGHT on the surface and dived 3200 yards ahead 3  
WELD, minutes before explosion. Torpedo not heard.  
sunk. Screws and rudder blown off.  
FREDERICK 2. DESTINY closing to take me in tow escorted by  
DOUGLASS LANCER.  
torpedoed 3. Intend to tow 090°.  
and abandoned 4. Request air cover. My position 057° 05' N.  
afloat. 027° 30' W. Weather 5572 1964.  
(contd). (LAGAN, 200651Z to Admty).  
O.N. 202. Convoy attacked in 057° 29', 028° 26'.  
THEODORE DWIGHT, FREDERICK DOUGLASS torpedoed.  
(C2., 200806Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Received 0749Z de Tيرة Radio intercept at 0745Z SSSS  
de EMPIRE MIST. Torpedoed port aft.  
(Port Patrick, Radio 200849A to N.O.I.C. Greenock).  
Proceed forthwith at best speed to assist LAGAN torpedoed  
in 057° 05' N., 027° 30' W. being taken in tow by DESTINY in  
company with LANCER. Escort tow to U.K.  
(C. in C. W.A., 200950Z to TOWY).  
My 200651Z. Not certain that damage caused by torpedo.  
Stern all gone abaft frame 100. DESTINY now towing me. My  
P.C.S. 057° 03' N., 026° 29' W. 095° 6.  
Full W/T efficiency. Weather 5282 2064.  
(LAGAN, 201010Z to Admty).  
My 200806. THEODORE DWIGHT WELD (U.S.) sunk and FREDERICK  
DOUGLASS U.S. abandoned afloat as I have no tug. POLYANTHUS  
screening RATHLIN. (?ICARUS) hunting U-boat sighted by A/C.  
Enemy transmissions on series 1 indicate at least one U-boat  
in contact ahead. Have 3 escorts in company. convoy. No  
stragglers.  
(C.2, 201220Z to C. in C. W.A.)  
My P.C.S. 056° 50' N., 025° 50' W. 095° 8 knots. Weather  
6381 1480.  
(LAGAN, 201401Z to Admty. C. in C. W.A., TOWY).  
It is most important to ascertain if damage was caused by  
acoustic directed torpedo. Signal forthwith brief report of  
circumstances including reasons for doubting whether damage  
was caused by torpedo. Your 201010 refers.  
(C. in C. W.A., 201423P to LAGAN).  
Cancel my 200950. Proceed at best speed to overtake convoy.  
(C. in C. W.A., 201605Z to TOWY).  
Your 201423. Circumstances.  
Pursuing Radar contact bearing red 20. Contact 1 lost at 3200  
yards, course altered 20° to port. Explosion aft when 1200 yards  
from last Radar contact. Ship's average speed 18 knots.  
Reasons for being uncertain of torpedo attack (1) Lack of noise  
from torpedo. (2) Positions of explosions which appear to have  
been centred between propellers and may quite possible have  
been acoustic-directed torpedo.  
I suspected accidental dropping of depth charge with premature  
firing but study of apparent centre of explosion rules that out.  
My opinion - probably acoustic direct torpedo fired from stern  
tubes of submarine when diving.  
Possibly met torpedo fired from second submarine, but unlikely  
as no indication of second submarine.  
(LAGAN, 201615Z to C. in C. W.A.)

/H.X....

War Diary.20.9.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

H.X. 256. Detach forthwith ships negative Commodore capable of arriving at Bar Light Vessel by 1400A/22 together with ships for other ports who can maintain necessary speed. One escort to be detailed (2) EMPRESS OF RUSSIA and SCYTHIA are to proceed ahead independently from fast section of convoy on crossing 015° W. Any Loch Ewe ships are to be detached on crossing 010° W. remainder of fast section of convoy independently from 007° W.

(C. in C. W.A., 200858Z to Escorts H.X. 256).

Following from Commodore begins. Your 190228. In view of damage undesirable to send WILLIAM PEPPERELL to Loch Ewe. Request instructions. Ends.

(C.5, 201006Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 201006Z. WILLIAM PEPPERELL is to continue with B portion.

If possible O.M. BERNUTH is to be trimmed to not more than 28 feet 6 inches before arrival at Mersey.

(C. in C. W.A., 201713A to C.5).

Your 201713A and my 182352Z. WILLIAM PEPPERELL reports 2 explosions at 1605Z. Now consider these and previous explosions due to defective Mark 29 Gear. Maximum speed now 8½ knots. Rescue Tug ALLEGIANCE standing by in case of stragglers or complete breakdown.

(C.5, 202047Z to C. in C. W.A.)

D.S.45 Propose embarking CHAMPOLLION at Tail o' the Bank p.m./28th. Your 192011. refers.  
(P.S.T.O. Clyde, 201027A to D.S.T.)

EMPIRE SCOTT, EMPIRE SCOTT, EMPIRE FORTUNE, EMPIRE BARD, and EMPIRE FORTUNE, BRITISH GOVERNOR will sail for Archangel 2000C tomorrow escorted by Russian destroyers. BRITOMART EMPIRE BARD, will accompany as far as Terski Orlov returning BRITISH will accompany as far as Terski Orlov returning GOVERNOR. thence to Kola Inlet.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 201034A to S.B.N.O. Archangel).

Special Cancel my 291249Z July. When allocating these Rescue Ships. ships priority is to be given to O.N. and O.N.S. convoys over convoys bound for Gibraltar.  
(C. in C. W.A., 201113Z to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

X.K.11 PROSPEROUS and SCHELDE are to proceed to Greenock. Fast. (C. in C. W.A., 201158A to Escorts X.K.11 Fast).  
X.K.11 arrived position G. E.T.A. Plymouth 2200A 20th. In company with LANCE and GODETIA.  
FANTOME in tow 2 tugs. Request instructions.  
(STONECROP, 201445 to C. in C. W.A.)

Proceed to Plymouth and anchor in Jennycliff Bay.  
STONECROP and GODETIA will be sailed for Liverpool p.m./21st.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 201815A to STONECROP, GODETIA).

/PRAGUE...



War Diary.20.9.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.PRAGUE,  
AMSTERDAM.

Intend sailing transport PRAGUE K/B escorted by RIPLEY at 2345A/22nd, speed 16 knots, routed to 058° 42' 30", 003° 00' E.T.A. 0645/23rd. Thence in company with AMSTERDAM to Invergordon, E.T.A. 1215.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 201225A to A.C.O.S.)

SUFFOLK

SUFFOLK sailed 1442Z/19. E.T.A. Buenos Aires 9th October.  
(N.C.S.O. Mersey, 201345Z to Admty. 201346Z to Asst. S.O.(I) Recife).

Black Ball  
procedure.

Black Ball procedure in A.C.I. Article 127 is not to apply to trans-Atlantic convoys until further signal and all aircraft sighted are to be treated as friendly until proved hostile.  
(C. in C. W.A., 201405Z to Ships).

S.C.143

F.O.N.F. 191241. To replace LAGAN in C-two for S.C.143 intend ANTARES to join for this assignment.  
2. Anticipate GATESHEAD will proceed as additional escort S.C.143.  
(C. in C. C.N.A., 201431Z to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.20.9.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

French refugees. Intend to sail GOVERNEUR GENERAL LEPINE escorted by LA GRANDIERE, LA GRACIEUSE, at 0100 Sept. 22nd to Setubal.  
2. On embarking French refugees convoy proceed about 2259 Sept. 23rd direct to Cape St. Vincent thence to position (G) 34.05 N., 08.01 W. thence to Casablanca S. of A. 12½ knots.  
3. Fighter protection codeword "Cloth" 356. C.M.S.F. pass to Adml. Afrique.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 200114B to C.M.S.F.F., (R) Admty. etc).  
For LA GRANDIERE substitute VELOX in My 201147.  
(Presumably 200114 intended).  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 201911B).

G.U.S.15 (1) Sailing telegram.  
(C.M.S.F., 201037Z, 221952Z to P.D. Norfolk).

Damaged U/B at Vigo. Following is a repetition of my 191149 (N.T. in W.R.) to B.N.A. Madrid (begins).  
From R.O. Vigo. Your 182000.  
Marine Commandant told me in strict confidence he has not yet received official orders about S/M but expects some instruction 20th or 21st. He said no work was going on on board. There had been some dismounting of machinery - crew. Yesterday propellers were tied up by his own men and he referred to some parts of machinery previously removed. He confirmed that batteries have been charged, for maintenance only. My impression is that he thinks vessel will be interned although (?he could) not say so (Ends).  
(R.O. Vigo, 201111 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar (R) Admty).

C.G.65 Sailed as my 191040B. (N.T. in W.D.)  
(Commorseafon, 201345B to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty. etc).  
C.G.65 S. of A. 11 knots, E.T.A. (E) Gibraltar 210800A.  
(Commorseafon, 201542B to F.O.C. Gib. (R) Admty. etc).

U.G.S.17 Casablanca joining section Monrovia (names).  
Escorts P.C.481 (Senior) call sign NBNB 472, 473, and FORBIN. E.T.D. 210700Z. S. of A. 9 knots.  
Route Q.B.A.102 to R/V Dr. 64. 034° 15' N., 009° 01' W. at 211700A.  
(2) Casablanca section plus tanker NIOBRARA break off with local escort arriving Casablanca daylight 22 Sept.  
(3) Remainder of T.F.62 continue to escort U.G.S.17 Narrows (T) 035° 45' N., 006° 30' W. Expected T. of A. 221700A.  
(4) When relieved by British Escort T.F.62 proceed forthwith to Casablanca Narrows (T). E.T.A. Casablanca Channel daylight 23rd.  
(Commorseafon, 201447B to F.O.C. Gib. (R) Admty. etc).

/STANRIDGE...

20.9.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.- Contd.

STANRIDGE,  
G.U.S.15.

STANRIDGE with declared speed of 9½ knots was sailed in G.U.S.15. Master reports that convoy was steaming over 11 knots, that he became a straggler and was ordered back Gibraltar. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 201738B to C. in C. Med). Instructions. (Admty. 221612A).

UGOLINO  
VIVALDI  
(sunk 29th  
Sept.)

Survivors arrived Palamos.  
(N.A. Madrid, 201807B) See Mediterranean.

Danish  
ships at  
Las Palmas.

Your 181510. In view of Las Palmas telegram number Mast 133 to M.W.T. of 17th Sept. submit arrival of crew should be used to making further attempts to get Thyra to consent. (B.N.A. Madrid, 201845B to Admty. (R) Las Palmas, N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. W.A.)

Trawler  
for Gibraltar.

C. in C. Med's 201932B refers.

SCOTTISH  
AMERICAN  
Oil shortage  
Gibraltar.

In view of Oiling Commitments insufficient oil will be available at Gibraltar to load SCOTTISH AMERICAN to minimum quantity of 6000 tons. Ship is due to sail with O.S.55. Urgently request further Tanker be allotted to discharge Gibraltar. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 202021B to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty).

M.K.S.25

Sailing destinations:- list.  
(D.T.D., 202039A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

Ships from  
Bizerta etc.

Your 191045. If ships could arrive at 0730/23rd instead of 235 /22nd it would avoid necessity prolonged opening gate for three hours before moonrise. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 202252B to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. etc).

War Diary.20.9.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.GORLESTON  
search for  
Sunderland.

My 191531Z by aircraft (N.T. in W.R.) Flares sighted to North Eastward 021° N., 017° 50' W. at 2145 (missing group) Survivors baled out. (Corrupt group) (incomplete group) R Detached search till dusk. My position 021° 02' N., 017° 45' W. slowly closing to land for shelter. (GORLESTON, 200630Z to R.A.W.A. (R) Com. Dakar) GORLESTON's 200630Z read on 8290 k/cs refers to crashed French Sunderland. (F.O.C.W.Af. 201208Z to Admty).

CAGNI  
surrender.

Italian S/M AMMIRAGLIO CAGNI having surrendered is entering Durban today. Intend releasing news to press after entry. (C. in C. S.A., 200949C to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F., Com. I/C Durban).

AMMIRAGLIO CAGNI safely berthed in Durban and surrendered to Fortress Commander. Total complement 81. Intend to escort her to Simonstown in a few days time to await instructions for her ultimate disposal.

(C. in C. S.A., 201315Z to Admty).

Your 200949. This should not be released for the present.

(D.D.I.C. Approved V.C.N.S., 201534A to C. in C. S.A.)

Your 201534 received too late to stop publication. In any case following signal was broadcast in P/L on 500 k/cs at 0230Z. "I shall arrive this morning to Durban Harbour at 1100 according armistice. Please inform interested command. S/M CAGNI". This was picked up by several South African Stations and almost certainly by Portuguese East Africa and soon became general knowledge.

(2) A difficult situation would have arisen with the press if publication had been refused.

(3) A decision had to be taken at once and I regret if it was not in accordance with Admty. views.

(C. in C. S.A., 201955C to Admty).

East Indies  
Ships.

Arrived FALMOUTH.

(2) Sailed ROCKROSE, JASMINE to Kilindini routed through (P) 117° Cape St. Lucia 6 miles (Q) 22° 00' S., 38° 00' E. (R) 15° 00' S. 41° 30' E. (S) 09° 00' S. 41° 25' E. S. of A. 12 knots E.T.A. Kilindini 0900Z/27th Sept.

(3) Shift to W/T Group V at 0245Z/24th.

(Com. i/c Durban, 201501Z to Admty. etc).

L.G.W.2

Sailing telegram. (2) 0730Z/21st Sept.

(3) Knots 13. (4) ANTENOR, JOHANN DE WITT, Takoradi 0900Z/22nd Sept.

(5) P.06.06 N., 03.17 E. G. 04.47 N. 00.38 W.

R. 04.51 N. 01.37 W. (6) Both ships have route G.

(7) to (10) Nil. (11) GRD Codeword "Hatbox".

(N.C.S.O. Lagos, 201635Z to Admty. etc).

RANGITATA

Arrival 19th.

(R.O. Buenos Aires, 201745 to Admty).

20.9.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

SHEFFIELD, Immediate to C. in C.Mediterranean, C. in C.  
SPARTAN. Plymouth, SHEFFIELD.  
C. in C.Med's 191008 (N.T. in W.D.) to Admiralty  
only. SHEFFIELD is to join the Mediterranean  
Command temporarily.

2. SHEFFIELD is to embark forthwith as much H.E. shell fuse 230  
as possible in lieu of present outfit and is to be sailed to  
Med. with all despatch. On crossing 43° N. she is to come  
under the orders of C. in C.Med.

3. SPARTAN on completion of working up is to be placed under  
the orders of C. in C.Plymouth until SHEFFIELD's return. A.M.  
160035 not to all addressees is amended accordingly.

4. SHEFFIELD to report on sailing amount of H.E. shell embarked.  
(D.O.D.(F) 200001A to C. in C.Mediterranean, C. in C.H.F. C. in  
C.Plymouth.)

Enemy 3 sloops in 42.00 N. 11.40 E. course 000° speed  
Sightings. 5 knots.  
(A/C FBU/B 200005B to 45U.)  
My 0005. At 0040 2 small craft course 000° speed  
5 knots.  
(A/C FBU/B 200040B to 45U.)

P.C. and S. of enemy medium sized M/V of 3000 tons in 43.30 N.  
10.00 E. 040 5.  
(A/C using call sign FBU/B via Malta W/T 200215 to 45U.)  
My 0215. 1 medium sized M/V 3000 tons in 43.30 N. 10.00 E.  
course 270° speed 10 knots.  
(A/C FBU/B 200235B to 45U.)  
3 medium sized M/Vs 3000 tons in 43.30 N. 10.00 E. 270° speed  
10 knots.  
(A/C FBU/B 200220 to 45U.)  
Have attacked enemy with torpedoes. Estimate no hit.  
(A/C FBU/B via Malta W/T 200235B to 45U.)  
Following has been read. 2 7000 ton M/Vs and unknown escort  
vessel in 43.23 N. 10.02 E. course 045° speed 8 knots.  
(A/C FBU/W 200330B to 45U.)  
Have attacked enemy with bombs - level. Result unobserved.  
(A/C FBU/W 200335B to 45U.)  
Following has been read.  
1 small M/V in 42.43 N. 9.50 E. course 050° speed 5 knots.  
(A/C FBU/W 200350B to 45U.)  
Following read. Objective of A/C is 2 medium sized enemy  
M/Vs 7000 tons and 1 unknown escort vessel, who were in position  
43.23 N. 10.02 E. steering 045° speed 8 knots at 0330.  
(Base 45U 200410B to A/C FBW/V.)  
Following has been read. Position of enemy, (1 tanker, 2  
E-Boats) in Vronti Harbour 35.31 N. 27.14 E. 0612.  
(A/C GPB/S 200717Z.)  
Enemy previously reported is a tanker of 500 tons.  
(A/C GPB/S 200727Z to 7 WM.)  
Position of 1 enemy small M/V is FXWF 3652 (indecypherable  
WF=24 E.) speed 9 knots.  
(A/C VBM/W 200845Z to 7 WM.)  
Position of 1 enemy landing craft and 1 enemy war motor  
boat 42.11 N. 11.38 E. (based on a fix obtained within ½ hr. of 1200)  
course 160° speed 8 knots.  
(A/C GPA/T 201100B to 45U.)

/Am...

War Diary.

20.9.1943.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Sightings. (Contd.) Am over 1 enemy landing craft and 1 enemy war motor boat in (indecypherable NQ=11 E., position based on a fix obtained within 1/2 hr. of 1200) course 160° speed 8 knots. (A/C GPA/T 201200B to 45U.)  
My 1200 enemy previously reported are 1 enemy landing craft 3000 tons 1 enemy war motor boat 100 tons. Weather report. (A/C GPA/T 201210A to 45U.)  
My 1100. Enemy previously reported are 1 enemy landing craft of 3000 tons, 1 enemy war motor boat of 100 tons. Weather report. (A/C GPA/T 201230 to 45U.)  
P.C. and S. of 2 enemy M/Vs 1200 43.34 N. 10.18 E. 180 5. (A/C HWY/Y 201116B to 45U.)  
P.C. and S. of 3 B M (signification unknown) is 42.53 N. 9.52 E. 180° and 8 knots. (A/C ASK/Z 201524B to 45U.)  
Have attacked enemy transport barge in position 41.25 N. 12.30 E. (A/C HTZ/P 201535Z to 45U.)  
P.C. and S. of 8 enemy transport barges 43.20 N. 10.01 E. 340 10 knots. (A/C ASK/Z 201537B to 45U.)  
P.C. and S. of 3 enemy transport barges is 42.53 N. 9.52 E. 180° 8 knots. (A/C ASK/2 201543B to 45U.)

Position of Italian Minefields.	Italian chart shows minefield in following positions.	Latitude.	Longitude.
A.		043° 23'.5	009° 59'.5
		043° 22'.8	010° 02'.0
B.		043° 21'.0	010° 11'.2
		043° 19'.8	010° 09'.5
C.		043° 13'.8	010° 15'.2
		043° 12'.5	010° 13'.9
D.		043° 09'.4	010° 16'.0
		043° 08'.0	010° 16'.5
E.		043° 02'.6	010° 19'.6
		043° 01'.2	010° 19'.0
F.		043° 00'.3	010° 12'.5
		043° 00'.2	010° 14'.6
G.		042° 56'.3	010° 05'.0
		042° 54'.8	010° 05'.2
H.		042° 58'.8	010° 24'.3
		042° 57'.0	010° 24'.2
I.		042° 55'.0	010° 20'.0
		042° 53'.6	010° 20'.0
J.		042° 49'.1	010° 15'.0
		042° 48'.5	010° 13'.4
K.		042° 41'.5	010° 06'.5
		042° 39'.5	010° 04'.8
L.		042° 42'.8	010° 16'.6
		042° 42'.9	010° 18'.4
M.		042° 43'.2	010° 19'.4
		042° 43'.3	010° 21'.3

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Position of Station Minefields. (Contd.)	Minefields.	Latitude.	Longitude.
	N.	042° 42'.4	010° 28'.8
		042° 41'.9	010° 31'.0
	O.	042° 42'.8	010° 33'.1
		042° 42'.7	010° 35'.4
	P.	042° 43'.5	010° 37'.2
		042° 42'.6	010° 39'.0
	Q.	042° 40'.4	010° 44'.6
		042° 39'.5	010° 46'.4
	R.	042° 30'.5	010° 55'.6
		042° 29'.2	010° 54'.2
	S.	042° 27'.0	010° 54'.0
		042° 25'.4	010° 53'.9
	T.	042° 18'.1	010° 57'.6
		042° 17'.4	010° 59'.2
	?U.	042° 16'.3	011° 02'.0
		042° 15'.6	011° 03'.6
	V.	042° 15'.8	011° 09'.2
		042° 16'.7	011° 10'.7
	W.	042° 17'.6	011° 13'.7
		042° 17'.4	011° 15'.5

2. Mines and E F G J K L M O P are set to 4 metres: A B C H I N R S T U V W to 10 metres: D Q to 15 metres. You should assume minefield exists as above despite the fact our S/Ms have been through most of them on many occasions without detecting any mines.

(Capt. S.8, 200800B to UPROAR, SIBYL, UNSEEN, ULTOR, DZIK, (R) C. in C.Med. Capt. S.10.)

My 200800 following details of additional minefields are from same source.

Minefields.	Latitude.	Longitude.
1.	044° 04'.9	009° 37'.2
	044° 03'.5	009° 36'.9
2.	044° 01'.5	009° 36'.2
	044° 00'	009° 36'
3.	043° 55'.3	009° 37'.4
	043° 54'.5	009° 35'.5
4.	043° 56'.1	009° 49'
	043° 54'.5	009° 47'.3
5.	043° 53'	009° 45'.1
	043° 51'.9	009° 43'.8
6.	043° 54'.1	009° 51'.2
	043° 53?''.7	009° 53'.4
7.	043° 53'.5	009° 56'.2
	043° 53'.3	009° 58'.4
8.	043° 53'	010° 01'.2
	043° 52'.8	010° 03'.3
9.	043° 52'.5	010° 06'.2
	043° 52'.4	010° 08'.4
10.	043° 38'.7	010° 01'.5
	043° 37'.8	010° 03'.2
11.	043° 32'.4	009° 57'.2
	043° 31'.6	009° 59'.2
12.	043° 26'.2	010° 16'.4
	043° 24'.6	010° 17'.5

All sets at 10 metres. Reference chart 157

3. My 191200B refers.

(Capt. S.8 201200B to as former.)

/ORION...

War Diary.20.9.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- ORION. ORION after disembarking all 6 inch H.Es. is to be sailed immediately to U.K. to exchange gun hoists calling at Algiers and Gibraltar for passenger.  
(C. in C.Med. 200859 to N.O.I.C. Malta, (R) Admty. etc.)
- Onward route at S.O.A. 24 knots from 79 at 1630B Sept. 21 through 40.90 120.89 50.16 to Gibraltar.
2. Entering Algiers E.T.A. 0500B Sept. 22nd to embark passengers sailing at 1200B Sept. 22nd.
3. Gibraltar E.T.A., 0600B Sept. 23.
4. F.O.C. Gibraltar is requested to sail ORION when ready to comply with my 200858.
5. Codeword "Nitwit" priority normal.  
(C. in C.Med. 202129B to ORION, (R) Admty. etc.)
- T.S.S. Convoys Area "Lancaster" will be carried out by Beauforts A/C protection. alongside in route A depth of 20 miles on either side of all T.S.S. convoy, from Tripoli to 034° N. at 0900 to 1345 and 1430 to 1945 daily.  
(Sector H.Q. Misurata 200945B to C. in C. Levant, etc.)
- C.G.64. Your 151748B plus British GRYFEVALE arrived escorted by COMMANDANT BORY and LA TOULONNAISE.  
(C. in C.Med. pass to Comnavnaw.)  
(Com. N.O.B. Oran 200958B to Comnorseafron, (R) Admty. etc.)
- U/B Disposition. Area L.M. Alexandria to Benghazi is considered clear of U-Boats. U-Boats disposition No. 80. (Capt. on Staff Alexandria 200952C to C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, etc.)  
Disposition of German U-Boats between 007° E. and 020° E.
- 1 within 60 miles of the coast between Cape Coconne and Cape Spartevento (Calabriabank) probably working from Pola.  
About 3 in the south east Tyrrhenean Sea of which 2 estimated to be north of 040° N. and east of 014° E.  
(C. in C.Med. (A) 201726 to U-Boat disposition Med. Station, (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)
- Aircraft in Carriers. On arrival at Gibraltar R.A.A. is requested to dispose of aircraft in all Fleet and escort carriers in accordance with A.M. 081959 and 151850. He should report to Admty. estimated date on which carriers (corrupt group) BATTLER will be ready to sail for U.K.  
(C. in C.Med. 201018 to R.A.A. (R) S.O. Force H, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty.)
- EURYALUS, My 192136 (not circulated in Admty.) Request C. in C. EURYALUS may be sent to Malta.  
(C. in C.Med. 201027 to N.C.W.N.T.F. (R) EURYALUS, etc.)

/C. in C...



War Diary.

20.9.1943.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- EURYALUS, C. in C. (Contd.) C. in C. will arrive Malta by air about 1530/22nd Sept. EURYALUS will be required to sail with C. in C. Med. on board so as to arrive Taranto at 0730 next day.  
(C. in C. Med. 201642 to V.A. Malta, (R) S.O. Force H, F.O.T.A. EURYALUS.)
- R.A.(V). The appointment of R.A.(V) has terminated.  
(C. in C. Med. 201036B to Med. Station.)
- U.G.S.17. Destinations (list.)  
(C. in C. Med. (A) 201101B to C.T.F.62, Ships escorting U.G.S.17.)
- T.S.S.6. M.S.C.I. Article 22 (sailing telegram (names).) sailing 1600/21st. 2A. and B. 7. 3. Q.B.B. 146 to S.H. then route S. of "Avon" 2 to C.B. then 178, 40, 12, 14, 39, to 176, 40, 22, 14, 47 at 1400/23rd then as ordered by Cdre. (N). 5. A.Z. 6. "Liege" 6. 7. B. 8. WHADDON or WILTON, EGGESFORD, BLENCATHRA.  
(V.A. Malta 201116 to Cdre. (N), (R) Admty. etc.)  
Intend to sail (?T.S.) S.6. A. Consisting of U.S.L.S.T. 316, S.O. 315, 157, 376, 371, 373, 310, 6, 356, 351 escorted by P.C. 545 S.C. 497, 498 at 1932B/20th route 292, 202 to 035° 00' N. 015° 38' E. then as in "Avon" (corrupt group) N.5 route G thence to L.P. 2, E.T.A. 1131B/23rd S.O.A. 8½ knots. Codeword "Liege" outer (?five) (W/T callsign) AZ H 6 (A).  
(S.N.O. Tripolitania 201529B to S.O. Force H, (R) N.A. Authorities Tripolitania, etc.)
- H.D.M.Ls. Disposal of H.D.M.Ls. referred to in my 141505 and your 191802 is given in A.M. 111908.  
(C.C.F. Med. 201136 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. etc.)
- CUBA. Your 090205A. Propose allocating CUBA for transport of 2000 reinforcements for Taranto, sailing M.E. 29th Sept. Request concurrence.  
2. On completion disembarkation request CUBA may be allocated for use in E. Med. in view of release of CAP ST. JACQUES for repairs.  
3. Agreed.  
(P.S.T.O.M.E. 201152C to D.S.T. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)
- R.A. Force H. Flag of R.A.H. hoisted in WARSPITE.  
(S.O. Force H 201200 to C. in C. Med. (B), (R) Admty.)

War Diary.20.9.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Merchant  
Ships for  
M.E.Request that on completion of present "Avalanche"  
voyage EGRA, LETITIA, ARONDA, KAROA and EMPIRE  
TROOPER may be sailed to Middle East.2. Also request that DERBYSHIRE may be returned to  
Middle East on completion of present Slapstick  
voyage.3. These 6 ships together with DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, REINA DEL  
PACIFICO and CUBA will be available for follow up Slapstick  
convoys from Middle East.

(P.S.T.O.Med. 201300B to C. in C.Med. (R) P.S.T.O.M.E. D. of S.T.)

Ships for  
Eastern  
Fleet.Amend my 181318. Para. 3. For MARYBOROUGH  
substitute GERALDTON. Para. 4. Delete reference  
to IPSWICH and substitute LISMORE leaves  
Alexandria Sept. 21st.

(C. in C. Levant, 201346C to Admty., etc.)

S/M Patrols.

P.217 (SIBYL) is to patrol in zone S.O.

(corrupt groups) areas likely to be observed P.53  
(ULTOR) close North of Capraia P.52 (DZIK) off  
?Minorca P.51 (UNSEEN) near Italian coastalroute P.31 (UPROAR) north and north east of Elba P.217 (SIBYL)  
coastal route.

(Capt. S.8 201400B to 8th S.M.F. (R) C. in C.Med. Capt. S.10.)

N.A.A.F.  
Report.

A.V. 646E 20 Sept. N.A.A.F. Opsum 211.

N.W.A.Coastal A.F. 18/19 Sept. (add). 3

Wellingtons reconnaissance east and west coasts  
Sardinia, Corsica coastwise Toulon, Nice,  
Savona, Civitavecchia, Elba Islands. LoadedSiebel Ferry escorted by 3 E-Boats near Caprai Island attacked.  
First attack bombs burst around target. No results observed.  
Second attack by 5 Hudsons.

(H.Q.N.A.A.F. 201450B.)

G.U.S.16.

(Names and destinations.)

(N.O.I.C. Alexandria 201509C to Admty. etc.)

G.U.S.15.

This is C.T.F. 61's 201133 192000Z (N.T. in W.D.)

addressed to appropriate commands. G.U.S.15  
73 miles bearing 272 from P.T. Course approx. 270  
speed 8.8. G.U.S.15 was silhouetted 192230 to  
2330Z while passing through Gibraltar Straits  
by searchlights. Weather.  
(Comnaveu 201621 to Admty.)LE CURIE,  
SICKLE.

Intend sail: 1. P.67 (LE CURIE) at 1700/22 on

surface through 038° 07' 003° 27' at 0330/23

040° 01' 005° 22' at 2130/23. 041° 02' 005° 49'

at 0530/24, thence diving by day through 042° 01'

006° 19' at 0001/25, 043° 49' 008° 23' at

0700/26 to patrol in zone S.N.

2. P.224 (SICKLE) at 1900/22nd on the surface through 038° 10'  
003° 54' at 0430/23rd, 040° 01' 005° 40' at 1830/23rd, 041°  
43' 006° 32' at 0530/24th thence diving by day through 042° 00'  
006° 41' at 1230/24th, 043° 34' 008° 46' at 2100/25th to patrol  
in zone S.O.

(Capt. S.8 201700B to C. in C.Med. etc.) See also 211724.

/L.S.I...

War Diary.

20.9.1943.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- L.S.I. for U.K. 5. Presume you will be able to cover the requirements referred to in S.T.O.Gibraltar's 150937B. Does the position referred to in your 151930B still apply to the 5 L.S.I.(L) as it has been reported that 2 of these are now returning in M.K.F.24 to U.K.  
(D. of S.T. 201730A to P.S.T.O.Med.)
- Exchange of British & German Prisoners. It is desired to communicate particulars of route to German Government and early reply to my 112052 would be appreciated.  
2. Could the ships use normal Red Cross route to Marseilles.  
(Head of M.I. 201731A to C. in C.Med. (A).)
- Convoy "Hunter". M.S.C.I. article 22. Intend to sail CEDARDALE (T), ARGO, ALGORAB, KROMAN, TEMPLE YARD, MARIT MAERSK, VULCAN at 0901/21st.  
2 A. and B. 8. 3. 292, 202, 248, 212 U Malta Boom 1330B/22nd.  
6. Normal and A/S codeword "Hunter" 920.  
8. CONVULVULUS, PENTSTEMON, VETCH, M.L. 565.  
(S.N.O.Tripolitania 201755B to V.A.Malta, (R) Admty.etc.)
- X.I.F.1. (6 ships). 2. 17 C 20. 3. sailed together.  
4, 5, 6. as in C. in C.Levant 171515C and C. in C.Med. 190959 (N.T. in W.D.)  
13A. Commander B.K. Berry, in MONARCH OF BERMUDA, B. SY ARUNDEL CASTLE. 15. W.A.  
(N.O.I.C. Alexandria 201757 to Connav, Admty. etc.)
- UGOLINO VIVALDI (sunk ?9 Sept.) Admty. pass to C. in C.Med. My 190945.  
2 boat loads survivors from Italian destroyer UGOLINO VIVALDI have arrived Palamos (?Palm).  
Believed sunk same time as Italian battleship ROMA.  
(B.N.A.Madrid 201807B to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med. F.O.I.C. Gib.)
- Glider Bomb investigation Attack on Italian Sqdn. Following information on air attack on Italian Squadron off Sardinia when ROMA was sunk has been obtained from Italian officers.  
2. Attacks were by Ju.88s each carrying 1 rocket propelled bomb of about 2000 kilogrammes. This was released from a height of 1800 feet and angle of sight about 70° being accurately aimed at a selected battleship.  
3. First attack was carried out by 5 A/C at 1630. Between 1647 and 1752 5 more attacks took place, from 1 to 3 A/C at a time. Final attack by 3 A/C at 2020.  
4. High velocity and steadiness of bomb in flight was remarkable. Time of flight about 20 seconds. No reason to think that bombs were controlled or self-homing. Some possibility that they may have had planes like a P.V. but if so span would be no more than 1/2 length of bomb.

War Diary.

20.9.1943.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Glider Bomb 5. 1st attack gave impression of a tendency to investigation. miss just astern which was corrected in later Attack on attacks. A total of about 15 bombs dropped gave Italian Sqdn. 1 or possibly more hits on ROMA and one hit on (Contd.) ITALIA.

6. ROMA was hit abreast the bridge. Bomb which hit ITALIA passed through fore-castle deck and out through side exploding abreast the bulge.  
7. Long range A.A. fire only upset the run up of a few of the A/C. Captains of ITALIA and VITTORIO attribute their escape to violent alterations of course which prevented accurate fire. (C. in C. Levant, 201828C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

Your 181521B para. 3A.

Bomb safety officer trained diver should examine missile visually before any movement of glider. Careful examination to be made in particular to see whether there are lenses in the nose looking forward or any aeri-als.

2. The glider should then be moved to land under precautions. Fuze in bomb portion to be immunised before any attempt made to open out or examine interior. Removal of filling of bomb by boiling or washing out may be necessary.

(D.G.D. 201950Z to C. in C. Med.)

Corsica. Signed Eisenhower. Cositintrep No. 72. Part 4 20 Sept. No part four Cositintrep No. 71 issued.

Paras. 1 and 2.. Corsica. Remaining elements of German forces in Sardinia have been transported to Corsica disembarking at Bonifacio and Porto Vecchio. Troop movements continuing by road and rail from Bonifacio area towards Bastia where embarkation has commenced. Shipping observed moving north along east coast. Piedicroce held by enemy elements of French battalion De Choc advanced towards Levie to assist patriots who are offering effective resistance. Liaison between French and Italian troops excellent.

(A.F.H.Q. Algiers No T.C.O. to Cositintrep Addressees, Recd. 1835.)

STAFFA,  
ARETHUSE.

STAFFA will be at R/V. 1st S/M to arrive will identify herself to STAFFA and enter unescorted unless visibility is bad when she will remain with escort. 2nd arrival will be escorted.

2. Convoy eastbound passes Algiers a.m. 21st sections joining and detached.

(Capt. S.8 S.F. 201900B to P.225 (?) ARETHUSE.)

American  
M.T.Bs.

My 031206 June. No opportunity for shipping these boats has yet occurred. Request you will state whether requirement for them still exists observing that space for their shipment is difficult to find owing to other higher priorities and dimensions of deck space required.

(D.D.C.D.(C)\*201912A to C. in C. Med.)

\* Approved A.C.N.S.(F).

/U.G. Convoys...

War Diary.

20.9.1943.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.- Contd.

U.G. convoys, control in Atlantic. Concur with para. 2 of F.O.I.C. Gibraltar's 161001. (C. in C. Med., 201927 to B.A.D. (R) Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

BROCKLESBY On arrival at Augusta BROCKLESBY is to proceed Malta. N.O.I.C. Malta is requested to arrange for her to be taken in hand, docking, defect, and boiler cleaning. (Capt. (S) 3 S/M F., 201931 to N.O.I.C. Malta, BROCKLESBY, (R) F.O.Sy., N.O.I.C. Augusta).

Trawlers for Gibraltar. Your 161005. There are none available on the station. (C. in C. Med., 201932B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) Admty.)

Ships for Gibraltar. C. in C. Med's 191045\*sailed 1800. (F.O.I.C. Tunisia, 201939 to Comd. Algeria, F.O.C. Gibraltar, Admty. etc). \*SCYLLA, CHARYBDIS, UNICORN, CLEVELAND.

M.K.F.24 3 hours ahead at 1900B. With present weather can arrive Algiers (?966)422 708 (?494) 954 ?(1) Request approval. If delayed till a.m./23rd F.S. DUQUESNE and (corrupt) today will require to fuel at intermediate port. (ALDENHAM, 202005B to C. in C. Med).

DANAE DANAE onward route vide N.O.I.C. Malta's 200835 (N.T. in W.D.) speed 22 knots. All times C. 2. 355 1100/21st 513 341 5 miles North 511 1920 21st. 329 2150/21st 310 309 0820/22nd inshore route to Port Said 1600/22nd.

3. Normal (corrupt group) Coat.  
4. F.O.C. Red Sea requested arrange transit and onward routing to find Fleet.  
(C. in C. Levant, 202010C to DANAE, R.A. Alexandria, F.O.C. Red. Sea).

Aircraft Carriers. Onward route from War Channel through 79 at 2200B Sept. (?21st) thence 037° 34' 006° 20' 78, 79, 2, 50, 57 to Gibraltar.  
(2) S. of A. 20 knots. E.T.A. (1000B?) Sept. 22nd  
(3) Codeword "Entire" priority (?low).  
(C. in C. Med., 202017 to V.A.A. (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers etc).

K.M.S.26 C. in C. Med. 161719 and F.O.C. Gibraltar's 151643 not received by Admty. Request repetition. (D.T.D., 202040A to C. in C. Med. (A), F.O.C. Gibraltar).

/Augusta...

War Diary.

20.9.1943.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Augusta movements Italian Ships. 20th Sept. Arrivals. Italian Yacht ZAGABRINI and Sloops GRU and FOLAGA. Departures Italian Yacht ZAGABRINI, GRU, FOLAGA. (N.O.I.C. Augusta, 202210 to Admty).

M.L. 299 Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 202211 to C. in C. E.F., Admty.)

Situation Report No. 186. Italian destroyers ?LEGIONARIO and ORIANI landed troops at Ajaccio during night 18/19th Sept. and have now returned to Algiers. (2) Although some air attacks were made on shipping in the Salerno area on 19th Sept., no attack was pressed homeward and no damage has been reported. Minelaying was suspected during night 18/19 Sept. but sweeping has not produced any results. (3) Some of the bombarding force has been withdrawn from the assault area and are awaiting further call at Palermo and Malta. (4) B.Y.M.S. 19 was mined in approaches to Cotrone on 19th Sept. 7 casualties. (5) 8 Italian minor war vessels arrived at Malta from Palermo on 20th Sept. A further 31 are on passage Sicily. DUCA D'AOSTA arrived Augusta a.m./20th Sept. in Yacht ZAGABRI and is proceeding to Taranto. (C. in C. Med. 202220 to Admty).

ALMENARA sunk. SS. ALMENARA straggler from convoy sank at 1840/20th. Position uncertain probably on minefield guarding Taranto. Escort POLLOCK sailed without chart of Taranto area. Some survivors in boat not yet located. (F.O.T.A., 202230B to C. in C. Med. (R) N.O.I.C. Syracuse, F.O.I.C. Sicily).

Ships from Bizerta. etc. F.O.C. Gibraltar's 202252 (reply to C. in C. Med's 191045) See North Atlantic.

BICESTER, USK. A.M. 160035X. BICESTER failed to sail with K.M.F. 24 and USK which sailed with K.M.S.27 returned the same day to Clyde: both have defects. (D.O.D. F., 202341A to C. in C. Med).

S.T.S. 2 Arrived 8 ships (names), from Tripoli. (V.A. Malta, 202347B to Admty. etc).

War Diary.

20.9.1943.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Convoy, M.A.6.      Convoy telegram Part 2 (5 ships)  
                  (N.C.S.O. Vizagapatam, 200121Z to Admty.)  
                  Arrival (code group) DAVID and AGRA escorting  
                  convoy M.A.6.  
                  (N.O.I.C. 200236Z to Admty.)  
                  Departure KATHIAWAR and BOMBAY escorting convoy M.A.6.  
                  (N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam, 201101Z to N.O.I.C. Chittagong,  
                  Admty. etc.)

Convoy X.C.6.      Arrived.  
                  (N.C.S.O. Colombo, 200449Z to Admty.) As amended  
                  210407)

Convoy approach      Concur in para. 1 of your 180735\*. Intend  
Routes              approach position number number 3 to be 022° 28'  
A/S                  N. 060° 12' E. and that this be used until  
warfare.            Bisleys are replaced by long range A/C  
                  (2) Cdre. R.I.N. in requested signal route in  
                  para. 8(b) of my 170415+ and to give early reply  
                  as in para. 11.  
                  (C. in C.E.F., 200530Z to Cdre. R.I.N., S.N.O.  
                  P.G. (R) Admty. F.O.C.R.I.N., Cdre. i/c Aden,  
                  F.O. E.Af. F.O.C. R.S., N.O.I.C. Karachi, N.O.I.C. Hormuz.)  
W.R. Note. \* Gulf of Oman: Bisley's being relieved by long  
range aircraft for covering convoy routes.  
+ Re anticipated increase of U/Boat warfare in Arabian Sea.

BENGLOE              BENGLOE your 180947 refers was sighted 101100Z in  
due Beira            002° 26' N. 050° 04' E. 5 days astern dead  
15th, not            reckoning.  
arrived.            (C. in C.E.F. 200618Z to Consular Shipping Advisor  
                  Beira (R) Admty. C. in C.S.A. Comdre. Durban.)

DAPHU                Muscat Levies salvaged 12 pounder gun ex. SS.  
gun.                  DAPHU sunk in Muscat Harbour 28th June Political  
                  Resident Persian Gulf recommends presenting  
                  this gun to state.  
                  2. Request early approval.  
(S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 200651Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F.?)  
Propose to approve (C. in C.E.F., 240918Z to Admty.)

Convoy                Arrived.  
M.A.5.                (N.O.I.C. Chittagong, 201237Z to Admty.)

Convoy                Arrived.  
D.N.60.                (N.C.S.O. Kilindini, 201408Z to Admty.)

/U/B...

War Diary.

20.9.1943  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

U/B  
sighted  
by A/C.

U/Boat sighted by aircraft in  $011^{\circ} 53' N.$   $047^{\circ} 22' E.$  at 1222Z/20th.  
(C. in C.E.F. 201835Z to S. & A. E.I. Station (R)  
Admty. C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.R.S.F.)

S.O.  
Force G.

Intend to hoist my flag in BULOLO at 0800 21st  
Sept.  
(S.O. Force "G" 202243 to C. in C.E.F. F.O.C.R.I.N  
S.O. Force "C", Admty. F.L.O. (I))



War Diary.20.9.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

VICTORIOUS.      Argentia 19 Sept. Arrivals VICTORIOUS, CALDER.  
 (Capt. D. Argentia 200005Z to Admty.)  
 Your 191526. As arrangements have now been made  
 for VICTORIOUS to be taken in hand on arrival  
 in U.K. request you will sail her direct to Liverpool.  
 2. A.M.111636 and A.M.122029 are cancelled.  
 (D.O.D. (H) 201140A to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) C. in C.W.A.,  
 C. in C.H.F. Cominch, B.A.D., F.O.N.F., C.T.F.24. Capt. (D)  
 Argentia, N.S.H.Q., S.B.N.O. W.A., F.O.I.C. Liverpool,  
 F.O.I.C. Greenock, F.O.C.T., F.O.N.A.S., R.A.N.A.S. (N)  
 VICTORIOUS.)  
 VICTORIOUS departed Argentia 201400Z/20th routed as in  
 C. in C. C.N.A.'s 191526. S. of A. reduced to 14 knots due  
 to flying operations and escorts fuel. E.T.A. 270800Z.  
 (VICTORIOUS 201341 to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) C. in C. U.S.  
 Fleet, N.S.H.Q., Admty. F.O.N.F., B.A.D. U.S. Cdr. Task Force 24,  
 C. in C. W.A. Capt. (D) Argentia, S.B.N.O. Atlantic.)  
 A.M. 201140 destination now Liverpool route as in my  
 191526 thence Q.Z.S. 298 speed 14 knots.  
 (C. in C. C.N.A. 201810Z to VICTORIOUS (R) Admty.  
 C. in C.H.F., Cominch, B.A.D. C.C.N.F., Cdr. Task Force 24,  
 N.S.H.Q., S.B.N.O. W.A. N.O.I.C. Liverpool, N.O.I.C. Greenock,  
 F.O.C.T., F.O.N.A.S., R.A.N.A.S. (N) ).

F.H.77.            E.T.A. Halifax light vessel 201630Z.  
 (INGONISH 200130Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

BATTLEFORD.      E.T.A. Halifax 1100Z/20th.  
 (BATTLEFORD 200315Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R)  
 D. Halifax.)

DUFF,  
 DACRES.           Boston sailed 18th, DUFF and DACRES for Bermuda.  
 (N.S.H.Q. 200454Z, 201232Z to Admty. (R)  
 B.A.D., S.B.N.O. W.At., C. in C. C.N.A.,  
 F.O.N.F.)

Convoy G.Z.44.    Arrived.  
 (B.R.L.O. Cristobal 201017R to Admty.)

ANTARES.          Your 191241. Request ANTARES be sailed to  
 U.K. as additional escort to first convenient  
 convoy.  
 (D.O.D. (H) 201145A to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C.  
 W.A., C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q., A.C.I.C.)

Cables.           Expect complete repairs 1700Z. CYRUS FIELD  
 have orders from New York office to proceed  
 to 046° 59' N. 056° (corrupt) W. to effect  
 repairs on completion here. Request  
 instructions please.  
 (TRANSCONA 201230Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R)  
 N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.T.F.24.)

/My...

War Diary.

19.9.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.Cables,  
(Contd.)

My 201230Z. Cable repairs completed. Intend proceeding to 046° 59' N. 056° 47' W. Course 256° 10. CYRUS FIELD in company. (TRANSCONA 201800Z to C. in C. C. N.A.)

Stragglers  
arrived  
week  
ending 18th.

12th BISCAYA (Nor.) ON.200, boiler trouble. (N.C.S.O. St.Johns, N.F. 201230Z to Admty.)

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

(N.S.H.Q. 201351Z.)

Western  
Escort  
Group,  
W.10.  
composition.  
Western  
Escort Force,  
destroyer  
allocation.

Following is a recoded version of my 061612 (begins) Addressed C. in C. W.A., C.E.S.F., N.M.J.S., Washington, N.S.H.Q. (R) F.O.N.F., N.O.I.C. Sydney, C.A.C. H.F.X. My 211618 (N.T. in W.R.) (not to all addresses) propose amend para. 1 and 3 as follows:- Anticipate Group W.10, GEORGETOWN, S.O. ST.ALBANS and CALDWELL will be ready for sea 12th with following destroyers to be allocated now and to join on completion of refit and work up Annapolis about 20th NIAGARA about mid-Oct. and LEAMINGTON approx. 1st Nov.

(2) Following is proposed destroyer allocation to Western Escort Force. W.1 RICHMOND, W.2 ST. CLAIR, W.3 CHELSEA, W.4 COLUMBIA, W.5. LINCOLN, W.6 MONTGOMERY, W.7 SALISBURY, W.8 ROXBOROUGH, W.9 MANSFIELD. Message ends. (C. in C. C.N.A. 201405Z to Admty.)

Destroyers  
for  
conversion to  
R.C.N.

Admty. 181429A (Conversions of INGLEFIELD and FOXHOUND) concur. (N.S.H.Q. 201444Z to Admty. (R) S.C.N.O. (L) ).

U.S.  
S/M.  
Estimate.

(Cominch 201543Z.)

A.T.66  
(QUEEN  
MARY).

QUEEN MARY (A.T.66) departed Ambrose 1703Z Sept.20 for Clyde. E.T.A. Clyde Boom 1430Z/25th S. of A. 26.5 knots. (P.D. New York 201730Z to Com. 10th Fleet C. &amp; R.)

Abadan,  
Shipments,  
Escort.

Understand that further major shipments for extension of Abadan cracking plant are probable during Autumn. It may be considered desirable to modify A.M. 1746/29 August 1942 (Re Special Escorts. N.T. in W.D.) in view of through Mediterranean traffic. Request your remarks. (B.A.D. 201753Z to Admty.) (Re Special Escorts N.T. in W.D.)

/Pilots...

676

War Diary.20.9.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.Pilots  
for  
Helldiver  
Squadrons.

Your 011825 July.

1. It is unlikely that we will get many S.B.Ws. in a state in which we could operate them in advance of formation date of first Helldiver Squadron on 1st February 1944. (Proposals re pilots).

(B.A.D. 201845Z to Admty.)

Air  
Report,  
U/B  
attacked.

AC.535 Daily GR. Opsum 9 Period Ending 0100 G.M.T.20th. (3) (A) Lib. A/10. (B) Cover O.N.S.18. (C) 0857. (D) 58.40 N. 25.30 W. (E) 340° (F) 8 kts. (G) 160 nautical miles 018° true. (H) 10 D/Cs. (250 lbs.)

(I) On first attack bow of U-Boat lifted sharply and effect like small explosion noted at bow of

U-Boat. 4 gunners disappeared from deck. U-Boat came to dead stop, and settling slow disappeared in 48 secs. Large oil streaks 250 yards in length 100 yards width appeared.

After second attack oil increased and large fountain like air bubble appeared. After D/Cs. exploded in centre of conning tower swirl. 2 small unidentified objects seen floating at edge of oil slick aircraft slightly damaged starboard wing tip by A.A. Fire.

(H.Q. E.A.C. 201845Z, 202030 to Air Min.)

Neutral  
Patrol  
Vessel  
Searches,  
information  
for U.S.

Navy Department wish to emphasise importance of receiving prompt advice of results of examinations in Gibraltar of neutral vessels in Latin American trade. 2. They quote MONTE ALBERTIA as example. Details of this search were obtained from Comnaveu only after he was requested to discover them.

3. Request result of future searches be signalled as soon as available to B.A.D. who will pass to Navy Department.

(?B.A.D. 202009Z to Admty.)

SEMINOLE.

U.S.A.H.S. SEMINOLE departed Ambrose 1846Z/20.

E.T.A. Gibraltar 292300Z.

(P.D. New York 202040 to Com. 10th Fleet C. &amp; R.

(R) N.O.B., Bermuda, F.O.C. W.Af., Comnaveu, Admty., N.S.H.Q., C.E.S.F., F.O.C. Gib., C. in C. Med. Commorseafron.)

Landing  
Craft  
trials.

Your 212154/June and my 140324/July. Trials of typical landing craft under winter conditions. The following craft adapted for Arctic conditions will be shipped to Canada shortly L.C.A.106, L.C.V.766, L.C.P. (R) 813, L.C.M. (1) 163 L.C.M. (3) 514. 3. It is requested that you will

undertake to provide the officers and men to man the craft during the trials.

(Hd. of M. II 202109A to N.S.H.Q. (R) S.C.N.O. London, C.C.O.)

/Tugs...

677

War Diary.20.9.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Tugs,  
Bermuda. Your 131522/June 1943 para. 3. Experience shows that when A/S working up base is operating at maximum output services of both director and advantage will be necessary. One tug will be available for emergency rescue work for short periods. Allied A/S survey board concurs. (S.B.N.O. W.At. 202130Z to Admty. (R) Cdre. Supt. Bermuda.)

O.N.S.18,  
O.N.202,  
U/B's. O.N.S.18 and O.N.202 of Escort and a number of S/M joined in position 057° 22' N. 031° 03' W. at 2020Z. (2) Further signal follows. (S.O. Escort Group B.3 202133Z to Connav, Admty. N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C. in C. C.N.A., A.C.I.C. Cmdr. (D) Argentia. Cmdre (D) W.A. H.Q.C.C. (R) Escort Group 9. S.E. Convoy, O.N.202. Capt. (D) Greenock, S.E. Convoy, O.N.S.18.)

S/M attack  
and sighting  
summary. No report 18th and 19th. All times Z. Para.A. In 57.29 N. 28.26 W. 200806 THEODORE DWIGHT WELD torpedoed sunk, FREDERICK DOUGLASS torpedoed abandoned afloat. (Cominch 202136Z to Admty.)

STRATHNAVER. In view of present S/M situation in North Atlantic request C. in Cs. sailing of STRATHNAVER in H.X.257 be cancelled and that STRATHNAVER be returned to New York for unloading. MONTGOMERY give to Cmdre. H.X.257 for information. (Cominch 202150Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F., C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet, N.S.H.Q. Cdre. H.X.257, C. in C. W.A. B.A.D. C.T.F.24.)

X.B.74A. Cape Cod section arrived 202(7105)Z. (Cdt. 1st U.S.N.D. Boston 202200 to Com. 10th Fleet.)

MARIPOSA,  
GEORGE  
WASHINGTON. Your 181145. MARIPOSA. E.T.A. Rio de Janeiro 21st. Approx. E.T.A. Bombay 11th Oct. 2. GEORGE WASHINGTON. E.T.A. Hobart 28th. Approx. E.T.A. Bombay 15th October. (B.A.D. 202229Z to P.S.T.O.I. Bombay (R) D. of S.T. P.S.T.O.I. New Delhi.)

Australia & New Zealand.

NIEUW  
AMSTERDAM. NIEUW AMSTERDAM arrived Fremantle 2231Z/19th. (C.S.W.P.S.F. 201014Z to Admty.)

Movements. Arrived Milne Bay 19th U.S.S. MIZAR Cairns 19th U.S.S. SUSQUEHANNA. Departed Cairns 20th U.S.S. TRINITY for Brisbane. (A.C.N.B. 204222Z(71222Z) to Admty.)

MAUNGANUI. Departure Fremantle 1058Z/19th. Hospital Ship MAUNGANUI Colombo 30th. (C.S.W.P.S.F. 201242 to Admty.) /KNUTE NELSON...

678

War Diary.20.9.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

KNUTE NELSON. Have you any news of KNUTE NELSON (U.S) due Fremantle 12th from Colombo.  
(D.T.D. 201841A to A.C.N.B.)

Digest  
Serial  
No. 608  
Sept. 19th.

During Forenoon. Two unidentified vessels sighted 17 miles N. New Hanover while two large merchantmen with S/M chaser reported 165 miles North Manus Island.  
(2) Possible destroyer reported entering wide bay early afternoon while S/M. reported Northbound off Cape Orford forenoon and another Southbound with deck cargo during afternoon.  
(4) 14 Vultur Vengeance aircraft covered by 13 fighters bombed and strafed Finschhafen Area forenoon while 6 Mitchells made coastal sweep (Sie Finschhafen area) attacked enemy barges and personnel areas. Enemy occupied plantation areas thoroughly bombed and strafed also two loaded barges and another small vessel near Sie.  
(6) Liberator reported small coaster 100 miles N.W. Cape Gloucester forenoon heading S.E. Three Beaufighters attacked barges and installations Hoskins Peninsula same morning one Beaufighter lost.  
(7) 12 Liberators attacked Ambon Area before dawn causing numerous fires and explosions. Four unidentified vessels observed in harbour.  
(12) Out P.T. Boats again bombed and strafed by float planes off West Coast Vella Lavella night 17th.  
(G.H.Q. S.W. P.A. 201955Z.)

B.C. barge  
680 lost.

TUTUILA 20th U.S.A. B.C. barge 680 lost at sea 18th.  
(Wellington via Grabbag 202258Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 201345A, 201346A.)

Submarines Attacked.

S/M attack  
and sighting  
summary  
for 24 hours  
to 0900Z/20th.

Para. A. ESCAPADE counter-attacked 2 U-Boats at 2135/19th Sept. in approx. 56° 56' N. 29° 00' W. Aircraft K/10 sighted U-Boat on surface at 0857 19th in 58° 40' N. 25° 10' W. course 270° 10 knots and attacked with depth charges estimating four hits. Para.B. A.T.C. aircraft sighted U/B on surface at 1225/19th in 62° 52' N. 36° 29' W. course 109°. U/B submerged. Para.D. American WILLIAM JAMES made SOS and SSSS at 1845/19th in 04° 34' S. 21° 27' E. Possibly friendly S/M.  
(D.D.I.C. 200915Z to Cominch.)

Zim (Australia)  
678A.

# 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 200931Z/Sept.  
IN

From : Allied Air H.Q. Date: 21.9.43.  
Reed: 2040A

CYHER. Air Situation  
S.W. Pacific.

Addressed : Air Ministry Whitehall, A.H.Q. India.

IMPORTANT.

WX.50990. AI 632 20 September.

Airsum 139 18 September Situation Review.

Lae taken 16 September 12 days after Allied landings Bulu Plantation. Enemy document dated 8 or 2 September made provision for destruction of Base and Airfield installations Lae prior to withdrawal to Sio. Route specified in document had been traversed by Japanese survey party in May. Some supply points installed on route. Document established that possibility of need for hasty departure from Lae foreseen. Recent reports of enemy troops indicates plan being put into effect. That first steps to implement Lae taken only 4 days after Allied landings shows unusual anxiety to cut losses. Very difficult journey ahead of remnants of Lae Garrison but route except possibly at supply points will be very difficult to detect from air. Another enemy document shows that prior to capture of Salamaua large part of enemy forces were removed by barge to Laji. Considerable mopping up will probably be necessary in Lae Dalamaua Area. Fall of Lae heavy blow to enemy. Lae was almost keystone on major plan to control New Guinea. Offensive possibilities opened to Allies. Lae is doorway to Markham Valley which has unlimited possibilities for airfield constructions. This Area can now be supplied from Saa. Vitiav Straits closed to enemy and wide open to Allied Patrol Boats. In consequence enemy barge traffic will be forced North. Days of barge traffic to New Guinea along coast of New Britain may be numbered as South Coast now useless for the purpose and Northwest season will shortly make Northern route impossible for several months. Cape Gloucester Madang Alexishafen within range of more intense medium bomber and fighter attacks. Finschhafen exposed to all form of attack and enemy

/unlikely

N.P.

unlikely to remain there. Occupation of Lae does not bring Rebaul or Casata within closer range of attacking airplanes. Enemy air strength in Northern New Guinea still being increased 35 medium bombers photographed at Hollandia on 15 September. Photographs show new strip on Los Negros Island nearing completion. This probably parallel with recent Hollandia development and in pursuance of intention to withdraw airstrength outside attacking range. Flare up enemy air activity in Solomons and some sharp raids on Guadalcanal Russell Island Vella Lavella Munda. Allied attacks on Kahili Ballale Area now assuming regularity and proportions of raids on Munda before its fall. 14 and 15 September approximately 400 Allied Sorties over Kahili and Ballale. Northwest area Darwin and Exmouth Gulf raids on night 16 September conducted by Naval Air Service Bombers probably based at Kendari. No significant purpose or effect. End situation review. Map Japanese air routes Davao to Wewak. Sketches typical Japanese small vessels. Graph showing Japanese strength and scale of effort 10 January to 21 August.

200931Z

(Rec'd in War Reg. am./22 Sept.)

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NP/  
RN

679

21.9.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

U/Boat  
tactics.

1. The experience of escort groups now in contact with U/Boats gives strong indication that the enemy has adopted a policy of attacking escorts. An acoustic homing torpedo is being used which is probably electric and may be inaudible on asdic. U/Boats are working in pairs, one acts as a decoy, whilst the other fires submerged.

C. in C.W.A. gave orders today that for the moment escorts are to adopt less offensive tactics, confining their object to the immediate defence of the convoy. (C. in C. W.A. cancelled these orders on 23rd September, consequent upon the issue by the Admiralty of instructions for dealing with the new weapon.)

Spitzbergen.

2. On return from reconnoitring Icefiord and Barentsberg TANTALUS reports no sign of life of any sort and all buildings but one and jetties apparently completely demolished.

Operation  
S.F.

3. SHIKARI (S.O.) SARDONYX, OBEDIENT and MAHRATTA established Patrol S.F. at noon today. The two former are to return to Skaalefiord tomorrow, leaving OBEDIENT and MAHRATTA to continue the patrol with S.O. M.S.F.1 in HARRIER with ARDROSSAN, HUSSAR, GLEANER, and LYME REGIS, who sailed from Seidisfiord this evening for patrol.

Operation  
VP.

4. HORTEN, RISOR and M.T.Bs. returned to Lerwick today. The operation was unsuccessful.

Bay  
Patrol.

5. There were no attacks on U/Boats in the Biscay area during the week ending today.

E.G.10.

6. C. in C. Home Fleet sailed MUSKETEER (S.O.) ORIBI, ORWELL and ORKAN p.m. today, to act temporarily as support group under the orders of C. in C.W.A. They will form the 10th Group.

O.N.202/  
O.N.S.18.

7. S.O. E.G. B.3 reports that one U/Boat was badly damaged last night by KEPPEL, ITCHEN and NARCISSUS.

Operation  
S.N.222 C.

8. Cdre. (M) sailed from Port ZA today in AGAMEMNON with MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, FLEETWOOD, ROCKET, HARDY and SALADIN in company. OBEDIENT and MAHRATTA sailed p.m./22nd to join the force. Owing to fog, these ships failed to R/V and the operation was postponed until the weather cleared.



War Diary.

21.9.1943.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands - Contd.

Gulf of  
Finland.

9. N.A. Stockholm reports that on 9th September a Soviet submarine entered Libau and attacked shipping with unknown result. Shipping is now lightly escorted between Libau and Riga. This is the first authentic report that Soviet S/Ms. have succeeded in 1943 in breaking through the German-Finnish blockade of the Gulf of Finland.

Mediterranean.

RODNEY  
and  
NELSON.

10. S.O. Force H. reports that leakage from the sea at the rate of 25 tons an hour has again developed in certain rapid flood compartments in RODNEY as the result of recent 16 inch firing, and will necessitate docking the ship. Leakage into rapid flood compartments in NELSON also also occurs at the rate of about 350 tons per day, and extensive reconditioning of structure will be necessary.

Force V.

11. On the breaking up of Force V and the departure of UNICORN and escort carriers from the Mediterranean C. in C. Med. sent a message in which he states "The decision to carry out the operation (Avalanche) at all was founded in the first instance on the presence of sea borne air protection."

(M.S.S. 2)

Salerno.

12. HOLCOMBE, escorting a convoy to Salerno beaches, reported one ship (SS WILLIAM GERHARD) (U.S.) hit by torpedo at 0927 in 40.05 N. 14.43 E. (13 miles S.W. of Licosa Point). The cargo of petrol and ammunition took fire and became uncontrollable, and the ship was lost.

Corsica.

13. Polish S/M DZIK, reported this evening that the evacuation of Germans from Bastia by air continued today. At 1630 DZIK sank by torpedo 2 merchant ships close to the harbour entrance. The remaining 3 ships in the harbour were on fire (cf. Air Operations, para 15).

/An...

War Diary.21.9.1943.  
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.Corsica.  
(Contd.)

An aircraft at 1548 today sighted 6 Siebel ferries and 3 tank landing barges in 42.56 N. 09.47 E. (West of Elba) and attacked with torpedoes. Hits were reported, but the extent of the damage was not given. The French cruiser JEANNE D'ARC and destroyers landed further personnel and stores at Ajaccio last night (see 19th Sept.). 2500 personnel and 300 tons of stores have now been landed. Two French battalions embarked at Oran today in MONTCALM for Corsica.

Otranto.

14. Patrol of the Straits of Otranto was carried out last night by destroyers. No incidents are reported.

Air  
operations.

15. 4 Wellingtons on armed reconnaissance last night attacked a 1700 ton merchant vessel off Nice with bombs and torpedoes and probably sank 2 of the 3 vessels escorting her. Today, 32 B 24s bombed the harbour installations at Leghorn and 20 others attacked Bastia where direct hits on 4 ships in the harbour are reported. A Siebel ferry and a barge were hit off Capraia Island (between Cape Corse, Corsica, and the mainland of Italy)

Dodecanese.

16. A maintenance base for M.Ls. is in preparation at Leros. Commodore D.8 and 1200 personnel with 8 Bofors sailed from Haifa today in FAULKNER with FURY, ECLIPSE and QUEEN OLGA for Leros. The Italian commander of Tinos reported this morning that a German E/Boat and 2 other vessels were approaching and that he had ordered resistance.

Aegean.

17. RORQUAL on return from patrol in the northern Aegean reports successful minelaying on the 9th 10th and 11th September. On 12th she fired 90 rounds at Straton Iron Works, and next day she began to shell caiques in Kastro harbour, Lemnos, but shore batteries forced her to dive.

Attacks on  
E. Mediterranean  
airfields.

18. The aerodromes at Hassani (Athens), Maritza (Rhodes) and Heraklion (Crete) were bombed by Allied aircraft last night.

21.9.1943.  
Tuesday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.East Indies.Adjustment  
of  
boundaries.

19. Now that the Durban - Kilindini convoys have commenced (see South Atlantic 17th Sept.) C. in C. East Indies and C. in C. South Atlantic agree that the control of all the approaches to Durban from the north-east and eastward should be under one authority. This they consider will be best achieved by moving the station boundary between South Atlantic and East Indies from 35° E. to a line joining the east coast of Africa to Madagascar at 18° S., thence down the south-west coast of Madagascar to the meridian of 45° E., then due south. Control of D.K. convoys will pass from C. in C.S.A. to C. in C.E.F. on crossing the new station boundaries. The Air Ministry are considering placing under the strategic control of one A.O.C. all flying boats, G.R. landplanes and coastal striking force squadrons operating over the Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman. The boundary of the East Indies Station should be moved to Perim Island, and so include Aden under C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

CERES.

20. CERES sailed from Kilindini today for the U.K.

RAMILLIES.

21. RAMILLIES, who left Durban on 14th Sept. escorting Convoy C.M.45, arrived at Kilindini today.

U/Boats.

22. CORNELIA P. SPENCER (U.S. 7176 tons) reported being torpedoed at 0430 G.M.T. in 02.08 N. 50.10 E. (about 300 miles east of Mogadishu (Italian Somaliland). The ship reported that the attack was made by an armed merchant raider, but the Admiralty consider she was probably attacked by a U/Boat (this was subsequently confirmed), and that the enemy may be moving northward to operate off the approaches to the Gulf of Aden and that there are likely to be about 4 other U/Boats to the northward of lat. 10° S. probably also moving to the northward.

War Diary.

21.9.1943.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

USK. Request you sail USK as additional escort to convoy O.G.94/K.M.S.28 leaving U.K.26th Sept.  
2. On arrival Gib. USK joins Med. Command.  
A.M.211105 refers.  
(C. in C.W.A. 21125A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

GAMBIA. A.M. 110010 and A.M. 141811. On completion of work up GAMBIA is to join Home Fleet until CUMBERLAND becomes available.  
When CUMBERLAND is ready for service early January GAMBIA will be sailed as requisite to join Eastern Fleet.  
(D.O.D.H. 211550A to C. in C. H.F.)

Larne S/M sanctuary. W.A.90 222, dated 17th September 1943, 728 in course of distribution.  
Larne S/M Sanctuary, delete limits given and substitute - an area off the North coast bounded to the seaward by a line joining the following positions.  
(A) Irish Coast in position 054° 50' N. 005° 42' 30" W.  
(B) 054° 50' N. 005° 30' W. (C) 054° 59' N. 005° 38' W.  
(D) 055° 11' N. 00° 54' 30" W. (E) Torcor Point.  
(C. in C. W.A. 211704Z.)

Torpedo Trials. My 1850/24/December. Owing to recent enemy developments every endeavour should be made to meet VERNON M/S requirements for trial purposes.  
(A.C.N.S. W. 211736A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Command of mixed Groups. Following procedure regarding command of mixed groups agreed in 1941 with all Allies except French. U.S., of course are not affected.  
(a) Where senior British Officer and senior allied Officer of equivalent rank, duties of senior Officer are normally performed by British officer.  
(b) In no case would Allied officer be placed under command of British officer junior in rank.  
2. French have never accepted this position and have for some months been pressing for formal recognition of principle that French officers should take command strictly according to seniority.  
3. French are now willing to concede following exceptions:  
(a) French officer who has greater seniority but lacks the experience of Allied tactics and signals, may be provisionally placed under the orders of a British officer with less seniority for a few voyages until the French officer has acquired the experience of his R.N. colleague.  
(b) A French officer of greater seniority but in a ship not fitted with Asdic or Radar, may be placed temporarily under the orders of a British officer of less seniority whose ship was so fitted.

21.9.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Command  
of  
mixed  
groups.  
(Contd.)

4. Commanders in chief are requested to state whether the arrangements in paragraph 3(a) and (b) are acceptable as regards not only the French, but other Allies in their Commands bearing in mind the desirability of Allied officers being permitted to exercise duties appropriate to their seniority wherever possible.

5. If Commanders in Chief consider that some Allies only are fit for such command arrangements, request they will state which are unfit and whether discrimination would cause difficulties.  
(A.C.N.S. 211954A to Cs. in C.)

Movements.

SHEFFIELD.

Sailed SHEFFIELD as in my 201551A.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 210557A to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

E.G.2.

Arrivals - STARLING, WOODCOCK, WREN, KITE, WILDGOOSE.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 210831A.)

LANCE,  
FANTOME.

Arrived STONECROP, GODETIA, LANCE in tow of LARIAT and FANTOME in tow of HUDSON.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 211114A to C. in C. Med.)  
Intend to sail LANCE in tow of Tug LARIAT passing Gate p.m./22nd September, as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth to join W.P. 404 at Eddystone R/V, thence to proceed in Company to Needles for through passage and onward routing to Chatham. Admty.'s 102057A.  
(2) Routed by standard convoy route. S.O.A. advance 7 knots.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 211708A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

LONDON,  
AUGUSTA.

Intend leaving Scapa practice area in LONDON with AUGUSTA in company at 2200A/22nd to conform with C. in C. H.F. 191836A. Routed 001°. Butt of Lewis 10 miles then direct via Q.Z.S.407, S.O.A.18 $\frac{1}{2}$   
(2) E.T.A. 1145A 24th  
(C.S.1. 211303A to C. in C.H.F.)

RENOWN.

Sailed RENOWN escorted by SCORPION and SCOURGE in accordance with my 201034.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 211348A.)

S/M  
movements.

Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/22 and movements for following 24 hours (F.O.S. 211718, 212313A.)

BIRMINGHAM.

My 181836A. BIRMINGHAM and escort sailed.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 211809A to A.C.O.S.)

War Diary.21.9.1943.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.HESPERIA.

Tug HESPERIA, destination Bombay, is to be sailed to arrive Milford Haven by 24th September for onward passage to Gibraltar on 26th September with Group M convoy. My 111525 refers.  
(D.O.D.H. 211815A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Operations.Bay  
Patrol.

D/F bearings at 0327Z indicate U/B within 20 miles either side of line joining 47° N. 14° W. and 46° N. 16° W.

(D.D.I.C. 210450A to Force "U")

P.C.S. of Force "U" 046° 54' N. 013° 48' W., 235° 15 knots.  
(ULSTER, 211101A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Disposition at 2000. (1) ULSTER, GRENVILLE, CRANE

patrolling vicinity 046° 014°.

(2) P.614 049° 24', 011° through 340° Round Island 10 to Falmouth, daily advance 100 miles.

(3) SHEFFIELD 047° 35', 013° 35' through 047° 10', 014° 01' thence southbound 27 knots.

(4) UNISON passing through 043° 010° 30' at 2300 through 044° 20' 006° 30' thence eastbound, daily advance 105 miles.

(5) UNITED 043° 010° through 044° 010° thence eastbound daily advance 105 miles.

(6) UPSTART 044° 007° 50' through 043° 01' 009° 30' thence southbound, daily advance 95 miles.

(7) UNTIRING 047° 40' 006° southbound through 047° 006° thence south-eastbound, daily advance 105 miles.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 211458A to Admtv.)

P.C.S. of one unknown tanker is 43° 40' N. 08° 30' W. 030° 3 knots.

(A/C 224 Sq. Duty P. 211925 to 19 Group.)

Tanker 10,000 tons, damaged, in tow, escorted by Naval vessels.

(A/C 431 Sq. Duty P. 211950A to 10 Group.)

My 161802. Remain on patrol. My 171507 para. 1.

Aircraft report damaged tanker probably NORD ATLANTIC in tow in 043° 40' N. 008° 30' W. course 030° speed 3 knots at 1925A today. Position may be in error. If tanker is encountered to east of Ferrol she is to be attacked.

(F.O.S. 212226A to UPSTART.)

Operation  
S.F.

Aircraft M.J.S.L.26 reported over S/M in 062° 90' N 341° 55' W. No homeing signal received.

(SHIKARI 210740A, to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Am over enemy S/M in 62° 22' N. 14° 34' W.

Enemy was sighted on surface. Course 270°

(A/C MJSL.26, 210740A to 18 Group.)

U/B sighted by G.269 in 62° 22' N. 14° 34' W. at 0725A/21.

(R.A.F. Iceland, 210908A to H.Q.C.C., 15 and 18 Groups.)

/Moorings...

686

21.9.1943.

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

Operation S.F. (Contd.) Moorings Patrol Area moved 60 miles South West at 0901 today.  
 (2) From 1201 to 2358/21st. (a) 10 (b) 5.  
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 210941A)  
 My 181535. Amend to read from noon today para.  
 (2) 062° 07', 015° 30'. Para. 3 240° - 60 - 60.  
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 211030A to SHIKARI.)  
 Your 211030A. In view of prevalent northerly winds, consider aircraft position in error to northward. Request permission to amend latitude of new mooring patrol to 061° 40' north.  
 (SHIKARI, 211145A to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
 Your 211145. Position of original sighting checked and given as 062° 25' 014° 36'.  
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 211507A to SHIKARI)  
 Proceed with all available minesweeper and establish patrol by 1202/22nd. (1) Group A. (2) 062° 27', 013° 40' (3) 225° 60 - 60 (4) "Apricot" one.  
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 211521A to M/S 1.)  
 Sailed in HARRIER with GLEANER, HUSSAR, LYME REGIS, ARDROSSAN in company.  
 (M.S.F.L., 212001A to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
 Your 211841. If not in contact by 0800A tomorrow, ESSES return to Skaalefiord. Instruct, OBEDIENT and MAHRATTA to continue patrol as at present until further orders. Report fuel remaining.  
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 212226A to SHIKARI.)  
 Mooring patrols 0001A to 1159A/22nd September. 2(A) 2 (B)9.  
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 212335A.)

Coastal Force Patrols. Patrols 21st September, 1. Force E. M.T.Bs. 415, 413, 431 are to patrol in vicinity of position 125 Start 21. Codeword "Porter".  
 3. Force F. M.T.Bs. 430, 434 are to patrol in vicinity of position 167 Start 18. Codeword "Scent".  
 5. Force E. is to be on patrol by 2030A, leave patrol for Dartmouth 0600A. Force F. is to be on patrol by 2145A. Leave patrol for Dartmouth 0445A.  
 6. Attention is drawn to Q.Z.X.1095.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 211228A.)  
 1. Orders for night 21/22 September.  
 (A) S.G.Bs. GREY SEAL, GREY OWL, GREY FOX carry out offensive patrol on direct route between Cherbourg and Le Havre. Primary object to search for torpedo targets, trawlers, M class sweepers, T.L.Cs. and larger ships. Coast South of Barfleur Le Havre Line not to be approached within 5 miles. Proceed westward of Q.Z.X.771, passing E.A.5, 2000A and return by same route or by passage four to be within 20 miles of own coast by 0545A.  
 (B) BLEASDALE, GLAISDALE anti E-Boat patrol after night firing on 50° 25' N. between 00° 40' W. and 01° 25' W. joining P.W. convoy as ordered. (G) CHASSEUR 10, 14 patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between F. and E.A. 5 Buoys.  
 (D) M.L.344 immediate notice St. Helens. (E) M.G.B. 13, 6, 7 patrolling 50° 20' N. between 02° 00' W. and 02° 25' W.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 211238A.)

/M.G.Bs.

War Diary.

21.9.1943.

Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Coastal Force Patrols. (Contd.) M.G.Bs. S.2 and 43 two miles south of D. Buoy E.T.D. 1915, E.T.R. 0615/22nd.  
 M.G.Bs. 114 and 108 from Ramsgate at V Buoy, E.T.D. 1915, E.T.R. 0615/22nd.  
 (V.A. Dover, 211703A.)  
 Amend paragraph 1 (A) of my 211238 as follows.  
 After "larger ships" read "proceed by passage 4 passing 4 N. at 2100 and return by same route to be within 20 miles of own coast by 0545".  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 211745A.)  
 "Scent" returned with engine trouble. C. in C. Plymouth 211228A refers.  
 (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 212248A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

S/M Patrols. Positions of Submarines at 0800A 22nd September and movements for following 24 hours.  
 (A) SEADOG (P.216) approximately 76° 11' N. 10° 30' E. diving by day, course 020° daily advance 60 miles.  
 (B) STONEHENGE approx. 64° 20' N. 04° 59' W. diving by day while N. 062° N. to 090 Muckle Flugga 10, daily advance 120 miles.  
 (D) UNTIRING approaching patrol position in vicinity of 46° 30' N. 04° 59' W. from 47° 01' N. 06° 01' W.  
 (E) P.614 approximately 49° 43' N. 09° 14' W. diving by day to R/V with escort at 340 Round Island 10 miles at 0700A/3rd, then to Falmouth.  
 (F) UPSTART 43° 01' N. 09° 30' W. diving by day to South, daily advance 95 miles.  
 (G) UNISON 44° 01' N. 10° 29' W. diving by day, daily advance 105 miles through 44° 19' N. 10° 31' W. then course 090.  
 (H) UNITED 43° 59' N. 09° 39' W. diving by day, course 090° daily advance 105 miles.  
 (F.O.S. 211718 to Admty.)

Operation VP - DD. My 172136A. All M.T.B. and both towing ships returned today 21st September.  
 2. Weather conditions and contact with enemy patrol vessel prevented operation from being successful.  
 (A.C.O.S. 211732A to Admty.)

VP - AM. Carry out VP.  
 (1) Patrol a.m.  
 (2) 46, 152A, 201  
 (3) p.m. 24th September or 1st suitable day  
 there after. (4) One. (5) No. (6) No. (7) 060°. Out Skerries 110 miles.  
 (A.C.O.S. 211741A to Admty.)

/Russian...



War Diary.

21.9.1943.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Russian S/Ms in Baltic. Soviet Sub. activity in Baltic. Soviet Sub. entered Libau September 9th, Sept. 10th, and attacked shipping with unknown results. Shipping is now lightly escorted between Libau and Riga. Graded B.3. (N.A. Stockholm, 211741 to Admty.)  
N.I.D. Comment. This is the first authentic report that Soviet S/Ms have succeeded in 1943 in breaking through the German-Finnish blockade of the Gulf of Finland.

Spitzbergen. 9th September 0110 diving in Ice Fiord, TANTALUS Barentsburg observed to be burning. STU was report. running continuously, no contacts. 0145 decyphered F.O.S. 090116 ordering TANTALUS not to enter Ice Fiord.  
15th September 0900-1900 reconnoitred Ice Fiord and Barentsburg in view of bombing restrictions giving 24 hours to waste and previous safe entry. No sign of life of any sort observed. All buildings but one and jetties apparently completely demolished.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 211957A to F.O.S.)

Allied Air Attack.

Spitzbergen. Following is a repetition of 18 Group 212200 begins addressed S.B.N.O. North Russia repeated C. in C. Home Fleet H.Q.C.C., A.C.O.S., F.O.S. Sullom from 18 Group. Catalina X 190 Squadron, E.T.D. Sullom Voe 1500A/22nd, E.T.A. Spitsbergen 0500A/23rd, E.T.D. Spitsbergen 0900A/23rd, E.T.A. Grasnaya 1700A/23rd. (C. in C. Rosyth, 212205 to S.B.N.O. North Russia)

Mining.

S.N.2220. Cdre. (M) sailed in AGAMEMNON with MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, FLEETWOOD, ROCKET, HARDY, SALADIN in company. (TRELAWNEY, 210540A to Admty.)  
"Hostile 2". Intend carrying out operation "Hostile 2" tonight Force "Hostile 2" is sailing from Plymouth to pass Gate at 1600A/21st. Support Force, LIMBOURNE, TANATSIDE, are to sail to pass Gate 1815/21st. (C. in C. Plymouth 211045A to DEFIANCE, M.G.B.F.21, M/L.F.10.)  
Thames Estuary. One ground mine detonated by Sweeper at 210220A in 238° Tongue Sand Tower 3 cables. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 211235A.)  
Q.Z.X. Q.Z.X. 1095 now cleared to North of line joining following positions.

/One...

21.9.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - Contd.

Q.Z.X.1095. One G.R. mine cut and sunk position 50° 24' 12"  
(Contd.) 02° 53' 00". One G.R. mine detonated in  
sweep 50° 24' 33", 02° 50' 24".  
(PROSPECT, 211520A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Harwich. My 211544. Ground Mine detonated by sweeper  
at 211410A in 51° 50' N. 01° 36' E. Details.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 212156A.)

Enemy Intelligence.

GRAF ZEPPELIN. GRAF ZEPPELIN observed alongside Reiherwerder  
Hafen September 5th. Graded B.2.  
(N.A. Stockholm, 211725 to Admty.)

German U/Boat disposition. 1. Following U/Boats were in Laksevag Tonsberg  
on August 28th.  
(a) number 212 mounting anti-aircraft armament  
as in Paragraph 2. Expected to leave  
September 27th.  
(b) number 444 damaged bow in collision in  
Trondheim during bombing raid. In dry dock.  
(c) Number 586 mounting anti-aircraft armament as in paragraph  
2. Arrived August 10th, expected to leave September 21st.  
Anti-aircraft armament consist 2 platforms behind conning  
tower forward, one with 2 single barrelled 20 millimetre guns,  
and after platform one, 4 barrelled 20 millimetre gun.  
Graded B.2.  
(N.A. Stockholm, 211817 to Admty.) O.I.C. Comment:- Information  
is not wholly reliable but with respect to armament is  
considered sound.

U/Boats.

U/Boats attacked. Have attacked enemy with depth-charges.  
(Position indecypherable).  
(A/C BBII 2 210009 to C.7 N.)  
F/120 sighted at 1046/2, on surface in 57° 40' N.  
29° 48' W. 270/14 kts. bearing 360/5 M.S.  
attacked with cannon fire and strikes seen round C/T and on  
hull. U/B returned fire with light flak and M.G.fire. A/C  
then attacked U/B on surface with 4 Torpex pistol M.K.XVI 50 -  
25 setting - 100 ft. spacing at 090 red fully surfaced about  
100 ft. undershoot. U/B estimated 500 ton type, one gun seen  
forward, colour grey. At 1112 U/B seen to submerge and A/C  
dived to attack with 1 X 600 D/C. At 1514A sighted a U/B in  
NWEE 57° 44' N. 30° 07' W. course 270/12 kts. which immediately  
dived before A/C could attack. No description available.  
Capt. of A/C 6/120 sighted fully surfaced U/B in 57° 49' N.  
28° 36' W. at 1035 day 115° T/2 miles. A/C dived to attack

/but...

War Diary.21.9.1943.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.U/Boats.

U/Boats but bomb doors failed to open. U/B continued  
 attacked. A.A. fire. At 1104 in 57° 49' N. 28° 36' W.  
 (Contd.) A/C attacked U/B with 3 X 250 lbs D/Cs. Torpex  
 M.K. X.I. pistol M.K. XVI from 50 ft. SEK 25 ft.  
 spacing 100 feet. Course U/B 250/8 Kts. angle  
 of attack red, 135°. Estimated Straddle  
 200-250ft. ahead of apex of swirl. 2 D/Cs to U/Bs port and one  
 to U/Bs starboard. At 1105 attacked U/B with 2 X 600 lb D/cs.  
 At 1505 57° 45' N. 30° 26' W. A/C tracking 180° T sighted 2  
 fully surfaced U/Boats one bearing red 40° 3 miles and one bearing  
 green 60° 5 miles on approx. 300/18 kts. No attack made PK  
 no D/Cs. left. At 1707 in 59° 45' N. 30° 12' W. A/C sighted (?)  
 fully surfaced U/Boat 5 miles distant bearing 020° T which  
 immediately submerged.

(R.A.F. Iceland, 210128A to H.Q.C.C.)

Have attacked enemy with depth-charges in 57.00 N. 31.10 W.  
at 2009.

(A/C ? BBIL.2 ? 210219 to C.7 N.)

In 62° 22' N. 14° 34' W. 270 kts. estimated 740 (790) tons  
 large C/T, dark grey, one large gun forward of G/T, guns also on  
 platform aft. On surface three attacks made all up 179°  
 starboard. 100 A/S bomb dropped undershot 50 yds. Second  
 10/100 A/S bomb undershot 50 yds. on second run. On third run  
 4 x 250 Torpex XI pistol XVI - 30 feet 25 feet 100 feet and  
 undershot 30 feet. No oil or air bubbles seen after all  
 attacks. U/Boat appeared to move slower after attack and gave  
 off much blackish brown diesel smoke spray of first D/C was seen  
 to cover U/Boat Flak experienced during runs in. A/C hit in  
 Port Wing by Cannon G/269 returned 5 estimated hits on C/T.  
 (R.A.F. Iceland, 212353A to H.Q.C.C. 15 and 18 Groups.)

U/Boats  
reported.A.M. 202307. Better D/F bearings at 2215Z give  
fix of a U/B within 100' of 51° N. 23° W.

(D.D.I.C. 210357A to C.T.G.21.12.)

U/Bs. in vicinity of the convoys have been  
transmitting on 7910 kc/s series S since 0700Z.(D.D.I.C. 210850A to Escorts O.N.202, O.N.S.15,  
E.G.9., TOWY.)My A/C 265 (265 20 (21 Sept.) U/Boat sighted on surface -  
course 270°.

(R.A.F. Iceland, 210943A to H.Q.C.C. 5 and 18 Groups.)

TANTALUS reports sighting U/Boat at 122155 in 78° 03' N.  
12° 16' E. on course 080°. Dived to attack, but U/Boat was not  
sighted again.

(S.O. S/M. Lerwick 211957A to F.O.S.)

Impending  
U/Boat  
offensive.My 201012, and my 202156. Sailed EDMUNSTON to  
overtake.

(Cdre. D. W.A. 210701A to C. in C.W.A.)

/4th...

21.9.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

U/Boats.

Impending  
U/Boat  
offensive.  
(Contd.)

4th E.G. and TRACKER are required for duty as an air support group and are to sail so as to pass Oversay at 0700Z 24th, thence to overtake and support O.N.203 escorted by C.4 escort group.

(2) 4th E.G. and TRACKER are to assemble at Clyde by noon 23rd for conference as arranged

by C.O. TRACKER.

(3) On sailing for duty TRACKER forms part of 4th E.G. S.O. TRACKER.

(4) TRACKER's 201215 approved.

(C. in C. W.A. 211148Z to TRACKER, E.G.4.)

Intend to sail MUSKETEER.(S.O.), ORIBI, ORWELL, and ORKAN p.m. 21st September to act as support group under your orders.

(2) Future Home Fleet commitments are uncertain and it might be necessary to request the release of these destroyers or an equivalent number at short notice.

(C. in C.H.F. 211551A to C. in C.W.A.)

In view of the loss of ST. CROIX and POLYANTHUS and the damage to LAGAN, suggest that on arrival of 9th escort group and C.2 escort group in Newfoundland. 9th escort group be disbanded ITCHEN and one Corvette being allocated to C.2 escort group, remaining two Corvettes being allocated to 5th escort group.

(C. in C.W.A. 212309Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

Experience of escort groups now in contact with the enemy gives strong indication of following points.

(A) Enemy has adopted anti-escort policy. (B) An Acoustic Homing Torpedo is being used which is probably electric and may be inaudible on asdic. (C) U/Boats are working in pairs, one acts as decoy while the other fires submerged.

2. There is some evidence that non-contact pistols are being used.

3. Pending further information detailed instructions for conduct of search and hunt cannot be given. Policy outlined in my 201550Z is at present considered best possible counter to U/Boats new method(s). Escort vessels should work in pairs as much as possible. Degaussing should be switched on.

4. U/Boats can probably fire torpedoes from a depth up to 100 feet. Torpedoes will take about 400 yards to reach their depth when fired from 100 feet.

5. Active steps are being taken to produce counter measure to acoustic torpedo on the highest priority.

6. For the moment escorts are to adopt less offensive tactics confining the object to immediate defence of the convoy.

(C. in C. W.A. 212333Z to Ships.)

Technical.

Tactics  
against  
Acoustic  
Homed  
Torpedoes.

Reference 760 N. Suggest small paravane type of gear fitted with S.A. oscillator be towed astern of escort attacking submarine on surface at night (STORK, 211745A to C. in C.W.A.)

War Diary.21.9.1943.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

FURIOUS. 1 perforated tube in starboard outer main oil cooler. General condition of tube warrants a limited life of 6 months only before complete re-tubing becomes necessary. Ships Officers prefer that complete re-tubing of all 4 coolers during current refit may be considered. If Admiralty so approve it is hoped that this work will not extend the sailing date beyond October 2nd.  
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 211550A to Admty.)

M.G.B. 691. M.G.B. 691 and M.T.B. 208 were in collision during night exercises on 18/9/43 and former vessel has sustained severe damage which preliminary survey indicates will take 4/5 weeks to repair.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 211815 to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys.

T.U. 2. Sailed WINOOSKI, MATTAPONI, SALAMONIE, MEXICO escorted by BELL and ISHERWOOD to comply. Reference A.M. 172012 as amended. Ref. A.M. 181835. Codeword "Princess" to position T.A. thence FARCE, CHRISTIAN HUYGENS sailed Clyde 0730A/21 to overtake  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 210248A to Admty.)

O.N.S. 18. POLYANTHUS believed sunk. ITCHEN will report.  
(B.3. 210307Z to C. in C.W.A.)  
POLYANTHUS sunk. O.N.S. 18 26 ships and O.N. 202 37 ships.  
ESCAPADE. Of five S/Ms believed to be ahead at dusk only three half-hearted and easily-frustrated attacks developed. No casualties. BEAUREGARD of O.N.S. 18 not sighted this morning.  
Fierce battle most of night between ITCHEN, NARCISSUS and 4 (corrupt group) S/M well astern in vicinity of survivors of H.M.C.S. ST.CROIX and POLYANTHUS. Further details not known.  
3. Convoy steered false course during the night owing to corrupt group in route signal.  
4. P.C.S. at 0900Z, 056° 16' N. 033° 20' W. 230°, 7.5 altering to 268°. when weather clears to rejoin route (corrupt group)  
5. Weather 09103152.  
(B.3, 210920Z to C. in C.W.A.)

B gun platform and Hedgehog totally wrecked. Considerable blast-damage to front of upper bridge and wheelhouse. P.Os, C.P.Os. messes badly damaged Forecastle deck and beams dented between frames 29 and 48. Forecastle deck holed in several places between frames 34 and 41. Main deck and deck beams dented between frames 34 and 45. W.T. bulkhead at 41 Station buckled and holed below upper deck. Small splinter hole in upper lowers deck between 38 and 39 frames. Damage to heating steam and freshwater pipes, electric cable and voice pipe in above area. Small leak from sea in forward fresh water tank.

/All...

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21.9.1943.  
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.O.N.S.18.  
POLYANTHUS  
sunk.  
ESCAPADE.  
(Contd.)

All R.D.F. I F.F, MF/DF and HF/DF sets out of action. A.B. Meader previously reported missing now confirmed killed. Have 10 badly wounded cot cases to land on arrival, including C.O. Intend to remain in vicinity 055° 27' N. 007° 37' W. until daylight 22nd as I do not consider my after compass reliable. E.T.A. Clyde 1300A tomorrow. My P.C.S. at 1300A, 056° 01' N. 012°

26' W. 97° speed 18.  
(ESCAPADE, 211206A to Admty.)

ST. CROIX hit by 2 torpedoes alongside port propeller at 1956Z while hunting U/Boat (German) attacked by aircraft half hour earlier. Speed 15 knots zigzagging 060° just turned when hit. Hit again at 2047Z and sunk.

POLYANTHUS torpedoed at 2336Z right aft while attacking U/Boat (German put down after Radar chase. Hit 2 minutes 45 seconds after firing first shot. Ship was under full starboard rudder at the time.

Torpedo fired at ITCHEN whilst circling ST. CROIX at 17 knots, exploded 30 feet port quarter just after turned to port.

No H.E. but 2 echoes (corrupt group) 090° 150 yards few seconds before explosion. 3 U/Boats chased on surface have turned away at (?35)00 yards as in C. in C.W.A. 201550.

2. 2 cases last night of U/Boats adopting anti-escort tactics working in pairs, one diving to attack whilst second leads escort to favourable position.

(E.G.9, 211412Z to C. in C.W.A.)

B.3's 210307Z and 202208Z. Please signal reports as soon as possible.

(C. in C.W.A. 211820A to ITCHEN.)

S.C.142. My 192029 is cancelled. Steer toward position 052° 45' N. 033° 01' W. to meet and support S.C.142 routed as in my 210923.  
(C. in C.W.A., 210925Z to E.G.5.)

C.142. Ships which are at present straggling return to St. Johns N.F.  
(Ad. Liverpool 211045Z to Convoys C.142).

O.N.202. My P.C.S. 056° 30' N. (? 020° and 116°) 50' W.  
LAGAN. 095° 8 knots. Weather 6571 2273.  
(LAGAN 211100Z to Admty.)

My 201615. Damage has been photographed by A/C BHMW one.

Advisable to proceed to harbour where lighter can assist in removal of depth charges from parts of after deck. My P.C.S. 056° 21' N. 020° 09' W. 095° 8½. Weather 6471.  
(LAGAN, 211401Z to C. in C.W.A.)

H.X.256  
WILLIAM  
PEPPERELL.

My 201713. Destination of WILLIAM PEPPERELL is Clyde.  
(C. in C.W.A. 211143A to C.5, ALLEGIANCE)

/Your...

21.9.1943.

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

H.X. 256  
WILLIAM  
PEPPERELL.

Your 0201713 and my 202047. Request destination for PEPPERELL. Rescue ship (?GOTHLAND)(?and) rescue tug ALLEGIANCE have been detailed to stand by him until crossing 006° W. or until gear has been recovered.  
(C.5 211629Z to C. in C.W.A.)

T.A. 64.

Intend sailing QUEEN ELIZABETH passing Clyde Boom 0100A/23 to comply with Admiralty 201306A. S.O.A. 26.2 knots. "Chop" 26th September. E.T.A. Ambrose Light Vessel 0900Z/28.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 211524A to Admty.)

D.S. 45.

SS. CHAMPOLLION is allocated for Convoy D.S. 45 leaving Clyde p.m. 28th September.  
(D.O.D.H. 211555A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Neutral  
Shipping.

Amendments to A.M. 072033 May, approach routes West Atlantic. (D.T.D., 211720A) (See North Atlantic Command.)

T.A. 63.

A.M. 182010A and 201307A. Intend sailing MAURETANIA 1530Z/22nd S.O.A. 19 knots. E.T.A. position N.1745Z/23. E.T.A. Boston Light Vessel 1400Z/29.  
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 211720A to Admty.)

EMPRESS  
OF RUSSIA.

Arrived at 2239/21st.  
(S.T.O. Greenock, 212241A.)

War Diary.21.9.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

C.G.65. Arrived.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 211201B to C.M.S.F.)

NORD  
ATLANTIC. German tanker NORD ATLANTIC at Camarinas left  
harbour morning Sept. 21st.  
(Guyatt (Corunna), 211325B to Admt., S.O.(I)  
Gibraltar, B.N.A. Madrid.)

SHEFFIELD. Onward route from (SD) (SE) 039° N. 014° W.  
(SF) 036° N. 012° W. (SG) 035° 45' N. (?006°  
30' W. and Q.B.A.87 to Gibraltar.  
2. Paravanes are to be streamed as convenient  
before crossing 007° W.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 211524B to SHEFFIELD, (R) C. in C.  
Plymouth, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Med. (A), H.Q.C.C.)

Carriers C. in C. Med. 191045 and A.M. 151850. Request  
for U.K. early information of numbers and types of  
aircraft embarked in carriers for passage to  
U.K.  
2. Which carriers will be able to operate  
aircraft during passage to U.K. and what will be numbers  
and types of aircraft operated?  
(D.N.A.O., 211540A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) UNICORN, C. in C.  
Med., R.A.A.)  
Reply: 241312B.

Italian Arrival at Mahon, Balearics.  
Landing (C.M.S.F., 211720.)  
Craft. See Mediterranean.

Neutral F.Os. I.C. pass to N.C.S.Os.  
Shipping A.M. 072033 May. Para. 5 - add "Approach lanes  
Routes. are always to be used except in case of ships  
proceeding directly to Georgetown, British  
Guiana or when proceeding from Georgetown to  
any port in the Caribbean area".  
Para. 6 - add "In the case of vessels proceeding to Georgetown,  
first report to be made on crossing 50° W."  
Add para. 6A - "Reports to be addressed to Connav Washington,  
and passed via any commercial or U.S. Government Coastal radio  
station. U.S. Navy will defray coastal station and land  
line charges".  
(D.T.D., 211720A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.A. Lisbon, N.A.  
Madrid, N.A. Dublin, etc.)

BROOKLYN. Onward routed from Q.B.A.87 through (A) 035° 59'  
N. 005° 21' W. (B) 035° 40', 003° 45'. (C)  
035° 38', 002° 14' W. (D) 035° 53' N. 000° 38'  
W. and Q.B.B. 41 to Oran.



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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

BROOKLYN.  
(Contd.) (2) Paravanes are to be streamed as convenient before crossing 007° W. and recovered after passing Europa Point.  
(3) Fighter protection codeword and W/T call sign "Valiant" 305.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 211728B to U.S. Cruiser BROOKLYN, (R) Com. N.O.B. Oran, S.O. 20th M/S.F., (A), Cdr. U.S.N. Forces N.W. African Waters.)

Spanish Fishing Vessels. Would it help to avoid attack on fishing vessels proceeding Grand Sole Bank outside prohibited area if I informed you of sailings by signal? Spanish Ministry of Marine have offered to supply these. If so should signal be en clair to you only?  
(N.A. Madrid, 211857B to Admty.)

ZETLAND. E.T.A. Europa Point 0515B/22nd Sept. Your 211147B refers (N.T. in W.R.)  
(ZETLAND, 211901A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

Movements of Spanish S/Ms. Request you will verify, check and repeat para. 1 of your 241700B August.  
(Head of M.I., 211946A to N.A. Madrid.)

Damaged U/B at Vigo. My 182000.  
Ministry of Marine have still not received anything from M.F.A. who appear to be lost in a fog. Matter is being pressed in all quarters with greatest urgency.  
(B.N.A. Madrid, 212031 to Admty.)

UNISON. Passing position (S) 1200/22nd owing to bad weather. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar's 150132 and 161539 refer. E.T.A. (YY) 24 hours late at 100 miles Friday 15th. F.O.(S) 161809 (sailing orders for P.43 and P.44) refers.  
(P.43 (UNISON), 212105A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.O.(S), (R) C. in C. Plymouth.)

G.C. 38. Intend to sail G.C.38 consisting of ISIS and P.C.482 escorting SCOTTISH AMERICAN (T) at 1100B Sept. 22nd by standard route omitting (B). S. of A. 9½ knots. Codeword "Mascot".  
(2) My 211528 refers (N.T. in W.D.)  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 212242B to C.M.S.F., (R) C. in C. Med., Admty.)

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War Diary.21.9.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

L.R.W.2. Sailed 0830/21st WOLVERINE, BOADICEA and D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES with L.R.W.2. E.T.S. Takoradi 0900/22nd. (N.O.I.C. Lagos, 210904Z to Admty., etc.)

French Warships, liaison.

Request Class A Liaison team with signal publications for DUQUESNE, TOURVILLE, SUFFREN and DUGUAY TROUIN.

2. One possible solution to economise officers and men would be for QUERCY, LA GRANDIERE, DUMONT D'URVILLE and GAZELLE to reduce to Class C and be used exclusively on French coastal convoys. Liaison Officers from these ships could then be appointed to cruisers, para.1, and ratings returned to Freetown Pool whence they came.

3. Officers and ratings (ex?) Levant will be sent to U.K. as ships are taken in hand for refit. Lieut. Mellonies R.N.V.R. has volunteered to remain. (F.O.C.W.A., 211228Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.)

CORFU, FAL, patrols.

CORFU and FAL sailed at 1000Z/21st to patrol in area enclosed by (A) Equator 020° W. (B) Equator 015° W. (C) 005° S. 015° W. (D) 005° S. 020° W. Speed on patrol 15 knots. Ships leave patrol 29th Sept. to return Freetown.

(2) (? Air patrol) from Freetown will be carried out as follows northern between 004° N. 017° W. and (group missing) 001° N. 021° W., southern between 002° N. 015° 30' W. and 001° S. 019° 30' W.

(3) Patrol by French cruiser from Dakar will be carried out in the area (?E) bound by 012° N. 024° W. 007° N. 024° W., 007° N. 029° W., 012° N. 029° W.

(F.O.C.W.A., 211421Z to Admty., (R) Cdr. 4th U.S. Fleet, N.O.I.C. Ascension, Comar Dakar.)

LORRAINE, STRATHAIRD.

Request route for French battleship LORRAINE and STRATHAIRD from Pointe Noire.

(C. in C. S.A., 211425C to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) Admty., WOLVERINE.)

Your 211425. (T) 002° S. 005° E. (U) 004° N. 001° W. (V) 003° N. 008° W. (X) 007° 30' N. 014° 30' W. thence Freetown. (F.O.C.W.A., 211537Z to C. in C. S.A., etc.)

Convoy T.G.E.1.

Convoy T.G.E.1, E.T.S. 1000Z/22nd Sept., S. of A. 16 knots Lagos 0700Z/23rd route B DUCHESS OF RICHMOND (Cdre. Dawson R.N.R.), BOISSEVAIN. Q.L.A.205, convoy codeword "Jockey" W/T identity letters XZDI to 8. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 211857 to Admty., F.O.C.W.Af., R.N.O. Lagos.)

/Expected ...

21.9.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Convoy  
T.G.E.1.  
(Contd.)

Expected time of sailing 1000Z/22nd Sept.  
BOADICEA, DOUGLAS and BEAGLE escorting convoy  
T.G.E.1, S. of A. 16 knots, Route B, E.T.A.  
Lagos, 0700Z/23rd.  
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 211913Z to Admty., F.O.C.W.Af.  
R.N.O. Lagos.)

PORTSDOWN,  
BIRDLIP.

Intend sailing PORTSDOWN (S.O.), BIRDLIP at  
0845/21st Sept. for Pointe Noire. (Route).  
E.T.A. 1200Z/29th. Estimated speed made good  
9 (corrupt group).  
2. After coaling B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire sail  
PORTSDOWN and BIRDLIP to Cape for refit through positions:  
(D) 017° 30' S. 010° 20' E. (E) 033° 00' S. 017° 00' E.  
thence as ordered by C. in C. S.A.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 212221Z to B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, (R) C. in C.  
S.A., Admty.)

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War Diary.21.9.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Convoy Sailing telegram (10 ships). (2) 1840C/21st.  
X.T. 3. (3) Sailed together. (4), (5), (6) As in my  
192359. Route X.T.3. (N.T. in W.D.). (15) M.G.  
(R.A. Alex., 210009C to C. in C. Levant, etc.)

Treatment of Admiralty, 210011A.  
Italian Ships. See East Indies.

Enemy Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 35° 35' N. 27°  
Sightings. 38' W. with 1 unknown vessel.  
(A/C 1964 via Malta, 210025C.)

E-Boats 43° 20' N. 7° 19' E. 060°, 8 knots.  
(BVO/B via Malta W/T, 210105 to 45 U.)

P.C. and S. of enemy 4 small M/Vs 42.55 N. 10° 25' E.  
090°, 10 knots. Am resuming patrol.  
(BVO/F, 210150.)

P.C. and S. of enemy 6 small M/Vs 42.49 N. 9.59 E.,  
070°, 4 knots. Am resuming patrol.  
(BVO/F, 210215B to 45 U.)

2 merchant ships (1000 tons) in position KQNF 27.58.  
(Indecypherable KQ=37° N.)

(A/C WBM/T, 211145C to 201 Group H.Q. (M.E. Command).)  
P.C. and S. of 1 enemy 3000 ton M/V is 43.59 N. 10° 01' E.  
160°, 8 knots. Time fixed within  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour of 1300.  
(A/C ASK/B, 211300, 211305B.)

Salerno 5th Army front. Enemy began thinning out in  
enemy Southern sector afternoon 17th Sept.  
withdrawal. (H.Q. 15th Army Group, 210130B.)

Situation INTREPID and ECHO disembarked personnel and  
Report 57. stores including 4 Bofors at Leros and sailing  
after dark 20th to Alexandria. M.V. from Haifa  
arrived Leros safely 20th accompanied by Italian  
M/V with stores from Kastelorizo unloading proceeding satis-  
factorily. Maintenance base for M.Ls. in preparation at Leros.  
E/V reported probably sunk in situation report 55 located at  
Stampalia. Crew taken prisoner by Italians and removed by  
detachment of long range desert group.  
2. Convoys K.M.S.25 arrived 20th with 8 M/Vs. for Alexandria  
and 16 for Port Said and beyond. X.I.F.1. 6 personnel ships  
left Alexandria for Taranto escorted by 6 Hunts.  
(C. in C. Levant, 210431 to Admty., etc.)

Italian Disposition of Italian Units at 0800/18th as  
Units. requested in C. in C. Med.'s 162202.  
(A) Warships. (1) At Alexandria. Italian  
Squadron as in my 171211 to Admty.  
(2) At Haifa. POSTIGLIONI coal burning minesweepers, AGUGLIA  
steam trawler, GAETA steam tug, GARIBALDINI small motor schooner,  
SAN ANTONIO R-Boat, NAVIGATORE small motor trawler. All naval  
auxiliaries.  
(3) At Famagusta. POLA 250 ton steamer, IMPEROR small steam tug.

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Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Italian Units. (Contd.) (4) Leros. Destroyer EURO, five E-Boats, eight Italian M.A.S., all in commission; Minelayer AGO with 100 miles available, two large drifters, five minesweepers, Sloop LEGNANO, two F barges, one boom vessel.

(B) Merchant ships. (1) Leros. TAGANROG small, RUBICONE medium, PORTO DI ROMA small, 13,000 ton refrigerator ship. (2) Kastelorizo. EOLO small.

(C) Remarks. POLA standing by for operational requirements. IMPERO employed on urgent harbour service for Aegean operations, EOLO assisting in supplying Leros. Further shipping in Kos and Samos but no information available.

(C. in C. Levant, 210635Z to C. in C. Levant, (R) Admty.) Add to my 210635. One M.A.S.B. at Famagusta.

(C. in C. Levant, 211645C to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty.) 20th Sept. Arrivals EGGESFORD, BLENCATHRA, CADMUS, ESPIEGLE, INGLEFIELD, RAIDER, OFFA escorting Italian naval vessels ALISEO, FORTIMALE, INDOMITO, ANIMOSO, ARDIMENTOSO, ARIETE, CALLIPE, HORMORANO. Italian corvettes DANAIDE, APE, MINERVA, GABLIANO, PELLECANO, MOSTO. Submarines NICHELIO, CORRIDONI, H.1, H.2. M.T.Bs. 64, 55, 35, A/S Lookout Vessels 204, 201, 224, 237, 248, 240, 241, 233. Sub-chaser REGINA ELINA, A/S Vessel F/H 71, M.L.548, diesel vessel 193.

(V.A. Malta, 210735.) Italian ships CONSTANTE, GELIA, APUNIA, LUCERINO, RENUCCI, PELAGOSA, MONTEBELLO arrived.

(Com. Algeria, 211659B to Admty., F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, C. in C. Levant, Cdre. Algiers.) Italian landing craft M.Z.855 with one marine and crew of 25 aboard reliably reported arrived Mahon, Balearics, Sept. 16th requested time extension and stated desire to proceed to (?Malta).

(C.M.S.F., 211720 to F.O.C. Gib., (R) Admty., C.N.O., etc.) Arrived Italian Naval Vessels, T.Bs. FABRICI, CARINI, S/Ms ABUMH four (sic ?AXUM) tug LISCANERA.

(V.A.M., 212340 to Admty., etc.)

WARSPITE. To be prepared to steam to Gibraltar as soon as is possible. Temporary repairs for passage to U.K. to be undertaken in No.1 dock on arrival. A.S. Malta is requested to report anticipated date of sailing.

(C. in C. Med., 210915 to V.A. Malta, etc.)

Convoy "Hunter". My 201755B. Sailed. (S.N.O. Tripolitania, 210915B to V.A. Malta.)

UGANDA. Request UGANDA be sailed Gibraltar in first slow convoy. Temporary repair for passage to U.K. to be taken in hand in No.2 dock on arrival Gib.

Repair to EMPIRE HAVEN to be progressed until arrival of UGANDA. (C. in C. Med., 210919 to Admty., N.O.I.C. Malta, F.O.C.Gib., etc.)

HOLCOMBE's convoy; 1 ship hit. One ship hit by torpedo in 40.05 N. 14.43 E. (HOLCOMBE, 210927.)

/Movements ...

War Diary.21.9.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements  
Syracuse. Intend sailing LANCASHIRE, SONTAY, MARIGOT and VITTORINO, ZAMIBONA (Italian Tanker) escorted by GRAYLING and MULLET at 1800 today Tuesday to R/V with convoy stragglers at 1840 at seaward end of QBB 162 in accordance with N.O.I.C. Augusta's 201500 (N.T. in W.D.) (N.O.I.C. Syracuse 211118B to F.O.Sy. etc.)

ALISMA. Sail independently at 1601B/21st (route) to:- E.T.A. Malta Boom 1032 to 22nd. S. of A. 12 knots. Code word "Collar" 966. Priority low. (S.N.O. Tripolitania 211132B to ALISMA (R) C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, A.H.Q. Med. etc.)

G.U.S.14. Your 131039B. Oran Section G.U.S.14 composed as in my 061023B (G.U.S.14 sailing telegram). (Comnob Oran, 211135. to Commorseafron, Info. Admty. F.O.C. Gibraltar etc).

BOXER. Take ships addressed under your command and sail from Bizerta Bay at 0600/22nd to Salerno by "Avon"/N route K, S. of A. 14 knots, E.T.A. position CB 0400/23rd thence as ordered by N.C.W.T.F. Codeword "Lilac" call sign 301 N.C.W.T.F. is requested to sail ships addressed to Bizerta by "Avon"/N route L on completion. Priority normal. (N.O.I.C. Tunisia 211137B to BOXER (R) BRUISER, THRUSTER, U.S.P.C.556, U.S.P.C.557, N.A.T.A.F., C.T.G., 85.9 C. in C. Mediterranean, N.C.W.T.F. S.H.A.136, C.T.F.89 Cdre. N.242 Group.)

Force V. On the breaking up of Force V and the departure of UNICORN and escort carriers from Mediterranean I should like to congratulate you, the C.Os. Officers and Ships' companies of Force V on excellent work carried out. Both you and R.A. Aircraft Carriers have reported to me on high standard of training and operation in the force, and this reflects great credit on all concerned in view of short time available before the carriers as a unit had to take part in a major operation of great importance and some hazard. I regret that the aircraft did not have more opportunity for action but I should like everyone to know that the decision to carry out the operation at all was founded in first instance on the presence of sea-borne air protection and that Force V played an invaluable part in the success now achieved after so much hard fighting. (C. in C. Med. 211203B to R.A.V. (R) UNICORN and escort carriers, R.A.A. Admty.)

M.T.Bs.636,  
634. Sail from Capri at 0900B/22nd to Malta.  
Italian Route R. Speed 15 knots. Arriving 0800B/23rd.  
E-Boats. Codeword "Filbert" Call sign 465 low.  
(2) 3 Italian E-Boats to sail in company.  
2 Italian Admirals in M.T.B.634.  
(Cdre. N. 211254B to M.T.Bs. 636, 634 (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

/T.S.S.6...

War Diary.21.9.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

T.S.S.6. My 201116. Proceeding delayed 16 hours sailing 0800/22nd.  
(2) Delete WHADDON from para. 8.  
(3) F.O.Sy. is requested to arrange any joiners from Sicilian ports and inform EGGESFORD (S.O. Escort) of R/V. (V.A. Malta 211300B to Cdre. (N) Admty. etc.)

XI.F.1. 6 ships. Troops. For Taranto.  
(R.A. Alexandria 211304C to Admty. etc.)

Malta. O.Z.2874. 21st Sept. 1943.  
Chiefs of Staff consider garrison should be reduced forthwith. Future scale of attack based on (details).  
(Air Min. 211330Z.)

RODNEY,  
NELSON,  
defects. RODNEY. Leakage from sea has again developed as result of recent 16" firing. Obstructing leaks cannot be stopped until ship is docked.  
(2) Leakage in NELSON also course at rate of about 350 tons per day, and extensive reconditioning of structure will be necessary in this ship.  
(S.O. Force "H" 211331B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. RODNEY, NELSON.)

R.A.F.,  
M.E.Report. 21 Sept. 1943. 13100 Daily Opsum 146 19/20 Sept. 2 Wellingtons anti-shipping R/Cs. Eastern Aegean. No sightings, 1 bombed quay on Santorin Island causing explosions. 8 Beaufighters attacked 1 Coastal vessel 400 tons. 2 E-Boats, 2 barges moored in Vronti Bay, Scarpanto Islands. Near misses on barges. All vessels effectively attacked with cannon fire. 1 Beaufighter missing possibly hit by intense A.A.fire. (H.Q. R.A.F. 211343C.)

N.A.A.F.  
report. N.W.A. C. A.F. 19/20th Sept. 3 Wellingtons R/C. E. and W. Coast Sardinia, Corsica, Coastwise Marseilles to Monte Circeo. 1/3000 tons Motor Vessel with 4 E-Boats escort attacked with 1 torpedo 13 miles from Leghorn. No hit observed. 20th September. 2 U.S. Mitchells (B.25) shipping strike. Attacked barge off Anzio with 5X75 m.m shells. 1 near miss. (H.Q. N.A.A.F. 211450, 211630, 211642B.)

ACADIA. Intend to sail U.S.A. H.S. ACADIA at 1400B/22nd (route etc.) for Palermo.  
(Com. N.O.B. Oran 211501B to C. in C. Med.etc.)  
(Cancelled by 221101B q.v.)

Condition  
in  
Naples. Intelligence reports indicate no foundation rumoured epidemics in Naples.  
(Algiers 211505B to Agwar for C.C.S.)

Air/...

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War Diary.21.9.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Air C. in C. Med. report. 21st Sept. signed Eisenhower. Part 3. Air. Cositentrep No.73 20th Sept. N.W.A.A.Fs night 19/20 Sept. 2 Wellingtons on patrol attacked a 3,000 ton M/V and 2 7,000 ton M/Vs. off Leghorn but with unobserved results. (Air C. in C. Med. No T.O.O. 21st. Recd. 1540/21)

Missing L.C.T. Confirm No. of the L.C.T. sunk on 9th September at Malori. It was reported as 549. This craft is afloat but L.C.T.551 is missing. (Cdre. 'N' Force 211537B to PRINCE CHARLES.)

U.S. FLETCHER defect. Serious defect has developed in hydraulic pump requiring (?repairs) before further operations. (U.S.D. FLETCHER 211601B to S.O. Force I. (R) V.A. Malta, Cdre. (N) F.O. Sy.)

H.S. SHAMROCK. Hospital ship (corrupt) SHAMROCK. If sufficient space available after embarkation at Southern Beaches, request she returns to Palermo to fill up for disembarkation Bizerta. (P.S.T.O. Med. 211630B.)

ULTIMATUM. My 171602 your patrol area has been extended to (?007°) E. the S.E. limits being the line joining 043° N. 007°E. and 042° 30' N. 006° 30' E (2) A profitable area for patrol may be in Gulf of Frejus South of Cape Camarat and South of Hyeres Islands. (3) R.D/F stations are known to be situated in Hyeres Islands and one near Cape Sicie. (Capt. (S) 8 211630B to P.34 (ULTIMATUM) (R) 8th S/M.F. C. in C. Med.)

French Submarines. Admty. 071803 and B.A.D. 132057. State of French S/Ms. PALLAS, CERES, and AMPHITRITE as reported in my 071635. 2. State of S/M quoted in A.M. 061920 para. 1 B is as follows:- ARCHIMEDE refitting in U.S.A. ARGO due Bermuda 17th Sept, available for A/S training prior to refit in U.S.A. CASABIANCA engaged in urgent operation work in current Mediterranean operations. LE CENTAURE allocated A/S training in Freetown Area. LE GLORIEUX A/S training Bermuda before going to U.S. (C. in C. Med. (A) 211647B to C. in C. Med. Admty. (R) B.A.D.)

Corsica, Attack on evacuation craft. Sighted 6 Siebel ferries, 3 tank landing barges at 1548 in 42.56 N. 09.47 E. Have attacked with torpedoes. Enemy has been severely damaged by surface attack. Hits probable. Send out fighters course 260° speed 6 knots. (A/C FCQ/B No. T.O.O. Base K.T.1.)

K.M.S.25. Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Port Said 211722C.)

/Mines...



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21.9.1943.  
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Mines off  
Cotrone.

Cotrone area S. of line 090° S. breakwater light as far as 100 fathom line swept and now considered clear of mines. One mine cut one detonated to-day. Total to date 32. (CROMARTY 211724B to C. in C. Med. (R) V.A. Malta, N.O.I.C. Cotrone, F.O.I.C. Sicily, F.O.T.A.)

LE CURIE,  
SICKLE.

Add 24 hours to all times in para. 1 of my 201700. (Capt. (S) 8 211724B to C. in C. Med. (R) 8th S/M.F. Capt. (S) 10 N.O.I.C. Algiers, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

BLACKMORE,  
LEDBURY  
and  
QUANTOCK.

Are to reach Malta by p.m. 23rd. (V.A. Malta 211744B to F.O. Sy. F.O.T.A. Cdre. (N) (R) C. in C. Med.)

U/B  
disposition.

Estimate of U-Boat (German) between 007° E. and 020° E. (?NP) 1 possibly in North Adriatic (2 corrupt groups) probable course South. 1 on patrol within 50 miles of 038° N. 017° (? East). Probably 3 in South East (?Tyrrhenean Sea) of which 2 are in area E. of 013° E. and between 040° N. and 041° N. (C. in C. Med. "A" 211847B to U-Boat disposition Med. Station (R) F.O.C. Gib.)

TACTICIAN.

Left Suez 1800/21. (F.O.R.S.C.A. 211851C.)

M.L.555  
L.S.T.361.

Sail at 1945/21 by N.E. channel and through position S.H. speed as requisite to overtake convoy T.S.S.5 E. at first light 22 N.D. (N.O.I.C. Malta 211929B to M.L.555, L.S.T.361.)

Aegean  
Situation.

Cositrep No.1. 1. Int. (A) Aegean. Italians CASO reported disarmed but no (R) no Germans stayed on island, not (R) not known if Italians left or removed. (B) Ionian Islands. Yorker morning 21 Sept. Suggests Cefallonia being attacked by German air and possibly land forces but information scanty and confused. (C) Yugoslavia. M.O.4 report Split still held by Partisans 19 Sept. but situation difficult. 3. Naval. Four fleet destroyers now en route Leros carrying approx. 1,200 troops and stores. Two fleet destroyers returned Alexandria today on completion to lift. Stores convoy now en route Castelrosso morning 23 Sept. 3. Air. Three raids on Antimachia airfield Cos. 20 Sept. One enemy aircraft destroyed two probably destroyed. Two Spitfires damaged and slight damaged stores and pet. (C. in C. M.E. 212040C to W.O.)

/SHEFFIELD...

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War Diary.21.9.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

SHEFFIELD. Request you will sail SHEFFIELD after refuelling to Malta to join C.S.15.  
(C. in C. Med. 212111B to F.O.C. Gib. (R)  
SHEFFIELD, C.S.15th. N.O.I.C. Malta.)

Hospital Ships. Request hospital ships may be sailed as follows:-  
DINARD from Tripoli after disembarkation of casualties to Northern beaches. OXFORDSHIRE after disembarkation of casualties at Reggio to Tripoli. ABA from Bizerta to Palermo to embark casualties from Bizerta. VITA to Oran not Algiers. My 182158\*not to N.O.B. Oran, refers.\*N.T. in W.R.  
(P.S.T.O. Med. 212112B)

MONTCALM. MONTCALM, QUERCY and LA GRANDIERE arrived.  
MONTCALM departed.  
(Comnob Oran 212115A.)

Force N My 2145. Although attachments have been made all Plans for F.O.O's except 3, 1, 21 and 22 will be on the Bombardment. move. TARTAR and NUBIAN will be at immediate readiness for bombardment from first light onwards and set watch on spotting wave.  
BLANKNEY and BRECON close down on B.C.W. until 1500. Cruisers keep watch on B.C.W. and be at 30 minutes help for bombardment. F.O.12th C.S. is requested to detail one ship to be at immediate notice for bombardment informing me which ship. At 1500 AURORA, PENELOPE and SIRIUS set watch on spotting wave and register 1 pre-arranged target. Detailed orders will be sent by hand.  
(Cmdre. Cdg. Force N. 212140 to F.O. 12th C.S. PENELOPE, DIDO, SIRIUS, TARTAR, NUBIAN, LOYAL, BRECON, BLANKNEY.)

DZIK (?German) evacuation of Bastia by air in Bastia. progress during daylight today Tuesday. At 1630/21st sunk by torpedo 2 Merchant ships close to entrance harbour. Remaining 3 ships in harbour on fire. 4 torpedoes remaining.  
(P.52 (DZIK) 212151B to Capt. (S) 8 (R) 8th S/M.F. C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Algiers, Capt. (S) 10.)

Situation report No.58. INTREPID and ECHO arrived Alexandria from Leros with 4 German prisoners of war from Stampalia.  
2. Cdr. (D) and 1200 personnel with 8 Bofors sailed Haifa in FAULKNER (D8) FURY, ECLIPSE, QUEEN OLGA due Leros 0630/22nd. 3. Convoy X.T.3 sailed Alexandria 21st with 12 M/Vs routed to Tripoli. 4. RORQUAL from patrol N. Aegean reports successful minelaying 9th, 10th and 11th. On 12th she bombarded Straton Iron works 90 rounds. 13th began shelling caiques in Kastro Lemnos but forced to dive (?from) shore batteries.  
(C. in C. Levant 212159C.)

/Situation...

War Diary.

21.9.1943.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation  
report  
No.187.

(1) SS. ALMENARA straggler from convoy to Taranto was mined and sunk in the approaches about 1840 20th (? ship omitted) with QUEENBOROUGH and ILEX carrying out Straits of Otranto patrol during night 20th/21st Sept. No incident report.

(3) French Cruiser JEANNE D'ARC and destroyers carried further personnel and stores to Ajaccio during night 20th/21st Sept. 2500 personnel and 300 tons of stores have now been landed.

(4) A ship in convoy NSS 3 was hit by torpedo at 0920/21st in 040° 05' 014° (743'). Details not yet received. (See 222210.)

(5) Movement of 78th division from Sicily to Italy by L.S.I. and L.C.I.(L) has now commenced.  
(C. in C. Med. 212232 to Admty.)

MINUET,  
EDAY.

My 211745. (N.T. in W.R.) MINUET has not sufficient coal to return Safta. C. in C. Med. 21?1048 refers. EDAY completes coaling a.m. tomorrow and will be sailed as escort. E.T.A. unchanged. MINUET has defect which will be taken in hand. Request EDAY be returned

to August on completion.

(N.O.I.C. Augusta 212235 to F.O.I.C. Sicily, Cmdre. (N) D., S.T.O. Sicily 211 Group R.A.F.)

Hospital  
Ships.

A.M. 181515. (Re policy of United Nations must be to preserve respect for Hospital Ship conventions if possible etc.) it is considered that conditions laid down in para. 3. (B) already prevail, see my 171933. It is not therefore intended to alter orders in my 150857. (C. in C. Med. 212337 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

War Diary.

21.9.1943.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Treatment  
of Italian  
Ships.

Following instructions for treatment of Italian Fleet have been issued in C. in C. Med's 142034 (N.T. in W.D.) to which you should so far as possible conform:- (details).  
Armaments, Communications, Machinery, Guards, Boats, etc.

11. Attitude towards Italians is to be one of watchful courtesy bearing in mind that it may later be policy for Italian Warships to work as Allies. Ends.

(Hd. of M.I., 210011A to C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.W.A.)

[Treatment of ERITREA, see next page]

CERES

Request you will sail CERES for U.K. via Aden and Mediterranean forthwith.

2. Cancel C. in C. E.F., 151040 Sept.  
(C. in C. E.F., 210316Z to R.A.E.F. (R) F.O.E.A., F.O.R.S.C.A., C. in C. Levant, Admty. C. in C. Med).

CORNELIA  
P. SPENCER  
torpedoed.

Following has been read. Attacked by Armed Merchant ship Raider 0208 N., 20.10 E. torpedoed. (CORNELIA P. SPENCER via Simonstown, 210430 G.M.T. to Colombo W/T)  
CORNELIA P. SPENCER reported being torpedoed at 0430 G.M.T. in 002° 08' N., 050° 10' E.  
(C. in C. E.F.? 210530 to S and As. East Indies Station.)

Proposed  
adjustment  
of Station  
boundaries.

Adjustments of Station boundaries between South Atlantic and East Indies.

1. Further to C. in C. S.A's 131051B instituting convoy between Durban and Kilindini, C. in C. S.A. and myself agree that the control of all the approaches to Durban from the North Eastward should be under one Authority. This it is

considered will be best achieved by moving the station boundary between South Atlantic and East Indies from 35° E. to a line joining the East coast of Africa to Madagascar at 18° S., thence down the southwest coast of Madagascar to the meridian of 45° E. then due south.

2. It is intended that the control of the convoys between Durban and Kilindini should pass from C. in C. S.A. to C. in C. E.F. on crossing the new station boundaries. The direct control of the convoys will be delegated as necessary to Commodore Durban and F.O.E.A. by C. in C. S.A. and C. in C. E.F. respectively

3. Similarly, Air escort in the Mozambique Channel to the south of 18° S. including Tulear will be operated by A.O.S. in Capetown and to the northward of 18° S. by 258 Wing at Diego Suarez and 246 Wing at Kilindini under A.O.C. E.A. who concurs.

4. The proposed alterations to W/T communications areas consequent upon the above changes will be signalled separately.

5. If approved it is requested that the above proposed changes of Station boundaries may be promulgated to all concerned.

6. A separate signal follows outlining my intentions for the institution of a general system of convoys for Trade off East Africa and in the Arabian sea.

(C. in C. E.F., 210630Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A., F.O.E.A., A.H.Q.E.A., Comc Durban).

/Convoy...

War Diary.

21.9.1943.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

Convoy B.M.65. Madras portion arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. Madras, 210651Z to Admty).

P.B.56 Arrival KUMAON with P.B.56.  
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 210807Z to Admty).

M.E.I.R.I. F.O.N.I.C. (225), pass to N.C.S.Os.  
M.E.I.R.I. amendment number 32.  
(C. in C. E.F., 210833Z to F.O.N.I.C. (R) Admty.  
etc).

Convoy P.B.56 Bombay portion arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 210843Z to Admty).

Convoy M.A.7. Sailing telegram (3 ships).  
2. 0947Z/21st. (4) knots 9.5. (5) Coastal  
(6) SHILLONG, NETRAVATI.  
(N.C.S.O. Madras, 210956Z, 211004Z to Admty).

ERITREA I interviewed the C.O. of ERITREA on my arrival  
at Colombo today. He appears to be sincere in his  
desire that he and his Officers and men should  
be regarded and used as Allies.

2. At his request I am arranging to take into custody ashore  
1 P.O. and 2 ratings whose sympathies and actions he considers  
anti-Allied.

3. In order to obtain to fullest extent release of information  
concerning Japanese and submarine operations I consider it most  
desirable that treatment of Italians as internees should be  
relaxed to the extent of leave being granted to escorted parties  
of Officers and men, the escorts acting as guides rather than  
custodians. Captain of ERITREA states he can guarantee good  
conduct of all concerned with exception of those referred to in  
para. 2.

4. Since it is obviously desirable that treatment accorded to  
Italians here and elsewhere should be similar request very early  
decision on point raised in para. 3 may be communicated.  
(C. in C. E.F., 211106Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C.  
Levant).

CERES CERES sailed for U.K. in accordance with your  
210316Z Sept.  
(R.A. Eastern Fleet, 211330Z to C. in C. E.F. (R)  
F.O.I.C. E.A., F.O.C.R.S., C. in C. Levant, Admty.  
C. in C. Med. (B).)

Flying boats etc. Indian Ocean. Dispositions (Air Min. 211640Z to A.O.C.in C. India  
etc) See Lion Copy.

A.F.Ds. Your 051113 para. 2 confirmed.  
(Hd. of M.II. approved by Controller, 211938A to  
C. in C. E.F. (R) F.O. Ceylon, F.O.E.Af., D.G.S.R)

Lion E.I.  
708A

# 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.

M E S S A G E 211640Z/September

To. A.O.C. in C. India,  
H. Q. R. A. F. Middle East.

Date 21.9.43.  
Recd. 1758A.

Repeated M. A. C.

A. O. C. 222 Group.  
A. O. C. East Africa.  
Dechief for BALM Admiralty.

Cypher.

*Flying Boats etc, Indian Ocean, dispositions.*

From Air Ministry Whitehall.

AX.805. 21st September 1943.

Para.1. A proposal is under consideration that all flying boats, G.R. landplanes and coastal striking force squadrons operating over Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman should be placed under strategic control of one A.O.C. who would operate under the air C. in C. South East Asia. Subject to final organisation of Command in South East Asia this would be A.O.C. 222 Group, who under general direction of Air C. in C. S.E. Asia would meet the broad strategic requirements of C. in C. Eastern Fleet in accordance with the Maritime situation in the Indian Ocean area as a whole. A.O.C. in C. Middle East would remain responsible for G.R. requirements for Red Sea North of Perim Island.

Para.2. Local day to day operational control and administration would be exercised by A.O.C. in whose area aircraft are based. Middle East and India Commands would remain responsible for broad administrative requirements in their respective areas.

Para.3. Dependent on approval of Union Authorities it is proposed that local day to day operational control of R.A.F. G.R. Units detached in South Africa should be exercised by combined G.R. Headquarters at Capetown under G.O.C. Coast Defences working in collaboration with C. in C. South Atlantic. There is an R.A.F. Adviser in Capetown Headquarters who would also act as Liaison link between South African combined G.R. organisation controlling R.A.F. and S.A.A.F. aircraft, A.O.C. 222 Group and A.H.Q. East Africa.

Para.4. Squadrons affected are as follows:-

(A).....

- (A) Flying boats Nos. 191, 205, 212, 240, 413, 321, 209, 252, 262, 265.
- (B) L.R./G.R. Nos. 160, 354.
- (C) M.R./G.R. No. 621.
- (D) S.R./G.R. No. 8 now to re-equip Wellington and No. 244 at present surplus to Middle East G.R. target but earmarked against Indian Ocean build up.
- (E) Coastal strike squadrons Nos. 22, 217 to re-equip Beaufighter X and Nos. 27, 177 and 211 when they return to B.R. duties.
- (F) In addition subsequent flying boat, G.R./LP or coastal strike squadrons which may be formed in this area.

Para. 5. Comments are required from first two addressees on administrative aspect of this proposed organisation.

Para. 6. In conjunction with the above proposals Admiralty being approached with following suggestions:-

(A) C. in C. Eastern Fleet should be sole Naval Authority with whom A.O.C. 222 Group would deal on questions of co-ordination of air effort in Indian Ocean area. On questions of employment of above R.A.F. Squadrons in South Africa, C. in C. Eastern Fleet should be responsible for representing the views of C. in C. South Atlantic.

(B) The boundary of East Indies station should be moved westward to Perim Island and so include Aden under C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

211640Z;

Received in War Reg. 0644/22.

Air Mins. copies to:-

G.A.S.	D.D. Policy (G)	D.G.O
V.C.A.S.	D. of Ops. (AUB)	D.W.O
D.C.A.S.	D. of Ops. (A/S)	D. of O.
A.M.S.O	D.O. Ops.	D.D.O. 2.
A.C.A.S. (P)	S. 6.	D.C. Est.
A.C.N.S. (Ops.)	A.S.P. 3.	O.F.
D. of Policy (Orig.) (A)	A.S.P. 4.	O. 8
		S. 9
		War Reg. (Adm) (2 copies)
1st Lord.	D.O.D. (H) (4)	S.A.L.O.
1st S.L. (2)	D.O.D. (F) (2)	File CS. 19802
5th S.L.	D.C.	refers
V.C.N.S.	D.N.I. (4)	
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.D.I.C. (2)	
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)	Plot.	
U.W.R.	Hd. of M. (3)	D. of P. (3)
Capt. Pin	D.C.N.A.E.	Ad. Blake (4)
	D.A.W.T.	I.P. (2)
	C.C.L.S. (2)	W.D.
	D.N.A.O.	

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War Diary.21.9.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

PASTEUR Following is a re-encypherment of P.D. Norfolk's 201912 to Com. Tenth Flt. C. and R. Commorseafon, V.A. Gibraltar, N.O.B. Bermuda, Admty. for Action. Info. to Comeastseafon, C. in C. Med. Comnavaw, N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F.  
1. PASTEUR. 2. 211600Z Cape Henry. 3. Passing (T) 221130Z. Speed 19.5. 4. "Chop" 24.00 W. 270100Z. E.T.A. Casablanca 282000Z. 5. (Route). 14. Codeword "Element" associated call sign 159.  
(Radio Washington, 210250Z to Commorrocanseafon, V.A. Gib. Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F.)

DOMETT Boston sailed 1920Z/19th DOMETT for Bermuda. (N.S.H.Q., 210446Z to Admty. (R) B.A.D., S.B.N.O. W.At. C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F.)

VICTORIOUS Owing to U-boat situation request you will re route VICTORIOUS forthwith to pass through G. 49° N., 36° W. H. 50° N., 25° W. J. 54° N., 15° W. thence to F.  
(D.O.D. (H), 210938A to C. in C. C.N.A., (R) VICTORIOUS, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. H.F., F.O.N.F. Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

Alter course forthwith to pass through new G. 049° 30' N. 036° 00' W. H. 050° 01' N., 025° 00' W. J. 054° 00' N., 015° 00' W. thence to F omitting B to E. "Chop" 0300Z/22nd.

(C. in C. C.N.A., 211503Z to VICTORIOUS (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A. C. in C. H.F., F.O.N.F. Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

My 211503 position G was amended on account of delay of receipt of your 210938.

(C. in C. C.N.A., 211737Z to Admty. (R) VICTORIOUS, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. H.F., F.O.N.F. Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

American escorts of U.G. convoys. Request to be informed when delegation authority for control of convoys in Atlantic to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar was made effective. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 161001B refers.  
(Cominch, 211220Z to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. C. in C. Lant, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar) Reply: C. in C. Med., 242117.

STRATHNAVER My 201419Z (N.T. in W.D.) para.1. STRATHNAVER will not sail.  
(F.O.N.F., 211234Z to Escorts of convoy H.X. 257 (R) C. in C. C.N.A., C. in C. W.A., Admty. N.S.H.Q., Cdre. (D) W.A., Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet (C. and R)). See Cominch, 202150Z.

Your 202150. STRATHNAVER result of tests proved that defects have not been rectified. Primins still exists. Cause not yet discovered further examination and tests being made report on results will be signalled in approx. 36 hours suggest that if cause of trouble cannot be determined another ship be sent for transporting troops to New York.

(F.O.N.F., 211341Z to Cominch (R) Admty. C. in C. Lant, N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A., B.A.D. Washington, C.T.F.24).

Request you will comply with Cominch 202150.

(D.O.D. (H), 211520A to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) Cominch, F.O.N.F., Cinclant, N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A., B.A.D. etc).

/U.S.A.T...



War Diary.21.9.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

U.S.A.T. Merco departure 21st 1042. U.S.A.T. ROANOK  
Canal Zone direct 27th.  
(P.D. Orleans, 211258 to Admty).

DACRES,  
DUFF. Cancel my despatch 172203. DACRES and DUFF have  
returned to Boston.  
(C.T.G., 02.1, 211328 to N.O.B. Bermuda, (R)  
C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Admty. etc).

U.S. S/M  
Estimate. Cominch, 211355Z.

BENGLOE Cancel my 180947Z. BENGLOE now arrived my  
200914Z refers.  
(C.S.A. Beira, 211409Z to Admty. C. in C. S.A.  
C. in C. E.F. S.O.(I) Colombo (R) Com. 1/c Durban)

N.S.H.Q.  
S/M Estimate. N.S.H.Q., 211510Z.

U.S.A.T. Arrival 20th U.S.A.T. MATTOLE.  
(B.R.O. Aruba, 211601Z to Admty).

JOHN  
ERICSSON. Comnaveu despatch 201801 Sept. is quoted for  
information "Convoy T.U.2 will sail as scheduled  
without U.S.A.T. JOHN ERICSSON due inability  
to undock vessel because of extremely high winds.  
Will sail this vessel independently for New York  
as soon as possible unless directed otherwise". Herewith Com.  
10th Fleet C. and R. despatch 211346 Sept. in reply "Urdis  
201801 not approved sail JOHN ERICSSON independently. Recommend  
it return in an H.X. convoy".  
(Comnaveu, 211626 to Admty).

Convoy  
H.X.258. Your 201452Z. Destinations.  
(D.T.D., 211905A to N.C.S.O. Halifax).

PASTEUR From P.D. Norfolk. Action to Com. 10th Fleet C.  
and R. Admty. Commorrocan Seafron, V.A. Gibraltar  
N.O.B. Bermuda.  
Departed Cape Henry 21st 1600Z. My 201912.  
(Radio Washington, 211930Z to Admty. Commorseafron  
V.A. Gibraltar, Info. to C. in C. Med. C. in C.  
C.N.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F.)

U.G.S.18 U.G.S.18 delete VANJA and JOHN W. GARRETT from  
sailing telegram.  
(Com. Tenth Fleet C. and R., 211949Z to V.A. Gib.  
N.S.H.Q., Admty. C. in C. Med. Comnavnav,  
Commorseafron, N.O.B. Oran, C. in C. Levant).

/Convoy...

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21.9.1943.  
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

Convoy Arrived 1927Z/21st.  
B.X.74. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 211954Z to Admty).

Minesweepers When ready for sea about 1300Z/22nd ?depart New York Gate proceed St. Johns N.F. via New York approaches, thence St. Johns via approaches. Arrival report F.O.N.F. for onward routing.

S.C.985 will accompany you to 40.18 N. 69.00 W. F.O.N.F. requested to furnish escort to St. Johns from Point H. Estimated speed 12.

(C.E.S.F., 212013 to A.Ms. 141 S.O. 140, 142 S.Cs. 719, 1073, 1286 (R) Com. Tenth Fleet, C. in C. Lant, F.O.N.F. C. in C. C.N.A., C.T.F.24, C.T.G.02.1 02.2, 02.3 N.O.B. Iceland, V.C.N.O. N.S.H.Q., Admty. B.A.D.)

Convoy 1. Sailing dispatch part 1.  
H.X.258. 2. Position H at 1900Z Sept. 22, letter designations EB. EC.ED. changed to H.J.K. 3,5,8. standard route A as per Admiralty 162051 June, 041301B July and C. in C. C.N.A. 180012 amended by 201124 Sept. "Homp"\*1300Z Sept. 25.  
6. Task Unit W.5. LINCOLN (S.O.) HEPATICA, MELVILLE, DIGBY. (P.D. New York, 212046). \*As received.

SAULT SAINT This is a re-encypherment of N.O.B. Bermuda's  
MARIE. 211751 to C. in C. C.N.A. for action.  
"H.M.C.S. SAULT SAINT MARIE departs Bermuda through position (Route) for Halifax, 12 knots E.T.A. Halifax 1130Z/24.  
(Radio Washington, 212102Z to C. in C. C.N.A., Admty. N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F.)

MINDFUL Upon completion of ??(repairs) about 30th sail H.M.S. MINDFUL New Orleans to Gibraltar via (route). Ultimate destination Med. Endurance 10,000 inches (?miles) at 12 knots. (Cominch, 212104Z to Comgulfseafro (R) Com. 8th Naval District, C. in C. Lant, N.O.B. Bermuda, S.B.N.O.W.At., C. in C. Med. Admty. F.O.C. Gib).

Neutral Your 202009 para. 3. This will always be done  
Vessel but result of search of MONTE ALBERTIA will not  
searches be known until samples of metal and powder found  
information reach U.K. and have been analysed. Metal suspected  
for U.S. to be platinum.  
(D.E.W.D., 212137A to B.A.D.)

/ROCKAWAY...

21.9.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

ROCKAWAY C.T.F. 24 211531 addressed Comnavu, ROCKAWAY, Com. 10th Fleet C. and R. Comfairwing 7, Info. ALBEMARLE, Comairlant, Cominch, C. in C. Lant, N.O.B. Iceland, Admty. C. in C. W.A., C. in C.

C.N.A., F.O.N.F.

About 212030Z when ready ROCKAWAY depart Gate Argentia for U.K. via (route) thence via route to port designated by C.F.A.W.7 S. of A. 16 knots. E.T.A. Point G. 261430Z. ROCKAWAY available to ALBEMARLE as additional escort on receipt any orders from ALBEMARLE en route. V.F.A.W.7 advise Admiralty ultimate destination.  
(Comnavu, 212144Z to Admty).

Convoy Boston section arrived 212217Z.  
G.U.F.10 (U.S.P.D. Boston, 212315 to Com. 10th U.S. Fleet).

DUCKWORTH Intend DUCKWORTH should leave Bermuda 23rd Sept. for Argentia calling Boston for outstanding stores reported to be there.  
(S.B.N.O.W.At., 212352Z to B.A.D. (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q.)

Escort 1. Owing to the critical accumulation of squadrons  
Carriers. and aircraft awaiting shipping opportunity to U.K. it will be necessary to utilize both TRUMPETER and SLINGER to ferry three squadrons and a proportion of aircraft ready ex Roosevelt Field. My 072243 refers.

2. Intend to ship numbers 848, 1830, 1831 squadrons and the maximum number of additional aircraft which can be embarked. This will render both ships non operational during passage to U.K. at a time when the U-boat menace to the North Atlantic convoy routes appears to be increasing.

3. The decision in para. 2 is influenced by the probability of bad weather during passage and the consequent difficulty of flying large aircraft.

4. It would assist us in making these decisions as between operating and ferrying, in future, if you were able to give us a forecast of the dates between which an escort carrier support group will be operating covering convoys in the North Atlantic.  
(B.A.D., 212359Z to Admty).

Australia & New Zealand.

GEORGE  
WASHINGTON.

Expect GEORGE WASHINGTON with 6000 troops for Bombay could leave Fremantle about 6th Oct.  
Speed 15 knots.

2. Propose to provide escort from Fremantle if relief could be provided at about 095° E.  
(C.S.W.P.S.F., 210536Z to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty. Cdre. 7th U.S. Fleet, Comtask 71, N.O.I.C. W. Australia).

/Digest...

War Diary.

21.9.1943.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.

Digest  
Serial No.  
609 Sept.  
20th.

Convoy described as 1 destroyer, 5 possible Corvettes, 1 Medium Merchantman sighted by Liberator 162 miles north east Massau Island on Northerly course afternoon. Another small freighter observed nearby on similar course, while single aircraft covering overhead. Liberator attacked large merchantman with unobserved

results.

(2) Photos Rabaul forenoon show 46 vessels in harbour including 1 ?WAMI class heavy cruiser, 1 NINTSU class light cruiser, 9 destroyers, 1 gunboat, 4 Sub-chasers, 1 converted destroyer tender, 1 submarine tender, 5 submarines, 21 merchant vessels, totalling 86,000 tons, 1 small unidentified vessel also 1 flying boat, 7 boat planes.

(6) Our P.T. boats destroyed large barge Finschhafen area night 19th, encountered heavy small arms fire from shore. Same also intercepted and attacked enemy submarine north of fortification point (eighteen miles North of Finschhafen.) Submarine was proceeding on surface north westerly course but crash dived and was attacked by depth charges with unknown results. Enemy dive bomber later attacked our boats without effect.

(12) Forenoon 18th, 30 Enemy dive bombers and 20 fighters attacking Allied vessel off Vella Lavella intercepted by 17 Corsairs and 4 Warhawks over Barakowa harbour. Our fighters shot down 12 dive bombers and 5 fighters while another dive bomber was destroyed by anti-aircraft fire and another 2 shot down by ?Crasp boat which was undamaged by 21 near misses. We lost one Corsair and 2 others missing.

(13) Enemy continues to offer stiff resistance on Northern Arundel. Only 2 of 5 enemy barges attempting to land this area night 16th believed to have succeeded due to our Artillery fire. (G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 210735Z)

Movements.

Arrived Brisbane 20th U.S. (D) O'BANNON.  
Departure Sydney 20th U.S.S. COLUMBIA CHEVALIER  
for Noumea, Port Melbourne 19th U.S.(D) HELM for  
Lady Elliot Island.  
(A.C.N.B., 211238Z).

War Diary.21.9.1943.  
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

From vicinity of convoy O.N.202 and O.N.S.18 W/T activity continues and between five and ten U-boats may be in contact. A like number may be attempting to intercept from southward. Other estimated positions. (D.D.I.C., 211407A).

SS. CORNELIA P. SPENCER reported torpedoed 0430Z/21st Sept. in 02° 08' N., 50° 10' E.

Consider this may indicate German U-boat moving northward to operate off Approaches to Gulf of Aden and that there are likely to be about four others to northward of lat. 10° 00' S. probably also moving to northward. Other estimated positions. (D.D.I.C., 211412A).

Submarine attack and sighting summary for 24 hours to 0900Z/21st.

Para. A. THEODORE DWIGHT WELD and FREDERICK DOUGLASS torpedoed 0806/20th 57° 29' N., 28° 26' W. Former sunk, latter abandoned. CORNELIA P. SPENCER torpedoed at 0431/21st in 02° 08' N., 50° 10' E. Ship made raider report but probably attacked by U-boat.

Liberator F/120 attacked U-boat with depth charges 0948/20th 57° 45' N., 29° 48' W. course 300°.

Liberator N/120 attacked U-boat with depth charges 1909/20th 57° 00' N., 31° 10' W. course 300°.

Liberator J/120 attacked U-boat with depth charges 1946/20th 57° 37' N., 31° 02' W.

Liberator X/120 sighted one U-boat on surface 0945/20th 57° 49' N. 28° 36' W. and 2 U-boats on surface 1405/20th 57° 45' N., 30° 26' W.

Liberator F/120 sighted U-boat on surface 1425/20th 57° 44' N., 30° 07' W. course 270°.

Aircraft sighted U-boat 1614/20th. 59° 45' N., 28° 12' W.

Para. B. LAGAN damaged 0256/20th 57° 05' N., 27° 30' W. from explosion between screws. LAGAN reports more probably torpedo than depth charge accident.

Ref. A.M. 191052A. Two further explosions at 1650/20th suggest all explosions probably due to defective gear. (D.D.I.C., 211017Z to Cominch).

U/Bs attacked, My 221059 July 1942. At 0857Z/19 Liberator Weekly summary.

A/10 R.C.A.F. attacked a surfaced U-boat in 58° 40' N., 25° 30' W. with depth charges. U-boat disappeared slowly after first attack, large oil streaks 250 yards by 100 yards were seen and second attack was carried out immediately after

submergence.

2. Considerable U-boat activity now in progress near westbound North Atlantic convoy and several attacks on U-boats have been carried out but full details not yet received.

3. There have been no attacks in Bay of Biscay area during week ending 21st. Night flying from U.K. was not possible on three nights owing to bad weather.

(D.A.U.D., 211931A to Cominch, Comnavu, B.A.D., N.S.H.Q.)

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 2278

22.9.1943.  
Wednesday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.O.N. 202/  
O.N.S. 18.  
U/B sunk.

1. S.O. E.G. B.3 reports that there were approximately 9 attempts by enemy submarines to attack last night in dense fog. The attacks were made from every direction, mainly by single U-Boats. The screen was not penetrated and there were no casualties.

H.M.C.S. CHAMBLY made a probable hit with 4-inch H.E. on a U-Boat last night.

KEPPEL rammed, depth-charged and sank a U-Boat this morning. KEPPEL was slightly damaged, but her efficiency is unimpaired.

H.M.C.S. GATINEAU is in hand steering on account of damage from her own depth charges.

ICARUS and H.M.C.S. DRUMHELLER were involved in a slight collision but the damage caused is not important.

A German Radar decoy has been recovered.

Dense fog today till 1720Z before air cover became effective allowed U-Boats to get into position and prevented any attempt to organise the combined convoy before dark.

"Percussion"  
areas.

2. As a result of the recent lack of sightings in the present "Percussion" areas and the change in the U-Boat situation in the North Atlantic additional "Percussion" areas are to be instituted as soon as possible.

Humber.

3. Mines were exploded near Humber Light Vessel today. Enemy aircraft laid mines between the mouth of the Humber and Humber Light Vessel between 2220 and 2250 today, some of which exploded on contact with the water.

S/M attack  
on TIRPITZ.

(Operation "Source"  
see p. 280, October)

Five X craft (50 ft. submarines) were due to attack TIRPITZ in Altenfiord today. The result of the attack is not known, but on 23rd Sept. the German broadcast announced that an attack by midget S/MS on their main units had taken place on 22nd Sept. P.R.Us. subsequently showed that SCHARNHORST and LUTZOW had moved, but TIRPITZ was in the same berth with oil on the surface extending for more than 2 miles from her.

*W.D. Note. - For an account of the attack by a German sailing later in SCHARNHORST when sunk, see Interrogation of Survivors C.B. 04051 (98), page 27. also London Gazette Supp. 38204 of 26.10.1943.*

North Atlantic.

ILLUSTRIOUS,  
FORMIDABLE.

4. ILLUSTRIOUS and FORMIDABLE arrived at Gibraltar today en route for U.K., escorted by 6 destroyers who sailed to return to Malta.



22.9.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

Convoy  
T.G.E.1.

5. Convoy T.G.E.1 (local convoy) sailed to the eastward from Takoradi today.

Mediterranean.

6. SS. RICHARD OLNEY was damaged by a mine in 37.25 N. 09.54 E. (outside Bizerta) at 0825B today, and was brought into the port. LANDGUARD reports that her mining was due to failure to comply with signals.

"Avalanche".

7. U.S. coastal forces operating from Capri carried out a sweep of the Italian coast near Civita Vecchia last night, but saw nothing. Destroyers patrolled in the Straits of Otranto.

Corsica.

8. 75 Wellingtons dropped 125 tons of bombs on the docks and harbour installations at Bastia last night. Warehouses, the mole, oil storage and at least 3 ships were hit. Explosions occurred in 2 ships and there was an exceedingly large explosion in the harbour area. There are indications of the evacuation by the Germans of the southern part of the island. Evacuation by air from Chisonaccia to the mainland of Italy continues. The Polish S/M DZIK sank 3 Siebel ferries in the approaches to Bastia today.

Ionian  
Islands.

9. Some refugees are being evacuated from Corfu by Italian shipping. Germans occupied Argostoli (Cephalonia) this morning.

M.T.B.  
raid on  
Valona.

10. A force of 5 M.T.Bs. entered Valona harbour (Albania) last night and sank one medium sized merchant vessel loaded with ammunition and one smaller vessel. Two other ships were hit. Shore batteries engaged the M.T.Bs. whilst they were retiring; M.T.B.295 was damaged but returned to harbour in tow of ILEX. There were no casualties.

/Build ...

22.9.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Build up of  
Dodecanese.

11. Commodore (D) has begun a tour of the Dodecanese area, to investigate naval requirements. A total of 3400 personnel have now been transported to the area, 2830 of which were ferried by sea. Over 1500 tons of stores and fuel and 15 Bofors have been delivered. The build up is growing. Details are given in a message from C. in C. Levant this evening. *p. 742*

FAULKNOR (D.8), FURY, ECLIPSE and QUEEN OLGA arrived at Leros this morning without incident (see 21st September) and sailed after dark tonight for Alexandria, FAULKNOR and QUEEN OLGA sweeping west of Stampalia and through Kaso Strait; and FURY and ECLIPSE patrolling the north and south ends of Scarpento Strait.

Attacks  
on Aegean  
Airfields.

12. Wellingtons last night attacked Maleme airfield, Crete. Today, U.S. Liberators bombed the airfields at Eleusis (Athens) and Maritza (Rhodes).

East Indies.

Shipping  
protection.

13. To meet the increase in the U-Boat threat in the Arabian Sea and off East Africa C. in C. Eastern Fleet intends to develop a general system of convoys in those areas. Details are given in 3 messages today and on 23rd September.

Australia and New Zealand.

New Guinea.

14. Allied forces landed two miles north of Finschhafen (near Lae, New Guinea) at dawn today supported by strong air attacks and naval bombardment. Little enemy resistance was encountered. During the forenoon a force of 20 to 30 enemy bombers and 30 to 40 fighters attempting to attack Allied shipping were engaged by Allied fighters

/and ...

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

New Guinea.  
(Contd.)

and ships' A/A fires, at least 10 enemy bombers and 29 fighters were destroyed; Allied losses were 3 Lightnings - one pilot safe. Shipping suffered no damage or casualties.

Celebes.

15. Twelve Liberators attacked the seaplane base at Halong early this afternoon and made 3 direct hits on a hangar.

Solomon  
Is.

16. Wellington reports that Japanese reinforcements arrived at north-west Vella Lavella (Solomon Is.) on 16th September. Allied M.T.Bs. operating in Kula Gulf (between New Georgia and Kolombangara) were nightly subjected to float-plane attacks and heavy shell fire from Kolombangara. On the night 14th/15th September 40 to 60 Japanese aircraft bombed Munda, New Georgia.

Coral and  
Arafura  
Seas.

17. The Japanese are believed to have placed some explosive floating boxes in the Coral and Arafura Seas and possibly elsewhere.

18. 15 Japanese aircraft bombed Funafuti (Ellice Is.) on the night 13th/14th September.

War Diary.22.9.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

- GAMBIA. On arrival at Scapa GAMBIA will join 10th Cruiser Squadron. A.M. 211550 refers. (C. in C. H.F., 221754A to GAMBIA.)
- ODINN II. Request information whether vessel referred to in my 191522 to Admiralty has arrived. (A.C.I.C., 222012A to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)
- UNICORN. It is intended that UNICORN on arrival in U.K. should be taken in hand by Messrs. Harland and Wolff Belfast for fitting out as Aircraft Repair Ship. (D.O.D.(H), 222333A to F.O.C.T.)

Movements.

- RENOWN. Scapa arrivals RENOWN escorted by SCORPION and SCOURGE at 1025A. (A.C.O.S., 221040A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- S/M Movements. Positions of S/Ms at 0800/23 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.(S), 221756A, 222154A.)
- LONDON, AUGUSTA. Scapa departures LONDON in company with AUGUSTA. (A.C.O.S., 222025A to A.C.I.C.)

Operations.

- Operation S.F. Seidisfjord departure at 2000A/21 S.O. M/S.F.1 in HARRIER, ARDROSSAN, HUSSAR, GLEANER, LYME REGIS in company. C. in C. Rosyth 211521 refers. (A.C.I.C., 220100A to Admty.)
- E.T.A. Thorshavn 0900A tomorrow. SARDONYX in company. (SHIKARI, 220945A to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
Position for 2000/22.
- HARRIER, GLEANER, HUSSAR, LYME REGIS, ARDROSSAN searching vicinity 062° 27' N. 013° 40' W.  
OBEDIENT, MAHRATTA searching 062° 07' N. 015° 30' W. (A.C.O.S., 221204A.)  
Proceed forthwith and join F.O. Minelayers in position 062° 53' N. 012° 16' W. at 1801A tonight. Act as additional escort to M/L Squadron whose line of approach is 293°. When released by F.O. M/Ls at about 0601A/23 return to Skaalefiord. (C. in C. Rosyth, 221259A to OBEDIENT, MAHRATTA.)  
My 221259. If R/V is not made by 1801/22nd, return Skaalefiord. (C. in C. Rosyth, 221312A to OBEDIENT, MAHRATTA.)

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22.9.1943.  
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation S.F. (Contd.) A.M. 241946 August. Information is requested whether AMBITIOUS may be expected in Iceland. (2) If she is self-supporting she would be helpful at Seidisfjord to fleet minesweepers now operating from there, observing there are now no other amenities or facilities available at that place.  
(A.C.I.C., 221544A to A.C.O.S.)  
Add to my 221204 SHIKARI, SARDONYX 062° 10' N. 011° 20' W. to Faroes. Amend position of OBEDIENT and MAHRATTA to read in company with AGAMEMNON, MENESTHEUS etc.  
(A.C.O.S., 221617A to Admty.)  
Your 221312A understood. Am unable to R/V by 1800.  
Intend proceeding to Skaalefiord.  
(OBEDIENT, 221630A to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
C. in C. Rosyth's 141645B August. As no homing signal received report cannot be rendered for operations yesterday. Group was 42 miles from aircraft sighting position and closed on mean course 230° at 26 knots. Neither aircraft nor markers seen. Destroyers agreed their R/T navigational position within 5 miles. Visibility excellent.  
(SHIKARI, 221630A to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Rosyth.)  
Arriving Skaalefiord 0945/23rd MAHRATTA in company.  
(OBEDIENT, 221729A to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)  
Establish patrol by 0900/23rd.  
(1) Group A. (2) 061° 46' N. 015° 10' W. (3) 225° 60 - 60.  
(4) "Apricot One".  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 222349A to M/S.F.1.)

Engagement off Cap de la Heve. S.G.Bs. GREY SEAL, FOX, and OWL carried out patrol in neighbourhood of Le Havre in accordance with your 221238 and 211745.  
At 0034, in 230° Cap D'Antifer 7, 3 large and 4 or 5 small enemy vessels were sighted, range 4000 yards, southbound on the convoy route, speed 8 knots approx. Radar conditions were bad. Star-shell was fired over the Force immediately, and heavy fire was encountered intermittently for the next hour. Attempt was made to persuade the enemy to exhaust his starshell and ready-use ammunition by carrying out long range 3-inch bombardment alternating star-shell with H.E. This was successful, and at 0129 Force closed to attack with torpedoes. Unfortunately, the enemy had split up and the largest available target was a Gun Coaster or Trawler with 4 R-Boats. These were close under the cliffs of Cap de la Heve. GREY SEAL fired 2 torpedoes at the Gun Coaster, range 1000 yards, in position 270° Cap de la Heve 2 miles. One torpedo was seen to explode on the beach beyond the target. On turning away, the target became hidden in gun smoke and the loom of the cliff, and short range weapons were unable to engage as own star-shell was also expended. Shore batteries then joined in and since they were comparatively accurate, GREY FOX and OWL were ordered to withdraw. Lively action between ship and shore now took place, in which H.M. Ships were not involved. Course was shaped northward along the convoy route in pursuit of M class minesweepers, but it is evident that

/after ...

War Diary.22.9.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Engagement  
off Cap de  
la Heve.  
(Contd.)

after separating from the remainder of the Force, these ships must have crept close under the cliffs and so escaped. At 0303 in position 354° Cap D'Antifer 6 miles, it was evident that the enemy could not still be ahead and since the wind was N.E. Force 4 - 5 increasing, it was decided to return to Harbour. Force entered Newhaven at 0810. Two slight casualties, and only slight superficial damage was sustained. All boats are operational. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 220922 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Bay  
Patrol.

On completion of Operation F.D.46 (See Mining) RUBIS is to carry out A/S patrol in zone J.2 concentrating on centre of area. RUBIS is to leave patrol to join route "Gold" in 47° N. at 0800/8th October, thence via "Gold" to R/V with

escort in YY at 0700/10th.

(F.O.(S), 221016 to Capt. (S) 5.)

Disposition at 2000.

1. ULSTER, GRENVILLE, CRANE patrol vicinity 046° N. 014° 20' W.
2. Hospital ship ATLANTIS 046° 35' N. 012° 01' W. northbound 14 knots.
3. P.43 043° 20' N. 010° 28' W., northbound, daily advance 105 miles.
4. P.44 044° N. 009° 05' W., eastbound, daily advance 105 miles.
5. P.614 049° 45' N. 008° 30' W. to 340° Round Island 10 at 0700, thence Falmouth, daily advance 100 miles.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 221524.)

As a result of the recent lack of sightings in the present "Percussion" areas and the change in the U-Boat situation in the North Atlantic the following additional "Percussion" areas will be instituted as soon as possible and will be operated by A.O.C. 19 Group as circumstances dictate in order to achieve maximum tactical flexibility and keep the enemy confused as to the patrols we are carrying out. These areas will be swept by parallel tracks patrols in East/West directions.

(2) By day an area to be called "Percussion" "Z" between the parallels 45° N. and 49° N. and extending from 15° W. to 24° W. or to P.L.E.

(3) By night the following areas to be called "Percussion" "X 1" "X 2" "X 3" and "X 4". Area "X 1" is bounded by the line joining the following points 48° N. 16° 30' W., 48° N. 12° W., 46° N. 12° W., 46° N. 15° 15' W. Area "X 2" is bounded by the lines adjoining the following points 47° N. 15° 45' W., 47° N. 12° W., 45° N. 12° W., 45° N. 14° 30' W. Area "X 3" is bounded by the line joining the following points 48° N. 12° W., 48° N. 07° 30' W., 46° N. 08° 45' W., 46° N. 12° W. Area "X 4" is bounded by the lines joining the following points 47° N. 12° W., 47° N. 08° 15' W., 45° N. 09° 30' W., 45° N. 12° W.

(4) "Percussion" area south for Gibraltar aircraft is to be extended one degree to eastward.

(H.Q.C.C., 221920A.)

/ S/M ...

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22.9.1943.  
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

S/M Patrols. Request you will sail submarines from Lerwick as follows.  
 STOIC at 0600A/24 through 090° Muckle Flugga 5 miles thence direct to patrol line 40 miles 180° 000° mid-way point 066° 01' N. 002° 01' W.  
 (2) VARANGIAN at 1000A/24 through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles thence direct to patrol ND, CC.  
 (Capt. (S) 9, 221149A to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)  
 Positions of submarines at 0800/23rd and movements for following 24 hours. All times Zone A.  
 (A) SEADOG approx. 77° 10' N. 12° 01' E. diving by day to N.E. daily advance 60 miles.  
 (B) STONEHENGE 62° 50' N. 02° 55' W. for 090° Muckle Flugga 10, diving by day at 120 miles per day while north of 62°, thence probably on the surface 10 knots.  
 (C) STOIC sails Lerwick 0600/24 through 090° Muckle Flugga 5 to 66° 01' N. 02° 02' W.  
 (D) UNTIRING on patrol vicinity 46° 29' N. 04° 58' W.  
 (E) UPSTART on patrol between Cape Ortegal and Ferrol, position uncertain.  
 (F) UNISON 44° 20' N. 09° 58' W. dived by day to eastward, advance 105 miles per day.  
 (G) UNITED 44° 01' N. 07° 15' W., dived by day through 44° N. 06° W., thence north-east to patrol position, advance 105 miles.  
 (F.O.(S), 221756A to Admty.)

Coastal Patrols. Patrols 22nd September weather permitting.  
 1. Force C. M.T.Bs. 430, 413 are to patrol in vicinity of position 131 Start 13.  
 3. Force D. M.T.Bs. 677, 664 are to patrol in vicinity of position 180 Start 14.  
 5. Forces C and D are to be on patrol by 2015A. Leave patrol for Dartmouth 0600A.  
 6. Attention is drawn to Q.Z.X. 1095.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 221421A.)  
 1. Orders for night 22nd/23rd September.  
 (A) M.G.Bs. 611, 616, M.T.Bs. 255, 249, 253 carry out offensive patrol of enemy coastal route between 15 miles west and 9 miles east of position YY. Proceed and return by passage two, passing position 2 N at 2100A and returning within 20 miles of own coast by 0545A. Primary objective to search for torpedo targets.  
 (B) LA COMBATTANTE, STEVENSTONE anti E-Boat patrol on 50° 25' N. between 00° 40' W. and 01° 25' W. from 2100A to 0530A.  
 (C) Chasseurs 5, 10 patrol Q.Z.S.384 between F and E.A.5 Buoys.  
 (D) M.L.291 immediate notice St. Helens.  
 (E) M.Ls. 122, 233, 124 R.M.L.532 patrolling 50° 20' N. between 02° 00' W. and 02° 25' W.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 221424A.)

/ALERT ...

22.9.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

ALERT and  
ANDRADITE  
shelled.

At 1614 today when visibility suddenly increased T.H.V. ALERT and escort H.M.T. ANDRADITE were accurately shelled by hostile coastal batteries while servicing number seven buoy.

Seven salvos of two guns and two salvos of four which latter straddled both vessels were expended before enemy ceased fire at 1636.

Prompt action by ANDRADITE and other craft in vicinity enabled our ships to retire behind smoke screen and enter Dover undamaged.

Two members of crew of ALERT suffered minor injuries from shell fragments.

(V.A. Dover, 222122A to Admty.)

Allied Air Activity.

North  
Russia.

No sortie possible today. Base unfit, bad weather, and low visibility over whole area. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 221258A to Admty.)

Mining.

Operation  
F.D. 46.  
(RUBIS).

Request you will sail RUBIS for operation F.D.46 so as to part company with escort in position YY 180° Lizard Head 10 miles at 1330/28th Sept. Thence RUBIS is to proceed dived by day when South of 49° 30' N. via route "Gold" to lati. of 47° 40' N., thence to eastward for operation.

(F.O.(S), 221016 to Capt. (S) 5.)

My 221016 and I.S.O.H.230 para. 3.

F.D.46. (A) RUBIS. (B) About 30th Sept. (C) Groups of four between 47° 45' N. 04° 51.8' W. and 47° 40' N. 04° 51.8' W.

(F.O.(S), 221019A to Capt. (S) 5.)

"Hostile 2".

My 211045A. Operation abandoned owing to weather.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 221445A to Admty.)

Harwich.

Heavy explosion and column of water, presumed ground mine, reported from Rough Fort, Coastguard Walton and Dovercourt at 1729 in approx. 51° 53' N. 01° 19' E. 2 barges in vicinity were approximately 1 mile distant at time.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 221758A to Admty.)

Humber.

At 220833 3 mines detonated by Sweepers in 017 Humber Lt. Vessel 2.8 miles. Details.

(F.O. Humber, 221827.)

At 220944 two mines detonated by Sweepers in 246° Humber Light Vessel 2.2 miles. Details.

(F.O. Humber, 221829 and 232216.)



War Diary.22.9.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. - Contd.

S.N. 222C. Operation S.N.222C postponed until the weather moderates. My position is 062° 56' N. 012° 30' W. Am proceeding towards Faroes.  
(R.A.M., 222100A to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Tanker in tow. 0710, 43° 28' N. 08° 27' W. sighted large tanker in tow by 2 tugs, course 360, 4 knots. Tugs carried no flags. Tanker high in water. Tanker 1 stack aft. Island amidships, 1 Kingpost before this Island and 1 aft. Crew after checking photo - thought vessel to be NORD ATLANTIC. No T.O.O./22.  
(Dunkeswell, No T.O.O. to 19 Group.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. Series 8 continues to be used in vicinity of convoys. Transmission at 0726Z indicates contact is maintained.  
(D.D.I.C., 220859A to Escorts O.N.202, O.N.S.18, E.G. 9.)

A.M. 220859A. W/T activity on series eight continues from vicinity of convoys O.N.202 and O.N.S.18, last transmission being at 1944Z. U-Boats probably remain in contact.  
(D.D.I.C., 222159A to Escorts O.N.202, O.N.S.18, E.G. 9.)

Impending U-Boat offensive. MUSKETEER (S.O.), ORKAN, ORWELL, ORIBI are to form Tenth Group ref A.M. "A" temporarily at Londonderry.  
(2) Tenth Group will be employed as support group in North Atlantic.  
(C. in C. W.A., 221041Z to Cdre. (D) W.A., MUSKETEER.)

Arrived ORWELL, ORIBI, MUSKETEER and ORKAN.  
(Cdre. (D) W.A., 221320A to C. in C. H.F.)  
Admiralty 211530.

In view of drastic change in North Atlantic situation since allocations in Admiralty 211105 August were made, I feel strongly that there should be no further drain on my resources, at least until return of ships from ALACRITY.

2. Suggest therefore that replacement of Ninth be held in abeyance for the present.

(C. in C. W.A., 221434A to Admty.)

22.9.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

- LANCE. LIMBOURNE take AMBROISE PARE under your orders passing gate 1300/22 as escort to Tug LARIAT towing LANCE to join W.P.404 at Eddystone R/V and continue as escort.  
(2) AMBROISE PARE return from R/V escorting Plymouth ships into harbour.  
(3) When P.W. and W.P.404 meet, BLEASDALE and GLAISDALE transfer to W.P.404 as escort to Needles.  
(5) S.O. Escorts are detailed for special escort for tug and tow should she straggle.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 220958A to LIMBOURNE.)  
LANCE in tow of tug LARIAT is expected to arrive with C.E.209 due to pass Medway Gate 1155A/25th. Request LANCE may be basined on arrival.  
(C. in C. Nore, 221124A to A.S. Chatham.)  
Sailed LARIAT towing LANCE as in my 211708A. Request diversion.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 221530A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
- ZEE MEEUW M.F.V. ZEE MEEUW (attached Thames Auxiliary  
sunk. patrol) sunk in collision with American tanker PAN MAINE at 1430 on 21st Sept. in Gravesend Reach. No loss of life.  
(F.O.I.C. London, 221120A to Admty.)
- BENTINCK. Am proceeding to Greenock for urgent repair.  
E.T.A. Clyde Boom 1545A.  
(BENTINCK, 221230A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
Number 2 main exciter set armature insulation requires removal and impregnating baking and testing. My 221230 refers. Unwise to sail on operational duties until repaired.  
(BENTINCK, 221255A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- BENTONY. Owing to plumber bearings continuously running hot I have been unable to keep up with merchant ships and have been obliged to part company with them off Dunnet Head. Am now proceeding at much reduced speed towards Loch Ewe to anchor and make good defects.  
(BENTONY, 221330A to OBEDIENT.)
- AVON. Programme of AVON delayed 4 hours due to leaking oil fuel tank.  
(N.O.I.C. Avonmouth, 221516A to F.O.I.C. Cardiff.)
- FURIOUS. Your 211550. Approved.  
(D.O.D.H., 221722A to N.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

/KENT ...

War Diary.

22.9.1943.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

KENT. KENT taken in hand for docking and defects 22nd September.  
Date for completion 4th October, 1943. Work in hand will prevent vessel sailing at 24 hours notice.  
(A.S. Chatham, 221825A to Admty.)

B.Y.M.S.250. Commodore (D) W.A. 181310. Arrived B.Y.M.S. 250 report both propellers damaged. If approved will try to arrange for her to be slipped for examination at Inverness.  
(R.N.O. Inverness, 221827A.)

SAMUEL L. FULLER (Convoy E.N. 83). Tanker SAMUEL FULLER ashore Sound of Mull. 2 tugs sent to assistance.  
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 222120A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.) Intercept 2027Z M.T. de SAMUEL L. FULLER. Am aground on Yule Rock position 56.30 N. 5.44 W. WALLASEY standing by. Situation critical. Must have buoyancy immediately. Please notify Oban.  
(Port Patrick Radio, 222127A.)  
(Niton Radio, 222132.)  
P.P. Radio's 222127A. Tugs EMPIRE CUPID and EMPIRE ARIEL proceeding to assistance.  
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 222150A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
Two tugs proceeding from Oban to assist SAMUEL L. FULLER. Tobermory lifeboat informed by Inspector of Coastguard.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 222245A to WALLASEY.)

Shipping and Convoys.

O.N.202 & O.N.S. 18. One U-Boat sunk by KEPPEL. One U-Boat badly damaged. One U-Boat probably hit by CHAMBLY. POLYANTHUS. ESCAPADE. LAGAN. Survivors from FREDERICK DOUGLASS and THEODORE DWIGHT WELD. O.N.202. O.N.S.18. Alter to rejoin route immediately fog clears. At 0800Z/22 report your position.  
(C. in C. W.A., 220004Z to Escorts.) My 211412. Re POLYANTHUS. After interrogating Sub. Lt. Young amend. Hit 2236Z right aft, two to three minutes after U-Boat dived. Asdic contact ahead 2,500 yards, ship zig-zagging on line of Asdic contact 16 knots, no shots fired. Full rudder on when hit. No H.E. heard.  
(E.G. 9, 220957Z to C. in C. W.A.) Situation at 0800Z/22nd. Approximately 9 attempts by S/M to attack during night of dense fog. Attacks were made from every direction mainly by single U-Boats. Screen was not penetrated. No casualties.  
(2) Claims. (A) 1 U-Boat badly damaged night 20th by KEPPEL, ITCHEN and NARCISSUS.  
(B) 1 probable hit with 4-inch H.E. by CHAMBLY night 21st.  
(C) KEPPEL rammed, depth-charged, and sunk U-Boat, probably contact-keeper, morning 22nd.

War Diary.22.9.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

O.N.202 &  
O.N.S. 18.  
One U-Boat  
sunk by  
KEPPEL.  
One U-Boat  
badly  
damaged.  
One U-Boat  
probably  
hit by  
CHAMBLY.  
POLYANTHUS,  
ESCAPADE.  
LAGAN.  
Survivors  
from  
FREDERICK  
DOUGLASS  
and THEODORE  
DWIGHT WELD.  
(Contd.)

(3) (A) KEPPEL stem turned, slight leak, but full efficiency.  
(B) ICARUS and DRUMHELLER in mild collision, no important damage.  
(C) GATINEAU in hand steering from own (?R.D.F.)  
(4) ITCHEN and NARCISSUS expect to catch up 1630Z/22nd.  
(5) Unwieldy (corrupt group) convoy which has had no visual (corrupt group) communication or chance of settling down is doing surprisingly well.  
(6) German Radar decoy recovered.  
(7) S.O. C.2 reports 107 survivors ex FREDERICK DOUGLASS and THEODORE DWIGHT in RATHLIN. (2 corrupt groups) delay in establishing ship-shore communication.  
(B.3, 221003Z to Connav, C. in C. W.A.)  
Clyde arrival ESCAPADE.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 221408A to C. in C. W.A.)  
Your 201149 and 201225. Request following information:  
(1) Date of casualties.  
(2) Full details, condition and whereabouts of injured.  
(C.W. Casualties, 221708A to ESCAPADE.)

B. 3's 220955Z. Well done. My warmest congratulations to KEPPEL on her successful attack.  
(C. in C. W.A., 221715A to B.3, C.2, E.G. 9.)  
Your destination is Liverpool.  
(C. in C. W.A., 222253A to LAGAN.)

A.T. 66,  
T.A. 66.  
(QUEEN MARY)

Convoy A.T.66 is due Clyde p.m./25th September.  
3. Convoy T.A.66 is required to be ready to sail p.m./29th September.  
4. Approximately 4,500 personnel will embark at Tail of the Bank p.m./28th September and a.m./29th September.  
(D.S.T., 220220A.)

D.S. 45.  
CHAMPOLLION.

Your 201027. Agreed.  
(D.S.T., 220539A to S.T.O. Clyde.)

AMSTERDAM,  
PRAGUE.

Intend sailing SS. AMSTERDAM at 0615/23 to R/V with PRAGUE and RIPLEY in 058° 42'30", 003° 00' At 0645/23rd. Thence by searched channel to Invergordon, E.T.A. 1215/23rd.  
(N.C.S.O. Lyness, 221108A to N.C.S.O. Invergordon)

Your 181529A. Vessel for Scapa arrived 0745A. (AMSTERDAM).  
(A.C.O.S., 221155A to N.O.I.C. Invergordon.)  
My 201225A. Sailed. (PRAGUE).  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 222354A to A.C.O.S.)

/Swedish ...

War Diary.

22.9.1943.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Swedish  
shipping.

Swedish vessels met on approved route in Admty.  
250445 July are not to be molested. Individual  
ship movement signals will no longer be made.  
(F.O.(S), 221501A to S/M.648.)

MONBALDO  
(Italian).

MONBALDO, 6214 tons now at Gothenburg.  
See also my R.S.1927 September 21st suggesting  
action should be taken to prevent this vessel  
falling into enemy hands.  
(N.A. Stockholm, 221511 to Admty.)

O.S. 55/  
K.M.S.27.

Your 221238A. P.C.S. at 1600A 046° 46' N. 016°  
55' W., 208°, 7 $\frac{3}{4}$  knots.  
(E.G. 37, 221535A to C. in C. W.A.)

T.A. 63.

My 211720. Sailed MAURETANIA.  
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 221555Z.)

War Diary.22.9.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- Axis Shipping. German controlled Spanish BACHI left Valencia 1400B/21st for Sete. SEBASTIAN has arrived Tarragona and TOM has arrived Sagunto. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 220610B to P.34 (ULTIMATUM), (R) Capt. (S) 8, S.O.(I) Med.)
- LADY NELSON. Hospital ship LADY NELSON sailed 0900B Sept. 22nd. Route as for ATLANTIS. My 200921 refers. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 221117B to C. in C. W.A., (R) Admty., etc.)
- ILLUSTRIOUS, FORMIDABLE, UNICORN. R.A.(A) H.F. 221505. Propose to sail ILLUSTRIOUS, FORMIDABLE and UNICORN on 26th. It is hoped to join escort carriers with M.K.F.24. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 221512 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., S.O. Force H, R.A.(A) H.F.) Concur. (Admty., 232352A.)
- K.M.F. 24. Arrived CHIDDINGFOLD, ZETLAND, ROTHER, MALCOLM, G.S. THEMISTOCLES. Above ships sailed to rejoin less MALCOLM plus OAKLEY. CHIDDINGFOLD holds area 1 and world wide recoding tables only. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 221601B to Admty., etc.)
- STANRIDGE, (ex G.U.S. 15). If STANRIDGE can make her declared  $9\frac{1}{2}$  knots, M.O.W.T. wish ship to proceed U.S.A. in next G.U.S. convoy. If not, she should be sailed in next M.K.S. (D.T.D., 221612A to F.O. Gibraltar.)  
Follows a re-encypherment of C.T.F.61 221150 action to Commorseafron, info. to Admiralty etc. (Begins).  
Ref. my 190455Z C.T.F.61. Breaks in STANRIDGE first observing straggling at 190211Z by C.T.F.61 speed of convoy 8 knots. Master stated to investigating escort and Commodore on convoy that 100 feet tear in bottom was leaking, had taken many tons of sea water, later changed by Master to 2000 tons, two holds, and that leak had developed since getting underway. Master stated he was making all possible speed which was determined by investigating escort to be 7.5 knots. C.O. investigating escort convoy Commodore and C.T.F.61 concur in decision to return STANRIDGE to Gibraltar. When so ordered by investigating escort be demurred requested to be sent to Casablanca but was told by escort to carry out his orders. Ref. C.M.S.F.F.201037 (sailing telegram G.U.S.15) SS. JOHN ASHE is not in company however. SS. JOHN BARRY is present. Weather. (Commorseafron, 221850 to F.O.C. Gibraltar, Admty., C. in C. Med.)
- SHEFFIELD. Message Nr.366G cannot be decyphered. Ref. A.F.O.S.209 of 1943 para. 3 (c) area I and world wide tables only held. (2) E.T.A. Gibraltar 1035A boon 1135A/23rd Sept. (SHEFFIELD, 221625A to F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

War Diary.22.9.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

U.G.S.17.

Casa. section arrived U.S.S. NIOBRARA and EXTRICATE, M/Vs. COLIN PETER KELLY, JAMES HOGAN, WILLIAM JOHNSON.  
(Commorseafon, 221953 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med., Admty., etc.)

Movements  
of Spanish  
S/MS.

Your untimed telegram despatched 0057 Sept. 22nd. Repetition part 1 my 241700 August (begins).  
"Your 211614. Submarine B.2 never goes outside line drawn from Punta Herminio to point 1 mile West of Cabo L'Ino". (Ends).  
Admiralty pass repetition to H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Plymouth.  
(N.A. Madrid, 221956B to Admty., (R) F.O.I.C. Gib.)

M.K.S. 25.

Sailing destinations.  
(D.T.D., 221957A to F.O. Gibraltar.)

Danish  
ships at  
Las Palmas.

My 201845. Minister of Marine has not sent necessary orders to Las Palmas because M.F.A. have not passed on Danish Minister's concurrence and will not confirm it to Ministry of Marine when requested by letter to do so.  
(N.A. Madrid, 222026B to Admty., (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, R.O. Las Palmas, F.O.C.W.Af.)  
Matter settled, see 231411B.

War Diary.22.9.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

ALSACE, My 220058 Part 2 final.  
cable (b) French ship ALSACE intends operations on  
repairs. missing Cotonou Cable shortly ( my 071026 Sept. ref  
to Items A and B.) (c) It is not question  
of restoring but modernising French system.  
Danton sees a chance of securing modernisation in  
spite of having no staff to maintain modern apparatus.  
(d) If British Authorities do nothing Danton may secure his end  
through U.S. Authorities in Dakar working on their desire to  
achieve Item 1 (b) above. (3) Suggest whole matter is related  
to Admty. Policy not fully known. Intend to take no further  
action locally for the present. Will, if considered desirable,  
endeavour to arrange visit to London of Danton.  
( F.O.C.W.A. 220058Z to Admty.)  
( W.R. Note:- Repetition of Part 1 being obtained.)

QUIBERON Sailed QUIBERON, QUALITY to Kilindini routed as in  
QUALITY my 201501 S. of A. 17 knots, E.T.A. Kilindini 1200Z  
RAPID. 26th. 2. Shift to W/T at 0245Z/25th.  
3. My 211054 ( not to all N.T. in W.R.) RAPID  
delayed by engine defects. E.T.S. 1530Z/22nd.  
( Com. I/C Durban, 220631Z to Admty., C. in C.  
S.A. C.in C. E.F. F.O.E.A. S.N.O.A. Kilindini.)

CAGNI My 200949C. Following information from prelimin-  
(Surrendered ary interrogation of Italian submarine Commander.  
20/9) Ship left Bordeaux 30th June on operations against  
shipping with final destination Japan for refuelling  
and return. (1) No cargo carried.  
(2) Carried 34 torpedoes, of which 29 remain  
after 2 attacks on shipping in Canaries in Freetown area.  
(3) Fuel capacity 420 tons. (4) Received news of Armistice  
in position approx. 400 miles, S.E. of Mauritius on 8th Sept.  
(5) R/V arranged with Sloop ERITREA proceeding from Shanghai to  
refuel and, to provide escort to Japan. Declined to state  
position of R/V. (6) No information of other S/ms. and none  
seen or met on voyage. (7) Log book and W/T log were destroy-  
ed before surrender. (8) No German personnel onboard.  
(9) Full report of interrogation follows by Microgram.  
( C. in C. S.A. 220958C to Admty., C. in C. E.F. F.O.C.W.Af.  
(R) Com. I/C Durban.)

C.O. of CAGNI refused to take his S/M to sea in an unarmed  
condition unless he receives instructions to do so from a compet-  
ent Italian Naval Authority. He states he considers Armistice  
conditions have been complied with by his formal surrender.  
My 201315 refers.

(2) As it is obvious he cannot be forced either to comply with  
your 210011 para 7 or to take his ship to sea, alternatives  
appear to be (A) to intern him and his crew at Durban (B) Let

/him ...



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War Diary.22.9.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.CAGNI  
(Surrendered  
20/9)  
Contd.

him have his way and allow him to proceed to Simonstown fully armed.  
3. Durban being a commercial port unsuitable as a permanent resting place but this could be arranged. I would prefer to have S/M at Simons- town, so propose it should retain armament and proceed to sea escorted.

On arrival disarmament should be carried out. 4. Policy of watchful courtesy is not easy as C.O. is difficult. He appears not to look upon himself as an ally and says he is anxious to fight Germans.

( C. in C. S.A., 221535C to Admty., (R) Com., I/C Durban.)

Your 221535. CAGNI is too useful a type of S/M to be permanently laid up and for your own information it is hoped ultimately to employ her with U.S. or British crew. Question of disposal of Italian Fleet is now under urgent examination by Combined Chiefs of Staff and pending their decisions CAGNI should be detained at Durban.

( A.C.N.S.(F) Approved V.C.N.S. 222323A to C. in C. S.A.  
(R) Cdre., Durban, C. in C. Med., C. in C. E.F.)

Convoy  
W.S.33

1. N.O.I.C. Takoradi sail ORMONDE escorted by BULLDOG and BOADICEA at 1300Z/29th Sept. routed E. 004 degs. 30' N. 48' W. F. 006 degs. 20' N. 003 degs. 31' E. G. Equator 004 degs. 45' E. H. 004 degs. 49' S. 011 degs. 45' E. J. 006 degs. 00' S. 011 degs. 00' E. K. 018 degs. 06' S. 010 degs. (241) E. thence as ordered in C. in C. S.A.'s 191221 Sept. not to B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire. S. of A. 12.5 knots.

2. N.O.I.C. Lagos sail BOISSEVAIN, DUCHESS OF RICHMOND, ANTENOR, INDRA POERA and JOHAN DE WITT escorted by WOLVERINE, BEAGLE, DOUGLAS and BANN to join ORMONDE in position F at 1600/30 September. 3. WOLVERINE detach one destroyer to arrive (? Bahia Blanca) 1st light 3rd October and screen French Battleship LORRAINE and STRATHAIRD which is anchored outside.

4. B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire sail BELLWORT and C'DNT. D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES F.S. also to screen French Battleship LORRAINE and STRATHAIRD from time of arrival.

5. B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire sail South Atlantic escorts (?to) join W.S. (233) in (? position) H. at 1600Z/3rd or earlier if refuelling is completed in time. 6. W. Africa escorts of W.S. 33 proceeding Pointe Noire to fuel when S. Atlantic escorts join. H.M.S. BANN continuing with convoy. 7. Escorts shift to area Q W/T organization at 2000Z/4th October.

( F.O.C.W.A. 221252Z 231030Z N.O.I.C. Takoradi, N.O.I.C. Lagos B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty., WOLVERINE.)

Transport.

Arrivals 22nd Sept. Transports ANTENOR and JOHAN DE WITT.

( N.C.S.O. Takoradi, 221615Z to Admty.)

War Diary.22.9.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic - Contd.

DOMINE, Spanish ship DOMINE sailed Santa Isabel 1330/20th  
suspicious. Sept. for Las Palmas, Santa Cruz and Cadiz is  
reported by R.O. Duala to have embarked one large  
cabin wardrobe trunk, colour grey and green, belong-  
ing to enemy national name Luhr and in charge of  
Spanish soldier (Moor) going on leave. Also on board is Angel  
Sanchez Artero, a Spanish employee of Luhr bound Barcelona and  
may be carrying mail. 2. Consider identification of these items  
as enemy property by examination at sea might be difficult.  
3. Request immediate instructions whether ship should be brought  
into Freetown for examination. 4. Estimate DOMINE's speed 13½  
(F.O.C.W.A. 221738Z 230856Z to Admty., S.O.I. Gib., B.N.A.  
Madrid.)  
Reply: Admty., 231200A.

TEST, Examination of TEST by diver at Simonstown confirms  
KALE, damage reported in N.O.I.C. Pointe Noire's 071937  
defects. ( details) 2. KALE reports that just before  
arriving at Simonstown on 15th Sept. pronounced  
knocking suddenly occurred in vicinity of star-  
board propellor. 3. Arrangements made to dock  
both ships for thorough examination after which a further signal  
will be made. Meantime it is not considered advisable to use  
starboard engine in KALE.

( C. in C. S.A. 221831C to Admty., (R) Com., Supt.Simonstown)

NEWCASTLE My P.C. and S. at 2100C today Wednesday 017 degs  
53' S. 040 degs 13' E. 027 degs 20 knots.  
Your 220920 refers. Weather report.  
( NEWCASTLE 221837Z to C. in C. S.A.)

PORTSDOWN Position at 2300Z/22nd 004 degs. 51' N. 010 degs  
defect. 54' W. Returning to Freetown, bilge full and  
pump not working suspect leak in ship side, water  
gaining slow. Course 315 degs, speed 7 knots  
BIRDLIP both (sic)  
(PORTSDOWN, 222310Z to F.O.C. W.Af., (R) Capt. D.)

War Diary.

22.9.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

QUANTOCK,  
LEDBURY,  
BLACKMOOR.

V.A. Malta 211744. Intend sailing QUANTOCK and LEDBURY to Malta at 1000/22nd Sept.

- (2) Speed 20 knots.
- (3) E.T.A. 1500/22nd Sept.
- (4) Continuous Watch on 2150 k/cs.
- (5) BLACKMOOR carrying out escort duty as in my 200945 (N.T. in W.R.) (N.O.I.C. Augusta, 220015B to F.O.Sy.(R) V.A. Malta etc).

Enemy  
Sightings.

P.C. and S. of 1 M/V and 1 destroyer 35° 55' N., 28° 10' E. 030° 8 knots.  
(A/C 296/4 220015Z to 201 Group H.Q.)  
Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 35.35 N., 27.38 E.  
One unknown vessel.

(A/C GQD/M via Alex. 220025C to 201 Group H.Q.)

Position of enemy is 35.49 N., 27.58 E.

(A/C GQD/M 220215C to 201 Group).

P.C. and S. of enemy 085° Promotion 24. (As received).

(A/C GQD/M, 220220C to 201 Group).

Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 42.23 N., 10.24 E.

(A/C GLJ/V via Malta, 220052B to 45 U).

Position of leading ship appears to be 054° St. Elmo 28½ miles.

(Malta, 220332 to G.Y.Z., S.L.C/Q)

P.C. and S. of enemy 2 landing craft one (?enemy vessel) 42.44 N., 9.40 E. 090° 6 knots.

(A/C FDF/N, 220740Z to 45 U).

(Nr.3) P.C. and S. of 3 small merchant vessels, based on a fix obtained within ½ hour of 1000, 42.53 N., 10.05 E. 250° speed 7 knots.

(A/C GPO/W, 221025B to A.H.Q. Malta).

(Nr.1) P.C. and S. of 7 small merchant vessels based on a fix obtained within ½ hour of 1000 42.54 N., 9.54 E. 040° 7 knots.

(A/C GPG/W, 221030B to A.H.Q. Malta).

(Nr. 4) My 1025. Enemy previously reported are 3 barges 42.54 N., 9.54 E. X 10.

(A/C GPG/W via Algiers, 221030 to 45 U).

(Nr.2) My 1030. Enemy previously reported are 7 barges.

(A/C GPG/W via Alex. 221035B to A.H.Q. Malta).

Position of enemy 2 Merchant vessels, 2000 tons, 1 merchant vessel 1500 tons, 36.42 N., 24.28 E.

(A/C GLO/T via Malta, 221110Z to 7 W.M.)

P.C. and S. of enemy 6 Seibel ferries 42.50 N., 9.50 E. based on fix taken within ½ hour of 1400, 090° 8 knots. Weather.

(A/C ASC/C 221417B to 45 UV)

P.C. and S. of 4 enemy landing craft are 43.08 N., 9.48 E. based on a fix obtained within half an hour of 1400, 230° 6 knots.

(A/C ASC/Y via Alex. 221424B, 221450Z to 45 U).

(Nr.1) Position of one F\* and 3 unknown vessels tonnage 3000 {?300} is 42.52 N., 9.43 E.

(A/C CWC/F or CJC/F, 222355B to K.T.1) \*As received.

/M.K.S....

22.9.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

M.K.S.26 Alexandria is requested to sail M.K.S.26 a.m. 24th Sept.  
(1) M.S.C.I. 22, (2) (A) 8 (B) 9.  
(3) 309 1000/24th 310, 505, 510, 1540/25th 5 miles North 337, 0200/26th 5 miles north 344 through 512, 1135/26th 033° 08' N., 020° 00' E. 0135/27th thence as ordered by C. in C. Med. (5) SU. (6) High "Cockatoo". (7) C. (8) COLTSFOOT, S.O., HONEYSUCKLE, OXLIP, SPIREA, HYDERABAD. (C. in C. Levant, 220358C to S.E.C. M.K.S.26, S.E.C. K.M.S.26, Admty. etc).

K.M.S.26 M.S.C.I. 22. Onward route vide C. in C. Med. 172303. 2. (A) 8 as far as 511 then 7. (B) 9. 3. 355 1115/25th 3 miles north, 346, 3 miles North 341 0300/26th through 511, 329, 1735/26th 316, 1010/27th 310, 309, 0310/28th, 306, 303, 300, 399. 4. Alexandria section detach and reverse route. To arrive 309 daylight 28th. Port Said section adjust speed after 309 to arrive 399 daylight 29th. 5. ZT. 6. High, "Untrue". 7. C. 8. WHITEHAVEN, S.O., ROMNEY, RYE, MYRTLE, SENNEN, LANDGUARD, ANTWERP, PROTEA. 9. Escorts report boiler hours when south of Malta. Ships for Alexandria and onward escorts follow. (C. in C. Levant, 220430C, 221916C to S.E.C., K.M.S.26, S.E.C. M.K.S.26, Admty. etc).

SHOREHAM,  
ONDINA.

Your 211325. (N.T. in W.D.) (A) Italian Sub. ONDINA in company. (B) SHOREHAM will enter Alexandria. (SHOREHAM, 220651C to C. in C. Levant, (R) N.O.I.C. Alexandria, Cdre. (D) N.Os. I.C. Port Said, Suez, F.O.C. Red Sea).

*ONDINA was sunk  
in July 1942 by PROTEA.*

ALMENARA

ALMENARA confirmed sunk by mine. 25 crew safe (possibly others) (en route) Malta. (N.O.I.C. Taranto, 220809B to D.S.T. (R) P.S.T.O. Med).

RICHARD  
OLNEY  
torpedoed  
(K.M.S.26).

Following has been read. SS. RICHARD OLNEY torpedoed outside Bizerta. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 220825B to S. and A. reading this routine.) Merchant ship RICHARD OLNEY mined or possibly torpedoed in 037° 25' N., 009° 54' E. at 0835. LANDGUARD and ROMNEY standing by. LANDGUARD to report progress.

(ESPIEGLE, 220950B to N.O.I.C. Tunisia, (R) C. in C. Med., LANDGUARD, ROMNEY, Cdre. Convoy K.M.S.26).

M/V RICHARD OLNEY damaged by mine and entered Bizerta. WHITEHAVEN has fuelled Bizerta and will rejoin convoy first light 23rd.

(N.O.I.C. Tunisia, 221547B to V.A. Malta, (R) Escorts of Convoy K.M.S.26).

/Your...

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22.9.1943.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- RICHARD OLNEY torpedoes (K.M.S.26). (contd). Your 221554 (N.T. in W.D.) At daylight in position 321 Cape Guardian 7, steering 114°, sighted PROTEA and 5 merchant ships bearing 030° 5 miles. Ordered PROTEA and merchant ships at 0718 to steer south to regain channel. RICHARD OLNEY failed to comply. At 0730 PROTEA ordered to tell RICHARD OLNEY she was steering into minefield and to steer south. OLNEY mined shortly afterwards approx. 0750. Consider they failed to alter at position B of Q.B.B.149. (LANDGUARD, 221852B to WHITEHAVEN, (R) C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Tunisia, (Bizerta)).
- U/B Following has been read: Submarine sighted 44.36 N., 12.15 E. (Colombo W/T, 220845Z to Admty).
- U.G.S.17 If Casablanca section has not parted company NARICA is to proceed to Casablanca otherwise to Gibraltar for onward routing to West Africa. Tanker EGDA destination is Algiers. My 201101 refers. (C. in C. Med. (A), 220845B to C.T.F.62, GLOXINIA, S.E.C. U.G.S. 17, (R) Commorseafron, F.O.C. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Algiers, Admty. N.O.B. Oran).
- 8th S.F. Enemy Mines. Cancel my 191200. Minefields 1 to 9 inclusive in my 201200 refers. (P.52) DZIK 212151, well done. (Capt. (S) 8th, 220926B to 8th S.F. (R) Capt. S.10).
- M.E. Air Report. A.319 Daily Opsum 147. 20/21 Sept. 7 Wellingtons 11 Hudsons Hassani aerodrome Athens. 3 Hudsons unable to locate Hassani owing to cloud. 1 returned 1 bombed burning ship Piraeus area and unidentified flarepath in Greece respectively. Results unobserved. Remaining aircraft attacked Hassani. 5 Hudsons 7 Baltimores (A.30) Heraklion aerodrome Crete. 1 Baltimore 2 Hudsons unable to reach target in time returned with bombs. (?Remaining) aircraft attacked Heraklion. (H.Q.R.A.F., M.E., 220942).
- X.T.3 Sailing telegram. part 2. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 220943C to Admty. etc).
- Convoy S.N.S.3 HOLCOMBE. Cdre. (N)'s 121842. As there will be over 50 Allied merchant ships also odd Italian anchored north of Malta during night of 23/24th, night arrival not acceptable. (2) Reverse course after picking up Syracuse joiners as necessary to arrive 0700/24th and anchor in area C. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 220945B to HOLCOMBE, (R) C. in C. Med. etc).

/Your...

War Diary.

22.9.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Convoy S.N.S.3, HOLCOMBE. (contd). Your 220959 (N.T. in W.D.) If you can arrive before dark on 23rd disregard my 220945. (V.A. Malta, 221933 to HOLCOMBE, (R) C. in C. Med. etc).

14th D.F. Request you will sail 14th D.F. for Malta. (C. in C. Med., 220952B to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) Capt. (D) 14th D.F., F.O.C.(A), S.O. Force H).

Oil Shortage, Gibraltar. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar's 202021. Request you amend destination of ATHEL PRINCE (T) from Palermo to Gibraltar. Your 201615 refers. Also allocate one Tanker ex O.T.9 and one ex U.G.S.18 to Gibraltar. (C. in C. Med., 221047B to C. in C. Med. (A) (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty).

ACADIA Cancel my 211501B. Intend sailing U.S.A.H.S. ACADIA at 221300B for "Avalanche" southern beaches routed through Avon route 11 and Q.B.B. 219 southern approach. S. of A. 16 knots. E.T.A. Southern approach 241600B. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 221101B to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. etc). My 221101B sailed at 221345B. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 221402B).

G.U.S.16 Sail at 1100/23rd with joiners for G.U.S.16 by Q.B.B. 123 (B) to R/V with convoy in position 212 at 1600/23rd. (2) LAUDERDALE and LEDBURY detach ships for Malta, Sicily and Italy from convoy and escort them to Malta by Q.B.B. 123 (B). (3) LOTUS continue with G.U.S.16, C. in C. Med's 151218 refers. (4) Codeword for para. 1 and 2 "Toilet" 436, low until 1600/23 then normal. (V.A. Malta, 221101B to LAUDERDALE, LEDBURY, LOTUS, (R) C. in C. Med. STARWORT, S.E.C., G.U.S.16).

QUANTOCK, ALISMA, K.M.S.26. Sail 0730/23rd by Q.B.B.123. (B) With Joiner as ordered for K.M.S.26 to R/V convoy in position 212 at (?12)30/23rd. (2) On meeting detach ships for Malta, Sicily and Italy from convoy and escort them to Malta by (Q.B.?).B. 123 (B). (3) Codeword throughout "Flaw" priority low until 1230/23rd, then normal. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 221103 to QUANTOCK, ALISMA (R) C. in C. Med. LANDGUARD, Escort K.M.S.26, (?MILFORD)). (N.O.I.C. Malta, 221103 to QUANTOCK, ALISMA, (R) C. in C. Med. LANDGUARD, escort K.M.S.26, (?Milford)).

/BROOKLYN...

War Diary.22.9.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

BROOKLYN U.S. Cruiser BROOKLYN arrived.  
(Comnob Oran, 221115 to C.W.N.T.F. (R) C. in C. Med. (A) etc).

M.M.S.100, Suggest retaining M.M.S.100 and 101 in place of  
101. SANDSTORM and SHOOTING STAR to avoid long passages.  
(C. in C. Levant, 221150C to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty) Concur (C. in C. E.F., 260558Z).

No.8 Sqdn. AX.877 22nd Sept. Should proposal contained  
R.A.F. in our AX.805 21st Sept. be approved, strategic  
Aden. control of No.8 Sqdn. would be exercised by A.O.C. 222 Group. In this event suggest you would have to provide facilities at Aden to enable one light bomber squadron to move there when required at short notice to undertake local security role. Would welcome your comments on this proposal.  
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 221153Z to Air Min).

M.K.S.26 Request (?you) will sail (list and destinations).  
(C. in C. Levant, 221158C to R.A. Alexandria).

Transports Request you arrange for ATHLONE CASTLE, MONARCH  
for U.T.4. OF BERMUDA and EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA, at present programmed to return to U.K. in M.K.F.24, to be detached to proceed to New York.  
2. They are intended to be included in U.T.4 sailing New York about 21 October.  
(D.S.T., 221214A to P.S.T.O. Med. (R) C. in C. Med. etc).

Landing 12 L.C.G. and 8 L.C.F. are now collecting at  
Craft for Jijelli to prepare to return to U.K. Request  
U.K. your proposals for escorting from Gibraltar.  
(C. in C. Med., 221309 to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

P.A.53 Convoy P.A.53 arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 221345Z to Admty).

Italian Arrived from Sicily VITTORINO ZAMIBONA (Italian).  
Ships. (V.A. Malta, 221402B to Admty etc).

/Carriers...

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War Diary.22.9.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Carriers  
ex  
"Avalanche".

Carriers will be ready to leave Gibraltar by a.m./26th Sept. C. in C. Med., 201018 Sept. refer (R.A.(A) Home Fleet, 221505 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.C. Gibraltar, S.O. Force H).

UNSPARING Intend sailing P.55 (UNSPARING) at 1700/23rd routed through following position 035° 50' 015° 17' 2130/23rd 035° 47' 017° 20' 2000/24th 035° 38' 023° 01' 0600/26th thence West Aegean for patrol. Surface passage on 25th all times zone B.

2. Request bombing restrictions Thursday above route.

3. Permanent bombing restriction as in C. in C. Med. 121059 August believed no longer required.

(Capt. S.10, 221535B to Capt. (S) 1, 1st S.F. (B), H.Q. Malta, 201 N.C. Group, C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 10, (R) Admty. R.A. Alexandria).

Glider bomb  
attack on  
ROMA and  
ITALIA.

Your 201828. Request confirmation of height of release and time of flight of bomb, also whether releasing aircraft was diving or flying level at moment of dropping.

(D.G.D., 221701A to C. in C. Levant).

CROMARTY,  
POOLE,  
minesweeping.

Area south of line 087° flashing green light Giunti Mole as far as 100 fathom line swept and now considered clear of mines, 25 during period, 4 detonated. Total to date 61. Complete sinker and mooring recovered by POOLE.

(CROMARTY, 221804B to C. in C. Med., (R) V.A. Malta, N.O.I.C. Cotrone, F.O.T.A.)

ORION C. in C. Med., 200859. On arrival in U.K. about 29th Sept. changing of 6" guns will be undertaken by Vickers, Barrow.

2. ORION should report by signal if docking is necessary and if any essential defects require to be taken in hand.

3. Refit cannot be undertaken.

(D.O.D. (F), 221804A to C. in C. Med., ORION).

N.A.A.F.  
Report.

Opsum 213, N.A.S.A.F., 21 Sept. 20 U.S. Liberators detailed to attack Leghorn found cloud cover and bombed Bastia as secondary target. 55 tons from 21000 feet to 23000 feet. 2 hits on 1 large motor vessel, 1 hit each on 3 medium M/Vs in harbour. Damage to railroad yards and town. 36 U.S. Liberators Leghorn. 3 returned early 1 bombed Marsala Di Pisa. 95 or 98 tons from 23500 to 24500 feet, damage to industrial areas, small craft in industrial canal, R.R. to Pisa and secondary lines south, area near oil refinery.

N.A.C.A.F. 19/20 Sept. (add) Ref. My Opsum 212, crew of Wellington which crashed in sea on R/C flights reports strike on enemy shipping. 1 7000 M/V and 4 M/Vs attacked 6 miles S.W. of Leghorn with 250 lb. bombs, near misses on M/V.

(H.Q., N.A.A.F., 221815Z).

/Part...



22.9.1943.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

N.A.A.F. Part 3 and final. 2 E/V possibly hit.  
 Report. Wellington crew rescued by Polish D/R near  
 (contd). Bizerta. 20/21 Sept. 2 Wellingtons, 2  
 Torpedo Wellingtons R/C coastwise Cannes to  
 Savone area north east Corsica to Leghorn.  
 1 M/V 1,700 tons and 3 E/V 20 miles off Nice  
 attacked with 12 x 250 lb. bombs from 4,000 ft. Near misses  
 on M/V. Hits on one or two E/V. Two clouds of smoke observed  
 after attack. 12 x 250 lb. bombs dropped just west coast road  
 south Alistro. 21 Sept. 1943. 4 U.S. Mitchells anti-shipping  
 strikes. 5 Siebel Ferries, 4 large landing barges 5 miles  
 south of Capraia Island attacked with 12 shells. 1 hit on  
 S.F. 1 on a barge.  
 (H.Q., N.A.A.F., 221841B).

RESOURCE, My 301247 June. Arrangements are being made to  
 WAYLAND. relieve General service ratings in RESOURCE  
 for repair work, by 200 S.R.Rs. (D). 171 of  
 these ratings were due to arrive in Alexandria  
 about 18th Sept. The 29 ratings who were not  
 available are nearly all electricians of various classes and  
 will be drafted as soon as available.  
 2. Request RESOURCE and WAYLAND be sailed for Trincomalee and  
 Kilindini respectively as soon as they can be spared and in  
 time to arrive by 1st December at latest.  
 (Head of M.II Approved by Controller, 221834A to C. in C. Med.  
 C. in C. Levant, (R) C. in C. E.F.etc).

HENGIST, Sail at 1200/23rd with SALVEDA for Salerno,  
 SALVEDA. S. of A. 12 knots, route by N.E. Channel 036°  
 28' 015° 38' 037° 45' 015° 38' 038° 00' 015°  
 35' thence through Straits of Messina 039° 00'  
 015° 23' to 039° 41' 014° 52' at 1130/24th thence  
 ordered by Cdre (N).  
 2. Codeword "Wilfred" 908, Low.  
 3. Keep constant listening watch on 2150 k/cs.  
 4. Request Messina lights from 0130 to 0300/24th.  
 (V.A. Malta, 221838B to HENGIST (R) C. in C. Med. Cdre. Cdg. N.  
 Force, N.C.W.T.F., F.O.Sy.etc).

Med.Air A.226. Signed Eisenhower. Part 3, Air,  
 Report. Cositintrep No.74, 21 Sept. N.W.A.A.F. Night  
 20/21 Sept. 4 Wellingtons on armed R/C attacked  
 a small convoy off Nice with bombs and torpedoes  
 resulting in 2 ships being probably sunk.  
 21st Sept. 32 B.24s bombed harbour installations at Leghorn  
 whilst 20 others finding 9/10 to 10/10 cloud over the target  
 attacked Bastia where several direct hits on or near misses  
 on ships were claimed. 4 B.25s attacked Siebel ferries and  
 barges off Capraia Island scoring a hit on a ferry and on a  
 barge.  
 (Air C.in C. Med., No T.O.O., Recd. 1920/22).

/M.K.F...

War Diary.

22.9.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- M.K.F.24 A. M.K.F.24 A will sail from Augusta on Sept. 26th composed as follows: (list etc).  
3. On passing Algiers convoy will form M.K.F.24 to U.K.  
(C. in C. Med., 221947 to F.O.Sy.(R) Admty. etc).  
M.S.C.I.22. Request you will sail M.K.F.24 A composed as in my 221947 at 0800 Sept. 26th.  
2. (A) 12.  
3. 277, 287, 283, 273, 264, 275, 293, 299 letters A to H. War Channel. 79, 91, 36, 43, (?51 or 204), 120, 122, 93, 50, 57 letters J to S and Q.B.A.87.  
4. Malta 264 1600 Sept. 26th, Philippeville see para. 9. Algiers 120, 1600/28th, Oran E.T.A. 0930/29th, entering harbour sailing again at 1200, Gibraltar 57 0630/30th.  
5. Incon 380 2 J.  
6. "Manicure" high. 7. A.  
8. (a) Augusta to Algiers HURWORTH S.O., HURSLEY, BEAUFORT, CROOME, ADRIAS, PINDOS. (b) Malta to Algiers One of above as detailed by F.O.Sy. to escort RUY'S. My 221645 refers. (c) Algiers to U.K. PELICAN, JED, WEAR, SPEY, ROTHER, EVENLODE.  
9. (a) HURWORTH is to detach French Auxiliary Cruiser VILLE D'ORAN and one destroyer in position 91 to proceed at best speed to Philippeville E.T.A. 0001/28th  
Destroyer is then to escort BERGENSFIORD and VOLENDAM from Philippeville at best speed to join convoy.  
(b) Convoy enters Oran when MONARCH OF BERMUDA (?transfers) landing craft to DUCHESS OF BEDFORD. (c) After Algiers, convoy is M.K.F.24.  
10. (a) BB to EF. (b) KK to PP.  
11. N.O.I.C. Augusta and N.O.I.C. Algiers pass to escort.  
(C. in C. Med., 221951 to F.O.Sy. (R) Admty. F.O.C. Gibraltar, etc).

- Aegean Cositrep. No.2. (3) Naval. A. 2 German  
Sit. Report. F-boats Leros, one believed Samos.  
B. 4 fleet destroyers arrived Leros morning  
22 Sept. without incident sailing tonight  
Alexandria.  
C. Stores convoy reported in para. 3. Cositrep No. 1 passed  
Cyprus due Castelrosso 0600 hours 23 Sept. Escorted cased pet.  
ship left Haifa today due Castelrosso morning 24 Sept.  
(C. in C. M.E., 221950C to W.O.)

ROBERTS

Following is a repetition of my 221003B (begins)  
ROBERTS. Guns require replacement. Request I  
may be informed whether she should be sent to  
U.K. for change of guns or to Port Said.  
Para 4. of my 221046 August, not to all refers.  
(N.T. in W.D.)  
(C. in C. Med., 222013B to Admty. (R) C. in C.  
Levant, C. in C. E.F., V.A.M.)

/Situation...

War Diary.

22.9.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Situation Report 59. FAULKNOR (D.8) FURY, ECLIPSE, QUEEN OLGA disembarked personnel and stores Leros and sailing after dark for Alexandria. Cdre. D. has begun tour of Dodecanesian area to investigate naval requirement. Upwards of 3,400 personnel now transported to area of which 2830 ferried by sea. In addition over 1500 tons stores and fuel and 15 Bofors have been delivered. Build up growing. First L.C.T. arrived and unloading Kos. F.F.S. LA MOQUEUSE and COMMANDANT DOMINE escorting Coaster and three L.C.Ts., COUNDOURIOTIS escorting small white oil tanker all from Haifa to Kastelorizo. First Coaster to arrive Leros now unloaded and returning.  
2. Arrivals on station DANAE Port Said 22nd Sept. SPIREA, M.M.S. 100, 101, 104, 108 Alexandria, 20th Sept. Dutch Sub. O.23 Aden 21st Sept.  
(C. in C. Levant, 222038C to Admty).

APHIS, SCARAB, EREBUS. Your 211159 (N.T. in W.R.) Request you will sail APHIS and SCARAB to Malta. S.B.L.O. and F.O.O. parties should be sent Jijelli.  
(2) EREBUS is proceeding U.K.  
(C. in C. Med., 222053B to F.O.Sy).

LOOKOUT A.S.Ms. 221130 (N.T. in W.R.) Request you will sail LOOKOUT to rejoin Force K.  
(C. in C. Med., 222113 to V.A. Malta(R) C.S.12, S.O. Force K, LOOKOUT).

Augusta Situation report 70. Tanker SAN VENA(?CI)O secured at Nafta Jetty to discharge 80 Octane petrol.  
(2) EMPIRE DAMSEL loaded with 100 Octane and sailed Messina p.m./21st Sept.  
(3) Reconditioned Italian seaplane took off from Augusta at 1500/22nd on passage to Tunis. (?3) American seaplanes took off in company.  
(4) Distilling plant at S/M base ready for capability test.  
(5) Diesel line at S/M base probably completed by p.m. Friday 24th Sept.  
(6) Labourers from Catania discharging coal satisfactorily.  
(7) L.C.T. 341 docked, L.C.T.332 undocked.  
(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 222200 to C. in C. Med. (R) V.A. Malta. etc).

Corsica Cositintrep 74. 22 Sept. Part 4. Corsica. Para. 1 Intelligence. Destruction of depots at Porto Vecchio and demolitions on roads from Bonifacio to Levie and Sartene coupled with reported evacuation of Bonifacio indicate evacuation of southern portions of island by the enemy. Evacuation by air from Chisonaccia to Italian mainland continued.  
Para. 2. Operations. A. Naval. Two Bns. of French Tabors embarked Oran 21 Sept. on French cruiser MONTCALM.  
B. Ground. Italian troops have entered Sartene unopposed. French troops are moving towards Bonifacio and Port Vecchio, (A.F.H.Q., Algiers, No T.O.O. Recd. 2205/22).

/Situation...

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22.9.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Situation  
report 188.

(1) My 212232 para. 4. SS. WILLIAM W. GERHARD was torpedoed. Cargo of petrol and ammunition took fire and became uncontrollable.

(2) DZIK reports the evacuation of Bastia by air was in progress on 21st Sept. At 1630/21st 2 merchant ships were sunk by torpedo close to the entrance to harbour. 3 ships in harbour were on fire.

(3) During night 21/22nd Sept. U.S. P.T. boats operating from Capri carried out sweep of Italian coast in vicinity of Civita Vecchia but saw nothing.

(4) Strait of Otranto Patrol was maintained during night 21/22 Sept.

(5) Some refugees are being evacuated from Corfu by Italian shipping.

(6) SS. RICHARD OLNEY was mined north of Bizerta at 0835/22nd. Ship has arrived in harbour.

(C. in C. Med. (B), 222210, 222214, to A.I.G. 264).

PALADIN  
defect.

PALADIN detach to Arzeu to clear choked condenser and oil cooler inlets. Estimated time to complete four hours. Has been ordered to arrive Malta before dark 24th.

(Capt. (D) 14th, 222330B to Com. N.O.B. Oran (R) PALADIN, C. in C. Med., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

# SECRET

Lin 22  
9.  
743A

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

222025c/Sept.

M E S S A G E

IN

From. C. in C. Middle East

Date. 23.9.43  
Recd. 2045

C Y P H E R

*Aegean Situation Report*

Addressed. War Office (Pass to Air Ministry. Repeated. A.F.H.Q. Algiers.

MOST URGENT

36879 0/13569 cipher 23rd Sept.

Cositrep No. 3.

1. Intelligence.

A. Aegean. Garrison Tinos surrendered to German naval vessels 21st Sept. Reported Germans did not stay. S.S. DONIZETTI reached Rhodes 22nd Sept. to evacuate Italian P.W. She may have carried approximately 600 German rfts. See also para. 3 A.

B. Ionian Islands. Cefallonia. Germans occupied Argostoli morning 22nd Sept. since when no news from Cefallonia.

Corfu. Situation apparently normal to morning 23rd Sept.

C. Albania and Montenegro. Germans in control Kotor 21st Sept. H.C. 21 German Corps identified 19th Sept. Albania. Corps believed to include 100 Lt and 297 Inf. Divns. Italian tps. began evacuation 18th Sept. under German orders. Route apparently towards rly. area Monastir. Evacuation from Montenegro going slowly. Ferrara Div. bound Skutari. Began move 21st Sept. No information 1st Alpine or 39 (or 19) Venezia Divns. by 21st Sept. Letter reported by MO Four surrounded by partisans. Evacuation 155 Emilia Divn. area Kotor postponed by Germans on 21st Sept.

2. Ground Ops. Nothing to report.

A. Four destroyers arrived Alexandria afternoon 23rd Sept, having completed troop lift to Leros. During return passage sank one enemy vessel ex Rhodes carrying Italian P.M.

Also damaged escort who retired under short batteries.

B. Storeship and three L.C.Ts with French sloop escort arrived Castellorosso 0600 hours case petrol due 0100 hours 24th Sept.

4. Air.

A. Night 21/22nd Sept. Wellingtons attacked Maleme aerodrome Crete starting fires also merchant vessel off Rhodes scoring near miss.

B. 22nd Sept. American Liberators bombed aerodromes at Eleusis (Athens) and Maritza (Rhodes). Results good with hits on hangars and runways. Six aircraft destroyed on ground.

C. Now established total enemy casualties at 005 20 Sept. one destroyed two probably destroyed.

2220250

Recd. in War Reg. at 0625/24.

War Office Circ. S. of S. C.I.G.S. V.C.I.G.S.  
D.C.I.G.S. D.H.O. D.D.M.O.(O). D.Flans.(2).  
M.O.1,4,5(10)6. D.H.I. D.D.M.I.(I) (F)  
(Pm.226). M.I.3,14,17. D.Air. D.D.Air. Air  
Co-ord. D.D.I. . I. . 1. D.C.A. D.D.C.A.  
G.A.1,3. G.M.G. V.Q.M.3. Brig.Q.Ops. Q.Ops 1.  
Brig.Jacob(22 copies). War Regy.(Admiralty).  
Upper War Regy.(Admiralty). A.M.C.S. Air Min.  
C.O.H.2.

Advance copy sent Duty Capt.

1st Lord  
1st S.L.(2)  
D.F.S.  
4th S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
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A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)  
A.C.N.S.(W)  
U.F.R.  
C.I.T. I.M.  
OIS.(2)  
PLOT  
O.D.(5)  
O.I.C.(3)  
D.N.I.(5)  
D.O.F.(3)  
D.I/S.W.

D.A/U.D.  
D.O.F.(Q)(3)  
M.(2)  
C.N.I.  
D.F.D.  
T.D.  
I.F.(3)  
Ad.Blake.(4)  
D.D.O.D.(M)  
D.R.O.(CO)(2)  
S.O.F.(V)(4)

22.9.1943.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Protection of shipping in Arabian Sea and off East Coast of Africa.

(1) To meet the increase in U/Boat threat in the Arabian Sea and off East Africa it is intended to develop the following general system of convoys in those areas. Details in this signal are not intended to be taken as executive action and separate signals will be made initiating the new measures.

(A) Convoys. East Coast of Africa.

(2) Shipping from Union Ports for Portuguese

East Africa and East Africa and shipping under 13 knots for Aden to sail in Durban Kilindini Aden DKA Convoys.

(3) Similarly shipping below 13 knots from Aden for East Africa Portuguese East Africa and Union Ports to sail in Aden Kilindini Durban A.K.D. Convoys.

(4) Shipping of 13 knots or over from Union Ports to Aden to sail independently and to be routed East of Madagascar thence through Approach routes to Aden.

(5) Shipping of 13 knots and over From Aden to start in A.K.D. Convoys and disperse when well clear of the Gulf of Aden thence independently routed to their destinations, those for Union Ports proceeding East of Madagascar.

(6) Ships of 13 knots and over from Kilindini to start in D.K.A. and A.K.D. convoys and disperse and proceed independently to destinations when well clear of Local Area, Arabian Sea.

(7) The following existing convoys to have increased A/S Escort throughout as they become available.

(1) A.B. - B.A. (2) A.P. - P.A. (3) B.P. - P.B.

(4) B.M. - M.B.

(8) The above convoys to include ships of all speeds except in A.B. and B.A. convoys where shipping of 13 knots and over will disperse when clear of the Gulf of Aden and Bombay and be independently routed to Bombay and Aden. Ships of 13 knots and over in B.M. convoys are also to proceed independently to destinations when well clear of Bombay. (B) Individual Shipping Northbound.

(9) Ships from Union Ports. (1) Ships under thirteen knots for Persian Gulf, Karachi, India and Ceylon to be sailed independently East of Madagascar to Colombo or Cochin for onward convoy to final destination.

(2) Ships of thirteen knots and over to proceed direct to destinations through Approach position in force.

(10) Through routed shipping from Atlantic. The Admiralty is requested to divert as much as possible of through routed shipping from the Atlantic to pass through the Mediterranean to Aden for onward convoy as required. The remainder of through

routed shipping around the Cape to be diverted as follows:

(A) Ships below 13 knots. (1) Those for Aden and East African Ports to join D.K.A. convoys at Durban.

(2) Remainder as in paragraph nine.

(B) Ships of 13 knots and over, to proceed direct to their destinations. Those for East Coast of India to Colombo for onward routing. Shipping from Australian Waters.

(1) All shipping for Aden. East African or Union Ports to proceed direct to destinations.

(2) Ships under 13 knots for Persian Gulf Karachi India or Ceylon to proceed to Colombo or Cochin for onward convoy.

(3) Ships of 13 knots and over for Persian Gulf Karachi or Ports on West Coast of India to proceed direct. Ships

/for...

War Diary.22.9.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Protection  
of shipping  
in Arabian  
Sea and off  
East Coast  
of Africa.  
(Contd.)

for Ceylon or Ports on East Coast of India to  
Colombo for onward routeing.

(C) Individual shipping Southbound.

(12) Shipping from Persian Gulf to East Africa,  
Union Ports South Atlantic and Australia to  
start in P.A. or P.B. convoys and disperse  
when well clear of Gulf of Oman as at present.

(13) Except for shipping sailing in A.K.D.  
convoys Southbound shipping from Aden including  
that for Ceylon to start in A.B. convoys and  
disperse in about longitude 58° East.

(14) Shipping from Bombay to East Africa Union Ports and  
Australia to start in B.A. convoys and disperse about longitude  
68° E. Convoy Cycles.

(15) Endeavour will be made to operate convoys on eight to  
ten day cycles.

(C. in C.E.F. 220537Z to Admty. (R) F.O.R.S.C.A., S.N.O.P.G.,  
Com. I.C. Aden, F.O.E.A., F.O.C.R.I.N., Com. R.I.N., F.O.  
Ceylon, C. in C.S.A., Com. I.C. Durban, C. in C. Levant A.C.N.B.)

Further to my 220537. Intend to institute regular A.S.  
escorted A.B. B.A./Convoys and to strengthen the A.B. C.E.F.  
as follows. A.B. B.A. convoys.

(2) The first A/S escorted A.B. convoy to be known as A.B.15  
to sail on 1st October and the first A/S escorted B.A. convoy  
to be known as B.A. 50 to sail in 12th October these and  
subsequent A.B. B.A. convoys will not normally have ocean escort.  
Ships are to be held at Aden and Bombay for inclusion in the ?  
above convoys from 24th September and from 4th October  
respectively. Thereafter an 8 day cycle to be maintained,  
convoys from Aden sailing on 9th, 17th and from Bombay on 20th  
28th etc.

(3) In order to take advantage of increased escort A.B. and  
A.P. convoys will sail in company until clear of Gulf of Aden  
when convoys will proceed to their separate destinations.

(4) Ships of 13 knots and over bound for terminal port of  
convoy and ships of all speeds not bound for the terminal port  
to be dispersed as in para. 8, 13 and 14 of my 220537

(5) A/S escorts for A.B. B.A. convoys will be provided by  
QUICKMATCH, QUADRANT, ROEBUCK and RELENTLESS, NIGELLA, THYME,  
ROCKROSE, JASMINE, FRITILLARY and TULIP, TAY and DERG.  
Destroyers will later be relieved by additional Frigates from  
South Atlantic Station. Captain R. Heathcote D.S.O. R.N.  
will act as Captain Aden Escort Force.

(6) Occasional fast personnel convoys will have to be run  
in addition to regular slow convoys. These convoys will take  
the number of the immediately preceding convoy together with a  
lettered suffix.

(7) Following is forecast of A/S escorts for A.B. B.A. convoys.

/Convoy...



War Diary.

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Protection of shipping in Arabian Sea and off East Coast of Africa. (Contd.)	Convoy	Sailing date	Escort
	A.B.15	1st October	QUADRANT QUICKMATCH. RELENTLESS JUMNA.
	A.B.15A (Personnel K.M.F.24.)	7th October Approx.	
	A.B.16	9th October	ROEBUCK NIGELLA WOOLONGONG. GERALDTON TAY DERG JASMINE FRITILLARY TULIP QUADRANT QUICKMATCH (THYME to R/V about 60° E.) NIGELLA RELENTLESS ROEBUCK
	A.B.17	17th October	
	A.B.180	25th October	
	B.A.50	12th October	
	B.A.51	20th October	

BATHURSTS shewn above are on passage to join respective groups of A.B.C.E.F.

(8) C. in C. Levant is requested to agree to the operation of A.B./B.A. convoys by C.O.M.I.C., Aden, A.B.C.E.F.

(9) The A.B.C.E.F. will be strengthened by inclusion of five E.F. BATHURST due Aden from Mediterranean in early October. These will be used to bring strength of each group up to three ships.

(C. in C.E.F. 221212Z to Com. i/c Aden, Com. R.I.N., F.O.R.S.C.A. S.N.O., P.G., F.O.E.A., F.O.C.R.I.N., F.O. Ceylon, Admty., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. Levant.) Agree para. 8 (C. in C. Levant, 270910C.)

Diego  
Suarez,  
control.

From Acting G.O.C. in C. T.O.O. 2209/0  
Kanibaime Galleret commanding French Navy  
Madagascar recently applied to set up his H.Q. in  
Diego Suarez. This request was refused by  
C. in C. Eastern Fleet. Have just learnt that  
he left Tananarive yesterday with his wife and  
intends to come here in defiance of order of C. in C. Eastern  
Fleet and my own order prohibiting wives in Fortress area.  
Understand Galleret got his instructions from French Navy  
Algiers. Am further convinced that this is start of campaign  
(A) to secure control of Dockyard Diego and probably (B) for  
a revision of Madagascar agreement.

Galleret is most unpleasant individual with whom any joint  
control would certainly prove inworkable. My present  
intention is to stop him at the border. If he gets his way  
future British authority will be seriously prejudiced. On other  
hand as stopping him may lead to difficult situation with French  
National Committee grateful you signal your wishes. He should  
reach here evening 23rd Sept.

("Fortress" Diego Suarez, 220940C to Troopers (R) H.Q. E.Af.  
Comd. C. in C. E.F., Admty.)

/Your...

War Diary.

22.9.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Diego  
Suarez,  
control.  
(Contd.)

Your 81219 cipher of 22nd (T.O.O. 220940)  
1. You are authorised stop Galleret at border if you consider this necessary.  
2. Foreign Office are informing Resident Minister Algiers.  
3. Please pass C. in C. Eastern Fleet. (W.O. 221905A to Fortress Diego Suarez (R) G.O.C. in C.E.Af.)

GEORGE  
WASHINGTON.

Escort will be provided. C.S.W.P.S.F.  
210536 refers.  
(C. in C.E.F. 221027Z to C.S.W.P.S.F. (R) Admty. Com. 7th U.S. Fleet Com. Taskfor 71 N.O.I.C. Fremantle.)

L.S.Ts.

Request L.S.Ts. (be allocated?) destination as follows.  
C. in C. Levant's 151805 Sept., B.A.D.'s 220321 August, and F.O.C.R.I.N.'s 180924 Sept. (N.T. in W.R.) refer.  
(2) To Bombay to unload spare parts for landing craft thence to Colombo to unload steel rails thence to Calcutta. British L.S.Ts. 79, 80, 215, 239.  
(3) To Colombo to unload steel rails thence to Calcutta. British L.S.Ts. 180, 214, 238, 237.  
(4) U.S. L.S.Ts. 17, 21, 25, 72, 73, 175, 176, 208, 209, 261 to be routed as in para. 3 unless carrying spare parts for landing craft in which case they should be routed as in para. 2. (C. in C.E.F., 221157Z to Com. I.C. Aden. (R) C. in C. Levant, F.O.R.S.C.A., Admty., S.O. Force C., F.O.C.R.I.N., Arminda, F.O.Ceylon, P.S.T.O. Bombay.)

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22.9.1943.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Convoy G.U.F.10. Arrived New York 212100Z. All ships accounted for.  
(P.D. New York 220116 to Com. 10th Fleet. C. & R.)

T.U.2. Convoy T.U.2. comprising U.S. vessels MEXICO, BORINQUEN, EVANGELINE and SHAWNEE and British vessel CHRISTIAAN HUYGENS sailed from U.K. 21/9 for New York.  
(D. of S.T. 220228A to B.M.W.T. New York, B.A.D.) (as amended D. of S.T. 230145A.)

U.S.A.T. 22nd 0800 U.S.A.T. G.F. DOWNEY Kodiak E.T.A. 24th coastal.  
(R.O. Cold Bay 220807 to Admty.)

CLYDE. CLYDE New London to Portsmouth England. Total bombing and attack restrictions imposed from departure to destination. Depart 7 miles East Montauk, Point 232100. Times Z dates Sept. unless specified. Proceeds under escort. U.S.S. ASHEVILLE at 14.5 knots advancing 348 miles daily. (Route).  
(Com. Subs. (U.S) 220218Z to U.S. C. in C. U.S. Fleet, U.S.C.E.SF. CLYDE.)

Convoy G. A.T.87. Arrived.  
(B.R.L.O. Trinidad 221201Q to Admty.)

Acoustic Homing torpedoes. Use of P.N.M. Acoustic sweep.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 221248Z to F.O.N.F. etc.)  
See U-Boat Campaign.

Loss of ST. CROIX & POLYANTHUS & damage to LAGAN. Your 212309 being passed to F.O.N.F. Concur F.O.N.F. requested to take necessary action reporting names of corvettes allocated to each Group.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 221253Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) N.S.H.Q. Admty. Cdre. (D) W.A. F.O.N.F.)

MONTCALM. It is agreeable to Combined Chiefs of Staff that MONTCALM go to Mediterranean as recommended by French and concurred in by C. in C. Mediterranean.  
(Cominch 221401Z to Admty. (R) F.O.C. W.Af., C. in C. Med., C. in C. A.F.C.C.S., C.O.F.S. Army Com. 8th Fleet.)

Parallel bar noise makers Standard. (Short title P.N.M.S.)  
(N.S.H.Q. 221430Z.) See U-Boat Campaign.

/N.S.H.Q...

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War Diary.22.9.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

N.S.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q.221500Z.)  
S/M.  
Estimate.

U.S. (Cominch 221550Z.)  
S/M.  
Estimate.

VICTORIOUS information. You may sight SATURNUS Swedish Southbound in about 033° 00' W. Also several Portuguese fishing vessels en route Lisbon from Greenland. (N.S.H.Q. 221621Z to VICTORIOUS (R) Admty. S.B.N.O. W.At.)

GAZELLE. Cominch pass to B.A.D. Washington for information Compliance Cominch U.S. Fleet 181642 when ready about 1900Q/22nd depart Charleston Seabuoy for Bermuda via following points.

A. Charleston buoy through A.C. B. 32.39 N. 64.18 W.  
C. 32.16 N. 64.18 W. thence the Narrows. Speed advance 14.  
Due possible mines off Charleston conduct magnetic sweep for distance 30 miles course 119 from buoy 2 A.C. Completion this sweep continue accordance above points.  
(C.T.G. 02.6 221635, 221931 to Admty. (R) Cominch, C.E.S.F., N.O.B., Bermuda, Cinclant, C. in C. C.N.W.A. C.T.F., 24. N.S.H.Q. C. in C. W.A., S.B.N.O. W.At.)

BEARN. Recommendation by U.S.Cs. O.S. that after re-fitting in U.S. she should be utilized for transportation overseas of U.S. Army and Navy produced aircraft.  
(B.A.D. 221727Z.) Reply - Concur V.C.N.S.231947A.

STRATHNAVER. Your 202150 my 211341. Cause of defects now determined temporary repairs will be finished a.m. 24th. Vessel able to maintain only 12½ knots and must be drydocked at first port. Master suggests vessel proceed to Boston. Request information as to whether escorts will be provided as none available here.

(N.C.S.O. St. John's, N.F. 221740Z to Cominch (R) Admty. C. in C. C.N.A., Cinclant, N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A., B.A.D., C.T.F.24.)  
Refer N.C.S.O. St. Johns, Newfoundland 221740. Furnish escort for STRATHNAVER carrying about 5,000 troops from St. Johns to New York.  
(Cominch 222205Z to Cinclant (R) Admty. C.T.F.24., C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A., N.C.S.O. St. Johns, N.F., B.A.D.)

U/Bs. The following has been read. Am over enemy S/M in 53.50 N. 36.03 W. on course 300° speed 10 knots.  
(A/C DWSX from Liverpool W/T.)  
Am over enemy S/M in 53.24 N. 37.28 W. When sighted S/M was on surface on course 220°. Speed 10 knots.  
(A/C DSWX via Liverpool W/T 221802 to All 93 Group Station.)

/Am...

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War Diary.22.9.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

U/Bs.  
(Contd.) Am over enemy S/M in 053° 58' N. 040° 38' W.  
enemy S/M previously reported was on surface  
course 250° 18 knots.  
(A/C DSWN via Liverpool W/T 222220Z to All 93  
Group Stations)

Convoy  
H.X.258. 1. Sailing despatch. (45 Ships, list, cargoes,  
destinations.)  
2. Part 1 is my D.I.S. 212046 and 221700.  
(P.D. New York 221922Z, 222358 to Admty.)  
H.X.258 additions and deletions, transferred to  
U.G.S.19.  
(B.R.O. New York 222156Z to Admty.)

U-Boat  
attacked  
by A/C. Aircraft sighted and attacked U-Boat at 1744Z/22nd  
in 053° 57' N. 040° 21' W. course 220° speed 10  
no hits. One engine dead.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 221950Z to G.B.7A. C. in C.W.A.  
(R) Connav, A.C.I.C. Admty. N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F.,  
H.Q.C.C., Cdr. (D) W.A., Cdr. (D) Argentia.)

TRANSCONA,  
CYRUS FIELD. E.T.A. Halifax light vessel number 6 1000Z/23.  
(CYRUS FIELD) in company. Engine hours.  
Urgent defects.  
(TRANSCONA 222200 to C. in C. C.N.A. (R)  
D. Halifax.)

U-Boat. S/M. 54.00 N. 41.00 W.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 222211Z to G.B.7A.)

JAPARA. San Francisco 20th Army Transport JAPARA (Dutch)  
Espiritu Santos.  
(N.S.H.Q. 222245Z.)  
S/M contact reported 20.51 N. 75.10 W. at 230035Z.  
(S.O. (I) Jamaica 222330R to Admty.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Kiwi 104. Allied P.Ts. operating Kuba (?Kula) Gulf nightly  
subjected to floatplane attacks and assorted  
calibre heavy fire? from S.E. Kolombangara.  
Japs believed to have placed some explosive  
floating boxes in Coral and Arafura Seas possibly elsewhere.  
Similar contraption exploded recently when approached by aircraft  
to investigate. 15 Jap A/C attacked Funafuti Ellice Islands  
night 13th dropping about 70 bombs. U.S. A.K. attacked Jap S.S.

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Kiwi 104. 13.36 S. 164.59 W. at 1720/M.19. Jap S.S.  
(Contd.) sighted 11.45 M. 16.21 25 S. 164.55 E. another  
15.40 S. 167 x 20 E. at 2000 M 15 another  
probably sunk 15th by U.S. DD and patrol  
Catalina 110 miles East South East San Cristobal.  
(C.W.R. Wellington 220002Z to Admty. etc.)

Movements. 21st U.S.S. KASKASKIA, U.S.S. VIRGO.  
California.  
(R.O. Pearl 220255.)  
Arrived Sydney 20th U.S.D. CONWAY, U.S.D. WILSON  
U.S.D. Tender DIXIE. Fremantle 21st U.S.S.  
CHANTICLEER. Depart Port Phillip 20th U.S.S. ALTAMAHA for San  
Diego.  
(A.C.N.B. 221243.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

W/T evidence indicates contact with O.N.202  
and O.N.S.18 is being maintained and there may  
be up fifteen U-Boats between latitudes 53° 00'  
N. and 55° 00' N. and between longitudes 34° 00'  
W. and 38° 00' W. Other estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 221409A, 221418A.)

Submarines Attacked.

S/M attack and sighting summary for 24 hours to 0900Z/22nd. Para. A. ST. CROIX torpedoed and sunk 1956/20th approx. 57° 00' N. 29° 00' W. ITCHEN missed by torpedo PM/20th September approx. 57° 00' N. 29° 00' W. POLYANTHUS torpedoed and believed sunk 2336/20th approx. 56° 30' N. 30° 00' W. Unknown ship torpedoed 0727/21st approx. 40° 05' N. 14° 43' E. ITCHEN and NARCISSUS made repeated attacks on 4 U-Boats during night 20th/21st approx. 57° 00' N. 29° 00' W. Hudson G/269 sighted U/B. 0625/21st 62° 22' N. 14° 34' W. Course 270°. Para. D. Liberator N/53 sighted U-Boat 0745/21st 50° 15' N. 08° 00' W. Course 257°. (D.D.I.C. 221046Z to Cominch.)

/Acoustic...

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22.9.1943.  
Wednesday.War Diary.U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Attacked. - Contd.Acoustic  
homing  
torpedoes.

C. in C.W.A.'s 201550 in 3 parts - 201537, 201547 and 201550 is being passed to you for information.  
(Admty. 220110Z to Connnav.)

Run P.N.M. Acoustic sweep may provide a counter measure for the new U/Boat weapon which is thought to be an acoustic torpedo. Pending further instructions the following action is to be taken.

(A) Construction of P.N.M. sweeps is to be started forthwith. The standard eight foot sweeps for which working drawings are given in S.A.S.T.M. No. One P.N.M. are to be modified to a six foot span. Bridles are to be made up with the sweeps.

(B) All ships of mid-ocean escort groups are to be supplied with P.N.M. sweeps before sailing on the basis of three per ship.

(C) As P.N.M. sweeps have a short life they should be streamed only when U/Boats are being hunted or when they are known to be in the vicinity.

(D) Sweeps are to be towed singly length of tow 200 yards. A tow one half inch towing wire should be suitable.

(E) Possible damage to P.N.M. gear by explosion of D.C. patterns will have to be accepted.

(C. in C.C.N.A. 221248Z to F.O.N.F. (D) Halifax (R) N.S.H.Q. C. in C. W.A., Admty., Cdre.(D) Londonderry.)

U/Boats in the North Atlantic have adopted the policy of attacking A/S Escort Vessels.

2. There is strong probability that an acoustic homing torpedo is being used which is probably electric and may be inaudible on Asdics.

3. So far U/Boats have fired from their stern tubes at the chasing Escort Vessel from about 3000 yard range on being put down.

4. Speed of torpedo when homing is not likely to exceed 20 knots, but it may be 30 knots for the first part of its run before it begins to home. Homing radius is probably about 300 yards.

5. From theory of acoustic torpedoes it is not likely they would be fired if a second U/Boat was known to be in the near vicinity.

6. Following tactics are recommended:-

(A) Position directly astern of U/Boat should be avoided.

(B) Maximum speed should be maintained.

(C) U/Boat may be closed in normal manner until it dives or until range is 3500 yards whichever is the sooner.

(D) Illuminants and gunfire should be used to induce U/Boat to dive.

(E) An alteration of course of 60° should be made so as to place the U/Boat on the opposite bow when it dives or if the range has closed to 3500 yards, to transfer the ship clear of the probable danger area.

(F) A depth charge at shallow setting should be dropped every half minute after altering course as above.

(G) After proceeding for about 2000 yards the hunt should be continued.

(H) When possible escort vessels should work in pairs.

War Diary.

22.9.1943.  
Wednesday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

Acoustic  
homing  
torpedoes.  
(Contd.)

(7) Although there is some evidence that non-contact pistols may be fitted the use of degaussing is not recommended.

(8) Active steps are being taken to produce counter-measures of the highest priority.

(A.C.N.S. W. 222010A, A.G.M.657A) [See also p. 833  
- - - 938.]

P.N.M.S.

All escort vessels are to be fitted with the least possible delay with parallel bar noise makers Standard. (P.N.M.S. model of 3 B.8.) Equipment and instructions are to be supplied for ships at St. Johns Newfoundland as requested to comply with above.

(N.S.H.Q. 221430Z to C. in C. C.N.A. C. Halifax

(R) Capt. D. Halifax, F.O.N.F., C. in C.W.A. Admty., S.C.N.O. (London.)



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23.9.1943.

Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation  
S.F.

1. The ships under S.O.M.(1) were ordered to return to Seidisfiord at 2000 today if not in contact or failing any sightings.

SHIKARI and SARDONYX arrived at Skaalefiord from patrol at 0850A and sailed again at 2014A for Scapa on the instructions of C. in C. H.F.

OBEDIENT and MAHRATTA, who sailed from the Faroes for Operation S.N. 222 C at 2335A today (see 21 Sept), after acting as extra escorts for S.N. 222 C are to proceed on patrol S.F. It was thought at the time that the postponed Operation S.N. 222 C would be carried out tomorrow, but this was prevented by the weather and at 241801A C. in C. Rosyth ordered OBEDIENT and MAHRATTA to return to Skaalefiord.

C. in C. Home Fleet intends to make 4 additional destroyers available for the Operation, viz. SAVAGE to sail direct from Rosyth, and SCORPION, SCOURGE and IMPULSIVE to sail from Scapa p.m. today for Skaalefiord.

O.N. 202/  
O.N.S. 18  
ITCHEN sunk,  
4 ships  
torpedoed.

2. S.O.E.G.B.3 reported that the combined convoy was attacked by 12 or more U-boats last night, starting at 2330Z in 53.25 N., 39.42 W., (415 miles S. by E. of Cape Farewell). Conditions were excellent for the attacks which came from every quarter. ITCHEN and M.V. OREGON EXPRESS were sunk, and SS. FORT JEMSEG and M.V. SKJELBRED were torpedoed but are considered salvable and S.O.E.G.B.3 asked for tugs.

There was a further attack at 0649Z by 3 U-boats and SS. STEEL VOYAGER was torpedoed and had to be abandoned in a blizzard in 53.34 N., 40.40 W. as it was doubtful if her bulkheads would hold, though she can apparently steam.

Canadian aircraft attacked U-boats at 1520Z in 52.45 N., 43.08 W. and at 1855Z in 52.36 N. 42.23 W. and sighted 4 others in the same area; S.O.E.G.B.3 reports that several U-boats were probably severely damaged by air attacks and one probably sunk by NORTHERN FOAM.

Air  
attack  
on Nantes.

3. U.S. Fortresses bombed Nantes today and hit and set on fire a tanker, a merchant vessel and an escort vessel. A floating dock was also damaged.

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23.9.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

4. ORION sailed from Gibraltar this afternoon for the U.K.

South Atlantic.

5. SS. JULIA LUCKENBACH reported being in collision at 0203A today and in need of help, which was sent. The ship sank, however, in about 58° Cape Agulhas 11 miles. BRITISH RESOLUTION, the ship with which she was in collision was damaged and proceeded to Saldanha Bay.

Mediterranean.

"Avalanche".

6. Coastal forces carried out a sweep along the west coast of Italy north of Naples last night, and destroyers maintained a patrol in the Straits of Otranto.

The build up of Operation "Avalanche" continues according to plan. Enemy air activity against shipping has been on a reduced scale.

Corsica

*Operation  
"Norman"*

7. DZIK reports that the evacuation of Germans from Bastia is continuous by air and sea. DZIK has sunk some Siebel ferries and is leaving patrol, all torpedoes being expended.

Further supplies were taken to Ajaccio last night by a French cruiser and destroyer.

General Giraud, who returned to Algiers from Corsica today asks for 2 additional escorts to assist in landing troops to exploit the present situation. As no other vessels are available C. in C. Med. (A) asked C. in C. Med. for approval to use two Italian destroyers of the MIRABELLO class to escort JEANNE D'ARC.

Cotrone.

8. 79 mines have been cut or detonated off Cotrone to date by the 14th M.S. Flotilla.

/Bari...

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23.9.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

- Bari 9. A port party arrived at Bari this afternoon. The port is in good order and the Italian Authorities co-operative.
- Corfu 10. C. in C. M.E. reports that the Germans began landing at Cape Lefkimo and San Giorgio Bay (South of Lake Corissa) late today.
- Disposal of Italian ships. 11. The proposals of C. in C. Med. for the disposal of the Italian Fleet and merchant vessels, drawn up on the C.G.S. directive are given in a message today.
- Air Operations. 12. The Airfields at Maritza (Rome) and Calato (Rhodes) were bombed last night.
- Aegean 13. The Germans control Lemnos, Mitylene, Chios, the Sporades, the Cyclades (except Ikaria), Rhodes, Caso, Scarpanto, Crete, Kythera and Antikythera. The Bulgarians hold Thasos and Samothrace. Santorin and the neighbouring dependent islands are still undisturbed by the Germans. The Allies have forces in Samos, Leros, Cos, Stampalia and Castelrosso and are using the airfield on Cos.
- The Italians in these islands are co-operating but their assistance would be of doubtful value in the face of serious German threat. Our fighters can operate from Cos, and light naval craft from Leros where 6 M.Ls. are now operating.
- Enemy air attacks on the Cos aerodrome have already started.
- ECLIPSE (see 22 Sept), sank a westbound enemy merchant ship at 0111 today, off the south-west point of Rhodes (C. in C. M.E. states that the ship was carrying Italian prisoners of war). ECLIPSE was engaged by shore batteries but had no casualties. One damaged enemy escort vessel escaped inshore, but was subsequently located by aircraft aground near Cape Prassonisi, Rhodes. ECLIPSE and destroyers returned to Alexandria at 1430 with 130 German prisoners captured in Stampalia.

East Indies.

- Burma 14. Beaufighters today damaged a large steamer, and oil barge and 19 other river craft near Prome.

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23.9.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

15. S.O. of Escort Group B.7., escorting Convoy S.C.142, reports the sighting of a U-boat ahead of the convoy at 2258Z, bearing 120° 1 miles, 52.20 N., 32.48 W. The U-boat dived and was attacked.

Australia & New Zealand.

16. About 6 enemy aircraft attacked Buna (S.E. New Guinea) wharf last night, causing some damage and casualties.

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23.9.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

PHOEBE Request you will sail PHOEBE on the 28th Sept. for Gibraltar to come under the orders of C. in C. Med.  
(D.O.D. H., 231207A to C. in C. Plymouth).

Command of Mixed Groups. Your 211954A. Arrangements in para 3. (A) and (B) are acceptable and are already in force, with Royal Norwegian Navy within my command.  
(A.C.O.S., 231236 to Admty).

ODINN II Your 191522 and your 222012. Not arrived.  
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 231330A to A.C.I.C.)  
My 191522. Mr. Fridriksson has volunteered to sail to U.K. as a guest for interrogation and is taking passage in BELFAST. Request he may be met and accompanied to London at earliest opportunity.  
(A.C.I.C., 231916A to Admty. A.C.O.S.)

Elswick Torpedo Area. A.M. 251820 August and F.O.C.T. 021522 Sept. Approved to use Elswick (Torpedo) Area for submarine exercises. Area to be moved to adjoin new submarine exercise area, being enclosed by lines joining following positions -  
(M) 54° 06' N., 3° 56' W. (N) 54° 06' N., 3° 38' W. (O) 53° 56' N., 3° 38' W. (P) 53° 56' N., 3° 56' W.  
2. F.O.I.C. Liverpool is to report when this area has been swept. Barrow is not considered suitable alternative to Douglas for use by submarines except in emergency, owing to navigational difficulties of approach and as it is not accessible at all states of tide.  
(D.A/S.W., 231344A to C. in C. W.A.)  
A.M. 311135A August. Submarine area referred to has now been swept.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 231930A to Admty).

A.F.D.XVI C. in C. Rosyth 180955. As A.F.D. XVI is not suitable for L.C.T. request information as to reasons for request to retain it at Invergordon for Force S.  
(D. of P., 231642A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Movements.

S/M Movements. Positions of S/Ms at 0800/24 and movements for following 24 hours.  
(F.O.S., 231739A, 231857A, 232156A, 240844A, 241446A, 241618A).

/SHERWOOD...

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War Diary.23.9.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

SHERWOOD A.M. 090808B July. SHERWOOD will be ready on 27th Sept. for use as target for full-scale trials of rocket projectile fire by Beaufighter. Request N.O.I.C. Humber, select a suitable site in shallow water near Hailesand and arrange for beaching ship on arrival.  
(C. in C. Nore, 231838A to Admty).

Operations.

Operation S.F. Faroes arrivals MAHRATTA, OBEDIENT.  
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 230830A to R.A.D.)  
Faroes arrivals SARDONYX, SHIKARI.  
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 230850A to C. in C. Rosyth).  
Intend making 4 additional destroyers available as follows (A) C. in C. Rosyth is requested to sail SAVAGE direct operation S.F. from Rosyth.  
(B) R.A.D. H.F. is requested sail SCORPION, SCOURGE, IMPULSIVE from Scapa p.m./23rd Sept. for Skaalefiord.  
(2) SHIKARI and SARDONYX are to proceed to Scapa forthwith.  
(C. in C. H.F., 231443A to C. in C. Rosyth).  
If not in contact or any sighting by 2000/23rd, group A return to Seidisfiord.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 231507A to M/S 1).  
OBEDIENT and MAHRATTA are available as extra escorts.  
Detach 6 hours after completion of actual operation to proceed on patrol S.F. Arrange R/V as required.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 231524A to R.A.M.)  
Arrived and left same day 1 ship C. in C. H.F.'s 231443A Sept. Proceed passing Switha at 1815A tonight to Skaalefiord.  
2. On arrival act as ordered by C. in C. Rosyth.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 231559A to SCORPION, SCOURGE, IMPULSIVE).  
My 221938. Cancel para 1. Sail at 1800A/23rd by normal route to Pentland Firth, thence proceed West of Orkneys direct to Skaalefiord for operation S.F.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 231705A to SAVAGE).  
My 231559. Sailed. E.T.A. 1000A/24 (SAVAGE).  
(R.A.D. H.F., 231828A to N.O.I.C. Faroes).  
Add to my 231203. SCORPION, SCOURGE, IMPULSIVE 059° 51' N., 003° 46' W. to Faroes. SHIKARI, SARDONYX leaving Faroes for Scapa.  
(A.C.O.S., 231856A to Air Ministry).  
Faroes departures SHIKARI, SARDONYX.  
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 232014A).  
Faroes departure OBEDIENT, MAHRATTA.  
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 232335A).

S/M Patrols. My 221756 para. (E). UPSTART left patrol p.m./21 to cross 43° N., in 09° 30' W. at 0800A/23.  
(F.O.S., 230927A to Admty).  
Positions of submarines at 0800/24th and movements for the following 24 hours.

/(A)...

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23.9.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

S/M (A) SEADOG arriving from southwest to patrol  
Patrols. vicinity of Ice Fiord.  
(contd). (B) STONEHENGE arriving Lerwick unescorted from  
North east.  
(C) UNTIRING as in my 221756.  
(D) UNISON 44° 20' N., 07° 35' W, dived by day  
towards 44° 20' N., 06° 30' W. thence to northward, advance 105  
miles per day.  
(E) UNITED 44° 38' N., 05° 14' W. dived by day towards patrol  
positions 45° 40' N., 04° 15' W.  
(F.O.S., 231739A to Admty).

Following temporary positions are established.

T.1 069° 11' N., 015° 27' E. T.2 069° 22' N., 015° 45' E.  
T.3 069° 30' N., 016° 26' E. T.4 069° 38' N., 017° 06' E.  
T.5 069° 44' N., 017° 43' E. T.6 070° 01' N., 018° 01' E.  
(F.O.S., 231844A to S/MS).

1. Cancel para. 1 (B) and (C) of my 172526.
2. STOIC and VARANGIAN are to be sailed as soon as ready to  
patrol T.3 069° 30' N., 016° 24' E and T.2 069° 22' N., 015° 45' E.  
respectively.
3. Routes (1) STOIC Grey to 069° 35' N., thence direct T.3.  
(2) VARANGIAN Orange to 069° 00' N., thence direct T.2 proceeding  
on the surface at C.O's discretion till leaving Grey and Orange,  
thence diving by day.
4. RUISEH 200 para. 2. B.
5. SHAKESPEARE (?STORM intended) and SCEPTRE are in T.1 and  
T.5 respectively. My 231844 refers.  
(F.O.S., 231848A to S.O. S/M Lerwick).

Bay Fuel permitting Force U is to leave patrol area  
Patrol. so as to arrive Plymouth a.m./26th Sept. proceeding  
through position (J) 048° 43' N., 012° 40' W.  
(K) 180° Bishop Rock 10.  
(2) ULSTER report if unable to carry out this  
programme.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 231008A to Force U).

Disposition at 2000.

1. ULSTER, GRENVILLE, CRANE patrolling vicinity 046° 01', 014°  
20'.
2. ATLANTIS 050° 20', 011° 22' Eastbound, 14 knots.
3. UNISON 044° 20', 009° 15' Eastbound, daily advance 105 miles.
4. UNITED 044° 01' 006° 33' through 044° 01', 006° 01', thence  
northbound, daily advance 105 miles.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 231506A to Admty).  
Have A.S.V. contact, probably U/B.  
(A/C 407 Sq. Duty A, 232059 to 19 Group).  
(N.R.1) lost touch with U-boat last seen in 47.20 N., 11.38 W.  
Dropped mark.  
(A/C 407 Sq. Duty A, 232110A to 19 Group).  
U-boat previously reported course 140° speed 14 knots when  
first sighted in 47° 20' N., 11° 38' W.  
(A/C 407 Sq. Duty A, 232200A to 19 Group).  
My P.C.S. 242° A A 63 miles, 082° 28 knots. GRENVILLE in  
company, CRANE following.  
(ULSTER 232301B to C. in C. Plymouth).  
U/B previously reported was on surface and seen to submerge.  
Returning to base fuel.  
(A/C 407 Sq. Duty A, 232340A to 19 Group).

/Coastal...

23.9.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

Coastal Patrols. Patrols 23rd September.

1. Force E. M.G.Bs. 329, 324, 330 are to patrol in vicinity of position 125 Start 21.

3. Force E, to be on patrol by 2015A, leave patrol for Dartmouth 0600A.

4. Force F. M.T.Bs. 430 (S.O.) 434, 413, 90, 92, 227 are to leave Dartmouth to take departure from position (R R) 180 Eddystone 5 at 1930. Thence at 25 knots to position (T T) 000 Ile de Vierge 7. Force is to sweep for enemy shipping at reduced speed from (T T) to position (S S) 010 Triagoz L.T.5. and return. Leave patrol line from western end and return to Dartmouth through position (R R) in time to be within 35 miles of own coast at first light.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 231452A).

1. Orders for night 23/24 Sept.

(A) BLEASDALE, LA COMBATTANTE, STEVENSTONE, GLAISDALE carry out patrol of direct route between Cap Barfleur and Le Havre. Proceed and return by passage four passing E.A.3 at 2000 and returning to within 20 miles of own coast by 0600. Air R/C reports 1 medium sized merchant vessel and 2 torpedo boats at Cherbourg which may proceed eastward with additional small craft escort. Albacores will carry out R/C between Cherbourg and Barfleur.

(B) Chasseurs 5, 12 patrol Q.Z.S.384 between F and E.A.5 buoys.

(C) M.L. 344 immediate notice St. Helens.

(D) M.G.B.13 8 6 patrolling on 50° 20' N., between 2° 00' W. and 2° 25' W.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 231505A).

M.Ls. 143 and 275 Two miles S. of D. Buoy, proceeding to Newhaven at 0530/24.

M.Ls. 104, 101, 107, 213, 210, 573 and M.T.Bs. 240, 219 38 and 221. Carrying out N.Ls. 103 and 104.  
Route via Dumpton and U Buoys, E.T.D. 1905.  
E.T.R. via U and No. I buoys 0330/24.

M.G.Bs. 114, 108 and 117 from Ramsgate supporting N.Ls. 103 and 104, E.T.D.1930. Remaining on patrol at "V" buoy on completion until 0530/24 when they return to Ramsgate.

M.G.Bs. S2 and 41 from Dover at V Buoy, E.T.D. 1900, E.T.R. 0400/24.  
(V.A. Dover, 231821A).

Enemy Air Activity.

N.E. Coast. Between 0040 and 0120 today a very small number of hostile aircraft flew over Lincolnshire and the East Riding of Yorkshire believed to be engaged on intruder operations minelaying not suspected.  
(F.O. Humber 230155A to Admty).



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23.9.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

S.N. 222 C. Am remaining in vicinity Mygganaes for the present. (S.O. M., 230718A to Admty). Intend leaving Mygganaes at 0300A tomorrow at S.O.A. 12 knots to carry out operation S.N. 222 C. (M.L.1, 231636A to Admty).  
C. in C. Rosyth's 231524A. Join me at 0700A tomorrow in 062° 18' N., 009° 13' W. My course and S.O.A. will be 292° 12 knots.  
(F.O. M.L., 231802A to OBEDIENT, MAHRATTA).  
S.O. Minelayers M.F. 231802. Intend to proceed with MAHRATTA in company at 2200 today.  
(OBEDIENT, 232001A to N.O.I.C. Faroer).

Operation My 221445A. Intend carrying out operation "Hostile 2". "Hostile 2" tonight.  
(2) Force "Hostile 2" is to sail from Plymouth to pass Gate at 1645A/23rd.  
(3) Support force TANATSIDE (S.O.), MELBREAK are to sail from Plymouth to pass Gate at 1815A/23rd.  
(4) Amendment No. (2) to Plymouth memo No. 3084 Plymouth 0148/7/667 of 17th Sept. 1943. Para. 10 amend last sentence to read speed on return passage is to be 10 knots for half hour then 15 knots. Para. 12 line 2 for 0230 read 0245. Para. 14 line 9 for 0215 read 0330. Para. 15 amend last sentence to read force "Hostile 2" will be in approx. 175° Start Point 40 miles at 0600. Para. 16 add (e) If the operation is abandoned on outward journey force "Hostile 2" is to endeavour to keep clear of the support force.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 231122A and 231319A to DEFIANCE).

Humber Acoustic mine detonated by sweeper at 230808 in 106° H.1 buoy, 1 mile. Details.  
(F.O. Humber, 231710).

U-boats.

Impending U-boat offensive. In view of A.M. 657/A of 22nd Sept. (See A.C.N.S.W., 222010A in U-boat Campaign) cancel my 201550Z and my 212333Z.  
(C. in C. W.A., 230027A, W.A.G.M. 765 N).  
My 220947. Ship can comply with C. in C. W.A. 211148. (TRACKER).  
(F.O.C.T., 231759A to C. in C. W.A.)  
My P.C.S. 053° 58' 025° 02', 260° 11 knots altering at (FQ) to 246° A.C.I. Article 331 procedure H (?amended) time 0400Z/24th. EDMUNDSTON joined.  
(E.G.5, 231002Z to E.G.7, C. in C. W.A.)

U/Bs reported. You may encounter U/Bs on passage eastbound and westbound today.  
(D.D.I.C., 230959A to S/Ms south of 51° N).  
On 16th Sept. A.103 sighted periscope in 45° 37' N., 09° 57' W. Disappeared before attack possible.  
(H.Q.C.C., 231045A to Cominch).

23.9.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

SAMUEL L. My 222120A. Ship impossible to refloat this tide.  
FULLER. Tugs will examine possibilities at daylight.  
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 230210A to F.O.I.C. Greenock).  
My 230210A. Vessel sustained following damage.  
Port tanks holed, engine room intact. All ships  
company on board WALLASEY, who is standing by in company with 2  
tugs.  
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 230400A to F.O.I.C. Greenock).  
My 222120 and 230210. Ship now under Salvage Authorities  
who report work will be difficult but attempt will be made to  
salvage vessel.  
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 231235A to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

LANCE Your 211708A. Arrived.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 230904A to C. in C. Plymouth)

DELILAH Arrival at 1305 DELILAH with boiler defects.  
(F.O. Humber, 231455 to F.O. Tyne).

ASHANTI Your 202921. ASHANTI is not to be delayed to  
carry out this work.  
(D.O.D. H., 231823A to F.O.I.C. London).

USK Cancel my 221844. Ship delayed with defects.  
(Capt. D. Greenock, 232011A to C. in C. W.A.)

Shipping & Convoys.

T.A.64 T.A.64 sailed at 0037/23rd.  
(QUEEN (S.T.O. Greenock, 230040A).  
ELIZABETH).

A.T.66 My 220220 para. 2. (a) Personnel details.  
(QUEEN MARY). Grand total 14,909.  
(D.S.T., 230401A).

O.N.S.18 O.N.S.18 and O.N.202 attacked.  
and O.N.202. (B.3, 230705Z to C. in C. W.A.)  
ITCHEN sunk. A. Night 22/23 Sept. starting at 2330Z. 053° 25'  
OREGON EXPRESS N., 039° 42' W.  
sunk. B. 12 or more. Surface.  
STEEL C. Main ahead and on the bow, but some all round.  
VOYAGER D. ITCHEN. Search in progress.  
abandoned. E. FORT JEMSEG and SKJELBRED both salvable, and  
FORT JEMSEG consider tug should be sent.  
and F. NORTHERN FOAM standing by and disembarking  
SKJELBRED crew. SACKVILLE searching for (?survivors) from  
damaged. ITCHEN, then assisting NORTHERN FOAM.  
Survivor from G. Weather 55842353. Add to above.  
ST. CROIX. A. Further attack at 0649Z. B. 3. C. Port Side.  
D. Blank. E. O.N.S.18 (2) STEEL VOYAGER probably  
rejoining under own steam. F. WESTMOUNT standing  
by.  
(B.3, 230805Z to C. in C. W.A.)

/Report...

23.9.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

O.N.S.18 Report as soon as convenient, if known  
and O.N.202. whereabouts in ship, each of merchant ship  
ITCHEN sunk. casualties was struck.  
OREGON EXPRESS (C. in C. W.A., 231724Z to B.3).  
sunk. My 230805 para. (D). Delete search in progress  
STEEL substitute search blank except for empty rafts  
VOYAGER, but 2 ratings ITCHEN and 1 ex ST. CROIX in WILLA.  
abandoned. Add OREGON EXPRESS, survivors 36 in KINGMAN.  
FORT JEMSEG Para. from A. add STEEL VOYAGER abandoned in  
and blizzard 053° 34' N., 040° 40' W, doubtful if  
SKJELBRED bulkhead will hold. No casualties. Survivors in  
damaged. RENONCULUS and MORDEN.  
Survivor from (B.3, 231800Z to C. in C. W.A.)  
ST. CROIX. Situation 1500Z/23rd.  
(contd). 1. Day 22nd dense fog till 1720Z allowing U-boats  
to get into position before air became effective  
and prevented any attempt to organize combined  
convoy before dark.  
2. Night 22nd conditions more excellent for the attacks which  
came from every quarter. D/F gave excellent warning. While  
a number of attacks were frustrated the wide spacing which  
the unwieldy convoy necessitated to get through undetected.  
Attacks were very determined and persisted in spite of detection  
and attack by advanced screen. They continued intermittently  
throughout the night.  
3. Points of interest:-  
(a) Submarines worked in pairs and were seen by advanced screen  
to be burning red lights. (b) Flak was fired into air during a  
dusk search although no aircraft were present, apparently to  
decoy escort near dived companion. (c) ITCHEN apparently blew  
up during a melee having followed a S/M in from the advanced  
screen. Cause may have been surface craft or torpedo.  
4. Attack incomplete. Claimants are one probably by NORTHERN  
FOAM and several severely damaged by air attack(?). Daylight  
23rd numerous D.F.Bs. indicate S/Ms moving up into position  
but commitments of oiling and disablement of ships has prevented  
adequate interference and few have been sighted by air.  
(B.3, 231845Z to C. in C. W.A.)

AMSTERDAM, My 221108A. Sailed.  
PRAGUE. (A.C.O.S., 230847A to N.C.S.O. Invergordon).

W.N.83 W.N.83 did not sail owing to weather.  
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 230910A).  
W.N.83 A postponed.  
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 232326 to N.C.S.O. Kirkwall)

Escort B.A.D. Washington 212359Z passed to you for  
Carriers. information. Request you will comply with para.4  
when practicable.  
(D.O.D. H., 231601A to C. in C. W.A.)

/K.M.S.28...

23.9.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- K.M.S.28            The following ships for Lisbon are to be sailed in Convoy K.M.S.28 on 26th Sept.  
SS. TELESFORA DE LARRINAGA, SS. EMPIRE NIGHTINGALE, SS. EMPIRE MOON RISE, SS. BARON DOUGLAS, SS. EMPIRE JESSICA, SS. LISBETH, SS. KIRUNA, SS. PERIBONKA, SS. GRODNO also SS. KINGSWOOD for Lisbon and Huelva.
2. The above ships are to be detached in position XW (A.M.101533 Sept. refers), or as ordered by F.O.I.C. Gibraltar and to proceed direct to Lisbon.
3. Escort from XW to Lisbon will be provided by CHANTICLEER, SWEETBRIAR, and CAMPANULA.
4. H.M. Trawlers ERIKSAY and GRUINARD, destination Lisbon, are to be sailed as additional escort.
6. On reaching territorial waters escorts are to proceed as directed by F.O.I.C. Gibraltar; unless necessary to fuel, they should not enter harbour.  
(D.O.D. H., 232011A).
- O.N.S.19,            Request you will sail tenth escort group as  
E.G.10.              requisite to overtake and support O.N.S.19 escorted by C.3 escort group. Oversay R/V of O.N.S.19 is at 1130Z/27th Sept. Group should join in about 020° W.
- (2) Present intention is for 10th escort group to transfer to support of H.X. 259.  
(C. in C. W.A., 232230Z to Cdre. D.W.A.)
- S.C.142              Submarine bearing 120° distance 1 miles, course unknown. My position 52° 20' N., 32° 48' W.  
(B.7 232258Z to C. in C. W.A.)

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23.9.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

U.G.S.17 U.G.S.17 sailed as in my 211151 plus (4 ships).  
Cdre. Cdr. Hayward, R.N.R. embarked in  
HARMARTRIS.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 230200B to N.Os. i/c African  
Ports.).

UPSTART Proceed through positions given in my 191844B  
at times 24 hours later.  
(F.O.i/c Gib. 230954B to UPSTART (R) UNISON, F.O.(S)  
etc.).

WITCH F.O.C.W.Af. 131005 not to C. in C. Med.  
M.K.S.25 Intend to sail WITCH as additional escort to  
M.K.S.25.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 231156B to Admty. (R) F.O.C.  
W.Af., C. in C. Med., (Algiers)).

T.F.62 Arrived Task Force 62 FRANKFORD MCCOOK DOYLE,  
PILLSBURY, FLAHERTY, PORTENT PIONEER.  
(C.M.S.F. 231212B to F.O.C. Gib. (R) C. in C.  
Med. etc.).

SHEFFIELD Arrived.  
(F.O.i/c Gibraltar ,231233B,C. in C. Med., (R)  
C. in C.W.A., C. in C.H.F., C. in C. Plymouth).

Danish My 222026. Matter settled. Min. of Marine has  
Ships at telegraphed Las Palmas that ships can sail.  
Las Palmas. (N.A. Madrid 231411B to Admty. (R) V.A. Gib.  
F.O.C.W.Af.,R.O. Las Palmas).

Convoy Arrived.  
G.C.38. (C.M.S.F. 231430B to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) C. in C.  
Med. Admty.)

ORION ORION sailed 1445B Sept. 23rd.  
(2) Route. (A) 035 degs. 47' North 006 degs. 25'  
West (B) 036 degs. 00' 012 degs. 00' C, 040 degs  
00' 014 degs. 30' D. 045 degs. 00' 014 degs.  
30'.  
S. of A. 24 knots. (3) C. in C.W.A. is requested to signal  
onward route.  
(4) Codeword "Theft" 468.  
(F.O.i/c Gibraltar 231450B, 232210B to C. in C.W.A. (R) C. in C.  
Plymouth, Admty. H.Q.C.C. ORION).

ISONZO Spanish Naval Commander at Villa Cisneros  
(Italian) reliably reported to have been ordered Sept.13th.  
Canaries. by Commandant Canaries to place armed guard  
from Spanish Naval Vessel XAUEN on Italian  
M/V ISONZO. Action was protested by Master of  
ISONZO.  
(Commorseafon, 231632Z to F.O.i/c Gib. (R)  
Admty. etc.).

/M.K.S.25...

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23.9.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

- M.K.S.25. A.M. 221957. Destination of CAPE SABLE should be Takcradi, not Glasgow.  
(D.T.D. 231644A to F.O. Gibraltar).
- M.F.Vs. M.F.V. 23, 37 and 73 sailed to Algiers in K.M.S.25. My 102012 and Com. Algiers 152116 and 220226 refer.  
(2) M.F.V. 75 and 89 retained at Gibraltar in accordance with C. in C. Med's. 241729, not to Admty.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 231804 to Admty.).
- SHEFFIELD SHEFFIELD reports:- E.T.A. position 79 2150B 24th at S. of A. of 27.5 knots. As no coast lights are lit except Cape Bon it is intended to reduce speed to about 20 knots for passage of Q.B.B. 149 and 150. E.T.A. Malta 1035B/25th Boom 1120B/25th. It is requested if available Ras Engela or Cani Rocks light may be exhibited for short periods from 2300B/24th until 0100B/25th. (Ends.).  
(F.O. Gibraltar 232130B to C. in C. Med.(A)., C. in C. Med, V.A. Malta., (R) N.O.i/c Algiers, N.O.i/c Tunis, F.O. 15th C/S.).
- LEPINE C. in C. Med.(A)'s. 192019 and my 231839 (to French N.O.i/c Gibraltar only). Embarkation completed. refugees. Ship will sail tonights tide.  
(B.N.A. Lisbon 232335A to F.O.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.).
- ILLUSTRIOUS Your 221512. Concur.  
FORMIDABLE (2) Request names of escorts.  
UNICORN. (D.O.D.(H) Approved A.C.N.S.(H), 232352A to F.O.i/c Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med. S.O. Force H., R.A.A.H.F.).

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23.9.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.JULIA  
LUCKENBACH  
collision.JULIA LUCKENBACH position 34.33 S. 22.06 E.  
collision ZSC.  
(Burnham on Sea Radio No T.O.O. to Admty. Recd.  
0102G.M.T./23).  
(Port Patrick and Simonstown Radios, 230203A to  
Admty.).Your S.O.S. acknowledged. Help is being sent. If able  
to proceed damaged ships proceed direct to Capetown. Confirm  
your position and report damage and name of 2nd ship involved.  
(C. in C.S.A. 230130Z to JULIA LUCKENBACH).  
Later details 241713C.

RAPID

Sailed RAPID to Kilindini routed as in my  
20150. E.T.A. 0600Z/27th Sept. S. of A. 18  
knots, shifts to W/T Group V. A.A. 02457/26th.  
(Com i/c Durban 230614Z to Admty. etc.).DOMINE  
suspiciousMy 221738. (Re request instructions whether  
Spanish ship DOMINE should be brought into  
Freetown). For "sailed Duala" substitute "sailed  
Santa Isabel". Now established report originated  
by H.B.M. Vice Consul, Santa Isabel and  
communicated via Duala.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 230856Z to Admty.).Your 221738Z para.3. Spanish M/V DOMINE. Concur divert  
ship to Freetown for examination.(D.E.W.D. Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 231200A to F.O.C.W.Af.,(R)  
S.O.(I) Gibraltar, B.N.A. Madrid).Your 231200. Have instituted search and ordered ship to  
be brought into Freetown under armed guard. Have ordered officer  
of the guard:- (A) to detain Arturo and his effects in custody  
(B) to request master and officer commanding Spanish troops  
to obtain and hand over trunk.

(F.O.C.W.A. 231810 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Gib. B.N.A.Madrid).

My 221738. Luhr is German trader and enemy agent at Santa  
Isabel, Fernando Po.

(F.O.C.W.Af. 231246Z to Admty.).

Italian  
Ship,  
St. Vincent.Your 181805, not to Admiralty. Request  
confirmation that TAIGETE is in condition to  
steam to (?Palma) if required.(2) Any information on GERARCHIA. My 081850  
refers.(S.O.(I) Freetown 231124Z to N.C.S.O. St.  
Vincent, (R) Admty.).

Your 231124Z.

(1) Consider ship is fit to proceed to Allied port.

(2) See my 151520, not to Admiralty. Unable yet to obtain  
further information.(N.C.S.O. St. Vincent 231425 to S.O.(I) Freetown, (R)  
Admty.).Condition of Italian Vessels at St. Vincent reported by  
N.C.S.O. and Lloyd's Agent:(A) ARCOLA has extensive damage to engine room and abaft but  
could be towed in very fine weather for passage to Allied port.(B) TAIGETE hull very bad, deck particularly so. Part of  
machinery in need of repair. All tanks not self contained.

Present speed 7 knots.

/GERARCHIA...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Italian Ship St. Vincent. (Contd.). (C) GERARCHIA condition poor in 1940. Present condition unknown.  
(2) Italian Consul received no instructions and declines to give information on these ships.  
(3) Comar Dakar desires ARCOLA as hulk at Port Etienne. I concur.  
(4) Propose that TAIGETE should be steamed and ARCOLA, towed to Dakar both for survey. Tug THAMES to be used to tow. Consideration then being given to possible employment of TAIGETE as Harbour Oiler at Freetown this perhaps releasing small tanker. Ship minders mast 1550 T.O.O. 011815 refers.  
(5) If approved request ships may be acquired.  
(6) Request any instructions regarding GERARCHIA. (F.O.C.W.A. 231130Z to Admty. (R) N.C.S.O. St. Vincent).  
Reply: Admty. 271250A.

F.T. Convoy Your 141509 para.2.  
Request you will arrange for Fleet Tender convoy to be held so as to include F.T.22 understood due Recife 29th Sept.  
(D.O.D.(F) 231320A to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) B.A.D. S.B.N.O.W.At.).

U.S.A.T. 23rd U.S.A.T. GATUN.  
(R.O. Recife 231402 to Admty.).

U/B sinkings publication. Your 181649 July. (Re announcement of U-boat sinkings). Request permission to release locally news of sinking of U-boat referred to in your 271650 August.  
(2) Publication which would not include date of position would have excellent effect on morale of air personnel throughout coast of South Africa and would combat tendency towards public complacency resulting from improvement in general war outlook.  
(C. in C.S.A. 231554C to Admty.).

BOADICEA BEAGIE Following received from BOADICEA. (Commences). BEAGLE detached 0620Z E.T.A. destination 0530Z/24th. T.O.O. 230701Z (Ends.).  
(N.O.i/c Lagos 231722Z to Admty. etc.).

Convoy S.L.137 Sailing telegram, part 2.  
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 232015Z to Admty.).



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Enemy Sightings. P.C. and S. of 2 merchant vessels and 2 escort vessels 36.00 N. 24.55 E., 180°, 8 knots.  
(A/C CJD/X via Alex. W/T, 230020Z to 201 Group H.Q.)

P.C. and S. of 3 merchant vessels, one escort vessel, 036° 02' N. 024° 45' E.  
(A/C CJD/J, 230031Z to 201 Group H.Q.)  
Have obtained A.S.V. contact in position 42.45 N. 9.38 E.  
(A/C CJC/E via Alex. W/T, 230045B.)

P.C. and S. of enemy - 036° 07' N. 024° 42' E., 180°, 8 knots.  
(A/C CJD/A, 230050Z to 201 Group H.Q.)  
Enemy course and speed are 180° and 8 knots.  
(A/C CJD/T, 230052Z to 201 Group H.Q.)  
Three merchant vessel and one escort vessel in 36.02 N. 24.23 E.  
(A/C CJD/E, 230110Z to 201 Group H.Q.)  
One merchant vessel 300 2 \* in position SGNE 4754 (35.47 N., longitude indecipherable).  
(A/C UVZ, 230111C to Alex. Base Ship.)  
(W.R. Note - \* presumably intended to be 3000 tons.)  
My 230111C. One merchant vessel and one E-Boat.  
(A/C UVZ, 230115C.)  
My 230115C. Enemy course is 225° speed 12 knots.  
(A/C UVZ, 230122C.)  
Position and course of one medium merchant vessel and 2 small merchant vessels in 43.06 N. 10.05 E., 090°.  
(A/C CJC/B, 230310B to Base 7 GP.)

P.C. and S. of 7 enemy medium sized merchant vessels are 43.05 N. 10.55 E., 090°, 10 knots.  
(A/C KTJ via Alex. W/T., 230450B to Base 45 U.)  
7 transport barges position 42.58 N. 9.44 E., course 210°, speed 6.  
(A/C ASC/K, 231202 to 45 U.)

P.C. and S. of 8 transport barges is 42.50 N. 9.35 E., 030°, and 6 knots.  
(A/C ASC/K via Malta, 231204B to 45 U.)  
No.1. P.C. and S. of enemy 20 L.C.As. is 42.48 N. 9.32 E., 075°, 6 knots.  
(A/C CYH/H via Malta, 231705B to 45 U.)  
Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 43.00 N. 10.07 E.  
(A/C AQZ/F via Malta, 232118B to 45 U.)  
(Nr.2). P.C. and S. of 4 E-Boats 43.27 N. 10.17 E., course 170°, speed 10 knots.  
(A/C AQZ/F via Malta, 232320 to 45 U.)

DZIK, Bastia. All torpedoes expended. Leaving patrol area to pass through 042° 00', 010° 27' at noon/23rd then by reverse of outward route.  
Bastia evacuation continuous by sea and air.  
Have sunk (? 3) Siebel ferries.  
(P.52 (DZIK), 230110B to Capt. (S) 8, (R) 8th S/M.F., C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Algiers, Capt. (S) 10.)

/From ...

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- DZIK, Bastia. (Contd.) From 040° 00' 010° 27' at 2200/24th pass 039° 00' 010° 27' at 0600/25th thence R/V in 037° 26' 009° 26' at 1100/26th. N.O.I.C. Bizerta is requested to arrange an escort in latter position and sail DZIK from Sicily to Malta as convenient. (2) M.J.A.O.24. Request submerged bombing restrictions for above passage. (Capt. (S) 10th, 231405B to DZIK, N.W.A.C.A.F., N.O.I.C. Bizerta, (R) C. in C. Med., etc.)
- ULTOR, DZIK. P.53 (ULTOR) patrol in whole of Zone SQ. (2) Well done again P.52 (DZIK). After passing 042° 00' 010° 27' at 1200/23rd, passing 040° 00' 010° 27' at 2200/24th, thence as ordered by Capt. (S) 10. (Capt. (S) 8, 230644B to 8th S/M.Flott., (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 10.)
- 14 D.F. PENN detached 0700 speed 27 knots, E.T.A. "Baffle" 1300. Request boat with mails for JERVIS, PATHFINDER, PANTHER, PENN, PETARD, PALADIN and Malta meet her. KOOTENAY instructed to rejoin me in 037° 12' N. 044° 02' E. at 1600. (Capt. (D) 14, 230701B to N.O.I.C. Algiers, (R) PENN.) See also 220952B.
- M.A.S. 540. 22nd Sept. 1943 arrival M.A.S. 540 (Italian). (N.O.I.C. Beirut, 230903C to Admty., (R) C. in C. Levant.)
- K.M.S. 26. Pass to Cdre. and Escorts. My 211237B sailed less (3 ships). Tripoli section sails independently. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 230924B to S.E.C. K.M.S.26, (R) Admty., etc.)
- U.G.S. 17. M.S.C.I.22. Onward route 2A 8B 9 (? reference) from 109 through 122, 120, 51, 43, 36, 121, 79 lettered FB to FH. War channel, 299, 278, 212 035° 15' 014° 00' - 033° 03' 020° 00' section (?) lettered FJ to FN then as ordered by C. in C. Levant. (4) Oran 109 0900/24th, Algiers 120 1000/25th, Bougie 12 036° 58' 005° 03' 2200/25th, Philippeville 124 1000/26th, Bone 037° 11' 007° 48' 1500/26th, Bizerta 119 0700/27th, Tunis 123 1000/27th, Malta 212 1330/28th, all dates September. (6) "Taantom" normal for B. (8) GLOXINIA (S.O.), PRIMULA, SOUTHERN MAID, SOUTHERN ISLES, SOUTHERN SEAS, FALK. (9) Speed to be adjusted after Bone R/V to arrive 119 at 0700/27th. (C. in C. Med., 230927B to GLOXINIA, Escorts U.G.S.17, (R) Admty., V.A. Malta, Cdre. Algiers, etc.)

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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- ECLIPSE  
M/V sunk.  
+ DONIZETTI  
\*TA10
- Operating under orders of Capt. (D) 8th D.F., ECLIPSE sank westbound enemy merchant ship at about 0200/23 off south-west point of Rhodes. She was engaged by shore batteries. One enemy escort escaped inshore. No British casualties. Ship returning Alexandria.  
(C. in C. Levant, 230935C to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Med. (A).)
- D. 19  
LOOKOUT.
- Sail at 0600/24th to "Avalanche". S. of A. 24 knots by Q.B.B.146, 283 - SK - thence by route S. of Avon.  
2. E.T.A. Gaeta 1800/24th then as ordered by F.O.(C) 12. Codeword "Nonsuch" 956 Normal. Acknowledge.  
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 230955 to Capt. (D) 19, LOOKOUT, (R) C.C. Force N, C.T.G. 86, etc.)
- USURPER.
- Intend sail P.56 (USURPER) 1400B/24th on surface through 038° 09' 003° 50' at 0030B/25th to 041° 56' 006° 43' at 0500A/26th. Onward routing and patrol zone will be signalled later.  
(Capt. (S) 8, 231002B to C. in C. Med.)
- 24 D.F.
- E.T.A. Gate 0715/24th Sept. TROUBRIDGE, TYRIAN, TUMULT and Convoy S.P.F/6/S LIVELY (as received, could be "26").  
(Capt. (D) 24th D.F., 231006 to N.O.I.C. Augusta, (R) C. in C. Med., S.O. Force H.)
- M.E. Air Report.
- Daily Opsum.148. 21st/22nd Sept. 2 Wellingtons anti-shipping R/C in co-operation with naval units against convoy. 1 merchant vessel, 1 escort vessel sighted off Heraklion 21st Sept. Convoy found off Rhodes Island and bombed by 1 Wellington. 1 bomb seen to burst 25 feet from M/V, other results unobserved.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 231011Z.)
- OCEAN PRIDE.
- M.K.S.25. OCEAN PRIDE returned to Oran after collision with GLENFINLAS.  
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 231035B to C. in C. Med., etc.)
- Cable Repairs.
- MARIE LOUISE MACKAY now at Algiers is required for repairs to Portheurno - Gibraltar 3 and to Carcavallos - Gibraltar.  
2. Considered important to carry these out before weather breaks in Atlantic, but as ship's speed reduced to 7½ knots prior docking essential.

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Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Cable  
Repairs.  
(Contd.)

3. Request docking priority be raised to enable ship to be sailed for Gibraltar in M.K.S.26, 1st October.  
(C. in C. Med. (A), 231037B to C. in C. Med., (R) A.F.H.Q. Algiers, Admty., Com. Algeria.)

T.S.S.7.

M.S.C.I. Article 22.  
(1) Intend sailing T.S.S.7 at 1800/24th as follows: (A) For Salerno (13 ships).  
(B) For Taranto (13 ships). (C) For Syracuse (3 ships). (D) For Augusta (1 ship). (?E) For Catania (2 ships, 1 for onward routeing Palermo).  
(2) (A) 7. (B) 8. (3) Route, etc.  
(4) (3 groups missing) HOLCOMBE (S.O.), LIDDESDALE and LAUDERDALE detach (? in) 37.12 N. 15.22 E. and proceed 857 3 miles south 581 47 position 14 position 31 thence by Q.B.B. 218. E.T.A. Boom 1800/26th.  
(5) AZ Taranto after detaching 94.  
(6) High, "Liege" 7 Taranto join, after detaching "Nostril".  
(7) B. (8) HOLCOMBE (S.O.), ?LIDDESDALE, LAUDERDALE to Taranto, LAMERTON (S.O.), WHEATLAND, QUANTOCK to Salerno, GRAYLING to Syracuse, BENITO to Augusta, MULLET to Catania, BERYL for Cotrone, with (corrupt group) parting company at position 14 and adjust speed to arrive seaward end of Q.B.B. 223 not before 0600/26th.  
(V.A. Malta, 231111 to C.C. N.Force, F.O. Sy., F.O.T.A., M.A.C. 8th Army, 12th Air Support Command, A.O.C. 211 Group, Cdr. Task Force 89, Admty., etc.)

OCEAN  
SALVOR.

Leaves U.K. in K.M.S.29 on 7th October destination Colombo.  
2. C. in C. Levant is requested to route her onward with as little delay as possible.  
3. A.M. 212203 August refers.  
(D.O.D.(F), 231122A to C. in C. Levant, (R) C. in C. Med. (A), C. in C. E.F., F.O.R.S.C.A., F.O. Ceylon.)

ACADIA.

U.S. Hospital ship ACADIA 038° 10' N. 008° 45' E. to Southern Beaches by route Avon II, 16 knots.  
(N.O.I.C. Algiers, 231206B to S. and A. in Area GC.)

ORION  
docking.

Your 221804. Dock is necessary. Essential defects are turret hoists, 6 inch F/C tables and heavy scab pitting in all boilers. Ship must also be cleared of bugs.  
(ORION, 231213 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. W.A., N.O.I.C. Liverpool, N.O.I.C. Barrow, F.O. 15th C.S.)

23.9.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Dodecanese, Following official communique is being issued  
 communique. at 1600 hours today. "In addition to acting  
 in close co-operation with Army and R.A.F. in  
 Dodecanese operations, Allied light naval forces  
 have recently destroyed two enemy convoys in  
 the Aegean, sinking the escort of one and damaging that of  
 another. No Allied naval casualties were incurred".  
 (C. in C. Levant, 231230C to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.)

Operation Giraud who has just returned from Corsica  
 "Norman". repeating urgent request for 2 additional  
 Corsica. escorts to assist getting battalion De Choc  
 into Corsica quickly to exploit present  
 situation.  
 (2) All available schooners and? escort already  
 committed and JEANNE D'ARC available with battalion is  
 immobilized.  
 (3) Request approval to use 2 destroyers of Italian (D)  
 MIRABELLO class to escort JEANNE D'ARC to Ajaccio.  
 (4) Destroyer being diverted to Algiers today by C. in C.  
 Med., Bizerta, to be available if you approve.  
 (C. in C. Med. (A), 231307B to C. in C. Med., EURYALUS, (R)  
 C. in C. Med., Bizerta, N.O.I.C. Algiers.)

SCYLLA, Request your future intentions for SCYLLA and  
 CHARYBDIS. CHARYBDIS.  
 (D.O.D.(H) Approved A.C.N.S.(H), 231317A to  
 C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)  
 Reply: 241243B.

G.U.S. 16. Pass to Cdre. and Escorts. My 211236B sailed.  
 9 ships.  
 (V.A. Malta, 231318B to Escorts of Convoy G.U.S.  
 16, (R) Com. N.O.B. Oran, Commorseafron, Admty.,  
 etc.)

N.A.A.F. Opsum. 214.  
 Report. N.A. Strategic A.F. 21st/22nd Sept. 75  
 Wellingtons Bastia. 125 tons from 5/9,500 ft.  
 Bombing excellent. Fires visible 70 miles.  
 Warehouses, Mole, oil storage and at least 3  
 ships hit. Explosions 2 ships and terrific explosion harbour  
 area. N.A.C.A.F. 22nd Sept. Hits scored on 1 or 3 M.T.Bs.  
 carrying troops by Baltimores and Marauders 3 miles North Cape  
 Corse. 4 U.S. Mitchells anti-shipping strikes. 5 landing  
 barges, 2 escort vessels near Corsica attacked with 8 x 75 mm.  
 shells. 1 hit on barge amidships observed, 2 more probables.  
 2 hits on escort vessel observed. Barge decks strafed.  
 (H.Q. N.A.A.F., 231443B.)

/ARETHUSE ...

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ARETHUSE. Intend to sail ARETHUSE Fr. submarine at 0800/25th proceeding on surface at discretion through 038° 01' 003° 13' at 1630/25th, 040° 00' 005° 14' at 0930/26th, 042° 01' 006° 13' at 2330/26th 042° 31' 006° 17' at 0300/27th. To operate diving by day of 042° 30' between 006° 00' and line drawn 000° and 218° from position 043° 00' 007° 00'. Time zone minus 1.  
(Capt. (S) 8, 231514B to C. in C. Med., (R) 8th S.F., N.O.I.C. Algiers, F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

Attack on  
Italian  
Fleet by  
glider  
bombs.

Following precis of information obtained from ABRUZZI and GARIBADLI reference attack on Italian Fleet 9th Sept. A.M. 162016\* refers.

(A) Attacking A/C definitely identified as Ju.88 fifteen in number in waves of 7, 5 and 3, each carrying one bomb.

(B) Conditions 1530 light north wind clear sky.

(C) Method of attack. 3 successive waves approaches in line ahead then split up and made individual attacks. Each made long run in at estimated speed 140 m.p.h. height 16,000 feet adjusting course to pass overhead. Just before release dived at angle of 20 or 30 degrees. After release flattened out and continued dead straight course. Only one altered away after release. A/A heavy but inaccurate due to ships violent course alteration, had no deterrent effect. A/C made several runs over target until perfect shot could be achieved. Attacks only made from within 40° of fore and aft line preferably from astern and regardless of sun on port bow. Angle of sight at release about 80°.

(D) Action by ships. When attack began squadron assumed a loose formation though taking individual avoiding action. Cohesion maintained ships being 5 to 8 cables apart. ROMA when hit swinging under full rudder at 30 knots and had turned through 90°.

(E) Behaviour of bomb. Release marked by smoke puff and coloured lights. Bomb gave off smoke, rocket trail ceased after 10,000 feet bomb falling freely for remaining 6000 feet. Descent began at angle of 85° terminating vertically and with no noticeable alteration of course.

(F) Nature of bomb. All one type extremely long about 1500 k.g., no planes or attachments on bow. Nothing unusual about tail. Only made splash entering water and not appear explode even underwater.

(G) Effect of bomb. ROMA struck upper deck abreast B turret causing small explosion shortly followed by magazine explosion. Presumed to have passed through 8 inches of armour including 1 inch splinter proof deck. ITALIA hit fore-castle deck then out through ships side and exploded. Bomb, which entered appreciably off vertical made hole in deck 20 inches in diameter. GARIBALDI two near misses 20 yards from quarter deck and 5 from fore-castle no explosion felt.

(H) Information. Italian Admiral stated Italians had originally invented but not yet perfected rocket bomb. Unaware Germans had also taken up similar type missile.

(F.O.(H), 231533B to Admty.)

\* Re requesting any information obtained from Italians on sinking of ROMA.

War Diary.23.9.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.FIRUZ,  
ALBA JULIA.

A. My 201631C. FIRUZ and ALBA JULIA have not renewed clearance today Sept. 23rd.  
 B. Sailing delayed owing to difficulty ? providing suitable escort. B.3.  
 (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 231545C to C. in C. Levant, S.O.(I) Levant, S.1, S.10, D.N.I.)

S/M SURF.

Request SURF sailing 25th Sept. may be included in U.G.S.17 for Port Said and onward passage to Eastern Fleet.  
 (Capt. (S) 8, 231600B to N.O.I.C. Algiers, (R) C. in C. Levant, Capt. (S) 4, Capt. (S) 10, SURF, Admty., etc.)

PRINCE  
CHARLES.

Serious leak in main manoeuvring valve. Ship can fulfil immediate commitments. 5 days required to make good defect by ship's staff at earliest date.  
 (PRINCE CHARLES, 231613B to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.Sy., F.O.T.A., S.O. Force N, N.O.I.C. Augusta)

CROMARTY  
minesweeping.

Area south of line 080° North breakwater light. 18 mines cut. Total to date 79.  
 My 221804 refers.  
 (CROMARTY, 231646B to C. in C. Med.)

G.U.S. 16.

LOTUS is S.O. Escorts G.U.S.16.  
 (V.A. Malta, 231726 to Admty., etc.)

K.M.S. 26.

Intend sailing ZAHRA, STANFORTH, SOMERSET COAST, TRAJANUS for Alexandria with PUNNET for Tobruk escorted by KINGSTON CORAL S.O., Cdre. M.Ls. 387, 384, 360, 577 at 2005/24th to meet K.M.S.26 at 511, 0931/26th. (2) S. of A. 7 knots.  
 (3) 267, 357, 354, 351 1101/25th, 7, 342, 2230/25th. Thence adjusting speed through "Forcible" to arrive 511 0931/26th.  
 (4) Priority normal codeword (corrupt group).  
 (5) All times C.  
 (6) Following M.Ls. 387, 384, 360, PUNNET, 680 at 511, 267, 333 to Tobruk. M.Ls., Gunboats, continue with K.M.S.26 to Alexandria.  
 (S.N.O. Cyrenaica, 231731C to Naval and Air Authorities Western Desert, Escorts K.M.S.26, (R) Escorts X.T.3, C.F.E., COLTSFOOT.)

U.G.S. 16.

U.G.S. 16 following arrived (10 ships).  
 (R.A. Alex., 231746C to Admty., (R) S.O. Levant.)

/Med. ...

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23.9.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Med. Air Report. A.232, signed Eisenhower. Part 3, Air, Cositintrep No. 75. N.W.A. Air Forces. Night 21st/22nd Sept. 125 tons of mixed bombs were dropped in a raid by 75 Wellingtons on docks and harbour installations at Bastia. 2 Wellingtons on armed shipping R/C made no sighting so bombed the coast road S. of Leghorn. Day 22nd Sept. 8 B.25 which attacked landing craft off Bastia claim hits by 75 mm. shells on a barge and an E/V. Warhawks attacked Manfredonia harbour claiming a direct hit on a 2000 ton M/V. (Air C. in C. Med., No T.O.O./23, Recd. 1805/23.)

PETER GALLAGHER, DORA (aground). Confirming telephone conversation Fenwick/Galloway. Request Tug PETER GALLAGHER be despatched to position 4½ miles W.N.W. of Khan Tunia and 16 miles south of Gaza where Lighter B.961 E.6 DORA is lying ashore. Tug Master to contact Captain Brana Gan on site. Vessel must be equipped with portable motor pump, suction and delivery hose and petrol. (N.O.I.C. Haifa, 231821C to N.O.I.C. Beirut.)

K.M.F. 25, K.M.F. 25A. Owing to late return of M.K.F.24 troopships capacity for only 10,000 will be available for K.M.F.25 sailing U.K. 15th October. 2. U.S. Authorities have been asked if there is any objection to addition of British transports to U.T.3 convoy, sailing from U.K. with U.S. escort about 27th October. This convoy will be known as K.M.F.25A. 3. As capacity in para. 1 is inadequate to cover requirements for Middle East, India and East and South Africa, request advice whether, if ships with personnel for Middle East and beyond are included in K.M.F.25A, arrangements can be made for their passage through Med. Request estimated date of arrival in Middle East. 4. British ships with personnel for North Africa only would join returning U.S. Convoy for U.K. (D.S.T., 231834A to C. in C. Med.) Reply: C. in C. Med., 271207.

Operation "Barracuda". My 031805 August (N.T. in W.D.) Bigot procedure is cancelled forthwith for Operation "Barracuda". (Head of M.(II), 231842A to C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. H.F., F.O.I.C. Greenock, F.O.C.T.)

UNRUFFLED, UNSHAKEN, B.Y.M.S.28. In accordance with verbal instructions from C. in C. Med. intend sailing UNRUFFLED and UNSHAKEN escorted by M.S.28 at 0930/26th routed via North-west to through 275 036° 55' 011° 13' thence by war channel to pass 037° 22' 009° 21' at 1900/27th, S. of A. 8½ knots.

/2. Request ...



23.9.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- UNRUFFLED,  
UNSHAKEN,  
B.Y.M.S. 28.  
(Contd.)
2. Request you will detach submarine for patrol in Gulf of Genoa and signal amendment routeing to Algiers for B.Y.M.S.28, S. of A. 10 knots.
3. Submarine will shift to Algiers broadcast at 0130/27th.
4. B.Y.M.S. 28 will keep constant R/T watch on 2150 k/cs.
5. Codeword "Nitwit" Government priority normal.
6. B.Y.M.S.28 should be sailed for Malta after disembarking personal gear of submarine crew.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 231931B to Capt. (S) 8, (R) C. in C. Med., etc.)
- C. in C. C. in C. will arrive La Marsa 1030B tomorrow 24th leaving for Bizerta about noon.  
(C. in C. Malta, 231946B to C. in C. Med., Admty., C. in C. Med. (A).)
- Glider bomb investigation. A.M. 181545. A special party will be sent to Malta by air leaving U.K. tomorrow Friday (details).  
5. Requested this party may be put in touch with Lieut. Rae on arrival.  
(D.S.D., 231952A to C. in C. Med.)
- HYTHE. HYTHE sailed at 1945/23rd Sept. to join K.M.S. 26. C. in C. Med. 201735 (N.T. in W.D.) refers.  
(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 232001B to C. in C. Med.)
- M.K.S. 25. Following ships arrived afternoon (list).  
OCEAN PRIDE returned to Oran after collision with GLENFINLAS.  
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 232035B to C. in C. Med.)
- Situation Report No. 60. FAULKNOR (D.8) FURY, ECLIPSE, QUEEN OLGA left Leros after dark 22nd for Alexandria.  
FAULKNOR and QUEEN OLGA sweeping west of Stampalia and through Kaso Strait, FURY and ECLIPSE patrolling North and South ends of Scarpanto Strait. At 0111/23rd ECLIPSE sighted and sank westbound enemy M/V off south-west points of Rhodes under fire of shore batteries no British casualties. One enemy escort damaged escaped inshore.\* Destroyers arrived Alexandria 1430 with 128 German prisoners captured in Stampalia. 6 M.Ls. now operating at Leros.  
2. Convoys. U.G.S.16 arrived 23rd with 10 M/Vs for Alexandria, and 20 for Port Said and beyond. T.X.2, 1 M/V from Tripoli (L) arrived Alexandria 23rd.  
(C. in C. Levant, 232045C to Admty.)  
\* Later information, 242050C.

Donizetti  
TA 10

/Oran ...

779

23.9.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Oran departures. Departures U.S.S. BROOKLYN, WOOLSEY, EDISON. C. in C. Med. pass to Comnavnaw. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 232202B to Admty., etc.)

S.T.S.3. Intend sail convoy S.T.S.3 consisting of (list) escorted by WHADDON S.O., EGGERTON, (?EGGESFORD) and WILTON at 0800B/24th for Malta.  
2. Following ships join from Saftguy (? Salerno) in 040° 22' N. 014° 37' E. at 1000B/24th with additional escort as far as Straits of Messina as ordered by C.T.F.89: (list) Following may also join if unloading is completed in time (list)  
3. Route R, speed 8 knots. E.T.A. 0001B/26th. R/V for ships joining from East Sicily Ports as follows:-  
From Messina - in 038° 11' N. 015° 37' E. at 0500B/25th.  
Catania - in 037° 24' 015° 30' at 1100B/25th.  
Augusta - 037° 10' 015° 30' 1245B/25th.  
Syracuse - 037° 02' 015° 30' 1345/25th.  
5. Codeword "Scream" 3, call sign 2733, high priority. (S.O. Force N, 232213 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty., etc.) Amended 240848.

Italian Shipping in Spanish ports. Admty. pass to C. in C. Med. (A), F.O. Taranto C. in C. Med. (begins). U.S.N.A. and I have now (? promise) of real co-operation from Italian N.A. who is sending for S.N.O. Port Mahon to come to Madrid by air (we are helping over this) to report on welfare of officers and men and fuel supplies with the intention of sailing all ships as soon as diplomatic representations by Italian Ambassador backed by Allied Ambassadors have produced agreement that ships can leave for Palermo. Details of requirements (? to be) signalled later. (N.A. Madrid, 232214B to Admty.)

Use of Italian Fleet, policy. Italian Minister of Marine came on board EURYALUS at Taranto today 23rd Sept. to discuss outstanding matters concerning Italian Fleet and Mercantile Marine. I found him on the whole desirous of co-operating to fullest degree.  
2. He was handed a Memorandum dealing with proposed dispositions of the Fleet and merchant ships and agreed fully on two points, namely -  
(A) Proposal that certain warships should be kept in service and work in Allied interest.  
(B) That battleships should be placed in care and maintenance. He said he must have Marshal Badoglio's authority. He subsequently telephoned and obtained this authority.  
3. All proposals in Memorandum, a copy of which is being dispatched to Admty. by fastest means, have thus been agreed to by Minister of Marine.  
4. Main points in Memorandum which has been drawn up on C.G.S. Directive given in FAN. 233 are -

(A) Warships ...

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23.9.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Use of  
Italian  
Fleet,  
policy.  
(Contd.)

(A) Warships which can be of effective use to Allied effort will be employed under direction of C. in C. Med. who will make available Flag Officer and appropriate staff to co-ordinate action of Italian warships and issue necessary directions to Ministry of Marine.

(B) Warships which cannot be employed as in (A) will be placed in care and maintenance in

designated ports.

(C) Govt. of Italy will at once declare names and whereabouts of all warships and merchant ships in their hands which belonged to United Nations and return them forthwith. This not to prejudice subsequent negotiations in connection with replacing losses of ships of United Nations due to Italian action.

(D) Extent to which agreement is implemented is dependent on extent and effectiveness of Italian co-operation.

5. Detailed arrangements are -

(A) All battleships and submarines to be placed in care and maintenance at designated ports.

(B) Such cruisers as it is decided can be of immediate use to be kept in commission remainder to be put in care and maintenance

(C) Destroyers and smaller craft in general to be kept in commission and to be used as required by Allied for escort, patrol and A/S duties.

(D) Requisite Liaison officers to be supplied.

6. Mercantile. All shipping to be placed in Shipping Pool to be employed as seems best in Allied interest. Conditions under which this would be done were not discussed beyond saying that shipping so employed could continue to fly Italian flag.

7. Arrangements were made to obtain information on technical and communication matters. Need to use Italian ship repairing resources was also stressed and agreed. Requested I may be informed whether this will be done on a payment basis or what system is envisaged.

8. I also raised question of employing Italian units outside Mediterranean. Minister of Marine himself suggested that battleships might be used for the war in Far East and also agreed to using cruisers in Atlantic if they were suitable for this duty.

9. Minister of Marine begged for the sake of keeping up Italian morale that one battleship - the oldest would be acceptable - might be kept at least in partial commission in Taranto as a symbol of Italian Fleet. I am inclined to think that a dividend might be obtained from so doing in time.

(W.R. Note - This message originated in Malta.)

(C. in C. Med., 232304 to Admty.)

C. in C. Med.  
Situation  
Report  
No. 189.

(1) During night 21st/22nd Sept. 5 M.T.Bs. entered Valona (? harbour) and reports sinking  
\* 1 medium sized merchant ship loaded with ammunition and 1 smaller merchant ship. 2 other ships were hit. M.T.B.295 was damaged by shore battery which heavily engaged force on run out. M.T.B. retired on 1 engine and returned to Otranto in tow of ILEX. No casualties.

\* ROVIANO, small Italian merchant ship, was sunk. (GD 503)

/(2) DZIK ...

23.9.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

C. in C. Med.  
Situation  
Report  
No. 189.  
(Contd.)

(2) DZIK reports sinking 3 Siebel ferries in approach to Bastia on 22nd Sept. Evacuation was continuing by air and sea.  
(3) Build up of operation "Avalanche" continues according to programme. Enemy air activity against shipping has been on a reduced scale.  
(4) During night 22nd/23rd coastal forces operated along west coast of Italy north of Naples.

Destroyers maintain (? straits) of Otranto patrol.  
(5) 27 (? boats) and (? store carriers) carried further supplies to Nicosia's aid during night 22nd/23rd. Sept.  
(C. in C. Med., 232342.)

Movements.

Sailed American P.C. 542, 548, L.C.I.(L) 240, 116, 163, 110, 99, M.L. 562.  
(GERALDTON, 232359B to Admty.)

**MOST SECRET**

781

*Lion*

19.9.43

D. of P. (3)  
W.D.  
I.P.I. (3)  
D.S.D. (S)  
F.O.O. (S)  
D. of P. (3)

.RT

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 T.O.O. Nil/23rd September.

From: C. in C. Middle East. Date 20.9.43. Recd. 1830

Cipher.

*Agean - German Intentions*

Addressed: The War Office repeated A.F.H.Q. Algiers (for G-2) Fairfield (for Strong).

368078. 1/11883 cipher 19th September.

From D.M.I. for D.M.I.

Following are main points from M.I. paper No. eight. German intentions against our Aegean garrisons. Papers follows by air. .RT

One. Germans will continue to attempt to hold iron ring.

Two. Germans control Lemnos Mitylene Chios the Sporades the Cyclades (except Ikaria) Rhodes Cos Scarpanto Crete Kythera and Antikythera. Thasos and Samothrace held by Bulgarians.

Three. Germans aware we have forces on Samos Leros Cos. Stampalia Castelrosso and are using Cos airfield and that Italians these islands are co-operating.

Four. Our fighters can operate from Cos and light Naval craft from Leros.

Five. We therefore threaten German maintenance of Rhodes by air and sea and can give fighter cover to further penetration of island.

Six. Germans will therefore wish to deny us use of Cos aerodrome in first instance and subsequently to oust us from Aegean.

Seven. Italian forces in our islands co-operative but of doubtful value in the face of serious German threat.

Eight. Unlikely that Germans will attempt seaborne operations until they have neutralised air threat from Cos. Minimum 6/7 German battalions required to take and occupy islands now occupied by us. Order of importance for enemy, Cos, Leros or Samos Stampalia. Castelrosso ~~un~~important.

Nine.....

Nine. German land forces in Greece east of Pindus and in Peloponnese could find force required with fair air support from air forces in Aegean area. Germans could not release adequate forces from Rhodes Scarpanto or Crete in view of present commitments.

Ten. Sea transport immediately available could land about 2,500 troops in one day. Limiting factor shortage of sailable small craft.

Eleven. In event of weak or no opposition force could be landed within a week of concentration at Piraeus.

Twelve. No evidence to suggest preparations have started but appreciate German attempt at an early date.

Comment. Air attacks on Cos aerodrome already started. End of comment. Main deterrent to air or seaborne operations from mainland would be large scale intensification of patriot activity Greece generally and Peloponnese and Attica in particular although this not decisive.

T.O.O. Nil.

Received from War Office 1230/23.

War Office circulation

Mr. Cavendish-Bentinck (Foreign Office)

D.N.I. Admiralty

D.M.I.

A.C.A.S. (I) Air Ministry

Col. Vickers (M.E.W.)

Sec. S.I.C. (2)

D.D.M.I. (I)

M.I. 3. 3b. 14. 17.

1st Lord.

1st S.L. (2)

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (H)

A.C.N.S. (F)

A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)

A.C.N.S. (A) (2)

Parl. Sec.

Naval Sec.

U.W.R.

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

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

D.N.I. (4)

D.D.I.C. (2)

D.C.

D. of P. (2)

Hd. of M. (2)

D.T.S.D.

D.A.W.T.

F.O.S. by courier.

D.S.D. 9 (2)

L.P. (2)

W.L.

D. of P. (Q) (3)

23.9.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Treatment of Italian Crews. Your 211106, which has been repeated to C. in C. South Atlantic. Uniformity of treatment of Italian crews in matters of detail is impossible, being affected by local conditions and views of local governments. Treatment must for the present accord with policy of internment but is otherwise at your discretion, bearing in mind para.11 of C. in C. Meds. 142034, repeated to you in Admty. 210011.  
(2) No objection is seen to escorted visits ashore subject to approval of Governor.  
(Approved A.C.N.S.(F) Hd. of M. (I) 230011A to C. in C.E.F.  
(R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant., C. in C. S.At.).

Convoy B.A.48 (1) Pilot G.Q.A.  
(2) 0100Z/23rd. (3) E.T. crossing 055 degs. E. 0900Z/26th.  
(3A) E.T.A. Aden 1000Z/28th. (4) 13 knots.  
(5) (Route). (6) EMERALD, RACEHORSE, REDOUBT.  
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 230112Z to Admty.).

M.A.7. Arrivals SHILLONG and NETRAVATI escorting M.A.7. (N.O.i/c Vizagapatam 230112Z to Admty.).  
Departures ROHILKHAND, LAUNCESTON escorting M.A.7. (N.O.i/c Vizagapatam 231046Z to N.O.i/c Chittagong, Admty. etc.).  
M.A.7. Sailing telegram part, 2. (4 ships).  
( N.C.S.O. Vizagapatam 231053Z to Admty. (R) H.M.S. BRITANNIA II, F.O. Ceylon, F.O.C.R.I.N. etc.).

Convoy B.P.96 Sailing telegram (7 ships).  
(2) 0130Z/23rd.  
(3) E.T.A. position (C) Karachi R/V 1030Z/25th.  
(A) E.T. Corssing 062 degs. 1700Z/26th.  
(B) E.T.A. position (E) 0030Z/28th.  
(C) E.T.A. Khor Kuwait 1030Z/28th.  
(4) 8½ knots. (5) (Route).  
(6) TAMWORTH, ORISSA.  
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 230141Z, 230143 to Admty.).

Convoy M.B.45 Arrived.  
(N:C.S.O. Bombay 230352Z to Admty.).

ASCANIA Transport ASCANIA sailed 23rd Sept. E.T.A. Zanzibar 1st Oct. Numbers. Requirements.  
(S.T.O. Com. R.I.N. 230401Z to D.S.T.O. Kilindini).

Convoy B.M.66 Arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. Colombo 230446Z to Admty.).

M.A.(6) Arrived.  
(N.O.i/c Chittagong 230515Z to Admty.).

/Convoy...

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23.9.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. - Contd.

Convoy J.C. Arrived.  
22. (N.C.S.O. Madras 230527Z to Admty.).

Convoys Departures 0100Z EMERALD, RACEHORSE, REDOUBT,  
B.A.48, with B.A.48.  
B.P.96, 0120Z TAMWORTH, ORISSA with B.P.96.  
?N.T.20. Arrival 0230Z ST. ANTHONY with (?N.T.20).  
(S.O.I. Bombay 230915Z to Admty.).

U-boat Position number one in para.10 of your 170415  
Campaign confirmed as suitable and should be used initially.  
Shipping (2) Request confirmation that this position is  
Approach for independently routed ocean passages only and  
Routes. not for independent shipping at present routed  
in coastal lanes.  
(3) Assuming this position will be used by outward  
as well as inward shipping consider necessity  
for lanes 10 miles apart.  
(4) Convoy route (ref. para. 8 B your 170415) is from number 3  
position to position 025 degs. 33' N. 057 degs. 12' E. (being  
position Z of P.G.E.), thence joining P.G.W. (MEIRA S/A refers).  
(Com. R.I.N. 231001Z to C. in C.E.F. (R) Admty. Cdre. i/c Aden,  
F.O.E.A., N.O.i/c Karachi, F.O.C.R.I.N., N.O.i/c Hormuz,  
F.O.R.S.C.A., S.N.O. Persian Gulf).

Aircraft Re control. A.161 cancelling A.293 of Oct. 24  
Indian 1942, and agreed by C. in C.E.F.  
Ocean. (222 Group 231013Z ro A.H.Q. East Africa etc.).  
See Lion Copy.

Use of (1) Request you will obtain the following  
Karachi information from Port authorities:-  
for ship- (A) Estimated maximum draught of ships that can be  
ping. used Karachi.  
(i) Now. (ii) In 6 months time.  
(iii) In 12 months time if pumps weather dredging  
programme is not carried out.  
(B) How this will affect shipping using the port.  
(2) Dredging at Aden is of high priority and sufficient data are  
required to make decision in favour of one or the other port.  
(C. in C.E.F. 231127Z to N.O.i/c Karachi (R) Admty.).

BRITANNIC, Transports (1) BRITANNIC (2) MALOJA sailed  
MALOJA 23rd Sept. for U.K. via Aden and Suez with  
following (details). Requirements at Suez.  
E.T.A. Aden 28th September.  
(D.S.T.O. Bombay 231129Z to D.S.T.).

D.K.A. (1) Further to my 220537. Intend to expand  
A.K.D. present Durban- Kilindini and Kilindini- Durban  
Convoys. convoys into regular A/S escorted Aden-Kilindini-  
Durban and Durban- Kilindini- Aden convoys as  
follows.

/(2) D.K.A....



23.9.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

- D.K.A. (2) D.K.A. convoys to sail from Durban to  
A.K.D. alternate 10 and 11 day intervals. In accordance  
Convoys. with C. in C.S.A. 131051 convoy D.K.A.2 sailing  
(Contd.) from Durban on 28th Sept, D.K.A.3 on 8th Oct.  
etc. There will be no convoy D.K.A.1.  
(3) Relief escorts from Kilindini with ships from  
that port will join convoy off Kilindini as arranged by F.O.E.A.  
Escorts from Durban will proceed to Kilindini with Kilindini  
portion of convoy.  
(4) A.K.D. convoys to sail from Aden also at 10 and 11 day  
intervals. Convoy A.K.D.2 sailing from Aden on 30th Sept.  
A.K.D.3 on 10th Oct. etc. There will be convoy A.K.D.1. Com. i/c  
Aden is requested to hold ships for convoy A.K.D.2. as from  
receipt of this signal.  
(5) Relief escorts of South Atlantic Escort Force will join  
convoy off Kilindini.  
(6) Details of ships which are to be included in these convoys  
are given in para.2, 3, 5 and 6 of my 220537Z.  
(7) A/S escorts between Durban and Kilindini to be provided  
from South Atlantic Escort Force operated by Com. i/c Durban,  
those between Kilindini and Aden to be provided from Kilindini  
Escort Force operated by F.O.E.A.  
(8) Following will comprise Kilindini Escort Force initially.
- | Ship.       | E.T.A. Kilindini | E.T.A. Aden.  |
|-------------|------------------|---------------|
| VIRGINIA    | 14th October     | Nil.          |
| MAID MARION | 27th September   | Nil.          |
| FALMOUTH    | 8th October      | Nil.          |
| FREESIA     | 29th September   | Nil.          |
| LANDGUARD   | Nil              | 6th October.  |
| SENNEN      | Nil              | 6th October.  |
| LULWORTH    | Nil              | 18th October. |
| BANFF       | Nil              | 18th October. |
- (9) Following is forecast of A/S escorts for Aden-Kilindini  
portions of A.K.D. - D.K.A. convoys.
- | Convoy   | Kilindini  | Escort                        | Group |
|----------|------------|-------------------------------|-------|
| D.K.A.2. | 10th Oct.  | FREESIA<br>(TULIP)            | 1     |
| D.K.A.3. | 20th Oct.  | FALMOUTH,<br>VIRGINIA         | 2     |
| D.K.A.4. | 31st Oct.  | LANDGUARD,<br>SENNEN          | 3     |
| D.K.A.5. | 10th Nov.  | FREESIA,<br>LULWORTH          | 1     |
| A.K.D.2. | 30th Sept. | Special<br>arrangements       | Nil   |
| A.K.D.3. | 10th Oct.  | LANDGUARD,<br>SENNEN          | 3     |
| A.K.D.4. | 21st Oct.  | FREESIA,<br>LULWORTH          | 1     |
| A.K.D.5. | 31st Oct.  | VIRGINIA<br>BANFF<br>FALMOUTH | 2     |
- (10) Ships of Kilindini Escort Force will boiler clean at  
Kilindini.  
(11) C. in C.S.A. and F.O.E.A. are requested to promulgate agreed  
standard routes for these convoys.  
(C. in C.E.F. 231651Z to C. in C.S.A., F.O.E.A., F.O.R.S.C.A.,  
Com. i/c Aden, (R) S.N.O. P.G., F.O.C.R.I.N. F.O. Ceylon etc.).

E.I.  
784<sup>A</sup>

# MOST SECRET

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

231013Z/September

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

From: 222 Group.

Date: 24.9.43.

Recd: 1501

Inter. Gen. X by W/T.

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Addressed: Air H.Q. East Africa. H.Q. B.F. Aden. 215 Group. Repeated: C.in C. South Atlantic. A.O.S. Capetown. ADV Air H.Q. Iraq Dechief H.Q. R.A.F. Middle East. Admiralty. Air Ministry, Whitehall. 225 Group Air H.Q. India. Air H.Q. Bengal. Commander in Chief Eastern Fleet. C.in C. Ceylon.

IMMEDIATE.

*Arctic, Indian Ocean, Control.*

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393. A 161 Sept. 23 following cancels my A 293 October 24 1942 and is agreed by C.in C. Eastern Fleet. Chiefs of Staff number C.O.S. (I) 70 still remains general authority and ALO C 222 Group retains operational control extended to include all long range general reconnaissance aircraft flying boats or ships based in the Indian Ocean. This control now ordered by Air H.Q. India to include all G R aircraft in India Command.

(2) Operational control is delegated to Air Officers Commanding East Africa Aden Bengal 215 and 225 Groups in accordance with separate detailed directives. These directives contain the general requirements of C.in C. Eastern Fleet and will be implemented at the request of C.in C. Eastern Fleet the local Flag or Naval Officer in Charge of the Area or as ordered by this Headquarters, day to day requirements within each area will be notified by the Flag or Naval Officer in Charge in each Area who will specify the object desired but the method of execution will remain the responsibility of the Air Force Commanders concerned.

(3) Operational Areas are as follows Air H.Q. East Africa West of 65 deg. East and South of five deg. North. Air H.Q. Aden. Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea North of five deg. North and South of 19 deg. North and West of 61 deg. 30 Min. East. 215 Group Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman West of 61 deg. 30 Min. East and North of 19 deg. North 225 Group remainder of Arabian Sea North of 10 deg. North and a coastal strip 100 miles wide along West Indian coast from 10 Deg. North to lat. of Cape Comorin Bay of Bengal, Bay of Bengal North of ten degs. North with the exception of coastal strip allotted to Air H.Q. Bengal. Air H.Q. Bengal. Coastal strip to depth of 25 miles between 88 degs. East and latitude of Pagoda Point. 222 Group. East of 65 degs. East and South of ten degs. North. including area bounded on the west by 61 degs. 30' East of the South by five degs. North and on the North by ten degs. North.

(4)/....

(4) Within each of these operational areas the Air Officer Commanding concerned will be responsible for all operational requirements within the terms stated above and within the detailed Directive covering the area. Aircraft should not be limited in their operations by area boundaries but if in the course of a sortie an aircraft is required to pass into an adjacent area the R.A.F. Commander of the adjacent area is to be informed.

(5) Dispositions of aircraft within each area will be at the discretion of the local Air Officer Commanding having regard to existing requirements except the A.O.C. East Africa will ~~not~~ move detachments to or from South Africa without reference to 222 Group. Any internal demarcation of operational boundaries will be notified to A.O.C. 222 Group and C. in C. E.F. Movements or detachments of squadrons between areas will be ordered by Air Officer Commanding 222 Group at the request of Commander in Chief Eastern Fleet according to the situation prevailing at the time. Detachments irrespective of size will be operated by the Air Force Commander in the area in which they are based for the time being.

(6) Aircraft serviceability will be notified weekly to Air Officer Commanding 222 Group and repeated C. in C. E.F. and Air H.Q. India in the following form as at 1200 hours G.M.T. each Friday ..

- (A) Total strength of long range GR aircraft giving types units and situation.
- (B) Number of serviceable LR GR aircraft with over 100 hours to go to major overhaul giving types units and situation.
- (C) Number of serviceable LR GR aircraft with less than 100 hours to major overhaul giving types unit and situation.
- (D) Number of LR GR aircraft expected to be serviceable in 7 days with over 100 hours to major overhaul giving types units and situation.
- (E) Number of LR GR aircraft expected to be serviceable in 7 days with less than 100 hours to major overhaul giving types units and situation.

231013Z

Advance Copy Ops. O.D. O.I.C.

1st Lord	D.O.D. (F) (2)	
1st S.J. (2)	D.N.I. (4)	D.A.C.R. (2)
D.F.S.L.	D.N.A.O.	Air Branch
5th S.L.	D. of L.D. (3)	C.C.L.S. (2)
V.C.N.E.	D.A./S.W.	A.L.O.
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.A.U.D.	Air Ministry by courier
A.C.N.S. (W)	I.P. (2)	D.A.W.T.
A.C.N.S. (U) (2)	W.D.	
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)	D.C.	
D.C.H.A.E.	Hd. of M. (2)	
U.W.R.	D.D.I.C. (2)	
D. of P. (2)	D.A.M.R.	
D.O.D. (H) (4)	D.A.E.	

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23.9.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Fleet Air Wing 7. This is Comairlant 221709. Cinclant 201937 August not to all addressees. Effective Sept. 23rd Comfairwing 9 temporarily assigned administration fleet air wing 7 components of the area including Iceland, Greenland, Labrador and Newfoundland. Comairlant will continue control movement fleet air wing 7 personnel and material from Argentinia connection fleet air wing 7 current assignment units concerned (List). (Commaveu, 230001Z to Admty.)

A.T.65 (AQUITANIA) Convoy A.T.65. Destination of AQUITANIA leaving New York about 1st Oct. will be Clyde. (D.O.D.(H), 230001A to Cominch, P.D. New York.)

?U/Boat. Aircraft reported sighted (?possible) S/M in 050° 20' N. 050° 00' W. at 2139Z 22nd. (C. in C.C.N.A. 230002Z to G.B.7A.)

CHICOUTIMI grounded. Have taken ground approx. 2 cables to S.E. of Cole Point while entering Maryport Harbour at 2035P 22nd approx. 2½ hours before L.W. Request assistance of tugs 2 hours before next H.W. (CHICOUTIMI, 230010Z to S.N.O. Pictou NS (R) C. in C. C.N.A., D. Halifax.)

My 230010Z. CHICOUTIMI was refloated at 0625Z 23rd. Touched the ground again at 0844Z on entering harbour being refloated in about 10 minutes by use of engine. Only damage found by diver was loss of Asdic dome and fracture of securing bolt. Ship to be placed on slips p.m. today 23rd. (CHICOUTIMI, 232045Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) D. Halifax, S.N.O. Pictou.)

P.N.M.S. For use against acoustic homing torpedoes. (C. in C. C.N.A. 230054Z, 231512Z,) D.T.M. 231539A to N.S.H.Q. See U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

GAZELLE. My 221635. Departure delayed 21 hours. (C.T.G.02.6 230337 to Admty. (R) C.E.S.P.F. Cominch, N.O.B. Bermuda, C. in C.C.N.A. Comtaskfor, 24 N.S.H.Q., C. in C.W.A., S.B.L.O., W.At.)

N.S.H.Q. Sub. attack and sighting summary. No report 17 to 21st Sept. All times Z, Para A. (1) A/C X 10 Br. attacks S/M 53.50 N. 36.03 W. at 1740/22. Oil on surface. Second S/M sighted. (2) A/C X 10 Br. attacks or sights S/M course 220° 53.24 N. 37.28 W. at 1802/22. (3) A/C L.10 Br. attacks S/M course 220° speed 10 knots 53.57 N. 40.21 W. at 1755/22. (4) A/C N.10 Br. sights S/M course 250° 53.58 N. 40.38 W. at 2220/22.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

N.S.H.Q. (5) A/C N. 10 Br. sights S/M 54.00 N. 41.00 W.  
Sub. attack about 2200/22.  
and Para C.  
sighting (1) Coastal vessel sights S/M 46.44 N. 59.45 W.  
summary. at 0015/22.  
(Contd.) Para D.  
(1) R.A.F. Catalina in transit sights S/M  
50.20 N. 50.00 W. at 2139/22.  
(N.S.H.Q. 230503Z to Admty., Cominch.)

Comcortdiv This is 230327Z from Comcortdiv 17 addressed  
17. Admiralty for action. Comcortdiv in U.S.S.  
WEBER is leaving 53.10 N. 19.58 W at 230200Z  
proceeding on course 066° 15 knots to position  
TB thence to TA in compliance Cominch 221820Z.

Total fuel on board sufficient for eleven days at 15 knots.  
Request instructions.  
(Commaveu, 230722Z to Admty.) W.R. Note:- Following received  
at 230742 from Comcortdiv 17. "Is there any reply to my  
230327". Message delayed because undecypherable in Admiralty  
and P.L. version had to be obtained from U.S.N.

U/B Am over enemy S/M in 052° 25' N. 040° 13' W.  
attacked Enemy was on surface when first sighted was on  
by A/C. course 100° estimated speed 10 knots.  
(A/C A.C.J.P. 230815 to All No. 93 Group stations)  
Am over enemy sub. in 53.28 N. 43.25 W. Enemy  
was on surface, when first sighted was on course  
090 estimated speed 12 knots.  
(A/C ACJP 231444Z to 93 Group.)  
Have attacked enemy with depth charges in 52.45 N. 43.08 W.  
(A/C ACJP 231520Z to Admty., A.C.I.C.)

U/Boat. My 222330 (Re Report of submarine contact from  
S.O.(I) Jamaica.) Correct longitude to read  
74.10 W.  
(Kingston, No T.O.O./23 Recd. 0830/23.)

ROCKAWAY. Alter course forthwith for new (K) 050° 10'  
026° 05' rejoin track at (F) 055° 20' 015° 00'.  
(Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet, 230849Z to ROCKAWAY.)

Convoys Heavy W/T series 8 indicates numerous German  
O.N.202, U/Boats still in contact.  
O.N.S.18, 2. No indication S.C.142 sighted but convoy  
S.C.142, in very dangerous area.  
U/Bs, (N.S.H.Q. 231402Z to Ships escorting O.N.202,  
Ships Escorting O.N.S.18. (R) Ships escorting  
S.C.142, C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F., A.F.H.Q.,  
A.O.C. in C., E.A.C., No.1, Group, St.Johns N.F.  
Admty., Cominch, S.B.N.O. W.Atlantic.)

/Convoy...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Convoy O.N.201. Boston section arrived 231021Z.  
(P.D. Boston 231436)

N.S.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q. 231453Z.)  
S/M  
Estimate.

MATTOLE My 211601Z Sept. Ship sailed Ceara for High  
(U.S.A.T.) Seas.  
(Aruba, 231515Z to Admty.)

O.N. Convoys O.N. Convoys. To ensure convoys have complete  
route. route to destination suggest standard route be  
extended from 60° W. to New York.  
2. If you concur request you will indicate  
positions desired.  
(D.T.D., 231540A to C. in C. C.N.A., C. in G.  
W.A., F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q., Com. 10th Fleet (C.& R.)  
Reply: C. in C.C.N.A., 241530Z.

U.S. S/M (Cominch, 231612Z)  
Estimate.

DUCKWORTH. Departed Bermuda, 232244Z for Argentinia via Boston.  
Route etc.  
(DUCKWORTH, 231650, 232244Z to Admty.)

U/B Following has been read, S.M.52.50N 42.20 W. at  
attacked 1800.  
by A/C. (Halifax A.C.H.Q. C.C.O., 231804Z to G.B.7A.)  
Am over enemy S/M in 52° 53' N. 43° 10' W.  
Enemy was sighted on surface on course 180°,  
estimated speed 6 knots.  
(A/C A.C.Y.Y. 231810Z to 93 Group.)  
Following has been read: 5 N.H. V Y.10 465 posn. 52.33 N.  
43.10 W. 472 - 1 - 4 - 180 - 6.  
(Halifax A.C.H.Q. C.C.O., 231827Z to G.B.7A.)  
Following has been read from A/C Y.10. Have attacked  
enemy with depth charges 52.36 N. 42.23 W.  
(C. in C.C.N.A., 231855Z to A.C.I.C. Admty.)

Experiments (N.S.H.Q. 231811Z to Admty. etc.) See U/BOAT  
against CAMPAIGN.  
homing  
torpedoes.

Canadian Concur in para. 2 of your 161926 and in B.A.T.M.'s  
"Algerines" 181601. 2. Request early confirmation that  
for U.K. R.N. crew for LIGHTFOOT need not be sent.  
(D. of P.S., 231838A to N.S.H.Q. (R) B.A.D.,  
B.A.T.M., S.C.N.O. London.)

/Convoys...

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

Convoys O.N. 202, O.N.S.18. You will be relieved by group W.1. RICHMOND H/F (S.O.) BARRIE, BUCTOUCHE, NIPIGON for O.N.S.18 and group W.6 MONTGOMERY (S.O.) COBALT, SELKIRK, LACHINE for O.N.202 in Westomp. 048° 53' N., 048° 53' W. at 1200Z 25th RICHMOND S.O. of groups W.1. and W.6 until convoy splits.

2. Upon relief B.3 proceed to Argentia.

C.2 and E.G.9 and NORTHERN FOAM proceed St. Johns N.F.

3. Chop 1200Z 24th.  
(F.O.N.F. 231857 to Ships escorting O.N.202. Ships escorting O.N.S.18 (R) C. in C. C.N.A. C. in C.W.A., Admty., N.S.H.Q. Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet C. & R. RICHMOND, MONTGOMERY.)

ASPIRANT. ASPIRANT escorted by SHERBROOKE sailed St. Johns N.F. 1900Z 23rd through 051° N. 048° W. to 053° 25' N. 039° 41' W. to salvage merchant vessel speed 11 knots. B.3 230800Z refers.

ASPIRANT allocated R/T call-sign "Edgar".  
(F.O.N.F. 231929Z to Ships escorting O.N.S.18 ships escorting O.N.202 (R) C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q., Admty. C. in C. W.A. Cdre. (D) W.A. Cdre. 10th U.S. Fleet C. & R.)

U.T. Convoys. Due to the late return to U.K. of M.K.F.24 certain troopships which were due to sail in K.M.F.25 on 15/10 cannot now be ready in time.

2. Request you ascertain whether U.S. Authorities can agree to 6 troopships being included in U.T.3 outward bound from U.K. to North Africa and 4 troopships homeward bound to U.K.

3. If this is not agreed we will be unable to provide the lift we require from North Africa to U.K. in October for the return of 50 Division personnel.  
(D. of S.T. 231943A to B.A.D.)

BEARN. Your 221727. Concur in proposal of U.S.Cs. of S.  
(Head of M.I., approved V.C.N.S., 231947A to B.A.D.)

CLYDE. Departure CLYDE accordance my 220218Z delayed 24 hours due to radio transmitter failure.  
CLYDE now departs 7 miles east Montauk Point 242100Z.  
(Cdre. S/Ms Atlantic, 232019Z to Comeastseafon, Cominch, CLYDE (R) C. in C. C.N.A. C. in C. Lant, Admty., etc.)

/Following...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

CLYDE. (Contd.) Following message received from C. in C. C.N.A. (quotes C. in C. C.N.A.222010Z and Com. S/Ms Lant, 232019) Following bombing restrictions have been instituted by E.A.C. for dates indicated. From 0001/25th to 0001/26th. Admiralty pass to F.O.C. Sub. and H.Q.C.C. (1) 41.03, 70.27. (2) 40.10, 68.10. (3) 40.10, 62.52. (4) 38.50, 62.52. (5) 38.10, 68.10 (6) 39.50 70.10. From 0001/26th to 0001/27th total 40 miles either side of a line joining (1) 39.30, 66.04. (2) 39.30 55.30 (H.Q. E.A.C., 232240Z to F.O.C. S/Ms, H.Q.C.C. (Admty pass to F.O.C. S/Ms, and H.Q.C.C.)

A.P.Cs. 67, 73,75. Sail Greek A.P.C.67, 73, 75 following instructions my 202056 July. Ultimate destination Mediterranean via Freetown and Gibraltar. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 232040Z to C.E.S.F.)

Stragglers Report No. 19. One ship arrived New York from H.X.257 AGWISTAR (U.S.) 17th. Collision damage. Two ships arrived Halifax from H.X.257. EMPIRE REYNOLDS 20th. Engine defects. JOHN A. POOR (U.S.) 21st. Steering and main engine defects. One ship arrived Shelbourne from O.N.200 NORDEN (Nor.)18th. Broken crank shaft. (N.S.H.Q., 232146Z to Admty. etc.)

Sub. attack and sighting summary. All times Z. No report 21st and 22nd. Para. C. PBM Radar contacts 20.48 N. 74.25 W. 230035 and 20.08 N. 74.25 W. 230035 and 20.08 N. 73.52 W. 230313. Panam plane sighted conning tower submerging 2.45 N. 80.17 W. 231210. (Cominch, 232205Z to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. 22nd U.S.S. THUBAN, U.S.S. CIMARRON. (R.O. Pearl, 230229 to Admty.)

Digest serial No.611 Sept.22nd. One large transport, 2 small freighters and 2 unidentified vessels attacked by Liberator 200 miles North Mussau Island forenoon while on northwesterly course without visible results.



War Diary.

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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Digest  
 serial  
 No. 611  
 Sept. 22nd.  
 (Contd.)

2. Another Liberator attacked? 4 barges Jacquinot Bay and large barge Long Island.
3. Navy Catalina bombed and strafed Cape Hoskins strip night 21st while another strafed buildings near Sio.
5. Our troops landed, two miles North of Finshhafen dawn supported by strong air attacks and Naval bombardment. Little enemy resistance encountered and newly prepared defence captured by our troops on landing.
6. Co-ordinating with amphibious landing operations 18 Mitchells and seven Bostons attacked Finshhafen under heavy fighter cover early forenoon. Four large buildings destroyed and native huts and houses destroyed or damaged. All aircraft returned. Enemy R/C bomber shot down over area by fighter patrol early forenoon. Two hours later enemy force comprising 20 to 30 bombers and 30 to 40 fighters attempting to attack allied shipping were engaged by our fighters and ships' A.A. fire. 88 of a force of over 100 allied fighters actually engaged enemy in interception lasting 25 minutes. 10 enemy bombers and 29 fighters were destroyed, 5 other fighters probably destroyed for loss of 3 Lightnings - one pilot safe. Our shipping suffered no damage or casualties.
9. Our P.T. Boats destroyed large enemy barge including one off Reiss Point (North Coast Huon Peninsula) before dawn.
11. 12 Liberators attacked Seaplane Base Halong early afternoon scoring 3 direct hits on hangar, 1 on nearby building and causing fires. 5 enemy aircraft airborne but no interception. 2 floatplanes, 1 flying boat observed near shore, also 3 medium merchantmen and several small coasters in addition to barges Ambon Bay.
12. 3 floatplanes observed Taberfane, 1 flying boat Dobo, 2 medium bombers, 1 floatplane Langgoer. Same aircraft also sighted 1 submarine on surface off Cape Doan (Kai Islands) and another fired on aircraft near Tanimoar Group.
14. Corsairs on sweep Choiseul Coast destroyed 3 and damaged 5 barges off South Eastern end afternoon 20th and destroyed another midwest coast and small vessel off North Western tip following morning.
17. Liberator attacked and sank small enemy freighter 330 miles north north-east Kavieng forenoon 20th.  
 (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 231028Z.) As amended G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 240028.)

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
 (D.D.I.C., 231336A, 231405A.)

23.9.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/Ms. Attacked.

Sub.  
attack  
and  
sighting  
summary  
for 24  
hours  
to  
0900Z/23rd.

Para. A. 1. About nine attacks mainly by single U/Boats frustrated by escorts of O.N.202 and O.N.S.18 during night 21st/22nd. KEPPEL rammed, depth charged and claims to have sunk one U/Boat a.m. 22nd. CHAMBLY claims direct hit with 4 inch H.E. night 21st.  
2. Canadian aircraft attacked U/Boat course 220° 53' 57' N. 40° 21' W. 1752Z 22nd. No hits.  
3. Canadian aircraft X/10 sighted U/Boat course 300° 53' 50' N. 36° 03' W. 1740Z 22nd and course 220° 53' 24' N. 37° 28' W. 1802Z 22nd.  
4. Canadian aircraft N/10 sighted U/Boat course 250° 53' 58' N. 40° 38' W. 2220Z 22nd.  
5. TANTALUS sighted U/Boat course 080° 78' 03' N. 12° 16' E. 2055Z 12th.  
Para. B. RICHARD OLNEY mined or torpedoed 37° 25' N. 09° 54' E. 0625Z 22nd.  
Ref. A.M. 221046Z Para. A. Hudson G/269 attacked U/Boat.  
Ref. A.M. 211017Z Para. A. Liberator X/120 attacked U/Boat. (D.D.I.C. 231020Z to Cominch.)

A/S Tactics.

P.N.M.S. Your 221549 not to N.S.H.Q. Construction of P.N.M. sets now under way at Halifax. Details. (4) It is hoped that 20 sets will be ready to be shipped to you by ASSINIBOINE on Friday 24th (C. in C. C.N.A. 230054Z to F.O.N.F.(R) N.S.H.Q., Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

Your 221430. Results of trials carried out. (C. in C.C.N.A. 231512Z to N.S.H.Q. (R) C. Halifax, Capt., D. Halifax, F.O.N.F., C. in C.W.A., Admty., S.C.N.O. London, Londonderry.)

Your 221430. Present reports of use of this weapon indicate that P.N.M. towed directly astern without flotation unit is dangerous. Even if flotation gear is employed this method may constitute a danger.  
2. For the present it is preferred to rely upon the avoiding action recommended in A.G.M. 222010A/Sept. pending the provision of paravane diverter gear and further information on the details of the weapon.  
3. Production of the necessary diverter paravanes has begun in this country at highest priority. Drawings and full details of the gear being produced are being sent by air. (D.T.M. 231539A to N.S.H.Q. (R) C. in C. C.N.A., C. in C.W.A.)

Experiments against homing torpedoes. Experiments conducted at Halifax have disclosed that effect of machine gun fire into the sea at 45° depression produces sound energy in eight to 160 kilocycles range about three times as great as Town Class Destroyers at 20 knots and five times as great as Corvettes at 15 knots. Details covered in report PHX.43 to D.S.R.

Admiralty. Recommend as a temporary expedient that machine gun fire be directed at a small area of sea surface at suitable distance and direction from ship preferably on the quarter when homing torpedoes are suspected. (N.S.H.Q. 231811Z to Admty. C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F.)

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24.9.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Acoustic  
homing  
torpedo.

1. A message today from the Admiralty gives all the information known about the acoustic homing torpedo and the counter measures which ships should adopt.

Home Commands.

N.W. Norway  
S/M Patrol.

2. The submarines on N.W. Norway patrol, viz. STOIC and VARANGIAN (sailed from Lerwick today), ULA and SATYR (to sail 25th September from Lerwick), and SCEPTRE and SEANYMPH, were informed today that in addition to enemy main units northbound enemy supply ships over 3000 tons and tankers are to be attacked. USURPER sailed p.m./25th for the same patrol.

E.G. 4,  
TRACKER.

3. The 4th Escort Group (less BENTINCK) with TRACKER sailed from the Clyde at 0146A today to act as air support group to Convoy O.N.203 which is escorted by Group C.4.

O.N. 202/  
O.N.S.18.

4. S.O. E.G. B.3 reported at 0750Z that minor U-Boat attacks only took place last night and it is believed that no ships were hit. The convoys are to split as soon as it is considered that they are no longer threatened.

Provisional assessment by the Admiralty of the results of attacks on U-Boats round these convoys is 2 U-Boats probably sunk, 2 possibly sunk, 6 damaged. F.O.N.F., however, considers the U-Boat attacked by KEPPEL on 22nd September to have been sunk.

Russian  
small  
craft.

5. Five small Russian naval craft arrived at Hvalfjord today from St. Johns N.F.

Portsmouth.

6. The Needles Channel was closed on account of fog from 0648A today.

North Atlantic.

U/Bs.

7. A/C P/21 attacked a U-Boat on the surface steering south in 37.33 N. 08.53 W. in the early hours of today.

/ A/C ...

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Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

U/Bs.  
(Contd.)

A/C D/179 attacked a U-Boat in 36.52 N. 09.08 W. course 100° at 2248Z today.

A/C R/179 attacked a U-Boat in 36.48 N. 09.13 W. steering 100° at 2332Z today.

South Atlantic.

DOMINE  
intercepted.

8. The Spanish SS. DOMINE was intercepted by HYDRANGEA at 1604 in 05.17 N. 10.00 W. An armed guard was put on board and the ship ordered into Freetown, where she arrived on 26th.

Mediterranean.

Intentions  
for battle-  
ships.

9. C. in C. Med. intends to retain VALIANT, HOWE and KING GEORGE V until the reduction of the Italian battle fleet is well under way and the situation of our army in the "Avalanche" area is quite satisfactory. NELSON and RODNEY will return to the U.K. later.

LE CURIE.

10. The French submarine LE CURIE reported this morning that she was attacked by MONTCALM in broad daylight and at close range in 38.15 N. 03.34 E. (about 100 miles N.N.E. of Algiers) after giving her pendants and exchanging recognition signals. This was due to a misunderstanding, and no significance is attached to the incident.

11. V-A. A.J. Power has been appointed Flag Liaison Officer to the Italian Minister of Marine (F.O.L.I.) temporarily and will deal with all subjects concerning the employment and disposition of the Italian Fleet. Signals for him are to be routed to Taranto C.C.O.

/Otranto ...

24.9.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- Otranto patrol. 12. The destroyers carrying out the Otranto Strait patrol now work from Brindisi.
- X.I.F.1. 13. Convoy X.I.F.1, consisting of personnel ships with the 8th Indian Division, arrived at Taranto today.
- M.M.S.70 sunk. 14. M.M.S.70 was sunk by a mine off Gallipoli (I) today while on passage from Taranto to Brindisi. There were only 3 survivors.
- Air Operations. 15. 4 U.S. Mitchells on a shipping strike attacked a large transport and 2 escort vessels with 13 75-mm. shells 10 miles North of Alistro (East Coast of Corsica). There were 2 hits amidships and one in the stern of one vessel. 2 other Mitchells attacked a large barge towed by tug 5 miles north of Fiumara Grande. The barge was sunk and the tug damaged. A Bisley aircraft attacked a U-Boat fully surfaced 25 miles S.W. of Licosa Point. 4 depth charges were dropped 4 seconds after final disappearance, but only depth charge scum was observed.
- Aegean. 16. An aircraft sighted a U-Boat in 38.32 N. 20.21 E., course 020° at 1042Z.
- Black Sea. 17. Russian aircraft in the period from September 10th to 20th sank a 3000 ton merchant vessel and an E-Boat off the Crimean coast, and a minesweeper and 12 landing craft in the Kerch Straits.
- Capture of Novorossisk. 18. On the night of September 10th, Russian M.T.Bs. and cutters forced an entry into Novorossisk Harbour and seized the western mole. A successful landing with strong air support followed, and by September 16th the town was in Russian hands.
19. Enemy evacuation across the Kerch Straits is now in progress.

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Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

20. Com Aden reports that SS. ELIAS HOWE (Durban to Aden and Suez) was torpedoed in 11.37 N. 45.46 E. (about 70 miles S.S.E. of Aden) at 0320 today.

Burma.

21. 4 Beaufighters in the Pakokku area attacked and damaged 50 small river craft, and left 1 large and 2 smaller river steamers in flames.

America and West Indies.

U-Boats.

22. A submarine distress signal was intercepted today at 1010 from a ship in 37.53 N. 73.41 W. An unknown ship in 34.35 N. 75.15 W. made a submarine distress report at 2205 G.M.T. today and reported that a submarine was following her.

Australia and New Zealand.

23. It is reported that the Japanese are keeping Vila supplied by means of submarines and float-planes.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Command of Mixed Groups. Your 211954A. I concur proposals in para.3, as far as ships in Plymouth Command are concerned. (C. in C. Plymouth 240946A to Admty.).

Movements.

RENONCULE Propose RENONCULE leaving U.K. 24th October, with O.N.208 should proceed New Orleans on completion of that escort duty. B.A.M.R. 221950 refers. (Capt.(D) Greenock 240100A to C. in C.W.A.).

LONDON, AUGUSTA. My 211303A para.2. All times 1010 late. Cancel Driver. (C.S.1, 240115A to A.C.I.C., C.S.10.). My P.C.S. 062 degs. 42' 019 degs. 48' 300 degs., 10 knots. E.T.A. 0330A/25th. (C.S.1, 241300A to A.C.I.C., C.S.10.).

ORION F.O.i/c Gibraltar's 231450B. (Route), to Barrow in Furness. (C. in C. Plymouth 241150A to ORION).

SHIKARI, SARDONYX. Scapa arrivals, SHIKARI, SARDONYX. (A.C.O.S. 241339 to F.O.i/c Faeroes).

North Atlantic dispositions. (1) Dispositions of Operational Units in North Atlantic. Iceland AUGUSTA, BELFAST, LONDON. Scapa ANSON, DUKE OF YORK, RENOWN, NORFOLK, TUSCALOOSA, RANGER, 9 Destroyers, 5 U.S.Destroyers Londonderry Area 4 Destroyers, Plymouth 2 Destroyers, North Atlantic NEVADA, 14 Destroyers (U.S.), VICTORIOUS, 2 Destroyers, Biscay Area ORION. (2) Disposition of Escort Carriers Mediterranean ATTACKER, BATTLER, HUNTER. (These are armed with fighters) STALKER. (D.O.D.H. 241345Z to C. in C.U.S. Fleet).

Group 'M' A.M. 111525 and 111639. Coastal Craft Convoy Groups "M". Delete sailing of MINER VI, add B.Y.M.S. 229. (D.O.D. (H) 241440A to F.O.i/c Milford Haven).

WEBER, ERICSSON. Paraphrase of U.S.S. WEBER 241325. Begin: ERICSSON escorted by WEBER departed position B off Oversay 241200Z, S.of A. 14 knots, destination. New York. (WEBER 241600Z to Admty.).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

S/M Positions of S/MS. at 0800/25 and movements for  
Movements. following 24 hours.  
(F.O.S. 241638A, 250912A).

Russian Hvalfiord arrivals 1500/24. Russian naval craft  
Craft from A.M.138, A.M.139, S.C.1283, S.C.1284 and S.C.1285,  
St. Johns. F.O.N.F.'s. 181411 refers.  
(A.C.I.C. 241812A to F.O.N.F.).

EREBUS, EREBUS returning to U.K. in M.K.S.25 and  
ALBATROSS. ALBATROSS in M.K.F.24 are required to proceed  
to Devonport.  
(2) Request if submarine situation permits that  
you will instruct ships to part company with  
convoy in approx. 49 degs. North proceeding direct to destination  
and detail escorts from the convoys as requisite to accompany  
them.  
(D.O.D.(H) 241959A to C. in C.W.A.).

Operations.

Bay Hunt U-boat reported at 2130 in 47.20 N. 11.46  
Patrol. W., course 140, speed 15 knots.  
(A.O.C. 19 Group 240035A to A/C 612 Sq. Duty K.).  
My P.C.S. 140 degs. A.A.21 miles, 320 degs. 15  
knots. GRENVILLE in company.  
(ULSTER 240215A to C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.,  
CRANE).

Am over enemy S/M in position NN.  
(A/C.E. No T.O.O. to 19 Group, Recd. 240947).  
Disposition 2000.

(1) ULSTER, GRENVILLE, CRANE, patrol vicinity 045 degs. 30' N.  
014 degs. 00' W.

(2) LADY GENEVA 045 degs. 38' N. 012 degs. 00' W. northbound,  
12 knots.

(3) BANFF 049 degs. 16' N. 012 degs. 45' W. through 180 degs.  
Bishop Rock 8 miles to Plymouth 14 knots.

(4) ORION 042 degs. 01' N. 014 degs. 30' W. northbound. 24 knots.

(5) UNISON 044 degs. 20' N. 006 degs. 50' W. to 044 degs. 20'  
N. 006 degs. 30' W., thence northbound, daily advance 105 miles.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 241547A to Admty.).  
P.C.S. Force U. 046 degs. 00' N. 012 degs. 16' W. 354 degs.  
15 knots. Expect pass position (J) at 0730/25th and arrive  
Plymouth (0700/26th?).  
(ULSTER 242001A to C. in C. Plymouth).

S/M STOIC, VARANGIAN left Lerwick 0300A/24th Sept.  
Patrols. unescorted as follows:-  
STOIC to patrol vicinity 069 degs. 30' N. 016  
degs. 24' E. proceeding on the surface at C.Os.  
discretion by route "Grey" to 069 degs. 35' N.  
thence dived by day direct to patrol.  
VARANGIAN to patrol vicinity 069 degs. 22' N. 015 degs, 45' E.  
proceeding on the surface at C.Os. discretion by route "Orange"  
to 069 degs. N. thence diving by day direct to patrol.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 240303A to S/MS.).

/ULA...



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Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

S/M ULA left Dundee for patrol.  
 Patrols. (Capt.S.9. 240703A).  
 (Contd.). (1) Cancel para.1.(a) of my 172256.  
 (2) SATYR and ULA are to be sailed as soon as ready to patrol positions T6 and T4 respectively.  
 (3) Route SATYR grey, ULA orange, as in my 231848.  
 (4) Object I.S.O.H.200 para. 2. B.  
 (5) O.15 and STONEHENGE are to remain Lerwick at 4 hours notice.  
 (F.O.S. 241101A and 241849A to S.O. S/M Lerwick).

UNTIRING is leaving south west corner of zone J.2 at 2000A/26th and proceeds diving by day to Point U on route Rose, thence via route Rose, to cross 043 degs. N. at 0400A/30th, thence as ordered by F.O.C. Gibraltar.

(F.O.S. 241411A to S/Ms.).

In addition to enemy main units, northbound enemy supply-ships over 3 thousand tons and tankers are to be attacked.

(F.O.S. 241603 to STOIC, VARANGIAN, ULA, SATYR, SCEPTRE, SEA NYMPH).

Positions of submarines at 0800/25th and movements for following 24 hours. Times Zone A.

(A) SEADOG on patrol vicinity Bell Sound Spitzbergen probably leaving p.m. dived as much as possible towards 76 degs. N. 12 degs. E., daily advance about 60 miles.

(B) STOIC 64 degs. 24' N. 01 degs. 25' E., probably on the surface towards 69 degs. 01' N. 07 degs. 45' East at 10 knots.

(C) VARANGIAN 63 degs. 45' N. 03 degs. 10' E., probably on the surface towards 69 degs. 11 degs. E. at 8 knots.

(H) UNTIRING as in my 221756.

(J) UNITED on patrol vicinity 45 degs. 40' N. 04 degs. 15' W.

(K) UNISON 45 degs. N. 06 degs. W. dived by day to Northward, advance about 90 miles daily.

(F.O.S. 241638A to Admty.).

Request you will sail submarines from Lerwick as follows SATYR at 1500/25 through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 5 miles and by route Grey to 069 degs. 35' N. thence direct T.6.

(2) ULA at 1800A/25 through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 10 and by route Orange to 069 degs. 00' N., thence direct to T4.

(3) Submarines to proceed on surface until leaving grey and orange, thence diving by day.

(Capt.S.9. 24941A to S.O. S/M Lerwick).

RUBIS Forthcoming A/S patrol in Biscay Area. See Mining.

Operation "S.F." Hove to on a course 250 degs. my position 062 degs. 08' N. 008 degs. 58' W., MAHRATTA in company.  
 (OBEDIENT 240915A to C. in C. Rosyth).  
 My P.C.S. 062 degs. 30' N. 015 degs. 48' W. Hove to. Weather 4441 9369. Gale 10.  
 (M/S F.1. 241045A to A.C.I.C.).

Faeroes arrival SCORPION, SCOURGE, IMPULSIVE.

(N.O.i/c Faeroes 241115A to C. in C.H.F.).

Proceed on patrol S.F.

(R.A.M. 241602A to OBEDIENT).

/R.A.(M)...

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Operation "S.F." (Contd.). R.A.(M) 241602A. My position 022 degs. (corrupt group) N. 009 degs. 28' W. course 274 degs., speed 12 knots. Proceeding 062 degs. 07' N. 015 degs. 30' W. Weather moderating.  
(OBEDIENT 241700A to C. in C. Rosyth).  
R.A.(M)s. 241602. Return to Skaalefiord.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 241801A to OBEDIENT).  
OBEDIENT and MAHRATTA will arrive Skaalefiord 0800 tomorrow.  
(OBEDIENT 242015A to N.O.i/c Faeroes).  
Faeroes arrival SAVAGE.  
(N.O.i/c Faeroes 242045A to C. in C.H.F.).

Coastal Patrols. 1. Orders for night 24/25th.  
(A) GREY FOX, GREY OWL, GREY SHARK, M.T.B.252, 253, 205 carry out patrol of direct route between Cap Barfleur and Le Havre. Proceed and return by passage four passing C.2A. Buoy at 2000 and return to within 20 miles of own coast by 0600. Air R/C reports one medium size merchant ship and two Torpedo Boats at Cherbourg which may proceed East with additional small craft escort. Albacores will carry out offensive reconnaissance West of Cap Barfleur.  
(B) Chasseurs 41 12 patrol Q.Z.S.384 between F and E.A.5 buoys.  
(C) LA COMBATTANTE M.L.291 immediate notice St. Helens.  
(D) TALYBONT immediate notice Yarmouth.  
(E) M.L.122, 233, 124, R.M.L.522 patrolling 50 degs. 20' N. between 02 degs. 00' W. end 02 degs. 25' W.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 241413 A).  
Patrols 24th September. Weather permitting.  
(1) Force C. M.T.Bs. 677, 664 are to patrol in vicinity of position 125 Start 21.  
(2) "Occasion". (3) Force D. M.T.Bs. 430, 413 are to patrol in vicinity of position 180 Start 14.  
(4) Codeword "Plumb". (5) Forces C and D are to be on patrol by 2015A. Leave patrol for Dartmouth 0600A.  
(6) Attention is drawn to Q.Z.X.1095.  
(7) Force E. M.G.Bs. 329 (S.O.) 330, 324, 322 are to leave Dartmouth at 1830 and proceed at 18 knots to position (F.F.) 270 Les Hanois 10. Thence to sweep for enemy shipping at reduced speed through position (G.GL) 196 Les Hanois 8 to positions (H.H) 150 St. Martins Lt. 7 and (J.J) 221 La Corbiere 7. Leave vicinity of (J.J) and return direct through (F.F) in time to be within 30 miles of own coast at first light. Force E is to support Force F if required.  
(8) Codeword "Porter".  
(9) Force F. M.T.Bs. 90 and 227 are to leave Dartmouth at 1900 and proceed at 5 knots to position (P.P) 352 Les Heaux Lt.4 thence to sweep for enemy shipping at reduced speed through position (Q.Q) 166 Barnouic West light 5 to position (R.R) 072 Grand Lejon 15. Leave vicinity of (R.R) and return through (Q.C.) and (P.P) to be within 30 miles of own coast at first light.  
(10) Codeword "Scent".  
(11) Attention is drawn to Q.Z.X. 1103.  
(2) Forces to report if turning back for weather or breakdown.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 241421A).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal Patrols. (Contd.) M.M.S.1024, 1035, 278, 76, 67, 42 and ANDRADITE anchored in Dungeness East Roads until 0400/25 when they proceed Southward via No.10 buoy. M.G.Bs. 43 and S.1 2 miles South of "D" buoy E.T.D 1915 E.T.R. 0630/25. M.G.Bs. 118, 116 and 117 leave Ramsgate Eastwards E.T.D. 1950 E.T.R. 0630/25. M.Ls. 104, 101, 107, 213, 210, 573 and M.T.Bs. 240, 219 and 38 carrying out operations N.L.103 and 104 respectively. E.T.D. 1905 route via Dumpton and "U" buoys E.T.R. 0400/25 route via "U" and No.1. buoys. (V.A. Dover 241735A to Admty.). "Spout" M.G.Bs. 329, 330, 324, 322. C. in C. Plymouths 241531A. "Occasion" and "Plumb" sailed at 1856A and 1927A respectively. Para.3. For M.T.Bs. 430, 413 read M.T.Bs. 434, 431. "Scent" cancelled owing to weather. (N.O.i/c Dartmouth 241934A to C. in C. Plymouth). My 231821 and 240014. N.L. 103 and N.L.104 abandoned owing to weather. (V.A. Dover 242054A).

Operation "Stonewall" BERMUDA is to pass gate at 1600A/25th and proceed through position  
(M) 180 degs. Bishop Rock 15.  
(N) 048 degs. 50' N. 010 degs. 06' W.  
(O) 047 degs. 59' N. 010 degs. 06' W.  
(P) 046 degs. 40' N. 010 degs. 07' W.  
and thence 260 degs. to carry anti-blockade-breaker operation "Stonewall" in area between 043 degs. N. and 046 degs. N. and between 020 degs. W. and 022 degs. W.  
(2) BERMUDA is to pass position (O) at 0800/26th, speed approximately 20 knots. Beaufighters and Mosquitoes of 19 Group will R/V in position (O) at 0800A/26th and escort BERMUDA until 1400. BERMUDA is to direct and control fighters.  
(3) If weather is signalled as unsuitable for flying BERMUDA is to continue from (N) through position (Q) 048 degs. 20' N. 012 degs. 21' W. and thence to patrol area.  
(6) Operation "Regulation" is cancelled and re-issued as operation "Stonewall".  
(7) Codeword "Talbot".  
(C. in C. Plymouth 241518A to BERMUDA).

Allied Air Activity.

Spitzbergen Catalina unable to land camp Morton due weather 23rd September and landed Syeagrnda. Aircraft expected to reconnoitre camp Morton 23rd September but report not yet received. (F.O.S. 242132A to SEADOG).

Mining.

N.L.103, N.L.104. My 231821. N.L.103 and N.L.104 abandoned owing to weather. (V.A. Dover 240014 to Admty.).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. - Contd.

S.N.222C. Heavy westerly gale. Operation S.N.222C further postponed. Am remaining in vicinity Myggenaes.  
(R.A.M. 240320A to Admty.).  
My P.C.S. 062 degs. N. 008 degs. 05' W., 260 degs. 4 knots.  
(M/L 1 240400A to SCOTT).  
24200 situation. MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, FLEETWOOD, ROCKET, OBEDIENT, MAHRATTA, SALADIN, SCOTT, AGAMEMNON, HARDY, vicinity 062 degs. 00' N. 008 degs. 00' W.  
(A.C.O.S. 241221A)  
When weather permits proceed as convenient to Skaalefiord and await instructions.  
(F.O.M. 241606A to SCOTT).  
To enable my screen to refuel request you will R/V with me in 7180 degs. Myggenaes Light 8 miles at 0800A tomorrow.  
(F.O.M. 242340A to OBEDIENT, MAHRATTA).

Operation "F.D.46" Intend sailing RUBIS escorted by CHASER 14 at 0700/27 from Portsmouth to Dartmouth. E.T.A. 1815/27.  
(2) N.O.i/c Dartmouth is requested to sail RUBIS and CHASER 14 a.m. 28th to arrive in position (Y.Y) 180 degs. Lizard Head 10 miles at 1330/28.  
(3) From position (Y.Y) RUBIS proceed on surface while North of 049 degs. 30' N. thence diving by day as ordered in my 242038A.  
(Capt.S.5. 242035A to C. in C. Portsmouth).  
My 242035A. From position Y.Y. RUBIS proceed on surface while North of 049 degs. 30' thence diving by day to 049 degs. 01' 006 degs. 01'. Thence by route Gold to latitude 047 degs. 40'. Thence to vicinity 047 degs. 40' 004 degs. 52' to carry out M/L operations.  
(2) On completion RUBIS is to carry out anti-U-boat (German) patrol in zone J2 concentrating on centre area.  
(3) RUBIS is to leave patrol to join route Gold in latitude 047 degs. at 0800/8th October, thence via route Gold to R/V escort in (Y.Y) at 0700/10th.  
(Capt.S.5. 242038A to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Enemy Intelligence.

North Russia. Photographic R/C at 1200A/24 unsuccessful due to bad weather.  
(?S.B.N.O. North Russia 241409A to Admty.).

U-Boats.

New U-boat tactics. C. in C.W.A. 241119Z, S.O. E.G.B.3. 241410Z see U-boat Campaign.  
It would be appreciated if following information could be signalled as soon as possible after arrival of EMPIRE MACALPINE.

/ (A)...

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HOME COMMANDS.

U-boats.

New U-boat tactics.  
(Contd.)

(A) Results of any attacks carried out by her aircraft.  
(B) Tactics employed by U-boats against Swordfish.  
(C) Details of U-boats armament.  
(D) Recommended (group missed) of attack unsupported by Swordfish.  
(C. in C.W.A. 241457Z to C. in C.C.N.A.).

Navigational.

Portsmouth Port of Portsmouth Needles Channel closed due to fog.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 240648A).

GHAMBIRA Your 161236/September.  
GHAMBIRA is to be moored in position 300 degs. Great Orme Head 10,000 yards.  
(2) Swinging at single anchor can be accepted.  
At least 10 shackles of cable should be veered.  
(3) No personnel will be maintained on board and ship should be marked by wreck light and bell buoy laid on the side nearest to the inshore route.  
(D.O.D.H. 241723A to F.O.i/c Liverpool).

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- BANFF. Bottle transmitter again unsatisfactory. As trouble seems very obscure suggest returning to Londonderry for investigation by Slough. My P.C.S. are 050° 38' N. 014° 16' W., 205°, 14 knots. Am maintaining present course pending instructions.  
(BANFF, 240701A to Cdre. (D) W.A.)  
Your 240701. Proceed to Plymouth for repairs to Gyro transmitter.
3. BANFF is on passage to Gibraltar for transfer to Eastern Fleet where she is urgently required.  
(C. in C. W.A., 241206A to BANFF.)
- EMINENT. O.N.203, 67 ships. Tug EMINENT has port engine completely out of action, towing efficiency (? 30 or 60)%. Intend to keep pending arrival of relief. Position 055° 56' N. 010° 15' W.  
(C.4, 241201Z to C. in C. W.A.)  
O.N.203. Your 241201Z. Relief for EMINENT not possible. Unless repairs can be completed at sea she should be sent back to Clyde.  
(C. in C. W.A., 241531Z to Escorts O.N.203.)  
P.C.S. 2100 G.M.T./24th, 056° 00' N. 011° 03' W., 102°, 10 knots. Will not communicate.  
(EMINENT, 242100Z to C. in C. W.A.)
- Faroes  
Pipe-line. Damage was caused to pipe-lines by BRITISH FREEDOM when berthing 23rd.  
John Asiatic Petroleum Company representative considers shortening of pipe-line by 300 feet essential. This will be commenced forthwith so as not to delay tanker unduly.  
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 241234A to Admty.)
- GAMBIA. N.O.I.C. Liverpool's 231140A. Proposal to make temporary connections if change-over switches for 6-inch barrage fire are not received would mean that 6-inch barrage director and associated equipment would be useless.  
(2) It is considered sailing date should be postponed until this item is completed and tested.  
(3) It is to be observed that there are other high priority items also awaiting manufacture of components and any delay in sailing date would give a better chance of these being completed.  
(GAMBIA, 241520A to Admty.)
- LANCE. LANCE sailed in tow of tug FOREMOST 22 1405A/24th.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 241544A to C. in C. Nore.)  
My 221124A. LANCE in tow of tug FOREMOST 22 has been diverted to Newhaven.  
2. N.O.I.C. Newhaven is requested to arrange onward sailing to Sheerness.  
(C. in C. Nore, 242119A to A.S. Chatham.)

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- MANDAL. MANDAL lifted into within 400 yards Amsterdam Point, St. Mawes Harbour. Will make another lift a.m. tomorrow.  
(Chief Salvage Officer Falmouth, 241615A to F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)
- OLIVE. C. in C. Rosyth's letter No. 3289/571 M. of 17th September. S.D. OLIVE was in collision with OBEDIENT.  
(R.A.D., 241621A to Admty.)
- BICESTER. Capt. (D) Greenock's 232020. It is proposed to put BICESTER in No.2 dry dock Govan on 29th September for underwater repairs. Change of gun barrels can be carried out concurrently.  
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 241809 to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys.

- S.C.142. My 232259Z (? 232238 intended). S/M detected 4 miles ahead S.C.142, was sighted diving, and was attacked. LOOSESTRIFE is remaining in position until dawn. No H/F D/F indication, consider chance encounter. P.C.S. 052° 25' N. 032° 30' W., 066°, 8. Weather 6672 2778.  
(B.7, 240030Z to C. in C. W.A.)  
B.7's 232258Z. Intend support S.C.142 until noon when situation may be clearer.  
(E.G.5, 240656Z to C. in C. W.A.)  
My 240656Z. Parted company with S.C.142 in 053° 05', 030° 13', course 245°, speed 12 knots until dark, then R/V with H.X.257. E.T.A. 0800/25th.  
EDMUNDSTON and CALGARY refuelled.  
(E.G.5, 241401Z to C. in C. W.A.)  
S.C.142. Following P.C.S. received by visual signal by Liberator aircraft BRML 1 at 1315A/24 from S.N.O. Escort, 53.03 N. 30.20 W., 066°, speed 8 knots.  
(A.C.I.C., 242246A to C. in C. W.A.)
- O.N. 203. Sailed 4th Escort Group less BENTINCK to comply with C. in C. W.A. 211148Z, S.O. TRACKER.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 240146A.)  
From RJ steer direct for RL, omit RK.  
(ii) No amendment to stragglers route.  
(iii) If there are any stragglers at present, Commodore is requested to signal proposed R/V which will be broadcast.  
(C. in C. W.A., 240921Z to Escorts O.N.203.)  
Para. 4 of B.A.D.212359. It is unlikely that an air support group will be operating with a home coming convoy before mid October. An air support group will be supporting O.N.203 but owing to other commitments will probably have to return direct after passage through the danger area.  
(C. in C. W.A., 241111Z to B.A.D.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

EMPRESS OF  
RUSSIA.

EMPRESS OF RUSSIA is required to be ready to sail from Clyde on 4/10 on an 8-day voyage under safe conduct.  
(2) Approximately 200 personnel will embark on 3/10.  
(D.S.T. 240224A).

O.N.S.18,  
and  
O.N.202.  
LAGAN,  
STEEL  
VOYAGER,  
SKJELBRED.  
FORT JEMSEG.

Night 23rd/24th minor attacks only. Believed no casualties.  
(B.3. 240750Z to C. in C.W.A.).  
Convoys are to split as soon as you consider you are no longer threatened.  
(2) 9th Escort Group is to be divided or convoy at your discretion.  
(C. in C.W.A. 240930Z to B.3.).  
C. in C.W.A. 231724.  
(A) STEEL VOYAGE hit in bow.  
(B) SKJELBRED hit right aft, steering gear

destroyed.

(C) FORT JEMSEG hit aft, propeller missing. Consider SKJELBRED most seaworthy.

(2) O.N.S.18 and O.N.202 P.C.S. at 1000Z/24, 050 degs. 20' N. 045 degs. 03' W. 220 degs. 7. knots.  
(B.3. 241109Z to C. in C.W.A.).

DESTINY is to tow LAGAN to Bar light vessel where both ships are to take pilots and anchor. At 0600 tomorrow, Saturday DESTINY is to shorten tow and proceed to Rock light where another harbour tug will relieve DESTINY. LAGAN with tow is to proceed to North Bidston Dock, Birkenhead.

(N.O.i/c Liverpool 241242A to LAGAN, DESTINY).

Arrivals: LAGAN in tow DESTINY.

(F.O.i/c Liverpool 242330A to C. in C.W.A.).

S.L.B.136

Request you sail NARVIK to meet S.L.B.136 slow portion as requisite.  
(N.O.i/c Liverpool 241007A to Cdre. D.W.A.).

K.M.F.25.

K.M.F.25 will leave U.K. on 15th October; it is expected to contain the following.

- (a) For North Africa, one personnel ship.
- (b) For Gibraltar, thence to West Africa, one

personnel ship.

(c) For passage through Mediterranean, two personnel ships and one M.T. ship for Middle East, possibly one personnel ship for India.

(2) Convoy will be joined at Gibraltar by BERGENSFJORD and VOLENDAM ex West Africa for India.

(D.O.D.(F) 241821A to C. in C. Med.).

T.A.66.

S.S. QUEEN MARY will be ready to leave Clyde p.m. 29th September for New York.  
(D.O.D.(H) 241835A).



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24.9.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. - Contd.

- U.A.3. S.S. FRANCONIA will be ready to leave Liverpool on 2nd October.  
(2) Escort FENCER, WHITEHALL, WRESTLER, VISCOUNT, INCONSTANT, BURZA, GARLAND.  
(3) Route through positions:-  
O. 270 degs. Oversay 6 miles at 1700 Oboe/3.  
P. 55. 00 North 10.00 West. Q. 54.30 North 19.00 West.  
R. 51.00 North 19.00 West. S. 46.00 North 24.00 West.  
T. 40.00 North 26.00 West, thence to Angra.  
(4) Estimated S.O.A. 12.4 knots. Speed is to be adjusted to arrive Angra at 0630 Oboe/8.  
(5) F.O.1/c Liverpool is requested to sail S.S. FRANCONIA accordingly.  
(D.O.D.(H) 242115A to C. in C.W.A.).
- U.A.1. Convoy U.A.1. will be ready to leave Clyde on 28th September.  
(2) Composition - EMPIRE GARDEN, CORFELL, DUX, destination Horta CRANE, L.S.T.13, CORFIRTH destination Angra.  
(3) Escorts - VOLUNTEER, LAVENDER, CAPE PORTLAND, VASCAMA, BRUREY, HAYLING, MANGROVE, WHALSEY, SAON.  
(4) Route through positions:-  
C.R. 270 degs. Oversay 6 miles at 2100 Oboe/28.  
C.S. 55.00 N. 10.00 W. C.T. 46.31 N. 18.29 W. C.U. 41.35 N. 18.30 W. C.V. 39.30 N. 25.00 W. XX 38.52 N. 27.35 W.  
(5) Estimated S.O.A. 6.6 knots. Speed is to be adjusted to arrive position XX at 0300 Oboe/8.  
(6) Stragglers route. (L) 48.00 N. 18.30 W. M. 46.30 N. 19.40 W. N. 42.10 N. 19.38 W. O. 39.30 N. 25.00 W.  
(8) CAPE PORTLAND and VASCAMA are to be detached p.m. 7th October to arrive Ponta Delgada at 0630 Oboe/8.  
(D.O.D.H. 242120A to C. in C.W.A.).
- P.S.25 My 241655 P.S.25. Cancelled.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 242135A).
- U.A.2. Convoy U.A.2 will be ready to leave Clyde on 30th September.  
(2) Composition DEWDALE, EMPIRE OUTPOST, SCOTTISH MONARCH, destination Angra, CAPE CLEAR destination Horta.  
(3) Escort HAVELOCK, WARWICK, BUTTERCUP, GODETIA, KINGSTON AGATE, KINGSTON AMBER, ST. ELSTAN, VIZALMA.  
(4) Route through positions: M.D. 270 degs. Oversay 6 miles at 2100 Oboe/30, M.E. 55.00 N. 10.00 W. M.F. 46.31 N. 18.29 W. M.G. 41.35 N. 18.30 W. M.H. 39.30 N. 25.00 W. XX 38.52 N. 27.35 W.  
(5) Estimated S.O.A. 8.5 knots. Speed is to be adjusted to arrive position XX at 0300 Oboe/8.  
(6) Stragglers route: G. 48.00 N. 18.30 W. H. 46.30 N. 19.40 W. J. 42.10 N. 19.38 W. K 39.30 N. 25.00 W.  
(D.O.D.H. 242140A and 252204A to C. in C.W.A.).
- H.X.259 If DUCKWORTH can be made available in time request you will sail ship with B.3. Group as extra escort to H.X.259.  
(C. in C.W.A. 242230Z to C. in C.C.N.A.).

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24.9.1943.

Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

U/B attacked. Enemy S/M attacked by aircraft 037° 33' N. 008° 53' W. at 0448B 24th. On surface southbound when first sighted. (A/C P/12 240448, 240450, 240505B to Gib. W/T) (F.O.I.C. Gib., 241131 to P.65 (UPSTART)).

C.G.67. Further delayed. Now expect depart 241700A. (Commorseafron, 241014B to F.O.C. Gibraltar (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

CHARYBDIS, Admty., 231317. Intend to sail CHARYBDIS A.M. SCYLLA. Sept. 26th to overtake and act as A.A. escort (defects). to M.K.S.25 up to 44° N. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 241151B to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.)

Cancel my 241151. 2. SCYLLA has developed cracks in external ribs of both starboard L.P. turbines. (details) 4. Considered ship should proceed to U.K. for examination by Admty. Officers. 5. Present limitation of 24 knots and full power in emergency will be retained. 6. Intend to sail SCYLLA to U.K. as A.A. escort to M.K.S.25 (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 241615B to Admty., C. in C. Med. (R) SCYLLA) See also C. in C. Med. 241243B.

ILLUSTRIOUS, Your 232352\* not understood. My 221512+ was a FORMIDABLE, request for escorts. No escorts are available UNICORN. at Gibraltar. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 241229B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.H., F.O.C. Aircraft Carriers.) \* Originated by D.O.D.(H) + M/S distribution.

JACQUELINE. Arrived 23rd 25.\* Departure 24 25.\* (H.M.C. Bilbao, 241235, B.B. (R) S.O.(I) Gibraltar.) Note: Passing action being taken by War Registry to F.O.(S) Plymouth H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Western Approaches. \*JACQUELINE.

Carriers A.T.211540 Sept. para. 2. (1) Both fleet ex. carriers will be in operation during passage and "Avalanche." UNICORN will have 9 Swordfish and 10 Seafires available. (2) STALKER and ATTACKER will be able to operate small ranges (?of) Seafire and Swordfish and HUNTER Seafire only. (3) Full details of number of aircraft (?embarked) and their categories follow. (S.O. Aircraft Carriers H.F., 241312B to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med.)

24.9.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Damaged  
U/B  
Vigo.

My 191149. Marine Commandant told me today that although he has no official instructions he privately expects soon to receive orders for internment.

As regards possibility of evasion, which I raised, he pointed out that Commander of S/M is in Madrid, crew sleep on Spanish Cruiser NAVARRA, propellers are shackled (requires diver and much time to release), shafts have been removed and vessel is watched night and day by guards. (R.O. Vigo, 241428 to B.N.A. Madrid, (R) S.O.(I) Gibraltar, Admty. for D.N.I.)

BESSEL.

My 141310 about BESSEL. It is now reported B.O. that 5 cases contained machinery sent urgently from France, possibly spare parts for S/M. As far as known these are still on board BESSEL. (R.O. Vigo, 241440 to S.O.(I) Gib. (R) Admty. for D.N.I., B.N.A. Madrid.)

Convoy  
C.G.66.

Arrived.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 241729B to C.M.S.F.)

U/B  
Attacked.

A.I. 483 24th September. Part 2 and Final Gib. G.R. Opsum Sup. 23rd September. 0447 - night  
M.N. 111 37.05 N. or 37.35 N. 08.55 W. 180°  
15 - 740 J.O.N. High Bow, tall C/T Light Grey colour, light gun forward also aft C/T.

attacked surfaced, fire exchanged, ceased from U/Boat after explosion of D/Cs - 6 X 250 Torpex 140 D.C.G. Green spaced 60 feet straddle immediately aft C/T, scum only seen after attack, no damage to Wellington. (Gibraltar, 241730).

Danish  
Ships at  
Las Palmas.

N. Authorities have today authorized sailing of Danish Ships.  
2. SLESVIG embarking crew and stores tomorrow Saturday.  
3. Negotiation still proceeding with Master THYRA and LINDA.

4. Absolute necessary obtain message from Nilsen to Master LINDA localized (as received) deal is stopped and ordering him to sail.

(R.O. Las Palmas, 241850 to M.W.T. Mast 136 (R) Admty., B.N.A. Madrid, B.N.A. Gibraltar.)

My 231411 German Embassy have threatened Danish Minister but he is now firm. They will undoubtedly try other means to prevent ships leaving. Submit they should sail as quickly as possible.

(B.N.A. Madrid, 242057B to Admty. (R) R.O. Las Palmas, F.O.C.W. Af., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

/NORD ATLANTIC...

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24.9.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

NORD  
ATLANTIC.

German tanker NORD ATLANTIC put back Camarinas  
22nd stress of weather.  
(Coruna, 242010B to Admty., (R) S.O.(I)  
Gibraltar, B.N.A. Madrid.)

Movements  
Gibraltar.

Arrivals - F.S. COMMANDANT DETROYAT from  
Casablanca F.S. FORBIN with C.G.66. Departures -  
ORP SLAZAK, KRAKOWIAK, ATHERSTONE, CALPE,  
HAYDON, TYNEDALE to Algiers.  
(F.O.C. Gib, 242046 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

U/B.

A.C.S. 219 25th Sept. My A.C.218 24th Sept.  
1. A/C 233 Hunt U/Boat reported 36.52 N.  
09.08 W. at 2322B/24, 0615, 0745, 1115, 1245.  
(R.A.F. Gibraltar, 242240Z to H.Q.C.C. (R) A.L.O.  
Admty.)

Am over enemy S/M in 36.56 N., 09.07 W. was on surface  
course 100° estimated speed 8 knots.  
(A/C D. 429 Squadron via Gibraltar, 242248Z to Gibraltar.)  
Amend position 36° 52' N. 09° 08' W.  
(A/C D.429, 242322B)

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24.9.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

RECORDER. RECORDER sailed to an approx. position 12 miles off Durban to repair cables, returning to Durban each evening until repairs are complete. (N.C.S.O. Durban, 240557Z to Admty., etc.)

S.L. 137. Sailed 1230/23.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 240919Z.)

T.G.E.2. T.G.E.2 sailed 1030Z/24th ANTENOR, J. DE WITT. Escort WOLVERINE, BEAGLE, CDT. D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES.  
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 241033Z, 241156Z.)

39 Escort Group. (1) Intend to sail ROCHESTER, SCARBOROUGH, BALSAM, AZALEA, GERANIUM and TAVY at 1000Z/25th routed to Dakar through (A) 07° 30' N. 14° 39' W. (B) 09.48 N. 17.01 W. (C) 11.58 N. 17.47 W. S. of A. 12. E.T.A. 0800Z/27th.  
2. Request you will sail ships after fuelling as necessary to R/V and take over escort of HIGHLAND PRINCESS, VOLENDAM and BERGENSFIORD proceed from Gibraltar to Freetown. F.O.C. Gibraltar has been asked to give early details of R/V. (F.O.C.W.Af., 241158Z to Comar Dakar, (R) S.O. E.G.39, F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

NORMAN. Sailed NORMAN to Kilindini routed as in my 201501 S. of A. 19 knots. E.T.A. 1300Z/28th.  
(2) Shifts to W/T Group V at 0245Z/27th.  
(Com. i/c Durban, 241251Z to Admty., etc.)

JULIA LUCKENBACH collision (sunk). (1) (WLCD) JULIA LUCKENBACH sank in collision with (GZPF) BRITISH RESOLUTION on night of 22nd/23rd Sept. in position approx. 058° 11 miles Cape Agulhas.  
(2) Survivors picked up by (KEXQ) J.L. LUCKENBACH and landed Capetown. One of crew missing.  
(3) BRITISH RESOLUTION damaged and proceeding Saldanha Bay.  
(C. in C. S.A., 241713C to Admty., (R) Com. i/c Durban, C. in C. E.F.)

LOWESTOFT, HYDRANGEA. Your 241937Z (N.T. in W.R.)  
In company HYDRANGEA, will be detached in position GD TF 12 54 (indecypherable) at 0715Z/25.  
(LOWESTOFT, 242115Z to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) HYDRANGEA, ABERDEEN, N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)

24.9.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Italian  
M/Vs in  
Spanish  
ports.

Please pass following to C. in C. Med. and C. in C. Med (A) (begins:) My 230927 (N.T. in W.D.) and 191123 (N.T. in W.D.). Italian N.A. has instructed all consuls by signal to report immediately state of Italian merchant ships composition and disposition of crews, docking requirements fuel on board etc.

He informed U.S.N.A. and me that vessels at Las Palmas landed (corrupt group) hours (?fuel) long ago and these are in keeping of Woermanns agents for Italian lines who are Germans and have put embargo on ships for debt.

It is obvious we shall have to have power to assist financially in sailing all Italian ships.

Please signal destination required for all ships so that we can estimate full requirements.

Vessels are 8 Canary Is. 1 Cabo Juby, 1 Vigo, 1 Ferrol, 1 Huelva, 1 Cadiz, 1 Algeciras, 1 Cartagena, 1 Barcelona.

Italian N.A. now very co-operative.

(B.N.A. Madrid, 240306B to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med (A)).

## Sailing telegram.

Convoy  
A.P.46

(1) A.P.46 6 ships (names). E.T.A. Rooka 2nd October.  
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 240422Z to Admty).

UNSPARING

Sailed 23rd.

(V.A. Malta, 240745B to Admty. C. in C. Med. etc)  
(1) Dive to 200 feet at dawn 26th in 035° 38' 023° 01' steering 066° through Antikithera Channel.

(2) Patrol west Aegean West of 025° E. and south of 037° 26' North G.S. PAPANICOLIS will operate East of 025° E. from 28th.

(3) Crete traffic moving by night spending daylight in Milos. Piraeus, Rhodes traffic probably doing same now. Attention is drawn to S.I.N.

(4) You will be recalled to leave your area p.m./4th.

(Capt. S.1, 241131C to UNSPARING (R) C. in C. Levant, Capt. (S) 10).

Malta  
3 Italian  
E-boats  
arrive.

Arrivals 23rd. M.T.Bs. 636 and 634 with 3 Italian E-boats.  
(V.A. Malta, 240745 to Admty. etc).

S.T.S.3,  
C.T.F.89.

S.T.S.3, My 232213 sailed les BOLLSTA. DELHI sailed as A/A escort to Malta.

(2) C.T.F.89 is requested to signal to above addressees composition of Safta Section and additional escorts.

(S.O. Force N, 240758B to Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. etc.)

/my...

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24.9.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean

S.T.S.3,  
C.T.F.89.  
(contd).  
My 232213 amend route between positions MJ and MK to (MH) 037° 30' N., 015° 17' E. Adjust speed so as to arrive Malta at 0600B/26.  
(2) My 232213, para 3. amend R/V as follows from Messina in 038° 11' N., 015° 37' E. at 0600B/25. From Catania in 037° 30' 015° 17' at 1200B/25th. From Augusta in 037° 13' 015° ('21') at 1415B/25th. From Syracuse in 037° 04' 015° 23' at 1545/25.  
(S.O. Force N, 240848B to WHADDON (R) C. in C. Med. etc).  
Intend to sail Joiners as follows (details)  
(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 240945B to F.O. Sicily (R) Admty. etc).

CURIE  
attacked by  
MONTCALM. Have been deliberately attacked in broad daylight and at close range by MONTCALM at 0730B today in 38.15 003.34 after giving my pennant and exchanging recognition signals. Request enquiry and urgent explanation. If not obtained shall request my return to Algiers.  
(P.67 (CURIE), 240812B to S.8).

Your 240812. Proceed on patrol in accordance with your instructions. I am investigating the action of F.S. MONTCALM. Further signal will be made.

(Capt.(S) 8, 241146B to P.67 (CURIE) (R) C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Algiers).

My 240812. At 0708 MONTCALM was sighted hull down true bearing 030° course 210° apparently zig-zagging drunkenly (?) 180,000 yards. (could be:- range 4,000 yards). P.67 (LE CURIE) was zig-zagging speed 8 knots 20° either side of mean course 038°.

At 0720 Pendant made to Cruiser (?directly) acknowledged. Cruiser then challenged P.67 (LE CURIE?) with private signal in force between 0800 and 1400. No answer made by us. On receipt of proper challenge P.67 (LE CURIE) made correct reply which was acknowledged. Cruiser then flashed letter C: As this was incorrect procedure no reply made.

At 0730 MONTCALM now bearing (true) 130° steering same mean course 210° opened fire, at 3500 yards with secondary armament. P.67 (LE CURIE) who had maintained her original speed and mean course immediately dived. At latest information 6 rounds seen falling into water before S/M submerged. P.67 (LE CURIE) was flying French Ensign but (?no) Ensign on cruiser visible. (?There was not the ) least possibility of MONTCALM mistaking S/Ms identity. Visibility was excellent.

(P.67 (LE CURIE) 241427B to Capt. (S) 8, (R) C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Algiers).

French Cruiser MONTCALM had not been informed by British Authorities of friendly S/Ms in her vicinity and consequently was not expecting to meet you. Your pendants were not understood and your reply to her challenge was not read by her. Incident is much regretted. My 241146 refers.

(Capt. (S) 8, 241430B to P.67 (LE CURIE), (R) C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Algiers).

/Allegations...

24.9.1943.

Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

CURIE  
attacked by  
MONTCALM.  
(contd).

Allegations contained in your 240812 and 241427 that vessel opened fire on you knowing your identity are without any foundation whatsoever. See my 241430. As your Captain (S) you may rest assured that I have the matter in hand and also realize the reason why you arrived at these false conclusions. Carry on with your job and do not jeopardize the success of your patrol by making any more signals on this matter, which betray your position to our common enemy. (Capt. (S) 8, 242320B to (Personal for C.O.) LE CURIE).

PALADIN  
damaged.

Have damaged port propeller. Am proceeding to Bone to examine. Speed 5 knots on starboard screw E.T.A. about 1010B.  
(PALADIN, 240813B to Capt. (D) 14, (R) S.O.(S), 12, C. in C. Med).

Black Sea  
Report.

(1) Air attacks on enemy shipping. Russian aircraft during period Sept. 10th to Sept. 20th off coast of Crimea sank 3000 ton merchant vessel, one E-boat and in Kerch Straits area one Minesweeper 12 landing craft sunk and an R-boat and 13 landing craft damaged.

(2) Land. Night Sept. 10th. (After) Russian M.T.B. and Cutters had forced an entry into Novorossisk Harbour and seized Western Mole a successful landing with strong air support and heavy barrage from shore batteries was made and on Sept. 16th town was in Russian hands. By Sept. 18th enemy had been forced out of hills surrounding Novorossisk and Russian advance towards Taman commenced. Russian line now runs from outskirts Temryk in a south easterly direction for about 25 kilometres thence southwest to Anapa which is in Russian hands. Enemy evacuation across Kerch Straits now in progress. Enemy losses in men and material high.

(N.L.O. Black Sea, 240945C to Admty. C. in C. Med., Adm. Fisher, S.O.(I) Istanbul).

RORQUAL

Propose sailing RORQUAL for Malta and U.K. on 5th Oct. having disembarked reload torpedoes leaving one full salvo.  
(S.I., 240946C to C. in C. Levant, (R) Admty.etc)

SIBYL,  
ULTOR,  
UNSEEN,  
UPROAR.

1. P.217 (SIBYL) to operating zone SP from 2100/25th until 2100/27th.  
2. P.53 (ULTOR) P.51 (UNSEEN) and P.31 (UPROAR) (?will be) ordered to quarter patrols between 27th and 29th and proceed to Algiers North and West of Corsica. Personal gear is in transit.  
(Capt. (S) 8, 241006B to 8th S/M F. (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 10).

/M.K.S...



24.9.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- M.K.S.26. 1. 17 ships. Sailing Telegram.  
2. 0745C/24. 3. Sailed together. 4. 5. 6. As  
in C. in C. Levant's 220358 less HONEYSUCKLE.  
13. A. Cdr. Armstrong R.N.R. in DELANE to Gibraltar  
B. Master HIGHLAND PRINCE to Taranto.  
15. Su. N.O.I.C. Catania pass to Fort Base.  
(R.A. Alexandria, 241015C to Admty. etc).

Flag Officer Liaison to Italian M. of M. V.A. A.J. Power has been appointed F.O. Liaison to Italian M. of M. temporarily and will deal with all subjects concerning employment and dispositions of Italian Fleet. He is authorised to deal direct with C. in C. Levant and F.O.H. on matters concerning the units of Italian Fleet in Levant and at Malta. While holding this appointment he will also act as Senior Naval Representative on Military Mission. (C. in C. Med., 241017, 242248 to V.A. Malta (R) Admty. C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med. (A)., F.O.T.A., F.O.H.)

R.A.F. M.E. Report. Daily Opsum 149. 22/23 Sept. 4 torpedo Wellingtons to attack enemy convoy previously sighted off Melos Island. 5 vessels located about 50 miles South South East of Melos Island. All A/C attacked. No results observed except 1 A/C saw flash near one M/V. 1 Wellington hit. 2 Wellingtons searched for enemy convoy in co-operation with coastal units. 1 Wellington contacted 1 vessel South of Castello point on Scarpanto Island but had to return owing to engine trouble. Second Wellington sighted fires at Scarpanto. Later saw two ships off Scarpanto. Tracer and flak also seen. 23 Sept. 1 Baltimore (A.30) on photographic R/C Aegean Sea. Attacked with machine gun fire armed trawler of 200 tons North East of Paros Island several strikes scored. Following delayed details. 22 Sept. 2 Baltimores (A.30) anti shipping R/C south of Crete, 1 aircraft attacked 50 ton caique in a bay on Gavdos Island. Bombs overshot by 20 feet. Aircraft hit but returned safely. Second Baltimore (A.30) made no sightings. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 241021Z).

G.U.S.16. Arrived (list).  
(V.A. Malta, 241029B to Admty. etc).

U/B Am over enemy S/M in 38.32 N., 20.21 E. sighted on surface, course 020° speed 6 knots and observed to submerge.  
(A/C BSA/V 241042Z).

/D.4...

24.9.1943.

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

D.4  
QUILLIAM,  
PIORUN,  
QUEENBOROUGH,  
ILEX,  
QUAIL.

Sail D.4 in QUILLIAM and PIORUN to arrive Brindisi by 1800/25th Sept. for Otranto Strait patrol as in my 191101 (N.T. in W.D.).

Destroyers to carry out an A/S sweep on passage. (2) F.O.T.A. is requested (A) to sail QUEENBOROUGH and ILEX to Malta on completion of patrol night 24/25th Sept.

(B) To arrange for relevant mooring for D.4 to be available at Brindisi. My 201125 refers.

(3) QUAIL will join on 26th Sept. when 2 destroyers should patrol (?each) night 1 to remain in harbour.

Destroyer groups will be relieved about once a week.

(4) D.4 pass my (?191) 101 to PIORUN.

(S.O. Force H, 241043B to VALIANT (R) Capt. (D) 4, PIORUN, QUEENBOROUGH, C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, N.Os. I.C. Augusta, Brindisi, F.O.T.A., F.O.Sy).

QUILLIAM and PIORUN sail at 2000/24th Sept. to comply your 241043A routed through 037° 10' 016° 30' 039° 50' 018° 50', 040° 15' 018° 50' all positions north and east. S. of A. 15 knots. E.T.A. Brindisi 1800/25th Sept.

(VALIANT, 241943 to S.O. Force H, (R) F.O.T.A., F.O.Sy, C. in C. Med., Capt. (D) 4, N.O.I.C. Augusta, N.O.I.C. Brindisi, ?QUEENBOROUGH).

TYRIAN,  
TUMULT,  
QUAIL.

Sail (corrupt group) Capt. (D) 24th D.F. TYRIAN, TUMULT and QUAIL to arrive Malta by 1300/25th Sept.

2. Inform necessary Air Authorities and arrange fighter cover.

3. QUAIL will be required to sail as ordered by V.A. Malta about 1800/25th Sept.

(S.O. Force H, 241045 to VALIANT, (R) V.A. Malta, N.O.I.C. Augusta, C. in C. Med., F.O. 2nd I/C, Force H, N.O.I.C. Sicily, A.H.Q. Malta).

T.S.S.7

Pass to Cdre. and Escort. T.S.S.7. V.A. Malta's 231111. Intend sail FORT FROBISHER (Taranto), OCEAN VESPER and GREYSTOKE CASTLE (both Taranto for Brindisi) at 0530 tomorrow 25th to R/V 0615 with LIEGE.

(2) No Escort from Syracuse.

(N.O.I.C. Syracuse, 241046B to V.A. Malta (R) Admty. etc).

M.K.F.24

Request you will include following ships. CARTHAGE, ALMANZORA, CAMERONIA, STRATHMORE, STAFFORDSHIRE, CLAN CAMPBELL, MARNIX, VAN ST. ALDEGONDE, destination U.K.

ATHLONE CASTLE destination U.S.A.

Admty. requested signal route for ATHLONE CASTLE.

Connav pass to Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet C. and R.

(C. in C. Med., (A), 241055B to N.O.I.C. Algiers, (R) Admty. etc)

/M.K.F....

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War Diary.24.9.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.M.K.F. 24  
(contd).

M.K.F. 24 VOLENDAM and BERGENSFIORD are to be included in M.K.F. 24. Destination Gibraltar for West Africa.

(C. in C. Med. (A), 241056B to N.O.I.C. Philippeville, (R) Admty. etc).

M.K.F. 24. Destination MONARCH OF BERMUDA and EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA is U.S.A. route as signalled by Admty. TEGELBERG, RUYS and ARUNDEL CASTLE to U.K. DURBAN CASTLE and OTRANTO to Oran. C. in C. Med., 221947 refers. Connav pass to Cominch C. and R.

(C. in C. Med., A, 241105 to N.O.I.C. Augusta (R) Admty. etc)

M.S.C.I. 22 - C. in C. Med's 221951 not to all. Intend sailing F. Aux. Cruiser VILLE D'ORAN, MONARCH OF BERMUDA, EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA, TEGELBERG, ARUNDEL CASTLE, DURBAN CASTLE (?comma) OTRANTO at 0800 (?26th) Sept.

(2) (A) 12 knots.

(3) Through positions 277, (287?), 283, 273, 264, 275, 293, 299 War Channel 79, 91, 36, 43 (?78), (?120), (?122), 93, 50, 57 and Q.B.A. 87.

(4) and (5) C. in C. Med., 221951 refers.

(6) "Manicure" high priority.

(7) A. (8) HURWORTH, S.O., HURSLEY, BEAUFORT, CROOME, ADRIAS, PINDOS.

(9) (A) HURWORTH comply with C. in C. Med., 221951 (9A).

(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 241105 to F.O.Sy.(R) Admty. etc).

S/M  
areas.

S/MS areas M.P.Q.R.S.T. in central Med. are cancelled.

(2) S/M lettered positions in Sicilian Channel are cancelled.

(S.10, 241130 to C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 10,

(R) Admty. R.A. Alexandria).

EMPIRE  
OBERON.

Malta C. in C.s 232058\*EMPIRE OBERON proceed direct to join Eastern Fleet. Re crew. (M.S.R.T. Med., 241200B)\* N.T. in W.R.

SCYLLA,  
CHARYBDIS.

A.M. 231317. SCYLLA and CHARYBDIS were sent to Gibraltar to resume their former duties under F.O.I.C. Gibraltar. (C. in C. Med., 241243B to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

HURSLEY,  
DERBYSHIRE.

DERBYSHIRE escorted by HURSLEY sailed at 1500B/24 to comply with C. in C. Med. 221111B (N.T. in W.D) S. of A. 14 knots. R/V received corrupt in C. in C. Med. 221111B. Convoy routed through Q.B.B. 218 position 218 090° Cape Colonne 14 miles thence direct to position 281 E.T.A. 1600B/25th V.A.

Malta is requested to re route as necessary codeword "Wallet" 475, priority normal. On parting company from DERBYSHIRE, HURSLEY has been directed to Malta to collect mail and correspondence for 22nd D.F. before proceeding to Augusta.

(N.O.I.C. Taranto, 241247B to V.A. Malta, Escorts K.M.F. 24, F.O.T.A., C. in C. Levant, F.O.Sy. Captain (D) 22, HURSLEY, N.L.O. Number one, H.O.R.U., P.S.T.O. Med. P.S.T.O. Sicily).

/Convoy...

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24.9.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Convoy U.G.S.17 (24 ships) arrived (list).  
U.G.S.17. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 241317B to C. in C. Med).

Glider Bomb, Attacks. Following from Cdr. Holmes:-  
1. In following attacks no evidence of use of H.S. 293: SAVANNAH, ORION, UGANDA, WARSPITE, Italian ROMA, ITALIA.  
2. In above attacks missile appears to have been FX and or modified FX 656 with small front wing.  
3. One unsuccessful night attack on LOOKOUT may possibly have been by H. Z. 293 or as in para.2.  
4. (?Effective)ness of weapon in para. 1, total number seen to drop 25, total number of hits 5.  
5. No (?investigation (alternative "Signs")) here.  
6. Following is being despatched by air addressed D.G.D. Admty. London. Fragments from WARSPITE, UGANDA, U.S. SAVANNAH.  
7. Report of priority investigation committee ordered by S.O. Force H and covering all above incidents will be ready for despatch shortly.  
(?RODNEY, 231349B to Admty. D.G.D.)

SOKOL Intend sailing SOKOL at 1000/26th for patrol in North Adriatic routed as follows.  
By Eastern Channel through 035° 56' 016° 31' at 2200/26th, 039° 45' 018° 52' at 1500/28th thence course 316°. Surface passage at 8½ knots on 26th and 27th afterwards submerged by day 2 knots.  
(2) M.J.A.O. 24 request total bombing restrictions for above passage.  
(3) F.O.T.A., is requested to impose necessary restrictions on attacking S/M.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 241407 to C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 1, (R) Admty. R.A. Alexandria, 201 N.C. Group, Air H.Q. Malta, F.O.T.A.)

U/B Enemy S/M previously reported (N.T. in W.D.) was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. Have attacked enemy with depth charges, result of attack unobserved.  
(A/C HUR/D via Malta W/T 241420B to Base 45 U).

Enemy transport. P.C. and S. of 1 large transport, 2 E/V 042° 25' 009° 35' E. 040° 12 knots.  
(A/C AQC/B,\*241425)\*Via Alexandria W/T.

N.A.A.F. report. Part 2 and final part of N.A.A.F. Opsum 215 Sept. 24th (N.T. of Part 1 in W.D.)  
N.W.A.C.A.F. 2 U.S. Spitfires Air Sea Rescue. 22/23rd Sept. 3 Wellingtons R/C Elba, Bastia, Leghorn area. 3 small vessels 2 barge type, 1 with superstructure all less than 500 tons, attacked near Capraia Island with 12 x 250 pound bombs. No results observed. 1200 ton barge attacked in same area with 6 x 250. Bombs fell astern. Also in same area 1200 ton barge 6 x 250 bombs bursting 100 feet from port side.  
(N.A.A.F., 241440B).

/Battleships...

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24.9.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- Battleships. Policy as regards heavy ships is to retain VALIANT, HOWE, KING GEORGE V until reduction of Italian battlefleet is well under way and situation of our? army in "Avalanche" area is quite satisfactory probably about another 14? days. They will then be sailed to Gibraltar under R.A. Force H and it is hoped as demands on destroyers are at present so heavy here that it will be possible to provide an escort from home for their passage to U.K. NELSON, RODNEY will follow later. (C. in C. Med., 241444B, to Admty. (R) S.O. Force H, C. in C. H.F., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Levant,) Reply: 271711A..
- TWIGGS,  
15 C.S. U.S. (D) TWIGGS is to be temporarily attached to 15th C.S. (C. in C. Med., 241459B to C.S. 12, C.S.15 (R) EURYALUS, S.O. Force H, C. in C. Med. A, V.A. Malta).
- SURF,  
ROTHER. Intend to sail P.239 (SURF) escorted by ROTHER at 0900B/25th Sept. to join convoy U.G.S. 17? My 231600 refers. 2. 3. Communications. (Capt. S.8., 241600B to N.O.I.C. Algiers, C. in C. Med. etc).
- Use of  
Italian  
Fleets  
Mercantile  
Marine  
Policy. Mast 1299. See 232304B from C. in C. Med. to Admty. Agreement reached by him with Italian Ministry of Marine is purposely vague but presumes that any Italian ships surrendered or found in Italy will be operated in the initial stages by Nasbo on behalf of C. in C. The agreement also stipulates that any vessels which previously belonged to any of the United Nations will be returned forthwith. Remarks. (M.W.T.R. Mediterranean, 241615B to M. of W.T.)
- R.A.F. Malta  
Report. 24th Sept. T.O.O. 1855. Opsum No. 137. 24th Sept. 3 Baltimores made A/S Patrols for friendly shipping. 1 A.S.R. Wellington made successful search for crew in (?sea) off Southwest Sicily.
- Operations by A/C other Commands.  
15th Sept. 1 Beaufighter of 39 Squadron Airborne from Protville on shipping strike in North Tyrrhenian sea was hit in starboard engine during attack on convoy and crashed in sea. Crew rescued by Italian Siebel Ferry and taken to Capraia. Arrived Malta, 23rd Sept. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 241703Z).
- U.G.S.16 Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Port Said, 241740C to Admty).
- U.S.Movements U.S.S. BUCK arrived. U.S.S. LUDLOW and CHASE departed. C. in C. Med. pass to Comnavnav. (Comnob Oran, 241800Y, 242030B to Admty. etc) /Troop...

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24.9.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Troop  
Transport,  
Taranto.ROYAL SCOTSMAN S.O., ROYAL ULSTERMAN, PRINSES  
JOSEPHINE CHARLOTTE, ULSTER MONARCH, PRINCE  
LEOPOLD sailed Milazzo to Taranto today to  
carry all troops of 78th Division. On completion  
of this, ships have been ordered to return Augusta  
where they should arrive p.m./26th Sept. I haveno further commitments for these ships after their return from  
front.PRINSES BEATRIX, PRINCE CHARLES, PRINS ALBERT will be sailed  
this evening from Catania to Taranto with line of communication  
troops. They will be required for one more lift from Catania  
to Taranto which should be completed by Sept. 28th after which  
date they can be released.N.O.I.C. Catania pass to Fort Base. N.L.O. 8th Army pass to  
Movements.(N.O.I.C. Sicily, 241816 to N.O.I.C. Catania, N.O.I.C. Augusta,  
PRINCE CHARLES, C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.T.A., Fort Base, 8th  
Army Movement).

PASTEUR

Fan 236 to Algiers only.

Request confirmation that PASTEUR, due Casablanca  
28th Sept. is being diverted for 3 voyages with  
troops of 10th French Colonial Infantry Division  
from Dakar to Casablanca.(D.O.D. (F), 241825A to C. in C. Med. (A) (R)  
F.O.C.W.Af., F.O. Gibraltar, Commorseafron).U/B disposi-  
tions.Estimate 4, in the Tyrrhenian Sea, of which 3  
are in the Area North of 039° 01' N., and E. of  
012° 59' E. 1 probably still in the Straits of  
Otranto. Disposition of U-boats.(C. in C. Med. (A), 241833B to U-boat disposition  
Med. Station, (R) V.A. Gibraltar.)P.46  
(UNRUFFLED)  
P.54  
(UNSHAKEN).Onward route for P.46 (UNRUFFLED) and P.54  
(UNSHAKEN) from 037° 22' (?) 009° 21' at 1800  
A/27th as follows. Your 231931B.(2) P.46 (UNRUFFLED) diving by day through 038°  
05' 009° 37' at 2230/27th 039° 01' 010° 13' at  
1600/28th 042° 01' 010° 13' at 0500/30th.(3) UNSHAKEN diving by day through 039° 02' 010°  
39' at 1900/28th 042° 01' 010° 39' at 0630/30th.

(4) Patrol zone of both S/Ms will be signalled later.

(5) All times are zone minus 1.

(Capt. S.8., 241900B to Capt. (S) 10 (R) N.W.A.C.A.F., N.O.I.C.  
Algiers, C. in C. Med., 8th S/M Flotilla, F.O.P. (corrupt Group))

T.S.S.7

My 231111B. sailed (amendments).

(N.O.I.C. Malta, 241938Z to Cdre. Cdg. N. Force.  
etc).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- 6 L.S.Ts. Sailed from Taranto to Cotrone on 20th for H.M. service Cotrone - Taranto C. in C. Med's 180057 refers. Army wish this service to be expedited. When may first (?Tug) be expected? My 221814 to N.O.I.C. Cotrone only refers. (F.O.T.A., 242001 to F.O.Sy Cotrone (R) N.O.I.C. Taranto, C. in C. Med).
- U.S. ships Arrivals BROOKLYN, WOOLSEY, EDISON, WESTRAY. Departures BROOKLYN, PLUNKETT. (F.O. Tunisia, 242055).
- EMPIRE TROOPER. EMPIRE TROOPER is not to sail to join K.M.F. 24. (C. in C. Med., 242007B to N.O.I.C. Augusta (R) CARLISLE, C. in C. Levant, Escort K.M.S. 24, P.S.T.O. Med. (corrupt group) S.T.O. Sicily, F.O.Sy, P.S.T.O. M.E.)  
My 242007. Sail EMPIRE TROOPER in next convoy to Malta for onward routing to Port Said in next convoy. (C. in C. Med., 242015B to N.O.I.C. Augusta).
- Landing Craft for U.K. Your 221309B. Unless trawlers mentioned in A.M. 241721 Sept. (N.T. in W.D.) or others from your Command can be made available, escorts will have to be sent from U.K.  
2. To enable arrangements to be made request date of readiness at Gibraltar of the landing craft referred to in your 221309 be signalled.  
3. Information is also requested as to numbers and types of further L.C.T. which will be available to return to U.K. and when they will be ready to sail from Gibraltar.  
4. Craft to sail in Groups of not more than 24. The scale of escorts to be two or more trawlers and one Tug with each group.  
5. It is proposed that L.C.I.(L) should return in K.M.F. and L.S.T. in K.M.S. convoys. (D.O.D. (H), 242031A to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).
- Situation report No. 61. Aircraft have located escort vessel damaged by ECLIPSE early 23rd and two funnelled destroyer, aground near Cape Prassonisi, Rhodes.  
(2) Convoy M.K.S. 26 16 merchant vessels left Alexandria 24th. (C. in C. Levant, 242050C to Admty).
- C. in C. M.E. Report. Cositrep No.4. 1. Int. A. Aegean. Italian Garrisons Santorin and neighbouring dependent Islands still undisturbed by the Germans.  
C. Ionian Islands. Corfu. Germans began landing Cape Lefkimo (or Lefkimi) and San Giorgio Bay (south of Lake Korissa) late 23 Sept. and occupied San Giorgio first light 24 Sept.  
D. Albania. 23 Sept. Germans reported evacuating Italians of Valona Garrison from Santi Quaranta.

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24.9.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

C. in C. 3. Naval.  
M.E. Report. A. Following enemy ships sailed from Piraeus to-  
(contd). wards Corinth Canal. Night 20/21 Sept. 1 Ship  
loaded guns and eqpt., 21 Sept. 2 ships. Night  
21/22 Sept. 2 ships 1 of 5000 tons.  
B. Afternoon 21 Sept. 1 ship loaded tps. and 80  
tons amn. sailed Piraeus for Crete and Rhodes.  
C. Night 21/22 Sept. cargo ship 1500 tons and auxiliaries sailed  
from Piraeus to Crete.  
D. Cased pet. ship arrived Castelrosso 24 Sept.  
4. Air.  
A. 22 Sept. Baltimore attacked 50 ton caique off Gavdos Island.  
Bombs overshoot by 20 ft.  
(C. in C. M.E., 242100C to W.O.)

U.G. Your 211220. As from arrival of U.G.S.6 A in  
Convoys, April. My 021738 April refers.  
Atlantic (C. in C. Med., 242117 to Cominch, (R) Admty.  
control. C. in C. Levant, F.O.C. Gibraltar).

QUEENBOROUGH Cancel my 241830B (N.T. in W.R.) Proceed direct  
to Malta on completion passing through position  
039° 43' N., 018° 50' E., 0600/25th thence to  
Malta 1900/25th.  
(Brindisi, 242140B to QUEENBOROUGH (R) ILEX,  
F.O.H., N.O.I.C. Malta, F.O. Ta. Capt. (D) 4th  
D.F.)

Technique of enemy A/C attack. Enemy appears to have developed a technique of  
limited attacks by F.W. 190 fighter bombers at  
low level and glider bomb or rocket bomb attacks  
from high level.  
When attacked by F.W.190 ships must maintain good  
look-out, guarding against high flying A/C and be  
prepared to direct part of armament to disturbing their aim.  
The use of glider bombs is believed to require flight on a steady  
course for an appreciable period.  
(C. in C. Med., 242142B to Med. and Levant Station 167B).

M.K.F.25 Cancel para. 10 of my 221951. Request ocean  
route.  
(C. in C. Med., 242217B to Admty. (R) F.O.Sy.  
N.O.I.C. Augusta, N.O.I.C. Malta, N.O.I.C. Algiers  
F.O.C. Gibraltar, Com. N.O.B. Oran).

P.34 (ULTIMATUM) After 0001/27th the Eastern limit of your patrol  
area is 006° 01'. ARETHUSE will be operating to  
the eastward of you.  
(Capt. S.8., 242328B to P.34 (ULTIMATUM) (R)  
8th S/M F. ARETHUSE, C. in C. Med).

/Med...



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24.9.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Med.Air.  
Report.

Part. 3 Air Cositintrep No. 76, 23 Sept.  
Signed Eisenhower.  
N.W.A.A.F. Night 22/23 Sept. Coastal Wellingtons  
attacked small vessels off Capraia Island but  
with unknown results.  
(Air C. in C. Med. No T.O.O. Recd. 2335/24).

Brindisi  
Situation  
Report No.12.

(?Taranto) area Commander arrived. 1st port  
meeting held tonight. Italian report T.B.359  
STOCCO sunk by air attack after bombarding Corfu.  
British M.M. S. 70 reported lost on passage  
Taranto to Brindisi.  
Intend sweeping commercial and outer harbour tomor-  
row.  
(N.O.I.C. Brindisi, 242342B).

USURPER

USURPER from 041° 56' 006° 43' at 0500A/26th,  
diving by day through 043° 25' 009° 01' at  
2000A/27th thence patrol in zone SP. My 231002  
refers.  
(Capt. (S) 8, 242352B to 8th S.F. (R) C. in C.  
Med., Capt. (S) 10).

24.9.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Convoys  
P.A. 54,  
P.B. 57.

Sailing telegram. 1. P.A.54 "Upward" BKN.  
P.B.57 "Cadger" BIH.  
2. 0400Z/24. 4. 8 knots. 5. P.A.54 route 4.  
P.B.57 route 1. 6. P.A.54 BURNIE, BENGAL.  
P.B.57 MADRAS, PUNJAB. 8. P.A.54 route 4, (S).  
P.B.57 route 1 (S).  
(N.C.S.O. Hormuz, 240440Z to Admty., etc.)  
Departure Bandar Abbas 0400Z/24th PUNJAB and MADRAS  
escorting P.B.57, BURNIE and BENGAL escorting P.A.54.  
2. Bombay section E.T.A. 062° E. 1100Z/26th. E.T.A. Karachi  
0300Z/28th. E.T.A. Bombay 0300Z/30th.  
3. Aden section E.T.A. 057° 30' E. 0300Z/28th, E.T.A. Aden  
1600Z/2nd.  
(N.O.I.C. Hormuz, 240455Z to Admty.)

L.S.Ts. Cancel my 221157.  
(2) Request all L.S.T. be sailed in convenient  
A.B. convoys. Those with cargoes for Bombay or  
Karachi to Bombay, thence Colombo. The  
remainder to Colombo direct.  
(3) From latest available information of loading request (A)  
L.S.T.79, 80, 214, 238 and 180 proceed Bombay thence Colombo  
for onward routeing.  
(B) L.S.T.215, 237, 239 proceed direct Colombo for onward  
routeing.  
(4) No information in held as regards U.S. L.S.Ts.17, 21, 25,  
72, 73, 175, 176, 208, 209 and 261 and it is requested that  
they be routed in accordance with para. 1 above.  
(5) Request early information of E.T.As. of above ships.  
(C. in C. E.F., 240638Z to Com i/c Aden, (R) S.O. Force C,  
C. in C. Levant, Admty., F.O.R.S.C.A., Armindia, F.O.C.R.I.N.,  
F.O. Ceylon, P.S.T.O. Bombay.)

W/T in My 140948 refers.  
base (2) Proposed that base ships referred to in  
ships. paras. 2, 3, and 4 of above quoted signal should  
have standard W/T equipment in order that they  
may be interchangeable in their duties if so  
desired.  
(3) Standard equipment should consist of (details).  
(4) Para. 4 of my 140948 is not correct since there is no W/T  
equipment available on the station for this commitment.  
(5) Therefore request appropriate equipment for 2 base ships  
may be despatched forthwith to Colombo for fitting in KEDAH  
and HAIDAN.  
(6) Should base ships referred to in para. 3 of above quoted  
signal be allocated direct from trade either from this station  
or from Mediterranean also request a further supply of equipment  
on same scale be despatched to Colombo for fitting in each ship.  
(7) If, however, ships are allocated from U.K. request they  
may be fitted out before departure.  
(8) No extra W/T is required for base ships for escort vessels  
referred to in my 140948 para. 5 (a) and (b).

/(9) ...

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24.9.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.W/T in  
base ships.  
(Contd.)

(9) Base ships referred to in para. 5 (c) need only to be capable of one line W/T transmission and reception plus one line all wave reception. (C. in C. E.F., 240834Z to Admty., (R) F.O. Ceylon.)

India Air  
Report.

A.204 24th Sept. Daily Opsum No.558. 22nd Sept. 2 Beaufighters on offensive Minbu to Promé attacked and damaged 1 oil barge, 1 large steamer and 19 other river craft. Set fire to oil tank and damaged 2 water tanks near Minbu.

Outstanding reports. 10th U.S.A.A.F. 22nd Sept. 3 U.S. Mitchells (B.25) and 6 U.S. Kittyhawks (P.40) attacked 300 foot vessel at Shihhweiyao (65 miles S.E. Hankow). 2 near misses. 3 U.S. Mitchells (B.25) and 4 U.S. Kittyhawks (P.40) attacked large freighter Nanking. Results unobserved. (A.H.Q. India, 240910Z.)

DAPHU  
gun.

Propose to approve S.N.O.P.G's 200651 re 12 pounder gun. (C. in C. E.F., 240918Z to Admty., (R) S.N.O.P.G.)

Convoy  
M.A.,8.

Sailing telegram (3 ships). (2) 0945Z/24th Sept. (4) Knots 9.65. (5) Coastal. (6) IRRAWADI, KELAVATI. (N.C.S.O. Madras, 240951Z, 240958Z to Admty.) (N.O.I.C. Madras, 241005Z to Admty., etc.)

Convoy  
M.A. 7.

Sailing telegram part 1. (2) 1039Z/23rd. (4) 10. (5) (Route). (6) LAUNCESTON, ROHILKHAND. (N.C.S.O. Vizagapatam, 231049Z to Admty.)

War Diary.24.9.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.MIDLAND,  
LORD KELVIN,  
QUEBEC.Now with LORD KELVIN. Detached QUEBEC at  
232345Z to comply with your 232012Z (N.T. in W.D.)  
E.T.A. Halifax Lightship 0930Z/Sept. 24th.  
P.C. & S. 240130Z 043° 25' N. 061° 17' W. 293° 11.  
(MIDLAND 240030Z to C. in C. C.N.W.At. (R)  
N.S.H.Q. QUEBEC. (D) Halifax.)Halifax arrival September 24/43 LORD KELVIN.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 241155Z to Admty. etc.)Escort  
Groups.Your 212309Z (Re suggest that on arrival of 9th  
E.G. and C.2.E.G. in Newfoundland 9th E.G. be  
disbanded.) and my 212309Z (N.T. in W.R.) in  
view of loss of ITCHEN intend with your  
concurrence to allocate two Corvettes of E.G.9.  
to E.G.C.2. and remaining one to E.G.5. F.O.N.F.  
request to take necessary action reporting names.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 240105Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) F.O.N.F. Admty.etc.)

T.A.64.

Convoy T.A.64 sailed from U.K. a.m. 23/9 for  
New York.  
2. Details of personnel on board are being  
communicated by W.O. to Milstaf Washington and  
C.G.S. Ottawa.  
(D.S.T. 240235A to B.A.D. etc.)

T.A.63.

Convoy T.A.63 comprising MAURETANIA sailed from  
U.K. 22/9 for Boston.  
2. Details of personnel on board are being  
communicated by W.O. to Milstaf Washington and  
C.G.S. Ottawa.  
(D.S.T. 240241A to B.A.D. etc.)Movements,  
Pearl.23rd 2300 U.S.S. HERCULES San Francisco 29th.  
(R.O. Pearl 240303 to Admty.)S/M. Attack  
and Sighting  
Summary.All times Z. para. A.  
(1) A/C P.10 sights S/M course 100° speed 10 knots  
52.25 N. 40.13 W. at 0815/23rd.  
(2) A/C P.10 sights S/M on surface course 090°  
speed 12 knots 53.28 N. 43.25 W. at 1434/23rd.  
(3) A/C P.10 attacks S/M 52.45 43.08 W. at  
1520/23rd.  
(4) A/C Y.10 sights S/M on surface course 180°  
speed 6 knots 52.53 N. 43.10 W. at 1810/23rd.  
(5) A/C Y.10 attacks S/M 52.36 N. 42.23 W. at  
1855/23rd. Nil result.  
(N.S.H.Q. 240544Z to Admty. etc.)

T.J.9.

List, etc. (10 ships and F.T.23.)  
(B.R.L.O. Trinidad 240807Q to Admty.)

War Diary.

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

B.3. Group. My 231857. (Re O.N.202, O.N.S.18.) para.2.  
B.3 group is to proceed to St.John's, N.F. KEPPEL  
report at next opportunity if docking required.  
(F.O.N.F. 241204Z to Ships escorting O.N.202,  
O.N.S.18. (R) C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q. Admty.  
etc.)

Docking advisable, your 241204\* refers.  
(S.O.E.G. B3. 241600Z to F.O.N.F.)\* B.3 Gp. to proceed to  
St. John's N.F.)

"S" Report. Intercepted by Halifax A.C.H.Q., C.C.O. at  
241010 SSSS 37.53 N. 73.41 W.  
(WAEY (unidentifiable) No T.O.O. to Admty.  
Recd. 1229/24.)

O.N.S.18/  
O.N.202.  
Air Attacks  
on U-Boats.

H.A.C. 589/24th Sept. My A.C.581 Ref. para.  
(3) GR. Opsum No.12 (111) (A) Lib. L/10.  
(B) Close cover O.N.S.18 O.N.202.  
(C) 1739/22nd. (D) 53.57 N. 40.32 W.  
(E) 240°. (F) 10 knots. (G) 45 miles 10°.  
(H) 4 Torpex Mk.XI. Hydrostatic D.Cs. with Mk.  
XVI pistols. Plume obliterated U/B but U/B  
did not submerge encountered A/A from C.T. and astern no crew  
sighted fully surfaced but ?drove to tripped down position  
during approach turning to port. Aircraft opened fire from  
upper turret at 1,000 yards. U-Boat from 1,500 yards, turning  
very sharply to keep aircraft astern. After attack aircraft  
continued straight ahead with evasive tactics. Rear turret  
continued firing. No.2 engine damaged. Aircraft returned to  
base. Navigator slightly injured. (111) (A) Lib. N/10.  
(B) Close cover O.N.S.18 O.N.S.202. (C) 2148Z/28. (D) 53.58 N.  
40.38 W. (E) 090° (F) 20 knots on surface. (G) 15 M.  
(H) Aircraft let down to identify and experienced heavy A/A  
fire on passing over stern of U/B on both first and second runs  
S.N.O. refused permission to drop flares for night attack.  
No attack carried out. Orange O.B.2 (X10) 1743 (?5317 or 5717)  
3729 sighted surfaced U-Boat 1745 attacked U-Boat. 1753/2nd a  
attack same U-Boat. 1755, 5324, 3728 sighted another U-Boat 1802  
attacked with M/G fire 1845, 5338, 3752 returned to convoy.  
(111) (A) Lib. X.2496/10. (B) Close cover O.N.S.18, O.N.202.  
(C) 1745Z/22. (D) 53.17 N. 37.29 W. (E) 155° (F) 10 knots.  
(G) 20 M. (?55 or 45°) (H) 4 Torpex Mk.XI Hydrostatic D.Cs.  
with M.K. XVI pistol and 2 600 pound D.Cs. Plume from 4 D.Cs.  
partially covered U-Boat and C.T. rolled 45° to starboard.  
(1) Oil streaks about 100 by 75 feet. about 2 minutes after  
600 pound attack. U-Boat was able to fire full salvos when  
only C.T. showing. Gunners were noted only in C.T. U-Boat  
considered to be 740 tons or larger with large gun forward of  
C.T. (111) (A) Lib. X/10. (B) Close cover O.N.S.18, O.N.202.  
(C) 1755Z/22. (D) 53.24 37.28 (E) 220° (F) 10 knots.  
(G) 20 miles 270°. (H) M/G fire.

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Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

O.N.S.18/  
O.N.202  
Air attacks  
on U/Boats.  
(Contd.)

(1) Sighted whilst attacking U/Boat in 53.17 N. 37.29 W. in turning to attack aircraft was met by heavy A/A from C.T. and astern. U/Boat submerged to trimmed position but did not submerge. U/Boat 500 ton type. (H.Q. E.A.C. 241330Z). As amended H.Q. E.A.C. No T.O.O. Recd 250845A.

KHEDIVE. Following is a reencypherment of 240429 which Comorwesseafon sends to Cominch, Vice C.N.O., C. in C. Pac. C. in C. Lant, B.A.D. Admty. N.S.H.Q. Compaseafon, Comwesseafon, Comgulfseafon, Comcaribseafon, C.E.S.F., C.O.P.C. Com. Five, Comsopac. Directed to enter Panama maritime control area during daylight KHEDIVE departed Port Angeles 240000Z for Balboa, E.T.A. defence area 051100Z Oct. S. of A. 15 through. (Route "Chop" 1000 25th, "Chop" 22 Oct. (Radio Washington, 241345Z).

Convoy J.T.7. Arrived.  
(B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 241409Q.)

U/B 1200Z/24th September. Group of about 10  
Estimated previously shadowing O.N.S.18 and O.N.202  
Position. apparently now astern in area 51° N. to 54° N. 39° W. to 45° W. One probably within 150 miles of Canadian coast. (N.S.H.Q. 241410Z.)

No recent indications of activity vicinity O.N.S.18 and O.N.202 with majority of U/Boats in North Atlantic probably moving Southward in General Area 50.00 to 55.00 and 30.00 to 43.00. (Cominch, 241615Z.)

Schooner Schooner KATHLEEN C. CREASER aground N.W. coast  
Loss. Little Miquelon Island Sept. 17th now reported total loss. (N.S.H.Q. 241525Z to Admty.)

O.N. A.M. 231540 Concur.  
Convoy (2) Suggest position 44.30 N. 61.00 W. be  
Route. altered to 43.15 N. 60.01 W. thence through 39°30' N. 68.00 W. 39.35 N. 72.25 W. (C. in C. C.N.A., 241530Z to Admty.)

Convoy O.N.201. 51 ships arrived New York including GULF COAST and EVITA originally for Del Capes. First arrival 240322Z. Last arrival 241424Z. All ships accounted for. (P.D. New York, 241544 to Com. 10th Fleet C.& R.)

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

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.

B.Y.M.S. 1. Intend to sail B.Y.M.S. 34 (S.O.) 39, 54 and 78 at 1230Z Sept. 25th for Londonderry.  
2. Routed through (A) 49.00 N. 75.00 W. (B) 50.00 N. 40.00 W. thence via Great Circle to destination. 3. Speed 10 knots.  
4. W/T routine as in my 081537Z August.  
5. Request C. in C. W.A. divert ships as necessary according to U/Boat situation.  
(F.O.N.F. 241549Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q., B.A.D., B.N.L.O. New York. Com. Tenth Fleet C. & R. etc.)

SEARCHER. B.A.D.'s 072243Z. It is intended that SEARCHER be allocated for ferrying duties.  
2. She will make two trips to U.S. to collect U.S. aircraft before she is required for other operations.  
(D.O.D.(H) 241620A to B.A.D. (R) F.O.C.T., F.O.N.A.S., R.A.N.A.S. C. in C.W.A.)

H.H.X. Sailing telegram part 1. (2) Gate 1600Z/24 258. September. (3) Homp 43.11 N. 60.15 W. at 1500Z/25 Sept. (5) Standard route "A" amended by Admty. 041301B, July and C. in C. C.N.A. 180012Z Sept. amended by 222032Z Sept.  
(7) Total 20 ships. (15) "AS"  
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 241621Z to Admty.)

B.X.75. Sailing telegram part 2. I. 23 ships.  
(P.D. Boston, 241632 to C. in C. C.N.A. Admty. etc.)

U.S.A.T. San Francisco arrival 21st SOMMELSDIJK (Du) departure 21st LURLINE (U.S.) for Noumea both U.S.A.Ts.  
(N.S.H.Q., 241748Z.)

Escort Vessels, Conversions. Lorsa 12745. Your 012151 July. 1. Preliminary study by Buships of D.E. conversion to A.A. escort has following characteristics.  
(Details, technical)  
2. Following points have arisen in discussion.  
(1) Effectiveness of long range A.A. fire with only 3 guns and in consequence effectiveness of armament proposed for an A/A escort.  
(2) It seems advisable to fit A.D.O. sights on Bridge as a standby when Radar is out of action.  
3. It may be possible to increase close range armament if fuel oil is reduced to maintain maximum displacement.  
4. Ships as modified should be very useful gunboats for attacks on enemy shipping when escorted only by light craft and may therefore be considered useful for other purposes than A.A.  
5. Request your views.  
(B.A.D. 241851Z to Admty.)

/Lorsa...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Escort  
Vessels  
Conversions  
(Contd.)      Lorsa 12746. Your 012151 July. Preliminary study by Buships of D.E. conversion to Monitor has following characteristics (details - technical.)  
2. Request your views particularly as regards the following (technical).  
3. It is considered undesirable to increase substantially the displacement of these ships pending further sea experience.  
(B.A.D. 241853Z to Admty.)

DUCKWORTH.      DUCKWORTH'S 231430 sail onward to Argentina for passage to U.K. as additional convoy escort when stores embarked. Advise time of departure, route, S. of A.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 241925Z to C.E.S.F. (R)  
C. in C. Lant. Commandant 1st N.D. Boston,  
C. in C. C.N.A. Admty., S.B.N.O. W.At. N.S.H.Q.  
Comtask 24, C. in C. W.A., F.O.N.F.)

O.N.201      Following arrived New York Sept. 23/24. Total 51 ships (list)  
(B.R.L.O. New York, 241943Z to Admty.)

Pilots  
for  
Helldiver  
Sqdns.      Your 201845. Sept. All these pilots can be Usefully employed here in their trained dive-bombing capacity. The nine concerned should therefore be returned to U.K.  
2. Admty. 092139 Sept. to B.A.D. addressed S.A.T. from D.A.W.T.241951A to B.A.D.)

B.E.C.  
1, 2, 3.      Arrival H.M.S. B.E.C. No.1, No. 2, No.3 from Quebec.  
(C. Halifax, 242037Z to Admty., N.S.H.Q., Connav, B.A.D., B.A.M.R. N.O.I.C. Sydney, N.O.I.C. Quebec, N.O.I.C. Gaspe.)  
B.A.D.171803 August. Anticipate B.E.C. 1 and B.E.C.2 will proceed to U.K. as additional Escorts H.H.X.261.  
(C. in C. C.N.A., 242006Z to Admty.)

H.H.X.255.      Departure ST. ALBANS, CALDWELL, escorting H.H.X. 258.  
(C. Halifax, 242038Z to Admty.)

ASPIRANT.      H.M.R.T. ASPIRANT sailed St. Johns, 1900Z 23rd to 53 25 39 41 W. to salvage Merchant Vessel.  
(F.O.N.F. 242055 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A.)



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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

- Bomron  
111. Direct Bomron 111 when ready to proceed St. Eval U.K. about Sept. 25th and 29th, October 3 and 7. for duty for operational control by British Authorities. Transfer administration to Comfairwing 7.  
(Commaveu, 242117 to Admty. etc.)
- B.E.C.3. B.A.D. 271431. Anticipate B.E.C.3 will be ready to proceed to Bermuda 30th September.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 242131Z to S.B.N.O.W.At.)
- "g"  
Report. Following has been read from Washington Radio. SSSS DE WTTM (KYHY - Indecypherable)  
Submarine following us, 34.25 N. 75.15 W.  
Periscope showing.  
(C. in C.C.N.A. 242205 G.M.T. to A.C.I.C., Admty.)
- B.D.E.67. At speed 15 knots en route to Bermuda ESSINYTON? 'BDE 67) departs Boston Gate at 1030Q 25th. Route. E.T.A. position O. 1400Q 27th.  
(C.T.G.2.1, 242240 to N.O.B. Bermuda (R) Cominch, Cinclant, C.T.G.23.1, Alusna London, Admty., C.E.S.F., N.S.H.Q.)

Australia and New Zealand.

- Digest  
serial  
No.612  
Sept.23rd. Single enemy destroyer observed 40 miles west of Buka Passage forenoon course 300°.
2. During early hours one Navy Catalina made radar contact approx. 7 planes near Cape Saint George heading south. Another scored near miss on eastbound destroyer 9 miles east of Arove Island.
3. R/C Liberator photographed 8 ship convoy showing 5 medium freighters, 1 sea-truck, 2 escort vessels 120 miles N.W. Mussau Island mid morning course easterly. Later sighted lone destroyer 80 miles N.E. Mussau course 150; and after midday observed 1 heavy cruiser, 1 destroyer 200 miles west Kapinga Marangi proceeding south.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Digest  
serial  
No.612  
Sept. 23rd.  
(Contd.)

4. Forenoon patrol Beaufort unsuccessfully attacked westbound S/M 60 miles S.E. Cape Orford. Another southbound sub. passed this vicinity evening.
11. Fixes 23rd digest, 4 enemy S/Ms operating between Milne Bay and New Georgia.
12. Night 22nd - 23rd 1 Catalina bombed Sorong and another Kokas where several barges noticed.
13. Photos Dobo 21st reveal 3 small freighters.
14. Photographs Ambon Harbour area 22nd incomplete but covering usual anchorage reveal 1 possible Naval craft, 1 tanker of 10,000 tons, medium and 13 small freighters mainly 500 tonners, 2 unidentified type 250 foot vessels plus many harbour craft. 3 ships on old slipway and 2 on new slipway.
15. Before dawn Catalina bombed 1 vessel near Buka Passage and another 30 miles southeast Cape Saint George with unreported results. On ship was freighter, other believed light cruiser.
16. Forenoon R/C observed 5 barges or small craft Buka Passage, 1 small freighter Kieta, 1 large medium and two small cargo vessels Tonolei Harbour, 1 light cruiser, 4 destroyers off Buin. 2 small freighters sighted anchored 20 miles west of Buin evening.
17. After dark Catalina contacted 3 small vessels 20 miles west of northern Buka Island.
19. Prisoners Arundel Island state heavy casualties suffered that area. Also that Vila being supplied by submarines and float planes.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 240928.)

Movements.

Arrived Brisbane 21st U.S.S. HALF MOON.  
Departed Sydney 22nd U.S.S. TAYLOR for Noumea.  
(A.C.N.B. 231222Z.)  
Departed 23Z/23rd (sic) Wellington Espiritu Santo USS  
SARAMACU, U.S.S. SAUGATUCK Sanpedre 12th Oct.  
(Wellington, 242312Z) As amended 250712Z.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

No fresh information since A.M. 231405A.  
(D.D.I.C. 241327A, 241640.)

/S/Ms. ...

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Friday.

War Diary.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

Sub. attack and sighting summary for 24 hours to 0900Z 24th Sept.

Para. A. (1) O.N.S18 and O.N.202 attacked between 2330Z/22 and about 0600Z/23. (2) ITCHEN torpedoed and blew up. (3) OREGON EXPRESS sunk. (4) FORT JEMSEG, SKJELBRED and STEEL VOYAGER torpedoed and abandoned. (5) NORTHERN FOAM claims to have sunk one U/Boat. No details. (6) Canadian aircraft attacked U/Boats 52° 45' N. 43° 08' W. 1520Z/23 and 52° 36' N. 42° 23' W. 1855Z/23. (7) Canadian aircraft sighted U/Boats 52° 25' N. 40° 13' W. 0715Z/23. 53° 28' N. 43° 25' W. 1444Z/23rd. 52° 50' N. 42° 20' W. 1800Z/23 52° 53' N. 43° 10' W. 1810Z/23. (8) A/C P/21 attacked U/Boat on surface course 180° 37' 33' N. 08° 53' W. 0305Z/24. Para B. (1) S.O.B.7 reported U/Boat bearing 120° 1 mile 52° 20' N. 32° 48' W. 2258Z/23\*. (2) A/C A/407 sighted U/Boat course 140° 47' 32' N. 11° 26' W. 2010Z/23. (3) A/C N/202 sighted possible C/T course 180° 40' 45' N. 11° 07' W. 0718Z/22. Ref. A.M. 221046Z para. A. unknown ship torpedoed at 0727Z/21, was WILLIAM W GERHARD. On fire and uncontrollable. (D.D.I.C., 241051Z to Cominch)\* Attacked, see D.D.I.C. 251003Z.

Attacks on O.N.S.18 and O.N.202.

Conference. I expect you are arranging to call a conference of Senior Officers of B.3 and C.2 escort groups so that we and other authorities may receive all relevant information from the S.O.Es. who were on the spot. I would be grateful if in the special circumstances this information together with their reports could be flown over as soon as possible. 2. I am anxious also to obtain their views on the tactics suggested during their passage with constructive criticisms and reasons. 3. I would be grateful also for your own personal views on these matters although time may not have permitted a full analysis. (C. in C.W.A. 241119Z to C.in C. C.N.A. (R) F.O.N.F. Admty. Com. (D) W.A. Capt. (D) Greenock.) Consider early conference very desirable to collect evidence from all C.Os. of combined escorts as it seems probable enemy has been trying out new tactics and new material against this convoy. (S.O.Escort Group B.3, 241410Z to C. in C. C.W.A.(R) Admty. etc.)

Use of P.N.M.

Ref. A.M. 231539. Issue of Canadian P.N.M. gear for anti-acoustic torpedo to be known as cat gear will be made to ships shortly but is not to be used pending further instructions. Evasive tactics as given in A.M. 222010A\* are to be employed in attack. (C. in C. C.N.A., 241529Z to F.O.N.F., D. Halifax, D. Newfoundland, (R) Admty. etc.)\*(A.G.M., 657A.)

/Acoustic...

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24.9.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.Attacks on O.N.S.18 and O.N.202 - Contd.Acoustic  
Homing  
Torpedoes.

Admty. 222010A para. 6. A reduction of speed below 8 knots is likely to reduce considerably homing radius of torpedo.

2. Despite this, investigation has shown that chance of clearing dangerous area by a reduction of speed below 8 knots simultaneously with alteration of course is no better than by the method recommended in para. 6(b) and (e).

3. A reduction of speed is not recommended, owing to increase of relative speed of acoustic torpedo over that of target, and danger from normal torpedo attack.

4. When U/Boat is below 100 ft. it is considered that attacks with acoustic torpedoes are unlikely, and therefore creeping attacks may be made without additional risk.

(D.T.S.D. Approved A.C.N.S.(W) 241845A to A.G.M. Home and Abroad.)

In order to clear up certain misunderstandings which may exist in regard to the new German Homing Torpedo, the following information is promulgated.

(a) The torpedo is probably used from the stern tubes only but the use of gyro angling is possible and must be taken into consideration.

(b) Available evidence indicates that the torpedo is a true homer attracted by High Frequency Propeller noise probably unaffected by Asdics and may, therefore, be expected to follow a curve of pursuit and is likely to come up astern.

(c) It is thought that the torpedo is electric rather than air driven and that the speed while homing must be at least 20 knots and maybe up to 25 knots.

(d) An acoustic firing device is considered to be improbable and the torpedo is not, therefore, likely to be fired by any noise decoy.

(e) A non contact pistol is possible, but a sensitive contact inertia device is considered more likely.

(f) Decoy countermeasures should consist of the production of a number of sources of large amplitude H.F. noise.

(g) These sources must be placed at a sufficient distance from the ship and in such a way as to either head the torpedo completely away from the ship or induce it to circle round the noise sources and exhaust itself.

(h) At present "Foxer" is only suitable decoy available in U.K. This consists of a pair of special Pipe Noise Makers (P.N.M.) units towed on either quarter by paravane diverters, the spread being 100 yards and the distance astern of the ship 200 yards. These distances are important and any reduction would be dangerous, as would any appreciable increase in the distance astern.

(i) Single "Foxers" towed at a suitable distance directly astern will increase the running range of the torpedo to hit. On the other hand, it is considered that this method might merely serve to lead the torpedo into the ship, since it is improbable that a torpedo of the type envisaged above would circle around a single noise decoy when in the vicinity of the ships propellers.

(j) Other decoy noise makers are possible and the broad requirements of these are as follows:-

/(1)...

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U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Attacks on O.N.S.18 and O.N.202 - Contd.

Acoustic  
Homing  
Torpedoes.  
(Contd.)

- (1) Production of noise underwater to cover the one to fifty K.C. band.
- (2) High amplitude compared with propeller noise in that band.
- (3) Capable of being placed at a distance of at least 300 yards from the ship, e.g. by rocket or gun.

(4) The arrangement must produce a set of noise patches underwater each enduring over a period of not less than three minutes and considerably longer if possible.

(k) Experiments have shewn that machine gun bullets may produce sufficient H.F. sound to act as a decoy provided that they enter the water at a steep angle. For the reasons stated in (g) above the bullets must enter the water at least 300 yards from the ship. Thus this countermeasure would not normally be practicable from ship mounted machine guns.

(l) Regarding (j) above slow burning explosive and other simple devices are being investigated at the highest priority. Experiments in the past have not been encouraging, but it is hoped to produce something on these lines even if the full requirements of noise output and Vibration.

(D.T.M. Approved by A.C.N.S.(W) 242113A to Comaveu, N.S.H.Q. C. in C.W.A., C. in C.H.F., C. in C. Med., C. in C. C.N.A., B.A.D.) To B.A.D. only Comaveu requests you transmit this signal together with 222010A and 241518A to Cominch B.U. ord and B.U. ships.

War Diary.25.9.1943.  
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.H.X.257.  
U/B  
rammed.

1. S.O. E.G.5, proceeding to support H.X.257, reported at 0401Z that TWEED rammed a U-Boat on the surface in 51.32 N. 31.09 W. (800 miles west of Bantry Bay). The U-Boat was reported damaged and dived at 0407. E.G.5 is hunting.  
S.O. E.G. B.6 escorting Convoy H.X. 257 reports that KINGCUP attacked a U-Boat at 2150Z in 51 degs. 6' N. 31 degs. 40' W. (800 miles West of Bantry Bay). FAME and KINGCUP are hunting.

Operation  
"Stonewall".

2. BERMUDA sailed from Plymouth this afternoon to carry out anti-blockade breaker Operation "Stonewall" in the approaches to the Bay of Biscay. This operation supersedes operation "Regulation".

Engagements  
with  
E-Boats.  
FRANC TIREUR  
and  
DONNA NOOK  
sunk.  
Two M/L's  
damaged.  
One E-Boat  
sunk.

3(a). At about 0100 this morning the M/S Trawler FRANC TIREUR on patrol off Harwich was torpedoed and sunk by an E-Boat; and at 0227 the M/S Trawler DONNA NOOK was rammed and sunk by STELLA RIGEL on the same patrol during a second engagement with E-Boats. All DONNA NOOK's crew were picked up by STELLA RIGEL, but 16 are missing from FRANC TIREUR.  
(b) At 0130 when about 20 miles East of the Sunk Light Vessel M.L's 150 and 145 both rammed an E-Boat and, after heavy gun-fire by both M.L's, the E-Boat blew up and 16 prisoners including 2 officers were picked up. Both M.L's were badly damaged but returned safely to Lowestoft.  
(c) At 0120 PUFFIN and PYTCHLEY engaged 2 further E-Boats between 54 B and 3 Buoys and scored hits at close range.  
(d) At least 4 groups of E-Boats were engaged in the above operations and they operated further South than on any previous occasion.

Coastal  
Batteries.

4. At 0334 this morning our Coastal Batteries engaged 16 small craft probably minelaying 8 miles N.W. of Cape Blanc Nez, and the enemy batteries in Gris Nez and Calais areas replied with about 10 rounds of which 3 fell in Dover town and 3 in Folkestone where 4 civilian casualties were caused.

EREBUS.

5. The Monitor EREBUS left Gibraltar this evening in company with Convoy M.K.S.25 for the United Kingdom.

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25.9.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

6. Aircraft Q/179 sighted a U-Boat steering south in 36.43 N. 09.13 W. at 0112Z today. Aircraft R of 429 Sqdn. attacked a U-Boat with depth charges at 0208B in 36.48 N. 09.13 W.

South Atlantic.

ST. USK.

7. A wireless message received in Rio de Janeiro today from the Spanish ALBAREDA reported she had picked up a boat with 27 survivors from the British SS. ST. USK, torpedoed about 4 days ago 480 miles E.S.E. of Recife. A second lifeboat was reported by U.S. aircraft on 26th Sept. about 135 miles S.E. from Bahia.

Mediterranean.

U.S.S.  
SKILL  
Sunk.

8. At 1323B, the minesweeper FLY reported that the U.S. minesweeper SKILL had been torpedoed 15 miles N.W. of Licosa Point, Gulf of Salerno. TARTAR and FLY proceeded to hunt the U-Boat. At 1353B, the SKILL was reported to have sunk in 40.20 N. 14.35 E.

*Corsica.*  
~~Corsica.~~

9. Two merchant ships arrived at Ajaccio today with French army stores.

Air  
Operations.

10. About 30 Wellingtons last night bombed the inner basin and harbour at Leghorn. Bombing was concentrated on small craft and medium motor vessels and the basin. Hits were made amongst the vessels. Today, fighter bombers of the Tactical Air Force attacking enemy gun positions and troop movements sank a dredger at Termoli.

25.9.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.Otranto  
Straits,  
enemy  
air  
activity.

11. Enemy aircraft are becoming active over the waters between Corfu and Otranto. In the 24 hours ending at noon today, the Italian T.B. STOCCO was sunk off Samothraki Island, the Italian M.V. DUBAC was badly damaged whilst approaching Cape Taranto, and the T.B. SIRIO was attacked in the vicinity. The M.V. DUBAC was later reported ashore off Taranto and a tug was sent from Brindisi to her assistance. The Italians state the aircraft are Stukas.

Aegean.

12 (a) The destroyers INTREPID and QUEEN OLGA left Alexandria at 0900 to carry out a sweep through the Straits of Scarpanto and are due at Leros tomorrow.  
(b) It is reported that the enemy landed troops at Naxos today, from a merchant ship and two E-Boats.  
(c) Beaufighters attacked with cannon-fire an escort vessel aground off Cape Prassonisi, Rhodes, starting small fires. The vessel appeared badly damaged and was subsequently seen to be sunk.  
(d) Spitfires based on Cos flew shipping protection and defensive patrols today.

Italian  
Shipping.

13. An agreement on the employment and disposition of the Italian Fleet and Mercantile Marine has been made between C. in C. Mediterranean, acting on behalf of the Allied C. in C., and the Italian Minister of Marine. The merchant marine is to operate under the same conditions as the merchant ships of the Allied nations.

America and West Indies.U.G.S.  
Convoys.

14. The Combined Chiefs of Staff have agreed that sailings of U.G.S. convoys at 10 day intervals should be continued.



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25.9.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

T.L.S.  
damaged.

15. A tank landing ship was severely bombed today by enemy aircraft off the east coast of Vella Lavella, Solomon Islands and was set on fire and some casualties were caused.

U-Boat Campaign.

Net  
Defence.

16. Now that U-Boats are operating spasmodically over wide areas, the Admiralty propose to Connav that C's in C. and Sea Frontier Commanders should be responsible for such temporary variations of the general instructions regarding net defence as are required or permitted by the local U-Boat situation. This should ensure that nets, whose life is short, are not streamed unnecessarily in areas no longer threatened.

25.9.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Command  
of Mixed  
Groups.

Your 211954. Para. 4. Concur in arrangements suggested in para. 3 (A) and (B).  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 251048A to Admty).  
A.M. 211954A. Arrangements in para. 3 (A) and (B) are acceptable to me as regards French and Norwegian Officers. Have had insufficient experience with Polish or other Allied Officers to be able to judge.  
(C. in C. C.N.A., 231856Z to Admty).

A.F.D.16

Your 231642A. A.F.D. XVI is suitable for L.C.I.(L) L.C.I.(S), and L.C.Ms. and its retention at Invergordon is requested to handle these craft.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 251700A to Admty).

Movements.LONDON,  
AUGUSTA.

Arrival C. S.1 in LONDON with AUGUSTA.  
(A.C.I.C., 250010 to A.C.O.S.)

RENONCULE

Your 221950. Proposals in Capt. D. Greenock's 240100 are approved. Request you will report whether date is suitable.  
(C. in C. W.A., 251006A to B.A.M.R.)

ORION

Destination of ORION is now Portsmouth.  
2. Request you will re-route accordingly.  
(D.O.D. H., 251127A to C. in C. Plymouth).  
My 241150A and Admty. 251127A. Amend route from position E. Proceed through position (G) 180° Bishop Rock 8. (H) 180° Lizard Head 3 miles and thence by Admty. Mess. "Q.Z" S. 410, 425, 427, 424 to Needles Channel for Portsmouth.  
2. Adjust speed to pass position (H) at 0630A/26th.  
5. Estimate Force U in vicinity position (H) at 0430A/26th.  
BERMUDA steer 251° reaches (N) 048° 50' N., 010° 06' W. at 0530/26th. My 251201.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 251201A to ORION).  
Your 251201. My P.C.S. 049° 22' N., 009° 55' W, 080° 25 knots.  
2. E.T.A. position G 2030A.  
3. Intend to proceed thence at 18 knots to arrive Needles Channel 0800A/26th.  
(ORION, 251501A to C. in C. Plymouth).

SCYLLA

F.O.I.C. Gibraltar's 241615. Destination of SCYLLA is Plymouth.  
2. Request you will take her under your orders after M.K.S. 25 crosses 43° N.,  
(D.O.D. H., 251307A to C. in C. Plymouth).

/S/MS...

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25.9.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

S/M  
Movements.

Positions of S/Ms at 0800/26 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S., 251706).

VICTORIOUS

E.T.A. position (F) 0300A/26. Speed 19 knots. Intend to fly off aircraft in Firth of Clyde from 0800A/26th and arrive Liverpool Bar Light vessel at 0700A/27th. (VICTORIOUS, 251912Z to N.O.I.C. Liverpool).

Operations.

E-boats off Harwich. FRANC TIREUR, and DONNA NOOK sunk. M.L. 150 and M.L. 145 damaged. One E-boat sunk.

Suspected E-boat activity. Investigating. (UNITY 250015A to Harwich W/T). E-boat activity suspected Harwich area. (C. in C. Nore, 250045 to DARTMOUTH). Unidentified vessel or object has been plotted by R.D.F. in position 130° 54 A buoy 8. (C. in C. Nore, 250052A to DARTMOUTH). At approx. 0100/25th H.M.T. FRANC TIREUR heading south with H.M.T. DONNA NOOK 3 cables astern, stopped 4 cables south of 52 buoy. FRANC TIREUR picked up H.E. red 90. Went full ahead, hard to port but bearing altered very rapidly to red 170. During turn torpedo was

observed 6 feet clear of ship passing down port side and almost immediately afterwards second torpedo struck ship and she sank within a few seconds.

The survivors were picked up by CORENA.

DONNA NOOK picked up H.E. to S.E. about same time as FRANC TIREUR on bearing red, 70. Fired star shell on bearing and commenced turning to port at full speed. Explosion of FRANC TIREUR sighted. Bearing altered to red 90 and red 110. Continued firing star shell but nothing seen from bridge. After 15 minutes when star shell expended and contact lost, DONNA NOOK proceeded to 51 and returned towards 52 with STELLA RIGEL in position 1½ miles S. of 52 buoy at 0227. STELLA RIGEL having received message from STELLA LEONIS at 51 buoy that she was being attacked, turned, and in doing so struck DONNA NOOK amidships. Ships abeam 2 cables apart at the time. DONNA NOOK sank and whole crew picked up by STELLA RIGEL. "LL" trawlers sweeping south report 1 E-boat to east and 1 to west passed at high speed in vicinity 54 B heading north. Shots interchanged. E-boats made very little noise although at high speed and fired very bright and blinding star shell over the LL trawlers. Regret 16 missing from FRANC TIREUR.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 251115A to C. in C. Nore).

Preliminary Report of E-boat Activity night 24/25th.

1. At least four groups of E-boats operated between 54 B and B.8 buoys from 0030A to about 0345A. Torpedoes were fired but minelaying in war channel is considered almost certain although intensive sweeping today has not yet had any result.
2. Weather deteriorated during the night and by 0200 wind was N.W. force 5.
3. First indications of E-boats received about 0030 from shore Radar and Hydrophone contacts by M.G.Bs. and Harwich trawlers.

25.9.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

E-boats off  
Harwich.  
FRANC TIREUR,  
and DONNA  
NOOK sunk.  
M.L. 150 and  
M.L. 145  
damaged.  
One E-boat  
sunk.  
(contd).

4. About 0100 FRANC TIREUR was torpedoed and sunk with loss of 16 lives other trawlers on patrol engaged E-boats. At 0227 during another engagement DONNA NOOK was damaged and sunk by STELLA RIGEL whilst latter was turning. Whole crew picked up by STELLA RIGEL.

5. LL Trawlers near 54 B buoy report that during action E-boats fired very bright and blinding star shell.

6. On first intimation of presence of E-boats C/F units were moved south to intercept. At 0130 about 20 miles east of the Sunk M.Ls. 150 and 145 moving south sighted 2 or 3 E-boats on starboard bow steering east at high speed. M.L.

150 at once rammed second boat in line. M.L. 150 lost whole fore part of boat. M.L. 145 then tried to ram but missed. Heavy fire was opened on E-boat by all guns which reduced her speed and damaged her steering gear. After E-boat had circled the disabled M.L. 150 a second attempt by M.L. 145 to ram was successful and a head-on collision resulted. Further heavy fire by both M.Ls. set E-boat on fire and crew abandoned ship after which she blew up. 16 prisoners were picked up including 2 officers. Shortly before E-boats were first seen M.L. 145 sighted 2 torpedo tracks. M.Ls. had one Officer and one rating slightly wounded. M.L. 145 also extensively damaged but both M.Ls. are now back in Lowestoft.

7. At 0120 PUFFIN on patrol 8A and PYTCHLEY on patrol 7 engaged two E-boats between 54B and 3 buoys, these reports not yet received but both scored hits at close range.

8. On this occasion E-boats operated further south than on any previous occasion. It was unfortunate that the high powered Radar set at K.162 had only been operational for a few days before this attack. Although it was possible to signal some enemy positions to C/F Units the information supplied by shore Radar was inadequate and a clear picture of the situation could not be obtained.

9. 12 Group Spitfires were sent out at 0600 but did not locate the enemy.

10. D. class M.T.Bs. and M.G.Bs. operating south of the Texel had to abandon operations owing to weather. This Unit was ordered to a position on enemy's line of retreat to the Hook but did not make contact. Weather and visibility was by that time very bad. Earlier in the evening they had picked up the crew of a U.S. Fortress aircraft.

(C. in C. Nore, 251925A to Admty).

Bay Patrol  
and Operation  
"Stonewall".

Have A.S.V. contact, probably U/B.  
(A/C 612 Sq. Duty L, 250016 to 19 Group).  
No enemy sighted in area.  
(A/C 612 Sq. Duty L. 250035 to 19 Group).

/My...

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25.9.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Bay Patrol My 241518 A. Sailed BERMUDA.  
and Operation (C. in C. Plymouth, 251409A to Admty).  
"Stonewall". Have A.S.V. contact, 46° 53' N., 16° 12' W,  
(contd). probably U-boat. S. lost.  
(A/C 502 Sq. Duty S, 251410A to 19 Group).  
Disposition at 2000.  
(1) ULSTER, GRENVILLE, CRANE, 049° 25', 007° 55'  
bound Plymouth 15 knots.  
(2) ORION 049° 42' N., 006° 41' W. bound Portsmouth 18 knots.  
(3) Hospital Ship LADY NELSON 050° 15' 011° 30' N., eastbound  
12 knots.  
(4) BERMUDA 049° 34' 006° 50' S. westbound, 20 knots.  
(5) UNISON 045° 30' 006° 00' Northbound daily advance 90 miles.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 251452A and 251822A).

Coastal Your 241431A para. 3. Force D. returned to harbour  
Patrols. on account of weather.  
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 250436A to C. in C. Plymouth)  
1. Orders for night 25/26 Sept.  
(a) M.G.B. 611, 613, M.T.B. 252, 253, 249, 254  
carry out offensive patrol of enemy coastal route between 20  
miles southwest and 10 miles northeast of position YY not  
proceeding west of 0° 05' W. Proceed and return by passage  
two passing position 2 N. at 2100A and returning within 20 miles  
of own coast by 0600A. Primary objective torpedo targets.  
(b) M.G.B. 316, 317, 326 carry out patrol to southward of Q.Z.X.  
771. Proceed and return by passage four passing position 4 N.  
at 2130A and returning within 20 miles of own coast by 0630A.  
(c) Chasseur 41, 13 Patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between F. and E.A.5 buoys.  
(d) M.L. 344 immediate notice St. Helens.  
(e) M.L. 269, 182 patrolling 50° 20' N., between 1° 35' W. and  
2° 05' W.  
(f) M.G.B. 13, 8,6 patrolling 50° 15' N., between 2° 15' W.  
and 2° 35' W.  
(g) BLEASDALE, TALYBONT immediate notice Yarmouth.  
2. Albacores will carry out offensive R/C west of Cape Barfleurl.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 251504A).  
M.M.S. 79, 202, 67, 76, 87, 42 and ALEXANDRITE anchored  
in Dungeness East Roads until 0400/26 when they proceed southward  
via No.10 buoy. M.Ls. 104, 101, 107, 213, 210, 573 and M.T.Bs.  
25, 38, 240 and 219 carrying out N.L. 103 and 104 respectively  
E.T.D. 1905 route via Dumpton and U buoys E.T.R. 0400/26 route  
via U and No.1 buoys. M.G.Bs. 118 and 117 leave Ramsgate  
eastwards E.T.D. 1950 E.T.R. 0430/26. M.G.Bs. S.2 43 and 41 at  
V buoy E.T.D. Dover 1900 E.T.R. 0645/26. M.A.S.Bs. 31 and 29 two  
miles south of D buoy E.T.D. Dover 1915 E.T.R. Ramsgate 0700/26.  
M.T.Bs. 202, 204, 231 and M.G.Bs. 114, 108 and 116 patrolling  
at Berck Buoy, E.T.D. 2330 E.T.R. 0730/26 route via AA buoy each  
way.  
(V.A. Dover, 251755A to Admty).

Operation Faeroes arrival SALADIN, ROCKET, HARDY.  
S.F. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 250906A).  
Scapa arrival. Your 230921 (SABRE).  
(A.C.O.S., 251148 to Cdre. D.W.A.)  
Position at 2057A today. BELFAST vicinity  
of Reykjanes searching to south east.  
(A.C.I.C., 251224A to Ships).

/Proceed...

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25.9.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation S.F. (contd). Proceed passing Switha at 1700 tonight to Skaalefiord for operation S.F.  
 (2) On arrival act as ordered by C. in C. Rosyth.  
 (3) C. in C. Rosyth is requested to sail OBEDIENT for Scapa on arrival SABRE any after being released by R.A.M.  
 (R.A.D. H.F., 251419A to SABRE).  
 Faroes departure SALADIN.  
 (N.O.I.C. Faroes, 251522A).  
 Hvalfiord. Departure F.O.C.S.10 in BELFAST.  
 (A.C.I.C., 251616A to C. in C. H.F.)  
 Ships to be organised as follows Group A available mine-sweepers. Group B SAVAGE, SCOURGE, SCORPION. Group C. MAHRATTA, IMPULSIVE, SABRE.  
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 251621A to H.F.)  
 Proceed with SCOURGE at Moderate despatch and establish patrol by 0702/26th. Instruct SCORPION to join when available.  
 (1) Group B. (2) 062° 24' N., 013° 50' W. (3) 225° - 60 - 60.  
 (4) "Apricot".  
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 251627A to SAVAGE).  
 Faroes arrivals OBEDIENT, MAHRATTA.  
 (N.O.I.C. Faroes, 251632A).  
 Your 231507. Group A arrived Seidisfiord 1030A/25th.  
 (A.C.I.C., 251642A to C. in C. Rosyth).  
 Bring into force Rosyth 3271/0850A of 16th Sept. 1943 at noon 26th Sept. Para. 11 amend third position to read 064° 08' N., 013° 02' W.  
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 251731A to H.F.).  
 Faroes departures (your 251627 refers) SAVAGE, SCOURGE.  
 (N.O.I.C. Faroes, 252040A to C. in C. Rosyth).  
 Detail H.M.S. IMPULSIVE to join as directed in R.A.Ms. 251924 when released returning Skaalefiord. Proceed with MAHRATTA to arrive Scapa early 27th.  
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 252255A to OBEDIENT).

Enemy Craft and Dover area shelled. Sixteen small craft from Calais at 0245 westbound at 15 knots turned N.W. at 0314 engaged by our 8" coastal batteries when 8 miles N.W. of Cap Blanc Nez at 0334 and split into three groups which all returned separately to Calais, the last group entering at 0440. Probably minelaying.  
 (V.A. Dover, 251031A to Admty)

My 251031A. Enemy batteries in Gris Nez and Calais areas replied with about ten rounds. Three fell in Dover town, two in Dover harbour, three in Folkestone and remainder to seaward. Considerable structural damage to Lynx offices in Fremlin's Brewery. No Naval casualties. Two civilians killed and two wounded in Folkestone.

(V.A. Dover, 251212A to Admty).

/S/MS...

25.9.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

S/M P.66 sailed for patrol  
Patrols. (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 251535 to Admty).  
Position of submarines at 0800/26 and movements for following 24 hours.  
(A) SEADOG approx. 76° 50' N., 11° 30' E dived as much as possible through 76° 00' N., 10° E. towards 74° N., 70° 40' E, daily advance 60 miles.  
(B) STOIC 68° 20' N., 6° 55' E. probably on the surface through 69° 35' N., 9° 25' E. speed 11 knots, thence dived by day to patrol 69° 30' N., 16° 26' E.  
(C) VARANGIAN 67° 01' N., 7° 40' E. probably on the surface through 69° 01' N., 11° 01' E., speed 9 knots, thence dived by day to patrol 69° 22' N., 15° 45' E.  
(D) SATYR 63° 05' N., 00° 10' W. probably on the surface towards 69° 00' N., 7° 45' E. speed 11 knots.  
(E) ULA 62° 01' N., 00° 59' E. probably on the surface towards 69° 01' N., 11° 00' E. speed 9 knots.  
(H) UNTIRING as in my 221756, leaving patrol 2000/26 towards 44° 20' N., 06° 30' W. diving by day.  
(J) UNITED as in my 241638.  
(K) UNISON 46° 35' N., 6° 30' W. dived by day to northward, advance about 90 miles daily.  
(F.O.S. 251706 to Admty).  
UNISON adjust speed to R/V with CHASSEUR 14 in YY at 1330A/28th. My 161809 and your 212105 refer.  
(2) Proceed on the surface at your discretion North of lat. 049° 30' N.,  
(F.O.S., 251758A to S/Ms).  
UNITED is leaving patrol p.m./28th Sept. and proceeding diving by day to join route Rose in lat. 047° N., thence via Rose to R/V in YY 180° Lizard Head 10 miles at 0700A/1st October.  
(F.O.S., 251804A to S/Ms).

Operation Intend following operation "Holder" with object  
"Holder". of passing stores, mail, and personnel to North Russia in 3 destroyers.  
2. All times zone minus one. D Day expected to be about 2nd October.  
3. ONSLAUGHT, IROQUOIS, and HURON will sail from Skaalefiord at 1500 DDay after completing there with fuel.  
4. Route through following positions. All lat. north.  
A. 067° 50' 006° 10' W. B. 072° 01' 000° 20' E.  
C. 073° 37' 007° 10' E. D. 074° 41' 016° 02' E.  
E. 075° 01' 021° 10' E. F. 074° 08' 032° 28' E.  
G. 071° 52' 038° 50' E thence as ordered by S.B.N.O. N. Russia (Polyarno) to Kola Inlet. S.O.A. as far as position D.18 knots, thence at best speed assumed to be 25 knots to Kola Inlet.  
5. C.S.1 is requested to sail from Hvalfiord in LONDON with AUGUSTA and one destroyer at 0900 D day to act as covering force.  
6. Route through following positions all lat. north.  
J. 067° 58' 017° 20' W. K. 071° 10' 010° 01' W. L. 072° 10' 004° 08' W. M. 74° 03' 002° 55' E. thence to patrol in area bounded by 076° 30' N., 074° 30' N. 001° W. 003° E. S.O.A. to position M. 17 knots.  
7. C.S.1 is if unable to assess (sic) the destroyer at

/sea...

25.9.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation "Holder".  
(contd). sea to detach her at P.L.E. to fuel at Seidisfiord and remain there at short notice.  
8. S.B.N.O. North Russia is requested to sail destroyers by reverse route to Faroes proceeding position D at maximum speed, thence at best speed assumed to be 18 knots. In absence of other information it will be assumed that destroyers leave Kola at 1500D + 4.  
9. In absence of enemy information or other orders F.O.C. 1st C.S. is to leave covering area and return Hvalfiord when destroyers reach position D which is assumed to be 1600 D plus 5.  
10. Each destroyer will require about 380 tons fuel at Kola.  
11. N.O.I.C. Faroes is to sail destroyers for Scapa after refuelling there.  
(C. in C. H.F., 252152A).

Allied Air Activity.

French Channel Ports. Request earliest possible P.R.U. Boulogne on 25 Sept. to locate naval unit suspected of entering from eastward. If possible sortie to cover ports to eastward, particularly Dunkirk and Ostend.  
(D.D.I.C., 250508A, to A.D.I. Ph.)

North Russia. Photographic reconnaissance at 1130A/25th unsuccessful due to extremely bad weather.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 251401A to Admty).

UNICORN,  
HUNTER,  
STALKER,  
ATTACKER,  
ALBATROSS. A.M. 211540 para. 1. Aircraft and engines embarked as follows. Details.  
(R.A.A.H.F., 251710 to Admty).

Mining.

S.N. 222 C. Position at 252000.  
MENESTHEUS, AGAMEMNON, PORT QUEBEC, ROCKET, OBEDIENT, MAHRATTA, SALADIN, HARDY vicinity 062° 00' N., 008° 00' W.  
(A.C.O.S., 251147 to Ships).  
Intend leaving 180° Myggenaes 6 miles at 0400A tomorrow, course 292° S.O.A. 12 knots to attempt S.N. 222 C. If OBEDIENT and MAHRATTA are still available it would be appreciated if they could join at 0700A and augment screen until nightfall.  
(R.A.M., 251924 to Admty. C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Rosyth).  
R.A.(M)'s 251924. Other commitment make it necessary for OBEDIENT and MAHRATTA to arrive Scapa early a.m./27th.  
(C. in C. H.F., 252305A to C. in C. Rosyth).



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25.9.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. - Contd.

Dangerous Area. My 251031. Track E. 9 D indicates probability of enemy minelaying. Request area enclosed by lines joining the following positions may be declared dangerous by Q.Z. message.  
A.  $051^{\circ} 02' 36''$  N.  $001^{\circ} 36' 00''$  E. B.  $051^{\circ} 04' 40''$  N.,  $001^{\circ} 41' 10''$  E. C.  $051^{\circ} 03' 56''$  N.,  $001^{\circ} 45' 22''$  E.  
D.  $050^{\circ} 58' 12''$  N.,  $001^{\circ} 33' 54''$  E.  
(V.A. Dover, 251231A to Admty).

N.L. 103, My 251755A N.L. 103 and N.L. 104 abandoned owing to weather.  
N.L. 104. (V.A. Dover, 252359A to Admty).

U-boat.

U-boat damaged. Submarine on the surface in  $51.25$  N.,  $31.22$  W. rammed by TWEED.  
TWEED damaged. (E.G.5, 250401Z to C. in C. W.A.)  
My 250401Z. Submarine damaged and dived in  $051^{\circ} 32' 031^{\circ} 09'$ , at 0407. Am hunting.  
(E.G.5, 250507Z to C. in C. W.A.)  
My 250401Z. Visibility improved from 1030 and S/M again sighted on the surface at 1105 in  $051^{\circ} 30'$  N.,  $030^{\circ} 57'$  W. and dived. Large oil patch in the vicinity. Hunt continues.  
(E.G.5, 251220Z to C. in C. W.A.)  
My 251220Z. Intend detaching EDMUNDSTON, CALGARY, SNOWBERRY at 1600Z today to R/V H.X. 257. NENE, TWEED continuing hunting.  
(E.G.5, 251355Z to C. in C. W.A.)  
My 250401Z. Reference O.W. 1342/42. (A) TWEED. (B) 0326Z S.O. Force G. (C) Radar contact. (D)  $051^{\circ} 35'$  N.,  $031^{\circ} 22'$  W. (E) Gunned, Depth-charged, and partially rammed at 0401Z. One hit with H.E. at base of conning tower claimed. Followed 2 depth charges attack F as in my 251355. Course S/M was approximately  $110^{\circ}$ . TWEED sustained following damage. Number 8 bulkhead and 3 frames bent, leaking forward magazine and number 1 and 3 fuel tanks. Water well under control. A/S Radar functioning.  
(E.G.5, 251404Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Casualties & Defects.

LANCE Tug FOREMOST 22 with LANCE in tow and M.L. 572 detached from C.E. 209 arrived Newhaven. Request destroyer escort for onward passage to Sheerness to arrive Newhaven by 1430/25. Two M.Ls. will sail as additional escort.  
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 250015A to C. in C. Portsmouth)  
Intend to sail Tug FOREMOST 22 with LANCE in tow escorted by LA COMBATTANTE at 1430/25 to Sheerness. Speed 5 knots. E.T.A. Sheerness 1430/26.  
2. M.Ls. 572 and 193 will proceed as additional escort to Ramsgate.  
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 251028A to C. in C. Portsmouth).

/BENTINCK...

25.9.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

BENTINCK. F.O.I.C. Greenock's 240146.  
2. Following received begins:- From E.R.O.  
(Elec.) Greenock, PHILANTE's 221425A. Examination  
of Armature of generator indicates the necessity  
of complete re-wiring, it is now anticipated that repairs cannot  
complete under 7 days. 241155 ends.  
(Capt. D. Greenock, 250114A to C. in C. W.A.)

NEMESIS Your 241546. As no separate escort is available  
NEMESIS and SAUCY are to proceed to Reykjavik  
with U.R.92.  
(ii) F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to sail 1  
trawler as soon as possible to Clyde to escort tug and tow to  
Aultbea for inclusion in U.R.92. Trawler will sail as extra  
escort to convoy.  
(C. in C. W.A., 251139A to F.O.I.C. Greenock).  
Intend to sail NEMESIS in tow of tug SAUCY at 0100A/26 to  
R/V at 1100A/26 at Clyde light vessel with BOMBARDIER, thence  
in company to R/V at 1500A/28 at Ewe Buoy with U.R.92 for  
inclusion in convoy to Reykjavik. C. in C. W.A. 251139A  
refers. Speed of tow in convoy will not exceed six knots.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 251706A).

ORION A.M. 221804. ORION can not be taken in hand at  
Barrow for changing guns and and docking.  
2. She will be taken in hand at Portsmouth  
dockyard.  
(D.O.D. H., 251234A to C. in C. Portsmouth).

EMINENT Arrival EMINENT.  
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 251630A).

ALCA Windlass badly damaged by gale 0145/24th.  
Starboard side completely useless. Fractures  
render Port Side unsafe. New windlass required.  
Cannot use either anchor. Now alongside  
Akureyri remaining here until operations completed. Five guard  
loops, all mine loops, all balancing loops laid, but insulation  
fired circuit M.3 has dropped to five thousand ohms.  
(ALCA, 251710A to A.C.I.C.)

SHIKARI SHIKARI 181202 reporting crankshaft of port dynamo  
broken and her 221740 reporting leaking tanks and  
weather damage to wheel house etc.  
3. Temporary repairs can be made good in about  
4 to 5 days except for the dynamo.  
4. Ship would then be fit to run on one dynamo only and,  
although this is sufficient for fighting requirements, I do not  
consider it wise to let her continue with S.F.  
5. It is understood ship is due for refit. Request therefore  
I be informed whether she should proceed now for this purpose.  
(R.A.D., 251719 to C. in C. W.A.)

25.9.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

BICESTER Your 241809. Concur with your proposals.  
(D.O.D. H., 251745A to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

BANFF Your 241206A. BANFF arrived.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 251901A to C. in C. W.A.)

Shipping & Convoys.

O.N.S.18 Have detached ROSELYS to St. Johns N.F.  
and O.N.202. independently. C.O. (is?) suffering from nervous  
breakdown and will have to be relieved before  
return passage.  
(B.3, 250030Z to F.O.N.F.)

Following is preliminary list claimed by escort under my  
orders. It may not be complete. Sept. 19th 1 damaged by  
ESCAPADE, claim not received. Sept. 20th 1 badly damaged by  
KEPPEL, ITCHEN and NARCISSUS. Sept. 21st 1 sunk KEPPEL, 1 probable  
hit by gunfire by CHAMBLY. Sept. 22nd. 1 possible by NORTHERN  
FOAM, 1 possible by LOBELIA, one damaged by CHAMBLY, 1 severely  
damaged by F.S. ROSELYS. Sept. 23rd 1 possible by SACKVILLE.  
(B.3, 251200Z to Cdre. D. Argentia).

T.A.66 My 220220A para. 4. 500 German P.O.W. are  
(QUEEN included in total of 4,500 to be embarked.  
MARY). (D.S.T., 250215A).

Troopship Following is Summary No.6 of major troopship  
movements. movements in and out of Clyde and Liverpool  
during next two weeks to 9 October:-  
(A) In:-

Serial No.	Convoy	Ship	Port	Due
(1)	A.T.66	QUEEN MARY	Clyde	25/9
(2)	S.D.43	CHAMPOLLION	Clyde	4/10
(3)	A.T.65	AQUITANIA	Clyde	8/10
(4)	M.K.F.24	STRATHMORE	Liverpool	} About 8/10.
		STAFFORDSHIRE	Liverpool	
		RUYS	Clyde	
		TEGELBERG	Clyde	
		ALMANZORA	Clyde	
		ARUNDEL CASTLE	Clyde	
		CAMERONIA	Clyde	
		EASTERN PRINCE	Clyde	

(B) Out:-

(5)	D.S.45	CHAMPOLLION	Clyde	Sails 28/9
(6)	T.A.66	QUEEN MARY	Clyde	29/9
(7)	-	CAPETOWN	Liverpool	} 1/10
	-	CASTLE		
	-	SCYTHYA	Clyde	
	-	ORION	Clyde	
(8)	K.M.F.24 A	FRANCONIA	Liverpool	2/10.
(9)	-	EMPRESS OF	} Clyde 43	4/10
		RUSSIA,		
		H.S. ATLANTIC)		

(D.S.T., 250220A).

25.9.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

ATLANTIS

ATLANTIS arrived 0835/25th.  
(S.T.O. N.W. Ports, 250935 to D.S.T.)

O.N. 204

It is intended to transfer 5th E.G. to O.N. number 204 on about Sept. 29th. Every opportunity therefore should be taken of keeping escorts topped up with fuel.  
(C. in C. W.A., 251102Z to E.G.5).

D.S.45

D.S.45. A.M. 211555. Escort details are AMBUSCADE and FLEETWOOD.  
(2) Owing to delay in return of latter from operations intend to sail D.S.45 p.m./29th.  
(C. in C. W.A., 251407A).

A.T.66

(QUEEN MARY).

Arrived 1417/25.  
(S.T.O. Greenock, 251440A).

EMPRESS OF  
RUSSIA.

Your 240224. Owners inform me full time will be required for boiler cleaning and fumigation will therefore not be possible.  
(P.S.T.O. Clyde, 251528 to D.S.T.)

H.X. 257.  
U-boat  
attacked.

Indefinite D/F bearings at 1621Z/25 indicate U-boat may be in your vicinity.  
(D.D.I.C., 251841A to Escorts H.X. 257).  
One U-boat attacked by KINGCUP at 2150Z in 051° 06' N., 031° 40' W. FAME, KINGCUP hunting.  
(B.6, 252303Z to C. in C. W.A., E.G.5).

K.M.S. (M) 28,  
and  
O.G.(M) 95.

Ship	Nat.	Destination.
THRAKI,	Greek	Oran F.O.
BOREAS,	Nor.	Oran, Algiers
ASHBURY,		Bizerta
HINDSHOLM,		Gibraltar F.O.
CLUNE PARK,		Gibraltar F.O.
JAMES M. WAYNE, U.S.A.		Sicily
BARON GRAHAM,		Algiers F.O.
EMPIRE HARBOUR,		Gibraltar
CRAWFORD W. LONG,	U.S.A.	Casablanca
CRAGPOOL		Gibraltar
LOUIS JOLIET	U.S.A.	Algiers.

(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 251918A to C. in C. W.A.)

O.G.M.94/  
K.M.S.M.28

SS. LOUIS JOLIET left Barry Roads 2010A/25 to overhaul convoy.  
Escort HUDDERSFIELD TOWN.  
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 252104A to Admty).

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War Diary.25.9.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

U/Boat. Am over enemy S/M in 36.48 N. 09.13 W. S/M was on surface.  
(A/C R. of 429 Sq. (via Plymouth) 250132B, Gibraltar My 0132, have attacked U/B with depth charge.  
(A/C 429 Sq. via Plymouth, 250208B to Gibraltar.)  
My 0208. U/B previously reported course 100° speed 8 knots when first sighted in 36° 48' N. 09° (13' or 35'?) W.  
(A/C 429 Sq. Via Gib. 250225B, Gibraltar, for use with A/C)  
Am over enemy S/M in 36.43 N. 09.47 W. S/M was on surface and when first sighted on course 180° speed 10 knots. Am returning to base, engine trouble.  
(A/C Q 429 Sq. via Gibraltar, 250312B, to Gibraltar W/T)

UPSTART. Proceed patrol in vicinity 040° N. 010° W. Submerge bombing restrictions arranged within radius 60 miles of this position and total bombing restrictions 20 miles either side line joining 038° 50' N. 010° W. and 040° 10' N. 010° W. until 1100B 26th. Report by immediate signal if unable to keep within bombing restrictions.  
(F.O.C. Gib., 251056B to P.65 (UPSTART) (R) F.O.S., N.O.I.C. Casablanca, C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med., Capt.(S) 8th Capt. (S) 3rd.)

Patrol in area between 039° 40' N. and 040° North Eastward of Meridian 010° W. My 251242B not to all addressees refers. Bombing restrictions arranged as in my 251056B. As far as possible maintain your patrol just outside 100 fathoms line. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 252302B to P.65 'UPSTART), F.O.S. C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 3, C.M.S.F.)

M.K.S.25. Arrived (37 ships).  
F.O.C. Gibraltar, 251205B to Admty. etc.)

COMDT. French Naval Ships COMDT. DELAGE and LA GRACIEUSE  
DELAGE, destination both Oran depart Casa 260700A. S. of  
LA GRACIEUSE. A. 12.5 knots route Q.B.A.102 LL H LL 35.44 N.  
26.28 W. Q.B.A.87 guard 2150 Kcs. request  
routeing.  
(Commorseafon, 251227B, to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R)  
C. in C. Med. etc. )

Damaged Under Secretary Foreign Affairs at last cornered  
U/B at has admitted to Charge d'Affaires that it was  
Vigo. decided to intern submarine because she was towed  
in. (Please signal your comments on this). But  
Germans said she was not towed (though she was)  
and M.F.A. abandoned whole matter in despair.

Under Secretary has now promised that M. of M. will receive instructions at once.  
(N.A. Madrid, 251250B to Admty. (R) R.O.Vigo, N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Plymouth.)

/Vigo's...

25.9.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Damaged  
U/Boat  
at Vigo  
(Contd.)

Vigo's 241428. I confirm C.O. S/M is in Madrid to consult Naval Attache. Shafts referred to are cam shafts. (N.A. Madrid, 251342B, to D. of N.I. (R) (?Vigo) S.O.(I)) Note Signal formerly received corrupt. Delayed awaiting correction. My 251250 to Admiralty. M. of M. confirm S/M was towed in by 2 fishing boats. She had been trying to make Vigo on her electric motor but exhausted batteries and asked boats for tow. Can you learn names of boats concerned (?). (N.A. Madrid, 252006 to Vigo, (R) Admty.) Reply 271225.

U/Bs.  
attacked.

A.I.487 25th Sept.  
(A) D.179, (B) 1620, (C) Q.100 (D) 1753  
(E) Attacked U/Boat 2446 sec. ZE refers.  
(F) U/Boat hunt. (G) 37.33 N., 08.53 W.  
Q.B.179 and R.179 diverted to hunt U/Boat  
attacked by D/179, Opsum 24th Sept. Z.179-2246 - night M.K.111  
36.52 N. 09.08 medium size - light grey - long squat rectangular  
stepped C/T tracer fire from aft C/T returned no gun observed.  
Attacked surfaced (? 6 x 200 or 6 x 250) Torpex 100° Cream A  
spaced 60 ft. D/C explosions relative to U/B not seen. U/B  
not seen again. R.179 - 0132 - night Mark III 36.48 N. 09.13 W.  
500 ton believed gun forward C/T quadruple gun aft - U/B and A/C  
opened fire - attacked surfaced. 150° Red - 6 x 250 Torpex  
spaced 60 ft. D/C explosion relative to U/B not seen. No  
further contact. Q.179-0312 night Mark III (?CLQN 4344 or CLQN  
4347) - 180 - 10 - 8 not attacked D/Cs (?8(7 70). Aircraft  
damaged by U/B Flak. All times B.  
(Gibraltar, 251530B and No T.O.O./25th to Air Ministry.)

COMMANDANT  
DETROYAT.

Requires all boiler furnaces (6 in number) to be reshaped. This will require a dockyard berth for approx. 4 weeks. Also test may reveal more defects. In view of other commitments recommended ship proceeds elsewhere for repairs and that steam pressure be reduced meanwhile to 150 pounds. C. in C. Med. 131151 Aug. and F.O.C.W.Af.'s 141857 August (not to C. in C. Med. refer.)  
(C.S. Gibraltar, 251848B to F.O.C.W.Af., C. in C. Mediterranean, Admty.)

M.K.S.25

Sailing telegram (33 ships). (2) 1900B/25.  
(4) 7½. (5) R.A. 35° 47' N. 06° 25' W. R.B.36°  
00' N. 12° 00' W. thence standard S.L. route  
lettered R.G. to R.F. (6) HIGHLANDER, WALKER,  
ABELIA, WESTCOTT, REDPOLE, ASPHODEL, PENNYWORT, CLOVER, WITCH,  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 251901, 251903A to Admty.)

Spanish  
ships for  
St. Johns.

Admty. pass to Ottawa. (Begins). In order to simplify problem of Spanish supplies of fish, Spanish Gov. wish to send ships to St. Johns end of Nov. or early Dec. for Cod Fish and again a

/month...

War Diary.

25.9.1943.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Spanish  
ships for  
St. Johns.  
(Contd.)

month later. Is there any objection from Naval point of view? Ships would probably take salt Cargo on outward voyage.  
(N.A. Madrid, 251958A to Admty.)

M.K.S.25  
EREBUS.

Sailed M.K.S.25 EREBUS escorted by HIGHLANDER, WALKER, WESTCOTT, ABELIA, ASPHODEL, REDPOLE, PENNYWORT, CLOVER, WITCH.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 252034B to C. in C.W.A., Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., C.M.S.F., C. in C. Plymouth.)

EXTRICATE.

Departure U.S.S. EXTRICATE to join K.M.S.27.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 252046 to Admty., etc.)

WITHERINGTON  
A/C S.O.S.

A/C S.O.S. Proceeding from P. 036° 40' N. 007° 52° W. C. and S. 263° 27 knots.  
(WITHERINGTON, 252340 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) Ships on Patrol, R.A.F. Gibraltar.)

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25.9.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

39th Escort Group. Your 241707, not to Admiralty. Delay upsets escort programme and makes it essential to boiler clean E.G.39 now. This means earliest date which Escort can take over in 26° N. is 6th October. Request either R/V may be adjusted to this date or alternatively that you will provide escort as far South as Dakar, if this is possible latter obviously preferable to ensure turn round Freetown which will be most difficult to effect in 3 days and may delay northward sailing. Para.1 of my 041610 refers.  
(F.O.C.W.Af., 251056Z to F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

Fleet Tender Convoy. Admiralty request sailing of Fleet Tender convoy be held so as to include F.T.22 understood due Recife 29th Sept. 141509 refers.  
(F.O.C.W.Af., 251058Z to Com. 4th Fleet.)

DOMINE intercepted. My 231810. Spanish DOMINE intercepted an armed guard put on board by HYDRANGEA at 1604/24 in 005° 17' N. 010° 00' W. and proceeded to Freetown E.T.A. 0700 September 26th.  
(2) (A) Arturo real name found to be Angel Sanchez placed under close escort.  
(B) Trunk found in possession Spanish Moorish Military Officer. Trunk in custody.  
(3) Intend thorough examination of ship, crew and passengers for contraband and clandestine mail on arrival. If contents of trunk appear innocent intend nevertheless to seize it from possession of Spanish Officer in view of Vice Consul's statement.  
(4) Request immediate instructions. (a) Disposal of Sanchez if only proved travelling under alias.  
(b) Disposal of Sanchez if proved carrying enemy documents.  
(c) Should Officer be detained if contents of trunk prove incriminating.  
(F.O.C. West Africa, 251222Z.)

HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN. Sailing telegram Clyde 16th Oct. knots (A) 14 (B) 15. Route. Has 400 service personnel.  
(R.O. Montevideo, 251500 to Admty.)

RANGITATA. Inclusion in S.L.138 cannot be guaranteed unless she arrived first light October 13th.  
(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 251637, 271018Z to B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro (R) Admty.,)

Working of Bathurst Ports. Your 131715, Confirm agreement. Agreed M.W.T.  
(W.O., 251800A to G.O. C. in C. W.Af.)

/W.S.33 ...



War Diary.

25.9.1943.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

W.S.33. Sailing LORRAINE, TRENT, TEVIOT, PLYM with C.F.14, shifting to W/T organization for area P. at 1600Z 1st Oct. E.T.A. Pointe Noire dawn 3rd Oct. Frigates fuel on arrival thence in accordance with F.O.C. West Africa's 221252 Sept. (C. in C. S.At, 251826C, to Admty. F.O.C. W.Af, Pointe Noire.)

Montevideo, 25th HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN, RANGITATA.  
movements. (R.O. Montevideo, 251905.)

ALBAREDA Wireless message received from Spanish  
ST. USK ALBAREDA that she has picked up boat with 27  
survivors. survivors from British ship ST. USK torpedoed  
about 4 days ago.  
(B.N.S.O. Rio De Janeiro, 252041Z to Admty.)

U/B sinking Your 231554 (Re permission to release locally news  
publication. of sinking of U/Boat.) no objection to story  
being released. You may state that sinking  
took place recently should you wish to do so.  
Position other than Indian Ocean should not be  
stated.  
(D.P.D., 252129A to C. in C.S.A.)

War Diary.25.9.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

CURIE,  
MONTCALM. Request you will decypher my 242320 personal to C. O. CURIE. CURIE's 240812 and 241427 accuse MONTCALM of deliberately attacking CURIE knowing the latter's identity. This is of course quite untrue and local French Naval Authorities have not been shown these signals and are so far unaware of these allegations. C. O. CURIE has gone off the deep end because he was not received at Algiers by the French Navy as warmly as he expected. (S.8 250034B to C. in C. Med. Admty. F.O.S.)

Merchant Ships for M.E. My 201300. Assuming DUNNOTTAR CASTLE and REINA DEL PACIFICO will sail in first convoy about 6th October. Personnel shipping available for second convoy now comprises LETITIA, EGRA, ARONDA, KAROA. EMPIRE TROOPER, DERBYSHIRE and LLANGIBBY CASTLE. 2. As ample time will be available request you will ensure that first five vessels named are fully bunkered and provisioned before sailing and that as many as possible are drydocked. (P.S.T.C. Med. 250950B to P.S.T.O.M.E. (R) D. of S.T.)

M.K.S. 26. Sailed 24th Sept. (8 ships with troops). (S.S.T.O. Alexandria 251022C.)  
M.K.S. 26. Sailing telegram, part 2. (17 ships). (R.A. Alexandria 251121.)

U/B. Am over enemy S/M in 38.56 N. 13.41 E. Enemy S/M previously reported periscope only sighted course 300° 4 knots. (68YH 251045B to 15 H.)  
Air sighting at 2510?. Sub. on surface 38.58 N. 13.41 E. course 300 speed 4. (MC via Malta 251159B to 2U3.)

QUAIL. Orders for sailing at 1830B/25th to Taranto. 3. V. Adm. Power and Staff will take passage. (V.A. Malta 251105 to QUAIL.)

Enemy Barge. (NRI). P.C. and S. of 5 transport barges 43.27 N. 10.10 E. 225° 6 knots. (A/C GQS/S via Alex. 251107B to Air H.Q. Malta, (R) C/S 45U.)

ALBA JULIA,  
FIRUZ.  
German lighter  
M.T.B. A. My 231545C ALBA JULIA and FIRUZ have taken clearance again for Salonica. Report B.3 former will sail today.  
B. Vessel may proceed in company with FIRUZ? whose speed reported B.3 to be only 4 knots. (S.O.I. Istanbul 251112C to C. in C. Levant, S.O.I. Levant, S.1, S.10, D.N.I.)  
A. My 251112C ALBA JULIA sailed for Black Sea 1350 G.M.T./25th.

/B...

War Diary.

25.9.1943.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

ALBA JULIA, B. German Motor Lighter M.T. No. 3 (about 400 tons)  
FIRUZ. passed Istanbul in transit for Aegean 1500 G.M.T.  
German Expected to enter Aegean between 0600 and 0900  
lighter G.M.T/26th.  
M.T.B. Description. Dark grey hull similar in appearance  
(Contd.) to Hungarian SZEGED. Deck cargo of two light grey  
motor launches.  
(S.O.(I) Istanbul 251900C to C. in C.Levant, S.O.I.  
Levant, S.1, S.10, D.N.I.)

Cagliari Request U.S.Naval port party may proceed to Cagliari  
use of and prepare port for use by allied shipping.  
port. General Roosevelt has been told by A.F.(H.Q?) to  
inform Italian Port Commandant that parties will  
consist of 14 officers, 36 men, 11 vehicles  
carrying supplies for 14 days and that they will  
probably arrive during next few days in a U.S.L.C.T. Comnavnaw  
242223 (N.T. in W.R.) not to C. in C.Med. refers.  
(C. in C.Med. A. 251132B to C. in C.Med. (R) Cdr. U.S.Naval  
Forces N.W.African Waters, N.O.B.Palermo.)

SONTAY, Arrangements for sailing SONTAY, MIRANDA at  
MIRANDA, 0931B/26th to Malta, escort PENTSTEMON, VETCH for  
U.G.S.17. U.G.S.17.  
(S.N.O. Tripolitania 251142B, 251255B to N.O.I.C.  
Malta, (R) Admty. etc.)

QUILLIAM, Your 242207 (N.T. in W.R.) Request you will order  
PIORUN, QUILLIAM and PIORUN to patrol tonight so as to  
GARLAND. detail GARLAND to Corfu.  
2. Request you will arrange for ships to be  
provided with details of minefield outlined on  
arrival at Brindisi.  
(C. in C.Med. (B) 251143 to F.O.T.A. (R) Capt. D.  
4, S.O.Force H, N.O.I.C. Brindisi.)

Glider No information of German radio controlled or  
Bomb. glider bombs obtainable from Italian ships,  
Alexandria. Suggested by Italian staff here  
that Lieut. Col. Asso of Armi Navali has  
experimented with this type of bomb. His where-  
abouts are unknown here. Your 230031.  
(C. in C.Levant 251145C to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty. F.O.Force  
H, F.O.T.A.)

Following is appreciation of investigation of recent  
bombing attacks.  
A. All attacks in Salerno area appear to have been by F.X. type  
of bomb with small front fins. Bomb is not rocket propelled,  
but is served direct by W/T during flight by parent aircraft.  
B. Bomb is (?heavy) (?of) about 3000 pounds (?fitted)  
(group incomplete) tracer.  
C. Bomb is released in H.L.B. attack at a height of 12000 to  
19000 ft. Angle of sight of release is higher than in normal  
attack and trajectory is made more vertical by W/T control from

/parent...

War Diary.

25.9.1943.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Glider parent aircraft during bomb flight, most attacks  
Bomb. from beam, A/C passing over ship. A/C course  
(Contd.) steady during time of flight.  
D. Path of bomb is watched by parent A/C and  
trajectory corrected by radio controlled flaps  
on tail fins.  
E. No evidence of existence of any homing device.  
2. Several attacks were concerted with a fighter bomber attack  
designed to divert protecting fighters. This was usually  
successful and notably so in the case of WARSPITE.  
3. Obviously first line of defence against this form of attack  
is adequately high fighter cover preferably ship controlled and  
well briefed in tactics of A/C which carry the bomb. Best use  
of A/A armament is still under investigation.  
4.A. Most serious feature of attack on capital ships is their  
armour piercing capabilities of bomb gives chance of vital hit  
in magazine.  
B. Accuracy of H.L.B. has been increased by use of this  
(\* incomplete groups) 1 hit in 3 at easy targets in Salerno  
Bay and 1 hit in 7 at fast moving Italian warships.  
5. Operational limit on movement of warships imposed by this  
bomb appear to be that ordinary risk of effective bombing by  
shore based A/C becomes accentuated and need for fighter  
protection is enhanced.  
(S.O.Force H 251417B to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty. C. in C.  
Levant, etc.) \*3 incomplete groups.

PINDOS, Sail by Q.B.B. 123 (C) at 1400A/26th with RUYS  
RUYS, to R/V with M.K.F.24A in position 264 at 1600A/  
M.K.F.24. 26th. C. in C.Med. 221951 refers.  
(F.O.I.C. Malta 251207 to PINDOS, (R) C. in C.  
Med. F.O.Sy. HURWORTH, Ships escorting convoy  
M.K.F.24A, N.O.I.C. Augusta.)

AURORA, Request you will sail with AURORA and PENELOPE  
PENELOPE. at 0100B/26th to Malta. Route R "Avon" 2.  
Speed 24 knots. E.T.A. 1330A/26th. Codeword  
"Jeanne" call sign (?WOC) (alternatives SDC. AYC)  
(Cdre. (N) 251232B to C.S.12, (R) C. in C.Med.  
V.A.Malta, F.O.Sy. AURORA, PENELOPE, M.A.C.N.A.C.  
A.F. N.A.T.A.F.)

Enemy A/C Enemy aircraft are becoming active over waters  
Corfu & between Corfu and Otranto. In last 24 hours  
Otranto. KURUMBA (?Italian intended) T.B. STOCCO sunk off  
Samothraki Island by (corrupt group) A/C. T.B.  
SIBILLA badly damaged approaching Cape Otranto  
and T.B.SIRIO now being attacked in same (?)  
vicinity. Italians state aircraft are Stukas. Suggest may have  
bearing on our nightly patrol and convoy.  
(Brindisi 251236 to F.O.T.A. (R) C. in C.Med. Capt. D.4th D.F.)

U.G.S.17. Algiers section arrived, 13 ships.  
(Com. Algeria 251241B to C. in C.Med.)

/PRINS...

858

25.9.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

PRINS ALBERT PRINS ALBERT, PRINSES BEATRIX escorted TETCOTT sailing 1600(?B)/(25th) for Catania.  
PRINSES 2. S.O.A. 18 knots.  
BEATRIX, (N.O.I.C. Taranto 251309 to N.O.I.C. Catania, (R)  
TETCOTT. Capt. D.5, N.L.O. No. 1 M.O.R.U. F.O.Sy. F.O.T.A.  
S.O.Force N. C. in C.Med.) W.R.Note: Whole message recd. very corrupt and accuracy doubtful.

Bizerta Ref. 125 B of 1st Sept. Bizerta H.Q. close  
H.Q.closed. down 1400A/26th Sept. after which all signals and correspondence for C. in C.Med. are to be sent to Algiers and Title of C. in C.Med. (A) lapses.  
(C. in C.Med. 251313 to J. and A. Med. Station, Levant Station, Admty. 168 B.)

SKILL Your 1206. U.S.S. SKILL torpedoed position 293  
torpedoed. LIC 15? am joining hunt.  
(sunk.) (FLY 251323B to S.O.Force N.)  
My 1333. (1323 intended?) TARTAR, Pilot and 2 American M/S in company.  
(FLY 251336B to S.O.Force N.)

My 1333\*. Torpedoed and sunk.  
(FLY 251353B to S.O.Force N.)  
\* 251323 intended? (U.S.S. SKILL).

U/B. Following has been read:  
Attack enemy submarine which was in 38.58 N. 14.41 E. at 1045A 330° course, speed 4 Kts. 2 destroyers searching.  
(45U via Malta 251323B to SURR).

Enemy M/Vs. Following read: (NRI) P.C. and S. of 3 small merchant vessels 500 tons, 1 medium merchant vessel 1000 tons 37.32 N. 25.00 E. 020° 6 knots.  
(A/C ANT/S 251350Z to C/S 7WM.)

G.U.S.16. Pass to Cdre. and Escorts. Intend to sail 11 ships.  
(Com. N.O.B. Oran 251425B to STARWORT, (R) Admty. etc.)

UNSEEN, At 1900/27th P.51 (UNSEEN) to patrol in zone S.Q.  
UPROAR, North of 043°. P.31 (UPROAR) to patrol in zone  
SIBYL, S.Q.south of 043°. P.217 (SIBYL) to patrol in  
ULTOR. zone S.R.  
2. P.53 (ULTOR) leaving patrol proceeding diving by day through 043° 01' 009° 02' at 1900/27th 041° 49' 006° 42' at 2200/28th, thence on surface

/at...

25.9.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

UNSEEN, at discretion through 040° 01' 005° 39' at 1330/  
UPROAR, 29th 037° 59' 003° 44' at 0800/30th to R/V escort  
SIBYL, Algiers in 037° 06' 003° 16' at 1530/30th.  
ULTOR. 3. All times are zone minus 1.  
(Contd.) (Capt. S.8 251500B to 8th S/M F. (R) C. in C.Med.  
Capt. S.10.)

ROBERTS. Your 222013 Sept. ROBERTS should change guns at  
Port Said provided other defects can be made good  
in the Med.  
(D.O.D.(F) 251514A to C. in C.Med. (R) C. in C.  
Levant, C. in C.E.F. V.A.Malta.)

Enemy Units. (NRI) P.C. and S. of one Siebel ferry and 1 E/V  
43.20 N. 10.06 E. 230° 10 knots.  
(A/C GMX/C 251520B to 45V.)

N.A.A.F. A.V. 676E. Pt. 5 25 Sept. N.W.A.C.A.F. 23/24 Sept.  
Report. 4 U.S.Mitchells (B.25) on shipping strike attacked  
*Dittmarschen*  
1 large transport and 2 E/V with 13 x 75 m.m.  
shells 10 miles north Alistro. 2 hits amidships  
and 1 hit in stern of 1 vessel. 2 U.S.Mitchells  
(B.25) on Rover Patrol attacked a large barge towed by tug 5  
miles North Fiumara Grande. 13 shells fired and 4 x 500 bombs  
dropped. Barge sunk, tug damaged. 5 Bisleys U-Boat hunts. 1  
sighted and attacked fully surfaced U-Boat 25 miles S.W.Licosa  
Point. 4 x 250 D/C dropped 4 seconds after final disappearance.  
Only D/C scum observed after attack.  
(N.A.A.F.H.Q. 251829B.)

L.C.T. Further to A.M. 041919 Sept. (Bigot, N.T. in W.D.)  
for East. para. 1 (h).

2. In due course it will be necessary to move a  
large number of L.C.T.(4) from the Med. to the  
East. In order to avoid wearing out the engines  
they will be towed with the object of avoiding major engine  
overhaul on arrival which India could not manage for the large  
numbers likely to be involved. It is desired to carry out a  
trial with at least 3 in the near future.

3. Existing towage arrangements are considered to be suitable,  
but craft will need to be stiffened for ocean passage. Trim  
should be adjusted to 3 ft. forward and 4 ft. 6 ins. aft. The  
crew should remain on board. The craft should be capable of  
being towed by any ship with not less than 450 I.H.P. at a speed  
of 8 knots in good weather and favourable sea conditions.  
Experience in U.K. indicates that each L.C.T. should be towed  
separately and that towing hawser used should not be less than  
3½ inch wire or 8 inch manilla.

4. C. in C.Med. is requested to arrange for 3 L.C.T.(4) to be  
towed to Bombay as convenient, reporting action taken.

5. S.O.A.S.C. India is requested to report by signal results of  
this trial in due course.

(Dir. of Plans Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 251706A to C. in C.Med. (R)  
C. in C.Levant, C. in C.E.F. F.L.O.India, S.O.A.S.C.(India),  
F.O.C.R.I.N.)

War Diary.25.9.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Netherlands S/M O.23. My E.T.A. Suez 0530Z/27th. (Netherlands Sub. O.23 251715Z to F.O.C.Red Sea, (R) C. in C.Levant, Capt. S 1st S.F.)

Use of Italian Mercantile Marine. See M.W.T.R.Med. 251740 in Lion Copy.

HURWORTH. Sails 0130A/26th E.T.A.Augusta 0700A/26th. (N.O.I.C. Malta 251740B to N.O.I.C. Augusta, (R) 211 Group, N.O.I.C. Sicily, WHADDON, HURWORTH, HURSLEY.)

U/B Disposition. U-Boat estimate. In the Straits of Otranto l. Gulf of Salerno l. Vicinity of (?Gulf) Gaeta l. Sighted 251045, 30 miles N.E. of Ustica l. (C. in C.Med. (A) 251753B to Naval and Air Authorities concerned with U/B dispositions 7° to 20° E. (R) F.O.C.Gibraltar, C. in C.Levant.)

ST. JULIEN. Intend to sail hospital ship ST. JULIEN to Catania at 0700A/26th. Route. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville 251812B to N.O.I.C. Catania, (R) Admty. etc.)

RUYS. Transport RUYS arrived. (D.S.T.O.Malta 251815 to D. of S.T. P.S.T.O.Med. P.S.T.O.M.E.)

Italian Shipping in Levant. Germans have recently had liaison and technical officers with 10th M.A.S.F. at Spezia.  
2. MURENA was ready for sea at time of Italian Armistice and may be in German hands.  
3. GRONGO still under construction.  
4. AMBRA considered too old for further service.  
5. Capitano di Vassello Forza late C.O. of 10th F. M.A.S. prepared to give details of technical information on weapons and best suitable (presumably group omitted) against weapons.  
6. Forza is prepared to operate actively against the enemy and if allowed would use experienced teams already in our hands as prisoners.  
(C. in C.Levant 251853C to S.O.Force H, (R) Admty. C. in C.Med. (A).)

Italian shipping in Spanish Ports Your 232214. Merchant ships should go to Algiers and not Palermo. (?undamaged) warships should proceed to arrive off (?Bone) or neutral waters if insufficient fuel available where they will be given onward routing instructions to join Italian Fleet at Malta. Early information of any sailings is essential.  
(C. in C.Med. 251926B to B.N.A.Madrid, (R) Admty. F.O.C.Gib. C. in C.Med. (A) F.O.T.A.)

/Situation...

# MOST SECRET

860<sup>A</sup>.

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

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

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

251740/September.

FROM: M.W.T.R. Med.

Date: 26.9.43.

Recd: 0012.

Naval Cypher AD Plug by W/T Use of Italian  
Mercantile Marine

ADDRESSED: M.O.W.T. London, Repeated B.A.D. Washington for  
B.M.S.M.

Admiralty pass M.W.T. NASAB 594. The following is extract from memorandum of agreement on the employment and disposition of the Italian Fleet and Mercantile Marine between the C. in C. Mediterranean acting on behalf of the Allied Commander in Chief and the Italian Minister of Marine. "It is the intention that the Italian Merchant Marine should operate under the same conditions as the merchant ships of the Allied nations. In this will naturally be included the requirements of Italy. The system will be analagous to that used in North Africa where NASBO controls all United States, British and French shipping under certain agreements which will be arranged later in detail so far as Italian ships are concerned. It must be appreciated that whilst a proportion of Italian ships may be working within the Mediterranean this will not always necessarily be the case and ships flying the Italian flag will be expected to be used elsewhere similarly to merchant ships of all the United Nations. Italian ships employed as outlined will fly the Italian Flag and will be manned by crews provided by the Italian Ministry of Marine".

In view of the statement by the King of Italy and the Italian Government that the Fleet and the Italian Merchant Marine should be employed in the Allied effort against the Axis powers it would not be desirable or possible for the Allied Commander in Chief to exercise any powers of sequestration. In these circumstances it has been agreed by C. in C. that the North African shipping board will appoint a small ship-operating division of NASBO to deal with all such Italian ships in consultation with the C. in C.'s representatives Taranto and the Italian Minister of Marine. NASBO have agreed that their representatives should be appointed by Kasloch and Graham - this operating division will be able to sort out the various ships and get them into service as quickly as possible, meeting their requirements as to stores, bunkers and water and a full list will be transmitted to London and Washington as soon as can be done effectively. An initial survey shows that the majority of these vessels will be of the coasting type only suitable for use inside the Mediterranean. It is proposed that in view of the fact that these ships will be manned by Italians and paid for by

Italians.....



Italians, the entire cost of stores, bunkers etc, provided will be debited to the Italians on a book entry system, thereby fixing the cost and preventing any similar trouble such as we had with the French ship allocated to respective Governments where the costs and obligations might be difficult to assess. N.S.B.O are completely satisfied that in the initial period and for some months this is a most satisfactory solution of a very difficult problem.

251740

Advance Copy D.C. D.O.D.(F) D.D.I.C.

MIC.

1st Lord.  
1st S.L. (2)  
D.F.S.L  
3rd S.L  
4th S.L  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)  
A.C.N.S.(H)  
A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)  
Sec.  
Nav. Sec.  
P.S.(S)  
U.W.R.  
Capt. Pim  
D.N.I. (4)  
D.O.D.(H)(4)  
D.O.D.(F)(2)  
D.C.  
Plot.  
D.T.D.(4)  
D.T.D.(C)  
Hd. of M. (2)  
D. of P. (2)  
D. of S.T. (6)  
D.D.I.C. (2)  
D. of P. (O)(2)  
Ad. Blake (4)  
I.P. (2)  
W.D.

# MOST SECRET

860<sup>B</sup>.

had 25  
9

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MOST SECRET MESSAGE 251855C/Sept. IN.

From: C. in C Middle East. Date 25.9.43.  
Recd: 2035.

Cipher

Middle East Situation Reports.

Transport to Italy, Dodecanese, etc.

Addressed: War Office.

MOST IMMEDIATE 0/14345 cipher 25 Sept. 360370

Newtel no. 28 Situation review week ending incl 24 Sept.

1. ~~Order of battle and location statement 24 Sep.~~

1st. GHQ in Egypt. Delete 1 NF (MG) and 8 Inf Bn SDF. Add 4 Buffs Alexandria area.

2nd. GHQ in Tripolitania. Delete 10 Corps and all detail.

3rd 9th Army 3 Corps. Under 10 Ind Inf Div. add 1 NF (MG) Qatana. 2 Polish Corps. Delete 6 Polish Rifle Bde and all detail. Add 5 Polish Inf Div with 15 Polish Recce Regt 6 Polish Fu Regt 5 Polish MG Bn Mughazi. Under 5 Polish Inf Div add 6 Polish Rifle Bde and all detail.

4th. Tripolit. Delete 2 KERC (for Eighth Army)

5th. Malta. Under 233 Inf Bde delete 4 Buffs.

6th. Sudan. Under SDF add 8 Inf Bn

7th. GHQ in Syria Palestine Cyrdist BTE Palbase Cyrenaica District Aden no change.

2. Moves.

Completed. 2 NZ Div Mapai to Burg el Arab. 1 and 2 FF Divs Tripolitania to N. Africa. 5 Polish Div 5 Polish Bde Gp PAIC to Ninth Army. 4 Buffs Malta to Alexandria area. 1 NF Alexandria area to Qatana. 20 Ind Inf Bde Affula to Qatana 8 Inf Bn SDF Cairo Area to Sudan.

in progress. Corps Tps 2 Polish Corps PAIC to Ninth Army. 8 Ind Inf Div Syria to Alexandria (for Italy). 8 Armd Bde Tripoli (L) to Delta 2 KERC Tripoli to N. Africa.

Future. 31 Armd Div PAIC to Burg el Arab. 10 Armd Div Ninth Army to Delta. BM9 Jibuti to Delta.

3. Own AFV state 24 Sept. No(rpt) no new figures.

4. Gun state 2359 hrs 23 Sept.

GHQ tps and trg depots excl Malta and Cyprus. 3. Vin pack 15 75 mm 12 25 pr 485 105 mm SP 77 med 61 a/tk two pr 198 six pr 689 17 pr 134 three in. M10 50.

Units of Polish Corps in ME. 25 pr 96 med 13 a/tk six pr 127 17 pr 10.

Ord stocks/.....

PTD.

ord stocks incl repairable. 75 mm 2 3.7 in. pack  
12 3.7 in How mk IV 6 25 pr 261 105 mm SP 33 25  
pr SP 30 med 31 by 7.2 in How 8 a/tk two pr 444  
six pr 526 17 pr 26 three in. M10 Sp 32.

~~5. AA. no appreciable change.~~

6. Adm.

Italy. 8 Ind Div convoys sailed from base ports  
as follows. 17,600 personnel 20 Sep. First Flight  
MT store ships 19 Sep with 1,160 vehs 3,000 tons  
stores 1,000 personnel. Second flight MT store  
ships 24 Sep with 680 vehs 2,500 tons stores  
1,000 personnel.

Dodecanese. Maintenance Samos Leros Cos and  
Castellorosso being effected by HM ships air tpt  
landing craft small merchant ships and caiques.  
From 12 to 21 Sep 2,150 tons stores 1,250 petrol  
44 vehs 23 guns and 2,500 personnel despatched  
by sea. Supply for civil population being supplemented  
by despatches in local craft from Turkey.

Tripoli. 2,300 tons discharged. 24,700 tons incl  
vehs and guns loaded for Sicily and Italy. 14,850  
personnel embarked. 1,500 tons empty drums and  
vehs backloaded to base. 70 casualties from Sicily  
by air. Two vessels sailed from base with 3,300  
tons stores.

Benghazi. 5,450 tons discharged. Three vessels  
sailed from base ports with 6,200 tons incl  
4,750 bulk MT petrol.

Air freight. 24,590 lbs from Cairo to Sicily Malta  
and NA also 37 personnel.

Base ports. Period 15 to 21 Sep.

- A. 126 ships and 32 schooners working total 158
- B. 126,000 tons military stores discharged and  
loaded giving daily average all ports 18,000  
tons day.
- C. 93,000 tons cleared from ports by rail road  
IWT and by transfers and transshipments.
- D. 30,800 personnel disembarked and embarked.

Road and rail moves in base areas. 18,600  
personnel moved by rail in special trains and 26,700  
by road incl unit moves.

Supplies. 15,300 tons supplies discharged at base  
ports. 17 ships completed loading 6,900 tons.  
On 22 Sep 19 were loading 17,200 tons.

~~RESE. Present veh overhaul capacity per week  
tanks 75 limited by shortage spares. B vehs 1,000~~

~~B vehs.....~~

# MOST SECRET

860c.

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B veh engines 1,500.  
Armaments 400 per week. Veh assembly capacity approx 4,500 per month increasing to 5,000.

7. Political. Egypt Palestine no important change.

Syria. Agitation in Syria against continuation blackout regs led to decree by French authorities lifting black-out east of line Kuneitra Damascus Homs Hama and Aleppo.

Lebanon After intensive lobbying Bishara Khouri leader Constitutional party elected President Republic 21 Sep. Emil Ede leader Nationalist party embittered at last minute withdrawal French support from his party hinted to Delegeue disturbances might break out in mountains. Assurances given Delegeue British assistance forthcoming to prevent breaches of peace greatly strengthened his hand and actual disturbance now unlikely. Sabri Hanadi a Shia elected President of Chamber.

8. Palestine recruiting. Jews Men 8 women 6  
Arabs Men 7 women 2.

251855C.

Recd; in War Reg. 0-115/26

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.(1)(2)  
A.C.N.S.(F)  
A.C.N.S.(W)  
U.V.R.  
D.C.D.(F)(2)  
D.C.D.(H)(4)  
D.D.I.C.(2)  
D of P (2)  
Flot.  
H of M.(2)  
D.N.I.(4)  
I.F.(2)  
D.P.D.  
W.D.  
Ad. Blake.  
D.L.O.D.(M)  
D.A.M.I.  
C.N.I.

Circulation  
S of S.  
C.I.G.S.  
V.C.I.G.S.  
D.M.O.  
D.M.O.(C)(H)  
D. Plans (2)  
M.O.1.4.5.(12)  
D.M.I.  
D.D.M.I.(I)  
M.I.2.3.17.  
S.S.  
S.I.2.  
S.H.C.  
C.N.S. Admiralty  
H of War Reg.(Admiralty)  
C.A.S.(Air Ministry)  
A.M.C.S. "  
Bray Jacob.

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25.9.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation Brindisi. Tug leaving Brindisi approx. 2000/25th to assist Italian M/V DUBAC ashore off Otranto after bombing. M.A.S.516 leaving Brindisi 1930/25th proceed direct to Port Edda E.T.A. 2300/25th to order PROBITAS to return to Brindisi immediately.

Following areas are dangerous enclosed by (1) parallel 039° 03' 32" and 039° 08' 12" N. and by meridian 020° 13' and 020° 28' E. (2) parallel 039° 03' and 038° 49' N. and by meridian 020° 31' 30" and 020° 37' 30" E. (3) parallel 039° 26' 24" and 039° 13' N. and meridian 020° 03' 30" E. and limited in the east by the coast (4) a circle radius 5.2 miles with centre 038° 32' N. 020° 36' 18" E.  
(Brindisi 251927B to QUILLIAM, (R) PIORUN.)

Oran Movements. U.S.S. BUCK departed.  
(Com. N.O.B.Oran 251931B to Admty. etc.)

Italian M/V AIS MARINA. Arrival 25th Sept. AIS MARINA (Italian) from Cyprus.  
(N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports 252020C, 260931 to Admty. C. in C.Levant.)

OXFORDSHIRE. Request hospital ship OXFORDSHIRE may be sailed to Catania for (?orders) after disembarkation of casualties at Tripoli (L).  
(P.S.T.O. Med. 252030B to S.N.S.O. Tripolitania, (R) N.O.I.C. Sicily, N.C.W.T.F. N.O.I.C. Catania.)

C. in C.M.E. report. Cositrep No. 5. One. Int. A. Aegean. Indications that Germans leaving nominal only on Cyclades and Sporades taken over from Italians. Evacuation of latter proceeding gradually.

3. Naval. A. Destroyers QUEEN OLGA and INTREPID sailed Alexandria 0900/25 to carry out sweep through Straits of Scarpanto. Due Leros 26 Sept.  
(C. in C.M.E. 252040C.) Received at War Registry at 1325/26.

ROYAL SCOTSMAN. ROYAL SCOTSMAN's 231230. Request you will sail ROYAL SCOTSMAN on return from Taranto to Malta to carry out routine overhaul of main engines by ships staff.  
2. On completion V.A.Malta is requested to sail her in first convoy to Levant for onward routing to join Eastern Fleet.  
(C. in C.Med. 252118 to F.O.Sy. (R) V.A.Malta, C. in C.Levant, C. in C.E.F.)

M.K.F.24, M.K.F.24A. Immediate to C. in C.Mediterranean (A), N.O.I.C. Algiers.  
M.K.F.24 and M.K.F.24A. C. in C.Med. (A) 241055 and 241105. Ships are to be detached from convoy on crossing longitude 12° W. and proceed independently to New York as follows:

/ATHLONE CASTLE...

862

25.9.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.M.K.F.24,  
M.K.F.24A.  
(Contd.)

ATHLONE CASTLE, MONARCH OF BERMUDA, EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA (routes).  
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to signal estimated time of detaching from convoy, "Chop" and E.T.A. to authorities concerned.  
(D.O.D.(H) 252153A to C. in C.Med. (A) (R)  
N.O.I.C. Algiers, C. in C.Med. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. N.S.H.W. F.O.N.F. Com-eastseafcon, Commorseafcon, C. in C.C.N.A.)

S.T.S.4.

Intend sailing convoy S.T.S.4 consisting of FORT WALSH, LAMBROOK and BOLLSTA escorted by LAMERTON S.O., WHEATLAND and QUANTOCK at 1300A/26th for Malta.

2. Following joiners from Safta in 040° 12' N. 014° 33' E. at 1600A/26th, ROSALIND POPLAR. Route R to position M.J. thence through 037° 30' N. 015° 17' E. to M.K. then route R. Speed 8 knots E.T.A. 0600A/28th.

4. R/V for joiners from East Sicily ports as follows:- Messina in 038° 11' N. 015° 37' E. at 0900A/27th, Catania in 037° 30' 015° 17' at 1430A/27th, Augusta in 037° 13' 015° 21' at 1630A/27th Syracuse in 037° 04' 015° 23' at 1730A/27th.

5. Codeword "Scream" 4 call sign 2734 high priority.  
(S.O.Force N, 252207B to C. in C.Med. (R) V.A.Malta, F.O.Sy. N.Os.I.C.Salerno, Messina, Catania, Augusta, Syracuse, LAMERTON, U.S.C.T.F.. 89, Admty. F.O.C.Gibraltar, C. in C.Levant, Cdre. Algiers, M.A.C.N.A.C.A.F. NA.T.A.F.)

Flag of  
Comtask 86  
in BROOKLYN.

Cdre. Cruiser Division 8 Comtask 86 shifted flag from PHILADELPHIA to BROOKLYN left harbour (?2245)/25.  
(Comtask 86 252245B to (U.S.)Cdr. 8th U.S.Fleet, C. in C.Med. S. and A. concerned in "Avalanche".)

Liaison with  
Italian  
Navy.

V.A. A.J.Power has been appointed as Flag Officer Liaison Italy (FOLI) and will deal with all questions affecting disposition and movements of Italian Naval Units and Mercantile Marine.  
2. Signals for FOLI are to be routed to Taranto C.C.O. where F.O.Sets of S.P. are held but not at present type X.  
(C. in C.Med. 252250 to S. & A. Med. Stn. S. & A. Levant Stn. Admty.)

TAIREA.

Sailed hospital ship TAIREA for Milford Haven. (S.N.O.Trip. 252311B to Admty. etc.)

C. in C.Med.  
Situation  
report No.  
190.

1. Port party arrived Bari p.m. 23rd Sept. Port is in good order Italian authorities co-operative.  
2. During night 22nd/23rd Italian T.B. carried out patrol in vicinity of Corfu. German aircraft have been active over water between Corfu and Otranto during last 24 hours. Italian T.B. STOCCO (?sunk off) Samothraki Island, motor

/vessel...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- C. in C.Med. vessel DUBAC damaged near Otranto and T.B.  
Situation SIRIO also attacked.  
Report No. 3. Convoy of personnel ships with 8th Indian  
190 (Contd.) Div. arrived Taranto 24th Sept. Ships have  
discharged and sailed.  
4. M.M.S. 70 was sunk by mine off Gallipoli (I)  
on 24th Sept. while on passage. 3 survivors.  
5. Destroyer patrol in Straits of Otranto maintained during  
night 24th/25th no incident reported.  
6. British L.S.T. with tank(s) and G.C.I. set(s) arrived  
Ajaccio a.m. 25th.  
7. U.S.S. SKILL was torpedoed and sunk by U-Boat about 1200/25th  
in position 040° 20' 014° 35' TARTAR and FLY hunting.  
8. In sweeping operations off Cotrone 79 mines have been swept  
by ships of 14th M/S F.  
(C. in C.Med. 252347B as amended 262222B.)

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B.M.67.

Departure NARBADA, RAMDAS with B.M.67.  
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 250534Z)  
B.M.67, Sailing Signal 2.  
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 250632Z)

ELIAS  
HOWE  
torpedoed  
24th Sept.

American ship ELIAS HOWE torpedoed in 11° 37' N.  
45° 46' E. 0320 24th.  
(Com. Aden, 250811 to C. in C.E.F. (R) Admty.)  
My 250811. Survivors being landed Aden distress  
signal made on lifeboat wireless picked up and  
unreadable in Aden. Submarine surfaced but  
survivors cannot identify nationality. List  
of survivors and report follows.  
(Com. Aden, 250813Z to C. in C.E.F. (R) Admty.)

No.29  
disposition  
of U/Boats.

Japanese. One by D/F 004° S. 085° E. 19th.  
One by D/F 017° N. 056° E. 17th.  
(Corrupt group) have been sighted by aircraft  
(?in) Gulf of Aden 20th.  
German. One unit probably German but may possibly  
be Japanese, 300 miles east of Mogadishu 21st  
4 others unfixed in Indian Ocean believed moving northward.  
2. The following Y messages are cancelled: 327 of 23rd July.  
(C. in C.E.F., 250828Z to E.F.273Y.)

Shipping  
Instructions.

Ocean routeing on East Indies Station.  
The following alterations to routeing are to be  
brought into force forthwith, further additions  
will be promulgated later.

2. Where amendments differ from existing  
M.E.I.R.I. the latter are to be considered as in abeyance  
pending the issue revised M.E.I.R.I.
3. All independent shipping is to be routed through approach  
positions established by Fonic's 226 and 229.
4. The existence of approach positions (Focal point) is not  
to be divulged to Masters.  
(a) Shipping between South Africa, Portuguese East Africa,  
East Africa and Aden.  
The following convoys have been established Durban, Kilindini  
and Aden - D.K.A., and Aden, Kilindini and Durban - A.K.D.
  1. All ships 8 knots and over but less than 13 knots are to be  
sailed in convoy.
  2. In addition between South Africa, Portuguese East Africa and  
East Africa ships of 13 knots and over are to be sailed in convoy.
  3. Ships of 13 knots and over from South Africa to Aden are to  
be sailed independently east of Madagascar in accordance with  
M.E.I.R.I. 11A sub. para. 2B.
  4. Ships of 13 knots and over from Aden are to be sailed in  
A.K.D, A.B. or A.P. convoys and to be dispersed when well clear  
of Gulf of Aden R/V thence to proceed independently to  
destination. Ships for South Africa in accordance with  
M.E.I.R.I. 11A as above.



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East Indies.

Shipping Instructions. (Contd.)

5. Ships of 13 knots and over from East Africa to Aden are to be sailed in convoy until clear of focal area, then dispersed and (?routed) independently to destination, also see section (E).  
(b) Triangle convoys A.P./P.A., A.B./B.A. and B.P./P.B. All ships are to be sailed in convoy. Ships of less speed than 9 knots are not to be included in A.B./B.A. convoys, but are to be sailed independently.

1. Ships of 13 knots and over for Bombay and Karachi in A.B. convoys and for Aden in B.A. convoys to be dispersed when well clear of focal area and proceed independently.

2. All ships in A.B. convoys bound for Cochin, Colombo, Australia (?and) trans Atlantic direct to be dispersed in about 058° E. and proceed independently.

3. All ships in B.A., P.A. and P.B. convoys bound East Africa, Portuguese East Africa and South Africa, Australia or Trans-Atlantic, if any are to be dispersed as follows, from B.A. convoys in about 068° east. From P.A. and P.B. convoy when well clear of Gulf Oman as at present.

C. Shipping between Karachi, Bombay and Colombo. By coastal lane B.M./M.B. convoys when available, or P.A. independent. Ships of 13 knots and over (1) Southbound to be sailed in B.M. convoys and be dispersed when well clear of Bombay. (2) Northbound to be routed coastal, independently.

D. Independent shipping (?Northbound).

1. From South African ports and Lourenco Marques. All ships except those in section (A) are to be routed independently direct as in M.E.I.R.I.

2. From Australia and N.B. Wellington ~~independently~~ as in M.E.I.R.I.

3. U.S. shipping through routed from South Atlantic. Ships below 13 knots for destination in section A, (?then through) Durban for whole K.A. convoys.  
All other ships to Diego Suarez for O/R to destination.

4. From Beira all ships to join D.K.A. convoys. Ships of 13 knots and over for Aden and ships of all (?such) speeds for ports other than Aden to be dispersed when (?clear) to northwards of Kilindini focal area.

E. All shipping from East Africa (?for) Persian Gulf, India, Ceylon and Australia.  
To be sailed in convoy until clear of focal area then dispersed to proceed independently to destination.  
(C. in C. E.F., 250846Z to F.O.N.I.C. (R) Admty., N.Z.N.B., C.S.W.P. S.F.)

India Opsum No.559. 12? or 2? Beaufighters Sagaing area damaged 2 large river boats, 4 Beaufighters Pakokku area damaged oil tank and 50 small river craft M/T, 1 large and 2 smaller river steamers left in flames.  
(A.H.Q. India, 250900Z.)

Speed of ships in Convoys. Minimum speed of ships for inclusion in convoys is as follows. (1) A.K.D., K.D.A. convoys 8 knots. (2) A.B., B.A. convoys 9 knots. Ships thus excluded are to be sailed independently.  
Two F.O.N.I.C. 230 which follows refers.  
(C. in C.E.F., 250901Z to C. in C.A. Com. I/C Durban C.R.I.N., F.O. E.Af., Com.i/c, Com. Aden (R) Admty., F.O.C.R.I.N.)  
/RANPURA...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

RANPURA.

Request you will sail RANPURA for U.K. via Aden and Med. on 28th Sept. provided this completion date is adhered to. Admty. 042029 (not to F.O.E.A.) refers.  
(C. in C.E.F. 251229Z to F.O.E.A.(R) F.O.R.S.C.A., C. in C. Levant, Admty., C. in C. Med., F.O.C. Gibraltar, Com. i/c Aden, RANPURA.)

Administrative A review is being urgently undertaken of possible requirements up to end of 1945 of all administrative craft, i.e. ocean going tugs, ships tugs, harbour launches, small tankers and tank barges, etc. Estimated requirements

requested.

(5) Reply to this should be a joint reply, agreed with Naval C. in C., A.O.C., U.S. Cdg. General, M.W.T.R., P.S.T.O. and where necessary, Civil Port Authorities.

(6) For Arminia only. Estimated requirements of South East Asia Command should be included.

(W.O. 251930A to C. in C. India, C. in C. P.A.I.C., C. in C. Mideast, A.F.H.Q. (R) C. in C. E.F. etc.)

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ROSELYS. Have detached F.F.S. ROSELYS to St. Johns, N.F. independently. C.O. PERSIAN GULF suffering from nervous breakdown and will have to be relieved before return passage. Ship has expended all depth charges and 6 shifts ammunition. (S.O. B.3. 250030Z to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C. W.A., Capt. (D) Greenock, Capt. (D) N.F.)

Convoy G.U.S.14. Arrived New York 242130 20 ships arrived. M/V ATLANTIC unaccounted for. (P.D. New York 250150Z to Com. 10th Flt. C. & R. (R) C.E.S.F. Admty. N.S.H.Q.)

Air Report, Attacks on U-Boats. H.A.C.603/25th Sept. Daily Gr. Opsum 13 period ending 0100 G.M.T. 24th Sept.  
(3) (A) Lib. Y.10. (B) close cover O.N.S.18, ON.202.  
(C) 1804/23. (D) 52.36 N. 42.23 W. (E) 180° T. (F) 6-8 knots. (G) 20 N. miles and 145° T.  
(H) 4 torpex Mark XI D/Cs. with Mark XVI pistol 43 N. first attack. 2 D/Cs. (600 lbs.) second attack. (I) aircraft sighted fully surfaced U-Boat one and one half miles dead ahead. M.G. fire attack was undoubtedly surprise as U-Boat made no attempt to take evasive tactics. 4 Mark XI D/Cs. released. No explosion observed by any member of crew nor any after disturbance in water to suggest D/Cs. had detonated. On second attack 1 600 L.M. D/C released 1 minute after first attack no indication of U-Boat using A/A fire at any time of attack. No oil or air bubbles or any other evidence of damage following attack. Three flame floats and one sea marker dropped at completion of attack. (A) Lib. P.10. (B) close cover O.N.S.18 and O.N.202. (C) sighted 0802/23. (D) 53.13 N. 40.48 W. (E) 200° (F) 15 knots. (G) 20 miles and 090° T. (H) aircraft approached to attack with D/Cs. U-Boat opened H.A.A. fire. Aircraft replied with M.G. fire. Aircraft unable to complete turn quickly enough to get in position for attack and astern of U-Boat. (A) Lib. Peter 10. (B) Close cover O.N.S.18 O.N.202. (C) 1426. (D) 52.28 N. 43.25 W. (I) Q.P.100° (F) 8 knots. (G) 40' N. miles and 230°. (H) Dropped two Mk. XI D/Cs. with Mark XVI pistols when U-Boat fully surfaced. Dropped two D/Cs. 600 lbs. estimated two minutes after U-Boat submerged. (I) Oil streaks oily looking patch noted astern of U-Boat following attack. No return fire from U-Boat until after D/Cs. attack. Captain considers attack fruitless. Dropped sea markers. (H.Q. E.A.C. 250300Z.)

U.S. (Cominch 251355Z.)  
S/M.  
Estimate.

ROCKAWAY D/F bearings at 1203Z/25 on 10310 kc/s. indicate U/B. U-Boat in your vicinity. (D.D.I.C. 251356A to ROCKAWAY, C. in C. W.A., H.Q.C.C., N.S.H.Q., Cominch, A.C.I.C.)

/N.S.H.Q...

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N.S.H.Q.  
S/M.  
Estimate. (N.S.H.Q. 251403Z.) amended 251827Z.

DUFF. DUFF (B.D.E. 64) departed Boston Gate at 0945Q/25th for Bermuda via (route) speed 15 knots. (C.T.G. 02.1 251405/251525Z to N.O.B. Bermuda (R) C. in C. Lant, Cominch, Admty, N.S.H.Q., C.E.S.F., S.B.N.O. W.At., C.T.G.23.1 U.S. Com. Naval Station Newport (R.I.)).

G.U.S.14. Ref. my Dis. 25/0150 convoy U.G.S.14 add CHESAPEAKE Section 22 ships arrived 0158Z/25th. (P.D. New York, 251412).

ACONIT. F.S. ACONIT expected to be ready to sail 1st Oct. (B.A.M.R. 251414Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., S.B.N.O., W.At., C. in C. W.A. F.O.N.F., C. in C.N.A., Cdre. D.W.A.)

?U-Boat at Granada. R.N.O. Granada reports suspicious object sighted inside St. Georges Harbour about 0030Q/25th. Following examination of witnesses is of opinion could have been U-Boat not fully surfaced. (S.O. (I) Jamaica 251421R to Admty.)

ARIES,  
ROSEBAY. Your 241940A destination of ARIES Tobermory. ROSEBAY Belfast. C. in C. W.A. 251709 refers. (C. in C. C.N.W.A. 251423Z to A.C.I.C. (R) C. in C. W.A., F.O.C.N. Admty.)

Corvettes,  
allocation. My 240105. C. in C. W.A. 241019. Important to F.O.N.F. Although CHAMBLY and MORDEN formerly belonged to C.2. to facilitate refit programme suggest consideration be given to allocating MORDEN and SACKVILLE to C.2. and CHAMBLY to E.G.5. (C. in C. C.N.A. 251454Z to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q. Admty. Comdre. D. W.A.)

Landing  
Craft  
Trials. Your 202109. Trials will be carried out at Sydney C.B. 2. Request particulars of complement of each type of craft being shipped for trial. (N.S.H.Q. 251505Z to Admty.)

Convoy  
J.H.68. 1. Sailing telegram (2 ships). 2. 1830Z/25th. 3. E.T.A. Halifax 1630Z/27th E.T.A. Boston 2130/28th 4. 12 knots. 5. (Route). LADY RODNEY detaches in position (G) for Halifax. 6. ST. CLAIR, VILLE DE QUEBEC, BAYFIELD. (N.C.S.O. St.Johns, N.F. 251520Z, 251521Z to Admty.)

/J.H.88...

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ROCKAWAY U/B (Contd.) J.H.88. My 251520 and 251521 delayed 18 due to fog. (N.C.S.O. St.Johns (N.F.) 251852Z to Admty.)

BUXTON. N.S.H.Qs. 061634Z. (Re BUXTON, further repairs considered uneconomical). Ref. Para. 4. Consider BUXTON can be most usefully moored at Deepbrook for training at CORNWALLIS. Request decision may be given whether she can now be paid off and arrangements made to carry out support of above. (N.S.H.Q. 251610Z to Admty.) *Reply: 25.10.43, p. 283, 6/2/44*

UG.S. Convoys, cycle. J.S.M. 1207. C.C.S. agree that the sailing of U.G.S. Convoys at 10 days intervals should be continued (J.S.M. Washington 251659Z to W.C.O, Cominch 251945Z to Admty. C. in C. Af. (General Eisenhower) (R) C. in C. Lant, Commorseafron, F.O.I.C. Gib., C. in C. Med.)

ALBEMARLE, HUMBOLDT, ROCKAWAY. This is Comnavu's 251651 addressed to Comfairwing 7 for action (R) Admty. Usnavpo, Cardiff, Comairlant, U.S.S. ALBEMARLE, U.S.S. HUMBOLDT, U.S.S. ROCKAWAY. U.S.S. ALBEMARLE assigned discharge berth in Swansea. Arrangements completed for HUMBOLDT and ROCKAWAY to discharge Bristol City Docks. (Comnavu 251711 to Admty.)

MAYFLOWER, NAPANEE, defects. Your 222222. Anticipate MAYFLOWER will arrive Curios May Maryland on or about 17th Oct. (C. in C. C.N.A. 251718Z to B.A.M.R. (R) N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., Admty. S.B.N.O. W.At.) My 311736 August (N.T. in W.R.) 251718 Sept. Request you sail MAYFLOWER to Halifax to prepare for refit ex O.N.S.19. 2. NAPANEE delayed by refit will be unable to relieve MAYFLOWER in next Eastbound assignment C.3. but anticipate NAPANEE will rejoin prior to following Westbound assignment. 3. Anticipate relief in C.3 for H.X.261 will be B.E.C.1 and B.E.C.2 with possible addition CLINTON. (C. in C. C.N.A. 251724Z to F.O.N.F. (R) N.S.H.Q. Admty. C. in C. W.A.)

B.E.C.5. Cominch 232122 not to all addressees. (N.T. in W.R.) B.E.C.5 sailing from Chicago about 26th September. Request arrangements as in my 271431 August. (B.A.D. 251727Z to N.S.H.Q.)

Net Defence. A.M. 121905 Oct. 1942, 212109 June and 191907 August 1943. Areas for streaming Net Defence. 1. As U.S. Merchant Ships are now fitted with N.D. your concurrence will be sought for future alterations in these areas.

A.W.1 Lion A 869

# 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 : *Sept*  
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.) 251921Z *October*.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

*French Naval Re-armament.* IN

From B.A.D. Washington.

Date 25. 9. 43.

Received 2350.

Naval Cypher XD by cable.

Addressed Admiralty. Repeated C. in C. Mediterranean.

Your 171454 I have received Official notifications from both Fenard and Gayral that on instructions from French Naval Headquarters in Algiers Fenard has taken over all Naval matters previously handled by Gayral as representative of the Fighting French Delegation.

2. My 041607. B.A.M.R. has to date dealt with the refits of Free French ships under British Lend Lease. At meeting held between B.A.M.R. and Fenard latter requested we continue to deal with ACONIT and CHEVREUIL now in hand. He also requested that B.A.M.R. should deal with LOBELIA and RENONCULE when they arrive. The French Naval Personnel will however come under Fenard's jurisdiction. This proposal is satisfactory to both B.A.M.R. and Navy Department provided the defect lists and A and A lists for former Free French ships are dealt with by R.N. Authorities before transmission to B.A.M.R.

3. If however A and A lists and defect lists for former Free French ships are prepared by the French Naval Authorities it is considered that Fenard should deal direct with Navy Department for all French ships as has been the routine with the North African French ships.

4. Request your views.

251921Z.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L. (2).
- D.F.S.L.
- Contr.
- V. Contr.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F).
- A.C.N.S. (H).
- 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) for action.
- I.P. (2).
- W.D.
- Ad. Blake.
- Hd. of M.A.S.
- D. of D.
- P.N.L.O.
- Dep. Contr.
- D. of D.
- Hd. of S.W.R.

biw

} Bath.

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Defence.  
(Contd.)

2. Now that U-Boats are operating spasmodically over wide area it is proposed that C's. in C. and Sea Frontier Comdrs. be responsible for such temporary variations of the general instructions as are required or permitted by the local U-Boat situation. 3. This arrangement should ensure:-

- (a) The timely streaming of nets in a newly threatened area.  
(b) That nets, whose life is short, are not streamed unnecessarily in areas no longer threatened.

(D.T.D. Approved A.C.N.S. (U.T) 251733A to Connav (R) B.A.D.)

Use of  
P.N.M.

(B.A.D. 251919Z, C. in C. C.N.A.252110Z, 252210Z.)  
See U-Boat Campaign.

S/M attack  
and  
sighting  
summary.

Para.(D). S.S. FRONT ROYAL sighted periscope  
34.25 N. 75.15 W. 242200. All times Z.  
K.53 Radar contact 24.51 N. 79.56 W. 250050.  
No report on 24th.  
(Cominch 251933Z to Admty.)

Landing  
Craft  
trials.

Arrangements requested in your 202109 will be made.  
(N.S.H.Q. 232053Z to Admty. (R) S.C.N.O. London  
C. in C. C.N.A.)

Acoustic  
Homing  
Torpedoes.

C. in C. C.N.A. 252157Z. See U-Boat Campaign,

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements.

Departed Gladstone 23rd U.S.S. COPAHEE for  
Townsville, Brisbane 23rd U.S.S. NICHOLAS Noumea.  
U.S.S. ROCHAMBEAU departed Brisbane 23rd  
for San Francisco.  
(A.C.N.B. 250217Z.)

24th U.S.S. OYEN, U.S.S. CALAMARES.  
(R.O. Pearl 250437.)

24th 20 U.S.S. SABINE San Pedro 30th.  
(R.D. Pearl 250513.)

25th U.S.S. GUADALUPE San Pedro Oct. 1st.  
(P.D. Pearl 252351.)

Depart Mackay 23rd U.S.S. DOBBIN for Townsville. Fremantle  
24th U.S.S. CHILDS for Exmouth Gulf.  
(A.C.N.B. 250733Z to Admty. etc.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

Digest  
Serial No. 693 Sept. 24th. Mid-day R/C Liberator scored near miss on large sea truck near Mussau Island leaving ship settling and afternoon another bombed buildings Rooke Island. 5. Song River beach-head ineffectually raided by enemy aircraft evening 23rd. At noon next day 15 Lightnings escorting Mitchells on barge sweep attacked by approx. 30 Zeros covering 9 medium bombers over Finschhafen. One Zero destroyed plus one probable. Two Lightnings missing. Enemy bombers jettisoned bombs and returned towards New Britain.

6. Three Liberators conducting mid-day patrol dropped three bombs waterfront Sorong where two small merchantmen observed. Remainder bomb load on Administrative buildings and barracks Manokwari where one sea truck sighted. 2 small freighters Buin Faisi area, one medium cargo vessel Buka Passage, plus several small craft and barges both locations. Visual reports indicate additional 1 large and 3 medium freighters. 2 auxiliaries Tonolei harbour, 2 small cargo ships Kieta.

10. 10 ships convoy including 6 destroyers, 2 merchantmen, 1 auxiliary aircraft carrier or landing craft tender, 1 auxiliary sighted morning 140 miles N.E. Kavieng course 190°.

11. R/C observed 5 or 6 barges in bay central S.W. coast Choiseul (G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 250954Z).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 251504A, 251505A).

Submarines Attacked.

S/M attack  
and sighting  
summary for  
24 hours to  
0900Z/25th.

Para. A. (1) Light attacks on O.N. 202 and O.N.S. 18 during night 23/24 frustrated. Position approx. 52° 20' N. 43° 40' W.

(2) TWEED rammed and damaged U-boat which subsequently dived in 51° 25' N., 31° 22' W. at 0401Z/25th. (3) Aircraft D/179 attacked U-boat with depth charges 36° 52' N., 09° 08' W. course 100° 2248/24th Aircraft R/179 attacked U-boat with depth charges 36° 48' N., 09° 13' W. course 100° 2332Z/24th. Aircraft Q/179 sighted U-boat 36° 43' N., 09° 13' W. course 180° 0112Z/25th. (4) Aircraft sighted U-boat 38° 32' N., 20° 21' E. course 020° 1042Z/24.

Para. B. WHADDON obtained contact 40° 02' N., 14° 41' E. 1035Z 24th. Ref. A.M. 241051Z Para. B., (1). U-boat detected 4 miles ahead of S.C.142. Was sighted, dived and was attacked. (D.D.I.C., 251003Z to Cominch).

/Use...



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25.9.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Attacked. - Contd.

Use of P.N.M. 70 sets parallel rod noise makers being despatched from Boston to Capt. (D) Argentia by air 26th. First priority supply to ships of ocean escort groups. Every endeavour to be made to equip group escorting H.X.258 before sailing. Expect further supply shortly and eventual equipment all escorts.

2. Parallel rod towed at 500 feet should be used throughout attack. Life is estimated as 40 hours at 12 knots and falls off rapidly at higher speeds. Suggest until supplies more plentiful four sets per ship.

(B.A.D. 251919Z to Capt. (D) Argentia (R) F.O.N.F., C. in C., C.N.A., C. in C. W.A., Admty. N.S.H.Q.)

P.N.M. cat gear shipped as follows 35 sets in WASKESIU 15 sets in AGASSIZ 50 sets in ASSINIBOINE total 100 sets plus spares.

(C. in C. C.N.A. 252110Z to F.O.N.F. (R) Admty. C. in C.W.A., Cdre. (D) Londonderry, N.S.H.Q., B.A.D.)

Your 251919 to Capt. (D) Argentia.

(1) Arrangements are being made to make first supply to all ships of Ocean escort groups from Canadian sources sufficient gear at present en route Newfoundland arriving 26th but no flotation.

(2) Present intention is to place gear aboard ships but not repetition not use until further advice from Admiralty in accordance with A.M. 242113 and A.M. 231539. Latter signal being passed to you and F.O.N.F.

(3) C.1 group escorting H.X.258 will be equipped and also B.3 escorting H.X.259. Latter group proceeding St.Johns for conference.

(C. in C. C.N.A. 252210Z to B.A.D. (R) Capt. (D) Argentia, C. in C. W.A., Admty. N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F.)

Acoustic Your 242113 Section I. Request information  
Homing (A) Intensity level upon which homing radius of  
torpedoes. 300 yards is based.

(B) Estimated reception and dead arcs of torpedo hydrophones. 5 foot length P.N.M. has been found to give 17 to one ratio to sound of corvettes, screws between 9 knots and 17 knots. Calculations indicate single decoy at 400 yards tow would give complete immunity. Gear being placed on board mid ocean groups but will not be used without further instructions from Admiralty Flotation being improvised. Request reply to this signal and any modification to your 231539 may be repeated to F.O.N.F. where my experimental staff officers are attending conference.

(C. in C. C.N.A. 252157Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A., F.O.N.F., B.A.D.)

873

26.9.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

"Foxyer"  
gear.

1. This newly-designed equipment for use against the new German Homing Torpedo was today ordered to be fitted to all convoy escorts at the highest priority. VERNON hoped to produce 5 outfits by 29th Sept., 12 more by the 6th October, and up to 50 outfits per week thereafter. The first of these are allocated 6 to Londonderry for C.5 Group to be fitted by 6th October and 7 to Belfast for E.G.4 to be fitted by 8th October. C. in C. Home Fleet considers that all Home Fleet destroyers should be fitted with the gear before the resumption of the North Russia convoys.

LÜTZOW  
goes south.

2. A report graded B.2 states that a Pocket Battleship, probably LÜTZOW, escorted by 5 destroyers passed Renga (66° 37' N., 13° 08' E) at 0810A today, southbound at 15 knots; and the S/MS ULA and SATYR have been ordered to patrol in about 62° 13' N., 05° 17' E. (off Statlandet).

Enemy  
Coastal  
Batteries.

3. A patrol of M.T.Bs. when about 3 miles from the coast between Fecamp and Cap d'Antifer was shelled at 0420 by shore-batteries but sustained no casualty or damage; and at 1155 today six M.Ls. of the 5th M.L. Flotilla, while sweeping off the South Foreland, were repeatedly straddled by about 30 rounds of 4-gun salvos from unidentified coastal batteries, but withdrew safely under a smoke-screen.

Convoy  
K.M.S. 28

4. The Troop convoy K.M.S. 28 of 10 ships sailed from the Clyde today.

Group M.

5. DART escorting 6 B.Y.M.S., 8 M.M.S. Mine-layer DABCHICK, tug HESPERIA and M.L. 576 left Milford Haven today for Gibraltar.

North Atlantic.

U-boats.

6. Up to 4 U-boats were sighted by aircraft today within 20 miles of 36.15 N. 09.35 W. A/C No. 12 of Air/Sea Rescue Squadron estimated 4 hits on a U-boat apparently disabled on the surface, in 36.20 N., 10.03 W. This U-boat appears to have been attacked 3 times by aircraft WITHERINGTON and VELOX are searching, in conjunction with aircraft. They carried out promising attacks on a firm contact at 1937B near M.K.S. 25 in 36.13 N.

26.9.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

- U-boats (contd). 10.04 W. (75 miles S.W. of Cape St. Vincent).
- M.K.S. 25 7. SCYLLA left Gibraltar this morning to overtake M.K.S. 25 as additional escort to the U.K. Shortly after midday, the Senior Officer, B.4 Group, sent VELOX towards 36.25 N., 09.30 W. to the vicinity of an enemy submarine and crashed aircraft. M.K.S. 25 was then in 35.48 N., 07.25 W. WITHERINGTON passed through the former position at 1123B but found no aircraft.
- Attack on Spanish Trawlers. 8. The Spanish Ministry of Marine complain that the trawlers ALCAZAR DE TOLEDO and VIRGEN DE ICIAR, on passage to Grand Sole, were attacked by a 4-engine aircraft from 1745 to 1815 on 7th September in 46.52 N., 12.03 W. and casualties inflicted..

South Atlantic.

- DOMINE, interception. 9. Examination of the passengers and cabins of Spanish SS. DOMINE (intercepted on 24th) reveals nothing incriminating, except clandestine mail intended for posting in Spain. F.O.C.W.Af. intends to release the ship tomorrow.
- ITAPAGE 10. It is reported that survivors from the Brazilian ship ITAPAGE landed at Rio de Janeiro tonight. The ship was torpedoed and sunk 40 miles south of Maceio, at 1630 G.M.T. today.

Mediterranean.

11.  
C. in C. Med. (A). The Bizerta H.Q. of C. in C. Med. closed down at 1400A today and the title of C. in C. Med. (A) lapsed.

/Force...

26.9.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- Force H. 12. The flag of F.O. 2nd in Command Force H., was transferred to VALIANT this morning.
- U-boats. 13. An aircraft attacked with depth charges a U-boat at 1712A in 38.40 N., 13.59 E., SS. CHRISTIAN MICHELSEN in convoy U.S.17 blew up and sank at about 1920 today in 37.12 N. 08.26 E. (30 miles east of Bone). A U-boat hunt was carried out in the vicinity. U-boat activity has been on an increased scale in the Salerno area. Several hunts were carried out yesterday and today, but without evidence of success.
- Corsica 14. JEANNE D'ARC escorted by PANTHER proceeded to Ajaccio with troops last night. The submarine ULTOR, which has been patrolling N.E. of Corsica, reports all her torpedoes expended and that the German evacuation continues by sea and Air. She torpedoed a 10,000 ton tanker which was finally beached near Bastia, and also sank a Siebel ferry. Considerable E-boat activity was observed.
- Corfu 15. QUILLIAM and PIORUN carried out a patrol last night near Corfu, to prevent enemy supplies from reaching the island. Nothing was sighted but several survivors of the Italian T.B. STOCCO (see 25 Sept.) were rescued.
16. SS. GOLCONDA made an S O S report at 0305 from 33.00 N. 14.48 E. Nothing more is known of this.
- Aegean:  
QUEEN OLGA  
and INTREPID  
sunk. 17. In an air raid on Leros Harbour at 0900 this morning, the Greek destroyer QUEEN OLGA was sunk, and INTREPID was hit amidships. The ships had arrived this morning from a shipping sweep. 2 further raids occurred at 1545 and 1605, and INTREPID was again hit aft and capsized at 0200/27. Damage was caused in the dockyard. POLA and KORITZA carrying personnel, escorted by COM. DUBOC and LA MOQUEUSE sailed from Beirut this morning for Castelrosso. 4 Beaufighter bombers attacked a 2000 ton armed merchantman in Syros harbour today.

/Intelligence...

26.9.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Intelligence

18. S.O.(I) Istanbul states that it might be valuable if the Italian Naval Attache were instructed to co-operate with him as Marshal Badoglio has instructed the Italian Military Attache to co-operate with our Military Attache. The Italians have separate Naval and Military intelligence services.

Australia & New Zealand.

19. 33 Allied aircraft bombed the barge centre in southern Kolombangara (Solomon Is.) this afternoon.

War Diary.26.9.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Command of Mixed Groups. The arrangements in paras. 3A. and B. of Admiralty 211954 Sept. are acceptable for the Allied navies working in the W.A. Command provided that in the case of para. 3A. the decision as to whether or not the Allied officer has acquired sufficient experience rests with the operating authority concerned.  
(C. in C.W.A. 261210A to Admty.)

Movements.

ORION. Arrivals ORION.  
(C. in C.Portsmouth 260801A to Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

Group M. Admiralty's 111525, 111639, 141745, 171119.  
BANFF. Group M routed A.M. 172035 February as modified by A.M. 012011 June, through Q.Z.S. 433.  
Sailed DART escorting B.Y.M.S. 190, 191, 212, 229, 74, 75, M.M.S.117, 48, 38, 168, 169, 167, 170, 172, DABCHICK, tug HESPERIA, and M.L. 576. E.T.A. 2nd October.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 261001A to F.O.C.Gibraltar.)  
1. Request BANFF who has returned to Plymouth defective may be sailed when ready.  
A. to provide additional escort for Group M to Mediterranean (A.M. 111525 refers)  
B. thence in accordance with para. 3 of A.M. 131221.  
(D.O.D.(H) 261205A to C. in C.Plymouth.)  
Intend to sail BANFF in accordance with A.M. 261205A at 1200A/27th September providing defects are made good to overtake group M and remain as additional escort, S.O.A. 14 knots till joining.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 261854A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

S/M Positions of S/Ms at 0800/27 and movements for  
Movements. following 24 hours.  
(F.O.S. 261742, 262129A. 280712A.)

OPPORTUNE, If not already done detach OPPORTUNE to  
OBDURATE. Londonderry to await further orders and OBDURATE to Scapa fuelling Londonderry if necessary.  
(C. in C.H.F. 261745A to VICTORIOUS.)  
Your 261745. These destroyers detached Clyde light vessel 1930A.  
(VICTORIOUS 261944A to C. in C.H.F.)

BLACKFLY, My 241831. Route for BLACKFLY and CAPE PALLISER  
CAPE PALLISER. through positions - O. 270° Oversay 6 miles at 1900 Oboe/28. P. 55.01 N. 10.00 W. Q. 48.30 N. 19.28 W. R. 40.01 N. 28.29 W.  
(D.O.D.H. 261809A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

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War Diary.

26.9.1943.

Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Bay Patrol & Operation "Stonewall". Have A.S.V. contact - probably U/B. (A/C 612 Sq. Duty L 260008 to 19 Group.) Arrived 0743 ULSTER, GRENVILLE, and CRANE. (C. in C.Plymouth 260929A to Admty.) French Tunnyman number A.R.G.9974 sighted in 046° 45' N. 009° 55' W. Should vessel be sunk. (BERMUDA 261216 to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Your 261216. No.

(C. in C.Plymouth 261331A to BERMUDA.)

Disposition at 2000.

BERMUDA 046° 10', 013° 45' S. westbound 20 knots.

2. UNISON 047° 01' 006° 30' northbound, 105 miles a day.

3. UNTIRING 046° 10' 005° 25' S. westbound through 044° 30' 006° 30' daily advance 105 miles.

(C. in C.Plymouth 261546A to Admty.)

Operation S.F.

Faroes departure IMPULSIVE.

(N.O.I.C. Faroes 260255A to C. in C.Rosyth.)

Have A.S.V. contact position 61.52 N. 13.53 W. bearing 230° 345 miles, number visual. Probably U-Boat.

(A/C MJSP3 260655A to 18 Group.)

Rosyth 3271/0850/A of 16th September will not arrive Seidis Fjord for S.O.M.F. 1 until 0900Z/27. Your 251731 refers.

(A.C.I.C. 261105A to C. in C.Rosyth.)

062° 24' N. 013° 50' W. Situation at 262000. SCOURGE, SAVAGE searching vicinity

(A.C.O.S. 261216A to Admty.).

Faroes arrival SABRE.

(N.O.I.C. Faroes 261240 to C. in C.Rosyth.)

To comply with C. in C.Rosyth's 251621 Group A is HARRIER, GLEANER, HUSSAR, ARDROSSAN, LYME REGIS.

(M/S F.1 261423A to C. in C.Rosyth.)

Faroes departure OBEDIENT, MAHRATTA, SCORPION.

(N.O.I.C. Faroes 261906A to C. in C.H.F.)

M.T.B. Patrol Shelled.

Striking Force carried out patrol in accordance with C. in C.Portsmouth's 251504A/9. M.T.B. 249 returned to harbour defective and remainder proceeded to 49° 48' N. 00° 15' E. M.G.Bs. remained on patrol in the vicinity of this position. M.T.Bs. proceeded to patrol 3 miles from the

coast between Fecamp and Cap D'Antifer. No contact was made with enemy. At 0402 shore batteries opened fire on M.T.Bs. No casualties or damage. Cap D'Antifer light observed throughout the night. Force returned to harbour 0713/26.

(N.O.I.C. Newhaven 260825A to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

Operation V.P. S.G.

My 301042 August. Sailed at 0945A today M.T.B. 688 (S.O.) and M.T.B. 627.

(A.C.O.S. 261126 to Admty.)

M.T.B. 688 and M.T.B. 627 returned at 1530A today.

(My 261126A.)

2. Weather prevented completion of operations.

(A.C.O.S. 261604A to Admty.)

/Operation...

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26.9.1943.  
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Operation V.P. A.M. Sailed at 1040A today. My 211741A. M.T.B. 619. (A.C.O.S. 261202A to Admty.)  
My 261202. M.T.B. 619 returned at 2310A today.  
2. Weather prevented completion of operation. (A.C.O.S. 262322A to Admty.)

Operation V.P. A.H. My 161059. Sailed at 1041A today M.T.B. 618 (S.O.) and M.T.B. 686. (A.C.O.S. 261203A to Admty.)  
M.T.B. 618 and M.T.B. 686 returned at 2130A today. My 261203.  
2. Weather prevented carrying out of operation. (A.C.O.S. 262100A to Admty.)

Coastal Patrols. 1. Orders for night 26/27 September.  
A. GREY FOX, GREY OWL, GREY SHARK, GREY SEAL carry out offensive patrol on the direct route between Cap Barfleur and Le Havre, East of long. 0° 10' W. Primary object torpedo targets. Proceed by passage four passing 4 N. at 2100. Patrol may be carried out Eastward to 10 miles E. of position Y.Y. and return made by passage four or two, to be within 20 miles of own coast by 0600.  
B. CHASSEUR 10, 13 patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between F. and E.A.5 buoys.  
C. STEVENSTONE, M.L. 344 immediate notice St. Helens.  
D. M.L. 122, 233, 124 patrolling 50° 20' N. between 2° 00' W. and 2° 25' W.  
2. Albacores patrolling west of 0° 50' W. (C. in C. Portsmouth 261425A.)  
MARETTA, LOIS patrolling two miles S. of D. Buoy, E.T.D. 1745, E.T.R. 0800.  
M.Ls. 104, 101, 107, 213, 210, 573, M.T.Bs. 25, 240, 219, 38 carrying out operation N.L. 103 and 104, E.T.D. 1930, E.T.R. 0430/27. Route via Number one and U-Buoys each way.  
M.G.Bs. 114, 116, from Ramsgate in support. E.T.D. 1950, E.T.R. 0430/27.  
M.G.Bs. 41, S.1, 40 at V. Buoy. E.T.D. 1900, E.T.R. 0645/27.  
M.T.Bs. 202, 204, 231, M.G.Bs. 108, 118, 117 patrolling at Berck Buoy. E.T.D. 2330, E.T.R. 0730/27.  
(V.A. Dover 261723A.)

S/M Patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800/27th and movements for subsequent 24 hours. All times zone A.  
A. SEADOG 75° 53' N. 10° 01' E. dived as much as as possible by day through 74° 01' N. 07° 40' E. daily advance 60 miles.  
B. STOIC and VARANGIAN on patrol within 15 miles of Andoy.  
C. SATYR 66° 48' N. 04° 47' E. probably on the surface through 69° 01' N. 07° 45' E. thence to the N.E. speed 11 knots.  
D. ULA 65° N. 05° E. towards 69° N. 11° E. probably on the surface at 9 knots.  
G. UNISON 47° 57' N. 06° 30' W. dived by day through 48° 30' N. 06° 30' W. thence towards 180° Lizard 10 miles, daily advance 90 miles.  
H. UNTIRING 45° 16' N. 05° 35' W. dived by day to 44° 20' N. 06° 30' W. thence west, daily advance 105 miles.  
J. UNITED as in my 241638.  
(P.O.S. 261742 to Admty.)

/ULA...



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26.9.1943.  
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

S/M Patrols. ULA and SATYR proceed forthwith with all despatch  
(Contd.) to patrol vicinity  $062^{\circ} 13' N.$   $005^{\circ} 17' E.$  and  
 $062^{\circ} 28' N.$   $005^{\circ} 35' E.$  respectively.  
2. Object to attack enemy main units which may be  
leaving by Vanelv Gabet and Bredsund.  
3. Proceed diving by day when within 60 miles of Norwegian Coast.  
(F.O.S. 261808A to S/Ms.)

M/L F.5. Enemy coastal batteries which were not identified  
shelled. opened fire at 1155 today on 6 M.Ls. of 5th Flot.  
while minesweeping in  $102^{\circ} S.$  Foreland 12.5 miles.  
About 30 rounds in 4 - gun salvos repeatedly  
straddled our vessels who withdrew under cover of  
smoke without damage or casualties. Accuracy of shelling, which  
finally ceased at 1215, appeared to deteriorate immediately  
under effect of smoke screen.  
(V.A.Dover 262315A to Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

SCOTT. One enemy plane bearing  $040^{\circ}$  distance 10 miles  
course  $045^{\circ}$  position  $62^{\circ} 54' N.$   $12^{\circ} 22' W.$   
(SCOTT 261045 to Thorshavn W/T.)  
My 1045. One Ju.88  
(SCOTT 261102A to Thorshavn W/T.)

Mining.

Harwich. 1 ground mine detonated by M.M.S. at 0805 in  
 $52^{\circ} 05.3' N.$   $01^{\circ} 44.2' E.$  and one at 261345A  
in  $51^{\circ} 51.3' N.$   $01^{\circ} 30.8' E.$   
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 260917 and 262146A.)

Q.Z.X. 1095. Q.Z.X. 1095 now cleared to north of line joining  
following positions. One G.P. mine of new appear-  
ance cut and exploded in  $50^{\circ} 23' 36''$   $02^{\circ} 50' 48''.$   
One G.P. mine detonated in sweep in  $50^{\circ} 24' 00''$   
 $02^{\circ} 46' 48''.$   
One G.P. mine detonated in sweep in  $50^{\circ} 24' 12''$   $02^{\circ} 38' 42''.$   
(PROSPECT 261430A and 270805A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

S.N.222C. Operation S.N. 222 completed 49/12.  
(Commodore M 261649A to Admty.)

N.L.103 My 261723. N.L.103 and N.L.104 abandoned owing  
N.L.104. to weather.  
(V.A.Dover 262053A.)

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26.9.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Cherbourg, Sorties on 24/1020/A shows Cherbourg Digue  
on 24th Sept. Homet and part of Bassin Charles X only. Since  
23rd September 8 M class M/S have departed from  
alongside Digue Homet. Whale Oil ship SOLGLIMT  
T.1 still in dry dock No. 1  
(R.A.F. Medmenham 260001A to Admty.)

LÜTZOW. Report graded B.2 states Pocket Battleship  
probably LUTZOW escorted by 5 destroyers passed  
Renga, Co.S., 15 knots at 0810A/26.  
(D.D.I.C. 261408A to A.I.G. 21.47.)  
Pocket battleship probably LUTZOW passed Renga 066° 37' N. 013°  
08' E. at 0810A/26 southbound, 15 knots, escorted by 5 destroyers.  
(F.O.S. 261927A and 270053 to S/Ms.)

Technical.

"Foxer"  
Gear. A.M. 242113. It is desirable that Fleet  
destroyers should be fitted with "Foxer" before  
the recommencement of North Russian Convoys.  
(C. in C.H.F. 261014A to Admty.)  
A.M. 231800A September is being passed to you  
for information. This equipment, known as "Foxers", is to be  
fitted to all escorts at highest priority.  
2. VERNON (M/S) hopes to produce 5 outfits by 29th September,  
13 further outfits by 6th October, and up to 50 outfits per week  
thereafter.  
3. A "Foxer" outfit for one ship consists basically of: 2  
displacer P.V. weight 375 pounds each, 2 125 - fathom lengths  
of 1 and 5 - eighths P.V. recovery-wire, 2 noise-making units.  
4. Except in the case of escorts already fitted with M/S or P.V.  
equipment it is probable that all escorts will have to work  
their "Foxer" gear from forward, using the capstan and most  
suitable existing davits for streaming and recovery.  
5. It is hoped eventually to supply all outfits complete.  
For the early outfit however, towing-wires must be provided from  
local resources. Tackles, recovery hooks, davit hooks, leading  
blocks, and eyeplates should also be found locally for these  
earlier sets.  
6. A Commander late of VERNON (M/S) has now joined the staff of  
C. in C.W.A. (Derbyhouse extension 194) and it is intended that  
he and a fitting-out officer should visit each base at a very  
early date.  
7. The first outfits are allocated as follows, 6 to Londonderry  
for C.5 group to be supplied and fitted by 4th October. 7 to  
Belfast for 4th Group to be supplied and fitted by 8th October.  
(C. in C.W.A. 261144A to Capts. D. Liverpool, Greenock, Belfast,  
and Cdre. D.W.A.)  
My 261144A para. 5. VERNON (M/S) now report that all  
outfits will be supplied complete with towing-wires and the vast  
majority of the special stores.  
Fitting-out officers may be expected within the next two days  
with a complete list of all the stores required.  
(C. in C.W.A. 261530A.)

War Diary.

26.9.1943.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

- NEMESIS. Sailed NEMESIS in tow of SAUCY in accordance with my 251706A and 251658A.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 260214A to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)
- SHIKARI. Your 251602. Request you will sail ship to Londonderry.  
(C. in C.W.A. 260924A to R.A.D.H.F.)  
My 251602. Proceed passing Hoxa at 1150 today to Londonderry for refit.  
(R.A.D. 260930 to SHIKARI.)
- My 260930A. Sailed. E.T.A. 0900A/27.  
(R.A.D. 261141 to Cdre. W.A.)
- ADORATION,  
EMPIRE ISLE,  
Collision. Collision reported between examination vessel ADORATION and M/V EMPIRE ISLE off Inchkeith on Sept. 21st. EMPIRE ISLE will be surveyed on arrival Leith about 4th October.  
(N.O.I.C. Leith 261028A to Admty.)
- MARAUDER. Your 251143 and my 251020. Messrs. Phillip estimated that all repairs other than those dependent on dry docking will be completed by p.m. 8th October and ship will be ready to proceed to docking port a.m. 9th October.  
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 261145A to C. in C.Plymouth.)
- AMAZON. My 251608A. Proceed passing Switha at 1900A tonight to Rosyth for repairs to boiler room fan and boiler cleaning.  
(R.A.D. 261158A to AMAZON.)
- LANCE. Sheerness, arrival LANCE in tow of tug FOREMOST 22 escorted by LA COMBATTANTE. LANCE proceeded to Chatham in tow of Local Tugs.  
(C. in C.Nore 261552A to C. in C.Portsouth.)
- STARLING. Wire round propeller. See shipping.  
E.G.2's 261652A. E.T.A. Merville 0730A tomorrow. Port engine cannot be used. Base assistance required for gyro-compass.  
(STARLING 262044A to Cdre. D.W.A.)
- FRANC TIREUR,  
DONNA NOOK,  
(sunk 25th  
Sept.) My 251115. BASSETT reports good contacts on following bearings and distances from 52 buoy. A. 173° 160 yards B. 152° 1100 yards.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 261723A to Admty.)
- EMINENT. Intend to sail EMINENT for Glasgow at 0700A/27 for repairs. E.T.A. Gate 1200A.  
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 261842A to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

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Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

- H.X. 257. NENE and TWEED have joined H.X.257.  
(E.G.5 260130Z to C. in C.W.A.)  
A. 051° 06' N. 031° 40' W. at 2140Z.  
B. KINGCUP, FAME. C. 2340Z. Further H/F D/F bearing near convoy.  
(B.6 260203Z to C. in C.W.A.)
- D.S.45. Request you sail FLEETWOOD to R/V CHAMPOLLION escorted by AMBUSCADE at 0700A/30 in 270° Oversay 6 miles. C. in C.W.A. 251407 refers.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 261104A to F.O.M/L.)
- H.X.258, E.G.2, TRACKER. Part company with 4th Escort Group forthwith and proceed without escort at best speed to join 2nd Escort Group, S.O. STARLING. Estimated P.C. and S. of 2nd Escort Group at 2000A/26 055° 19' N. 010° 31' W. 262° 12 knots.  
(C. in C.W.A. 261206Z to TRACKER.)  
My 261206Z. On joining TRACKER is to form part of 2nd E.G. S.O. Captain Walker in STARLING proceeding to support H.X.258. S.O. 2nd E.G. report when TRACKER has joined.  
(C. in C.W.A. 261212Z to TRACKER, E.G.2.)  
Am transferring to WREN and sending STARLING back to Merville with wire round Port Propeller.  
(E.G.2 261640A to C. in C.W.A.)
- K.M.S.28 & O.G.94. REDPOLE, USK, ERIKSAY, GRUINARD. A.M. 232011. 1. It has been decided to sail convoy without A/A sloop.  
2. CHANTICLEER will not sail with convoy and is to rejoin 7th E.G. for duty as detailed by C. in C.W.A.  
3. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to arrange for REDPOLE to be detached from M.K.S.25 as requisite to R/V with K.M.S.28 and to escort Lisbon portion in place of CHANTICLEER.  
4. On completion of this duty REDPOLE will remain under orders of F.O.I.C. Gibraltar for use as A/A protection of Lisbon portions of K.M.S. convoys.  
(D.O.D.H. 261624A to C. in C.W.A. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)  
Sailed USK, ERIKSAY, and GRUINARD with O.G.94/K.M.S.28. USK to comply with C. in C.W.A. 211250, ERIKSAY and GRUINARD to comply with A.M. 232011.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 262118 to C. in C.W.A.)  
K.M.S.28. The following sailed at 2201/26. EMPIRE DARWIN, GEZINA, CORSTAR, KINGSWOOD, EMPIRE PATH, OCEAN RIDER, CAP PADARAN, GEORGE W.CHILDS, HAMLIN, GARLAND.  
(S.T.O.Greenock 262235A to S.T.O.Clyde.)
- H.X., S.C., O.N. & O.N.S. Convoys. Standard Routes. 2. A.M. 162051 June, 041301 July, and 221542 September are cancelled. A.M. 162051 may have been passed to some addressees as 122058.  
3. Standard routes A, as follows. Details.  
4. Standard routes B are not altered. Paras. 1, 2 and 3 of A.M. 051012 stand. Cancel para. 4.  
5. These routes to be used for convoys sailing after 1st October.  
(D.T.D. 261625A to C. in C.W.A. C. in C.C.N.A.)

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

U.A.2.  
(E.G.5.)

Request you will sail remaining ships of B.5 group so as to arrive Greenock by 0800 Sept. 29th. 2. A.M. 242140 refers. (C. in C.W.A. 261749A to N.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

S.L.137.

1. S.L.137. 2. 23rd September. 4. 7½ knots. 6. ENCHANTRESS. 7. 52 ships for U.K. 8. Standard outer route. (Admty. 261758A to C. in C.W.A.)

T.A.66.  
(QUEEN MARY.)

A.M. 241835. Route to New York. (D.O.D.H. 262003A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

O.N.S.18  
and  
O.N.202.

Add to my 241109. FREDERICK DOUGLAS hit in number 5 hold. THEODORE D.WIGHT hit amidships. C. in C.W.A. 231724 refers. (B.3 262010Z to C. in C.W.A.)

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C.T.G.21.11. This is C. in C. Lant's 252307 addressed C.T.G.2111 Relieved of task of supporting T.F.61 remain in Azores area, giving support to other G.U.S-U.G.S. Convoys and to Convoys until such time as necessary to arrive Norfolk 12th October unless earlier arrival required by logistic needs.  
(C.M.S.F. 260701B to Admty. F.O.C. Gib. C. in C. Med. Comnavnaw.)

SCYLLA Sailed SCYLLA to overtake M.K.S. 25 as additional  
M.K.S.25. escort to U.K.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 260811A to Admty.)

Attacks on Confirmed Radar contact at 2130Z hunted and  
U-Boats. attacked. Direct H/F D/F bearing on series 1 to  
M.K.S.25. southward of convoy at 2327Z/25. Nothing further.  
Weather report.  
(B.6. 260820Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) Connav,  
A.C.I.C., C. in C. C.N.A. Admty. N.S.H.Q.,  
Ottawa, F.O.N.F., H.Q.C.C., Cmdr. (D) Argentia,  
Comdre. (D) W.A.)

Am over enemy S/M in 36° 10' N. 9° 48' W. S/M was on surface.  
(A/C 13 Air/Sea Rescue 261040B to Gibraltar A/C.)

Enemy previously reported 36° 10' N. 09° 48' W. course 240°  
8 knots.

(A/C 13 Air/Sea Rescue 261050B to R.A.F. Gib.)

M.K.S.25 WALKER obtained R.D.F. contact at 0709B distance  
4 miles which disappeared at 2 miles possible S/M in 35° 50' N.  
6° 34' W. In subsequent hunt by 2 ships no A/S contact obtained,  
escort rejoined convoy.

(B.4 260821B to C. in C. W.A. Admty. F.O.I.C. Gib.,  
C. in C. Med. Cdre. (D) W.A.)

Hunt U-Boat reported 36° 10' N. 09° 48' W.

(R.A.F. Gib. 261100B to 233 Squadron Duty H. 48 Squadron Duty  
N. 12/A.S.R.)

Am over enemy S/M 36° 10' N. 9° 48' W. Enemy S/M previously  
reported was on surface and observed to submerge; course 270°  
speed 10 knots.

(A/C 261108B to R.A.F. Gib.)

Have attacked enemy with depth charges. Estimate 4 hits.  
U-Boat on surface in 36° 20' N, 10° 03' W. apparently disabled.

(A/C 12/A.S.R. 261118B to R.A.F. Gib.)

Aircrafts 1040B passed through position at 1123B. No A/C  
in sight. Checked position with Hudson A/C at 0945.

(WITHERINGTON 261125B to F.O.I.C. Gib.)

Am over enemy S/M in 36° 10' N. 9° 48' W. S/M was on  
surface.

(A/C N/48 261155B to R.A.F. Gib.)

Am over enemy S/M in 36° 09' N. 9° 14' W. enemy S/M  
previously reported was on surface.

(A/C N/48 261155B to R.A.F. Gibraltar.)

U/B previously reported course 270 speed 12 knots when first  
sighted in 36° 27' N. 09° 48' W. Have attacked U-Boat with bombs.

Another sighted 36° 09' N. 09° 13' W.

(A/C N/48 261245B to R.A.F. Gib.)

Have despatched VELOX towards 036° 25' N. 009° 30' W. at  
best speed to vicinity of enemy S/M and crashed A/C M.K.S.25  
P.C. and S. 035° 48' N. 007° 25' W. 274° 7½.

(B.4 261246B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

/Am...

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Attacks on  
U-Boats.  
M.K.S.25.  
(Contd.)

Am over enemy S/M in 42° 46' N. 10° 57' W. Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. Course 180° speed 10 knots.

(A/C N/218 261523B to Gib. for use with A/C.)  
Have communicated with 4 Hudsons between 009° 48' W. and 010° 01' W. none of whom have anything

to report. Returning to 036° 10' 009° 48' with all despatch in accordance with your 261137A (N.T. in W.R.)

(WITHERINGTON 261341B to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) VELOX.)

VELOX and WITHERINGTON attacked firm contact in 036° 13' 010° 04'. Contact lost, hunting.

(WITHERINGTON 261937B to F.O.C. Gib.)

U/B was sighted and attacked by A/C 36° 20' N. 10° 01' W. at 1025A/26th.

(2) Up to 4 U/Bs. have been sighted by A/C today 26th within 20 miles of 36° 15' N. 09° 35' W.

(3) WITHERINGTON and VELOX are searching in conjunction with an intensive air search.

(F.O.C. Gib. 262237A to Admty. C. in C. W.A.)

COMDT.DELAGE,  
LA GRACIEUSE.

Sailed my 251227B.  
(Commorseafron Forces 260942B to F.O.I.C. Gib.  
(R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

WEBER,  
JOHN ERICSON.

U.S.S. WEBER escorting JOHN ERICSON (U.S.) estimated 0800A/26th 51.17 N. 21.30 W. 14 knots through (Route) to New York.  
(D.O.D. (H) 261200A to F.O.I.C. Gib.)

Lost  
Documents.

Copies of following secret messages were lost in transit in Dockyard Gibraltar 25th Sept. and compromise is probable (list).  
(2) Search continues.  
(F.O.C. Gib. 261230A to Admty.)

Spanish  
trawlers  
attacked.

Spanish Ministry of Marine complain officially that Trawlers ALCAZAR DE TOLEDO and VIRGEN DE ICIAR on passage to Grand Sole were reconnoitred at 1730B Sept. 7th in 046° 53' N. 012° 03' W. by 4 engine A/C and machine gunned from 1745 to 1815. 1 killed, 1 wounded in first ship and 1 wounded in second.  
(N.A. Madrid 261237B to Admty.)

ROCHESTER  
CASTLE.

Arrival.  
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 261405A to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty.  
etc.)

T.G.21.12.

Arrived U.S. T.G.21.12. Unless otherwise directed will sail in support of T.F.62 escorting G.U.S.16.  
(C.M.S.F.F. 261415 to C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet (R) Admty. etc.)

/Beached...

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Beached U-Boat Kert Estuary. 1215 hours shows Spanish Morocco, vicinity of River Kert Estuary. No change in beached U-Boat. An occupied Bell Tent now visible on shore opposite U-Boat. (P.R.U. Gib. 261550Z, 262130Z to Air Min., Admty. etc.)

NORD ATLANTIC. Arrived Ferrol 10 ?Group missing a.m. 26th. (Coruna 261610B to Admty. (R) Gibraltar, B.N.A. Madrid.)

C.T.F.62. Sailed my 251514B (N.T. in W.D.) escorts DOYLE Senior, PIONEER and PORTENT. (C.M.S.F.F. 261640B to F.O.C. Gib. (R) Admty. etc.)

ANTELOPE, DINDA, SLESVIG, Following is a repetition of my 261657 to B.C. Las Palmas (R) N.A. Madrid. Begins:- ANTELOPE will sail from Casablanca a.m. Sept. 27th routed through:-  
B. 33.40 08.55 C. 29.23 14.28 D. 28.09 15.19.  
S. of A. 16 knots.

2. Request you arrange for DINDA and SLESVIG to R/V ANTELOPE in position D at 1900A/September 28. 3. Route from D through C and B 35.20 07.25 to Gibraltar at estimated S. of A. 7 knots. 4. ANTELOPE codeword "Useful". 5. All positions N. and W. 6. Admiralty 181510 refers. (Gib. 261657Z to Admty.)

CLOVER, ELIZABETH MASSEY. ELIZABETH MASSEY and CLOVER 17 miles astern unable to maintain speed or overtake. Have ordered CLOVER to return toward Gibraltar through position 035° 45' N. 007° 00' W. Request fast escort vessel be detailed to meet and release CLOVER at earliest moment. Ship not fast enough to join K.M.S.27. P.C. & S. 035° 40' 008° 13' 240° 6.  
(B.4. 261805B to C. in C. W.A., Admty., etc.)

HAARLEM who is only escort available in Gibraltar is being sent to relieve CLOVER and escort ELIZABETH MASSEY back to Gib. HAARLEM leaves 270001B. Speed 10 knots. B.4. 261805B refers. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 262119 to B.4. CLOVER (R) Admty. etc.)

U-Boat. Fishermen report S/M nationality unknown seen night 25th off Point Langosteira some 9 miles S.W. Corunna. (Corunna 262145 to Admty. (R) S.O. (I) Gib., B.N.A. Madrid.)

P.65. (UPSTART). Southern limit of your patrol area is extended southward to 039° 20' N. Cancel reference in my 252302B to patrolling just outside 100 fathom line. Patrol anywhere in your area where you consider best for attacking Southbound or Northbound U-Boats. (F.O. Gib. 262145A to P.65 (UPSTART) (R) F.O.C. S/Ms. C. in C. Plymouth, C.M.S.F., C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 3.)



26.9.1943.  
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

STRATHAIRD. Sailed p.m. 25th Sept. E.T.A. Pointe Noire  
a.m. 3rd Oct. Requirements Freetown. Passengers  
details follow.  
(S.T.O. Capetown, 260733Z to D. of S.T., D.S.T.O.  
W.A.)

Shipping  
Movements,  
Montevideo. HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN Clyde Oct. 16th.  
(R.O. Montevideo, 261300)  
26th HIGHLAND MONARCH, PARDO, ESPERANCE BAY.  
25th 20 GRAECIA, Rio 30th.  
(R.O. Montevideo, 261355)

DOMINE My 251222. Spanish Ship DOMINE examined with  
(Intercepted result (details).  
24/9) (4) Ship and crew in order. Intend releasing  
to sail p.m. 27th Sept.  
(F.O.C. W.Af. 261530Z to Admty. (R) B.N.A.  
Madrid, S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)  
Reply: Admty. 271131A.

Your 251222\* (2) Your para. 4 (a) and (b) detain Sanchez only  
if carrying enemy documents. D.S.O. Freetown has been  
informed and will consult S.O.(I) Freetown should detention  
be necessary. (3) Your para. (4c) Officer should not be  
detained. (4) Report results of search by immediate signal  
before releasing ship.  
(D.E.W.D. 261540A to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) B.N.A. Madrid, S.O.(I)  
Gibraltar.)

\* Re Angel Sanchez placed under close arrest.

ST. USK My 252041. U.S. Aircraft reports sighting  
survivors. second life-boat about 135 miles South-East  
from Bahia.  
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 261822Z to Admty.  
(R) C. in C.S.A., F.O.C.W.Af.)

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CERES

Arrival 1310Z/25th.  
(N.O.i/c Aden 260105Z to Admty. C. in C. Levant,  
F.O.R.S.C.A., S.O.(I) Kilindini, S.O.(I)  
Colombo, S.O.(I) Bombay).

Corsica,  
ULTOR'S  
report:  
UNSEEN,  
UPROAR.

Your 251500. All torpedoes expended. Return  
through 042 degs. 18' 008 degs. 00' at 0001A/27  
041 degs. 49' 006 degs. 42' at 0900A/27 to  
keep clear of P.56 (USURPER) thereafter by route  
ordered, speed  $7\frac{1}{2}$  knots to arrive at dawn 29th.  
German evacuation continuing by sea and air.  
10,000 tons tanker torpedoed and finally beached  
near Bastia also sank one Siebel ferry. Con-

siderable E-boat activity.

(P.53 (ULTOR) 260141 to Capt.(S) 8, (R) C. in C. Med., N.O.i/c  
Algiers, Capt.(S) 10, 8th S/M Flot.).

P.53 (ULTOR) 260141. Well done.

(2) My 251500 para.1. P.51 (UNSEEN) and P.31 (UPROAR) to  
proceed to zone S.Q. forthwith.

(Capt.(S) 8, 260504A to 8th S.F. (R) C. in C. Med.,  
Capt.(S) 10.).

P.53 (ULTOR) proceed through 042 degs. 18' 008 degs, 01'  
at 0001/27th, 042 degs. 02' 007 degs. 01' at 0700/27th thence  
as in P.53 (ULTOR'S) 260141 to R/V escort Algiers in position  
037 degs. 06' 003 degs. 16' at 0630/29th.

(Capt. S.8, 261110A to 8th S/M Flot. (R) C. in C. Med.  
Capt.(S) 10, N.O.i/c Algiers).

GOLCONDA  
"S.O.S."

S.O.S. Portion missed.  
Position at 0000 G.M.T. 33.00 N. 14.48 E.  
Portion missed 090.  
(GOLCONDA No T.O.O. recd 260305).

"Manicure"

Sailed codeword "Manicure".  
(2) Cdre. Comdr. B.K. Becorey R.N.R. and his  
staff in MONARCH OF BERMUDA.  
(N.O.i/c Augusta 260315A to F.O.Sy. (R) Admty.etc).

Force H  
VALIANT.

My 201200.  
Flag of F.O.2nd i/c Force H transferred to  
VALIANT.  
(S.O. Force H 260800A to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.  
F.O. 2nd in Command Force H.).

DINARD

Hospital Carrier DINARD arrived.  
(N.O.i/c Philippeville 260801A to P.S.T.O. Med.  
(R) Admty.).  
Intend to sail hospital carrier DINARD to  
Northern beach at 1800A today 26th. E.T.A. a.m. 28th.  
(N.O.i/c Philippeville 261001A to F.O.Sy., Admty., P.S.T.O. Med.  
N.A.C.A.F., N.A.T.A.F., M:A.C.).

/My...

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DINARD (Contd.). My 261001A+ Destination DINARD now Catania. Route. E.T.A. A.M.28th. (N.O.i/c Philippeville 261708A to F.O.Sy.). + Sailing hospital ship DINARD.

M.K.F.24 Intend to sail 16 BERGENSFIORD 21 Gibraltar for W. Africa (corrupt group) 14 VOLENDAM 22 Gibraltar for W. Africa C. in C. Med. 221937B/ para.9. and 221951 refers. (N.O.i/c Philippeville 260859A to HURWORTH. Escorts of Convoy M.K.F.?, S.O. Convoy O.G?, (R) Admty. etc.). / 221947 intended.

Enemy M/V. Have lost touch with 1 enemy M/V 3000 tons Syro. (A/C ANT/X 260905Z to 201 Gr. H.Q.M.E. Command).

OXFORDSHIRE Intend to sail Hospital Ship OXFORDSHIRE at 11.30 26th to Syracuse. (N.O.i/c Catania 260905 to N.O.i/c Syracuse, (R) Admty.)  
OXFORDSHIRE sailed 2140 26th for Tripoli. E.T.A. 0800 28th. S.N.O. Tripolitania ( Corrupt Group) 929./ (N.O.i/c Syracuse 262210 to S.N.O. Tripolitania (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.Sy.,Admty. etc.). / as received.

BEAUFORT Your 252207. After Malta R/V detach BEAUFORT to Malta. (2) N.O.i/c Malta is requested to arrange for dockyard assistance for repairs to Turbo generator and for BEAUFORT to be taken in hand for boiler cleaning. (C. in C. Med. 260913 to H.M.S. HURWORTH (R) BEAUFORT, N.O.i/c Malta, C. in C. Levant, A.S.M.,Cmdre.D.Levant).

Glider bomb. Following technical information supplied by Italian Admiral, Baroni, Fascist of scheme conceived in 1941 by Italians but he was unaware whether scheme was developed by them. (S.O. Force H 260921A).

RORQUAL Approved your 240946. (C. in C. Levant 260947C to Capt.(S) 1st S/F. (R) Admty. etc.).

PRINCE CHARLES. My 231613 (N.T. in W.D.) and N.O.i/c Taranto 251305 (N.T. in W.D.) Propose taking defect in hand forthwith as ship is only 50 per cent operational fit. (PRINCE CHARLES? 260947A to F.O.Sy. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.).

/Otranto...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Otranto Patrol. Request patrol tonight carried out last night. (C. in C. Med. 260949A to Capt.(D) 4, D.F. (R) S.O. Force H, F.O.T.A. C. in C. Med. in Malta, N.O.i/c Malta, N.O.i/c Brindisi).

T.S.S.7 (A) Intend sailing convoy consisting of L.S.Ts. 361, (S.O.) 320, 421, 272, 344, 327, 380, 625 escorted by S.Cs. 530, 533 at 1631B 26th. Route 292, 202, to 035 degs. 00' North 015 degs. 38' East then as in Avon/N5 route G, thence L.P 2. E.T.A. 0832B/29th. S.of A 8½ knots Codeword "Liege 7" (A) W/T call sign AZH 7 (A). (S.N.O. Trip 261017B to Cmdre. (N) (R) F.O.Sy., Naval and Air Authorities Tripolitania, S.N.O.L.(Q) N.A.T.A.F. Ships Tripolitania Area).

Command of Mixed Groups. Your 211954A. (N.T. in W.D.). Proposed arrangements should be practical subject to modification in para.2B, hereunder on account of general seniority of Greek Lt.Commanders. Majority of those mixed escorts which do not include a Commander would be under Greek Command. This would not generally be satisfactory and Greeks have always been willing to acknowledge fact. They are however not prepared to submit to similar subordination under French and in this they are undoubtedly justified.

(2) Therefore proposed that (A) whenever French ships are included in mixed escort group of only 2 nationalities command should be exercised by officer with greater seniority.

(B) Whenever 3 nationalities are concerned with officers of same rank, British should always command the combination irrespective of seniority.

(3) If foregoing arrangements were agreed to by French, I consider that Greeks could have no cause for complaint as their treatment vis a vis the French would be equal and could remain subordinated to British in same manner as has been accepted heretofore.

(4) While this situation should be satisfactory to each nationality it is not most efficient arrangements. Greeks have subordinated themselves in knowledge that in all circumstances British Command is preferable. French, who cannot be rated any higher than Greeks in efficiency will be receiving preferential treatment to which they are not entitled on any grounds other than a spurious prestige.

(C. in C. Levant 261026C to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F., C. in C.Med.).

S/M. N.O.i/c Port Said is requested to sail 0.23 to pass end of Port Said buoyed channel at 1800C on 0.23 D day thereafter route as follows:-  
(a) 31 degs. 48' 32 degs. 34' at 2000C/D day  
(b) 34 degs. 03' 21 degs. 54' at 2300C/D plus 2  
thence as ordered by S.10. N.O.i/c Port Said to pass date of D day early to 201 Group and A.I.G.66.  
(S.1 261050C to 0.23, (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, V.A.Malta, Capt.(S) 1, Capt.(S) 8, Capt.(S) 10, Admty. R.A. Alexandria, N.O. i/c Port Said, Cdre. (D) C.F.E.).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Middle East Report. Cositrep No.6.  
(1) Int. A. Aegean. Ref. para.1A Cositrep 3. Reported that DONIZETTI and escort unloaded unknown number 8.8 c.m. guns Rhodes 22 Sept. Comment. Presumably to replace the 8 plus reported destroyed by Italians. Patrols 25 Sept. reported no Germans (Piscopi) or Calchi or Alinnia.  
(2) Ground Ops.  
(A) Grns Aegean Islands at 1900 hrs. 25 Sept. Calino 220 raiding forces all ranks. Stampalia Grn. now one patrol Lrdg task to watch enemy air and shipping movements. Other islands no material change.  
(B) Simi, Piscopi Calchi and Alinnia R/C. by patrols "SBS", no enemy movements. Reported that Alinnia has good harbour, 3 6" C.D. guns found.  
(3) Naval.  
(A) POLA and KORITZA carrying personnel escorted by Com. DUBOC and LA MOQUEUSE sailed Beirut morning 26th Sept. for Castelrosso.  
(4) Air.  
(A) No change R.A.F. Str. Aegean Islands to 0800 hrs. 26 Sept. except Cos total now 335 all ranks.  
(D) Enemy activity.  
26 Sept. morning. 13 Ju.88 attacked Leros harbour, see para. 3B above. Two Spitfires on patrol out of R/T touch did not sight enemy. Ju.52 Tpt. aircraft reported carrying sups Rhodes by night.  
(C. in C.M.E. 261050C to W.O.).

R.A.F. M.E. Report. 26 Sept. 1943.  
Daily Opsum 151.  
25 Sept. 8 Beaufighter bombers despatched against destroyer reported by R/C previous day aground off Cape Prassonisi Rhodes very near misses with bombs many strikes with cannon fire. Small fires started on ship which appeared badly damaged. Spitfires based on Cos provided escorts for shipping plying between Cos and Leros and Leros and for supply ship conveying ammunition and petrol to Cos, defensive patrols were also flown over Cos Island.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 261056).

Italian Co-operation Istanbul. Understand Italian Military Attache has received instructions from Badoglio to co-operate with our M.A. on intelligence matters. Similar instructions to (?) N.A. to co-operate with me on Naval Intelligence might be very valuable. Italians have separate Naval and Military Intelligence services.  
(S.O.(I) Istanbul 261103C to C.O.I.S. Alexandria (R) D.N.I.).

K.M.F.24 (A) Port Said LETITIA, KAROA, EGRA, ARONDA, H.M.S. DERBYSHIRE, DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, REINE DEL PACIFICO, MOOLTAN.  
(b) Suez LLANGIBBY CASTLE.  
(c) Suez for South BEHAR.

/ (2) Ships...

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K.M.F.24  
(Contd.). (2) Ships transiting Canal to enter Port Said 1st followed by MOOLTAN.  
(C. in C. Levant 261130C to S.E.C. K.M.F.24.,  
(R) N.O.i/c Alexandria etc.).

ALYNBANK Propose to sail ALYNBANK on arrival cruisers referred to in my 260859 / subject to present small scale of enemy air activity continuing. Ships require small repairs all within capacity of repair ship. Request destination. New subject - one additional A/A cruiser will be needed for Castellamare.  
(S.O. Force "N" 261143 to C. in C. Med. (R) Naval Cde. W. Naval T.F. Cdr. T.F. 89, ALYNBANK).  
/ No trace in War Reg.

Enemy Vessel.. Position of one small enemy vessel 1000 tons is 037 degs. 25' N. 024 degs. 57' E.  
(A/C APP/P 261215Z to H.Q. 201 Group (M.E.Command)).

QUEEN OLGA sunk. Cdre. (D) reports that QUEEN OLGA, G.S., was sunk and INTREPID hit amidships during air raid on Leros harbour at 0900 today.  
INTREPID damaged. (C. in C. Levant 261216C to Admty. C. in C. Med.).  
2 further raids p.m. today Sunday. INTREPID hit again aft, my 261216.  
(C. in C. Levant 261922C to Admty. C. in C. Med.).

Malta movements. S.T.S.3. arrived. (List).  
(V.A. Malta 261218A to Admty. etc.).

U.G.S.17 Sail at 0730/28th by Q.B.B. 123 (B) Take joiners for U.G.S. 17 to R/V with convoy in position 212 at 1230A/28th.  
(2) On meeting WILTON and ZETLAND detach ships for Malta, Bizerta and Italy from convoy and escort them to Malta by Q.B.B. 123 (B).  
(3) COCKCHAFER and EMPIRE GNOME continue with convoy to Alex. or as ordered by C. in C. Levant.  
(4) Codeword for para.1. and 2 "Suffer" "Belief" low.  
(5) P.239 (SURF) is in company with U.G.S.17.  
(V.A. Malta 261235A to WILTON, ZETLAND, COCKCHAFER, EMPIRE GNOME (R) S.E.C. U.G.S.17, C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant., GLOXINIA, N.O.i/c Alex.).

Bombing of Italian Fleet 9th Sept. My 201828 and your 221701. Both ITALIA and VITTORIO confirm aircraft height between 5000 and 6000 metres and that they maintained constant height before bomb release. SAVOIA consider 5000 metres maximum height and that aircraft may have released while in shallow dive. Time of flight 17 to 20 seconds checked by stop watch in ITALIA. VITTORIO estimates 15 seconds.  
(C. in C. Levant 261250C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., R.A.L.HOWE, KING GEORGE V.).

/Repatriation...

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Repatriation. Para.2. of your 280024 August. /  
Request information which Axis occupied Port will  
be used. If Salonika is chosen, route given in  
A.T.27 1917 August is acceptable on understanding  
that information in para.4 of your 161807 September is authentic.  
(C. in C. Levant 261310C to Admty.).  
/ (Repatriation of German wounded from French North Africa, and  
British repatriates from Axis occupied port).  
Reply 271629A.

S.T.S.4. My 252207 (?252202) sailed plus ULLA.  
(S.O. Force "N" 261332A to Admty. etc.).

N.A.A.F. Report. N.W.A. Opsum 217.  
N.W.A. Strategic Air Force.  
24/25th September. 82 Wellingtons Leghorn North  
Basin. 1 returned early. 107 tons from 5/10,000  
feet. Bombing concentrated on small craft and  
medium motor vessels and Basin. Entire area covered, many fires  
and several explosions seen. Hits among vessels.  
(N.A.A.F. 261419A to Air Min.).

RUYS M.K.S.24. RUYS to join M.K.S.24A for U.K. Passengers as  
in my 261504/. Time only permitted for troop  
deck tables to be replaced for troops embarked  
Malta. On departure ship had 1565 tons oil  
using 40 tons per day and had 1400 tons water.  
(D.S.T.O. Malta 261501 to D. of S.T. P.S.T.O.Med.).  
/ No trace in Ware Registry., No trace in D. of S.T.

Situation in Greece. Report from reliable sources arriving from Athens  
state atmosphere of great uncertainty prevails  
there and there is (?general) expectation that  
weakness of German occupying forces will shortly  
force latter to abandon Southern Greece. B.2.  
(S.O.(I) Istanbul 261639C to S.O.(I) Levant, (R)  
D. of N.I. S.O.(I) Med.).  
N.I.D. Comment: War Office consider German  
abandonment of Southern Greece well within the  
bounds of possibility.

Glider Bombs. Fragments of F.X. bombs which hit WARSPITE,  
UGANDA and U.S.S. SAVANNAH have been sent to  
A.I.2.G. today 26th Sept. and will be sent on  
by them to R.A.E. S.O. Force H's. signal timed  
251417B describing these attacks is attached.  
(D.G.D. 261650A to R.A.E. Farnborough, A.I.2.G.  
Air Ministry, C.R.D., M.A.P.).  
Particularly desired that search be made for any pieces of  
bomb in ITALIA as description of attack indicates a different  
type may have been used in this attack to those at Salerno.  
(F.O. Force H 261701 to C. in C. Levant (R) Admty. C. in C.  
Med.).

/Possible...

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- Glider Bombs. (Contd.). Possible rocket bomb seen to fall will be located by towing diver on a stage over area. In case this method fails request inventor of apparatus for radio location of metals under water be traced with equipment. Captain Doust R.N.V.R. Principal Salvage Officer states equipment was demonstrated with success in 1938. (Cdre.N. 261808A to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.).
- N. Atlantic area East of 30 degs.W. To avoid a double "Chop", Admiralty intend to retain control of independently routed shipping passing through the area from North to South or vice versa. A.M. 261651A (N.T. in W.D.) refers. (A.M. 261711A to C. in C. Med. F.O.i/c Gibraltar, F.O.C.W.Af. C. in C.W.A. C. in C. Plymouth (R) Cominch).
- U-boat attacked by A/C. Am over enemy S/M in 38 degs. 40' N. 13 degs. 59' E. Have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate nil hits. (A/C GOQH 261712A to 45 U.).
- K.X/X.K. Convoy programme. In order to handle specially slow traffic of coasters and crocks between Gibraltar and U.K. until end of year, proposed to sail K.X. convoys from U.K. as follows, K.X.11 on 20th Oct. and K.X.12 first week Dec., also homeward bound X.K. convoys as follows, X.K.12 from Gibraltar on 15th Nov. and X.K.13 third week Dec.  
(2) Proposed to provide escorts for these convoys as follows:  
K.X.11 Escorts proceeding to Foreign Stations.  
X.K.12 Escorts returning to U.K. from "Alacrity".  
K.X.12 19th M.S. Flot. X.K. 13 /14th M.S. Flot.  
(3) 14th M.S. Flot. are required to return to U.K. for refit. Request you will confirm that proposed relief by 19th is suitable and can take place at this date.  
(4) In view of long period between these convoys it is necessary that all authorities should be aware of date in order to ensure that ships are ready in good time and it is requested that para.1. may be passed to P.S.T.Os. and M.W.T.Rs.  
(D.O.D.(H) 261705A to C. in C. Med. (R) C. in C. Levant, F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C.W.A.).
- Italian M.T.Bs.33 and 74. Leaves Brindisi 1800/26th through Point (corrupt group) 864 X thence direct for Port Edda near Corfu. S. of A. 23 knots E.T.A. 2330/26th returning by reverse route on completion. British challenges to Italian craft and reply as follows - date 26th challenge P.P. Italian reply L.L. date 27th challenge K.K. Italian reply W.W. Signals change midnight G.M.T.  
(Brindisi 261725A to Capt.(D) 4th, (R) F.O.T.A.).
- Italian Technical Information (I) In amplification of Admty. 302346A August, following particulars are urgently required:-  
(N.I.D.7 Approved by A.C.N.S.(W) 261726A to C. in C. Med.).



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Mediterranean. - Contd.

UGANDA  
M.K.S.26. Intend to sail UGANDA to Gibraltar with M.K.S.26.  
Your 210919 not to F.O. 15th C.S. refers.  
(V.A. Malta 261728A to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. etc.)

M.K.S.26 Sailing telegram. Part 2.  
(V.A. Malta 261802A to S.O. Ships Escorting Convoy  
M.K.S.26 (R) Admty. etc.).

Algiers  
arrivals. G.U.S.16, NETTUNO (T) Italian arrived.  
(Com. Algeria 261803 to Admty. etc.).

U-boat  
dispositions. Estimate U-boats patrol areas as follows:-  
1 within 25 miles of 038 degs. 30' N. 013 degs.  
30' East.  
2 east of 013 degs. East and North of 040 degs.  
East.  
1 eastward of Otranto.  
(C. in C. Med. 261809A to Secret Code U-boat  
disposition Med. St. (R) F.O.C. Gib., C. in C.  
Levant).

Air C. in  
C. Med.  
reports. Signed Eisenhower.  
Part 3 Air Consintintrep No.77.  
N.W.A.A.F.  
Day 24th September, 4 B.24 G's. attacked 3 enemy  
ships, scoring strikes on 2, and a barge was  
sunk and a tug damaged by 2 others using both bombs  
and shells.  
( Air C. in C. Med. No T.O.O.).  
Signed Eisenhower.  
Part 3 Air Consintintrep No. 78. N.W.A.A.F. night 24/25 Sept.  
79 Wellingtons bombed the inner basin and harbour at Leghorn.  
Tactical Airforce bombers 72 B.25's and 24 Baltimores in all  
bombed enemy positions from Mocera to Salza Irpina. Fighter  
bombers attacked gun positions troop movements and M.T. and sunk  
a dredger at Termoli. A F.W. 190 was claimed destroyed North of  
Salerno.  
(Air C. in C. Med. T.O.O. Nil).

DALLAS U.S. DALLAS reporting for duty.  
A.M. at Mers El Kebir.  
(DALLAS 261839A to C. in C. Med. (R) Cmdr. W.N.T.F.  
Cmdr. Destroyer Sqdn. 8, U.S. Cmdre. Amphibious  
Forces, N.W. African Waters.).

NORMAN  
MONARCH,  
FORT  
BUCKINGHAM. Your 251125B. (N.T. in W.D.) NORMAN MONARCH  
already loading for "Slapstick".  
(2) FORT BUCKINGHAM will be despatched to Bombay  
but can not arrive by 20th Oct. if only due  
M.E. 8th and very improbable of only arrives  
3rd and required any fitting etc.  
(P.S.T.O.M.E. 261919C to P.S.T.O. Med. (R) F.O.C.  
R.I.N., Admty. for D. of S.T.).

/MAURITIUS...

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MAURITIUS, SHEFFIELD. Request you will sail in MAURITIUS with SHEFFIELD to arrive in Assault Area a.m. Sept. 28th. (C. in C. Med. 261931A to C.S.15 (R) Cdre. Cdng. Force N., SIRIUS, V.A. Malta, N.C.W.T.F.).

Alexandria movements. Situation report No.62. INTREPID and QUEEN OLGA left Alexandria 0900/25th and arrived Leros 0700/26 via Kaso Strait during air raid at 0900 QUEEN OLGA sunk and INTREPID hit amidships further raids at 1545 and 1605 by J.U 88's. INTREPID hit aft. No further details. (2) Arrivals on the station 10th M.T.B. Flot. (7boats) Western Mediterranean. (C. in C. Levant, 262016C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.).

Oran movements. Arrivals- / U.S.S. CEB, HARAXFUNSTON, ANDROMEDA, CARRLL / GLEAVES, DALLAS, BERNADOU. Departures - U.S.S. KEOKUK, SALEM and BERNADOU. (Com.N.O.B. Oran 262026A to Admty. C. in C. Med. Comnavnaw). / As received.

Situation report No.191. My 252347, para.2, for torpedo boat SIBILLA read Motor Vessel DUBAC. (2) Port of Salerno has been re-opened and 2 Coasters began discharging on 24th Sept. (3) During night 25th/26th QUILLIAM, O.R.P. PIORUN carried out patrol in vicinity of Corfu to prevent enemy supplies reaching that island. Nothing seen. 19 survivors from Italian Torpedo Boat STOCCO were rescued. (4) P.53 (ULTOR) reports torpedoing 10,000 ton tanker near Bastia. Ship subsequently beached. One Siebel ferry sunk. (5) 2 Merchant ships arrived Ajaccio on 25th Sept. with French Army stores. (C. in C. Med. (B) 262222B to A.I.G. 264).

H.D.M.Ls. Cancel my 191802. / (C. in C. Med. 262248B to C.C.F.(R) Admty.). / Re Capt. Coastal Forces 141502 and allocation of H.D.M.Ls. 1243, 1245, 1282, and 1294.

S/M movements. Sailed UNRUFFLED, and UNSHAKEN and SOKOL. (V.A.M. 262339 to Admty. C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant).

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East Indies.

- M.A. 8                   Arrival IRRAWADI and KALAVATI escorting Madras portion from M.A. 8.  
(N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam, 260103Z to Admty) See also 261032.
- RANPURA                My 251229. Ship is to be sailed in first convenient convoy.  
(C. in C. E.F., 260315 to F.O.E.A. (R) Com.i/c Aden, F.O.R.S.C.A., C. in C. Levant, Admty. C. in C. Med., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).
- M.A. 7                   Arrived.  
(N.O.I.C. Chittagong 260435Z to C. in C. E.F. etc)
- M.M.S.  
100, 101.               Your 221150 ( Suggestion to retain M.M.S.100 and 101 in place of SANDSTORM and SHOOTING STAR).  
Concur.  
(C. in C. E.F., 260558Z to C. in C. Levant, (R) Admty).
- Liaison  
Officer with  
P.A.O  
S.E. Asia  
Command.               My 061255 and 150349 August. The problems with which this officer will be confronted are growing in number and complexity. I should welcome therefore his early appointment.  
(2) Commodore (Administration) and Capt. of the Fleet become more and more involved in day to day station and Fleet administration and have no time to give to future planning which is now of such vital importance.  
(3) I am shortly proceeding to Delhi from where I will, after discussion at G.H.Q., make final recommendations for R.A.(Q) and his organisation.  
(C. in C. E.F., 260613Z, to Admty).
- NARBADA                Request NARBADA be allocated fighter protection codeword and call sign from Colombo onwards.  
N.C.S.O. Bombay 250630Z refers. E.T.A. Colombo 0130Z Sept. 29th and Vizagapatam 0600Z Oct. 3rd.  
(N.O.I.C. Bombay, 260635Z to C. in C. E.F., (R) N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam, Admty).
- B.M. 67½               Sailing signal, II (3 ships).  
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 260743Z to Admty).  
Departure H.M.I.S. ST. ANTHONY with B.M. 67½.  
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 260753Z to Admty. etc).

/French...

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East Indies. - Contd.

French  
Personnel,  
Madagascar.

N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez has reported a French Naval engineer officer Chenais at Diego Suarez has informed one of his staff officers that crew of F.S. LEOPARD is coming to Diego Suarez to man F.S. D'ENTRECASTEUX.

2. Reliability of this statement not known but it is observed from A.L.M. 07470/43 of 8th July, 1943, that disposal of F.S. LEOPARD crew was still under consideration at time.

3. As there are 9 officers 18 Chief and P.Os. and 117 European ratings of French Forces already at Diego Suarez from which a manning party can be raised, it is considered unnecessary to import any more French personnel particularly as this appears to be an attempt to augment French in order to out-number British.

4. A.M. 230020 Sept. gives an indication some relaxation of existing arrangement in Madagascar is contemplated. If this is the case there may be no great harm in allowing further French naval personnel to enter island later but it is considered until this step is taken no alteration of existing arrangements be made at Diego Suarez and no further personnel for D'ENTRECASTEAUX be sent.

(C. in C. E.F., 260922 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant, N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, F.O. East Africa).

Convoy  
M.A.8.

Sailing telegram (5 ships).  
2. 1029Z/26th. 4. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  5. Route.  
6. M.V. BATORY, H.M.I.S. BOMBAY. 15. B.M.D.3.  
(N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam, 261032Z to Admty).  
Sailing telegram, part 2.  
(N.C.S.O. Vizagapatam, 261036Z to Admty).

Movements  
Colombo.

Arrivals 26, GAMARIA, MICHAEL PUPIN (U.S.)  
WALTER CAMP (U.S.), FLORENCE CRITTENTON (U.S.).  
(Colombo, 261054 to Admty).

China,  
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 16th Sept. to 22nd Sept.

22nd Sept. 3 B.25s with 4 P.40s attacked large freighter Nanking and 3 B.25s with 6 P.40s attacked 300 foot vessel near Shihhwieyao, scoring 2 near misses.  
(C. in C. India, No T.O.O. Recd. 1210/26).

NARBADA,  
ASCANIUS.

N.C.S.O. Bombay's 250630. Convoy codeword "Forced" call sign BHL allocated to NARBADA and ASCANIUS after passing Colombo and until reaching Vizagapatam. NARBADA acknowledge by V/S when passing Colombo.  
(C. in C. E.F., 261625Z to N.O.I.C. Bombay, N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam, N.O.I.C. Cochin, NARBADA (R) Admty. etc).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

B.E.C.1,  
B.E.C.2.

Your 242006 to Admty. As these ships are urgently required for first of class trials in U.K. would prefer that they be sailed with H.X.260 if possible, provided you are satisfied that they will not be a liability to the convoy. (B.A.D. 260019Z to C. in C.C.N.A. (R) Admty. C. in C.W.A., F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q.)

ALBEMARLE,  
HUMBOLDT,  
ROCKAWAY.

This is 251809 from Comfairwing 7 to Admty. (R) Commaveu, Comairlant, C.T.F.24. ALBERMARLE, HUMBOLDT, ROCKAWAY, Usnavpo Cordiff, US.S.L.O.U.S. Army London. Ultimate destination personnel St. Eval, modify my 221537 (Commaveu's T.O.O. 222201) No change in destination of equipment. (Commaveu, 260053 to Admty.)

T.A.G87  
G.N.87.

Sailing telegram (25 ships).  
2. 1300Z 26th Sept. 4. 8 knots (9 knots Curacao). 5. Route. 6. U.S.S. BARNEY, U.S.S. TURQUOISE, U.S.S.P. C.469 1200 1260.15MX.D.3 (B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 261107Q, 261113Q to Admty.)

ADHERENT,  
TROIS  
RIVIERES.

ADHERENT escorted by TROIS RIVIERES sailed St. Johns 1130Z 26th to 053° 34' N. 040° 40' W. to attempt salvage of merchant ship. Speed 12 knots.  
ADHERENT allocated BY call sign "SHELLEY". (F.O.N.F., 261201Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A., Cdre. (D) W.A., Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet C. and R., SHERBROOKE.)  
Following for C.C.R.T. ADHERENT sailed St. Johns 1129Z/26 to 53.25 N. 39.41 W. to salvage merchant vessel. (F.O.N.F., 261405Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A.)

Corvettes  
allocation.

Your 240105 (Re allocation of corvettes to C.2 escort group and 5th E.G. owing to loss of ITCHEN.) MORDEN, SACKVILLE allocated to C.2 CHAMBLY to E.G.5. (F.O.N.F. 261334Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) C. in C. W.A., Cdre. (D) W.A. N.S.H.Q. Admty.)

Convoy J.H.68  
STRATHNAVER,  
grounded.

My 251520 and 251752 further delayed indefinitely (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 261340Z to Admty. (R) B.R.L.O. Boston, N.C.S.O., Montreal, N.S.H.Q. Connav., (U.S.) S.F. S. Com. T.A.S.I.S.24.)

/Following...

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America & West Indies.

Convoy  
J.H.68  
STRATHNAVER  
grounded.  
(Contd.)

Following is recyphered version of my 261314Z  
(Begins) - C. in C. C.N.A. (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q.  
C.E.S.F., 24, Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.  
N.C.S.O. St. Johns 251520. STRATHNAVER  
grounded on leaving harbour. J.H.68 postponed  
pending investigation of damage. (Ends).  
(F.O.N.F. 261602Z to C. in C. C.N.A. Admty.  
N.S.H.Q., C.E.S.F., C.T.F.24, Com. 10th Fleet  
C. & R.)

N.S.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q. 261429Z.)  
S/M  
Estimate.

J. PINCKNEY-  
HENDERSON. Ref. 141227Z. Surface fire from escaping  
gases, No.4 hold, finally extinguished at  
1730Z/Sept. 25th. Pumping out will commence  
as soon as gas condition permits.  
(N.O.I.C. Sydney, 261507Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R)  
Admty. etc.)

U.S. (Cominch, 261546Z.)  
S/M.  
Estimate.

U.G.S.19. This is Port Director Norfolk's 251440.  
Sailing telegram part 2.  
(Radio Washington 261553Z to Admty. etc.)

DUCKWORTH. C. in C. U.S. Fleet 241925 C. in C. W.A. 242230.  
Request you sail DUCKWORTH to St. John's, N.F.  
where B.3 Group is lying over.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 261559Z to U.S. Com. E.S.F.  
(R) DUCKWORTH, Admty. etc.)  
Your 242230. DUCKWORTH's 260230, time will not permit  
DUCKWORTH to boiler clean prior to crossing with H.X.259.  
Is this acceptable?  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 261631Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) DUCKWORTH  
B.A.D., C. in C.U.S. Atlantic Fleet, S.B.N.O., W.At., N.S.H.Q.,  
U.S. C.E.S.F., Cmt. 1st N.D., Boston, Admty. F.O.N.F.  
Cominch, C.T.F.24.)  
Holding Q.J.A.228 and Q.J.C.153 DUCKWORTH departs Boston  
Gate 1730 (?26th) Sept. en route Argentia. (?Guard) 105 k/cs.  
continuously also 4410 k/cs while within Eastern Sea Frontier  
and 2840 k/cs within 200 miles of destination. Speed 13.5.  
E.T.A. 0900/29th Sept. Route.  
(C.T.G. 02.1 262120 to C.T.F.24 (R) Admty. etc.)

/Shipping...

26.9.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Shipping Control transfer to C. in C. Med. Intended that control of shipping between 43° N. and 26° 10' N. when East of "Chop" line at present exercised by Admty. on behalf of C. in C. Med., should be transferred to C. in C. Med.  
2. C. in C. Med. has delegated his authority for control of this shipping to F.O.I.C. Gib.  
3. Cominch is requested:-  
(A) To inform U.S. ships and authorities concerned regarding this change of control.  
(B) To arrange that F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is included in the address of relevant signals from U.S. Authorities.  
4. Control will be transferred at 0001Z/1st Oct.  
5. Admty. will continue to be responsible for ordering routes for Westbound Transatlantic ships and convoys in the area concerned.  
(D.T.D. Approved A.C.N.S. (H) 261651A to Cominch, C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C. Gib., B.A.D., C. in C. W.Af., N.S.H.Q., S.B.N.O. W.At., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.A., Cinclant, Comnavu.)

American Escorts of U.G. Convoys. Your 211220. Transfer of control to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar will not take effect until 0001Z Friday 1st October. A.M. 261651A refers.  
(D.T.D. Approved A.C.N.S. (H) 261712A to Cominch  
(R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Lant, F.O.I.C. Gib.)

Use of P.N.M. (N.S.H.Q. 261719Z, B.A.D. 261745Z.) See U-Boat Campaign.

B.X.75. Arrived 1840Z September 26th.  
(N.C.S.O. Halifax (NS) 261926Z to Admty.)

H.X.258. Escort. Defects have developed in WASKESIU and CELANDINE resulting in probable delay in sailing.  
2. Request consideration ETTRICK may be detached from E.G.2 to join C1 best speed as far to Westward as possible vide your 232227.  
(F.O.N.F. 261941Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q., C.1.)

903

26.9.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest serial No. 614 Sept. 25th. Forenoon patrol Beaufort unsuccessfully attacked small freighter with two small craft on course 300° 35 miles west Buka passage.  
2. Medium Freighter observed on reef off Western tip New Hanover afternoon.  
3. Mid morning sweep Western shores New Britain Rein Bay to Cape Bushing by nine Mitchells located nil serviceable barges.  
5. Simultaneous pictures but airfield reveal three Fighters eight Light and fifteen Medium Bombers additional to ten airborne planes observed over Wewak and Dagua Dromes. One small vessel numerous small craft seen Wewak Harbour.  
6. Sybe time Photographs Hollandia Aerodrome show 26 Medium, two Light Bombers, seven Fighters, also two Medium Freighters, twenty Barges, Humboldt Bay.  
9. Bridgehead Bumi River established 24th and crossings extended. Enemy opposition encountered immediately south of river in advance of Finschhafen Township.  
10. Few enemy bombers apparently eluded Fighters over Finschhafen noon 24th refer Digest 613 Paragraph 5 as gun position near airfield was bombed causing some casualties. Observation plane reports nine enemy bombers with ten fighters escorting bombed Son River beach-heads next morning.  
15. Afternoon 23rd, four Corsairs strafed and destroyed one 70 foot launch off ? while eight aircobras set ablaze two barges probably laden with oil off South West coast Choiseul.  
16. Following afternoon four Mitchells 30 Dauntless 18 Avengers attacked gun positions shore defences and Barge Hideouts vicinity Vila.  
18. Early hour contact by plane with two enemy vessels 90 miles East Buka Passage.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 260846Z.)

Movements. Arrived Townsville 24th U.S.S. COPAHEE,  
U.S. Destroyer Tender DOBBIN.  
(N.B., Melbourne, 261518Z to Admty.)

Convoy P.V.2. (B) (?2359Z?) 26th Sept.  
(C) List, destinations. Escorts WARRAMUNGA,  
ARUNTA, STUART, GOULBURN, BENDIGO, U.S.S. HELM.  
(N.C.S.O. Melbourne, via Grabbag, 262356 to Admty. etc.)



26.9.1943.  
Sunday.War Diary.U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 261454A, 261455A.P)Submarines Attacked.Sub.  
attack  
and  
sighting  
summary  
for 24  
hours to  
0900Z 26th.Para. A. 1. ELIAS HOWE torpedoed and sunk 11°  
37' N. 45° 46' E. 0320Z 24th.  
2. U.S.S. SKILL torpedoed Salerno Bay area about  
1220Z 25th.  
3. KINGCUP and FAME attacked U/Boat 51° 06' N.  
31° 40' W. 2303Z 25th.  
4. Ref. A.M. 251003Z Para. A. (2) U/Boat again  
sighted at 1105Z 25th in 51° 30' N. 30° 57' W.  
U/Boat dived. Large oil patch in vicinity.  
HUNT abandoned before 0130Z 26th.Para. B. 1. Halifax S/503 obtained ASV  
contact 46° 53' N. 16° 12' W. 1310Z 25th.  
2. WALKER reported possible U/Boat 35° 50' N. 06° 34' W.  
0509Z/26th.  
3. A/C sighted periscope course 300° 4 knots 38° 56' N. 13°  
41' E. 0845Z 25th.  
(D.D.I.C. 261057Z to Cominch.)Use of  
P.N.M.B.A.D.'s 251919. Instructions contained in  
your 241529 to F.O.N.F. concerning deferring  
use of P.N.M. is concurred in as well as issue  
of P.N.M. to all escorts.  
(N.S.H.Q. 261719Z to C. in C.C.N.A. (R) F.O.N.F.  
B.A.D. Admty. etc.)C. in C. C.N.W. At. 252210. (Supply of 70 sets parallel  
rod noise makers.) My 251919 was made before receipt of  
Admty.'s 231539. Delete first sentence of para. 2 of my 251919.  
2. Understand supply is being made from Canadian sources so  
no further sets will be sent from U.S.A.  
(B.A.D. 261745Z to Capt. (D) Argentinia. (R) F.O.N.F., C. in C.  
C.N.W.At., C. in C.W.A., Admty., N.S.H.Q.)

27.9.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

"LÜTZOW.

*to Comd Norway*

1. LÜTZOW escorted by 5 destroyers was sighted by aircraft at 0629A today in 63.10 N. 07.55 E. (South of Sweden) proceeding South. M.T.Bs. sailed from Lerwick but failed to intercept, and an unsuccessful attempt to intercept was made by Naval aircraft. The LÜTZOW was sighted by aircraft again at 1750 in 59.25 N. 05.00 E. (near Bommel Fiord), still proceeding southerly.

2. VICTORIOUS arrived at Liverpool this morning via U.S.A. from service with the U.S. Navy in the Pacific, for refit.

Coastal  
force  
operations.

3. In the early hours of today M.G.Bs. GREY FOX, GREY SHARK, GREY SEAL and GREY OWL attacked 3 enemy trawlers off Cap d'Antifer. One trawler was blown up, one set on fire and the third damaged. GREY OWL became detached and attacked 2 other ships. One slight casualty and superficial damage only was suffered by our forces.

In the early hours of today a combined unit of 3 M.T.Bs. and 3 M.G.Bs. attacked an enemy convoy consisting of a large merchant vessel and a force of trawlers and R Boats off Etaples. One hit amidships is reported on the merchant vessel, and small craft were later seen picking up survivors. Superficial damage only and one rating wounded were suffered by our forces.

Bay  
patrol.

4. RUBIS sailed today from Portsmouth for patrol in the Bay of Biscay N. but was delayed 24 hours in Dartmouth.

Air  
attacks  
on  
Emden.

5. 196 out of 310 U.S.A.A.F. Fortresses attacked Emden this morning. 7 are missing.

South Atlantic.U/B  
attacked.

6. A U.S. aircraft attacked a U-Boat with 16 depth charges at 1405 today in 12° 30' S. 35° 30' W. and probably damaged it.

906

27.9.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.

7. QUILLIAM and PIORUN maintained a patrol last night near Corfu, but sighted nothing.

Corsica.

8. MONTCALM escorted by PATHFINDER proceeded to Ajaccio with troops last night. By today, 6,400 troops, 1,100 tons of stores, and 134 vehicles had been transported to Corsica, mainly by French cruisers and destroyers.

RICHELIEU.

9. C. in C. Med. asks for an early decision concerning the employment of RICHELIEU who should now be ready, according to programme. The presence of the ship in the Mediterranean will be an embarrassment.

KATSONIS  
lost.

10. C. in C. Levant reports that the Greek S/M KATSONIS is overdue at Beirut from patrol since 24 Sept. and must be considered lost. Two British and 15 Greek survivors are reported to be prisoners of war in German hands. A Greek escapee reports that KATSONIS was sunk on 15 Sept. in the Gulf of Athens area. The loss has already been claimed by the Germans. It was subsequently learnt that KATSONIS was lost off Skiathos.

Aegean.

11. The destroyers ECHO and FURY sailed from Alexandria today to carry out a sweep in the Aegean.  
This afternoon, 8 H.E. 111's proceeded by strong forces of M.E. 109's bombed Leros harbour and damaged the seaplane base.  
Wellingtons last night bombed the harbour at Syros. Explosions were seen on the quay and fires in the warehouse area.

East Indies.

Burma.

12. Aircraft today attacked and damaged an 80 ft. barge, 3 steamers and 24 other river craft at Hengada (N.W. of Rangoon) and sank 6 water transports in the Boronga Island area.

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27.9.1943.

Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

Air  
attack  
on  
Wewak.

13. A force of 110 Liberators and Mitchells attacked the Wewak Area (New Guinea) this morning. Three small tanker type vessels were sunk or left burning fiercely, 3 freighters of 2,000 to 4,000 tons, one sea truck, 9 luggers, 5 launches, and 10 to 14 barges were destroyed or severely damaged. It is estimated that 50 enemy aircraft were destroyed on the airfields and 8 in the air.

It was reported on 30 Sept. that the raids on Wewak on 26th and 27th Sept. were highly successful. A convoy of 8 ships was attacked, at least 2 were sunk, 5 almost certainly sunk and one damaged. (The information in W.D. is that these raids took place on 27th and 28th September, not 26th and 27th.)

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27.9.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Command of Mixed Groups. Your 211954A. Concur in proposals in para.3. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 271159A to Admty.)

Movements.

VICTORIOUS. Arrival VICTORIOUS. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 270700)

BELFAST. Scapa arrivals C.S.10 in BELFAST at 0640A. (A.C.O.S. 270720A to A.C.I.C.)

OB DURATE. Scapa arrival OB DURATE at 0945. (A.C.O.S. 271032 to F.O.I.C. N.I)

S/M Movements. Positions of S/M's at 0800/28 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 271754A, 280712A, 280834A, 281454A, 281131A, 281511A)

Escorts. VALIANT, ILLUSTRIOUS, UNICORN, FORMIDABLE. A.M. 271711A. Ships concerned are VALIANT, ILLUSTRIOUS, UNICORN and possibly FORMIDABLE. (2) Request you sail destroyer screen to comply with para. 2. (D.O.D.(H), 272000A to C. in C. H.F.)

HARDY. HARDY is required to arrive Scapa by p.m. 28th. (C. in C. H.F. 272150A to R.A.M.)

Operations.

Interception of LUTZOW. P.C.S. of 1 battleship, 5 destroyer 63 degs. 10' N. 07 degs. 55' E. in Flord. Course 315 degs. speed 25 knots. (A/C 404 Sqdn. Duty Y, 270624A to 18 Group) (F.O.S. 270751A to S/M's) My 270751. ULA and SATYR proceed to positions ordered in my 261808. (F.O.S. 270921A to S/M's)

(2) Sighted by aircraft in 063 degs. 10' N. 007 degs. 55' E. at 0629A today. Enemy main unit escorted by 5 destroyers, southbound.

(3) Sail every available M.T.B. to reach 058 deg. 35' N. 005 degs. 25' E. as soon (? after) 2100A tonight as possible.

(4) Object Torpedo Attack on main unit.

(5) If not met by 0400A tomorrow force is to return to base.

(6) Aircraft R/V for return journey 120 degs. Out Skerries 110 miles.

(A.C.O.S. 271159A to N.O.I.C.Lerwick for Senior Norwegian Naval Officer)

Intend /...

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27.9.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Interception of LUTZOW. (Contd.) Intend to proceed in DUKE OF YORK with ANSON, RANGER, BELFAST, TUSCALOOSA and 8 Destroyers passing Hoxa Gate 1600A/27th.  
(2) Route West of Orkneys and Shetlands to position 061 degs. 10' N. 001 degs. 30' E., S.O.A. 20 knots.  
(F.O. 2nd H.F. 271354A to H.F.)

My 271159A. Sailed at 1350A today. M.T.B. 688 and M.T.B. 627. (2) M.T.B. 653 (S.O of Group) sailed at 1430A.  
(3) Alternative plan which may be put into operation by Signal to M.T.B's involves patrol AZ and remaining there at S.O's discretion.  
(A.C.O.S. 271511A to Admty.)  
M.T.B. 686 sailed 1601A today. My 271159A and my 271511A.  
(2) If alternative plan is used M.T.B. 686 will not take part but will return to base after laying mines off Egero.  
(A.C.O.S. 271646A to Admty.)  
Cancel my 271354.  
(F.O. 2 H.F. 271735A to H.F.)  
One battleship and 4 others bearing 060 degs. 10 miles, position 059 degs. 25' N. 005 degs. 00' E. course 200 degs.  
(A/C O.TU 18, Duty W. 271750 to 18 Group)  
My 1750. Position of enemy 059 degs. 30' N. 005 degs. 12' E. Course 200 degs. speed 10 knots.  
(A/C OTU18. Duty W. 271800 to 18 Group)

Operation S.F. Scapa arrivals OBEDIENT and MAHRATTA.  
(A.C.O.S. 270651A to N.O.I.C. Faeroes)  
Faeroes arrival IMPULSIVE.  
(N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 270748A to C. in C. Rosyth)  
Situation 2000 tonight.

SCORPION, SAVAGE, SCOURGE, searching vicinity 062 degs. 24', 013 degs. 50'.  
(A.C.O.S. 271203A to Admty.)

Request you sail IMPULSIVE for Hvalfiord with mail to arrive 1st October.  
(2) C.S.1 is requested to sail MIDDLETON for Scapa on relief by IMPULSIVE.  
(C. in C. H.F. 271215A to C.S.1)  
Request IMPULSIVE may be sailed to arrive Scapa p.m. 28th.  
(C. in C. H.F. 271224A to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
Proceed to arrive Scapa p.m. 28th.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 271456A to IMPULSIVE)

Bay Patrol. Am over enemy Submarine in 47 degs. 32' N. 16 degs. 25' W. Course 270 degs. Speed 4 knots.  
Two U-Boats attacked by A/C. Periscope only sighted.  
(A/C 311 Sqdn. Duty E. 271010A to 19 Group)  
U-Boat previously reported periscope only sighted course 015 degs. position 047 degs. 15' N. 016 degs. 15' W. Have attacked U-Boat with depth-charge.  
(A/C 311 Sqdn. Duty G. 271128 to 19 Group)  
Have attacked U-Boat with bombs R.P. Periscope only sighted 049 degs. 20' N. 010 degs. 05' W. course 280 degs. U-Boat has dived. Patches of oil. Left mark left.  
(A/C. 300 Sqdn. Duty G, 271530 to 19 Group)  
Disposition at 2000. (1) Group M. DART 050 degs. 08'

27.9.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Bay Patrol. Two U-Boats attacked by A/C. (Contd.) N. (?011 degs.) 40' W. through 050 degs. 01' N. 013 degs. 40' W. thence Southbound 10 knots. (2) BERMUDA patrol vicinity 044 degs. 30' N. 021 degs. 01' W. (3) P.43 048 degs. 25' N. 006 degs. 30' W, adjusting speed to arrive 180 degs. the Lizard 10 at 13 28. (4) P.59 044 degs. 45' N. 006 degs. 05' W. through 044 degs. 20' N. 006 degs. 30' W. thence Westbound, daily advance 105 miles. (C. in C. Plymouth, 271544A to Admty.)

PHOEBE is to pass the Gate at 1715A/28th and pass through position. (F) 180 degs. Bishop Rock 10. (G) All following positions are north and west unless otherwise indicated, 048 degs. 55' 010 degs. 10'. (H) 048 degs. 00' 010 degs. 52'. (J) 046 degs. 40' 010 degs. 09' and thence through. (L) 046 degs. 07' 014 degs. 20' and (M) 043 degs. 01' 014 degs. 20' to Gibraltar. (2) PHOEBE is to pass through (H) at 0900A/29 where Beaufighters and Mosquitoes of 19 Group will R/V and will provide escort PHOEBE till 1500. PHOEBE is to control and direct fighters. Enemy fighters may be met. (3) Reference position for use with fighter (DD) 047 degs. 10' N. 010 degs. 00' W. (4) If weather is signalled as unsuitable for flying PHOEBE is to continue from (G) through (K) 048 degs. 18' N. 012 degs. 54' W. to (L) and (M). (5) S.O.A. 20 knots. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to signal onward route from (M). (C. in C. Plymouth, 271557A to PHOEBE) D/F bearings at 2102Z indicate U-Boat within 75 miles of 46 degs. N. 5 degs. W. (D.D.I.C. 272220A to S/M's)

Operation "Holder". Para.4 C. in C. H.F. 252152. Onward route from position G through M.Z. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 271014A to C. in C. H.F. ONSLAUGHT, IROQUOIS, HURON)

Coastal Patrols. Intend sailing M.G.B.318 at 1800/27th to Southward. Returning Dartmouth, E.T.A. 0800/28th (2) Request surface bombing restrictions 10 miles each side of a line joining Start Point and Ile-de-bas. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 271115A to C. in C. Plymouth) (1) Force C. M.T.B's 430, 431 on completion of night encounter exercise are to patrol in vicinity 180. Start 14. (3) Force D. M.T.B's 434, 413 on completion of night encounter exercise are to patrol in vicinity 125. Start 17. (5) Forces C and D are to leave patrol for Dartmouth 0600A. (6) If M.T.B's of 8th Flotilla are unable to carry out patrols due to weather M.T.B's 677, 664 are to carry out patrol in accordance with para. 3 and 4. M.T.B's 677 & 664 are to be at short notice from 1930. (7) Attention is drawn to Q.Z.X.1095. (C. in C. Plymouth, 271322)

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27.9.1943  
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Coastal (1) Orders for night 27/28th Sept.  
 Patrols. (A) M.G.B's 611, 613, M.T.B. 252, 249, 254  
 (Contd.) carry out offensive patrol between 5 miles north  
 east and 20 miles south west of position XX.  
 Primary objective torpedo targets. Proceed and  
 return by passage two passing position 2 N at  
 2100A and returning within 20 miles of own coast by 0600A.  
 (B) BLEASDALE, STEVENSTONE, ALBRIGHTON patrol 15 miles  
 southward of Isle of Wight covering landing craft exercise.  
 (C) CHASSEURS 12, 10 patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between F and EA 5 buoys.  
 (D) M.L.291 immediate notice St. Helens.  
 (E) M.G.B's 13, 8, 6 patrolling 50 degs. 20' N. between  
 02 degs. 00' W. and 02 degs. 25' W.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 271531A and 271756A)  
 M.L's 104, 101, 107, 213, 210, 573 and  
 M.T.B's 25, 240, 219 and 38 carrying out operations N.L.103  
 and 104, E.T.D. 1930. E.T.R. 0400/28, route via number one  
 and "U" buoys each way.  
 M.G.B's 118 and 117 leave Ramsgate in support of N.L.104.  
 E.T.D.1950, E.T.R. 0430/28.  
 M.G.B's S2 S1 and 40 at "V" buoy. E.T.D. 1900,  
 E.T.A. 0645/28.  
 M.T.B's 353, 240, 231 and M.G.B's 114, 116 and S 4 patrolling  
 at Berck buoy. E.T.D. 2300, E.T.R. 0730/28.  
 M.L's 143 and 275 two miles south of "D" buoy.  
 (V.A. Dover, 271750A)

Enemy Last night 26th/27th M.T.B.s 202, 204, and 231  
 Convoy with M.G.B's 108, 118 and 117 in support were  
 attacked. on patrol at Berck Buoy in anticipation of  
 an enemy convoy moving from Le Havre to Boulogne.  
 An Albacore aircraft of 841 Squadron was  
 patrolling south of this area but had to be  
 withdrawn at 0120 owing to weather.

(2) At 0310 an enemy convoy consisting of one large M.V. with  
 one Trawler or Coaster ahead and another astern with screening  
 force of Trawlers and R-Boats was sighted to seaward near and  
 inshore of Berck Buoy. Enemy opened fire with Starshell and  
 force retired to seaward. The enemy then fired on each other  
 and our M.G.B's joined in and caused a diversion which enabled  
 the M.T.B.s to take up an attacking position inshore apparently  
 undetected and to station themselves on a parallel course to  
 the enemy.

(3) When a suitable opportunity arose M.T.B's turned and  
 attacked in position 5 miles N.E. of Berck Buoy two  
 torpedoes being fired by each boat except 202 one of whose  
 torpedoes held up. One definite hit amidships was obtained  
 on the main target by 204 who fired first. This undoubtedly  
 caused the other torpedoes to miss ahead although a further  
 explosion was heard shortly after 202 had fired and it is  
 possible that this was a hit on the leading escort. The  
 M.T.B's disengaged under accurate fire but sustained only  
 superficial damage and no casualties. M.T.B. 202 later  
 returned with a view to firing her second torpedo but was  
 again unable to do so and observed numerous small craft

forming /...



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27.9.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Enemy Convoy attacked. (Contd.) forming a close screen and apparently picking up survivors. This was confirmed by Y Intelligence which indicated that the C.O. was missing and that about thirty survivors rescued. It also confirmed that the enemy had been firing on each other.

(4) The large M.V. is described as being heavily laden and low in the water. Estimated length four hundred feet with two masts, one funnel, and probably three islands.  
(5) M.G.Bs. make no specific claim beyond their successful diversion and suffered only very superficial damage and one Rating seriously wounded.  
(V.A. Dover, 271256A to Admty.)

One Enemy Trawler Sunk. Two Damaged. (1) At 0154 GREY FOX, GREY SHARK, GREY SEAL, GREY OWL obtained Radar contact with enemy in 302 degs. Cap D'Antifer 4 miles.  
(2) Unobserved torpedo attack was carried out followed by gun action on 3 trawlers, 1 of which was blown up by torpedo, 1 set on fire and the other damaged. Enemy was completely surprised and return fire was negligible.

(3) GREY OWL who became detached carried out an unsuccessful attack on 2 other medium sized ships in face of heavy opposition from ships and shore batteries.

(4) 1 Officer slightly wounded.  
(5) Slight superficial damage to GREY FOX.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 271336A to Admty.)

S/M Patrols. RUBIS sailed for patrol in Bay of Biscay North 27th Sept.  
(Capt. S.5, 271437A to Admty.)  
Positions of submarines at 0800/28th and movements for following 24 hours. All times Zone A.

(A) STOIC, VARANGIAN on patrol within 15 miles of Andoy.  
(B) SEADOG approx. 74 degs. 58' N. 08 degs. 50' E. for Lerwick, dived by day North of 74 degs. N. at 60 miles per day.  
(C) ULA, SATYR on patrol off Statlandet.  
(D) RUBIS escorted by CHASSEUR 14 vicinity Eddystone due 180 Lizard 10 at 1330/28th, thence unescorted to southward.  
(E) UNITED leaves patrol vicinity 43 degs. 40' N. 04 degs. 15' W. p.m. 28th dived by day through 46 degs. 59' N. 06 degs. 31' W. thence North, daily advance 105 miles.  
(F) UNTIRING 44 degs. 20' N. 07 degs. 20' W. dived by day to westward, advance 105 miles per day.  
(G) UNISON 49 degs. 30' N. 05 degs. 35' W. to R/V with CHASSEUR 14 in 180 Lizard 10 at 1330/28th, thence escorted to Plymouth.  
(F.O.S. 271754A to Admty.)

Allied Air Activity.

M.G.B.693 bombed by own A/C. Following report received begins:  
M.G.B.693 at 2010A/23 when on patrol position having just ignited calcium flares for night shoot, an aircraft flying front west burning

navigation /...

War Diary.

27.9.1943.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

M.G.B.693  
bombed by  
own A/C.  
(Contd.)

navigation lights dropped bomb within 50 yards of M.G.B.694. Unit was turning to starboard. Fire not opened as warning of friendly aircraft in vicinity had been received from Yarmouth and plane could not be identified.

240949A Ends.

M.G.B. 693 was in 52 degs. 22' N. 02 degs. 14' E.

at the time.

Request matter may be taken up with Air Ministry.  
(C. in C. Nore, 272325A to Admty.)

Mining.

Harwich.

1 ground mine detonated by LL Trawlers at 0640 in approx. 51 degs. 50.5' N. 01 degs. 33.5' E. (F.O.I.C.Harwich, 270711A)

0717 in 51 degs. 50.5' N. 01 degs. 33.5' E. (F.O.I.C.Harwich, 270726A)

Operation  
F.D.46.  
(RUBIS)

S.5's 242035A sailed Needles 0957A. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 271027 to C. in C. Plymouth)  
CHASSEUR 14 escorting RUBIS meeting H.M. P.43 in 180 degs. Lizard Head 10 at 1330/28. RUBIS parts company at that time and proceeds on route "Gold".  
(F.O.S. 271806A to S/M's)

Dover.

The following mines have been swept:  
On 25th Sept. One red in 50 degs. 32' 39" N. 01 degs. 12' 38" E.

On 26th (1) one blue in 50 degs. 39' 00" N. 01 degs. 01' 33" E. and (2) One red in 50 degs. 36' 03" N. 01 degs. 03' 09" E.  
(V.A. Dover, 271556A to Admty.)

Aberdeen  
Minefield.

A.L. to 9329/43 of 17th Sept. Aberdeen mine field fired with exception of 3 groups. to be recovered.  
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 271653A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Humber.  
Removal  
of C.M.  
Fields.

Admiralty letter T.O.9334/43. Submit that when available another Miner-Class Layer with full laying-party be sent to Immingham to undertake Humber recovery.  
MINER III, COALTIT and HAWFINCH will be fully occupied in recovery of the other O/M fields.  
(MINER III, 271710 to F.O.I.C. Harwich)

914

27.9.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Technical.

Trials  
of  
"Foxyer"  
Gear.

CHELMER is to carry out "Foxyer" Trials at Greenock as arranged by Capt. (D) Greenock before proceeding to Tobermory to work up. (C. in C. W.A. 271640A to N.O.I.C. Greenock)  
CHANTICLEER is to proceed Greenock forthwith for special "Foxyer" trials to be arranged by Capt. (D) Greenock. (C. in C. W.A. 271708A to Cdre. D. W.A.)

"Radar"  
decoy.

Your 221003 Para. 6. Request details particularly size and material of actual reflector be signalled at first opportunity.  
(2) Decoy itself should be forwarded to Admiralty D.S.D. by first available air or sea transport. (D.S.D. 272224A to B.3)

Casualties and Defects.

AMAZON.

Your 261158. Arrived.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 270710A to R.A.D.)

STARLING.

Arrived STARLING.  
(Cdre. D. W.A. 270801A to C. in C. W.A.)

SHIKARI.

Arrived SHIKARI.  
(Cdrs. D. W.A. 271031A to R.A.D.)

Unknown  
Ship.

Intercept 1024Z. From unknown station automatic S.O.S. send continuously.  
(N.F. Radio, 271124A to 11 Group)

OBEDIENT  
and  
OLIVE.  
Collision.

Collision between OBEDIENT and steam drifter OLIVE at 0335A/10th resulting in death of Deck hand of OLIVE. Damage to H.M. Ship is slight.  
(R.A.D. 271740A to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys.

O.G.94/  
K.M.S.28.

Add to my 261924A, CITY OF DURBAN, BOMBAY. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 270140A)  
CITY OF DURBAN sailed to overtake. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 270142A)  
Sailed 0415A/27 to overtake.

SANTIRSO (T), Gibraltar.  
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 270428A)

A. 0345/27. B. SOUTHERN WAVE. C. 18 ships.

D. DRAMATIST.

(N.C.S.O. Oban, 270435A)

Arrived fuelled and sailed VESPER to overtake convoy.

My 271115 refers.

(Cdre. D. W.A. 272201A to F.O.I.C.Greenock)

915

27.9.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. - Contd.

- E.G.2.  
TRACKER.            2nd Escort Group met 054 degs. 58' N. 014 degs. 42' W.  
(TRACKER, 270640 to C. in C. W.A.)  
On crossing 021 degs. 30' W. steer for 050 degs. 29' N. 035 degs. 00' W.  
(C. in C. W.A. 271603Z to E.G.2, TRACKER)
- H.X.257.            Escort Group fifth are to be detached forthwith with ships capable of 12½ knots negative Cdre. escorted to 010 degs. W. thence independently.  
(2) Escort group fifth to proceed Londonderry to fuel. Intention is to overtake and support O.N.204.  
(C. in C. W.A. 270840Z to E.G.5)
- U.A.1.              Intend sailing convoy and escorts passing Clyde Boom 0715A/28 to comply with A.M.242130. For LAVENDER read GODETIA.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 271006A to C. in C. W.A.)
- U.A.2.  
B.5.                C. in C. W.A. 261749. Intend to sail HAVELOCK, WARWICK, BUTTERCUP, LAVENDER at 1600A/28 for Greenock. E.T.A. Cumraes 0700A/29. Speed 13 knots.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 271108A to F.O.I.C. Greenock)
- S.C.142.            Possible unidentified Morse transmission was heard on R.V. one receiver at approximate time of S/M sighting p.m. 23rd Sept. It is not certain whether transmission was heard just before or just after S/M dived. Operator did not report incident until today.  
(B.7, 271117Z to C. in C. W.A.)

916

27.9.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

O.S.55. Sailed OXNA F.F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU escorting Gibraltar section O.S.55, Q.L.B.205. Local escorts BRILLIANT, ANTHONY. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 270205, to F.O.C. West Africa (R) C.M.S.F. Admty., etc.)

Air Report attacks on U/Bs. A.I. 494. Gib. G.R. Opsum 26th Sept. ZE N. 48 1155, Day a, M.K.II 36.14 N. 09.57 W. 270° 12 517 ton type, 1 gun forward of C.T.1. in C.85. Yes on surface 150 red, bows and C.T. visible stern awash, 8 type M.K.II RPS 2, from 900 yds 800 ft. 2 from 650 yds. 600 ft. 4 from 300 yds. 300 ft. First discharge undershot 50 yds. emerged nearside of U/B passing over decks. Second discharge uncertain. Third discharge 2 undershot 20 ft. 2. overshot. A/C damaged by flak when passing over U/B. S/C base. U/B still on surface 1215 day visual 36.14 N., 09140 W. 280° 3, periscope only. No R.P. already expended, returned position of attack, nothing seen. X.179 on ASR search, 1041 day visual 36.10 N. 09.48 W., 240° 10. 517 ton type, no gun forward of C.T. Multiple cannon turret abaft C.T. Yes, on surface, 150 red, decks awash, 6 Torpex MKXI D.Cs., spaced 60 ft. from 50 ft. 2 D.Cs. exploded on port side, 4 on starboard side just ahead of C.T. D.C. scum seen straddling wake, no oil or air bubbles, U/B still on surface, A/C circled until R.P. attack by T.233. T.233 on ASR search, 1107 day visual, 36.20 N., 10.02 W., 270° 10 517 ton type, Guns fore and aft C.T. Yes, on surface 100 Green decks awash, 8 type, 1 M.K.II R.Ps. 2 from 1000 yds. 1000 ft. 2 from 700 yds. 700 ft. 4 from 450 yds. 450 ft. First discharge undershot 20 yds. Second discharge appeared to hit U/B near stern, salvo appeared to strike amidships, U/B slowed down and appeared lower in water A/C circled homing until N.48 attacked. (R.A.F. Gibraltar, 270300B.)

T.F.65. This is Cinclant's 261936. (Begins) Task Force 65 Comdesdiv. 21 Cdr. Wright on LIVERSMORE hereby constituted as follows: Desdiv 21, DUANE CAMPBELL, Cortdiv. 9 less HILL, DESSENDEN, FISKE, Cortdiv. Com. in D.L. HOWARD, S.C.1335 Cossatot. Escort convoy U.G.S.20 from Hampton Roads to North Africa Oct. 5. Return Hampton Roads escorting G.U.S.19 when directed by C.M.S.F. Comservfor, 35 direct Cossatom, C.T.F.23 direct S.C.1333 report to you at Hampton Roads. Last named report Commander 8th Fleet upon arrival North Africa (Ends.) (C.M.S.F. 270918A to Admty. F.O. Gibraltar.)

CLOVER M.K.S.25. Visibility good. ELIZABETH MASSEY. 1012A/27th. HAARLEM met E.T.A. Gibraltar 2000A/27th. CLOVER P.C.S. 035° 48' N. 006° 56' W. 263° 14. Rejoined M.K.S.25. (CLOVER, 271015A to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) S.O. Escort Group B.4., HAARLEM.)

/M.K.S.25...

917

27.9.1943.

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

CLOVER M.K.S.25 ELIZABETH MASSEY returned (lack of speed.)  
 (Contd.) (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 271807A to Admty.)

Lights 24/9. Captain of aircraft Garew reported following on 24th:  
 (1) At 2112 G.M.T. in 046° 55' N. 010° 09' W. light on water believed searchlight.  
 (2) At 2155 G.M.T. in 045° 37' N. 011° 11' W. steady white light on water. Dead reckoning positions. (N.A. Lisbon, 271051A to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)

Danish Ships at Las Palmas. My 242057. As Germans are very angry and pressure on Danish Minister has failed, almost certain they will try sabotage. Most likely form is bombs on board. Second possibility bombs attached to hull, both timed to explode after sailing. Please take all possible precautionary measures accordingly at once in collaboration Danish Consul, Master, new crews and Agent. I presume lighter with stores on board is well guarded. I leave to discretion as to whether or not you mention this probability to Spanish Authorities and enlist their assistance. Essential to limit visits or (?use) (?moorings in) (?neutral waters) and light vessel at sides at night. (B.N.A. Madrid, 271137B to R.O. Las Palmas, (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, Admty.)

Your 261657A. Master LINDA now states owing to information received yesterday it is impossible for him to sail. Master THYRAS definitely refuses to sail. (Consul Las Palmas, 271328 to F.O.C. Gibraltar (R) Admty., B.N.A. Madrid, M.W.T.)

Damaged U/B Vigo. Your 252006. 2 Fishing vessels which towed S/M in were NUEVO FLOREN O LAGO and SALVADOR LAGO. (R.O. Vigo, 271225 to B.N.A. Madrid (R) Admty., (for D.N.I.)).

Your 251250. If U/Boat was taken in tow outside territorial waters she should certainly be interned. If inside position is more doubtful though this should not of course be admitted.

2. F.O. are instructing H.M. Minister to press at once for final decree of internment. (Head of M.I., 271545A to N.A. Madrid, (R) H.M. Consul, Vigo, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Plymouth.)

A statement by Masters before public that they towed in submarine might be of greatest value. Could you arrange this secretly. Your 271225 refers.

(B.N.A. Madrid, 271931B to R.O. Vigo, (R) Admty., D. of N.I.)

/my...

918

27.9.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Damaged U/Boat Vigo. (Contd.) My 251250. Please see Embassy telegram No.1640 of Sept. 25th. (B.N.A.Madrid, 271947B to Admty.)

Protection of Lisbon convoys. Your 151245 to Admty. only. Owing to activity of enemy fighters in the Bay, no Beaufighters can be spared from Coastal Command for this duty. 2. Until situation changes or Mediterranean Air Command can spare some long-range fighters we must do our best with surface escort and such air escort with other natures of aircraft as can be spared. 3. Air Ministry agrees. 4. Question of additional surface escort is under discussion. Further signal will be made. Your 161005 refers. (D.O.D.(H), 271252A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med., Air Ministry, H.Q.C.C.)

Convoy, C.G.68. Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 271447Z to C.M.S.F.F. (R) C. in C. Med., Admty.)

M.L.576. Request M.L.576 now en route Gibraltar from U.K. in Coastal Craft Group M. be routed as soon as possible to Algiers where she is urgently required for operations. (D.D.O.D.(I) 271539A to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med.)

FRUCTIDOR MARIE MAD. French Naval Ships FRUCTIDOR and MARIE MAD destination Algiers. E.T.D. 28 1200A. S. of A. 7 knots routed Q.B.A. 102 (G) 35.44 N. 06.28 Q.B.A.87. Request onward route. (Commorseafon, 271540B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) C. in C. Med. Comnob Oran, Admty.)

UNTIRING After passing through 043° N., 010° 28' W. at 0400A 30th proceed diving by day through 040° 20' N. 009° 40' W. at 2359 October 1st thence to anti U-boat patrol in area between lat. 040° 20' N. and 040° N. eastward of meridian 010° W. Submerged bombing restrictions arranged 20 miles either side your route until 2359/1st and also within radius of 60 miles 040° N., 010° W. Report if unable to keep within bombing restrictions. P.65 UPSTART on patrol North of 039° 20' N., eastward of meridian to 010° W. is not to proceed northward of 039° 50' N. (F.O. Gibraltar, 271642A to P.59 (UNTIRING) (R) F.O.S. (P.65) UPSTART, Capt. (S) 8th, Capt. (S) 3rd, H.Q.C.C., N.O.I.C. Casa. C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med.)

/M.K.S....

27.9.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

- M.K.S. 25                      Following read:- M.K.S. 25 is being shadowed by one enemy A/C in 35.01 N., 11.45 W. 283 7. (SCYLLA, via Gibraltar W/T, 271719A).
- Enemy A/C.                      F.W. 200 aircraft are operating in your vicinity. (D.D.I.C., 271730A to Escorts to O.S.55 /K.M.S. 27, Escorts to M.K.S. 25, (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).
- CHASE,  
O.T.9.                              This dispatch was sent to all but F.O.I.C. Gibraltar and Admty. as 271802B (begins) Detach U.S.S. CHASE forthwith to proceed direct Gibraltar via Q.B.A. 87 R/V C.T.G.21.4 escorting O.T.9, E.T.A. Europa Point 301400A. When CHASE has joined C.T.G.21.4 detach 1 destroyer to proceed via Q.B.A. 87/S 35.45 N., 06.30 W. Q.B.A.102 to Casablanca. C. in C. Lant 171924 refers.  
(Commorseafron, 271817B to C.T.F.63, (R) C.T.G.21.4, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med., Comnavnaw, C. in C. Lant, Admty).  
This dispatch is re-encypherment of my 272225B (begins)  
My 271802B detaching CHASE herewith cancelled. CHASE return to convoy.  
(Commorseafron, 272238B to C.T.F.63).
- Transports,  
Escort.                              Anticipate HIGHLAND PRINCESS, VOLENDAM and BERGENSFIORD escorted by WITHERINGTON, WISHART and MALCOLM will reach R/V position (Q) 26.10 N. 15.32 W. at 2030A Oct. 2nd.  
(2) Your 241058 and my 241707 refer.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 271830A to F.O.C.W.A.)
- TITUSVILLE,  
37 E.G.                              TITUSVILLE steering gear broken down beyond repair in 035° 43' N., 011° 30' W. Tug EMPIRE HARRY taken her in tow with order to tow direct to Gibraltar. LOCH OSKAIG detailed as A/S escort. My P.C. and S. 2000A 035° 34' N., 011° 15' W. 127° 7 knots. Weather.  
(S.O. 37th E.G., 271850Z to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).
- WHIMBREL                              Your have been reported by enemy A/C. (D.D.I.C., 271952A to WHIMBREL, (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).
- COMMANDANT  
DETROYAT.                              Further examination shows furnaces of COMMANDANT DETROYAT are beyond permanent repair and boiler pressure had already been reduced to 105 lbs. Temporary repairs will be carried out to enable ship to steam with 190 lbs. steam pressure.  
Recommend new furnace be ordered by French Authorities and fitted in U.K. or elsewhere. My 251848 refers. Time required about three weeks.  
(C.S. Gibraltar, 272034A to F.O.C.W.Af., C. in C. Med. Admty).

/WITHERINGTON...



920

27.9.1943.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

WITHERINGTON, Left position 036° 25' 010° 20' at 2000 course 100°  
VELOX. speed 18 knots E.T.A. Gibraltar 1015/28.  
Yesterday's attacks considered promising VELOX 69%  
fuel remaining noon 27th. Weather report.  
(WITHERINGTON, 272120B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R)  
(?ACTIVE) MALCOLM).

921

27.9.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

DOMINE Your 261530, SS. DOMINE. Paras. 1B and 4. (intercepted 24th Sept.). Concur. Para.2, concur. Presumably trunk has been examined for false bottom and double linings. Para.3, instructions follow. (D.E.W.D., 271131A to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) B.N.A. Madrid, S.O.(I) Gibraltar).

NIGELLA Departure NIGELLA. Route as in my 201502. S. of A. 12 knots. E.T.A. Kilindini 1400Z/3rd Oct. 2. Shifts to W/T group V at 1415Z/30th. (Com. i/c Durban 271221Z to Admty. etc.).

Italian ships at St. Vincent. Your 231130Z. Whole question of acquiring Italian merchant ships in neutral ports is under active discussion. You will be informed of any developments. (Head of M.I., 271250A to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) N.C.S.O.St. Vincent.).

LYMAN STEWART (attacked 7th Sept.) LYMAN STEWART attacked by submarine at 0420Z/7 in 03 degs. 30' N. 75 degs. 00' E. when sailing independently and not zigzagging. (2) Four torpedoes seen but none hit. Believed one sank and exploded near ship. Only slight damage if any. (3) Submarine not seen but ship fired 15 rounds 4" at torpedoes. (4) SSSS was made C. in C.E.Fs. 070551 refers. Master thought ship was torpedoed. No casualties. (Cdre. Durban 271321Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.S.A. etc.).

ITAPAGE torpedoed. Survivors from Brazilian ship ITAPAGE landed yesterday, Sunday night. Ship was torpedoed 40 miles South of Maceio. (B.N.S.O. Rio De Janeiro 271352Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.S.At., F.O.C. W.Af.).

Patrol. Intend to sail CARNARVON CASTLE, ITHUNIL (sic ? SWALE intended) (?NESS) at 0800Z/28th Sept. to relieve CORFU and FAL on patrol. Ships leave area 6th Oct. to return to Freetown. (?Corrupt Group) HDVD/795. (F.O.C.W.A. 271443Z to Admty. (R) (?Cdr.4th U.S. Fleet) Comar Dakar).

DAVID E. HUGHES, "S" Report Following has been read on 500 Kc/s. SSSS (DAVID E. HUGHES). Position 36 degs. 30' S. 44 degs. 40' E. submarine sighted. T.O.R. 272124 G.M.T. (Simonstown W/T 272115C to Admty.).

922

27.9.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- G.U.S.17 N.O.I.C. Alexandria is requested to sail G.U.S. 17 a.m./29th Sept.  
 1. M.S. C.1. 22.2(a) 8, (b) 9 Route.  
 6. High "Trafford". 7. C. 8. DELPHINIUM (S.O.), HYACINTH, G.S. SAKTOURIS, WOLBOROUGH, KLO.  
 (C. in C. Levant, 270011C, to S.E.C. U.G.S.17, S.E.C. G.U.S.17, Naval and Air Authorities Western Desert, and Tripolitania, (R) Admty. etc).  
 G.U.S.17. M.S.C.I. 22 Onward route. (6) "Trafford" normal.  
 (7) A. (8) DELPHINIUM (S.O.), HYACINTH, G.S., SAKTOURIS, WOLBOROUGH, KLO.  
 (9) Convoy proceed best speed on crossing 020° E. to make Malta R/V providing this does not cause stragglers.  
 (10) A and B standard as letter by R.A. Alexandria.  
 (C. in C. Med., 271719A to DLEPHINIUM, Escorts of Convoy G.U.S.17, Admty. V.A. Malta, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med., Cdre. Algiers).
- U.G.S.17 M.S.C.I. 22. Onward route. (6) "Upright", "Taunton"  
 (7) C. (8) GLOXINIA, S.O., PRIMULA S.O., (corrupt group) GLOXINIA leave SOUTHERN MAID, SOUTHERN ISLE, SOUTHERN SEA, FALK.  
 (9) GLOXINIA and SOUTHERN ISLE detach when 2 miles North 350 and sail for Benghazi as ordered by S.N.O. Cyrenaica. Escorts report boiler hours when south of Malta. (C. in C. Levant, 270047Z to S.E.C. U.G.S.17, S.E.C., G.U.S.17, R.A. Alexandria etc.)
- Minesweepers On completion of sweeping at Cotrone sail all Fleet M/S to Augusta.  
 2. V.A.M. is requested to signal earliest date 2 of these ships can be accepted for boiler cleaning and storing and N.O.I.C. Augusta is to sail 2 accordingly, CROMARTY to detail these ships.  
 3. Remaining 2 are to (await?) boiler cleaning at Catania and proceed Malta to store when first pair return Augusta.  
 4. Cotrone pass to CROMARTY.  
 (F.O.Sy, 270351Z to ? (R) C. in C. Med. etc).
- Enemy Sightings. P.C. and S. of 1 enemy merchant vessel of 400 tons PHPV 0827 38.08 N., longitude indecypherable, if PL = 20.27 E. 360° 5 knots.  
 (A/C APP/?S, 270855 to Base K.T.1).  
 One enemy (?transport barge) in position UVPE 0540 (indecypherable) course 180° speed 6 knots.  
 (A/C APP/?S, 270855 to Base 7 WM)  
 One 500 ton Merchant Vessel, 2 300 ton Merchant Vessels in SGWF 31 (?1) 46 (35.31 N., 24.746 E).  
 (A/C APP/S, 270925Z, to Base 7 WM).  
 Position of enemy merchant vessel (1,000 tons) is Melos. (A/C GOY/W, 271340Z to Base 7 WM).  
 Position of (A) 6 L.C.P. is 42.50 N., 9.46 E. fixed within half an hour of 1400 hrs. course 240° speed 6 knots.  
 (A/C HUR/B, 271400A to Base K.T.1).

/A.B./B.A...

923

27.9.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

A.B./B.A. convoys. Agree para. (B) (as received, 78 intended?) your 221212 (re A/S escorted A.B./B.A. convoys. Para. (8) operation of A.B./B.A. convoys by Com. 1/c Aden).  
(C. in C. Levant, 270910C to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty. etc).

S/M O.23 S.(1)'s 261050. D day, 28th Sept. (N.O.I.C., Port Said, 270931C to 201 Group, C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 8, C. in C. Levant, Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 10, (R) Admty. R.A. Alexandria).  
Capt. (S) 1, 261050. You are to sail at 1632C/28th Sept. (details).  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 270951C to D.S. O.23 (R) Admty. etc).  
My 270931 for 28th Sept. read 3rd Oct.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 271909C).  
Cancel my 270951.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 271910C to O.23).

SURF SURF is detaching from U.G.S.17 in position 212 at 1230A/28th and proceeding independently through position 6 of Q.B.B.123 thence through positions A and B of Q.B.B.147 to 035° 49' 015° 20' at 1800/28th. Thence course 104° S. of A. 11 knots, surface passage to position 034° 34' 021° 49' at 2359/29th. Capt. (S) 1 is requested to arrange onward routeing.  
(ii) M.J.A.O. 24. Request total bombing restrictions for above passage. C. in C. Levant, 241250 refers. GLOXINIA pass to SURF. (Capt. S.10, 270958, to GLOXINIA, S.E.C., U.G.S.17, SURF, (R) 201 N.C. Group, Air H.Q. Malta. C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8, Admty. R.A. Alexandria).

Italian Warships. Intend sailing LEGIONARIO and Italian destroyer ORIANI class at 1600A Sept. 27th to Malta.  
(2) Route 120, 90, 40, 79, war channel 299 (?dash) 264 and Q.B.B.123.  
(3) S. of A. 15 knots.  
(4) Codeword "Ruth".  
(5) Class B Liaison parties embarked, dangerous water set of books, constant watch on area broadcast, call sign "LEGIONARIO Z.G.1, Italian destroyer ORIANI class N.B.3.  
(6) Extract of recognition signal to 2359/29th held.  
(7) C. in C. Med. "A" 251724 not to all addressees refers. (N.T. in W.R.).  
(N.O.I.C. Algiers, 271016, to V.A. Malta, (R) C. in C. Med.etc).

NEURALIA, NUBIAN, LOYAL. Intend sailing NEURALIA escorted by NUBIAN S.O., and LOYAL at 1800A/27th to Syracuse for disembarkation of 300 troops. Route R to M.J. then to 037° 04' N., 015° 21' E. where NEURALIA detaches. Speed 11½ knots E.T.A. 1500A/28th, codeword "Odette" call sign 333 normal.

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Mediterranean. - Contd.

NEURALIA,  
NUBIAN,  
LOYAL.  
(contd).

(2) LOYAL detaches in M.H. and proceeds Ferryville through P.R. 933 route B. After detaching speed 22 knots codeword "Joblot" call sign 388, E.T.A. 1730A/28th.

(3) NUBIAN proceeds ?Malta from 037° 04' N., 015° 21' E. at 25 knots through (?M.K.) and Q.K.B. ?? (188) E.T.A. 1800A/28th codeword "Odette". (S.O. Force N, 271053 to C. in C. Med. (R) V.A. Malta, F.O.Sy, C.T.F.89, N.O.I.C. Bizerta, etc).

Convoys  
V.N.1,  
A.H.1.

M.S.C.I. article 22. (1) Intend sailing V.N.1 and A.H.1 at 1700/29th as follows.  
(A) for Syracuse, (B) For Augusta. (C) For Salerno.  
(D) For Taranto. (lists).  
(2) (a) 7 (b) 8. (Route).  
(4) Taranto section (A.H.1) with ZETLAND (S.O.)

CHIDDINGFOLD and BROCKLESBY detaching at 037° 12' 015° 22' and proceed by 3 miles south of position 47, position 14, position 31, thence by Q.B.B. 218, E.T.A. Boom 1700/1st.

(5) V.N.1, 11. A.H.1 after detaching 65.

(6) High. V.N.1 "Adhesive" (?) A.H.1 after detaching "ultimately?" Escorting ABBOTSINCH.

(8) WHADDON (S.O.), EGGESFORD, WILTON with V.N.1 ZETLAND (S.O.), CHIDDINGFOLD, BROCKLESBY with A.H.1.

(V.A. Malta, 271123A to S.O. Force N.,, F.O.Sy. F.O.T.A. (R) C.T.F.89, 259, C. in C. Med. etc). Amended Malta's 291113, 291849 291907.

ROBERTS.

Your 251026, which is being repeated to C. in C. Levant, and Admty. 251514. Request you will sail ROBERTS to Levant. C. in C. Levant is requested to order her destination and to arrange for her to be taken in hand for repairs and change of guns.

(C. in C. Med., 271152A to V.A. Malta, (R) Admty. C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Levant, A.S. Malta).

German  
Lighter,  
Istanbul.

A. My telegram 251900C (Re sailing of German Motor Lighter M.T.3 (N.T. in W.D.). Para. 2. Turkish Naval Authorities Canakkale refused allow motor lighter enter ?Aegean. Vessel has returned Istanbul.

B. Presume owing to appearance being similar to F. barge, whose transit through Straits now prohibited.

(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 271153C to C. in C. Levant, S.O.(I) Levant, (R) S.l., S.10, D.N.I.)

K.M.F.25 A,  
passage  
through Med.

Para. 3. of your 231834. It is hoped that this will be possible arriving Middle East about middle of November.

(C. in C. Med., 271207 to D. of S.T., (R) P.S.T.O. Med. C. in C. Levant, P.S.T.O. M.E., C. in C. E.F.)

/Air...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Air Squadrons, There is no longer a requirement for accommodation  
Tafaroui. for disembarked Naval Air Squadrons at Tafaroui.  
My 280959 Feb. and 111914 March refer.

2. Request arrangements be made to withdraw  
personnel, reserve aircraft and stores to Gib.,  
personnel not required at Gibraltar being discharged to U.K.  
(C. in C. Med., 271212A, to F.O.C. Gib. (R) M.A.C., N.A.C.A.F.,  
C.O.N.A.S. Med., R.A.F. Tafaroui, Admty).

O.T.9 Destinations.  
(C. in C. Med., 271230A to C.T.G. 21.4 Escort O.T.9  
(R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Cdr. 10th Fleet, N.O.B.  
Oran, Admty. etc).

KATSONIS Regret to report Greek Submarine KATSONIS overdue  
presumed at Beirut since a.m./24 and must be considered  
lost. lost. Loss already claimed by Germans and  
confirmed by reports from I.S.L.D. sources.  
2. Two British and 15 Greek survivors reported  
prisoners of war in German hands. Additional  
report from Greek escapee KATSONIS sunk Sept. 15th Gulf of  
Athens area.  
3. KATSONIS left Beirut Sept. 5th to land a representative of  
Greek Government on East coast Seuboea thence to patrol Aegean.  
Good reason to suppose special operation successfully completed.  
Reports do not suggest possibility of boarding, slight  
possibility exists books may be compromised.  
(C. in C. Levant, 271249 to Admty. (R) Greek C. in C., F.O.S.,  
S.1, S.8., S.10).

Cagliari Request you will comply with C. in C. Med. A.  
251132. (Request U.S. Naval Port Party may  
proceed to Cagliari and prepare port for use by  
Allied shipping).  
(C. in C. Med., 271308A to Comnavnav (Operational  
and Administrative) (R), Com. N.O.B. Palermo).

INTREPID INTREPID capsized 0200 today Monday. My 261922.  
(bombed (C. in C. Levant, 271321C to Admty. C. in C. Med).  
Leros.  
26 Sept).

Movements, (1) Intend sailing M.L. 568 at 0600/28th routed  
Italian as in Q.B.B. 227, E.T.A. Bari 1115/28th. S. of A.  
Ships, 12 knots.  
Brindisi. (2) Italian Cruiser SCIPIONE AFRICANO and T.B.  
CLIO and ARETUSA sailed 0100/28th, coastwise  
E.T.A. Taranto 0800/28th, S. of A. 20 knots.  
(see 272125A).  
(3) T.B. PILO and Auxiliary POLA sailed 0500/28th coastwise for  
Taranto.  
(4) Disposition for (2) as in my 261135A, in accordance with  
F.O.T.A's 172210B.  
(N.O.I.C. Brindisi, 271330A to F.O.T.A. (R) Bari, N.O.I.C.  
Augusta, (APHIS?) QUAIL, O.R.P. PIORUN, M.L. 568).

/My...

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Movements,  
Italian  
Ships,  
Brindisi.  
(contd).My 271330A. Para. 2 cancelled.  
(N.O.I.C. Brindisi, 272125A).M.E. Air  
Report.

A.329 27 Sept. Daily Opsum 152. 26 Sept. 6. Beaufighter bombers despatched against armed merchantman 2,000 tons in Syros Harbour. 2 Beaufighters returned, remainder attacked, 1 possible hit several near misses with bombs, many cannon strikes, smoke rising from vessel when aircraft left. Before dawn an enemy R/C was carried out over Cos with the aid of Flash bombs. About 13 Ju.88s bombed Leros Harbour later in morning. 1 destroyer sunk another destroyer hit some fires started in docks. Second attack made by 2 waves Ju.88s escorted by Me.109s Leros in afternoon from 1645C to 1705C hours. First warning by wireless unit post 2 minutes before first attack. Details to hand state the second destroyer hit again. Spitfires from Cos also patrolled over shipping in vicinity of Cos and Leros without incident. Small destroyer or torpedo boat attacked by Beaufighters off Cape Prassonisi on 25th Sept. seen to be sunk. (R.A.F., M.E., 271410C).

LEINSTER

Intend to sail Hospital Carrier LEINSTER to northern beach at 1600 today 27th E.T.A. a.m./29th. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 271501 to F.O.Sy.(R) Admty. V.A. Malta, etc).

UNSEEN,  
UPROAR,  
SIBYL

(1) P.51 (UNSEEN) leave patrol through 043° 00' 009° 01' at 2000/29th 042° 01', 006° 40' at 2200/30th thence proceed on surface at discretion through 040° 01' 005° 33' at 1400/1st, 038° 00', 003° 36' at 0900/2nd to R/V escort Algiers in 037° 06' 003° 10' at 1600/2nd.

(2) P.31 (UPROAR) and P.217 (SIBYL) operating in zone SQ North and south respectively of 043° N., after 2000/29th.

(3) P.31 (UPROAR) leaving patrol through 043° 01' 009° 01' at 2000/30th, 042° 01' 006° 50' at 2200/1st, October; thence proceed on surface at discretion 75 miles to eastward of P.51 (UNSEEN) route given in para. 1 above to AG Escort Algiers in 037° 08' 003° 20' at 1600/3rd.

(Capt. S.8., 271530A to S.8 (R) C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Algiers, Capt. (S) 10).

8th S.M.F.  
minefields.

Until further instructions you are not to operate in an area between line joining minefield numbers 5, 4, 7, 10, 5 repetition 5, 4, 7, 10, 5, given in my 201200.  
(Capt. (S) 8, 271544A to 8th S/M F. (R) Capt. (S) 10).

/Repatriations...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Repatriations. Your 261310C Sept. German Government are being asked to provide information required by 30th Sept. and have been informed that if Salonika is chosen, route given in A.T., 271917 August will be acceptable.  
(Head of M.I., 271629A to C. in C. Levant).

M.T.B.s A.M. 201912 (re no opportunity for shipping boats has yet occurred. Request if requirement for them still exists). Every M.T.B. will be invaluable in the conditions of Island Warfare which we are fast approaching. Request every effort be made to ship these boats to Med. as soon as possible.  
(C. in C. Med., 271631A to Admty. (R) C.C.F., Med).

VALIANT, Your 241444 and F.O.C. Gibraltar 241229.  
KING GEORGE V. As any further delay in return of VALIANT to U.K.  
HOWE, will affect future operations request you will  
escort. sail her with Fleet Carriers.  
2. Destroyers are being provided from Home Fleet as escorts and should reach Gibraltar by about 4th October.  
3. Escorts for K.G.V. and HOWE will have to be provided from Mediterranean and should include QUILLIAM, QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, and RAIDER.  
(D.O.D. (H), approved V.C.N.S., 271711A to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, F.O. Force H, C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Levant).

Capture of Foggia. Situation report 53. Advance troops have entered Foggia after inflicting satisfactory casualties on enemy retarding party.  
(N.L.O. 8th Army, 271718 to C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, (R) N.O.I.C. Taranto, N.O.I.C. Sicily, F.O. Force H).

LOYAL Capt. (D) 19th's 270716, not to V.A. Malta. Tubes not available at Ferryville. LOYAL is to proceed to Malta. If LOYAL cannot be taken in hand at Malta now she should embark necessary tubes and proceed to Bizerta for repair. Gun barrels to be changed at Malta as arranged by V.A. Malta.  
(C. in C. Med. 271738A to LOYAL (R) Capt. (D) 19th, V.A. Malta, A.S. Malta, N.O.I.C. Bizerta, S.O. Force H, C.S. Ferryville).  
W.R. Note:- Capt. (D) 19th 270716 not intercepted by Admty.

Tankers List including POLA (Italian) (A) sailed 26th for orders. (B) Embarked personnel.  
(S.T.O.I.C. Beirut, 271758C to D. of S.T.)



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CROMARTY, minesweeping. Cotrone. Area south of line  $86\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  from position  $039^{\circ} 05' 48''$   $017^{\circ} 09'$  as far as 100 fathom line to east and limit of Q.B.B. 223 210 5 mines cut 1 detonated total to date 85. My 231646 refers. (CROMARTY, 271811B to C. in C. Med., (R) N.O.I.C. Malta, N.O.I.C. Sicily (corrupt group) F.O.T.A.)

Malta Agreeing to proposed reduction of garrison with reservations.

U/Bs Disposition of U-boat (German). Estimated. One within 30 miles of  $038^{\circ} 40' N.$ ,  $013^{\circ} 40' E.$  One in Otranto Straits. Two North of  $037^{\circ} 30' N.$ , and  $E.$  of  $013^{\circ} E.$  (C. in C. Med., 271823A).

PENN Sail at 2000/27th to Brindisi S. of A. 22 knots by Q.B.B. 146 direct to Q.B.B. 226 and then by Q.B.B. 229. E.T.A. 1230/28th, codeword "Spirit" 974 priority low, C. in C. Med., 271140 (N.T. in W.D.) refers. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 271837A to H.M.S. PENN, (R) S.O. Force H, Capt. (D) 4th, D.F., Capt. (D) 14th D.F., F.O.T.A., N.O.I.C. Brindisi etc).

RICHELIEU Early decision concerning RICHELIEU is becoming a matter of urgency as ship should now be ready. Presence of RICHELIEU in Mediterranean will be an embarrassment. In particular, question of escorts and berthing will arise. Ship can lie at Mers el Kebir but all North African ports are already jammed full of shipping; moreover such French escorts as are available have far more than they can do without this extra commitment. Fact is that surrender of Italian Fleet has so radically changed situation that there is no employment for capital ships on this station. It may possibly be desirable for RICHELIEU to pay a short visit for purposes of French Naval morale but I am not anxious even for this. I suggest we should press French to permit her use elsewhere on some duty where ship can be of active use; in Mediterranean she will only be a liability. (C. in C. Med., 271901A to Admty).

Italian Movements. Italian light cruiser SCIPIONE AFRICANO escorted by T.B. ARETUSA, CLIO will leave Taranto about 1830A/28th passing through position 14, 283, 273 at 25 knots adjusting speed as required to R/V in  $036^{\circ} 13' N.$ ,  $014^{\circ} 52' E.$  at 0630A/29th in accordance with S.O. Force H's 271003A (N.T. in W.D.) (F.O.T.A., 271927 to V.A. Malta, (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, F.O.Sy, Force H, N.L.O. No.1, M.O.R.U., N.Os. I.C. Augusta, Catania, Syracuse).

/W/T...

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Mediterranean - Contd.

Italian  
Movements.  
(contd).

W/T silence rigidly enforced except if attacked when message will be broadcast on 500 k/cs in (?group omitted) and P/L. Special recognition with surface ships for 28th challenge A A reply P P for 29th challenge G G reply N N. Signals change midnight G.M.T. 2\*star (?only) for dawn period 29th is known.

(F.O.T.A., 271933 to V.A. Malta (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, F.O.Sy. Force H, N.L.O. number one MORU, N.Os. I.C. Augusta, Catania, Syracuse.)  
\*As received.

Med Air  
Report.

A.250. Signed Eisenhower. Part 3. Air Cositintrep 79. Day 26th Sept. All Strategic Air Force missions were cancelled owing to bad weather. A Wellington attacked a U-boat off Alicuri with 4 D/C but no hits were scored. (Air C. in C. Med., T.O.O. Nil, Recd. 1930/27).

Glider bomb  
investigation.

Admty. 231952. Party arrived Malta and is being sent to Salerno by first opportunity to report to Commodore N. who has been asked to dispose of them in 2 suitable ships in "Avalanche" area. (S.O. Force H, 271947A to C. in C. Med. (R) V.A. Malta).

ABA

H.S. ABA sailed at 2030/27th to southern route 1, S.O.A. 11 knots. (N.O.I.C. Bizerta, 272045 to N.C.W.T.F. (R) C. in C. Med., etc).

Bombing of  
ITALIA.

Only piece available is a portion of fin now held by D.I.N.O. Levant. Your 261701 (search for any pieces of bomb in ITALIA). (C. in C. Levant, 272057C to S.O. Force H, (R) Admty. C. in C. Med. etc).

Enemy  
bombers.

German Stuka dive bombers have been operating from Northern Greece in vicinity of Hammamet, Corfu. (S.O. Force H, 272111A to (?QUILLIAM) (R) F.O.T.A., Capt. (D) 4).

Middle East  
Report.

Cositrep No.7. (2) Ground Ops. (D) Naxos Syros. 234 Bde. report enemy attack Naxos on 25th Sept. trps. landed by one M/V and two E-boats. Unconfirmed reports state this shipping then moved Syros. (3) Naval.

(A) KORITZA and POLA escorted by COM. DUBOC and LA MOQUEUSE sailing from Castelrosso for Beirut 28th Sept. EOLA sails 27th Sept. for Famagusta. (B) Destroyer INTREPID capsized Leros as result bomb damage reported para. 3 B of Cositrep 6. (C) Destroyers ECHO and FURY sailed Alexandria 27th Sept. on sweep in Aegean.

/ (4) ...

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Mediterranean.

Middle East  
Report.  
(contd).

(4) Air. 26th Sept. Beaufighters attacked armed merchantman 2,000 ton Leros Harbour possible one hit several near misses vessel left smoking. Cos Spitfires provided shipping escort and standing patrols over Cos. R/C reported destroyer attacked off Cape Prassonisi 25th Sept. now sunk. (C. in C. M.E., 272129C to W.O.)

Movements  
Oran.

Departures today: U.S. destroyers COLE and DALLAS. Arrival: LE GRACIEUSE.  
(N.O.B. Oran, 272130 A to Admty. etc).

SIRIUS,  
DIDO.

Sail 0100A/28 to Malta. Route R. Speed 24 knots E.T.A. 1430A/28. Codeword Linseed, call sign 415 normal.  
(S.O. Force N, 272137A to SIRIUS, DIDO (R)  
C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta, F.O.Sy, C.S.12, C.S.15, M.A.C., N.A.C.A.F., N.A.T.A.F.)

Situation  
report No.  
192.

(1) CHRISTIAN MICHELSEN in convoy U.G.S.17 ?blew up and sank at about 1920/26th in 037° 12' N., 008° 26' E. A/S hunt proceeded in vicinity but no contact.  
(2) During night 26th/27th Sept. QUILLIAM and O.R.P. PIORUN maintained patrol in vicinity (corrupt group), nothing was sighted.  
(3) French Cruiser JEANNE D'ARC escorted by PANTHER and F.S. MONTCALM ?(,) escorted by PATHFINDER proceed Ajaccio with troops during night 25/26 Sept. and 26/27th Sept. respectively.  
(4) U-boat (German) activity has been on increased scale in Salerno area. Several A/S (?hunts) have been in progress during 25th and 26th Sept. but without evidence of success. (C. in C. Med., 272144A).

Transports.

Arrived SONTAY (P), MIRANDA.  
(V.A. Malta, 272241A to Admty. etc).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Karachi facilities for ships. Karachi Harbour. Your 231137 (231127 intended) entrance to Channel Bar now 25 feet will be silted to 24 and 22 feet in 6 and 12 months respectively normal depth 29 feet.  
(2) Main channel now 26 feet will silt to 25 feet in 12 months normal depth 27 feet.  
(3) Alongside wharves now 26/31 feet will silt to 25/30 feet in 12 months normal depth 27/32.  
(4) Majority of silting occurs during south-west Monsoon season when no dredging can be carried out.  
(5) Rise and fall neap and spring 4 and 9 feet respectively.  
(6) On outer bar ships require not less than 4 feet clearance in south-west Monsoon and 2 feet in normal weather.  
C. in C. East Fleet 231137 (231127 intended) being passed to F.O.C.R.I.N.  
(N.O.I.C. Karachi, 270353Z to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty., F.O.C.R.I.N.)

MARIPOSA, GEORGE WASHINGTON. Armindia have 2000 prisoners of war ready now to proceed Australia. Request permission to use MARIPOSA and GEORGE WASHINGTON for this purpose. If approved request number which may be earmarked in each ship. Also request permission to embark service personnel and civilian passengers for Australia and U.S.A.  
(A.P.S.T.O. Bombay, 270627Z to B.A.D., (R) A.C.N.B., D.S.T., C. in C. E.F., P.S.T.O. I., New Delhi.)

A.F.D. 1. A.M. 211038 confirms that the first battleship floating dock to be completely presumably A.F.D.23 will be berthed at Trincomalee.  
2. A.M. 221834 para. 2 directs Wayland to proceed Kilindini by 1st December. Understand that Wayland will be required to make A.F.D.23 effective and will therefore be required at Trincomalee. Request clarification.  
(C. in C. E.F., 270806Z to Admty., (R) F.O.E.A., F.O. Ceylon, D.G.S.R.)

Convoy M.A. 9. Sailing telegram. (2) 1055Z/27th. (4) Knots 10.5. (5) Coastal. (6) PANSY, NETRAVATI.  
(N.C.S.O. Madras, 270945Z, 271106 to Admty.)

TAMAROA, LARGS BAY. Transport (1) TAMAROA. (2) LARGS BAY sailed 26th for U.K. via Aden and Suez with following for Suez. Requirements at Aden and Suez. E.T.A. Aden 2nd October.  
(D.S.T.O. Bombay, 271027Z to D.S.T.)

Tugs, A.F.Ds.23 and 26. Rescue Tug HESPERIA and Tugs EMPIRE SANDY and EMPIRE HARRY are now en route Bombay from U.K. and should arrive by mid Nov. for towage of first section A.F.D.23 to Trincomalee then returning to Bombay. If A.F.D.26 is ready and time permits it is suggested HESPERIA should then tow this dock to Trincomalee returning to Bombay. The 3 tugs then to proceed with second section A.F.D. 23.  
(Capt. i/c Rescue Tugs, 271556A to C. in C. E.F., etc.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Task Group 21.15 constitution. This is C. in C.Lant's 261851 addressed to U.S.S. CORE for action and to Comdeslantflt, Desdiv 21, Admty. Commaveu, C.T.F. 28, Cominch, and Commorseafron for information. Attention my 102109 July. Task Group 21.15 is constituted as follows C.O. CORE, GREENE, GOLDSBOROUGH, BELKNAP.

Support Task Force 65 escorting U.G.S.20 departing Hampton Roads Oct. 5th in co-operation with C.T.F.65. Ref. Cinclant's 102109 July was passed to Admty. as Commaveu's 291234Z August. (Commaveu 270046Z to Admty.)

DUCKWORTH. C. in C.C.N.A. 261559. Comply. (C.T.G. 02.1 270110 to DUCKWORTH, (R) C. in C.W.A. F.O.N.F. C. in C.C.N.A. Admty. etc.) Your 270110 acknowledged. E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 291300Z weather report. (DUCKWORTH 270320 to Com. 1st Nav. Dis. Boston (R) C. in C.W.A. C. in C.C.N.A. C.T.F. 24, C. in C.U.S. Fleet, Admty. F.O.N.F. N.S.H.Q. C.E.S.F.)

TIMMINS. E.T.A. Cape Spear 271000Z. Urgent defects. Boiler hours. Weather report. (TIMMINS 270140Z to F.O.N.F. (R) Capt. D. Newfoundland.)

STRATHNAVER, VILLE DE QUEBEC. J.H.68, STRATHNAVER returned leaking caused by striking a rock leaving harbour see my 261314 not to N.C.S.O. Montreal. With available facilities at this port it is most improbable that repairs can be effected to guarantee vessel being seaworthy for carrying 5800 troops. Request that arrangements be made for transporting troops to U.S. Owing to navigational problems at St. Johns suggest that vessels sent should be not more than 600 feet over all and deepest draft of 28 feet. VILLE DE QUEBEC returned escorting STRATHNAVER and will not rejoin J.H. 68. (F.O.N.F. 271015Z to C. in C.C.N.A. (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q. Connav, C.E.S.F. C.E.F. 24 N.C.S.O. Montreal.) Note: 261314 held in W.R. undecypherable.

Escort Carriers. Your 141841 para. 4A. This is acceptable in principle. C.V.E's 38, 44 and 46 should be employed ferrying and manned as follows:-  
C.V.E. 38 - as soon as possible.  
C.V.E. 44 - Late November.  
C.V.E. 46 - during December.

Composition etc. of crews. 2. These C.V.E's will not be used operationally.  
4. It is suggested that C.V.E's 50 and 53 should commence modification on 15th March and 1st April respectively, in place of C.V.E's 38 and 44, the latter being taken in hand on 1st and 15th May. Request you remarks.  
5. Para. 3. This is acceptable.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Escort  
Carriers.  
(Contd.)

6. Every effort will be made to get C.V.E's 46, 38 and 44 to Vancouver on the required dates, in order to get them operational as soon as possible.  
7. Request early report of result of investigation referred to in your para. 5 in view of possible effect on U.S.M.R. page 1, which, in any event, will presumably now require some revision.  
8. The manning of C.V.Es under Red Ensign is not practicable. (Hd. of M.II 271150A to B.A.D.)

O.N.S.18,  
O.N.202,  
attacks by  
U/Bs,  
appreciation.

O.N.S.18 and O.N.202 appreciation after preliminary conference.  
1. Casualties. A. LAGAN, possibly acoustic torpedo which exploded outside designed distance.  
B. ST. CROIX no evidence as she was alone.  
C. POLYANTHUS consistent with acoustic.  
D. ITCHEN eye witnesses differ between gunfire from friendly ships or torpedo. SACKVILLE is certain she was torpedoed abreast funnel.  
2. In addition at least two torpedoes were fired at escorts counter-attacking and exploded harmlessly. One torpedo was reported making a swishing noise instead of usual H.E.  
3. Considerable evidence that more use is being made of submarines working in pairs and on occasions burning red lights, possibly for station keeping.  
4. Some evidence that U-Boat attempts to decoy escort over his consort.  
5. Side echoes from convoy were troublesome, 6000 yards from convoy recommended.  
6. General conclusions. The enemy has not adopted any new methods of attacking convoys but has gone in for a certain amount of pair ship mutual support and the use of some acoustic torpedoes when being hunted. Apart from this minor change in tactics the acoustically directed torpedo is the only novelty and whilst admittedly a dangerous weapon is in no way worthy of deflecting us from the most offensive tactic guided by A.G.M. 657A. (F.O.N.F. 271223Z to C. in C.C.N.A. (R) Admty. C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q. Cdre. D.W.A.)

Convoy  
J.H.68.

Sailing telegram (4 ships). 2. 1300Z/27th.  
3. E.T.A. Halifax 1030Z/29th, E.T.A. Boston 1530Z/30th. 4. 12 knots. 5. (Route). 6. ST. CLAIR, BAYFIELD, VILLE DE QUEBEC. 15. Cancel all previous signals referring to J.H. 68. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 271230Z, 271257Z to Admty.)

Eire ships  
to America,  
routeing.

A.M. 072033 May. Eire Government have requested that consideration be given to shortening routes laid down for Eire ships proceeding to America. They stress that present routes result in increased fuel consumption and reduced carrying capacity as well as additional sailing time, and request permission to revert to routes previously followed.  
2. Subject to your concurrence it is proposed to alter routes for Eire ships as follows:- By Great Circle to 38° 10' N. 34° W. thence along parallel 38° 10' N. to cut into existing

/approach...

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27.9.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

- Eire ships to America, routeing. approach to Canadian ports.  
3. Request early signal whether you agree.  
(Head of M.I. 271251A to Connav, (R) B.A.D.)  
Reply. Concur (Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 281555Z.)
- \*O.N.201. O.N.201 my 241943 (arrival of ships at New York)  
Add arrival ROBERT TRIMBLE name omitted in error.  
Total 51 ships. N.S.H.Q. 270110 to New York only refers.  
(B.R.L.O. New York 271311Z to Admty.)
- U.C.4. Arrival 27th. Curacao portion U.C.4.  
(Curacao 271402 to Admty.)
- U.S.S/M Estimate. One unlocated Gulf of Mexico possibly within 150 miles 24.00 86.00. One unlocated possibly moving southwest within 200 miles 22.00 63.00. One Trinidad to Cayenne. One area 11.00 S. 35.00 by poor D/F 262229 and from Itapage attack p.m. 26th.  
One unlocated Canadian area possibly westbound about 300 miles southwest of Sable Island. About five within 200 miles 48.00 29.00 majority of which homebound from recent D/Fs. No fresh information other areas.  
(Cominch 271410Z.)
- T.A.63. T.A.63 alter course forthwith for new S.  
040° 10' 060° 02' T. 042° 02' 066° 01'  
U. 042° 25' 070° 30'. thence destination Boston omitting R. Estimated position course and speed  
272000Z of A. 26 ships convoy 041° 12' 055° 09' 248° 13.8 altering in 059° W. to 257°.  
(Cdr. 10th U.S.Fleet (C. & R.) 271411Z to T.A.63.)
- Aruba defence against U/B attack unsatisfactory. Aruba reports protection from torpedo attack at Eagle Refinery loading terminal very unsatisfactory  
Average number ships weekly approx. two and expected increase. Believed responsibility rests with Dutch Authorities. Full report in C.S.O.  
Aruba number 330 10th Sept. to B.S.C. In order to save time, request B.A.D. obtain copy and take appropriate action.  
(S.O.I. Jamaica 271456R to B.A.D. (R) S.B.N.O.W. At. Admty.)
- N.S.H.Q. S/M Estimate. (N.S.H.Q. 271500Z.)
- U.S.A.T. San Francisco arrived 25th PERIDA, 192034 to read CORMACHAWK arrived Sept. 17th. Both U.S.A.Ts.  
(N.S.H.Q. 271631Z to Admty.)

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27.9.1943.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

A.T.65 (AQUITANIA.) Sail A.T.65 (AQUITANIA) (route).  
(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.) 271649Z to P.D.New York.)

MAURETANIA. E.T.A. 0600Z/29th.  
(MAURETANIA 271800Z to Comnav, (R) C.E.S.F. P.D. Boston.)

Italian Shipping. My 101451. Navy Department understand 58 ships totalling 191,000 tons, and including three repatriation ships, are now in Allied hands. Request your confirmation or comments.  
(B.A.D. 271845Z to Admty.)

T.A.64. At 1600Z 082° 205 miles from position F. E.T.A. Ambrose 0900Z/28th. Your 271537Z (N.T. in W.R.) request time of arrival of K.N. 266 and G.N. 85 at A. Buoy.  
(T.A.64 272000Z to C.E.S.F.)

SEARCHER. A.M. 241620. 1. Request earliest information date of arrival of this ship.  
2. Ref. your para. 2. It is intended to ship R.N. aircraft in this ship and it may not be necessary for her to make 2 trips.  
(B.A.D. 272043Z to Admty. (R) F.O.C.T. F.O.N.A.S. Sec. in Com. F.O.N.A.S. C. in C.W.A.)

Sub. attack & sighting summary. No report 26th. All times Z. Para. A. ITAPAGE torpedoed area 10 S. 35.50 W. 8 26/27. V.P.74 plane sights submarine 12.30 S. 35.35 W. 271440. Para. C. Transport plane sights submarine course 240 12 N. 62.25 W. 271530.  
(Cominch 272050Z to Admty.)

U.T.3. troopships. Your 231943. Cominch agrees to inclusion of six British troopships in convoy U.T.3 from U.K. to North Africa and four British troopships in U.T.3 from North Africa to U.K. Provided total of ships in convoy does not exceed 30 in each case. Present indications are that this limit will be not be exceeded unless U.S.combat loaded transports are included in U.T.3 from North Africa to U.K.  
(B.A.D. 272059Z to D. of S.T.)

Routeing of ships for E. Africa and Indian Ocean. Reference my 141410Z and my 212016Z of June. Vessels under 13 knots bound East Africa and Red Sea shall be routed southward of Line A, B, C, as amended in my 251806Z (N.T. in W.R.) to Durban for onward routeing. Vessels bound Persian Gulf and Indian Ports continue to be routed South of amended A, B, C, to Diego Suarez for onward routeing. Reporting centres pass to Routeing Officers your area.  
(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 272106Z to (not addressed) (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q. C. in C.S.A.)

/B.W.65...



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27.9.1943.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

B.W.65. Your 271541Z. B.W.65, E.T.A. St. Johns 0800/28th. WABANA 1200Z/28th. WASAGA boiler hours, defects. (MALPEQUE 272206Z to F.O.N.F.)  
W.R.Note: F.O.N.F's 271541 not received in Admty.

CLYDE. In order to avoid U-Boats (German) request you will instruct CLYDE after passing through position F. to proceed on surface diving at discretion to new position K. 043° 30' N. 022° 01' W. Onward route from K. will be signalled to CLYDE later.  
Cdr. S/Ms Atlantic 220218.  
(F.O.S. 272228A to Cominch, (R) Admty. etc.)

PRINCE DAVID, Present arrangements are that L.S.I.(M)s PRINCE  
PRINCE HENRY. DAVID and PRINCE HENRY will proceed to U.K. on conversion for fitting of certain equipment. Each ship will transport six L.C.V(P)s for delivery to U.K. and on arrival will take on five L.C.As. and one L.C.S.(M). Only such of their personnel selected to man these craft who left Canada prior to 1st Jan. 1943 should therefore be returned to Canada for leave. Remainder to join after arrival of ships in U.K. Latest estimated dates of completion are PRINCE DAVID 15th Dec. PRINCE HENRY 1st Jan., but both will probably not leave West coast after trials prior to end January.  
(N.S.H.Q. 272306Z to S.C.N.O. (R) C.O.P.C.)

Escort Approx. dates of completion.  
Carriers. (B.A.D. 272329 to Admty.)  
(C.V.Es.) See Lion Copy.

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements. 26th 18 U.S.S. SANGAY San Francisco 3rd October.  
(R.O.Pearl 270513 to Admty.)  
Arrived Sydney (N.S.W.) 25th U.S.S. POLLUX 26th  
U.S.S. HELM. Departed Milne Bay 26th U.S.S.

MUGFORD, U.S.S. MAHAN for Townsville.  
(A.C.N.B. 271024 to Admty.)

U.S.Transport VAN DER LIJN arrived Brisbane 25th Sept.  
Departures 27th Melbourne U.S.Transport BOTH Townsville 4th Oct.  
(C.S.W.P.S.F. 271244Z to Admty.)

Digest No.615 Paras. 7 and 8 cover South Pacific Forces. 2  
Sept. 26. small vessels strafed forenoon by Liberator  
140 miles North Mussau Island course S. Probably  
same two ships unsuccessfully bombed 90 miles  
further S. by afternoon patrol Liberator.

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War Diary.

27.9.1943.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

- Digest serial No. 615 Sept. 26. (Contd.)
- Single freighter 2000 tons observed in harbour S.coast Mussau Island.
2. One small ship plus numerous barges and small craft observed in Wewak Harbour Area.
3. Photos show three Luggers usual barges Hansa Bay.
7. On 25 Sept. Tank landing ship severely bombed by enemy aircraft off East Coast Vella Lavella setting ship afire and causing some casualties.
8. Afternoon same day two enemy barges N.W.Choiseul attacked by patrol plane which strafed and probably sank Sampan off Central South West Coast.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 270844Z to Admty. etc.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 271351A, 271352A.)

Submarines Attacked.

- Sub. attack & sighting summary for 24 hrs. to 0900Z/27th.
- Para. A. 1. A/C 13 sighted U-Boat on surface 36° 10' N. 09° 48' W. at 0840Z and again course 270° at 0908Z both 26th Sept. At 0918Z/13th (?26th intended) Sept. A/C 13 attacked U-Boat with depth charges and claimed 4 hits 36° 10' N. 10° 03' W. course 240°. U-Boat later reported on surface apparently disabled.
2. A/C N/48 attacked U-Boat on surface 36° 10' N. 09° 48' W. at 0955Z/26th.
3. VELOX and WITHERINGTON attacked firm contact 75 miles S.W. of Cape St. Vincent 1737Z/26th.
4. A/C attacked fully surfaced U-Boat with 4 depth charges 25 miles S.W. of Licosa Point 24th/25th.
5. A/C attacked U-Boat with depth charges 38° 40' N. 13° 59' E. 1612Z/26th.
6. A/C N/203 sighted U-Boat on surface 42° 46' N. 10° 57' W. course 180° 1323Z/26th.
- Para. B. 1. A/C obtained A.S.V. contact 61° 52' N. 13° 53' W. 0555/26.
2. Fisherman reported U-Boat 42° 22' N. 08° 30' W. night 25th. (D.D.I.C. 271016Z to Cominch.)

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27.9.1943.

Monday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked. - Contd.

Acoustic homing torpedo, A/S tactics for Escort Vessels.

U-Boats in the North Atlantic have adopted the policy of attacking A/S escort vessels.  
2. There is strong probability that an acoustic homing torpedo is being used which is probably electric and may be inaudible on Asdics.  
3. U-Boats which have achieved success with this weapon have generally fired at the chasing escort vessel from about 3,000 yards range on being put down.

4. Speed of torpedo when homing is not likely to exceed 20 knots, but it may be 30 knots for the first part of its run before it begins to home. Homing radius is probably about 300 yards. Torpedoes have been discharged from both bow and stern tubes.

5. With the object of avoiding the danger area of this torpedo while at the same time allowing the A/S escort vessels to retain the initiative the following tactics are recommended:-

A. When the U-Boat is initially contacted on the surface

(1) Maximum speed should be maintained whilst approaching U-Boat and whilst carrying out avoiding action.

(2) U-Boat may be closed in normal manner until range is 4,000 yards. A position directly astern of U-Boat being avoided.

(3) Illuminants and gunfire should be used to induce U-Boat to dive.

(4) To clear the ship of the danger area an alteration of course should be made to bring the U-Boat 60° on the bow as soon as the U-Boat dives if the range is under 5,000 yards and in any event when the range is down to 4,000 yards. When the U-Boat is initially on one bow preference should be given to turning so as to place it on the other bow when the turn is completed.

(5) After proceeding for about 2,000 yards the ship should turn parallel to the estimated true bearing of U-Boat on firing and proceed for a further 2,000 yards before continuing hunt.

(6) As it will probably be impossible for the A/S vessel to know whether the sting has been drawn or not, the previous procedure should be repeated if there is any reason to suppose that the U-Boat has fired again.

B. When searching for and hunting a submerged U-Boat:-

(1) Ships should proceed at highest possible speed zig zagging until arrival in the estimated vicinity of the U-Boat; speed should then be reduced to 7 knots to carry out an asdic search.

(2) If contact is obtained ships may safely increase to attacking speed when within 1,000 yards of the contact. If subsequently the submarine is found to be below 100 feet normal hunting procedure may be adopted.

(3) Escort vessels should endeavour to remain within 1,000 yards of the contact if the U-Boat depth is uncertain.

6. When possible escort vessels should work in pairs.

7. A.G.M. 657A dated 22nd Sept. 1943 and A.G.M. 670A dated 24th Sept. are cancelled.

(A.C.N.S.(W) 271946A to A.G.M. Home and Abroad.)

# 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

IN

272329/September.

Date: 28.9.43.

From: B.I.D.

Recd: 0404

Naval Cypher X D by Cable

Addressed: Admiralty.

*Escort carriers, dates of completion*

1. A.M. 051748 and 212327 and my 131921.

1. Based on present information as to date of completion of CVE's but allowing a small margin for unforeseen eventualities the following tie-up of Corsair Squadrons and Assault Carriers appears feasible.

2.

(a) Squadron	(b) Ferryed in	(c) Arrives U.K.	(d) Final Allocation	(e) Approximate date of (D)
1830 and 1831	SLINGER and TRUMPETER	1st. Nov.		Late Dec.
1833 and 1834	ENGADINE- (Note) and ATHENE	Mid Nov.	ATHELING	Mid January
1835 and 1836	AMBER	Late Dec.	BEGUM	Mid Feb.
1837	ATHELING	Early Jan.	SPEAKER	Early March.
1838	BEGUM	End Jan	SPEAKER	Early March
1844	THANE	End March	RAJAH	Mid June
X	ARBITER	Mid April	RAJAH	Mid June
1841 and 1842	ARBITER	Mid April	REAPER	End June
Y	RAJAH	End May	NABOB	Mid August
Z	REAPER	End June	NABOB	Mid August

Note-or SEARCHER depending on dates.

5. The .....

3. The above assumes that 1842 Squadron referred to in your 212327 is in place of 1843 Squadron which was previously in the U.S.A. formation programme.

4. It will be seen that 1837, 1844 and Y Squadrons get extra working up time in U.K. This is inevitable owing to our forming sometimes one and sometimes two Squadrons a month in U.S.A.

5. Your para. nine. The trade protection CVE's listed in para. seven below will be given a fortnightly working up period followed by limited operational flying of about a month on passage from West to East Coast. We have eliminated one factor adversely affecting their chances of operating on the Atlantic Crossing by not allocating any Corsair Squadrons to them for passage. Nevertheless the decision as to whether they operate or not will depend on the aircraft ferrying situation and the Carrier support group situation at the time. Every endeavour will be made to use only the ships in column B of para. 2 above for ferrying.

6. 848 and 849 Squadrons will arrive in TRUMPETER and KHEDIVE 848 having operated on West-East Coast passage. 849 will not have operated. Owing to necessity for TRUMPETER and SLINGER to return to U.S. for turbine repairs request you will allocate these Squadrons to CVE's available in U.K.

7. Tentative allocation of next five Tarpon Squadrons, all to embark on West Coast is as follows:-

Squadron	Ship	Arrive in U.K.
850	EMPRESS	20th February
851	PREMIER	23rd March
852	QUEEN	25th April
A	SMITER	20th May
B	TROUNCER	16th June.

8. Above assumes that in my 141841 para. one for CVE 38 read 41, and for CVE 45 read CVE 46.

9. Para. two column A and para. seven column one the lettered Squadrons refer to those for which no numbers have yet been allocated.

272392z

Advance Copies:- D.C. D.O.D. (H) Plot.

MAG.

1st Lord	A.C.N.S. (W)	Capt. Pim	
1st S.L. (2)	D.C.N.A.E.	D.T.S.D.	D.N.A.O.
D.F.S.L.	SEC.	D.O.D. (H) (4)	D.A.U.D.
2nd S.L.	P.A.S. (3)	D.O.D. (F) (2)	D.A.W.T.
3rd S.L.	N.A. 2nd S.L. (Air)	D.G.D.	D.A.E.
Vice Contr.	D. of P. (2) (3)	D.C.	D.A.C.R.
5th S.L.	Plot	D.D.I.C. (2)	Hd. Air Br.
V.C.N.S.	D.A.M.R.	Hd. of C.W.	I.P. (2)
A.C.N.S. (H)	N.A. 2nd S.L. (OD)	D.P.S.	W.D.
A.C.N.S. (F)	Hd. of M.A.S.	D.A./S.W.	
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)	D.T.D. (4)	Hd. of M. (2)	Ad. Blake (4)
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)	U.W.R.	D. of P. (2)	

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28.9.1943.  
Tuesday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.S/M patrols  
off  
Norway.

1. ULA and SATYR were withdrawn from patrol off Statlandet today and ordered to take up positions in the approaches to Trondheim Fiord.

Convoy  
U.A.1.

2. Convoy U.A.1 sailed from the Clyde today for the Mediterranean.

PHOEBE.

3. PHOEBE sailed from Plymouth today for the Mediterranean.

Bay  
Patrol.

4. The failure of our present air patrols to locate U-Boats in the Bay approaches at night suggests that night flying cover is not of sufficient density. As from first light tomorrow Coastal Command are increasing the night effort substantially at the expense of the day effort; and for this purpose are instituting two new and smaller areas, "Percussion" K and L, between the latitudes 44½ degs. N. and 47 degs. N. and longitudes 9 degs. W. and 13 degs. W. The area West of Cape Ortegale will continue to be patrolled by aircraft from Gibraltar and Port Lyautey by day and night. Air patrols in the Bay were curtailed today on account of the weather.

5. Air patrols in the Moorings area were also curtailed on account of the weather today.

Operation  
S.N.222 C.

6. Commodore (M) in AGAMEMNON with MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC and one destroyer arrived at Port ZA this morning from minelaying operation S.N.222 C.

Mediterranean.Attacks  
on  
Hospital  
Ships.

7. C. in C. Med. reports that the German Air Force continues to attack British Hospital Ships. In addition to the sinking of the NEWFOUNDLAND on 13th inst. and the bombing of the ABA (this is the first intimation that ABA was bombed) and of LEINSTER and ST. ANDREW on 13th Sept. it is now reported the SOMERSETSHIRE was bombed on the night 16/17 Sept. but was not damaged. C. in C. Med suggests that in addition to the action which he ordered on 15 Sept. immediate and vigorous action should /...

28.9.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Attacks on  
Hospital  
Ships  
(Contd.)

should be taken by protest and propaganda.  
(For the dénouement see 1 Oct.)

Malta  
Dockyard  
Strike.

8. A strike, 95% complete started in Malta dockyard this morning. There are indications that the strike is spreading.

Algiers  
and  
Bone.

9. Serious congestion of the ports of Algiers and Bone and alarming wastage of shipping are reported. The result of continued shipments at the present level would be that more ships would have to lie outside in open bays in North Africa; but it has not been found possible to get agreement to the cancellation of the Algiers portion of certain K.M.S. and U.G.S. convoys. Instructions are being issued that ports are to be worked night and day.

Brindisi.

10. The first convoy, six ships, arrived at Brindisi and commenced discharging today.

Salerno.

11. Bad weather seriously hampered unloading in the Salerno area yesterday and today. U Beach was closed today and re-opened west of Salerno. Sweeping of a channel to Castellamare commenced today.

S/M's off  
Corsica.

12. The evacuation from Bastia continues. UPROAR reports that shipping leaves by night, passing west of Capraia. UPROAR has damaged one ship outside the harbour. UNSEEN reports that she is returning from patrol between Corsica and the mainland of Italy, having expended all torpedoes. She reports one or 2 ships hit.

Aegean.

13. 3 Wellingtons attacked Syros harbour last night and 3 Baltimores today.

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28.9.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Burma

14. Aircraft today continued their attacks on river and small craft in Burma and on the Arakan coast. Great numbers are reported damaged.

China.

15. Two U.S. Mitchells sank a small tanker in the Gulf of Tongking today.

Australia & New Zealand.

Air attack  
on Wewak  
repeated.

16. 40 Liberators escorted by 37 fighters again attacked the Wewak area (New Guinea) this forenoon. The main ammunition storage dump on Wewak Peninsula was destroyed.

17. Allied destroyers sank 3 or 4 enemy barges in Vella Gulf, New Georgia last night.

Solomon Is.

18. After dusk today an enemy convoy of about 11 ships was sighted and attacked by aircraft when in Bougainville Strait, Solomon Is. Four vessels were hit, one of which was seen to sink whilst two hits on another caused a large explosion.



28.9.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Command of Mixed Groups. Admiralty 1211954.  
At present only Dutch and Belgian vessels are employed in the Nore Command. These work entirely satisfactorily under conditions outlined in para.3 (A) and (B).  
(2) At present there are no Free French vessels in the Nore Command but from past experience with French manned vessels it is considered that the provisions of para. 1 (A) and (B) would be necessary.  
(3) Greek and Norwegian manned vessels have been placed under the orders of Junior British Officers on passage to their operational areas. No objections were raised by the Allied Officers concerned (C. in C. Nore 282156A to Admty.).

Movements.

ORILLIA Hvalfiord arrival ORILLIA.  
(A.C.I.C. 280708A to C.4.).

Group M (BANFF). BANFF sailed at 0900A/28. My 261854A amended by 271040A refers.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 280915A to V.A. Gibraltar).

HUMBOLT, ROCKAWAY. No signal was received by Cardiff of intention of sending U.S.S. HUMBOLT and ROCKAWAY to Avonmouth who arrived Barry Roads 2300/27 without escort or fighter protection.  
(F.O.i/c Cardiff 281014A to Admty.).  
HUMBOLT and ROCKAWAY arrived Bristol at 1952A/28.  
(N.O.i/c Avonmouth 282005A to Admty.).

Escorts for VALIANT, ILLUSTRIOUS, UNICORN, FORMIDABLE. Admiralty 271711.  
R.A.(D) H.F. is requested to sail Capt.D.17 in ONSLOW with MATCHLESS, MAHRATTA, OBEDIENT, HARDY, VENUS, STORD, to Gibraltar leaving Scapa a.m. 29th to arrive Gibraltar 4th October.  
(2) Route.  
(3) On arrival Gibraltar destroyers provide escort to U.K. as ordered by F.O.C. Gibraltar.  
(C. in C.H.F. 281048A to R.A.D.).

29. Comply with C. in C.H.Fs. 28/1048A, passing Switha at 0800A/  
(R.A.D. 281237A to D.17.).

S/M movements. Positions of S/Ms. at 0900/29 and movements for following 24 hours.  
(F.O.S. 281546A, 290904).

Operations.

Interception of LUTZOW. My 271159A and my 271511A. All M.T.Bs. returned to base by 0420A to-day.  
(A.C.O.S. 280426A to Admty.).

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28.9.1943  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Interception of LUTZOW. (Contd.). ULA and SATYR proceed diving by day to patrol line KK and JJ respectively. (2) Object is O.N.200 (2) F. and A. (F.O.S. 281112 to S/MS.). Your 281112. Request position of patrol line JJ. Weather 6781 0281. Position to nearest degree. (SATYR 282105A to F.O.S.).  
Your 282105. Patrol line JJ mid-position 064 degs. 30' N. 006 degs. 00' E. Line of patrol 000 degs. 180 degs. length of line 40 miles. Patrol line KK mid-position 063 degs. 35' N. 005 degs. 00' E., line 340 degs. to 160 degs. length of line 30 miles.  
(F.O.S. 282211A to SATYR, (R) ULA).

Operation "S.F." Sailed OPPORTUNE. (Cdre.D.W.A. 280740 to C. in C.H.F.). Proceed at first light tomorrow with available minesweepers negative SALAMANDER to establish patrol (1) Group A. (2) 062 degs. 24' N. 013 degs. 50' W. 60-60. (3) 225 degs. (4) "Apricot One". (C. in C. Rosyth 281923A to M/S F.1.).  
If not in contact nor any aircraft sightings at 0005/29 Group B return to Skaalefiord.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 281925A and 282300A to SAVAGE).  
Scapa arrival OPPORTUNE.  
(A.C.O.S. 281932 to Cdre. Londonderry).  
Cancel my 281923 in view of gale warning.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 282254A to M/S F.1.).

S/M patrols. (1) 0.15 revert to eight hours notice and remain at Lerwick.  
(2) STONEHENGE revert to eight hours notice and sail for Holy Rock as arranged by Capt.(S) 3rd. (F.O.S. 281154A to S.O. S/M Lerwick).

Positions of submarines at 0800/29 and movements for following 24 hours.  
(A) STOIC, VARANGIAN as in my 271754.  
(B) SEADOG approx. 73 degs. 50' N. 07 degs. 30' E. probably on the surface towards 63 degs. 15' N. 02 degs. 30' W. S.O.A. 10 knots.  
(C) ULA on patrol vicinity 63 degs. 35' N. 05 degs. E.  
(D) SATYR approaching patrol position 64 degs. 30' N. 06 degs. E. from the southward, dived by day.  
(E) RUBIS escorted by CHASER 14 from Dartmouth vicinity Eddystone due 180 degs. Lizard 10 at 1430/29 thence unescorted towards 48 degs. 30' N. 06 degs. 01' W. diving by day south of 49 degs. 30' N. and then to southward, advance 85 miles a day.  
(F) UNITED (P.44) 46 degs. 28' North 05 degs. 35' West dived by day through 47 degs. 01' North 06 degs. 31' West thence to northward advance 105 miles daily.  
(G) UNTIRING 44 degs. 20' N. 09 degs. 53' W. diving by day through 44 degs. 20' N. 10 degs. 30' W. thence to the southward, advance 105 miles daily.  
(L) CLYDE 43 degs. 30' N. 39 degs. 59' W. on the surface to the westward through 43 degs. 30' N. 35 degs. W. at 0001A/30, thence towards 43 degs. 31' N. 22 degs. W. advance 38 miles in 24 hours. (F.O.S. 281546A to Admty.).

/Coastal...

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

Coastal patrols. (1) Orders for night 28/29.  
 (a) GREY FOX, GREY OWL, GREY SEAL, GREY SHARK anti E-boat patrol weather permitting on 50 degs. 20' N. between 1 deg. 00' W. and 1 deg. 40' W. from 2100A to 0500A.  
 (b) CHASSEURS 41, 12 patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between F and E.A.5 buoys.  
 (c) LA COMBATTANTE M.L.344 immediate notice St. Helens.  
 (d) M.L.233, 124, R.M.L.523 patrolling 50 degs. 20' N. between 2 degs. 00' W. and 2 degs. 25' W.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth 281521).

Bay patrol. My 271557. PHOEBE sailed.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth 281800A to F.O.C.Gibraltar).  
 Continued lack of sightings in the revised Bay of Biscay patrol - areas indicate that U-boats are continuing ultra cautious tactics as far as 22 degs. West and the failure of our present patrols to locate U-boats at night suggests that night-flying cover is not of sufficient density. It is therefore proposed to revert to the unclimbable fence policy increasing night effort substantially at expense of day effort. The present areas are too large for this purpose and the following are therefore instituted - A daylight area "Percussion K" bounded by parallels 44 degs. 30' N. and 47 degs. N. and meridians 10 degs. W. and 12 degs. W. A night area "Percussion L" bounded by parallels 44 degs. 30' N. and 47 degs. N. and meridians 9 degs. W. and 11 degs. W. This area will be shifted east or west from time to time on orders from this H.Q. "Percussion L" will be covered as densely as possible by Leigh light A/C supported by all available Sunderlands in 19 Gp. 547 Sqdn. and three sorties per night of Liberators or Halifax. The primary function of A/C not fitted with Leigh light is to flood the area and force the U-boats to submerge so as to present opportunity for attack the following day. Normal patrol height for these A/C should be from 1500 to 2000 ft. S/E indications should be followed up by the best attack possible in the conditions prevailing having regard to limitations of equipment and training. On dark nights the Leigh light type of approach by S/E is recommended, dropping two depth charges space 200 feet at a calculated time interval after the contact disappeared into the sea return. A genuine attack should sometimes be possible in moonlight. Any sighting is to be vigorously followed up by day by the present homing procedure for concentrating A/C and by night by relays of single or pairs of A/C. These new patrols are to be introduced as from first light 29th September.

(H.Q.C.C. 281906A to 19 Group).

By D/F at 2115Z/28. U-boat estimated within 45 miles of 46 degs. 20' N. 06 degs. 00' W.

(D.D.I.C. 282245A to UNITED).

Patrol shelled. During patrol in accordance with my 271531A. M.G.B.611, M.T.B. 252, 249, 254 patrolled coast between St. Valery and Treport. Force was engaged by shore batteries when 3 miles north of Dieppe and retired seaward, thence returning to base for weather. Mine was detonated in 50 degs. 03' N. 00 degs. 50' E. No damage or casualties.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth 281856A to Admty.).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

Bergen area. Request photographic R/C of following in Bergen area. New cover of Misje, Solsviksund and Svelgensund on a scale large enough to see booms or other obstructions; also of Puddefjord and neighbouring anchorage showing shipping, harbour craft, etc. New cover of photos if already existent of Hjalholmene and surrounding islands, the northern shore of Osterfjord between Flaty and Molderviksund, of Dalevaag, Eidsfjord and southern end of Ostfjord, all these latter to show topographical details. Request photos and interpretations be sent direct to A.C.O.S. and completed during first week in October.  
(D.D.I.C. 281315A to A.D.I.P.H.)

Bomber Command Operations. On night 27/28th, 5 A/C attacked Emden.  
(H.Q.B.C. 281415A.)

New "Percussion" Areas. (H.Q.C.C. 281906A to 19 Group.)  
See Operations.

Mining.

Operation F.D.46. (RUBIS.) My 271101. Postponed 24 hours owing to weather.  
(N.C.I.C. Dartmouth 280434A to C. in C.Plymouth.)  
My 281754 as amended by my 270712. Para. D. RUBIS escorted by CHASSEUR XIV leaves Dartmouth for position 180° Lizard 10 miles at 0630/29.  
(F.O.S. 281511A to Admty.)

S.N.222C. Arrived Commodore (M) in AGAMEMNON with MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, SALADIN in company.  
(TRELAWNY 280910A to Admty.)

N.L.103, N.L.104. My 271750. N.L.103 and N.L.104 abandoned owing to weather.  
(V.A.Dover 280935A.)

Humber. Magnetic Mine detonated 1147, 041° Humber Light Vessel 4.8 miles.  
(F.O.Humber 281327 and 281837A.)

Dover. 1. It is desired to carry out following minesweeping operations in Dover Command.  
A. To clear 108 Q.Z.X. from western end to western edge of 738 Q.Z.X.  
B. To investigate and if necessary clear 982 Q.Z.X.  
C. To investigate German known minefields in mid channel at points to be proposed by F.O.Dover to test enemy's reactions.  
2. F.O.Dover has full discretion to cancel any operation.  
3. C. in C.Nore is requested to make 18th M.S. Flotilla available but subject to immediate recall by him should enemy minelaying so necessitate.  
(D.M.S.281543A to C. in C.Nore, F.O.Dover.)

/Straits...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - Contd.

Straits of  
Dover.

Mine detonated in 50° 03' N. 00° 50' E.  
(C. in C.Portsmouth 281856A.)  
See Operations.

Harwich.

One ground mine reported by Sunk Head Fort  
detonated by M.M.S. at 1825 today in approx. 51°  
50.9' N. 1° 34.5' E.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 281859A and 291413A.)

Technical.

Acoustic  
Homing  
Torpedo.

Admiralty 222010. Fact that escorts only have  
been attacked by new weapon suggests that this  
may home on to asdic transmission and not on to  
propellor noise.

2. If this is so, fact that escorts have been hit  
aft may be explained by lag in firing mechanism.  
(OSPREY 280947A to Admty.)

In connection with counter measures against acoustic homing  
torpedo there is a high priority requirement for a destroyer  
capable of 20 knots to be lent for 2 months for the exclusive  
use of VERNON M/S department at Port Edgar.

2. C. in C.W.A. is requested to detail one destroyer for this  
service forthwith, withdrawing one from "Moorings" if necessary.  
3. C. in C.Rosyth is requested to detail 1 destroyer to relieve  
the one mentioned in para. 2 in 1 month's time.

(A.C.N.S.H. 281713A to C. in C.W.A. C. in C.Rosyth.)

"Foxyer"  
Gear.

My 261144. Experience has now shown that it is  
essential that "Foxyer" gear be streamed towed  
and recovered from positions abaft the propellers.  
A case has already occurred of ships having to  
return to harbour with 130 fathoms of wire round  
her screw.

2. The fitting of Davits right aft and the trial of gear at sea  
is now being undertaken at Greenock and Londonderry in each type  
escort and the result will be signalled as soon as known.

3. In meantime the collection of suitable davits and preparation  
for fitting pair of them right aft in all escort vessels must be  
pressed on with. Depth charge davits which have been removed  
from escorts recently fitted with parbuckle gear should in most  
cases be found suitable but any other similar type davit should  
be used including those fitted elsewhere in ships and now found  
to be redundant. A working load of 10 cwt. should be aimed at.

4. Any difficulties experienced in finding sufficient davits  
locally should be reported at once so that early arrangements  
can be made to supply them from every other source available.  
(C. in C.W.A. 281210Z.)

Casualties & Defects.

M.L. 247.

Proceed to assist vessel believed M.L. 247 in 180  
St. Catherines 5, course 270, speed 5 knots.  
(C. in C.Portsmouth 280509A to ALBRIGHTON,  
BLEASDALE.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

- M.L.247. My 280509. Escort vessel to harbour. Burn  
(Contd.) navigation lights.  
(C. in C.Portsmouth 280516A to ALBRIGHTON,  
BLEASDALE.)
- M.L. 122, M.L.233, Collision. M.L.122 of 4th M.L. Flotilla was in collision with  
M.L.233 during patrol on night of 26/27 Sept. and  
received extensive damage. M.L. 233 superficial  
damage to stern only.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland 281037 to Admty.)
- STARLING. E.G.2's 261640. STARLING can be taken in hand  
forthwith for docking at Belfast for clearing wire  
round propellor.  
(D.O.D.H. 281151A to C. in C.W.A.)  
Propose sailing STARLING for Belfast forthwith.  
(C. in C.W.A. 281616A to Admty.)
- L.C.T.722. L.C.T.722 stranded in position off Blackgang  
Chine, I., of W. early this morning due to gale.  
All crew landed safely.  
(C. in C.Portsmouth 281306A to Admty.)
- ST. ELSTAN. ST. ELSTAN will be delayed with defective main  
feed pump. 2. Probable time of completion, p.m.  
1st Oct. 3. Admty. 242140 refers.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 282130A to C. in C.W.A.)
- Shipping & Convoys.
- U.A.1. Sailed convoy in accordance with my 271006A.  
L.S.T.13 did not sail.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 280746A to C. in C.W.A.)  
My 280746A. CORFIRTH did not sail. Crew trouble.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 281224A to C. in C.W.A.)
- EMPIRE KINSMAN, ATLANTIC. EMPIRE KINSMAN and ATLANTIC will sail for  
Archangel 1930C/29th escorted by BRITOMART and  
Russian destroyers GRI(?ALS)CHI and GROMKI.  
(S.B.N.O.N.Russia 281003C to S.B.N.O.Archangel.)
- P.W.407. P.W.407 is cancelled.  
(C. in C.Portsmouth 281055A.)
- U.A.3. Admty. 242115. 1. INCONSTANT, GARLAND are to  
escort FRANCONIA from Liverpool to Belfast sailing  
1330A/2nd. 2. INCONSTANT, GARLAND are to fuel at  
Belfast and subsequently escort FRANCONIA to R/V  
FENCER, BURZA, WHITEHALL, WRESTLER, VISCOUNT, from Clyde as  
arranged by N.O.I.C. Greenock. 3. FENCER is to form part of 8th  
group for forthcoming duty. 4. S.O.FENCER.  
(C. in C.W.A. 281156A.)

/Intend...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

- U.A.3.  
(contd). Intend sailing SS. FRANCONIA escorted by INCONSTANT and GARLAND 1330A/2nd. for Belfast. Speed 12 knots E.T.A. Belfast 2330A/2nd.  
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 281446A).
- D.S.45 As FLEETWOOD is defective SCIMITAR from Londonderry is to R/V with AMBUSCADE escorting CHAMPOLLION in 270° Oversay 6 miles at 0700A/30th.  
(C. in C. W.A., 281229A).
- F.N.40 M.  
SHERWOOD. My 271010A. Postponed owing to weather. Intend to sail SHERWOOD in tow of SEA GIANT with F.N. 40 (M) on 30th.  
(C. in C. Nore, 281453A to F.O.I.C. Humber).
- U.A.2.  
EMPIRE OUT-  
POST.  
ST. ELSTAN. It is probable that EMPIRE OUTPOST will be several hours late and will not be ready to sail with remainder of convoy U.A.2. Request that she be sailed to overtake convoy at maximum speed and a suitable escort detached for her.  
(Cdre. Force E, 281510A to Admty. C. in C. W.A.)  
ST. ELSTAN delayed by defect.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 282130A to C. in C. W.A.)  
See Casualties.
- T.A.66 Intend sailing SS. QUEEN MARY passing Clyde boom 2030A/29 to comply with A.M. 262003A. S. of A. 26½ knots. "Chop" 3rd October E.T.A. Ambrose Light Ship 0830Z/5th.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 281808A to Admty).  
My 242130 para. 2. Change destination of CORFELL to Angra.  
(D.O.D. H., 281840A to U.A.1).
- O.N.204.  
ATHENE Sailed ATHENE in convoy O.N. 204 to comply with Admty. 121114A. Destination New York.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 282134A).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

PICT,  
ST. WISTAN. On relief by IMPERIALIST and LORD HOTHAM, PICT and ST. WISTAN are to proceed Casablanca (route). (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 280053 to GORLESTON, PICT, ST. WISTAN, IMPERIALIST, LORD HOTHAM, C.M.S.F, Admty. F.O.C.W.Af).

LOCH OSKAIG, defect  
EMPIRE  
HARRY,  
TITUSVILLE. Am in approx. 035° 50' N., 010° 20' W. EMPIRE HARRY in company. TITUSVILLE last seen at 0100 steaming 085° at 8 knots. Am endeavouring to regain contact with merchant ship whilst proceeding Gibraltar. Request A/C assistance if available. Have developed leak in boiler room. My speed reduced to 5 knots. Weather report 4380 2215.  
(LOCH OSKAIG, 280920B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

O.S.55  
K.M.S. 27. O.S.55 (G) ANTHONY, BRILLIANT, COMMANDANT DROGOU and OXNA escorting 11 ships.  
(2) When R/V is made COMMANDANT DROGOU and OXNA continue to Freetown with O.S.55. K.M.S. 27 is to part company escorted by BARLE, GODAVARI, BRILLIANT and ANTHONY and proceed through (T) 035° 50' 007° 01' for 035° 45' 006° 30' Q.B.A. 87 to 036° 01' 005° 21' 035° 40' 003° 45' 035° 38' 002° 14' 035° 56' 000° 50' letters BB to BE thence as ordered by C. in C. Med. Fleet. All positions North and West.  
(3) Med. escort join in position BB detail follows.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 281059A).  
K.M.S. 27 intend sailing (details).  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 281208A to F.Os. I.C. and N.Os. I.C. North Africa (Oran to Tripoli) (R) Admty. etc).

T.G.21.12  
T.F.62. T.G.21.12 departing Casablanca 291300 (?estimated) S. of A. 15 operates east of Azores (?until) time (?stated) T.F.62 escorting G.U.S.16.  
(C.M.S.F.F., 281237B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) Admty. etc).

TITUSVILLE  
mistaken  
for U/B. Am over enemy S/M on surface in 01.05 S., 08.58 W.  
(W.D. Note. lat. apparently incorrect).  
(A/C B/48, 281322 to R.A.F. Gib).  
A/C B/48 281322, 281325Z, A.M. 292325A, Gib. 301105B.

FRUCTIDOR  
and MARIE  
MAD. Sailed my 271540B.  
(C.M.S.F., 281335B to F.O.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med., Admty. Com. Algiers).

PASTEUR Arrived.  
(C.M.S.F.F., 281355 to Com. 10th Fleet C. and R. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. Admty. etc).



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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

SLESVIG

Sailed to meet E/V 1600. Has taken 4 Danish officers from other 2 ships who are anxious to serve.  
Attitude of Masters of other ships still unchanged (Consul Las Palmas, 281703 to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty. etc).

Italian ships in Balearics.

F.O.I.C. Gibraltar please pass to C. in C. Med. (Algiers). Your 251926 N.T. in W.D. Italian Ambassador suggests to H.M. Charge D'Affaires and U.S. Ambassador that it would help enormously to avoid difficulties with personnel when getting Italian warships away from Balearic Islands if Italian F.O.s could arrive to take charge, but essential suggestion should not appear to emanate from here.  
(B.N.A. Madrid, 281728B to C. in C. Med. (A), (R) Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

F.O.I.C. Gibraltar please pass C. in C. Med. (corrupt group). Your 251926.  
Request first destination for each Merchant Ship in view of fact these are so scattered (see my 240306) N.T. in W.D. Details of fuel etc. are now coming in and we must estimate further fuel required.  
I doubt if any ship will sail without escort.  
We propose to bring crews up to strength with volunteers from survivors of ROMA.  
Diplomatic representation for release of both Merchant Ships and Warships proceeding.  
(B.N.A. Madrid, 281802B to C. in C. Med. Algiers, (R) Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).  
Your 251926 (Re merchant ships should go to Algiers and not Palermo). Details of fuel requirements for warships not yet received but none have enough to reach even Algiers.  
We shall have to send fuel to Port Mahon and Palma.  
In view of uncertain state of discipline among ship's companies I propose subject to your approval inform men destination is Palermo (when time comes to do so). C.O. alone need know real (9 missing groups) psychological stimulus of return to Italy will be almost essential to get ship (corrupt group) out.  
Admty. please pass to C. in C. Med. A.  
(B.N.A. Madrid, 281843B to C. in C. Med. Algiers).

Gibraltar movements.

Departures. COMMANDANT DELAGE to Oran, U.S.S. DOYLE, PIONEER, PORTENT to join G.U.S. 16.  
HAARLEM escort duties Huelva.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 282008A to Admty. etc).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

- ITAPAGE My 271352 Ship was attacked 1630 G.M.T. 26th.  
torpedoed (B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 281348Z to Admty. (R)  
26th C. in C. S.At. F.O.C. W.Af.)  
Sept.
- Relations After two months stay in South African ports  
between the relations between Captain, Officers and men  
French of Battleship LORRAINE and representatives of  
at South French National Committee of Liberation are  
African excellent. This was not so with the four  
Ports. Cruisers which only remained a few days and  
is all the more satisfactory as Adm. Godfroy  
refused to receive these representatives if  
they wore the Cross of Lorraine and left  
definate instructions to the Battleship that intercourse  
with them must be restricted as much as possible.  
(2) Representative of Committee of Liberation was given passage  
in LORRAINE from Durban to Capetown and allowed to mix freely  
with officers and men.  
(3) My 041658 August refers.  
(C. in C. S.A. 281450C to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)
- D.K.A.2. Sailed FALMOUTH, ASTER, STELLA POLARIS,  
WELLARD, INDIAN STAR, LADY ROSEMARY escorting  
convoy D.K.A. 2. N.C.S.O. Durban 281441 refers.  
(Com. i/c Durban, 281451Z to Admty.)
- CARNARVON Departure 1033Z/28th CARNARVON CASTLE, NESS  
CASTLE, on Ocean Patrol.  
NESS. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 281805Z to Cdr. 4th U.S.  
Comar, Dakar, N.O.I.C. Ascension.)
- DOMINE, Arrivals. 0700/26. ABERDEEN, LOWESTOFT  
suspected escorting Spanish M.V. DOMINE.  
contraband. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 281812 to N.O.I.C.Lagos (R)  
N.O.I.C. Takoradi. Admty.)
- C.F.14. (1) B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire sail C.F.14 escorted  
by WOLVERINE, BOADICEA, DOUGLAS, BULLDOG and  
BEAGLE as soon as escort have fuelled routed as  
in my 251822 not to all addressees.  
(2) F.S. LORRAINE detaches WOLVERINE and BOADICEA as requisite  
to refuel at Takoradi and rejoin. S.O. subsequently detaches  
any other destroyers to whom fuel is necessary also to get.  
(3) LORRAINE detaches DOUGLAS, BULLDOG and BEAGLE at position  
X 007 degs. 30' N. 014 degs. 30' W. to escort STRATHAIRD to  
Freetown. LORRAINE escorted by WOLVERINE and BOADICEA proceeds  
through Y 010 degs. N. 017 degs. 45' W. Z 014 degs. 39' N.  
017 degs. 39' W. to Dakar.  
(4) B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire report E.T.A. Freetown and Dakar.

(5) /...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

C.F.14  
(Contd.)

(5) Comar Dakar is requested to sail WOLVERINE and BOADICEA to Freetown as soon as possible after fuelling.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 281905 to B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, Comar Dakar, LORRAINE, (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Takoradi, WOLVERINE, N.O.I.C. Lagos.)  
(as amended 291055)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

TETCOTT. Your 272(7353) (N.T. in W.R.) not to all addressees. TETCOTT has not yet returned from Taranto Area. Expect she will sail to Bizerta from Augusta 30th Sept.  
(39th E.G. 280031A to Capt. D.5th D.F. (R)  
S.O.36th E.G. N.O.I.C. Bizerta, F.O.T.A. S.O.39th E.G.)

UNSEEN, Torpedoes expended. 1 poss. 2 ships hit.  
UPROAR, Returning by route in your 271530A all times 24  
USURPER, hours early.  
Bastia. (P.51 (UNSEEN) 280043A to Capt. S.8, (R) Capt. S.10, Subs. on Patrol.)  
Evacuation of Bastia continues, shipping leaves by night passing west of Capraia one ship damaged outside harbour, 3 torpedoes remain.  
(UPROAR 280134A to Capt. S.8th S.F. (R) C. in C. Med. Capt. S.10th S.F. 8th S.F.)

Advance all times in my 271530 (route of P.51, P.31, etc.) by 24 hours. P.51 (UNSEEN) and P.31 (UPROAR) now leaving patrol on 28th and 20th arriving Algiers 1st and 2nd October respectively. P.56 (USURPER) to patrol in S.R.north of 043° N. after 2000/28th. (Capt. S.8 280344A to 8th S/M F. (R) Capt. S.10, C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Algiers.)

M.K.F.24. My 260859. Philippeville section sailed. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville 280057 to HURWORTH, Escorts M.K.F.24.)  
(Corrupt group). Ocean route.  
(C. in C. Med. 281457A to PELICAN, (R) F.O.C. Gib. U.S.N.O.B. Oran. Adnty.)

Sailing telegram, 17 ships. 2. 1430A/28. 3. Sailed together. 4. 12 knots. 5. and 8. as in C. in C. Med's 281457\* 6. As in C. in C. Med's 221951+. 13. A. Commodore Crabbe R.N.R. in STRATHMORE for Clyde B. Master CAMERONIA for Clyde.

(Com. Algeria 281630.) \* re route of M.K.F.24.

+ re sailing of M.K.F.24A.

M.K.F.24, names and destinations 16 ships including CARTHAGE for Clyde.

(Com. Algeria 281703A.)

Sailings to FORTUNE escorting L.S.T. 79 sailing Algiers 1200/  
and from 28th through 039° 23' 007° 23' 040° 46' 007° 50'  
Corsica. thence direct to Ajaccio. Speed 10 knots. Vessel leave Ajaccio after dark 30th by reverse route to arrive Algiers 1st Oct.

2. Fishery Protection Vessel 2017 sailing Algiers 0900/28th through 039° 50' 005° 00' 041° 50' 006° 00' thence direct to Ajaccio.

(Capt. S.8 280122A to 8th S.F. F.S. ARETHUSE, (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers.)

My 280122 FORTUNE and L.S.T.79 sailed 1600 today and are now due back at Algiers on 2nd Oct.

2. Fishery Protection Vessel 2017 also left Algiers at 1600 today Tuesday.

(Capt. S.8 281646A to 8th S/M F. ARETHUSE (F.S.) (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers.)

/CORNELIA...

War Diary.

28.9.1943.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- CORNELIA P. SPENCER. Survivors landed at Aden, see Com. Aden 280836Z in East Indies.
- APHIS, SCARAB. Request you will sail APHIS and SCARAB to Malta as soon as possible after arrival, SCARAB at Augusta.  
(N.O.I.C. Sicily 280855 to N.O.I.C. Augusta, (R) V.A.Malta, C. in C.Med. etc.)
- KRAKOWIAK, ATHERSTONE. If not in contact proceed to Bizerta.  
(C. in C.Med. 280905A to KRAKOWIAK, ATHERSTONE, (R) N.O.I.C. Bizerta, N.O.I.C. Bone.)
- Malta Dockyard Strike. Strike, nearly complete, started in dockyard this morning.  
There are indications that the strike is spreading.  
(V.A.Malta 280945A, 281255, No T.O.O/28th to Admty. C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant, F.O.C.Gib.)
- U.G.S.17. My P.C. and S. 035° 40' N. 014° 05' E. 079° 10 knots. SS. EMPIRE VISION in company rest of Malta Section of U.G.S.17 said to be straggling astern. Not found after sweep to depth of 20 miles.  
(ZETLAND 281715A to V.A.Malta, (R) GLOXINIA.)  
Passed to Admty. for information. ZETLAND's 281715A. Following ships detached from U.G.S.17 for Malta. OCEAN VISION, ICELAND, TAUTRA, (M.M.W.C.) NORMANDY COAST and SURF. Last 2 merchant ships were straggling.
- C.T.F. 21.4. O.T.9 VERA CRUZ and FECHTELDR (U.S.S.) rejoined.  
(C.T.F. 21.4 281030Z to C. in C.Med. Commorseafron C. in C.Lant, F.O.C.Gib. Comnavu.)
- Air reports. 28th Sept. 1059Z daily opsum 153. 26/27 Sept. 4 Wellingtons (?Samos or Leros) Harbour. Explosions on quay, fires warehouse area. 27th Sept. 1 Baltimore (A.30) anti-shipping R/C Aegean, 1 caique 80 tons bombed off Cape St. John, Crete no hits. Cos Spitfire provided patrols over Cos and Leros. In afternoon 8 He. 111's preceded by strong forces of Me.109s bombed Leros Harbour. Preliminary reports indicate 2 Cant. Z.50ls destroyed on water, 1 motor boat sunk, seaplane hangar damaged.  
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 281057Z.)  
A.V. 693E Sept. 28th. N.A.A.F. Opsum 219. N.W.A.C.A.F. 27th Sept. 4 U.S.Mitchells on search for enemy shipping found no targets 2 Wellingtons U-Boat hunts. 1 sighted surfaced S/M 35 miles East Ustica and attacked with 3 depth charges while periscope was still visible. First depth charge dropped on swirl and remaining 2 up track. No results seen.  
(H.Q.N.A.A.F. 281401A.)

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War Diary.

28.9.1943.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- K.M.S.27. Intend to sail 21 ships.  
(N.O.B.Oran 281119A 291541 to S.O.Escorts K.M.S. 27, (R) Admty. etc.)
- ?U/B. There may be a German U-Boat bound for Toulon in very approx. position 040° 30' N. 006° 30' E. at 0800/28th.  
(Capt. S.8 281146B to ULTIMATE, ARETHUSE, (R) 8th S.F. C. in C.Med.)
- S.T.S.4. Arrived Fort Walsh, 9 ships.  
(V.A.Malta 281229 to Admty. etc.)
- K.M.F.24. Arrived 28th.  
(P.S.T.O.M.E. 281229E to D.S.T.)  
K.M.F. 24 arrived less Alexandria portion detached.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 281538C to Admty. etc.)
- SOMERSETSHIRE. Request hospital ship SOMERSETSHIRE be sailed as quickly as possible to northernmost beaches and return to Philippeville.  
(P.S.T.O.Med. 281230A to N.O.I.C. Philippeville, (R) N.C.W.T.F.)  
Intend to sail SOMERSETSHIRE to northern beach at 1800A today 28th E.T.A. a.m. 30th.  
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville 281339A to P.S.T.O. Med. (R) F.O.Sy. N.A.C.A.F. N.A.T.A.F. M.A.C. Admty. F.O.C.Gib. C. in C.Med. V.A.Malta, C. in C.Levant, Cdre. Algiers.)
- DINARD. Sailed hospital carrier DINARD by "Avon" route 9 and Q.B.B. 219 (1) E.T.A. 290600.  
(N.O.I.C. Catania 281443 to S.N.O. Salerno, (R) N.O.I.C. Sicily, F.O.C.Gibraltar, C. in C.Med. V.A.Malta, N.O.I.C. Messina, Admty. 211 Group, C. in C.Levant, Cdre. Algiers.)
- Algiers & Bone. Accumulation of ships in Algiers without any immediate prospect of discharge. (details).  
5. It is considered essential that immediate steps be taken to alleviate this most serious congestion and alarming wastage of shipping.  
Instructions are being issued to all ports that ships are to be worked night and day and that dock clearance and depot reception be worked on the same basis.  
6. The situation at the port of Bone has also been examined and it is found that a similar condition exists.  
7. Nasbo have considered the question of cancellation of the Algiers portion of certain K.M.S. and U.G.S. convoys but it has not been found possible to get this agreed by all concerned so far. The N.C. in C. is not in favour of more ships than at present lying outside in open bays in North Africa which would be a result of continued shipments at the present level.  
(M.W.T.R.Med. 281520A.)

/ARETHUSE...

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28.9.1943.

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

- ARETHUSE.** ARETHUSE may leave patrol through 042° 01' 006° 13' at 2100/29th 040° 00' 005° 14' at 1100/30th 038° 01' 003° 13' at 0330/1st, thence R/V escort Algiers in 037° 03' 003° 04' at 0930/1st Oct.
2. If she does not comply with para. 1 above ARETHUSE may leave her area by same route at corresponding time on any of the 4 following nights. Report her intentions as soon as practicable. (Capt. S.8 281530A to 8th S/M F. (R) ARETHUSE, C. in C.Med. N.O.I.C. Algiers.)
- STRATHEDEN.** 04 28th Sept. STRATHEDEN Suez 1st Oct. oil 600 coastal. (N.C.S.O. Aden 281601Z to A.I.G.88, (R) C. in C. Levant, etc.)
- GLENEARN, NIBLACK, EURYALUS.** Take NIBLACK under your orders and sail at 1800A/28 for Bizerta.
2. Thence through 90, 40 war channel.
3. S.O.A. 20 knots E.T.A. 1000A Sept. 29th.
4. Codeword "Zipper" 682 priority high (corrupt grp)
5. If required by your passengers N.O.I.C. Bizerta is requested to sail EURYALUS and NIBLACK to Palermo routed through 119, 55, (?38), 23 and 4 using same codeword.
6. If not required as in para. 5 EURYALUS should be (corrupt group) to Algiers and NIBLACK to Palermo or (?Malta) by W.N.T.F.
7. EURYALUS acknowledge. (C. in C.Med. 281601A to (corrupt addressee), GLENEARN, NIBLACK, N.O.I.C. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Bone, N.O.I.C. Bizerta, N.O.B.Oran, W.N.T.F. Comnavnav, C. in C.Med. in (?Malta).)
- N.L.Os.** N.L.Os. are at present attached to following Army and (?Air) H.Q. in Central Med. 69B and my 041859 are cancelled.
- A. 15th Army Group and N.A.T.A.F. (Near Bari).
- B. 8th Army. C. 10th Corps. D. Number 1 M.O.R.U. (Taranto area).
- E. 211 Group (East Sicily) F. Number 62 Fighter Wing (West Sicily). G. 12th A.S.C. H. M.A.C., N.A.A.F.N.A.S.A.F.
- I. Cape Misurator Sector.
2. All keep M.X. broadcast except G. who has no naval communication and H. for whom Bizerta C.C.O. is automatically responsible.
3. Call signs and D.Gs. where not allocated by Admiralty are laid down in station messages and P.O.N.C.O. (C. in C.Med. 281616A.)
- CROMARTY minesweeping.** Cotrone. My 271811 area South of 039° 06' N. from 039° 06' N. 017° 08.9' E. as far as 100 fathom line to East and limit of Q.B.B. 233 12 mines cut 3 detonated total to date 100. (CROMARTY 281624 to C. in C.Med. (R) N.O.I.C. Sicily, V.A.Malta, F.O.T.A.)
- M.K.F.25.** A.M. 241821 (N.T. in W.D.) para. 3. Proposed sailing date for M.K.F.25 from Port Said about Oct. 16th to arrive at Algiers p.m. Oct. 21st leaving Algiers about Oct. 23rd. (C. in C.Med. 281625A to Admty. etc.)

/Glider...

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28.9.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Glider Bomb. Your 261808A no practicable method locating bombs buried in sea bottom exists. Asdic search or Steybrite sweep might locate if partially buried.  
Your 261810A. Mark II Steam Trepanning Boiling Out Plant which can cut over 2½ inches deep and penetrate anywhere in rear half of bomb is available at Malta. Electric Trepanner available in Levant.  
(D.G.D. & D.U.B.D. 281733A to Cdre. N. (R) C. in C.Med. V.A.Malta.)

FIRUZ. My 251102C (251112C/9 intended) FIRUZ sailed for Bourgas Sept. 28th. N.L.O.Black Sea informed. (S.O.I. Istanbul 281743C to C. in C.Levant, S.O.I.Levant, (R) S.1, S.10, D.N.I.)

JERVIS, PETARD, SCIPIONE AFRICANO. JERVIS and PETARD have steam at 1 hours notice from 1030/29th. You will be required to escort SCIPIONE AFRICANO to Taranto, route and time of sailing as ordered by N.O.I.C. Malta.  
2. On arrival Taranto act under orders of F.O.T.A. for Otranto Straits Patrol.  
3. Acknowledge. 4. F.O.T.A. pass to F.O.L.I. (S.O.Force H 281801 to Cept. D.14th D.Flot. (R) N.O.I.C. Malta, C. in C.Med. Capt. H. F.O.T.A. F.O.L.I. PETARD.)

U/B dispositions. U-Boats between 007° E. and 020° E. Estimate one in the Gulf of Gaeta. One in Gulf of Salerno one in vicinity of Ustica, one in Straits of Otranto (C. in C.Med. 281803A to All N. & A.A. concerned with U/B disposition signals 007° to 20° E. (R) C. in C.Levant, F.O.C.Gibraltar, (addressee missed))

Attacks on Hospital Ships. Following is a repetition of my 171933 (N.T. in W.D) Attacks continue to be made on British hospital ships by German Air Force. In addition to previously reported sinking of NEWFOUNDLAND and bombing of ABA LEMISTER and ST. ANDREW now reported SOMERSETSHIRE bombed night 16th/17th Sept. no damage  
2. Suggest immediate and vigorous action by protest and propaganda to abate this nuisance this in addition to action in my 150857.  
(C. in C.Med. 281804 to Admty. (R) P.S.T.O.Med. N.C.W.T.F.)

Italian tankers for Bizerta. Request all Italian tankers not water carriers fit for service be sailed to Bizerta.  
2. N.O.I.C. Bizerta is requested to equip these with British - American adapters, the metric adapter to be retained on board.  
3. Report to Admty. by signal as each tanker becomes ready for duty giving name, capacity and whether for furnace, diesel or white fuel.  
4. N.A.S.B.O. agrees.  
(C. in C.Med. 281813A to F.O.Sy. F.O.T.A. V.A.Malta, etc.)

/Force Z...



War Diary.

28.9.1943.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Force Z. Your 201657\*. Force letter Z allocated, the Force to include all Italian ships and vessels laid up in Alexandria harbour. Italian destroyers and smaller craft which are to be seagoing would not be included.  
(Head of M.II 281830A to C. in C.Levant, (R) C. in C.Med. R.A.Alexandria.)  
\* request Italian squadron at Alexandria be allocated a force letter for convenience of ref.

Supply of oil fuel. Please See Ambassador to F.O.  
If we are to use (?non allied) channels for supply of oil fuel alternatives seem to be:  
A. to introduce fuel in Turkey by land and get it joined up with civilian supplies going forward under red crescent scheme through Kusada or  
B. to develop caique traffic in drums from Alexandretta or Haifa.  
2. Either solution would be slow and inadequate but unless you decide to bring in heavy oil through your own channels without defeating allied constitution (2 corrupt groups) no better course seems to be practicable.  
3. Following statistics are of interest in this (??matter), details.  
4. Embassy will not carry matter further until your wishes are known. In reply give definite estimates of amount of oil other than heavy oil likely to be required.  
5. In view of Bairam it is unlikely that even at best we can do (group omitted) with Turkish before next week.  
6. Admiralty only. Please repeat to F.O.  
(B.N.A.Ankara 281900C to C. in C.Levant, (R) Admty.)

Rescue tugs. Precedence when used for escorts or tows to U.K.  
(Capt. in Charge Rescue Tugs 281913A to C. in C.Med. (R) C. in C.Levant, F.O.C.Gibraltar, V.A. Malta, M.S.R.T. Malta.)

M.E.Report. Cositrep No. 8. One. Int. A. Aegean two 8.8 c.m. and some two c.m. guns reached T.P. at Maritza 22nd Sept.  
Comment. Confirms report Cositrep 3 para. 1  
A. that ship arriving Rhodes brought replacement.  
Three. Naval.  
A. Ref. Cositrep 7 para. three C. Sweep not carried out owing lack Int. Now waiting off Cyprus and will be back in position 34, 28 N. 27. 46 E. 2000 hrs., 28th Sept. to carry out anti-  
shipping sweep if necessary.  
B. Convoy RALPH KORITZA POLA and probably EOLA latter carrying survivors from QUEEN OLGA and Greek refugees sailed ex Castelrosso morning 28th Sept. for Beirut.  
Four. Air. C. Own Ops. Night 26/27 Sept. Wellingtons bombed Syros Harbour causing explosions on quay fires in warehouse area.  
D. Enemy Ops. 27th Sept. E. R/C now indicates that with cessation enemy air action on Corfu/Cephalonia area the dive bombers appear to have returned from Western Greece to Athens and Argos area.  
(C. in C.M.E. 281930C.) Note: C.6 Tels:- Advance copy sent A.M.  
To:- M.O.5 (for action.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Bizerta Arrivals FLORES D.S. DALLAS U.S.Destroyer COLE,  
Movements. U.S.Destroyer BERNADOU U.S.Destroyer MULLET  
BORDE. Y.M.S. 3, L.S.T. 25, 61, 419, 383, 392,  
338, 369, 359, 377, 350, 381, 348, 382, P.C. 542,  
624, 625.

Departures SUSTAIN, STEADY, HUNDA, SOEMBA, WESTRAY, GREGORY,  
L.S.T. 2, 349, 326, 422, 415, 164, 160, 402, 199. S.C. 676, 692.  
Arrived and left KNIGHT.  
(N.O.I.C. Bizerta 282005A to Admty. etc.)

DZIK. P.52 (DZIK) reports Siebel ferries sunk by  
torpedoes set to run on surface.  
(Capt. S.10, 282015A to 8th S/M F. (R) Capt. S.8.)

Levant FURY and ECHO continuing patrol south east of  
Situation Rhodes. Casualties in INTREPID 5 killed, 10  
Report No. 64. missing presumed killed, 3 seriously wounded.  
Small convoy escorted by B.T.M.B., French sloops  
LA MOQUEUSE and COMMANDANT DUBOC arrived Caste-  
loriso 27th and now returning Beirut. Leros  
raided by 8 He. at 1550/27th: seaplane base damaged.  
2. Convoys K.M.F.24 arrived 28th with 10 M.Vs for Port Said  
and beyond BATTLER in company for passage to Eastern Fleet.  
K.M.S.26 arrived 28th with M.V.s 8 for Alexandria and 16 for  
Port Said and beyond.  
3. SS. ELIAS HOWE reported sunk by submarine at 0120Z Sept. 24th  
85 miles south east of Aden.  
4. Greek submarine KATSONIS overdue at Beirut since Sept. 24th  
and considered lost. Reported sunk Sept. 15th Gulf of Athens  
area. 2 British and 15 Greek survivors reported prisoners of war.  
(C. in C.Levant 282020.)

Oil stocks. Para. 7 of your 121635 fuel summary for Sept.  
1. Expenditure of furnace oil was much in excess  
of estimate. Incomplete returns indicate over  
80,000 tons per week. Stocks generally are low  
in consequence.  
2. Difficulty was experienced in distribution of 187 octane  
petrol and diesel fuels to assault areas operating bases and  
newly occupied ports due to lack of small tankers.  
3. In addition to maintaining stocks as para. 6 of my 101101  
Aug. intend to build up stocks at Taranto. Slate bids are  
being adjusted accordingly.  
4. Tankers released to mid east ANNA KNUDSEN, EGERO, AMERICAN  
TRADER, FRONTENAC, PELLICULA, TOORAK PAN FLORIDA, NORVIN.  
(C. in C.Med. 282027 to Admty.)

U.S.& French Arrivals PHILADELPHIA (U.S.) AHUBRICK (U.S.)  
Movements. MOUNT BAKER (U.S.). Departures FORTUNE (Fr.)  
LUDLOW (U.S.) Arrived and departed WOOLSEY (U.S.S.)  
EDISON (U.S.) NIBLACK (U.S.)  
(Com. Algeria 282031A.)

/PANTHER...

28.9.1943.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

PANTHER  
defect.

PANTHER has developed split in shell plating in tiller flat. Temporary repairs being effected at Algiers and ship being sailed to Malta a.m. tomorrow.

(C. in C.Med. 282202A to S.O.Force H, (R) Capt. D. 14, N.O.I.C. Algiers.)

Convoy  
A.H.1.

(group missed). M.S.C.1 22 N.O.I.C. Malta 271123. Intend to sail to join A.H.1 sailing at 0530/30 to R/V in 037° 12' N. 015° 22' E. at Delhi 45. A. for Taranto (list). 2A. 7 B. 8. 3. End. Route. E.T.A. 1700/1st Oct. 5, 65, 6 (corrupt grp) 7 (corrupt grp.) 8 POLLOCK and joining with ZETLAND (S.O.) CHIDDINGFOLD, WHEATLAND. (N.O.I.C. Augusta 282206 to N.O.I.C. Malta.)

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28.9.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

C.M.45. Arrival FROBISHER with C.M.45.  
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 280316Z to Admty.)

TRIDENT. Intend sailing TRIDENT 29th Sept.  
to arrive Aden 11th Oct. My 130517Z not to  
all addressees refers.  
(2) N.O.I.C. Aden is requested arrange onward  
passage to (Group missing).  
(3) Route to Aden follows.  
(Capt. (S) 4, 280406Z to C. in C. E.F., N.O.I.C. Aden,  
(?S.O. Force V.) (R) C. in C. Med. F.O. Ceylon, Admty.  
F.O.S. F.O. R.S. and C.A. C. in C. Levant.)

India A.238 28th Sept. Daily Opsum No.562 26  
Air 27 Sept. 2 Beaufighters offensive Henzada.  
Report. 80 ft. barge, 3 steamers, 24 other river-craft  
and 2 M.T. attacked and damaged. 8 Hurricanes  
patrolled Boronga Island area. Attacked and sunk  
6 water transport.  
(A.H.Q. India, 280535Z)

GRIPSHOLM, Request that repatriation ships GRIPSHOLM  
TEIA MARU . and TEIA MARU may be instructed to report daily  
their noon positions SMT to C. in C. E.F. from  
4th October onward.  
(C. in C. E.F. 280620Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.S.A.)

CORNELIA P. Your 210530Z. 33 survivors landed at Aden.  
SPENCER, First torpedo struck port side at No. 5 hatch  
torpedoed breaking shaft. Fire opened on submarine which  
21st Sept. partly surfaced. Second torpedo struck the  
stem port side killing two men. Master then  
abandoned ship.  
(Com. Aden, 280836Z to C. in C. E.F.)

Rocket Technical.  
Glider (C. in C. Ceylon, 281017Z)  
Bombs.

LARCHBANK (a) LARCHBANK. (b) 6 degs. N. 72 degs. E.  
torpedoed approx. at 1700Z Sept. 9. (Col. attacking  
and sunk craft not seen considered to have been U-Boat).  
Sept. 9th. (d) Torpedo. (e) One. (f) Six. (g) No.  
(h) Probably no message made.  
(i) Vessel sank 5 minutes after attack.  
(C. in C. E.F. 281028Z to Admty.)  
(See 291302Z)

Indian /...

28.9.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Indian  
Ocean  
Bases:

Your 031322. Naval defences: Concur in reductions proposed. (Head of M.11 Approved by A.C.N.S.(F), 281205A to C. in C. E.F. (R) F.O. E.Af., F.O. Ceylon, N.O.I.C.Diego Suarez, N.O.I.C.Mauritius, N.O.I.C. Seychelles.)

Convoy  
D.K.1.

Kilindini portion arrived. (N.C.S.O. Kilindini, 281315 to Admty.)

Team E.I.  
962<sup>A</sup>

# 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

IN

DATE: 28.9.43

RECD: 23234

FROM: A.H.Q. India.

*Hyang Boats etc. Indian  
Ocean dispositions.*

ADDRESSED: Air Ministry Whitehall. Repeated H.Q. R.A.F.  
M.E., MAC.222 Group for A.O.C. Admiralty  
(Air Ministry Whitehall please pass) H.Q. R.A.F.  
East Africa for A.O.C. Dechief Pretoria for Balm.

IMPORTANT

MS.19457.

A.245 28 September. Your AX.805 21 September/.

Para 1. Agree policy proposed but feel it necessary to make clear that exercise of "Strategic Control" by A.O.C.222 Group does not as we read your signal mean that he can be responsible for operational and administrative efficiency of units outside his own command. Nor will he be able to redispense squadrons or administrative resources in another command except by agreement with command concerned although he can arrange temporary detachments within existing facilities. We accordingly suggest use of term strategic direction to define function of A.O.C.222 Group as now proposed. This will also avoid confusion with strategic control which remains function of C. in C. E.F. as agreed mutually where necessary with A.O.C. in C. S.E.A.C. A.O.C. 222 Group will however need to ensure that (methods?) and standards for tactics training and signals are uniform throughout his strategic area. This responsibility coupled with fact that he must in future exercise dual function of command units in Ceylon in addition to strategic direction now proposed will involve some increase in staff which will be taken up separately.

Para 2. Administrative aspects. So long as administration remains responsibility of command where aircraft and Marine craft are based we do not see any greater difficulties than are now being successfully overcome in practice. A.O.C.222 Group would we assume have right of appeal through A.O.C. in C. S.E.A.C. if he felt that administration in any area was hindering the efficient conduct of operations.

Para 3. Man power allocation. We think it unreasonable and do not agree East African manpower being charged against this Command's allocation. Units concerned remain under Command of their present A.O.C. and questions of establishments and postings will not be handled by S.E.A.C. or 222 Group.

281258Z

/ 211649/9.

Received in War Registry 0435/29.

Circulation over ...

2.

1st Lord  
1st S.L. (2)  
5th S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (W)  
A.C.N.S. (H)  
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)  
U.W.R.  
Capt. Pim  
D.O.D. (H) (4)  
D.O.D. (F) (2)  
D.C.  
D.N.I. (4)  
D.D.I.C. (2)  
Plot  
Hd. of M. (3)  
D.C.N.A.E.  
D.A.W.T.  
C.C.L.S. (2)  
D.N.A.O.  
D. of P. (3)  
Admiral Blake (4)  
I.P. (2)  
W.D.

Circulation

C.A.S.  
V.C.A.S.  
D.C.A.S.  
A.M.S.O.  
A.C.A.S. (P)  
A.C.A.S. (Ops)  
D. of Policy (A) (action) (2)  
D.D. Policy (G)  
D. of Ops (AUB)  
D. of Ops (AS)  
D.O. Ops  
S.6  
A.S.P.3  
A.S.P.4  
D.G.O.  
D.W.O.  
D. of O.  
D.D.O.2  
D.C. Est.  
O.1.  
O.8  
S.9.  
War Registry Admiralty.  
S.A.L.O.  
D.G. of S.  
D. of S.  
Sigs Plans  
A.M.C.S. (C) File.

File CS.19802 refers.

28.9.1943.  
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

CLYDE. Comply F.O.S. 272228A.  
(Cdr. S/Ms. Atlantic 280542Z to CLYDE (R)  
C. in C. U.S. Fleet, F.O.S., Admty., etc.)

ACONIT. Request ACONIT may arrive Newfoundland in time  
to sail with escort of H.X.262 on Oct. 23rd.  
2. Intend ACONIT to rejoin B.3 Group escorting  
O.N.208 in mid-ocean.  
3. F.N.G.B. is requested to arrange necessary  
programme with B.A.M.R.  
(C. in C. W.A., 281032A to B.A.M.R., F.G.N.B., (R) Admty.,  
N.S.H.Q., S.B.N.O. W.At., C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F., Capt. D.  
Greenock.)

QUEEN ELIZABETH. QUEEN ELIZABETH arrived New York 0702Q/28.  
(P.D. New York 281240.)

L.23. New York departed 26th. S/M. L.23 to New London.  
(N.S.H.Q. 281252Z to Admty. (R) B.A.D., C. in C.,  
C.N.A., F.O.N.F.)

N.S.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q. 281406Z.)  
S/M.  
Estimate.

U.S. (Cominch 281448Z.)  
S/M.  
Estimate.

NORSEMAN. Following received from NORSEMAN to Manager.  
Cable and W/T. Halifax. (Begins). Re Lost  
moorings. Weather report.  
(ARROWHEAD 281531Z to C. in C., C.N.A. (R)  
N.C.S.O., Halifax.)

Shortening Routes for Urdis 281251A concur.  
EireShips. (Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 281555Z to Admty.)

H.X.256. Off Oversay at 2030Z/21st. All arrived.  
(D.T.D. 281602A to Connav, N.S.H.Q., (R) C. in C.,  
W.A., C. in C., C.N.A.) As amended 301336A.

Greek A.P.C. Greek A.P.C. 67, 73, and 75 will sail 3rd Oct.  
A.P.C. in N.K.569.  
(Com. 3. 281622Z to Cominch (R) C.E.S.F., P.D.  
New York, C.G.S.F., C.C.S.F. Admty.)

/German...



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War Diary.

28.9.1943.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

German Radar Decoy. Description of apparatus which was recovered. (N.S.H.Q. 281634Z to Admty. Vice Opnav (R) S.O. B.3. E.G., F.O.N.F., Cominch, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.A., H.Q.C.C., Cdre. Argentia.)  
Your 272224. Exhibit has been examined by shore authorities. Following is their opinion:- (Description).  
(3) Object is being forwarded to Admty. by quickest available means.  
(S.O.B.3. 282130Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., B.A.D., F.O.N.F.)

U.G.S.19. DYNAMIC and DESPITE escorting F.A.C. BARFLEUR departed Bermuda 2100Z/28th to overtake and R/V with U.G.S.19 through positions:-  
B. 32.16 64.18 thence to point.  
C. 32.55 58.48. E.T.A. Point C. 2200Z/29th weather permitting.  
(Com. N.O.B. Bermuda 281745 to C.T.64. (R) Cominch, Cinclant, C. in C. Med. Admty. etc.)

U.S. Ships to U.K. independent sailings. Request information whether Cominch has stopped independent sailings of U.S. ships under 20 knots to U.K.  
2. Comtenthfleet's 141456 refers. (Re no ships to sail independently to and from U.K. without reference to Com. 10th Fleet, (regardless of speed)).  
(D.T.D. 281940A to B.A.D.)

U.G.S.20. FORT TURTLE. U.G.S.20. Fort Turtle is carrying valuable stores for Haifa extension "Project".  
2. Request naval authorities concerned may be informed.  
(B.A.D. 282021Z to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) Admty. Cominch.)

ACONIT. Sailed F.S. ACONIT New Orleans to St.Johns, N.F. upon (?completion of) refit about 1st Oct.  
Advise all addressees time of departure, route, S. of A.  
(Cominch 282050Z to Cdr. Gulf Sea Front. (R) Cdt. 8th Naval Dist. C. in C. Lant, Admty. etc.)

L.S.Ts. LEAMINGTON. Sail (?Norfolk) L.S.T. 33, 35, 36, 37 when ready 4th Oct. New York to Boston for inclusion in B.X.77 to Halifax and S.C.144 to U.K. Advise time of departure New York route, S. of A.  
Sail LEAMINGTON Norfolk direct to Halifax when ready about 2nd Oct. advising time of departure, route S. of A.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 282051Z to C.E.S.F.)

S.C.143. Departure MANSFIELD, SAULT, STE MARIE, BURLINGTON, NORANDA, LOCKEPORT escorting S.C.143 including L.S.T.216, L.S.T.217.  
(C. Halifax 282105Z to Admty.)

/S/M...

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War Diary.

28.9.1943.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

S/M attack  
and  
sighting  
summary.

My 272050. ITAPAGE sunk 261700. All times Z.  
Para. A. V.P.74 MARINER attacks S/M with 16  
D.C.S. 12.30 S. 35.30 W. 271405 probably damaged.  
Heavy A/A fire plane damaged and personnel  
injured. Navy plane sights S/M 12.50 S. 34.01 W.  
281400. Para. C. P.B.M. Radar contact 05.50 N.  
51.35 W. 272300.  
(Cominch 282138Z to Admty.)

O.N.202/  
O.N.S.18.  
Attacks on  
U/Bs.  
assessment.

As a result of further conference following  
appears reasonable assessment without close  
analysis. Kill KEPPEL. Probable kill NORTHERN  
FOAM. Possible kill SACKVILLE, LOBELIA.  
Damaged one KEPPEL with NARCISSUS and ITCHEN,  
one NORTHERN FOAM. Probably damaged CHAMBLY,  
RENONCULE. Many other attacks without evidence.  
(F.O.N.F. 282142M to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) Admty.  
Comdr. (D) W.A., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A.)

HADLEIGH  
CASTLE.

Comnavcu 222119 (Not to Admty.) if consistent  
with her employment schedule would be glad to  
have HADLEIGH CASTLE visit U.S. port for  
inspection by U.S. authorities. Due to other  
developments and commitments no expendable Asdic  
target for towing at 500 feet can be made available but S/M  
for deep tests will be furnished if desired.  
(Cominch 282151Z to Admty. (R) Comnavcu.)

Movments.

Ref. My 222245. Arrivals San Francisco 26th  
SEAPIKE 27, TJISDANE. (Dut.) Both (U.S.A.T.)  
Departures 25th MORMAOWREN Noumea, METEOR for  
Brisbane. Both U.S.A.T.  
(N.S.H.Q. 282224Z to Admty. (R) C.O.P.C. Vancouver.)

GEORGE  
WASHINGTON,  
MARIPOSA.

Your 260627 (270627 intended) GEORGE WASHINGTON  
not available as she is returning via Atlantic.  
2. U.S. Authorities agree up to 2,000 P.O.Ws.  
plus service personnel and civilian passengers in  
MARIPOSA subject to Master's approval. W.R.  
Department are informing their representative in  
India to this effect, and that priority is to be  
given to U.S. personnel who it is hoped can mostly  
be accommodated in GEORGE WASHINGTON.  
(B.A.D. 282237Z to P.S.T.O. Bombay (R) A.C.N.B., D. of S.T., C. in C.  
E.F., P.S.T.O.I., New Delhi.)

F.T.22.

H.M.S. F.T.22 arrived Recife 28th.  
(B.A.D. 282239Z to Admty.)

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War Diary.28.9.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Movements. Arrived Exmouth Gulf 26th U.S. CHILDS.  
Departed Exmouth Gulf 26th U.S. PRESTON for Fremantle.  
(A.C.N.B. 280917Z.)  
Noumea 26th U.S.S. ANTARES.  
(Wellington 280941Z.)  
Re-encypherment of my 280305 (Received undecypherable)  
"Port Director Pearl sends 27th U.S.S. ERIDANUS towing B.G. 1193 and B.G. 1730".  
(P.D. Pearl 282205.)

Digest serial No.616 Sept. 27th. Single small ship observed 30 miles West Buka Passage course 270° mid-day.  
(2) Mid-morning 17 Liberators struck Wewak area followed one hour later by 93 Mitchells concentrating strike into 30 minutes with 121 fighters covering including Lightning Kittyhawks.  
Heavies bombed Wewak and Boram dromes 25 Mitchells in three flights hit shipping Wewak Muschu Island and Kairuru Island from minimum altitude while 68? Mitchells bombed and strafed all four airfields. 50 enemy planes estimated destroyed on ground and of 20 fighters which got off fields 8 definitely destroyed plus 3 probably. 8 ships maximum 5,000 tons, 9 Luggers, many small craft seen in target areas. 3 small tanker type vessels sunk or burning fiercely. 3 Freighters of 2,000 to 4,000 tons and 1 sea truck destroyed or severely damaged. 9 Luggers, 5 launches and 10 to 14 barges destroyed or severely damaged.  
(3) 4 Lightnings strafed and set afire 1 barge and damaged another Hansa Bay also fired truck near Nubia morning.  
(4) After daybreak enemy S/M approached beach near Finschhafen airfield but shore fire forced withdrawal. (11) Night 26th 3 large ships with 1 probable escort vessel sighted off S.E. Celebes course 280° also 2 other vessels at entrance Bone Gulf heading N.W. Reporting plane strafed Pomelea area where 12 barges observed at jetty. Morning 25th. 10 Mitchells, 19 Avengers, 29 Dauntless, with fighter cover attacked gun positions and barge hideouts Vila area. (14) Same time 18 dive bombers, 20 Zeros, intercepted off S.E. Vella Lavella by 8 Hellcats. One Zero shot down and majority bombers dispersed but 3 got through to effect attack on vessel reported Digest 615 para. 7. (15) Next morning enemy S/M ineffectually attacked task force Vella Gulf. (17) Morning 27th numerous Japs arrived barge base central S.W. coast Choiseul and unloaded. That night patrol plane observed 10 barges beaching same locality after arriving from N.W. (18) 1 Medium freighter Tonolei Harbour, 12 small merchantmen Buin General area plus 40 barges and small craft.  
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A. 281058.)

H.D.M.Ls. allocation. Your 1814 of 29th August 1942, para. 1 C. Requirements for H.D.M.Ls. are reduced from 22 to 16. Request cancellation of the last 6 H.D.M.Ls. Allocated to New Zealand.  
(N.Z.N.B. 282125Z to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)

967

28.9.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 281412A, 281413A.)

Submarines Attacked.

S/M attack  
and Sighting  
Summary for  
24 hours to  
0900Z/28th.

Para. A. (1) A/C G/311 attacked U-Boat C/T course  
105° 47' 15" N. 16° 45' W. 1029/27.  
(2) A/C E/311 sighted U-Boat C/T course 270°  
47° 22' N. 16° 25' W. 0905/27.  
Para. C. A/C G/311 attacked U-Boat periscope  
course 280° 49' 30" N. 09° 45' W. 1420/27.  
Para. D. SS. DAVID E. HUGHES reported U-Boat  
sighted 36° 30' S. 44° 40' E. 2124/27.  
(D.D.I.C. 281010Z to Cominch.)

U/Boats  
attacked,  
weekly  
summary.

My 221059 July, 1942. Detailed information of  
attacks in vicinity of convoys O.N.202 and  
O.N.S. 18 is not yet available, but provisional  
assessment gives 2 U-Boats probably sunk, 2  
possibly sunk and 6 damaged.  
2. At 0407Z/25th September TWEED rammed a  
U-Boat in position 51° 32' N. 31° 09' W. U-Boat  
was damaged and dived.  
3. Aircraft of No.12 A.S.R. Squadron attacked  
a surfaced U-Boat at 0918Z/26th in 36° 20' N. 10° 03' W. and  
estimated four hits.  
4. VELOX and WITHERINGTON carried out promising attacks on a  
confirmed contact in vicinity of M.K.S.25 at 1737Z/26th in 36°  
13' N. 10° 04' W.  
(D.A.U.D. 281855Z to Cominch, Comnavu, B.A.D., N.S.H.Q.)

Acoustic  
homing  
torpedoes.

Your 252157Z.  
A. Homing radius based on probable signal to  
background ratio in 20 knot torpedo attacking  
18 knot ship.  
B. Considered that relatively dead are might  
be as much as 90° right astern of torpedo.  
"Foxyer" disposition recommended in my 242113A.  
is considered essential if torpedo has character-  
istics as B. above.  
(D.T.M. 282046A to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) F.O.N.F.,  
N.S.H.Q., B.A.D., C. in C. W.A., VERNON M/S.)

29.9.1943.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Force  
letters.

1. The Admiralty today issued a list of the existing Force letters so far as is known. In order to avoid the present confusion, the Admiralty only will in future allocate Force letters, and these only to the more important Forces.

Home Commands.

2. Capt. D.17 in ONSLOW with MATCHLESS, MAHRATTA, OBEDIENT, HARDY, VENUS and STORD sailed from Scapa in the early hours of today for Gibraltar, to escort to U.K. VALIANT, ILLUSTRIOUS, FORMIDABLE and UNICORN from the Mediterranean.

Bay  
Patrol.

3. Suspicion has again been thrown on fishing vessels in the Bay of Biscay area. H.Q.C.C. today issued instructions to aircraft regarding attacking such vessels and are asking C. in C. Plymouth to arrange examination of vessels in the area if possible.

Flying in the Percussion area was very much curtailed today on account of weather and no flying took place tonight.

4. Similar conditions prevailed in the Moorings area.

North Atlantic.

5. It appears from D.F. at 2207Z today that a U/Boat passed the Straits of Gibraltar.

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29.9.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

6. SS. MELLO (Portuguese. Buenos Aires for Lisbon with nitrates) made a submarine distress signal at 2215 G.M.T. in 03.41 S. 31.07 W. (About 260 miles N.E. of Natal, Brazil) (See 30th September)

The ship became a total loss from fire (see 30th September) but not from enemy action. However, D.O.R. No.1514 states that the ship arrived at Recife on 9th October in tow.

7. N.A. Madrid reports that the Spanish SS. ALBAREDA picked up 27 survivors of a British ship on 25th September, in 16.24 S. 36.27 W.

Mediterranean.

Salerno.

8. Bad weather today again stopped unloading over Salerno beaches, several landing craft were driven ashore by the gale.

Corsica.

9. DZIK reports that on 21st September she sank a 7000 ton and a 3000 ton merchant ship in Bastia Roads; on the following day she sank 3 Siebel ferries off Bastia.

10. Destroyers carried out a patrol between Otranto and Valona last night and during the night 27/28 September. Nothing was sighted.

DANAE.

11. DANAE with 2 destroyers in company sailed from Aden this morning to join the Eastern Fleet.

East Indies.

U/Bs.

12. SS. SANDOWN CASTLE reported sighting a submarine at 0814 today in 11.40 N.45.31 E.

/SS.BANFFSHIRE...

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29.9.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies - Contd.

U/Bs.  
(Contd.)

SS BANFFSHIRE was torpedoed and sunk at 2020Z in 09.26 N. 71.20 E. (about 300 miles west of Cochin).

America and West Indies.

13. The independent sailing of U.S. Ships to the U.K. is stopped at present. (cf. Comtenth fleet (C. & R.) 141456 Sept.)

Australia and New Zealand.

14. Beaufighters today attacked barges laden with fuel and supplies off Lolobau Island (New Britain); 5 barges exploded, one sank, and 3 were left burning.

Solomon Is.

Off the north east of Kolombangara patrol craft this morning intercepted 4 enemy barges, and destroyed 2, badly damaged a third, and left the fourth burning.

17 Dauntless and 12 Avengers this morning attacked the barge base at Kakasa (Central S.W. Choiseul) and destroyed several buildings. After dark today a force of destroyers intercepted some 9 enemy barges heading for Kolombangara and turned them back, with the destruction, it is believed, of 4 barges.

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29.9.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

QUEEN OF  
KENT,  
QUEEN OF  
THANET,  
MEDWAY.

My 281445. QUEEN OF KENT, QUEEN OF THANET,  
and MEDWAY are to cease operational work from  
tomorrow.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 291132A to N.O.I.C. Leith.)

Force  
letters  
and numbers.

Some confusion has been caused by allocation of  
Force letters by Cs. in C. without reference to  
Admiralty, and it is proposed that in future  
Force letters should be allocated only by  
Admiralty and then only to more important Forces.

2. Existing Force letters so far as known are:-

Force E. "ALACRITY," Forces S, J, L, O and B, Home based Assault  
Forces for "OVERLORD." Forces R, M, K, Q and Z, Mediterranean  
area. Forces G, F and C, Eastern Fleet, Force H.

3. Cs. in C. are requested to report any Forces not included  
above and also to report when any Force letters become obsolete.

4. In order that Cs. in C. may designate Forces formed under  
their Commands for local operations of a temporary nature, it  
is proposed that Force numbers should be allocated as follows:-

C. in C. Home Fleet, 1 - 10, Rosyth, 11 - 15, Nore 16 - 20,  
Portsmouth 21 - 25, Plymouth 26 - 30, Western Approaches  
31 - 40, Mediterranean 41 - 50, Levant 51 - 60, Eastern Fleet  
61 - 70, South Atlantic 71 - 80, C.N.A. 81 - 90, N.S.H.Q. 91 -  
100, F.O.C.W.Af. 101 - 110.

5. Concurrence in the above proposals will be assumed if  
replies are not received by 10th October.

(V.C.N.S. 291207A to Cs. in C.)

Movements.

A.F.D.15.

When ready and having due regard to weather  
forecasts, A.F.D.XV is to be sailed to Clyde in  
tow of EMPIRE IMP and EMPIRE ARIEL escorted by  
NARVIK routed west of Skye, Sounds of Mull and  
Islay.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 290911A to R.N.O. Stornoway.)

CLYDE.

From position (K) in my 272228 proceed on the  
surface at discretion through position (L) 049°  
20' N. 018° 01' W., thence to R/V in (M) 180°  
Bishop Rock 10 miles at 0700A/4th. Daily  
advance 348 miles.  
(F.O.S. 291634A to CLYDE.)

S/M.  
movements.

Positions of S/Ms. at 0800A/30 and movements for  
following 24 hours.  
(F.O.S. 291638, 292211, 300352A, 301052A.)

/MALAYA...



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War Diary.29.9.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

MALAYA. Admty. 281644 and 291025. BENTINCK and SKATE are to be sailed to R/V with MALAYA at Clyde light vessel at 0830A/4th and escort toward Plymouth until relieved by Plymouth escorts. (C. in C. W.A. 292133A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Operations.

Bay Weather is unsuitable for flying. Para. 4 of my  
Patrol. 271557 refers.

(C. in C. Plymouth 290412A to PHOEBE.)  
Suspicion has again been thrown on fishing vessels in the Bay of Biscay and vicinity.

Aircraft should attack preferably with R.P. 100 lb bombs or D/Cs fishing vessels in the sink-at-sight areas with particular reference to vessels in area between 47° 30' and 48° 30' N. and 9 to 11 degs. W. It would be appreciated if C. in C. Plymouth could arrange examination of vessels in area when possible.

(H.Q.C.C. 291510A to 19 Group.)

Para. 2 of Admiralty 251307. SCYLLA is to part company with M.K.S.25 on reaching 048° N. or earlier if fuel-shortage necessitates and proceed through position: SA. 048° 46' N. 012° 26' W. SB 180° Bishop Rock 8 miles. SC 180° The Lizard 3 miles and Q.Z.S.410 and 409 to Plymouth keeping west of The Lizard during dark hours.

2. When 100 miles clear M.K.S.25 SCYLLA is to report own P.C.S. and that of convoy.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 291744A to SCYLLA.)

Operation . Proceed passing Switha 291900A to Hvalfiord with  
S.F. mail routed through 058° 54' N. 007° 01' W.

thence through Reykjanes passage.

(R.A.D. 291107A to IMPULSIVE.)

Arrived Skaalefiord Group B.

(N.O.I.C. Faroes 291155A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

My 291107A. Sailed. E.T.A. 1000Z/1st.

(R.A.D. 291904A to A.C.I.C.)

Delete METEOR from my 261423Z and SALAMANDER.

(M/S F.1, 291943A to C. in C. Rosyth, SAVAGE, MAHRATTA)

Coastal  
Patrols.

Patrols 29th September. 1. Force "C".  
M.T.Bs. 679 (S.O.), 322 on completion of  
exercises are to patrol in vicinity 167 Start 18.

2. "Occasion".

3. Force "C" is to leave patrol for Dartmouth  
at 0600A.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 291328A and 292359).

/Your...

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29.9.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

Coastal Patrols. (Contd.) Your 291328A and your 291325A. "Scent" arrived at 2355. "Occasion" sailed at 2348A. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 292359 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

S/M Patrols. Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/30th and movements for following 24 hours.  
(A) STOIC, VARANGIAN, on patrol within 15 miles of Andoy.  
(B) SEADOG approx. 73° 15' N. 06° 50' E. probably on surface at 10 knots to 63° 16' N. 02° 29' W.  
(C) ULA vicinity 63° 34' N. 05° 02' E.  
(D) SATYR vicinity 64° 31' N. 06° 02' E.  
(E) RUBIS 48° 35' N. 06° 01' W. dived by day through 47° 40' N. 06° 00' W. to vicinity of PF 47° 40' N. 004° 52' W. daily advance 85 miles.  
(F) UNITED vicinity 47° 53' 06° 30' W. diving by day through 49° 01' N. 06° 29' W. to R/V with OLVINA in 180 Lizard 10 miles at 0700A/1st October for passage to Plymouth  
(G) UNTIRING passes 43° 02' N. 10° 29' W. at 0400A/30th and proceeds diving by day southward.  
(F.O.S. 291638 to Admty.)

Allied Air Activity.

Gdynia. Request P.R.U. of Gdynia if possible tomorrow to locate enemy main units. (D.O.D. H. 291349A to A.D.I. P.H.)

A/S tactics. Recent experience of resumption of attacks by U/Boats on a north Atlantic convoy indicate that the same initial tactics are being used in that the remainder of U/Boat pack closes the convoy at maximum speed and on the surface. When it has been established that the convoy has been reported the air escort should be increased in numbers and it will be highly profitable for these A/C to sweep within 120 miles from convoy in the sector from which the pack are gathering. This distance and sector can usually be deduced by reference to the previous tubular signals. It was very apparent during the first 30 hrs. after initial contact that U/Boats were willing to dive to escape A/C but during the later period? of operation U/Boats invariably remained on the surface and fought back. A/C should include in the first sighting report or the amplifying report information as to whether U/Boat had fought back? by including the "flak" if appropriate. Reception at base of the first flak report will enable the offensive load of the subsequent sorties to be suitably adjusted. It is important to take the utmost advantage of opportunities for killing U/Boats during attacks on convoys and the maximum possible effort should be put on to convoys which have been sighted by U/Boats or are actually being attacked having regard otherwise only to possible future commitments in Stipple B.  
(H.Q.C.C. 291500Z to 15 Group.)

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29.9.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation My 271101A and 280434A. Sailed 0641.  
F.D.46. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 290644A to C. in C. Plymouth)  
(RUBIS)

M/S Admiralty's 281543. The necessity for carrying  
Operations out these M/S operations is fully realised.  
in Dover 2. The minesweeping situation in the Nore  
Command. Command is at present difficult, owing partly  
to the recent large scale E/Boat operations, and  
partly to the fact that whereas convoy traffic  
has increased, the number of destroyers available  
for anti-minelaying patrols has decreased, thus leaving some  
sections of the channel unguarded or patrolled only by trawlers.  
3. It is therefore, of great importance to have available  
fleet sweepers able to carry out sweeping in bad weather when  
M.M.S. cannot operate; and in addition, when moored mines are  
laid at some distance from the base, it is of great advantage  
to have the higher speed of the 18th M.S.F. to reach the sweeping  
area quickly.  
4. It is, therefore, requested that the 18th M.S.F. may be  
retained for the present and that such of the sweeping required  
by para. 1 of Admiralty's 281543 as is for moored mines may be  
undertaken by the 4th M.S.F., the 18th M.S.F. to be made available  
for such sweeping as is required in the Dover Command at a  
later date to be mutually arranged with V.A. Dover, when the  
4th M.S.F. have completed sweeping the moored mine areas.  
( C. in C. Nore 291650A to Admty.)

D/C Five Mark 11 Depth Charges mark 16 pistols  
Pistols dropped live five and a half miles from Maryport  
dropped. bearing 320° did not explode. Presumed to have  
fallen Sandbank where depth of water insufficient  
to function pistol. Request whether further  
action necessary.  
(H.Q.C.C. 291740A to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

SCHEER, (A) SCHEER in Gdynia September 18th.  
PRINZ EUGEN, (B) PRINZ EUGEN outside Gdynia September 19th.  
GRAF (C) GRAF ZEPPELIN had been towed to Swinemunde  
ZEPPELIN. and berthed alongside quay by September 19th  
under camouflage nets. Her two propellers were  
seen at Gdynia on quay September 19th. Graded B2.  
(N.A. Stockholm, 291549 to Admty.)

German Two new destroyers reported carrying out trials at  
destroyers. Gdynia between September 16th and September 19th.  
One which arrived from Kiel described as new  
type 130 metres length, two funnels, two double  
turrets one forward, on aft, gun estimate 15  
centimetre, two triple tubes, and large anti-  
aircraft armament. German Admiral was attending trials.  
Graded C.3.  
(N.A. Stockholm, 291614 to Admty.)

"/LUTZOW..

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29.9.1943.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence - Contd.

LÜTZOW. It is reported graded B.2 that LÜTZOW escorted by three destroyers passed Helsingborg, southbound, at 0700A/29th.  
(D.D.I.C. 291651A to A.I.G.21 and 47.)

Technical.

"Foxyer"  
Gear. My 261144A/9/43. Further outfits allocated as follows:-  
7 to Belfast for 4th Group, 6 to Liverpool for 13th Group. Outfits for Belfast should be sent to Greenock for onward passage by escort.  
(C. in C. W.A. 291021A to VERNON M/S.)

Trials  
of "Foxyer"  
Gear. A.M. 281713 para. 2.  
Regret no destroyer available other than those "Moorings". Request you will therefore sail SARDONYX or SABRE to Rosyth for this duty for one month.  
(C. in C.W.A. 292134A to C. in C.H.F.)

Casualties and Defects.

TWEED. E.T.A. 0801/29. TWEED requires docking to repair underwater damage.  
(E.G.5, 290110Z to Cdre. D.W.A.)

STARLING. C. in C.W.A.'s 281616 and my 281618. Sailed STARLING.  
(Cdre. D.W.A., 290213A to F.O.I.C. N.I.)

BANFF. Your 290655. Return to Plymouth for further repairs to gyro transmitter.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 290934A to BANFF.)

ORION. Admiralty 251234. ORION has been taken in hand for changing guns, docking, and fumigation.  
2. Date of completion is 4th November.  
3. With labour available only essential repairs can be undertaken concurrently.  
(Dockyard, Portsmouth 291639A to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys.

H.X.257. H.X.257 fast dispersed on crossing 010° W.  
(E.G.5 290045Z to C. in C. W.A.)

O.N.S.19  
E.G.10. C. in C.W.A. 23220. Sailed MUSKETEER, ORKAN, ORIBI, ORWELL.  
(Cdre D.W.A., 290101A to C. in C.W.A.)

/O.N.204...

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29.9.1943.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

- O.N.204. Request you will sail E.G.5 negative TWEED to overtake O.N.204 joining in 020° W. Estimate convoy will reach 020° W. at 1700A/1st. (C. in C. W.A. 291023Z to Cdre. D.W.A.)  
Intend sailing NENE, CALGARY, SNOWBERRY, and EDMUNDSTON from Lough Foyle at 1700/30th to comply with your 291023. S.O.A. 12 knots.  
(Cdre. D.W.A. 291435A to C. in C. W.A.)  
My 290955. Sailed WANDERER.  
(Cdre. D.W.A. 292041A.)  
1000Z/29. (C) B. B.1. HURRICANE H.F./D.F. GLENARM H.F./D.F., WANDERER H.F./D.F., WALLFLOWER, BORAGE, DAHLIA, rescue ship MELROSE ABBEY H.F./D.F., rescue tug STORMKING. Additional A/S and rescue duties LANCER. CAIRNESK fitted H.F./D.F. (D) 66.  
(C. in C.W.A. 292125Z)
- U.A.2. Intend sailing convoy and escorts passing Clyde Boom 1045A/30th to comply A.M. 242140A.  
2. For GODETIA read LAVENDER.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 291024A to C. in C. Med.)  
S.O. Force E. 281510. Request WARWICK be detailed to escort EMPIRE OUTPOST to overtake convoy if necessary.  
(C. in C.W.A. 291050A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- U.T.3. Following ships will be ready to leave U.K. for New York on 1st October to return with U.T.3. SS CAPETOWN CASTLE from Liverpool, SS. SCYTHIA and ORION from Clyde.  
2. Request they may be sailed independently by route to be signalled by Admiralty.  
(D.O.D.H. 291319A.)
- M.K.S25 (SCYLLA) Admty. 251307, para. 2. SCYLLA to part company with M.K.S.25 in 048° N. or earlier.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 291744A) See Operations.
- D.F.15 (HAI LEE) SS. HAI LEE will be used sailing from Clyde to Faroes on 13th October, and returning to Clyde.  
D.F.16. 2. Ship may proceed independently between Clyde and the vicinity of Cape Wrath.  
3. F.O.I.C Greenock is requested to sail ship and arrange with A.C.O.S. for R/V of escort.  
4. In future, D.F. convoys will be at 28 day intervals (D.F.16 on 10th November) and will run from Invergordon or Aberdeen.  
(D.O.D.H. 291908A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- T.A.66 (QUEEN MARY.) Sailed in accordance with my 281808A, N.O.I.C. Greenock, 292014A.)

/BEN-MY-CHREE...

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29.9.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

BEN-MY-CHREE. Intend sailing loaded transport BEN-MY-CHREE  
(F.D.) at 1900A/30th, Speed 21 knots, E.T.A.  
1200/1st, escorted by RIPLEY. Route to  
Invergordon.  
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 292105A to A.C.O.S.)

D.S.45. Convoy sailed in accordance with my 271648A.  
CHAMPOLLION, For FLEETWOOD read SCIMITAR. E.T.A./2nd.  
SCIMITAR. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 292204A.)

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29.9.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

C.T.G.21.14, Following message received as Cinclant 281536.  
C.T.F.64. (begins), received VYMCLDV PS (above received  
corrupt transmitted as received) supporting T.F.  
64 proceed to vicinity of Azores, . and operate  
offensively against S/Ms. When C.T.F.64 nears  
S/M reported positions, operate in protection that convoy.  
Further orders later.  
(C.M.S.F.F., 290428 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med.,  
Comnavnaw, Admty).

M.K.S.25 A.C.N.581 29th Sept. Cover M.K.S. 25 p.m. today  
air cover. if possible.  
(H.Q.C.C., 290924A to A.C.H.Q. Gibraltar, (R)  
Admty. etc).

Lost Para. 2 of my 261230. Search has been unsuccessful  
documents. Compromise must be accepted.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 291048A to Admty).

ALBAREDA Spanish ALBAREDA from Rio de Janeiro picked up  
27 survivors from British ship Sept. 25th in 016°  
24' S. 036° 27' W.  
(N.A. Madrid, 291148B).

K.M.S.27 Para. (2) of my 281059.\* (N.T. in W.D.) S. of  
A.is to be adjusted to pass through position (BE)  
at 1000A Oct. 1st thence S. of A. to Bizerta 7½  
knots.  
(2) Para. 4. BLUEBELL, CAMELLIA, BRYONY, ANEMONE and FILLA  
escorting U.S. ship EXTRICATE BULAN, Tug EMPIRE OBERON and 4  
merchant ships join in position BB at 2030A/29th.  
(3) OFFSHELLE GODAVARI escort Gibraltar ships to Gibraltar.  
BERGAMOT and LA MALOUINE continue with convoy.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 291150A to Escorts of Convoy K.M.S.27 for  
Cdr. (R) Admty. etc). \*Route signal.

PASTEUR Ready depart for Dakar 1500A/30th S. of A. 19.5  
knots. Request route of sailing confirmed.  
(C.M.S.F.F., 291227B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R)  
Admty. C. in C. Med. (A), F.O.C.W.Africa).

Danish and Danish ships THYRA and LINDA are being moved from  
German ships Buoy Inner Harbour to mooring Outer breakwater.  
Las Palmas. I understand German ships CORRIENTES and KERSTEN  
MILES will take place of Danish ship at buoy.  
I am informed that the instructions these  
movements came from Madrid.  
(Consul Las Palmas, 291304 to Admty. (R)  
S.O.(I) Gibraltar, B.N.A. Madrid).

Please pass to Las Palmas. Las Palmas's 281703 position  
appears unpromising. If there is any chance of reversing Master's  
decision with money will you or M.W.T. authorize it?  
Please instruct Las Palmas direct (repeated to me) without  
waiting. Your Lis. observations immediately.

/Danish...

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War Diary.

29.9.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Danish  
and German  
ships Las  
Palmas.  
(contd).

Danish Minister suggests Masters be informed  
the 3 Danish at Lisbon are expected to sail.  
(N.A. Madrid, 292118B to Admty. (R) F.O.C. Gib.  
R.O. Las Palmas, 292118B to Admty. (R) F.O.C.  
Gib. R.O. Las Palmas). Re Danish Ship SLESVIG.

M.K.S.25  
shadowed.

1 enemy aircraft shadowing "Cockatoo" 38.00 N.,  
15.24 W. 353 5.  
(SCYLLA, 291540A to C.sign GYW8 Whitehall W/T).

PHEOBE

Onward route from (M) (N) 040° 00' N., 014° 20' W.  
(O) 036° 30' N., 013° W. (P) 036° N., 010° W.  
(Q) 035° 47' N., 006° 25' W. and Q.B.A.87 to Gib.  
2. P.V. are to be streamed as convenient before  
crossing 007° W.  
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 291556A to PHOEBE, (R) Admty. BERMUDA, H.Q.C.C.,  
C. in C. Med., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A.)

ACTIVE,  
MALCOLM,  
VELOX.

Your 291036A (N.T. in W.R.) MALCOLM detached  
291200A, VELOX E.T.A. Gibraltar 1830B/30. ACTIVE  
E.T.A. Gibraltar 1700B/01. Weather report 5762  
1416.  
(ACTIVE, 291645B).

T.G.21.12

My 281237B sailed 1400A/29th.  
(C.M.S.F., 291725Z to F.O.C. Gibraltar (R)  
Admty. etc).

Damaged U/B  
at Vigo.

Your 271931 and Admiralty's 271545.  
Masters of 2 fishing vessels concerned are absent  
and it is doubtful if they would make statement.  
A seaman on small fishing vessel which passed  
through La Porta Channel between 2 Cies Islands  
at time said, "S/M first sighted using flares near west side of  
North Cies Island. She moved south south-west to meet the 2  
fishing vessels going out between Silleiro Point and Cies Islands"  
According to this account position as regards territorial waters  
not too clear. Possible Spanish authorities may have received  
Master's declarations establishing position where towage started.  
(R.O. Vigo, 291730 to B.N.A. Madrid, (R) Admty. (for D.N.I.))  
My 251250 (re Internment of submarine) H.M. Charge D'Affaires  
saw M.F.A. Sept. 27th and American Ambassador saw M.F.A. Sept.  
28th.  
M.F.A. said note was sent to us in error and position has not  
yet quite cleared but promised decision at once.  
Nothing received in Ministry of Marine yet.  
(Admiralty please pass to C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.)  
(N.A. Madrid, 292005B to Admty. (R) V.A. Gib. R.O. Vigo, C. in C.  
Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.)

/R.S.10...



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War Diary.29.9.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.R.S.10,  
M.K.F.24,  
WITHERINGTON,  
WISHART.

1. R.S.10 will part company with M.K.F.24 in (K) 34.45 N., 10.00 W. at 0200A Oct. 1st and proceed to Freetown routed through (FA) 29.04 14.30 (positions north and west) (FB) 27.10 15.14 (FC) 25.00 18.40 (FD) 13.00 18.40 (FE) 10.00 17.00 S. of A. 13½ knots.
2. F.O.C.W.A. is requested (A) to relieve WITHERINGTON and WISHART in vicinity of 15° N., to proceed to Dakar and fuel.  
(B) to sail WITHERINGTON, WISHART to Gibraltar on completion of fuelling.
3. Convoy is composed and escorted as in my 291734 (N.T. in W.D.) (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 291732A, 300905A to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. etc).

BESSEL

My 161655 Spanish D. of N.I. informs me Ministry Foreign Affairs is holding Juridical enquiry to determine how far our claim that BESSEL should be interned is justified. Meanwhile guards hitherto on board only at night are now to be there by day also and vessel will not be allowed to leave in any circumstances until enquiry completed.  
This is in response to our latest note.  
Please inform as directed.  
(N.A. Madrid, 291742B to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, R.O.Vigo).

KERSTEN  
MILES,  
CORRIENTES.

Following Admty. please pass to Las Palmas and Freetown (begins):- Addressed Admiralty.  
Spanish D. of N.I. informs me that in view of our latest protest M.F.A. has decided to move German SS. KERSTEN MILES and CORRIENTES at inner end of inner harbour and put armed guard on board.  
Ministry of Marine have received instructions to do this. Technically of course ships are not interned and could leave if they ask permission but all power to communicate with S/M should now be effectively removed.  
Las Palmas please report in due course what happens. Admty. please inform Foreign Office.  
(N.A. Madrid, 291837B).

K.M.S.27

Escorts of convoy K.M.S. 27 sailed 1830/29th as in my 281208A.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 292031A to N.O.I.C. North African Ports, (R) Admty. etc).

Italian  
ships in  
Spanish  
ports.

Your 282228 (not to all addressees) Following is Italian Naval Attache's reply to Captain Giuriate Italian Liaison Officer on your Staff begins -  
(1) Warships in Port Mahon Light Cruiser ATTILIO REGOLO, destroyers FUCILIERE, CARABINIERE, MITRAGLIERE and 1 Motorrattere. In Palma Gunboat ORSA. In Barcelona 2 Motorrattere.  
(2) Gunboat PEGASO and IMPETUOSO scuttled day after arrival in Balearic Islands.  
(3) 713 + survivors of Battleship ROMA (Names of Officers)  
(4) 81 survivors destroyer UGOLINO VIVALDI have also arrived.  
Officers: (Names).  
(B.N.A. Madrid, 292101B to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.I.C. Gib. Admty).

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28, 8.1943.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

RANGITATA Ref. N.C.S.O. Freetown's 251637. Every endeavour should be made to include RANGITATA in S.L. 138 as the vessel is urgently required in U.K. for further service. Request confirmation that this can be arranged.  
(D. of S.T., 290300A to B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, (R) N.C.S.O. Freetown, C. in C. S.A.)  
RANGITATA U.K. via Freetown Oct. 12. knots A.12.5 B.13.5 (Route).  
(R.O. Montevideo, 291515, 291811 to Admty).

FORT SIMPSON, N.C.S.O. Dakar reports ships (as margin) NYANZA, insisted on entering Byrthia Channel in spite OFFINGTON of instructions from French Patrol vessel. Ships COURT. all sailed for U.K. in S.L. 137. Suggest matter should be further investigated on arrival U.K. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 291546Z to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.Af., Comar Dakar).

M.L.256 Sailed M.L. 256 to relieve MORRIS DANCE and patrol patrol. area from end of swept channel to 6° 17' N., 3° 45' E. to 6° 0' N., 3° 30' E. to end of swept channel. At 1800Z/30th area of patrol will be changed to between 6° 0' N., and 6° 15' N, 3° 15' (?E) and 3° 35' E.  
(N.O.I.C. Lagos, 291743Z to Admty. F.O.C.W.Af. N.O.I.C. Takoradi).

ESPERANCE ESPERANCE BAY, U.K. via Freetown 12th Oct. BAY. knots A. 13 B.14.5. (Route).  
(R.O. Monte, 291950 to Admty).

ST. USK My 261822 survivors in second lifeboat landed survivors. 40 miles south of Bahia. Captain was taken prisoner.  
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 292150Z to Admty).

MELLO, Following has been read S O S lat. 3° 41' S. S O S. long. 32° 07 W.  
(MELLO via Freetown W/T, T.O.R., 292205 Wick 292317).

Following received from Lands End Radio.  
Intercept 2218 G.M.T. from ST. CERGUE, we are proceeding to your position here our position 00.57 S. 31.27 W. read.  
(C. in C., Plymouth, 292326A).  
Following intercepted by Lands End Radio. 2231 G.M.T.  
de LOHB (BRAZIL) to HBDH last QTH (MELLO) CSBG 2.50 S. 31.54 W.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 292332A).

/Routeing...

29.9.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

- Routeing. Request M.A.R.I. section 4 para. 8 sub. para. 1  
2 and 3, be considered temporarily suspended.
2. Traffic to Capetown should be routed direct  
(A) From River Plate (and Southward thereof)  
to a point 209° Cape Point 5.7 miles thence as though Q.G.A. 109  
and (B) From Ports North of River Plate through position 033°  
13' S. 017° 36' E. thence direct omitting Saldanha Bay.  
These final positions should be shown as lettered positions on  
ships routes.
3. Traffic to Port Elizabeth, East London and Durban should be  
routed S. and W. of position (A) 034° 28' S., 017° 30' E. thence  
to (B) Within 15 miles of Cape Agulhas and coastwise to  
destination.
4. Dimmed navigation lights should be shown between meridians  
017° E. and 031° E. Zig-zagging is temporarily suspended  
between these meridians.
5. Reference M.A.R.I. section 4 para. 8 A. sub. para. (4)  
ships of all speeds bound East African ports, and ships of 8  
knots and over but below 13 knots bound Aden should be routed to  
Durban for convoy. All other traffic to East Indies should be  
routed to Capetown for onward routeing.  
(C. in C. S.A., 292215C to Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet C. and R.  
F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q.)

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29.9.1943.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Otranto Patrol. Nothing met.  
(Capt.(D) 4 290620A to C. in C. Med.(R) V.A. Malta, S.O. Force 'H', F.O.T.A., N.O.I.C. Brindisi).

KRAKOWIAK Proceed to Bizerta forthwith. Acknowledge.  
(Bizerta C.C.O. 290850A to KRAKOWIAK (R) ATHERSTONE C. in C. Med.).

TETCOTT C. in C. Med.Fs. 252105 (N.T. in W.D.).  
Sailing H.M.S. TETCOTT at 1000 today for Bizerta escorting L.C.Is. PRINS ALBERT and PRINSES BEATRIX as far as Augusta swept channel, thence routed.  
Positions 273, 278 to Bizerta War Channel. Speed 15 knots.  
E.T.A. Bizerta 1000/30th. Codeword "Aspirator" VI.  
(N.O.I.C. Catania 290914A to C. in C. Med. F., N.O.I.C. Bizerta, (R) V.A. Malta, C. in C. Levant, N.O.I.C. Sicily, Capt.S. Ferryville, Cmd. (D) Levant, D.5 211 Group, N.O.I.C. Augusta.)  
C. in C. Med's 291229A (N.T. in W.D.) not to V.A. Malta.  
Am proceeding Malta for fuel and onward routeing to Levant.  
E.T.A. 1650.  
(TETCOTT 291600A to V.A. Malta (R) Capt.(D) 5, C. in C. Med. (?QUEENBOROUGH) ).

Destroyer escort for VALIANT & Carriers. My 281237A (N.T. in W.D.) (Secret) sailed E.T.A. 0700A/4th Oct.  
(R.A.D. 290942 to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) Admty.).

DZIK enemy shipping sunk. DZIK reports (1) at 1632/21 in Bastia Roads fired 2 torpedoes at 3,000 ton M/V. Both hit.  
2. At 1636/21 in Bastia Roads fired 2 torpedoes at 7,000 ton M/V. both hit. Accurate counter attack. 3. At 1757/22 in 090 degs. Bastia 7 miles fired 1 torpedo at Siebel Ferry, 1 hit.  
4. At 1815/22 fired 3 torpedoes at 2 overlapping Siebel Ferries, 2 hits. 5. All above targets seen to sink.  
(S.10 290945 to A.I.G. 66 (R) F.O.S.).

Enemy Vessels. Position of 3 enemy M/Vs. (1000 tons) is XMWF (4328 indecypherable W.F. 24 E.).  
(A/C G.P. S/V 290945Z to 201 Group, H.Q., M.E. Command).  
My 1237 (N.T. in W.D.) E.Vs. previously reported are 3 transport barges.  
(A/C FMB/P (via Malta by cable) 291240A to 45 U.)  
P.C. and S of 4 small M/Vs. 42.46 N. 9.37 E. (based on fix obtained within  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour of 1300) Course 260 degs. speed 7 knots.  
(A/C FMB/P via Malta 291252A.).  
My 1252. Enemy previously reported were 4 Siebel Ferries.  
(A/C FMB/P 291300A).  
P.C. and S of 2 motor launches is 43.05 N. 10.02 E. 260 degs. 10 knots. Weather report.  
(A/C CYJ/Z 291306A).

/Anti...

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29.9.1943.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Anti Radar device. Possible enemy A/C may be using anti Radar device in which A/C drop large quantities of metal paper. This gives the effect of large numbers of A/C and will also obscure on the same bearing at greater range.  
(2) Careful examination of large echo and the use of short pulse separate echo will aid in disclosure use of this method.  
(3) Any suspected use of this device should be reported by signal (C. in C. Med. 290951A to Med. Station, Levant Station 179B (R) Admty.)

Levant Situation. 1st S/M.F. Sept. 28th. A. Refitting TORBAY, NEREUS Y. SS.NEBOJSCA, PAPANICOLIS.  
B. Operational RORQUAL Beirut. TROOPER patrol Central Aegean. P.312 TRESPASSER Beirut. P.314 TACTICIAN Aden. P.339 TAURUS Aden. P.317 TALLY HO Suez.  
(C. in C. Levant 290951C to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty., Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 10.)

5th Army Special Convoy. 4 5th Army has called for D plus 7 special convoy. Convoy has been brought to immediate notice. Can you accept it?  
(C. in C. Med. 290956 to Cdre. (N) (R) N.C.W.T.F., F.O.I.C. Tunisia.)

UNRULY, UNRIVALLED. Intend sail P.49 UNRULY at 1600/1st October routed through 035° 50' 015° 17' 2030/1st 035° 47' 017° 30' 2000/2nd 035° 38' 023° 01' 0500/4th thence to West Aegean for patrol. All times zone A. surface passage on 30.  
2. Intend sail P.45 UNRIVALLED by same route 24 hours later.  
3. I. A.O. 24 request bombing restrictions for above passages. (Capt. (S) 10 290959 to Capt. (S) 1. C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 8, C. in C. Levant, 1st S.F. Air H.Q. Malta 201 N.C. Group. (R) Admty., R.A. Alexandria.)

G.U.S.17. Sail 29th Sept. 3 transports. Numbers of personnel. (S.S.T.O. Alex. 291032 to Admty.)

Air Reports. Sept. 29th. Daily Opsum. 154. 27/28th Sept. 3 Wellingtons Syros Harbour. Bursts seen on Quay other results unobserved.  
28th Sept. 3 Baltimores (A.30) Syros Harbour. 1 caique 80 tons sunk explosion and black smoke seen among warehouses.  
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 291034Z, 291053Z.)

U-Boat Disposition. No.81. No\*U-Boats are believed to be on patrol between 020° and 030° E.  
(Capt. on the Staff, Alexandria 291051C to C. in C. Levant, N.O.I.C. Tripoli, N.O.I.C. Benghazi, V.A. Malta, A.H.Q. Med., S.10, R.A. Alex. etc.)  
\* Decodes as shown.

/PASTEUR...

War Diary.29.9.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

PASTEUR. Your 241825 confirmed.  
(C. in C. Med. 291112A to Admty. (R) F.O.C. W.Af.,  
F.O.I.C. Gib., Commorseafron.)

Convoys, Amend paras. 5 and 6 of my 271123 to read 25.  
V.N.I., V.N.I.41, A.H.I. after detaching 26. 6. High.  
A.H.I. V.N.I. Adhesion, A.H.I. after detaching.  
(N.O.I.C. Malta 291113A to Comdre. (N) F.O.S.Y.,  
F.O.T.A. (R) H.M.S. WHADDON, H.M.S. EGGESFORD,  
WILTON, ZETLAND, WHEATLAND, C. in C. Med. etc.)  
V.N.I./A.H.I. My 271123A sailed (names and destinations).  
21 ships Commodore England R.N.R. in HIGHLAND PRINCE.  
(V.A. Malta 291840A to C.C. Force N., F.O.S.Y., F.O.T.A. (R)  
Admty. etc.)

FORT FORT GLOUCESTER arrived, sailing in U.G.S.18 has  
GLOUCESTER, collision damage. Unable repair here. Agree  
damaged. M.W.T. Surveyor Malta.  
(D.S.T.O. Malta 291130 to D. of S.T. etc.)

HYDERABAD. Am detaching HYDERABAD to fuel her Bizerta.  
E.T.A. 20000A/29th.  
(COLTSFOOT 291130A to N.O.I.C. Bizerta (R)  
C. in C. Med.)

ARCADIA. Request Hospital Ship ARCADIA be sailed from  
southern beaches on completion to Bizerta then  
Oran.  
(P.S.T.O. Med. 291152 to N.C.W.T.F. (R) F.O.S.,  
N.O.I.C. Bizerta, N.O.B. Oran.)

SURF. Onward route from 034° 34' N. 021° 49' E. at  
0159C/30th, direct to 031° 48' N. 032° 34' E. at  
0500C/2nd thence through 399 to Calcutta.  
Surface passage S. of A. 11 knots. Total bombing  
restrictions arranged. Capt. (S) 10 270958 X not to all addresses.  
(C. in C. Levant 291209C to P.239 (SURF) (R) N. and A.A.  
West Desert, N.O.I.C. Port Said, Capt. S. (1), Capt. S. (10),  
F.O.C. Red Sea, H.Q.A.D.E.M. (? Group 209.) )

Defences of Governor's proposals for reduction.  
Malta. (Gov. Malta 291215A.)

L.S.I. (L) Request you will sail GLENGYLE, DEVONSHIRE, and  
for SOBIESKI to Levant as soon as draft has been  
Levant. spanned and my 271841\* and 271934# have been  
complied with. Ships should not be held up owing  
to minor defects. 2. Escorts HURWORTH, HURSLEY,  
CROOME, ADRIAS and PINDOS. \* Not to Admty.  
(C. in C. Med. 291241A to V.A. Malta (R) C. in C.  
Levant, GLENGYLE.)

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War Diary.29.9.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

- X.T.4. M.S.C.I.22. Convoy 4 about 9 ships will sail p.m. 1st Oct. Route, details. (N.O.I.C. ~~ex. 291245~~ A.I.G.27, etc. (R) Admty. etc.)
- Repatriation Ships. Repatriation ships TAIREA and CUBAN leaving Port Said 0300/5th with German sick and wounded for exchange at Smyrna E.T.A. 1800B/7th thence returning Alexandria with British repatriated. Date of departure Smyrna not yet known. (2) Description. (3) Route. (4) Ships are not to be molested while following above route. (C. in C. Levant 291325C to H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. Capt. (S) 1.)
- Glider Bomb. Your 260354 (N.T. in W.D.) and 290103 (N.T. in W.D.) The following is a repetition of my 241449B (N.T. in W.D.) begins:- Following from Commander Holmes. "(1) In following attacks no evidence of use of H.S.293. U.S. Cruiser SAVANNAH, ORION, Italian Battleship ROMA ITALIA, UGANDA, WARSPITE. (2) In above attacks missile appears to have been F.X. and/or detached modified F.X. type with small front wing. (3) 1 unsuccessful night attack on LOOKOUT may have been by H.S.293 or as in para. (2). (4) Effectiveness of weapon in para. (1) total No. seen to drop 25 total No. of hits 5. (5) No (?investigation) here. (6) Following is being despatched by air to D.G.D. Admty. fragments from WARSPITE, UGANDA, SAVANNAH. (7) Report of investigating Committee ordered by S.O. Force 'H' and covering all above incidents will be ready for despatch and shortly". (Ends) T.O.O. 241449B. (RODNEY 291429A to Admty. D.G.D.)
- Swiss Ships. Your 091040. Confirmed that route in my 040032 should be regarded as standby for Swiss ships. (C. in C. Med. 291514A to Admty. (R) F.O.C. Gib.)
- German lighter, Istanbul. My 271153C reported B.4. No.3 will sail for Salonica next 24 hours. (S.O. (I) Istanbul 291530C to C. in C. Levant, S.O. (I) Levant, S.I., D.N.I.)
- LOOKOUT. Intend abandoning search at 1830A. E.T.A. N.A.F.T.A. 0530A/30th. Fuel remaining at 1600 today 98 tons including diesel oil. Empty German raft found in 041° 18' N. 010° 35' E. Nothing further to report. (LOOKOUT 291600A to S.O. Force "W" (R) S.O.15 C.S. Capt. (D) 19th D.F., C. in C. Med., N.C.W.T.F., N.A.F.T.A., N.A.T.A.F.)  
My 291750A. (Not addressed Admiralty). Search unsuccessful no response to flash. My P.C. and S. 041° 17' N. 010° 45' E. 115° 15 knots. 63 tons fuel stocks remaining. (LOOKOUT 292200A to Cmdre. N. (R) 15 O.S. Capt. (D) 19.)

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

UNRUFFLED,  
UNSHAKEN,  
SIBYL. (1). P.46 (UNRUFFLED) and P.54 (UNSHAKEN) proceed to patrol in zone S.Q. and S.R. respectively both S. of 043° N.  
(2) P.217 (SIBYL) operating in S.Q. North of 043° N. after 2100/30th and leave patrol passing through 043° 01' 009° 02' at 2100/1st 042° 01' 006° 50' at 2000/2nd. thence on surface at discretion through 039° 59' 005° 49' at 0830/3rd 038° 02' 003° 51' at 2330/3rd to R/V escort Algiers in 037° 04' 003° 21' at 0630/4th.  
(Capt. (S) 8 291630A to 8th S/M.F. (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 10 N.O.I.C. Algiers, L.N.728 (ARETHUSE.)

Malta  
dockyard  
strike. My 281255 situation remains unchanged.  
(?V.A. Malta) 291725 to Admty. C. in C. Med.,  
C. in C. Levant, F.O. Gib.)

CERES,  
BATTLER. Suez 29 Sept. arrivals CERES and BATTLER  
departure CERES.  
(F.O.R.S.C.A. 291810C to Admty. (R) C. in C.  
Levant, C. in C. E.F., Com. Aden.)

RODNEY,  
INGLEFIELD,  
ILEX,  
RAIDER. Sail escorted by INGLEFIELD, ILEX and RADAR so  
as to arrive Malta by 1200/30. Arrange Fighter  
Priority with N.O.I.C. Augusta.  
2. Acknowledge.  
(S.O. Force H. 291825A to RODNEY (R) A.H.Q. Malta,  
N.O.I.C. Sicily, N.O.I.C. Augusta, N.O.I.C. Malta,  
C. in C. Med.)

NIBLACK. Sailed at 1900/29th. U.S.S. NIBLACK for Palermo  
E.T.A. 0500/30th Sept. Speed 20 knots route  
119, 55, 38 (?3)\*and (?4).\* Fighter protection  
Codeword "Groom". Call sign 318 NV low.  
(N.O.I.C. Bizerta 291903A to Com. N.O.B. Palermo,  
(R) Com. 8th Fleet. C. in C. Med., C.T.F.89,  
C.T.G. 85.9 C.T.G. 85, C.T.G.85.1, N.A.C.A.F.,  
NA.T.A.F.) \* Alternatives 30,99, 129. \* Alternat-  
ives 183, 193.  
Arrival and departure. U.S.S. NIBLACK.  
(N.O.I.C. Bizerta 292357A to Admty. etc.)

Garrison  
of  
Malta. O.Z.2988 29/9/43. Following from C. of S.  
Your 271815. We agree that composition of future  
garrison of Malta should be amended as suggested  
in your para (a) (b) and (c). W.O. are initiating  
action accordingly.  
(Air Min. 291940Z to Gov. Malta.)

KNIGHT. Arrived and departed KNIGHT (U.S.)  
(N.O.I.C. Algiers 292004A.)

/Situation...



29.9.1943.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Situation  
report  
No.192.

- (1) Sweeping of channel to Castellamare commenced on 28th Sept. Under beach has been closed and re-opened W. of Salerno. Bad weather hampered unloading on 27th and 28th Sept.
- (2) Destroyers maintained patrol between Otranto and Valona during night 27th/28th and 28th/29th Sept. but sighted nothing.
- (3) First convoy of 6 ships has arrived Brindisi and commenced discharging on 28th Sept.
- (4) P.31 (UPROAR) reports having damaged 1 ship in approaches to Bastia on 28th Sept. evacuation still continues.
- (5) P.51 (UNSEEN) reports one possible 2 ships hit during patrol N. of Corsica.
- (6) Total French forces and equipment transported to Corsica up to 27th Sept. mainly by French cruisers and destroyers 6,4000 troops 1,100 tons stores 134 vehicles.  
(C. in C. Med. 292208A.)

Glider  
bomb.

C. in C. Levant 251145. Local Italian Naval Authorities here state this Officer was last heard of at Leghorn where he was Director of "Naval Armi".  
(F.O.T.A. 292213A to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.etc.)

ARETHUSE.

ARETHUSE operation complete. Pass through 042° 01' 006° 13' at 2100/29th thence as in my 281530.  
(Capt. (S) 8th 292340A to 8th S/M.F. (R)  
ARETHUSE, C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Algiers.)

Malta  
movements.

Arrived PIORUN and QUAIL with Italian C/R SCIPIONE AFRICANO. Italian destroyers LEGIONARIO and ORIANI, PANTHER, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, TETCOTT, PATHFINDER. Departed JERVIS and PETARD escorting Italian C/R SCIPIONE, AFRICANO and Italian T.B. ?Destroyer RIBOTY.  
(V.A. Malta 292355 to Admty. C. in C. Med.,  
C. in C. Levant.)

# MOST SECRET

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(\*NOTE : Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad :  
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MOST SECRET. M E S S A G E. No T.O.O./29th Sept. IN.

From. A.F.H.Q. Algiers. Date. 30.9.43.  
Recd. 1430.

## C Y P H E R.

Addressed. The War Office and LINREP addressees.

1232 cipher 29 Sept. CITE FHCOT - Signed Eisenhower.

159834. From G-3 (ors M) Section.

LINREP 86. Summary of Operations 23 to 26 Sept.

### 1. Ground.

Eighth Army. Sept. 23. First Airborne Div. was directed on Altamura P.16. First Cdn Bde was in contact with enemy at Spinazzola 076 and Atella 035. First Para Bde captured Altamura Sept. 24. Same day RCN Elements 78th Div. reached Ofanto River and following day advanced elements secured crossings west of Canosa 097 and Barletta J90. Same day 13 Corps occupied Spinazzola and Atella. On 26 Sep. patrols 78 Div reached Zapponeta J62 on Adriatic Coast. Remainder Div were concentrating Molfetta P.29. 2 Cdn Bde reached Melfi 036. on 27 Sep. 4 Armd Bde captured Foggia.

Fifth Army. On 23 Sep elements 45 Div reached the areas 15 miles NW of Potenza 052 and ten miles northeast of Eboli N82. Forward elements 3 Div reached the areas 3 miles north and 8 miles NW Acerno N.83. Slow progress is being made by 10 Corps in Salerno area against stubborn resistance. On 24 Sep 45 Div occupied Valva 003. Third Div engaged in close fighting with enemy tanks and infantry reached posn. just south of Montella N84. 56 Div reached area 2 miles north of Salerno. 46 Div made slight gains 4 miles NW of Salerno. On 25 Sep. 45 Div was 3 miles SW of Teora 005. Forward troops 3 Div were along general line Bagnoli N94 to area 6 miles SE Avellinos N65. Attack of 10 Corps progressed slowly against organised posns. and strong resistance. On 26 Sep. 45 Div occupied Lion 005. Third Div occupied Bagnoli with patrols reaching Castelfranci N85. 133 RCT (34 Div) was in area just NE of Eboli.

On 10 Corps/

On 10 Corps front 169 Bde occupied Mt. Stella N6836 and Rangers occupied Sala N4935.

Corsica. Strong pressure maintained on enemy rear guards by French Regular and Patriot Forces. Bonifacio and Porto Vecchia occupied and enemy columns on east coast road successfully attacked. On 26 Sep. French Bn De Choc were engaging enemy ten miles southwest and eight miles west of Bastia. Moroccan Goums were pressing northward in area 12 miles SSW of Bastia.

## 2. Naval.

During night 22/23 Sep. Coastal Forces carried out sweep along Italian coast north of Naples without incident. Destroyers maintained patrols in the Straits of Otranto.

On 24 Sep the convoy of personnel ships with Eight Indian Div. arrived at Taranto.

On 26 Sep S.S. CHRISTINA MICHELSEN in convoy blew up and sank 30 miles east of Bone. During night 26/27 Sep. destroyers maintained patrol in the vicinity of Corfu but sighted nothing. Two French cruisers escorted by two of H.M. destroyers proceeded to Ajaccio Corsica with troops.

## 3. Air.

Our heavy bombers have continued their attacks nightly on marshalling yards, airfields and harbour installations with good effect. Leghorn area was the target for 79 Wellingtons night 24/25 Sep. where large fires were started. Of 80 Wellingtons which attacked marshalling yards and airfields at Pisa night 23/24 Sep. two failed to return. Leaflets have been dropped on the Salerno area as well as big cities including Rome and Milan. By day on 24 and 25 Sep. widespread raids were made on communications, including an attack by 71 Fortresses on Bologna. Bad visibility prevented results being observed. Middle East report small but effective attacks on airfields in Crete and Rhodes.

Cont. Medium .....

# MOST SECRET

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

- 3 -

Medium bombers have daily assisted ground forces by attacks on enemy communications at strategic places including Florence, Benevento, Senseverino and Avellino. Fighter bombers have successfully attacked motor tpt concentrations in the battle area. Coastal Command have continued patrols against submarine and surface craft. During these patrols on 24 Sep 19 JU.52s were claimed destroyed. There has been little fighter opposition.

#### 4. Enemy.

In the period under review, 16 TZ Div has been withdrawn from combat, presumably for rest and refit after sustaining heavy losses. No other changes in disposition have been reported. The enemy has continued to withdraw, pivoting on his right flank north of Salerno. By 26 Sep his rearguard troops in the east, where very little fighting has taken place, had reached the general line Manfredonia - Foggia - Melfi. In the centre the enemy continues to retire under pressure and is now north of the line San Andria - Lioni - Bagnoli - Castelfranci. Fierce fighting has continued in the sector Avellino - Salerno, where the enemy until 26 Sep. refused to give ground anywhere except southeast of Avellino. On 26 Sep the Germans had lost all important commanding posns. north and northwest of Salerno, and had withdrawn to the outskirts of Avellino. The enemy is rapidly evacuating the whole Foggia area, and (?) demolitions and planned withdrawals is preparing to retreat from the Salerno front when forced to this by outflanking movements to the east. Extensive defensive preparations have been noticed along the Volturno River, suggesting a possible delaying action on this line. Evacuation of Corsica has continued from Bastia, Borgo and until 25 Sep. from Ghisonaccia. On this date the airfield at the latter place was abandoned. It is expected that the evacuation will be completed by the end of Sep. In the Adriatic the Germans have seized Cephalonia and Corfu.

5. Political.

Will be included in LHMREP 87.

Advance Copy sent. D.C.

Note by C.6. Tels.

Advance copy sent Colonial  
Office for retransmission to  
Resident Minister, Achimota.

Distribution by M.O.4.

1st Lord.  
1st S.L.(2)  
D.F.S.L.  
4th S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(F)  
A.C.N.S.(A)(2)  
A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)  
A.C.N.S.(W)  
Nav. Sec.  
Parl. Sec.  
U.N.R.  
Capt. Pim.  
D.C.  
D.O.D.(H)(4)  
D.O.D.(F)(2)  
D.D.I.C.(2)  
D.N.I.(4)  
Hd. of M.(2)  
D. of P.(2)  
D. of P.(Q)(3)  
D.A.S.W.  
D.A.U.D.  
D.T.D.(4)  
C.N.I.  
D.P.D.  
Ad. Blake.(4)  
Ad. Ramsay.(2)  
V.D.  
I.P.(2)  
H.W.R.(2)

M.O.1.2.4.5.6.7.  
G.S.(P)  
M.I.3.8.(L) 14.17.  
S.D.2.5.  
Air.Co-ord.  
L.M.5/S.D.(W)  
R.A.8.  
R.A.C.1.  
Sigs. 5.  
C.(Ops) 2.(4)  
A.G. Co-ord.  
C.A.2.  
H.Q. E.F.O.U.S.A.  
Brig. Jacob.  
Admiralty (War Registry)  
A.M.S.S.O.  
C.O. H.C. (Can Mil H.C.).  
Recd. in War Reg. at 1510/1.

bs

29.9.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

M.A.9 Arrival PANSY and NETRAVATI (?escorting) Madras portion of M.A.9. (N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam, 290101Z to N.O.I.C.Madras). Convoy sailing telegram (4 ships).  
1. M.A.9. 2. 0900Z/29th. 4. 10. 5. (Route). 6. LAUNCESTON, PATNA. (N.C.S.O. Vizagapatam, 290906Z, 290909Z to Admty).

Convoy Colombo portion arrived.  
B.M.67. (N.C.S.O. Colombo, 290343 to Admty).

M.A.8 Arrived.  
(N.O.I.C. Chittagong, 290620Z to Admty).

SANDOWN SSSS 4 11° 40' N., 45° 31' E. Sub. sighted.  
CASTLE (SANDOWN CASTLE via Colombo, No T.O.O. rec.  
(S" Report. 290814).

India A. 249 29th Sept. Daily Opsum No. 563.  
Air Report. 28th Sept. 2 Beaufighters communications Taungtha-Kyaykpadaung area. Damaged railway buildings and installations Road Transport including 3 M/T one large Sampan left sinking. 4 Beaufighters Magwe to Pakkokku damaged 45 small Rivercraft 3 barges. 5 small oil tanks fired. 2 Beaufighters Kalewa to Yesagy. Damaged 100 plus Sampans. 2 Steamers one barge one flat. Both steamers several Sampans fired. 2 Hurricanes Akyab area. One Sampan sunk. Target detailed one steamer not sighted. 1 Wellington Afakan coast. Bombing and M/G attacks on approx. 30 small Craft Cheduba area. Several damaged. 28 Sept. 2 U.S. Mitchells (B.25) shipping Tongking Gulf. 1 A/C sank 200 foot tanker. 1 A/C missing. (A.H.Q. India, 290953Z)

Convoy Sailing telegram (2 ships).  
J.C.23. (2) 1121Z/29th (group missing) (group missing) E.T.A. Madras 0130Z 2nd Oct. (group missing) 1130Z/3rd Oct. (4) 11 knots. (5) Coastal. (6) NARBADA to Vizagapatam. (N.C.S.O. Colombo, 291123Z to Admty).

Office of To open on 4th Oct. Re signal communications.  
C. in C. E.F. (C. in C. E.F., 291126Z to Admty). See Lion Copy.  
at S.E.A.G.  
Headquarters.

Diversions Diversion of merchant shipping E.F. Stn. 182C  
of Merchant of 12th March 1943 is cancelled. Control of all  
Shipping. merchant ship movements in Indian Ocean is vested in C. in C. E.F.

2. Diversions on account of presence of enemy ships.

Made either by use of H.F. message or signalling a revised route, and if necessary, new destination. Such signals are made C. in C. E.F. (Admiral, Colombo to merchant shipping). F.O.E.A. /Admiral,...

# SECRET

989<sup>A</sup>

Tiger  
29 Sept.

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SECRET

MESSAGE

0113 41A/October

OUT

Addressed A Message 714A Date 1.10.43.  
Home and Abroad.

(Naval Code J)

From Admiralty

BASEGRAM. IMPORTANT

Office of C.in C.E.F.  
at SEAC Hq.

Office of C.in C. E.F. at south east Asia Command Headquarters will open at 0230Z 4th October repetition 0230Z 4th October.

2. The scale of this office is such that it is necessary to limit signal communications to it to those subjects with which it is directly concerned. These are:-

- (a) Policy of all kinds.
- (b) Station and Fleet planning, including planning of supply.
- (c) Planning and conduct of operations but not of routine repetition routine convoys or A/S escorts
- (d) Planning and conduct of Combined Operations.
- (e) Movements of H.M. Ships, Combined Operations Ships, important troop convoys A C W Monsters but not of other merchant ships.
- (f) Station communications.

3. It is to be the originator's responsibilities that signals concerning subjects quoted in para. 2 are addressed or repeated to "C.in C. Eastern Fleet (S.E.A.C.)" (for which necessary groups in Codes and Cyphers are being allocated) and are routed to both repetition both Colombo and S.E.A.C. Hqrs.

4. All other signals are to continue to be addressed (or repeated to) C.in C. Eastern Fleet and are to be routed in accordance with EFCO 138 (also contained in A.F.O. S.247/43). Steps will, if necessary, be taken at C.in C. E.F.'s shore hqrs. at Colombo to forward to S.E.A.C. Hqrs. any such signals as may require to be received there.

5. C.in C. E.F. Hqrs. at S.E. Asia Command reads the appropriate Broadcast for Flag Officer's traffic. Vide EFCO 138 para. 3.

6. C.in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.) Hqrs. and C.in C.E.F. Shore Hqrs. at Colombo both hold C.in C.'s set of S.Ps. except certain One Time pads (details of which are communicated to the complementary holder which always accompany C.in C. E.F. wherever he may be.

7. Until further orders Delhi (R.N. C.C.O.) is responsible for S.E. Asia Command Hqrs.

/8.....

8. C.in C. E.F's 030539/ 140631 and 140932 all of September to certain addresses only. are cancelled.

01134L.

for D. S. D. (151)

/ Re Routeing of messages for personal attention of Admiral Somerville.

I.L.	D.S.O.(2)
I.S.L.(2)	W/T Room.(3).
V.C.N.S.	C.C.O.(2).
A.C.N.S.(F)	W.R.Book Office.(2).
A.C.N.S.(U.T.)(2)	I.P.(3).
U.W.R.	B.N.L.O.(FF).
O.P.S.(2)	H.W.R.(2)
Plot	D.N.I.(4)
O.D.(5)	D.T.D.(4)
D. of P.(3)	Hd. of S.W.R.(2).Bath.
W.D.	
N.I.D.10 .(3)	
M.(6) (and for further promulgation as necessary)	

LD



29.9.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Diversions  
of Merchant  
Shipping.  
(contd).

(Admiral, Mombasa to Merchant shipping) has also authority to initiate such messages to convoys and coastal shipping on east coast of Africa and local shipping between east coast of Africa, Madagascar. Seychelles and Mauritius.

(3) In restricted traffic limits in Gulfs of Aden and Oman and Persian Gulf where use of A.F. messages not suitable, immediate warning of presence of enemy vessels is passed in P/L to merchant ships by Cdre. Aden, and S.N.O. Persian Gulf respectively.

(4) Diversions for mercantile or trade reasons. To avoid uneconomical diversion of ships through ignorance or imperfect knowledge of precise cargo stowage, signals requesting a diversion are made to C. in C. E.F. and it has the following authorities - (a) For ships loaded in U.K. to Admiralty. (b) For ships loaded abroad, to M.W.T.R. or S.T.O. of area in which loading took place.

If a ships weight known now be in east African coastal waters, the request for diversion should be addressed F.O.E.A. and Zanzibar and repeated C. in C. E.F. for information in addition circumstances given (a) and (b) above.

(5) Grant signal request diversion must contain:-

(a) the authorities on whose behalf the request is made.

(b) The reason for diversion. If cargo then what cargo and whether all or part. Suitable priority must be prefixed.

(6) C. in C. E.F. or F.O.I.C. East Africa and Zanzibar will order diversion after waiting long enough for the authority in para.

(4) (a) and (b) to intervene if necessary.

(7) F.Os. in Charge and N.Os. I.C. pass to S.O.(I)s, N.C.S.Os. and S.T.Os.

(C. in C. E.F., 291211Z to E.F. Stn. 405 C. (R) Admty).

LARCHBANK  
torpedoed  
and sunk  
Sept. 9th.

Information obtained from second batch Survivors amends my 281028 as follows.

B. 7° 38' N., 74° E. approx. C. U-boat similar Japanese type R.O. 33. E. 2, one missed. F. 30 including those previously reported. (C. in C. E.F., 291302Z to Admty).

Unknown  
ship torpedoed.

Unknown ship torpedoed in 009° 27' N., 071° 05' E. at 2010Z/29th.

(C. in C. E.F., 292058 to S. and A. East Indies, Stn. (R) Admty. A.C.N.B.)

SECRET

6.8

Leon  
990A

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            I N            291126Z September

From C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

Date 30.9.43.

Recd. 1902.

NAVAL CYPHER 'X' BY W/P.

Addressed Admiralty, Repeated S.L.O. India.

Office of Cinc EF  
at SEAC Hq.

IMPORTANT.

1. Request following promulgation may be made by Secret Important Basegram A message not later than 2nd October. "Office of C. in C. E.F. at south east Asia Command Headquarters will open at 0230Z 4th October repetition 0230Z 4th October.

2. The scale of this office is such that it is necessary to limit signal communications to it to those subjects with which it is directly concerned. These are -

- (A) Policy of all kinds.
- (B) Station and Fleet planning, including planning of supply.
- (C) Planning and conduct of operations but not of routine repetition routine convoys or A/S escorts.
- (D) Planning and conduct of Combined Operations.
- (E) Movements of H.M. Ships, Combined Operations Ships, important troop convoys A C W Monsters but not of other merchant ships (
- (F) Station communications.

3. It is to be the originator's responsibilities that signals concerning subjects quoted in para. 2 are addressed or repeated to "C. in C. Eastern Fleet (S.E.A.C.)" (for which necessary groups in Codes and Cyphers will be provided) and are routed to both repetition both Colombo and S.E.A.C. Hqrs.

4. All other signals are to continue to be addressed (or repeated to) C. in C. Eastern Fleet and are to be routed in accordance with EFCO 138 (also contained in A.F.O. S.247/43) Stops will, if necessary be taken at C. in C. E.F.'s shore hqrs. at Colombo to forward to S.E.A.C. Hqrs. any such signals as may require to be received there.

5. C. in C. E.F. Hqrs. at S.E. Asia Command reads the appropriate Broadcast for Flag Officer's traffic. Vide EFCO 138 para. 3.

6. C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.) Hqrs. and C. in C. E.F. shore Hqrs. at Colombo both hold C. in C.'s set of S.Ps. except certain One Time pads (details of which are communicated to the complementary holders) which always accompany C. in C.E.F. wherever he may be.

7./.....

7. Until further orders Delhi (R.N.) C.C.O. is responsible for S.E. Asia Command Hqrs.

8. C. in C. E.F's 030539 / 140631 and 140932 all of September to certain addresses only, are cancelled"

B. Admiralty are requested to promulgate necessary code and cypher groups required by para. 3 of draft A Message above.

291126Z

/ Re Routing of messages for personal attention of Admiral Somerville.

Advance copy sent D.S.D., M.

1st Lord.  
1st S.L. (2)  
D.F.S.L.  
2nd S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (H)  
A.C.N.S. (F)  
A.C.N.S. (W)  
A.C.N.S. (UT)(2)  
Sec.  
Naval Sec.  
N.A. Mails.  
U.W.R.  
Ops. (2)  
Plot  
C.D. (5)  
O.I.C. (2)  
D.N.I. (5)  
D.S.D. (3) (for appropriate action)  
D.S.O. (and for O.I/c W/T Room)  
D. A/B V.  
D. A/U D.  
M. (2)  
D.T.D. (4)  
D.T.D. (C)  
C.C.O. (2)  
D. of P. (Q)(3)  
D.C.O.M. (2)  
D.R.O. (C.O.)(2)  
D. of P. (3)  
N.I.D. 10 (3) (for appropriate action)  
H.W.R. (2)  
W.R. Book Office (2)  
Ad. Blake (4)  
I.P. (3)  
W.D.

991

29.9.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Escort requirements. At a meeting in Navy Department today we were informed of a cut of 200 in the escort programme, and they feared that pressure would come to make a further cut of 205. The present cut will start affecting programmes in third quarter 1944. If the further cut came at the end of the programme it would mean virtually no more D.Es. coming out after the end of 1944. They are therefore going to propose that C.C.S. 80/2 be brought up to date. We assume that we were called into this conference to give them backing in overall escort requirement and this should be an opportunity to make a fresh statement of our requirements. (B.A.D., 290047Z to Admty).

Italian Shipping. Your 271845. C. in C. Med's 282309 has been repeated to you.  
2. Further signals will be made reporting other Italian ships in Allied hands in Levant and Mediterranean Command.  
(Head of M.I., 290302A to B.A.D.)

MAURETANIA Arrived Boston 1100Z/29th.  
(P.D. Boston, 291115Z to Com. 10th U.S. Fleet C. and R).

X.B.76 Following is list of ships joining from O.N.S.18.  
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 291159Z to Admty).

WEBER Divert forthwith for St. Johns via 047° 30' 049° 01'.  
(Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet (C. and R) 291250Z to WEBER, (R) C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F., C. in C. Lant, C.E.S.F., Admty. Comtask 24, N.S.H.Q.)

U.S. S/M Estimate. Cominch, 291331Z.

N.S.H.Q. S/M Estimate. N.S.H.Q., 291405.

S.S.C.143, ?S.S.C.141. Sailing telegram. (10 ships).  
2. Gate 1400Z/29th. 3. Somp 1200Z/30th.  
4. 7 knots to Somp then 8 knots. 5. (Route).  
6. THUNDER, KENTVILLE.  
(N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B., 291427Z, 291429Z to Admty)

H.X.259 Additions and deletions.  
(B.R.L.O. New York, 291502Z to Admty).

/VICTORIOUS...

War Diary.

29.9.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

VICTORIOUS,  
co-operation  
with U.S.  
Fleet, re  
release to  
Press.

Since VICTORIOUS has now returned to U.K. would there be any objection to the release to the press of stories of a non-operational nature showing the spirit of co-operation and camaraderie existing between the two forces during VICTORIOUS' attachment to the U.S. Fleet. Also is there any objection to VICTORIOUS being named as having operated in the Pacific with the U.S. Navy and particularly with SARATOGA. No dates would be mentioned.

(D.A.W.T. approved A.C.N.S. (A), 291540A to B.A.D.)

U.S. Ships  
to U.K.  
independent  
sailing.

Your 281940. The intention of Comtenthfleet (C. and R.) 141456 was to centralise authority in order to adopt a flexible policy.  
2. At the present time independent sailing of U.S. Ships to U.K. is stopped. All British controlled ships will be referred to Admiralty. (B.A.D., 291605Z to Admiralty).

K.15

Your 281739 (N.T. in W.D.) U.S. Authorities should be informed in accordance with A.M. 211901 Sept.

2. It is anticipated that K.15 will be ready to leave U.K. early November and will be routed via Suez.

(D.O.D. (F), 291845A to B.A.D.)

ACONIT

Admty. 291130 (N.T. in W.R.) and C. in C. W.A. 281032 arrangements are being made accordingly. (B.A.M.R., 291846 to Admty. C. in C. W.A., F.N.G.B. (R) N.S.H.Q., ACONIT).

My 282050. Change destination to Halifax. C. in C. C.N.A. requested to route onward to comply with Admty. 291130.

(Cominch, 292019Z to C.C.S.F. (R) Com. 8, Cinclant, C.T.F. 24, C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q., Admty. C. in C. W.A.)

L.23

My 262302 August. S/M L.23 expected to sail for Halifax on Friday 8th Oct.

(B.A.R.M., 291916Z to C. in C. C.N.W.A. (R) Admty. F.O.C. Subs. N.S.H.Q., Capt. (S) 7th S/F, S.B.N.O.W.At., L.23).

B.Y.M.S.,  
GRINDALL.

Sail B.Y.M.S. 57, 161 when ready about 4th Oct. Charlestown to Halifax via New York for onward routing by C. in C. C.N.A. to Londonderry via St. Johns, N.F. Usual instructions and tactical information for this type apply. About 8th Oct. when ready sailing H.M.S. GRINDALL direct Boston

to Bermuda. Advise interested addressees routing instructions both movements.

(Cominch, 292015Z to C.E.S.F.)

War Diary.

29.9.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

ROYAL  
SOVEREIGN.

Philadelphia sailed 0900Z/29th ROYAL SOVEREIGN for Norfolk.  
(N.S.H.Q., 292020Z to Admty).

WASKESIU

FORESTER's 281131 not to Admty. and F.O.I.C. Northern Ireland.  
Request you indicate date WASKESIU will be ready for sea and sail ship to join E.G.5 as directed by C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q. 121633 refers.  
(C. in C. C.N.A., 292024Z to F.O.N.F. (R)  
C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., Cdre. D.W.A., F.O.I.C. N.I., Admty).

Sub. attack  
and sighting  
summary.

All times Z. C. Navy planned Radar contact 12.02 S., 35.02 W. 291420.  
D. K.52 attacked made contact 30.40 N., 80.34 W. 291740. U.S.S. DAVIS attacked sound contact 12.42 S. 34.33 W. 282105.  
(Cominch, 292050Z to Admty).

ST. CATHERINES  
information.

You may sight ESSO NEW ORLEANS northbound about dusk 30th.  
(N.S.H.Q., 292116Z to ST. CATHERINES (R) S.B.N.O. W.A., Admty).

H.D.M.Ls.  
for New  
Zealand.

Lorsa 12861. Request early advise new consignment for 6 H.D.M.Ls. referred to in N.Z.N.B's 282125 as craft will shortly be available for shipment.  
(B.A.D., 292331Z to Admty).

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest  
Serial No.  
617 Sept.  
28th.

Five small merchantmen reported off Cape St. George during night hours course 100°.  
4. Two enemy submarines passed Cape Orford northbound within one hour of each other forenoon.  
5. Four Beaufighters destroyed large camouflaged barge Ubili and another off Cape Busching afternoon 27th.

7. Forty Liberators with 37 fighters escorting again attacked Wewak area forenoon dropping 145 tons of bombs on supply dumps and installations. Main ammunition storage dump on Wewak Peninsula destroyed in addition to fuel dump near Mission Point. Numerous large fires Direa started supply areas. During interception by about 40 enemy fighters our bombers destroyed one and probably another while our fighters destroyed seven and probably two others. Four bombers and three fighters damaged but all our aircraft returned. One small merchant vessel observed off Boram.

994

29.9.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest  
Serial No.  
617 Sept.  
28th.  
(contd).

9. Seven Bostons attacked Finschhafen area in support of our ground troops hitting barges and heavily strafing coastal track.  
11. Only 1 merchantman observed Hollandia forenoon.  
12. Allied destroyers sank 3 possibly 4 enemy barges northeast Vella Gulf night 27th. Enemy aircraft dropped flares during action.  
13. 21 Liberators, 24 Dauntless, 12 Avengers covered by 79 fighters bombed and strafed Kahili afternoon 26th scoring hits on supply Bivouac and Hangar areas gun positions and buildings causing fires. Interception by 30 fighters one destroyed by Liberators while our fighters also shot down one. One Corsair crash landed one Liberator damaged.  
14. Same afternoon 18 Dauntless, 15 Avengers bombed barge centre Southern Kolombangara causing two fires.  
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 290832Z).

Movements

Arrivals Brisbane (27th) U.S. destroyer MAHAN, U.S. destroyer MUGFORD, Fremantle 28th U.S. Seaplane tender ~~PRESOTON~~ PRESOTON. Departure Darwin 27th U.S. destroyer DOBBIN, U.S. destroyer MUGFORD, U.S. destroyer MAHAN, SUSQUEHANNA for Milne Bay. Townsville 27th U.S.S. COPAHEE. Port Moresby 27th U.S. Seaplane Tender SWAN for Cairns. Brisbane 28th U.S.S. GOLDEN STAR for Sydney.  
(A.C.N.B., 291504Z).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 291400A, 291401A).

Sub. attack  
and sighting  
summary for  
24 hours to  
0900Z/29th.

Para. A. (1) A/C B/48 sighted U/B on surface in 35° 55' N., 8° 58' W. at 1222Z/28th.  
(2) SS. SANDOWN CASTLE sighted U/B in 11° 40' N. 45° 31' E. about 0714Z/29th.  
(D.D.I.C., 290951Z to Cominch).

P.N.M.  
trials.

Result of trials carried out at Halifax.  
(C. in C. C.N.A., 292915Z (sic) to N.S.H.Q. (R)  
Admty. C. in C. W.A., Cdre. (D) Londonderry,  
N.M.C.S., F.O.N.F.)

995

30.9.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation  
S.F.

1. Group B sailed from the Faeroes this afternoon to carry out A/S operations in the S.F. area.

Coastal  
force  
encounter.

2. In the early hours of today a force of M.T.Bs. and M.G.Bs. encountered 4 R-boats about 6 miles west of Le Touquet. In the ensuing action M.T.Bs. 433 and 436 were slightly damaged and had some casualties. One R-boat was set on fire.

BELLONA

3. The cruiser BELLONA commissioned today.

South Atlantic.

4. Portuguese SS. MELLO reported this evening that she was on fire in 03.41 S., 32.07 W. Swiss SS. ST. CERGUE picked up 29 of the crew.

5. An unknown ship made a submarine distress report at 1725 G.M.T. in 38.53 S. 31.05 E.

Mediterranean.

Landing  
ships and  
craft.

6. C. in C. Med. is returning to the U.K. between 23 October and 24 December 56 British landing ships and 174 landing craft, and is sending to India 18 L.S. and 12 L.C. He will require for this purpose 120 additional W/keeping officers and 40 Ocean C.Os. of which less than one third can be found on the station.

U/B attack  
on M.K.S. 26:  
2 ships  
torpedoed.

7. COLTSFOOT, escorting convoy M.K.S. 26 reported late tonight that 2 ships had been torpedoed in 37.19 N., 06.40 E. (off Philippeville). One of these, SS. FORT HOWE, was later reported sunk. The other, the tanker SS. EMPIRE COMMERCE, broke in two; the after part sank and a tug took the foremost part in tow for Philippeville.

/VALIANT...



996

30.9.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- VALIANT 8. VALIANT and 4 destroyers left Malta for Gibraltar and the U.K. today.
- "Avalanche" 9. A British Port Party arrived at Barletta (Gulf of Manfredonia) today.
10. Captain (D) 4 reports that the Otranto Patrol last night was blank.
- Corsica 11. An L.S.T. was sunk during air attack on Ajaccio p.m. today. The French destroyer LA FORTUNE received minor damage.  
E
- Sardinia 12. A U.S. Port Party was established at Cagliari today.

East Indies.

- Coastal forces. 13. C. in C.E.F. in a message today gives a preliminary estimate of requirements for Coastal Forces in the Eastern area and asks that the necessary additional coastal forces may be allocated. Nearly 40 flotillas will be required.
- C.O. personnel. 14. C. in C.E.F. reports that the C.O. personnel arriving from the U.K. are undisciplined and badly kitted. Their appearance and bearing is such that it brings discredit to the Navy.
15. The American tanker YORK reported sighting a periscope at 0405 today in 01.20 N. 77.07 E.

997

30.9.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Eagle  
Ships.

Admiralty 142118A paras. 2 and 3. Nine out of twenty-two eagle ships in this Command have recently been paid off or surrendered for other duties.

2. These vessels carry out various other duties besides their A/A duties and reporting of minelaying by hostile aircraft such as escorts for Trinity House vessels, minor landing craft, pilot cutters and merchant vessels not in convoy.

3. It is proposed to pay off QUEEN EMPRESS thus reducing the number remaining between Sheerness Harwich and Humber to 12.

4. It is not considered advisable to reduce the numbers further at present in view of the approaching winter and the likelihood of an increase in enemy minelaying.

(C. in C. Nore, 301116A to Admty).

M.L.F.1

The re-allocation in A.M. 281925B June is to remain in force for a further 3 months when the position will be reviewed again.

(D.D.O.D.C., 301509A to C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Portsmouth).

Movements.

CLYDE

You should bear in mind that East of 030° W. enemy submarines are very likely to be encountered at current time.

(F.O.S., 301033A to CLYDE).

KENT,  
DAUNTLESS.

Intend sailing KENT for Scapa and DAUNTLESS in company for Rosyth at 0700/6th. One destroyer will be provided as escort to Flamborough Head where KENT will part company and proceed independently, DAUNTLESS reducing speed as necessary to arrive 22 buoy at daylight.

(C. in C. Nore, 301115A to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Rosyth).

MILNE

Your 291950. Arrived.  
(A.C.O.S., 301150 to F.O. Humber).

SABRE

Faeroes departure SABRE. E.T.A. Rosyth 1500A tomorrow.

(N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 301501A to C. in C. H.F.)

ORILLIA

Reykjavik departure, ORILLIA proceeding by Great Circle track to St. Johns N.F. E.T.A. 1900A/5.  
(A.C.I.C., 301538A to C. in C.C.N.A.)

/HUMBOLDT...

30.9.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

HUMBOLDT When ready for sea about 1st October request you will sail U.S.S. HUMBOLDT independently via 55.40 N., 06.40 W. to Norfolk, Virginia. Route. Estimated S.O.A. 18 knots. (D.O.D. H., 301625A to N.O.I.C. Avonmouth).

S/M Positions of S/Ms at 0800/1st and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S., 301652A, 302158A).  
Movements.

MALAYA Para. two of C. in C. W.A's 292133A. Intend to sail LIMBOURNE (S.O.), TALYBONT, and MELBREAK at 2130A/3rd to R/V with MALAYA escorted by BENTINCK and SKATE at 1830A/4 at K.4 buoy and to take over escorts to Plymouth. (C. in C. Plymouth, 301657A).

"Chop" for An operational "Chop" for submarines on passage S/Ms. has been established on long. 35° W. to co-incide with the change of W/T watch.  
2. This is to be brought into force forthwith and Authorities are requested to include time and date of "Chop" in sailing signals. (D.O.D. H., 301805A to F.O.S).

ALBEMARLE, When ready for sea on 4th October request you BULMER, will sail U.S.S. ALBEMARLE, (S.O.) BULMER, BARKER BARKER. via A. 55.40 N., 06.40 W. B. 55.12 N., 16.00 W. C. 50.55 N., 22.25 W. D. 45.24 N. 28.57 W. E. 45.40 N., 40.32 W. F. 45.52 N., 51.00 W. to Argentia. Route. Subsequent destination Norfolk, Virginia. Estimated S.O.A. 18 knots. (D.O.D. H., 301835A to N.O.I.C. Swansea).

UNICORN, On arrival in U.K. UNICORN will proceed to ILLUSTRIOUS, Glasgow to unload aircraft. C. in C. W.A. is VALIANT. then requested to sail her for Belfast. (D.O.D. H., 302132A).  
ILLUSTRIOUS, UNICORN and VALIANT are returning to U.K. in company leaving Gibraltar about 4th Oct. Destinations are as follows:- ILLUSTRIOUS Clyde, UNICORN Clyde then Belfast. VALIANT Plymouth.  
2. If submarine situation permits C. in C. W.A. is requested to detail part of the escort to part company in approx. 49° N. and escort VALIANT to Plymouth. (A.C.N.S. H., 302350A to C. in C. W.A.)

999

30.9.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

S/M Amend para. (B) of my 291825 to read.  
Patrols. (B) SEADOG approx. 65° 50' N., 00° 30' W., probably on surface at 8 knots through 63° 15' N., 02° 30' W. to Lerwick.  
(C. of W. 300618A to A.I.F. 25).

Report P.C.S.

(F.O.S., 301124A to SEADOG).

Your 301124. My P.C.S. 065° 20', 001° 40' W. 200° 10 knots.  
(SEADOG, 301305 to F.O.S.)

Positions of submarines at 0800/1st October and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) STOIC and VARANGIAN on patrol off Andoy.

(B) ULA vicinity 63° 34' N., 005° 05' E.

(C) SATYR vicinity 64° 29' N., 005° 59' E.

(D) SEADOG 63° 10' N., 003° 25' W. probably on surface towards Lerwick 8 knots.

(K) RUBIS vicinity 47° 40' N., 005° 10' W. on patrol.

(L) CLYDE 43° 30' N., 024° 20' W. probably on surface through 43° 30' N., 022° 00' W. towards 49° 20' N., 018° 01' W. 14½ knots.

(F.O.S., 301652A to Admty).

(1) Request you will sail O.15 at 0800/2nd to patrol position T.1. My 231844, refers.

(2) Route on surface at discretion via route "Orange" to lat. 067° N., thus to OA. 067° 01' N., 008° 48' E, thence diving by day to OB. 069° 01' N., 011° 50' E.

(3) O.15 is to wait in position OB. till ordered to T.1 by F.O.S.

(4) Object ISOH 200 para. (2) B. In addition enemy supply ships over 3 thousand tons and tankers may be attacked if North bound.

(5) P.223 and P.215 will leave T.1 and T.5 about 3rd. October.  
(F.O.S., 301819A to Capt. S.9).

Operation Proceed forthwith with moderate despatch Group B.  
S.F. 2, 062° 24' N., 013° 50' W. 3. 225° 60 60.  
4 "Apricot".

(C. in C. Rosyth, 301007A to SAVAGE).

Over U-boat in 60° 00' N., 31° 35' W.

(A/C 080T, 301357A to Base 8 ZQ).

U-boat has dived position 60° 26' N., 32° 27' W. at 1505.

(A/C F5BT 301530A to Artunshofdi).

A.C.O.S. is requested to sail FRASERBURGH, WORTHING TO Seidisfjord.

On arrival Seidisfjord S.O. 15th, M.S.F. is to assume command of Minesweepers. HARRIER, GLEANER are to return Scapa.

(2) R.A.D. is requested to arrange for GLEANER to refit as soon as possible after arrival.

(3) A.C.O.S. is requested to sail LLANDUDNO, BOOTLE to Seidisfjord on completion boiler cleaning and work up to relieve SALAMANDER, HUSSAR respectively.

(4) The above changes are necessary for future operations.

(C. in C. H.F., 301553A to R.A.D., A.C.O.S.)

Faeroes departure Group B.

(N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 301645A to C. in C. Rosyth).

Position at 302000. SAVAGE, SCORPION, SCOURGE 062° 00'

009° 40' to carry out search in the vicinity of 062° 24', 013° 50' W.

(A.C.O.S., 301816).

In 60° 26' N., 32° 27' W. at 1505 A/C sighted U/B zig-

/zagging...

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- Operation S.F. (contd). zagging which dived in approx. Westerly direction, speed unknown. (R.A.F. Iceland, 302333 to H.Q.C.C.)
- Operation "Holder". D Day will be 2nd October. Proceed accordingly. 2. My 252152 refers. (C. in C. H.F., 301136A to ONSLAUGHT, IROQUOIS, HURON, AUGUSTA).
- Bay Patrol. Trawler (?48).56 N., 08.59 W. course 027° 5. Eire, name KEROGUE. (A/C 35 Sq. Duty S. 301140A to 19 Group). Merchant vessel in 049° 05' N., (7009° or 028°) 30' W. Course 030° speed 7 knots, Eire, Dutch. (A/C 35 Sq. Duty C, 301201A to 19 Group). SPARTAN is to pass Gate at 0900A/1 October and proceed through position NA. 180° Bishop Rock 10. NB. 048° 30' N., 012° 51' W. and thence 240° to carry out anti-blockade breaker operation "Stonewall" in area between 043° N., to 046° N., and between 020° W. and 022° W. (2) SPARTAN is passing through position NA. at 1430/1st steering 254° speed approx. 20 knots. At 1600A Mosquito Fighter of 19 Group will R/V and escort until dusk. SPARTAN is to direct and control fighter. Enemy fighter may encounter. (3) If weather is unsuitable for flying, SPARTAN will be informed by signal. (4) Fuel permitting BERMUDA is to leave patrol-area so as to pass through position (S) 046° 33' N., 011° 01' W. at 1400A/2nd and thence through (T) 046° 40' N., 010° 09' W. (U) 048° 00' N., 010° 52' W. (V) 048° 55' N., 010° 10' W. (W) 180° Bishop Rock 12 and thence to Plymouth keeping West of the Lizard during dark hours. (5) Beaufighters and Mosquitoes of 19 Group will R/V with BERMUDA in position (S) at 1400A/2nd and escort until dusk. BERMUDA is to direct and control fighters. (6) If weather is unsuitable for flying BERMUDA will be informed by signal at 0600A/2nd, in which case she is to proceed through position (R) 048° 16' N., 012° 30' W. to (W). (C. in C. Plymouth, 301318A to SPARTAN, BERMUDA). Disposition at 2000. (1) RUBIS 049° 10' N., 006° W. southbound, daily advance 85 miles. (2) UNITED 049° 20' N., 006° 30' W. northbound to R/V in 180° The Lizard 10, daily advance 105 miles. (3) BERMUDA patrol vicinity 045° N., 021° W. (C. in C. Plymouth, 301516A to Admty).
- Engagement with R-boats. M.T.B.433 and M.T.B.436 damaged. Last night 29/30 M.T.Bs. 240, 202, and 353 and M.T.B. 433 437, and 436, while on passage to patrol at Berck Buoy, were ordered at 0025 to intercept three enemy vessels operating on Vergoyer Shoal reported by Shore based Radar. Plot faded to southward at 0055 and our Forces were unable to make contact. At 0315, while proceeding inshore from Berck Buoy to investigate Hydrophone effect, Radar echoes were obtained at 1400 yards to southward. Simultaneously about four R-boats were sighted on Northerly course. Enemy challenged and opened fire on our

/gunboats...

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Operations.

Engagement with R-boats. M.T.B. 433 and M.T.B. 436 damaged. (contd). gunboats while they were screening retirement of torpedo boats to north westward. M.T.B. 433 and 436 both received hits at once with shell of about three inch calibre and all our gunboats came under heavy fire from close range weapons. One enemy vessel was seen to be silenced and set on fire before our Forces retired damaged. Reconnaissance aircraft subsequently reported a large patch of oil about six miles West of Le Touquet, which may, however, have been caused by mine in Q.Z.X. 1108. M.T.B. 433 sustained considerable damage to W/T and electrical equipment through hits and resulting fire. M.T.B. 436 sustained three inch hit in messdeck and both vessels will be out of action for some days. Casualties one rating killed, one seriously wounded, and one slightly wounded in M.T.B. 433. One rating seriously and 4 slightly wounded in M.T.B. 436. (V.A. Dover, 301227A to Admty. (R) C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Portsmouth).

Coastal Patrols. Patrols. 30th Sept. 1. Force C. M.T.Bs. 430, 413, are to patrol in vicinity of 112 Start 22. Codeword "Occasion".  
3. Force D. M.T.Bs. 434, 431 are to patrol in vicinity of 167 Start 18. Codeword "Plumb".  
5. Forces C. and D. are to be on patrol by 2000. Leave patrol for Dartmouth 0600A.  
6. Attention is drawn to Q.Z.X. 1095. (C. in C. Plymouth, 301303A).

(A) BLEASDALE, ALBRIGHTON to carry out patrol on 50° 23' N., between 0° 40' W. and 1° 30' W. from 2100 to 0600A, proceeding and returning by eastern approach channel. From 0230A patrol is to keep to southward of Force J exercise (vide my 301305A to destroyers only).

(B). CHASSEURS 5, 13, patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between F and E.A.5 buoys.

(C) M.L. 344 immediate notice St. Helens.

(D) M.L. 208, 233, 124, R.M.L. 523 patrolling 50° 15' N., between 20° 15' W. and 2° 35' W.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 301516A).

M.Ls. 137 and 139 two miles south of D buoy. M.Ls. 104, 101, 107, 213, 210, 573 and M.T.Bs. 25, 231, and 38 carrying out operations N.L. 105 and 106 E.T.D. 2000 E.T.R. 0630/1.

M.T.Bs. 418, S.4 from Ramsgate in support of minelaying forces E.T.D. 2100 E.T.R. 0415/1.

M.G.Bs. S.2, 40 at V. buoy E.T.D. 1845 E.T.R. 0700/1.

(V.A. Dover, 301631A).

Allied Air Activity.

North  
Russia.

No P.(?reconnaissance) possible today on account of weather.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 301501A to Admty. (R) C. in C. H.F.)

/A/S...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity. - Contd.

A/S tactics. Following to amplify second sentence my 291500Z. When a convoy is threatened one aircraft will be continuously employed in close cover under orders of S.O. Escort. Suggest any additional aircraft that can be made available when convoy is known to have been reported or is actually being attacked may sometimes be more profitably employed as follows according to circumstances and particularly information as to location and movements of pack as stated in tubular instead of close cover carry out a sweep over area in which pack is known to be closing on the convoy aircraft so engaged will not normally be under orders of S.O. Escort but on closing the convoy in the course of their sweep they will make the signal Patrick from aircraft table convoy escort code. S.O. Escorts will not divert aircraft from sweeps unless they are actually being attacked on a scale beyond that which can be dealt with by the close cover aircraft already under their orders in conjunction with surface escorts. Aircraft on these sweeps should normally close convoy from direction in which pack is believed to be concentrated. Foregoing is likely to be more effective in earlier stages of convoy battle. If and when it is agreed by A.C.H.Q. concerned as likely to (?be) profitable it would probably be most useful if S.O. escorts could be informed by signal of general area and direction of sweeps ordered.  
(H.Q.C.C., 302210Z to 15 Group).

Technical.

Trials of "Foxer" Gear. SABRE. Admiralty 281713 and C. in C. W.A. 292134. SABRE detailed for these trials.  
(2) N.O.I.C. Faeroes is requested to sail SABRE to Rosyth forthwith.  
(C. in C. H.F., 300916A to C. in C. Rosyth).

Casualties & Defects.

L.C.T. 722. Your 281306. Salvage Officer and Salvage vessel RECOVERY of Leith have been directed to case.  
(D. of Salvage 300226A to C. in C. Portsmouth).

BANFF My 290934A. BANFF arrived.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 301613A to Admty).

ESCAPADE Intend sailing ESCAPADE at 0700A/2nd via standard route to Portsmouth, E.T.A. 1430A/3rd October. ESCAPADE has 6 single Oerlikon and one 4.5 mountings only.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 302214A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

M.L. 496 M.L. 496 damaged in collision returning Yarmouth in tow of M.L. 492.  
(C. in C. Nore, 302326B to S.E.E.C.C.D.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

- D.S.45                    Sailed SCIMITAR to comply with Cdre. (D) W.A's 281622A.  
(F.O.I.C. N.I., 300038A to C. in C. W.A.)
- F.N.40,  
SHERWOOD.                My 271010A and 281453A.  
Sheerness departure at 0810A SHERWOOD in tow of SEA GIANT to join F.N. 40 at J Buoy for Humber.  
E.T.A. p.m./1st.  
(C. in C. Nore, 300941A to F.O.I.C. Humber).
- O.N. 204,  
E.G.5.                    Sailed NENE, CALGARY, EDMUNSTON, SNOWBERRY to comply with your 291023.  
(Cdre. D.W.A., 300950A to C. in C. W.A.)
- K.M.S. 29,  
CORFIRTH.                Your 281224 and 282130. Request you will sail CORFIRTH and ST. ELSTAN with K.M.S. 29 on 7th October.  
2. On reaching vicinity of lat. 39° N. ST. ELSTAN is to escort CORFIRTH to Horta.  
(D.O.D. H., 301149A to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
- F.S. convoys.            Commencing with F.S. 36. My 201530 August, southbound convoys will sail from Methil one hour earlier.  
2. Subtract one hour throughout southbound time table.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 301259A to Admty).
- E.G.4                    My P.C.S. 058°? 32' N., 039° 50' W., 107° 16.  
(E.G.4, 301401Z to C. in C. W.A.)
- CAPETOWN  
CASTLE.                   Intend sailing CAPETOWN CASTLE 1300Z/1st to New York. Route. Estimate to pass 007° W. 0030Z/2nd October. "Chop" 7th October.  
(N.C.S.O. Mersey, 301535Z to Admty, C. in C. W.A. H.Q.C.C.)
- Troop  
Convoys  
Programme.                1. A heavy programme of troop convoys is starting and will continue for some months. The planned programme for the period 1st October to 31st December is given below. This information should be restricted to those officers to whom it is essential for carrying out their duties.  
2. Trans-Atlantic convoys.

/Code...



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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Troop convoys Programme. (contd).	Code No.	Ship	Arr. U.K.	Dep. U.K.
	A.T.65	AQUITANIA	8 Oct.	12 Oct.
	A.T.67	Q.M.	14 Oct.	17 Oct.
	A.T.68	MAURETANIA	16 Oct.	22 Oct.
	A.T.69	Q.E.	18 Oct.	21 Oct.
	U.T.3	-	19 Oct.	28 Nov. (see Note (C)).
	A.T.70	AQUITANIA	28 Oct.	3 Nov.
	U.T.4	-	1 Nov.	6 Nov.
	A.T.71	Q.E.	7 Nov.	12 Nov.
	A.T.72	MAURETANIA	9 Nov.	15 Nov.
	A.T.73	Q.M.	13 Nov.	17 Nov.
	A.T.74	AQUITANIA	25 Nov.	29 Nov.
	A.T.75	Q.E.	27 Nov.	1 Dec.
	A.T.76	MAURETANIA	2 Dec.	8 Dec.
	A.T.77	Q.M.	3 Dec.	7 Dec.
	U.T.5	-	15 Dec.	20 Dec.
	A.T.78	Q.E.	19 Dec.	23 Dec.
	A.T.79	AQUITANIA	22 Dec.	26 Dec.
	A.T.80	Q.M.	24 Dec.	29 Dec.
	A.T.81	MAURETANIA	28 Dec.	2 Jan.
	A.T.82	ILE DE FRANCE	30 Dec.	3 Jan.

Notes (a) A.T. Convoys will proceed to Clyde except MAURETANIA who will sometimes proceed to Liverpool.

(b) U.T. convoys will consist of a maximum of 30 troopships and oilers with American escort, and will be unloaded at Clyde, Liverpool and Bristol Channel ports with occasional ships at Belfast.

(c) Troopships ex U.T. 3 and some British troopships together with their American escort will proceed to the Mediterranean as convoy K.M.F. 25 A leaving U.K. 27th October (see para. 3).

3. K.M.F. and M.K.F. convoys.

K.M.F. 25 dep. U.K. 15 Oct. M.K.F.25 arr. U.K. 4 Nov.

K.M.F. 25 A. dep. U.K. 27 Oct. M.K.F. 25 A. arr. U.K. 21 Nov.

K.M.F.26 dep. U.K. 14 Nov. M.K.F. 26 arr. U.K. 4 Dec.

K.M.F. 27 dep. U.K. 14 Dec. M.K.F. 27 arr. U.K. 3 Jan.

4. D.S. convoys. These will continue at 28 day intervals.

There is a possibility that some 12,000 U.S. Troops may be moved from Iceland to U.K. in Oct. or Nov. Date of this move is not yet known.

5. The dates given above are liable to alteration but it is hoped to adhere to them as closely as possible.

(D.O.D. H., 301634A to C.in C. W.A.)

U.A.2 Convoy and escorts sailed in accordance with my 291024A Sept. with addition of BACHEQUERO. EMPIRE OUTPOST escorted by WARWICK sail to overtake at 1630A. ST. ELSTAN delayed by defects. My 282130A Sept. refers.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 301644A to C. in C. W.A.)

SCYTHIA Intend sailing SCYTHIA at 1700A/1st for New York. (Route). (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 301732A to Admty).

ORION Intend sailing ORION at 2200A/1st to New York. Route.  
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 301749A to Admty).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

- WITHERINGTON, Sailed. My 291734 (291732 intended).  
WISHART. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 300810A to F.O.C.W.A. (R)  
C.M.S.F. C. in C. Med., Comar Dakar, Admty.)
- M.K.F.24. Sailed ATTACKER, STALKER, HUNTER, ALBATROSS to  
join M.K.F.24. Q.Z.H.551, C.73, L.56, S.438,  
X.1125, Y.406.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 300820A, to Admty., C. in C.  
W.A., C. in C. Med., C. in C. Plymouth.)
- G.U.S.16. Sailing Telegram, Part 2, 67 ships (names).  
(C.M.S.F.F., 300900.)  
M.K.S.24 sailed to join - 2 ships (names.)  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 301002A.)  
Sailed CHARYBDIS to join M.K.F.24 as local A/S escort.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 301241A.)
- C.T.G.21.12, Following is Cinclant 292253 action C.T.G.21.12  
CWEMSON, DUPONT info. Cominch N.O.B. Bermuda Comtaskgroup  
DUPONT. 21.14 C.T.G. 21.15 C.M.S.F.F. Comtaskfor 28  
(Begins) C.T.G.21.12 detach CWEMSON (?CLEMSON)  
now. Direct her proceed to Navy Yard Norfolk  
via Bermuda if necessary for fuel. DUPONT  
proceed to vicinity of Azores when ready join T.G.21.12 and  
report T.G.C. for duty in that group. Latter Cdr. directed to  
keep you informed beginning noon 3rd October if security permits  
expedite.  
(C.M.N.F.F., 300958B, to Admty., F.O.C. Gib., C. in C. Med.)
- R.S.10. Sailing Telegram. 4. 13.5. 6. WITHERINGTON,  
WISHART, MALCOM. 5.8. Route details.  
10. 14 VOLENDAM, 15 HIGHLAND PRINCESS,  
17 BERGENSFJORD. 12. Freetown.  
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 301004A to F.O.C.W.Af., (R)Admty.etc)
- PASTEUR. Request route for PASTEUR sailing 1500A today  
my 291227B.  
(C.M.S.F.F., 301020B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar. (R)  
C. in C. Med. etc.)  
PASTEUR 033° N. 010° W. 030° N. 014° W. 027° N. 015° 20' W.  
024° N. 018° 30' W. 015° N. 018° 30' W.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 301045A to C.M.S.F. (R) Admty., F.O.C.W.Af.  
C. in C.W.A., C. in C. Med., Comar Dakar.)  
PASTEUR GNDW for Dakar. E.T.D. 301400 speed A. 19.5 B.22  
passes through K. W.T.30 30 22 00. Chop 26 10 North at 0201/30  
route K. 33 N. 10 W. K.30 N. 14 W. M. 27 N. 15 20 W.  
J. 24 N. 18.30 W. O. 15 N. 18 30 W. thence to destination.  
E.T.A. 03 1800 (Communications) Code word "Element".  
All times Z.  
(C.M.S.F.F. 301651B to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Comar Dakar F.O.C.  
Gib. C. in C. Med. Admty.)

/My...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

- PASTEUR. My 301651B sailed 301550A.  
(Contd.) (C.M.S.F.F. 301801B to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty. etc.)
- KALMIA. KALMIA Swedish Portuguese Charter 10½ knots  
sailed p.m. 29th for Aruba. Route.  
(Lisbon 301032A to Admty. (R) F.O.C.North  
Atlantic Station.)
- TRUMPETER,  
SLINGER. Arrived (Bilbao?) Balboa 1600Z/29th.  
(Commorseafron 301440 to Admty. etc.)
- UPSTART. Leave patrol pass through 038° 50' N. 010° W.  
at 0030/1st Oct. thence through G. 036° 51' N.  
009° 13' W. at 1545/1st. H. 036° 37' 007° 24'  
at 0245/2nd. J. 035° 53' 006° 15' at 1145/2nd.  
K. 035° 49' 006° 06' 30" at 1245/2nd thence by Q.B.A. 87 to  
Gibraltar. All times A. proceed on surface at discretion at  
8 knots. Total bombing restrictions arranged and will be  
signalled later.  
2. Admty. pass to H.Q.C.C. as above. (Passing action being taken  
by War Registry).  
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 301159A to UPSTART, (R) UNTIRING, F.O.S. H.Q.C.C.  
C. in C.Med. Capt. S.8, C.M.S.F.)
- UNTIRING. Patrol cancelled. Proceed on surface at discretion  
at 8 knots through following positions at time  
stated F. 038° 50' N. 010° 01' W. at 2230/1st.  
G. 036° 51' N. 009° 13' W. at 1345/2nd. H. 036°  
37' N. 007° 24' W. at 0045/3rd. J. 035° 53' N. 006° 15' W. at  
0945/3rd. K. 035° 49' N. 006° 06' 30" W. at 1045/3rd.  
thence by Q.B.A.87 to Gibraltar. All time A. total bombing  
restriction arranged and will be signalled later.  
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 301259A to UNTIRING, (R) UPSTART, H.Q.C.C.  
F.O.S. C. in C.Plymouth, C. in C.Med. Capt. S.8, C.M.S.F.)
- ATHLONE CASTLE, A.M. 252153A (N.T. in W.D.) estimate ATHLONE  
MONARCH OF CASTLE will detach from M.K.F.24 in 34° 59' N. 12°  
BERMUDA, W. at 1300Z/1st Oct. "Chop" 24° W. 2200Z/2nd Oct.  
EMPRESS OF E.T.A. Point Z New York Swept Channel 1200Z/8th  
AUSTRALIA. Oct.  
2. MONARCH OF BERMUDA and EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA  
have entered Gibraltar for fuel intend to sail  
both ships a.m. Oct. 1st escorted by 2 destroyers  
to 12° W. thence independently.  
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 301535A to Admty. etc.)
- G.U.S.16. 1. Sailing telegram, part 1. 2. From Casablanca  
R/V 035° 02' 007° 55' at 291900Z. 3. Position  
E.E. 300700Z speed 9. 4. 1st "Chop" 10 W.?  
300700Z 2nd "Chop" 24 W. 031200Z radio shift 20 W.  
021400Z.

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North Atlantic.

G.U.S.16.  
(Contd.)

5. Standard Route letter E.E. B.B. D.D. H.H.  
K.K. F.F. C.C. J.J. 6. T.F.62 Names. 8.  
Standard lettered Z, P, T, Y, M, V, X, U.  
13A. Capt. J. W.W. CUMMING U.S.N. in PETER MINUIT  
B. Capt. J.J. Crowtholdi U.S.N. in PERE MARQUETTE  
(C.M.S.F.F. 301600Z.)

U.G.S.18.

1 ship to join for Bizerta.  
(C.M.S.F.F. 301638A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R)  
Admty. etc.)

Italian  
ships in  
Balearics.

(Begins): Addressed C. in C.Med. (R) F.O.C.  
Gib., Admty. C. in C.Med. (A).  
My 281802. Proceeding on basis that Spaniards  
cannot refuse request for clearance of merchant  
ships. I am not at all sure this will work with  
those in ships but it is Italian Embassy's  
conviction.

It is important to know what conditions to offer merchantmen  
officers and men. Request earliest possible instructions on this  
point. How does Armistice clause on requisitioning apply to  
personnel?

(N.A.Madrid 301800B to Admty.)

Tell Italian Consul Italian N.A. and I must know as quickly  
as possible what engine parts were landed from Italian ships  
and stores with Woermann, where they are and what chance there  
is of getting hold of them by theft or trickery. Legally would  
take too long. Arrange to send competent surveyor (Lloyd's  
if available) (corrupt group) all 3 ships to report on condition  
of engines and to procure details of missing parts (believed  
to be valves) so that we can get spares if necessary. This  
information should be telegraphed. Italian N.A. is instructing  
Consul to afford surveyor every facility.

(B.N.A.Madrid 301940B to Ambassador, R.O.Las Palmas, (R)  
F.O.C. Gibraltar, Admty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

RANGITATA

Your 290300. RANGITATA sailed from Montevideo 1800Z/29th and is due Freetown 1800 Oct. 12th. (B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 301204Z to Admty).

R.S.10,  
WITHERINGTON,  
WISHART.

Intend to sail ROCHESTER and 39 E.G. M.S. 1800/2nd on reciprocal route to R/V. with R.S.10 in 014° 47' N., 018° 40' W. at 0700Z/5th. WITHERINGTON, WISHART then proceed to Dakar.

2. Comar Dakar is requested to conform to para. 2 B of F.O.C. Gibraltar 291732 passed to Comar Dakar.

(F.O.C.W.Af. 301552Z to WITHERINGTON, Comar Dakar, F.O.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. W.A., Admty. MALCOLM, ROCHESTER).

Convoy  
W.S.33.

Sailing telegram. (2) 1630Z/30th. (3) Nil. (4) knots 12½ (5) Route. (6) WOLVERINE (S.O.) BANN, BOADICEA, BEAGLE, BULLDOG, DOUGLAS. (15) LKD codeword "Pillbox". (N.C.S.O. Lagos, 301700Z to Admty).

Sailing to  
overtake convoy  
class of  
ships.

Provided U-boat situation permits, it is considered that ships of RANGITATA 's class could be sailed to overtake a convoy up to 48 hours after convoys departure, one escort being retained if considered necessary. N.C.S.O. Freetown's 251637 not to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar refers.

2. Where ships of 12 knots and over have to wait in Freetown for more than 10 days for next S.L. convoy request that, when escort situation permits, you will give consideration to sailing them to Gibraltar for inclusion in the M.K.S. convoy. (D.T.D., 301716A to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

MELLO  
on fire.

Wireless message intercepted from Portuguese ship MELLO states ship on fire in 003° 41' S. 032° 07' W.

Message from Swiss ship ST.CERGUE states she has picked up 29 men. Some men standing by ship which is still on fire.

(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 302125Z to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Freetown, S.O.(I) Gibraltar).

1009

30.9.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

5 L.S.I (L) See D. of S.T. 300252 in Lion Copy.  
K.M.F.24.  
Troops  
from  
Med.

Otranto Nothing to report.  
Patrol. (Capt. (D) 4th D.F. 300615A to C. in C. Med. (R)  
S.O. Force H. etc.)

Enemy P.C. and S? of 2 small M.V. 1000 tons 2 small  
Vessels. M.V. 500 tons "Melos".  
(A/C ANA/Z, 300705Z)  
1 1000 tons M.V, 1 500 tons vessel, 1 300 ton  
vessel and 3 small craft in position "Melos".  
(A/C ANA/T 300715Z)  
2 enemy motor launches in 43.16 N. 9.54 E fixed within  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hr.  
of 1000 hrs. C. 000 degs. S. 10.  
(A/C. CYJ/Z via Algiers W/T, 301010A)  
Position of 1 M.V. 1000 tons, 2 M.Vs. 300 tons, 4 small  
craft "Melos".  
(A/C HUC/P, 301352Z)

VALIANT. V.A. Malta is requested to sail VALIANT escorted  
by TROUBRIDGE, INGLEFIELD, ILEX and PATHFINDER  
to Gibraltar at 1830/30.  
(2) VALIANT is required to call Algiers early  
a.m. 2nd Oct. to embark passengers and arrive Gibraltar a.m.3rd.  
(S.O. Force H, 300855A to VALIANT, V.A. Malta, (R) C. in C.  
Med. F.O.C. Gibraltar, F.O. 2nd in Command Force H., S.O. 24th  
D.F. Admty. N.O.I.C.Algiers.)  
Sail at 1830/30th to Gibraltar S. of A. 16 knots by QBB  
123 (C) 278 036 degs. 55' 011 degs. 13' war channel to position  
79 at 1430/1st for onward routing by C. in C. Med. Codeword  
"Spirit" 974 priority high S.O. Force H 300855 refers.  
(V.A. Malta, 301004 to VALIANT, Capt. (D) 24, INGLEFIELD.  
ILEX, TROUBRIDGE, PATHFINDER, (R) S.O. Force "H" F.O. 2 i/c  
Force 'H', Admty. N. and A. Authorities Bone to Sousse,  
F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, Cmdre. Algiers,  
N. and A. Authorities Algiers to Bizerta.)  
Extent to which it is intended to refit VALIANT on arrival  
U.K. is not known.  
(2) Essential however that ship is docked for half year docking.  
(3) Fitting of number 5 diesel engine essential before proceeding  
on service. A.L. CP 9B/52047/43 (?497) 201 (D. of D.)  
(8 (?KA) E) dated 13th Jan.1943 refers.  
(4) Improvement of ventilation in accordance with (? ship's)  
A's and A's is an urgent necessity.  
(S.O. Force 'H', 301337A to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F.  
VALIANT.)

M.T.Bs /...

# MOST SECRET

1009<sup>A</sup>

**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 Code Time Pad 0003521/September  
MOST SECRET "T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

OUT

To P.S.T.O. Mediterranean  
Rept: C.in C. Mediterranean  
P.S.T.O. Middle East  
C.in C. Levant  
B.A.D. Washington

Date 30.9.43

5LS11(L). KMF 24.  
Troops from Mediterranean.

Naval Cypher (XD) Plug

From Director of Sea Transport  
IMPORTANT

Your 251105B to D. of S.T. only. The 5 L.S.I.(L) would have returned to U.K. in M.K.F. 24. But when it was decided that no Personnel of the 50th Division could return until the end of October this meant that the lift of these ships to U.K. would be wasted if they sailed in M.K.F. 24. As we shall be hard pressed for homeward lift between now and January it was therefore considered wiser to leave these ships another month in the Mediterranean so as to use their homeward lift in late October.

2. As regards the use of ships in the North African portion of a K.M.F. Convoy in the Mediterranean for a month instead of returning in the corresponding M.K.F. our policy is that unless specific requirements necessitate otherwise all such ships must return without being held up. This explains why we programmed the K.M.F. 24 ships to return in K.M.F. 24.

3. As regards the specific requirements now notified your paragraph 6(a) states that 22,000 capacity cannot be covered whereas A.F.H.Q's. 9059 of 24/9 paragraph 6 refers to a deficiency of only 15,000. Request clarification.

4. We propose to meet the deficit, assuming it to be 15,000, by using DUNNOTAR CASTLE, REINA DEL PACIFICO plus DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, ORONTES and DURBAN CASTLE. Although these ships will not be able to return to U.K. in M.K.F. 25 proper they can be used in M.K.F. 25 A which should sail Algiers about 12/11. This convoy comprises U.S. troopships of capacity 65,000 which are to embark the bulk of the 3 U.S. Divisions to return to U.K. and which as K.M.F. 25.A will carry about 8,000 British Personnel for North Africa shut out from K.M.F. 25. The lift of the 5 British ships referred to above from North Africa to U.K. would thus not be lost.

5. We do not fully understand paragraph 8 of A.F.H.Q's. 9059. Presumably the 50,000 deficiency for November represents 2 Flights of the 30,000 lift referred to in your 251105B paragraph 6 (b). Request confirmation. If confirmed we propose to meet this as follows:-

- (a) CHAMPOLLION capacity 2117 - arriving Algiers in K.M.F.25 and remaining in Mediterranean until M.K.F.26.
- (b) LEOPOLDVILLE 2248 and DOMINION MONARCH 3854 - arriving Middle East in K.M.F.25.
- (c) ALMANZORA 2844, RUYS 2719, STAFFORDSHIRE 2330, TEGELBERG 2788 - arriving Middle East in K.M.F.25.A.
- (d) MOOLTAN 4289, NEA HELLAS 4118, NIEW HOLLAND 2111 - assembling in Middle East for M.K.F. 25 but which can be delayed until M.K.F.26.
- (e) GAP PADARAN 1815 and HAI LEE 588 - arriving Algiers in K.M.S. 28 and K.M.F.25.A respectively for permanent service in the Mediterranean.

6. Request confirmation that these proposals will meet your requirements.

7. We would appreciate a report of the U.S. Capacity available for service in the Mediterranean under General Eisenhower as it would appear that the capacity of 80,000 allocated at QUADRANT for service in the Mediterranean is being exceeded.

8. It is emphasised that in order that we can make the best possible arrangements for meeting requirements in the Mediterranean in relation to other troopship needs we should know as far ahead as possible what troopship capacity you require over and above those which can be met by ships permanently at your disposal and during what periods.

9. Agreed. Please pass to A.F.H.Q. as reply to their 9059 of 24/9.

300252A

for Director of Sea Transport  
(M.W.T. Ext. 2186)

1st Lord	
1st S.L. (2)	D. of S.T. (6)
D.F.S.L.	D.D.I.C. (2)
4th S.L.	Hd. of M. (10)
V.C.N.S.	Ad. Blake (4)
A.C.N.S. (H)	I.P. (2)
A.C.N.S. (F)	W.D.
A.C.N.S. (U.T.) (2)	Ad. Ramsay (2)
U.W.R.	C.C.O. (2)
D. of P. (2)	D.R.O. (C.O.) (2)
D. of P. (Q) (3)	D.C.O.M. (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)	N.A. Mails
D.O.D. (H) (4)	
D.O.	
Plot	
D.T.D. (4)	
D.T.D. (C)	



1010

30.9.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. -- Contd.

M.T.Bs. (Corrupt group) sail with M.T.B's 81, 86, 97, 226, 242 of 24th F. and 297 and 296 of 20th F. for Taranto. C.C.F's 281453 (N.T. in W.R) not to you refers.  
(2) E.T.D. 0400/1st Oct.  
(3) E.T.A. 1700/1st Oct. (4) Speed 20 knots.  
(6) Routed QBB 164 thence position 47, 14, 31 thence by QBB 218 to Taranto.  
(7) Codeword "Pungent" 229.  
(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 301040, V.24\*(R) N.O.I.C. Sicily, C.C.F. (Corrupt group) N.L.O. 211 Group F.O.T.A., N.L.O. Number 1 (one) M.O.R.U., N.O.I.C. Taranto)\* as received.

Torpedo A/C My 090921B Sept. Analysis shows 3 shot down attack on Force "H". certain, 2 probables. (S.O. Force 'H', 301048A to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.)

ULTIMATUM. Cancel my 242338.\* Your patrol area is extended to 007 degs. E. the South East limit being line joining 043 degs. N. 007 degs. E. and 042 degs 30' N. 006 degs. 30' E.  
(2) Leave patrol diving by day through 042 degs. 30' 006 degs. 17' at 0600/2, 042 degs. 01' 006 degs. 12' at 2100/2. Thence on surface at discretion through 039 degs. 59' 005 degs. 14' at 1300/3rd, 038 degs. 02' 003 degs. 13', at 0800/4th to R/V escort Algiers in 037 degs. 06' 003 degs. 12' at 1500/4th. (Capt. (S) 8, 301102A, P.34 (ULTIMATUM) (R) 8th S.F., C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Algiers.) \* ? 242328 intended.

JERVIS, JERVIS and PETARD sailed as requisite to carry out Otranto Sweep tonight 30th returning to PETARD. Brindisi on completion. (F.O.T.A. 301110 to Capt. (D), 14. (R) Capt. (D) 4).

V.N.1.A. (1) Intend to sail V.N.1 A to Salerno at 1700/30. (details).  
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 301141 to Cmdre. (N), (R) F.O.Sy. N.O's i/c Messina, Salerno, M.L.565, N.L.O. N.A.T.A.F., N.L.O. 211 Group, N.L.O. M.A.C.P., Admty. F.O.I.C.Gib., V.A. Malta, C. in C. Levant, Cmdre. Algiers, C.T.F.89.)

U/B. One enemy S/M in approx. 039 degs. 20' 007 degs. 00' at 2113/29th may be bound for Toulon, also 1 or 2 enemy S/Ms in very approx. position 037 degs. 30' between Meridian Greenwich and 001 degs. 30' at 2300/29th. The latter if bound Toulon may pass close east of Port Mahon. All positions N. and E. (Capt. (S) 8, 301206A to 8th S/M F. L.N. 728 ARETHUSE.)

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War Diary.

30.9.1943.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

N.S.F.4, N.S.F.4 sailed at 301200A.  
My 281725A refers. Escorts U.S. Destroyers  
WOOLSEY, GLEAVES, EDISON, LUDLOW and H.M.S. ~~CATTERICK~~  
Senior escort Comdesron 13 in WOOLSEY.  
(Cdr. N.O.B. Oran, 301209A to C. in C. Med.  
C.W.N.T.F. (R) C.T.F.81, F.O. Gib. C.T.F.89)

GAZELLE, L'ALCYON. GAZELLE and L'ALCYON sailed Algiers 0800/30th  
direct to Ajaccio speed 18 knots. Both ships  
leave Ajaccio after dark on 1st Oct. for Algiers  
by direct route arriving if possible in daylight.  
2nd.  
(2) 2 French destroyers L'ALCYON Class and 1 French Doseur 3  
leave Algiers for Ajaccio at 1000A/1st Oct. speed 6 knots  
routed through.  
(A) 030 degs. 08' 006 degs. 51' (B) 041 degs. 00' 007 degs.  
46' to arrive Ajaccio soon after daylight 4th.  
Both destroyers leaving Ajaccio after dark 6th by reverse route  
to Algiers arriving in daylight 9th.  
(Capt. (S) 8, 301214A to 8th S.F. ARETHUSE (FS) (R) N.O.I.C.  
Algiers.)

A/C embarked. My 251710Z\*(N.T. in W.D.) Sept. amend to read,  
(1) UNICORN. Seafire 2 C. 8 S. 11 Y. 3 Z.  
Albacore. 2 S. 5 Y.  
(2) HUNTER Albacore 12 S. 2 Y.  
(4) ATTACKER add Albacore 2 Y.  
(S.O.(A), H.F. 301223 to Admty. (R) C. in C.  
Med. etc.)  
\* Re aircraft and engines embarked in UNICORN etc.

St.WISTAN, E.T.A. swept channel 1100Z Oct. 1st. Owing  
PICT. to defect PICT did not sail from Dakar.  
(ST.WISTAN, 301239Z to S.N.O. Casablanca Area.)

Tripoli Sailed L.S.T. 420, 427, 368, 367 British 348,  
Movements. 349 American Patrolcraft 558.  
(S.N.O. Trip. 301259B)

Acoustic Following counter suggested by Mr. Todd Secretary  
homing to A.S. Alex.  
torpedo. (C. in C. Levant, 301326C)

OXFORD- Sailed Hospital ship OXFORDSHIRE to Augusta for  
SHIRE. orders.  
(N.O.I.C. Catania, 301401A to N.O.I.C. Augusta,  
(R) Admty. etc.)

EURYALUS /...

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30.9.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

EURYALUS. EURYALUS is to sail for U.K. from Algiers p.m. Oct. 1st calling at Gibraltar en route. EURYALUS will not be recommissioned but will refit, give leave, and adjust complement while in U.K.  
(C. in C. Med. 301454 to EURYALUS (R) F.O. 12th Cruiser Sqdn. F.O. 15th C.S., Admty.)  
Request you will sail EURYALUS at 1400A Oct. 1st to Gibraltar for onward passage to U.K.  
(2) S. of A. 22 knots. (3) Route through 74.12 250 16.  
(4) E.T.A. 1000A October 2nd. (5) Codeword "Tiepin" 474 priority normal.  
(C. in C. Med. 301505A to Com. Algeria (R) EURYALUS Com. N.O.B. Oran, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar Admty.)

K.G.V. KING GEORGE V is required at home urgently  
HOWE. request you will sail her and HOWE to Malta as soon as possible.  
(C. in C. Med., 301458A to C. in C. Levant (R) S.O. Force 'H')

HOWE and KING GEORGE V sail for Malta a.m. 1st escorted by FAULKNER, ECHO, ECLIPSE, FURY routed as follows 309, 0900/1st, 310, 509, 50, 1945/1st, 337, 344, 512 033 degs. 08' N. 020 degs. 00' E. 0810/2nd then as ordered by C. in C. Med. S. of A. 22 knots, high priority, codeword "Blanket" All times C.  
(C. in C. Levant, 302122C to N.O.I.C. Alexandria (R) PRIMULA, Admty, A.H.Q. Aden, H.Q.R.A.F. M.E. Comdr. (D) S.O. Force 'H' ECHO, HOWE, ECLIPSE, KING GEORGE V, DELPHINIUM, FAULKNER, FURY, TETCOTT, Capt. (D) 8, S.10, S.N.O.C. A.H.Q. Med. N.O.I.C. Mersa Matruh V.A.M. N.O.I.C. Tobruk 201 N.C. Gr. 212, N.C. Gr. 235 Wing, 245 Wing, 247 Wing, 211 Group N.O.I.C. Benghazi, N.O.I.C. Tripoli, S.N.O.I.S. N.L.O. 8th Army R.A.L.)

M/S's Pass to Cdre. Intend sailing, Motor M/S's 13 and  
for 118 for Gibraltar.  
Gibraltar. (N.O.I.C. Algiers, 301509A to Escorts M.K.S. 26 Admty. etc.)

SHUBRICK, M.S.C.1 22 intend sailing U.S.S. SHUBRICK and  
KNIGHT. U.S.S. KNIGHT at 1500/30.  
(2) (A) 15 knots.  
(3) Through 32 57 Q.B.87.  
(6) Priority Low. Codeword "Flint".  
(7) All times Z.  
(10) (K) 36 degs. 01' N. 12 degs. 04' W.  
(L) 38 degs. 50' N. 22 degs. 02' W. (M) 41 degs. 25' N. 37 degs. 30' W. (N) 41 degs. 35' N. 54 degs. 30' W.  
(O) 39 degs. 30' N. 70 degs. 01' W.  
1st "Chop" 10 degs. W. at 2120Z/1 2nd "Chop" 24 degs. W. at 2000Z/3 (? switch) from Gibraltar broadcast to Washington broadcast at 20 degs. W. at 0620Z/3.  
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 301609A to C. in C. Med. Admty. Cominch, C. in C. Lant. (R) Comnavnav (Adm) C.W.N.T.F., C.T.F.81 Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)

My /...

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30.9.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

SHUBRICK, My 301609A. Sailed.  
KNIGHT. (Com. N.O.B.Oran, 301732A to C. in C. Med.  
(Contd.) Admty. Cominch, Cinclant, (R) Comnavnaw,  
C.W.N.T.F., C.T.F. 81, Com. 10th F. C. & R.)

ORPHEUS. (A) Intend to sail ORPHEUS at 1400A/1st  
(P) Malta F. O. R. Algiers. Routed through  
positions 287, 283, 273 E.T.A. 0900/2nd.  
(B) Speed 7 knots. (C) Codeword "Bibber".  
(D) Escort HULL. (E) Constant 2150 K/cs. (F) Request  
fighter protection low.  
(N.O.I.C. Catania, 301723 to V.A. Malta, (R) Admty. etc.)

Minesweeping. Further 8 Cables cleared today Thursday N.W.  
of point Geadelle. Still negative result.  
12th M/S F. and SHEPPEY anchoring at Castellamare  
and continuing 1st light. Italian chart obtained  
by M.L. 3 shows reputed swept channels of Naples Bay. These  
generally coastwise but one enters eastern side of Bocca  
Piccola and from position 331 degs. Scoglio Vervecce 1.3 miles  
on 352 degs. course to Naples Harbour.  
(S.O. 12th M.S.F. 301727A to S.O. Force 'N')

U/B My 191411 Chief of Naval Staff informs me  
destroyed further examination revealed such extensive  
12th damage that S/M cannot be salvaged and project  
Sept. has been abandoned. She has hardly a square  
yard of pressure hull sound and German(s)  
exploded torpedoes in stern tubes.  
He asked if crew could be brought to Spain for  
internment. I replied I thought so provided we first  
received official intimation from MF.A. that they are interned.  
We should require full details. But I added I was speaking  
without authority.  
Request instructions.  
(Madrid, 301729 to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C.Gib. C. in C. Med.  
R.O. Tangier.)

Malta This morning dockyard had 484 men at work.  
Dockyard No civil government employees have ceased to  
Strike. work.  
(3) Dockyard will remain closed to all except  
those with special passes, until majority of  
employees signify that they will return to work.  
(4) Glad it is policy of the Government to stand firm, in my  
personal view strike will not be long prolonged, once the  
leaders realise that there is no intention to give way.  
(Gov. Malta, 301745)  
My 291725. Situation remains unchanged.  
(V.A. Malta, 301904A to Admty. C. in C. Med. C. in C.  
Levant, F.O.I.C.Gib.)

M.K.F.25 /...

1014

30.9.1943.  
Thursday

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

- M.K.F.25. Your 281625.  
As M.K.F. 25 cannot be discharged in U.K. before Nov. 4th, request you will adjust programme so that convoy arrives on that day. (D.O.D.(F), 301800A to C. in C. Med.)
- U/B dispositions. 1 U-Boat between Malta and Benghazi. No further evidence of 1 east of Otranto. 2 in lower Tyrrhenean Sea of which 1 to eastward Ustica and 1 in vicinity 040 degs. N. 014 degs. 40' E.  
(C. in C. Med. 301826A to U/B Disposition Med. Station. (R) F.O. Gibraltar.)
- Destroyers for 14th D.F. Request you will sail 2 Fleet destroyers a.m. tomorrow to join Capt. (D) 14th at Brindisi. (C. in C. Med. 301901A to N.O.I.C.Malta, (R) S.O. Force H, F.O.T.A., Capt. (D), 14th, N.O.I.C.Brindisi)
- Foreign Shipping Yugo-Slav Coast. R/C shows foreign shipping is moving down the Yugo-Slav Coast and may use the ports of Dubrovnik, Kotor, Durazzo and Valona. Arrange your patrol accordingly.  
(C. in C. Med. Fleet, 301922A to Capt. (D) or S.O. 14th D.F. (R) F.O.T.A., S.O. Force 'H' Brindisi, N.O.I.C.Malta. N.L.O. No.1 MORU, N.L.O.N.A.T.A.F.)
- CERES. Intend sailing CERES at 1400/1st at S. of A. 20 knots to Malta through position 310, 329, 0235/2nd 512 1030/2nd, 30 miles N. 358 1540/2nd thence as ordered by C. in C. Med. All times C. codeword "Parcel" (?) 922 (?) High. C. in C. Levant's 301330\*not to all addressees refers. CERES to fuel Malta.  
(R.A. Alex. 301925C to CERES, (R) N.A.A.W.D., N.A.A. Tripoli. TANIA, Escort U.G.S.17, TETCOTT.) \* N.T. in W.D.
- K.X. and X.K. convoy programme. Your 261725. Part three confirmed subject to concurrence of C. in C. Levant. Concur in arrangements for K.X. and X.K. convoys.  
(C. in C. Med. 301938 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant, F.O.I.C.Gib., C. in C. W.A.)
- Glider Bomb. Following idea submitted by P.O.Tel.Kane of CARLISLE to jam radio controlled Glider Bomb appears worthy of consideration (Details).  
(C. in C. Levant, 301940C to Admty (R) CARLISLE)

EGILSAY /...

1015

War Diary.

30.9.1943.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

EGILSAY, ARETHUSE, UNSEEN. EGILSAY will R/V ARETHUSE 037 degs. 03' 003 degs. 04' at 0930 and with UNSEEN 037 degs. 06' 003 degs. 10' at 1600 tomorrow and escort them to harbour.  
(2) Fast eastbound convoy passes 25 miles north Algiers at about 0600/1st.  
(3) Small French Convoy from West due Algiers at 0700/1st.  
(4) Slow Westbound convoy due Algiers at 1900/1st.  
(5) P.221 sails Algiers at 1800/1st course 012 degs. surfaced 10 knots.  
(6) M.L.'s are on patrol east and west of Algiers.  
(Capt. (S) 8, 301946A to ARETHUSE, UNSEEN)

F.O. Force H. F.O. Force H transferred temporarily to RODNEY at sunset today.  
(S.O. Force H, 301954 A to Admty. C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, (R) F.O. 2nd in C. Force H.)

Landing Ships and Craft. Programme for return of 56 British Landing Ships and 175 landing craft, 23 October to 24 December and 18 L.S. and 12 L.C. for India.  
(4) It is considered that all craft should have 3 Officers and that one out of every four should have an ocean passage C.O. Requirement for this will be 120 addition W/keeping officers and 40 Ocean C.O.'s of which less than one third can be found on the station.  
(C. in C. Med. 302002A to Admty.)

PHILADELPHIA. PHILADELPHIA will be docking in No. (corrupt gr.) dock at Gibraltar on arrival. In order not to delay WARSPITE it is requested ship arrive Gibraltar before 14th Oct. if possible.  
Your 290815 (N.T. in W.R.) not to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar refers.  
(C. in C. Med. 302017 to Com. 8th U.S. Fleet (R) Comnavnaw, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar etc.)

Bizerta. Arrivals. (? JED) (BROOKS) SUTLEJ, SCUDD. U.S. S.C.691, AR B. (? 37), 40, 559 L.S.T.12, 355. Departures: U.S. Destroyers DALLAS, (BERNADOU) (Might be U.S.S. NIBLACK), COLE. Movements. L.C.G.2, 8 L.C. R.141.  
(N.O.I.C. Bizerta, 302025, Admty, C. in C. Med. Cominch, Comnavnaw)

U/B. Am over enemy S/M in 36 degs. 25' N. 1 degs. 30' W.  
(A/C GQJ/G, 302045 to 72F.)  
Enemy S/M previously reported on surface when first sighted was on course 090 degs. speed 15 knots.  
(A/C GQJ/G, 302100 to 72 F)

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30.9.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Levant Situation Report 65. German U-Boat fixed by D/F in approx. 24 degs. 00' N. 19 degs. 30' E. at 1245/29, and search instituted without result.  
(2) Convoy G.U.S.17. 25 Merchant ships left Alexandria 29th.  
(3) Arrivals on station. THEMISTOCLES, B.Y.M.S.72 and 73 Alexandria 29th. SENNEN, LAND\$GUARD Port Said 29th for onward routeing.  
Departures. DANAE from Aden 29th to E.F.  
(C. in C. Levant, 302126C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. E.F., V.A.M. R.A.L. F.O.R.S.C.A., S.N.O.C., Com. L.A. Comdre.(D))

Oran U.S. Movements. Arrivals today U.S.S. KNIGHT, SHUBRICK, TRIPPE. Departures U.S.S. BARNETT, STANTON, DICKMAN, LYON, JEFFERSON, WOOLSEY, GLEAVES, EDISON, LUDLOW, U.S.S. KNIGHT, SHUBRICK.  
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 302126A)

S.T.S.5. Intend sailing convoy consisting of 5 ships. Escorts WHADDON, EGGESFORD, WILTON at 1300A/1st. for Malta. Cmdre. of convoy in S.O. ALYNBANK as additional A/A escort and for onward routeing to Bizerta. (3) Route. Speed 8 knots. E.T.A. 0600A/3rd.  
(4) R/V for Joiners from East Sicily Ports (details).  
(5) Codeword "Scream" 5 call sign 27 35 Normal.  
(S.O.Force (N), 302127A to C. in C. Med. etc.)

Malta Movements. Transport DEVONSHIRE and SOBIESKI arrived.  
(D.S.T.O. Malta, 302129 to D. of S.T., P.S.T.O. Med. etc).

POLA. Arrivals 30th Sept. including POLA (Italian).  
(N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports, 302301C to Admty. C. in C. Levant.)

?Enemy Units. 3 unknown M/Vs.  
Position 36.02 N. 24.30 E.  
(A/C BSV/A Via Alex, 302310Z to H5K)

Italian Ships in Alexandria. Personal. The implication in your 281830/4 is that Force Z is to remain at Alexandria. I hope this is not the intention.  
(2) If they remain here during the winter either they will have to come inside the breakwater and occupy essential merchant ship berths or many will have to leave the outer anchorage on every threat of bad weather and ride it out at sea.  
(3) Furthermore there is the very gravest objection to constituting another Force X in this harbour. Though Force Z is more thoroughly disarmed the personnel is numerically greatly in excess (?excess) and is liable to become more desperate under prolonged restraint on board. It is out of the question to allow shore leave here.

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30.9.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Italian  
Ships in  
Alexandria.  
(Contd.)

(4) I therefore request that the ships may be moved as early as possible as proposed in my 171915\*Sept.  
(C. in C. Levant, 302330C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

/ Force Letter Z allocated to include all Italian ships and vessels laid up in Alexandria harbour.

\* Re disposal of Italian ships now berthed outside Alexandria.

M.K.S.26  
attacked  
EMPIRE  
COMMERCE  
and  
FORT HOWE  
torpedoed.

2 ships torpedoed in 037 degs. 19' 006 degs.  
40' at 2305A/30.  
(COLTSFOOT, 302354A to Algiers.)

Summary  
of attacks  
on U/Bs.

C. in C. Med. 302359 in Lion copy.



# SECRET

Lion  
1017A.

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  
302359/September.

IN.

From C. in C. Med.

Date. 2.10.43.

Secret Cypher.

Summary of attacks on U Boats

Addressed Admiralty, Cominch. Repeated Comnevnew (Admin)  
H.Q., M.A.C., C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, F.O.C. Gibraltar.

DEFERRED.

Summary of attacks on U-boats, My 061000- Sept.  
refers. Admiralty pass to Cominch.

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
6A	211805 Aug.	C.R.P. SLAZAK	37°2'N 38°27'E	Not yet assessed	Blank
7A	220420 Aug	GAWLER	36°57'N 05°10'E	Not yet assessed	Blank
7B	220505 Aug	MARYBOROUGH	37°07'N 05°29'E	Not yet assessed	Blank
8A	262115 Aug	SOUTHERN SEA	37°14'N 08°21'E	Not yet assessed	Blank
10	022005 Sep	COVERLY	36°43'N 11°10'E	Not yet assessed	Blank
11	031818 Sep	U.S.S. TILLMAN	37°15'N 06°40'E	Not yet assessed	Blank
12	072003 Sep	SHAKESPEARE	40°07'N 14°50'E	A	Blank
13	080950 Sep	ANTWERP	39°15'N 13°53'E	Not yet assessed	Blank
14	082035 Sep	POPPY	33°40'N 18°55'E	Not yet assessed	Blank
15	091330 Sep	RCUSAY	C. Bougaroni	Not yet assessed	Blank
16	111200 Sep	PINDOS	35°44'N 13°50'E	Not yet assessed	Blank
17	110800 Sep	P.C. 591	39°30'N 14°28'E	Not yet assessed	Blank
18	112057 Sep	Hudson a/c	38°35'N 09°20'E	Not yet assessed	Blank
19	120105 Sep	Wellington a/c, HAARLEN, HYACINTH	35°30'N 03°32'W	A	U.617
20	121120 Sep	Bisley a/c.	38°39'N 09°22'E	Not yet assessed	Blank
21	120001 Sep	LOTUS	36°58'N 01°27'E	Not yet assessed	Blank
22	152105 Sep	Hudson a/c	39°05'N 14°11'E	Not yet assessed	Blank
23	160215 Sep	F.S. ALCYON	37°08'N 03°18'E	Not yet assessed	Blank

File  
My

302359-2  
302359-2

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
24	212000 Sep	F.S. TEMPEDE	38°03'N 04°22'E	Not yet assessed	Blank
25	212100 Sep	U.S.S. NICHOLSON	40°00'N 14°53'E	Not yet assessed	Blank
26	241330 Sep	A/C and WHADDON	40°02'N 14°41'E	Not yet assessed	Blank
27	261745 Sep	Wellington a/c	38°40'N 13°59'E	Not yet assessed	Blank

302359.

amended 010924/Oct.

+  
Passing action being taken  
by War Registry.

Re: Summary of attacks on  
U-Boats inside Med. of 19.8.43.

1.

- 1st. Lord
- 1st. S.L. (2)
- 4th. S.L.
- 5th. S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (W)
- A.C.N.S. (A) (2)
- U.W.R.
- Capt. Pim
- Ops. (2)
- Plot
- O.D. (5)
- D.N.I. (4)
- D.T.D. (C)
- O.I.C. (4)
- D. of P. (3)
- D.A/S.W. (2)
- D.A/U.D.
- I.P. (3)
- W.D.
- C.N.I.
- D.P.D. (3)
- M. (2)

- D.T.B. (4)
- D.S.D. (3)
- Ad. Ramsay
- Ad. Osborne
- F.O.S. by courier
- Ad. Blake.
- U.S.N. (3)
- D.E.W.D. (3)
- D.C.N.A.E.
- D.N.A.O.
- Air Br.
- D.A.W.T.
- C.C.L.S. (2)
- S.O.F. (V) (4)

EMF

1018

War Diary.

30.9.1943.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Convoy P.A.55 1. Sailing telegram (8 ships). 2. 0200Z/30th.  
4. 8½ knots from B.B. 10. 5. Route 4. 6. TAMWORTH, ORISSA. 14 as from loading port 15 F.E. (N.C.S.O. Hormuz 300240Z to Admty.)

Tropical Kit Force C. reports adversely on tropical kit of many of C.O.personnel arriving from the U.K. The appearance and bearing of these men is such that it brings discredit to the Navy and compares most unfavourably with the appearance of R.I.N. personnel whose appearance on shore is excellent.

2. I consider it is imperative that C.O.personnel should be kitted up in properly fitting army tropical kit before leaving the U.K.

3. I also consider C.O.personnel should be issued with Naval tropical rig for wear on shore whilst on leave.

4. The undisciplined state of C.O.personnel arriving from the U.K. has been the cause of frequent comment by officers both in India and Ceylon and obviously requires more careful attention. (C. in C.E.F. 300323Z to Admty. (R) S.O.Force C, S.O.Force G.)

U/B. Periscope sighted 1° 20' N. 77° 07' E. (YORK 300405 to Colombo W/T.)

Coastal Force Organisation. Preliminary estimate of requirements for Coastal Forces in the Eastern Area.  
A. Defence of India. 3 H.D.M.L. Flotillas, 2 M.L. Flotillas.  
B. Defence of Ceylon. 2 H.D.M.L. Flotillas, 1 M.L. Flotilla.

C. Defence of Kilindini half H.D.M.L. Flotilla.

D. Mobile Coastal Forces for offensive operations and for defence of occupied areas. 3 H.D.M.L. Flotillas specially fitted for combined operations, two increasing to 9 H.D.M.L. Flotillas for local defence of occupied ports. 3 M.L. Flotillas fitted as gunboats. Two increasing to 6 M.L. Flotillas for A/S duties. Six M.T.B. Flotillas, 3 M.G.B. Flotillas.

2. R.I.N. will provide all the flotillas in A. above for the defence of India and one M.L. Flotilla in D. above fitted as gunboats.

3. Coastal force bases in India and Ceylon will maintain the 8 Flotillas allocated for the defence of these areas.

4. Mobile bases including docking facilities will be required for the maintenance of the 30 Flotillas required for offensive operations and for defence of occupied areas.

5. The material supply depot and Packard engine overhaul depot at Bombay will supply all coastal forces in the eastern area. These will require expansion to meet the increased commitments. Hall Scott engine overhaul depot will be set up at Colombo.

6. Captain Coastal Forces Eastern Area will have his headquarters in KEDAH and will be in command of all R.N. Coastal Forces and mobile base. He will also be responsible for the organisation of the engine overhaul and material supply depots.

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30.9.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Coastal  
Force Or-  
ganisation.  
(Contd.)

7. It is requested that  
A. The necessary additional coastal forces may be allocated.  
B. The M.T.Bs. and M.G.Bs. allocated may be of modern design and suitable for operation overseas.  
C. The Mobile M.T.B. bases and at least one M.L. Base may be provided as soon as possible as until these are available coastal forces will be unable to play an effective part in any offensive operations.  
D. A suitable staff be provided for Capt. Coastal Forces.  
9. F.O.C.R.I.N. has seen this signal and concurs.  
(C. in C.E.F. 300534Z to Admty.)

Convoy  
M.A.10.

Sailing telegram (2 ships). 2. 0700Z/30th.  
3. E.T.A. Vizagapatam 0030Z/2nd. 4. Knots 9.  
5. Coastal. 6. IRRAWADDI, AGRA.  
(N.C.S.O. Madras 300708Z, 300714Z to Admty.)

GRIPSHOLM,  
TEIA MARU.

Your 280620. U.S. have been requested to give necessary instructions to GRIPSHOLM and to request Japanese to issue instructions to TEIA MARU. (Head of M.I. 301017A to C. in C.E.F. (R) C. in C.S.A.)

36th  
Flotilla.

Intend that first 8 boats completing in South Africa constitute the 36th Flotilla. A.M. message 081716 July refers.  
2. Request that on completion the first half of 36 Flotilla be sailed for India via Seychelles and Addu Atoll. Your 071259 refers.  
(C. in C.E.F. 301051Z to C. in C.S.A. (R) Admty. F.O.C.R.I.N. HORNET, C.C.F. E.F.)

S.E.Asia,  
Fleet  
mobility.

Personal for R.A.Goolden from Dep. 1st S.L. Admty. As nature of future operations in S.E.Asia will necessitate fleet being on highly mobile basis, request you make particular study American methods in this respect especially their Fleet Train. (W.O. 301730A to 220 Military Mission Noumea.)

Zigzagging.

Camsi 86/43 (areas in which ships should zigzag.) In view of the area S.E. of Madagascar in which ships have been sunk by U-Boat, propose to omit "thence to 31° S. 45p E." from para. A.2. Request your remarks.  
(D.T.D. 301859A to C. in C.E.F. C. in C.S.A. (R) Connav.)

Unknown ship  
"S" report.

Following has been received - SSSS from Durban W/T Position 38.53 S. 31.5 E. submarine sighted 1725 G.M.T.  
(Colombo W/T No T.O.O. recd. 301903A to Admty.)

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30.9.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Dock for Valparaiso. A.M. 282014 August. U.S. authorities have no objection to passage of dock through Panama canal. They also consider that in view of the satisfactory situation with respect to enemy action in S.E. Pacific, no escort will be required between Valparaiso and Balboa. Admiralty pass to D.G.S.R. (B.A.D. 302131Z to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O.W.At.,D.G.S.R.).

Gibraltar operations control of Convoys. Effective 0001Z Friday 1 Oct. operational control of U.G.S.,U.G.F., G.U.S.,G.U.F.,T.O. and O.T. convoys will be exercised by F.O.i/c Gibraltar between "Chop" as defined para.A.2 and Europa Point. Ref. F.T.P.215 article 702 para.A.4. This is "Cinclant" 291820/48 addressed for action to Allant 48 and information C. in C. Med. Comnavnaw, Admty.,Cominch, Comnaveu and C.M.S.F. (Comnaveu 300626Z to Admty.).

GARLIES H.M.S. GARLIES (B.D.E.271) departs Boston Gate at 1030Q/1st Oct. enroute Bermuda at speed of 15 knots. Route. E.T.A. H.Q.N.T.(M) 1600Q/3rd Oct. (C.T.G. 02.1 300630 to C.E.S.F. Pass to B.N.L.O. New York, N.O.B. Bermuda for action.).

Task Force 121 (ex T.G.112.1) As from 001 of 1st Oct. Task Group 112.1 is redesignated Task Force 121. (Comnaveu 300951 to T.G.112.1 Cominch, C. in C. Lant, Admty. C. in C.H.F. C. in C.W.A. N.O.B. Londonderry).

O.N.202 Boston section arrived 301142Z. (P.D.Boston 301238Z to Com.10th U.S. Fleet C and R)

EMPIRE MACALPINE, O.N.S.18. Request brief report by signal of any item of interest reported by M.A.C. ship EMPIRE MACALPINE when with O.N.S.18. (D.T.D. 301312A to C. in C.C.N.A.(R) C. in C.W.A.). Your 241457 not to all.

(A) One R.P. attack carried out in face of intense A.A. fire. First salvo from 800 ft. were over the S/M having taken violent evasive action. Cloud base 20,000 feet. (B) Fire withheld until A/C at 1500 feet rapid evasive turns at high speed. No attempt to dive. (C) One multiple mounting forward of conning tower. Possibly two mountings after end of conning tower. One large calibre gun forward (40 m.m.) shell bursts of smaller calibre were white and were encountered by one aircraft at 4,000 feet R/P attack did not effect accuracy of fire. Rapid correction for line and fuse was made when A/C turned away. Larger calibre shell bursts were white. General concentration of guns around conning tower. (D) Unless conditions of low cloud prevail consider a simultaneous attack by two R/P A/C one from either bow will provide best chance of a successful attack. Practices on a towed target are being arranged for 836 Squadron F Flight while at Dartmouth.

(C. in C.C.N.A. 302040Z to C. in C.W.A.(R) Admty. etc.).  
/U.S.S.R...

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30.9.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

U.S.S.R.,  
A.Ms. and  
S.Cs. (1) U.S.S.R. Nav. Craft A.M. 141 S.O., A.M. 140, A.M. 142, S.C. 719, S.C.1073, S.C.1286 sailed St. Johns 1330Z/30th to Reykjavik 12 knots via (route). thence Reykjavik. E.T.A. Oct. 5th. (5) Request ships be escorted from vicinity Skagi light.  
(F.O.N.F., 301428Z to A.C.I.C. (R) S.R.U.S.S.R., C. in C. Lant, C. in C. C.N.A., Admty. N.S.H.Q., Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet C. and R. Comtask 24, N.O.B. Iceland, Vice Opnav, B.A.D., Alusna Moscow.)

N.S.H.Q. S/M  
Estimate. 1200Z/30 Sept. No change since my 291405Z.  
(N.S.H.Q., 301447Z).

U/Bs  
attacks on  
O.N.S.18  
and O.N.  
202,  
appreciation. Further to my 271223Z there is some evidence supported by photographs of merchant ship after being hit taken by R.C.A.F. that the enemy is using the acoustic torpedo as an offensive weapon against the convoy as well as a defence when hunted.  
(F.O.N.F., 301502Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., Cdre. D.W.A.)

ASPIRANT My 242055. Following for C.C.R.T., ASPIRANT arrived St. Johns 2037/29/9 Merchant vessel not located.  
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns, 301509Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A.)

U.S. S/M  
Estimate. (Cominch, 301605Z).

FOLEY H.M.S. FOLEY (270) departs Boston Gate at 1200Q/30 Sept. en route Bermuda. Speed 15. Route. E.T.A. Point Y 1630Q/2nd Oct.  
(C.T.G.02.1, 301631 to N.O.B. Bermuda (R) C.T.G. 23.1).

DACRES DACRES departs Boston gate en route Bermuda at 1200Q/30 Sept. (route). E.T.A. F.1630Q/2 Oct. Speed 15 knots.  
(C.T.G., 02.1., 301634 to Action N.O.B. Bermuda information Cominch, C. in C. Lant, N.S.H.Q., Admty. C.E.S.F.)

Route for  
vessels under  
13 knots,  
East Africa  
and Red Sea. Suggest amend Mari section 4 para. 8 A. Vessels bound Durban East Africa and Red Sea shall be routed southward of a line joining positions X 37.00 S., 20.00 E. Y. 36.30 S. 25.00 E. Z. 32.00 S. 33.00 E. to Durban for onward routing. Vessels bound Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean continue as in my 272106Z.  
(Com. 10th Fleet C. and R., 301657Z to Admty).

/Convoy...

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30.9.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Convoy H.H.X. 259. (1) Sailing telegram (11 ships) (2) Gate 1700Z/30 (3) Homp 43.05 N., 60.05 W. at 1730Z Oct. 1st. (5) Standard Route A amended by Admty. 041301B July and C. in C. C.N.A.'s 242156Z. (7) Total 11 ships. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 301735Z, 301747Z to Admty).

Convoy T.U.2. New York Section. 6 ships arrived 1520Z/30th Sept. All accounted for. (P.D. New York, 301814Z to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R)

U.S.A.T Arrival Hobart 29th GEORGE WASHINGTON (U.S.A.T.) (N.S.H.Q., 301906Z to Admty).

German Radar Decoy. S.O.B.3's 282130/9. An identical object painted black was recovered April 25/42 by fisherman on Brown Fox Island Bonavista Bay 49 N. 54.40 W. bearing lettering in white paint N.K.58 with figures 3 above and below. Can forward also if desired. (F.O.N.F., 301936Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., B.A.D, S.O.B.3, C. in C. C.N.A.)

EASTWAY Sailing H.M.S. EASTWAY Norfolk to New York for loading when ready about 6th Oct. (Cominch, 301950 to C.E.S.F.)

CAPEL Following is repetition of N.O.B. Bermuda's 301956 (begins). Advancing 15 knots H.M.S. CAPEL departs Bermuda at 2100Z/30 (route), destination Norfolk S.B.N.O.W.At. 291415. E.T.A. Henry 1700Z/2 Oct. (Bermuda C.C.O., 302031Z to Admty).

Stragglers report No. 20. One arrived New York from H.X. 258 MARQUESA 23rd inefficient fireman. Two arrived Halifax from H.X. 258 TETELA 26th damaged cargo water in hold. STANLEY MATTHEWS (U.S.) 26th lost convoy. One arrived New York from O.N. 201 EVITA (Nor). 24th repairs. (N.S.H.Q., 302207Z to Admty).

Convoy U.C.4. Sailing telegram. Part.1. (1) U.C.4. (2) 011500Z Oct. (3) Passing position (C) 020600Z. knots 14 S.O.T.5. (4) None. (5) Route. (6) C.T.G.21.6 U.S.H. MADISON with LANSDALE, C.F. HUGHES, HILARY B. JONES, SCOTT, FOSS. (7) 23 ships. (C.A.F.A.C., 302303, 302315, 302332 to Com. 10th Fleet C. and R).

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30.9.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Raids on Wewak. P.1744 30 Sept. Airsums 141, 142, 25, 29 Sept. situation reviews. Wewak raids 26, 27 Sept. highly successful convoy of 8 ships attacked at least 2 sunk 5 almost certainly sunk and 1 damaged, grounded airplanes also attacked. Map Japanese air routed Manilla Soerabaja. Ends. (Allied Air H.Q., 300618Z to Air Min).

Movements Sydney arrival U.S.S. MIZAR 1942Z/29. (Sydney, 300709Z). Arrivals Brisbane 29th U.S.S. COPAHEE, Sydney (N.S.W.) 29th, U.S.S. MIZAR. Departures Sydney (N.S.W.) 29th U.S.S. BALLARD for Espiritu Santo U.S.S. POLLUX for Brisbane. Townsville, 28th, U.S.S. BAGLEY for (?Milne Bay). Port Moresby 29th U.S.S. TULSA for Sydney (N.S.W.). (A.C.N.B., 301131Z).

Digest Forenoon R/C Liberator strafed probable gunboat  
Serial No. 80 miles south west New Hanover course 330°  
618 Sept. 29th. Afternoon patrol plane sighted single sea truck 50 miles south Mussau Island and later bombed 5 ship convoy, including 3 medium freighters, 2 submarine chasers scoring one near miss. Single floatplane covering convoy did not intercept.  
2. 3 Beaufighters conducting morning sweep strafed 9 barges off Lolobau Island near Ubili. Barges laden with fuel and supplies. 5 exploded, 1 sank, 3 left burning.  
3. Submarine sighted 30 miles east Samarai midday.  
10. That night (28th) 4 Catalinas strafed a medium freighter and barges at Pomelaa (Bone Gulf) also barracks and wharf area.  
14. Single cargo laden barge sunk off Northern Kolombangara morning 28th. 2 loaded barges burned and sank off Central West Coast Choiseul afternoon and later single 100 foot barge carrying troops sunk same area. These operations by flights of 3, 8 and 8 Hellcats respectively. Next morning 5 barges landed troops near Kakasa same vicinity.  
15. Afternoon 28th patrol plane reported 8 Jap. destroyers 60 miles north of Buka course 125°. Eight Zeros covering convoy whereof 2 destroyed third probably by reporting Liberator. After dusk approx. ten ship convoy observed approaching Bougainville Channel from north. Attacks conducted this area by several Allied patrol planes with some success but reports not complete. Next morning after daybreak 10 Jap. destroyers sighted 18 miles northeast Buka course 310°.  
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 300715Z).

MURO MARU, Your 151744. Japanese claims apparently arise from Japanese attacks on Jap. convoy by GURNARD 2356Z/30th June Hospital Ship in approx. position stated. GURNARD claims damage date of attack to 2 (?freighters) of at least 6000 tons each. on. Convoy consisted of 4 Merchant Ships escorted by 6 warships (destroyers patrol craft) and having some air cover.  
(A.C.N.B., 301025Z to Admty).



1024

30.9.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Still no indication of whereabouts of 20 or more U/Bs assumed to be in mid N.W. Approaches possibly in area between 54° 00' N. and 59° 00' N. and between 27° 00' W. and 34° 00' W. possibly now moving eastward.

To the southward of area mentioned above another group of U/Bs is likely to be collecting and H.X. 258 should expect to encounter up to 5 after passing longitude 34° 00' W. Possibly one attempting to pass Straits of Gibraltar and one by D/F 2207Z/29th Sept. has apparently succeeded in doing so. Other estimated positions. (D.D.I.C. 301328).

The U/B which torpedoed a ship a 2010Z/29th in 09° 27' N., 71° 05' E. appears to be proceeding towards Bombay and may operate off there or off Karachi. Report of periscope in 01° 20' N., 77° 07' E. may indicate that another German U/B last fixed off South Africa may be proceeding towards Ceylon. No other recent fixes. (D.D.I.C., 301358A).

Submarine  
attack and  
sighting  
Summary for  
24 hours to  
0900Z/30th.

Unknown ship torpedoed in 09° 27' N., 71° 05' E.  
at 2010Z/29th.  
(D.D.I.C., 300918Z to Admty).

Acoustic  
Homing  
Torpedo.

Counter suggested by Mr. Todd.  
(C. in C. Levant, 301326C).