

16.10.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

O.N. 206.
One U-boat
sunk by A/C.

* AM 12215A
states that this
U/boat was probably
sunk.

1. VANQUISHER escorting O.N. 206 reported at 0137Z today that she attacked a U-boat in 58.01 N. 24.18 W. (about 490 miles north west of Blacksod Bay); and at 0930 another U-boat near the convoy was attacked by two of our A/C (Liberators S/59 and L/59), 1 of which was damaged and the other forced to land. Several further sightings of U-boats occurred during the day, and one was sunk by Liberator C/59 in conjunction with 2 Iceland A/C at 1830Z in 58° 30' N., 30° 00' W. (380 miles S.S.W. of Reykjanes) two survivors being picked up by DUNCAN. It seems that a second U-boat may have been sunk by aircraft at 1810 in 57.27 N., 28.17 W.

O.N.S. 20.
ESSEX LANCE
torpedoed.

2. At 2141Z Convoy O.N.S. 20 was attacked by a U-boat about 400 miles S.S.W. of Reykjanes, and the British ESSEX LANCE, 6625 tons, was torpedoed and broke in half about 400 miles S.S.W. of Reykjanes. At least 2 more U-boats are believed to be in touch with the convoy.

Home Fleet.

3. V.A.2 in ANSON, with NORFOLK, the U.S. A/C Carrier RANGER, and 6 destroyers arrived at Akureyri from Scapa at 2042A; and BELFAST arrived at Scapa at 1100A.

M.T.B. 356
sunk.

4. A patrol of 5 M.T.Bs. were engaged last night off the Dutch coast by 2 Enemy Trawlers and 2 Gun Coasters, and at 0006 M.T.B. 356 was hit by a shell and had to be abandoned and scuttled in 017° Hook 11 miles. All her engine-room crew were wounded, one of them seriously, but all were rescued.

K.M.F. 25

5. Convoy K.M.F. 25 (which included 5 troop transports) left the United Kingdom today.

Mediterranean.

6. Admiral Sir John D. Cunningham assumed temporary command of the Mediterranean Station at 1600 today.

Adriatic

7 (a). Two enemy merchant ships were sighted by aircraft S.W. of Mljet Island this afternoon and were intercepted at 1730 by TYRIAN and TUMULT and found to be the Italian ships ARGENTINA and OLYMPIA bound for Durazzo from Trieste. The

/former...

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SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Adriatic
(contd).

former, which had a German guard and was loaded with hay was brought into Bari; the latter with a German crew and miscellaneous cargo was sabotaged and had to be sunk by TUMULT.

(b) One M.T.B. Division operating in the Tiber area last night reported sinking a 300 ton schooner, which blew up with a large explosion.

Air
Operations.

8. 8 P.38s attacked shipping in Levkas Channel (west coast of Greece) today and hit a ship in Levkas harbour.

Aegean.

9 (a) The assault on Leros is still hanging fire and there had been no development by 0900Z today.

(b) The sweep last night by PHOEBE, FURY and FAULKNER was without result. BELVOIR and BEAUFORT swept as far north as Amorgos without success and returned to Alexandria to fuel. All our forces were heavily bombed but no damage or casualties were caused. AURORA with 2 Fleet and 2 Hunt destroyers sailed from Alexandria today to repeat these operations.

(c) A Hudson and a Wellington bombed Kalimno harbour last night: hits were made on the quay and buildings.

(d) Five air raids on Leros were reported today. The harbour at Portolago Bay was rendered temporarily unserviceable owing to delay action bombs.

(e) A report from Levitha states that a medium M/V of a convoy of 4 ships was sunk off that island p.m. today, presumably by one of our submarines.

Force Z.

10. The Italian squadron left Alexandria p.m. today, the battleships VITTORIO VENETO and ITALIA, sailing with reduced complement to Port Said for transit to berth off Fonara in the Bitter Lakes (arriving on the 18th); whilst the cruisers E. DI SAVOIA, DUCA D'AOSTA, CADORNA and R. MONTECUCCOLI and destroyers, with the balance of the battleships' complements and armament and ammunition replaced before departure, are proceeding to Taranto.

Black Sea.

11. N.L.O. Black Sea reports that since the occupation of the Taman Peninsula on 9th October Russian aircraft have attacked enemy vessels in Crimean harbours and vessels proceeding westwards from the Kerch area. The Russians claim to have sunk a merchant vessel, a tanker, several E and R boats, a large number of landing craft etc., and to have damaged many ships in ports.

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SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Light
beacons.

12. C. in C. Eastern Fleet reports that the U.S.A. A.F., and R.A.F. have installed and/or propose to erect light beacons for homing aircraft at certain points near the coast such as Masirah and Ras al Hadd. Lights sited at such points will assist U-boats, and the C. in C. makes certain recommendations.

U/B sunk.

13. A Bisley aircraft of 244 Squadron attacked a U-boat as it was diving at 1235Z today in 25.28 N. 56.50 E. (Gulf of Oman) After the attack an oil patch and 3 bodies, and later 14 more bodies were seen on the surface. Admiralty on Oct. 21 congratulated the Bisley A/C on probably sinking a German U-boat.

America & West Indies.

14. The eastern seaboard of the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea are re-opened today to independent shipping of 11 knots or over not carrying aviation petrol. (cf. 30 August).

15. The Yugoslav SLOGA 4323 tons, ran aground off Long Point, Newfoundland, today and became a total loss.

Australia & New Zealand.

16. A U.S. Catalina sank or severely damaged 5 barges near Cape Gloucester, New Britain, today.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

301 L.C.F.
Flotilla.

No. 301, L.C.F. Flotilla is to be formed at Boston on 31st October. This flotilla will be transferred to Force S, on a date to be signalled later. (D.R.O. 160058A to C. in C. Rosyth).

Force J.
S.G.B/F.1.

It is intended to transfer the 1st S.G.B. Flotilla to Force J on completion of exercise "Pirate". Boats will then be based at Southampton. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 161536A to Admty).

Force S.

Rear Admiral A.G. Talbot D.S.O., assumed command of Force S on 11th October. His Office will be transferred to Inverness on 1st November. (F.O. Force S. 161816A to Admty).

Movements.

RESOLUTION,
REVENGE.

C. in C. Portsmouth's 141536. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to sail RESOLUTION to Southampton to arrive as required by C. in C. Portsmouth. (A.C.N.S. H., 160010A to C. in C. Rosyth).

C. in C. Portsmouth's 141536 not to all addressees.

C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail REVENGE to Southampton as soon as convenient to arrive as required by C. in C. Portsmouth. 2. It is intended that RESOLUTION should be sailed independently of REVENGE. REVENGE should arrive first. (A.C.N.S. H., 160035A to C. in C. W.A.)

A.M. 160035A. REVENGE will not be ready to sail before noon 18th.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 161624A to C. in C. W.A.)

A.M. 160035A. Request REVENGE may be sailed to arrive Needles at 1530A/20 October to berth at Southampton 1730A/20th.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 162252A to C. in C. W.A.)

A.M. 160010A. Request RESOLUTION may be sailed northabout to arrive Needles 1800A/23 to anchor at Cowes roads on arrival and berth at Southampton a.m./24th.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 162253A to C. in C. Rosyth).

BELFAST

Scapa arrival C.S.10 in BELFAST.
(A.C.O.S., 161100A to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

S/Ms for
Eastern
Fleet.

Anticipate Submarines for Eastern Fleet, Admty. Mes. 041759 Sept. will leave U.K. as follows:

(A) STONEHENGE end of October 1943.

(B) STOIC, SEA ROVER, TANTIVY, TRUCULENT,
TANTULUS November 1943.

(C) STORM, CLYDE December 1943.

(F.O.S., 161332A to C. in C. E.F.)

/S/M...

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Movements. - Contd.

S/M
Movements.

Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/17 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S., 161742A).

ANSON,
NORFOLK,
RANGER.

V.A.2 in ANSON, NORFOLK, VIGILANT, HAIDA, IROQUOIS,
C.T.G.121 in RANGER, CORRY, HARDY, JANUS arrived
Akureyri.
(A.C.I.C., 162042A to H.F.)

Operations.

S/M
Patrols.

1. Capt. (S) 9 is requested to recall SEA ROVER leaving patrol 20th October.
2. TANTIVY patrol KK. Object is O.H.200 para. 2 F and A.
(F.O.S., 161137A to Capt. S.9., S.3).

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

- (A) SEA ROVER on patrol off Andoy.
- (B) SEADOG (P.216) approx. 68° 32' N., 10° 10' E. to 69° 01' N. 11° 02' E. thence to patrol off Andoy diving by day when within 60 miles of Coast.
(F.O.S., 161742A to Admty).

Operation
S.F.

1. Propose sailing HUSSAR for Scapa p.m./18th in accordance with C. in C. H.F. 301553A Sept. para. (3) on arrival of BOOTLE at Seidisfiord.
2. Route west of Scapa barrier and via Pentland.
(M/S F., 15, 161345A to C. in C. Rosyth).

Operation
"Tunnel".

If ordered to carry out operation "Tunnel" today 16th Oct. ships addressed are to act in accordance with memorandum Optu amended as follows.

- (2) For Force X read Force 28 throughout.
- (3) Para. 5 add also off Lezardrieux.
- (4) Para. 6 amend read Force 28, TANATSIDE, S.O., TALYBONT, MELBREAK, GRENVILLE, ROCKET.
- (5) Para. 8. amend time to read: Pass Gate outward at 2000. Sweep through (FF) 325° Heaux Light 6. (GG) 00° Triagoz Light 7. (HH) 280° Triagoz Light 13. Pass (FF) at 0115 and Gate inward at 0800. While South of 049° 20' N., Force 28 is not to be West of 003° 30' W., between 0001 and 0130.
- (6) Para. 11 codeword "Porter".
(C. in C. Plymouth, 161422A).
Carry out operation "Tunnel".
(C. in C. Plymouth, 161826A to TANATSIDE, GRENVILLE, TALYBONT, MELBREAK, ROCKET).

/Bay...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

Bay Patrol (contd). Disposition at 162000.
(1) CHARYBDIS 044° 17' N., 017° 15' W. through 045° 59' N., 013° 37' W. North Eastbound, 18 knots.
(2) Group N. KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, B.Y.M.S. 66, 33, 240, 050° 10' N., 011° 12' W. through 050° 02' N., 013° 40' W. thence Southbound, 10 knots.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 161445 to Admty).

Engagement off Hook. Preliminary report of operations by the 11th M.T.B. Flotilla night 14/15th October. (? 15-16K intended)
M.T.B. 356 sunk. 1. Five M.T.Bs. were ordered to sweep North from the Hook for possible southbound convoy.
2. Weather, wind S.S.E.2, visibility good.
3. Unit arrived off Hook at 2202, swept North at 9 knots. At 2355 ships sighted ahead, immediately after Radar contact 1500 yards and then 1200 yards. Enemy challenged "C", unit challenged "C" and received reply "S" which unit sent back to enemy. Vessels identified as 2 trawlers and 2 gun coasters. Unit turned N.W. to avoid patrol. At 0001 star shell fired and enemy opened fire at 0003, range 1,000 yards, M.T.B. 356 hit in stern and a line of 6 flares appeared to be dropped by aircraft ahead of unit. At 0006 as unit increased speed to clear, M.T.B. 356 suffered direct hit starboard side of engine room, probably 88m/m shell, large hole torn in ship's side, tank space bulkhead blown out. Engine room crew all wounded. Ship lost way and started to sink rapidly by stern. Abandon ship ordered. All chargs and C.Bs. removed except list of W/T call signs for month of October. At 0019 in 017° Hook 11 miles scuttling-charges were observed to fire, ship blew up with fragments on fire, remains were seen to sink, and C.O. considers that W/T call signs were not compromised. At 0050 after survivors had been distributed unit resumed sweep at 0600 set course for base.
4. Casualties. One stoker seriously wounded. One motor mechanic and one stoker slightly wounded. Damage M.T.B. 356 sunk.
(C. in C. Nore, 161515A to Admty).

Kara Sea. Proposed operation. M.W.T. is anxious for earliest return of all tankers but no objection to use of PONTFIELD at your discretion provided she does not miss R.A. 54 B. Your 141604 refers.
(D.T.D., 161521A to Ad. Fisher).

Operation F.R. S.O. 1st M/S F. in HARRIER with SEAGULL proceeds passing Switha 1900A/17th to arrive Seidisfiord not later than p.m./20th. Route.
2. On arrival S.O. M/S Flotilla one takes WEST-COTT, EGLANTINE under his orders and together with SEAGULL acts in accordance with V.A. 2's 122200.
(R.A.D., H.F., 161610A to HARRIER, SEAGULL, M/S F.1).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

Coastal
Patrol.

Force 113, M.T.Bs. 678, 673 are to proceed forth-
with to patrol in vicinity of position 135° Start
17.

3. Force 113 is to leave patrol for Dartmouth
at 0630A/17.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 162142A).

Mining.

Harwich

My 161221. At 1135A/16th one Mine detonated by
Sweeper in 52° 9' 30" N., 1° 49' 39" E. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 162239A).

Enemy Intelligence.

Norway

Closed area at Reisafiord. Details.
(N.A. Stockholm 161144 to D.N.I.)

U-boats.

U-boat sunk
by A/C.

Am over enemy S/M in 58° 36' N., 26° 13' W.
(A/C BCYL 1 161030 to N.D.3).

U-boat sighted by S/59 in position (indecipherable)
at 1038A. Attacked with D/Cs.
(R.A.F. Iceland, 161125A and 162002A).

U-boat sighted by S/59 in 59° 05' N., 26° 28' W. course 240°
12 kts. at 1115A.

(R.A.F. Iceland, 161150A to H.Q.C.C.)

Am over enemy S/M in 57° 27' N., 28° 17' W. When first
sighted S/M was on surface, course 350° speed 10 knots.

(Nil, 161730A to Nil).

U/B on surface position 57° 31' N., 28° 26' W. not disabled.

(A/C 171 W.3 161900A to 1 H.O)

Am over one enemy S/M in 58° 33' N., 30° 19' W. previously
reported on surface. Convoy D is 63 miles astern of estimated
position.

(A/C Duty C, 161930A to 15 Group).

U/B sighted by Z/120 in 58° 13' N., 29° 08' W, course 270,
10 kts. at 1840A/16. U/B sighted on surface by E/120 in 58° 20'
N., 29° 20' W. course and speed not reported.

(R.A.F. Iceland, 162039A to H.Q.C.C.)

S/M gone under. Survivors in 57° 31' N., 28° 25' W. Have
contacted convoy R/T.

(A/C 171 W.3 162045A to 1 H.O)

R.A.F. sighting by 39/120 at 1910A. U-boat sunk. 15 sur-
vivors. A/C returning to base. Tail plane damaged.

(R.A.F. Iceland, 162218Z to H.Q.C.C.)

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Technical.

"Foxyer" Experience of "Foxyer" in bad weather. Details.
Gear. (E.G.7, 161020Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Radar Information from C. in C. Mediterranean indicates
Balloons as that U-boats have used Radar Balloon as a decoy
decoys. and have torpedoed escort ships who were inves-
tigating contact.
(D.T.M., 162236A to C. in C. W.A.)

Casualties & Defects.

JAN LIEVENS. Arrived BOMBARDIER with JAN LIEVENS in tow of
BUSTLER and JOHN GORRIE ex O.N. 205.
(A.C.I.C., 160359A to C.5).

GHAMBIRA My 151031A. GHAMBIRA sank at anchor during dark
hours 15/16th Oct. Masts and top of funnel visible
at low water a.m. today.
(N.O.I.C. Holyhead 161001A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

KINDRED STAR. KINDRED STAR damaged by collision at Tilbury after
refit. Vessel has been dry-docked at Blackwall
and will undock 18/10 ready to proceed.
(F.O.I.C. London, 161043A to Admty).

UNICORN Your 141536. Period in hand of UNICORN is to be
limited to one month from date of commencement
of refit.
(Controller 161833A to F.O.I.C. N.I.)

MATCHLESS My 151057A. MATCHLESS delayed defects.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 162231A to R.A.D. H.F.)

Shipping & Convoys.

O.N.206, My 152203Z. VANQUISHER attacked U-boat 058° 01' N.
O.N.S.20. 024° 18' W. DUNCAN, VANQUISHER hunting. Weather
ESSEX LANCE 4478 0583.
in O.N.S.20 (B.6, 160137Z to C. in C. W.A.)
torpedoed. D/F bearings at 2224Z/15th indicate U-boat in
general vicinity of convoys.
(D.D.I.C., 160140A to Escorts O.N. 206, O.N.S.20).
Local bearing indicate that German U-boat in
touch with O.N. 206 only. Your 160140A refers.
(E.G.4, 160306Z to Admty).

On complete D/F bearings at 0518Z indicate series one may
be in use by U-boats in vicinity of convoys.

(D.D.I.C., 160658A to Escorts O.N. 206, O.N.S.20).

S/M attacked by B.C.Y.W.1 and B.C.Y.L. 1 at 160930.

B.C.Y.W.1 damaged, force landed, survivors picked up. B.C.Y.L.
damaged, returning to base. DUNCAN, VANQUISHER hunting U-boat.

O.N. 206, P.C.S., 058° 43' N., 027° 16' W. 287° 9 knots.
(B.6, 161003Z to C. in C. W.A.)

/O.N.S...

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Shipping & Convoys.

O.N. 206, O.N.S. 20. Aircraft 171W3 reports U-boat survivors
O.N.S.20, 057° 30' 028° 30'. Probably another U-boat 20
ESSEX LANCE, miles 120° from convoy.
in O.N.S.20 (E.G.4, 161947Z to C. in C. W.A.)
torpedoed. U/B transmissions from area of both convoys during
(contd). day have been entirely on Series 8. Impossible
to differentiate between convoys but signals at
1816Z and 1828 apparently from O.N.S.20 area.
(D.D.I.C., 162029A to Escorts O.N. 206, O.N.S.20)
O.N.S. 20 attacked. One ship torpedoed.
(E.G.4 162141Z to C. in C. W.A.)
ESSEX LANCE broken in half. My 162141 refers. U-boat
chased and dived 12 miles from convoy but no A/S contacts.
Estimate at least 2 more in touch with convoy.
(2) My 161947. No U-boat survivors found and all escorts
immediately recalled.
(E.G.4, 162255Z to C. in C. W.A.)
Several sightings and attacks on U-boats today. One sunk
by aircraft at 1830Z in 058° 30' N., 030° 00' W. 2 survivors in
DUNCAN. U-boats still believed in contact.
My 161447Z. Survivors from Liberator in PINK. O.N. 206, P.C.S.
058° 52' N., 030° 30' W., 241° 9½.
(B.6, 162303Z to C. in C. W.A.)

D.S.46 My 140211A para. 2. All personnel will embark in
NIGHTINGALE.
(D.S.T., 160340A).

R.A.54 A. Cancel reference area 2 and 2 A in sub. - para.
D of para. one of my 151719. Necessary action
has been taken on your 152250.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 161231R to Admty).

S.L.137 (M). Arrived 16 ships. Names.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 161448A).

O.N.207, Seventh E.G. consisting of PHEASANT, CRANE,
E.G.7. CHANTICLEER is to be sailed to overtake O.N.207
in about 020° W. and act in support.
(2) From time the group joins BITER is to form
part of seventh E.G. BITER will then assume S.O.
of this Group.
(3) Intention is that group after covering O.N. 207 shall proceed
Newfoundland where sloops will clean boilers.
(4) It is expected WHIMBREL will join Group in Newfoundland about
5th Nov.
(C. in C. W.A., 161456A to Cdre. D.W.A.)

/ATLANTIS...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

ATLANTIS,
DROTTNINGHOLM,
EMPRESS OF
RUSSIA.

Hospital ship ATLANTIS is expected to arrive about 24 Oct. with about 750 sick and wounded repatriated personnel including about 183 cot cases. Total includes 17 U.S. personnel. (D.S.T., 161508A).

EMPRESS OF RUSSIA and Swedish ship DROTTNINGHOLM are expected to arrive about 23 Oct. with approx.

2200 and 1400 repatriated personnel respectively including about 2000 sick and wounded. (D.S.T., 161513A).

A.M. 120402 Oct. Adjust speed to be in 57° 58.55' N., 06. 55.2' E. at 0600/18 where you will be met by a minesweeper flying International Pilot boat flag, who will signal:- "Folgen sie Meinen Kielwasser". and will pilot you through dangerous waters:

2. On return passage ATLANTIS, EMPRESS OF RUSSIA and DROTTNINGHOLM are to R/V M/S in 58° 02.2' N., 08° 36.5' E. at 1500 hours on day of departure from Gothenburg.

(Head of M.I., 161620A to ATLANTIS, EMPRESS OF RUSSIA).

K.M.F.25

My 151112A, amended by my 161127A. Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 161516A to Admty). Sailed Clyde portion consisting of LEOPOLDVILLE, ORARI, CHAMPOLLIAN, RIPPINGHAM GRANGE, NIGERSTROOM, in accordance with my 151056A. AORANGI did not sail due to defects. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 162138A to Admty).

R.A.54 A.

S.B.N.O. North Russia's 151719 para. 3. Cdre. Cox and yeoman of signals will arrive Scapa by air about noon 18th.

2. Request arrangements may be made for their passage in MILNE to Seidisfiord, thence to destination in HARRIER or SEAGULL. (D.O.D. H., 161941A to V.A.2).

A.T.68

Arrived MAURETANIA. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 162330Z).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Operation "Alacrity". Ref. my 151540, flying in of Hudson postponed 24 hours.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 160830 to Admty).
Portuguese reactions to Azores agreement general relief after rumours of violent action days previous to announcement. Initial apprehension of possible German reaction gives way to belief that they will do nothing.
(2) Lower classes enthusiastic, upper classes in general pleased but some criticise action which may compromise Portugal's comfortable neutrality.
(3) Naval circles express satisfaction.
(4) General opinion Salazar's position considerably strengthened.
(N.A. Lisbon, 161219A to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. N.A. Madrid).

PASTEUR Estimated ready depart Casablanca for Dakar p.m. 18th. Request route.
(C.M.S.F.F., 160948A to F.O.C. Gib).
Your 160948. Route.
(F.O.I.C. Gib., 161545A to C.M.S.F.F.)

C.G. 70 Arrived.
(F.O.C. Gib., 161132A).

IRIS Is it intended that escort for IRIS is to be provided by Gibraltar?
(F.O.C. Gib., 161531A to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Horta)

D.R. 4 MONSAIGNE, DUMONT D'URVILLE arrived.
(C.M.S.F.F., 161628A).

EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND. (begins) Sailed 16th 1700 hours passengers embarked 2,080 including 108 German officers, 34 German ratings. (Ends?)
(M.W.T. Casablanca via Gib. C.C.O., 161757, 172104, to B.A.D.)
2. From Casablanca 161100. 3. Position (a) 170200 S. of A. 19.25 knots. 4. Route. 15. Codeword "Elastic" 135.
(C.M.S.F.F., 162101A to U.S. Port Director Norfolk, S.N.O.L. (R) C. in C. Lant, Admty).

LOBITO Sailed Gib. 161810 destination Marseilles Portuguese LOBITO 2720 tons gross, speed 8 knots, following approved route to Cape San Sebastian thence coast-wise to Marseilles. Carries usual national and international Red Cross marking and is not to be molested on this voyage.
(F.O.C. Gib. 161807A, 161812 to 8th S/M F. PERLE (R) Capt. S.8).

T.F. 64 T.F. 64 STEVENSON, STOCKTON, SPENCER, TURNER, JACOB JONES, HAMMANN, ROBERT E. PEARY, STURTEVENT, departed for Gib.
(C.M.S.F.F., 162100A).

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.W.S.33,
C.M.46.

Cdre. Durban's 150842 (N.T. in W.R.) not to Dechief Pretoria. Owing to outbreak of Cerebro spinal meningitis in two ships departure of W.S.33 and C.M.46 has been delayed till a.m.20th. (D.S.T.O. Durban, 160933Z to C. in C. E.F.(R) C. in C. S.A., F.O.E.A., D.O.S.T., P.S.T.O., Capetown, P.S.T.O.India, P.S.T.O.M.E., Com. Durban, Dechief Pretoria.)

F.T's.

Arrival 1525Z? 14th RUMBA escorting F/TS 1,5,8, 11,13,14,22. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 161005Z to Cdr. 4th U.S. Fleet, (R) Asst. B.N.S.O. Recife, Admty.)

WEST
CHESWALD
"R" Report.

Following has been read from S.O.37th E.G. Suspicious tanker 10.58 N. 28.15 W. (WEST CHESWALD, 161139 to Freetown W/T.)

FAL,
NESS.

Propose FAL remain on West African Station and that NESS returns U.K. on arrival of TEES. It is most desirable that Frigates attached to A.M.Cs on Patrol shall be of long endurance type. (F.O.C.W.Af. 161202Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A.)

HABANA to

Cdr. 4th U.S. Fleet reports HABANA in 008 degs. be intercepted. 45' S. 031 degs. 30' W. at 0030Z/15th indicating speed made good 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots. Shift surface patrol 60 miles eastward to cover most probable routes east and west of Cape Verde Is. Air patrol will not now commence until 18th. 3 U-Boats may pass through patrol area on south easterly course. CARNARVON CASTLE detail one ship to give her A/S escort. Suggest French cruisers use H.S. while in patrol area. Comar Dakar pass to CAMPION, D.S. FRISO and MYOSOTIS.

(F.O.C.W.Af. 161359Z to CARNARVON CASTLE, Comar Dakar (R) Admty., N.O.I.C. Bathurst, E.G.37.)

Reference F.O.C.W.Af's 161359. Southern ends of your new patrol lines are allocated as follows:

- (A) 007 degs. 00' N. 024 degs. 45' W. CONQUEROR.
- (B) 007 degs. 00' N. 025 degs. 25' W. Dutch Ship FRISCO.
- (C) 007 degs. 00' N. 026 degs. 05' W. CAMPION.
- (D) 007 degs. 00' N. 026 degs. 45' W. CARNARVON CASTLE, FOWEY.
- (E) 007 degs. 00' N. 027 degs. 25' W. MYOSOTIS.
- (F) 007 degs. 00' N. 028 degs. 05' W. STORK, ships to be at north ends of their lines by 0700Z/18th then comply with my 111315 as amended by my 111726.

(CARNARVON CASTLE, 161914Z to 37th E.G. (R) F.O.C. W.Af. Admty.)

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South Atlantic. - Contd.

D.K.A.4.

Sailed ARCTIC EXPLORER, LADY ELSA, NORTHERN ISLES, CAPE WARWICK to R/V off Cape Inhaca at 0900Z/18th with D.K.A.4. E.T.A. Kilindini 0800Z/28th. C.S.A. Lourenco Marques 150811 not to all addressees refers.
(Com. i/c Durban, 161443Z to Admty. C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.), F.O.E.A., S.N.O.A. Kilindini.)

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Mediterranean.

Naples movements. Gulf of Naples October 15th. Arrivals - M.L.218, L.S.T. 375, 314, 416, 332, 316, 6, 315, 367, 426, 420, 427, 164, 348, 14, H.S. SOMERSETSHIRE, U.S.S. BRINT (?BRANT) SEER. Y.M.S. 55, S.C.977, 503 EXTRICATE. Departures C.S.15 in MAURITIUS. H.S. ST. DAVID. Arrived and departed - U.S.S. HOPE P.C.543. (F.O.W.I.T. 160025A).
Gulf of Naples 16th arrivals - ST. KILDA, M.L.556. ALE, BURY, LAUDERDALE, CLEVELAND escorting V.N. ROUROM, RHYL, FLY. Departures SHEFFIELD, S.C. 979, 534 escorting L.S.T. 392, 374, 358, 391 U.M.T. SALTARELO, M.L.218, 468, 168, A.M.112, Y.M.S.55, S.C. 503, 977 escorting L.S.T. 373, 416, 332, 316, 6, 315, 367, 426, 429, 420, 421, 427, 322, 164 (corrupt groups) SOMERSETSHIRE. (F.O.W.I.T. 162150A).

PHOEBE enemy A/C. Enemy A/C bombing, 37.01 N. 26.40 E. (PHOEBE 160137C to Alexandria).

Med. Air Report. Air Cosintintrep No.99 16 Oct. Signed Eisenhower. N.W.A.A.F. Day 16th. 8 P.38's dropped 16 by 500 pound bombs on shipping in Levkas Channel. One direct hit three near misses on M/V in Levkas Harbour ship left listing. (Air C. in C. Med. No T.O.O.).

TORBAY Your 452337. Proceed through (A) 035 degs. 36' 027 degs. 39' at 2305/16th. (B) 034 degs. 25' 029 degs. 59' at 1150/17th thence direct on surface to arrive Beirut 1245C/18th. You may meet SEVERN on opposite course after passing position (B) and own surface forces in Straits. (Capt.(S) 1, 160558C to TORBAY, (R) C. in C. Levant, 1st S.F. 201 Naval Co-operation Group).
Cancel my 152337. Patrol in accordance with your 151954. (TORBAY 160809C to Capt.(S) 1, (R) C. in C. Levant, 1st S/M. F.).

Tugs and Landing Craft. BM/TN.1a/N.A./1. 164494 8254 cipher 16th October. Cite F.H.T.N.B. Your 76707 (071900) (N.T. in W.D.) (T.N.1) of 7th 1943. Plans for erection and use. (A.F.H.Q. Algiers T.O.O. Nil to W.O.).

TYRIAN, TUMULT, Dubrovnik patrol. Enemy ships intercepted. Night 16th/17th. Intend TYRIAN and TUMULT patrol from Dubrovnik to Victor Island return to Bari. Request air cover 0530A to 0730A 17th codeword "Hall" Priority high. Estimated P.C. and S. 0530A 041 degs. 55' N. 016 degs. 38' E. 140 degs. 22 knots. My 151204* nothing seen. (Capt.(D) 24 160806A to FOTA (R) C. in C. Med.No.1. 286 Wing, Moru, TYRIAN, TUMULT.).
+ Intend patrolling Cazza Island 15th /16th.

/ 2 merchant...

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Mediterranean.

TYRIAN, 2 merchant ships sighted 2 miles South East
TUMULT, Grujpoint by A/C 1635 course East.
Dubrovnik (N.O.i/c Messina 161747A to TYRIAN, (R) L.N.612
patrol. (Obsolete) F.O.T.A.).
Enemy ships Have intercepted both ships. My P.C. and S 042
intercepted. degs. 25' North 017 degs. 14' East 182 degs. 11,
(Contd.). with 1 ship in company. Other ship heavily on
fire and being disposed of by TUMULT who is then
joining me. Intend to adjust to arrive end of
searched channel at 0500. Request (flare)? beacon at 0445 and
0500.
(TYRIAN 161900A to Capt.(D) 24th D.F. (R) N.O.i/c Bari, F.O.T.A.).

Enemy Following has been read by Alexandria.
ships in 1 tanker in position 37.18 N. 27.00 E. course
Dodecanese. 135 degs. 2 merchant vessels (36.55 N..27.17 E)
112 degs.
(Med.Local Call Sign 160827A).

Nr.2. Position of 1 enemy war motor boat and 1 small craft
36.55 N. 27.12 E. course 090 degs. speed 3 knots.
(A/C ANO/X 160847).

Nr.1. Position of 3 enemy war motor boats and 6 enemy small
craft is 036 degs. 55' North 027 degs. 19' East. Position of 4
enemy war motor boats and one landing craft is 036 degs. 56' North
027 degs. 10' East.

(A/C ANO/X 160849 to 201 Group H.Q.M.E. Command).

(Nr.1) P.C. and S of enemy 1 merchant vessel 1000 tons 2
escort vessels 36.55 N. 26.35 E. 100 degs. 10 knots.
(CJU/W 161204Z).

1 enemy merchant vessel in 36.01 N. 27.57 E. Course, speed
nil.

(A/C FAU/G 161740Z).

SEVERN Arrived 15th 1942.
(S.O.(I) Beirut 160837C).

Movements 15th. Departures including Zero craft 7, 11, 22,
Beirut. 26, 33, 39, 40, 41.
(S.O.(I) Beirut 160842C).

30 Commando Following received from 30 Commando (Begins) 1
It. S/Ms. completed and 1 semi completed 3 man S/M on
slipway of Silvifico Italiano, Baia.(Ends.).
Papers relating to these and other (?special)
matters addressed (?D.T.M.) and forwarded S.O.(I)
Malta for onward despatch by air.
(F.O.W.It. 160847 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.
V.A. Malta).

Italian F.O.W.It's. 111026 (Re investigation torpedo attack
torpedo instrument fitted in Italian S/M VORTICE) and your
attack 121124 not to Admiralty.
instrument. This has already been examined in MAREA and

/description...

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Italian torpedo attack instrument. (Contd.). description forwarded C.O.I.S. by Lieut. L.G. White, U.S.N.R. in his W/2 of 23rd Sept. 1943. (2) Instrument exceedingly complex and it is suggested that text of book only believed available at Taranto should be sent U.K. for examination. (3) The instrument is generally similar to American T. D.C. (Capt.(S) 10th 160932A to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.W.It. V.A. Malta, F.O.L.I. Admty.).

Convoy escorts. Sail at 0800/18th by Q.B.B. 123 (B) with joiners for M.K.S.28 to R/V with convoy in position 212 at 1330/18th. (2) BLACKMORE and BROCKLESBY then detach ships for Malta Sicily and Italy from convoy and escort them to Malta by Q.B.B. 123 (B). (3) Codeword for para. 1 and 2 "Wicked" priority Low. (4) Remainder continue with convoy U.S.S.C.X.K.(sic) to Bizerta ULSTER MONARCH to Algiers, PRINS ALBERT and BARLE to Gibraltar. (V.A. Malta 160940A to BROCKLESBY, BLACKMORE, PRINS ALBERT, BARLE, ULSTER MONARCH, U.S.S.C.X.K. (R) Algiers, C. in C. Med., BLUEBELL, N.O.i/c Bizerta, F.O.C. Gibraltar, E. of Convoy M.K.S. 28).

Enemy ships in Adriatic. P.C. and S of enemy, 2 medium merchant vessels, / (indecypherable E.C. = 15 E) based on a fix taken within $\frac{1}{2}$ hour of 1000 190 degs. 5 knots. (FDO/H 160947A to Air H.Q. Malta). /RPEC 1050. My 0947 Enemy previously reported are of type indicated. 1 merchant vessel 4000 tons. 1 merchant vessel 8000 tons, in position 43.10 N. 15.50 E. based on fix taken within $\frac{1}{2}$ hour of 1000 hrs. (A/C FDO/H 160947A to Air H.Q. Malta). Following has been read: My 0947. (? P.C. and S. of enemy) 42.37 N. 17.41 E. 100 degs. 10 knots. (FDO/H 161225A).

Operation "Pineapple" Operation "Pineapple" envisages attack on more than 1 U-Boat and is consequently unsuitable for use in Mediterranean where present U-Boat practice is to operate singly. Atlantic convoy instructions Art. 134 now in course of circulation refers. (2) (B) 215, 216 and 218 were B'grams. (C. in C. Med. 161016A to Med. St. 219B, (R) C. in C. W.A., Admty. C. in C. Levant).

Carrier reserve pool, Malta. Affairs of carrier reserve pool at Malta being completed, except for ferrying of all A/C, intend to discharge Lieut. (A) R.O. Davies R.N. to U.K. and discontinue local title of Sonar Malta. Davies will report to Conas Med. on passage. (V.A. Malta 161022A to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. Conas Med. F.O.C. Gib.).

/Casualties....

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Mediterranean. - Contd.

Casualties
to Merchant
seamen.

Instructions for quicker information.
(D.T.D. 161035A to C. in C. Med.).

M/S
trawlers.

Your 141741 (N.T. in W.D.) Request INCHMARNOCK be sailed for Augusta and that A/S minesweeping trawlers detailed for East Coast Sicily be used only for local escort. These trawlers in addition to being used for local escort are required for sweeping duties.

(N.O.i/c Augusta 161209 to F.O.T.A. (R) C. in C. Med.).

My 151741 (N.T. in W.D.) Request you will arrange Liaison ship from Bizerta to Algiers and sail INCHMARNOCK to Augusta. N.O.i/c Augusta 161209 refers.

(F.O.T.A. 162237A to N.O.i/c Bizerta, (R) C in C. Med., N.O.i/c Augusta, INCHMARNOCK).

INGLEFIELD

To: C. in C. Med. only.

Your 111231, para. 2 and R.A.A.H.F's 131017/
October.

Do you wish INGLEFIELD to boiler clean before leaving U.K.?

(D.O.D.(F) (164), 161212A to C. in C. Med.,
(R) R.A.A.H.F., F.O.i/c Gib.).

Shipping
in Adriatic
to be
attacked.

Surface and Air Forces may attack at sight all shipping in the Adriatic whether at anchor or under way with the exception of

(a) ships and small craft whose movements have been promulgated,

(b) ships and small craft within (corrupt group) miles of the Italian coast south of 042 degs. 30'

(for the time being).

N.O.i/c Bari pass to Captain Bowlby, Cmdr. Michell, Captain Black.
(F.O.T.A. 161217 to Capt.(D) 24th D.F., N.L.O. 8th Army,
(?RO.N.A.) 46 Wing., C.F.W., O.W.Wing., N.L.O. Number 1 Moru,
N.Os.i/c Brindisi, Bari, Barletta, (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.L.I.).

Enemy
L/C off
Corsica.

P.C. and S of enemy of 5 landing craft is
(43.59 N. 9.58 E) X 12 045 degs. 4 knots.
(FDO/N 161225A).

SOKOL

After passing 034 degs. 25' 022 degs. 11' at 0801C/17th proceed on the surface through 033 degs. 59' 024 degs. 11' at 2002C/17th to arrive Beirut 1320Z/20th. Surface shipping East of

026 degs. East is not to be molested unless definitely proved hostile.

(Capt.(S) 1st 161238C to SOKOL, (R) N.O.i/c Tripoli, Cmdre. C.F. Eastern Med, Ships Western Desert, N. and A.A. West Desert, N. and A.Authority East of Alex., Ships E. of Alex. C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Capt.(S) 1, Capt.(S) 8, (S) 10, Admty. R.A. Alex.,).

/NELSON...

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Mediterranean. - Contd.

NELSON,
RODNEY and
escorts.

Intended that NELSON and RODNEY shall reach Gibraltar by 29th, request destroyers may be sent to Gibraltar to escort these ships home. OFFA and TARTAR will be available for escort. (C. in C. Med. 161252A to Admty. (R) V.A. Malta, F.O.C. Gib., C. in C.H.F., C. in C.W.A., NELSON).

Harbour
defence
against
Midget
S/M. etc.

Altered situation regarding harbour defence against attack by Midget S/M, Human torpedo and sabotage mine in Med. is under consideration. (2) Sabotage mine attacks must still be expected in captured ports where Axis agents can attack from the land. Germans have not in past used Midget S/MS. and human torpedoes and majority of It. weapons of these types are now in Allied

hands.

(3) Request your remarks and particularly as regards supply of 10 pound A/S bombs and projectiles, C.A.F.O. 1079/43 and my 251026+June refers.

(C. in C. Med. 161441 A to F.O.i/c Gib. F.O.W.It. N.O.i/c Bizerta, C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, N.O.i/c Algiers, (R) Admty.)

✓ C.A.F.O. Ammunition - Motors - Bomb 10 lb - Underwater for Holman Projector - Description and method of use against Human torpedoes. (G.O. 2947/42).

+ N.T. in W.R.

Situation
in Aegean.

Joint Army R.A.F. Int. appreciation 24 hours to 0900Z/15th.

(1) Assault on Leros still hanging fire. No development reported by Leros up to 0900Z hours 16 October.

(2) Incomplete photographs cover yesterday 15 revealed 6 F boats of which 1 in Port Calino 2 at Kos and 3 at sea north-bound between Kos and Calino.

(3) Visual R/C 15th sighted enemy convoy including 2 merchant vessels of approx. 2,000 tons each and 2 escorts eastbound east of Amorgos. Possibly these are 2 ships reported by C.X. source as leaving Piraeus p.m. 14th for Dodecanese carrying estimated approx. 1,000 German troops some motor transport guns and motor launches.

(4) 2 destroyers despatched p.m. 15th to intercept above convoy but made no contact. No report of arrival this convoy in Kos - Calino area yet received. Possibly convoy was diverted as presence our approaching naval force known to enemy who dive bombed our destroyers.

(5) Bad weather prevented Photographic R/C. 15th of all airfields in Greece, Crete, Rhodes and Kos.

(6) Do not consider enemy awaiting arrival above convoy before launching assault but will attack by day or night as soon as he appreciates absence our Naval Forces from Aegean.

(C. in C.M.E. No T.O.O.).

Cositrep No.26. 1 Int.

(A) Convoy reported to have sailed from Piraeus for Dodecanese 14th October estimated provisionally to have carried about 1000 German troops.

(B) German grn. Paros now reported 60 all ranks.

/ (2) Ops...

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Mediterranean.

Situation
in Aegean
(Contd.).

(2) Ops. Aegean. Calino. Lrdg. patrol operating in Calino since 13th Oct. now returned to Leros having reconnoitred N.W. end of island. Ntr in area visited. No shipping seen in Sicati Isolavecchia or Pezonda Bays.

(5) Naval. Aegean. Night 15/16 Oct. ROBERT SHERMAN and COM DOMINE arrived Famagusta. N.T.R. from PHOEBE, FURY and FAULKNER after sweep. BELVOIR and BEAUFORT swept as far North as Armogos, with no success returning Alex. owing fuel shortage. All forces heavily bombed. No damage or casualties

(16) AURORA with two Fleet and two Hunt destroyers sailed from Alex. to repeat operation. TETCOTT and CROOME returned Alex.

(6) Air. (A) Own 15th Oct. Bad weather again restricted operations. 3 Baltimores on offensive R/C. attacked 3,000 ton M/V in Syros Harbour. Bombs undershot straddling small coastal vessel. Night 15/16 Oct. Six Hudsons and six Wellingtons searched for enemy shipping in Calino area. No sightings. Two aircraft bombed Calino Harbour. Hits on quays and buildings threw debris in air.

(B) Enemy. One attack reported on Leros 14th Oct. by about 40 enemy aircraft. 2 more attacks on small scale reported night 14/15 Oct. and 15 Oct. respectively. No details of damage or casualties.

(C. in C.M.E. T.O.O. Nil).

M.T.Bs.

Intend to sail outward M.T.B. 242 (S.O.) 81, 97 at 1700/16th to carry out R/C of Vis Island. Routed Q.B.B. 240 thence direct at 20 knots, 1 M.T.B. returning by reverse route to reach Bari

at daylight (?17th) remainder to reach Bari daylight 18th continuous watch 2150 k/cs. for communications 2980 k/cs code-word throughout "Henshaw".

(?N.O.i/c Bari, 161508A to F.O.T.A. (R) C. in C. Med. Fleet, C.C.F. Capt.(D) 24th, D.F. 286 Wing, N.L.O. No.1. Moru, N.O.i/c Brindisi).

Tugs

dispositions EMPIRE MINNOW and EMPIRE TITANIA your 142352+ not to V.A. Malta.

(2) EMPIRE MINNOW is still awaiting spare parts ordered by V.A. Malta from U.K. in July.

(3) When may LARIAT be expected to return to Med.

(C. in C. Med. 161511A to Admty. (R) C. in C.

Levant, Marine Supt. Rescue Tugs, Malta, V.A. Malta).

+Re Can names for tugs allocated to C. in C. Levant for Harbour work at Alexandria yet be given?

U-B

dispositions

2 U-boats unfixed probably south of 040 degs. 30' North East of 013 degs. East 1 within 60 miles of 037 degs. 30' North 007 degs. East. (C. in C. Med. 161524A).

/Enemy...

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Mediterranean. - Contd.

Enemy convoys off Naxos. Difficulties of interception. Convoy referred to in my 152139 para.3. turned back during afternoon, enemy evidently having got wind of approach of 2 Hunts from his air R/C. 201 N.C.Group M.E. unable to shadow or obtain another sighting after initial one at 1225 due to distance from base, enemy air activity and the fact they had not got another L.R. Baltimore available though attempt was made with a Wellington.

Report from Levika 1712 through Leros of this convoy and another 1 of small craft both steering North West received too late to influence movements of Hunts who were considerably bombed, having no air cover, missed convoys and at 2100 had to withdraw because of (fuel?). PHOEBE and 1 Fleet searched North of Levika during the night but without success. A very disappointing day.

(3) 2 convoys, evidently the same, sighted from Levika at 1300 today steering southeast. A small strike of Mitchells escorted by Beaufighters on way to attack. No other aircraft for air strike available. 3 S/MS. are in vicinity, but no surface forces can reach area till after dark. Above episode illustrates difficulties of intercepting enemy shipping from bases so far away without adequate air power. Some Lightnings and Marauders would make all the difference.

(C. in C. Levant 161530C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.).

VIENNA VIENNA cannot be released at present. Your 141315 refers. She is actively employed as mobile base of coastal forces operating on east coast of Italy whose base must be prepared to move northward readily in the wake of the Army's advance.
(C. in C. Med. 161729A to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F.).

A.H.4. Arrived.
(N.O.i/c Taranto 161800A).

U.G.S.19. Onward route.
(5) F.M. (6) (Nor.) VENUS continue to (?Gibraltar)
(8) DELPHINIUM (S.O.) HYACINTH, SAKTOURIS,
WOLBOROUGH, KLO.
(C. in C. Levant, 161842C).

Refugees from Malaga. Your 142127 1st evacuation of French refugees from Spanish port will take place from Malaga 21st to destination (?Casablanca) using Sidi Brahim and Lepine. French can supply 1 escort vessel LA GRANDIERE. N.O.i/c Gibraltar is requested to supply 1 British escort vessel in addition.

(2) 2nd evacuation will be also from Malaga but not before 29th details to be arranged later.

(3) Expect 12 to 15 hundred refugees on each occasion. All arrangements including British flags to be as for previous evacuations from Portugal.

/(4) Ref...

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Mediterranean.

Refugees from Malaga. (Contd.). (4) Ref.B.N.A. Lisbon 091744 no further evacuation will take place from Setubal. (C. in C. Med. 161941 to B.N.A. Madrid (R) F.O.C. Gib. B.N.A. Lisbon, Admty. N.Os.i/c Casablanca, Oran, C.M.S.F.F. Com. N.O.B. Oran).

Rocket Glider bomb. C. in C. Med's. 101829. (4) Admty. awaiting reports on Do.217's reported as having crashed at Salerno and in Corsica and of interrogations of prisoners recovered after H.293 attacks on L.S.T. 79 at Ajaccio on 30th Sept. and on convoy U.G.S.18 off Tenez on 14th October. (D.G.D. 161951A to C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, A.F.H.Q. Med. Air Command, A.M.).

U.S. movements. Departures BERNAD(?OU), DALLAS. (N.O.i/c Bizerta 161959). Arrivals H.C. JONES, FREDERICK C. DAVIES. Arrived and departed BENSON. (Com. Algeria 162032A).
Today's arrivals U.S. L.S.T. 381, U.S.S. A.M.123, U.S.S. Y.M.S. 21 and BENSON. (Com.N.O.B. Oran 162121A).

Military Liaison Greece. Have appointed Gen Hughes as head of British Military Liaison staff to Greece. (Duties and plans). (Gen. Wilson 162000C to W.O.).

SURF, DZIK. My 151954 para.2. At discretion patrol as follows. (a) P.52 (DZIK) within 5 miles of 036 degs. 51' 026 degs. 22'. (b) P.239 (SURF) within 5 miles of 036 degs. 56' 026 degs. 48'. (Capt.S.1, 162013C to P.239 (SURF) P.52 (DZIK) (R) C. in C. Levant, TORBAY).

SIMOOM 16th. Departed. (N.O.i/c Pal. Ports 162029C).

Levant situation report No.81. BELVOIR, BEAUFORT failed to locate enemy convoy reported East of Naxos noon yesterday. Convoy thought to have retired North West. Hunt bombed 3 times between 1730 and 1830. Search of North Coast of Amorgos found no shipping Hunt retired at 2130.

(2) PHOEBE and 1 Fleet swept North of Levitha when they were bombed at 0137/16th. Other fleet operated east of Kalamos ^{at} Kalamos nothing met. (Portion corrupt and being called for).
(3) Leros reports sighting 1 tanker 7 miles Northeast of ?Island and two M/Vs. 18 miles to Southeast at 0830 today, 4 large /transports...

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Mediterranean.

Levant Situation Report No. 81. (Contd.) transports North-west of Levitha on south-easterly course at 1245. Further report from Stampalia of convoy sighted eastbound.
(4) AURORA (C.S.12), JERVIS (D.14), PENN, HURSLEY, MIAOULES left Alexandria 0500 entering Aegean tonight. Fleets have stores for Leros.
(5)? Striking force of M.T.B. left Castelorizo 1700 attack Port Kalimno tonight.
(6) Italian Squadron left Alexandria p.m./16th. Battleships sailing with reduced complement to Port Said for transit to berth in Bitter Lakes. Cruisers and destroyers with balance of battleships complement routed to Taranto, armament and ammunition replaced in cruisers and destroyers before departure.
(C. in C. Levant, 162110C, 162114C.)

CLEOPATRA. Repair facilities. Taranto. (1) After close examination consider it most inadvisable to make permanent hull repairs to CLEOPATRA at Taranto. Your 041824 and my 062329 to F.O.T.A. and my 132001 (N.T. in W.D. refer.
(2). General yard facilities are not suited for undertaking 2 long term jobs which involve long periods in dock concurrently.
(3) Possibilities of docking ITALIA in No. 1 dock for damage repairs must be born in mind.
(4) Suggest possibility of passage to U.S.A. by southerly route for permanent repairs be reconsidered.
(5) Separate communications are being made about repair situation Taranto and preparations of CLEOPATRA for ocean passage.
(C. in C. Med., 162114A to Admty., Capt. (D), F.O.T.A., N.O.I.C. Taranto, A.S.M., V.A. Malta.)

Black Sea. Air Report. 1. Air Operations. (A) Since occupation of Taman Peninsula on October 9th Russian A/C have attacked enemy vessels in harbours of Crimea and vessels proceeding westward from Kerch area. Russians claim to have sunk 2000 ton merchant vessel, 3000 ton tanker, several E and R boats large number of landing craft etc. and to have damaged many ships in ports.
(B) Enemy air activity mainly confined to reconnaissance. Majority of A/C from Crimea are operating in Melitopol area.
2. Land. (A) Russians have brought up heavy artillery and commenced bombarding enemy positions on Kerch Peninsula.
(B) Reported considered number of enemy forces have been sent from Crimea to reinforce Melitopol (? front)
(N.L.O. Black Sea, 162247C.)

Bari movements. Arrivals TROUBRIDGE, ILEX. Departures TUMULT M.T.Bs. 97, 81, 242, 287, 296, 297, 298. Arrived and sailed TYRIAN, M.L.240.
(N.O.I.C. Bari, 162253.)

/Med. ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Med. (1). M.T.B. operating in the vicinity of Elba
situation during night 14th/15th reported sinking 2 enemy
report vessels in the Piombino Channel.
207. M.T.B. 636 was sunk in this action. No further
* page 572. details yet. The other division patrolling south
of Elba saw nothing.
(2) During night 14th/15th Oct. M.T.B. carried
out sweep (?north) Mljet Island, no shipping was seen. Craft were
engaged by shore batteries, no damage or casualties.
(3) My 152115 ships intercepted were Italian SS MERANO and
SS POZARICA proceeding from Venice to (?Trieste) with German
armed guard on board.
Former loaded with 500 tons Bauxite was (?sabotaged) caught (?fire
and had to be sunk, the latter in ballast was brought into
Bari.
(4) My 152115 para.2. JAMES (?R) LOWELL has been beached near
Philippeville.
(C. in C. Med. 162320A).

BERNADOU, Proceed forthwith to 037 degs. 50' North 008 degs.
DALLAS, 00' East and carry out A/S sweep to westward to
COLE, position 037 degs. 50' North 006 degs. 00' East
ATHERSTONE. thence proceed as previously ordered.
(2) Possible U-boat contact by A/C in 037 degs.
50' North (?006 degs.) 50' East at 1900A estimate
course East.
(3) U.S.S. DALLAS acknowledge.
(4) Codeword "Groom" call sign 318.
(C. in C. Med. 162326A to BERNADOU, DALLAS, COLE, AATHERSTONE,
(R) N. and A.A. Algiers, to Bizerta, TYNEDALE, Cdr. U.S.N.F.
N.W. African Waters.).

Italian Owing to condenser defects, not repairable at sea
Warships. CADORNA reduced to 15 knots.
CADORNA proceeding maximum speed with EMANUELE
FILBERTO DUCA D'AOSTA, VELITE, GRECALE.
Remainder continuing in accordance with R.A.
Alexandria 152116C.
(? 162330C to C. in C. Levant, Alexandria (R)
Taranto).
+ Message contained no address.

LEGIONARIO My P.C. and S at 2300 are 037 degs. 22' 005 degs.
45' East (?231 degs. or 349 degs.) 16½ knots.
Flares were sighted on beam at 1921.
(LEGIONARIO 162342A to C. in C. Med.).

14th D.F. Sweeping vessel in 36.59 N. 26.50 E.
enemy (Capt.(D) 14, 162347C to Alexandria W/T).
M/S

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East Indies.

X.C.8. Departure SCOUT escorting convoy X.C.8 0117Z/16th.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 160131Z to Admty.)

BRITISH LOYALTY. Arrived 0455Z/16th H.M.Tug MASTERFUL and EMPIRE FAIRY towing BRITISH LOYALTY.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 160502Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F. F.O.Ceylon, F.O.E.A. S.O.(I) Aden, N.O.I.C. Seychelles, S.O.(I) Bombay.)

^WU.S.33, Intend that ^WU.S.33 and C.M.46 combined should call at Kilindini to enable ORMONDE and all escorts to refuel.
C.M.46. 2. RAPID and TRENT are to escort Suez section and CHITRAL, BANN and TEVIOT Indian section when convoy splits.
3. Route now as follows, from Durban to Kilindini, from Kilindini to Bombay. Suez section to Aden.
4. My 071240 S.S.T.O. Durban 140801 and N.O.I.C. Durban 151543 not to all addressees refers. (N.T. of either in W.R.)
(C. in C.E.F. 160549 to C. in C.S.A. F.O.E.Af. (R) F.O.C.Red Sea, C. in C.E.F. (S.A.C.) S.S.T.O. Durban, N.O.I.C. Aden, Admty. Com. R.I.N. F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Convoy M.A.15. Sailing telegram (3 ships). 2. 0620Z/16th.
3. R/V S.C.2 Vizagapatam Channel 0730Z/18th.
4. 8 knots to Vizagapatam thence 10 knots to Chittagong. 5. Coastal. 6. PANSY 15th N.U. AGRA not N.U.
(N.C.S.O. Madras 160625Z, 160631Z to Admty.)

India Air Report. A.304. 16th October daily Opsum No. 580.14th. Outstanding reports. 14th U.S.A.A.F. 14th, 4 U.S.Mitchells (B.25) shipping Amoy. Direct hits 2 large freighters, left burning. Oil dumps, warehouses (corrupt group), on fire.
(A.H.Q.India 160920Z to Air Min.)

Routeing, Beira, etc. F.O.N.I.C. 249 pass to N.C.S.Os. Cancel F.O.N.I.C. 232 (28th Sept.) Cancel M.E.I.R.I. 2 A sub. para. 3 E Suspend M.E.I.R.I. 2 A sub. para. A, C, and D. Ships routed E. of Madagascar for
1. Lourenco Marques and Beira are to be routed close S. of Madagascar thence direct to destination.
2. East London, Port Elizabeth, Mozambique, Capetown are to be routed by Approach Route in force to outer end of Durban searched channel and thence coastwise to destination keep 10 miles from the coast.
(C. in C.E.F. 161000Z to F.O.N.I.C. (R) Admty.)

Light Beacons for Homing Aircraft. 1. It is not known whether Admiralty is referred to before decisions are made regarding the erection of aircraft homing light beacons sighted near the coast, the glare from which is visible from seaward.
2. A beacon of this type visible from the air at a

/distance...

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East Indies.

Light beacons distance of 50 miles has been erected by U.S.A.A.F. for homing aircraft. at Masirah operating continuously during dark hours, and another is projected at Ras Al Hadd. It is understood that similar beacons are erected by R.A.F. at Perim and elsewhere.

(Contd.)
3. Bearing in mind the assistance that lights sited at such points as Masirah and Ras Al Hadd will give to U-Boats it is suggested that

A. The need for and sightings of such beacons should be referred to higher air and naval authority before final decisions are made.

B. Where lights may be seen from seaward these should be reduced to minimum essential brilliance.

C. Lights should not be exposed continuously, but only as movements of aircraft require.

(C. in C.E.F. 161105Z to Admty. (R) S.N.O.P.G. A.H.Q. India, 222 Group, C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.).)

U.S.A.Ts. Request following U.S. Army Transports may be routed routeing. as follows

A. JOSEPH REYNOLDS, STEPHEN KEARNEY, FRANK WIGGINS, JAMES FERGIS, JOHN BASSETT and PETER SYLVESTER ex Pacific Coast 9th, 11th, 18th, 20th, 24th Sept. and

1st Oct. respectively all Calcutta for complete discharge.

B. JOSEPH FRANCIS ex Pacific Coast second half Sept. to Karachi for part discharge thence Calcutta.

C. ALBERT P. RYDER ex Pacific Coast 28th Sept. to Karachi for complete discharge.

D. JOHN W. HOYT ex Pacific Coast 25th Sept. to Colombo to discharge four C.61A aircraft for on-carriage to Karachi and then to proceed Calcutta for complete discharge.

(Asst. P.S.T.O. I. 161121Z to A.C.N.B. P.S.T.O.M.E. P.S.T.O. Capetown, (R) C. in C.E.F. F.O. Ceylon, D.S.T. S.S.T.O. Colombo, S.O.(I) Wellington, S.O.(I) Kilindini, S.O.(I) Colombo, P.S.T.O.I. Delhi.)

U.S. Tankers Request U.S. tankers ALBERT E. WATTS, FORT WASHINGTON, COLINA and SPARROWS POINT be routed to Karachi to discharge aircraft. First 2 vessels sailed ex Pacific Coast, second 2 vessels believed to have sailed ex New York.

(A.P.S.T.O.I. 161124Z to A.C.N.B. P.S.T.O.M.E. P.S.T.O. Capetown, (R) C. in C.E.F. F.O. Ceylon, D.S.T. S.S.T.O. Colombo, S.O.I. Wellington, S.O.I. Kilindini, S.O.I. Colombo, S.T.O.I. Delhi.)

Convoy
P.A. 57

1. P.A. 57 upward B.K.N. (sailing telegram.)
2. 1100Z/16th. 3. 057° 30' E. 0400Z/20th Aden
0300Z/24th. 4. 8 knots. From 019° 40' 058° 45'
9 knots. 5. Route 4. 6. CESSNOCK, PUNJAB, MADRAS.
(N.C.S.O. Hormuz 161140Z to C. in C.E.F. etc.)

U/B.

U-Boat reported in position 25° 28' N. 56° 50' E.
(S.N.O.P.G. 161235Z to Ships in B.A.M.S. Area 7A.)

/GRIPSHOLM...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

GRIPSHOLM. Arrival Mormugao 16th Repatriation Ship GRIPSHOLM.
(S.O.I. Bombay 161523Z to Admty. C. in C.E.F.
C. in C.S.A. F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Air Report, 3. U.S. ground. No operations.
China, 4. U.S. Air. 7 Oct. 4 Mitchells B.25s on sea
Weekly set fire to a 200 ft. Merchant Freighter 100
Summary. miles south of Amoy. 9 Oct. 4 Mitchells B.25s
attacked shipping off Amoy with direct hits on 1
50 ft. tanker which sank immediately. Also
damaged 200 ft. freighter off Shenfu.

13 Oct. 5 Mitchells B.25s on sea sweep Foochow, Amoy, Hongkong
attacked and damaged a 75 ft. barge, a 250 ft. freighter, a gun
boat and sank with direct hits, 1 75 ft. barge and 1 256 ft.
freighter.

(C. in C.India No T.O.O./16th Recd. 161525 to W.O.)

U.G.S/ Repetition of D.T.D. 151119A.
G.U.S. (D.T.D. 162224A to C. in C.E.F.)
Convoys, Cancelled - see 171814A.
Speed.

Admini- 375621. Ref. 251930/9.
strative Machinery has been instituted to co-ordinate re-
Craft. quirements Harbour Craft and Port Equipments all
users both India and Overseas. Will include
S.E.A.C. whose demands will presumably be canalised
through P.A.O.

Anticipate capacity for Wooden Lighter Construction mainly West
Coast India becoming available before long. D.G.S.R. is in-
vestigating possibility construct sectionalised or partly knocked
down lighter. Pending detailed assessment of Overseas requirements
do you wish this capacity used for construction of lighters to be
shipped Overseas later either complete or in sections and if so at
whose expense should they be built.

(C. in C.India No T.O.O./16 Recd. 162240 to W.O.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

GARDINER. GARDINER (B.D.E. 274) departs Boston Gate 1200Q/
16th en route Bermuda. Speed 15 knots. Route.
E.T.A. position F 1500Q/18th.
(C.T.G. 2.1 160053 to N.O.B.Bermuda.)

Minesweeping Oropesa sweeps carried out today in St. Johns swept
St. Johns. channel, Wabana swept channel and searching sweeps
to southward in danger area. My 160059Z refers.
2. Eight mines were swept, five detonating in sweeps
three floaters self scuttled.
3. Total? mine bag to date 16.
(F.O.N.F. 160101Z to C. in C.C.N.A., (R) N.S.H.Q.)

WANDERER, At 2300/15th WANDERER sailed Argentinia to overtake
S.C.144. S.C.144. E.T.A. convoy daylight 17th.
(C.C.N.F. 160315Z to C. in C.C.N.A.)

S/M sighted. Master and crew of schooner ANTARUS report
sighting submarine at 1530 local time 12th, 17°
50' N. 81° 36' W. course S.E. Comment presumably
U.S. Submarine REDFIN.
(S.O.I. Jamaica 161224R to Admty.)

DUNVEGAN. Departure DUNVEGAN to Baltimore for refit.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 161237Z to Admty.)

Convoy Sailing telegram part 1. 1 X.B. 78 7.5 knots.
X.B.78. U.W.route. 2. Oct. 17 1800Z at position L. E.T.A.
Halifax 2115Z/19 Oct. 3. Task Unit W.9. Cdore,
Comdr. Campbell R.C.N.R. in SS. FORT LAVE,
MANSFIELD (S.O.), BURLINGTON, NORANDA, SAULT STE
MARIES, ROXBOROUGH (special escort), "Chop" 1900/18
Oct.
(P.D.Boston 161326 to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)
X.B.78 Boston section arrived 161244Z. Cape Cod Canal section
arrived 161315Z.
(P.D.Boston 161331.)

O.N. 205, 1. When all escorts of groups W.4 have joined
escorts. group C.5., detach and proceed St. Johns N.F.
2. "Chop" 1200Z/17th.
(F.O.N.F. 161431Z to Ships escorting O.N. 205,
(R) C. in C.W.A. C. in C.C.N.A. Admty. N.S.H.Q.
Cdre. D.W.A.)

N.S.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q. 161505Z.)
S/M Estimate.

U.S. S/M (Cominch 161537Z.)
Estimate.

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America & West Indies - Contd.

ATHENE,
U.T.4. Include ATHENE in convoy U.T.4.
(Cominch 161552 to Com. 3 pass to P.D.New York.)

H.X.261,
BURNHAM. My 142132 not to all. BURNHAM delayed by defects
did not sail. Anticipate ship will be sailed to
overtake p.m. 18th.
(F.O.N.F. 161557Z to Ships escorting H.X.261.)

ROYAL
SOVEREIGN
escorts. Argentia 16th. Departures ROYAL SOVEREIGN, CAPEL,
INVER, COOKE, FINDHORN.
(Capt. D.Argentia 161630Z to Admty.)

French
Naval re-
armament. We have been staving off enquiries pending in-
structions requested in my 251921 but the situation
is now that we can do so no longer. Admiral
Fenard has been granted an interview on 18th Oct.
Request reply before then.
(B.A.D. 161631Z to Admty.)

U/B. S/M sighted in 020° 00' N. 074° 30' W. at 2040Z/16.
(S.O.I. Jamaica 161645R to Admty.)

C.3, E.G.15,
"Foxer" gear. Para. 3 of C. in C.W.A. 101913 refers. Group C.3
escorting H.X.261. B. All ships plus spared.
C. MAYFLOWER, EYEBRIGHT, PICTOU. Group E.G.15
supporting H.X.261. B. All ships plus spared.
C.EDMUNDSTON, SNOWBERRY, CALGARY.
(F.O.N.F. 161735Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) N.S.H.Q.
Admty. C. in C.C.N.A.)

H.M.S.
AFFLECK. AFFLECK (Bde. 71) departs Boston G.S.T. 1530Q/16th.
Speed 15. En route Bermuda via (route).
(C.T.G. 02.1 161800 to N.O.B.Bermuda.)

S.C.143. Arrived off Oversay 1900Z/11th. Average speed 7.63
knots. YORKMAR torpedoed sunk. Remainder arrived.
(D.T.D. 162009A to Connav, N.S.H.Q. (R) C. in C.W.A.
C. in C.C.N.A.)

HIGHWAY.
H.D.M.Ls.
for Bermuda. S.B.N.O.W.At's 081613. Four H.D.M.Ls. will be
ready at Norfolk by 15th Nov. Conditions are not
considered suitable for sea passage for these small
craft between Norfolk and Bermuda at this time of
year.
2. Intend to embark all four H.D.M.Ls. in HIGHWAY
ready at Norfolk same date and to sail her for Bermuda on 16th Nov.
After discharge of H.D.M.Ls. at Bermuda HIGHWAY to be sailed without
delay for New York for loading and passage to U.K. in H.X. 268 on
26th Nov. This will not delay HIGHWAY from original programme.

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HIGHWAY. 3. S.B.N.O.W.At. is requested to sail an escort
H.D.M.Ls. vessel which has completed working up to escort
for Bermuda. HIGHWAY from Norfolk to Bermuda and Bermuda to
(Contd.) New York as in para. 2.
(B.A.D. 162015Z to S.B.N.O.W.At. (R) Admty.)

MATAGORDA. Reporting to U.S.Cdr. Patrol Wing 7 for temporary
duty, Com. Air Force Atlantic message 111855
(N.T. in W.R.) refers.
(MATAGORDA 162015 to ((U.S.) Cdr. Patrol Wing 7,
(R) Cominch, Cinclant, Cdr. 10th U.S.Fleet C. & R.,
Admty. Comnavu, Cdr. Air Force Atlantic.)

Convoy U.T.4A. Comeaseafron sailing convoy U.T.4A consisting of 2
troop ships from Boston and 4 from New York 5th
Nov. for U.K. Cinclant providing escorts and escort
oiler. Troopships and escorts return to U.S.A.
after about 3 days lay over in U.K. for discharge.
Names of troop-ships will be furnished later. Paras. 2 B. and C.
my serial 092151 of 5th Oct. to Cinclant only hereby cancelled.
(Cominch 162055Z to C.E.S.F. Cinclant.)

Sub. attack and sighting summary. No report on 15th. All times Z.
Para. C. U.S.S. NUTHATCH sighted periscope 15.50
N. 68.34 W. 1555/15.
Para. D. P.B.Y. sighted submarine course 270
27.38 N. 75.16 W. 1450/15. Plane sighted submarine
12.38 N. 74.41 W. 1400/15. SS. NORFOLK sighted
submarine 23.18 N. 81.12 W. 1200/16. SS. ANDALIEN reports
torpedo miss 18.15 N. 76.03 W. 2400/14.
(Cominch 162105Z to Admty.)

AYLMER, GOODALL. Your 161425 Cominch 111622 my 161449 to S.O.P.A.
Casco Bay. R.B.N.C. Boston requesting cancellation
of Cominch orders for AYLMER (Bde. 72) and GOODALL
(Bde. 275.)
(C.T.G. 02.1 162203 to C.E.S.F. (R) Cominch,
C. in C.Lant, Admty. S.O.P.A. Casco Bay.)

GEORGES LEYGUES, GLOIRE. GEORGES LEYGUES sails from Norfolk about 23rd
for Gibraltar and is being supplied with extracts
from S.Ps. as in my 121639.
2. Your 151158. GLOIRE completes approx. 7th Nov.
and is expected to sail after about ten days
working up.
(B.A.D. 162229Z to Admty.)

Escort Carriers. 1. Your 012005 proposal in para. 1 approved.
2. The problem of matching fighter squadrons to
C.V.Es. does not now arise as Corsairs will not
be used in C.V.Es.
(A.C.N.S.(A) 162246A to B.A.D. (R) C. in C.E.F.
R.A.N.A.S. Indian Ocean.)

/RICHELIEU...

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America & West Indies - Contd.

RICHELIEU.

Carries a British Naval Liaison Officer and a British Battleship's set of S.Ps.
(B.A.D. 162307Z to F.O.Gibraltar, C. in C.Med. Admty. S.B.N.O.W.At.)

?ARVIDA.

My P.C. and S. 2300Z 049° 30' N. 050° 35' W.
214° 12 knots. E.T.A. St. Johns 1130Z/17th.
Boiler hours, heavy weather damage (details).
Weather 44, 54, 20, 61.
(?ARVIDA 162331Z to F.O.N.F. (R) Capt. D.St. Johns.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Overdue shipping.

ASCOT due Fremantle 9th from Aden has not arrived.
(C.S.W.P.S.F. 160352Z to Admty.)

LURLINE.

Sailed 0600Z/16th U.S. transport vessel LURLINE class one Bombay 1130Z/27th speed 15.3 to X. thence 18 knots to R. thence 17 knots, X. 019° 02' S. 093° 38' E. Q. 016° 50' 089° 55' R. 002° 50' 073° 40' S. 000° 40' N. 069° 35' T. 009° 15' 068° 35' U. 018° 20' 069° 00', days 53, 211 escorted by JACOB VAN HEEMSKERCK to X. (Fremantle via Grabbag 160517 to Admty.)

Digest serial No. 634 Oct. 15th.

Third successive evening southbound submarine passed Cape Orford.
2. During early hours 7 ships observed anchored north shore Gazelle Channel near Kavieng. Shortly afterwards 6 ships described as 2 destroyers, 4 medium freighters, probably part of 7 seen earlier observed in Gazelle Channel heading south east.
3. Sio shore machine gunned night 13/14 by patrol craft which probably destroyed one raiding enemy aircraft.
5. Forenoon photographs Rabaul reveal 46 ships in harbour whereof 23 merchant vessels totalling approx. 130,000 tons, 3 cruisers, (2 NACHI, and 1 SENDAI class), 9 destroyers, 1 converted destroyer tender apparently operative, 7 submarines, 1 sub-tender, 1 mine-sweeper, 1 large tanker. Apparently damage on minimum 2 freighters. One Flying boat 10 floatplanes in harbour but airfield coverage inconclusive. Possibly 2nd light cruiser observed leaving harbour.
7. 5 small ships probably luggers observed Muscpu Island morning and four more in Bay near Wewak.
8. After dark naval Catalina reported 1 large, 2 small ships 30 miles E. of Cape Saint George course Easterly.

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Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial 13. 3 Liberators conducting mid-day armed R/C
No. 634 Oct. bombed Taberfane Boela and single small ship
15th (Contd.) northbound off S.E. extremity Ceram Island. Nil
significant shipping sighted. 7 Floatplanes,
1 fighter attacked our formation over Taberfane and
1 floatplane destroyed.
15. Night 13th/14th U.S. patrol craft shot down single Jap. plane
off West coast Choiseul. Scoe patrol craft operating off S.W.
Vella also attacked same night by solitary aircraft.
19. 2 freighters at Buin and another 2 at Buka.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 160610Z.)

Movements. Arrivals Milne Bay U.S. destroyer BAGLEY.
(A.C.N.B. 161003Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Two or three close to O.N. 206 and up to eight
more may intercept from southward tonight. O.N.S.
20 probably not yet sighted but shore D/F does not
clearly differentiate between the two convoys.
Total size of pack estimated moving N. is probably
twelve.
Other estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 161404A, 161405A.)

Submarines Attacked.

Sub. attack & Para. A. Am. JAMES R. LOWELL torpedoed in convoy
sighting G.U.S.18 at about 1230/15th in 37° 22' N. 07° 08' E.
summary for VANQUISHER attacked U-Boat at about 2203/15th in
24 hours to 58° 01' N. 24° 18' W.
0900Z/16th. A/C D/407 attacked U-Boat with depth charges at
2215/15th in 46° 49' N. 06° 39' W.
A/C N/143 sighted periscope of U-Boat at 1414/15th
in 47° 08' N. 09° 13' W. course 135°.
A/C D/407 sighted U-Boat at 2257/15th in 47° 12' N. 07° 00' W.
course 135°.
(D.D.I.C. 161039A to Cominch.)

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SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

1. The U.S. battleship ARKANSAS with 4 U.S. destroyers arrived at Belfast this afternoon, from escorting Convoy U.T.3.

Convoy
O.N.S.20
6 U-boats
sunk in all.

2. Numerous U-boats were reported to-day by A/C in the region round 59 degs. N. 30 degs. W., and at 0435Z a U-boat dived near the convoy O.N.S.20 and was hunted by BENTINCK and DRURY. At 1847Z BENTINCK reported that the Frigate BYARD had destroyed a U-boat. The position of the convoy at the time was about 415 miles East of Cape Farewell.

Two U-boats were attacked by A/C near the convoy and A/C D/59 reported that one of them, attacked by itself and A/C H/120 in 58.55 N. 31.00 W., had sunk and left survivors in the sea at 1830A. The British ESSEX LANCE, torpedoed in this convoy yesterday, is now believed to have sunk, but all her crew have been saved. It is thought that a total of 6 U/Bs. was destroyed during the attacks on the convoy on 16th and 17th.

Bay
Patrol.

3. Two U-boats were sighted to-day in the Biscay Area by A/C, one of which attacked the U-boat with bombs without result; and BERMUDA left Plymouth at 1032A to patrol in the "Stonewall" area.

Mediterranean.

4. The Italian submarines are allocated or being employed as follows:- 6 at Naples as power units, 5 as transports in the Levant area, and 7 for A/S exercises.

5. The appointment of F.O. Sicily having lapsed, British operated Sicilian ports are now under the command of V.A. Malta.

Aegean

6(a) C.S.12 in AURORA carried out a sweep in the Aegean last night and withdrew through Kaso Strait to Kastelorizo where stores were disembarked. JERVIS and PENN operated off the west coast of Kalimno and Leros, disembarked stores at Leros, and met HURSLEY and MIAOULES who had been working off the east coast of Kalimno and Leros. The latter force destroyed 2 E-boats and a sloop at Port Akti, Kalimno, and a unknown ship was seen on fire in Port Vathi. HURSLEY was damaged by bombing.

/(b) AURORA...

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Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Aegean
(Contd.).

(b) AURORA reported being bombed at 1833 in 34.19 N. 28.23 E. (about 130 miles south of Rhodes).

(c) SIRIUS with Fleet destroyers PATHFINDER and ECLIPSE and Hunts BEAUFORT and BELVOIR in company sailed from Alexandria at 0700 today, to R/V with AURORA south of Scarpanto Strait. SIRIUS was hit aft by a bomb at 1830 and returned to Alexandria with a number of casualties and "Y" turret out of action.

(d) For the first time, Kastelorizo Harbour was dive-bombed today by 9 Ju.87, and machine gunned by 2 Me.109 aircraft, the small naval units being the probable targets. One M.T.B. and one M.L. were damaged, and the naval W/T station was put out of action.

(e) SEVERN sailed from Beirut today with arms and stores for Leros.

(f) H.M. schooner HEDGEHOG, is presumed lost today during an attempt to evacuate German prisoners from Levitha. She had embarked them on the 15th, and was sheltering today with an engine breakdown when a German attack on the island took place. A motor launch sent to search tonight found nothing and the Germans in possession. HEDGEHOG's crew is believed captured.

DURBAN

7. The cruiser DURBAN (Eastern Fleet) left Aden this morning for the United Kingdom.

Australia and New Zealand.

8. A Liberator which attacked a southbound convoy 90 miles north of Mussau Island today forenoon scored a direct hit on a large transport which was reported full of troops and which was left heavily smoking and settling.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Assault Carriers. Your O91625, (see special file). Escort carriers have been allocated as Assault Carriers as follows.

Ship.	Aircraft.	Completion Dates.
ATTACKER	886, 879, 20 Seafire L.IIC	1st December
HUNTER	807, 808, 20 Seafire L.IIC	28 November, approx.
STALKER	809, 897, 20 Seafire L.IIC	28 November, approx.
PURSUER	881, 896, 20 Martlet Vs.	3 November
EMPEROR	800, 804, 20 Hellcat	11 November
SEARCHER	882, 898, 20 Martlet Vs.	Now.

2. The main role of aircraft will be fighter cover with Tac/R and bomber support as secondary roles.

3. The earliest date by which the ships may be required to sail is 15th December but it is hoped that this may be altered to the 1st January.

(V.C.N.S. 171634A to F.O.C.T.)

Movements.

ONSLOW. Sailed D.17 in ONSLOW for Scapa in accordance with my 161628A.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 171046A.)

REVENGE. A.M. 160035. Propose using SALADIN and PRINCE ROBERT to escort REVENGE leaving Clyde p.m. 18th Oct. for R/V off Plymouth.
(C. in C.W.A. 171156A to Admty.)

Your 171156. Concur.

2. PRINCE ROBERT is not to proceed E. of Plymouth.
(D.O.D(H) 171739A and 181207A to C. in C.W.A.)

MIDDLETON. Hvalfjord arrival MIDDLETON.
(A.C.I.C. 171320A to R.A.D.H.F.)

S/M Move- Positions of S/Ms at 0800/18 and movements for
ments. following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 171642A, 172152A.)

RESOLUTION. A.M. 160035. Owing to shortage of escorts, the passage of RESOLUTION between Cape Wrath and Lizard without escort may be accepted as a special case.
(D.O.D(H) 171741A to C. in C.W.A.)

PRINCE ROBERT. PRINCE ROBERT is required to escort M.K.F.25 from Gibraltar to 50° N. leaving Gibraltar on 27th Oct.
2. C. in C.W.A. is requested to sail PRINCE ROBERT as escort for REVENGE to part company at Lizard and proceed to Gibraltar as instructed by C. in C. Plymouth.
(D.O.D(H) 171852A to C. in C.W.A.)

/BITER...

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17.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

BITER. BITER arrived Clyde.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 172048A to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

HOWE, My P.C. and S. 055° 35' N. 007° 45' W. 020° 17
KING GEORGE knots. E.T.A. Scapa 1400A/18th, SAVAGE, NORD in
V. company. Intend to detach KING GEORGE, FORREST
and CAPPS in Pentland at 1430.
(HOWE 172201A to A.C.O.S.)

Operations.

Bay Patrol. U/B previously reported position 046° 54' N. 008°
00' W. Have attacked with bombs and estimate no
hits.
(A/C WNP/J 170326A to 19 Group.)

Lost touch with U-Boat, last seen in 46° 41' N. 08° 44' W.
Returning to base.
(A/C G 170600A to 19 Group.)
Am over enemy S/M in 46° 52' N. 09° 05' W. When first
sighted S/M was on course 210° speed 7 knots, and was observed
to submerge.
(A/C G 170610A to 19 Group.)
Amend route. From CD. proceed through CK. 047° 38' N. 010°
59' W. CL. 048° 01' N. 010° 21' W. thence CG.
(C. in C.Plymouth 171005A to CHARYBDIS.)
My 151805A. Sailed BERMUDA.
(C. in C.Plymouth 171032A to Admty.)
Position of 5 Ju.88 at 1213 was 47° 20' N. 08° 35' W.
(A/C Duty C 171213 to Plymouth.)
At 1400 alter course to pass through CM. 048° 19' N. 012°
36' W. and thence to CH.

2. Proceed at best speed until past CM.
3. Fighter escort will cease at about 1500 on departure of "Oboe".
(C. in C.Plymouth 171240A to CHARYBDIS.)
Air attack by enemy A/C in 47° 30' N. 09° 45' W.
(A/C Duty C 171305 to 19 Group.)
Disposition at 172000.

1. BERMUDA 049° 25' N. 008° 30' W. S.W.bound, 20 knots.
2. CHARYBDIS 048° 33' N. 011° 40' W. bound Plymouth, 20 knots.
3. Group N, KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, B.Y.M.S. 33, 77, 240, 048° 20' N.
013° 40' W. southbound, 10 knots.
4. SPARTAN 195° Lands End 16 miles, westbound, 17 knots.
5. Hospital ship DORSETSHIRE 050° 38' N. 010° 40' W. southbound
12 knots.
(C. in C.Plymouth 171516A to Admty.)
My 151721A. Sailed SPARTAN.
(C. in C.Plymouth 171532A.)

Operation My 161826A. TANATSIDE, TALYBONT, MELBREAK,
"Tunnel". GRENVILLE, ROCKET returned.
(C. in C.Plymouth 170802A to Admty.)
If ordered to carry out operation "Tunnel" today
ships addressed are to act in accordance with
memorandum O.P.T.U. amended as follows. Details.
(C. in C.Plymouth 171456 to TANATSIDE, MELBREAK,
TALYBONT, WENSLEYDALE, GRENVILLE, ROCKET.)

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17.10.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.Kara Sea.
Proposed
operation.Admiralty's 161521. Russian Naval Staff here appear to be taking this matter quite philosophically and in fact staff informed me two days ago that other arrangements had been made.
2. PONTFIELD like BRITISH GOVERNOR has been repaired locally and it is very undesirable to subject her to ice risk.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia 170831A to Ad. Fisher.)

Admiralty 161521.

As lack of Tanker would make it very difficult for Russians to provide adequate protection for extricating their merchant vessels from Kara Sea, request tanker be made available.

2. Considerations against it are fully appreciated and it is hoped this action will produce corresponding assistance for protection of our convoys.

(Ad. Fisher 171316C to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

S/M Patrols. SEA ROVER is to leave patrol 2100A/20th October through X. 069° 43' 015° 37' Y. 069° 00' 011° 00', thence by route "Orange" to Lerwick.
(Capt. S.9 171107A to S/Ms.)

Position of submarines at 0800/18 and movements for following 24 hours.

A. SEA ROVER, SEADOG on patrol vicinity Andoy.
(F.O.S. 171642A to Admty.)Coastal
Patrols.A. On completion of night exercises 3 M.G.Bs. to patrol 10 miles southward of convoy route between C.2 and E.A.5 buoys until 0600A covering C.W. convoy.
B. M.L. 292, 344 patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between F. and E.A.5 buoys.

C. M.L. 1274 immediate notice St. Helens.

D. 3 S.G.Bs. patrolling near 50° 20' N. 2° 00' W. from 1830A to 0700A.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 171216A.)

M.Ls. 128 and 210 patrolling two miles S. of D. Buoy. E.T.D. 1800, E.T.A. 0800/18.

M.T.Bs. 418 and 437 patrolling at V. Buoy, E.T.D. Ramsgate 1830, E.T.A. 0730/18.

(V.A. Dover 171718A.)

Operation
F.R.

Intend to sail Russian Minesweepers A.M. 141 S.O., A.Ms. 138, 139, 140 and 142 with (M.Ls.) S.C. 719, 73, 10, 128, 48, 1284, ? 1285 and 1286 at 1300A/18th. E.T.A. Seidis Fjord a.m. 20th.

(A.C.I.C. 171318A and 180430A to M/S 1, Capt. D.3.)

Sailed HARRIER, SEAGULL for Seidis Fjord. E.T.A. 1000Z/20th.
(R.A.D.H.F. 171851A to A.C.I.C.)Allied Air Activity.

North Russia.

P.R. Sortie today unsuccessful due to cloud.
(S.B.N.O. Polyarno 171529A to Admty.)

War Diary.17.10.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Q.Z.X. 1095. A. Have reached line joining 50° 15.8' N. 03° 23.8' W. and 50° 24.6' N. 02° 33.8' W.
 2. Gp. and 1 Gr. detonated, 4 Gr. exploded and 1 Gr. sunk between 03° 18' W. and 03° 08' W.
 (M/S 9 171734A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Northern section Q.Z.X. 1095 now check-swept to width of approx. one mile N. of line joining positions I. and C. No mines encountered.

(PROSPECT 171815A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Flora.
Closed area.

S.N.O.Bergen announced in local press of October 13th, 1. Entering and leaving Flora harbour from West is only permitted South Flora light at a distance of about 200 metres under north side Brandsoy.

2. Following channels are closed for navigation. Details (N.A.Stockholm 171158 to D.N.I.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats
attacked.

Have attacked U-Boat with depth-charges.
(A/C 171 LI 171237A to N.D.3.)

U-Boat sighted by O/120 at 1235A in 58° 46' N. 28° 25' W. course 300/12 knots on surface - seen to submerge. Attacked with D/C at 1237A.
(R.A.F.Iceland 171338A to H.Q.C.C.)

B/59 at 1915A sighted U/B position (corrupt) at 1915 appeared to submerge. D/59 signals "during attack with H/120 U/B sank. Survivors in sea position (corrupt)" at 1830A.

(R.A.F.Iceland 172030A to H.Q.C.C.)

My 172030A. Sighting by B/59 course and speed 160/8 knots corrected position 59° 18' N. 32° 20' W. Only one D/C dropped - nil hits.

(R.A.F.Iceland 172132A to H.Q.C.C.)

U-Boats
reported.

Am over enemy submarine in 59° 00' N. 29° 20' W. Submarine was on surface. When first sighted was on course 300°, speed 12 knots. Flak.

(A/C 17 ILI 171510 to N.D.3.)

U/B sighted by O/120 at 1510A in 59° 00' N. 29° 20' W. No course or speed given.

(R.A.F.Iceland 171538A to H.Q.C.C.)

Am over enemy S/M in 61° 25' N. 30° 55' W. S/M was on surface. When first sighted was on course 274°, speed 14 knots. Flak.

(A/C 171 L 3 171801 to Artunshofdi.)

Am over enemy S/M in 58° 55' N. 31° 00' W. S/M was on surface.

(A/C BCY/L 1 171823A to Artunshofdi.)

Am over enemy S/M in 58° 22' N. 32° 50' W. S/M was on surface and when first sighted was on course 290°, estimated speed 6 knots.

(A/C BCYLZ 171824A to Artunshofdi.)

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17.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. (Contd.) X/120 sighted U-Boat at 1759A position 59° 25' N. 30° 55' W. course 274, 14 knots. D/59 sighted U-Boat position 58° 55' N. 31° 00' W. at 1823A. No course or speed given. (R.A.F. Iceland 171837A and 171927A.) Am over enemy S/M. Flak. (A/C BCYL2 to Artunshofdi, Recd. 171845.) Am over enemy submarine in 59° 00' N. 32° 30' W. Enemy submarine previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. Flak. (A/C 71L2 171915A to N.D.3.) Submarine previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 160° 8 knots, position 59° 18' N. 32° 20' W. (A/C 171L2 171955A to N.D.3.)

Navigational.

MONCOUSO. WYRE is to proceed at 2200A/17 to R/V with tug HUDSON towing hulk MONCOUSO in 55° 42' N. 5° 40' W. at 0800A/18. MONCOUSO is to be moored as directed by A.B.D.O. Campbeltown by the stern to buoy laid in R/V position by wires which have been provided and by her own anchors with ship's head 180°. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 171230A to WYRE.)

Technical.

"Gnat". (791 N) B. The German acoustic homing torpedo will in future be known by the codeword "Gnat". (C. in C.W.A. 171049A to Ships.)

Casualties & Defects.

DUKE OF YORK. My 151735A. Owing to a failure of electric motors outer caisson of entrance lock could not be opened when height of tide coincided with basin level. Movement postponed until about 1645 tomorrow. (A.S.Rosyth 171735A to Admty.)

CHANTICLEER. E.T.A. Loch Foyle CHANTICLEER 180700Z. CHANTICLEER has been ordered to Londonderry for urgent defects. (E.G.7 171820Z to Cdre. D.W.A.)

Invasion Barges. Three Invasion Barges lost overboard 5 miles S. E. Duncansby Head at approx. 1500A today. May be dangerous to navigation. (A.C.O.S. 171833A to Ships.)

/L.C.S.(L) 255...

17.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects - Contd.

L.C.S.(L)
255.

L.C.S.(L) 255 hit by H.E. rocket exploded in engine room. Damage to deck, engine room, turret and hull.

C. Landed TORMENTOR from L.C.S.(L) 255 at 171815A, one rating killed. 15 ratings treated for shock at TORMENTOR.
(TORMENTOR 172100A to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

Shipping & Convoys.

O.N.S. 20.
ESSEX LANCE
believed sunk.
Convoy
attacked by
U-Boat.
1 U-Boat
sunk by
BYARD.

BYARD, BERRY each attacking contact.
(E.G.4 170024Z to C. in C.W.A.)

My 162255 refers. Whole crew saved when rescue ship left, wreck had not sunk but salvage stated impossible. C.Bs. left on board. BERRY searched. Wreck not located, believed sunk. BERRY left to hunt U-Boat.

2. My 170024. One was non Sub. Other was U-Boat which was put down by depth charge. No A/S sweep. Further close range H/F D/F bearings received to port of convoy.
(E.G.4 170200Z to C. in C.W.A.)

At 161025A A/C Z/120 sighted a surfaced U-Boat in 58° 22' N. 27° 10' W. circling 9 kts. bearing 190° 20 miles C/V. 1030 hours attacked U-Boat 4 x 250 D/Cs which straddled forward C/T. Two explosions seen each side of U-Boat alongside. Deep red flash from C/T just before disappearing 30 secs. after attack. Inner starboard engine U/S (shot up). 1031 S/59 made second attack 4 x 250 D/Cs. U-Boat submerged 29 secs. approx. 300 ft. in front of swirl. No results observed.

1110A sighted U-Boat fully surfaced in 59° 05' N. 26° 29' W. 240/12 kts. bearing 025T 30 miles from C/V. No D/Cs left. Attacked U/B with M/G 2000 feet, no results observed heavy flak experienced. 1911A E/120 sighted vis surfaced U/B in 58° 20' N. 29° 20' W. As A/C ran into attack hit Stbd. tailplane leading edge and Stbd. aileron Stbd. side, windows blown out. Damage threw A/C slightly off track. Capt. decided circle and made attack on surfaced U/B 4 x 250 D/Cs from 140° red. No. 1 D/C exploded close to Stbd. side of U/B near stern, rest overshot. Another Liberator seen to make attack after E/120 first attack. E/120 attacked again from 090 red. 4 x 250 D/C at such low angle that 30 feet trailing aerial lost. Second attack estimated overshoot first D/C close to Stbd. side along C/T, rest in line. After this attack another Liberator came in to attack U/B which by then stopped and stern down. 2 - 3 mins. after this attack U/B settled by stern, bows lifted vertically then slid under surface, oil debris and approx. 15 survivors seen in water. U/B appeared 514 ton, grey black in colour Z.D.

(R.A.F. Iceland 170405A to H.Q.C.C.)

At 0435Z U-Boat dived near convoy 9000 yards from BENTINCK. BENTINCK and DRURY without "Foxyer" made step aside, approached from opposite direction. Explosions heard at 0450 and 0455 believed acoustic torpedo. Hunt continues.

(E.G.4 170501Z to C. in C.W.A.)

/Appreciation...

War Diary.

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Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

O.N.S.20. Appreciation of enemy force at 0700A.
 ESSEX LANCE A. One U-Boat sunk by aircraft. My 161947.
 believed sunk. B. One which torpedoed merchant ship, my 162255.
 Convoy C. One put down astern by BERRY. My 170445.
 attacked by D. One put down astern by BENTINCK, DRURY. My
 U-Boat. 170501 not to all addressees.
 1 U-Boat E. One attacked by BAZELY not previously reported.
 sunk by No result. May be same as D.
 BYARD. F. One H/F D/F fixed astern probably the one above.
 (Contd.) G. One (corrupt group) by H/F D/F to port moving.
 H. A few indefinite H/F D/F to North.
 I. Conclusion. S/M attacks 3, one or 2 to port
 and 2 more ahead.
 (E.G.4 170637Z to C. in C.W.A.)
 Amend stragglers route. Cancel F. Proceed from J. direct to G.
 (C. in C.W.A. 171129Z to O.N.S.20.)
 BYARD has destroyed one U-Boat.
 (E.G.4 171847Z to C. in C.W.A.)

K.M.F.25. Sailed PELICAN, SPEY and EVENLODE for K.M.F.25.
 JED and ROTHER sailing to overtake on completion
 of repairs and calibration at approximate 1000.
 (Care. D.W.A. 170545A to C. in C.W.A.)
 Convoy sailed composed and escorted as in A.M. 061700A, 091850A
 and 121945A less AORANGI. Routed in accordance with A.M. 121940.
 RIPPINGHAM GRANGE, HEAD, ORARI complying with A.M. 141721 as
 amended A.M. 151056.
 (N.O.I.C. Greenock 170954A to C. in C.Med.)
 My 170545A. Sailed JED and BATHURST to overtake K.M.F.25.
 (Care. D.W.A. 171021A.)

ATLANTIS, Following intercepted at 0858 G.M.T. begins:-
 EMPRESS OF All ships from ATLANTIS and EMPRESS OF RUSSIA at
 RUSSIA. 0850 G.M.T. position Lat. 59.37 N. Long. 03.38 E.
 (Wick Radio 170902Z.) (C. in C.Rosyth 171016A to
 Admty.)
 Coastal route from Lindesnes promulgated in your
 sailing orders has been accepted by the German Authorities and
 pilots have been requested.
 2. A.M. 161620 which is a paraphrase of instructions received
 from the Germans indicates however that they may intend to route
 you direct to Gothenburg on parting company with minesweeper.
 3. There is no objection to this provided that Swedish
 territorial waters are entered north R. north of Paternoster Light.
 4. Should coastal route be followed it is at your discretion to
 refuse to continue onward passage unless pilots are provided.
 (Head of M.I. 171652Z to ATLANTIS, EMPRESS OF RUSSIA.)

S.L.137U. Arrived, 11 ships. Names.
 (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 170930A to Admty.)

War Diary.

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Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

O.N.206. At 161918A A/C Z/120 sighted vis. surfaced U-Boat
U-Boat sunk in 58° 13' N. 29° 08' W. 230/12 and D/C seen
on 16th Oct. explode near U-Boat from another A/C. U-Boat
bearing 170/26 miles convoy.
At 1922 attacked surfaced U-Boat 6 x 250 D/Cs
090 Green. Estimated straddle across U-Boat's
stern Nos. 3 and 4. A/C hit by flak - no apparent damage.
At 1926 second attack. U-Boat still surfaced 2 x 250 D/Cs 090
Green straddle C/T one D/C each side.
At 1928 U-Boat bows lifted steep angle and sank stern first. Oil
scum and objects in water. D.D. later reported survivors. U-Boat
517 type apparent joint attack with E/120. Z.H.
(R.A.F. Iceland 170950Z to H.Q.C.C.)

E.G.2, My 101054 para. 2. Escort Group 2 is to sail as
H.X.262. requisite p.m. 19th toward 054° N. 030° W. making
good 12 knots.
STARLING S.O. of this air support group.
2. Intention is that after carrying out offensive
sweep Escort Group 2 shall meet and support H.X.262 from about
040° W.
(C. in C.W.A. 171109 to Cdre. D.W.A.)

T.A.67. Intend sailing SS. QUEEN MARY pass Clyde boom
2359A/18 to comply with A.M. 152100A Oct. S.O.A.
26½ knots. "Chop" 22nd Oct. E.T.A. Ambrose
Light 0900Z/24.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 171116A to Admty.)

AMSTERDAM, Intend sailing loaded transports AMSTERDAM and
PRAGUE. PRAGUE from Cromarty at 0233A/20th, standard route
to 35 buoy where AMSTERDAM parts company for Long
Hope, E.T.A. 0733A, thence 5 miles east Fair
Island to Lerwick, E.T.A. 1333A.
(N.O.I.C. Invergordon 171201A to C. in C.Rosyth.)

U.T.3. Arrived U.S.S. BOYLE, CHAMPLIN, NIELDS, ORDRONAUX.
(U.S.E.C. Londonderry 171315Z.)
Arrived C.T.F. 60 in ARKANSAS with U.S. Destroyers
DAVISON, MERVINE, BEATTY and TILLMAN, fleet oiler
CHICOPEE and U.S. Transports T.H.BARRY, A.ARUNDEL, S.B.ANTHONY,
F.NIGHTINGALE and HAWAIIAN SHIPPER.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast 171448A to C. in C.W.A.)
Clyde portion of U.T.3 arrived.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 171648A.)
Arrived Liverpool section.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 172323A to Admty.)

MAURETANIA. Arrived 1310/17.
(P.S.T.O.N.W. Ports 171430A to D.S.T.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

O.G.95/
K.M.S.30. BARON FORBES R/T Lisbon, LECH (Pol.) Gibraltar,
FORT LIARD (ND) Malta, FORT RELIANCE (ND) M/F R/T
Algiers, FORT FAIRFORD M/F R/T Algiers, LODESTONE
Algiers, CELTIC MONARCH special search, Sicily.
WEARWOOD special search, Italy. ESNEH Coastal
Station working wave guard, Naples.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey 171528A to Admty.)

Your 161558. PENNYWORT detailed.
(Care. D.W.A. 171610A to C. in C.W.A.)
ERIDAN (Fr.) Algiers, BELGIAN SEAMAN (Bel.) Algiers, FORT
LIVINGSTONE Algiers, RIVERTON Italy, HARBERTON Italy.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 171616A to Admty.)
Cancel my 161558A. DORNOCH will not now join convoy.
(C. in C.W.A. 172242A to B.4.)

C.U.5. Convoy sailing telegram. 19 ships. Names.
(D.T.D. 171734A.)

H.X.261. Convoy sailing telegram. 68 ships. Names, and
destinations.
(D.T.D. 171755A.)

O.N.(M) 207. 27 ships. Names and destinations.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 171832A.)

P.S.18 My 171522A. P.S.18 and S.P.18 cancelled.
S.P.18. (C. in C.Portsmouth 172254A.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

O.S.56. Gibraltar section sailed, 10 ships.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 170415A.)
O.S.56. Following ships "Cobour" routed in accordance with Admiralty's 301650 (N.T. in W.D.) Sept. and 111545A (N.T. in W.D.)
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 170954A to Admty. F.O.C.W.Af. C. in C.South Atlantic.)

Operation "Alacrity". Reference my 160830. Flying in of Hudson postponed further 24 hours.
(S.B.N.O.Azores 170821 to Admty.)
Admiralty message 151820 para. 6. Request you route ships through A. All positions N. and W.
036° 025' B. 035° 30' 015". C. 035° 30' 010" D. 035° 45' 006" 30' and Q.B.A. 87.
2. Stragglers as convoy lettered P. to S.
(F.O.C.Gib. 171842A to S.B.N.O.Azores, (R) C. in C.W.A. Admty.)

Italian destroyer Balearics. B.N.A.Madrid 171310A to C. in C.Med.
See Mediterranean.

WHITEHALL. Arrived and left 17th 0015, 1410 G.M.T.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 171324.)

PASTEUR. Arrived.
(C.M.S.F.F. 171609A.)
For D. of S.T. Your 160912A*. Agree that under big swell conditions Casablanca harbour dangerous for PASTEUR or any other deep draft vessel.
(C.M.S.F.F. 172017A to Admty.) * repetition of 151541.

HABANA del Rio. My 120031A. Request Defence Security Officer, Gibraltar, may be given opportunity to induce del Rio to divulge hiding places of films and documents before he is removed from ship.
2. When del Rio is removed from ship he should be handed over to the Civil Power.
(Head of M.(I) 171841A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

HABANA
to be
intercepted.

Com. 4th Fleet reports HABANA in position 004° 00' S. 030° 45' W. at 0240Z/16th. Cancel instructions in my 161359 to shift Patrol East. (F.O.C.W.Af. 171040Z to CARNARVON CASTLE, Comar Dakar, (R) E.G.37, Admty. N.O.I.C. Bathurst, F.S.TOURVILLE.)

My 161914 and F.O.C.W.Af's 171040. All positions are moved 60 miles west. For example position A. will now be lat. 007° 00' N. long. 025° 45' W.

(CARNARVON CASTLE 171337Z to 37th E.G. (R) F.O.C.W.Af. Admty.)

D.K. convoys,
inclusion
of Colliers.

Your 141428 (N.T. in W.D.) para. 7 not to Com. Durban. Inclusion of 7 knots Colliers in D.K. convoys would in view of adverse currents at this season reduce speed of advance of convoys to 6 knots at most.

2. Owing to necessity for making R/V off

Lourenco Marques and Beira and for arrival Kilindini during daylight convoy programme would be as follows:

Day nought 1100Z leave Durban. Day two 0800Z off Inhaca.

Day 5 1300Z off Beira. Day 14 0500Z arrive Kilindini

3. K.D. convoys would take 13 days from Kilindini to Durban as Beira and Lourenco Marques ships could be dispersed during dark hours.

4. As minimum time in harbour for trawler escorts to fuel make good defects boiler clean and carry out minimum training programme is two days at Kilindini and 6 days at Durban. Convoy cycle would take 35 days and convoys would sail from Durban at 12 day intervals. A.K.D. convoys would have to be sailed to comply.

5. This provides protection not previously given only to some 18 ships between 7 and 8 knots through the Mozambique channel.

6. In view of your 141428 paras. 3 and 4 it is proposed that no colliers of less than 8 knots be sailed through Mozambique channel, such ships being sailed independently east of Madagascar to and from Aden. D.K.A. and A.K.D. convoy cycles remaining as at present. M.W.T.R. States that it should be possible for the present to avoid ships under 8 knots being used on Kilindini run.

7. Your 141428 para. 9. Suggest that only colliers of 10 knots and over disperse south of Guardafui remainder continuing in convoy to destination as they gain little time by proceeding independently.

8. Concur in para. 10.

9. M.W.T.R. concurs provisionally. He has drawn attention of Ministry to these signals and requested instructions.

(C. in C.S.A. 171111C to C. in C.E.F. (R) Admty. F.O.E.A. Com. Aden. C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) Com. Durban.)

As amended 171809C.

Hospital
Ship.

Following has been read to all ships. SJRM (signal letters undecypherable). Hospital ship position at 2000 G.M.T. 40° 00 S. 24° 48 E. course 78 speed 11 knots. (Simonstown W/T No T.O.O. Recd. 172229 to Admty.)

F.T.12.

Arrival 16th Greek F.T. 12 from U.S.A. (B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 171955 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.Af. C. in C.Med. S.B.N.O.W.At.)

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Mediterranean.

"Sampler" S O S. Help "Sampler" 37.01 N., 27.01 E. (Malta, 170345C to Alexandria W/T).

Aden movements. Following is a rep. of my 161432 (begins) Arrivals 0358Z ROTHERHAM with QUALITY and QUIBERON in company 0504Z DURBAN, 0515 P.312 (Ends). T.O.O. 161432. (Com. Aden, 170426).

?U/B A/C report A.S.V. contact probably U/B (German) 038° 10' N., 006° 24' E. at 0224. (C. in C. Med., 170648A to DALLAS, ATHERSTONE, TYNEDALE).

Movements Alexandria. Italian Warships. 16th. Arrivals COLOMBO, PHOEBE, FAULKNER, FURY, TETCOTT, CROOME, BELVOIR, BEAUFORT, WILTON, SAXIFRAGE, FAREHAM, departure AURORA, JERVIS, PENN, HURSLEY, LAMERTON, WILTON, THEMISTOCLES, MIAOULES, KANARIS, GRIBB, M.L. 385, (?EMGAVE) GNOME. (R.A. Alex. 170725G). Add to my 170725. Departures VITTORIO VENETO, ITALIA, EUGENIO DI SAVOIA, DUCA D'AOSTA, CADORNA, RAIMONDA MONTECUCOLI, NICOLOSO, DA RECCO, ARTIGLIERE, GRECALE, VELITE. (R.A. Alexandria, 171910C).

Enemy Ships Dodecanese. Position of 2 enemy L.C.Ts. is 36.53 N., 27.21 E. (A/C CJU/Z 170815Z to 201 Group H.Q.) Position of 1 F.B.(?) 36.55 N., 27.09 E. course 090° speed 9 knots. (A/C CJU/Z, 170823Z to 201 Group H.Q.) Position of 1 enemy merchant vessel of 3,000 tons and 2 enemy motor boats 36.56 N., 26.59 E. (A/C CJU/W, 170900Z).

G.U.S.18 C. in C. Med's 091007A will be 3 hours late. (MARYBOROUGH, 170901A).

LUIGI CADORNA. My 162330C LUIGI CADORNA has effected repairs and rejoined. (LUIGI DI SAVOIE, 170915B to C. in C. Levant, Alexandria W/T, (R) Taranto).

TROUBRIDGE, ILEX. Intend TROUBRIDGE and ILEX patrol (?Tyrrhenean Sea) to Vis Island night 17/18 returning Bari. Request air cover 0530A to 0730A/18th codeword "Halley" 386 priority high. P.C. and S. 0530A 041° 55' N. 016° 38' E. 140° 21 knots. (Capt. (D) 24, 170921A to F.O.T.A. (R) C. in C. Med., No.1 M.O.R.U. 286 Wing, N.O.I.C. Bari, TROUBRIDGE, ILEX).
Your 170921. You should proceed through vicinity of 042° 42' 017° 15' at about 0100/18th. (F.O.T.A., 171301 to Capt. (D) 24, (R) No.1 M.O.R.U. 286 Wing, N.O.I.C. Bari, TROUBRIDGE, ILEX).

/QUANTOCK...

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Mediterranean.- Contd.

QUANTOCK

My 162315 N.T. in W.D. For EGGESFORD read QUANTOCK. (2) Para. 6. Add priority high. (V.A. Malta, 171005A to F.O.W.I.T., F.O.T.A. N.O.I.C. Augusta).

R.A.F. M.E.
report.

M.S. 20506. 17 Oct. Daily Opsum 172 15/16 Oct. 3 Liberators (B.24s) 5 Halifaxes, Maritza Aerodrome. 1 returned early, remainder bombed. Bursts seen in area of aerodrome but damage obscured by cloud. 84 x 500 lb.

16 October. 7 U.S. Mitchells (B.25s) armed with 75 m.m. cannon and bombs, 5 Beaufighters anti-shipping R/C Kalimno area. 1 M.T.B. attacked by Beaufighter and left smoking. 1 F-boat attacked by U.S. Mitchell (B.25) with 75 m.m. fire. Result unknown. 1 Caique 50 tons opened A.A. fire in Kos channel and was silenced by U.S. Mitchell (B.25) with 75 m.m. fire. 5 raids by total 15 Ju.88s 31 Ju.87s reported on Leros during day. No details of damage of casualties except that harbour at Portolago Bay temporarily unserviceable owing to delay action bombs.

16/17th. 4 Hudsons, 3 Wellingtons anti-shipping R/Cs Kos - Kalimno ? area. No sightings at sea. 1 Hudson bombed 2,000 ton Merchant Vessel in Kos Harbour. No hits observed. 1 Wellington bombed Kos harbour starting small fire. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 171051Z).

Med.
Command.

Admiral Sir John D. Cunningham assumed Temporary Command Med. Stn. 1600/16th. (C. in C. Med., 171128A to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant).

Bari
movements.

Arrived: TYRIAN, TUMULT, M.T.B. 97, arrived and sailed CHIDDINGFOLD, LIDDESDALE, sailed TROUBRIDGE, ILEX. (N.O.I.C. Bari, 171145).

French Naval
Re-armament.

Algiers, 171146A. See Lion Copy.

Italian
and French
ships.

14 small Coastal Craft have been transferred from Italian to Yugo-Slavs in Italian Adriatic ports. SATURNIA on passage to Gib. and (?) 4 Italian Merchant ships to North Africa with Italian escort (2) French TROMBE and TIGRE leave Taranto 18th for Bizerta.

(3) Have authorised return to Sicily of 1200 Italian Naval ratings age 43 on indefinite leave. Accommodation and feeding problem in Taranto requires immediate assistance Italian Naval Battalion formed in Taranto Area for Shore Service.

(4) Italian Cruisers have completed day and night firing exercises in the Gulf. Intend to sail E/V for A/S exercises ex Augusta as early as possible.

(5) Destroyers CARINI and ABBA leaving shortly to assist evacuation of Corsica.

(6) Italian S/Ms allocated or employed as follows:

/(A)...

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Mediterranean.

Italian
and French
Ships.
(contd).

(A) 6 at Naples as power units. (B) 3 for A/S exercises Levant. (C) 5 as transports in Levant area. (D) 4 for A/S ?exercises of Italian (? escort vessels).
(F.O.L.I., 171209 to C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, (R) Admty).

Escort
Groups.

Following E.Gs. are reconstituted. 46th COLTSFOOT CUCKMERE, HONEYSUCKLE, HYDERABAD, OXLIP. 48th BARLE, BLUEBELL, BERGAMOT, BRYONY, LA MALOUINE. 50th. AIRE, ANEMONE, ALISMA, SAXIFRAGE, SPIREA.
(C. in C. Med. Fleet, 171217A to Med. Stn. Levant Stn. 222 B).

TROUSSA,
VEDETTEA.

Your 131957. No knowledge here of Greek T.B. Only Greek ship is VEDETTEA and she is ready for sea.
(F.O.L.I., 171219A to C. in C. Levant, (R) C. in C., Med. Admty. F.O.T.A.)
C. in C. Levant, 131957. Request you will reply.
(C. in C. Med., 172006A to F.O.L.I. (R) C. in C. Levant, Admty).

TYRIAN,
TUMULT
enemy ships
intercepted.

* ARGENTINA
meant

My 161245 (N.T. in W.D.) At 1730/16th TYRIAN and TUMULT intercepted Italian ships ARGENTEA* and OLYMPIA south west of Mljet bound Durazzo from Trieste by out shore route. Former had German guard was loaded with hay and was taken into Bari. Latter with German crew and miscellaneous cargo was sabotaged caught fire and had to be sunk.
(Capt. (D) 24, 171229 to F.O.T.A. (R) C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Bari).

Italian
destroyer
Balearics.

M.M. told me tonight Spanish Admiral Commanding Balearic Islands believes Italian destroyer (corrupt group) trying to sail and Spanish destroyer will have to fire on them. Great excitement in Islands. Were we party to conspiring and were Allied ships waiting off Minorca (?). Reassured him and informed him he must accept responsibility if any local excitement resulted in an incident as it was essential Italian S.N.O. of ship at Port Mahon should come here to settle details of discipline etc. He said he would get M. of F.A. at once to grant permission and that if we proceed diplomatically we shall get ship and men.
U.S.N.A. concurs and we are seeing Capt. Gisayriati tomorrow.
(B.N.A. Madrid, 171310A to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. F.O.I.C.G1b).

French
cruisers.

Your 141937. No objection if F.O.C. West Africa concurs.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 171320A to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.C. West Africa, Commorseafron, Comnaveu)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

ULTIMATUM, (1) Intend sailing P.34 (ULTIMATUM) at 1700/19th
UNTIRING. through 038 degs. 01' 003 degs. 21' at 0130/20th
040 degs. 02' 005 degs. 15' at 1900/20th, 041 degs
59' 006 degs. 12' at 1930/21st, 042 degs. 30'
006 degs. 16' at 0001/22nd to patrol in zone
ST proceeding on surface at discretion on 19th and 20th there-
after diving by day.
(2) P.59 (UNTIRING) to operate in zone SU after 2200/21st.
(Capt. (S) 8, 171342A to C. in C. Med. (R) 8th Flot. N.O.I.C.
Algiers.

Summary Linrep 91. Signed Eisenhower.
of (2) Naval. Destroyers carried out a sweep in
operations Adriatic every night during the period but
10 to 13 Oct. sighted nothing. M.T.B's operating in Elba
Area during night/11 attacked a Lighter
escorted by Armed trawler and forced them back
into Port. Other patrols in same area encounter-
ed nothing. Patrol was repeated night 11/12 without success.
HYTHE was sunk off Bougie while attacking enemy S/M 11th.
BRISTOL escorting fast convoy was sunk off Philippeville 13th
SS. OCEAN VIKING was mined in approaches to Taranto but reached
Port.
(5) Political Nil.
(Eisenhower, No T.O.O)

Italian Following is report on Italian Submarines now
S/MS. in Malta.

(A) Name.	(B) Repair Period Required.	(C) Suitable for.
1. ALAGI	10 days	Operations
2. GALATEA	40 days	Operations
3. BRIN	40 days	Operations
4. JALEA	40 days	A/S Training
5. BANDIERA	40 days	A/S Training
6. SETTEM- BRINI	40 days	A/S Training
7. SQUALO	40 days	A/S Training
8. H.1 (One)	7 days	Power Supply
9. H.2	Nil.	Power Supply
10. TORCHESE	Action damage long refit	
11. H.4	Action damage	Scrapping.

(2).(4) (5) (6) (7) (8) require new batteries. All submarines
require spare parts.
(3) PLATINO, VORTICE, ONICE supplying power to Naples condition
good.
(4) ATROPO, CORRIDONI, MENOTTI, ZOEAL, BRAGADINO en route to
Haifa. Condition good.
(5) GIADA, MAREA, NICHELIO, AXUM at Taranto condition good.
(6) F.O.L.I. is requested to check above with I.M. of M. as no
Senior I. S/M. O. is available in Malta.
(7) Admiralty 142035 para. 5 refers.
(V.A. Malta, 171421A to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. C. in C. Levant,
F.O.L.I.)

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Mediterranean. - Contd.

Situation in Aegean. Joint Army R.A.F. Intelligence appreciation 24 hours to 0900/Z/17th.
(1) All quite Leros up to 0900/Z hours 17th.
(2) Ph. R/C 1000/Z hours 16th revealed 7 F boats of which 1 in Port Calino, 1 in bay Pserimo Island, 2 in Kos Harbour and 3 at sea west of Pserimo, course north west.
(3) Eastbound enemy convoy of 2 merchant vessels sighted 15th east of Amorgos evidently turned about as some convoy was sighted north of Amorgos eastbound at 0800/Z hours 16th. Later sighting at 1200/Z hours 16th reported apparently same convoy off Levitha Island, but only 1 Merchant Vessel. Unconfirmed Italian report from islands states one merchant vessel sunk by submarine at 1100/Z hours 16th, remainder of convoy including 1 merchant vessel continued eastbound. Hoped that today's Ph. R/C will clarify situation.
(4) Yesterdays appreciation of enemy intentions remains unchanged (C. in C. M.E. No. T.O.O.)

Aden Departures. Departures 0315Z DURBAN, 0340Z ROTHERHAM (D.11) BATTLE, QUALITY and QUIBERON in company. (Com. Aden, 171525Z)

L.S.T's for Naples. (U.S.) C.T.F. 89 pass to F.O.W.It. Intend sailing L.S.T's 392, 347, 391 escorted by S.C. 979, 534 at 0600A/18th to Termini for onward routing to Naples and returning Palermo. E.T.A. 0800A/18th. (U.S. Cdr. N.O.B. Palermo, 171708A to Connav, (R) Com. Termini, 8 Phib, F.O.W.It., 242 Group, F.O. Naples, C. in C. Med. (U.S.) Cdr. U.S. N.F. N.W. African Waters, U.S. Cdr. T.F.86. U.S. Cdr. T.F.89.)

M.K.F. 25. Sailing Telegram. (2) 1626C/17th 1943.
(4) As in C. in C. Levant's 131515. *
(5) 2 miles north 300, 303, 306 then as in C. in C. Levant's 131515.
(6) LAMERTON, WILTON, KANARIS from Port Said. COLOMBO, HURWORTH and CROOME from Alexandria.
(8) As in M.S.C.I.23 para. 4. (13) (A) Cdre. Nicholson, R.N.R. in STRATHEDEN for U.K. (B) Capt. Robinson, Master, BRITANNIC for U.K. (15) BF.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 171717C) * Most Secret.

M.E. Cositrep Reports. 17th Oct. No.27. (1) Int. Aegean. (A) Indications part German assault force for Leros operation withdrawn from Kalino. Appreciate it is now at Kos and possibly Pserimo and that assault still delayed by weather and enemy appreciation of Naval situation.

B /...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

M.E.
Cositrep
Reports.
(Contd.)

B. 46 Italians ex Naxos have arrived Samos report remainder Italian G.R.N. taken to hills. ^{garrison}
(3) Albania. B. Cjinokastra area. Brit L.O. reports extensive German Ops early Oct. resulting in occupation of Port of Saranda and general dispersal Partisan forces in area. Partisan morale remains high.

(4) Greece. A. Peloponnese area. Considerable damage reported as result air raid Argos airfield 14th. Evacuation of aerodrome appears to be continuing.

(7) Air.

(C. in C. M.E. 171720C)

No.28. (1) Int. Aegean. Kalino-Kos area. Ph. R/C morning 17th showed shipping concentration incl. 7 F lighters still present but one unidentified vessel and one F lighter beached and on fire in Atti Bay (Kalino) following naval attack 16/17.

(2) Ops. Aegean. Symi. Night 16/17th. Det. S.B.S. visited island reports no Germans. Leros 16th 46 enemy sorties during day. Main tgts Portolago, Gurna Bay, Leros village and Zuncona. Considerable number of D.A. bombs dropped Portolago Bay making harbour temporarily unseviceable.

Kastelorizo. 17th Oct. 6 JU.87s and 2 ME.109s made dive bomb and M.G. attack. 1. M.T.B. and some houses hit. Some casualties. First air raid on island since occupation.

(6) Naval. Aegean.

Night 17/18 Oct. SIRIUS hit aft by bombs ^{at 1920/17 (p. 597)} now returned Alex. 14 dead 30 wounded. Y turret out of action and electrical circuits aft badly damaged. Will probably not need docking as steering and engines believed intact. HURSLEY and MIAOULES report N.T.R. North and East sides of Kappari bombarded Kos inner harbour for 10 mins. M.T.B.s did not operate.

18th Oct. AURORA, PENN and JERVIS withdrawing to Alex. PHOEBE, FURY, HURWORTH and BEAUFORT left Alex. 0630C hrs. to operate tonight. S/M SEVERN left Beirut due Leros p.m. 20th.

(7) Air.

(C. in C. M.E. T.O.O. Nil.)

U/B.

Fighter report U-Boat at periscope depth 033 degs. 03' N. 021 degs. 35' E. at 1430C/17th.
(C. in C. Levant, 171813C to All S.A.C. and above operating off the coast between Alex. and 20 degs. E. A.I.G.72, R.A.Alex., S.N.O.C., N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 201 N.C. Group, 212 Group 235, 245, 247 Wings Fighter Sectors between Alex. and Benghazi.
(R) C. in C. Levant, V.A.M. A.H.Q. Med. S.10. R.A.Z., N.L.O. 8th Army, S.N.O.I.S. Benghazi Sector, N.O.I.C. Tripoli, N.O.I.C. Benghazi (201 Group, 211 Group, 247 Group, 212 Group), A.I.G.70. All S.A.C. and above operating off Tripolitania West of 20 degs. E.)

AURORA /...

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Mediterranean - Contd.

AURORA attacked by A/C. Enemy aircraft bombing 34.19 N. 28.23 E. (AURORA, 171833 to Alexandria)

SHEFFIELD, ORION. Your 151032. Concur that SHEFFIELD be retained till ORION arrives in Med. (2) Anticipated ORION will leave U.K. about 7th. November. (D.O.D.(H), 171850A to C. in C. Med. (R) C. in C. H.F., C.S.10, C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C.Gib., C. in C. W.A.)

Port Said Movements. 17th Port Said arrivals KANARIS, H.H.M.S. THEMIS-TOCLES, VITTORIO VENETO, ITALIA, SIMOOM. Departures LARGS, VITTORIO VENETO, ITALIA. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 171853C)

Sporades. (1) Area between Kalymnas and Saphonidi (Agios Nikolaos) may be mined. (2) Own surface force will drop delayed action shells and depth charges when close to enemy occupied coast and port. (Capt. (S) 1 171858C to 1st S.F.)

Title M.G.B.Fs. Advanced information of the context of C.A.F.O. 2192/43 of the 14th. (2) The 19th and 20th M.G.B. Flotillas will in future be known as the 60th and 61st M.G.B. Flotillas. (D.D.O.D.(C), 171859A to C. in C. Med. (R) Capt. C.F. Med.)

Sicilian ports Command. The appointment of F.O. Sicily having lapsed British operated Sicilian ports are now under command of the V.A. Malta. (C. in C. Med. 171931A to I Med. Levant Stn. 225B)

RORQUAL. Will be 2 hours early. (RORQUAL, 172001C to Capt. (S) 1, (R) C. in C. Levant, 201 N. Co-operation Group, H.M. S/M P.45, H.M.S/M. P.221, H.M.S/M. P.219, UNRIVALLED, SHAKESPEARE, SERAPH.)

Allied Warships in Italian Hands. Increasingly urgent to obtain definite information of former Allied Warships captured by Italians and now under our control, my 021818 to F.O.L.I. only refers. (2) Request you will signal summary now. (3) Amplification signal should follow giving available information on known losses or disposal of former Allied ships not now in our control. (C. in C. Med. 172012A to F.O.L.I. (R) Admty. C. in C. Levant) Reply: F.O.L.I.191717.

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Mediterranean - Contd.

UNST, PERLE. UNST will meet you in 037 degs. 04' 003 degs. 01' at 1400/18th and escort you to harbour.
(2) M.L. on patrol East and West of Algiers.
(Capt. (S) 8, 172100A to PERLE)

Algiers Movements. Arrivals (U.S.) COLE, (U.S.) BERNADOU (U.S.)
Departures UNRUFFLED (P.46).
Arrived and departed Italian Ships LEGIONARIO, ORIANI, SATURNIA.
(Com. Algeria, 172101A)

Levant Situation Report No.82. JERVIS (D.14) PENN found no shipping West of Kalimnos, experienced some bombing at 2347/16, proceeded to land 20 tons stores 50 personnel each at (Alindk?) Bay Leros.
Portolago subjected to prolonged bombing 16th.
(2) HURSLEY, MIAOULES investigated vicinity Kos strait, HURSLEY fired salvoes into port Vathi and

HURSLEY had one direct hit by 3.9 in shell (not d/c) - DNC list

MIAOULES into Port Akti. HURSLEY set one unknown on fire, smoke obscured observation. MIAOULES destroyed 2 E-Boats 1 small M.V. Nothing else seen. Intermittent bombing followed causing some above-water damage to HURSLEY forward.
(3) Hunts and Fleets lay up in company in Turkish Waters during daylight Fleets to operate against Port Kalimnos tonight, Hunts to R/V with Cruisers south of Kos.
(4) AURORA (C.S.12) made no sightings north of Scarpanto Island and proceeded to disembark stores for coastal forces at Kastelorizo.
(5) SIRIUS, ECLIPSE, PATHFINDER, BELVOIR left Alex. 0900 today. Force joined AURORA, South of Scarpanto Strait, Fleets being detached to disembark stores for Leros. Cruisers proceeding to bombard Kos harbour.
(6) M.T.B. made no encounters in Port Kalimnos and returned Kastelorizo.
(7) SEVERN left Beirut am/17 with arms and stores for Leros.
(8) Cruisers and Destroyers ordered to make use of delay action smoke floats, snowflakes and depth charges in the Aegean to mislead the enemy.
(9) Kastelorizo bombed today, slight damage.
(C. in C. Levant, 172131C)

G.U.S.19. M.S.C.I.22. Onward route from 033 degs. 08' 020 degs. 00' E. (Route).
(6) "Trafford" 105 normal. (7) A.
(8) LOTUS (S.O), STARWORT, DIANELLA, SAXIFRAGE.
From Malta, ULSTER QUEEN.
(9) On crossing 020 degs. E. proceed at best speed avoiding stragglers to arrive Malta and Bizerta R/V as ordered.
(C. in C. Med. 172135A, 180817A, 241027A)

Naples Movements. Oct. 17th. Arrival TWOSTEP.
(F.O. W.I.T. 172145A)

Brindisi Movements. Arrival ZETLAND departure ZETLAND H.D.M.L.1155
Z lighters 14 and 34.
(N.O.I.C. Brindisi, 172339A to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

543A

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 171146A/October IN

From Algiers.

Date 17.10.43.

Recd. 1753A.

(French Naval Rearmament)

Addressed Etoussa and Agwar for action.
U.S.973. Ref. No. 8438/W-2704 NAP 472. 17th October, 1943.

Interior Addresses: To Agwar
For Combined Chiefs of Staff and for the
Personal attention of Major General
Walter B. Smith.
To Usfor
For British Chiefs of Staff
Sgd Eisenhower.

1. Requiring radical reorganization is French Naval Rearmament Procedure in consequence of following factors:

- (a) Establishment of Combined French Admiralty at Algiers requiring to deal with French ships outside North African Theater.
- (b) Prospective early move of A.F.H.Q. away from Algiers.
- (c) Original French Rearmament requests were based on Navy then in North African waters. Additions from Alexandria and Martinique and prospective arrivals ex Fighting French ships require revision of requests based on size of fleet Combined Chiefs of Staff now require them to maintain in this theater.

2. French Military Rearmament already divorced from A.F.H.Q. and made responsibility of U.S. Theater Commander. This is comparatively straightforward, since greater part of French Army to be rearmed is in this Theater and practically all supplies are from U.S.A. Not applicable to Navy since French Admiralty requests will now deal with vessels world-wide and in addition, have complex background arrangements with British Admiralty for former Fighting French.

3. Recommend establishment of British and American Naval Missions in Algiers accredited to French Admiralty as representatives of British Admiralty and Cominch respectively. Personnel to be under command of Commander in Chief Mediterranean and Commandant for administration and discipline, but authorized to communicate direct to Admiralty and Navy Department over supply and rearmament items from their respective countries, in accordance with policy approved from time to time.

4. All matters of policy or employment of forces affecting this Theater to be referred to Commander in Chief Mediterranean and by him as necessary to me.

5./.....

5. All policy proposals from French Admiralty affecting employment of French Forces outside this Theater to be transmitted direct to Admiralty and Cominch simultaneously, with copy to Commander in Chief Mediterranean. Matters of sufficient importance being placed by them before the Combined Chiefs of Staff.

6. French to be directed to prepare revised lists of rearmament requests based on size of Navy it is intended they should maintain in this Theater. For this purpose request early decision on future employment of RICHELIEU and 8 inch Cruisers ex Alexandria also on intentions for rearmament of JEMM BART.

7. To enable detailed set up of proposed missions to be prepared, request direction on proposals in paragraphs 3 to 6.

171146A..

Received in War Registry 1125/18.

1st Lord	D.O.D. (F) (2)
1st S.L. (2)	D.O.D. (H) (4)
D.F.S.L.	D.N.I. (4)
V.C.N.S.	D. of P. (2)
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.C.
A.C.N.S. (W)	D.D.I.C. (2)
N.A.Mails	D. of P. (G) (3)
P.A.S. (3)	Hd. of M. (2)
I.P. (2)	Adm. Blake
W.D.	D.R.C. (C.O.) (2)

Distribution:-

Brig. Jacob
Foreign Secretary.
1st S.L.
C.5. Tels, W/O.
A.M.C.S. (C).

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17.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

- B.P.99. Departure BALUCHISTAN, KONKAN with B.P.99.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 170237Z to Admty.)
- MARIPOSA. Intend sailing MARIPOSA to Sydney to disembark
P.O.W. My 121212 refers.
(A.P.S.T.O.I. 170317Z to A.C.N.B.)
0600Z/17/10 MARIPOSA Fremantle 27th escorted by
RELENTLESS till? 0130Z/18 at 14½ knots thence knots 19 20½.
A. 16 degs. 40' N. 69 degs. 50'. B. 00 degs. 20' N. 69 degs.
0'. C. 19 degs. 40' S. 90 degs. 0' thence to Fremantle or as
ordered by Com. SWP. Seafron. Onward route, "Chop" 25th.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 170625Z to Admty. C. in C. E.F., Com. R.I.N.,
A.C.N.B., Grabbag, New York for Connav.)
- U/B 244 Squadron reports U-Boat attacked in
attacked, position 025 degs. 28' N. 056 degs. 50' E. at
Gulf 161235Z. Observed results were oil patch 400
of Oman. feet 3 bodies.
(2) TAMWORTH and ORISSA reinforce patrol HIRAVATI.
(C. in C. E.F. 170321Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.
E.F. (S.E.A.C.), S.N.O. Persian Gulf).
(corrupt group?) of U-Boat reported in Gulf Oman 16th. Bisley
A/C on patrol sighted U-Boat on surface course 320 degs. speed
8 knots at 1048Z dropped 4 250 pound depth charges 3 of which
seen to explode round stern U-Boat as it was crash diving.
1054 ? air bubbles and 3 bodies observed with oil patches
400 feet long. One streak oil from patch observed definitely
14 more bodies seen on surface.
(2) Aircraft unable to communicate by W/T and returned to base.
2 aircraft and 1 patrol craft sent out to area p.m./16th Oct.
nil result.
(3) Hormuz patrol augmented by 2 A.B.C.EF.escort vessels.
Air close escort 4 BA. 57 and EB. 60 arranged. Square search
by Catalina tightened 17th round D/F position in C. in C. E.F.
170721.
(S.N.O. P.G.171501Z to C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.F.(S.E.A.C.)
(R) N.O.I.C. Hormuz, Admty.)
- Exercise Arrived all ships from Exercise "Otter".
"Otter". My 130616 refers.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 170518Z to Admty., C. in C.E.F.
F.O.C.R.I.N.)
- Convoy Cochin portion arrived.
E.16. (N.C.S.O. Cochin, 170532Z to Admty.)
- KARACHI. Departure KARACHI Alexandria 2259A.
(N.O.I.C. Karachi, 170654Z to Admty.)
- A.B.16. Arrived NIGELLA, WOOLONGONG, GERALDTON, ROEBUCK,
and SHOREHAM escorting convoy A.B.16 less
MALAKAN detached.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 170702Z to Admty.)

Convoy /...

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17.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

Convoy M.B.51. Sailing telegram (3 ships). (2) 0915Z/17th.
(3) R/V Cochin 0230Z/19th E.T.A. Bombay 0830Z/22nd.
(4) 8 knots. (6) CALCUTTA, NETRAVATI with
CUTTUCK joining at Cochin. CALCUTTA keeping
constant (?low) and port wave as applicable
NETRAVATI group V and ?for period.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 170920Z to Admty.)

P.B.59. Arrived BURNIE and BENGAL escorting convoy
P.B.59 Bombay portion.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 170922Z to Admty.)

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17.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

T.F.69 constituted. Refer to this as C. in C. Lant's 162036 to U.S.S. TEXAS and C.T.F. 29 for action. This constitutes Task Force 69. Capt. Pfaff in TEXAS Comdesron 17 in NELSON Desron 17 less SHUBRICK, Comdesdiv 30 in COWIE Desdiv 30 ENOREE. Escort convoy U.T.4 consisting of 9 A.P.S. 2 A.F.S. and 2 British Ferrying Carriers from New York and 4 A.P.S. from Boston schedules sail to U.K. Oct.21. Return New York escorting convoy T.U.4 when directed by British authorities. It is necessary that convoy U.T.4 arrive U.K. on Nov. 1st. Adjust your speed throughout to meet this date without any radical reductions of speed enroute. Boston section will be directed to R/V with you along route. C.T.F.29 requested direct ENOREE report to you. Destroyers have been directed report to you.
(Comnaveu, 170756 to Admty.)

SAMUEL CHASE (A.P.A.26) This is Cominch's 161834 addressed to Com. 8th Flt, C. in C. Lant (R) Com. 8th Phib, Admty, C.O.S. Army, C. in C. Med., C. in C. A.F., Com. 6th Phib. Comphibtrantlant. Effective departure Mediterranean early Nov. assignment of SAMUEL CHASE (A.P.A.26) changed from 8th Fleet to 6th Phib. Com. 8th Fleet sail CHASE to U.S. under escort to be provided by C. in C. Lant.
(Comnaveu, 170821 to Admty.)

Independent Sailings Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean. This is Com. 10th Fleet C. & R's 161645 to Admty. for action. Eastern Seaboard Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea re-open to independent shipping of 11 knots or over not carrying Avgas. Cancel Mydis 302100Z August. Reporting Centres pass to Routeing Centres your area less those Pacific Coast. Mydis 241320Z August remains effective.
(Comnaveu, 171116Z to Admty.)

H.X.259. Arrived off Oversay 0200Z/12. Average speed 9.27 knots. All arrived.
(D.T.D. 171240A to Connav, N.S.H.Q., (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.A.)

N.S.H.Q. S/M. Estimate. (N.S.H.Q. 171432Z)

U.S. S/M. Estimate. (Cominch, 171520Z)

C.U. Convoys Cycle. Effective with C.U.7 sailing 20th Nov. Comeastseafon sail C.U. convoys direct from New York to U.K. where escorts will lay over 6 days and return with discharged Merships direct to New York. C.U. convoys will thereafter sail

from /...

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War Diary.17.10.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.C.W. Convoys
Cycle.

from New York at 12 day intervals.
C.U.8 sailing 2nd Dec. C.U. 9 sailing 14th
Dec. E.T.Q. Cinclant provide escorts.
Only cargo ships Inc. Tankers having declared
speed of 14 knots or better will be included in
these convoys. Maximum number of ships per
convoy is 24.
(Cominch C. & R. 171522Z to Cinclant, Comeastsea-
fron. Info. P.D. New York, Com.1, Admty.
C.A.F.A.C., Comnav, C. in C. C.N.A.,
Comcaribseafon.)

Convoy
H.F.81.

Sailing Telegram part 1.
(2) 1300Z/19th. (3) E.T.A. St. John N.B.
2230Z/20th E.T.A. Boston 1500Z/21st E.T.A. Cape
Cod 1600Z/21st. (4) 8 knots.
(5) (Route). (6) LINCOLN, HEPATICA, MELVILLE,
DIGBY, INGONISH.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 171624Z to Admty.)

Convoy
H.X.262.

(1) Convoy Sailing despatch. H.X.262, Part 1.
(2) Position F.A. at 0130Z October 19. 3, 5, 8,
standard route A as per Admty. 261625 Sept. and
C. in C. C.N.A. 082202 and 141856 Oct. West
"Chop" 1330Z Oct. 20. 6, Task Units W.1.
RICHMOND, S.O., BARRIE, NIPIGON, CHICOUTIMI, GEORGETOWN.
(U.S. P.D. New York, 171802Z to Admty.)

TRUMPETER.

Following is P.D. Norfolk 171555 (Begins)
TRUMPETER will depart 1900Z/18 Oct.
New York (D) 37.13 N. 74.04 W.
(E) 39.52 N. 72.59 speed 15.
E.T.A. Ambrose 191400Z (Ends.)
(Radio Washington, 171905Z to Comnav, N.S.H.Q.,
C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F., Comeasseafon,
P.D. New York, Com. 4 (R) Admty.)

GARDINER.

GARDINER (B.D.E.) 274 arrived Boston 1352 (Q)
17th Oct. expects depart for Bermuda 18th Oct.
(C.T.G.02.1, 171925 to N.O.B. Bermuda.)

British
Carrier
Operations.

This is C. in C. Lant's 171818 addressed to
Comnav and Admiralty for action and to Cominch
and Com. 10th Fleet for info. Information
concerning British Carrier Operations within
800 miles of the Azores is requested. This
request is made in order that escort carriers may
be profitably employed without duplication of
effort or interference.
(Comnav, 171951 to Admty.)

SIMOUN /...

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17.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

SIMOUN,
ANNAMITE.

This is a re-encypherment of N.O.B. Bermuda's 172100 SIMOUN and ANNAMITE depart Bermuda 0530Z/18 to overtake and R/V with U.G.S.21 through position (a) Lat. 32.16 long 64.18 thence to Point (b) 32.30 63.06.

(d) E.T.A. Point (b) 1100Z/18th weather permitting.
(C.O.B. Bermuda, 172103 to C.T.F.66).

U.S.A.T.

Arrival Vieuxfort 16th U.S.A.T. COLONEL R.T. ELLIS
(B.R.L.O. Saint Louis, 172143Q).

Refits
of French
Ships.

Your 251921/Sept. B.A.M.R. should continue to supervise refits of French ships of British origin.

(2) Concur that Fenard should look after all other French ships both ex. Free French and N. African.

(3) These general arrangements would not preclude assistance by B.A.M.R. in special cases on specific request by Fenard (e.g. CHEVREUIL).

(4) C.A.F.O. 1473/41 refers.
(Hd. of M.11, 172250A).

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
Serial
No.635
Oct.16th.

(2) During early hours navy Catalina attacked and sank or disabled 5 barges near Cape Gloucester. Also attacked small barge convoy approaching Grove Island with unobserved results.

(3) 26 Mitchells with 15 Lightnings 2 Thunderbolts escorting struck Wewak and Boram Airfields midday destroying 4 fighter 6 bombers on ground and damaging further 12 aircraft. Several A/A positions silenced and single Lugger in Muschu Strait straffed. Approx. 30 enemy fighters intercepted and 16 were shot down plus 3 probably. One Mitchell lost.

(5) Forenoon R/C Liberator observed from afar 3 possible freighters with 1 escort vessel 80 miles East of Madang course 250 degs. 9 Jap fighters attacked Liberator which returned base damaged after destroying 2 Zeros. Mitchell stroke despatched afternoon failed to locate convoy but 30 escorting Lightnings encountered 2 Zeros whereof 1 destroyed and other probably.

(7) Submarine contacted early hours Southern Approaches Milne Bay.

(8) Midday photos Rabaul incomplete but show same 2 heavy cruisers present, also one Sendai Class cruiser.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A.170746Z)

Movements /...

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17.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand. - Contd.

Movements. Arrival Milne Bay 16th. U.S. Destroyer HELM.
(A.C.N.B. 170813Z)

C.A.M.S.I. Ref. C.A.M.S.I. 30/43 para. 13 B.A.M.S. Area 6 C it
amendment is requested the following may be added to this
to B.A.M.S. para. (Begins):
Area 6 C. (C) In the Hauraki Gulf within an area enclosed
by lines drawn from Rodney Point to Aiguilles
Point. Cape Barrier to Cuvier Island to Great
Mercury Island.

(D) In Cook Strait within an area bounded by lines drawn -
from Stephens Island to Manawatu River from Cape Campbell
through position 041 degs. 50' S. 174 degs. 50' E. to Cape
Palliser.

(E) In Foveaux Strait within an area bounded by the following
lines from Waipapapa Point to Bench Island from Sandhill Point
to Codfish Island (Ends.)
(N.Z.N.B. 172245Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 171342A, 171343A)

Submarines Attacked.

(ONS. 20)

Sub.attack Para. A. Br. ESSEX LANCE, torpedoed and broke in
and half at 2141/16th in about 51 degs. 45' N. 27 degs.
sighting 30' W.
summary A/C Halifax J/502 sighted U-Boat on surface and
for 24 hours attacked with bombs at 0226/17th in 46 degs. 41'
to 0900Z/17th. N. 07 degs. 44' W.
A/C Liberators S/59 and L/59 attacked U-Boat at
0930/16th in 58 degs. 22' N. 27 degs. 10' W.
L/59 shot down, crew rescued, S/59 damaged.
A/C Liberator Y/86 attacked U-Boat twice at 1630/16th and at
1810/16th in 57 degs. 27' N. 28 degs. 17' W. Course 350 degs.
A/C Liberator C/59 attacked U-Boat in conjunction with two
Iceland A/C at 1830/16th in 58 degs. 30' N. 30 degs. 00' W.
BYARD and BERRY attacked A/S contacts at 0024/17th in about
58 degs. N. 27 degs. 30' W.

BENTINCK /...

War Diary.

17.10.1943.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

Sub.attack and sighting summary for 24 hours to 0900Z/17th. (Contd.)

BENTINCK and another escort hunted U-Boat which dived at 9000 yards range at 0435/17th in about 58 degs. 15' N. 27 degs. 45' W.
A/C Wellington G/407 sighted U-Boat at 0510/17th in 46 degs. 52' N. 09 degs. 03' W. Course 210 degs.
Liberator S/59 sighted U-Boat at 1015/16th in 59 degs. 05' N. 26 degs. 28' W.
Liberator Z/120 sighted U-Boat at 1740/16th in 58 degs. 13' N. 29 degs. 08' W.
Liberator E/120 sighted U-Boat at 1810/16th in 58 degs. 20' N. 29 degs. 20' W.

Para. B. U-Boat reported at 1235/16 in 25 degs. 28' N. 56 degs. 50' E. (See D.D.I.C. 181150A)
(D.D.I.C. 171126A to Cominch)

18.10.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

LONDON,
AUGUSTA.

1. C.S.1 in LONDON with the U.S. Cruiser AUGUSTA and one Destroyer left Hvalfiord at 1604 today.

Enemy
Coastal
Battery.

2. 4 M.M.S. were shelled by the Coastal Battery at Cap Blanc Nez at 1722 last night when 4½ miles East of Dover Harbour. The ships withdrew under a smoke-screen provided by coastal craft from Dover, but M.M.S. 287 was damaged and one of her ratings was slightly wounded.

Convoy
O.N.S.20.
U-Boat
damaged by
SUNFLOWER.

3. While joining convoy O.N.S.20 at 2242 last night the Corvette SUNFLOWER of E.G. B.7 attacked a U-Boat in 58 degs. 46' N. 33 degs. 14' W. three times, after which much oil was seen on the surface.

O.S/S.L.
Convoys.

4. The O.S/S.L. convoys will in future be run in conjunction with the K.M.S./M.K.S. Convoys on an alternate 9 and 11 days cycle starting with K.M.S.31 the O.G. convoy being abolished.

Mediterranean.

Naples.

5. Headquarters of Flag Officer, West Italy are now established ashore at Naples. Discharge from the port is now averaging 5,000 tons a day.

Adriatic.

6. TROUBRIDGE and ILEX last night patrolled the Dalmatian Coast in the vicinity of Dubrovnik without incident.

Aegean.

7 (a) Captain (D) 14, in JERVIS, with PENN, investigated the west coast of Kalimno with starshell and searchlight last night, and found nothing. At 2312 he bombarded Port Kalimno and set fire to a medium sized M/V alongside the jetty. There was some bombing during the withdrawal but no damage was caused.

(b) /...

18.10.1943.
Monday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.Aegean.
(Contd.)

7 (b) HURSLEY and MIAOULES examined Kappari Island without result, bombarded the inner harbour of Kos, and withdrew north of Rhodes to Alexandria.

(c) At 0630 this morning PHOEBE, FURY, HURWORTH (D.22) and BEAUFORT left Alexandria, PHOEBE and FURY to bombard Kalimno the 2 "Hunts" to bombard Kos.

(d) 5 Wellingtons last night bombed a jetty and warehouses in Syros Harbour.

(e) 4 U.S. Mitchells and 3 Beaufighter bombers attacked 2 F-Boats off the north coast of Kos, scoring hits. Debris was seen flying from both vessels.

(f) An F-Boat entering Kalimno Harbour was damaged by cannon fire from Beaufighters.

(g) In a further raid on Kastelorizo this morning by 9 JU.88's no naval damage was caused and 2 aircraft were shot down by fighters.

Aegean,
Leros.

8 (a) C. in C. Levant has been putting destroyers into the bay and harbour of Kalimno and Kos on recent nights with good results, which together with the sinking of small transports by submarine and damage to 2 or 3 F-Boats by Mitchells has improved the situation considerably. He considers the enemy will now have to revise his invasion plan for Leros and that we may expect a lull. He intends to withdraw surface forces for a day or two's rest and maintenance, which they must have, and then to concentrate mainly on getting in supplies until there are further indications of enemy intentions.

But he badly needs some Marauders.

(b) C. in C. Middle East considers that while the danger of surface attack on Leros is not yet removed, the continued presence of naval units and their interference with enemy shipping has a deterrent effect on enemy plans. Meantime, the scale of enemy air attack on Leros continues at an average of 50 sorties a day, and since the night of Oct. 14/15, night bombing raids have been reported

N.C.F.A.

9. The flag of N.C.F.A. was struck at sunset today in GLENGYLE and the title will lapse.

East Indies.

10. SS. NIZAM (Aden for Colombo) reported at 0041 being missed by two torpedoes in 08.55 N. 74.48 E.

War Diary.

18.10.1943.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

- CAUVERY. When ready for sea CAUVERY should be sailed for Scapa to work up.
(2) On completion of work up R.A.D. Home Fleet is requested to sail her for Londonderry.
(3) CAUVERY will be attached to W.A. Command in accordance with A.M.142317 June on conclusion of which C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail her with convenient convoy for destination Bombay.
(D.O.D.(H). 181154A to A.S.C.Bs)
- C. in C. H.F. C. in C. H.F. will be absent on duty until p.m. 22nd October and is then rejoining DUKE OF YORK at Scapa.
(C. in C. H.F. 181421A to V.A.2)
- TERMAGANT. Handed over this day.
(P.S. Overseer, Dumbarton, 181530)
- ST. CLAIR. The S.S. ST. CLAIR has been requisitioned for duties as a Rescue Ship and will be fitted out at Aberdeen.
(D.T.D. 181658A to C. in C. W.A.)
- 62nd M.T.B. Flotilla. A.C.O.S.'s 1514. M.T.B's 709, 711, 712, 715 and four further boats to be nominated later are to form the 62nd M.T.B. Flotilla and be based at Lerwick.
(2) M.T.B's 709, 711, 712, 715 will be manned by the Royal Norwegian Navy, and on completion of equipping and material work up at BEE lasting about 10 days N.O.I.C.Holyhead is requested to sail these boats to Scapa.
(D.D.O.D.(C), 181920A to A.C.O.S.)

- PRINCE ROBERT. PRINCE ROBERT is allocated to the Mediterranean Fleet.
(2) C. in C. Med. is requested to base her at Gibraltar to operate under the orders of F.O.I.C. Gibraltar primarily to provide A/A escort to personnel convoys in accordance with A.M. 01203.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 182303A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Movements.

- ONSLow. Scapa arrival D.17 in ONSLOW.
(A.C.O.S. 180821A)
- STRIKER. STRIKER will proceed unescorted from May Island.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 180930A to A.C.O.S.)

REVENGE /...

18.10.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

REVENGE. Intend to sail REVENGE for Southampton at 0500A/20 escorted by PRINCE ROBERT.
(2) Cmdre. (D) W.A. is requested to sail SALADIN to R/V at Clyde Light vessel at 0800A/20th.
(3) REVENGE will pass Lizard Head at 0715A/21 October. E.T.A. Southampton, 1800A/21st.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 181224A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

ILLUSTRIOUS, Arrived Clyde R.A. (A) H.F. in ILLUSTRIOUS, FORMIDABLE, VENUS, INGLEFIELD in company.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 181644A to C. in C. W.A.)

RODNEY, C. in C. Med. 161252. Presume 6 destroyers are NELSON. required to screen NELSON and RODNEY. In addition to OFFA, TARTAR propose two destroyers from H.F. the remaining two being GRENVILLE and ROCKET from Plymouth.
(R.A.D. H.F. 181654 to Admty.)

MILNE. Sailed Capt. (D) 3 in MILNE to Seidisfiord E.T.A. 1900A/19th.
(R.A.D. 181705A to A.C.I.C.)

PRESIDENT A.M. 142241 and C. in C. Portsmouth's 161920. TISSIER. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail PRESIDENT TISSIER to Clyde when ready.
(2) C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail her for Gibraltar with O.S. 58 leaving Clyde 17th Nov.
(3) PRESIDENT TISSIER should be sailed as a merchant ship and not as a minor war vessel.
(D.O.D.(H), 181707A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

HOWE. XA arrival at 1450A HOWE, SAVAGE, STORD, OBEDIENT.
(A.C.O.S. 181716A to Admty.)

MATCHLESS. My 151057A and 162231A. Subject to satisfactory completion of defects, intend to sail MATCHLESS at 1200A/19th. S.O.A. 25 knots.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 181720A to R.A.D.)

S/M Positions of S/Ms at 0800/19 and movements for Movements. following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 181723A, 181759A)

BOMBARDIER. Return Reykjavik forthwith.
(A.C.I.C. 182240A to BOMBARDIER)

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War Diary.

18.10.1943.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation F.R. Captain D.3 in MILNE proceed passing Switha 1600A/18 to Seidisfiord routed west of Iceland, Faeroes mine barrier.
(2) On arrival act in accordance with V.A.2's 122200.
(R.A.D. 181001A to Capt. (D) 3.)
Estimated position at 182058A. LONDON, AUGUSTA, MIDDLETON 065 degs. 22', 024 degs. 46', to North.
HARRIER, SEAGULL 061 degs. 26', 010 degs. 40' to N.W.
(A.C.I.C. 181328A to Ships)
Sailed additional ships at 1800A (my 171318 refers).
(A.C.I.C. 182016A to M/S 1.)
This is a correct version of my 181604.
(1) Sailed C.S.1 in LONDON with AUGUSTA and MIDDLETON.
(2) V.A.2, 111248 refers.
(A.C.I.C. 182146A to H.F.)

Kara Sea. In view of your 170831 cancel my 171316.
Proposed (Ad. Miles, 181004C to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)
Operation.

Operation S.F. Proceed to established sweep by 1500A/19th.
(1) Group A. (2) 062 degs. 24' N. 013 degs. 50' W. (3) 225 degs. (4) "Apricot I".
(C. in C. Rosyth, 181016A to M/S.15)
Your 181016A. (2) Intend proceeding with FRASERBURGH, HUSSAR, WORTHING, BOOTLE, LLANDUDNO at 2000A today.
(M/S 15, 181229A to C. in C. Rosyth.)
(1) When next ordered to return to base intend detaching.
(2) HUSSAR to Scapa. My 161345A refers.
(3) WORTHING to Reykjavik for boiler cleaning.
(M/F.15, 181708A to C. in C. Rosyth.)
(1) On arrival at Seidisfiord complete and sail immediately to join me.
(3) (?rendezvous) centre of (?area).
(M/S.15, 181903A to BOOTLE)
Seidisfiord departure S.O. M/S 15 in FRASERBURGH, HUSSAR, WORTHING, LLANDUDNO in company. (2) Arrived BOOTLE.
(R.N.O.Seidisfiord, 182000A to H.F.)
Arrival Seidisfiord LYME REGIS.
(R.N.O.Seidisfiord, 182310A to A.C.I.C.)
Moorings being flown October 19th, 120 miles, 045 degs from normal, by 5 Sunderlands, 4 Catalinas.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 182345A to H.F.)

Minesweepers Between 1722 and 1735 yesterday a three-gun coastal shelled.
M.M.S. 287, M.M.S. 1024, 287 and 87 when 4½ miles East of damaged. Dover Harbour. Three of the four salvos fired were straddles. M.M.S. 287 sustained considerable hull damage from a very near miss including two holes below water-line but was able to enter Harbour under her own power. One rating slightly wounded.
Coastal craft at short notice were despatched to provide smoke cover.
(V.A. Dover, 181256A to Admty)

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

Bay Patrol. Disposition at 182000. (1) BERMUDA 044 degs. 40' 017 degs. 40' South-Westbound, 20 knots.
(2) Group N, KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, B.Y.M.S. 77, 33, 240, 044 degs. 15', 013 degs. 40' Southbound 10 knots.
(3) Hospital ship DORSETSHIRE 045 degs. 55', 012 degs. Southbound 12 knots.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 181514A to Admty.)
My 151805A. CHARYBDIS arrived.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 181614A to Admty.)

Coastal Patrols. WIGAN and ATHENIAN two miles South of "D" Buoy. M.T.B's 240 and 353 from Dover E.T.D. 2115 and M.T.B's 418, 437 and 435 from Ramsgate E.T.D. 1830 at West Dyck, E.T.R. Ramsgate 0730/19 E.T.R. Dover 0745/19 route via "V" Buoy.
(V.A. Dover, 181720A to Admty.)

Positions of submarines at 0800/19 and movements for following 24 hours. Times Zone A.
A. SEAROVER and SEADOG on patrol vicinity Andoy.
(F.O.S. 181723A to Admty.)

V.P. Operation. M.T.B. 675 damaged. Following from C. in C. Rosyth begins. "M.T.B's 675 forced to abandon operations at 1600A/16th due to attack by aircraft. My 151314 para. 4. 1 aircraft brought down, others damaged. M.T.B. 675 severely damaged and has 11 casualties. M.T.B. 676 arrived Dunbar 1500 today and is landing casualties. Ends.
(A.C.O.S. 181726 to Admty.)

Mining.

Harwich. One ground mine detonated by LL Trawlers at 0706 in 52 degs. 05.5 Min. N. 01 degs. 42.3 Min. E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 180825A and 181527A)
M.M/S 1018 reports COTSWOLD detonated acoustic mine at 0945 in 270 degs. 3 buoy 5 cables. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 181013A) (F.O.I.C. Harwich 181824A)
(Cdr. M/S Lowestoft, 211907A)
At 180926 one Ground Mine detonated by Sweeper in 51 degs. 49' 40" N. 01 degs. 24' E. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 181532A)

Portsmouth. One magnetic mine detonated by LL in 112 degs. 9.2 miles from Nab Tower.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 181817A and 191754A to Admty.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

JACQUELINE. Departure: JACQUELINE, Enemy control, October 16th for Bayonne.
(GIJON to Admty. T.O.R.2345/18)

Casualties and Defects.

SPANKER. Your 141740. Defects have developed to running-down valves of number 2 boiler of SPANKER. Repairs in hand but sailing will probably be delayed.
(Capt. Port Edgar, 181111A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

L.B.W.81. L.B.W.81 collided with SS. SOUTHWICK on 7th Oct. causing some damage. SOUTHWICK was at Moorings at time and has sailed.
(Cdre. Sheerness 181257 to Admty.)

MORTENSEN. M/V MORTENSEN arrived Kings Lynn 181000, towed by ALACRITY owing to engine failure.
(R.N.O.Kings Lynn, 181300 to F.O.I.C.Gt. Yarmouth)

KEPPEL. Arrived KEPPEL.
(F.O.I.C.London, 181502A)

BLAIR DEVON. Proceed with utmost despatch and assist SS.BLAIR - DEVON in sinking condition reported at 2100/18 in 055 degs. 39' N. 007 degs. 21' W. steering 140 degs. PENNYWORT is standing by her.
(Cdre. D. W.A. 182345 to ALLEGIANCE)

Shipping and Convoys.

O.N.206,
O.N.S.20.
Two U/Bs.
sunk by
A/C on
17th Oct.
U/B damaged
by
SUNFLOWER
on 17th
Oct.

In 58 degs. 46' N. 28 degs. 25' W. 0/120 sighted U-Boat on surface bearing 90 R 4 miles, course 300 12 knots, bearing 120T/16 miles from C/V. Attacked with 4 x 25 Mk. XI Torpex spaced 60 ft. from 50 ft. when 25 secs. submerged. First D/C estimated 150 ft. ahead of swirl. At 1506 in 59 degs. 00' N. 29 degs. 20' W. same A/C sighted U-Boat on surface bearing 010 R 8 miles, course 300, 12 knots, bearing 180/10 miles from C/V and attacked on surface with 4 x 250 D/Cs spaced 60 ft. from 400 ft. D/Cs fell abreast of U-Boat close to red side within lethal range. U-Boat seen to be down at stern. At 1556 in 59 degs. 39' N. 29 degs. 06' W. same A/C sighted suspect U-Boat on surface G 050/10 miles, course 210, 12 knots not attacked. At 1810 D/59 in 58 degs. 38' N. 31 degs. 56' W. sighted fully surfaced U-Boat S.W. 8 knots. 147 degs. 170 miles and at 1817 attacked with 4 x 250 D/Cs from 50 ft. At 1819 second attack abortive and at 1821 third attack with 4 x 250 D/Cs No.s 1 and 2 straddled

U-Boat/...

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Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

O.N. 206,
O.N.S. 20.
Two U/Bs.
sunk by
A/C on
17th Oct.
U/B
damaged by
SUNFLOWER on
17th Oct.
(Contd.)

U-Boat which sank and numerous survivors in water.
At 1822 in 58 degs. 22' N. 32 degs. 50' W.
H/120 sighted U-Boat on surface bearing 040 R
10 miles, course 290/8 knots and attacked with
4 x 250 D/Cs spaced 100 ft. from 30 ft. and
second attack with 4 x 250 D/Cs spaced 100
ft from 50 ft. First attack straddled with
Nos 1 and 2 D/Cs, second attack with Nos 2 and 3
D/Cs. 20-30 survivors, 2 dinghies, and U-Boat
seen to sink after breaking in half.
(R.A.F. Iceland, 180250Z to H.Q.C.C.)

While joining O.N.S. 20, SUNFLOWER detected and
attacked U-Boats in 058 degs. 46' N. 033 degs.
14' W. at 2142Z. S/M blown to surface by first attack.
2 further attacks carried out. Much oil seen. SUNFLOWER
and PINK remaining vicinity until dusk. Remainder group in
company with convoy.
(B.7, 180305Z to C. in C. W.A.)

O.N.S. 20. Several sightings and attacks yesterday which
certainly harassed concentration. 26 survivors from U-Boat
destroyed by BYARD. Approach of B 7 group disrupted
concentration on starboard bow but H/F D/F activity increased
to Northward after firing star shell in error at (? corrupt)
mistaken for U-Boats. One S/M A/S contact detected ahead of
convoy, depth charged and lost under convoy. I doubt whether
U-Boats are in as firm contact as this time yesterday.
Weahter 3672 8063.

(E.G.4, 180830Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Following reported by BYARD after conversation with
prisoner from U- (?R) 1 (one)
(A) U-Boat German was 750 tons class (B) Radar not (fitted?).
(C) Acoustic torpedo not carried and probably only carried in
a few U-Boats as yet.
(D) U-Boat was at 70 feet which seems a popular depth.
(2) All above grade D.3.
(E.G.4, 181625Z to Admty.)

Incomplete D/F bearings at 1646Z indicate U-Boat possibly
in vicinity of convoy but signal was not of sighting type.
(D.D.I.C. 181815A to O.N.S. 20)

ATLANTIS,
EMPRESS OF
RUSSIA.

Following from Cullercoats.
Position of ATLANTIS and EMPRESS OF RUSSIA at
0550 G.M.T. 57.59 N. 06.32 E.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 180702A to Admty.)
Your 171652Z. Vessels have navigated along
Norwegian Coast and are now anchored in

Norwegian Waters North of Halso. Intentions to proceed at
early dawn with a view to reaching Gothenburg about noon
tomorrow.

For departure on return voyage you must expect delay of at
least 24 hours on original schedule suggested by German
Government.

(N.A. Stockholm, 182323 to Admty.)

U.T. 3.

Barry Roads portion arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Barry, 180910A to C. in C. W.A.)

Arrived/...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

U.T.3
(Contd.)

Arrived Swansea Section U.T.3.
(N.O.I.C. Swansea, 180946A)

PRAGUE,
AMSTERDAM.

Intend sailing transport PRAGUE escorted by
RIPLEY at 2330A/20th speed 16 knots to 35 buoy.
E.T.A. 0630A/21.
(2) Thence in company with AMSTERDAM to
Invergordon speed 17 knots, E.T.A. 1030A/21st.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 181100 and 181500A to A.C.O.S)

K.X.11.

(A) 0730A/20th October. (B) 1200Z/21 50 degs.
21' N. 006 degs. 21' W. 1200Z/22 49 degs. 28'
N. 009 degs. 48' W.
(C) S.O.A. 6½ knots. (D) E.T.A. Gibraltar 30th
Oct.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 181156A to Admty.)

K.X.11. Admiralty 131501. (1) BICESTER is to be sailed to
overtake convoy before reaching position S.F.
(C. in C. W.A. 181916A to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

D.S.46.

A.M.091552. (1) A/S escort to join at Oversay
R/V a.m. 27th as arranged by F.O.I.C. Greenock.
(a) VERSATILE S.O., VANESSA from Tobermory.
(b) SCIMITAR, SALADIN from Londonderry.
(C. in C. W.A. 181228A)

H.X.262.

Your 171109A. Intend sailing 2nd E.G. and
TRACKER at 1730 tomorrow from Lough Foyle to
comply.
(Cdre. D. W.A. 181244A to C. in C. W.A.)

F.D.15.

HAI LEE arrived Clyde.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 181358A to N.O.I.C. Faeroes)

O.G.95/
K.M.S.30.
BLAIRDEVON.
and
FORT

LIVINGSTONE
damaged.

Sailed HIGHLANDER, WALKER, ASPHODEL, PENNYWORT
for O.G.95/K.M.S.30.
ABELIA sailed early to R/V Loch Ewe Section.
CLOVER will sail to overtake on completion of
defects a.m.19th.
(Cdre. D. W.A. 181432A to C. in C. W.A.)
Following ships did not sail EMPIRE SOUTHEY, DOR-
NOCH.
(C. in C. W.A. 181526A to Escorts O.G.95/K.M.S.
30)

O.G.95/K.M.S.30. 38 ships. Names and destination.
(C. in C. W.A. 181731Z)
In collision. Make arrangements Londonderry? send tugs
to stand by.
(FORT LIVINGSTONE, 181920Z to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

2 ships /...

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Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

O.G.96/
K.M.S.30.
BLAIRDEVON
and FORT
LIVINGSTONE
damaged.
(Contd.)

2 ships damaged by collision in 055 degs. 39' 007 degs. 21'. SS. BLAIRDEVON in sinking condition steering 140 attempting to Beach. SS. FORT LIVINGSTONE damaged steering toward Moville. H.M.S. PENNYWORT standing by BLAIRDEVON.
(B.4, 182109A to Cdre. D. W.A.)

O.S. and
S.L.Convoys.
O.G.Convoy
abolished.

It is intended to run O.S. and S.L. convoys in conjunction with K.M.S. and M.K.S. convoys on a ten-day cycle, escort for Southern leg being provided by half groups. Para. 7 of A.M.131957 refers.

(2) There was not time to include ships for South of Gibraltar in K.M.S.30.

(3) C. in C. W.A. is requested to implement proposals in his 151146 except that half of Group 41 is to proceed with K.M.S.29 to Gibraltar in accordance with A.M. 121650.

(4) F.O.I.C.Gibraltar is requested to sail ships of 41st Group detailed in para. 3 above to arrive Freetown in time to return with S.L.140 on 12th November.

(5) F.O.C. West Africa is requested to sail (a) S.L.140 on November 12th escorted by ships of 41st Group detailed in para. 4 above. (b) 37th Group to Gibraltar to join command of C. in C. Med. (A.M.121650 para. (b) refers) at earliest (A.C.N.S. (U.T. 181448A to C. in C. W.A.)

In future O.S.-S.L. convoy will be run in conjunction with K.M.S.-M.K.S. convoy on an alternate 9 and 11 days cycle starting with K.M.S.31. O.G. convoy being abolished.

(2) (A) Escort between U.K. and Gibraltar will be provided in turn by 4 Groups based in U.K. (B) Escort between Gibraltar and Freetown will be provided in turn by 4 half groups based at Gibraltar.

(4) My 232318 August. Cancel para. 1, 2 and 3.

(C. in C. W.A. 182208A and 191811A)
Admiralty 181448 and my 182208. (1) Convoy will be escorted - A between U.K. and Gibraltar by groups 39, 40, B.1, B.4, B. between Gibraltar and Freetown by groups 28 and 41.
(Composition of above Groups)
(C. in C. W.A. 182211A)

D.F.
Convoys.

The terminal port in Scotland for Military Troopships sailing to Orkneys, Shetlands and Faeroes will be changed from Invergordon to Aberdeen in November, as follows:-

(A) To Faeroes (D.F.16) leaves Aberdeen 10th November and every 28 days thereafter.
(B) To Orkneys/Shetlands leaves Aberdeen 16th November and every 14 days thereafter.
(D.O.D.(H), 181515A and 191934A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

O.N.S.21 /...

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18.10.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. - Contd.

- O.N.S.21. Escorts GATINEAU (S.O), CHAMBLY, DRUMHELLER, SACKVILLE, ICARUS, KAMLOOPS, MORDEN. GATINEAU and ICARUS fitted H.F/D.F. (Cdre. D. W.A. 181516A to C. in C. W.A.)
- H.X.260. MONTGOMERY CITY and RUFUS C. DAWES are to be detached forthwith independently if their speeds permit. (C. in C. W.A. 181557A to B.E.C.)
- O.N.207. 21 ships. Names and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 181721A)
- C.E.215. C.E. Convoy return to Spithead and anchor acknowledge. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 181730A to EGLINTON) My 271140 Sept. and C. in C. Portsmouth 281146
Sept. C.E.215 postponed 24 hours due to weather. (C. in C. Nore, 182124A to Admty.)
- A.T.69. QUEEN ELIZABETH arrived Clyde. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 181954A)
- D.S.46. Convoy D.S.46 leaving Clyde p.m. 26th October, will comprise the following U.S. transports: NIGHTINGALE (Loaded), ANTHONY, CRISTOBAL and MCANDREW (Empty).
S.D.46. (2) C. in C. W.A. is requested to provide escort of 4 destroyers.
(4) All ships will return fully loaded as Convoy S.D.46. A.C.I.C. is requested to sail convoy to arrive Clyde on 4th November. (D.O.D.(H), 182015A to C. in C. W.A.)
- T.A.67 Sailed in accordance with my 171116.
(QUEEN MARY) (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 182348A to Admty.)

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18.10.1943.
Monday.War Diarv.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

T.F.61, Cinclant's 180220 Action pass to Admty. F.O.C.
T.G.21.11. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. for Info. This
constitutes T.F.61, Comcordiv 5, Cmdr. of Man in
EVARTS, Cortdiv 5, Comdesdiv 38 in HOBBY,
Desdiv 38 less WELLES, BAKER, BULMER, CHIWAWA,
Escorts U.G.S. 22 Hampton Roads to North Africa 25th. Return
Hampton Roads when directed by Commorseafron escorting G.U.S.21
Comservforlant direct CHIWAWA report to you at Hampton Roads.
I shall direct BAKER, BULMER join later. I shall also give
you special orders for these two TZ*will be on convoy.
(Commorseafron, 180730A to Radio Algiers (R) Commsf, Comnavnaw,
N.O.B.Oran, P.E.S.F., Cocomnaveu, Comdeslant, Comdesron, 31
SANTEE Com. 5 C.T.F. 29, Comcortdiv? 5, C.T.F. 28 Cominch)
* As received.

U.S.S. SANTEES 180256 Action Comairlant, Comdesron 31,
Comdeslant, Com. 10th Fleet, Comnaveu, Comdt.Fleet, Navdist,
C.T.F.61, Comnavnaw, Commorseafron (Begins) Task Group 21.11
remains effective, Captain Fick in SANTEE, MACLEISH, BAINBRIDGE,
SIMPSON support Task Force 61 escorting N.G.S.22 sailing Hampton
Roads Oct. 25th. Attention my 102109 July.
(Commorseafron, 180802A to (None given) Info. F.O.I.C.
Gib. Admty., C. in C. Med.)

T.G.27.3. Task Group 27.3 sailed my 151935 amend.
(1) Speed 19.3. (2) E.T.A. Boca De Navios
1100Z/25.
(3) For 6th position read N instead of H.
(C.M.S.F.F. 180920A)

T.G.21.14. Arrived.
(C.M.S.F.F. 181305A)

IRIS Your 161531. Yes. On completion of duty given
in A.M.142008 IRIS is to return to U.K. in
convoy.
(D.O.D.(F), 181308A to F.O. Gib. (R) N.O.I.C.
Horta.)

PASTEUR. Arrived Casablanca 17 Oct. sailed 181736A speed
route etc.
(C.M.S.F. 181410A, 181736A, M.W.T.R. Casablanca
181942A)

German 45 Germans reported crew of German S/M secretly
U/B at (?arrived) Ferrol by motor car from Vigo and
Vigo. taken to S/M base.
(Coruna, 181425 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Gib.
B.N.A. Madrid.)

LE FANTASQUE, LE FANTASQUE (S.O), LE TERRIBLE and ACTIVE will
LE TERRIBLE, R/V in position (F) at 1400A/20th.
ACTIVE. (2) Onward route from (F) (G) 035 degs. 47' N.
006 degs. 25' W. Q.B.A.87.
(H) 036 degs. 01' 005 degs. 21'. (J) 035 degs.

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18.10.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

LE FANTASQUE, 40° 00' 35" 45' (K) 035° 38' 00' 2° 14' (L) 035° 53' N., (7000°) 38' W. and Q.B.B. 41 to Oran.
LE TERRIBLE, (3) Assume codeword "Savage" forthwith. Codeword
ACTIVE. for destroyers until joining "Vermouth".
(contd). (F.O.I.C. Gib., 181545A to RICHELIEU).

0.23 M.J.A.O. 24 (A) total. Required 50 miles ahead and astern of estimated position.
(B) NS.0.23 (C) passage (D) 1615/20 35° 49' 06" 06.5' 1655/20 35° 53' 06" 15' 2250/20 36° 37' 07" 24'.
0630/21 36° 52' 09" 14'. (E) 12 knots.
(2) M.J.A.O. 24 (A) submerged (B) 0.23 (C) Passage.
(D) 0630/21 36° 52' 09" 14' 2350/23 42° 00' 13" 10' 0540/24 43° 00' 13" 22' (E) 11 knots.
(3) All times zone minus one. Positions north and west.
(F.O.I.C. Gib., 181711A to R.A.F. Gib. H.Q.C.C. (R) Admty. F.O.S. C.M.S.F., C.O. Fairwing, 16).
Intend sailing 0.23 at 1300/20th for U.K. by route -
(P) 35° 49' 06" 06.5 at 1615/20.
(Q) 35° 53' 06" 15' at 1655/20.
(R) 36° 37' 07" 24' at 2250/20.
(S) 36° 51' 09" 13' at 0615/21.
(T) 42° 00' 13" 10' at 2350/23.
(K) 43° 00' 13" 22' at 0540/24.
3. F.O.S's 114918/1/42 (A) 2 mark 4 and 8 mark 7 A.D., German (B) 12 knots until 0630/21 thereafter 11 knots (142 miles per day). (C) ready for patrol, 100 per cent fuel (D) (1) nil (2) nil.
4. All times zone minus one. Q23 is painted black.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 181717A to Admty. F.O.S. (R) S.8., S.3., S.5., C.M.S.F., Cominch, C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med).

BRITISH My 151818. Repairs to BRITISH COURAGE expected
COURAGE. to be completed in 5 days when she will be sailed to U.K. at earliest opportunity.
(F.O.I.C. Gib., 181821A to Admty).

Anti U/B Co-ordination of anti S/M operations in Gib.
operations. Area. Following is paraphrased version of dispatch from C. in C. Allied Forces to Washington in reply to request for his recommendations (begins:-) Recent Allied occupation of Azores has changed an already complicated situation. Am not in position to make recommendations until Admty. and Cominch have redistributed areas of responsibility to take advantage of improved position. (Ends).
(C. in C. Med., 181827A to Admty. (R) B.A.D., Washington).

/Italian...

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18.10.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

Italian
destroyer
at Port
Mahon.

Admiralty please pass to Algiers.
(Begins) Addressed C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.,
F.O.I.C. Gib. Capt. Marini, S.N.O. Italian
Ship Port Mahon arrived Madrid. He reported
Spanish Authorities have already removed torpedo
breach blocks and machine guns and are making
preparation for removal of ammunition and the
placing of booms round the ship. U.S.N.A. and I are pointing
out to M. of M. that these precautions are unnecessary and that
they will lead to further complications should the release of
ships be agreed upon. Marini is seeing M. of M. Wed. after
which I will propose to H.M. Ambassador that action should be
taken and impress on M.F.A. this aspect of the case.
My 171310*refers.
(N.A. Madrid, 181946A to Admty).
*Re Italian destroyer believed trying to sail.

U.S.
Movements.

PHOENIX, WALKER, STEMBEL departed.
CARD, BORIE, BARRY, GOFF arrived.
(C.M.S.F.F., 182101A).

Repatriation
of Spanish
fishermen.

A.M. 302103 July (not to all addressees).
39 Spanish tunny fishermen whose vessels were
sunk in Bay of Biscay, have been in this country
since the beginning of Aug. owing to difficulty
in finding passages in a merchant ship. Their
presence here causing considerable inconvenience
and expense.
2. Unless you see any objection, propose to send them in one
of H.M. Ships to Gib. from which point they should proceed to
Spain.
{Hd. of M.I., 182306A to N.A. Madrid, (R) F.O.I.C. Gib.
(for Governor), C. in C. Plymouth).

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18.10.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Convoy
D.K.A.4.

Sailing telegram. 2. 0900Z/18th. 4. 7 knots to position P. thence 8 knots. 5. As for D.K.A.3 lettered L. to W. 6. ARCTIC EXPLORER, LADY ELSA, NORTHERN ISLES, CAPE WARWICK.
(Lourenco Marques 180901Z to Admty.)

Routeing.

My 021014Z*. Bring "Fish" - "Fly" routes into force for any shipping sailed after 0001Z/25th. All other standard routes between Lagos and Freetown are to be cancelled. Allocation of routes for G.P. Merchant Shipping as in my 141853Z+ Sept.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 181139Z to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, N.O.I.C. Lagos, (R) Admty. C. in C.S.A.) * re revised standard Coastal Routes. Z re allocation of "Fish" routes.

CILICIA,
CORFU.

Sailed CILICIA for St. Helena (route), S.O.A. 14 knots, E.T.A. St. Helena 1100Z/23rd.
2. From St. Helena CILICIA proceed through E. 011° 00' S. 012° 30' W. to R/V with CORFU in 005° S. 020° W. at noon G.M.T. 28th.
3. Time of sailing from St. Helena S. of A. and time of shifting to broadcast P. will be signalled by Governor of St. Helena before CILICIA leaves St. Helena from latest Q. message Q.L.A.207. (C. in C.S.A. 181340C to Admty. F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Governor of St. Helena, CILICIA.)

CARNARVON
CASTLE,
E.G.37.

My 181137 (N.T. in W.R.) Not to all addressees. When HABANA interception is completed:-
A. CARNARVON CASTLE proceed independently through 005° N. 024° W. to patrol in area between position Equator 020° W. (?Equator) 015° W. 005° S. 015° W. 005° S. 020° W. Leave patrol p.m. 23rd to return to Freetown.
B. Escort Group 37 carry out A/S sweep in present area to limit of prudent endurance and then return to Freetown. Air patrol as in my 121623 will be continued.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 181315Z to CARNARVON CASTLE, S.O.Escort Group 37, (R) Escort Group 37, Admty. Cdr. 4th U.S.Fleet, N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Gambia, Comar Dakar.)

O.S/S.L.
K.M.S/M.K.S.
convoy
sailings.

Commencing with K.M.S.31/O.S.57, O.S/S.L.convoys will sail with every K.M.S/M.K.S. instead of alternate convoys as at present. S.L.140 will sail on Nov. 12th.
2. Minimum declared speed for odd numbered K.M.S. convoys will be 8 knots, and for even numbered 7½ knots. O.G.will no longer be used in title.
3. Com., 10th Fleet C. & R. has been informed separately.
(D.T.D. 181814A to C. in C.S.A. C. in C.W.A. C. in C.Nore, C. in C.Rosyth, C. in C.Med. F.O.C.W.Af. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro.)

War Diary.18.10.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

SHEFFIELD. Arrived 17th.
(N.O.I.C. Bizerta 180005A.)

HURSLEY,
MIAOULES. Nothing seen north and east side Kappari Island
but HURSLEY and MIAOULES bombarded Kos inner
harbour for 10 minutes.
My P.C. and S. at 0601 035° 04' N. 028° 48' E.
170° 24 knots. E.T.A. Alexandria 1602.
(HURSLEY 180552 to C. in C. Levant, (R) F.O.12th
Cr. Sqdn. Cdre. D. Capt. D. 14th D.F. ECLIPSE,
S.N.B.O. Aegean.)

Alexandria
Movements. Alexandria Oct. 17th departures SIRIUS, BELVOIR,
PATHFINDER, ECLIPSE, APHIS, FAREHAM, M.T.B. 263.
(R.A. Alexandria 180629C, 190852.)

L.S.Ts.
for Naples. My 171708. Sailed 180640.
(Com. N.O.B. Palermo 180651A.)

TYRIAN,
TUMULT. Intend to patrol night 18th/19th TYRIAN and
TUMULT Cazza Island to Blitvenica returning to
Bari. Request air cover 0530A to 0730A/19th
codeword "Halley" 386 priority high. P.C. and S.
at S. of A. 30A 041° 56' N. 016° 37' E. 140° 23
knots. My 170921 nothing seen. F.O.T.A. pass to
286 Wing.
(Capt. D.24, 180812A to F.O.T.A. (R) C. in C. Med.
No. 1 Moru, 286 Wing, N.O.I.C. Bari, TYRIAN, TUMULT)

S/M Move-
ments. 18th arrivals SERAPH, SHAKESPEARE, UNRIVALLED,
RORQUAL. Departures SEVERN.
(S.O.I. Beirut 180915C.)

Enemy ship
off Corsica. 1 medium sized M/V in 43.57 N. 08.08 E. course
320° stationary.
(A/C BWS/R 180925A.)

Enemy ships
Dodecanese. Position of 5 enemy F-Boats 36.52 N. 27.11 E.
land nil.
(A/C BWP/C 180945Z.)
Position of 1 enemy F-Boat and one M/V 36.38 N.
27.04 E. land nil.
(A/C BWP/C 180950.)

P.C. and S. of 5 enemy F-Boats 36.53 N. 27.11 E. land nil.
(A/C BWP/C 181040Z.)
P.C. and S. of 1 enemy F-Boat, 1 enemy M/V 36.30 N. 27.04 E.
land nil.
(A/C BWP/C 181040Z.)
P.C. and S. of 1 merchant vessel 500 tons are 36.58 N. 27.05
E. nil.
(A/C ASU/W 181203Z.)
P.C. and S. of 2 F-Boats are 36.56 N. 27.03 E. 130, 5.
(A/C ASU/W 181205Z.)

/P.C. and S...

War Diary.18.10.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Enemy ships
Dodecanese.
(Contd.)P.C. and S. of one F-Boat 36.57 N. 27.02 E. 310°
6 knots.
(A/C ASU/W 181206Z.)
Message received incomplete from BWP/C. F. and
E-Boats Kos.
(Alexandria W/T 181245.)P. and C. of 2 F-Boats 36.52 N. 27.05 E. 130 have attacked enemy
with one torpedo
(GQL/F Nr. 1 181540B to ZWM/F.)SIRIUS
bombed.SIRIUS hit aft by bomb at 1830/17th while
entering Aegean has now returned Alexandria. 14
killed, thirty wounded. Y turret out of action.
(C. in C. Levant 180945C. to Adnty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

R.A.F. Reports. Daily Opsum 173. 18 Oct.

16/17th. 3 Liberators B.24, 8 Halifaxes Maritza
aerodrome. 2 Halifaxes returned early remainder
bombed. Many burst on western dispersal area
other bombs near runway on hangars and in east dispersals. 96 x
500?lb. During night enemy aircraft dropped flares on Leros
Island. No bombing reported 17th. Anti-shipping R/C. Calinos
area each by 5 U.S. Mitchells B.25 armed with 75 m.m. guns
escorted by 3 Beaufighters. First sortie found 2 L/C beached
in north coast Kos. All aircraft attacked scoring 2 hits with 75
m.m. shells many (RS? YGNE?) gun strikes on 1 craft. Second
sortie found no suitable targets. 3 Baltimores (A.30) attacked
a barge at breakwater in Syros harbour. 2 enemy aircraft bombed
Portolago Bay, Leros during afternoon no further details.
Following delayed details. 16th. A Bisley operating from
Sharjah attacked submarine with 4 depth charges 35 miles east
of Dibba in Gulf of Oman. 3 depth charges exploded astern as
submarine crash dived causing bubble and oil patch 400 feet width.
Some of S/M crew also seen in water.My opsum 172. Following are full details anti-shipping R/C
Calinos area. 16 Oct. 2 sorties each by 4 U.S. Mitchells (B.25)
escorted by 3 and 2 Beaufighters respectively. First sortie
attacked an M.T.B. in Calinos channel scoring hits with 75 m.m.
shells and machine gun fire. Vessel left smoking. A 50 ton
caique which opened A/A fire on Kos channel was silenced by 1
U.S. Mitchell (B.25) with 75 m.m. fire. 2nd sortie attacked an
E-Boat off Calinos Island scoring hits with 75 m.m. shells and
machine gun fire. 3 Ju.88s attacked 1 Beaufighter same area.
All Ju.88s hit by return fire from all U.S. Mitchells (B.25)
and the other Beaufighters.
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 180957Z.)18th Oct. N.W.A.A.F. Opsum 239. N.W.A.T.A.F. 16th Add.
69 Spitfires carried out offensive sweeps and escorted shipping
off Albanian coast. 1 Ju. 88 destroyed Puscaka area. While
escorting shipping sighted enemy merchant vessels and directed
Naval units to target. One M/V sunk by naval action and one
captured.*

(H.Q.N.A.A.F. 181346A.) *W.D. Note cf. C. in C. Med. 182121A.

War Diary.

18.10.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

GLENGYLE. Following is repr. of my 151712 (N.T. in W.D.) (your 170938 (N.T. in W.D.) refers) (begins):
Address C. in C.Levant, (R) Admty. From C. in C.Med.
If you foresee no employment for GLENGYLE request you will sail her to India to comply with A.M. 041919 September 151712. Ends.
(C. in C.Med. 181018A to Admty.)

Convoy for 4 French merchant ships and 3 French escorts
Algiers. sailing Algiers 0600/19th direct to Ajaccio E.T.A. 0200/21st.
2. Same convoy returns by reverse route (?and) sails Ajaccio 2000/23rd. S.O.A. 9 knots.
(Capt. S.8 181030A, 181735 to 8th S.F. (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers.)

M.K.F.25, Sailed 18th, details of ships and military personnel
X.I.F.2A. (S.S.T.O. Alexandria 181035C.)
X.I.F.2A/M.K.F.25. M.S.C.I. 22. Request you will sail convoys at 1800/22nd to Algiers and Oran.
5. 2.U. 6. "Tasty" 582. 7. A. 8. COLOMBO, (S.O.) LAMERTON, S.O. (screen) WILTON, TETCOTT, CROOME, THEMISTOCLES, KANARIS.

- 9A. Endeavour to arrive Algiers as early as possible.
- B. M.K.F.25 enter Algiers sailing again p.m. 26th.
- C. F.O.T.A. P/T COLOMBO and LAMERTON on arrival.
(C. in C.Med. 181241A, 221757.)
 - 1. M.K.F.25, 10 ships, sailing telegram, part 2.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 181719C.)

Repatriation Repatriation ships TAIREA, CRIES, (?CUBA) leaving
Ships, safe Port Said a.m. 19th routed direct 034° 13' N. 020°
conduct. 00' E. and thence Barcelona. S.O.A. 11 knots.
Ship will later return Alexandria further signal will be made.
2. Description of ships as in my 291325* Sept.
3. Ships not to be molested while following above route.
(C. in C.Levant 181045C to H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. Capt. S.S.F.1, 201 N.Co-op.G. S.N.O.Cyrenaica, M.I.D. 240 Wing, (R) Min. State Cairo for Merra, S.O.I. Istanbul, B.N.A.Ankara, R.A.Alexandria, N.O.I.C. Port Said, C. in C.Med. V.A.Malta, Admty.)
* Repatriation ships leaving Port Said with German sick and wounded.

SIMBRA, Following from C. in C.E.F. (begins)
SIGFRA, "A/S whalers SIMBRA and SIGFRA at present loaned
GAWLER, to Aden are urgently required on Hormuz patrol.
MARYBOROUGH. 2. Request you will consider their early relief as I have no other A/S vessels" (Ends.)
2. These ships are fully employed as escorts of military convoys.
3. Can relief for GAWLER and MARYBOROUGH be expected in immediate future. If so intend sending GAWLER and MARYBOROUGH to Aden immediately as relief for SIMBRA and SIGFRA.
(C. in C.Levant 181058C to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med. C. in C.E.F. F.O.Red Sea & Canal Area, Com. Aden.)

/Supplies...

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18.10.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Supplies for Patriots. Your 161712 (N.T. in W.D.) Over 300 tons of supplies have already been shipped in 2 vessels by 15th, 400 tons equipment being loaded. 15 Yugo-Slav vessels have been taken over for maintenance of Partisan parties. (F.O.T.A. 181109A to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant.)

A.B.17/
A.P.49. Sailing telegram, 27 ships, route and destinations. 2. 1100Z/18th. 6. A.B.17, TAY, DERG, THYME, A.P.49 TOOWOomba, KUMAON. 8. Master SIRSA (B) Master BENLEDI A.P.49 (A) Master ALCOA PIONEER, (B) Master ALCOA PURITAN. 15. A.B. 17, F.X.D.3, "Peewit", G.Q.T. A.P.49 H.V.D.3 "Ribald" B.N.(?J). (N.C.S.O. Aden 181119Z to Admty. C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.) C. in C.Levant, F.O.C.R.S. F.O.C.R.I.N. (R) N.O.I.C. East Coast of Africa, Cmdr. R.I.N. S.N.O.Persian Gulf, N.O.I.C. Hormuz, BATTLER.)

VITTORIO VENETO, ITALIA. Italian battleships VITTORIO VENETO and ITALIA anchored off Fanara in Great Bitter Lake. (F.O.R.S.C.A. 181125C to Admty. (R) C. in C.Levant, R.A.Alexandria, N.O.I.C. Port Said, N.O.I.C. Ismailia, SAUNDERS.)

G.U.3.18. My 151546A sailed less TEUCER plus 10 THOMAS PINCKNEY. T.B.Y.9 MOOSE PEAK (tug) towing U.S.S. STAFF. All for Hampton Roads. 3. E.T.A. Gibraltar R/V (?1530 or 1630)A/19th Casablanca R/V 1330A/20th. (Com. N.O.B.Oran 181137A.)

M.T.B. 636 casualties. Report following casualties in M.T.B. 636 in action between Coastal Forces and enemy flak ships in vicinity of Elba at 0200 on 15th during which M.T.B. 636 was sunk. A. Killed, 3 officers (names). B. Missing presumed killed ?1. C. Died of wounds 1. D. Seriously wounded 2. E. Slightly wounded 8. (C.C.F. Med. 181147 to Admty.)

DOLFIJN, UNSEEN, ULTOR. DOLFIJN leaves patrol proceeding as indicated on A.F.O. and (?leaves) thereafter on surface at discretion through 043° 12' 007° 27' at 1900/20th, 042° 01' 006° 47' at 0500/21st, 040° 02' 005° 49' at 0830/22nd, 037° 59' 003° 50' at 0500/23rd to R/V with escort for Algiers in 037° 06' 003° 16' at 1330/23rd.

2. P.51 (UNSEEN) to operate in zone 33. after 2200/20th.
3. P.53 (ULTOR) to operate in zones 50. and 5N. after 0001/21st. (Capt. S.8 181214A to 8th S/M F. (R) C. in C.Med. N.O.I.C. Algiers)

/Ships...

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18.10.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Ships for
Palermo &
Naples.

Intend sailing UNA, JENNINGS, EMPIRE HARBOROUGH,
J.BRECINRIDGE, RHEA at 1000/19 to Palermo. E.T.A.
1600/20th. 3. Route M. to T.M. thence B.X.
6. "Height" low. 7. A. 8. U.S. destroyer
GLEAVES, MUTINE. 9. JENNINGS and EMPIRE HARBOROUGH
for onward routeing to Naples on completion of
loading MUTINE for onward routeing to Naples
escorting as necessary.
(N.O.I.C. Bizerta 181214A.)

Enemy ship
off Termoli.

1 enemy 2,500 ton M/V in 42.38 N. 17.38 E. "fixed"
within half an hour of 1200 hours, course 120°,
speed 7 knots.
(A/C BWS/S 181245A.)

Convoy
"Nipper"
shadowed
by A/C.

1 A/C shadowing convoy "Nipper" in 37.10 N. 27.29 E
(ECLIPSE 181314C to Alexandria W/T.)

H/S Move-
ments.

SOMERSETSHIRE arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville 181320A.)
Arrived 17th ST. JULIEN, 18th VITA and PRINCIPESSA
GIOVANNA.
(N.O.I.C. Taranto 181440A.)

Sailing AMARAPOORA to Alexandria at 1600B/18th at 10 knots standard
route, E.T.A. 0801B/22nd.

(S.N.O. Tripolitania 181543B.)

U.S. ACADIA arrived.

(Comnob Oran 181627A.)

Intend sailing H.S. LEINSTER 1200/19 to Naples, E.T.A.
1500/20.

(N.O.I.C. Malta 181825A.)

Intend to sail U.S. H.S. ACADIA at 0100A/19 October for
Bizerta routed through 109, 20, 40, 79, Q.B.Bs. 149 and 215.
S.O.A. 17 knots. E.T.A. Bizerta 1650A/20.

(Com. N.O.B. Oran 182022A.)

T.X.5.

My 151256 sailed, amendments.
(S.N.O. Tripolitania 181520B to N.O.I.C.
Alexandria, (R) C. in C. Levant, etc.)

M.E. Reports.

Joint Army R.A.F. Intelligence appreciation 24
hours to 0900Z/18th.

1. Leros reported no surface attack developed
up to 0900Z/18th.

2. Ph. R/C Kos - Calino area a.m. 17th showed 1 merchant vessel
300/350 feet in Calino Harbour with 3 F-Boats alongside but no
sign of second merchant vessel which therefore believed sunk.
1 F-Boat in bay to east of Port Calino. 2 other F-Boats at Kos.
In Atti Bay, (S.E. Coast Calino Island) 1 vessel 250 feet
(possibly Naval auxiliary) beached listing to starboard possibly
on fire and 1 F-Boat beached, possibly also on fire. In Port
Vathi 1 merchant vessel 190 feet previously sighted at Kos.

/Comment...

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Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

M.E. Reports.
(Contd.)

Comment. British Naval units made intrusions into Atti Bay and Port Vathi night 16/17th.
3. Consider that while danger of surface attack on Leros not yet removed, continued presence our naval units and their successful interference

with enemy's shipping continues to have deterrent effect on his plans.

4. In meantime scale of enemy's air attack on Leros being maintained at average 50 Ju.87 and Ju.88 sorties per diem and since night 14/15th night bombing raids also reported. On 17th for 1st time Kastelrosso harbour dive bombed by 6 Ju.87 and machine gunned by 2 Me.109 probably directed against our small naval units.

5. Ph. R/C 17th G.A.F. airfields in Greece, Crete and Rhodes showed no important change dispositions. Great activity seen on Antimachia landing ground (Kos) but no operational aircraft present. Suspect this landing ground may now be in use by transport aircraft at night.

(C. in C.M.E. No T.O.O./18.)

Flag N.C.
F.A.Struck.

The Flag of N.C.F.A. will be struck at sunset today in GLENGYLE and the title will (lapse?).
Cancel my 061316.

(C. in C.Levant 181612C, 182013.)

VELOX,
VENOMOUS.

In view of A.L.D. 017390/43 of 22 July, 43, it appears that VELOX should be sent to U.K. for re-boiling. As VENOMOUS has returned to U.K. without relief VELOX cannot be sent home without a destroyer taking her place at Gib. Can such a relief be sent?

(C. in C.Med. 181619A to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C.Gib. Capt. D.Gib.)

Med. Air
Report.

18th Air. Cositintrep No. 100 17th, signed Eisenhower.

2. Night of 16/17th one Ju.88 machine gunned Termoli Harbour and 6 E/A bombed Foggia. Five raids on Leros 16th by total of 15 Ju.88s and 31 Ju.87s.

(Air C. in C.Med. No T.O.O./18.)

A/S operations in
Gib. area.

C. in C.Med. 181827A to Admty.
See North Atlantic.

SHAMROCK.

Gulf of Naples Oct. 18th arrival U.S.S. SHAMROCK.
(N.O.I.C. Naples 181941A.)

Aegean
situation.

Have been putting destroyers into bay and harbour of Kalimmo and Kos the last few nights with good results which together with sinking of small transports by sub. and damage to 2 or 3 F-Boats by Mitchells has improved situation considerably.

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18.10.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Aegean situation. (Contd.)
2. Consider enemy will now have to revise his invasion plan for Leros and that we may expect a lull. After another night of activity by cruisers and destroyers to exploit the situation intend to withdraw surface forces for day or two for rest and maintenance which they must have and then to concentrate mainly on getting in supplies until there are further indications of enemy intentions.
3. But Oh! for some Marauders.
(C. in C. Levant 181946C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

Enemy ship off Gavdos. Position of 1 merchant vessel and 2 E/Vs 35.54 N. 23.56 E. course 320° speed 8 knots.
(A/C Call sign BWZ/A via Alexandria 182040Z.)
Position of 1 merchant vessel and 2 E/Vs is 35.54 N. 23.56 E. course 310° speed 7 knots.
(A/C BWZ/X 182015Z, 182045 to 201 Group H.Q.)

Malta Movements. Departed U.S. Sub. Chaser 770, arrived Italian ships QUARNEROLN (?QUARNARO), APE.
(V.A. Malta 182044A.)

Enemy ships off Patras. P.C. and S. of 1 enemy merchant vessel of 2000 tons are 38.19 N. 22.07 E. 270° 8 knots.
(A/C BWZ/R 182050.)
P.C. and S. of 1 merchant vessel of 1000 tons is 38.17 N. 22.26 E. 180° and 7 knots.
(A/C BWZ/R 182132Z to 201 Group H.Q.M.E. Command.)

Repair Facilities Taranto. 1. Taranto situation. Further to my 162114.
2. Yard has never undertaken major damage repairs of two large It. Warships concurrently. Therefore considered preferable in present abnormal circumstances to work up the yard to our methods with a regular supply of smaller jobs, and restrict large permanent repair jobs, to ABERCROMBIE and ARROW in the first instance. My 151759* to F.O.C. Gib. (R) ARROW.
3. Possibility of building new stern for ALARM in Franco Tosi Shipyard will be investigated.
4, 5, 6. Factors which will adversely influence production, (details).
(C. in C. Med. 182117A.) *N.T. in W.D.

Med. Situation Report 208. 1. May 162320 para. 1. M.T.B. reports details as follows. A confused night action in which shore batteries and searchlights joined. 2 heavily armed flak ships were silenced and left burnt to the waterline. An armed trawler escaped. (?Group omitted) of M.T.B. 636 states merchant ships also present were unsuccessfully attacked with torpedoes. Casualties 8 killed, 10 wounded.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- Med. Situation 2. During night 15th/16th 1 M.T.B. Division report 208. operated in Tiber area and reports sinking of 300 tons schooner which disintegrated with large explosion.
(Contd.)
3. At 1730/16th TYRIAN and TUMULT intercepted Italian SS. ARGENTINA and OLYMPIA south west of Mljet Island. The former with German armed guard and loaded with hay has been taken into Bari. The latter was sabotaged caught fire and had to be sunk.
4. M.T.Bs. proceed p.m. 16th to carry out R/C of Vis Island.
5. H.Q. of F.O.W.It. are now established ashore at Naples. Discharge from the port is averaging 5000 tons per day.
6. TROUBRIDGE and ILEX patrolled to Vis Island during the night 17th/18th but saw nothing.
(C. in C.Med. 182121A.)

SOKOL defect. Your 161238C. Will be 20 hours late starboard diesel defective. My position 034° 00' 028° 55' S.O.A. 6 knots.
(SOKOL 182201Z to Capt. S.1, (R) C. in C.Levant, Capt. S.10.)

Bari Move- Arrivals TROUBRIDGE, ILEX, departures TUMULT, ments. TYRIAN.
(N.O.I.C. Bari 182242A.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

NIZAM "S"
Report.

SSSS Position 08.55 N. 74.48 E. 2 torpedoes fired and missed.
(NIZAM 180041 via Bombay Radio.)
At 0015 G.M.T. 18th Oct. two loud explosions close by ship. Nothing in sight. No further attack. Weather conditions overcast with main squalls. Course 134°, speed 10 knots.
(NIZAM 180220Z to Admty.)

TACTICIAN.

Position at 1330Z/18th of S/M on passage and movements for following 24 hours.
1. TACTICIAN leaving Colombo at 1430Z routed 35 miles off coast of Ceylon to position 005° 17' 081° 45'.
(Capt. S.4 180102Z to Admty. C. in C.E.F. C. in C.E.F.(S.E.A.C.) A.O.C.Ceylon, F.O.Ceylon.) as amended 180617Z.

M.A.14.

Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Chittagong 180305Z.)

X.C.8.

Convoy X.C.8 escorted by SCOUT arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo 180545Z to Admty.)

M.A.15.

Vizagapatam portion of M.A.15 IKAUNA with M/T sailed 0628Z/18th to R/V 160625 from N.C.S.O. Madras refers.
4. 10 knots. 5. Coastal. 6. NARBADMAY, ROHILKHAND, PANSY latter detaching at Sandheads.
(N.C.S.O. Vizagapatam 180642Z to Admty.)

X.C.8.

Convoy X.C.8 escorted by SCOUT arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo 180645 to Admty.)

D.K.A. and
A.K.D.
Convoys.

In view of the unacceptable delay to all other shipping in convoy which paras. 1 to 5 of your 171110 (171111 intended) indicates, concur that D.K.A. and A.K.D. convoys should remain as at present.
2. Concur with proposal in paras. 6 and 7 of your 171110 (171111 intended).

3. F.O.E.A. N.O.I.C. Durban and N.O.I.C. Aden are requested to implement arrangement quoted in para. 10 of my 141428 and para. 6 and 7 of C. in C.S.A. 171110 (171111 intended) accordingly.
(C. in C.E.F. 180831 to C. in C.S.A. (R) Admty. C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) F.O.E.A. N.O.I.C. Durban, N.O.I.C. Aden.)

Indian Ocean
bases.
defence.

All demands for boom depot machinery at Diego Suarez referred to in your 231205 Sept. should be cancelled except for one Diesel capstan and one 6 ton mobile crane which are urgently required now. 8 ton railway crane shipped in TROUBADOUR is being

/diverted...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

- Indian Ocean bases, defence. (Contd.) diverted to Mauritius as local cranes proved unsuitable in use. Suitable rail track available Mauritius and not at Diego Suarez. (F.O.E.A. 180805Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F.)
- U/B. Fishermen report sighting S/M in position 014° 34' N. 049° 18' E. at 0700Z/17th. Grade C.3. (Capt. 11th D.F. 180822Z to N.O.I.C. Aden, (R) C. in C.E.F.)
- Convoy P.B.60. Sailing telegram (7 ships). 2. 0800Z/18th. 3. 62° E. 1200Z/20th Karachi 2359Z/21st Bombay 2359Z/23rd. 4. 8 24 knots. 9 24 from QQ. 5. Route 3. 6. CAIRNS, TAMWORTH, ORISSA. (N.C.S.O. Hormuz 180840Z.)
- India Air Report. A.319 18th. 18th October Daily Opsum No. 582. 16th. Outstanding reports. 10th U.S.A.A.F. 16th 8 U.S. Mitchells (B.25s) bombed shipping at Kathai. 3 boats 200 ft. and 6/8 small boats damaged. 14th U.S.A.A.F. 16 Oct. 10 U.S. Liberators (B.24) Haiphong. Mines dropped in shipping channel (Cat. BAI) A/F bombed with hits on runway. (A.H.Q. India 180915Z.)
- Convoy B.M.71. Sailing telegram. 2. 0900Z/18th. 3. E.T.A. position J. Cochin R/V 0700Z/21st, A. E.T.A. position K. detach DALGOMA, 0200Z/22nd Oct. B. E.T.A. Colombo 0130Z/23rd Oct. 4. 8 1/4 knots. 5. Coastal lane to Colombo. 6. SHOREHAM, CARNATIC, BARODA. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 180918Z, 180920Z to Admty.)
- MARIPOSA. U.S. Transport MARIPOSA sailed 17 Oct. for U.S.A. via Fremantle with following (details). ?E.T.A. Fremantle 0100/27 Oct. (D.S.T.O. Bombay 181018Z to A.C.N.B.)
- Convoy MB.51A. Sailing telegram (5 ships. 2. 1145Z/18th. 3. Passes Cochin 1830Z/19th E.T.A. Bombay 0930Z/22nd. 4. 10 1/4 knots. 6. WILLEM VAN DER Zaan D.S. Constant 500. LAUNCESTON Port Wave. Both ships keeping constant group V. (N.C.S.O. Colombo 181204, 181216Z to Admty.)
- U/B attacked Gulf of Oman. 16th Oct. Following extract from HIRAVATI 181430. (begins) Recovered one German survivor from U/B (German) at Khor Pakkhan 025° 21' N. 056° 22' E. exhausted with exposure needs immediate medical attention, states U/B (German) was sunk. (Ends.) This impression may be caused by U/B (German) crash diving in view of D/F your 1703 (N.T. in W.D.) ?HIRAVATI now searching oil patch reported in my 171501. Further signal will be made. (S.N.O.P.G. 182015Z to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) (R) N.O.I.C. Hormuz, 215 Grp. Admty.) W.R. Note: see C. in C.E.F. 170321Z.

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Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.ROYAL
SOVEREIGN.

Alter course forthwith for new position:-
 J 49.25 North 42.33 West new position
 K 51.45 North 38.57 West new position
 L 55.25 North 21.02 West thence to position H.
 (D.O.D.(H) 181202A to ROYAL SOVEREIGN).

O.N.205,
collision
M/V and
corvette.

ON.205 P.C.&S. at 1100Z 06 degs. 45' 057 degs. 53' 224
 degs.10. JAMES B. WEAVER not detached. Pendant
 33 reports collision with unidentified corvette
 at 0545 in thick fog no answer to R/T or V/S.
 Impossible to assess damage all ships W.4.
 accounted for undamaged. Ice and weather 0924
 1811.
 (COLUMBIA 181226Z to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C.C.N.A.
 (D) Halifax, D Newfoundland).

SIMOUN,
ANNAMITE,
U.G.S.21.

This is N.O.B. Bermuda's 181237.
 C.T.G. 21.16. Change time of R/V to 2100Z/18th.
 My 172100.
 (U.S. Navcom Washington 181347 to Admty. C.T.F.66).
 Bermuda departure French ship SIMOUN and
 ANNAMITE to join U.G.S.21.
 (S.B.N.O.W.At. 181526Z to Admty. etc.).

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

(N.S.H.Q. 181351Z).

AYLMER,
GOODALL.

Modify my 111622 and 151606.
 Sail AYLMER and GOODALL to Casco Bay for
 shakedown period. Onward routeing orders will be
 issued later.
 (Cominch 181452 to C.E.S.F.).

LADY
NELSON.

Intend sailing Hospital ship LADY NELSON at
 1300Z/20th to Gibraltar for Philippeville knots
 13, route. "Chop" 22nd 2200Z. E.T.A. 29th.
 (N.C.S.O. Halifax 181501Z to Admty. C. in C.
 U.S. Atlantic Fleet, N.S.H.Q. F.O.i/c Gib. (R)
 F.O.C.W.A.F. Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet C and R. Com.
 N.O.B. Bermuda, C.E.S.F. Com. Moroccan S.F.,
 C. in C. Med.).

B.Y.M.S.

When ready about 0600Q/20 Sept. (Oct.) depart
 Throggs Neck. Proceed Boston via Long Island Sound
 and Cape Cod Canal. Report to C.T.G. 02.1 for
 onward routeing for Halifax. Arrival Halifax
 report C. in C. C.N.A. for orders. Speed 10 knots.
 (Comeastseafon 181503 to B.Y.M.S.79 (S.O.) B.Y.M.S.80 Info.
 N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F. Admty. etc.).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

U.S.A.T. Arrival VIEUX FORT 17th U.S.A.T. HUGH J GALLAGHER.
(B.R.O. Castries via N.Y., 181604).

LOSSIE, At 181600Z sailed LOSSIE and PARRETT Bermuda direct
PARRETT. and through (route), speed 12 knots E.T.A. 210800Z.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 181611Z to S.B.N.O.W.At.A.(R)
C. in C.U.S.Fleet, B.A.D. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F.,
C. in C.W.A. Cominch).

U.S. S/M. (Cominch 181640Z).
Estimate.

RICHELIEU Enemy S/M. estimate 1200Z/18. 2 estimated moving
information. south or south west within 150 miles of following
positions. 032 degs. North 035 degs. West. 030
degs. North 039 degs. West. One estimated within
150 miles 024 degs. North 039 degs. West probably
moving North East.
(Cominch 181647Z to RICHELIEU (R) C. in C. Lant).

ST. ALBANS Your 121532 ST. ALBANS E.T.A. Boston about 25th
Nov.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 181736Z to B.A.M.R. (R) N.S.H.Q.
S.B.N.O.W.At. ST. ALBANS).

C.T.G.21.14 Comtask group 21.14 departs Casablanca swept
channel 201200Z to support 18 speed 15. Proceeding
40 north 20 west thence westerly depending on
developments. This from Cinclant a paraphrase of
Comtask Group 21.14 despatch 1500/18.
(U.S. Navcom Washington 181736Z to Admty. F.O.i/c
Gibraltar).

BURNHAM My 161557 further delay BURNHAM ship will not now
sail to overtake.
(2) Anticipate sailing ship to U.K. with C.5,
H.X. 262.
(F.O.N.F. 181746Z to C.3. (R) Admty. etc.).

British Your 171818 (passed to C. in C.W.A.).
Carrier FENCER is covering operations in the Azores
Operations until arrival of shore based aircraft.
within 800 These have been delayed by contrary winds but it
miles of is hoped to release FENCER in a day or so.
Azores. (2). On release it is intended to operate her in the
following likely area:-
Lat. 51 degs. 30' N. to 49 degs. 30' N. Long. 32 degs. 30' W. to
28 degs. 30' W.
(3) TRACKER and BITER sail on 19th to cover convoys in North
Atlantic. A further signal will be made if the route passes within
800 miles of Azores.
(A.C.N.S.H. 181750A to C. in C. Lant, (R) Comnavcu, Cominch, Com.
10th Fleet, C. in C.W.A.).

/SEAWOLF...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- SEAWOLF, P.554 Sail SEAWOLF and P.554 when ready about 25th Philadelphia to New London. Further orders will be issued later. Advise time of departure, route, S. of A.
(Cominch 181752Z to C.E.S.F.).
- B.Y.M.S. When ready about 28 Oct. sail British Y.M.S. 203, 204. 232 same itinerary. My 231335 Sept. Same instructions apply except vessels can carry only 1100 gallons extra fuel as dock cargo. Ultimate destination Eastern Fleet. Advise time of departure and routeing instructions.
(Cominch 181754Z to C.E.S.F.).
- AJAX Sail AJAX ready about 23rd New York to Norfolk for working up. Advise routeing instructions.
(Cominch 181803 to C.E.S.F.).
- B.Y.M.S. 150 and 246. Sail B.Y.M.S. 150. 246 when ready about 24th. Seattle to San Francisco. Comwesseafron route onward to San Diego for working up with B.Y.M.S. 282. Upon completion working up sail all 3 vessels to Panama and arrange for logistic requirements enroute. Compaseafron and N.O.B. Trinidad route onward following itinerary my 052250 August. Tactical information and instructions reference apply except can carry only 1100 gallons extra fuel as deck cargo. Ultimate destination Freetown. Action addressees advise routine instructions.
(Cominch 181805Z to Comnorwestseafron, Comwestseafron, Comiaseafron, N.O.B. Trinidad).
- SEAWOLF SEAWOLF taken in hand 15th for urgent defects at navy yard Philadelphia. Expected to sail for New London on Thursday 28th for about 10 days working up. Request destination.
(B.A.M.R. Washington 181806Z to C. in C.C.N.A. (R) N.S.H.Q., S.B.N.O. W.At., F.O.(S), S.7., Admty.).
- O.S. and S.L. convoys, Cycles. Commencing with O.S.57 and S.L.139 these convoys will sail on a 10 day cycle instead of a 20 day as at present.
(2) Request you will inform routeing authorities in South American ports.
(D.T.D. 181835A to Connav (R) B.A.D.).
- B.E.C.4., WILLOWHERB Anticipate B.E.C.4. and WILLOWHERB will be ready depart Halifax 26th October.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 181918Z to S.B.N.O.W.At.).

/Convoy...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

Convoy
Rescue
ships.

For your information following is our proposed schedule for Rescue ships with ref. to C. in C. W.A. 111756.

H.H.X. 262 MELROSE ABBEY, S.C.145 DUNDEE,
H.H.X. 263 GOTHLAND, H.H.X.264 FASTNET, S.C.146
ACCRINGTON.

Request your A/S and Rescue Trawlers be allocated accordingly. Inform me in each case.

(C. in C.C.N.A. 182015Z to F.O.N.F. (R) Admty. C. in C.W.A., N.S.H.Q.).

Your 151122. Concur see my 182015.

(C. in C.C.N.A. 182040Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) Admty. F.O.N.F.).

Sub attack
and sighting
summary.

Para.A. JOHN H. COUCH total loss from aircraft attack 09.20 S. 160.08 East 101450.

G.H. HIMES same attack beached. All times Z.

Para.D. T.B.F. training aircraft sighted periscope 30.23 N. 80.43 W. 181405.

Brazilian aircraft sights sub. 17.25 S. 37.30 W. 181300.

(Cominch 182046Z to Admty.).

Y.M.S.57
grounded.

Regret to report H.M.Y.M.S. 57 grounded. Propellor tips slightly bent will necessitate docking.

No other apparent damage.

(C. in C.C.N.A. 182116Z to N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty.

B.A.M.R. Capt.D. Halifax).

As amended 191415Z.

Convoy
H.X.262

(1) Sailing despatch. Part 2. Part 1 is my Dis. 182020 and 171802. (48 ships, cargoes, destinations).

(P.D.New York 182140 to Admty.).

H.M.S.
GORGON.

Sail GORGON Charleston to Bermuda for working up when ready about 21st. Advise routing instructions.

(Cominch 182155 to C.E.S.F.).

AFFLECK

Bermuda arrival AFFLECK.

(S.B.N.O.W.At. 182214 to Admty.).

T.A.65
AQUITANIA

Arrived.

(C. in C.C.N.A. 182300Z).

GARDINER

Making speed of 14 knots GARDINER (B.D.E.274) departed Boston Gate at 0915Q/19th enroute Bermuda (route).

(C.T.G. 02.1 182302 to Comnavu N.O.B.Bermuda, (R) Alusna, Admty. C.T.G. 23.1).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

ASCOT. Cancel my 160352. ASCOT arrived Fremantle 1710Z/
17th. Vessel delayed on account inferior Indian
coal average speed six knots.
(C.M.W.P.S.F., 180521Z to Admty.)

Digest (2) Convoy described 2 large 1 medium 1 small
Serial No. merchantmen with 2 small escorts attacked by R/C
536 Oct. 17th. Liberator 40 miles north west Mussau Island
forenoon while on northerly course. Near misses
caused 1 large vessel to stop.

(3) Another Liberator attacked and destroyed a small auxiliary
17 miles northwest of Rabaul previous afternoon.

(4) Lightning over Rabaul afternoon reported considerable
merchant ship activity Simpsons Harbour. Same aircraft reported
unidentified vessel 20 miles east north east Gasmata course 70
degs.

(5) 4 Beaufighters made barge sweep New Britain coast straffing
single barge Cape Beechy and Kimbe Bay.

(7) Before dawn 3 enemy barges landing vicinity Song River
engaged by our light artillery resulting 2 barges disabled 37
Japs killed, remainder pursued to north.

(9) Three Catalinas attacked Ambon town area night? 16th causing
fires. One large, 1 medium and 2 small vessels reported in area.

(10) Our P.T. boats attacked 4 times by enemy aircraft off
southwest coast Choiseul night 15th/16th causing nil damage.

(11) Single Corsair destroyed enemy barge carrying approx. 30
troops Tonolei Harbour, afternoon 16th straffed another barge
and large tug and probably destroyed fifty foot junk.

(12) Three submarines reported 5 miles north Shortlands same
afternoon.

(13) Liberator attacked small corvette with 2 large barges 45
miles south south west Cape Saint George night 15th. Another
sighted. 6 barges 55 miles west Buka early morning 17th.
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 180746Z).

Movements Arrived Townsville 17th U.S.A. CONYNGHAM.
(A.C.N.B., 181212Z).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 181340A).

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN .

Submarines Attacked.

Submarine
Attack and
Sighting
Summary for
24 hours to
0900Z/18th.

Para.A. Br. NIZAM missed by torpedo at 0091/18th
in 8 degs. 55' N. 74 degs. 48' E.

A/C O/120 attacked U-boat on surface with D/Cs.
at 1135/17th in 58 degs. 46' N. 28 degs. 25' W.
Course 300 degs.

H.M. Ship attacked U-boat at 1847/17th in about
59 degs. 00' N. 31 degs. 00' W.

A/C B/59 attacked U-boat on surface at 1815/17th
in 59 degs. 18' N. 32 degs. 20' W.

H.M. Ship made three attacks on U-boat at 2142/17th in 58 degs.
46' N. 33 degs. 14' W.

A/C H/120 and D/59 attacked U-boat with D/Cs. at 1730/17th in
58 degs. 55' N. 31 degs. 00' W.

A/C N/269 sighted U-boat on surface at 0900/17th in 58 degs. 43'
N. 29 degs. 45' W.

A/C. W/120 sighted U-boat at 1050/17th in 59 degs. 24' N. 30
degs. 52' W. Course 180 degs. A/C sighted U-boat at 1410/17th
in 59 degs. 00' N. 29 degs. 20' W. Course 300 degs.

A/C X/120 sighted U-boat on surface at 1700/17th in 59 degs.
25' N. 30 degs. 55' W. and again at 1723 in 58 degs. 55' N. 31
degs. 00' W. Fighter A/C sighted U-boat at P/S depth at 1130/
17th in 33 degs. 03' N. 21 degs. 35' E.

Ref. A.M. 171126A. Para B.

U-boat reported in 25 degs. 28' N. 56 degs. 50' E., correct
date should read 1235/16th. Further report A/C attacked U-boat.
Results observed were huge oil patch and 3 bodies and an even
later report says 14 more bodies seen.

(D.D.I.C. 181150A to Cominch).

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

U-Boat and
ONSLAUGHT
damaged.

1. While operating to-day with Force One in Ice Fjord, Spitzbergen, ONSLAUGHT rammed a U-boat and is being escorted by ORWELL at a reduced speed of 13 knots.

The operations of Force One have been completed to-day and, in view of probable sightings by U-boats, Admiralty have ordered the Force to hasten its departure.

LONDON,
AUGUSTA.

2. C.S.1 in LONDON with AUGUSTA and MIDDLETON arrived at Akureyri from Hvalfiord at 2326A.

Home Fleet.

3. KING GEORGE V with 2 U.S. Destroyers arrived at Rosyth from Scapa at 0635A; and DUKE OF YORK with 2 destroyers left Rosyth for Scapa at 1935A.

H.S.L's
shelled.

4. At 1130 last night the enemy Coastal Batteries at Gris Nez fired 9 rounds at two H.S.Ls. near the South Varne. The shooting was inaccurate and caused no damage.

Western
Channel.

5. In view of the considerable forces now maintained by the enemy between Cherbourg and the Gironde, C. in C. Plymouth considers that the 15th Destroyer Flotilla should be re-inforced as a matter of urgency to a total of 8 ships.

North Atlantic.

UGANDA

6. Admiralty wish to send UGANDA to the U.S.A. for hull and machinery repairs. She completes temporary repairs at Gibraltar on October 31st. It is hoped to have a new set of machinery available for her by mid-1944.

South Atlantic.

HABANA,
intercepted.

7. The Spanish HABANA, Buenos Aires to Las Palmas and Teneriffe, which is suspected of having an enemy agent on board, was intercepted by

/CARNARVON...

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SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

HABANA
intercepted.
(Contd.).

CARNARVON CASTLE at 1100Z in 08.45 N. 24.20 W., about 590 miles west of Freetown. An armed guard was placed on board and the vessel ordered into Gibraltar.

Mediterranean.

Convoy
Protection.

8. A redisposition has been made of the air authorities responsible for the fighter and A/S protection of convoys. Details are in C. in C. Med's. signal B.27 (191607A Oct.).

Naples
shipyards

9. It is intended to make use of all the original facilities in the Naples area connected with naval and merchant ship construction and repairs, including any workshops for the manufacture of naval equipment which are in good order and those which can be restored within the next six months.

CLEOPATRA

10. C. in C. Mediterranean has ordered CLEOPATRA to sail from Malta to Gibraltar in M.K.F.25 to remove Q turret, pending a decision as to her final repair port. Admiralty consider she can proceed to U.S.A. by a southerly route and are asking if she can be accepted there for permanent repair, new main machinery being supplied from the United Kingdom.

Aegean

11(a) ECLIPSE, PATHFINDER and BELVOIR made a sweep last night without incident. Stores were landed at Leros.
(b) BELVOIR bombarded Kos Roads at 2200/19, blowing up petrol dumps and causing a large fire.
(c) PHOEBE and FURY bombarded Port Kalimno at 0120 without opposition from the shore, PHOEBE firing 300 rounds. PHOEBE was bombed once during the firing and once afterwards. FURY was bombed once in 36.52 N. 26.54 E. PHOEBE landed stores at Kastelorizo.
(d) HURWORTH (D.22) and BEAUFORT bombarded Kos Roads and harbour at 0100 this morning, each firing 150 rounds. Shore batteries caused slight damage to HURWORTH.
(e) The Germans are reported to have occupied Levitha Aegean, today.

Air
Operations.

12.
(a) A merchant vessel of 3,000/4,000 tons was hit by 2 torpedoes by a Wellington A/C last night

/in...

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Air
Operations,
Aegean.
(Contd.)

Kithera Channel 35.54 N. 23.56 E. and left stationary and on fire.
Another merchant vessel of 2,000 tons was attacked by torpedo and bombs in the Gulf of Corinth.
(b) R.A.F. bombers (3 Liberators, 7 Halifaxes) attacked the airfield at Antimachia, Kos, last night 6 Dakotas successfully dropped supplies on Leros.
(c) 6 R.A.F. Hudsons also attacked the airfield at Heraklion, Crete, last night.
(d) 4 U.S. Mitchell bombers escorted by 3 Beaufighters attacked an enemy convoy approaching Canea Bay north coast of Crete. An armed trawler was destroyed and landing craft filled with personnel were hit. One landing craft was set on fire.
(e) 3 Baltimore light bombers attacked and hit 2 small vessels in Syros Harbour.

13. Convoy G.U.S.19, 32 M/Vs., left Alexandria today.

East Indies.

U-Boat
attacked.

14. A Catalina flying boat attacked a U-Boat in 10.48 N. 75.21 E. at 0657 this morning, but only one depth charge was released, and did not appear to explode. The remainder hung up.

America and West Indies.

Mines off
St. Johns
N.F.
2 ships
sunk.

15. PENOLVER, British 3721 tons, was struck believed mined, at 2058Z in 47.19 N. 52.27 W. (about 25 miles S.E. of St. Johns N.F.) and sank at 2100. Fourteen survivors were landed at St. Johns, 27 being lost.
The minesweeper CARAQUET reported another ship sunk by mine at 2115Z in the same position, MISCOU was picking up survivors. The vessel was the U.S. DELISLE, 3478 tons. There were no casualties. It appears that DELISLE stopped to pick up survivors of PENOLVER and was drifting among some wreckage (wind N.E. force 6) when struck.

19.10.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

15th Destroyer Division. Proposed re-inforcement.

Recent developments have shown that re-inforcement of 15th Destroyer Flotilla has become a matter of urgency: following factors lead to this conclusion.

2. The enemy maintains between Cherbourg and The Gironde a total of about four Narviks, 6 Elbings and 6 Torpedo Boats. These he can or may use as required, to provide powerful cover for shipping movements in the Western Channel. Recent experience shows that his convoys are in fact much more strongly escorted than heretofore. These ships may also be used at any time against our channel convoys.

3. Offensive operations against enemy shipping, e.g. "Tunnel", now require to be tried out in greater strength than 15th Destroyer Flotilla can furnish: destroyers of the Portsmouth Command cannot be counted on to be regularly available for these operations.

4. Similarly minelaying operations by coastal forces require to be covered by greater destroyer strength.

5. E-Boats forces at Cherbourg and Guernsey provide a constant threat of attack by torpedo and mine against our convoys and routine convoy escort duties call for the provision of two or three destroyers as escort for each convoy.

6. Escorts for special ships with valuable cargoes, ex ocean convoys, are now being required in increasing numbers.

7. Other requirements are - escorts for heavy ships, e.g. Admiralty's 160010A and 160035 October; escorts for special operation e.g. Cable Ships, (Operation "Parry ") and tows, Admiralty's 162231A October Air/Sea Rescue operations, 8. The strength of the flotilla, has recently been reduced from 6 ships to 5 by the withdrawal of GOATHLAND without relief, and the two Fleet Destroyers lent to this Command are continually required for operations in the Bay or further afield, e.g. R.A.D.'s 181654 October.

9. With the impending departure of one ship to refit (WENSLEYDALE) it is apparent that the strength of the Flotilla is inadequate for the duties that have to be met. With a second ship laid up from time to time for boiler cleaning, the effective strength of the 15th Destroyer Flotilla will often be reduced to 3 ships.

10. Under existing conditions it is not only impossible to meet all operational requirements but it is not possible to give ships the time they need for practices or for routine maintenance of machinery or rest for personnel.

11. It is requested that very early consideration may be given to the reinforcement of 15th Destroyer Flotilla to a total of 8 ships.

(C. in C. Plymouth 191451A to Admt.)

Movements.

KING GEORGE V. Arrival KING GEORGE V escorted by FORREST and NEVILLE.
(C. in C. Rosyth 190635A to A.C.O.S.)

SCOURGE. Scapa arrival SCOURGE.
(A.C.O.S. 190940A to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

/RESOLUTION...

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19.10.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

RESOLUTION Your 171906. Programme approved.
R.A.D. is sailing a destroyer to R/V with you
at Eyebroughy Buoy 1530/20th.
(C. in C. Rosyth 191027A to RESOLUTION)
Proceed passing Switha 0500A/20th by normal route to R/V
off Eyebroughy Buoy with RESOLUTION at 1500/20th.
2. RESOLUTION is on passage from Rosyth to Southampton.
When met provide escort to vicinity Cape Wrath.
(R.A.D. H.F. 191117A to OBEDIENT)
RESOLUTION's 171906A. Amend time off Rathlin Is. to
read 0300/22.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 192120A to C. in C.W.A.)

HURON. On leaving Basin p.m. today proceed to Scapa, arrive
Duncansby Hd. 0830A tomorrow, S.O.A. to be 16
knots.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 191205A to HURON)
Departure HURON.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 191952A to A.C.O.S.)

RODNEY,
NELSON. R.A.D.H.F. 181654A. Concur, but see my 191451A.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 191548A to Admty.)

S/M
movements. Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/20 and movements for
following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 191732A.)

GAMBIA. Sailed GAMBIA in accordance with my 181716A.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 191838A to A.C.O.S., V.A.2.)

DUKE
OF YORK. Departures DUKE OF YORK escorted by FORREST and
CAPPS, passing May Island 1935A/19th.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 191943 to A.C.O.S.)

MILNE. Seidisfjord arrival Capt. (D) 3 in MILNE.
(R.N.O. Seidisfjord, 192030A to A.C.I.C.)

LONDON,
AUGUSTA. Akureyri arrivals C.S.1., LONDON with AUGUSTA,
and MIDDLETON.
(A.C.I.C. 192326A to H.F.)

Operations.

Operation
S.F. (1) WORTHING lost touch in fog and reports asdic
dome damaged causes unknown.
(2) Have ordered her to return Seidisfjord and
instruct LYME REGIS to join me at sea in her
place.
(M/S 15 190326A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

/Your...

19.10.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Operation S.F. (Contd.) Your 190326A. Instructions referred to not yet received. Intend to sail with BOOTLE to R/V with you at 0800A/20th in centre of W.1. 539.
(LYME REGIS 190915 to M/S 15.)
WORTHING arrived Seidisfjord 1150A/19.
(R.N.O. Seidisfjord, 191503A to A.C.I.C.)
Sailed LYME REGIS, BOOTLE.
(R.A. Seidisfjord, 191630A to A.C.I.C.)
Am now proceeding. E.T.A. 0900A/20.
(LYME REGIS, 191655A to M/S 15.)
Moorings being flown October 20th in normal area by two Sunderlands and three Catalinas.
(C. in C. Rosyth 192358A to H.F.)

S/M Patrols. Request you sail TANTIVY as convenient routed through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles, thence direct to patrol line KK proceeding diving as much as possible after crossing 062°.
F.O.S. 161137 refers.
(Capt.S.9 190951A to S.O.S/M.Lerwick.)

Following additional temporary patrol positions are established:

T.7 070° 45' N. 021° 13' E. T.8. 070° 53' N. 022° 06'
T.9. 071° 02' N. 022° 56' E. T.10, 071° 10' N. 023° 44' E.
T.11 071° 16' N. 024° 33' E.
(F.O.S. 191544A to S/Ms.)

1. Patrol positions SYRTIS T.10, STUBBORN T.8, VARANGIAN T.9. See my 191544.

2. Object I.S.O.H. 200 paragraph (2) B. and F.

3. Passage to be made on surface at C.Os. discretion diving within 60 miles Norwegian coast.

4. My 140828 and my 152223 refer.
(F.O.S. 191547A to Capt. S.3, S.9.)

Positions of submarines at 0800A/20 October and movements for following 24 hours. All times zone A.

(A) SEADOG on patrol North West of Andoy.

(B) SEA ROVER vicinity 69° 30' N. 16° 23' E., leaves patrol 2100/20 through 69° 43' N. 15° 37' E. and 69° 02' N. 11° 01' E., then to Lerwick. Probably on surface at 10 knots.

(F.O.S. 191732A to Admty.)

V.P. operations. Regret your determined effort to carry out operation proved unavailing but congratulate you on beating off persistent air attack and on bringing back your damaged boat in bad weather.
(2) Will try to rescue "Job" as soon as possible.
(A.C.O.S. 191017A to M.T.B.675)

Sailed at 1213A today M.T.B.626. (My 161058 September)

(2) V.P.152A is being attempted at some time.
(A.C.O.S.191224A to Admty.)

/H.S.Ls. ...

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

H.S.Ls. At 1130/18th. Enemy coastal batteries at
shelled. Gris Nez fired nine rounds at H.S.Ls. 186 and
2547 when engaged in air sea rescue work in
vicinity of the South Varne in extreme visibility.
Estimated calibre six inch. Shooting was
inaccurate. No damage nor casualties.
2. At 1600/18th. M.A/S.B. 33 while engaged in survey work in
114 North Foreland 13 miles picked up a fourteen foot dinghy
with French markings. No occupants and no gear. Boat was
towed into Ramsgate.
(V.A.Dover, 191246A to Admty.)
1. Orders for night 19/20 October.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 191329A and 191822 A.)

Bay Disposition at 192000. (1) BERMUDA patrolling
Patrol. vicinity 042° 30' N. 021° W.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 191442A.)

Spitzbergen. Following from Force One. Operation completed.
U/Boat Sailing 2030Z/19. ONSLAUGHT rammed submarine
damaged. but not sure kill. ONSLAUGHT S.O.A. reduced to
ONSLAUGHT 13 knots. She is being escorted by ORWELL.
damaged. TUSCALOOSA proceeding with ORIBI and FITCH.
Ends.

("Locomotive" 192045Z to Admty.)
German U/Boat made W/T message on 6510 Kc/s from
Ice Fiord area at 2109A. You should assume you have been
sighted and expedite departure taking all precautions against
U/Boat attacks.

(D.O.D.H. 192153 to Force 1, (R) V.A.2.)
A.M.192153. At 2320A a further signal was made by a
U/Boat probably in vicinity of Ice Fiord, possibly a sighting
report.
(D.D.I.C. 192356A to TUSCALOOSA.)

U/Boats.

U/Boat Have attacked U/Boat with bombs? 50° 15' N.
attacked. 07° 08' W.
(A/C Duty C, 190625 to 19 Group.)
In contact mark. Search at daylight.
(A/C Duty C, 190700 to 19 Group.)

Navigational.

MONCOUSU. My 171230A. Operation completed.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 190230A to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

/Technical...

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19.10.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Technical.

"Foxyer"
Gear.

Trials carried out 17th October with ETTRICK, CELANDINE, AGASSIZ, VENTURA. Object to find out how much interference to Asdics is caused by "Foxyers". Particulars and conclusions. (Cdre. D.W.A. 191205A to C. in C. W.A.)

Casualties and Defects.

FORT
LIVINGSTONE.
BLAIR DEVON.

SS. FORT LIVINGSTONE and SS. BLAIR DEVON are anchored at Merville. PENNYWORT sailed to overtake at 0300A. (Cdre. D.W.A. 190456A to C. in C. W.A.)

Unknown
ship.

Distress pyrotechnics position 50° 15' N.
07° 08' W.
(A/C Duty C. 190625 to 19 Group.)

HIGHWOOD.

Rescue tug DEXTEROUS sailed to assist M/V HIGHWOOD in 062° Lizard 2.5 miles. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 191328A to C. in C. Plymouth) My 191328. DEXTEROUS returned Falmouth. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 191530A to C, in C. Plymouth)

MATCHLESS.

My 181720A. Further delayed due to defects. (C. in C. Plymouth 191811A to R.A.D.)

ASSUAN.

4 Members of crew of 12 from SS. ASSUAN, including 1 D.E.M.S. landed from S.T. ROMILLY at Grimsby a.m. 19th October, picked up from lifeboat at 1830/18th. 7 1/2 miles E. by S. of

Longstone.

Crew state vessel capsized at 1400 on 17th October, 2 1/2 hours after leaving Sunderland heading North. Particulars of rescued men (all uninjured) as follows. (F.O. Humber 192110A to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys.

Breaking
W/T
silence.

775 N. of 2nd October. There is increasing evidence that the enemy is endeavouring to make desired use of direction finding bearings. (A) from shore stations of our ship/shore traffic (B) of convoys R/T from U/Boats (German) fitted with D/F.

- (2) It is not in normal circumstances desirable to curtail the use of W/T or R/T unduly.
- (3) When however a convoy is so situated that the disclosure of its whereabouts may give the enemy an opportunity of effecting a heavy concentration under circumstances disadvantageous to the convoy, S.O's. escorts should carefully weigh up the pro's and con's before breaking silence.
- (4) The following information is to assist in making an appreciation. Details. (C. in C.W.A. 190014A.)

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

O.N.207 RABY CASTLE did not sail.
E.G.7. (N.C.S.O. Belfast, 190700A.)
JAMES DE WOLFE, sailed Belfast Lough 0800Z/19th to overtake.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast, 190945A.)

Following ships did not sail: EMPIRE TAMAR, BRITISH HARMONY, RABY CASTLE, ARUBA, JOHN N. SCHOLFIELD, TIMOTHY BLOODWORTH, SCOTTISH HEATHER, DALHANNA.

(C. in C.W.A. 191601A to Escorts O.N.207.)

Sailed BITER, PHEASANT, CRANE, CHANTICLEER to comply with C. in C.W.A. 161456.

(Cdre. D. W.A. 192003A to E.G.C.1.)

Stragglers. Stragglers return week ending 0915/19 October.
Ex. O.N.C. 206 VALDEMOSA returned from convoy with main engine bearing defects. Ex O.N.U.206 NICALACU VIRGINIA returned from convoy with main steam pipe joint defective. Boiler out of action.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 190915A to Admty.)

O.N.S.20. D/F bearings at 0737Z indicate U/Boat in vicinity of convoy.
(D.D.I.C. 190921A to Escorts O.N.S.20.)
O.N.S.20. Proceed St. Johns Newfoundland

forthwith.

(C. in C.W.A., 191744Z to VANQUISHER.)

No U/boat signal heard since 190737Z. VANQUISHER attacked possible contact at 1201Z 22 miles 070° from convoy.
My P.C.S. 054° 33', 039° 45', 231° 7.

(E.G.4, 192001Z to C. in C.W.A.)

K.M.S.30 and H.X.260. K.M.S.30 and H.X.260 narrowly avoided certain collision in 055° 39', 007° 15' at 1900Z/18th. Your 181021 not received by Cdre. until 1700Z when passed by HIGHLANDER. Course then 250°. Northern portion approaching from North. 1800Z decided to alter course northward. Convoy still not formed up when R.D.F. detected H.X.260 275° 10 miles K.H. K.M.S.30 wheeled 040° to port resulting in collision of 2 ships due to unformed state of convoy. H.X.260 was requested to alter to port which was done by 2 emergency turns. This morning found GEORGE GALE of H.X.260 in K.M.S.30. Have despatched BELFAST for orders. Position 055° 18' N. 009° 58' W. 207° 7 knots.
(B.4 191005Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Mark 29 Gear. Merchant ships fitted with Mark 29 gear are denoted in form A.1 by letters A/T.
2. Flag B international is flown from after masthead when gear is streamed.
3. Escorts should not pass within 300 yards of vessels displaying this signal.
(S. in C. W.A. 191044A, to W.A.G.M.)

/ATLANTIS...

War Diary.

19.10.1943.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

ATLANTIS. Following received from ATLANTIS. Begins.
EMPRESS Goteborg total 771, lying cases 80. Require
OF RUSSIA. at least 4 hours interval after disembarkation.
(Repatriation Can only embark corresponding number disembarked.
Ships.) Ends.

(Wick Radio, 191141 to A.C.O.S.)
(C. in C. Rosyth 191509A to Admty.)

Following intercepted from EMPRESS OF RUSSIA.
Begins. Total repatriates on board: 60 Military, 66 Navy,
2 Air Force, 2 civilians, and merchant seamen nil. No lying
cases. Master. Ends.

(Wick Radio, 191158Z to S.D.O. Pitreavie).
(C. in C. Rosyth 191320 to Admty.)

Vessels are now berthed at Gothenburg. As far as can be
foreseen at present vessels cannot sail before 21st October and
it now seems probable that they may be able to sail at 1000/21st,
and thus make the R/V at 1500/22.

(N.A. Stockholm, 191632 to Admty.)

Complications in embarkation of repatriables and difficulties
in moving vessels into navigable waters prior to sailing will
cause delays not previously envisaged by Authorities at
Gothenburg.

2. Agreement has now been reached by all concerned at
Gothenburg that day of departure cannot be earlier than October
22nd.

3. It is therefore proposed to sail all three vessels from
Gothenburg Approaches at about 1000/22 enabling them to reach
anchorage off Stromstad before nightfall. The agreed R/V could
then be made at 1500/23.

4. I am informed that Masters of Vessels, Swedish Naval
Authorities and British Officials are in agreement with
proposals in paragraph three.

5. Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs is asking German
Government for confirmation that vessels shall follow same route
on return voyage.

(N.A. Stockholm 192222 to Admty.)

C.E.215. My 181146A and your 182124A. Sailing of C.E.215
postponed further 24 hours due to weather.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 191232A to C. in C. Nore.)

T.A.69 Postpone sailing 24 hours. Amend time at
position E. in A.M. 181900 to read 0500A/23.
(D.O.D.H. 191304A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

P.S.20 P.S.20 and S.P.20 cancelled.
S.P.20. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 191410A.)

K.X.11. My 181156A. Sailing postponed twenty four hours.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 191448A to Admty.)

C.W.218 C.W.218 and C.E.216 postponed 24 hours owing to
C.E.216. lack of Shipping.
(C. in C. Nore, 191630A.)

/E.G.2...

19.10.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. - Contd.

E.G.2.

Your 171109. Sailed TRACKER, STARLING, WILD
GOOSE, WOODCOCK, MAGPIE.
(Cdre. D.W.A. 191801A to C. in C.W.A.)

T.A.68.

A.M.181259 October. Route through D.270°
Oversay 6 miles at 0430 A/23 to Halifax.
(D.O.D.H.191825A to C. in C.W.A.)

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19.10.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

T.F.66,
SWAY. This is Cinclant's 182053. Action C.T.F.66.
(Begins). Direct SWAY on arrival North Africa
report 8th Fleet for temporary duty. SWAY
detached from T.F.66 upon execution this directive.
(C.M.S.F.F. 190631A to F.O.C. Gibraltar, Admty.
C. in C. Med.).

Falangist
plot to
attack
Gibraltar. R.O.Cadiz 181130 (?Begins).
Addressed S.O.(I) Gibraltar from R.O. Cadiz.
Report received by me this morning (Begins).
Certain elements of Falangists in combination
with number of German seamen intended to take 3
M.T.Bs. from Cadiz base and attack ships in
Gibraltar Bay at approx. 0130 sometime between
18th and 24th without knowledge of Spanish Authorities. Source
of report good, consider information possible but doubtful
although I have noticed recently number young Germans whom I had
not seen previously. (Ends).
(S.O.(I) Gib. 191102A to Admty. B.N.A. Madrid).

BANFF
defect. 1200A P.C. and S 038 degs. 03' North 009 degs.
19' West 172 degs. 12 knots. E.T.A. 0900A/20th.
BANFF in company has major defect gyro compass
which requires expert attention on arrival.
Weather report.
(REDPOLE 191201A to F.O.C. Gib. (R) BANFF).

U.G.S.20,
T.F.65 As British escorts will not be available for
U.G.S.20 before 21st request T.F.65 continue with
convoy to Europa Point.
(F.O.i/c Gib. 191202A to C.M.S.F.F. (R) C.T.F.65).

Portuguese
S/Ms. Your 131208 (N.T. in W.D.) not to Admiralty.
Portuguese S/Ms. are painted as follows:- Details.
(4) Are only to be found between Tagus and
exercise area between Cape Espichel and Setubal.
Prior notice always given before leaving Lisbon.
(N.A. Lisbon 191208 to F.O.C. Gib. (R) Admty.).

Operation
"Alacrity" I am unwilling to release FENCER whose A/C are
working from aerodrome until unloading is completed
or her aircraft are relieved by Hudsons whose
arrival has been delayed by persistent westerly
winds.
(2) Estimated that 9 Swordfish and 5 Seafires will be fit for
service 36 hours after release.
(3) FENCER's boilers hours 750 on each boiler.
(S.B.N.O. Azores 191430N to C. in C.W.A. (R) Admty. FENCER,
F.O.C.T.).

/French...

19.10.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

French
Refugee
ships.

Intend to sail SIDI BRAHIM, GOUVERNEUR GENERALE, LEPINE escorted by LA GRANDIERE (S.O.) and WITHERINGTON to Malaga at 0001A 21st.

(2) Route.

(3) On completion of embarkation both ships proceed Casablanca. Route.

(4) On arrival position (E) WITHERINGTON parts company and returns to Gib. through (D) and Q.B.A.87. Speed of advance 22 knots.

(5) Codeword "Coys" / . WITHERINGTON on parting company "Detest" / . (F.O.C. Gibraltar 191500A to C. in C. Med., C.M.S.F., (R) Admty.) / As received. / C. in C. Med. 161941 refers.

SIDI BRAHIM, G.G. LEPINE arriving Malaga 0730A 21st to embark French refugees. On completion of loading request ship be sailed to R/V with escort in position (C) 140 degs. San Nicolas Battery Light 4 miles.

(F.O.C. Gib. 191506A to B.N.A. Madrid, Admty. (R) British Consul Malaga).

DUMONT
D'URVILLE

Request Ocean route for French sloop DUMONT D'URVILLE departing Casa. October 25th for Fort de France Martinique.

(C.M.S.F.F. 191620A to Admty. (R) F.O.C.Gib.).

FORMOSA
safe
conduct.

Sailed Gib. 191700A Swedish relief ship FORMOSA 5656 tons gross speed 13½ knots for Piraeus. Route. Not to be molested on this voyage.

(F.O.i/c Gib. 191701A, 190702A to H.Q.N.W.A., C.A.F., C. in C. Levant, S.10., M.A.C., N.A.A.F., N.A.S.A.F., N.A.T.A.F., N.A.C.A.F., A.H.Q.Malta., S. and A in Area "G" of Med. Station. (R) 8th S.F.).

Y.M/S 77.

Have become detached from escort KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE and Y.M/S No.240. My position by d.r. is 041 degs. 20' North 013 degs. 20' West proceeding 10 knots as routed in company with Y.M/S No.33.

(Y. M/S 77, 192101Z to F.O.C. Gib.).

Gib.
movements.

Arrivals L.C.I.(L)'s 112, 285, 180, 294, 277, 135, 271, 134, 317, 177, 183, 249, 166, 309, 117, 301, 115, 266. L.C.G.(L)'s 13, 6, 7, 10? L.C.G's 35, 11, 9 L.C.F's 5, 6, 12, 3, 7, 9, 11,

MARYBOROUGH, PRIMULA from Algiers FALK, ALISMA from G.U.S.18. ANTELOPE, BRILLIANT, ISIS, FLEETWOOD, AUBRETIA, CYCLAMEN ex K.M.S.29.

Departures ACTIVE French ships FANTASQUE, TERRIBLE, to the West U.S.S. STEVENSON, STOCKTON, JACOB JONES, HAMMANN, ROBERT E. PEARY, STURTEVANT, SPENCER, TURNER to G.U.S.18, DART, PROTEA, RYE, SOUTHERN ISLES, GLOXINIA to join K.M.S.29. ANTELOPE, BRILLIANT to R/V U.G.S. 20. (F.O.C. Gib. 192314A).

595

19.10.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

DOUGLAS. Following received from MALCOLM (Begins)
DOUGLAS is unable to reach Gibraltar without
obtaining fuel and boiler needs water. At 14
knots she can just reach Casablanca. I intend
detach her to Casablanca p.m. 20th (Ends.)
(F.O.C.W.Af. 190925Z to F.O.C. Gibraltar,
Commorseafon (R) MALCOLM, DOUGLAS)

HABANA Armed guard placed aboard HABANA at 1100Z position
intercepted. 008 degs. 45' N. 024 degs. 20' W. with orders to
proceed to Gibraltar. S.P.2484 and 02272 (26)
supplied for use in an emergency with secret call
sign "Maac"
Am proceeding in accordance with your 181350Z.
(CARNARVON CASTLE, 191117Z to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty., F.O.
Gibraltar, Comar Dakar, N.O.I.C. Bathurst, F.S. SUFFREN,
F.S. TOURVILLE, 37th E.G.)

A.K.D.2. Arrived STELLA POLARIS, WELLARD with A.K.D.2.
(Com. i/c Simonstown, 191434Z to Admty.)

CAGNI Following further information volunteered by
C.O., C.O. of Italian Submarine CAGNI.
Enemy (A) Lettered positions given by German Command
Intelligence. for R/V with re-fuelling surface ship if necessary.
ANTONIO 30 degs. S. 70 degs. E.
CARIO 18 degs. S. 78 degs. E.
MARIO 25 degs. S. 64 degs. E.
GUILIO 35 degs. S. 55 degs. E.
(B) R/V position with ERITREA or Japanese escort 06 degs. N.
95 degs. E.
(2) Italian U-Boats.

Name	Remarks.
ARCHIMEDE	Lost in April off Brazil.
DA VINCI	Lost in May, Bay of Biscay.
CAPPELLINI	Went to Japan with cargo.
TASOLI 0220L1	Lost in second half May, Bay of Biscay.
BARBANGO	Lost first part June, Bay of Biscay.
TORELLI	En route to Japan with cargo.
FINZI	May have been lost in Bay of Biscay as she failed to answer W/T signals.
BAGNOLINI	Left Bordeaux early July for Japan direct.
GIULIANA	Left Bordeaux early June for Japan direct.

(3) Roofs of U-Boat pens at Bordeaux being increased to 9 metres
in thickness of armoured cement. Lock gate entrance has
similar covering.
(4) CAGNI'S exact position 8th Sept. was 27 degs. S. 71 degs.
31' E. He met no other ship or U-Boat on voyage.
(5) On 10th Jan .1943 he received 40 tons of fuel from German
tanker U-Boat ELEPHANT in 01 degs. S. 14 degs. West.
(6) U-Boat blockade runners from Bordeaux carry optical
instruments, plans of U-Boats and tanks, special steel samples
aircraft torpedoes anti aircraft ammunition and German and

Japanese /...

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19.10.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

CAGNI Japanese Officer passengers. Blockade runners
C.O., had all torpedo tubes and main armament removed
Enemy to provide maximum fuel and cargo space.
Intelligence. (7) All U-Boats leaving Bordeaux keep north of
(Contd.) 45 degs. N. until 15 degs. W. German U-Boats
sail in groups of 3 to 5. Inward bound U-Boat
R/V in 42 degs. N. 15 degs. W.
(8) Evasive action taken by CAGNI for A. Aircraft
attack. Dived to 80 metres commencing at 10 metres a fairly
large alteration to port or starboard dependent on direction of
sea felt safe from aircraft attack after four minutes.
B. Surface attack. Dived to 125 metres. Captain explains that
there are no hard and fast rules and much depends on U-Boat
Commanders individual ideas of evasive tactics this is further
to my Q11549 Oct.
(C. in C. S.A. 191535C to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F.)
as amended 210947C. See also 201657C.
O.I.C. Comment: Para. 2. Report believed correct except for
FINZI and BAGNOLINI which have been reliably reported to be still
at Bordeaux.

19.10.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Levant Situation Report, No. 83. SIRIUS hit aft by bomb at 1830/17th when south of Scarpanto Strait and returned to Alexandria. Y turret out of action. Casualties 17 killed, 30 wounded. AURORA (C.S.12) patrolled south of Scarpanto Strait during night. ECLIPSE, PATHFINDER BELVOIR arrived late at Leros, lay up in Turkish waters. Disembarkation of personnel and stores for Leros from Fleets postponed until tonight.

2. JERVIS (D.14) PENN investigated west coast Kalimno with Starshell and searchlight, finding nothing. At 2312 bombarded Port Kalimno and set on fire medium sized M/V alongside jetty, some bombing during withdrawal. No damage.

3. HURSLEY, MIAOULES examined Kappari Island without result carried out bombardment of Kos inner harbour, withdrew north of Rhodes.

4. AURORA, JERVIS, PENN, HURSLEY, MIAOULES since returned Alexandria.

5. PHOEBE, FURY, HURWORTH, (D.22) BEAUFORT, left Alexandria 0630, PHOEBE and FURY to bombard Kalimno, Hunts to bombard Kos, whole force to withdraw to the south before daylight.

6. SEVERN returned Beirut and left for Leros this morning.

7. Reported from Levitus that one medium M/V of convoy of 4 ships sank off that island p.m. 16th, presumably one of our S/MS.

8. Convoys M.K.F.25 with LARGS and 9 M/S left Port Said p.m. 17th joined off Alexandria a.m. 18th by X.I.F.2A with six personnel ships for Taranto.

9. Departures BATTLER from Aden 17th to Eastern Fleet. (C. in C.Levant 190119C.)

TARANTO
see page
933

Enemy ships Dodecanese. Position of 1 enemy medium vessel and 1 enemy small vessel is 36.56 N. 27.06 E. Position of 2 enemy F-Boats is 36.54 N. 27.14 E. Position of one enemy F-Boat is 36.54 N. 27.27 E. (A/C CQP/J 190650 to 201 Group, H.Q.M.E.Command.)

P.C. and S. of enemy, 4 F-Boats 36.° 46' N. 26° 22' E. 270° 10 kts. (A/C ASU/W 191059.)

U.G.S.18. Presume you will reply to Admty's. 131311. (Requesting information attack on convoy U.G.S.18 on 4th October.) (C. in C.Levant 190824C to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty.)

Alexandria Movements. Alexandria 18th arrivals AURORA, SIRIUS, JERVIS, PENN, HURSLEY, HONEYSUCKLE, MIAOULES, DABCHICK, B.Y.M.S. 229, 190, 191, 212, 74. Departures COLOMBO, TETCOTT, CROOME, PHOEBE, HURWORTH, FURY, BEAUFORT. (R.A.Alexandria 190852C.)

U.S.H/S ACADIA. My 182022A. Sailing delayed 23 hours. (Comnob Oran 190920A.)

/Convoy...

War Diary.19.10.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Convoy programme. 1. My 10110. Amendments.
(C. in C.Med. 190927A.)

Enemy F-Boats and A/C S.W.of Crete. P.C. and S. of 5 enemy F-Boats and 2 enemy aeroplanes are 035° 48' N. 023° 50' E. 180° 5 knots.
(A/C ASU/W 190942 to 201 Group.)

Repatriation Ships. TAIREA and CUBA sailed 0846/19th, E.T.A. Barcelona 1600/25th.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 190942C.)
Loading of DJENNE SINAIA and AQUILEIA will be carried out during tonight, but GRADISCA now not arriving before 0500A/20th. All ships should be ready to leave before dark tomorrow night.

2. Admiralty pass to War Office.
(C. in C.Med. 191616A to Admty. (R) B.N.A.Stockholm.)
AQUILEIA arrived at 1630A/19.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran 191739.)
SINAIA arrived at 2000A/19 C. in C.Med. pass to Comnavnaw.
(Com. N.O.B.Oran 192336A.)

TROUBRIDGE, ILEX. Intend TROUBRIDGE and ILEX patrol Cazza Island to Blitvenica 19th/20th return Bari. Request air cover 0530A to 0730A/20th codeword "Halley" priority high. P.C. and S. at 0530A 041° 55' N. 016° 38' E. 143° 23 knots. F.O.T.A. pass to 286 Wing. My 181417 (N.T. in W.R.) nothing seen.
(Capt. D.24th D.F. 190948A to F.O.T.A. (R) C. in C. Med. Fleet. No. 1 Moru. 286 Wing, N.O.I.C. Bari, TROUBRIDGE, ILEX, N.L.O. 8th Army.)

Enemy ship Adriatic. P.C. and S. of 1 small merchant vessel based on a "fix" obtained with ½ hour of 1000, 44.49 N. 14.04 E. 045° 5 knots.
(A/C BUR/H 191003A to Air H.Q.Malta.)
My 1003, enemy previously reported was 1 small M/V 1500 tons.
(A/C BUR/H via Alex. 191035A to Air H.Q.Malta.)

Gliders in Sea. Two located: 1. 37.27 N. 13.705 E. JKME 27(?)5 0925 on Tom*. 2. 37.12 N. 13.18 E. 0959. No survivors.
(A/C CJH/T 191010A.) * as received.

PALADIN, K.M.F.25. PALADIN will be completed in Levant C. in C. Levant's 171455 (N.T. in W.D.) Request you will sail PALADIN as additional escort of K.M.F.25 to Alexandria or as ordered by C. in C.Levant.
(C. in C.Med. 191058A to F.O.C.Gib. (R) D.4, C. in C.Levant, Admty. A.S.Gib.)

19.10.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

G.U.S.19. Convoy G.U.S.19 sailed 19th Oct. Numbers.
(S.S.T.O. Alexandria 191105 to Admty.)

Dispositions of Italian Fleet. Your 181301 (N.T. in W.D.) not to all addressees. Unless otherwise ordered by Admty. proceed with arrangement to move It. units as follows:
1. Corvette group in turn and target S/MS to Augusta as quickly as possible.

2. One cruiser to Suez for A/C training provided C. in C.Levant concurs that It. manned cruiser is acceptable in this area.

3. One cruiser to Palermo primarily for service between Palermo and Sardinia as required for transport of personnel and important stores.

Cdr. U.S.N.F.N.W.African Waters is requested to arrange maintenance from U.S.source for 2 cruisers to Gib. for sea and climate trials in Atlantic. Present proposal is that one should proceed to U.K. as ordered by (authority omitted) and other proceed Freetown for short ~~period of~~ operation by F.O.C.W.Af.

5. Destroyer ABBA and CARINI to Maddalena for Corsican evacuation in accordance with F.O.L.I. 171209.

2. Request you will report name of cruisers selected and dates when they can sail.

(C. in C.Med. 191202A to F.O.L.I. (R) Admty. C. in C.Levant, Cdr. U.S.N.F.in N.W.African Waters, V.A.Malta, F.O.C.W.Af.)

U/B Disposition. Estimated U/Bs in area, (?GC): 1 between Oran and Cape Tenez, 1 between Bougie and Philippeville, possibly within 40 miles of coast.

(C. in C.Med. 191213A.)

No known change in U/B disposition.

(C. in C.Med. 191217A.)

G.U.S.19. Sailing telegrams parts 1 and 2. 32 ships sailed 0831C/19th as in C. in C.Levant's 171249 (N.T. in W.D.) and C. in C.Med's. 172135.
(R.A.Alexandria 191215, 191220.)

L.S.Ts. for Bizerta. Intend sailing L.S.T. 323 (3.O.) 310, 317, 351, 304, 349, 359, 364, 393 escorted by P.C. 551 yacht minesweeper 82, S.C.690 and 638 at 1700A/19th for Bizerta. 2. S.O.A. 9 knots. 3. Route. 4. E.T.A. 0600A/22nd. 5. Codeword "Oceania" Wireless call sign 283. 7. If these L.S.Ts. are required at Tripoli

to complete lifts in accordance with S.N.O.Tripolitania 150930B (N.T. in W.D.) C. in C.Med. is requested to re-route at sea.
(F.O.T.A. 191301A.)

My 191301A convoy "Oceania" to Bizerta sailed 1700A/19th less L.S.T.349 and 359. Intend sailing L.S.T.349 and 359 at 2030A/20th proceeding at best speed to Bizerta route as in my 191301 codeword "Vessel" W/T call sign 378.

(F.O.T.A. 191814A.)

19.10.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

CLEOPATRA. Intended to sail CLEOPATRA to Gib. in M.K.F.25 to remove Q. turret pending decision as to her final repair port. My 162114, A.M. 070548 and 120413 not to all refers.

2. V.A.Malta is requested to sail CLEOPATRA accordingly.
 (C. in C.Med. 191302A to Admty. (R) V.A.Malta, Com. Algiers, F.O.C.Gibraltar, A.S.Malta, C.S.12, CLEOPATRA.)

GLENGYLE. Subject to concurrence of C. in C.E.F. and ref. C. in C.Med. 151712, intend GLENGYLE sail for Bombay about Nov. 1st.

2. D.S.T. 162221. P.S.T.O.M.E. is arranging similarly for DEVONSHIRE, DERBYSHIRE and SOBIESKI about mid November.

(C. in C.Levant 191317C to C. in C.Med. C. in C.E.F. P.S.T.O.M.E.
 (R) F.O.R.S. & C.A. Admty. GLENGYLE, D.C.O. M.E.)

M.E.Situation 19 Oct. Joint Army R.A.F.Int. appreciation 24 Reports. hours to 0900Z/19th.

1. No.surface attack on Leros up to 0900Z hours 19
2. Ph. R/C Kos - Calino Area 1200Z/18 showed merchant vessel 300 feet still present Calino Harbour, also 3 F-Boats. In Atti Bay naval Aux. 250 feet confirmed listing to starboard, also 1 F-Boat in same position as yesterday. Port Vathi merchant vessel 190 feet still present. Kos Harbour 1 F-Boat. 1 or 2 F-Boats at sea heading Calino to Kos. Visual sighting 0945Z hours 18th reported 5 F-Boats beached north coast Kos. Evident that movement F-Boats between Kos and Calino and vice versa taking place. This confirmed by C.X.report.
3. Air attacks on Leros on considerably reduced scale 17th and 18th. Possibly due to G.A.F.bombers being engaged in day and night search for, and attacks against, our naval units operating in this area. Castelrosso (Kastelorizo) again attacked yesterday 18th by some 9 believed Ju.88s.
5. Ph. R/C 18th show no material change G.A.F.dispositions in Greece, Crete, Rhodes. No aircraft seen on Kos landing grounds.
6. Ph. R/C 18th shows merchant vessel 400 feet which arrived Candia from Suda 8 October has returned to Suda. Night 18th/19th torpedo Wellingtons sighted and attacked merchant vessel with 2 escort vessels, course N.W.position 35.54 N. 23.56 E. claiming one definite hit starting fire aft. Merchant vessel left stationary. Possibly this was the merchant vessel 400 feet returning from Suda to Piraeus.
7. Yesterday's appreciation of enemy's intentions still holds.
 (C. in C.M.E. No T.O.O.)

O/24297 cipher 19th Oct. Cositrep No. 29. 1. Int. Aegean. A. Reliably reported Gen. Mueller of 22 Div. Crete left island 1st by air and same date 3 ships sailed from Crete carrying 900 men of 22 Div. Comment. Known that shipping ex Crete about this date went to Kos and presume therefore units of 22 Div. used for assault force Kos. No report of Mueller's return to Crete and therefore possible he may be in comd. of assault force.

/B...

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19.10.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

M.E. Situation Reports. (Contd.)

B. Levitha. Unconfirmed Italian report states look out Station bombed and that three seaplanes entered bay and left again with some P.W. Earlier unconfirmed report via R.A.F. stated island occupied by Germans.

C. Leros. Two 25/18 pr. guns arrived making total of 4 on island.

D. Kastelorizo. 5 Bofors, 4 3.7 Haa. guns and 14 Oerlikons arrived in island. Personnel to man 3.7 guns not yet arrived. 250 civilian refugees being evacuated to Cyprus. Others reported fled to Turkey.

2. Ops. Aegean. N.T.R. 4. Yugoslavia.

B. Croatia. Partisan attitude in North Croatia to Allies deteriorated for following reasons.

First. Large scale assistance expected as result arrival Brit. Mission has not materialised and difficulties air sup. not appreciated.

Second. Lack of immediate action by Allies after Italian capitulation although partisans held whole coast.

Third. Impression made by Russian mil successes. General view taken is Allies unable take effective mil action or else not trying to give real aid.

5. Naval. Aegean. Night 18/19 Oct. PHOEBE, FURY, HURWORTH and BEAUFORT anti shipping sweep without contact. Bombarded Port Calino and Kos roads and inner harbour. BELVOIR, PATHFINDER and ECLIPSE reported Kos petrol dump blown up and large fire in inner harbour all bays Piskopi empty. 19 Oct. FAULKNOR and PETARD left Alexandria this morning.

6. Air. A. Own. Night 17/18. 3 Liberators and 3 Halifaxes bombed Maritza aerodrome. 1 Halifax Calato Aerodrome, 2 Baltimores, 7 Hudsons Heraklion Aerodrome. 1 Hudson Kastelli Pedias Aerodrome, 6 Wellingtons searched for enemy shipping in Western Aegean. No suitable targets. 5 aircraft bombed warehouses and jetty in Syros harbour. Unobserved results.

18th, 4 American Mitchells armed with bombs and 75 m.m. guns and 3 Beaufighters on anti-shipping R/C Calino area attacked 2 F-Boats north of Kos. Mitchells scored 2 certain, 1 probable hits with 75 m.m. shells. Beaufighters scored glancing hit with bomb on 1 F-Boat near miss on second. Cannon and machine gun attacks also made. Debris seen flying from vessels both of which left smoking. 1 Mitchell also bombed Antimachia landing ground scoring 3 hits on centre of runway.

Night 18/19th. 5 Wellingtons anti-shipping R/C Western Aegean, 1 Wellington on west coast Greece. Preliminary report states 1 vessel about 3,500 tons hit by torpedo and set on fire aft in Kithera Channel. Ship left stationary. 2,000 ton merchant vessel also attacked in Gulf of Corinth with unobserved results.

B. Enemy. 17th, 9 Ju.87s and 2 Me.109s bombed Kastelorizo. 1 M.T.B. reported hit but other damage and casualties slight. 1 Me.109 claimed damaged by A/A fire. 6 Ju.88s attacked naval units between Alexandria and Aegean. A Beaufighter on patrol over ships damaged 1 Ju.88.

18th. 12 Ju.88s bombed Kastelorizo but were intercepted by 6 Hurricanes from Cyprus which were making a sweep round island. 3 Ju.88s shot down 1 probably destroyed without loss.

(C. in C.M.E. T.O.O. 191830C.)

19/10
601A
MOST SECRET

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

MOST SECRET (Normal messages shown as having been sent in a One Time Pad (O.T.P.) are excepted from this rule.) 19 October
IN

From A.F.H.Q. Algiers

Date 20.10.43.
Recd. 1440

CYPHER TELEGRAM

Addressed The War Office.

Italy: Army H.R. Report.

165544 9597 cipher 19 Oct. MOST SECRET

Cite FHGCT signed Eisenhower.

Oct. Linrep 92. Summary of operations 14 to 17

Para. One. Ground. Eight Army. There was little change in the Termoli area with 78 Div continuing to hold the general line Petacciato H7180-Montecilfone H6967-H6958. South of 78 Div 15 Bde (five Div) continued to advance and captured Castellino H6146. On the left flank one Cdn Div continued to advance despite resistance and reached Montagno H5638 Busso H4728. Vinchiatura H42. Road Termoli-Vinchiatura now clear of enemy.

Five Army. Six corps continued to advance in the face of stubborn resistance and now holds a bridgehead east of Capua H17 across the Calore and Volturno Rivers extending in depth from four to seven miles. Six bridges have been built across the Volturno. In Ten Corps area 56 Div and 7 Armd Div have crossed the river in the Capua and Grazzinise H 07 areas respectively and together with the 46 Div in the coastal area have secured a bridgehead reaching to the Della Agnena Canal to the north. Two bridges now in operation west of Capua. Our bridgehead across Volturno is now continuous from M9274 to N3594. Our general line close of period. H7081-6958-6146-4625-Vinchiatura H42-6010-5000 N3898-3292-2493-1990-1682-1479-0780-M9275.

Para. two. Naval. During night 14/15 H.M.S. TUMULT and ILEX intercepted two enemy ships one of which was sunk the other a 5,000 ton tanker captured.

/Same

641 B

Same night light coastal craft operating in the channel between Elba and the mainland sank two enemy vessels. Light craft also operated off coast of Yugoslavia S.S. JAMES R LOWELL was torpedoed off Philippeville 15 Oct but was towed into port.

Para. three. Air. During the nights Wellingtons attacked rail communications in Central Italy and the airfields in vicinity of Rome with good effect. During the day heavy medium and light bombers continued the attacks on lines of communications. Medium bombers attacked airfield in Greece while fighter bombers attacked railroad rolling stock in Italy and the harbor at Levkas Yugoslavia with success. Fighters continued to patrol the battle area. Operations hampered by bad weather.

Para. four. Enemy.

Five Army Front. Despite stubborn resistance by seventeen Oct. enemy had been forced back on all sectors Volturno river line from sea to Capua although artillery continues to shell some Allied crossings. Enemy now on average two to three miles north of river. North east of Capua strong counter attacks failed to reduce allied salient now approaching Formicale. Three plus enemy divisions engaged. Mines and demolitions considerable but less effective than heretofore.

Eight Army Front. No major contact. Enemy main defense line River Trigno to Trivanto hence southwards to Bojano. Strong covering elements operating between Rivers Trigno and Biferno to prevent observation defense preparations on Trigno line. Four enemy divisions engaged but elements one probably going into reserve area Isernia. No fresh identifications but arrival replacements thought likely in near future.

Para. five. Political. Nil.

T.O.O. Nil/19.

- 1st Lord
 - 1st S.L.(2)
 - 4th S.L.
 - 5th S.L.
 - D.C.N.A.E.
 - V.C.N.S.
 - A.C.N.S.(A)(2)
 - A.C.N.S.(F)
 - A.C.N.S.(W)
 - U.W.R.
 - D.O.D.(F)(2)
 - D.O.D.(H)(4)
 - D.D.I.C.(2)
 - D.of P.(2)
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 - I.P.(2)
 - D.P.D.
 - W.D.
 - Ad. Blake.
 - D.D.O.D.(M)
 - D.A.W.T.
 - D.T.S.D.

War Diary.

19.10.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

M.K.S.28,
MAN-O-WAR.

Intend to sail MAN-O-WAR as additional escort to M.K.S.28 to U.K. leaving Algiers Oct. 21st.
2. Your 181631*(N.T. in W.D.) refers.
(N.O.I.C. Algiers 191601A.)
* sailing MAN-O-WAR in next convoy.

Convoy
Protection,
Air
Authorities.

Air Authorities responsible for fighter and A/S protection of convoys have now been redisposed. My 281(?925) (N.T. in W.R.) is cancelled.
2. Signals ordering movements of ships are to be repeated in accordance with following table to the appropriate N.A. who is automatically responsible for passing the signals to the associated Air Authority.

3. Area of Movement.	Naval Authority.	Air C.O.S.
A. West of 003° W.	F.O.I.C. Gib.	A.H.Q.Gib.
B. 003° W. to line joining Marsala to 035° (737') 011° 03'.	C. in C.Med.	210 Gp. Algiers.
C. N. coast of Sicily to 040° N.	V.A.Malta & N.L.O.325 Wing.	A.H.Q.Malta & 325 Wing Borizzo.
D. Sicilian channel to Malta.	As for C.	As for C.
E. Sousse, Sfax, Malta, Tripoli (Libya).	V.A.Malta.	A.H.Q.Malta.
F. E. coast of Sicily to Cotrone.	V.A.Malta.	A.H.Q.Malta.
G. Cotrone to heel of Italy and Adriatic.	F.O.T.A.	242 Gp. Taranto.
H. Adriatic N. of 042°	N.L.O.No. 1 Moru.	N.L.O.8th Army N.A.T.A.F. Desert Air Force.
I. Tyrrhenean Sea N. of 040°.	F.O.I.T.T.	N.A.C.A.F. Command Post.

4. In addition signals are to be repeated to intermediate N.As. for info. of adjacent fighter sector H.Qs. M.J.A.O. 47 refers.
5. Fighter sector H.Qs. are established at Oran, Algiers, Jijelli, Bone, Bizerta, Borizzo, Malta, Catania, Taranto, Foggia, Naples.

6. Details of G.R. and fighter sectors will be promulgated in Air A.O's.

(C. in C.Med. 191607A to Med. Stn. B.27, (R) C.N.A.C.A.F.)

h.D. Note. Amended by C in C Med. 081057A Dec. 1943.

S/M Patrols.

Readjust patrols forthwith as follows:

1. TORBAY between Naxos and Mykonos.
2. P.239 (SURF) between Denusa and Amorgos.
3. P.52 (DZIK) between Amorgos and Anaphi.
4. SEVERN amend route to pass W. of Knaros and N. of Levitha.

/Special...

19.10.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

S/M Patrols. Special Situation Report and probable harbour
(Contd.) for disembarking stores will be signalled later.
5. Patrolling S/Ms are to keep W. of 026° 30' E.
as own M.T.Bs. are operating W. of Dodecanese.
They are ordered not to attack S/Ms.
(Capt. S.1 191612C to SEVERN, TORBAY, P.239 (SURF)
P.52 (DZIK), (R) C. in C.Levant.)

EMPIRE Very fully employed recovering and transporting
CHARMIAN. L.C.M. in this area at present is the only L/C
carrier of Med. Post "Husky" allocation. She will
also be required for operations shortly. Regret
she cannot be spared.
(C. in C.Med. 191700 to Admty. (R) P.S.T.O.Med.)

Allied War- Your 172012. TROMBE on passage to Bizerta. 2 at
ships in Taranto and able to go to sea.
Italian A. French TIGRE, one M/S.
Hands. B. Yugo-Slav 3 S/M Chasers, 2 M/S 4 miscellaneous.
C. Greek nil. 3 at Brindisi and ready for sea.
A. French nil.
B. Yugo-Slav 2 T.B. 9 Vedett(?ea) one S/M Chaser
3 miscellaneous. C. Greek nil.

4. At Naples and laid up, 3 French S/Ms.
5. Yugo-Slav QUARNEROLO at Malta as S/M depot ship. 5 Yugo-Slav
Tugs working in (?invading) ports. One Yugo-Slav gunboat used
by DUKE D'AOSTA. Recommend transfer of these units be postponed.
6. Particulars of ships in German occupied territory follow.
(F.O.L.I. 191717A to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty.)
7. Ships on W.Coast of German occupied Italy and ready to
go to sea
A. French one Corvette, 3 tugs, 10 yachts.
B. Yugo-Slav one S/M, one M/L.
C. Greek nil.
8. Ships on W.coast of German occupied Italy sunk or (?under)
repair.
A. French 5 destroyers and all requiring (?6) months work, one
(corrupt group) boat. (?3) yachts.
B. Yugo-Slav one S/M, one M.T.B. C. Greek nil.
9. Ships on Adriatic coast not in my occupation and ready for sea
A. French nil. B. Yugo-Slav, 2 T.B., one training ship, 2
(?beach protection craft) C. Greek nil.
10. Ships on Adriatic Coast not in my occupation sunk or under
repair A. French nil. B. Yugo-Slav (?one) destroyer, 2 T.Bs.
one gunboat, one training ship. C. Greek nil.
11. 1 Greek Vedetea 2 at Gallipoli.
12. Detail nominal lists being sent by mail.
(F.O.L.I. 191921 to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty. C. in C.Levant.)

Tankers. Movement of tankers on the Med. Station is ordered
by C. in C.Med. in consultation with the A.F.H.Q.
petroleum section who are responsible for the
supply of liquid petroleum products throughout the
area. Tankers are therefore to be sailed only on the authority
of C. in C.Med. except in the case of emergency when the C. in
C.should be informed at once by signal of the action taken.
(C. in C.Med. 191722A to F.Os.I.C. and N.Os.I.C. Med. Station.)

/Adriatic...

19.10.1943.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Adriatic
Operations.

Intend following operations -

- A. 3 M.T.Bs. to leave Bari 1600/20th for Vis, thence 2 M.T.Bs. to patrol vicinity Eastern End of Hvar Island to intercept known enemy ship sailing between Split and Ploec. M.T.Bs. (?return) to Vis (?dawn) 21st.
- B. Area of subsequent operations will be discussed with Capt. D. 24. F.O.T.A. will be kept informed.
- C. M.T.Bs. will return Bari arriving dawn 25th or when fuel is exhausted.
- D. Air cover is not required.
- E. Capt. 24th D.F. is requested to detail one destroyer in harbour (?for) transmission to M.T.Bs. on 2540 k/cs during period of operation.
- (C.F.W. 191727 to F.O.T.A. (R) Capt. D.24, N.O.I.C. Bari, N.O.I.C. (?Brindisi), 286 Wing, N.L.O. No. 1 Moru, (?N.L.O.8th Army), C.C.F.)

L.C.T.for
East.

Admty. 251706 regarding towage L.C.Ts.

2. View likelihood numbers for towage later assuming proportions which might necessitate utilising services of numerous Merchant Vessels, would appreciate your requesting facilities for close observance arrangements proposed for suggested trial now. Your full advices will be appreciated.
3. Inform Murrant.
- (D. of S.T. 191737A to P.S.T.O.M.E. (R) F.O.C.R.I.N.)

LE CURIE,
ULTOR.

Intend to sail F.67 (LE CURIE) at 1700/21st proceeding on surface at discretion through 038° 01' 003° 34' at 0230/22nd, 040° 02' 005° 31' at 2130/22nd, thence diving by day through 041° 59' 006° 32' at 2230/23rd, 043° 43' 008° 35' at 0400/25th, to patrol in zones SN. and SO.

2. P.53 (ULTOR) will be (?ordered) to leave patrol on 24th. (Capt. S.8 191810A to 8th S/M F. (R) C. in C.Med. N.O.I.C. Algiers.)

H.A.4.

Arrived, 9 ships.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta 191812A.)

ESSEX,
PINZON,
ZWARTE ZEE,
EMPIRE LARCH.

Request arrangements be made to sail to U.K. in X.K.12 the following: M/V ESSEX in tow of tug ZWARTE ZEE, M/V PINZON in tow of tug EMPIRE LARCH. 2. EMPIRE LARCH is proceeding from U.K. in K.M.S. 31 with orders to report to F.O.I.C. Gib. ZWARTE ZEE should be ordered from Algiers when required. (D.O.D.(H) 191826A to C. in C.Med. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

Aegean
Operations.

Intend releasing following communique to Press.
(C. in C.Levant 191833C to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med.)

/Enemy...

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Enemy air activity Levitha. Many seaplanes including about 6 transport A/C daily seen flying to and from (?Lev)itha today and yesterday.
(TORBAY 191907C to C. in C.Levant.)

U/B. Am over enemy S/M in 36° 53' N. 1° 51' E. S/M on surface.
(A/C UAC/H 191919A, 192019 to Base A.K.8.)

Naples Shipyards. Intended to make use of all original facilities in Naples area connected with Naval and Merchant Ship construction and repairs, including any workshops for manufacture of Naval equipment in good order and can be restored within the next 6 months.
(C. in C.Med. 191946A to F.O.W.I.T. (R) F.O.L.I. F.O.T.A. Admty.)

GLEAVES. Departed.
(N.O.I.C. Bizerta 192003.)

Naples Movements. Arrival S.C.506, L.S.Ts. 405, 408, 358, Y.M.S.15. Departures HILARY, CLEVELAND, LAUDERDALE, LEDBURY, ESPIEGLE, VISENDA, L.S.T. 314, M.Ls. ?283, 561.
(N.O.I.C. Naples 192042A.)

U.S.S. PILOT. Arrived and departed.
(Com. Algeria 192045A.)

Italian Tug POSTIGLIOM(?). Departed.
(N.O.I.C. P.P. 192047C.)

TYRIAN, TUMULT. Situation report number 209.
1. TYRIAN and TUMULT proceeded to Bari p.m. 18th to intercept ship reported by air R/C off Mljet Island but did not make contact.
(C. in C.Med. 192146A.)

Tugs for Landing Craft and Ships. Your 302002 Sept. Following tugs are to accompany L/C Flights from Gib. to U.K.:
Flight N.23rd Oct. ROODE ZEE, P.1st Nov. EMPIRE RUPERT, Q. 10th Nov. EMPIRE JOHN, S. 20th Nov. EMPIRE HUDSON.
2. EMPIRE DOLLY is sailing in K.X.11 to relieve EMPIRE RUPERT.
3. EMPIRE JOHN and EMPIRE HUDSON are being sailed to Gibraltar in K.M.S.31 with orders to report to F.O.I.C. Gib. on arrival.
(D.O.D.(H) 192149A to C. in C.Med. (R) F.O.I.C. Gib.)

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

TACTICIAN.

At 1330Z/19th position submarine on passage and movements for next 24 hours are -
(1) P.314 (TACTICIAN) 005° 17' 081° 45' to position 005° 33' 086° 20'.
(Capt. (S) 4th, 190009Z to Admty.)

U/B.

Aircraft report U-Boat in 101° 48' N. 075° 21' E. at 0006Z/19th.
(C. in C. E.F., 190157Z to S. and A's E.I. Stn., 225 Group, (R) Admty., 222 Group.)

B.P. 99.

Karachi portion of B.P.99 sailed 0420Z/19th to R/V. N.C.S.O. Bombay's 170216 refers.
(N.C.S.O. Karachi, 190426Z to Admty.)
Karachi portion B.P.99 arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Karachi, 190952Z to Admty.)

Convoy
M.A. 16.

Sailing telegram. 2. 0930Z/19th. 3. R/V S.C.2 buoy Vizagapatam channel 0530Z/21st. 4. 9 knots. 5. Coastal. 6. IRRAWADI, SHILLONG.
(N.C.S.O. Madras, 190935Z to Admty.)

Routeing
of U.S.
managed
ships.

A.M. 071915. Cancel para. 2 (b).
Add new 2 (b). From East Africa steamships 14½ knots and above and motor ships 12½ knots and above to Trinidad via Atlantic for onward routeing with alternative Bahia. Ships of lower speeds to Bahia for convoy.
Add new 2(c). From South Africa steamships 14½ knots and above and motor ships 12½ knots and above direct to destination. Ships of lower speed to Bahia for convoy.
(D.T.D., 191726A to C. in C. E.F., F.O.E.Af., F.O.C.R.I.N., F.O. Ceylon, S.N.O. Persian Gulf, F.O.R.S.C.A., (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, C. in C. S.A., Connav, B.A.D.)

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

FRANCES VIGO, STRINDA, collision. FRANCES VIGO and STRINDA in collision at F.A. Both returning New York speed 7 knots. STRINDA a bad leak. CHICOUTIMI standing by. (W.l., 190230Z to Comdat. 3rd Naval District, New York, C.E.S.F., P.D. New York (R) C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q.)

C.U. Convoys, policy re personnel transportation. This Cominch's 182207Z to C.E.S.F. (R) to P.D.N.Y. Comnaveu, Admiralty. In C.U. convoys my 171522Z the following is policy governing personnel transportation: any deviation from the policy set forth must be referred to Com. 10th Fleet for decision in each instance.

Regular passenger rules for ships in trade convoy apply. No vessel carrying troops or passengers other than cargo ships or Tankers will be included in these convoys. (Comnaveu, 190801Z to Admty).

E.G.B.1 torpedo attack. Following is a deciphered version of my 181358 (undecypherable) (begins) S.O.E.G.B.1, 061932. Photos obtained during short turn around St. Johns being airmailed to Admiralty and N.S.H.Q. Torpedo now en route to R.N.T.F. Greenock in accordance with Admty.

081027 not to all addressees (Ends). (F.O.N.F., 191235Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A., C. in C. W.A., Cdre. (D) W.A.)

AFFLECK Boston sailed 18th AFFLECK for Bermuda. (N.S.H.Q., 191235Z to Admty).

U.T.3 Shuttle trip. C. in C. Med., pass information to A.F.H.Q. Algiers and Cdr. U.S. Naval Forces N.W. African Waters. Cominch has no objection to certain troopships of convoy U.T.3 making Shuttle trip to Iceland under British Escort and returning to U.S.A. in T.U.4 or T.U.3. Refers troopers 78565 of 13th October not to all addressees. American escorts of Shuttle trip to North Africa will not proceed beyond Algiers. (Cominch, 191248Z to Comnaveu (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Med., F.O.I.C. Gib. Cdre. U.S. Naval Forces N.W. African Waters, Cinclant, C.T.F.60, A.F.H.Q. Algiers).

R.C.N. Frigates, allocation. M.S.1057-5-1 of 4th Oct. and N.S.H.Q. 101757. (1) Following is intended allocation of next five R.C.N. Frigates and anticipated time of joining ST. CATHERINES C.2 Early November. DUNVER? C.5, mid November. PRINCE RUPERT C.3 early December. MATANE C.4 mid December next ship fifth Escort Group January.

(2) In continuation of policy of allocating Frigates as Senior Officers ships intend to take first four of these frigates in hand for alteration as S.O. Ship. Dates given allow for this. (C. in C. C.N.A., 191450Z to N.S.H.Q. (R) F.O.N.F. Admty. C. in C. W.A.) /WARSPITE...

A 42.1. 1200
607A.

MOST SECRET

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

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

MOST SECRET M E S S A G E 191235Z/October OUF

To: Britman Washington.

Date: 19.10.43.

CYPHER

Landing Craft - Mediterranean
and India.

From: Air Ministry

OZ.3248 19th October 1943.

IMPORTANT.

Following from Chiefs of Staff C.O.S.(W) 884
Reference NAF 446.

Owing to overestimating the casualties in the Mediterranean at QUADRANT there are more landing ships and craft in that theatre than was expected. We have made arrangements to leave the exact numbers in the Mediterranean which were agreed and to withdraw the British surplus to U.K. for OVERLORD, whereas the Americans are sending to U.K. the exact numbers which they agreed to send.

2. In order to clarify the existing arrangements we make the following detailed comments on NAF 446:-

- (a) It has been agreed that 2 L.S.I.(M) will be left in the Mediterranean until the end of the year for leapfrog operations along the coast of Italy at the request of General Eisenhower, but the 3 British L.S.I.(L) are earmarked for India and must arrive there by 1st December to allow sufficient time for their fitting for Indian troops.
- (b) By 1st March 3 other L.S.I.(L) will be sent to the Mediterranean but the 2 L.S.I.(M) in para. 2(a) above may be withdrawn, if required either for OVERLORD or India. The lift remaining in the Mediterranean should in theory be at that date sufficient for one Division including two Brigade Groups assault loaded. This might however be reduced by requirements for port working and high rate of unserviceability.
- (c) The 4 Greek L.S.T. will be sailed to the Mediterranean after arrival in U.K.

3. Request Eisenhower be informed of para. 2 above. We recommend however that in view of the recent information with regard to possible German intentions in Italy and to the importance of:

(a).....

- (a) maintaining rate of build-up,
- (b) assisting our advance northwards in Italy,

C.C.S. ask General Eisenhower to submit as matter of urgency an appreciation of his requirements in landing ships and craft for the Mediterranean looking as far ahead as possible. This appreciation will provide a basis for any necessary reassessment.

4. In the meantime we hope that the Americans will not withdraw any of their craft in the Mediterranean (especially L.S.T. and L.C.T.) which may be in excess of numbers agreed at QUADRANT.

191235Z.

Recd. in W.R. 19th October.

1st Lord	<u>Circulation</u>
1st S.L.(2)	Brig. Jacob
D.F.S.L.	Foreign Secretary
3rd S.L.	First Sea Lord
Vice Contr.	C. 6 Tels. W.O.
V.C.N.S.	A.M.C.S.(C)
A.C.N.S.(F)	C.O.H.Q.
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)	Dep. Contr. }
Hd. of M.(2)	D. of D. } BATH.
I.P.(2)	D.N.C. }
D. of D.	Hd. of S.W.R. }
C.O.S.(X)	
W.D.	
Admiral Blake	
D.R.O.(CO)(2)	
C.C.O(2)	
D.C.O.M.(4)	

19.10.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

WARSPITE, Your 241457/Sept. arrangements for modernising repairs and modernising. WARSPITE have now received approval in principle. (2) Full extent of repairs required will not become available until ship is docked at Gibraltar, but basing probable time for repair on somewhat similar case of QUEEN ELIZABETH it would appear that ship will require to be in hand until late 1944. This being so we wish to take this opportunity to modernise fully the anti-aircraft armament and arrangements, to render ship fit to take part in Eastern War. (3) It is therefore proposed to ask for the following to be done in addition to repairs : (details)
(6) The alternative of asking U.S. authorities to re-arm ship with American five inch and control has been considered, but is ruled out on the question of weight and space.
(7) It is realised that this is a heavy job but it is necessary if this ship is to be made into an efficient unit for operations in Far East. We have such heavy commitments in carrying out similar modernisation to K.G.V. class that we cannot ourselves take on more and if U.S. cannot do this ship our maximum effort will be reduced. The requirements for maintenance of Combined Operations craft is severely limiting our refit resources. (Controller, 191519A to B.A.M.R.)

German acoustic torpedo information for Russia. Subject to concurrence of U.S. Naval Authorities propose that Soviet Naval Staff should be immediately informed of countermeasures to German acoustic torpedo as given in A.M.242113A/Sept. and A.L. M/TSD. 556/43 of 29th Sept. (neither to Admiral Fisher) and that such subsequent information on this subject (as in A.L.M/TSD 556/43 of 13th Oct. which is being forwarded to you) should be passed as U.S. Naval Authorities shall agree.
(2) Request you will take up urgently with Navy Department.
(3) Russians have already been informed in sense of A.G.M.271946 A/Sept.
(Hd. of M.11, 191541A to B.A.D., (R) Admiral Fisher Moscow.)

U.S.A.T. Departure Vieux Fort 18th U.S.A.T. HUGH J. GALLAGHER Trinidad 19th departure Vieux Fort 19th U.S.A.T. COLONEL R.T. POWERLIS Trinidad 20th. (B.R.O. Saint Lucia, 191548Q)

ST. ALBANS. Request confirmation that E.T.A. given in your 181736 is correct since N.S.H.Q.'s 272051 Sept. gave end of Oct. which date was communicated to Navy Department.
(B.A.M.R. Washington, 191550Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) N.S.H.Q., Admty., S.B.N.O. W.At. ST. ALBANS.)

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19.10.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

ROYAL
SOVEREIGN
information.

You may sight ASNALAND Swedish Southbound about 0600Z/20. (N.S.H.Q. 191604Z to ROYAL SOVEREIGN (R) Admty. S.B.N.O. W.At.)

CLEOPATRA
refit.

A.M.162021/August to B.A.M.R. Washington only. It is now considered that CLEOPATRA can proceed to U.S.A. by a Southerly route and it is requested that you will again enquire if she can be accepted there for permanent repairs. (2) New main machinery will be supplied from U.K. (Controller, 191640A to B.A.M.R. Washington (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, F.O. Gibraltar, A.S. Malta, CLEOPATRA.)

UGANDA
refit.

Request you will report whether UGANDA could be taken in hand for hull and machinery repairs in the U.S.A. C.S. Gibraltar's 071802 Oct. and 131820 Oct. which are being passed to you, refer.

(2) It is hoped to have new set of machinery available by mid 1944.

(3) In the meantime, repairs in U.S.A. could proceed on the basis of a three shaft ship, and, when definite date of delivery of main machinery for fourth shaft is known, decision can be taken as to installation whilst in hand in U.S.A. or in U.K.

(4) UGANDA completes temporary repairs at Gibraltar, 31st Oct. (D.O.D.(F), 191651A to B.A.M.R. Washington, (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C.Gib. C.S. Gib. UGANDA.)

Employment
of Italian
Naval
Ships.

Admiral King comments on your 112314 as follows. (1) General. The recent declaration of war by the Italians changes their status and may modify some of Admiralty recommendations. This change in the situation indicates the maximum use of Italians in manning their own vessels.

(2) LITTORIOS. U.S. facilities are being fully employed. No excess available for the overhaul of these vessels. The manufacture of ammunition would be required to enable ships to be actively employed. They have poor defensive characteristics which make them undesirable for active Pacific operations. Italians have not declared war against Japan. Recommend against proposed employment. A possible use appears to be in Mediterranean using own crews with Allied liaison personnel for supporting miscellaneous Mediterranean operations and for transport purposes in emergency. (3) CAVOURS. The Italian declaration of war changes the position of these ships. It is considered they should be re-militarized and employed for support of operations and for transport purposes in the Mediterranean.

(4) /...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Employment
of Italian
Naval
Ships.
(Contd.)

(4) Cruisers. Information upon which your recommendation is based is not available. Their use in the Mediterranean as fast transports and for support of minor operations appears desirable.

(5) Submarines. Concur.

(6) MIRAGLIA. The employment should be under Combined Chiefs of Staffs and based upon relative needs, U.S. needs for transport of Army aircraft to the U.K. and otherwise is urgent.

(7) SATURNIA. This ship should be operated in the general shipping pool. There are inadequate personnel shipping facilities in the Pacific. It seems desirable that she be used with Italian crew and Allied Liaison Officers in the Atlantic for build-up of U.S. Army in U.K. A shift of equivalent lift to the Pacific would then appear to be in order.

(8) ERITREA. Consider she be used to best purpose at discretion of Supreme Commander South East Asia. The Italian crew to be employed as practicable in view of manpower shortage.

(9) I await your counter comments before putting this matter to C.C.S. Have you considered using LITTORIOS as fast unescorted Atlantic Troopers.

(B.A.D. 191735Z to Admty.)

GOODSON,
AYLMER,
GOODALL.

When ready about 24th sail GOODSON Boston to Casco Bay for about 14 days Shakedown. Upon completion Shakedown route onward to Bermuda stopping at Boston for fuel stores spare part and books. Inform all addressees routing instruction ports. These orders also apply to AYLMEER and GOODALL my 181452 when ready depart Casco Bay. (Cominch, 191828 to Admty.)

Convoy
C.U.6.

14 ships departed New York. Last ship POWDER RIVER Out Gate 1303Q/19th. (P.D. New York, 191830 to Com. 10th Fleet C.& R.)

GORGON.

About 0800Q October 21 depart Charleston Seabuoy E.T.Bermuda 23/1000 speed 16 via following points: A 32.39 N. 64.18 W. B. 32.16 N. 64.18 W. thence destination. This compliance Cominch 182155.

(C.T.G. 02.6, 191853 to C.E.S.F. Cinclant, N.O.B. Bermuda, S.B.N.O. W.At., N.S.H.Q.)

Convoy
Speeds.

In view of recent difficulties over speeds of U.G.S. Convoys and U.T.2 request confirmation that declared speed of 14 knots for C.U.7 and subsequent convoys allows margin for station keeping laid down in L.C.O.C.31. Cominch C.& R. 171522 not to B.A.D. refers. (D.T.D. 191853A to B.A.D.)

St. Johns /...

19.10.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

St. Johns Your 171506.
 minesweeping. (A) 6 mines swept October 18th.
 (B) No.1 100 degs. 10.5 miles Fort Amherst.
 No.2 103 degs. 12 miles Fort Amherst.
 No.3. 114 degs. 12.6 miles Fort Amherst.
 No.4 119 degs. 12.9 miles Fort Amherst.
 No.5 110 degs. 12.9 miles Fort Amherst.
 No.6 110 degs. 11 miles Fort Amherst all swept by Orópesa all
 detonated in sweep.
 (C) Areas searched yesterday as follows. Following are positions
 of mines swept up to end sweeping operations 17th October.
 (list of 16).
 (F.O.N.F. 191853Z to N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty. Cominch, C. in C. C.N.A)

SEAWOLF. B.A.M.R. Washington 181806 being passed
 U.S. Cdr. E. Sea Frontier and CORNWALLIS the
 following is requested.
 (1) U.S. Cdr. E.S. Frontier indicate date
 escort required to arrive New London.
 (2) CORNWALLIS sail escort as requisite.
 (3) U.S. Cdr. E.S. Frontier sail SEAWOLF and escort to Digby.
 (C. in C. C.N.A. 191918Z to Cdr. E.S.F.(U.S.) CORNWALLIS,
 (R) B.A.R.M., Admty. U.S. Cdr. (S) Atlantic. (U.S) C. in C.
 U.S.F., C. in C. N.W.A. U.S. Comdt. 1st N.D. Boston Mass.
 H.S.H.Q., F.O.(S) Capt. (S) 7.)

Sub. Para. C. A.T.C. plane sights submarine course
 attack 070 15.00 N. 64.40 W. 191230.
 and BBY training plane sights sub. course 130 28.18 N.
 sighting 79.03 W. 191525.
 summary. All times Z.
 (Cominch, 191932Z to Admty.)

EMPIRE My 151831 and your 020038.
 MACANDREW, 24, 250 pound G.P. bombs have been embarked in
 proposed EMPIRE MACANDREW.
 method (2) It is intended to attempt a divebombing
 of attack. attack with G.P. bombs simultaneously with R.P.
 attack as suggested in your 020038.
 (C. in C. C.N.A. 191938Z to C. in C. W.A. (R)
 F.O.C.T., R.N.A.S. Maydown, Admty, N.S.H.Q.)

LINARIA. LINARIA departing Bermuda for Argentia (Route).
 E.T.D. 2300Z/19th at 12 knots. E.T.A. 1400Z/23rd
 (N.O.B. Bermuda, 191944 to N.O.B. Argentia. (R)
 N.S.H.Q., S.B.N.O. W.At., C. in C. N.At. Admty.
 Cinclant, B.A.D.)

RICHELIEU. Has RICHELIEU been issued with set of C.Bs.
 Your 162307 refers.
 (Head of M.Branch 11, 192006A to B.A.D. (R) N.S.H.
 Q. Ottawa.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

PENOLVER, (2 groups missed) Pendant 21 (corrupt group)
DELISLE in position 047 degs 19' N. 052 degs. 27' W.
sunk by at 2058Z.
mines. (CARAQUET, 192113Z to (2 groups missed) at
St. Johns N.F.)
Pendant 22 Sinking by Mine in position 047 degs.
19' N. 052 degs. 27' W. MISCOU picking up survivors
requests assistance.
(CARAQUET, 192152Z to F.O.N.F., C. in C. C.N.A. (?Capt. in Charge)
St. Johns, N.F.)

O.N.205. Departures CHELSEA, SHAWINIGAN, LETHBRIDGE,
GRANBY (?today) to Homp with O.N.205.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 192204 to Admty.)

B.6. B.6 escort group defects reported DEVERON and
VANQUISHER. If necessary for these ships to
proceed to St. Johns N.F. for repairs submit if
possible remaining 3 ships of group may also pro-
ceed to St. Johns, N.F. in order that officers may meet after
recent operation.
(B.6, 192335Z to F.O.N.F. (R) Capt. (D) Argentia, DEVERON,
VANQUISHER.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest Beaufort attacked enemy submarine off Cape Saint
Serial George forenoon scoring near miss. Also reported
No.637 5 vessels same area apparently heading Rabaul.
Oct.18th. (2) Liberator sighted 1 destroyer 1 small
freighter with fighter covering 23 miles North by
West New Hanover on Southerly course during
afternoon R/C and later thoroughly strafed 2
small freighters off Western tip New Hanover. Covering
fighter shot down while attempting intercept Liberator.
(3) Photos Rabaul afternoon 17th reveal 2 heavy cruisers, 1
light cruiser, 9 destroyers, 24 merchant vessels, 3 flying boats,
15 floatplanes in harbour.
(4) Further heavy strike Rabaul forenoon 18th. 78 heavy
bombers and fighters forced to turn back because of weather but
54 Mitchells succeeded in reaching target under low cloud cover.
Preliminary reports indicate 1 destroyer, 1 possibly 2 medium
Merchantmen and 1 Gunboat destroyed and 1 Corvette set on fire.
In addition 36 grounded aircraft were destroyed on Rapopo and
Tobera Fields where fuel dumps were set on fire and A/A positions

silenced /...

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19.10.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
Serial
No. 637
Oct. 18th.
(Contd.)

silenced. 50 to 60 enemy fighters intercepted our returning bombers over Cape Gazell and despite the absence of fighter cover the Mitchells claim destroying 24 Fighters for certain and 6 others probably. 3 Mitchells failed to return. Northbound submarine reported off Cape Orford forenoon.

(11) Single Liberator, attacked Southbound convoy described 1 destroyer, 1 small merchantman, 1 large transport, 90 miles North Mussau Island forenoon 17th scoring direct hit 1 large transport which was reported crowded with troops left heavily smoking and settling by p.m. after attack. (12) Three enemy barges attacked by aircraft off Empress Augusta Bay afternoon 17th, 2 of which were beached all thoroughly strafed. (13) Catalina also attacked six barges 30 miles West Buka passage same night.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 190626Z)

Movements.

Departed Sydney 18th U.S. Cruiser CLEVELAND
U.S. Dest. STERETT for Espiritu Santo. Milne
Bay 18th U.S. Dest. HELM for Brisbane.
(A.C.N.B. 191426)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 191358A, 191406A)

Submarines Attacked.

Sub. attack
and sighting
summary
for 24 hours
to
0900Z/19th.

Para. B. Fishermen report sighting U-Boat at
0700/17th in 14 degs. 34' N. 49 degs. 18' E.
Ref. A.M. 181150A last para. One German survivor
from U-Boat reported rescued by H.M.I.Ship.
(D.D.I.C. 191026A to Cominch)

20.10.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Spitzbergen.

1. Force 1 consisting of TUSCALOOSA, ONSLAUGHT, ORIBI, ORWELL and FITCH are returning from Operation F.Q. in Spitzbergen at ONSLAUGHT's reduced speed of 19 knots and expect to arrive at Seidisfiord at 1000A on the 22nd.

U/Boats were reported by Admiralty at 0855A this morning to be still active in the Ice Fiord area; and at 1955Z "Locomotive" reported that one U/Boat (possibly that rammed yesterday by ONSLAUGHT) was alongside the jetty, and at 2055Z reported again that the U/Boat had dived after having been fired at.

Home Fleet.

2. DUKE OF YORK with 2 U.S. Destroyers arrived at Scapa at 0731 from Rosyth.

South Atlantic.

3. Convoy W.S.33 (A) and C.M.46, combined, left Durban today for Kilindini en route to Aden. Convoy W.S.33 left Durban en route for Bombay.

Mediterranean.

Lack of Destroyers.

4. RAIDER, QUILLIAM, QUEENBOROUGH and QUAIL are required to rejoin Eastern Fleet early in 1944 and Admiralty wish to bring them home to fit type 272 radar before proceeding. C. in C. Mediterranean, however, is strongly averse to releasing them, as of his remaining strength on paper of 13 Fleet destroyers only 7 would be available to meet all commitments, which he considers inadequate. He asks that the matter may be reconsidered.

/Rocket...

615

20.10.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Rocket
bomb
investigation
group.

5. To carry out investigations in connection with German H.S.293 and F.X.95 bombs, a group has been formed consisting of PALOMARES, fighter direction ship, U.S.S. H.C.JONES and F.C.DAVIS, destroyers, all of which are fitted with special gear for the purpose. Instructions for the employment of this group with Mediterranean slow convoys are contained in C. in C. Med.'s 201210.

Italy.

6. U.S. P.T. boats last night attacked a convoy of 1 small tanker, 1 F/lighter, escorted by 3 R/boats, off the River Arno, 43.40 N., 10.15 E. The F/lighter was hit by one torpedo and another possible hit is claimed on the tanker. Fire from R/Boats was inaccurate and they eventually engaged each other.

7. Warhawks today attacked coastal communications setting 3 small ships on fire and strafing a train near Angona.

Italian
Cruisers.

8. Because of the serious problem of feeding Italian naval personnel at Taranto, C. in C. Med. has proposed that 2 Italian cruisers should be sent to Gibraltar for sea and climate trials in the Atlantic with a view to their subsequent employment on blockade runner patrols from Freetown for a short period. Combined Chiefs of Staff, Washington, approved this on 22nd October.

Aegean.

9(a) FURY and BEAUFORT passed north of Rhodes last night, made a sweep west of Kalimno without sightings, and lay up in Turkish waters. The disembarkation of stores for Leros was postponed until tonight.

(b) M.T.Bs. from Kastelorizo in an attack on shipping inshore on the north coast of Kos last night hit one small M/V and an ammunition lighter; the latter blew up.

(c) C.S.12 in AURORA with destroyers FAULKNER, PETARD, DULVERTON and MIAOULES, left Alexandria this morning, AURORA and MIAOULES to bombard Rhodes harbour, and the fleet destroyers to land stores for Leros.

(d) Symi was reported occupied by the Germans today.

(e) Sightings yesterday showed that 4 Enemy M.T.Bs. had left the Calino-Kos area, but C. in C. Middle East still considers an assault on Leros will be launched as soon as the enemy appreciates that the naval situation permits. Present garrisons are: Leros, 1492, Samos, 570, Kastelorizo, 934. (see also p. 667)

/(f)...

20.10.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Aegean .
(Contd.)

(f) The submarine SEVERN was due at Leros tonight with Bofors guns, but Leros cannot accept her until 2100C/21st. The submarine RORQUAL, due on the 22nd, may also have to wait one day. Unloading facilities at Leros are now reduced to one fixed crane.

TROOPER
lost.

10. The submarine TROOPER, which has been overdue since October 17th, is considered lost. She was patrolling west of the Dodecanese, and for the latter part of her patrol East of Leros to intercept the expected seaborne attack on the island. In absence of other evidence, C. in C. Levant considers that mines were the probable cause.

Air
Operations
(Adriatic).

11(a). Fighter bombers on an anti-shipping strike off the Albanian coast attacked coastal craft (believed patrol vessels) and sank 2 100 ft. craft, one in 43.58 N. 15.08 E., and one in 44.00 N., 15.10 E. A 50 ft. craft was also damaged in the latter position.

(Tyrrhennian
Sea.)

(b) Aircraft bombed harbour installations at Gaeta, north of Naples, last night.

Air
Operations
(Aegean).

(c) 8 U.S. Mitchells escorted by 6 Beaufighters attacked 2 F/Boats off the north coast of Kos, scoring hits with 75 MM. shell. One F/Boat was also hit by bomb and left heeling over; both are considered severely damaged. 75 mm. hits were also scored on a large caique south of Kos.

Hudson aircraft bombed Kos last night.

East Indies.

12(a) SS. BRITISH PURPOSE, 5845 tons, in Convoy B.M.71, was torpedoed at 1730Z in 11°49' N 74°54' E. (about 90 miles N.W. of Cochin). At 2051Z, SHORHAM reported that she was still afloat and making 8 knots. The ship reached Cochin with damaged bows, and will require to discharge cargo before she can proceed to a repair port.
(b) H.I.M.S. RAMDAS was unsuccessfully attacked by a U/Boat at 0827Z in 10.28 N., 75.15 E.

617

20.10.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies. - Contd.

13. The allocation of PANGKOR as base ship for escort vessels of the Eastern Fleet has been approved.

Coastal
Patrols,
Chittagong.

14. Up to 2 mixed flotillas of M.Ls., H.D.M.Ls. and Burma R.N.V.A. craft will be based at Chittagong during the fine weather season for major operations or offensive patrols down the coast. C. in C.E.F. requests a Commander may be sent as S.O. Coastal Forces to organise bases under N.O.I.C. Chittagong.

America and West Indies.

Q.S./S.Q.
Convoys.

15. In view of the present situation in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Q.S./S.Q. convoys are to be recommenced beginning with Q.S.68A, sailing today, and S.Q.69, sailing 25th October. The Cycle thereafter will be every 7 and 6 days from Quebec, and 6 and 7 days from Sydney until further notice.

16. The U.S. tankers GULFLAND and GULFBELLE collided 3 miles off Jupiter Light, East Coast of Florida, at 2257 Q and burst into flames. GULFLAND sank on top of an old wreck in 27.00 N. 80.03 W., with 92 casualties. GULFBELLE was taken in tow to Port Everglades, where she arrived at 2310Z on Oct. 22nd.

17. CORE aircraft report the sinking of a U/Boat at 1545 in 47.40 N., 28.27 W., about 500 miles north of the Azores.

Australia and New Zealand.

18. 3 Liberators attacked a small freighter between Manokwari and Sorong. The vessel exploded after 2 hits and was left sinking.

19. 60 enemy aircraft attacked Allied shipping in Langemak Bay (near Finschhafen) last night. A few casualties were sustained but little damage was caused.

20.10.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Milford Haven. Rescue Tugs. Rescue tug position at Milford Haven is acute. ABEILLE IV only having had one 24 hour period standing off duty since end-August. (3) Request that special needs of Milford Haven may now be re-assessed and adequate provision made in regard to rescue tug allocation for this port, in view of constant commitments with an increasing number of important ships. (F.O.i/c Milford Haven 201747A to Admty.).

Corvettes for Eastern Fleet. A.M.T. 211105 August para.E. Seven new construction Corvettes allocated to Eastern Fleet are HONESTY, DITTANY, BETONY, BURNET, ROSEBAY, LINARIA, SMILAX. (C. in C.W.A. 201819A to Admty.).

Movements.

REVENGE Sailed REVENGE escorted by PRINCE ROBERT in accordance with my 181224A amended by my 181926A. (F.O.i/c Greenock 200504A to C. in C. Portsmouth).

DUKE OF YORK. Scapa arrival DUKE OF YORK escorted by FORREST and CAPPS. (A.C.O.S. 200731 to C. in C. Rosyth).

DIOMEDE, DAUNTLESS. Scapa arrival DIOMEDE, DAUNTLESS. (A.C.O.S. 200755 to C. in C. Rosyth).

ANSON, IMPULSIVE. My 191956. IMPULSIVE sailed. (A.C.I.C. 200944A to N.O.i/c Faeroes). V.A.2 111204. N.O.i/c Faeroes is requested to sail IMPULSIVE from Skaalefiord at 0300A/22nd to join V.A.2. in ANSON in O, 062 degs. 15' N.

005 degs. 50' W. (2) V.A.2. is expected to pass through position O at 0600A/22 and will approach on course 192 degs. S. of A. 17 knots. Course will be altered to 164 degs. after passing position O. (C. in C.H.F. 201926A to N.O.i/c Faeroes).

REVENGE escorted by SALADIN and PRINCE ROBERT pass D3 Buoy 180 degs. The Lizard 3 miles at 0715A/21 to arrive Needles at 1600A/21st. Standard route.

(2) LIMBOURNE takes STEVENSTONE and MELBREAK under his orders passing Gate at 0300A/21 and proceeds to R/V with REVENGE at 0715A/21 and takes over escort REVENGE to Needles.

(3) SALADIN and PRINCE ROBERT will part company to westward on relief LIMBOURNE, STEVENSTONE and MELBREAK are to part company with REVENGE at Needles and return Plymouth. (C. in C. Plymouth 201118A).

PRINCE ROBERT. N.O.i/c Greenock 181926A. Route for PRINCE ROBERT after parting company with REVENGE at Lizard is as follows to Gibraltar. (2) S.O.A. 18 knots. (C. in C. Plymouth 201159A to F.O.i/c Gib.).

/HARRIER...

20.10.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

HARRIER, SEAGULL. Arrivals S.O.M/S F.1 in HARRIER with SEAGULL.
(R.N.O. Seidisfiord 201235A to A.C.I.C.).

MATCHLESS My 191811. MATCHLESS sailed at 1345/20, S.O.A.
25 knots.
(C. in C. Plymouth 201346A to R.A.D.H.F.).

RESOLUTION STORD proceed passing Switha 0430A/21 to R/V off
Duncansby Head 0500 with RESOLUTION and OBEDIENT.
When met OBEDIENT return to Scapa, STORD escort
RESOLUTION to vicinity Cape Wrath and when
released return to Scapa.
(R.A.D.H.F. 201456A to STORD, OBEDIENT).
Departure RESOLUTION escorted by OBEDIENT.
(C. in C. Rosyth 201512A to C. in C. Portsmouth).

North Atlantic dispositions. (1) Disposition of operational units in North
Atlantic:-
In Northern Waters ANSON, TUSCALOOSA, AUGUSTA,
LONDON, RANGER, 11 Destroyers, 2 Destroyers (U.S.).
Area Scapa HOWE, DUKE OF YORK, RENOWN, BELFAST,
JAMAICA, KENT, 9 Destroyers.
Area Clyde FORMIDABLE.
Area Plymouth CHARYBDIS, SPARTAN, GLASGOW, BERMUDA, 2 Destroyers.
Passage to U.K. ROYAL SOVEREIGN.
(2) Disposition of Escort Carriers: FENCER Azores, TRACKER North
Atlantic, BITER North Atlantic.
(D.O.D.H. 201601A to C. in C.U.S. Fleet).

GAMBIA Scapa arrival at 1559 GAMBIA.
(A.C.O.S. 201628A to N.O.i/c Greenock).

S/M movements. Positions of S/Ms. at 0800/21 and movements for
following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 201747A, 210846A, 211729A).

Operations.

Operation "S.F." ARDROSSAN arrived Seidisfjord 0700A/20th.
(R.N.O. Seidisfjord 200720A to A.C.I.C.).
My 192358. Owing to weather reduced to 1
Sunderland 2nd 2 Catalinas. Nothing on patrol
until 1500.
(C. in C. Rosyth 200812A to H.F.).

Operation "S.F." My 200812 Moorings patrols cancelled
owing to weather. One Catalina and one Sunderland Flying following
patrol today.

(C. in C. Rosyth 20104A to H.F.).

WORTHING is to be sailed to Hvalfiord for docking as soon
as weather permits.

(A.C.I.C. 201044 to R.N.O. Seidisfjord).

Situation at 202103A. FRASERBURGH, HUSSAR, LYME REGIS,
BOOTLE and MENTOR searching 062 degs. 24' 013 degs. 50'.
(A.C.I.C. 201258A to Ships).

/Moorings...

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Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation "S.F." (Contd.) Moorings area M.S. for October 21st. 4 Sunderlands and 2 Catalinas being flown. (C. in C. Rosyth, 202327A to H.F.)

Operation "F.Q." (Force 1). D/F of signal at 0524Z and several signals on the Arctic frequencies during night indicate U-Boats still active in Ice Fiord area. (2) Bearing of signal at 0542Z from Faroes passes through Bear Island. (D.D.I.C., 200855A to TUSCALOOSA, (R) V.A.2.)
E.T.A. Seidisfjord 1000A/22, TUSCALOOSA, ONSLAUGHT, ORIBI, ORWELL, FITCH. ONSLAUGHT damaged port propeller and A/S head by ramming submarine, still able to make 19 knots. 1200A/20 position Force 1, 075° 40' N. 001° 06' E. S.O.A. 16. (TUSCALOOSA, 201623A to Admty., A.C.I.C.)

Operation "Locomotive". U-Boat alongside jetty. ("Locomotive", 201955Z to Admty.)
U-Boat dived after having been fired at. ("Locomotive", 202055Z to Admty.)

Bay Patrol. Am over enemy S/M in 48° 46' N. 09° 29' W. Enemy was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on surface 140° estimated speed 7 knots.
(A/C Duty Q, 201308 to 19 Group.)
U-Boat previously reported was on surface and seen to submerge. Periscope only sighted. (14-) 7 knots, 48° 25' N. 09° 35' W.
(A/C Duty Q, 201310 to 19 Group.)
U-Boat previously reported was on surface and seen to submerge 13.10.
(A/C Duty Q, 201446 to 19 Group.)
Disposition at 202000. (1) BERMUDA patrolling vicinity 042° 30' N. 021° 01' W.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 201510A to Admty.)
U-Boat previously reported was on surface and seen to submerge. Periscope only sighted, course 140° 7 knots. First sighted in 48.25 N. 09.35 W. (? at 1310).
(A/C Duty Q, 201520 to 19 Group.)
CHARYBDIS pass Gate at 1530A/22nd and proceed through position (CA) 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles. (CB) 048° 50', 010° 09'. (CC) 047° 27', 010° 48'. (CD) 046° 40', 010° 01' and thence 246° to carry out operation "Stonewall" in areas between 041° N. and 044° N. and between 020° W. and 022° W. (2) CHARYBDIS is passing through position (CC) at 1200Z/23rd, speed approx. 18 knots. Mosquitoes and Beaufighters of 19 Group will R/V at this point and escort until 1800A/23. CHARYBDIS is controlling and directing fighters. (3) If weather unsuitable for flying CHARYBDIS will be informed by signal at 0600A/23, in which case she is to continue from (CB) through (CE) 048° 11' 012° 52' and thence 225° to patrol area.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 201536A to CHARYBDIS.)
My 1308. U-Boat was on surface and seen to submerge and was on course 170° speed 7 knots when first sighted in 48° 36' N. 09° 29' W. Dropped mark. Resumed patrol.
(A/C Duty Q, 201629A to 19 Group.)

/Coastal ...

20.10.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

Coastal Patrols. (1) Orders for night 20/21 October.
(A) Chasseurs 13, 14 patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between E and E.A.5 buoys.
(B) ALBRIGHTON immediate notice at Yarmouth.
(C) M.L.233, 124, R.M.L.522 patrolling 50 degs. 15' N. between 2 degs. 10' W. and 2 degs. 35' W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 201425A).

S/M Patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800/21st and movements for following 24 hours. All times Zone A.
(A) SEADOG as in my 191732.
(B) SEAROVER 69 degs. 10' N. 12 degs. 01' E. through 69 degs. N. 11 degs. E. to 62 degs. N. 01 degs. E., probably on surface, 10 knots.
(C) TANTIVY 61 degs. 50' N. 01 degs. 10' E., to patrol vicinity 63 degs. 35' N. 05 degs. 01' E., dived as much as possible North of 62 degs. N.
(F.O.S. 201747A to Admty.).

"V.P." operations. M.T.B.626 returned at 1230A today. V.P.151A not attempted and V.P.152A not successful. My 191224. Lieut. Job picked up one merchant-ship of 1000 tons sunk in 61 degs. 23.4' N. 4 degs. 56.3 E. whilst at anchor and one patrol-ship damaged by gunfire.
(A.C.O.S. 201915 to Admty.).

Mining.

Thames Estuary. 1 ground mine detonated 130 degs. Tongue Sand Tower 1.1 mile.
(Capt. M/S Sheernes, 201338A and 221345A).

Harwich 1 Ground Mine detonated by M.M.S. at 1352 in 51 degs. 55.4 N. 01 degs. 41' E.
(F.O.i/c Harwich 201446A and 201747A).

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Warships. 2 new destroyers, length 400 feet, 2 funnels, one double turret forward and one double turret aft, one single gun and 2 triple tubes. Sighted Stettin October 7th. Graded B.3.
(2) Heavy cruiser believed HIPPER sighted at Pilau September 30th under large camouflage nets. Graded B.2.
(N.A. Stockholm 201801 to Admty.).

NEIDENFELS and MAR DEL PLATA damaged. STUTTGART and ARGUS sunk. Following German vessels recently damaged or sunk by war causes:-
(A) NEIDENFELS 7838 tons damaged by bomb October 9th at Danzig.
(B) STUTTGART Hospital ship 13,387 tons hit by one bomb October 9th, subsequently towed out of harbour and sunk.

/(C)...

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20.10.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

NEIDENFELS (C) MAR DEL PLATA 7,340 tons damaged October 19th and at Copenhagen by sabotage.
 MAR DEL (D) ARGUS 3,360 tons loaded with bombs exploded PLATA damaged. September 16th in Hamnbukt Porsanger, killing STUTTGART and 120 Germans. Graded B.2.
 ARGUS sunk. (N.A. Stockholm 201831 to D.N.I.).
 (Contd.). See also N.A. Stockholm 281717.

Technical.

"Foxyer" C. in C.W.A. 101913 October para.3. (A) (C) (D)
 Gear. Nil.
 (B) ETTRICK using own M/S winch, CELANDINE with A.N.D. winch specially fitted aft, AGASSIZ and GALT using own Ford winch.
 (Cdre.D.W.A. 201212A to C. in C.C.N.A.).

Experience with gear at sea. Difficulties of working described.

All ships carried away some part of gear and all types were out of action before main U-boat concentration developed.

Moreover ships who definitely had Gnats tried at them when no "Foxyers" streamed avoided destruction by stepping aside approaching Albeit without obtaining A/S contact.

At present (?pending) development fourth escort group would greatly prefer to do without altogether.

(E.G.4., 210901Z to C. in C.W.A.).

KINGFISHER can be taken in hand at Govan on 25th October.

A.M.171844 to C. in C.W.A. refers.

(F.O.i/c Glasgow 201651 to C. in C.W.A.).

Casualties and Defects.

ATHELDUCHESS Fore part of ATHELDUCHESS reported off Rocks at 0116A/20th and then half mile from Smalls drifting E.N.E. slowly almost submerged. Danger to navigation. Shipping in vicinity warned. Will endeavour to locate at daylight.
 (F.O.i/c Milford Haven 200157A to Admty.).

My 200157. Wreck not located. Request Q.Z.H.

(F.O.i/c Milford Haven 201135A to Admty.).

M.F.V.2020 Intend sailing rescue tug DEXTEROUS at 0830A/20 to assist M.F.V. 2020 in 202 degs. Lizard 42 miles.
 (F.O.i/c Falmouth 200808A to C. in C. Plymouth).

M.F.V.2020's probable course 022 degs. Reports she may make 5 miles south of D.3 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 1200. She has some steam.
 (N.O.i/c Falmouth 200856A to WENSLEYDALE).

Return with DEXTEROUS to D.1. Buoy. M.F.V. in 098 degs.

Dodman Point 3 miles at 1455, course 225 degs.

(C. in C. Plymouth 201507A to WENSLEYDALE).

HURON

Scapa arrival HURON.

(A.C.O.S. 200811A to C. in C. Rosyth).

HURON has had a slight collision causing following damage to bow.

Estimated time for repair at a dockyard is four days. Request repair yard may be allocated forthwith.

(R.A.D. 201723 to Admty.).

/Your...

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20.10.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

HURON
(Contd.).

Your 201723. HURON can be taken in hand for collision damage repairs at Leith forthwith. (D.O.D.H. 202313A to R.A.D.H.F.).

M.M.S.1016

M.M.S.1016 is detained Inverness with engine defects. (R.N.O. Inverness 200916A).

LAGAN

A.M. 181751 Messrs Alex. Stephen are now prepared to take LAGAN in their basin for removal of engines on 27th October. F.O.i/c Liverpool is requested to sail ship so as to arrive tail of bank not later than 0800 p.m. that date. (F.O.i/c Glasgow 201735 to Admty.).

SIMON
NEWCOMB.

Rescue tug ABEILLE IV sailed 1930 to assist SS. SIMON NEWCOMB with defective steering, vicinity St. Govan's light vessel. (F.O.i/c Milford Haven 202005A to Admty.). My 202005. ABEILLE IV returned Milford Haven on account of weather. (F.O.i/c Milford Haven 202041 to Admty.).

War Diary.

20.10.1943.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

- P.W.418. My 191624A. Postponed 24 hours due to weather.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 200428A.)
- O.G.95/
K.M.S.300.
BEGUM. Fear lost propeller at 0450. Assistance required.
R/T not working.
(BEGUM 200500A to C. in C.Plymouth.)
BEGUM has lost propeller at 0800Z in 054° 20' N.
011° 18' W. PENNYWORT standing by. Request tug
and escort be sailed forthwith. At present 15
ships in company, course 207°, 3 knots.
(B.4 200733Z to C. in C.W.A.)
- My 191855. Sailed (AIMWELL).
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 200750A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)
SS. BEGUM stopped in approx. 054° 02' N. 010° 55' W. at
0600A/20, having lost propeller.
Proceed with all despatch to assist, reporting when BEGUM is met.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 200858A to AIMWELL.)
Tug AIMWELL is being sent to assist BEGUM.
(C. in C.W.A. 200930A to B.4.)
AQUAMARINE has been instructed to sail from Londonderry to
R/V with you off Rathlin Is. and escort you to assistance of
BEGUM now reported in 054° 20' N. 011° 18' W. at 0800Z.
PENNYWORT is to stand by.
(C. in C.W.A. 201219Z to AIMWELL.)
My position 1100Z 054° 35' N. 011° 09' W. standing by BEGUM.
(PENNYWORT 201346Z to C. in C.W.A.)
Your 201219Z. My position 1400Z, 055° 06' N. 005° 48' W.
course 320° speed 12.5 knots.
(AIMWELL 201400Z to C. in C.W.A.)
Sailed AQUAMARINE in accordance with C. in C.W.A.'s 201219Z.
(Cdre. D.W.A. 201521A to C. in C.W.A.)
- O.N.207,
E.G.2. Adjust your route so as to keep 60 miles to north-
wards of route of O.N. number 207 until well clear
of convoy.
(C. in C.W.A. 200955A to E.G.2.)
Report forthwith your P.C. and S. and estimated
position at 1200Z tomorrow, together with number of ships in
company.
(C. in C.W.A. 201508A to Escorts O.N.207.)
A. 1300Z/19. B. C. one in FORESTER H/F D/F, ETTRICK H/F D/F,
ASSINIBOINE H/F D/F, AGASSIZ, GALT, CELANDINE, Rescue Ship PERTH
H/F D/F, Rescue Tug ALLEGIANCE. Additional A/S escort and for
rescue duties Coldstreamer ship fitted H/F D/F LUCELLUM. C.61.
(C. in C.W.A. 201537Z to C. in C.C.N.A.)
- C.E.215. My 191811A. C.E.215 postponed a further 24 hours
due to weather.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 201139A.)
- ATLANTIS.
EMPRESS OF
RUSSIA.
DROTTNINGHOLM. My 192222. Gothenburg Officials now inform me that
embarkation arrangements have gone so unexpectedly
well that it is now believed probable that all 3
vessels can be sailed tomorrow thus conforming to
departure arrangements at Oran.
2. The agreed R/V could thus be made at 1500/22nd.
(N.A.Stockholm 201203 to Admty.)

War Diary.20.10.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.ATLANTIS.
EMPRESS OF
RUSSIA.
DROTTNINGHOLM.
(Contd.)

I am informed that representatives of protecting powers at Gothenburg understand from their Governments that they will receive instructions of date and time of sailing of vessels when fixed by Swiss Government, at Berne.

2. Please inform me if you agree to executive order being received in this manner or whether you will signal me final orders for sailing.

(N.A.Stockholm 201231 to Admty.)

Your 201231. Executive order for sailing will be given by representative of protecting power and not by Admiralty.

(Head of M.I. 202050A to N.A.Stockholm.)

My 201203. In absence of further instructions from London it is intended to sail all three vessels a.m. tomorrow routed in accordance with your 201312A.

2. The first movement will be made about 0600 and vessels will leave vicinity of Vinga at 1000 reaching anchorage at Stromstad before nightfall. The agreed R/V should thus be made at 1500/22nd

(N.A.Stockholm 202323 to Admty.)

K.X.11.

My 191448 and 181156. Sailing postponed a further 24 hours.

(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 201212A to Admty.)

PRAGUE.

Cancel my 191500A. My 181100A. Sailed, S.O.A. 10 knots owing to state of sea.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 201920A to A.C.O.S.)

20.10.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

- O.23. Sailed Neth. S/M O.23. My 181717 refers.
(F.O.C., Gib., 201255A to Admty., F.O.S.(R) C.
in C. Plymouth, etc.)
- UNRUFFLED. Do not cross Meridian 004° 35' W. before daylight
tomorrow 21st. LA GRANDIERE, WITHERINGTON and
two Merchant Ships sailing 0001 21st through
036° 26' N. 004° W. from Malaga, speed 10 knots.
24 L.C.Is. approaching Gibraltar from eastward at 0900 21st.
(F.O.C. Gib., 201559A to (P.46 UNRUFFLED.)
- Spanish
Fishermen. (Admty. pass to Plymouth). Your 182306
(Proposal to send 39 Spanish Tunny Fishermen to
Gibraltar.) I have no objection but request
as (?quickly) as possible (?notice) of arrival.
(N.A. Madrid, 201858A to Admty., (R) Gibraltar
for Governor and (?C. in C. Plymouth))
- SEBASTIAN. P.R.U. Gib. sortie G/543 20 Oct. time 1205
shows Valencia. Since 13 Oct. suspect
SEBASTIAN departed and is seen today in Sagunto.
(P.R.U. Gibraltar, 201900Z)
- Falangist
plot,
Gibraltar. Attention of Ministry of Marine has been drawn
to possibility of an attempt of this kind.
They were already aware of it and have issued
necessary instructions. S.O.(I) Gibraltar's
191102 refers (Possibility of attack on ships
in Gib. Bay by Falangists in M.T.Bs. from
Cadiz.)
(N.A. Madrid, 201901A to F.O.C. Gibraltar (R)
Admty.)
- Italian
destroyer.
Port Mahon. Ministry of Marine informs me execution of
measures referred my 181946 will be relaxed to
enable ship to proceed within 24 hours should
our contention be upheld.
(N.A. Madrid, 201911A to C. in C. Med. (R)
Admty., F.O.C. Gibraltar.)
- C.T.G.21.15. Herewith re-encypherment of my 200851A. (Begins)
This is Cinclant's 192254 Action. C.T.G.21.15.
(R) C.P.S.F.F., Cominch, Comnavcu, Comairlant,
C.T.G. 21.16 and 21.14 C.T.F. 64, 65, 66.
"Cease operations in time arrive Casablanca about 28th Oct.
unless logistics require earlier arrival. Sail therefrom
about October 31 to support G.U.S.19. When latter has passed
area of reported submarine positions leave convoy and operate
offensively against submarines until time arrive Hampton
Roads 19th Nov. Commorseafron keep you informed concerning
sailing. (Your 171000) G.U.S.19 and inform those interested.
(C.M.S.F.F. 201940A.)

/Movements...

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20.10.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Movements,
Casablanca.

Departures 20th Oct. U.S.S. CARD, BORIS^E, GOFF,
BARRY.
(C.M.S.F. 202050A.)

South Atlantic.

Convoys
W.S.33
and
C.M.46.

1. Sailing telegram.
2. 0900Z 20th
3. 11 knots.
5. (Route.)
6. CHITRAL, TEVIOT, RAPID, TRENT, BANN.
15. "Chop" 020° S. 23rd E.T.A. Kilindini 0600Z
27th.
(N.C.S.O. Durban, 200942Z to Admty.)

W.S.33.

Arrived LADY ROSEMARY.
(2) Sailed H.M. Ships CHITRAL, TEVIOT, RAPID,
BANN, TRENT with W.S.33. N.C.S.O. Durban 200942
not to all addressees refers.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 200951Z to Admty., F.O.E.A.,
C. in C.S.A., C. in C.E.F., C. in C.E.(S.E.A.C.)
S.N.O.(A) Kilindini.)

Fleet
Tenders.

Sailed 0700Z/20 Fleet Tender 5, 8, 11, 13, 14
and 22 escorted by OXNA speed 8½ knots. Route -
thence to Casablanca E.T.A. a.m. 29th.
(2) On being relieved by Gibraltar Escort
about 26 North about noon 26th OXNA will return
to Freetown by reverse route.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 201125Z to F.O. Gibraltar, Commorseafron, (R)
C. in C. Med., Comar Dakar, Admty.)

LE CENTAURE.

Intend to sail LE CENTAURE escorted by ASPIRANT
BRUN at 1700/21 to Conakry and Dakar S. of A.
7½ knots passing through A. 08.53 N. 13.51 W.
at 2300Z/21 E.T.A. Conakry 0800Z/22.
(2) LE CENTAURE and ASPIRANT BRUN sail from Conakry at
1800Z/25 passing through B. 10.42 N. 17.15 W. at 2300Z/26.
C. 14.39 N. 17.39 W. at 0700Z/28.
(3) A.H.Q.W.A. is requested to impose TBR 20 miles ahead 30
miles astern and 10 miles either side of estimated position.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 201127 to A.H.Q.W.A., Comar, Dakar, Cmd. Conakry,
(R) N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Admty. LE CENTAURE, ASPIRANT BRUN.)

/CAGNI...

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20.10.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

CAGNI C.O., Enemy Intelligence. Following from Italian Submarine Italian and German U/Boats were allowed to attack all shipping without asking for permission from Bordeaux or Commander of German Western Flotillas in following zones (A) Area enclosed by a line joining the following positions (1) from Coast of Spain along latitude 42° N. 30° W.
2. thence to 14° N. 30° W.
3. thence to 24° S. 00° (Meridian of Greenwich)
4. thence to 40° S. 00° (Meridian of Greenwich)
5. thence to 40° S. 40° E.
6. thence to Cape St. Mary, Madagascar,
7. thence due west to coast of P E A along parallel 25° 40' S.
(B) Area to Westward of a line joining following positions
1. from 40° N. 40° W.
2. thence to 04° N. 40° W.
3. thence a line drawn 400 miles to eastward of and parallel to coastline of South America to latitude of Montevideo
4. thence to westward to coast.
(C) No U/Boat was allowed to operate off Argentine? Coast.
(D) Convoys only could be attacked without permission in prohibited Area between Zones (A) and (B) which was apparently reserved for clear passage of blockade runners and other enemy surface units.
(2) This is further to my 191535C Oct not to F.O.C.W.Af.
(C. in C.S.A., 201657C to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.W.Af.)

Proposed routeings. Comtenthfleet has proposed. (A) Silver route
(1) Intermediate positions to be inserted on 20 South, or (2) fifth positions be moved 10 degrees to southward.
(B) Copper route 2nd positions to be between 20° and 30° W.
(2) Object to obtain wider spread on "chop" and avoid U/Boat, coastal patrol area South America.
(3) Request your early remarks.
(D.T.D. 201814A to F.O.C.W.Af.)

U/Bs. By D/F at 1731Z/20. Position of German U/Boats was approx. 11° N. 75° E.
(D.D.I.C. 202215A to C. in C.S.A., C.O.I.S. E.F.)

20.10.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

U-Boat. Am over enemy submarine in 36.52 N. 1.50 E.
(A/C GQX/W. T.O.R.200142)
W.R. Note: Accuracy of message doubtful.
U/B reported surfaced again 36.53 N. 1.50 E.
(Base Call Sign BBD 200040A to A/C GQX/R)

FURY Enemy A/C bombing in 36.52 N. 26.54 E.
bombed. (FURY 200115) See also 200220.

TROOPER Regret to report TROOPER overdue since Oct. 17th
lost. has failed to answer signals and must be considered
lost.
(2) TROOPER was patrolling West of Dodecanese
and for latter part of patrol East of Leros to
intercept expected seaborne attack on Island.
(3) In absence of any other evidence consider probable cause
mines.
(4) Compromise of books unlikely.
(C. in C. Levant, 200132C to Admty. (R) F.O.S/Ms, S.1, C. in C.
Med.)

SEVERN. Proceed to arrive Portolago at 2100C.
You will be met outside.
(Capt. (S) 1, 200134C to SEVERN (R), RORQUAL,
C. in C. Levant.)

Levant Situation Report No.84. ECLIPSE, PATHFINDER, BELVOIR left Turkish Waters
last night* Fleets landed stores in Alinda
Bay (Leros?) swept North of Levitha and Amorgos
and withdrew. Nothing met. BELVOIR carried out
bombardment of Kos Roads at 2200 blew up petrol
dumps and caused large fire. Found all bays
Piscepi empty. Returned to Alexandria with

ECLIPSE and PATHFINDER.
(2) PHOEBE, FURY bombarded Port Kalymnos and searched North of
Kos for damaged F lighter. HURWORTH (D.22) and BEAUFORT bombard-
ed Kos roads and harbour at 0100. No details of results obtained
Whole force made R/V South of Scarpanto Strait at daylight today.
PHOEBE landed stores at Kastelorizo and fuelled FURY, BEAUFORT
who are passing North of Rhodes tonight to land stores at Leros
and lie up in Turkish waters. Remainder of force returning
Alexandria after making a cast towards Aegean until dark.
(3) Convoy K.M.S. 28 arrived 18th with 5 M.V's for Alexandria
and 16 for Port Said and beyond.
(4) Combined air and surface search continuing for U-Boat sighted
at periscope depth by aircraft in position 33 degs. 05' N.
21 degs. 35' E. at 1430/17th.
(5) Arrivals DABCHICK (U.S.) B.Y.M.S. 74, 190, 191, 212, 229 with
K.M.S.28. Departures L.S.T. 238 from Aden 18.
(C. in C. Levant, 200220C to Admty.)
* W.D. Note: Evidently night of 18/19 Oct. intended. See
C. in C. Levant, 202330C.

Movements /...

War Diary.

20.10.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Movements,
Bari.

Arrivals TROUBRIDGE, ILEX, BLENCATHRA, O.R.P. KRAKOWIAK, SHARPSHOOTER, HEBE M.L.386, arrived and sailed M.T. Boats 226, 243 sailed TYRIAN, TUMULT, M.T.B. 97.
(N.O.I.C.Bari, 202225)

PHOEBE,
FURY,
bombardment.

Your 192331. Port Kalymnos bombarded at 0120 without opposition from shore. 300 rounds fired PHOEBE was bombed once during firing and once afterwards.
FURY sighted nothing East of the port or on North Coast of Kos but was bombed once.
Alarm flares were fired in both places.
(PHOEBE, 200435C to C. in C. Levant)

D.24
patrols.

Intend to patrol night 20th/21st Dubrovnik to Vis Island TYRIAN and TUMULT, returning Bari. E.T.A. Gate 0730A/21st. My 190948 (TROUBRIDGE and ILEX to patrol) nothing seen.
(Capt. (D) 24th 200743A to F.O.T.A.)

Cancel my 200743. TYRIAN and TUMULT sail 1630A to patrol Durazzo to Dubrovnik returning Bari 0730A/21st.
Your 200948 to Capt. (D) 24 refers.
(Capt. (D) 24, 201037 to F.O.T.A.)

Enemy
Units.

Position of 4 enemy F Boats is 36.52 N. 27.16 E.
Position of 2 enemy F Boats is 36.52 N. 27.08 E.
Position of one enemy merchant vessel of 2000 tons and one enemy escort vessel is 36.56 N. 26.59 E.
Position of one enemy merchant vessel of 1500 tons is 36.58 N. 27.02 E.
(A/C GPC/X, 200800Z to 201 Group)

C.T.G.85.9
C.T.F.89.

C.T.G.85.9 has lapsed and is now A.A.T.B. Bizerta. Safta beach closed. C.T.F.89 lapsed and will not be used except as may be assigned by comnavnav.
(?F.O.W.It.) 200845A to Comnav Tripolitania, N.O.I.C.Cagliari, Com. N.O.B.Palermo).

Assault
Craft.

Following from D.C.O.M.E. Request 20 L.C.A's with crews and maintenance party in DERBYSHIRE may be discharged to SAUNDERS to provide assault craft for training in lieu of 26 L.C.A. provided by SAUNDERS for India and Force G (ends).

(2) Request instructions observing that SAUNDERS reports that her remaining L.C.A's cannot meet full requirements of a Brigade training programme.

(3) N.O.I.C. Port Said pass to DERBYSHIRE.
(C. in C. Levant, 201008C to Admty. F.O.R.S.C.A. (R) D.C.O.M.E. P.S.T.O.M.E., C. in C. E.F., SAUNDERS etc.)

Beach /...

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20.10.1943
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Beach
Parties.

Naval beach Commando N No. 5 beach also unit and naval beach repair party now with 36 brick are to return to SAUNDERS.
(2) Understand SAUNDERS naval beach party is now only 70% complete. SAUNDERS is to report on situation obtaining after all these parties have returned.
(C. in C. Levant, 201010C to SAUNDERS, F.O.R.S.C.A., D.C.O.M.E. (R) Admty.)

M.E.Air
Report.

Daily Opsum 175.
18/19 Oct. 3 Liberators B.24 7 Halifaxes bombed Antimachia Landing Ground, Kos. 6 Hudsons Heraklion Airfield. 6 Dakotas C47 successfully dropped supplies on Leros. 1 enemy aircraft dropped bombs and flares on Leros during night. No details damage or casualties.
19 Oct. 4 U.S. Mitchells (B.25) 3 Beaufighters anti-shipping R/C Aegean. Convoy 1 armed trawler 3 landing craft of which 1 loaded with personnel 1 Caique escorted by 2 Arado 196s approaching Canea Bay Crete from north was attacked. Beaufighters destroyed 1 Arado 196 and 1 D.O. 24 which was taxiing near convoy, also attacked trawler with bombs which overshot but scored hits with cannon fire. U.S. Mitchells B.25 scored bomb hits on trawler completely destroying vessel and hits with 75 mm shells on landing craft including the 1 loaded with personnel and on the Caique. 1 landing craft was left on fire. 3 Baltimores A.30 anti-shipping R/C Naxos-Syros area. 1 merchant vessel 1,000 tons in Syros Harbour attacked with 6 x 250 lb bombs which overshot but scored 1 hit on small vessel. 3 x 250 lbs bombs dropped on Caique 1 hit on quay. 2 attacks by small numbers JU 88s reported on Portolago Bay Leros during day. Following delayed details 18 Oct. 2 Beaufighters anti-shipping R/C Kalinos area. 1 F boat entering Kalinos harbour damaged by cannon fire.
My Opsum 174. Of 5 Wellingtons on anti-shipping R/C Western Aegean night 18/19 Oct 4 attacked 1 merchant vessel 3/4000 tons with 2 escort vessels about 40 miles east of Antikithera Island on north westerly course. 4 torpedoes fired at merchant vessel 2 of which scored hits followed by explosions, bombs were also dropped but no hits were scored. Ship was left stationary and on fire aft with black smoke pouring from amidships. Hudsons en route to bomb Heraklion saw vessel on fire from stem to stern and exploding 2 hours later. Intense A/A fire. 1 Wellington on anti-shipping R/C west coast Greece attacked 1 merchant vessel 2,000 tons with torpedo in Gulf of Corinth. Torpedo ran astern. Bombs were also dropped but no hits scored. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 201026Z, 201258Z)

Enemy
Coastal
Craft
Sunk.

Fighter bombers on anti-shipping striking group Albanian coast attacked coastal craft believed to be patrol vessels with following result, one 100 foot craft sunk in 043 degs. 58' 015 degs. 08', one 100 foot craft sunk and one 50 foot damaged in 044 degs. 00' 015 degs. 10'. Return fire was encountered in one attack. N.O.I.C. Brindisi and C.F.W.

(N.L.O. No.1 M.O.R.U. 201103A to F.O.T.A.)

Repatriation/...

War Diary.20.10.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Repatriations. All German repatriables now (?embarked) (corrupt group) in DJENNE, SINAI and ACQUILIA. GRADISCA was not required.

(2) A.M. 192222 (N.A. Stockholm's 192222 intended) and 200014 passed to Com. N.O.B. Oran appear conflicting. All 4 ships are ready to sail from Oran as soon as required.
(3) Request desired time of sailing be signalled.
(C. in C. Med. 201106A to Admty.)

SERAPH,
DZIK.

P.219 SERAPH pass Kaso Straits by day on 22nd to relieve P.52 DZIK. DZIK is to adjust patrol so as to pass (A) 035 degs. 16' 026 degs. 36' at 0002C/23rd. (B) 035 degs. 06' 026 degs. 44' at 0125C/24th thence on surface through.

(C) 034 degs. 25' 029 degs. 59' to arrive Beirut at 0700C/26th RORQUAL on reverse of this route left Beirut at 0400C/20th on the surface at 11 knots with stores for Leros.
(Capt. S.1, 201122C to P.52 (DZIK) (R) P.219 (SERAPH), P.239 (SURF), TORBAY, C. in C. Levant, Cdre. (D))

CURIE.

French Admiralty have formally requested that French submarine CURIE originally allocated to 10th S/M now temporarily attached to 8th Flotilla shall be treated in similar manner to French

North African submarines.

(2) This involves (A) Basing at French base in North Africa when MAIDSTONE leaves. (B) Decision whether available for patrol or special operations rests with French authorities.
(C) Sailing routeing and operations on patrol to remain as at present under British Capt. (S) West Mediterranean.

(3) This request may well be extended to include MINERVE and JUNON later.
(4) I am of opinion that the French request should be approved.
(C. in C. Med. 201127A to Admty. (R) F.O.S. S.8)

Rocket
Bombs.

Admty. 091929A. Investigating controlled bomb and aircraft in Corsica possibly two ?unexploded bombs in harbour. Little information obtained from Salerno aircraft. Foggia more fruitful. Search in Salerno Bay unfruitful up to 16 Oct.
(Lieut. Rae R.N.V.R. 201145A to C. in C. Med.)

Group to
investigate
German
rocket
bombs.

In order to carry out investigations in connection with the German H.S. 293 and F.X.95 bombs it has been decided to form a group consisting of PALOMARES, U.S.S. MOFFAT ships H.C. JONES and F.C. DAVIS all of whom are fitted with special gear for this purpose.

(2) For the present this group will operate under orders of PALOMARES between Algiers and Gib. being attacked when possible to through Med slow convoys. Presence of PALOMARES with a convoy in no way affects responsibilities of S.O. of A/S escort. See A.C.I. article 16 para. 3. General intention that PALOMARES should take

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Group to investigate German rocket bombs. (Contd.) station in convoy and the 2 destroyers escorting should reinforce A/S screen being stationed one each side of convoy. These 3 ships will operate as a (?complete) unit and disposition as stated above will be varied as required by PALOMARES.
(3) While this group is in company with convoy no attempt should be made to jam any German radio transmission.
(C. in C. Med. 201210A to Med. Stn. 230B)

M.L.386. Request you will sail M.L.386 1400/21st through position 090 degs. Vieste 10 miles 12 knots to Vis for onward routeing Kotanu, return Bari by reverse route night 22nd/23rd. Codeword "Henshaw" W/T callsign 429 priority low (?N.O.I.C. Algiers) pass to M.L.386.
(F.O.T.A. 201221 to N.O.I.C.Bari (R) C.C.F.W.Med. etc.)

Italian Fleet, disposal. In view of movements in my 191202 request 2 Liaison Teams be sent to Gibraltar and one to Malta in addition to those requested in my 141817.
(2) It will be necessary to employ Liaison parties with all Italian warships operating actively as for Allied warships. Request early action be taken to send out by fastest route the 9 parties as above. Approx. 12 further parties will be required as soon as they can be made available making a total of 21.
(C. in C. Med. 201237A to Admty. (R) F.O.L.I., C. in C. Levant.)

Yugo-Slav Warships. Your 191717. Request you will propose to C. in C. Levant repeated to me, most suitable method of transferring these craft to Yugo-Slav (Navy) as soon as possible.
(2) It appears desirable that transfer should take place in Heel ports and that Yugo Slav ships should operate from there under F.O.T.A. for Adriatic operations to assist patriots.
(3) C. in C. Levant is requested to obtain agreement of Yugo-Slav Government and communicate their wishes about manning and operations direct to F.O.L.I. repeated to me.
(4) Agree it is essential to retain Yugo-Slav tugs in Heel ports for the present. You should extract Duke D'Aosta's yacht from Italians by time Yugo Slavs are ready to man it.
(5) Question of port transfer of depot ship QUARNEROLO should be postponed for the present as alternatives to employment for her are under consideration.
(C. in C. Med. 201326A to F.O.L.I. (R) Admty. C. in C. Levant, F.O.T.A.)

Enemy Units. Position of 1 enemy Small Vessel and 1 auxiliary vessel 37.25 N. 24.57 E.
(A/C GQN/T, 201335Z)

Aegean /...

War Diary.

20.10.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Aegean
Situation
Report.

Joint Army R.A.F. Intelligence appreciation
24 hours to 0900Z/20th.

- (1) No surface attack developed against Leros.
- (2) Photographic R/C Kos-Kalino area a.m. 19th Oct. showed merchant vessel 300 feet still present Kalino Harbour also 1 naval auxiliary.

Total 5 F-Boats seen namely 2 apparently inactive beached north coast Kos in same position as the 5 F-Boats seen there 18 Oct. Possibly these two damaged in air attack by Mitchells 18 Oct. 2 in Kos Harbour and 1 at sea off North coast Kos proceeding East. Photographic R/C reported 4 Naval craft ("E" boat-type) leaving Kalino a.m. 19 Oct. subsequently sighted at sea westbound off Amorgos.

- (3) No air attacks reported on Kastellosso yesterday 19 Oct. Leros attacks again on reduced scale.

(5) Photographic R/C Suda Bay 0700Z hours 19 Oct. confirms departure since previous day of merchant vessel 400 feet. This almost certainly vessel successfully attacked by torpedo Wellingtons north of Suda night 18/19 Oct.

- (7) Despite apparent withdrawal 4 Naval craft from Kalino (see para.2) appreciate enemy's intentions unchanged.

(C. in C. M.E. No.T.O.O/20)
Cositrep No.30.

(1) Int. (A) Aegean sightings 19 October show four enemy M.T.Bs. to have left Kalino-Kos area. Otherwise situation there materially unchanged. Still consider assault on Leros will be launched as soon as enemy appreciates Naval situation permits.

Present Grns now as follows: Leros 1,492, Samos 570, Kastelorizo 934.

- (5) Naval, Aegean 20 Oct. FURY and BEAUFORT discharged stores Leros. FAULKNER, MIAOULES and PETARD did not sail yesterday but left Alex. today with AURORA and DULVERTON for usual anti-shipping sweep. FAULKNER and PETARD both carrying 20 tons stores incl. 10 Jeeps and trailers each. "Hunts" carrying 10 tons each. SEVERN due Leros tonight with Bofors guns.

(C. in C. M.E. no T.O.O/20.)

Operations
in
Dodecanese.

Your 191833 concur in release of proposed
communique.
Request you will make available to Press
Correspondents any additional details which you
consider can be released without danger to
security.

(D.P.D. Approved 1st Lord, 201359A to C. in C.
Levant.)

B.A.50.

Convoy B.A.50 arrived.
N.C.S.O.Aden, 201515Z to Admty.)

Italian
S/M's.

ALAGI and GALATEA are being sailed to Alexandria
for A/S exercise as in my 201601. If a third
S/M is required vide your 171209 para 6B.
propose BANDIERA proceeds Taranto for 14 days
minor repairs before proceeding (?Alexandria)

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Italian S/M's (Contd.) 3 weeks provisions would be supplied from Malta. (2) Propose using H.2 for A/S practice Malta. This small S/M being unsuitable for long passage.
(3) If approved request crew for BANDIERA and H.2 be sent here.
(V.A. Malta, 201620A to F.O.L.I.(R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, Admty.)

G.U.S.19. List, destinations etc.
(R.A. Alexandria, 201651C to Admty. etc.)

U.G.S.20. M.S.C.I.22. Onward route (details)
(5) "Dunnock", M.F.T, Normal. (6) A.
(7) MARYBOROUGH (S.O) PRIMULA, BANFF, FALK, SOUTHERN SEA.
(8) Onward route for Augusta Section through 273, 276, 215, 258, E.T.A. Augusta, 0700/27.
(C. in C. Med. 201655A to MARYBOROUGH, Escorts Convoy U.G.S.20)

Escort Groups. CAMELLIA is defective. For CAMELLIA read BLUEBELL in my 131716.
(C. in C. Med. 201711A to Admty., etc. 201713A to F.O. Gib.)

RAIDER, QUILLIAM, QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL. Required to rejoin Eastern Fleet by 1st Jan. if possible and in any case not later than 1st Feb. Intended they should be fitted with Type 272 Radar before proceeding.
(2) If they can be spared it is most desirable that this work should be carried out at home and it would be convenient if they returned as escort for NELSON and RODNEY. Their return home would also greatly assist escort situation in regard to reinforcements for Eastern Fleet (A.M. 201319 refers) and would allow crews to be given leave before going East.
(3) Request your early remarks.
(D.O.D.(F), 201735A to C. in C. Med.)
Reply: 211850A.

Movements, Suez. Suez Oct. 20th. Arrivals ROYAL SCOTSMAN, DURBAN, TRIDENT.
(F.O.R.S.C.A.201748C)

SALVONIA, ROODE ZEE. SALVONIA sails with Flight N. ROODE ZEE will be used for another tow in X.K.12. A.M.281913 Sept. and 192149 refer.
(C. in C. Med. 201850 to Admty.)

New German Air weapons. Full information on following points is most urgently required by Admiralty: (details).
(D.G.D. 201852A to Air Ministry etc.)

POZARICA /...

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Mediterranean. - Contd.

POZARICA. Taranto's 191000, not to all. Request you will equip and retain Italian POZARICA (T) for duty as harbour fuelling attendant.
(C. in C. Med. 201903A to F.O.T.A.)

Landing Ships. Your 141156 Oct. Request you will arrange for all Landing Ships to carry out fuel consumption trials at appropriate speeds during forthcoming passages.
(D.O.D.(H), 201911A to C. in C. Med.)

LARGS. Destination of F.S. LARGS is U.K. for refit.
(C. in C. Levant, 201934C to LARGS, 202156C to C. in C. Med.)

SEVERN, RORQUAL. Leros cannot accept SEVERN until 2100C/21st. RORQUAL due 22nd may have to wait one day.
(2) Reports are being received too late to warn you, endeavour to contact by V/S for instructions.
(Capt. (S) 1, 201941C to SEVERN, RORQUAL, (R) S.B.N.O. Aegean, C. in C. Levant.)

Movements, Oran. Departures today. U.S.S. MERAK, TRIPPE, BENSON, L.C.Is 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 349, 350 and British L.C.G.1.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 202006A)

Aircraft for A/A practice. Number of I.L. aircraft in 775 Squadron F.R.U. available for ships' A.A. practices is now 2 Seafires, 3 Swordfish, 1 Defiant and 1 Roc, and most of these are of uncertain serviceability. With increasing number of ships in Levant these are quite insufficient for ships' practices, in addition 26 A.A.C.U. are at present unable to provide 50 per cent of the Alexandria A/A range requirements. This lack of practice facilities will seriously affect efficiency of ships operating from Alexandria and working up of ships after refitting here cannot be carried out unless more aircraft are provided.
(C. in C. Levant, 202022C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

Movements, Algiers. Departures VULCAN (U.S.S.) SAMUEL CHASE, (U.S.S.) DALLAS (U.S.S.) BERNADOU (U.S.S.) COLE (U.S.S.)
(Com. Algeria, 202041A)

Convoy V.N.5. LAFOREY, LOOKOUT sailing with convenient despatch at 0500 Oct. 21st to relieve WHADDON and QUANTOCK as escort of convoy V.N.5.
(2) V.N.5 speed 7 knots routed through 42, 60, 71, 110 and Q.B.B. 237, E.T.A. Naples 1700 Oct 21st Codeword "Benzol".

(3) /...

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Mediterranean.

Convoy
V.N.5.
(Contd.)

(3) On relief WHADDON, QUANTOCK proceed to Augusta at 20 knots.
(4) Independent codewords LAFOREY, ("Noreen") WHADDON, "Filbert".
(F.O.W.It. 202247 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

Movements
Cyprus.

20th arrivals U.S. Schooner SAMOTHRACE.
Arrived and left EOLO (Italian).
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta 202301C)

Med.
Situation
Report
No.210.

Patrols by coastal forces between Elba and Spezia were curtailed due to bad weather during period 16th to 19th Oct. but division operated in this area for short period without making any sightings.
(2) During night 19th/20th Oct. TROUBRIDGE and ILEX carried out sweep between Comitza Island and Blitzenica Island but saw nothing.
(C. in C. Med. 202305A)

Levant
Situation
Report
No.85.

During bombardment of Port Kalymnos at 0120/19th PHOEBE fired 300 rounds. Results not observed. FURY found nothing east of port or on north coast Kos. Both ships bombed.
(2) FURY, BEAUFORT, passed North of Rhodes last night, carried out sweep west of Kalymnos without sightings and lay up in Turkish waters.

Disembarkation of stores for Leros postponed until tonight.
(3) AURORA, (C.S.12) FAULKNER (D.8) PETARD, DULVERTON (D.5) MIAOULES left Alexandria this morning, AURORA and MIAOULES to bombard Rhodes harbour, "fleets" to land stores for Leros and lie up tomorrow in company with DULVERTON who carries out independent sweep and joins off Leros. FURY and BEAUFORT to destroy two damaged F lighters reported berthed two miles West of Kos and then to bombard Kos harbour.
(4) SEVERN due at Leros tonight with supplies.
(5) Unloading facilities at Leros now reduced to one fixed crane.
(6) Naval W/T station put out of action in raid on Kastelorizo 17th, one Caique sunk, one M.T.B. one M.L. damaged but serviceable shortly, some wounded. Further raid a.m. 18th by nine J.U.88's, no naval damage, two aircraft shot down by fighters.
(7) Report from destroyers on return last night that Turkish attitude to use of territorial waters is stiffening. Boarding Officials were polite but asked awkward questions. German single aircraft made continual dummy attacks. No hostile action on either side so far.
(8) Convoy G.U.S.19 left Alexandria 19th with 32 M.Vs.
(C. in C. Levant, 202330C to Admty)

Employment /...

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Mediterranean - Contd.

Employment
of
Italian
Cruisers.

Because of serious problem of feeding Italian naval personnel at Taranto, C. in C. Med. has proposed amongst other moves within Mediterranean that two Italian Cruisers should be sent to Gibraltar for sea and climate trials in Atlantic with a view to their subsequent employment on blockade runner patrols from Freetown for short period.

(2) Request you will consult Cominch with a view to obtaining covering approval of C.C.S. for all operations envisaged above. (V.C.N.S. 202342A to B.A.D. (R) C. in C. Med.)

Approved by C.C.S. See B.A.D. 222237Z.

Your 191202 para. 4.

Pending decision by C.C.O.S. on my 202342 Italian warships should not be employed outside Mediterranean.

Requirement referred to in A.M.041857 is cancelled.

(V.C.N.S. 202359A to C. in C. Med.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

P.B. 59A. Arrived SCALP and ANTHONY escorting convoy P.B. 59A. (N.S.S.O. Bombay 200335A to Admty.)

GEORGE Intend FROBISHER to act as ocean escort for
WASHINGTON, GEORGE WASHINGTON leaving Bombay 25th. Destination
FROBISHER. Durban. GEORGE WASHINGTON Capetown
FROBISHER. for onward routing to U.S.A. B.A.D.131947 refers.
2. Route from Bombay (route) to Seychelles where
FROBISHER will refuel. From Seychelles (route) to
Durban.

3. FROBISHER will part company with GEORGE WASHINGTON before reaching Durban. C. in C.S.A. is requested to issue onward route from position G. to Capetown.

4. S.O.A. 15 knots. E.T.A. Seychelles 30th. FROBISHER, E.T.A. Durban Nov. 6th. FROBISHER is to signal both ships final E.T.A. before leaving Seychelles.

5. Two destroyers as detailed by Comdre. (D) will provide A/S escort from Bombay to position B. 015° 05' N. 068° 48' E. thence proceeding R/V CANTON and LURLINE in accordance with C. in C.E.F. 141327. Cmdre. R.I.N. is requested to sail GEORGE WASHINGTON a.m. 25th so escort will be in time for this R/V.

(C. in C.E.F. 200437 to C.O.M.R.I.N. FROBISHER, (R) C. in C.E.F. (S.A.C.) S.S.T.O. Capetown, F.O.E.A. C. in C.S.A. F.O.C.R.I.N. V.A.2, E.F. Admty. Comdre. (D). A.P.S.T.O. India, N.O.I.C. Seychelles, N.O.I.C. Durban.)

U/B attacked Catalina flying boat attacked U-Boat in position
by Catalina. 010° 48' N. 075° 21' E. at 0607Z/19th. Only one depth charge released remainder hung up. Depth charge did not appear to explode. (C. in C.E.F. 200551 to Admty.)

M/L Flotillas Up to two mixed flotillas of M/Ls H.D.M.Ls. and
Chittagong. Burma R.N. V.A.craft will be based at Chittagong during fine weather season for
A. Any major operations which may be undertaken or alternatively for offensive patrols down the coast.

B. Clandestine operations in conjunction with (sorties by?) local defence.

2. Request an officer of Commanders rank may be sent to serve as S.O.Coastal Forces to organise M/L bases under N.O.I.C. Chittagong and arrangements for patrol and operations with various authorities concerned.

3. No suitable officer is available from East or R.I.N.

4. Admty. is requested to pass this message to D.D.O.D.(C) for Capt. Hubback who is now in U.K.

(C. in C.E.F. 200918Z to Admty. (R) F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Movements Departure 0200Z ROEBUCK, RELENTLESS with B.A.51.
Bombay. Arrival 0245 FROBISHER, NORMAN, NEPAL with GEORGE WASHINGTON.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 201139Z to Admty.)

/RAMDAS...

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East Indies - Contd.

RAMDAS,
U/B attack
on 20th Oct.

RAMDAS unsuccessfully attacked by U/B at 200827Z
in 010° 28' N. 075° 15' E.
(C. in C.E.F. 201153Z to S. & As. E.I.Station,
(R) Admty. 222 Group, 225 Group.)

Convoy
D.K.A.3.

Kilindini portion arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Kilindini 201243Z to Admty.)

German
survivor
from U/B.

Further to my 182015 oil patch 2 miles long 150
feet wide sighted by aircraft 0925/19th Oct.
found by SEA BELLE under microscope to be an
Algeid growth.
2. IMPALA searching coast near Khor Fakkan for
further survivors. Political agent Muscat sending
agent to same area.

3. German prisoner interviewed by interpreter states he was in
conning tower with Oberleutnant Paschen 1st Lieutenant when U-
Boat (German) crash dived on sight of aircraft. Felt 1 depth
charge at 30 metres. Second depth charge at 60 metres. Lights
went out repair pump and Tieftruders failed and U-Boat (German)
sprang a leak and appeared to get out of control. Captain gave
orders to surface but this could not be done at the time.
4. 1st Lieut. then opened escape hatch and both were blown to
surface. Officer died. Prisoner swam for 28 hours and landed
Khor Fakkan. He states U-Boat (German) must be sunk. It appears
however that she may have been source of D/F at 2030Z/16th Oct.
and that these 2 were the only men who left U-Boat.
5. Prisoner who is Mechaniker Gefreite Gunter Schmidt refuses
to give number of U-Boat or name of Captain.
6. U-Boat with crew of 5 officers and 48 men left Lorient about
June and expected to return in February she (?pursued) 12,000
ton ship in mid-Atlantic and refuelled from submarine supply
ship off South America, went round the Cape, refuelled from
submarine supply ship off Madagascar 6 weeks ago, thence proceeding
hugging African coast to Gulf of Aden where one ship was sunk
and one damaged.
- Comment. This may coincide with incidents at the end of September.
7. U-Boat then went to Gulf of Oman and cruised for a fortnight
without sighting a ship.
- Comment. If this is true, a second U-Boat torpedoed BRITANNIA
on 5th October.
8. Prisoner denies A. having seen or heard of any other U-Boats
during patrol. B. having obtained provisions ashore. C.
having obtained provisions from Dhows.
Interpreter disbelieves A. and B. but believes C. to be true.
9. Prisoner now under Military guard at Basra. Request instruc-
tions as to disposal for interrogation.
10. Written report follows by next Air Mail.
(S.N.O.P.G. 201621Z to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) (R) Admty. N.O.I.C.
Hormuz.)

Sub. attack
& sighting
summary.

A.M. 131411A. One German sunk in Gulf of Oman 16th.
One German within 200 miles of 23° 00' N. 61° 00' E.
from A/C sighting 18th.
One Japanese in Socotra area on returning to base
last reported 12th.
One Japanese between Mombasa and Mozambique Channel
last fixed by D/F 11th.

/Up...

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East Indies. - Contd.

Sub. attack
& sighting
summary.
(Contd.)

Up to three Germans and one Japanese in area
between Laccadive Islands, Maldivé Islands, Bombay
and Ceylon of which one sighted by A/C 19th.
(D.D.I.C. 201625A to C. in C.E.F. A.C.N.B.)

BRITISH
PURPOSE,
torpedoed.

Number 21 torpedoed position 011° ? (no group)
N. 074° 54' E.
(SHOREHAM 201730Z to C. in C.E.F.)
SHOREHAM reports one ship torpedoed by a submarine
in 011° 49' N. 074° 54' E. at 201730Z.
(C. in C.E.F. 201920Z to S. and A. E.I.S. (R)
Admty. 222 Group, 225 Group.)

BRITISH PURPOSE was torpedoed forward estimated draft 32 feet.
Making good about 8 cables (?knots) but master is doubtful if
bulkhead will hold. Request information if depth of water and
facilities at Cochin are sufficient for her, if not intend to
try and get her to Colombo. My 201730 refers.

(SHOREHAM 202051Z to C. in C.E.F.)

Strikes and
Labour
troubles,
undesirability
of B.B.C.
Broadcasting.

Have carefully considered your 030813Z. Government
policy is not to interfere with freedom of press to
report labour troubles and it is impracticable
therefore to place embargo on similar announcements
by B.B.C. Fact that the information would appear
in the press and in foreign broadcasts would in
any event stultify any ban which might be placed on
B.B.C., though admittedly the information might
reach distant places rather later. Result would
be development of distrust in fairness of B.B.C. broadcasts as it
would inevitably be suspected that the items had been omitted for
an ulterior motive. Regret therefore that suggestion made by C.
in C. Ceylon and yourself cannot be adopted.
(Director of Labour 202007A to C. in C.E.F. (R) C. in C. Ceylon.)

PANGKOR.

My 150152 (to C. in C.E.F. only) allocation of
PANGKOR as base ship for escort vessels approved.
(Vice Contr. 202141A to C. in C.E.F. Info.
S.N.O.P.G. F.O.C.R.I.N.)

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America and West Indies.

- LORD
COCHRANE
dredging. Views expressed in A.M. 092017 June were put to Navy Dept. in accordance with Admiralty message 161243 August and reply now received from Secretary of Navy states he does not agree to the principle set out in para. 3 of 092017. Letter explains as follows (details).
In view of Navy letter it would appear that Bermuda Govt. and not Admiralty should bear charges for use of LORD COCHRANE on U.S. account.
(B.A.D., 200049Z to Admty., (R) S.B.N.O.W.At., Cdre. i/c Bermuda)
- H.M.S.
GARDINER. All times Q. GARDINER (B.D.E.274) departs Boston at 0915/20th October en route Bermuda at speed 14 knots. Route.
(C.T.G. 02.1, 200059 to N.O.B. Bermuda.)
- St. Johns
minesweeping. Your 171506Z. (A) No mines accounted for. (C) Searching sweeps of following area with Oropesa (details). Convoy swept from St. Johns to Cape St. Francis and another convoy from Cape St. Francis to seaward end St. Johns swept channel.
(F.O.N.F., 200144Z 201756 to N.S.H.Q., (R) Admty., Cominch, C. in C. C.N.A.)
- U/B. Curacao Radio reports submarine sighted 2200Q/20th 011.47 N. 067.55 W.
(Kingston, 202202R to Admty.)
- Stragglers. Following is recoded version of my 181308Z. (Begins). Stragglers arrived week-ending 16th. 11th HARTLEPOOL O.N.S.19 engine trouble. 12th STANWELL O.N.S.19 lost convoy. 181308. (Ends).
(St. Johns N.F. C.C.O., 200541Z to Admty.)
- ACONIT. Following is repetition of C.C.O. Key West 192215. (Begins). F.F.S. ACONIT, (R) Comgulf-seafron, Cominch, etc.
At 0230Q Oct. 20th depart Key West for Argentina. Pass three miles off American shoal light thence through following points to destination (route) thence into Little Placentia Harbour. (End).
(Radio Washington, 200720Z to C. in C. Lant, Admty., Forces Navales Grande Bretagne, C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F., Capt. D. Greenock, C.T.F.24, N.S.H.Q.)
- CORMORANT. Refer to this as Comnavu's 201006. Refer to C. in C. Lant 120445 not to all addressees. The CORMORANT reported for temporary duty Twelfth Fleet and is assigned to Task Group 120.1

/commencing ...

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CORMORANT. commencing 0001 October 21st. Group C.O.
(Contd.) CORMORANT.
(Comnav, 201012 to C. in C. Lant, Info. Cominch,
C.N.O., N.O.B. Iceland, C.T.F.121, Comlan crabeu,
Comeleventhphib, N.O.B. Londonderry, All Navpos
U.K., C.T.F.60, Admty.)

B. 6. C. in C. C.N.A. 191744, B.6 192335 (reported
defects DEVERON and VANQUISHER) not to all.
Proceed Argentina. My 191831 also refers.
(F.O.N.F., 201237Z to VANQUISHER, (R) B.6.,
C. in C. C.N.A., Connav, Admty., A.C.I.C., C. in C. W.A.,
N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., H.Q.C.C., Cdr. (D) Argentina, Cdre. (D)
W.A.)

TRUMPETER. New York arrived 19th TRUMPETER from Norfolk.
(N.S.H.Q., 201303Z to Admty., (R) B.A.D., C. in
C. C.N.A.)

N.S.H.Q. 1200Z/20th October one in Canadian Coastal Area
S/M Estimate. probably patrolling off Halifax or vicinity of
Gaspe.
(N.S.H.Q., 201400Z.)

O.N.S. 20 O.N.S.20. 3 out of 7 R.A.F. survivors in DRURY
survivors. are injured, one seriously. My 171255 not to
all addressees refers. Early hospital treatment
though not essential is desirable. If situation
remains quiet tonight intend to detach DRURY at
daylight tomorrow 21st at best speed to St. Johns N.F.
Request C.C.N.F. will sail her to rejoin. My P.C. and S. 053°
16', 042° 26' 231°, 7 knots. Weather report 5461 2303.
(S.O. E.G. 4th, 201400Z to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav, Admty.,
A.C.I.C., C. in C. N.A., N.S. Ottawa, F.O.N.F., Cdr. (D)
Argentina, Cdre. (D) W.A., H.Q.C.C., S.O. E.G. B.7.)

O.N. 206, O.N.206. Please amend "Westomp" to read 047° 15'
B. 6. N. 050° 50' W. at 1000Z/21st to (2 corrupt groups)
from Virgin Rock. P.C. and S. 049° 00' N. 046°
27' W. (X) 241° 10 knots. Weather report.
(B.6, 201403Z to F.O.N.F., N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F.
(R) C. in C. C.N.A., W.2.)

CAMBRIA, This re-encyphers U.S.N.O.B. Rio 191420 action to
cables. Com. 10th Fleet C. and R., (R) Com. 4th Fleet and
Admty. "CAMBRIA, British cable ship departs Rio
191300Z escorted by HENRIQUE DIAS. Routes same
as our despatch 071459 and 071501. E.T.A. position
(A) 202100Z.
(Radio Washington, 201405Z to Admty.)

/LADY NELSON ...

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LADY

NELSON.

Hospital ship LADY NELSON departure Chebucto Head 1430Z Oct. Thence as in my 181501Z.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 201433Z to Admty., C. in C. U.S. At. Fleet, N.S.H.Q., F.O.C. Gib.)

ST. ALBANS.

Your 191550* cancel my 181736/. ST. ALBANS will be sailed to arrive Boston about 1st Nov. anticipate defects lists will be air mailed from here 23rd.

(C. in C. C.N.W.A., 201442Z to B.A.M.R. Washington, (R) N.S.H.Q., Admty., S.B.N.O.W.At., ST. ALBANS.)

* Requesting confirmation expected time of arrival of ST. ALBANS.
/ ST. ALBANS expected time of arrival Boston about 25th Nov.

Swedish Relief Ships.

Swedish Vice Consul St. John N.B. reports Swedish relief ships AKKA and YARRAWONGA have orders to sail 1000Z/22nd. Request instructions.
(N.S.H.Q., 201451Z to Admty., (R) N.C.S.O. St. John N.B.)

Convoy W.B. 65, PENOLVER, DELISLE, sunk 19th October.

Complete crew landed at St. Johns from DELISLE (U.S.) sunk in 47° 19' N. 52° 27' W. at 2200Z October 19th. Believe mined no casualties secret and confidential books dumped overboard in steel perforated chest.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 201526Z to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q.)

14 survivors landed at St. Johns from PENOLVER sunk in 47° 19' N. 52° 27' W. at 2100Z October 19th. Believe mined, list of survivors follows in my 201801Z. Secret and confidential books went down with the ship.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 201527Z to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q., N.O.I.C. Sydney.)

PENOLVER, pendant 21 in W.B.65 convoy loaded with iron ore was struck aft at 2058 G.M.T. in 47° 19' N. 57° 27' W. and sank at 2100. DELISLE, pendant 22 the only other ship in centre column and loaded zinc concentrates, trucks tractors and steam shovels stopped to pick up survivors and was drifting among wreckage (wind N.E. force 6) when struck in number one hold at 2115 sinking at 2200. MISCOU in position astern obtained some H.E. on bearing of ships as each sank. It is considered that sinkings were caused by mines and not torpedoes. There was no loss of life among the crew of 39 of DELISLE. 27 were lost from PENOLVER, 14 being saved.

(F.O.N.F., 201849Z to C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q., (R) Admty., Cominch, C.T.F.24.)

U.S. S/M Estimate.

(Cominch, 201533Z.)

LINARIA.

Departure Bermuda LINARIA for Argentina.
(S.B.N.O.W.At., 201611Z to Admty.)

/MONTE ...

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America and West Indies - Contd.

MONTE
ALBERTIA.

MONTE ALBERTIA result of interception.
(D.E.W.D., 201638A to B.A.D.)

U.S. A/C,
Bay of
Biscay
offensive.

I have now received a reply from Adm. King after putting before him your appreciation of Bay offensive contained in Admiralty message 132357. He replies that he is well aware of the advantages that would accrue from an effective offensive in Bay, and because of this feeling and with due regard to other responsibilities and commitments

he is now agreeable to the following modifications to his 082213 (N.T. in W.R.) to Comnavu.

(a) There will be retained in U.K. until 1st Jan. 1944 for operations in Bay of Biscay offensive, the P.B.Y. Squadron and two of the B.24 Squadrons now there. Steps will be taken forthwith to provide full U.S. logistic support. It is estimated that this support will enable these three Squadrons to operate at a materially higher degree of effectiveness than present maintenance standards permit.

(b) He will direct that on 1st Nov. 1943 two of the B.24 Squadrons now in U.K. proceed to the Moroccan Sea Frontier for the relief of the Army Squadrons now there. He further proposes about this time to send a new B.24 Squadron from this country for temporary duty in the Moroccan Sea Frontier with ultimate destination Azores.

2. The extension of employment of three of the U.S. Naval Squadrons now in U.K. until the 1st Jan. 1944 is made with the understanding, that the Admiralty will make every possible effort before that date to provide release for these squadrons which Adm. King anticipates may then be required in other areas.

3. Adm. King states that he had been given the impression by Air Marshal Slessor and others that the Bay offensive would be a matter of limited duration so far as U.S. Squadrons were concerned. All of his plans therefore - of which he says he has kept us fully informed - have been premised on these assurances. If it has been our intention from the beginning to maintain a vigorous offensive with the continual aid of U.S. Squadrons, it appears to him unfortunate that this was not made clear at the outset.

4. Adm. King also counters some of the points made in the Admiralty appreciation and I am forwarding these for your information by air. Adm. King is anxious for your very early remarks on his proposal.

5. In my opinion Adm. King has met us further than I expected and I am not bringing the matter to the C.C.S. until I have your reactions to his proposals.

(B.A.D., 201641Z to Admty.)

U.S. Naval
Vessels.

U.S. Chiefs of Staff have raised following paper on release of information concerning losses (quoted)
3. Proposed that following policy, which is normal policy of U.S. Navy, be prescribed for all commands in which U.S. Naval vessels are serving. "Initial

announcement of loss of U.S. Naval vessels shall be made by the U.S. Navy Dept. The area or fleet commander under whose command a vessel was serving when lost shall promptly advise the C. in C.

/United ...

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

U.S. Naval
Vessels.
(Contd.)

United States Fleet, through normal channels, of a date when he considers announcement of the loss can be made without giving the enemy information which he could use to the disadvantage of our forces".

2. Request your remarks.
(B.A.D., 201811Z to Admty.)

H.X. 262.

Your 182015. No A/S and rescue trawlers in position for H.X. 262.

(F.O.N.F., 201816Z to C. in C. C.N.A., (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q.)

K.M.F. 25A
escorts.

Admiralty does not propose to use battleship or oiler for escort of K.M.F. 25A to Mediterranean. Request C.T.F.60 designate T.G. Commander and available destroyers as escort. MACKENZIE will undergo permanent repairs lasting about one month

at Talbot Drydock Co. Employment of remainder of Task Force until return of T.U.3 will be signalled later.

(Comnaveu, 201818 to Comtaskforce 60 Info. Cominch, C. in C. Lant, Comdesron 16, Comdesron 15, Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

Q.S./S.Q.
Convoys,
resumption
of sailings.

In view of present situation in Gulf of St. Lawrence Q.S. - S.Q. convoys are to be recommenced beginning with Q.S.68A sailing 20th and S.Q.69 sailing 25th.

2. Cycle thereafter will be every 7 and 6 days from Quebec and 6 and 7 days from Sydney until further notice.

3. Watch Strait patrol is to be discontinued and escorts allocated for these convoys as before.

4. N.O.I.C. Gaspe is to supply support from "Bangors" in his force.

(N.S.H.Q., 201851 to C. in C. W.A., Admty., (R) N.O.I.C. Quebec, N.O.I.C. Sydney, N.O.I.C. Gaspe, N.O.I.C. Montreal, Com. 10th Fleet C. and R., N.M.C.S. Washington, F.O.N.F.)

GUYSBOROUGH.

Expected to sail for Halifax on 25th.

(B.A.M.R., 201914Z to C. in C. C.N.A., (R) N.S.H.Q., Admty., S.B.N.O.W.At.)

DOMETT.

DOMETT departing Bermuda about 2100Z/20th for Argentia (route). Advancing 12 knots. E.T.A. 1200Z/24th. S.B.N.O.W.At. 131529.

(N.O.B. Bermuda, 201915 to N.O.B. Argentia, (R) Cominch, N.S.H.Q., S.B.N.O.W.At., C. in C. C.N.A., Admty., Cinclant, B.A.D.)

/RENONCULE ...

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20.10.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

RENONCULE. Your 251006 Sept. and 201040 ship can be taken in New Orleans area about 17th Nov. 1943. Request number 308 allocated. (B.A.M.R., 201916Z to C. in C. W.A., (R) Capt. (D) Greenock, N.S.H.Q., S.B.N.O.W.At., Admty.)

Lights. SS. CHIPPAWA PARK reports that at 140430 Oct. while hove to in 57.10 N. 38.20 W. flashing lights were observed from 3 different bearings low in water thought to be from boats or rafts wind West North West force 9. Area searched during daylight but sighted only unmarked grey life raft and life buoy with automatic light attached position 57.10 N. 38.05 W. (F.O.N.F., 201922Z to C. in C. W.A., (R) Admty., C. in C. C.N.A. N.S.H.Q., Cominch.)

MATTOLE. U.S.S. MATTOLE arrived 20th. (R.O. Curacao, 202005 to Admty.)

Sub. attack and sighting summary. Para. D. N.A.S. plane sighted wake and swirl about 29.52 N. 80.53 W. 201517Z. (Cominch, 202042Z to Admty.)

B.Y.M.S. 59 and 167. Cancel my 132142. When ready about 23rd Oct. sail B.Y.M.S. 59, 167 Charleston to Bermuda for onward routeing to Horta, Azores for fuel and onward routeing by Admiralty to Londonderry. Advise times of departure, routes and speeds of advance. Ships have radius of 1700 to 1800 miles at 9 knots using 30 American gallons of fuel per hour. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 202045Z to C.E.S.F.)

B.Y.M.S. 203, 204, 232. Cancel my 181754. About 28th sail B.Y.M.S. 203, 204, 232 New York via Bermuda to Horta for fuelling and onward routeing by F.O. Gibraltar to Gibraltar for Eastern Fleet. Instructions my 202045 applies. (Cominch, 202130Z to C.E.S.F.)

A/S forces, Mediterranean. Cominch has requested that in view of our common interest in A/S measures in the Mediterranean and with a view to assisting him in planning, he may be provided with all available data as to forces available and in use (surface and air) for the protection of merchant shipping in that sea. (B.A.D., 202153Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant.)

/ U.S. ...

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20.10.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

U.S. Movements. Refer to this as 202159 from Cominch. Addressed to Cinclant and Com. 8th Fleet for action. Mydis 161834 Com. 8th Fleet return STANTON, LYON with SAMUEL CHASE to U.S. All 3 transports available evacuate wounded. Cinclant plans combining this movement with aircraft ferry trip by CROATAN estimated depart on Nov. 7th Bizerte and on 11th Nov. Gibraltar. 3 Atlantic Fleet escorts will accompany CROATAN in Mediterranean and 2 additional will join departing Gibraltar. Destination New York. Com. 8th Fleet endeavour to meet above schedule with transports. Cinclant advised corresponding delay in succeeding ferry trip time table should delay eventuate. This for information to Admty., C. in C. A.F., C. in C. Med., Chief of Staff U.S. Army, Com. 8th Phib, Comtransphiblant. (Cominch, 202159.)

R.C.N. C. in C. C.N.A.'s 191450 para. 1 approved. frigates, 2. Ref. para. 2 a policy of allocation of frigates allocation. as Senior Officer Ships is approved in principle but no further. Ships are to be taken in hand after DUNVER for this purpose until experience shows whether alterations now being made are satisfactory. 3. Report is to be forwarded giving time taken to carry out the above alterations at Halifax. (N.S.H.Q., 202243Z to C. in C. C.N.A., (R) F.O.N.F., Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

ROXBOROUGH. ROXBOROUGH departs 42.07 N. 70.15 W. at 1300Q/21 Oct. en route Halifax via (B) 42.41 N. 65.08 W. (C) 43.18 N. 63.58 W. thence with B.X.79 via (D) 43.51 N. 63.16 W. Speed 18 knots. E.T.A. position (C) 0700Q/22nd Oct. (C.T.G. 02.1, 202315Z to C. in C. C.N.A., (R) Capt. D. Halifax, N.S.H.Q., Admty., C. in C. W.A., B.A.D, C.E.S.F., Cominch.) Cancelled - see C.T.G. 02.1 212139.

Convoy (1) Sailing dispatch part 1. (2) 2230Z/21st. U.T. 4. Point Z seaward end swept channel. (3) Position (C) at 1530Z/22nd. S. of A. 13.5 knots. E.T.A. Position K at 1530Z/31st. (4) "Chop" 1900Z/25. (5) Ocean route (B) 39.30 N. 72.10 W. (C) 39.58 N. 68.45 W. R/V with Boston section at position (D) 42.20, 64.05 at 1100Z/23rd. (Route). (6) Task Force 69 U.S.S. TEXAS (S.O.), U.S.S. NELSON, MURPHY, JEFFERS, QUICK, R.G. BUTLER, GHERARDI, HERNDOWN, GLENNON, DORAN, EARLE, KNIGHT, ENOREE escort oiler. (15) L U fighter protection codeword "Ember" with call sign 237. (P.D. New York, 202326 to Com. 10th Fleet C. and R.) As amended 212130Z.

Italian Proposed employment. Cruisers. (V.C.N.S., 202342A to B.A.D.) See Mediterranean.

Movements Bermuda arrivals PARRET and LOSSIE. Departure Bermuda. (? DOMETT). (S.B.N.O.W.At., 202335Z to Admty.)

20.10.1943.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

- Digest serial Navy Catalina reported total 5 small coasters
No. 638 Oct. vicinity Cape St. George afternoon 3 stationary
19th. and 2 proceeding South East Spip.
2. Another Catalina strafed and bombed 1 large 4
smaller barges and installations near jetty Wide
Bay night 18th.
3. Submarine sighted off Cape Orford northbound afternoon 18th.
Reports indicate at least 1 submarine Vitiiaz Straits area same
night also 1 following night.
4. R/C Lightning escorted by 2 others encountered 9 enemy light
bombers near Wewak forenoon, 1 of which was probably destroyed.
Two small coasters and several harbour craft observed off Wewak
and only barge activity Hansa Bay.
5. Photos Rabaul forenoon reveal 2 Nachi Class heavy cruisers, 9
destroyers, 1 gunboat, 3 sub. chasers, 6 submarines, 1 converted
destroyer tender, 23 merchantmen totalling 124,000 tons, 10
floatplanes, 1 flying boat in harbour.
9. 5 Beaufighters bombed and strafed Trangan Strip (Aroe Islands)
and destroyed enemy barge containing 15 Japanese in Serwatoe Bay.
One Beaufighter failed to return.
11. Enemy submarine unsuccessfully attacked Allied surface units
vicinity Chesterfield Reef forenoon.
14. Photos South Bougainville forenoon 18th show 24 fighters
Kahili, 4 Ballale, 9 floatplanes Fæisi, also 1 sub. chaser, 5
small craft, 41 barges, 2 launches, 3 new jetties noted constructed
in Tonolei harbour.
15. Four small craft attacked by Liberator 35 miles East Cape St.
George night 18th. Results uncertain.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 200638Z.)

Movements. Arrived Sydney 18th U.S.S. MONTPELIER, FARENHOLT.
(A.C.N.B. 201402Z.)

BRAMORA. Have you any news of BRAMORA (Norwegian) due
Melbourne 11th October from Bandar Abbas?
(D.T.D. 201618Z to C.S.W.P.S.F.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 201410A, 201415A.)

Submarines Attacked.

Sub. attack & sighting summary for 24 hrs. to 0900Z/20th.
Para. A. A/C reported sighting a U/B on surface at 1919/19th in 36° 53' N. 01° 51' E. at 2340/19th in 36° 53' N. 01° 50' E. at 0042/20th in 36° 52' N. 01° 50' E. A/C sighted U/B at 0006/19th in 10° 48' N. 75° 21' E. A/C sighted U/B at 0630/18th in 23° 30' N. 60° 33' E. Para. B. VANQUISHER attacked contact at 1201/19th in 55° 15' N. 38° 30' W (D.D.I.C. 201056A to Cominch.)

21.10.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Repatriation
of Prisoners.

1. The three Repatriation Ships ATLANTIS, EMPRESS OF RUSSIA, and DROTTNINGHOLM from Gothenburg with re-patriated British prisoners passed Vinga Lighthouse at 0920 this morning on their return to British ports; and the corresponding German ships have also cleared from Gothenburg.

Sir Dudley
Pound.

2. Admiral of the Fleet Sir Dudley Pound (late First Sea Lord) died this morning in London.

Enemy air
Attack.

3. 35 enemy A/C approached the Humber area at 2350 last night, and 3 of them dropped bombs this morning without incident to the N.E. of Hull.

Shipping.

4. Routes to be followed by neutral shipping, other than Swedish Gothenburg traffic and Eire ships, proceeding across the North Atlantic were outlined in an Admiralty message today.

North Atlantic.

Ponta
Delgada.

5. The Portuguese Ministry of Marine point out that under the Anglo-Portuguese Agreement, Ponta Delgada is still a neutral port, subject to the usual rules of international law. They request that the usual previous notification may be given of visiting men of war except in the case of emergency.

Mediterranean.

Frigates for
French.

6. The River class frigates WINDRUSH, FROME, BRAID and TORRIDGE will be turned over to the French Navy on completion. The French have accepted the condition that they must remain strictly under British operational control and be available for service wherever the strategical situation may require.

War Diary.

21.10.1943.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

M.K.S.28
attacked.
2 ships
sunk.

7. Convoy M.K.S.28 was attacked by a mixed force of about 25 Ju.88, He.111, and Do.217s at 1840 in 36.55 N. 01.36 E. off Tenez, west of Algiers. Torpedoes only were used, and SALTWICK, British, and TIVIVES, American, were sunk. Six aircraft are claimed shot down, 2 by ALYNBANK and 4 by fighters.

Leghorn.

8. American P.T.boats last night intercepted a southbound convoy of 3 F-Lighters with 4 small escorts entering Leghorn. One F-Lighter was hit by torpedoes. The enemy returned a confused fire but there were no damage or casualties.

Adriatic.

9.(a). Capt. D.4 in QUILLIAM at 2250A captured the M/V ARSIA, 1300 tons, in 41.44 N. 19.26 E. off Ulcinj. The ship is being taken to Bari in tow of QUAIL.

(b). TYRIAN and TUMULT on a sweep in the Adriatic last night between Durazzo and Dubrovnik sank an ex-Yugoslav trawler, the BOJANA, with a German armed guard on board, in 41.57 N. 19.09 E. in the vicinity of Ulcinj.

Aegean.

10.(a). AURORA, with MIAOULES in company, bombarded the port of Rhodes last night, firing 130 rounds.

Leros.

(b). C. in C.Levant has decided with C. in C. Middle East to put another battalion into Leros as soon as possible and the supply situation permits.

He says that the enemy air potential does not seem to have decreased, and his bomb aims are improving. Therefore surface forces cannot be risked in the area by day unless for a worthwhile target, e.g., convoy or invasion. They are getting an unpleasant amount of bombing at night and many near misses.

(c). FURY and BEAUFORT arrived at Leros last night and disembarked stores. No F-Lighters were found during the sweep along the north coast of Kos. During the last 4 nights, destroyers have landed at Leros 114 tons of stores and ammunition and 96 personnel.

(d). FAULK NOR (D.8) and PETARD were unable to land stores at Leros last night owing to enemy bombing and flares, and lay up in Turkish waters with DULVERTON.

/(e)...

21.10.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Leros.
(Contd.)

(e). 2 enemy aircraft dropped bombs on Portolago Bay without damage.

(f). S/M RORQUAL reported at 1245C that on account of enemy bombing she was proceeding diving by day to arrive at Leros dark 23rd. She estimated her position at 2000C today would be 34.40 N. 28.01 E.

(g). JERVIS, PATHFINDER, HURWORTH and ADRIAS left Alexandria today carrying jeeps, stores and personnel.

Levant
destroyers.

11. C. in C. Levant asks C. in C. Mediterranean if he could have the 24th D.F. (TROUBRIDGE, etc.) in lieu of the 8th D.F. (PAULKNOR, etc.) The latter are so ill equipped to cope with the scale of air attack they are now getting in Aegean, and it is a case of the Navy versus the German Air Force once again. But C. in C. Med. regrets that the 24th D.F. cannot be spared for the present.

Air
Operations.

12. A Wellington aircraft attacked a U-Boat at 0200 120 miles W.N.W. of Algiers.

Aden and
Eastern Fleet.

13. As Aden is becoming more and more involved with requirements for the Eastern Fleet, C. in C.E.F. and C. in C. Levant consider it should come under the Eastern Fleet Command, the proposed new boundary to be the parallel of 15° N. in the Red Sea.

East Indies.

14. ATHELVIKING, British tanker, 8779 tons, independently routed from Melbourne to Abadan, reported she was torpedoed at 0340Z in 24.36 N. 57.43 E. about 160 miles S.E. of Bandar el Abbas, but it appears that 2 torpedoes both missed and the ship is undamaged.

21.10.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

15. CORE aircraft report the sinking of a U-Boat at 0845 in 46.57 N. 29.09 W. the second in this area in two days.

Australia & New Zealand.

16. Ten Beauforts attacked 2 vessels described as light cruisers off the east coast of New Ireland this forenoon, damaging one.

17. Liberators damaged several barges in Borgen Bay, Solomons, today.

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21.10.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

LORD RODNEY, A.M. 041942 October. Steam Drifters LORD RODNEY
MARGARET and MARGARET HYDE are re-allocated to War Dept.
HYDE. (D.S.V.P. 212151A to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth.)

Movements.

PRINCE Your 202321. Intend proceeding direct to Gibraltar
ROBERT. (PRINCE ROBERT 210250A to C. in C. Plymouth.)
PRINCE ROBERT passed through position (PZ) 270°
Trevose Head 7 miles at 0445A/21st and proceeds
direct to position (PB) and thence in accordance
with my 201159A.
(C. in C. Plymouth 211154A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

MATCHLESS. Proceed to Skaalefiord to arrive a.m. 22nd Oct.
On arrival complete with fuel and act as ordered
by Capt. (D) B.
(R.A.D. H.F. 211008A to MATCHLESS.)
Cancel my 211008. Proceed to Scapa.
(R.A.D. 211424A to MATCHLESS.)
Position at 1500, 280° Oversay 6 miles, course 328, 25 knots
My 202001, amend E.T.A. to 0200/22.
(MATCHLESS 211518A to R.A.D. H.F.)

C. in C.H.F. Request you will sail a Destroyer to arrive
Scrabster 1415A/26. Destroyer is to embark
C. in C.H.F. then return Scapa and close DUKE OF
YORK in Fleet anchorage.
(C. in C.H.F. 211225A to R.A.D. H.F.)

IMPULSE. Faeroes arrival IMPULSE.
(F.O.I.C. Faeroes 211445A to A.C.I.C.)

BERMUDA. Onward route from (BC) to Scapa. C. in C.Plymouth's
151755 refers.
(C. in C.W.A. 211503A to BERMUDA.)

INGLEFIELD. Your 201744. Route through H.55.00 N.10.00 W. to
Gibraltar.
(D.O.D.H. 211550A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

B.Y.M.S. Request you will sail B.Y.M.S. Nos. 53, 56, 171,
for 172, 175 to Gibraltar on 3rd November or when
Gibraltar. weather is suitable.
(D.O.D.H. 211556A and 221333A to F.O.I.C. Milford
Haven.)

/DAUNTLESS...

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21.10.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.DAUNTLESS,
DIOMEDE.Scapa departure DAUNTLESS, DIOMEDE.
(A.C.O.S. 211642 to C. in C. Rosyth.)S/M.
movements.Positions of S/M's at 0800/22 and movements for
following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 211729A, 220902A.)

My 311812 August. Cases have occurred recently of escorted S/MS. and S/M escorts deviating from routes given and proceeding W. of Orkney during dark hours without first requesting approval. I wish to emphasize that unheralded entry into the exercise area W. of Orkney during dark hours is a hazardous procedure and cannot be permitted.
(A.C.O.S. 211844A to Capt. S.3.)

ATTACKER,
HUNTER,
STALKER.A.M. 061817 para. 2. Date of readiness for service has been extended to 1st January 1944.
(D.O.D.H. 211824A to F.O.C.T.)

GRENVILLE.

A.M. 061057 and R.A. (D)'s 082346. Request you will sail GRENVILLE to arrive Gibraltar by 29th October to join Mediterranean Fleet.
(D.O.D.H. 211851A to C. in C. Plymouth.)Operations.Operation
F.R.My 182016. Arrived Seidis Fjord 2100A/20.
(Russian Craft).
(A.C.I.C. 210216A to H.F.)

SAVAGE with SCOURGE, SCORPION, SAUMAREZ, MUSKETEER, MAHRATTA proceed passing Switha 1900/21st to arrive Skaalefiord a.m. 22nd. 2. On arrival complete and act in accordance with F.O. 2nd i/c. Home Fleet's 122200 under order of Capt. (D)'s approval.

(R.A.D. H.F. 210950 to SAUMAREZ, etc.)

Operation postponed 24 hours. D Day is now 22nd October.

(C. in C. H.F. 211335A to H.F.)

Sailing of destroyers for N. Russia has been postponed for 24 hours and if necessary can be delayed further. 2. Sailing of J.W. convoys will be delayed by similar amounts in consequence.

3. Request you inform Foreign Secretary.

(V.C.N.S. 212355A to Ad. Fisher.)

Operation
F.Q.

Following from Locomotive begins:- U-Boat alongside jetty, 201955Z ends.

(D.S.O. 210227Z to V.A.2, C.T.F.121, C. in C.H.F., A.C.O.S., TUSCALOOSA.)

Estimated position at 212101A. TUSCALOOSA,

ONSLAUGHT, ORIBI, ORWELL, FITCH 068° 27' N. 012° 55' W. to South.

(A.C.I.C. 211302A to Ships.)

Coastal
Patrols.Sailed LIMBOURNE, STEVENSTONE, MELBREAK at 0255.
(C. in C. Plymouth 210312A to Admty.)

(1)...

3 656

21.10.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal Patrols. (Contd.) (1) Orders for night 21/22 October. (A) 3 M.T.Bs. of 51st Flotilla to patrol 10 miles southward of convoy route covering C.E. Convoy between C.3 and C.2 buoys from 2000A to 0001A. (B) Chasseurs 11, 15 patrol Q.Z.S.384 between F. and E.A. 5 buoys. (C) LA COMBATTANTE, M.L.292 immediate notice at St. Helens. (D) GLAISDALE immediate notice Yarmouth. (E) M.G.Bs. 13, 7, 6, from Portland patrolling 50° 15' N. between 02° 10' W. and 02° 35' W. (C. in C. Portsmouth 211424A.) ALEXANDRITE, FYLDEA patrolling two miles S. of 'D' buoy. E.T.D. 1730. (V.A. Dover 211649A.)

S/M Patrols. Request you will sail S/Ms. from Lerwick as follows. 1. VARANGIAN at 1600A/23 through (X) 090° Muckle Flugga 5 miles and route PINK to 071° 09' thence through 071° 10' 022° 40' to patrol position T.9. 2. SYRTIS as convenient through (X) and route GREY to 071° 25' thence through 071° 25' 023° 22' to patrol position T.10. 3. STUBBORN as convenient through (X) and route BLACK to 070° 45' thence direct to patrol position T.8. (Capt. S.9. 210909A to S.O. S/M Lerwick.) Request you will recall SEADOG leaving patrol 26th October. (F.O.S. 211702A to Capt. S.9.) Positions of Submarines at 0800/22nd and movements for following 24 hours. (A) SEADOG as in my 191732. (B) SEA ROVER 65° 55' N. 06° 10' E. course 210° probably on the surface 10 knots. (C) TANTIVY 62° 55' N. 03° 40' E. to patrol vicinity of 63° 35' N. 05° 01' E. dived as much as possible N. of 62° N. (F.O.S. 211729A to Admty.)

"Locomotive" (Spitzbergen) Request the returning officers and men from "Locomotive" (be) interned for at least 3 weeks on arrival U.K. for security reasons. ("Locomotive" 210930Z to Admty.)

Operation S.F. FRASERBURGH, LLANDUDNO, HUSSAR, LYME REGIS, BOOTLE searching vicinity 062° 24' 013° 50'. (A.C.O.S. 211136A to Air Ministry.) Sailed WORTHING for Hvalfiord. E.T.A. 1800Z/22. (R.N.O. Seidisfiord 211145A to A.C.I.C.)

Moorings normal for October 22nd. 5 Sunderlands, 3 Catalinas operating. (C. in C. Rosyth 212307A to H.F.)

V.P. Operations. Carrying out V.P. (1) Patrol ZZ. (2) Alert. (3) a.m. 23rd October or as soon thereafter as possible. (4) One. (5) No. (6) No. (7) 055° Out Skerries 110 miles. (8) Yes. (A.C.O.S. 211144A to Admty.)

/Bay...

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21.10.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Bay Patrol. Am over enemy S/M. Enemy S/M was sighted on surface and observed to submerge.
(A/C 228 Sq. Duty 2. 211350 to 19 Group.)
Am over enemy S/M in 46.30 N. 15.00 W.
(A/C 228 Sq. Duty 2 to 19 Group T.O.R. 211353.)
Enemy S/M previously reported is still on the surface 46.30 15.00.
(A/C 228 Sq. Duty 2 to 19 Group T.O.R. 211357)
Disposition at 2000. 1. BERMUDA patrolling vicinity 042° 30' N. 021° 01' W. 2. PRINCE ROBERT 049° 35' N. 010° 45' W. to 049° 01' N. 014° 15' W. thence 204° 15 knots.
(C. in C. Plymouth 211433A to Admty.)
Have attacked U-Boat with depth charge.
(A/C 228 Sq. Duty X. 211505 to 19 Group.)
Instructions in my 201536A are postponed until further orders.
(C. in C. Plymouth 211544A to CHARYBDIS (R) BERMUDA.)

Operation "Tunnel". Carry out Operation "Tunnel" as ordered in my Memorandum OPTU dated 21st October tomorrow.
(2) Force 28 comprising ships addressed is passing the gate outward at 1900A/22 thence passing HH at 0030/23 and sweep thence through KK to MM, leave MM at 0430 to pass gate inward about 0830.
(C. in C. Plymouth 211836A to CHARYBDIS, GRENVILLE, ROCKET, LIMBOURNE, MELBREAK, TALYBONT, WENSLEYDALE.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Humber area. (A) 35 unidentified Aircraft approaching Humber Area at 2350/20. Flares dropped and bombs observed to burst North East of Hull at 0885/21. Basket fires lit at H.U.5 at 0007. (B) Yes.
(C) No incidents in Hull or at H.U.5. Believed only 3 Hostile in Area.
(F.O. Humber 211840 to Admty.)

Casualties & Defects.

BEGUM, My position 0700Z, 055° 05' N. 010° 55' W. N. and PENNYWORT. W. drift 020° 1½ knots. Weather 5561 76.56.
(PENNYWORT 210815Z to C. in C.W.A.)
My 191600Z to B.4 only. Air pump bridle arms broken at pivoting point and cannot be repaired.
My maximum speed 6 knots. Intend returning to Londonderry on relief by AQUAMARINE.
(PENNYWORT 211645Z to C. in C.W.A.)
D.R. Position at 1500Z, 054° 22' N. 010° 51' W. course 238° speed 6.5.
(AQUAMARINE 211650A to PENNYWORT.)
My position at 1700Z, 055° 19' N. 01° 46' W.
(PENNYWORT 211715Z to AQUAMARINE.)

/FORMIDABLE...

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21.10.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects - Contd.

FORMIDABLE. A.M. 151255, para.3. FORMIDABLE will be taken in hand at Messrs. Harland and Wolff, Belfast, about the third week in November after completion of UNICORN, for refit including main machinery defects and modifications to uptakes.
(A.C.N.S. 211314A to C. in C.H.F.)

HURON. Sailed HURON for Leith, E.T.A. 0750A/22.
(R.A.D. 211831 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Shipping & Convoys.

T.A.69. My 140145A, paras. 3 and 4. Sailing and embarkation dates of convoy T.A.69 have been postponed by 24 hours.
(D.S.T. 210347A.)

Intend to sail SS. QUEEN ELIZABETH passing Clyde boom 2359A/22 to comply with A.M. 181900A as amended by A.M. 191304A. S.O.A. 26½ knots. "Chop" 26th October. E.T.A. Ambrose L/V 1100Z/28.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock 211034A to Admty.)

P.W.418. My 191624A. Postponed further 24 hours due to weather.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 210418A.)

AMSTERDAM. Scapa departure AMSTERDAM.
(A.C.O.S. 210505 to N.O.I.C. Invergordon.)

ATLANTIS,
EMPRESS OF
RUSSIA,
DROTTNINGHOLM. My 202323. The three vessels bound for British ports passed Vinga Lighthouse at 0920 this morning. 2. German vessels have also cleared the Port of Gothenburg.
(N.A. Stockholm 211011 to Admty.)

H.X.261,
E.G.5,
O.N.S.21. E.G.5th are to detach at dusk tonight with ships of 12½ knots and over, negative Cmdre., escort to 007° W. thence independently. E.G.5th to Londonderry on completion and will be required to sail as requisite to overtake and support O.N.S.21.
(C. in C.W.A. 211147Z to Escorts H.X.261, E.G.5.)

K.X.11. My 181156. Sailing postponed for a third period of 24 hours.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 211718A to Admty.)

O.N.207,
B.7. My P.C.S. at 2001A/21 053° 30' N. 036° 03' W. 069° 11. Request confirmation that group is to steer direct to intercept O.N. 207.
(B.7. 211735A to C. in C.W.A.)

Neutral
Ships. Routes to be followed across North Atlantic.
(D.T.D. 211859A) See North Atlantic.

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21.10.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

- S.R.6. Arrived DOUGLAS and LA BOUDEUSE with EL BIAR from S.R.6. (C.M.S.F. 210100A to F.O. Gib.). Arrived MALCOLM, BULLDOG, BOADICEA, BEAGLE with S.R.6. (F.O.i/c Gibraltar 211523A to Admty. etc.).
- U/B Am over enemy S/M in 37 degs. 30' N. 1 deg. 00' E. at 0140A. (A/C RFA/Z 210155A).
- ACTIVE My P.C. and S. 036 degs. 02' North 007 degs. 36' West 100 degs. 22 knots. Approx. 30 miles astern of main body due to shortage of oil fuel. (ACTIVE 210915A to F.O.C. Gibraltar).
- Use of Ponta Delgada. N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada's 171324 and 202045 (Re arrivals of WHITEHALL and WARWICK). Ministry of Marine points out that under Anglo-Portuguese agreement Ponta Delgada is still neutral port subject to usual rules International Law. (2) They request that usual previous notification may be given of visiting Men of War except in the case of emergency. (N.A. Lisbon 211150A to Admty.).
- Azores FENCER. Even if Hudsons do not arrive I am prepared on arrivals of more Fortresses to release FENCER and her aircraft. Her presence in anchorage is a commitment which I should be glad to be rid of. (2) Occasional sweeps by Fortresses and reconnaissance by Walrus should prove a deterrent to German U-boats and will give aircraft valuable local knowledge. (3) The alternative suggestion for FENCER to leave some Swordfish has been discussed but is not acceptable as her efficiency for other operation would be too greatly reduced. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 211243N to Admty. (R) FENCER).
- G.U.S.18 (1) Sailing telegram. Part 2. 61 ships including MOOSE PEAK towing U.S.S. STAFF. (?C.M.S.F. 211544).
- U/B R.A.F.Gib. 211605A. U/B sighting see Mediterranean.
- U.G.S.20 Casablanca Section arrived (list including U.S.S. COSSATOT (T) U.S.S. KEARNEDUANE, U.S. C.G. CAMPBELL. (C.M.S.F. 211642 to P.D. Norfolk).

/U.G.S.20...

21.10.1943.
Thursday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.U.G.S.20.
(Contd.).U.G.S.20 arrivals (list) (7 ships).
(F.O.i/c 211702A, 212048 to Connav).Swiss ship
ALBULA.Sailed Gibraltar 211808A, for Marseilles following approved routes to Cape San Sebastian thence Coastwise to destination. Not to be molested on this voyage.
(F.O.i/c Gibraltar 211811A to S. and A Area G.).Neutral
shipping,
Atlantic
route.F.O's. i/c pass to N.C.S.O's.
All neutral vessels, other than Swedish Gothenburg traffic and Eire ships, proceeding across the North Atlantic should be routed through the following positions:-

(A) 34 degs. 00' North 39 degs. 00' W. thence along the 34th parallel to (B) 34 degs. 00' North 61 degs. 00' West thence to (C) 38 degs. 00' North 65 degs. 00' West ships from the U.K. are to be routed by great circle to position A.
(2) Eire ships are to be routed by Great Circle from Fastnet to 38 degs. 10' North 34 degs. 00' West thence along the parallel of 38 degs. 10' North to cut into the port approach routes given below.

Canadian and Newfoundland Ports.

- (3) Approach routes are to be used as follows. (Details).
(4) While on approach routes given in para.3. neutral ships shall report by W/T their 1200 G.M.T. position daily to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, via Louisberg or Camperdown Radio Stations, or any other Canadian coastal station.
(5) Vessels outward bound from these ports shall proceed via the same routes and shall similarly radio their daily positions when north of 38 degs. 10' N.

United States and West Indies Ports.

- (6) Neutral, including Eire, shipping, not under British or U.S. management, is permitted to call, on the Atlantic or Gulf coasts only at:-

- (a) Philadelphia or New Orleans for loading or bunkering;
(b) Pensacola for loading coal; (c) Ponce, Puerto Rico.
(7) Approach lanes are:- (details).

- (8) These approach lanes are always to be used except in the case of ships proceeding directly to Georgetown, British Guiana or when proceeding from Georgetown to any port in the Caribbean area.

- (9) The P.C. and S is to be reported by W/T to Navy Department, Washington, when entering the lane and at noon daily thereafter, and also, while in the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea. In the case of vessels proceeding to Georgetown, the first report is to be made on crossing 50 degs. W. Reports are to be addressed to Connav, Washington and passed via any commercial or U.S. Govt. Coastal Radio Station. The U.S. Navy will defray coastal station and land line charges.

- (10) Before sailing for U.S. port, a nominal list of passengers and crew is to be given to the American consul.

- (11) Neutral shipping referred to in para.1. and not proceeding to a U.S. port is advised to keep at least 500 miles from the U.S. coast line.

- (12) A.M. 072033 and 151920 both May, 092129 July and 211720 September are cancelled.

(D.T.D. 211859A to F.O. Gibraltar etc.).

/Convoy...

MOST SECRET

660^A NA

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

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

MOST SECRET M E S S A G E 211950A October OUT

Addressed F.O.I.C. Gibraltar
 C. in C. Eastern Fleet
 C. in C. Mediterranean
 C. in C. Levant
 F.O.C. West Africa
Repeated F.O.C.R.I.N.
 F.O.R.S.C.A.
 Commorseafron.
 Naval Cypher (X)

Date 21.10.43

Convoy KMF 25.

From Director of Sea Transport.

IMPORTANT to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Mediterranean, C. in C. Levant.

Convoy KMF 25 sailed from United Kingdom 16th October comprising the following troop transports:-

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Speed</u>	<u>Destination of Personnel on Board</u>	<u>No. of Personnel</u>
B.1	CHAMPOLLION	16	Philippville Middle East via North Africa	1553 535
B.2	DOMINION MONARCH	19	Middle East India	1735 1836
B.3	LEOPOLDVILLE	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	Middle East India Iraq	1622 608 45
B.4	ORBITA	14	Gibraltar West Africa	954 1407
B.14	SAMARIA	15	Middle East via North Africa Algiers	25 4364

2. Stores were shipped in DOMINION MONARCH and ORBITA for Bombay and Freetown respectively.

3. Separate signal has been sent to appropriate authorities giving estimated arrival draughts and length overall of vessels proceeding to North African ports.

4. Destinations of troop transports are as follows:-

- | | | | |
|-----|------------------|---|------------------------|
| (a) | CHAMPOLLION | } | Philippeville |
| (b) | DOMINION MONARCH | | Middle East |
| | LEOPOLDVILLE | | |
| (c) | ORBITA | | Gibraltar and W.Africa |
| (d) | SAMARIA | | Algiers |

2.

5. Disposal of troop transports is as follows:-

- (i) 4(a) is to be retained in the Mediterranean for future service under the control of P.S.T.O. Mediterranean.
- (ii) 4(b) will return to U.K. in convoy MKF 26.
- (iii) 4(c) will return from West Africa to Gibraltar for inclusion in convoy MKF 26 for U.K.
- (iv) 4(d) will return to U.K. in convoy MKF 25.

6. P.S.T.O. Mediterranean should arrange for on-carriage of personnel from Algiers ex SAMARIA and from Philippeville ex CHAMPOLLION for Middle East.

7. P.S.T.O. Middle East should make arrangements for on-carriage of personnel ex DOMINION MONARCH and LEOPOLDVILLE for destinations beyond Middle East. Immediate transshipment should be arranged for personnel and equipment for India ex DOMINION MONARCH into MOOLTAN and GLENGYLE.

8. Separate signal has been sent regarding on-carriage of personnel ex ORBITA as necessary along West African coast.

9. Commodore of Convoy is Commodore Drax R.N.R. in DOMINION MONARCH, Vice Commodore Tillard, R.N.R. in ORBITA.

10. Addressees pass to S.T.Os. and Military authorities concerned.

211950A
D. of S.T. (M.W.T. Ext. 2186)

From D. of S.T.

My 211950 . Add the following:-

BERGENSFJORD and VOLENDAM will join Convoy K.M.F. 25. at Gibraltar from West Africa for Bombay. Disposal instructions will be given in due course.

2. M.T. Ship NIGERSTROOM speed 15 knots for Middle East and commercial freightship CITY OF DIEPPE speed 14 knots for Colombo also sailed with convoy K.M.F. 25.

221348A.

for D.O.D.(F) (546).

21.10.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

Convoy K.M.F.25. List, details etc.
(D.S.T. 211950A to F.O. Gib. etc.).
See Lion Copy.

South Atlantic.

"g" Report. Following read by Freetown W/T on 500 k/cs.
Portions missed. Addressed: All ships. SSS
submarine sighted 11.48 ?N. 67.55 W. 3 (portion
missed) L.208.
(Missed C.P. T.O.R. 210202).

Convoy W.S.33. (B) Sailed 20th for Kilindini enroute Bombay
personnel on board for (A) India, (B) Ceylon,
(C) P.A.I.C.
E.T.A. Kilindini 0600/27th.
(D.S.T.O. Durban 211131Z to D.S.T.O. Bombay).

W.S.33A., C.M.46. Convoy W.S. 33(A) and C.M.46 combined sailed 20
October for Kilindini enroute Aden. Personnel on
board for (A) Middle East, (B) U.K. (C) Persia.
E.T.A. Kilindini 0600Z/27th October.
(D.S.T.O. Durban 211144Z to D.S.T.O. Aden).

Streaming of Net Defence. A.M. 151545 (see U-boat campaign). The only area
on South Atlantic Station in which A.N.D. nets
should be streamed at present by ships sailing
independently is in the Mozambique Channel North of
latitude 026 degs. South. It is requested that
N.C.S.O's. on other stations may be instructed
accordingly.
(C. in C.S.A. 211701C to N.C.S.O's Cape Town,
Port Elizabeth, East London, Durban, N.C.S.O's.
Lourenco Marques, Beira, C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.W.Af.
Connav (R) Admty. A.B.N.S.O., Recife, Cominch).

Standard reference positions. Doubt appears to exist whether point of reference
used in case of those reference positions which are
ports is the outer end of searched channel, entrance
to the port itself, or some other standard position.
(2) For consideration that latitude and longitude
to be used in respect of all ports which are
standard reference positions should be promulgated by Admty. This
would facilitate diversion signals when new lettered positions have
to be created by reference to such ports and would avoid
possibility of confusion in cases where Mari section 1. para.7
has not been fully complied with or if searched channel has been

/changed...

21.10.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Standard
reference
positions.
(Contd.).

changed since ship sailed.
(C. in C.S.A. 211729C to Admty. (E) Connav,
C. in C.E.F., F.O.C.W.Af., C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.).
Reply 272306.

PASTEUR

Intend to sail PASTEUR at 1600Z/22. Route as in
Commorseafon's 181410A Oct. reversed. S. of A.
knots 20.3 E.T.A. Casablanca 1800Z/24 "Chop"
0300Z/24 codeword "Tilden" 355.
(Comar Dakar 211820Z to F.O.C.W.A., Commorseafon).

SOUTHERN
GEM,
SOUTHERN
PRIDE.

Admiralty 191944. Request SOUTHERN GEM and
SOUTHERN PRIDE may return Freetown as convenient.
Either or both are available to Escort Fleet
tenders if these are ready to sail shortly.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 212054Z to Com.4th Fleet, (R) B.A.D.
S.B.N.O. Trinidad, Admty. S.B.N.O.W.At.).

21.10.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Ships for
Med. Military
programme.

Re congestion existing at North African and
central Med. Ports. Figures.
(D. of S.T. 210031A P.S.T.O. Med.)

Repatriation.

On instruction from representative of protecting
power all 4 German ships are being sailed at 0600/
21.
(C. in C. Med., 210116A to Admty.)

U/B.

Am over enemy S/M in position 37.23 N. 00.35 E.
and W. course 180° speed 12 knots S/M is on
surface.
(A/C Z call sign RFA 210200)
Am over enemy S/M in 37.30 N. 01.00 E. at 0140A.
(A/C Z RFA, 210155A.)

A.1606/21st Oct. Gib. GR. Opsum SUP 20th. A/C Z179 at
210151 in 37.23 N. 00.35 E. and W. 130 12 apparently 500 ton
type no guns observed but flak from aft C/T fully illuminated
attacked surfaced 150° Red 6 x 250 Torpex spaced 60 seen from
50 feet. Stick appeared to straddle U/B seen after attack
stationary between flame floats when plumes subsided. Then not
seen again. All times A.
(R.A.F. Gib., 211605A.)

Tugs
disposition.

Your 111840C+(N.T. in W.D.) Sept. and C. in C.
Med's. 161511A*, propose embarking at early
opportunity Officers and additional ratings to
man R.T. CAPTIVE and BARWICK.

2. Request indication of date of readiness of
these Rescue Tugs and particulars of any T.124T personnel
available NILE. R.A.T.E. 106/101/181/293 refers
(Capt. in Charge Rescue Tugs, 210321A to C. in C. Levant, (R)
C. in C. Med., M.S.R.T. Malta)+Officers required when tugs
arrive.

* Names of tugs allocated to C. in C. Levant.

Alexandria
movements.

Alexandria 20th, arrivals PHEOBE, HURWORTH,
AETOS, USK, GRIBB; departures AURORA, MIAOULES,
FAULKNER, PETARD, DULVERTON, PAREHAM, M.L.358.
(R.A. Alexandria, 210725C)

Malta
movements.

Italian S/M BRAGPHINO (?BRAGADINO) sailed 20th.
(V.A. Malta, 210740A.)
20th Arrived and departed QUILLIAM, QUAIL,
QUEENBOROUGH, RAIDER. Arrived H/S DINARD, SKUDD
4 towing L.C.T.561. Italian Schooner GERLANDOFO
departed. MAURITIUS, BRECON, HOY Italian ships MIRAGLIA and APE.
(V.A. Malta, 210742A)

Arrived Ex. French Destroyer TROMBE Italian T.B. RIBOTY.
(V.A. Malta, 212246 to Admty., C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant)

/SOKOL...

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21.10.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

SOKOL, 20th Arrival SOKOL Departure RORQUAL.
RORQUAL, (S.O.(I) Beirut, 210838G.)
SEVERN. S.B.N.O. Aegean 210038 (N.T. in W.D.) giving SEVERN's report received.

2. SEVERN is to leave Port Laki by dawn 22nd or 23rd on course 184° and reach lat. 036° 37' by dusk (?and) thence proceed east of Sirina to Kaso Strait.

3. RORQUAL passes west of Kinaros and north of Levitha to arrive Leros dusk 22nd.

4. (?6) M.T.Bs. operate by night west of Kos and Kalymnos.

5. Following waiting position for store carrying S/M is established within 5 miles of 037° 10' 026° 25'.
(Capt. (S) One, 211146C to RORQUAL, SEVERN, (R) 1st S.F., C. in C. Levant, S.B.N.O. Aegean.)

On account of bombing by enemy A/C am proceeding diving by day to arrive Leros dark 23rd. Estimate my position at 2000C today 034° 40' N. 028° 01' E.
(RORQUAL, 211245C to Capt.(S) 1 (R) C. in C. Levant 1st S.F., 201 N.Co-op G.)

U/Boat Between Benghazi and Derna 1 possibly still on
disposition patrol.
number 84. (Capt. Onstaff, Alexandria, 210953C.)

COMMANDANT Request you will report operational condition of
DETROYAT. ship on completion of temporary boiler repairs.
2. French Admty. consider she will not be fit for convoy escort in West Africa and propose she is used for shorter distances in Western Med.

They also wish to start mixing ex Fighting French and North African French escorts for which this would be a beginning.
(C. in C. 210955A to F.O.C. Gib. (R) Admty., F.O.C.W.A.)

UNTIRING, P.59 (UNTIRING) leave patrol proceed diving by
ULTIMATUM, day through 042° 30' 005° 45' at 2130 23rd 042°
PERLE. 01' 006° 12' at 0300/24th 040° 02' 005° 16'
at 0500/25th 038° 01' 003° 12' at 0001/26th, to R/V escort Algiers in 037° 05' 003° 07' at 0700/26th.

2. P.34 (ULTIMATUM) operates in zone ST and SU after 2300/23rd. (Capt. S.8th, 211040A to 8th S.F. (R) C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Algiers.) Cancelled by Capt. S.8 221002A.

Intend sailing L.N.733 (PERLE) at 0800/23rd proceed on surface at discretion through 037° 59' 003° 32' at 1630/23rd 040° 01' 005° 31' at 0900/24th, 042° 02' 006° 32' at 2315/24th, 042° 36' 006° 37' at 0400/25th, thence to patrol in zone ST.

2. P.34 (ULTIMATUM) to operate in zone SU after 0100/25th. (Capt. (S) 8, 211102A to C. in C. Med. (R) 8th S.F., N.O.I.C. Algiers.)

/P.59...

21.10.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

UNTIRING,
ULTIMATUM,
PERLE.
(Contd.)

P.59 (UNTIRING) is to (?operate) on 25th and 26th, my 211040 refers.
(Capt. (S) 8, 211714A to 8th S.F. (R) C. in C. Med.)

Sweep
Italian
Adriatic
coast.

2 destroyers are to sweep tonight between 8 and 12 miles off Italian coast between lat. 042° and 042° 30'.

(2) N.O.I.C. Bari is to sail 2 M.T.Bs. for similar sweep within 3 miles of coast. All forces to be south of 42° by dawn 22nd.

(3) Arrange fighter protection.

(F.O.T.A. 211047A to Capt. (D) 4th D.F. (?Corrupt) W. N.O.I.C. Bari, (R) No. 1 Moru, N.L.O. 8th Army 286 Wing.)

My 211047 carried reference to destroyers. S.O. 4th D.F. is to operate 2 destroyers against ships mentioned in N.O.I.C. Bari's 211128 (N.T. in W.D.) not to all.

(2) Ref. para. 2 number of M.T.Bs. is to be increased to 4 if possible.

(F.O.T.A. 211301 to S.O. 4th D.F., C.F.W., N.O.I.C. Bari, (R) No. 1 Moru, C. in C. Med., N.L.O. 8th Army, 286 Wing.)

German
Lighter.

A. My 021208C. MT.III sailed for Aegean 0200 G.M.T. 21st estimated speed 9 knots.

B. Report B.3 destination Salonica.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 211103C to C. in C. Levant,
(R) Captain S.I. D.N.I.)

Enemy
ships
off Toulon.

P.C. and S. of 1 medium enemy vessel 43.10 N. 5.26 E, 110° 6 (time fixed within ½ hour of 1100)

(A/C B.S.P/N. 211105A.)

My 1105A. Enemy previously reported is 1 medium vessel of 2500 tons in 43.10 N. 5.26 E. 10.26 course 110° speed 6 knots. (Time fixed within ½ hour of 1100)

(A/C B.S.P./N., 211110A.)

My 1105. P.C. and S. of 1 medium enemy vessel and 2 small enemy vessels is 43.10 N. 5.27 E. 100° 8 knots (time fixed within ½ hr. of 1100).

(A/C BSP/N 211125A)

Enemy force previously reported consists of 1 2500 ton Merchant Vessel and 2 200 ton minesweepers in 43.10 N. 5.27 E. "fixed" within half an hour of 1100 hours. Course 100° Speed 8 knots.

(A/C BSP/N,211130A)

QUILLIAM,
QUAIL,
Patrol.

Intend QUILLIAM and QUAIL patrol tonight 21st 22nd, Dubrovnik to Durazzo returning Bari.
Request air cover 0530A to 0730A 22nd Codeword

/"Halley"...

21.10.1943
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

QUILLIAM, "Halley" 386 priority normal. P.C. and S.
QUAIL at 0530A 041° 22' N. 018° 21' E. 270° 23 knots.
Patrol. F.O.Ta. pass to 286 Wing.
(Contd.) (Capt. (D) 4th, 211112A to F.O.Ta. (R) C. in C.
Med. N.O.I.C. Bari, No.1 Moru. 286 Wing.
N.L.O. 8th Army. QUILLIAM, QUAIL.)

A.K.D.4. 1. Sailing telegram 13 ships (names)
2. 1100Z/21st.
3. Destinations, dates.
4. 8 knots.
5. Route. 6. LULWORTH, FREESIA, JASMINE. (A) Master
NIRVANA (B) Master IMPERIAL VALLEY.
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 211117Z, 211124, 211305).

Attack 2. A.M.131311. On arrival of escorts of G.U.S.
on 19 at Gib. request you will obtain and signal
U.G.S.18. required information, Ref. attack on Convoy
U.G.S.18 on 4th, to Admty., C. in C. Levant
190824 refers.
(C. in C. Med., 211155A to F.O.C. Gibraltar,
(R) Admty., C. in C. Levant.)

G.U.S.19. Sailing telegram part 2. 16 ships (names;
destinations)
(V.A. Malta, 211200A)

V.N.5. F.O. W. It's 202249* WHADDON, QUANTOCK proceed
WHADDON, direct to Syracuse where ships referred to are
QUANTOCK. awaiting escort.
(2) F.O.I.C. Augusta is requested to sail ship
referred to in my 200940 (N.T. in W.D.) not to
WHADDON, QUANTOCK on arrival of escorts.
(3) WHADDON, QUANTOCK (?are to) signal E.T.A. Syracuse.
(F.O.I.C. Sicily, 211205 to F.O.I.C. Augusta, WHADDON, QUANTOCK,
(R) V.A. Malta, C. in C. Med., F.O.W.It.)* F.O. W.It's 202247 is
presumably intended.

Operations Following operations will take place night 22nd/
in Adriatic. 23rd October.
(A) 1 L.C.1 and 1 M.S. Boat between Termoli Italy
and Ortana.
(B) 1 M.S.B. between Termoli and Latitude 042°
40' N. All craft should return Termoli by daylight 23rd Oct.
((Corrupt AL(E) via Malta, 211215 to F.O.T.A. (R) Col. Simonds.
N.L.O. 8th Army, N.L.O. 15th Army Group, N.O.I.C. Bari, Capt.
(D) 24th.)

Aegean Joint Army R.A.F. Int. appreciation to 0900Z/21.
Situation. 1. Leros not attacked by sea up to 1000Z 21st.
2. Ph. R/C Kos - Kalymmo area yesterday showed.
Kalymmo Harbour merchant vessel 300 feet and

/naval...

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situation.
(Contd.)

naval auxiliary still present, also 2 F/boats and 1 80/100 foot Caique. Atti Bay, Naval auxiliary 250 feet still present but poor photographs prevented definite identification of believed damaged F/Boat. Port Vathi, merchant vessel 190 feet still present. Kos Harbour and off entrance 3 F/Boats. On beach north coast of Kos in same position as 19th 2 F/Boats. These latter were successfully attacked twice yesterday by Mitchells and Beaufighters and hoped therefore now definitely out of action.

3. No air attacks on Leros or Castelrosso 20th, yet reported.

4. Our Naval Units. Heavily bombarded port Kalymmo and Kos Harbour night 19/20th. Results unknown.

5. Ph. R/C 20th G.A.F. airfields Greece, Rhodes and Kos showed no material change. Crete airfields Heraklion and Kastelli cloud covered, Maleme no change.

6. Recent ph. R/C Piraeus port show frequent moves of ex Italian Naval vessels into and out of dry dock. Ph. R/C 20th shows 1 destroyer 300 feet and 1 torpedo boat 260 feet departed from Piraeus since 18th, leaving 3 T.Bs. still present. This activity appears indicate recommissioning by Germans of ex Italian Naval Units.

7. No evidence yet available to alter previous appreciation of enemy's intentions.

(C. in C.M.E. No T.O.O.)

21 Oct. Cositrep 31. 1. Int. A. Aegean. Levitha reported occupied by Germans 19th. Symi reported bombed 18th and occupied by Germans 20th. Bridge at Leros 099408 destroyed at 1245C hours 19th in raid by two Ju.88s. Estimated detour ready first light 20th. B.Persian Gulf. 18th D.C.3 transport A/C reported S/M off Ras El Hadd fired one round AA at A/C before submerging. Bisleys later investigated found nothing.

2. Ops. Aegean. Present Grns. now Leros 1,491 Samos 574 Kastelorizo 948.

6. Naval Aegean. Night 20/21st FAULKNER and PETARD unable discharge stores Leros due enemy bombing flare dropping.

M.T.Bs. operated, no report yet. 21st. JERVIS, PATHFINDER, HURWORTH and ADRIAS left Alex. carrying jeeps, stores, and personnel.

7. Air. A. Own. Night 19/20th. 2 Liberators, 4 Halifaxes bombed Maritza aerodrome. Bursts seen western dispersal area and east of runway. Probable hit on hangar followed by explosions. Five Hudson's anti-shipping R/C Kos area, 4 Wellingtons western Aegean. On M/V 3,000 tons seen by one Hudson outside Kos harbour but lost in haze not relocated. 3 Hudsons bombed Kos harbour and Antimachia LG unobserved results. Wellingtons made no sightings and bombed Melos and Syros harbours. Results unobserved. 20 Oct. 2 formations totalling 8 American Mitchells escorted by 6 Beaufighters made anti-shipping strikes Kos area. 2 F/Boats off north coast Kos attacked hits scored with 75 mm shells. 1 F/Boat also hit by bomb left heeling over. Both vessels considered severely damaged. Supply dumps on shore set alight by machine gun fire. Large caique attacked with 75 mm fire south of Kos and hits scored which brought centre mast down.

B. Enemy. 20 Oct. Some enemy air activity reported over Samos but only one aircraft dropped bombs which fell in sea.

(C. in C. M.E. No T.O.O.)

/As...

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Aegean
situation.
(Contd.)

As result of further inshore operations and attack by Mitchells estimate enemy now has no more than 4 serviceable F. Lighters in Kos/Kalymno area and possibly some of these are R/C. My 181946*refers.

2. Leros and destroyers landing stores there are being increasingly (?air attacked) by night. As S/MS now getting going, hope to take destroyers off this work for a time as cannot afford to lose one on supply alone.

3. Have decided with C. in C. M.E. to put another battalion into Leros as soon as possible and supply situation permits. Shall probably have to use destroyers for this.

4. Hope shortly to have advance coastal force base at Port Tigani in Samos.

5. So long as destroyers can lay up in Turkish waters by day think enemy will continue to hesitate sending convoy to supply Kos and Kalymno or for direct assault on Leros but local Turks becoming more inquisitive and ships continually watched and threatened by enemy A/C which is very wearing for them. Sooner or later one side or other will be offensive and then the fat may be in the fire.

6. Enemy air potential does not seem to have decreased and bomb aims improving. Therefore cannot risk surface forces in area by day unless for worth while target e.g. convoy or invasion. They are getting an unpleasant amount of bombing at night and many near misses. (C. in C. Levant, 211945C) *re placing of destroyers in Bay of Kalymno and Kos.

Landing
ships
and
craft.

Necessary for planning purposes to know number of British and U.S. L.S.T., Major and Minor L/C expected to be operationally fit in Med. and Levant on 1st Dec. 1943, and also on 1st Jan. 1944.

2. Requested that you will supply this information as a matter of urgency in collaboration with U.S. N.A. concerned. (D.O.D.(F) 211505A to C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant.)

Relief
for
GAWLER,
MARYBOROUGH.

Paragraph 3 of your 181058 Oct. The following 9 vessels have arrived in Med. to relieve E.F. sloops and Bathursts: AIRE, CUCKMERE, SPIREA, ALISMA, BARLE, ANEMONE, DART, USK, SAXIFRAGE. A.M. 211105/August (N.T. in W.D.) not to F.O.R.S.C.A. refers. One more will be sent (A.M. 211530/Sept. (N.T. in W.D.)

2. 2 Sloops and 5 Bathursts have so far been released. At least two more should be released now and the remaining two when the tenth relief arrives. Para. 4 of A.M. 180006/August not to all addressees refers.

(V.C.N.S. 211530A to C. in C. Levant, (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. E.F.(S.E.A.C.) C. in C. E.F., F.O.R.S.C.A.)

Attack on
U.G.S.18.

Report from Escorts has now been received but does (?not omitted) give details required by A.M. 131311*. Request you comply with para. 2 of my

/211155...

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Attack on U.G.S.18. (Contd.) 211155. (N.T. in W.R.) (C. in C. Med., 211550A. to F.O.I.C. Gib.(R) Admty., C. in C. Levant.) * Re attack on Convoy U.G.S.18.

K.M.S.29. SIBYL, SPORTSMAN. Sail at 0840 22nd Oct. to R/V with STAFFA outside baffles who will escort you via QBB 141 to join convoy K.M.S.29 in which you are to proceed to Malta. (S.8, 211600A to SIBYL, SPORTSMAN, (R) Com. Algeria, C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Capt. (S)1, Capt.(S)10, Admty., R.A.Alex.)

N.A.A.F report. A.V.843 21st Oct. N.A.A.F. Opsum 242. 20th. Total of 12 Kittyhawks 72 U.S. Warhawks attacked coastal shipping off Zara. 3 vessels of 100? feet set on fire. N.A.C.A.F. 18/19 (Add) 3 Wellingtons 1 Hudson U/B hunt. 1 fully supplied (?surfaced) ocean going type S/M attacked by Wellingtons Oran area. S/M opened fire. Wellington made first attack with 4 or 6? D/Cs from 200 feet. D/Cs burst behind S/M bow overshooting 10 yards. 2nd attack made with machine guns and practice bombs patch believed to be scum of oil slick seen near sub. Wellington was badly damaged and afire but managed to reach base and make successful belly-landing. Crew safe. (H.Q. N.A.A.F. 211601A.)

Italian movements. (A) Following movements proposed from Taranto. (1) Corvette group and 2 S/Ms to Augusta 22nd. (2) Italian Cruiser EUGENIO DI SAVOIA to Suez 27th October. (3) Italian Cruiser RAIMONDO MONTECUCCOLI to Palermo 27th. (4) ABRUZZI (R.A. Biancheri) and Italian Cruiser EMANUELE FILBERTO, DUCA D'AOSTA to Gib. 27th October. C. in C.Med., 191202 refers. (B) Italian Cruiser GIUSEPPE GARIBALDI needs refit. (F.O.L.I., 211635A.) 21st arrivals Italian S/Ms ZOEAL, MENOTTI, ATROPO, CORRIDONI. Italian Tug POSTIGLION. (N.O.I.C. P.P., 212021C to Admty., C. in C. Levant.)

X.T.6. Sailing Telegram. 8 ships. (2) 1601C 21st. (4)(5)(6) as in my 201223*(N.T.in W.D.) (13)(A) B.K. Berry R.N.R. in LEEDS CITY Tripoli. (B) Master EMPIRE GRANGE. (15) H.M. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 211730C)*Re route of Convoy X.T.6.

LE CURIE. P.67 delayed. Further signal will be made. My 191810 refers. (Capt. (S) 8, 211744A to 8th S.F. (R) C. in C.Med., N.O.I.C. Algiers.)

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LE CURIE. Sailing definitely postponed. Cancel my 191810,
(Contd) my 211744 refers.
(Capt. (S) 8, 212010A to 8th S.F. (R) C. in C.
Med., N.O.I.C. Algiers.)

M.L.1015 My 281034* March. M.L.1015 total loss.
lost. (C. in C. Levant, 211743C to Admty., (R)
N.O.I.C. Alexandria, A.S. Alexandria, Cdr. C.F.,
E.Med.) * No trace in War Registry, repetition
of signal has been requested.

K.M.S.29 It. diesel boat HIRANDELLE and cutter number
Italian 42609 shipped on M/S CARILLO arriving in
Units. K.M.S.29.
(S.T.L.O. Bizerta, 211745A to N.O.I.C. Naples,
(R) D.S.T.O. Naples.)

Italian Confirmed a 3rd S/M is (?required). V.A. Malta
S/Ms. 201620 para. 1.
(C. in C. Levant, 211745C to F.O.L.I. (R)
V.A. Malta, C. in C. Med., Admty.)* Re. sailing
of ALAGI and GALATEA for A/S exercise at
Alexandria.

Landing Following is state of landing ships and major
ships landing craft as at 1st.
and (C. in C. Med., 211802 to B.A.D.)
craft.

French Your 201618 (N.T. in W.D.). Small French
destroyers have inadequate AA armament and
for Aegean. general reliability for Aegean operations and
are fully committed to Corsican convoys.
2. FANTASQUE and TERRIBLE with adequate
speed endurance and AA armament of eight Bofors
and eight Oerlikon would be suitable and French Admty. would
agree to send them if their commitments with RICHELIEU and
Corsica can be taken over by us, this I cannot do unless you
first return 2 Fleets.
3. French main army ammunition is at Bizerta. Do you wish
this matter pursued, if so French ships could leave as soon as
your Fleets arrive.
(C. in C. Med., 211831A to C. in C. Levant, (R) Admty.)

QUILLIAM, A.M. 201735. Calls for Destroyers for
QUAIL, operations in Aegean have reduced the number of
QUEENBOROUGH Destroyers available to bare minimum necessary
and RAIDER. to meet our commitments in Med. station.
2. If these destroyers are withdrawn there will
be 13 Fleet Destroyers remaining on paper. Of
these LAFOREY and LOYAL are repairing action
damage and PALADIN has only one shaft. TARTAR has major

/engine...

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Mediterranean.

QUILLIAM,
QUAIL,
QUEENBOROUGH
and RAIDER.
(Contd.)

engine defects and must be sent to U.K. Orders have already been received that OFFA must be in U.K. by 5th Nov. INGLEFIELD is now in U.K.

3. Only 7 Fleets would be available to meet all commitments which in my opinion would be adequate.

4. In these circumstances I am strongly averse to releasing the 4 destroyers in question and request the matter may be reconsidered.
(C. in C. Med., 211850A to Admty.)

Proposed
to put
Aden in
E.F.Command.

Aden is becoming more and more involved with operational administrative requirements of the Eastern theatre.

2. C. in C.E.F. my predecessor and I feel that Aden should now come under the command of C. in C. E.F.

3. Proposed new boundary to be the parallel of 15° N. in the Red Sea. This should ensure that A/S operations in the Straits of Bab El Mandeb remaining in one station.

4. Request promulgation.

(C. in C. Levant, 211921C to C. in C.E.F. (S.E. Asia Command)
C. in C. M.E. Minister of State, Admty. (R) F.O.R.S.C.A., Com.
Aden, E.O. C. in C. Med.)

Italian
S/Ms.

Your 201620*. Please take no action yet.
(F.O.L.I., 211930 to V.A. Malta, (R) C. in C.Med.
C. in C. Levant, Admty.) *Sailing of ALAGI,
GALATEA etc. for A/S exercise.

Levant
Situation
report
No. 86.

HURWORTH BEAUFORT each fired 150 rounds into Kos Harbour 0100/19th at close range results difficult to assess. Shore batteries caused slight damage to HURWORTH one killed three wounded.

2. M.T.Bs. from Casteloriso in attack on shipping North coast Kos close inshore night 19th/20th hit one small M.V. and ammunition lighter, latter blew up.

3. FURY, BEAUFORT arrived Leros early last night and disembarked stores. No F lighters found during sweep along North Coast Kos. Destroyers returned Alexandria.

4. The last 4 nights destroyers have landed following at Leros - stores and ammunition 114 tons. Personnel 96.

5. 20th Mitchell A/C hit two F.boats one with bombs and one with cannon fire between Kos and Kalimmo. AURORA with MIAOULES in company bombarded Rhodes port last night, 130 rounds. No spectacular results. Ships patrolling south of Rhodes tonight.

6. FAULKNER (D) 8, PETARD unable land stores at Leros last night owing to enemy bombing and flares lay up in Turkish water with DULVERTON. (D) 5 will try again tonight before moonrise.
(C. in C. Levant, 211959C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. E.F., V.A.M., F.O.R.S.C.A., R.A.Alexandria, C.O.M.L.A., S.N.O.C. Com. D.)

/Frigates...

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Frigates for French Navy. Your 191912A (N.T. in W.D.) River Class Frigates WINDRUSH, FROME, BRAID and TORRIDGE will be turned over on loan to French Navy on completion. No approval has yet been given for renaming with French names, but presume French Admiralty will submit proposals in due course. Original intention was that these vessels should operate under C. in C. W.A. but French have accepted condition that they must remain strictly under British operational control and be available for service wherever the strategical situation may require.
(Hd. of M.II 212050A to C. in C. Med.)

LARGS. Arrived 21st LARGS.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 212100A)

Med. Situation Report No. 211. 1. U.S. P.T. Boat night 19th/20th encountered northbound convoy of 1 small tanker, an F. Lighter and 3 R.Boats off River Arno 043° 40' N. 010° 15' E. 1 torpedo hit was obtained on Lighter and another possible hit on tanker. R.Boats returned inaccurate fire eventually engaging each other.
2. TYRIAN and TUMULT on patrol during night 20th/21st between Durazzo and Dubrovnik sank ex Yugo-Slav Trawler BOJANA with German guard on board south of Menders Point 041° 57' N. 019° 09' E.
(C. in C. Med., 212103A, 212120.)

U.S. Movements. Arrivals today U.S.S. VULCAN, DALLAS, COLE, BERNADOU, SAMUEL CHASE.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 212114A.)
Departures JONES (U.S.S.) DAVIS (U.S.S.)
(Com. Algeria, 212131A.)

D.F.24 D.F.8. Would it be asking too much for the 24th D.F. in lieu of the 8th D.F. The latter are so ill equipped to cope with scale of air attack they are now getting Aegean, and it is a case of the Navy versus the German A/F once again.
(C. in C. Levant, 212213C to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.) *Report, 40. (C. in C. Med. 221108)*

Bari. movements. Arrived QUEENBOROUGH, RAIDER, M.T.B. 298. Arrived and sailed TYRIAN, TUMULT, QUILLIAM, QUAIL, M.T.Bs. 287, 296, 297. Sailed KRAKOWIAK, BLENCATHRA, ILEX, TROUBRIDGE, M.L. 386.
(N.O.I.C. Bari, 212309A.)

Naples Movements. Gulf of Naples 21st. Arrivals: M.L.468, BLACKMORE FERNMOOR, BARHILL, TANGO, SALTERELO.
Departures: U.S.P.C.627, 558, Y.M.S.15, M.L. 462, U.S.S.C.498, 522, 979, 534, 506 L.S.T.377, 392, 391, 347, 198, 307, 335, 352, 383, 396, 411, 428, 331.
(N.O.I.C. Naples, 212349A.)

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East Indies.

M.A.15.

Arrived?
(Port Officer Chittagong, 210245Z to Admty)

ATHELVIKING
attacked
by U/B.

Latitude 24.36 longitude 57.43 fired one torpedo
210340Z. SSSS de BX4UI. Torpedoed.
(ATHELVIKING 210350Z to Admty.)
British Tanker ATHELVIKING reports being
torpedoed by U-boat at 0350Z on 21st Oct. in
024 degs. 36' N. 057 degs. 43' E.
(C. in C. E.F. 210450Z to S. & A. East Indies
Station. (R) Admty., C. in C. S.A., 222 Group,
246 Wing, Air H.Q. E.Af. 215 Group)

Action taken on SSSS from ATHELVIKING.

- (1) 3 Bisleys square search round position of attack 21st
Square search by Catalina 21st/22nd.
- (2) HIRAVATI on patrol reported ATHELVIKING pass inward 1600Z.
2 torpedoes fired both missed.
- (3) P.A. 58 sailing 24th. Air patrol to 057 degs. 30' E. on
that day. Bisley close escort by day Catalina by night from
24th October onward.
- (4) A.P.49 due Hormuz 25th. Continuous Bisley close escort by
day and Catalina by night from night 22nd/23rd onward.
(S.N.O.P.G. 211901Z to C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.) (R) N.O.I.C.
Hormuz, Admty.)

M.A.16.

Arrival IRRAWADI and SHILLONG escorting Madras
portion of M.A.16.

(N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam, 210400Z to Admty.)

Vizagapatam portion of M.A.16 EMPIRE RANI and

JALAVEERA with M/T. sailed 0355Z/21st to R/V 190935 from N.C.S.O.
Madras refers.

- (4) 9. (5) Coastal. (6) BOMBAY, KELAVTI.
(N.C.S.O. Vizagapatam, 210401Z to Admty)

VANITY,
VARELA,
SANTHIA,
VARSOVA,
EL MADINA.

Now that move VANITY is being operated from Calcutta
it is expected two personnel ships can be withdrawn
and it is intended that these two ships VARELA
and SANTHIA should complete D.E.M.S. work up to O1
standard at Calcutta before proceeding Bombay for
further service. Time required for this work
about three weeks. VARSOVA has been replaced by
EL MADINA and will proceed Bombay on completion
of D.E.M.S. Work. Your 120445A refers.
(Asst. P.S.T.O. I. 210501Z to D.S.T. (R) P.S.T.O.
I., New Delhi, C. in C. E.F.)

A.K.D.3.

Kilindini portion arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Kilindini, 210551Z to Admty)

W.S.33.

Your 201109. W.S.33 is calling at Kilindini so
that ORMONDE may refuel. She will thence proceed
to Bombay with Indian section.
(C. in C. E.F. 210629Z to A.P.S.T.O. Bombay, (R)
D.S.T., P.S.T.O. Med. P.S.T.O. M.E. P.S.T.O.I. New
Delhi.)

A.B.T.U. /...

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East Indies. - Contd.

- A.B.T.U. Provision of torpedo maintenance facilities detailed in A.M.182359 Sept. will involve storage for 50 warheads requiring about 300 sq. feet floor space.
(2) Request consideration be given to enlargement of depth charge magazine E on site near Molasses shore to a total area of approx. 500 sq. feet.
(3) Primers and detonators can be accommodated in buildings already planned.
(C. in C. E.F. 210903Z to F.O.C.R.I.N. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Calcutta. D.D.A.S. Eastern Theatre O.C.A.S. Calcutta, S.A.S.O. Bombay)
- P.B.60. Karachi portion arrived.
(N.C.S.O.Karachi, 211036Z to Admty)
- U/B probably sunk by Bisley A/C 16th Oct. Request you will convey our congratulations to Bisley aircraft which probably sank a German U-Boat on 16th in the Gulf of Oman.
(2) This success is especially welcome at this time, and is a fitting reward for the long and arduous hours of flying without tangible result.
(1st S.L. 211943A to S.N.O.Persian Gulf, (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.F.(S.E.A.C.) N.O.I.C. Hormuz, Air Ministry.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

TOURMALINE,
STRENUOUS.

My 022047. TOURMALINE and STRENUOUS not now expected ready before 10th Nov. Does your 031155 still apply.
(B.A.D. 210123Z to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q.)

O.S/S.L.
Convoys,
Cycles.

Your 181835.* Request confirmation it is intended that from O.S.58 alternate O.S.convoys will sail one day after O.G/K.M.S.convoys and that from S.L.140 alternate S.4 convoys will have no M.K.S. joiners at Comp.
(B.A.D. 210153Z to Admty.)
*Convoys O.S.57 and S.L.139 to sail 10 day cycle.

Convoy
Speeds.

Understanding in your 191853*is confirmed in Navy Department.
(B.A.D. 210155Z to Admty.)
*re speeds of U.G.S.convoys and U.T.2.

U/B "S"
Report.

(Begins) SSSS Submarine sighted 11.27 N. 67.55 W. 1020Z (ends.)
(de PJC Curacao Radio 210200Z to W/T Admty.)

T.A.67
(QUEEN MARY).

T.A.67 sailed from U.K. 18/10 for New York. 2. Details of personnel etc. on board are being communicated by W.O. to Milstaf Washington and C.G.S.Ottawa.
(D. of S.T. 210331A to B.A.D. B.M.W.T.New York, (R) N.S.H.Q.)

PENOLVER,
DELISLE,
sunk 19th
Oct.

No report 12th to 20th. All times Z.
A. PENOLVER mined at 2058/19th sank at 2100/19th.
DELISLE mined at 2115/19th sank at 2200/19th.
Both in position 47° 19' N. 52° 27' W.
(N.S.H.Q. 210405Z to Admty. Cominch, (R) C. in C.C. N.A. F.O.N.F. N.M.C.S.)
as amended 211222Z, 211816Z.

U.S.Move-
ment.

Refer to this as Cominch 201900. Action Com. 8th Fleet, Info. C. in C.Med. Cinclant, BOISE, C. in C.Af. Comcrudiv. 8, Chief of Staff Army and Admty. The 30th October is the exact date mentioned in my despatch 101544 (N.T. in W.D.) The destination is Norfolk. Acknowledge.
(Comnavew 210459 to Admty.)

This Comnavnaw's 210806 C.T.F.86 Action and C. in C.Med. Admty. C.T.F.81, Cominch, C. in C.Lant and Commorseafron as Info. in accordance Cominch 101544 (Destroyers to be designated by C. in C. Lant and BOISE) and 201900* sail BOISE, NICHOLSON and RHIND.
(Comnavew 211512 to Admty.)

* W.R.Note: Date mentioned in 101544 - 30th Oct. and destination Norfolk.

/Anti...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Anti-torpedo device (Mark 29). Navy Department concurs in necessity for issuing instructions as proposed in A.M. 010100 but suggest following minor modification to wording of proposed signal "certain U.S. Merchant Ships are now fitted with anti-torpedo device known as the anti-torpedo device Mark 29. 2. The gear comprises (details)" (B.A.D. 211345Z to Admty.)

H.F.81. Boston Section arrived 211311Z. Cape Cod Canal Section arrived, 211245Z. (P.D. Boston 211346.)

GULFLAND, GULFBELLE collision 20th. GULFLAND (U.S.) and GULFBELLE (U.S.) collided 3 miles off Jupiter Light Florida East Coast at 2257Q/20. Both vessels burst into flames. GULFLAND Northbound to Jacksonville cargo oil and GULFBELLE Southbound Inch Keith. Fairly large loss of life feared. (C.S.A. Charleston 211358Z to Admty. N.S.H.Q.)

GULFLAND and GULFBELLE (both U.S.) collided 3 miles off Florida East Coast at 2215Z/20th. Both vessels burst into flames. (N.S.H.Q. 212346 to Admty. (R) B.R.L.O. New York, N.C.S.O. Montreal.)

Convoy U.T.4. Sailing telegram part 1. 2. E.T.P. Gate Boston (?1130Z)/22nd. 3. R/V position L. (?042°) 23' N. 070° 42' W. 1230Z/22nd. S.O.A. 13.5 knots. 5. Route. 6. C.D.D.30 in U.S.S. DORAN, U.S.S. EARLE, U.S.S. QUICK, IRA, JEFFERY. (P.D. Boston 211416 to Com. 10th U.S. Fleet C. & R.)

GORGON. My 191853 departed Charleston Seabuoy 1015Q. (C.T.G. 02.6 211417 to Comeastseafon, N.O.B. Bermuda Info. S.B.N.O.W. At. Admty. N.S.H.Q. B.A.D. B.N.L.O. New York.)

F.T.6. F.T.6 arrived Trinidad 16 Oct. Your 192228 refers. See also Com. Ten. Fleet C. & R. 121917 and 171745. Sailed from Key West 3rd Oct. see Com. Ten. Fleet C. & R. 041924. (B.A.M.R. 211422Z to Admty.)

K.M.F.25A, escorts. Comnavu's 201818. Capt. C.C. Hartman U.S.N. C.T.G. 60.2 11 destroyers will escort K.M.F.25A to Mediterranean. Escorts are U.S.S. DAVISON (Capt. Hartman) U.S.S. MERVINE, U.S.S. BEATTY, U.S.S. TILLMAN, U.S.S. LAUB, U.S.S. MCLANAHAN, U.S.S. PARKER, U.S.S. BOYLE, U.S.S. CHAMPLIN, U.S.S. NIELDS, U.S.S. ORDRONAU. (C.T.F. 60 211430Z to Comnavu, (R) Cominch, Cinclant, Cdr. U.S. Dest. Sq. 16. Cdr. U.S. Dest. Sq. 15, Admty. C. in C.W.A. ARKANSAS (U.S.S.) CHICOPEE (U.S.S.).)

/U.S....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

U.S.S/M
Estimate.

(Radio Washington 211510Z.)

GARDINER.

Boston departed 20th for Bermuda.
(N.S.H.Q. 211519 to Admty.)

ACONIT.

Key West departed F.F.S. ACONIT 20th for Argentina
27.
(N.S.H.Q. 211535 to Admty.)

A.T.70
(AQUITANIA.)

1. A.T.70 pre sailing telegram ref. Admty. 151915A.
2. Chebucto 1400Z/23rd. 3. E.T.A. Rothesay 0630Z/
29th. 4. Knots 20½. 5. "Chop" 0200/25th.
15. Codeword "Gosling" standard communication plan.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 211603Z to Admty. Connav.)

M.A.R.I.
temporary
amendments.

Owing to mines off East Coast Newfoundland
following amendments are to be made in pencil to
M.A.R.I. section 1 para. 5.
A. in sub. para. 6 for "St. Johns N.F." read "as
in sub. para. 7".
E. in sub. para. 11 for "St. Johns N.F." read "as

in sub. para. 10".

2. Numbered amendment to all holders of M.A.R.I. will not be
issued.

(Admty. 211619A to C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q. C. in C.C.N.A. A.C.I.C.
(R) Connav, B.A.D. F.O.N.F.)

U/B sinkings,
publication,
BYARD.

Release of information regarding a successful
action by one of the ships constructed or refitted
by any U.S. firm proves a useful incentive to that
firm's employees. Request this be given considera-
tion as soon as BYARD's sinking referred to in
Optel No. 342 can be released, observing that Yard
concerned, Hingham Branch of Bethlehem steel, is building a large
proportion of British escort vessels and has done very well. A
message from the ship herself would also be appreciated. BYARD
is the first American built D.E. to sink a U-Boat. Admty. letter
P(L)/Press 819/43 of 17th Sept. refers.
(B.A.D. 211625Z to Admty.)

Frigates,
completion
dates.

Your 292101A/9 and my 302033Z/9 ESSINGTON 27th
Sept. 2nd Oct. 23rd Oct. DUFF 27th Sept. 2nd Oct.
23rd Oct. FOLEY 3rd Oct. 9th Oct. 30th Oct. DACRES
3rd Oct. 9th Oct. 30th Oct. GARLIES 3rd Oct. 9th
Oct. 30th Oct. BEC-3 7th Oct. 16th Oct. 6th Nov.
GOULD 12th Oct. 20th Oct. 10th Nov. GRINDALL
12th Oct. 20th Oct. 10th Nov. CATO 12th Oct. 19th Oct. 9th Nov.
CATHERINE 12th Oct. 19th Oct. 9th Nov. AFFLECK 19th Oct. 24th Oct.
14th Nov. LOSSIE 20th Oct. 24th Oct. 14th Nov. PARRET 20th Oct.
24th Oct. 14th Nov.
(MALABAR 211737Z to D.A.S.W.Admty. (R) S.B.N.O.W.At. B.A.D.
C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q.)

/ROXBOROUGH...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

ROXBOROUGH. ?Returning Boston. 4 inch gun defects. E.T.A. boom 2100Z.
(ROXBOROUGH 211815Z to C.E.S.F. C.O.A.C. P.D. Boston, B.N.L.O.St. Louis, (R) OAKVILLE.)

NORSEMAN. Cable ship NORSEMAN escorted by ARROWHEAD convoy New York 25 returned New York 211422Z.
(P.D.New York 211836 to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)

CAMBRIA, Com. 10th Fleet re-encyphers the following. (Begin cables. (N.O.B.Rio originates Com. 10th Fleet pass to Admty. Com. 4th Fleet H.A.S.) CAMBRIA reports arrival position A. 211038P refer my Dis. 191420 (circulated as 201405 from Radio Washington) (Radio Washington 211910Z to Admty.)

Convoy N.York section. 19 ships departed N.York. Last U.T.4. ship SURPRISE outer gate 1450Q/21.
(P.D.New York 211916Z to Com. 10th U.S.Fleet.)
Sailing despatch. Part 2. Part one is my Dis. 202326. Total 19 ships sailed.
(P.D.New York 212126 to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)

Stragglers 1 arrived Halifax from O.N.3.19. RAJAHSTAN Oct. report No.23. 14 lost convoy in fog. 1 arrived Halifax from H.X.261. VAV (Nor.) Oct. 15 unable to maintain convoy speed. 1 arrived St. Johns Newfoundland from H.X.261, IGNACE PADEREWSKI U.S.Oct. 18 lost convoy. 2 arrived New York from H.X.262. FRANCIS VIGO (U.S.) and STRINDA (Nor.) Oct. 19 in collision. 11 arrived St. Johns Newfoundland from O.N.205. ORAN ROBERTS U.S., VACAPA (U.S.), ABRAHAM BALDWIN, U.S., ANTYR CHARLES W.ELIOT, U.S., CHIPPAWA PARK, EMPIRE COLERIDGE, HENRY GEORGE U.S., JOHN APPLEBY, U.S., JOSEPH NICCLET, U.S., WINIFRED SMITH, U.S., all arrived, Oct. 18th lost convoy.
(N.S.H.Q. 212145Z to Admty.)

BALFOUR. Sailing H.M.Ship BALFOUR about 25th following instructions my 191828 not to British Training Officer.
(C. in C.U.S.Fleet 212022Z to C.E.S.F. (R) Comdes-lant, British Training Officer, Casco Bay, Admty. Com'dant. 1st Naval Dest. Boston (Mass.). C. in C. U.S.Atlantic Fleet, N.O.B.Bermuda, S.B.N.O.W.At. Area, N.S.H.Q.)

Sub. attack All times Z. Para. A. P.B.M.fired on by sub. & sighting course 280 12.20 N. 60.38 W. 210033. Plane summary. undamaged. Para. D. P.V.Radar contact 33.45 N. 75.32 W. 210025. Training plane sighted periscope course 270 31.12 N. 79.32 W. 211325. C.G. 67004 sound contact 37.03 N. 74.46 W. 211345. B.24 Radar contact 36.38 N. 73.20 W. 210045. Panam. Pilot sighted sub. course 270 11.47 N. 67.55 W. 202020.
(Cominch 212100Z to Admty.)

/Convoy...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Convoy U.T.4. Sailing despatch. Part 2. (19 ships). Part 1 is my Dis. 202326.
(P.D.New York 212126Z to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)

ROXBOROUGH. Cancel my Dis. 202315. ROXBOROUGH returned Boston 1653A/21st October.
(C.T.G. 02.1 212139 to C. in C.C.N.A.)

H.X.260. Average speed 9.1 knots. Off Oversay at 0100Z/19. All arrived.
(D.T.D. 212345A to Connav, N.S.H.Q. (R) C. in C. W.A. C. in C.C.N.A.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Overdue Shipping. Norwegian tanker BRAMORA due Melbourne 13th Oct. from Bahrein has not arrived.
(C.S.W.P.S.F. 210100Z to Admty. Connav, C. in C.E. F. S.N.O.P.G. S.O.I.Kilindini, (R) Cdr. 7 U.S. Fleet, N.O.I.C. Victoria.)

Digest serial No. 693 Oct. 20th. Convoy described 6 large vessels sighted by R/C Liberator 60 miles west of New Hanover heading Rabaul forenoon. Accurate observation prevented by strong fighter cover totalling 25 Zeros who attacked our aircraft for 25 minutes. 3 fighters destroyed, 2 other probables. Same aircraft bombed village Unea Island.

3. Two Bostons engaged on barge sweep New Britain Coast forenoon probably destroyed camouflaged barge, vicinity Lolobam Island.

4. Navy Catalina reported enemy submarine off Gasmata before dawn. Another possible submarine sighted 55 miles off Cairns.

5. Single Liberator bombed enemy barges Borgen Bay destroying and damaging several afternoon.

6. Partial photos Wewak area forenoon 19th reveal total 9 fighters 21 light and eight medium bombers on four strips where defences being strengthened. 12 barges visible in harbour. 4 Thunderbolts on fighter sweep this area destroyed six floatplanes endeavouring take off near Kairiro Island and straffed small freighter and village near Wewak.

11. 3 Liberators attacked small freighter between Manokwari and Sorong. Vessel exploded following 2 hits and left sinking. Stores, shipping and Town area Manokwari also bombed. 5 small freighters observed vicinity Sorong, and 6 similar craft Manokwari Harbour together with other small craft.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial
No. 693 Oct.
20th. (Contd.)

13. Our P.T. boats unable locate any enemy barges
Choiseul Bay night 18/19th and were bombed six
times during sweep.

15. Night 19th, Liberator reported attacking 2
small vessels proceeding independently area 35
miles southwest Cape St. George.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 210914Z.)

Movements.

Arrival Brisbane 20th U.S.S. HELM. Departed
Milne Bay 20th U.S.S. BAGLEY for Brisbane.
(A.C.N.B. 211151Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 211343, 211349.)

Submarines Attacked.

Sub. attack
& sighting
summary for
24 hrs. to
0900Z/21st.

Para. 1. A/C sighted U-Boat at 1208/20th in 48°
46' N. 09° 29' W. course 170°.
A/C sighted U-Boat at 0040/21st in 37° 30' N. 1°
00' E.
A/C attacked U-Boat at 0100/21st in 37° 23' N. 01°
25' E.

RAMDAS unsuccessfully attacked by U-Boat at 0827/
20th in 10° 28' N. 75° 15' E.

Br. BRITISH PURPOSE torpedoed at 1730/20th in 11° 00' N. 74° 54' E.
Br. ATHELVIKING torpedoed at 0340/21st in 24° 36' N. 57° 43' E.
(D.D.I.C. 211046Z to Cominch.)

SECRET

680A.

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

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

MESSAGE 210340Z October IN

From Allied Air Hqrs. S.W.P.A. Date 21.10.43
Recd. 1330A

CYPHER

Addressed: Air Ministry Whitehall, A.H.Q. India.

IMMEDIATE

WX. 59722

AI.955 21st October. AIRSUM 148 20th October
Situation review.

Air Situation, S.W. Pacific.

Rabaul Raid 12th October caused considerable enemy anxiety as to immediate Allied intentions resulting in ?joint flare up enemy air activity last few days. Daylight strikes Oro Bay 15th and 17th October probable attempts to forestall apprehended Allied movements. Daylight raids also Finschhafen area and some small night raids different points New Guinea. Greatly increased interception Allied attacks Coastal bases Wewak to S10. In all these operations enemy lost over 100 aircraft without any appreciable result. Many indications enemy intends resist strongly further Allied advance along or from New Guinea Coast. May intend hold line running Rabaul along south coast New Britain to Arawe across to S10 then up New Guinea Coast to Wewak. Evidence rebuilding strength Army Air Service in New Guinea by drawing on net. This mainly replacement of strength lost in attacks on Wewak aerodromes. In spite replacement over last few days substantial decline in enemy Air Strength Rabaul. Photographs 17th October showed 127 on Rapopo Vunakanau Lakunai and on 16th October 31 on Tobera. May have been some withdrawal strength to New Ireland aerodromes but principal reason for decline is losses Rabaul raid and subsequent enemy offensive activities. 18th October Rabaul again raided 54 B.25's 60 enemy aircraft destroyed on ground or in combat. Discovery of 4 strips on Halmahera confirms probability of development new air transport route Philippines Wewak. Its probable course Davao Halmahera Efman-Wakde Hollandia Wewak. May be assumed aerodrome development still undiscovered between Davao and Halmahera and Efman and Wakde. Also some evidence aerodrome development between Hollandia and Wewak. Probable emergency landing grounds on Islands between Halmahera and Efman. New aerodrome discovered Trangan Island Aroe group with 2 strips in advanced stage of construction. End of station review.

210340Z

Circulation over...

(2)

Received in W.R. at 2155/21.

Circulation by Air Ministry to Admiralty
War Office.

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (2)
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
D.C.N.A.E.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (U.T) (2)
A.C.N.S. (W)
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)
U.W.R.
Capt Fin.
D.A/W.F.
M. (2)
Ops. (2)
Plot.
O.D. (5)
D.R.O. (CO) (2)
D.N.I. (7) and for D.N.L.O. (2)
O.I.C. (3)
D. of P. (3)
D. of P. (Q) (3)
D.A/S.W.
D.A/U.D.
I.P. (3)
W.D.
D.P.D.
D.S.D. (3)
Ad. Blake.
U.S.N. (3)
C.W.R.

NMB.
EDC.

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 2281

22.10.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- Home Fleet. 1. C. in C. H.F. has today resumed the direction of Home Fleet operations which he had delegated to V.A. 2 on the 6th October. V.A. 2 in ANSON with NORFOLK, RANGER and 7 Destroyers returned to Scapa at 1931A.
- Operation F.Q. 2. TUSCALOOSA with 4 destroyers arrived at Seidisfiord at 0945A from Spitzbergen.
- Operation "Tunnel". 3. Force 28 consisting of CHARYBDIS, GRENVILLE, ROCKET, LIMBOURNE, TALYBONT, STEVENSTONE and WENSLEYDALE left the Eddystone at 1930 today to patrol the Enemy Convoy Route between Heaux Light and the Ile Vierge on the Northern coast of Brittany.
- Operation F.R. 4. HARRIER and SEAGULL (relief minesweepers for north Russia) with ^{actually 4} 5 Russian minesweepers and 6 Russian motor launches left Seidisfiord today, 23. covered by British forces.

North Atlantic.

- FENCER. 5. S.B.N.O. Azores, was instructed by Admiralty today that in the present U-Boat situation temporary lack of air protection can be accepted, and he was asked to prepare FENCER for service under C. in C. W.A. as in A.M.121955 and report when she will be ready for operations.
- Landing Craft. 6. Flight O, consisting of 27 L.C.I(L)'s left Gibraltar at 1600A with RHODODENDRON for Milford Haven.

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22.10.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

LITIOPA
Sunk,
ORFASY
missing.

6. The Norwegian LITIOPA, which left Lagos on Oct. 16 for Freetown, was attacked by U/B at 0330Z in approximately 05.58 N. 11.30 W. and sank at 1200. Survivors landed at Robertsport state that LITIOPA was sunk by gunfire from 3 submarines. There is no information of ORFASY M/S A/S trawler, who was escorting and she is presumed lost, probably torpedoed. She was heard dropping depth charges at 0130 and again at 0300 but was not seen again. Air search failed to find any survivors or wreckage. The Admiralty appreciation is that at least 2 U-Boats are off Liberia or Cape Palmas, and these are likely to move to the eastward to operate against traffic to Takoradi, Lagos or Pointe Noire.

CARNARVON
CASTLE.

8. A.M.C. CARNARVON CASTLE is to be sailed for U.K. on the completion of her present operation.

Mediterranean.

S/M's.

9. UNTIRING (P.59) this morning reported all her torpedoes expended. Her position at 0300A was 42.12 N. 05.15 E. She sank a U-Boat while on patrol off Toulon on Oct.15. UNSEEN, on patrol in the Gulf of Genoa, sank an F lighter by torpedo today.

ROYALIST.

10. The cruiser ROYALIST, from Scapa, has been allocated temporarily to the Mediterranean. It is expected that she will be required to escort K.M.F.26, leaving the Clyde about Nov.15. C. in C. Mediterranean is asked to name a destination for her.

AURORA.

11. Owing to heavy repairs at home, Admiralty do not desire to take AURORA in hand in the U.K., and as necessary tubes are available at Malta they suggest that retubing should be done concurrently with damage repairs at Taranto.

RICHELIEU.

12. The French battleship RICHELIEU arrived at Oran this morning from Gibraltar and U.S.A.

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Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean - Contd.Decoy
balloons.

13. C. in C. Mediterranean states that radar decoy balloons are fitted with a light weight to serve as a sea anchor but will drift at a few knots less than wind speed. Ships are therefore instructed to proceed to windward when investigating a suspicious target and make a final approach down wind at a good speed.

Ammunition
Ship
Sunk.

14. American P.T. boats last night sunk a 5000 ton ammunition ship escorted by 4 R-Boats north of Giglio Island, 30 miles S.E. of Elba. The R-Boats did not appear to sight the U.S. craft.

SALAWATI.

15. The Dutch SS. SALAWATI had a heavy explosion probably a floating mine, under her fore part last night off Brindisi but reached port, without any casualties.

Aegean.
HURWORTH
sunk,
ADRIAS
beached.

16. (a) Stores were unloaded at Leros last night from the submarine SEVERN, but not from destroyers JERVIS, HURWORTH, PATHFINDER and ADRIAS lay up in Turkish waters and will try again tonight. (b) FAULKNER (D.8), DULVERTON (D.5) and PETARD left Turkish waters last night. DULVERTON bombarded Levitha at 2245/21, but withdrew on the arrival of hostile aircraft. The destroyers made rendezvous with AURORA (C.S.12) and MIAOULES on patrol south of Scarpanto Strait and the force returned to Alexandria. (c) There were 3 air attacks on Leros today by 12 aircraft. Delayed action bombs were dropped in Portolago Bay. (d) ADRIAS, Greek destroyer was near missed by three bombs at 0415C, while proceeding to lay up in the Gulf of Kos. She made good her minor damage within an hour and her fighting efficiency was not impaired. HURWORTH (S.O.22 D.F.) was sunk, believed by mine at 2200C in 36.59 N. 27.06 E. off the east coast of Kalimno while carrying out a diversion for searching force (NORMAN and PATHFINDER) landing supplies and personnel at Leros. HURWORTH blew up. At 2200C ADRIAS was damaged, believed mined, at the same time that HURWORTH was sunk. ADRIAS, with her forecastle blown off, is beached at Gumushuk, Turkish coast 37.02 N. 27.16 E. She had 20 killed and 20 wounded (no R.N. personnel casualties). The C.O. was wounded but is capable of duty. Subsequently, survivors from HURWORTH, reported from reliable information, that caiques laid mines in 36.56 N. 27.07 E. this morning.

(e) /...

War Diary.

22.10.1943.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Aegean.
HURWORTH
sunk,
ADRIAS
beached.
(Contd.)

(e) Aircraft bombed and claim one hit on a medium merchant vessel N.W. of Paros.

Australia and New Zealand.

17. In a sweep north of New Britain today, Catalinas, Beaufighters and Liberators destroyed barges near Wewak. Mitchells escorted by Thunderbolts destroyed 9 barges and a lugger and damaged several more.

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22.10.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

- STRASBOURG. Delete reference to STRASBOURG in A.F.O. 1225/42. This vessel is no longer recognised as a German Hospital Ship.
(Head of M.L. 220008A, A.G.M. 618AZ.)
- A/C from Iceland. SEARCHER. Concur in C. in C.W.A. 211316. F.O.C.T. is requested to remark regarding employment of SEARCHER on this duty.
2. It would be acceptable for SEARCHER to be sailed in D.S.46 on 26th October.
(A.C.N.S.H. 220025A to F.O.C.T.)
- A.M. 22025. SEARCHER can be available for this duty if she is not required for fitting of V/H.F. during this period. Consider that PRETORIA CASTLE could well be employed on this duty.
(F.O.C.T. 221142A to Admty.)
- 18th & 15th M.S.F. It is intended to allocate the 18th M.S.F. to C. in C.Home Fleet to replace the 15th M.S.F. about November 1st.
2. On relief, the 15th M.S.F. will be allocated to C. in C.Nore.
(D.M.S.221534A to C. in C.H.F. C. in C.Nore.)
- UNBENDING. Amend my 121121 to read on completion of refit UNBENDING is allocated 7th S.F. for A/S training.
(F.O.S. 221658A to Capts. S.)
- Rescue Tugs situation. Your 201747. Position is fully realised but due to recent Mediterranean requirements and other operations shortage of tugs round coasts is being severely felt. It is anticipated situation will improve early in New Year. Endeavour will be made to send temporary relief for ABEILLE IV as early as possible.
(Capt. Rescue Tugs 221718A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)
- AMIENS. French General Staff Algiers have asked that French training sloop AMIENS should be sailed to Casablanca.
3. C. in C.Portsmouth is requested to sail her to join O.S.39/K.M.S.33 leaving Milford Haven 15th November.
4. C. in C.W.A. is requested to arrange for AMIENS to break off as necessary to proceed to Casablanca.
(D.O.D.H. 221823A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- H.F.Procedure. Cancel my 060957.
(C. in C.H.F. 222242A to Admty. V.A.2.)
Cancel V.A.2's 071501 re V.A.2 taking over operational matters.
(C. in C.H.F. 222244A to C. in C.Rosyth, etc.)

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22.10.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

IMPULSIVE. Sailed IMPULSIVE in accordance with C. in C.H.F's 201926.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 220251A to C. in C.H.F.)

MATCHLESS. Scapa arrival MATCHLESS at 0739A.
(A.C.O.S. 220851A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

S/M Move- 1. From position K. in F.O.C. Gibraltar 181717, O.
ments. 23 is proceeding diving by day via route "Brown"
adjusting S.O.A. to R/V with escort in 340° Round
Island Scilly Isles 10 miles at 0800A/29th Oct.
2. Capt. S.3rd is requested to arrange escort for
onward passage to Dundee and Grangemouth.
(F.O.S. 221228A, 221811A to O.23.)

My 202056. Sailing postponed 24 hours. (THRASHER).
(Capt. S.7 221232A to A.I.G. 216.)
TANTIVY cannot now arrive Chatham before p.m. 2nd November.

My 201202 refers.
(F.O.S. 221309A to Admty.)
Request you sail STONEHENGE about 1st November for Gibraltar.

My 161332.
(F.O.S. 221437A to Capt. S.5.)
Request you sail K.15 about 3rd November for Gibraltar for
onward passage Australia via Med.
(F.O.S. 221701A to Capt. S.3.)
Positions of S/Ms at 0800/23 and movements for following 24
hours.
(F.O.S. 221704A, 231412.)

ANSON, Scapa arrival V.A.2 in ANSON with NORFOLK,
NORFOLK, VIGILANT, HAIDA, IROQUOIS, C.T.G.121 in RANGER,
RANGER. CORRY, JANUS, HARDY, IMPULSIVE.
(A.C.O.S. 221931A to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)

PRINCE By D/F at 2051Z/22 U-Boat estimated within 75
ROBERT. miles of 45° 00' N. 16° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C. 222235A to PRINCE ROBERT.)

ORWELL, Seidisfjord departure ORWELL, CRIBI in company.
ORIBI. E.T.A. Scapa 0800A/24.
(A.C.I.C. 222310A to H.F.)

NELSON, C. in C.Med's. 161252 and R.A.D's. 181654. Screen
RODNEY. of 5 destroyers can be accepted.
2. C. in C.H.F. is requested to sail 2 destroyers
to arrive Gibraltar by 29th October.
3. C. in C.Plymouth is requested to sail ROCKET
to R/V with destroyers in para. 2 as required by C. in C.H.F.
4. These 3 destroyers, with ORFA and TARTAR, are to provide
screen for NELSON and RODNEY to U.K.
(A.C.N.S.H. 222315A to C. in C.H.F.)

War Diary.

22.10.1943.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

- Operation F.R. C. in C.H.F's. 211335. Operation postponed a further 24 hours. D.Day is now 23rd October. (D.O.D.H. 221050A to H.F.)
A.M. 221050 confirmed. (D.O.D.H. 222325A to H.F.)
- Operation S.F. Position at 222000. FRASERBURGH, LLANDUDNO, HUSSAR, LYME REGIS, BOOTLE searching vicinity 062° 24' 013° 50'.
(A.C.O.S. 221124A to Ships.)
Your 211145. Arrived. (WORTHING).
(A.C.I.C. Reykjavik 221943A to R.N.O.Seidisfjord.)
- Normal "Moorings" for 23rd October 8 Sunderlands and 1 Catalina patrolling.
(C. in C.Rosyth 222318A to H.F.)
If no contact or sightings by 1300A/23rd, return to base.
(C. in C.Rosyth 222324A to M/3 15.)
- Operation "Tunnel". My 211836A. Delete MELBREAK who will not take part
Para. 2. Force 28 is to consist of CHARYBDIS, GRENVILLE, ROCKET, LIMBOURNE, TALYBONT, STEVENSTONE, WENSLEYDALE.
Para. 4. Amend composition 3rd and 4th sub-divisional as follows. 3rd sub-divisional LIMBOURNE, TALYBONT. 4th sub-divisional STEVENSTONE, WENSLEYDALE.
(C. in C.Plymouth 221319A to CHARYBDIS, GRENVILLE, ROCKET, LIMBOURNE, TALYBONT, STEVENSTONE, WENSLEYDALE, MELBREAK.)
Request following surface bombing restrictions.
A. For Force 28 on outward passage leaving Eddystone 1930 today to reach vicinity of Heaux Light 0030/23rd, and on homeward passage leaving vicinity Ile Vierge at 0430/23 for Eddystone.
B. Between 002° 40' W. and 005° 00' W. and south of 049° 25' N. from 0030 to 0800/23rd.
(C. in C.Plymouth 221601A to H.Q.C.C. H.Q.F.C. 10 and 19 Groups, R.A.F.Exeter.)
- Spitzbergen. Your 210930. Necessity for this precaution not understood. Is there any special reason for your request?
(D.O.D.H. 221337A to "Locomotive".)
Your 221337. All going well so may be cancelled.
("Locomotive" 221415Z to Admty.)
- Coastal Patrols. 1. Orders for night 22/23. A. 3 M.G.Bs. to patrol 10 miles southward of convoy route between C.2 and E.A.5 Buoys between 0010A and 0600A covering C.W.218.
B. CHASSEURS 11 and 41 patrol Q.Z.S.384 between F. and E.A.5 Buoys.
C. M.L. 391 immediate notice St. Helens.
D. LA COMBATTANTE immediate notice Yarmouth.
E. M.Ls. 208, 233 R.M.L. 532 patrolling 50° 15' N. between 02° 10' W. and 02° 35' W.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 221416A.)

/Operation...

22.10.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Operation Seidis Fjord arrivals 0945A TUSCALOOSA, ONSLAUGHT, F.Q. ORIBI, ORWELL, FITCH.
(A.C.I.C. 221600A to H.F.)

S/M Patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800/23rd and movements for following 24 hours.
A. SEADOG as in my 191732.
B. TANTIVY on patrol vicinity 63° 35' N. 05° 01' E.
C. SEA ROVER vicinity 62° 22' N. 01° 30' E. probably on the surface to Lerwick at 10 knots.
D. VARANGIAN escorted by LOCH MONTEITH east of Fair Island for Lerwick, E.T.A. 1200/23. VARANGIAN sails at 1600/23rd unescorted on the surface through 090° Muckle Flugga 5 miles and thence to the Northeastward.
(F.O.S. 221704A to Admty.)
1. SYRTIS, STUBBORN and VARANGIAN are to remain at Lerwick at 8 hours notice.
2. SATYR and ULA are not to be sailed from Dundee until further orders.
(F.O.S. 221813A to Capt. S.9.)
Cancel my 210909. (VARANGIAN, SYRTIS, STUBBORN.)
(Capt. S.9 222101A to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

Bay Patrol. Left patrol 1901A, 022° 20. Steering to BC. after dawn.
2. Position to nearest degree 45.20.
(BERMUDA 222101A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Jan Mayen. Following from Jan Mayen, aircraft heard south of Island 0930Z/22.
(A.C.I.C. 221550A to Admty. (R) C. in C.H.F. V.A.2.)

Mining.

Q.U.13. Carry out operation Q.U.13 - 000° on first suitable night on or after 23 October.
Force 22nd M.T.B.Flottilla, Unit W. codeword "Delta"
(C. in C.Nore 221204A to MANTIS.)

Q.U.26. Carry out operation Q.U.26 - 245° 2.5 miles 020° on first suitable night on or after 23rd October.
Force 21st M.T.B.Flottilla, 51st M.L.Flottilla.
(C. in C.Nore 221205A to BEEHIVE.)

Harwich. Three mines detonated by sweepers today as follows:
At 221003A in 52° 09' 35" N. 01° 49' 28" E.
At 221140A in 52° 09' 43" N. 01° 49' 14" E.
At 221255A in 52° 10' 19" N. 01° 49' 30" E.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 222332A to Admty.)

22.10.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

HANNE
(ex ESTLAND)
sunk.

Press reports Danish Steamer HANNE mined and sunk
October 5th 300 metres off Drogden Light.
(N.A.Stockholm 221202 to D.N.I.)

German Main
Units on
15th October.

Following German main units were at Gdynia Oct. 15.
A. GNEISENAU. B. NURNBERG after slight damage by
air attack. C. LEIPZIG, PRINZ EUGEN and HIPPER.
(Graded B.2.)
(N.A.Stockholm 221727 to Admty.)
O.I.C.Comment.

The following German Main Units were seen at Gdynia by P.R.U. on
10th October. GNEISENAU, LUTZOW, PRINZ EUGEN, NURNBERG, LEIPZIG,
EMDEN, SCHLESEIN, SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN.
2. HIPPER was reported at Pillau on 30th September (B.2.)

Casualties & Defects.

BEGUM,
PENNYWORT.

AQUAMARINE arrived 055° 29' N. 010° 34' W. AIMWELL
taking BEGUM in tow. I am returning to Londonderry
vide my 211645Z my course and speed 090° 6 knots.
(PENNYWORT 220230A to Admty.)
Your 220300. Proceed with tow to North Channel.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 220733⁴ to AIMWELL.)

Temporary repairs effected. If hold, my E.T.A. Foyle Buoy 1800A.
If bridle (corrupt group) available at oiler intended to top up
with fuel and sail to rejoin convoy.
(PENNYWORT 221250Z to Cdre. D.W.A.)

HURON.

Your 211831. Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Leith 220815 to R.A.D.)

M.L.207.

My 221745. M.L.207 returned to Ramsgate with
defective engine.
(N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 221836A.)

Shipping & Convoys.

O.G.95/
K.M.S.30.

BARON FORBES returned owing to heavy weather.
RICHARD HOVEY returned, ballast shifted.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 220720A to C. in C.W.A.)
Inform Cmdre. EMPIRE BALLAD returned to Clyde.
(C. in C.W.A. 220929A to Escorts O.G.95/K.M.S.30.)

LEDAAL returned owing to heavy weather.

(N.C.S.O. Clyde 221040A to C. in C.W.A.)

EMPIRE BALLAD, AMSTEL, LEDAAL, and NOLISEMENT returned
from K.M.S.30 with heavy weather damage.

(S.T.O.I.C. Greenock 221655A.)

Arrived PENNYWORT and sailed to overtake O.G.95/K.M.S.30.

(Cdre. D.W.A. 222302A to C. in C.W.A.)

H.X.261
RIMOUSKI.

In view of defects to RIMOUSKI she is to remain
with H.X.261.
(C. in C.W.A. 220834Z to Escorts H.X.261.)

War Diary.22.10.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- O.N.207. FREDERICK L.DAU, JAMES DE WOLFE returned U.K.
(C. in C.W.A. 220928A to Escorts O.N.207.)
S.O. C.One in FORESTER, 57 ships 6 of which may
still be stragglers.
(C. in C.W.A. 221239A to B.7, (R) Escorts O.N.207.)
JOHN G.CARLISLE returned owing to heavy weather.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 221955A to C. in C.W.A.)
- M.K.S.27,
B.2. I am being shadowed by one enemy aircraft bearing
255° in 44.57 N. 19.27 W. Course 022° speed 7 kts.
(HESPERUS 221001Z to Whitehall W/T.)
My 221001. A/C still shadowing. F.W.200. My
P.C. and S. 045° 12' N. 019° 18' W. 022° 7.
(HESPERUS 221249Z to C. in C.W.A.)
- U.R.95. My 201320A. Delayed 12 hours.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 221012A.)
- W.P.M. 419. My 210923. W.P.M. 419 cancelled.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 221049A.)
- T.A.68. A.M. 181259 and 191825. Intend sailing SS.
MAURETANIA 1800Z/22. S.O.A. 19 knots, E.T.A.
position D. 0330Z/23rd. "Chop" 1130Z/27th.
E.T.A. Halifax 0600Z/29.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 221215A to Admty.)
MAURETANIA sailed 1740/22nd.
(P.S.T.O.N.W. Ports 221900A.)
- O.N.208. My 101255. 1. KITE is to sail with O.N.208 in
place of TWEED and will subsequently be ordered to
rejoin 2nd Escort Group.
(C. in C.W.A. 221359A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- Re-Patriation Following from ATLANTIS begins. ATLANTIS,
Ships. EMPRESS OF RUSSIA, and DROTTNINGHOLM position
at 1703 G.M.T. 57.59 N. 07.04 E. Master.
(Wick Radio 221715 to A.C.O.S.)
(C. in C.Rosyth 221839 to Admty.)
Following received:-
DROTTNINGHOLM position 57.58 N. 06.37 E. at 1800 G.M.T.
(C. in C.Rosyth 222056A to Admty.)
Following from DROTTNINGHOLM. Position 2100 G.M.T. 57.58 N.
05.18 E.
(C. in C.Rosyth 222254A to Admty.)
Following from ATLANTIS begins. ATLANTIS, EMPRESS OF RUSSIA,
and DROTTNINGHOLM position at 2300 G.M.T. 57.58 N. 04.17 E.
Master Ends.
(Wick Radio 222321Z to Lyness.)

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22.10.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- K.M.F.25A. Ready to leave U.K. 27th October. 23 ships, names and destinations.
2. Slowest ships AORANGI 14 knots, ALMANZORA, MARNIX and STAFFORDSHIRE 14½ knots, remainder 15 knots or more.
 3. Escort Task Group 60.2 consisting of DAVIDSON (S.O.), MERVINE, BEATY, TILLMAN, LAUB, MCLANAHAN, PARKER, BOYLE, CHAMPLIN, NIELDS, ORDRONAU.
 7. Route through positions VC. 270° Oversay 6 miles at 0800A/28, thence by outer standard route lettered VD. to VH., thence as ordered by C. in C.Med.
 8. Stragglers Route lettered P. to T.
 9. C. in C.Med. is requested to signal destination of the 15 U.S. transports to appropriate authorities.
 10. Task Group 60.2 will escort convoy M.K.F.25A which should, if possible arrive U.K. on 21st November.
(D.O.D.H. 222141A.)

22.10.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.U.S.
movements.U.S.S. LIVERMORE, EBERIE, ERICSSON, D.L.HOWARD,
FARQUHAR, BLAKELEY of T.F.65 arrived.
(C.M.S.F.F. 221025.)COMMANDANT
DETROYAT.Your 210955 (N.T. in W.D.) Only effect on
operational efficiency resulting from boiler
repairs is boiler steam pressure reduced from 225
to 195 pounds per square inch, causing slight
reduction of maximum speed.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 221122A to C. in C. Med. (R)
F.O.C.W.Af. Admty.)Fleet
tenders.Intend sailing (?LORD HOTHAM) at 1600A/22nd.
Routed to R/V OXNA and Fleet Tender is (Q) 026°
10' 015° 23' at 261200A. All positions N. and W.
(2) Codeword "Taffy". (3) F.O.I.C.W.A's.
201125 refers.
(F.O.C. Gib. 221241A to F.O.I.C., W.A., OXNA,(R)
C. in C. Med., C.M.S.F., Admty.)K.M.S.29,
M.K.S.28.A.I.609/22nd Oct. Gib. G.R. Opsum Sup. 21st.
ZF. DINGHY red Verey Cartridge 0111 37.10 N.
01.45 E. P.179 7 A/C flares at 2000 ft. seen over
C/V K.M.S.29 23.02 36.43 N. 01.44 E. U.G.S.19
04.28 36.13 N. 03.11 W. V.179 M.K.S.28 05.25
36.42 N. 00.28 E. A.179. All times A.
(R.A.F. Gib. 221255A.)TAGUS
safe
conduct.Not to be molested on this voyage Portuguese ship
TAGUS 1092 gross tonnage speed 9 knots sailed from
Gibraltar 1330A/22nd following Easterly approved
route to San Sebastian Cape thence coastwise to
Marseilles.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 221346A to S. & A. in area 'G' of
Med. Capt. (S) 10, H.Q.N., W.A.C.A.F., M.A.C.,
N.A.A.F., N.A.C.A.F., N.A.T.A.F., N.A.S.A.F.,
Air H.Q. Malta (R) Admty.)Convoy
K.M.F.25.Additions to List. D.S.T.1 221348A to F.O.I.C.
Gib. see Lion Copy.C.T.G.
27.4.Comnavnews 221003 addressed action to C.T.G.27.4.
Information to Cominch C. in C. Lant, C. in C.
Med. 12th A.F.S.C. and Commorseafon (Begins):-
?proceed to Casablanca with Task Unit 27.4.1 as
well as 27.4.2 for discharge Cominch 282110/ Sept.
and C. in C. Lant 190613/ refers.
(Commorseafon 221507A to F.O.C. Gib. Admty.)
/ N.T. in W.R.

War Diary.22.10.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

ZEMANEL,
PADUA,
safe conduct. Not to be molested on this voyage. Portuguese ships HADUA 665 gross tonnage speed $7\frac{1}{2}$ knots and ZEMANEL 926 gross tonnage, speed 9 knots, sailed from Gib. 1734A and 1825A respectively for Marseilles following approved route to Cape San Sebastian thence coastwise to destination. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 221828A to S. & A. in area G. of Med., N.A.A.F., N.A.C.A.F., N.A.T.A.F., N.A.S.A.F., H.Q.N.W.A.C.A.F., A.H.Q., Malta, Capt. (S) 10, M.A.C. (R) Admty.)

SPARTAN. 035° 33' N. 010° 02' W. course 103° 13 knots position 036° 08' N. 013° 04' W. Weather report. (SPARTAN 221901Z to F.O.C. Gib.)

C.T.G.
21.14. C.T.G.21.14 221935 to C.M.S.F. reads "(?Position) 37.20 N. 20.47 W. route 200 speed 14. Advise C.T.F. 64 Com.Tenth Fleet Cinclant, Admty., F.O.C.Gib.)

FENCER. In present U-Boat situation temporary lack of air protection can be accepted.
2. Request you will prepare FENCER for service as in A.M.121955 forthwith and report when she will be ready for operations.
(D.O.D. (H) 222118A to S.B.N.O. Azores (R) C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med.)

South Atlantic.

French Cruisers. Your 1(?)1937 (re French Admty. have requested that French cruisers now operating on S. At. Patrol under F.O.C.W.A.F., should come to Casablanca between patrols for adjustment of complement.) which is being passed to Comar Dakar. Concur. Comar Dakar is requested to arrange with Commorseafron and to keep me informed of his intentions. (F.O.C.W.A.F. 221040Z to C. in C. Med., Comar Dakar, (R) Admty., Commorseafron, Commavnaw.)

Streaming of Net Defence. A.M.15/1545. Net defence need not be streamed in F.O.C.W.A., area until further orders. (F.O.C.W.A.F., 221450 to N.I.O.W.A.Stn., B.N.L.O., Point Noire, N.O.I.C. Bathurst. (R) Admty., Cominch, C. in C.W.A., F.O.I.C.Gibraltar, C. in C. Med., C. in C.S.A.)

PASTEUR. Sailed at 1543Z/22nd. My 211820Z refers. (Comar Dakar 221645 to F.O.C.W.A., C.M.S.F. (R) Admty., C. in C. Med., F.O. Gib.)

/MYOSOTIS...

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22.10.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

MYOSOTIS. (Group omitted). My P.C. & S. at 1600 008° 39' N. 017° 29' W. 9 knots 312° E.T.A. 1830Z/23 (4 groups missing) 2953.
(MYOSOTIS 221700Z to F.O.C.W.Af., Capt. (D) Freetown, S.O. 37th Escort Group.)

U-Boat. By D/F on 8460 k/cs at 2104Z/22. U-Boat estimated within 100 miles of 38° 00' N. 30° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 222350 to S.B.N.O. Azores, F.O.Gibraltar)

LITIOPA (Norwegian) sunk. LITIOPA sunk 06° 18' N. 11° 55' W. at 2200/22. Survivors landed Robertsport. Amplifying report when further details available.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 222356Z to Admty.)

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22.10.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.ARSIA
captured.

Have captured motor vessel ARSIA, 1300 tons. My P.C. and S at 0530A/22nd 041 degs. 38' North 018 degs. 41' East 260 degs. 5½ knots. Request priority high. F.O.T.A. pass to 286 Wing. (Capt.(D) 4, 220025 to F.O.T.A. (R) N.O.i/c Bari, No.1 M.O.R.U. 286 Wing, C. in C. Med. QUEENBOROUGH). W.D. Note: Captured at 2250A/21. See 221039A.

Italian
S/MS.

Your 201601 (N.T. in W.D.) and C. in C. Levant 211747 onward route for ALAGI and GALATEA after passing 34 degs. 19' 21 degs. 41' at 0806/24th proceed direct to arrive Haifa at 1032C/27th. (S.1. 220052 to V.A.M. (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, Neg. S.8., FOLI, N.O.i/c P.P. COMLA 201 Group, S.O. S/M Haifa).

BANDEIRA cannot at present be accepted at Taranto as suggested in your 201620. Anticipate there will be a considerable demand from Admty. for training S/M. Admty. 14(?20) 35 refers. Arrangements will be made to send crew for H (?4).

(FOLI 221814) to V.A. Malta (R) C. in C. Levant, Admty. C. in C. Med.).

Enemy ships
in
Cyclades.

3 medium vessel 37 degs. 07' N. 25 degs. 22' E. Have attacked enemy with bombs level. Result of attack unobserved. (C/S CMX/J 220105Z to 201, Naval Co-op. Grp.H.Q.). Position of 1 merchant vessel Naxos. Result of attack unobtained. (A/C GMX/A 220214Z).

1 enemy medium vessel 37 degs. 07' North 25 degs. 22' East Have attacked enemy with bombs level result of attack - (?one) hit observed.

(GMX/J 220305Z).

Position of enemy. Auxiliary vessel 4 oo(T?) Naxos. (HUX/K 220900Z to Air H.Q. Malta (R) Aircraft C/S).

H.A.5.

GRAYLING, WHITING as additional escort to L.R. R/V then return Bari E.T.A. a.m. 24th. Codeword "Returns Hebron" A priority low. (N.O.i/c Bari 220231A to F.O.T.A.).

ADRIAS
bombed.

Hit by bomb. Can proceed at full speed. We are entering Gulf of Kos now.

(Capt.(D) 22, 220415C to C. in C. Levant, (R) Cmdre.(D), Capt.(D) 14th, ADRIAS).

Not hit but near missed by 3 bombs. Has made small amount of water. This and other minor damage now made good. Fighting efficiency not impaired.

(Capt.(D) 22, 220516C to C. in C. Levant, (R) Cdre.(D) Capt.(D) 14, ADRIAS).

/15th...

War Diary.22.10.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.15th Army
Group.
Cositintrep
No.104.To 1200 hours 21st. Section 3. Air 1600 hours.
Fighter bombers reported up to 35 small craft
active in San Benedetto harbour B.9085 during the
morning.
(15th Army Group No T.O.O.)UNTIRING
U-Boat
sunk.
ULTIMATUM.Torpedoes expended. U-Boat sunk 15th. P.C. & S.
220300A 042° 12' N. 005° 15' E. 180° 2/8.
Weather report 84.61 15.43.
(UNTIRING P.59 220501A to Capt. (S) P.L. (R)
C. in C. Med. 8th S/F.)
Well done. P.59 (UNTIRING) 220501.
(2) From 042° 12' 005° 15' at 0300/22nd.
P.59 (UNTIRING) proceed diving by day through 040° 02' 005° 16'
at 0600/23rd, thence on surface at discretion through 038° 01'
003° 12' at 0100/24th to R/V escort Algiers in 037° 05' 003° 07'
at 0800/24th. (3) P.34 (ULTIMATUM) to operate in zone S.U. and
S.T. forthwith until 0100/25th, my 21102 refers. (4) Cancel my
211040.
(Capt. (S) 8 221002A to 8th S/F. (R) C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C.
Algiers.)M.Ls.460,
240.Sailing M/L 460 and 240 at 0930/23 to act under
your orders and take over escort of M.Ls.
(N.O.I.C. Bari 220630 to Capt. (D) 4 (R) F.O.T.A.O.
286 Wing, N.O.1 (one) M.O.R.U.)Alexandria
movements.Alexandria 21st arrivals FURY, BEAUFORT, HYACINTH,
SAKTOURIS, M.T.Bs. 307, 309, 315. Departures
JERVIS, HURWORTH, PATHFINDER, ADRIAS.
(R.A. Alexandria 220731C.)

RICHELIEU.

Arrived (C. in C. Med. pass to Comnavnaw.)
(Commob Oran 220833A.)SOKOL,
SHAKESPEARE.21st/43. Arrival SOKOL. Departure SHAKESPEARE.
(S.O.I. Beirut 220845C.)Air
Reports.A.332 Oct.22nd. Daily Opsum 177.
20/21st 2 Liberators B.24, 7 Halifaxes, Maritza
Airfield bursts on Northern half landing area
with several probable hits on runway 84 x 500 lb.
1 Wellington shipping strike Kelinos Harbour. No
vessels seen and no bombs dropped. 2 enemy A/C dropped bombs on
Portolago Bay, Leros. No damage. Later in night 2 destroyers
were bombed by enemy aircraft over period of 1 hour. No hits
reported. 21st. & Baltimores A.30 anti S/M. 6 Spitfires, 1
Baltimore, A.30 photographic R/C. 12 Beaufighters, 20 Hurricanes
shipping protection. Ship reported torpedo early morning 21st
about 60 miles East of Sohar in Gulf of (?Oman). Pilot of B.O.A.C.
A/C had reported sighting suspected S/M previous day off Gwadar
(Baluchistan). 21st/22nd October. 5 Wellingtons anti shipping
r/cs. Central Aegean. Preliminary reports state one merchant
vessel in Naxos Harbour and small vessel off N.W. Coast of Naxos

/bombed...

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Reports.
(Contd.)

bombed with unobserved results. Enemy air attack reported in Leros. No further details. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 220914Z.)
AV. 850 E. 22nd Oct. N.W.A.A.F. Opsum 243. N.W.A.T.A.F. 21/10 Kittyhawks P.40 attacked barges Benedetto claiming near misses. U.S. Warhawks P.40 on shipping sweep South Zara encountered 5 Ju.87 destroying the whole formation. 2 vessels in Solinna Harbour and 1 at sea same area were attacked with fragmentation bombs and strafed. (H.O.N.A.A.F. 221455A.)

A.297 22 Oct. signed Eisenhower. Cositintrep No. 104 21st Oct. N.W. African Air Forces. Day 21. Warhawks on anti-shipment sweeps off the Yugoslavian coast left 3 small M/Vs. smoking at Solif and destroyed 5 Ju.87. Other fighter bombers attacked barges at San Benedetto and destroyed or damaged 15 M.T. South of Ancona. 2. Air Intelligence 12/15 enemy aircraft dropped 21 flares and 10 plus bombs on the Naples harbour area about 1900 hours. 25/30 enemy aircraft over Naples-Volturno area in the morning. Wellingtons report 1 F.W.190 and 1 probable Me.109 active night of 20/21 near Furbara. Bombers and escorts on missions to Marciano Orbetello Orvieto and Terni saw a total of 78/85 enemy aircraft of which about 30 attacked. 20/25 of aircraft seen were Me.109 and F.W.190 flying near Pianosa Island. 5 Ju.87 destroyed by fighter bombers S. of Zara some enemy air activity over Samos rocket shells fired by Me. 109 at bombers on Orvieto mission 3 Me.109 engaged at Skolpse. (Air C. in C. Med. T.O.O. Nil.)

SIBYL,
SPORTSMAN.

P.217 SIBYL and P.229 (SPORTSMAN) sailed as in my 211600. (2) Last series number held Q.B.196, Q.B.B.250 missing 249, Q.B.C.836 and Q.B.O.14. (3) F.O.S. envelope 1005 for Capt. (S) 1st and 1007 for Capt. (S) 10th in P.217 SIBYL and P.229 (SPORTSMAN) respectively. (Capt. (S) 8th 221000A.)

Enemy
ships
Gulf of
Genoa.

P.C. & S. of enemy 2 medium merchant vessels 44.24 N. 08.54 E. based on a fix taken within 1/2 hour of 1000 stationary. (V.A.N.C. (Unidentifiable) 221007A.) My 1007/ enemy previously reported is of 8000 tons. (V.A.N.C. via Alex. W/T 221015A to A.H.Q. Malta.) / P.C. & S. of enemy.

ARSIA
intercepted.
QUEENBOROUGH,
RAIDER.
Patrol.

Italian M/V ARSIA intercepted at 2250A/21st in 041° 44' N. 019° 26' E. Left Durazzo 1700 bound Cattaro 6 knots. 2. Intend QUEENBOROUGH and RAIDER carry similar patrol tonight 22nd/23rd. Codeword "Halley" 386 priority normal. My 211112 and N.O.I.C. Bari's 211128 (N.T. in W.D.) not to all addressees. (Capt. (D) 4th D.F. 221039A to F.O.T.A. (R) No.1 M.O.R.U. 286 Wing, C. in C. Med. Fleet. N.O.I.C. Bari, N.L.O. 8th Army, QUEENBOROUGH, RAIDER.)

/Enemy...

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Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Enemy ships
off
Leghorn.

P.C. & S. of enemy 43.42 N. 10.05 E. based on a fix taken within half an hour of 1000 130° 8 knots ZYMI.
(VAN/N 221045A.)
My 1045. Enemy previously reported are 4 transport barges of 100 tons laden.
(VAN/N 221115A.)

L.T.6.

M.S.C.I.22. Intend to sail V.T.6 consisting of 3 ships (names) to Tripoli at 0800/24th.
2. (A) and (B) 7. 3. Q.B.B.123 (B) Position 212, 202, E.T.A. Boom 1500/25th. 5. 91. 6. "Entire" Normal. 8. "Jonquil".
(V.A. Malta 221055, 221616.)

M.K.F.25,
X.I.F.2A.

M.K.F.25. Intend sailing to join X.I.F.2A in accordance with C. in C. Med's 181241 for Algiers for onward routing to U.K. STRATHEDEN, TAMAROA, MARTAND, GLENARTNEY, SIBAJAK, OTRANTO, LARGS, BRITANNIC, DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, REINADEL, PACIFICO, STIRLING CASTLE, DUNNOTAR CASTLE, DURBAN CASTLE, LARGS BAY, MALOJA. For Oran for onward routing U.S. CAPE COD, Cdre. B.W.L. Nicholson R.N.R. in STRATHEDEN Vice Cdre. of convoy Master BRITANNIC.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta 221056A.)
X.I.F.2A sailed at 1800/22nd E.T.A. position 277 at 1330/23rd (F.O.T.A. 221801.)
M.K.F.25. Intend sailing 6 ships. All personnel.
(F.O.C. Gib. 221606A.)

24th D.F.

Regret the 24th D.F. cannot be spared for the present.
(C. in C. Med. 221108 to C. in C. Levant (R) Admiralty.) W.D. Note:- 24th D.F. was asked for in lieu of 8th D.F. See 21/10

French
refugees.

Please confirm that 2nd evacuation of French refugees from Malaga can be on 29th. Proposed to use same ship for transport and same procedure. Destination will again be Casablanca O.
(C. in C. Med. 221140A to B.N.A. Madrid, (R) Admty. B.N.A. Lisbon, C.M.S.F.F. Comnob, Oran.)

German
Lighter
M.T.111.

My 211101C. No advice yet received of ship's entry into Aegean.
(S.O.I. Istanbul 221150C to C. in C. Levant, Capt. S.I., D.N.I.) 211103 intended.

DZIK.

My 201122. Amend time of passing position (A) to 0002C/24th.
(Capt. (S) 1 221205C to DZIK (R) 1st S.F.)

/CURIE...

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CURIE. Intend (P.67) CURIE sail at 1700/23rd proceeding on surface at discretion through 038° 01' 003° 34' at 0230/24th, 040° 02' 005° 31' at 2130/24th, diving by day through 041° 59' 006° 32 at 2230/25th 043° 43' 008° 35' at 0400/27th to patrol in zones S.N. and S.O. (Capt. S.8. 221210A to 8th S/F. (R) C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Algiers)

Landing ships consumption trials. All L.S.Is. are to take every opportunity to carry out fuel consumption trials at appropriate speed during forthcoming passage to U.K. A.M. 201911 refers. (C. in C. Med. 221242A, 221900A.)

ROYALIST. Allocated temporarily to the Mediterranean Fleet. 2. It is anticipated that she will be required to escort K.M.F.26 sailing from Clyde about 16th Nov. 3. C.S.10 pass to ROYALIST. (D.O.D. (H) 221324A to C.S.10, C. in C. Med. (R) C. in C. Home Fleet, C. in C. Levant, F.O.I.C. Greenock, F.O.I.C. Gib., C. in C.E.F., C. in C.W.A., C. in C. Plymouth.)

X.T.6. Sailing telegram. Part 2. 8 ships names and destinations. (R.A. Alexandria 221326C.)

"C" Hunt. Your 221146C. (N.T. in W.D.) Intended policy hunt to retire E. of Kos thence between Niseros and Tilo. Delayed action devices to be used off Vathi and Tilo. Delayed action devices to be used off Vathi Kalolimmo (sic) and Kos Roads. Have delayed reply as force lying at Yedi Atala anchorage has not been detected. (Capt. D.14 221445C to C. in C. Levant (R) Capt. D. 22nd. PATHFINDER, ADRIAS, S.B.N.O. Aegean, R.A. Alexandria, S.N.O.C., N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 212 Group 235 Wing, 245 Wing, 247 Wing, Fighter Sectors between Alex. and Benghazi R.A.L. Capt. S.10. Cmdre. Levant Area, N.O.I.C. Port Said, N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports, N.O.I.C. Beirut, N.O.I.C. Famagusta. 201 Naval Co-op Group 209 Groups, 219 Group (Fighter Sectors Eofalex.)

Situation in Aegean. 377081. Joint Army R.A.F. Int. appreciation 24 hours to 1020Z/22nd. 1. No surface attack against Leros reported up to 1020Z hours 22nd. 2. Our patrols report virtually no enemy activity in Northern part Kalino. Reports from patrols and C.X. source indicate withdrawal from Kalino Island of part of enemy force originally landed there. This withdrawal (probably to Kos) possibly due to administrative reasons arising out of postponement of Leros Assault. Estimate total force Kos/Kalino area now about 4,000 including Kos Garrison. This

/force...

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22.10.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Situation
in Aegean.
(Contd.)

(2nd)

force not known to be commanded by G.O.C.22 Division Crete and to include infantry elements of this division. Indications this withdrawal troops from Crete partially off-set by intake reinforcements early Oct. 3. Photographic r/c 0630Z hours 21st Kos/Kalino area. Kos. 4 F-Boats lying off harbour entrance of which 1 in same position since 19th and therefore believed possibly damaged. 1 F-Boat on beach N. coast of Kos in same position since 19th believed probably damaged. Kalino Harbour. Merchant vessel 300 foot naval auxiliary 150 foot and Caique 80/100 tons still present. Also 2 F-Boats Port Vathi. Merchant vessel 190 foot still present. Atti Bay. Naval Auxiliary (damaged) still present. Pserimo, Isola, Vecchia Bay, Pezonda Bay, Arghinonda Bay. Nil shipping. Total 7 F-Boats identified in yesterday's complete cover of which 3 only believed to be at present effective. Maximum number F-Boats identified by photographic r/c in this area was 8 on 12th. 4. 20th approx. 6 bomber sorties reported on Leros. No reports of air attacks on Leros or Castelrosso 21st yet received. 5. No report yet received of naval activity night 21/22nd in operational area. 6. Photographic r/c 21st October Gaf airfield Greece, Rhodes and Kos show no important change. Crete airfields again cloud covered. 7. Despite probable reduction in numbers of effective boats in operational area and departure of 4 E type boats reported in para. 2. of appreciation 20th consider enemy might still stage surprise attack on Leros at short notice should he appreciate absence our naval forces from this area. Consider he will almost certainly launch attack as soon as he has augmented his naval force (see para. 6. appreciation 21st reporting re-commissioning ex-Italian naval units at Piraeus and landing flotilla.)

(C. in C. Me~~r~~. No. T.O.O/22.)

Cositrep 32. (1) Int. Aegean. (B) P.H.R.21st showed 13 Ju.87's Megara and 9 on Argos. Further 25 believed to be at Maritza and dive bomber strength in Eastern Med. in general estimated approx. 50. 26 S.E. fighters also seen Argos South showing evidence reinforcement to area by about 10 Me.109's. (C) Farmako Island (N.E. of Leros) reported occupied by Germans on or before 13th October. (2) Ops. Aegean. L.R.D.G. patrol recce. North Peninsula Kalino night 18/19th. Enemy O.P. located 157313 otherwise N.M.S. General situation remains quiet. 4 Buffs awaiting shipment to Leros. No troops landed Leros nights 19th/20th and 20th/21st October as ship entering harbour area attacked by enemy aircraft using flares. (5) Naval. Aegean. Night 21/22 Oct. S/M SEVERN unloaded stores Leros. Destroyers did not unload stores Leros. 22 Oct. EOLO and GALWAY COAST escorted by LA MOQUEUSE and Com.DOMINE left Kastelerizo for Haifa. (6) Air.

(C. in C. M.E. T.O.O. Nil.)

HALLAREN
safe
conduct.

Swedish HALLAREN position at 0800/22nd. Route. Not to be molested. (F.O.T.A. 221530A to Capt. (D) 4, C.C.F. West Med. C.C.O. Bari, N.O.I.C. Brindisi, 286 Wing, No.1. M.O.R.U.)

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22.10.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

M.K.S.29. M.S.C.I.22. Onward route from Westward 033° 08' 020° 00' at 0030/27th. Details.
6. "Cockatoo" Normal. 8. COLTSFOOT (S.O)
HYDERABAD, OXLIP, H.M.S. HONEYSUCKLE.
9. Proceed at best speed avoiding stragglers to
make Augusta R/V and endeavour to arrive Bizerta R/V before dark.
(C. in C. Med. 221535A, 271324A.)

SALAWATI SALAWATI had heavy explosion under fore ship
damaged. during night of 21st. Probably floating mine.
Reached Brindisi. Damage not yet ascertained.
No casualties.
(S.S.T.O. Brindisi 221600A to D.S.T. London.)

ULTOR. P.53 (ULTOR) leave patrol proceeds diving by day
on 24th and 25th then on surface at discretion
through 043° 32' 008° 49' at 0200/24th 042° 01'
006° 50' at 0500/25th, 040° 02' 005° 48' at 0700
26th 037° 59' 003° 49' at 0200/27th, thence R/V
escort Algiers in 037° 05' 003° 14' at 1000/27th.
(Capt. S.8. 221600A to 8th S/F. (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers, C. in C.
Med.)

AURORA. Your 132135 (N.T. in W.D. Owing to load of
repairs in U.K., it is not desired to take AURORA
in hand at home. 2. Suggested that re-tubing
should be done concurrently with damage repairs
at Taranto. 3. Request your remarks. Requesting
that repairs to AURORA be carried out in U.K.
(D.O.D. (F) 221621A to C. in C. Levant, (R) C. in C. Med., C.S.12
AURORA, A.S. Alexandria.)

Radar Radar decoy balloons are (?fitted with) a light
decoy weight to serve as sea anchor but will drift at
balloons. a few knots less than wind speed. (2) Ships
should therefore proceed to windward when
investigating suspicious target and make final
approach down wind and at good speed. (3) My
131815 refers.
(C. in C. Med. 221625 to Med. Stn. B.239 (R)
Comnav, N.W.A.W., C. in C. Levant, Admty.)

French Air Min. 221641Z. See East Indies.
participation
in defiance of MadagascAR.
of Madagascar.

K.M.F.25. K.M.S.25. Onward route. M.S.C.I.22.
(2) (A) 12 knots. (3) Route. (5) C.F.
(6) "Sateen" VI Q high. (8) SLAZAK S.O.,
ATHERSTONE, HAMBLEDON, CATTERICK, CLEVELAND from
Algiers (?). PALADIN continuing with convoy.
(C. in C. Med. 221715A.)

/Med...

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22.10.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Med.
Situation
report 212.

(1) U.S. P.T.Boats night 20th/21st intercepted Southbound convoy of 3 F Lighters with 4 small escort entering Leghorn. One of the F Lighters was hit with torpedoes. Enemy returned confused fire, no damage or casualties. (2) Convoy M.K.S. 28 was attacked by a mixed force of about 25 Ju.88 H.E.111 and Do.217 at 1840/21st in 036° 55' N. 001° 36' E. Torpedoes only were used and SS. SALTWICK and TIVIVES were sunk. 6 A/C claimed shot down 2 by ALYNBANK and 4 by Fighters. (3) QUILLIAM and QUAIL on sweep in the Adriatic captured Merchant Ship ARSIA in the Gulf of Drin at 2250/21st. Ship is being taken to Bari in tow QUAIL. (4) During the night of 21st/22nd M.T.B. patrolled East Coast of Italy in the vicinity of Ortona. No incident reported. (5) UNTIRING reports having sunk a U-Boat on 15th while on patrol off Toulon. (C. in C. Med. 222001A.)

Algiers
movements.

Arrivals CLIO, MON ZAMBANO (It.) DANAIDE (It.)
Departures SPORTSMAN, SIBYL,
(Com. Algeria 222034A.)

Landing
craft
for India.

Your 201008. All Landing Craft must proceed to India in accordance with A.M. 022014 September. 2. Further signal will be made as to how craft for C.T.C.Kabret will be provided. (D. of P. 222111A to C. in C. Levant.)

Italian
movements.

(1) Corvette SIBILA sailing 0001/23rd for Taranto coast wise speed of advance 15 knots.
(2) It. Water Boat MINCIO sailing 0500/23rd for Barletta for onward routing. S. of A. 5 knots. (N.O.I.C. Brindisi 222125A.)

Tripolitania
movements.

Sailed PRINSES BEATRIX, BOXER, BRUISER, OAKLEY.
(S.N.O. Tripolitania 222149B.)

Levant
Situation
report
No. 87.

FAULKNER (D.8) DULVERTON (D.5) PETARD left Turkish waters last night. DULVERTON bombarded Levitha at 2245 withdrew on arrival of hostile A/C. Destroyers made R/V with AURORA (C.S. 12) and MIAOULES on patrol S. of Scarpanto Strait and force returned Alexandria. 2. JERVIS (D.14) HURWORTH (D.22) PATHFINDER, ADRIAS, entered Aegean last night. Fleets unable to land stores for Leros lying up in Turkish waters and will try again ?tonight. Hunts investigated Port Vathy and Port Akti for damaged shipping, results not known. While proceeding to lie up in Gulf of Kos ADRIAS near-missed by three bombs at 0415, causing only minor damage ?now made good. 3. Stores unloaded from SEVERN at Leros last night. RORQUAL due evening of 23rd. (C. in C. Levant 222222C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C.E.F. V.A. Malta, F.O. Red Sea and Canal Area, R.A. Alexandria, Comla, S.N.O.C., Com.(D) S.B.N.O. Aegean.)

/Bari...

22.10.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Bari Arrivals QUILLIAM, QUAIL, HAZARD, M.T.B.243,
Situation M.L.245, 168. Arrived and sailed HEBE, M.T.B.
Report 287, 297, 296, M.L.240, 460. Departures
No.30. QUEENBOROUGH, RAIDER, M.T.B.298, Seaplane Tender
18. Hospital carrier ST.DAVIDS tonnage discharged
2999 excluding 3,000 tons bulk oil. Enemy activ-
ity nil. Prize ARSIA by 4th D.F. loaded with
ammunition consigned to Bari before Armistice now being discharg-
ed. 75% communication with Malta thanks largely to W/T
telegraphists of Capt. 3rd D.F. Routine sweep Oropesa SA/LL
Bari Monopoli Barletta no result.
(N.O.I.C. Bari 222253.)

Malta Arrivals TROUBRIDGE, TYRIAN, TUMULT, ILEX, BERYL.
movements. (V.A. Malta 222334B.)

SECRET

703A

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 221242/October.. IN

From C. in C. Levant.

Date 8.11.43.

Recd. 1809.

CYPIER

Addressed M.W.T.Middle East, P.S.T.O. Middle East, Repeated
R.A. Alexandria, N.O.I.C. Port Said, F.O. Red Sea and Canal
Area, N.O.I.C. Suez, C. in C. Mediterranean, Admiralty.

Consequent upon the decision to limit the number of ships in Alexandria Harbour to 80 from November 1st, MKS and GUS convoys will, after GUS 20 sail in two portions. The Port Said section will sail normally about noon the day before the Alexandria section and the two will join off Shoulder Buoy at 1000.

2. At present no limitation is foreseen, on the number of ships sailing from either Port Said or Alexandria, but it will be important for maximum possible notice to be given of ships sailing from each port.

221242.

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

3. Air. Although hampered by inclement weather our Air Force continued its successful operations. Heavy bombers attacked Rome Airfields and railroad communications along east coast of Italy. Medium bombers attacked bridges, roads and motor transport in Central Italy and in rear of battle area and also marshalling yards and rail installations in Yugoslavia. Light bombers attacked gun positions and motor transport in battle area while fighter bombers concentrated on strafing trains and motor movements. Fighters continued to patrol battle positions.

4. Enemy.

8th Army Front. No material change. Enemy main positions covered by strong adv. elements generally west of Petacciato, Montecilfone, Lucito, Limosano, San Stefano, Campobasso and Vinchiatturo. Reserves or replacements believed arriving area Pescara.

5th Army Front. Enemy continues very slow withdrawal recently somewhat accelerated on Army right Flank where Allied Salient threatens turning movement. Enemy fighting strong local counter attacks. Considerable demolitions.

5. Political significant passages of decrees of French committee of National liberation now in effect follow.

(i) The French Committee of National Liberation is the Agency of Government. It insures general direction of war, disposes of the land sea and air forces determines general policy and formulates directive for action in every field of activity.

(ii) From date Gen. Giraud assumes effective Command of Forces in operation he will cease to exercise his functions as President of the French Committee of National Liberation.

(iii) Within the scope of the directives of the French Committee of National Liberation, the Committee for National Defense determines the general plans concerning the organization distribution and use of French Forces.

(iv) The Commander in Chief is appointed by decree adopted by the French Committee of National Liberation. He exercises direct Command over the Forces which are placed at his disposal for operations by the Committee, and insures with Allied high Command necessary Liaison for this purpose.

No. T.O.O.

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (2).
D.F.S.L.
5th S.L.
D.C.N.A.E.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F).
A.C.N.S. (A) (2).
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2).
U.W.R.
A.C.N.S. (W).
P.A.S. (8).
Capt. Pim

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

Distribution by War Office.
H.Q.E.T.O.U.S.A. Brig. Jacob.
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C.O.H.Q. Can. Mil. H.Q.
W.O. Depts.

Rec'd in War Reg. 250912.

D.P.D. W.D.
C.N.I. Ad. Blako.
Hd. of M. (2). D.A.W.T.

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22.10.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

M.B.51A. Arrived LAUNCESTON, WILLIAM VAN DER ZAAAN
escorting M.B.51A.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 220421Z to Admty)

H.Q. Ships Naval Commander Eastern Expeditionary Force
for anxious to obtain for operation three S.N.L.O.
Personnel H.Q. ships to carry officers and 60 personnel and
etc. about 100 tons stores 14 knots preferred but
can accept ten knots. Have suggested that view
general shortage coasters preferable employ
L.S.T.S. which possibility Navy now investigating.
Meantime request your views of this employment for three out
of SHENKING, MINGSANG, ESANG, WOSANG.
(P.S.T.O. India, 220500Z to D. of S.T. (R) A.P.S.T.O.India.)

M.B.51. Arrival CALCUTTA, NETRAVATI, CUTTACK escorting
M.B.51.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 220521Z to Admty.)

ATHELMERE. Cancel para. 2 of my 160442 regarding retention
of SEPIA at Seychelles. SEPIA is sail in
accordance with my 311320 August.
(2) ATHELMERE is available for providing fuelling
facilities.
(3) Request N.O.I.C.Seychelles remarks on retention of
ATHELMERE when pipeline has been moved.
(C. in C. E.F. 220832Z to F.O.E.Af., Kilindini, (R) N.O.I.C.
Seychelles, Admty.)

U/B Japanese: One in narrow of Mozambique Channel.
Disposition One either still in Socotra area or returning to
No.33. base.
One off Calicut by D/F 17th.
German: One in Gulf of Oman by attack ATHELVIKING
21st.
One off Calicut by D/F probably one that attacked
BRITISH PURPOSE 20th.
One or 2 others unfixed in area between Laccadive Is. Maldive Is.
Bombay and Ceylon.
(C. in C. E.F. 220858Z to E.F. 392Y)

BRITISH My 201920. Ship was BRITISH PURPOSE now at
PURPOSE Cochin with damaged bow requiring complete dis-
torpedoed charge of cargo before vessel can proceed to
20th. repair port. N.O.I.C.Madras inform local M. of
W.T. Representative.
(C. in C. E.F. 220944Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F.
(S.E.A.C.) N.O.I.C.Madras.)

Re-organisation /...

705

22.10.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

Re-organisa-
tion of
Command in
India and
S.E. Asia.

Your 151127Z. Proposals are generally
concurrent in subject to following remarks.
(W.D. Note: Following is the most important)
Para. 4: The proposal to appoint Vice C. in C. not
concurrent in.
(1st S.L. 221315A to C. in C. E.F.)

German
survivor
from U/B.

Your 201621. Directorate Prisoners of War,
War Office, is making arrangements for prisoner
to be flown to U.K. for interrogation at earliest
convenient opportunity.
(D.N.I. 221528A to S.N.O. P.G. (R) C. in C. E.F.
(S.E. A.C.))

French
Participation
in defence
of
Madagascar.

A.X.238 22 Oct. M.E. signal A.122 19th and
East Africa signal A.196 18th.
(2) Our policy is as follows.
(A) All Naval and Military defences of Diego
Suarez and Tulear to be retained for the present
under British control.
(B) Air Bases for R.A.F. and R.N. including
facilities for flying boats in the vicinity of
Diego Suarez and Tulear to be maintained as British bases and
require British garrisons.
(C) We must also reserve right to construct and control any
additional bases or facilities which may be necessary for future
G.R. operations.
(Air Min. 221641 to H.Q.R.A.F. M.E. (R) H.Q. East Africa.)

Smoke
Screening.

Your 010922Z. W.O. has nominated Capt. C.J.M.
Fletcher, R.E. who is taking up appointment
G.H.Q. India to proceed by air via Ceylon. He
is well qualified to carry out advisory duties
required in connection with smoke screening
Trincomalee.
(D. of L.D. 221859A to C. in C. Ceylon, (R)
C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.), C. in C. E.F., Arminia,
G.O.C. Ceylon, W.O.)

HELVIG.

Ref. A.M.131405 August 1943. HELVIG has been
delayed and will not leave U.K. until about middle
of Nov. 1943.
(2) HELVIG will arrive with 192 L Mk.II mines,
2 control Stations fitted with P.V.A. equipment and 12 fitted
mine loops ready for laying operations.
(D.T.M. 222336A to C. in C. E.F., (R) F.O. Ceylon)

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22.10.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Convoys
C.U.5 and
C.U.6
routing.

This is Cominch's 211833 addressed to Comnavu
Return of convoys C.U.5 and C.U.6 via Aruba
Curacao hereby cancelled. Return direct to New
York after discharge in U.K.
(Comnavu, 220129Z to Admty.)

U/B
attack.

Submarine attack reported in 24.15 N. 80.42 W.
at 1015 G.C.T.
(Kingston, 220715R to Admty.)

CELERITY.

Comnorwesseafron sail CELERITY when ready about
25th Seattle to San Pedro via Esquimalt,
Comwesseafron route onward to Canal Zone.
Compaseafron sail to Bermuda for working up.
Endurance 6,000 miles at 14 knots. Action advise routeing
instructions including times of departure various ports.
(Cominch, 221315 to C.N.W.S.F.)

U.S.S/M.
Estimate.

(Cominch, 221550Z)

GULFLAND,
GULFBELLE
collision
20th.

GULFZE (?GULFBELLE intended) being towed to
Port Everglades. GULFLAND sank on top of old
wreck and still afire in 027 degs. 00' N. 080
degs. 03' 32 survivors 92 lost. My 211358Z
refers detailed information not available at
present.
(Charleston, 221659Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

Cat
gear
trials.

Experimental station Halifax has developed anti-
homing torpedo device known as Cat gear consisting
of single noise element towed 300 yards astern.
This gear appears to be similar to that being
developed by U.S. Navy. Cat gear is being
issued Canadian escort vessels but ships have
been instructed not to use it in view of Admiralty's opinion
that (?towing of single noise) element is apt to increase danger
to towing ship. This opinion is not shared by R.C.N.
experimental station and presumably not by U.S.N. authorities.
(2) It would be most advantageous if Cat gear were adopted for
reasons concerning production, supply and simplicity of
operation.
(3) Subject to concurrence U.S.N. authorities it is intended
Commander A.F. Piers, R.C.N. make study of experiments carried
out by and equipment developed by U.S.N. You should ascertain
whether such a visit by Commander Piers would be acceptable.
(N.S.H.Q. 221720Z to S.C.N.O. London (R) C. in C. C.N.A.)

ROXBOROUGH.

ROXBOROUGH departed Boston Gate 1300Q/22nd en
route for Halifax speed 15 knots.
Route: Firing 4 rounds from 4 inch guns when 20
miles from point en route.
(C.T.G.02.1, 221745 to C. in C. C.N.A. (R)
N.S.H.Q., Admty. C. in C. W.A., B.A.D., C.E.S.F.
Cominch, Capt. (D) Halifax, ROXBOROUGH)

E.G.4 /...

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22.10.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

- E.G.4. E.T.A. Argentia 1100Z/23rd. BLACKWOOD, BERRY, BAZELY, BURGESS in Company.
(S.O. E.G. 4th, 222003Z to S.O.P.A. Argentia.
(R) F.O.N.F.)
- GEORGETOWN. My 211724 at 0200Z/22nd sailed GEORGETOWN QJA 215 through (C) 046 degs. 15' 052 degs. 00' (D) 047 degs. 30' 051 degs. 49' thence QJA 243 speed 17 knots E.T.A. 1500Z/23rd.
(2) When ready request you sail GEORGETOWN direct to Boston. (C. in C. C.N.A. 222040Z to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C. W.A., Admty., U.S. C.E.S.F., Commandant 1st Naval District, C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Boston, N.S.H.Q. U.S. C.T.F.24)
- GORE. When H.M.S. GORE ready about 30th sail accordance my 191828.
(Cominch, 222110Z to C.E.S.F. (R) British Training Officer, Casco Bay, Cdt. 1st Naval Dst. Boston, Admty. C. in C. Lant, S.B.N.O. W.At. S.O.(Present afloat) Casco Bay, N.S.H.Q.)
- GARDINER. Bermuda arrival.
(S.B.N.O. W.At. 222140Z to Admty.)
- German acoustic torpedo, information for Russia. U.S. Naval Authorities concur in proposals in A.M. 191541.
(B.A.D. 222213Z to Admty. (R) Admiral Fisher Moscow)
- AYLMER. At speed 15 knots H.M.S. AYLMER (BDE 72) departs Boston Gate 0930Q/23 via direct route to Casco. E.T.A. Point X. 1530Q same day.
(C.T.G.02.1, 222222 to S.O.P.A., C.A.S.C.O.)
- MINDFUL. This is re-encypherment of 221945 from N.O.B. Bermuda Action Cominch Info. Com. 8, Cinclant, F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med., Admty., B.A.D. S.B.N.O. W.At. and B.N.L.O. New Orleans.
Through position (A) latitude 32.16 long 64.18 MINDFUL departing Bermuda 1300Z/23 and proceeds accordance touring Cominch 212104 Sept. not to all addressees. Advancing 11 knots. E.T.A. Gibraltar 3rd Nov.
(Radio Washington 222233Z)
- Employment of Italian Cruisers. C.C.S. have today given formal approval to employment of two Italian Cruisers as proposed in your 202342.
(B.A.D. 222237Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

22.10.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

U/B. N.O.B. Guantanamo report submarine sighting
075 degs. 40' W. 018 degs. 07' N. course 30 True.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 222340R to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest Early afternoon R/C Liberator reported convoy
Serial described 2 escort vessels 5 merchant vessels
No.640 including 1 large and covered by 2 aircraft
Oct.21st. 65 miles South New Hanover Northwesterly course.
Probably same force unsuccessfully attacked by
another Liberator later during afternoon further
to North West when convoy described as comprising
8 vessels, including 1 large whaling factory ship 2 medium 3
small merchantmen, 1 destroyer.
(4) Navy Catalina attacked medium size vessel 30 miles South
Kavieng during night hours results uncertain.
(8) Fifty-seven Liberators attacked enemy positions North of
Finschhafen vicinity Satelberg and Waree dropping 221 tons of
heavy bombs destroying practically all buildings target area
and causing numerous fires and explosions.
(9) Ten Beauforts attacked 2 vessels described as light cruisers
off East coast New Ireland forenoon damaging 1 vessel.
1 Beaufort missing.
(10) Four patrol aircraft attacked probably same southbound convoy
comprising 3 or 4 vessels off East Cape, New Ireland before
dawn 20th. 1 vessel reported hit.
(13) 4 barges reported off North West coast Choiseul early
hours 21st on South easterly course 1 of which proceeded
Saigigai. 2 enemy submarines reported this area off Sumai Head
later during morning.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 220620Z)

Overdue HELGA MOLLER due 17th from Colombo has not
Shipping. arrived.
(C.S.W.P.S.F. 220341Z to Admty, Connav, C. in C.
E.F., S.O.(I) Kilindini, (R) Com. 7th Fleet,
N.O.I.C.Fremantle.)
Cancelled - See C.S.W.P.S.F. 240932Z.

Movements. Arrivals Milne Bay 20th, U.S.S. POLARIS.
Departed Fremantle 19th U.S.S. ISABEL.
(A.C.N.B. 221119Z)

MOST SECRET.

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22.10.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 221327A, 221329A)

Submarines Attacked.

Submarine
Attack
and
Sighting
Summary for
24 hours to
0900Z/22.

Para. A. Aircraft attacked U-Boat at 1253/21
in 46 degs. 30' N. 15 degs. 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 221027Z to Cominch)

23.10.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.R.

1. Force 3, consisting of HARRIER (S.O.), SEAGULL, WESTCOTT, and EGLANTINE, left Seidisfjord at 2214A today escorting 4 Russian Minesweepers and 6 Russian M.Ls. for North Russia.

SCHARNHORST,
TIRPITZ.

2. S.B.N.O. North Russia reports that a photographic R/C of Altenfjord today showed that SCHARNHORST with a tanker and 4 destroyers has left Langfjord, but that TIRPITZ with auxiliary vessels and 4 destroyers is still in her former position with oil extending out of Kaafjord.

Operation
"Tunnel".
CHARYBDIS and
LIMBOURNE
sunk.

3. At about 0135 today Force 28, consisting of CHARYBDIS (S.O.), GRENVILLE, ROCKET, LIMBOURNE, TALYBONT, STEVENSTONE and WENSLEYDALE on patrol about 7 miles North of Triagoz Island, was attacked by E-Boats and at 0200 GRENVILLE reported that CHARYBDIS had been torpedoed. Several torpedo-tracks were observed at the same time and CHARYBDIS was hit again and sank. LIMBOURNE was also hit and, after two unsuccessful attempts by TALYBONT to tow her, was sunk by two of our own torpedoes. GRENVILLE, now Senior Officer, had immediately collected and re-formed the remaining ships and, after returning to the scene of action, left the Hunts there to pick up survivors and searched with ROCKET some 12 miles to the westward without result, returning at about 0500 to re-join the Force which left the scene of action at 0630 and returned at 24 knots to Plymouth - no enemy ships having been seen at any time during the operations owing to a heavy rain-squall at the moment of attack. 4 Officers and 103 ratings from CHARYBDIS and 11 Officers and 92 ratings from LIMBOURNE were picked up, but the Captain of CHARYBDIS, and 4 U.S. Officers embarked are missing.

Capt. G.A.W. Voelcker

L.C.I.(L)
309 sunk.
L.C.I.(L)
185 damaged.

4. The S.O. of 7 Landing Craft homeward bound in the Biscay area reported at 2005A today that L.C.I.(L) 309 had been bombed and sunk by A/C at 1410 in 47° 04' N. 13° 55' W; and at 2350A reported again that his own craft L.C.I.(L) 185 had sustained damage and required immediate assistance.

23.10.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

Landing
Craft.

5. Flight N. consisting of 10 L.C.G. (L)s and 8 L.C.Fs. with LAUREL, CLYNE CASTLE, BURKE and SALVONIA, left Gibraltar at 0900A for Milford Haven.

South Atlantic.

6. SS. CAMPOS, Brazilian, was torpedoed and sunk at 1100 in 24.07 S. 45.50 W. about 180 miles S.W. of Rio de Janeiro. She had left Rio yesterday on the coastal route for Rio Grande.

Mediterranean.

CROMARTY
sunk.

7. While sweeping in the Western Approaches to the Strait of Bonifacio, between Corsica and Sardinia. CROMARTY was mined and sunk at 1124 today. Her C.O. was seriously wounded. The Commander M/S, Maddalena, was killed. (p. 772)

Aegean,
Leros.

8. (a). SEVERN reported this morning that she had disembarked all except petrol at Leros. Berthing is difficult and unloading facilities poor and require improvising unless floating cranes are repaired. Italian labour is efficient but disappears during raids, when no boat crews are available to tow away lighters or assist in unberthing.

(b). JERVIS, PATHFINDER, HURWORTH and ADRIAS discharged stores into Leros last night. There was no enemy interference, but the destroyers were flared on leaving.

(c). PHOEBE, 2 Fleets and 4 Hunts left Alexandria this morning for the Aegean. The Fleets carried 400 troops for Leros.

(d). The first Italian submarine with stores for Leros left Beirut this morning.

(e). During the period from 14th Oct. until today, destroyers have landed by night 267 personnel and 160 tons of supplies and ammunition.

/(f)...

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23.10.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Aegean,
Leros.
(Contd.)

(f). COMMANDANT DOMINE attacked a very good asdic contact in 33.22 N. 34.21 E. (time not stated) and is remaining in the vicinity.

(g). 2 Wellington bombers attacked the harbour at Syros, scoring hits on warehouse buildings. 5 attacks by enemy aircraft on Leros were reported today.

Samos was attacked for the first time by 5 Ju.88s their target being shipping in Port Tigani, but no damage was caused.

East Indies.

9. The Greek SS. FANEROMENI, from Mombasa to Durban, was torpedoed and sunk at 0625 in 15.35 S. 41.10 E. in the Mozambique Channel.

U/B attacked. 10. An aircraft reports that a U-Boat was attacked by an escort of Convoy A.P.49 at 2335Z in 22.36 N. 60.08 E. and an oil patch was seen. (see also 24th Oct.) (Subsequently assessed H. see

C. CEP 0708462 Dec. 1943.)

America & West Indies.

Refits.

11. WARSPITE is to be refitted at Portsmouth Navy Yard, Norfolk, Vir. UGANDA and CLEOPATRA can be accepted for refit in U.S.A.

12. The French cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES, after refit left Norfolk, Va. today for Gibraltar via Bermuda.

23.10.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

13. A Liberator attacked a 4 ship convoy 36 miles west of Buka before dawn today and claims 3 direct hits on a carrier type vessel during a surprise attack.

14. A Liberator bombed and strafed a small enemy tender unloading in a lagoon at Greenwich Island this forenoon, probably damaging the vessel. 2 other Liberators detailed to complete the attack failed to locate the target.

War Diary.

23.10.1943.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

18th and
15th
M/S.F.
exchange.

In order to effect exchange outlined in Admiralty 221534, propose following movements. (C. in C. H.F. 231207A to C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Rosyth.)

North
Russia
Personnel.

Foreign Office Telegram N.B.90 21st. Urgency of additional staff and reliefs for North Russia has been fully appreciated and acted upon by Foreign Secretary with whom I have had several meetings. It was one of main issues discussed at his first meeting with

Molotov and then with Stalin and these discussions have been most encouraging.

(2) Minor vexations have been put forward but not yet in detail. In his message to Prime Minister, Stalin agreed to permit censorship of service mails by British Authorities on basis of reciprocity but arrangement remains to be settled definitely. (Ad. Fisher, 231220C to Admty.)

SEARCHER,
EMPEROR,
PURSUER.

A.M.111915 and 150453. SEARCHER, EMPEROR, and PURSUER are required to be in all respects ready for operational service by 1st January, 1944. (D.O.D.(H), 231901A to F.O.C.T)

Movements.

ROYAL
SOVEREIGN.

C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail ROYAL SOVEREIGN escorted by INVER and FINDHORN to Rosyth.

(D.O.D.(H), 230126A to C. in C. W.A.)

Arrived Clyde ROYAL SOVEREIGN escorted by INVER

and FINDHORN.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 231358A to C.T.F.24)

Intend to sail ROYAL SOVEREIGN escorted by FINDHORN and INVER for Rosyth at 1145A/24. E.T.A. May Island 0900A/26. Admiralty 230126A refers.

(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 231716A to C. in C. Rosyth)

TEAZER,
OBEDIENT.

In view of damage casualties, I regret I have no option but sail TEAZER to Gibraltar to comply with Admiralty's 222315. On completion intend TEAZER be sailed to Plymouth in accordance with my 082346A para. 1(B).

(R.A.D. 231024 to Admty.)

Admty. 222315. R.A.D. H.F. is requested to sail OBEDIENT and TEAZER for Gib. leaving Scapa 2000A/24th Oct.

(2) Route, S.O.A. 17 knots.

(3) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail ROCKET to R/V with OBEDIENT, TEAZER in 045 degs. 40' N. 016 degs. 01' W. at 0800A/27th Oct.

(4) Expect destroyers will arrive Gib. early p.m. 29th. It is requested they may remain 24 hours in harbour before sailing for U.K.

(C. in C. H.F. 231447A to R.A.D. H.F.)

RANGER /...

War Diary.

23.10.1943.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

RANGER. C.T.F.121 is requested to proceed to Rosyth in RANGER passing Hoxa Gate at 2000A/24. Route via War Channels, speed to be adjusted to pass Oxcars Gate at 0800A/25th.
(2) Ship is to be ready to sail for Scapa p.m. November 4th.
(3) R.A.D. is requested to sail FORREST and CORRY as screen. Destroyers to remain at Rosyth until p.m. 29th October when C. in C. Rosyth is requested to sail them for Scapa.
(C. in C. H.F. 231147A to C.T.F.121)

MIDDLETON, Request you sail MIDDLETON for Hvalfiord after
SPEEDWELL. departure of C.S.1 from Akureyri.
SPEEDWELL should be sailed for Scapa on completion of the escort duty referred to in your 211310.
(C. in C. H.F. 231157A and 231707A to A.C.I.C.)
Your 231157. In view of A.M.221050 sailing of SPEEDWELL and CULPEPPER has been postponed 48 hours.
(A.C.I.C. 231903A to C. in C. H.F.)

S/M Positions of S/M's at 0800A/24 and movements
Movements. for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S.231613A, 232258A, 241147A)

RESOLUTION. RESOLUTION with TANATSIDE, ALBRIGHTON, and LA COMBATTANTE arrived Needles 1726A/23rd.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 231754A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Seven Sailing SAVAGE, SCORPION, SCOURGE, SAUMAREZ,
Destroyers MUSKETEER, MAHRATTA, MATCHLESS to Skaalefiord
for E.T.A. 0800A/24th.
Skaalefiord. (R.A.D. H.F. 231903A to N.O.I.C.Faeroes)

MILNE. Seidisfiord, departure at 1402A/23 Capt. (D) 3rd D.F. in MILNE. E.T.A. Faeroes 0930A/24.
(A.C.I.C. 232234A to N.O.I.C. Faeroes)

Operations.

Operation Two unknown vessels bearing 270 degs. 6 miles,
"Tunnel". 098 degs. 3 miles from KK.
CHARYBDIS (CHARYBDIS, 230135 to Devonport Wave Guard)
and CHARYBDIS and ROCKET torpedoed. TALYBONT in
LIMBOURNE company. My position 090 degs. KK3.
sunk. (GRENVILLE, 230200A to Admt.)
CHARYBDIS hit by torpedo. Destroyer force scattered. Not in touch with own force. Am endeavouring to regain contact. My position 330 degs. KK 4.
(WENSLEYDALE, 230200 to Devonport Wave Guard.
Rept. C. in C. Plymouth)

CHARYBDIS /...

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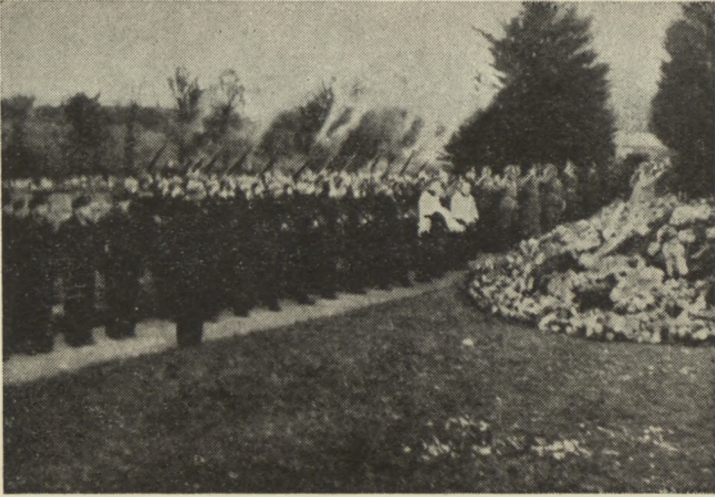
23.10.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation "Tunnel". CHARYBDIS and one destroyer hit, believed torpedoed, and not in contact. My position 330 JJ 9. CHARYBDIS and LIMBOURNE sunk. (Contd.) (ROCKET, 230215A to C. in C. Plymouth) LIMBOURNE in position 270 degs. KK one. My P.C.S. 030 degs. KK 3, 23 knots. (GRENVILLE, 230231 to WENSLEYDALE) My P.C.S. 328 KK, 065 degs. 25. (ROCKET, 230235 to GRENVILLE) CHARYBDIS and LIMBOURNE hit by E-Boats torpedoes.

Consider both sunk. Heavy rain. TALYBONT, STEVENSTONE in Company. As E-Boat probably waits by wreck should survivors be searched for. My position now is 030 degs. KK 10 miles. (GRENVILLE, 230245A to C. in C. Plymouth) My P.C.S. 030 KK 14, 270 degs. 15. Propose searching for survivors at daylight. Request fighter protection. (GRENVILLE, 230300 to C. in C. Plymouth, (R) Force 28) All ships now in company. Am closing to search for survivors. P.C.S. 356 degs. KK 13 miles reduced 24 knots. (GRENVILLE, 230323A to C. in C. Plymouth) Concentrate forces and then sweep to westward in search of enemy. (C. in C. Plymouth, 230330A to GRENVILLE, Admty.) If no contact with enemy by 0430 at your discretion search through position KK for survivors but leave area by 0530. Fighter protection ordered for dawn. (C. in C. Plymouth, 230347A to GRENVILLE) (Corrupt group) steer to pick up survivors CHARYBDIS and LIMBOURNE in 345 degs. JJ 7. GRENVILLE and ROCKET covering and sweeping westward (Corrupt Groups) hope to leave at 0500 speed 24 knots. (GRENVILLE 230350 to Devonport Wave Guard, (R) C. in C. Plymouth) Expect 4 Beaufighters as escort from 0645 followed by Spitfires at first light. (C. in C. Plymouth, 230427A to GRENVILLE) If not under way at about 8 knots by 0500 sink LIMBOURNE. (GRENVILLE 230431 to TALYBONT (R) C. in C. Plymouth) Form on me at 0600, course and speed 340 degs. 24 knots. Leave Carley floats. (GRENVILLE, 230545 to Devonport Port, Wave Guard Call Sign 2 NLR) P.C.S. Force 28, 077 degs. KK5 340 degs. 24 knots. Expect to arrive Boom 1010. (GRENVILLE, 230630 to C. in C. Plymouth) Your position by Plot at 0843 221 degs Eddystone 10. Position of Force 28 at 0855 148 degs. Eddystone 23. (C. in C. Plymouth, 230902A to RESOLUTION) At about 0135/23 Force 28 consisting of CHARYBDIS (S.O), GRENVILLE, ROCKET, LIMBOURNE, TALYBONT, STEVENSTONE and WENSLEYDALE were proceeding on a Westerly course at 14 knots about 7 miles North of Triagoz Island when CHARYBDIS obtained Radar contact with two units about 9,000 yards almost right ahead. CHARYBDIS opened fire with Star Shell but before these burst she was torpedoed amidships on the port side. A number of torpedoes were observed by the remaining ships of the Force and CHARYBDIS was hit again on the port side further aft and sank quickly. LIMBOURNE was hit on the port side forward very shortly afterwards the bows being blown off.

Jan 1959

Guernsey Does Not Forget



[This is a print of a film taken by an amateur at the time

1943

The bodies of those who lost their lives in H.M.S. *Charybdis* and H.M.S. *Limbourne* are buried with full military honours by the German Army of Occupation. The Service was conducted by Rev. W. Kilshaw.

THE fifteenth anniversary of the sinking of H.M.S. *Charybdis* and H.M.S. *Limbourne* off Guernsey fell in November last. As in previous years a Memorial Service was held in the cemetery where 20 gallant sailors were buried in 1942 with full military honours by the German forces then in occupation of the island. The service in 1958 was conducted by the Rev. W. Wilshaw, who took the service in the dark days of 1942 and has taken it every year since, with one exception due to illness.

But though the Memorial Service to the gallant men who died is the focal point, the whole week-end has now

become an annual event in Guernsey. Men of the Royal Navy come ashore from a Guard Ship supplied by the C-in-C, Portsmouth, not only to be official mourners at the cemetery, but also to take part in lighter-hearted events, such as an Annual Dinner and Dance and a football match against a team recruited from the islanders. The proceeds of this match are always given to King George's Fund for Sailors.

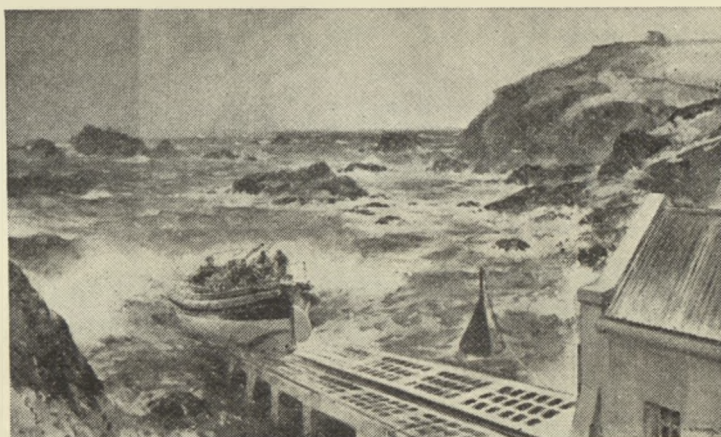
This year H.M.S. *Starling* was the Guard Ship. *Starling*, was under the command, during the war, of the late Captain F. J. Walker, C.B., D.S.O. and three bars. He was responsible for the destruction of 14 U-boats.



[Guernsey Press Co. Ltd.]

1958

The fifteenth *Charybdis* and *Limbourne* Memorial Service held last November. The Service was again conducted by Rev. W. Kilshaw. With him in the photograph are Rev. Flint (white surplice), Methodist, and Senior Major Reynolds, Salvation Army.



The Lizard Life-boat

New Life-Boat Station

THE Royal National Life-boat Institution proposes to establish a life-boat station at Kilcobben Cove in Cornwall, its aim being to amalgamate at this point the existing life-boat stations at Cadgwith and the Lizard. Kilcobben Cove lies half way between these two stations and is a mile and a quarter east of the Lizard Lighthouse.

Careful visual and instrumental observations made at Kilcobben Cove during the past winter and spring have shown that it will be possible to launch at this point a life-boat of the largest class, the 52-foot Barnett type, in any weather and at any state of tide, and that conditions will normally be favourable for re-housing. The life-boats now stationed at Cadgwith and the Lizard are 35-ft. 6-in. and 41-ft. in length respectively and, in certain conditions, launching from both these

stations can be most hazardous; re-housing is also frequently difficult. A 52-foot life-boat has greater range and more powerful engines and gives protection and comfort to the crew.

The Life-boat Institution is applying to the local authorities for the necessary consents and, if these are granted, tenders will be invited for the constructional work, which cannot begin before the spring of 1959. It is hoped that the bulk of this work will be carried out by local labour.

The Lifeboat Duke of York

As a footnote it is interesting to recall that in 1934 the Lizard Life-boat — *Duke of York* — was presented to the Royal National Life-boat Institution by King George's Fund for Sailors which makes an annual grant towards its maintenance.

Liverpool Film Premiere of "Passionate Summer"

THANKS to the kindness of Lady Sefton, Chairman of the Liverpool Ladies' Committee, Lord Rank very generously granted the Liverpool Committee the privilege of having the Merseyside Premiere of the film "Passionate Summer" which was shown at the Odeon Theatre on the evening of 30th October.

It was a gala evening at which Lady Sefton, accompanied by Mrs. Ingram Legge, Vice-Chairman of the Ladies' Committee, received the Guest of Honour, Admiral Sir William Tennant, K.C.B., M.V.O., who arrived at the theatre accompanied by Com. D. J. Beckley, D.S.O., D.S.C., R.N., Liverpool Liaison Officer. After inspecting the Guard of Honour, drawn from the Liverpool Sea Cadet Corps under their Commanding Officer, Lt.-Com. R. H. Derbyshire, Admiral Tennant and Lady Sefton then received the guests from the Mariners' and Widows' Homes at Wallasey, who together with the Matrons had been invited for the evening. During the performance the film of the Fund, "Safe Anchorage" was shown, and was unanimously accorded great praise by everyone present.

The stage was decorated by a large scale model of the Crest, banked by flowers, which made an impressive setting for Lady Sefton as she welcomed the audience and introduced Admiral Sir William Tennant, who

acknowledged the splendid work done on behalf of the Fund by the Liverpool Committee, and thanked all those present for their support.

After the performance a small private reception was given by Lady Sefton in the Ballroom of the Odeon, to which were invited the Committee and Patrons as well as the Retired Mariners and the Widows from the Mariners' Homes.

Very warm thanks are given to the Manager of the Odeon, Mr. C. H. Dracott, and his Staff for the valuable assistance which they gave; to Mr. John Furness of Forbes Keir Ltd., for his valuable help in compiling and producing the programme, and to the attractive W.R.N.S. and the models from Lucy Clayton's School who sold the programmes; to the Chairman and members of the Liverpool Watch Committee by whose permission the Liverpool Police Band played such appropriate music; to the Chairman and members of the Liverpool Parks and Gardens Committee for the beautiful floral decorations which graced the foyer and stage; to David Allen and Sons Ltd., for so kindly displaying the posters, and last but by no means least, the many kind friends who supported the Committee by their presence and their donations and by so readily responding to the appeal for advertisers for the Programme, thus enabling it to make a handsome profit for the Fund. (continued column 1)

23.10.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation
"Tunnel".
CHARYBDIS
and
LIMBOURNE
sunk.
(Contd.)

No enemy ship was seen by any of our Force who became scattered as a heavy rain squall came down and reduced visibility. GRENVILLE now Senior Officer collected and reformed the surviving ships and returned to the scene of action leaving the Hunts to pick up survivors while he searched 10 or 12 miles to the westward with ROCKET, returning to the rest of the Force at about 0500. LIMBOURNE was found to be still afloat and TALYBONT made two attempts to tow her which were unsuccessful and she finally had to be sunk by two torpedoes. After picking up survivors the Force left the scene of action at 0630 and returned at 24 knots to Plymouth. It is deeply regretted that the Captain of the CHARYBDIS is missing. Survivors were picked up as follows:
CHARYBDIS 4 Officers including Commander, 103 Ratings.
LIMBOURNE 11 Officers including Captain, 92 Ratings.
It is also regretted that four American other ranks who were embarked are also missing.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 231606A to Admty. etc.)

? cf.
p. 710.

Bay
Patrol.
U-Boat
Attacked.

Have A.S.V. contact - probably U-Boat.
(A/C Duty X. 230429 to 19 Group)
No enemy sighted in area.
(A/C Duty K, No. T.O.O/23 to 19 Group.
Recd. 230447)
There are indications that F.W. 200 aircraft are active in Biscay area.
(D.D.I.C. 230928A to Escorts K.M.S.30, M.K.S.27, BERMUDA.)

An over enemy S/M in 43 degs. 32' N. 8 degs. 54' W. S/M was sighted on surface and observed to submerge.
(A/C 179 Sqdn. Duty B. 232118A to A.K.8)

S/M previously reported when first sighted was on course 240 degs. estimated speed 10 knots.

(A/C 179 Sqdn. Duty B. 232133A to Gibraltar.)

Have attacked U-Boat with depth-charges. Remaining until 2200.

(A/C 179 Sqdn. Duty B. 232140A to A.K.8)

Operation
F.Q.
"Locomotive"
personnel.

Seidisfiord Operation at 0600A/23, TUSCALOOSA, ONSLAUGHT, FITCH.

(2) TUSCALOOSA E.T.A. Greenock 0800A/25.

TUSCALOOSA's 222012 refers.

(A.C.I.C. 231246A to N.O.I.C. Greenock)

Request you will arrange for disposal of

"Locomotive" personnel on arrival as follows:

(A) Army personnel (about 70) to Norwegian Camp, St. Andrews.

(B) Remainder (about 20) to London.

(D.O.D.(H), 231635A to F.O.I.C.Greenock, (R) TUSCALOOSA.)

Operation /...

718

War Diary.23.10.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.Operation
S.F.FRASERBURGH, HUSSAR, BOOTLE, LLANDUDNO, LYME
REGIS 063 degs. 35', 014 degs. 22' to North
at 232101A.
(A.C.I.C. 231306A to Ships.)Coastal
Patrols.

(1) Orders for night 23rd/24th October.
 (A) 3 M.G.Bs to patrol 10 miles southward of
 convoy route between C.3 and C.2 buoys between
 1930A and 0001A covering C.E.216.
 (B) Chasseurs V. 41 patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between
 F and E.A. 5 buoys.
 (C) M.L.344 immediate notice St. Helens.
 (D) TANATSIDE, LA COMBATTANTE, ALBRIGHTON immediate notice
 Yarmouth.
 (E) M.G.B.8, 13, 7 patrolling 50 degs. 15' N. between 02 degs.
 10' W. and 02 degs. 35' W.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 231422A)
 Patrols 23rd Oct. (1) Force 111. M.T.Bs.415 (S.O),
 431, 434 are to patrol in vicinity 115 Start 20.
 (2) Force 112. M.T.Bs.430 (S.O) 416 are to patrol in vicinity
 160. Start 15.
 (4) Force 113 M.T.Bs. 677 (S.O.) 673 M.G.B. 322 are to patrol
 in vicinity 180 Eddystone 8.
 (6) Forces are to be on patrol by 2030, leave patrol for
 Dartmouth 0630A/24.
 (7) Attention is drawn to Q.Z.X.1095.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 231500A)

S/M
Patrols.

Positions of submarines at 0800A/24 and movements
 for following 24 hours.
 (A) SEADOG, TANTIVY as in my 221704.
 (E) O.23 43 degs. 15' N. 13 degs. 22' W. to the
 northward, diving by day, S.O.A.130 miles in
 24 hours.
 (F.O.S. 231613A to Admty.)

Operation
F.R.

Seidisfiord (I) Departure Force 3 HARRIER (S.O.
 M/Flot), SEAGULL, WESTCOTT, EGLANTINE.
 (2) Russian Minesweepers A.M.141(S.O) 138, 140
 and 142. Russian M.L. S.C.719, 1073, 1283,
 1284, 1285 and 1286.
 (A.C.I.C. 232214A to H.F.)

Allied Air Activity.R/C's
requested.

Request immediate P.R.U. of Brest and St. Malo
 and of Cherbourg p.m. today.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 230649 to Admty.)
 Request P.R.U. of Le Havre and Dieppe today to
 locate enemy merchant shipping.
 (D.D.I.C. 230825A to A.D.I.Ph)
 Request P.R.U. of Brest, St. Malo and Cherbourg
 p.m. today.
 (D.D.I.C. 230929A to A.D.I.Ph.)

23.10.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Q.Z.X.1095. (1) Today have reached line joining positions
(A) 50 degs. 24' N. 2 degs. 33.5' W.
(B) 50 degs. 21' N. 2 degs. 52.5' W.
(C) 50 degs. 15' N. 3 degs. 23.7' W.

Exploded one G.R. mine in 50degs. 22.3 N. 2 degs. 5.1 W.
(M/S.9 231011A to C. in C. Plymouth)

(1) M.S.F. 9th's 102236A. Triangular area completed.
Area to the south of line joining the following positions now
cleared: A. 050 degs. 22' 30" N. 002 degs. 33' 24" W.
B. 050 degs. 14' 00" N. 003 degs. 23' 06" W.
(M/S.16, 231901A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Enemy Intelligence.

4 M/V's Result of attack on convoy off Norwegian Coast
reported October 4th.
sunk Further to my 121126 October.
on 4th Following further ships have been reported sunk.
October. (a) German Cargo Vessel Southbound sunk while
LA PLATA seeking port at Donne.
damaged. (b) Large vessel carrying war material and troops
off Rodoy 66 degs. 41' N. 13 degs. 05' E.
About 200 Germans reported drowned.
(c) German Tanker of about 10000 tons off
Fleinvaer (57degs. 10' N. 13 degs. 45' E.
(d) Norwegian Tug or Salvage Vessel DRAUGEN 183 tons. Position
not stated.
(2) Following reported damaged; two or three large vessels
including German LA PLATA 8056 tons and large Refrigerator
vessel sunk or damaged in Bodo Harbour.
Graded B.2.
(N.A.Stockholm, 231116 to Admty.)

SCHARNHORST, P.R. today shows SCHARNHORST, Auxiliary Tanker,
TIRPITZ. and Destroyers have left head of Langford.
TIRPITZ position unchanged (?one) small vessel
alongside starboard side and oil extending out
Kaafiord. Auxiliaries present in Kaafiord as
reported in my 091701. Also 4 destroyers.
(2) Photographs give full coverage of anchorages except
East 22.30 E. in Langfiord where visual reported no shipping
seen.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 231913A to Admty. (R) C. in C. H.F.
V.A.2, H.Q.C.C.)

Cruiser. 1 Cruiser (type uncertain) bearing 225 degs.
7 miles course 160 degs. 53 degs. 27' N. 05 degs.
14' W.
(Unknown, 232115 to Unknown)

720

War Diary.23.10.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

U-Boats Am joining A/C attacking S/M bearing 020 degs.
Attacked. 15 miles. My position at 1130A 057 degs. 30' N.
027 degs. 29' W.
(B.7, 231120Z to C. in C. W.A.)
Attacked suspected U-Boats contact with depth
charges 221310 055 degs. (34'?) N. 013 degs. 02' 30" W.
One single charge and 2 10 charge patterns dropped. No
wreckage observed. Contact lost after 2nd attack. COOKE
ordered to rejoin screen 1349.
(COOKE 232241 to Admty)

Casualties and Defects.

JOHN CHAR- JOHN CHARRINGTON was in collision with TULLY
RINGTON. CROSEY during the night. Degaussing out of
action but otherwise seaworthy. Ordered remain
with rear of convoy. Can she proceed to London?
(ST. MARY's 230952A to C. in C. Nore.)

HALCYON. Due to failure of diesel air compressor engine
on trial sailing date will be delayed
approximately 7 days.
(N.O.I.C.Tees, 231455A to Admty.)

BEGUM. Arrived BEGUM in tow of Tug AIMWELL.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 231834A to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys.

T.A.69. Sailed QUEEN ELIZABETH in accordance with
my 211034A.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 230014 to Admty.)

Re-patriation Following received. Position of ATLANTIS,
Ships. EMPRESS OF RUSSIA and DROTTNINGHOLM at 0200 G.M.T.
58.25 N. 03.53 E.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 230330A to Admty.)
Your 221811. Positions are being received in
Admiralty and no further action is proposed.
(Head of M.1, 232158A to N.A. Stockholm)

K.X.11. (1) K.X.11. (2) 0830A/23. (3) 12 including
5 specials 2 tankers.
Names and destinations.
(4) 6 kites.
(N.C.S.O.Milford Haven, 230912)

Admiralty 092026. Sailed K.X.11 routed as in Admiralty 131501A.
Speed 6½ knots. Escorts BALINDERRY and HONESTY.
(2) TEES sailing to overtake convoy on completion of repairs.
BICESTER joining after fuelling at Falmouth as S.O., C. in C.
W.A. 181916A refers.
(3) MINER (MWZR) sailing in convoy.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 231125 to F.O.C. Gibraltar)

23.10.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

H.X. 261.
E.G.5.

Part company from H.X.261 fast on crossing 015 degs. W. and proceed at best speed to Merville.

(2) H.X.261 fast to continue unescorted to 007 degs. W. thence independently. Instruct

BAJAMAR to break off on crossing 010 degs. W.
(C. in C. W.A. 231038A to E.G.5)

L.C.I.(L)
309 sunk.
L.C.I.(L)
185
damaged.

Enemy A/C shadowing position 046 degs. 22' N.
013 degs. 55' W.

(S.O.L.C.231120A to C. in C. Plymouth)

One enemy A/C shadowing "Bonbon" bearing 270 degs. distant 3 miles, 46.50 N. 13.22 W. course 000 degs. speed 8 knots.

(N.G.C.S. Block 6, 231235 to Whitehall W/T)

L.C.I.309 bombed in 47.10 13.55 W. Am picking

up survivors.

(L.C.I.L.185, 231410 to Whitehall W/T)

L.C.I.309 bombed in 047 degs. 04' N. 013 degs. 55' W.

Stern last seen afloat. Have picked up about 18 survivors.

P.C.S. of convoy at 2000A 047 degs. 38' N. 013 degs. 52' W.

355 degs. 5½ knots.

(L.C.I.185, 232005A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Lost touch with convoy at 2300A. Position 047 degs. 47'

N. 013 degs. 57' W. course 345 degs. 3 knots owing to failure

of steering gear. My P.C.S. at 2330A, 047 degs. 45' N. 013

degs. 52' W. 020 degs. 3 knots. I think my back is broken.

Request immediate assistance.

(L.C.I.185, 232350A to C. in C. Plymouth)

O.N.S.21.

Sailed GATINEAU, KAMLOOPS, CHAMBLY, MORDEN, SACKVILLE, DRUMHELLER, H.M.S. ICARUS, NORTHERN SUN, NORTHERN GEM, SS. BRITISH COLONEL for O.N.S.21.

(Cdre. D. W.A. 231415A to Admty.)

H.X.262.

(1) H.X. 262. (2) October 18th. (3) 1000Z/25th. (4) 9½ knots. (7) 65 ships including rescue ship.

14 tankers sailed.

(D.T.D. 231907A to C. in C. W.A.)

O.N.207.

O.N.207. NELSON, DINGLEY and ECLIPSE are returning Clyde.

(C. in C. W.A. 232359A to Escorts O.N.207)

722

23.10.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

- FENCER. My 191430. FENCER can be released at 0700N/24th. (S.B.N.O.Azores 231025N to Admty.)
- Return of Landing Craft. Flight O. L.C.I.(L) 298, 112, 115, 121, 125, 126, 130, 131, 134, 135, 166, 177, 180, 183, 249, 250, 263, 266, 270, 271, 277, 285, 291, 293, 299, 300, 317 and RHODODENDRON sailed at 1600A/22nd.
2. Routed as in my 191900 para. two through A.B.C. D. thence X. 47, 01, 13, 41, Y. 50.01 10.01 to
- F. All positions north and west. S.O.A. 9 knots.
3. All proceed through Q.Z.S. 433, 432, 429, 297, 184 to Milford Haven.
4. Alternative approach routes to Falmouth and Milford Haven by Irish Territorial waters are held (my 191900 para. 4.)
5. Codeword "Relax". 6. Communications. (F.O.Gibraltar 231212A to Admty. etc.)
Flight N. Sailed L.C.G.(L) 2 (S.O) 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 17, 18 and L.C.F. 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 18 and LAUREL, CLYNE CASTLE, BURKE and H.M.R.T. SALVONIA at 0900A October 23 for Milford Haven.
2. Routed as in my 231212 para. 2, S.O.A. 7 knots.
3. Codeword "Quirk". 4. Communications. (F.O.C.Gibraltar 231552A to Admty. etc.)
- K.M.F.25. My 201626A. K.M.F.25 sailed. (F.O.C.Gibraltar 231313A.)
K.M.F.25, arrival ORBITA. (F.O.C.Gibraltar 231323A.)
- Ponta del Gada. Your 200925 Oct. 220945 Oct. and 220950 Oct. have been passed to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar and C. in C.Med. and C. in C.W.A.
2. S.B.N.O.Azores is requested to include F.O.I.C. Gibraltar in all movement signals.
3. Ref. S.O.E.G. B.4s 221833 Oct. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to co-ordinate arrangements and if practicable to arrange for any escorts fuelling at Ponta del Gada to escort EMPIRE OUTPOST and any other ships ready to sail to Gibraltar.
4. S.B.N.O.Azores pass to S.B.N.O.Ponta del Gada. (D.O.D.(H) 231320A to S.B.N.O.Azores, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, S.O. E.G.B.4.)
- M.K.S.28. Sailed Gibraltar section M.K.S.28. Local escorts ISIS, ANTHONY, VELOX. (F.O.C.Gibraltar 231606A to Admty. etc.)
M.K.S.28, arrivals (list) (8 ships). (F.O.C.Gib. 231626A.)
1. M.K.S.28, sailing telegram (23 ships). 2. 1800A/23. 4. 7½.
6. ISIS, ANTHONY, VELOX, MAN O' WAR. 5. Route. (F.O.Gibraltar 231801A,231803A to Admty.)
- R.S.11. Intend to sail ORBITA to Freetown at 1800A Oct. 24th escorted by MALCOLM. 2. Route. S.O.A. 13½ knots. 3. Codeword "Drain". 4. MALCOLM shifts W/T watch at 0800A Oct. 27th. (F.O.C.Gibraltar 231806A to F.O.C.W.A.)
See F.O.C.W.Af. 241246Z.

/Azores...

723

23.10.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.Azores,
Naval Air
Section.

Desired to establish a Naval Air Section in Azores for storage and maintenance of reserve aircraft and for crating of damaged aircraft from escort carriers operating in that area. Details. (Hd. of Air Br. Approved by A.C.N.S.(H) 232030A to Air Min.)

Spanish
Fishing
Vessels.Reply to Admty. 152221. PYSBE denies allegations. (Statement.)
F. Full report by PYSBE next bag. (N.A.Madrid 232122 to Admty.)South Atlantic.LITIOPA
sunk, 22nd
Oct. ~~ORFSAY~~
missing. 1
ORFASY

My 222356 not to all addressees. LITIOPA torpedoed and sunk in approx. 005° 58' N. 011° 30' W. at 0330Z/22nd. No information of ORFSAY who was escorting. Air search in progress. (F.O.C.W.Af. 230923Z to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Takoradi, N.C.I.C. Lagos.)

My 230923Z. Survivors report. LITIOPA sunk by gunfire from three submarines. ~~ORFSAY~~ was heard dropping depth charges at 0130/22 but was not seen again. 52 survivors so far accounted for. These are at Roberts Port and are being embarked in SNOWDROP for Freetown noon 24th.

(F.O.C.W.Af. 232015Z to Admty.)

Your 232019Z (232015 intended). No survivors from ~~ORFSAY~~ have been recovered.

(SNOWDROP 232330Z to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Capt. D. NESS.)

CARNARVON
CASTLE.

CARNARVON CASTLE should be sailed for U.K. on completion of present operation. Para. 1 of A.M. 111150 is cancelled. (A.C.N.S.(F) 231037A to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) C. in C. Med.)

Routeing.

A.M. 201814. Agree with proposed amendments to "Silver" and "Copper" routes. (F.O.C.W.Af. 231117Z to Admty.)

CORFU, FAL,
CILICIA.1. Intend to (?sail) CORFU and FAL at 1600Z/24th Oct. to patrol on route A. 008° N. 020° W. B. 013° S. 020° W. C. 025° S. 010° W. D. 030° S. 005° W. thence Capetown E.T.A. 0400Z/7th Nov. S.O.A. 13 kts
2. CORFU will be in 005° S. 020° W. at 1200Z/28th

and will there transfer FAL to escort CILICIA.

3. CORFU shifting to South Atlantic W/T organization at 1200Z/29th (F.O.C.W.Af. 231137Z to C. in C.S.A. (R) Admty. Cdr. 4th U.S. Fleet, CILICIA, CORFU.)

/My...

23.10.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

CORFU, FAL,
CILICIA.
(Contd.)

My 231137. After FAL has joined you proceed to patrol in area between position Q. equator 020° W. R. equator 015° W. S. 005° S. 015° W. T. 005° S. 020° W. proceed from patrol through position 008° N. 016° W. to arrive Freetown 1600Z/7th Nov. Report intended speed on patrol.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 231338Z to CILICIA, (R) Admty. U.S. Cdr. 4th Fleet, CORFU.)

CAMBRIA.

Following is a repetition Naval Op. Base Rio 231200 (begins):
CAMBRIA arrived position C. 231330P. (Ends.)
(Cdr. 4th U.S. Fleet 232100 to Admty.)

23.10.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

QUILLIAM, Your 211850.
QUAIL, See A.M. 222315A (N.T. in W.D.). Further signal
QUEENBOROUGH, will be made re fitting of Type 272.
RAIDER. (D.O.D.(F) 230001A to C. in C. Med.).

Italian Question whether Italian SS POZARICA and
SSs. POZARICA, ARGENTINA recovered from Germans should be treated
ARGENTINA. as prizes or under agreement of N.A.F. 381 is
under consideration. Request report any action
you may have taken in respect of these ships.
(Hd. of M.I. 230025A to C. in C. Med.(R) F.O.L.I.).

It. Govt. have been informed that ships are to be
requisitioned by, turned over to C. in C. Med. and fly Italian
flag without prejudice to prize court decision. Italians are
complying. See A.M. 230025A.

(F.O.L.I. 231250A to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.).

It is reported that It. SSs POZARICA, ARGENTINA were taken in
prize and subsequently released for requisition by Italian
Government. Request confirmation of this report. A.M.230025
refers.

(C. in C. Med. 231814A to F.O.L.I. (R) Admiralty).

Enemy 3 medium sized M/Vs. in 37.07 N. 25.22 E. Have
merchant attacked with bombs level. Result of attack
ships. (?unobserved).
(A/C GMX/J 230105Z).

Naples Gulf of Naples 22nd Oct. arrivals.
movements. NUBIAN, MUTINE, M.L.555, 559, U.S.S. SYMBOL.
U.S.R.M.S.21, L.S.T. 301, 413, 435, (455?), 303,
365, 409, 351, (381) H.S. DINARD.
Departures D.19, LAFOREY, M.L.464, H.S. SHAMROCK.
(N.O.i/c Naples, 230501A).
✓ As received.

Gulf of Naples. 23rd Oct. Arrivals - C.T.F. 86, in U.S.S.
BROOKLYN, WHADDON, QUANTOCK, U.S.S. BENSON, NIBLACK, H.M.M.L.
126, CAVA, MORETA, SALVEDA, S.C.651, 691, P.C. 557, A.M.119,
A.M.117, L.S.T.315, 379, 326, 305, 327, 360, 374, 416, 63.
Departures H.M.R.T. FAVOURITE, PIROUETTE, Y.M.S.21, U.S.S. SYMBOL,
L.S.T.301, 413, 435, 303, 365, 409, 381, 402.
(N.O.i/c Naples 232058A).

SEVERN All except petrol disembarked.
conditions (2) With night bombing during moonlight consider
in Leros. disembarking should take place only during period
of total darkness.
(3) Berthing difficult, but booms to S/M base are
being removed. Floating dock sunk. Officers meet ship at outer
boom. Tug available if no raids.
(4) Your 211208 (N.T. in W.D.) safety lane is being established
from waiting position for S/M. to approach within 3 miles of
port by dusk.
(5) Unloading facilities poor and require improvising unless
floating cranes are repaired. F lighter may be available for
unloading. From RORQUAL's (?position): some lighters are

/available...

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SEVERN available.
conditions (6) S.B.N.O. Aegean is forwarding future
in Leros. requirements to C. in C. Levant.
(Contd.). (7) Italian labour efficient and enthusiastic
but disappears during raids when no boat crews
(?are) available to tow away lighters or assist
in unberthing.
(SEVERN 230505C to Capt.(S) 1, (R) C. in C. Levant,
RORQUAL, S.B.N.O. Aegean).

Enemy 4 F-boats in 036 degs. 54' North 027 degs. 22'
F-boats. East. Nil.
(A/C BSZ/D 230824Z to 201 Group H.Q.M.E. Command).

U.G.S.20 Arrivals. 22 ships.
(Com.N.O.B. Oran 230830A).

Lease-lend Your 201220 (N.T. in W.D.) In view of difficulties
B.Y.M.S. which would arise with U.S. over transfer of
lease-lend ships to Allies, it is not desired to
turn over B.Y.M.S. (which are lease-lend) to
Greek Navy.
(2) Request therefore you will submit alternative proposals to
employ crews of obsolete Greek manned minesweepers.
(Head of M.II..(244) 230833A to C. in C. Levant, (R) C. in C.
Med.).

Alexandria Alexandria 22nd. Arrivals, AURORA, DURBAN,
movements. FAULKNOR, PETARD, DULVERTON, MIAOULES, FAREHAM,
M.T.B.313, B.Y.M.S.75, L.C.T.13.
Departures SARKA.
(R.A. Alexandria 230850C).

QUILLIAM, Intend QUILLIAM and QUAIL patrol tonight,
QUAIL. Cattajig to Durazzo.
Request fighter cover from 0530A to 0800A code-
word "Halley" 386 priority normal. P.C. and S.
at 0530A/24th 041 degs. 30' North 018 degs. East (?260 degs) /
25 knots.
Patrol 22nd 23rd nothing met. My 221039A x.
(Capt.(D) 4, 230944A to F.O.T.A. (R) C. in C. Med. N.O.i/c
Lindi, No. 1 M.O.R.U. 286 Wing, N.L.O.8th Army, QUILLIAM, QUAIL).
x could be 129 degs.
x re Italian Motor Vessel ARSIA.

Movement Arrived QUEENBOROUGH, RAIDER, M.T.B.242.
Bari. Sailed QUILLIAM, QUAIL, M.T.Bs. 81, 226.
(N.O.i/c Beirut 231002).

Kaso (1) Following line dividing Kaso Strait is
established; 159 degs. from position 035 degs.

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Kaso Strait (Contd.). 31' 026 degs. 32' for 35 miles.
(2) S/M are to keep west of this line entering Aegean and east when leaving.
(3) (?No) mines have been laid to date in Kaso Strait.
(Capt.(S) 1, 231100C to 1st S/M F. Z.O.E.A. (R) C. in C. Levant, S.O. S/M Haifa).

U-boat disposition. No known change.
(C. in C. Med. 231200A).

Frigates Your 202043 (presumably 202243 intended) re alterations "Frigates".
Taking present Dockyard commitments into consideration 14 days required to carry out alterations.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 231201Z to N.S.H.Q.).

K.M.S.29 Onward route. Escort etc.
(C. in C. Levant, 231209C).

SICKLE Request (P224) SICKLE may be included in K.M.F.25 for Malta and onward routing as ordered by C. in C. Levant.
(Capt.(S) 8, 231220A to N.O.i/c Algiers, (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta).

M.K.F.25 Request you will sail M.K.F.25 at 1600A/27th.
(2) (A) 12½ (B) 14.
(3) Route. (4) Gibraltar 57 at 0300A/29th.
(6) "Harper" 110 high.
(8) PELICAN (S.O.) JED, ROTHER, SPEY, EVENLODE, ULSTER MONARCH.
(10) Outer (A) K to O (B) A to F.
(C. in C. Med. 231229A to N.O.i/c Algiers, F.O.C. Gib.).

E/Vs. for E.F. E.Vs. are to be sailed for Port Said for return to E.F. as follows: GAWLER 24th IPSWICH, completion of boiler cleaning about 27th SUTLEJ on completion of boiler repairs mid November MARYBOROUGH on completion of boiler cleaning about November 7th.
(C. in C. Levant, 231233C, 241223C to R.A.L.,C.O.M.L.A.,(R) Admty. Comm. C. in C.E.F. N.O.i/c Port Said, Comm. Aden, F.O.R.S.C.A.,C. in C. Med.).

TORBAY, SHAKESPEARE. P.221 SHAKESPEARE passing Kaso Strait by day 23rd to relieve you. Leave your area so as to pass.
(A) 035 degs. 06' 026' degs. 44' at 1930C/26th diving by day through Kaso Strait. My 231100 refers. Thence proceed on the surface through
(B) 034 degs. 25' 029 degs. 59' to arrive Beirut 1130C/28th.
(Capt.(S) 1, 231242C to TORBAY, (R) 1st S.F., C. in C. Levant).

/Patrol...

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TORBAY, SHAKESPEARE. (Contd.). Patrol between Mykoni and Nikaria until 2300C/25th after which in accordance with your sailing orders. (Capt.(S) 1, 232301C to SHAKESPEARE, (R) TORBAY).

ABRUZZI, DUCA D'AOSTA Movements of 2 Italian Cruisers to Gib. in accordance with F.O.L.I.'s. 211635 should proceed. (2) Ships are not to be operated outside Med. until approval has been received from C.C.S. (3) Admiralty are requested to communicate approval when received to F.O.C. Gib. repeated to me together with their directions as to nature of trials required and transfer of ships to Freetown area. (C. in C. Med. 231300 to F.O.L.I., F.O.C. Gib., (R) Admty. F.O.C.W.Af.)

French Warships. Cancel my 041716 and my 151842 to Admty. only. Decisions of C.C.S. on French Naval Re-armament contained in C.C.S. 358 now received through Comnavnav and being studied. (C. in C. Med. 231301A to Admty. (R) B.A.D.).

Use of Italian S/Ms for A/S training outside Med. Request you S/Ms. report progress of exploratory discussions in accordance with Admty's. 142035 para.2. (2) It appears certain that there will be a considerable demand. (C. in C. Med. 231302A to F.O.L.I. (R) Admty. C. in C. Levant).

ROCKWOOD, EXMOOR ROCKWOOD has large amount of fuel contaminated with water. As I consider undesirable to have one Hunt acting by herself in Aegean tomorrow am detaching her now with EXMOOR to return Alexandria. (ECLIPSE 231331C to C. in C. Levant, (R) PHOEBE, EXMOOR, R.A. Alexandria, Cdre.(D)).

ECLIPSE 231331. My P.C. and S. 034 degs. 33' North 029 degs. 55' East 184 degs. 17 knots. E.T.A. Shoulder buoy 0230. Request light.

(EXMOOR 231445 to C. in C. Levant, R.A. Alex. (R) Cmdre.(D)).

French Destroyers for Aegean. Afraid I cannot afford two Fleets just now so propose to drop the idea. Your 211831. (C. in C. Levant, 231359C to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty)

ROYALIST A.M. 221324 Oct. Request destination ROYALIST. (D.O.D.(F) 231400A to C. in C. Med.). Reply: 251924.

Situation Aegean. Joint Army R.A.F. Intelligence appreciation, 24 hours to 0900Z/23rd October. (1) Leros not attacked from sea up to 0900Z/23. (4) Air attacks Leros 22nd October totalled approx. 20 sorties in small waves spread over 13 hours. Nil air attacks reported Castelrosse. (5) Night 22/23. Our Naval surface forces in operational area made no contact with enemy. (8) Appreciation enemy's intentions unchanged. (C. in C.M.E. No T.O.O. /23).

/Cositrep 33...

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Situation Cositrep 33.
 Aegean. (1) Int. Aegean.
 (Contd.). (A) German land forces Kos-Kalimno now estimated about 4,000, though bulk believed earmarked as assault forces for Leros, above estimate including Kos garrison.
 (B) Enemy reported to be moving troops into Kos by air.
 (2) Ops. Aegean. N.T.R. Situation quiet.
 (5) Naval. Aegean. Night 22nd/23rd Oct. ECLIPSE and PETARD each carrying 200 tps. and 15 tons stores left Alexandria for Leros with EXMOOR and ROCKWOOD.
 23rd Oct. PHOEBE, ALDENHAM and HURSLEY left Alexandria to bombard Kalino.
 (6) Air. A. Own. Ref. Cositrep 32, para. 6a. Two Wellingtons bombed shipping Naxos harbour night 21st/22nd some bombs bursting within ten yards of a 1000/1500 ton M/V. Two Wellingtons bombed Syros harbour, unobserved results. Night 21st/22nd Oct. Two Liberators, 5 Halifaxes bombed Maritza aerodrome. Many bursts landing area and runway straddled. Four small fires started.
 B. Enemy. Night 21st/22nd Oct. Five enemy aircraft bombed Leros. 22nd Oct. Three attacks Leros by total 12 A/C during which delay action bombs dropped Portolago Bay. No other details received.
 (C. in C. M.E. no T.O.O./23.)

Landing Your 211505. Following British ships and craft
 Craft. can be expected to be operationally fit on both 1st Dec. and 1st Jan. Allowance for serviceability has already been made:- L.S.T. 7, L.C.T. mark II 4, L.C.T. mark III O, L.C.T. mark IV 24, L.C.G. 4, L.C.F. 5, L.C.T.(R) 4, L.C.A. 12, L.C.M. 30, L.C.S.(7) 4, L.C.I. (L) 30. Further details.
 (C. in C. Med., 231507A to Admty., (R) Comnavnaw, C. in C. Levant.)
 ✓ Re number of British and U.S. L.S.T. Majors and Minor landing craft in the Mediterranean and Levant.

MONTCALM. Intend sailing MONTCALM unescorted to Dakar at 262100A.
 2. Through position 109 (?) 22 37 thence as routed by F.O.C. Gibraltar.
 3. Speed in Med. 24 knots, speed in Atlantic 21 knots.
 4. Codeword "Radnor". Priority normal.
 5. E.T.A. Dakar 30th Oct.
 6. F.O.C. Gibraltar is requested to designate onward route from Gibraltar to Dakar. C. in C. Med. pass to Navale France and Comnavnaw.
 (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 231621A.)

UNSEEN. P.51 (UNSEEN) leave patrol proceed diving by day through 043 degs. 18' 007 degs. 43' at 0300/25th, 042 degs. 40' 007 degs. 42' at 0830/25th, 042 degs. 01' 006 degs. 51' at 0100/26th, 040 degs. 02' 005 degs. 50' at 0430/27th, thence on the

/surface ...

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UNSEEN. surface at discretion through 037 degs. 59' 003
(Contd.) degs. 51' at 2330/27th to R/V escort Algiers in
037 degs. 04' 003 degs. 08' at 0730/28th.
(Capt. (S) 8th, 231630A to 8th S.F., (R) C. in C.
Med., PERLE, N.O.I.C. Algiers, Capt. (S) 10th.)

UNSHAKEN. Intend sailing P.54 (UNSHAKEN) at 1700/25th
proceeding on the surface at discretion through
038 degs. 02' 003 degs. 33' at 0230/26th, 040
degs. 01' 005 degs. 30' at 2130/26th, 041 degs.
02' 005 degs. 59' at 0530/27th, thence diving by day through
041 degs. 17' 006 degs. 28' at 1900/27th, 041 degs. 59' 006 degs.
50' at 0200/28th, thence patrol in zone SS.
(Capt. (S) 9th S.F., 231632A to C. in C. Med., (R) PERLE, 8th
S.F., N.O.I.C. Algiers, Capt. (S) 10th S.F.)

RODNEY, Request you will sail NELSON, RODNEY, Capt. (D)
NELSON and 24 in TROUBRIDGE, TYRIAN, TUMULT, PIORUN, OFFA
destroyers. and TARTAR at 1800A/25th.
(2) Routed through 284, 280, 278, 81 war channel
(corrupt group) 19, 65, 92, 30 Algiers.
(3) S. of A. 15 knots. E.T.A. 1000A/27th.
(4) Codeword "Thistledown"; priority high.
V.A. Malta pass to ships addressed.
(C. in C. Med., 231634A to V.A. Malta, (R) NELSON, RODNEY, Capt.
(D) 24, N. and A.As. Algiers to Bizerta, Admty., N.L.O. 335 Wing
Borizzo.)

Fleet Request information concerning progress of 3 Fleet
tenders. tenders taken over by Greeks in America.
(C. in C. Levant, 231651C to Admty.)

PHOEBE Am being shadowed by 1 enemy aircraft bearing 090
shadowed degs. 4 miles distant 34.13 N. 28.45 E., course
by A/C. 329 degs. speed 20 knots.
(PHOEBE, 231651 to Alex. W/T stn.)

COMMANDANT Has attacked very good asdic contact in 033 degs.
DOMINE 22' N. 034 degs. 21' E. and is remaining. Request
? U/B. approval join her when convoy arrives at
beginning of swept channel.
(LA MOQUEUSE, 231715C to N.O.I.C. Palestinian
Ports (Haifa), C.O.M.L.A.)

C. in C.Med. (1) Intend visiting ports in accordance with
visits to following programme. Details.
ports. (C. in C. Med. 231721A to V.A. Malta, F.O.L.I.,
F.O.T.A., F.O.W.It. N.O.i/c Bizerta, N.O.i/c
Syracuse, N.O.i/c Augusta, (R) Admty.)

Troop M.S.C.I.22. Intend sailing fast troop convoy
Convoy consisting of U.S.S. BARNETT, U.S.S. CHARLES
N.S.F.6. CARROLL U.S.S. JOSEPH T. DICKMAN, U.S.S. DALY

/U.S.S....

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Troop U.S.S. JAMES O'HARA, U.S.S. LYON, U.S.S. FREDERICK
convoy FUNSTON, U.S.S. STANTON (corrupt group) O.R.P.
N.S.F.6. KOSCIUSKO, SS ORONTES at 251200 Oct. to Naples.
(Contd.). (2) (a) 12½ knots. Route.
(4) E.T.A. position Z 280700.
(5) B.K. (6) "Bancroft high. (7) A.
(8) S.O. Capt.C.D. Edgar U.S.N. in U.S.S. BARNETT
S.O. escorts Cdr. G.L. Menocalin, U.S.S. PLUNKETT, escorts U.S.S.
PLUNKETT, U.S.S. WOOLSEY, U.S.S. LUDLOW, U.S.S. EDISON, U.S.S.
GLEAVES, U.S.S. BERNADOU, U.S.S. COLE.
(9) S. of A. in War Channels 13½ knots.
(U.S.) N.O.B. Oran, 231806A).

M.K.F.25, "Eureka" sailed as follows 1230: SIBAJAK, OTRANTO,
X.I.F.2A. STRATHEDEN, TAMAROA, DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, BRITANNIC,
DURBAN CASTLE, REINA DEL PACIFICO, DUNNOTTAR
CASTLE, MALOJA, LARGS BAY, STIRLING CASTLE.
(S.T.O. Augusta 231816).

U.S. (23rd?) Port Said. Arrivals.
movements. U.S. L.S.T's. 2117, 176, 209, 208, 2572, 175,
261, U.S.S. ACHELOUS (ARLI).
(N.O.1/c Port Said 231827C).

Italian 4 S/Ms. each to carry 600 tons are building at
S/Ms. Taranto. 2 could be completed in 8 months and
building the others in 10 months provided wanted equipment
Taranto. is sent from Allied sources. Should complete
survey be made? Should work continue? Also 2
Tritone class S/Ms. 50% completed and one 30%
completed (corrupt group) build.
Recommend no further work be done on these.
(A.S. Malta 231853A to C. in C. Med. etc.).

HURWORTH Regret to report HURWORTH lost and ADRIAS damaged,
sunk, believed by mine, but might have been E-boat, at
ADRIAS 2200C/22nd off East Coast of Kalimno while
beached. carrying out a diversion for searching force
NORMAN, PATHFINDER, landing supplies and personnel
at Leros. (280, 2807)

(2) No survivors picked up from HURWORTH, who,
ADRIAS reports blew up, but search of neighbouring coasts being
instituted.
(3) ADRIAS with forecastle blown off is beached in 036 degs. 59'
North 027 degs. 06' East and steps are being taken to recover
crew. She had 20 killed and 20 wounded but no R.N. personnel
casualties.
(C. in C. Levant, 231929C to Admty.).

✓ Different position given in 231940A.

Following received from Command Officer ADRIAS, via
Smyrna, to C. in C. Levant, (R) Greek C. in C., HURWORTH and
ADRIAS on course 300, mined in 36 degs. 59' 03" North, 27 degs.
06' 08" East at 2200C/22nd. HURWORTH blown up. ADRIAS
with forepart to bridge blown off, unseaworthy beached at
Gumushuk (37 degs. 02' N. 27 degs. 16' E.). Cannot move without

/Salvage...

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HURWORTH, salvage assistance. All confidential matter
sunk. destroyed. Diversions not carried out. Am
ADRIAS wounded but fully capable of exercising my duties.
beached. Further details later.
(Contd.). (D.D.I.C.(1232) 231940A to C. in C. Med., C. in C.
Levant, (R) PHOEBE, PATHFINDER, JERVIS).

Italian 23rd. Arrived It. E/Vs. SIRIO, FOLAGA, URANIA,
movements. CHEMERA, BAIONETTA. Italian S/Ms. MAREA GIADA
(sic).
(N.O.i/c Augusta 231930A).
Sailed. It. Schooner GERLANDR (sic) It. T.B.
RIBOTY.
(V.A. Malta, 232227A).

M.E. Situation review week ending incl. 22 Oct.
Newtel (6) Adm. Italy. N.Z. Div. Second personnel
No.32 convoy sailed 18th Oct. in 5 ships with 9000
personnel.

9 M.T. store ships sailed 19th Oct. with 5800
tons stores 1300 vehs. and 1500 personnel.
Dodecanese. One ship ten H.M. ships and two schooners sailed
with 490 tons stores 850 tons Pol. 24 vehs. 23 guns and two
L.C.T.S. Tripoli, 5935 tons discharged including 730 tons,
2027 casualties received by sea and air and 88 evacuated. 576
engines 1028 tons ammunition. 10 A.F.V's backloaded to base.
Benghazi 4258 tons discharged incl. 2285 tons Pol. One vessel
sailed from base with 1180 tons bulk aviation spirit. 684 tons
stores backloaded to base. Air lift. 24336 lbs. and 69 (or 68)
personnel from Cairo to Western Desert, Sicily, Malta and N.A.
Base ports. Period 13-19 Oct. incl. (A) 110 ships and 50
Schooners working total 160. (B) 82633 tons Mil. stores
discharged and loaded giving daily average all ports 11805 tons
per day. (C) 65094 tons cleared from ports. (D) 31782 personnel
embarked and disembarked. (E) 1107 German repatriation personnel
embarked. Rail and road moves in Base area. 10452 personnel
moved in 31 special trains and 25527 by R (query R) incl. unit
moves.
(C. in C.M.E., 231930C).

ULTOR (1) P.53 ULTOR patrol Northern portion in zone
S.N. forthwith which may prove profitable to-
morrow. P.51 UNSEEN and P.34 ULTIMATUM may be
interested later.
(2) Cancel my 221600.
(Capt.(S) 8th, 231948A to 8th S.F. (R) C. in C.
Med.).

Cancel my 221600 (P.53) ULTOR leaves patrol proceeding
diving by day on 25th and 26th through 043 degs. 32' 008 degs. 49'
at 0500/25th 042 degs. 01' 006 degs. 50' at 1430/26th 040 degs.
02' 005 degs. 48' at 1000/27th, 037 degs. 59' 003 degs. 49' at
0500/28th.

Thence R/V escort for Algiers in 037 degs. 05' 003 degs. 14' at
1300/28th.

(2) P.(?53) ULTOR's attention is drawn to my 231630.
(Capt.(S) 8, 232300A to 8th S/F (R) PERLE, C. in C. Med.
N.O.i/c Algiers).

/Appointment...

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Appointment of My 151136 (N.T. in W.D.) Now confirmed.
Sir John (C. in C. Med.(B) 232018A to Med. Stn. 243 B,
Cunningham as (R) C. in C. Levant, C. in C.E.F., Admty.
C. in C. Med. C. in C.S.A.,N.O.1/c West Africa, B.N.A. Madrid,
B.N.A. Lisbon, B.N.A. Ankara).

HEDGEHOG Regret to report the loss of H.M. Schooner
lost. HEDGEHOG 17th and probable capture of crew. While
evacuating German prisoners from Levitha 15th
HEDGEHOG had engine breakdown and was still
sheltering 17th when German attack on island took
place. M.L. sent to search found nothing night 17th and Germans
in possession.
(C. in C. Levant, 232039C to Admty. (R) C.F.E.).

Levant JERVIS (D.14) HURWORTH (D.22) PATHFINDER, ADRIAS,
Situation not located by enemy while lying up yesterday
Report in Gulf of Kos. Fleets landed stores including 10
No.88. jeeps and 10 trailers at Leros before moonrise.
No enemy interference but destroyers were flared
on leaving. Hunts detached to create diversion
off Kalimno.

- (2) RORQUAL due Leros tonight. First It. S/M with stores for Leros left Beirut a.m. today.
- (3) H.M. Schooner HEDGEHOG presumed lost 17th during attempt to evacuate German prisoners from Levitha. Crew believed captured.
- (4) PHOEBE 2 Fleets and 4 Hunts sailed Alexandria a.m. today for Aegean. 400 troops in the Fleets for Leros.
(C. in C. Levant, 232041C).

Med. (1) M.T.Bs. sailed from Bari on 20th for Vis
Situation Island to intercept enemy shipping in vicinity.
Report, Force lying up at the island by day to return
No.213. when fuel exhausted. Result not yet received.
(2) U.S. P.T. boats report sinking 5000 ton
ammunition carrier north of Giglio Island during
night 21st/22nd. Ship which was escorted by 4 R-
boats disintegrated. Our force apparently not sighted by enemy.
(3) SS SALAWATI was mined in vicinity Brindisi in 22nd ships
was damaged in number 1 hold and proceeded into harbour.
(4) Destroyers on patrol between Dubrovnik and Durazzo night
22nd/23rd met nothing.
(C. in C. Med. 232129A to C. in C. Med.).

Algiers (P.47) (DOLFIJN). Arrived.
movements. Departures PERLE, CURIE, U.S.S. BOISE.
(Com. Algeria 232144A).

TAGANROG SS TAGANROG (ex Spanish VICENTE) is believed to be
German owned been bought by them in 1941; your
031355 refers.

(2) If this can be established from documents on
board she is to be placed in prize and requisitioned out of the
Prize Court or immediate use.

/ (3) In...

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TAGANROG
(Contd.).

(3) In order that appropriate instructions may be sent by Colonial Office request report:
(A) in what port SS TAGANROG now lies.
(B) Whether German ownership can be established.
(Head of M.I. 232201A to C. in C. Levant (R) F.O.LI.,C. in C. Med.,B.A.D.).

Malta
movements.

Arrived INCHMARNOCK, LAFOREY, OAKLEY, PRINSES BEATRIX, BOXER, BRUISER. Sailed CLEOPATRA, PRINCE CHARLES, PRINSE LEOPOLD, PRINSES ASTRID, PRINSES JOSEPHINE CHARLOTTE, EASTON, ULSTER QUEEN. Sailed and returned BRIXHAM, CONVULVULUS. (V.A. Malta, 232225).

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War Diary.23.10.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Convoy
B.M. 71.Colombo portion minus BRITISH PURPOSE arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo 230230Z to Admty.)
SHOREHAM, CARNATIC escorting B.M. 71 arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo 230231Z to Admty.)Messages
from and to
Supreme
Allied
Commander
S.E. Asia.Secretary C.O.S. from Mountbatten.
Message which follows is first of series of telegrams between Supreme Allied Commander South East Asia and Chiefs of Staff London. Messages from Supreme Allied Commander South East Asia will be numbered Seacos 1. etc. Request messages from Chiefs of Staff to Supreme Allied Commander South East Asia may be numbered Cossea 1. etc. Until Headquarters is officially in being, telegrams will be made from Mountbatten.
(Armindia 230530Z to Air Min.)

P.B. 60.

Arrived ORISSA, CAIRNS, TAMWORTH escorting P.B. 60
Bombay portion.
(N.O.I.C. Bombay 230907Z to Admty.)Eastern
Fleet,
Exercises.Intend to take NEWCASTLE, EMERALD, HAWKINS, and DANAE to Sea for exercises on 26th October and night exercises with SUFFOLK all (?cruisers) return Kilindini 27th.
2. My 211310 refers. Intend sail from Kilindini in NEWCASTLE, with SUFFOLK, HAWKINS, EMERALD, DANAE for an exercise cruise on 29th arrives Diego Suarez 1st Nov. Leaves Diego Suarez 3rd returns Kilindini less HAWKINS 6th carrying out all possible exercises each way on passage. HAWKINS being considered incapable of further operational service due to list of shaft (?bushes) request arrangements be made for her to be received for docking at Simonstown about 10th November.
Signal follows.
(F.O. 2nd in Command, E.F. 231111 to C. in C.E.F. (R) Admty. F.O.E.Af. Kilindini.) As amended 260707Z.

HAWKINS.

Details of defects. In view of abnormal rate of wear in port outer "A" frames consider HAWKINS is not fit for further operations until para. 2 of A.M. 011348 Aug. has been complied with.
(R.A.E.F. 231219Z to C. in C.E.F. (R) Admty. etc.)Streaming of
Net Defence.Merchant ships fitted N.D.(?).
2. Masters are to be informed of the following revised instructions now applicable on E. Indies Stn.
3. General instructions. Nets should be streamed whenever practicable in Indian Ocean within 300 miles of any coastline (excluding Island groups.)
4. More important areas. For the present to be defined as Mozambique Channel and within 300 miles coastlines of Madagascar, E. Africa, N. of 010° N., Arabia, India East and West, Ceylon.
(C. in C.E.F. 231254Z to F.O.N.I.C. (R) Admty. C.S.W.P.S.F. N.Z.N.B. F.O.N.I.C. (260).)

/Consider...

23.10.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Streaming of Net Defence. (Contd.) Consider general instruction for Indian Ocean should be amended to read within 300 miles of any coastline (excluding Island Group.)
2. More important areas at present to be defined as Mozambique Channel and within 300 miles of coastline of Madagascar East Africa north of 010° N. Arabia, India East and West, Ceylon.
3. A station order to this effect is being issued by F.O.N.I.C.
4. A.M. 151545.
(C. in C.E.F. 231250Z to Admty.)

Ceylon Naval Volunteer Force taken over by Admty. F.O.Ceylon's 011135 Sept. paras. 1A. and 3 no objection.
2. Paras. 1B. and 1C. All units of 3rd Trawler Group must be available for operating anywhere in your Command and proposed manning of BALTA and HOXA by Ceylon R.N.V.R. is not concurred in if it means that these two vessels will only be able to operate in Ceylon waters. It is observed, however, that Ceylon R.N.V.R. personnel are now available for service anywhere.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 231849A to C. in C.E.F. (R) F.O.Ceylon, C.S.Ceylon.)

Escort Carrier Operations. Notes on meeting at Admiralty on escort carrier operations off Salerno.
(A.C.N.S.(Air) 231911A to C. in C.E.F.)
See Lion Copy.

Naval Aircraft Maintenance. Measures necessary in Ceylon and Southern India.
(Hd. of Air Branch 232040 to C. in C.E.F. etc.)
See Lion Copy.

E. 1.
lion
736^A

MOST SECRET

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

(*NOTE : Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad :

MOST SECRET "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule. MESSAGE 231911A/October OUT

TO : C. in C. Eastern Fleet. Date. 23.10.43.

Repeated : F.O.C.T.
R.A.N.A.S. I.O.
F.O.N.A.S.
B.A.D.
C. in C. Med.

*Escort Carrier
Operations, Salerno.*

NAVAL CYPHER (XD)

From Admiralty,

DEFERRED

The following main points emerged at a meeting held in Admiralty on Escort Carrier operations off Salerno

- (a) Squadrons must be linked to their Carriers for as long as possible before operations and pilots given continuous Deck Landing Training practice. Accident rate will be high unless these conditions are fulfilled.
- (b) The Squadrons in a Wing must be given adequate combined training so that large formations can be formed up at short notice behind any Squadron Commander. Uniformity of tactical doctrine throughout all Squadrons in all Wings is essential.
- (c) The Escort Carriers must be given adequate training, manoeuvring in their cruising formation. Carriers were in a square formation 10 cables apart with cruiser Flag Ship in the centre and a circular screen of 10 destroyers. All alterations of course were by blue pendant.
- (d) Maximum number of Escort Carriers acceptable in one formation considered to be 6.
- (e) Flag Officer should be situated in cruiser or other specially fitted ship rather than in Escort Carrier owing to restricted bridge and other facilities in Escort Carriers. Also he is away from the noise and distraction of flying operations. Cruiser selected must have sufficient R/T communication lines to act as Fighter Direction Centre of the force.
- (f) Flying programmes must be fully planned ahead and programmes issued. Planning should cover three days flying which is considered the maximum under any conditions. If really heavy enemy air opposition should be encountered only one full days operations can be expected. Care should be taken to economise flying effort whenever operational circumstances allow. If

/ Carrier

Carrier Fighter support is required for more than 3 days reserve Carriers must be brought forward to take over from those covering the assault.

- (g) Control of Fighters over the beaches was by a special Fighter Direction Ship, which suffered from severe land echoes on Radar, jamming by enemy of R/T and cracking by enemy "Y" of code words for place names. These difficulties can be overcome by establishing a mobile G.C.I. ashore quickly, landing an Observer Corps to give visual reports, arranging to change frequency and map references every two days. Consider Observer Corps should be under the control of the Fighter Direction Ship and trained by the Fighter Direction Officer.
- (h) Carrier force at Salerno had no information from military owing to break-down of Radio in H.Q. Ship. Adequate communication and alternative channels must be provided to prevent this and Naval mobile set should be landed with the assault brigade with an N.L.O. in charge to talk to the Fighters. Aircraft in the air will then have up-to-date information from the front and they, in turn, will provide useful information to the Carrier Force Commander.
- (i) UNICORN was detailed in Salerno operation to take emergency landings and had to transfer propellers and other spares by Motor Launch to Escort Carriers. Planning of flying should allow for a spare deck to be available always.
- (j) Four Motor ^{Torpedo Boats} Launches were provided to work with Carrier force and were employed on transferring stores as above and Air Sea Rescue. Proper organisation must exist for Air Sea Rescue of pilots who bale out or land in the water.
- (k) Carriers operated between 20 to 30 miles off shore, generally in rather low visibility. Certain difficulties arose in Homing Fighters to the Carriers because of doubts as to position of the force and of the aircraft. Pilots must be fully proficient in using Homing Beacons.
- (l) All Flag Officers and Commanding Officers concerned emphasised the need for long and careful training of individual pilots, Squadrons and Wings of Fighters and, finally, of the whole force in as realistic a manner as possible. Given this they were satisfied that Escort Carriers can provide effective air support during Combined Operations.

2. C. in C. E.F. is requested to pass to Admiral Miles.

231911A
for D.A.W.T. (Tel.No.11.90)
Approved A.C.N.S. (Air)
/Circulation over..

has amended 260028A

Quoted by C in C
Feb. Sep. 933.

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.)

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|--|
| 1st Lord | D.G.D. | |
| 1st S.L. (2) | D.H.O. | |
| D.F.S.L. | H.I.D.10 (3) | |
| 2nd S.L. | D.P.S. | |
| 3rd S.L. | E. in C. | |
| V. Contr. | D.D.O.D.(C) | |
| 4th S.L. | C.F.M.D. | |
| 5th S.L. | C.N.R.(M.A.P) | |
| V.C.N.S. | Ad.Blake.(4) | |
| A.C.N.S.(H) | Hd. of M. (12) | (for War Office for D.of Air
and Air Mtd. (N.L.O.to
D. of Cps (A.U)) |
| A.C.N.S.(F) | | |
| A.C.N.S.(UT)(2) | | |
| A.C.N.S.(W) | D.T.D.(4) | |
| A.C.N.S.(A)(2) | C.C.L.S.(2) | |
| Nav. Sec. | I.P.(2) | |
| P.A.S.(S) | W.D. | |
| U.W.R. | | |
| D. of P. (2) | Dep.Cont. | } |
| D. of P. (Q)(3) | D.S.D. | |
| D.N.I. (4) | D.N.C. | |
| D.D.I.C. (2) | D.N.O. | |
| B.C. | E. in C. | |
| D.O.D.(H)(4) | L.Br. | |
| D.O.D.(F)(2) | D.E.E. | |
| C.C.O. (2) | Hd. of S.W.R. | |
| D.R.O.(C.O)(2) | | |
| D.C.O.M. (4) | | |
| D.A/S.W. | | |
| D.A/U.D. | | |
| D.C.N.A.E. | | |
| D.A.W.T. | | |
| D.N.A.O. | | |
| D.A.C.R. | | |
| D.A.E. | | |
| D.A.M.R. | | |
| Hd. of Air Br. (3) | | |
| N.A.2.S.L.(Air) | | |
| D.T.S.D. | | |
| C.A.O.R. | | |
| A.S.(C) | | |
| A.C.(R.& D.) | | |
| D.S.R. | | |
| D.M.W.D. | | |
| A.M.W. | | |
| Hd. of N.L. | | |
| D. of N. | | |
| D.S.D.(2) | | |
| .N.C. | | |
| D.S.D.9.(2) | | |

E. I. 736^c
Lin

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.

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

MOST SECRET

232040/October,
MESSAGE

OUT

To C, in C. Eastern Fleet,
R.A.N.A.S., I.O.
F.O. Ceylon.

Date: 23.10.43.

NAVAL CYPHER 'XD' PLUG

From Admiralty.

The measures necessary in Ceylon and Southern India for the repair and maintenance of the Naval aircraft to be used in future operations against the Japanese have been under consideration. In view of the urgent necessity of making the best possible use of the repair capacity and spares available, it is proposed to adopt the following principles:-

- (a) Repair Yards to specialise on either British or American types
- (b) R.N. Air Stations to be stored to deal with either British or American types
- (c) No stocks of F.A.A. stores to be held at R.A.F. stations accommodating F.A.A. squadrons
- (d) Maintenance requirements for other types of aircraft temporarily accommodated at (b) (unless already provided) and (c) to be met by the provision of servicing lorries and store mobile units. The latter to comprise S.M.E. and a limited range of stores peculiar to type concerned.

2. The specialisation of repair yards and stations would depend on number, siting and functions of each establishment finally decided upon. Propose that initially the 'B' Repair Yards at Tambaram and Katukurunda should specialise in the maintenance and repair of American aircraft and engines, and Clapponberg Bay and Coimbatore in British types. An additional Class 'B' Yard for British types and one for American types will probably be required. The Air Station at Colombo and Section at China Bay would be stocked for British aircraft and Katukurunda for American types. Propose also that Erecting and Servicing Units at Cochin and Trincomalee should specialise in British types and at Tambaram and Colombo in American types.

3. It is proposed to expand the existing Air Store accommodation at Colombo and Trincomalee to 210,000 square feet at each place and to hold in equal quantities at each depot a total of 12 months reserve for the total I.E. based on Ceylon. A similar store depot to deal with requirements in South India is contemplated near Madras.

4.....

4. To avoid undue distribution of stores and to conserve stocks to best advantage holdings at Repair Yards and Stations in the vicinity of a store depot would be on a minimum basis of a month's ready use supply.

5. In order to avoid storing difficulties with several different types, and to obtain the highest possible percentage of serviceability propose N.O.T.Us. be sited at stations in close proximity to store depots.

6. Request your remarks and proposals for further specialisation of Air Stations.

232040

for Head of Air Branch.
(Dorland House, Extn. 3?)

Approved Civil Lord, 4th S.L.,
4th S.L.

1st Lord,
1st S.L. (2)
D.F.S.L.
3rd S.L.
Vice Controller,
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)
A.C.N.S. (W)
Secretary,
Fin. Sec.
Civil Lord,
P.A.S. (F)
P.A.S. (S)
D. of P. (2)
D. of P. (Q) (3)
D.N.I. (4)
D.O.D. (H) (4)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.C.N.A.E.
D.N.A.O.
D.A.W.T.
D.A.C.R.
D.A.E.
D.A.M.R.
Hd. of M. (9)
A.S. (CL)
DR. Hd. of W.G.F.

Hd. of Air Br. (A/NSO 4741/43) (3)
C.E. in C.
D. of S. (2)
Hd. of M.A.S. (4)
Ad. Blake. (4)
I.P. (2)
W.D.
E.A.P.
D.T.M.
D.E.E.
D. of L.D. (2)
D.T.S.D.
D.N.O.
A.S. (C)
D.A.S.
Dep. Contr.
C.E. in C.
D. of D.
E. in C.
D.T.M.
D.E.E.
D.N.O.
D.A.S.
Hd. of S.W.R.

Bath.

War Diary.

23.10.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

KAMSACK.

P.C. and S. 2359Z/22nd 042° 33' 068° 38' 087°
21. E.T.A. Halifax lightship 1330Z/23rd.
(KAMSACK, 230031Z to DIGBY C. in C. C.N.A. (R)
C.T.G. 02.1 Capt. D. Halifax.)

PINK.

PINK sailed St. Johns N.F. toward position
054° 30' N. 039° 00' W. at best economical
speed to rejoin group B.7.
(F.O.N.F. 231011Z to C. in C.W.A.)

C.T.G.21.15
report
U/Bs sunk.

Refer to this as 230630 from C.T.G.21.15 to
Cominch for action and to C. in C. Lant,
Comairlant, Com. 10th Fleet and Admty. for info.
20/22 October thorough air searched area
included lats. 46 to 51. Longs. 27 to 32.
Planes sank one sub. 201545 lat. 47.40 long.

28.27. Another sunk 210845 lat. 46.57 Long. 29.09. One sighted
not attacked 221247 lat. 49.27 long. 30.42. Estimated my
position 0830/23 lat. 49 long. 28 course 120, advance 10 knots.
All times Z.
(Commavau 231219 to Admty.) See also Cominch 232116Z.

Air Sqdn.
and
Biscay
offensive.

Our comments agreed by Air Min. on Adm. King's
proposals outlined in your 201641Z are as
follows:-

1. Air Marshal Slessor has no recollection of
having said anything to Adm. King to the effect
that the Bay offensive would be a matter of
limited duration. We are unable to trace any
assurances to this effect by Slessor or any other authority.
On the contrary none of us have ever been in any doubt that the
only terminal date to the Bay offensive at the highest possible
pitch of intensity is that on which the Germans cease to use the
Biscay ports as their main bases for the U/Boat war in the
Atlantic. It is true that we did hope and do hope that
continuance and intensification of the Bay offensive coupled
with operations in support of convoys such as those which have
killed 13 U/Boats in the past four weeks, will break the morale of
the U/Boat service. But we have never had any intention of
relaxing our pressure on the Bay until the U/Boat war is over.
Indeed if they do succeed in fitting an effective A.A. Radar
or centimetre Search Receiver, more intensive patrolling of the
Bay will be necessary, and so far from being content with even
a relatively small reduction in our strength in the Bay we
should actually like to see it increased.
2. Coastal Command and the U.S. Squadrons working with them
from the U.K. and Iceland have killed over 70 U/Boats in the
last eight months. The U.S. Fleet A/S Bulletin for Sept. 1943
shews 37 U/Boats sunk in the Bay between January and August this
year, of which all but five were sunk by aircraft. We wish to
make it quite clear that we regard it as strategically unsound to
withdraw Liberator Squadrons from such a profitable area unless it
is to meet a greater threat or take advantage of more favourable
offensive opportunities in other areas, or to provide reasonable

/cover...

23.10.1943.
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Sqdn.
and
Biscay
Offensive.
(Contd.)

cover in an area where none now exists. We cannot see any such situation now or in prospect.

3. The loss of two Liberator Squadrons from U.K. will involve an immediate reduction of our effort in the Bay by about 11%, measured in terms of area swept daily. By adjustment of the other Squadrons in South West England and on the assumption that it is possible re-equip two medium-range Squadrons with Liberators in the near future, it will be possible by about February 1944 to reduce that loss to about 6%. Some slight further improvement may be achievable by the measures which Admiral King proposes to enable the remaining U.S. Squadrons to operate at a higher degree of effectiveness. This will depend on whether these measures include the provision of additional aircrews. Both our own experience and that of U.S. Squadrons in this country confirms that the latter cannot be expected to operate for prolonged periods in the Bay at a much higher rate of intensity unless the number of crews now established in the squadrons is increased.

4. If the other two Liberator Squadrons are withdrawn on 1st Jan. the net reduction in our present effort in the Bay, even allowing for the adjustments referred to, cannot be less than about 20%.

5. The Air Min. hope to undertake a progressive re-equipment of Medium Range Squadrons in Coastal Command with Liberators. Apart from two Squadrons mentioned in paragraph 3 above, further re-equipment cannot take place until well on in next year on present programme. If any means can be found of accelerating that programme, by advancing the dates of allocations of Liberators from U.S.A. we shall, to that extent, be able to reduce the loss of effort involved in the withdrawal of all U.S. Navy Squadrons. There is no prospect of relieving U.S. Squadrons by other R.A.F. Squadrons. The manpower that can be made available to Coastal Command is already hardly adequate to maintain economically the squadrons now in the Command, and no additional British manpower can be made available for A/S purposes without impinging to an unacceptable degree upon other commitments laid upon the R.A.F. by the "Quadrant" decisions.

6. Even if all the U.S. Squadrons were retained, we should still not have adequate resources to put a really effective stop on the Northern Passage while at the same time making the best of the excellent opportunities that present themselves to kill U/Boats around convoys in the mid-Atlantic. When the U.S. Squadrons are withdrawn we shall have to make up our minds that the Northern Passage, through which increasing numbers of U/Boats are once more passing into the Atlantic, can only be patrolled very sporadically. We shall have to concentrate our available effort solely on ensuring that the other and far more important transit area in the Bay is guarded as effectively as our reduced resources will permit.

7. We appreciate that Adm. King has previously warned us of a limiting date and has now set a limit on 1st Jan. for the retention of three Squadrons, but you will understand that we considered that on Strategic grounds U.S. Navy Squadrons should remain in the Bay and we know of no strategic reason for their removal. We wish you, therefore, to press the matter further with Adm. King and to re-emphasise that the disposition of V.L.R.

/squadrons...

23.10.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Air
Squadrons
and
Biscay
Offensive.
(Contd.)

squadrons should be governed by the general strategic situation in the light of the above considerations. A.M. 132357A, Air Min. message Webber 783 of 19th Oct. refer.
8. Should you be unable to persuade him to leave the 4 Liberator Squadrons, the Chiefs of Staff request the Joint Staff Mission to take up the matter with a view to establishing the principle that any proposals of this nature,

involving a major re-distribution of A/S Squadrons between British and U.S. areas of strategic responsibilities, must be agreed between the British and American authorities concerned, reference being made to the Combined Chiefs of Staff if necessary.

(Approved 1st S.L., V.C.N.S. 231317A to B.A.D. (R) Rafdel.)
Reply 252231.

(AQUITANIA)
A.T.70.

Sailed as in my 211603Z Chebucto 1330Z Oct. 23rd "Chop" 0130Z/25th.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 231333Z to Admty.)

A/S
Aircraft
weapons.

Your 191938Z the 250 lb G.P. bomb cannot be relied on to cause sinking damage and its near miss effect against submarines is extremely small. As an anti-personnel weapon its effectiveness depends very largely on its timing relative to the main attack being correct. If this is not

achieved the aircraft's sortie is abortive even if the aim is accurate. It is considered, therefore, that if a diversionary dive bombing attack is contemplated a weapon capable of sinking a U/Boat should be used.

2. For this tactic depth charges are recommended. The depth charge Mk. XI will withstand impact on the water from a height of 800 ft. at 173 knots, and subject to confirmation by further trials, release from 1,250 feet at 250 knots. At heights up to 3,000 feet a fair percentage may be expected to detonate, but depth of detonation is unlikely to be accurate.

3. If, however, the 250 lb. G.P. bomb is used, rod attachment or No. 44 pistol, when available, should be used to enhance anti-personnel effect.

(D.A.W.T. 231335A to C. in C.C.N.A. (R) C. in C.W.A., F.O.C.T., R.N.A.S. Maydown, N.S.H.Q.)

DUFF.

After main feed pump water end impellers and sealing ring 3 in number and shaft brush seized no spare shaft brush carried.

Intend proceeding Boston U.S.A. to make good defects. Speed 16 knots, E.T.A. Boston 1000Z/26th. Weather report.

(DUFF, 241455Z to S.B.N.O. W.A. N.O.B. Bermuda, U.S. Cmdnt. 1st Naval District Boston, MALABAR, B.N.L.O. Boston, N.O.B. Argentia, (R) C. in C. U.S. Fleet (C. & R.) N.S.H.Q., C. in C., C.N.A., Admty., C. in C. Lant, B.A.D.)

/B.Y.M.S. ...

740

23.10.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

B.Y.M.S.
167 and
59. Depart Charleston in company about 0600Q/24th
E.T.A. Bermuda 1400Q/27th speed 10. Arrival
report N.O.B. Bermuda onward routeing.
Do not operate in excess of 1000 R.P.M.S. or
sail singly.
(Com. 6, 231515 to B.Y.M.S. 167 & 59 (R)
C.E.S.F., N.S.H.Q., Cominch, Cinclant, Admty.,
N.O.B. Bermuda, (U.S.) S.B.N.O.W.A.C. in C.W.A.)

A.T.73
(QUEEN
MARY) Convoy A.T.73. Request you will sail QUEEN
MARY to arrive Clyde 2nd November (a.m. arrival
preferred).
(D.O.D.(H)231520A to Cominch.)

H.X.262
ARVIDA. My 221512* ARVIDA has defects will be sailed
to overtake.
(F.O.N.F. 231542Z to W.I., C. in C. C.N.A.)
*H.X.262.

U.S. S/M
Estimate. (Cominch, 231548Z.)

PRINCE
HENRY,
PRINCE
DAVID. Admty. 061838A not to B.A.D. or B.A.T.M. In
order to expedite completion of PRINCE HENRY
and PRINCE DAVID it is essential that work on
these ships be given priority over C.V.E.'s at
Vancouver. The estimated delay on C.V.E.'s
cannot yet be given but is not anticipated it
will be long. Request your concurrence.
2. N.S.H.Q.'s 082128Z refers.
(N.S.H.Q. 231643Z to Admty. (R) B.A.T.M., S.C.N.O. London
B.A.D., C. in C. Portsmouth, S.O. Force J.)

SCOTTISH
MUSICIAN. My 011653 (Re SCOTTISH MUSICIAN now expected
ready to sail 6th or 7th Oct. on receipt of
castings and should arrive Halifax for release
29th Oct.) Due to destruction of fuelling
facilities at Sydney by fire desire to retain
SCOTTISH MUSICIAN on arrival at Sydney for a short period as
floating storage.
(N.S.H.Q. 231644Z to Admty.)

Personnel
accommodation. From examination of present and future
assignments of new construction in U.S.A. it
seems personnel requiring temporary accommodation
for these ships will not exceed 400 at any one
time after March 1944. Proposals for releasing
ASBURY hotels.
8. It is intended to inform the U.S. Authorities that it is
desired that the project for establishing a signal school in
ASBURY should not be proceeded with, and that the Admiralty
are being requested to say whether it is desired that this

/scheme...

741

23.10.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Personnel accommodation. (Contd.) scheme should be proceeded with elsewhere. (B.A.M.R. 231711Z to Admty., (R) Capt. Signal School.)

O.N.205. Following arrived New York Oct. 23. Total 40 ships. (list). (B.R.L.O. New York, 231723Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q.)

DUFF. Advancing 15 knots, DUFF departs Bermuda 1130Z 24 for Argentia through positions (route). E.T.A. 0930Z/27. (N.O.B. Bermuda 231627 to N.O.B. Argentia.)

TOURMALINE, STRENUOUS. Your 210123. Yes. (D.T.D. 231828A to B.A.D.(R) N.S.H.Q.)

Supply S/Ms. A.M.2101 of 30th March. B.A.M.R.'s 061538 and 061712 April. (N.T. of all in W.D.) After full consideration there is general agreement that there is no substantial requirement for supply submarines and matter is, therefore, to be allowed to drop. (Hd. of M.II, 231850A to B.A.D. (R) C. in C.E.F.) Cancelled Admty. 251606A.

TRUMPETER, SLINGER, ATHENE. TRUMPETER, SLINGER and ATHENE sailed in convoy U.T.4. (2) Ref. my 291833 April to Admty. only aircraft cargoes are, in TRUMPETER 848 Squadron 12 Tarpons and 1833 Squadron 10 Corsairs. She is also ferrying 18 Tarpons and 13 Martlet Fives which are fully erected but with engines inhibited. (3) In SLINGER 1830 and 1831 Squadrons 10 Corsairs each, also ferrying 20 Corsairs and 14 Hellcats fully erected but with engines inhibited, also two Harvards with wings off and engines inhibited. (4) In ATHENE 24 Martlet Fives fully erected but with engines inhibited. (B.A.D. 231855Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A.)

H.X.262 Foxed gear. Group C.5 escorting H.X.262 (B) all ships plus spares (C) all corvettes para. 3 of C. in C.W.A.'s 101913 refers. (F.O.N.F. 231858Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) N.S.H.Q. Admty., C. in C. C.N.A.)

SEARCHER, TRUMPETER. Your 152035 to Admty. only. As SEARCHER will not now be carrying out a ferrying trip to U.S.A. it is intended that TRUMPETER shall make two trips to U.S.A. to ferry aircraft to U.K. before being taken in hand for fitting rebladed rotors.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

SEARCHER,
TRUMPETER.
(Contd.)

TRUMPETER may be required to operate a small unit of T.B.Rs. on passage from U.K. to U.S. but not on the return voyage.

3. A.M. 041553 refers.
(D.N.A.O. 231859A to B.A.D. (R) C. in C.W.A., F.O.N.A.S., R.A.N.A.S.(N), F.O.C.T., F.O.I.C. Greenock, TRUMPETER.)

UGANDA
refit.

UGANDA , Request No. S.343 can be accepted. Your 191651, refers. Refitting yard will be communicated later.

(B.A.M.R. 231936Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C.S. Gibraltar, UGANDA, S.B.N.O. W.A., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A.)

WARSPITE.

WARSPITE request No. S.339 refitting yard is Portsmouth Navy Yard, Norfolk, Virginia. (B.A.M.R. 231938Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., F.O. Gibraltar, V.A. Malta, R.A.H., WARSPITE, S.B.N.O.W.At. N.S.H.Q., C. in C.C.N.A.)

CLEOPATRA.

CLEOPATRA request No. S.314 can be accepted for repairs. Your 191640 refers. Refitting yard will be communicated later.

(B.A.M.R. 231940Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med., V.A. Malta, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, A.S. Malta, CLEOPATRA, N.S.H.Q., S.B.N.O. W.At., C. in C. C.N.A.)

MINDFUL.

Bermuda departure MINDFUL.
(S.B.N.O. W.At., 232003Z to Admty. (R) B.A.D. C. in C. Med., F.O.Gibraltar, N.S.H.Q.)

GEORGES
LEYGUES.

French cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES expected departure CAPE HENRY 232300Z. Route Bermuda Point thence (A) 35.04 N. 70.28 W. Thence entrance Bermuda Channel. Speed 18. (P.D. Norfolk 232004 to Action to Comtenth Fleet, C. and R., C.E.S.F., N.O.B., Bermuda, N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F., Admty., C. in C. C.N.A.)

GORGON.

Bermuda arrival GORGON.
(S.B.N.O. W.At.232011Z to Admty. (R) B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A. C. in C. W.A.)

/(?LINARIA)...

War Diary.

23.10.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

?LINARIA. Searched area 315° 044° 30' N. 057° (?30') W. 60 miles nothing to report. My P.C. and S. at 2200Z/23 044° 40' N. 057° 16' W. 039° 12 E.T.A. 1738Z/24.
(?LINARIA 232100Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) Connav, Admty., A.C.I.C., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., H.Q.C.C., Cdr. (D) Argentia, Cdre. (D) W.A.)

Sub. No report on 22nd. All times Z.
attack A. CORE aircraft report sinking two subs.
and First 47.40 N. 28.27 W. 201545. Second 46.57 N.
sighting 29.09 W. 210845. Third sighted 49.25 N. 30.42 W.
summary. 221247.
C. B.17 sighted Wake 11.30 N. 61.45 W.
221600. P.C. 11.92 attacked sound contact
12.21 N. 60.53 W. 220530. B.18 Radar Contact
12.10 N. 61.15 W. 211850. P.B.M. Radar Contact 20 N. 58 W.
210600.
D. U.S.S. OWL attacked Sound contact 18.20 N. 75.21 W.
230220. P.C.12 attacked Radar and Sound contacts 27.25 N.
78.40 W. 230010 and 29.32 N. 78.45 W. 231345.
(Cominch 232116Z to Admty.)

Italian Cominch has received a signal from Commavnaw
Cruisers, that an Italian cruiser is being assigned
Palermo Palermo for service primarily between that place
maintenance. and Sardinia, for the transport of personnel
and stores, and that C. in C., Mediterranean,
has requested maintenance from U.S. sources.
2. Cominch remarks that as the Mediterranean is
an area of British Naval responsibility and as U.S. Navy are
reducing their commitments in that area, he considers that
maintenance should be by British except in temporary emergency
situations and has informed Commavnaw to this effect.
3. Request your views on this case in particular, and on the
principle in general.
(B.A.D. 232215Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

T.A.69 Sailed U.K. a.m. 23/10 for New York.
(QUEEN 2. Details of personnel on board are being
ELIZABETH). communicated by W.O. to Milstaf Washington and
C.G.S. Ottawa.
(D. of S.T. 232310A to B.M.W.T. New York,
B.A.D. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

MAURETANIA. Sailed from U.K. 22/10 for Halifax.
T.A.68. 2. Details of personnel on board are being
communicated by W.O. to C.G.S. Ottawa and
Milstaf Washington.
(D. of S.T.232200A to N.S.H.Q. (R) C. in C. C.N.A.
B.M.W.T. New York, B.A.D.)

23.10.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

K.M.F.25A,
telephone
equipment.

Following is C.T.F.60's 232605 addressed to Comnavu for action and repeated to C. in C. Lant and C.T.G. 60.2. "Admty. 222118A. All U.S. Troopships in convoy K.M.F.25A are equipped with Radio telephone frequency 72.5 mcs. Inclusion of vessels without such equipment practically nullifies our established method of controlling troop convoys. It is earnestly requested all ships sailing in K.M.F. 25A be so equipped prior departure. Please advise". Is this practicable. (Comnavu, 232332Z to Admty.) W.R. Note. ?222141A intended (222118 is part one of this message).

ESSINGTON.

Bermuda departure for Argentina via Boston. (S.B.N.O. W.At., 232359 to Admty. (R) B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A., B.N.L.O. Boston. C. in C.W.A. Capt. (D) Argentina, C.T.F.24.)

War Diary.

23.10.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

H.D.M.Ls.

Your 011120A (011121A intended). H.D.M.Ls. allocated to Australia are urgently required it would be appreciated if all decisions and movements affecting the supply of these craft could be communicated by signal periodically.
(A.C.N.B. 230504Z to Admty. (R) N.L.O.London, B.A.D. N.Z.N.B.)

Digest serial
No. 641 Oct.
22nd.

Six small freighters reported Matchin Bay (North Bougainville) forenoon.
2. Navy Catalina reported enemy submarine 35 miles south east Cape Saint George night 22nd.
3. Liberator sighted convoy described 1 destroyer, 1 large merchantman, 6 unidentified vessels, 55 miles north west Mussau Island forenoon proceeding on course 330°
Three floatplanes covering convoy but nil interception. Other R/C aircraft sighted enemy hospital ship westward New Hanover proceeding on north westerly course during day.
5. Ref. serial No. 640 para. 4, vessel on easterly course and attacked by 2 Liberators who scored two near misses.
7. Three enemy destroyers reported northbound off Cape Orford forenoon. Later same morning submarine observed on similar course, while another submarine observed southbound afternoon.
8. Our P.T.Boats destroyed loaded ammunition duel barge off Cape Dampier 50 miles east north east Gasmata before dawn 21st. Enemy aircraft attacked our boats without causing damage.
9. Eleven enemy barges Borgen Bay attacked by Liberator afternoon 21st several damaged. Another bombed barges same area following afternoon, 6 barges also observed west coast Dnea Island.
10. Enemy submarine attacked Allied surface craft off Langemak Bay early hours 20th without results. Force estimated 60 enemy aircraft also attacked shipping this area night 19th/20th causing slight damage and few casualties. Four enemy fighters also strafed Allied barges near Bumi River forenoon 20th while 5 aircraft bombed Finschhafen area forenoon 21st. Additional 2 aircraft again bombed Bumi area forenoon 22nd.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 230620Z.)

HELGA MOLLER.

My 220341 HELGA MOLLER sighted in 31° 21' S. 14° 11' E. E.T.A. a.m. 24th.
(C.S.W.P.S.F. 231056Z to Admty. Connav, C. in C.E.F S.O.I. Kilindini, (R) Com. 7th Fleet, N.O.I.C. Fremantle.)

23.10.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 231356A, 231405A.)

Submarines Attacked.

Submarine
attack &
sighting
summary for
24 hours to
0900Z/23rd.

Para. A. Aircraft reported possible U-Boat contact
at 2356/21st in 63° 00' N. 14° 51' W.
H.M. Submarine attacked U-Boat on 15th in about
43° N. 06° E.
Ref. A.M. 211046Z. ATHELVIKING now reported
undamaged.
(D.D.I.C. 231036A to Cominch.)

24.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.R.

1. The Destroyers MILNE, SAVAGE, SCOURGE, SCORPION, SAUMAREZ, MUSKETEER, MAHRATTA, and MATCHLESS left Skaalefiord at 2302A today.

COTSWOLD
and
MONTROSE.

2. The Destroyers COTSWOLD and MONTROSE were in collision near 57 C Buoy at 0115A today. Both were damaged, but MONTROSE arrived at Sheerness under her own power, and COTSWOLD was brought into harbour at Yarmouth at 2116A by Tugs.

L.C.I.(L)
185.

3. L.C.I.(L)185, damaged yesterday in the Bay of Biscay, was joined at 1650 today by MOURNE from E.G.2 who is escorting the craft direct to destination.

North Atlantic.

U/B
Attacks,
? sunk.

4. A Wellington aircraft of 179 Sqn. attacked a U-Boat at 0125A in 41.12 N. 09.31 W. and reported it on the surface apparently disabled. It was evidently destroyed, as 49 German Officers and men were landed at Vigo at 1900 by a Spanish Trawler are said to be the crew of a U-Boat found in dinghies off the Portuguese coast after their submarine sank at 0400, 30 miles south of Leixoes.

Refuelling
U-Boat.

5. Three large oil patches reported by aircraft in 42.05 N. 27.32 W. are considered by S.B.N.O. Azores, as evidence of a refuelling U-Boat.

FENCER.

6. FENCER escort carrier, and the destroyers INCONSTANT, GARLAND and BURZA left the Azores at 1805N for 45 degs N. 30 degs. W. to operate under C. in C. Western Approaches and return to the U.K.

FULGOR:
explosion
Cadiz.

7. At 0600 bombs exploded under the stern of the Italian tanker FULGOR, anchored at Caraca Arsenal, Cadiz. Hull and propeller were damaged and the ship is aground. An attempt is apparently being made locally to blame the crew, although a diver states that the explosion was external.

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Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

8. SUFFOLK, cruiser, left Durban at 0724Z for Kilindini after repairs.

9. (a) A Brazilian ship was reported torpedoed and sunk today between Santos and Rio de Janeiro. (b) On 31 October survivors landed near Maranham, from the Norwegian M.V. SIRANGER (Trinidad for Takoradi) which was sunk by a U-Boat at 0700 today in a position 230 miles N. of Fernando de Noronha.

Mediterranean.

GAVOTTE
defect.

10. The A/S M/S Trawler GAVOTTE reported at 2235 that she had had to draw fire on account of serious leaks in boiler tubes, and was stopped in 36.29 N. 13.18 E. She asked for a tug.

DOLFIJN
R. of P.

11. Dutch S/M DOLFIJN reports no worth-while targets seen during a patrol between Toulon and the Italian border. A barge was attacked with gunfire on Oct.14 but after 2 hits action had to be broken off owing to firing from shore batteries.

Naples
Air
Raid.

12. In an air raid on Naples last night by about 15 aircraft, SS. JAMES IREDELL was hit and her cargo of cased petrol caught fire. The ship was later beached and the fire is under control. One possible aircraft is claimed by A/A and three by fighters.

Mines,
Brindisi.

13. Magnetic mines were encountered in the approach to Brindisi today, and sweeping is in progress. (11 had been detonated up to p.m.25th)

Aegean,
Leros.

14. (a) PHOEBE, ECLIPSE, PETARD, HURSLEY and ALDENHAM entered the Aegean last night, each of the "Fleets" with troops for Leros. ECLIPSE

was/...

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War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Aegean,
Leros,
(Contd.)

was mined (see next para.). PETARD, after picking up survivors, withdrew and lay up in Turkish waters. PROEBE and the "Hunts" proceeded east of Kos and made a cast towards Leros, withdrawing south of Rhodes, thence towards Kastelorizo, where the destroyers fuelled. They were shadowed all night by aircraft, but not bombed.

ECLIPSE
sunk.

(b) The destroyer ECLIPSE was mined and sunk at 0050 in 37.01 N. 27.11 E. off the east coast of Kalimno.. She had on board about 200 military reinforcements for Leros which were to have disembarked at Palamat Buku Bay, 37.06 N. 27.18 E. into various craft sent from Leros, in order to avoid risk of air attack at Leros itself. Commodore (D) and 2 Brigadiers from G.H.Q. were also in ECLIPSE proceeding to Leros to review the whole situation jointly. PETARD in company, picked up one Brigadier and the C.O. of ECLIPSE with 40 other survivors. It is hoped more were saved by small craft sent to the point where disembarkation was to have taken place. On 27th October C. in C. Middle East reported 7 officers and 133 O.R.'s missing from the ECLIPSE. C. in C. Levant says this episode and the loss of HURWORTH and ADRIAS (see 22/10) is a severe setback to the Allied efforts and plans will have to be recast.

(c) RORQUAL discharged petrol, ammunition and stores at Leros last night.

(d) Middle East Cositrep today reports Stampalia occupied by the Germans.

(e) SS. TAGANROG 1500 tons was sunk at Samos by air attack today.

(f) A military party of 50 all ranks in 2 M.L.'s raided Levitha from Leros last night with the object of recapturing a patrol previously reported lost and destroying the enemy garrison. The raid was unsuccessful and the whole party is missing.

Air
Operations.

15. (a) In 3 anti-shipping strikes off the Dalmatian coast, damage was caused to landing craft, and a small ship and 2000 ton motor vessel were destroyed off Neregiva.

(b) 3 enemy attacks were made on Leros today by a total of 20 aircraft, including Ju.87's, Ju. 88's and Arados. One Ju.88 and one unidentified were destroyed by A/A fire.

(c) Samos Harbour was again bombed this morning.

(d) 3 R.A.F. Wellingtons bombed the harbour at Syros Island last night, causing explosions and a small fire on the quay.

(e) /...

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War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Air
Operations.
(Contd.)

(e) 2 small coastal vessels (1 schooner and caique) off Kos were attacked by Mitchells and Beaufighters today, the schooner being set on fire and the caique damaged. A caique anchored off Scarpanto was also damaged by machine gun fire from Baltimores.

(f) 3 R.A.F. Liberator and Halifax bombers attacked Heraklion airfield, Crete, last night.

East Indies.

16. TOOWOOMBA escorting Convoy A.P.49 at 240001 reported she had counter-attacked a U-Boat in 22.27 N. 60.04 E. and was remaining in the area, (about 120 miles N.E. of Masira, Gulf of Aden). She made 3 further attacks at 0235Z in 22.32 N. 59.58 E.

17. SS. CONGELLA from Colombo to Mombasa, reported a.m. today that she was being shelled and on fire in 01.02 N. 71.14 E. about 150 miles N.W. of Addu Atoll. Air search failed to locate her. One lifeboat was picked up by OKAPI.

H.C.1.

18. Convoy H.C.1 sailed from Calcutta today for Chittagong.

19. Beaufighters operating off Southern Burma damaged one steamer, 2 cargo barges, and a number of sampans. 2 large steamers were also set on fire.

America and West Indies.

20. The loss of the United States submarine DORADO was officially announced today.

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Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

21. U.S. managed vessels of 14½ knots and over from the North American east coast and Gulf of Mexico bound for the Red Sea, Persian Gulf and India are to proceed direct to Capetown, except when nominated for U.G.S. convoys.

Australia and New Zealand.

Japanese
destroyer
sunk.

22. A Navy Catalina attacked 2 enemy destroyers and one unidentified vessel off Cape Cunningham, New Britain, before dawn today. Hits with depth charges were scored on one destroyer which was observed burning 40 minutes later and apparently out of control. The vessel is considered to have been destroyed.

24.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

JASON,
BRITOMART.

Your 181220 Sept. and S.B.N.O. North Russia's 201434 Sept. These ships are not available for transfer to Soviet Navy.
(1st Lord 242030A to Ad. Fisher.)

Force
"J".

Your No. X/0500/11 dated 16th July 1943, my No. 01 dated 3rd August 1943, and C.C.O.'s 201830A. The following organisation of L.C.T. and L.C.I.(L) in force "J" is proposed. Details.
(Com. Force "J", 242327A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Movements.

ORWELL,
ORIBI.

Scapa arrivals ORWELL, ORIBI.
(A.C.O.S. 240801A to H.F.)
Faroes arrivals SAVAGE, SCORPION, SCOURGE, SAUMAREZ, MUSKETEER, MAHRATTA, MATCHLESS.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 240831A to R.A.D.H.F.)

MILNE.

FAROES arrived MILNE.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 240931 to C. in C.H.F.)

FORMIDABLE.

N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail FORMIDABLE unescorted for Scapa forthwith.
2. FORMIDABLE reports E.T.A. 320° Cape Wrath 9 miles where R.A.(D) H.F. is requested to arrange for two destroyers to meet and escort to Scapa.
4. Aircraft will not be disembarked on arrival.
(C. in C.W.A. 241105A to FORMIDABLE.)
Sailed FORMIDABLE to comply with C. in C.H.F. 241105.
E.T.A. 320° north 9 miles 0900A/25th. E.T.A. Scapa 1130A/25.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 241714 to A.C.O.S. C. in C.H.F.)
HAIDA with VIGILANT proceed passing Switha 0500A/25 to R/V with FORMIDABLE in 320° 9 miles from Cape Wrath at 0900/25th.
2. FORMIDABLE is on passage unescorted from Clyde to Scapa.
When met provide escort to Scapa.
(R.A.D. H.F. 241818A to HAIDA, VIGILANT.)

TUSCALOOSA.

N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail TUSCALOOSA for Hvalfiord (? leaving) Clyde p.m. 28th.
(C. in C. H.F. 241145A to N.O.I.C. Greenock)

ROYAL
SOVEREIGN.

Sailed ROYAL SOVEREIGN escorted by FINDHORN and INVER in accordance with my 231716A.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 241148A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

/GRENVILLE...

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Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

GRENVILLE, Intend sailing GRENVILLE with ROCKET in company
ROCKET, at 1400A/25 to R/V with OBEDIENT and TEAZER in
OBEDIENT, accordance with C. in C.H.F. 231447A.
TEAZER. 2. Destination of GRENVILLE is Gibraltar
(A.M. 211851A refers.)
3. Routed to (T) 049° 02' N. 013° 27' W.
thence R/V with OBEDIENT and TEAZER in 045° 40' N.
016° 01' W. at 0800A/27 and proceed in Coy. to Gibraltar.
4. S.O.A. 15 knots.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 241653A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)
Sailed OBEDIENT, TEAZER in accordance with C. in C.H.F.
231447.
(R.A.D. 242002 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

S/M Positions of S/Ms at 0800/25 and movements for
movements. following 24 hours. (
(F.O.S. 241704, 242243A, 242333A.)

HOBSON. HOBSON sailed to comply with your 231005.
(U.S.E.C. Londonderry, 241805 to R.A.D.H.F.)

NELSON, On arrival in U.K. NELSON and RODNEY are placed
RODNEY. under the orders of C. in C.H.F. who is
requested to order their destination.
(D.O.D.H. 241906A to C. in C.H.F.)

RANGER. Scapa departures Cdr. Task Force 121 in
RANGER with FORREST and CORRY.
(A.C.O.S. 242000A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Operations.

Bay Am over enemy submarine.
Patrol. (A/C duty T. to 19 Group T.O.R. 240840.)
U/Boat Request you will sail FENCER and screen forthwith
attacked. for 045° N. 030° W.
(C. in C.W.A. 240852Z to S.B.N.O. Azores.)
Am over enemy submarine in 45° 42' N. 12° 15' W.
(position uncertain) Enemy was on surface,
169° 7 knots.
(A/C Duty T to 19 Group T.O.R. 240856.)
F.W. A/C are active from Bordeaux.
(D.D.I.C. 240921A to M.K.S.27, K.M.S.30.)
U/Boat previously reported on surface. Have attacked
it with bombs 165°, 045° 41' N. 012° 15' W. One bomb remaining.
Possible damage.
(A/C Duty T. 240925A to 19 Group.)
U/B was on surface and seen to submerge.
(A/C Duty T., 241130A to 19 Group.)

/American...

24.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Bay American aircraft report bombing and possible
 Patrol, damage to U/Boat on the surface at 0925A today.
 U/Boat U/Boat P.C.S. was 045° 41' N. 012° 15' W. 165°
 Attacked. 7 knots.
 (Contd.) 2. Do not deviate from route ordered. Above
 position only approximate.
 (F.O.S. 241134A to O.23.)
 Contact position 48° 22' N. 13° 30' W.
 Returning to base. Equipment unserviceable.
 (A/C Duty J. 241835A to 19 Group.)

Operation V.A.2's 122200A, para. 8., last sentence.
 "F.R.". For returning Hvalfiord read returning Scapa.
 (C. in C.H.F. 241103A to C.S.1.)
 In view of my 241440A propose after passing
 latitude 70° N. on return from operation F.R. detach AUGUSTA
 to Reykjavik to recover A/C before returning to Scapa. LONDON
 to proceed Scapa direct to comply with your 241103A.
 (C.S.1. 241715A to C. in C.H.F., V.A.2.)
 Your 232214. Has Russian minesweeper 139 sailed with
 remainder?
 (D.O.D.H. 242125A to A.C.I.C.)
 Skaalefiord departure MILNE, SAVAGE, SCOURGE, SCORPION,
 SAUMAREZ, MUSKETEER, MAHRATTA, MATCHLESS.
 (N.O.I.C. Faroes, 242302A to R.A.D.H.F.)

S/M Request you will sail SYRTIS, STUBBORN, VARANGIAN
 Patrols. on 25th. Para. one of my 221813 refers.
 (F.O.S. 241139A to Capt. S.9.)
 Following is forecast of S/M patrols. S/Ms are
 to be sailed to conform without further signal.

My 140828 and 152223 are cancelled.

S/M	Leave Lerwick.	Return Lerwick.
A. TANTIVY.		29th October.
B. STUBBORN	25th October	12th November.
C. SYRTIS	25th October	12th November.
D. VARANGIAN	25th October	10th November.
E. ULA	29th October	12th November.
F. SEANYMPH	3rd November	12th November.
G. SATYR	8th November	26th November.
H. O.15	8th November	24th November.
I. VENTURER	8th November	22nd November.
J. TRUANT.	13th November	5th December.
K. SCEPTRE	13th November	1st December.
L. STORM	13th November	27th November.
M. SEA DOG.	17th November	5th December.
N. VIKING	20th November	4th December.
2.	A, E, F and H are anti-enemy subs. patrol, remainder off Norwegian coast.	
	(F.O.S. 241354A to Capts. S.3 and S.9.)	

/Request...

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24.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

S/M
Patrols.
(Contd.)

Request you will sail S/Ms from Lerwick as follows:

(1) SYRTIS 25th at 0800A through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 5 miles and route "Pink" to 071 degs. 09', thence direct to patrol position T.10.

(2) STUBBORN at 1100A/25th through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 10 miles and route "Black" to 070 degs. 35' thence direct to patrol position T.8.

(3) VARANGIAN at 1400A/25 through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 5 miles and route "Pink" to 071 degs. 09' thence through 071 degs. 11', 022 degs. 38' to patrol position T.9.
(Capt. (S) 9, 241601A to S.O.S/M Lerwick)

Submarines are to leave patrol as follows:

(1) SEADOG at 0001A/26 through 069 degs. 00' 011 degs. 00' thence by route "Orange" to Lerwick.

(2) TANTIVY at 2100A/27 through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 10 to arrive Lerwick 29th.
(Capt. (S) 9, 241611A to S/M's)

Positions of submarines at 0800/25 and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) SEADOG and TANTIVY as in my 221704.

(E) O.23 approx. 45 degs. 26' N. 13 degs. 22' W. dived by day to the Northwards. Daily advance about 130 miles.
(F.O.S.241704 to Admty.)

Coastal
Patrols.

(1) Orders for night 24th/25th October.

(A) M.G.B's 613 (S.O) 614, 616, M.T.Bs. 212, 256, 207 from Newhaven carry out offensive patrol between 010 degs. ZZ 2 miles and 280 degs. ZZ 23 miles. Primary object torpedo targets.

Proceed and return by passage four, passing position 4 N. at 2030A and within 20 miles of own coast by 0630A.

(B) Chasseurs V, 14 Patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between F. and E.A.5 buoys.

(C) M.L.292 immediate notice at St. Helens.

(D) GLAISDALE immediate notice at Yarmouth.

(E) M.Ls. 208 (S.O) 124, R.M.L. 522 patrolling 50 degs. 15' N. between 02 degs. 10' W. and 02 degs. 35' W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 241415A)

Patrols 24th October.

(1) Force 111. M.T.Bs. 678 (S.O), 677, 673, 664 are to patrol in vicinity 180 Eddystone 8. M.T.Bs. 678, 664 are to sail from Falmouth and M.T.Bs. 677, 673 are to sail from Dartmouth at time requisite to R/V in position 180 Eddystone 2 at 1900.

(3) Force 111 is to leave patrol at 0630. M.T.Bs 678, 664 to Plymouth, M.T.Bs. 677, 673 to Dartmouth.

(4) Force 114. M.T.Bs 415 (S.O) 431, 434 are to patrol in vicinity 160 Start 15.

(5) Force 115 M.T.Bs. 430 (S.O) 416 are to patrol in vicinity 115 Start 20.

(7) Forces are to leave Dartmouth to be on patrol by 2000, leave patrol for Dartmouth at 0630A/25.

(8) Attention is drawn to Q.Z.X.1095.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 241435A)

/M.Ls/...

24.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal
Patrols.
(Contd.)

M.Ls. 104, 102, 101, 210, 213, 128 and 573
leave Dover North Eastwards to carry out
operation N.L.105, route via Downs and 'U'
Buoy returning via 'U' and No.1 buoys.
E.T.D. 1715 E.T.R. 0325/25.
M.T.Bs. 202 and 231 and M.G.Bs. 42, 41 and 40
at 'V' Buoy. E.T.D.1730.
M.A.S.Bs. 31 and 32 and M.T.Bs. 235 and 240 at No.7 buoy.
E.T.D. 1815.
M.T.Bs. 435, S.4, and 436 from Ramsgate E.T.D. 1915 and M.T.B.
38 from Dover E.T.D. 1845 at 'U' Buoy.
(V.A. Dover, 241741A)

V.P.
Operations.

My 231454A. M.T.B.626 returned at 1415 today.
(2) Operations not successful. M.T.B's sighted
by enemy vessel.
(A.C.O.S. 241710A to Admty.)

Operation
S.F.

Arrival Seidisfiord S.O.M/S. Flot. 15 in
FRASERBURGH, LYME REGIS, BOOTLE, LLANDUDNO in
company.
(R.N.O. Seidisfiord, 241730A to A.C.I.C.)

Allied Air Activity.

R/C's
requested.

Request P.R.U. of Boulogne and Dieppe a.m. today
to locate enemy shipping.
(D.D.I.C. 240045A to A.D.I.(Ph)).

Enemy Air Activity.

Unknown
Ship
Attacked.

BN 19 TND 9 AAAA position 46.38 N. 17.38 W.
opened fire.
(Whitehall W/T, 241017Z to C. in C. W.A.)
AAAA Position 46.38 N. 17.38 W. not under steam
when open fire enemy plane disappeared ends.
(T.N.D.9, 241035Z to Admty.)

Mining.

Larne
Minefield.

A.L. to 8935/43 dated 16 June 1943. The anchor-
ing restrictions necessary at Larne due to the
presence of this minefield is handicapping vessels
undergoing training. This will become worse
as weather deteriorates. Request a controlled
minelayer be made available at an early date to lift this field.
(C. in C. W.A. 241227A to Admty.)

Operation /...

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24.10.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.Operation
"Madonna".

Prepare to carry out operation "Madonna A" on 25th October or first suitable night thereafter up to and including 3rd November, subject to satisfactory test of Q.H. gear in M.T.B.617. (C. in C. Nore 241405A to C.C.F., F.O.I.C. Yarmouth.)

Q.Z.X.1095.

1. Swept as far as line joining.
(A) 50° 23.5' N. 2° 33.5' W. (B) 50° 20.5' N. 2° 52.5' W. (C) 50° 14.5' N. 3° 23.5' W. Detonated one Gr. mine in 50° 22' N. 02° 45.8' W. Estimate distance between limits swept by 9th and 16th M.S.F. varies between two and seven cables.
(M/S.9 242340A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Enemy Intelligence.

E-Boats.

Position of enemy E-Boats by D/F at 0025Z/24 was approx. 52° N. 20° E.
(D.D.I.C. 240155A to Admty.)

VIM,
TORRIDAL.

A.M. 091118. These 2 ships left Kirkenes 19th October via Kristiansund N.
(D.D.I.C. 241155A to A.C.O.S.)

U-Boats.U-Boat
reported.

Over U/B position negative contact search in G.
(A/C. Duty M. to 19 Group. Recd. 241122.)

Two
U-Boats
sunk on
8th Oct.

Request you will convey our congratulations to the crews of Liberator R/86 and Sunderland J/423 on the destruction of two U-Boats on 8th October 1943.
(1st S.L. 241648A to Air Ministry.)

Casualties & Defects.COTSWOLD,
MONTROSE,
(collision).

Instruct ATTENTIF to stand by COTSWOLD vicinity 57 C buoy. Tugs are to proceed from Yarmouth.
(C. in C. Nore 240145A to WOLSEY, WOOLSTON, MONTROSE.

ATTENTIF being sent your assistance.
(WOLSEY 240159 to COTSWOLD).

Departure tug DIVERSION with Salvage Officer on board at 0157, tug KROOMAN with pumps at 0355.

(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 240419A.)

Tow parted at 4 buoys. Tugs will take COTSWOLD to Yarmouth. Submersible power-pumps and temporary shoring required if left in exposed anchorage. 5 injured cot cases being sent in one M/L. MONTROSE proceeding Harwich.

(MONTROSE 240820A to N.O.I.C. Yarmouth.)

COTSWOLD in two of Tugs ATTENTIF and DIVERSION arrived and

/anchored...

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24.10.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

COTSWOLD, anchored in Yarmouth Roads. Tug KROOMAN
 MONTROSE standing by to assist.
 (Collision) (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 241116A to C. in C. Nore.)
 (Contd.) MONTROSE and COTSWOLD in collision in vicinity
 of 57C at 0115A/24. Damage so far reported -
 MONTROSE flooded up to No.15 bulkhead - COTSWOLD
 both boiler rooms, engine room and gearing room
 flooded. Request repair yards may be allocated. It is
 desirable to avoid a long towage of COTSWOLD who is now proceeding
 Yarmouth Roads to effect temporary repairs. No serious
 casualties.
 (C. in C. Nore, 241144A to Admty.)
 COTSWOLD entered Harbour in tow of tugs DIVERSION and
 and KROOMAN.
 (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 242116A to C. in C. Nore.)
 My 242116. COTSWOLD now secured alongside Town Hall Quay.
 (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 242206A to C. in C. Nore.)

L.C.I.(L) If fuel permits detach 1 escort to proceed to
 185. assist L.C.I.185. P.C.S. at 2330A/23 047° 45' N.
 013° 52' W. 020° 3 knots.
 (C. in C.W.A. 240705A to B.2.)
 Your 240705. MOURNE proceeded to 048° 39' N.
 016° 29' W. to comply. Weather 5580 1876.
 (HESPERUS, 240734Z to C. in C.W.A.)
 L.C.I.185 reported at 2330A/23 in 47° 45' N. 13° 52' W.
 steering 020° 3 knots with suspected broken back. Anticipate
 L.C.I.185 will alter course for (F) 180° Bishop Rock 10' on
 reaching 50° 00' N.
 (2) MOURNE is proceeding to assist L.C.I. 185 and may make
 contact before dark, today.
 (3) Request you will sail rescue tug DEXTEROUS escorted by
 LINCOLNSHIRE to assist L.C.I.185 to Falmouth.
 (4) L.C.I.185 has lost touch with L.C.I. 269, 301, 187, 275 and
 117 comprising remainder of Flight.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 241515A to F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)
 Disposition at 242000.
 (3) L.C.I.(L) 185, MOURNE 048° 50' 013° 22' 020° 3 knots.
 (5) Tug DEXTEROUS, LINCOLNSHIRE sailed Falmouth 1900 through
 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles to Westward 10 knots.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 241601A to Admty.)
 Small craft (?hull) damaged, course 10, speed 5 knots.
 (A/C Duty J. 241612 to 19 Group)
 Destroyer joined small craft.
 (A/C Duty J. 241650 to 19 Group.)
 Intend sailing Rescue Tug DEXTEROUS escorted by LINCOLNSHIRE
 at 1930A/24 to comply with C. in C. Plymouth's 241515A routed
 through 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles, thence to pos. 50° 00' N.
 12° 38' W.
 (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 241702A to C. in C. Plymouth.)
 P.C.S.048° 54' N. 012° 44' W. 338° 9. Intend escorting
 L.C.I. 185 until intercepting remainder. Tug not required.
 (MOURNE 241725Z to C. in C.W.A.)
 MOURNE is escorting L.C.I.185 independently direct to
 destination.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 242158A to L.C.I.269.)

/SAN...

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War Diary.

24.10.1943.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects. - Contd.

SAN
RAFAEL.

My 241300. SAN RAFAEL confirmed 046° 35' N.
017° 03' W. broken down until Dawn. Am unable
to screen.

(B.4 241352Z to HESPERUS.)

Escort vessel has been sent to your assistance
and should arrive during the night. Report your P.C.S. if you
get under way before escort joins.

(C. in C.W.A. 241658Z to SAN RAFAEL)

Cancel para. 3 of my 241515A.

2. Request you will sail DEXTEROUS forthwith escorted by
LINCOLNSHIRE to position (X) 49° 10' N. 14° 00' W. and thence as
necessary to assist SAN RAFAEL reported stopped p.m. today in
46° 38' N. 17° 38' W. with boiler trouble.

3. HEATHER now searching for SAN RAFAEL who hopes to proceed
daylight 25th on course 023°.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 242301A to F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)

ILLUSTRIOUS.

An urgent requirement has arisen for docking
ILLUSTRIOUS for coating bottom. Ship will be
available at Liverpool from p.m 4th November but
is to sail by 10th November.

2. Request arrangements accordingly.

(D.O.D.H. 241525A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

LAGAN.

My 211230. Intend sailing DESTINY with LAGAN in
tow 1100A/25th October to Clyde. S.O.A. 7 knots.
E.T.A. 1400A/26. LAGAN rudderless.

(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 241731A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

INGLEFIELD.

INGLEFIELD delayed by defects. My 201744 refers.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 241804A to Admty.)

M.T.B.230.

Lowestoft arrival M.T.B.230 from patrol owing to
engine defect.

(MANTIS 242239A to C. in C. Nore.)

Shipping and Convoys.

K.M.S.30/
O.G.95.

Convoy is being shadowed by enemy aircraft bearing
120' distance 3 miles.

Position 46° 58' 16° 40' W. course 217° 7 knots.

(HIGHLANDER 241028Z to Whitehall W/T.)

Repatriation
ships.

Following at 1112 G.M.T. from ATLANTIS. ATLANTIS,
EMPRESS OF RUSSIA and DROMINGHOLM position at

1100 G.M.T. 58.56 N. 01.54 W. - Master. Ends.

(Wick 241115Z to A.C.O.S.)

/D.S.46...

24.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- D.S.46. Intend to sail PRETORIA CASTLE to arrive Belfast 26th Oct. Having embarked A/C as arranged by F.O.C.T. request you will sail PRETORIA CASTLE to R/V with D.S.46 in 270° Oversay 6 miles at 0800A/27.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 241144A to N.O.I.C. Belfast.)
- H.X.262. 65 ships. Names and destinations.
(D.T.D. 241227A.)
- C.U.5. Arrived. 6 ships plus SAN ANTONIO.
(N.C.S.O. Barry 241600A to Admty.)
- BEACONHILL. BEACONHILL sailed Kola Inlet 1700A/24 for Iokanka and Archangel escorted by 2 Russian destroyers.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 241704A to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)
- K.X.11. My 231125A. Paras. 2 and 6 delete TEES.
Contact (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 241711A to F.O.I.C. attacked. Gibraltar.)
Have attacked contact in 49° 47' N. 08° 58' W. at 1930A. Contact lost. Am rejoining convoy.
(BALINDERRY 242012A to Admty.)
- O.N.S.21 Fifth escort Group unattached to be sailed as E.G.5. requisite to overtake O.N.S.21 before reaching 020° West and act in support.
(C. in C.W.A. 241714Z to Cdre. D.W.A.)
- O.N.207, Proceed to join B.7 group which will be fuelling O.N.208, from O.N.207 tomorrow. Estimated P.C.S. of PINK. O.N.207 at 0800A/25 053° 37' N. 035° 01' W. 247° 9½.
(2) Report if not met when expected and in this case proceed toward 056° N. 020° W. to support O.N.208.
(C. in C.W.A. 241747Z to PINK.)
- H.X.262. If no contact with convoy has been obtained by dawn tomorrow groups addressed are to act as follows. E.G.2 close convoy to enable TRACKER to rejoin group then proceed at 12 knots to support H.X.262. P.C.S. of H.X.262 at 2000A/26 045° 20' N. 034° 40' W. 087° 9½ knots. B.7 E.G. close convoy and top up with fuel. On completion fuelling proceed toward position 056° N. 020° W. at 12 knots. Group will subsequently be ordered to support O.N.208. Separate instructions will be issued to PINK.
(C. in C.W.A. 241905Z to E.G.2., E.G.B.7.)
- O.N.S.21 O.N.S.21. 39 Ships. Names and destinations.
(C. in C.W.A.242122Z to Admty.)

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War Diary.24.10.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

U/B attacked, ?sunk. Am over enemy submarine in 40 degs. 04' N. 9 degs. 30' W. (A/C Duty A 179 Squadron, 240110A to A.K.8 (Gibraltar W/T)).
Am over enemy S/M in 41 degs. 12' N. 9 degs. 31' W) S/M is on surface, course 180 degs. estimated speed 15 knots. (A/C A 179 Sqdn. 240120A)
Have attacked U-Boat with depth charge. U-Boat on surface apparently disabled. Position 41 degs. 12' N. 09 degs. 31' W. (A/C Duty A 179 Sqdn. 240125A to Gibraltar W/T)
48 German Officers and men landed at Vigo 1900 today from Spanish trawler FINA. Said to be U-Boat crew found in dinghies off Portuguese coast near Espinho 0730/24th after submarine sunk 0400 today.
(R.O. Vigo, 241920 to S.O.(I) Gib. (R) Admty. (for D.N.I.) B.N.A. Madrid)

FENCER. Request you will sail FENCER and screen forthwith for 045 degs. N. 030 degs. W. Further instructions as to her area of operations will be issued later.
(C. in C. Western Approaches, 240852Z to S.B.N.O. Azores (R) F.O.C. Gib. Connav, Admty. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F., FENCER, C. in C. C.N.A., A.C.I.C., Cdr. (D) Argentia, Cmdre. (D) W.A., H.W.C.C.)
Sailed FENCER escorted by INCONSTANT, GARLAND, BURZA (242023N gives ?GRAAF VAN VLAANDEREN in place of BURZA latter is evidently correct) at 241805N to comply with C. in C. W.A. 240852Z. S. of A. 14 knots.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 242024N, 242023N, to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. F.O.I.C. Gib.)

R.S.11. My 231806 sailed MALCOLM escorting SS. ORBITA refers.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 241021A, 241726 to F.O.C.W.A.) F.O.C.W.Africa's 241246. ORBITA is not to sail without an escort of two destroyers. She may be held at Gib. if necessary provided she is able to return there from Freetown by 25th Nov.
(2) BEAGLE may be used only if DOUGLAS cannot be made serviceable in time.
(D.O.D.(F), 241920A to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) F.O.C.W.Af., C. in C. Med., C.M.S.F. Comar. Dakar.)
ORBITA and MALCOLM are being diverted to Casablanca. ISIS is being sailed to Casablanca to meet and not as additional escort for onward passage to Freetown. F.O.C.W.Af. 241246 and Admty. 241920 refer.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 242335 to Admty., F.O.C.W.Af. (R) C.M.S.F.)
MALCOLM and ISIS are to fuel and proceed to Freetown when ready by Q.B.A. 102 thence to rejoin route in position B in my sailings order 0337/43, also in my 231800.
(2) MALCOLM is to give ISIS copy of my 0337/43 on arrival at Casablanca.
(3) C.M.S.F. is requested to report time of departure of R.S.11. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 242351 to MALCOLM, ISIS (R) C.M.S.F., N.O.I.C. W.A., Comar Dakar.)

Re-fuelling/...

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War Diary.24.10.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.Re-fuelling
U-Boat.

A/C report 3 large oil patches in 042 degs. 05' N. 027 degs. 32' W. Consider possible evidence of re-fuelling U-Boat. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 241203N, to Admty. (R) FENCER, C. in C. W.A.)

IRIS.

Reference A.M. 181308A. Request escort for IRIS be sent Angra as soon as possible. (N.O.I.C.Horta, 241206 to F.O.I.C.Gib. (R) Admty. S.B.N.O. Azores.)

Operation
"Alacrity".

Your 231320A. Am requesting details and dispositions of ships concerned from S.B.N.O. Azores.

(2) Request clarification my position regarding operations and shipping in Azores Area: present position indefinite and unsatisfactory and I have no knowledge of what forces are in that vicinity.

(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 241223A to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

Request you will report. (A) name of H.M.S. locations and present and future duty. (B) name of merchant ships located, when ready to sail and destination. All in Azores area.

(2) It is further requested you will keep me up to date with this information. When you have ships ready to join convoy I will order R/V and inform convoy accordingly.

(F.O.I.C.Gibraltar, 241225A to S.B.N.O. Azores (R) Admty.)

My P.C. and S. 038 degs. 09' N. 022 degs. 20' W. (7030 degs.) 9 knots. In view of delay of K.M.S. 30 intend altering to 265 degs. at 2000 until meeting HAVELOCK or receiving instructions. SS CORFELL in company. Weather report.

(GODETIA, 241400Z to S.B.N.O. Azores, F.O.C. Gib. HAVELOCK, (R) S.O. Escort Group B.4, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Med. Admty.)

Your 241137 (N.T. in W.D.). WARWICK, BUTTERCUP and LAVENDER will sail to join K.M.S.30 at 1st light tomorrow. VISCOUNT escorting SCOTTISH MONARCH and GODETIA escorting CORFELL will be diverted to join when K.M.S. 30's position is accurately known.

(S.B.N.O. Azores, 241600N F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) Admty. B.4, C. in C. W.A.)

Request you will supply me with information as to (1) Route. (2) Destination. (3) Composition, of all Atlantic convoys.

(S.B.N.O. Azores, 241815N to Admty.)

I am doing my best to supply relief escort vessels in accordance with orders being received from F.O.C.Gib., but all my escorts are suffering seriously from (faulty?) lubrication and are 100 per cent overdue for boiler cleaning.

(2) The sailing of BACHAQUERO as ordered by Admiralty 111830 must be postponed indefinitely.

(3) Situation as regards air protection has however improved and sailing of FENCER makes it possible to reduce A/S so that I can hope successfully to continue operation "Alacrity".

(S.B.N.O. Azores, 242232H to Admty. (R) F.O.C. Gib.)

Arrived /...

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24.10.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Operation "Alacrity". (Contd.) Arrived LAVENDER 2005 G.M.T. 24th. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 242345) WARWICK, BUTTERCUP and LAVENDER being sailed to join you in 041 degs. 53' N. 018 degs. 30' W. at 1200Z/26th VISCOUNT and GODETIA escorting SCOTTISH MONARCH and CORFELL will join you at the time. Request you will arrange for CORFIRTH to be escorted to Angra. It is most important that ships of my force be returned to (?Azores). (S.B.N.O. Azores, 242347 to B.4 (R) WARWICK, F.O. Gibraltar, Admiralty, VISCOUNT, GODETIA.)

Italian Ships Las Palmas. Following is a repetition of Consul Las Palmas 211222 (N.T. in W.R. (Begins) Italian Consul informs me of latest development regarding Italian ships here. (2) Missing parts of machinery apparently intact have now been deposited with Naval Authority pending release of ship. (3) Debt not yet liquidated. (4) Masters and crews of 3 ships have recognised Italian Gov. requisitioning order Sept. 3rd. (5) Change of crew may be necessary. (Ends.) (N.A. Madrid, 241224A)

U/Bs. A I 619 24th. B179-2118-NIG 5-MK 111 - FPEI 3206 (indecypherable F.P.43N) attacked surfaced 001 degs. Red-Stilu surfaced - 6 Torpex D.Cs. not observed. Strikes seen from M/G fire but no other results observed - U-Boat submerged. A179 NTJS 129 (incomplete NT - 41 N. JS - 10 W.) 180, 15,740 ton attacked - surfaced 130 degs. Green - 6 Torpex D.Cs. M.T.E. other side of U-Boat just aft of C/T - M/G fire exchanged - U-Boat remained stationary on surface until 0410 when contact was lost. All times A. (A.H.Q. Gibraltar, 241310A)

OBEDIENT, TEAZER, ROCKET. Onward route from (C) (D) 039 degs. N. 014 degs. (E) 036 degs. N. 010 degs W. (F) 035 degs. 47' N. 006 degs. 25' W. and Q.B.A.87. (2) If no codeword allocated assume "Autumn" on crossing 043 degs. N. (V.A. Gibraltar, 241715A to OBEDIENT, TEAZER, ROCKET)

UNRUFFLED. UNRUFFLED intend to sail at 1200/26 for U.K. through T 35.49 06.06.5 at 1620/26. S. 35.53. 06.15 at 1720/26. R. 36.37 07.24 at 0120/27. Q. 36.51 09.13 at 2200/27. P. 42.00 13.10 at 0100/31. K. 43.00 13.22 at 1400/31. shifting W/T watch at 1400/31 thence as ordered by F.O.S. (2) F.O.S.'s 081149 Jan.1942. A. 4 Mark 8. B. 9 knots until 0630/27 thereafter 8 knots (111 miles per day). C. Ready for patrol in an emergency 100% full. D. (1) One (2) Two. (F.O.I.C.241729A to Admty. F.O.S. (R) C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med. S.3, 5, and 8, C.M.S.F.Cominch) MONTCALM /...

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24.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

MONTCALM.

Onward route QBA 87. (L) 35.45 N. 06.30 W.
(M) 34 N. 10 W. (N) 30 N. 14 W.
(O) 27.30 N. 15 W. (P) 24 N. 18.30 W.
(Q) 15 N. 18.30 W. Thence to Dakar.
Your 231629 (W.D. Note? 231621A intended) not
to F.O.C.W.A. refers.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 241739A to Com. N.O.B.Oran (R)
Admty. Comar Dakar, F.O.C.W.A., C.M.S.F.)

South Atlantic.

SUFFOLK.

Sailed SUFFOLK route to Kilindini E.T.A. 0300Z/28.
My 221231 and 231444 neither to all addressees
refers.
(2) Shift to W/T group "Victory" at 0400Z/26.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 240724Z to Admty. C. in C. SA.,
C. in C. E.F., (S.E.A.C.). R.A.E.F., F.O.E.Af.
S.N.O.A.Kilindini)

Routeing
of U.S.
managed
vessels.

U.S. managed vessels of 14½ knots and over from
North American East Coast and Gulf of Mexico
bound for Red Sea, Persian Gulf and India will
proceed direct to Capetown in accordance with
M.A.R.I. Section 4 para. 9 for onward routeing,
except when nominated for U.G.S. convoys.
(D.T.D. 241121A to C. in C. S.A. (R) C. in C.
E.F., Connav.)

R.S.11.

F.O.C. Gibraltar's 231806.
As there are indications of up to 12 submarines
in this area three or four of which are possibly
operating on the coast suggest sailing of ORBITA
be delayed if this will allow inclusion of DOUGLAS in escort
or some other reinforcement. No reinforcement available here.
If necessary could delay of return of one B Class Destroyer to
U.K. be accepted to cover this escort. Do not intend to send
ORBITA to Takoradi so quick turn round at Freetown is possible.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 241246Z to Admty. F.O. Gibraltar. (R) C. in C.
Med. C.M.S.F., Comar, Dakar.)

CILICIA.

Your 181340 para. (3).
CILICIA. Time of sailing from St. Helena
1700/24th. S. of A. 12 knots. E.T.A. 10 degs.
S. 1900/26th.
(Gov. St. Helena, 241645X to C. in C. S.A.
(R) Admty. R.A.W.A.)

CAGNI /...

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24.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

CAGNI.

In order to assess the possibility of employing Italian submarine CAGNI as a supply submarine, request the following information may be given. (details).

(A.C.N.S.(F), 242056A to C. in C. S.A.(R) B.A.D.)

LITIOPA
torpedoed
and sunk
22nd Oct.

E.T.A. 1200/25. (A) SNOWDROP. (B) LITIOPA.
(G) 9 and 25. (P) 34. (Q) 7 of (G) Norwegian
19 or (H) Norwegian (?1) (?of). (H) Polish 2
of (H) British West Africa. (R) Nil.
(S) 2 of (G) Norwegian. Minor.
(T) I.R. 485 extra 271. (V) 710.
(W) Part Nil.
(SNOWDROP, 242135Z to F.O.C.W.Af.)

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War Diary.

24.10.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

SEVERN.

All times zone minus 3.
Position at 240001 034° 33' 029° 20' 13 knots
until dusk 24th. Then adjusting speed to arrive
250700 carrying out routine battery discharge.
(SEVERN 240115C to Capt. S.I.)

ECLIPSE
sunk.

PETARD reports ECLIPSE mined and sunk in 37° 01'
N. 27° 11' E. at 0050/24th. ECLIPSE had on board
about 200 military reinforcements for Leros.
2. Ships were to have disembarked at Palamat Buku
37° 06' N. 27° 18' E. into various craft sent
from Leros in order to avoid risk of air attack at Leros itself.
These craft should be picking up survivors now.

(C. in C.Levant 240250C to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med.)

Loss of ECLIPSE with troops on board. My 240250 refers.
Reason for the decision to send and need for speed in completion
will be (?ruling) feature. In view of latter factor decided to
do moves in two flights about 48 hours apart, each flight consist-
ing of about 400 divided between 2 Fleets, with 2 Hunts as all
purpose escorts.

2. First Flight sailed early a.m. 23rd routed to pass east of
Rhodes after dark keeping in Turkish waters as much as possible
to minimise air attack. A second force consisting of PHOMBE and
2 Hunts passing west of Rhodes a little later with object of
creating diversion.

3. In view of frequent night bombing of Leros and fact that enemy
of late has shadowed destroyers taking supplies up to the island
the plan was for troop carriers to proceed to Palamat Buku Bay
and there disembark into craft from Leros. If time permitted
being out of Aegean before daylight Fleets were then withdrawn,
otherwise lay up in Turkish waters. Hunts were to cover boats
and then lay up.

4. News of loss of HURWORTH and damage to ADRIAS arrived about
00 (?group omitted). Position of suspected position of minefield
first signalled as in Karabakla Channel due to cyphering or sig-
nalling error, shortly afterwards corrected. This may have
influenced ECLIPSE to pass outside Karabakla Island which was
unfortunate.

5. In afternoon it appears ROCKWOOD who was with ECLIPSE and PETARD
developed water in fuel and she was sent back to Alexandria. S.O.
decided to send other Hunt, EXMOOR, back with her on grounds un-
desirable leaving one Hunt alone in area by day see para. 3.
This was unfortunate. Information did not reach me till 1900
when decided in view of urgency, operation should go on. Also
unfortunate.

6. Regret that Cdre. (D) and two Brigadiers from G.H.Q. were
also in ECLIPSE proceeding Leros to review whole situation
there jointly. PETARD picked up one Brigadier C.O. ECLIPSE and
about 40 other survivors. No news remainder yet but hope craft
from Leros will have saved some more as they were close and
appeared to be quick on scene.

7. This episode and loss of HURWORTH, ADRIAS is severe set back to
our efforts, and plans will have to be recast.

(C. in C.Levant 240830C to Admty.)

/Italian...

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24.10.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Italian Movements. 23rd departure S/M ZOEA.
(N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports 240530C, 242014C.)
Departure SIRIO.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta 241931A.)

PASTEUR. U.S.1018. N.A.F. 484, 24th.
Two additional trips of PASTEUR Casablanca - Dakar recommended for following reasons: extra lifts will complete colonial division and five additional territorial battalions. Latter are required by French to meet our increasing demands for guards in N.A.
If approved, PASTEUR arrives back U.P. (?U.K.) ports about 24th Nov. whereas original agreed date was 13th Nov.
(Algiers 240733Z to A.G.W.A.R.)
Ref. No. 1823, N.A.F. 487, U.S. 1019.
With reference N.A.F. 484 (240733) grateful very early decision as third turn around PASTEUR completes at Casablanca 26th October.
(Algiers 242117A to A.G.W.A.R.)

Alexandria Movements. 23rd arrivals KRAKOWIAK, BLENCATHRA, JERVIS, PATHFINDER, RAMPURA, M.T.B. 260. Departures PHOEBE, HURSLEY, ALDENHAM, ROCKWOOD, EXMOOR, ECLIPSE, PETARD, DURBAN, DERBY, M.M.S.100, 101.
(R.A.Alexandria 240757C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

U.S. Movements. H.S. ACADIA arrived.
(Com. N.O.B.Oran 240903.)
24 Oct. departures U.S. L.S.T. 21, 17 (as recd.) 176, 209, 208, 25, 72, 17 (as recd) 5, 261, ACHELOUS (Rei) DAMOETO.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 241701.)
Arrivals BOISE, PLUNKETT, GLEAVES. Departures ANDROMEDA, APOLLYON.
(Com. N.O.B.Oran 242008A.)
Arrived TRIPPE.
(V.A.Malta 242215A.)

UNRULY. Departed 23rd.
(S.O.(I) Beirut 240905C.)

Enemy ships P.C. and S. of enemy one merchant vessel 2000 in Dodecanese. Kaly~~200~~as Barbour (W.D.Note: ?Kalimno Harbour) one small merchant vessel 250 is 36.57 N. 27.07 E. 045, 6.
(A/C HTZ/N 240910Z to Alexandria W/T.)
One 2000 ton merchant vessel in 36.58 N. 27.02 E. Vessel stationary. One small merchant vessel (250 tons) in 36.57 N. 27.07 E. Course 045° speed 6 knots.
(A/C HTN/V 241140Z.)
One 2000 ton M/V in 36.58 N. 27.02 E. vessel stationary.
One small M/V (250 tons) in position 36.57 N. 27.07 E. course 045° speed 6 knots.
(A/C GMO/A 241555B.)

/R.A.F.M.E....

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24.10.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

R.A.F.M.E. Report. A.336, 24th, 0917Z. Daily Opsum 179 22/23rd. 5 Wellingtons armed with torpedoes and bombs anti-shipping R/C Western Aegean 2 landed Cyprus. No reports received, remainder no sightings, 2 bombed Syros Harbour bombs bursting on warehouses. 23rd unserviceability of gambut landing grounds again restricted operations 5 attacks reported on Leros during day by total 27 Ju.87s and Ju.88s no details of damage or casualties. 23/24th 3 Liberators (B.24) 7 Halifaxes Heraklion Aerodrome 1 Halifax returned early remainder found 10/10 cloud over target 3 aircraft bombed through cloud with unknown results remainder returned.
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 240924?)

PHOEBE shadowed by A/C. No incidents. Shadowed by A/C all night. (PHOEBE 240934C to C. in C.Levant.) E.T.A. Limasol 0530C/25th to oil. Request Cape Gata and port lights from 04(700) (or 04(730).) (PHOEBE 242212C to N.O.I.C. Cypriot Ports Larnaka, (R) C. in C.Levant.)

K.M.F.25 BOXER, BRUISER. Sailing June 0430/27th to R/V with K.M.F.25 in 036° 27' 015° 09' at 0800/27th and continue with convoy to Port Said. C. in C.Med. 171155* and 230341* neither to all refers. (V.A.Malta 241013A to BOXER, BRUISER, (R) C. in C.Med.) * N.T. in W.D.)

M.K.S.29. Convoy M.K.S.29 sail Oct. 24th. List and numbers embarked. (S.S.T.O. Alexandria 241034C.)

SHAKESPEARE. Unless otherwise ordered leave Naxos-Mykoni area after dark 28th to patrol North of Doro Channel. (Capt. S.1 241038C to (P.221) SHAKESPEARE, (R) C. in C.Levant, 1st S.F.)

SICKLE. Your 231220. Request information whether SICKLE (P.224) is to call at Malta. If not, suggest quickest passage to Levant (would?) be to remain with K.M.F.25. (S.10 241042A to S.8, (R) C. in C.Med. C. in C. Levant, V.A.Malta, Capt. S.1, Admty. R.A.Alex.)

S/M Positions Leros. Following positions are established for store carrying S/M waiting off Leros WP. one within 5 miles of 037° 15' 026° 12' WP. two within 5 miles of 037° 10' 026° 25'. (Capt. S.1 241046C to 1st S.F. S.B.N.O.Aegean.)

/M.K.S.29...

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24.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- M.K.S.29. 1. Sailing telegram 16 ships. 2. 0802C/24th.
3. Sailed together. 4, 5, 6. as in C. in C. Levant's 212031 (N.T. in W.D.) and C. in C. Med's. 221535 (W.D. Note: 221555A intended)
13. A. Cdre. W.E.B. Magee in EMPIRE SPLENDOUR,
B. Master FORT ASH.
(R.A. Alexandria 241147.)
- Enemy Ship, P.C. and S. 1 medium merchant vessel 44.24 N.
Gulf of 8.54 E. based on a fix taken with $\frac{1}{2}$ hour of 1200
Genoa. stationary.
(GOZ/Z 241149A to Air H.Q. Malta.)
- SPORTSMAN, Intend sailing P.229 (SPORTSMAN) and P.217 (SIBYL)
SIBYL. at 1600/26 routed through 035° 50' 015° 19' at
2000/26, thence P.229 (SPORTSMAN) direct to 034° 18
mins. 022° 49' at 0800/28th.
P.217 (SIBYL) through 035° 25' 015° 40' to 034°
00' 022° 33' at 0802/28th onward routing? as arranged by Capt. S.1
2. Surface passage S.O.A. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots all times zone minus 1.
3. M.J.A.O. 24 request total bombing restrictions.
(Capt. S.10 241202A to Capt. S.1, (R) A.H.Q. Malta, C. in C. Med.
C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Capt. S.8, 1st S.F. SPORTSMAN, SIBYL,
Admty. V.A. Alexandria, 201 Group.)
- N.V.5. My 230929A (N.T. in W.D.) Intend to sail 21
ships (names and destinations.)
Comdre. Newman R.N.V.R. in PROMETHEUS Vice Comdre.
of Convoy Master of U.S. JEB STUART.
(N.O.I.C. Naples 241344A, 241350A.)
W.D. Note. 241350A appears to be a corrected
version of 241344A.
- Situation Cositrep 34. 1. Int. Aegean. A. Ph. R. 21 Oct.
Aegean. shows no change in operational area Aegean.
4. Naval. Aegean. Night 23/24 Oct. ECLIPSE mined
and sunk 5 miles East Calino. PETARD picked up
44 survivors three M.Ls. and one French Lighter
also assisting. 24 Oct. EXMOOR and ROCKWOOD returned Alex.
(C. in C.M.E. 241430C.)
24 Oct. Joint Army R.A.F. Int. appreciation 24 hours to
0900Z/24th.
1. No surface attack against Leros reported up to 0900Z/24th.
2. Ph. R/C 0700Z/23rd Kos - Kalino Area. Kos. 4 F-Boats off
harbour entrance including 2 believed damaged. 1 F-Boat on
beach north coast Kos believed damaged. Some small caiques seen
8 miles east of harbour. Port Pserimo. Nil shipping but some
small caiques heading for harbour. Kalino Harbour. Merchant
vessel 300 naval auxiliary 150 feet 80/100 ton caique in same
positions. 3 F-Boats of which 1 possibly damaged. Atti Bay.
Damaged Naval Auxiliary. Port Vathi. Only outer bay covered
nil shipping. Other bays on Kalino Island not covered. Total
7 F-Boats seen of which 3 or possibly 4 believed temporarily
ineffective.

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War Diary.

24.10.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation Aegean. (Contd.)

3. Some 28 bomber sorties reported on Leros 23 October. Nil on Kastelorizo.

4. Stampalia confirmed occupied by enemy. 4 enemy floatplanes seen by air R/C in bay south east of island 0835Z/23rd.

5. Our naval units believed to have bombarded Kalino Harbour night 23/24th. Results not yet known.

6. C.X. reports 4 cargo ships including LIVENZA (?or LEVENZA) (5,300 tons) loaded at Piraeus with war material and troops and ready to sail escorted by 3 torpedo boats. Destination unknown. Ph. R/C showed LEVENZA (or LIVENZA) (previously seen at Salonika 29th Sept.) in Salamis and port Heracles since 8th Oct. and still there 23rd Oct.

7. Kos landing grounds Antimachia still apparently unserviceable nil operational type aircraft seen. Lambia and Pili also unserviceable.

8. Appreciation of enemy's intentions unchanged.
(C. in C.M.E. No T.O.O.)
24 Oct. Your 82172 (Mo. 5) of 24 Oct.

2. Patrol locations now as follows. Lrdg. in Seriphos and Naxos. Patrol Stampalia believed captured. Sbs. in Syri withdrawing tonight. Three patrols recently withdrawn from Rhodes now re-equipping. Patrol sent Kalino believed captured. H.Q. raiding forces now Leros possibly moving Samos on arrival Coy. 2 Rwk. as rfts. to Leros Grn.
(C. in C.M.E. 241937.)

FENRIS, and TAMARA.

Swedish Government intimate that safe conduct vessels will sail from Piraeus for St. John (N.B.) on 28th by standard route.

2. Request you will inform air and other authorities concerned.
(Head of M.I. 241631A to C. in C. Levant, (R)
C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta, F.O.C. Gib. N.S.H.Q.
S.B.N.O.W. At. C. in C.C.N.A.)

V.T.6.

My 221055 sailed 6 hours late. Convoy will adjust speed to arrive in daylight and will report E.T.A.
(V.A. Malta 241659 to S.N.O. Tripolitania.)

Torpedo Reserves.

Torpedo Reserves. Owing to decreased activity in Med. and likelihood of increased activity in F.E. propose to adjust authorised reserves of torpedoes as follows:
(D.T.S.D. 241732A to C. in C. Med.)

Convoys
K.M.F.25A
X.I.F.3,
M.K.F.25A.

Proposed programme (details).
(C. in C. Med. 241737A, 260831A, 311737.)

/K.M.F.26...

War Diary.

24.10.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

K.M.F.26,
M.K.F.26.

K.M.F.26 will leave U.K. on 15th Nov. Further signal will give numbers and destinations of ships. 2. C. in C.Med. is requested to inform authorities concerned of proposed sailing date of M.K.F.26 from Port Said.
(D.O.D.(F) 241759A to C. in C.Med. F.O.I.C. Gib. F.O.C.W.Af. C. in C.Levant, C. in C.E.F.)

Naples,
Movements.

Gulf of Naples 24th Oct. Arrivals M.L.444. Departures L.S.Ts. 416, 63, 305, 315, 379, 326, 327, 360, 374, TANGO, TWOSTEP, U.S.S.C. 651, 691, P.U.C.557, M.119, M.117, CAVA, M.L.338.
(N.O.I.C. Naples 241846A.)

V.N.6/
A.H.6.

My 222315 (N.T. in W.D.) Composition is as follows: 55 ships (names and destinations.)
(V.A.Malta 241850A.)

SALTWICK.

M.K.S.28. Your 201501 and 211444 do not include SALTWICK. Request confirmation that she was in convoy. C. in C.Med's 222001 para. 2 refers.
(D.T.D. 241924A to Com. Algiers.)

GUARDIAN.

On completion of present operation estimated date 15th Dec. anticipate GUARDIAN will no longer be required in Med. Stn. Ship will then be due for docking.
2. Request instructions to ships future movements.
(C. in C.Med. 241925A to Admty.)

Radar decoys
IERAX's
report..

IERAX reports that at 1800/12th in 31° 26' N. 33° 03' E. many pieces of thin silvered metal paper 6 ft. 10 ins. seen in air. Two were examined but 179B of Sept. 29th had not then been received on board and strips were not retained. There were no enemy A/C reported in the vicinity at the time.
(C. in C.Levant 241936C to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty.)

Tunisia
Movements.

Arrival RIBOTY, TROMBE.
(F.O.Tunisia 242002.)

Levant
Situation
Report No.
89.

PHOEBE, ECLIPSE, PETARD, HURBLEY, ALDENHAM, entered Aegean last night, each of the fleets with troops for Leros. At 0050 ECLIPSE was mined and sunk east of Kalimno. Some 40 survivors picked up by PETARD. Hope more were saved by small craft already sent from Leros to the vicinity where disembarkation was to take place. PETARD withdrew and lay up in Turkish waters.

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24.10.1948.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Levant
Situation
Report No.
89 (Contd.)

2. PHOEBE and the Hunts proceeded East of Kos and made a cast towards Leros, and withdrew south of Rhodes thence towards Kastelorizo where destroyers fuelled. They were shadowed by A/C all night but not bombed.

3. RORQUAL due to unload stores at Leros last night.

4. During period 14th - 23rd destroyers have landed at Leros by night 267 personnel, 22 carts and jeeps, six guns, 160 tons supplies and ammunition.

5. Correction to situation report No. 88. For Beirut read (?Hafayig) para. 2.
(C. in C. Levant 242020C.)Algiers
Movements.Arrivals PALOMARES, S/M UNTIRING, S/M ORPHEE, TEMPETE, L'ALCYON Fr. and LA GRACIEUSE, U.S.S. JONES and DAVIS.
(Com. Algeria 242126A.)Med. Situation 1. CROMARTY was mined and sunk while sweeping in Report No. 214 the western Approaches to the Straits of Bonifacio at 1124/23rd. 62 survivors, C.O. seriously wounded, **? E.P.H. Pinkney* Cmdr. E.B. Finkney; Cmdr. M/S Maddalena killed (presumably casualty report will be rendered separately.)

2. Destroyer patrolling in Adriatic night 23/24 Oct. between Cazza Island and Durazzo met nothing.

3. Netherlands Ship DOLFIJN reports no worth while target seen during patrol between Toulon and Italian border. One barge was attacked with gunfire on 14th but after registering 2 hits, action had to be broken off on account of firing from shore batteries.
(C. in C. Med. 242220A.)GAVOTTE
defects.Request assistance of tug. Have had to draw fires on account serious leaks in boiler tubes. Stopped in 036° 29' N. 013° 18' E.
(GAVOTTE 242235 to V.A. Malta.)Enemy
Minelayer.Look out for a minelayer reported probably leaving Piraeus p.m. 24th for Dodecanese. This is a vital target.
(Capt. S.1 242328C to 1st S/W Flot.)

G.U.S.19.

Arrived.
(V.A. Malta 242359A.)

had *Leon*

MOST SECRET

772^A

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

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

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 242029A October IN

FROM: Algiers

DATE : 25.10.43

RECD: 0855A

ADDRESSED: MTOUSA and AGWAR.

*Italy: Situation: Appreciation by
General Alexander.*

IMMEDIATE

Ref. No. NAF. 486. 1806 24th October 1943. US 1026.

Interior Addresses: To AGWAR for C.C.S.
Reptd. Usfor for B.C.S.
Signed: Eisenhower
Cite: FHCIC

Transmitting entire text because this morning at a Commander's conference, General Alexander presented a review of the battle situation in Italy which gives such a clear and accurate picture.

PART I.

1. (a) On 9 September, the date of the launching of AVALANCHE and the announcement of the Italian Armistice, the estimate of the general enemy situation was that 2 divisions were opposing the advance of Eighth Army in Calabria; 1 division was in the Heel of Italy; 3 divisions were in a position south of Rome and available to take action against the Allied landing in Salerno Bay; more than 2 divisions were in the neighborhood of Rome and 9 in the north of Italy. The Germans, therefore, had a total of some 18 divisions at their disposal on the Mainland. Of these it was considered that some would be engaged in Northern Italy to deal with the internal situation which was expected to cause them considerable embarrassment.

(b) It was of course realized that our assaults near Salerno would prove hazardous in the face of German opposition, but it was thought that the Italian situation coupled with the opportunity of landing light forces in the Heel and our overwhelming air superiority, weighed the scales sufficiently in our favor, and the risks quite rightly were taken. Further, landing craft were available in large numbers and gave us liberty of maneuver and flexibility in both build-up and maintenance by sea. They also afforded the possibility of further amphibious operations to assist the advance by land. This flexibility proved invaluable and was utilized fully by Eighth Army in its operations along the coast of Calabria and by Seventh Army in reinforcing the Salerno Area with 1 division from Sicily in the critical early days of the battle.

/(c)

(c) Although at that time it was known that craft were to be withdrawn during the winter, the number to be withdrawn and the dates of withdrawal were not established. Our plans then envisaged an estimated build up of 1,300 vehicles a day from all Mediterranean ports. Such a figure meant that a total of 20 Allied Divisions, together with the Tactical Air Forces, could factually have been put into Italy by the end of the year, provided that they could be equipped and their maintenance assured. At the same time, the estimates of craft available for the future allowed sufficient elasticity to assist maintenance and to provide for amphibious operations in conjunction with the land advance to Rome, should such steps be necessary.

PART II

2. (a) Today the situation has changed greatly. In the South, 11 Allied Divisions oppose 9 German, while further North there are some 15 more, a known total of 24 Divisions, and perhaps as high as 28 Divisions. On the basis that there are no unforeseen causes of a still lower rate of build up, the optimum number of formations at our disposal on the mainland will be: end of November - 13 Divisions, end of December - 14/15 Divisions, end of January - 16/17 Divisions. Our rate of build up has fallen from the previous estimate of 1,300 vehicles a day to an estimated 2,000 a week with a consequent delay in the calling forward of Air Forces and Army formations. The reduction in the build up of ground forces has also been influenced by the decision to move the strategic air force into the Foggia area as rapidly as possible rather than to wait for the capture of bases in the Rome area. The demands of the Air Forces should be met by the end of the year.

(b) The reduction in craft, already decreased by wear and tear, has been so serious as to preclude us from taking advantage, other than with minor forces, of the enemy's inherent weakness, which is the exposure of his 2 flanks to turning movements from the sea. The majority of such craft as are available are required for build up and for coastwise maintenance on account of demolitions to road and rail facilities, and traffic in the ports, owing to the shortage of lighters and tugs and enemy sabotage to berthing facilities, which will take time to repair.

3. (a) An examination of the enemy position has shown that his lines of communication enable him to build up in Italy, mainly in the North, to the order of 60 Divisions, should they be available, and maintain them there in the winter months, despite our air superiority. The Germans clearly are trying to form a reserve by shortening their lines round the Fortress of Europe. Such a reserve could be employed in reinforcing further their armies in Italy.

(b) In comparison, the Allied position is less favorable. With the resources available no increase in rate of build up can be made. A stabilized front South of Rome cannot be

accepted/

MOST SECRET

772^B

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

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

accepted, for the capital has a significance far greater than its strategic location and sufficient depth must be gained before the Foggia airfields and the Port of Naples can be regarded as secure. This being so the seizure of a firm defensive base North of Rome becomes imperative. Moreover we cannot afford to adopt a purely defensive role, for this would entail the surrender of the initiative to the Germans.

Part III.

4. The obvious present German intention is to hold a line south of Rome, where the country favours defence and allows no scope of the development of our superiority in armour or artillery. Coming bad weather will limit the employment of our Air Forces, as indeed it has done already. Enemy troops may be tired but they can be relieved by formations from the North. There are indications that this is being done now. We have neither the formations nor the shipping to enable us to do so. It would therefore appear that we are committed to a long and costly advance to Rome, a "Slugging Match", with our present slight superiority in formations on the battle front offset by the enemy opportunity for relief: for, without sufficient resources in craft, no out-flanking amphibious operation of a size sufficient to speed up our rate of advance is possible. There is a danger that a successful conclusion of this "Slugging Match" might leave us North of Rome in such a state of exhaustion and weakness as not to be able to hold that we have gained, if the Germans bring down from the North fresh divisions for a counter offensive. An enemy strike of this nature may not be fully neutralized by our Air Forces during the winter months; otherwise, I should feel no concern. The German reinforcement of Italy appears greater than warranted by the internal situation or by purely defensive requirements. If the opportunity for an easy success occurs, there is little doubt that it will be seized upon to counter the effects of a year of defeats on all fronts and to raise German morale prior to the campaign of 1944. The effect in the Balkans and in France might be particularly to our disadvantage.

5. (a) In conclusion the picture in September looked rosy, provided the initial assault at Salerno was successful. The German Divisions in the North were about to become involved in difficult internal security problems. In the South the rate of build up was believed to be such that, given no reinforcement by reserve German formations, we should have had 20 Divisions opposed to probably his 18 by the end of December, and our full Air Force requirements have been on the mainland. It was believed that sufficient craft would be available to turn his sea flanks and maintain forces over the beaches, ~~§ a~~ might be necessary.

/(b).....

-4-

(c) To sum up: Today the situation is that 11 Allied Divisions are fighting a frontal battle in country favouring the defence against an immediate strength of 9 German Divisions, which can be reinforced at any moment. Our build up has dwindled to a maximum of 16/17 Divisions by the end of January against a present enemy strength of a certain 24 Divisions, and our resources are not available for amphibious operations of much more than of local character. We may be delayed South of Rome sufficiently long to enable the Germans to clear up the situation in Northern Italy and then reinforce his Southern front. In this case, the initiative might well pass to him.
REVIEW MINDS.

End of Part III, Part IV follows.

242029A.

1st Lord.	Recd in War Registry.	0106/26.
1st S.L. (2)		
D.F.S.L.	Circulation.	
V.C.N.S.	Brig Jacob	
A.C.N.S. (F)	Foreign Sec.	
A.C.N.S. (W)	1st S.L.	
N.A. Mails.	C.6.Tels. W/O	
Sec.	C.A.S.	
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. (4) (3)		
Hd of M. (2)		
I.P. (2)		
W.D.		
Ad. Blake.		
D.R.O. (30) (2)		

* NT. & WD.

jb

773

24.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U-Boat attacked. Following has been received. Counter attacked S/M in 022° 27' N. 060° 04' E. remaining in area. (TOOWOOMBA 240001. All stations taking part in Group W.) See also 241636Z.

M.A.16. Arrived.
(Port Officer Chittagong 240315Z to Admty.)

HAWKINS defects. Wear down of A frame brushes in HAWKINS. R.A., E.F., 231219 refers. (N.T. in W.R.).
(2) Request HAWKINS may be taken in hand at Simonstown for work detailed in para. 2. of A.M. 011248 August. E.T.A. 10th November.
(3) Refits of E.F. Destroyers should not be delayed by docking of HAWKINS.
(C. in C. E.F. 240630Z to C. in C.S.A. (R) C.S. Simonstown, Admty. C.S.4, HAWKINS, C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.)).

BRITISH PURPOSE, damage. BRITISH PURPOSE. N.O.I.C. Cochin reports that damage forward is considerable and possibly a complete new bow will be required. 2. Ship will proceed to Bombay in M.B.52 leaving Cochin 27th Oct. Understand cargo has been discharged.
(C. in C.E.F. 240631Z to D.G. Shipbuilding and Repairs Bombay. (R) Cdre. R.I.N., P.S.T.O. Bombay, N.O.I.C. Cochin, M.W.T. Bombay, Admty.)

Convoy P.A.58. (1) Sailing telegram. (corrupt group) B.G.T. (14 ships). (2) 0700Z/24th. (3) 057° 30' E. 0900Z/27th Aden 1500Z/30th. (4) 9½ knots from BB 10 knots. (5) Route 54. (6) BALUCHISTAN, KONKAN.
(N.C.S.O. Hormuz 240740Z to Admty.)

CONGELLA "S" Report. Following has been read SSSS 3, D.E. MM 4 E.U.3 01° 13' N. 72° 16' E. S/M sighted.
(CONGELLA No T.O.O. Recd. 240750 to Colombo W/T.)
CONGELLA reports shelled and on fire in a 001° 02' N. 071° 14' E.
(C. in C.E.F. 241510 to S. and A. E.I. Stations. (R) Admty., C. in C.S.A. 222 Group, 246 Wing, Air H.Q., E.A. 215 Group.)
Surface and air assistance is being sent.
(Admiral Colombo 241524Z to CONGELLA.)
01° 02' N. 71° 14' E. shelled on fire.
(CONGELLA 241605.)

Convoy P.B.60 B. Sailing telegram (4 ships). (2) 1140Z/24th. (3) E.T.A. E. 0230Z/27th. (4) 8½ knots. (5) (D) 023° 38' 066° 51'. (E) 020° 05' 070° 34'.
(6) CORNWALLIS.
(N.C.S.O. Karachi 241157Z, 241202Z to Admty.)
Departure CORNWALLIS and TRAVANCORE escorting P.B.60 B.
(N.O.I.C. Karachi 241204Z to Admty.)

/Naval...

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24.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Naval
(including
Air) stores
for
Eastern
Fleet.

Proposed requirements in Ceylon, Southern India
and Durban.
(Civil Lord 241604A to C. in C. E.F.)
See Lion Copy.

U/B.
attacked.

Aircraft report U-Boat attacked by escort of
A.P.49 2335Z/23rd in 022 degs. 36' N. 060 degs.
08' E. Oil patch seen and depth charges
dropped. Further 3 attacks by TOOWOMBA at
0235Z/24th in 022 degs. 32' N. 059 degs. 58' E.
Convoy subsequently sighted in expected position.
(S.N.O.P.G. 241636Z to C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.)
(R) N.O.I.C.Hormuz, Admty. N.O.I.C. Aden.)

Convoy
H.C.1.

Sailing telegram (3 ships) (1) H.C.1.
(2) 2100 G.M.T. 24th from Sandheads.
(4) 10 knots. (5) RUMBLE route south.
(6) H.M.I.S. NARBADA, ROHILKHAND.
(N.C.S.O. Calcutta, 242105Z, 242112Z to Admty.)

E. I. *him*

MOST SECRET

774^A

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MOST SECRET MESSAGE OUT

TO: G. in C. Eastern Fleet DATE: 24.10.43
F.O.C.R.I.N.
Repeated C. in C. S.A.
S.D.D.S. Colombo
F.O. Ceylon
S.C.E. East Indies
S.C.E. India
R.A.N.A.S.I.O.

Aircraft Storage, Eastern Theatre.

Naval Cypher (XD) Plug

FROM: Admiralty.

DEFERRED.

To meet anticipated requirements of storage space for Naval (including Air) stores for Eastern Fleet, following is proposed:-

- (a) Ceylon, increase of 720,000 sq. ft. making total of 1,400,000 sq. ft. of which 400,000 is for Air stores.
- (b) Southern India, new Air Store Depot of 200,000 sq. ft. which it is suggested should be in the Madras area.
- (c) Durban, completion by mid 1944 of 1,300,000 sq. ft. already approved.

2. Request you will forward your proposals for (a) and (b) either by building or requisitioning, with estimates. Accommodation will be required for use progressively during 1944 to be completed by end of year.

3. Above figures allow for increase in escort forces as well as expansion of Eastern Fleet.

4. My 232040 re maintenance of naval aircraft (not to all) is relevant.

241604A.
for Hd of M.II(671)
Approved by Civil Lord.

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (2)
D.F.S.L.
3rd S.L.
Vice Controller.
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)
A.C.N.S. (W)
Sec.
Fin. Sec.

Civil Lord	D.A.M.R.	D.N.O.
P.A.S. (F)	Hd of M. (9)	A.S. (C)
P.A.S. (S)	(N.S. (1934/43)	D.A.S.
D. of P. (2)	A.S. (CL)	D.T.S.D.
D. of P. (Q) (3)	Hd of W.G.F.	D. of L.D
D.N.I. (4)	Hd of Air Br.	(2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)	C.E. in C.	
D.O.D. (H) (4)	D. of S. (2)	Dep Contr
D.C.N.A.E.	Hd of M.A.S. (4)	D.E.E.
D.N.A.O.	Ad. Blake. (4)	C.E. in C
D.A.W.T.	I.P. (2)	D.T.M.
D.A.C.R.	W.D.	D. of D
D.A.E.	D.T.M.	D.N.O.
	D.E.E.	E. in C
		D.A.S.
		Hd of S.W.R.

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24.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Attack on U/B. TURNER sends pass for action to Cominch, Cinclant, Commorseafron and F.O.C. Gibraltar and for info to C.T.F.64 and C.T.G. 21.14. Refer to this as 240300. TURNER attacked sub, with gunfire and depth charges at 232045Z in 34.15 North 22.39 West.
(Radio Washington 240358Z to F.O. Gibraltar).

H.X.262, ARVIDA. My 231542. ARVIDA sailed St. Johns N.F. to overtake.
(?F.O.N.F. 240748Z to C ?5).

U/B Submarine contact reported in 018 degs. 21' N. 076 degs. 04' W. at 2305Z/23rd.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica 241045R to Admty.).

B.Y.M.S. 167 and 59. My 23/1525 departed Charleston Seabuoy 0715Q.
(Com.6, 241203 to N.O.B. Bermuda).

SALISBURY E.T.A. 1900Z/24th RICHMOND in company. Urgent defects. SALISBURY, RICHMOND, details of defects.
(2) E.T.A. BARRIE 0900Z/25th.
(SALISBURY 241245Z to F.O.N.F.(R) Capt.(D) St. Johns).

GEORGETOWN (1) GEORGETOWN sails St. Johns 1630Z/24th to Boston route.
(2) E.T.A. Boston 2000Z/25.
(F.O.N.F. 241246Z to Com.1. (R) N.M.C.J.S., N.S.H.Q. C. in C.N.A. B.A.D. Admty., C.E.S.F., Cominch, C.T.G.02.3).

N.S.H.Q. S/M Estimate. (N.S.H.Q. 241330Z).

FENNEL, O.N.S.21, MALING. C. in C.C.N.A. 162031 not to all.
(1) FENNEL sailing St. Johns N.F. 1200Z/25th to intercept O.N.S.21 vicinity position T.S.
(2) (corrupt group) MALING joins group C.2.
(F.O.N.F. 241356Z).

QUEEN MARY. Arrived New York 1020Z/24.
(P.D.New York 241410Z to Com.10th Fleet C & R).

STIRLING CASTLE, number of passengers. Refer C. in C. Med. 211659 and Admty. 222240. In view situation and urgent need for transportation Cominch authorizes exception to passenger rule in case STIRLING CASTLE.
(Cominch 241413Z to C. in C. Med. Admty.).

/KOFRESI...

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24.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

KOFRESI disabled. Following for C.C.R.T. H.M.R.T. ASPIRANT sailed St. Johns 1845 Oct. 23 to assist KOFRESI disabled in vicinity 4500 N. 51.26 W. (F.O.N.F. 241421Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C.C.N.A.).

S.C.145 Departures ANNAPOLIS, SASKATOON, KENOGAMI, SHEDIAC escorting S.C.145. (C. in C.C.N.A. 241425 to Admty.).

ST. ALBANS My 201442 ST. ALBANS sails Halifax additional escort X.B.80 E.T.A. Boston 28th. (C. in C.C.N.A. 241518Z to B.A.M.R.).

Convoy S.C.145 (1) Sailing telegram (30 ships). (2) Gate 1400/24. (4) 7½ knots. (5) Ocean route. (6) W.8. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 241557Z, 241613 to Admty.).

U.S S/M Estimate. (Cominch 241616Z).

GULFBELLE, GULFLAND, survivors. GULFBELLE U.S. arrived Port Everglades Florida 222310Z. My 221659Z refers. Crew of GULFBELLE numbered 72 and that of GULFLAND 52. There were 29 survivors of whom 1 died. (Charleston 241613A to Admty. (R) N.S. Ottawa).

H.X.263 This completed my Dis 231840. Convoy sailing Dispatch. H.X.263 (44 ships). (P.D.New York 241804, 241852 to Admty.).

DUFF Bermuda departure. (S.B.N.O.W.At. 241949Z to Admty.).

GOODALL Via direct route to Casco Bay at speed of 16 knots GOODALL (B.D.E. 275) departs Boston boom 1100Q/25th. E.T.A. point X 1730Q same day. (U.S.C.T.G. 02.1 241951 to Sr. U.S. Officer Afloat Casco Bay).

Sub attack and sighting summary. Para.A. CAMPOS torpedoed sunk 24.07 S. 45.50 W. 231100. GULFLAND total loss from collision 26.57 N. 80.01 W. 210257. Para.B. U.S. TURNER attacked sub. 34.15 N. 22.39 W. 23 045. All times Z. Para.C. P.B.M. sighted sub 12 N. 62.32 W. 241443. Para.D. Sub attacked 19.42 N. 75.15 W. 241640. T.B.F. attacked periscope 29.11 N. 79.11 W. 241600. P.C.1254 attacked sound contact 18.21 N. 76.94 W. 232305. (Cominch 242031Z to Admty.).

/U.S....

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24.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

U.S. movements. Refer to this as Cominch 241410. With exception of CHASE STANTON and LYON for which orders have been issued in my 202159 U.S. Combat loaders may be sailed to U.K. in M.K.F.27 for return to U.S. in T.U.6. No further delay in arrival U.S. can be accepted beyond 22 Jan. War Depart. agrees. Refer troopers 78586 of 13th Oct. This addressed to Admty. for action. C. in C. Med. Comnavnaw, A.F.H.Q. Algiers and Comnavneu have for info. (Comnavneu 242051Z to Admty.).

U.S. submarine lost. The presumed loss of the United States submarine DORADO was announced by the Navy Department to-day. There was no indication in the announcement of the area where the loss occurred. The 1,525 ton submarine DORADO was launched only last May, and is the thirteenth American submarine to be lost since the entry of the United States into the war. (New York 24/10, The Times 25/10).

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest serial No.642 Oct. 23rd. Liberators sighted Northbound submarine off Cape Orford (forenoon?).
(2) Navy Catalina reported 2 small freighters 60 miles West Buka passage eastbound before dawn, while 3 freighters were sighted 15 miles West Buka later same morning heading northward.
(3) Two Beaufighters on barge sweep North New Britain coast forenoon attacked and destroyed small freighter and barge near Ubili.
(4) Liberator bombed Garove Island afternoon 22nd, while Catalina attacked 2 barges this area during night hours.
(5) 24 Mitchells escorted by 17 Thunderbolts attacked Dagua and But aerodromes also Tai Ping Wewak area forenoon 22nd dropping 24 tons bombs from low altitude and heavily strafing target area. Eight serviceable and 12 unserviceable aircraft destroyed together with 2 small freighters, at least 9 barges, 1 lugger, while 1 vessel damaged in addition to several barges. Several fires started amongst supply dumps near airfields which were both reported devastated after attack. Photos taken during attack show only unserviceable aircraft remaining on Dagua field while photos before attack show several small coasters and barges off Wewak. Interception by 28 enemy fighters 3 shot down and 3 others probably. Four Thunderbolts are missing.
(6) 20 Barges reported Hansa Bay and 10 barges, 1 small coaster Ulingan harbour afternoon.

/ (7) Night...

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24.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest serial No.642 October 23rd. (Contd.).

(7) Night 21st-22nd our P.T. boats endeavouring contact enemy barges of Kelano harbour (35 miles Northwest Finschhafen) were engaged by 2 three inch gun shore batteries.

(11) During afternoon 12 Liberators attacked Pomelaa causing extensive damage (MAS?) buildings and installations. Two medium merchantmen, 1 small merchantman many small craft observed in area. These aircraft also sighted 3 small freighters off southeastern Celebes.

(13) Catalina attacked and probably destroyed small enemy vessel off Northern tip Choiseul before dawn 23rd.

(14) 24 enemy barges attacked by Catalina 15 miles Northwest Sumyi Head (West Coast Choiseul) night hours 22nd. Barges were heading southeast and straffed for 3½ hours. Many driven ashore.

(16) Liberator attacked 4 ship convoy 36 miles West Buka on course 300 degs. before dawn 23rd claiming 3 direct hits on carrier type vessel during surprise attack. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 240756Z).

HELGA
MOLLER.

Cancel my 220341 HELGA MOLLER arrived Fremantle 24th delay due to adverse weather. (C.S.W.P.S.F. 240932Z to Admty. Connav, C. in C. E.F.,S.O.(I) Kilindini (R) Com.7th Fleet, N.O.i/c Fremantle).

T.N.172

(B) Oct.24th.
(C) List. (D) U.S.S. VILMER, (S.O.), GLADSTONE M.L.801, 806, 819, 816, BOWEN, P.C.477. (N.O.i/c Townsville 241240Z to Admty. etc.).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions. (D.D.I.C. 241403).
Attack on LITIOPA and escorting trawler a.m.22nd indicates that at least two U-Bs. are off Liberia, or Cape Palmas and these are likely to move to eastward to operate against traffic to Takoradi, Lagos or Pointe Noire. Other estimated positios. (D.D.I.C. 241419 to A.I.G.332, Cominch).

Submarines Attacked.

Submarine attack and sighting summary for 24 hrs. to 0900Z 24th.

Para.A. Nor. LITIOPA torpedoed and sunk at 0332/ 22nd in 05 degs. 58' N. 11 degs. 30' W.

/ A/C...

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24.10.1943.
Sunday

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

Submarine
attack and
sighting
summary for
24 hours to
0900Z/24th.
(Contd.).

A/C attacked U-boat at 0938/23rd in 57 degs. 14'
N. 27 degs. 50' W.

A/C attacked U-boat at 0025/24th in 41 degs. 12'
N. 09 degs. 31' W.

A/C attacked U-boat at 2040/23rd in 43 degs. 32'
N. 08 degs. 54' W.

H.M. Sub. attacked U-boat at 0001/24 in 22 degs.
27' N. 60 degs. 04' E.

A/C sighted two U-boats at 1030/23 in 43 degs.
45' N. 09 degs. 00' W.

Para.B. F.S. attacked contact at 1415/23rd in 33 degs. 22' N. 34
degs. 21' E.

Para.C. CONGELLA sighted U-boat at 0428/24th in 01 degs. 13' N.
72 degs. 16' E.

(D.D.I.C. 241145A to Cominch).

25.10.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
"F.R."

1. C.S.1 in LONDON with the U.S. Cruiser AUGUSTA left Akureyri at 0900A to cover Operation "F.R"; and the S/Ms. SYRTIS, STUBBORN, and VARANGIAN left Lerwick for their patrol positions. A U-boat was located by Russian D/F both yesterday and the day before between Spitzbergen and the North Cape; and a U-boat appeared in Advent Bay, Spitzbergen at 1140 today and submerged after having been fired at by "Locomotive".

Scapa

2. BERMUDA from the Bay Patrol and FORMIDABLE with 2 destroyers from the Clyde both arrived at Scapa today.

Engagement
with E-boats
off Cromer.

3. In a series of engagements early this morning between our Coastal Patrols and about 30 E-boats from Ijmuiden operating in small groups in the Cromer area, 4 E-boats were sunk and 7 damaged, 3 severely, about 19 prisoners being taken; and M.G.B. 607, which sank one of the E-boats by ramming, and M.T.B.442 both sustained damage and casualties, the First Lieutenant of M.T.B.442 being killed.

WILLIAM
STEPHEN
sunk.

While the foregoing engagements were proceeding the M/S Trawler WILLIAM STEPHEN, straggling from Convoy F.N.60, was torpedoed and sunk by an E-boat at about 0100A near 56 Buoy. One body was recovered by WORCESTER but no survivors have been found; and C. in C. Nore has ordered today that trawlers are not in future to be sailed with express, fast, or medium F.N. Convoys unless it is certain that their speed will enable them to remain in company with the convoy.

Mining

4. Aircraft of Bomber Command laid 92 mines last night off the Frisian Islands and south of the Texel.

North Atlantic.

Operation
"Alacrity"

5. Disembarkation at Azores is proceeding satisfactorily and it is estimated will be complete during the first week in November.

A list of the surface forces which were placed at the disposal of S.B.N.O. Azores for the operation is given in an Admiralty message today. 6 trawlers in addition to SAON, A/S maintenance ship, are being turned over to the Portuguese for the A/S defence of the islands on the withdrawal of "Alacrity" forces.

/DUMONT...

25.10.1943.
Monday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

DUMONT
D'URVILLE.

6. The French ship DUMONT D'URVILLE left Casablanca this evening for Fort de France, Martinique.

C. in C. Mediterranean says that neither the French Admiralty nor himself had prior information of this movement of a unit away from the area, and asks for what purpose and on whose instructions the ship has been sent to the Caribbean.

U-boat

7. The U.S. destroyer PARROTT, with T.G. 21.16 attacked a U-boat with gunfire and depth charges about 400 miles North of Flores, Azores, today.

Mediterranean.

Use of
Italian
Warships.

8. An Italian cruiser and some escort vessels are being placed under the orders of Com. N.O.B., Palermo to assist in the movement of Italian personnel from Sardinia to Palermo and also to move supplies to the U.S. port party at Cagliari and the U.S. P.T. base at Maddalena. This avoids the use of shipping urgently required for Italian operations.

PERLE

9. Cominch has approved the refit in U.S.A. of the French submarine PERLE, which is to be sailed for Gibraltar on the completion of her current operational patrol, and thence to Philadelphia.

SIRIUS

10. Permanent repairs to SIRIUS (damaged by aircraft on 17/10) can be undertaken at Massawa and the ship is being sailed accordingly.

Enemy
mining.

11. The port of Brindisi is temporarily closed owing to enemy magnetic mining yesterday. U.S. minesweepers have recently swept 59 moored mines at Cagliari and British minesweepers 6 ground mines at Olbia, Sardinia.

Aegean
Leros.

12. (a) PETARD did not complete the disembarkation of her troops at Leros last night as only one M.L. was available for transhipment. She is now in Turkish waters with HURSLEY and ALDENHAM, to which she transferred her troops for passage to Leros, afterwards returning to Alexandria. The 2 Hunts

/retired...

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Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Aegean
Leros
(Contd.).

retired to Mandelyah Gulf to lie up.
(b) FAULKNER, BELVOIR and BEAUFORT left Alexandria to R/V with PHOEBE at 1700C. They are not carrying troops or stores. After the R/V PHOEBE proceeded in company towards Rhodes Channel and withdrew to patrol S.E. of Rhodes after dark. The destroyers proceeded to lie up in the Gulf of Kos.
(c) R.A.F. bombers attacked the harbour on Melos Island last night, starting fires.
(d) 12 enemy bomber sorties were flown against Leros today. The only available crane at Portolago was destroyed by bombing.

Air
operations
(Aegean).

Air
operations
(Adriatic).

13. 24 Warhawks attacked an enemy convoy of one 5000 ton and two 3,000 ton ships in the vicinity of Vis. Near misses were scored and fires started on 2 vessels by strafing.

East Indies.

14. A French reconnaissance aircraft from Jibuti sighted 2 submarines today which submerged after opening A/A fire. A dhow carrying drums was seen one mile away. 2 aircraft were sent from Aden to investigate, and search was continued during the 26th without result.

Another submarine report from a native coastwatcher off Mait, British Somaliland, gave negative results after search.

15. 6 Liberators attacked Rangoon last night, and 4 Liberators attacked Akyab.

China.

16. Two Mitchells escorted by fighters bombed enemy shipping today on the west coast of Hainan Island and sank a 100 ft. tanker, damaged and probably sank a 200 ft. freighter.

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25.10.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

17. ANNAPOLIS, Canadian destroyer, reported at 1517Z that she was attacking a submarine contact in 45.08 N. 60.06 W., with depth charges and hedgehogs. Oil was seen on the surface, but the contact was lost at 1717Z.

Australia and New Zealand.

18. Our P.T. boats attacked an enemy submarine 42 miles S.S.E. of Finschhafen, and destroyed 2 large barges in Vitiaz Strait.

19. 8 Kittyhawks attacked barges off Cape Cunningham, New Britain, destroying one large barge and 4 small boats.

20. A Liberator attacked 2 small coasters near the mouth of the Sepiw River, probably damaging one.

Rabaul

21. Allied aircraft carried out further heavy daylight raids on Rabaul on 23/24 and 25th October. The enemy losses in grounded aircraft and in combat were heavy.

25.10.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

S/M sailing orders.

Sailing orders submarines proceeding on patrol or passage other than coastal are to include general information regarding friendly air activity to be expected.
(F.O.S. 251458Z to Capts. S.Home.)

AGAMEMNON.
MENESTHEUS.
PORT QUEBEC.

My 081128A and No. 511/M.L. 1210 of Oct. Following final instructions for paying off AGAMEMNON, MENESTHEUS, and PORT QUEBEC are being implemented in anticipation of approval. Details.
(Commdre. M. 251708 to Admty.)

18th & 15th M/S Fs. exchange.

Your 231207. Concur. It is intended to sail 18th M/S Flotilla from Harwich to Scapa on 2nd Nov. It is requested A/S work up and change over may be effected as rapidly as possible and 15th M/S Flotilla then sailed to Harwich.
(C. in C.Nore 251816A to C. in C.H.F.)

CEYLON.

When CEYLON is ready for sea, request you will sail her for Bombay to join the Eastern Fleet.
2. It would be convenient if ship could call at Algiers.
(D.O.D.H. 251925A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Force & Operation Numbers.

A.M. 291207 September being passed to you. Additional numbers 121 to 125 allocated to V.A. Dover.
(Hd. of M.II 252248A to F.O.C.Dover.)

Russian Procedure.

Besides visas for reliefs and for additional personnel, some progress has been reported in high-level representations on following matters:-
A. Censorship of mails: B. Trial of personnel by British Authorities.
2. Admiral Fisher is requested to keep S.B.N.C.informed and, in particular, to report how far mails now on passage to North Russia will be affected.
(Hd. of M.I. 252333A to S.B.N.O.North Russia.)

Movements.

ONSLAUGHT,
FITCH.

Scapa arrivals ONSLAUGHT, FITCH.
(A.C.C.S. 250115A to H.F.)

RANGER.

Your 242000A. Arrived.
(C. in C.Rosyth 250801A to A.C.O.S.)

TUSCALOOSA.

Clyde arrival. TUSCALOOSA.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 250804A to A.C.I.C.)

/BERMUDA...

25.10.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

BERMUDA. Scapa arrival BERMUDA.
(A.C.O.S. 251201 to C. in C.Plymouth.)

FORMIDABLE. Scapa arrivals FORMIDABLE escorted by VIGILANT,
HAIDA.
(A.C.O.S. 251256A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

MIDDLETON. Akureyri departures A. SPEEDWELL escorting U.S.
SPEEDWELL. tanker CULPEPPER. B. MIDDLETON. C. in C.Home
Fleet 231157 refers.
(A.C.I.C. 251502A to C. in C.H.F.)

VENUS. Sailed VENUS for Scapa in accordance with my
241156A. E.T.A. 1030A/26.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 251616A to A.C.O.S.)

GRENVILLE, My 241653A. Sailed GRENVILLE and ROCKET at 1600/
ROCKET. 25. S.O.A. 18 knots. E.T.A. Gibraltar early p.m.
29th. 4. 39 Spanish Fishermen on board for re-
patriation.
(C. in C.Plymouth 251640 to F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

ARIADNE. Scapa arrival ARIADNE.
(A.C.O.S. 251720A to N.C.I.C. Lochalsh.)

S/M Move- Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/26 and movements for
ments. following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 251742A, 261732A.)

Operations.

Operation M/S 139 sailed in company with remainder of Russian
F.R. vessels and should have been included in my 232214.
Your 242125 refers.
(A.C.I.C. 250124A to Admty.)
By Russian D/F just received U-Boat in 075° 20' N.
014° 00' E. at 1855A/23 and in 074° 41' N. 024° 16' E. at 1740A/24.
Russians have been informed that any further reports must be
communicated without delay.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 251015A to H.F.)
Akureyri departures Force 5 (LONDON and AUGUSTA) at 0900A/25.
V.A.2's 122200 refers.
(A.C.I.C. 251428A to H.F.)
Your 241715 approved.
(C. in C.H.F. 252330 to C.S.1.)

Operation Scapa arrival HUSSAR.
S.F. (A.C.O.S. 250755A to A.C.I.C.)

S/M Patrols. SYRTIS sailed from Lerwick 0815A/25 unescorted and
on surface at C.Os. discretion till within 60 miles
to Norwegian Coast, thence diving by day proceeding
by route "Pink" to 071° 09', thence direct to
patrolling in T.10.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 250825A to S/Ms.) /At...

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25.10.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

S/M Patrols. At 1105A/25 STUBBORN left Lerwick proceeding by
(Contd.) route "Black" to 070° 35' thence direct to patrol
in T.8 unescorted and on surface at C.Os. dis-
cretion till within 60 miles of Norwegian coast,
then diving by day.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick 251108A to S/Ms.)

Proceeding unescorted and on surface at C.Os. discretion till
within 60 miles of Norwegian Coast then diving by day VARANGIAN
left Lerwick 1413A/25 by route "Pink" to 071° 09' thence patrol-
ling in T.9.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick 251417A to S/Ms.)

Positions of submarines at 0800A/26 and movements for the
following 24 hours.

A. SEADOG approx., 69° 05' N. 12° 28' E. probably on surface
through 69° 01' N. 11° 02' E. to Lerwick, 10 knots.

B. TANTIVY as in my 221704.

C. SYRTIS approx. 63° 49' N. 01° 36' E. probably on surface to
69° 01' N. 08° 52' E. 10 knots.

D. STUBBORN approx. 63° 18' N. 01° 50' E. probably on surface 10
knots to 68° 59' N. 09° 56' E.

E. VARANGIAN approx. 62° 30' N. 000° 02' W. probably on surface
8½ knots to 69° 01' N. 08° 52' E.

J. O.23 approx. 47° 38' N. 13° 22' W. diving by day to 49° 10' N.
13° 22' W. and 49° 50' N. 12° 34' W. then course 090°, daily
advance about 130 miles.

(F.O.S. 251742A to Admty.)

Sweeps by Cancel position given in my 240852Z and proceed to
FENCER. 044° N. 036° 30' W. Intention is that you should
carry A/S offensive sweeps concerning which further
instruction will be issued.

2. Every opportunity must be taken to keep your
screen topped up with oil during forthcoming operations. Signal
is to be made as soon as any vessel falls below 60%.

(C. in C.W.A. 250919Z to FENCER, Escorts H.X.262.)

V.P. In future all sailing signals of V.P. Operations
Operations. will have a paragraph 2 to indicate whether air
escort on return journey is particularly desired.
(A.C.O.S. 251136A to Admty.)

M.T.B.697. Intend sailing M.T.B. 697 at 1715/25 to Southward,
returning to Dartmouth 0830/26 October.

2. Air escort had been arranged for both outward
and inward passage.

3. Request surface bombing restriction 10 miles each side of a
line joining Star Point and Cape Frehel. Codeword "Arena."
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 251155 to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Spitzbergen. S/M in Advent Bay at 1140. Fired at and submerged.
U/B attacked. ("Locomotive" 251215Z to Admty.)

/Coastal....

25.10.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

Coastal
Patrols.

Patrols 25th October.

1. Force 116. M.T.Bs. 96 (3.O.), 92, 227, 415, 431, 434 are to leave Dartmouth at 1800 and proceed at 25 knots to position XX. 048 Sept Isles 8, thence to sweep for enemy shipping at reduced speed through 000° Triagoz Lt. 5, thence on course 252° returning in time to leave XX. for Dartmouth not later than 0445.

2. Codeword "Scent".

(C. in C.Plymouth 251346A and 251452A.)

1. Orders for night 25/26th.

A. 3 M.G.Bs. 3, M.T.Bs. from Newhaven carry out offensive patrol between 010° ZZ. 2 miles and 283° ZZ. 22 miles. Primary object torpedo-targets. Proceed by passage four passing 4 N. at 2030A. Return by passage four to be within 20 miles of own coast by 0700A. If necessary to return westward of Q.Z.X.771 a signal is to be made when north of 50° 10' N. reporting this to C. in C.Portsmouth repeated 1st S.G.B.Flottilla, and return course is to be southward of 50° 15' N. 0° 38' W. if passing that position before 0530.

B. CHASSEURS 13, 14 patrol Q.Z.S.384 between F. and E.A.5 Buoys.

C. M.L. 291 immediate notice St. Helens.

D. WENSLEYDALE, GLAISDALE immediate notice Yarmouth.

E. M.G.Bs. 8, 13, 7 patrolling 50° 15' N. between 02° 10' W. and 02° 35' W.

(C. in C.Portsmouth 251355A.)

Patrol 25th October.

1. Force 115, M.T.Bs. 430, 416 are to patrol in vicinity of position 135 Start 17.

3. Force to be on patrol by 2030, leave patrol for Dartmouth 0630/26.

(C. in C.Plymouth 251452A.)

M.Ls. 104, 102, 101, 210, 213, 128 and 573 carrying out operation N.L.106, route via Downs and U-Buoy returning via U-Buoy and No. 1 Buoy, E.T.D. 1715, E.T.R. 0325/26.

M.T.Bs. 202, 38 and M.G.Bs. S.1, 41 and 42 at V.Buoy, E.T.D.1730.

M.T.B. 219 from Dover, E.T.D. 1845, and M.T.Bs. 435, 418 and 436 from Ramsgate, E.T.D. 1915 at U-Buoy.

M.T.Bs. 235 and 240 from Dover E.T.D. 1815 and M.A.S.Bs. 38 and 33 from Ramsgate E.T.D. 1730 at No. 7 Buoy.

(V.A.Dover 251705A.)

Engagement
with E-Boats.

4 E-Boats
sunk.

7 E-Boats
damaged.

WILLIAM
STEPHEN

sunk.

M.G.B. 607
and M.T.B.

442 damaged.

Preliminary report of E-Boat operations last
night 24th/25th October.

1. About 30 E-Boats operated from Ijmuiden. First indication was bombers reports T.O.O. about 1945 received about 2215. Next indication about 2320. E-Boats apparently came in North and West of Ower and Leman Banks.

2. 2315 PYTCHLEY additional escort with F.N.60 did well to drive off 5 E-Boats about 3 miles N.E. of 56B Buoy damaging one. After this enemy reports and shore Radar showed E-Boats had split up into many small groups of about 3 boats each between 57 and 57F Buoys. At one time there were three groups on the channel simultaneously in addition to those being engaged elsewhere. One group operated North of 57F being driven off by unit

/R.M.G.Bs...

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25.10.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Engagement with E-Boats. 4 E-Boats sunk. 7 E-Boats damaged. WILLIAM STEPHEN sunk. M.G.B. 607 and M.T.B. 442 damaged. (Contd.)

R.M.G.Bs, about 4 miles N.E. of 58 Buoy at 0145 one E-Boat being severely damaged.

3. Convoy was not attacked. No evidence of minelaying although this is possible. It is considered that these small groups were more probably lying in the channel waiting for the convoy which had already passed.

4. 0030 WORCESTER on patrol 4 engaged E-Boats 3 miles east of 55B Buoy. At 0120 WORCESTER engaged more E-Boats near 56B Buoy one E-Boat hit by 4.7" blew up, WORCESTER passing through burning wreckage. No survivors. Another E-Boat was severely damaged.

5. Between 0040 and 0205 MACKAY fledged North from patrol 5 engaged two groups 3 miles N.W. of 57 Buoy chasing to approximately 13 miles north of 57 Buoy. Hits claimed on one E-Boat.

6. 0138 Unit V. M.G.Bs. engaged E-Boats near North Leman Buoy.

7. 0210 Unit Y, M.G.Bs. 607 and 603 Lieuts. R.M. Marshall R.N.V.R. and F.R.Lightoller R.N.V.R. which had been fledged North to cut off retiring E-Boats went into action about 25 miles N.E. of Smiths Knoll buoy and sank two E-Boats by gunfire, 607 sinking another by ramming. 607 considerably damaged with 4 killed and 7 seriously wounded. About 19 survivors taken prisoners.

8. About 0400 Unit J. M.T.Bs. 442 and 439 which had been ordered to position 10 miles North of Brown Ridge engaged E-Boats severely damaging one and damaging two others. 442 sustained damage and some casualties First Lieut. being killed.

9. About 0110 H.M.Trawler WILLIAM STEPHEN straggling some six miles astern of F.N.60 was torpedoed and sunk near 56 Buoy. Extensive search at daylight failed to find any survivors.

10. Consider following claims established: 4 E-Boats sunk, 3 severely damaged and 4 damaged.

11. Radar conditions were difficult owing to number of E-Boat groups operating and distance of operations from shore. In spite of this shore Radar provided excellent plots which were well filtered and co-ordinated by the Yarmouth plot. K.65 in particular did extremely well. The interception by Unit R. (para. 2) was achieved entirely on plots supplied by this station. K.135 also did well in plotting some difficult tracks at long range.

12. Communications. A very large volume of signal traffic was handled during the night. The standard of signalling was most creditable no important signals being missed. L/T communications were hampered by major cable failure on E-Coast but G.P.O. succeeded in restoring sufficient essential lines in time for night's operations to be conducted from A.C.H.Q.Chatham. (C. in C.Nore 251702A.) See also V.C.N.S. 270305A to C. in C. Nore.

WILLIAM STEPHENS believed torpedoed and sunk in vicinity of 56 Buoy at approximately 0100A today. No survivors. One body recovered by WORCESTER.
(C. in C.Nore 252133A to Admt.)

Bay Patrol. A/C 4 unknown type position 45° 10' N. 11° 15' W. course 270° height 1000 ft.
(A/C ULR/Q 251740 to 19 Group.)

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War Diary.

25.10.1943.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation
N.L. 105.

A. 051° 10' 08" N. 002° 36' 06" E. extending 100°
for 18 cables thence 309° for 12 cables.
B. M.Ls. 104, 102, 101, 210, 213, 128 and 573.
C. 2207 - 2229/26th.
(V.A.Dover 251254A to Admty.)

Larne.
Minefield.

My 231510A and C. in C.W.A. 241227A. STRAIDE is
available for this duty and will be sailed to
arrive Larne 28th.
(F.O.I.C. N.I. 251518 to C. in C.W.A.)
Your 241227. VERNON C/M arranging to weigh field
immediately.
(D.T.M. 252202A to C. in C.W.A.)

Harwich.

My 251246. One ground mine detonated by sweeper
at 251212A in 51° 49' 48" N. 01° 32' 24" E.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 251728A.)

Q.Z.X.1095.

A. Today 9th and 16th M.S.Fs. continued clearance
from Northern side. One Gr.mine was swept by 16th
M.S.F. in 50° 21' N. 02° 47' W. and sunk. There
remains to be cleared a 20 miles strip not more
than 3 cables wide.
(M/S 9 252247A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Enemy Intelligence.

M/Vs. sunk
or damaged
on 4th Oct.

My 231116. Following enemy vessels were sunk or
damaged during recent Norwegian Coast operations.
Norwegian SIGURD JARL 2335 tons in coastal express
service Trondheim Narvik. NERTUN 1574 tons
carrying general cargo to north Norway. SKJARSTAD
593 tons employed on Bergenurg route.

2 German. OSTLAND 2152 tons carrying German troops in North
Norway. Graded C.3.
(N.A.Stockholm 251834 to Admty.)

U-Boats.

Two U/Bs
destroyed.

Request you will convey our congratulations to the
crews of the following A/C on their A/S attacks which
destroyed U-Boats:-

A. Liberator X/120 on 4th October.
B. Liberator Z/86 and Liberator T/120 on 8th Oct.
(D.A.U.D. 251240A to Air Ministry.)

U/B probably
sunk on 28th
August.

We congratulate GRENVILLE, ROTHER and JED on
their A/S hunt on 28th August, which has been
assessed as "U-Boat probably sunk - German".
(D.A.U.D. 251734A to GRENVILLE, ROTHER, JED.)

War Diary.

25.10.1943.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Technical.

Mark 29
Gear.

Certain United States merchant ships are now fitted with anti-torpedo device known as the anti-torpedo device Mark 29. Description and details. (A.C.N.S. U.T. 252245A. A.G.M. 843A.)

Casualties & Defects.

SAN RAFAEL.

DEXTEROUS escorted by LINCOLNSHIRE sailed in accordance with C. in C.Plymouth's 242301. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 250225A to C. in C.Plymouth.) At 0800Z/25 screening SAN RAFAEL in P.C. and S. 046° 36' N. 016° 47' W. 022°, 6½ knots for (J?). Master considers tug not required. (HEATHER 250925Z to C. in C.W.A.) Return to Falmouth. (C. in C.Plymouth 251200A to LINCOLNSHIRE, DEXTEROUS.)

ILLUSTRIOUS.

Your 241525 Oct. Arrangements are being made to dock ILLUSTRIOUS on 4th Nov. Ship should arrive Bar Light Vessel at 1300 that day. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 251258A to Admty.)

LARGS.

Arrangements have been made for LARGS to be taken in hand for refit at Liverpool as soon as vessel is available. (D.O.D.H. 251743A to S.O.L.S.U.)

INGLEFIELD.

INGLEFIELD delayed by leaking joint on number 3 boiler. Probable completion p.m. 27th. N.O.I.C. Greenock's 241804 refers. (Capt. D.Greenock 252146 to Admty.)

L.C.I.(L).
185.

Arrival MOURNE.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 252225A.)

Shipping & Convoys.

O.G.95/
K.M.S.30.

Am being shadowed by two enemy A/C bearing 120° height 2,000 feet position 44° 26' N. 18° 39' W. (HIGHLANDER 250754Z to Whitehall W/T.) D/F bearings at 0632Z indicate U/B 75 miles N.E. or S.W. of 44° N. 20° W. (D.D.I.C. 250812A to K.M.S.30.)

O.N.S.21.

Sailed NENE, TWEED, SNOWBERRY, LUNENBERG, and EDMUNDSTON to comply with C. in C.W.A's 241714. CALGARY will sail to overtake at approximately 1800 on completion of defects. (Cdre. D.W.A. 250845A to Escorts O.N.S.21.)

H.X.262.

Amend my 231907A para. 7. 64 ships including rescue ship sailed. Amend my 241227A, IGNACE PADEREWSKI did not sail. (D.T.D. 251153A to C. in C.W.A.)

/K.X.11...

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25.10.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

K.X.11. You were probably sighted by Ju.88 heavy fighters at 1145.
(D.D.I.C. 251245A to K.X.11.)
Convoy probably reported by enemy aircraft at 1900.
(D.D.I.C. 252112A to Escorts K.X.11, BICESTER.)

Routeing in Mediterranean. Malta and Augusta are the junction ports for Italy, Sicily and Tripoli (L). Approach routes for other ports in Italy and Sicily are not to be issued.
2. In addition approach routes are not to be issued for ports not in Medars.
(D.T.D. 251912A.)

O.N.207 Group detached from O.N.207 at 2000Z in position
B.7. (group missing) 01' N. 037° 10' W. PINK in company. My course and speed 072° 11 knots.
(B.7 252035Z to C. in C.W.A.)

F.N.Convoys. A trawler sailed recently with an F.N. fast convoy and straggled and was torpedoed and sunk.
2. Trawlers are not to be sailed with express fast or medium F.N.convoys unless it is certain that their speed will enable them to remain in company with the convoy.
(C. in C.Nore 252136A.)

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25.10.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.ISIS,
ORBITA,
MALCOLM.Arrived 25 1015A.
(C.M.S.F. 251024A.)
RS 11, ORBITA, MALCOLM and ISIS sailed 1330A/25.
(C.M.S.F., 252345A.)K.M.S.30
Escorts.Your 250745. (N.T. in W.D.) Proceed
independently. My position 38.21 N., 28.20 W.
speed approx. 15 knots passing south of
Teceira. BUTTERCUP in company.
(WARWICK, 250835N to LAVENDER, (R) S.O. Force
E., S.O.E.G. B.4.)LAVENDER left 0900 G.M.T. 25th.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 250929 to Admty.)
My P.C. and S. at 251200 N. 038° 12' N. 025° 17' W. 058°

13.

(LAVENDER, 251205 to S.B.N.O. Azores, (R) F.O.C. Gib.,
S.O.B.5, WARWICK.)

My P.C. and S. 042° 45' N. 018° 34' W. 180° 7½ knots.

(B.4 252102Z to WARWICK, VISCOUNT, LAVENDER, (R) GODETIA,
S.B.N.O. Azores, F.O.C. Gibraltar.)WALKER left K.M.S.30 in 042° 45' N. 018° 29' W. course and
speed 180° 7½. My course and speed 226° 23 E.T.A. Ponta Delgada
17(?30)Z 26th Oct. Weather.

(WALKER, 252131Z to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

WALKER and ASPHODEL detach to oil Ponta Delgada.

PENNYWORT rejoin. Hope unnecessary for HIGHLANDER to refuel
but if necessary propose using Lisbon.

(B.4, 252205Z to F.O.C. Gibraltar, S.B.N.O. Azores.)

W.D. Note: Lisbon Not to be used, see 261259.

T.G.21.11
U.G.S.22.This is a re-encypherment of C.T.G.21.11's
241745 Action to Comdt. Fifth Davdist and Info
to Cinclant etc. Passed to you for information.
(Begins) Com. T.G.21.11 with MACLEISH and
SIMPSON departs Hampton Roads 1800/25 compliance
cinclant 180256. Pass XS 2230 thence course 113, S. of A.
13.5 to R/V with U.G.S.22 at 2100/26. BAINBRIDGE departs
Hampton Roads 2200/25 pass XS 0400/26 thence same as above.
S. of A. 18 to R/V T.G.21.11 at 262100. All times Z.
(C.M.S.F. 250847A to Admty. etc.)Azores
situation
operation
"Alacrity".Your 241225. (Requesting name of H.M.S.
locations etc., in Azores Area.) Situation
of all ships in Azores - GODETIA H.M.S. VISCOUNT
escorting CORFELL, SCOTTISH MONARCH R/V K.M.S.30
at R/V PH, now instructed to proceed to join up
in 041° 53' N. 018° 30' W. at 1200Z/26th Oct.
when escort can relieve B.4 for fuel.(2) WARWICK, BUTTERCUP, LAVENDER sail 0700/25th to R/V K.M.S.
in 041° 30' N. 018° 30' W. to relieve B.4 escort.(3) Other ships at Azores, HAVELOCK, VOLUNTEER,
WHITEHALL, WRESTLER, ST. ELSTAN, BLACKFLY, KINGSTON AMBER,
KINGSTON AGATE, VIZALMA, CAPE PALLISER, engaged in operation
"Alacrity" fuel Horta or (?Ponta Delgada) as necessary.

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situation,
operation
"Alacrity".
(Contd.)

(4) Merchant ships EMPIRE (?OUTPOST) now unloading to be sailed to join K.M.S.30. Cape Clear. D.U.X., crane loading Angra. Oiler FIRTH expected from K.M.S.30 (?) DEWDALE at Horta until completion of unloading. BACHAQUERO at Horta ready to sail in accordance with Admty. 111830 but must now wait until T.C. escort is available.

(6) Oiler EMPIRE GARDEN at Horta. A/S repair Trawler SAON at Angra.

(7) Future movements depend upon progress of operation and cannot yet be foreseen.

(S.B.N.O. Azores 250905N to F.O., Gib. (R) Admty.)

Your 241815. (Requesting route-destination and composition of all Atlantic convoys.) H.X.262. 61 ships C.5 Group OTTAWA S.O. plus 1 Destroyer, 3 Corvettes, 1 MAC ship at 0800A/25 46.18 N. 43.12 W. 9½ knots routed through FK 45.20 N. 36.00 W. FL.45.45 N. 24.58 W. EM. 54.30 N.16.20 W. to U.K. Convoy callsign XF. (Admty. 250959A to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

FULGOR,
explosion
Cadiz.

Following received from British Consul Cadiz (begins) At 0600 to-day bombs exploded under stern starboard quarter Italian ship FULGOR anchored Arsenal Caraca. Hull and propeller damaged and vessel aground. Official enquiry commenced and Admiral Acino endeavoured to lay blame on crew,

although diver stated explosion occurred outside. Admiral has told Italian Consul enquiry will of course establish nothing, Italian Consul has sent full details to his Embassy by special messenger T.O.O. 242120 (ends).

(S.O. (I) Gibraltar 251039 to Admty.)

Probable that attempt will be made to lay blame on crew despite diver's evidence that explosion was external. Will propose to H.M.A. that strongest line be taken with M.F.A. (N.A. Madrid, 251116A to Admty.)

Azores
Area and
Gibraltar.

Request very early reply to my 241223 (Re situation and dispositions of forces in Azores area affecting F.O. Gibraltar) sent by error in Codex. (2) Present situation is very confused and wireless silence is being broken unnecessarily by ships at sea. GODETIA 241 (?258) and B.4s. 241448 refers. (F.O. Gib. 251146A to Admty.) Reply:- See 251829.

Air Report
U-Boat sunk.

A.I.624/25th October. Gib. G.R. Opsum Sup.24th Oct. Ref. attack by A.179 at 240112 (See G.R. Opsum Sup. 23 Oct.) U-Boat now known sunk. 49 survivors landed Vigo by Spanish Trawler. All times A. (A.H.Q. Gib. 251245A.)

U-Boat.

Aircraft sighted S/M wake 34.37 N. 09.20 W. 0705A/25 (C.M.S.F., 251305A to F.O. Gib.)

/Evacuation...

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of French
Refugees.

Madrid 251317A to C. in C. Med.) See Med.

DUMONT,
D'URVILLE.French sloop DUMONT D'URVILLE for Fort de
France E.T.D. 1700/25th S. of A. 10 knots
passes 170 272 300 1st "Chop" 010° W. 0800/26th
2nd "Chop" 024° 29' W. 1400/29th, radio shift
020° W. 1001/28th (route) destination (K) 0200

8th. Holds French approaches Fort de France. Z times.

C.C.S.F. pass to A.L.U.S.N.O.B. Fort de France.

(C.M.S.F. 251454 to A.L.U.S.N.O.B. Fort de France, Martinique.)

French Authorities request appropriate daily submarine
estimate be sent DUMONT D'URVILLE during voyage, my 251454Z
refers.

(C.M.S.F. 251616A to F.O. Gibraltar.)

My 251454 DUMONT D'URVILLE sailed. Cdr. Carib Sea Front
pass to Alusnob, Fort de France.

(C.M.S.F. 252017.)

PASTEUR.

Arrived 1450A/25th.
(C.M.S.F. 251535A to Comardakar.)

ALBULA.

Expected leaving Marseilles 28th Oct. for
Gibraltar and not to be molested on standard
route. Swiss ALBULA (details).
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 251727A)

T.G.27.4.

Admty. pass to Commaveu, Gibraltar pass to
British A.S. Forces Azores. This is N.O.B.
Bermuda 250615 Action N.O.B. Casablanca Info.
Cinclant etc. (begins):-Task Group 27.4 departs Bermuda Swept Channel 251430. Route
Eastward Via (route) to Casablanca Swept Channel, speed 14.
E.T.A. 0700 Nov. 3rd. times Z, group has no air coverage. (Ends)
(C.M.S.F. 251813A, to Commaveu etc.)Forces in
Operation
"Alacrity".Your 241223. 1. Following surface forces
were placed at disposal of S.B.N.O. Azores for
operation "Alacrity".(a) FENCER screened by INCONSTANT, GARLAND
and BURZA. These have now been sailed to
operate under C. in C.W.A. and return to U.K.(b) WRESTLER, WHITEHALL and VISCOUNT scheduled to return to
U.K. with BACHAQUERO and required on return for North Russian
Convoy escort.

(c) 6 trawlers mentioned in A.M. 151820 October para. 6.

(d) 6 trawlers VASCAMA, BRUREY, HAYLING, MANGRON, WHALSEY,
CAPE PORTLAND. These in addition to SAON equipped as A/S
Maintenance ship are being turned over to and manned by the

/Portuguese...

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Forces in
Operation
"Alacrity".
(Contd.)

Portuguese for the A/S defence of the Islands on the withdrawal of the "Alacrity" forces.

(e) B.5 Escort Group consisting of HAVELOCK, VOLUNTEER, WARWICK, BUTTERCUP, GODETIA and LAVENDER.

This group is scheduled to return to U.K. with DEWDALE and any ships returning to U.K. on completion of the operation.

2. The above force has been placed at the disposal of S.B.N.O. Azores to provide A/S protection during the unloading of ships in Convoys U.A.1 - 2 and 3 and for local escorts for moves between the islands. They are not available for other purposes until the completion of "Alacrity" when they are required to proceed as stated in para. 1.

3. Disembarkation is proceeding satisfactorily and is estimated will complete during 1st week in November.

4. In addition to Hudsons 2 squadrons of Fortresses are being flown in of which 22 have arrived.

5. A further signal to clarify your position is being made. (D.O.D.(H) 251829A to F.O. Gibraltar.)

Fuelling at
Azores,
notification.

Instructions in C.A.F.O. 1924/42 concerning fuelling at Azores, remain in force with exception that United Nations have unrestricted fuelling facilities at Horta.

2. Although, therefore, notification of visits is no longer required for Horta, Portuguese Gov. have informed N.A. Lisbon that it is still required for Ponta Delgada.

3. It is, in any case, essential that maximum notice should be given to S.B.N.O. Azores of E.T.A. and fuel requirements at Horta.

4. C.A.F.O. 1924/42 will in due course be amended to meet new situation.

(Head of M.(I) Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 251900A to C. in C.H.F.etc.)

Azores.

To be included in movement signals in North Atlantic.

(D.O.D.(H) 251910A) See America and West Indies.

Employment
of Italian
Warships.

C. in C. Med's 231300. C.C.S. approval has now been received.

2. Separate signals will be made regarding liaison personnel.

3. As soon as liaison arrangements are complete both cruisers are to be sailed routed down probable track of blockade runners, viz. approx. 36th meridian and thence to Freetown at prudent limit of endurance. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to concert arrangements with Italian Admiral on his arrival at Gibraltar and report programme.

4. On their arrival at Freetown F.O.C.W.Af. is requested to report on endurance, ventilation and general suitability of ships for operating in Atlantic and on efficiency and morale of their

/crews.

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Employment
of Italian
Warships.
(Contd.)

crews. Further plans will be dependent on answer to these questions.
(D.O.D.(F) Approved V.C.N.S. 252047A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.O.C. West Africa, (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.L.I., B.A.D.)

PASTEUR
Contact.

PASTEUR reports Radar Contact 23rd 2143A 24°46N. 18.20 W. target Southbound followed by brilliant Radar transmission of foreign appearance received at five minute intervals 21 53 to 22 20. Evaluated probable Sub. by ship.
(C.M.S.F.252220A to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty. Cominch etc.)

South Atlantic.

Brazilian
Ship
sunk.

Latest reports received that Brazilian Ship was torpedoed and sunk yesterday Sunday between Santos and Rio de Janeiro.
Further details will be reported when received.
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 251254Z to Admty., (R) C. in C.S.A., F.O.C.W.Af.) W.D. Note:- May refer to CAMPOS, see 251946Z.

FANEROMENI
(torpedoed
24/10.)

Greek ship FANEROMENI reported torpedoed in 15° 35' S. 40° 10' E.
(C. in C.S.A. 251515C, 260646C, 262220C to Admty., C. in C.E.F.(R) S.O.I. Kilindini.)

CAGNI.

Reply to your 242056 (Re possibility using CAGNI as supply Submarine) can best be made after examination at Simonstown. Propose CAGNI be sailed under escort from Durban for this purpose.
(C. in C.S.A. 251516C to Admty.)

Nets.

Cancel my 221450 (Re Net defence need not be streamed in F.O.C. W.A. area until further orders.). Nets are to stream when within 300 miles of Freetown, Takoradi, Lagos, or Point Noire.
(F.O.C.W.A. 251524Z to N.C.S.O.'s West Africa, B.N.L.O. Point Noire, N.O.I.C. Bathurst, (R) Admty., etc.)

/Destroyers...

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South Atlantic. - Contd.

Destroyers.

Your 120039 para. D (see Home Commands)
Request information of date these destroyers
will arrive Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.W.A. 251736Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A.)

CARVARVON
CASTLE,
ORBITA.

Your 231037 (Re CARNARVON CASTLE to be sailed to
U.K. on completion of present operation). In
order to provide escort propose sailing
CARNARVON CASTLE and ORBITA in company on 7th
November expected time of arrival Gibraltar
14th November escorts MALCOLM, ISIS, NESS.
(F.O.C.W.A. 251738Z to Admty.) Reply 272011.

COWSLIP
PICT,
DUMANA.

(1) Intend to sail 1600Z 26th COWSLIP and
PICT escorting DUMANA to Dakar.
(2) Routed through (R) $013^{\circ} 32' N. 017^{\circ} 06' W.$
(Q) $014^{\circ} 15' N. 019^{\circ} 38' W.$ thence by Dakar
Approach channel speed of advance 7 knots.
E.T.A. Dakar 1100/27th.
(3) Request COWSLIP and PICT be sailed to R/V West Chesingly
light ship at Gambia Fairway float at 1000/28th thence routed
to westward through position (R) $013^{\circ} 32' 017^{\circ} 06'$. (M) 012°
 $39' 017^{\circ} 22'$. (L) $011^{\circ} 01' 017^{\circ} 03'$, thence to enter Freetown
Approach channel S. of A. 9 knots. E.T.A. Freetown 1400Z/30th.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 251824 to Comar Dakar.)

CAMPOS
(sunk
23/10)

Brazilian Ship CAMPOS. My 251254 refers.
(N.T. in W.D.) Ship left Rio De Janeiro
22nd October on coastal route for Rio Grande
and was sunk by two torpedoes when in
neighbourhood of Alcatrazes Island.
(B.N.S.O. Rio De Janeiro, 251946Z to Admty.
(R) C. in C.S.A. F.O.C. W.Af.)

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- RORQUAL. No onward routeing received. My P.C. and S. at 0400 035 degs. 03' N. 026 degs. 53' E. 105 degs. 10.5.
(RORQUAL, 250205C to Capt. (S) 1, (R) C. in C. Levant, 1st S.F., 201 Naval Co-op Group.)
Your 250205 acknowledged. Diving by day 25th to pass 034 degs. 25' 029 degs. 59' at 0535C/26th thence direct on surface to (?Beirut) to arrive 0740C/27th. P.49 (UNRULY) and P.55 (UNSPARING), both on your route on surface at 8 knots, left Beirut at 1602/23rd and 24th respectively.
(Capt. (S) 1, 250441C to RORQUAL (R) 1st S/M.F.)
- ROMNEY:
defect. Am returning ROMNEY to Benghazi from 032 degs. 59' N. 021 degs. 12' E. by reverse route at 14 knots. A/S completely out of action. Ship's staff unable to repair. Suspect defective amplifier.
(S.O.14th M/S.F. 250236C to S.N.O. Cyrenaica, (R) C. in C. Levant, R.A. Alexandria, ROMNEY.)
- K.M.F.25.
SICKLE. SICKLE sail to join K.M.F. 25 for Alexandria.
(Capt. (S) 8th, 250501A to C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 10, Capt. (S) 1.)
Cdre. Algiers 240910A. Destination P.224
(SICKLE) is Beirut routed independently from Malta as ordered by Capt. (S) 10 and Capt. (S) 1.
(C. in C. Levant, 251355C to Ships escorting Convoy No. K.M.F.25, Capt. (S) 1 Capt. (S) 10.)
Detach from K.M.F.25 at 0900/27th in 036 degs. 30' 015 degs. 28' and proceed through 034 degs. 19' 022 degs. 50' at 2000/28 thence (?after departure) as routed by Capt. (S) 1, S. of A. 11 knots surface passage all times zone minus 1.
(2) M.J.A.O.24 requests total bombing restrictions.
(Capt. (S) 10, 252350A to SICKLE (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8, Admty. R.A. Alexandria, 201 Naval Co-op Group, 1st S.F. Escorts of K.M.F.25, Air H.Q. Malta, SLAZAK.)
- SALVEDA,
SALVESTOR. SALVEDA was lent to C. in C. for "Husky" and further retained for "Avalanche". Intended to return her to U.K. as she is not suitable for harbour clearance. It is proposed that the key men from SALVEDA transfer to SALVESTOR at Algiers and the undesirable elements of the SALVESTOR crew be ordered to work SALVEDA to U.K.
(P.S.V.O.Naples, 250503A to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. Director of Salvage.)
- SPARTAN
?U/B. Obtained R.D.F. plot possible U-Boat in 036 degs. 48' N. 000 degs. 36' East course 065 degs. 21 knots at 0500. E.T.A. 0930.
(SPARTAN, 250543A to N.O.I.C.Algiers.)

H/S. /...

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Mediterranean. - Contd.

H/S
ST. DAVID.

Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville 250704A)

H/S
ST. JULIAN.

Arrived. Intend to sail to Taranto at 1600 today 25th routed 124, 79 War Channel to 036 degs. 59' N. 011 degs. 17' E. 278 (clear of QB 8) 276 route C E.T.A. 1600/28th. (SHA (number omitted) ? F.O.W.I.T. intended. 250716A to P.S.T.O. Med.)

Alexandria
Movements.

Alexandria 24th. Arrival EXMOOR, ROCKWOOD, SARKA, M.G.B. 643, 645, 647 L.C.T.100. Departures including GAWLER, RANPURA. (R.A. Alexandria, 250725C)

Enemy
Ships
E. of
Crete.

Position of enemy E-Boat, 1 Auxiliary vessel 36. 58 N. 27.05 E. (GPF/Z, 250800Z)
Position of enemy 7 merchant vessels is 36.54 N. 27.19 E. (GPF/Z, 250807Z)
My 0807Z enemy previously reported were merchant vessels of 200 to 400 tons. (GPF/Z, 250815Z)

GAVOTTE.

ORIANA sailed 0340 your 252235*refers. (V.A. Malta, 250811A to GAVOTTE (R) ORIANA, N.O.I.C. Bizerta.)
* Requesting assistance - serious leaks in boiler tubes.

UNSPARING.

24th Left.
(S.O.(I) Beirut, 250837C)

SUTLEJ.

Arrived 24th.
(S.O.(I) Beirut, 250842C)

Augusta
Convoy.

M.S.C.I.22. Intend sailing to Malta for onward routeing at 1630/27th Oct. 8 EMPIRE BROOK for Middle East. 8 ANTONIO for Bougie. 8 FACTO Bizerta. 7 MONTEBELLO for Bone. BRITTANY COAST for Malta EGRET for M.E.
(2) 7 knots. (3) Route B. E.T.A.0700/28th Oct.
(6) "Vigorous" 167. (8) WHADDON (S.O), POLRUAN; WHADDON for boiler cleaning and POLRUAN for onward routeing to Gibraltar. (N.O.I.C. Augusta, 250905, 261020, 271713A to V.A. Malta)

QUILLIAM /...

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Mediterranean. - Contd.

QUILLIAM, Patrol night 24th/25th blank.
QUAIL. (2) Patrol night 25th/26th QUILLIAM and QUAIL
Dubrovnik to westward.
(3) Request fighter cover from 0530A to 0800A/26
Codeword "Tailcoat" priority normal. My
P.C. and S. at 0530A/26th. 041 degs. 57' N. 016 degs. 29' E.
190 degs. 25 knots to (?MY)ANI thence coastwise.
(4) Ships will pass south of Vis at 0200A.
(Capt. (D) 4, 250949A to F.O.T.A. (R) N.O.I.C. Bari, C. in C.
Med. 4th D/F. C.F.W. Number 1 M.O.R.U. 286 Wing, N.L.O. 8th Army.
Cancelled Capt. D.4 251232A.

M.O.R.U. 24th. 3 Anti shipping strikes resulting in
Situation damage to landing craft, a small ship and 2000
Report ton motor vessel destroyed off Neregiva.
107. (N.L.O. No.1, M.O.R.U. 251002)

Dardanelles boom. M. of National Defence points out impossibility
of release of AG BIR (Ex BARBETTE) for laying
Dardanelles Boom owing to need of refit and
boiler cleaning and constant attendance at
Bosphorus afterwards. They request that most
urgent consideration may be given to provision of bar or net
class ship for laying boom at Dardanelles. A boom work trawler
for care and maintenance of solid boom is also considered a
pressing necessity.
(N.A. Ankara, 251005C to C. in C. Levant, Admty.)

Enemy Following has been read, by Alex W/T.
Ships in Enemy (2 medium merchant vessels) position
Adriatic. 42.20 N. 17.30 E. course 135 degs. 10 knots at
0603A.
(65 R (Med. call sign), 251019A to GOZ (Med Call
Sign).
P.C. and S. of 2 small M.Vs. 1 medium M.V. course
295 degs. speed 8 knots. Position 42.45 N.16.10.E.
(A/C Call Sign GOZ/R, 251100A, 251110A to Air H.Q.
Malta C/S 65 R.

My 110A. Enemy previously reported are 2 small vessels of
2000 tons one medium vessel of 5000 tons.
(GOZ/R, 251115A to Air H.Q. Malta, (R) 65 R)
Aircraft's 251110A. QUILLIAM and QUAIL proceeding 1300A/25
to intercept. My P.C. and S. 1500A/25 041 degs. 48' N. 016 degs.
23' E. 345 degs. 28 knots. Codeword "Tailcoat" 405.
Priority high. Cancel my 250949A.

(Capt. (D) 4th D.F. 251232A to F.O.T.A., N.O.I.C. Bari.
(R) N.L.O. 211, C.F.W.)

My 1110A. P.C. and S. of enemy 1 medium merchant vessel
5000 tons 2 small merchant vessels 2000 tons 42.59 N. 15.58 E.*
320 degs. 8 knots.

(GMA/R, 251326A to A.H.Q. Malta)

* (W.D. Note: Another version has 15.28 E)

Your 251155 (N.T. in W.D.) First Air strike attacking at
1415 no direct hits near misses on one 5000 and 2 3000 ton.
Merchant ships were strafed starting fires on 5000 ton and on
one 3000 ton ship position approx. 396(sic) miles W. of Lagosta
going North West.

(N.L.O.No.1 M.O.R.U. 251543A to F.O.T.A. (R) Capt.(D) 4)

Your/...

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Mediterranean.

Enemy Ships in Adriatic. (Contd.) Your 251232 second air strike scored only near misses at 1505. Ships were left just south east of (corrupt group) going in north westerly direction. A/C report 5000 ton ship lying in Biedo Harbour (?Bisero intended). (N.L.O. No.1. M.O.R.U. 251702A to Capt. (D) 4 (R) F.O.T.A.)

D.4 251232. 2 air attacks unsuccessful. Merchant ship left just S.E. of Visfel N.W. at 1505 A/C report 5000 ton ships in harbour at Bisedo (?Bisero). (No.1. M.O.R.U. 251755 to D.4 (R) Bari.) Both vessels hit and on fire. Vessels are those referred to in A/C signal 251110. (F.O.T.A. 251830A to Capt. (D) 4.)

C. in C. Med. visits to ports. From C. in C. at Malta amend programme in my 231721 (details) (2) V.A. Malta is requested to sail BLANKNEY to arrive Naples by 1200/27th. (C. in C. Med. 251027A to V.A. Malta. etc.)

Convoys A.B.18 A.P.50. List, destinations. (N.C.S.O. Aden, 251101Z to Admty. etc.)

R.A.F. M.E. Daily Opsum 150. M.S. 21010. October 25. 23/24. 4 Wellingtons anti-shipping R/Cs Western Aegean. One returned early. Remainder made no sightings and bombed Syros Harbour. Explosions and fire on quay, other bombs among Warehouses.

24th. 4 U.S. Mitchells B.25. 3 Beaufighters anti-shipping R/C Kalino area. 1 U.S. Mitchell B.25 returned early. Remainder found 1 schooner 200 tons. 1 Caique 100 tons between Kos and Kalino. Each vessel hit by 1 75 mm shell from U.S. Mitchells B.25 Schooner also hit by cannon fire from one Beaufighter schooner left burning. 3 Baltimores A.30 anti-shipping R/C South Eastern Aegean. 1 caique machine-gunned in Pegadra Bay, Scarpanto. 3 attacks on Leros reported during day by total 20 enemy aircraft including Ju.87's, Ju.88's and Arados. One Ju.88 and one unidentified aircraft destroyed by A/A fire. No further details.

24/25 October. Operations restricted by bad weather. 3 Wellingtons anti-shipping R/C Western Aegean. No attacks reported. 1 Wellington dropped leaflets on Scarpanto and Syml Islands. Following dealyed details. 23rd Oct. 5 Ju.88's bombed Samos harbour. No damage. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 251107Z)

DURBAN. Sail at 2100/27R. S. of A. 20 via QBB (?123) (C) 275 (?299) thence war channel to position 79 for onward routeing by C. in C. Med. E.T.A. 1230/28th codeword "Nitwit" (corrupt) priority normal. (V.A. Malta, 251116 to DURBAN (R) C. in C. Med.) ACADIA /...

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ACADIA. U.S. Hospital ship sailed for Charleston. Route. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 251147, 251714A)

Enemy ships Gulf of Genoa. Position of enemy one medium M.V. 44.24 N. 8.54 E. based on a fix taken within $\frac{1}{2}$ hour of 1200 hours. Stationary. (A/C GOZ/Z, 251149A to Air H.Q. Malta, (R) 65 R.) My 1149 enemy previously reported was 1 M.V. 8000 tons. (A/C GOZ/Z 251155A to Air H.Q. Malta.)

Enemy ships West of Crete. 1 M.V. 500 tons 1 escort vessel 36.16 N. 23.23 E. 1623 course 320 degs. 10 knots 1200. (HUT/K, 251205) Medium M.V. has escort of 3 aircraft. (A/C HUT/K, 251211)

SPORTSMAN, SIBYL. At 1002C/28th P.229 (SPORTSMAN) from 034 degs. 18' 022 degs. 49' and P.217 (SIBYL) from 034 degs. 00' 022 degs. 33' steer 093 degs. until reaching 030 degs. 44' E. diving by day on 29th, surface speed 10 knots. From 030 degs 44' E. both proceed on surface direct to Beirut P.229 to arrive 0945C/31st and P.217 at 1215C/31st. (Capt. (S) 1st, 251208C to P.229 (SPORTSMAN) Sub. P.217 (SIBYL) (R) Admty. R.A. Alex. C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 10. Ships Western D. N. & A.A. East of Alex. Ships E. of Alex. 1st S.F.) Arrivals SIBYL, SPORTSMAN. (V.A. Malta, 252336)

PERLE. Cominch has approved refit in U.S.A. of French Submarine PERLE. (2) On completion of current operational patrol? Naval France is requested to arrange with appropriate Allied Authorities to sail PERLE as soon as ready to Gib. (3) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to arrange onward voyage to Philadelphia. (C. in C. Med. 251317A) PERLE may leave patrol through 042 degs. 02' 006 degs. 32 mins. at 2100/27th, 040 degs. 01' 005 degs. 31' at 1100/28 037 degs. 59' 003 degs. 32' at 0330/29th thence R/V escort Algiers in 037 degs. 02' 003 degs. 07' at 0930/29th. (2) If she does not comply with para. (1) above PERLE may leave her area by same route at corresponding time on any of the 4 following nights. Report her intention as soon as practicable. (Capt. (S) 8th, 251600A to 8th S.F. (R) PERLE, C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Algiers.

Evacuation /...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Evacuation
of French
refugees.

Second evacuation cannot take place till Nov. 1st or 2nd, probably 2nd. Your 221140 refers. Have informed authorities that ships must not be delayed for parties arriving late. Will keep you informed.
(Madrid, 251317A to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. F.O.C.Gib., Casablanca.)

N.S.F.6.

Sailed as in my 231804A*less KOSCIUSKO.
Route. E.T.A. Naples 281200A.
(Com. N.O.B.Oran, 251434A)* 231806A intended.

Situation
in Aegean.

25 October. Joint Army R.A.F. Int. appreciation 24 hours to 0900Z 25th.
(1) No surface attack on Leros up to 0950Z/25th
(4) Visual R/C Amorgos 24th reports no important shipping only 2 to 3 small caiques.
(5) 16 Bomber sorties reported on Leros 24th Samos attacked for first time 23 by 5 Ju.88, target shipping in harbour.
(6) No contact with enemy made by our Naval forces in operational area night 24/25th.
(7) CX reports minelayer DRACHE replenished with mines due probably leave Piraeus p.m. 24th for Dodecanese. Hope obtain confirmation from ph. R/C Piraeus 25th.
(9) No evidence at present available to show any change in enemy's intentions but with limited effective surface units at present available to him in operational area immediate attack appears improbable. Possibility cannot be excluded of surface invasion force being sent from Piraeus and/or Cyclades to R/V with existing surface force in operational area.
(C. in C. M.E. No.T.O.O./25.)
Cositrep 35. Two. Ops. Aegean.
B. SBS patrol reported Symi clear of enemy 22nd.
C. Now thought 6 L.R.D.G. personnel captured Kalino while R/C 18 to 21 no further details. My O/26507 24 Oct. para. 2 refers.
D. L.R.D.G. patrol from Kythnos returned Leros, no details yet.
E. Reported 80 Germans recently landed Calchi and left Island 21 taking harbour master and 2 Greek civilians.
Five. Yugoslavia. A. Brit. LO reports Partisans Bty Losinj Island sank two small ships carrying 4 Tks Zara to Fiume.
Six. Naval. Aegean. Night 24/25 Oct. PETARD did not complete disembarkation Tps as only one M.L available for transhipment.
(7) Air.
(C. in C. M.E. No.T.O.O./25.)

HURSLEY.

Intend to leave port (?De)remen at 1900C proceeding south and west of Kos in view of your 251339 arriving (?Leros) at 0030. As time will not (?permit) of arrive (corrupt gr.) at 0700 intend to lie up in Guveranlto (?Guvergenck) Bay Tuesday.
Your 251315 also refers.

(2) Both ships are taking 20 tons fuel each from PETARD. Anticipate each will have (?120) tons remaining underwater. Rest of message indecypherable.
(HURSLEY, 251634C to C. in C. Levant (R) PHOEBE, PETARD, ALDENHAM, Capt. D.8, S.B.N.O. Aegean.)

UPSTART /...

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Mediterranean - Contd.

UPSTART,
ULTIMATUM.

(P.65) UPSTART sails at 1700/27th proceeds on surface at discretion through 038 degs. 01' 003 degs. 20' at 0200/28th, 040 degs. 02' 005 degs. 14' at 2100/28th, thence diving by day through 041 degs. 59' 006 degs. 13' at 0030/30th 042 degs. 30' 005 degs. 54' at 0530/30th to patrol in zone SU. (2) (P.34) ULTIMATUM will be ordered to leave patrol on 30th. (Capt. (S) 8, 251730A to C. in C. Med. (R) 8th S.F., N.O.I.C. Algiers, L.N.733 Capt. (S) 10)

SALTWICK.

M.K.S.28. My 201501 originated included "For Gibraltar for order 8¹ SALTWICK". Your 241924 * refers. (Com. Algeria, 251803A to Admty.) * Your 201501 and 211444 do not include SALTWICK. Request confirmation she was in convoy. C. in C. Mediterranean 222001 para. 2 refers.

Port Said
Movements.

25th Port Said arrivals including GAWLER, IERAX, SQUALL. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 251805)

Use of
Italian
Warships.

Maintenance of Italian Warships employed from U.S. operated Ports in Med. has recently been subject of signals between Comnavnav, and Cominch. Para.2. A cruiser and some escort vessels are being placed under orders of Com.N.O.B. Palermo to assist in movement of Italian personnel from Sardinia to Palermo in accordance with policy of C. in C. Allied Forces and for movement of supplies to U.S. Port party Cagliari and U.S. P.T. boat base Maddalena. This avoids use of shipping urgently required for Italian operations. Para. 3. While based on Palermo or Cagliari Comnavnav has been requested to provide fuel, essential stores and provisions from U.S. sources if necessary. Para.4. This is in all cases subject to the provisos that: (A) Italian resources of stores are used as available locally. (B) Issue can be made without prejudice to U.S. or British operational requirements. Para. 5. B.A.D. 232215 not to all refers. (C. in C. Med. 251827A to Admty. (R) Cominch, Comnavnav, B.A.D.)

COMMANDANT
DETROYAT.

Pending consideration by Admiralty of proposal to transfer French ship COMMANDANT DETROYAT to French Med. escort group My 210955 refers she may be employed for local escort duties from Gibraltar. (2) Request you will report her condition after experience on service. Your 231202 being passed to Admty. refers. (C. in C. Med. 251827A to F.O.C.Gib. (R) Admty. F.O.C.W.Af.)

S/M /...

25.10.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

S/M
Patrols. (A) Adjust patrol as follows forthwith:
(1) P.221 (SHAKESPEARE) off Doro Channel.
(2) P.239 (SURF) East of Mykoni Channel.
(3) P.219 (SERAPH) between Naxos and Mykoni.
(4) P.49 (UNRULY) between Denusa and Amorgo.
(5) P.55 (UNSPARING) between Amorgo and Anaphi.
(B) Object to intercept possible invasion force bound Samos from Piraeus and as in my 242328 (N.T. in W.D.)
(Capt. (S) 1, 231848C to 1st S.F. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

Landing
Ships
for U.K. My 141156. Further investigation show that water endurance of PRINCE CHARLES, PRINCE LEOPOLD, PRINSES JOSEPHINE and PRINSES ASTRID now only 6 days. Therefore essential ships should proceed to U.K. by approximate XK route.
(2) Intend to sail with BROWN RANGER escorted by POPPY, DIANELLA, LOTUS, STARWORT and REDPOLE leaving Gib. about 1st Nov.
(C. in C. Med. 251850A to Admty. (R) F.O.C. Gib. C. in C. W.A. C. in C. Plymouth, V.A. Malta.)

Movements. Gulf of Naples 25th Oct.
Arrivals - VISENDA, U.S.Y.M.S. 207 departures- QUANTOCK, WHADDON, POLRUAN, BLACKMORE, M.Ls..444 562 MUTINE. Arrivals and departues - U.S.Y.M.S. 226 7221 S.C.1043.
(N.O.I.C. Naples, 251901A to Admty. etc.)

ROYALIST
desination. A.M.231400 Gibraltar then Algiers.
(C. in C. Med. 251924A to Admty.)

BRAGADINO. E.T.A. Haifa 0630A/26th.
(It. S/M BRAGADINO, 251932A)

VELITE. My P.C. and S. at 1900C/25 032 degs. 17' N. 025 degs. 32' E. 102 degs. 17 knots.
(Italian Destroyer VELITE, 251945C to C. in C. Levant, All S. & A.C. operating off the coast between Alexandria and 20 degs. E.)

AUGUSTO,
RIBOTY. Departed.
(N.O.I.C. Bizerta, 252002A)

Radar
decoy
balloons. Your 231723 (N.T. in W.D.) Trails of Radar decoy balloons in U.K. are now proceeding with devices made up on information mainly supplied by P/W.
(2) Desired to try out exact copies of devise as used by the enemy in order that the Fleet may be

kept /...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Radar kept informed.
decoy (3) Complete specification should be forwarded
balloons. to Admty. by air including detailed drawings and
(Cont.) description of materials and weights of
reflectors and sea anchor.
(D.S.D. 252005A to C. in C. Med. (R) Comnavnaw,
B.A.D.)

SIRIUS Permanent repairs to SIRIUS can be undertaken at
(damaged Massawa and ship is being sailed accordingly.
17/10). My 211147* not to all refers.* (N.T. in W.D.)
(2) Time required for repairs will be shortened
by use of fittings including after Capstan from
CLEOPATRA as suggested in C. in C. Med's 201613
(N.T. in W.D.) not to all and list will be sent on receipt of
approval.
(3) As due to limited labour resources Massawa cannot under-
take general defects and A. and A's to such extent, it will be
necessary to retain majority of E.R. and technical complement
for self refit, but subject to this it is intended reduce
SIRIUS ships company as much as possible.
(C. in C. Levant, 252019C to Admty. (R) F.O.R.S.C.A., N.O.I.C.
Massawa, R.A. Alexandria, A.S. Alexandria, C. in C. Med.,
C.S.12, V.A. Malta, F.O.I.C. Gib. C.S.Gib.)

Med. (1) 15 plus enemy A/C raided Naples night of 23rd
Situation 24th. SS. JAMES IREDELL was hit and cased
Report petrol cargo took fire. Ship was beached fire
No.215. under control. No naval casualties. Fighters
claim 3 shot down and A/A fire one possible.
(2) Destroyer patrol in Adriatic between Dubrovnik
and Vis Island night of 24th/25th was blank.
(3) Magnetic mines have been encountered in approach to Brindisi
on 24th. Sweeping in progress, 11 mines already detonated.
(4) U.S. Minesweepers have recently swept 59 moored mines at
Cagliari and British minesweepers 6 grounded mines at
(?Olaha) (sic) ?Olbia, Sardinia.
(C. in C. Med. 252040A)

Radar Although enemy are known to be using Radar
decoy ?Decoy ?balloon in Med. evidence of their use as
balloons. a bait for torpedo attack is still insufficient
to justify any statement of tactics employed.
Your 211210 (N.T. in W.D.) not to all refers.
(2) Following Med. Stn. messages have been issued.
C. in C. Med's 042135, 131815 and 221625 October, also 042130*
to Admiralty only. Admiralty pass all to C. in C. W.A. (All
references to R.D.B's).
(C. in C. Med. 252049A to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. C. in C.
Levant, Comnavnaw.)
* Decoy balloons being sent to Algiers for examination.

Levant /...

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

Levant Situation Report, No. 90. HURWORTH and ADRIAS both mined night 22nd/23rd in 36° 59' N. 27° 06' E. South-east of Kalymno after leaving Gulf of Kos and HURWORTH sunk. Some 80 survivors reported including Commanding Officer, ADRIAS with fore-castle blown off beached on Turkish coast at Gumushuk. Possibility of salvage being investigated. Casualties 21 killed, 21 wounded from ADRIAS, Commanding Officer and some others from HURWORTH, reported safe at Budrum.

2. PETARD transferred naval personnel for Leros to M.L. last night in vicinity Budrum and withdrew to lie up. HURSLEY, ALDENHAM entered Aegean North of Rhodes and lay up in company. PETARD to transfer military personnel to Hunts tonight for passage to Leros and then withdraw.

3. PHOEBE left patrol South-east of Rhodes last night to fuel at Limassol, makes R/V with FAULKNER (D.8) BEAUFORT and BELVOIR from Alexandria. Destroyers entering Aegean tonight. PHOEBE patrolling South-east of Rhodes.

4. RORQUAL returning Beirut after discharge of stores at Leros night 23rd.

5. Further reports of survivors from ECLIPSE but no estimate of total yet available.
(C. in C. Levant, 252115C.)

Algeria movements. Arrivals including SPARTAN, COLOMBO, HAYDON, WILTON, PRINCE CHARLES, PRINCE LEOPOLD, PRINSES ASTRID, PRINSES JOSEPHINE CHARLOTTE, CLEOPATRA. Departures including SLAZAK, CLEVELAND, ATHERSTONE, HAMBLEDON, CATTERICK, UNSHAKEN P.54.
(Com. Algeria, 252134.)

Enemy mines Brindisi. Port temporarily closed owing to enemy minefield.
(Malta W/T, 252150A to all S. and A.)

X.I.F. 3. DOMINION MONARCH. Your 241737. DOMINION MONARCH (? arriving) Leopoldville, not expected Port Said until a.m. 31st. Propose therefore to delay sailing X.I.F. 3 until p.m. Nov. 2nd to enable this ship to be included.
(C. in C. Levant, 252159C to C. in C. Med.)

Areas for net defence. Add to para. 3 of A.M. 151545 begins Ships and convoy then at sea should be given any necessary instructions by direct message on approaching newly threatened area. Ends.
(D.T.D., 252228A to C. in C. Med., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. Levant, C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.C. Gib., F.O.C.W.Af., N.S.H.Q., (R) Cominch, B.A.D.)

PHOEBE. Cyprus 25th arrived and left PHOEBE.
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta (Cyprus), 252330C.)

/K.M.F. 25 ...

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.K.M.F. 25,
K.M.S. 29,
U.G.S. 20.

Following is a repetition of my 252345 (N.T. in W.D.) (Begins) addressed S.E.C. K.M.F.25, K.M.S.29, U.G.S. 20.

2. (A) 12 to 322 then 773, 389, 023° 01' 020° 01' E. 1900/28th, 355 3 miles North of 512 route 337 1030/29th, 510 322 2200/29th, 508, 503, 310, 309 1600/30th, 306, 303, 300, 399 0700/31st. 5. TC.

6. High "Tryst". 7. C. 8. SLAZAK (S.O.), ATHERSTONE, HAMBLEDON, CATTERICK, CLEVELAND, PALADIN. T.O.O. 252345 (Ends). (C. in C. Levant, 252359C to C.M.S.F.)

Bari
movements.

Arrivals QUEENBOROUGH, U.S. Destroyer CONNOR, RAIDER, HEBE, HAZARD, M.T.Bs. (? 234), 297. Sailed QULLIAM, QUAIL, M.M/S.s. 50, 32, M.L.386. (N.O.I.C. Bari, 252347.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

TEMPLAR,
TACTICIAN.

At 1330Z/25th Oct. positions of submarines on patrol and their movements for next 24 hours:
1. TEMPLAR 007° 49' 096° 38' to 008° 56' 093° 52'.
2. TACTICIAN in zone E. entering zone F. after 1500Z/25th.
(Capt. S.4 250151Z to Admty. etc.)

Representation Re A.M. 221315. Asking for approval to be given of C. in C.E.F. for F.O. to be appointed as his representative at Delhi with title which indicates his functions and executive authority to act in my absence.
(C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) 250447Z to Admty.)

GEORGE
WASHINGTON.

Sailed 0500Z/25th Oct. GEORGE WASHINGTON U.S.A. via Capetown and Seychelles, 30th Oct. knots 15, 16½. Route. Escorted by (?FROBISHER) to vicinity of Durban NAPIER and NEPAL to position B.
(Bombay Fort W/T 250546 to Admty.)

India Air
Report.

A.259 25th October Daily Opsum No. 589. 24th October. 2 Beaufighters attacked. Valon Mingin, 1 steamer, 2 cargo barges number of Sampans damaged, 2 large steamers set on fire.
(A.H.Q. India 250820Z.)

L.S.Ts(2)
for Eastern
Fleet.

6 L.S.Ts.(2) are urgently required to arrive Calcutta at latest 20th Nov. for a military operation.
2. At present only L.S.Ts.(2) 238 and 180 have arrived on station and it is therefore requested that next 4 L.S.Ts.(2) may be released to Eastern Fleet now.

Request confirmation that this can be done and E.T.As. Aden.
(C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) 250901Z to C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant.)
C. in C.Levant's reply: 261228C.

MAHARAJA.

Sailed p.m. embarked (numbers).
(S.S.T.O. Ceylon 250957Z to A.P.S.T.O.India.)

DABCHICK.

DABCHICK's destination is Colombo.
2. Request you will sail her in convenient convoy to proceed direct to Colombo for about 55° E.
(C. in C.E.F. 251008Z to Com. Aden, (R) F.O.R.S.C.A. Admty. F.O.Ceylon.)

Convoy
M.B.52.

Sailing telegram, part 1 (7 ships). 1. M.B.52. 2. 1033Z/25th Oct. 3. R/V Cochin 0230Z/27th E.T.A. Bombay 0830Z/50th. 4. 8 knots. 6. RAJPUTANA, POONA, AGRA.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo 251037Z to Admty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

B.M.72. Sailing telegram (9 ships). 2. 1100Z/25th.
3. E.T.A. position 010° 00' 075° 43' (Cochin R/V)
0700Z/28th. 3A. E.T.A. Colombo 0300Z/30th.
4. 8½ knots. 5. Coastal lane all holding route
to destination. 6. D.S. WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN, LAUNCESTON, NETRAVATI
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 251122Z 251124Z to Admty.)

Greek Ship Sunk. Ref. A.M. A.F. position approx. 015° 35' S. 040°
50' E. at 1200Z/24th Oct.
?FANEROMINI. (Admiral Mombasa 251150Z to B.A.M.S.7A, and 3C.
Admty.)
Signal from V.C.Mozambique reports Greek ship sunk
yesterday Sunday 24th October off Mozambique Area.
My 251150 refers. Name of ship and position received corrupt,
repetition being obtained but probably ship is Greek Ship
FANEROMINI. Report gives 36 survivors, 2 killed, none missing.
Further report and warnings will be issued when missing informa-
tion is obtained. Air search of area for S/M instituted.
(F.O.E.Af. 251235 to SUFFOLK, STARLIGHT, C. in C.E.F. C. in
C.S.A. Admty. (R) R.A.E.F.)

W.S.33. W.S.33 is now due Bombay about 7th Nov. and
arrangements have been made to embark following
for U.K. in BOISSEVAIN ANTENOR and ORMONDE sailing
13th Nov. Request permission to embark these
numbers. Your 232255 refers.
(P.S.T.O.India 251201 to D.S.T.)

CONGELLA Air search failed to locate you. Break W/T
(attacked silence forthwith and report your position and
24th Oct.) whether assistance is required.
(Admiral Colombo 251212Z to B.A.M.S.7A, CONGELLA.)

203 Air Middle East Air Command have agreed to send 203
Squadron. Squadron to Eastern Theatre forthwith and, in
accordance with wish of A.O.C. in C.India, propose
to send squadron to Bombay.
2. Presume you have been consulted and agree.
Request confirmation.
(D.O.D.(F) 251710A to C. in C.E.F. C. in C.E.F.
(S.E.A.C.).) Confirmed (C. in C.E.F. 260348.)

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Minesweeping. Your 171506/10. (A) One. (B) Swept by Oropesa in position 47.31.20 N. 52.25.20 W. (C) St. Johns, Swept Channel with LL and Oropesa St. Johns Wabana Channel Oropesa St. Johns Wabana Channel to Cape St. Francis LL 70% searching sweep of following area 47.28.00 N. 52.25.00 W. 47.28.00 N. 52.32.00 W. 47.33.00 N. 52.25.00 47.33.00 N. 52.32.00 W. 80% Oropesa searching sweep of following area. 47.33.00 N. 52.25.00 W. 47.33.00 N. 52.34.00 W. 47.38.00 N. 52.25.00 W. 47.38.00 N. 52.34.00 W. Total mines accounted for to date 23.
(F.O.N.F. 250140Z to N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty. Cominch, C. in C. C.N.A.)

GEORGES LEYGUES. Sailed Norfolk October 23rd French Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES for Gibraltar via Bermuda.
(N.S.H.Q. 250435Z to Admty. (R) B.A.D., S.B.N.O., W.A., F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

Nets. F.O.N.I.C. (261) pass to N.C.S.Os. Amendment to F.O.N.I.C. 260. (Merchant ships fitted N.D.(?) General instructions. Nets should be streamed whenever practicable.) (22nd October) add to para.3. When East of 045° E. or when N. of 026° S. in Mozambique Channel. (C. in C.E.F. 250436Z to F.O.N.I.C. (R) Admty., etc.)

GOLDEN EAGLE. Your 250329Z (N.T. in W.D.) GOLDEN EAGLE left Convoy at 231900P. Suspect Master may proceeding independently. When ordered to Halifax he signalled he would not obey. Was told to obey order or Master's licence would be revoked. He replied he would leave convoy at 1930P. He did not say he would go to Halifax. Ships in convoy which tracked him by Radar reported to C.T.F.69 that when GOLDEN EAGLE went off Radar screen (? pole) was on course 035° C. in C. C.N.A. pass to C. in C.U.S. Fleet who also information addressees. Weather.
(C.T.F.69 250837 to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) Com.10th Fleet C. & R. Com.3.)

Escort Carrier Operations. We have under consideration interchange of information concerning operations of Escort Carriers in Atlantic, when acting offensively against U/B concentrations. 2. At present, a Carrier is given a probability area in which to operate, but the area has no boundaries. This may lead to confusion and unexpected encounters when British and U.S. Carriers are operating in same zone. 3. In addition, if area of operations is known, advantage could be taken of the presence of a Carrier by routing a threatened convoy towards its protection. 4. When British Carrier Groups become available for these operations, the intended area will be reported either in terms of latitude and longitude or as an area within a radius of a given position. 5. Request similar information may be supplied regarding U.S. Carrier Groups in Atlantic.
(D.O.D. (H) Approved A.C.N.S. (H) 251036Z to Cominch, (R) Commaveu, C. in C.W.A., Com. 10th Fleet.)

/U.G.S.22...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

- U.G.S.22. Sailing telegram part 2.
(P.D. Nor., Va., 251359Z to Com.10th Fleet.
C. & R., F.O.C. Gibraltar.)
- NS.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q. 251458Z.)
S/M.
Estimate.
- ANNAPOLIS Am attacking S/M contact in 045° 08' 060° 06'
U/B (U). Attacked with depth charges and Hedgehogs.
attacked. Oil seen on surface.
(ANNAPOLIS 251517Z to C. in C., C.N.A. (R)
D. Halifax, Comnav, Admty., A.C.I.C., C. in C.
W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F. Cdr. (D) Argentia.Cdre.
(D) W.A., H.Q.C.C.)
My 251517. Lost contact. Rejoining convoy. Searched
4 hours. Weather report.
(ANNAPOLIS 251717Z to C. in C.N.A.)
- J.T.10. Convoy J.T.10 arrived minus RIO VERDE (Norwegian)
straggler.
(B.R.L.O. Trinidad 251548Q to Admty.)
- Supply Cancel A.M. 231850 and substitute following.
S/MS. (Begins) B.A.M.Rs. 061538/April (N.T. in W.D.).
Loss of refitting facilities in U.S. for such
a long period would throw impossible burden of
refits on U.K. resources and we cannot therefore
afford to proceed with conversion of S/MS. as
Supply S/MS. at present.
(Head of M.II. 251606A to B.A.D., (R) C. in C.E.F.)
- U.S. (Cominch 251610Z.)
S/M.
Estimate.
- U.S.A.T. Departure Para. 22nd STATE OF VIRGINIA U.S.A.T.
for Trinidad 25th.
(N.S.H.Q. 251617Z.)
- O.N.S.20. 12 Ships arrived 1540Z/25th.
(N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 251708Z to Admty.)
- T.G.27.4. N.O.B. Bermuda 250615 addressed to N.O.B.
Casablanca for action. Information Cinclant,
Comorseafron, Cominch, Comairlant, Comfair,
Norfolk, Comdesdiv 61, C.T.U. 24.7.2 B.A.S.
Forces, Azores, C. in C. Med. F.O. Gib. Admty.
251430 Task Group 27.4 departs Bermuda swept channel. Route
Eastward via positions thence to Casablanca swept channel. All
N. and W. times Z. E.T.A. 0700 Nov.3rd speed 14. Group has no
air coverage.
(Comnav 251752 to Admty.)

/U.G.S.22...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

U.G.S.22. This is Port Director Norfolk's 251325 for action to Com. 10 Fleet.
Sailing Telegram Part 1. 1. U.G.S.22.
2. 1209Z/25. 3. 262232Z passing J.K. speed 9.5. 4. "Chop" 24 W. 060100Z Nov. to F.O.C. Gib. Ship Radio Watch 20 W. 062305Z. 5. Route. 6. Task Force 61 EVARTS, WYFFELS, DECKER, DOBLER, SMARTI, WALTER S. BROWN, HOBBY, GILLESPIE, KALK, BARKER, BULMER, CHIWAWA, S.C.1336, 1344. Task Group 21.11 SANTEE, MACLEISH, BAINBRIDGE, SIMPSON. Commander H.R. Wright, U.N.S. Joseph Mckenna. (Radio Washington 251755Z.)

BUXTON. Your 251610 Sept. Concur to pay off BUXTON and to employ as proposed. Early discharge of ships' company to U.K. would be welcome. Alternatively they should be drafted to Boston for voyage to U.K. in "Captain" class Frigates or to augment complements of ships ex repairs. Presume R.C.N. will undertake any care and maintenance commitment for BUXTON. (Hd. of M. 251826A to N.S.H.Q. (R) S.C.N.O. London, C. in C., C.N.A., B.A.M.R., Combrax, Portsmouth.)

Movement signals for S.B.N.O. Azores. Request that sailing Authorities be informed that in future all movement signals in North Atlantic between latitude 50° N. and 20° N. are to include S.B.N.O. Azores in the address. (D.O.D. (H) 251910A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q. etc.)

U.S.A.T. Arrival San Francisco 23rd HOSCHFONTEIN (Dutch) departure 23rd CAPE MEARES, POAKCOWNSVILLE. Both U.S.A.Ts. (N.S.H.Q. 251939Z.)

DUFF. E.T.A. Boston 1000Z/26th weather. (DUFF 252035Z to Cmdt. 1st Naval District Boston (R) B.N.L.O. Boston.)

U.S.A.T. movements. BRIG. GENERAL, H.F. RETHERS U.S.A.T. arrived 24th. DALVANGEN, NICANIA, CATHLAMET, EDWARD LIVINGSTONE, J.L. LUCKENBACH, JOHN GALLUP, SAMUEL DEXTER, THOMAS HILL, JASON LEE, TEXMAR, KEYHOLT, AVILA, WILLIAM OSLER, and L.T.18 U.S.A.T. arrivals 25th. (R.O. Port of Spain 252053.)

GIFFARD. Admty. 231919A. GIFFARD will be allocated to C. in C., C.N.A. for service with M.O.E.F. (N.S.H.Q. 252058Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) Admty., C. in C., C.N.A., F.O.N.F., S.C.N.O. (London) Cdre. (D) W.A.)

/GEORGES...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

GEORGES
LEYGUES.

Bermuda arrival and departure French Cruiser
GEORGES LEYGUES.
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 252102Z to Admty. (R) B.A.D.,
N.S.H.Q., F.O.I.C.Gib.)

BENTLEY,
KEATS.

Following Itinerary. My 191828 sail BENTLEY
when ready about 1 Nov. and our KEATS about 4th
Nov. S.O. Present Officer Afloat, Casco Bay
pass to British Training Officer.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 252107Z to C.E.S.F.)

VAGRANT.

Upon completion fitting out about 27th sail
VAGRANT New Orleans towing only to Key West as
requested Commandant 8th Nav. Dist. 241802/ not to
all addressees. Sail onward independently Key
West to Bermuda. Route. Onward route to Gib.
Route, thence destination. Action addressees advise times of
arrival and departures of each port.
(C. in C.U.S. Fleet 252109Z to Cdr. Gulf Sea Frontier, N.O.B.
Bermuda.) / N.T. in W.R.

Anti-torpedo
device.

Your 211345 as classification of gear has been
reduced to British Secret U.S. Confidential
matter is being promulgated as a Secret General
Message Home and Abroad.
(Hd. of M.II. 252113A to B.A.D.)

S/M. attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. C. ANNAPOLIS attacks S/M contact 45.08 N.
60.06 W. 251517. Para. D. Aircraft sights S/M
wake 34.37 N. 09.20 W. 250605. U.S.S. JOYCE
sights torpedo track 26.30 N. 79.34 W. 230049.
(Cominch 252130Z to Admty.)

Employment
of French
Cruisers.

Cominch concurs with Admty. view expressed in
A.M.232254* on employment of these French Cruisers.
*(N.T. in W.D.) 2. Adm. King suggests that
Admty. should take for granted his concurrence
with regard to future similar cases within the
Med-Africa Area when detailed allocations of
French Vessels are agreed upon by Admty. Gen. Eisenhower (or
C. in C. Med. representing him) and the French Naval Command.
He would like however to be kept informed of changes as they
are planned.
(B.A.D. 252135 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.C.W.A.F.)

GEORGES
LEYGUES.

Following received from N.O.B. for onward trans-
mission begins:- Cominch from N.O.B. Bermuda.
Info. Nisclanu. Commorseafron, Comnavnav, C. in
C. Med. Admty. North African Naval Mission
(Glassford) S.B.N.O. W.At., Naval France (Algiers)
French Naval Mission (Wash.) C.T.F.66 C.T.G. 27.4, C.T.F.64.
Departing Bermuda 2000Z/25th French Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES for
Gib. Straits through positions. (A) Lat. 32.16 Long. 64.18

/(B.I.)...

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

GEORGES (B.1) 31.30 6.00 (C) Lat. 31.50 Long. 30.00 (D)
LEYGUES. Lat. 34.40 Long. 18.00 thence destination. Speed
18 knots. (A through D) Q.J.C. 156, Q.J.B.9, Q.J.H.
95, Q.B.A.110. Guarding N.F. to 20 W. then Gib.
G. T.O.O. 251841 (Ends).
(Bermuda C.C.O. 252206Z to Admty.S.B.N.O.W.At.etc.)

Air Squadrons Your 231317.1. Para.1, first sentence Admiral
and Biscay King did not say this, but said that Slessor had
Offensive. King this morning and left with him a very clear
intimated that the participation of U.S. Sqdns.
would be a matter of limited duration. 2. I saw
King this morning and left with him a very clear
statement as set forth in your signal referred to above. I do not
know what result will be, but there is no doubt that he is
seriously reconsidering the matter. Air Marshal Welsh accompanied
me. (3) The circumstances which have led to this, I hope,
temporary impasse are rather unfortunate, and steps will be taken
at this end directly this matter is settled to prevent any
recurrence. King still sticks to his point that he thought he was
only committed till November 1st and it is a pity that no record
of the arrangements made are available, and also that the matter
was not kept under constant review during the period which
elapsed from then until the present day. 4. King informed us that
C.A.S. has been seeing Admiral Stark on this matter and expressed
surprise as he had always thought that Admiralty had the opera-
tional control of coastal command aircraft. He hinted that there
were too many people dealing with the matter.
(B.A.D. 252231 to Admty. (R) Rafdel.). *See also 272059.*

U.G.S.21, This from C. in C. Lant as 252229 (N.T. in U.S.N.
T.F.56. Office) to C.T.G. 21.14 for action and (R) to
C.T.G. 21.16, Comnavu, Admty. F.O.i/c Gib., Commor-
seafron and Comtenth Fleet. For time being your
251959 (N.T. in W.R.) negative. In view until convoy has passed
through critical area 2 British carriers N. of Azores return to
Area South of Azores support U.G.S.21 escorted by Task Force 66.
(Comnavu 252346Z to Admty.).

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest Afternoon 23rd 1 Liberator bombed Borgen Bay. 2 or
No.643 Oct. 3 enemy cruisers and destroyers observed taking
24th. evasive action during attack apparently heading out
of Blanche Bay. (3) Ref. my serial No. 642 para.16
R/C Beaufort reported sighting at 0840/23 wreckage
plus 2 empty and 1 capsized lifeboat in area to West of Buka (?)
where convoy attacked same morning before dawn. (4) One destroyer
escorting 1 large merchantman escorted 83 miles S.S.W. Kavieng
forenoon heading S.E. (5) One of 4 Beauforts conducting sweep
along S. coast New Britain Oct.23rd destroyed 1 enemy floatplane.
(6) Navy Catalina attacked 2 enemy destroyers 1 unidentified ves-
sel off Cape Cunningham before dawn scoring hits with depth charges
on 1 Dr. which was observed burning 40 mins. later apparently out
of control. Vessel considered destroyed. (8) Lib.sighted 3 Drs. 5
other vessels and 15 barges in Rein Bay (N.W. Coast New Britain).
/short v...

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Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
No.643
Oct.24th.
(Contd.).

shortly after midnight 23rd. Approx. 90 minutes later 2 Liberators attacked 4 large barges being escorted by 2 of the Destroyers towards Rein Bay from the North East and later attacked the remaining Destroyer with the other shipping in Rein Bay. Results were unobserved due darkness. (9) Three Beauforts attacked dump area Gasmata forenoon 23rd. Navy Catalina reported sighting submerged S/M in this area during night (?) hours. (10) Another Catalina bombed two flare barges entering harbour Garove Island before dawn also nearby jetty with unobserved results. (11) Single Mitchell on R/C engaged and destroyed enemy medium bomber near Saider forenoon. 6 barges reported Plingan Harbour by single Liberator which bombed Sie area. (12) Four enemy aircraft attacked Allied shipping Finschhafen 23rd one of which was shot down. Preliminary report indicates strong enemy force Fighters and dive bombers also attacking Allied surface craft this area were intercepted by 23 Allied fighters resulting 4 enemy aircraft destroyed 6 others probably. (15) 1 destroyer and 1 heavily loaded small (?) coaster observed by Liberator in area W.S. West Greenwich Island on Southerly course October 23rd. Freighter thoroughly strafed and damaged. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 250625Z).

Movements

Arrival Exmouth Gulf 24th U.S.S. ISABEL. Departs Exmouth Bay 24th U.S. Seaplane tender CHILDS for Fremantle. (A.C.N.B. 251038Z).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 251415A, 251435A.).

Submarines Attacked.

S/M attack
and sighting
summary for
24 hours to
0900Z/25th.

Para.A. Unknown ship torpedoed and sunk at 1100/23 in 24.07 S. 45.50 W. Aircraft reports contact at 1354/24th in 48.22 N. 13.30 W. Br. CONGELLA shelled by U-boat at 1605/24th in 01.02 N. 71.14 E. Aircraft attacked U-boat with bombs at 0825/24 in 45.41 N. 12.15 W. Course 165 degs. Para.C. BALLINDERRY attacked contact at 1830/24th in 49.47 N. 08.58 W. Ref. A.M. 241145A. Para. A. U-boat attacked at 0001/24th was attacked by TOOWOOMBA not by S/M. (D.D.I.C. 250953Z to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.).

26.10.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

V.P.
operation.
M.T.B.669
lost.

1. M.T.B.688 while returning to-day to the Shetlands from an operation on the Norwegian Coast reported that M.T.B.669 had been abandoned in a sinking condition in Fro Havel, but that all her crew were safe. The M.T.Bs. have sunk a 250 ton ship in Bessaker Harbour and were later attacked continuously by air by A/C of which they destroyed one and damaged another. They had 10 casualties, one fatal.

Dover,
Folkestone,
and Deal
shelled.
Enemy
convoy
attacked.

2. At 2053 last night our coastal batteries at Dover engaged a 4000 ton enemy M/V which had left Boulogne Northbound at 2000. They fired 42 rounds of 15 inch and 12 of 9.2 inch without observed result until 2237, and the enemy coastal batteries replied with about 30 rounds of which 7 fell in Dover and 11 in the Folkestone and Deal areas causing six civilian deaths and seven wounded casualties in Dover and considerable damage to property. M.T.Bs. 235 and 240, which had been waiting near the N.E.Varne since 1900, intercepted the M/V and having each fired two torpedoes at her with no known result, withdrew. The M/V with her escorts continued her passage to the Eastward and at 0115 was attacked by one Albacore A/C, also without result.

U-Boat
attacked.

3. Escort Group 7 supporting Convoy O.N.207 sighted 3 U-Boats to-day and at 1605 attacked one of them in 51° 27' N. 042° 09' W. (about 500 miles N.E. of St.Johns), and at 2240A RHODODENDRON escorting Flight "O" of 27 Landing Craft home from the Mediterranean attacked a U-Boat on the surface in 46° 32' N. 013° 24' W. (about 450 miles W. by N. of Bordeaux.) and forced it to dive.

South Atlantic.

4. The Italian S/M CAGNI is to be sailed to Alexandria with a view to interim employment as a supply S/M for Aegean operations.

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

RICHELIEU.

5. Approval has been given by Cominch, as executive agent of the Combined Chiefs of Staff, for RICHELIEU after about 4 weeks in the Mediterranean under the Allied Naval C. in C. to be employed in the Atlantic with the British Home Fleet under Admiralty direction.

"Avalanche".

6. E-Boats attacked the Bay of Naples last night but were engaged by the patrols and driven off without causing any damage.

Aegean.

7(a) 250 of all ranks were landed at Leros last night.

(b) One "Fleet" and 2 "Hunts" left Alexandria this morning with 300 troops and 40 tons of stores for Leros, making a rendezvous with PHOEBE south of Rhodes before dark.

(c) The first Italian S/M with stores was due at Portolago tonight. Another left Haifa at 0001 today.

Leros.

(d) A heavy bombing of the defences and gun positions on Leros started at 1200C today, about 120 enemy aircraft being used.

There was further bombing in the late afternoon.

C. in C. Middle East does not consider this necessarily foreshadows an immediate assault, but is probably intended to make up for the falling off in air effort since October 17th.

(e) M.L.579 was destroyed by bombing at Leros today. A report from Turkey stated that E-Boats were using the cover of an island off Gumishlu to await targets. Destroyers were to have used this bay for the transfer of troops tonight, but were directed west of Kos to Parthani Bay.

Kos withdrawal.

(f) The withdrawal of our remaining land patrols from Kos was announced by the Middle East Command this morning.

Samos.

(g) C. in C. Middle East reports increasing enemy interest in Samos. He still believed Leros is the principal objective in the Aegean, but now considers that separate or simultaneous attacks on Samos may be launched. C. in C. Levant is inclined to doubt this. If it occurred, the chances of destroyers being able to intervene are very slender in view of the distance.

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26.10.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

8. An American ferry aircraft reported a S/M submerging East of Aden. A Hudson searched the area without result.

9. A German U-Boat was fixed by D/F at 1345Z in approx. 5° N. 81.30 E. (S.W. of Ceylon.)

10. The escort carrier BATTLE, escorted by ROTHERHAM, QUIBERON, and QUALITY, arrived at Bombay today from Aden, escorting convoy A.B.17.

Kelai
R.A.F.
Base.

11. The R.A.F. intend to establish at Kelai (Northern Maldives) an advanced base for the operation of three flying boats working with convoys between India and Africa.

Burma.

12. Further successful air attacks were made today on river craft in central Burma.

China.

13. U.S. aircraft attacked Hainan Island today and sank in Kiungshan Bay one medium transport, 2 tankers and a small freighter.

America & West Indies.

14. Survivors were brought into Halifax today by the MELDRUM and SWINSON of SS. ESSEX LANCE, torpedoed at 2120Z on Oct.16 in 57.53 N. 28.00 W. and abandoned.

15. (a) A Liberator aircraft in close cover with Convoy O.N.207 sighted a U-Boat in 50.49 N. 41.01 W. and made 3 attacks at 1105, 1214, and 1218 with depth charges. After the second attack a black

/eruption...

26.10.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies - Contd.

eruption was seen slightly to the rear of the centre of D/C explosion. There was, however no evidence of damage and the periscope was seen travelling in an opposite direction to submergence. (b) The same Liberator sighted a U-Boat at 1548 G.M.T. in 50.45 N. 40.42 W. and attacked with M/G fire, all other armament being exhausted. The U-Boat submerged 1610 G.M.T.

Australia & New Zealand.

16. (a) Three destroyers were attacked by a Navy Catalina after dark 30 miles W. of Ubili. Near misses were scored on 2 ships. (b) Before dawn today a Liberator scored a direct hit on one of 2 westbound destroyers 40 miles E. of Buka Passage, Solomons. (c) Two small freighters were set on fire and a third was damaged by a patrol Liberator this morning off Green Island (40 miles N.W. of Buka.)

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26.10.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

T.F.121. Cominch has given permission for T.F.121 to remain with you until 1st December.
(A.C.N.S.H. 260145A to C. in C. H.F.)

MIDDLETON. Hvalfiord arrival MIDDLETON. C. in C.H.F.231157 refers.
(A.C.I.C. 260450A to C. in C.H.F.)

T.G.21-16. D/F of transmission at 0819Z indicates that T.G.21-16 may have been reported.
(D.D.I.C. 260957A to T.G.21-16.)

VENUS. Your 251616A. Arrived.
(A.C.O.S. 261055A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN. Arrival ROYAL SOVEREIGN.
(C. in C. Rosyth 261151A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

S/M movements. Positions of S/Ms. at 0800/27 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 261803A.)

Operations.

V.P. operations. M.T.Bs. 653 and 686 returned to base 0830A.
(My 221651.)(M.T.L.W.D.)
M.T.B.669 (A.C.O.S. 260927A to Admty.)
lost. Force failed to recognise landfall on night 23rd/24th
One enemy and retired to seaward spending daylight some 30 to
M/V sunk. 40 miles from coast (my 260927). Force again made
landfall after dark on 25th and on failure to
identify vicinity and owing to shortage of fuel
decided to return to base. Return passage made
without incident.
(A.C.O.S. 261523A to Admty.)
M.T.B.688 not yet arrived Shetland reports M.T.B.669
abandoned in sinking condition in 064° 26' N. 009° 03' E. All crew
aboard M.T.B.688 (My 221651A) 250 ton ship sunk in Bessaker
Harbour (064° 14' 42" N. 010° 19' 42" E.) Continuous air attacks
subsequently. At least one aircraft destroyed and one damaged.
Casualties one killed, one seriously wounded, eight wounded.
(A.C.O.S. 261534A to Admty.)

A/S sweep by FENCER. Cancel position given in my 250919Z. Proceed to 046° N. 038° W.
(C. in C.W.A. 260934Z to FENCER.)
Estimated P.C.S. H.X.262 at 2000A tonight 044° 10' N 036° 20' W. 068° 9½ knots. (2) Your 252300.
This information was contained in my 251253, corrected by my 251846 and 251946.
(C. in C.W.A. 261050A to FENCER.)
My 251250Z para.2. FENCER has been diverted to proceed to 46° N. 38° W.
(C. in C.W.A. 261125Z to Cominch.)

/Interception...

War Diary.26.10.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

Interception of Enemy Convoy. Dover and Folkestone shelled. In anticipation of the movements to the Northeastward of 4,000 ton merchant vessel reported by photographic reconnaissance to be in Boulogne yesterday 25th, M.T.B.235 (Lieut. P.E. Tegelberg R. Neth. N.) Lieut. B.C.Ward, D.S.C., R.N. Senior Officer embarked and M.T.B.240 (Lieut. F. Visee R. Neth. N.) were ordered to wait near N.E. Varne from 1900. (2) At 2000 shore based Radar reported one very large, one medium and several smaller vessels leaving Boulogne Northbound. (3) Our coastal batteries engaged at 2053 with 42 rounds of 15 inch and 12 rounds of 9.2 inch until 2237. No results were observed but plot indicated possible damage to one straggler. Enemy batteries at Noires Nottes and probably Haringzelles, Franzelles and La Beda replied with about 30 rounds between 2100 and 2238. Seven rounds in Dover caused 6 civilian deaths, and seven wounded and considerable damage to civilian property. Eleven rounds fell on shore in Folkestone and Deal areas. Blast damage to Naval Offices Folkestone and superficial damage to civilian property in Deal but no other damage or casualties. (4) Meanwhile M.T.Bs. made interception in accordance with Operation "Dusty" (Dover 00617 of 26th March 1943.) both firing two torpedoes at main target at 1400 yards in most difficult conditions of weather and visibility with no known results. Our craft retired apparently undetected and were not engaged although one unit of enemy screen, disposed up to 1000 yards to seaward, passed only 300 yards from M.T.Bs. (5) Our Radar reported enemy had entered Calais at 2200. Further deterioration of weather necessitated recall at 2250 of remaining available M.T.Bs. and M.G.Bs. waiting in vicinity outer Ruytingen. (6) Main target with escorts continued passage eastward at 0030 and was attacked at 0115 by one Albacore of 841 Squadron on patrol no hits being claimed. Further attacks by aircraft were considered inadvisable due to weather conditions and proximity of target to shore defences.
(V.A. Dover 261126A to Admty.)

S/M Patrols. UNA patrol position KK. Object LS.O.H.200 para.(2) F. and A. Ref. my 251354. (F.O.S. 261133A to Capt. S.9.) Positions of submarines at 0800/27th and movements for following 24 hours. (A) SEADOG 66° 45' N. 07° 25' E. probably on surface 10 knots for Lerwick. (B) SYRTIS 67° 31' N. 06° 30' E. probably on surface 10 knots through 68° 59' N. 08° 52' E. and 71° 09' N. 14° 58' E. (C) STUBBORN 66° 50' N. 06° 40' E. probably on surface 10 knots through 69° 01' N. 09° 56' E. and 70° 35' N. 14° 25' E. (D) VARANGIAN 65° 30' N. 03° 55' E. probably on surface 8½ knots to 69° 02' N. 08° 53' E. (E) TANTIVY leaves patrol vicinity 63° 35' N. 04° 59' E. at 2100/27th for Lerwick, dived as much as practicable N. of 62° N. (F.O.S. 261803A to Admty.)

Coastal Patrols. Patrols 26th October. 1. Force 113. M.T.B.677 (S.O) M.G.B. 322 are to patrol in vicinity 135 Start 17. 3. Force to be on patrol by 1945. Leave patrol for Dartmouth 0630A/27. 4. M.T.Bs. 415, 434, 431 at short notice in Harbour from 1900. (C. in C. Plymouth 261312A.)

/M.Ls...

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26.10.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal Patrols. (Contd.) M.Ls.137, 203 patrolling two miles S. of D. buoy. M.Ls.104, 102, 107, 101, 210, 213, 128, 573 carrying out operation. M.L.106. Route outward via Downs and U-buoy returning via U and number one buoys. E.T.D. 1630, E.T.R. 0240/27. M.T.Bs.235, 240, 208, E.T.D. Dover 1930, R/V with M.T.Bs. 435, 436, S.4, E.T.D. Ramsgate 1945, at U-buoy, then to patrol off Ostend. E.T.R. 0730/27. M.G.Bs. 42 (S.O) 41, S.1 at V buoy. E.T.D. departure 1745. E.T.R. 0745/27.
(V.A. Dover 261524A to Admty.)
Your 261312 sailed. M.T.Bs. 415, 434, 431 in place of M.T.B. 677 and M.G.B. 322 defective.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 262100A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

A/S sweep by E.G.2. Cancel order for 2nd Escort Group given in my 241905Z not to all addressees. Proceed forthwith to 051° N. 036° W. adjusting speed so as to arrive at dawn 27th and commence an A/S sweep on a course of 230°.
(C. in C.W.A. 261407Z to E.G.2.)
My P.C.S. 048° 20' N. 032° 20' W. 318° 14 knots.
Oil fuel remaining 52% except WOODCOCK who has oiled from TRACKER.
(E.G.2 261700A to C. in C.W.A. (R) FENCER.)

Enemy Air Activity.

A/C shot down by ALFREDIAN on 23rd October. (1) Lowestoft Roads W.S.W. 1½ cables N.W. Holme Buoy approx. 2320 23rd Oct. 43. B.C. visibility 7. (2) Twin-engine bomber afire on water, no prisoners. (3) Nil. (4) Not applicable. (5) Shallow dive bombing to 200 ft. dropped 2 bombs and attacked with cannon fire. A/C destroyed by small arms fire, Oerlikon, and Brownings. A/C fell in sea and exploded. (6) ALFREDIAN. (7) No.
(Cdr. M/S. Lowestoft 261127A to Admty.)

Mining.

N.L.106. My 251705A. Operation N.L.106 abandoned owing to weather.
(V.A. Dover 260926A to Admty.)

Q.U.23. 1. Carry out operation Q.U.23 155° 2.2 miles 020° tonight. 2. Force 21st M.T.B. and 31st M.L. Flotillas. 4. If E-boats are located while on passage out enemy report is to be made. Operation should then be carried out if practicable. A signal ordering unit to intercept retiring E-boats may be expected.
(C. in C. Nore 261727A to BEEHIVE.)

Q.Z.X. 1095. 1. Completed check sweep of area formed by lines joining following positions:- 1. 'I'. 2. 50° 16.2' N. 03° 24' W. 3. 50° 25.2' N. 02° 33.8' W. 4. 'C'. 16th M.S.F. completed clearance of strip reported in my 252247A.
(M/S.9 261945A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

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Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Convoy off Farsund on 25th October. Photographs taken at 1237/25th show:- Convoy at 58° 10 N. 06° 33 E. consists of escort vessel 200 ft. approx., bulk carrier M.139. M.V.380 ft. and one 'M' class minesweeper proceeding N. in diagonal line in that order. (540 Sq. P.R. leuchars 261025A to C.C.)

SCHEER. ADMIRAL SCHEER reported by air R/C at Swinemunde Oct.23rd. Graded B.2. (N.A. Stockholm 261716 to Admty.)

Navigational.

Southwold. Ref. A.L. H.L. 1725/43. Weather permitting it is proposed to remove existing wire boom at Southwold tomorrow and declare Port opened from 28th Oct. Port authorities and Fishery Officer are being advised of possible existence and danger of two Warheads quoted in F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 9381 to C. in C. Nore, such risk being expected. (? accepted intended). (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 261603A to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth.)

Technical.

Delayed Signal. Request you will investigate and report cause of delay in transmission of COOKE's 232241 which was not received at this Headquarters until 0742/26. (C. in C.W.A. 261824 to Capt. D. Belfast.)

Casualties & Defects.

NEWARK. My 221532. Necessary to Drydock NEWARK to clear obstruction in main inlet. Vessel being drydocked at Cardiff today. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 261507A to Admty.)

ENTERPRISE. ENTERPRISE high power steaming trial satisfactory. Starboard forward H.P. turbine casing joint has developed a leak which will be remade by Messrs. John Brown after 30th October when ship is available. 7 days will be required. (N.O.I.C. Glasgow 261602A to Admty.)

M/Vs. at Kola Inlet. My 201027 August Soviet Naval Staff state that prospect of salvage of British Merchant Vessels in Kola Inlet now very remote as in the meantime they have lost one of the salvage vessels and salvage expert. (Ad. Fisher 261613 to Admty.)

SEARCHER. SEARCHER can be taken in hand forthwith at the Tail of the Bank for fitting V.H/F. Ship is to be completed and ready to commence working up under F.O.C.T. by 1st December. (D.O.D.H. 261926A to F.O.C.T.)

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

- K.X.11. P.C.S. at 0800Z 071° 47' N. 15° W. 36 miles, 180° 7. No.13 straggled during the night. (BALINDERRY 260815Z to BICESTER.)
By D/F enemy aircraft are operating in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C. 261205A to Escorts K.X.11.)
- R.U.95, N.C.S.O. Iceland's 241400. In view of number of ships and cargoes BUTE will be sailed as additional BUTE. escort to R.U.95.
(A.C.I.C. 261342A to C. in C.W.A.)
- O.N.207. My 26103 (?) (corrupt group) further U-Boat sighted U-Boat by (?A/C) 145° ZZ 55, 107 (?ZZ) 43. Escort Group attacked by E.G.7. 7 attacking 3rd 128 ZZ 38. My P.C.S. 051° 27' 042° 09' 248° 8.5.
(FORESTER 261605 to C. in C.W.A.)
- R.A.55A. Your 231010A and S.B.N.O. Archangel's 201553. It and is intended that the majority of ships of J.W.54A R.A.55B. and B should return in R.A.55A and B respectively, sailing about 21st and 28th December.
2. Your para. 4. A.M.190051 giving 22 ships refers to loadings in U.K. only. Balance of 10 ships making 32 will be from America. 3. In addition, 4 tankers (2 black and 2 white) will be included and given highest priority when selecting ships. 4. Each part will therefore consist of from 16 to 18 ships.
(D.T.D. 261820A to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)
- U.R.95A. 1 S/M on surface bearing 200 distance 5 miles U-Boat from my position 60° 20' N. 10° 00' W. course sighted. 319, speed 8 knots.
(THIRLMERE 261825Z to Ships.)
- D.S.46. Sailed convoy in accordance with my 231446A. PRETORIA CASTLE joined at R/V (my 241144A refers). S.O.A. 14 knots. E.T.A. Reykjavik 1400Z/29.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 262234 to C. in C.W.A.)
- Flight Have attacked enemy U-Boat on surface in 046° "O". 32' N. 013° 24' W. Forced it to dive. Second U-Boat suspected in vicinity. attacked. (RHODODENDRON 262240A to Admty.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

K.M.S.30,
O.G.95.

Strict R/T and W/T silence is to be maintained until further orders except in the case of emergency.

(F.O.i/c Gibraltar, 261129A to Escort K.M.S.30, (R) Admty., S.B.N.O. Azores).

ACTIVE and BRILLIANT will R/V with K.M.S. 30/ O.G.95 in position (D) 037 degs. 37' North 017 degs. 08' West at 1800A Oct. 27th and act as additional escorts. Codeword until R/V "Umpire".

(2) When ACTIVE and BRILLIANT join all escorts of Azores escort force who are with K.M.S.30/O.G.95 are to return to Azores.

(F.O.C. Gibraltar 261231A to Escorts K.M.S.30/O.G.95 for Cmdre.(R) S.B.N.O. Azores, Admty., C. in C.Med., C. in C.W.A.).

Lisbon should not be used.

If necessary to refuel proceed ahead of convoy to Gibraltar; relief escort will be sent.

(F.O.i/c Gibraltar 261259 to E.G.B.4., (R) C. in C.W.A., S.B.N.O. Azores, C. in C. Med., WARWICK).

Stream net defence at daylight Oct.27th.

(F.O.C. Gibraltar 262321A to Escorts of K.M.S.30/O.G.95 for Cdre. (R) Admty., C. in C.W.A., C. in C. Med.).

REDPOLE
relief.

Request consideration be given to relieving REDPOLE by U.K. based A/A Sloop in 43 north.

(2) REDPOLE is the only escort based on Gibraltar with armament suitable for protection of Lisbon trade. Admiralty's 012030 refers.

(3) Your 251850 refers.

(F.O.i/c Gibraltar 261147A to C. in C. Med.(R) Admty C. in C.W.A., C. in C. Plymouth).

ALERT

Following is repetition of my 261027 begins:

Addressed Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., B.N.A. Lisbon, B.C. Vila Real from F.O.C. Gib. Arrived ALERT with 71 Poles? from Vila Real escorted by AUBRETIA. My 241541A and 242236A. (Ends).

(F.O.C. Gib. 261201A to Admty.).

✓ (N.T. in W.R.).

Crew of
U-boat
sunk
24th Oct.

My 241920 about arrival Vigo of 49 German officers and men of submarine crew.

I am reliably informed that this submarine sank 30 miles south of Leixoes very early 24th. Believed as result of aircraft attack.

Understand question of disposal of this crew is under consideration by M.F.A. who will advise Ministry of Marine.

Crew are being fitted with civilian clothes.

(R.O. Vigo 261214C to B.N.A. Madrid, (R) S.O.(I) Gibraltar, Admiralty for D.N.I.).

Forces in
Operation
"Alacrity".

Your 251829. Trawler SAON is equipped and manned for maintenance escort and support group operating in Azores area in future in conjunction with Horta refuelling base. Full base spares and maintenance staff are carried for all types of A/S sets but all base maintenance stores for Portuguese trawlers

/were...

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Forces in
Operation
"Alacrity".
(Contd.)

were handed over to Portuguese with the trawlers concerned. Admiralty Dockets No. P.D.Q. 02129/43 of 6th Sept. 1943 and P.D.Q. 02156/43 of 12th Sept. refers all (?proposals). (S.B.N.O.Azores 261547N to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

Information
for S.B.N.O.
Azores.

Your 241815 to Admty. only. Convoy routes will be signalled to you by routing authorities.
2. Daily positions are included in situation reports
3. Admiralty will signal brief summary of each O.N. O.N.S., H.X., S.C., O.S., K.M.S., K.M.F., T.A., and T.U. convoy approaching Azores. C.A.F.O. 1572/43 amended by 1910/43 refers.
4. Summary under following lettered items:
A. Convoy designation. B. S.O.A. C. Escort group and S.Os. ship.
D. Number of merchant ships. E. Name of Commodore's ship.
F. General recoding tables held. G. Convoy W/T call sign and codeword.
5. Admiralty will despatch daily summary of United Nations ships routed independently within 600 miles of Fayal giving name, position, course and S.O.A.
6. Description of agreed neutral traffic lanes follows in separate message.
(D.T.D. 261550A to S.B.N.O.Azores, (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C.Med. N.S.H.Q. C. in C.C.N.A. Connav, A.M. H.Q.C.C. B.A.D.)

Azores
Aircraft
information
for Washing-
ton.

As messages from aircraft working from the Azores will affect shipping west of the "Chop" line and controlled by U.S. Authorities, arrangements must be made for the most rapid retransmission possible to Washington of all messages affecting the area concerned.
2. Cominch 122226 not to all addresses refers. Request you will report intended arrangements.
(D.T.D. Approved A.C.N.S.(H) 261558A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, S.B.N.O.Azores, (R) C. in C.W.A. C. in C.Med.)

F.W.A/C.

One F.W.200 aircraft is operating in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C. 261615A to Escorts to S.L.138/M.K.S.28, S.O. T.G. 21 (U.S.S. CORE), (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

Axis shipping
Bilbao.

Telegram 169 Oct. 26th, SHERBER sailed 0400/26th. SCHARLACHBERGER loading iron ore.
(Bilbao 261710 to M.E.W.)

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

FANEROMENI
Greek ship
torpedoed
24th Oct.

Your 260200A (W.R. Message requesting verification of ship's name received as STAVROS.) My 251515, name of Greek ship is STAVRAKIS.
(C. in C.S.A. 260646C to Admty.)
Further report reference your 260200 gives ship's name FANEROMENI.
(C. in C.S.A. 262220C to Admty.)

D.K.A.5.

Sailed STELLA POLARIS, DRANGEY, WELLARD, SPHENE escorting D.K.A.5. N.C.S.O. Durban 261426 refers.
3. Intend to sail PLYM at 0300Z/27th to overtake D.K.A.5 in compliance with C. in C.E.F. 200450 (not to all addressees) W/T as in para. 2.
(Comic Durban 261442Z to Admty. C. in C.S.A. C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) F.O.E.A. S.N.O.A. Kilindini.)

LITIOPA
torpedoed
22nd Oct.
survivors,
ORFSAY
missing.

My 232015 following from survivors of LITIOPA. ORFSAY took up screening station astern of LITIOPA at about 1900/21. At 2300/21 ORFSAY was heard to drop five or six depth charges and again at 0300/22, one depth charge at 0130/22 very heavy explosion heard which shook LITIOPA nothing was seen, during this period weather was calm and dark with drizzle, LITIOPA continued on course when at 0300/22 in approx. 5° 58' N. 11° 30' W. course 307°, speed eight knots she was attacked by gunfire from port side followed immediately by gunfire from starboard, first indication of attack was when first round hit gun platform. Crew abandoned ship, no distress message made. Third U-Boat was then seen to surface and joined action at about 0400 while one U-Boat was still shelling, two others in close company passed near lifeboat. From description U-Boat appeared to be 740 ton or larger type with two guns on deck. LITIOPA burned and sank at 1200/22. Apparently no torpedoes used. Crew of LITIOPA number 35 all safe. Previous report of 52 survivors incorrect. Intensive air and surface search has failed to find any trace of survivors or wreckage that can be identified as coming from ORFSAY. Ship presumed lost with all hands, following an explosion probably caused by a torpedo. No enemy report was received from ORFSAY nor was any message from her received or intercepted by LITIOPA subsequent to 1900/21. Confidential Book from LITIOPA jettisoned, weighted disposal of ORFSAY's books obviously unknown. Air sweep off Monrovia Coast carried out in daylight 21 ORFSAY and LITIOPA spoken at 1007/21, patrol terminated in Cape Palmas area at 1730/21 due to weather, no submarine sighting.

(F.O.C.W.Af. 261545Z to Admty.)

CAGNI.

Your 251516. Request you will sail CAGNI to Alexandria with a view to interim employment as a supply submarine for Aegean Operations.
2. She should be sailed escorted as necessary and as soon as convenient.
3. B.A.D. please inform Cominch.
(D.O.D.(F) 261857A to C. in C.S.A. (R) C. in C. Levant, C. in C.Med. B.A.D. C. in C.E.F.)

/U/B...

MOST SECRET.

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

U/B.

Your 261426A (daily U-Boat summary.) Please verify position of Japanese U-Boat. My estimate of D/F 2300Z/25 is 02° S. 22° W.
(F.O.C.W.A. 261906Z to Admty.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

PASTEUR. For: Eisenhower. From: C.C.S. Ref. NAF 484, *
NAF 487, FAN 236.
On conclusion of third voyage with French
Colonial Division from Dakar, PASTEUR required
to revert to "Bolero" movement and not available for two extra
voyages proposed by you.
Balance of movement of French Colonial troops should be carried
out in local shipping in accordance with FAN 236. London will
issue instructions for future movement of ship.
(A.G.W.A.R. 260006 to Etousa.) * 240733/10.

PHOEBE When in 035 degs. 27' N. 028 degs. 56' E. 2220C
Shadowed aircraft were plotted by Radar approaching direct
by A/C. to ship from Rhodes. Search of area was carried
out by flares. It would appear ship was
plotted by shore Radar after leaving Capt. (D) 8.
(PHOEBE, 260221C to C. in C. Levant.)
Intend to R/V Capt. (D) 5 at 0800C/26th in P.033 degs. 06' N.
029 degs. 45' E.
(PHOEBE, 260234C to C. in C. Levant (R) Capt. (D), R.A.
Alexandria, S.N.O.C., N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 212 Group, 235 Wing,
245 Wing, 247 Wing, Fighter Sectors between Alexandria and
Benghazi, R.A.L., Capt. S.10., Comdre. Levant Area, N.O's. i/c
Port Said, Palestinian Ports, Beirut, Famagusta (Cyprus), 201
Naval Co-op, Group 209 Group, 219 (Fighter Sectors East of
Alexandria).

Enemy ships My 251232 not to all. Have swept West of Vis
in Adriatic. to Mulo Island. Thence coastwise to port Tajer.
Thence (? from Westward) back to Vis and into
Lagosta channel. Biseve Island investigated
and one 3000 ton merchant ship found fast
aground in Sarbunora cove. Nothing seen of other 2 merchant
ships. E.T.A. Bari 0800/26.
(Capt. (D) 4, 260448A to F.O.T.A. (R) N.O.I.C. Bari, C. in C.
Med. No.1. M.O.R.U., 206 Wing, C.F.W.)

Enemy Position of 2 schooners of 200 tons is 38.04 N.
ships in 24.46 E.
Aegean. (A/C VAN/T via Alexandria, 260730 to 201 Group
H.Q. M.E. Command.)
Position of 4 Caiques of 100 tons and 3 moored
Arados is 36.54 N. 27.20 E.
(A/C VAN/Z 260753Z to 201 Group H.Q. M.E. Command)
Position of 3 small merchant vessels of 500 tons is 36.49 N.
25.55 E.
(A/C VAN/N 260800Z to 201 Group, H.Q. M.E. Cmd.)
Position of enemy 1 large vessel 2 small vessels is
37.00 N. 27.10 E.
(MJC (Med. Spare) 261708A)

/X.I.F.2A...

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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

X.I.F.2A Convoy X.I.F.2A, E.T.A. 1245A/26th. Message from C. in C. Med. 241105*, request destroyer may be sailed for Algiers on arrival. S. of A. 22 knots. No (?) fuel required. Acknowledge.
(TETCOTT, 260737A to N.O.I.C. Oran.) *Not recieved.

Alexandria movements. Alexandria 25th. Departures FAULKNER, BELVOIR, BEAUFORT, M.T.B.315, 307, 266.
(R.A.Alexandria, 260739)

SEVERN, DZIK. 25th, arrival SEVERN 26th arrival DZIK.
(S.O.(I) Beirut, 260847C.)

CADMUS. Intend to sail CADMUS at 1730A 27th for Malta by War Channel to 81 thence 278 and N.W. Channel. Speed 12 knots. E.T.A. 1430/28th code word "Scratch" 419 Priority Low. V.A. Malta is requested to sail CADMUS to join Obsolete immediately on completion. CADMUS 221056A (N.T. in W.R.)
(N.O.I.C. Bizerta, 260931A, V.A. Malta.)

DURBAN. N.O.I.C. Malta's 251116 (N.T. in W.R.)
Onward route from 79 at 1230A/28th through 40, 12, 2, 46, 70, 16 to Gibraltar.
(2) S. of A. 20 knots E.T.A. 2300A/29th.
(3) Codeword "Nitwit" normal.
(C. in C. Med., 260935 to DURBAN (R) C. in C. Med.
N.O.I.C. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Bone, N.O.I.C. Jijelli, N.O.I.C. Bizerta, F.O.I.S., Capt. (S) 8, N.A.C.A.F. 242 Group, N.O.I.C. Malta, F.O.I.C. Gib.)

R.A.F. M.E. A.340 26th Oct. Daily Opsum 181.
report. 24/25. 1 enemy aircraft bombed Leros. No details damage. 25th. 3 U.S. Mitchells B.25 escort 4 Beaufighters anti-shipping R/C Kalinos area. 1 F/Boat beached on Kos attacked with 11 x 75 mm. shells. No result observed. 4 attacks by total 9 enemy aircraft on Leros during day. 2 M.A.S. reported sunk. No further details. A french R/C aircraft from Jibuti sighted 2 submarines which submerged after opening AA fire. A dhow carrying drums was seen 1 mile away. 1 Hudson, 1 Bisley despatched from Aden to investigate.
Following delayed details. My Opsums 180 and 179. 5 Wellingtons anti-shipping R/Cs. 24/25. 1 Wellington bombed Melos Harbour starting fires. 22/23 Oct. 1 Wellington bombed Naxos harbour cloud obscured results.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 260949Z.)

/U.S. ...

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Tuesday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

U.S. movements. Suez 26th departures U.S.L.S.Ts. 21, 17, 176, 209, 25, 208, 72, U.S.S. ACHELOUS. (F.O.R.S.C.A. 261006C.) Arrivals 26th U.S. A.M. 121, S.C. 695, Y.M.S.28, 78, L.S.T. 61, 157, 309, 325, 337, 338, 350 355, 356, 372, 373, L.C.T.7, 20, 22, 25, 27, 29, 30, 147, 149, 202, 153. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 262044A.) Arrivals TRIPPE, MERAK, STRIVE, SUSTAIN. (F.O. Tunisia, 262145A.)

H/S Arrived.
ABA. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 261025A.)

1 M.O.R.U. report. Situation report 108, Monday 25th. 24 Warhawks attacked enemy convoy of 1 5,000 and 2 3,000 in vicinity of Vis, near misses, fires started on 2 vessels by straffing. Escorts provided for L.C.I.'s north of Ortona from 0600 - 0830. Destroyers on interception patrol not escorted as fighter bombers in area on same mission. Enemy air activity increased in this area. (N.L.O. No. 1 M.O.R.U., 261032 to F.O.T.A.)

Aegean Situation reports. 1. German held: Crete, Rhodes, Kos, Kalimno, Symi, Pserimos, Levitha, Scarpanto (South only). Stampalia Is., Milo, Khios, Mitylene, Lemnos, Paros, Naxos, Tinos, Yali, Pharmako, Mykonos, Syra. Posts at Kea and Kythnos.
2. British held: Leros, Samos.
3. Other Islands believed ungarrisoned sector (?of) occupation.
4. Enemy will probably move against Samos. Nikaria, and Amorgo shortly to encircle Leros.
5. Scarpanto is supplied from Crete by Caiques.
6. Anticipate traffic to Rhodes will recommence shortly.
7. Main German forces believed withdrawn to Kos. (Capt. (S)(1), 261035C to 1st S/M Flotilla.)
No apparent change in F. lighters in Kos/Kalimno area since my 211945 nor has any ship of any size reached these islands.
2. Destroyers now mainly employed in getting reinforcements into Leros using route through Turkish territorial waters to avoid air attack so probable on western route. Apparent now mining to eastward of Kalimno further complicates matters. If enemy starts this in Turkish waters we shall be in serious difficulties. Would be glad of Admty. opinion on likelihood of this.
3. Meanwhile enemy's occupation of Stampalia Levitha and other islands further closes the ring and gives him staging points for getting supplies and reinforcements for his build up into Kos/Kalimno and/or launching assault on Leros when opportunities are presented by his good air R/C or by weather.
4. There are intelligence indications that attack on Samos pending but am inclined to discount this. Island has however been bombed a good deal lately. If this occurred chances of destroyers being able to intervene are very slender in view of

/distance...

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26.10.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Aegean
situation.
(Contd.)

distance, fact that Samos is extreme limit of our air R/C and heavy commitment imposed by Leros.
(C. in C. Levant, 261130C.)
Joint Army R.A.F. Int. appreciation 24 hours to 0900Z/26.

1. Leros reports no attack by enemy surface force up to 0930Z/26.
2. Ph. R/C 0600Z/25th Kos Kalino area. Kos. Incomplete cover shows 3 F/Boats in same positions. Fourth F/boat on beach south Kos Harbour (believe already damaged) attacked without visible result by B.25 aircraft 1200Z/25. Pserimo Port Nil shipping. Kalino Harbour. Cloud covered at 0600Z. Later R/C at 0800Z reports merchant vessel 300 foot now has stern under water. Naval auxiliary still present. 1 E/Boat or F/Boat. Atti Bay. 0800Z. Partial cover shows 1 E. or F/Boat south shore near entrance. No other bays covered Kalino Island.
3. Leros reports some 12 enemy bomber sorties 25th. Samos Harbour again bombed a.m. 24th.
4. Nil contact with enemy surface forces in operational area by our naval forces night 25/26th.
5. Ph. R/C Piraeus Harbour 1400Z hours 25th confirms departure minelayer DRACHE.
7. Ref. para. 6 appreciation 24th (I/26407) further C.X. report 25th from another source states ships with troops now ready sail from Piraeus destination reported to be Samos. Still another C.X. report 23rd stated 4,000 German Alpine troops awaiting embarkation Piraeus.
8. Ph. R/C p.m. 25th Piraeus Harbour showed total 11 merchant vessels of 200 feet and above one troopship one tanker 3 coasters and 2 F.Boats. Also 3 torpedo boats and one escort vessel. Three of these merchant vessels arrived Piraeus within last three days from Salamis. Quayside activity seen alongside troopship 23rd and merchant vessel 380 feet 22nd. Merchant vessel LIVENZA still at Port Heracles also merchant vessel 260 foot alongside with considerable quayside activity seen 23rd. Salamis Naval Dockyard. 3 Torpedo boats and some 10 E type Boats. Also 1 F/Boat.
9. Appreciate enemy intentions as stated yesterday 25th unchanged but increased shipping activity Piraeus area and G.A.F. reinforcement Crete strengthening belief convoy now being prepared may be intended for assault and/or reinforcement. Threat to Leros from Kos/Kalino area still obtains with number of serviceable F.lighters and small craft as limiting factor. C.X. mention Samos which not confirmed any other source suggests possibility attack either separately or simultaneously with assault leros. If Samos attacked appreciate possibility employment Parachute Troops upto strength 500.
(C. in C. M.E. No T.O.O.)
O/27294 26th Oct. Cositrep 36. 1. Int. Aegean.
A. PH R A.M. 25th showed no significant change Kos/Kalino area except for presence 7 vessels (possibly large caiques 200-400 tons) in Kos Harbour area.

/B...

26.10.1943.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Aegean
situation.
(Contd.)

B. Ph.R Piraeus area 23rd, showed activity alongside several ships which possibly loading. Infm. from C.X. suggests convoy carrying up to 3,000 personnel ready but Ph.R. shows has not yet sailed p.m. 25th.

C. Indications of increasing enemy interest in Samos. Still believe that Leros is principal enemy objective in Aegean but now appreciate that separate or simultaneous attacks on Samos may be launched.

2. Ops. Aegean. A. 24th. 80 tons stores sent by caique from Samos to Leros.

B. By p.m. 25th Oct. 3 Offrs. incl. C.O. and 38 O.Rs, 4 Buffs landed Leros ex EXCLIPSE.

C. 25th Oct. 2 enemy planes shot down Leros.

D. Ref. Cositrep 32 para. 1c. Greek irregular patrol ex Samos report Farmako, Gaidaro, Archi and Lisso (?Lipso) clear of enemy 24th.

E. Except for one patrol on Seriphos and det. on Levitha all L.R.D.G. returned to Leros excl. two patrols believed captured on Stampalia and (?Kalino).

4. Naval. Aegean. 24th. TAGANROG sunk at Samos.

Night 25/26. No news M.T.B. Ops. No reports of contact with enemy. No ships were ordered to bombard. RORQUAL completed discharge Leros, now returning Beirut.

26 Oct. FAULKNER, BELVOIR, BEAUFORT, HURSLEY and ALDENHAM lying up in Turkish waters. PHOEBE met DULVERTON MIAOULES and PENN north of Alex, destroyers carrying approx. 100 tps. and 10 tons stores for Leros.

5. Air.

A. Own. Ref. Cositrep 35 para. 7A 5 Wellingtons made anti-shipping R/C night 24/25th. No sightings. One bombed Melos Harbour starting fires another bombed searchlight position Melos. Result obscured by cloud.

25th Oct. 3 American Mitchells with escort 4 Beaufighters attacked F/Boat beached on Kos with 75 mm. fire. No result observed.

B. Enemy. Night 24/25. One enemy aircraft bombed Leros. (C. in C.M.E. T.O.O. Nil.)

26th. My O/27294/26th. Leros. Heavy bombing of defences and gun positions started 1200C hrs. today. 80 enemy aircraft used. (C. in C.M.E. 262000C.)

N.S.F.7.

Intended programme; (1) Leave Oran Nov. 14th.
(2) Arrive Naples Nov. 17th.
(3) Leave Naples Nov. 18th.
(4) Arrive Oran Nov. 21st.
(5) Leave Oran in M.K.F.26.
(C. in C. Med., 261115A, to U.S. Cdr. U.S. N.F. N.W. African Waters.)

NELSON,
RODNEY.

N.O.I.C. Algiers is requested to sail NELSON, RODNEY, Capt. (D) 24 in TROUBRIDGE, TYRIAN, TUMULT, OFFA, PIORUN, TARTAR at 1600A/29th.

2. S. of A. 15 knots.

3. Route through 74, 89, 2, 72, 57 at 2100A/30th.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

NELSON,
RODNEY.
(Contd.)

QBA 87 and as ordered by F.O.C. Gib. and Admty. to U.K.

(4) F.O.C.Gib. is requested to sail OBEDIENT, TEAZER and ROCKET to relieve TARTAR and OFFA in 035 degs. 54' N. 004 degs. 34' W. at 1800A/30th. On relief TARTAR and OFFA are to be detached to

Gibraltar at best speed to refuel and rejoin.

(5) On TARTAR and OFFA rejoining D.24 in TROUBRIDGE, TYRIAN, PIORUN, TUMULT are to return to Gib.

(6) Codeword "Vapex" 486. Priority High.

(C. in C. Med. 261117A to N.O.I.C. Algiers, F.O.C. Gib. (R) U.S.N.O.Base Oran, Admty. C. in C. H.F., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, NELSON, RODNEY.)

Italian
S/Ms
building
at
Taranto.

Admiralty is requested to signal decisions on F.O.L.I's 231853.

(2) Meanwhile F.O.L.I. is requested to arrange (A) Survey and continuance of work on cargo carrying S/Ms.

(B) No further work on Tritone class.

(C. in C. Med. 261147A to F.O.L.I.Admty. (R) Comnavnaw.)

U/B
dispositions.

Despite absence of sighting report, 3 U-Boats considered to be off coast of North Africa.

Local areas are

(A) between 005 degs. E. and 007 degs. E.

(B) off Tenes. (C) between Alboran and Oran.

(C. in C. Med. 261158A)

No.85. No evidence of presence of U-Boat alongside Western Desert coast since 17th.

(Capt. of the Staff, 261317C)

Use of
Italian
S/Ms.

Minister of Marine takes entirely sensible view. Ref. message from C. in C. Med. T.O.O.231302.

Problem of maintaining Italian submarines dispersed and outside Med. with the (delivery of (?) D.W. spare parts available present present major difficulties.

(F.O.L.I. 261159A to Admty. C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med.)

RAIDER,
QUEEN-
BOROUGH.

Intend RAIDER, QUEENBOROUGH patrol (2 corrupt groups) 26th/27th passing west of ?Cazza through Lagosta channel towards Dubrovnik and back cruising south of Lagosta Island (corrupt group) (?Codeword) "Oceania"(3 corrupt groups).

P.C. and S. at 0530A/27th 41 degs. 58' N.

016 degs. 30' E. 185 degs. 25 knots. Patrol 25th/26th My 260448 refers.

(Capt. D.4, 261205 to F.O.T.A. (R) C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C.Bari, 286 Wing, No.1 M.O.R.U. C.F.W., N.L.O. 8th Army, QUEENBOROUGH, RAIDER.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

L.S.Ts for
E.F.

Your 250901Z. 12 L.S.Ts. ex U.G.S.19 arrived
Suez 25th for onward routeing. C. in C. Med.
191722A.
(C. in C. Levant, 261228C to C. in C. E.F.)

U.K.
approach
routes.

As routeing to U.K. will now be carried out only
from the ports named, propose to discontinue the
issue of U.K. approach routes to ships outward
bound for Med. from U.K.

(2) This practice was originally established for
operation "Torch" and its continuance makes the
Med. an exception to all other routeing.
(3) Request your early remarks.
(D.T.D. 261310A to C. in C. Med.
Agreed C. in C. Med. 271432A to Admty.)

Yugo-Slav
Warships.

Yugo-Slav Gov. agree to man ships in accordance
with C. in C. Med. 201326 for operations under
F.O.T.A.

(2) They wish to stipulate however that ships
should not be used to supply Patriots under Tito
who they do not at present recognize.
(3) Commander Saksida Rysn will be sent by air to discuss details
of turn over.
(C. in C. Levant, 261330C to F.O.L.I.(R) C. in C. Med. F.O.T.A.
Admty.)

AMARAPOORA.

Mideasts Mov. 1/26839 not to R.A. Alexandria.
Request She be sailed on 29th for U.K.
(P.S.T.O. M.E. 261353C to D.S.T.O.X. (R) D. of S.T.
C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, R.A. Alex.
P.S.T.O. Med.)

Convoy
Protection
Air
Authorities.

My 191607. Amend (?to) read para. 3 C Naval
Authority V.A. Malta, N.L.O. 325 Wing Cdr. Naval
Operating Base Palermo Air Authority A.H.Q.
Malta 325 Wing Borizzo fighter sector Palermo.
(2) Para. 3 D Naval Authority V.A. Malta N.L.O.
325 Wing Air Authority A H.Q. Malta 325 Wing
Borizzo.
(3) Para. 5 add Palermo.
(C. in C. Med. 261513 to Med. Stn. (R) M.A.C.
N.A.C.A.F.)

K.M.S.30.

Reference Shiplist No.1. The following vessels
all British flag unless otherwise stated sailed
in K.M.S.30 - Names.
(D. of S.T.261514A to P.S.T.O. Med.)

U.G.S.20 /...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- U.G.S.20. Reference Shiplist No.1 The following British ships sailed in U.G.S.20 names.
(D. of S.T. 261518A P.S.T.O.Med.)
- LEINSTER. LEINSTER sails at 1700 for Malta. E.T.A. 0800/28.
(N.O.I.C.Bari, 261522 to V.A. Malta.)
- SPARTAN. Request you will sail SPARTAN at 1700A/27th to Malta.
(2) (Remainder of message missed).
(C. in C. Med. 261615 to N.O.I.C.Algiers)
- RAIMONDO MONTECUCCOLI. Italian cruiser RAIMONDO MONTECUCCOLI leaves Taranto 1700/27th for Palermo. E.T.A. 1600/28th
Routed through position (C) 037 degs. 35' 017 degs 10' thence positions 295, 294, 42, 038 degs. 23' 30" 015 degs. 38' 038 degs. 09' 013 degs. 33' to Palermo.
(3) Codeword from C. to Palermo "Wallet" 478 normal.
(4) My 261643 (N.T. in W.D.) not to all refers.
(F.O.L.I. 261647A to Com. N.O.B. Palermo. (R) C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C.Malta.)
- GAWLER. Left Port Said 26th. Departures.
(N.O.I.C.Port Said, 261707C)
Arrived Suez 26th.
(F.O. R.S.C.A. 261747C)
- Evacuation of French Refugees. French confirm information given in B.N.A. Madrid 251317. Therefore second evacuation of French refugees from Malaga will be taken on 2nd Nov. for destination Casablanca using SIDI BRAHIM and LEPINE for transport. French can supply one escort vessel. F.O.C.Gib. is requested to detail one British escort in addition.
(2) French suggest third evacuation should be on 12th Nov.
(C. in C. Med. 261712A to N.A.Madrid, F.O.C.Gib. (R) Admty. Commorseafron.)
- SICKLE. From 034 degs. 19 022 degs. 50' at 2202C/28th proceed on surface at 11 knots direct to arrive Beirut 0735C/31st.
(Capt. (S), 261806C to SICKLE (R) 1st S.F., N.O.I.C. Tripoli. N. & A.A. East of Alex. C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 8th, Capt. (S) 10th. Admty. R.A.Alex. Cmdr. C.F.East Med., N. & A.A. Western Desert.)

A.S. /...

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

A.S. Operation "Swamp".
Operations N.A.C.A.F. intend to utilize on the Med. station
"Swamp" an operation known as "Swamp" the operation is
"Broom" planned to saturate the area in which a U-Boat
"Strangle". contact has been obtained. Operation "Broom"
or "Strangle" in M.J.A.O.32 based on the
contact will be carried out concurrently if
surface craft are available.

(2) Following is a brief description. Intention to search a
semi circle with centre 10 minutes south of U-Boat contact with
base parallel to Coast. Radius of semi circle from time of
sighting to (A) 8 hours 35 miles. (B) 16 hours 50 miles.
(C) 26 hours 65 miles. (D) 34 hours 75 miles. (E) 42 hours
83 miles. (F) 50 hours 90 miles. (G) After 50 hours 90 miles.
(3) The fact that operation "Swamp" has been initiated will be
promulgated to ships taking part in A/S operation in the form
"Swamp" - time of starting - position of centre of base line.
It will also be promulgated in daily signals made in accordance
with M.J.A.O.32.
(C. in C. Med. 261847A to Med. Stn. Levant Stn. 252 B. (R) M.A.C.
N.A.C.A.F.)

N.V.5. Arrived 17 ships.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta to 261849A)

Repatria- Serial No.324 Barcelona Arrival German DJENNE
tions. 1600/26th. Departure GALERNA 1900/25th LEIXOES
C DE MAHON 1900/25th Puerto de Mahon,
BRIQUETAS ZORROZA 1500/25th Ceuta, CAMPECHE
0500/26th Palma.
(Barcelona, 261906, 262015A to Admty.)

Your 121745A. Foreign Office report that German ships which
will proceed for Marseilles to Barcelona are DJENNE and
ACQUILEA and that they are both due in Barcelona p.m. 26th.
Request you will inform air and other authorities concerned.
Germans request that TAIREA and CUBA will broadcast positions
every 4 hours. Request you will arrange accordingly.
(Hd. of M.I. 262040A to C. in C. Med.)

Air A.213 26th October, signed Eisenhower.
Cositintrep Part 3 25th. N.W.A.A.F.
No.108. Day 25th Oct. 2 M.V. of 5,000 and 3,000 tons
were bombed and strafed west of Lagosta Island
and deck cargo set on fire.
(Air C. in C. Med., No.T.O.O/26)

Naples 26th. Arrivals U.S.S. WAINWRIGHT Italian destroy
Movements. ers SAGITTARIO and CARINI. Departures H/S DINARD.
(N.O.I.C.Naples, 261933A)

MONTCALM. C. in C. Med. pass to Navale France. Cormorseafr
pass to Comar Dakar. My 231621A sailed at
261930A. Atlantic route as in F.O.C.Gib.241739A.
(Com. N.O.B.Oran, 261944A to C. in C. Med. F.O.C.
Gib. Admty.)

U/B /...

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

U-Boats. Report has been received from 78 Division that 2 independent soldiers recently reported that a S/M surfaced within about 2 miles off coast about 8 miles from Termoli at 1600 Tuesday. (S.N.O. A.L.(E) 261955 to F.O.T.A. (R) N.O.I.C. Bari, N.L.O. 8th Army, N.L.O. M.O.R.U. Capt.(D)4)

Algiers Arrivals including LARGS.
Movements. Departures including JONES (U.S.S.) DAVIS (U.S.S.) Submarine SICKLE (P.224). (Cdre. Algeria, 262035A)

Levant Situation While lying up at Port Deremen yesterday, PETARD Report No.91. transferred military personnel to HURSLEY and ALDENHAM for passage to Leros, PETARD now returned Alexandria Hunts retired to Mandelyah Gulf to lie up today.
(2) PHOEBE, made R/V with FAULKNER, BELVOIR and BEAUFORT southeast of Rhodes, proceeded in company towards Rhodes Channel and withdrew to patrol southeast of Rhodes after dark. Destroyers proceeded to lie up in Gulf of Kos.
(3) One Fleet two Hunts left Alexandria this morning with 300 troops and 40 tons stores for Leros making R/V with PHOEBE south of Rhodes before dark.
(4) First Italian submarine due Portolago tonight with stores. Another left Haifa 0001 today. Only available crane at Portolago destroyed by bombing yesterday.
(5) Air raid on Samos took place 23rd directed on shipping in Port Tigani. No information concerning damage. Heavy raid on Leros gun positions today.
(6) Report from Turkey that E-Boats are using cover of Island off Gumishlu to await targets. Destroyers were to use this Bay for transfer of troops tonight but have been directed west of Kos to Parthiani Bay.
(C. in C. Levant, 262116C)

SIBYL, Sailed.
SPORTSMAN. (V.A.Malta, 262124)

Malta Sailed NELSON, RODNEY, TROUBRIDGE, TYRIAN, TUMUT,
Movements. PIORUN, OFFA and TARTAR.
Arrived ORIANA towing GAVOTTE.
(V.A. Malta, 262135)

Lend-Lease Admty's 230833 U.S. Liaison Officer proposes
B.Y.M.S. sending telegram to Washington to ask if transfer
for Greeks. of these B.Y.M.S. to Greeks on Lend-Lease basis
would be objectionable.
(2) Is shortly visiting America and is prepared
there to support the idea strongly. Does not
think Washington will object
(3) Request very early approval to para. one as U.S.N.L.O.
E.T.D.Cairo on 29th.

(4) /...

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Mediterranean.

Lend-lease
B.Y.M.S.
for
Greeks.
(Contd.)

(4) Greek Navy needs encouragement. They are not happy about the objects and progress of the Aegean operations.
(C. in C. Levant, 262146C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

Bari
Movements.

Arrived QUILLIAM, QUAIL, sailed QUEENBOROUGH, RAIDER, M.L.460.
(N.O.I.C.Bari, 262344)

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

- H.C.1. Arrived.
(Port Officer Chittagong 260335Z.)
- 203 Air Squadron. Your 251710 (re 203 Squadron to be sent to Eastern Theatre) confirmed.
(C. in C.E.F. 260348 to Admty.)
- M.L.Flottillas. R.I.N.Operational M.L.Flottillas will be available 1st Dec. so that Commander for Command of Base Flotilla should arrive before that date. My 200918 refers.
2. Request Admiralty pass to D.D.O.D.(C) for Capt. Hubback now in U.K.
(C. in C.E.F. 260414Z to Admty. (R) F.O.C.R.I.N.)
- C.X.10. Arrival 0600Z/26th SCOUT escorting convoy C.X.10.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 260625Z to Admty.)
- ATHELVIKING attacked by U/B 21st Oct. A. ATHELVIKING. B. 024° 36' N. 057° 43' E. 0345Z/21st. D. Torpedo missed. E. 2. F. Not applicable. G. No (corrupt group) U-Boat not seen H. Yes. I. Ship was zigzagging on port leg turned to Starboard one torpedo crossed bows and second passed astern. J. Net defence not fitted.
(S.N.O.P.G. 260648Z to Admty. C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) S.O.I. Colombo.)
- India Air Report. A.276 26th October Daily Opsum No. 590.
24/25th October night. 6 Liberators Rangoon. 54 x 500 lbs. inst. 12 x (?250) lbs. delay 240 x 4 lbs incendiary. Bursts and large fires central station and Ahlone areas. 3 enemy fighters attacked 1 Liberator. 2 enemy aircraft claimed damaged. 4 Liberators Akyab. 28 x 500 lbs. inst. 8 x 250 lbs. delay 160 x 4 lbs incendiary. Bursts town areas. Small fires. 1 enemy S/E fighter observed. No attack made.
(A.H.Q.India 260910Z.)
- Enemy A/C. Following received from James - begins Japanese twin engined aircraft overhead at 0330Z remained for 45 minutes approx. height estimated 1000 feet irregular low cloud and rain T.O.O. 260420Z (ends).
(C. in C.E.F. 261054Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.). A.C.N.B.)
- GEORGE WASHINGTON. U.S.Transport GEORGE WASHINGTON sailed 25th for U.S.A. via Seychelles and Capetown with following on board. Requirements at Capetown, E.T.A. Seychelles 30th, E.T.A. Capetown 12th Nov.
(D.S.T.O. Bombay 261101Z.)

/Movements...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Movements. Arrival BATTLER, ROTHERHAM, QUIBERON, QUALITY.
(S.O.I. Bombay 261156Z to Admty. C. in C.E.F.
(S.E.A.C.) F.O.C.R.I.N. Com. Aden.)

Manning of H.Q. (C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) 261201Z to Admty. (R)
C. in C.E.F. S.A.C. S.E.A.C.)

C.M. 46,
W.S.33. Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. (?Kilindini) 261221Z to Admty.)

Defence of Indian Ocean Bases. 1. R.A.F. intend establish at Kelai one of the
northernmost Maldives advanced base for operation
three flying boats working with convoys between
India and Africa.
3, 4. Re scale of attack.
(C. in C.India 261610FG to W.O.)

U/B. By D/F at 1345Z/26. Position of German U-Boat
was approx. 5° N. 81° 30' E.
(D.D.I.C. 261715A to C. in C.S.A. C.O.I.S.E.F.)

S.N.O.L.
H.Q.Ships. P.S.T.O.(India) has asked D. of S.T. to agree to
the fitting of 3 small ships as S.N.O.L.H.Q.ships.
Request confirmation that requirement cannot be
met by KEREN GLENGYLE, SS. CIRCASSIA and
WINCHESTER CASTLE who are already fitted.
2. If this is confirmed request consideration may be given to
fitting 3 L.C.I.(L) out of those allocated for the operation.
These are being used in European theatre and when fitted are
known as Landing Craft Headquarters. Specification for this is
known to Tel. Lieut. Sayers on staff of S.O.A.S.C. (India.)
(V.C.N.S. 261758A to S.O.Force C. (R) C. in C.E.F. C. in C.E.F.
(S.E.A.C.) P.S.T.O.India.)

War Diary.

26.10.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

S/Ms for Bermuda. B.A.M.R. Washington's 181806Z (not to MALABAR). In view of large number of A/S vessels working up at Bermuda it is essential that number of submarines there should be increased to two immediately. It is requested SEAWOLF may be allocated to Bermuda for this purpose temporarily until other arrangements can be made and that she may be sailed accordingly. (A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 260055A to N.S.H.Q. (R) S.B.N.O.W.At. B.A.M.R. C. in C.C.N.A. F.O.(S). S.7, MALABAR.)

Task Forces escorts. This is C. in C.Lant's 252028 with no action A.D.E. E. (R) to C.T.G.27.4, Admty. Cominch, Commorseafrom Com. 10th Fleet, Comnav, U.S.S. BOISE, C.T.G. 21.5, C.T.F. 61, C.T.G. 21.10, C.T.G. 21.15, C.T.G. 21.16, C.T.F. 65, C.T.F. 66, C.T.F. 69, C.T.G. 21.14, and C.T.F. 64. Task group 27.4 consists CROATAN, ABERMARLE, 5 destroyers no operating aircraft. Task Forces escorting convoys as follows: Task force 65, G.U.S.19 scheduled depart 29th October. 64 G.U.S.18, 61 U.G.S.22, 66 U.G.S.21, 69 U.T.4, carrier escort groups each with three escorts. Task Group 21.11 SANTEE departed U.S. 25th 21.16 BLOCK ISLAND general area North Azores 21.15 CORE arriving Casablanca about 28th 21.14 CARD arriving Hampton Roads about 9 Nov. (C. in C.Lant 260546 to Admty.) (Comnav 261741 to Admty.)

Sub. attack & Sighting Summary. No report 22nd to 25th all times Z. Para. C. ANNAPOLIS attacks contact 45.08 N. 60.06 W. 1517/25th. (N.S.H.Q. 260800Z to Admty. Cominch.)

Convoy U.G.S. 22. Sailing telegram part 2. (Radio Washington 261000Z to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)

O.N.207 information. O.N.207 U-Boat (German) sighted by aircraft in 051° 18' 041° 12'. (FORESTER 261038Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) Connav, A.C.I.C. C. in C.C.N.A. Admty. Capt. D.St. Johns, N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. H.Q.C.C. Comdr. D.Argentia, Cdre. D.W.A.)

My 261(7857) (N.T. in W.R.) transmission at 1115Z and at 1206Z indicate several U-Boats your immediate vicinity. You may have been sighted. (N.S.H.Q. 261315Z to Ships escorting O.N.207 (R) C. in C.C.N.A. A. F.O.N.F. A.O.C. in C.E.A.C. No. 1 Group St. Johns N.F. Admty. Cominch, S.B.N.O.W.At. A.F.H.Q.) No transmissions from your vicinity since 1554. (N.S.H.Q. 262050Z to S.E.Convoy O.N.207, (R) Promulgations of H/F D/F fixes.)

U/B. Possibly U-Boat in Halifax approaches. H/F D/F by ACCRINGTON at 261030Z. (W.6. 261045Z to C. in C.C.N.A.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U/B (Contd.) W.6, 261045Z, shore based D/F stations fixed this U-Boat at 044° 00' N. 029° 00' W.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 261220Z to G.B.7A.)
Am over enemy submarine in 050° 49' N. 041° 01' W.
(A/C C/S ? via Newfoundland 261105Z to A.C.I.C.
(R) Admty.)

ANDES. ANDES is due to sail from U.K. on 31/10 for New York.
2. She will then be employed on the run between New York and Casablanca.
(D. of S.T. 261126A to B.M.W.T. New York, B.A.D. and for B.M.S.M.)

VANQUISHER. VANQUISHER will not sail with Group B.6 due main generator defects. Anticipate she will be sailed to overtake S.C.145 a.m. Oct. 27th.
(F.O.N.F. 261301Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) C. in C.C.N.A. N.S.H.Q. Admty. Com. D.W.A. Capt. D.Argentia. FAME.)

KOFRESI. Following for C.C.R.T. My 241421 ASPIRANT arrived St. Johns 1653/25th with KOFRESI in tow.
(F.O.N.F. 261302Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. C. in C.C.N.A.)

N.S.H.Q. S/M (N.S.H.Q. 261528Z.)
Estimate.

DWIGHT W. Ashore near Carysfoot Reef 24th approx. 25.15 N.
MORROW (U.S.) 80.15 W. My 250026 not to Admiralty refers.
(N.S.H.Q. 261543Z to Admty. B.R.L.O. New York, (R) N.C.S.O. Montreal.)

U.S. S/M (Cominch 261618Z.)
Estimate.

ACONIT. E.T.A. Argentia 0030Z/27th. Main defects Radar Transformer requires renewal. Request any special instructions.
(ACONIT 261630Z to C.T.F. 24.)

U/B. S/M in position 50.38 N. 41.00 W.
(A/C D.S.M.A. via Liverpool 261638Z.)

C.U.5. Arrived off Oversay 1700Z/23. All arrived.
(D.T.D. 261744A to Connav, N.S.H.Q. (R) C. in C.W.A. C. in C.C.N.A.)

B.E.C.4. Sailed B.E.C.4 1900Z/26th for Bermuda 12 knots
WILLOWHERB routed A. 032° 39' N. 064° 18' W. B. 032° 16' N. 064° 18' W. E.T.A. Bermuda 1200Z/29th.

/WILLOWHERB...

26.10.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

B.E.C.4. WILLOWHERB delayed condenser defects will be sailed when ready.
(Contd.) (C. in C.C.N.A. 261904Z to S.B.N.O.W.At.)

ENGADINE. Sail ENGADINE in convoy H.X.264 Comeastseafon also inform ENGADINE.
(Cominch 261957 to Admty.)

ESSEX LANCE (torp. 16th Oct.) Ref. Article 810. 1. ESSEX LANCE. 2. MELDRUM and SWINSON. 3. 16th October 2120Z 57.53 N. 28.00 W. 4. Not seen. 5. Not seen. 6. Not known. 6A. No. 7. Ship struck port side No. 5 hold, engine room flooded through tunnel 8 feet water in engine room after holds flooded. Poop awash on being abandoned. 8. None. 9. Not seen. 10. Torpedo. 11. Left on board. My 262006Z in P/L is list of survivors.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 262005Z to Admty. Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

A.T.73. (QUEEN MARY) Departing Ambrose 2330Z/27th QUEEN MARY (A.T.73) Clyde E.T.A. Clyde Boom 0800Z/2nd Nov. S.C.A. 26.5 knots. (Route). Fighter protection codeword DISCOVER with call sign 106 Group 2300Z/29.
(P.D.New York 262008Z to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)

ARGONAUT. ARGONAUT is expected to sail for Norfolk Va. on 10th Nov. and for the U.K. about 20th Nov. Request destination in U.K.
(B.A.M.R. 262030Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. S.B.N.C. W.At. C. in C.C.N.A. ARGONAUT.)

Information for S.B.N.C. Azores. Request you will keep S.B.N.O.Azores informed regarding U.G., U.T., O.T., A.T. and C.U. convoys on the lines indicated in para. 4 of A.M. 261550.
(D.T.D. 262043A to Connav, (R) S.B.N.C.Azores, F.O.C.Gibraltar, C. in C.Med. Air Min. H.Q.C.C. N.S.H.Q. C. in C.C.N.A. B.A.D.)

PRINCE HENRY, PRINCE DAVID. Your 231643 para. 1. Concur.
(V.C.N.S. 262115A to N.S.H.Q. (R) B.A.T.M. S.C.N.O.London. B.A.D. C. in C.Portsmouth. S.O. Force J.)

PHILADELPHIA. (C. in C.Med. info. addee give action to Com. 8th Fleet and info. to C. in C.A.F. from Cominch and C.N.O.) PHILADELPHIA 241100 (N.T. in W.R.) indicates necessity early return U.S. for strut renewal. Comment.
(Cominch and C.N.O. 262120Z to Com. 8th Fleet, (R) C. in C.Lant, C. in C.Med. C. in C.A.F. Admty.)

/RICHELIEU...

War Diary.

26.10.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

RICHELIEU. As executive agent of C.C.S. and upon request of B.A.D. Authority is given for employment of RICHELIEU to be changed after a period of approx. four weeks in the Mediterranean under Allied Naval C. in C. to operate in the Atlantic with British Home Fleet under direction of Admiralty.
(Cominch 262157Z to B.A.D. (R) C.C.S. Chief of Staff U.S. Army, C. in C.A.F. Admty. C. in C.Med. Chief of French Naval Mission.)

Sub. attack & sighting summary. A. U.S.S. PARROT attacks sub with gunfire and depth charges 46.54 N. 31.34 W. p.m. 25.
D. Sub. reported 12.56 N. 61.19 W. 250345. U.S.S. READY attacks sub. contact 33.26 N. 77.07 W. 251955. All times Z.
(Cominch 262227Z to Admty.)

BLOCK ISLAND U/Bs. Cominch sends re-encypherment of U.S.S. BLOCK ISLAND 252308 addressed action to Cominch, C. in C.Lant, Comairlant. "Detected sub. on surface at night 5½ miles 46.54 N. 31.34 W. PARROT approached closely opened gunfire observed hits? sub. believed Refueller submerged destroyers still attacking. Definite evidence at least three other subs. immediate vicinity including display two red lights vertically apparently recognition signal upon seeing gunfire. M.F.D/F fixed 1 submarine close aboard on 446 k/cs. Last 83 group Enigma. Numerous transmissions other subs.. Weather 7872 0663."
(Radio Washington 262238Z to Info. Admiralty.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial No. 644 Oct. 25th. Liberator bombed small coaster afternoon 24th 53 miles east by south Lorengau without observing damage.
2. 8 Kittyhawks attacked barges off Cape Cunningham destroying 1 large barge and 4 small boats.
3. Submarine reported off Gasmata evening 24th.
4. Liberator attacked 2 small coasters near mouth Sepiw River afternoon probably damaging 1.
8. Our P.T.boats attacked enemy submarine on easterly course 42 miles S.S.E. Finschhafen and destroyed 2 large barges Vitiaz Strait night 2300.
10. 3 Liberators attacked Manokwari ?midday causing fires in town area. One small freighter and about 20 other small craft observed this area. Also 1 small coaster near Waren 45 miles south Manokwari.
12. 11 Corsairs on barge sweep northwest coast Choiseul strafed 11 barges leaving 4 burning.

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26.10.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial 15. Single Liberator bombed and strafed small
No. 644 Oct. enemy tender unloading lagoon Greenwich Island
25th. (Contd.) forenoon 23rd probably damaging vessel. Two
other Liberators detailed complete attack failed
to locate target.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 260820Z.)

Movements.

Arrived Fremantle 25th U.S.S. CHANTICLEER.
Departed Sydney 24th U.S.S. MONTPELIER, FARENHOLT,
for Noumea. Brisbane 25th U.S.S. FULTON, BAGLEY
for Milne Bay.
(A.C.N.B. 261056Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Appreciation that main concentration is now within
250 miles of 47° 30' N. 40° 00' W. is strengthened
by D/F 1738Z/25th. Three or four between Gibraltar
and long., 11° 00' W. are likely to attempt
passage of Straits from diverse bearings.
Other estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 261416A, 261426A.)

Submarines Attacked.

Sub. attack
& sighting
summary for
24 hrs. to
0900Z/26th.

Para. A. Greek ship, name reported as STAVRAKIS*,
torpedoed at 1200/24th in 15.35 N. 40.50 E.
S/M on surface submerged when fired on by shore
gun at 1140/25th in Advent Bay, Spitzbergen.
Para. B. ANNAPOLIS attacked contact at 1917/25th
in 45.08 N. 60.06 W.
Para. D. PASTEUR had Radar contact of possible
U-Boat on southerly course at 2143/23rd in 24.46
N. 18.20 W.
(D.D.I.C. 261123A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)
* W.R.Note: Corrected to FANEROMENI, see C. in
C.S.A. 262220C.

Sub. attack
& sighting
summary.

My 221059 July 1942.
This signal covers period since 12th Oct.
1. On 16th Oct. a Bisley aircraft of 24 Squadron
attacked a U-Boat in 25° 28' N. 56° 50' E. Some
bodies came to the surface and later one survivor
was recovered.

26.10.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

Sub. attack
& sighting
summary.
(Contd.)

2. At 1730A/16 Liberator Y/86 attacked and sank a U-Boat with depth charges in 57° 27' N. 28° 17' W. About 35 survivors were seen in the water.
3. At 1830A/16 Liberators C/59, Z/120 and E/120 co-operated in sinking a U-Boat in 58° 30' N. 30° 00' W. Some survivors were picked up by surface ship.
4. BYARD with O.N.S.20 sank a U-Boat on 17th in approx. 59° 00' N. 31° 00' W. Survivors were picked up.
5. At 1830A/17 Liberators D/59 and H/120 sank a U-Boat with depth charges in 59° 18' N. 32° 20' W. Survivors were seen in the water.
6. SUNFLOWER carried out very promising attack on a U-Boat in 58° 46' N. 33° 14' W. at 2142Z/17. U-Boat was blown to the surface by first attack. Two further attacks were carried out and much oil was seen.
7. H.M.Submarine UNTIRING claims to have sunk a U-Boat in Toulon area on 15th. No details have yet been received.
8. Searchlight Wellington A/179 attacked a U-Boat southbound in 41° 12' N. 9° 31' W. at 0120A/24. This U-Boat sank and survivors have been landed in Vigo by Spanish Trawler.
(D.A.U.D. 261836Z to Cominch.)

U.841

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27.10.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.R.

1. The Russian authorities report that a German Air R/C sighted 2 warships to the S.W. of Spitzbergen at 1000A today.

Patrol
Shelled.

2. Our coastal patrol off Fecamp was shelled last night by the enemy Coastal Batteries up to a range of 25,000 yards without damage or casualty.

Bay
Patrol.

3. Admiral King considers that the Bay offensive is no longer profitable employment for aircraft and he will withdraw the U.S. aircraft from participation if the effectiveness of aircraft in the Bay does not materially improve before 1st January 1944. He states that since 2 August no U-Boat has been sunk in the Bay by aircraft though the Admiralty state that the actual number is 5.

On 7 November the Admiralty concurred that the U.S. aircraft should be withdrawn on 1 January or any other date if they can be more profitably employed elsewhere in sinking U-Boats. The Chiefs of Staff, however, consider (7 Nov.) that the strategic argument for maintaining the A/S offensive in the Bay and Gibraltar/Morocco areas at the greatest possible strength is unanswerable.

North Atlantic.

4. HASTINGS attacked a suspected submarine contact in 36.34 N. 17.46 W. at 0710Z.

Spanish
aircraft
attacks
Allied
Aircraft.

5. Comnavnaw reports that an Allied patrol aircraft (apparently it was American) has been attacked about 6 miles east of Las Palmas by an aircraft assumed to be Spanish. He thinks the Spaniards may be collaborating with the enemy to deny observation of this area. (On 2 November C. in C. Med. forwarded a message from Comnavnaw giving a list of attacks on U.S. patrol aircraft.)

Azores.

6. Fortress aircraft based on the Azores commence convoy protection duties today, providing cover for H.X.262.

War Diary.

27.10.1943.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

Repairs
at Rio.

7. The Brazilian authorities report that they have not much work in hand at the Naval Dockyard, Rio, and can undertake repair work for H.M. ships.

U-Boat
attacked.

8. A U.S. transit aircraft attacked with bombs a U-Boat at 1150Z in 06.30 S. 23.45 W. with no visible result.

Mediterranean.

Red Cross
SS. PADUA
sunk.

10. The Portuguese SS. PADUA (665 tons) on Red Cross Charter sank off Marseilles today after striking a mine.

M.L.1243
missing.

11. V.A. Malta reports that M.L.1243 is missing from K.M.S.29. She was last sighted at 1800/25 in approximately 35.23 N. 14.20 E.

"Avalanche".

12. (a) The U.S. cruiser BROOKLYN escorted by U.S. destroyers BENSON and NIBLACK carried out today a bombardment in the Minturno area (N.W. of Naples). NIBLACK bombarded a battery at Gaeta.
(b) An attack by E-Boats on Bastia last night was driven off by U.S. patrol boats.
(c) The port of Brindisi was re-opened today. 16 ground mines have been swept in the approaches.
(d) F.O.L.I. sends today a statement of the units of the Italian Fleet operating.

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27.10.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

13. ULTIMATUM obtained a hit with torpedo today on a 3000 ton merchant vessel in convoy off Toulon. It is believed the vessel sank.

Aegean,
Leros.

14. (a) Military personnel totalling 300 were landed at Leros last night from DULVERTON, MIAOULES and PENN.

(b) AURORA, PATHFINDER, EXMOOR and BLENCATHRA left Alexandria this morning. The destroyers are not carrying troops or stores.

(c) 2 L.C.T.'s escorted by 2 A/S vessels left Haifa for Kastelorizo today.

(d) Allied aircraft today attacked Stampalia harbour, barracks on Gaydos, and Antimachia landing ground. At Stampalia, a jetty was hit and a caique straddled.

(e) A single enemy aircraft bombed Portolago, Leros last night. Today, there were 5 attacks by a total of 35 enemy aircraft on Leros, Samos and Kastelorizo a caique was destroyed at Samos but other damage is reported to have been slight. An enemy aircraft was shot down by A/A fire at Kastelorizo.

Reinforce-
ments for
Eastern
Fleet.

15. C. in C. Levant in a message today gives a list of ships which have sailed to join the Eastern Fleet. These include the escort carrier BATTLEER (arrived at Bombay yesterday escorting convoy A.B.17), Cruiser DANAE, and S/M's TAURUS and TALLY HO.

16. The Greek destroyer THEMISTOCLES, which left Taranto on 22 October, has joined the Levant Station.

America and West Indies.

U.S.S.
RUNNER.

17. The Navy Department announced Oct. 27 the presumed loss of the 1,525 ton submarine RUNNER, the fourteenth American submarine to be lost since the U.S. entered the war.
(The Times, 28/10/43)

27.10.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

Japanese Destroyers attacked off New Ireland.

18. Naval Catalinas today attacked two Japanese destroyers 30 miles west of Ubili (off the south-east of New Ireland) and near missed one of them. Bostons damaged a ship near Gasmata. One or more small merchant ships were with the destroyers. Three Liberators continued the attack and made hits on one of the destroyers, which was later seen burning fiercely. A second destroyer was straddled with bombs. One merchant vessel is reported to have been sunk.

19. Allied troops landed last night on Treasury Island (20 miles south-west of Shortland Island, Solomon Is.) Some mortar fire was encountered, but was subsequently silenced.

War Diary.

27.10.1943.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

- TENACITY. TENACITY when ready should be sailed with B.P.T. 13 for Greenock. On arrival she is allocated to C. in C.W.A. for Atlantic escort Duties. Reference A.M. 191757.
(Capt. Rescue Tugs 271840A to C. in C.Rosyth.)
- PROSPEROUS. PROSPEROUS should be sailed to Milford Haven to arrive not later than 2nd November for onward passage to Mediterranean.
(Capt. Rescue Tugs 271841A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Movements.

- LEITH,
SANDWICH,
ANCHUSA. My 182211. 1. LEITH S.O., SANDWICH, ANCHUSA are to sail on October 30th at best speed to Gibraltar.
2. Route.
(C. in C.W.A. 271154A to Cdre. D.W.A.)
- SPEEDWELL. Arrived SPEEDWELL with CULPEPPER.
(A.C.I.C. 271601A to C. in C.H.F.)
- ORION. C. in C.Portsmouth is requested to sail ORION when ready for sea to rejoin the Mediterranean Fleet.
(D.O.D.H. 271655A.)
- S/M Move- Positions of S/Ms at 0800/28 and movements for
ments. following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 271706, 281144A.)
- BELFAST,
NORFOLK,
KENT. Request you will proceed BELFAST with NORFOLK, KENT to Seidisfjord pass Hoxa Gate 0600A/29th.
2. Route through position X. 001° Butt of Lewis 15 miles. Y. 061° 01' N. 010° 50' W. Z. 063° 50' 014° 26' thence Seidisfjord via Q.Z.L. 54 and 55. S.O.A. 17 knots.
(C. in C.H.F. 272329 and 281126A to C.S.10.)
- ANSON,
FORMIDABLE,
JAMAICA. V.A.2 is requested to proceed ANSON with FORMIDABLE JAMAICA to Akureyri passing Hoxa Gate 1300A/29.
2. Route through position U. 062° 15' 005° 50' V. 066° 05' 011° 01' thence Akureyri. S.O.A. 16 knots. 3. C. in C.Rosyth provide A/S air escort during daylight 30th. 4. R.A.(D) H.F. is requested to sail 6 destroyers as screen.
(C. in C.H.F. 272335A to V.A.2.)

27.10.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

- Bay Patrol. RHODODENDRON attacked U-Boat on the surface at 2240/26 in 046° 32' N. 013° 24' W. Estimate your position 2000/26 048° 01' N. 013° 22' W. (F.O.S. 270103A to O.23.)
- Engagement with E-Boats on night 24/25th Oct. Your 251702. Results are most satisfactory and reflect credit on the training and initiative of the flotillas, and the work of the communications staffs, shore Radar and plotting organisations. (V.C.N.S. 270305A to C. in C.Nore.)
- M.G.B.697. Intend sailing M.G.B.697 at 1715/27th to southward returning to Dartmouth 0830/28th.
2. Request surface bombing restriction 10 miles each side line joining Start Pt. and Cap Frehel.
3. Air escort arranged.
(N.O.I.C.Dartmouth 271035 to C. in C.Plymouth.)
My 271035A postponed.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 271255A.)
- S/M Patrols. Request you will sail ULA from Lerwick at 0730A/30 through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 thence direct to patrol line KK.
(Capt. S.9 271111A to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen.)
- TRUANT is carrying patrol F. and SEANYMPH patrol J. in my 251354.
2. On completion patrol TRUANT is detailed for C.O. qualifying course at Scapa 14th to 26th November.
(F.O.S. 271312A to Capt. S.3.)
- Positions of submarines at 0800/28th and movements for following 24 hours.
- A. SEADOG 63° 20' N. 02° 45' E. probably on surface 10 knots for Lerwick.
 - B. SYRTIS 70° 40' N. 13° 35' E. through 71° 09' N. 14° 58' E. thence to patrol off Ingoy. Diving by day when within 60 miles of coast.
 - C. STUBBORN 70° 05' N. 13° 02' E. through 70° 35' N. 14° 25' E. thence to patrol off Soroy. Diving by day when within 60 miles of coast.
 - D. VARANGIAN 68° 35' N. 08° 05' E. probably on the surface 8½ knots through 69° 02' N. 08° 53' E. and 71° 09' N. 14° 58' E.
 - E. TANTIVY 62° 20' N. 02° 30' E. to Lerwick dived by day North of 62° N.
 - K. O.23 49° 50' N. 09° 45' W. dived by day through 49° 50' N. 09° 01' W. to R/V with escort 340° Round Island 10 miles.
(F.O.S. 271705 to Admty.)
- Coastal Patrols. 1. Orders for night 27th/28th October.
A. 3 M.T.B. 3 M.G.B. from Newhaven carry out offensive patrol in area north of direct route Barfleure - Havre, east of 00° 20' W. and west of 075°. YY. 9 miles. Primary objective torpedo targets. Proceed and return by passage four or two, passing North end of Passage at 2300A and returning to within 20 miles of own coast by 0700A.

27.10.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal
Patrols.
(Contd.)

B. CHASSEURS 41, 11 patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between
F. and E.A.5 Buoys.
C. M.L. 292 immediate notice St. Helens.
D. STEVENSTONE, ALBRIGHTON immediate notice
Yarmouth.

(C. in C.Portsmouth 271222A.)

Patrols 27th October. 1. Force 114, M.T.Bs. 430, 416 are to
patrol in vicinity 115 Start 20.

3. Force to be on patrol by 2030/27. Leave patrol for Dartmouth
at 0630/28.

(C. in C.Plymouth 271323A.)

Dover dispositions for night of 27th/28th October.

M.Ls. 255 and 275 two miles south of D.Buoy. M.Ls. 104, 102,
101, 107, 210, 213, 128 and 573, carrying out operation N.L. 109,
route via No. 1 and U.Buoys each way. E.T.D. 1645, E.T.R. 0145/28.
M.T.B. 38 supported by M.G.B.S.1 carrying out operation N.L.108,
route via No. 1 and U.Buoys each way. E.T.D. 1730, E.T.R. 2300.
M.T.Bs. 240 and 208 from Dover E.T.D. 1930 and M.T.B. S.4 from
Ramsgate, E.T.D. 2000 off Ostende E.T.R. 0730/28.
M.A.S.Bs. 38 and 31 at V.Buoy E.T.D. Dover, E.T.R. Ramsgate 0730/28.
(V.A. Dover 271747A.)

Patrol
shelled.

Coastal forces patrolling in accordance with my
261406 were engaged by enemy shore batteries off
Fecamp up to a range of 25,000 yards. No damage
or casualties.

(C. in C.Portsmouth 271639A to Admty.)

A/S sweep
by FENCER.

Adjust course and speed to pass through 050° N.
035° W. at dawn tomorrow. Thence steer 070°
carrying out an air A/S sweep.

(C. in C.W.A. 271658Z to FENCER.)

Adjust course and speed to pass 050° N. 035° W.
at dawn tomorrow. Thence steer 070°. LULWORTH
carries an air A/S sweep.

(C. in C.W.A. 271658Z to FENCER.)

Alter course forthwith for 049° N. 040° W. thence steer 360°.
Commence air A/S sweep at dawn.

(C. in C.W.A. 272354Z to FENCER.)

Operation
F.R.

1. Estimate you will arrive Toros Island at 1300A
tomorrow. Wireless silence should not be broken
to report expected time of arrival unless more
than 3 hours late on above. M.B.R. flying boats
will carry out A/S sweep of approach and fighter

escort will be provided there during daylight by Russian U.F.,
(Y.A.?) K.I. and Aerocobras.

2. Pilots will board all ships off Bolshoi Oleni Isl.

3. Destroyers should commence oiling on arrival as follows.
(S.B.N.C. Polyarno 271701 to Capt. D.3.)

From Russian information just received German R/C discovered
2 warships in area 005° to 010° E. 074° to 075° N. at 1000A.

(S.B.N.C. North Russia 271830A to H.F.)

/Operation...

War Diary.

27.10.1943.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

Operation F.S. The following codewords have been allotted:-
R.A.54A codeword "Mimic" R.A.54B codeword "Rooster"
J.W.54A codeword "Pelman" J.W.54B codeword "Potent"
(D.T.D. 271826A to C. in C.H.F.)

Intend following as operation F.S. Object passage of convoy R.A. 54A, from Archangel to Loch Ewe all times zero minus 1.

2. S.B.N.O. Archangel is requested to sail R.A.54A consisting of 14 ships from Dvina Bar p.m. D.day which will be 31st October unless otherwise ordered.

3. Route as in V.A.2 140313 being passed to A.I.G.47 in separate signal. S.O.A. 9 knots.

4. Close escort from White Sea WESTCOTT, EGLANTINE, JASON, BRITOMART. Following forming Force 3 will join convoy Kola Inlet in position A. 071° (?) 24' N. 014° 28' E. p.m. day plus 2 Capt. D.3rd in MILNE, MUSKETEER, MATCHLESS, MAHRATTA, SAROGE, SAUMAREZ, SCORPION, SCOURGE.

5. Local escort White Sea to P.L.E. of Russian destroyers as arranged by S.B.N.O.Polyarno.

6. Cruisers covering. F.O.C. 10th C.S. in BELFAST with KENT and NORFOLK forming Force 1 is to sail from Seidisfjord (Iceland) at 1800 D.day for covering position. Route F. 071° 19' N. 000° 55' W. G. 073° 45' N. 008° 28' E. R. 073° 58' N. 031° 32' E.

In absence of information of convoy's position, speed is to be adjusted to arrive at position R. at 0800 days plus 3. Thereafter cruisers operate so as to cover convoy as far as 002° E.

7. Battle Fleet cover. V.A.2 in ANSON, FORMIDABLE, JAMAICA and screen forming Force 2 sails at 1200 D plus 1 from Akureyri and proceeding direct to arrive in the vicinity of position S. 072° 27' N. 009° 30' E. at 1200 D plus 3. Subject to enemy information force is leaving covering area at 1200 D plus 4 and returning Scapa through position T. 068° 01' N. 003° 38' W.

8. Force 4 to be detailed will assemble Seidisfjord D plus 7 as convoy local escort to U.K. from position G. S.O. Force 3 is to send one destroyer ahead to Seidisfjord to report E.T.A. of convoy to position G.

9. Movement on completion A. Force 2 return Scapa. B. Force 1. After convoy passes 002° E. BELFAST to Hvalfjord, KENT, NORFOLK to Scapa fuelling Seidisfjord or Akureyri if required. C. Force 3 fuel Seidisfjord thence Scapa. D. JASON, BRITOMART Scapa fuelling Seidisfjord if necessary. E. WESTCOTT, EGLANTINE with convoy to Loch Ewe thence as ordered by C. in C.W.A. F. Force 4 Scapa.

10. British and Russian submarines will be on patrol in areas of Norwegian coast as follows, from 29th October British submarines in zone 2 and 2A, Russian submarines eastward of 025° 30' E.

(C. in C.H.F. 272009A to H.F. (R) S.B.N.O.North Russia, S.B.N.O.Archangel, Ad. Fisher.)

My 272009. Route for R.A.54A. As ordered by S.B.N.O.N. Russia to position A. 071° 24' 041° 28' E. B. 073° 31' 037° 32' E. C. 074° 28' 031° 16' E. D. 073° 23' 005° 50' E. E. 071° 20' 003° 11' W. F. 066° 49' 015° 02' W. G. 066° 03' 013° 15' W. H. 065° 30' 013° 29' W. J. 064° 53' 013° 18' W. K. 064° 36' 013° 23' W. L. 063° 32' 014° 05' W. M. 061° 32' 012° 48' W. N. 058° 40' 008° 10' W. C. 000° Butt of Lewis 7 miles, thence Loch Ewe.

(C. in C.H.F. 272315A and 281137A to H.F.)

War Diary.27.10.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Operation
"Hostile 7."

My 071458A and 231550A. Intend to carry out operation "Hostile" 7 tonight.
 2. Force "Hostile" 7 is to sail from Plymouth to pass gate at 1645A/27th.
 3. Support Force TANATSIDE, MELBREAK, WENSLEYDALE is to pass gate at 1845/27.
 (C. in C.Plymouth 271233A to DEFIANCE.)

Q.U.18.

Carry out operation Q.U.18 049° 3.8 miles, on first suitable night on or after 28th October. Force 21st M.T.B.Flottilla. Mines to be laid as near as practicable to entrance. Enemy radar stations believed to be in positions A. 52° 29' 30" N. 04° 35' 16" E. B. Zandvoort. It is advantageous to remain end on to these stations as far as practicable since this reduces chances of detection. If mines have to be jettisoned they are to be dropped safe.
 (C. in C.Nore 271843A to BEEHIVE.)

Q.Z.X.1095.

A. Check sweep extended as far south as line joining 1. 50° 13.5' N. 03° 22.7' W.
 2. 50° 19.5' N. 02° 55.6' W. 3. 50° 22.5' N. 02° 33.5' W.
 (M/S 9 272010A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Ten Trawlers.

7 small M/Vs BLUN 050° 05' N. 008° 15' W. 230°
 (A/C KMQ/F 271322A to A/C QAL.)
 Force previously reported consists of 10 trawlers. Request instructions.
 (A/C KMQ/F 271410 to A/C QAL.)

U-Boats.U-Boats
reported.

Am over enemy submarine in 45.17 N. 32.19 W.
 (A/C PTX/F 271150Z.)
 A.G/Ops. 1 27 Oct. F/220 sighted U-Boat in position B IK R G D 1721 course 330°. True 10 knots at 271150. Not attacked.
 (247 Group 271645Z to H.Q.C.C.)

Navigational.

Harwich.

Port of Harwich closed owing to fog.
 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 270655.)

Brightlingsea.

Port closed owing to fog.
 (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 270708A.)

Portsmouth.

Port Needles Channel closed owing to fog.
 (C. in C.Portsmouth 270728A.)

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27.10.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Technical.

"Foyer"
Gear. Following priorities have been decided for fitting "Foyer" to H.M. Ships.
(A.C.N.S.W. 271827A, A.G.M. 858A.)

Casualties & Defects.

LAGAN. Clyde arrivals DESTINY with LAGAN in tow.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 270838A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

NEWARK. My 261507A. Destruction in main inlet cleared. Vessel undocking a.m. 27th and proceeding in completion of programme.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 271031A to Admty.)

ST. DOMINICA. H.M. Yacht ST. DOMINICA sailed from Aberdeen p.m. 22nd Northabout for Liverpool and is now two days overdue. Request enquiries may be made.
(C. in C.W.A. 272146A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

BEGUM. Sailed tug AIMWELL in convoy K.M.S.31 to Gibraltar. A.M. 202104A refers.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 272216A to C. in C.W.A.)

SAN RAFAEL. Request you will sail an escort vessel to relieve HEATHER off Mull of Kintyre and escort SAN RAFAEL to Clyde.
2. Estimated HEATHER will pass Mull of Kintyre at 0500A/29.
(C. in C.W.A. 272258A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Shipping & Convoys.

D.46. Sailed PRETORIA CASTLE to R/V with D.46 as in F.O.I.C. Greenock's 241144.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast 270204A to A.C.I.C.)
Sailed VERSATILE, VANESSA, and SALADIN for D.S.46.
(Cdre. D.W.A. 270615A to C. in C.W.A.)

Group "O". Is U-Boat reported in your 262240A considered to be inward or outward bound.
(C. in C.Plymouth 270947A to RHODODENDRON.)
Your 270947A. U-Boat considered inward bound, may possibly be damaged by near miss from shell fire. Depth charge attack probably ineffective. Have rejoined convoy. 2 stragglers in 048° 13' N. 012° 19' W.
(RHODODENDRON 271057A to C. in C.Plymouth.)
Alter course forthwith for position F.
(D.O.D.H. 271650A to RHODODENDRON.)

H.X.261. Arrived H.X.261. 5 ships, names.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 271358A to Admty.)

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27.10.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- O.N.207,
E.G.7,
BITER. If convoy not threatened 7th Escort Group including BITER part company and proceed towards Newfoundland. My 261056A refers.
(C. in C.W.A. 271436Z to E.G.7.)
- K.M.S.31. 17 ships. Names and destinations.
(N.S.O. Mersey 271447A to Admty.)
- H.X.262. Amend A.M. 241227A. PACIFIC SHIPPER. Put back to St. Johns N.F.
(D.T.D. 271605A to C. in C.W.A.)
Unless in contact with the enemy proceed at dusk to support H.X.262. Estimated P.C. and S. H.X.262 at 0800A/28 046° 28' N. 028° 46' W. 035° 9½ knots, routed as in my 251845.
(C. in C.W.A. 271702Z to E.G.2.)
- Coastal
Craft
Group "O". A.M. 211556 Oct. as amended by A.M. 221333 Oct.
1. Convoy will be known as Coastal Craft Group "O".
2. Tug PROSPEROUS is to be sailed with convoy.
(D.O.D.H. 271745A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)
- O.N.S.21. A. SALUTA returned from O.N.S.21. C. Cylinder joint blown out.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 271822 to C. in C.W.A.)
- K.M.F.25A. Sailed convoy in accordance with my 261234A.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 272108A to Admty.)
C. in C.W.A. 251424Z. Sailed C.T.G.60.2 in DAVISON and MERVINE, BEATTY, TILLMAN, CHAMPLIN, NIELDS, and ORDRONAUX.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast 272327 to C. in C.W.A.)

War Diary.27.10.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.WRESTLER,
WHITEHALL.

Your 242232. It is appreciated that circumstances prevented you from sailing ships of 8th Group as requested in A.M. 111830.

2. WRESTLER and WHITEHALL are, however, required for other operations and must arrive Clyde not later than 2nd Nov. VISCOUNT is required to join F.O.C.W.Af., command and should be sailed for Gibraltar as soon as she can be spared. 3. Requested you will arrange accordingly. If necessary BACHAQUERO must wait until other arrangements can be made. (D.C.,* A.C.N.S. (H) 270059A to S.B.N.O. Azores (R) F.O.I.C. Gib., C. in C.W.A., F.O.C.W.Af.) * Approved.

K.M.S.30.

Sailed Ponta Delgada 0100Z. E.T.A. K.M.S.30 1800Z. Weather.

(WALKER 270102Z to S.O., E.G., B.4. (R) Admty. etc.) WALKER left 0055 G.M.T.27th.

(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 270715 to Admty.)

WALKER, ASPHODEL arrived here for fuel last night and HIGHLANDER, ABELIA are due to arrive today from same purpose. In no case had prior notification been made to Portuguese Government. Portuguese S.N.O. Azores is most friendly and helpful but I trust that his good will will not be strained in future by such omissions Your 251900 Para.2 bears out my point.

(Consul, Ponta Delgada 270901 to Admty.)

ASPHODEL arrived 0745 G.M.T. 27th left 1125.

(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 271044 to Admty.)

K.M.S.30. My 241141. Corrections to list.

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 271113A to N.O.I.Cs. N. Africa.)

Sailing from Ponta Delgada 1130Z/27. Course 100° speed 13.75 knots. E.T.A. K.M.S.30 1200Z/29.

(ASPHODEL 271131Z to S.O., E.G.B.4. (R) Admty. etc.)

F.O.I.C. Gibraltar's 261231. Ships of Azores escort force are to proceed to Horta for fuel when detached from K.M.S.30.

(S.B.N.O. Azores 271701N to Escort K.M.S.30. (R) F.O.I.C.Gib. C. in C.W.A.)

Ref. A.M. (?? 272321./231320A intended). Have no information whether EMPIRE OUTPOST is being escorted by Escort Group B.4 from Ponta Delgada to join K.M.S.30.

(S.B.N.O. Azores 271945N to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) Admty.)

/ Re requesting arrangements be made for any escorts refuelling at Ponta Delgada to escort EMPIRE OUTPOST to Gibraltar.

Presume EMPIRE OUTPOST is still at Ponta Delgada. Your 271600 and WALKER's 270102 refers.

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 272358 to S.B.N.O. Azores (R) WALKER.)

T.F.62,
U.G.S.23.

This is re-encypherment of Cinclant's 261559 addressed C.T.F.29 Comdesdiv 14 (R) to Comeightflt., C.E.S.F. etc. (Begins) Task Force 62 hereby constituted Comdesdiv 14 Comor Headen in MADISON Desdiv 14 Comcortdiv 4 in PILLSBURY, Capt. Flaherty,

Comcortdiv 15, in AMICK, COONER, ELDRIDGE, POINEER, PORTENT, MATTAPONI. Escort U.G.S.23 Hampton Roads to North Africa Nov.4 return Hampton Roads escorting G.U.S.22 when directed by Commorseafron. C.T.F.29 please direct tanker. C.T.F.62 direct PIONEER, PORTENT report Comeighthfleet (?for) temporary duty upon arrival North Africa thereon they are detached from Comtask Force. (Ends).

(C.M.S.F.F. 270859 to F.O.C. Gib., C. in C. Med., Admty.)

/HASTINGS...

War Diary.27.10.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

HASTINGS
U-Boat. HASTINGS attacked suspected S/M contact in 036°
34' N. 017° 46' W. at 0710Z. Contact lost after
attack and not regained in search of one hour by
HASTINGS and AZALEA.
(ROCHESTER 270901Z to Admty. (R) F.O. Gib., C. in C.
W.A.)

Repatriations. Serial No. 326, arrival German AQUILEIA midnight
26th.
(Barcelona 271040 to Admty.)

?
U-Boat Investigating possible wake and swirl (?41°) 03' N.
15° 15' W.
(A/C NDL/O 271046 to Gib. W/T.)

DUMONT
D'URVILLE. C. in C. Med. 271118A to C.S.M.F. See Med.
Complying with your 251616A (French authorities
request appropriate daily S/M estimate be sent
DUMONT DURVILLE during voyage.) as route situation
necessitates, until Southern limit of station
crossed.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 271830A to C.M.S.F.)

ACTIVE
enemy
A/C. Codeword "Umpire" I am being shadowed by enemy
aircraft in 37.07 N. 14.27 W.
(ACTIVE 271150A to Gibraltar W/T.)

IRIS,
VISCOUNT. When VISCOUNT can be spared request you will sail
IRIS escorted by VISCOUNT to Madeira. IRIS is to
enter Madeira to await escort from Gibraltar,
VISCOUNT to continue to Gibraltar. A.M.142008
(re cable ship IRIS to repair Madeira St.Vincent,
N.R.) not to S.B.N.O. Azores refers.
(F.O. Gib. 271154A to S.B.N.O. Azores (R) Admty.,
N.O.I.C. Horta.)

ROCHESTER,
shadowed. Am being shadowed by one enemy aircraft 160° 5 miles
37.06 N. 18.11 W. 06.49 328° 7 knots.
(ROCHESTER 271201Z to Gib. W/T.)

T.G.21.15. Task Group 21.15 arrived 1225A/27th.
(? Via Gibraltar W/T 271316A to F.O. Gibraltar.)

ST.GOTTHARD. Swiss Steamship ST. GOTTHARD leaves Marseilles about
31st for Gibraltar.
(D.E.W.D.271431A to F.O.Gib.)

/REDPOLE...

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27.10.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

REDPOLE. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar's 261147 Oct.
1. REDPOLE must be retained at Gibraltar in accordance with para. 2.
2. If A/S sloop can be made available C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail relief as requested in para. 1. (D.O.D.(C), 271450A to F.O.I.C. Gib., C. in C. W.A., (R) C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med.)
My P.C. and S. at 1800A Wed. 27th Oct., 034° 39' N. 007° 24' W., 038°, 10 knots. E.T.A. 0800A tomorrow Thursday 28th.
Weather report.
(REDPOLE, 271801A to F.O.I.C. Gib., (R) Capt. D. Gibraltar)

Convoy "Trafford". "Trafford" run to schedule. Following ships will detach. PALOMARES and 12 merchant ships (list). Intend to detach EASTON at 2000A/27 Oct. with FORT LA MAUNE screened by AUBRETIA. EASTON will require tug. LOTUS requires 50 tons fuel oil to enable her to complete voyage, intend to detach her in sufficient time to rejoin convoy in Straits.
(PALOMARES, 271457A to F.O.C. Gibraltar (R) Cdre. Supt. Capt. (D), C. in C. Med.)

HABANA suspect Del Rio. (1) Arfar 429 for M.E.W. from C.C.S.O. Gib. Spanish HABANA Buenos Aires to Canary Islands brought in under armed guard.
(2) Del Rio interrogated on board without result and landed in custody of Defence Security.
(3) Packet containing four lead coated discs local weight approx. 4 pounds found hidden behind panel in W/T room.
(4) All personal belongings of Del Rio including private correspondence. Exposed film in camera and periodicals have been landed. (5) Request instructions for disposal of (a) Metal discs. (b) Papers. (6) General search still proceeding.
(C.C.S.O. Gib., 271828A to Admty.)

U-Boat survivors. My 261214. (Re 49 officers and men from U-Boat arrived). Understand this crew expected to leave here Thursday 1610/28 by rail presumed for Germany.
(R.O. Vigo, 272018 to B.N.A. Madrid, (R) Admty., (D.N.I.), S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)

South Atlantic.

U-Boat. Your 261906Z. Admty. estimate was 01° S. 22° W. (D.D.I.C., 270136A to F.O.C.W.A.)

CORFU, CILICIA. (1) To avoid southbound U-Boat estimated in 004° S. 021° W. at 2000Z/26th CORFU alter course forthwith to pass through position (A) 001° 01'

/South ...

War Diary.27.10.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- CORFU,
CILICIA.
(Contd.)
- South 018° 55' W. (B) 007° 02' S. 016° (714') W. CILICIA alter course forthwith to pass through positions. (A) and (A) amended R/V in 003° 44' S. 017° 42' W. at 0830Z/28th Oct. (2) After R/V CORFU rejoin original route in 026° S. 007° W. and CILICIA proceed as in my 231338Z Oct. (F.O.C.W.A. 270401Z to CILICIA, CORFU (R) FAL, Admty., Cdr.4th U.S. Fleet, C. in C.S.A.)
- T.S.52.
- Composition of T.S.52. Your 261221A ELIZABETHVILLE escorted by CDT.DROGOU, HYDRANGEA, and AMARANTHUS. F.O.C.W.Af's. 181111Z para. 3 refers. (N.C.S.O. Takoradi 270827Z to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.A.)
- D.K.A.5.
- Sailed PLYM 0330Z/27th in accordance with my 261442. S. of A. 13½ knots. 2. Sailed VIRGINIA 0930Z/27th to overtake and act as additional escort to D.K.A.5. S. of A. 10 knots. My 261304. (Cdre. Durban 270934 to Admty. etc.)
- Repairs
at
Rio.
- Brazilian Authorities report not much work at Naval Dockyard Rio and can undertake repair work for H.M. Ships. Should you wish to take advantage of this opportunity you should consult Comsolant to ensure no clash of arrangements. (Head of M. (2) 270946A to C. in C.S.A., F.O.C.W.A.)
- F.T.1.
- F.T.1 left Pernambuco 24th Oct. arrived Natal 25th for dry docking for examination of bottom. (B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 271144Z to Admty.)
- VISCOUNT.
- Your 251736. VISCOUNT will leave Azores shortly for Gibraltar. She urgently needs boiler cleaning. 2. A second destroyer will probably sail with K.M.F.26 leaving U.K. on 15th Nov. (D.O.D. (F) 271203A to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) F.O.I.C. Gib., S.B.N.O. Azores, C. in C.W.A.)
- SUFFREN,
DUQUESNE.
- Intend to sail SUFFREN. (A) 2nd Nov. on Anti-Blockade runner patrol returning 8th. (B) 15th Nov. for 8 day visit to Casablanca for partial recommissioning. 2. Intend to dock DUQUESNE 31st Oct. for 15 to 20 days. (Comar Dakar 271227Z to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty.)
- Brazilian
ship sunk
24/10.
- Your 270712A. (Request by W/R for repetition of 251254 signal 251946 also refers). Following is a repetition of my 251254 addressed Admiralty (R) C. in C.S.A. and N.O.I.C. West Africa from B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro. (Begins). Report received that a Brazilian ship was torpedoed and sunk yesterday Sunday between Santos and Rio de Janeiro. Further details will be reported when received. (B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 271234Z to Admty.)
/B.Y.M.S...

War Diary.

27.10.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

- B.Y.M.S. Arrived 25th October 1943. B.Y.M.S.223, 148, 217, 137.
(S.O. (I) Freetown 271603Z to Com. 4th Fleet.)
- 49th M.L. Intend following programme for second division of
Flotilla. 49th M.L. Flotilla. First group arriving Lourenco Marques a.m.31st. Second group arriving Lourenco Marques a.m. 1st Nov. Division sailing from Cape Inhaca p.m.1st. Arrives Tulear a.m.4th sailing p.m.5th. Arrives Majunga a.m.8th sailing p.m. 9th arriving Diego Suarez M.M.11th November. (2) VIVIANA will escort second group from Durban and Division from Cape Inhaca to Diego Suarez. (Cmdre. Durban 271604Z to C. in C.S.A., C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.)).
- U-Boat. U.S. transit aircraft report sighting U-Boat 006° 30' N. 023° 45' W. at 1150Z/27th.
(F.O.C.W.A. 271610Z to Admty. (R) Ships in area P.2)
W.D. Note:- Was attacked, no visible damage. See 280231Z, which also gives position as 06.30 S. not North.
- T.S.52. Arrivals 0715Z/27th Oct. HYDRANGEA, AMARANTHUS F/S COMMANDANT DROGOU with T.S.52.
(S.O. (I) Freetown 271624Z.)
- CARNARVON Your 251738Z. Approved to sail vessels in company.
CASTLE, If they can reach Gibraltar on 12th Nov. ships could
ORBITA. join M.K.F.25A. for U.K. This would avoid a long delay at Gibraltar whilst awaiting M.K.F.26.
(D.O.D. (F) 272011A to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) F.O.I.C. Gib., C. in C. Med.)
- B.Y.M.S. Intend to sail B.Y.M.S.223 (S.O) 148 and 217 at 0700/28th routed. A. 09° 50' N. 14° 58' W.
B. 10° 42' N. 17° 14' W. thence Dakar E.T.A. 1200Z/30th S. of A. 10 knots. 2. Comar Dakar is requested to sail B.Y.M.S. onward to Gibraltar by coastal route.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 272103Z to Comar Dakar (R) Admty., F.O. Gib., Commorseafron.)
- Standard Your 211729. New book of Standard reference
Reference positions to replace signalled list is already
Positions. printed. 2. Your proposal will be borne in mind for future editions. 3. No objection is seen to referring to ports when establishing new ocean positions where exact accuracy is not essential.
(D.T.D. 272306A to C. in C.S.A.)

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War Diary.27.10.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Palestinian Ports, Movements. 26th arrival S/M BRAGADINO. Departures S/Ms. CORRIDONI, ATROPO, (N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports 270030C.) 27th arrivals Italian S/Ms. ALAGI and GALATEA. Departures. (N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports 272007C.)

Alexandria Movements. Alexandria 26th October 1943. Arrivals PETARD, ARTIGLIERE, VELITE. Departures PENN, MIAOULES. (R.A.Alex. 270700C.)

GAWLER. Left Suez 27th. (F.O.R.S.C.A. 270726.)

Enemy ships Aegean. Enemy anchorage 5 F-Boats in 36.53 N. 27.20 E. (A/C GGP/N 270810Z.) Enemy anchorage at Melos 3 F-Boats, 1 caique, small craft. (A/C GQB/N 270825Z.)

Enemy anchorage at Paros 4 caiques. (A/C GQB/E 270845Z.)

Enemy anchorage at Navia one merchant vessel 500 tons, 2 E-Boats, 2 caiques. (A/C GQB/N 270850Z.)

P.C. and S. of enemy (2 500 ton merchant vessels) 37.08 N. 25.24 E. course 260 speed 5 knots. (A/C GQB/N 270850Z. to A/C KT 1.)

Position of enemy. 1 merchant vessel 2000 tons, 1 E/V at Kalimno, 1 merchant vessel 1500 tons at Port Vathy, 5 F-Boats at Kos, 1 merchant vessel 1500 tons, one F-Boat at Stampalia. (A/C GBX/Z 270930Z.)

Enemy anchorage 1 merchant vessel 500 tons at Syros. (A/C GQB/T 271030Z.)

P.C. and S. of enemy 3 F-Boats 37° 59' N. 24° 40' E. 240° 6 knots. (A/C GQB/T 271050Z.)

One merchant vessel 2000 tons one escort vessel 2 F-Boats at Kalimno. (A/C GQB/Z No T.O.O.)

Repatriation ships. A.M. 262040. TAIREA and CUBA arrived Barcelona p.m. 25th Oct. (C. in C.Med. 270846A to Admty.)

UPSTART. P.65 (UPSTART) delayed. Add 24 hours to all times in my 251730. (Capt. S.8 270930A to C. in C.Med. (R) 8th S.F. N.O.I.C. Algiers, PERLE.)

K.M.S.29 M.L.1243 missing. M.L.1243 missing from K.M.S.29. Last sighted at 1800/25th in approx. position 035° 23' 014° 20'. (V.A.Malta 270952 to C. in C.Levant, V.A.(M), A.H.Q. Med. S.10, R.A.Alexandria, N.L.O. 8th Army, S.N.O. I.S. N.O.I.C. Tripoli, N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 201, 247, 211, 212, Groups Benghazi Sector, All S.A.C. and above operating off Tripolitania W. of 20° E.)

27.10.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Policy at Taranto. Policy at Taranto since the Armistice based on maintaining and working through the normal Italian chain of Commands. Our requirements are stated to the highest authorities and met by them by their own methods.

2. After full discussion with all at Taranto am convinced this policy is correct.

4. Should be glad if above policy may be confirmed and that there is no intention to send to Taranto more than a very bare minimum of technical officers to be advisory to Allied S.N.C. and for liaison with Italians.
(C. in C.Med. 271005 to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med. A. F.O.L.I.)

R.A.F.M.E. U/Bs. M.S. 21096. Part 2 and final of A.342 0951Z/27th. My opsum 181. Hudson and Bisley despatched to investigate report of 2 S/MS sighted 25th by French R/C aircraft from Jibuti saw nothing. Search continued 25/26th and 26th. No result reported.

25 October. Native coastwatcher reported S/M off Mait, British Somaliland. 1 Wellington, 1 Bisley searched area during 26th without result.

26 October. American ferry aircraft reported S/M submerging E. of Aden. 1 Hudson searched area without result. My opsum 108. (H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 271012Z.)

NELSON, RODNEY, escorts. Request immediate confirmation that OBEDIENT and TEAZER will arrive Gibraltar in time to comply with my 261117. C. in C.Plymouth's 261446 refers. (C. in C.Med. 271042A to C. in C.H.F. (R) C. in C. Plymouth, Admty. F.O.C.Gib. C. in C.W.A. R.A.D.H.F. OBEDIENT.)

REDPOLE, relief. Request favourable consideration may be given to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar's 261147. (C. in C.Med. 271046A to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C.W.A. C. in C.Plymouth.)

M.K.F.26 X.I.F.4. Proposed programme (details). A.M. 241759 not to all addressees refers. (C. in C.Med. 271050A to Admty.)

QUILLIAM, QUAIL. Intend QUILLIAM, QUAIL patrol tonight Durazzo to Kotor. Codeword "Tailcoat." P.C. and S. at 0530A/28th 041° 27' N. 018° 06' E. 260° 25 knots. Priority normal. Patrol 26th/27th nothing met. (Capt. D.4 271115A to F.O.T.A. (R) N.L.O. 8th Army, N.O.I.C. Bari, C.F.W.47, No. 1 Moru, 286 Wing, C. in C.Med., 4th D.F.)

DUMONT D'URVILLE. Why and on whose instructions was she sailed to Caribbean. Your 251454.
2. Since neither French Admty. nor myself had prior information of move of a unit away from area of my responsibility, assume signal may have been missed. (C. in C.Med. 271118A to C.M.S.F. (R) Admty, Comnavaw, F.O.C.W.Af.)

/Convoy...

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Mediterranean. - Contd.

Convoy escorts. Convoy (corrupt group) six. My 261301 (N.T. in W.D.) Delete CALPE, GRILSE and RYSA. POLLOCK with two Italian escorts will escort Taranto Section.
(F.O.T.A. 271127A to LIDDESDALE, (R) ZETLAND, ROEBUCK, WA.Malta.)

Italian mine. Italian mine type I.K. fitted with Acoustic unit, top horn being replaced by microphone has been recovered at Tripoli.
2. Report is being forwarded and mine sent to Malta for onward shipment to U.K. My 271130 (N.T. in W.D.) to S.N.O.Trip. and V.A.Malta refers. (C. in C.Med. 271131 to Admty. (R) C. in C.Levant, V.A.Malta, S.N.O.Tripolitania.)

UNSPARING, SURF. P.55 (UNSPARING) to patrol east of Mykoni arrive there after 2200C/30th.
2. P.239 (SURF) leave patrol dusk 30th to dive through Kaso Straits by day 31st thence proceed on surface at 11 knots on reverse of outward route to arrive Beirut 1120C/2nd November.
3. P.55 (UNSPARING). Keep to eastward on passage. (Capt. S.1 271207C to UNSPARING, SURF, (R) 1st S.F. C. in C. Levant.) Para. 1 and 3 cancelled. Capt. S.1 281908C. Para. 2 of my 271207: amend route to pass through B., thence through C. 035° 06' 026° 44' D. 034° 25' 029° 59'. (Capt. S.1st S.F. 272144C to SURF, (R) 1st S.F. C. in C. Levant.)

PASTEUR. Should be ready to sail Casablanca by 29th.
3. Request you issue instructions for her to be sailed for New York to avoid delay.
(D.S.T.O. Med. 271215A to D. of S.T.)

Italian S/Ms movements. A. ZOEA should have left Leros dawn 27th to pass Kaso by day 28th. B. CORRIDONI passes Kaso northbound by night 27th/28th and returns passing Kaso night 31st/1st. C. ATROPO 24 hours astern of B.
(Capt. S.1 271226C to 1st S.F.)

U/B dispositions. No evidence of any in this area.
(C. in C.Med. 271229A.)

Aegean Situation. Cosintrep 37, 27th Oct.
1. Int. A. Ph. R. Plipeus shows personnel convoy (previously reported) not yet sailed by p.m. 26th.
C. Ph. R. a.m. 26th. Kos/Kalimno area showed situation virtually unchanged.
D. Ph. R. 26th showed dispositions generally seem to indicate move of striking force to Crete and

/Dodecanese...

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Aegean Dodecanese but no evening cover obtained of Rhodes.
Situation. Cover of Kos yesterday midday showed nil aircraft
(Contd.) on Pili and Lambia. Antimachia cloud covered
1 Ju.52 visible.

2. Cps. Aegean. A. Party 50 all ranks Lrdg. in 2
Mls. raided Levitha from Leros night 23/24th with
object recapture patrol previously reported lost and destruction
enemy Grn. Raid unsuccessful and whole party missing.

B. Further bombing Leros late afternoon 26th, no further details.

C. 4 Buffs. 250 all ranks landed Leros night 25/26th and further
300 night 26/27th. 7 Offrs. and 133 O.Rs. missing ex ECLIPSE.

D. 4 Offrs. 60 O.Rs. Lrdg. now missing from recent ops.

4. Naval. Aegean. Night 26/27th. No contact with enemy by
anti-shipping sweeps. DULVERTON, MIAOULES and PENN completed
discharge Leros. AURORA, PATHFINDER, EXMOOR and BLENCATHRA left
Alex. Destroyers not carrying tps. or stores. Two L.C.Ts.
escorted by two A/S vessels left Haifa for Kastelorizo 27th.
PHOEBE, FAULKNER, BELVOIR, BEAUFORT, HURBLEY and ALDENHAM,
returning to Alex.

5. Air. A. Own. Night 25/26th. 3 Liberators, 6 Halifaxes
bombed Heraklion. Bursts in landing and dispersal areas runway
straddled. One fire started.

B. Enemy. 26 Oct. Heavy attacks reported on defences and gun
positions on Leros from noon onwards by about 120 aircraft. No
further details.

(C. in C.M.E. 271232C.)

Joint Army R.A.F. Int. appreciation 24 hours to 0900/27th.

1. Leros. No change up to 0900Z hours 27th.

2. Cur naval forces report no contact with enemy night 26/27th.

3. Ph. R/C 0930Z hours 26th Kos/Kalimno area. Kos. 4 F-Boats
in usual positions. 2 caiques 100 tons. Pserimo. Nil shipping.
Kalimno. Cloud covered.

4. Very heavy scale air attacks by Ju.88s and Ju.87s reported on
Leros 26th total number sorties not yet known but believed to be
80 plus.

5. Ph. R/C airfields 26th. Rhodes. Maritza. Only Ju.87 seen
but believed 20/30 may be operating from there. Kos. 1 Ju.52
seen on Antimachia landing ground. This is first ph. evidence
of use this landing ground by G.A.F. Greece. Megara only 10
Stukas showing decrease of 10 possibly gone to Maritza. Tatoi
33 Ju.52 showing increase of 8 since 22nd. Evening R/C Kalamaki
shows decrease 15 Me.109 since morning. Crete. Heraklion. 24
Ju.88. Kastelli. 10 Ju.88.

6. Ph. R/C Khios Harbour 26th showed total 47 caiques including
one of approx. 100 tons and 28 of 40/60 tons. Also 1 M.L.50 foot
and few small craft. No quayside activity noted. This considered
abnormal number but does not necessarily indicate intended assault
on Samos. Further information air R/C and ground source expected
earliest.

7. Ph. R/C Piraeus harbour a.m. 26th showed departure merchant
vessel 375 foot from main harbour. This vessel subsequently
photographed proceeding on course towards Salonika this ship
previously believed to be one of those reported by C.X. source as
loading German troops and stores. Later C.X. reports this ship
embarked 2,000 Italian prisoners of war and ready sail p.m. 25th
Morning R/C also showed departure 2 F-Boats but evening R/C
showed arrival 1 F-Boat. 1 F-Boat still present Salamis naval
dockyard. Visual R/C 0835Z/27th reports 3 F-Boats Melos Harbour.
These probably ex Piraeus.

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Aegean Situation. (Contd.)

8. Ph. R/C Suda Bay a.m. 26th reveal arrival one merchant vessel 300/350 foot which left Salamis between 18 and 21st. This ship previously used on Crete supply service.

9. Ph. R/C Syros harbour 23rd showed one merchant vessel 250 foot. Same vessel present there a.m. 26th.

10. Appreciation enemy's intentions given yesterday's signal stands. Do not consider yesterday's heavy air effort against Leros necessarily foreshadows immediate assault. Since 17th air attacks on Leros have been on reduced scale probably owing to other commitments of G.A.F. bomber force. Yesterday's heavy scale attacks presumably intended to make up for smaller effort during past 10 days.

(C. in C.M.E. No T.O.O.)

Ships joining and leaving Levant Stn. Following have joined Levant Station. Your 241739 August. USK, THEMISTOCLES, (Greek ship), M.M.S. 100, 101, 104, 108, B.Y.M.S. 72, 73, 190, 191, 74, 212, 229. Following have left for E.F. JUMNA, LISMORE, LANDGUARD, SENNEN, EMPIRE GNOME, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, SHOREHAM, GERALDTON, WOOLONGONG, CESSNOCK, CAIRNS, TAURUS, TALLY HO, BATTLER, L.S.T. 180, 238, BULAN, DANAE.
(C. in C.Levant 271323C to C. in C.S.A. (R) Admty. C. in C.Med. C. in C.E.F. Cdre. Durban.)

U.G.S.22 NORMA. U.G.S.22. Norwegian M.S. NORMA carries valuable stores.
2. Some delay in onward passage would be acceptable to ensure maximum possible protection.
(D.T.D. 271417A to C. in C.Med.)

K.M.S.29 CLAN MURRAY. Difficulties with crew.
(D.S.T.O. Malta 271450 to M.W.T.R. Med.)

B.A.51. Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Aden 271531Z.)

Disposal of Italian Fleet. Your 201237 and my 230141 (N.T. in W.D.) para. 5. Re provision of W/T ratings.
(2nd S.L. 271612A to C. in C.Med.)

N.A.A.F. Report. A.V.881E 27th. N.W.A.A.F. Opsum 248. N.W.A.T.A.F. 25th (Add.) 24 U.S.Warhawks (P.40) on shipping sweep Adriatic attacked 1 Motor Launch and 3 medium motor vessels southwest Lagosta. Dropped 21 x 500 scoring near misses also strafed 1 motor vessel 5000 tons and 1 3000 tons left with deck cargo on fire.
N.W.A.Coastal A.F. 1 Hudson, 2 Baltimores air sea rescue. 24 Spitfires patrolled Naples. 6 French Airacobras patrolled Oran/Algiers.
(H.Q.N.A.A.F. 271720A.)

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U.G.S.20 Your 241334C*(N.T. in W.D.) para. 8. S.O. in
BANFF. BANFF para. 9 BANFF number one, 521, number two 434
MARYBOROUGH 848, PRIMULA 1052, FALK 1711,
SOUTHERN SEAS 995, all at 1200A/27th. BANFF Gyro
repeaters still defective, request assistance of
Gyro expert, C. in C.Plymouth's 290934+ refers.
BANFF requires following Radar stores for Type 271 Q. Trans-
former AP., W.39 75, Chokes Ap. 23 11, Condensers W.42 10 and W.
69 85, Resistances W.26 48 and W.26 51 A.
(BANFF 271730Z to C. in C.Levant.)
* re U.G.S.20 onward route M.S.C.I.22, Escort report boiler
hours when south of Malta.
+ re BANFF return to Plymouth for further repairs to Gyro trans-
mitter.

M.K.F.25 23 ships including LARGS, PRINCE CHARLES Gib.
ROTHER, U.S.S. CLEOPATRA Gib. PRINCE LEOPOLD Gib. PRINSES
PELICAN, ASTRID Gib. PRINSES CHARLOTTE Gib. 2. 1600A/27.
U/B. 4. 13½ knots. 5, 8. as in Admty. 052006* August.
6. PELICAN, JED, ROTHER, SPEY, EVENLODE (to over-
take). 13A. Commodore Nicholson R.N.R. in
STRATHEDEN for Clyde. B. Captain Robinson Master
BRITANNIC for Clyde. 15. Five Y STIRLING CASTLE ordered to
maintain S.O.A. of 16½ knots after detaching.
(Com. Algeria 271746A 271749A to C. in C.Med.)
PELICAN's 271815A (N.T. in W.R.) contact was definitely
a S/M using asdic transmissions of about 10 k/cs. These ceased
after second attack and contact faded after third attack. Some
Flotsam seen but too dark to recover and may have been from
convoy.
(ROTHER 272226A to N.O.I.C. Algiers, (R) PELICAN.)

UNRIVALLED. In view of F.O.S/Ms. 241236 (N.T. in W.D.) not
to C. in C.Levant propose sailing UNRIVALLED p.m.
29th for patrol in west Aegean and onward passage
to Malta and U.K. for refit. If approved my
252000 (N.T. in W.D.) is cancelled.
(S.1 271756C to C. in C.Levant, (R) UNRIVALLED,
C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant, V.A.Malta, Capt. S.1,
Capt. S.8, Capt. S.10, Admty. R.A.Alexandria.)

French Battleships. Request B.A.D. will inform me of method by which
Cominch requires decisions of C.C.S. 358 trans-
mitted to French Admiralty.
4. Probable French reaction will be
A. JEAN BART. Strong plea to use her hull somehow
on lines recorded by Chief of Naval Mission in C.C.S. 358 para.
27 using argument that they have got her capable of seagoing at
15 knots since original report of C. in C.Allied Force in N.A.F.
105.
B. Eight inch cruisers. If they cannot be taken in hand in U.S.A.
for the present French likely to request anyhow Radar and improved
A.A. armament be supplied and fitted at Casablanca.
5. Intend to recommend 4B. Radar is important for their present
employment and both Radar and better A.A. desirable if they are
likely to be required later in Indian Ocean.
(C. in C.Med. 271833A to Admty. B.A.D.)
See B.A.D. 292115 to C. in C.Med.

/Yugo...

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Mediterranean - Contd.

Yugo-Slav
Warships.

Limitations resulting from stipulation in para. 2 of your 261330* unacceptable.
2. Bound to lead to serious difficulties and to reduce value of vessels efforts to defeat the enemy.
3. Request you will endeavour to get the offending condition removed.
(C. in C.Med. 271835A to C. in C.Levant, (R) Admty. F.O.L.I. F.O.Taranto Area.)
* re Yugo-Slav Government request that ships taken over by them should not be used to supply patriots under TITO.

AURORA.

AURORA. Retubing of Superheaters and minor collision damage repairs outstanding, could no doubt be completed Taranto, subject to concurrence of F.O.T.A. Your 221621.

2. Main reason for proposing refit in U.K. is Allied ships important As. and As. and other work outstanding, which if progressed concurrently would bring ships up to date as fighting units.

3. Main items outstanding are: (details).

5. Would prefer to refit AURORA in U.K. where she can be brought up to date and her fighting efficiency restored much (more) quickly (C. in C.Levant 271855C to Admty.)

Naples
Movements.

Arrivals 27th, BLANKNEY, CIRCE, L.S.T. 314, departures U.S.S. BROOKLYN, BENSON, VISENDA, Y.M.S. 207, M.L. 556 and 559, arrived and departed L.S.T. 360, 327, 379, 357, 179, 406, P.Cs. 556, 624, 625, S.Cs. 535, 686, Y.M.S. 62, 64, 216. (N.C.I.C. Naples 271909A.)

G.U.S.20.

Request you sail 36 ships, names and destinations. (C. in C.Levant 271915C.)

U.S.Movements.

Departure TRIPPE.
(F.O.Tunisia 272002A.)
Arrivals U.S.S. PHILADELPHIA, MAYO (L.S.T. 389), 351, 359, P.C. 546 and S.C. 655, 666.
(Comnob Oran 272004A.)

SS. TAGANROG.

Admty. 232201 TAGANROG reported sunk off Anatolian Coast 24th by enemy aircraft. Your para. 3B does not therefore arise.
(C. in C.Levant 272033C, 290625C to Admty. (R) F.O.L.I. C. in C.Med. B.A.D.)

Levant
Situation
Report No.
92.

Successful landing of 310 troops and 40 tons equipment carried out last night by DULVERTON, PENN and MIAOULES in Partheni Bay, Leros. Some flare dropping on arrival. Destroyers withdrew to lie up in Turkish waters.

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Mediterranean.

Levant Situation Report No. 92 (Contd.)

2. FAULKNER, BELVOIR, BEAUFORT left Gulf of Kos and HURSLEY and ALDENHAM left Mandelyah Gulf and carried out anti-shipping sweep west of Levitha. All destroyers made R/V with PHOEBE, south of Scarpanto Strait and returned to Alexandria.

3. AURORA 1 Fleet, 2 Hunts left Alexandria for Aegean this morning.

4. RORQUAL reports landing seven tons petrol six Bofors complete, 15 tons ammunition, 10 tons food, one jeep at Leros night 23rd.

5. Samos Harbour bombed for 2nd time a.m. 24th. (C. in C. Levant 272039C.)

SEBASTIAN. Master of SEBASTIAN will sail from Valencia on 28th at 1300 local time for Sete, arriving at earliest off Cape Tortosa on 29th at 0300. If not contacted there will proceed in a straight line to Barcelona well outside territorial waters until (toward 908) (could be "Rightaway") when he must get back into territorial waters. Please repeat to B.N.A. Madrid and to other Naval Authorities. (Valencia No T.O.O/27th to C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta, F.O.I.C. Gib.)

N. African & Central Med. Ports. Intended to produce twice weekly an overall summary of position at these ports with information regarding anticipated forward position. Details required. (D. of S.T. 272055A to P.S.T.O.M.E.)

Warship Dispositions. 1. Situation Italian Fleet operating 1800/27th. A. Cruisers. EMANUELE FILBERTO, DUCA D'AOSTA, RAIMONDO MONTECUCCOLI ABRUZZI and SAVOIA proceeding as in my 211635. B. Destroyers ARTIGLIERE, VELITE in Levant.

LEGIONARIO, 1 Oriani Class in Gib. area. C. Corvettes and T.Bs. 10 escorting shipping at sea, 4 A/S exercising based on Augusta. D. S/Ms 5 cargo carriers in Levant, 6 power supply Naples, 6 A/S training one special in Adriatic. 2. Above (?give) maximum output at present. 3. Italians continue to meet all requests for information. 4. Information from private sources indicates movement of cruisers from Taranto is popular with officers and ratings. The appearance of ships leaving harbour today was very (?high). 5. Remaining French destroyers leave for Bizerta 28th. Greek VEDETTE transfers 27th (?Jugo Slav) units only remain to be transferred. This will require care but is in hand. (F.O.L.I. 272101 to C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, (R) Admty.)

Algiers Arrivals BROOME, THEMISTOCLES, KANARIS, FORBIN (K.Fr.) BASQUE (Fr.) Departures CLIO (It.) MONZAMBANO (It.) DANAIDE (It.) BARLETTA (It.) SPARTAN, PELICAN, JED, ROTHER, SPEY, COLOMBO, CLEOPATRA, LARGS, PRINCE CHARLES, PRINCE LEOPOLD, PRINSES ASTRID, PRINSES JOSEPHINE CHARLOTTE. (Com. Algeria 272128A.)

/RANPURA...

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Mediterranean - Contd.

RANPURA. Important to C. in C.Mediterranean and F.O.C.Gib. R.A.Levant 241023 (N.T. in W.D.) indicates 850 R.N. personnel on board RANPURA for U.K. Reasons and alternatives. 7. War Office agree. (D.O.D.(F) 272215A to C. in C.Med. F.O.C.Gibraltar, (R) C. in C.Levant, R.A.Levant.)

DURBAN. Sailed. (V.A.Malta 272315A.)

Bari Move- Arrivals RAIDER, QUEENBOROUGH, M.L. 386, M.T.B.287. ments. Departures QUILLIAM, QUAIL, SHARPSHOOTER, M.L.168. (N.O.I.C. Bari 272346A.)

U.S.Naval Following received from Comnavnaw.
A/C attacked "Comfair Wing 15 reports patrol plane 73 P.10 in
by Spanish A/C. position approx. 6 miles east of Las Palmas, Canary Islands, was attacked by an aircraft resembling Fiat C.R.42 (Biplane number 325). Our plane received approximately 10 hits with one minor casualty. Planes of this type have been frequently seen this area but previously have taken no offensive action. On the assumption that these planes are Spanish recommend immediate diplomatic representation to prevent recurrence. Consideration should be given to possibility of deliberate collaboration in attempting to deny observation of this area. 270849 Oct. 1943." ends.
2. Request this matter may be taken up strongly with Spanish authorities.
(C. in C.Med. 272347A to Admty. (R) M.A.C. B.N.Attache Madrid, Comnavnaw.) A.M. 312146A to N.A.Madrid, see North Atlantic.

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Convoy Arrived H.M.S. TAY, H.M.S. DERG, H.M.S. THYME
A.B.17. escorting A.B.17 with L.S.T. 238.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 270351 to Admty.).

F.A.A. A.M. 032254B May states one squadron to be
Squadrons accommodated at each of the R.A.F. Stations Avuniya
accommodation. Minneriya and Sigiriya emergency facilities only
being provided. Schedules have been received
showing permanent requirements for one Fleet Air
Arm Squadron at each of the above R.A.F. stations
on a lodger basis. Intend making arrangements with the R.A.F.
on the assumption that requirements are as laid down in the
schedule received on a lodger basis.
(R.A.N.A.S.I.O. 270403Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F.).

FANEROMENI Greek ship FANEROMENI torpedoed and sunk in
sunk approx. 015 degs. 35' S. 041 degs. 10' E. at
23rd October. 0625/23rd.
(N.O.i/c E. Af. 270531Z to S. and A. E.I.Station,
(R) C. in C.E.F.).

B.P.100 Karachi portion B.P.100 sailed 0530Z/27th to
R/V. N.S.O. Bombay 250251 refers.
(N.C.S.O. Karachi 270534Z to Admty.).

CONGELLA Reference my 241510Z. One lifeboat from CONGELLA
survivors. picked up by OKAPI contained two officers and 11
crew. Possibly one lifeboat and one raft still
adrift. Air search could not locate the wreck.
Further signal will be made.
(C. in C.E.F. 270613Z to Admty. (R) F.O. E.Af.).

Re Greek Message from Vice Consul Mozambique indicates ship
ship reported torpedoed as S.S. FANEROMENI Greek, your 251235
torpedoed. refers.
C. in C.S.A. reports SS STAVRAKIS is torpedoed.
There is no mention of a ship of this name in
Lloyds. Request whether two ships were sunk and
if so can details of STAVRAKIS be given. C. in C.S.A'a. 251515
refers.
(C. in C.E.F. 270620Z to F.O.E.Af., (R) Admty. C. in C.S.A.).

17th M.T.B. Arrival.
Flotilla. (N.O.i/c Madras, 271042Z to Admty.).

Convoys Part (corrupt groups) (1) W.S.33, C.M.46 1110Z/27th
W.S.33, (111) E.T.A. Aden 0400Z/Nov. 2nd. "Chop" 10 degs.
C.M.46. N. 0700Z/31st. E.T.A. Bombay 0100Z/Nov.5th. (IV)
12 knots (V) C. in C.E.F's. 160545 Oct. refers. p 515
Convoys split position L. N.C.S.O. Durban's
200942/Oct. refers. C.M. 46 and W.S.33. Routes to Bombay and Aden.
(N.C.S.O. Kilindini 271101 to Admty.).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

U.S. Shipping MEIRI amendment No.35. Section II D sub-para.1.
routeing. suspend note and substitute temporary note:
U.S. shipping for E.I. Station will be routed as
follows, under 13 knots for East Africa and Aden
to Durban for A.K.D. convoy, all remainder to
Capetown in lieu Diego Suarez.
(C. in C.E.F. 271313Z to F.O.N.I.C. (R) Admiralty, N.Z.N.B.
C.S.W. P.S.F.).

U-boat Disposition of U-boats estimated 1 Japanese in
disposition. northern half of Mozambique Channel from sinking
of FANEROMENI.
1 Japanese eastbound from shelling of SS CONGELLA.
1 German moving S.E. within 150 miles of 18 degs. 00' N.
65 degs. 00' E. from attack by TOOWOOMBA.
1 Japanese S.W. of India or homeward bound not fixed since D/F
17th.
3 Germans from recent activity and D/Fs between Cochin and area
south of Ceylon are now estimated eastbound between 04 degs. 00'
N. 83 degs. 00' E. and 05 degs. 00' N. 92 degs. 00' E.
(D.D.I.C. 271502A to C. in C.E.F. C. in C.E.F.(S.E.A.C.). A.C.N.B).

Convoy Sailing telegram.
H.C.2. (2) 2100 G.M.T. 27th. 10 knots. (6) BOMBAY,
KELAVATI.
(N.C.S.O. Calcutta, 272107Z to Admt.).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Italian Ships for Russia. Your 191735. The Russian bid for Italian ships has now been received for 1 Battleship, 1 cruiser, 8 destroyers, 4 submarines and 40,000 tons of merchant shipping. This necessitates further revision of our proposals and is being considered as a matter of great urgency. 2. Very early decision is, however, requested on MIRAGLIA. We need her especially for ferrying Naval aircraft from U.S.A. to U.K. and Indian Ocean. Since we agreed promptly to U.S. Navy have full use of BEARN we request that C.C.S. assign MIRAGLIA to the British Navy. We need her at once to bring damaged aircraft from the Mediterranean to U.K. (1st S.L. 270013A to B.A.D.)

CELERITY. Following is re-encypherment of Commorwesseafon's 261815 to Com. 10th Fleet C. Due ESQUIMALT 26th thence San Diego through following positions CELERITY departed Port Townsend 261300Z. (Route) S. of A. 14. (Radio Washington, 270020Z to Cinclant N.S.H.Q. Admty.)

CHELSEA, H.X.263. E.T.A. Halifax light vessel No. 6 0530Z/27, defects. H.X.263 at 2200Z 42.26 N. 63.51 W. 069° 8.5 knots. (CHELSEA 270030Z to C. in C.C.N.A. (R) D.S.L. N.S. LINCOLN, MIDLAND.)

DWIGHT W. MORROW (U.S.) Refloated and proceeding a.m. 25th. My 261543. (N.S.H.Q. 270100Z to Admty. B.R.L.O. New York; N.C.S.O. Montreal.)

St. John's minesweeping. Your 171506Z. (A) Nil swept by Oropesa St. Johns swept channel. (C) Swept by Oropesa 47° 33.00 N. 52° 17.00 W. 47° 28.00 N. 52° 17.00 W. 47° 26.00 N. 52° 25.00 W. 47° 33.00 N. 52° 25.00 W. swept by Oropesa one mile either side centre line joining following 33° 00.00 N. 52° 26.30 W. 47° 17.00 N. 52° 26.30 W. (F.O.N.F. 270325Z to N.S.H.Q. Admty. Cominch, C. in C. C.N.A.) (A) Nil. Your 171506Z/10. (C) St. John's swept channel - Oropesa St. John's - Wabana Channel 20% search Oropesa area as follows search Oropesa 47° 33.00 N. 52° 17.00 W. 47° 28.00 N. 52° 17.00 W. 47° 28.00 N. 52° 25.00 W. 47° 33.00 N. 52° 25.00 W. area as follows searched by Oropesa one mile either side centre line joining following positions 47° 33.00 N. 52° 23.30 W. 47° 15.00 N. 52° 23.30 W. (N.O.I.C. St. John's 272103Z to N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty., Cominch C. in C. C.N.A.)

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

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

N.S.H.Q. All times Z. A.l. A/C A/10 sighted U/B at
U/B 1101 26th in 50.49 N. 41.01.
attack and B. Attacked with all D/Cs at 1219. Nil
sighting result observed.
summary. 2. A/C A/10 at 1548/26th sighted and machine
gunned U/B which submerged at 1610 in 50.51 N.
40.56 W.
3. Sighting by A/C at 1038/26th in 51.18 N.
41.12 W.
4. A/C made two sightings p.m. 26th vicinity 50.30 N. 41.00 W.
5. Attack by EG Seven p.m. 26th vicinity 50.30 N. 41.00 W.
D.l. U/B sighted about 1630/26th in 51.43 N. 56.26 W.
(N.S.H.Q. 270542Z to Admty.) As amended 271621.

Air HAC921 27th. Daily G.R. Opsum No. 46 period
Report ending 0100 G.M.T. 27 Oct.
U/Boat (3) (A) LIB A/10. (B) Close cover O.N.207
attacked. (C) 1548 G.M.T. 26 Oct. (D) 50.45 N. 40.42 W.
(E) Not known. (F) Not known. (G) 61 N.
miles 133° True. (H) Attacked with M/G fire
all other armament being exhausted. See
HAC 922 (2 groups missing) ED Flak and at 1610
G.M.T. 26th Oct. submerged.
(H.Q. E.A.C. 270855Z to Air Min.)
HAC 922 27th Oct. My HAC 921 716. Part 3 cont. All times
G.M.T. First attack only 1 D.C. exploded 50 yards short of
conning tower. U/Boat then began firing flak. A/C returning
fire intermittently until 12.14 when U/Boat submerged and A/C
made second attack. At 1217 a black eruption was seen slightly
to rear of centre of D.C. explosion. Third attack - D.Cs.
exploded but no evidence of damage appeared and periscope was
seen travelling in opposite direction to submergence.
(A) Lib. A/10. (B) 10 knots. (C) First attack 1105/26
Second attack 1214. Third attack 1218. (H) 6 250 lb D.Cs.
at 1105, 1 600 lb D.C. at 1214, 2 250 lb D.Cs. at 1218.
(B) Close cover O.N.207. (E) 110° (G) 76 miles 10° true.
(D) 50.49 N. 41.01 W. Ref. my HAC 921/27 part 3 amend to
read (E) 140° (R) 8 knots.
(H.Q. E.A.C. 270945Z to Air Min.)

DOMETT, Delayed due to defects. Will be sailed to
S.C.145. overtake.
(F.O.N.F. 271040Z to C. in C.W.A., (R) C. in C.
C.N.A., N.S.H.Q., Admty. Cdre. (D) W.A. Capt. (D)
Argentia, S.O. E.G. B.6. Escorts S.C.145.)

Convoy 1. Sailing telegram (2 ships)
W.S.C.145. 2. 1110Z/27th.
3. 1000Z/28th in 046° 19' N. 049° 20' W.
4. 8 knots.
5. As in N.C.S.O. Halifax N.S. 241557.
6. NORTHERN SKY, NORTHERN WAVE.
(N.C.S.O., St. Johns, 271427Z to 271428Z to Admty.)

/ARGONAUT...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

ARGONAUT. Your 262030. Request information of any outstanding items to be completed A.M. 202013 Sept. refers.
(D.O.D.(H) 271501A to B.A.M.R., N.S.H.Q., S.B.N.O.W.At. C. in C.C.N.A., ARGONAUT.)

N.S.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q. 271512Z)
S/M
Estimate.

GEORGES Cominch is hereby passing N.O.B. Bermuda
LEYGUES. 251841 to F.O.C. Gib. for Info. (Begins):
Departing Bermuda 2000 on 25th French Cruiser
GEORGES LEYGUES for Gibraltar Straits through
positions (route) Speed 18 knots.
(Cominch 271552Z to F.O. Gibraltar.)

U.S. S/M Concentration of at least 20 U/Boats apparently
Estimate. have moved to the Southeast following attacks
and sightings by aircraft general area 5100
4100 on 26th.
(Other estimated positions.
(Cominch 271630Z.)

BUXTON. Asking that Ship's Company be made available to
commission and ferry to U.K. a Captain class
frigate.
(B.A.M.R. 271650Z to N.S.H.Q. (R) S.C.N.O.
London, Combrax Portsmouth, Admty., C. in C.N.A.)

MINDFUL, Enemy S/M estimate 1200Z/27th. One estimated
GEORGES moving north east within 150 miles of 032° N.
LEYGUES, 047° W. One estimated moving south west within
information. 150 miles of 032° N. 040° W.
(Cominch, 271705Z to MINDFUL, GEORGES LEYGUES,
(R) F.O. Gibraltar.)

AJAX. When ready about 2 Nov. sail AJAX Norfolk to
Portsmouth England via Bermuda for fuelling.
Onward route. Action addressee advise time of
departure, S. of A. from Norfolk and Bermuda.
(C. in C.U.S. Fleet, 271736Z to U.S.C.E.S.F.,
(R) U.S. Commandant 5th Naval Dist. (Norfolk V.A.)
U.S. C. in C.U.S. Atlantic Fleet. S.B.N.O. W.At., Admty.,
C. in C.W.A., F.O. Gibraltar, C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C.
Portsmouth, S.B.N.O. Azores.)

/DUFF...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

DUFF. All times Q. H.M.S. DUFF (B D E - 64) en route Argentinia via (route). Departs Boston Gate 0930/28th. "Chops" Eastern Sea Frontier 2230 same day. E.T.A. Fox Island 1130 Oct. 30th. Speed 16 knots. (C.T.G.02.1. 271836 to U.S. Cdr. T.F. 24 (R) C. in C.W.A., C.E.S.F., C. in C. C.N.A., Cmdt. Navy Yard Portsmouth, N.H., N.S.H.Q. Admty., C. in C. U.S. Fleet.) Cancelled - see C.T.G.02.1 281956Z.

SEAWOLF. Admiralty's 260055A. On completion of repairs and working up SEAWOLF will be temporarily allocated to Bermuda. Necessary arrangements are to be made for this ship to be sailed to Bermuda with a minimum of delay. (N.S.H.Q. 271912Z to C. in C.N.A. (R) Admty., S.B.N.O. W.At. F.O.(S) Capt. (S)7, MALABAR, SEAWOLF, B.S.O. Philadelphia, B.A.M.R.)

B.6. Foxer equipment in B.6 Gp. on sailing as follows:-
Foxer equipment. (1) N.S. ROSE complete with spares.
(2) FAME, VANQUISHER, POTENTILLA have Davits only.
(3) DEVERON Davit and P.N.Ms.
(4) DOMETT, TROOPER, LINARIA, nothing. Your 101009Z refers. (B.M. Commander, Argentinia, 271932Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) Admty., Capt. (D? Capt. (D) Belfast, F.O.N.F.)

E.G.B.6, Argentinia 27th. Departures escort Group B.6
S.C.143. FAME, DEVERON, POTENTILLA, ROSE, LINARIA and DOMETT to S.C. 143. Arrivals F.F.S. ACONIT. (Capt. D. Argentinia, 271951Z to Admty.)

O.N.206. Following arrived New York 26/10. Total 46 ships, (list FORT DOUGLAS, F.J. LUCKENBACH and JAMES LONGSTREET not yet arrived all reported disabled in vicinity Sandy Hook. (B.R.L.O. New York, 272019 to Admty.)

Loss of U.S. Naval Vessels. Paper on release of information concerning loss of U.S. War vessels referred to in my 201811 is coming before the Combined Chiefs of Staff on 29th. Can reply be given before then. (B.A.D. 272041Z to Admty.)

/Air...

27.10.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.Air
Squadrons
and Biscay
offensive.

Adm. King has replied to aide Memoire which I left with him after our talk as follows. My 252231 para. 2 refers. He considers the arguments in this appreciation are a reiteration of those in previous memoranda and continue to be unconvincing because they persist in dealing with past and not with present. The Bay offensive was profitable employment for aircraft engaged in killing U/Boats and it may again become profitable but fact remains that for a period of nearly 3 months, since 2nd August, aircraft have not sunk U/Boats in the Bay. He is, however, fully aware of the "nuisance value" of present operations.

(2) He states that he has never taken exception to the contention that the Bay project has always been considered by the British to be continuing, but to the clear implication by Air Marshal Slessor and others that U.S. participation was to be on short term basis and his agreement to such participation was promised on this assumption.

(3) Considerations applying entirely to U.S. matters and having to do with release of army A/S squadrons for employment of high priority with their bomber command require that one Liberator squadron proceed from U.K. to the Moroccan sea frontier on 1st Nov. for relief of an army squadron there. He is agreeable to leaving the Third Navy B.24 squadron in U.K. for time being pending arrival of full logistic support for the two other Navy B.24 squadrons, which is being provided in compliance with Cominch's 192156 to Comnav and pending the more pressing need for this squadron in Azores or elsewhere.

(4) When he has relieved both army B.24 squadrons in Moroccan Sea Frontier and additional V.L.R. Squadrons become available, Adm. King states that he will give further consideration to replacement of the Fourth Liberator Squadron in the Bay having due regard to other commitments, including the Azores.

(5) He wishes to make it clear now and to request specific concurrence that if the effectiveness of aircraft in the Bay does not materially improve before the 1st Jan., 1944, he will then remove U.S. squadrons from the Bay to whatever extent they can be more profitably employed elsewhere in sinking submarines.

(6) He suggests that para. 5 of A.M. 231317 is a matter for reference to the Combined Chiefs of Staff.
(B.A.D. 272059Z to Admty.)

WASKESIU.

At 2100 sailed WASKESIU Great Circle to Londonderry 15 knots joining C.5 for O.N.211 vide my 251946.

(2) Request 565 (595?) 224, L.J. on arrival for fitting 271 Q in lieu R.X.U. My 061605 refers.
(F.O.N.F. 272140Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) Connav, A.C.I.C., C. in C. C.N.A., Admty., N.S.H.Q., H.Q.C.C., Cdr. (D) Argentia, Cdre., (D) W.A., S. B.N.O., Azores, C.5.)

/U.S. ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

U.S. Ships
fitted with
H/F D/F.

1. U.S. Ships fitted with H/F D/F now as follows. A. Type F/H.3 CAMPBELL, BIBB, SPENCER, GREER, UPSHUR, PARKER, KENDRICK, LEA, HILARY P. JONES, CHARLES F. HUGHES. B. Type DAQ. CARD, BOGUE, CORA, CROATON, SANTEE, CLEMSON, HERBERT C. JONES, POPE, FLAHERTY, F.C. DAVIS, DECKER, DOBLER, D'ONNELL, SIMS, O.W. INGRAM, IRA JEFFREY, LEE FOX, COONER, ELDRIDGE, (indecipherable) BULL BUNCH, BEBAS, FRAMENT.

2. Type F.H.3 fitted in BOGUE now being replaced by U.S. Type D.A.Q.
(B.A.D. 272219Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A.)

H.X.263.

Arrival CHELSEA escorting H.X.263.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 272237Z to Admty.)

New
construction
Casco Bay
Shaking
down.

Request B.E.C.5 and subsequent ships of this type after collecting C.Bs at Montreal and carrying out trials at Quebec be sailed for about 10 days shaking down at Casco Bay. They will then be sailed to Bermuda for working up calling at Boston and/or New York for stores and spares. British routeing.
(B.A.D. 272249Z to N.S.H.Q.(R) N.O.I.C. Quebec, N.O.I.C. Montreal, C. in C. C.N.A., S.B.N.O.W.A., Admty., F.O.C.W.A.F., B.T.O., Casco Bay.)

ANGUILLA,
ANTIGUA.

Para. 5 of your 201451 (Requesting first two Maritime Commission Frigates, after shake down period to be sailed in convoy to U.K.) ANTIGUA and ANGUILLA.

(2) ANGUILLA expected to sail with ocean escort of H.X.269 leaving Newfoundland about 6th Dec. and ANTIGUA two weeks later.

(3) Your para. 1. Intended that these ships should have one week's A/S work up at Bermuda before crossing the Atlantic as have first of class of previous types.
(B.A.D. 272301Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.I.C. Greenock C. in C.W.A.. B.A.M.R., F.O.I.C. Liverpool, C.A/S E.E. (Fairlie) Cdre. WESTERN ISLES, S.B.N.O., W.At., N.S.H.Q., Cdre. (D) W.A.)

B.Y.M.S.

Bermuda arrival B.Y.M.S. 59 and 167.
(S.B.N.O. W.At., 272359Z)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
Serial
No. 645,
Oct. 26th.

(2) Afternoon R/C Liberator sighted 3 convoys off South Coast New Hanover. First group comprised 8 ships including 2 escort vessels, 2 large transports, 4 Freighters whereof 1 medium, 3 small course Westerly. Single Float Plane covering ships. Second group comprised 2 unidentified vessels with 1 escort heading east and third group included 2 small freighters 1 escort vessel steaming north.

(3) Four medium merchant ships followed by 2 probable destroyers sighted midday 26th. 10 miles N. of Rabaul heading Northwest.

(4) Northbound submarine passed Cape Orford forenoon.

(5) Three destroyers attacked by Navy Catalina after dark 30 miles West of Ubili. Near misses scored on 2 ships.

(7) 61 Liberators with small fighter escort struck Lakunai Airfield and dumps near Rabaul Waterfront at noon 25th from high level with 107 tons of heavy bombs plus many light fragmentation. Photos taken during strike show 21 grounded planes destroyed plus 23 probably.

Approx. 70 enemy fighters attempted interception and 37 were shot down in addition to 20 probables. All our planes returned except 1 bomber.

(8) Pictures same time disclose 1 Q three Stack Cruiser, 1 big tanker, 5 large MM Merchantmen in Simpsons Harbour but coverage possibly incomplete.

(16) Before dawn 26th patrol Liberator scored direct hit on 1 of two Westbound destroyers observed 40 miles east of Buka passage.

(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 270610Z)

Unknown
Ship
sighted
by A/C.

Southbound Qantas A/C reported sighting a ship at 1140Z/25th in 008 degs. 20' S. 094 degs. 28' E. My shipping (?plot) and information provided in Ceylon to pilot shows no vessel within 500 miles of this position. As sighting was low cloud - sun at dusk and distance of object estimated as 20 miles no description could be obtained (? but) apparently compass head either 315 degs or 135 degs. and of (? considerable) size to be visible so far. Position is based on stars sighted and both pilot and second pilot consider object definitely a ship.

(N.O.I.C. Western Australia, 270859Z to C.S.W.P.S.F. Cdr. 7th U.S. Fleet, C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.) F.O. Ceylon.)

BOOTES.

Departure Port Melbourne U.S.S. BOOTES 0800Z/27 E.T.D. Port Phillip 1100Z/27 E.T.A. San Francisco 22nd Nov. route. S. of A. 12 knots "Chop" date. (A) to New Zealand Sea Frontier 1st Nov. (B) to S.P. S.F. 8th Nov. (C) to W.S.F. 14th Nov. (N.O.I.C. Victoria, 271001Z to Admty.)

Situation /...

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand. - Contd.

Situation A.I-016. October 27th Airsum 150.
Review. Further heavy daylight raids Rabaul 23, 24, 25
October. Enemy losses grounded airplanes and
combat heavy. May be forced withdraw bombers
to less exposed bases New Ireland Admiralty
group. These bases convenient for shipping strikes Solomons,
Finschhafen areas. Rabaul Wewak Kahili Kara raids causing
persistent drain enemy air strength which may be in poor condi-
tion to face any future Allied moves. Estimated enemy air
strength North-East sector lowest for some months. Enemy
offensive air effort largely focussed on Finschhafen area
direct support ground forces and against ?incoming shipping.
This, with activity of his ground forces shows Finschhafen
regarded as Major Land front and intention to neutralise there
Allied advance. Ship sightings Rein Bay Ubili suggest troops
being brought to Western New Britain mainly along North coast.
This shipping supplementary only to regular night barge traffic.
North Western area daylight raid Pomelaa Nickel Industry 22nd
October very successful. Strip sighted 12 miles S.S.W.
Pomelaa suggests enemy haste to protect (?Yc Ital) plant. R/C
West coast Geelvink Bay disclosed no further aerodrome
development/88 air operations against N.W. Australia partly due
to building up air strength Burma, Malaya, Sumatra.
(Allied Air H.Q. 271755Z to Air Min. A.H.Q. India)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 271411A, 271430)

Submarines Attacked.

Sub.attack
and
sighting
summary
for 24
hours to
0900Z/27th.

Para.A. RHODODENDRON attacked surfaced U-Boat
and forced it to dive at 2140/26th in 46.32' N.
13.24' W. Second U-Boat suspected in the
vicinity.
Escort Group attacked U-Boat before 1605/26th at
approx. 51.00' N. 41.20' W.
A/C sighted U-Boat at 1105/26th in 50.49' N. 41.
00' W. Escort vessel reports A/C sighted
U-Boat before 1038/26th in 51.18' N. 41.12' W.
A/C A/10 sighted U-Boat at 1638/26th in 50.38' N.

10.00' W.

Two soldiers reported surfaced U-Boat at 1600/26th off Termoli,
approx. 42.10' N. 15.00' E.

Ref. A.M. 261125A para. A. Greek ship was FANEROMENI and not
STAVRAKIS position corrected to 15.35' S. 40.50' E.

(D.D.I.C. 271031Z to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

28.10.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- Operation F.R. 1. Force 4, consisting of the destroyers MILNE, MUSKETEER, MAHRATTA, MATCHLESS, SAVAGE, SCORPION, SAUMAREZ and SCOURGE, arrived at the Kola Inlet at 1300A. It was not until 292257C that the Russians allowed the disembarkation of personnel to proceed.
- U-Boat attacked. 2. An A/C from the Escort Carrier FENCER attacked at 1334Z today a U-Boat re-charging on the surface about 500 miles E. by N. of St. Johns.
- Engagement with E-Boats. 3. At 0144 and 0350 today, while patrolling in poor visibility about 90 miles E. of the North Foreland, M.T.Bs. 240 and 208 were challenged and at the second challenge were engaged at about 200 yards range by 2 E-Boats lying stopped at a buoy. After a short engagement during which one of the E-Boats was repeatedly hit by M.T.B.208, and both M.T.Bs. received superficial damage, our Force retired at high speed. One serious and 3 minor casualties were sustained.
- Re-inforcement of Eastern Fleet. 4. 9 sloops, 4 frigates, and 7 corvettes are to leave the U.K. not later than 31st December to re-inforce the Eastern Fleet. Of these, 2 sloops, the 4 frigates, and 3 corvettes will be provided from new construction - the remaining 7 sloops and 4 corvettes being detailed from the W.A. Command and replaced there by 11 frigates and 3 corvettes from new construction.
- Air attack on Cherbourg. 5. 7 escorted Mitchells, 8 escorted Whirlwinds and 8 Typhoons bombed Cherbourg Docks today.
- Dock Strike. 6. A strike of Thames dockyard workers commenced today.

Mediterranean.

- Adriatic. 7.(a). A destroyer patrol has been maintained in The Adriatic during each of the nights 26th to 28th October, but nothing has been sighted.
- (b). Italian aircraft are to be used in the Adriatic and heel of Italy for A/S and convoy escort and air sea rescue operations.

/Aegean...

War Diary.

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Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Aegean.

8.(a). 49 more survivors from ECLIPSE or HURWORTH and from Kos have arrived at Kastelorizo via Turkey

(b). AURORA, PATHFINDER, EXMOOR and BLENCATHRA were shadowed by enemy aircraft until dark last night despite a wide detour to the east of Rhodes. Allied Fighters drove off a formation of 15 Ju.88s. The destroyers entered the Aegean through Rhodes Channel and proceeded to lie up. AURORA being detached to the southeast of Rhodes after dark.

(c). DULVERTON, PENN and MIAOULES left Turkish waters last night and carried out an anti-shipping sweep west of Levitha without incident. They made R/V with AURORA south of Scarpanto Strait and returned to Alexandria today.

(d). AURORA with ECHO, ROCKWOOD and KRAKOWIAK left again for the Aegean this evening.

(e). L.C.Ts. 4 and 115, escorted by two A/S vessels were attacked by enemy aircraft 35 miles from Kastelorizo at 1800 today and L.C.T.115 was sunk. 35 survivors were picked up, but several of the troops on board were lost.

(f). There were air raids on Kastelorizo at 1700 yesterday and at dusk today, both directed at the harbour area. One sea flare tender was disabled but no further damage to shipping was caused.

(g). This evening 3 Italian submarines were on passage to Leros with stores and one is returning.

(h). A single aircraft is reported to have bombed Portolago Bay, Leros last night. 3 Ju.88 bombed Patmos today and 12 bombers raided Kastelorizo in 3 attacks.

(i). 3 Baltimores bombed 5 caiques anchored together in Marmari Bay, Stampalia today. Several hits were made and wreckage was seen later.

(j). Do.217 aircraft of the type employed in the Central Mediterranean and Atlantic for dropping wireless controlled bombs against shipping targets have arrived in the Aegean. This is thought by C. in C.M.E. to indicate that the enemy intend to use all possible means to neutralise our naval effort prior to assault on Leros.

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28.10.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

9. C. in C.E.F. intends to base one escort carrier at Bombay for A/S operations in the Arabian Sea whilst U-Boats remain active in that area.

China.

10. It is reported that U.S. Mitchells on a sea sweep today attacked two 150 ft. freighters near Saint Johns Island, South China and sank one and left the second freighter listing and probably sunk. (c.f. 29 October.)

America & West Indies.

U/B sunk.

11. Cominch reports that aircraft from the carrier BLOCK ISLAND sank one U-Boat and probably a second today in the area 48.53 N. 33.30 W. (about 550 miles N. by W. of Flores.)

Australia & New Zealand.

12. Another Allied landing was made on the west coast of Choiseul early this morning.

28.10.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

CEYLON. The possible destination of CEYLON has been disclosed and the Codeword "Revolver" compromised by some of the luggage embarked. Compare A.M.200733 October. (C. in C. Plymouth, 280009A to Admty.)

Russian Procedure. My 271215. Request (?you) report regarding manner in which personnel and mails are dealt with on arrival.

(2) Also please report has there occurred any specific improvements in general attitude of local officials and in existing restrictions which are expected to result from Moscow Conference.

(Ad. Fisher, 281209C to S.B.N.O. North Russia)

Your 271215. No instructions have been received by local authorities and although position fully explained they will not allow personnel to land till authorised by Moscow.

(2) Postal officials at Murmansk have received no fresh instructions in regard to British mails.

(3) Destroyers due in two hours time.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 281230C to Ad. Fisher)

Eastern Fleet Re-inforcement. It is necessary to provide 20 escort vessels as reinforcements to Eastern Fleet as follows:-

- (a) From new construction on completion of working up: (i) Sloops AMETHYST, HART.
- (ii) Frigates AVON, LOSSIE, PARRET, SHIEL.
- (iii) Corvettes WILLOWHERB, BUGLOSS, STATICE.

(b) C. in C. W.A. is requested to detail from

his Command (i) 7 A/A sloops (excluding AMETHYST and HART)

(ii) 4 Corvettes.

(2) All ships are required to leave U.K. not later than 31st December.

(3) To replace the ships in para.1(b) the following are allocated to W.A. Command from new construction:

(a) Frigates DUFF, DOMBETT, GOULD, AYLNER, ESSINGTON FOLEY, GRINDALL, DACRES, GARLIES, AFFLECK, ANGUILLA.

(b) Corvettes: The first 3 in service of HADLEIGH CASTLE, KENILWORTH CASTLE, CARISBROOKE CASTLE, BERKELY CASTLE, PORTCHESTER CASTLE and RUSHEN CASTLE.

(4) C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange necessary refits and A. and A's for ships in para.1 to enable them to meet the date in para.2.

(D.O.D.(H), 281556A to C. in C. W.A.)

AGALEMNON,
MENESTHEUS,
PORT QUEBEC.

Your 251708, Paras. 1 and 2 approved.
(Head of M.11, 281749A to Cdre.M.)

RESOLUTION
REVENGE.

A.M. 111800A (?Para.) 4. Following arrangements are being made.

(1) RESOLUTION to pay off on 3rd November and re-commission with a care and maintenance complement, being transferred and borne in REVENGE.

(2) /...

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RESOLUTION REVENGE.
(Contd.) (2) To reduce REVENGE's complement to following proportions on 29th October.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 282249A to Admty.)

Movements.

SEA SERPENT. Reverse course at 0400A/28th. Proceed to Belfast to await inclusion in convoy.
(C. of W. 280049Z to SEA SERPENT)

INGLEFIELD. Intend to sail INGLEFIELD at 1400A/28 for Gibraltar calling Moville to top up thence in accordance with A.M.211550A. Speed 20 knots.
(N.O.I.C.Greenock, 281048A and 281604A to F.O.C.Gibraltar.)

Sailed INGLEFIELD for Gibraltar in accordance with my 281048A.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 281546A)

GLASGOW. My 271909A. Sailed 1100.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 281134A to C. in C. Plymouth)
Your 271909. Arrived (GLASGOW).
(C. in C. Plymouth, 281849A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

VERSATILE, PRETORIA CASTLE. On arrival PRETORIA CASTLE and Escort D.S.46 are to proceed Hvalfiord.
(A.C.I.C. 281308A to VERSATILE)

ANSON, FORMIDABLE, JAMAICA. C. in C. H.F.272335 para.4. Following destroyers detailed ONSLOW, STORD, CAPPS, HOBSON, HAIDA, VENUS.
(R.A.D. H.F. 281440 to V.A.2)

PRESIDENT TISSIER. Amend para. 2 of A.M. 181707 and para. 3 of A.M.221823. Reference to convoys in each case should read O.S.59.
(D.O.D.(H), 281510A to C. in C. W.A.)

A.F.D.16. Intend sailing Tug GOLIATH towing A.F. Dock 16 from Cromarty at 0830A tomorrow by standard routes to Lerwick. E.T.A. 1530/30 passing through position 5 miles East of Fair Isle. Escort RIVER ESK to 35 Buoy. E.T.A. 1830A. Request relief escort to take over before dark. Speed 6 knots.
(N.O.I.C.Invergordon, 281525A to A.C.O.S.)

TUSCALOOSA. Sailed TUSCALOOSA in accordance with C. in C. H.F. 241145A. E.T.A. Hvalfiord Gate 1840A/30.
(N.O.I.C.Greenock, 281644 A to A.C.I.C.)

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Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.S/M
Movements.Positions of S/M's at 0800A/29 and movements
for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S.281701A, 290803.)

CEYLON.

Intend sailing CEYLON at 1330A/30 in accordance
with A.M.251925A calling at Falmouth and
passing the Lizard 1900/30th thence through
following positions to Gibraltar.
(2) S.O.A. 20 knots.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 281754A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar)Operations.S/M
Patrols.ULA left Dundee for patrol.
(Capt. (S) 9, 281223A to Norwegian H.Q.)
Positions of Submarines at 0800A/29 and
movements for following 24 hours.
(A) STUBBORN on patrol off Rolvsøy.
(B) SYRTIS on patrol off Sorøy. (C) VARANGIAN 71 degs. 02' N.
014 degs. 17' E. to patrol off N.W. end of Sorøy.
(F.O.S.281701A to Admty)
Delete TRUANT. Reference my 251354 and my 271312.
(F.O.S. 282304A to Capt. (S) 3, S.9)A/S Sweep
by FENCER.
U-Boat
Attacked.Oil fuel situation. INCONSTANT 79%, GARLAND
74% BURZA 53%. My P.C.S. 049 degs. 02' N.
039 degs. 54' W. 270 degs. 14.
(FENCER 281240Z to C. in C. W.A.)
S/M attacked by aircraft in 049 degs. 19' N.
040 degs. (?) W. S/M was recharging on the
surface.
(FENCER, 281334Z to C. in C. W.A.)Operation
F.R.Kola Inlet arrival Force 4 at 1300A/28.
(S.B.N.O. Polyarno, 281306A to N.O.I.C.Faeroes.)Coastal
Patrols.(1) Orders for night 28/29 October.
a. 2 M.G.B's, 3 M.T.B's from Newhaven carry out
offensive patrol between positions 010 degs.
ZZ 2 miles and 283 degs ZZ 22 miles. Primary
objective torpedo targets. Proceed and return
by passage four, passing position 4 N at 2300A returning to
within 20 miles of own coast by 0700A. If necessary to return
westward of Q.Z.X.771 course is to be clear of force J's
exercise as given in my 281356A.
B. CHASSEURS V, 41, 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's 208, 233 R.M.L. 532 patrolling 50 degs. 15' N. between
02 degs. 10' W. and 02 degs. 35' W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 281415A and 281724A)
Patrols 28th October Weather Permitting.
(1) Force 113. M.T.B. 673 (S.O), M.G.B. 322 are to patrol in
vicinity 135 Start 17.

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Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Coastal Patrols. (Contd.) (3) Force 114. M.T.B. 415 (S.O), 431 are to patrol in vicinity 190 Start 17.
(5) Forces 113 and 114 to be on patrol by 2030A/28. Leave patrol for Dartmouth 0630A/29. (C. in C. Plymouth, 281538A and 281738)
M.Ls. 104, 102, 101, 107, 210, 213, 128 and 573 carrying out operation N.L.108, route via no 1 "U" and "V" Buoys each way. E.T.D. 1700 E.T.R. 0010/29.
M.T.B's 235 and 38 supported by M.G.B's S.2, 42, and 41 patrolling off Ostend. Route via No.1 and "U" Buoys each way. E.T.D. 2015, E.T.R. 0730/29.
(V.A. Dover, 281605A)

Engagement with E-Boats. At 0350 today, M.T.B's 240 and 208, while on patrol in approx. 51 degs. 20' N. 02 degs. 56' E. were challenged and immediately engaged by two E-Boats lying stopped at a buoy. Enemy fire was accurate and range about 200 yards.
M.T.B.208 replied with 25 rounds of oerlikon which were seen to hit nearest E-Boats repeatedly. Our vessels retired at high speed both sustaining superficial damage, two minor casualties in M.T.B.240, one serious and one slight in M.T.B.208 all ratings. Force was also challenged at 0144 in approximately same position. Owing to poor visibility source of challenge was not observed nor was it reported by Radar or by hydrophone.
(V.A. Dover, 281801A to Admty.)

My 281801. M.T.Bs were challenged on both occasions with letter P for Peter.
(V.A. Dover, 281803A to Admty.)

"Locomotive". Signals referring to operation "Locomotive" are to be degraded from Hush Most Secret to Most Secret.
(V.C.N.S. 281827A to C. in C. H.F.)

V.P. Operations. Intend carrying out V.P.151A and 152A at first opportunity. My 161058 September refers.
(A.C.O.S. 282141 to Admty.)

Mining.

Humber. Detonation of Mines. My 221850 and 251149. Operation completed.
(F.O. Humber, 280945A to Admty.)

Harwich. Detonated one ground mine in position 051 degs. 55' 45" N. 001 degs. 46' 06" E.
(HOUND 281227A to F.O.I.C.Harwich).
(HOUND, 281830A to Admty.)

Elswick /...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.- Contd.

Elswick
Torpedo
Area.

A.M.231344A/Sept. Area enclosed by following
positions has been swept 100%.
M. 54 degs. 06' N. 03 degs. 56' W.
N. 54 degs. 06' N. 03 degs. 38' W.
O. 53 degs. 56' N. 03 degs. 38' W.
P. 53 degs. 56' N. 03 degs. 56' W.
(F.O.I.C.Liverpool, 281230A to Admty.)

N.L.108.

My 271747A. N.L.108 cancelled owing to
unsuitable visibility.
(V.A. Dover, 281742A to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

PRINZ EUGEN,
NURNBERG,
EMDEN,
SCHLESWIG-
HOLSTEIN.

PRINZ EUGEN, NURNBERG, EMDEN and SCHLESWIG-
HOLSTEIN sighted Gdynia October 21st.
Graded C.2.
(N.A. Stockholm 281616 to Admty.)

REVAL
and
JORGEN
sunk on
9th Oct.

Gdynia bomb damage.
(A) My 201831 paras. (A) and (B) add REVAL
believed 8000 tons and Danish JORGEN 891 tons
both sunk.
(B) French Danish and Silesion wharves badly
damaged. Dutch and Swedish wharves have been
partly repaired.
(C) At the time of raid naval morale reported
considerably higher than that of army which was
low. Graded C.2.
(N.A. Stockholm 281717 to Admty.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

- DUNBAR. DUNBAR delayed by defective fan engine oil pump. Add 24 hours to all times in my 271530. (F.O.Humber 281205A to A.C.O.S.)
- COTILLION. Your 271945. Arrived COTILLION with engine defects (F.O.I.C.N.I. 281320A to F.O.I.C.Liverpool.)
- TEES. Admiralty's 280031. Sailed TEES, one engine, instructed to anchor Barry Roads awaiting your first tide Friday 29th October. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 281459A to F.O.I.C. Cardiff)
- Ship in Convoy W.N.14. Intercept 1849 G.M.T. de W.N.14 bearing 340° W.N., D.Q.D.E. can make nearest port, send escort immediately. (Ormesby Radio 281849 to N.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth.) S.O.S. Collision in convoy assistance required. Bearing from Burnham-on-Sea Radio 005° class 2. Acknowledged by Humber Radio. R.A.F. Rudloe informed 500 k/cs. (W.N.14 via Burnham W/T no T.O.O. Recd. 281932.)
- SAN RAFAEL. GROWLER is to be sailed with despatch to R/V with TAIN and SAN RAFAEL in 258° 6 miles Mull of Kintyre at 0015A/29 and escort SAN RAFAEL to Clyde. GROWLER returning Campbeltown when met by BURNET. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 282156A to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown.)
- COTSWOLD. Your 281758A. GUILLEMOT detailed. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 282335A to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth.)

Shipping & Convoys.

- M.K.F.25. Convoy M.K.F.25 is due Clyde and Liverpool 5/11 and Bristol Channel 6/11 comprising the following 19 troop transports. Names. (D.S.T. 280241A.)
- M.K.S.27U. Arrived. 5 ships, names. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 280624A to Admty.)
- E.G.2. If circumstances permit it is intended to use second escort group offensively in Mid Atlantic prior to covering O.N.209. All ships should top up from H.X.262. Anticipated time completion of this refuelling to be signalled as soon as it can be forecast. (C. in C.W.A. 280925Z to E.G.2.)
- Your 280925Z. Expect to complete oiling by dark tomorrow 47° 38'. (E.G.2 281720A to C. in C.W.A.)

/K.M.F.25A...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- K.M.F.25A. K.M.F.25A sailed. Composed, escorted, and routed as in A.M. 222141.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 280938A to C. in C.W.A.)
- K.X.11. Am being shadowed by one enemy aircraft. Position 42.33 N. 14.13 W.
(BICESTER 281137Z.)
- EMPRESS OF RUSSIA. Arrived 1110/28th.
(S.T.O.Greenock 281230A.)
- C.W.220, C.E.218. Owing to lack of (?shipping) C.W.220 and C.E.218 postponed 24 hours.
(C. in C.Nore 281647A to Admty.)
- J.W.54A. The following ships for J.W.54A are to be sailed to Loch Ewe so as to arrive not later than a.m. 12th November. JUNECREST, FORT YUKAN, EMPIRE CARPENTER, EMPIRE NIGEL, EMPIRE CELIA.
(D.T.D. 281726A to C. in C.Nore.)
- The following ships for J.W.54A are to be sailed to Loch Ewe so as to arrive not later than a.m. 12th November.
At Newport HENRY VILLARD, at Birkenhead OCEAN VERITY, FORT ASTORIA, at Liverpool MIDJRECHT, at Manchester THISTLEDALE, WILLIAM WINDOM, GILBERT STUART, at Cairn Ryan OCEAN VARIETY, at Clyde or expected COPELAND (rescue ship), PARK HOLLAND, EUGENE FIELD, DANIEL DRAKE, EDMUND FANNING, JAMES SMITH, JAMES GORDON BENNETT, THOMAS SIM LEE, WILLIAM L.MARCY, NORLYS.
(D.T.D. 281733A to C. in C.W.A.)

(under "policy")

- J.W.Convoys. A.M. 120039 October. The following is the intended schedule of sailing J.W.convoys to North Russia:-
- | | |
|---------|-----------------|
| Convoy | Sails Loch Ewe. |
| J.W.54A | 14th November. |
| J.W.54B | 21st November. |
| J.W.55A | 12th December. |
| J.W.55B | 19th December. |

The cycle will be repeated every 28 days subject to no delays due to weather or other causes.

2. Escorts of J.W.convoys will return as follows:

Escorts of	Sails from	Escorting Convoy.
	N.Russia.	
J.W.54A	25th Nov.	R.A.54B
J.W.54B	2nd Dec.	No return convoy
J.W.55A	22nd Dec.	R.A.55A.
J.W.55B	29th Dec.	R.A.55B

3. The scale of combined close escort and striking force required for each convoy is as follows:-

A. up to 8 Fleet destroyers. B. 4 escort destroyers, sloops or corvettes. C. 1 fleet minesweeper.

4. C. in C.W.A. is requested to make available the ships in para. 3B above. Ships detailed should be arcticised.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

J.W. Convoys
(Contd.)

5. In addition, shuttle escorts consisting of 4 Hunt class or other destroyers are required between U.K. and lat. 67° N. These ships need not be arcticised. MIDDLETON and BRISSENDEN are already available in Home Fleet and C. in C.W.A. is requested to provide remaining ships as required by C. in C.H.F.

6. Amend para. 1C of A.M. 120039 Oct. to read "on completion of present operations, 3 arcticised destroyers and BURZA, of 8th Group, to Western Approaches."
(D.O.D.H. 282009A to C. in C.W.A.)

ANDES.

A.M. 251914. Route through position A. 270°
Oversay to New York.
(D.O.D.H. 282218A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

PASTEUR. Should be sailed as soon as ready from Casablanca to New York.
(D. of S.T. 280200A to C.M.S.F. (R) B.A.D.)
Sails 30th D. of S.T. 281058A (W.D.Note ?280200A intended refers.
(C.M.S.F.F. 281455A to Admty.)

Sailings of French ships C.M.S.F. short-circuited. Your 271118A. French inform that Comar Casablanca tel. 641 of 16th requested authority sail DUMONT D'URVILLE to Fort de France and that Naval France tel 51538 of 18th directed Comar Casa. sail vessel on 25th. Sailing of ships of French nationality frequently ordered by Naval France Algiers without knowledge or reference this Command.
(C.M.S.F.F. 281008A to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty. Comnavnaw, F.O.C.W.A.)

Crew of U/B sunk 24th Oct. R.O.Vigo's 261214 and 272018. If survivors were picked up by Spanish trawlers outside territorial waters they are entitled in strict law to be released.
2. If, they reached territorial waters in ship's boats their position is open to argument. Case for internment is that a warship's boats are equivalent to the ship herself, so that survivors reaching neutral waters in them ought to be interned.
3. We have been apt to argue this class of case either way as it suited our convenience. In view of doubt about the law best ground for internment is numerous breaches of Spanish waters in the past by enemy S/MS and supply ships which place Spanish Govt. under obligation to intern all crews of U-Boats taking refuge in Spain. Emphasis might at the same time be placed on recent incidents at Cadiz.
4. Consult H.M.Ambassador at once with view to immediate action to stop repatriation of crew of this U-Boat.
(Head of M.I. 281132A to N.A.Madrid, (R) R.O.Vigo, S.O.I.Gib.)
M. of M. confirms information contained in Vigo's 272018. Crew will be repatriated. They were picked up by Spanish fishing vessel off Portuguese coast as (?stated).
(B.N.A.Madrid 281342A to Admty. for D. of N.I. (R) S.O.(I) Gibraltar, R.O.Vigo.)
My 272018. German crew left for Jrun by rail 28th.
(R.O.Vigo 281700 to B.N.A.Madrid, (R) S.O.(I) Gib. Admty. (for D.N.I..))

M.K.F.25. Sailed PRINS ALBERT with M.K.F.25.
(F.O.C.Gib. 281137A.)

WHITEHAVEN, WRESTLER. Sailed for Clyde 1200N/28th. Your 270059 refers. Ships overdue for boiler cleaning and have several minor defects. Route.
(S.B.N.O.Azores 281210N to Admty. (R) F.O.C.Gib.)

/EIGER...

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Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

EIGER,
ST. GOTTHARD,
safe conduct.

Not to be molested this voyage.
A. EIGER, 4386 gross tonnage, speed 9 knots, left Gibraltar 1400/28th for Marseilles.
B. Swiss ST. GOTTHARD, 5461 gross tonnage leaving Marseilles for Gib. about 31st, speed 8 knots.
2. Both vessels follow standard route.
(F.O.C.Gib. 281416A to 8th S.F. 10th S.F. CURIE, PERLE.)

UGANDA.

Ready for sea a.m. 1st Nov. unless deperming is required in which case ready a.m. 3rd Nov.
2. Propose UGANDA should proceed in G.U.S.20 re-fuelling at Bermuda.
(F.O.C.Gib. 281821A, 310834 to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty. B.A.D.)
Note: Originator has been asked to verify para. 1.

INGLEFIELD
damaged.

Regret while proceeding alongside oiler have caused split in ship side. Details passed N.O.I.C. Londonderry. Anticipate delay of two days.
(INGLEFIELD 281920A to F.O.C.Gib. (R) C. in C.Med. C. in C.W.A.)

Interception
of HABANA.

Your 271828. Steamship HABANA well done. Re search for papers and contraband carried by Del Rio.
(D.E.W.D. 281945A to C.C.S.O.Gibraltar.)

GRENVILLE,
ROCKET.

E.T.A. 0830/29th ROCKET in company. Have on board 39 Spanish Fishermen 200 bags of C.Bs. 85 cases of charts. ROCKET's type 285 Aerial outfit has sagged. Dockyard assistance required. Acknowledge.
(GRENVILLE 282131A to F.O.C.Gibraltar.)

Gib. Move-
ments.

Departures U.S.P.Cs. 472, 474 to join G.U.S.19. Italian LEGIONNARIO, ORIANI to the East.
(F.O.Gibraltar 282312.)

OBEDIENT
U/B attacked.

1 and probably 2 U-Boats attacked in 041° 14' N. 014° 49' W. Course of U-Boats appeared to be southwest during attacks. Lost contact am proceeding. E.T.A.Gib. 0800A/30th.
(OBEDIENT 282320A to F.O.C.Gib. (R) WOODPECKER, C. in C.Plymouth, TEAZER.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

U/B.

My 271610 to Admty. Details from Ascension state U-Boat attacked with bombs 06° 30' S. 23° 45' W. course 180° speed 16 knots all bombs exploded. No visible damage periscope seen after attack. (F.O.C.W.Af. 280231Z to Admty. (R) Com. 4th Fleet, C. in C.S.A.)

CARNARVON
CASTLE,
ORBITA.

Your 272011. Every endeavour will be made to advance E.T.A. to 12th but it is unlikely that it can be earlier than a.m. 13th. (F.O.C.W.Af. 281140Z to Admty. (R) F.O.Gibraltar, C. in C.Med.)

GEORGE
WASHINGTON,
numbers of
passengers.

D.S.T.O.Bombay 261101 not to last two addressees. Shows that GEORGE WASHINGTON has already on board for U.S.A. 116 passengers. Subsequent signal from embarkation Bombay indicates that this number should be 305.
2. In view of your 221647 March Par. 2E ship with speed under 20 knots unescorted should not embark more than 250 passengers. Request therefore that I may be informed as soon as possible A. whether limitation is to be strictly observed and surplus passengers disembarked at Capetown. B. whether limitation can be relaxed for this voyage and if so to what extent.
3. There are now the following personnel waiting passage in Union for whom no other opportunity in sight at present. U.S.Navy 14, Merchant Navy 30, Army one, Union Forces, officers 2, other ranks 2 including 1 Nurse. British other ranks 2. Civilians, men 10, women 6, children 3. Total 71.
(C. in C.S.A. 281754C to B.A.D. (R) D. of S.T. D.S.T.O.Bombay, C. in C.E.F. D.S.T.O.Durban.)

TURCOMAN.

Your 281044Z (N.T. in W.D.) TURCOMAN has not arrived Cape Palmas.
(DUNKERY 282002Z to F.O.C.W.Af.)

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Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

UNSPARING Your 272051(N.T. in W.D.). Treat patient as follows. If you consider he must land proceed through:-

(A) 037 degs. 06' 30" 026 degs. 25' (B) 037 degs. 06' 30" 026 degs. 46' to arrive Leros 2200C/28th.

S.B.N.O. Aegean will be warned you may arrive.

(Capt.(S) 1, 280146C to P.55 UNSPARING (R) C. in C. Levant).

Enemy ships in Aegean.

Enemy anchorage 1 Merchant Vessel 3000 tons 1F-boat 36.57 27.01 E.
(GGP/N 280700Z).

1 E-boat in 36 degs. 43' North 24 degs. 28' East (?at anchor).
(A/C GGP/T 280705Z).

3 E-boats 1 auxiliary vessel (?at anchor) Naxos 5 AR.
(GGP/T 280725).

Enemy at anchorage 1 small merchant vessel 1,000 tons 1 wreck 36.35 N. 26.26 E.

(A/C GGP/N (via Alex.) 280737Z).

Enemy 7 Caiques 36.35 N. 26.25 E. Have attacked enemy at bombs level straddled.

(FMB/G (via Alex. W/T). 281015).

Following has been read by Alex. W/T (Med. local call signs) My 1300C, P.C. and S of 1 merchant vessel 2 escort vessels 37.10 N. 25.17 E. 290 degs. speed unknown 1247C.

(FFM/D 281300C, 281330C).

Following report received at 0730 1 steamer in 037 degs. 10' North 024 degs. 42' East steering S.W. 1200 2 Freighters 1 of 2,000 tons 037 degs. 17' North 024 degs. 09' East steering south. Report just received.

(MJC (Med. Spare)281650A to C. in C. Levant).

Alexandria movements.

27th. Arrivals PHOEBE, HURSLEY, ALDENHAM, FAULKNER, BELVOIR, BEAUFORT. WOLBOROUGH, SOUTHERN MAID, SOIKA.

Departure AURORA, PATHFINDER, EXMOOR, BLENCATHRA, M.T.B. 309, GRIBB B.Y.M.S. 190, 75.

(R.A. Alexandria 280751 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant).

SUTLEJ.

Left 27th.
(S.O.(I) Beirut 280912C).

Fighter direction ships.

U.S. 1039. N.A.F. 491 28th Oct.
As a result of a meeting at A.F.H.Q. at which C. in C. Med. Comnavaw, Med. A.C. and N.A.A.F. were represented on the subject of Fighter Direction in Combined Operations, the following proposals are forwarded as important requirements.

(a) Although it is possible to control fighters from H.Q. ships it is recommended that the best results will only be obtained by equipping and employing separate special fighter direction

/ships, ...

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Fighter direction ships. (Contd.).

ships, independent freedom of movement, radio lines clear of H.Q. ship and necessary accommodation for plots and fighter direction personnel.

(b) Each fighter direction ship to be fitted out with necessary Radar equipment for controlling day and night fighters, including:-

(i) A set capable of accurate height finding.

(ii) The best long range warning set available.

(111) Sets having P.P.I. displays.

(c) As a temporary measure, a combination of both Naval and Air Force fighter direction personnel is necessary in each ship, to achieve the best control of day and night fighters, both land based and carrier-borne. This personnel to be permanent part of ship's complement.

(d) It may also be a requirement for sector commander and S.O.F.R. to be embarked in and operate from the fighter direction ship and accommodation should be allowed accordingly.

(e) Technical.

Experience in "Avalanche" with existing fighter direction ships and C.C.I. sets in L.S.T. confirm that ships equipped as recommended in para.1. are an urgent requirement for future combined operations. Provision should be made for other ships or craft such as L.S.T's. to be equipped with Radar suitable for control of fighters to supplement these special fighter direction ships.

(Algiers 280915A to Etoussa).

R.A.F. M.E. A.344 Oct. 28th 0917Z.
Daily 26/27. 1 enemy aircraft dropped bombs on
Opsum 183. Portolago Bay, Leros.
26/27. 27th October. 4 U.S. Mitchells B. 25 6 Beaufighters
despatched to attack Antimachia L.G. Kos and on
anti shipping R/C. Kos- Kalinos Area. 3 Beaufighters returned
early. Remainder attacked Antimachia. No shipping seen in area.
2 anti-shipping R/C. (?made) by 3 Baltimores A.30 South Eastern
Aegean and off Crete. 2 merchant vessels 4000 and 2000 tons, 7
caiques seen in Stampalia Harbour. 2 Baltimores A.30 attacked
2000 ton vessel bombs over shooting among A.A. positions on shore.
1 Baltimore A.30 attacked 80 ton caique. Bombs straddling vessel
and hitting jetty, caique also machine-gunned. Other 3 Baltimores
A.30 made no sightings off Crete and bombed barracks on Gavdos Is-
land. 5 attacks by total 35 enemy aircraft on Leros, Samos and
Kastelorizo. 1 caique destroyed at Samos, other damage reported
slight. 1 enemy aircraft destroyed by A/A fire at Kastelorizo.
18 Beaufighters fighter cover for naval units. 4 Beaufighters
prevented 15 Ju.88's from attacking and damaged 3 Ju.88's. 2
Beaufighters damaged a single Ju.88 in vicinity of same ships. 1
Beaufighter crashed and burned out on take off. Crew safe.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 280937Z).

Repatriation ship. Ship DJENNE P.C. and S. at 0700/28th was 042 degs.
30' 004 degs. 50' 061 degs. 16 knots. Not to be
molested.
(Capt.(S) 8th, 280945Z to 8th S/M F.(R) C. in C.
Med.).

S/M. zones. The eastern limit of zone S.U. and the western
limit of zone S.T. is to be 006 degs. 10' E. as

/from...

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S/M from 0800/29th. My 051500 refers.
zones. (Capt.(S) 8, 280952A to 8th S/M F. C. in C. Med.,
(Contd.). F.O.C. Gib., Capt.(S) 10, PERLE).

RAIDER, Patrol tonight 28th/29th former Mulo Island
QUEENBOROUGH. coastwise northward to Port Tajer. Ships to pass
West of Vis both H.W. Codeword "Oceania"
Priority normal. P.C. and S 0530A/29th. 041 degs.
58' 016 degs. 30' 185 degs. 25 knots.
(2) Patrol 27th/28th. nothing met Kotor to Durazzo. Bar Roads
examined by star shell. Nothing found.
(Capt.(D) 4th, 281055A to F.O.T.A. (R) 4th D.F., N.L.O.8th,
C. in C. Med. Sha No. 160, Number 1 M.O.R.O.286 Wing C.F.W.).

Use of Italian A/C. Italian A/C CAN/T (?675) and R.S.14 will be used
by 242 Group in Adriatic and Heel of Italy for
A/S and convoy escort and air sea rescue
operations.
(C. in C. Med. 281109 to Med. and Levant Station,
(?257)B.,(R) M.A.C., N.A.C.A.F.).

SOMERSETSHIRE Sailed for Philippeville.
(V.A. Malta, 281120A).

RICHELIEU Intend sailing French Battleship RICHELIEU to
and escorts. Algiers at 300800A escorted by TETCOTT and
FANTASQUE and TERRIBLE.
(2) Through position 109, 122, 120.
(3) S. of A. 23 knots.
(4) Codeword "Bawcroft". (5) E.T.A. Algiers 301700A.
(6) RICHELIEU to carry out A/A exercises enroute.
(Com.N.O.B. Oran 281129, 281713A to Admty. F.O.C. Gib., C. in C.
Med., (R) Naval France, Comnavnav, Com. Algeria).

Enemy ship N.E. Corsica. P.C. and S. of enemy 2 escort vessels, 1 tug,
43.48 N. 7.27 E. 050 degs. 5 knots based on a
fix within half an hour of 1142.
(A/C CJB/N 281142A to A.H.Q. Malta.).

ROODE ZEE. Your 201850. Request name of tow proposed for
ROODE ZEE observing that arrangements have been
made vide A.M. 191826 for towage home of merchant
vessels which can be accepted for repair in U.K.
(2) A.M. 192149 for EMPIRE HUDSON read HUDSON throughout. Ref.
para.3. EMPIRE JOHN will not sail in K.M.S. 31 as she is delayed
in U.K. with repairs.
(D. of S.T. 281234A to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.i/c Gib.).

Use of Italian Warships. Following from Admiral Kelly.
(1) Both Marshall and General (2 corrupt groups)
Gunduzd anxious to know if any possibility of
replacing missing destroyers and S/M by Italian
ships. Such a solution would be welcome to General
Staff.
(B.N.A. Ankara 281235C to Admty. etc.).
/ULTIMATUM...

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ULTIMATUM (P.34) ULTIMATUM leaves patrol proceeds diving by day on 31st thence proceed on surface at discretion through 042 degs. 30' 005 degs. 21' at 2330/30th 041 degs. 53' 006 degs. 09' at 0700/31st 040 degs. 01' 005 degs. 16' at 0730/1st, 038 degs. 02' 003 degs. 18' at 0230/2nd to R/V escort Algiers in 037 degs. 04' 003 degs. 11' at 0930/2nd.
(Capt.(S) 8th, 281302A to 8th S.F., PERLE, (R) C. in C. Med., N.O.i/c Algiers, Capt.(S) 10th).

UNRIVALLED Approved S.1. 271756 S.10 261002 would be most welcome.
(C. in C. Levant, 281626C to C. in C. Med.S.1.
(R) Admty. S.8, S.10, V.A.M. R.A. Alexandria).

Neutral traffic lanes. Your 261550 (N.T. in W.D.) (not to N.M.C.S.).
Dissemination of information.
(N.S.H.Q. 281655Z to Admty.).

Aegean Situation. 28th October.
Joint Army R.A.F. Int. appreciation 24 hours to 0900Z/28.
(1) Up to 0730Z hours 28 no change Leros.
(2) Our naval forces report no contact with enemy in operational area night 27/28 October.
(3) Photographic R/C. and visual sighting 27. Details. (No material change).
(6) Leros reports 10 bomber sorties on harbour 27th. Now reported that bomber sorties 26th on Leros totalled some 120 objective mainly gun positions. Kastelorizo reports attacks by 8 Ju.87 and 4 Me. 109 on 27.
(7) Appreciate in spite no change in composition enemys surface forces Kos/Kalymno area his intentions remain unchanged. Number of vessels 500 tons (probably naval auxiliaries) sighted yesterday in Cydades area suggests enemy meantime consolidating his position in central Aegean. No indication yet destination four ships loading in Piraeus but as no supply ship has reached Rhodes since 23rd Sept. possible that one or more of above vessels may be destined for Rhodes. An attempt to run supply ship to Rhodes might be made simultaneously with assault on Leros and/or Samos.
(C. in C. M.E. No T.O.O.).

28th October.
Cositrep 38. (1) Int. (A) Samos reported 26th Oct. that ground R/C revealed no Germans Farmake, Kipso, Archi and Essek Islands.
(B) Ph. R. 27th October showed.
(1) No material change Kos/Kalymno area.
(11) Concentration of small craft Piraeus - Naxos area. Comment. Probably connected with mopping up of Italians.
(111) Melos. 3 F-boats present.
(1V) Piraeus continued activity alongside shipping including troopship SAVONA.
(2) Ops. Aegean. (A) 11 enemy bombing sorties on 27th Oct.
(B) 49 more survivors from ECLIPSE and Kos arrived Kastelorizo via Turkey.

/ (C) Approx....

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Mediterranean.

Aegean (C) Approx. 250 more civilians from Kastelorizo
situation. evacuated to Cyprus. (4) Yugoslavia.
(Contd.). (5) Naval. Aegean.
26th Oct. M.L.579 destroyed by bombing Leros, 3
killed 2 wounded 12 survivors.
Night 26/27. ZOEA completed discharged Leros and sailed for
Haifa.
Night 27/28 Oct. No news enemy contact.
28th Oct. AURORA, DULVERTON, PENN and MIAOULES returning to
Alexandria. PATHFINDER, EXMOOR and BLENCATHRA lying up in Tur-
kish waters. HURWORTH survivors report from reliable information
that caiques laid mines in 36.56 N. 27.07 E. a.m. 22 Oct. This
is exact position where HURWORTH and ADRIAS mined 2200 hrs. 22.
(C. in C.M.E. 281720C).

SEBASTIAN ?SEBASTIAN sailed from Valencia 1600 today 28th.
(Valencia No T.C.O. to C. in C. Med., F.O.C.Gib.).

Fleet Your 231651C October.
tenders. (a) Fleet tenders Nos. 11, 12, 13 U.S. lease-
lend to Britain manned Greeks; Nos. 11, and 13
left Freetown 20th Oct. No.12 at Recife 16th.
(b) Fleet tenders Nos. 15, 24 and 28. U.S. lease-lend direct
to Greek Navy sailed from Key West 16th.
(D.S.V.P. (Q.A.M. 594) and to M. 281803A to C. in C. Levant,
(R) B.A.D.).

V.N.7. Sailing telegram.
Intend sailing at 1630/30th as follows for
Naples: 16 ships, for Messina: one ship.
(3) Route. E.T.A. Naples boom 0600/1st.
(6) "Soldier" 241819 priority normal. (7) A.
(8) BLACKMORE, QUANTOCK, BROCKLESBY.
(N.O.i/c Augusta, 281827A, 291500).

Use of Re proposals in Moscow telegram Number 64 space
Italian and number 97 space.
Warships. If Italian warships are ordered to be handed over
extensive sabotage to be expected and we shall
lose the use of crews of S/Ms, destroyers and
cruisers now working in our interest even if we
do not lose the ships themselves. Much of docking and repair
facilities will go if Italians become unco-operative. The
proposals reverse the policy of co-belligerency on which we are
working.
(2) So far as I am aware the question of para. one (A) of the
long armistice terms and the alternative to the naval agreement
are still not settled, and even our right to hand over the
ships appears open to question.
(C. in C. Med. 281829A to Admty.).

M.K.F.29 Following left in M.K.F.29. 4 ships, details.
U.S. TORBURG. No passengers or cargo.
(D.S.T.O. Malta, 281830).

/WARSPITE...

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Mediterranean - Contd.

WARSPITE. Request you sail WARSPITE with tugs ORIANA, NIMBLE, RESTIVE and JAUNTY, escorted by CALPE (S.O.), BRECON, BLANKNEY and MENDIP a.m./2nd Nov. for Gibraltar.
(C. in C. Med., 281834A to V.A. Malta, (R) Admty., F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med., Com. Algiers, WARSPITE, N.A.C.A.F.)

Naples movements. 28th arrivals H.S. SEMINOLE, EGGESFORD, LEDBURY, LAUDERDALE, M.L.462. Departures LOOKOUT, BLANKNEY, NIBLACK, SALVEDA, L.S.T.314. Arrived and departed PLUNKETT, WOOLSEY, LUDLOW, EDISON, BERNADOU, COLE, JONES, BARNETT, CHARLES CARROL, DAVIS, SS. ORONTES, JOSEPH T. DICKMAN, THOMAS JEFFERSON, JAMES O'HARA, LYON, PRESIDENT FUNSTON, STANTON.
(N.O.I.C. Naples, 281859A)

Operation "Despondency" SHAKESPEARE, UNSPARING. 1. P.211 (SHAKESPEARE) free to patrol on surface at C.O.'s discretion in North Aegean to create maximum "Despondency" over wide area before dusk 30th when she is to relieve P.239 (SURF) east of Mykoni Channel. Suggest Kupho - Lemnos - Mityleni caique traffic worthwhile.
2. Cancel para. (1) and (3) of my 271207. P.55 (UNSPARING) is to remain between Amorgos and Anaphi.
(Capt. (S)1, 281908C to UNSPARING, SHAKESPEARE, (R) 1st S.F., C. in C. Levant.)

Cdre."D". Request B message. Broad pendant of Cdre. "D" was struck in WOOLWICH at sunset 30th from which time his duties were taken over by Captain "F" in WOOLWICH. Latter appointment has been temporarily assumed by Captain J. Terry R.N.
(C. in C. Levant, 281953C to C. in C. Med.,(R) Admty.)

U.S. movements. Arrivals U.S.S. TRIPPE, SYMBOL, Y.M.S.21, L.S.T. 381; Departures U.S.S. BOISE, NICHOLSON, RHIND.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 282015.)

Palestinian Ports movements. Arrival 28th SUTLEJ. Departures SUTLEJ. It. S/M MENOTTI.
(N.O.I.C. P.P., 282034C.)

Italian Admiral Leros. It has been reported to me that Italian Admiral Mascherpo, Italian G.O.C. and Italian S.N.O. at Leros is of low morale. Spends most of his time in a tunnel in the rocks, exhibiting every symptom of anxiety neurosis and is not fitted to command the Italian forces. (2) Please ask Italian Min. of Marine to appoint a more determined officer in his place. Is it possible that such a man exists in the battleships in the Ionian Sea. I can arrange transport to Leros.
(C. in C. Levant, 282042C to F.O.L.I. (R) C. in C. Med., Admty)

/Levant ...

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Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Levant
Situation
Report
No. 93.

AURORA, PATHFINDER, EXMOOR, BLENCATHRA shadowed by enemy aircraft until dark last night despite a wide detour to the East of Rhodes. Formation of 15 Ju.88s driven off by our fighters. Destroyers entered Aegean through Rhodes Channel and proceeded to lie up. AURORA detached to south-east of Rhodes after dark.

2. DULVERTON, PENN, MIAOULES left Turkish waters last night to carry out anti-shipping sweep west of Levitha without incident made R/V with AURORA south of Scarpanto Strait and returned Alexandria.

3. AURORA with one "Fleet", two "Hunts" left again for Aegean this evening.

4. Three Italian submarines on passage to Leros with stores one returning.

(C. in C. Levant, 282044C.)

MENOTTI.

Following is a repetition my 281816. Italian S/M MENOTTI passes position 032° 59' N. 034° 34' E. at 2230C/28th thence through 034° 26' N. 027° 10' E. and Kaso Straits to arrive Portolago at dusk 2nd Nov. Speed 8 knots, on the surface until 0530/31st. (Ends).

(N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports, 282054C to 1st S/F, ZOEAL, CORRIDONI, ATROPO.)

PERLE.

PERLE leaves patrol through 042° 02' 006° 32' at 2100/28th thence by route as in my 251600 to arrive Algiers 30th. PERLE's 281940 acknowledged. (Capt. (S) 8, 282100A to 8th S.F., (R) C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Algiers, PERLE.)

C. in C. Med.
Situation
Report No.
216.

(1) U.S. Cruiser BROOKLYN escorted by U.S. Destroyers BENSON and NIBLACK proceeded on 27th to carry out bombardment commencing at 1300 in Minturno area (041° 15' N. 013° 45' E.) Result not yet received.

(2) Destroyer patrol in 06 (?Adriatic) has been maintained each night 26th to 28th but nothing has been sighted.

(3) 16 ground mines in all have been swept in approaches to Brindisi and port was reopened on 27th.

(4) UNSEEN reports sinking one F. lighter by torpedo in 043° 54' N. 008° 08' E. at 1016/22nd.

(C. in C. Med., 282201A, 282230A.)

Algeria
movements.

Arrivals NELSON, RODNEY, TROUBRIDGE, TYRIAN, TUMULT, PIORUN, OFFA, TARTAR, UNSEEN (P.51).
Departure UPS'TART.
(Com. Algeria, 282203.)

/Bari ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Bari
movements.

Arrivals QUILLIAM, QUAIL. Departures QUEEN-
BOROUGH, RAIDER, M.T.Bs. 242, 97.
(N.O.I.C. Bari, 282301.)

PASTEUR.

Your 271215A. Following is rep. of my 280200A
to Commorseafron and B.A.D. (Begins) PASTEUR
should be sailed from Casablanca to New York.
(Ends).
(D. of S.T., 282305A to P.S.T.O. Med., (R)
C.M.S.F.F.)

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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

B.A.52. Departure TAY, NIGELLA with B.A.52.
(S.O.I. Bombay 280301Z to Admty.)

H.Q. ships My 220500. Probable Navy will employ EL HIND this
for personnel service.
etc. (P.S.T.O.I. 280318Z to D.S.T.O. (R) A.P.S.T.O.I.)

LURLINE. Arrivals CANTON, NAPIER, NEPAL escorting LURLINE.
(S.O. (I) Bombay 280402Z to Admty., C. in C.E.F.
(S.E.A.C.) R.O.C., R.I.N., A.C.N.B.)

FANEROMENI Reference my 270620. Now established Greek Ship
torpedoed FANEROMENI torpedoed and sunk in approx. position
and sunk 15° 35' S. 41° 10' E. at 0625/23.
23rd Oct. (C. in C.E.F. 280415Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.S.A.,
F.O.E.A.)
One ship only sunk off Mozambique namely Greek
Ship FANEROMENI your 270620 October refers. Ship
was originally reported by C.S.A. Mozambique as
ship STAVRAKIS and the position given was inland as no such ship
was known, C.S.A. Mozambique was told to check and repeat and the
position was explained in my 251235 which stated that ship was
probably FANEROMENI this has now been confirmed by? C.S.A.
Mozambique and reported in my 270531.
(F.O.E.Af. 280559 to C. in C.E.F. (R) C. in C.S.A., Admty.)

Unknown N.O.I.C.W. Australia's 270859 passed to you, no
Ship information here. Possibly Blockade Runner from
sighted by Far East.
A/C. (C. in C.E.F. 280526Z to Admty., C. in C.S.A.)

India A.300 28th Oct. Daily Opsum No.592. 2 Catalinas
Air Report. off Addu Atoll search survivors torpedoed 3 M/V.
15 Survivors located and picked up.
(A.H.Q. India 280610Z to Air. Min.)

ERITREA. Interrogation of officers and men of Italian
Sloop ERITREA has been completed and consider no
further information of value will be obtained.
(2) Consider it preferable this ship should join
Italian Fleet in Mediterranean. If retained in Eastern Fleet
proposals will be made for her employment but these will include
manning by British Crew.
(C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) 280631Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.,
C. in C. Levant.) Concur C. in C. Med. 301851A.

TJITJALENGKA. Request disposal instructions for Ship on arrival
Bombay. Commodore Durban 211437 (N.T. in W.R.)
refers.
(A.P.S.T.O.I. Bombay 281015Z to D.S.T.

/Rescue...

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East Indies. - Contd.

Rescue Tugs. Ocean going Rescue Tugs. My 240231 refers.
(2) To provide for the salvage of landing ships and craft becoming stranded particularly in the tidal waters in the area of future combined operations it is considered that at least two tugs will be required for each S.N.O.L.
(3) In addition to their salvage work these tugs should be fitted for fighting fires on board assault ships and craft.
(4) Request that four suitable tugs fitted with fire fighting appliances may be allocated to Eastern Fleet for these duties, in addition to the seven repeat seven Rescue Tugs already allocated
(5) Only BELL and INTEGRITY are yet available from station duties. Estimated dates of arrival of AIMWELL from U.K. ORIANA and WEAZEL from Mediterranean and of PATROCLUS and ATHLETE from U.S.A. are not yet known.
(C. in C.E.F. 281115Z to Admty. (R) S.O. Force C, S.O. Force G, C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.))

Supply of aviation spirit Bombay. (1) My 010939, 221116, A.M. 140112 and Com. R.I.N's 251131 refer.
(2) It is intended to base one escort carrier of Bombay for A.S. operations in Arabian Sea while U-Boats remain active in that area.
(3) It is clear that arrangements for supply of aviation spirit to this carrier for shore stocks at Bombay are quite inadequate. Measures to improve this supply are unlikely to be effective for some months.
(4) As an interim measure request that a small spirit tanker of up to 1300 tons may be allocated as base tanker at Bombay. She will be replenished by fuel tankers from Abadan.
(5) Until her arrival it may be necessary to retain EASEDALE at Bombay but this is very wasteful of tonnage.
(6) OLCADES at present stationery tanker at Bombay is incapable if stowing aviation spirit.
(C. in C. E.F. 281134Z to Admty. (R) F.O.C.R.I.N. Com. R.I.N. C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.))

S.N.O.L. Ships. Ships mentioned in your 261758 are required as substitute for S.N.O.L. Ships after L.S.1 have left D day.
(2) Possible use of L.C.I (L) or L.S.T. is also being investigated but owing to small numbers available it was considered preferable to use small merchant ships if suitable vessels could be found.
(C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.) 281200Z to Admty. (R) P.S.T.O.Bombay.)

R.N. and C.C.O. Authorities established Bombay and routing of signals. Request 2 letters D.G. may be allocated to combined operations C.C.O. Bombay, and that following may be promulgated by a Basegram "A" message (begins):- following R.N. and/or combined operation authorities are now established in or near Bombay.
(A) Office S.O. Force "G" normally in H.M.S. BULOLO..
(B) SALSETTE (Combined Operations Depot).
(C) BRAGANZA. (R.N. personnel depot) S.O. Assault ships and craft (I) whose organisation includes C.O.S.M.O. (D) S.O.A.S.C. India whose organisation includes C.O.S.M.O. (E) C.T.C. at M.A.D.H. (15 miles N. of Bombay).

/(F)...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

R.N. and
C.C.O.
Authorities
established
Bombay
and routing
signals.
(Contd.)

(F) Combined signal centre (of C.T.C.) at Bandra
(7 miles North of Bombay). (G) Naval Combined
communications headquarters 33 Corps.
(5) C. in C.E.F. 241225 Sept. is cancelled. (Ends)
(C. in C.E.F., S.E.A.C. 281324Z to Admty., (R)
Cmdre. R.I.N., S.O. Force "G" F.O.C.R.I.N.)
As amended 071112Z Nov. and 100004Z/Nov.

Loss of
STORVIKEN,
TAHSINIA.

Your 141141. Information here suggests that:-
(A) Loss of STORVIKEN may be attributable to her
disobedience of instructions to pass outside SOCOTRA
(B) TAHSINIA might not have been lost had her
diversion not taken some 20 hours to effect.
Request you will report.
(A.C.N.S. (U.T.) 281437A to C. in C.E.F.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

QUEEN MARY
(A.T.73).

Departed Ambrose 2327Z/27th S. of A. 26.5 knots
E.T.A. Clyde Boom 0800Z/2nd Nov.
(RD. New York, 280024Z to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R)

EMPRESS OF
SCOTLAND.

(1) EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND. (2) 281630Z Cape Henry.
(3) Passing F. 291430Z speed 19.75.
(4) "Chop" 24 W. to F.O.C. Gibraltar 031100Z.
Radio shift 20 W. 031930Z E.T.A. off Casablanca
050430Z.
(5) Route). Codeword "Effective" associated call sign 117.
Port Director Norfolk originated this as 272041.
(Radio Washington, 280030Z)

U.S. A/C.
Squadron
Movement.

This is Comairlant 272145. When ready on or
about Nov. 1 direct 1 P.B.4Y Squadron Fairwing 7
proceed N.A.S. Port Lyautey. Upon arrival
Squadron detached Atlantic Fleet and directed
report to Com. 8th Fleet for duty in Fleet Air
Wing 15. Utilize MATAGORDA as necessary assist
in movement excess material, personnel and baggage of Squadron
designated. Advise when services MATAGORDA connection this
transfer no longer required. Transfer Administration Squadron
to C.F.A.W. 15. C. in C. Lant 270212 not to all addressees.
Comfairwing 7 has for Action.
(Comnavau, 280036 to Admty.)

From Comfairwing 7 as 281333. Action Combomron 111.
"On or about Nov. 1st and when directed, Bomron 111 proceed to
N.A.S. Port Lyautey. Report to Com. 8th Fleet for duty in
Fleet Air Wing 15 upon arrival and Detached Atlantic Fleet.
When ready, Units of Bomron 111 in Greenland and Iceland proceed
Port Lyautey instead of St. Eval via Prestwick for briefing.
(Comnavau, 281939)

Convoy
G.U.S.17.

New York Section 8 ships arrived last in
Ambrose 272053Z Chahnpeake section 26 ships arrived
last 261328Z. Delaware Section 3 ships arrived
last 270259Z.
(P.D.New York, 280148 to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)

Task Unit
03.1.9.

Ref. My 271500. Task Unit 03.1.9 returned to
Kingston (Jamaica) 280300Q because of
stress of weather.
(N.O.I.C.Kingston, 280235R to (U.S.) Cdr.10th.
U.S.Fleet C. & R. (U.S.) Gulf Sea Frontier, (R)
(U.S.) Cdr. Caribbean Sea Frontier, (U.S.) N.O.B.
Guantanamo, N.S.H.Q. Admty.) As amended
280720R.

FENNEL.

At 0810Z P.C. and S. 056 degs. 29' N. 033 degs.
18' W. 090 degs. 13.5. Weather report.
(FENNEL, 280914Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) C. in C.
W.A., F.O.N.F., C.2, E.G.5)

War Diary.

28.10.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

T.A.69. Arrived New York 28 1129Z Oct.
(QUEEN (P.D. New York, 281200 to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)
ELIZABETH)

DOMETT. My 271040 DOMETT sailed 1350Z/27th.
(F.O.N.F. 281227Z to C. in C. W.A.)

H.M.S. Anticipate FRIENDSHIP will be ready to depart for
FRIENDSHIP. Bermuda 5th Nov.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 281259Z to S.B.N.O.W.At.)

U.S.S/M (Cominch, 281328Z)
Estimate.

P.554. My 152024 P.554 now sailing for New London 28 Oct.
Expected to sail for Argentina about 9th Nov.
(B.A.M.R. 281532 to F.O.N.F. (R) Admty. F.O.S.,
N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A.)

GEORGES British Salvage Tug 031 degs. 43' N. 039 degs.
LEYGUES, 08' W. about 281330Z course 093 degs.
information. (Commav, 281557Z to GEORGES LEYGUES, Admty.
F.O. Gibraltar, S.B.N.O. Azores.)

Information In view of your 261550 and 262043 can it be
for assumed that your 251910 refers to Warships
S.B.N.O. only. Suggest clarification.
Azores. (B.A.D. 281631Z to Admty.)

SOUTHERN U.S. SOUTHERN hit Deer Island damaged starboard
damaged. propeller. Now anchored Banarés Roads request
dock and survey of stern and propeller tug to
assist ship from Banarés Roads to Dock.
Ship's anchorage (4 corrupt groups) from Deer
Island Light 3 cables.
(DUFF, 281735Z to Com. 1st Naval District Boston (?B.N.L.O.)
Boston.)

ARETHUSA. My 282208 May.
Completion date of ARETHUSA confirmed as 1st
Dec. ex trials.
(B.A.M.R. 281748Z to Admty.)

Fleet Greek A.P.C.'s 67, 73 and 75 (Fleet Tenders 24,
Tenders 15, and 28) arrived Trinidad in convoy 27th Oct.
taken over Your 231651 refers.
by Greeks. (2) Greek manned F.T.11 arrived Freetown 14th
Oct. and F.T.12 arrived Recife 16th Oct. expected
to sail for Freetown shortly.
(B.A.D. 281755Z to C. in C. Levant, (R) Admty.
F.O.C.W.Af. G. in C. Med. F.O.Gib.)

War Diary.28.10.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

4th E.G. Your 101009Z.
Foyer Foxer equipment in 4th Escort Group on sailing
Equipment. as follows:
(1) No ships fitted winches.
(2) All fitted davits except BYARD and BENTINCK.
(3) BAZELY, DRURY, BLACKWOOD minus port paravane.
(4) BERRY, BURGESS minus both paravanes.
(5) BYARD, BENTINCK nothing.
(Capt. (D) Argentia, 281837Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) Capt. (D) Belfast, Admiralty, F.O.N.F.)

VANQUISHER, My 261301. VANQUISHER sailed 1800Z/28th to
S.C.145. overtake S.C.145. Upon arrival U.K. it will be
necessary for ship to be taken in hand for
generator and feed-tank defects.
(F.O.N.F. 281842Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) C. in C.
C.N.A., N.S.H.Q., Admty. Cdr. (D), W.A. Capt.
(D) Argentia, FAME.)

WILLOWHERB. Sailed WILLOWHERB 1900Z/28th for Bermuda E.T.A.
1200Z/31st speed route and W/T as in my 261904.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 281910 to S.B.N.O. W.At.)

DUFF. Cancel my 271836*.
(C.T.G. 02.1, 281956Z to C.T.F. 24)
* Re H.M.S. DUFF.

SEAWOLF, Philadelphia. Sailed 28th New London.
P.554. (N.S.H.Q. 282005Z to Admty)

U.S.A.T. 28th 1500 U.S.A.T. BRAZIL New York 3rd Nov.
(R.O.Cristobal, 282015 to Admty.)

SEAWOLF. Cancel my 191918 destination of SEAWOLF now
changed to Bermuda.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 282018 to (U.S.) C.E.S.F.,
CORNWALLIS., (R) F.O.S. Admty. Capt. (S) 7.,
Cominch, N.S.H.Q., S.B.N.O. W.At. Area.,
Commandant 1st Nav. Dis Boston., B.A.D. (U.S.) Cdr.
Subs. Atlantic.)

A.M. 260055 N.S.H.Q. 271912 (N.T. in W.R.) being passed to
Cdr. East Sea Front. request you sail SEAWOLF to Bermuda
accordingly B.A.M.R. Washington's 181806 passed you refers.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 282031 to C.E.S.F.)

VAGRANT. Estimate depart New Orleans 0700/29th. towing
barge only Key West Advance 7 E.T.A. Key west
0600 Nov. 2nd. Depart noon 2nd Nov. advance
11 E.T.A. Bermuda noon 6th Nov. thence Gib.

arriving /...

28.10.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

- VAGRANT. arriving 18th Nov. Route to Key West coastwise beyond Key West accordance with C. in C. U.S. Fleet 252109. (VAGRANT, 282040 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Cdr. Gulf Sea Frontier, N.O.B. Bermuda (R) B.A.D. C. in C. Lant, Admty. C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C.Gib.)
- Convoy O.N.206. 47 ships arrived New York. First arrival 261706Z. Last arrival 272317Z. MORTON M. MCCARVER put in DelCapes 27th October F.J. LUCKENBACH and JAMES LONGSTREET ran aground Jersey Coast. All ships accounted for. (P.D.New York, 282100 to Com. 10th Fleet.)
- Sub.Attack and sighting Summary. Para. A. BLOCK ISLAND aircraft report sinking of one U-Boat and probably sinking another area 48.53 N. 33.30 W. on 28th. Navy plane attacked sub. course 180 06.30 S. 23.45 W. 271129. All times Z. Para. D. K.42 has four mad (made?) contacts 31.47 N. 78.37 W. 281910. (Cominch, 282130Z to Admty.)
- Stragglers report No.24. 2 arrived Halifax from O.N.206, S.O.V.A.C. 24th engine defects EGBERT BENSON (U.S.) 26th lost propeller. 2 arrived St. Johns, N.F. from H.X. 262. KOFRESI (U.S.) 25th engine trouble Pacific shipper 26th unable to maintain convoy speed. 1 arrived Sydney from S.O.145. U.S.S. L.S.T. 264 27th engine defects. (N.S.H.Q. 282155Z to Admty.)
- BENTINCK, H.X.263. BENTINCK delayed due to Radar defects. Will be sailed to overtake. BYARD acting (?S.O). (?F.O.N.F. 282155Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) C. in C. C.N.A., Admty. Cdre. (D) W.A., N.S.H.Q., Capt. (D) Argentia, Ships escorting convoy H.X.263, E.G.4, GREMADIER.)
- CAGNI. Cominch agrees with Interim employment of Italian CAGNI as stated in your 261857. (B.A.D. 282211Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A. C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, C. in C. E.F.)
- Convoy C.U.6. Sailing telegram. (2) 29/1900Z. (3) Passing positions K.31 0300Z. Knots 14. (4) "Chop" 40 N. 6th Nov. 0600Z. (5) (Route). (6) C.T.G.21.7. U.S.S. SCOTT, BULL, BURKE, WEBER, SCHMITT, FRAMENT. (7) 19 ships. TICONDEROGA and CANYON CREEK escort oilers trough method. (C.A.F.A.C. 282234, 282243, 282248, 290314Z to Admty.)U.S./...

28.10.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

U.S. Naval
Vessels,
loss.

Proposal in para. 3 of your 201811 which is broadly the same as Admiralty policy is concurred in. After approval by C.C.S. British Naval Commanders-in-Chief will be so informed.

(2) Whilst each case is considered individually following are not normally announced by us:

- (a) Date, place and cause of loss.
- (b) Loss from Marine Risk.
- (c) Loss of Light Coastal Force craft or miscellaneous Minor War Vessels.
- (d) Loss of ships in harbour due to enemy air attack.
(V.C.N.S. 282310A to B.A.D.)

28.10.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial Navy Catalina attacked 2 southbound Jap Destroyers
No. 646 Oct. off Southeast New Ireland early hours scoring near
27th. miss on one.
3. Dumps around Gasmata and small vessel nearby
effectively bombed and strafed mid morning by
four Bostons. Ship damaged by very near misses.
4. Two Beaufighters conducting Coastal sweep blew up small launch
off Ubili by strafing midday. Also sighted surfaced submarine?
80 miles southeast of Gasmata.
8. Allied troops landed Treasury Island (20 miles southwest
Shortland Island) night 26th. Preliminary report indicates
mortar fire encountered after amphibious craft beached causing
slight damage and casualties. Such fire subsequently silenced.
9. Patrol Liberator attacked 3 small freighters Green Island (40
miles northwest Buka) setting 2 on fire and damaging third
morning 26th. R/C next day observed 5 Sampans inside Green
Island Lagoon.
10. Photos 26th show 2 small freighters, 1 oiler, 1 subchaser,
39 small craft and barges in Bun Tonolei Shortland Anchorages
also 11 floatplanes at Faisi. 5 small freighters, 11 barges
Buka passage, besides 2 fighters, 5 medium, 4 dive bombers on
aerodrome.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 280645Z.)

Movements. Departed Townsville (?27th) U.S. Seaplane Tender
HERON for Cairns.
(A.C.N.B. 281152Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 281414A, 281415A.)

U-Boats Attacked.

Sub. attack Para. A. U.S. transit A/C attacked U-Boat with bombs
& sighting at 1160/27th in 06° 30' S. 23° 45' W. course 180°
summary for A/C L/269 sighted U-Boat at 1033/26th in 62° 00' N.
24 hours to 17° 05' W. A/C reported U-Boat at 1150/27th.
0900Z/28th. Para. B. HASTINGS attacked suspected U-Boat contact
at 0710/27th in 36° 34' N. 17° 46' W. A/C A/10
machine gunned U-Boat at 1548/26th in 50° 51' N.
40° 56' W. A/C sights possible U-Boat wake and
swirl at 0946/27th in 41° 03' N. 15° 15' W. Ref. A.M. 271031Z
para. A. The sighting by A/C at 1105/26th has now been reported
as an attack.
(D.D.I.C. 281044A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

915

29.10.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.R.

1. C.S.1 in LONDON is returning to Scapa at 18 knots, and AUGUSTA embarked her aircraft today at Akureyri and sailed from there at 2016A for Scapa.

Home
Fleet.

2. V.A. 2 in ANSON, with FORMIDABLE, JAMAICA and 6 destroyers left Scapa at 1304A for Akureyri; and C.S.10 in BELFAST with NORFOLK and KENT, left Scapa at 0611A for Seidisfiord.

U-Boat
Sunk.

3. At 0614Z VIDETTE in Escort Group B.7 supporting convoy O.N.208 in 55 degs. 20' N. 32 degs. 10' W. sighted a U-Boat lying stopped about 25 miles ahead of the Convoy: and, after two Hedgehog attacks by SUNFLOWER and a depth-charge attack by DUNCAN at 0956Z, a large amount of wreckage and human remains came to the surface.

North Atlantic.

SS.
SEBASTIAN.

4. TYNEDALE this morning intercepted the Spanish SS. SEBASTIAN which is believed to be trading in German interest. The ship was taken under armed guard to Gibraltar for examination. (arrived 0400/31).

Mediterranean.

"Avalanche".

5. Coastal forces operated from Maddalena and Bastia last night, north of Elba and in the Civita Vecchia area, but sighted nothing.

6. NELSON and RODNEY, escorted by 6 destroyers, left Algiers today for the U.K.

War Diary.

29.10.1943.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

7. ULTOR reports sinking a 3500 ton passenger ship off Rapallo on 19th October.

SICKLE.

8. At 0300 today SICKLE, who sailed from Algiers on 26th inst., was in 34.19 N. 23.52 E. (south-west of Gavdos), steering for Beirut at 7 knots with one engine out of action.

9 (a). 133 escorted U.S. Fortresses from N.W. Africa attacked Genoa today.
(b) Aircraft of the North West African Tactical Air Force on anti-shipping sweep on the east coast of Italy today made two hits with bombs on two medium sized merchant vessels at Giulianova (42.45 N. 13.58 E). The quay at Francavilla (between Ortona and Pescara) was bombed but results were not seen.

Aegean.

10 (a). PATHFINDER, EXMOOR and BLENCATHRA remained in the Gulf of Kos last night, as no suitable targets were reported.
(b) AURORA left Alexandria today to overtake and accompany ECHO, ROCKWOOD and KRAKOWIAK (see 28 October). The force was bombed when 50 miles south-east of Kastelorizo, but no damage was caused. The Beaufighters providing cover were unable to intercept the enemy on account of cloud.
(c) Only two aircraft are reported to have bombed Leros today. One Fleet destroyer and two Hunts left Alexandria at 1900 today with further troops and stores for Leros.
(d) On return from patrol in the Aegean TORBAY reports that on p.m.15 she destroyed by gunfire a 50 ton caique under German ensign in Lipso Channel. Next afternoon she torpedoed and sank a 1000 ton merchant vessel in escorted convoy in 36.59 N. 26.11 E. (off Levitha).

East Indies.

Repair
Facilities.

11. C. in C. Eastern Fleet (S.E.A.C.) sends today a report on the facilities for refitting, docking and repair of H.M. Ships, landing craft and merchant ships in India and Ceylon. The facilities available are quite inadequate to meet the requirements of the large numbers of vessels which may be expected to arrive in the Eastern Theatre in the coming year.

29.10.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

12. It is reported that a U.S. Mitchell today sank a small freighter near St. Johns Island (South China) and left another sinking. (c.f. 28 October.)

Australia and New Zealand.

13. 16 Corsairs this afternoon gunned 10 to 12 small troop laden freighters and numerous barges in Tonolei Harbour (Bougainville Straits). One ship blew up, 3 more were burned, and 4 barges were destroyed or set on fire.

14. Allied patrol craft probably sank a barge and small escort vessel last night off the coast 20 miles north of Finschhafen.

29.10.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Glenelg Boom Depot. Glenelg Boom Depot is closed as from p.m. today. Personnel drafted to Boom Depot Rosyth. M.L. SCAUP with crew are proceeding to Oban. (N.O.I.C. Lochalsh, 291355 to Admty.)

Russian procedure. Have personnel landed?
2. Do the Soviet appreciate that delay in disembarkation of personnel will also delay convoys and dislocate Fleet Movements?
(D.O.D.H., 292351A to Adm. Fisher.)

GARLAND, VISCOUNT. Allocated to West Africa. GARLAND is to sail with K.M.F.26, VISCOUNT will proceed direct from present duty.
(C. in C. W.A., 292132A.)

Movements.

BELFAST, NORFOLK, KENT. Scapa departures S.O. C.S.10 in BELFAST with NORFOLK and KENT in accordance with C. in C. H.F. 272329.
(A.C.O.S., 290611A to A.C.I.C.)

TANTIVY. No observations obtained for 5 nights. Consider my position seriously at fault. Obtained and closed bearing 240° Muckle Flugga beacon between 2130 and 0100, when D/F set burnt out. Sounding machine out of action. No contact by R.D.F. has been obtained. Believe I may have passed to north and west of Muckle Flugga. Request homing bearing. Am patrolling line 6 miles long 225° - 045° in present position on surface from 0930 until bearings received or weather clears. Visibility one thousand yards.
(TANTIVY, 290917 to F.O.S.)
Your position by D/F at 1430A within 30 miles line joining 064° N. 005° E. and 062° N. 002° E. Approx. centre 063° 01' N. 003° 30' E. Result of later transmission will be signalled.
(F.O.(S), 291541A to TANTIVY.)
Your transmissions at 1440A and 1450A give similar fix to that given in my 291542.
(F.O.(S), 291647A to TANTIVY.)

LEITH, SANDWICH, ANCHUSA. Your 271154A. Intend to sail ships at 2330/30th from Lough Foyle to comply. S.O.A. 12 knots.
(Cdre. (D) W.A., 290943 to C. in C. W.A.)

A.F.D. 16. N.O.I.C. Invergordon's 281525A. Intend sailing H.M.Ts. FLATHOLM and SCALBY WYKE to R/V RIVER ESK escorting Tug GOLIATH towing A.F.D.16 in approx. 58° 22' N. 002° 50' W. at 1700A today for onward passage of tug and tow to Lerwick.
(A.C.O.S., 291042A to N.O.I.C. Invergordon.)

/U.S.A.T. ...

919

29.10.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

U.S.A.T.
LAKENHURST. My 291148A, sailed.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast, 292116A.)

MIDDLETON. Request you will sail MIDDLETON to arrive Akureyri
a.m./31st October and remain there until further
instructions.
(C. in C. H.F., 291205 to A.C.I.C.)

BELLONA. Intend to sail BELLONA a.m./31st to Scapa, E.T.A.
Hoxa Gate 0915A/1st November.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 291228A to C. in C. H.F.)

JANUS,
HARDY. Weigh and proceed at 1700A tomorrow and proceed
direct to Scapa to arrive 0800A/31st.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 291352 to JANUS, HARDY.)

FURIOUS. Intend to operate aircraft in Irish Sea between
053° N. 055° N. on 2nd, 3rd, 4th November.
(FURIOUS, 291435 to C. in C. W.A.)

ANSON,
FORMIDABLE,
JAMAICA. Scapa departures at 1304A V.A. 2 in ANSON,
FORMIDABLE, JAMAICA with ONSLOW, HAIDA, VENUS,
STORD, CAPPS and HOBSON.
(A.C.O.S., 291535A to A.C.I.C.)

S/M
Movements. Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/30 and movements for
following 24 hours.
(F.O.(S), 291636A, 291756A, 292141.)

QUEEN
ELIZABETH. Admty. 280037. Confirmed work up completes 8th
November. Intend QUEEN ELIZABETH arrive Ports-
mouth 10th November and remain until 20th Nov.
2. Ship is to be ready to sail for Scapa p.m./20th
November for a refresher practice programme.
(C. in C. H.F., 291843 to Admty.)

Operations.

Bay Patrol. Am over enemy S/M in 46° 11' N. 06° 25' W.
U-Boat Enemy was on surface.
attacked. (A/C Duty 'S', 290435 to 19 Group.)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges. Hits
probable.
(A/C Duty 'S', 290503 to 19 Group.)

No enemy sighted in area. (corrupt group) marker 46.13 N.
06.31 W.
(A/C Duty 'P', 290635 to 19 Group.)

/Operation ...

920

29.10.1943.

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

Operation F.S. D day should be 31st October. Signal reason for sailing ?convoy at 0800A/1st November.
(2) Your 282005 refers.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 290810A to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

Operation F.S. Intend sailing Loch Ewe from Dvina Bar 0900C/1st November. Following 6 British ships EMPIRE GALLIARD (Cdre. Cox), EMPIRE KINSMAN (Vice), EMPIRE PORTIA (M/F), EMPIRE FORTUNE (M/F), BRITISH GOVERNOR (T) (M/F), PONTFIELD (T) (M/F). Under escort of American ISRAEL PUTNAM, (corrupt group), THOMAS HARTLEY, FRANCIS SCOTT KEY, CITY OF OMAHA, MOBILE CITY. One Polish TOBRUK. One Panamanian BEACONHILL (T). Total 13 ships.
Route from White Sea through (VV) 065° 19' N. 039° 30' E. (WW) 066° 01' N. 039° 30' E. (XX) 066° 24' N. 040° 53'30" E. (YY) 066° 54' N. 041° 37' E. (ZZ) 067° 43' N. 041° 14' E., thence in accordance with V.A.2's 140313. S.O.A. 10 knots.
(b) Escorts from White Sea JASON, BRITOMART, WESTCOTT, EGLANTINE. Soviet destroyers GREMYASHCHI and GROMKI as far as position A. HARRIER (S.O. M/S.F.1) and SEAGULL will remain with convoy until dark 2nd November and will then proceed to Kola Inlet.
(c) BRITISH GOVERNOR has (? about) 300/400 tons boiler fuel on board and is fitted for oiling at sea in case fuel replenishment required.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 291512A to H.F.)

Scapa departure at 1304A V.A.2 in ANSON, FORMIDABLE, JAMAICA with ONSLOW, HAIDA, VENUS, N.S. STORD, U.S.S. CAPPS and U.S.S. HOBSON.

(A.C.O.S., 291535A.)

Ref. your 290810.

Operation of collecting Captains of merchant ships for (? conference) after arrival of Cdre. and returning them to their ships over a distance of 20 miles makes it impossible to sail p.m. tide 31st October. They will accordingly have to sail on a.m. tide November (? 1st) if prevailing (? severe) conditions do not retard them further.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 292024A to S.B.N.O. North Russia, (R) C. in C. H.F.)

S/M Positions of submarines at 0800A/30th and movements
Patrols. for following 24 hours.

(A) SYRTIS on patrol off Rolysoy.

(B) VARANGIAN on patrol off N.E. end Soroy.

(C) STUBBORN on patrol off N.W. end Soroy.

(D) ULA sails Lerwick 0730/30 through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles thence to patrol vicinity 63° 35' N. 05° 00' E., diving by day when North of 62° N.

(F.O.(S), 291636A to Admty.)

Operation F.R. My P.C.S. 062° 28' N. 005° 33' W., 145°, 18 knots. E.T.A. Scapa in LONDON 0700 tomorrow.
LONDON, (C.S.1, 291800A to A.C.O.S.)
AUGUSTA. Sailed AUGUSTA for Scapa after embarking her aircraft. E.T.A. Scapa 0815A/31. F.O.(C) 1st 241715 refers.

(A.C.I.C., 292016A to A.C.O.S., C. in C. H.F.)

My 281230. Disembarking of personnel now proceeding (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 292257C.)

29.10.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

Bergen or
Trondheim.

As far as I am aware no attack by bomber command on Bergen or Trondheim has been made since outward flow of U-Boats assumed present dimensions. 2. Information is requested whether such valuable attacks have priority.
(C. in C. H.F., 291455A to Admty.)

Mining.

Dover.

Mines swept 28th October one ground mine (red) in 50° 31'57" N. 01° 11'51" E. Mines swept 27th in 1131 (1) German R-type sunk and (2) one swept and detonated. My 131052A October positions of the 2 British moored mines swept and sunk are as follows: (1) 51° 07'51" N. 01° 53'00" E. (2) 51° 10'21" N. 02° 00'13" E. (V.A. Dover, 291702A to Admty.)
Magnetic mine detonated by sweeper at 291805A in 54° 00'30" N. 0° 01'30" W. Details.
(F.O. Humber, 292255A to C. in C. Nore.)

Operation
N.L. 110.

My 291617A.
Operation N.L.110 abandoned owing to weather.
(V.A. Dover, 292349A to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

SCHEER.

Pocket battleship reported Swinemunde, October 28th. Graded C.2.
(N.A. Stockholm, 291616 to Admty.)
Comment: ADMIRAL SCHEER was seen at Swinemunde by P.R.U. on 9th October.

THRIANTHA.

(Enemy freight ship) departure October 27th for Bayonne.
(Gijon, 292022.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats
attacked
and
reported.

2 submarines attacked by U.S.S. BLOCK ISLAND at 281314Z in 048° 53' N. 033° 30' W. Rockets fired by third submarine in 047° 51' N. 032° 46' W. Submarine course 140° true. BLOCK ISLAND not informed. Evidence several submarines evening 26th position 026° W. 046° N.
(C. in C. W.A., 291628A to TRACKER, E.G.2.)
Have A.S.V. contact, probably U-Boat, in 60° N. 15° 26' W. Cloud too low to see.
(A/C MJSW9, 292315 to 18 Group.)

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29.10.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

BEGUM. Relieved by GROWLER at 0130A/29. Returning to base.
(HEATHER, 290225A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

COTSWOLD. COTSWOLD is to be sailed at first light 31st in tow of SCOTSMAN assisted by KROOMAN and proceed to Sheerness by swept channels in force and direct from 3A for able buoy to 42 buoy thence by Q.Z.S.437. Escort GUILLEMOT.
3. Rescue tug from Harwich is to take over from KROOMAN at 1400A/31 in vicinity of 41 buoy. KROOMAN is to return to Yarmouth. S.O.A. 6 knots.
(C. in C. Nore, 291039A to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth.)
Your 291039A. KENIA detailed.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 291707A to C. in C. Nore.)
COTSWOLD in tow of tugs KROOMAN and SCOTSMAN is to leave harbour at high water slack a.m. tomorrow and proceed over D.G. range, anchoring in Yarmouth Roads on completion. Vessels are to weigh and proceed escorted by GUILLEMOT in execution of C. in C. Nore's 291039 at first light 31st October or earlier if weather permits. Vessels should not, however, arrive No. 4 buoy before 0640. F.S.60 being due there at 310605.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 291736A to COTSWOLD.)

Unknown ship. Following from Niton Radio.
Automatic distress signal intercepted 1602 G.M.T. type uncertain, unknown station.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 291702 to Admty.)

LONDONDERRY. My 261556A. LONDONDERRY returned to Plymouth due to defects.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 291742A to Cdre. (D) W.A.)

Shipping and Convoys.

O.S. 57/
K.M.S. 31.
E.G. 40. My 281200. Sailed EXE.
(Cdre. (D) W.A., 290211A to C. in C. W.A.)

F.N. 98.
HOWELL E.
JACKSON. WOLVES both ships in company. E.T.A. May Island 0740/29. HOWELL E. JACKSON has eight foot hole in starboard bow above water line.
(WOLVES, 290234A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Flight "N". Aircraft dinghy with survivors sighted in 47° 34' N. 10° 00' W. at 0030 today.
(2) If fuel permits and you are within 150 miles of above position detach one trawler with one landing craft preferably L.C.F. to search for dinghy.

/ (3) ...

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29.10.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Flight "N". (3) Aircraft will co-operate.
(Contd.) (4) Report action taken and your P.C.S.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 290257A to Escorts Flight "N".)
Hasten reply to my 290257A.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 290819A to Escort Flight "N".)
Cancel my 290257. Ships detached are to continue voyage passing through position Y and keeping west of Q.Z.X.259.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 291513A to Escorts Flight "N".)

O.N. 208. At 0614Z VIDETTE detected S/M on surface about
U-Boat sunk 25 miles ahead of O.N.208 which dived in 055° 18'
by SUNFLOWER N. 032° 08' W.
and DUNCAN. DUNCAN attacked a doubtful contact at 0700Z.
Intend searching in vicinity until dusk, then steering for 051° N. 043° W.
(B. 7, 290825Z to C. in C. W.A.)

My 290825Z. During subsequent search SUNFLOWER detected S/M at 0935Z. First hedgehog attack missed at 0933Z, second hedgehog attack scored 3 hits with delay of 6 seconds from bombs hitting the water. DUNCAN followed with depth charge attack at 0956Z. At 1045Z large amount of wreckage started rising including many human remains which have been recovered. When first detected by VIDETTE at 10,000 yards S/M was stopped. She went ahead when range was 5000 yards and dived. My P.C.S. 055° 20' N. 032° 10' W., 236°, 12 knots.
(B. 7, 291105Z to C. in C. W.A.)

M.K.S. 28. You were probably sighted by F.W.200 aircraft
S.L. 138. at 0800.
(D.D.I.C., 290855A to M.K.S.28 and S.L.138.)

L.C.I.(L) Your 231212. Arrived RHODODENDRON with 23 units.
Group. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 291219A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)
My 291219. For 23 now read 26 units. Numbers are as follows.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 291859 to F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

AQUITANIA. Greenock A.T. 70 arrived 1215/29th.
(S.T.O. Greenock, 291225A.)

K.M.S. 31. 49 ships. Names and destinations.
(C. in C. W.A., 291227Z.)

E.G. 2. On completion of fuelling 2nd Escort Group including
TRACKER. TRACKER proceed at economical speed towards 050°
N. 040° W.
(C. in C. W.A., 291404Z to E.G.2, H.X.262.)

/J.W.

29.10.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

J.W. Convoys. Admty. 282009, para. 4. Request these four ships may arrive Loch Ewe p.m./13th November for J.W. 54A.

2. Para. 5. Request two destroyers for local escort of R.A. 54A may arrive Seidisfjord p.m./7th November. If desired these two destroyers could also be used for shuttle service J.W. 54A.

(C. in C. H.F., 291823A to C. in C. W.A.)

M.K.S. 28/
S.L. 138.

Aircraft are homing U-Boats on to the convoy.
(D.D.I.C., 291919A to Escorts M.K.S. 28/S.L.138.)

Fuel permitting proceed at best speed with WRESTLER to support S.L.138 estimated P.C.S. 2359A/29 043° 58' N. 021° 02' W., 001°, 7½

knots. S.O. ROCHESTER.

(C. in C. W.A., 292105A to WHITEHALL.)

My P.C.S. at 2200Z, 043° 30' N. 021° 02' W., 001°, 7 knots. 300 tons fuel available in R.F.A. ECHODALE.

(ROCHESTER, 292201Z to WHITEHALL.)

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29.10.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

C.T.G.21.16. Following is C. in C. Lant's 281629 action to C.T.G.21.16. (Begins) "Cease operations in time arrive Casablanca about 7th Nov. unless earlier arrival required by logistics. Sail therefrom about Nov.10th to support G.U.S.20. When latter considered safe leave convoy operate offensively against S/M until time support U.G.S.23 when latter nears danger area. Cease support in time arrive Hampton Roads 29th Nov." (Ends.) (C.M.S.F.F. 290346A to F.O.I.C.Gib. C. in C. Med. Comnavnaw.)

M.K.F.25. 4 ships. Names - personnel details. (S.T.O.I.C. Gib. 290935A)

GRENVILLE, Arrival.
ROCKET. (F.O.I.C.Gib. 290947A)

OBEDIENT, Report forthwith whether U-Boat was sighted or
U/B. was contact gained by Asdic. Your 282330* refers.
(F.O.I.C.Gib. 291158A to OBEDIENT (R) C. in C. W.A. Admty. C. in C. Med.)
* presumably 282320A intended. Re. 1 probably two U-Boats attacked.

Your 291158A Contact gained by Asdics only. During search after losing contact torpedo Hydrophone effect reported by TEAZER and OBEDIENT probably indication presence of 2 U-Boats. (OBEDIENT 291325A to F.O.I.C.Gib. (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A. C. in C. Med. TEAZER.)

U.S. Arrived BOISE, NICHOLSON, RHIND.
Movements. (C.M.S.F. 291336A)
29th Departures: U.S.C.G. DUANE, CAMPBELL U.S.S. CASSOTOT, KEARNY.
(C.M.S.F. 292123A)

Relief for A.M. 271450 para.2. Request I may be informed.
REDPOLE. if A/A Sloop will be available to relieve REDPOLE in 43 N. p.m. 5th Nov.
(F.O.C. Gib. 291536A to C. in C. E.A. (R) Admty. C. in C. Med. C. in C. Plymouth.)

DUMONT Possibility of enemy S/M in your vicinity tomorrow
D'URVILLE (F.O.C.Gib. 291542Z to DUMONT D'URVILLE)
U/B.

Azores A/C It is intended to pass these messages by Cable
information and Wireless who guarantee a negligible delay.
for Your 261558 refers.*
Washington. (F.O.C.Gibraltar, 291614A to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O. Azores, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Med.)
* Former was given a Most Secret distribution.

Crew /...

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War Diary.29.10.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

- Crew of U/B sunk 24/10. M. of M. state definitely survivors picked up outside territorial waters. Have consulted H.M. Minister on point made in your 281132* and he is submitting note to Min. of Foreign Affairs calling for internment of this crew. Probably we have no case in view of where survivors were picked up. This should establish case for future occasion. (N.A. Madrid, 291625A to Admty. (R) R.O.Vigo, S.O.(I) Gib.) * Survivors picked up by Spanish trawler outside territorial waters.
- CLEOPATRA. Reference C. in C. Med's 191302. Work is in hand to remove "Q" turret and working chamber. Is it intended to remove complete hoist trucking or should this remain in ship. (C.S.Gib, 291806A to Admty. C. in C. Med. F.O.C.Gib.)
- LORD HOTHAM. E.T.A. at buoy A P P (?three) 0800A/30th. 6 fleet tenders in company. (LORD HOTHAM, 291901A, N.O.I.C.Casablanca.)
- PASTEUR. (2) 301300 Casablanca, Route, to New York. E.T.A. 070600. Codeword "Discharged" associated callsign 131. Times Z. (C.M.S.F.F. 292001Z to P.D. New York)
- U/B. Am over enemy submarine in 37.00 N. 08.40 W. submarine is on surface, when first sighted was on course 070 degs. speed 8 knots. (A/C P.H.Q's Gib. 292158, 292200A)
- S.L.138. Air cover anticipated 30th S.L.138. *Request use "Homing" procedure B by escort. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 292200N to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C. Gib.) Note: * As received. Signal given no priority.
- Gib. Movements. Arrivals 29th. CLEOPATRA, COLOMBO, PRINCE CHARLES, PRINCE LEOPOLD, PRINSES ASTRID, PRINSES J. CHARLOTTE, DURBAN from East. (T.R.C. Gibraltar, 292248A)
- C.T.G.21.15. This re-encyphers C.T.G. 21.15's 292334A action to Commorseafron. (Begins) E.T.P. Casablanca swept channel nine hours Z.30. Last Q.B.A.109 course 278 advance 15 (?) knots overtake G.U.S.19 lat. 34.57 N. 167 W. at 31 noon Z. Will support with air cover commencing dawn 31. Refer Cinclant 192254. Last Q.B.A.109 (Ends.) (C.M.S.F.292334 to Comnavu, Admty. F.O.I.C.Gib.)

War Diary.

29.10.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Ships on
Blockade
Runner
Patrol

Your 281106A. Following is a paraphrase of my 271037* to Admty. My 12/1045Z/10 returned Freetown 25th October. Ends.
(Freetown C.C.O. 290423Z to Liverpool C.C.O)
* Previously read incomplete.

Convoy
Speeds.

Admty 18/1814 para.2, is it intended also to have differing minimum speeds for M.K.S./S.L convoys? (F.O.C.W.A. 291124Z to Admty.)

E.G.37.

Admty. 18/1448 part five 37th. E.G. completes boiler clean at Freetown 2nd Nov. Intend to sail 37th. E.G. on that date as additional escort to S.L.139 E.T.A. Gibraltar 14th Nov.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 291126Z to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.C. Gib. C. in C. W.A. Admty.)

DUNKERY.

Relieved at 1600Z. Am proceeding to Tabu.
(DUNKERY 291613Z to F.O.C.W.Af.)

A.K.D.3.

Arrived NORTHERN CHIEF, FRITILLARY, ST. ZENO, INDIAN STAR, HERTFORDSHIRE, COVENTRY CITY with convoy A.K.D.3.
(Cdre. Durban, 291921Z to Admty.)

928

29.10.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy mines in Turkish Waters. There is no material upon which to base a firm appreciation of enemy's likely intention. Your 261130 refers.
2. Enemy are considered unlikely to embark on mining policy in Turkish waters when they have shown a disinclination to carry out air attacks which would be less likely to cause serious trouble with the Turks than mining.
(Hd. of M.I. Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 290020A to C. in C.Levant.)

Air Cosit-intrep No. 110 27th. A.222 28th Oct. Signed Eisenhower. N.W.A.A.F. Day 27th 12 Kittyhawks bombed four small barges off Opuzen (Yugoslavia) but results were not observed. Vessels shelling Gaeta Point.
(Air C. in C.Med. No T.O.O.)

SICKLE, defect. At 0300 my P.C. and S. was 034° 19' N. 023° 52' E. 092° 7 knots. One engine out of action.
(P.224 (SICKLE) 290314C to Capt. S.1 (R) C. in C. Levant, 1st S.F. Capt. S.10.)

Enemy ships in Aegean. P.C. and S. of 1 merchant vessel 2000 tons, 1 E-Boat, 36.02 N. 23.34 E. 090° 6 knots.
(A/C GKA/N 290630Z to 201 Naval Co-op. Group.)
P.C. and S. of enemy (2 merchant vessels of 800 tons, 2 aeroplanes) 36.45 N. 25.50 E. 210° 5 knots.
(A/C GKA/T 290710Z.)
P.C. and S. of one enemy M/V of 2000 tons, 2 E/Vs and 2 A/C 37.26 N. 25.07 E. 090, 9.
(A/C GKA/W (via Alex.W/T.) 290745Z.)
Position of enemy one merchant vessel 500 tons at Melos.
(A/C GKA/T 290750Z.)
5 transport barges in enemy anchorage at Kos.
(A/C GKA/N (via Alex.)
One merchant ship, 1 E/V, 037° 30' 025° 23' probable course 070°.
(P.239 (SURF) 291945C to Capt. S.1, C. in C.Levant.)

Alexandria Movements. 28th arrivals AURORA, DULVERTON, PENN, FAREHAM, MIAOULES, M.Ls. 355, 478, 836. Departures AURORA, ECHO, ROCKWOOD, KRAKOWIAK, M.L.361.
(N.O.I.C. Alexandria 290725.)

SUTLEJ. Arrived 28th.
(S.O.I. Beirut 290857C.)

Operation "Bigamy". Situation report. Operation "Bigamy". 1. Brac. 4 enemy landings all repelled. Island now completely held by partisans.
2. Peljesac peninsula. Situation deteriorating, enemy occupy at least part of peninsula.
3. Sipan occupied by enemy. 4. 26th, Islands of Kaprilje, Zlarin Pric, Tisat, Zmajan, Kakan, Zirge and probably other small islands in this group occupied by enemy.
(F.O.T.A. 290927 to C. in C.Levant, (R) D.N.I. R.N.G.H.Q.)

/V.T.7...

War Diary.29.10.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

V.T.7. Sailed. 4 ships.
(N.O.I.C. Malta 290935A.)

ULTIMATUM. P.34 (ULTIMATUM) operates in zone SU. and ST.
(Capt. S.8 291002A to 8th S.F. (R) C. in C.Med.
Capt. S.10.)

German C.M.T.3. My ? report 1607 C.M.T.3 sailed Istanbul for
Salonica two hours G.M.T. 29th.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul 291020C to C. in C.Levant, S.O.(I)
Levant, (R) Capt. S.1, Admty. D.N.I.)

Operation "Chickweed". Operation "Chickweed". Intend QUILLIAM and QUAIL
start laying smoke at 0500A/30th in Vasto and Cape
Penna area.
2. Intend destroyers bombard Vasto as convenient
between 0515 and 0600.
3. 4 M.T.Bs. of 20th Flot. will be taking part. R/T ? watch will
be carried out by destroyers and M.T.Bs. on 2980 k/cs.
4. M.T.Bs. leave area ?? (for) Bari at 0445/30.
5. On completion of bombardment destroyers will proceed Bari by
inshore route.
6. Request fighter escort for destroyers from 0600. Priority
high, codeword "Tailcoat" 405.
P.C. and S. at 0600A/30th, off Termoli, course coastwise, 25 kts.
(Capt. D.4 291045A to F.O.T.A. (R) C.3.15, LEDA, C.F.W. S.O.20th
M.T.B. F. N.L.O. 8th Army, S.N.O.A.L. (E) N.O.I.C. Bari, No. 1
Moru, 242 Group.)
Cancelled by Capt. D.4th 292035A.

Crews for merchant ships, building in U.S.A. Following received from F.O.L.I. (begins):
Have been told merchant ships are being completed
in U.S.A. and then laid up for want of crews.
Suggest Italian Naval personnel could be well
employed filling this deficiency. (Ends.)
2. Is statement in first sentence well founded and
if so any action desired by F.O.L.I. to sound M.
of M. on this subject.
(C. in C.Med. Fleet 291134A to Admty. (R) F.O.L.I.)

U/B. Am over enemy S/M in position 40.25 N. 14.15 E.
(A/C HUX/J 291230 to Air H.Q.Malta.)
N.R.2. Enemy S/M previously reported was periscope
only sighted.
(A/C HUX/J No T.O.O/29 to Air H.Q.Malta.)
Have lost touch with enemy S/M last seen in 40° 25' N. 14° 15' E.
When first sighted was on course 070° speed 4 knots.
(A/C HUX/J 291245 to Air H.Q.Malta.)

GRENVILLE. Forms part of 24th D.F.
(C. in C.Med. (B) 291240A to Med. Stn. 260 B.)

/Aegean...

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War Diary.

29.10.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Aegean
situation.

29 Oct. for D.M.I. Joint Army R.A.F.Int.
appreciation. 24 hours to 0900Z/29th.
1. Leros no change up to 0900Z hours 29th.
2. No contact with enemy reported by our naval
forces night 28/29th.

3. Ph. R/C and visual sightings 28th Oct. (details).
4. Ph. R/C G.A.F. airfields 28th. Greece. Kalamaki. 8 Dornier
type aircraft identified of which 2 definitely Do. 217 with in-
creased wing span. Possibly remaining 6 are also this type Do.
217 which known to be type employed in Central Med. and Atlantic
for dropping wireless controlled bombs against shipping targets.
No evidence yet whether to be used for this purpose in this area.
5. Reports so far from Leros mention only 1 bomber sortie 28th.
Patmos bombed by 3 Ju.88 28th. Also Kastelorizo by 12 bombers.
6. Appreciate enemy's failure so far to launch attack on Leros
due primarily to continued activity our naval forces in opera-
tional area. Arrival of Do.217s (see para. 4 above) suggests
intention to use all possible means to neutralise naval threat
to be followed if successful by assault on island.
(C. in C.M.E. No T.O.O.)

29th October. Cositrep 39. 1. Int. A. Ph. R. Piraeus 28
Oct. showed 3 merchant vessels incl. CITTA DI SAVONA (see Cositrep
38) to have left.

2. Ops. Aegean. A. Ref. Cositrep 38 para. 2B. 33 of these sur-
vivors are part of ships company (?HURWORTH) sunk night 22/23rd.
5. Naval. Aegean. 28th. Convoy of L.C.Ts. 4 and 115 escorted by
two A/S vessels attacked by A/C 35 miles off Kastelorizo 1800C
hrs. L.C.T. 115 sunk 35 survivors picked up.

6. Air. A. Own. Night 27/28th. Four Hudsons bombed Heraklion
aerodrome cloud hampered observation results but explosion
followed by cloud of smoke seen dispersal area.
28th. Three torpedo Beaufighters with four Beaufighters escorting
made offensive sweep round Stampalia. Only wrecks seen. Three
Baltimores bombed five caiques anchored Stampalia scoring several
direct hits. Wreckage later seen in area. Three Baltimores
missing from offensive R/C west of Rhodes.
Night 28/29th. Eleven Liberators and Halifaxes bombed Maritza
aerodrome bursts on northern half aerodrome where explosion and
large fire caused.

B. Enemy. Night 27/28th. One enemy aircraft bombed Portolago Bay.
28 Oct. Three attacks on Kastelorizo by total twelve aircraft.
No damage. Patmos also bombed by three Ju.88s. Three R/C reported
over Leros.

(C. in C.M.E. 291715C.)

W/T organi-
zations.

Following important changes are to come into
force 0001Z/1st Nov. (Details).
(C. in C.Med. 291601A to Med. Stn. and Levant Stn.
261B, (R) Admty.)

HIGHLAND
BRIGADE
and escorts.

Intend to sail GJKM HIGHLAND BRIGADE escorted by
ROEBUCK, QUADRANT, RELENTLESS Durban via Kilindini
4th Nov. knots (a) 14 (b) 15. Route.
(Aden 291623Z.)

/DURBAN...

War Diary.

29.10.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- DURBAN. Destination of DURBAN in U.K. is Portsmouth.
(D.O.D.(F) 291626A to C. in C.Med. F.O.I.C. Gib.
C. in C.Portsmouth, C. in C.Plymouth.)
- N.V.6. Intend to sail. 16 ships, names and destinations.
(N.O.I.C. Naples 291731A.)
- M.K.S.29. Intend sailing including SALVORE ?SALVATORE (It.)
U.K.
(N.O.I.C. Algiers 291754A.)
- French CHASSEUR. Your 101144*. CHASSEURS lack of endurance would
not permit of their reaching Gib. under their own
power. Performing valuable service in the Channel
and would prove hard to replace. For these reasons
propose to defer their movement to the Med.
Suggested that the matter should be reconsidered if the French so
desire in the spring of next year.
(Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 291754A to C. in C.Med. (R) C. in C Ports-
mouth.)
* re despatch of 8 French CHASSEURS to North Africa.
- Transfer of Aden to East Indies Command. C.C./ 335. I.Z. 4044. 29th Oct. Following for
Cs. of S. from M.E. Defence Committee.
Reference Telegram No. 21 1921 from C. in C.Levant.
1. Governor Aden has been asked whether he has any
objection to the transfer of Naval Command Aden to
C. in C.E.F. Subject to Governor's comments, we
support proposal.
(M.E. 291800 to Air Min.)
- A.H.7. M.S. 0022. Intend sailing at 0630/1st, 36 ships,
names and destinations. Cdre. Cdr. Newman R.N.R.
in EMPIRE CONFIDENCE. 3. Route. E.T.A. 112 1000/2.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta 291809A.)
- Pointe Noire Defence. F.O.C.W.Af. 121628. Neither Admiralty nor F.O.C.
W.Af. were consulted before French instructions
were issued. Your 151900 para. 1 refers.
2. Although Pointe Noire has an A/T boom and coastal
defence guns, CHASSEURS are the only permanent local
defence craft and they should not be removed without relief.
Request you will take matter up with French on the above lines,
pointing out that although recently Pointe Noire has only been
used by a small number merchantmen a month, the port is an in-
valuable half-way house on the West Coast which is occasionally
used by H.M.Ships and no risk is acceptable.
3. Request you will also point out the necessity of consulting
F.O.C.W.Af. who is responsible for the general defence of this
station before such orders are issued in future.
(Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 291809A to C. in C.Med. (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)

/PERLE...

29.10.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

PERLE. STAFFA will R/V with you at 0930/30th in 037° 02' 003° 07'. 2. 2 U.S. M/S passing north of Algiers mainland about 0500/30th to eastward. 3. M.L. on patrol east and west of Algiers. (Capt. S.8 291815A to PERLE.)

Coast artillery defence. 83991 cipher (M.O.5) 29th October. For Commanders in Chief. 1. Cs. of S. have considered requirements in M.E. ports on the basis of your MIL/1/5 dated 10 Aug. (N.T. in W.R.) 2. Scale of attack is confirmed as "limited to attack by U-Boats and E-Boats". 3. Aden is being dealt with in separate plan. 4. Following armament has been approved. Details. (W.O. 291830A to C. in C.M.E.)

U.S. Movements. Arrived U.S.S. AROOSTOOK (T). (N.O.I.C. Augusta 291837A.) Departures today U.S.S. SEER, P.C. 546, S.C. 695, Y.M.S. 28 and 78, L.S.T. 351, 359, 378, 301. (Comnob Oran 292040.)

Naples Movements. Arrivals L.S.T. 326, 347. Arrived and departed Y.M.S. 69, S.C. 532, 977, L.S.T. 411, P.C. 545, 497, 503, 639, 237, A.R.S. 35. (N.O.I.C. Naples 291903A.)

Use of Italian Warships. B.N.A. Ankara's 281235 being passed to C. in C.Med. Feel sure it is realized such action before claim of our fighting Allies have been met in full will cause very great resentment particularly among Greeks. From what I have seen of Italian destroyers the Turks would soon regret having such ships. (C. in C.Levant 291941C to Admty. (R) B.N.A. Ankara for Admiral Kelly, C. in C.Med.)

Landing ships & Craft. Following craft can be made operationally fit by first Dec. and 1st Jan. vide A.M. 211505A. (Details) (C. in C.Levant 291951 to Admty.)

T.X.6. M.S.C.I. 22, T.X.6 sailing telegram part 1. 1. S.N.O. Tripolitania 280951. 6. Normal "Collar?" (S.N.O. Cyrenaica 291958C.)

L.C. Flotillas. S.O. Force G.29 1035 (N.T. in W.D.) Sept. only information L.C. Flotillas ex naval party 820 as follows and possibly not up to date 56, 61, 81, 106, thought to be in U.K. 75 disbanded and crews scattered. 105 in SAUNDERS. 132 believed in Sicily. 54, 57 to E.F. 58 to Jejelli. 59 to Brindisi. 89 to Syracuse. (C. in C.Levant 292015C to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med. C. in C.E.F. S.O. Force C. SAUNDERS.)

Algeria Movements. Departures NELSON, RODNEY, TROUBRIDGE, TYRIAN, TUMULT, OFFA, PIORUN, TARTAR. Arrived and departed LEGIONARIO It. ALFREDO ORIANI It. (Com. Algeria 292030A.)

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29.10.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

AURORA. Your 271855. Modernization of AURORA will not be undertaken at present. Collision damage and defects should be carried out at Taranto if this can be arranged.
(Approved Controller 292035A to C. in C.Levant.)

Levant Situation Report No. 94. PATHFINDER, EXMOOR, BLENCATHRA continued to lie up in the Gulf of Kos last night in the absence of useful enemy reports. To carry out anti-shipping sweep tonight of Amorgos - Stampalia - Kos area.

2. AURORA, ECHO, ROCKWOOD, KRAKOWIAK left Alexandria at 1900 yesterday for Aegean, force bombed when 50 miles southeast of Kastelorizo but suffered no damage. Destroyers proceeding after dark direct to Gulf of Kos to lie up. AURORA detaches to southeast of Rhodes.

3. One Fleet, two Hunts left Alexandria 1900 today with further troops and stores for Leros.

4. M.L. 579 destroyed by bombing at Leros 26th 3 killed, 2 wounded, 12 survivors.

5. Convoy of two L.C.Ts. 2 escorts attacked by Stukas when 30 miles East of Kastelorizo and L.C.T. 115 sunk. 22 military killed no naval casualties.

6. Raids on Kastelorizo at 1700/27th and dusk 28th both directed on harbour area disabled one sea flare tender but caused no further damage to shipping.

7. TORBAY from Aegean patrol reports p.m. 15th she destroyed by gunfire 50 ton caique under German ensign in Lipsos Channel: at 1300/16th torpedoed and sank 1,000 ton merchant vessel. Escorted W.A.convoy in position 36° 59' N. 26° 11' E. Slight counter-attack. Sinking observed from Levitha and previously reported in my 190119... (597, 19.10.43)

(C. in C.Levant 292059C.)

W.D. Note - Ship was KARI (German Document 117)

French Battleships. B.A.D. 292115 reply to C. in C.Med. 271835. See America & West Indies.

D.4. Proposed date. Night 2nd/3rd. 4 destroyers. Your letter number ? 848, 520, 733/0762 dated 28th para. 4 refers.
(Capt. D.4 292129A to F.O.T.A. (R) N.O.I.C. Bari.)

Escort carrier operations off Salerno. Request details of breakdown referred to in para. H of your 23191P* may be communicated as evidence to this effect cannot be traced in reports of operation (C. in C.Med. 292150A to Admty. (R) Comnavnav.)
~~* N.P. in W.D. (Copy obtained, page 736A).~~

Med. Situation report No. 217. 1. E-Boats entered Gulf of Naples during the night 25/26th Oct. and were engaged and driven off by patrols. No damage or casualties.
2. Destroyer patrol in Adriatic was continued during night 28th/29th. No incidents reported.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

Med. Situa-
tion report
No. 217.
(Contd.)

3. Spanish SS. SEBASTIAN believed to be trading in German interests was intercepted by TYNEDALE a.m. 29th and is being taken into Gib. for examination.
4. P.53 (ULTOR) reports sinking escorted 3500 tons passenger vessel off Rapallo at 1142/19th.
(C. in C.Med.292207.)

Italian
Ship POLA.

Arrived and left Cyprus 29th.
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta 292259C.)

SURF,
SIMOOM.

C. in C.Mediterranea 041114 October para. 4 not to C. in C.Eastern Fleet.
SURF and SIMOOM are to be retained temporarily for operation in your Command.
(Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 292300A to C. in C.Levant,
(R) C. in C.Med. C. in C.E.F. Capt. S.1, F.O.S.)

Bari move-
ments.

Arrival RAIDER, PRINCE LEOPOLD, M.L.480.
Departure M.T.B. 287, 289, 296, 297, H.S.M.L. 2598 Italian corvette POMONAH.
(N.O.I.C. Bari 292304A.)

Malta
Movements.

Sailed Italian vessel PETREL. Arrived and departed Italian T.Bs. ARETHUSA and ALISEO.
(V.A.Malta 292347A.)

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Officer for M.L. bases. Your 200918 Lt. Cdr. R.R.W. Ashby D.S.C., R.N.V.R. appointed as S.O. Coastal Forces, Chittagong with the acting rank of Cdr. while holding this appointment.
(2) Has previous experience of Burma Coast and of Coastal Force Organisation.
(3) Air Passage to Bombay will be arranged as soon as possible.
(4) Officer has been instructed to report to Commander Noakes R.N.
(N.A. 2nd S.L. 290008A to C. in C.E.F.(S.E.A.C.), C. in C.E.F.,
(R) F.O.C. Royal Indian Navy).

Eastern Fleet. Discussion of repairs facilities.
(C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) 290158Z to Admty.).
See Lion Copy.

H.C.2. Arrived.
(Port Officer Chittagong, 290225Z).

Speed of ships in Convoys. Your 250901 Sept. has been repeated to C. in C. Levant.
(D.T.D. (983) 290331A to C. in C.E.F.).

D.K.A.4. Kilindini portion comprising EMPIRE MARIOTT arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Kilindini 290525Z to Admty.).

R.A.C. L/C. The appointment of a F.O. as R.A.C. L/C and Base Eastern Fleet is requested as foreshadowed in para.11 of my 151127 Oct.
(2) Duties, craft and bases (details).
(C. in C.E.F. 290612Z to Admty.).

India Air Report. A.307.
29th Oct. Daily Opsum No.593 27th Oct.
14th U.S.A.A.F. 26th Oct. 2 U.S. Liberators
(B.24) Hainang Island. 4 M/Vs. sunk Kiungshan Bay 1 medium transport 2 tankers 2 small freighter 6 U.S. Mitchell
(B.25) Hainan Island attacked 1 medium freighter 1 small tanker 1 gunboat loading installations Kiungshan Harbour 1 enemy T/E fighter 12 S/E fighters intercepted. Claims 1 T/E fighter destroyed 1 S/E fighter damaged. 1 U.S. Mitchell shot down Kiungshan. 1 further Mitchell missing. 2 further? Mitchells damaged.
(A.H.Q. India 290823Z to Air Min.).

QUICKMARCH, KHEDIVE ISMAIL. To be detached from A.B.19 in 58 degs. east to proceed direct to Colombo.
(2) Route.
(3) My 270535 and 290634 (N.T. in W.R.) refer.
(C. in C.E.F. 290921Z to Com.1/c Aden).

/ATREUS...

- (o) Merchant shipping. Even if largest possible reduction of repairs and refitting work under this heading is achieved a large proportion of total facilities must still be employed in this work.
- (f) H.M.I. Ships. Provision must be made for H.M.I. ships in India.

4. Estimated facilities available naval purposes. After meeting the foregoing priority requirements estimate of maximum that will then be available for naval work in any one year is as follows.

- (a) Half yearly docking and minor refit not exceeding 10 days.
 - (i) Aircraft carriers or cruisers 16.
 - (ii) Destroyers 40.
 - (iii) Submarines 10.
- (b) Dock and periodical refit. Frigate and corvettes 40. When dock at Vizagapatam arrives the numbers under (a) (ii) above may be somewhat increased.

5. Ceylon. In addition to the facilities in India it is estimated that those in Colombo will increase number of half yearly dockings of warships referred to in para 4(a) by 20 to 25. Until the large dock at Trincomalee is in operation all battleships and balance of carriers and cruisers must proceed to South Africa or elsewhere for all dockings refits and repairs. When this dock is in action it should provide balance capacity to cover normal half yearly dockings of cruisers and above. The destroyer dock when in action will help towards half yearly dockings of destroyers and below

6. Means of reducing Dockyard repair commitments. To assist reduction of pressure on yards it is most necessary that

- (a) Ships should as far as possible be docked immediately before joining the station.
- (b) Ships should not join station within six months of their refit period.
- (c) Any essential alterations and additions should be carried out as far as possible before ships join the station.

/7.....

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.)

7. Conclusion. It is clear therefore that provision must be made for all periods of refitting with exception of those in para 4(b) to be undertaken in yards in South Africa or further afield and the facilities in India Ceylon area reserved for (a) those categories under para 3. (b) Half yearly dockings, (c) Limited number of refits to smaller warships.

290158Z.

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (2).
D.F.S.L.
Contr.
V. Contr.
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.H.S.
A.C.H.S. (A) (2).
A.C.H.S. (F).
A.C.H.S. (W).
A.C.H.S. (UT) (2).
A.C.H.S. (H).
Contr. (MSR).
SEC.
A.S. (L).
U.W.R.
Capt Pim.
D.C. (2).
D.O.D. (F) (2).
D.O.D. (H) (4).
N.A. 2nd S.L. (OD).
N.A. (Mails).
Hd. of M. (2) for action.
D. of D.
D.N.C.
D.G.D.
D.T.S.D.
D.N.O.
S.L.C.
D.S.D.
D.A/U.D.
D.A/S.W.
D.A/S.M.
D. of S. (2).

E. in C.
S.D.G.
D.M.S.
D.C.D. Slough.
D.T.D. (L).
D.T.D. (C).
D. of L.D. (3).
Plot.
D.D.I.C. (2).
D. of P. (2).
D. of P. (G) (3).
D.R.O. (C.O.) (2).
D.C.O.M. (4).
C.C.O. (2).
D.M.R.
D.M.E.
D.T.M.
D. of L.D.
P. Branch.
Hd. of M.S. Branch.
D.A.W.T.
D.N.A.O.
D.A.C.R. (2).
D.A.E. (3).
D.C.N.A.E.
D. of S.T. (6).
C.F.M.D.
D.D.O.D. (C).
I.P. (2).
W.D.
Dep. Contr. }
P. Br. }
D.N.C. }
E. in C. } Bath.
D. of D. }
S.D.G.)

D.A/S.M.
D.T.M.
D.N.O.
D.A.S.
D.L.E.
D.S.D. Bath.
D. of S.
Hd. of S.W.R.
R.I.N.L.O. (2).

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

ATREUS programme. Ref. A.M. 181453 Aug. 11 days have been lost through weather unsuitable for recovery including the last consecutive six days. Interbranch cables are ripe (?) necessitating incessant dragging and sweeping. So far only six mine loops replaced including all gan channels. Intend therefore leaving sinkers down if weather unsuitable for recovery and buckling loops 25 yards from original if sinkers are unrecovered. Suggest sweeping any unfired mines if a minesweeper can be sent for one or two days. (ATREUS 291134Z to C. in C.E.F. (R) Admty., N.O.i/c Addu Atoll). As amended 300225Z.

P.B.61 Karachi portion arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Karachi 291215Z to C. in C.E.F.).

H.D.M.L's. H.D.M.L's. 1244 and 1289 have been shipped from the U.K. to Bombay accompanied by 10 ratings for C and M duties.
(HORNET 291525A to C. in C.E.F.(R) Admty., F.O.C.R.I.N., D.S.T.O.Bombay., ST. CHRISTOPHER).

H.C.3. Sailing telegram. 4 ships.
(2) 2200 G.M.T. 29th. (4) 10 knots. (5) Rumble route south. (6) PANSY (not NU) KATHIAWAR.
(N.C.S.O. Calcutta, 292203Z, 292209Z to Admty.).

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

BENTINCK. Sailed Argentinia 2359Z/28th to overtake.
(F.O.N.F. 290006Z to C. in C.W.A.)

GUYSBOROUGH. E.T.A. 1600Z/29. Weather report in 041° 40' 065°
55'.
(GUYSBOROUGH 290301Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) D.
Halifax.)

T.A.68. Arrived.
MAURETANIA. (C. in C. C.N.A. 291003Z to Admty.)

A.T. Convoys. Arrangements for reporting T. of A.
(D.O.D. (H) 291348A to Cominch.)

BALFOUR, GOODSON. BALFOUR and GOODSON (? depart) Boston Gate in
company 0915Q/29th. BALFOUR Senior Vessel. Via
direct route to Casco Bay. Speed 15 knots.
(C.T.G. Q2.1 291410 to U.S. S.O. Present Afloat,
Casco Bay.)

ANDRAVA, Lost. ANDRAVA Canadian. Wrecked total loss off Punta
Guarico Cuba, survivors at Baracoa. Further details
awaited.
(S.O. (I) Jamaica 291424R to Admty., N.S.H.Q.,
S.B.N.O. Western Atlantic.)

SEAWOLF. Request you sail SEAWOLF to Bermuda in accordance
with C. in C. C.N.A.'s. 282018 (N.T. in W.D.) not
to all addressees. Understand Escort not required
from (U.S.) C.E.S.F.
((U.S.) Cdr. E.S.F. 291505Z to (U.S.) Cmdr. S/Ms.
Atlantic.)

SANTEE U/B. Suggested that SANTEE proceed immediately to
vicinity of 37° N. 43° W. where D.F.S. indicates
possible U/B refuelling area. This Radio
Washington's 291417 addressed to Cinclant for action.
(Comnaveu 291529Z to Admty.)
C. in C. Lant, Comnaveu N.T.S. have this for action
C.T.G. 21.11 is the originator "N.S.S. 291417 (N.T. in W.D.) on my
way to area. P.C. & S. 1500 33.33 N. 58.33 W. 074 16". Refer to
this as 291550 from C.T.G. 21.11.
(Comnaveu 291803 to Admty.)

B.Y.M.S.167 and 59. Depart Sea Buoy Bermuda 1930Z/29th. Route.
E.T.A. 0330Z/7th.
(N.O.B. Bermuda 291614 to N.O.I.C. Azores.)
My 291614 departure delayed 13 hours. Admty. pass
to N.O.I.C. and S.B.N.O. Azores.
(U.S.N.O.B. Bermuda 292035 to N.O.I.C. Azores.)

/CLEOPATRA...

29.10.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

CLEOPATRA. Your 231245. Navy Dept. concerned time CLEOPATRA will be in hand waiting for replace main machinery as they cannot afford her berthing space alongside at the expense of other commitments. After discussion the following alternatives are proposed:- Details. (B.A.M.R. Washington 291629Z to Admty.).

U.S. S/M (Cominch 291635Z).
Estimate.

Movement signals for S.B.N.O. Azores. A.M. 251910. These signals should include warship movements, non-standard convoy routes and diversions. (D.D.O.H. 291745A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A., C. in C.W.A., C. in C. Plymouth., C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Med., F.O.i/c Gibraltar., Commorseafron., S.B.N.O. Azores., F.O.C.W.Af., S.B.N.O.W.At., B.A.D.).

C.T.G. 21.11 SIMPSON, BARKER. Refer to this as C. in C. Lant 291542 addressed to U.S.S. SIMPSON, C.T.G. 21.11 for action SIMPSON join task group 21.11 thence interchange SIMPSON, BARKER as soon as practicable. C.T.G. 21.11 comply radio Washington's 291417 not to all. (Comnav 291756Z to Admty.).
W.R. Note: (Radio Washington's 291417 was passed to Admiralty as Comnav's 291529Z).

Italian Merchant Ships POZARICA, ARGENTIA* and ARSIA. Recaptured from the Germans in Adriatic. They had Italian crews, but German Armed guard and German flag. Question arises whether ships are to be treated as prizes or under N.A.F. 381. 2. N.A.F. 381 covers only ships placed at our disposal by Italian Government, and recaptured ships fall outside the agreement. Decision one of policy. 3. Argument for putting the ships in prize is that we should immediately obtain indisputable right to ultimate disposal. 4. Argument against is possible moral effect on Italians. 5. Arguments appear evenly balanced. 6 Request you consult Cominch and obtain C.C.S. directive. (Head of M.I. Approved 1st Lord, 291815A to B.A.D. (R) Cominch., C. in C. Med., F.O.L.I.).

*ARGENTINA means

H.X.261 Average speed 8.5 knots. Off Oversay at 0300Z/26. All arrived. (D.T.D. 291839A to Connv, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

H.H.X. 264 Sailing telegram Part 2. (14 ships). (N.C.S.O. Halifax 291910Z, 291950Z to Admty.).

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

- U.S.A.Ts. Arrivals Balboa 27th BRAZIL and MADISON both U.S.A.Ts. (N.S.H.Q. 291918Z to Admty.)
- BUXTON. Your 251826A. Use of BUXTON as Canadian training ship appreciated. R.C.N. will undertake care and maintenance commitment for ship. (N.S.H.Q. 291930Z to Admty.)
- AJAX. My 271736 changing (N) to 037° 05' 042° 10' and (O) to 038° 45' 030° 30'. (C. in C.U.S. Fleet 292037Z to C.E.S.F. (R) N.O.B., Bermuda, U.S. Cmdt. 5th Naval District, Norfolk V., C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet, S.B.N.O. W.Atlantic, Admiralty, S.B.N.O. Azores, C. in C. Western Approaches, F.O.I.C. Gib., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Portsmouth.)
- ACONIT. Argentia 29th, to St. John's, Newfoundland. (Capt. D. Argentia 292041Z to Admty.)
- SEAWOLF, FRIENDSHIP. R.O. Philadelphia 281415. (N.T. in W.R.) If you agree SEAWOLF 4 torpedoes could be shipped New London via FRIENDSHIP thence both ships proceed to Bermuda in company. My 281259 not to all addressees refers. (S.C.N.O. Halifax 292059Z to Admty. (R) N.S. Ottawa, B.A.M.R. Routing Officer, Philadelphia, SEAWOLF.)
- French Battleships. C.C.S. decision have been and will continue to be transmitted to French Admty. by Adm. Fenard. Fenard received C.C.S.358 on 15 Oct. and has already reacted with a long memorandum which covers amongst other matters the question which you raise in your 271833 para.4 (A) and (B).
2. This memorandum is addressed to Adm. King as the executive agent of the C.C.S. and covers a memorandum from the French Committee of National Defence on the subject of distribution of French land and air forces in the various theatres of operation, and the re-armament of French Air and Naval Forces. This latter memorandum was addressed to the Heads of the Governments of the U.S., G.B. and the U.S.S.R. on Sept.27 and is not at present being dealt with by C.C.S.
3. C.C.S. are replying to Adm. Fenard re-affirming their decisions in C.C.S.358 and amending para.12 (B) to read cruisers employed under Allied control primarily on anti raider patrol or convoy protection elsewhere as needed. They also approve the installation of anti aircraft equipment on the four cruisers formerly at Alexandria, if and when the material is available and provided the work can be done by the French in Africa and is processed in accordance with the prescribed policy of C.C.S.358. There appears

/to...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

French Battleships. (Contd.).
to be no reason why this should not be extended to Radar if requested through the correct channels.
4. The C.C.S. do not intend to expend U.S. or U.K. resources on JEAN BART.
5. Reply to N.A.F.472 is now being processed through C.C.S. and does not approve any alteration in the established procedure as laid down in C.C.S. 207/10 and 358.
6. Your para.3 in noted. Adm. Fernard and through him the French Admiralty are fully aware of the decisions set out in C.C.S.207/10 and probably also of the confirmation of these decisions in C.C.S.358. Adm. Fenard was fully consulted in drafting the former For your own information the Americans are getting very tired of this continual questioning of the decisions of the C.C.S. The Americans are not prepared to agree under any circumstances to an alteration of procedure which in their opinion will give the French a loophole to evade the conditions for the re-armament and refit of their ships by the Allies namely that the C.C.S. should have the last say in the strategic disposition and use of the French ships re-armed and refitted. I agree with their views. (B.A.D., 292115Z to C. in C. Med., Bizerta (R) Admty.).

WILLOWHERB Departure to Bermuda.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 292132Z to S.B.N.O.W.At.).

New instructions for Casco Bay shaking down. B.A.Ds. 272249 take necessary action.
(N.S.H.Q. 292152Z to S.C.N.O. Halifax (R) N.O.I.C. Quebec, Montreal, Admty., B.T.O. (?Casco) Bay, B.A.D., S.B.N.O. Western At.).

Independent group sailings. Your 151445 June. Understand from commercial authorities that independent group sailing suspended resulting in increased round voyage time.
2. No report of this can be traced from you. Request confirmation and prospect of resumption of independent sailings.
(D.T.D. 292202A to S.B.N.O. Curacoa).

KHEDIVE Sail Norfolk to New York, when ready about 3rd Nov. in time to arrive morning 4th for Convoy Conference. Advise routeing.
(Cominch, 292225 to Admty.).

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest Serial 647 Oct.28th. Solitary small seatruck 65 miles northwest Selaru Island Tanimbar group course 300 degs. noon.

/Two...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
Serial 647
Oct. 28th.
(Contd.).

Two Dutch Mitchells despatched and one attacked ship five hours later 25 miles further northwest scoring near misses also strafing vessel.

(3) Light cruiser similar 'Yubari' Class unsuccessfully bombed afternoon 200 miles North Mussau Island proceeding north alone. Two float planes took off warship.

(4) Single Liberator strafed 40 miles roadway from Jacquinot Bay to southwest mid morning also three beached barges along shore.

(7) Four Thunderbolts conducting afternoon sweep north coast New Britain destroyed 3 barges near Cape Hoskins Egbotg (as received) also strafed buildings and personnel Talasea area.

(8) Further details 3 destroyers attacked 30 miles west of Ubili Bight 26th refer Digest 645 para.5. indicate 1 or more small merchant ships present. 3 Liberators constituted strike scoring hits on 1 destroyer later seen burning fiercely and straddling another by bombs. Two aircraft each bombed one merchant vessel possibly same unit later attacked claiming vessel sunk.

(9) Before dawn 20 60 Ballale Airfield strafed by two Hellcats. 36 Avengers 49 Dauntless 22 Mitchells with 69 Fighters escorting including Aircobras, Kittyhawks, Hellcats struck Kahili Airfield followed 90 minutes later by 27 Liberators and 16 Lightnings coverings. Numerous hits runway taxiways also on beached ship nearby. Nil interception encountered but one Avenger lost to intense A/S. Kara drome attacked afternoon by 18 Avengers 30 Dauntless with 42 Fighters covering. Anti aircraft positions runway and buildings all hit. One Zero seen airborne but did not engage. Subsequent photos show Kahili Kara strips unserviceable although latter had been repaired and re-surfaced prior strike.

(11) Simultaneously five Venturas bombed and strafed south shore Treasury Island prior to allied landing that night. New Zealand reinforcements landed dawn next morning. By afternoon situation quiet with perimeter defences established and enemy retiring to northeast sector of island.

(12) Photos 27th show 2 small freighters including 1 beached 1 small oiler, 45 barges and small craft Buin anchorages. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 290700Z).

Movements

Arrived Milne Bay 28th U.S. destroyers GILMER.
(A.C.N.B. 291146Z).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 291336A, 291337A).

942

29.10.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

Submarine
attack and
sighting
summary for
24 hours to
0900Z/29th.

Para.A. Aircraft attacked surfaced U-boat at
0335/29th, 46 degs. 11 ' N. 06 degs. 25' W.
OBEDIENT and TEAZER attacked contacts at 2220
28th believed 2 U-boats.

Aircraft from FENCER attacked U-boat at 1334/28th
in 49 degs. 19' N. 40 degs. 00' W.

Ref. A.M. 281044A para.A. last sentence please
add position 45 degs. 17' N. 32 degs. 19' W.

Para.D. French aircraft reported 2 U-boats on 25th in Jibuti
area.

Coast watcher reported U-boat off Mait, British Somaliland.

U.S. Ferry Aircraft reported U-boat on 26th 13 degs. N. 45 degs.
E.

(D.D.I.C. 291059A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.).

30.10.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
FR.

1. The Russian ships arrived at Kola Inlet this morning (see 22nd October). C.S.10 in BELFAST with NORFOLK and KENT arrived at Seidisfiord this afternoon, HARRIER, SEAGULL, WESTCOTT and EGLANTINE arrived at Archangel this evening.

Air
attack
in
Cherbourg.

2. Shipping in Cherbourg harbour was attacked today by 6 escorted Whirlwind bombers and 8 Typhoon bombers.

German
minefield
off
Lowestoft.

3. Two German moored mines in new condition were found in 52.37 N. 02.18 E. this morning. The 4th M.S.F. are to clear the minefield.

North Atlantic.

4. The Italian Cruisers DUCA DEGLI ABRUZZI and DUCA D'AOSTA arrived at Gibraltar from Taranto today.

South Atlantic.

U/B off
Rio de
Janeiro.

5. A Brazilian aircraft attacked a U/Boat at 1225 G.M.T. about 20 miles astern of Convoy J.T.12 in 22.55 S. 40.55 W. (120 miles E.S.E. of Rio de Janeiro). The aircraft was damaged by the U/Boat's fire.

30.10.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

6. The C. in C. Allied Forces sends today a list of former United Nations warships reported by the Italians at the time of the Armistice in ports now controlled by the enemy and also a list of those known to be in our control.

"Avalanche"

7. The U.S. destroyer WAINWRIGHT carried out a bombardment of the road and rail crossing North of the Voltorno today.

U/B
sunk.

8. ULTIMATUM attacked and it is believed sank a U/Boat entering Toulon at 0716 today.

Aegean.
AURORA
damaged.

9(a) There are reports that several ships sailed from the Piraeus on 28th October carrying troops equipment and landing craft, and that the attack on Leros is intended tonight. One 'Fleet' and two 'Hunt' destroyers left the Gulf of Kos this evening to patrol to the westward of Leros after a demonstration off Kalimmo. They are to lie up subsequently in Mandelyah Gulf. One S/M has been ordered to patrol north of Samos.

(b) AURORA and BELVOIR, en route for the Aegean with PETARD and BEAUFORT were attacked in the Kastelorizo area at 1530 by 2 Ju. 88s and again at 1623 by 14 Ju. 87s escorted by 6 M.E. 109s. AURORA was hit in 36.05 N. 29.47 E., well inside Turkish territorial waters, and returned to Alexandria (arrived noon/31st) with all her 4 inch guns out of action but no damage below the waterline, escorted by BEAUFORT. Her casualties were heavy. All three destroyers were carrying troops and equipment for Leros. PETARD and BELVOIR continued towards the Aegean and were again attacked, at 1712 by 16 Ju. 88s escorted by 3 Macchi 202 and at 1752 by 8 Ju. 88s in territorial waters near Kastelorizo. In the latter attack BELVOIR was hit by an unexploded bomb which was later removed without impairing her fighting efficiency. No casualties were caused. After the last attack the two destroyers proceeded to the eastward until 1900 when they altered course again for the Aegean where they laid up in Mandelyah Gulf.

(c) PATHFINDER, EXMOOR and BLENCATHRA left their lying up position in the Gulf of Kos at 1800 today and carried out a sweep of the Amorgos/Stampalia/Kos area, without meeting any shipping, after which they returned to Alexandria.

/(a)...

30.10.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Aegean.
(Contd.)

(d) ECHO, KRAKOWIAK and ROCKWOOD lay up in the gulf of Kos today and were ordered at 1900 to demonstrate off Kalimmo and patrol west of Leros, subsequently lying up in Turkish waters.
(e) Four Ju. 88s bombed Leros and 5 Enemy aircraft attacked Patmos today and an unknown number of enemy aircraft attacked Kastelorizo. A heavy raid on Samos was reported from the Turkish coast this morning, and the Italian M.V. MARIA (6639 tons) was sunk.

China.

10. 5 U.S. Lightnings attacked Kiukiang Docks and shipping today, scoring direct hits and starting large fires. They were intercepted by enemy aircraft and 4 Lightnings were lost.

America and West Indies.

U/B
sunk.

11. Aircraft from U.S. carrier CARD report sinking a U/Boat in 48.43 N. 32.19 W. (mid north Atlantic) at 1541 today.

Australia and New Zealand.

12. After midnight 29/30th October, a Liberator shadowing a light cruiser and 2 destroyers, attacked the force in harbour at Mundua Island (Solomon Is.) and made two hits,

/probably...

MOST SECRET.

946

30.10.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

probably on one of the destroyers, and a near miss on the other Destroyer.

13. Three small freighters were set on fire by Allied aircraft this afternoon at Kieta, Bougainville Island.

14. A large barge was sunk by allied aircraft off Cape Orford (New Britain) today.

947

30.10.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Admiralty 281566.
Escort vessels to reinforce Eastern Fleet.
Para. 1(B)(1) PHEASANT, CRANE, CHANTICLEER, WHIMBREL, CYGNET, REDPOLE, BLACK SWAN.
Para. 1(B)(2) MEADOWSWEET, MONKSHOOD, PENNYWORT, SNOWFLAKE.
(C. in C.W.A., 301019A)
The following ships will sail to join Eastern Fleet not later than December 31st.
(A) Sloops PHEASANT, CRANE, CHANTICLEER, WHIMBREL, CYGNET, REDPOLE, BLACK SWAN, AMETHYST, HART.
(B) Frigates AVON, LOSSIE, PARRET, SHIEL.
(C) Corvettes MEADOWSWEET, MONKSHOOD, PENNYWORT, SNOWFLAKE, WILLOWHERB, BUGLOSS, STATICE.
2. Pending departure, new construction is to be administered as follows.
(A) Greenock. AMETHYST, HART.
(B) Londonderry. AVON, LOSSIE, PARRET, SHIEL.
(C) Liverpool. WILLOW HERB, BUGLOSS, STATICE.
3. (A) Authorities concerned are requested to arrange for WHIMBREL and PENNYWORT to refit commencing November 8th and 15th respectively.
(B) Remaining operative ships will be withdrawn from service in Western Approaches early in December.
(C. in C.W.A. 301010A.) *See also C in C.W.A. 221910A/November.*

AMIENS. Cancel A.M. 221823*. AMIENS is not at present required to proceed to Casablanca.
2. It is understood that AMIENS will continue her present training programme until December.
(D.O.D.(H) 301117A.)* Re sailing of French training ship AMIENS to Casablanca at request of French General Staff.

B.E.C.1 and B.E.C.2. Allocated to C. in C. Med. and will be based at Gibraltar.
2, 3. On completion of working up at Tobermory C. in C.W.A. is requested to sail them as convenient for Gibraltar where they will form the 51st Auxiliary A/S Group.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 301130A.)

1st M.T.B. Flotilla. Temporarily allocated to the Dover Command.
2. Request that M.T.B.'s 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 430, 431 and 434 be sailed to Dover as soon as convenient.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 301202A.)

Russian procedure. Your 281230. Foreign Secretary is seeing Molotov about this (?communique). Please report developments.
(Admiral Miles, 301226C to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

/Fighter...

248

30.10.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. - Contd.

Fighter carriers for Eastern Fleet Ref. A.M. 071931A Sept., subject to concurrence of C. in C.E.F. fighter carriers HUNTER, STALKER, ATTACKER, PURSUER, EMPEROR and SEARCHER should not embark torpedoes, but should retain torpedo personnel and stores so that torpedoes can be embarked at short notice. The scale of reserve torpedoes ashore will be increased accordingly, details of which will be signalled separately. (A.C.N.S.(Air) 301745A.)

COREOPSIS, TAMARISK, MALLOW. Greek manned corvettes COREOPSIS and TAMARISK are allocated to Western Approaches Command. 2. Yugo-Slav manned corvette MALLOW is allocated to Levant Command. 3. C. in C.W.A. is requested to sail MALLOW to C. in C. Levant by convenient convoy on conclusion of working up. (D.D.O.D.(H) 301805A.)

Movements.

S/Ms. P.66 (ULA) sailed from Lerwick 0740A 30th unescorted through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 thence direct KK diving by day when North of 062° otherwise on surface at C.O.'s discretion. (S.O.S/Ms. Lerwick, 300807A to S/Ms operating North of 51° N (R) A.C.O.S.) Positions at 0800/31 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S.301704A.)

REDPOLE. My 301010. (N.T. in W.D.) Request REDPOLE may arrive U.K. early in December at latest. (C. in C.W.A. 301012A to Admty.)

RODNEY, NELSON. A.M.241906.* Destination NELSON Rosyth, RODNEY Clyde. 2. R.A.D. H.F. is requested to order destinations for destroyers. 3. On arrival NELSON and RODNEY may grant 10 days leave to each watch. (C. in C. H.F. 301423A.) *NELSON and RODNEY to be placed under orders of C. in C.Home Fleet.

CEYLON Sailed as in my 281754A. E.T.A. Gibraltar 0100 3rd Nov. (C. in C. Plymouth, 301504A.)

BELFAST, NORFOLK, KENT. C.S.10 in BELFAST with NORFOLK and KENT arrived Seidisfjord. (A.C.I.C. 301628A.)

/H.M.S. QUEEN...

War Diary.

30.10.1943.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

H.M.S. QUEEN ELIZABETH. Your 291843. As it is not desirable that H.M.S. QUEEN ELIZABETH should pass the Lizard before 0800/10th and consequently tide will not suit if she proceeds to Needles, C. in C. Plymouth has concurred ship should enter Portland for the night 10th/11th November, being sailed next morning as required by him. Request ship may be given orders accordingly.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 301819A to C. in C.H.F., Admty.)

TUSCALOOSA. Hvalfiord arrival TUSCALOOSA.
(A.C.I.C. 301946A to C. in C. H.F.)

Operations.

Operation F.R. Russian ships arrived Kola Inlet at 0530A/30th.
(Russian ships arrived Kola Inlet at 0530A/30th. Scapa arrival C.S. (1) in LONDON at 0812. (A.C.O.S. 300914A.)
Your 292351* and my 301226 not to C. in C. H.F. Ambassador has just received notification from Soviet Gov. that orders have been given to allow personnel to land.
(2) Yes. Foreign Secretary has very clearly pointed this out to them from Sept. 23rd.
(Adml. Fisher 301712C to Admty., (R) C. in C.H.F., S.B.N.O., North Russia.)* Re delay in disembarkation of personnel.
Arrival Archangel 1410A today HARRIER, SEAGULL, WESTCOTT, EGLANTINE.
(S.B.N.O., Archangel, 302011A.)

Coastal force patrols. 1. Orders for night 30/31, October.
(A) 3 M.G.B., 3 M.T.B. from Newhaven carry out offensive patrol in area north of direct route Barfleur - Havre East of 00° 20' W. and W. of 075° YY 9. Primary objective torpedo targets. Proceed and return by passage four or two passing North end of passage at 2300A and returning to 20 miles of own coast by 0700A.
(B) Chasseurs 13, 14 patrol Q.Z.S.384 between F. and E.A.5 buoy.
(C) LA COMBATTANT M.L.291 immediate notice St. Helens.
(D) M.L.208, 124, R.M.L. 532 patrolling 50° 15' N. between 02° 10' W. and 02° 35' W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 301230A to F.O.I.C. Portland, N.O.I.C. Newhaven, X.D.O. East D.l., Info Admty., C. in C. Plymouth, V.A. Dover, Com. Force "J" LA COMBATTANTE.)
Dover dispositions for night of 30th/31st October.
(V.A. Dover, 301701A.)

/Operation...

30.10.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Operation "Stonewall". GLASGOW is passing the Gate at 1300A/31 and proceeding through positions (GA) 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles (GB) 049° 52' N. 016° 14' W. and thence 207° to carry out operation "Stonewall" in area between 042° N. and 045° N. and between 020° W. and 022° W.

2. If shadowed by enemy aircraft before reaching position (GB) GLASGOW is to continue to westward past (GB) until dark and then alter course for the patrol area.

4. Codeword "Bailey".
(C. in C. Plymouth, 301315A to GLASGOW (R) F.O.C.Gibraltar, CEYLON, LEITH, Admty., N.O.I.C., Falmouth, F.O.S., C. in C.H.F. H.Q.C.C., C. in C.W.A., C.S.10, S.B.N.O. Azores, NELSON, RODNEY, Escorts, K.M.S.31, M.K.S.28, K.M.F.25.)

Operation F.S. Unless otherwise directed by S.B.N.O. N.Russia D.day is 1st November for operation F.S.
S.B.N.O. N. Russia acknowledge.
(C. in C.H.F., 301652A to V.A.2., C.S.10, Capt. (D)3, S.B.N.O. Archangel, S.B.N.O. North Russia, (R) Home Fleet, Admiralty, C. in C.W.A., A.C.I.C., A.C.O.S., H.Q.C.C., Commaveu, C. in C. Rosyth, F.O.(S))
Your 301652. D day 1st November confirmed.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 302045A to C. in C.H.F.)

S/M Positions of Submarines at 0800/31 and movements for following 24 hours. All times zone A.
patrols. A. SYRTIS (P.241) VARANGIAN (P.61) and STUBBORN (P.238) as in my 291636.
B. ULA (P.66) 62° 30' N. 03° 01' E. diving by day to patrol vicinity of position 63° 35' N. 05° 01' E. daily advance 120 miles.
(F.O.S. 301704A.)

Repair of Portharno-Fayal Cable by ALERT. A.M. 201727A and my 221516A. If this operation is attempted intend that it should be carried out by following forces -
Operation "Spade" (A) Force 26. ALERT escorted by two "Hunt" class destroyers.
(B) Force 27. GLASGOW with two Fleet destroyers acting as covering force.

(2) The recent indications of the presence in the Biscay area of D.O.217 aircraft fitted with glider bombs make it essential that both Forces 26 and 27 should have continuous fighter escort during daylight hours throughout the operation.
(3) As it is most undesirable that Force 27 should remain continuously in the immediate vicinity of Force 26 the above will represent two separate commitments for air escort.
(4) 19 Group are able to supply only about 50 per cent of the aircraft considered necessary to meet the full commitment. An increase to enable 19 Group to provide an additional 16 Mosquitoes, or 12 Mosquitoes and 6 Beaufighters daily throughout the operation is required.

30.10.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Repair of
Portharno-
Fayal Cable
by ALERT.
(Contd.)

(5) Request early action may be taken to provide necessary additional aircraft. Intended date for commencement is 5th November or first subsequent date when surface forces are available and weather conditions and outlook are suitable. Estimated duration of operation is four days in area.
(6) Codeword "Spade" is allotted to this operation.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 301934A to Admty. (R) H.Q.C.C., H.Q.F.C., 19 Group, 10 Group.)

Cross Channel
operations.

A meeting was held on 29th October at M.W.T. at which F.O.I.C. London was represented to discuss berthing of vessels in London area in connection with cross channel operations.
2. Propose representatives of W.O., M.W.T. and Admiralty assemble at Tilbury at 1030/3rd Nov. and King George V dock at 1030/4th to settle the berthing.
3. Request you will be represented.
(D. of P., 301946A to C. in C. Nore, (R) F.O.I.C. London, N.C.X.F.)

Mining.

Continuous
sweeping.

A.M. 011201/43 of 26th Oct.. Propose to test the system on 5th Nov.
(C. in C. Nore, 301016A.)

Thames
Estuary.

1 ground mine detonated 367° Tongue Sand Tower 3.2 miles.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 301346A.)

Minefield
off
Lowestoft.

"O" sweepers swept moored mines (German Type Z) at 1156 today in 165° No. 2 buoy 8 cables.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 301349A) (Capt. M/S Gt. Yarmouth, 311600A and 311605A.)
Available ships of 4th M.S.F. are to proceed as convenient tomorrow to Yarmouth Roads, to operate under orders of F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth in clearing Minefield in vicinity of No. 2 Buoy. Weather permitting operation should commence on Monday.
(C. in C. Nore, 301703A.)

German Type Mine new condition cut and exploded by rifle fire in 52° 37.4' N. 2° 18.0' E. at 1150 today. Second mine in vicinity exploded in sweep.
(Capt. M/S Gt. Yarmouth, 301845A.)

30.10.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

Altenfiord. SEADOG (P.216) reports:-
 (1) No enemy Warships sighted. 23rd October
 0915 and 1115 observed small Coaster Flying
 Norwegian Flag enter and leave Stave Andoy.
 (2) Numerous Fishing Vessels sighted.
 (3) Considerable searchlight activity at entrance to Andfiord
 and Andof-Bleikon night 24th and 25th October. Ends.
 (F.O.(S) 301031A to Admty.)

Sea transport to and from Norway. Following is a joint telegram from N.A. and M.A. to D.N.I. and Director Military Intelligence. N.A. 111746. During first 18 days of October no change is indicated in volume of transport traffic to Norway. 28 German escorted transports arrived in Oslo from German control ports and in addition 3 transports which had passed through Sound were probably (?useless) MOSS or DRAMMEN.
 (2) Germans still appear to be withdrawing experienced troops and quantities of equipment from Norway including guns horses and motor vehicles. Replacements consist to some extent of young recruits and older men.
 (3) During above period it is estimated from sea transport statistics that about 87 thousand troops left Norway with full arms and equipment whilst arrivals amounted to only about 11 thousand almost half of whom were reported to be leave troops returning to Norway. Graded B.2.
 (N.A. Stockholm 301302 to Admty.) N.I.D. Comment: War Office and M.E.W. consider figure of 87,000 too high, with which opinion N.I.D. concur.

Unidentified plot. In 052° 33' 30" N. 020° 07' E.
 (C. in C. Nore, 301950A to WOLFHOUD, WHITSHED, WOLSEY.)

Blockade breakers. Report graded B.2 dated 11th October states 4 merchant vessels including HIMALAYA and DRESDEN had nearly completed loading at Bordeaux and were to sail in convoy for Japan when ready. Another independent report dated 28th October also graded B.2 states convoy of Blockade breakers at Bordeaux was loaded and ready to leave.
 (D.D.I.C. 302306A to C. in C. Plymouth, (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.O.S. by Courier, H.Q.C.C., S.B.N.O. Azores.)

U/Boats.

U/Boats sighted. Following from A/C in transit Newfoundland to U/K quote submarine sighted 53° 40' N. 30° 30' W., course 180°, at 30 0515Z. Newfoundland notified.
 (T.A.C. Prestwick, 300637A.)

Fortress 9849 en route Gander to Prestwick reports:
 Sighted Submarine at 30/0513Z in approx. 54.10 N. 30.30 W. on surface course 180(18585*.)

(*T.A.Q. Prestwick A, 301125Z.) *As received.

30.10.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

- CHARLESTOWN. My 281628A CHARLESTOWN delayed defective. Further signal will be made. (F.O.I.C.N.I. 300942A)
- CHANCELLOR. Peterhead arrival Tug STOKE master states CHANCELLOR War Dept. vessel, who was being towed from Inverness to Grimsby sank owing to age of ship and rough weather in position 6 miles north of Trouphead 0800A/30 crew (2 hands) taken on board STOKE at 2100A/29th. (R.N.O. Peterhead, 301410A, F.O.I.C.Aberdeen 302046A)
- H.M.S. QUEEN ELIZABETH. Your 291843. It is confirmed that H.M.S. QUEEN ELIZABETH can be received at Portsmouth on 10th Nov. and can remain until 20th Nov. (2) Important defects will be made good as far as possible in the time available. (D.O.D.(H), 302115A)

Shipping and Convoys.

- U.C.5. C.T.G. 21.6 in CHARLES LAWRENCE and DANIEL T. GRIFFIN, DONNELL H/F D/F, SIMS H/F, D/F, HOPPING, REEVES sailed for U.C.5. (U.S.E.C.Londonderry, 300624Z to C. in C. WA.)
- H.X.263, E.G.B.3. WHIMBREL is required to return to U.K. for refit and fuel permitting is to be detached to join H.X.263 a.m. 31st. (2) Report if fuel does not permit. (C. in C. W.A. 300924Z to S.O. E.G.B.3, (R) Capt. (D) Greenock, S.O. E.G.4 & 7, WHIMBREL, 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., Cmdre. (D) Argentia. Cmdre. (D) W.A., S.B.N.O. Azores, N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- It is intended to detach KITE p.m. 31st to rejoin 2nd E.G., if ship has topped up. (2) Report a.m. tomorrow 31st state of fuel in KITE. (C. in C. W.A. 301205Z to S.O. E.G.B.3. (R) Connav, A.C.I.C. C. in C. C.N.A., KITE, S.O. E.G.2 Cmdr e (D) W.A. S.B.N.O. Azores, Admty, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O. N.F. H.Q.C.C., Cmdre. (D) Argentia.)
- It is desired that either DUFF or ESSINGTON should arrive U.K. as soon as possible and not later than November 12th. (2) Request you will arrange and inform me accordingly provided this will allow of reinforcing S.C.146 in accordance with My 101255. My 300924 refers. (C. in C. W.A. 301222A to C. in C. C.N.A.)

U.T.4 /...

30.10.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

- U.T.4. Request U.S.S. TEXAS and 4 destroyers may arrive Belfast before dark October 31st.
(C. in C. W.A. 300935A to C.T.F.69)
N.U. From 054 degs. 30' N. 017 degs. 04' W.
steer direct for (K) omitting (J).
(2) SLINGER and TRUMPETER are to be detached on crossing 015 degs. W. to proceed unescorted.
(3) Detach U.S.S. MARKAY and ESSO HARTFORD on crossing 010 degs. W. to proceed unescorted to Loch Ewe.
(C. in C. W.A. 300949Z to C.T.F.69 C. in C. W.A.)
Your 300949Z and 300935A U.S.S. TEXAS, SLINGER, TRUMPETER, EARLE, JEFFERS part 1900Z/30 E.T.A. Mew Island 1600Z/31.
T.U.13.1 U.S.S. GLENNON part 0800Z/31 and arrive Mew Island same time. After departure Cdr.17 Destroyer Squad.
U.S.S. NELSON, ENOREE will be senior of T.F. Loch Ewe section parts 0700Z/31 E.T.A. Barra Head 1640Z/31 E.T.A. Loch Ewe 2350Z/31. E.T.A. U.T.4 Point (K) 1350Z/31. All other E.T.A. reported my 291309Z should be advanced one hour 40 minutes.
U.T.4 1500Z/30 P.C.S. 54 degs. 37' 16 degs. 12' 78 degs. 135. Weather report 4772 0884.
(C.T.F.69, 301615Z)
- O.N.S.21. When O.N.S. 21 is clear of Cape Breton Is. it
E.G.5. is intended to detach 5th escort group to St. Johns N.F.
It is requested that ships may clean boilers and be sailed in time to support H.X.265.
(C. in C. W.A. 301119A to F.O.N.F.)
- J.W.54A. (A) WHITEHALL S.O. WRESTLER, RHODODENDRON, HEATHER detailed.
(B) HEATHER is not arcticised.
(2) Regret no escorts are available for R.A.54A in accordance with C. in C. H.F.'s 291823.
(3) Request date 2 destroyers will be required in accordance with Admty. 282009 para. 5.
(C. in C. W.A. 301155A to Admty. C. in C. H.F. (R) R.A.(D) H.F.)
- Coloured Shipping Routes. O.S.58. Coloured routes which are to be given complete except where otherwise stated.
(1) South America by "Copper". South Africa and beyond by "White".
(2) Alternatives. A. Freetown - nil.
B. West African ports beyond Freetown African and Coast positions. C. South America "Silver".
D. South Africa "Red" and "Jade".
(3) Letters "Silver" M to Q, "Copper" RS, "White" TT to WW, "Red" XX to ZZ, "Jade" AA African BB Coast CC.
(4) Ships for South Africa and beyond leave "White" route at UU thence to Walvis Bay.
(D.T.D. 301155A to N.C.S.O's Home)

K.M.F.25A /...

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Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

K.M.F.25A. N.K. alter course forthwith for new position VL 45 degs. N. 24 degs. W. new VM 39.15 N. 23.30 W. new VN 35.30 N. 16.01 W. and rejoin route at VH.

(2) Stragglers from U to new X 45 degs. N. 25 degs. W. new Y. 38 degs. 40' 24 30W new Z 35.00 N. 16.10 W. thence to T. (A.C.N.S.(H), 301219A to Escorts of K.M.F.25A. (R) S.B.N.O. Azores. C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.C. Gib. H.Q.C.C., C.M.S.F. C. in C. Med., C. in C. W.A.)

K.M.F.26. Sailing November 15th is to be escorted by F.G.1. (C. in C. W.A. 301524A)

SS. BONITA. Defects completed. My P.C.S. 054 degs. 30' 041 degs. 20' 240 degs.4. (NORTHERN GEM, 301450Z)

Pre-sailing telegrams. R.U. Convoys. In order that information concerning actual time of sailing may be available earlier, request that the E.T.D. in addition to the date may be included in pre-sailing telegram and that if this is not adhered to an amendment prefixed immediate may be signalled. (C. in C. W.A. 301810A to A.C.I.C.)

B.7. Your 301515Z. Weather 4651 9144. Position to nearest degree 5240. (B.7, 301835Z to N.S.H.Q.)

AQUITANIA, QUEEN MARY. Convoy T.A.70 AQUITANIA and T.A.73 QUEEN MARY will be ready to sail from Clyde p.m. 4th Nov. and p.m.5th Nov. respectively. (2) Request you will sail both ships to New York. Admty. will signal route. (3) Fighter protection codewords: T.A.70 CORNCRAKE, T.A. 73 HENBANE. (D.O.D.(H), 302111A to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Owing to illness of the staff, the Foreign Stations
of this Diary have not been checked.

30.10.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

WITHERINGTON. My P.C. and S. 036° 09' N. 006° 42' W. 298° 27
HIGHLANDER, knots, WISHART in company.
WISHART. (WITHERINGTON 300144A to F.O.C.Gib. (R) HIGHLANDER,
ACTIVE, WISHART.)
HIGHLANDER swept close inshore through position
and vicinity. WITHERINGTON, WISHART commenced A/S
sweep at 8 knots furthest on at 0415 thence through (037°) 00'
008° 40' 036° 52' 009° 00'. All ships together thence through 036°
35' 007° (759') at 1045 036° 50' 007° 48' at noon. Propose to
continue cutting (one) knot furthest on circles by broad zigzags
at 18 knots. Request early amplifications reports and further
instructions. Weather report.
(WITHERINGTON 301229A to F.O.C.Gib. (R) HIGHLANDER, WISHART.)

NELSON, Arrived OBEDIENT, TEAZER.
RODNEY (F.O.I.C. Gib. 300803A.)
& escorts. Onward route from Q.B.A. 87. All positions N. and
W. A. 035° 50' 010° 00' B. 036° 30' 016° 00'
C. 040° 00' 020° 00' D. 050° 00' 020° 00', thence
as ordered by Admiralty.
(F.O.C.Gib. 301145A to NELSON, RODNEY, (R) C. in
C.W.A. C. in C.Plymouth, Admty. C. in C.H.F. H.Q.C.C.
C. in C.Med. Fleet, TARTAR, OFFA.)
C. in C.Mediterranean's 261117. Sailed OBEDIENT, TEAZER, ROCKET.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 301603A.)
Arrived fuelled and sailed TARTAR, OFFA in accordance with
C. in C.Med's 261117.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 302236.)

CAPE PALLISER. Arrived 2245 G.M.T. 29th. Left 1935 G.M.T. 30th.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 300945, 301837.)

PALO ALTO, Collided with BUFFALO WALLOW can keep afloat and
damaged. make 12 knots. Am sending PALO ALTO to Dakar with
LITTLE BIG HORN escorted by FOSS until relieved.
BUFFALO WALLOW superstructure damaged is proceeding
with convoy.
(C.T.G. 21.5 301045 to F.O.C.Gib. (R) Cinclant,
Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. Commorseafron.)
X.T.G. 21.5 301045 which is being passed to you. Request you
will initiate any action necessary.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 301541A to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) C.T.G. 21.5.)

Crew of Your 291625. Marine Commandant assures me that
U/B sunk exact position where crew were picked up was 30
24 Oct. miles south west of Leixoes and 20 miles from
Portuguese coast at Aveiro.
(R.O.Vigo 301132.)

Casablanca LORD HOTHAM, five fleet tenders arrived.
movements. (C.M.S.F. 301150A.)

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30.10.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

U/B attacked. A.1 646 30 Oct. Gib. G.R.Opsum Sup. 29th. P. 179 2156 night M.K. 111 37.00 N. 08.41 W. or 37.00 N. 37.41 W. 070 8 estimated larger than 517 ton type multiple light flak 20 ft. forward of C/T - attacked - fully surfaced - 110 Red a still surfaced - 6 Torpex D/Cs - explosion plumes 4 on port side 2 on starboard close to C/T - Leigh light rendered U/S by flak and A/C damaged - no casualties nothing further seen of U/B and no contact obtained in 20 mins. (A.H.Q.Gib. 301155A.)

Homing procedure Azores. Request you will initiate your own Homing procedure signals. Form of signal is given in C.B. 04234 article 330. C. in C.W.A. 271757* my 281143* and your 292200 (N.T. in W.R.) refer. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 301303A to S.B.N.O.Azores, (R) C. in C.W.A. Admty.) * re Air cover signals and homing instructions for aircraft.

Use of Italian Warships. My 252047A para. 2. One officer for Liaison duties sails in SANDWICH and one leaves by air in a few days. 2. Ratings follow first passage after 4th Nov. Suggest you use ratings on Station for these ships and utilise personnel ex U.K. as reliefs. (N.A.2nd S.L. 301536A to F.O.I.C. Gib. F.O.C.W.Af. C. in C.Med. (R) F.O.L.I. B.A.D.)

K.M.F.25A. A. Sailing telegram. B. 12½ knots. C. T.F. 60.2 DAVISON (S.O.) D. 23. E. STRATHMORE. G.(a) G.J. (b) "Peacock". (D.T.D. 301601A to S.B.N.O.Azores, (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

WILTON. E.T.A. 0730A/31. (WILTON 301615A to F.O.I.C. Gib.)

DURBAN. Intend to sail DURBAN at 1100A/31st to Plymouth for onward routing to Portsmouth. 2. Route. 3. Codeword "Pillbox". (F.O.C.Gib. 301701A.)

GEORGES LEYGUES. Onward route from D. through (e) 035° 45' 006° 30' Q.B.A. 87. (f) 036° 01' 005° 21' (g) 035° 40' 003° 45' (h) 035° 38' (7002°) 14' (j) 035° 56' 000° 50' thence Q.B.B. 41 to Mers el Kebir. All positions N. and W. 2. Codeword "Autumn." (F.O.I.C. Gib. 301717A to GEORGES LEYGUES, (R) C. in C.Med. Brit. Fleet. Com. N.O.B.Oran, Comnavnav, Naval France.)

/PASTEUR...

30.10.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

PASTEUR.

Sailed 30th.
(M.W.T.R. Casablanca 301812A to B.A.D.)

HABANA,
Del Rio.

Your 281945A. 1. Subsequent detailed search of Del Rio's effects produced A. 201 developed films 35 millimetres. B. 2 partly exposed reels film 35 mm. C. Letter referring to metal samples.
2. All the above seem harmless.
3. Films and papers handed to defence security who are completing inventory of effects.
4. Every clue to Del Rio's movements contacts and activities on board ship thoroughly investigated without further result.
5. Additional tethoeical search of ship has been fruitless and am convinced further searching is useless.
6. Defence security concur. 7. Metal being analysed but result not yet available.
(C.C. R.L.O.Gib. 301830 to Admty.)

Azores.

Following air escort detailed for 31st. Intend to cover K.M.F.25A with 2 Fortress aircraft. Request procedure B. from 0500Z for B.N. N.M. 1 and from 0900Z for N.M.M.2. To cover M.K.F.25 with 2 Fortress aircraft request procedure B. for 110 M.1 from 0500 and for 110 M.2 from 0930.
(S.B.N.O.Azores 301925Z to Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar C. in C.W.A.)

Italian
Movements.

Arrivals Italian ships DUCA DEGLI ABRUZZI, DUCA D'AOSTA, LEGIONARIO, ALFREDO ORIANI from east.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 301946A.)

U/B.

Am over enemy S/M in 35.35 N. 06.40 W.
(A/C W.Gib. 302200 to Gib.)
Am over enemy S/M in position 35.33 N. 06.25 W.
S/M was on surface. When first sighted was on course 092° speed 15 knots.
(A/C W.Gibraltar 302208A to Gib.)

South Atlantic.

S.T.L.5.

1. Intend to sail at 1800Z/31 escorted by COMMANDANT DROGOU (S.O.) HYDRIANG, AMARANTHUS, BUTSER, DUNCTON, ST. WISTAN and YESTOR. 6 ships, arrangements.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 300947Z to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, N.O.I.C. Lagos, (R) Admty. CMDT. DROGOU, Capt. D. N.C.S.O. Freetown.) As amended 311915Z.

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30.10.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

MONTCALM. Arrived 0900Z. Your 261944 refers.
(Comar Dakar 301048Z to Com. N.O.B.Oran, (R)
Admty. F.O.C.W.Af. C.M.S.F. Gibraltar, C. in C.Med.)

49th M.L.
Flotilla. Sailed M.L.832, M.L.846, VIVIANA. My 271604*
refers, E.T.A. M.Ls. CAPE INHACA, PILOT NULK
0300Z/1st Nov.
(Cmdre. Durban 301714Z to Admty.)
* Programme for Second Division 49th M.L.Flottilla.

U/B. Brazilian aircraft sighted U-Boat at 1225 G.M.T. in
022° 55' S. 040° 55' W. about 20 miles astern of
convoy J.T.12. Aircraft attacked but result
uncertain.
(B.N.S.O.Rio de Janeiro 301805Z to Admty. (R)
C. in C.S.A. F.O.C.W.Af.)

B.Y.M.S. Arrived 1600Z B.Y.M.S. 223, 148, 217. Your 272103
refers.
(Comar Dakar 301912Z to F.O.C.W.Af.)

PALO ALTO,
BUFFALO WILLOW, collision. Following received from C.T.G. 21.5 (begins):
PALO ALTO collided with BUFFALO WALLOW can keep
afloat and make 12 knots. Am sending PALO ALTO
to Dakar with LITTLE BIG HORN escorted by FOSS
until relieved. BUFFALO WALLOW superstructure
damaged is proceeding with convoy 301045A (ends.)
2. Request you augment escort.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 302130Z to (?Com. Dakar) (R) F.O.
Gibraltar.)

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30.10.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy ships in Aegean. Position of enemy one merchant vessel 1000 tons 36° 58' N. 27° 03' E. one E/V 36° 57' N. 27° 04' E. (A/C FMD/W 3001815Z (sic).) P.C. and S. of enemy (2 unknown) 36.56 N. 26.50 E. 330° 7 knots. (A/C FMD/W 300805Z.)

Enemy anchorage. At Kalino one merchant vessel 1500 tons, one escort vessel one F-Boat. (A/C FMD/W 300810Z.)

Position of enemy. One F-Boat 36.53 N. 27.09 E. one F-Boat 36.54 N. 27.17 E. 2 F-Boats 36.53 N. 27.18 E. (A/C FMD/W 300820Z.)

Enemy anchorage Naxos 3 merchant vessels of 500 tons one merchant vessel 200 tons. (7 W.M. 300845Z.)

Enemy anchorage at Adham (sic) one merchant vessel 500 tons. (A/C FMD/Q 300915Z.)

One E/V one merchant ship 037° 28' N. 025° 19' E. at 1600. (MJC (Unknown) 301146C to Alex.W/T.)

Air C. in 168198. A.239 30 Oct. Signed Eisenhower. N.W.A.A.F. C.Med. Day 29th 161 B.17 escorted by 24 P.38 took off to bomb the ball bearing factory at Turin but they were prevented from bombing this target. 46 aircraft either jettisoned or returned with bombs and the other 115 attacked the marshalling yards at Genoa where fires were started and many hits observed on the tracks and adjacent buildings. One B.17 was lost and 2 P.38 are missing. Fighter bombers attacked bridges in the Miomano area and strafed M.T.2 M/Vs were successfully attacked off Giulianova direct hits followed by much black smoke being claimed. An F.W. 190 was destroyed and another damaged during the day. (Air C. in C.Med. No T.O.O/30th.)

Operation "Despondency" Your 292346* no. Operation "Despondency" complete failure due to weather conditions. (SHAKESPEARE 300409C to Capt. S.I.) * Recyphered in table not held by W.R.

ZOEA. October arrived 29th. (N.O.I.C. P.P. 300826C.)

Alexandria Movements. 29th 1943 arrivals DELPHINIUM, GRIBB. Departures SIRIUS, PETARD, BELVOIR, BEAUFORT, DELPHINIUM, APOSTALIS, G.S., SAKTOURIS, KLO, WOLBOROUGH, LEONIAN, DERBY, SEKSERN, M.G.Bs. 643, 646, M.L.584. (R.A.Alexandria 300845C.)

UNRIVALLED. Left 29th. (S.O.I. Beirut 300855C.)

SUTLEJ. Departed 29th. (S.O.I. Beirut 300857C.)

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Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

EMPIRE GAIN, BRITISH DILIGENCE. M.S.C.I. 22. Intend sailing EMPIRE GAIN and BRITISH DILIGENCE to Augusta for onward routing to Naples and Bari respectively at 1600/30th. Details.
(V.A.Malta 300905.) Sailed D.S.T.O. Malta 301615.

SONTAY. M.S.C.I.22. Intend sailing area 0900B/31st. 2. 509 and B. 7. 3. 292 (?202), 248, 212. E.T.A. Malta 1500B/1st. 6. Normal. 7. B. 8. VETCH. 9. SONTAY for K.M.S.30 area carries about (?2) tons naval W/T stores for S.N.S.O. and enemy mines referred to in C. in C.Med. 271130 (N.T. in W.D. see 271131) SONTAY carries (word omitted) for ST. ANGELO.
(S.N.C.Tripolitania 301014B to N.O.I.C. Malta.)

IPSWICH. Left Suez Oct. 30th.
(Suez C.C.O. 301031C, 070801 Nov.)

AMARAPOORA. H.S. sailed 30th for U.K.
(D.S.T.O.X. 301037C.)

Enemy ships off Toulon. P.C. and S. of enemy. 7 L/C, 43.49 N. 07.40 E. 070° 7 knots within half an hour of 1100.
(A/C VHQ/W 301057A.)

WARSPITE. In view of U.G.S.21 being early and K.M.S.30 being late WARSPITE is to be sailed a.m. 1st Nov. to obtain clear passage in the War Channel. My 281834 refers.
(C. in C.Med. 301104A to V.A.Malta, (R) WARSPITE, Admty. F.O.C. Gib. C. in C.Med. Cdre. Algiers.)

HEDGEHOG lost 17 Oct. Your 232039. Schooner HEDGEHOG cannot be identified Request further particulars of vessel and whether on Naval Service.
(Hd. of M.B.II 301115A to C. in C.Levant, (R) C.F.E.)

DEVONSHIRE, DERBYSHIRE. Your 291151 (N.T. in W.R.) Confirmed that DEVONSHIRE and DERBYSHIRE are not required at Oran. They should return to M.E.
(P.S.T.O. Med. 301126A to P.S.T.O.M.E.)

Repatriation Ships. TAIREA and CUBA returning from Barcelona with British prisoners and protected personnel. Expected to cross 020° E. at 0800 Nov. 1st. E.T.A. Alexandria daylight 3rd. Route reverse of that in my 181045*. Speed 11 knots. 2. Ships not to be molested.
(C. in C.Levant 301149C.)
* re Repatriation ships leaving Port Said 19th to Barcelona.

/My...

30.10.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Repatriation
Ships.
(Contd.)

My 121745* para. 4. GRADISCA sailed from Mar-
seilles a.m. 30th, route as in para. 6F. Not to
be molested this voyage.
(C. in C.Med. 301801A to Med. Station and Levant
Station 266B, (R) M.A.C.)
* re exchange of repatriables with Germany.

BLAIRESK.

M.S.C.I. 22. Intend sailing to Naples at 1600/31st.
Details.
(V.A.Malta 301155.)

M.T.Bs.
for Med.

C. in C.Med's 271631 Sept. M.T.B. 419 (ex P.T.88)
has been shipped to Algiers.
2. Further signals will be made regarding shipment
of the other boats.
(D.D.O.D.(C) 301251A to C. in C.Med. (R) C.C.F.)

United
Nations
Warships
in Italian
and enemy
ports.

U.S. 1057. Ref. No. W.3792/4150. N.A.F. 493.
1. Arrangements have been made by C. in C.Med. for
the return by the Italians of warships which pre-
viously belonged to United Nations.
2. Following warships have been declared by Italian
Govt. in accordance with Armistice terms and are
known to be in our control.
3. French. A. Destroyers TIGRE and TROMBE, both
poor condition. TROMBE handed over to French at
Bizerta. TIGRE proceeding there shortly. B. Small minesweeper
PETREL proceeding to Bizerta for transfer. C. Three submarines
DAUPHIN, REQUIN and ESPADON all damaged and scuttled at
Kastellamare, Pozzuoli and Naples respectively.
4. Greek. A. VEDETTE number A.2, handed over to Greek Navy at
Gallipola 27th. B. Greek destroyer KIOG G11, RENAMEZ HERMES,
was scuttled by enemy during Tunisian Campaign to block La
Goulette, Tunis, and had to be destroyed beyond any possibility
of repair, during urgent operations to clear the channel before
"Husky". C. No other Greek warships located in our control.
5. Yugo-Slav. Following warships mostly of small size located
in Heel ports are being sailed to Malta in groups for transfer to
Yugo-Slav Navy as and when they are ready to man them. 2
torpedo boats (T.1 and T.5). 1 auxiliary cruiser (LUBIANA). 4
submarine chasers, 2 motor patrol vessels, 2 minesweepers
(MELJINE and MLJET), 1 minelayer (MARIAN), 2 gunboats (VILA,
SAGBRIA), 1 base ship (SITNICA), 1 coastguard ship (CIARAVOLO),
1 boom vessel (AKIUS), 1 A/S motor boat.
6. There are also 5 tugs which it is operationally necessary to
retain in the Heel ports and A/M depot ship WUARNEROLO at Malta
whose transfer for the present it will be desirable to defer.
(Algiers 301405A., 011153Z to Etousa.)

Ref. No. W.3793/4151. N.A.F. 494. 30th. Edited Literal Text.
1. Former United Nations warships reported by Italians at time of
Armistice in ports now controlled by enemy. Ships likely to take
more than nine months to repair not included.
2. French. 2 cruisers (JEAN DE VIENNE, GALISSONNIERE) at Toulon,
3 destroyers (L'ADRIOT, BISON, FOUDROYANT) at Toulon, 3
destroyers (VALMY, SIROCO, LANSQUENET) at Savona, Gekow and
Imperia respectively.

30.10.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

United Nations Warships in Italian and enemy ports. (Contd.)
5 corvettes 1 at Spezia, remainder Toulon. 8 tugs 5 at Toulon, 3 at Imperia. 20 (approx). yachts, S. of France and Gulf of Genoa. 1 waterboat (TARN) at Genoa.
3. Yugo-Slav. 1 destroyer (BEOGRAD) at Venice. 3 torpedo boats (T.3, T.6, T.7) in Adriatic. 1 submarine (OSVETNIK) at Spezia. 7 M.T.Bs. at Pola 1 gunboat (DALMACIAN), 2 training ships (VILA, JADRAN). 1 lighthouse tender (KLIS), 1 waterboat (LOWCEN). 1 minelayer (MALINSKA) at Genoa.
4. Greek. At Piraeus there is one tug (KIMA). (Algiers 301405A to Etousa.)

Information from BARLETTA. Following were obtained from Italian M/L BARLETTA.
A. Information on minefields off S.E.Greece.
B. Book of safety routes in Aegean.
C. Book on underwater defences of Italian Ports.
2. Books B. and C. have been photographed and returned to BARLETTA.
3. Positive Foltm B. and C. and copies of A. have been forwarded to you by Air today 30th. Your 271(420 827 851*) (C. in C.Med. 301449A to C. in C.Levant, (R) N.O.I.C. Malta, F.O.L.I. Admty. for D.N.I.) * re details of minefields in central Aegean.

F.O.R.S.C.A. Rear Admiral J.W.A.Waller has today relieved Vice Admiral R.H.C.Hallifax C.B. as Flag Officer Red Sea and Canal Area. With this appointment has been merged that of Naval Member of Directorate of Combined Operations, M.E. Office will be at Suez 1 correspondence for Naval Member of D.C.O.M.E. to be addressed and routed to F.O.R.S.C.A.
(C. in C.Levant 301457C to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med. C. in C.E.F. F.O.R.S.C.A. Com. Aden. C.C.O. A.C.O.India, D.C.O.M.E.)

Aegean Situation. Joint Army R.A.F. Int. appreciation 24 hours to 0900Z/30th.
1. Situation unchanged up to 0900Z hours 30th.
2. No contact with enemy reported by our naval forces in operational area night 29/30th.
3. Ph. R/C and visual sightings 29th. Kos/Kalino area. Kos. Ph. R/C a.m. 4 F-Boats off harbour entrance of which 2 believed damaged. Ph. R/C a.m. 1 F-Boat (damaged) on beach northwest Pili. Kalino. Ph. R/C a.m. in port merchant vessel 300 foot naval auxiliary 2 F-Boats. Atti Bay. Damaged naval auxiliary. Vathi Port. Merchant vessel 190 foot as before. Total 7 F-Boats seen in operational area of which 3 probably damaged. Ph. R/C a.m. no shipping seen in following Bays, Isolavecchia, Pezonda, Sicati, Petronda, Archinonda, Linaria and Vlicadia. Stampalia. Ph. R/C a.m. 1 F-Boat in S.Andrea Bay. Now believed damaged and not from Kos area as suggested para. 3 appreciation 28th. Melos. Ph. R/C a.m. 1 oiler and 2 caiques 50/100 foot. Syros. Visual a.m. nil shipping. Naxos Port. Visual a.m. nil shipping. Nil shipping reported visually other Cyclades Islands. Sightings by R/C aircraft. At sea. 0710Z hours 2 merchant vessels 800 tons position

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30.10.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

36.45 N. 25.50 E. course 210°. Later attacked by torpedo Beaufighters results uncertain. Believed these were naval auxiliaries. 0744Z hours merchant vessel 2,000 tons one escort vessel and 1 possibly F-Boat position 37.26 N. 25.07 E. course 090°.

Later strike of Mitchells and Beaufighters despatched to attack but failed find. This possibly merchant vessel 300 foot from Piraeus seen off Laurion 28th. (see para. 3 appreciation 29th). 0630Z hours merchant vessel 2,500 tons escorted by E-Boat and 2 Ju.88s position 36.02 N. 23.34 E. course 090°. Possibly troopship CITTA DI SAVONA bound for Crete and/or Rhodes but no ph. cover Crete Ports obtained p.m. 29th owing cloud cover.

4. C.X. reports sailing of following ships from Paraeus 28th. Merchant vessel LIVENZA (seen by ph. R/C to have left Port Heracles between a.m. 27th and p.m. 28th) carrying motor transport guns and ammunition. Troopship SAVONA (which left Piraeus between same dates) carrying 16 tanks anti-tank and anti-aircraft guns. One merchant vessel (possibly merchant vessel 300 foot seen at Lavrion 28th) (see para. 3 above) carrying German troops and lorries. Each lorry said to be carrying 3 landing rowing boats. Merchant vessel possibly ADIGE with 250 men. One other merchant vessel with war material and guns.

7. Appreciate enemy intentions unchanged. Absence any further indication concerted attack on our naval forces and widely dispersed shipping movements suggest firstly direct attack Leros not immediately imminent secondly reinforcement Crete and/or Rhodes thirdly possible reinforcement Kos/Kalino. Enemy interest in Samos evidenced by 3 separate R/C sorties 29th. Possible he may appreciate it as supply base for Leros and softer target for initial assault.

(C. in C.M.E. No T.O.O.)

30 Oct. Cositrep 40. 1. Int.

A. Piraeus - Aegean. One of the ships in convoy reported yesterday 29 now reported as carrying 18 to 20 small L/C. This convoy not sighted yesterday. May still have been in one of outer harbours Piraeus area but Ph. R. this area yesterday 29 Oct. failed owing to cloud.

2. Ops. Aegean. B. Lrdg. patrol arrived Naxos 26 Oct. and W/T contact est. C. Five sorties Leros 29th some bombs dropped. No details damage.

5. Naval. Aegean. Ref. Cositrep 39. No naval casualties L.C.T. 115 22 Army personnel lost 14 wounded. 29th AURORA bombed by six aircraft S.E. of Kastelorizo. No damage. Night 29/30. No enemy contact. No news M.T.B. Ops. 30th ECHO, ROCKWOOD, and KRAKOWIAK, lying up in Turkish waters. PATHFINDER, EXMOOR, BLENCATHRA, returning Alexandria with AURORA who is detaching to join PETARD, BELVOIR, and BEAUFORT, en route Aegean loaded as follows. PETARD 8 Jeeps 1 trailer 60 Army 0 Naval personnel. BELVOIR 5 Jeeps 60 soldiers and mails. BEAUFORT 1 Jeep 60 soldiers and mails.

6. Air. A. Own. 29th October. Four escorted Torpedo Beaufighters on anti-shipping R/C Aegean attacked two merchant vessels 1,000 tons west of Amorgos. Ships appeared undamaged after attack although large flash followed by column of smoke seen near one vessel. One Beaufighter missing. Night 29/30 October. Four Liberators, 5 Halifaxes bombed Heraklion Aerodrome. Many bursts seen in landing area near runways. Two Dakotas successfully dropped supplies on Leros. B. Enemy, 29th October. Naval units bombed by enemy aircraft between Alexandria and Aegean. Beaufighters providing fighter cover were unable to intercept owing to cloud. No damage reported. 2 enemy A/C bombed Leros. No further details.

(C. in C.M.E. No T.O.O.)

/Reference...

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Mediterranean.

Aegean Situation. (Contd.) Reference J.P. 84 51. I have one Fleet and 2 Hunts now leaving Gulf of Kos who have been ordered to patrol to Westward of Leros after demonstration off Kalimno subsequently lying up in Mandelyah Gulf when they will be getting short of fuel.
2. Several reports from agents today attack on Leros intended tonight.
3. One (7S/M) ordered to patrol north of Samos.
4. AURORA and BELVOIR both hit by bombs East of Rhodes while approaching. Other 2 destroyers with them standing by. All 3 destroyers carrying troops.
(C. in C.Levant 301920C to Admty.)

G.U.S.20. Sailing telegram part 2. 37 ships.
(R.A.Alexandria 301601C.)

N.A.A.F. report. P.T.1 A.V.900 E. 30th. N.W.A.A.F. Opsum 251. N.W.A.T.A.F. 29th 27 U.S.Warhawks anti-shipping sweep East coast Italy dropped 26 x 500, 2 x 250 on 2 medium sized merchant vessels at Guillanava 2 direct hits. The quay at Francavilla was bombed with unobserved results.
(H.Q.N.A.A.F. 301640A.)

French Participation of defence of Madagascar. Med. Air Comd. 301725A. See East Indies.

SAVOIA Arrived and departed 30th.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 301747C.)

V.N.7. My 281827*sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta 301749A.)
* re intended sailing of V.N.7 for Naples.

N.V.6. Sailed as in my 291731A less JOHN TURNBULL. Total 15 ships.
(N.O.I.C. Naples 301754A.)

Naples Movements. 30th arrivals BROOKLYN, EDISON. Departures LAUDERDALE, LEDBURY, EGGESFORD, SEMINOLE. Arrived and departed L.S.T. 430, Q.C. 676. My 291903 (N.T. in W.D.) for P.C. 237 read L.S.T. 237.
(N.O.I.C. Naples 301801A.)

U.S. H/S SHAMROCK. Arrived Bizerta.
(F.O.Tunisia 301808A.)

/GAWLER...

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

GAWLER, survivors from TIENTSIN. Your 301027C (N.T. in W.R.) to GAWLER only and my 301417C (N.T. in W.D.) 13 survivors on board. Consider salvage hopeless master of tug confirms and states tug grounded first at 0900/25th and finally 0200/26th. Am proceeding Port Sudan, E.T.A. 1400/31st. Written report being forwarded. (GAWLER 301821C to F.O.R.S.C.A. (R) C. in C.Levant, N.O.I.C. Port Sudan, N.O.I.C. Massawa, N.O.I.C. Aden)

Italian Movements. Arrivals 30th Oct. ?TUSCANIA (W.D. Note ?Italian TOSCANA). Departures BAIONETTA (It. Corvette), SUBMAS LIBMARWA (It.) (N.O.I.C. Augusta 301821A.) Arrivals GABLIANO, ALISEO, SCIMITARRE, APE, PRODIGAL. (N.O.I.C. Bizerta 302021A.)

AMARAPOORA. Left 30th for U.K. (Alexandria 301830C.)

CAGNI. Italian S/M CAGNI. A.M. 261857 not to F.O.L.I. refers is reported as likely to require a refit at Taranto before being fitted for Aegean (operations?). (C. in C.Med. 301833A to Admty. (R) C. in C.Levant, C. in C.S.A. F.O.L.I.)

QUILLIAM, QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, RAIDER. A.M. 230001 to C. in C.Med. only. Essential they be fitted with type 272, docked and refitted as necessary, before joining E.F.
2. You are requested to signal which of the following alternatives you prefer:
A. The work to be done at Alexandria and destroyers sailed not later than 15th Jan. to join E.F.
B. Destroyers to be sailed to reach U.K. by 20th Nov
3. The first set type 272 will be available for shipment in BLENHEIM leaving U.K. 6th Nov.
(D.C.D.(E) Approved V.C.N.S. on O.D. 301834A to C. in C.Med. (R) C. in C. Levant, A.S. Alexandria.)

ERITREA. Concur in proposal in C. in C.E.F.'s 280631 that Italian sloop should proceed to Med. (C. in C.Med. 301851A to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F. C. in C.Levant, F.O.L.I.)

C. in C.Med. 1. Patrols by Coastal Forces were maintained to Cositintrep. between Spezia and Elba nights 26th to 28th. Night 26th/27th October attack by U.S.P.T. boat on F-Lighter off Viareggio had to be broken off due to breakdown of accompanying boats. Same night E-Boats off Bastia were driven off by U.S.P.T. boats. Cositintrep No. 111 part two signed Eisenhower Cite F.H.R.N.A. (C. in C.Med. 301901A.)

/U.S....

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Mediterranean - Contd.

U.S. move- Departures U.S.S. SYMBOL, U.S.L.S.T. 381.
ments. (Com. N.O.B.Oran 301928A.)
Arrival and departure U.S.Tug NARRAGANSETT.
(V.A.M. 302331A.)

Landing Your 271425 (N.T. in W.D.). L.C.T. three can be
Ships and released. Intend to sail Flight P about 5th Nov.
Craft. from Gibraltar.
2. L.S.I.(3) and L.S.T. are being held but it is
probable that L.S.I.(3) can be released.
(C. in C.Med. 301941A to Admty.)

WAINWRIGHT. U.S.S. WAINWRIGHT reports successful bombardment
with plane spotting on crossroads, road and rail
crossing and north entrance tunnel 912863 in
first phase. Enemy action 25 rounds approximately
5 inch from battery believed located Scauri. No damage to ships.
(C.T.F. 86 302000A to Radio Naples pass to F.O.W.It. for action
also action C. in C.Med.)

M.K.S. 30. N.O.I.C.Port Said sailing p.m. 2nd Nov. Request
R.A.Alex. sail Alexandria Section a.m. 3rd.
3. Route. 6. High "Across". 7. B. 8. CAMELLIA
and SOUTHERN MAID from Port Said. USK (S.O.)
SOEMBA, SOUTHERN SEAS from Alex.
(C. in C.Levant 302040Z, 2052B/1 Nov.)

Yugo-Slav Your 271935*. Further approach made to Yugo-Slav
Warships. Govt. who while agreeing to offensive operation in
Adriatic will not agree to their ships being
employed specifically for carrying stores to Tito
2. Presume there is no objection to assuring the
Yugo-Slav (Government?) that their ships would (?) not be employed
on operations which might lead to hostilities between patriots
and Yugo-Slav ships.
3. Will continue to impress on them (?) that Yugo-Slav ships
must take their turn with H.M. and U.S.S. in any operations that
Allied war efforts demand.
4. Mihailovic forces have no coastal position at present and all
supplies therefore will be for Tito patriots. Latest information
is available to F.O.T.A. through Mid. East Liaison Mission.
(C. in C.Levant 302101C to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty. F.O.L.I. F.O.T.A.
* re limitation regarding supplies to patriots.

Palestinian SUTLEJ arrived. Italian submarine GALATEA,
Port Move- SUTLEJ sailed 30th.
ments. (N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports 302259C.)

SUTLEJ. Cyprus 30th, arrived and left SUTLEJ.
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta 302314C.)

CURIE. Your 201127 October, para. one approved.
(Appr. A.C.N.S.(F) on C.D. 302355A to C. in C.Med.
(R) F.O.S. Capt. S.8.)

Bari Arrivals. Departures QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, RAIDER.
Movements. (N.O.I.C. Bari 302358.)

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East Indies.

B.M.72. Arrived VAN DER WILLEM ZAAN, LAUNCESTON, NETRAVATI escorting B.M.72 Colombo portion.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo to 300300 to Admty.)

M.B.52. Arrived RAJPUTANA, POONA, AGRA, escorting M.B.52.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 300453Z to Admty.)

KIMBERLEY. Request information to which Fleet KIMBERLEY will be allocated on completion of refitting.
(C, in C. E.F. 300505Z to Admty., (R) Cdre.(D).)

India
Air Report. 30 Oct. Daily Opsum. No. 594.
1. Rangoon Docks. No active shipping. 1 M/V
300 ft. appears badly damaged.
(A.H.Q. India, 300915Z to Air Min.)

No.34. Japanese one in narrows of Mozambique channel by
disposition sinking of S.S. FANEROMENI 23rd. Oct. One from
U-Boats. sinking CONGELLA vicinity Addu Atoll 24th Oct. may
be homeward bound, one possibly still off south W.
coast of India but may have left for home.
German. One German unfixed in Indian Ocean
estimated position may be approaching Malabar coast area from north
west. Up to 3 German believed withdrawn eastward from D/F fixed
south and south east Ceylon 25th and 26th Oct.
(C. in C. E.F. 301108Z to E.F. 396Y.)

China,
U.S. Following is forwarded from U.S. Army Forces in
Air Report. India for information of Prime Minister and Chiefs
of Staff as representing weekly summary of events
in China for period 21 Oct. to 27 Oct. transmitted
by U.S.A.A.F. China.

25th. Oct. 6 fighters strafed 5 boats in canal
near Haiphong sinking three small boats and heavily strafed a 150
foot freighter. 2 Mitchells (B-25's) with 4 fighters bombed enemy
shipping on the West coast of Hainan Islands. A 100 ft. tanker
sunk a 200 Ft. freighter damaged and probably sunk.
26 October. 13 Liberators (B-24's) with escort of 15 fighters
bombed railroad yards at Haiphong with many direct hits on yards
railroad sidings and installations. Highway bridge East of yards
damaged by direct hits. 2 Liberators (B.24's) bombed shipping
in Kiungshan Bay Iainam (?Haikan) Island sinking a 200 ft. transport
and 2 tankers 250 ft. long also a 50 ft. freighter sunk. 6
Mitchells (B.25's) attacked Kiungshan Harbour scoring near miss
on a 200 ft. freighter. Observed. 12 Jap fighters and a 1-45 tak-
ing off. Straffed and destroyed the 1-45 and damaged a Zero.
Loading crane and 100 ft. tanker bombed. 100 ft. gunboat strafed.
Light anti aircraft encountered. A Mitchell (B.25) shot down in
Kiungshan Harbour by enemy aircraft. One other Mitchell (B.25)
missing and 2 slightly damaged.

(C. in C. India 301600FG. to W.O.)

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East Indies. Contd.

FROBISHER,
GEORGE
WASHINGTON.

Arrived and left FROBISHER escorting GEORGE
WASHINGTON.
(N.O.I.C. Seychelles, 301635Z.)

French
participation
in defence of
Madagascar.

Your AX.238 22 Oct. to second addresse only.
Air C. in C. suggests you reconsider your decision
and authorise French Forces to assume responsibility,
assisted by R.A.F. Regiment. This policy has
been adopted in Northwest Africa and has proved
most satisfactory.
(Med. Air Cmd. 301725A to Air Min., H.Q.R.A.F.M.F.)

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MIRAGLIA. Combined Chiefs of Staff have approved MIRAGLIA being employed in the first instance in transporting damaged aircraft from the Mediterranean to the U.K. the question of her further future employment has been referred to the Combined Military Transportation Committee for report to the C.C.S. Your 270013 refers.
(B.A.D. 300019Z to Admty.)

Landing Ships and Craft. Preliminary reactions from Navy Department to C.O.S.(W) 891 and 892 are satisfactory and they in fact carry out the same procedure as is proposed.
(2) Pending C.C.S. approval we would urge that as soon as possible after 1st Nov. we receive from you collated states from all theatres. In the present stage of Mediterranean Operations we are at a great disadvantage in not having here up to date information of landing craft states and so far the only response this month to F.A.N. 218 on the British side has been C. in C. Med. 211802 while the Americans have received from their Naval Commanders in all theatres the information required by C.C.S.
(B.A.D. 300023Z to Admty.)

CHASER, STANTON, LYON. Refer to this as Comnavnaw's 291422 with action to Cominch (R) Admty. Comnavau, C. in C. Af. C. in C. Med. and C.T.F.81. Your 241410. CHASER, STANTON and LYON to be sailed with T.G.27.4. Remaining Combat Loaders to be sailed in M.K.F.26 latter part of Nov. C. in C. Med. 261115A also refers.
(Comnavau, 300936 to Admty.)

U.S.A.T. Vieuxfort 30th U.S.A.T. STATE OF VIRGINIA.
(B.R.O.Saint Lucia, 301100Q)

Ocean escort vessels. A review has been carried out of our estimated requirements.
(2) The number has been calculated on the basis of giving adequate protection of trade in all areas of British and Canadian responsibility, the provision of Hunting groups in certain areas vulnerable to the U-Boat, and to provide for special operations. The total of these requirements amount to 889 vessels.
(3) The forces assumed to be available to meet these requirements have been taken to include all ocean escorts manned by the Royal Navy and Dominion Navies together with a small number manned by Allied Navies operating under direct British control. Fleet destroyers have not been included. 60% of our Fleet minesweepers (Halycons, Algerines, Bangors and Bathurst) have

been /...

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Escort
Vessels.
(Contd.)

been included as part of the ocean going escort force. After making allowances for losses and paying off old ships it is estimated that the resultant escort force available by the 1st Oct. 1944 will amount to some 882 vessels, i.e. 7 vessels short of our requirements.
(4) In view of foregoing the following action is proposed.
(Controller 301153A)

B.E.C's
allocation.

Your 230037 to Admty. only. B.E.Cs 11 to 15 inclusive are allocated to C. in C. Mediterranean and will be based at Gibraltar.
(2) On completion and after a shakedown they should be sailed for Bermuda for working up and thence for Gibraltar via Azores. On arrival Gibraltar they will join the 51st Auxiliary A/S Group.
(3) "Lorsa" 11146 para. 3. Request arrangements be made for the consignment of base spare gear for 15 in No. B.E.Cs to Gibraltar, and Freetown half to each.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 301223A to B.A.D., (R) B.A.M.R. S.B.N.O. W.At. Edre. Bermuda, MALABAR, S.B.N.O. Azores, F.O.Gib. C. in C. Med.)

German
mine type
"O" recovered
from
St. John's.

R.M.S.O. reports. German mine type "O" Serial number J/732 recovered from St. John's Field. Mine issimilar in all respects to mines recovered off Halifax N.S. (description). Number P.S.E. mooring wire cut 55 feet below mine. Depth of sweep at this time 25 fathoms.
(2) Request N.S.H.Q. pass to U.S. Authorities. (N.O.I.C. St. John's 301257Z to N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty. C. in C. C.N.A.)

M.M.S.

(1) M.M.S. 253 (S.O) 248 sailed St. Johns N.F. at 1245Z/30th for Horta via.
(2) Speed 10 knots. E.T.A. Nov. 4th.
(4) Request ships be given information of routeing to U.K.
(F.O.N.F. 301318Z to S.B.N.O. Azores (R) B.A.D. C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q. Admty. C. in C. W.A. Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet C. & R.)

BYARD.

BYARD requests that when censorship permits the following message may be passed to BYARD's Builders whose entire output is now taken by The Royal Navy and this being the first submarine sinking by a D.E. (Begins) - To the General Manager Bethlehem-Hingham Shipyard Inc., Hingham Massachusetts U.S. (R): The Supervisor of Shipbuilding United States Navy Bethlehem-Hingham Shipyard Inc., Hingham Massachusetts U.S.A. Have credited your account with one fat U-Boat, I think this the first confirmed success of any D.E. Signed Phillips D.E.55 (Ends.)
(F.O.N.F. 301357A to Admty.)

Points /...

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America and West Indies. - Contd.

Points from 26 Meeting A.U. Committee on 27th Oct. (a) Effect of bombing of U-Boat bases and production centres estimated to have reduced output of U-Boats by one-third in September. This may be only temporary.
(b) Large numbers U-Boats still operating, but producing little results. In recent action convoy under strong escort lost only one merchant ship at cost to enemy of probably six U-Boats sunk.
(c) Arrangements for air cover from Azores proceeding satisfactorily, also very good work executed by United States' A.C.V's operating in the area North of the Azores.
(d) Counter-measures to acoustic torpedo. Towed noise makers now at sea, and experiments proceeding with projected explosive noise makers.
(e) A.S.V. Enemy now considered to be aware of our use of present centimetre A.S.V. and time has come to change over to an alternative centimetre A.S.V. Naval and air staffs investigating matter.
(f) Torpedo defence U.S. Mark XXIX charges not yet sufficiently developed for adoption. Decided to restrict fitting of Net Defence in certain ships and to review situation in January, 1944.
(g) The Mark XI D.C. is producing excellent results.
(h) The Mark 3 bomb sight is proving effective and appreciated by air crews.
(A.C.N.S.(T), 301410A to B.A.D. (R) A.O.C. in C. C.C.)

Escort Carriers Atlantic, interchange of information. Your 251036.* Our experience with CVE support groups has demonstrated that they should not be unduly restricted by limiting them to specific areas. Your daily U-Boat estimate with emphasis on promising situations by separate despatch has proved a satisfactory guide to ours. As to para.2. so long as each knows that the other may be encountered we have not found that such encounters lead to serious confusion. It is conceivable that with two or more U-Boat concentrations and two or more carriers in area one or more concentrations might be left uncovered but in such cases it is to be assumed that we will both note possibilities and that one or the other of us will indicate intentions in such manner as to avoid uneconomical employment of forces. We will continue to keep you as fully informed as operations permit. In this connection C.C.M. will be most helpful.
(Cominch and C. of N.O. 301431Z to Admty.(R) Comnaveu, C. in C. W.A. C. in C. Lant.)
* Re interchange of information concerning operations of Escort Carriers in the Atlantic.

B.Y.M.S. Bermuda departure B.Y.M.S. 59 and 167.
(S.B.N.O. W.A. 301443Z to Admty. (R) B.A.D.,
S.B.N.O. Azores, N.S.H.Q. F.O.Gib. C. in C.W.A.)

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

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America and West Indies. - Contd.

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

(N.S.H.Q. 301454Z)

ALDRAVA
total
loss.

My 291424. Total complement five all safe
Master seriously injured all probably proceeding
Miami ship aground 28 miles from Baracoa salvage
doubtful.
(S.O.I. Jamaica, 301501R to Admty. N.S.H.Q.,
S.B.N.O. W.At.)

BERNARDO
total loss,
fire.

Canadian Motor Vessel BERNARDO 96 tons total loss
result of fire on passage W.P. beached San Juan
crew saved N.S.H.Q. informed.
(Staff Officer Jamaica, 301512R to Admty.
S.B.N.O. W.A., Reporting Officer San Juan,
B. Route. of Charleston.)

Canadian BERNADO (96 tons) en route West Palm Beach to San Juan
was burned at sea about 29th of October. Total loss.
(N.S.H.Q. 302143Z to Admty.)

O.N.208,
S.C.145,
U-Boat.

Inclusive D/F bearings of 3 Group B barred at
1355Z may indicate U-Boat in vicinity B.7 O.N.208
or possibly S.C. *
(N.S.H.Q. 301515Z to E.G.B.7 Ships escorting
O.N.208 and S.C.145 (R) Ships escorting O.N.S.21,
C. in C.C.N.A., F.O.N.F., A.C.I.C., A.O. C. in C.
E.A.C. St. Johns N.F. No.1 Group, Admty,
Cominch, S.B.N.O. W.A. A.F.H.Q.)
W.R. Note: * Group omitted presumable 145.

METIS SAN
MARC
aground.

Canadian Schooner METIS SAN MARC reported aground
Cayo Confite Old Balhama Channel feared total
loss no casualties.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 301526 to Admty. N.S.H.Q., S.B.N.
O. W.A. R.O. Port Au Prince.)

U.S.S/M.
Estimate.

(Cominch, 301537Z)

Independent
sailings.

Your 292202. Independent sailings not suspended.
A slight modification was in force for a few days
restricting loaded Lake Tankers to approach
Curacao for last 80 miles in daylight. This
temporary measure was due to a doubtful
submarine sighting report and has since been cancelled and there
are now no on the arrival or departure of Lake Tankers.
(B.S.N.O. Curacao, 301625Z to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O. W.A. B.A.D.)
* ? restrictions omitted.

O.N.208 /...

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America and West Indies. - Contd.

O.N.208.
BOMBADIER.

My P.C. and S. at 1600.
053 degs. 20' 040 degs. 20' 248 degs. 10.5 knots.
Have been stopped twice with defective steam valve
Endeavouring to rejoin tomorrow 31st if possible.
(BOMBADIER 301630Z to B.3)

HIGHWAY,
EASTWAY.

Request HIGHWAY (L.S.D.) may be sailed in convoy
to India via the Mediterranean as soon as
possible after carrying H.D.M.L's to Bermuda.
Your 162015 not to all addressees refers.
(2) C. in C. Eastern Fleet (S.E.A.C.) is
requested to signal destination.
(3) It is intended that EASTWAY (L.S.D.) shall also sail to
India in mid-January after trials in U.K.
(D. of P. 301731A to B.A.D., (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.F.
(S.E.A.C.), C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, F.O.C.R.I.N.,
S.O. Force C., S.O.A.S.C.(I), S.B.N.O. W.At.)

Bay of
Biscay
air
Offensive.

Ref. B.A.D. 272059* and Admty. 231317/ A to
B.A.D.
(H.Q. C.C. 301752Z to Rafdel.)
* Re Ad. King's reply to aide memoire left
by B.A.D. after talk.
/ Admiral King's proposal re Bay offensive.

B.E.C.8.

B.E.C. 8 departing Chicago 30th in accordance
with Cominch 291810. Request arrangements as
in my 272249. Final destination Freetown.
(B.A.D. 301753Z to N.S.H.Q., N.O.I.C. Quebec,
N.O.I.C. Montreal, C. in C. W.A., Admty.
F.O.C.W.Af., British Training Officer Casco Bay.)

DUFF.

All times Q. At 1745 Oct 30 DUFF (BD E (764))
leaves Boston Boom en route Argentia via (route).
advancing at 16 knots. E.T.A. Point X,
Argentia Swept Channel 1600 Nov. 1.
(C.T.F.02.1, 301902 to C.T.F.24)

Daily
estimate of
Neutral
Shipping.

The information signalled in accordance with
para. 5 of A.M.261550 should meet the requirements
of S.B.N.O. Azores.
(2) Your proposal is appreciated but to avoid
congestion, additional signals are not desired.
Necessary information about neutral ships is now
included in the signal referred to above.
(3) Your 281655 refers.
(D.T.D. 301913A to N.S.H.Q. (R) Connav, S.B.N.O.
Azores, N.C.M.S., C. in C. C.N.A., B.A.D.)

Use /...

975

30.10.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Use of
Italian
Warships.

Following for information - my 301925 (N.T. in W.D.) refers.
Addressed: Comnavaw (R) B.A.D., C. in C. Med. from Cominch and C.N.O. Supply of Italian vessels is authorized as requested in paras 2 and 3 of C. in C. Med. 251826. Advise from time to time in general terms extent of supplies and services furnished. The general question of logistic support of Italian Fleet is in status noted in my 221347 but it is appropriate that you look out for the needs of vessels under your operational control basing at the ports in which you maintain the facilities. T.O.O.281825.
(B.A.D. 301927Z to Admty.)

Sub.attack
and
sighting
summary.

Para.A. Brazilian P.B.Y. attacked sub. 22.55 S. 40.44 W. 301225 plane damaged. All times Z.
Para. C. Navy plane radar contact 09.43 S. 21.41 W. 290925.
Para. D. P.V. Radar contact 40.10 N. 67.00 W. 291921.
(Cominch, 302101Z to Admty.)

Convoy
U.T.4A.

Refer my 162055. Ships to sail in convoy U.T.4A (6 ships, names).
For this convoy arrival in U.K. prior to 16th Nov. is acceptable and desirable. On return voyage approx. 6 empty British Troop Ships will be included.
(Cominch, 302116 to Admty. Comeastseafon, C. in C. Lant, P.D. New York, Boston, Coms 1 and 3, Comnavau, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.A. and N.S.H.Q.)

FOLEY.

Bermuda departure FOLEY.
(S.C.N.O.W.At. 302350Z to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand.

MIZAR.

Sydney U.S.S. MIZAR 0208Z/30 Brisbane Coastal Green.
(Sydney, 300319Z)

Movements.

Arrived Milne Bay 29th U.S.S. BAGLEY FULTON.
Departed.
(A.C.N.B. 300452Z)

Digest /...

976

30.10.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

Digest Serial No. 648 Oct. 29th. Six Beaufighters half acting as top cover bombed and strafed Selaru strip morning also strafed small sea truck off Northwest coast Jamden Island. Crew apparently abandoned ship. One Dutch Mitchell set same ship afire by strafing afternoon. Four more Mitchells over 3 hours later found ship still blazing fiercely and attacked stores on beach instead.

(2) Three Liberators conducting armed R/C observed 4 harbour craft only at Sorong. Later set on fire small freighter Waroe Baye (North East Ceram Island) with 2 direct hits.

(4) Navy patrol Catalina attacked 2 small cargo vessels North-bound inshore South East New Ireland with unobserved results.

(5) R/C Lightning sighted 9 large, 3 small vessels near Praed Point midday course 360 degs. possibly dispersed from Rabaul Harbour.

(6) North and West coast New Britain searched forenoon by 2 Beaufighters, 2 Bostons, 4 Thunderbolts. Few barges seen all attacked in addition to other coastal targets.

(7) Two Thunderbolts strafed 2 small freighters, 7 barges located Hansa Bay midday. One barge sunk.

(9) Two Kittyhawks bombed surfaced submarine 40 miles Northwest Kiriwina scoring possible hits mid morning.

(10) After dark 4 Warships described 1 cruiser, 3 destroyers observed approaching Mundua Island with group from South.

(11) Two unidentified type Warships observed entering bay near Ubili evening 28th.

(13) Rescued survivors from Liberator missing from Pomelaa strike mission 26th Oct. refer Digest 645 para. 12, report ten Zeros destroyed in running fight lasting one hour before crash landing near Timor. Also (corrupt group) 1 medium freighter set on fire near Pomelaa.

(14) Midday 27th Oct. 17 unescorted Liberators raided Kahili and Kara airfields without aerial opposition. Both runways hit. Afternoon same date 25 enemy dive bombers attacked Naval surface units between Shortland and Treasury Islands. One U.S. destroyer hit after our fighters including Lightnings, Kittyhawks and Aircobras intercepted shooting down 12 bombers. Shortly afterwards 4 Kittyhawks observed 70 Zeros over Kahili engaged 9 of them and destroyed 3.

(15) That night occasional planes ineffectively bombed allied amphibious craft retiring from Treasury Island where other aircraft and mortar fire harassed our ground troops with little effect.

(16) Unopposed allied landing near Voza on Southwest coast Choiseul 18 miles from Choiseul early morning 28th. Single Jap aircraft ineffectively bombed our screening surface units. Next morning enemy reported withdrawing to Northwest leaving small party guarding barge station 8 miles Southeast of landing point. Approx. 1000 Japanese believed still dispersed Sumbi Head neighbourhood. During night 28th patrol Catalina strafed 11 small craft plying along this coast.

(17) Small freighter strafed night 28th off North East Bougainville by Catalina.

(18) Forenoon 29th R/C Liberator strafed and left burning troop laden Sampan in Nissan Island lagoon.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 30055Z)

977

30.10.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 301425, 301430A)

Submarines Attacked.

Submarine
attack
and
sighting
summary
for 24 hours
to 0900Z/30th.

(A) DUNCAN and SUNFLOWER attacked U-Boat
contacts 0700/29th in 55.18' N. 32.18' W. and
0956/29th in 55.20' N. 32.10' W.
A/C sighted U-Boat at 2030/29 in 37.00' N.
08.40' W.
A/C sighted U-Boat at 0515/30th in 53.40' N.
30.30' W.
A/C sighted periscope at 1130/29th 40.25' N.
14.15' E.
(B) A/C reported U-Boat contact at 2215/29 in
60.00' N. 15.26' W.
(D.D.I.C. 301018Z to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

31.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- T.F.69. 1. The U.S. Battleship TEXAS and destroyers NELSON, JEFFERS, GLENNON and EARLE arrived at Belfast today from escorting Convoy U.T.4.
- Home Fleet. 2. V.A.2 in ANSON, with FORMIDABLE and JAMAICA arrived at Akureyri at 1902A today from Scapa.
- Bay Patrol. 3. The blockade-runner ELSA ESSBERGER was sighted yesterday by our A/C moving down the Gironde, and the Admiralty consider that she and up to 4 other enemy ships may attempt a simultaneous break-out either separately or in convoy, and that they may be escorted by Narvik-class destroyers. The proposed sailing of GLASGOW from Plymouth for the Bay Patrol was postponed today; but CEYLON's patrol-lines and the Air Patrols in the Bay area have been modified accordingly.
- Convoy S.L.138/
M.K.S.28
attacked by
U-Boats.
HALLFRIED
sunk.
One U-Boat
believed sunk.
One U-Boat
believed
damaged.
4. At 0615Z today when escorting convoy S.L.138/M.K.S.28 about 900 miles West of La Rochelle the Ships of Escort Group 39 sighted a U-Boat which was attacked and kept down by SCARBOROUGH and BALSAM. Further sightings were made at 0759Z; and at 0833Z the convoy was attacked, the Norwegian HALLFRIED, 2968 tons, being torpedoed and sunk. One U-Boat was thereupon hunted by WHITEHALL and GERANIUM and is believed to have been sunk by a "Hedgehog" attack from WHITEHALL; and a second U-Boat, hunted by ROCHESTER and AZALEA and attacked until 1356Z with 12 depth-charge attacks and one "Hedgehog", is believed to have been damaged. There is no evidence of "Gnats" having been used by the U-Boats.

North Atlantic.

- U/Bs in
Gibraltar
Straits.
U.732 sunk.
- 5.(a). H.M.T. IMPERIALIST reported attacking a U-Boat about 1330A today in the approaches to the Straits of Gibraltar in 35.54 N. 05.54 W. The submarine was forced to the surface, and attacked by gunfire. IMPERIALIST reported that she had sunk the U-Boat but the latter surfaced again later and abandoned ship on being attacked by DOUGLAS. Several survivors were picked up. The U-Boat was U.732, a 500 ton vessel which sailed from Brest about 16th October.

/(b)...

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31.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

U/Bs. in
Gibraltar
Straits.
U.732 sunk.
(Contd.)

5. (b). This was the fourth U-Boat to be attacked in the approaches to the Straits since 29th October. An average of 16 ships have been on patrol in the Straits during the last 4 nights.

South Atlantic.

6. SS. NEW COLUMBIA sailing independently from Libreville was sunk by a U-Boat at 2030Z today, in a position estimated to be 04.25 N. 05.03 E. (160 miles south-east of Lagos.)

Mediterranean.

U/B sunk.

7. ULTIMATUM, returning to Algiers from patrol west of Corsica reported at 2259 today that she had sunk a U-Boat.

Sabotage.

8. At Cartagena today, a boat from the German M.V. LIPARI blew up whilst approaching the Italian tanker LAVORO. S.O.(I) Gibraltar reports that sabotage of the tanker was probably intended.

Raid on
Capraia.

9. At noon today a small German raiding party, numbering about 70 men, landed on Capraia Island (30 miles north-east of Bastia) from landing barges and two E-Boats. The party withdrew after 2½ hours, having destroyed the local telegraph and W/T office, and taking with them one officer and 4 civilians.

Air
operations,
west Italy.

10. (a). Air operations were restricted today by bad weather and the unserviceability of landing grounds in Cyrenaica caused by heavy rain.

(b). 36 U.S. bombers of the N.A.A.F. escorted by 36 U.S. fighters attacked docks and shipping at Civita Vecchia today. Hits were seen on the harbour installations and one merchant ship is reported hit.

War Diary.

31.10.1943.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Air
operations,
West Italy.
(Contd.)

35 Marauders with escort of Lightnings attacked Porto d'Anzio (41.27 N. 12.37 E.) 28 miles S.E. of Rome and report having almost destroyed the North Dock and destroyed small craft in the basin. 13 Warhawks set well on fire and believed destroyed a small tanker in the western approaches to Split today.

Aegean.

11. (a). ECHO, ROCKWOOD and KRAKOWIAK report no incidents last night during their demonstration off Kalimno and patrol west of Leros. They returned to lie up in Mandelyah Gulf today and withdrew southward tonight.

(b). C. in C.M.E. reports this morning that there are indications that the enemy preparations are coming to a head and that an attack on Leros or Samos is imminent, as soon as the weather permits.

(c). PETARD and BELVOIR lay up in Mandelyah Gulf today. They are to land their troops and stores tomorrow night.

(d). PHOEBE, DULVERTON, BEAUFORT and PINDOS left Alexandria at 1900 today for the Aegean. The Hunts are carrying troops and stores for Leros.

(e). Kastelorizo was bombed today by 14 Ju.87s escorted by 2 Me.109s; there were a few casualties, but no damage was caused. Seven Ju.88s attacked Leros.

(f). During the period 17th to 31st October Kastelorizo experienced 8 air raids, the harbour being always the target. Three other raids were made on convoys of H.M. ships in the immediate neighbourhood. The average weight of attack was 10 to 12 Ju.87s escorted by 2 to 4 Me.109s or 12 to 14 Ju.88s. Up to the present damage has only been slight, loading and unloading only takes place at night, the craft retiring to Turkish waters during daylight.

12. The Italian cruiser LUIGI DI SAVOIA arrived at Suez today from Taranto.

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31.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

U/B off
South
Ceylon.

13. SS. ROBERT G. INGERSOLL reports being missed by a torpedo at 0030 G.M.T. in 05.37 N. 80.54 E. (30 miles south of Ceylon.)

America & West Indies.

U/B sunk.

14. Aircraft from U.S. carrier CARD report sinking a U-Boat in 49.14 N. 31.55 W. (about 620 miles N. N.W. of the Azores) at 1805 today.

982

31.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Iceland
Operational
Base.

Your 151404. Approved to dispense with guard, other than that on the road. Request you will report how many men you will require for this.
(Head of M.11, 310252A to A.C.I.C.)

LONDONDERRY,
COREOPSIS,
TAMARISK,
PIMPERNEL,
MALLOW.

Following allocations are made: (A) LONDONDERRY to Londonderry for Group 39 (B) COREOPSIS, TAMARISK to Liverpool for B.5 (C) PIMPERNEL to F.O.C. Gibraltar for 38 Group in place of COREOPSIS. (D) MALLOW to C. in C. Levant. (2) COREOPSIS, TAMARISK are Greek manned. (C. in C. W.A. 311049A)

Captain-
class
Frigates.

Following from signalled report from S.O.4th Escort Group, which is still at sea:-
"The motion of Captain Class Frigates in a Seaway though not excessive in extent is so violent in character as to be a menace of life and limb and equipment, and also to seasoned stomachs and normally equable nerves and tempers. Morale cannot fail to be affected and fighting efficiency will certainly suffer".
(2) From personal discussion with Commanding Officers I am left in no doubt that violent movement of these ships is not only most exhausting, but liable to cause serious injury to personnel.
(3) Following proposals for adding topweight are put forward for early consideration. Details.
(C. in C. W.A. 311420A to Admty.)

Force
"Pluto"
ABASTER
(INTERLUDE)

Your No.X. 5497/C/9683/5/34 dated 23rd Oct. Approved to commission on 1st November Base for Force "Pluto" at Tilbury as H.M.S. ABASTER. (2) N.A.B. INTERLUDE is to be renamed ABASTER as nominal base ship.
(Head of M.11, 312156A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Defence of U.K.

Faeroes
A/A defences.

L.A.A. guns Sudersy and Klaksvig considered unnecessary. Subject F.O. approval suggest they are removed. Does Admiralty consider additional H.A.A. and L.A.A. are required owing present operations Skaalefiord, if so redeployment of guns here will be despatched for your approval. (O.C. Troops, Faeroes, 311115 to War Office)

War Diary.

31.10.1943.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

LEITH,
SANDWICH,
ANCHUSA.

Sailed LEITH, SANDWICH to comply with C. in C. W.A. 271154. ANCHUSA delayed, will probably sail a.m. to-day.
(Cdre. D. W.A. 310041A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

AUGUSTA.

Scapa arrival AUGUSTA.
(A.C.O.S. 310905A to A.C.I.C.)
Proceed Clyde passing Hoxa Gate at 0900A/1st.
Adjust speed to give E.T.A. Clyde Boom 0730/2nd
(2) Route via Minches and war Channels.
(4) Ship is to be ready to sail for Scapa p.m. 6th November.
(5) Whilst at Clyde ship is to be at extended notice for operations but at normal notice for steam to ensure safety.
(C. in C. H.F. 311229A to AUGUSTA)

NELSON,
RODNEY.

My 301423 para. 2 is cancelled. ROCKET and TEAZER are to be detached to Plymouth after crossing 051 degs. N.
(2) When fuel does not permit destroyers to continue escort at good speed, they should be shipped at P.L.E. to proceed independently to fuel Merville, thence to Scapa. When unescorted, battleships are to proceed at best speed.
(3) Intend sailing relief screen of 2 destroyers to escort NELSON from Cape Wrath to Rosyth.
(4) Instruct ROCKET when well clear to report your intentions and E.T.A. at Cape Wrath.
(C. in C. H.F. 311409A to NELSON (R) RODNEY.)

S/M
Movements.

Positions of S/M's at 0800A/1st and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 311639A)

ANSON,
FORMIDABLE,
JAMAICA.

Arrived Akureyri your 291535.
(A.C.I.C. 311902A to A.C.O.S.)

MIDDLETON.

Akureyri arrival MIDDLETON.
(A.C.I.C. 312324A to C. in C. H.F.)

Operations.

Bay
Patrol.

ELSA ESSBERGER was sighted by P.R.U. on the move down river in the Gironde at 1135/30th and may be outward bound. Estimate furthest on-position at 13 knots on the most probable route at 1200/31st is 44.00 degs. N. 08.00 degs. W.
(2) There are other indications that blockade running to the Far East may be resumed by this and other vessels.
(3) In the first instance Anti-blockade runner air patrols are

to /...

31.10.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Bay Patrol. (Contd.) to take precedence over normal A/S Bay Patrols to the following extent.

(A) Coastwise patrol to cover furthest on-position and four hours late.

(B) Patrol from vicinity of Corunna to approx. 44.30 N. 0930 W. from 3 hours before until sunset.

(C) Night shadowing aircraft to back up patrol in B.

(4) The remainder of Bay to be covered by normal A/S patrols.

(5) H.Q.C.C. is requested to consider possibility of a strike.

(6) CEYLON is placed under command of C. in C. Plymouth for the operation.

(7) Operations to be conducted by C. in C. Plymouth in conjunction with H.Q.C.C.

(D.O.D.(G), 310401A to H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Plymouth)

CEYLON is to adjust speed along present route pass position (C.P) 042 degs. 12' N. 015 degs. 42' W. at 1200A tomorrow.

(2) Air R/C indicates ELSA ESSBERGER may have left Gironde about 1400/30th to attempt to break out.

(C. in C. Plymouth 31102CA to CEYLON)

Admiralty's 310329 and 310401A. Gibraltar carry out creeping line-ahead patrol from west to east 50 miles either side of a line from 42 degs. 25' N. 14 degs. 20' W to 43 degs 36' N. 09 degs. 40' W. Aircraft to be on datum first light Nov. 1 and patrol maintained throughout hrs. of daylight. CEYLON will be in 42 degs. 12' N. 15 degs. 45' W. at noon Nov.1. Aircraft to make first sighting reports shadow, and home surface forces. 19 Group to extend Percussion K in south easterly direction to Cape Ortegale. Blockade-runner only to be attacked by aircraft on reaching P.L.E. or if she turns to eastward.

(H.Q.C.C. 311240A to S.S.S.)

Sailing ordered in my 301315A postponed. (GLASGOW).

(C. in C. Plymouth, 311435A to Admty.)

Disposition at 312000.

(1) INGLEFIELD 050 degs. 21' N. 014 degs. 02' W. 182 degs. 18 knots.

(2) CEYLON 047 degs. 57' N. 016 degs. 16' W. through 044 degs. 30' N. 017 degs. 30' W. thence 150 degs. 23 knots.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 311438A and 311632 to Ships)

On reaching position (CP) 042 degs. 12' N. 015 degs. 42' W. at 1200A tomorrow, patrol in that vicinity until last light and then establish patrol between position, (CQ) 040 degs. 59' N. 015 degs. 30' W. and (CR) 044 degs. 02' N. 017 degs. 59' W. commencing from northern end of patrol-line.

(2) Sailing of ELSA ESSBERGER is unconfirmed but appreciate that enemy may attempt simultaneous break-out of up to 5 ships either separately or in convoy. Narvik destroyer(s) may escort.

(3) Liberator from Gibraltar ordered to search from first light 1st November within 50 miles each side of line between Cape Ortegale and CP.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 311951A to CEYLON)

Your letter 3389/Ply 1346 of 9th October. Your views as to the importance of providing air/sea rescue facilities for the Bay are fully concurred in.

31.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Bay Patrol. (Contd.) (2) Two Bangor-Class minesweepers PETERHEAD and BLYTH which, owing to ineradicable vibration when sweeps are streamed, are unsuitable for their proper function, can be made available. (3) These two ships do not fulfil the essential requirements set out in para. 7 of your letter, but it is at your discretion to employ them on convoy escort duties and thus perhaps release more suitable ships for air/sea rescue. (4) There is no objection to the removal of the M/S gear, the fitting of M.F/D.F. and the improvement of close range armament locally. (D.O.D.(H), 312021A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Operations F.R. and F.S. Admty's 292351. All personnel landed. Arrangements complete for embarkation those relieving. (2) Operation F.S. proceeding according to plan. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 311616A to Admty. (R) C. in C.H.F.)

Coastal Patrols. M.L's 255 and 275 2 miles south of D buoy. M.T.B's 240, 235, 202, S.4 and M.G.B. S.1 leave Dover Northeastwards to patrol off Ostende, E.T.D. 2130. M.T.B's 240, 235, 202 and M.T.B. S.1 E.T.R. Dover 0730/1. M.T.B. S.4 E.T.R. Ramsgate 0715/1. M.G.B's 2 and 42 at V Buoy. E.T.D. 1730. E.T.R. 0745/1. M.L's 104, 102, 101, 107, 210, 213, 128 and 573 carrying out operation N.L.110. Route via number one and U-buoys each way. E.T.D. 1800, E.T.R. 0100/1. (V.A. Dover, 311634A to Admty.)

S/M Patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800A/1st November and movements for following 24 hours. (A) SYRTIS, STUBBORN, VARANGIAN as in my 291636. (B) ULA on patrol vicinity 63 degs. 34' N. 04 degs. 59' E. (F.O.S. 311639 to Admty)

Spitzbergen. Since 19th October daily enemy air R/C except 23rd October and last three days (?comma) between 0900 and 1000Z. U-Boat in Advent Bay 20th October and 25th October. All well. ("Locomotive", 312400Z to Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Airmen off Dungeness. Following from Niton Radio. Intercepted 2313 G.M.T. begins S.O.S. de F.F.U. German airmen in distress at 50 degs. 45' N. 1 degs. E. Ends. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 310013 to Admty)

31.10.1943.
Sundav.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Minefield off Lowestoft. C. in C. Nore's 301703A. Intend PANGBOURNE and SALTASH to sail at 1000A/31st. E.T.A. Yarmouth Roads 1500A/31st. SUTTON and ELGIN to sail on completion of coaling.
(PANGBOURNE, 310030A to F.O.I.C. Harwich)

Your 301703A. Arrivals PANGBOURNE, SALTASH, SUTTON and ELGIN. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 311706A to C. in C. Nore.)

C. in C. Nore's 301703A. Intend to sail SELKIRK via Q.Z.S. 437 to 42 buoy thence direct to 3A for Abel Buoy at 1030A to-morrow to anchor in Yarmouth Roads. E.T.A. 1530A. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 311805A to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth)

N.L.110, N.L.111. My 301701. Operations N.L.110 and N.L.111 abandoned owing to weather. (V.A. Dover, 310946A to Admty.)

Dover. Routine sweeping 30th/31st. One red magnetic mine detonated in 50 degs. 52' 24" N. 01 degs. 05' 30" E. (V.A. Dover, 311903A.)

Harwich. At 311317A one Ground Mine detonated by Sweeper in 51 degs. 50.7' N. 01 degs. 36.1' E. Details. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 312258A to Admty.)

U-Boats.

Search for U-Boats. A number of U-Boats are thought to be on patrol in an area to southward and westward of 051 degs. N. 039 degs. W. Proceed to carry out a search in this area. Not less than three escorts should be used to screen the carrier. Arrange R/V for KITE being sent to join you in accordance with S.O.B.3 E.G.282143. (C. in C.W.A. 311144A to E.G.2)

Technical.

"Foxyer" Gear. (1) From experience when hunting a submarine it is not considered that "Foxyers" are a practical proposition. (E.G.7, 311945Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Casualties and Defects.

COTSWOLD. Departure COTSWOLD in tow of tug KROOMAN and SCOTSMAN escorted by GUILLEMOT to Sheerness. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 310600A)

CRANE /...

987

31.10.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects. - Contd.

CRANE, S.O. 7th Escort Group's 291311Z/10. Request
CHANTICLEER, early action in regard to hull weakness of these
PHEASANT. ships, as this is not an isolated instance.
My W.A. 2231/4567 M dated 10th June 1943 and
W.A.4567 M dated 25th October to Secretary of
Admiralty refer. I consider this matter import-
ant. WHIMBREL, PHEASANT, CHANTICLEER, CRANE, CYGNET, REDPOLE,
AMETHYST and HART are due to sail to Far East on 31st December.
PHEASANT, CRANE and CHANTICLEER will not be available until
2nd December.
(C. in C. W.A. 311243 to Admty)

Shipping and Convoys.

K.M.F.25A. Expect escorts of 2 Fortress aircraft from
0500Z. Procedure B for Baker.
(C. of W. 310600A to K.M.F.25A)

S.L.138/
M.K.S.28E. U-Boat sighted, then dived in 045 degs. 50' N.
One U-Boat 020 25' W. Being (attacked by?) SCARBOROUGH.
believed (ROCHESTER, 310615Z to C. in C. W.A.)
sunk by Subs. sighted on the surface in 046 degs. 02' N.
WHITEHALL 020 degs. 25' W.
and (ROCHESTER 310759Z to C. in C. W.A.)
GERANIUM. Convoy attacked by U-boat in 046 degs. 05' N.,
020 degs. 26' W.
One U-Boat (ROCHESTER 310833Z and 311046Z to C. in C. W.A.)
attacked by D/F bearings at 0709Z and 0742Z indicate
ROCHESTER U-boats in contact with convoys.
and (D.D.I.C., 310929A to Escorts M.K.S.28/S.L.138)
AZALEA. My 301710A. Remain with convoy until further
HALLFRIED orders.
sunk. (C. in C. W.A., 310942A to WRESTLER)
My 310833A. HALLFRIED torpedoed and sunk. One
U-boat being hunted in 046 degs. 07' N., 020 degs.
25' W. by ROCHESTER and AZALEA. (Corrupt).

Another U-boat being hunted in 046 degs. 27' N., 020 degs. 12' W
by WHITEHALL and GERANIUM. SCARBOROUGH has assumed S.O.
Escort with convoy until ROCHESTER rejoins.
(ROCHESTER, 311031A to C. in C. W.A.)
Convoy attacked by U-boat in 46 degs. 05' N., 20 degs
26' W. at 0833/31st.
(D.D.I.C., 311046A to S.B.N.O. Azores, C. in C. Plymouth,
F.O.C. Gibraltar)
My 311031Z. WHITEHALL believes U-boat sunk. WHITEHALL
rejoining convoy with H.M.S. GERANIUM. Correct T.O.O. my
310833A to read 310833Z.
(ROCHESTER, 311046Z to C. in C. W.A.)
My 311031Z. Contact lost after 12 depth-charges attacks
and 1 Hedgehog attack. Heavy underwater explosion 75 seconds
after last depth charge attack and bubbles observed but no
further evidence. ROCHESTER and AZALEA rejoining convoy.
(ROCHESTER, 311531Z to C. in C. W.A.)

31.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. - Contd.

O.S.57/
K.M.S.31E.

Have detected 1 unidentified aircraft bearing 230 degs. height 2,000 feet. Convoy 51 degs. 33' N. 16 degs. 30' W. 252 degs. 7.5 knots. (EXE 311201Z to Admty.)

ANDES.

Sailed.
(N.O.I.C.Liverpool 311240Z to Admty.)
Your 301235. Arrived and sailed.
Party disembarked. A.M. 281814 refers.
(F.O.I.C.N.I. 312139A to F.O.I.C.Liverpool.)

D.F.16.
F.D.16.

It has been found necessary to use the following ships as D.F.16, SS. GALTESUND, TORDENSKJOLD and MORIALTA, carrying 90, 110 and 110 passengers respectively.

(3) The first two will be ready to leave Clyde on 10th November and the MORIALTA who completes repairs at Dundee will be embarked at and sailed from Thurso on date suitable to A.C.O.S.

(4) Ships must return as F.D.16, GALTESUND and TORDENSKJOLD to Clyde with 100 and 120 personnel respectively and MORIALTA to Thurso with 140 personnel.
(D.O.D.(H), 311308A to A.C.O.S.)

S.D.46.

Intend sail NIGHTINGALE, ANTHONY, CHRISTOBAL and McANDREW with PRETORIA CASTLE escorted by VANESSA, SALADIN, SCIMITAR and usual S.Os. at 1600A/1st.
Routed in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 111746B June.
(A.C.I.C. 311436A to F.O.I.C.Greenock.)

M.K.F.25.

Items 10, 11, 12. 21 ships. Names and destinations.
(D.T.D. 311824A to C. in C. W.A.)

O.N.S.20.
Six U-Boats probably sunk.

Aircraft of 15 Group and Surface Escorts of convoy O.N.S.20 probably destroyed 6 U-Boats on 16th and 17th October for the loss of 1 merchant ship.

(2) It is requested that you will convey our congratulations to the forces which achieved this out-standing success.
(V.C.N.S. 311851A to C. in C. W.A. A.O.C. in C. C.C.)

J.W.54 A.

Your 301155 Para. 3. Two Destroyers at Loch Ewe 13th November for shuttle Escort J.W.54A.
(C. in C. H.F. 311858A to C. in C. W.A.)

Homing /...

31.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. - Contd.

Homing
of U.470.

(1) Rating survivors from U.470 sunk by A/C on October 16th state that they had not sighted O.N.206 but were homing on radio. The Captain (Gunther Grave) was radio Officer of ALTMARK. (B.7, 311905Z to C. in C. W.A.)

U.T.4.

The following have arrived:
C.T.F. 69 in TEXAS with U.S. destroyers NELSON, JEFFERS, GLENNON and EARLE, U.S. Fleet Oiler ENOREE, SLINGER and TRUMPETER, and U.S. Transport FAIRISLE.
(F.O.I.C. N.I. 312254A to C. in C. W.A.)

Owing to illness of the staff, the Foreign
Stations of this Diary has not been checked.

War Diary.31.10.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- DEWDALE, Your 151820. Intend sailing DEWDALE and
BACHAQUERO. BACHAQUERO for U.K. a.m. Thursday 4th escorted
by HAVELOCK, WARWICK, VOLUNTEER, GODETTA,
LAVENDER, BUTTERCUP. Request route.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 310400Z to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C.
Gib. C. in C.W.A.)
- DEWDALE your 310400. P. 42° N. 26° W. Q. 50° N.
23° W. R. 54° N. 15° W. S. 55.20 N. 09.05 W.
(D.O.D.(H) 311658 to S.B.N.O. Azores, (R) F.O.I.C. Gib.,
C. in C.W.A.)
- Air Expect escort of 2 Fortress aircraft from
escorts 0500Z. Procedure B. Call signs 0500 to
Azores. 0930Z IIOM 1, thereafter IIOM 2.
(C. of W. 310601A to Escorts M.K.F.25, (R)
F.O.I.C. Gib., S.B.N.O. Azores, C. in C.W.A.)
My 301825.* Air escort cancelled owing to
weather.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 310830 to Admty., F.O.C. Gib., C. in C.W.A.)
* T.O.O. 301925 intended. Air escort detail for 31st October.
Following air escort detailed for 31st. Intend to cover
S.L.138 with 1 Fortress aircraft. Request procedure B from
1300Z for B.R.D.M.I.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 31130Z to F.O. Gib., C. in C.W.A.)
Negative. My 311130Z owing to bad weather.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 311330Z to Admty., F.O.C. Gib., C. in C.
W.A.)
- ANEMONE. ANEMONE with tug towing merchant ships CAPE
MOHICAN and merchant ship BEMJAMIN CONTEE, E.T.A.
0700A 1st Nov.
(ANEMONE, 310853A to F.O.C. Gib.)
- G.U.S.13. My 310931. Sailing telegram part 2. 61 ships
(Names and destinations.)
(C.M.S.F.F. 310900, 310931.)
- Fleet Intend sail Fleet Tender 5 8 11 14 22 escorted by
tenders. LORD HOTHAM. E.T.D. 010900A. S. of A. 8.5 knots
Route to 8 Gibraltar. E.T.A. 021130A.
C.M.S.F.F. 310921A to F.O.C. Gib.)
- SEBASTIAN. Arrived Gib. under armed guard 0400/31st.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 311114A to Admty. (R) C. in C.
Med., B.N.A. Madrid.)
- DURBAN. My 301701 sailed. Route.
(F.O.I.C. Gib., 311153A.)
- U.G.S.21. Casablanca Section arrived including U.S.S. TIDE
S.C.1335 French SIMOUN and ANNAMITE.
(C.M.S.F.F. 311239A to U.S. Port Director.)

31.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

ORION. A.M. 282145. Destination in Med. is Gib. then Algiers.
(D.O.D.(H) 311307A to ORION.)

Fuelling Warships continue to call Ponta Delgada without
at Azores. previous warning Portuguese authorities are growing increasingly touchy on this subject.
(N.A. Lisbon, 311315 to Admty. (R) B.C. Ponta Delgada.)

IMPERIALIST One S/M on surface Straits.
U/B sunk. (IMPERIALIST, 311330A to Gib. W/T.)
Sub. surfaced engaged by gunfire and sunk position 35° 54' N. 05° 52' W.
(IMPERIALIST, 311345A)
My 1345A returned to harbour. LOCH OSKAIG standing by.
(IMPERIALIST, 311420A to F.O.C. Gib.)
(?IMPERIALIST) 311345A. Have made thorough search of area without finding any trace of oil or wreckage or any further contact, request instructions.
(LOCH OSKAIG, 311730A to F.O.C. Gib.)

U/B. Gib. GR. Opsum Sup. 30th Oct. WX.62836 Pt. 2.
ZA W.(?XW) 179 - 2159 - night - Mk. 111 35.33 N.
6.37 W. 092 - 15-large-flak no tracer - attacked - surfaced - 80 red - 6 Kcs. from 75 ft. across track 100-150 ft. astern of U/Boat which was not seen or contacted again.
(A.C.H.Q. Gib. 311600A)

HABANA. Your 301830. Release ship.
(D.E.W.D. 311603A to C.S.O. Gib.)

K.M.S.30. Sailed as in my 241141 and 271113. Amendments.
(F.O.I.C. Gib., 311803A.)

Summary 29 to 31 Oct.
anti- (2) Searchlight Wellington attacked U/Boat in
U/Boat (?36) 01 N. 08.40 W. at 2200A 29th straddled with
operations. four depth charges. Three destroyers hunted 30th no result.
(3) Searchlight Wellington, attacked U/Boat in 35.33 06.35 at 2208A/30.
(4) VELOX sighted and attacked with no result U/Boat 248 Cape Spartel 16 miles at 0210A/31. 7 ships hunted 31st.
(5) IMPERIALIST gained asdic contact at 1400 yards in position 35.54 05.52 at 1340A/31 attacked with one ten charge pattern.
U/Boat surfaced in centre of pattern with foremost gun and casing damaged. Two direct hits with 4 inch and many with Bofors obtained. U/Boat sank having emitted yellow cloud smoke.

31.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Summary anti-U/Boat operations. (Contd.) 28 depth charges fired over U/Boat position no further contact. U/Boat considered sunk. (6) Patrols in Strait continuing. Average of 16 ships have been on patrol in Strait during last 4 nights. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 311906A to Admty. C. in C.Med.)

GEORGES LEYGUES. A.M. 310401 (N.T. in W.D.) not to all addressees. (Request you will hold GEORGES LEYGUES at Gibraltar or Casablanca pending further intelligence of blockade runner situation. 2. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to make a liaison party available at short notice, if required. (Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 311943A to C. in C. Med., F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)

Italian ships in Spanish ports. Captain Giurati of Italian Naval Mission on return visit to Madrid and Gib. reports continued obstruction being made by Spanish Authorities re movement of Italian ships from Spanish ports. 2. Merchant ships (a) refusal to allow departure of ship plus (b) every sort of obstruction to repair or docking of ships not ready. (c) free play to German propaganda and refusal of Allied or Italian propaganda to crews whose morale low. 3. Time has come for a firm line to be taken with the Spanish Government in this matter. 4. Intend to sound Italian M. of M. through F.O.L.I. as to what Italian Naval Personnel could be made available as civilians to replace doubtful merchant ship crews if required. (C. in C. Med., 312049 to Admty. (R) B.N.A. Madrid, F.O.I.C. Gib., F.O.L.I.)

Attack on U.S. Naval A/C by Spanish A/C. C. in C. Med. 272347 which has been repeated to B.A.D. As aircraft attacked appears to have been U.S. Naval Aircraft, presume your U.S. Colleague will handle this question with Spanish authorities. We should, of course, gladly give any necessary support. (Head of M. (I) 312146A to N.A. Madrid, (R) C. in C. Med., Comnavnaw, M.A.C. B.A.D.)

Gib. movements. Arrivals. IMPERIALIST from escort duties Lisbon. TUMULT, TROUBRIDGE, TYRIAN, O.R.P. PIORUM from Algiers. Departures. IMPERIALIST, LOCH OSKAIG escort duties Huelva and Lisbon Palomares. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 312216A.)

C.G.71. C.G.71. BENJAMIN, HUNTINGTON, JOSEPH WARREN, GEORGE BANCROFT, WOLVERINE, EMPIRE MOONRISE, FILLEIGH, MONTAIGNE. Your 301256A. (C.M.S.F.F. 312325A to Admty.)

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War Diary.31.10.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

SUSSEX. Am returning to Durban with starboard inner shaft locked; as there is every indication damage has occurred to blading of high pressure turbine. (SUSSEX, 010829Z to C.S.4, N.O.I.C. Durban (R) C. in C.E.F. (S.E. Asia) Admty., C. in C.S.A., C.S. Durban.)

VIRGINIA. My 270934* Para. 2 refers. VIRGINIA returned to Durban on account of severe leak in stern gland. (Comic. Durban, 310943Z to Admty., C. in C.S.A., C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) F.O.E.A., S.N.O.A. Kilindini) * VIRGINIA escort to D.9.A.5.

Routeing from Australia to S.African ports. 1. Request ships from Australia be routed to approach South African Ports in accordance with C. in C.E.F.'s 16 1000 (F.O.N.I.C.249) 2. Approach route to Durban at present in force is number two viz. from 031° S. 038° E. direct to outer end of searched channel. 3. Ships for South African ports West of Durban are to steer to keep outside 15 miles from port of Durban at night until reaching coastal route. Your 280553 refers. (C. in C.S.A. 311048C to A.C.N.B. (R) C. in C.E.F.)

Convoy Speeds. Your 291124. All M.K.S. convoys westward of Gibraltar and all S.L. convoys 7½ knots. (D.T.D. 311056A to F.O.C.W.A.(R) F.O. Gibraltar, C. in C.W.A., C. in C. Med.)

CAGNI, VIRGINIA. Intend to sail CAGNI escorted to Kilindini by VIRGINIA. Date of sailing is dependent on completion of repairs to VIRGINIA about 5th Nov. A.M.261857 refers. (C. in C. S.A. 311115C to Admty., C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.) C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med. (R) Com. i/c Durban, F.O.E.A.)

SUSSEX. Sailed SUSSEX routed through H. 029° 40' S. 032° 00' E. J. 025° 50' S. 036° 30' E. K. 012° 40' S. 044° 40' E. L. 010° 00' S. 045° 00' E. S. of A. 17½ knots. Shift to W/T Group V at 2100Z 2nd Nov. (2) SUSSEX will R/V with cruisers at 0500Z 4th in position A. F.O. 4th Cruiser Squadron's 291047 refers. (Comic. Durban 311742Z to Admty., C. in C. S.A., C. in C.E.F., (S.E.A.C.) F.O.E.A. (Kilindini) F.O. 4th C.S., S.N.O.A. Kilindini.)

S.L.139. Intend sailing at 0730Z/3 escorted by BIDEFORD S.O. STONECROP, ODZANI, FOWEY, STORK, CAMPION D.S. FRISO, CONQUEROR and MYOSOTIS. 39 ships. Arrangements. (F.O.C.W.Af., 312035Z) As amended 021322Z/Nov.

31.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy ship
off Haifa.

One unknown bearing 200 degs, distant 2 miles,
course 150 degs. position 32.17 N. 35.25 E.
(DART, 310519C to Alexandria C.C.O.).

Alexandria
movements.

Alexandria October 30th.
Arrivals PATHFINDER, (?EXMOOR) BLENCATHRA,
ATHERSTONE, CATTERICK, PALADIN, BOXER, BRUISER,
GLOXINIA, DART, PROTEA, MAPLE, SARKA, SLAZAK.
Departures TREERN, L.C.T. 100, DART, SLAZAK.
(R.A. Alexandria 310758C).

Air Report.

A.300 Oct. 31.
Daily Opsum 186.

30th October. 2 United States Mitchells B.25 2
Beaufighters attacked 3 500 ton merchant vessels
in Naxos. 75 mm. shells over shot but Beaufighters scored hits with
cannon on 1 vessel. 1 U.S. Mitchell B.25 shot down by A.A.
fire 1 Beaufighter missing, 4 U.S. Mitchells B.28 with escort,
3 Beaufighters anti-shipping recce Kos Area. 2 F.boats at jetty
south of Kos Harbour attacked and 2 possible hits with 75 mm.
shells scored. 8 Ju.88's attacked convoy off Kastelorizo. 4
Beaufighters providing fighter cover shot down 4 Ju.88's and
damaged 1 cruiser. 1 destroyer reported damaged earlier in day.
2 Beaufighters shot down a single Ju.88 near same convoy and
destroyed 1 abandoned Arado. 196 floating on water. Enemy air
attack also reported on Kastelorizo. No further details.
30/31 October. 1 Dakota, C.47 successfully dropped supplies on
Samos.

Following delayed Details. 29th October. 2 Baltimores A.30
anti-shipping R/C South Eastern Aegean, 1 caique 80 tons attacked
south of Rhodes. Near misses with bombs, hits with machine-gun
fire crew abandoned ship.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 310859Z).

31st October. M.S. 21317. N.W.A.A.F. Opsum 252. N.W.
A.S.A.F. 30th October. 138 lbs (sic) Fortresses (B.17) escort 48
Lightnings (P.38) despatched to bomb Turin Ball Bearing Factory
found complete overcast. 21 Bombers and 21 fighters returned
early. 26 bombed Savona 5 bombed Ne Varazze bombed Imperia 2?
bombed Porto Maurizio remainder jettisoned or returned bombs 156?
x 1000 Savona from 22500 feet covering entire town but principal
concentration was from mouth of river through iron and steel
works and sulphur refineries into jetty to northeast. 1 direct hit
oil jetty medium motor vessel believed damaged by near miss.
N.A.T.A.F. 28th Oct. 500 small merchant vessels Giulianova
Harbour. 2 direct hits 1 vessel. Several near misses. 30 X
20 small freighter off Giulianova. No results observed.
(H.Q. N.A.A.F. 311427A).

SONTAY

My 301014B sailed.
(S.N.O. Tripolitania 310935B to N.O.1/c Malta).

WARSPITE
and
escorts.

Intend to sail WARSPITE in tow of tug ORIANA,
NIMBLE, RESTIVE, JAUNTY escorted by CALPE, BRECON,
BLANKNEY, MENDIP to Gib. at 0730/1st Nov.
(2) Route by Q.B.B. 123 (C) position 278, 81 and
war channel to 79 at 0001/3rd then as ordered by

/ (? C. in C Med.)...

31.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

WARSPITE
and escorts
(Contd.).

(?C. in C. Med.).
(3) S. of A. 7 knots approx.
(4) Codeword "Wicked" 147 priority high and A/S.
(V.A. Malta, 310942 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.
F.O.C. Gib., N. and A.A. Bone to Sousse, N. and
A.A. Algiers to Bizerta, WARSPITE, CALPE, BRECON,
BLANKNEY, MENDIP).

AURORA,
BELVOIR,
PETARD.

Bomb damage to AURORA hit between after funnel and
four inch gun deck. All four inch guns out of
action. No damage below waterline. Casualties 40
killed 20 wounded. Returning to Alexandria with
BEAUFORT in company.

(2) BELVOIR hit by unexploded bomb. No casualties or serious
damage.
(3) PETARD and BELVOIR entered Aegean to lie up today in
Manheltah Gulf. Will land troops and stores Leros tomorrow night.
(C. in C. Levant, 311013C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.).

While PETARD, BELVOIR and BEAUFORT were in Kastelorizo area
on their way to enter Aegean escorted by AURORA they were attacked
by aircraft as follows:-

(A) At 1530 by two Ju.88's no hits.
(B) At 1623 by fourteen Ju.87's escorted by six Me.109's.
AURORA hit and returned to Alexandria accompanied by BEAUFORT.
PETARD and BELVOIR continued towards Aegean and were further
attacked as follows:-

(C) At 1712 by sixteen Ju.88 escorted by three Maachi 202. No
damage.

(D) At 1752 by eight Ju.88's BELVOIR hit by unexploded bomb,
which was later removed without impairing fighting efficiency. No
casualties.

(2) After last attack PETARD and BELVOIR returned eastward but
altered course again at 1900 to enter Aegean. 3 Beaufighters
provided continuous cover until 1835 and intercepted and shot down
one Shadower at 1100. Apparently no interceptions before attacks
but Beaufighters engaged Me.109's and Maachis. They destroyed
four Ju.88's. and damaged another after last attack.

(C. in C. Levant, 311515C to Admiralty, (R) C. in C. Med., Capt.
F.).

Levant
Situation
Report No.
95.

PATHFINDER, EXMOOR, BLENCATHRA left lie up
position in Gulf of Kos at 1800 last night
carried out sweep of Amorgos, Stampalia, Kos area
without meeting any shipping and returned
Alexandria - Antimachia Aerodrome Kos observed
to be in operation.

(2) ECHO, KRAKOWIAK and ROCKWOOD lying up in Gulf of Kos during
daylight. Ordered out 1900/30th to demonstrate off Kalimnos
and patrol West of Leros then to lie up in Turkish waters.
(C. in C. Levant, 311031).

/12th...

996

31.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

12th M.S.F.	Nov.	Duty M.S.	Nov.	Duty M.S.
	1st	FLY	2nd	CADMUS
	3rd	ALBACORE	4th	RHYL
	5th	CIRCE	6th	FLY
	7th	CADMUS		

Ships take over at 0800.
(S.O. 12th M/S Flotilla, 311035A to F.O.W.I.T., N.O.I.C. Castellamare, N.O.I.C. Naples, M/S Malta, S.O. B.Y.M.S.)

Operations "Chickweed" and "Clock". If operation "Chickweed" is further postponed until night 2nd/3rd intend QUILLIAM and QUAIL carry out operation "Clock" on that night and QUEENBOROUGH and RAIDER carry out "Chickweed". (Capt. (D) 4 311038A to F.O.T.A. (R) N.O.I.C. Bari.)

Enemy Ship Aegean. P.C. and S. of enemy 1 small vessel 250 tons. 37° 31' N. 24° 15' E. 360° 5 knots. (A/C CJF/O 311117)
Enemy anchorage - Syros one merchant vessel 4,000 tons 1 enemy war motor boat. (A/C CJF/O 311137.)

My 1137 position of enemy (one merchant vessel 4,000 tons) outside boom in harbour. (A/C CJF/O 311245)

A.K.D.5 1. Sailing Telegram 15 ships.
2. A. 1100Z/31. Route.
6. FALMOUTH to Kilindini.
13. (A) Master BARON JEDBURGH (B) Master AGULHAS.
15. L.V.D. Three Pontoon B.I.K. (A.K.D.5, 311119Z, 311121Z.)

SURF. Comply with paragraph 2 of my 271207* all times 24 hours late. (Capt. (S) 1st, 311154C to SURF (R) 1st S.M.F.) * P.239 (SURF) to leave patrol dusk 30th.

ULTIMATUM U/B sunk. You will probably be sailed in convoy with P.53 ULTOR in company for Malta for stand off period leaving Algiers A.M.3rd. (Capt. (S) 8, 311200A to ULTIMATUM (R) Capt (s)10) Your 311200 and 281302A. May arrive R/V 3 hours early. 1 torpedo remains owing to defective top stop. Have 1 singing propeller. 1 U/B sunk. (P.34 (ULTIMATUM) 312359A to Capt.(S) 8, (R) C. in C.Med.)

CLEOPATRA. Unless other instructions received from the Admtly., trunking should also be removed. Your 291806 refers. (C. in C. Med., 311300A to C.S. Gib., (R) F.O.I.C. Gib. Admty., CLEOPATRA.)

War Diary.

31.10.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

M.K.S.29.

RANPURA is to enter Gibraltar.
(C. in C.Med., 311302 to COLTSFOOT S.E.C. M.K.S.
29 (R) RANPURA, F.O.C. Gib. Admty.)

LA SULTANE,
UPSTART.

LA SULTANE sails at 1700/1st, proceed on surface at discretion through 038° 01' 003° 49' at 0145/2nd 040° 02' 005° 32' at 1800/2nd, thence diving by day through 041° 59' 006° 30' 1800/3rd, 042° 30' 006° 31' at 2130/3rd to patrol in zone ST.
(2) P.65 UPSTART to operate in zone SU and ST until 1200/3rd when she is to withdraw to zone SU.
(Capt.(S)8, 311352A to C. in C.Med. (R) 8th S.F., N.O.I.C. Algiers, F.O.C. Gib., Capt. (S) 10.)

Destroyers
for Greek
Navy.

Owing to loss of QUEEN OLGA and ADRIAS Greek C. in C. has requested that one more destroyer may be allocated to Royal Hellenic Navy now. This in addition to those already earmarked to replace old destroyers. A.M. 122155 refers.
(2) Greeks feel they are only offered ships for which we no longer have any use. Wrangling over clause in A.M. 161034 Sept. also caused much irritation. Prompt offer of a modern ship would act as a great fillip to their morale, (see my 262146 para. four.)
(4) Request early and favourable consideration of this request which has my full support.
(5) Greeks have now lost their only two good fleet destroyers, QUEEN OLGA and KING GEORGE I, and put replacement of these as their first wish. This may well be to balance their fleet against Turkish Fleet.
(C. in C. Levant, 311423C to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.)

X.T.7.

(1) Sailing Telegram. 10 Ships.
(2) 1332C/31st.
(4) (5) (6) As in my 301259 (N.T. in W.D.)
(13) (A) Commander W.H. Austin Tripoli in KISTNA.
(B) Master BRITISH SOVEREIGN.
(R.A. Alexandria, 311514.)

ACHELOUS.

Arrived 31st.
(N.O.I.C. Massawa, 311533Z)

U/B

Sub attacked by DD 32.35 N. 20.25 E.
(909A, 311539Z.)

U.G.S.21.
VITTORINO
ZAMBONI.

Intend sail for Bizerta 10 ships including VITTORINO ZAMBONA (sic) (Italian) for Cagliari.
(N.O.I.C. Algiers, 311604A.)

/Situation...

31.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Situation Joint Army R.A.F. int. appreciation 24 hours to
Aegean 0900Z/31.

1. No report of seaborne or airborne attacks on Leros or Samos up to 0900Z/31st.
2. Our naval forces report no contact with enemy night 30th/31st.
3. Ph. R/C and visual sightings 30th. Kos/Kalino area. Kalimmo harbour Atti Bay, Port Vathi Ph. R/C 0615Z hours showed no change. Vlicadia Bay, Pezonda Bay nil shipping. Kos 3 F. boats off harbour in usual positions. 1 F. boat at sea off Port Pserimo proceeding towards Kalimmo. 1 F.boat still beached near Pili Pserimos Island. Ph. R/C 0610Z hours reported nil shipping in bays. Visual R/C 0815Z hours sighted 2 merchant vessels 500 and 300 tons larger with steam up. Most probably naval auxiliaries. Stampalia. Visual normal. Cyclades. Melos, ph. R/C no change. Naxos. Visual 3 merchant vessels 500 tons, 1 merchant vessel 200 tons most probably naval auxiliaries. Syros. Visual 0800Z hours. Nil shipping. Report from Mykonos states 5 armed vessels one of 5,000 tons in harbour Gulf Panormos 29th. All vessels left 0900/30th for Syros. Vessel reported above as 5,000 tons possibly merchant vessel 2,000 tons sighted at sea 29th east of Syros course 090° and not since relocated (see paragraph 3 appreciation 30th. Piraeus area. Gretan ports not covered 30th owing cloud. Unable therefore confirm whether troopship SAVONA has arrived Crete port.
4. CX reports merchant vessel LEOPARDI 4,000 tons and tanker JOHN KNUDSEN 9,500 tons completed loading at Piraeus with war material and diesel oil morning 30th Oct. Same source reports minelayer MOROSINI left Piraeus 1300Z/29th, for Cyclades with mines probably bound for Dodecanese CX reports minelayer DRACHE arrived Salonika 27th left same night with mines and returned morning 28th and loaded further 100 mines. This minelayer not positively relocated by ph. or visual R/C since she left Piraeus 24th, see paragraph 5 appreciation 26th. Though previously thought possibly sighted Stampalia 27th.
5. No reports of air attacks on Leros or Samos 30th. Attack by unknown number aircraft on Kasteloriso p.m. 30th. Heavy air attacks against our naval forces a.m. and p.m. 30th.
6. Bad weather prevented ph. R/C airfields Greece and Crete 30th. Only partial cover obtained of Rhodes airfields. Kos landing grounds no change. Impossible therefore state whether any changes G.A.F. dispositions have taken place.
7. Indication enemy preparations coming to a head and attack on Leros and or Samos imminent weather permitting.
(C. in C.M.E. T.O.O. Nil.)

Tow for
ROODE ZEE.

Your 281234 SS. MATHEW MAUREY. M.O.W.T.
061724 September Mast 1229 to M.W.T.R. Med.
refers.
(C. in C. Med., 311620A to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C.
Gib.)

/COMMANDANT...

Wion Med.

998^A

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

031645A/November.

IN

From: P.S.T.O., Mediterranean.

Date: 5.11.43.

Recd: 0500

Requirements for Hospital Ships and Carriers

PLUG NAVAL CYPHER (XF) BY W/T.

Addressed: D. of S.T.

As promised we have reconsidered A.F.H.Q. Algiers telegram No.458 of 21st October, in regard to the future Mediterranean requirements for hospital ships and carriers.

2. The points we put forward as a basis for reconsideration were

- (A) The desirability for cutting down the hospital carrier requirements for 1944 in view of the heavy U.K. needs for this type of ship for all purposes.
- (B) The necessity for returning from the Mediterranean to U.K. in early 1944, the hospital carriers LEINSDER, DINARD, ST JULIEN, ST DAVID and ST ANDREWS. The requirements for 4 hospital carriers is based upon the necessity for having 2 carriers on each side of Italy to maintain a daily casualty clearance service from the battle area to the hospital bases, even when these bases are established in the south of Italy, the extremely bad railway communication will render sea clearance imperative.

3. The type of ports to be expected further north in Italy makes the continuing use of carriers unavoidable although it might be possible to substitute 1 of the 4 carriers by a ship if this would help on the assumption that carriers are more difficult to provide than ships.

4. On the assumption that we remove the 5 carriers referred to above to U.K. and try to replace them by vessels suitable only for service in the Mediterranean the following Italian vessels might be suitable for conversion to hospital carriers

ABBAZZIA, CAMPIDOGOIO, CITTA DI ALESSANDRIA, CITTA DI BARI, BARLETTA.

5. Of these BARLETTA is being used for Naval Operational purposes and it appears unlikely that we could recover her even for hospital carriers duties.

8. We presume you have in hand the question of whether TOSCANA and PRINCIPESSA GIOVANNA are to be overhauled and brought up to full British/American hospital ship standards. Please advise when the position is clear.

9. From Wood No. 19AGRW.

031645A

Circulation over

Advance Copy: Duty Capt. D.D.D. (A) Plot.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.M.S. (F)
U.W.R.
Capt. Pim.
D.C.
Plot
D.O.D. (H) (4)
D.C.D. (F) (2)
D. of S.T. (6) for action
M.D.G.
Hd. of M.
I.P. (2)
W.D.
D.N.I. (4)
D.D.I.C. (3)
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (C)

999

31.10.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

COMMANDANT
DUBOC
damaged. Starboard propeller damaged. Intend to return using port engine only except in case of emergency.
(COMMANDANT DUBOC, 311706 to C.O.M.L.A. (R)
N.O.I.C. Beirut. Cmdre.(D) C. in C. Levant.)

U.S. L.S.T.
73. Arrived 31st. .
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 311709C to Admty., C. in C. Levant, (R) F.O.R.S.C.A., R.A. Alexandria.)

Food for
Ionian
Islands. Greek Gov. have enquired whether food from Canada can be delivered to Ionian Islands. Agreed that Swedish vessels from Canada, en route for Piraeus might break their voyage and proceed to Patras. Have you any objections to similar deviation to permit ships from Canada to visit Ionian Islands?
(Head of M.(I) 311719A to C. in C. Med.)

SAVOIA. Arrived Suez 31st.
(F.O.R.S.C.A. 311732C.)

NAPLES
movements. Arrivals. CADMUS, LOOKOUT. L.S.T.360, 379.
Departures. C.T.F. 86, BROOKLYN, WAINWRIGHT, EDISON, B.Y.M.S.11, M.L.565.
Arrivals and Departures. P.C. 556, S.C.1043, A.M.116.
(N.O.I.C. Naples, 311829.)

TOSCANA. Sailed Catania.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta 311839.)

MIRAGLIA. Following from B.A.D. (begins)
"C.C. of S. have approved ship being employed in transporting damaged aircraft from Med. to the U.K. Question of her further future employment has been referred to the Combined Military Transportation Committee for report to the C.C.S. 300019Z. (ends)"
2. Details of damaged aircraft for transport to U.K. will be signalled later.
(D.O.D.(F) 311839A to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.L.I.)

K.M.F.25
K.M.S.29, Convoy arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Port Said, 311842.)

SERAPH. Proceed to patrol between Naxos and Mykoni at your discretion.
(Capt. (S) 1st, 311849C to SERAPH (R) 1st S.F.)

/C. in C.M.E. ...

1000

31.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- C. in C.M.E. 0/29285 31st.
Cositrep 41. 1. Int. Aegean. Ph. R/C 30th interfered with by bad weather. Reported 5 Armd. vessels left Mykonos about 0900 hrs. G.M.T./30. Appreciate threat to Samos and Leros unchanged.
2. Ops. Aegean. A. Symi was heavily bombed up to 27th as reprisal for our occupation. B. Italian hospital Leros destroyed by bombs 29th. C. One R/C sortie Kastelorizo. Two R/C sorties Samos. Leros six sorties. Bombs on Perteni Zuncona.
3. Greece. Elas-Edes stt. No further information.
4. Yugoslavia. B. Homolje area. Mijhailovic Tps. attacked two tugs each towing barge near Boljetin R.E.58. Object of attack was to sink tug in narrow channel and cause long term blockage. Object not fully achieved but one tug, one barge grounded outside channel and one tug, one barge apparently grounded in channel.
5. Naval. Aegean 30th Oct.
6. Air. A. Own 29th. Two Baltimores attacked an 80 ton Caique South of Rhodes scoring near misses with bombs, and hits with machine gun fire. Crew seen to abandon ship. Night 30/31st. One Dakota successfully dropped supplies on Samos. (C. in C.M.E. 311900C.)

GEORGES A.M. 311943A to C. in C.Med. and F.O.I.C. Gib.
LEYGUES. See North Atlantic.

TIENTSIN. Foundered at 0200/26th on Fury Shoal in 24° 10' N. 35° 40' E. while on passage to Massawa. All crew reported safe. (C. in C. Levant, 311944C to Admty. (R) F.O.R.S.C.A Com. Aden., M.W.T.M.E.)

Levant BELVOIR hit by unexploded bomb inraid at 1755/30th
Situation only slight damage and no casualties. Proceeded
Report No. with PETARD to enter Aegean after dark yesterday
96. and lay up in Mandelyah Gulf. Both have troops and stores for Leros and intend to land them tonight.

2. ECHO, ROCKWOOD, KRAKOWIAK report no incidents last night during demonstration off Kalimmos and patrol West of Leros and returned to lie up in Mandelyah Gulf, to withdraw south tonight.
3. AURORA and BEAUFORT arrived Alexandria noon today. AURORA hit between after funnel and four inch gun deck. No damage below water-line. Casualties about 46 killed including Commander, 20 wounded.
4. Heavy raid on Samos reported from Turkish coast a.m. 30th.
5. PHOEBE and "Hunts" left Alexandria at 1900 today for Aegean. "Hunts" have troops and stores for Leros. (C. in C. Levant, 311053 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. E.F., V.A. Malta, F.O.R.S.C.A., R.A.L. Com. L.A. S.N.O.C. Aegean. Capt. (F))

/Oran...

31.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Oran
movements.

Arrivals U.S.S. BABBITT, CHARLES CARROLL,
ELIZABETH STANTON, JAMES O'HARA, JOSEPH T. DICKMAN,
PRESIDENT FUNSTON, LYON THOMAS, JEFFERSON, PLUNKETT,
WOOLSEY, LUDLOW, GLEAVES, BENSON, NIBLACK,
F.C. DAVIS and H.C. JONES.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 312020A.)

Algeria
movements.

Arrivals SALVEDA, SALVESTOR, U.S.S. MERAK,
U.S.S. COLE, U.S.S. BERNADOU,
(Com. Algeria, 312037A.)

Italian
ships in
Spanish
Ports.

C. in C. Med., 312049, see North Atlantic.

G.U.S.20.

Sailing telegram part 2. 28 ships.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 312104A.)

Italian
movements.

L.S.Ts. 322, 427, 426, 63, 214, CONVULVULUS.
Departure: TOSCANA.
(N.O/C Augusta, ?31214A.)
Departures GABBIANO, APE,
(N.O.I.C. Bizerta, 312200A.)

Bari
Movements.

Arrivals QUAIL H.S.L.2598.
Departures QUILLIAM, QUEENBOROUGH, RAIDER,
(N.O.I.C. Bari, 312208.)

?U.B.

Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 33.02 N. 21.55 E.
(A/C 96BM, 312220Z.)

Med.
Situation
report
number 219.

1. My 282201 para. 1 U.S. Cruiser BROOKLYN successfully bombarded 2 batteries and a barracks in this area* and U.S. Destroyer NIBLICK bombarded a battery at Gaeta. * (W.D. Note: Minturno area.)
2. U.S. Destroyer WAINWRIGHT carried out successful bombardment of road and rail crossing of the Voltorno on 30th.
3. During night 28th/29th coastal force operated in 2 groups 1 in the Civita Vecchia area and the other north of Elba. No shipping was sighted.
4. H.M.S. IMPERIALIST reported attacking U/Boat in 035° 54' N. 005° 52' W. at 1330/31st. U/B was forced to the surface and sunk by gunfire.
(C. in C. Med., 312240A.)

• 1002

31.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

GEORGE
WASHINGTON
number of
passengers.

Cominch informs me reference your 281754 that no relaxation of the rules can be made for GEORGE WASHINGTON on Atlantic passage unescorted. The limit of 250 given in my 221647 March para. 2 D and E should therefore be strictly observed. (B.A.D. 310305 to C. in C.S.A. (R) D. of S.T. D.S.T.O. Bombay, C. in C.E.F. D.S.T.O. Durban.)

U/B attacked.

Re-encipherment of Cominch 292106 (previously received undecypherable). "From Cominch. A. U.S.S. SPRY attacks sub. 01.48 S. 39.42 W. 290730Z" (Radio Washington 310538Z to Admty. N.S.H.Q. S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

ESSINGTON.

New York departed 30th ESSINGTON to Argentina. (N.S.H.Q. 310611Z to Admty.)

T.F.67
constituted.

This is Cinclant's 302354Z to Comdesron 18. Comdesron 18 Com. Medmenhall in FRANKFORT Desdiv. 35 LEE FOX, IRA, JEFFERY SALAMONIE. Escort convoy U.T.4A consisting of 4 A.Ps. from New York and 2 A.Ps. from Boston scheduled sail 5 Nov. to U.K. when directed by British Authorities after about 3 days layover return New York escorting Convoy T.U.4A. Boston Section will be escorted to R/V designated by P.D. New York by escort provided by Comdeslant. This hereby constitutes Task Force 67. (Comnaveu 310856 to Admty.)

MATAGORDA.

Request you will sail MATAGORDA independently from Bristol City Docks for destination Casablanca on 3rd Nov. S.C.A. 16 knots. (Comnaveu 310954Z to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C. Cardiff, Commorseafron, Comfairwing 7, U.S.Navpo, Cardiff.)

BONITA,
tug.

Request tug to assist SS. BONITA. My P.C. and S. 053° 55' 043° 10' 222° 2½. (NORTHERN GEM 311104Z to F.O.N.F. (R) C.2.)

U/B attacked.

S/M attacked by aircraft 047° 05' N. 051° 20' W. 1230Z/31st. (C. in C.C.N.A. 311140Z to G.B.7A, C. in C.W.A.)

GOLDEN EAGLE.

GOLDEN EAGLE should not be allowed to go to sea with present Master whose deliberate insubordination recently endangered his ship and crew. He, for good reason was ordered from U.T.4 to Halifax. He understood his orders but deliberately proceeded toward the U.K. instead. Ship should not be allowed at sea until she can reduce smoke. She should have proper signal equipment before being allowed in convoy. She should not go in fast convoys as her maximum speed is not over 14 knots. Details by mail. (C.T.F. 69 311315Z to Admty. Comnaveu (R) W.O.I.C. Liverpool, Connav, Cdr. 3rd U.S.Fleet.)

31.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

- F.T.16. H.M.Fleet Tender 16 sailed 31st in K.G.667 for Mediterranean via Guantanamo Nov. 4th Trinidad, Recife and Freetown.
(C.S.A. Keywest 311413Z to Admty.)
- S.C.144. Average speed 7.7 knots. Off Oversay at 2000/25th October. All arrived.
(D.T.D. 311418A to Connav, N.S.H.Q.)
- A.T.72. (MAURETANIA). 1. A.T.72 pre-sailing telegram ref. Admty. 282227A.
2. Chebucto 1500Z/2nd. 3. E.T.A. Bar L/V 1600Z/8th Nov. 4. Knots 20. 5. (Route). 15. Codeword "Mutual" standard communications plan.
"Chop" 0500Z/4th Nov.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 311435Z to Admty. Connav.)
- N.S.H.Q.S/M Estimate. (N.S.H.Q. 311451Z.)
- U.S.S.R. Navy Craft. 1. U.S.S.R. Navy Craft A.M. 144 (S.O.) A.M. 143 S.C.721, S.C.1287, S.C.1074 sailed St. Johns. 1331/31 to Reykjavik speed 12 knots via following route. 4. Ships have been instructed to signal E.T.A. 24 hours before arrival. 5. Request ships be escorted from vicinity Skagilight.
(F.O.N.F. 311525Z to F.O.C.Iceland, (R) C. in C. N.W.A. N.S.H.Q. Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. Alusna Moscow, C.T.F. 24, Senior Representative U.S.S.R. Cinclant, Admty. N.O.B.Iceland vice Opanav, B.A.D.)
- U/Bs. This is C.T.Gs. 311358 addressed to Cominch, Cinclant, Admty. and Comairlant.
2 Pairs Red Rockets to Port one single to starboard were sighted in 45.30 N. 27.30 W. at 0800/31st.
At 1200Z heard D.A.Q. possibly ultra high speed transmission reporting BLOCK ISLAND ground or homing wave for one hour 15770 k/cs fixed about same position. Believe indicates at least two submarines in locality. Convoy of N.S.S. 665 not informed. Weather (Comnav 311611 to Admty.)
- U.S.S/M Estimate. (Cominch 311623Z.)
- ESSINGTON, DUFF, FOLEY, GARLIES. Request you take necessary action on C. in C.W.A. 301222* being passed to N.S.H.Q. and Capt. D. Argentia indicating names of ships.
2. ESSINGTON sailed New York 301400Z. DUFF Boston/302200Z. FOLEY Bermuda 302130Z destination (?) Frigate Argentia. 3. In addition GARLIES expected Bermuda Sunday for D/G (Halifax?) thence Argentia.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 311731Z to F.O.N.F.)
* DUFF or ESSINGTON to U.K.

/J.PINCKNEY...

31.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

J.PINCKNEY
HENDERSON
refloated.

J.PINCKNEY HENDERSON has now been refloated.
(N.O.I.C. Sydney 311817Z to Admty.)

GARLIES.

H.M.S.GARLIES departing Bermuda 2130Z/31st for
Argentia via Boston through (route), E.T.A.Boston
2030Z/2nd (route) thence Argentia advancing 15
knots. S.B.N.O.W.At. 311150Q.
(N.O.B.Bermuda 311840 to Admty.)

Stragglers
arrived Week
Ending 30th.

25th KOFRESI (U.S.) H.X.262. Engine trouble.
26th PACIFIC SHIPPER, H.X.262. Unable to maintain
convoy speed. 29th IGNACE PADEREWSKI (U.S.)WH.X.
263. Convoy not met. Returned to port.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns 311841Z to Admty.)

B.Y.M.S.

Sailed B.Y.M.S. 57 (S.O.) B.Y.M.S. 161, P.A. 2000Z/
31st for St. Johns N.F. route, speed 10 knots.
2. E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 1200Z/3rd. 4. F.O.N.F.
is requested to sail ships to U.K. via Azores.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 312019Z to F.O.N.F.)

St. Johns
minesweeping.

Your 171506 A. 3. B. Swept by Oropesa in
positions as follows. Swept by L.L. in following
position. St. Johns - Wabana Channel partially
searched by Oropesa. C. St. Johns Swept Channel by
Oropesa St. Johns Swept Channel partially searched
L.L. following area searched LL. Following area
searched Oropesa. Total mines accounted for to date
31.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns 312045Z to N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty.
Cominch, C. in C.C.N.A.)

H.X.264.

Convoy sailing despatch H.X.264. Part 2, part 1
is my despatch 301934 and 311936 (53 ships).
(P.D.New York 312100Z to Admty.)

Sub. attack
& sighting
summary.

All times Z. A. CARD aircraft report sinking U-
Boat 48.43 N. 32.19 W. 1541/30.
B. U.S.S. BLOCK ISLAND sighted two pairs red rockets
45.30 N. 27.30 W. 0800/31.
C. Surface craft sighted periscope 00.18 N. 44.24 W.
1610/30 B.24 in transit sighted sub. 06 S. 29.30 W.
0838/30.

D. U.S.S. BATFISH sighted periscope 09.55 N. 79.45 W. 1620/30.
(Cominch 312106Z to Admty.)

• 1005

31.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial No. 649 Oct. 30th. Digest for 29th Oct. should read Serial No. 648. 2. Two destroyers, 1 tanker of 7000 to 10000 tons observed noon 20 miles South Mussau Island course 330°. Two fighters covering convoy. 3. Northbound submarine passed Cape Orford dawn. 4. Single probable destroyer seen afternoon off Southern Shores Open Bay. 5. Navy Catalina sighted enemy submarine before dawn 30 miles North Talesea heading East. Shortly afterwards made Radar contact two ships 29 miles West Talesea. 6. Forenoon Patrol Liberator bombed barges off Staging Base South-west coast Long Island. Ground observer reported this base evacuated evening and whole Island clear of enemy. 7. Night 28/29 Oct. our Patrol Craft probably sank one barge and small escort off Coast 20 miles North of Finschhafen following afternoon two troop laden barges reported southbound same vicinity 10. Reference Digest 648 para. 10, shipping later described 1 light cruiser, 2 destroyers. First sighted East Witu Group and tracked into harbour Mundua Island (Solomon Is.) Shadowing Liberator attacked after midnight scoring 2 hits, one probable destroyer near miss other destroyer. 3 unidentified aircraft over convoy but nil interception effected. Next morning after daylight 9 Mitchells searched Witu area with negative results and strafed barges, buildings Rein Bay. 11. Midday 29th 41 Liberators with 75 Lightnings covering raided Unakanau aerodrome dropping 62 tons heavy bombs plus 5538 clusters 20 pound fragmentation from about 20,000 feet. Raid concentrated into 15 minutes. Minimum 20 planes destroyed and 5 probably destroyed on ground besides much damage including explosion of large underground ammunition dump. Some 50 enemy fighters airborne but interception of bombers weak and effectively countered by cover. 25 fighters shot down in combat plus 13 probables. One Lightning was only Allied combat loss though several other planes damaged. Normal Merchant Shipping observed Simpsons Harbour with 2 heavy cruisers, several destroyers or light cruisers near Praed Point heading out of harbour. 14. Photos forenoon 29th disclose 8 fighters Southern Bougainville disposed 3 Ballale 5 Kahili 1 Kara also 4 Floatplanes Faisi. All runways unserviceable although repairs Kara almost completed. 4 small craft, 20 barges Buil Ballale anchorages, plus 1 ammunition lighter, 1 small oiler, 12 small craft, 15 barges Tonolei Harbour. Two small craft, 27 barges at Buka and Matchin Bay. 15. Afternoon 29th 16 Corsairs strafed 10 to 12 small troop laden freighters and numerous barges Tonolei Harbour. One ship blew up 3 more burned in addition to 4 barges destroyed or set on fire.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 310216, 310630Z.)

Movements. Arrived Brisbane 29th U.S.S. RALPH TALBOT, Fremantle 30th U.S.S. ISABEL. Departed Exmouth Gulf 28th U.S.S. ISABEL, for Fremantle. U.S.S. RALPH TALBOT for Milne Bay.
(A.C.N.B. 310839Z.)

1006

31.10.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 311359A, 311406A.)

Submarines Attacked.

Submarine
attack and
sighting
summary for
24 hours to
0900Z/31st.

A. Convoys S.L.138 and M.K.S.28 attacked by a U-Boat
at 0738/31st in 46° 05' N. 20° 26' W.
Aircraft attacked U-Boat at 2056/29th in 37° 00' N.
08° 41' W.
SCARBOROUGH and ROCHESTER sighted U-Boat at 0615
and at 0759/31st.
Aircraft sighted U-Boat at 2100/30th in 35° 35' N.
06° 40' W.

ROBERT D.INGERSOLL reported torpedo fired at ship
at 0030/31st in 05° 37' N. 80° 54' E.

B. Aircraft sighted U-Boat swirl at 0812/30th in 43° 40' N. 20°
20' W.

(D.D.I.C. 311021Z to Cominch N.S.H.Q.)