

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

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

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

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

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

ADM 199 2282

1.11.1943,
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.S.

1. C.S.10 in BELFAST with KENT and NORFOLK (Force One) left Seidisfiord this evening to the north-eastward. Thick fog at Archangel delayed the movements of ships.

Air
Patrols.

2. Flying in the Moorings and Percussion areas was curtailed today by bad weather.

U-Boat in
Plymouth.

3. The possibility exists that an enemy submarine passed into Plymouth today across the loops and out on 2 Nov., afterwards laying mines in the approaches on 4 Nov.

Mediterranean.

WARSPITE.

4. WARSPITE, damaged by bombing on 16 Sept. left Malta for Gibraltar today in tow of 4 tugs and escorted by 4 destroyers.

2 U-Boats
sunk.

5 (a) FLEETWOOD sighted a U-Boat on the surface at 2307Z today in 35.49 N. 05.14 W. in the approaches to the Straits of Gibraltar, and attacked with 3 patterns of 10 depth charges. Contact was then lost. FLEETWOOD subsequently (at 0945/2) took 48 German U-Boat survivors off Spanish fishing boats in the vicinity of the attack at daylight. From preliminary interrogation it appears that the survivors are from the U-Boat attacked by FLEETWOOD (U340). The Spaniards protested against the violation of Spanish territorial waters by FLEETWOOD. A message explaining the matter was sent by F.O.I.C. Gibraltar today.
(b) A message from C. in C. Mediterranean on 4 November states that FLEETWOOD sank 2 U-Boats today.

Air
Operations,
Adriatic.

6. 36 U.S bombers attacked Ancona harbour today; a 5000 ton merchant ship was hit and there were hits on several small craft. 12 Hudsons and 12 Baltimores attacked Split harbour. In a second attack, by 12 U.S. Warhawks near misses with 500 lb. bombs were made on a naval vessel in the dockyard.

1.11.1943.
Monday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean. - Contd.Air
Operations.

7. 30 or 35 plus aircraft attacked Naples and Pozzoli Bays early this evening. The controlled minelayer LINNET was holed forward and was beached; and the minesweeper RHYL was slightly damaged by a near miss.

Aegean.

8. (a) PETARD and BELVOIR disembarked personnel and stores at Leros last night and returned to Mandelyah Gulf to lie up.
 (b) ECHO, ROCKWOOD and KRAKOWIAK left Mandelyah Gulf last night, and passing north of Leros withdrew to the south and without incident.
 (c) A fourth Italian S/M unloaded stores for Leros last night, but developed defects and returned to Portolago tonight, to complete repairs.
 (d) PHOEBE, DULVERTON, BEAUFORT and PINDOS, who left Alexandria yesterday evening proceeded towards the Aegean until dark when PHOEBE detached to Alexandria and the Hunts passed north of Rhodas to lie up in the Gulf of Doris tonight.
 (e) Leros reported all quiet at 0715B today. Facilities are now available to oil destroyers, and two cranes are back in operation at Portolago.
 (f) No enemy air attacks were reported today on any of the islands in Allied occupation.
 (g) The concentration of enemy landing craft at Kos/Kalimno continues.
 (h) SEVERN sailed from Beirut today with personnel and stores for Leros but is returning to Beirut on the surface on account of defective main engines.
 UNSPARING is returning to Beirut from patrol. She reports 2 casualties from an engagement with an armed caique, and that she has sunk one troop carrying merchant ship and one R-Boat loaded with troops. C. in C. Levant reports that UNSPARING was damaged.

M.K.S. and
G.U.S.
Convoys.

9. Consequent upon the decision to limit the number of ships in Alexandria harbour to 80 from today, M.K.S. and G.U.S. convoys will, after G.U.S.20 sail in two portions, from Port Said and Alexandria respectively, joining off the latter port.

East Indies.SIRIUS.

10. SIRIUS, damaged by bombing in the Aegean on 17th, arrived at Massawa this afternoon for repairs.

3

1.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies - Contd.

Burma.

11. 30 river craft were damaged by Allied air attack in central Burma today.

America and West Indies.

U-Boat
Sunk.

12. The U.S. destroyer BORIE reports having sunk a U-Boat in 49.03 N. 31.55 W. (600 miles N.N.W. of the Azores) at 010155, close to the position where CARD's aircraft sank one yesterday.

Australia and New Zealand.

13. At midday today a patrol Liberator attacked an 8000 ton transport and a large seatruck 30 miles west of New Hanover, Bismarck Archipelago, and sank the transport.

14. Navy Catalinas attacked two medium freighters and two possible destroyers off the north coast of New Britain and obtained 3 near misses.

Landing on
Bougainville.

15 (a) Allied troops with air co-operation landed in force at Cape Torokina, Empress Augusta Bay, west coast of Bougainville at dawn today. Some enemy aircraft interfered, necessitating temporary withdrawal of landing craft. There was opposition from the shore, but by nightfall the enemy activity was reduced to sporadic firing.
(b) 36 Allied aircraft this afternoon attacked shipping in Tondel harbour, Bougainville Straits and sank a small freighter and destroyed or damaged several barges and small craft.

1.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand. - Contd.

Bombardment
of Buka
Bonis area.

16. A U.S. cruiser and destroyer task force effectively shelled the Buka Bonis (Solomons) area before dawn today. This was followed up at daybreak by a heavy air attack on the same targets. Whilst retiring the task force shelled Faisi Ballale, silencing the shore batteries.

17. An Allied surface force (not the task force reported in action on 2 Nov.) was attacked by 12 enemy dive-bombers this forenoon, north of Vella Lavella. Ships' A/A fire destroyed 4 of the enemy.

1.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

General.

Station boundaries. Details of alteration in boundary between South Atlantic and East Indies Commands as from 00012/6th Nov. (See East Indies.)
(V.C.N.S. 012032A to "A" Mge. H. & A.)

Policy.

Russian procedure. Five bags post office mail landed but subjected to same treatment as before. Reference Admiral Fisher 271215.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 010801A and 020842A to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

F.O.I.C. Force S. My 161816A. Office of Flag Officer Commanding Force S. is now established at Cameron Barracks, Inverness.
(F.O.I.C. Force S 010900 to Admty.)

"Haulabout". Admiralty's 011103 and F.C.I.C. London's 031041A. L.B.V.(1) Additional transfers. Details. craft to Army. (C.O.B.O. Tilbury 010945A to Admty.)

Russian procedure. At initial meeting between Stalin and Foreign Secretary the former made big point of fact that our sailors in North looked down on Soviet sailors instead of treating them as equals and if it was not for this offensive attitude the Soviet Govt. would never have had any objection to our maintaining as many personnel in North Russia as we liked.
I have been waiting for more specific information before pursuing this matter and endeavours are now being made to get this as far as possible statu quo, for officers or men, R.N. or M.N., Archangel or Kola Inlet etc. Meanwhile request your remarks and that steps may be taken to guard against any tendency of our personnel to patronize the Russians.
The impression here is that grievance is of long standing but I have not previously heard of it since my arrival at Russia in July 1942.
(Ad. Fisher 011042C to S.B.N.O. North Russia.) *Reply: Page 67.*

ERNE, My 301010, 301012, 301019. Propose allocating REDPOLE. ERNE to Eastern Fleet in place of REDPOLE, who could then remain at Gibraltar.
(C. in C.W.A. 011138 to Admty.)

1.11.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

PRINCE ROBERT. PRINCE ROBERT is to come under the orders of C. in C.Plymouth.
2. Unless orders to the contrary are received from C. in C.Plymouth, PRINCE ROBERT should on parting company with M.K.F.25 in 50° N. proceed at best speed to Horta, refuel, and await further orders.
5. It is intended that PRINCE ROBERT should carry out a Blockade Breaker patrol returning to Gibraltar on completion. (A.C.N.S.H. 010127A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

AUGUSTA Scapa departure AUGUSTA. (A.C.O.S. 010901 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

DURBAN. On reaching position S. 043° 01' N. 016° 01' W. alter course to pass through position T. 049° 28' N. 016° 33' W. U. 180° Bishop Rock 12 miles. V. 180° The Lizard 3 miles and thence by Q.Z.S. 410 and 409 to Plymouth.
2. DURBAN is to keep west of The Lizard during dark hours.
3. If able to reach Needles before dark omit call at Plymouth and proceed by A.M.Q.Z. S in force to Needles.
4. On passing 009° W. report intention. (C. in C.Plymouth 011608A to DURBAN.)

S/M Move- Positions of S/Ms at 0800/2 and movements for
ments. following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 011707A.)

MATAGORDA. When ready for sea on 3rd November U.S.S. MATAGORDA is to be sailed independently for Casablanca via M. 293° Trevoze Head 5 miles. N. 50.00 N. 14.00 W. O. 40.00 N. 14.00 W. P. 35.00 N. 10.00 W.
2. Estimated S.O.A. 16 knots. (D.O.D.H. 011735A to N.O.I.C. Avonmouth.)

BRANSFIELD. A.M. 011825A. 1. Request you will sail BRANSFIELD as soon as convenient after arrival to Freetown for onward routeing to Falkland Islands.
3. She should be sailed independently by following route. (D.O.D.H. 011903A to F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)

NELSON, From position C. steer for new position E. 43.40 N. RODNEY. 23.30 W. new position F. 46.01 N. 24.17 W. thence to position D. (D.O.D.H. 011921A to NELSON, RODNEY.)

ANCHUSA. Your 011815A. My P.C. and S. at 2000A 050° 00' N. 014° 01' W. 180° 13.5 knots. (ANCHUSA 012115A to LEITH.)

7
1.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

EMPIRE
PIERROT.

Tug EMPIRE PIERROT is required to sail to Gibraltar in convoy K.X.12 on 4th December for onward routing to Kilindini.
(D.O.D.H. 012127A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Operations.

Operation
F.S.

Movements delayed. Thick fog. My 291512 refers. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 010836A to H.F.)
Sailed Dvina Jetty. My 291512 and 010836 refer.
2. Soviet escort. Destroyer KUIBISHEV since replaced U.S.S.R. Destroyer GREMYASHCHI.

3. Route positions used both as reference positions and stragglers route.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel 010916A to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

On account of poor fuelling facilities at Seidisfjord intend proceeding in BELFAST with KENT in company to Akureyri to refuel in accordance with para. 9B of C. in C.H.F. 272009A and to transfer passengers. NORFOLK will proceed to Scapa independently.

(C.S.10 010956A to C. in C.H.F. A.C.I.C.)

Coastal
Force
Patrols.

1. Orders for B.X.night 1/2 November.
A. 3 M.G.B. 3 M.T.B. from Newhaven carry out offensive patrol in area north of direct route Barfleur - Havre and east of 0° 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.

B. CHASSEUR 41,11 patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between F. and E.A.5 Buoys.

C. GLAISDALE, M.L.292 immediate notice St. Helens.

D. M.L. 208, 233, R.M.L. 523 patrolling 50° 15' N. between 2° 10' W. and 2° 35' W.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 011234A.)

Patrols 1st November. 1. Force 113, M.T.Bs. 677, (S.O.), 673, M.G.B. 322 are to patrol in vicinity 115 Start 20.

3. Force to be on patrol by 2000A/1. Leave patrol for Dartmouth 0630A/2.

(C. in C. Plymouth 011332A.)

M.Ls. 140 and 143 two miles south of D. Buoy.

M.T.Bs. 353, 208, 231 and M.G.B. 3.1 from Dover R/V at U. Buoy with M.T.B.436 from Ramsgate thence patrolling off Ostend.

E.T.D. Dover 2030, E.T.R. Ramsgate 2045. E.T.R. Dover 0830/2,

E.T.R. Ramsgate 0815/2.

(V.A. Dover 011631A.)

Bay Patrol.

Disposition at 012000.

CEYLON patrolling vicinity 042° 12' N. 015° 42' W.

2. INGLEFIELD 043° 10' N. 014° 25' W. 182° 18 kts.

3. LEITH, SANDWICH 048° 45' N. 014° 01' W. 180° 12 knots.

4. ANCHUSA 050° 20' N. 013° 45' W. through 050° 01' N. 014° 01' W. thence 180° 12 knots.

(C. in C. Plymouth 011551A to Admty.)

On reaching CQ. tomorrow sweep to position CS. 041° 59' N. 017° 11' W. and then establish patrol between CS. and CT. 039° 58' N. 013° 19' W. 2. My 311951A refers.

(C. in C. Plymouth 012013A to CEYLON.)

/Operation...

1.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

- Operation S.F. Proceed to establish patrol by 0200A/3rd.
1. Group A. 2. 062° 24' N. 013° 50' W. 60 - 60
3. 225°. 4. "Apricot".
(C. in C.Rosyth 011705A to M/S 15.)
Your 011705A. Intend proceeding in FRASERBURGH
with LYME REGIS, WORTHING, BOOTLE, LLANDUDNO,
ARDROSSAN at 0700A/2nd.
(M/S 15 011914A to C. in C.Rosyth.)
- S/M Patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800/2nd and movements
for following 24 hours.
A. SYRTIS, STUBBORN and VARANGIAN as in my
291636.
B. ULA as in my 311639.
(F.O.S. 011707A to Admty.)
- Mining.
- N.L.110. My 311634. Operation N.L.110 abandoned owing to
weather.
(V.A.Dover 010254A to Admty.)
My 011631A. Operation N.L.110 postponed owing to
weather.
(V.A.Dover 011927A to Admty.)
- Humber. Magnetic mine detonated 0445 138° No. 14 Buoy
6 cables.
(F.O.Humber 010659 and 011835A.)
- "Hostile II" Intend to carry out operation "Hostile II" tonight.
Force "Hostile II" is to sail from Plymouth to
pass Gate at 1645A/1st. Support Force TANATSIDE,
TALYBONT is to pass Gate at 1800A/1st.
(C. in C.Plymouth 011028A to DEFIANCE.)
- "Madonna A". Operation "Madonna Able" cancelled tonight owing
to engine breakdown in M.T.B.617.
(C. in C.Nore 011950A to Admty.)
- Minefield clearance off Lowestoft. 1. 2 Laps completed in centre of area approx. total
width $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. 2. 1 German Z Type mine cut and
exploded by rifle fire. 3. 1 Old British Mark 19
drifting mine sunk by rifle fire in area.
(PANGBOURNE 012045A to F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth.)

1.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Troops from Norway. Your 301302. Request check of figure 87000. (D.N.I. 011734A to N.A.Stockholm.)

Technical.

Mark 29 and "Foxyer" Gear. Reference A.G.M. 843A of 25 Oct. para. 5A. it is considered that the use of "Foxyer" by Escort Vessels in the presence of merchant ships streaming Mk.29 gear may lead to accidental firing of the explosive streamers of the Mk.29. Instructions should, therefore be given to Commodores of Convoys and merchant ships fitted with Mark 29 gear that the arming switches must not be made if "Foxyers" are known to be operating in the area. (A.C.N.S.W. 012015A: A.G.M. 896A.)
Your 241906. Following precis of report on "Foxyer" submitted by CLOVER. Details. (B.4 012230A to C. in C.W.A.)

Casualties & Defects.

TIOGA sunk. TIOGA in collision ship unknown, holed in engine room, sank one and $\frac{3}{4}$ miles 155° from 21 buoy while endeavouring to take in tow. About 30 feet of bow showing above water. Crew 18 rescued. Rejoining convoy. (CASTLETON 010215A to C. in C.Rosyth.) (C. in C.Rosyth 010437A and 010458A to Admty.)

L.B.E. 346, L.B.E. 216. My 310955A. L.B.E. 346 is suspected of having shafts out of alignment and the rudder has fallen off L.B.E. 216.
2. Therefore intend to sail VARDO towing L.B.E. 216 and L.B.E. 346 at 0700/2 to Plymouth for the necessary repairs. 3. Speed $4\frac{1}{2}$ knots. E.T.A. 1700/2. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 011201A.)

L.C.V.(P) 1040 sunk. Following from NEWT. Begins: " L.C.V.(P) 1040 sank at 1207/1 about 2 cables 180° from Newhaven Breakwater. All crew saved. Sinking probably due to failure of bilge pump causing flooding of engine and eventual capsizing." Ends. Steps are being taken to effect salvage. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 011425A to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

Shipping & Convoys.

U.T.4. Arrived ESSO HARTFORD, MARKAY. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 010034A to Admty.) Arrived Clyde portion including ATHENE. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 010204A to Admty.)
Convoy U.T.4 arrived a.m. November 1st. Anchored at Bar Light Vessel, still fogbound. (P.S.T.O.N.W.Ports 011700A to D.S.T.)

War Diary.

1.11.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

U.T.4. Bristol Channel portion escorted by BUTLER,
(Contd.) GERHARDI, HERNDEN, and QUICK arrived Anchorages
for their ports.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 011854A to C. in C.W.A.)

S.L.138/
M.K.S.28 If convoy not threatened and if fuel permits
and M.K.F.25. detach WHITEHALL, WRESTLER, and TAVY forthwith to
E.G.39. support M.K.F.25.
Estimated P.C. and S. at 0800A/1st 043° 16' N.
021° 12' W. routed through P. 045° 00' N. 022° 30'
W. Q. 049° 00' N. 021° 00' W. O. 055° 00' N.
011° 20' W. 13½ knots.
(C. in C.W.A. 010212A to ROCHESTER.)

Your 010212A. TAVY detached.
(ROCHESTER 010305Z to C. in C.W.A.)
M.K.F.25. Convoy has been re routed. Amend estimated P.C.
and S. 0800A/1, 042° 39' N. 020° 02' W. routed through N. 044°
30' N. 019° 35' W. thence to O. 13 knots. My 010212A refers.
(C. in C.W.A. 010321A to WRESTLER, WHITEHALL, TAVY.)
My P.C. and S. 047° 17' N. 021° 30' W. 132° 15 knots at
0800Z/1. Request your P.C. and S. and route.
(TAVY 010900Z to PELICAN, Escorts M.K.F.25.)
S.L.138. If convoy not threatened detach WHITEHALL,
WRESTLER at best speed to Greenock forthwith.
2. It is assumed that they did not have sufficient endurance to
comply with my 010212.
3. Cancel my 301710.
(C. in C.W.A. 011029A to E.G.39.)
Your 011029A. WHITEHALL and WRESTLER detached. They did
not have enough fuel to comply with your 010212. In addition
WRESTLER has A/S and condenser defects. My P.C. and S. 049° 09' N.
020° 28' W. 035° 7½ knots.
(ROCHESTER 011131Z to C. in C.W.A.)
An F.W.200 aircraft is operating in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C. 011200A to Escorts S.L.138/M.K.S.28.)
Summary of operation 31st Oct. All times Z.
Convoy altered course from 025° to 355° at 0500.
SCARBOROUGH obtained R.D.F. contact followed by sightings of U-
Boat on starboard beam at 0612. U-Boat counter-attacked and kept
down by SCARBOROUGH and BALSAM.
At 0701 WHITEHALL sent out to investigate H/F D/F bearing sighting
patrol between U-Boat ahead convoy. Sighted U-Boat at 0759 and
subsequently obtained one "Hedgehog" hit.
Oil and wreckage observed. U-Boat considered sunk. Convoy
started altering course to 300° at 0810. HALLFRIED torpedoed at
0832., Sank (1 group missed). Probably 2 torpedo hits from
attack very close on port side of convoy. In subsequent operation
ROCHESTER and AZALEA obtained contact and attacked until 1356.
Loud explosions and air bubbles may indicate? U-Boat damaged. No
evidence Gnats being used. WRESTLER has 3 survivors from
HALLFRIED.
(ROCHESTER 011501Z to C. in C.W.A.)
SS. ABITIBI has bunkers for 6 days only. Propose detaching
her to proceed independently to Clyde for bunkers tomorrow
Tuesday. Her speed is 8½ knots.
(ROCHESTER 011701Z to C. in C.W.A.)

/My...

11

1.11.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

S.L.138/
M.K.S.28
and M.K.F.25.
E.G.39.
(Contd.)

My 011531Z (?011501Z intended). At 301902 unknown station with strong foreign accent called Sampford several times on R/T 2410 k/cs. Call followed by several unintelligible groups. Correct phonetic alphabet used. Call not answered as it was suspected U-Boat might be trying to obtain D/F bearing of any reply requesting repetition. Now confirmed no ship in convoy used R/T at this time.
(ROCHESTER 011845Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Your 011701Z approved, providing ABITIBI cannot keep up with fast portion. My 011823 refers.
(C. in C.W.A. 012323A to ROCHESTER.)

H.X.263,
E.G.2.

Short German U-Boats transmission on series one bearing 302° and 052° at 0524Z and 0613Z indicate possibly sighting. At 0600Z, 053° 03' 039° 34' 050° 10 knots.
(E.G.4 010625Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Escort of H.X.263 report possible sighting report at 0613Z. Proceed to 051° 30' N. 041° 40' W. sweeping on forward bearings and thence sweep towards H.X.263.
P.C. and S. of H.X.263 at 2000A/1st. 054° 19' N. 036° 32' W. 057° 10 knots.
(C. in C.W.A. 010954Z to E.G.2, KITE.)
H.X.263, P.C. and S. at 1100 053° 32' 038° 27' or 39'.
(Incompletely received.)
(?Origin 011141Z to WHIMBREL.)
Unable to comply with your 010954Z owing weather and defects in TRACKER steering. Am hove to in 049° 06' N. 040° 30' W. Weather 5478, 8059.
(E.G.2 011315A to C. in C.W.A.)
Your 011315. Provided TRACKER's steering-gear can be made reliable for continued operations, as soon as weather permits proceed towards an area about 300 miles to the southward where flying conditions should be better.
2. If TRACKER requires dockyard assistance proceed with your force to Argentia.
3. Report intention in due course.
(C. in C.W.A. 011645Z to E.G.2.)
Your 011645Z. TRACKER's steering-gear now efficient.
Intend to steer for 044° 00' N. 041° 00' W. Weather 2572 8659.
Position 49° N. 41° W.
(E.G.2 012000A to C. in C.W.A.)

T.U.4.
T.F.69.

Your 312201A. MURPHY was detaching from T.F.69. Only 10 destroyers in Task Force.
(C.T.F.69 010825Z to Admty.)

L.C.I.(L)
Group

Following is summary of incident during escort of L.C.I.(L) Gibraltar - Milford Haven:-
1. RHODODENDRON in position 2500 yards ahead of convoy 46° 32' N. 13° 24' W., course 030°, speed 10.5 knots, obtained Radar contact? bearing 340° 3200 yards.

1.11.1943.

Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

- L.C.I.(L)
Group
(contd). 2. Ship altered course towards and increased speed and when on course 340° high revolution H.E. was heard bearing 290°.
3. Course was altered towards and phosphorescence which might possibly have been a torpedo-track was seen on portside 25 yards from ship.
4. At the same moment a single depth-charge set to 50 feet was dropped. 2 explosions occurred almost simultaneously the first was considered to be the depth-charge and the second one possibly the torpedo.
(Capt. D. Greenock, 011122A to C. in C. W.A.)
- Atlantic
Convoys.
(Monster
Ships). A.M. 201215. Following is revised Trans-Atlantic Convoy Programme for November and December. Details.
(D.O.D. H., 011534A to C. in C. W.A.)
- E.N.
Convoys. A.M. 281705. Concur, but consider that not more than three ships should sail together unescorted.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 011545 to Admty).
- P.S.2.
S.P.2. P.S.2 and S.P.2 cancelled.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 011755A).
- S.C.145
FENCER. If convoy is not threatened part company at dawn November 2nd and proceed with your screen to Clyde.
(C. in C. W.A., 011925A to FENCER).
- D.S.46 D.S.46 sailed in accordance with my 311436. S.O.A. 14 knots. E.T.A. Greenock 0800A/4. (A.C.I.C., 011930A).
- O.N.209 Arrived HOTSPUR with minor defects and sailed to overtake O.N. 209.
(Cdre. D.W.A., 012045A to C. in C. W.A.)

Owing to illness of the Staff the Foreign Stations
of this Diary ^{have} ~~has~~ not been checked.

1.11.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

U-Boat attacked. Am over enemy submarine in position 35.53 N. 06.03 W. submarine on surface when first sighted was on course 060 degs. speed 10 knots. (A/C TSH/R, 010022 to A/C A.K.8)
Am over enemy submarine in position 35. 55 N.

06.00 W. (A/C TSH/R, 010022 to A.H.Q. Gib.)
A.I.666 1 Nov. Gib. Gr. Opsum Sup 31 Oct.43.
2 D Coastwise P.T.V.A. 9959 D.E.R. 179 0022 night M.K.3 35.50 N. 6.00 W. 060 ?ship attacked on surface 175 (GRE ?N as received) still surfaced 6 D.Cs first 5 alongside starboard beam from stern to bow last D.C. almost dead ahead U-Boat submerged 45 secs. after attack area swept with LL no debris seen. All times A. (A.H.Q. Gib. 011900A)

LAVORO. Cartagena reports under T.O.O. 311735 (Begins) Addressed B.N.A. Madrid 87 (R) Gib. 110 from Cartagena. Oct. 31st at 1215 a boat coming from German steamer LIPARI in direction Italian tanker LAVORO exploded in mid harbour. Evidently unsuccessful sabotage attempt on tanker. (Ends.) (S.O.(I) Gib. 010044A to Admty. for D.N.I. , S.O.(I) Med.)

DOUGLAS Defects. Request permission to return to harbour now for completion of defects effecting seaworthiness. Details. (DOUGLAS, 010815A to F.O.C. Gib. (R) WITHERINGTON)

VOLUNTEER. Arrived 1015 G.M.T. 1st. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 010855)

BRILLIANT. My position 038 degs. 34' (?009) degs. 24' intend ?proceeding through (a) 035 degs. 54' 007 degs. 23' 17 knots, then patrol to S.E. E.T.A. Gib. 0700 2nd Nov. 9190 2500. (BRILLIANT, 010901A to F.O.I.C.Gib.)

Fleet Tenders. Sailed my 310921A. (C.M.S.F.F. 010957 F.O.C. Gib.)

EMPIRE OUTPOST. EMPIRE OUTPOST did not arrive. (F.O.C.Gib., 011031A)

GEORGES LEYGUES. Request you will hold her at Gib. A.M. 311943 (C. in C. Med. 011110A to F.O.I.C.Gib. (R) F.O.W. A.F., Commorseafron, Admty, Navale France, Com. N.O.B. Oran.)
Will arrive southward from Europa Point about 2100Z. Request pilot to enter boom. (GEORGES LEYGUES, 011505 to F.O.C. Gib.)

War Diary.1.11.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

SPERBER. Telegrams 173 1st 65. Arrived 0410/1st to
load iron ore.
(H.M.Consul Bilbao, 011145 to M.E.W.(R) Admty.
for D.N.I., B.N.A. Madrid, S.O.(I) Gib.)

Spanish CONTRA- Sailed 1730/31st Destination unknown.
MAESTRE (H.M.Consul Bilbao, 011200 to Admty (for D.N.I.)
CASADO. (R) B. N.A. Madrid, S.O.(I) Gib.)

K.M.F.25A Sailed from U.K.27th Oct.
23 ships (details)
(D. of S.T. 011206A to F.O.I.C.Gib. C. in C. E.F.
C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant.)

Evacuation of French Refugees. Intend to sail SIDI BRAHIM, GG. LEPINE escorted
by LA GRANDIERE.
(1) LA BOUDEUNE and COMMANDANT DETROYAT to Malaga
at 0100/2nd. (2) Route. E.T.A. Malaga 0839A/2nd.
(3) Codeword "Choice". (4) C. in C. Med. 261712
refers.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 011238 to C. in C. Med. C.M.S.F.
(R) Admty.)

T.F.66. Arrival Task Force 66, BALDWIN having SATTERLEE,
THOMPSON, BROOME, MCCORMICK, THREAT.
(C.M.S.F.F. 011634)

HABANA. Spanish HABANA Admty's 281945A/Oct. para. 4 City
Analyst's report just received discs found to
consist of lead 99.74% remainder iron.
(C.C.S.O. Gib. 011745A to Admty. London, Arfar 440
for M.E.W.)

Contact. Disappearing contact 36.41N. 02.30 W.
(A/C MCP/W, 011950A)

U-Boat. A/C sighted periscope and wake 1422A/1 one posit.
27.57 N. 14.05W. course 180.
(C.M.S.F.F. 012148Z to Cominch (R) F.O.C. Gib.
C. in C. Med., Admty).

K.X.11. Arrivals - BICESTER, HONESTY, BALLINDERRY, MINER
6 with K.X.11.
(F.O.C. Gib. 012217A, 012225)

U/B sunk 31st Oct.43. Following Prisoners of War from U.732 landed
Gibraltar today:
(A) From WITHERINGTON, 10 Ratings.
(B) From DOUGLAS (one) Over Lieut. 1 Veist (2)
seven Ratings.
(C) From Portuguese AMBRIZ the Commanding Officer
Ober Lieut-Zur-See K.P. Carlsen.

1.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

U/B sunk 31.10.43. (Contd.)

(2) Para. Five of my 311906A Oct. Information from above, establishes U-Boat subsequently surfaced and abandoned ship on being attacked by DOUGLAS.

(3) (A) (B) (one) (B) (2) and (C) respectively are segregated. All are unaware of rescue of (C) some hours later. Red Cross chartered AMBRIZ from Lisbon to Gibraltar handed over (C) on arrival here.

(4) (C) is being sent U.K. priority air passage. Remainder first suitable opportunity.

(5) U.732 500 ton boat sailed Brest about 16th Oct. she belonged to First Flotilla based on Brest with the Ninth Flotilla. Each Flotilla comprising from 10 to 15 boats. (F.O.C.Gib. 012315A to Admty. C. in C. Med.)

South Atlantic.

NEW COLUMBIA torpedoed and presumed sunk 31st Oct.

Following has been received on 500 K/cs 500 SSSS. SSSS. SSSS. De Lifeboat. Are now on your starboard have been sighted. (Lagos W/T T.O.R. 010710Z to Freetown)

NEW COLUMBIA attacked and presumed sunk p.m. 31st Oct. Lifeboats with approx. 100 survivors sighted by aircraft in position 04.42' N. 05 degs. 56' E. at 0700/1. (F.O.C.W.Af. 011241 to Admty.)

CONAKKRION report survivors state NEW COLUMBIA was torpedoed by U.739 in estimated 004 degs. 25' N. 005 degs. 03' E. at 2030Z/31. (S.O.E.G. 42 011931Z to F.O.C.W.A.F. (R) N.O.I.C.Lagos.)

My 011357Z. Intend to alter course at 0700Z/2 to 310 degs. until 1200Z/2. Request (10 corrupt groups) ordered. At 1200Z/2 intend to alter course to ? 270 degs. (S.O.E.G. 42, 012012Z to F.O.C.W.A.F., R.A.F. Lagos (R) N.O.I.C. Lagos.)

CARNARVON
CASTLE,
NESS.

Your 310401. As CORFU is off Station for docking at Durban should CARNARVON CASTLE and NESS be retained here for present. (F.O.C.W.Af. 010935Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

Your 010935. No. Present arrangements should stand. (D.O.D.(F), 012324A to F.O.C. W.Af. (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.C. Gib.)

P.552.

In consultation with Com. (E) Cotman and C/O P.552 it is considered that ship is serviceable as a non-operational unit your 220430 (N.T. in W.D) refers.

1.11.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.P.552
(Contd.)

(2) During the month available before completion of new breech ends certain important electrical defects are being undertaken. My 201401 not to all addressees refers.
 (3) Ship is overdue for refit which is badly required especially electrically.
 (Comic. Durban, 011234Z to C. in C. E.F.(R)
 C. in C. S.A. Admty. F.O.C.Subs. Capt. Subs Four.
 C.in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.))

Fixed
defences,
South
Africa.

Your 071611 para. 1 F. indicator loop layout is being prepared for detecting midget submarines and U-Boats approaching anchorage.
 (2) Request limits of anchorage.
 (3) Do you require indicator loops to cover any exercise area? If so request particulars.
 (D.A/S.M. 011234A to C. in C. S.A. (R) D.S.A.N.F.)

SIRANGER
(no) sunk
24th Oct.
Survivors.

Survivors landed yesterday near Maranham from SIRANGER sunk by U-Boat 0700 Oct. 24th. in a position 230 miles North of Fernando de Noronka.
 (B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 011456Z to Admty.,
 (R) C.C.S.A., F.O.W.Af.)

B.Y.M.S.

F.O.C.W.Af's. 272103 not to B.Y.M.S. Intend to sail B.Y.M.S. 223 (S.O) 148, 217, 1700Z for Gibraltar. Standard British Coastal route. S. of A. 10 knots E.T.A. 1000Z/8.
 (Comar Dakar, 011544Z to Gib. Admty. C.M.S.F.
 F.O.C.W.Af.(R) B.Y.M.S. 223.)

CAGNI.

Your 242056 refers. Information supplied regarding CAGNI in order to assess possibility of employing as supply S/M.
 (Com. Durban, 301601C to Admty. (R) C. in C.S.A.)

U-Boat.

U.S. Troop Carrier Aircraft reports sighting submarine at 1145Z/1st in 10 degs. 01' N. 16 degs. 32' W. course 360. Unconfirmed.
 (F.O.C.W.Af. 011812Z to Admty)

PALO ALTO,
BUFFALO,
WALLOW
collision
30th Oct.

Tanker PALO ALTO after collision with BUFFALO, WALLOW arrived Dakar.
 Fore peak flooded all holds tight, including forward deep tank. Chain locker capstan and starboard anchor in working order. Master prepared to proceed at 12 knots subject to Lloyds surveyors permission. No casualties. Damage to BUFFALO (part of message corrupt).
 (N.C.S.O. Dakar, 011935Z to F.O.C.W.Af., (R)
 Admty. Casualties, Connav, F.O.I.C.Gib.
 Commorseafon.)

1.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

SICKLE U/Boat. At 0030C sighted U-boat in 034 degs. 02' North 034 degs. 05' East course West. (SICKLE 010120C to Capt.(S) 1, (R) C. in C. Levant) P.224 SICKLE reports U-boat 034 degs. 02' North 034 degs. 05' East 270 degs. at 2330B/31st Oct. (Capt. (S) 1, 010216B to CORRIDONI, ATROPO, (R) P.239 SURF, P.224 SICKLE).

UNSPARING, SURF. Following from P.55 (UNSPARING) (Begins):- E.T.A. Beirut 0700/4th by reverse of outward route. Cannot transmit but can receive for routine.(Ends). Spoke to her off Kaso today 1st. (SURF, 010703B to Capt.(S) 151 (sic) (R) 1st S.F., C. in C. Levant).

Alexandria movements. Oct. 31st. Arrivals AURORA, BEAUFORT, Italian S/M. GALATEA. Departures PHOEBE, DULVERTON, BEAUFORT, BAGSHOT, PINDOS, M.M.S.108, BURRA, ROMEO, KINGSTON CYANITE, Italian Destroyer VELITE, M.F.V. 511. (R.A. Alexandria 010725C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant).

Beirut movements. 31st Oct. Arrivals SPORTSMAN, SIBYL. Departures SEVERN. (S.O.(I) Beirut 010847).

Enemy ships Aegean. Enemy anchorage at Naxos. 1 small merchant vessel 500 tons and 4 small craft. (A/C GMO/O 010930Z, 011040Z to 201 Group). Nr.2. Enemy anchorage Melos. 2 small merchant vessels 800 tons 2 small craft. (A/C GMO/O 010955, 011045Z to Air H.Q. Malta).

C.T.F.86 Radio Naples pass to F.O.W.It. for action. Flag of C.T.F.86 in U.S. Cruiser BROOKLYN at Palermo. (C.T.F.86, 011020A to C. in C. Med.,Comnavaw, T.F. 86, Cdr. Destroyer Sqdn. 7.,Com. N.O.B. Palermo, Radio Naples, N.L.O., C. in C. Med.).

Med. Situation Report No. 220. (1) Details are not known but it appears DOUGLAS also sank a U-boat (German) in the (corrupt group) on 31st Oct. (2) Addressees of this message will become A.I.G. 387 to which situation reports will be addressed. A.I.G. 376 is cancelled. (C. in C. Med. 011101A).

GEORGES LEYGUES. C. in C. Med. 011110A to F.O.i/c Gib. see North Atlantic.

/Landing...

1.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- Landing ships for U.K. My 251850. Request you will sail L.S.I. and escorts when ready. A.M. 271425 does not apply to these ships.
(C. in C. Med. 011115 to F.O.i/c Gib. (R) Admt.).
- A.H.7. My 291809A. Sailed amendment.
(N.O.i/c Augusta, 011123A).
- Russian flags. Nov. 7th - 8 being national days of the Soviet, ships in harbour are to dress with masthead flags Russian ensign if available at main from 0800 to sunset.
(C. in C. Med. 011201A to Med. St. 272 B (R) C. in C. Levant).
- Operation "Dingle" QUILLIAM, QUAIL. QUILLIAM and QUAIL are sweeping tonight 1st/2nd to Ancona. Operation "Dingle" F.O.T.A's. 291629/ and 301549 refers.
(2) Request fighter cover from 0600A. 2nd code-word "Tailcoat" (?997) priority normal.
My P.C. and S at 0600A/2nd 042 degs. 05' N. 015 degs. 45' East, coastwise to (2 groups missed) (?knots).
(Capt.(D) 4, 011205 to F.O.T.A. (R) No.1 M.O.R.U. 242 Grp. N.L.O. 8th Army., C.F.W. (Corrupt Group), S.N.O.A.L.E. 4th D.F., N.O.i/c Bari).
/ No trace in War Registry.
- X.T.7. Sailing telegram. Part 2.
10 ships (details).
(R.A. Alexandria 011248B).
- N.A.A.F. report. A.V.917E. October 31. N.W.A.A.F. Opsum 253. N.W.S.Af. 31st October. 36 U.S. Mitchells escort 36 U.S. Lightnings docks and shipping Civitavecchia 52 tons from 9800/12500 feet. Several direct hits. Bombs on railway, warehouses and grain silo.
Possible hits and near miss on merchant vessel, tanker and oil storage tanks. 35 U.S. Marauders escort 33 U.S. Lightnings Anzie Harbour. 52 tons 10,000 feet. Excellent concentration target area. North dock well covered and small craft destroyed in Basin. 2 strings across West Mole Buildings on north dock almost completely destroyed. N.A.T.A.F. 31st Oct. 13 Warhawks attacked a small tanker in Western Approaches to Split dropping 66 x 40 vessel also strafed and left well ablaze believed destroyed.
(H.Q.N.A.A.F. 011259A).
- QUILLIAM, QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, RAIDER. A.M. 301834. The longer these ships remain on the station the better from every point of view. Request the earliest possible information whether you can undertake the work entailed.
(C. in C. Med. 011304A to C. in C. Levant, (R) A.S. Alexandria, Admt.).

/SIRIUS...

1.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

SIRIUS

Arrived 1300Z/1st.
(N.O.i/c Massawa 011331Z).

Enemy
ships.

Nr.1. P.C. and S. of 1 Tanker and 4 escort
vessels NPCJ 4050 (indecypherable CJ = 7. E).
(Based on a fix obtained within half an hour of
1300) 225 degs. 7 knots.
(A/C C/S OPW/M 011335).

Nr.2. My 1335, enemy previously reported are 1 tanker of
3000 tons, 2 M.T.Bs. and 2 escort vessels.
(A/C C/S OPW/M via Malta 011337A).

CURIE,
UNSHAKEN,
DOLFIJN.

P.67 (CURIE) leaving patrol proceeding diving by
day on 3rd and 4th thence on surface at
discretion through 043 degs. 37' 008 degs. 42'
at 0530/3rd., 042 degs. 01' 006 degs. 46' at 1700/
4th., 040 degs. 02' 005 degs. 49' at 1130/5th.,
037 degs. 59' 003 degs. 50' at 0630/6th.

To R/V with escort for Algiers at 1400/6th in 037 degs. 05' 003
degs. 19'.

(2) P.54 (UNSHAKEN) to operate in Zones SS and SN as from 0530/
3rd.

(Capt.(S) 8, 011404A to 8th S.M.F. (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Gib.,
Capt.(S) 10, (F.S.) LA SULTANE, N.O.i/c Algiers).

Intend sailing P.47 (DOLFIJN at 1700/3rd proceeding on
surface at discretion through 038 degs. 01' 003 degs. 33' at
0300/4th, 039 degs. 59' 005 degs. 32' at 2215/4th, thence diving
by day through 042 degs. 02' 006 degs. 31' at 0100/6th, 043 degs.
42' 008 degs. 34' at 0530/7th 311 degs. thence to patrol in zones
SN and SO.

(2) UNSHAKEN will be ordered to leave patrol for Gibraltar on
6th.

(Capt.(S) 8th, 011430A to C. in C. Med., (R) 8th S.F., LA SULTANE,
F.O.C. Gibraltar, Capt.(S) 10th, N.O.i/c Algiers).

ULTIMATUM

STAFFA will R/V you in 037 degs. 04' 003 degs. 11'
at 0630/2nd and escort to harbour.

(2) LA SULTANE sailed 1700 first course 024 degs.

(3) French Cruiser JEANNE D'ARC and FORBIN due Algiers from
North East at 1000/2nd.

(4) Italian convoy due Algiers about 0600/2nd from eastward.

(5) M/Ls. sections to East and West of Algiers.

(Capt.(S) 8, 011620A to ULTIMATUM).

LORRAINE

French Admty. have asked to move LORRAINE to
Mers El Kebir for use there as a Depot and Training
ship in a state of care and maintenance.

(2) Have agreed to movement as soon as operational berthing
congestion in Mers el Kebir eased. Probably about 1st Dec. (W.D.
Note: Another versions says 18th Dec.).

(3) F.O.C.W.Af. is to propose movement programme to arrive Oran
during 1st week in Dec.

(4) Com.N.C.B. Oran is requested to arrange berthing in consul-
tation with local F.N.A.

(C. in C. Med. 011703 to Admty. F.O.C.W.Af., Comnavnav, Com.N.O.B.
Oran, (R) B.A.D.).

/Situation...

1.11.1943.
Monday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Situation 0/29652 1 Nov. Cositrep 42.
Aegean. One. Int. Aegean.

(A) No material change Kos/Kalino area and threat to Samos and Leros believed unchanged.

(B) My Cositrep 33 (0/26036) Para. 1a. 2 Bn. 16 Grenadier Regt. and 2 Bn. 65 Grenadier Regt. (both of 22 Div. Crete), identified as part of assault force also probably elements 3 Bn. 440 Grenadier Regt. (ex North Aegean Islands). Lt. Gen. Mueller G.O.C. 22 Div. confirmed as Comd. assault force. Reported that German personnel arrived Crete late Sept. thus partly compensating withdrawal of two Bns.

(C) Reported that German personnel landed Amorgos 29 Oct.

(D) Ph. R. 31 Oct. showed 20 Ju.87's Marizza and 15 Me. 109's. Calate this being slight increase of both types since previous day. Morning recce. showed presence 6 Ju.88's on Calate but these aircraft had left before afternoon recce. 1 Ju.88 and 1 Ju.52 on Antimacchia aerodrome morning 31. No material change in other areas.

(2) Ops. Aegean.

(A) Samos 30 Oct. Italian ship MARIA sunk by bombing.

(B) Kastelorizo 31 Oct. enemy bombing one O.R. killed 2 O.Rs. wounded. No damage.

(C) 0715B hrs. 1 Nov. Leros reported all quiet.

Night 31 Oct./1 Nov. Wellingtons strike against 4000 ton merchant vessels Syros Harbour unable to take off owing to unserviceable L.G. Six Dakotas successfully dropped personnel and stores Samos. One Dakota missing possible landed Cyprus.

(B) Enemy. Ref. Cositrep 41 para. 6b. 30 Oct. In addition to attack by eight Ju.88's three further attacks were made on convoy by total thirty plus bombers with nine fighters escorting. No claims made by Beaufighters providing fighter cover but one Me.109 seen to turn on back and disappear. 30 Oct. Four Ju.88's bombed Leros and five enemy aircraft attacked Patmos.

(C. in C.M.E. 011730C).

380097. I/29612. 1 Nov. For D.M.I.

Joint Army R.A.F. Int. Appreciation 24 hours to 1000Z/1.

One. No seaborne or airborne attacks on Leros or Samos reported up to 1000Z/1.

Two. No contact with enemy reported by our Naval Forces night 31st Oct /1st Nov.

Three. Photo. R/C. and visual sightings 31st Oct. Kos/Kalino area. Photo. R/C. 0730/Z. shows no change in numbers or general disposition of enemy shipping except apparent departure from area of two merchant vessel (probably naval auxiliaries) sighted 30 Oct. in Pserimo (see para. three Appreciation 31 Oct.). Total 7 F.boats seen of which only 3 possible 4 serviceable. Pserimo Island and all Bays Kalimnos Island south of and including Isola Vecchia covered. Stampalia. Visual. Nil shipping. Syros. Visual a.m. harbour one merchant vessel 4,000 tons one E-boat and two small craft. This merchant vessel probably the one reported by Mykonos as having left for Syros a.m. 30th Oct. (see para 3 Appreciation 31st Oct.). Mykonos. Visual a.m. One small caique. This confirms departure of above merchant vessel and escorts. Rhodes. Harbour Photo. R/C. p.m. shows arrival one caique 100 foot since morning.

Four. C.X. reports landing barges 10 metres long with twin propellers began arrive Piraeus 28th Oct. Comment:- Despite length given by source consider may refer to I boats (capacity 40 troops with equipment) or assault craft both of which transportable in sections but further information being sought. Another

War Diary1.11.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Situation Aegean. (Contd.) C.X. report states large number naval personnel arrived Athens area. These possibly intended to man the re-commissioned ex-Italian naval vessels (see para. six Appreciation 21st Oct.) and supplement crews other escort vessels.

Five. Up to 1700Z/31st Oct. Leros reported attacks by 7 Ju.88s. 14 Ju.87's and 4 Me.109's. bombed Kastelorizo.

Seven. Appreciation 31st Oct. stands C.X. reports and photo. cover show shipping to and from Rhodes limited to occasional caiques since 23rd Sept. (one troopship 2,500 tons) and last previous arrival 30th August (cargo ship 4,500 tons). Consider therefore enemy may shortly attempt run convoy to Rhodes and this might take place simultaneously with assault Leros and/or Samos. (C. in C. M.E. No T.O.O./1.).

C.T.G. 60.2, K.M.F.25A. This is C. in C. Med's. 43's 311733 to C.T.G. 60.2 and Commodore K.M.F. 25A. Destination of U.S. troop transports in K.M.F.25A are as follows. (Details). (Comnaveu 011748 to Admty.).

VELITE Arrived 1st Nov. (N.O.i/c Port Said, 011829B).

Enemy routes Aegean. As result of C. in C. Med. 271215 (N.T. in W.R.) Oct. my interview very frank and situation in July believed to be as follows:
(A) Crete the main bastion with Aegean Island secondary line.
(B) Main supply route by rail to Salonica thence by sea through Skiathos and Talanta Channels to Piraeus, 4 ships weekly. Dardanelles, Piraeus convoy 4 ships monthly.
(C) From Piraeus following routes used, movements only by night.
(1) Syra Santorin Rhodes, (2) Milos Crete coastwise to Rhodes. Only small ships used.
(D) Barrage of A/S mines and net exists between Thermia Syra Mykichi Nikaria and will extend to Furni and Samos. Syra is base for this obstruction. Nets extend from 3 to 80 metres below the surface. 10 small A/S craft operate 4 of which have Asdic, remainder Hydrophones.
(E) Axis aircraft in Aegean are not fitted with Radar.
(F) 1 armoured division in Greece and Peloponnesus in July, 2 more to follow.
(F.O.L.I. 011829A to C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, Capt.(S) 1, V.A. Malta, (R) Admty.).

Naples movements. Arrivals P.D. 625, 624, 627, 557, 551 L.S.T. 348, 197, 4 (corrupt group) BLACKMOOR, BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, H.S.L. 139, 188, M.L.444. (N.O.i/C. Naples, 011838A).

/Warships...

War Diary1.11.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Warships
for Greek
Navy.

HYACINTH was transferred to the Royal Hellenic Navy on Oct. 24th and renamed APOSTOLIS. HURSLEY will be similarly transferred on Nov. 2nd and renamed CRETE. Request signal publications etc. be amended by "A" message.
(C. in C. Levant, 011844B to Admty. (R) Greek, C. in C. Com. D., C. in C. Med. S.N.O. Casablanca, Com. Levant Area, F.O.R.S.C.A., R.A. Alex., V.A. Malta.)

GAWLER

GAWLER's 301821+ October. Request name of tug. (D.O.D. (F) 164, 011938A to F.O.R.S.C.A. (R) C. in C. Levant, N.O.i/c Port Sudan).
Tug grounded, 13 survivors.
(F.O.R.S.C.A. reply 021718B).

PHOEBE

E.T.A. 0830B/2nd. Urgently require on arrival receiver P.16 or P.20 with amplifier M.53 for Radar M.3.
(PHOEBE 012112B to N.O.I.C. Alexandria (R) N.S.O. Alexandria)

UNSPARING

Returning from Patrol by reverse of outward route. Regret one rating lost and one with shell splinter in eye from engagement with armed Caique requires surgical assistance. E.T.A. Beirut
0700B/4th, one troop carrying merchant ship, one R-boat loaded with troops sunk.
(UNSPARING 012115B to Capt. (S) 1st (R) C. in C. Levant, 1st S.F.)

N.V.7

Request you sail at 0630 4th to Augusta. M.S.C.1 22 refers (Details)
8. BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, BLACKMORE (S.O.)
(F.O.W.It. 012118)

Levant
Situation
Report No.
97.

PETARD and BELVOIR carried out successful disembarkation of 129 personnel and stores including 15 Jeeps at Leros last night and returned to Mandelyah Gulf to lie up. Intend to withdraw South tonight after creating a diversion off Kalimnos and return to Alexandria.
(2) ECHO, ROCKWOOD and KRAKOWIAK left Mandelyah Gulf last night and passing north of Leros withdraw south without incident.
(3) PHOEBE, DULVERTON, BEAUFORT and PINDOS proceeded towards Aegean until dark when PHOEBE detached to Alexandria and Hunts passed north of Rhodes to lie up in Gulf of Doris tonight. Hunts have 30 tons of stores one Jeep 100 personnel for Leros.
(4) Facilities now available at Leros to oil destroyers and two cranes back in operation in Portolago.
(5) Fourth Italian S/M unloaded stores for Leros, last night, but developed defects and returns to Portolago tonight to complete repairs.
(C. in C. Levant, 012215B to Admty).

1.11.1943.
Monday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Bari
movements.

Arrivals QUEENSBOROUGH, RAIDER, M.L.177, M.L.168,
Motor Gun Boat 661. Arrival and departure QUILLIAM
Departure QUAIL, HAZARD, M.T.B. 226. M.L. (386,
384, 66).
(Bari C.C.O. 012216).

AURORA

Following is a repetition of my 012217 addressed
B.N.A. Ankara.

Following for Admiral Kelly.

AURORA was hit by German A/C in 36.05 N. 29.47 E. at 1625C/Oct.
30th well inside Turkish territorial waters. Do not feel that we
are in a position to suggest Turks make formal protest to
Germans but seems desirable to inform them. It might be a useful
card later.

(2) Would be grateful of your remarks. (Ends.).
(C. in C. Levant, 012219B to Admty.).

UNRIVALLED

Shift patrol to between Armorgos and Anaphi.
(Capt.(S) 1, 012246B to P.45 (R) S/Ms. on Patrol,
C. in C. Levant).

SEVERN
defects.

Water service leak developed to an extent that
ballast pumps are necessary to compete.. Star-
board main engine unexpectedly shows grave signs
of same over heating as port, starboard 8 slung,
3 cylinder out of play.

My position 012040B 034 degs. 26' 029 degs. 44' maximum advance
diving by day 100 miles.

With regard to (moon?) further reduction of power probable and
possible damage which would result from overloading regret
operation must be abandoned.

Returning on surface by (?outward) route S. of A. 8½ knots.
(SEVERN, 012257B to Capt.S.1., (R) C. in C. Levant, 1st S/M Flot.)

Malta
movements.

Departured WARSPITE, BLANKNEY, BRECON, MENDIP,
CALPE, PRINSES BEATRIX.
(V.A. Malta, 012347).

24

1.11.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

South Atlantic and East Indies Commands boundaries. As from 0001Z/6th Nov. boundary between South Atlantic and East Indies Commands will be parallel of 18° S. from the East Coast Africa to the West Coast of Madagascar, thence down West Coast of Madagascar to the meridian of 45° E. thence due S. 2. The boundary between B.A.M.S. 3C and 7A areas in Mozambique Channel is changed from 12° S. to 18° S. 3. The Intelligence boundaries between the Capetown and Colombo Intelligence areas are adjusted to correspond except that Madagascar itself remains in the Colombo area and all Portuguese East Africa in the Capetown area.

(V.C.N.S. 012032A to "A" Message Home and Abroad)

Your 210630 Sept. New station limits and B.A.M.S. area are being promulgated to come into force 1101Z/6.

(V.C.N.S. 011624A to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.) F.O. E.A. Comic Durban.)

P.B.61A Departure CORNWALLIS P.B. 61A
(N.O.I.C. Karachi, 010742 to Admty.)

Naval aircraft maintenance. A.M. 232040 Oct. when considering the maintenance and repair arrangements in Ceylon and S. India and supply of spares and equipment full account must be taken of the already overloaded railways in both Ceylon and S. India and the infrequent shipping facilities between ports adjacent to repair yards Class B. another vital factor is the time taken to complete both repair yard and air station workshops and the different rates at which the construction of these are progressing.

(2) to (9) Functions intended for Katukurunda, Coimbatore, Clappenburg Bay and Tambaram (two latter cannot be completed before June 1944.)

(R.A.N.A.S., 10, 010819Z to Admty.)

P.B.61. Arrived TOOWOOMBA, KUMAON escorting P.B.61.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 010851Z to Admty.)

B.P. 101. Departures 0230Z TAMWORTH, ORISSA, TRAVANCORE with B.P. 101.
(S.O.I. Bombay, 011227Z to Admty.)

S/M patrols. Intended programme of S/M patrols. TAURUS 6th zones F and C. TRESPASSER 10th zones G. and H.
(Capt. S.4. 011309Z to C.in C.E.F.(S.E.A.C.) (R) Admty.)

Escort Groups, Bases Facilities. Request information whether an advance report can yet be made on para. 10 (B) and (C) of your 021152 Aug. 2. With regard to personnel, copy is being sent to you of memorandum of requirements for establishing a new Capt. (D) based on experience in W. Approaches Command. In view of present shortage it is proposed that a Capt. (D) should be established

/at one ...

25

1.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Escort
Groups
Bases
Facilities,
(Contd.)

at one end only of each run, i.e. (a) Colombo or Cochin for Bay of Bengal and Australia to India route; (b) Aden or Bombay for Arabian Sea and North Indian Ocean; (c) Durban or Kilindini for India to South Africa route.

It is essential to keep personnel requirements in all cases to minimum.

(A.C.N.S. (U.T.) 011904A, C. in C.E.F. (R) C.in C. E.F. (S.E.A.F.) S.N.O. Persian Gulf, Cdore, Aden, F.O.E.A., F.O. Ceylon, F.O.C.R.I.N., Comrin, C. in C. S.A., A.C.N.B., F.O.R.S.C.A.)

Convoy
H.C.4.

Sailing telegram (4 ships)

2. 2300 G.M.T. 1st. 4. 10 knots. Route.

6. BOMBAY, KELAVATI (not NU.)

(N.C.S.O. Calcutta, 012308Z, 012316Z).

26

War Diary.

1.11.1943.

Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

STANTON LYON, CHASE. This is Cominch's 311921 addressed to Comnavnav. STANTON LYON and CHASE will be returned to U.S. in T.G. 27.4 and remainder of Combat Loaders will be sailed in K.M.F. 26, so states Comnavnav in his 291422 not to C. in C. Lant. Comnavnav direct U.S. Combat Loaders included in K.M.F. 26 to report to Comnavnav upon arrival U.K. about Dec. 4th for inclusion after discharge in first appropriate U.C.F. T.U. convoy for return to U.S. where they report to Cinclant. (Comnavnav, 010221Z to Admty.) (Comnavnav's 291422 was passed to Admty. as Comnavnav's. 300936).

T.G. 27.4. This is 302115 from C.T.G. 27.4 addressed to N.O.B. Casablanca. From position 34.43 33.00 at 1800Z 30 speed 14.5 knots thence East to new point GG 34.43 1800 thence entrance Casablanca swept channel omitting points E, F, G and H. E.T.A. 0700Z/3. HERBERT requires docking for repairs. Weather 2000 GCT. Refers N.O.B. Bermuda's 250615. (N.O.B. Bermuda's 250615 was passed to Admty. 251752Z from Comnavnav.) (Comnavnav 010258 to Admty.)

MATAGORDA. This is Comfairlant's 311948 addressed to Comfairwing 7. My 111855 cancelled. Upon completion of duty assigned MATAGORDA by your 291327 and modified by your 301302 direct her to proceed Norfolk. (N.T. of either in W.R.) (Comnavnav 010353Z to Admty.)

T.G. 21.4 This is 312106 from C. in C. Lant addressed to reconstituted Comcortdiv 21. Task Group 21.4 hereby reconstituted Com. Markham Comcortdiv 21 in FECHTELER CHAS. LOY, LANING. Escort convoy O.T. 11 sailing from New York on Nov. 12th to North African ports via Aruba. You will be furnished with the routes. When so directed by Comnavnav return to New York via Aruba escorting Convoy T.O. 11 as routed by Admty. Commercial tankers equipped fuel escorts will be designed by P.D. New York. LANING and LOY have been directed to report to you in New York by noon of Nov. 10 (Comnavnav 010438, to Admty.)

Sub Attack No report 28th to 31st Oct. All times Z. and sight- Para. A. (?A/F) Attacks U/Boat 47.05N. 51.20 W. ing Summary at 1230 31st.

(N.S.H.Q. 010603Z to Admty., Cominch.)

Para. A. All times Z. STRANGER torpedoed sunk 00.40 S. 32.10 W. 240700. U.S.S. BORIE reports Sub. sunk 49.03 N. 31.55 W. 010155. CARD Aircraft reports Sub. sunk 49.14 N. 31.55 W. 311805. Para. C. Brazilian A/C sights Sub. course 180 to 23.26 S 42.24 W. 311435. Surface Craft sound contact 00.20 S. 44.27 W. 311710. Surface craft Radar Contact 23.18 S. 41.05 W. 310435. Surface Craft sights Torpedo Wake 22.40 S. 40.42 W. 301035. P.B.M. Radar Contact 22.45 S. 40.55 W. 301445. P.B.M. Radar Contact 23.20 S. 43.10 W. 292154. Para D. Plane sights Sub. 18.00 N. 67.40 W. 311420.

(Cominch 012145Z to Admty.)

/DUFF ...

War Diary1.11.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

DUFF Boston sailed Oct. 30th DUFF for Argentina. (N.S.H.Q. 011218Z to Admty.).
Argentina 1st arrival DUFF.
(Capt. D. Argentina, 012359Z to Admty.).

FORT. U.G.S. 22 FORT COULOGNE flooded fore peak open to
COULOGNE, sea about 3 feet above present load line
MARGARET requiring temporary repairs Gibraltar.
BRENT, MARGARET BRENT damaged port side 8 feet above
collision. load line taking no water. Result of collision.
Both ships proceeding with convoy.
(Com. 10th U.S. Fleet, C. and R. 011420Z to
F.O. Gibraltar, (R) U.S. N.O.B. Bermuda, Admty.,
U.S. Cdr. Task Force 61).

U.S. S/M (Cominch, 011542Z).
Estimate.

U.S.A.T. Arrival 30th Departure 31st U.S.A.T. BRIGADIER
GENERAL RETHERS for high seas.
(Aruba, 011545Z).

N.S.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q. 011553Z).
S/M
Estimate.

BONITA, ADHERENT sailed St. Johns 2215Z Oct. 31 to the
assistance of BONITA in vicinity 53.55 N. 43.10 W.
(F.O.N.F. 011715Z to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C.
C.N.A.) As amended 041321Z.

M.M.S.253 Your 010730 (N.T. in W.R.) not to all. Report
forthwith whether you can effect repair or whether
motor M/S 248 can tow you to St. Johns N.F.
(F.O.N.F. 011826Z to Motor M/S 253 (R) Motor M/S
248, S.B.N.O. Azores, C. in C.C.N.A.).

BICKERTON, Sopa Casco Bay not an Adee. inform British
ANGUILLA. Training Officer Casco Bay.
Sail BICKERTON about 6th and ANGUILLA about 10th
following instructions my 191828 Oct.
(Cominch, 011848 to C.E.S.F.).

B.Y.M.S. Sail British Y.M.S. 60, 162, 168, 181, 236
Charleston to Bermuda when ready about 7th.
N.O.B. Bermuda route onward to Horta Azores for
further routeing to Gibraltar. Ultimate
destination Eastern Fleet. Action addressees
advise routeing instructions.
(Cominch, 011853Z to Comeastseafon, N.O.B. Bermuda, Infor. to
Cinclant, S.B.N.O. W.At., Admty., C. in C.C.N.A., N.S.H.Q., C. in
C.W.A., S.B.N.O. Azores, F.O.Gib., C. in C. Med., C. in C.E.F.).
/P.554...

1.11.1943.
Monday.

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

P.554

When ready about 6th sail P.554 New London to
Argentina. Furnish protection and coverage
as practicable.
(Cominch, 011854 to C.E.S.F.)

Air
Report
U/B
attacked.

H.A.C. 973 1st Nov. My H.A.C.969 1st Nov. add
to my G.R. Opsum 51 x 581 Item First Apir
launched from 1300 ft. entered water 75 yards
from hull slightly aft conning tower. Second
pair from 1000 ft. entered water 25 yards from
hull, 3rd pair from 700 ft. entered water 5 yards
from hull and seen to emerge 10 yards beyond. Fourth pair from
600 ft. overshoot. Slight oil slick. No evidence of debris or
bubbles. U-boat made one and one half turns and proceeded on
course 000° and submerged slowly settling by the stern at angle
of 015° no flak. A/C guns U/B no machine gun attack F.12 kts.
Pra. 1 A Hudson K/11 ?BSR D 47.05 N., 51.20 W. H ?RPS in 4 salvos
of 2 each B Sweep G ?N C. 311225Z E 180°.
(N.Q.E.A.C., 012140Z to Air Min).

STRENUOUS,
TOURMALINE,
IERE.

Sailing STRENUOUS and TOURMALINE escorting
SS. IERE when ready about 10th New York to
Bermuda. (Route). Onward route to the Clyde
(Route). Escorts have 6000 miles endurance at
14 knots.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 012152Z to C.E.S.F., N.O.B.
Bermuda).

French
Warships.

Admiralty having concurred in C. in C. Med's
151843 re BASQUE, FORBIN and FORTUNE, Navy
Department was approached on procedure to be
followed regarding para. 4 in view of Cominch
being executive agent and channel of communication
with Fenard in Washington. As stated in my 292115 Americans
feel strongly that all dealings with Adm. Fenard should be as
prescribed in C.C.S.358.
(2) The executive agent of C.C.S. is being requested to inform
Fenard that BASQUE and FORBIN will not be going to Bermuda under
para. 34 of C.C.S.358 and that fitting of Asdic, oerlikons and
radar in FORTUNE will be carried out concurrently with major
repairs, which are now being arranged by C. in C. Med. under
C.C.S.358 para. 5. "Major repairs" of FORTUNE they consider come
under para. 5 as a "routine overhaul" and not under para.6, the
words "major overhaul" in the latter mean "modernization".
(3) U.S. Navy Department considers, therefore, the FORTUNE's
refit is not a matter to be dealt with in Washington at this
stage and that if the repairs are beyond the capacity of French
resources they should be considered as a charge on Allied
resources within your command, the priority they are accorded and
the place of repairs being at your discretion. If it was
beyond your resources the matter should be referred to the C.C.S.
with the Allied Commander's recommendation.
(B.A.D., 012211Z to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. S.B.N.O.W.At.
Cominch).

War Diary.1.11.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

ANDES.

T.A.69A. Sailed from U.K. 31st October for New York.

2. Details of personnel on board will be communicated by W.O. to Milstaf Washington and C.G.S.Ottawa.

(D. of S.T. 012225A to B.A.D., B.M.W.T. New York, (R) N.S.H.Q.)

HIGHWAY.

In view of Admiralty's 301731 my 162015 is amended and programme of HIGHWAY is now as follows (details) (B.A.D. 012227Z to S.B.N.O. W.At. (R) Admty.)

HIGHWAY. Your 301731 is expected to sail for

India via Med. in U.G.S.25 leaving Hampton Roads on 24th Nov. (B.A.D. 012301Z to Admty.)

H.M.S.
GORE.GORE (B.D.E.277) departs Boston Gate 0900/2nd. En route Casco Bay via Direct Route. Speed 15.25 knots.
(C.T.G. 02.1, 012345)Australia and New Zealand.Digest
No.650
Oct.31st.

2. Midday R/C Liberator unsuccessfully attacked merchant vessel with single destroyer 17 miles west Mussau Island course 130°. Photos show merchantman approx. 10,000 tons. Later observed 1 possible heavy cruiser, 3 destroyers 175 miles north Mussau heading southeast.

3. Southbound submarine passed Cape Orford evening.

5. Eight Kittyhawks patrolling southeast New Britain strafed and sank large barge off Cape Orford.

9. Eight Mitchells escorted by 22 Corsairs bombed strafed Bonis Airfield morning 29th destroying one grounded bomber. A/A positions hit and 11 barges, 2 floatplanes, 1 fishing smack all strafed. Simultaneously, nine Mitchells struck Buka Passage Airfield starting fires. Two bombers on Runway and several floatplanes strafed.

(10) Afternoon same date 12 Avengers, 15 Dauntless with 24 Corsairs Hellcats covering bombed Kieta Airfield as secondary target finding nil shipping in harbour.

(11) Photos 30th show three Fighters Ballale six Zeros Kahili two each Fighters, Medium bombers, floatplanes, Buka Passage, One Fighter for first time Bonis nil coverage Kara. Shipping all Bougainville Bases confined to small craft and barges with few small freighters auxiliaries.

1.11.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand - Contd.Digest
No. 650
Oct. 31st.
(Contd.)

12. Single Jap Aircraft over Treasury Island night 28th/29th Oct. shot down by A/A. Progress made on ground next day and enemy mortar and gun positions captured.

13. Afternoon 30th Allied Ground Forces attacked Barge Base Sangigai Area Central Southwest Choiseul where enemy appears to be concentrating from northwest and southeast. Much barge activity Sangigai - Kakasa. 27 miles further southeast previous night.

14. Submarine observed off Voza Landing Point evening 29th, heading northwest.
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A. 010545)U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 011345A, 011350A.)Submarines Attacked.Submarine
attack and
sighting
summary
for 24 hours
to 0900Z 1st
November.(A) Nor. HALLFRIED torpedoed and sunk at 0833/31st in 46° 05' N. 20° 26' W.
ROCHESTER and AZALEA hunted U/B from 0833 to 1530 31st in 46° 07' N. 20° 25' W. 13 attacks being made.
WHITEHALL and GERANIUM attacked U/B at 0930/31st in 46° 27' N. 20° 12' W.
H.M. Trawler IMPERIALIST attacked U/B with gunfire at 1245/31st in 35° 54' N. 05° 52' W.
A/C sighted U/B at 2322/31st in 35° 53' N. 06° 03' W.
SICKLE sighted U/B at 2130/31st in 34° 42' N.

34° 05' E.

Ref. A.M. 311021Z Para. A. U/B sighted by A/C at 2100/30th in 35° 35' N. 06° 40' W. was subsequently attacked with depth charges.

(D.D.I.C. 011154A to Cominch N.S.H.Q.)

2.11.1943.

Tuesday.War DiarySITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Operation
"S.F."

1 (a) S.O. 15th M/S. F. in FRASERBURGH with LYME REGIS, WORTHING, BOOTLE, LLANDUDNO and ARDROSSAN sailed at 0700 today from Seidisfiord to establish patrol "S.F."

(b) No air patrols were flown in the Moorings area today or tonight. Normal Moorings patrols are to be flown tomorrow by 8 Sunderlands, 2 Catalinas and 9 Hudsons or Venturas. In the event, however, all were cancelled on account of weather.

Operation
"F.S."

2. V.A.2 with Force 2 (ANSON, FORMIDABLE and JAMAICA with 6 destroyers) sailed at 1025A today from Akureyri.

Force 3 sailed from Kola Inlet at 1655A (MILNE, MUSKETEER, MATCHLESS, MAHRATTA, SCOURGE, SCORPION and SAUMAREZ).

"V.P."
Operations.

3. M.T.B. 626 sailed from Lerwick at 1313A today and M.T.Bs. 653 and 686 at 1315. The two latter returned at 1345, excessive darkness having prevented entry into the leads.

Blockade
breakers

4. Four of the suspected blockade breakers were seen this morning in the Gironde River. It is presumed that the other two are also still at Bordeaux.

Canadian
built
ships.

5. C. in C.W.A. reports that most of the Canadian built, new construction ships have arrived in this country with extensive defects, necessitating refit, and it seems that the situation is growing worse. The defects are considered to be largely due to bad workmanship and inadequate supervision in the builders' yards.

Mediterranean

Aegean

6(a) PETARD and BELVOIR left Mandelyah Gulf last night, passed north of Leros, dropped delay action devices off Kalimno and withdrew to Alexandria without incident.

(b) DULVERTON, BEAUFORT and PINDOS lay up in the Gulf of Doris today. They proceeded to Leros tonight and landed stores and 170 personnel, then withdrew to Mandelyah Gulf to lie up tomorrow.

/(c) PHOEBE...

War Diary

2.11.1943.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Aegean
(Contd.).

- (c) PHOEBE returned to Alexandria today.
- (d) It is reported that 150 Germans landed at Symi today from caiques, M.L.C. and a tug. The landing was supported by Stukas.
- (e) C. in C. Levant has now available for Aegean operations PHOEBE, 5 Fleets and 9 Hunts.
- (f) C. in C. Levant sends today a message concerning the state of the submarines engaged in carrying stores to Leros. SEVERN will probably require a month's refit; RORQUAL is overdue for refit in U.K.; and the Italian S/MS. are in poor condition and are unlikely to run for long. Even if the Italians continue to run, C. in C. Levant does not consider that the S/MS. are likely to deliver more than 15 tons a day.

America and West Indies.

- 7. AJAX sailed from Norfolk today for Bermuda to fuel en route to U.K. via the Azores.

Australia and New Zealand.

Naval
engagement
in Solomons.

- 8(a) An enemy force of about 12 vessels sighted in St. George's Channel heading south-east was shadowed and attacked by a Liberator in the early hours of today, 50 miles off the coast of Bougainville. The force was later (but still in the early hours) engaged by an Allied Task Force 35 miles west-north-west of Empress Augusta Bay. Preliminary reports indicate that the enemy force dispersed into three groups; the first, advanced group, comprising 4 destroyers; the second group 4 heavy units; and the third group, it is believed, 4 ships. The first group was attacked by both torpedoes and gunfire by the cruisers and destroyers at ranges of 16000 to

2.11.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand

Naval
engagement
in Solomons.
(Contd.).

20,000 yards. The engagement lasted 90 minutes and preliminary estimates indicate that one probable light cruiser and 4 destroyers were sunk, and 2 cruisers and 2 destroyers damaged. The undamaged units retired to the north-westward before dawn. The Task Force was attacked during the morning by about 70 enemy aircraft, 40 miles west of Empress Augusta Bay. The Allied ships suffered no serious casualties, but Allied fighters and/or ships shot down 17 of the enemy aircraft without loss to themselves. Several Allied ships were damaged but none were lost.

(b) A strong Allied air strike failed to locate the crippled enemy ships during a morning search but a large oil slick was followed from the scene of the Naval action to 50 miles West of Buka.

Raid on
Simpson's
Harbour,
Rabaul.

9. 75 U.S. Mitchells escorted by 80 fighters successfully attacked shipping and A/A defences at Simpson's Harbour, Rabaul from masthead height with 1000 lb bombs this afternoon. Preliminary reports indicate that 3 destroyers, 8 merchantmen totalling 60,000 tons and 4 luggers were sunk, whilst two heavy cruisers received direct hits, damaging both, one of them seriously. Two other destroyers, 7 merchantmen and 2 tankers were also seriously damaged. 67 enemy fighters were destroyed in combat and 23 others probably; whilst 8 floatplanes and 2 flying boats were destroyed on the water. 8 additional aircraft were destroyed on Lakunai Airfield and the A/A positions around the harbour were thoroughly bombed and gunned.

War Diary.2.11.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Command
of Mixed
Allied
Groups.

Procedure described in Admiralty Message 211954 September, should be put into force with the proviso that whenever three or more nationalities are concerned with officers of same rank British should always command the combination irrespective of seniority.

2. French authorities in U.K. have been informed (A.C.N.S.F. 021759A to Cs. in C.)

Commodore M.

The Broad Pendant of Commodore F. Ratsey as Commodore (M) was struck at sunset today and AGAMEMNON, MENESTHEUS, and PORT QUEBEC have been reduced to C. and M. and transferred to my administration.
(N.O.I.C. Lochalsh, 021807A to Admty.)

PETERHEAD,
BLYTHE.

(1) Your 312021A. It is intended to employ PETERHEAD, and BLYTHE on Air-Sea Rescue duty.

(2) C. in C. Portsmouth has been requested to sail PETERHEAD and BLYTHE to Humber for removals of M/S gear and winches.

(3) It is requested that if possible one twin Bofors mounting M/F D/F gear and Radar Type 291 may be fitted to each ship while in Humber.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 021839A to Admty.)

Canadian-
built
ships.

I am much concerned with the condition in which Canadian built new construction ships arrive in this country. Most of them have arrived with extensive defects, necessitating refit and it would appear that the situation is getting worse. See my 021936A re FINDHORN and INVER. It is

considered that defects are largely due to bad workmanship and inadequate supervision in Builder's Yards. In view of the acute congestion in refitting yards in U.K., it is requested that urgent action be taken to inform the Canadian Authorities so that they can take the essential extra steps and precautions to ensure that ships are efficient before leaving Canada.

(C. in C. W.A. 021953A to Admty.)

ERNE,
REDPOLE.

1. Your 011138. Concur that ERNE should substitute REDPOLE in list of A.A. Sloops allocated to Eastern Fleet in your 301010 and your 301019.

2. REDPOLE should remain at Gibraltar.
(D.O.D. H. 022030A to C. in C.W.A.)

War Diary.2.11.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

ORWELL,
ORIBI. Take ORIBI under your orders and proceed to Scapa passing Clyde boom 1200A/21st. E.T.A. Scapa 0800A/3rd.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 020846A to ORWELL.)
Sailed ORWELL and ORIBI in accordance my 020846A.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 021304A to R.A.D.)

STONEHENGE,
K.15. Request you sail STONEHENGE and K.15 to arrive 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles at 2359A/5th and 1300/6th respectively, thence via route Red and Green respectively, diving by day STONEHENGE from a.m. 6th, K.15 from 1300A/6th.
My 221701 and my 221437 refers.
(F.O.S. 02056A to Captains S5, S3.)

SANDWICH,
LEITH,
ANCHUSA. I am being shadowed by 2 enemy aircraft in 46.30 N. 14.01 W., 180° speed 11.5 knots.
(SANDWICH, 021231A to Admty.)
Two Focke Wolfe last seen on westerly course at 1233.
(SANDWICH, 021317A to Admty.)
Two F.W.200 aircraft are operating in your vicinity.
Your position was probably reported at 1220.
(D.D.I.C. 021330A to LEITH.)

North Atlantic dispositions. 1. Disposition of operational units in North Atlantic.
Operating in Northern Waters:- ANSON, FORMIDABLE, BELFAST, KENT, NORFOLK, 12 Destroyers, 2 U.S. Destroyers.
Iceland:- TUSCALOOSA.
Scapa:- DUKE OF YORK, HOWE, RENOWN, BERMUDA, JAMAICA, LONDON, 3 destroyers, 3 U.S. destroyers,
Plymouth:- GLASGOW.
Clyde:- AUGUSTA.
Bay of Biscay:- CEYLON.
Passage to Gibraltar:- 1 destroyer, 11 U.S. destroyers.
Passage to U.K.:- NELSON, RODNEY, 5 destroyers, DURBAN.
2. Disposition of Escort Carriers:- TRACKER operating in Atlantic. FENCER to Clyde from Atlantic. BITER - Argentina.
(D.O.D.(H) 021305Z to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

BULLDOG,
PRINS
ALBERT. C. in C. W.A.'s 011834A. Due to fuel considerations have left convoy. Propose route through 050° 00' N. 013° 00' W. thence direct Plymouth. S.O.A. 13 knots. My P.C.S. 48° 49' N. 16° 52' W. 065° 13. PRINS ALBERT in company.
(BULLDOG, 021500Z to Admty.)

/On...

War Diary.2.11.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

- BULLDOG,
PRINS
ALBERT.
(Contd.)
- On parting company with M.K.F.25 proceed through position BA 050° 12' N. 016° 15' W. BB 180° Bishop Rock 7 miles. BC 180° Lizard Head 3 miles and thence by QZS 410 409 to Plymouth.
2. If unable to reach Plymouth before 2200 proceed to Falmouth for the night.
3. Estimate DURBAN from West passing through position U 180° Bishop Rock 12 miles at about 0300A/4th. (C. in C. Plymouth, 021524 to BULLDOG, PRINS ALBERT.)
- Amend position BA in my 021524A to read 050° 00' N. 013° 00' W. (2) Adjust speed to remain west of Lizard Head during dark hours.
- (3) Your 021500A refers.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 022139A to BULLDOG.)
- MATAGORDA. Intend sailing U.S. Seaplane Tender MATAGORDA at 1200/3rd by QZs and thence in accordance with Admiralty's 011735. E.T.A. 007° W. 0001/4th. "Chop" 5th. Casablanca 1200/7th November. S.O.A. 16 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Avonmouth, 021612 to Commorseafon.)
- A.F.D.16 My 291848A. Kirkwall arrival at 1515. A.F.D. XVI in tow of tugs GOLIATH, EMPIRE MASCOT, escorted by SCALBY WYKE.
(A.C.O.S. 021634A to N.O.I.C. Invergordon.)
- NELSON,
RODNEY.
- Onward route from D through G. 55° N. 16° W. new H. 58.35 N., 08.10 W. C. in C.H.F.'s 311409 refers.
2. RODNEY is to part company at G. proceeding through J.55.30 N. 08.31 W. to Clyde. C. in C. H.F. 301423 refers.
(D.O.D.H 021737A to NELSON, RODNEY.)
- FURIOUS. Arrived FURIOUS.
(F.O.I.C. N.I. 021747 to F.O.I.C.Greenock.)
- TENACIOUS. TENACIOUS has completed trials and is ready for service. Manning depot Devonport can at present only provide 1 chief E.R.A. making 4 E.R.A. short of complement. Ship is consequently unable to proceed to Scapa in accordance with A.M. 251252 October.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 021800A to Admty.)
- S/M
movements. Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/3 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 021804A, 021849A.)
- GODAVARI. A.M. 291909 June. Intend sailing GODAVARI on November 6th as additional escort to K.M.S.32 to Gib. for onward passage to Bombay.
(C. in C. W.A. 021806A to Admty.)

2.11.1943.

Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation Sailed at 1830 10th Cruiser Squadron with
F.S. Force One. (BELFAST, KENT, NORFOLK.)
C. in C. H.F. 272009 para. 6 refers.
(A.C.I.C. 020210A to H.F.)
Sailed at 1025A V.A.2 with Force 2 (ANSON,
FORMIDABLE, JAMAICA.) C. in C. H.F. 272009 para. 7 refers.
(A.C.I.C. 021920A to H.F.)
Force 3 (MILNE, MUSKETEER, MATCHLESS, MAHRATTA, SCOURGE,
SCORPION, and SAUMAREZ.) sailed Kola Inlet 1655A/2 C. in C.H.F.
272009A para. 4 refers.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 021920C to H.F.)

Operation Seidisfjord departures 0700/2nd S.O. M/S 15 and
S.F. FRASERBURGH, LYME REGIS, WORTHING, BOOTLE,
LLANDUDNO, ARDROSSAN in company.
(R.N.O. Seidisfjord 021002A to A.C.I.C.)
Situation at 022000.
FRASERBURGH, LYME REGIS, WORTHING, BOOTLE, ARDROSSAN,
LLANDUDNO approaching vicinity 062° 24', 013° 50' from North to
commence patrol 0200/3rd.
(A.C.O.S. 021158A to Admty.)
Situation at 022100A. M/S F. 15 063° 15', 014° 15' to
patrol in vicinity 062° 24', 013° 50'.
(A.C.I.C. 021554A to Ships.)
Normal moorings being flown Nov. 3rd by 8 Sunderlands, 2
Catalinas, and 9 Hudsons or Venturas.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 022209A to H.F.)

V.P. Sailed at 1045 M.T.B.626. My 211144 Oct.
operations. 2. No.
(A.C.O.S. 021313A to Admty.)
Sailed M.T.B.653 and 686. My 282141 October.
2. No.
(A.C.O.S. 021315 to Admty.)

Coastal 1. Orders for night 2/3 November.
Force (a) 3 M.G.B., 3 M.T.B. from Newhaven carry
Patrols. out offensive patrol on enemy coastal route
between 238° YY 6 and 075° YY 24, keeping east
of line drawn 320° from 238° YY 6. Primary
objective torpedo targets. Proceed and
return by passage two, passing 2 N. at 1900A and returning to
within 20 miles of own coast by 0600A.
(b) Chasseurs 41, 5 patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between F. and EA
5 Buoys.
(c) M.L.344 immediate notice St. Helens.
(d) LA COMBATTANTE, GLAISDALE, ALBRIGHTON immediate notice
Yarmouth.
(e) M.G.BZ, 8 patrolling 50° 15' N. between 2° 10' W. and 2°
35' W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 021427A.)
M.Ls. 141 and 293 at Inner Lade buoy.
(V.A. Dover, 021607A.)

S/M...

War Diary.2.11.1943,
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.S/M
Patrols.

Submarines are to leave patrol as follows proceeding on the surface at C.O's discretion when 50 miles clear of Norwegian coast.

1. VARANGIAN at 0001A/5 through 071° 09' 022° (40'?), 071° 09', 016° 10' thence by route

Black to Lerwick.

2. SYRTIS at 2000A/7 through 071° 09' 015° 00' and route Pink to Lerwick.

3. STUBBORN at 2000A/7 through 070° 53', 015° 23' and route Black to Lerwick.

(Capt. S.9, 021427A to S/Ms.)

Positions of submarines at 0800A/3 and movements for the following 24 hours.

(A) SYRTIS, STUBBORN, VARANGIAN, and ULA patrolling as in my 011707.

(F.O.S. 021804A to Admty.)

Bay
Patrol.

Disposition at 2000.

1. DURBAN 046° 48' 016° 13' 356° 18 knots.

2. ANCHUSA, LEITH, SANDWICH 045° 03' 014° 01' 180° 11½ knots.

3. CEYLON patrolling between 041° 59' N. 017° 11' W. and 039° 58' N. 013° 19' W.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 021500A to Admty.)

Cancel my 301315A. 2. GLASGOW is to pass gate at 0700A/3rd and proceed through position GA 180° Bishop Rock 1000 GB 049° 52' N. 016° 14' W. GC 046° 29' N. 015° 59' W.

GD 044° 59' N. 014° 59' W. CT 039° 58' N. 013° 19' W. and thence to carry out operation STONEWALL on line between CT and CS 041° 59' N. 017° 11' W.

3. CEYLON is leaving patrol at first light on 5th November and proceed Gibraltar. Route as in F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 301545 unless otherwise ordered by F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 021539A to GLASGOW, CEYLON.)

ALERT.
Repair of
Potharno-
Fayal
cable.C. in C. Plymouth's 301934 October refers to operation for repair of deep-sea cable which it is most important to complete before winter.
2. Request you will state if arrangements can be made in accordance with paras. 4 and 5.
(A.C.N.S.H.021852A to Air Ministry.)A/S
sweep
by E.G.2.

D/F Bearings at 1735Z indicate U/Boat in your vicinity which may have reported you.

(D.D.I.C. 021931A to E.G.2.)

Proceed to carry out air A/S sweep in area enclosed by a circle of 120 miles radius from position 044° N. 040° W.

(C. in C.W.A. 022303Z to E.G.2.)

Weather permitting intend to patrol in vicinity of 046° N. 042° W. where 3 German U/Boats were heard transmitting today.

(E.G.2. 022355A to C. in C.W.A.)

2.11.1943.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

Boulogne
R/C.

Request P.R.U. of Boulogne today, to locate enemy shipping.
(D.D.I.C. 020743A to A.D.I.Ph.)

Mining.

Two
explosive
objects
off Start
Point.

Following report received from M.T.B.673 begins:
An object floating on the water was observed in
160 Start 5 at 1015/1st. Object was
cylindrical, length about 5 ft., diameter about
2 ft., light metal. Dented in places, painted
khaki or Olive Green and appeared to have some
sort of framework attached. It was thought to
be a fighter's emergency fuel-tank. When we
shot at it to sink it, it blew up with a loud explosion
(possibly tracers ignited the petrol fumes). No flame or smoke
was observed. About a mile to the S.W. we sighted another
similar object. M.G.B. 322 sunk it by gunfire, in this case
there was no explosion. Ends.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 021156 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

9th
M/S F.

Request you will sail available ships of 9th
M.S.F. to Harwich as soon as convenient.
2. The flotilla is loaned to C. in C. Nore for
a period of approximately 3 weeks.
(D.M.S. 021905A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Enemy Intelligence.

ELSA ESSBERGER,	Preliminary report of P.R.U. of Gironde 1145A/2nd	
TANNENFELS,	November shows:-	
DRESDEN,	Bordeaux	ELSA ESSBERGER alongside.
FUSIJAMA,	Le Verdon	TANNENFELS arrived from Bordeaux
HIMALAYA,		since 28th October with
PIETRO ORSEOLO.		Tanker now alongside.
	Royan	DRESDEN arrived from Bordeaux since
		28th October.
	Pauillac	FUSIJAMA alongside and has
		undocked since 28th October.

No other important changes, presumed, therefore, HIMALAYA and
PIETRO ORSEOLO still at Bordeaux.
(D.D.I.C. 022205A to C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C.W.A., F.O.I.C.
Gibraltar., F.O.S.)

Technical.

Use of R/T
by U/Bs.

W.A. General message 810 N. W.A. General Message
775 N. of second October para. 3. A further case
has occurred of U/Boat(s) using R/T in an
apparent endeavour to obtain a direction finding
bearing of the reply. The correct convoy call

/sign...

War Diary.2.11.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Technical - Contd.Use of R/T
by U/Boats.
(Contd.)

sign and correct phonetic alphabet were employed. All operators must be warned to be on their guard answering signals made with an incorrect procedure or with a foreign accent. (C. in C. W.A. 020938Z to Ships.)

Casualties and Defects.Lisahally
Jetty.
(CHELMER)CHELMER was in collision with Lisahally Jetty at 1515/31st October. 75 feet of jetty completely carried away. First aid repairs in hand.
(F.O.I.C. N.I., 021330A to Admty.)PUNDIT
damaged.SS. PUNDIT in F.S.61 arriving in Thames damaged by collision with SS. TIOGA in vicinity of 21 buoy. TIOGA sunk.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 021506A to Admty.)
My 021506A. PUNDIT is remaining Southend awaiting orders.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 021521A to Admty.)Shipping and Convoy.M.K.F.25E.
U/Boat
attacked
by TAVY
and JED.TAVY attacking submarine in 046° 15' N. 018° 40' W. Request air cover.
(PELICAN 020137Z to Admty.)
ACT para. 2.
(A) 046° 15' N. 018° 40' W. 020137Z.
(B) TAVY and JED.
(C) 0245 contact lost, convoy no longer threatened.(D) TAVY, ROTHER, JED but not seriously. My P.C.S. 046° 40' N. 018° 18' W. 027° 13.
(E.G.1, 020400 to C. in C.W.A.)I am being shadowed by one enemy aircraft bearing 070° 2000 feet 040. Position 48.44 N. 18.01 W. course 360° 14 knots.
(PELICAN 021338Z to Whitehall W/T.)

T.U.4.

My 280246A para. 4. No British personnel will embark.
(D.S.T. 020148A to P.S.T.O. Clyde.)It is proposed that TRUMPETER should sail in convoy T.U.4 on 6th November. Operational aircraft will not be carried. Admiralty 041553 refers.
(C. in C.W.A. 021047Z to Admty.) (D.O.D.H. 021630A to C. in C.W.A.)AMSTERDAM,
PRAGUE,
RIPLEY.Intend sailing transport AMSTERDAM at 0300/3rd speed 17 knots, to R/V at time and position given in N.O.I.C. Invergordon 301739.
(N.C.S.O. Kirkwall, 020830A to A.C.O.S.)

/Intend...

2.11.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

AMSTERDAM,
PRAGUE,
RIPLEY.
(Contd.)

Intend sailing Transports PRAGUE and AMSTERDAM escorted by RIPLEY at 1915A/3rd, speed 16 knots for Invergordon, E.T.A. 0700/4th. Route. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 021035A to A.C.O.S.) My 010950A. Delayed owing fog. (RIPLEY) Anticipate sailing 1230A/2nd. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 020935A to N.O.I.C. Invergordon)

H.X.263.
E.G.7.
Homing
of U.470.

LOOSESTRIFE has to top up before Group detaches. Weather at present unsuitable. LOOSESTRIFE lost her A/S Dome in heavy weather yesterday. VIDETTE has leaks in oil fuel tanks which necessitate short docking, in view of this, have detached her to Londonderry at best speed. Your 011923 refers. Position to nearest degree 5534.
(B.7, 020901Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 311905. Request confirmation that U.470 was homing on 2410 kc.

(C. in C.W.A. 021051A. to B.7.)

My 020901Z. Group detached. H.X.263. P.C.S. 055° 36' N. 032° 50' W. 080° 9½. WHIMBREL has joined. (?My) course 090° speed 12. C. in C.W.A. 021051A. Reply, begins, Not known. Ends.

(B.7, 021401Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Stragglers.

Admiralty's 041340B/May. Stragglers return week ending 0915A/2nd November. O.N.S.21. SALUTA main engine trouble. O.N.208. KINDAT unable to maintain speed. O.S.C. 57/K.M.S.31.

MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA inexperienced Fireman. Unable to make steam.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 020915A to Admt.)

A.T.73.
(QUEEN MARY)

A.T.73 arrived 0945/2nd.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 020955A.)

R/T
silence.

Convoys and groups ordered to keep strict R/T silence except in emergency etc. Request you will signal brief reports from S.Os. of groups concerned on arrival as to the difficulties encountered with particular reference to the

following points if applicable:
(C. in C.W.A. 021108.)

O.N.S.22.

Escorts for O.N.S.22. HESPERUS, VESPER, MOURNE, CAMPANULA, CLEMATIS, SWEETBRIAR, GENTIAN. VANESSA may be sailed to overtake. HESPERUS, VESPER, MOURNE and VANESSA fitted H.F./D.F.
(Capt. D.Liverpool, 021151A to C. in C.W.A.)

/Coastal...

War Diary.2.11.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.Coastal
Craft
Group "O".My 271745 October. Route for group "O" is in accordance with A.M. 172035 February modified by A.M. 012011 June.
(D.O.D. H., 021300A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

U.T.4

Arrived Liverpool Section.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 021302A to C. in C. W.A.)S.L.139
ARAWA.ARAWA sailed second in S.L.139 for U.K.
(D.S.T.O.W.A., 021507Z to D.S.T.)

CHANTILLY

Sailed 1505 today.
(S.T.O. Falmouth, 021525A to D.S.T.)S.L.138/
M.K.S.28 E.I am being shadowed by enemy aircraft bearing 270° 3000 feet, position 52° 34' N., 16° 40' W. course 037° speed 9 knots.
(ROCHESTER 021620Z to Whitehall W/T).
Codeword "Congress" being shadowed by enemy aircraft bearing 330° 4000 feet. Position 52° 14' N., 17° 08' W.
(HASTINGS, 021625Z to Whitehall W/T).Simulated
R/T
traffic.

It may be desired to order a group or even a single detached ship to simulate traffic on convoy R/T. Each group and ship therefore must be prepared to carry such an order. Simulated traffic will not be convincing unless carefully prepared and rehearsed. The following are some points which should be borne in mind.

1. Call signs. Well known call signs that have been in use on the Atlantic run should be employed.
2. A situation should be envisaged with reasonable timing for every Radar detection Submarine sighting assistance sent asdic hunting or collision in convoy, ship sinking, rescue ship and screen sent etc.
3. In a single ship it is probably better to simulate one side of conversation only for every S.O. escort to A/C joining and searching. If two-sided conversation attempted necessity for two operators is emphasized.

(C. in C. W.A., 021851A, W.A.G.M. 812, N.B.1).

2.11.1943.
Tuesday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Azores aircraft information for Washington. A.M. 261550+ October has been repeated to F.O.C. West Africa and Commorseafron. (D.T.D. 020013A to S.B.N.O. Azores).

VOLUNTEER Left 1035 G.M.T. 2nd. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 020847).

FLEETWOOD U-boat survivors. Have collected 17 German U-boat survivors including C.O. Ober Lt. Hans Joachim Klaus from Spanish fishing boat. Am interrogating other fishing boats in vicinity. (FLEETWOOD, 020915A to F.O.C. Gib., (R) Capt.(D) Gib., Admty.).
My 020915A. A total of 48 survivors on board FLEETWOOD segregated for interrogation purposes into 6 parties. E.T.A. boom 1145A. Request berth and transport on arrival. (FLEETWOOD, 021015A to F.O.C. Gib. (R) Capt.(D) Gib. Admty.).

GEORGES LEYGUES. Arrived p.m. 1st. (F.O.i/c Gib., 020932A).

PRINCE ROBERT. A.M. 010127. It will be (?practicable) for her to remain in Horta. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 021127Z to C. in C. Plymouth, (R) Admty. F.O.C. Gib.).

MOUNT AETNA. Greek, Swiss chartered 8½ knots sailing p.m. 2nd for Philadelphia direct E route in accordance with A.M. 211859 Oct. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 021158A to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

Spanish naval exercise. Your 252252 (N.T. in W.D.) para.1., and your 301150 (N.T. in W.D.). Exercise of Spanish warships in areas described off Ferrol would seriously embarrass us as it is from this neighbourhood U-boats tend to disperse when making for Atlantic. It is therefore scene of considerable operational activity both against U-boats and aircraft.
(2) Inform M. of M. that as areas proposed for periods 25-29th and 30th Nov. to 10th Dec. are scene of very active operations by our aircraft, their forces will run considerable danger of accidental attack and you hope they will choose an alternative area as far south as possible, preferably south of Cape Finisterre. (Hd. of M.I.(305) Approved 1st Lord, 021221A to N.A. Madrid, (R) F.O.C. Gib., C. in C. Med., H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Plymouth, S.B.N.O. Azores).

/RANPURA...

War Diary2.11.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

RANPURA,

E.T.A. 1800A/2nd Nov. COLTSFOOT in company.
(RANPURA, 021307Z to F.O.C. Gib.).Landing
ships and
escort.Intend to sail PRINCE CHARLES, (S.O.), PRINCE
LEOPOLD, PRINSES JOSEPHINE CHARLOTTE, PRINSES
ASTRID, REDPOLE, POPPY, DIANELLA, LOTUS, STARWORT
and tanker BROWN RANGER for Falmouth at 1500A/3rd.
(2) Route.(3) C. in C.W.A. is requested to sail WOODPECKER to relieve
REDPOLE in position C at 1200A/6th. REDPOLE proceeds to Gib.
by reverse of outward route. S. of A. 12 knots.(4) Codeword L.S.I.(S) and escort "Savage" REDPOLE on parting
company "Relax".(5) H.M. Ships shift W/T watch at 1200A/6th.
(F.O.i/c Gib. 021653A to C. in C.W.A., C. in C. Plymouth., (R)
Admty., F.O.i/c Falmouth., C. in C. Med., N.O.i/c Cardiff).IRIS,
VISCOUNT.Request you will inform me when VISCOUNT will be
available to carry out duty in my 271154. /
(F.O.i/c Gib., 021703A to S.B.N.O. Azores, (R)
Admty. N.O.i/c Horta).
/ Re request IRIS be sailed escorted by VISCOUNT.A/S
operations.My 311906 October. DOUGLAS sighted U-boat in
35.57 06.01 at 2230A/31st Oct. ran in and dropped
pattern 10 charges ahead of U/B. U/B had already
commenced to scuttle on being sighted.(2) From interrogation of survivors it appears
that this U-boat was the same as that attacked by IMPERIALIST.
(3) FLEETWOOD carried out 3 10 charge pattern attacks on U/B
sighted at range /2000 yards at 2307Z/1st in 35.49 05.14, contact
then lost.(4) FLEETWOOD subsequently? took 48 German U-boat survivors off
Spanish fishing boats in vicinity of attack at daylight.(5) From preliminary interrogation it appears survivors are from
U-boat attacked by FLEETWOOD. Further signals will be made.(6) Anti U-boat operations proceeding.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 021841A to Admty., C. in C. Med.).
/ As received.

HABANA

Your 011745.
Send two discs separately by air to D.E.W.D.
remainder by sea. Any seizure will be done here.
(D.E.W.D. 021852A to C.C.S.O. Gib.).
Note: C.C.S.O. Gibraltar 011745 has been degraded
to "Secret".ST.GOTTHARD,
EIGER.My 271431 Swiss SS. ST.GOTTHARD now expected
to leave Marseilles about 4th and EIGER about 6th.
(D.E.W.D. 022008A to F.O.i/c Gib. (R) C. in C.
Med.).

/Gibraltar...

2.11.1943.
Tuesday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.Gibraltar
movements.Arrivals LORD HOTHAM Fleet Tenders 5, 8, 11, 13,
14, 22 from Casablanca. Departures French
GEORGES LEYGUES to Casablanca.
(F.O.C. Gib., 022209A).

UNRUFFLED

Intend sailing P.46 (UNRUFFLED? at 1200/4th for
U.K. routed (P) 035 degs. 49' 006 degs. 06.5'
at 1620/4th.(Q) 035 degs. 53' 006 degs. 15' at 1720/4th,
(R) 036 degs. 37' 007 degs. 24' at 0120/5th,
(T) 036 degs. 51' 009 degs. 13' at 2200/5th,
(S) 042 degs. 01' 013 degs. 10' at 0100/9th,
(K) 043 degs. 00' 013 degs. 22' at 1400/9th thence

(sic) VIGILANT by F.O.S. shifting W/T watch at 1400/9th.

(3) F.O.S's. 1149/8th January 1942 (a) 4 mark 8 (b) 9 knots until
0630/5th thereafter 8 knots (111 miles per day) (C) ready for
patrol in an emergency 1000% fuel (d) (1) nil (2) 1 (one).

(4) F.S. L.2. and I.S.O.H. carried.

(F.O.i/c Gib. 022319A to Admty. F.O.(S) (R) C.M.S.F., C. in C.
Plymouth, Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet, C. in C. Med. Capt.(S) 3, Capt.
(S) 5, Capt.(S) 8, S.B.N.O. Azores).South Atlantic.

SUSSEX

Arrived SUSSEX.

(2) SUSSEX 010829 (not to F.O. East Africa)
refers.(Com. i/c Durban, 020303Z to Admty., C. in C.E.F.
(S.E.A.C.) C. in C.S.At., F.O.E.Af., F.O.S.4.).

B.Y.M.S.

Sailed 1830Z. First B.Y.M.S. 223, 148, 217 my
011544 refers.

(Comar Dakar, 020851Z to Gibraltar).

PALO ALTO

N.C.S.O. . . Dakar's 011935. If possible PALO
ALTO should join S.L.139 to Casablanca.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 020938 to Comar Dakar (R) Admty.
Commorseafon, F.O. Gibraltar).Convoy
S.L.139

Sailing telegram (ships, list etc.).

(2) 0730/2nd. (4) Knots 7½. Route. ^R
(6) BIDEFORD S.O., STONECROP, FOWEY, STOCK, CAMPION,
FRISO (D.S.) MYOSOTIS, CONQUEROR ODZANI.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 021545, 021605Z, 021200Z to
Admty.).

/SOUTHERN...

2.11.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

SOUTHERN GEM information. Following from Cdr. 4th U.S. Fleet. Ships in your area course all following positions N. and W.
1200/2 P INHAMBANE Portuguese N.E. 003 degs. S. 031 degs.
JUPITER Spanish S.W. 002 degs. 029 degs., MONTE TIEDE Spanish S.W. 003 degs. 029 degs., STAVROS Greek S.W. 002 degs. 030 degs., NARICA West 003 degs. 027 degs., EMPIRE GRACE North 000 degs. 023 degs.
(Asst. B.N.S.O. Recife, 021406Z to SOUTHERN GEM).

B.Y.M.S. B.Y.M.S. referred to in your 021002 (N.T. in W.D.) are allocated to Eastern Fleet.
(D.M.S. 021659A to F.O.C.W.Af.).

War Diary.

2.11.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Crews for merchant ships building in U.S.A. Statement in para. 1 your 291134 is not confirmed. (Head of M.1, 020130A to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.L.I).

Hospital Ships. SHAMROCK at 2230 G.M.T. 36 degs. 38' N. 00 degs. 29' E. course 49 degs. (Group missed) speed 13 knots. Master. (Athinaï Pallini(Greece)) Intend sail SHAMROCK at 021800A to Bizerta.

Route. E.T.A. 1200/4.
(Com. N.O.B.Oran, 021101A)
My 021101A sailed.
(N.O.B. Oran, 021811)
SHAMROCK arrived.
(Com. N.O.B.Oran, 020911A)

Policy at Taranto. Policy in Para.1 of your 271005 has been guiding principle on which whole scheme of control commission was framed. Numbers of Naval personnel detailed in Admty. Message 042359 Sept. were on the assumption of an un-co-operative Italy.

No question of allocating officers or ratings to control commission unless urgently needed.

(2) Assumed Headship of Naval Sub-Commission will be filled by F.O.L.I. Recent signal from J.S.M. indicates that U.S. may appoint Admiral as Vice President of whole Military Section which is a U.S. appointment. Request your comments.

(3) In view of report in M.A.T. 71 that control commission will be constituted on 10th, a very early reply is requested. (Hd. of M.1, 020250A to C. in C. Med.)

SEVERN. Following is a repetition of my 020242B addressed N.A.A. E. of A. Ships E. of A., N.O.I.C. Tripoli Cdr. C.F: Eastern Med. (R) 1st S.F. from Capt. (S) 1. (Begins) SEVERN in 034 degs. 26' 029 degs. 44' at 2040/1st speed $8\frac{1}{2}$ knots is returning Beirut to arrive 0640B/3rd (Ends.) (Capt. (S) 1, 020310B to 1st S.F.)

Landing Craft. U.S. 1074 Ref. No. R.5165/1480 FAN 264 2nd Nov.'43. For: Eisenhower, Freedom Algiers. From: C.C. of S. Ref. FAN 218 (R.2794/7139) Sept. 7.

Urgently required information requested in above mentioned reference. This report is desired as of first of each month, but as yet, no combined British and U.S. report as of first of any month has been received.

Additional information desired is as follows:

How /...

War Diary.

2.11.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Landing
Craft.
(Contd.)

How many U.S. and British L.S.T's, L.C.I.(L)'s and L.C.T's have been lost to date? Also as to L.S.T's confirm number received by you, number now in Theatre, number U.S. and British shipped to India, balance, and number being prepared for shipment or en route to U.K. (Agwar, 020341Z to Etousa.)

Convoy
W.S.33,
C.M.46.

Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 020430Z)

Enemy
Ships
Aegean.

Enemy anchorage Kalimno Port one vessel 2500 tons one small vessel 800 tons one F.Boat. Medium sized merchant vessel apparently under repair. (A/C HKP/O, 020820Z, 020947Z)
Enemy Schooner, one F-Boat 36 degs. 50' N. 27 degs.

07' E.

(7 W.M. via Alex. 020821Z)

P.C. and S. of enemy suspicious vessel? 37 degs. 25' N. 23 degs. 56' E. 080 degs. 9 knots. 13 L.C. 2 E-Boats 37 degs. 43' N. 24 degs. 04' E. 020 degs. 7 knots.

(A/C VBG/N, 020938)

P.C. and S. of enemy 1 small merchant vessel 1,000 tons 37 deg 13' N. 25 degs. 12' E. 300 degs. 5 knots.

(A/C VBG/N, 021040Z to K.T.1)

N.R.1. Enemy anchorage. 8 merchant vessels. Medium vessel 2000 tons.

N.R.2 Syros.

(A/C GLW/A, 022347Z, 030045Z to 201 Naval Co-op Group)

Enemy
A/C.

Position of enemy. 7 aeroplanes, 6 S.E's/ one Junkers 88 at Andemaki. (A/C HKP/O, 020822Z)
/ As received.

Enemy
Ships off
Toulon.

P.C. and S. of one tanker, two surface vessels, one E/V 43.03 N. 5.47 E. X 09 300 degs. 8 knots. (A/C OPW/W, 020839Z to A/C K.T.1)
My 0839. Enemy previously reported are one tanker, 6000 tons, one merchant vessel 400 tons, one merchant vessel 300 tons, one destroyer. (A/C Using OPW/W via Malta W/T. 020846Z)

N.V.7.

Convoy now sailing 0800A/3rd. Speed 8 knots or better. Amend R/V accordingly. V.A. Malta's 020146 (N.T. in W.D.) not to all refers. (F.O.W.I.T. 020909)

War Diary.2.11.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

G.U.S.20. Pass to Cdre. (1) My 312104. (Amendments to list).
(N.O.I.C.Augusta, 021016A)

A.B.19, Sailing telegram.
A.P.51. (2) 1100Z/2nd/ref. 33 ships. Route and Details.
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 021119Z, 021123Z, 021501Z).
/ N.T. in W.D.

Operations Intend QUEENBOROUGH and RAIDER carry out
"Stopper", operation "Stopper" during night 3rd/4th.
"Dingle". (2) Destroyer will proceed from "Chickweed"
bombardment area to reach position at 1730A/3rd.
Your 011709(N.T. in W.R.) refers.
(3) Operation "Dingle" 1st/2nd nothing met.
(Capt. (D) 4, 021206 to F.O.T.A. (R) No.1. M.O.R.U.
242 Group, N.L.O. 8th Army, N.O.I.C.Bari, S.N.O.A.L
(E), 4th D.F. C.S.15.

Control and From (?night) 8th operational control and
routeing of S/Ms in the Western Med. will be
of S/Ms. exercised as follows.
F.O.I.C.Gib. West of 001 degs. W.
N.O.I.C.Algiers between 001 degs. W. and 007 degs.
East and South of 040 degs. N.

Capt. (S) 10 the remainder of Western Med.
Date and time of bringing into force will be signalled later.
Collective signals to S/Ms in Western Med. will then be addressed
to 10th S/M.F. instead of as at present to 8th S/M.F.
Signals concerning French S/Ms will continue to be addressed to
them individually.
(Capt. (S) 8, 021210A to 8th S/M.F. LA SULTANE, CURIE (R) Admty.
F.O.(S), V.A. Malta, S.O.S/Ms Gib. Capt. (S) 10, C. in C. Med.
F.O.I.C. Gib. N.O.I.C.Algiers.)

Cape Cepet As P.59 (UNTIRING) and P.34 (ULTIMATUM) have both
U/B attacked German U-Boats in the vicinity Cape
activity. Cepet recently the enemy probably realises that
this is a favourite spot for Allied S/Ms to
patrol and will be increasingly vigilant.
(Capt. (S) 8, 021230A to 8th S.F. (R) Capt. (S) 10)

N.A.A.F. N.A.S.A.F.31. 1st 42 U.S. Fortresses Railway
Opsum 254. Bridge R/C 4 returned early due complete overcast
at target 5 A/C dropped 30 x 1000 Railway Bridge
Vezzano (Northeast Spezia) and 1 A/C dropped 6 x
1000 Spezia Harbour. No hits reported Vezzano
cloud prevented observation Spezia remaining A/C 4 of which are
missing believed landed in Sardinia returned or jettisoned bombs.

N.A.T.A.F. 1st. 36 U.S. Mitchells shipping Ancona Harbour
210 x 500, 172 x 250 all bombs target area direct hit 1 5000 ton
M/V, several hits small craft. Direct hit large warehouse
fires started. 1 aircraft forced landed enemy territory.

War Diary.2.11.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

N.A.A.F. 12 Hudsons 12 Baltimores shipping Split harbour
Opsum 254. 4 x 500, 113 x 250 2 ships well straddled near
(Contd.) misses burning ship. 12 U.S. Warhawks armed
R/C Split dropped 18 x 500 scoring near misses
Naval vessel in Dockyard. 5 DO.24 encountered
2 destroyed.
N.A.Coastal A.F.
(H.Q.N.A.A.F. 021408A)

Situation I/30076 2 Nov. 380484.
Aegean. Joint Army R.A.F. int. appreciation 24 hours to
1000Z/2nd.
(1) Leros and Samos no change situation up to
1000/Z/2nd.
(2) No contact reported by our naval forces night 1/2 Nov.
(3) Ph.R/C. and visual sightings 1st Kos/Kalimno area. Ph.R/C
0530Z showed no change in shipping dispositions. Total 7 F-Boats
still in area of which 2 in Portu Alino. 4 off harbour
entrance Kos, and 1 still beached near Pili. Of these 7 only
3 or possibly 4 serviceable. Pserimo Island. All bays covered
Nil shipping port Vathi, Atti Bay. No change. Pezonda Bay,
Arghinonda Bay, Vlicadia Bay, nil shipping. Cyclades, Naxos.
Visual am. 1 merchant vessel 500 tons (probably naval auxiliary)
4 schooners under 200 tons (possible naval patrol craft). Syros.
Visual am. Only 1 small sailing vessel seen. Merchant vessel
4,000 tons. E-Boat and other 2 small craft sighted there 31
Oct. apparently left. Mykonos, Syphnos. Visual am. nil
shipping. Melos. Visual am. 2 merchant vessels 800 tons
(possible naval auxiliaries). Khios. Ph. R/C 0935/Z total
55 small craft. Not abnormal. Rhodes harbour. Ph. R/C a.m. &
p.m. No change.
(4) Further reports from C.X. sources of arrival Piraeus by rail
sectional landing craft variously reported from 5 to 10 metres
long and up to 20 in number. See para. 4 appreciation 1st Nov.
(5) No air attacks reported 1st on any Allied occupied Islands.
(7) Appreciate delay in launching assault Leros probably due
weather and insufficiency landing craft at present available
in operational area. Strong indications enemy endeavouring remedy
above deficiency (see para. 4 above). Nevertheless unless
landing craft concentration Kos/Kalimno withdrawn possibility
surprise attack Leros remains. Attack on Samos could be
launched at short notice from Cyclades possibly accompanied by
parachutist or airborne attack.
(C. in C. M.E. 021430B)

U/S C.T.F. in U.S.S. BROOKLYN with U.S.S. EDISON Palermo
Movements. to Bizerta to arrive 0630/(75) and sailing for
Malta to arrive 0800/6 thence return Palermo
arriving 0800/9. U.S.S. WAINWRIGHT remains at
Palermo on short call. Com. N.O.B. Palermo,
U.S.S. BROOKLYN.
(C.T.F.86, 021500A to Comnavnaw, Radio Tunis,
Radio Bizerta, (R) C. in C. Med., U.S.S. PHILADEL-
PHIA, U.S.S. SAVANNAH, Cdr. D.S. 7, F.O.W.It.)

SALVATORE /...

War Diary.2.11.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

SALVATORE. M.K.S. 29 arrivals including SALVATORE.
((U.S.) N.O.B. Oran, 021504A)

U.S.
L.S.Ts. Departures 1001Z, U.S. L.S.T's 21, 17, 176, 209,
25, 72, 175, 261, 208.
(Cdre. Aden, 021531Z)

A.H.7A. M.S.C.I 22 intend sailing at 0600/4th 14 ships
(Details).
(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 021538A to F.O.T.A.)
Amendments N.O.I.C. Augusta 030935, 032235.

ZOEA. ZOEA leaves Haifa at 0400/3rd routed through
032 degs. 59' N. 034 degs. 34' E. 034 degs. 26' N.
N. 027 degs. 10' E. thence diving at dawn 5th
North of Kaso Strait to Leros. Surface passage
3rd and 4th. S. of A. 10 knots.
(S.O.S/M Haifa, 021540B to 1st S/M.F. ATROPO,
MENOTTI.)

X.I.F.3. Port Said section sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 021608B)

Food from
Canada to
Ionian Is. No objection your 311719.
(C. in C. Med. 021618A to Admty.)

VELITE. Left 2nd.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 02162?)

UNTIRING. Intend sailing P.59 (UNTIRING) at 1700/4th
proceeding on surface at discretion through 037
degs. 59' 003 degs. 32' at 0230/5th, 040 degs.
01' 005 degs. 31' at 2130/5th, thence diving by
day through 042 degs. 02' 006 degs. 45' at 0001/7th, 043 degs.
28' 007 degs. 41' at 2230/7th to patrol in zone SS.
(Capt. (S) 8, 021622A to C. in C. Med. (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers, 8th
S/M.F. LA SULTANE, F.S. Capt. (S) 10, F.O.I.C. Gib.)

Condition
of Warships
under
'C. in C.
Levant. Following now available for Aegean operation
PHOEBE five Fleets, Nine Hunts.
(2) Repairs to PENELOPE's tail shaft at Taranto
expected to be completed 7th dockyard work at
Alexandria will complete 4th.
DIDO date unchanged. SIRIUS on passage to
Massawa for permanent repairs.
AURORA damaged as in My 311013 Oct.

War Diary.2.11.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Condition of Warships under C. in C. Levant. (3) Anticipate FAULKNER will be taken in hand for refit on completion of JERVIS 14th. FURY ready 14th and PALADIN 6th MIAOULES completes boiler cleaning 3rd. HURSLEY turning over to Greeks and ready 14th. (C. in C. Levant, O21640B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

N.V.7. Intend to sail N.V.7. 25 ships names and destinations. (F.O.I.C.Naples, O21700A)

Lease-Lend B.Y.M.S. for Greeks. Your 262146. Are asking B.A.D. to arrange re-assignment of B.Y.M.S. to Greeks. Signal is being repeated to you. (2) Till then should prefer U.S. Liaison Officer not to approach Washington. (Head of M.11, O21717A to C. in C. Levant, (R) C. in C. Med.)

TIENTSIN 1. Your O11938 name of tug TIENTSIN 1 C. in C. Levant 311944 refers. (F.O.R.S.C.A. O21718B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant N.O.I.C. Port Sudan.)

EILDON, TORFINN, JARL, CORVUS. Intend to sail at 1700/3rd to Augusta for orders. Details. (4) Codeword "Tailcoat". (5) Escorted by EDAY, M.L.232. (N.O.I.C. Bari, O21800)

Minesweepers. My 312323B (N.T. in W.R.) ROMNEY. E.T.A. position E 0200/3rd with WHITEHAVEN 7 miles east of E. Intend SOOTY to alter course to 111 degs. to intercept ROOK at 0730/3rd in 032 degs. 45' N. 022 degs. 57' E and cover to 20 degs. E. (S.O.14th M/S.F. O21915B to S.N.O. Cyrenaica, ROMNEY, 247 Wing. (R) C. in C. Levant, BURRA.)

Attack on U.S. A/C by Spanish A/C. Following Comnavnaw's O21703 addressed C. in C. Allied Force Cominch, C. in C. Med. Begins: Summary of attacks on U.S. A/C by supposedly Spanish aircraft based in the Canary Islands. (Details). On 27th Oct. U.S. patrol aeroplanes were attacked by aircraft resembling Fiat C.R.42 approx. 6 miles East of Las Palmas. Approx 10 hits were scored on plane 73 - P - resulting in one minor personnel casualty. On Oct. 28th Venturas 44 and 45 (corrupt group) Canary Islands sweeps were cruising at 4000 feet 4 miles off shore at 150 knots

War Diary.2.11.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Attack on
U.S. A/C
by Spanish
A/C.
(Contd.)

past the airfield Gando 10 miles south of Las Palmas when a biplane resembling Italian Fiat took off from the field and approached U.S. planes. Fiat climbed on tail of U.S. planes which went to 6000 feet and turned heading directly away from the island. Fiat paced U.S. planes from 7000 feet then turned towards them apparently to start an offensive run.

U.S. planes gained altitude and attacked. As U.S. planes closed range Fiat headed for Las Palmas. U.S. plane turned to prevent going over the city at which time Fiat again approached. U.S. planes then made another attack following Fiat to within 3 miles of the city of Las Palmas. U.S. planes did not go closer than 3 miles because A/A fire was bursting in the vicinity. As Fiat was seen to land on beach instead of airfield assume probable hits scored.

On October 30th P.B.Y. - 5 A operating out of Agadir on sweep of Canary Island observed heavy A/A fire off Las Palmas, Laisleta Gran Canaria, also A/A fire was observed from shore emplacements 1/2 miles north Arrecife Lanzarote.

Biplane resembling C.R.42 Fiat trailed U.S. plane for 15 minutes 0857 off Las Palmas. U.S. plane was 6 miles off shore at all times. On 1st Nov. while on A/S sweep 7 miles east of Melenara Bay Gran Canaria 73 - P - 11 was attacked 3 times by A/C resembling Fiat C.R.42 approx. 40 large Calibre hits scored and slight injuries to 3 crew.

Fire was returned registering hit on Fiat resulting in damage. Pilot 73 - P 11 believes but did not observe Fiat ditched at sea. Enemy S/M has been recently sighted off Puerto Venhura.

In view of above I have informed Commorseafron that our patrol planes are justified in taking immediate defensive action on close approach of similar planes in Canary Islands area. Territorial waters should be avoided so far as is consistent with successful accomplishment of mission.

As it is a known fact that the Spanish Air Commander in Las Palmas is friendly with and unduly dominated by Nieman, Chief of Nazi Espionage, consideration should be given to the possibility of deliberate collaboration in attempt to deny observation from area.

Recommend immediate diplomatic representation to prevent recurrence (C. in C. Med. 022005A to Admty. (R) B.N.A. Madrid, Comnavnaw)

Turkish
territorial
waters.

M.S.G.O. No.56 para. 5.
Cancel reference Turkish territorial waters. Ships are not to be attacked inside these waters until further orders but situation should be reported by signal.
(C. in C. Levant, 022010B to Levant Fleet S. and A. Aegean. (R) Admty, C. in C. Med.)

CORRIDONI.

Arrived 2nd Oct.
(N.O.I.C. C.P. (?P.P.), 022020B)

Algiers /...

War Diary.2.11.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd..Algiers
Movements.Arrivals GABBIANO (It) APE (It) SCMITARRE (It)
NARRAGANSETT (U.S.S.) ULTIMATUM (P.34).
Departures A. GOELAND (Fr) THRUSTER.
(Com. Algeria, 022029A)U.S.
Movements.Arrivals MERAK, SWAY.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 022031)

TRIDENT.

Sail TRIDENT to pass:
(A) 031 degs. 48' 032 degs. 34' at 1450B/4th.
(B) 034 degs. 08' 021 degs. 54' at 0800B/7th for
onward route as ordered by Capt. (S) 10.
Speed $8\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
(C. in C. Levant, 022036B to N.O.I.C. Port Said,
(R) Ships Western Desert, N. and A.A. Western
Desert N. and A.A. East of Alex., V.A. Malta,
Capt. (S) 1, C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant.
Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 10, Admty. R.A. Alex.)

AURORA.

Can AURORA be accepted at Taranto for armament
damage repairs, A.S. Alexandria, 011834 Nov. and
for completion of collision damage repairs and
retubing superheaters. My 271855 and A.M. 292035

Oct. If so when can you accept her.

(C. in C. Levant, 022042B to F.O.T.A. (R) C. in C. Med. Admty.
N.O.I.C. Alexandria, A.S. Alexandria, C.S.12, V.A. Malta, AURORA)

Following is repetition of A.S.L's 011834 (N.T. in W.D.)

(Begins) Preliminary survey of damage to AURORA. Bomb struck
aft side of after funnel and exploded on impact or immediately
afterwards. Extensive blast and splinter damage to funnel
and adjacent structures and fittings. Details.(2) Permanent repairs could be carried out at Alexandria at the
expense of work of lower priority, with exception of manufacture
of new funnel which is beyond resources of Alexandria. Repairs
to existing funnel which would permit full use of B boiler room
could be effected.(3) Estimated time required with full priority is 10 weeks,
providing certain items available from U.K. or other sources
outside Levant.(4) If ship is to proceed to another port for permanent repairs
estimated time required to effect temporary repairs for steaming
on all boilers is 3 weeks. In this period 4 inch h.a. armament
could be restored in (corrupt group) together with full short
range A/A armaments, and all torpedo tubes.(5) Ship could be prepared to proceed to another port on? one
boiler room in one week from receipt of instruction. In this
case it is anticipated that h.a. armament would be restored as
above but port torpedo tubes would not be usable. (Ends.)(C. in C. Levant, 022310B to Admty., F.O.T.A., C. in C. Med.,
V.A. Malta.)

Italian /...

War Diary.2.11.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Italian Movements. 2nd Departures FALAGA, ANOBHISCERA (sic).
(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 022200A)

S/Ms carrying (a) SEVERN returning after 24 hours at sea with stores to Leros. main and auxiliary engine defects which will probably require one month's refit. RORQUAL for docking 8th Nov. then sailing for Leros. Overdue for refit in U.K. which should not be postponed very long.

(b) Italian ZOEА, CORRIDONI, MENOTTI and ATROPO have each delivered one cargo. CORRIDONI, MENOTTI, ATROPO on return passage 2 having experienced engine trouble at Leros. ZOEА sailing for 2nd trip 3rd.

BRAGAINO useless and not worth refitting. Relief has been requested but seems unlikely to materialise.

CAGNI now at Durban reported to require long refitting.

(2) Italian S/Ms are in poor condition generally and unlikely to run for long. Serious breakdowns appear likely after another trip each.

(3) Unloading S/Ms during 14 days of moonlight period is not practicable as S/Ms are defenceless against bombing while unloading. Personnel can however be unloaded except about 4 days either side of full moon.

(4) In view of above, do not consider S/Ms are likely to deliver more than an average of 15 tons per day, even supposing Italians continue to run.

(C. in C. Levant, 022230B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.L.I. Capt. (S) 1, G.H.Q.M.E.)

C. in C. M.E. 380470 0/30164 2 Nov.

Cositrep 43. (1) Int. Aegean.

(A) Chios Ph. R/C morning 1st showed slight increase in caiques. (Total now 55). Int. sources report no abnormal activity.

(B) Ph. R/c Kos/Kalimno area 1st showed no significant change.

(C) Ph. R/c elsewhere failed owing to weather. Five small vessels believed naval auxiliaries sighted at Naxos.

Comment. May be concerned with mopping up operations in Cyclades.

(2) Ops. Aegean.

(A) Samos. 100 personnel Greek Sacred Sdn. dropped on Samos night 31st Oct/1 Nov.

(B) Kastelorizo. Survivors ex ECLIPSE and HURWORTH strength 4 Buffs, 13 O.R.'s ECLIPSE, 1 Offr. 7 ratings. HURWORTH 5 ratings arrived island 1 Nov.

(3) Yugoslavia.

(B) Dalmatia. Brit. L.O. reports following. First. Three German attacks from Split WJ.93 against Trogir WU.84 repelled. German cols attempting move from Sinju X.Q.16 to Imotski X.Q.63 forced to retire. Three German and Ustachi attacks on island of Brac have been repelled.

Second. Bitter fighting Peljesac Peninsula continues.

31 Oct. partisans recaptured Trpanji X.V.68 and now also hold Gornja Vrucica X.V.68 Podstup N.E.69 and Donja Vrucica X.V.68.

(4) Naval. Aegean. L.C.T. 4 escorted by French sloop arrived Kastelorizo at 2200B/1.

War Diary.2.11.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

C. in C. M.E. (5) Air.
Cositrep 43. (A) Own. 1 Nov. Operations restricted by
(Contd.) unserviceability Cyrenaica landing grounds.
Night 1/2 Nov. Four Wellingtons anti-shipping
R/C Western Aegean. No sightings. One Welling-
ton bombed Melos harbour with unobserved results.
Six Dakotas successfully dropped personnel and supplies on Samos.
(B) Enemy. 31 Oct. One R/C aircraft over Leros. No other
activity reported. Ph. R/C Rhodes.
(C. in C. M.E. No.T.O.O.)

Levant
Situation
Report
No.98.

PETARD, BELVOIR left Mandelyah Gulf last night
passed North of Leros dropped delay action devices
off Kalimno and withdrew to Alexandria. No
incidents reported.
(2) DULVERTON, BEAUFORT, PINDOS lay up in the Gulf
of Doris today 2nd. Intend to proceed to Leros
tonight to land stores and personnel then withdraw
to Mandelyah Gulf to lie up on the third.
(3) PHOEBE returned to Alexandria today and sails again tonight
with FAULKNER, ECHO, PENN and PATHFINDER for Aegean via Cyprus
where destroyers will complete with oil from PHOEBE. Destroyers
have on board 750 personnel and 80 tons stores for Leros.
(4) SEVERN sailed Beirut 1st with personnel and stores for Leros
but is returning with engine defects arriving a.m. 3rd.
(5) UNSPARING returning from Patrol after damage by gunfire from
armed caique reports sinking one M.V. and one R-Boat both with
troops on board. Dates not reported.
(C. in C. Levant, 022330B)

War Diary2.11.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Naval Assault Groups and Forces, organisation. As a result of inspections carried out by me at Bombay and discussions I have had with S.O. Force G, I am impressed by the need for arrangements to be brought into force at an early date for the better ordering of minor landing craft flotillas, naval beach commando and beach signal sections.

- (2) Proposals put forward by S.O. Force G with which I am in entire agreement are as follows:-
- (A) Units referred to in para.1. when employed in overseas operations to be organized into operational groups under command of a captain (S.N.O.L.) they should retain a permanent character and be styled naval assault group followed by a number. Four or less naval assault groups form a naval assault force; example force G.
- (4) Under this arrangements L.C.M. flotillas would not form permanent part of naval assault groups but would be attached as required for specific operations in the same way as major landing craft flotillas L.S.Ts. and other naval units.
- (5) During operations assault group leader must leave area immediately troops are disembarked S.N.L.O. then transfers to smaller ship from which he controls his sector until unloading is completed. This calls for capable executive officer in assault group leader to assume command until S.N.O.L. rejoins two or three weeks later.
- (6) Shall be grateful if early consideration may be given to these proposals.
- (C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) 020242Z to Admty. (R) S.O. Force C., S.O. Force G., S.O. Force F., C.C.O. S.A.C.S.E.A. SALSETTE, D.C.O.(I)

LURLINE Sailed 0200Z/2nd Nov. LURLINE Melbourne 15th Nov. escorted at knots 11. (Route). (Bombay 020328Z).

P.B.60A Departure LAWRENCE escorting P.B.60 A. (N.O.i/c Karachi, 020337Z to Admty.).

STORVIKEN, TAHSINIA re loss. Your 281437. (A) Master and Chief Officer state that STORVIKEN passed outside SOCOTRA according to instructions. Ship however appears to have made good a speed of over 8 knots against a declared speed of 7 knots zig-zagging. (B) It is possible that TAHSINIA might not have encountered submarines had she received diversion signal earlier. Signal was first broadcast at 1714/30. (C. in C.E.F., 020948 to Admty.).

M.B.53 Convoy sailing telegram. (2) 1005/2/11. (3) R.V. Cochin 0230Z/4th E.T.A. Bombay 0530Z/7th. (4) 8 knots. (6) LAUNCESTON, CARNATIC, NETRAVATI "not" "V". (N.C.S.O. Colombo, 021005Z to Admty.).

/SEARCHER...

War Diary

2.11.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

SEARCHER
flag of
R.A.E.C.

Intend to hoist my flag in SEARCHER at 0900/3rd.
(R.A.E.C.E.F. 021235A to Admty. (R) F.O.C.T.,
F.O.I.C. Greenock, SEARCHER).

HAWKINS

Intend to sail HAWKINS from Diego Suarez p.m. 3rd
to proceed east of Madagascar to 024 degs. 00' S.
048 degs. 00' E. thence 034 degs. 30' S. 025
degs. 50' E. thence coastwise to Simonstown.
(2) S. of A. 17 knots E.T.A. Simonstown 0500Z/10th.
(3) C. in C.E.F's. 240630 refers.
(R.A.E.F. 022323 to C. in C.S.A. (R) C. in C.E.F., N.O.i/c
Diego Suarez, C.S. Simonstown, Admty.).

War Diary2.11.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

KHEDIVE This is a re-encypherment of P.D. Norfolk 012029 sent Action to Com. Tenth Fleet C and R., C.E.S.F., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C.C.N.A., Com. Four F.O.N.F. P.D. New York, Infor. Admty.

KHEDIVE will depart 1300Z/2nd New York via X.S. thence N. 37.13 North 74.04 West, O. 39.52 North, 72.59 West thence destination. Speed 15. International Call Sign MRXE. (P.D. Norfolk 020025).

VAGRANT (This is a re-encypherment of Port Director Key West's 011904 to Com. Gulf Sea Fron. Com. Tenth Fleet, C. and R Action).

"Ref, 252109 Oct. originated by Cominch, VAGRANT departed Key West 1st Nov. 1810 for Bermuda. Due 5th Nov." (Radio Washington 020230Z to N.O.B. Bermuda, S.B.N.O.W.At., F.O. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med., Admty.).

Air Squadrons Information is requested as to Admiralty re-action and Bay to my 272059+. Are Admiral King's proposals to be Offensive. accepted?

(B.A.D. 021135Z to Admty.).

+ Anti submarine work by aircraft in Bay.

E.G.B.3. (1) E.T.A. Argentia in TOWY 1730Z/2nd.
(2) Corvette as signalled by NARCISSUS.
(S.O. Escort Group B.3., 021146Z to F.O.N.F.).

B.Y.M.S. Your 312019 Oct. Request permission to retain B.Y.M.S. 57 and 161 to assist in clearance of minefield and sail them in company with B.Y.M.S. at present at St. Johns on completion. Estimate approx. 15 sweeping days required.
(F.O.N.F. 021259Z to C. in C.C.N.A. (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q.).

M.M.S.253 Following received from M.M.S. 253 (Begins): Repairs completed, proceeding to destination 021045 (ends).
(F.O.N.F. 021315Z to S.B.N.O. Azores, (R) C. in C.C.N.A.).

A.T.72, Sailed as in my 311435 departure Chebucto 1400Z/2nd. MAURETANIA. (C. in C.C.N.A. 021337Z to Admty.).

C.U.6. "Borden" is fighter protection codeword for C.U.6. Codeword. U.S.S. SCOTTISH give to C.T.G. 21.7.
(Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet C. & R., 021421Z to C.T.G. 21.7, Admty., (R) Comcaribseafon, N.O.B. Bermuda, S.B.N.O. Azores, C.A.F.A.C.).

2.11.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

ARCTURUS A.M. 251932/August.
Intend giving ARCTURUS a few days shake down and sail ship to U.K. as additional escort H.X.265. (C. in C.C.N.A., 021448Z to Admty.).

U.S.A.T. Departure Vieux Fort 2000Z/1st U.S.A.T. STATE OF VIRGINIA for Trinidad. (B.R.O. Castries 021450).
Arrival and departure 1st Nov. U.S.A.T. STATE OF MARYLAND for High Seas. (Aruba 021601Z).
Arrivals 2nd U.S.A.T. W.H. HILMER. (R.O. Port of Spain, 022019).

N.S.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q. 021515Z).
S/M
Estimate.

U.S. S/M (Cominch, 021517Z).
Estimate.

A.T.71 Com.10th Flt. (C and R) for action.
(QUEEN Departure Ambrose 1630Z/3rd Nov. QUEEN ELIZABETH ELIZABETH). (A.T.71) Clyde. E.T.A. Little Cumbrae 0300Z/9 Nov. S.of A. 26.5. (Route).
Fighter protection codeword "Battle" with call sign 126. Chop 1800Z/5th.
(P.D. New York, 021656Z to Admty.).

Convoys H.X. To avoid convoy routes crossing in an area subject and S.C.,O.N. to much fog would prefer to move both routes to and O.N.S. northward as follows:
routeing. (A) H.X. and S.C. Amend first position to read 45 degs. N. 50 degs. W.
 (B) O.N. and O.N.S. Amend from 42.51 N. 40.1 W. to 44 degs. N. 50 degs. W. and then to 42.01 N. 59.58 W. Request your concurrence.
(2) Your 282221 refers.
(D.T.D. 021830A to N.S.H.Q. (R) C. in C.C.N.A., C. in C.W.A., F.O.N.F.).

T.J.13 Sailing telegram.
(2) 2130Z/2nd November.
(4) 8 knots (6 knots Cape St. Roque).
(Route).
(6) U.S.S. SURPRISE, U.S. SS. JOHN D. FORD., U.S. 495, 609, 610, GURUPI (Braz).
(B.R.L.O. Trinidad 021838Q to Admty.).

H.H.X. 264 Departures SALISBURY, LEAMINGTON, ROXBOROUGH, KENORA, escorting H.H.X.264.
(C. in C.C.N.A., 021849Z to Admty.).

/AJAX...

War Diary.2.11.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

- AJAX. Modify my 271736 and 292037 both Oct. to allow ship to fuel Horta Azores en route.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 022006Z to N.O.B. Bermuda, (R) S.B.N.O.W.At., S.B.N.O. Azores, AJAX, C. in C. W.A. Admty F.O.C. Gib).
(This is re-encypherment of P.D. Norfolk's 021525 action to Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet C & R., F.O.C. Gib. N.O.B. Bermuda, S.B.N.O. W.At., Admty. C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, S.B.N.O. Azores, C. in C. Portsmouth, Cdr. E.A.F., (R) N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F. C. in C. C.N.A.) AJAX will depart 2200Z/2nd. Portsmouth England via Bermuda. Routed point XS thence J. 034° 30' N. 070° 01' W. K. 032° 39' N. 064° 18' W. L. 032° 16' N., 064° 18' W. thence to Bermuda. Onward routeing as follows - all positions N. & W. unless otherwise indicated. M. 034° 45' 053° 40' N. 037° 05' 042° 10'. O. 038° 45' 030° 30'. P. 044° 50' 024° 40'. Q. 049° 30' 018° 01' R. 049° 45' 008° 25' speed 20. HF Bermuda 041100Z. (Navcom. Washington, 022045Z).
- O.N. 207 Boston section arrived 021950Z.
(U.S.P.D. Boston, 022016Z to Com. 10th U.S. Fleet)
- FRIENDSHIP,
SEAWOLF. Owing to delay of FRIENDSHIP cancel my 292059.
(2) Fully anticipate however, that SEAWOLF torpedoes can be delivered to New London by service opportunity to arrive by 11th if desired.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 022036Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., B.A.R.M., R.O. Philadelphia, SEAWOLF)
- Sub. attack and sighting summary. All times Z. Para. A. JAMES LONGSTREET total loss from marine causes 40.27 N., 72.00 W. 26th Oct. BERNARDO en route West Palm Beach to San Juan burned total loss 29th Oct.
U.S.S. BORIE rammed sunk sub. area 50.00 N., 30.42 W. a.m./1st Nov.
- Para. D. Brazilian LUIZ sights sub. area 25.00 S., 47.30 W. 0300/31st Oct.
(Cominch, 022130Z to Admty).
- St. John's minesweeping. Your 171506Z/10th (N.T. in W.R.) Partial search of St. John's and St. John's - Wabana Channels.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns, 022135Z to N.S.H.Q.)
- EMILE
BERTIN. As executive agent of C.C.S. in collaboration with B.A.D. and as desired by the French Naval Mission in U.S. Reference appendix B.C.C.S. 358 (revised) initial employment French cruiser EMILE BERTIN designated Mediterranean under Allied Naval C. in C.
(Cominch and C.N.O., 022209Z to Admty. C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Med., Chief of French Naval Mission in U.S. Info. C.C.S. C. of S. U.S. Army, C. in C. Lant, B.A.D.)
- DUFF,
ESSINGTON. At 2000/2nd sailed DUFF to U.K. via Great Circle speed 17 knots. Request you will signal final destination.
(2) ESSINGTON will be allocated additional escort S.C.146 vide your 301220A (301222 intended) and C. in C. N.W. At. 311731.
(F. O.N.F., 022254Z to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary2.11.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

MATAGORDA This is U.S.S. MATAGORDA's 021656 addressed to N.O.B. Casablanca, C. in C.W.A. and Comnavu. MATAGORDA departs Bristol U.K. 030700 for Casablanca passing through following positions. S. of A. 16 knots. E.T.A. Buoy M 071100 "Chop" 05740. (Comnavu 022246Z to Admty.).

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest Eleven Liberators bombed nickel plant and wharf
Serial No.651 area Pomela afternoon causing large explosion
Nov. 1st. near jetty. Two freighters observed near Pomela
also numerous small craft.
(3) Midday patrol Liberator attacked 1 transport
of 8,000 tons, 1 large Seatruck 30 miles west New Hanover.
Transport sunk.
(4) Before dawn Navy Catalina reported 2 subchasers escorting
barges course 200 degs. off northwest coast Gazelle Peninsula.
Later attacked 2 medium freighters 2 possible destroyes off north
coast New Britain heading north east scoring three near misses.
(7) Allies landed in force Cape Torokina Empress Augusta Bay west
coast Bougainville dawn 1st Nov. Some enemy aircraft interfered
necessitating temporary withdrawal landing craft but nil other
opposition reported. Morning 30th Oct. 16 unescorted Liberators
bombed Kara Airfield followed by 68 Dauntless 27 Avengers 22
Corsairs 16 Aircobras eight Kittyhawks bombing and strafing.
Target area well covered. Corsairs proceeded to Tonolei Harbour
strafing shipping and water front. About 100 small craft much
activity observed. Afternoon same date 24 Corsairs, 12 Aircobras
again struck shipping Tonolei Harbour and sank 1 small freighter,
destroyed or damaged nine barges two small craft. Next morning
19 unescorted Liberators again hit Kara Aerodrome followed by 34
Dauntless 24 Avengers 16 each Corsairs, Kittyhawks, Aircobras and
shortly afterwards by 23 Mitchells 16 Corsairs. Subsequent
photos show Kahili Ballale unserviceable with 83 craters over
entire length Kara runway. Photographs forenoon 1st disclose
Kara serviceable Kahili possibly so Ballale unserviceable. Six
fighters on Kahili three Ballale 2 of doubtful serviceability Kara.
(9) Afternoon 30th four Centuras six Mitchells, 12 Aircobras
32 Corsairs attacked airfield and shipping Kieta from minimum
height. Three small freighters left on fire, 4 strafed also two
barges. Three Corsairs lost but 2 pilots saved.
(10) Preliminary reports state U.S. Cruiser and Destroyer Task
Force effectively shelled Buka Bonis area before dawn 1st Nov.
followed at daybreak by successful heavy air strike same targets.
Photos forenoon first reveal four fifths Buka Passage runway
serviceable with one medium bomber thereon. Task Force shelled
Faisi Ballale while retiring silencing shore batteries Bonis

/strip...

2.11.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest strip also serviceable.
Serial (11) Search plane reported 2 heavy cruisers, 2
No.651 Nov.1st light cruisers, 6 destroyers 60 miles southeast
(Contd.). Cape Saint George course three 30 degs. morning
1st. Force tracked to entrance Saint Georges
Channel. Nil contact this force and our surface
units.
(12) Two medium ships observed early hours 1st Nov. 30 miles
west of Buka Passage course two 80 degs. Same time 1 small
merchantman, 4 possible patrol craft slightly north of other ships
heading southeast.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 020838Z).

Movements Arrived Brisbane 31st U.S.S. LONG ISLAND.
(A.C.N.B. 021041Z).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 021435, 021440).

Submarines Attacked

Submarine Para.A. Br. NEW COLUMBIA torpedoed and sunk at
attack and 2030/31st Oct. in 04 degs. 25' N. 05 degs. 03' E.
sighting ULTIMATUM attacked U-boat at 2259/31st Oct. in
summary for W. Med. no further details.
24 hours to TAVY attacked U-boat at 0137/2nd Nov. in 46 degs.
0900Z/2nd. 15' N. 18 degs. 40' W.
DOUGLAS attacked U-boat on 31st Oct. in Straits
of Gibraltar.
Ref. A.M. 311021Z para.A. SCARBOROUGH attacked
U-boat at 0615/31st Oct. in 45 degs. 50' N. 20 degs. 25' W.
Para.B. A/C reported U-boat contact at 1850/1st Nov. in 36 degs.
41' N. 02 degs. 30' W.
Para.D. A/C sighted periscope and wake at 1322/1st Nov. in
27 degs. 57' N. 14 degs. 05' W.
(D.D.I.C. 021016Z to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.).

3.11.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- Operation S.F. 1. All air patrols were cancelled today and tonight on account of the weather.
- Operation "Stonewall". 2. GLASGOW sailed this morning from Plymouth, to carry out anti-blockade breaker patrol in the Bay of Biscay approaches. On account of the weather, the only air patrols flown in the area today were by Gibraltar based aircraft, and no patrols were flown tonight.
- E-Boat attack on C.W.221. 3 Ships Sunk. 3 (a) E-Boats attacked Convoy C.W.221 at 0005 today, midway between Dungeness and Beachy Head. WHITSHED engaged the enemy for about 2 hours and claims that 3 of them were damaged, one of which probably sank. SS. FOAM QUEEN and DONA ISABEL were reported sunk, (though the former is also reported to have been towed to Dover) and SS. STORRA is missing, presumed sunk. (b) C. in C. Portsmouth intends to make a M.G.B. covering Force available for C.E. and C.W. convoys in future, and considers that they should not now sail without an Escort including at least two Destroyers.
- Fog. 4. S.O. E.G.4 reported at 2335Z today 2 or more ships in H.X. 263 in collision in thick weather in 55.39 N. 23.24 W. (about 450 miles W.N.W. of Blacksod Bay). Three ships were apparently concerned, but all were able to proceed in spite of damage.
- Group "O". 5. Coastal craft group "O", consisting of 5 B.Y.M.S. and H.M.R.T. PROSPEROUS sailed from Milford Haven for Gibraltar today. PROSPEROUS had to return to Milford Haven on the evening of 4 November, escorting B.Y.M.S. 53 which was leaking badly (arrived Milford Haven 051733A)
- Air Attack on Wilhelmshaven. 6. 565 aircraft of U.S.VIII Bomber Command with fighter escort attacked Wilhelmshaven today. Results were not seen.

War Diary.3.11.1943.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.North Atlantic.Landing
Ships.

7. Four landing ships sailed from Gibraltar today for the U.K.

Mediterranean.K.M.S.30
attacked.

8. SS. MONTVISO in Convoy K.M.S.30 was sunk by U-Boat at 0100 today in 36.45 N. 01.55 E. (about 40 miles west of Algiers).

Avalanche.

9. (a) A feint landing was carried out in the Gulf of Gaeta last night. The operation was uneventful, but a satisfactory diversion was obtained.

(b) Destroyers bombarded the harbour of Durazzo last night, results were not observed.

(c) The 78th Divn. (8th Army, 5th Corps) attacked across the River Trigno with naval and air support this morning, QUEENBOROUGH and RAIDER carrying out a successful bombardment. The destroyers then proceeded to patrol south of Valma tonight but met nothing.

(d) Italian M.A.S. boat M.S.33 with two British Naval Officers attempted last night to recover prisoners of war from a beach north of Pescara. M.A.S. 33 was set on fire and sunk by cannon fire from the beach in 42.32 N. and the fate of the Italian crew is not known. The two British Officers on board escaped by schooner bringing with them one P.O.W. and 9 S.A.S. personnel. On 5 Nov. the German news reported that an attempted landing north of Pescara (date not given) had been repulsed and that one fast M.T.B. had been sunk.

(e) U.S. patrol boats report sinking a 4000 ton escorted tanker east of Elba at 0130 today. One P.T. boat was damaged by the enemy's fire, but there were no casualties.

(f) Coastal forces operating from Maddalena report engaging a U-Boat at 2330 today and forcing the enemy to take refuge in San Stephano (42.27 N. 11.07 E.)

Air Attack
on
Civitavecchia.

(g) 24 U.S. Marauders escorted, dropped 35 tons of bombs on Civitavecchia today. A 410 ft. merchant ship was hit amidships, many small craft were destroyed or damaged in the harbour, and damage was caused to the docks, buildings and the marine railway.

66

3.11.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Aegean.

10 (a) Bad weather and the enemy's lack of landing craft in the area appear still to be holding up any assault on Leros. Landing craft are reported to have been arriving at Piraeus by rail. At 0830 today an aircraft sighted 13 landing craft and 2 E-Boats in Lavrion Channel (Ergasteria Bay, Greek mainland), steering N.N.E.
(b) PHOEBE sailed from Alexandria at 1500 today with FAULKNER, ECHO, PENN and PATHFINDER for the Aegean via Cyprus where the destroyers completed with oil from PHOEBE, the latter returned to Haifa on 4 Nov. to refuel.
(c) ALDENHAM and MIAOULES left Alexandria tonight for the Aegean.

Australia and New Zealand.

11 (a) 3 hours after dawn today 19 Liberators attacked an enemy convoy of destroyers and 3 large merchant ships which had been located at dawn 165 miles north-east of Kavieng, New Ireland. A large freighter was hit and left settling and a smaller cargo vessel was damaged.
(b) Last night, a patrol aircraft hit and it is believed sank a freighter 70 miles S.E. of Cape Saint George, New Ireland.

12. During the early hours of today a patrol Liberator made direct hits and near misses on a probable tanker of 6000 to 10,000 tons off the west coast of north-west Gazelle Peninsula. A great explosion and flames followed until the vessel disappeared.

13. 18 Mitchells effectively bombed and gunned barges and installations in the Madang area (north coast of New Guinea) this morning; and 21 aircraft attacked barge staging at Fortification Point (15 miles north of Fuischhafen) and near Gio this afternoon.

War Diary.3.11.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

ZEEHOND Dutch S/M ZEEHOND (Ex STURGEON) is allocated for A/S training at Bermuda.
(ex STURGEON) (2) Request ZEEHOND be sailed for Bermuda at your earliest convenience.
(D.O.D.(H), 031136A to F.O.S.)

Destroyer It is intended to allocate fleet destroyers allocations. ultimately as follows:-
8 "T"s (24th D.F.) to Eastern Fleet.
8 "U"s (25th D.F.) to Mediterranean Fleet.
8 "V"s (26th D.F.) and ESKIMO, ASHANTI, TARTAR to Home Fleet.

(2) It is not intended to transfer TROUBRIDGE, TYRIAN, TUMULT and TEAZER from the Mediterranean before the end of the year.
(V.C.N.S. 031326A to C. in C. H.F., Med. Levant, E.F.)

19th The 19th Minesweeping Flotilla is required for M/S.F. service in the Mediterranean and to relieve 14th M.S.F.
(2) The Flotilla, negative ARCTURUS, ANTARES will be required to arrive at convoy assembly-port not later than 1st December.
(3) ARCTURUS, ANTARES will be sailed to join the Flotilla on completion of working-up programme.
(D.M.S. 031332A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Russian Your 011042C para.3.
Procedure. Neither have I; and, if Soviet Government believed that, why have they not said so before. I do not consider there is any truth in accusation, in fact there is ample evidence to show that friendly contact between British and Russian personnel is discouraged and even condemned by the political department.
(2) You are aware of this attitude, the isolation imposed on the British, the warning-off of any friendship with Russians, the restriction on any social visits to British messes in ships etc. British personnel are accustomed to take people (? as) they find them, they neither understand nor like this ban. Small wonder that they become bitter after a while at being treated like lepers. The censorship of their mail was the last straw.
(3) Similarly with Russian personnel, particularly those who have been abroad such as crews of submarines. They cannot understand why they should not be allowed to mix with British here after doing so freely elsewhere.
(4) That many Soviet Officers feel humiliated by the treatment we receive has been made clear to me on several occasions. I am convinced that given the removal of political control etc. the two navies could get together as is our habit in all parts of the world. That is the crux of the problem.
(5) With the present policy how can a charge of an offensive attitude on our part be substantiated when we are not even allowed to get to know our opposite numbers. As far as I know, no

British /...

3.11.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Russian
procedure
(Contd.)

British Officer or man has ever been invited privately to a Russian's quarter in Kola Inlet. On the other hand we have done what we can to break this barrier but without making any headway due to above.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 031414A to Ad. Fisher)

HOPETOWN II
(ROYAL
SOVERIEGN)

As ROYAL SOVEREIGN is being placed on C. and M. basis and being utilised as accommodation-ship for units of Force S with no Cypher Staff, intend to allocate her the nom de plume of HOPETOWN II as from 5th November.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 031430 to Admty.)

Movements.

DURBAN.

Convoy being shadowed by 1 enemy A/C in 49 degs. 31 N. 14 degs. 32' W. course 088 degs. Speed 18 knots.

(DURBAN, 030748Z to Admty.)

Am being shadowed by one enemy A/C at 1000 feet.

My P.C.S. 49 degs. 32' N. 12 degs. 48' W. 088 degs. 16 knots.

(DURBAN, 031155Z to Whitehall W/T)

Must call Plymouth for fuel. E.T.A. 1015A/4th.

FF Mark 5 not carried.

(DURBAN, 032057A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Your 032057. Covering.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 032330A to DURBAN)

S/M.

Movements.

STONEHENGE leaving vicinity Bishop Rock at 2359/5th. to 049 degs. 10' N. 009 degs. W.

(G) Thence by route Red to cross 043 degs. N. at 2200A/10 thence as ordered by F.O.C.

Gibraltar, daily advance 120 miles.

(Capt. (S) 5, 030945A to F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

Intend to sail STONEHENGE escorted by CHASSEUR V at 0700/5 from Needles by Standard Convoy route leaving D.3 buoy to arrive 180 degs. Bishop Rock 10 miles at 2359.

(2) From this position STONEHENGE proceeds as in my 030945.

(Capt. (S) 5, 030950A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

RANGER.

Andr. Des. Sqd. 20 in FORREST proceed to pass Switha and CORRY Hoxa at 0830A/4th to R/V with RANGER off Eyebroughy Buoy Firth of Forth at 1830A/4th.

(2) When met provide escort to Scapa.

(R.A.D. 031225A to U.S.C.D.S.20)

S/M

Movements.

Positions of S/M's at 0800A/4 and movements for following 24 hours.

(F.O.S.031629A, 040913A)

3.11.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

MATAGORDA. Sailed my 021612A.
(N.O.I.C. Avonmouth, 031105A to Commorseafon)

NELSON. E.T.A. position G 2100A/4. Cape Wrath 2200A/5.
(NELSON, 031631 to C. in C. H.F.)

MALAYA. War Office have agreed to use of a berth off
Fasslane Military Port, Garloch for MALAYA.
(2) Request F.O.I.C. Greenock will arrange with
Port military authorities to accept MALAYA as soon as
possible.
(3) War Office have requested that if possible MALAYA should be
used for accommodating army personnel, approximately 500 in
number.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 031742A to C. in C. Plymouth)

**ROCKET,
TEAZER.** On parting company proceed through position
RA 050 degs. 27' N. 014 degs. 01' W.
RB 050 degs. 08' N. 012 degs. 07' W.
RC 180 degs Bishop Rock 7 miles and thence to
Plymouth. (2) C. in C. H.F. 311409A refers.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 031814A to ROCKET, TEAZER)

**Coastal
Craft
Group "O".** Admiralty's 211556 October and its amendments.
Coastal craft group "O" routed A.M. 172035 Feb.
as modified by A.M. 012011 June, through Q.Z.S.433.
Sailed B.Y.M.S.172 (S.O) 175, 171, 53, 56 and
PROSPEROUS. E.T.A. November 10th.
(F.O.I.C.Milford Haven, 031819A to F.O.C.Gibraltar)

Operations.

**Bay
Patrol.** My 021539A. Sailed GLASGOW.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 030731A to Admty.)

**A/S
Sweep
by E.G.2.** Weather forecast indicates increase of wind in
your area during the course of today. If flying
becomes impracticable withdraw to Western or
Eastern edge of area referred to in my 022303 until
the weather moderates when sweeps should be resumed.
(C. in C. W.A. 030955Z to E.G.2)

Your 022355. Concur.
(C. in C. W.A. 031131Z to E.G.2)

Your 030955Z. Weather unsuitable for flying. My P.C.S.
045 degs. 16' N. 041 degs. 40' W. 270 degs. 10 knots. All over
60% of fuel remains.
(E.G.2, 031300A to C. in C. W.A.)

Likely /...

3.11.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

A/S Likely (?area) of search for to-morrow within
Sweep circle of 100 and 20 miles radius from 045 degs.
by E.G.2. N. 042 degs. W. Weather forecast is however
(Contd.) strong south-westerly gale, easing towards
nightfall. Should flying prove impossible keep
clear of area to westward, return to search same
area from daybreak 5th unless otherwise ordered.

(2) Your 022355 and 031300 should have been given priority
immediate.

(C. in C. W.A. 032319Z to E.G.2)

Coastal Intend to sail M.G.B 318 at 1700/3rd to southward,
Force returning 0830/4th.
Patrols. (2) Request surface bombing restriction 5 miles
each side line joining Lizard Head and Porsal
Lock.

(N.O.I.C.Falmouth, 031010A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Orders for Night 3/4 November.

(A) 3 M.G.Bs, 3 M.T.Bs from Newhaven carry out offensive patrol
in area North of direct route Barfleur-Havre, East of 00 degs.
20' W. and West of 075 degs. YY 9 miles. Primary objective
torpedo-targets. Proceed and return by passage 4 or 2, passing
North end of passage at 2300A and returning to within 20 miles
of own coast by 0700A.

(B) CHASSEURS 11, 13 Patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between F and E.A. 5 buoys.

(C) M.L.291 immediate notice St. Helens.

(D) LA COMBATTANTE immediate notice Yarmouth.

(E) M.L.S. 233, 124, R.M.L. 522 patrolling 50 degs. 15' N. between
02 degs. 10' W. and 02 degs. 35' W.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 031351A)

M.Ls 137 and 139 at No.10 Buoy. E.T.D. 1800, E.T.R.0800/4.
M.L's 104, 102, 101, 107, 213, 128 and 573 carrying out Operation
N.L.110. Route via No.1 and U Buoys each way. E.T.D. 2100.
E.T.R. 0400/4.

M.T.Bs 353, 354 and 359 at No.7 Buoy. E.T.D. 1815 E.T.R. 0645/4.

M.G.B S.1 E.T.D. 1830 and M.G.B. 436 E.T.D. Ramsgate 1745
patrolling in vicinity of Bullock Bank, E.T.R. 0730/4 and
0815/4 respectively.

M.A.S.Bs 25 and 29 at V Buoy, E.T.D. Ramsgate 1830, E.T.R. 0730/4

(V.A. Dover, 031709A and 031819A to Admty.)

My 031551A. Force of 5 M.T.B's and 3 M.G.Bs is to proceed
at 1800A by passage four to patrol in following positions

3 M.T.B's in 252 degs. YY 16 miles.

3 M.G.B's and 2 M.T.B's in 243 degs YY 26 miles.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 031727A)

(1) Force 113. M.T.Bs 673, 677 are to patrol in vicinity
115 degs. Start Point 20.

(2) Force to proceed on patrol forthwith. Leave patrol for
Dartmouth 0630/4th. M.T.B 697 will be returning from South
about daylight.

(C. in C. Plymouth 032045A)

Operation
S.F.

Situation at 032101A.

M.S.F.15 vicinity 062 degs. 42' N. 013 degs. 50'
W. patrolling.

(A.C.I.C. 031432A to Ships)

3.11.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation S.F. (Contd.) My 022209A. All patrols cancelled, weather. (C. in C. Rosyth, 031539A to H.F.)
Weather permitting 7 Sunderlands, 8 Hudsons or Venturas, and one Catalina flying normal moorings November 4th.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 032310A to H.F.)

S/M Patrols. My 251354 October and I.S.O.H. 200 Para. 2.
S/M. Patrol Position. Object.
(1) SATYR T.8 B.and F.
(2) VENTURER T.9 B.and F.
(3) O.15 JJ F.and A.
(F.O.S. 031529A to Capt. (S) 3, (S) 9).

Position of submarines at 0800A/4 and movements for following 24 hours.
(a) SYRTIS, STUBBORN, VARANGIAN, and ULA as in my 011707.
(F.O.S. 031629A to Admty.)

V.P. Operation. My 021315A. Force returned at 1345.. Excessive darkness prevented entry into Leads.
(A.C.O.S.021607 to Admty.)

Operation F.S. Request you will sail BRISSENDEN to Hvalfiord with mails before she proceeds to join Force 4 in operation F.S.
(C. in C. H.F. 031629A to R.A.D.)
Your 031629. Intend sailing BRISSENDEN 0900/5.
(R.A.D. 032229A to C. in C. H.F.)

ALERT. Repair of Potharno-Fayal cable. Admiralty 021852A and C. in C. Plymouth's 301934A. Understand you are now collaborating in plan for provision of fighter cover. Request agreed views on forces you consider necessary and whether you can provide.
(Air Ministry, 031730A to C.C. F.C.)

Engagement with E-Boats off Hook. 4 E-Boats position 52 degs. 15' N. 04 degs. 00' E. (Unit S. 032121 to Nore)
Engaged by 4 E-Boats. Operated A.B. and used 617. Returning to waiting position. Remaining unit sweeping north from Hook Point.
(Unit S. 032120 to Harwich W/T)

Enemy Air Activity.

Boscombe. Damage on 1st November. Damage to dispersed sail-loft Boscombe by enemy action on 1st November.
(A) Production not affected.
(B) Casualties nil. (C) Nil.
(D) Considerable damage to room and wall of dispersed sail-loft, Boscombe.
(C. in C's Group Control, Portsmouth, 031335 to Admty.)

War Diary.

3.11.1943.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. - Contd.

A/C attacked. Air attack in 49 degs. 00' N. 09 degs. 00' W.
(A/C Duty L, 031340 to 19 Group)

Enemy Intelligence.

Trawler off Heligoland. At 1750 in 54 degs. 00' N. 07 degs. 35' E. 1 trawler, C.O. W'ly, speed 5 knots, no flak. Pilot continued on C.O. for 4 mins, then heard "O" giving position and x "attack" on V.H. Pilot A/C for position given and circled for 8 mins. but nothing seen, so continued on patrol. (North Coates, 032124A to 16 Group)

Technical.

"Foxyer" Gear. It is apparently not yet fully appreciated that in the circumstances when evasive tactics are not possible, E.G. when approaching a submerged U-Boat by day, the only defence against the Gnat at present available is "Foxyer" equipment.

(2) The use of this equipment undoubtedly makes A/S detection more difficult but trials with a submarine have shown that it need not be unduly so.

(3) In order that Escort fitted with "Foxyer" equipment shall have confidence in their ability to detect and hunt a U-Boat with "Foxyers" streamed it is important that every opportunity is taken to exercise this with a submarine.

(4) For such exercises the Londonderry Areas are unsuitable because the submarine cannot dive deep enough to clear the "Foxyer". Exercises can however be provided at Larne from 6th November and all groups with "Foxyer"-fitted ships should if possible apply for a period these will be next sailing on escort duty.

(C. in W.A. 031124A to E.G's 13 N.S.)

Reports indicate that the endurance of "Foxyers" is not as great as had been anticipated and also that ships are streaming displacer paravanes shortly after leaving harbour in order to carry out this evolution under reasonable weather conditions. This frequently leads to the gear being damaged and unfit for operation prior to the ship entering an area where U-Boats are known to be. It is not the intention to prevent ships exercising streaming and recovering "Foxyers", but until a more robust design is available the instructions contained in my 071216/10 para. 7 and A.C.1 138 para.22 should be closely adhered to.

(C. in C. W.A. 031121A to Ships)

Shipping and Convoys.

AMSTERDAM,
PRAGUE,
RIPLEY.

My 020830. Sailed (AMSTERDAM)
(N.C.S.O. Kirkwall, 030320A to A.C.O.S.)
My 021035. Sailed. Amend E.T.A. to read 0800/4.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 031904A to N.O.I.C. Invergordon)

War Diary.3.11.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. - Contd.

- B.7. My P.C.S. 056 degs. 19' N. 021 degs. 45' W.
095 degs. 18 $\frac{1}{2}$.
(VIDETTE 030902Z to C. in C. W.A.)
- P.W.425. My 021422. Sailing postponed on account of
weather.
(F.O.I.C.Portland, 030942 to C. in C. Plymouth)
- S.D.46. PRETORIA CASTLE is to be detached as requisite to
proceed Belfast to disembark Squadron stores and
personnel, thence to Clyde.
(C. in C. W.A. 031044A to Escorts S.D. 46)
- J.W.54A. F.O.H.F.311525. Intend these ships should proceed
with J.W. 54A.
(2) Request you will make arrangements for their
fuelling as in operation F.R. and sail them to
arrive Seidisfiord a.m. 15th November.
(C. in C. H.F. 031045A to A.C.I.C.)
- S.C.145. P.C.S. 056 degs. 57' N. 024 degs. 20' W. 098 degs.
8 knots. Intend detaching VANQUISHER to Liverpool
at 18 knots at 031800Z to expedite repair to
main dynamo.
(B.6, 031103Z to C. in C. W.A.)
- O.S.57/
K.M.S.31. KISTNA had probable A/S contact of S/M in thick
fog on starboard of convoy in 046 degs. 26',
022 degs. 52' at 0132Z today. No attack and
contact lost. My P.C.S. at 1200Z/3rd 045 degs.
07', 022 degs. 51', 175 degs. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$.
(E.G.40, 031301A to C. in C. W.A.)
- H/220 at 031445 on A/S escort to O.S.57 and K.M.F.31 in 45 degs.
00' N. 23 degs. 40' W. had S.E. contact. Course and speed of
convoy unknown.
(247 Group 032035Z to 15 Group)
- M.K.S.28. WHITEHALL and WRESTLER arrived Clyde. WRESTLER
Survivors from HALLFRIED with 3 survivors ex HALLFRIED.
HALLFRIED sunk (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 031316A to Admty.)
31st Oct.

Convoy /...

War Diary.

3.11.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Convoy
C.W.221.
2 E-Boats
damaged
and
1 E-Boat
probably
sunk by
WHITSHED.
FOAM
QUEEN
and DONA
ISABEL
sunk.
STORRA
missing.

At 0005 today WHITSHED reported that C.W.221 then in Q.Z.S.385 midway between Dungeness and Beachy Head, was being attacked by three groups of E-Boats.

(2) Shore based Radar at Fairlight had previously detected three separate plots some ten miles south of this position at 2340, but on enquiry no further plots could be obtained and the station considered the original plots to be spurious and not surface-craft. No confirmation was received from any other station. No further plots were received in Dover plotting-room until 0020 when three tracks were detected withdrawing to the southward from the vicinity of the convoy escorts and M.L's 141 and 193 were vectored from patrol at Inner Lade Buoy to intercept. M.G.B's 41 and 42, at short notice in Dover were sent to No.5 Buoy, all available Albacore aircraft from Manston were flown off to intercept the enemy on their retiring

course.

(3) WHITSHED continued to report and engage E-Boats until about 0200, claiming three of them damaged, including one probably sunk. M.L's 141 and 293 had a brief engagement with two or three E-Boats at 0240 losing contact at 0245. They sustained slight damage and make no claims.

(4) The following casualties were inflicted on the convoy by the E-Boats. SS. FOAM QUEEN and DONA ISABEL sunk and SS. STORRA missing presumed sunk. The entire crew of 19 of DONA ISABEL were rescued by M.L. 141 who also picked up 7 survivors from FOAM QUEEN. It is understood that the convoy escorts picked up further survivors from FOAM QUEEN, the hulk of FOAM QUEEN was taken in tow of LADY DUNCANNON at 0900.

(5) The Albacore aircraft were kept on patrol some ten miles off the French Coast between Boulogne and Dieppe until 0500, but failed to make contact with the enemy.

(V.A. Dover, 031336A to Admty.)

V.A. Dover 031336A. M.G.B's 611, 613 and 608 were sailed in support from Newhaven at 0040A but failed to make contact with enemy.

(2) 36 survivors have been landed at Newhaven including six D.E.M.S. ratings from following ships DONA ISABEL 18, FOAM QUEEN 7, STORRA 11.

(3) Observing that there have been no attacks on C.E. or C.W. convoys during the last 18 months there is no doubt that we were in some measure surprised. The escorting M.L's, although they have done very good work in all weather, have not had previous contact with the enemy.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 031914A to Admty.)

(4) The enemy is very well placed with bases on the French coast comparatively close to the convoy route, and it has always been a wonder to me that C.E. and C.W. have been free from attack for such a long period.

(5) I do not consider that these convoys should now sail without a reasonable escort including two destroyers as a minimum.

(6) C.E. 219 is accordingly being postponed for 24 hours by which time a second destroyer can be provided from first D.F.

(7) In order to keep a minimum of two destroyers on the C.E. and C.W. convoys as well as those to the West of Portsmouth, I suggest

3.11.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Convoy
C.W.221.
2 E-Boats
damaged
and
1 E-Boat
probably
sunk by
WHITSHED.
FOAM
QUEEN
and DONA
ISABEL
sunk.
STORRA
missing.
(Contd.)

the most economical method is to reinforce the Nore destroyer force.
(8) A motor gunboat covering force will be made available in future but owing to recent lack of enemy activity in the Channel, coastal forces have more frequently been used for offensive patrols on the enemy's coast.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 031953A to Admty.)
/ Part 2 of my 031953.

C.E.219.

My 021650. Postponed 24 hours.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 031400A to C. in C. Nore.)

ATLANTIS.

ATLANTIS hospital ship sailed 1422/Z/3rd.
E.T.A. Gibraltar 7th Nov.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey, 031520Z to Admty.)

H.X.263.

As soon as convenient tomorrow detach ships capable of 12 knots and over with 2 escorts to 007 degs. W. thence independently.
(C. in C. W.A. 031603Z to Escorts H.X. 263)

2 or more ships in collision in thick weather. Rescue ship, tug, and DRURY standing by. My position 055 degs. 39' N. 023 degs 24' W.
(E.G.4, 032335Z to C. in C. W.A.)

J.W.54B.

The following ships for J.W. 54B are to be sailed to Loch Ewe so as to arrive not later than a.m. 19th November.

DALDORCH, THOMAS KEARNS, EMPIRE LIONEL,
EMPIRE STALWART, ARTHUR L. PERRY.

(D.T.D. 031702A to C. in C. Nore, Rosyth)

The following ships for J.W. 54B are to be sailed to Loch Ewe so as to arrive not later than a.m. 19th November.

FORT POPLAR, EMPIRE ARCHER, FORT COLUMBIA, FORT MISSANABIE,
FORT MCMURRAY, OCEAN STRENGTH.

In H.X.264 due Loch Ewe 14th November.

SAN ADOLFO (T), HORACE GRAY (U.S.) JOHN FITCH (U.S.)
(D.T.D. 031857A to C. in C. W.A.)

K.M.S. 32 /...

3.11.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. - Contd.

- K.M.S.32. Tanker SAN UBALDO will sail for Horta in K.M.S.32.
(2) Request you will detail GODAVARI to part
company with convoy as convenient to escort her
to Horta proceeding thence as requisite.
(D.O.D.(H), 031825A to C. in C. W.A.)
- 24th E.G. On arrival in U.K. about November 9th LOTUS,
DIANELLA, STARWORT, POPPY are to form 24th group
based at Londonderry.
(C. in C. W.A. 032244A to Cdre. D. W.A.)

3.11.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

ST. GOTTHARD
EIGER.

ST. GOTTHARD now expected to leave Marseilles for Gibraltar about 4th, Swiss EIGER about 6th. Both by standard route and not to be molested this voyage. My 281416 refers. (F.O.C. Gib. 030040A, to 8th S/M Flotilla, 10th S/M Flotilla. LE CURIE. PERLE. (R) Capt. (S) 8. Capt. (S) 10.)

EMPRESS OF
SCOTLAND.

Designate one destroyer depart Casablanca in time to R/V EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND in 032° 25' N. 014° 12' W. at 041300A and escort to Casablanca. EMPRESS routed from (M) 031° 50' N. 016° 25' W. to (N) 034° 03' N. 008° 01' W. S. of A. 19.75 knots. Codeword effective "Associate." C/S 117. (C.M.S.F. 030930A, to C.T.F. 66. (R) F.O.C. Gib. EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND.)

Italian ships
in Spanish
ports.

Adty. pass to C. in C. Med. (Begins) - C. in C. Med. (R) Admiralty (for D.N.I.) F.O.I.C. Gib. Your 312049/10. Am not entirely in agreement with para. 2. Your para. 3. Position reported in full as soon as situation is a little clearer but matter rests entirely with M. of F.A. not with M. of M. (Corrupt group) in event of being able to sail some Merchant ships shortly can you indicate probable destination. Financial adviser is trying to solve scheme for payment in currency acceptable to crews. Italian N.A. is paying only those officers and seamen who show willingness to sail. (N.A. Madrid, 031204A, to Admty.)
Re difficulties being made by Spanish Authority in question of movement of Italian ships from Spanish ports.

Attacks on
U.G.S.18
4.10.43.

Escorts of G.U.S.19 can throw little light on attacks on U.G.S.18 on 4th Oct. S.O. of escort being in LULWORTH.
2. Impossible to determine exact times of individual attacks on ships.
3. First attack at about 1845 by about 10 D.O.217 probably using H.S.293. Apparently escorts primary targets.
4. Second attack at 1900 by six H.E.111 carrying torpedoes on port bow of convoy.
5. C. in C. Med.'s 211155A refers. (F.O.C. Gib., 031312A, to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant.)

EMBLA.

Left Gibraltar 1330 3rd by approved route Cape San Sebastian thence coast wise to Marseilles Swedish EMBLA 1053 tons speed 7 knots. Not to be molested this voyage. (F.O.C. Gib. 031540A, to 8th S/M Flot. 10th S/F. CURIE French Sub. SULTANE. (R) Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 10.)

War Diary.3.11.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.M.K.S.29. Sailing Telegram part 2. 27 ships for U.K.
(F.O.C. Gib. 031706A.)SEBASTIAN. My 310935.
2. On continuing investigations many small packages of coffee discovered total weight 650 lbs. also 6 small packages addressed France and Germany containing chocolate, soap etc. Approx. value 20/-. Request instructions for disposal.
3. 4 letters addressed to France and Germany handed Imperial Censor.
(C.C.S.O. Gib. 031745A, to M.E.W.)U/B Prisoners. Following prisoners of war landed Gib. and segregated as below.
(A) C.O. of U-boat Hans Joachim Klaus Oberleut-Zur-See.
(B) 3 officers. (C) 27 ratings. (D) three Chief Petty officers.
(E) Three C.P.O.s (F) One rating wounded military hospital.
2. There has been no contact whatever between any of above and those from U.732. My 012315 refers.
3. Officers were in contact with the ratings in Spanish Fishing craft. All extremely security conscious and it has not been possible obtain number of U-B.
4. My 031814A / to Admiralty only deals with disposal.
(F.O.C. Gib. 031806A, to Admty for D.N.I. (R) C. in C. Med.)
/ Re Prisoners of War from U.732 landed Gib. today.
Prisoners of war detailed in my 012315A and 031806 have been embarked in L.S.I.s for U.K. Details.
Remainder are being sent first available opportunity.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 031814A, to Admty. for D.N.I.)
(1) Commanding Officer of U-B sunk by FLEETWOOD left at 032340 by air for Lynham.
(2) Request arrangements meet. My 031814+ refers.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 032345A, to Admty. for D.N.I. for A.D.N.I.)
+re prisoners of war embarked for U.K.T.U.4. A.M. 261550/October.
B. 13½ knots. C. T.F.69. U.S.S. TEXAS.
D. 21. E. U.S. SIBONEY. G. First two letters of Wireless Call Signs "L.Z" Baulk.
(D.O.D.(H) 031205A to S.B.N.O. Azores.)FLEETWOOD, Intend to sail to Freetown at 0800A/4th. 2. Route.
AUBRETIA, A.M.181448 not to all refers.
CYCLAMEN. (F.O.C. Gib. 031904A, to F.O.C. West Africa.)PRINCE ROBERT. E.T.A. Horta 1900 G.M.T. 4th. Request necessary authorities be informed. Admiralty 01027A* refers.
(N.T. in W.O.)
(PRINCE ROBERT, 032106A, to C.in C. Plymouth (R) Admty.)
* Most Secret distribution.

79

3.11.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

EMPIRE
PIERROT.

EMPIRE PIERROT leaves U.K. with K.X.12 on 4th (sic).
Destination Kilindini.
2. Authorities addressed are requested to route
onward to destination.
(D.O.D.(F), 032308A, to F.O. Gib., C. in C. Med.,
C. in C. Levant, F.O.R.S.C.A., C. in C.E.F.)

War Diary.3.11.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.SUSSEX
damage.

Following received from SUSSEX, reports following details of damage after examination by ship's Officers.

(2) Accident would appear to have taken place 31st October after working down from full power trial but was not immediately evident. Neither the H.P. turbine associated steam line was open or under repair during refit. As far as examination has proceeded there is no reason to suspect any interference.

(3) It is proposed pending further instructions to continue examination and lifting of casing and rotor in Durban. This can be completed in 14 days. Ship will be at 6 hours notice for sea on 2 shafts until a.m. Saturday 6th. thereafter six hours notice on three shafts. T.O.O.030903C (Ends.)

(2) Have approved examination to proceed in accordance with SUSSEX para. three.

(3) Repair to turbine cannot be undertaken at Durban.

(4) Understand there is no H.P. blading at Simonstown but bladers are available and ship could be taken in hand there on receipt of blades. In this connection it is pointed out that SUSSEX's turbo generator is now under repair at Simonstown.

(5) Request early instruction. SUSSEX 010829 and my 020800 refer (Com. Durban, 030754 to C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.) (R) C. in C. S.A. C.S. Four Comm. Supt. Simonstown, Capt. Supt. Durban. Admty. SUSSEX.)

Escorts.

A.M. 300135 Oct. para. 3. No vessels of sufficient speed are based at Dakar suitable for escort or strikes for which destroyers are required. Escort situation generally would be easier if

French could supply escort for their own slow coastal trading vessels who are too slow and whose programme is too erratic for inclusion in any convoy. This is not possible at present as only escort vessels completely under Comar Dakar's control are the three Air France. Remainder appear to be shared with and largely operated from Casablanca. Comar Dakar appears himself to be uncertain who has control., Four escort vessels operated from Dakar and earmarked for escort of French Shipping on West Coast would be of great assistance.

(F.O.C.W.Af. 030932Z to Admty.)

PALO ALTO
collision
30th Oct.

My 011935Z Nov. Lloyds Surveyor refuses permission proceed with cargo. Discharge now commencing anticipate completion four days and then considered with ship trimmed by stern 13 knots minimum possible. Request next destination with view repairs in U.S.A. Agreed U.S. Authorities. (N.C.S.O.Dakar, 031031Z to F.O.C.W.Af. Connnav, (R) Admty. F.O. Gib. Commorseafron.)

My 021322 PALO ALTO will not sail.

(F.O.C.W.Af. 031635Z to S.O. 41st E.G., Comar Dakar, Commorseafron, (R) C. in C. Med. S.O. 37th E.G. Admty. F.O.C. Gib.)

Condition/...

3.11.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

Condition
of
Italian
ships,
details of
damage etc.

Your 231130Z Sept. Present attitude of Masters and majority of crew of all three Italian ships extremely pro-Fascist and possibly may attempt to prevent ships passing into Allied hands by sabotage. Italian Consul unreliable and not very co-operative.
(N.C.S.O. St. Vincent, 031435 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty.)

3.11.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

Enemy ships Aegean. A/C GLW/A 030045Z see 022347Z.
Nr.1. Enemy anchorage at Kalimno one small vessel 1500 tons, one escort vessel, one F.boat. (A/C VBG/W, 030710Z to 201 Group Hq.).
Position of enemy - one F.boat 36 degs. 52' N. 27 degs. 09' E. 3 F.boats 36 degs. 54' N. 29 degs. 19' E. 2 F. boats 36 degs. 53' North 27 degs. 19' E. (A/C VSG/W, 030715Z).
Position of 1, 1000 ton vessel 36.58 N. 27.03 E. (A/C VBO/W, 030717Z to 201 Group).
Enemy anchorage 2 E-boats 1 auxiliary vessel 37.20 N. 23.29 E.
(A/C VBG/T 030815Z to Air H.Q. Malta).
Following has been received from Malta W/T.
P.C. and S. of enemy 1 enemy war motor boat 37 degs. 32' N. 24 degs. 05' E. 360 degs. 10 knots.
(A/C VBG/T 030845Z to KT1 Air H.Q. Malta).
P.C. and S of enemy .2 enemy war motor boats 37.35 N. 24.25 E. 230 degs. 10 knots.
(A/C VBG/T (Via Alex. W/T 030855Z).
Following has been read.
Enemy anchorage Lavzion 3 small vessels 100 tons each entering harbour Naxos 1 small vessel 200 tons 3 small vessel 100 tons each.
(A/C VBG/N Via Alex. 031036).

Escorts for K.M.F.25A. Comnaveu 030241Z to Admt. see America and West Indies.

Operation "Insure" Operation "Insure" successful. 208 rounds of ammunition fired at range 5 to 6 thousand yards. Fires started and 1 visible at (?13) miles. Report follows.
(Capt.(D) 4, 030345A to F.O.T.A. (R) C.S.15, QUEENBOROUGH, N.O.i/c Bari).

Air Report. A/253 cipher 2 Nov. 169030.
Signed Eisenhower.
Part 3 Air Cositintrep No. 115 1st Nov.
N.W.A.A.F. Day 1st Nov. 36 P.38 strafed and scored hits on a radio mast on the small island off Rimini Point. Warhawks and Kittyhawks destroyed naval installations at Split. During an enemy attack on Naples with 30 plus aircraft in the early evening of 1st Beaufighters claim to have destroyed 2 aircraft.
Air intelligence. 30 plus Ju.88's and Do.217's dropped bombs, flares and one torpedo on Naples Harbour between 1830 and 1930 1st 2 destroyed and one probably.
(Air C. in C. Med. T.O.O. Nil).
N.A.A.F. Opsum 255. A.V.930/3rd. M.S. 21473.
24 U.S. Marauders dropped 35 tons on Civita Vecchia Harbour from 9500 feet. Escort provided to Italian coast by the U.S.
Lightnings on mission to Marstiano. Hits scored amidships 410 feet M/V, many small craft destroyed or damaged in Harbour. Damage to docks, buildings, marine railway.
(H.Q. N.A.A.F. 031659A).

3.11.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Air Report (Contd.). 2nd November. Enemy activity 1/2nd Nov. Naples Harbour attacked by 30 plus enemy aircraft. Minor damage only reported. (H.Q. N.A.A.F. 031736A).

Damaged or redundant Landing Craft. Proposals and comments. Re use for harbour lighterage in the forward areas. 2.3. Asking for reports also of any other damaged landing craft which are usable as lighters or harbour craft. 4. C.O. personnel or other British naval personnel are not to be used for manning craft made over to Army or M. of W.T. or Allied authorities as lighters. Craft retained only for British naval administrative use are not to continue to be manned by C.O. personnel. Disposal of the C.O. personnel formerly manning all these craft is covered by the instructions in A.M. 041919 Sept. (D. of P. (Q), 031032A to C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant).

SOKOL (1) Leaves Beirut 1501B/4th through (A) 034 degs. 25' 029 degs. 59' at 0115B/6th (B) 035 degs. 06' 026 degs. 44' at 2200B/6th. Speed 8 knots to patrol east of Mykoni Channel. (Capt.(S) 1, 031047B to 1st S.F. (R) C. in C. Levant).

Enemy ships Adriatic. Following has been read by Alex. W/T. P.C. and S of enemy one medium merchant vessel 45.34 N. 13.03 E. 070 degs. 8 knots. (A/C VAM/R 031129A to Air H.Q. Malta). Enemy previously reported my 031129A 10 knots 7,000 tons. (A/C VAM/R 031130A to Air H.Q. Malta).

TRIDENT C. in C. Levant, 022036B. Sailing to pass the boom at 1052B tomorrow 4th through 399 at 1235B/4th thence through: (A) 031 degs. 48' North 032 degs. 34' East at 1235B/4th, (B) 034 degs. 08' North 021 degs. 54' East at 0800B/7th for onward route as ordered by Capt.(S) 10. Speed 8½ knots proceeding on the surface. (N.O.i/c Port Said, 031143B to TRIDENT (R) Capt.(S) 10, Capt. (S) 1, Admty. R.A. Alex., C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Capt.(S) 8, N. & A.A. East of Alex. Cmdre. C.F. Eastern Med. N.O.i/c Tripoli. Ships East of Alex. Ships Western Desert. N. and A.A. Western Desert.).

MIRAGLIA Not fit for ocean passages. Boiler required complete month to repair when materials and labour are made available and she has other sea-going defects. Details of lifts and hangars. Has useful workshops employing 35 artificers. Recommend she be employed locally where she can operate to advantage. At present she is preparing as depot ship for all one man and special craft.

/Endurance...

3.11.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

MIRAGLIA
(Contd.).

Endurance 3000 miles at 14 knots and 2400 at 18 knots.
A.M. 311839 refers.
(F.O.L.I. 031147 to C. in C. Med., Admty.).

SERAPH,
SHAKESPEARE.

Times Zone minus 2.
1. SERAPH leaves patrol 2330/4th to arrive Kaso Straits early a.m. 6th proceed to Pegadia Bay Scarpanto to bombard any worthwhile targets then proceed through (1) 034 degs. 53' 027 degs, 46'

at 0030/7th.

(2) 034 degs. 25' 029 degs. 59' at 1050/7th to arrive Beirut 1135/8th. If weather is unsuitable for bombardment report your intention repeat to above addressees.

(2) P.221 (SHAKESPEARE) leaves patrol a.m. 7th to pass (1) 035 degs. 06' 026 degs, 44' at 1400/8th. (2) paragraph (1) (2) at 0955/9th to arrive Beirut 1102/10th.

(Capt.(S) 1, 031502 to SHAKESPEARE, SERAPH (R) 1st S/M. F., C. in C. Levant).

SWITZERLAND,
ZWARTE
ZEE.

Intend to sail SWITZERLAND and ZWARTE ZEE towing MATHEW MAURY to Gib. at 0900/4th escorted by POLRUAN.

(2) Route coastwise to Meridian then 50 and 16.

(3) S. of A. 5 knots or speed of tow.

(4) Codeword "Redruth".

(Cdr. Algiers, 031502A to Admty., F.O.C. Gib., C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta., C. in C. Levant., Cmdre. Algiers, (R) POLRUAN).

Cancelled 041229A.

PHOEBE

Sailed with destroyers 1500B.
(PHOEBE, 031530B to C. in C. Levant).

Convoy
X.I.F.3.

Sailed 3rd (3 ships).
(S.S.T.O. Alexandria, 031535C to D. of S.T.).
Sailing telegram part 2. 3 ships.
(N.O.i/c Port Said, 031557B).

Aegean
situation.

380630 I/30511 3rd Nov.
Joint Army R.A.F. Int. appreciation 24 hours, to 1000Z/3rd.

1. No change in situation Leros or Samos up to 1000Z/3rd.

2. Our naval units report no contact with enemy night 2/3rd.

3. Photo R/C. and visual sightings 2nd. (Details).

4. No reports of air attacks 2nd Nov. on Leros, Samos or Kastelorizo.

6. Stop press. Visual sighting by aircraft 0730Z/3. 13 landing craft and 2 E.boats in Lavrion Channel course 020 degs. speed 7 knots. These probably the assault boats or smaller type landing craft reported by C.X. sources arrived by rail recently in Piraeus.

7. Above sighting of 13 Landing craft would seem to indicate enemys intention to remedy present insufficiency landing craft

/in...

3.11.1943.
Wednesday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean.

Aegean in Kos/Kalimno area. But cannot exclude possible situation. assault on Samos. (Contd.). (C. in C.M.E. T.O.O. Nil). 380732. O/30556 3rd Nov. Cositrep 44.

1. Int. Aegean. A. Ph.R, Piraeus 2nd Nov. showed merchant vessel about 2000 tons reported east of Syros 29th Oct. at Mykonos 30th Oct. and at Syros on 31st Oct. back at Piraeus. This vessel was previously reported as carrying German troops, M.T. and small landing craft.

B. Ph.R, 2nd showed no large shipping Rhodes Mykonos and Syros. A. Samos. Approx. 275 personnel Greek Sacred Sqn. now arrived. Total despatched 200 by para. 135 by sea. Remainder still in transit.

B. Kastelorizo. 157 personnel 4FF Rif and Rfts Pnr Coy and DID arrived 31st Oct.

(3) Yugoslavia. (4) Naval Aegean. Night 2/3 . PHOEBE, FAULKNER, PENN, ECHO, PATHFINDER left Alex. 2330B hrs. for Aegean via Cyprus carrying stores and 750 personnel of 1 Kings Own and H.Q. Aegean. No news M.T.B. Ops. No bombardments carried out.

3rd DULVERTON, PINDOS, BEAUFORT now in Turkish Waters. UNSPARING returning Beirut from patrol. One rating lost one injured during engagement with armed caique. Reports she sank one to Tp. carrying M.V. and R.boat loaded with troops.

(5) Air. A. Own 2nd. Bad weather restricted operations. B. Enemy 2nd Nov. One R/C aircraft reported over Leros. No other activity reported. (C. in C.M.E. 031720B).

Hospital Requirements.
ships and (P.S.T.O. Med. 031645 to D. of S.T.).
Carriers. See Lion Copy.

Landing Reports as required by C.C.S.
ships and (2) During Oct. L.S.T.(1) MISOA left for U.K.
craft. and BOXER and BRUISER for India.
(3) ULSTER MONARCH, QUEEN EMMA, PRINCE ALBERT all serviceable left for U.K. during October. ROYAL SCOTSMAN serviceable left for India.

(4) PRINCE LEOPOLD, PRINCE CHARLES, PRINSES ASTRID, PRINSES JOSEPHINE CHARLOTTE all serviceable expect to leave for U.K. in November.

(5) PRINSES BEATRIX and ROYAL ULSTERMAN, both serviceable, remain on station.

(6) 2 L.C.T. (3) were lost and 9 are having engines removed prior to employment as dumb lighters. These are the 11 losses shown in table and are being paid off and written off.

(7) The 5 L.C.T.(4) shown as losses are similarly losing their engines and being paid off and written off. 3 L.C.T.(4) expected to leave are being prepared for towage to India.

(8) 12 L.C.I. (L) left for India, 34 L.C.I. (L) for U.K. and 23 expected to leave for U.K.

(9) The 2 L.S.T. (2) shown as losses were damaged and beached prior to October but are now considered to be total losses. The 1 L.S.T.(2) shown as long term repair, is being used as depot ship.

(10) British small craft figures are not accurate enough to report at present. (Algiers, 031714A).

/Convoy...

86

3.11.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Convoy M.K.S.30. Sailed 3rd (7 ships).
(S.S.T.O. Alexandria, 031735 to D. of S.T.).

Live bombing ranges. In following positions on shore.
(a) 041 degs. 33' 015 degs. 52' (b) 041 degs. 24' 016 degs. 02' all north and east.
Danger area 2,000 yards radius from each position.
Maximum bombing height will be 14,000 feet.
(C. in C. Med. 031739A to Med. St., Levant St.,
(R) M.A.C., N.A.T.A.F.).

C.T.7. Regret to report Tug, C.T.7 foundered in 31 degs. 30' North 27 degs. 50' E. after being in collision with a merchant ship while proceeding in convoy X.T.7. One survivor picked up. Further details awaited.
(C. in C. Levant, 031752B to Admty.).

Italian M.A.S.33 lost. Italian M.S. Boat No.33 failed to return to Termoli this morning from attempt to recover Prisoners of War from beach in 042 degs. 35'. Explosive outbursts seen in her probable vicinity at 0130 today by British Naval Officers in 2 other craft not in company.

Air search today failed to locate. Only British Naval Personnel on board were 2 officers. Written report will be forwarded.
(S.N.O.A.L.(E), 031828, 140827 to F.O.T.A. (R) F.O.L.I., C. in C. Med., Admty., N.O.i/c Bari., N.L.O.8th Army.).

Enemy ships. P. C. and S. of enemy (3 escort vessels) HXEJ 6025 (sic HX = 37 N) 180 degs. 12 knots.
(A/C YDS/T 031900Z).

RICHELIEU re escorts. Request intended allocation of escorts for movement of RICHELIEU to U.K. about 20th.
(2) Following factors are relevant.
(A) No small French destroyers have sea keeping qualities to maintain desirable speed.
(B) FANTASQUE and TERRIBLE have too big turning circle for A/S work and would be better employed on shipping strikes.
(C) Ship can proceed comfortably about 28 knots unescorted if essential.
(3) Alternatives proposed. (A) Escort whole way by British destroyers sent from Home Fleet. (B) Escort by Mediterranean destroyers to 42 degs. North then at high speed unescorted until met by Home Fleet destroyers.
(C. in C. Med. 031906A to Admty. (R) C. in C.H.F.).

LORRAINE Movement of LORRAINE my 011703. French Admty. now propose movement to Mers El Kebir takes place in two stages.
(a) From Dakar to Casablanca at first opportunity after 8th.

/ (b)...

3.11.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

LORRAINE (Contd.) (b) From Casablanca to Mers El Kebir about 1st Dec. move A.
(2) C.M.S.F. is requested to confirm ship can be accepted for berthing in mid Nov. on receipt of which F.O.C.W.Af. is requested to arrange movement at suitable opportunity in consultation with Comar Dakar move B.
(3) Will be subject to confirmatory signal that operational berthing at Mek permits.
(C. in C. Med., 031927A to F.O.C.W.Af. Comnavnav, Commorseafron, Com.N.O.B. Oran, (R) Admty. Navale France, B.N.L.O. Dakar).

Med. Situation Report, No.221. (1) Convoy K.M.S. 30 was attacked by U-boat in 036 degs. 45' North 001 degs. 55' East at 0050 3rd. SS MONT VISO was sunk. Hunt is in progress.
(2) U.S.P.T. boats report sinking 4000 tons (? escorted) tanker at 0130/3rd 6 miles north of Formiche Tell Grossetto. One P.T. boat was damaged no casualties.
(3) S/M. P.34 (ULTIMATUM) reports attacking at 1219/27th Oct. 3000 merchant ship in convoy off Toulon. One torpedo hit, ship believed sunk. At 0716/30th U-boat entering Toulon was hit with torpedo. Conning tower of U-boat was seen after attack apparently sinking and (ULTIMATUM) considers (?attack) successful.
(C. in C. Med. 031947A).

German raid on Capraia Island. 169200. W 4197/5979. 3rd Nov. Cosintintrep Number 117 to 1200 hrs 3 Nov. One (Corsi). At noon 31 Oct. a small German raiding party numbering about 70 men landed on Capraia Island (30 miles N.E. of Bastia) from landing barges and two E-boats. Raid lasted 2½ hours during which local telegraph and radio office was destroyed. One officer and four civilians captured by Germans.
(A.F.H.Q. Algiers, No T.O.O. to Cosintintrep Addressees).

K.M.F.25A Onward routeing ?from 93 at 1500A/5th. MSC1 22 (details).
8 (A) Naples section. T.G. 60.2 4 (?to) detach at Algiers and 3 at Palermo as ordered by U.S.T.G.
60.2 U.S. SWIFT, JONES and DAVIS join from Oran/ joiners from Gibraltar as A/A escort.
(C) Levant section TYNEDALE, TETCOTT (S.O.), CROOME, QUEST (G.S.) THEMISTOCLES joining from Algiers.
(C. in C. Med. 032203 to C.T.G 60.2).
/ Portion omitted.

CUCKMERE Following is a repetition of my 031828. Begins:-
To CUCKMERE (R) A.I.G.267 from Tunisia.
Proceed forthwith by war channel to 77 thence through 18, 17, 89, 20, 22 to Gibraltar. E.T.A. 1700/5th. S. of A. 16 knots. Codeword "Brand" 325.
(F.O. Tunisia 032235 to F.O.C. Gib.).

Cyprus movements. 3rd. Arrived and left PHOEBE, PENN, PATHFINDER, ECHO.
(N.O.1/c Famagusta 032345C).

War Diary.3.11.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- F.X.4. Arrived.
(Port Officer Chittagong, 030415Z to Admty.)
- A.B.18. Arrived JUMNA, QUALITY, QUIBERON, KALE, ROCKROSE,
escorting A.B.18.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 030555Z to Admty.)
- Dock
re proposals
for siting. Request proposals for siting, in addition to the
dock referred to in my 081346/Oct, a cruiser
floating dock of 18,000 tons lifting capacity
overall length 622 feet beam 122 feet and
drawing 53 feet when fully sunk, consideration
being given to accessibility of repair ship and
shore facilities.
(D. of D. Bath, 030601A to A.S. Kilindini (R)
C. in C. E.F., F.O.E.A.)
- P.B.62 A. Sailing telegram (3 ships) escort KARACHI.
(N.C.S.O. Hormuz, 031240Z to Admty.)
As amended 040502Z.
- U/B's
Indian
Ocean. Only three U-Boats estimated at present operating
in Indian Ocean namely:
One Japanese in Mozambique Channel likely shortly
to leave patrol.
One Japanese probably proceeding to patrol possibly
Gulf of Aden area from D/F of 1st November S.W.
of Laccadives.
One German in or proceeding eastward from area between Maldives
and India.
(D.D.I.C. 031524A to C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.F. S.E.A.C.,
A.C.N.B.)
- S/M
Movements
Signals. Daily position and movements signal of S/Ms on
passage will in future be made under heading S/Ms
position section (H) and dates.
(2) This will contain estimated position at
1330Z on date quoted and movements for following
24 hours. Unless otherwise stated the S/M will
be proceeding unescorted and will normally be on surface.
(3) F.O.E.A. N.O.I.C. Aden and N.O.I.C. Durban will be added to
address of this signal only when it is considered that a
movement affects them.
(4) Section B of daily positions signal does not concern all
addressees in A.I.G.89.
(Capt. (S) 4, 032346Z to Admty., C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.), F.O.
Ceylon, N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, F.O.E.A., N.O.I.C. Aden, N.O.I.C.
Durban, A.H.Q. India, H.Q. 222 Group R.A.F., R.A.N.A.S.I.O)

89

3.11.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Italian M/Vs. Adm. King's opinion is that the three Italian merchant vessels mentioned in your 291815 Oct. should be treated as Italian vessels placed at the disposal of the Allies. His grounds for this opinion are that the Italians have been scrupulous in observing the agreement to turn over their ships to Allied control and that they have in fact made these ships available to the Allies as soon as the vessels were relieved from the duress imposed by the presence of German Armed Guards on board. If you concur in this opinion Adml. King suggests that the matter be considered as settled by agreement between British and U.S. Naval Staffs which would make it unnecessary to refer the question to the C.C.S. (B.A.D.030031Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

S.C.146. S.C.146 W.6 MONTGOMERY (SO) COBALT, TIMMINS, TRAIL.
(C. in C. C.N.A, 030036Z to F.O.N.F.)

Escorts This is Cominch and C.N.Os. 022147 addressed to for K.M.F. Comnavnaw, C. in C. Med. Admty. (R) Comnavu, 25A. C.T.F.60, C.T.F.62, A.F.H.Q. C. in C. Lant. 020923 from Comnavnaw states that he cannot provide escort from Destroyers assigned to his command for Naples-Palermo section of K.M.F.25A and requests authority to assign Destroyers of T.G. 60.2 for this duty. I consider escort of convoys in the Med. to be a British commitment and made this point clear for K.M.F.25A by my 191248 to all concerned. However use of Destroyers as necessary from T.G. 60.2 is authorized if local conditions make it impossible for C. in C. Med. to provide escort for Naples-Palermo section of K.M.F.25A. (Comnavu, 030241Z to Admty.)

Independent Vessels routed independently in accordance my sailings, 241320Z August shall be routed for the present routeing. as follows.

1. Via Mona passage or Anegada or Virgin passages between Eastseaf frontier ports and Caribbean ports East of 72° W.
2. Between Eastseaf frontier ports and Caribbean Ports West of 72° W. via Windward passage or Yucatan except fast tankers bound to or from Columbian ports which shall use Mona passage.
3. Via Yucatan or Old Bahama Channel and Windward or Mona passage between Gulfseaf frontier Ports and Carribbean Ports.
4. All independent ships which use Windward passage shall keep in the Eastern half in order to avoid convoys.
5. All independent ships using Windward Mona Yucatan Virgin or Anegada passages shall be routed so as to make use of all daylight hours in transit tinn*.

Reporting centres pass to the routeing officers in your area (Comnavu 030252Z to N.L.O. at Vera Cruz, Mexico; N.O.B. Trinidad, N.O.B. Guantanamo; Comcaribseaf ron; Aus. N.A.S. San Clemente I; Gulfseaf ron Shipping Control Officer for Western Cuba; Compaseaf ron, C.A.F.A.C., (R) C.E.S.F., Comgulfseaf ron; Administrative Office at Com 4th Fleet, Naval Service Head (R.C.N) Ottawa, Admty.)* As received possibly time.

/DUFF...

War Diary.3.11.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

DUFF information. Keep line E. specially good personal look out during next 48 hours. Liberator aircraft will be operating in your vicinity if weather permits during the period.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 031406Z to DUFF C. in Cs at Home, (R) N.S.H.Q. C. in C.W.A., F.O.N.F. Admty.)
Your 100904 (?101913 intended) Foxer gear in DUFF on sailing nil.
(Capt. D. Argentia, 031410Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) F.O.N.F. Admty., Capt. D. Belfast.)

Empty lifeboat picked up by MONTE ALUBE. MONTE ALUBE picked up an empty lifeboat in 024° 03' N. 027° 36' W. 26th Oct. A Leather Wallet found in boat containing 8 pounds belonging to E.J. Lowe Homefield Foxholes Hill Exmouth. Identity card number W.F.X. 1218620. Label marked SS. CALIFORNIA.
(B.R.L.O. Georgetown, 031442Q to S.O.(I) Jamaica (R) Admty.)

N.S.H.Q. S/M estimate. (N.S.H.Q. 031514).

U.S. S/M. Estimate. (Cominch, 031527Z.)

A.T.71. (QUEEN ELIZABETH) Departed Ambrose 1526Z/3rd for Clyde. E.T.A. Little Cumbrae 0300Z/9th. S. of A. 26.5 knots. (P.D. New York, 031600 to Com 10th Fleet C. and R. As amended P.D. New York, 050202Z.)

F.Ts. Departure Trinidad 2nd. F.T.S.17 18 25 in Convoy T.J.13. E.T.A. Recife 2300/17th. (S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 031810Z to Admty.)

Sub-attack and sighting summary. Para. C. aircraft Radar contact 06.30 N. 52.01 W. 020645 from Cominch. All times Z. Navy plane Radar contact 07.25 S. 33.33 W. 022039. (Cominch, 032050Z to Admty.)

FITZROY. Sail FITZROY when ready about 7th Boston to Casco Bay advising routeing instructions. This vessel will be utilized as British Training Officers ship. Will remain based at Casco Bay until further orders.
(Cominch, 032125Z to C.E.S.F. (R) Cmt. 1st Naval District Boston, Cinclant, N.S.H.Q., Admty., Cdr. Destroyers Atlantic Fleet, British Training Officer Casco Bay.)

/Convoys...

91

3.11.1943.

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

Convoys,
number
of
passengers.

Navy Dep. state that while they consider any modification of the rules for British ships in British convoys such as H.X. a matter for Admiralty decision they object to carrying more U.S. troops in ships of such convoys than are allowed by present British passenger rules.

They now have under consideration a change in the U.S. rules which will reduce the number of passengers permitted in U.S. ships sailed in trade convoys. This would be a move towards the views expressed in Admiralty 211528 April.

(2) Re inclusion of refrigerator ships with large troop capacities and L.S.I(L)s. Consider it most important to ensure no more cases of British ships being detached from American convoys for insufficient speed and/or smoking.

(4) Presume the L.S.I.(L)s are required to go with the convoy which will get them to the U.K. earliest whether they carry a full load of troops or not.

(B.A.D. 032235Z to Admty. D. of S.T.)

Employment
of French
Cruisers.

In view of C. in C. Med. 022323 to First S.L. presume you agree to suggestion in para. 2 of my 252135.

(B.A.D. 032305Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
Serial
No. 652
Nov.2nd.

Navy Catalina reported 1 sub. chaser 1 freighter 77 miles to South Kavieng heading Northwest early hours 2nd.

2. 75 Mitchells escorted by 80 fighters successfully attacked shipping and A/C defences Simpsons Harbour, Rabaul from masthead height with 1000 pounders during afternoon.

Preliminary reports indicate 3 destroyers 8 merchantmen totalling 60,000 tons and 4 luggers were sunk while 2 heavy cruisers received direct hits damaging both, 1 seriously and 2 other destroyers, 7 merchantmen and 2 tankers were also seriously damaged. 67 enemy fighters were destroyed in combat and 23 others probably while 8 floatplanes and 2 flying boats were destroyed on the water. During strafing run on Lakunai airfield 7 additional Fighters and 1 bomber were destroyed several other aircraft damaged. Many A/A positions around Harbour also thoroughly strafed and bombed. Photo R/C this area forenoon before attack showed total 171 fighters 29 light and 37 medium bombers on airfield where heavy activity observed. Also 20 floatplanes and 2 flying boats in Harbour.

3. Afternoon 1st Liberator reported 15 barges around Lou Island (near Manus Island).

4. Before dawn Navy Catalina reported enemy destroyer 46 miles West North West of Ubili heading Northeast. Night Nov.

/1st...

3.11.1943.

Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
Serial
No.652
Nov.2nd.
(Contd.)

1st another Catalian strafed 9 barges six miles North East Alexshafen damaging several. Our P.T. boats reported sighting surfaced enemy submarine 25 miles North of Sio during night hours. Another possible submarine reported off River Mouth 11 miles North of Finschaffen afternoon.

7. Six Beaufighters made harassing attack Trangan Island (Aroe Group) forenoon and five Mitchells attacked villages this area. Three floatplanes intercepted one possibly being destroyed. One Liberator also attacked Cape Chater before dawn.

9. Night Nov. 1st - Second enemy surface force numbering 12 ships sighted Saint Georges Channel heading Southeast shadowed and later engaged by Allied Naval Task Force 35 miles West North West of Empress Augusta Bay. Preliminary reports indicate enemy force dispersed and undamaged Units retired to Northwest at high speed before dawn. Our Task Force Units attacked later during morning by 70 enemy aircraft 40 miles West Empress Augusta Bay. Preliminary reports indicate our ships suffered no serious casualties. Our Fighters engaged portion this Force destroying 1 medium bomber, 2 fighters, 5 dive bombers without loss. Strong Allied strike failed locate crippled enemy ships during morning search but large oil slick followed from scene of Naval action to 50 miles West Buka. 30 enemy aircraft seen over Buka made no attempt at interception.

10. Another Allied surface Force reported attacked by 12 enemy dive bombers North of Vella Lavella forenoon 1st and ships A/A destroyed 4.

11. 31 Avengers bombed and strafed beaches Empress Augusta Bay immediately prior landing Nov. 1st while 7 Dauntless dropped smoke bombs on beach. Landing conducted Nov. 1st with nil shipping losses. Average 34 Allied Fighters covered area during daylight hours. During series interceptions throughout day our fighters destroyed 21 enemy fighters 1 medium bomber and probably destroyed 6 other aircraft without loss to themselves. Largest enemy Force reported include 30 - 40 fighters and 12 - 16 medium bombers.

13. Naval aircraft made heavy attack Buka Bonis airfields forenoon dropping 28 tons bombs on Revetment dispersal supply areas and gun positions. 4 enemy bombers destroyed or damaged on ground while 2 medium coasters were strafed and left burning offshore. One enemy R/C bomber also shot down after attack.

14. Catalina attacked enemy light cruiser 17 miles off Cape Saint George heading North shortly after midnight November first. Results unobserved.

15. Two enemy submarines reported in area approx. 85 miles southeast Cape Orford during night hours.

Another observed nearer Cape on Northerly course during afternoon.

16. Another merchantman was reported burning heavily and being abandoned off Buka following early morning air strike Nov. 1st. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 030642Z.)

O.W.7.

Sailing telegram (2 ships) escort. NIZAM.
(Route.)

(N.O.I.C. Western Australia, 030805Z, 030810Z to Admty.)

War Diary.

3.11.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand. - Contd.

H.D.M.Ls.

B.A.D. 271939Z Oct. Request particulars of armament being supplied for these H.D.M.Ls. (A.C.N.B. 031144Z to B.A.D. (R) Admty.)

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated Positions.
(D.D.I.C. 031348A, 031358A.)

Submarines Attacked.

Submarine attack and sighting summary for 24 hours to 0900Z/3rd.

No reports on U/boats. Ref. A.M.01154A Para. A.A/C subsequently attacked U/Boat sighted at 2322/31st Oct. in 35° 53' N. 06° 03' W. (D.D.I.C. 031033A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/Bs. attacked. Weekly summary.

My 221059 July 1942.

1. Wellington S/407 attacked an outward bound U/Boat in 46° 11' N., 6° 25' W. at 0435/29, and claimed a straddle with depth charges.
2. DUNCAN and B.7 group attacked a U/Boat in 55° 18' N. 32° 08' W. at 0935Z/29. Hedgehog attack at 0953 produced three explosions six seconds after bombs hit water. Depth charge attack followed 3 minutes later. Large amount of wreckage including human remains recovered.
3. Escorts with S.L.138 report attacks on U/Boats on 31st Oct. in about 45° 50' N. 20° 25' W. Full details not yet received but one U/Boat is claimed as probably sunk.
4. H.M.T. IMPERIALIST reports attacking a U/Boat with gunfire and depth charges in Straits of Gibraltar at 1345A/31. Later report states DOUGLAS has on board survivors from a U/Boat. Full details of sinking not yet received but prisoners state they are from U/Boat previously attacked by IMPERIALIST.
5. FLEETWOOD sighted a U/Boat on the surface at 2307Z 1st Nov. in 35° 49' N. 5° 14' W. U/Boat was attacked with three patterns of 10 depth charges after which contact was lost. Next morning FLEETWOOD recovered 48 U/Boat survivors from Spanish fishing vessels and it appears that these survivors were from the U/Boat attacked by FLEETWOOD.
(D.A.U.D. 032000Z to Cominch, Comaveu, B.A.D., N.S.H.Q.,)
As amended 061717Z.

94

4.11.1943.

Thursday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.

1(a) R.A.F. Gibraltar is playing an increasingly important part in the A/S offensive in the Bay area; and air cover is now available from the Azores area.

(b) The Chiefs of Staff have therefore decided, that the A/S operations from the Azores, Gibraltar and the U.K. shall be co-ordinated by one authority. Consequently, operational control of the R.A.F. Gibraltar, which was transferred to the Mediterranean Air Command for Operation "Torch", is to revert to A.O.C. in C. Coastal Command. See 15th November.

Home Commands.

Enemy
Main Units.

2. A Russian report received this morning that an enemy main unit left Altenfiord yesterday and had reached Vestfiord at 0600 today is considered by Admiralty to be unreliable - though it may refer to a destroyer or smaller unit.

Operation
F.R.

3. In spite of a U-Boat transmission at 0810Z today, it is considered by Admiralty that C.S.10's covering force (BELFAST, KENT and NORFOLK) has not yet been reported; and the Russian local escort of Convoy R.A. 54A report that the 7 destroyers of Force 3 have now met the Convoy which at 1300A yesterday was about 140 miles N.E. of the Kola Inlet.

Engagement
off the
Hook. 2
E-Boats and
1 trawler
damaged.
1 enemy
trawler
sunk. M.T.B.
606 sunk.
M.T.B. 617
damaged.

4(a) A unit of 7 M.T.Bs. patrolling the enemy convoy route off the Hook engaged a group of 4 E-Boats at 2110 last night and, having badly damaged 2 E-Boats, withdrew. M.T.B.617 was damaged in the action and was ordered home.

(b) At 2305 the same unit sighted near the convoy route 2 large trawlers and a medium-size M/V; and, in the ensuing engagement, one of the trawlers was certainly and the other probably sunk and the M/V was set on fire amidships. A screen of some 10 vessels, probably M-class, then surrounded the unit and M.T.B.606, after being heavily damaged by gunfire, was abandoned and sunk by our own forces, which then withdrew. One officer and 8 ratings in the unit were killed, and 2 officers and 8 ratings wounded.

Coastal
Batteries.

5. At 2147 last night our coastal batteries engaged 2 destroyers off Calais, firing 18 rounds of 15-inch and 20 rounds of 9.2 without known result. The enemy batteries replied with about 25 rounds, of which 8 fell in Dover and 10 in

/Dover ...

4.11.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Coastal
Batteries.
(Contd.)

Dover Harbour causing 8 civilian casualties (2 fatal), wounding 2 naval ratings, and damaging civilian property. 6 rounds also fell in the Folkestone and Ramsgate areas, causing damage and 2 fatal civilian casualties in Ramsgate. 7 Albacore A/C were flown off, and 2 of these attacked the destroyers without result; and 3 M.T.Bs. which had been waiting at No. 7 Buoy failed to intercept the enemy, who appeared to be maintaining his normal speed later N.W. of Berck-sur-Mer.

Engagement
off Cap
d'Antifer.

6. At 0355 this morning M.T.Bs. 207 and 211, patrolling off Cap d'Antifer, sighted 2 enemy destroyers approaching from the eastward. The destroyers opened fire with star-shell; star-shell was also fired from the shore; and each M.T.B. was pursued by one destroyer. M.T.B. 207 disengaged at once; but M.T.B. 211, after being chased inshore, was only able to escape under her own smoke screen; and was attacked on her return by a Chasseur and Auxiliary Craft which also engaged one another. There were 2 minor casualties in M.T.B. 211, and both M.T.Bs. returned safely.

F.N. 70
attacked.

7. E-Boats attacked Convoy F.N.70 between Cromer and Yarmouth at 2330 today, SS. FIRELIGHT and BRITISH PROGRESS were torpedoed and damaged, but both vessels reached Yarmouth Roads in tow on 5th. Patrolling destroyers VEGA, FERNIE and EGLINTON engaged the E-Boats, one of which was set on fire and hits are claimed on a second. (See also 5.11.43)

Operation
S.F.

8. All patrols by Hudsons or Venturas were cancelled at 1135A today.

DURBAN.

9. DURBAN arrived at Plymouth today from the Eastern Fleet.

Mediterranean.

Aegean.

10(a) DULVERTON, BEAUFORT and PINDOS landed personnel and stores at Leros last night and withdrew to Mandelyah Gulf to lie up today. They intend to return to Alexandria tonight.

/(b) ...

4.11.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Aegean.
(Contd.)

(b) PHOEBE oiled FAULKNER, ECHO, PENN and PATHFINDER at Limasol yesterday, and the destroyers proceeded north of Rhodes to the Gulf of Doris, to lie up during daylight today.
(c) One Italian store carrying submarine is on passage to Leros.

East Indies.

Aden
Escort
Force.

11. C. in C. Eastern Fleet is asking for the loan of 4 escort vessels from South Africa, to strengthen the Aden Escort Force. The latter consists of 13 ships and is just sufficient to maintain the regular A.B. convoy cycle, but allows no margin for escort of special ships and for a full refitting programme.

U/B
situation.

12. The present appreciation indicates the temporary removal of the U-Boat threat from the Gulfs of Aden and Oman, and reduced threat in the areas off Mombasa and Bombay. Use is to be made of the present lull to recoup and complete dispositions of G.R. aircraft.

China.

13. 4 U.S. Mitchells on a sweep in the south China Sea today sank a 400 ft. freighter in Swatow Harbour and probably sank a 200 ft. cargo vessel.

4.11.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

14. At midday today a reconnaissance Liberator sighted a southbound task force consisting of heavy and light cruisers, destroyers and corvettes with merchantmen about 100 miles north of Mussak Island, and bombed them, but made no hits.

15. Last night, Allied patrol craft sank 5 out of 6 barges encountered 14 miles north of Finschhafen, New Guinea.

16. Patrol Liberators sank one of two sea trucks 50 miles N.E. of Cape Gloucester, New Britain last night.

17. This morning two search aircraft each made two direct hits on a 10,000 ton tanker, (one of two large vessels) 115 miles north-east of Mussau, New Hanover. Three hours later a third aircraft attacked a tanker and a destroyer in the same neighbourhood, making a direct hit on the former.

Attack on
Kahili.

18. 57 Avengers and 19 Dauntless bombed Kahili at noon today. The fighters proceeded to the north part of Bougainville where some small ships and barges were set on fire.

19. On the same day 23 Liberators raided Buka, Solomon Is.

20. The raiding party on Choiseul was successfully withdrawn by today after setting land mines and booby traps.

4.11.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy

UNSWERVING
and
STRATAGEM
for A/S
training.

Your 031455. Submarines UNSWERVING, STRATAGEM should be allocated to C. in C.W.A. who is requested to re-allocate them in accordance with Admiralty's 032226/September. (D.A/S.W. 041750A to Capt. S.3.).

FENCER

FENCER will remain under your orders for the present but is to be available in the Clyde about 7th December in order to prepare for the service outlined in A.M. 201319 October. (D.O.D.H. 041901A to C. in C.W.A.).

CHASER,
STRIKER.

When ready for service CHASER and STRIKER are placed under the orders of C. in C.W.A. (D.O.D.(H) 041912A to C. in C.W.A.).

Movements

K.15

Dutch submarine K.15 leaves Scilly Isles at 1300A/6th diving by day by route green to 043 degs. N. E.T.A. 2100/11th. Thence as ordered by F.O.C. Gibraltar. (Capt.(S) 3, 040951A to F.O.i/c Gibraltar).

TEAZER,
ROCKET.

Estimated P.C.S. 1000/4th, 050 degs. 42' N. 017 degs. 08' W. 096 degs. 18 knots. ROCKET in company. E.T.A. 1300A/5th. (TEAZER, 041000 to C. in C. Plymouth).

BRANSFIELD
for
Falkland
Islands.

Admiralty 011825A and 011903A November. Codeword is "Operation Tabarin". (Head of M.I. 041035A).

HARRIER,
SEAGULL.

HARRIER and SEAGULL arrived Kola Inlet 3rd November. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 041139A to S.B.N.O. Archangel).

DURBAN,
BULLDOG,
PRINS
ALBERT.

Arrived DURBAN, BULLDOG and PRINS ALBERT. (C. in C. Plymouth, 041200A to V.A. Gibraltar).

BRISSENDEN

Proceed passing Switha 0900A/5th to Hvalfiord routed through 058 degs. 50' N. 007 degs. 10' W. thence through Reykjanes Passage and swept Channel.

(2) On arrival complete fuel and proceed Seidisfiord routed South of Iceland (C) to arrive p.m.8th. (R.A.D.H.F. 041315A to BRISSENDEN).

4.11.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

S/M movements. Positions of S/Ms. at 0800/5 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 041711A, 050928A).

NELSON HURON with HARDY proceeding to pass Switha 1800A/5th to R/V with NELSON in 000 degs. Cape Wrath 8 miles at 2200A/5.
(2) NELSON is to proceed unescorted from (2058 degs.) 35' North 008 degs. 10' West to Rosyth. When met provide escort to destination, return Scapa when released.
(R.A.D.H.F. 041832A to C. in C. Rosyth, HURON, HARDY).

RANGER Departure C.T.F.121 in RANGER escorted by FORREST and CORRY passing May Island 1845.
(C. in C. Rosyth 041855 to C. in C.H.F.).

ENCHANTRESS, My 182211 October.
COLUMBINE. (1) ENCHANTRESS (S.O.), COLUMBINE are to sail on November 8th at best speed to Gibraltar.
(2) Route.
(C. in C.W.A. 042256A to Cdre. D.W.A.).

Operations.

Operation "F.S." D/F of transmission at 0810Z suggests possibility of U-boat in area of C.S.10.
(D.D.I.C. 040951A to A.I.G. 47).

From Russian local escort, position of convoy at 1300A/3 070 degs. (239') N. 041 degs. 06' E. S. of A. 6½ knots. N. to N.W. Gale wind force 9 and westerly gale.

(2) Force 3 (?had) met the convoy.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 041046A to Admty.).

A.M. 040951A. No further transmission intercepted by home stations from this area. It is not, as yet, considered that C.S.10 has been reported.

(D.D.I.C. 041221A to A.I.G. 47).

SPEEDWELL with HALCYON proceed passing Switha 1600A/5th routed through 058 degs. 40' North 007 degs. 10' W. 061 degs. 10' North 012 degs. 20' W., 064 degs. 00' N. 014 degs. 40' W. thence to Seidisfiord. On arrival complete with fuel.

(2) SPEEDWELL with HALCYON, MIDDLETON, BRISSENDEN will form Force 4 and are to proceed as requisite to comply with C. in C. H.F. 272009. When met act under orders of JASON. D. day is 1st November.

(3) On completion BRISSENDEN proceed to Loch Ewe, remainder of Force 4 returning to Scapa.

(4) C. in C.H.F. 272009, 272315, 281235 refer.

(R.A.D.H.F. 041250A to SPEEDWELL, HALCYON, BRISSENDEN, MIDDLETON)

Operation "S.F." My 032310. All patrols by Hudson or Venturas cancelled.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 041135A to H.F.).

100

4.11.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation My 011705. As from 0901/5th amend para. 2 to read
"S.F." 062° 30' N. 015° 20' W. 60.60 (2 corrupt groups).
(Contd.) Patrol being moved to conform. Aircraft for to-
morrow 2 Catalinas, 8 Sunderlands, 8 P.V.1 or Hud-
sons.
(C. in C.Rosyth 042344A to M/3 15.)

Bay Patrol. Am being attacked by enemy A/C in 45° 30' N. 11°
00' W.
(A/C Duty Y. No T.O.O. and 041315A to 19 Group.)
Focke Wolfe reported at 1245 in 45° 41' N. 20° 21'
W. course 011° height 2000 ft. followed, unable engage.
(A/C Duty K 041300 to 19 Group.)
Investigating oil patch 46° 40' N. 11° 35' W.
(A/C Duty V 041345 to 19 Group.)
Disposition at 042000.

1. CEYLON patrolling between 041° 59' N. 017° 11' W. and 039° 58'
N. 013° 19' W.
4. GLASGOW 046° 40' 016° 01' through 046° 29', 015° 59' to 044°
59' 014° 59' thence 166° 20 knots.
(C. in C.Plymouth 041536A to Admty.)
Have A.S.V. contact position 46° 45' N. 11° 05' W. probably
U-Boat. Investigating oil patch.
(A/C Duty J 041850A to Q.A.1.)

Two enemy In anticipation of the movement westward of two
destroyers destroyer located by P.R.U. in Dunkirk M.T.Bs. 353
shelled. (S.O.), 354 and 359 were sent to wait at number
Coastal seven buoy with a view to attacking off Gris Nez
Batteries under cover of fire from our coastal batteries.
engaged. 2. At 2147 Radar detected two vessels of medium
size five miles west of Gravelines proceeding
westward at 22 knots. The M.T.Bs. were ordered
to proceed to intercept and coastal batteries
opened fire at extreme range shortly after the enemy passed
Calais. All available Albacores of 841 Squadron were flown off
from Manston under Swingate Ground Control with orders to attack
south of Boulogne.

3. Batteries fired 18 rounds of 15 inch and 20 rounds of 9.2
inch but make no claims. The enemy replied with about 25 rounds
from batteries in the Noires Mottes, Franzelles and Calais areas.
Of these 8 fell on shore in Dover and ten in Dover Harbour
causing considerable damage to Civilian property and some slight
damage to Transit Camp. Two civilians killed and six wounded
2 naval ratings slightly wounded, 6 rounds fell in Folkestone
and Ramsgate areas. Two civilians killed and one soldier wounded
and damage to Civilian property in Ramsgate. No damage or
casualties in Folkestone.
4. M.T.B. 359 developed engine defects and M.T.Bs. 353 and 354
failed to intercept.
5. Of the seven Albacores flown off only two attacked the target
which they identified as two destroyers which the remaining
aircraft failed to locate.
6. The plot faded three miles north west of Berck Sur Mer when
the enemy appeared to be maintaining his normal speed.
(V.A.Dover 041247A to Admty.)

/S/M...

4.11.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

S/M Patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800/5th and movements for following 24 hours.
A. SYRTIS, STUBBORN, VARANGIAN and ULA as in my 011707.
(F.O.S. 041711A to Admty.)

Engagement off Hook. Preliminary report of Coastal Forces operation night 3/4 November.

2 E-Boats damaged. 1. M.T.B. 617, 630, 671, 632, 606, 621, 650, were ordered to carry out operation in vicinity of the Hook.

1 enemy trawler damaged. 2. Unit approached initial position 52° 16' N. 03° 49' E. and reduced speed to 12 knots. At 2110 unit was challenged from south east by letter O. Fire was immediately opened on unit from that bearing. Order given to illuminate with starshell, which disclosed a group of 4 E-Boats steaming at high speed in a northeasterly course. Fire opened and hits were observed on two leading boats. Engagement broken off to the north and unit withdrew. Consider two E-Boats badly damaged. Unit withdrew to the westward having decided to abandon operation.

1 enemy trawler sunk. 1. At 2155 owing to damage and casualty in M.T.B. 617 S.O. transferred to M.T.B. 606 and ordered 617 to return to harbour. Unit then proceeded to The Hook to sweep up convoy route. When approaching convoy route unit obtained Radar echoes at 11,500 yards and 16,000 yards, range closed steadily to just over 1000 yards when visual contact was made at 2304. Two large trawlers sighted ahead. Orders given to illuminate. Two large trawlers and medium-sized merchant-vessel were disclosed. All guns opened fire at 2305. S.O. decided to silence close escort and then attack the merchant-vessel by torpedoes. One trawler was immediately silenced and set on fire and other badly damaged. The merchant ship was also engaged and set on fire amid-ships. Consider first trawler definite loss, other trawler last seen completely silenced, out of control and on fire. At this stage unit was completely surrounded by outer screen of escorts consisting of some 10 vessels probably M Class. Unit reports possibility of a destroyer being present. M.T.B. 606 repeatedly hit by heavy calibre shells, approx. 88 m/m, causing fire and casualties, steering gear jammed, repeated attempts by 630 to take her in tow were unsuccessful and it was reluctantly decided to abandon ship as enemy escorts were closing in rapidly. Crew transferred to 630. C.Bs. were collected and transferred and the I.F.F. detonated, the demolition charge was placed in forward fuel compartment and time fuze was seen to be burning. Unit withdrew to the west and approx. 10 minutes after leaving 606, a large flash was seen astern of 630 and the thud of explosion felt. Unit then disengaged and proceeded to waiting position as S.O. considered that as so many ships had been damaged and casualties it was useless to continue engagement. Unit then returned to harbour. Casualties. Killed 1 officer, 8 ratings. Wounded 2 officers, 8 ratings. Damage. Lost M.T.B. 606. Superficial damage M.T.B. 630, 671, 650.
(C. in C. Nore 041827A to Admty.)

time?
was 3 or 4?

/Engagement...

War Diary.4.11.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.Engagement
with 2
enemy
destroyers.

Coastal forces proceeded 3rd November in accordance with Portsmouth 031351 and 031727. Plots of fast vessels detected proceeding south from Boulogne were passed to Force. Easterly group obtained hydrophone effect near Fecamp but sighted nothing.

Westerly group of M.T.Bs. and M.T.Bs. divided and at 0355/4th in 298° Cape D'Antifer 2.3 miles two destroyers were sighted by M.T.B. 211 and 207 approaching from eastward. Almost immediately they altered course towards the M.T.Bs. and opened fire with starshell. Starshell was fired simultaneously from shore. The two M.T.Bs. were each pursued by 1 destroyer, M.T.B. 207 disengaging at once. The centre engine of M.T.B. 211 failed to start, and she could only make 16 knots. M.T.B. 211 was chased inshore by the destroyer which for a while could not depress its guns sufficiently to open fire, whilst the M.T.B. was too near to use torpedoes. The M.T.B. attempted to use depth-charges, but the destroyer kept clear of her wake. M.T.B. 211 then made smoke, which the enemy destroyer would not penetrate and the M.T.B. broke off the action. On the return passage M.T.B. 211 was engaged by 75 m.m. fire from a CHASSEUR and an auxiliary which then began firing at each other aided by salvos from the destroyer. Two minor casualties in M.T.B. 211 and superficial damage. (C. in C. Portsmouth 041943A to Admty.)

E-Boats.

Suspected E-Boat activity - T.
(C. in C. Nore 042325 to 394 Aux. M/S Group.)
E-Boats bear 65° approx. from 13 T.
(C., in C. Nore 042342 to 394 Aux. M/S Group.)

Allied Air Activity.R/Cs.
requested.

Request P.R.U. of Cherbourg and Le Havre if possible today to locate enemy shipping.
(D.D.I.C. 041117A to A.D.I.Ph.)

Operation
"Spade."

Conference between 19 Gp. and 10 Gp. today agreed following scale of effort as fighter cover could be provided during four days period of operation "Spade." 19 Gp. can provide 20 A/C and 10 Gp. 12 A/C daily. This will enable continuous day cover over each force of four A/C at one time. If force threatened a further section of four A/C will be despatched to reinforce but may be at expense of next days effort. This H.Q. anticipates enemy will locate surface forces in early stage of operation and should be able to produce up to 30 Do. 217 A/C with Glider bombs together with fighter cover of up to 30 Me. 110s and 50 Ju. 88s. Consider our own fighter cover very meagre in view of importance of surface vessels taking part.
(H.Q.C.C. 042240A to Air Ministry.)

Mining.

Liverpool.

At 041517A one mine detonated by sweeper in 260° C.14 Red Buoy 1 cable.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 041754 and 051541A.)

103

4.11.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Main Unit. Russian staff report there is reason to suppose enemy main unit left Altenfjord at 1000A/3 proceeding southward and at 0600A/4 had reached Vestfjord. Above information from enemy W/T traffic on following frequencies.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 040730A to Admty., (R) H.F.)
S.B.N.O. North Russia 040730A.
This message is considered unreliable as regards Main Units, but may refer to a destroyer or smaller unit.
(A.C.N.S.H. 041200A to A.I.G.47.)

Enemy destroyer. Report graded B.2 states that one destroyer passed Bodo northbound p.m. 3rd November.
(D.D.I.C. 041155A to A.I.G. 21 and 47.)

Blockade-breakers in Gironde. A.M. 022205. P.R.U. of Gironde at 1200A/3rd shows: HIMALAYA, ELSA ESSBERGER, and PIETRO ORSEOLO all present in Bordeaux. FUSIYAMA alongside at Pauillac. TANNENFELS at Le Verdon. DRESDEN lying in the river between Royan and Pauillac.
(D.D.I.C. 041250A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Kaafjord and Langfjord. Russian photographic R/C at 1125 A/4 shows Kaafjord 2 transports of 2 thousand tons, 1 transport of 5,000 tons, and 1 destroyer only present. Langfjord not photographed due to cloud, but visual reconnaissance showed no ship present.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 041702A to Admty. (R) C. in C.H.F. V.A.2.) See also S.B.N.O.N.Russia 131556A/Nov.

Dunkirk on 3rd Nov. Further examination of sortie E/462 shows Dunkirk: Newly arrived naval units are one Narvik or Seetier class D/R alongside in Bassin Freycinet and one D/R 350 ft. probably TJERK HIDDEN in dry dock, not one Elbing class D/R and one Moewe class T/B.
(R.A.F. Medmenham 041825A to Admty.)

Unknown ship. An unidentified vessel has been plotted by R.D/F in 304 F.V.B. 8.5 at 2316. Enemy course is 290°. (C. in C.Nore 042330 to 394 Aux. M/S Group.)

Technical.

"Foxyer" Gear. C. in C.W.A. 241912A October. Report on use of gear. F. Although much disliked manoeuvrability not seriously affected and considered acceptable in TOWY. If corvettes speed is so reduced and chief asset of manoeuvrability destroyed that considered unacceptable.
(B.3 041414Z to C. in C.W.A.)

104

4.11.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

M.L.152. M.L.152 was in collision with ANNA night 30/31st October when acting as escort to F.N.65. (C. in C.Nore 041755A to Admty.)

B.Y.M.S.53. B.Y.M.S.53 leaking badly and has to return. Am proceeding company to Milford Haven. Standing by using salvage pump if necessary. (PROSPEROUS 041854A to C. in C.W.A.)

Shipping & Convoys.

H.X.263, Ships in collision on 3rd Nov. TORTUGUERO damaged. My 032335 not to DRURY. Ships concerned believed to be A. TORTUGUERO damaged forward, proceeding 6 knots. B. EUGENE FIELD proceeding after convoy. C. ALEX HAMILTON assistance not required, probably still in convoy. DRURY in contact A. and B. 11 miles from astern. SANSONIA in contact A. Rescue ship and GRENADIER together somewhere astern. 3. Changed pendants makes identification uncertain. DRURY confirm when possible. (E.G.4 040222Z to C. in C.W.A.)

H.X.263 much strung out and fast section not yet (?detached). Your 031603 refers. In view of absence of DRURY and GRENADIER intend BYARD only escort fast section about 4 ships leave 6 escort for main convoy. My 040222 refers. (E.G.4 040843Z to C. in C.W.A.)

S.D.46. NIGHTINGALE, ANTHONY, CHRISTOBAL, MCANDREW escorted by SALADIN and SCIMITAR arrived Clyde. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 040614A to A.C.I.C.)

H.X.263. Amend my 040222 and 041100 para. 2. Ships were A. TORTUGUERO rejoined at 1200 speed 76 knots. SAMSONIA in company. B. EUGENE FIELD rejoined convoy. C. W.B.YATES overtaking at 11 knots. ALEX HAMILTON not involved. Rescue ship rejoined convoy. E.& O.E. (E.G.4 041304Z to C. in C.W.A.)

M.K.F.25. JED detailed. Your 040958A. (E.G.1 041057A to C. in C.W.A.)

T.A.73. Intend sailing SS. QUEEN MARY passing Clyde Boom 2359A/5th to comply with A.M. 022018A. S.O.A. 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots. "Chop" 8th November. E.T.A. Ambrose light vessel 1600Z/11th. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 041126A to Admty.)

K.M.S.32. GODAVARI. A.M. 031825. 1. GODAVARI is delayed by illness Captain, and is to sail with K.M.S.33. 2. WALLFLOWER is to escort SAN UBALDO and convey confidential mail 3. WALLFLOWER to Gibraltar on completion of escort. (C. in C.W.A. 041258A to Admty.)

/E.N....

4.11.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

E.N. and
Ocean
Convoys.

During the winter months a longer interval is allowed at Loch Ewe and Oban between the arrival of an E.N.convoy and the sailing of the ocean convoy.

2. Late starters, therefore, which have missed the appropriate E.N.convoys, can sometimes arrive at these anchorages in time for the ocean convoy if they proceed independently either from 22 buoy or after calling at Methil.
3. Ships as in para. 2, except tankers or ships with especially valuable cargo, may proceed independently, provided not more than 3 ships sail together unescorted north of the Firth of Forth, and that the passage of the Pentland Firth is made in daylight.
5. Ships are to be given a route to Loch Ewe or Oban as appropriate if the call at Methil is to be omitted, and Masters informed that they are not to leave the F.N.convoy without orders from the escort.
6. This procedure is to be used sparingly and only when the normal convoy programme cannot be adhered to.
(D.T.D. 041600A to C. in C.Rosyth, C. in C.Nore.)

Explosive
Loadings
in Thames.

To avoid long rail hauls and two-port loading it is proposed to permit loading of explosives in the Thames up to 1200 tons net per ship subject to following provisos.

- 2A. Any ship embarking explosives shall be loaded completely in Tilbury Docks.
- B. F.O.I.C. London is asked to furnish Admiralty and C. in C.Nore with weekly figures of explosives loaded.
3. Under these safeguards the situation can be kept in hand.
4. Request your remarks.
(D.T.D. 041645A to C. in C.Nore.)

O.N.209.

Sailed CHURCHILL to overtake O.N.209.
(Cdre. D.W.A. 041740A to A.I.G. 196.)

T.A.70.
(AQUITANIA.)

T.A.70 sailed in accordance with my 031506A.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 042346A to Admty.)

War Diary.4.11.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

PRINCE
ROBERT. Remaining Horta until further directions.
(S.B.N.O. Horta, 041101, to S.B.N.O. Azores,
(R) Admty.)
Arrived.
(S.B.N.O. Horta, 042029.)

FLEETWOOD,
AUBRETIA,
CYCLAMEN. My 03 1904 ships sailed 041128.
(F.O.C. Gib. 041156A, to F.O.C. W.Af.)

U/B U-Boat believed bound Toulon from Balearics Area
is estimated to arrive Toulon between morning 5th
and night 6th.
(F.O.I/C Gib. 041227A, to S.8, S.10, C. in C.
Med. (R) Admty.)

P.46
UNRUFFLED. Sailed, my 022319 refers.
(F.O. Gib. 041230A, to Admty., F.O.S.)

HOCHERINER. 66 sailed 2330 for Bayonne.
(Bilbao, 041235, to M.E.W. (R) D.N.I., B.N.O.
Madrid, S.O.(I) Gib.)
HOCHHEIMER

F.O.I.C. Personal for V.C.N.S.
Gibraltar: The necessity for very early classification of my
responsibility responsibilities visavis the Azores is becoming a
for Azores. matter of the greatest urgency. My 241223 and
251146 refers.
2. I am completely in the dark above movements
in Azores and furthermore cannot get answers to
my signals.
(F.O. Gib. 041243A, to Admty.) *Reply: Page 170.*

U.S. S/M's Request confirmation that American S/M's are not
positions. operating east of 040° W. Cominch's 031530 not
to all addressees refers.
2. Request key to American numbered positions
referred to in Cominch's 031530.
(F.O.C. Gib. 041245A, to B.A.D. (R) Admty
C. in C. Med., S.B.N.O. Azores.)

Convoy Following being sent to S.B.N.O. Azores by R.A.F.
information Aircraft:
for Azores. (A) Standard routes of HX, ON, SC, ONS, UGS, GUS,
SL/MKS, SL, OS/KMS and OS convoys.
(B) Neutral routes.
(C) General notes on convoy and routes.
S.B.N.O.'s 031205 refers.
(D.T.D. 041518A, to F.O.C. Gib. (R) S.B.N.O.
Azores.)

4.11.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

HONEYSUCKLE. Request confirmation that HONEYSUCKLE is allocated to 46th Escort Group your 131717 and para. 3 (A) C. in C. W.A. 182211 refer.

2. Without HONEYSUCKLE 41st Escort Group would be reduced to 6 ships. Paper strength of 38th escort group is 7 ships.
(F.O.C. Gib. 041531A. to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.)

SI. GOTTHARD. My 022008. Sailing date now approx. 6th.
(D.E.W.D. 041805A, to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med.)

H.M. Ships visiting Azores. My 251900. N.A. Lisbon reports that recent unheralded visits of H.M. Ships to Ponta Delgada causing difficulties with Portuguese, who have lodged formal protest in London. Result may be to render it less easy to obtain concessions, and particular care should be taken to observe regulations for visits to Ponta Delgada.

2. Question of visits by S.B.N.O. to Ponta Delgada without notification in cases of urgency is being taken up but meanwhile S.B.N.O. is requested to give adequate notice of all visits.

3. Arrangements re fuelling now under consideration. Co-ordination appears necessary between the use of Horta and Ponta Delgada. Should visits to Ponta Delgada be arranged through you or should existing arrangements be continued in accordance with C.A.F.O. 1924/42.

4. Instructions have been sent to H.M. Ambassador to raise question of uniform for personnel at Horta but meanwhile you should not extend wearing of uniform, pending reply.
(Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 041858A, to S.B.N.O. Azores. (R) C. in C. W.A., F.O.C. Gib., C. in C. Med.)

Italian ships in Spanish ports. 1. No Italian ship has yet been ready to leave Spanish ports with exception of OLTERRA now in Gib.
2. Obstruction by Spanish and sabotage and intimidation by Germans has already been subject of note presented to the Min. of F.A. by Br., American and It. Ambassadors. Giuriati was aware of this before his departure.

Expect to sail FULGOR from Cadiz shortly. The fewer Italians we have here either resident or visiting the quicker (?we are) likely to get (?decisive) action. U.S. N.A. concurs.

(N.A. Madrid, 042107A, to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.,
F.O. Gib.)

108

4.11.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

CORFU. . . . By D/F at 2319/3 G.M.T. unknown enemy unit using information. call sign EPJG, probably Japanese U-Boat, estimated within 150 miles of 27° 00' S. 09° 00' W. southbound.

(D.D.I.C. 040235A, to CORFU. . Info. C. in C. S.A., F.O.C. W.A.)

When Unit EPJG transmitted first message number 322 groups at 2158Z/3 on 8470 KC/s your 040235A refers RSS reported a transmission from station WDM which has not been heard for some time at 2243Z acknowledging message number 3 as follows QSL 3 QTC KK at 2255Z message from unit was repeated. WDM made further transmissions QSA 3-4 until 0022Z/4 but it was not possible to obtain hearings from any South African Station. There may be some connection or a coincidence.

(C. in C. S.A. 041224C, to Admty. for D.N.I.)

CAGNI. Defect developed in CAGNI repair of which essential and earliest approx. date of completion 8th your 311115 Oct. refers.

(2) Further signal will be made when firm readiness for sea can be given.

(Com. Durban, 041232Z, to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty., C. in C. Levant, C. in C. E.F., (S.E.A.C.), C. in C. Med., F.O.E.A.)

LORRAINE. Your 011703 will it be acceptable if LORRAINE arrives Gibraltar 21st Dec. Any earlier arrival makes provision of escorts extremely difficult. If not acceptable one destroyer could be made available at Dakar about 20th Nov. provided VISCOUNT and GARLAND arrive Gibraltar in time for onward escort of personnel ships ex K.M.F.27. If first alternative is acceptable adequate escort can be provided from Dakar to Gibraltar.

(F.O.C. W. Af. 041845Z, to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty., Commob, Comnavnaw, B.A.D.)

U/B By D/F at 2002Z/4 position of German U-boat was within 150 miles of 9 degs. N. 74° E. (D.D.I.C. 042325A, to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.))

U/B's Following received from N.C.S.O. St. Vincent reported. 041050 (Begins) "Submerged U-boat reported to have passed between St. Vincent and San Antonio Cape Verdes proceeding from North to South 1930 G.M.T. 3rd. Submarine also reported to be using River Monte Trigo Bay, San Antonio Western coast every 3rd day, last seen November 1st. 1st U-boat reported by master of local schooner N.C.S.O. considers reliable. Second source N.C.S.O. states assessment impossible at present!"

(F.O.C. W. Af. 042349Z, to Admty.)

War Diary.4.11.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Situation Report No. 99. DULVERTON, BEAUFORT, PINDOS landed personnel and stores at Leros last night and withdrew to Mandelyah Gulf to lie up today. Intend to return to Alexandria tonight.

(2) PHOEBE oiled FAULKNOR, ECHO, PENN, PATHFINDER at Limasol today. Destroyers proceed North of Rhodes to Gulf of Doris tonight to lie up during daylight 4th.

(3) PHOEBE remains in vicinity of Cyprus tonight and will oil ALDENHAM and MIAOULES tomorrow.

(4) ALDENHAM, MIAOULES leave Alexandria tonight to join PHOEBE.

(5) 4th Italian Store carrying submarine has made good defects and left Aegean E.T.A. Haifa 0700A/5th. Another is on passage to Aegean E.T.A. Leros p.m. 6th.

(6) During period 17th and 31st October Kastelorizo experienced 8 air raids the harbour always being target. 3 other raids were made on convoys of H.M. ships in immediate vicinity. Average weight of attack was 10 to 12 JU 87's escorted by 2 to 4 ME 109's or 12 to 14 JU 88's up to present fortunately damage has been only slight with constant threat of escorted air attack loading and unloading of various small craft that visit Kastelorizo only takes place at night while craft retire to Turkish waters during daylight.

(C. in C. Levant, 040436.)

Bombing of destroyers, 30th Oct. Further to my 012217 (012219 intended) Destroyers were again bombed in territorial waters after AURORA had parted company. They were at the time within equally short distance of Kastelorizo and therefore enemy had reasonable excuse.

(C. in C. Levant, 040458B, to S.B.N.O. Ankara.
(R) Admty.)

ACHELOUS. Admiralty pass to Comnavnaw. U.S.S. ACHELOUS sailed 4th. E.T.A. Aden 0700C 6th.
(N.O.I.C. Massawa, 040627Z, to Admty.)

Alexandria movements. Departures - ATHERSTONE, ALDENHAM, BOXER, CATTERICK, Italian destroyers VELITE, ARTIGLIERE.
(N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 040725.)

Enemy re-ports, Aegean. Enemy anchorage of 1 enemy E-boat 46° 57' ?(N) 27° 03' E. Enemy anchorage of 5 E-boats 36° 54' ?(N) 27° 21' E. Weather report. Time 0850.
(A/C XAC/W, 040855Z, to 201 Group H.Q. M.E. Cd.
NR.4. P.C.S. of one small enemy craft is 36° 55' N. 24° 45' E. 060° 10 knots.
(A/C XAC/S, 040908Z, to 201 Group H.Q. M.E. Command.)
NR.1. P.C.S. 1 L/C 37° 42' N. 24° 06' E. 320° 7 knots.
(A/C XAC/S, 040920Z, to 201 Group H.Q.)
NR.2. Enemy anchorage Lavrion 2 E/V's.
(A/C XAC/S, 040925Z, to 201 Gp. H.Q. M.E. Cd.)
NR.3. Enemy anchorage at Keos 1 L/C, 4 barges.
(A/C XAC/S, 040930Z, to 201 Gp. H.Q.)

/NR.5. ...

110

4.11.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy reports N.R.5. My 0930Z+, enemy previously reported are:-
 Aegean - Barges empty like Siebel Ferry.
 Contd. (A/C XAC/S, 040950Z, to 201 Co-op Grp.)
 +Re enemy anchorage at Keos.

Air Reports. A.308 4th Nov. Daily Opsum 190.
 2/3rd. 3 Liberators (B.24) 6 Halifaxes Heraklion
 aerodrome Crete, found target area completely
 obscured by cloud. 4 aircraft dropped bombs through cloud on
 gun flashes in estimated position of aerodrome. One torpedo,
 2 Bomber Wellingtons anti-shipping r/c Western Aegean. No
 sightings at sea. 2 bombed warehouses and 3 possible escort
 vessels at Syros. Results unobserved. 2 enemy aircraft over
 Leros during night. One stick of bombs dropped in ?sea.
 3rd Nov. 10 Beaufighters despatched to attack convoy 2 E-boats
 13 small landing craft reported off Lavrion, Greece. 5
 returned early remainder made no sightings. U.S. Mitchells
 (B.25) detailed to attack same convoy were unable to take off
 owing to unserviceability of Gambut landing grounds. 3
 Baltimores (A.30) anti-shipping r/c South Eastern Aegean. No
 sightings.
 1 r/c Ju.88 over Leros during day. No other enemy air activity
 reported. 2 Wellingtons 3 Beauforts 4 Venturas (B.34) 3
 Baltimores (A.30) A/S. 4 Beaufighters 32 Spitfires 2
 Hurricanes shipping protection. 2 Spitfires 4 Hurricanes
 defensive patrols.
 3/4th Nov. 5 Wellingtons search for convoy landing craft in
 Aegean. Convoy not seen. 4 aircraft bombed Syros Harbour 1
 bombed gun flashes on Seriphos. 1 small fire started at Syros.
 4 Hudsons Antimachia landing ground Cos. Bombs of 1 failed
 to release, remainder scored hits on landing ground disposal
 area. 2 Dakotas (C.47) dropped supplies on Samos following
 delayed details.
 2nd Nov. 1 Baltimore (A.30) A/S. 38 Hurricanes 32 Spitfires
 shipping protection. 2 Spitfires 4 Hurricanes defensive patrols.
 (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 041011Z.)
 WX.64057. AV 937 4th.
 N.W.A.A.F. Opsum 256 N.W.A. Strategic A.F.
 11 U.S. Warhawks P.40 shipping strike coastal area between
 Pescara and Giulianova dropped 11 X 500 on 50 foot vessel
 scoring 2 near misses. 8 Spitfires, 24 Kittyhawks P.40 r/c
 coastal area to Pescara. Small vessel strafed and damaged.
 (N.A.A.F.H.Q. 041605A)

X.I.F.3. Sailing Telegram Part 2. 3 ships.
 (R.A. Alexandria, 041031.)

M.K.S.30. Sailing Telegram Part 2. 11 ships.
 (R.A. Alexandria, 041037B.)

V.N.8. Details of intend sailing of 245 ships at 1600 6th
 for Naples, one for Salerno, one unknown, Escort
 EGGESFORD, LAMERTON, LAUDERDALE
 (N.O.I.C. Augusta, 041150, 041203A.)

111

4.11.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

SWITZERLAND, CANCEL my 031502 not to N.O.I.C. Oran. Intend to
LYMINGE. sail SWITZERLAND, LYMINGE escorted by POLRUAN
at 1900A Nov. 4th to Gib.
2. Route.
3. S. of A. 5 knots. E.T.A. 0700A 8th.
(N.O.I.C. Algiers, 041229A.)

R.A.F., Gib. AX.240. 4th.
reverts to R.A.F. Gib. is playing increasingly important part
Coastal in anti-S/M offensive in Bay area. This and fact
Command. that air cover is available from Azores make it
essential that A/S operations from Azores,
Gibraltar and U.K. be co-ordinated by one
authority. The C's of S. have decided that the
operational control of R.A.F. Gibraltar is to revert to the
A.O.C. in C. C.C. Decision subject to review on the re-
organisation of command within the Med.
2. As in the past, cover for convoys in the Gib. area as
required by F.O.I.C., Gib. will be first charge on resources of
R.A.F., Gib., and will be arranged direct between A.O.C. and
F.O.C. Thus co-ordination of effort between air forces
stationed in the Moroccan Sea Frontier and those at Gib. not
affected.
3. Consult with your Naval colleague and Eisenhower on the
earliest convenient date for this transfer and inform us when
this can be effected.

(Air. Min. 041250Z, to Air C. in C. M.A.C. at Air Command
Post. (R) A.O.C. in C. C.C., A.O.C. Gib.)
C.O.S. (W) 927. 4th Nov.
Following from C's of S.

We have had under consideration operational control of
R.A.F. at Gib. which was taken from A.O.C. in C. C.C. and placed
in the Med. Air Command for Operation "Torch". This was done
because virtually all the air forces at Gib. were directly
concerned with the operation, the great bulk of them consisting
of reinforcements for the land battle. With the successful
completion of "Torch" the passing of aircraft forward from Gib.
became a straightforward administrative matter and the principal
operational task of the A.O.C. became once more the protection
of sea communications. It might then have been possible to put
R.A.F. Gib. again under the control of Coastal Command. The
task of hunting U-boats and protecting shipping in the North
Eastern Atlantic was a single one in which ideally all effort
should be directed by a single authority. Coastal Command had
access to all the U-boat intelligence and to information about
the movement of shipping in the area covered by aircraft from
Gib., a great deal of which passed North and South in the
Atlantic and did not concern the North African theatre. Never-
theless we did not think it right to make a change while
operations "Husky" and "Avalanche" were in progress.

2. Situation in the Atlantic has changed as a result of recent
developments in two ways:-

(a) The success of our A/S patrols in the Bay has compelled
the enemy U-boats to pass through the extreme south of the area,
usually in Spanish territorial waters. This has brought them
increasingly within range of the aircraft based at Gib. and has

/necessitated ...

112

4.11.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

R.A.F., Gib. necessitated the closest co-ordination of operations between Coastal Command and R.A.F. Gib. reverts to (b) We have obtained facilities for operating A/S Coastal Command - aircraft from Lagens airfield in the Azores and a Contd. Coastal Command Group has been set up to control them. Much of the area covered by aircraft in the Azores overlaps with that covered by Gib. and the most intimate co-operation is necessary between them. Only A.O.C. in C. C.C. can allocate tasks between the Azores and Gib. and he must be able to move aircraft quickly from one to the other in order to take advantage of fleeting opportunities of attacking U-boats or to give protection to Allied convoys passing through the area.

3. These considerations have led us to decide to transfer operational control of R.A.F. Gib. back to Coastal Command, and Air C. in C. M.A.C. has been so informed, the date of effect to be decided by him after consultation with C. in C. Med. and General Eisenhower.

4. As in the past cover for convoys in the Gib. areas as required by F.O.I.C. Gib. will be first charge on resources of R.A.F. Gibraltar and will be arranged direct between A.O.C. and F.O.C. Thus the change need not affect the status quo regarding the co-ordination of effort between air forces stationed in the Moroccan Sea Frontier and those at Gib.

5. You should inform the U.S. Chiefs of Staff of this decision and of the reasons which have led to it, stressing the point in para. 4 above.

(Air Min. 041331Z, to Britman Washington.)

GUS. 21. N.O.I.C. Port Said sail G.U.S.21 p.m. 7th by Inshore Route to Alexandria. Request R.A. Alexandria sail Alexandria section a.m. 8th. Arrangements escort DART, S.O. and RYE from Port Said, GLOXINIA and PROTEA from Alexandria. WHITEHAVEN to reinforce escort between 024° E. and 019° E. as arranged by S.N.O. Cyrenaica.
(C. in C. Levant, 041348B.)

K.M.F. 25A. Intend to sail 4 ships.
C.T.G. 80.2 composed of (corrupt grp.) escorts F.C. DAVIS and H.C. JONES to act as additional escorts to Naples and return.
(U.S. Comnob Oran, 041433A, to (U.S.) Cdr. T.G. 60.2.)

UNRULY, 1. P.49 (UNRULY) moving to patrol between Amorgos and Anaphi. P.45 (UNRIVALLED) moving to patrol UNRIVALLED. West Aegean at C.O.'s discretion except that disturbance required in Melos possibly 5th/6th.
2. P.45 (UNRIVALLED) leave patrol diving to 200 feet through Antikithera Channel on 8th on course - degrees 246 from position 035 degs. 52' 023 degs. 41' for 36 miles.
3. Capt. (S) 10 is requested arrange onward routeing to Malta. (Capt. (S) 1, 041456B, 051839B to UNRIVALLED, UNRULY, (R) 1st S.F., C. in C. Levant, Capt. (S) 10.)

/Cancel

113

4.11.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.UNRULY,
UNRIVALLED -
Contd.

1. Cancel para. one of my 041456 and resume previous patrols. Reports indicate enemy movements from westward shortly.
2. UNRULY cancel my 021811 (N.T. in W.D.) as destroyer will shoot up Amorgos night 5th/6th. (Capt. (S) 1 042206B, to UNRULY, UNRIVALLED. (R) 1st S/F, C. in C. Levant, Capt. (S) 10.)

UNSEEN.

P.51 UNSEEN sails Tobruk 1700/6th proceeding on the surface at discretion through 038° 02', 003° 32' at 0230 7th, 040° 01', 005° 30' at 2130 7th, thence diving by day through 041° 59', 006° 30' at 0030 9th, 042° 30', 005° 53' at 0830 9th to patrol in Zone SU. (Capt. (S) 8, 041510A, to C. in C. Med. (R) Capt. (S) 10, 8th S/F, N.O.I.C. Algiers, F.O.C. Gib. LA SULTANE.)

Aegean
Situation.

0/30897 4th Nov. 380931. COSITREP 45.

1. Int. (A) No Ph R 3rd. Nov. of Kos Kalimno Rhodes Crete or Greek mainland owing to weather. (B) Visual r/c. 3rd Nov. Kos/Kalimno area showed no significant change.
2. Ops. Aegean. (A) Leros. Night 2/3 Nov. Three destroyers unloaded 170 all ranks. Italian submarine now en route with stores incl. six 2 Prs. eight M.M.G's. (B) Kastelorizo. N.T.R. up to 0800B hrs. 4th Nov.
4. Naval. Aegean. (A) Night 3/4. ALDENHAM and MIAOULES left Alex. for Aegean via Cyprus. (B) 4th Nov. PHOEBE returning Haifa to refuel. PINDOS, DULVERTON, BEAUFORT returning Alex. FAULKNOR, PATHFINDER, PENN, ECHO now in Turkish waters loaded.
5. Air. (A) Own. Night 2/3 Nov. One Wellington bombed warehouses Syros another bombed three possible escort vessels Syros Harbour. Results unobserved. 3rd. Nov. Five Beaufighters despatched to attack convoy 13 small landing craft two E-boats reported off Lavrion were unable to locate vessels. American Mitchells unable to take off to attack same convoy owing to unserviceability of L.G. Night 3/4 Nov. Five Wellingtons searched for convoy of Ldg. craft in Aegean without success. Four aircraft bombed Syros Harbour and one bombed gun flashes Seriphos. One small fire started Syros. Three Hudsons bombed Antimachia L.G. Bursts seen on L.G. and dispersal area. Two Dakotas dropped supplies Samos. (B) Enemy. Night 2/3 Nov. Two enemy aircraft over Leros. One stick bombs dropped in sea. 3rd Nov. One r/c Ju.88 over Leros no other enemy air activity reported.

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

I/30901 4th. Joint Army R.A.F. Int. appreciation 24 hrs to 1000/Z/4.

- One. Situation Samos and Leros unchanged up to 1000/Z/4th
- Two. No contact by our surface forces with enemy night 3/4.
- Three. Ph. and visual r/c shipping 3rd. 3 large three-masted caiques entering Lavrion harbour. Aircraft strike despatched later to attack this convoy failed to locate. Convoy not yet relocated.
- Four. CX reports s.s. LIVANZA (5,400 tons) arrived Candia from Suda 30th Oct. Earlier CX reports LIVANZA carrying motor

/transport ...

114

4.11.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Aegean Situation - Contd. transport, guns and ammunition. This merchant vessel and troopship SAVONA left Piraeus 28th Oct. but not since relocated. Same source reports 3 ships due Candia and 5 due Suda Bay a.m./4. Owing lack recent regular photographic cover Piraeus unable confirm this report, but earlier CX reports merchant vessel LEOPARDI (approx. 4,000 tons) and large tanker JOHN KNUDSEN (9,500 tons) completed loading a.m./30 Oct. war material and Diesel fuel. Five. No reports of air attacks on Allied occupied islands 3rd. Seven. Appreciation unchanged.
(C. in C. M.E. No. T00/4.)

QUILLIAM, QUAIL, Operation "Stopper". Following is a rep. of my 041221 (Begins) QUILLIAM and QUAIL are carrying out "Stopper", West tonight 4th, 5th. F.O.T.A.'s 011709 refers (N.T. in W.D.)
2. Request fighter protection today priority normal.
3. Request fighter escort from 0530A 5th. priority high. P.C.S. 042° 40' N. 015° 10' E. 135° 28 knots at 0530A 5th. Codeword "Welter." (?one). T.O.O.041221.
(Capt. D.4. 041618A, to No. 1 M.O.R.U. (R) S.N.O.A.L. (E) 4th D.F. F.O.T.A. 242 Grp. C.F.W. N.O.i/c Bari, N.L.O. 8th Army.)
QUILLIAM, QUAIL detailed for patrol on night 5th/6th referred to in F.O.T.A.'s 040956 (N.T. in W.R.) para 4. These destroyers will leave from and return to Bari. Bari P/T C.F.W.
(Capt (D) 4. 041621A, to F.O.T.A. (R) S.N.O. Brindisi, S.N.O.A.L.(E), C.F.W. S.N.O. Bari 4th D.F.)
Sailed QUAIL, QUILLIAM.
N.O.I.C. Bari. 042226.)

Shipment of ore. A.M. 091946 and your 131946 both March Ministry of Supply is exploring possibility of first shipment of ore from Valencia in near future. Request your concurrence.
(D.T.D. 041623A, to C. in C. Med.)

SOKOL. My 031047. SOKOL now going to patrol between Amorgos and Anaphi and not east of Mykoni Channel. (Capt. (S) 1 041652B, to 1st S/F. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

UPSTART. P.65 UPSTART leaves patrol proceeding diving by day through 042° 30', 005° 59' at 0300 7th. 039° 01', 007° 02' at 0300 9th. Thence as ordered by Capt. (S) 10th to Malta.
(Capt. (S) 8th, 041716A, to 8th S/F. (R) C. in C. Med.
Capt. (S) 10th. V.A. Malta. N.O.I.C. Algiers. F.O.C. Gib.)

115

4.11.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

UNSHAKEN. P.54 (UNSHAKEN) leave patrol proceed diving by day through 043° 10', 007° 25', at 0430 6th, 042° 01', 006° 14' at 0200 7th, 040° 02', 005° 15' at 0500 8th, thence on surface at discretion through 038° 43', 003° 57' at 2200 8th, 037° 23', 000° 26' W. at 0230 10th, thence unless otherwise ordered by F.O.C. Gib., through 036° 30', 002° 10' W. at 1930 10th, 036° 20', 004° 35' W. at 0800 11th thence to Gib. E.T.A. 1130 11th.

3. All positions north and east except where otherwise stated. (Capt. (S) 8, 041800A, to 8th S/F. (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers, C. in C. Med., Comnob, Oran, F.O.C. Gib., Capt. (S) 10 (F.S. LA SULTANE),)

Troop Position 1800/3. Details.
Transports. (D.S.T.O. Alexandria, 041801B, to D. of S.T.)

Enemy Units Following read. All British Men-of-War from
Dubrovnik. (sic) Vienna, to 24th M.T.B. Fl. (R) to 4th D.F.,
Capts. D. in company. F.O.T.A. report. One
German Destroyer, one camouflaged merchant Vessel.
Four Sieble Ferries all in Dubrovnik area.
(MASTADON, 042041A, to Basra W/T.)

Cyprus Cyprus 4th. Arrived and left PHOEBE, ALDENHAM,
Movements. MIAOULES, M.G.B. 643.
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta Cyprus, 042215B.)

Situation 1. My 312240 Oct. para. 4 and 011101 para. 1
Report No.222. later reports show that 1 U-Boat was damaged by
IMPERIALIST and finally sunk by DOUGLAS and the
other sunk by FLEETWOOD (U340)
2. QUEENBOROUGH and RAIDER attacked carrying
out successful bombardment of targets on East Coast of Italy
on 3rd in support of 78 Division attack and then proceeded to
establish patrol during night 3rd/4th alongside the Albanian
coast south of Valona. Nothing was sighted during this sweep
3 coastal force pendants operating from Maddalena reported
engaging U-Boat at 2330 3rd and forcing enemy to take refuge
in San Stefano (042° 27' N. 011° 07' E.)
(C. in C. Med. 042215A.)

116

4.11.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- U/B. Aircraft report attacked U-boat in 008° 41' N. 076° 20' E. at 1600 G.M.T. 3rd.
(C. in C. E.F. 040005Z, to S. and A.'s E.I. Station)
- S/M position Signals. In future the daily position signal of S/M's on patrol will be made under the heading S/M position Section B and date.
(2) This will contain the estimated position of S/M's on patrol at 1330Z on date quoted and their movement for the following 24 hours.
(3) My 032346 refers.
(Capt. (S) 4. 040011Z, to Admty. C. in C.E.F.(S.E.A.C) A.O.C. Ceylon.)
- Exercise "Swordfish." Departure H.D.M.L. 1368,1369,1260,1298. with 12 L C H for exercise "Swordfish."
(S.O.I. Bombay, 040110Z, to Admty. C. in C. E.F. S.E.A.C. F.O.C.R.I.N.)
- M.E.I.R.I. Temporary Amendment. Temporary amendment to M.E.I.R.I. IXA. Add sub para. 2 (A). N.C.S.O. Colombo is authorised to signal S.O. escorts of B.M. convoys to detach certain ships bound Bay of Bengal to proceed independently. The ships named are to be detached (fastest first) at half hour intervals commencing immediately before arrival at outer end of Colombo searched channel.
(2) Suspend sub. para. 3 and 4.
(C. in C. E.F. 040357Z, to F.O.N.I.C. (R) Admty.)
- C.M. 46. Arrived CHITRAL, TEVIOT, BANN escorting C.M. 46.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 040357, to Admty.)
- P. 552. (1) P.552 para. 3 of your 011234 being passed to Com. R.I.N. is not understood. Surely P.552 has been under repair in South Africa for over 8 months.
(2) What are the major electrical defects that require attention.
(3) S/M is required for A.S. training on arrival at Bombay and the possibility of having to refit her there during the next 6 months cannot be entertained.
(4) Please confirm that she should be fit as a non-operational unit at Bombay for 6 months after arrival.
(C. in C. E.F. 040415Z, to Com. I.C. Durban. (R) C. in C. S.A., Admty F.O.S. S.4, Com. R.I.N.)
- A/S instructions re U/B hunting and search. Present appreciation indicates temporary removal of U-boat threat from Gulfs of Aden and Oman and reduced threat in areas off Mombasa and Bombay.
(2) To make most use of present lull to recoup and complete dispositions of GR aircraft requests for air A/S hunt and (?search) should not be made

/for the

117

4.11.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.A/S
instructions
re U/B
hunting and
search -
Contd.

for the present unless actual sighting or attack develops and requests for air escort to convoy should be reduced to token sorties of short duration preferably terminating at last light.

(3) H.Q. of GR aircraft have received similar information.

(C. in C. E.F. 040457Z, to F.O.E. E.A. (Corrupt Group.) N.O.I.C. Aden., Com. R.I.N., (R) C. in C. Levant, C. in C. S.A., R.A.E.F., 222 Group.)

Aden escort
Force.

Following ships at present constitute Aden escort force - TEVIOT, BANN, TAY, DERG, TRENT, KALE, PLYM, ASTER, THYME, NIGELLA, TULIP, ROCKROSE and FRITILLARY who is on passage to Durban to refit.

(2) Present force is just sufficient to maintain the regular AB convoy cycle but allowing no margin

for escort of special ships and for a full refitting programme to meet which needs at least another 4 ships are required.

(3) It would be much appreciated if VERBENA, GENISTA, HILFORD and TEST could be loaned for this purpose if they can be spared.

(4) If ships in para. 3 can be spared request probable dates of departure South Africa may be signalled.

(C. in C. E.F. 040557Z, to C. in C.S.A., (R) Admty., F.O.E.A., C. in C. E.F. (S.E. A.C.), R.A.T.E. Durban. Comdre Aden. F.O. Red Sea Canal Area. Cdre i/c Durban.)

Re-
organization
of Command
in India and
S.E. Asia.

Inform Admiralty when diagram referred to in my 151127, para 12 is expected to reach U.K.

2. Covering letter was signed at Delhi on 29th Oct. and was left with diagram for despatch to Admiralty by air.

(C. in C. E.F. 040614Z, to C. in C. Eastern Fleet, S.E.A.C. (R) Admty.)

H.D.M.L.'s.

Request information regarding whereabouts of H.D.M.L.'s 1303 and 1293 believed to have been off loaded Suez.

(Com. R.I.N. 040628Z, to C. in C. Levant.)

PANGKOR.

Consequent upon Admiralty's approval for use of PANGKOR as a Base Ship for escort vessels (A.M. 202141 Oct. refers) the following are my proposals for the status of this ship and the composition and duties of an escort group staff to meet the need of a mixed force of R.N. R.A.N. and R.I.N. Escort Force Base Bombay.

(C. in C. E.F. 040706Z, to F.O.C.R.I.N. (R) Com. R.I.N. BRAGANZA Admiralty.)

India
C.W. Report.

A.229.Nov.4. Daily Opsum No.559.Nov.3. 2 Beaufighters, 3 Catalinas convoy ? escort Cochin area. 1 A/C

depth-charged submarine probably damaged.

(A.H.Q. India, 040810Z, to Air Min.)

4.11.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.- Contd.

Convoy Abbreviated procedure on E.F. Station.
Sailings and (C. in C. E.F. 041240Z, to Cdre. i/c Aden, N.O.i/c
Arrivals Hormuz. C. in C.E. (S.E.A.C.), F.O.C.R.I.N., Com.
Telegrams. R.I.N., F.O.E.A., F.O. Ceylon, S.N.O. Persian Gulf.
(R) Admty., C. in C.S.A., Cdre. i/c Durban.)

P.B.61A CORNWALLIS arrived escorting P.B.61A.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 041835.)

Re-organisation of Command, India and S.E.Asia. Your despatch on re-organisation of Command in India and South East Asia was considered in Council this evening. Council agreed to delegate to Supreme Allied Commander functions and responsibilities of C. in C. India for defence and internal security in certain areas.
(Gov. of India, War Dept. 042055, to Sec. of State for India.)

4.11.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

DUFF U/B Am attacking submarine my P.C. and S. 050 degs.
 attacked. 24' N. 043 degs. 42' W. 062 degs. 20 knots.
 (DUFF, 040230Z to A.C.I.C. Admty.)
 My 040230Z carried out 3 depth charges and one
 Hedgehog attack lost contact at 0411Z in 050
 degs. 22' N. 043 degs. 17' W.
 (DUFF, 040448Z to Halifax.)
 Weather report 5461 1753 my estimated position 055 degs. 22'
 N. 043 degs. 17' W.
 (DUFF 040700Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A.)
 My 040230Z regained asdic contact 0700Z/4th, carried out
 2 more attacks. Lost asdic contact 0757Z in 050 degs. 26' N.
 043 degs. 13' W. Still hunting.
 (DUFF, 040900Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A.)

H.X.264, H.X.264. (1) Group C 1 FORESTER H/F D/F S.O.
 W.H.X.264. ASSINIBOINE H/F D/F. ETTRICK H/F D/F. AGASSIZ,
 CELANDINE, GALT will relieve W 9 in Westomp
 044 degs. 50' N. 051 degs. 39' W. at 1000Z/5.
 W.10 continue to support until daylight 6th then
 detach to St. John's N.F.
 (2) W.H.X. 264, 1 ship escorted by trawler COLDSTREAMER with tug
 ALLEGIANCE junction in Westomp.
 (3) "Chop" 1000Z/6th.
 (F.O.N.F. 040246Z to Ships escorting H.X. 264)

ROCKAWAY, This is Comairlant's 031450 addressed to U.S.S.
 RANGER. ROCKAWAY (R) Cinclant, Cominch, Com. 10th Flt.,
 Admty. C.T.F.121, U.S.S. RANGER, Comfairwing 7,
 Comnaveu.
 ROCKAWAY proceed via Boston to U.K. when ready on
 or about 5 Nov. to port to be designated by Comnaveu from which
 material can be most expeditiously delivered to U.S.S. RANGER.
 Thence proceed Bristol. Return Norfolk. Transport material
 accordance my 312045 and 292030 not to all addressees.
 (Comnaveu, 040252 to Admty.)

F.A. MARIE Schooner F.A. MARIE total loss ashore Cayo Guajaba
 total near Nuevitas crew safe.
 loss. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 041049R to R.N.O. Nassau.
 Admiralty, S.B.N.O. W.A.)

N.S.H.Q. S/M. 1200Z/4th. My 031514Z. No change.
 Estimate. (N.S.H.Q. 041404Z)

R/T /...

4.11.1943.

Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

R/T
Silence. Your 021108C one with O.N. 207 in contact with enemy and R/T silence relaxed.
(F.O.N.F. 041431Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) C. in C. C.N.A., Admty.)
C. in C. W.A. 021108. E.G.B.3 (A) Practicable under generally good weather conditions that existed. Prior to relaxing signal R/T silence was only broken at night to order emergency turn to avoid support group attacking U-Boat close ahead, and after convoy was considered well clear of U-Boats to contact aircraft and clarify situation of Commodore who was a straggler.
(B) No, efforts to use type 67 were not successful and are being pursued.
(C) (1) Very little in good visibility (2) Very considerably in thick weather or heavy seas and moderate visibility.
(D) (1) No. (2) Yes. (E) Not on this occasion, only three aircraft in company throughout passage. (F) Commodore only informed by V/S for necessary action (G) None.
(Capt. (D) Argentia, 041748Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. C. in C. C.N.A. F.O.N.F. Com. (D) W.A.)
Your 021108. E.G.5 with (A) Fine weather yes but not for stragglers or informing support group of emergency alterations at night. Thick weather silence can be maintained but support groups unless in radar touch will be out of position with relevant danger of false information on H/F D/F bearings.
(B) C two used 1740 K/cs to pass traffic to E.G.5.
(C) two. Fuel reports essential also M/F D/F bearings cannot be passed on H.T.11.
(D) One no two. Yes. (E) Nil. (F) Nil. (G) Nil.
(F.O.N.F. 041958Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) C. in C. C.N.A. Admty.)

P.554. Request you sail P.554 to Argentia accordance with C. in C. U.S. Fleet 011854 understand escort not required from C.E.S.F.
(C.E.S.F. 041513Z to Com. Subs Atlantic.)

U.S.S/M
Estimate. (Cominch, 041605Z)

S/M
Sighted. 8 people claim sighted S/M 1500Q today Thursday 6 miles West of Cockburn San Salvador Island course South running periscope depth. Suggest possibility was U.S. S/M DARTER.
(S.O.(I) Kingston, 041641R to Admty.)

O.N.207. Following arrived New York 3rd.
Total 50 ships (list) Cdre, reports PORT ALMA detached Oct. 28th for Panama.
(B.R.L.O. New York, 041840Z to Admty.)

121

4.11.1943.

Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

- TRUMPETER. C. in C. W.A's 021047/Nov refers Admty. 041553 Oct. which states TRUMPETER will be taken in hand at Norfolk for fitting rebladed rotors. Confirmation is requested as to whether para. (1) of your 231859*October still applies. (B.A.D. 041919Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A. F.O.C.T. TRUMPETER) *TRUMPETER to make 2 trips to U.S.A. before being taken in hand.
- Stragglers report No.25. One arrived St. Johns N.F. from H.X. 263. IGNACE PADEREWSKI (U.S.) October 29th returned to port convoy, not met. One arrived Halifax from H.X. 264. CASIMIR PULASKI (U.S.) November 3rd engine defects. One arrived Halifax from O.N. 207. EMPIRE TREASURE November 1st lost convoy due to bad weather, (N.S.H.Q. 042000Z to Admty.)
- Sub.attack and sighting summary. Para. A. surfaced sub. attacked 03.33 S. 37.42 W. 031722Z. (Cominch, 042036Z to Admty.)
- U.S. S/M's. It is confirmed U.S. Submarines are not operating east of 040 degs. W. Your 041245 (N.T. in W.R.) refers. (2) Cominch 031530 gives degrees and minutes of latitude and longitude in 8 figures. Positions are north and west unless otherwise stated. (B.A.D. 042049 to F.O.C.Gib. (R) Admty. C. in C. Med. S.B.N.O. Azores.)
- UG.S.23. Sailing telegram Part 1. (Route) (6) Task Force 62 U.S. Destroyers MADISON, LANSDALE HILARY P. JONES, CHARLES F. HUGHES, PILLSBURY, POPE, U.S.S.FLANERTY, U.S.S. MATTAPONI, PIONEER, AMIIK, COONER, ELDRIDGE, PORTENT A. TR.47. (Radio Washington 042115Z)
- MAURICE M.Q. total loss. Schooner MAURICE M.Q.199 gross (?tons) burned and sunk off Bradore Bay 3rd. Total loss. (N.S.H.Q., 042141A to Admty).
- UT.4 A 1. Sailing despatch. Part 1. 6. T.F.67 U.S.S. FRANKFORD S.O., U.S.S. CARMICK DOYLE, ENDICOTT McCOOK, IRA, JEFFERY LEE FOX, SALAMONIE Escort Oiler. (U.S.P.D. New York, 042226Z to Com. 10th Fleet C and R)

/B.Y.M.S...

122

4.11.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

- B.Y.M.S. B.Y.M.S. 149, 244, 261 are available to escort onward to Freetown any F.T's including Greek that are now ready at Trinidad, Belem, Natal or Recife. Existing directives modified accordingly.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 042249Z to Comcaribseafon, Cdr. 4th U.S. Fleet (R) F.O.C.W.Af. Admty. Cinclant, N.O.B. Trinidad.)
- AJAX. Bermuda arrival and departure AJAX refuelling Azores.
(S.B.N.O. West At. 042307Z to Admty.)
- GOULD. Your 012227 para. 3. GOULD detailed.
(2) Request B.R.N.O. Boston be informed that GOULD will leave Bermuda finally on 17th in order that outstanding stores may be sent. Your 020045 not to Admty. refers.
(S.B.N.O. W.A. 042234Z to B.A.D. (R) Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand.

- Digest
Serial
No. 653
Nov. 3rd. Three Liberators conducting Midday Armed R/C bombed Boela Workshop Area. Also reported 3 medium Merchantmen, 6 small Freighters, several small craft Sorong Harbour where 1 Zero ineffectually attempted interception.
(2) During early hours Patrol liberator scored direct hit and near misses on probable Tanker of 6 to 10,000 tons off coast North West Gazelle Peninsula heading East. Terrific explosion and flames followed until target disappeared.
(3) Eighteen Mitchells effectively bombed, strafed, shelled Barges and installations Madang Area from minimum altitude morning. One Mitchell lost.
(4) 12 Vengeance, 9 Bostons struck Barge staging Poinhsqui Fortification Point (15 miles North Finschhafen) and near Sio afternoon 2nd.
(7) Our losses Rabaul strike afternoon 2nd Nine Mitchells ten Lightnings.
(8) Further details Naval Action West of Empress Augusta Bay early hours 2nd state U.S. Cruiser Destroyer Taskforce engaged Enemy in three groups. Advanced Group comprising 4 Destroyers. Second Group 4 Heavy Units. Third Group believed 4 ships. Successful manoeuvre enabled torpedo attack on enemy advance force, followed by effective gunfire from cruisers and destroyers at 16 to 20,000 yards range lasting 90 minutes after first contact.

Preliminary /...

4.11.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
Serial
No. 653
Nov. 3rd.
(Contd.)

Preliminary estimates indicate 1 probable light cruiser, 4 destroyers sunk, 2 cruisers, 2 destroyers damaged. Subsequent Jap air attack after daybreak comprised 67 fighters and dive-bombers whereof 17 shot down by our Task Force. Several our ships damaged but none lost.

(9) 3 Destroyers, 3 large merchant ships located dawn 3rd 165 miles Northeast Kavieng Course South. Convoy shadowed and three hours later 19 Liberators attacked from 8,000 feet scoring direct hits large Freighter bringing to standstill left settling and damaging smaller cargo vessel. 10 to 20 Zeros and float-planes intercepted bombers. 4 destroyed 3 probably. One Liberator lost another crash landed. Convoy tracked until afternoon then 6 ships reported about 50 miles Northeast Kavieng.

(10) Detailed report landing Empress Augusta Bay day 1st Nov. by U.S. Marines in force encountered shore opposition but by nightfall enemy activity reduced to sporadic firing. 164 Japs killed to 2nd Nov. Marines suffered 260 casualties whereof 50 estimated killed.

(11) Few Japanese aeroplanes ineffectively bombed Treasury Island and Munda Area night 1st/2nd.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 040748)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Attack at 0230Z/4th by DUFF establishes a patrol line probably of up to ten U-Boats between 51 degs. 00' N. 46 degs. 00' W. and 49 degs. 00' N. 43 degs. 00' W.

Several D/Fs p.m. 2nd indicate another pack of up to twelve within 150 miles of 46 degs. 00' N. 42 degs. 00' W.

Other estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 041355A, 041410A)

Submarines Attacked.

Submarine
attack
and
sighting
summary for
24 hours
to 0900Z/4th.

Para. A. (1) Fr. MONT VISO torpedoed and sunk at 2350Z/2nd Oct. in 36 degs. 45' N. 1 degs. 55' E.
(2) FLEETWOOD sank U-Boat in 35 degs. 49' N. 5 degs 14' W. at 2307Z/1st.

(3) Aircraft attacked U-Boat in 8 degs. 41' N. 76 degs. 20' E. at 1600Z/3rd Nov.

Para. B. KISTMA obtained A/S contact in 46 degs. 26' N. 22 degs. 52' W. at 0132Z/3rd Nov.
(D.D.I.C. 041055A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

5.11.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

RODNEY.

1. RODNEY arrived in the Clyde at 2048A today from the Mediterranean.

2. The submarine STONEHENGE sailed from the U.K. today, to join the Eastern Fleet.

Engagements with E-Boats. Convoy F.N. 70 attacked. BRITISH PROGRESS and FIRELIGHT damaged. One E-Boat set on fire.

3. 3 groups of E-Boats were operating off the East Coast last night between Yarmouth and the Humber. The southernmost of these attacked Convoy F.N.70 between Yarmouth and Cromer at about 2330 and torpedoed the Tanker BRITISH PROGRESS and the British FIRELIGHT which were both brought later into Yarmouth. VEGA engaged the E-Boats, and claims that one was set on fire. The second group was engaged by EGLINTON and FERNIE north of 56B Buoy and driven off to the northward. At 0208 the Trawler CAP D'ANTIFER at 59A Buoy off the Humber engaged and drove off the third group of E-Boats.

Convoy F.N.70 was diverted; and 4 type "Z" moored mines were sept and sunk by rifle fire in the channel by 59A Buoy today.

QUEEN MARY.

4. QUEEN MARY left the Clyde at 2346A tonight for New York.

North Atlantic.

FLEETWOOD.

5. FLEETWOOD reports that she is proceeding to Casablanca with hull damage and will require dry docking. It is not known whether the damage was caused when FLEETWOOD sank a U-Boat in the Straits of Gibraltar on 1st November.

South Atlantic.

U/B sunk S.W. of Ascension.

(U. 848)

6. A U-Boat was attacked by U.S. aircraft at 1225 today in 10.09 S. 18.00 W. (300 miles S.W. of Ascension Island), crippled, and forced to the surface. After a final attack the U-Boat exploded,

/20 survivors ...

5.11.1943.
Friday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic.U/B sunk
S.W. of
Ascension.
(Contd.)20 survivors were seen on light rafts, and
SS. FORT CUMBERLAND was directed to pick them
up.Mediterranean.

"Avalanche".

7. Destroyers last night carried out a sweep
of the Venice/Ancona area but sighted nothing.Air
Operations.8(a) About 30 enemy aircraft, probably Ju.88
attacked Naples harbour from 1755 to 1903 today.
Stores and ammunition on one mole were destroyed
by a direct hit.(b) 4 U.S. Warhawks claim hits with small bombs
on a merchant vessel in Split harbour today.

Aegean.

9(a) FAULKNER, ECHO, PENN and PATHFINDER last
night landed at Leros a M.G. Battalion of 750 men
plus 80 tons of stores. The destroyers retired
to lie up.(b) Allied aircraft continued their attacks on
shipping and barges in the Aegean today.Australia and New Zealand.10. A Liberator on night search reported having
sunk a probable light cruiser in the early hours
of today near Gazelle Channel, New Britain.Air attacks
on Rabaul.11(a) At noon today a highly successful attack
by carrier based aircraft was made on enemy
warships in Rabaul Harbour. 23 Avengers with
torpedoes and 22 Dauntless each carrying 1000 lb.
bombs were covered by 52 Hellcats. Eight heavy
cruisers were seen, 5 of which were reported hit
by bombs and torpedoes and one blew up. The
sixth was hit by torpedoes. Of the three light
cruisers present one was hit by bombs and another
by both torpedoes and bombs. 14 destroyers were
seen; two were torpedoed and the majority were
gunned.

/(b) ...

126

5.11.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

Air attacks
on Rabaul.
(Contd.)

(b) 70 to 100 enemy aircraft were airborne, 24 of which were destroyed and many damaged. 8 Allied aircraft were lost.

(c) An hour after the attack on shipping at Rabaul 27 Liberators escorted by 67 Lightnings dropped 81 tons of bombs on Rabaul town. The entire target area was covered by flames from burning fuel dumps. One medium freighter alongside the jetty was damaged.

(d) P.R. of Rabaul harbour on 9th November showed the following vessels damaged:- one heavy cruiser, one destroyer, a destroyer tender, and 7 merchant ships.

(e) After dark two torpedo carrying Beauforts probably hit a possible heavy cruiser outside Simpson's Harbour and also hit a ship in Keravia Bay; the latter ship blew up with a great explosion.

12. 6 Mitchells this morning destroyed or burned 3 small coastal freighters off Bougainville.

5.11.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

S.B.N.O. Intend visiting Archangel sailing in HARRIER
North Russia. from Kola Inlet p.m. Nov. 6th returning about
Nov. 12th.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 050909A to Admty.)

ALBATROSS. ALBATROSS reduced to care and maintenance and
handed over to Commodore R.N. Barracks, Devonport
for administration. A.M. 031233A October refers.
(ALBATROSS, 050947 to Admty.)

Russian Your 251930 Oct. After discussion between Foreign
procedure. Secretary, Ambassador, General Ismay and myself,
it was considered desirable to see whether good-
will would now materialise and produce any
improvement in our military relations before
putting reprisals on the Soviet Mission in London.
(30 Mission Moscow, 051010 to War Office.)

Escort Admty. 120039 Oct.
Corvettes (1) It will be necessary to refit STARWORT and
for North LOTUS on return to U.K. Other Arctic fitted
Russian corvettes returning from Mediterranean are
Convoys. likely to need refit or considerable overhaul
before being fit for North Russian Convoys.
(2) Request therefore that the four remaining
corvettes due to return may arrive U.K. December
1st at latest in order that commitments for J.W. 55A and B
may be met.
(C. in C. W.A., 051113A to Admty.)

Movements.

S/M S.5's 030950A. Sailed Needles 0700/5th
Movements. (STONEHENGE).
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 050742A to C. in C.
Plymouth.)
(F.O.(S), 051138A to C. in C. E.F.)

Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/6 and movements for following 24
hours.
(F.O.(S), 051734A, 052138A, 061424.)

FENCER. Clyde arrivals FENCER, INCONSTANT, GARLAND, BURZA.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 050756A.)

RAVAGER. Arrived RAVAGER.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 050936A.)

/BRISSENDEN ...

128

5.11.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

BRISSENDEN. Sailed BRISSENDEN for Hvalfjord, E.T.A. 0930A/7th.
(R.A.D., 051101A to A.C.I.C.)

NELSON. R.A.(D) H.F's 041832. One hour early. S.O.A.
to May Island 17 knots.
(2) E.T.A. May Island 1100/6th.
(NELSON, 051103A to R.A.D., C. in C. H.F., A.C.
O.S., C. in C. Rosyth.)
My 041832. Sailed at 1712/5 (HURON and HARDY).
(R.A.D., 051741A to NELSON.)

MIDDLETON. Request you will sail MIDDLETON to Seidisfjord
arrive a.m./8th and join Force 4.
(C. in C. H.F., 051143A to A.C.I.C.)

BRANSFIELD. My 031158. Defects having developed in F.W. tanks
necessitating their renewal; sailing is delayed
approximately 14 days.
(F.O.I.C. London, 051310A to C. in C. Nore.)

SEAGULL. SEAGULL sailed Archangel.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 051501A to S.B.N.O.
Archangel.)

MATAGORDA. To avoid northbound traffic keep 15 miles to
port of your route between latitudes 43° N. and
40° N.
(D.O.D.H., 051614Z to MATAGORDA.)

SPEEDWELL,
HALCYON. Sailed SPEEDWELL, HALCYON for Seidisfjord.
E.T.A. 0800A/8th.
(R.A.D., 051623A to A.C.I.C.)

BOADICEA. Your 041008A. BOADICEA arrived.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 051636 to Cdre. (D) W.A.)

PROSPEROUS. Request tug PROSPEROUS may be sailed to
Gibraltar in K.M.S. Convoy as soon as convenient
after arrival.
(D.O.D.H., 051914A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

RODNEY. RODNEY arrived Clyde.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 052048A.)

RENOWN,
QUEEN
ELIZABETH. RENOWN take QUEEN ELIZABETH under your orders and
proceed passing Hoxa Gate at 1300A/8th.
Destinations RENOWN Plymouth, to pass Gate at
1330A/10th. QUEEN ELIZABETH Portland to arrive
p.m./10th.

5.11.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

RENOWN, 2. Route via Minches and war channels, S.O.A.
QUEEN 16 knots to Lizard Head.
ELIZABETH. 3. R.A.D. is requested to sail two destroyers as
(Contd.) escort to Cape Wrath to continue to Plymouth and
remain at Plymouth under the orders of C. in C.
Plymouth. My 052351 not to all refers.
4. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to augment the
screen from p.m./9th Nov. and to provide escort to continue with
QUEEN ELIZABETH to Portland.
(C. in C. H.F., 052358A to RENOWN, QUEEN ELIZABETH.)

Operations.

Engagements with E-Boats. Convoy F.N.70 attacked. BRITISH PROGRESS and FIRELIGHT damaged. One E-Boat damaged.

An unidentified vessel has been plotted by R.D.F. in 064° 55 B Buoy at 0002.
(C. in C. Nore, 050005 to 394 Aux. M/S Group.)

An unidentified vessel has been plotted by R.D.F. in 330 55B Buoy 10.5 at 0013. Course of enemy is 125°.
(C. in C. Nore, 050016 to 394 Aux. M/S Group.)

An unidentified vessel has been plotted by R.D.F. in 069° 55B Buoy 6 at 0014.
(C. in C. Nore, 050018 to 394 Aux. M/S Group.)

My 0016. An unidentified vessel has been plotted by R.D.F. in 328° 55B Buoy 8 at 0032. Course of enemy 180°.
(C. in C. Nore, 050032 to 394 Aux. M/S Group.)

My 0017. An unidentified vessel has been plotted by R.D.F. in 110° 55B Buoy 7 miles at 0130.
(C. in C. Nore, 050134 to VIVACIOUS.)

My 0142. An unidentified vessel has been plotted by R.D.F. in 305 55B Buoy 6 at 0156. Course of enemy 280°.
(C. in C. Nore, 050200 to 394 Aux. M/S Group.)

BRITISH PROGRESS in tow of tug SEAMAN proceeding to Yarmouth. Position 54D Buoy.
(VIVACIOUS, 050205A to C. in C. Nore.)

My 0134. An unidentified vessel has been plotted R.D.F. in position 143° 55B Buoy 7 miles at 0200. Number of E-Boats present is 2. Enemy speed is nil.
(C. in C. Nore, 050207 to 394 Aux. M/S Group.)

Tug DIVERSION is proceeding from Yarmouth to assist with towing. Report at daylight whether BRITISH PROGRESS is in danger of sinking and approximate draught.
(C. in C. Nore, 050308A to VIVACIOUS.)

Departure rescue tug DIVERSION to assist FIRELIGHT and BRITISH PROGRESS at 0319.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 050827A to C. in C. Nore.)

Cancel my E.T.A. Am remaining with tow until further orders.
(VIVACIOUS. 050855A to C. in C. Nore.)

Proceed to assist BRITISH PROGRESS in vicinity of 4 buoy.
(C. in C. Nore, 050935A to VIVACIOUS, SUPERMAN.)

Reply to my 050308 forthwith.
(C. in C. Nore, 050941A to VIVACIOUS.)

Your 050941 and my 050818. Draught 31 feet. No immediate danger, but salvage tug required.
(VIVACIOUS, 051001A to C. in C. Nore.)

SUPERMAN and 2 rescue M.Ls now in company. E.T.A. Yarmouth Roads 1300.
(VIVACIOUS, 051058A to C. in C. Nore.)

/Following ...

5.11.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Engagements with E-Boats. Convoy F.N. 70 attacked. BRITISH PROGRESS and FIRELIGHT damaged. One E-Boat damaged. (Contd.)

Following from Salvage Officer begins: FIRE-LIGHT bow gone, number 1 hold tidal. Bulkhead between one and two hold split making 2 feet per hour number 2 hold. Ship's pump dealing effectively. Draught approx. 17 feet. Suggest Yarmouth for temporary repairs. DIVERSION now making tow fast. Am proceeding in 514 to BRITISH PROGRESS. 0905. Ends.

Salvage Officer has been instructed to remain in FIRELIGHT. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 051107A to C. in C.Nore.) Part company proceeding forthwith at best speed to Sheerness. (F.O.I.C. Chatham, 051218A to VIVACIOUS.) Arrived SS. BRITISH PROGRESS ex F.N. 70 damaged by torpedo attack. (N.C.S.O. Gt. Yarmouth, 051230 to C. in C. Nore.) Lowestoft departure H.S.L. 2706 to search for lifeboat belonging to FIRELIGHT torpedoed in 115° 55B Buoy 8 miles at 0001 today. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 051259A to C. in C. Nore.) Arrived SS. FIRELIGHT ex F.N. 70. Bows blown off by torpedo attack. (N.C.S.O. Gt. Yarmouth, 051615 to C. in C. Nore.) Preliminary report of E-Boat activities last night 4th/5th November.

1. Normal Destroyer and Corvette patrols were out but no Coastal Forces owing to easterly wind force 4 - 5 at Yarmouth. At midnight it was still blowing 5 although it was evidently lighter further North.
2. E-Boats were apparently operating in 3 Groups. (A) Near 54D. (B) North of 56B and (C) East Dudgeon Area. First indication of their presence was received at 2320.
3. Group (A) attacked F.N. 70 about 2330 near 54D Buoy, tanker BRITISH PROGRESS and SS. FIRELIGHT being damaged by torpedo. No report of this attacked was received by C. in C. Nore till 0443 but SOUTHDOWN was fleeted from Patrol 5 to patrol L.4 and mentioned a torpedo ship in his 0225. VEGA (with Convoy) obtained Radar contact at 2334 and 2348 but no sighting. Shore Radar plotted this Group coming in again between 2357 and 0018 but they did not find convoy.
4. Group (B) was plotted at 2316 2½ miles North of 56B. Radar Station K.65 followed it as it moved some 9 miles North and turned South at 0003. EGLINTON on Patrol 3 was directed to intercept at 0051. She obtained Radar contact and a sighting at 0057. FERNIE (Patrol 4) moving up from the East also engaged at 0058. Group B was driven North and did not return.
5. Group C. Humber trawlers at East Dudgeon and 59A heard H.E. at 0055. At 0208 H.M.T. CAP D'ANTIFER at 59A engaged and drove off 4 E-Boats. This Group was not contacted again.
6. The Convoy (F.N.70) was diverted. Moored mines have since been found in vicinity of 59A buoy.
7. BRITISH PROGRESS and FIRELIGHT have arrived in tow at Yarmouth Roads.
8. Damage claimed. 1 E-Boat on fire (VEGA), many hits (EGLINTON).
9. 8 Beaufighters took off at 0630. Sighted 4 E-Boats at 0720 and attacked with cannon. Numerous hits claimed. 1 E-Boat left in flames and 2 on fire. 1 A/C did not return.

131

5.11.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Engagements with E-Boats. Convoy F.N. 70 attacked. BRITISH PROGRESS and FIRELIGHT damaged. One E-Boat damaged. (Contd.)

10. 11 Beaufighters took off at 1150 to R/V with 20 Typhoons and carry out a sweep off Dutch coast. No contacts made. (C. in C. Nore, 051654A.) My 051654A.

1. Sheringham, Trimingham and Winterton read E-Boat traffic at 2317 which confirmed unidentified plot of 2316. 16 call signs heard.

2. No indications of minelaying. The groups of E-Boats in vicinity of 59A were out of range of shore stations.

3. Bearings of Trimingham and Winterton helped to verify Radar plots but it was unfortunate that only one bearing could be obtained from Sheringham although signal strength was good. (C. in C. Nore, 051757A to Admty.)

Bay Patrol. Have A.S.V. contact, probably U-Boat. (A/C 407 Sqdn. Duty 'B', 050016 to 19 Group.) Am over one enemy S/M in 46° 28' N. 09° 44' W. on the surface, course and speed 120°, 12 knots, at 0206.

(A/C 407 Sqdn. Duty 'B', 050225 to 19 Group.)

U-Boat previously reported was on surface and seen to submerge.

(A/C Duty 'B', 050237 to 19 Group.)

(1) GLASGOW cannot be received until berths have been re-organised.

(2) PRINCE ROBERT can remain in harbour.

C. in C. Plymouth, 041757 refers.

(S.B.N.O. Azores, 051200Z to C. in C. Plymouth.)

A.M. 310401 October. There are further indications that the enemy intend to resume blockade-runner operations, though it cannot be forecast when this movement will commence.

2. H.Q.C.C. is requested to hold one Beaufighter T/B Squadron at short notice for transfer to operations in the Bay, leaving two Squadrons available for operations off Norwegian coast, and to consider the use of R.P. Beaufighters.

3. C. in C. Med. is requested to hold CEYLON at Gibraltar until further orders.

(D.O.D.H., 051324A to H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Plymouth.)

GLASGOW proceed forthwith to arrive Horta before dark tomorrow and complete with fuel.

(2) Request S.B.N.O. Azores furnish early reply to my 041757A.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 051328A to GLASGOW, S.B.N.O. Azores.)

I attach great importance to a precision bombing attack being made on potential blockade breakers in the Gironde on as heavy a scale as possible and as soon as possible as every indication is that these ships will sail at an early date.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 051625A to Admty.)

My 041757. On completion fuelling PRINCE ROBERT is to proceed establish patrol within 40 miles either side a line joining position (PA) 041° 59' N. 019° 18' W. and (PB) 039° 00' N. 015° 59' W. commencing from (PA).

(2) Object of operation "Stonewall" interception blockade breakers. A.M. 010127A refers.

/(3) ...

5.11.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Bay Patrol. (Contd.) (3) R/C shows following enemy merchant ships may be sailing at any time from Gironde and may be escorted by destroyers to possibly 015° W. and by aircraft to limit of endurance. German U-Boat may be escort.

(4) Ships are HIMALAYA, ELSA ESSBERGER, PIETRO ORSEOLO, FUSIYAMA and TANNENFELS from Gironde. Tankers may also sail from Bay of Biscay ports.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 051903A to PRINCE ROBERT, S.B.N.O. Azores.)

Your 051324A, para. 2. There is no room for a T/B Squadron on an airfield within sufficiently close range of the Bay except by withdrawing an A/S Squadron. If a T/B Beaufighter Squadron is withdrawn from the East Coast it will leave only one such Squadron for operations off Norwegian coast until 489 Squadron is in the line after re-equipment about the end of December. This will involve moving three squadrons and would leave nothing for operations on the Dutch coast.

2. It seems more than likely that these ships will proceed out of the Bay by hugging the Spanish coast as the enemy is fully aware of our permanent patrol areas and, if this route is followed, it is outside the range of Beaufighters armed with torpedoes.

3. A striking force of three Halifaxes fitted with Mark XIV bombsights will be available to attack these ships and 20 Liberators in 19 Group are now fitted with R/P.

(H.Q.C.C., 051955A to Admty.)

Operation F.S. F.O. 10th C.S's 010956. When detached proceed to Scapa at best speed.
(C. in C. H.F., 051135A to NORFOLK.)

Coastal Force Patrols. Patrols 5th November.
1. Force 112, M.T.Bs. 678 (S.O.), 664 are to patrol in vicinity 180° Eddystone 8.
3. Force 113, M.T.Bs. 677 (S.O.), 673 are to patrol in vicinity 100° Start 22.
5. Force 114, M.G.Bs. 329 (S.O.), 322 are to patrol in vicinity 160 Start 15.

7. Forces to be on patrol by 2000A, leave patrol for Plymouth and Dartmouth 0630A/6.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 051306A.)

1. Orders for night 5th/6th November.

(A) 5 M.T.Bs. from Newhaven carry out offensive patrol for torpedo targets only between 123° VV 15 miles and 248° VV 13 miles. Proceed and return by passage four passing 4N at 2300A and returning to within 20 miles of own coast by 0700A.

(B) 3 M.G.Bs. from Newhaven carry out anti E-Boat patrol 10 miles south of convoy route between longitude of Needles and 02° 35' W., keeping southward of W.P.426 from 0100A to 0630A. Convoy is under no circumstances to be approached within 5 miles.

(C) Chasseurs 14, 41 patrol Q.Z.S.384 between F and E.A.5 buoys.

(D) M.L.291 immediate notice St. Helens.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 051411A.)

/M.Ls. ...

133

5.11.1943.

Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Coastal Force Patrols. (Contd.) M.Ls. 255, 143 patrolling two miles south of D Buoy.
M.Ls. 104, 102, 101, 107, 213, 128, 573 carry out operation N.L.110. E.T.D. 2330. E.T.R. 0530/6.
M.T.Bs. 415, 434 at V Buoy. E.T.D. Ramsgate 1730. E.T.R. 0800/6.
M.G.Bs. 41, S.1 at No.7 Buoy. E.T.D. 1830. E.T.R. 0700/6.
(V.A. Dover, 051645A.)

Operation S.F. Am investigating suspicious object possibly conning tower in 62.30 N. 16.17 W. (A/C MJSL2, 051315A to 18 Group.) FRASERBURGH, ARDROSSAN, WORTHING, BOOTLE, LLANDUDNO, LYME REGIS searching in vicinity 062° 24' N. 013° 50' W. (A.C.I.C., 051446A to Ships.) "Mooring" as in my 042344 being flown November 6th by 8 Sunderlands, 3 P.V.1, 6 Hudsons, 2 Catalinas. (C. in C. Rosyth, 052230A to H.F.)

Operation "Spade". My 301934A October, A.M. 021852A, and H.Q.C.C.'s 042240A November and my memo O.S.P.A. dated 1st November 1943, para. 9. Owing to lack of surface forces it is anticipated that earliest possible date for D day for operation "Spade" will now be 19th November. (C. in C. Plymouth, 051502A to Admty.)

V.P. Operations. (1) Patrol A.W. (2) 53. (3) 7th November or 1st suitable day thereafter (carry out V.P.) (4) 2. (5) No. (6) No. (7) 090° Noss (Bressay) 110 miles. (8) No. (A.C.O.S., 051535A to Admty.)

Carry out V.P. (1) Patrol A.N. (2) 41 and 103. (3) 7th November or first suitable day thereafter. (4) At S.O. discretion. (5) No. (6) No. (7) 060° (? V.P.) 110 miles. (8) Yes. (A.C.O.S., 051540A to Admty.)

S/M Patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800A/6th and movements for following 24 hours. (A) SYRTIS, STUBBORN, ULA as in my 011707. (B) VARANGIAN 71° 09' N. 20° 30' E., on surface 8½ knots to 71° 09' N. 16° 10' E., then 69° 01' N. 09° 56' E. (D) STONEHENGE 49° 19' N. 08° 06' W., diving by day through 49° 10' N. 09° 01' W. towards 49° 10' N. 12° 26' W., 120 miles per day. (F.O.(S), 051734A to Admty.)

/Amend ...

War Diary.5.11.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.S/M
Patrols.
(Contd.)

Amend my 251354 October as follows:-
 (G) SATYR 11th November 29th November.
 (H) O.15 (D.S.) 11th November 27th November.
 (J) SEANYMPH 15th November 7th December.
 (K) SCEPTRE 15th November 7th December.
 (M) SEADOG 19th November 7th December.
 (F.O.(S), 052257A to Cpts. S.3, S.9.)

Allied Air Activity.Operations
"Spade" and
"Instep".

This headquarters concurs in your 042240. It is pointed out that the "Spade" will prohibit "Instep" operations being carried out during this time.
 (H.Q.F.C., 051215A to H.Q.C.C.)

Enemy Air Activity.PROSPEROUS
attacked.

Aircraft attack position 50.26 N. 8.34 W.
 (PROSPEROUS, 050020Z.)

Mining.Thames
Estuary.

One ground mine detonated 069° Knock John Fort 4.6 miles.
 (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 051214 and 060954A.)

Humber.

3 moored mines swept in Channel in vicinity of 59A Buoy between 1312 and 1330 today. Sweeping continues. Type not yet identified.
 (F.O. Humber, 051503 to C. in C. Nore.)

My 051503A. Amend number of mines swept 4 type "Z". All subsequently detonated by rifle fire.
 (F.O. Humber, 051815A to C. in C. Nore.)

Enemy Intelligence.Unknown
Ships.

Have A.S.V. contact 3 ships, 50° 42' N. 07° (? 49' or 50') W.
 (A/C 228 Sqdn. Duty 'U', 050055A to 19 Group.)
 Am over light(?ed) small ship 50° (? 27') N. (? 08°) 09' W. Request instruction.
 (A/C 228 Sqdn. Duty 'U', 050146A to 19 Group.)

German
Main Units.

(A) HIPPER at Pillav October 30th apparently paid off. (B) PRINZ EUGEN at Gdynia October 23rd. (C) NUREMBERG at Gdynia October 21st. Graded B.2. (N.A. Stockholm, 051614 to Admty.)

135

5.11.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.

Akranes Beacon. Akranes M/F D/F Beacon now working correctly. My 042108 refers. (A.C.I.C., 052108A to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects.

EMPIRE KANGAROO. EMPIRE KANGAROO grounded on Lady Rock. Report No.1 hold is holed and stern in 50 ft. water. Tugs in attendance. Request assistance of Salvage officers. (N.O.I.C. Oban, 050255A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
My 050255. Attempt to refloat EMPIRE KANGAROO at high water 1300 failed. Captain Hall Liverpool and Glasgow Salvage Association reports ship is 6 feet short of water with No.1 hold and fore peak tidal. No.2 hold leaking slightly. Steps being taken to discharge oil fuel and fresh water and part cargo. (N.O.I.C. Oban, 051701A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

DONA ISABEL, My 031336A. Balloons flying from wrecks DONA ISABEL and STORRA were sighted in position - (A) 024° C.1A Buoy 2.0 miles depth 11 fathoms. (B) 6 cables south of (A). During night balloons carried away and it was not possible to confirm their positions. Suggested ESMERALDA now at Newhaven might carry out an asdic search to verify positions. (V.A. Dover, 051021A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

PRIDE OF THE MIDLANDS. Your 030820A. PRIDE OF THE MIDLANDS arrived Sunderland leaking badly. Has been beached by my orders on N. Shore near KBO Station. Left Blyth this morning routed for Dorset. (N.O.I.C. Sunderland, 051220A to N.C.S.O. Methil.)

B.Y.M.S. 53. My 031819. PROSPEROUS returned Milford Haven with B.Y.M.S.53. Latter reported leaking badly. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 051733A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

Shipping and Convoys.

S.C. 146. Request that 7th E.G. including BITER may be E.G. 7. sailed as requisite to support S.C. 146. (C. in C. W.A., 050915Z to F.O.N.F.)

H.X. 263 My P.C.S. 055° 54' N. 016° 13' W., 094°, 9 knots. TORTUGUERO. One M/V and tug SAMSONIA. (DRURY, 051001Z to C. in C. W.A.) If TORTUGUERO is in no danger proceed to base at best speed at dusk tonight. (C. in C. W.A., 051504A to DRURY.)

/Your ...

136

5.11.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

- H.X. 263
TORTUGUERO.
(Contd.) Your 051212Z. In view of other outward traffic comply with my 051120A.
(C. in C. W.A., 051554A to Escorts H.X.263.)
- R.U. 96. R.U.96 delayed 24 hours. Reference my 011916.
(N.C.S.O. Iceland, 051146A to Admty.)
- M.K.F. 25. Barry Roads portion arrived complete, four ships, escort NEAVE.
(N.C.S.O. Barry, 051241A to C. in C. W.A.)
- T.U. 4.
SATURNIA. T.U.4. A.M. 312201 Oct. and 011907 Nov. Intend sailing Liverpool section at 1700A/6th Nov., to R/V with Clyde section in position (NA) at 0900⁹/7th.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 051306A to Admty.)
Intend sailing C.T.F.69 in TEXAS and NELSON, JEFFERS, GLENNON and EARLE with U.S.A.Ts. SEA TRAIN TEXAS and SEA TRAIN LAKEHURST at 0400A/7th. A.M. 011907 refers.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast, 052105A to C. in C. W.A.)
A.M. 312201 October.
1. Italian ship SATURNIA is reported as having emitted sparks to excess on passage to U.K.
 2. Work is in hand to minimise this defect and in view of the desirability of SATURNIA's early arrival in U.S.A. it is intended to sail her in convoy T.U.4 as planned.
 3. If however the ship's behaviour becomes such that in the opinion of S.O. Escort her presence endangers the convoy she should be detached to proceed independently to destination or, if in the near vicinity of U.K. to return to Clyde.
 4. Request your views.
(D.O.D.H., 052245A to Cominch.)
- E.N. 1.
BRIARWOOD,
LORD BYRON. Ships ex E.N.1 arrived. BRIARWOOD and LORD BYRON not yet arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Oban, 051537A to Admty.)
- O.N. 209. 2000 position 055° 56', 017° 02', via Great Circle to position XG.
(CHURCHILL, 051643A to C. in C. W.A.)
- H.X. 264.
E.G. 2,
TRACKER. Area of search should be shifted 60 miles to southward tomorrow. Intention is that you should afford distant cover to H.X.264 until that convoy is past the danger area and has reached approximately 038° W. Your group will then proceed to Newfoundland for boiler cleaning and lay over, arriving probably a.m./11th.
(C. in C. W.A., 051815A to E.G.2.)

/Your ...

5.11.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

H.X.264,
E.G. 2,
TRACKER.
(Contd.)

Your 051815A. My P.C.S. 046° 14' N. 041° 37' W.
180°, 12 knots.
(E.G.2, 052100A to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 051815A. Propose TRACKER returns to U.K.
with H.X.264. She requires numerous replacements
probably unobtainable in Newfoundland.
(E.G.2, 052130A to C. in C. W.A.)

O.S.M. 58/
K.M.S.M.32.

Intend to sail at 0800A/6 PROSPEROUS, speed 12
knots, by route A to Oversay thence to overtake
O.S.M.58/K.M.S.M.32. PROSPEROUS for Gibraltar.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 051849A to C. in C.W.A.)

O.N.S. 22.

Sailed HESPERUS, CAMPANULA, GENTIAN, SWEETBRIAR,
VESPER, CLEMATIS, SS. CHRISTIANHOLM, LIVINGSTONE,
OIL RELIANCE all for O.N.S.22. MOURNE will sail
to overtake.
(Cdre. (D) W.A., 052201A to Admty.)

T.A. 73.
(QUEEN MARY)

Sailed in accordance with my 041126A.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 052346A.)

138

5.11.1943.

Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

SEBASTIAN. Your 310935 SS. SEBASTIAN seize cargo and ship.
(D.E.W.D., 050141A to C.C.S.O. Gib.)

FLEETWOOD My 050330A not to C.M.S.F., Admty. E.T.A.
damaged, Casablanca 1500A. Require dry docking. My
? when damage, port side of ship between 29 and 42
attacking station (? extending) from weather deck down to
U/B, Nov. well below waterline. Ship dimensions are
1st. length 266 feet breadth 36 feet normal draught
10 feet present draught forward 13 feet draught
aft 10 feet. AUBRETIA, CYCLAMEN detached 0700A
to comply with your (? SO)0375.
(FLEETWOOD, 050915A to C.M.S.F., F.O. Gibraltar, (R)
Capt. (D) Gibraltar, Admty.)

Italian F.O.L.I. 051217A, 051229A.
ships in See Mediterranean.
Spanish
Ports.

Exercising Have informed M. of M. in sense of your 021221,
by Spanish para. 2. Am awaiting reply.
warships in (N.A. Madrid, 051420A to Admty., (R) F.O.I.C.
area of Gibraltar, C. in C. Med., N.C.S.O. Bahia, C. in
U-Boat C. Plymouth, S.B.N.O. Azores.)
activity.

FORT To be detached sunset today to proceed
BINGER. independently to Fayal.
(2) S.B.N.O. Azores is requested to provide air
and surface escort if available.
(F.O.I.C. Gib., 051501A to S.B.N.O. Azores,
Escorts K.M.S.31, (R) Admty.)

BLACKFLY. Arrived 1645 G.M.T./5th.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 051637.)

Searchlight Cases have recently occurred of ships firing when
Wellington illuminated by searchlight Wellingtons.
A/C, re 2. It appears that some C.Os. are unaware of
warning existence of these aircraft.
ships. 3. Consider it most important that all ships
should be warned about these aircraft and of the
areas in which they are likely to operate.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 051640A to C. in C. Med., (R)
Admty.)

Italian Intend to sail DUCA DELGI ABRUZZI and DUCA D'AOSTA
Warships. at 1600A/6th (route). to Freetown. S. of A. 17
knots. 2. Codeword "Umpire". 3. Ships shift
to West African W/T organisation at 0800A/9th.

War Diary.5.11.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Italian
Warships.
(Contd.)

5. LEGIONARIO and ORIANI will escort cruisers to P.L.E. then return to Gib. by reverse of outward route. Codeword on parting company "Solvent". (F.O.I.C. Gib., 051804A to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) Admty., C.M.S.F., C. in C. Med., Comar Dakar, (F.O.L.I.??))

BACHAQUERO,
DEWDALE
and escorts.

Departure 5th HAVELOCK, WARWICK, BACHAQUERO. (S.B.N.O. Horta, 051846.)
Ref. C. in C. W.A. 051222.
DEWDALE and BACHAQUERO have not yet sailed. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 052020 to Admty.)
(W.D. Note. According to T.O.R. this signal would appear to have been made before 051846.)
DEWDALE and BACHAQUERO sailed for U.K. 1900 (corrupt group) 5th escorted by HAVELOCK, WARWICK, VOLUNTEER, GODETIA, BUTTERCUP. Route as in your 311658 Oct.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 052358Z to Admty., (R) F.O.C. Gib., C. in C. W.A.)

BOISE,
NICHOLSON,
RHIND.

Intend sail BOISE, NICHOLSON, RHIND to depart Casablanca 1100Z/7 route to New York, speed (? 20), E.T.A. 0530Z/15.
(Cdr. Morseafon, 052015, 070915 to C. in C. Lant, (R) Admty., F.O. Gibraltar, Cominch, C. in C. Med., Comnavnav, C.E.S.F., N.O.B. Bermuda, S.B.N.O. Azores, BOISE.)

CEYLON.

E.T.A. 0730A Sat.
(CEYLON, 052046A to F.O. Gibraltar.)

BALINDERRY.

Sailed BALINDERRY 2000A/5th to replace FLEETWOOD. Routed as in my 031904. Speed 15 knots.
(F.O. Gib., 052300 to N.O.I.C. W.Af., (R) (U.S.) Cdre. Moroccan Sea Frontier, C. in C. Med., Comar Dakar, Admty., AUBRETIA, CYCLAMEN.)

140

5.11.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

LORRAINE. C. in C. Med. 031927. Suggest LORRAINE sail 8th with S.R.7 (Corrupt). A.H.Q. W.A.'s AC 125 040954 refers.
(Comar Dakar, 051201Z, to F.O.C. W.Af. (R) Admty., C. in C. Med., LORRAINE, Commorseafron.)
Your 051201 concur but request LORRAINE be ready to sail early p.m. 7th. Convoy arrive Dakar 1030Z/7th and must sail as soon as destroyers have fuelled in order to join convoy from Mediterranean. S. of A. $13\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
(F.O.C. W.Af. 051706Z, to Comar Dakar. (R) Admty., Commorseafron, C. in C. Med.)

U/B attacked. Following received from N.O.I.C. Ascension. T.O.O. 051220. American Authorities report submarine attacked in $10^{\circ} 09' S. 18^{\circ} W.$ at 1125Z/5.
(F.O.C. W.Af. 051401Z, to Admty.)

My 051401Z.
N.O.I/C Ascension reports U-Boat was crippled and forced to surface. After final attack U-Boat exploded. Survivors in light rafts in approx. $09^{\circ} 05' S. 18^{\circ} 12' W.$
(F.O.C. W.Af. 052343Z, to Admty.)

S.R.7. Sailing telegram (2 ships). 2. 1700/5th. 4. Knots $13\frac{1}{2}$. 5. Route. ISIS, MALCOLM, NESS.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 051700Z, to Admty.)

Convoy S.R.7 LORRAINE. Sailed 1830Z 5th escorted by ISIS, MALCOLM, NESS. E.T.A. Dakar 1200Z/7th.
2. Comar Dakar is requested to expedite fuelling of ISIS, MALCOLM and to sail convoy on completion reporting time escorts shift to Med. Stn. W/T organization. French Battleship LORRAINE for Casablanca will sail in convoy from Dakar.
3. Route. S. of A. $13\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
4. Cdr. Morseaftron is requested arrange escort LORRAINE to Casablanca R/V $033^{\circ} 14' N. 009^{\circ} 39' W.$ at time which Comar Dakar is requested to signal.
5. E.T.A. Gibraltar p.m. 12th.
(F.O.C. W.Af. 052035Z, to Comar Dakar, F.O.I.C. Gib., Cdr. Morseaftron. (R) Admty., C. in C. Med., Escort S.R.7, S.B.N.O. Azores.)

5.11.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Yugo-Slav movements. 4th arrivals ex. Yugo-Slav gunboat MELEDA and T.Bs. one and five. (N.O.I.C. Augusta 050020.)

Alexandria movements. Arrival 5th DULVERTON, BEAUFORT, BAGSHOT, SOIKA, PINDOS (Gr.) M.L.841, M.L.361. Departure EXMOOR, BLENCATHRA, DERBY. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria 050740C.)

Palestinian Port Movements. 4th arrivals PHOEBE, It. S/M MENOTTI. (N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports-050814.)

SOKOL. 4th departure SOKOL. (S.O.(I) Beirut 050925B.)

TRIDENT. Onward routeing from 034° 08' 021° 54' at 0748/7th through 034° 44' 019° 35' at 0500/8th 035° 50' 015° 20' at 0700/9th to R/V 5 miles east of B. of Q.B.B. (?429) with minesweepers at 0900/9th. All times zone minus 1. 2. M.J.A.O. 24. Request total bombing restrictions. (Capt. S.10 050951 to TRIDENT, (R) 1st S/M Flot. 201 Group, Air H.Q. Malta.)

Tug Movements. 380629. Mov.3/30370 cipher 3rd Nov. My Mov.3/24688 20th Oct.
1. Three C.T. Tugs sailed in convoy 31 Oct. 4th delayed crew trouble.
2. Now advised one tug sunk in collision one tug returning mideast broken down one tug proceeding.
3. Will advise position soonest possible. (C. in C.M.E. 051000B to W.O.)

Enemy Units Gulf of Venice. P.C. and S. of enemy 1 medium merchant vessel 45.31 N. 12.49 E. 040° 7 knots. This fix was obtained within 1/2 hour of 10 a.m. (A/C SBO/P 051022.)
My 1022 enemy previously reported are of type indicated - merchant vessel 5000 tons. (A/C UBO/P 051030.)

My 1022. Enemy previously reported one merchant vessel 5000 tons. (A/C VBO/P 051039.)

Personnel of L.C. Flotillas. C. in C. Levant's 292015 Oct. Following personnel ex Med. now in E.F. (R.A.G. 051023F to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F. C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, S.O. Force C, SAUNDERS, SALSETTE)

GLASGOW, PRINCE ROBERT. 1. Ship cannot be received until berths have been reorganized. 2. PRINCE ROBERT can remain in harbour. 3. Further report on capacity of Horta will be made very shortly. C. in C. Plymouth 041757* refers. (S.B.N.O. Azores 051200Z to C. in C. Plymouth.) * GLASGOW to be directed to Horta.

/UPSTART...

War Diary.5.11.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

- UPSTART. My 051200* (N.T. in W.D.) P.65 (UPSTART) remains in zone SU. until 0300/8th then leaves patrol as in my 041716 adding 24 hours to all times given therein
2. P.65 (UPSTART) may meet P.51 (UNSEEN) the evening of the 8th.
(Capt. S.8 051216A to 8th S/M F. LA SULTANE, (R) C. in C.Med. Capt. S.10, V.A.Malta, N.O.I.C. Algiers, F.O.I.C. Gib.)
*Addressed 8th S/M F. and LA SULTANE re positions of German U-Boats bound Toulon.
- Italian Ships in Spanish Ports. It. M. of M. arranging for 100 men to be ready at Taranto as required by A.M. 312049* Oct. He proposes a number be sent to Ministry now to be readily available when required. Recommend approval (F.O.L.I. 051217A to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty. F.O.I.C. Gib. B.N.A.Madrid.)
* Presumably C. in C.Med's 312049 Oct. intended.
Following is Maristat 23456 from It. M. of M. to It. N.A. Examine with Allied N.A. the best way to transfer crews of ships. Sufficient men available in Italy to meet requirements and am arranging with A.A. for some to be sent to Gib., or other convenient ports available for draft at short notice.
Has request about C.V.CAMICIA been accepted.
(F.O.L.I. 051229A to B.N.A.Madrid, (R) Admty. C. in C.Med. F.O.I.C. Gib.)
- VELOX. F.O.I.C. Gib.'s 031552 (N.T. in W.D.) Intend VELOX to return to U.K. with M.K.F.25A for re-boiling. Request early relief may be sent. (C. in C.Med. 051235 to Admty. (R) F.O.Gib. VELOX.)
- UPSTART. Onward routing from 039° 01' 007° 02' at 0300/9th proceed diving by day to 038° 10' 009° 16' at 0430/10th thence by surface passage to R/V with escort at 037° 24' 009° 30' at 1030/10th.
2. F.O.Tunisia is requested to supply escort from Bizerta at above position which should fly a large black flag for distinguishing purposes, onward routing to Malta by K.M.S.31.
(Capt. S.10th 051320 to UPSTART, (R) Capt. S.8th C. in C.Med. 8th S/M Flot. N.O.I.C. Bizerta.)
My 051320 add 24 hours to all times.
(Capt. S.10 052120A to UPSTART.)
- K M.F.25A. My 041433A sailed less OARKLIWA (?TAKLIWA intended) (N.O.B.Oran 051340A to C.T.G.60.2.)
- P.45 (UNRIVALLED). From 035° 38' 023° 02' at 1600/8th proceed on surface direct to R/V 5 miles east B. of Q.B.B. 147 at 1400/10th S.O.A. 8½ knots. Times zone minus 1.
2. M.J.A.O. 24 request total bombing restrictions.
(Capt. S.10 051400 to P.45 (UNRIVALLED) (R) Admty. 201 N.C.Group Air H.Q.Malta. 1st S.F. C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant, V.A.Malta, Capt. S.8, Capt. S.1, R.A.Alexandria.)

143

5.11.1943.

Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

NIGELLA. Arrived No. 0246Z.
(Com. Aden 051553Z.)

Hospital Arrivals, independent hospital ships VASNA and
Ships. TOSCANA (TUSCANA).
(Com. Algeria 051616A.)

UGANDA. Request you will sail UGANDA in G.U.S. 20 to
U.S.A.
(C. in C.Med. 051629A to F.O.Gibraltar, (R) Admty.
B.A.D. Commorseafron, Cominch, S.B.N.O.Azores.)

K.M.S.30. Onward route at 1122. 2.A. 8 to 511 then 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
B. 9. 3. 033° 00' N. 020° 00' E. 1400/8th, 350,
346, 341, 511, 1730/9th 328, 508 2000/10th 503,
310, 309 0800/11th thence by inshore route to
Port Said arriving daylight 12th.
5. A.N. 6. High "Nursemaid." 7. B. 8. (sic) FORRLE (S.O.),
BRYONY, LA MOQUEUSE, BERGAMOT, CAMELLIA.
(C. in C.Levant 051635B.)

Aegean I/31353 5th 381181.
Situation. Joint Army R.A.F.Int. appreciation 24 hours to
1000Z/5th.
W.D.Note: Summarised in C. in C.M.E. next signal.
8. Appreciation 2nd stands. Possibility employment
parachute troops against Leros. Although Leros difficult for mass
landing parachute troops possible that limited number might be
employed to neutralise key positions such as guns and beach de-
fences. This would still leave up to a battalion for employment
against Samos.
(C. in C.M.E. No T.O.O.)
381229 O/31393 5th Nov. Cositrep 46.
1. Int. A. Ph. R. 4th Nov. showed total 13 or 14 Ldg. Craft (about
60 ft.) lying up in area Lavrion Keos Island. These believed iden-
tical with those sighted 3 Nov. vide Cositrep 45 para. 10B.
Reports and Ph. R. suggest one destroyer and one torpedo boat
left Piraeus 4th possibly with 4 further (?Ldg.) Craft. C.
Reported 2 Nov. that paratroops arrived Athens for ops. Aegean.
Kos/Kalimno area incomplete Ph. R. showed no significant change
4th Nov. but reported that some German troops and guns numbers not
yet known moved from Kos to Kalimno since 30th Oct. E. Ph. R. 4th
Heraklion showed arrival large merchant vessel reported carrying
guns amn. and M.T. and much quayside activity. F. Above in con-
nection with other reports from mainland point to:
1. German intention not to evacuate South Greece and Aegean at
present.
2. Likelihood of early assault on Leros. Simultaneous or
separate assault on Samos also possible.
G. N.A.A.F. cover on 2nd showed 85 Ju.87s Megara. 14 Ju.87s
present on Marizza according Ph. R 4th Nov.
H. Ref. Cositrep 44 para. 1C. Delete third sentence.

5.11.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Aegean
Situation
(Contd.)

2. Ops. Aegean. A. Leros N.T.R. up to 2100B hours 4th November. B. Lamos (?night) 3/4 stores dropped. Approx. 60 boxes amm. and medical stores recovered. C. Kastelorizo. N.T.R. up to 1700B hours 4th.

4. Naval. Aegean. A. Night 4/5. No news M.T.B. Ops. B. 5th Nov. ALDENHAM and MIAOULES now in Turkish waters. No news FAULKNER, PENN, ECHO, PATHFINDER who (?presumably) unloaded tps. and stores Leros early morning and now in Turkish waters. 0900B hours EXMOOR and BLENCATHRA arrived Limasol to refuel from PHOEBE, returning Aegean later today. Day 4th November. 4 Beaufighters attacked ldg. craft and barges Kos Harbour scoring strikes on 4 ldg. craft with cannon fire. Night 4/5th 2 Hudsons, attacked Antimachia L.G. Bursts seen on target but heavy cloud obscured damage. 2 Dakotas dropped supplies Leros. Both successful one landed Cyprus. B. Enemy. Day 4th November. One Ju.88 R/C over Leros. No other activity reported.

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

UNRULY.

Adjust patrol so as to pass A. 035° 06' 026° 44' at 2300B/7th thence proceeding on surface through B. 034° 25' 029° 59' to arrive Beirut 0615B/10th. (Capt. S.1 051703B to UNRULY (R) 1st S/M Flot.)

Food for
Greece.

If food for Greece should be available in Egypt have you any objection to either:

A. diversion of one of the Greek relief fleet to an Egyptian port on her way to Piraeus or

B. employment of an additional safe conduct vessel for, say, one trip per month between Egypt and Piraeus.

2. Additional safe conduct voyages may be embarrassing and sailings would be subject postponement or cancellation operational situation required.

(Head of M.I. 051745A to C. in C.Levant, (R) C. in C.Med.)

French
refugees.
Evacuation.

My 261712 Oct. 3rd evacuation of about 1600 French refugees from Malaga will take place 12th Nov. for destination Casablanca using (corrupt group) IDIBRAHIM and LEPINE. French can supply 2 escorts French destroyer SIMOON, French sloop minesweeper LA BOUDEUSE. F.O.I.C. Gib. is requested to detail one British in addition B.N.A. Madrid please confirm.

(C. in C.Med. 051822 to F.O.I.C. Gib. B.N.A. Madrid, (R) Admty. C.M.S.F. Naval France.)

Ships based
on Naples.

Estimated following will be based by Naples Area. 9 trawlers, 8 M.M.S. (R) M.M.S. 3 rescue tugs, 28 major landing craft, 3 flotillas M.Ls. M.T. and M.G.B. Request Naval Stores. (C. in C.Med. 051842A to Admty. (R) F.O.W.It. N.O.I.C. Naples, V.A.Malta.)

145

5.11.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

M.S.21591 Pt. 1.
 N.A.A.F. A.V.942 E. 5th Nov. N.A.S.A.F. 4th 7 U.S.Forts
 Opsum 257. straffed 3 medium M/Vs off Cecina.
 N.W.A.C.A.F. (add). 2/3rd. 1 Wellington
 illuminated target for Naval shelling of Durazzo
 Jetty.

3/4th 1 Wellington surprised full surfaced 517 G.O.N. type U-
 Boat delivered 2 attacks. In first attack 4 depth charges
 straddled conning tower 2 falling short. Rear gunner reported
 flash seen in centre of bursting string of depth charge. In
 second attack 2 depth charges dropped, both overshooting.
 Wellington remained in area 10 mins. made no further observation.
 Returned to base and made safe belly landing as hydraulic system
 damaged by submarine's attack.

N.A.T.A.F. 4 8 Kittyhawks anti-shipping off Yugoslavian coast.
 2 small M/Vs straffed and 2 motor launches damaged.
 (H.Q.N.A.A.F. 051851A.)

Activity German news tonight reported attempted landing
 Pescara. north of Pescara had been repulsed and that one
 fast M/T boat had been sunk.
 (S.N.O.A.L.(E) 051939 to F.O.T.A. (R) F.O.L.I. C.
 in C.Med. Admty. N.O.I.C. Bari, N.L.O. 8th Army.)
 W.D.Note: This may refer to attempt to recover
 prisoners from Pescara beach 2/3rd. see C. in C.
 Med. 052239.

Palestinian SUTLEJ arrived. PHOEBE, SUTLEJ sailed 5th.
 Port (N.O.I.C. Pal. Ports 052005B.)
 Movements.

U.S. Movements. Arrived today NARRAGANSETT, LAUB, DAVIDSON,
 TILLMAN, McCLANAHAN. Departed today LAUB,
 DAVIDSON, TILLMAN, McCLANAHAN, F.C.DAVIS, H.C.
 JONES.
 (Com. N.O.B.Oran 052013A.)

Tunisia Arrivals LE FANTASQUE, LE TERRIBLE. Arrivals and
 Movements. departures SPARTAN, TYRIAN, GRENVILLE, TUMULT,
 PIORUN.
 (F.O.Tunisia 052031A.)

SIMOON. Proceed with all despatch to patrol approaches to
 Dardanelles until further notice. Currents in
 immediate vicinity of Cape Helles unpredictable
 suggest you operate about 5 miles west of Tenedos.
 (Capt. S.1st 052102B to SIMOON (R) 1st S.F. C. in
 C.Levant.)

S/MS under Further to my 022230. A. SEVERN requires 6 to 8
 Levant weeks refit after which she should be fully
 Command. operational.
 B. RORQUAL for docking 8th and sails to arrive
 Leros with stores about 24th. Intend her to
 return to U.K. for refit after this trip in view
 of condition of both crew and material.

/C...

5.11.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.S/Ms under
Levant
Command.
(Contd.)

C. C. in C.Med's 311833 Oct. As it is of utmost importance to bring CAGNI into service at earliest possible moment intend her to go to Haifa on arrival from South Africa for examination by Capt. S.1.

2. In view of A. and B. and para. 2 of my 022230 is there any hope of PORPOISE and CLYDE joining 1st S.F. to help out with supply of Leros.
(C. in C.Levant 052117B to Admty. (R) Capt. S.1,
C. in C.Med. F.O.S. F.O.L.I.)

QUEENBOROUGH,
RAIDER.

Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Brindisi 052221A.)

Med. Situation 1. Report now received of bomber and torpedo raid Report No. 223 by 35 Plus aircraft on Naples and Pozzuoli Bays p.m. 1st LINNET hold forward and beached RHYL sustained slight damage from near miss. No Naval casualties. Fighters claim 2 certain and A.A.guns 2 probable.

2. Italian M.A.S. Boat proceeded night 2nd/3rd in attempt to recover Prisoners of War from beach? north of Pescara. Boat has not returned and explosion was seen in the vicinity of her probable position about 0130/3rd. 2 British Officers on board.
(C. in C.Med. 052239A.)

CHIMERA.

Arrived.
(V.A.Malta 052247.)

Movements
Famagusta.

Cyprus 5th Nov arrival EXMOOR, BLENCATHRA, ALPHEIOS, EVROTAS, M.L.1143, F.F.S. M.L.1046 arrived and left PHOEBE departure 340, 353.
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta 052301B.)

SHAKESPEARE.

Move to patrol between Naxos and Mykoni until due to comply with my 031502.
(Capt. S.1st 052307B to P.221 (SHAKESPEARE) (R)
1st S/M Flot. C. in C.Levant.)

QUILLIAM,
QUAIL.

Arrived and sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Bari 052318.)

147

5.11.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Exercise "Swordfish" Departures for exercise "Swordfish" BULOLO, KEREN, CIRCASSIA, ASCANIA, LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE, OCEAN WANDERER, EMPIRE ELAINE, JALAPADMA, SAMPLER, EL HIND, WINCHESTER CASTLE, DUNERA, EMPIRE PROSPERO DILWARA, BATORY, EMPIRE PRIDE escorted by ROTHERHAM, NAPIER, NORMAN, NEPAL, KHYBER, CALCUTTA, CUTLACK, ST. ANTHONY.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 050101Z to Admty., C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.), F.O.C.R.I.N.)

U/B attacked. Catalina aircraft sighted U-Boat on the surface in 008° 42' N. 076° 21' E. 1542Z/3rd. Course of U-Boat 315°. Speed 16 plus knots. Aircraft attacked with four depth charges which straddled stern of U-Boat. U-Boat last seen 1550Z at conning tower depth speed reduced course 160°. (C. in C. E.F., 050237Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F.(S.E.A.C.))

Disposition of U-Boats No. 35. Japanese 1 believed still in Mozambique Channel, but consider likely to move back to 10th shortly. 1 probably proceeding to patrol possibly Gulf of Aden area based on D/F fix south-west-west of Laccadive Is. 1st Nov. 1 possibly off Trincomalee from reported periscope sighting 4th November. German 1 by D/F between North Maldiva Is. and west coast of India 2002Z/4th November. (C. in C. E.F., 050440Z to E.F. 399Y.)

B.A. 53. Departure DERG, KALE with B.A. 53. (S.O.(I) Bombay, 050449 to Admty.)

Landing Craft. Landing craft and crews for C.T.Cs. India. Resultant on decision taken here to open a second C.T.C. at Cocanada there will be the following estimate of shortage after allowing for forthcoming operations:
(A) Landing ships and craft. 83 L.C.A. partly offset by 30 L.C.P.(R), 4 L.C.S., 2 L.C.M., 12 L.C.T., 6 L.C.I.(L), 2 L.S.T.
(2) (B) Personnel. 2 L.C.A. flotilla plus reserve of 33%. 2 L.C.M. flotilla plus reserve of 33%. 4 L.C.S. crews. 1 beach signal section. 4 flotilla maintenance parties.
2. Request arrangements be made to send the above to India by 1st Feb. 1944.
3. S.A.C.S.E.A.'s full concurrence.
4. Ref. A.M. 031620 Sept. GLENGYLE's L/C are already earmarked for S.O. Force G, but suggest that to reduce deficiencies in para. 1 40 L.C.A., 4 L.C.S., 2 L.C.M. with crew for 32 L.C.A., 4 L.C.S., 32 L.C.M. and 4 flotilla maintenance parties be sent in SOBIESKI, DEVONSHIRE in A.B. 20 F and DERBYSHIRE later.
(C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.), 051133Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, F.O.C.R.I.N., S.A.C.S.E.A.)

5.11.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

- K. 15. My 221701* Oct. Sailed 4th Nov.
(F.O.(S), 051139A to C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.))
* sailing of K.15.
- HOXA. HOXA recommissioned with Ceylon R.N.V.R. Crew
22 Oct. Refer to A.M. 231849. Ship is available
to operate elsewhere than in Ceylon waters.
(F.O. Ceylon, 051225Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F.,
A.S. Ceylon.)
- Zig-zagging. Ref. F.O.N.I.C.249* (16th Oct.) para. 2 and C. in
C. S.A. 311048 to A.C.N.B. only, add para. 2:
for coastal traffic S. Africa between meridian
of 017° E. and 031° E. and within 100 miles of
coast, zig-zagging is suspended and by night dimmed navigation
lights are to be shown.
(C. in C. E.F., 051244Z to F.O.N.I.C., (R) Admty., C.S.W.P.S.F.)
* Re request ships from Australia be routed to approach South
African ports. Re route of shipping to Beirgeta.
- X.C. 9. Departure 1309Z/5th LAHORE escorting convoy
X.C.9.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 051310Z to Admty.)
- Defence of Indian Ocean Bases. First. Scale of attack confirmed as in your
third.
Second. Agreed no coast or A.A. artillery
required. Land defences left to your discretion,
subject to concurrence of Supreme Commander.
(W.O., 051430A to C. in C. India, (R) S.A.C.S.E.A.)
- H.C. 5. Sailing telegram (4 ships). (2) 1430 G.M.T./5th
Nov. (4) 9 knots. (5) Route. (6) PANSY (not
NU) KATHIAWAR.
(N.C.S.O. Calcutta, 051438Z, 051445Z to Admty.)
- U/B. Aircraft reports U-Boat in 024° 22' N. 058° 37'
E. at 1250Z/5th.
(C. in C. E.F., 051444Z to S. & A. E.I. Station.)
- GODAVARI. C. in C. W.A. 021806 November.
GODAVARI is delayed by illness of Capt. Intend
she will sail with K.M.S.33 leaving U.K. 17th
November.
(D.O.D.(F), 051805A to F.O.C.R.I.N., (R)
C. in C. W.A.)

149

War Diary.5.11.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

- DUFF U/B
attacked. My 040230Z. Abandoned hunt 1030Z/4th owing to engine defect. My P.C. and S. 051 degs. 40' N. 039 degs. 17' W. 068 degs. 20.
(DUFF, 050231Z to C. in C. C.N.W.At. (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A.)
- C.T.G.
21.15. This is C. in C. Lant's 042050 addressed to C.T.G. 21.15 (R) to Cominch, C.T.F. 62, C.T.F.61, C.T.G. 21.16, C.T.F. 65, C.T.G. 21.11. C.T.G.21.7, C.T.G. 21.14, Comnav, Commorseafron, Comairlant. Proceed to operate against submarines. This supplements my 192254.
(Comnav, 050311Z to Admty.)
This is Cinclant's 192254 addressed to C.T.G. 21.15. Unless Logistics require earlier arrival, cease operations in time to arrive Casablanca about 28th Oct. Sail therefrom about Oct. 31 to support G.U.S. 19. Commorseafron keep you informed concerning sailing G.U.S.19 and inform those interested. When latter has passed area of report submarine positions leave convoy and operate offensively against submarines until time arrive Hampton Roads 19 Nov. Reference your 171000. (Ref. 171000 not held by Comnav).
(Comnav, 050314Z to Admty.)
- B.E.C.9. Expect to leave Chicago 8th. Cominch 032247, refers. Final destination Freetown. (?Bermuda) as in my 272249.
(B.A.D. 050315Z to N.S.H.Q. (R) N.O.I.C. Quebec, C. in C. C.N.A., N.O.I.C. Montreal, S.B.N.O. W.A. Admty. F.O.C. W.A.F. B Training Officer Cascobay.)
- DRUMHELLER. E.T.A. 051600Z. CHAMBLY in company 044 degs. 55' N. 060 degs. 04' W. Weather report.
(DRUMHELLER, 050330Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)
- ST. CATHERINES. My 191450 Oct. the following allocation to date 4th Nov. from new construction to the mid-ocean escort force for duty with T-2 ST. CATHERINES.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 050340Z to N.S.H.Q. (R) F.O.N.F. C. in C. W.A., Admty.)
- N.S.H.Q. Nil report 1st to 4th Nov. All times Z.
Sub.attack A. DUFF attacks Asdic contact about 50.22 N. 43.17 W. before 0411/4th.
and sighting summary. (N.S.H.Q. 050701Z to Admty. Cominch)
- H.X.262. Average speed 9.2. Off Oversight at 0200Z/2nd All arrived.
(D.T.D. 051235A to Connnav, N.S.H.Q. (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.A.)

BONITA /...

150

5.11.1943.
Fridav.

War Diarv.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

BONITA. Following for C.C.R.T. my 011715. ADHERENT arrived St. Johns 1948Z/4th with BONITA in tow. (F.O.N.F. 051307Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. C. in C. C.N.A.)

U.T.4A. Sailing telegram (6 ships)
(2) E.T.D. Gate Boston 1045Z Nov. 6.
(3) R/V (F) 042 degs. 23' N. 070 degs. 42' W. at 1145Z. S. of A. 13.5 knots.
(5) Route. (6) C.D.D. 53 in U.S.S. DECATUR, U.S.S. CLEMSON depart from (Y) KN ship.
(U.S. P.D. Boston, 051321, 051930 to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)
As amended 051531.
Convoy U.T. 4A New York section. 6 ships departed New York. Last ship KHEDIVE out Gate 1355 5th.
(P.D. New York, 051802Z to Com. 10th U.S. Fleet C. & R.)

X.B. 82. Sailing telegram (7 ships).
(2) Sails 1200Z/5th.
(3) E.T.A. Cape Cod Canal 1800Z/7th. Boston 1600Z/7th. (4) 7.5 knots.
(5) (Route). (6) THE PAS, GANANOQUE.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 051409Z, 051419, 051425Z to Admty.)

N.S.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q. 051420Z)
S/M.
Estimate.

Convoy Manning.
Escort (B.A.M.R. Washington, 051434Z to Admty.)
Vessels. See Lion Copy.

NORSEMAN. Arrival 4th NORSEMAN, British Primary repair ship escorted by S.C. 1313 and another of unknown number from New York.
(B.C. San Juan, 051438Q)

U/B. Intercept de W.K.D.C. (BERWINDGLEN) at 1447 G.M.T. sighted periscope 43.41 N. 69.45 W.
(Halifax, 051505 to Admty. A.C.I.C.)

GARLIES. With speed of 14 knots GARLIES B.D.E. 271 passes Boston Boom at 1730Z/5 Nov. en route Argentia (Route).
(Cdr. Northern Group E.S.F. 051549 to C.T.F.24)

U.S. S/M /...

Lion *A.W.I.*
150^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 *051134Z/November* **MESSAGE** IN
MOST SECRET "P." are excepted from this rule.)

FROM: B.A.M.R. Washington

DATE: 6.11.43

RECD: 0733

Nsval Cypher X Plug by Cable

*Manning of Convoy
Escort Vessels*

ADDRESSED: Admiralty. Repeated C. in C. W.A.

With further reference to your 280137 October, it is probably not realized to what extent the difficulties in this country of manning the convoy escort vessels are enhanced by either lack or tardy arrival of information concerning your policy and intentions.

2. After the receipt of this signal and in the absence of any reply to my 291818 October, which gave the completion dates for the remainder of the programme, I felt it necessary to inform the U.S.N. that it would no longer be possible to man all ships of the programme on the published completion dates. This has had an immediate reaction and the U.S.N. have expressed grave concern over this decision, probably due to the expectation that embarrassment would be caused to the administration by the consequent criticism based on the fact that lend lease equipment was not being placed immediately in use, a matter which is receiving as you probably know undue prominence at the present time in the American press.
3. I have therefore been approached most strongly to make every possible effort to remove the ships from the continental limits of the U.S.A. and I am requesting N.S.H.Q. for permission to lay up a certain number of ships at Halifax, N.S., using ferry crews and the minimum skeleton care and maintenance parties borrowed in part from R.C.N. and in part from my own resources, but this procedure cannot be regarded as good for the material and will involve a delay in bringing the ships forward for service in addition to the great inconvenience which it will cause.
4. I have just received Admiralty reference sheet M.O.11045/43 of October 1943, with the minutes of the meeting held on the 7th October, 1943, concerning pre-commissioning training in B.F.E's stationed at Belfast. It is now thought probable from paragraph eight of these minutes that the statement in the last sentence of the above quoted signal that no more advance parties would be sent refers only to the decision to abandon the policy of sending crews out in two sections as advance and main parties and that thereafter the crews will arrive in one body.

/5. Since ...

2.

5. Since twofour Diesel and Turbo-electric D.E's complete between 15th November 1943 and 5th January 1944, the proposed programme at Belfast of training four crews per fortnight will only provide for 16 ships during this period and it is therefore requested that the remaining eight advance parties required should be sent forward to U.S.A. at regular intervals in sufficient time to enable them to receive as much pre-commissioning training here as practicable.

6. It is further requested that -

(A) I may be kept fully informed by signal, of all matters under consideration and all Admiralty decisions affecting the manning of the new construction programme in U.S.R.

(B) I may be given advance information of the dates on which crews will leave the U.K. This information to be given in a weekly signal.

(C) You will confirm the assumption made in paragraph 4 above.

(D) Crews for maritime commission frigates continue to be sent forward, the first of the next crews to arrive not later than the first December.

7. Early information as to what action you are taking would be appreciated.

051434Z

1st Lord	Hd. of M.A.S.
1st S.L. (2)	Admiral Blake (4)
D.F.S.L.	D.A./S.W.
2nd S.L.	D.A./U.D.
3rd S.L.	Hd. of M. (10) for action
Vice Contr.	D.N.C.
4th S.L.	D. of D.
5th S.L.	C.C.R.T.
V.C.N.S.	E. in C.
A.C.N.S. (H)	E.A.P.
A.C.N.S. (F)	I.P. (2)
A.C.N.S. (W)	W.D.
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)	Dep. Contr. (5)
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)	D. of D.
Sec.	D.N.C. (2)
P.A.S. (S)	E. in C.
P.A.S. (PR)	P.
U.W.R.	Hd. of S.W.R.
D.O.D. (H) (4)	
D.O.D. (F) (2)	
D. of P. (2)	
N.A. 2nd S.L.	
D.P.S.	
Hd. of C.W.	
Hd. of N.	
D. of S.T. (6)	
D.C.	

} Path by Courier.

151

5.11.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.U.S. S/M.
Estimate.

(Cominch, 051600Z)

Ocean
Escort
Vessels.

Your 301153 in view of existing Canadian commitments it is felt that concurrence with para. 4 (B) cannot be given until the position can be clarified by examination of Admiralty Paper P.D. 0242/43 copy of which it is presumed is being sent to N.S.H.Q.
(N.S.H.Q.051612Z to Admty.(R) S.C.N.O. London, N.M.C.S.Washington, B.A.D., B.A.T.M. Ottawa.)

MONGABARRA
safe
conduct.

Swedish Government intimate that safe conduct vessel MONGABARRA will sail from St. John N.B. for Piraeus 0700 hours Nov.13th.
(2) Route as in A.M. 180051/Sept.
(3) Request you will inform air and other authorities concerned.
(Head of M.1, 051739A to N.S.H.Q.)

BITTERSWEET.

Expected to be ready. To sail on 18th. Request destination.
(B.A.M.R.051822Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q., S.B.N.O. W.At.)

H.X.265.

(1) Convoy sailing dispatch Part 1.
(2) Position L.S. at 1800Z/6. Items 3, 5 and 8 Standard route A as per Admty. 261625 Sept. and C. in C. C.N.A. 030030 Nov. (West "Chop"

0800Z/8th). Task Unit W.3. GEORGETOWN (S.O), SHAWINIGAN, LETHBRIDGE, GRANBY.
(P.D.New York, 051840 to Admty.)

ACONIT,
RENONCULE.

Your 041857 my 301339/10 and ACONIT 051315.
(1) Intend RENONCULE relieve ACONIT p.m. 6th. Former proceeding to Halifax direct escorting LADY LAURIER upon completion of work.
(2) Request you sail RENONCULE as necessary for

refit B.A.M.R. Washington 041629 refers.
(F.O.N.F.051841Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

Report
on R/T
silence.

C.2's report with O.N.S.21 herewith reference your 021108* visibility was never less than one mile and usually extreme.
(A) Following traffic passed on 2410 K/Cs during 5 days - ten signals to aircraft four signals reporting HF/DF. bearings and ordering subsequent searches. No signals cue to Radar contacts at night which were subsequently found to be U-Boats. All foregoing were short signals of two or three groups addressed only to one or two ships.

(B)/...

152

5.11.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Report
on R/T
silence.
(Contd.)

(B) No other frequencies were used.
 (C) One apparently very little.
 (D) One No. (E) No.
 (F) By V/S through Commodore.
 (G) Nil.
 (F.O.N.F. 051842Z to C. in C. W.A.(R) C. in C.
 C.N.A., Admty.)
 * Re: Requesting report on R/T silence in convoys
 and groups.

TRUMPETER.

Your 041919Z. It is confirmed that arrangements
 for TRUMPETER as in A.M. 231859 Oct. stand.
 (D.O.D.(H), 051851A to B.A.D, (R) C. in C. W.A.
 F.O.C.T., TRUMPETER.)

KEATS.

H.M.S. KEATS (B.D.E. 278) departs Boston Gate
 0900/6th en route Casco via direct route.
 Speed 13. E.T.A. Point X 1600 same day.
 All times Q.
 (C.T.G. 02.1, 051938 to Senior U.S. Officer PA,
 Casco.)

VOLUNTEER
fire,
beached.

SS. VOLUNTEER (U.S.) took fire 3rd off Halifax.
 Vessel beached and holds flooded.
 (N.S.H.Q. 052025Z to Admty. B.R.L.O. New York,
 N.C.S.O. Montreal.)

R.N.
requirements
W. coast
of Canada.

My 051630Z not to B.A.D. In order to plan
 intelligently for the next few years it is
 imperative that N.S.H.Q. be informed of R.N.
 requirements on the west coast of Canada. This
 matter was discussed informally with D.of P. in
 May and August, 1943.
 (C.N.S. Canada, 052036Z to Admty. (R) B.A.D.
 B.A.T.M., B.A.M.R.)

Sub.attack
and
sighting
Summary.

All times Z. Para. A 2 Navy planes attacked
 submarine 09.53 S. 18.08 W. 051125 and 10.09 S.
 18 W. 051200.
 Para. D. SS. BERWINDGLEN sighted periscope
 43.41 N. 69.45 W. 051450. A.M. 96 and A.M.98
 attacked sound contacts area 43.31 N. 70.01 W.
 050045 to 050707.
 (Cominch, 052101Z to Admty.)

ATHELING.

Arrived Port Townsend 051900Z.
 (Comnorwesseafon, 052139 to Cominch, C.N.O., B.A.D.
 Admty., N.S.H.Q. Comwesseafon.)

B.Y.M.S. /...

5.11.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

B.Y.M.S.
36. When ready about 12th sail British Y.M.S.36. Sailing from New York to Bermuda for onward routeing via Azores to Londonderry. Instructions in my 011853 apply. ((U.S.) C. in C.U.S.Fleet 052235Z to (U.S.) C.E.S.F. N.O.B. Bermuda.)

VAGRANT. Bermuda arrival. (S.B.N.O. W.At. 052237Z to Admty.)

KEMPTHORNE,
BLIGH,
KINGSMILL. U.S.S. DENEbola give to SOPA Casco Bay. SOPA Casco Bay inform British Training Officer Casco Bay. Following instructions my 191828 Oct. sail KEMPTHORNE about 11th Nov. BLIGH 12th BULLEM and KINGSMILL 14th. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 052239Z to C.E.S.F.)

Convoys
H.X., S.C.,
O.N., O.N.S.,
routeing. Your 021830A* not to all. Regarding H.X., S.C., O.N. and O.N.S. standard routes "C" concur. (N.S.H.Q. 052251Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. C.N.A., C. in C. W.A., F.O.N.F., Com. 10th Fleet, C. & R.)
* Convoy routes crossing.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
Serial
No.654
Nov.4. During early hours 1 Navy Catalina unsuccessfully attacked 2 freighters 20 miles South West Kavieng Course easterly while another effectively bombed and straffed 12 barges or small ships offshore 30 miles southeast Hansa Bay. (2) Midday R/C Liberator observed southbound Task Force and Merchant Convoy totalling 19 ships all located approx. 100 miles north Mussak Island. Warships included 3 ATAGO Class, 2 TONE Class Heavy Cruisers, 3 Single Stack Light Cruisers, 5 Destroyers, whereof 1 TERUTSUKI Class. Other ships comprised 2 Corvettes, 1 Whaling Factory type ship 3 Medium Freighters or Transports. Bombs dropped but missed. One Float-plane over shipping. (3) One enemy plane ineffectually raided shipping Langemak Bay South of Finschhafen forenoon. Previous night Allied Patrol Craft sank 5 out of 6 Barges encountered 14 miles North Finschhafen. (4) Two Liberators on patrol night 3rd bombed large Transport without success 60 miles South Kavieng course 130 degs, later attacked 2 Sea Trucks 50 miles Northeast Cape Gloucester headed South sinking 1.

War Diary.5.11.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

- Digest
Serial
No.654
Nov.4.
(Contd.)
- (5) Ten Beaufighters 12 Kittyhawks struck enemy occupied Malmal Mission Buildings Wide Bay forenoon 3rd and afternoon same day 9 Beaufighters attacked Coastal Plantation Jacquinot Bay. Former target again hit next afternoon by 12 Beaufighters.
- (6) Patrol plane scored direct hit on freighter night 2nd 70 miles Southeast Cape Saint George. Believed sank ship.
- (7) Fighter Patrol encountered approx. 35 Zeros Dive Bombers noon third N.W. Empress Augusta Bay. Two Corsairs missing.
- (8) Forenoon 4th search plane scored 2 direct hits on 1 of 2 large freighters 115 miles Northeast Mussau. Another plane registered 2 more hits same ship. Three hours later third search plane attacked 1 tanker, 1 destroyer same vicinity scoring direct hit on former.
- (9) At dusk 4th Southbound 6 ship convoy comprising 3 destroyers unsuccessfully attacked 150 miles West Kapingamarangi.
- (10) Photos morning 4th disclose Ballale Kahili Buka airfields all unserviceable Bonis serviceable Kara partially so. 7 fighters, 5 float-planes shown in coverage all known Bougainville Bases. One small freighter at Buka otherwise, small craft and barges North and South Bougainville anchorages.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 050600)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 051330A, 051335A)

Submarines Attacked.

Submarine
attack and
sighting
Summary
for 24 hours
to 0900Z/5th.

- (a) DUFF made two attacks on contact at 0700/4th in 50 degs. 26' N. 43 degs. 13' W. A/C sighted U-Boat on surface at 0106/5th in 46 degs. 28' N. 09 degs. 44' W.
- (b) A/C reported U-Boat contact and oil patch at 1750/4th in 46 degs. 45' N. 11 degs. 05' W.
- (d) Master of local schooner reports U-Boat at 1930/3rd in 17 degs. 00' N. 25 degs. 00' W. U-Boat reported on 1st in 17° 00' N. 25° 22' W.
(D.D.I.C. 051051A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

155

6.11.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

NELSON.

1. NELSON arrived at Rosyth at 1300 today from the Mediterranean.

Two U-Boats
sunk by
E.G.2.

2. The 2nd Escort Group which, with the Escort Carrier TRACKER, was carrying out an A/S sweep about 450 miles E.S.E. of St. Johns, sank two U-Boats today. The first was sighted by KITE at 0212 and attacked three times by her, after which STARLING (S.O.) obtained and held contact until 0718 when WOODCOCK was ordered to attack and at 0733 two explosions were heard and oil, wood, and wreckage came to the surface. Some hours later H/F D/F bearings of a second U-Boat were obtained by the Group and, after proceeding towards it at 17 knots, WILD GOOSE obtained an asdic contact at 1347Z. STARLING attacked this at 1404Z and at 1500Z ordered a torpedo-attack by WILD GOOSE. At 1506Z an under-water explosion was heard, after which wreckage, human remains, and much oil came to the surface. Both these attacks were directed by STARLING; and after each of them the half of a German torpedo came to the surface.

AELDA sunk.

3. The auxiliary patrol yacht AELDA was sunk today after collision with the S/D NEAVES at Aultbea. 4 survivors were landed, but one C.P.O. was killed and 3 ratings are missing.

North Atlantic.

Azores.

4. (a). In reply to a request by F.O.I.C. Gibraltar for classification of his responsibilities vis-a-vis the Azores the Admiralty today informed him that the Azores is in his area and so is under his operational control subject to C. in C. Mediterranean. S.B.N.O. Azores has no operational staff, and now that operation "Alacrity" is completed he has no operational responsibilities other than local defence of supply ships in loading at Terceira and the defence of waters in the immediate vicinity of Horta.

(b). Land and air forces are under the command of Air Vice Marshal Bromet who is S.B.O. Azores. R.A.F. Squadrons are constituted as a group of Coastal Command.

/CEYLON...

6.11.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

CEYLON.

5. CEYLON arrived at Gibraltar today from the U.K.

Italian
Cruisers.

6. DUCA DEGLI ABRUZZI and DUCA D'AOSTA sailed from Gibraltar this afternoon for Freetown.

South Atlantic.

Operation
"Tabarin."

7. H.M.S. BRANSFIELD is to carry out this operation and is to sail for the Falkland Islands as soon as possible. The intention of the operation is to establish wintering parties on the South Shetlands and Grahamland.

Mediterranean.

The
Mediterranean
Command.

8. (a). It is intended to unify naval command in the Mediterranean. Three Sub-Commands are proposed, viz: Western, Central and Eastern Mediterranean. It is considered that the Red Sea as a whole should remain under C. in C.Mediterranean, but Aden is to be under the control of C. in C.Eastern Fleet, and it may be desirable to include Massawa on account of the repair and ammunition storage facilities of the Eastern Fleet there. The French are not to have command of an operational area.

(b). The matter is discussed in messages today from the Admiralty to C. in C.Mediterranean and C. in C.Eastern Fleet.

(c). The views of C. in C.Mediterranean are given in his 091900A.

K.M.F.25A
attacked:
U.S.S. BEATTY
and 2 trans-
ports sunk.

9. Convoy K.M.F.25A was attacked by aircraft at 1804A today in approx. 37.13 N. 06.21 (or 12°) E. (about 40 miles W.N.W. of Philippeville). About 8 of the aircraft were equipped with rocket bombs (none of which hit) and the remainder with torpedoes. U.S. destroyer BEATTY was torpedoed and sank at 2304A; and the transports MARNIX VAN ST. ALDEGONDE and SANTA ELENA were torpedoed. Both transports were taken in tow, but both sank. Most of the troops were transferred to other ships. 5 enemy aircraft are claimed to have been destroyed by A.A. fire during the attacks on the convoy.

War Diary.6.11.1943.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean - Contd.

- AURORA. 10. AURORA is to be taken in hand at Taranto for damage repairs and essential defects as soon as she is available.
- "Avalanche". 11. Minelaying by enemy aircraft p.m. today is suspected at Bari and Barletta. At 072350A C. in C. Mediterranean reported that these harbours had been temporarily closed. Destroyers patrolled in the Adriatic last night without result.
- H.S. ST. ANDREW, bombed. 12. H.M. Hospital ship ST. ANDREW was attacked by aircraft in 41.56 N. 15.24 E. (east of Termoli) at about 1740Z today, but suffered no damage or casualties.
- U/B hit. 13. Mosquito aircraft of 618 Squadron obtained four hits with heavy cannon on a surfaced U-Boat this morning, about 50 miles S.W. of Lorient.
- Aegean. 14. (a). FAULKNER and ECHO carried out a negative sweep last night west of Levitha and Amorgos and returned to Alexandria today. PENN and PATHFINDER continued to lie up until this evening (see para. i)
- (b). ALDENHAM and MIAOULES carried out a bombardment of Kos Roads last night and retired to the Gulf of Kos, which they quitted to carry out a patrol west of Kos and Kalimno until midnight, after which they withdrew to the southward, being short of fuel, and R/Vd. with PENELOPE south of Kaso Strait at daylight 7th.
- (c). FURY, EXMOOR and BLENCATHRA are entering the Aegean north of Rhodes tonight. PHOEBE is in general support outside the Aegean.
- (d). PENELOPE left Alexandria p.m. today, to R/V with the Hunts withdrawing southward at dawn tomorrow.
- (e). An Italian submarine is due at Leros with stores tonight.
- (f). Wellingtons, with diversionary bombing, successfully mined Syros and Kalimno harbours last night.
- (g). 3 Hudsons bombed Heraklion harbour last night and 6 Hudsons attacked Candia harbour.
- (h). 8 Beaufighters which were despatched today against invasion craft sighted by air R/C at Port Naussa (Paros) set on fire two large barges and a naval auxiliary and made cannon strikes on a second naval auxiliary, an E-Boat, and several small craft.

/This...

158

6.11.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Aegean.
(Contd.)

This shipping was sighted by a Wellington aircraft on night A.S.V. patrol leaving Naussa Bay at 2230. PENN and PATHFINDER who had met in Mandelyah Bay after dark for a shipping sweep towards Naxos proceeded to try to attack and passed between Naxos and Paros about midnight, but failed to make contact.

East Indies.

New Station
Limits.

15. As proposed by C. in C.E.F. on 21st September, the boundary between South Atlantic and East Indies Commands was changed at 0001Z today and is now the parallel of 18° S. from the east coast of Africa to the west coast of Madagascar, thence down the west coast of Madagascar to the meridian of 45° E., thence due south. (page 24)

America & West Indies.

16. L.N. N.L. convoys have been discontinued for the winter.

Australia & New Zealand.

17. Allied amphibious vessels and a patrol craft were attacked today by 20 enemy single engine bombers in the Treasury Islands/Empress Augusta Bay area. Two torpedoes hit our ships but failed to explode: there was no other damage. Five of the enemy were shot down.

18. This morning escorted Mitchells sank a corvette 5 small freighters ranging up to 300 ft., and 2 barges, north of Bougainville and west of Buka.

159

6.11.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

19. Two attacks were made on Kara Airfield, the first by 44 Dauntless and 17 Avengers covered by 32 fighters, the latter by 24 Mitchells and 8 Corsairs. Five barges were destroyed or set on fire by the escorting fighters, off the south coast.

6.11.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

62nd
M.T.B.
Flotilla.

A.M. 181920A/Oct.
M.T.Bs 716, 717, 718 and 719 are allocated to the
62nd M.T.B. Flotilla based at Lerwick.
(2) These boats will be British-manned.
(Admty. 060039A to A.C.O.S.)

Personnel
in North
Russia.

As result of talks between Mr. Eden and Mr. Molotov
Soviet Government has agreed to an establishment
of 320 service personnel in North Russia provided
activities may not be increased by more than
10% without special permission of Soviet Govern-
ment and that when convoys are interrupted in
spring these figures may be reduced to a limit to be established
then.

(2) They agree to effect issue of entry and exit visas within
limits of above establishment as speedily as possible, approx.
a fortnight. It was pointed out that in order to maintain
efficiency and morale it is considered necessary British
personnel should not remain more than nine months in North Russia.

(3) They agree to allot the necessary accommodation in one of
Soviet hospitals in Archangel so that British service personnel
may be served by a group of British medical personnel.

(4) Figure of 320 had to be given as basis of negotiations and
covers all convoy operation requirements including Archangel
Hospital unit as far as can be seen at present. It comprised
as proposed 283 Naval 17 Army and 20 R.A.F. personnel.

(5) Admiralty 252333. Statement received that Stalin sees no
objection reaching agreement on basis of reciprocity as regards:

(A) censorship of mails by British Authorities only
(B) trial of British Service personnel by British Authorities.

(6) Question of reciprocity having been raised Ambassador is
requesting Foreign Office authority before pursuing matter.

(30 Mission, 061652C to Admty, S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Support
Flotilla
903.

No.903 Support Flotilla is to form at NORTHNEY
on November 10th and is allocated to Force 'S'
on date of leaving NORTHNEY for passage North.
NORTHNEY to report date.
(D.R.O.C.O.062119A to C.C.O.B. Portsmouth)

30 Mission.
Duties of
Head of
Naval
Section.

Following directive for Head of Naval Section of
30 Mission has been approved by C.O.S. - begins.
"Your duties as Head of the Naval Section of the
Military Mission to the U.S.S.R. are as follows:
(i) To assist the Russians by every means in your
power subject (so far as the exchange of
information is concerned) to the provisions of
Annex 11 of C.O.S.(43) 62, a copy of which is
attached to this directive.

(ii) /...

6.11.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

30 Mission. (ii) To act as a channel for the exchange of Naval
Duties of intelligence between the Soviet and British Naval
Head of Staffs.
Naval (iii) To act, if called upon, as a channel
Section. through which Russian requests for naval material
(Contd.) or other assistance may be communicated.
(iv) To act as a channel for the exchange of
information regarding British and Russian naval
organisation and material, training and technical
methods, and general naval policy.
(v) To act as a channel for co-ordinating as far as possible,
Russian and British Naval strategy.
(vi) To look after the interests of all British Naval personnel
stationed on Russian territory and to make every effort, in
concert with the Head of the Mission and H.M.Ambassador, to
improve the conditions under which they serve.
(2) If you are pressed for information concerning our own naval
dispositions, new construction, or equipment, about the disclosure
of which you are in doubt, you should refer to Admiralty for
instructions.
(3) You will normally deal direct with the Soviet Authorities and
with the Admiralty on the matters set out in para. 1 of this
directive. You will, however, be guided by the general policy
approved by the Head of the Mission in the performance of your
duties as set out above, and will keep him fully informed of
your general activities. Communications from the Chiefs of
Staff will normally be addressed to the Head of Mission who will
keep you informed, as they may affect the discharge of your
duties.
(4) As Head of the Naval Section, you may advise H.M.Ambassador
direct on all purely naval matters, keeping the Head of the
Mission informed. On questions which affect the Mission as a
whole, you should make your representations to H.M.Ambassador
through the Head of the Mission." Ends.
(A.C.N.S. (H)? 062128A to Ad. Fisher.)

Movements.

BLLENHEIM. Sailed BLLENHEIM in K.M.S. 32. A.M.121920A Oct.
refers.
(N.O.I.C.Greenock, 060314A to C. in C. Levant.)

MIDDLETON. Intend to proceed at 1800A tomorrow.
E.T.A. 1000/8th. A.C.I.C's 051840A refers.
(MIDDLETON, 061135A to A.C.I.C.)

ENTERPRISE. ENTERPRISE proceed passing Clyde boom at 1700A/6th
to Scapa. E.T.A. 1600A/7.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 061204A to ENTERPRISE)
Sailed ENTERPRISE in accordance with my 061204A.
(N.O.I.C.Greenock, 061658A to C. in C. W.A.)

NELSON /...

162

6.11.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

NELSON. Arrived NELSON.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 061300 to Admty.)

RENOWN,
QUEEN
ELIZABETH. Para. 4 of your 052358A. Owing to necessity boiler cleaning TEAZER, intend to sail ROCKET only to R/V RENOWN and QUEEN ELIZABETH in vicinity Bardsey Island before dark 9th November and to detail one Hunt Class to reinforce from Longships at first light 10th.
(2) ROCKET and destroyer from Scapa to continue with QUEEN ELIZABETH to Portland and return direct to Plymouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 061335A to C. in C. H.F.)

AUGUSTA. Sailed AUGUSTA in accordance with my 051430.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 061558A to C. in C. H.F.)

S/M
Movements. Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/7 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S.061728, 071503A.)

HARRIER. HARRIER sailed for Archangel with S.B.N.O. North Russia aboard at 2120C/6.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 061946A to S.B.N.O. Archangel)

HURON,
HARDY. Scapa arrivals HURON, HARDY.
(A.C.O.S. 062015 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

RICHELIEU. Your 051405 and C. in C. Med. 031906.
Propose (A) Mediterranean Destroyers escort to 43 degs. North.
(B) Plymouth Destroyers escort to 51 degs. N.
(C) Ship proceeds thence at best speed to Scapa, H.F. Destroyers meeting off Butt of Lewis.
(C. in C. H.F. 062253A to Admty.)

Operations.

Operation S.F. If no sightings and not in contact by 18101A/6th Group "A" is to proceed to Skaalefiord. C. in C. H.F. 231207 Oct. refers.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 060207A to M/S 15)
Position at 062000. FRASERBURGH, LYME REGIS,
WORTHING, BOOTLE, LLANDUDNO, ARDROSSAN vicinity 062 degs. 30' N.
014 degs. 25' W. to Skaalefiord.
(A.C.O.S. 061125A to Ships)

Bay
Patrol. Cancel my 051328. Resume patrol between position CS and CT.
(2) Indicate P.C.S. and estimated time you will

require /...

War Diarv.

6.11.1943.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Bay
Patrol.
(Contd.)

require to leave patrol to fuel at Gibraltar or Azores.
(3) Horta unable to receive you at present. (C. in C. Plymouth, 060306A to GLASGOW.)
Request you will sail CEYLON when fuelled to position CT 039 degs. 58' N. 013 degs. 19' W to relieve GLASGOW on operation "Stonedrag".
(2) If practicable suggest passengers should be disembarked before sailing.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 060339A to F.O.I.C.Gibraltar.)
Your 060306A. My P.C.S. 039 degs. 57' N. 021 degs. 19', 090 degs. 19. Estimate I must leave patrol for either Azores or Gibraltar at 0001A/9.
(GLASGOW, 060502A to C. in C. Plymouth.)
Cancel para. 1 of my 051903A. PRINCE ROBERT is to return Horta and await further orders.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 061110A to PRINCE ROBERT)
Disposition at 062000.
(1) Group "O", 4 B.Y.M.S. 044 degs. 30', 013 degs. 45', 178 degs. 10 knots.
(2) STONEHENGE 049 degs. 10' 009 degs. 01', 270 degs, 120 miles a day.
(4) Hospital Ship LADY NELSON 041 degs. 40', 012 degs. 01', 000 degs. 13 knots.
(5) GLASGOW 040 degs. 015 degs. 20' , 090 degs. 19, 016 degs. thence patrol between 039 degs. 58', 013 degs. 19', and 041 degs. 59', 017 degs. 11'.
(6) K.15. 049 degs. 38', 006 degs. 50' to 049 degs. 30', 009 degs. 01', thence 270 degs. 10 knots.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 061454A to Admty.)
In order to get H.M.S. GLASGOW refuelled as soon as possible request CEYLON be sailed as soon as ready in accordance with my 060339. Your 061245 refers.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 061731A to F.O.C.Gibraltar.)
Amend patrol-line in my 060306A to read patrol between position CT. 039 degs. 58' N. 013 degs. 19' W. and CV. 042 degs. 42' N. 015 degs. 54' W.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 061735A to GLASGOW.)

V.P.
Operations.

V.P.105 (GULSEN) and V.P.102 (FLORO) will be referred to as follows: V.P. 52 A landing of reporting party, V.P.52 B and 105 launching, V.P.52 C and 102 launching, V.P.52 D pick-up.
(A.C.O.S. 061130A to N.O.I.C.Lerwick.)

Coastal
Force
Patrols.

(A) 3 M.G.B's from Newhaven carry out anti-E-Boat patrol 10 miles South of Convoy route between Eastern limit of command and C 3 Buoy covering C.W. 222 from 2200A to 0630A. Under no circumstances is patrol to approach to within 5 miles of convoy.

(B) /...

164

6.11.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Coastal Force Patrols. (Contd.) (B) CHASSEURS 13, 41 patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between F and EA 5 Buoys.
(C) M.L.1300 Immediate notice St. Helens.
(D) ALBRIGHTON immediate notice Yarmouth.
(E) M.G.B's 8, 13, 7 patrolling.
50 degs. 15' N. between 02 degs. 10' W. and 02 degs. 35' W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 061403A)

M.L's 137 and 139 at V Buoy.
M.G.B's 40 and S 1 at Bullock Bank, route via Number 10 Buoy, E.T.D. 1700, E.T.R. 0830/7.
M.T.B's 434 and 416 at Number 7 Buoy, E.T.D. Ramsgate 1745, E.T.R. 0745/7.
(V.A. Dover, 061620A)

S/M Patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800A/7th and movements for following 24 hours.
(A) SYRTIS leaves patrol at 2000/7th through 071 degs. 09' N. 015 degs. 00' E. probably on surface 10 knots.
(B) STUBBORN leaves patrol at 2000/7th through 070 degs. 53' N. 015 degs. 23' E. probably on surface 10 knots.
(C) VARANGIAN 69 degs. 45' N. 12 degs. 15' E. through 69 degs. 01' N. 09 degs. 58' E. thence course 210 degs. probably on surface 8½ knots.
(D) ULA as in my 011707.
(E) K.15 49 degs. 30' N. 08 degs. 45' W. through 49 degs. 30' N. 09 degs. 01' W. thence course 270 degs. 120 miles per day.
(F) STONEHENGE 49 degs. 10' N. 11 degs. 15' W. through 49 degs. 10' N. 12 degs. 25' W. thence to South 120 miles per day.
(F.O.S. 061728 to Admty.)

Allied Air Activity.

Attack on Convoy off Dutch Coast 25th Sept. My 071214/Oct. Names of transports were PIONNIER and CANNONIER which have since arrived Stettin. 2 similar vessels both recently completed are due to leave for Stettin shortly.
Graded B.2.
(N.A. Stockholm 061114 to D.N.I.)

U-Boats.

One U-B. sunk by WOODCOCK. Am attacking U-Boat (German) in 044 degs. 49' N. (041 degs. 13') W.
(E.G.2, 060631A to C. in C. W.A.)
One U-B. sunk by WILD GOOSE. Spotting aircraft attacking U-Boat (German) in 044 degs. 49' N. (041 degs?) (13') W.
(E.G.2, 060631A to C. in C. W.A.)

My /...

6.11.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats.

One U-B. My 060631. A German U-Boat destroyed by creeping
sunk by attacks by WOODCOCK directed by STARLING. Oil
WOODCOCK. and wreckage. Am endeavouring to salvage
One U-B. German torpedo, unfortunately without head.
sunk by Position 044 degs. 46' N. 041 degs. 08' W.
WILD GOOSE. Weather 6680 2273.
(Contd.) (E.G.2, 061100A to C. in C. W.A.)
U. 226 My 061100A. KITE on Port Wing of line abreast
U. 642 has reported German U-Boat by R.D.F. at 3500
yards at 0212/0 and sighting it, closed rapidly
on opposite courses. German U-Boat turned to starboard and
dived at 800 yards. KITE attacked three times. STARLING
obtained contact at 0305/0 and held it until daylight.
STARLING then directed a creeping attack WOODCOCK at 0718/0.
Two explosions heard 15 minutes later. Oil, wood, and wreckage
came to surface. Have also recovered air-vessel, balance-chamber
and valve-catch of German torpedo.
(E.G.2, 061315A to C. in C. W.A.)
D/F of transmission at 1301Z indicates U-Boat in your
vicinity which may have reported you.
(D.D.I.C.061450A to E.G.2)
Your 1450Z confirmed. Am chasing H/F D/F bearing.
(E.G.2, 061520Z to Admty.)
My 051815A. Unless in contact shift centre of area of
search 60 miles to southward to 043 degs. 042 degs. Pass
through 043 degs. 30' 042 degs. 30' during dark hours tonight.
(2) If found necessary intention is that TRACKER should join
H.X. 264 A.M. 8th.
(3) H.X. 264 has been ordered maintain R/T silence except in
emergency.
(C. in C. W.A. 061616Z to E.G.2)
Am hunting German U-Boat in 043 degs. 42' N. 042 degs.
08' W.
(E.G.2, 061731Z to C. in C. W.A.)
My 1731A. This second U-Boat also destroyed by torpedo
attack by WILD GOOSE directed by STARLING. Much wreckage, oil,
human remains, and another torpedo.
(E.G.2, 061836A to C. in C. W.A.)
My 1836A and Admty's 1450Z. STARLING, TRACKER, WILD GOOSE
and KITE all obtained H/F. D/F. Bearings.
STARLING, MAGPIE, WILD GOOSE proceeded towards it at 17 knots.
WILD GOOSE obtained asdic contact at 1347Z STARLING attacked
at 1404Z. STARLING then directed a torpedo-attack WILD GOOSE
at 1500Z. 6 minutes later underwater explosion heard.
8 minutes after this explosion the air-vessel and balance-chamber
of torpedo broke surface vertically, shortly followed by
wreckage and human remains, and vast quantity of oil. Have
recovered the half-torpedo and other trophies. The fact
that in this morning's kill a half-torpedo also surfaced after
underwater explosion appears to be more than a co-incidence but
I have no ready explanation.
(E.G.2, 062000A to C. in C. W.A.)

U-Boats /...

166

6.11.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats. - Contd.

U-Boats
Reported.

D/F bearings at 0905Z indicate U-Boat may be in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C. 061107A to ULA)
D/F bearings of transmission at 1705/6 G.M.T. indicate U-Boat between 01 degs. 00' E. and 02 degs. 30' latitude uncertain, but possibly returning to Trondheim.
(D.D.I.C. 061913A to ULA)

Technical.

Radio
controlled
bombs.

Your No. 3462/0180 of 18th October.
It is established that there are no homing-devices in either the radio-controlled glider H.S.293 or the radio-controlled bomb F.X.
(2) Accumulating evidence of all sorts fully supports doctrine laid down in A.G.M. 082057A Oct.
(D.G.D. 062153A to Capt. D. Plymouth)

Radar
decoy
used by
U-Boats.

U-Boats employ a decoy to give a response to Radar sets similar to that given by a U-Boat.
(2) The device consists of a balloon about two feet six inches in diameter from which is suspended a reflector connected by about 50 feet of line to a wooden float.
(3) The reflector consists of a number of strips (probably three) of metal-foil about 5 centimetres wide and 170 centimetres long, flying like pennants one above the other.
(4) U-Boats are believed to carry about 50 of these decoys. When required the balloons are inflated on deck and flown off.
(5) The decoy then moves downwind at about half the wind speed. The estimated life is 4 - 6 hours at most. (Further details).
(8) The importance is stressed of stating a plot as soon as a suspicious echo is detected.
(9) Cases of suspected use of these decoys are to be reported by signal on return to harbour giving the following details:
(A) Date, time and ship's position.
(B) Range and bearing when first detected.
(C) Subsequent behaviour including speed of travel.
(D) Characteristics of echo at varying ranges.
(E) Wind, speed and direction.
(F) Visibility. (G) Sea conditions.
(10) If possible decoys should be recovered and forwarded to Admiralty by quickest route. The most important items are the foil reflectors and it should be stated whether these have been damaged in recovery.
(D.A.U.D. 062230A: A.G.M. 093A.B.1)

167

6.11.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

- S.C.1287. P.C.S. 241° Skagi 135, 055°, 7½. S.C.1287 breakdown and in tow. Tug not required. (ARCH, 060901Z to A.C.I.C.)
- FIRELIGHT. SS. FIRELIGHT in Yarmouth with bows blown off has no casualties aboard. 14 of crew left ship in lifeboat and report in Sunderland. If safe all crew accounted for. (N.C.S.O. Gt. Yarmouth, 061045A to Admty.)
- CLARE. Fire occurred at 060100 on board CLARE in bridge structure involving S.D.O. chart-house and plotting office on upper bridge and Captain's cabin which were burnt out. Inquiry will be held. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 061205A and 071251A to Admty.)
- PEGASUS. No. 3 boiler. The left hand centre furnace has developed a longitudinal crack. Boiler has been placed out of action. Intend to arrive Belfast Lough 1700/8th. (PEGASUS, 061215 to F.O.I.C.N.I.)
- AELDA sunk. H.M. Yacht AELDA sunk in collision with S.D. NEAVES. Following four survivors landed. Names. All fit. Body of Chief P.O. recovered. Following three missing. Names. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 061455A to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys.

- O.S. 58/
K.M.S.32. My 051849. Sailed 0815 (PROSPEROUS). (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 060821 to C. in C.W.A.) Sailed to overtake at 1102/6 DORNOCH, ITALY. Request escort may be detached to contact ship. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 061104A to A.I.G.288.)
- FAR - Sicily; PORJUS - Lisbon; RAGNHILD - Gibraltar F/O; DRAKEPOOL - Lisbon; LORD BYRON - Sicily; EMPIRE TANA - Algiers; BRIARWOOD - Gibraltar F/O. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 061458A to A.I.G.289.) Unless weather abateš cannot maintain speed to make R/V. Request instructions. (PROSPEROUS, 061720A to C. in C. W.A.) My 061458A. Following ships did not sail: EMPIRE KANGAROO, FAIRWATER. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 061750A to Admty.) Detail one escort to contact DORNOCH a.m./7th. DORNOCH sailed Clyde 1102A/6th to overtake convoy. Speed 9 knots. (C. in C. W.A., 061803A to B.1.) Your 061720A. Endeavour to overtake convoy which is also delayed by weather. (2) Report your P.C. and S. at 1200A/7. (C. in C. W.A., 061931A to PROSPEROUS.) Sailed HURRICANE, GLENARM, WALLFLOWER, BORAGE, MEADOWSWEET, DAHLIA all for K.M.S.32/O.S.58. WANDERER sailing approximately 24 hours late to overtake. (Cdre. (D) W.A., 062246 to C. in C. W.A.)

/E.G. 2 ...

168

6.11.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- E.G. 2. Your 052130. This is not desirable unless
TRACKER. essential. It is considered that necessary
 replacements should be available at Argentia
 with the exception of fighters.
 Report details of replacements you consider
unobtainable. On receipt of your signal F.O. Newfoundland is
requested to state which if any of stores you quote are
unobtainable.
(C. in C. W.A., 061022Z to E.G. 2.)
- R.U. 97. Request you will sail convoy including ESSO
 HARTFORD and WILLIAM MARKAY so as to arrive
 Loch Ewe 16th.
(C. in C. W.A., 061158Z to A.C.I.C.)
- T.U. 4. SATURN and CHARLESTOWN joined Bristol Channel
 section.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 061212A to C. in C. W.A.)
- K.M.F. and In view of the large numbers of troops embarked
M.K.F. in K.M.F. convoys and M.K.F. convoys, it is
Convoys. considered that special provision should be made
Proposed for rescuing survivors in the event of a casualty
special or casualties. It is not satisfactory to have
Rescue to rely on escorts to carry out this function, as
Ships. it is only possible for the S.O.E. to spare at
 the utmost two escorts for rescue work without
 unduly endangering the convoy, and these vessels
 could not pick up and accommodate more than a
fraction of the troops embarked in one large troopship, particu-
larly in the weather to be expected in the Bay in the winter. It is
considered that a special ship should be allocated to sail with
K.M.F. convoys and return with M.K.F. convoys to act as rescue
ship. She could have the requisite speed, endurance, and
accommodation, and be equipped generally for rescue work. It is
requested that this matter should receive urgent attention as
the present arrangements cannot be considered adequate.
(C. in C. W.A., 061241A to Admty.)
- H.X. 263. When no longer required as escort for TORTUGUERO
 proceed to Campbeltown.
 (C. in C. W.A., 061546A to SAMSONIA.)
 Your 061546A. TORTUGUERO's condition satisfactory.
My E.T.A. Campbeltown 062155Z.
(SAMSONIA, 062201Z to C. in C. W.A.)
Arrival SAMSONIA.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 062255A.)
- O.N.S.22. (A) 0800Z/6th in 55.54 N. 09.04 W. (B) HESPERUS
 H/F D/F, VESPER H/F D/F, MOURNE H/F D/F, CAMPANULA,
 CLEMATIS, SWEETBRIAR, GENTIAN. Additional A/S
 escort and for rescue duties NORTHERN PRIDE,
 NORTHERN GIFT. M.A.C. ships AMASTRA, EMPIRE MACKAY.
(C) 26.
(C. in C. W.A., 061757Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

/J.W. 54A ...

170

6.11.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

F.O.I.C. Gib. Your 041243.
re- 1. Azores is in your area and so under your
responsibility - operational command subject to C. in C. Med.
Azores. S.B.N.O. Azores has no operational staff and now
that operation "Alacrity" is completed has no
operational responsibilities other than local
defence of supply ships in loading at Terceira
and defence of waters in immediate vicinity of Horta.

2. S.B.N.O. Azores has been requested to inform you of all
movements vide a.m. 231320, para. 2.

3. S.B.N.O. Azores at present responsible directly to Admty.
for administration but when revised arrangements for Med. come
into force will be placed under you for all general matters of
administration concerning naval forces.

4. Land and air forces are under the command of Air V.M. Bromet,
S.B.O. Azores. R.A.F. Sqdns. are constituted as a group of
Coastal Command and co-operate also with A.O.C. Gib. in
accordance with para. 5 of Directif for operation "Alacrity",
which by now you should have received.
(Approved V.C.N.S. 060010A, to F.O.I.C. Gib., S.B.N.O.
Azores, C. in C. Med., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth.)

EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND. 2. Sailed Casablanca.
5. Route etc. to Hampton Roads E.T.A. (?15)
1100Z.
14. Codeword "(?Effective)". Associated callsign
117.
(C.M.S.F.F. 060210A, 061310Z.)

CEYLON. When refuelled proceed. Route. (All positions
North and West unless otherwise indicated).
036° 30', 010° 00' to position CT 039° 58',
013° 19' to comply with C. in C. Plymouth 060339A. S. of A.
22 knots.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 060621A, to CEYLON, (R) GLASGOW, C. in C.
Plymouth, PRINCE ROBERT, C. in C. Med., Admty, S.B.N.O. Azores,
C. in C. W.A.)
Arrived.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 061023A.)
Amend first position in my 060621 to read (CZ) 036° 09' N.
011° 48' W.
(F.O.C. Gib. 061143A, to UTMOST. (R) PRINCE ROBERT,
GLASGOW, C. in C. Med., Admty. C. in C. Plymouth, S.B.N.O. Azores.
GLASGOW 060502. Request confirmation CEYLON should be
sailed in accordance with your 060339.
(F.O.C. Gib. 061245A, to C. in C. Plymouth. (R) Admty.,
GLASGOW, C. in C. Med., CEYLON.)
In view of very large number of passengers mails stores
and confidential matter carried in CEYLON propose GEORGE
LEYGUES be substituted for CEYLON.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 061249A, to C. in C. Med. (R) C. in C.
Plymouth, Admty.)

171

6.11.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

Naval Personnel - Horta. Question of wearing plain clothes by naval officers and men and the number allowed at Horta should receive further consideration. Details. 8. Question of accommodating personnel in the German cable station should also be pressed as existing accommodation is unsuitable. (C.S.O. Azores, 061130, to Admty. (R) C.S.O.Horta.)

SAON. A.M. 251829 para. 1. (d). Is A/S Maintenance vessel. She is remaining in Azores and not being turned over to Portuguese. (D.O.D.(H), 061212A, to F.O.I.C. Gib., (R) C. in C. Med., S.B.N.O. Azores.)

Italian ships Las Palmas. Received information grade A.1. that notwithstanding presence of Naval Guard on board It. ships Germans determined to attempt scuttling of all three ships to prevent sailing.

2. Am in contact with It. Consul on this matter.
3. Admty. please pass to Foreign Office. (Consul Las Palmas, 061216, to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Gib., B.N.A. Madrid.)

Following received from Consul Las Palmas. T.O.O.041220. (Begins.)

Italian Consul informs me debts on Italian ships now paid but he is finding increased difficulty with obstructionist attitude of Naval authorities here.

- (a) They have refused to return machinery parts which they had deposited with them against payment of debt.
- (b) Contend that judicial situation of ships not clear as 2 It. Govts. exist - that Spanish Govt. have certain rights and in consequence there is a doubt of sovereignty of Royal It. Govt.
- (c) Have refused permission for It. Vice Consul to travel to Tenerife to discharge several Italian Officers who refuse to recognise Royal It. Govt.
- (d) Obstructed execution of necessary repairs to ship and (?numerous) attempts by Tanker crew to leave.
- (e) Attempt was made by members of crew to scuttle CHERKA night 1st by opening sea cocks. T.O.O. 041220A. (Ends.) (N.A. Madrid, 061355A, to Admty., F.O.C. Gib.)

L.C.M.'s,
L.C.P.'s -
Azores.

R.F.A. DEWDALE has embarked 11 badly battered L.C.M.'s and 6 L.C.P.'s. Two L.C.M.'s and two L.C.P.'s being retained with small maintenance and crew party of 7 men as essential for future unloading operations. One L.C.M. has been lost. These craft have done magnificent work. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 061220Z, to Admty.)

C.T.F.61,
U.G.S. 22.

Arrival and departure 6th BULMER, BARKER in company. (S.B.N.O. Horta, 061345.)

172

6.11.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- C.T.F.61,
U.G.S. 22 -
Contd. Comdesdiv 58 (in BULMER) originates 061420 for C.T.F.61 for action. GW 14 hours Z today departed Horta Azores with PARKER to rejoin U.G.S. 22. S. of A. 25 knots through $36^{\circ} 34' N.$, $25^{\circ} 00' W.$, and thence to r/v $34^{\circ} 56' N.$ $21^{\circ} 30' W.$ E.T.A. 0600Z 7th.
(Comnaveu, 061746, to Admty.)
- Spanish war-ships exercise. Pass to H.Q.C.C. C. in C. Plymouth C. in C. Med. and S.B.N.O. Azores. My 051420 M. of M. replies they are unable to comply owing to shortage of fuel. Exercise will in any case not be carried out at a distance exceeding 7 miles from coast and will chiefly consist of landing exercises.
(N.A. Madrid, 061413A, to Admty.)
- T.G.27.4. Cinclant's 021856. Request route Task Group 27.4, E.T.D. Casablanca 10th.
(C.M.S.F.F. 061435A, to Admty.)
- DUCA DELGI ABRUZZI,
DUCA D'AOSTA. My 051804. Sailed. QLA.211.
(F.O.C. Gib. 061504A, to F.O.C.W.A.)
- BOISE,
NICHOLSON,
RHIND. My 052015 sailing (?delayed).
(Comorseafont, 061528Z, to Cinclant, (R) Admty., Cominch, Comnavaw, C.E.S.F., N.O.B. Bermuda, S.B.N.O. Azores, F.O.C. Gib., C. in C. Med.)
- CLEOPATRA. Intend including CLEOPATRA in addition to UGANDA in G.U.S.20.
(F.O.C. Gib. 061701A, to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty., B.A.D.)
- T.G.21.16. Intend to sail T.G.21.16 departing Casablanca 091500A supporting G.U.S.20 and U.G.S.23. Forthcoming? operations as Cinclant 281629 Oct. not to all. F.O.C. Gib. pass to S.B.N.O. Azores.
(C.M.S.F. 061732, to Cinclant.)
- M.K.S.29 - Your 061129. (Not in W.D.) M.K.S.29 P.C. and S. U/B. at 2000Z $035^{\circ} 16' N.$ $015^{\circ} 34' W.$ 278 $^{\circ}$ 7 knots. Altering to 320° at 2300Z.
At 1414Z WALKER heard U/B transmitting 32 groups bearing 045° 2nd class possibly within 15 to 30 miles on 10825 kc/s.
-Weather report.
(B.4. 061821Z, to F.O.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. W.A., Admty., C. in C. Med.)

/Survivors of U/B

173

6.11.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

- Survivors of H.M. Consul Tetuan has received strong protest at violation of Spanish Territorial Waters by U/B sunk FLEETWOOD at 0945 2nd when removing from Spanish fishing vessels 43 German survivors from a U/B. 1.11.43. Consul has been informed that he will receive instruction through F.O. Channels.
2. FLEETWOOD carried out four attacks between 2254 and 2357 1st in 035° 49' N. 005° 14' W. with no positive evidence of destruction at one time.
3. At 0830/2nd when sweeping back towards Almina Point four Spanish fishing vessels were sighted. On investigation it was seen that a number of seamen were wearing Mae West lifejackets and yellow rubber dinghies were lying on deck. FLEETWOOD reports that several men were in an exhausted and distressed condition and it was deemed advisable to transfer them immediately to receive medical attention. On the advice of the M.O. it was then decided to transfer all survivors in order that they might be given dry clothing and medical assistance.
4. The first boat was boarded in 183° Almina Point Light 8.4 miles and the remaining 3 boats in position 207° Almina Point Light 2.8 miles.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 061831A, 071430, to Admty.; C. in C. Med.)

CARNARVON Initial destination Clyde.
CASTLE. 2. Final destination will be signalled later.
(D.O.D.(F) 061922A, to F.O.I.C. Gib., Info C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Greenock, CARNARVON CASTLE.)

Standard Your 041518. A.L. M/TDTQ 36/43 of 30th Oct.
routes for received.
Azores. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 062009Z, to Admty.)

UNSHAKEN Spanish warships exercising as follows:
information. A) 2 destroyers, 2 M/L and A/C between Meridian 003° 30' and 001° 30' E.
B) Destroyer flotilla at a distance about 7 miles from the coast between Capa Palos and Cape Aguilas. A/C of Dornier and Heinkel types probably taking part.
(F.O. Gib. 062229A, to UNSHAKEN.)

*Inter-island
shipping,
Azores.*

*SBD Azores 061930. This signal was placed
in Mediterranean in error.*

174

6.11.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Operation "Tabarin,"
BRANSFIELD. A.M. 011903. 1. It is important that BRANSFIELD should reach Falkland Islands as soon as possible. 2. Request you will sail her as requisite via:-
03° 00' N. 08° 00' W. to St. Helens for bunkers, thence via:- K. 20° 00' S. 12° 00' W.
L. 19° 00' S. 26° 00' W. M. 22° 00' S. 36° 00' W.
N. 40° 00' S. 55° 00' W. O. 47° 00' S. 61° 00' W. to Port Stanley. 3. It is essential that secrecy be preserved regarding BRANSFIELD's destination. 4. A.M. 011903 is being passed to C. in C.S.A.
(D.O.D. (F) 061105A to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) C. in C.S.A., N.O.I.C., Falkland Islands.)
My 061105A. Codeword is Operation "Tabarin".
(D.O.D. (F) 061057A to C. in C.S.A. Info. N.O.I.C. Falkland Islands, F.O.C.W.Af.)

U/B sunk. S/M sunk by aircraft 10.09 S. 18.00 W. FORT CUMBERLAND notified by BLINKER to pick up about 20 survivors in 3 rafts. Request you direct FORT CUMBERLAND take any further necessary action.
(Com. 10th Flt. C. & R. 061228Z to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty. Com. 4th Fleet.)

R.O. Ascension reports U-Boats sunk by U.S. Aircraft p.m. 5th Nov. in 010° 00' S. 018° 00' W. About 20 survivors seen. F.O.C.W.Af. informed.
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 062024Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.S.A.)

LORRAINE. F.O.C.W.Af's. 051706 acknowledged. C.M.S.F. is requested to arrange detachment of LORRAINE from S.R.7 to Casablanca.
(Comar Dakar 061232Z to F.O.C.W.Af., C.M.S.F. (R) Admty., C. in C. Med., V.A. Gib., MALCOLM, ISIS.)

D.K.A.6. Sailed NORTHERN CHIEF, INDIAN STAR, HERTFORDSHIRE, LADY ROSEMARY, COVENTRY CITY escorting D.K.A.6, N.C.S.O. Durban 061424 refers. 2. LADY ROSEMARY is being detached to join Convoy A.K.D.5 or if not possible at prudent limit of endurance to return to Durban.
(Com. Durban 061431Z to Admty.)
NORTHERN CHIEF returned with faulty air pump INDIAN STAR now S.O.
(Com. 1/c. Durban 061714Z to Admty.)

6.11.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

GUARDIAN. Your 241925A Oct. On completion of operations request GUARDIAN may be docked and sailed in Jan. for duty with C. in C. E.F. - estimated date to be reported in due course.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 060156A to C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, (R) C. in C. E.F., V.A. Malta, GUARDIAN, F.O.T.A.)

Policy re French Fleet. FAN 272. 6th Nov. R.5355/1847.
Interior addresses: To: Eisenhower, Freedom Algiers. From: The C.Cs. of S. References: C.C.S.358 (revised). C.C.S.207/10. Cominch message 262157 Oct.
Revised C.C.S.358, consolidating papers re policy and rearmament of French Naval vessels has been forwarded to C.G. NATO, C. in C. Med., and Cdr. Eighth Fleet.
Your para. 3: French should conform to policy laid down in C.C.S. 207/10 and reaffirmed in C.C.S.358 (revised) dealing through its own agencies in Washington to represent matters to C.C.S. and other Allied agencies. More details in referenced papers. No objection to C.G. N.A.T.O. and C. in C. Med. as theatre representatives of own C. of S. having officers at French Admty. at Algiers to keep in touch with French and handle matters affecting their own interests.
Your para. 4: No objection to C. in C. Med. representing you in matters of employment of forces and policy in your theatre. All matters of policy maintenance and supply must be in agreement with C.C.S. directives.
Your para. 5 covered in referenced papers. In general terms policy proposals from French Admty. should be made via Chief of French N.M. in Washington to Cdr. in Chief U.S. Fleet as executive agent of C.C.S. information to British Admty. Delegation
Your para. 6: Procedure for rearmament and supply fully covered in C.C.S. 358 (revised). See para. 23 which provides for sources of supply based upon immediate naval control by U.S. or British Naval Command. Further employment of RICHELIEU will be in accordance with Cominch message 262157 Oct. Ref. papers cover cruisers and JEAN BART.
Functioning of B.N.M. in Algiers should be in accord with the existing procedure for handling the affairs of French Navy as set out in C.C.S. 358 (revised).
(Agwar, 060216Z to Etousa.)

Air reports of enemy ships: Aegean. 060807, 060808, 060820, 060825Z, 060826Z, 060827Z, 060830Z, 060832Z, 060835Z, 060839Z, 060843Z, 060852Z, 060900Z, 060904Z, 060920Z, 061553Z, 061930B, 061945Z, 062030Z, 062020Z, 062135Z, 062205Z.

CAGNI. Urgently needed. Com. Durban 041232. Send her as soon as possible.
(C. in C. Levant, 060910B to C. in C. S.A., (R) Com. Durban, Admty., C. in C. E.F.(S.E.A.C.))

/SHAKESPEARE ...

War Diary.

6.11.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- SHAKESPEARE. Position yourself to make enemy report of shipping leaving Port Naussa (Paros) tonight 6th/7th for destroyer patrol south-east of Buey Rock. Enemy report to take precedence over attack. Delay times in my 031502 (No trace in W.R.) 24 hours. (Capt. (S) 1, 060932B to SHAKESPEARE, (R) 1st S.F., C. in C. Levant.)
A/C report 3 F-Boats, 1 600 tons auxiliary vessel, 10 barges, two caiques Port Naussa at 1036B.
(Capt. (S) 1, 061237B to P.221 (SHAKESPEARE), (R) 1st S.F.)
- G.U.S.21. U.G.S.21 (W.D. Note. ?G.U.S.21 intended). All times in my 041348 to read 2 hours later. Para. 4. Alex. section 309 1130/8th. (C. in C. Levant, 060950B.)
- HONEYSUCKLE, E.Gs. 41 and 38. Confirmed HONEYSUCKLE form part of 46th E.G. (2) Remainder of your 041531 is not understood. 41st E.G. consists of 7 ships BIDEFORD, FLEETWOOD, ODZANI, BALINDERRY, STONECROP, CYCLAMEN and AUBRETIA. 38th E.G. consists of ENCHANTRESS, LEITH, SANDWICH, NESS, ANCHUSA, COLUMBINE,
- PIMPERNEL. C. in C. W.A., 182211 Oct. amended by his 311502 refers.
(C. in C. Med., 060951A to F.O.C. Gib., (R) Admty.)
- Enemy units Gulf of Genoa. NR.1. P.C. and S. of enemy 2 medium merchant vessels, 1 transport barge, 1 destroyer, 2 escort vessels 44.20 N. 8.43 E. based on a fix taken within $\frac{1}{2}$ hour of 1000, 225°, 8 knots. (XNR/W, 061013A.)
My 1013. Enemy previously reported are 2 merchant vessels 3000 tons, 1 transport barge, 1 destroyer, 2 escort vessels. (XNR/W, 061016A.)
NR.4. My 1013. Am still in touch with enemy. No change in situation since the report quoted above. (A/C XNR/W, 061034A.)
- Control of S/Ms. Change in operational control of S/M as given in my 021210 will take place as from 1200A/8th. (Capt. (S) 8th, 061014A to 8th S.F., LA SULTANE, (R) Admty., S.O. S/M Gib., N.O.I.C. Malta, N.O.I.C. Algiers, F.O.(S), Capt. 10th, C. in C. Med.)
- QUEENBOROUGH. Patrol tonight 6th/7th. F.O. Taranto 051731 (N.T. RAIDER. in W.D.) and 052325 (N.T. in W.D.) not to all refers.
2. QUEENBOROUGH and ?RAIDER detailed. Destroyers are to return Bari.

177

6.11.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

QUEENBOROUGH, 3. Request fighter protection from 0600A/7th.
RAIDER. P.C. and S. at 0600A/7th 040° 16', 018° 48',
(Contd.) 270°, thence coastwise to Bari 25 knots.
Priority normal, codeword "Norway" 146.
4. Patrol 5th/6th - blank.
(Capt. 4th D.F., 061031A to F.O. Taranto, (R)
Bari, N.O.I.C. Brindisi, C.F.W., 242 Group, No.1 M.O.R.U.,
N.L.O. 8th Army, 4th D.F., S.N.O. Alexandria.)
Enemy mines suspected at Bari. On completion of patrol tonight
6th/7th proceed Brindisi.
(Capt. (D) 4, 062258 to QUEENBOROUGH, (R) N.O.I.C. Bari, N.O.I.C.
Brindisi, F.O.T.A.)

A.H. 8. M.S.C.I.22. Intend to sail at 0600/8th as
follows: names and destinations. Escort
LIDDESDALE, ZETLAND, HOLCOMBE.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 061124.)

R.A.F. M.E. M.S.21636. A.312 6th.
Daily Opsum. 5th. 3 Beaufighters despatched to attack harbours
192. at Siphnos and Keos. Strikes with 20 mm. cannon
scored on 2 small caiques, Q barge and jetty at
Siphnos. Masts of 2 caiques seen to fall. Hits
scored on 150 barge and 2 tugs, 1 of which was
badly damaged, at Keos. 3 torpedo Beaufighters escorted by
3 Beaufighters despatched to attack one M/V 1500 tons, 2 M/V 500
tons sighted by R/C A/C in Lavrion Bay (Greece). Results of
torpedoes unobserved but column of smoke seen rising from
position of ships after attack. 2 Beaufighters missing.
2 enemy R/C aircraft over Leros during day. 5th/6th. 3
Hudsons bombed Heraklion Harbour. Results obscured by cloud.
3 Wellingtons successfully mined Syros and Kalimno Harbours, 2
Wellingtons provided diversionary bombing of harbours, results
awaited. 1 Dakota (C.47) successfully dropped supplies on
Leros.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 061159Z.)

ULTOR, Arrived.
ULTIMATUM. (V.A. Malta, 061352.)

Situation, 381499 I/31781, 6th.
Aegean. Joint Army R.A.F. Int. appreciation 24 hours to
1000Z/6th.
1. Situation Leros and Samos unchanged up to
1000Z/6th.
2. No contact with enemy reported by our Naval forces night
5th/6th Nov.
3. Ph. and visual R/Cs shipping 5th Nov.
4. C.X. 5th reports that on 4th 13 landing barges, 2 naval
auxiliaries and 2 other vessels were at Lavrion ready to receive
Germans who took part in landing exercises 3rd. This provides
further indication that German troops (additional to those already
in operational area) are being sent. Further C.X. report dated
5th confirms arrival parachute troops Athens area who state they
are to be used in attacks on 2 islands. Same sources reports

/troopship ...

178

6.11.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Situation, Aegean. (Contd.) troopship SAVONA has returned Piraeus from Messolonghi. Earlier belief this vessel had gone to Crete now discounted.
5. No air attacks reported on Allied occupied islands 5th.
(C. in C. M.E., 061415B.)

381497 O/31813 6th. Cositrep No. 47. 1. Int.

A. Ph.R morning 5th Nov. shows 3 small merchant vessels Lavrion and 4 landing craft Keos Island.
2. Ops. Aegean.

B. Samos NTR 5th. C. Kastelorizo NTR up to 0800B hours 6th.

D. Patrol SBS operating on Kos report enemy sups. dropped nightly.

E. Patrol SBS Symi reports str. Germans occupying Island night 2nd/3rd was 50 men.
(C. in C. M.E. No T.O.O.)

N.V. 7A. N.U.7A. (W.D. Note ?N.V.7A intended).
Request you will sail convoy of 15 Liberty ships at 1300/8th to Augusta M.S.C.I.11 refers.
Arrangements. 8. Escorts NUBIAN (S.O.), LOOKOUT 2 M.Ls.
9. (A) NUBIAN for onward routing to Malta for restoring and returning Naples unless otherwise ordered by C. in C. Med.
(B) LOOKOUT for onward routing to Malta for urgent defects, boiler cleaning and restoring.
(C) M.Ls. for return to Naples at first escort opportunity.
(F.O.W.It., 061701A to N.O.I.C. Naples.)

V.N. 8A. M.S.C.I.22 intend to sail at 1600/8th as follows:
20 ships. Escort TYRIAN, TUMULT, PIORUN, GRENVILLE.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 061759A.)

ST. ANDREW bombed. S O S. H.S. SAINT ANDREW bombed position 41.56 long. 15.24.
(ST. ANDREW No T.O.O. Recd. 061740Z.)
Following from Niton Radio. Intercept 1851 G.M.T. ST. ANDREW from Bari W/T 4. Are you damaged. 061910. Ends.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 091651 to Admty.)
Your 061910. No apparent damage. Master.
(ST. ANDREW, 062118 to 65th A/S Group.)

F.O.L.I. R.A. McGrigor has taken over the duty of F.O.L.I. to date 6th. A signal will be made on 15th regarding the probability of F.O.L.I. taking over the additional duty of F.O.T.A.
(F.O.L.I., 061829A to (? C. in C. Med.), Admty.,
(R) F.O.W.It., F.O.T.A., (? V.A. Malta), ST. ANGELO.)

/AURORA ...

6.11.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

AURORA. Will be taken in hand at Taranto for damage repairs, retubing superheaters and essential defects as soon as available. Request you arrange special repair materials, fittings and stores needed from British sources be demanded for delivery to Taranto before vessel sails. Admty. state boiler tubes available at Malta. F.O.T.A. requested to give approx. estimated date of completion of repairs as soon after arrival of ship as is practicable. A.M. 292035 October (not to all). Your 022042 addressed F.O.T.A. and F.O.T.A's 041717 Nov. (N.T. in W.D.) refer.
(C. in C. Med., 061837 to C. in C. Levant, (R).F.O.T.A., C.S. Taranto, V.A.M., Admty., C.S.12, A.S. Alexandria.)

K.M.F. 25A Have been struck by a torpedo on the port side attacked. speed (? 9) bulkhead hold. Require immediate assistance 037° 13' 006° 21' E.
U.S.S. BEATTY and 2 (SANTA ELENA, 061837 to C. in C. Med.) transports (Corrupt group) ship torpedoed require sunk. immediate assistance.
(DAVISON, 061842 to S.E.C. K.M.F. Odd, C. in C. Med.)

MARNIX torpedoed engine room, MERVINE and SS. RUYS standing by. Request tugs.
(CROOME, 062009 to C. in C. Med.)
Three U.S. destroyers and MONTEREY standing by SANTA ELENA. MARNIX torpedoed engine room bulkhead holding, standing by with MERVINE and SS. RUYS in 037° 15' N. 006° (? 16' or 28').
(CROOME, 062020A to Colombo W/T.)

CEYLON. As much as possible of passengers mail stores and confidential matter should be landed at Gibraltar. (2) CEYLON should carry out instructions in C. in C. Plymouth's 060339.
(3) Further signal will be made regarding onward journey of passengers, stores, etc.
(C. in C. Med., 061842A to F.O.C. Gib., (R) Admty.)

UNRULY, 1. P.49 (UNRULY) patrol between Anedro and Amorgos SOKOL. delaying my 051703 by 24 hours.
2. O.R.P. SOKOL patrol between Anedro and Anaphi until 2359B/7th then between Amorgos and Anaphi (corrupt group) (corrupt group).
(Capt. (S) 1, 061853B to P.49 (UNRULY), SOKOL, (R) 1st S.F., C. in C. Levant.)

K.M.F. 25A. Pass to Cdre. My 050914 (N.T. in W.D.) sailed less CHAMPOLLION.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 061916A.)

Inter Island shipping Azores. A.31 6th. MS.21703. Following for Cs. of S. Observing that force is now well established ashore and that last ship should finish discharging on 8th recommend consideration be given to lifting

/ban ...

6.11.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Inter Island shipping Azores. (Contd.) ban on inter island shipping traffic subject to security measures in accordance with para. 6 (IV) of A.P.P.43 13 dated 3rd Sept. 1943. This will allow of the exchange of essential commodities the need for which is becoming urgent and will be to our mutual benefit. Consul Ponta Delgada informed of this message to you. (S.B.O. Azores, 061930Z to Air Min.)

HEDGEHOG. Ex fishing vessel (? SELIS) number H.M.F.6 formally requisitioned for Naval Service July 10th, 1943. Subsequently attached Levant schooner flotilla administered by C.F.E. Your 301115* Oct. (C. in C. Levant, 061950B to Admty., (R) C.F.E.)
* Re loss of HEDGEHOG schooner cannot be identified. Request particulars of vessel and whether on Naval Service.

Unified Naval Command Med. Intend to unify naval command in Med. and limits and sub-divisions of the Command are under consideration. Request your views on the following proposals:-
1. Western limit: (a) A line drawn due south from Cape St. Vincent. Most important area of M.S.F., (Casablanca and Port Lyautey) would be in Med. Station and this should simplify arrangements with Americans. C. in C. Med. would have control over approaches to the Straits.
(b) Or line drawn due north from Cape Spartel. The M.S.F. would be outside Med. area and U.S. interests would have to be safeguarded by arrangement that coasts and ports would remain under Allied C. in C. C. in C. Med. would not have control of Western approaches to Straits, but station limits would be more clearly defined and co-operation with Coastal Command simplified.
2. Under (a) and (b) F.O.C. Gibraltar would be responsible direct to Admty. for operations in present Gib. area west of Med. Stn. limit. For administration he would remain responsible to C. in C. Med. S.B.N.O. Azores being in the Gib. area would act operationally under F.O.C. Gibraltar and be responsible to him for administrative purposes.
3. Both solutions have disadvantages that F.O.C. Gibraltar would have dual responsibilities to Admty. and C. in C. Med. This not an insuperable objection.
4. Med. Sub-Commands. Propose - three Sub-Commands:-
(a) Western Med. under F.O.C. Gibraltar, Eastern limit to be from Franco-Spanish Frontier to a position 39° N. 07° E. and thence to Algerian-Tunisian border.
(b) Central Med. under V.A. Malta, eastern limit from Sapienza Island to the intersection of the 20th meridian and the African Coast immediately south of Benghazi. N.O.I.C. Benghazi to retain local operational control of the area within 50 miles of that port.
(c) Eastern Med., including the Red Sea, under a F.O. in the Levant area.
5. Presumed C. in C. Med. will define limits within the Sub-Commands in which F.Os. conducting active operations will have operational control.

/6. Eastern ...

6.11.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Unified
Naval
Command,
Med.
(Contd.)

6. Eastern limit. Red Sea Coast being under political and military control from Cairo, considered Red Sea as a whole should remain under C. in C. Med. Agreed with Air Min. that Aden should be under control of C. in C. E.F. and it may be desirable to include Massawa on account of repair and ammunition storage facilities of E.F. there. C. in C. E.F.'s proposals for Stn.

limits awaited. Considered that parallel of either 13° N. or 17° N. should be adopted.

7. Not intended French be given command of an operational area.

8. Request you will include in your reply, after consultation with A.O.C. in C. remarks on transfer of operational control of R.A.F. Gibraltar to Coastal Command. Air Ministry's A.X.240, 4th refers.

(Approved V.C.N.S., 062017A to C. in C. Med., Inf. C. in C. Levant, F.O.C. Gibraltar, V.A. Malta.) *See also next page, 062011A.*

Levant
Situation
Report
No. 101.

Up to 1800B/6th.
FAULKNER, ECHO, PENN and PATHFINDER landed a M.G. batt. of 750 plus 80 tons of stores at Leros on night 4th/5th. Destroyers retired to lie up. FAULKNER and ECHO have returned to Alexandria after a negative sweep West of Levitha and Amorgos last night. PENN and PATHFINDER continued to lie up.

2. ALDENHAM and MIAOULES bombarded Kos Roads last night and retired to Gulf of Kos.

3. FURY, EXMOOR and BLENCATHRA entering Aegean north of Rhodes tonight. PHOEBE in general support outside Aegean.

4. PENELOPE left Alexandria p.m. today to R/V with "Hunts" withdrawing south at dawn tomorrow.

5. It. S/M due Leros with stores tonight.
(C. in C. Levant, 062020B.)

SUTLEJ,
SIBYL.

Arrived 6th.
(N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports, 062039B.)

Cyprus
movements.

Cyprus 6th. Arrived and left FURY, VINDICTIVE.
Departure BLENCATHRA.
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta, Cyprus, 062255B.)

Air raid
on Naples.

169997. A.268, 6th signed Eisenhower.
5th Nov. 20. plus probable Ju.88 attacked Naples harbour 1755 to 1903/5.
(Air C. in C. Med. No T.O.O.)

K.M.F. 25A.

HAI LEE and BARRY arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 062305A.)

NEURALIA.

Sailed Tripoli.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 062334A.)

6.11.1943.

Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

HOUSTON CITY, net defence. For what part of her voyage between Kilindini and Diego Suarez did SS. HOUSTON CITY stream Net Defence? (D.T.D. 060113A to N.C.S.O. Diego Suarez.)

CLEMENT CLAY, net defence. Did SS. CLEMENT CLAY stream her net defence on receipt of Admiral Colombo's B.A.M.S. 011831Z? (D.T.D. 060114A to N.C.S.O. Colombo, Info. F.O. Ceylon.)

India Air Report. A.265 6 Nov. Daily Opsum No. 601 4 Nov. 14th U.S.A.A.F. 4 Nov. 4 U.S. Mitchells (B.25) on sea sweep South China Sea. Sunk one 400 ft. freighter Swatow Harbour and probably sunk one 200 ft. cargo vessel. 2 U.S. Mitchells (B.25) on sea sweep Tongking Gulf. Both aircraft missing. (A.H.Q. India 060615Z to Air Min.)

Mediterranean Command, co-ordination, possible exclusion of Massawa and Aden. A.M. 281112 not to all. Co-ordination of the whole Mediterranean under one Naval Command is now under consideration. It is considered that the Red Sea as a whole should come under C. in C. Mediterranean since the littoral is under political and military control from Cairo. 2. It may however, be thought desirable to include Massawa as well as Aden in your command on account of the dockyard and ammunition storage there. It is therefore proposed that the parallel of either 13° N. or 17° N. should be the station limit. 3. Request your remarks. (V.C.N.S. 062011A to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) Info. C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant.)

FREESIA, MANGKALIHAT. N.C.S.O. Durban's letter 4457 of 20th August. Request your remarks on alleged refusal of C.O. FREESIA to allow Master and crew to reboard SS. MANGKALIHAT without certificate of abandonment. (D.T.D. 062047A to C. in C.E.F. Info. N.C.S.O. Durban.)

183

6.11.1943.

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

PHILADELPHIA, CROATAN. This is C. in C. Lant's 052028 to Comcorudiv 8 and C.T.G.27.4 for action. My 041545 cancel. (Commaveu, 060212Z to Admty.)

U/B All times Z.C Canso A.S.V. Contact 46° 50' N. 51° 57' W. at 0030/6th. (N.S.H.Q. 060710Z to Admty.)

U.T.4A. Boston section sailing telegram Part 2 (2 ships) (U.S.P.D. Boston, 061218 to Connav.)

L.N./N.L. Convoys, discontinued. Offices of N.O.I.C. Rigolet and S.N.O. Goose Bay now closed and L.N. - N.L. convoys discontinued for winter. (N.S.H.Q. 061320Z to C. in C.C.N.A. (R) Admty., Com. Tenth Fleet, C. and R., F.O.N.F., N.M.C.S. Washington, N.O.I.C. Gaspe, N.O.I.C. Sydney, N.O.I.C. Montreal, N.O.I.C. Quebec.)

U/B attacked. Sighted periscope 34.30 N. 37.26 . Escorts made urgent attacks, no attack made on Convoy C.U.6. This is 061120 from C.T.G.21.7. (Commaveu, 081344 to Admty.)

N.S.H.Q. S/M. Estimate. (N.S.H.Q. 061432Z.)

P.554. Cominch 011854 and C.E.S.F., 041513 not to Com.1. Request escort be assigned and R/V East entrance Cape Cod Canal with P.554 and 22 hours Z 9th to escort her to Halifax. C. in C. C.N.A. requested furnish onward routeing and escort to Argentina. (Com. Subslant, 061444Z to C.E.S.F., C. in C. C.N.A.(R) Cinclant, Com. one, N.S.H.Q. C.T.F.24, Cominch, Admty.)

H.X.265 This completes my D.I.S. 051840. Convoy sailing dispatch. (41 ships) (P.D. New York, 061550Z 061756 to Admty.)

U.S. S/M Estimate. (Cominch, 061615Z.)

/AJAX...

6.11.1943.

Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

AJAX, Enemy U/Boats (German) estimate for 1200Z/6th. information. Up to 4 estimated moving S.W. within 150 miles of line joining 037° N. 045° W. and 030° N. 050° W. 2 estimated homeward bound within 150 miles of following positions: 038° N. 043° W. 035° N. 038° W. (Cominch, 061626Z to AJAX, (R) C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, B.A.D.)

U.S.S.R. F.O.N.F. 311525. These ships have been delayed Navy owing to breakdown of S.C.1287 which has been Craft. taken in tow. E.T.A. now a.m. 7th. Request Admiralty pass to Admiral Kharlamov. (A.C.I.C. 061656A to Admty. (R) C. in C. Home Fleet.)

ROXBOROUGH, ROXBOROUGH, LEAMINGTON P.C. and S. 1500Z/6th LEAMINGTON. 042° 14' 046° 45' 322° 23 knots. 60 per cent fuel remaining at 1500Z/6th. E.T.A. position 046° 50' N. 051° 57' W. 0700Z/7th. (ROXBOROUGH, 061700Z to F.O.N.F. (R) Capt. (D) St. Johns, STRATFORD.)

E.T.A. Boom St. Johns 1330Z/7th boiler hours ROXBOROUGH, LEAMINGTON. ROXBOROUGH defects. (ROXBOROUGH, 062359Z to F.O.N.F. (R) Capt. (D) St. Johns.)

MATILDE, Canadian schooner reported sighting small movements of sailing vessel flying Portuguese flag in 35.44 N. of 64.20 W. at 1830Z/28th Oct. N.S.H.Q.'s plot Portuguese showed no Portuguese sailing vessel in Western Vessels. Atlantic. Further enquiry elicited information from U.S. C. N.O. that Portuguese MATILDE 36 tons left Cape Verde Island 15th August presumably for New Bedford carrying 40 to 50 passengers. Request B.N.A. Lisbon inform N.S.H.Q. in future of such movements. My 032011 not to Admty. or B.N.A. Lisbon refers. (N.S.H.Q. 061722Z to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O.W.At., B.N.A. Lisbon.)

Former Recommendations of C.C.B. for allocation. German (J.S.M. 061947Z to W.C.O.) See Lion Copy. Horta- Emden Cable.

S.C.146. Departures MONTGOMERY, COBALT, TIMMINGS, TRAIL escorting S.C.146. (C. in C.C.N.A. 061958Z to Admty.)

/Sub...

Lion A.W. 1.
184A

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

061947Z/November IN

From : J.S.M. Washington.

Date. 7.11.43.

Recd. 1000Z

Former German Horta-Emden
Cable, allocation

CIPHER

Addressed : War Cabinet Offices.

J.S.M. 1302
6th November 1943.

IZ. 4214.

At yesterday's meeting C.C.S. approved following recommendations of C.C.E. for allocation of the former German Horta-Emden cable.

- (a) The ex-German Horta Emden cable should be allocated now for combined (U.S./British) use.
 - (b) The proposal of the United States authorities to repair the 130 miles be accepted, it being understood that a United States' cable ship and United States' submarine cable will be used for this work.
 - (c) The remaining breaks in this cable be repaired by the British as soon as it is feasible to do so.
 - (d) On the restoration of the cable, two channels be made available to the United States for their exclusive use and two channels be allocated for combined (U.S./British) use on a pooling basis and that the allocation of the remaining fifth channel be arranged by agreement later.
 - (e) The above arrangements remain in force until the conclusion of the war in Europe.
 - (f) The cable be run via England, but the two channels allocated for the exclusive use of the U.S.A. be manned and operated by U.S. personnel.
2. Bound up with this is a separate request from U.S. Chiefs for return of cable ship JOHN W. MCKAY to U.S. control for the relaying of the 130 miles of this cable which had been picked up by British near the Azores. This is under reference to Admiralty.

061947Z

Received in War Registry at 2203/7

Circulation overleaf

1st Lord
1st S.L. (2)
D.F.S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (W)
A.C.N.S. (UT)
P.N.S. (S)
D.O.D. (H) (4)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.N.I. (4)
D. of P. (2)
W/T Board
D... S.M.
Ad. Blake (4)
D.C.
D.D.I.C. (2)
Hd. of M. (2)
D.T.D. (4)
D. of P. (1) (3)
I.P. (2)
W.D.
D.S.D. (2)
D.A/S.M. (Bath)

Circulation by W.C.O.:-

Brigadier Jacob
Foreign Secretary
First Sea Lord
Air Ministry
War Office
Capt. Layman

185

6.11.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

- Sub. attack and sighting summary. Para.(A) Ascension planes sank U/Boat 10.09 S. 18.00 W. 1700/5th my 2101/5th. 20 survivors in water. Para. (C) Surface craft attacked periscope 34.30 N. 37.26 W. A.M./06. Submerging sub. reported 05.11 S. 34.37 W. 051800. (Cominch, 062043Z to Admt.)
- G.U.S.18. New York section 19 ships arrived last in Gate 061525Z. Halifax section one ship arrived 4th. Delaware section one ship arrived 6th, Chesapeake section 28 ships last arrival 061621Z. SS. DAVID GEORGE BURNETT did not arrive. (P.D. New York, 062044 to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)
- (QUEEN MARY) T.A.73. Sailed from U.K. 5/11 for New York. 2. Details of personnel on board have been communicated by W.O. to Milstaf Washington and C.G.S. Ottawa. (D. of S.T. 062305A to B.A.D. Washington, B.M.W.T. New York, (R) N.S.H.Q.)
- T.A.70. (AQUITANIA) Sailed from U.K. 4/11 for New York. 2. Details of personnel on board have been communicated by W.O. to Milstaf Washington and C.G.S. Ottawa. (D. of S.T. 062312A to B.A.D., B.M.W.T. New York, (R) N.S.H.Q.)

Australia and New Zealand.

- Digest Serial No.655 Nov.5th. Night search Liberator signalled 3 direct hits sinking single probable Light Cruiser near Gazelle Channel early hours. Liberator has not returned base. 2. Same time Navy Catalina saw 9 or more ships including Destroyers possibly cruisers 50 miles South Kavieng course South East. 3. Force described as 2 heavy, 4 light cruisers, 2 destroyers sighted afternoon, 200 miles North Mussau Island course North.

/(4)...

6.11.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

- Digest Serial No. 655 Nov. 5th. (Contd.)
- (4) After dark 2 Merchantmen, 1 destroyer sighted 60 miles East Cape Saint George course 100°
- (6) Two Sea Trucks observed afternoon 60 miles East Wewak heading Southeast and another same vicinity headed West.
- (8) 27 Liberators escorted by 67 Lightnings dropped 81 tons bombs Rabaul Town 1 hour after strike on shipping refer para. 19 hereafter. Entire target area covered with flames from burning fuel dumps. 1 medium Freighter alongside jetty damaged. 15 to 20 Jap fighters attempted interception and 2 destroyed plus 2 probably. All bombers returned 1 lightning missing.
- (9) Two torpedo carrying Beauforts probably hit possible Heavy Cruiser Simpsons Harbour after dark also scoring possible hit on ship Keravia Bay while 4 other Beauforts bombed Vunakanau airfield.
- (11) 57 Avengers 19 Dauntless bombed Kahili noon 4th scoring hits A/A positions Bivouac areas runway and surroundings. Nil aerial opposition encountered but one Avenger lost to ground fire. Fighter cover proceeded North Bougainville where Samoos and Villages strafed, also set afire 2 small ships, 3 barges Machin Bay, burned, single small Freighter and 1 schooner 20 miles Northwest Kieta, another Lugger off Southeast Bougainville.
- (13) Standing Fighter patrols Empress Augusta Bay throughout 4th reported nil enemy contact but effectively strafed small craft and A/A positions Machin Bay to Northeast Coast Bougainville.
- (16) Photos show ship hit by patrol planes forenoon 4th 115 miles Northeast Mussau refer digest 654 para. 8 was 10,000 ton Tanker. Dusk sighting 1 ATAGO Class Cruiser, 2 destroyers, 1 tanker same position indicates original force joined by 1 cruiser, 1 destroyer.
- (17) Raiding Party Choiseul constituted fruitful diversion and were successfully withdrawn by 4th after setting land mines and booby traps. 143 Jap dead counted before withdrawal, barges sunk store equipment and camp Sangigai destroyed. Paratroops casualties totalled only nine killed, 16 wounded.
- (18) One Tender, 2 escort vessels observed 20 miles Northwest Cape Saint George course 40° afternoon 5th.
- (19) Highly successfully carrier based aircraft strike Warships Rabaul Harbour noon 5th by 23 Avengers with torpedoes, 22 Dauntless each carrying 1000 pounder, 52 Hellcats covering. Six Heavy Cruisers seen whereof 5 hit by bombs and torpedoes and 1 blew up. Sixth torpedoes. Two light cruisers present of which 1 hit by bombs, other by both torpedoes and bombs. 15 to 20 destroyers observed 2 torpedoed majority strafed. 70 to 100 enemy planes airborne and 23 fighters, 1 bomber destroyed plus 21 fighters, 1 bomber probably, 8 Zeros damaged. One Dauntless, 2 Avengers, 5 Hellcats lost, 2 more Avengers made water landing on return.
- (20) 8 Floatplanes attacked patrol Liberator near Kapingamarangi noon 4th. One shot down.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 060830Z)

6.11.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

One presumed sunk S.W. of Ascension on 5th Nov.
otherwise no change.
(D.D.I.C. 061335A.)

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 061347A.)

Submarines attacked.

Submarine
attack
and
sighting
summary
for 24
hours to
0900Z/6th.

(A) Escort Group 2 reports attacking U/B at
0531/6th in 44° 49' N. 41° 13' W. Transit A/C
sighted U/B at 0945/5th in 44° 40' N. 10° 30' W.
A/C reported U/B at 1250/5th in 24° 22' N. 58°
37' E.
(B) A/C sighted possible C/T at 1215/5th in
62° 30' N. 16° 17' W.
(Admty., 060958Z to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

7.11.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Bay
offensive.

1(a) Arising out of Cominch's proposal to withdraw certain air squadrons from the Bay offensive the Chiefs of Staff wish to establish certain agreed principles for the joint conduct of A/S operations in the Atlantic, in order to avoid further misunderstandings and to clarify the responsibility for the movement of A/S forces in and out of the different strategic areas.
(b) These principles are set out in a message to Field Marshal Dill at Washington today.

Operation
F.S.

2. A Russian report states that a U-Boat was located about 120 miles W. by N. of the North Cape at 1437Z yesterday; and at noon today Convoy R.A. 54A was proceeding at 9 knots about 600 miles N.E. of Iceland.

Bay
Patrol.

3. GLASGOW is to leave her patrol in the Bay area at first light tomorrow and proceed to Gibraltar to fuel (arrived a.m./9th). She is to be relieved on this patrol by CEYLON from Gibraltar.

Blockade
Breakers
in the
Gironde.

4. The Admiralty consider that there is every indication that the six blockade-breaking vessels now in the Gironde will sail at an early date, and have today asked the Air Ministry to give favourable consideration to C. in C. Plymouth's request of the 5th November that these ships should be bombed as soon and as heavily as possible.

North Atlantic.

Operation
"Stonedrag".

5. CEYLON sailed from Gibraltar at 0226A today to relieve GLASGOW on anti-blockade breaker patrol in the Bay approaches.

? Stonewall
p. 195.

7.11.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Employment
of Italian
Fleet.

6. A message from the Admiralty to B.A.D. Washington today gives information on the employment of the Italian fleet. The smaller surface vessels fit for service are all in full operation and certain of the submarines are being employed. Two of the cruisers are to be given a trial in the Atlantic (presumably DUCA DEGLI ABRUZZI and DUCA D'AOSTA who sailed from Gibraltar yesterday for Freetown).

Adriatic.

7(a) QUEENBOROUGH and RAIDER carried out a sweep in the Adriatic last night. No incident is reported.

(b) Kittyhawks bombed Split today; they caused a large petrol fire on the dock and claim many direct hits on shipping.

(c) 30 U.S. Mitchells bombed shipping in Ancona harbour and report hits on one ship in port and on harbour installations.

8. SS. SURVILLE was mined east of Cape Bon today and was beached. The ship entered Q.B.74 during bad weather.

Aegean.

9(a) FURY, EXMOOR and BLENCATHRA arrived at Mandelyah Bay this morning.

(b) PENN sank a caique (possibly a naval auxiliary) in the Naxos/Amorgos area early this morning after a shipping sweep during the night.

(c) PHOEBE, FURY, EXMOOR and BLENCATHRA arrived at Alexandria today.

(d) 3 M.Ls. from Kastelorizo landed reinforcements at Leros last night.

(e) 6 Beaufighters today found 17 barges and small craft with 2 small merchant vessels between Naxos and Paros. The Beaufighters made two attempts to attack, but were driven off by the escorting aircraft. 13 barges were reported in Tenos harbour, but Beaufighters which despatched to attack found only small craft there and made no attacks.

(f) SERAPH is returning from patrol. She has sunk some caiques and taken some German military prisoners.

(g) Two Wellingtons successfully mined Kalimno harbour last night.

(h) There were two attacks on Leros today by 8 enemy aircraft. No damage has been reported.

7.11.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

Solomons.

10(a) An enemy force reported as 3 destroyers was sighted after dark yesterday heading for Buka from Cape St. George (New Ireland) and was attacked after midnight 40 miles S.W. of Buka Passage by 4 R.A.A.F. Beauforts who report a probable torpedo hit on a cruiser or destroyer.

(b) At about the same time a Sopac Catalina sighted what was thought possibly to be a separate force of 2 light cruisers and 5 destroyers 10 miles further south-east, steering 200°. Six R.A.A.F. Beaufighters attacked the force outside Empress Augusta Bay and hit one destroyer and near missed another.

11. A considerable force of Allied aircraft attacked enemy positions at Empress Augusta Bay and 20 to 25 barges at the location of a Japanese counter landing which took place from, it is reported, 4 destroyers at the mouth of the River Laruma, 2 miles N.W. of Torokina Point near the Allied left flank, early this morning. The landing was opposed by Allied troops and the general situation of the Allies was subsequently reported to be secure.

191

7.11.1943.

Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

- TAMARISK. Greek navy will take TAMARISK as from 20th November.
(TAMARISK, 071055A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)
- COREOPSIS. Request ship be taken over by Royal Hellenic Navy on November 10th.
(COREOPSIS 071100A to Admty.)
- Flag of C.S.I. Flag of C.S.I is being transferred to KENT. LONDON is proceeding to Plymouth.
(C. in C. H.F. 071718A to V.A.2.)
- Bay offensive. Following from Chiefs of Staff personal for Field Marshal Dill.
1. Our immediately preceding telegram.
 2. We have considered the recent telegrams on the subject of a proposal by Cominch to withdraw certain U.S. Naval Squadrons from the anti-U-Boat offensive in the Bay of Biscay.
 3. We do not press for the retention in the U.K. of the one Squadron now due to leave for Morocco. We note with regret that orders for this move have already been issued and the move would have taken place on 1st November but for bad weather. But we would urge that this squadron should be employed in the Bay offensive from its new base in Morocco as soon as it is operational. We consider that the former U.S. strength of 6 Liberator squadrons between U.K. and Morocco should be maintained, if necessary at the expense of other areas which are at present unquestionably of less importance to the U/Boat war.
 4. We regret the misunderstanding which led Admiral King to form the impression that U.S. participation in the Bay offensive was on short-term basis. This may have arisen from C.O.S.(W)587 of 21st April and subsequent discussions, in which it was emphasised that U.S. co-operation was required as quickly as possible to take advantage of the enemy's being unable to listen to Centimetre A.S.V. The impression may thus have been formed that the aircraft would not be required in the winter. Air Marshal Slessor has never intended to imply an operation of short duration but only that it was very important to act quickly.
 5. We realize that the reasons for Cominch's present proposals are mainly administrative. The strategic effect of the changes proposed will however be a serious reduction in our Combined A/S strength in the Bay and Gib/Morocco areas. Moreover it is clear from para. 1 and 5 B.A.D. 272059/October that Cominch still adheres to the views on the strategic value of the Bay offensive expressed in para. 1 of his 082213 October to Comnavcu. We regard the Bay offensive as still being a key factor in the war against the U/Boats, and stress that far from regarding the facts outlined in third sub-para. of para 5 of Admiralty's 132357A as amplified by Admiralty 231317A as "nuisance value" we consider them to be of major importance. Further, the facts, as quoted in para. 1 are in error. Since 2nd August, aircraft have been responsible for five kills in the Bay and its approaches, and a further 18 Leigh Light attacks have taken place, the results of which cannot yet be assessed.

7.11.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Bay
 Offensive.
 (Contd.)

6. The A/S statistics for September have a significant bearing on the suggestion that the Bay is less profitable and no more unsafe for U-Boats than other areas. In the Bay offensive in September 14,404 hours were flown for 24 sightings and 12 attacks resulting in one kill and one damaged and interned in Vigo, as well as 9 Leigh Light attacks not yet assessed. Hours flown per sighting were 600. On basis of hours flown per sighting (the latter representing an opportunity for a kill) the Bay compares very favourably with other areas and the statistics for October which are not yet complete look like following similar lines. In the Bay offensive there were 13 sightings and 10 attacks (including 5 Leigh Light unassessed) and one kill.
7. The Gibraltar/Morocco area is also extremely profitable, the figures there for September being 11 sightings and 7 attacks (of which 5 were Leigh Light and are still unassessed) for 2,831 hours flying or one sighting per 257 hours. In October there were 6 sightings in this area and 3 attacks all Leigh Light unassessed. This is excluding the hours flown from Gibraltar and Lyautey in the Bay Approaches which are included in the figures in para. 3 above.
8. In this connection it may be that some misunderstanding has been caused by the fact that our figures for the Bay offensive include some flying, sightings and attacks outside the "Bay area", as defined in July with Captain Collins of the Navy Department. This definition was an arbitrary one made for statistical purposes. No such area can be relied upon to correspond permanently with the tactical realities of the Bay offensive which sometimes extends beyond these boundaries. Since July U-Boat tactics have changed and offensive patrols in the Bay and its approaches have had to be extended Westwards and Southwards to catch U-Boats on passage in and out. Use of the Azores may well further extend scope of Bay offensive. Our figures for the Bay offensive which are those submitted to the War Cabinet A.U. Committee by Coastal Command in their monthly summary therefore cover all offensive anti-submarine patrols flown by aircraft from U.K., Gibraltar, Azores, or Morocco designed to catch U-Boats in transit into and out of the Bay and include patrols wholly or in part outside the defined boundaries of the Bay area.
9. In view of the foregoing the strategic argument for maintaining the anti-submarine offensive in the Bay and Gibraltar/Morocco areas at the greatest possible strength seems to us unanswerable.
10. With reference to para. 5 of B.A.D. 272059Z we would entirely agree that U.S. Squadrons and, we would add, British squadrons if required, should be moved from the Bay on 1st January, or any other date before or after, when it is agreed in accordance with the principles in para. 3 of our O.Z. 3607 that they could be more profitably employed elsewhere.
- (Air Ministry 072104Z to Britman, Washington.)

Movements.

SEAGULL.

Arrival SEAGULL.
 (S.B.N.O. Archangel 071147C to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

BRISSENDEN.

Arrived your 041315.
 (A.C.I.C. 071151A to R.A.D.)
 Weather conditions make it impossible to comply with R.A.D. 041315. Intend oiling and proceeding when weather moderates.
 (BRISSENDEN 071600A to Admty.)

/Departure...

7.11.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

- BRISSENDEN. Departure BRISSENDEN for Seidis Fjord. E.T.A.
(Contd.) 1930A/8th.
(A.C.I.C. 072318A to C. in C.H.F.)
- RODNEY. Your 070507. Herewith RODNEY's 061234 to C. in
C.H.F. Request permission to keep steam at 48
hours notice during leave period.
(C. in C.H.F. 071237A to Admty.)
- AUGUSTA. Scapa arrivals AUGUSTA.
(A.C.O.S. 071332A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- LONDON. Proceed to Plymouth passing Hoxa Gate at 2000A/8th
to arrive Gate 1700A/10th.
2. Route via Minches and War Channels.
3. On arrival act as ordered by C. in C.Plymouth.
(C. in C.H.F. 071705A to LONDON.)
- S/M Positions of submarines at 0800/8 and movements
Movements. for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 071724A, 072219A, 071934, 080044, 080309.)
- MIDDLETON. Akureyri departure at 1800A/7 MIDDLETON. E.T.A.
Seidisfjord 1000A/8.
(A.C.I.C. 072048A to C. in C.H.F.)

Operations.

- Operation Russian source report U-Boat in 72.08 N. 20.31 E.
F.S. at 1437Z/6.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 070950A to H.F.)
R.A.54A, P.C. and S. at 1200A/7th, 073° 10' N. 005°
48' E. 233°, 9 knots. E.T.A. position George
1100A/10. MUSKETEER, MATCHLESS fuelling Seidisfjord.
(Capt. D.3 071221A to C. in C.H.F. C.S.10.)
Your 010956 and my 051135. KENT should also be detached to
Scapa with NORFOLK.
2. Request you will arrange with A.C.I.C. for return of passengers
at next opportunity.
(C. in C.H.F. 071234A to C.S.10.)
- Spitzbergen. No enemy air R/C the last 7 days.
("Locomotive" 071100Z to Admty.)
- S/M Patrols. Request you will sail VENTURER from Lerwick at
1730A/8th routed through 090° Muckle Flugga 15 and
route "Orange" to 071° 02' thence direct to patrol
position T.9. Proceeding on the surface at C.Os.
discretion until within 60 miles of Norwegian coast.
Attention is called to F.O.S.'s 031529 and 041823.
(Capt. S.9 071101A to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

/Following...

194

7.11.1943.

Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

S/M Patrols. Following temporary patrol line LL. is established.
(Contd.)

1. Mid point $062^{\circ} 10' N.$ $002^{\circ} 35' E.$
2. Direction $080^{\circ} - 260^{\circ}.$
3. Length of patrol 40 miles.

(F.O.S. 071232A to S/Ms.)

Position of submarines at 0800/8th November and movements for following 24 hours.

- A. SYRTIS $71^{\circ} 10' N.$ $17^{\circ} 20' E.$ through $71^{\circ} 09' N.$ $15^{\circ} 01' E.$ and $69^{\circ} 01' N.$ $08^{\circ} 52' E.$ probably on the surface speed 10 knots.
B. STUBBORN $70^{\circ} 53' N.$ $15^{\circ} 23' E.$ through $69^{\circ} 01' N.$ $09^{\circ} 56' E.$ thence course 210° probably on the surface at 10 knots.
C. VARANGIAN $68^{\circ} 10' N.$ $08^{\circ} 43' E.$ course 210 speed 6 knots probably on the surface.
D. ULA on patrol in vicinity of position $62^{\circ} 10' N.$ $02^{\circ} 35' E.$
E. K.15, $49^{\circ} 30' N.$ $11^{\circ} 45' W.$ diving by day through $49^{\circ} 30' N.$ $12^{\circ} 25' W.$ and $49^{\circ} 10' N.$ $12^{\circ} 54' W.$ thence to southward daily advance 120 miles.
G. STONEHENGE $48^{\circ} 01' N.$ $12^{\circ} 26' W.$ diving by day to southward advance 120 miles.

(F.O.S. 071724A, and 080309 to Admty.)

Proceed diving by day to patrol line LL. F.O.C. Submarines (?07123Z) refers.

(Capt. S.9 071925A to ULA.)

At 071630 my position 069° ($?31'$) $N.$ $011^{\circ} 34' E.$ One engine defective, speed 7 knots. Request STUBBORN may be routed clear. (VARANGIAN 072119A to Capt. S.9.)

To avoid Fleet Unit submarines are re-routed as follows:

1. VARANGIAN from lat. $067^{\circ} N.$ on route "Black" through SB. thence SC thence SD. to Lerwick.
2. STUBBORN from lat. $067^{\circ} N.$ on route "Black" at 1400A/9th through SA., thence SC., thence SD., to Lerwick.
3. SYRTIS from lat. $067^{\circ} N.$ on route "Pink" at 0200A/10th through SA., thence SC., thence SD., to Lerwick.
4. SA. $066^{\circ} 01' 000^{\circ} 01'$ SB. $064^{\circ} 46' 001^{\circ} 01'$ SC. $061^{\circ} 42' 003^{\circ} 30'$ SD. 000° Muckle Flugga 10 miles.
(F.O.S. 072212A to S/Ms.)

Coastal

Patrols 7th November.

Force

1. Force 113, M.T.Bs. 677 (S.O.), 673 are to patrol in vicinity 180 Eddystone 8.

Patrols.

3. Force 114, M.G.Bs. 329 (S.O.), 322 are to patrol in vicinity 100 Start 22.

5. Forces 113 and 114 to be on patrol by 2000A,

leave patrol for Dartmouth 0630A/8.

6. Force 115. M.T.Bs. 94 (S.O.), 96, 92, 98, 227, are to leave Dartmouth at 1730 and proceed at 20 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 by 0430.

(C. in C.Plymouth 071309A.)

V.P.Operation. My 051535. Sailed M.T.B. 653 and 686. 2. No. (A.C.O.S. 071315 to Admty.)

/Operation...

7.11.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Operation S.F. Faeroes arrived FRASERBURGH, LYMEREGIS, ARDROSSAN, WORTHING, BOCTLE, LLANDUDNO.
(N.O.I.C. Faeroes 071430A.)

Bay Patrol. After passing CZ. CEYLON is proceed position GE. 039° 58' N. 014° 12' W. and is then to patrol within 40 miles line joining GE. and GF. 042° 42' N. 016° 48' W. Object operation "Stonewall".

2. GLASGOW is to discontinue patrol at first light on 8th Nov. and is to proceed through CT. and thence Gibraltar as ordered by F.O.C.Gibraltar.

(C. in C.Plymouth 071452A to GLASGOW, CEYLON.)

Disposition at 072000.

GLASGOW patrols vicinity 041° 10' 014° 30'.

(C. in C.Plymouth 071458A.)

Allied Air Activity.

Bergen and Trondheim R/Cs.

Your 291455. Bergen and Trondheim have been given the highest priority among U-Boat bases, but the R.A.F. and U.S.A.F. directive gives targets in Germany first priority and targets elsewhere are only attacked if the weather is unsuitable for operations against the main objective.
(A.C.N.S.H. 070156A to C. in C.H.F.)

Proposed bombing of blockade-breakers in Gironde.

Request you will give favourable consideration to C. in C.Plymouth's 051625 with which Admiralty concur.
(A.C.N.S.H. 071947A to Air Ministry.)

Casualties & Defects.

TRACKER.

TRACKER 061417Z. Consider replaced pump must be fitted before TRACKER undertakes further operations. Request Admiralty ascertain delivery date.
(F.O.C.T. 070959A to Admty. (R) E.G.2.)

COCKATRICE.

My 061125A. COCKATRICE has wire round propeller. Unable to clear owing to weather. For F.N.72 read F.N.73 and adjust dates accordingly.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 071200A to A.C.O.S.)

AMBITIOUS.

Your 052216. AMBITIOUS has been delayed by defective generators. She will be sailed to Iceland (C) as soon as replacements can be fitted.
(D.M.S. 071330A to A.C.I.C.)

CHARLESTOWN.

My 051604A. CHARLESTOWN delayed defective.
(F.O.I.C. N.I. 071440A to C. in C.Rosyth.)

196

7.11.1943.

Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- T.U.4. Sailed C.T.F.69 in TEXAS and NELSON, JEFFERS, GLENNON, and EARLE with TEXAS and LAKEHURST. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 070409A to C. in C.W.A.) C.D.D.30 in DORAN sailed for T.U.4. (U.S.E.C.Londonderry 070725 to C. in C.W.A.)
- T.U.4. Convoy sailed composed and escorted as in A.M. 312201A October with following amendments.
A. Add to convoy TRUMPETER, CHARLESTOWN, SATURN.
B. Delete from escort MURPHY.
Convoy routed in accordance with A.M. 011907A. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 070954A to Admty.)
- T.A.73. By D/F at 0417Z U-Boat estimated within 150 miles (QUEEN MARY.) of 51° 00' N. 24° 00' W. (D.D.I.C. 070705A to T.A.73.)
- O.S.58/
K.M.S.32. Non sailers BRIDGEPOOL, EMPIRE WATERHEN, MALIKA, EMPIRE KANGAROO, FAIRWATER, MARVIA, BELGOL.
2. Additional sailer SAN UBALDO for Horta.
3. DORNOCH sailed Clyde later to overtake. (C. in C.W.A. 070736A to Escorts.)
- Your 061931. South Rock Light vessel abeam, course 204° speed 11 knots.
(PROSPEROUS 071215A to C. in C.W.A.)
K.M.S.32. BELGOL destination Aden. (N.C.S.O.Londonderry 071231A to Admty.)
O.S.58/K.M.S.32. A. 0800⁴/7 in 55.54 N. 08.56 W.
B. B. one HURRICANE H/F D/F, WANDERER H/F D/F, GLENARM H/F D/F, WALLFLOWER, DAHLIA, BORAGE, MEADOWSWEET. PROSPEROUS sailed late to overtake.
C. 46, 39 breaking off with K.M.S.32. (C. in C.W.A. 071507Z to F.O.C.W.At.)
O.S.58 Part 2. GODFREY B.HOLT, GAELIC STAR M/F R/T, JAARSTROOM for Freetown. INCHANGA for Takoradi/Lagos/Calabar. NEBRASKA for Pernambuco (bunkers)/Buenos Aires. EMPIRE BARON for Capetown/East London/Basra. NELA M/F R/T for Buenos Aires. (C. in C.W.A. 071507Z to F.O.C.W.At.)
K.M.S.32. BLENHEIM and 40 M/Vs. Names and destinations. (C. in C.W.A. 071518Z to Admty.)
- H.X.263U. Arrived 14 ships. Names. (N.C.S.O.Loeh Ewe 070940A to Admty.)
- H.X.263. Arrived YEMASSEE. (N.C.S.O.Loeh Ewe 070942A to U.S.N.O.B.Iceland.)
- H.X.264. TRACKER is remaining with 2nd E.G. and proceeding with them to Argentinia on completion of present operation.
E.G.2. 2. 2nd E.G. is to cover H.X.264 from the N.N.W. during dark hours tonight, keeping about 60 miles from the convoy unless the latter is attacked.
3. If there are no indications that convoy is threatened (my 071018Z part 2 final) by noon tomorrow 2nd E.G. is to proceed to Argentinia. (C. in C.W.A. 071018Z to E.G.2.) /O.N.210...

War Diary.7.11.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- O.N.210. HERANGER sailed 0932/7 to overtake convoy.
(N.C.S.O.Mersey 071045A to Admty.)
My 061847A. Did not sail JOHN P.HOLLAND, lost anchor and cable.
(N.C.S.O.Mersey 071130A to Admty.)
Sailed SASKATCHEWAN, PICTOU, SKEENA, MAYFLOWER, EYEBRIGHT, LANCER, DESTINY and VINGA all for O.N.210. RIMOUSKI sailed early to escort Loch Ewe portion.
(Cdre. D.W.A. 071339A to C. in C.W.A.)
Non sailers SAN VERONICO, LIEUT. ST. LOUBERT BIE, ASBJORN, JOHN B.HOLLAND, BRITISH DESTINY, VANJA.
2. EMPIRE CAMP additional sailer for New York.
4. HERANGER sailed 0932A/7 to overtake.
5. Amended destination SAN VULFRAMO New York. Destination of PAUL H.HARWOOD is New York.
(C. in C.W.A. 071418A to Escorts O.N.210.)
- M.K.F.25. Your 070534. Following is repetition of P.S.T.O. N.W.Ports 051010 begins: Convoy M.K.F.25 arrived 0823/5th. End.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 071100A to D.S.T.)
- R.U.96. Sailing delayed until 1200A/8th due to weather.
(N.C.S.O.Iceland 071224A to Admty.)
- S.C.145U. Arrived 11 ships. Names.
(N.C.S.O.Loach Ewe 071400A to Admty.)
- O.N.S.022. Returned CAP CANTIN. Mechanical defects and weather.
(N.C.S.O.Clyde 071520A to C. in C.W.A.)
- K.M.F.26. BIRMINGHAM. Your 061418. BIRMINGHAM is required to provide escort for K.M.F.26 leaving Clyde 15th November.
(D.O.D.H. 071823A to C. in C.H.F.)
- U.R.97. 8 ships, names.
(N.C.S.O.Loach Ewe 072208A to Admty.)

War Diary.7.11.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- CEYLON. Cancel my 070226*. CEYLON sailed 0230A/7th in compliance with C. in C. Plymouth's 060339 not to U.S. C.M.S.F.
(2) Route: (CZ) 036° 09' N. 011° 48' W. (CF) 039° 58' N. 013° 19' W. thence as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth. S. of A. 20 knots.
(3) Codeword "Useful".
(5) C. in C. Plymouth 061731 not to all refers. (F.O.C. Gib., 070622A to CEYLON, C. in C. Plymouth, (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Med., Admty., S.B.N.O. Azores, GLASGOW, PRINCE ROBERT, C.M.S.F.)
* re CEYLON to be sailed to relieve GLASGOW.
- M.K.S. 29. Shadowed by A/C. Convoy "Drain" is being shadowed by 1 enemy A/C bearing 040° distance 3 miles. P.C. and S. 36.13 17.02 W., 320°, 7 knots.
(Convoy "Drain", 070930Z to Gibraltar W/T.)
- WARSPITE. My P.C. and S. 1200 035° 45' N. (3 groups missing) EN 6½. E.T.A. Gib. Bay 0730 tomorrow.
2. Following ammunition &c. to disembark before docking.
(WARSPITE, 071030A to F.O.I.C. Gib., (R) A.S. Gib.)
- VISCOUNT, IRIS. When may reply to my 021703* and 271154 be expected please.
(F.O.I.C. Gib., 071116A to S.B.N.O. Azores, (R) Admty., N.O.I.C. Horta.)
* Re when VISCOUNT can be spared to escort IRIS to Madeira.
Propose to sail IRIS escorted by VISCOUNT to Madeira 0600(0)/8th. VISCOUNT to continue Gib.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 071745(0) to F.O. Gib., (R) Admty.)
- T.G. 27.4. Your 061435. T.G. 27.4 see A.M. 051108 (N.T. in W.D.)
(D.O.D.(F), 071120A to C.M.S.F.F.)
- BOISE, NICHOLSON, RHIND. Departed Casablanca harbour 071100 accordance Commorseafron 052015 as amended by Commorseafron 070915. S. of A. 18 knots. Expect to enter Bermuda sea area 131300 leaving same 140740 and entering Eastern Sea Frontier 141845. E.T.A. entrance Ambrose Channel 150700. Request pilot for (passage?) Ambrose Channel to Navy Yard. All times Z.
(U.S.(C) BOISE, 071211 to Comdant. 3rd N.D. New York, Commorseafron, (R) C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, Cominch, C.E.S.F., N.O.B. Bermuda, Admty., S.B.N.O. Azores, F.O.C. Gib., C. in C. Med.)

/AJAX ...

199

7.11.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

AJAX. On crossing 35° N. steer for new position (X) 40.01 N. 32.58 W., new position (Y) 47.30 N. 24.00 W. thence to position (R).
(D.O.D.(H), 071215A to AJAX, Info. F.O.I.C. Gib., S.B.N.O. Azores, C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A., Com. 10th Fleet (C. and R.), C. in C. Lant, H.Q.C.C.)
My 070416 present fuel consumption too high to comply with Admiralty 070021A. Request permission to proceed to Azores. (AJAX, 071921Z to Admty., (R) S.B.N.O. Azores.)
Your 071921Z. Approved to proceed to Azores to fuel. After fuelling proceed by route originally ordered in N.O.B. Bermuda's 041943.
(D.O.D.(H), 072339A to AJAX, Info. S.B.N.O. Azores, C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.I.C. Gib., C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Lant, H.Q.C.C., Cominch.)

U/B. Following has been read from an aircraft: SSSS NC18609 38.32 N. 26.40 W. possible partly submerged, course 20° true from 7000 feet. (Gib. W/T, 071225Z.)

Azores: U.S. GILLESPIE, HOBBY, KALK left 1850 G.M.T./7th. movements. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 071710.)

STONEHENGE. M.J.A.O.24.
(A) Submerge. (B) STONEHENGE. (C) Passage. (D) Route as in 071654A. (E) 8 knots.
(2) M.J.A.O.24. (A) Total required 50 miles ahead and astern estimate position. (B) P.232 (STONEHENGE). (C) Passage. (D) Route as in 071654A, to arrive at Gibraltar at 1430/15th. (E) 10 knots.
(3) All times Zone minus one. Positions North and West. (F.O.C. Gib., 071652A to R.A.F. Gib., H.Q.C.C., (R) Admty., 247 Group, S.B.N.O. Azores, F.O.(S), Comfairwing 15.)
My 071654 part I.
Onward route as follows: (C) All following positions North and West 043° 00' -12° 26' at 2200/10th. (Q) 042° 00' 013° 10' at 0630/11th. (P) 036° 51' 009° 13' 0600/14th. (R) 036° 37' 007° 24' at 0230/15th. (S) 035° 53' 006° 15' at 0940/15th. (T) 035° 49' 006° 06.5' at 1030/15th thence by Q.B.A. 87 to Gibraltar.
Part 2. (2) Daily advance diving by day 120 miles. Proceed on surface at discretion after passing (R) at 10 knots submerged bombing restrictions arrange until 150230 thereafter total bombing restrictions 10 miles either side your route from 35 miles ahead to 35 miles astern your estimate position. Report if unable to keep within your bombing restrictions.
(3) UNRUFFLED pass through 043° N. 013° 22' W. at 1400/9th northbound on route "Brown" daily advance 111 miles.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 071654A, to STONEHENGE, (R) Capt. (S) 3rd, C.M.S.F., S.B.N.O. Azores, C. in C. U.S. Fleet (C. & R.), UNRUFFLED, Netherlands Sub. K.15, F.O.(S), C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 5th, C. in C. Plymouth, Capt. (S) 8th, Capt. (S) 10th.)

7.11.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

G.U.S.20
 T.F. 66.

Less McCORMICK, BROOME and CHEPACHET sailed 1700A to join Med. section.
 (C.M.S.F., 071730A to F.O.C. Gib., C. in C. Med., Cominch, Admty., Comnavnaw.)

Italian ships
 Las Palmas.

Consul Las Palmas' 061216* and H.M. Ambassador's tel. to F.O. No. 1906. Presume Spaniards being pressed to take every possible precaution against sabotage. Only most stringent instructions to local authorities can give any hope of preventing enemy successes in Canaries.

Very early consideration is being given to Ambassador's telegram.

(Head of M.I., 071815A to N.A. Madrid, (R) S.O.(I) Gibraltar, H.M. Consul Las Palmas.)

* Re scuttling of Italian ships by Germans.

HABANA.

Para. 2 Admty. 041131 Oct. and C.C.S.O. Gib. 011745 Nov. (Arfar 440 to M.E.W.) to Admty. So far as discs are concerned this has every appearance of having been a plant. One possible

object of such (corrupt group) attempt to identify source of information.

(F.O.C. Gib., 071843A to D. of N.I.)

GLASGOW.

Onward route through position (XY) 035° 37' N. 007° 43' W. thence by Q.B.A.87 to Gibraltar.

(2) Paravanes all to be streamed as convenient before crossing 007° 00' W.

(3) C. in C. Plymouth 071452A refers.

(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 071846A to GLASGOW, (R) Admty., CEYLON, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Med., S.B.N.O. Azores.)

Sailing date
 Atlantic Convoys.

Request I may be supplied with this in advance. Particularly to assist R.A.F. to plan ahead.
 (S.B.N.O. Azores, 072045Z to Admty.)

Air escorts.

Following air escort detailed for 8th. Intend to cover M.K.S.29 with 2 Fortress aircraft. Request homing procedure B from 0630 for 130 M one and from 1200 for 130 M 2. 3 Fortresses carrying out A/S patrol in the vicinity of M.K.S.29 from 1000 to 1530. Request convoy be warned accordingly. Request homing procedure B for 2 Fortresses covering H.X.264 from 1310 for BRJM one and from 1610 for BRJM 2.
 (S.B.N.O. Azores, 072131Z.)

War Diary.

7.11.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

CHASSEURS
42 and 43.

My 111045 Oct. Instructions have now been received from Algiers that CHASSEURS are to be retained temporarily in French Equatorial Africa in view of S/M situation.
(B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire 071015A to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Lagos.)

NORTHERN
CHIEF,
W.K.A.6.

Sailed NORTHERN CHIEF to rejoin convoy W.K.A.6 at 1900Z/10th. She will then resume S.O.
(Com. i/c Durban 071113Z to Admty. C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C) C. in C.S.A. F.O.E.A.)
As amended 090602Z.

Italian
Warships,
personnel.

Your 252047 Oct. Request particulars of status of personnel of these Italian ships which will enable me to decide extent of leave and canteen privileges they may be given Freetown. I have in mind the circumstance that there are now 265 Italian military prisoners of war here some of whom are allowed by Army authorities considerable freedom of movement unescorted during daylight hours but are locked up at night.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 071332Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med. F.O.C.Gib.)

MALCOLM,
DOUGLAS,
VISCOUNT,
GARLAND.

Admiralty 021919 propose following
1. MALCOLM to boiler clean at Gibraltar on arrival with S.R.7.
2. DOUGLAS to return Freetown on arrival of S.R.7 at Gibraltar.
3. MALCOLM, VISCOUNT, GARLAND to form escort of DEMPO and DUNOTTAR CASTLE. Convoy to arrive Freetown not later than 30 November. Later arrival will not permit DUNOTTAR CASTLE to return to Gibraltar in time to join K.M.F.27. Request you will confirm that VISCOUNT will finish boiler cleaning at Gibraltar in time to carry out above programme.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 071421Z to F.O.Gibraltar, (R) C. in C.Med. Admty. D.S.T.O.W.A.)

Convoy
S.R.7.

(Corrupt group) (corrupt group) arrived 1030Z
convoy S.R.7 (corrupt group) sailed 1515Z in accordance with F.O.C.W.Af. 052035.
2. Convoy shifts from Freetown to Gibraltar W/T organization 0100Z/10th.
3. Crosses lat.(?) 033° 14' N. 1800Z/11th. E.T.A. Gibraltar 1930Z/12th.
(Comar Dakar 071843Z to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) F.O.Gibraltar, CARNARVON CASTLE, C. in C.Med. Admty.)

7.11.1943.

Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

K.M.F.25A. Add to my 062305. RUYS MONTEREY arrived escorted by MERVINE, LOAB and TILLMAN.
(F.O.I.C. Philippeville 070645A.)
My 070645A U.S.S. PARKER arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville 070921A.)

A/C reports of Enemy Ships in Aegean. 070700Z, 070712Z, 070715Z, 070720Z, 070730Z, 070735Z, 070738Z, 070740Z, 070750Z, 070752Z, 070755Z, 070800Z, 070805Z, 070815Z, 071400Z, 071450Z, 071455Z, 071500Z, 072110Z.

Alexandria movements. 6th. Arrivals FAULKNOR, ECHO. Departures PENELOPE M.F.V.511.
(R.A. Alexandria 070740.)

Operations by SERAPH. Expect me 3 hours early. Gadia Bay one large Caique sank one seaplane destroyed and heavy column of smoke from Warehouses, forced to dive by counter fire from shore batteries. Kaso Strait one large Caique sunk. North of Paros one small Caique destroyed. One German officer and (13?) other ranks on board.
(SERAPH 070901B to Capt. (S) 1 (R) 1 S/F C. in C. Levant.)

T.O.10. T.O.10. Request ocean route for T.O.10 sailing to Algiers about 12th.
(C. in C. Med. 070919 to Admty.)

Docking priorities. For week commencing 8th including. Gibraltar No.1 WARSPITE. No.3 TROUBRIDGE, POLRUAN. No.3 ARETHUSE, BRAES Casablanca No.1 FLEETWOOD.
(C. in C. Med. 071029A to F.O.C.Gib., F.O.Tunisia, Com. Algeria, Commorseafron, Commob, Oran. (R) Admty., V.A.M. Cominch, Comnavnaw.)

C.T.G. 80.2. Technical report on attack with gliders.
(C. in C. Med. 071100A to Admty. (R) PALOMARES, C. in C. Levant.)

K.M.S.31. Destinations.
(C. in C. Med. 071105A, 081700A.)

RAIDER. R/V with 13th? (M/S.F) in 040° 49' N. 018° 13' E. at 1630A today. Acknowledge.
(Capt. (D) 4th 071145A to RAIDER (R) F.O.T.A. 4th D.F., N.O.I.C. Bari, N.O.I.C. Brindisi.)

Barletta Situation Report 35. Port closed due to suspected Minelaying North of Trani. 4 enemy aircraft in vicinity during night. No bombs or damage near Port.
(N.O.I.C. Barletta 071200A to C. in C. Med.)

War Diary.7.11.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Tug
C.T.7 lost. In collision outside Alexandria at approx. 0500/1st Master Chief Engineer, Chief Officer Second Engineer and 1 Able Seaman missing presumed lost. Sole survivor unable supply names of casualties. Request names be obtained from port of departure and next of kin advised.
(S.T.O. Tripoli (L) 071230A to P.S.T.O. M.E. (R) D. of S.T., P.S.T.O. Med., C. in C. Levant, etc.)

SHAKESPEARE, (1) P.221 SHAKESPEARE remain in present billet
SPORTSMAN. until dusk 8th. Delay my 031502 further 24 hours.
(2) P.229 SPORTSMAN proceed with all despatch to arrive on patrol between Naxos and Mykoni by 2350B/8th. To report and attack enemy shipping expect to leave Paros and Naxos for Dodecanese. (3) Urgency of situation compels this further delay for P.221 SHAKESPEARE.
(Capt. (S) 1 071310B to SHAKESPEARE, SPORTSMAN (R) 1st S.F., C. in C. Levant.)

S/M routes As from 2359B/8th. Following routes in Aegean are
Aegean. established:- (1) My 231100 Oct. remains in force
(2) Northbound. From Kaso Strait West of Kamila Nisi within 5 miles East of Anaphi and 10 miles South of Amorgos. To pass Amorgos and Kinaros West of Buey rock within 10 miles of Stapedia. (3) Southbound. Within 5 miles of Cape Papas (Nikaria) East of Buey rock between Amorgos and Kinaros to within 5 miles of Ophidusa East of Sophrana (sic) Alexander, Unia Nisia to Kaso Strait. (4) Southbound S/M may proceed East of (063°? 046°?) 30' E. between Sophrana and Kaso Strait.
(Capt. (S) 1 071423B to F.S/M.F. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

N.V.7A. F.O.W.It.'s 061701 refers. Intend to sail. 16 ships (names).
(N.O.I.C. Naples 071428A.)

N.A.A.F. M.S.21697 Pt.1. A.V. 95 E.7. Part 1. N.A.Strategic
Opsum 259. A.F. N.A.T.A.F. 5 Nov. (Add) 12 U.S. Mitchells shipping and docks Metkovic Yugoslavia and 12 U.S. Mitchells shipping and docks (?Polca) Yugoslavia found targets cloud obscured and returning bombs.
4 U.S. Warhawks dropped 24 x 20 on merchant vessel in Split Harbour. Direct hits claimed. Vessel left smoking.
(H.Q. N.A.A.F. 071515Z to Air Ministry Whitehall, Agwar, A.C.H.Q., Gib., H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., R.A.F. Malta.)
Part 4. 6th November. 42 French Airacobras, 6 U.S. Airacobras 5 Hudsons, 6 French Walrus, 1 Wellington, 1 Beaufighter, 6 Spitfires convoy escort. 1 Convoy was attacked at 1810 hours Northwest of Jijelli by 10 enemy aircraft. No effective interception made due bad weather.
(H.Q.N.A.A.F. 071515, 071630.)

7.11.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

K.M.F.25A. Convoy K.M.F.25A attacked by A/C using H.S.293 and
attacked torpedoes in 37° 12' N. 06° 16' E. at 1830/6th.
U.S.S.BEATTY U.S.S.BEATTY was hit and subsequently sank.
and 2 S.S. MARNIX VAN ST.ALDEGONDE and S.S.SANTA ELENA
transports were both torpedoed and have been taken in tow for
sunk. Philippeville. Details of casualties not yet known
but most of the troops have been transferred to
other ships.

(C. in C. Med. 071530 to Admty.)

(6 corrupt groups). E.T.A. 1820 have 630 passengers on
board including 70 rescued parties from RUYSS acknowledge.

(CROOME 071808A to Philippeville (R) C. in C. Med.)

Regret to report SANTA ELENA sank at 1801 in 30 fathoms
1.25 miles Srigina Island Light bearing 0132°. 2. MARNIX VAN ST.
ALDEGONDE reported sunk further details unknown. 3. Details of
survivors will be signalled later.

(N.O.I.C. Philippeville 071847A to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.,
F.O.I.C. Gib., N.O.I.C. Bone, Cdre.Algiers, Comnavnaw.)

Reference my 071847A part (2) confirmed MARNIX VAN ST.
ALDEGONDE sank at 1810A/7th 088°, Cape Bougaroni Light 6.25 miles
in 400 fathoms.

(N.O.I.C. Philippeville 071901A to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.,
F. F.O.C.Gib., N.O.I.C.Bone, Cmdre. Algiers Comnavnaw.)

Situation 381684 I/32160 7th. Joint Army R.A.F. Int.
Aegean. Appreciation 24 hours to 1000Z/7th.

1. Leros and Samos. Situation unchanged up to
1000Z/7th. 2. Our naval forces report no contact
with enemy night 6/7. 3. Ph. R/Cs. shipping 6th
Kos, Kalimno, Pserimos, Ph. R/C. a.m. and p.m. 3 small craft (2)
(probably motor launches) arrived Kalimno Harbour. Otherwise no
change. Rhodes. Arrival 1 caique 80/100 feet, departure 1
caique 100 feet. Visual R/C shipping 6th Stampalia. a.m. 2 ships
500 and 1500 tons. Cyclades Islands. Naxos a.m. 3 probable
naval auxiliary. p.m. 2 probable naval auxiliary. Paros.
Naussa Bay a.m. and p.m. 2 probable F boats. 10 probable I boats
and/or L.C.M's. 2 naval auxiliaries. 3 caiques (probably naval
auxiliaries) 2 small vessels (probably also auxiliaries) 3 "E"
type boats. Lavrion. a.m. 3 large caiques. 17th. Paros. 0740Z.
Stationary off East coast. 2 "F" boats. 12 other landing craft.
2 naval auxiliaries 3 caiques (probably naval auxiliaries). 3
"E" type boats. Tenos. 0750Z off S.W. coast, 13 barges and 5
caiques stationary. Keos 2 barges and 1 caique in harbour.
4. Allied occupied Island report no air attacks 6th.
6. Appreciation unchanged. Latest sightings Paros-Naxos area
(para. 3 above) suggest convoy moving from Paros but still consider
likely to stage at area Amorgos or Stampalia therefore earliest
arrival Leros-Kos-Kalimno area late 8th. Sightings Tenos suggest
possible follow up convoy although Samos not excluded.
(C. in C. M.E. No. T.O.O.)

381727 O/32162 7th. Cositrep No.48.

1. Int. A. Reports dated 6th show considerable movement and
loading of small craft at Port Raptis and Lavrion. B. P.H.R.
Naussa Bay (Paros Island) morning 6th Nov. showed one merchant
vessel about 2,000 tons 12 landing craft 3 large caiques and 3
M.T.Bs. present. C. 3 small merchant vessels probably Naval
Auxiliaries seen morning 6th Naxos. 4. Naval Aegean.
A. Night 6/7. No news M.T.B. Ops. B. PENN, PATHFINDER, FURY,
EXMOOR, BLENCATHRA now in Turkish Waters. PENELOPE, ALDENHAM,

/MIAOULES...

205

War Diary.7.11.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Situation Aegean. (Contd.) MIAOULES en route Alex. PHOEBE now in Alex. 5. Air.A.Own. Day. 6 Nov. 8 Beaufighters despatched against shipping seen Port Naussa (Paros). Two large barges, one Naval Auxiliary set on fire, cannon strikes scored on second Naval Auxiliary, one E boat, several small craft. One A.A. gun posn. silenced. Three M.E. 109s. six Arado 196s. attacked. One Arado 196 damaged last seen losing height. Three Beaufighters missing. Night 6/7 Nov. Bad weather curtailed ops. Four Hudsons bombed Antimacchia L.G. Bursts observed on target and one large explosion among huts. Two Wellingtons successfully mined Kalimmo Harbour. B. Enemy. No reports received of any enemy air activity. (C. in C. M.E. 071720.)

WILTON, PRINCESS KATHLEEN. My 061630 sailed. (V.A. Malta 071631A to S.N.O. Tripoli.)

NEURALIA, PRINCESS KATHLEEN. M.S. C.1 22 intend sailing NEURALIA, PRINCESS KATHLEEN at 1400A/9th, for Alexandria escort WILTON. (N.O.I.C. Tripoli 071747A.) Arrived NEURALIA (P) (as received). (S.N.O. Tripolitania 072314A.)

G.U.S.21. Sailing telegram. (N.O.I.C. Port Said 071631B.)

U.G.S.22. Destinations. (C. in C. Med. 071641A.)

U-Boats. One possible 2 German U-Boats outward bound Toulon to North African coast. (Capt. (S) 8 071806A to 8th S/M.F. (R) Capt. (S) 10.)

MIRAGLIA. Following is information regarding MIRAGLIA C. in C. Med's 031036. Details of hangars etc. (F) 18 knots maximum and 14 knots cruising. (G) 3000 (R. & I.) ship is not fit for ocean passage boilers require one month to repair when materials and labour are made available and other seagoing defects. (F.O.L.I. 071825 to B.A.D. (R) Admty., C. in C. Med. F.O.T.A.) Your 031306. In view of urgent need for aircraft transports, very desirable MIRAGLIA should be made fit for ocean passage as soon as possible. Request your early proposals for taking her in hand and details of any necessary materials not available on the Station. (Approved 1st Lord 072353A to C. in C. Med. Info. B.A.D., F.O.L.I.) / No trace in W.R. but F.O.L.I. 031147 and A.M. 311839 Oct.refers

M.S.11.(It.) Arrived. Cyprus 7th. (N.O.I.C. Famagusta, Cyprus 071834B.)

7.11.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

4 Corvettes C. in C.W.A's. 051113 has been passed to you.
to return 2. Request you will comply with para.2 if
to U.K. for practicable.
North Russian (D.O.D. (H) 071927A to C. in C. Med. Info. C. in C.
convoys. W.A.)

PILAR DE Intend sailing at 1600A/8th. Route. (7) A.
LARRINAGA. (8) H.D.M.L.1305. (9) PILAR for onward routeing
to U.K. N.O.I.C. Bizerta is requested to sail M.L.
1305 to Tripoli.
(S.N.O. Trip. 072101A.)

M.A.S.33. Lieut.Calf R.N. and Midshipman Draper R.N.V.R.
arrived Termoli to-day by schooner bringing one
Prisoner of War and nine S.A.S. personnel my
031828 refers. M.S.33 (?M.A.S.) was set on fire
and sunk by cannon fire from beach in latitude 042°
32' N. Fate of Italian crew is not known.
(S.N.O. Alexandria (E) 072106 to F.O.T.A. (R) F.O.L.I., C. in C.
Med., Admty., 8th Army N.L.O., N.O.I.C. Bari.)

CAGNI. Your 052117 refers. Very strong reasons for
sending her to an It. Port. She has behaved
particularly well and pressing request for her to
go to Italy has been received from M. of M.
2. Ship will have completed a very long voyage and has been a
considerable time without refit in the unlikely event of her
being found to have no defects request she may only be used on
service prior to refit in Italy if it is operationally vital to
do so.
(C. in C. Med. 072201A to C. in C. Levant (R) Admty., F.O.L.I.,
S.I., F.O.S.)

Levant Situation report No.102. Up to 1800B/7th. Invasion craft were sighted by
air R/C in Naussa Bay, ~~Paros~~ yesterday at 1415.
They were attacked by Beaufighters who claimed to
have inflicted damage. 2. Wellington aircraft on
night A.S.V. patrol sighted above shipping leaving
Naussa Bay at 2230. PENN and PATHFINDER who had
met Mandelyah Bay after dark for Aegean shipping
sweep towards Naxos proceeded to attack and passed between Naxos
and Paros between midnight and 0001/7th but failed to make
contact. However they sank a Caique South of Paros. 3. ALDENHAM,
MIAOULES patrolled W. of Kos, Kalimmo till midnight then withdrew
to Southward being short of fuel and R/V with PENELOPE South of
Kaso Straits at daylight. 4. FURY, EXMOOR, BLENCATHRA arrived
Mandelyah Bay daylight this morning. 5. Wellingtons have laid
mines in Syros and Kalimmo Harbours the last two nights.
6. Reference situation report No.97 para.4. Two Hunts hoped to
take in fuel at Leros on night 2nd/3rd time did not permit.
Method is cumbrous and slow and can only be used in emergency in
a new moon period. Only 300 tons remain.
(C. in C. Levant 072239B.)

/QUILLIAM...

7.11.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

QUILLIAM, Sailed.
QUAIL. (N.O.I.C. Bari 072321.)

Use of Italian Battleships. Admiral King suggested you might have a use for one or more of the Italian Battleships for "supporting miscellaneous Med. Operations". No question of our having facilities to effect any alterations or repairs to these ships or to manufacture any new ammunition. If you do require one, she could also fulfil the object of the battleship at Taranto. 2. We are recommending the C.C.S. to approve that the remaining battleships and those cruisers for which there is at present no useful employment should be laid up as arranged by you.
(Approved 1st Lord 072349A to C. in C. Mediterranean, Info. B.A.D., C. in C. Levant.)

C. in C. Med. 2 signed Eisenhower. A feint landing was carried out in the Gulf of Gaeta during night 2nd/3rd Cositintrep the operation was uneventful but a satisfactory No.119. diversion was achieved. 2. The harbour of Durazzo was bombarded by destroyers during night 2nd/3rd results were unobserved. 3. A sweep of the Venice/Ancona was carried out by destroyers during the night 4th/5th but nothing was sighted. Patrol by destroyers in the Adriatic night 5th/6th also met nothing. 4. During air raid in Naples area by about 30 aircraft p.m. 5th stores and ammunition on one Mole were destroyed by direct hit. A/A fire claim one certain and one probable. 5. H.M. H.S. ST. ANDREW was attacked by aircraft East of Termoli p.m.6th, no damage or casualties. 6. Convoy K.M.F.25A was attacked by aircraft p.m.6th off Philippeville U.S. Destroyer BEATTY was sunk, S.S. MARNIX VAN ST.ALDEGONDE and S.S. SANTA ELENA were both hit by torpedo. Most of the troops have been transferred to other ships details of casualties are not yet known both ships were taken in tow S.S. SANTA ELENA has arrived Philippeville/ but S.S. MARNIX VAN ST. ALDEGONDE has sunk. 7. The harbour of Bari and Barletta have been temporarily closed as a result of suspected minelaying by enemy aircraft p.m.6th.
(C. in C. Med. 072350A.) / W.D.Note. This is incorrect S.S. SANTA ELENA sank in tow.

7.11.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

D.K.A.5. Kilindini portion D.K.A.5.
(2) 0339Z/7th to R/V off Kilindini. 3. E.T.A. Aden
1400Z/15th "Chop" 10° N. 1000Z/13th. 4. 8 knots.
5. Standard JARAGOLA to be detached in position
Q. thence as in Kilindini's 070551Z Nov. 6. LULWORTH, FREESIA.
FREESIA returning Kilindini on being relieved by PLYM.
15. N.C.S.O. Durban's 261426Z Oct. refers.
(N.C.S.O. Kilindini 070501Z to Admty.)
Arrived. Kilindini portion D.K.A.5 escorted by STELLA
POLARIS, DRANGEY, SPHENE.
(N.C.S.O. Kilindini 070840 to Admty.)

M.B.53. Arrived M.B.53 escorted by LAUNCESTON, CARNATIC
and NETRAVATI.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 070652Z to Admty.)

HOUSTON CITY, Ship referred to in your 060113 sailed this
Net Defence. morning. It is believed she had nets streamed
all the way from Kilindini. Ports net was put
out of action by fouling giant ray. She was
instructed to stream starboard net from here to
destination if practicable.
(N.C.S.O. Diego Suarez 070809Z to Admty.)

FLAMINGO. Request confirmation FLAMINGO will join Eastern
Fleet on recommissioning for service.
(C. in C.E.F. 070946Z to Admty. BRAGANZA,
FLAMINGO (R) C. in C. Levant, R.A.T.E. Durban.)

Netherland I strongly support representation made by S.A.C.
East Indies, S.E.A. in his Seacos 12. Re provision of Dutch
Civil Affairs civil affairs officer for the N.E.I.
Officer. (2) Apart from an arbitrary (Dutch?) communic-
ation made by Helfrich my deputy I have had no
official intimation of this intended reduction in
the potential strength of Eastern Fleet.
(3) These Dutch men are good seamen and it seems a pity to try
and turn them into civil servants.
(C. in C.E.F. 071006Z, 071643Z to Admty. (R) S.A.C. (S.E.A.C.) in
C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.)).

Use of Your 031146. Admty. 251859/Sept. refers. No
searchlights further information available.
against air (D.T.S.D. 071130A to C. in C.E.F., Info. C. in C.
attack. H.F., C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, C.S.4.)

Convoy Sailing telegram (2 ships) escort NARBADA, BOMBAY.
H.C.6. (N.C.S.O. Calcutta 071639A, 071647Z to Admty.)

209

7.11.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

U/B.

Attacking contact position $18^{\circ} 54' S. 40^{\circ} 28' E.$
(QUADRANT 071840Z to F.O. E.Af. (R) Com. in C.
Durban.)

Routeing.

Your 050542 (N.T. in W.D.). After prolonged exchange signals between Admiralty, C. in C.S.A. and Com. Tenth Fleet C. and R. it was agreed at request of latter. (a) to establish position X $38^{\circ} S. 22^{\circ} E.$ all U.S. shipping not calling South Africa to keep South of this point. (b) When routeing wide of the Cape is desired, standard northern limit is through new A, B, C, but C. in C.S.A. will divert shipping further southward as circumstances require. 2. Confirm latitude position B $38^{\circ} 30' S.$
(D.T.D. 071856A to C. in C.E.F. (R) C. in C.S.A.)

7.11.1943.

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

AJAX. Sailed Norfolk 2nd AJAX for Bermuda to fuel en route U.K.
(N.S.H.Q., 070005Z to Admty.)
S.B.N.O.W.At. 042307 and N.O.B. Bermuda's 041943.
Adjust speed on passage so as to obviate need for fuelling at Azores provided this does not reduce your speed below 18 knots.
(D.O.D.(H), 070021A to AJAX, Info. S.B.N.O.W.At., C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, S.B.N.O.Azores, C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Portsmouth.)
Your 070021A. Complying. S. of A. 16 knots. Request repetition of your 041243A.. Admiralty pass to all concerned.
(AJAX, 070416Z to Admty.)
See also Admty. 071215A, AJAX 071921Z and Admty. 072339A in North Atlantic.

2 U/Bs All times Z. (? Cdr.) E.G.2 reported 2 U-Boats sunk by WOODCOCK in 044° 46' N. 041° 08' W. at 0918/6th a second by WILD GOOSE in 043° 42' N. 042° 08' W. at 1700/6th.
E.G. 2. (N.S.H.Q., 070544Z, 070650Z to Admty., C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

Aircraft, Your 252231 Oct., para. 4.
operational It will probably save a misunderstanding in future
control. if you would explain to Adm. King the relative responsibilities of the Admty. and Air Min. in relation to the strength and disposition of shore based air units operating in Coastal Command.

2. The Admty. exercise their responsibility for operational control through the A.O.C. in C. In all other respects the Air Min. is responsible for Coastal Command, including the disposition of individual units to meet Admty. requirements, their training, administration, provision of aircraft and the development of all weapons and facilities.

3. We trust that Adm. King will, therefore, appreciate that owing to the difference in organisation between the services in out two countries there are many aspects of Anglo-American air co-operation in the war at sea in which the Air Min. is the Department mainly concerned. Although they work in very close consultation with the Admty., the Air Min. must be free to put forward their own views when necessary.

4. Air Min. agree with this signal.
(1st S.L., 071135A to B.A.D., (R) Rafdel.)

B.Y.M.S. Sailed B.Y.M.S.58 S.O., 40 1230A/7th to St. Johns N.F. route. E.T.A. 0530Z/10th for onward routing to U.K. via Azores.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 071246Z to F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q., (R) C. in C. W.A., B.A.D., S.B.N.O.Azores, Admty.)

N.S.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q., 071420Z.)
S/M Estimate.

/B.Y.M.S. ...

211

7.11.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

B.Y.M.S. 204,
203, 232.

My 061859. Departure 1300Z/7th.
(N.O.B. Bermuda, 071526 to Admty.)

VAGRANT.

Advancing 11 knots VAGRANT departs Bermuda 1100Z/
8th for Gibraltar through positions (route).
Cominch 252109. E.T.A. 1200Z/25th.
(U.S.N.O.B. Bermuda, 071538 to Cominch.)

LADY
DENISON
PENDER.

Arrived 5th departed 7th for St. Lucia escorted
by U.S.S. S.C.13028. Future movements unknown.
(B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 071538Q to S.B.N.O.W.At.)

Re necessity
to maintain
H/F D/F
watch on
U-Boat
frequencies.

Your 061736 concur.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 071546Z, 072005Z to C. in C.
W.A., (R) A.C.I.C., Capt. (S) 10, F.O.N.F., F.O.
Gibraltar, S.B.N.O.Azores.)

U.S. S/M
Estimate.

(Cominch, 071603Z.)

O.N. 208.

Following arrived New York Nov. 6th/7th. Total
34 ships (list).
(B.R.L.O. New York, 071714Z.)

34 ships arrived New York. First arrival 062052Z.
Last arrival 071616Z. EL ORIENTE straggled in at 061625.
WILLIAM DUNBAR unaccounted for.
(P.D. New York, 071830Z.)

Air
Squadrons
and Bay
offensive.

Your 021135Z and 272059Z Oct. We accept the
proposed dispositions of U.S. Squadrons.
2. We concur that the U.S. Squadrons (or British
if required) should be withdrawn from the Bay on
1st January or at any other date if they can be
more profitably employed elsewhere in sinking
U-Boats. But you should inform Cominch that we
presume he will discuss their more profitable employment with us
before ordering withdrawal.
3. For your personal information the Chiefs of Staffs are
forwarding their views on the procedure by which important moves
should be made between British and American areas of strategic
control.
(1st S.L., 071830A to B.A.D., (R) Rafdel.)

P.554.

Your 061444. Escort and onward routing from
Halifax to Argentia for P.554 will be provided.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 071924Z to Cdr. S/Ms. Atlantic.)

/ARGONAUT ...

212

7.11.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- ARGONAUT. Sail ARGONAUT when ready about 10th Philadelphia to Norfolk for working up. Advise routeing instructions.
(Cominch, 072012 to Admty.)
- Sub. attack and sighting summary. All times Z. Para. C. Transit plane sights submerging sub. 16.50 N. 65.43 W. 071300.
Para. D. P.V. Radar contact 37.44 N. 74.25 W. 071224. P.B.Y. Radar contact 27.05 N. 77.50 W. 061815.
(Cominch, 072021Z to Admty.)
- Conduct of A/S operations in Atlantic. Following from Chiefs of Staff personal for Field Marshal Dill.
1. We have been considering the recent interchange of signals between the Admiralty and B.A.D. and the representations by Noble and Welsh to the Admty. and Air Min. on the subject of Cominch's proposal to withdraw certain Squadrons from the Bay offensive.
2. In order to avoid further misunderstandings and to clarify the responsibility for movement of A/S forces in and out of the different strategic areas we should like to establish certain agreed principles for the joint conduct of A/S operations in the Atlantic.
3. The principles are as follows:-
(A) Any redistribution of A/S squadrons between British, Canadian and U.S. areas of responsibility in the Atlantic will be effected in consultation between the British, Canadian and American authorities concerned, reference being made to the C.C.O.S. if necessary.
(B) The disposition of A/S units within any area of the Atlantic will be a matter for decision by the British, Canadian or American authorities according to whether the area concerned is one for which Britain, Canada or the U.S. are responsible in accordance with the conclusion of the Atlantic Convoy Conference, subject to the concurrence of the authorities to whom the squadrons belong.
(C) The operational direction of all A/S squadrons in a British, Canadian or American area of responsibility in the Atlantic shall be vested in the appropriate British, Canadian or American authority.
4. We are not agreed among ourselves as to the best line of action. On the one hand we are advised that to propose to the C.C.O.S. the acceptance of the above principles would merely antagonise King, who would feel that he was being put on the spot. On the other hand it is held that unless King is made to accept these or similar principles we shall be perpetually liable to arbitrary action on his part resulting in disorganisation of our combined arrangements for the anti U-Boat war.
5. We are content to leave it to you to decide what action is best calculated to achieve our object, which is to secure the most efficient system of control of the combined A/S effort with the minimum adverse effect on our relations with the American Chiefs of Staff.

7.11.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Conduct of A/S operations in Atlantic. (Contd.)

6. Our immediately following telegram is in the nature of a brief for use in the event of any discussion in which King may show further signs of challenging the importance of the Bay offensive. (Air Min., 072055Z to Britman Washington.)

Bay offensive. (Air Min., 072104Z to Britman Washington.)
See Home Commands.

ROCKAWAY. This is U.S.S. ROCKAWAY's 071711 action to Comnaveu. All times Z. From Boston lightship U.S. Seaplane Tender ROCKAWAY sails 072215 for port in U.K. (to be designated by Comnaveu) speed 16, via following (route). E.T.A. (Comnaveu, 072202Z to Admty.)
Refer to this as ROCKAWAY's 072110. My 071711. ROCKAWAY delayed. Will depart Boston lightship 081415Z. Add 16 hours to all times. (Comnaveu, 072316Z to Admty.)

Employment of Italian Naval Ships. Your 191735 Oct. Italians were already in de facto state of co-belligerency and declaration of war does not, in H.M. Govt.'s view, alter Italian relation to Allies in any way. Treatment of Italians will depend upon their works rather than their words. Accordingly, employment of Italian warships with Italian crews has, in our opinion, still to be considered on the merits of each case. If Italians show greatly improved morale, no doubt larger employment of Italian-manned ships in battle service can be considered.

2. It is emphasised that whatever employment may now be given to Italian Fleet, great importance is attached to Allied power of disposal over Italian Fleet being adequately safeguarded by the amendments to N.A.F.381 proposed in C.O.S.(W) 859.

3. Taking Admiral King's other remarks in detail:-
LITTORIOS. We agree there are many practical disadvantages, including the shortage of facilities for their overhaul. As considerable work would be required to fit them for the purpose, we consider their use as transports impracticable. We therefore recommend that they remain laid up for the time being with a view to their possible use in the Far East at a later date.

4. CAVOURS. We are consulting C. in C. Med. as to whether he has any use for ships of this class in support of operations in the Med., taking into account that no additional ammunition can be manufactured. He would presumably make use first of the ship proposed to be stationed at Taranto. We ask the C.C.S. to approve in principle that all the ships of this class for which C. in C. Med. has no use, should be laid up with the LITTORIOS. If other requirements for any of these ships should arise, including allotment to our Allies, they can be considered on their merits. It would be easier to obtain full control of them after they had been laid up.

/5. Cruisers ...

214

7.11.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Employment
of Italian
Naval Ships.
(Contd.)

5. Cruisers, Destroyers and smaller surface ships. C. in C. Med. has said that he has use for 4 cruisers inside the Med. In B.A.D. 222237 Oct., C.C.S. have approved to give two cruisers a trial in the Atlantic. Meanwhile, we suggest that the C.C.S. should give approval in principle that the cruisers for which no use can be found should be laid up as arranged by Allied C. in C. The smaller surface vessels fit for service are all in full operation and will be kept fully employed in the Mediterranean. We must, however, keep in mind the future claims of our Allies on these classes of vessels.
6. MIRAGLIA. Is reported unfit for ocean voyage, but in view of urgent need for aircraft transports the execution of necessary repairs is being immediately investigated.
7. Submarines. Information still being collected. See also A.M. 051918.
8. SATURNIA. U.S.A. and M.W.T. are discussing her employment and will submit proposal to C.C.S.
9. ERITREA. Concur, subject to personnel difficulties being overcome. Otherwise, to proceed to Mediterranean.
10. Referring to A.M. 270013 Oct. The Foreign Sec. was authorised to inform the Russians that we agreed in principle to their proposal but instructed to insist that no publicity be given until Italian situation permits, and until method of transfer can be arranged without risk of the ships being scuttled. It is important that Italian goodwill in Taranto dockyard should not be jeopardised at this stage.
(1st Lord, 072321A to B.A.D.)

Australia and New Zealand.

LE

TRIOMPHANT.

- My 150236 Oct. and your 051106 not to all addressees. Endurance of LE TRIOMPHANT insufficient to reach Addu Atoll.
2. It is understood that French Admiralty in Algiers desire ship to visit Diego Suarez and Jibuti.
3. Propose sailing TRIOMPHANT from Fremantle in company with a tanker about 25th Nov. for Diego Garcia. Fuelling to be effected at sea if weather suitable otherwise Diego Garcia. TRIOMPHANT then proceed as in para. 2 and Suez Canal.
4. Do you concur.
(A.C.N.B., 070317C to C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.), (R) Admty., C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, B.A.D., F.O.R.S.C.A.)

/Digest ...

7.11.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

- Digest (2) Midday R/C Mitchell unsuccessfully bombed two
Serial sea trucks 75 miles north-west Tanimbar Islands
No. 656 course 310°.
Nov. 6th. (3) 8 Beaufighters conducted harassing strike
Tanimbar Islands afternoon bombing straffing
various villages and sinking four sailing canoes.
(4) One large vessel, 4 possible minesweepers
several small craft and barges seen Kendari Bay area night 5th.
(5) Same time three Catalinas bombed Sharbon water front and
barracks while fourth raided Saumlaki starting fires both
targets. 7 large, 33 small ships plus numerous small craft
observed Ambon Bay.
(6) Northbound submarine passed Cape Orford morning. Previous
night 2 submarines contacted by our patrol craft 60 miles
south-east Gasmata?. Depth charges dropped with nil visible
result.
(7) 4 freighters, 2 destroyers, 2 sub chasers reported dawn 400
miles north-west Lorengau heading south probably from Palau.
(10) 3 light cruisers possibly KUMA class, 1 destroyer
unsuccessfully attacked midday by R/C Liberator 80 miles north-
west Mussau Island course North.
(11) Same time one possible large transport apparently anchored
Gazelle Channel.
(12) Navy Catalina reported 3 destroyers 20 miles south-east
Cape Saint George heading east after dark. Probably same ships
sighted later still heading for Buka.
(15) Night 5th our patrol craft contacted 2 enemy submarines
off Blucher Point.
(17) Ref. Beaufort torpedo attack Rabaul shipping Digest? 655
para. 9 other planes reported ship Keravia Bay destroyed by
huge explosion.
(18) 6 Mitchells conducting sweep east and north-east coast
Bougainville forenoon 5th destroyed or burned 3 small coastal
freighters. Also straffed 12 barges and bombed Kidta bivouac
area.
(19) Same date search plane heavily straffed small freighter or
tender Kapingamarangi Lagoon where single float-plane ineffect-
ively attempted interception.
(20) Photos midday 6th show - 2 small freighters Buka neighbour-
hood otherwise normal small craft and barges north and south
Bougainville anchorages.
(21) One destroyer, 2 medium freighters sighted early hours 6th
60 miles north-west Buka passage heading thereto.
(22) Consolidation Empress Augusta Bay proceeding satisfactorily
despite torrential rains.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 070630.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 071355A, 071406A.)

/Submarines ...

216

7.11.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

Submarine
attack and
sighting
summary for
24 hours to
0900Z/7th.

(a) Am. SANTA ELENA torpedoed at 1837/6th in 37°
13' N. 06° 21' E. and Du. MARNIX torpedoed at
1909/6th in 37° 15' N. 06° 28' E. Coastal forces
attacked U-Boat at 2230/3rd in 42° 17' N. 11° 07'
E. E.G.2 attacked U-Boat from 0412 to 0933/6th
in 44° 46' N. 41° 08' W. and attacked second
U-Boat from 1347 to 1508/6th in 43° 42' N. 42°
08' W.
(D.D.I.C., 071111A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

217

8.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.S.

1. Force 2 (V.A.2 in ANSON, with FORMIDABLE, JAMAICA, and six Destroyers) returned to Scapa from their covering position at 1125 to-day; and, Convoy R.A.54A having now crossed 02° E. C.S.10 in BELFAST expects to arrive at Hvalfiord to-morrow morning. KENT arrived at Scapa from Force 1 at 1950A to-day, and MUSKETEER and MATCHLESS from the Convoy Escort arrived at Seidisfiord at 2116A to fuel.

V-P
Operation.

2. M.T.Bs. 653 and 686 returned at 1530 to-day from an operation on the Norwegian coast, having failed to identify their land-fall.

Attack
on
TIRPITZ
on 22nd
September.

3. A report graded C.3 from N.A.Stockholm states that a German Officer on board TIRPITZ at the time says that 3 of our S/Ms. were believed to have attacked TIRPITZ in Kaafiord on the 22nd Sept that 2 of them were counter-attacked, one being sunk and one forced to scuttle; that no trace of the third S/M was found; and that 4 survivors of the scuttled S/M were saved. He adds that a torpedo from the scuttled S/M hit TIRPITZ below the water-line.

Home
Fleet
Units.

4. RENOWN and QUEEN ELIZABETH left Scapa in company at 1251 to-day for Plymouth and Portsmouth respectively; and LONDON left Scapa at 2023A for Plymouth.

Enemy
Mines.

5. 3 more moored mines were swept to-day off the Humber.

6. Aircraft of Bomber Command laid 72 mines in Biscay ports last night.

North Atlantic.

WARSPITE.

7. WARSPITE, with tugs and escort, arrived at Gibraltar p.m. today from Malta.

218

8.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Operational control of S/Ms.

8. As from 1200A to-day a change in the operational control of S/Ms. will take place in the Western Med. F.O.I.C. Gib. will exercise control W. of 01° W; N.O.I.C. Algiers between 01° W. and 07° E. and S. of 40° N; and Capt. (S) 10 in the remainder of the Western Mediterranean.

Merchant shipping protection.

9. A message to-day from C. in C. Med. to the Admty. gives the figures of surface craft and aircraft engaged in the A/S protection of merchant shipping in the Mediterranean, together with a list of commitments. In addition to the "Avalanche" troops and supply movements, coastal convoys and movements on Levant and Libyan coasts there are always 4 slow through convoys at sea, and a fast convoy runs each way monthly. The average convoy of 60 ships has 5 escorts. In the present circumstances, while the U/B scale of attack in the Mediterranean is comparatively reduced the C. in C. considers that the forces available just meet the requirements, though with little margin. If any serious increment of U/Bs. arrives the forces available will not suffice.

Adriatic.

10. 6 Bostons last night bombed the harbour and town of Durazzo where a large explosion occurred.

Maddalena.

11. Between 1st and 8th November 61 mines were swept by the 14th M.S.F. whilst clearing the approach channel to Maddalena.

Aegean.

12a. Air operations last night were curtailed by bad weather, but one Wellington laid mines successfully in Naxos Harbour.
b. PENN and PATHFINDER left Turkish waters last night for an anti-shipping sweep of the Naxos area and to investigate Port Vathy, Amorgos for two merchant vessels located there by air R/C. A close search of the bays revealed no enemy craft either here or anywhere along the N. Coast; and the destroyers withdrew South being met by PENELOPE S. of Kaso Strait. PENELOPE refuelled at Limasol.
c. PETARD, ROCKWOOD and KRAKOWIAK left Alexandria early this morning for the Aegean via Cyprus. They will enter the Aegean N. of Rhodes tonight to lie up.
d. FURY, EXMOOR and BLENCATHRA remained in Mandelyah Gulf in view of the weather conditions and to provide a striking force for tonight.
e. The enemy invasion flotilla which was in the Leros/Naxos area yesterday was sighted at 0824Z to-day in 36.55 N. 25.27 E. (off the S. point of Naxos, steering East. It consisted of 2 1500 ton and 2 500 ton naval auxiliaries, 2 F boats and 10 other landing craft. It was sighted by aircraft early this afternoon, standing towards Amorgos, with air escort. A southerly gale is blowing in the area.

/The...

219

8.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Aegean
(Contd.)

The flotilla was attacked by 3 Beaufighters armed with torpedoes, with escort of 9 Beaufighters, but no specific results were seen except cannon strikes. C. in C. Levant, however, says the aircraft claim to have damaged one merchant ship and several landing craft. An ammunition dump was damaged by bombing at Leros today. Wellingtons laid mines in Port Naxia, Naxos last night.

Air attack
on
Suda Bay.

13. 5 Baltimores today attacked a concentration of shipping in Suda Bay. A direct hit was made on a 1000 ton merchant ship and bombs fell amongst large merchantmen and small vessels, but full results were not seen.

East Indies.

1st B.S.

14a. The Battle Squadron which is eventually to be formed in the Eastern Fleet will be known as the First Battle Squadron.
b. The title of 3rd Battle Squadron lapsed this evening.

Australia & New Zealand.

Moluccas &
Celebes.

15a. One of two small freighters approaching Kaimana from the South-West was bombed and hit by a Liberator this morning.
b. Last night, 4 Catalinas attacked the water front at Ambon, starting several fires. A heavy cruiser and 2 destroyers were seen in the harbour.

Solomon Is.

16a. Near midnight tonight a Liberator attacked a convoy described as one possible light cruiser, one destroyer, and one large merchantman off the western tip of New Hanover. A direct hit and 2 near misses were made on the merchantman, which was claimed sunk.
b. At dusk to-day, 30 to 40 Japanese torpedo aircraft attacked shipping off Empress Augusta Bay. Two ships were damaged. 7 of the enemy were shot down by A.A. fire.

220

8.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Explosive loadings in London. Your 041645. Under existing conditions risk can be accepted, but must be subject to review if scale of enemy attacks by sea or air increase.

(2) F.O.I.C. London also recommends that 100 tons net explosives be permitted to be loaded in up-river docks.

(3) No heavy lifts other than those which can be handled by ships gear could be loaded at Tilbury. This might limit non-explosive cargo acceptable for ships.

(4) Between May and November 17 ships loaded 2450 tons gross explosives in London.

(C. in C. Nore, 081122 to Admty.)

Personnel in North Russia. Your 071400. Further to my 061652. Except in very special cases visas available in London only. Urgency of present application will be pointed out when supporting them here.
(30 Mission, 081212C to Admty.)

A/S training at Scapa. Admiralty letter M.A/S.W. number 336/43 dated 2nd March 1943 and C.B.04050/43 (1) Section 6. It is requested a 2nd S/M may be made available for A/S training at Scapa from 12th to 20th November inclusive.

2. It is desired to carry out tactical exercises in Orkneys S/M sanctuary with H.F. destroyers and a S/M prior to sailing for convoy escort duty with J.W. 54A and B.

3. The one submarine at present allocated is fully employed with large numbers of working-up new construction destroyers.
(R.A.D.H.F., 081854A to C. in C. H.F.)

Clyde Labour disputes. Reference threatened strike of shipwrights on 11th November. Chairman and Secretary of Shipwrights' Shop Stewards Committee were interviewed today by Industrial Relations Officer who informed them firstly of official action being taken by Shipwrights' executive in respect of claims and

secondly that strike notice previously lodged was invalid. As a result these Shop Steward officials gave an undertaking to advise against strike action at a mass meeting of shop stewards to be held in Glasgow p.m./10th which Mr. Wilcox, General Secretary, has been invited to attend. Despite this undertaking today's Glasgow Evening Press publishes statements accepted from shop stewards' Committee to effect that unless claim for 100% piecework and 3/- per hour minimum are granted all Scottish Shipwrights will stop work on 11th November. Suggest that Shipwright Executive and/or Ministry of Labour should issue official counter-statement at earliest possible moment.

(D.S.C. Glasgow, 081951 to Admty.)

221

8.11.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

BRISSENDEN. My 072215A. 13½ hours late.
(BRISSENDEN, 080315 to A.C.I.C.)

RENOWN,
QUEEN
ELIZABETH. Intend to proceed at 1230 today QUEEN ELIZABETH
in company passing Hoxa Gate at 1300.
(RENOWN, 080914 to A.C.O.S., C. in C. H.F.)
My 061335A. Cancel para. 2. Intend to sail
ROCKET at 2300A/8th in accordance with C. in C.
H.F.'s 052358A.

2. Routed standard route to R/V in 052° 59' N. 005° 08' W. at
1730/9th, thence returning as additional escort to Plymouth,
S.O.A. 18 knots.

3. MELBREAK provides fresh escort from Longships at first light
10th continuing with ORIBI as escort to QUEEN ELIZABETH to
Portland, thence returning at best speed to Plymouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 081112A to RENOWN, QUEEN ELIZABETH.)
Scapa departure at 1251 RENOWN and QUEEN ELIZABETH
escorted by ORIBI and URCHIN.
(A.C.O.S., 081333A to C. in C. Plymouth.)
My 081112A. ROCKET sailed.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 082300A to RENOWN, QUEEN ELIZABETH.)
My 081333A. Scapa arrival URCHIN at 2107A.
(A.C.O.S., 082345A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

SPEEDWELL,
HALCYON. SPEEDWELL, HALCYON arrived Seidisfjord.
(R.N.O. Seidisfjord, 081036A to A.C.I.C.)

HARRIER. HARRIER with S.B.N.O. N.Russia on board arrived
Archangel a.m. today.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 081058A to Admty.)

SLINGER. SLINGER sailed in accordance with my 071528A.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 081148A to C. in C. Nore.)
N.O.I.C. Greenock's 071528. No destroyer is
available. As majority of passage through this
command will be in dark hours unescorted passage can be
accepted.
(A.C.O.S., 081537 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
On completion escort duties with convoy at Largo buoy
proceed to R/V with SLINGER at 35 buoy at approx. 1030A/9th.
2. Escort to vicinity May Island where FERNIE will take over.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 081910A to LEEDS.)

TRUCULENT. Request you will sail TRUCULENT for Gibraltar
about 15th Nov. My 161332 Oct.
(F.O.(S), 081424 to Capt. (S) 3.)

S/Ms. Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/9 and movements for
following 24 hours.
(F.O.(S), 081732A, 090800.)

/MIDDLETON ...

8.11.1943.

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

MIDDLETON.

Arrived my 072048.
(A.C.I.C., 081625A to C. in C. H.F.)

Flight
"N".

Sailed Flight "N" in accordance with my 061454.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 081634A to Admty.)

BETONY,
ROSEBAY,
LINARIA.

Intend sailing corvettes as follows for onward
routeing to Eastern Fleet:
(A) BETONY, ROSEBAY with K.M.S.33 November 16th.
(B) LINARIA with K.M.S.34 November 25th.
(C. in C. W.A., 081929 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

LONDON.

Scapa departure LONDON.
(A.C.O.S., 082023A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

KING
GEORGE V.

C. in C. Rosyth is requested to sail KING GEORGE
V for Scapa p.m./13th November and to state when
screen will be required.
2. R.A.D. is requested to sail two destroyers to
escort.
(C. in C. H.F., 082305A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

NORFOLK.

Intend following programme for NORFOLK. Leave
Scapa 14th November for Clyde to arrive 15th.
(2) Ship to be ready to sail for Scapa p.m./30th
November.
(3) While 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., 082310A and 121848A to NORFOLK.)

Operations.Operation
F.S.

Scapa arrivals V.A.2 in ANSON with FORMIDABLE,
JAMAICA, ONSLOW, HAIDA, VENUS, STORD, CAPPS and
HOBSON.
(A.C.O.S., 081125 to H.F.)
E.T.A. Hvalfjord 0745N tomorrow, passing Saebol
at 2145N/8th. Have 2 officers and 12 other passengers for U.K.
(C.S.10, 081510A to A.C.I.C.)
Scapa arrival KENT at 1950A.
(A.C.O.S., 082045A to H.F.)
Arrived Seidisfjord MUSKETEER, MATCHLESS.
(A.C.I.C., 082116A to C. in C. H.F.)

Coastal
Force
Patrols.

1. Orders for night 8th/9th.
(A) 3 M.G.Bs. immediate notice Newhaven.
(B) Chasseurs 13, 11 patrol Q.Z.S.384 between F and
E.A.5 buoys.
(C) M.L.292 immediate notice St. Helens.

/ (D) ...

8.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal Force Patrols. (Contd.) (D) LA COMBATTANTE, GLAISDALE immediate notice Yarmouth.
(E) M.G.Bs. 13, 8, 7 patrolling 50° 15' N. between 02° 00' W. and 02° 30' W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 081349A.)
FYLDEA and YASHIMA two miles south of D Buoy.
M.T.Bs. 430 and 431 at V buoy, E.T.D. Ramsgate
1745, E.T.R. 0745/9.
M.G.Bs. S.2 and S.1 at No.7 Buoy, E.T.D. 1830, E.T.R. 0700/9.
(V.A. Dover, 081532A to Admty.)

Bay Patrol. Disposition at 082000.
1. CEYLON patrolling between 039° 58' N. 014° 12' W. and 042° 42' N. 016° 48' W.
3. K.15 049° 15' N. 012° 47' W. through 049° 10' N. 012° 54' W., thence 180°, daily advacing 120 miles.
5. STONEHENGE 047° 24' N. 012° 26' W., 180°, daily advance 120 miles.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 081508A.)
You may have been reported by enemy aircraft at 1650.
(D.D.I.C., 081830A to CEYLON.)

Attack on TIRPITZ on 22nd Sept. Following is first authentic report received here of attack on TIRPITZ in Kaafjord and has been obtained from German Naval Officer on board at the time.
(A) First British submarine fired torpedo hitting TIRPITZ below water-line. TIRPITZ is reported to have counter-attacked by throwing depth charges, damaging submarine and forcing her to scuttle, four of crew being saved.
(B) Second S/M fired torpedo which hit trawler or minelayer, blowing up vessel and killing crew. Meanwhile S/M was herself attacked and sunk, two survivors being recovered.
(C) A third S/M was believed by TIRPITZ officer to have attacked, but no trace of her has been found.
(D) There is no trace of damage visible from out board.
Graded C.3.
2. Other evidence provided by this officer has been accurate.
(N.A. Stockholm, 081517 to Admty.)

V.P. Operations. Force returned at 1530 (my 071315) having failed to identify land-fall. (M.T.Bs. 653 and 686).
(A.C.O.S., 081608A to Admty.)
Carry out V.P. (1) Patrol A.H. (2) V.P.151A.
(3) 9th November or first suitable day thereafter.
(4) 1. (5) No. (6) No. (7) 060° Out Skerries 110 miles.
(8) No.
(A.C.O.S., 081845 to Admty.)

/ S/M ...

8.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

- S/M
Patrols. Position of submarines at 0800A/9th November and movements for following 24 hours.
- (A) SYRTIS 68° 59' N. 08° 54' E., probably on surface through 66° 59' N. 06° 56' E. and 66° N. 00° 01' W. towards 61° 42' N. 03° 30' W. 10 knots.
 - (B) STUBBORN 67° 52' N. 08° 11' E., probably on surface routed as in para. (A) above 10 knots.
 - (C) VARANGIAN 66° 17' N. 04° 18' E., probably on surface through 64° 46' N. 01° 01' W. towards 61° 41' N. 03° 29' W., speed 6 knots.
 - (D) ULA on patrol vicinity 62° 09' N. 02° 41' E.
 - (E) VENTURER 61° 36' N. 00° 30' E., probably on surface towards 69° 02' N. 10° 50' E., 8 knots.
 - (H) K.15, 48° 06' N. 12° 55' W., dived by day to southward, 120 miles a day.
 - (J) STONEHENGE 46° 02' N. 12° 21' W., dived by day to southward, 120 miles a day.
 - (K) UNRUFFLED due 43° 01' N. 13° 22' W., at 1400/9th, dived by day to northward, 110 miles a day.
- (F.O.(S), 081732A to Admty.)
(A) My 251354 October. My 052257 and I.S.O.H. 200 para. 2.

Submarine	Patrol Position	Object
(1) P.223 (SEANYMPH)	T.9	C
(2) P.215 (SCEPTRE)	T.10	C
(3) P.233 (STORM)	T.11	C
(4) P.216 (SEADOG)	T.8	C

(B) My 031529 para. 3. Amend patrol position of O.15 to LL.
(F.O.(S), 082147A to Cpts. (S) 3, (S) 9.)

Operation "Spade". My 051502A November and earlier messages. The practicability of successfully carrying out operation "Spade" has been reviewed. In the light of - (A) the possible scale of the air efforts which the enemy would direct against our forces - vide H.Q.C.C. 042240A November.

- (B) other intelligence regarding the reinforcement of the enemy's surface and air forces in the Biscay area.
- (2) It is evident that the enemy would be in a position to bring superior sea and air forces against our forces in the area.
- (3) Under such conditions the operation now appears hazardous and likely to involve serious risk to our ships without reasonable certainty that the required repair would be completed.
- (4) Until sufficient air support to guarantee reliable immunity from enemy air attack can be made available, it is not considered that the risks involved in attempting the operation are justified.
- (5) A stronger surface covering force than that laid down in para. 7 of my memo. O.S.P.A. dated 1st November 0943 (as received ? 1943 intended) would also be necessary.
- (6) If circumstances necessitate the operation taking place in a non-moon period the time required is likely to be at least doubled compared with that required during a moon period.
- (7) The effect of the imminent approach of winter weather must be taken into consideration.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 081744A to Admty.)

8.11.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Nore Command. Mines rendered safe in Nore Command for week ended 6th November.
Eleven British R.1 mines.
One German "Z" type mine at Sizewell, Suffolk, laid approximately 9 months ago.
(R.M.S.O., 081124A to C. in C. Nore.)

Humber. Two moored mines swept today.
First in 157° 59A Buoy one mile. Second 163° 59A Buoy eight cables.
(F.O. Humber, 081954.)

My 081954A. Further third moored mine swept, position uncertain as foul of sweep when hauling in half a mile south-east of 62 buoy. Amended total for today three moored mines.
(F.O. Humber, 082215.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat reported. Investigating oil patch in 49° 25' N. 10° 03' W.
(A/C PLVO, 081040A to 19 Group.)
Slick looks sub. Request instructions.
(A/C PLVO, 081120A to 19 Group.)

E.G. 2. Torpedo exploded 1000 yards on TRACKER quarter at
Attacked. 2130Z in 043° 27' N. 039° 07' W. Underwater explosion heard 10 mins. later. Torpedo probably fired at extreme range from outside the screen.

No A/S at R.D.F. contact gained H/F D/F bearing at 2136Z, 2147Z, 2155Z, 2200Z and 2314Z place 1 and possible 2 U/Bs (German) within 30 (?miles) at those times. I have not the fuel to chase them.
(E.G.2, 082359A to C. in C. W.A.)

Technical.

Keeping R/T silence. Following report from E.G.4 in accordance with your 021108A on return from O.N.S.20 and H.X.263.
(Capt. D. Belfast, 081803A to C. in C. W.A.)

W/T in Escort Trawlers. It is essential that the communications of ocean escort trawlers employed on trans-atlantic convoys should be in all respects as good as those of a corvette. In fact, it is frequently necessary for communication with them to be carried out at ranges greater than with other ships of escort. 2. The obligation at the present time to maintain W/T silence over prolonged periods increases the necessity for W/T transmitters and receivers to be entirely reliable. 3. Reports from sea indicate that communication with these trawlers is not, at present, satisfactory. This is due to two causes:- A. Material - My W.A.3538/5160M of the 20th Oct.1943 refers. Request immediate supply of pool of transmitters TGY at Liverpool and for crystal monitors to be supplied. A total of 16 only will be required. B. Personnel - These vessels carry no leading signalman or leading telegraphist. It is, considered essential that communication ratings allowed to ocean escort trawlers should be amended as follows. 4. Request this matter may be regarded as one of urgency.
(C. in C. W.A., 081932A to Admty.)

226

8.11.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

- COCKATRICE. Departure COCKATRICE. My 061125 and 071200 refer. (N.O.I.C. Harwich, 081208, to A.C.O.S.)
- PRIDE OF MIDLANDS. My 051220A Nov. Leakage due to opening of seams in seaway. Hauling up on crowns slipway 9th Nov. Estimated time for repairs 48 hrs. (N.O.I.C. Sunderland, 081420A, to D.S.V.P.)
- TEANO sunk. S/S TEANO sunk whilst at anchor in convoy anchorage in collision with S/S CHYEBASSA. Radio Operator missing. Salvage Officer working on wreck fixed in 53° 35' 58" N. 00° 02' 01" E. (F.O. Humber, 082056A, to Admty.)
- GARLAND. Owing to defect GARLAND will not be ready to leave U.K. till end of November. (C. in C. W.A. 082228A, to F.O.C.W.Af.)

Shipping and Convoys.

- BACHAQUERO, DEWDALE, WARWICK. Your 072310. No oiler with M.K.S.29. WARWICK is to rejoin BACHAQUERO and DEWDALE forthwith and proceed to U.K. (C. in C. W.A. 080227A, to HAVELOCK, WARWICK.) Inform BACHAQUERO and DEWDALE their destination is Clyde.
2. Escorts to Liverpool on crossing 007° West. (C. in C. W.A. 081156A, to GODETIA, BUTTERCUP.)
- O.S.58/
K.M.S.32. Speed (Average) ? 9 knots (consider?) (possibility?) of overtaking convoy remote. Request instructions. (PROSPEROUS, 080930A, to C. in C. W.A.)
- F.N.71. The following ships of F.N.71 have not been accounted for: HIGHWEAR, MATCHING, YEWKYLE, GRASLIN, and ANTICOSTI.
At 19 B buoy at 0930A/8 KORDECKI proceeded independently to Methil.
(LEEDS 080938A, to C. in C. Rosyth.)
My 062246. Sailed WANDERER. Speed 18 knots. (Cdre. D.W.A. 081130A, to C. in C. W.A.)
PROSPEROUS joined convoy. Cancel BLACK SWAN. (C. in C. W.A. 081830A, to Ships.)
- H.X.264. Am leaving vicinity of H.X.264 now at P.L.E.
E.G.2. My P.C.S. 043° 13' N. 037° 22' W., 285°, 11 knots. E.T.A. Argentia a.m. 11th. (E.G.2. 081500A, to C. in C. W.A.)

/A/C

227

8.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

A/C
Carriers
Training.

If the U-boat menace has sufficiently receded from the west coast of Scotland it would be advantageous if aircraft carriers could be allowed to exercise unescorted in the vicinity of North Channel by day and night. This will permit training in open sea conditions.

2. Should you concur you will appreciate that M.L.'s are unsuitable as crash-tenders in the open sea, and information is requested whether suitable vessels for this purpose can be provided.

(F.O.C.T. 081526, to C. in C. W.A.)

MAURETANIA.

MAURETANIA arrived 1410/8th.
(P.S.T.O. N.W. Ports. 081540A, to D.S.T.)

M.K.S.29.

LAVENDER's 081035. Request you sail LAVENDER as soon as possible at best speed to join HAVELOCK and support M.K.S.29.
(C. in C. W.A. 081820A, to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

O.N.209.

Convoy is threatened. Steer directly to intercept at best speed.
(C. in C. W.A. 081843Z, to CHURCHILL.)

8.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

AJAX. Admty. 072339A. E.T.A. Horta 081400Z.
(AJAX, 080055Z to S.B.N.O. Azores, (R) N.O.I.C. Horta, Admty.)
Regret no room in harbour at Horta.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 081228A to AJAX (R) Admty.)
Impossible to oil AJAX at Horta. S.B.N.O. Azores at Horta.
Essential she proceed to Ponta Delgada arriving daylight 9th.
Request Portuguese authorities by informed.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 081301A to Admty. B.N.A. Lisbon, F.O.C.Gib., AJAX.)
Arrived and left 8th.
(S.B.N.O. Horta, 081500, 081943 to S.B.N.O. Azores, (R) Admty. F.O.I.C. Gib.)

Position of all ships in Azores. Details.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 080232Z to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) Admty.)

R/T silence orders. When orders have been issued to individual convoys to maintain strict R/T silence on convoy wave by C. in C. W.A. request that you will cancel these at your discretion after "Chop".
(C. in C. W.A. 080859Z to F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in C. C.N.A. (R) Admty.)

IRIS, VISCOUNT. Your 071745 approved.
(F.O.C.Gib. 080937 to S.B.N.O. Azores. (R) Admty.)
Departed 8th. E.T.A. Madeira 1800 afternoon 10th.
(S.B.N.O. Horta, 081529 to British Consul Madeira (R) S.B.N.O. Azores, Admty.)

Report forthwith (a) P.C. and S. (b) E.T.A. Madeira. (c) Estimated percentage fuel remaining on arrival. (d) IRIS's estimated time to complete work on Cables.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 081800A to VISCOUNT)
Your 081800A. (a) My P.C.S. at 2200Z 037 degs. 33' N. 025 degs. 27' W. 105 degs. altering to 128 degs. at 0100Z/9 speed 11.5 knots.
(b) 2100Z/10. (c) IRIS 75%, VISCOUNT 62%.
(d) Problematical until more information is obtained.
Weather report.
(VISCOUNT, 082315Z to F.O.I.C. Gib.)

SWITZERLAND, LYMINGE. Arrival 2300/7th. Your 041229.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 081022A to N.O.I.C. Algiers)

U/B. Am over enemy submarine in 44.20 N. 12.20 W.
(A/C LCH/D, 081025 to Gib. W/T.)

LAVENDER. Expect to be ready for sea a.m. Tuesday.
(LAVENDER, 081035 to S.B.N.O. Azores, (R) N.O.I.C. Horta, C. in C. W.A., S.O.B.5)

8.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

LEGIONARIO,
ORIANI.

Arrived.
(F.O.I.C.Gib. 081205A)

Situation
Reports
from
Azores.

In view of the possibility of gradually extending British facilities in the Azores and of the negotiations now being carried out by the Americans, it is essential that the Admty. should be kept fully informed of progress made in establishing British requirements.

(2) Signal weekly situation report to the Admty.

(R) F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Med. C. in C. Plymouth, Particular attention being paid to stocks of oil fuel, depth charges and other naval armament and stores which might be required by visiting H.M.Ships.

(3) In making forecasts of requirements the possibility of American escort vessels refuelling at short notice should be taken into account.

(D. of Plans, 081305A to S.B.N.O. Azores, (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.C. Gib., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth)

Danish
Ships.

My 031513* and my 051235*. Urgent that Danish Ships SKAANE and EGHOLM leave 10th or they will be detained by German order from Copenhagen. Danish Min. has orders to stop ships but is giving us 2 days grace. Masters will not sail without escort.

(N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 081310 to S.O.(I) for F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) Admty.)

* N.T. in W.R.)

B.Y.M.S.
167, 59.

Intend sailing Londonderry. Route.

S. of A. 9 knots.

E.T.A. a.m. 16th.

(S.B.N.O.Horta, 081440 to Admty.)

Sailed 8th.

(S.B.N.O. Horta, 081825(O) to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

Italian
Ships
Las Palmas.

My 061216. Sabotage probable should our prospect of sailing Italian ship improve.

(2) Admty please pass to Foreign Office.

(R.O. Las Palmas, 081604 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Gib. B.N.A.Madrid.)

HENK,
LINETTE.

Arrival 6th 5. Departure 7th 28, 5 (to Rivadesella).

(H.M. Consul Bilbao, 081630 to B.B.)

British
Warships,
visits to
Azores.

Your 251900 October and my 311315 not to all addressees. Following men of war arrived Ponta Delgada recently VOLUNTEER 1st H.M.Trawlers VIZALMA 3rd, BLACKFLY 5th. H.M.Consul Ponta Delgada informed me which enabled me to make

8.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

British
Warships,
visits to
Azores.

belated notification in each case.
(2) Request N.A. responsible for visits of these ships be instructed to include B.N.A. Lisbon in distribution of all signals affecting visits to Portuguese ports other than Horta so that I may notify Portuguese authorities in Lisbon.

(3) If we irritate Portuguese authorities by infringing of agreement now it will be difficult, perhaps impossible to obtain extension of existing facilities at later date.

(B.N.A.Lisbon, 081645 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O. Azores, H.M. Consul Ponta Delgada.)

MATAGORDA.

Unless otherwise directed intend sailing MATAGORDA with T.C.27.4 Comairlant 311948* refers. (N.T. in W.D.)
(?C.M.S.F.), 081705Z to Comairlant)
* Re: Upon completion of duty assigned MATAGORDA direct her to proceed to Norfolk.

Netherlands
S/M. K.15.

After passing through (G) 043 degs. N. 012 degs. 54' W. at 2100/11th proceed through following positions (my 071654* to P.232 refers) at time stated:

(Q) at 0430/12th. (P) at 0400/15th.
(R) at 0030/16th. (S) at 0920/16th.
(T) at 1020/16th. thence by QBA 87.

(2) Daily advance ?diving by day 120 miles. Proceeding on the surface at discretion at 8 knots after passing (R).
Bombing restrictions as in my 071654 amending 0230/15th to 0030/16th.

(3) Increase speed after entering QBA 87 so as to arrive Gib. at 1420/16th.

(F.O.I.C. Gib. 081723A to Netherlands S/M. K.15 (R) Capt. (S) 10, Capt. (S) 3, Capt. (S) 5, (STONEHENGE) P.232, (UNRUFFLED) P.46, F.O.S., S.B.N.O. Azores, Com. 10th Fleet, C.M.S.F., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med.)

* Route for STONEHENGE.

Route
information
for
S.B.N.O.
Azores.

Details.
(D.T.D. 081730A to F.O.I.C.Gib. C. in C. Med.
F.O.C. W.Af., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. N.A. Connav,
Commorseafron.)

GLASGOW
Berthing
capacity
Horta.

Request date when you anticipate you could receive large Cruiser for fuel including also information whether ship could remain after fuelling if required, may be signalled as soon as possible. Your 051200A para. 1 refers. (N.T. in W.D.)
(C. in C. Plymouth, 081750A to S.B.N.O. Azores,
(R) F.O.I.C. Gib. Admty. C. in C. Med.)

232

8.11.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.HELFDORD,
VERBENA,
GENISTA,
TEST.

HELFDORD and VERBENA expected to reach Durban 17 November and will be sailed to overtake D.K.A.7. Both ships are available to join Aden escort force. 2. GENISTA completion date ex trials is November 20th. She will be sailed for Aden when ready. 3. TEST has only one shaft and limited to 12 knots so cannot be considered operational. Until new shaft arrives from U.K. she is being used as A/S training ship at Durban. 4. C. in C.E.F. 040557 refers.
(C. in C.S.A. 081047C to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) (R) Admty., F.O.E.A., Com.i/c. Aden, Com.i/c. Durban, F.O.R.S.C.A.)

VIRGINIA,
CAGNI.

Sailed VIRGINIA at 1428Z/8th escorting AMMIRAGLIO CAGNI to Kilindini route. S. of A. 10 knots.
(2) E.T.A. Kilindini 0700Z/16th. (3) Total bombing restrictions have been requested 30 miles ahead and astern and 10 miles either side of D.R.
(4) VIRGINIA will report if position is more than 30 miles astern of D.R. in order that bombing restrictions may be amended.
(5) (A) VIRGINIA maintains continuous W/T watch on group S.L. shifting to group "V1stor" at 1415Z/12th. (B) AMMIRAGLIO CAGNI, keeps W/T watch as for S/MS. on appropriate group.
(Com.i/c. Durban 081522Z to Admty., C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.), C. in C. Levant, C. in C.S.A.)

F.T.12.

(?07) Pernambuco departure 6th F.T.12 for Freetown.
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 082042Z to Admty.)

233

8.11.1943.

Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Alexandria movements. 7th. Arrival. PHOEBE, ALDENHAM, DERBY, MIAOULES. Departure PETARD, ROCKWOOD, KRAKOWIAK. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 080643B.)

Invasion P.C. and S. of Enemy. One merchant vessel
Flotilla. 1000 tons, 3 merchant vessels 500 tons, 14 F-boats
3 aircraft 36.55 N. 25.27 E. 090° 8 knots.
(A/C VRP/T, 080824Z, 080842Z to 7WM.)
My 0824Z P.C. and S. of enemy one merchant
vessel 1000 tons 2 merchants vessels 500 tons 2 F-Boats 12
landing craft 3 aircraft 36.55 N. 25.27 E. 090° 8 knots.
(A/C VRP/T, 080900Z)

P.C. and S. of enemy 2 small vessels 1500 tons, 2 small
vessels 500 tons 11 F-boats 36.56 N. 25.22 E. 140° 8 knots.
(A/C VRP/X 081010B.)

A.H.8. My 061124A sailed (amendments) 23 ships.
Escorts now OAKLEY (S.O. LIDDESDALE, HOLCOMBE.
LAURANA? sailing in company.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 080851A.)

Air MS. 21732. A.316 8th, 11132. Daily Opsum 194.
reports. 6/7th. 1 Ju. 88 dropped flare over Leros Patmos
and Levitha. 7th. 6 Beaufighters on anti-ship-
ping R/C Aegean found 17 barges and small craft
with 2 small merchant vessels between Naxos and
Paros. 6 Beaufighters made 2 attempts to attack but were
driven off by Me. 109s and Arado 196s, 4 Beaufighters despatched
to attack 13 barges reported in Tenos Harbour found only small
craft 3 and made no attacks. 2 attacks by total 8 enemy aircraft
on Leros during day, 1 enemy aircraft damaged by AA fire.
A Beaufighter escorting Naval Units damaged a single Ju.88 S.E.
of Scarpanto?. Enemy last seen losing height from 2000 feet
with port engine on fire.
7/8th operations curtailed by bad weather. 1 Dakota (C.47) air-
borne with supplies for Leros returned because of bad weather.
Operation abandoned. 1 Wellington successfully dropped mines in
Naxos harbour.
(?TME, 081117Z.)

WX 65238. AV 958E 8th November. N.W.A.A.F. Opsum 260.
N/W A.T.A.F. 7th November. 12 U.S. Mitchells B.25. Shipping
Durazzo Harbour failed locate target due cloud dropped 72 x 500,
32 x 250 Ulcinj scoring hits on town. 30 U.S. Mitchells B.25
shipping Ancona Harbour. (?170 x 50 or 570 x 500), 107 x 250.
One ship in harbour and harbour installations hit,
N.W.A.C.A.F. 6/7th Nov. 2 U.S. Beaufighters scrambled for 3
plus enemy aircraft which dropped flares off Bari. No
interceptions.
(H.Q. N.A.A.F. (Spaatz), 081600A.)

/170542...

234

8.11.1943.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Air Reports (Contd.) 170542. A 293 8th Nov. Signed Eisenhower. Air Cositintrep No. 121 of 7th N.W. A.A. F. Day 7th. 12 B.25s bombed Ulcinj in Yugoslavia and Kittyhawks reported accurate bombing in Split causing a large petrol fire on the dock and claiming many direct hits on shipping. (Air C. in C. Med. No. T.O.O. 8th.)

K.M.F.25 M.K.F.25 DERBYSHIRE. Detach one destroyer to overtake K.M.F.25A and escort DERBYSHIRE to Augusta. 2. DERBYSHIRE is required to sail in M.K.F.25A for Philippeville. (C. in C. Med., 081202A to CATTERICK (R) TETCOTT, Admty., V.A. Malta, C. in C. Levant, Cdre. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Augusta, Escorts K.M.F.25A.)

Italian warships, personnel. General policy providing Italian warships operating satisfactorily under my orders is to give such leave and canteen privileges as are practicable according to feelings of local population. Your 071332. 2. For example leave until 1800 at Gib. no leave yet at Algiers because of French bitterness. Leave in restricted areas in Malta. (C. in C. Med., 081245A to F.O.C.W.Africa (R) Admty. F.O.I.C. Gib.)

MIRAGLIA. Your 072353 and my 031306 as reported in F.O.L.I. 031147, he is at present preparing her as Depot ship in which to segregate and base all Italian one man torpedo limpeteer and special craft personnel and stores. 2. F.O.L.I.'s opinion and general appearance of ship indicate she will not be capable of being made fit for regular ocean passages apart from reboiling. 3. In view of need for special craft now in Adriatic and Aegean and possible later use in E.F. strongly recommend she is allocated for this service. 4. In meantime F.O.L.I. instructed to proceed with repair in heel port and furnish details of material required to complete. (C. in C. Mediterranean, 081249 to Admty. (R) F.O.L.I., B.A.D.)

G.U.S.21. Sailed 9 ships. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 081251B.) Sailing telegram part 2 17 ships (names and destinations). (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 081511B.)

H.D.M.Ls. 1303, 1293. Your 040628. No knowledge of these H.D.M.Ls. (C. in C. Levant, 081311B to Com. R.I.N.(R)C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.R.I.N., Admty., F.O.Ceylon, C.C.F., C.F.W., F.O.R.S.C.A.)

/QUEENBOROUGH...

235

8.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

QUEENBOROUGH, Your 081001A (N.T. in W.D.) QUEENBOROUGH and
QUAIL. QUAIL detailed.
2. Request fighter escort priority high
0530A/9th codeword "Norway" 146. P.C. and S. at
0530A/9th 040° 18' N. 019° 20' E. coastwise to
latitude 040° 50' thence Brindisi speed 28 knots.
(Capt. (D) 4, 081314A to Addressed F.O.T.A.(R) No. 1 M.O.R.U.
286 Wing N.L.O. 8th Army Tripoli N.O.I./C. Brindisi.)

1st S.F. FURY, EXMOOR, BLINCATHRA passing North of
information. Leros about 2030B/8th thence North Amorgos about
2230 Kaso 0300 thence to (?Syracuse).
(C. in C. Levant, 081414B to C. in C. Levant.)

Italian Your 031204. First destination should be
merchant ships in Algiers where future service will be arranged by
Spanish ships in N.A.S.B.O.
ports. 2. Request you arrange with F.O.I.C. Gib. for
ships in port East Cape de Gata to proceed
Algiers direct remainder to sail coastwise to
Gib. for onward routeing to Algiers at next
convoy opportunity.
3. Further signal will be made regarding recommendation
for suitable currency for payment of crew.
(C. in C. Med., 081444A to B.N.A.Madrid (R) Admty., F.O.I.C.Gib.)
A.H.8A. My 081519 for JULIET read QUANTOCK. If relief
Destroyer is available request QUANTOCK be sailed to Augusta from
position 112 to arrive p.m. 11th.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 081900A to F.O.T.A.)

U.S. Arrived.
L.S.T. (Com. Aden., 081531Z.)
73.

RICHELIEU. RICHELIEU should now leave the Med. as soon as
practicable, for a number of reasons and
particularly from the morale point of view. If
the ship waits about in the Med. more or less idle
the effect is bound to be bad. The C.O. fully
concurs in these views.
2. Only practicable opportunity in the near future for the
passage to U.K. will be to escort RICHELIEU by TUMULT and
PIORUN but in view of the heavy escort commitment during the
next fortnight it would be appreciated if TUMULT could be
relieved on crossing 043° N.
3. The present intention is that RICHELIEU should sail from
(?Oran) on 14th.
(C. in C. Med., 081616A to Admty. (R) C. in C.H.F., C. in C.,
W.A. C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.C. Gib.)

/SIBYL...

236

8.11.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

SIBYL. Proceed at discretion with all dispatch to arrive North East of Mykoni Channel as soon as possible.
(Capt. (S) 1 081657B to SIBYL (R) 1st S.F., C. in C. Levant.)

Situation 382035 I/32539 8th Nov. Joint Army R.A.F.
Aegean. int. appreciation 24 hours to 1000Z/8th.
1. Ground situation Leros and Samos unchanged up to 1000Z/8th.
2. Our Naval Forces report sinking one Caique (possibly Naval auxiliary) in Naxos - Amorgos area a.m. 7th. No report so far received of any contacts with enemy night 7/8th.
8th. 080900Z hours. position 36.55 N. 25.27 E. (off South point Naxos) course East. 2 vessels (Naval auxiliaries 1,500 tons each) 2 vessels. (Naval auxiliaries) 500 tons each 2 F-Boats 10 other landing craft.
4. Reference para. 4 Appreciation 4th and para. 3 Appreciation 5th CX now reports SS LIVENZA due sail 8th from Candia (?Candia) for Greece via Suda with troops. Further examination photographs 4th now confirm vessel in Candia that date is LIVENZA.
5. Up to 0930Z/7th, 7 Bomber sorties reported on Leros. No other attacks on Islands reported.
7. Latest sightings (see para. 3 above under 8th) show that invasion flotilla having remained yesterday in Leros/Naxos area is today moving Eastward. In view of nightly threat from our Naval forces consider flotilla will probably lie up tonight in Amorgos or Stampalia, and resume passage daylight 9th to Leros/Kos/Kalimmo area. Estimated time passage to operational area from position and time latest sightings (0900Z/8th) including staging Amorgos/Stampalia 30/33 hours at estimated speed 186 (sic) knots, giving earliest E.T.A. 1500Z/9. Consider attack will be launched on Leros with minimum delay after arrival in operational area and will be immediately preceded by intensive bombing.
Threat to Samos still cannot be ignored.
(C. in C. M.E. T.O.O. Nil)
382080 O/32542 8th November. Cositrep 49.
2. Ops. Aegean. A. Leros, Samos, Kastelorizo NTR.
B. Naxos. Lndg. patrol evacuated 5/6 Nov. C. Symi. Ref. Cositrep 42 (or 47) (W.D. Note: 47 is correct) of 6th Nov. now reported 150 Germans landed 2nd by Caiques M.L.C. and tug. Landing supported by Stukas. Force has 2 Fd. guns and M.Gs. 2 Seaplanes arrived 4th with Fascists and German Marines. Governor deported town looted and burnt.
D. Paros. Greek reports L.G. being prepared location not known.
5. Naval Aegean. B. 8th Nov. PENELOPE refuelling Limasol. PENN, PATHFINDER returning Alex. One L.C.T. escorted by REINE DES FLOTS en route Kastelorizo.
6. Air.

/B. ...

237

8.11.1943.

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

Situation B. Enemy. Day 6th Nov. One Ju.88 R/C over
 Aegean Leros. Night 6/7th Nov. One Ju.88 dropped
 (Contd.) flares Leros Patmos and Levitas.
 Day 7th Nov. Two attacks on Leros by eight
 enemy aircraft, one damaged by A/A fire. All
 informed.
 (C. in C. M.E. No. T.O.O.)

It.H.Ships Not to be sailed with casualties embarked pending
 PRINCIPESSA clarification of their status under Geneva
 GIOVANNI, Convention.
 TOSCANA. (C. in C. Med. 081710A to F.O.T.A., N.O.I.C.
 Taranto (R) F.O.L.I., P.S.T.O. Med., F.O.W.It.
 Admty.)

Surface B.A.D. 202153. Surface. Numbers of surface
 craft available for A/S protection of merchant
 for shipping in the Med. vary according to numbers
 Merchant required for offensive operations or for escorting
 Shipping warships or landing craft convoys. Following
 protection. figures should be taken as average in present
 conditions. Figures do not include ships out of
 action for long term repairs but do include ships
 undergoing short term running repairs.

2. Of total 78 destroyers inside Med. 40 available for merchant shipping of which about 20 now employed escorting personnel shipping. Remainder are on offensive operations or army support in Tyrrhenian Adriatic and Aegean.
3. All Frigates, Corvettes, Whalers totalling 40 are available for main convoys plus 15 Trawlers used regularly as merchant ship escorts on subsidiary convoys.
4. 20 French and 4 Greek miscellaneous escorts of L.O.R. category are used on minor convoys and for ships too slow for inclusion in main convoys.
5. In addition to above following A/S forces assist with defence of merchant shipping - (A) 17 P.C. and 35 S.C. employed mainly on escort of L.S.T. convoys. Occasional merchant ships are included in these convoys. The P.Cs. and S.Cs. are also employed on patrol and for escorting coasters.
 (B) 45 trawlers and 85 harbour defence motor launches distributed as local defence craft among the 30 ports now in use are used extensively for local escort work with merchant ships.
 (C) of 80 motor launches about 24 are employed as A/S hunting groups on convoy routes. Remainder being required for miscellaneous services which include minesweeping and escort of landing ships and craft and occasionally merchant ships.
6. As a measure of the extent of protection it is possible to give from the forces available it may be noted that the average convoy of 60 ships has an escort of 5 escorts.

/Air...

238

8.11.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Surface
craft
for
merchant
shipping
protection.
(Contd.)

Air. 7. Following squadrons available - four wellingtons A.S.V. 2 Blenheim G.R, 3 Hudson A.S.V. Impracticable to indicate satisfactory division of duties of above as between A/S protection of merchant shipping and other duties, but following figures may be taken as very rough guide - direct protection of merchant shipping 55% direct protection of warships 15%, offensive sweeps against U/Boats 30%.

Commitments. 8. The commitments are as follows:

- A. Slow convoys each way every 5 days, passage of each convoy through Med. takes about 10 days, so that there are always 4 such convoys at sea. B. Slow convoys every 5 days each way between I. Augusta and Naples.
2. Augusta and ports in Heel of Italy.
C. Movement of troops, air forces and supplies to Corsica and Sardinia.
D. Monthly fast convoys each way through Med. and in addition a heavy commitment for personnel convoys between Egypt and Italy and between French North Africa and Italy.
E. L.S.T. Convoys leave Bizerta escorted almost every day for Naples or for Taranto.
F. A steady stream of minor operational coastal convoys for ships too slow for inclusion in main convoys.
G. A large commitment for movements on Levant and Libyan coasts.
9. In present circumstances while the U/Boat scale of attack in Med. is comparatively reduced, I consider that the forces available just meet the requirements, though with little margin. If any serious increment of U/Boats arrives the forces available will not suffice.
(C. in C. Med., 081721, 081745A, 0915449 to Admty. (R) B.A.D., C. in C. Levant, Commavnaw.)

PILAR DE
LARRINAGA.

My 072101A sailed 1 hour late. Codeword? "Massive".
(S.N.O. Tripolitania, 081721A.)

Naples
movements.

Gulf of Naples 8th November arrivals U.S.S. DAVISON (Sic) MALLANAHAW, JONES, DAVIS, THURSTON, H.M.S. COLOMBO M.L.557, GRENVILLE, TYRIAN, TUMULT, PIORUN It. Cruiser MONTECUCCOLI Departures H.S. SEMINOLE, LOOKOUT, NUBIAN.
(N.O.I.C. Naples, 081816A.)

K.M.F.25A.

Arrived (3 ships).
(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 081819A.)

Transfer
of
operational
control
R.A.F.Gib.
is A.O.C.in
C. Coastal
Command.

M.S.21753. A. 255 8th November, 1943.
Recommendation concurred in by Navy that transfer be effected on same date that unified naval command limits are established. Latter subject still under consideration. Reference your AX.240 4th and Admiralty 062017A.
(Med. Air Command, 081847Z to Air Min, H.Q. Med. Air Command Post (R) Coastal Command, A.H.Q. Gibraltar.)

/CAGNI...

239

8.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

CAGNI. Will bear your 172201* in mind but it looks as though it will be operationally vital to use CAGNI for at any rate one store carrying trip to Leros. My 081934+ refers.
(C. in C. Levant, 081938B to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty., F.O.L.I., Capt. (S) 1, F.O.(S))
*No trace in W.R.; repetition requested.
+ N.T. in W.D.

U.S. movements. Sailed ORDRONAU, CHAMPLIN, BOYLE, NIELDS, PARKER, LAUB.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 082001A.)

Levant situation report No. 103. To 1800B/8, PENN, PATHFINDER left Turkish waters last night for anti-shipping sweep of Naxos Area and investigate Port Vathy, Amorgos for two merchant vessels located there by air R/C. Close search of bays revealed no enemy craft either here or anywhere along the North coast and the destroyers withdrew South, being met by PENELOPE south of the Kaso Strait.

2. FURY, EXMOOR, BLENCATHRA remained in Mandelya Gulf in view of weather conditions and to provide striking force for tonight. Invasion force sighted by aircraft this afternoon standing towards Amorgos. Southerly gale in the area. Wellingtons laid mines in Port Naxia last night.

3. PETARD, ROCKWOOD, KRAKOWIAK, entering Aegean North of Rhodes tonight to lie up.
(C. in C. Levant, 082012B.)

UNRIVALLED. Have 2 R.A.A.F. personnel on board both 603 Patrol report. Sqdn. (names). Me. 109 base in vicinity of Paros. Remainder of patrol blank.
(P.45 (UNRIVALLED) 082031A to Capt. S.1,201 Group H.Q., C. in C. Levant, Capt. S.10.)

Ships available for Aegean operations. Now available for Aegean operations.
A. At sea. PENELOPE on three shafts, three "Fleets", six "Hunts".
B. In harbour. Less than 48 hours. PHOENIX, one "Fleet", 2 "Hunts".
C. In harbour. More than 48 hours. One "Hunt"
2. DIDO completes 27th. SIRIUS in hand for permanent repairs at Massawa. AURORA ready 12th for passage to Taranto for permanent repairs. 3. FAULKNER to have short refit on completion of JERVIS approx. 14th. PATHFINDER taken in hand for boiler cleaning today. PALADIN aligning a bracket, date uncertain. ECHO defective until 1600/9th. BELVOIR completes boiler clean and action repair a.m. 9th.
(C. in C. Levant, 082114B, to Admty., (R C. in C. Med.)

/Cyprus...

240

8.11.1943.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Cyprus
movements.

8th. Arrived and left PETARD, KRAKOWIAK,
ROCKWOOD.
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta Cyprus, 082237B.)

Med.
situation
report
No.225.

1. My 072243 paragraph 6 SS. SANTA ELENA sank
off Philippeville at 18(00) 7th.
2. (?QUEENBOROUGH) and RAIDER carried out
sweep in Adriatic night 6th 7th. No incident
reported.
3. SS. SURVILLE was mined east Cape Bon on 7th
and has been beached. Ship entered QB 74
during bad weather.
(C. in C. Med., 082244A.)

Algeria,
movements.

Arrivals - F.T.8 CHAMPLIN (U.S.S.) ORDRONAU
(U.S.S.) NIELD (U.S.S.) BOYLE (U.S.S.)
Departures - BISCAYNE (U.S.S.) PILOT (U.S.S.)
RICHELIEU (Fr.), GANTNER, (U.S.S.).
(Com. Algeria, 082251A.)

ZOEA.

P.C. and S. at 2330/8 zone minus 2, 034° 38' N.
028° 00' E. 106° 10 knots.
(ZOEA, 082331B to Capt. S.L. (R) C. in C. Levant,
S.O. S/Ms. Haifa.)

POZARICA,
ARGENTINA,
ARSIA.

Confirm that the 3 Italian merchant vessels
mentioned in A.M. 291815 Oct. are to be dealt
with as ships placed at our disposal under
N.A.F.381 as proposed by Cominch. B.A.D.'s
030031 refers.
(1st S.L., 082341A to C. in C. Med., (R) B.A.D.)

241

8.11.1943.
Monday.War Dairy.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

P.B.62A. Arrival KARACHI escorting P.B.62A.
(N.O.I/C. Karachi, 080612Z, to Admty.)

BARFOUNT, Sailed BARFOUNT for PAMANZI to carry out
PAMANZI. inspection of flying boat moorings.
(Colombo, 080801Z, to F.O.E.A. (R) C. in C. E.F.,
(S.E.A.C.), 206 Wing 238 North Wing.)

China U.S. 28th Oct. A B-25 Mitchells on sea sweep attached
Air Report. 2 freighters 150 ft. long near Saint Johns Island
with 6 bombs weighing 500 lbs. 1 freighter sunk
1 freighter left listing probably sunk.

29th Oct. 1 Mitchell B-25 on sea sweep of Kwantchosan (or
Kwantchewan) Peninsula attacked two freighters 150 ft. long
near Saint John's Island. 1 sunk and other left sinking. The
number of 500 lb. bombs used was six. 5 P-38's lightnings
bombed decks and shipping at Kiukiang scoring direct hits and
starting large fires. Intercepted by 8 to 10 Jap. fighters and
10 to 15 Tojos, 4 P-38's lost.
(C. in C. India, T.O.O. Nil. Recd. 081010.)

LE TRIOMPHANT. Concur with your 070317 but presume that only
a brief call at Diego Suarez and Jibuti is
intended.
(C. in C. E.F. 081138Z, to A.C.N.B. (R) F.O.E.A.,
Admty., C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, N.O.I.C.
Diego Suarez, B.A.D.)

Your 070317 and my 081114 neither to all addressees refers.
Route for LE TRIOMPHANT from Fremantle to Diego Suarez.
4. F.O. E.A. and F.O.R.S.C.A. are requested to issue onward
routes from Diego Suarez to Jibuti and from Jibuti to Suarez
respectively.
(C. in C. E.F. 081453, to A.C.N.B. (R) N.O.I.C. Diego
Garcia, Com. I.C. Aden, F.O. East Africa, N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez,
Admty., C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.), C. in C. Med., C. in C.
Levant, F.O. Red Sea and Canal Area, B.A.D., F.O. Ceylon.)

BATTLER. E.T.A. BATTLER and escort 090400Z. Following from
S.O. Escort convoy 18 A begins E.T.A. 091200Z.
Request lights. Weather report.
(BATTLER. 081300Z, to Cdre.R.I.N. (R) C. in C.
E.F.)

HOUSTON CITY. Request diversion HOUSTON CITY for discharge
Mauritius before proceeding Reunion. Further
signal follows.
(D.T.D. 081309A, to C. in C. E.F., Info.N.C.S.O.
Mauritius, N.C.S.O. Diego Suarez, C. in C. S.A.)

At urgent request of French Committee of National Liberation it
is required to lift some twenty-five thousand tons sugar off
Port de Galets Reunion during next few weeks.
2. M. of W.T. will allocate ships and Admty. has consented with
proviso that ships may be ordered by W/T to sail at short notice.

242

8.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

HOUSTON 3. Request masters of ships nominated by
CITY - Contd. M.W.T.R.'s may be warned accordingly.
4. First shipment by HOUSTON CITY my 081309
refers.
(D.T.D. 081727A, to C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A.,
N.C.S.O. Mauritius.)

E.F. 1st The Battle Squadron which is eventually to be
B.S. formed in the Eastern Fleet will be known as the
First Battle Squadron. The title of Third Battle
Squadron is to lapse forthwith.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 082136A, to C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.),
(R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.R.I.N.,
C. in C. H.F., Cominch, B.A.D., F.O. Ceylon, F.O. E.A.,
A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B.)

243

8.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

- H.J.68. Departures MORDEN, GANANOQUE, GODERICH with H.J.68.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 080008 to Admty.)
- B.X.82. Sailing telegram part 1 B.X.82 7.5 knots.
Route. E.T.A. Halifax 2115Z Nov. 11. Task Unit
8. Cdre. Lt. Comdr. Campbell R.C.N.R. in U.S.S.
PONTIAC, ANNAPOLIS (S.O.), SASKATOON, KENOGAMI,
SHEDIAC. "Chop" 2000 Nov. 10. Q.J.A. 247.
(P.D.Boston 081321Z to Admty. (Comnaveu pass):
Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. C.E.S.F. Comdeslant,
Nav. Serv. Hd. (R.C.N.) Ottawa, C.T.F. 24, P.D.N.Y.
C. in C.C.N.A.)
- U/B. Bearing of German U-Boat by ACCRINGTON 013° 2nd
class from 045° 40' N. 057° 17' W. at 081355Z.
F.A.R. 31 groups.
(W.6 081440Z to C. in C.C.N.A.)
- U.S.Plane slightly damaged by fire from U-Boat 1440Z today 013°
18' 068° 04'.
(S.O.I.Jamaica 081441R to Admty.)
- O.N.209 Inclusive D/F bearings at 1355Z 31 groups "Enigma"
U/B. suggest you may have been reported.
(N.S.H.Q. 081452Z to Ships escorting O.N.209 (R)
C. in C.C.N.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.)
- O.N.209 sail W.10 ROXBOROUGH and LEAMINGTON forthwith at best
speed to support C.4 to "Homp".
(C. in C.C.N.A. 082012Z to F.O.N.F. (R) Ships escorting
convoy O.N.209, C. in C.W.A. Admty. Connav, A.C.I.C. Cdr. D.W.A.
S.B.N.O.Azores, N.S.H.Q. H.Q.C.C. Cdre. D.Argentia.)
- N.S.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q. 081523Z.)
S/M Estimate.
- U.S. S/M (Cominch 081628Z.)
Estimate.
- U/B. Enemy submarine previously reported is still on
surface.
(A/C ACL/N (Via Newfoundland) 081630Z to Admty.)
N.B. This refers to the report in F.O.N.F.'s 081634Z
Aircraft ACL/N sighted U-Boat 052° 51' N. 046° 26' W. about 1600Z.
(F.O.N.F. 081634Z to C.4 C. in C.C.N.A. (R) N.S.H.Q. Connav,
Admty. A.C.I.C. C. in C.W.A. H.Q.C.C. Cmdr. D.Argentia, Cmdre.
D.W.A.)
- C.T.G.21.11. This is C. in C.Lant's 081415 addressed Commorsea-
SANTEE fron, F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) Comnaveu, Admty. C.T.G.21.11
C.T.G.21.11 in SANTEE proceeding from vicinity
Azores to area 44 N 23 W.
(Comnaveu 081642 to Admty.)

8.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

T.A.69A. Arrival New York 081250Z.
(ANDES). (P.D.New York 081648Z to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)

U/B. One German U-Boat sighted in 052° 39' N. 046° 02' W.
(C.4 081655Z to C. in C.W.A.)
My 081655Z submarine reported by aircraft has dived.
(C.4 081725Z to C. in C.W.A.)

LADY DENISON Arrival 8th.
PENDER. (B.R.O.Castries 081700 to Admty.)

Landing Ships & Craft in Mediterranean. Following is text N.A.F.507 dated 4th Nov. Begins:
Ensuing is reply to final paragraph F.A.N. 264.
Losses to date:

Type.	British	United States.
L.S.T.	3	4
L.C.I. (1)	3	1
L.C.T. (3)	18	Nil
L.C.T. (4)	17	Nil
L.C.T. (5)	Nil	10

Note:- British losses include craft whose engines are being sent to U.K. These craft are being paid off and used as lighters.

B. L.S.T.(2) Balance Sheet:

(i) British	Received	74
	Now in theatre	66
	Lost	3
	Sent India	5
	Destined U.K.	58
(ii) U.S.	Received	86
	Now in theatre	72
	Lost	4
	Sent India	10
	Destined U.K.	48

C. L.S.T.(1) Balance Sheet:

H.M.S.MISOA sent U.K. BOXER, BRUISER, THRUSTER sent India. Ends.
(Britman 081701Z.)

C.U.Convoys
Number of
Passengers.

3. In view of my 032235*para. 1 and because Admiralty 291651 only agreed to full numbers in C.U.convoys, arrangements are being made to embark passengers to the rule for British ships in Trade convoy. Request early confirmation.
(B.A.D. 081733Z to D. of S.T. (R) Admty.)
* re number of troops to be carried in ships in C.U. convoys.

Enemy tor-
pedoes, photo-
graphs.

Ref. S.C. E.G.2 061315Z and 06200A (sic). Your torpedo officer is to meet ships of E.G.2 to photograph parts of enemy torpedoes and forward copies with a report by bomber mail to Admiralty and N.S.H.Q. for D.O.D.
(N.S.H.Q. 082040Z to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C.C.N.A. Admty. Capt. D.Newfoundland.)

VAGRANT.

Bermuda departure.
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 082046Z.)

/Sub...

245

8.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Sub. attack & sighting summary. Para. A. Sub. attacked 13.18 N. 68.04 W. 1439/8.
Para. B. C.S.2N plane sighted wake course 250 16.25 N. 66.16 W. 1945/7.
Para. C. Surface craft sighted periscope 00.43 S. 43.01 W. 0820/8.
Para. D. SS. INCONFIDENTE sighted sub. 11.03 S. 36.07 W. 1300/6. All times Z.
(Cominch 082110Z to Admty.)

UGANDA, CLEOPATRA crews. Propose that UGANDA and CLEOPATRA on arrival in U.S.A. provide one runner crew each for destroyer escort vessels to steam them direct to the U.K. My 082156 in plain language which F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to pass to UGANDA and CLEOPATRA lists proposed composition of these crews. As many as possible of the engine room personnel should have some diesel experience but in any case diesel training will be available in U.S.A.
(B.A.M.R. 082154Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med. F.O.Gibraltar, UGANDA, CLEOPATRA.)

H.H.X.265. Departures CALDWELL, OAKVILLE and MELVILLE escorting H.H.X.265.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 082337A to Admty.)

NORTHWAY, OCEANWAY. Navy Dept. have today assigned to R.N. NORTHWAY and OCEANWAY completing on the 15 Feb. and 29 March respectively.
2. Assignment however is subject to written confirmation that crews for these ships can be provided by the dates in question. Request therefore you will signal the necessary confirmation as soon as possible.
(B.A.M.R. 082352 to Admty. (R) D. of S.T.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial No. 657 Nov. 7th. 7. During early hours Navy Catalina unsuccessfully attacked northbound solitary cruiser or destroyer off west coast New Hanover.
8. Five ship convoy described 1 tanker, 2 medium freighters, 2 sea trucks observed midday 135 miles northeast Mussau Island course 200°.
10. Photos. Rabaul during carrier strike 5th show MOGANI, 2 NACHI 3 ATAGO, 1 TONG class heavy cruisers, 1 each SENDAI, YUBARI, NATORI class light cruisers, 14 destroyers. Bomb hits confirmed on one each TONG, ATAGO, NACHI, SENDAI, but all bombs not yet fallen nor torpedoes launched.

War Diary.

8.11.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

- Digest serial 11. Ref. Digest 656 para. 12 approx. 10 aircraft
No. 657 Nov. covering ships. Four R.A.A.F. Beauforts des-
7th (Contd.) patched to strike scored probable torpedo hit 1
cruiser or destroyer after midnight 40 miles S.W.
Buka Passage course 60°. At approx. same time
Sopac Catalina observed possible separate force 2
light cruisers, 5 destroyers, 10 miles further S.E. on course 200°. Latter group later struck by 6 R.A.A.F. Beauforts outside Empress Augusta Bay scoring direct bomb hit 1 destroyer, near miss on another. Preliminary report indicates Japs landed early morning from 20 odd barges near our left flank Torokina area. After dawn 2 light cruisers, 5 destroyers steaming up Saint Georges Channel at 18 knots.
12. Estimated only 20 Japanese remain on Treasury Islands. In-effective light air raids our position here night 4th/5th.
13. 20 enemy single engine bombers attacked amphibious vessels with 1 patrol craft between Treasury Islands. Empress Augusta Bay dusk 6th. Two dud torpedoes hit our ships otherwise nil damage reported. Five bombers shot down.
14. Same date morning escorted sweeps by 5 and 4 Mitchells respectively northern Bougainville also western Buka Island sank 5 small freighters whereof largest 300 feet, 1 corvette in masthead height attacks in addition to two barges. Another 25 barges strafed. 8 Zeros intercepted (?morning) formation and 1 shot down while escorting Corsairs destroyed single enemy bomber off west coast Bougainville. Nil interception afternoon strike all our aircraft returned both missions.
15. 44 Dauntless, 17 Avengers with 32 fighters covering struck Kara aerodrome noon 6 groups missing later by 24 Mitchells, 8 Corsairs. Excellent coverage target area causing some fires. Escorting fighters destroyed or set afire five barges off south (?coast). 2 Zeros airborne did not engage and only slight mainly light A.A. encountered. One Dauntless missing.
18. Search Liberator bombed convoy described 3 freighter, 2 gunboats 60 miles N.E. Mussau Island scoring near miss 1 cargo vessel. Two Float Planes encountered (?over) shipping.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 080800Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions
(D.D.I.C. 081400A, 081444A.)

Submarines Attacked.

Submarine attack & sighting summary for 24 hours to 0900Z/8th. Para. A. A/C 1618 attacked U/B with gunfire at 0845/7th in 47° 15' N. 04° 30' W. QUADRANT attacked contact at 1840/7th in 17° 06' S. 40° 28' E. W.D.Note: QUADRANT's 071840Z as corrected by W.R. gives lat. 18.54 S. Fighter A/C sighted 2 U/Bs at 1627/7th in 48° 20' N. 05° 09' W. Course 090°. Para. D. A/C reported partly submerged U/B at 1225/7th in 38° 32' N. 26° 40' W. Course 020°

Ref. A.M. 071111A. Para. A. a.m. SANTA ELENA and Du. MARNIX were torpedoed by A/C and not by U-Boat.
(D.D.I.C. 080956Z to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

247

9:11.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.S.

1. NORFOLK arrived at Scapa at 0702A and BELFAST at Hvalfjord at 1034A today.

Convoy
M.K.S.29
attacked.
One U-Boat
sunk by A/C.
One U-Boat
damaged by
HAVELOCK.

2. At 0500Z today HAVELOCK who, with VOLUNTEER is supporting Convoy M.K.S.29, sighted and at 0730Z attacked a U-Boat in 41° N. 19° 33' W. (about 500 miles due West of Oporto) and damaged her with one depth charge and one hedgehog attack. HIGHLANDER (S.O. of B.4 Escort Group escorting the Convoy) reported at 1401Z that at least 4 U-Boats had been near the Convoy at 0800Z, and that one of them had been sunk by Fortress A/C which had joined the Convoy from the Azores. This is perhaps the U-Boat which an aircraft of 247 Group attacked at 0728Z in 40.31 N. 20.17 W., one survivor and wreckage being seen; the aircraft considered the U-Boat to have been sunk and the Admiralty reported it sunk. This was the first U-Boat sunk by aircraft operating from the Azores. C. in C. W.A. estimates that the U.S. A/C Carrier SANTEE escorted by 3 U.S. destroyers will reach the Convoy tonight.

Anti-
U-Boat
campaign.

3. C. in C. W.A. considers that U-Boats are now remaining submerged during daylight far longer than heretofore and that air searches, to be successful, must in future be chiefly carried out at night. He has accordingly today issued a directive to Escort Carriers in his command that they are to take every opportunity of practising night flying.

SS. QUEEN
ELIZABETH.

4. QUEEN ELIZABETH arrived in the Clyde at 0644A today with a total of 13,018 personnel from New York.

Defence of
Rosyth.

5. It has come to the knowledge of C. in C. Rosyth that further reductions in the fixed defences of the Firth of Forth are under consideration by the Chiefs of Staff Committee. This is the first information C. in C. Rosyth has received.

248

9.11.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic.Escorts of
O.S./S.L.
Convoys.
West
African
escorts.

6(a) F.O.C.W.Af. is disturbed at the lack of protection of O.S./S.L. convoys. These convoys contain cargoes of oil seeds and rubber which are seasonal products and of greater importance than ever; and on the 2000 mile run from Freetown to Gibraltar the convoys, which average 30 ships, have only 3 escort vessels. F.O.C.W.Af. considers that we must accept considerably greater risks east of Freetown for increased security north of that place; and on this conception he is examining various methods of augmenting the escorts from the West African escort forces.

(b) The Admiralty, however, consider the present escort sufficient, particularly as the convoy route is under good air cover throughout its length, and they do not share his view that we must accept greater risks east of Freetown for increased security north of that place.

Mediterranean.

7. F.O.C. West Africa requires four escort vessels to operate from Dakar and earmarked for escort of French shipping on the west coast. The Admiralty today asked C. in C. Mediterranean whether he could assist in the matter.

French
S/MS.

8. Six operational French submarines are at present employed under C. in C. Mediterranean for patrol and clandestine landing operations off the south coast of France.

"Avalanche".

9. The destroyers TUMULT, TYRIAN, PIORUN and GRENVILLE last night carried out a successful bombardment in the Gulf of Gaeta in support of the 5th Army.

Adriatic.

10(a) Captain D.4 in QUILLIAM, on patrol with RAIDER south of Valona, at 2026 reported sighting an enemy merchant vessel escorted by 3 E-Boats in 40.12 N. 19.30 E. (off the coast of Albania, about 45 miles east of Otranto). At 2043 he reported that the merchant vessel (apparently a Siebel ferry loaded with petrol and ammunition) had been blown up and that he was chasing the E-Boats to the southward. Two of the latter were found beached in a cove; one was damaged and Captain D.4 destroyed it; the other he took

/in tow ...

249

9.11.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.Adriatic.
(Contd.)

in tow for Brindisi. He found no trace of the third boat.
(b) Kittyhawks report 3 hits today on a medium motor vessel at Split.

Aegean.

11(a) FURY, EXMOOR and BLENCATHRA left Turkish waters last night and closely inspected the bays on the north coast of Amorgos without finding any shipping. The destroyers withdrew to the Gulf of Doris, being unable to clear Keso Strait by daylight.
(b) PETARD, ROCKWOOD and KRAKOWIAK arrived at Guvergenik (Gulf of Mandelyah) at daylight today. They have a small number of troops and stores for transfer by M.L. to Leros.
(c) The invasion fleet flotilla consisting of two merchant ships and 10 invasion craft, was sighted by aircraft p.m. today in two groups, making for Levitha Island and Stampalia. PETARD, ROCKWOOD and KRAKOWIAK left Turkish waters to sweep between these islands and investigate Levitha itself. A search of Levitha Western Bay and Kinaros Island revealed no shipping and the destroyers bombarded Levitha Harbour with unknown results.
(d) Two Wellingtons were despatched last night to attack shipping in Naxia harbour. One aircraft returned early; the other made no sightings and dropped bombs on the harbour. The results were not seen.

Turkish waters.

12. C. in C. Med. today issued instructions that ships are not to be attacked inside Turkish territorial waters until further orders.

Suda Bay.

13. The concentration of shipping in Suda Bay was bombed again today by 10 Baltimores. A 400 ft. vessel was hit twice.

East Indies.

Burma.

14. River steamers and other river craft were damaged by air attacks on the lower Irrawaddy today.

250

9.11.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

15. Allied aircraft attacked the air strips at Alexishafen (north coast of New Guinea) this forenoon. It is reported that 21 enemy aircraft were destroyed and others damaged on the ground, and 14 to 16 intercepting enemy fighters were shot down. Three Allied aircraft were lost.

16. An enemy convoy making for Rabaul, consisting apparently of 1 light cruiser, 3 destroyers and 5 merchantmen, was attacked by Liberators tonight and one destroyer was hit and seen to sink.

9.11.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.A/S
training
at Scapa.O.15 is to be diverted to Scapa when she is required for A/S training with R.A.(D) Home Fleet until 20th November after which she will be required to proceed on patrol.
(F.O.S.091831A to Capt. (S) 9)

ROYALIST.

Your O61645.
ROYALIST is to be fitted out at Greenock as Flagship for Escort Carrier Assault Force.
(2) She is to be ready to sail by 1st Jan.1944.
(D.O.D.(H), 091834A to F.O.I.C.Glasgow)Escort
vessels
to reinforce
Eastern
Fleet.My 301010 in para.1 (A) for CYGNET read WOODCOCK.
(2) CYGNET joins E.G.2 after refit.
(C. in C. W.A. 092203A to as former)
My ~~301019~~. WOODCOCK is allocated to Eastern Fleet in place of CYGNET.
(C. in C. W.A. 092206A to Admty.)
✕ Escort vessels required to reinforce Eastern Fleet.Defence of U.K.Firth of
Forth
fixed
defences.

It has come to my knowledge that further reductions in the fixed defences of the Firth of Forth are under consideration by the Chiefs of Staff Committee. This is the first information I have received. Whilst, under the scale of attack envisaged, there is no Naval objection to the reduction of the guns, I am anxious to

retain certain of the searchlights in both Middle and Inner Lines.

(2) With regard to the Middle Line, it is considered most desirable to be able to illuminate the waters over the Inchkeith controlled minefield. This would entail the retention and/or replacement of the following C.A.S.Ls - two concentrated moving lights each at Inchkeith North and Pettycur, one each at Inchkeith South and Leith Docks, all at two minutes notice.

(3) With regard to the Inner Line, local defence organisation includes the illumination of the Oxcars Boom during certain periods to ensure that Human Torpedoes, etc. are not obtaining entry over the Boom and it is also considered desirable to be able to illuminate the Boom in the event of attack by light surface forces. This would entail the retention of the following C.A.S.Ls - One concentrated moving light each at Cramond North and South and Inchcolm North and South, all at two minutes notice.

(4) I would urge that consideration may be given to the retention of sufficient personnel at the specified batteries to man the necessary C.A.S.Ls.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 091200A to Admty.)

War Diary.9.11.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

BRISSENDEN. Arrived your 072318.
(R.N.O. Seidisfiord 091013A to A.C.I.C.)

Landing Ships and Escort. Your 021653A. Arrived less STARWORT, proceeded to Plymouth.
(F.O.I.C.Falmouth, 091215A to F.O.C.Gibraltar)

RENOWN, QUEEN ELIZABETH. Cancel para. 3 my 081112A. Pass the Gate at 0430/10th and proceed by standard route to meet RENOWN and QUEEN ELIZABETH escorted by ORIBI and ROCKET off Longship at 0900/10th. You are to place yourselves under orders of RENOWN and act as additional escort to RENOWN and QUEEN ELIZABETH continuing with ORIBI as escort to QUEEN ELIZABETH to Portland. You are to remain at Portland for further escort of QUEEN ELIZABETH under orders RAGLAN. N.O.I.C.Portland is requested to sail ORIBI to Plymouth on arrival off Portland. (C. in C. Plymouth, 091230A to MELBREAK.)

RICHELIEU. When RICHELIEU is ready about 14th Nov. C. in C. Med. is requested to sail her to Scapa escorted by TUMULT and PIORUN.
(2) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail ORIBI to relieve TUMULT in 43 degs. N.
(3) On crossing 51 degs. N. ORIBI and PIORUN are to be detached to Plymouth and RICHELIEU is to proceed independently at best speed to vicinity of Butt of Lewis from where C. in C. H.F. is requested to provide escort to Scapa.
(4) C. in C. Med's 031906 and 081616 and C. in C. H.F's 062253 refer.
(V.C.N.S.091511A to C. in C. Med.)

North Atlantic Dispositions. Disposition of operational units in North Atlantic: Area Scapa. DUKE OF YORK, ANSON, HOWE, FORMIDABLE, AUGUSTA, ARIADNE, BERMUDA, ENTERPRISE, JAMAICA, KENT, NORFOLK, RANGER, 17 Destroyers, 5 U.S. Destroyers.
Area Iceland, TUSCALOOSA, BELFAST.
Belfast, 1 U.S. Destroyer.
Area Plymouth, LONDON, 3 Destroyers.
Passage to Gibraltar, GLASGOW.
Patrol Bay of Biscay, CEYLON.
(2) Disposition of Escort Carriers Operating in Atlantic. TRACKER. Argentia, BITER. Area Clyde, FENCER.
(D.O.D.(H), 091536Z to C. in C. U.S. Fleet)

ORION. Ref. A.M. 271655 October intend sailing ORION from Needles 1000A/10th for Gibraltar.
(2) Routed by Q.Z.S. 424, 441, 416, 425 and 410 thence (OA) 180 degs. Lizard Head 3 miles.

9.11.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

ORION (OB) 180 degs. Bishop 10 miles.
(Contd.) (OC) 049 degs. 24' N. 015 degs. 51' W.
(OD) 045 degs. 01' N. 017 degs. 32' W.
(OE) 043 degs. 02' N. (7017 degs.) 50' W.

You are requested to signal onward route from position OE speed 20 knots to pass Lizard Head at 1800A/10th and thence 23 knots and as requisite for passage E.T.A. p.m. 13th.
(4) Codeword "Consequence".
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 091616A, 101231A to F.O.I.C.Gibraltar).
Re: C. in C. Portsmouth requested to sail ORION when ready for sea to rejoin Mediterranean Fleet.

S/M Positions of S/M's at 0800A/10 and movements for
Movements. following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 091624A, 092319A)

Operations.

Operation Scapa arrival NORFOLK.
F.S. (A.C.O.S. 090702A to H.F.)
Hvalfiord arrival C.S.10 in BELFAST at 1034A/9th.
(A.C.I.C. 091120A to H.F.)
After leaving convoy and if fuel permits detach
SAVAGE direct to Scapa as ship is required for early boiler
cleaning.
(R.A.D. 091901A to Capt. (D) 3)

S/M VENTURER is to be north of 067 degs. N. by 0600A/
Patrols. 11th. If unable to comply VENTURER is to dive
by day from 11th November till north of 067 degs.
N.
(F.O.S.091014A to S/M's)

Request you will sail 015 from Lerwick at 1200A/11th. through
090 degs. Muckle Flugga 15 miles and (Y) 061 degs. 33', 002 degs.
32' thence direct to patrol line 145.

Proceeding diving by day after passing through (Y)
(Capt. (S) 9, 091015 to S.O. S/M. Lerwick)

ULA is to leave patrol at 1700A/11th through 090 degs.
Muckle Flugga 5 miles, to arrive Lerwick 12th November.
Proceeding on surface at C.O's discretion.

(Capt. (S) 9, 091019A to S/M's)

Estimated positions at 0800A/10th are STUBBORN 066 degs.
01' N. 000 degs. 01' W. SYRTIS 066 degs. 34' N. 003 degs. 40' E.
VARANGIAN 064 degs. 57' N. 000 degs. 20' W.

(2) Waiting patrol positions are established as follows SC as in
my 072212. SE 062 degs. 01' N. 003 degs. 15' W. SF 062 degs.
20' N. 003 degs. 01' W.

(3) Unless STUBBORN can reach SD by 0400A/12th, she is to patrol
in SC until further orders.

(4) VARANGIAN and SYRTIS are to patrol in SE and SF respectively
until further orders.

(F.O.S. 091326A to S/M's)

Positions /...

9.11.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

- S/M Positions of Submarines at 0800A/10th and
Patrols. movements for following 24 hours.
(Contd.) (A) SYRTIS 66 degs. 34' N. 03 degs. 40' E.
probably on the surface through 66 degs. 01' N.
00 degs. 01' W. thence towards 61 degs. 42' N.
03 degs. 30' W. speed 10 knots.
(B) STUBBORN 66 degs. 01' N. 00 degs. 01' W. probably on the
surface towards 61 degs. 42' N. 03 degs. 30' W. speed 10 knots.
(C) VARANGIAN 64 degs. 57' N. 00 degs. 20' W. probably on the
surface through 64 degs. 46' N. 01 degs. 01' W. thence towards
61 degs. 42' N. 03 degs. 30' W. speed 6 knots.
(D) VENTURER 64 degs. 22' N. 04 degs. 10' E. probably on the
surface towards 69 degs. 02' N. 10 degs. 50' E. speed 8 knots.
(E) ULA on patrol vicinity 62 degs. 09' N. 02 degs. 41' E.
(K) STONEHENGE 44 degs. 01' N. 012 degs. 21' W. dived by day
to the southward, crossing 43 degs. N. at 2200/10th., thence
through 42 degs. 01' N. 03 degs. 10' W. Advance 120 miles in
24 hours.
(L) K.15, 46 degs. 06' N. 12 degs. 55' W. dived by day to the
southward, advance 120 miles in 24 hours.
(M) UNRUFFLED 44 degs. 30' N. 13 degs. 22' W. dived by day to
the northward, advance 110 miles in 24 hours.
(F.O.S.091624A to Admty.

Operation referred to in my 091009 delayed at least 24 hours.
Cancel paras. 3 and 4 of my 091326. STUBBORN, VARANGIAN, SYRTIS
proceed as ordered in my 072212, reporting E.T.A. Lerwick when
south of 063 degs. N.

- (F.O.S. 092022A to S/M's)
Cancel my 091014. My 092022 refers.
(F.O.S. 092206A to S/M's)

Bay Patrol. At 090211 A/C from Gibraltar sighted Radar Blip
7 miles to port in 44 degs. 35' N. 10 degs. 08' W.
Sight seen 10 miles distant, yellowish,
continuous glow. Small white light alongside,
home on light, light extinguished 7 miles. Homed on Radar Blip
which disappeared 5-1/2 miles. Swept area in moonlight,
continued on course 5 miles, again swept area. Considered Blip
was U-Boat as very steady. Light could have been acetylene lamp
being used.

- (R.A.F. Hamworthy, 091040A to 19 Group)
Proceed forthwith to take up new patrol-line within 40
miles of line position (GH) 041 degs. 06' N. 015 degs. 57' W.
and (GJ) 038 degs. 40' N. 013 degs. 44' W.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 091257A to CEYLON)
Disposition at 092000. (1) K.15, 047 degs. 30' N. 012 degs.
55' W. 180 degs. daily advance 120 miles.
(2) STONEHENGE 045 degs. 30' N. 012 degs. 21' W. 180 degs. daily
advance 120 miles.
(3) UNRUFFLED 043 degs. 15' N. 013 degs. 22' W. 000 degs. daily
advance 110 miles.
(5) CEYLON patrolling between 041 degs. 06' N. 015 degs. 57' W.
and 038 degs. 40' N. 013 degs. 44' W.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 091609 to Ships)

V.P. My 081845. Sailed 1045 today. (2) No.
Operation. (A.C.O.S. 091139 to Admty.)

255

9.11.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal Patrols 9th Nov. (1) Force 116.
Force M.G.Bs 329 (S.O) 322 are to patrol in vicinity
Patrols. 100. Start 22.
(3) Force to be on patrol by 2000A, leave patrol
for Dartmouth 0630A/10.
(C. in C. Plymouth 091240A)
(A) M.G.B.312 (S.O) 316, 326 immediate notice at Newhaven
(B) CHASSEURS 41, 14 Patrol QZS 384 between F buoy and EA 5
buoy.
(C) M.L.291 immediate notice at St. Helens.
(D) ALBRIGHTON immediate notice at Yarmouth.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 091414A)
My 091414A para. 1 (E). Amend to read M.G.B's 613 (S.O),
602, 616, carry out Patrol on 50 degs. 17' N. between 02 degs.
10' W. and 02 degs. 30' W. from 2200A to 0315A/10th, by which
time they are to be in position 180 degs. Portland Bill 18 miles.
Thence carry out patrol 10 miles South of Convoy-Route to
Needles keeping abreast W.P. 428. Under no circumstances are
M.G.B's to approach within 5 miles of Convoy. Enter Needles
Channel at daylight and return to Newhaven by Inshore Route.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 091846A)

Enemy Air Activity.

Jan Mayen. Following from Jan Mayen. Aircraft heard in
southerly direction 0930.
(A.C.I.C. 091600A to Admty.)

Enemy A/C Armament. Reports have been received that Do.217 are being
replaced by He.177 and possibly Ju.290.
(2) The possibility therefore exists that these
aircraft may be armed with H.S.293 glider bombs
or P.C.1400 F.X. radio corrected bombs.
A.G.M. 752A of 8th October, 1943 and 935 A.B.1
of 7th Nov.1943 refer.
(D.G.D.091859A: A.G.M.951A.B.2)

Mining.

Harwich. 1 ground mine detonated by LL trawlers at 0852
in position: 51 degs. 49' 57" N. 01 degs. 33'
12" E.
(F.O.I.C.Harwich, 090935A and 091413A)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. Inconclusive D/F bearings between 2135Z and 2318Z
indicate possibly three U-Boats may be in area
within 100 miles of 43 N. 40 W.
(D.D.I.C. 090035A to E.G.2)
A.M.090035A. Further bearings indicate trans-
missions on Series 3 were from area well to
S. Westward of you.
(D.D.I.C. 090156A to E.G.2)

War Diary.9.11.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Technical.Night-
flying
from
Escort
Carriers.

Bitter experience is proving to U-Boats the danger of continuous patrolling on the surface by day. It is now only at night or when moving to attack that U-Boats may surely be found on the surface.

(2) Night-flying therefore assumes increased importance and all escort carriers are to seek every opportunity to increase night-flying experience in ocean conditions when weather permits during this winter. This should not be difficult to arrange when working with a support group and even when operating with a convoy if the escorts are available and convoy is not threatened the carrier can leave convoy at night for flying training.

(3) When carrier is in convoy and conditions appear favourable for these practices routine A/S patrol should be carried out as far as possible by any Mac-ship in company to enable the escort carrier to take full advantage of opportunity to further its night operational efficiency.

(4) Any night-flying experience gained should be fully remarked on in report of proceedings.

(5) F.O.C.T. pass to all Mac-ships.

(C. in C. W.A. 091230A to Aux. A/C Carriers in W.A. Command).

The negative results obtained by TRACKER and the general lack of U-Boat sightings from A/C in the Atlantic shows that U-Boats have adopted a policy of remaining submerged during daylight hours to a much greater extent than heretofore.

(2) In consequence only air search by night is likely to be profitable. In winter conditions in the North Atlantic however, even a carrier fully trained and experienced in night-flying could hardly expect to operate more than one night in five. With such short periods of really useful air patrols, escort carriers are a liability to their support groups rather than as asset when on offensive sweeps in probability areas, and in any case no escort carrier in Western Approaches can yet be regarded as fully experienced in night-flying under ocean conditions. It is therefore proposed to sail escort carriers in convoy for the present and to aim at achieving the maximum standard in experience in night-flying by the time the weather will permit of a more profitable use of this type of operation.

(3) To this end I am issuing a directive to escort carriers under my command to take every opportunity to carry out night flying practices. Similar practices to be carried out in open waters will also be introduced into their programmes.

(C. in C. W.A. 091231A to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects.

BROUGHTY.

Intercept 0247Z steamer BROUGHTY to Humber Radio. Am ashore on the Binks. Please send a lifeboat. (North Foreland Radio, 090347A to Ad. Chatham)

KING
GEORGE V.

My221735A. Intend to undock and unbasin KING GEORGE V at about 1430/13th. (A.S. Rosyth, 091020A to C. in C. H.F.)

257

9.11.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects. - Contd.M.M.S.1023
and 1005.

F.O.I.C. Great Yarmouth's 041001. Arrived with defects and incompletely fitted out for Arctic. Estimated time to complete 48 hours. (N.O.I.C. Leith, 091545 to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys.M.K.S.29.
One U-Boat
sunk by
A/C J.220.
One U-Boat
damaged by
HAVELOCK.

1 submarine on surface bearing 010 degs. distance 2 miles, approx. course 020 degs, position 41.00 N. 19.33 W.

(HAVELOCK, 090500Z to Admty.)

D/F bearings at 0503Z indicate U-Boat has reported convoy.

(D.D.I.C. 090633A to M.K.S.29, HAVELOCK)

A.M. 090633A convoy was again reported by U-Boat at 0710Z.

(D.D.I.C. 090831A to M.K.S.29, HAVELOCK)

(A) HAVELOCK. (B) 090500Z November. (C) Radar sighted by C.O. and officer of watch. (D) 041 degs. 00' N. 019 degs. 33' W. (E) 1 (one) depth charge, 1 (one) hedgehog. (F) 090730Z. (HAVELOCK, 090952Z to Admty.)

From BECHEVILLE. Submarine sighted 41.24 N. 19.39 W. at 091025 ends.

(Valentia Radio 091033 to Admty.)

Convoy M.K.S.29 consisting of 34 slow ships escorted by 4 destroyers, 4 corvettes, S.O. close escort HIGHLANDER, is in approx. 40 degs. 57' N. 19 degs. 39' W. at 0800A, course 360 degs. 7 knots. Convoy is threatened and U-Boats have been sighted by escort. Fortress aircraft from Azores are covering convoy.

(2) C. in C. Lant's 081415 refers.

(D.T.D. 091040Z to Cominch)

It is estimated U.S. Aircraft Carrier SANTEE escorted by MACLEISH, BAINBRIDGE and SIMPSON will be operating in your vicinity from tonight.

(C. in C. W.A. 091247A to Escorts M.K.S.29)

Situation as at present known. At 0500Z HAVELOCK on outer screen attacked U-Boat VOLUNTEER joined hunt. Convoy altered course to 300 degs. till 0800Z.

H/F. D/F bearings obtained of 2 U-Boats; that on starboard bow searched for by support group; that on port quarter sunk by Fortress joining convoy. Straggler sighted U-Boat astern. Probably at least 4 U-Boats in vicinity of convoy at 0800Z of which one sunk by aircraft and one damaged by HAVELOCK. Convoy shadowed at 1050Z by F.W. P.C.S. 042 degs. 01', 019 degs. 56', 006 degs. 7½. Weather 5682 2343.

(B.4 091401Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Am being shadowed in 42.32 N. 19.42 W. by one enemy A/C bearing 080 degs. height 10,000 ft. Course 006 degs. speed 7 knots.

(M.K.S.29, 091755 to Gibraltar W/T)

J.220 at 0728Z position 40.31 N. 20.17 W attacked U-Boat. Large oil-patch, one survivor and wreckage consisting (?stores) etc. Considered sunk.

(247 Group 091800Z to H.Q.C.C.)

A.T.71 /...

258

9.11.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- A.T.71. SS. QUEEN ELIZABETH arrived Clyde.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 090644A)
- Stragglers. Admiralty's 041340B/May.
Stragglers return week-ending 0915A/9th Nov.
O.N.209. EMPIRE CAMP. Eccentric sleeve and
rod bent.
- O.N.22. CAP CANTIN. Boiler feed heater defective.
- K.M.S.32. DORNOCH. Unable to maintain sufficient speed to
overtake convoy.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 090915A to Admty.)
(1) Stragglers arrived nil.
(2) Returned from convoy K.M.S.M.32 SS. BRIDGEPOOL damage
from explosion.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 091652A to Admty.)
- E.G.2. Have been hove to in 044 degs. 14' N. 040 degs.
15' W. since 2359Z last night. Weather 4655
0219.
(E.G.2, 091000Z to C. in C. W.A.)
- D.F.16. Intend to sail GALTESUND and TORDENSKJOLD to pass
Clyde Boom 0130A/11th to comply with A.C.O.S.
021711A.
(N.O.I.C.Greenock, 091038A to C. in C. W.A.)
- J.W.54A. (1) Cancel my 301155 Oct. para. 1 (A) and my
301206 Oct.
(2) Following ships are to arrive Loch Ewe p.m.
14th.
(A) Close escort. INCONSTANT S.O., WHITEHALL, RHODODENDRON,
HEATHER.
(B) Shuttle Escort. SALADIN, SKATE to return Loch Ewe for J.W.
54B.
(3) Escorts are to come under orders C. in C. H.F. on arrival at
Loch Ewe.
(C. in C. W.A. 091111A to C. in C. H.F.)
- R.A.54A. Six ships for N.E. Coasts Ports in R.A. 54A which
W.N.4. have been in North Russia for the past nine
months are due off Cape Wrath 12th November.
(2) In view of the congestion in Aultbea at that
time, and the desirability of getting the ships
to their final ports as quickly as possible, it is proposed to
cancel W.N.4 and sail the trawler escort to R/V with R.A.54A
off Cape Wrath and escort them direct to Tyne.
(3) If you concur routes for the ships to be supplied to the
trawlers by N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe.
(D.T.D.091232A to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Rosyth).

Your /...

259

9.11.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

R.A.54A.
W.N.4.
(Contd.)

Your 091232. Concur.
(C. in C. W.A. 091647A to Admt.)

K.M.F.26.

A.M. 062109. Route and Stragglers Route.
(D.O.D.(H), 091742A to C. in C. W.A.)
WOODPECKER is to join 1st E.G. temporarily for
escort of K.M.F.26 and return M.K.F. convoy.

(2) N.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to sail WOODPECKER at best
speed to Liverpool as soon as ready.
(C. in C. W.A. 092330A to Capt. (D) Liverpool)

260

9.11.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

JACQUELIN. 031/09 Arrivals: JACQUELIN enemy control Nov. 6th from Bayonne.
(Gijon, N.T.O.O. 9th, to M.W.T.)

AJAX. Arrived and left 9th.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 091027, 091706.)
Following from AJAX to Admty. (R) C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, N.O.I.C. Falmouth, F.O.N.A.S., (Begins) Admty's 072339A. E.T.A. destination 121500A. Request GATE 121615A. Request Falmouth Group 1 lights from 120500A until dawn. Acknowledge (Ends) T.O.O. 091837Z.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 091800, to Admty.)
Following from AJAX. (Begins) Left Ponta Delgada 1905 G.M.T. 9th. S. of A. 23 knots. (Ends.)
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 091832, to Admty.)

GLASGOW. Arrival.
(F.O.C. Gib. 091027A.)
Following is a repn. of my 091824A (N.T.in W.D.)
(Begins) To C. in C. Plymouth. Request instructions for GLASGOW. (Ends).
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 092008A, to C. in C. Plymouth. (R)
GLASGOW, C. in C. W.A., S.B.N.O. Azores, Admty, C.S.10, C. in C. Med.)

L.C.I (L) Am being shadowed by hostile aircraft. in 39°
118, enemy 19' N. 19° 35' W. Codeword "Brace".
A/C (L.C.I. (L) 118, 091030Z, to Gib. W/T.

M.K.S.29 Am being shadowed by 1 enemy aircraft over 2000
Enemy A/C. DRAIN, 41° 15' N. 19° 35' W.0002 7.
(307M1 (via Gib. W/T.) 091110, to C.S. SH9.)

SEBASTIAN. ARFAR 452. Ref. A.M. 050141A . Ship and cargo seized.
(C.C.S.O. Gib. 091135A, to M.E.W.)

H.S. Sailed 1000A/6th for Barry Roads.
AMARAPOORA. 2. Route.
S. of A. 12 knots.
(F.O.C. Gib. 091146A, to C. in C. W.A.)

U.S. U.S.S. BARKER, U.S.S. BULMER arrived from U.G.S.22.
movements. (C.M.S.F. 091215A.)

EMPIRE OUT- Reference S.B.N.O. Azores 080232, EMPIRE OUTPOST
POST, CAPE and CAPE CLEAR destination New York see my 191929
CLEAR, DUX, Oct.
CORFIRTH. 2. Can arrangements be made for above ships to

/join

261

9.11.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- EMPIRE OUT-POST, CAPE CLEAR, DUX, CORFIRTH - Contd. join G.U.S.20 and trawlers thence to Gib. with CORFIRTH and DUX.
3. This would cause least delay to X.K.12 which we estimate could leave Gib. about 19th.
(D.T.D. 091230A, to F.O.C. Gib. Info. S.B.N.O. Azores, C. in C. Med.)
- U/B. U/B sighted 1025Z/9 in $41^{\circ} 24' N. 19^{\circ} 39' W.$
(D.D.I.C. 091333A, to F.O.C. Gib., S.B.N.O. Azores, M.K.S.29, SANTEE, CEYLON, BLUEBELL, L.C.I. (L) 252.)
- Flight P, BLUEBELL. Enemy A/C.. Am being shadowed by one enemy aircraft. Code word "Pimms", $42^{\circ} 40' N. 13^{\circ} 50' W.$ 358⁰ 7 knots.
(C.S.414 (BLUEBELL), 091401A.)
My 1401A. One F.W. 200 steering North Easterly at sea level. My P.C. and S. $42^{\circ} 40' N. 13^{\circ} 50' W.$ - 358 - 7. Weather report 0751 1821.
(BLUEBELL, 091426A.)
- BALDUR. Telegram 180 9th.
61 arrived 0300 9th to load iron ore.
(H.M. Consul Bilbao, 091418, to M.E.W. (R) Admty. for D.N.I., B.N.A. Madrid, S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)
- EIGER. My 022008 Swiss S.S.EIGER now sails about 11th.
(D.E.W.D. 091601A, to F.O.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med.)
- T.G.21.6. My 061732 sailed 0916 (?52)A.
(C.M.S.F. 091653.)
- TOURVILLE. Intend sail TOURVILLE destination Dakar departing Casablanca 101400A, S. of A. 20 knots route QBA 102 (C) $33^{\circ} 02' N. 10^{\circ} 01' W.$ (F) $27^{\circ} 46' N. 13^{\circ} 58' W.$ (E) $26^{\circ} 10' N. 15^{\circ} 30' W.$ thence as ordered by F.O.C. West Africa. QLA 201 through 210.
(C.M.S.F.F. 091739, to F.O.C. Gib. (R) F.O.C. West Africa, Comar Dakar, C. in C. Med., Admty.)
- Italian ships in Spanish ports. M. of M. have now informed Allied N.A. that none may leave until authority has been received from M. of F.A. (Admiralty) Please pass C. in C. Med.
(B.N.A. Madrid, 091745A, to Admty. (R) F.O.C. Gib.)
- T.G.27.4 Intend sailing T.G.27.4 Captain Lyons in (? U.S.S. NASHVILLE) ELIZABETH C. STANTON, SAMUEL CHASE, LYON, LEA, TARBELL, UPSHUR, PHILADELPHIA, HERBERT, LOUISVILLE, BULMER, BARKER, MATAGORDA and U.S. A/C tender ALBEMARLE. Dakar

/departs

262

9.11.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

T.G.27.4 -
Contd.

departs seaward end Casablanca swept channel
101200A, S. of A. 14 knots. (Route).
(C.M.S.F. 092224, to (?Cinquant), (R) Cdnt. 5th
Naval District Norfolk, Cdr. Eastern Sea
Frontier; Cdr. U.S. N.F., N.W. A.F., Cominch,
N.O.B. Bermuda, Admty., F.O.C. Gib., C.T.G. 27.4,
C. in C. Med. Cdnt. 3rd N.D. New York.)

EIGER.

My 030040. /

Now reported leaving Marseilles about 11th for
Gib. coastwise to Cape San Sebastian thence by
standard route.

Not to be molested this voyage.

(F.O.i/c Gib. 092324A, to 10th S.F., LA SULTANE
CASABIANCA. (R) Capt. (S) 10th.)

/ Re Swiss ST. GOTHARD now expected to leave
Marseilles for Gib. also Swiss EIGER.

263

9.11.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- GEORGE WASHINGTON. 8th arrival GEORGE WASHINGTON (U.S.A.T.)
(Capetown, 090628Z to Admty.)
Sailed 9th November. Details of personnel.
(S.T.O. Capetown, 091415Z to B.A.D.)
- HAWKINS. Arrival Simonstown HAWKINS.
(C. in C. S.A., 090745Z to Admty., (R) C. in C.
E.F., R.A.E.F.)
- L.T.S.5. Sailed 0630Z/9th COMMANDANT DROGOU, HYDRANGEA,
AMARANTHUS escorting L.T.S.5.
(N.O.I.C. Lagos, 090801Z to Admty.)
- BALINDERRY. Proceed Dakar. You will join S.L. convoy from
there.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 091248Z to BALINDERRY, (R) F.O.
Gibraltar, Comar Dakar.)
- DOUGLAS,
GARLAND. In view of C. in C. W.A. 082228 cancel para.
2 of my 071421. Request you retain DOUGLAS to
take place of GARLAND for escort of DEMPO and
DUNNOTTAR CASTLE.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 091249Z to F.O. Gibraltar, (R)
Admty.)
- Escorts. Repetition of F.O.C.W.Af. 030932.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 091543A to C. in C. Med.)
- O.S./S.L.
Convoys,
size of
escorts. I am disturbed at size of O.S./S.L. escorts not
less so since home going cargoes of oil seeds
and rubber are of greater importance than ever
and being seasonal if lost we cannot get
replacements by speeding up nature. Moreover,
15 to 20 per cent of ships from South America
are refrigerated.
- (2) Since three escorts form such slight protection for about
30 ships on a nearly 2000 mile run to Gibraltar particularly
in view of recent U-Boat tactics, I am examining various
methods of augmenting those from West African escort forces.
- (3) All are based on the conception that we must accept
considerable greater risks East of Freetown for increased
security North of Freetown.
- (4) Before submitting these, request whether Admiralty concur
in view of para. 3.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 091644Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., F.O. Gib.)

264

9.11.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Alexandria Movements. 8th arrivals PATHFINDER, PENN. Departures BEAUFORT FAULKNER, PINDOS.
(R.A.L. 090500B.)

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL. V.N.8A has just refloated after grounding in Cape Peloro. I have ordered her to return with me to Augusta.
(NUBIAN 090730 to F.O.W.It. N.O.I.C. Augusta, EGGESFORD.)

A.H.8. URNORIA. My 081519. Italian corvette URNORIA sailed as additional escort to convoy A.H.8A.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta 090850 to F.O.T.A.)

Beirut Movements. 8th November arrival SERAPH, departure RORQUAL.
(S.O.I. Beirut 090853B.)

Destroyers available Mediterranean. Admiralty 201735 etc. consider minimum acceptable allocation of fleets to Med. area as 20 operational destroyers, 8 to Levant, 12 to Med. provided casualties can be promptly replaced from U.K.
2. With withdrawal of 4th Destroyer F. from service on 1st Dec. this number will be available

theoretically provided:

- (a) relief for TARTAR has arrived
- (b) no further casualties occur.

3. Actually LAFOREY (action damage) and LOOKOUT (14 months without refit) will then be in dockyard hands. Condition of NUBIAN is such that she should go to U.K. for long refit and be replaced by another destroyer.

4. Operations now in embryo stage of planning will require us to exert full strength in early Dec. Earnestly request that pending arrival of 25th D.F., 4th D.F. be replaced by two other destroyers and NUBIAN be relieved. These two destroyers could be released on completion of LAFOREY and LOOKOUT or as the Us. arrive provided no casualties have occurred in the interim.

(C. in C.Med. 090932 to Admty. (R) C. in C.Levant.) *Reply: 161645A.*

RUYS. C. in C.Med. 081722A (N.T. in W.D.) Intend to sail RUYS escorted by CROOME and TYNEDALE S.O. at 2115/9th. Speed 16 knots to War Channel then 17 knots. Routed as in C. in C.Med. 071449A (N.T. in W.D.)

(S.N.O. Philippeville 091041A.)

TYNEDALE and CROOME sailed as in my 091041A.

(N.O.I.C. Philippeville 092330A.)

QUILLIAM, QUAIL. Request fighter escort priority high for QUILLIAM and QUAIL from 0600A/10th. Codeword "Trample" 310. P.C. and S. at 0600A/10 040° 18' N. 019° 00' E. 290° to 040° 25' N. 018° 35' E. thence 245° and coastwise to Brindisi 25 knots. Your 090931 not to all refers.
(Capt. D.4 091153A to F.O.T.A. (R) 286 Wing, No. 1 M.O.R.U. etc.)

/Air...

265

9.11.1943.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Air Reports. M.S. 21789. A.318 9th. Daily Opsum 195 7/8th. 4 Wellingtons offensive R/C Naxos Harbour encountered bad weather over target. 1 Wellington only bombed results unobserved. 1 Wellington missing. 8th 3 Beaufighters armed with torpedoes and 9 escort Beaufighters sighted convoy N.W. of Amorgos 2 M/Vs 1000 tons, 2 M/Vs 500 tons, 15 barges including F-Boats, 1 large schooner and 2 E-Boats with escort of 10 Arado 196s. In rough sea conditions torpedoes were dropped with unobserved results. Strikes with cannon were scored on 1 F-Boat, 4 barges and 1 M/V the latter being left smoking. After the attack a large column of white spray was seen coming from the direction of the ships. 5 Baltimores (A.30) anti-shipping strike Suda? Bay sighted an 8000 ton M/V, 1000 ton M/V, 120 ton caique and 12 small caiques. 8/10 small M/Vs, 3 large M/Vs of 8000 tons 1 of which appeared to be a G.P.R. ship. 1 direct hit was scored forward of bridge on 1000 ton M/V causing smoke to issue from ship. Bombs fell among small vessels 1 bursting between 2 ships, and amongst large M/Vs. Full results were unobserved. 1 (?) single enemy aircraft dropped bombs on Leros during day. Damage reported to 1 ammunition dump. (H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 091249Z.)

A.V. 965 E 9th. M.S. 21796. N.W.A.A.F. Opsum 261. N.W.A.T.A.F. 7th (additional). Kittyhawks and United States Warhawks shipping Split. 1 vessel with steam up hit 3 times and left sinking. 1 SIRCIF(?) hit. Several near misses on 2 other ships. Direct hits on quay caused large petrol fire. (6/8?). 7 Bostons shipping and docks Durazzo. 1 did not bomb. Remainder dropped 23 x 500 through cloud gaps on harbour and town. Probable hits warehouse, violent explosion with flames (2 corrupt groups). Bad weather hampered operations. (H.Q.N.A.A.F. 091523A.)

Sleeve Targets Only possible to meet about 60% of present Sleeve and Towing Target and towing requirements in Levant, and Requirements. Operational Crews are suffering thereby. Would be grateful if you could spare some A/C from 728 Squadron. Maintenance Personnel would not be required. (C. in C. Levant 091343B to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. GREBE.)

Swiss A.M. 092020A Oct. Swiss state that until they have gained experience of conditions at Marseilles sailing dates from that port may for a period be approximate as communication difficulties may delay notifications of last minute changes. They have been impressed with necessity of furnishing accurate dates and informed that we can accept no responsibility for any accidents which may arise through our receiving inaccurate information. (Head of M.I. 091352A to C. in C. Med. Info. F.O.C. Gib.)
Vessels. Re: agreed with Swiss that vessels flying Swiss flag or under Swiss control which formerly proceeded to Genoa in future proceed to Marseilles.

/Levant...

266

9.11.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Levant A/S Your 082045 (N.T. in W.D.) para. 5. Whilst training S/Ms. agreeing that it may be essential to limit Levant A/S training S/Ms to 2 it is pointed out that:
(a) escorts from both Med. and Levant Stations are trained at Alexandria during 5 day turn round period.
(b) Ban on Italians on Egypt necessitates S/Ms at Alexandria working under patrol conditions.
(c) 2 serviceable S/Ms are necessary to maintain one at Alexandria A third would avoid interruption to training programme during breakdown and refits.
(C. in C.Levant 091409B to C. in C.Med. (R) F.O.L.I. F.O.W.It. F.O.C.Gibraltar.)

LA PERLE. Will be ready to leave Oran about 15th for refit in U.S.A. as approved by Cominch.
2. French Admty. request she may be routed via Bermuda to refuel.
3. F.O.C.Gib. is requested to sail her accordingly for onward routing as required by Cinclant.
(C. in C.Med. 091446A to Admty. Cominch, F.O.C.Gib. Cinclant, (R) S.B.N.O.W.At. Com. N.O.B.Oran.)

French S/Ms. Reply to last sentence your 222148 at present inside Mediterranean there are six operational French submarines all of which are employed under C. in C.Med. for patrol and clandestine landing operations off south coast France. This does not include LA PERLE sailing shortly for U.S.A.
2. In consequence of Corsican operation in which French submarine CAGABIANCA played notable part French desire to keep as many submarines as possible in active operations and I agree. In spite of maintenance difficulties three were on patrol last week.
3. French state submarines AMAZONE, ARGO and GLORIEUX are now at Bermuda. Am not fully informed of C.C.S. intentions for GLORIEUX and ARGO. If however they are leaving Bermuda for overhaul and it is intended to return ARCHIMEDE to Mediterranean for operations there will be strong grounds for pressing French to release submarine from operations here for training use as desired.
4. Only other repairable submarines are CENTAURE for A/S training Dakar area. MARSOUIN and ATALANTE out of action at Casablanca. VESTALE and ANTIOPE out of action at Oran. If project for getting two Italian submarines to Freetown area materializes it should be possible to send CENTAURE to Bermuda later.
(C. in C.Allied Forces 091531 to Cominch, (R) C. in C.Med.)

NEURALIA, My 071747A sailed.
PRINCESS (S.N.O.Tripolitania 091543A to V.A.Malta.)
KATHLEEN.

PAUNA. Bulgarian Auxiliary sailing vessel PAUNA arrived Istanbul from Kavallo 8th.
2. Report B.3 will load for Bourgas.
(Beyoglu 091555C to Admty.)

/BIRMINGHAM...

9.11.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

BIRMINGHAM.

Leaves U.K. to join E.F. on 15th escorting K.M.F. 26 to the vicinity of Gib.
2. Authorities concerned are requested to onward route via Med.
(D.O.D.(F) 091614A to C. in C.Med. F.O.Gib.
C. in C.Levant, C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) Info.
F.O.R.S.C.A. F.O.C.R.I.N. C. in C.W.A.)

Situation Aegean.

382352 I/32597 9th.
Joint Army R.A.F.Int. appreciation 24 hours to 1000Z/9th.

1. No change ground situation Leros and Samos up to 1000Z/9th.
 2. No contact with enemy surface forces reported by our naval units night 8/9 November.
 3. Bad weather prevented any Ph. R/C 8th Nov. excepting obliques of Kalimno Harbour through rain. At 1220Z in 36.54 N. 25.46 E. (N.W. of Amorgos) on course 140° speed about 5 knots convoy consisting of 2 naval auxiliaries 2 smaller naval auxiliaries, 2 E-Boats 1 schooner (probably naval auxiliary) 2 F-Boats, 13 small landing craft.
 4. Reference C.X.4th reporting transfer troops from Kos to Kalimno for assault Leros further C.X.8th confirms transfer and indicates that field guns 3 S.P.guns 1 armoured car and motor transport included.
 5. Up to 1200Z/8th 5 single bomber attacks reported on Leros. No attacks reported on other islands.
 7. Latest sightings 8th suggest that landing craft flotilla lay up at Amorgos night 8/9th. Therefore may be expected to resume voyage daylight 9th. Known unfavourable weather in this area may well effect E.T.A. given para. 7 appreciation 8th (I/32539 8th Nov.) Estimate original Kos seaborne assault force believed now earmarked for Leros assault about 3,000 including three infantry battalions some 20 guns type unspecified but including some tractor drawn and possibly S.P. Consider these dispersed over Kos and Kalimno Islands elements being reported northern part Kalimno Island suggesting part of assault force may sail from northern bays. Estimate enemy strength Kalimno Island not possible. Flotilla sighted may be carrying up to 1,000 troops either for garrison or assault but cannot exclude latter. Present garrison troops Kos/Kalimno provisionally estimated 1,000. Estimate total capacity serviceable landing craft already in Kos/Kalimno area and sighted or reported now moving eastwards through Aegean would give initial lift of about 1,500 assault loaded personnel. Parachutists would be additional to this.
(C. in C.Med. No T.O.O/9.)
382404. O/32988 9th. Cositrep 50.
2. Ops. Aegean. A. Leros. Night 6/7 Nov. 3 M.Ls. from Kastelorizo brought reinforcements 8 offrs. and 116 O.Rs. 6 x 2 prs. 18 M.M.Gs. arrived by submarine.
 - Enemy Air. 7 Nov. 10 enemy sorties against Island. 8 Nov. 5 sorties by single planes some amn. destroyed.
 - B. Samos, Kastelorizo N.T.R.
 - C. Symi. S.B.S. patrol reports four Ju.88s continuously patrolling sea between Symi and Turkey night 7th. Much enemy air R/C over Rhodes Channel and Turkey during day 8th.
 6. Air. A. Own.

/Night...

268

9.11.1943.

Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Situation
Aegean.
(Contd.)

Night 7/8 Nov.- 4 Wellingtons despatched on offensive R/C Naxos Harbour encountered bad weather over target. 1 Wellington only bombed results unobserved. 1 Wellington missing.
(C. in C.M.E. 091735B.)

S/Ms for
Levant
Command.

Your 052117 November, para. 2.
CLYDE and PORPOISE will not be ready for service until mid Jan. and mid Feb. respectively, but your requirements will be borne in mind when their future employment is decided nearer the time.
2. Approved to retain RORQUAL as proposed.
(Approved V.C.N.S. 091626A to C. in C.Levant, (R) Capt. S.1 C. in C.Med. F.O.S.)

FURY
"Nipper".

Your 091331 and 091314 (N.T. of these in W.D.)
As (?Naval) movement north is apparent propose cancelling intend "Nipper" in view of possibility of attack and shortage of fuel to proceed in Turkish Waters to Seven Capes and then to (?Syracuse.)
(FURY 091630B to C. in C.Levant, (R) N.& A.A. West Desert, Ships E. of Alex. Capt. D.8th D.F. BLENCATHRA, EXMOOR, Capt. F.)

Policy at
Taranto.

This is a re-encypherment of my 031006*. Most undesirable that a U.S.A. naval officer should be Vice President of the Military Section because the predominantly British naval interests in this area should be safeguarded. A military Vice President would be more likely to be guided by the advice of his British Head of Naval Section than would a naval Vice President who might take his advice direct from Washington. Suggest further that the American Vice President's deputy should be a British Naval Officer in order to avoid too strong an army set up and in view of the fact that the Italian Navy appears to be the only one of its services which retains its organisation cohesion and some semblance of fighting spirit.
2. F.O.L.Is. position as responsible for organising the operations of Italian Navy and Merchant Navy will be extremely difficult if a Senior American Naval Officer is in a key position in regard to Maritime Affairs. Your 020250 refers.
(C. in C.Med. 091647A to Admty.)
* received undecypherable.

H.D.M.Ls.
for French

Request consideration may be given to transfer of further flotilla of eight H.D.M.Ls. on loan to French.
2. French commitments in Corsica necessitate transfer of some French manned H.D.M.Ls. from North Africa.
3. Loan of additional eight craft is desired so that present scale of defence of North African ports can be maintained without increasing British commitments. H.D.M.Ls. released from Oran are provisionally earmarked for this transfer.
(C. in C.Med. 091649A to Admty. (R) A.C.F.)

/LINNET...

269

9.11.1943.

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

LINNET.

F.O.W.It's 071955* and LINNET's 070100*. Request L.M.K. 6 mine gear be held. My 091110* refers. 2. On completion of temporary repairs to LINNET request she be sailed to Malta for preparation for return to U.K.

(C. in C.Med. 091808 to F.O.W.It. (R) N.O.I.C. Naples, V.A.Malta, Admty.) * N.T. in W.R.

Unified
Naval Command
in Med.

1. After conference with F.O.C.Gib. following are my views on A.M. 062017 para. 2. Volume of ocean convoy commitments and present inability to transfer the locus of control of these convoys from Gib. make it evident that the F.O.C.Gib. must continue to look mainly to the westward. At the same time the interrelation of Atlantic with Med. convoys renders necessary retention of operational control by C. in C.Med. up to a station limit not east of the long. of Cape St. Vincent.
2. Security of the Straits of Gib. is an integral part of the strategy of the Med. as a whole and must remain subject to C. in C.Med.
3. With F.O.C.Gib. responsible to Admty. for the Atlantic area the expansion of area to 3° E. is too great for management from Gib. and owing to the layout of communication facilities and need for close association with coastal fighter and A/S air forces there is a definite need for an officer of standing in Algiers after the departure of A.F.H.Q. to Naples.
4. Most satisfactory solution would be for F.O.C.Gib. to retain operational control of the same area as at present being responsible to Admty. and C. in C.Med. as suggested and to instal an active service F.O. in Algiers for control of the area stretching from 3° W. to the Sicilian Narrows. This area to include Tunisia under such circumstances it is felt that there is no requirement for a Senior F.O. in Tunisia. The area of his command could be merged into Algiers since the limits of land line and airfield facilities favour this arrangement. Malta would take on from this new dividing line to the eastward and the other sub. command limits quoted in Admiralty message would remain.
5. I shall probably now arrange separate sub.areas for the offensive commands of F.O.W.It. and F.O.T.A. under my direct control and others as circumstances later require.
6. In the Red Sea parallel of 17° N. is preferred as a dividing line.
7. As regards Gib. area the present arrangement is working well and appears to meet all requirements and the transfer of R.A.F. Gib. to C.C. as desired by the A.O.C. in C. does not appear to alter the circumstances. Subject to the proviso that F.O.C.Gib. has a first charge on their resources the co-ordination of U.S. Naval Air Forces operating from the M.S.F. should present no difficulties provided the chain of command through C. in C.Med. and F.O.C.Gib. remains as it will under limits stated in para. two above.

(C. in C.Med. 091900 to Admty.)

re Proposals intended to unify naval command in Mediterranean.

/Levant...

War Diary.9.11.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Levant
Situation
Report No.
104.

Up to 1800B/9th. Force of two M/Vs 2/3 escorts and 18 L.C. sighted yesterday heading for Amorgos from Naxos was attacked at 1425 by Beaufighters who claimed to have damaged one M/V and several L.C.

2. FURY, EXMOOR, BLENCATHRA left Turkish Waters last night and closely inspected the bays on the north coast of Amorgos from a distance of 800 yards without finding any enemy shipping. Destroyers withdrew to Gulf of Doris being unable to clear the Kaso Strait by daylight.
3. PETARD, ROCKWOOD, KRAKOWIAK arrived at Guvergenik Bay daylight today. Have small numbers of troops and stores for transfer by M. L. to Leros.
4. Invasion Flotilla sighted by air p.m. today in two groups making for Levitha Island and Stampalia.
5. SERAPH from Aegean patrol reports Oct. 27th she destroyed 25 ton caique off Port Naussa at 2330/5th in 35° 15' 26° 43'. She stopped and boarded 220 ton caique on passage from Candia to Scarpanto captured 14 German prisoners rammed and sank caique p.m. 6th sank 25 ton caique with torpedoes in Pogadia Bay bombed warehouses and sank one Arado float-plane.
(C. in C. Levant 091945B.)

Palestinian
Port Move-
ments.RORQUAL arrived. SUTLEJ and It. S/M ALAGI sailed.
(N.O.I.C. P.P. 092012B.)4th D.F.
merchant
ship sunk.Position of one enemy merchant vessel and 3 E-Boats
40.12 N. 19.30 E.
(Capt. D.4 092026 to Taranto.)
My 2026. Merchant ship blown up. Patrol and
ammunition carrier. Am chasing E-Boats to the
southward.
(Capt. D.4 092043 to Malta W/T.)Algeria
Departures.U.S.S. DIX, U.S.S. CHAMPLIN, U.S.S. BOYLE, V.P.4
and 6 (late H.D.M.Ls. 1240 and 1228.)
(Com. Algeria 092031.)Turkish
Territorial
Waters.M.S. G.O.56 para. 5. Cancel ref. to Turkish
territorial waters. Ships are not to be attacked
inside these waters until further orders but
situation should be reported by signal to C. in C.
Levant.
(C. in C. Med. 092121 to Med. Stn. and Levant Stn.
294B.)Naples
Departures.9th departures COLOMBO, U.S.S. DAVISON, MACLANAHAN,
JONES, DAVIS, THURSTON, It. MONTECUCCOLI,
SAGITTARIO, CARINI.
(N.O.I.C. Naples 092124A.)

271

9.11.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

LE
TRIOMPHANT. Ship was unable to complete retubing of one boiler in Australia.
2. Work will be undertaken in Ferryville. C. in C. Levant is requested to sail her accordingly on arrival mid Dec. C.S. Ferryville arrange preparation of material with French Authorities.
(C. in C. Med. 092141A to C. in C. Levant, F.O. Tunisia, C.S. Ferryville, (R) Admt.)

Med. Cositintrep No. 121. Signed Eisenhower, nothing to report.
(C. in C. Med. 092200A.)

VELOX,
VANOC. C. in C. Med. 051235. VELOX can be taken in hand at Sheerness Dockyard but not until 18th Dec.
2. No reinforcement can be sent before VANOC who should leave U.K. for Gib. mid Dec.
(D.O.D. (F) 092255A to C. in C. Med. Info. F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in C. Nore. Cdre. in charge Sheerness.)

CURIE. A.M. 302355 Oct. As CURIE is merely on loan to the French for service under Br. operational control we must reserve our right to raise the matter of her employment elsewhere either inside or outside the Med. and you may wish to make this clear to the French.
(Hd. of M. II 092302A to C. in C. Med. Info. F.O.S. Capt. S.8.)

Cyprus
Movements. 9th arrived and left FAULKNER, BEAUFORT, PENELOPE, PINDOS.
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta (Cyprus) 092347B.)

G.U.S. 21. Augusta section sailing 0600A/12th.
16 ships all M/F and in ballast. 2. Route via 287 to R/V. 3. Local codeword "Register" high A/S.
4. Local escorts BLACKMORE, JULIET, EDAY.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta 092348A.)

272

9.11.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- Exercise "Swordfish". Arrived all ships, my 050101 and 040110 refers. (S.O.(I) Bombay, 090403Z to Admty., C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.), F.O.C.R.I.N.)
- C.S. 4. R.A. A.D. Read has assumed command of the 4th C.S. in succession to R.A. W. Tennant, C.B., M.V.O. Flag hoisted in NEWCASTLE. (F.O. 4th C.S., 090501Z to C. in C. E.F., Admty., F.O.E.A., C. in C. S.A.)
- X.C. 9. Arrived escorted by LAHORE. (N.C.S.O. Colombo, 080501Z.)
- A.B. 21. Delay of 24 hours in sailing of A.B.21 can be accepted. Com. i/c Aden is requested to take necessary action. Your 081233 refers. (C. in C. E.F., 090543Z to F.O.R.S.C.A.)
- CONGELLA torpedoed 24th Oct. (A) CONGELLA. (B) 001° 02' N. 71° 14' E. at 241453Z Oct. (C) Two U-Boats. Ship gunned. Sustained 40 hits and sank. (E) Nil. (F) 33 survivors. (G) Yes. (H) SSSS messages made on sighting periscope at 0428Z and again at 1453Z when attack commenced. (C. in C. E.F., 090636Z to Admty.)
- India Air Report. A.314. 9th Nov. daily opsum. No. 604. 8th/9th Nov. night. 2 Hurricanes among islands. 1 motor launch attacked. 14th U.S.A.A.F. 7th Nov. 2 U.S. Mitchells (B.25) destroyed 5/7 boats in harbour Amoy. (A.H.Q. India, 090800Z to Air Min.)
- J.C. 25. Convoy sailing telegram. (2) 0820Z/9th. (3) E.T.A. Trincomalee 0930Z/11th. E.T.A. Vizagapatam 0330Z/15th. E.T.A. Calcutta 1230Z/17th. (4) 7½ knots. (6) LAHORE (not NU) to Vizagapatam, L.S.T. 238 keeps continuous (? NU). (N.C.S.O. Colombo, 090820Z to Admty.)
- P.B. 62A. Departure TRAVANCORE escorting P.B.62A. (N.O.I.C. Karachi, 090928Z to Admty.)
- P.B. 62. Arrived CESSNOCK, PUNJAB, MADRAS escorting P.B.62 Bombay portion. (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 090931Z to Admty.)

/Landing ...

9.11.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Landing Craft. Your 290007 October to D.C.O.(I).

Type	Number	Disposal	Date	Authority
L.C.P.(L)	316	Sunk	12th Sept.	Nil
L.C.P.(L)	325	Sunk	4th Sept.	Nil
L.C.P.(R)	879	Sunk	12th Sept.	Nil
L.C.M.(I)	48	Addu Atoll	15th Sept.	C. in C. E.F.
L.C.M.(I)	130	Addu Atoll	15th Sept.	C. in C. E.F.
L.C.M.(I)	118	BRAGANZA	August	C. in C. E.F.

2. Ref. your para. 2, L.C.A.267 and 548 are at Bombay in DUNERA and DILWARA respectively.

3. S.O.A.S.C.(I) has no knowledge of either L.C.A.82 or L.C.M.(3) 1282.

(S.O.A.S.C.(I), 090936Z to Admty., (R) D.C.O.(I).)

P.A. 60. Sailing telegram 14 ships. (2) 0900Z/9th. (3) (a) 057° 30' E. 0300Z/13th. (b) Aden 1400Z/16th. (4) Route 4. (5) 8 knots, from ZZ 9½ knots. (6) TAMWORTH, ORISSA. (N.O.I.C. Hormuz, 090940Z.)

SONDRA. Sailing SONDRA to R/V in 004° 10' S. 043° 50' E. at 0500Z/12th in accordance with your 081555 and 081245 (N.T. of either in W.D.) (N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, 091536Z to F.O.E.A. (Kilindini), (R) C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.), N.O.I.C. Seychelles, Admty., MASTIFF.)

274

9.11.1943.

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

N.S.H.Q. All times Z.
S/M sighting Para. A. (1) A/C sights U/B in 53.00 N. 45.00 W.
and attack at 1610/8th. (2) C.4 Group sights U/B in 52.39
summary. N. 46.02 W. before 1655/8th.
Para. D. Canso makes A.S.V. contact in 44.15 N.
62.42 W. at 0130/8th.
(N.S.H.Q., 090528Z to Admty., Cominch.)

O.N. 209, H.A.C. 539, 9th. Daily G.R. Opsum. No.59 period
U/B. ending 0100 G.M.T./9th Nov. 1943.
(3) (A) Can. N/116 Sqd. (B) Cover O.N.209. (C)
1610Z. (D) 53.00 N. 45.00 W. (E) 147°. (F)
Slow speed trimmed down. (G) 20 miles to read.
(H) intermittent M/G. (1) Heavy flak no D/C attack in view
type A/C remained out of range at approx. 2 miles endeavouring
to advise escort. Aerial detached and U.S. Returned to
convoy and contacted escorted by V/S and led escort to point of
sighting but contact had been lost. End of message.
(H.Q.E.A.C., 090900Z to Air Min.)

U/B. Delayed information U-Boat sighted 1945Z/7th
016° 25' 066° 10'.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 091011R to Admty.)

Stragglers 2nd ROCHA (Pan.) S.G.33 cargo damaged made water
arrived week- through open scuttle.
ending 6th. 4th BONITA (Pan.) O.N.S. ? 12 engine trouble.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 091239Z to Admty.)

Routeing For vessels 11 knots or over proceeding to or
East Coast from East Coast U.S. Ports north of New York.
U.S. Ports. The following temporary extensions of Macri C
are laid down as Macri C/1 northbound from (I)
outside New York direct to Z.B (Buoy A on
Narrangansett swept channel) thence Cape Cod
Canal for vessels unable transit Cape Cod Canal from (I) proceed
through 40.08 N. 69.02 W. thence 41.22 N. 68.53 W. thence 42.02
N. 69.23 W. Thence join Macri A - 12 miles N.N.E. Peaked Hill
Bar lighted whistle buoy 2 P.H. Southbound. Follow Macri A -
1 to Peaked Hill Light Whistle Buoy thence proceed through 41.57
N. 69.30 W. thence 41.06 N. 69.02 W. thence 40.24 N. 69.09 W.
thence join Macri C at position Z at seaward end of New York
swept channel.
(U.S. Navcom., 091458 to Admty.)

N.S.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q., 091507.)
S/M Estimate.

U.S. S/M (Cominch, 091530Z.)
Estimate.

/CLEOPATRA ...

War Diary.9.11.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

CLEOPATRA, UGANDA. Your 291629Z Oct. CLEOPATRA should arrive in U.S.A. about 23rd Nov. in company with UGANDA - F.O. Gibraltar's 061701 refers.
2. Request U.S. Authorities be asked to allocate a refit yard where CLEOPATRA can be examined to enable an estimate to be given of time required to complete her as a two-shaft ship in case this may be found to be necessary.
(D.O.D.(H), 091606A to B.A.M.R., (R) B.A.D.)

MIRAGLIA. In view of C. in C. Med. 081249 request you will signal your final recommendations about MIRAGLIA for C.C.S.
(2) We will exclude MIRAGLIA from our consideration of the whole Italian Fleet problem which is now in hand.
(B.A.D., 091729Z to Admty.)

A/S Trawlers as escorts. A.M. 050200 Feb. also your 161616 Feb.
2. Due to Azores, other commitments and the manning situation these trawlers are needed in Home waters.
3. Request you will consider the release of these six A/S trawlers when St. Lawrence closes.
(V.C.N.S., 091816A to N.S.H.Q.)

RENONCULE. 1. Intend to sail F.F.S. RENONCULE 1300Z/10th route. Speed 12 knots. E.T.A. Norfolk 0600Z/13.
2. Com.5 is requested to issue onward route to New Orleans for refit and sail ship when fuelled.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 091824Z to Com.5, (R) Comeaseafron, N.M.C.S. Cinclant, Com.8, N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A., Admty., B.A.R.M., RENONCULE, Cominch.)

Convoy positions for S.B.N.O. Azores. Para. 2D Admty. 081730A in view of info. contained Admty. 070250Z is it intended that Com. 10th Fleet furnish to S.B.N.O. Azores daily positions of C.U., A.T., U.T., O.T., U.C. Convoys plus "Monster" class vessels in his area.
(Com. 10th Fleet (C. and R.), 091958A to Admty.)
Cancel my 311821Z Oct. Connav will send necessary information to S.B.N.O. Azores for A.T., U.T., C.U., U.G. and O.T. convoys plus "Monster" class ships.
(Connav, 092000Z to P.D. Norfolk, P.D. New York, C.A.F.A.C., (R) Admty., S.B.N.O. Azores, C.E.S.F., Cdr. Caribbean S.F.)

Sub. attack and sighting summary. Para. D. 2 B.24s sight sub. 08.12 N. 58.33 W. 091210. All times Z.
(Cominch, 092037Z to Admty.)

/GORGON ...

276

9.11.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

GORGON.

Argentia 9th arrival.
(Capt. (D) Argentia, 092228Z to Admty.)

NIAGARA,
M.Ls. 108,
107, 111
damaged.

Damaged M.L.108, 107, 111 when anchor dragged 1157Z/9th. NIAGARA screw slightly damaged off Graves Point. Diver examination cannot be made owing to high wind. Form S.232 will be made and report of extent of damage to screw will be reported by signal.
(NIAGARA, 092342Z to C. in C. C.N.A., (R) D. Halifax, S.T.O. Pictou.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
Serial
No.658
Nov. 8th.

(2) R/C Liberator bombed and hit one of two small freighters approaching Kaimana from south-west morning. Also observed 3 probable sea trucks off shore Kaimana. Two fighters with fixed under-carriage ineffectively attempted interception.

(3) Previous night 4 Catalinas struck water front Ambon starting several fires. Observed shipping

Ambon Bay described 1 heavy cruiser, 2 destroyers, 1 merchantmen.

(4) Two medium - large ships, 2 escort vessels unsuccessfully attacked early hours off south-west coast Mussau Island course 220° by patrol Liberator.

(5) Eight ship convoy including 5 medium merchant ships, 3 escorts observed southbound 90 miles north-north-west Mussua Island noon.

(6) After dark 7th Navy Catalina report 1 destroyer, 1 cargo vessel in Saint Georges Channel heading south.

(7) Small sea truck observed evening 7th nearing Hansa Bay from north-west apparently crammed with possibly 200 Japs. Single enemy fighter attempted interception observing Liberator without effect.

(11) Afternoon same date 22 Dauntless 14 Avengers 3 escorted Venturas 8 Mitchells struck enemy position Empress Augusta Bay including 20 to 25 barges at location of Jap. counter landing Laruma River mouth 2 miles north-west of Torokina Point early that morning. Targets generally well covered. Newly landed enemy party engaged 7th otherwise activity limited to patrol and consolidation.

(12) Three Venturas bombed gun positions and barges Laruma River Abai next day.

(13) During 8th fighter patrol Empress Augusta Bay encountered twenty dive bombers 40 Zeros destroying 12 fighters 10 bombers plus 4 Zeros probable.

(14) Nil shipping found Matchin Bay forenoon 8th by 6 Mitchells which bombed Kieta instead. Seven escorting Corsairs shot down bomber over Bura and destroyed grounded Zero on field.

277

9.11.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
Serial
No. 658
Nov. 8th.
(Contd.)

(15) Pocket heavy cruiser is fair description of new Jap. light cruiser received AGANO class photographed Rabaul 2nd. Details include length 535 feet, beam 46 feet, 3 twin turrets, 2 forward, 1 aft with 6 or 8 inch* guns, probably latter possible dual purpose, and? 5 inch turret forward of bridge minimum 4 anti-aircraft batteries single stack, single catapult aft on centre line.

(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 090700Z.)

*W.D. Note. This was subsequently modified.

Japanese
Cruiser,
new type.

Photographs taken during air raid Rabaul 2nd reveal new type Japanese cruiser (believed AGANO class). Vessel has following characteristics: length 535 feet beam 46 feet (? 3) twin turrets forward and one aft mounting probably 6 inch guns; possibly dual purpose turret forward of bridge mounting 5 inch gun; minimum 4 A/A guns; a single (? catapult) aft on centre line.

(A.C.N.B., 090907Z to Admty., C. in C. E.F.)
As amended 101237Z.

Movements.

Arrived Exmouth Gulf 8th U.S.S. CHANTICLEER.
(A.C.N.B., 091026Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 091342A, 091400A.)

Submarines Attacked.

Submarine
attack and
sighting
summary for
24 hours to
0900Z/9th.

Para. A. H.M. Ship attacked by U-Boat, torpedo missed, at 2130/8th in 43° 27' N. 39° 07' W.
Aircraft sighted U-Boat at 0925/8th in 44° 20' N. 12° 20' W.

Fortress aircraft sighted U-Boat on surface at 0720/9th in 40° 42' N. 19° 58' W.

HAVELOCK sighted U-Boat at 0500/9th in 41° N. 19° 33' W.

Aircraft sighted U-Boat at about 1600/8th in 52°

51' N. 46° 26' W.

Aircraft sighted U-Boat at 1655/8th in 52° 39' N. 46° 02' W.
(D.D.I.C., 091042A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

/My ...

9.11.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked - Contd.

Submarine
attack and
sighting
summary for
24 hours to
0900Z/9th.
(Contd.)

My 221059 July, 1942.

1. A Catalina aircraft attacked a U-Boat with depth charges in 8° 41' N. 76° 20' E. at 1600Z/3. Aircraft claims a straddle near stern of U-Boat.
2. Ships of E.G.2 attacked U-Boat in 44° 46' N. 41° 08' W., early a.m. on 6th. After last attack much oil and wreckage came to the surface including part of a German torpedo.
3. Ships of E.G.2 attacked a second U-Boat in 43° 42' N. 42° 08' W. in the afternoon of 6th. Much wreckage and human remains came to surface again part of a German torpedo.
4. Light coastal forces report engaging a U-Boat at 2230/3 in 42° 17' N. 11° 07' E. off San Stefano and that the U-Boat took refuge in harbour.
5. Mosquito aircraft of 618 Squadron obtained four hits with heavy cannon on surfaced U-Boat at 0945/6 about 50 miles south-west of Lorient.
(D.A.U.D., 091943Z to Cominch.)

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. 2283

279

10.11.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Flag of
C.S. 1.

1. The Flag of C.S.1 was transferred p.m. today from LONDON to KENT.

Coastal
Force
engagement.

2. Whilst four M.T.Bs. of the 22nd Flotilla were in contact with enemy trawlers north of Ymuiden in the early hours of today M.T.B.222 rammed M.T.B.230. The latter was abandoned and scuttling charge was fired. M.T.B.222 was taken in tow, but the weather deteriorated and the vessel had to be sunk at 1950 today in 52.47 N. 3.15 E. (about 60 miles east of Great Yarmouth).

(page 315)

Bay Patrol:
U/B damaged.

3. At 0406A today an aircraft attacked a U-Boat in 44.39 N. 09.08 W. At 0914 an aircraft reported a U-Boat on the surface, apparently disabled, in 44.45 N. 09.06 W., steering south. Several attacks were made on the enemy submarine, which was pursued and at 1510A was reported to be 200 yards from the coast near Ortigueira steering east at 2 knots. At 1735 an aircraft reported an oil patch in 43.46 N. 07.43 W. and 5 dinghies, one containing 11 persons, making for land. It was subsequently reported that the U-Boat sank and survivors landed in Spain.

South Atlantic.

4. SS. BARON SEMPLE, which left Rio de Janeiro on 25th October independently, is overdue at Freetown. Cominch considers her a probable U-Boat victim about 2nd November in the area 05 S. 21 W.

Mediterranean.

Marseilles.

5. The Admiralty consider that the U-Boat base now being developed at Marseilles is ripe for attack, and they ask that this target should be given high priority.

/"Avalanche" ...

280

10.11.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean - Contd."Avalanche":
Air
Operations.

- 6(a) 9 enemy aircraft attacked Maddalena at 0200 today. One was shot down.
- (b) 12 U.S. Mitchells bombed the docks and shipping at Durazzo today. 8 barges are claimed to have been destroyed and a large merchant vessel near missed. Bombs fell among oil tanks north-east of the harbour.
- (c) 12 U.S. Mitchells bombed the harbour and shipping at Split. Four direct hits are reported on a large merchant vessel, resulting in 2 large explosions. Small craft and the railway were hit.
- (d) 25 to 30 enemy aircraft raided Naples early this morning. The minesweeper RHYL was damaged by near miss but is seaworthy.

Aegean.

- 7(a) In the event of Leros being assaulted by landing craft from Kos, C. in C. Levant does not consider that destroyers can intervene effectively by day in view of the heavy air attacks they will get and the confused situation likely to obtain inshore. Now that Leros is well garrisoned and organised it is hoped that it will be able to beat off or at any rate seriously weaken the first assaults; and C. in C. Levant considers that destroyers can best contribute to the battle by combing the area after dark for follow-up landing craft and/or convoys. The submarines will remain in their present disposition for a similar object.
- (b) FURY, EXMOOR, and BLENCATHRA left the Gulf of Doris last night and withdrew south.
- (c) Continuous air attacks on Leros were reported throughout today, amounting to 70 sorties, directed especially against gun positions. Only minor damage was caused.
- (d) Groups of invasion craft were sighted by aircraft today, approaching Kos. It appears that the landing craft flotilla has divided into two groups which lay up last night in Levitha and Stampalia respectively.
- (e) PETARD, ROCKWOOD and KRAKOWIAK fired 1500 rounds of 4-inch into Port Kalimno and a small bay to the eastward between 2140 and 2315 today. A merchant ship inside the breakwater was set on fire. No caiques were seen.

8. SS. SAMBO sank 10 miles south of Perim at 1511Z today as the result of explosions, believed to be from a British mine from the Perim field. Air search during the night 10th/11th and at daylight on 11th failed to locate any submarine.

281

10.11.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Landing
at Daiyer.

9. SEABELLE sailed from Bushire at 1300Z today with 200 troops for Daiyer (120 miles East of Bushire), where a landing is to be made with the object of capturing troublesome brigands and their strongholds, simultaneously with an attack by road from Bushire on Ahram.

Australia and New Zealand.

10. Last night our patrol craft intercepted and sank 4 loaded barges 20 miles north of Finschhafen.

War Diary.

10.11.1943.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

CURLEW,
ARACHNE.

My 052106A. N.A.B.CURLEW should revert to former name of ARACHNE and a boat selected as nominal name ship CURLEW for harbour defence section of Osprey.
(D.S.V.P. 100029A.)

Flag of
C.S.1.

Flag of C.S.One is being transferred to KENT p.m. 10th.
(C. in C.H.F. 101044A.)

Embarkation
of torpedoes
in fighter
carriers for
E.F.

Ref. A.M. 301745 October. Further discussions of the question.
(A.C.N.S.(A) 101254A to F.O.C.T.)

Flag of
F.O.Force
J.

The flag of Rear Admiral Sir Philip Vian, K.B.E., D.S.O., as Naval Force Commander, Force J, is to be hoisted in MARSHAL SOULT at 0900 tomorrow and transferred to VECTIS at 0900 on 12th November. The broad pendant of Commodore J.Hughes-Hallett D.S.O., will be hauled down in VECTIS at sunset tomorrow.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 101800.)

Force
Letters.
S.O.Force C.

Admiralty message 291207 September re Force Letters. In para. 2 for Force R read Force A.
2. Title of S.O.Force C is abolished.
(Head of M.II 101905A.)

Movements.

HARRIER,
SEAGULL.

HARRIER with S.B.N.O.North Russia on board and SEAGULL left Archangel 0900A for Iokanka. E.T.A. 1000A/11th. Departure Iokanka 1400A/11th. E.T.A. Toros Island 0600A/12th.
(S.B.N.O.Archangel 100919A to S.B.N.O.N.Russia.)

ORION.

My 091616 "Consequence" sailed Needles 1000.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 101016A to F.O.C.Gib.)

VANESSA.

Request you will sail VANESSA when ready a.m./11th to Newfoundland routed via Great Circle making good 12 knots.
2. F.O.N.F. is requested to order ship to St. Johns N.F. or Argentina as convenient to join E.G.B.2 for return escort.
(C. in C.W.A. 101033Z to Care. D.W.A.)

/SLINGER...

283

10.11.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

SLINGER. You can be received Sheerness on arrival before 1600. 2. Make best speed and report amended E.T.A. (C. in C.Nore 101206A to SLINGER.)

RENOWN. RENOWN arrived escorted by ROCKET. (C. in C.Plymouth 101340A to A.C.O.S.) Keep steam at 4 hours notice. No leave is to be given at present. (C. in C.Plymouth 101343A to RENOWN.)

ADVENTURE, ORION. 2. ADVENTURE sails Plymouth 1600 to Milford Haven 17 knots to off Lizard Head then 12 knots (para. 2 and 3 of my 101449A.) 3. ORION 207° Eddystone 9 miles to westward 20 kts. (C. in C.Plymouth 101453A to ships at sea and others concerned.)

VALIANT. Your 091547 when ready request you will sail VALIANT to Scapa to work up under C. in C.H.F. (D.O.D.(H) 101510A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

S/Ms. Positions at 0800A/11 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 101701A, 110749A.)

KING GEORGE V. 1. Intend to sail KING GEORGE V p.m. November 13th for Scapa by standard route, S.O.A. 17 knots, E.T.A. 1115/14th. (my 101730 part 1.) 2. E.T.D. Eyebroughy buoy 0010/14th. Request escort destroyers R/V there at that time. (C. in C.Rosyth 101730A to C. in C.H.F.)

QUEEN ELIZABETH. Your 052358A. QUEEN ELIZABETH arrived at 1711. (N.O.I.C. Portland 101735A to C. in C.H.F.)

LORD AUSTIN. LORD AUSTIN sailed for Archangel. (S.B.N.C.North Russia 101928.)

Operations.

Bay Patrol. Retain GLASGOW at Gib. pending further instructions. U-Boat disabled by air attack and abandoned off Ortiguera. Your 092008 refers. (C. in C.Plymouth 100158A to F.O.C.Gibraltar.) Am over one enemy submarine on surface course 045° speed 10 knots in 44.39 N. 09.08 W. (A/C B.612 100406A to H.Q.19 Gp.) ORTEGAL Have attacked U-Boat with depth-charge. U-Boat is dived position 44° 39' N. 09° 08' W. (A/C B.612 100409A.)

/Hunt...

War Diary.10.11.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Bay Patrol. Hunt U-Boat reported 44.45 N. 09.05 W. course 180°
U-Boat dis- damaged.
abled by air (Gibraltar 100905A to A/C UAU/J.)
attack and Am over one enemy S/M in 44.45 N. 09.06 W. (based
abandoned off on reasonably accurate estimated position). S/M
Ortiguera. was on surface. When first sighted was on course
(Contd.) 180° speed 12 knots.
ORTECAL. (A/C from Helmswell Duty R 100914 to 19 Gp. H.Q.)
N.R.1. U-Boat on surface apparently disabled.
U-Boat previously reported course 180 position
12.44 N. 15.09 W. (sic) speed 00.
(A/C Duty R 19 Gp. 100914.)

Am over enemy S/M.
(A/C R.19 Gp. Talbenny No T.O.O/10th Recd. 0920.)
U-Boat on surface apparently disabled.
(A/C R 19 Gp. Talbenny 100924.)
Am over enemy S/M in 43.40 N. 08.35 W. at 1135.
(A/C Duty E 19 Gp. Talbenny No T.O.O/10th.)
Am over enemy S/M.
(Duty E.19 Gp. No T.O.O. Recd. 1343.)
N.R.1. Have attacked U/B with depth charges and damaged
need assistance.
(A/C Duty E 19 Gp. Talbenny 101215.)
N.R.3. Need assistance returning to base fuel position
43.47 N. 08.18 W. E.T.A. 1700.
(Duty E. 19 Gp. 101310.)
Enemy S/M in 44 N. 08 W. enemy S/M previously reported on
surface course 160° speed 9 knots.
(Duty D. 19 Gp. 101333.)
U-Boat previously reported was on surface, course 160°
speed 9 knots, when first sighted in 43° 50' N. 07° 52' W.
Attacked R.P. after Co.. 90°, Sp.. 2 knots, 200 yards from
Spanish Coast.
(Duty D. Group 101345A to 19 Group.)
S/M now 200 yards from coast near Ortiguera, course along
E.Coast, speed 2 knots. Returning to base fuel, E.T.A. 2000.
(A/C Duty D 101510A to 19 Group.)
N.R.1. U/B reported posn. 43.50 N. 07.52 W. Co.. 90° Sp. 2
knots.
(Gibraltar W/T 101512A to A/C Duty J.)
Investigated oil-patch position 43.46 N. 07.43.05 W. dingy
seen? N.W. with 11 crew making for land.
(A/C Duty P 101735 to R.A.F.Gibraltar.)
Emergency air attack 3 planes in 43° 50' N. 07° 30' W.
(A/C Duty V 101755A to 19 Group.)
Request you will sail PRINCE ROBERT at 1100A/11 through
position P.C. 040° 05' N. 027° 50' W. to reach position P.D.
048° 10' N. 017° 59' W. at 1200A/12.
2. Further orders for PRINCE ROBERT will be signalled.
3. Communications.
(C. in C.Plymouth 102349A to S.B.N.O.Azores, (R) C. in C.
Med. PRINCE ROBERT, Adnty. GLASGOW, RENOWN, LONDON, C. in
C.W.A. H.Q.C.C. F.O.C.Gib. C. in C.H.F.)

/Operation...

10.11.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.- Contd.

Operation F.S. (Convoys J.W.54A & R.A.54B.) Seidisfjord departure Force 4 at 2302A/9 and WESTCOTT 50 minutes later. (A.C.I.C. 100202A.) My 071221A. Force 4 and WESTCOTT met and relieved Force 3 at 0630A/10th off Langanes. R.A.D. H.Fs. 041250A para. 8, JASON, BRITOMART continuing until 062° N. is crossed, then complying with C. in C.H.F. 272009A para. 9D. No enemy activity apparently to date. Numbers 12 and 13 in collision in which MOBILE CITY sustained tears in plating forward above rungs. BRITISH GOVERNOR welded patch 40 feet by 20 feet over previous damage is coming adrift. Both ships continuing and all 13 starters in company.

(Capt. D.3 101127A to C. in C.H.F.)

Your 061807. (2 corrupt groups) anticipate ice will extend beyond Dvina Bar and Molotovsk Approach Channel. Any attempt to bring escort into ice for fuel would involve considerable delay and risk of damage.

2. Only tanker available to fuel escorts outside ice-edge has low rate of supply and fuelling would be further delayed if bad weather conditions prevailed.

3. Therefore propose HARRIER and SEAGULL with three Russian Minesweepers meet J.W.54A at position ZZ. 68° 30' N. 41° 20' E. for onward escort to ice-edge, then forming local escort for R.A. 54B. Previous through escort (5 ships) proceeding to Iokan(?ka) for fuel on relief as above and joining R.A.54B at position ZZ.

4. The supply of 1,000 tons fuel for this purpose at Iokanka has been agreed to by A.C. Northern Fleet who has also promised adequate air cover as far as 69° 30' N. for both convoys.

5. Ships forming R.A.54B will be brought out to clear water prior to arrival of J.W.54A and should be ready to proceed immediately on arrival of local escorts who will not need to fuel.

6. I would welcome the release of two ships promised local escort duty in North Russia during winter season making a total of 4. Request information whether any of the through escort of J.W.54A will remain in North Russia.

7. Intend that experienced Master should act as Commodore for 8 ships comprising R.A.54B.

8. Normal ice-conditions are expected but it is probable that both Ekonomia and Molotovsk respectively will require ice breaker assistance when entering and berthing.

(S.B.N.O.North Russia 101137A to C. in C.H.F.)

Seidisfjord departures at 1145A (?SAVAGE), MUSKETEER, MATCHLESS, E.T.A. Scapa 1845/11.

2. Arrival Capt. 3 in MILNE with MAHRATTA, SAUMAREZ, SCOURGE, SCORPION.

(A.C.I.C. 101556A.)

Seidisfjord departure at 1439A today Capt. D.3 in MILNE with MAHRATTA and SAUMAREZ, E.T.A. 1600A/11.

(A.C.I.C. 101742A.)

Seidisfjord departure at 1515A/10 SCOURGE, SCORPION, E.T.A. destination 2000A/11th.

(A.C.I.C. 102144 to A.C.O.S.)

V.P. Operations. Carry out V.P. 1. Patrol AQ. 2. 27. 3. 10/11 Nov. or first suitable day. 4. 2. 5. No. 6. No. 7. 065° Out Skerries 110 miles. 8. No. (A.C.O.S., 101301A to Admty. and for N.I.D.(C) and N.I.D.(Q) (R) C. in C.H.F. C. in C.Rosyth, F.O.S. N.O.I.C. Lerwick, No. 18 Gp. Wick, Sumburgh.)

/Carrying...

10.11.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

V.P. Carrying out V.P. 1. Patrol AU. 2. 30 and 101.
Operations. 3. 14/11 or first suitable day. 4. One. 5. No.
(Contd.) 6. No. 7. 060° Out Skerries 110 miles. 8. No.
(A.C.O.S. 101045A to Admty. and for N.I.D.(C) and
N.I.D.(Q) (R) C. in C.H.F. C. in C.Rosyth, F.O.S.
N.O.I.C. Lerwick, No. 18 Gp. Wick, Sumburgh.)
M.T.B. 626 returned at 2015 today. (My 091139.)
2. Operation not successful. Bad visibility prevented entry.
(A.C.O.S. 102205A to Admty.)

Coastal Force Patrols. 1. Orders for night 10th/11th Nov.
A. 3 M.G.Bs. from Newhaven carry out anti E-Boat
patrol 10 miles south of convoy route abreast C.W.
convoy between eastern limit of command and E.A.5
buoy from 2300A/10th to 0700A/11th. Under no
circumstances is patrol to approach to within 5
miles of convoy.
B. CHASSEURS 5, 41 patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between F. and E.A.5 buoys.
C. M.L. 292 immediate notice at St. Helens.
D. LA COMBATTANTE, GLAISDALE immediate notice at Yarmouth.
E. 3 S.G.Bs. anti E-Boat patrol on 50° 20' N. between 02° 20' W.
and 01° 40' W. S.G.Bs. are not to proceed north of line Portland
Bill to St. Albans under any circumstances.
F. 3 M.G.Bs. stand by anti E-Boat patrol at immediate notice at
Weymouth. If ordered to sea M.G.Bs. are not to proceed south of
line Portland Bill to St. Albans under any circumstances.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 101432A.)

S/M Patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800A/11th and movements
for following 24 hours. All times zone A.
D. VENTURER (P.68) 67° 17' N. 08° 20' E. probably
on the surface through 69° 02' N. 10° 50' E. toward
71° 02' N. 16° 55' E. Speed 8 knots.
E. ULA (P.66) leaves patrol vicinity of 62° 09' N. 02° 41' E. at
1700/11th through 090° Muckle Flugga 5 to Lerwick.
(F.O.S. 101701A.)

Your 092022 and 101132. Unless otherwise ordered intend to
patrol in SC. from 0700A till 1600A/11th thence proceeding Lerwick
E.T.A. 0600A/12th.
(STUBBORN 102235A to F.O.S. (R) C. in C.H.F. A.C.O.S. C. in.
C.Rosyth, V.A.2, Admty. S.O.S/Ms Lerwick.)

Allied Air Activity.

Operation F.T. A.P.911 10th Nov. Ref. Operation F.T. single unit
cover during daylight hours to be provided for
convoys J.W.54A, J.W.54B and R.A.54B to and from
Minches to P.L.E. as required. Iceland to be pre-
pared to assist if called upon by 18 Group in event
of emergency.
(H.Q.C.C. 101555A to 18 Group. (R) Iceland, Admty.
A.A.A. C. in C.H.F.)

287

10.11.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Jan Mayen. Jan Mayen reports unknown plane sighted by U.S.S. NORTHLAND (?6) miles south of Jan Mayen flying S.W. at 1000Z/9.
(A.C.I.C. 101730A.)

Mining.

16 M.S.F. Your 171054A (071054A intended) on completion proceed to Plymouth 12th Nov. sweeping as follows in H formation as deep as practicable.
2. Two ships search Q.Z.S. 416 and 409 to lat. 50° 16' 30" N.
3. Three ships search from Dart Buoy Q.Z.S. 440, 442 and 409 to lat. 50° 16' 30".
4. Saturday and Sunday remain in harbour.
(C. in C.Plymouth 101641 to M.S.16.)
1. My 071054A. Cancel para. 3, 2 due to parted sweeps. No further progress was made today.
3. Intend to proceed from Brixham at 0730/11 to continue programme Anchoring in Brixham Roads on completion.
4. If J formation again proves impracticable intend to adopt K formation.
(S.O.M.S.F.16 101824A.)

Humber area. One moored mine detonated in sweep 1115/10 144° 59A buoy 8 cables.
(F.O.Humber 102115A.)

Casualties & Defects.

MIDDLETON. MIDDLETON escorting convoy R.A.54A is expected in vicinity of Cape Wrath a.m. 13th. As this ship is urgently required for convoying in near future and is now due for boiler cleaning it would be of great assistance if this could be carried out on Clyde for a period of 6 days. As far as is known ship has no major defects.
(F.O.C.(D) H.F. 101435A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

S.C.1287, 1078, 721. Defects in S.C.1287 are only minor and will be made good by GREENWICH.
2, 3, 4. Re S.C. 1078 and S.C.721 further report will be forwarded when both vessels have been examined.
(A.C.I.C. 101532A to Admty.)

Shipping & Convoys.

M.K.S.29. D/F of transmissions on series one at 2050Z/9, 0045Z/10 and 0107Z/10. Suggest possibility that U-Boats are in contact with M.K.S.29.
(D.D.I.C. 100300A to Escorts M.K.S.29, HAVELOCK, SANTEE, L.C.I.S. 252. (R) C. in C.W.A. C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Gib. S.B.N.O.Azores, H.Q.C.C. Cominch.)

/Owing...

288

10.11.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- M.K.S.29. (Contd.) Owing to shortage of fuel VOLUNTEER will have to leave convoy at 0800Z/11th. HAVELOCK can stay until daylight 12th. Both ships fuelling Falmouth or Milford Haven. Request routes. (HAVELOCK 101059A to C. in C.W.A. (R) C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C. Capt. D. Liverpool.)
- R.A.54A. According to Russian information U-Boat sighted ships in Greenland Sea and called up an aircraft which carried out R/C 9th. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 100708A to Admty. C. in C.W.A. A.C.I.C. F.O.S. A.C.O.S. C. in C. Rosyth H.F.)
Your 091232A*concur but suggest as alternative one of the two escorts be used for W.N.4 and the other to escort ships mentioned. (C. in C. Rosyth 100920 to Admty.)
*re Escort arrangements for 6 ships from R.A.54A.
- J.W.54A. My 061807, para. 5 for LONDON (C.S.1) read KENT (C.S.1). Para. 9 add "except that HARRIER return with R.A.54B and HUSSAR remain in North Russia." (C. in C.H.F. 101225A to S.B.N.O.N. Russia, S.B.N.O. Archangel, A.C.I.C. H.Q.C.C. (R) Admty. A.C.O.S. C. in C. Rosyth, Comnavu, C. in C.W.A.)
- T.A.72. Convoy T.A.72 MAURETANIA will be ready to leave Liverpool p.m. 14th.
2. F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to sail ship to Halifax, Admiralty will signal route.
3. Fighter protection codeword "Deuce."
(D.O.D.H. 101522A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)
- T.A.71. Convoy T.A.71 QUEEN ELIZABETH will be ready to sail from Clyde p.m. 13th.
2. Request you will sail ship to New York. Admiralty will signal route.
3. Fighter protection codeword "Try Sail."
(D.O.D.H. 101545A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Route.
(D.O.D.H. 102015A.)
- K.M.F.26. A.M. 062109. A/S escort 1st E.G. comprising PELICAN, (S.O.), ROTHER, EVENLODE, JED, SPEY, WOODPECKER. 2A. SKATE is to escort SCYTHIA from Bristol Channel to Clyde. My 081720 refers. B. SCIMITAR is to escort 2 M/V from Liverpool to Clyde sailing 1230/13th. C. F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to detail one E/V from 1st E.G. to escort Liverpool portion of convoy sailing 15th November to Oversay. 3. Remainder 1st E.G. are to join at Oversay R/V.
(C. in C.W.A. 101608A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- RIMOUSKI. F.O.N.F. 291756 and my 010003. Transfer of RIMOUSKI to C.1 will not be ordered this trip as it would weaken C.3 E.G. on duty.
2. Endeavour will be made to effect a transfer when Groups cross on return trips.
(C. in C.W.A. 102221Z to F.O.N.F.)

10.11.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

G.U.S. 20 Request you will comply with para. 2 Admty.
CORFIRTH, 091230 and report arrangements made.
DUX. (F.O.C. Gib., 100023A to S.B.N.O. Azores, (R)
Admty., C. in C. Med.)

T.G. 27.4. Cancel my 092224A.
(C.M.S.F., 100818Z to C. in C. Lant.)

G.U.S. 25. Arrangements for sailing from Casa R/V in 34.50
08.11 at 081500Z, escort (6) T.F.66 BALDWIN,
HARDING, SATTERLEE, THOMPSON, KITE, THREAT, BROOM,
McCORMICK, CHEPACHET.
(7) 79 ships with CHEPACHET, UGANDA and CLEOPATRA in column.
(C.M.S.F., 100843Z.)

T.G. 27.4. Sailed U.S.S. CROATAN, ELIZABETH C. STANTON,
SAMUEL CHASE, McDOUGAL, ALBEMARLE, PHILADELPHIA,
BULMER, LEA, UPSHUR, ELLIS, HERBERT, BARKER,
TARBELL, MATAGORDA C.T.G. 27.4 092230A refers
(W.D. note see C.M.S.F. 092224.)
(C.M.S.F., 101131Z.)

MATILDE. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 061722. Portuguese sailing
vessel MATILDE 36 tons sighted in North Atlantic
28th Oct. believed to have left Cape Verde 15th
August for New Bedford with passengers.
2. Presume she was engaged in clandestine immigration traffic.
Have you any information.
(B.N.A. Lisbon, 101205 to N.C.S.O. St. Vincent Cape Verde, (R)
Admty., N.S.H.Q., S.B.N.O.W.At.)

Crew for C. in C. Med., 101251A.
Italian See Mediterranean.
ships in
Spanish
ports.

10th Cdr. 10th Destroyer Squad. in U.S.S. ELLYSON
Destroyer with RODMAN and EMMONS E.T.A. Horta, Azores at
Squad. 1000(O)/11th.
(Cdr. 10th Destroyer Squad., 101255Z to Admty.
deliver to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

TOURVILLE. Sailed 101500A.
(C.M.S.F., 101525A to Comar Dakar.)

Swiss SS. Leaves Marseilles for Gibraltar about 13th.
GENEROSO. (D.E.W.D., 101555A to F.O.I.C. Gib., Info. C. in
C. Med.)

/WISHART ...

290

10.11.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

WISHART. Cdre. A's 101206A*. Intend to pass Gate at 0915A/
11th. V.A. Burrough and S.O.(O) on board.
(WISHART, 101632A to F.O.I.C. Gib.)
* Not received.

Italian personnel, Spanish ports. Situation regarding warships and merchant ships remains as indicated telegram 1226 of Embassy to Chief of Government. Owing to present impossibility to put on board merchant ship personnel referred to in your 2345/6, suggest they should be kept ready in Italy or sent Algiers whichever offers better temporary accommodation than Gib. B.N.A. agrees. Regarding Cdr. Comicia impossible to obtain for the moment any authorization.
(B.N.A. Madrid, 101815A, 221314 to C. in C. Med., F.O.L.I., (R) Admty., C. in C. Med.)

REDPOLE, DEPTFORD. SS. EGHOLM and SKAANE not met, delayed by Customs. CYDONIA sailed escorted by H.M.S. DEPTFORD. REDPOLE patrolling weather report. (REDPOLE, 101900A to F.O.C. Gib., (R) DEPTFORD.) My 101900A and your 101819A (N.T. in W.D.) EGHOLM and SKAANE escorted by REDPOLE sailed 2100A. Have assumed codeword "Relax", DEPTFORD and CYDONIA codeword "Detest". (REDPOLE, 102141A to F.O.C. Gib.)

IRIS. Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Funchal, 101931.)

U/B. Internment of crew. U-Boat attacked and apparently damaged by A/C early a.m. today outside Spanish territorial waters, was thereafter continuously pursued into Spanish waters. She was reported at 1510 to have been one cable off the coast in vicinity of Ensa de Santa Marta. U-Boat may be aground and case will be the same as U-Boat beached off Melilla, crew of which the Spaniards have interned. Request you institute immediate enquiries with a view to applying at once for internment of both U-Boat and crew.
(Head of M.I., 101955A to N.A. Madrid, Info. C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C., F.O.C. Gib., C. in C. Med.)

War Diary.

10.11.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Overdue
shipping.

BARON SEMPLE due Freetown 7th from Rio de Janeiro not arrived.
(F.O.W.Af., 100923Z to Admty., (R) Com. Tenth Fleet, S.O.(I) Recife, Com. Fourth Fleet.)
See Cominch 102131Z - America and West Indies.

SUFFREN.

My 271227, October not to C.M.S.F. and my 091036 to F.O.C.W.Af. only. After next patrol intend to sail SUFFREN 22nd for Casablanca on ten day visit for partial recommissioning.
(Comar Dakar, 101024Z to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) Admty., C.M.S.F.)

L.T.S.4.

Arrivals 0927Z/10th WELLINGTON, LOWESTOFT, WESTON, DUNKERY, TURCOMAN with L.T.S.4.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 101240Z.)

CILICIA,
FAL.

Intend sailing CILICIA and FAL at 1400Z/11th to patrol area specified in my 211421Z Sept. Ships leave area 24th to return Freetown.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 101553Z to Admty., (R) Com. 4th Fleet, N.O.I.C. Ascension, Comar Dakar.)

292

10.11.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Aegean: 8 barges concealed in inlet 3L 33.12 N. 26.22 E.
Enemy 2E.
Reports. (A/C ZVF/M, 100015Z.)
Nr.3. Enemy anchorage of 10 auxiliary vessels
and 3 landing craft Port Livadhi.
(A/C YDF/U, 100757Z to 210 Group H.Q. M.E. Cmd.)
Nr.3. P.C. and S. of one F-Boat, 6 transport barges, 3
caiques 36.56 N. 26.35 E., 100°, 6 knots.
(A/C YDF/O, 100825Z to 201 Gp. H.Q. M.E. Cmd.)
Nr.1. P.C. and S. of 3 escort vessels, 14 barges, 7
planes 36.42 N. 26.40 E., course 030, speed 8.
(A/C YDF/X, 100920Z to 201 Group.)
Nr.5. My 0757Z C Nr.3 position 37.25 N. 24.59 E. Saros not
Port Livadhi.
(A/C YDF/U, 100920Z to 201 Group.)

QUILLIAM, My 091153. Amend P.C. and S. at 0600A/10th to
QUAIL. 040° 10' N. 018° 32' E., coastwise to Brindisi
11 knots.
One captured M.L. with German markings P.
Request fighter escort priority high 0600 till
1000.
(Capt. (D) 4, 100210A to F.O.T.A., (R) 286 Wing.)

Italian F.O.L.I.'s 231853 Oct. and C. in C. Med's 261147
S/Ms. Oct. have been passed to B.A.D.
Building (2) Para. 2 of C. in C. Med. 261147 Oct. is
at approved and work on cargo carrying S/M should
Taranto. be given priority immediately following repairs
be allied warships at Taranto.
(3) Forward result of survey and list of equipment
required from Allied sources as soon as possible.
(4) Arrangements to be made with the Italians concerning the
acquisition of these S/Ms. are under consideration. Request
your views.
(5) B.A.D. is requested to inform Cominch.
(D. of D. Bath sent at request of Vice Controller, 100215A to
C. in C. Med., Info. F.O.L.I., Comnavnaw, B.A.D.)

4th D.F. MY 2026A (W.D. note? 092026). One Siebel ferry
~~Aegean~~ADRIATIC laden with petrol and ammunition set on fire at
Operations. 2026 in 040° 12' N. 019° 30' E. and destroyed
later. Search for 3 escorting M.Ls. revealed 2
beached in St. Inrea Cove at 2330. One was
damaged and has been destroyed. Have one in
tow. Crew ran leaving dead. No trace third M.L. between Orso
Cove and Port Palermo. E.T.A. Brindisi 1030A RAIDER in company.
(Capt. (D) 4, 100224A to F.O.T.A., (R) C. in C. Med., N.Os. i/c.
Bari, Brindisi, QUEENBOROUGH, N.L.O. 8th Army, Tripoli.)

/GALATEA ...

War Diary.10.11.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

GALATEA. Left 9th. Italian.
(V.A. Alexandria, 100755)

Axis Shipping. My 091125C (N.T. in W.D.) ESTE sailed for Salonica 0100 G.M.T. 10th. E.T. of entry Aegean between 1600 and 1800 G.M.T. today.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 100940C to S.O.I. Levant, C. in C. Levant, S. one D.N.I.)

A. ?Reported OSSAG repairs completed. Expected transit (?) Straits of Aegean shortly. FIRUZ under repair Nikolaev and expected ready end of Nov. B.3.

B. Two or three vessels of unspecified size due Istanbul today from Black Sea in transit for Aegean. B.4.

Comment: These may be German Air Force rescue launches about which warning recently received from N.A. Ankara.

(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 101001C to S.O.(I) Levant, C. in C. Levant, (R) Capt. (S) 1, D.N.I.)

German vessels SANTA FE, JOHANNES MAERSK and BACCHUS entered Dardanelles 11 G.M.T. 10th on passage from Piraeus to Istanbul for orders.

N.L.O ?Adriatic informed.

(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1017 (?40C.) to S.O.(I) Levant, C. in C. Levant. (R) Capt. (S) 1, D.N.I.)

My 100940. ESTE entered Aegean 1500 G.M.T./10th. Course West towards Lemnos no escort.

(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 102038C to C. in C. Levant S.O.(I) Levant, (R) Capt. (S) 2 D.N.I.)

NORMAC. U.G.S.22. Norwegian NORMAC for Alexandria carries very valuable cargo. Particular attention should be paid to this ship. (C. in C. Med. 101045A to DELPHINIUM, E. of C. U.G.S.22.)

TRIDENT. TRIDENT join G.U.S.21 at Malta R/V for Gib. and onward routeing to U.K. (2) Authorities also are requested to warn merchant ships accordingly. (V.A. Malta, 101048 to DART, S.E. G.U.S.21, N. and A.A. Algiers to Bizerta, F.O.I.C.Gib. (R) F.O.S.)

Air Reports. M.S. 21842 Pt. 1 A.320 10th. Daily Opsum 196.

8/9th. 1 Wellington attacked shipping Naxia Harbour. No sightings were made and bombs were dropped on the harbour. Result not observed.

9th. 10 Baltimores (A.30) bombed jetty and shipping in Suda Bay Crete, full results not yet known but 2 burst seen on the stern of 1 400 foot vessel. 6 Beaufighters 2 armed with torpedoes sighted a 1500 tons M/V 40 miles north east of Stampalia escorted by 2 Arado 196s. 1 enemy aircraft was shot down and the other damaged. Cannon and machinegun attacks were made on M/V and 1 torpedo was dropped. Results unobserved.

End of Part 1.

(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 101116Z)

M.S.21842/...

10.11.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Air Reports. (Contd.) M.S.21842.
Part 2 A.320, 10th.
5 Wellingtons anti-shipping strike Stampalia area sighted 5 M/Vs., 8 barges and 8 other craft. Bombs were dropped on the M/Vs. with unobserved results. 1 Wellington damaged by A/A fire

following delayed details.

(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 101128Z.)

A.V. 974E, 10th. M.S. 21850 Part 1.

N.W.Af.A.F. Opsum 262. N.A.S.A.F. 8th/9th.

9th 3 Marauders R/C coastal waters Yugoslavia, Albania and Greece from Tagliamento River to Sapientza Island. 2 Spitfires shipping R/C Albanian Coast attacked small tug entering Port Saseno. Wireless mast shot away superstructure badly damaged.

(H.Q. N.A.A.F., 101454A.)

Part 3. N.W.A.A.F. Night 8th/9th. No operations by T.B.F. due to weather other than a diversional attack for the Navy on Fornia and Gaeta by five fighter bombers. Day 9th. 11 Spitfires flew a sweep in the Valona Durazzo area attacking shipping, gun positions and tanks. 12 Kittyhawks report 3 direct hits on a medium motor vessel at Split.

(Air C. in C. Med., T.O.O. Nil.)

Defence of Leros. Personal. In event of Leros being assaulted by L/C from Kos, do not consider that destroyers Use of Destroyers. can intervene effectively by day in view of heavy air attacks that they will get and confused situation likely to obtain inshore.
(2) Now that Leros is well garrisoned and organised it is hoped that it will be able to beat off or at any rate seriously weaken the first assaults.

(3) I consider that destroyers can best contribute to the battle by combing the area after dark for following up L/Cs and/or convoys which will be essential to the enemy to enable him to consolidate any footing he may have obtained and it is my intention so to employ them.

(4) It will therefore be important that you keep me and destroyers informed of situation as often as possible and of your policy for the use of your small craft, M.T.Bs., etc. Suggest all should be employed watching the approaches from the south specially in the later hours of the night and on east coast of Kalimno where destroyers cannot operate owing to mines.
(5) S/Ms. will remain in their present disposition to intercept following up convoys and shipping.

(6) Inform G.O.C. Leros.

(7) R.N. G.H.Q. pass to C. in C. M.E. and A.O.C.

(C. in C. Levant, 101120B to S.B.N.O. Aegean, (R) C.S.12, Capt. (F)., Admty., R.N. G.H.Q., C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1st, QUATSINO., Destroyers Levant Fleet.)

/A.B. 20 ...

295

10.11.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

A.B.20 (F) Sailing Telegram 40 ships.
 A.B.20 (S) (2) 1100Z/10th. Routes.
 A.P.52. (13) A.B.20 (F) (A) GLENGYLE (B) Master BERGENS-
 FJORD A.B.20 (S) (A) Master MARKHOR.
 (B) Master HISTORIAN A.P. 52
 (A) Master FORT STEELE (B) Master EMPIRE ENVOY.
 (N.C.S.O. Aden 101126Z, 101129A, 150931Z)

PROTEE. Intend sailing at 1700/12th proceeding on surface
 at discretion through 038 degs. 01' 003 degs. 46'
 at 0200/13th, to 040 degs. 02' 005 degs. 47'
 at 1900/13th, thence as ordered by Capt. (S) 10
 for patrol in zone ST. Capt. (S) 10 081024
 (N.T. in W.R.)
 (N.O.I.C. Algiers, 101150A to C. in C. Med. Capt.
 (S) 10, (R) 10th S.F. LA SULTANE, F.O.C. Gib.
 Capt. (S) 8.)

Aegean Islands. Minimize Leros, Samos, Kastelorizo.
 296B was Basgram 295B not to Levant.
 (C. in C. Med. 101224A to Med. Stn. Levant Stn.
 297B.)

Unified Naval Command Med. Further to my 091900 para.7 after consultation
 with A.C.M. Tedder we consider A.O.C. Gib.
 should carry a dual responsibility to A.O.C. in C.
 Med. and A.O.C. in C. C.C. similar to that
 projected for F.O.I.C. Gib. to N.A.
 Para.2. Air C. in C. is emphatic that C.A.F.
 along N.A.C. can only be effectively controlled
 from Algiers and is most anxious that Naval control of this
 area should also be centred there.
 (C. in C. Med. 101226A to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant, F.O.I.C.
 Gibraltar, V.A.M.)

Crews for Italian Ships in Spanish Ports. It is not practicable to keep Italian Seamen
 at Gib. as proposed in your 051217 while waiting
 possible requirement for Italian merchant ships.
 (2) Request you will arrange with M. of M. to
 keep personnel available in Italy.
 They could be moved at short notice possibly by
 Italian Warships on receipt of definite require-
 ments and proposals from B.N.A. Madrid and
 F.O.I.C. Gib.
 (C. in C. Med. 101251A to F.O.L.I. (R) Admty.
 F.O.I.C. Gib. B.N.A. Madrid.)

POZARICA, ARGENTINA, ARSIA. Admiralty in agreement with Cominch have confirmed
 these Italian Merchant Ships, A.M. 291815/ refers,
 are to be treated as Italian Ships placed at
 our disposal in accordance with Naval agreement
 N.A.F. 381.

War Diary.

10.11.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

POZARICA,
ARGENTINA,
ARSIA.
(Contd.)

(2) Question of prize procedure does not therefore arise.
(3) Request you will inform M. of M.
(C. in C. Med., 101252A to F.O.L.I. (R) Admty., F.O.T.A.)
/ Re Italian Merchant Ships POZARICA, ARGENTINA and ARSIA recaptured from the Germans with Italian crews, but German Armed Guard and Flag. Question whether ships to be treated as prizes or under N.A.F. 381.

Foxer
Gear.

Re. possibilities of production in Italy.
(2) Request information if it is desired to proceed with production in Italy.
(C. in C. Med. 101304A to Admty.)

T.X.7.

M.S.C.I. 22 onward route, escort. To arrive Alexandria Boom 0802/16th.
BURRA, ROMEO, KINGSTON CYANITE M.Ls 348, 384, 360. KINGSTON CYANITE and M.Ls join at 267 and 680 for Tobruk to arrive in daylight 14th.
(S.N.O. Cyrenaica, 101415B to R.A. Alexandria.)

SS. SAMBO
Sunk.

Liberty Ship SAMBO sunk 10 miles South of Perim 1511Z/10. 35 survivors picked up by SS. HELGOY. Suspect British mine not S/M vide QB 112.
(Cdre. Aden, 101545Z, 111512Z to C. in C. Levant, (R) C. in C. E.F., F.O.R.S.C.A. Admty.)

CUCKMERE
U/B
Attacked.

Have attacked A/S contact in 35 degs. 55' N. 04 16' W. with 16 depth charges.
Result unknown.
(CUCKMERE, 101605A to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty., (Tactical), F.O.I.C. Gib.)

U.S.
Movements.

Departures ACHELOUS, NIGELLA, L.S.T.73, and L.S.T. 239.
(Com. Aden, 101609Z)

LA SULTANE

Leave patrol p.m. 13th proceeding diving by day through 042 degs. 44' 006 degs. 47' at 0001/14th. 041 degs. 55' 006 degs. 42' at 0900/14th. 039 degs. 59' 005 degs. 43' at 1000/15th thence on surface at discretion unless otherwise ordered by Cmdre. Algiers through 038 degs. 01' 003 degs. 50' at 0200 change to R/V with Escort for Algiers in 037 degs. 02' 003 degs. 19' at 0900/16th.
(Capt. (S) 10, 101610 to LA SULTANE (R) 10th S.F. C. in C. Med. F.O.C. Gib. Com. Algiers.)

/Transfer ...

297

10.11.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Transfer of operational control of R.A.F. Gib. to A.O.C. in C. Coastal Command.

A.X.697, 10th. Your A.255, 8th. You may not have appreciated that my A.X.240 4th conveyed the decision of the Chiefs of Staff that operational control of Gib. was to revert to A.O.C. in C. Coastal Command at an early date, in the full knowledge that unified Naval Command in Med. was under consideration.

(2) My A.X.240 was worded so as to safeguard local interests, pending any change in Naval Command limits, the detailed effect of which can always be reviewed.

(3) It is urgent that the change over of operational control of Gib. should be effected without delay and not await agreement on unified Naval Command. Therefore propose that effective date be 0001/15th. Request your agreement.

(Air Min., 101620Z to A.O.C. in C., M.A.C. (R) H.Q.C.C., H.Q.Gib.)

X.T. 8. Sailing telegram. 11 ships. (2) 1245B/10th. (R.A. Alex., 101715B.)

Situation Aegean. 382724 0/33409. Cositrep 51. (5) Naval Aegean. A. 10th B.Y.M.S.72 and 73 left Kastelorizo with approx. 40 troops each due Leros 11th. B. 10th PENELOPE, BEAUFORT, PINDOS, FAULKNER leave Limasol 1730 hours to lie up Gulf of Kos.

(6) Air. B. Enemy. No reports of any enemy air activity. (C. in C. M.E., 101720A.)

382678. I/33407 10th Nov. Joint Army R.A.F. Int. appreciation 24 hours to 1000Z/10th.

(1) Samos and Leros ground situation unchanged up to 1000Z/ hours 10th.

(2) Leros reports 3 air attacks by single bombs 9th Nov. No reports from other islands of air attacks 9th Nov.

(3) Our naval forces report no contact with enemy night 9th/10th Nov. but bombarded coast Levitha Island.

(4) Ph. R/Cs shipping 9th Nov. no significant change (details). Visual R/C shipping 9th. Levitha p.m. Bay on south coast, 3 naval auxiliaries, 10 landing craft. Stampalia, p.m. Maltazena Bay, 2 naval auxiliaries, 6 landing craft. Attacking aircraft 2159Z hours report 3 naval auxiliaries and 8/14 landing craft in Maltazena Bay.

(5) C.X. 9th reports 6 cargo vessels 1000/3000 tons, and 1 schooner 800 tons at Piraeus ready to sail. Destinations not yet known.

(7) Air R/C a.m./10th reports. 0920Z hours 3 escort vessels and 14 landing craft 36.42 N. 26.40 E. (north-east Stampalia) course 030° speed 8 knots. 0825Z hours 1 F-Boat, 6 landing craft and 3 caiques (possibly naval auxiliaries) 36.56 N. 26.35 E. (south-east Levitha) course 110° speed 6 knots.

(8) Latest sightings 9th and 10th Nov. show L/C Flot. has divided into two groups which lay up night 9th/10th in Levitha and Stampalia respectively and resumed voyage at night 9th Nov. E.T.A. Kos/Kalimno area 1200/1400Z hours today. Still consider attack will be launched with minimum delay after arrival flot. in operational area preceded by intensive bombing. Employment limited number parachutists (see appreciation 4th Nov.) para.8) possible. (C. in C. M.E., No T.O.O./10th.)

/Evacuation ...

10.11.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Evacuation
of French
Refugees.

French Mission state arrangements for refugees are not possible for 12th, B.N.A. Madrid's 081940 confirmed. Therefore third evacuation from Malaga referred to in my 051822 is postponed to 15th.

(C. in C. Med. 101722A to F.O.C. Gib. B.N.A. Madrid, (R) Admty. Commorseafron, Naval France)

Torpedoes.
Shipment
to Eastern
Fleet.

Admty. 241732 and 270314.

(A) Shipment of torpedoes to Eastern Fleet.

(1) MAIDSTONE will leave Algiers with 55 21 inch Mark 8 torpedo units.

(2) Presume shipment of about twenty 21 inch Mark nine units from Levant stocks could be arranged in MAIDSTONE and balance of 21 inch mark eight and

nine be sent by freight since it appears most inadvisable to have any more torpedoes in one ship.

(B) Disposal of remaining torpedoes at Algiers twenty five 21 inch mark eight torpedoes remain to be shipped to Malta to bring reserve up to one hundred.

(C. in C. Med. 101753A to C. in C. Levant (R) V.A. Malta, C. in C. E.F., D.A.S. E.F., S.A.S.O. Med. Admty.)

RICHELIEU,
report
from
C. in C.
Med.

I have been on board RICHELIEU and consider her a remarkable ship and potentially a fine fighting unit with a very formidable close range A/A armament and good sea qualities at high speed. I was generally favourably impressed with the bearing and attitude of her Captain and company.

(2) A most notable deficiency however is absence of any form of gunnery Radar or blind firing

arrangements. I consider this to be essential if full value is to be obtained from this fast and well armed ship.

(3) Points which require particular attention to being her equipment to British Fleet standards, are (details)

(4) The standard of training generally is fair, but that of Radar operators, is poor and plenty of working up practice will be required.

(5) Details follow by letter.

(C. in C. Med. 101810A to Admty. (R) C. in C. H.F.)

MONTEREY.

M.K.F.25A MONTEREY sailed 1630A/10 as in FOWIT's 092306A.

(N.O.I.C. Naples, 101901A)

Levant
Situation
Report
No.105.

Up to 1800B/10th. A force of two M/V's and 10 invasion craft were sighted yesterday making for Levitha from Amorogos. PETARD, ROCKWOOD and KRAKOWIAK left Turkish waters to sweep between these islands and to investigate Levitha. A search of Levitha Western Bay and Kinaros Island revealed no shipping and destroyers bombarded

Levitha /...

299

10.11.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Levant Situation Report No.105. (Contd.) Levitha harbour, results not known. (2) FURY, EXMOOR and BLENCATHRA left Gulf of Doris last night and withdrew South. (3) Groups of invasion craft sighted by aircraft today approaching Kos. Destroyers ordered to bombard port Kalimno and Kos Harbour tonight. (C. in C. Levant, 101946B)

N.V.8. N.V.8. Request you will sail convoy 1100A/12th. to Augusta. Arrangements. (8) Escort EGGESFORD, LAMERTON, LAUDERDALE. (F.O.W. It. 102057 to N.O.I.C.Naples)

Med. Situation Report No.226. (1) My 072243. Para. 6. 5 enemy aircraft claimed destroyed by A/A fire during attacks on convoy K.M.F.25A. (2) QUILLIAM, RAIDER on patrol south of Valona night 9th/10th sank a Siebel ferry loaded with petrol and ammunition. Of 3 escorting M.L's one was taken in tow to Brindisi and one was destroyed. (3) Between 1st and 8th 61 mines were swept by 14th M/S Flot. whilst clearing the approach channel to Maddalena. (4) One enemy aircraft was shot down during an attack by 9 planes on Maddalena at 0200/10th. (C. in C. Med. 102145C to Admty.)

M.K.F.25A. Intend sailing at 2200A/11th Palermo section to R/V at position 123 at 1100A Nov.12th. S. of A. 14 knots. Route F. Codeword to R/V "Hedden" 14. S.O. of Escort in DAVIDSON. 9 ships including U.S.S. THURSTON, MONTEREY. Escort group U.S.S. DAVIDSON (S.O), PARKER, NERVINE, TILLMAN, LAUB, McLANAHAN, WAINWRIGHT to T.U. 14.7 COLOMBO. Priority High. (Com. N.O.B. Palermo, 102250A)

Augusta Movement. 10th. Departed Italian TARNANE, T.5, MELIDA. (N.O.I.C. Augusta, 102259)

U/B base Marseilles. Reports on the U-Boat base now being developed at Marseilles show that state of development makes it a profitable bombing target. (2) Experience has shown that effective damage on completed pens cannot be expected, but pens and adjacent buildings and workshops are vulnerable to high level precision bombing as carried out by U.S. Army A.F. while these targets are in the process of construction, particularly in the preliminary stages of erection. Even if complete destruction

did /...

300

10.11.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

U/B base
Marseilles.
(Contd.)

did not result from an attack, most probable great delay would be caused by damage to surrounding installations, temporary buildings, concrete mixers and the dredger being used in the Basin.

(3) Consider that the time is now ripe for attack.

(4) Request you represent case to Eisenhower

with a view to placing this target high in the priority for bombing.

(D.A.U.D. Approved by V.C.N.S. 102300A to C. in C. Med. Info C. in C. Levant, Air Min.)

Pal~~e~~stinian
Port
Movements.

Arrived 10th. It.S/M. ZOEAL, GALTEA.
Departure RORQUAL.
(N.O.I.C. Palestinean Ports, 102332B)

Cyprus
Movements.

10th. Arrived and left PENELOPE, BEAUFORT, PENN,
PINDOS.
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta, 102359B)

301

10.11.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- Destroyer outfits, star shell. Your 110223Z Oct. (Details of outfits.)
2. Experience in Atlantic confirms adequacy of above outfits which apply also to Eastern Fleet.
3. Approved to expend in practice up to 2 outfits per annum. Despatch from U.K. will be raised accordingly.
4. Request you will report in 6 months time as to adequacy of revised outfits and practice allowances.
(D.G.D. 100018A, to C. in C. E.F., (R) C. in C. S.A., D.D.A.S. E.F.)
- A.B.18A. Arrived ASTER, LISMORE escorting A.B. 18A.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 100323Z.)
- Eastern Fleet assault ships and craft, policy and planning. Matters concerning Eastern Fleet assault ships and craft will normally be dealt with at Eastern Fleet H.Q. (S.E.A.C.)
2. It is requested therefore that relevant signals should be addressed C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.)
3. C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.) is requested to deal with all routine matters of this nature referring only matter of policy for the personal decision of the C. in C.
4. Routine matters concerning passage and convoy arrangements for assault shipping and craft on the East Indies Station will continue to be dealt with at Eastern Fleet H.Q. (Colombo) but in order that Eastern Fleet H.Q. (S.E.A.C.) is kept informed all such signals should be addressed to C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.) and be routed both to Colombo and Delhi in accordance with A.G.M. 714A of 1st Oct., para. 3.
(C. in C. E.F. 100327Z, to S. & A. Arabian Sea Area, S. & A. Bengal Area, Negative Ships, Adnty., F.O.C. Red Sea, N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.), C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, S.O. Force G, S.O. A.S.C. (I), D.C.O. (I), S.R.N.O. Bombay, S.A.C. (S.E.A.C.).)
- Vizagapatam. Re dredging for site for floating dock.
(C. in C. E.F. 100434Z.)
- A.K.D.5. Sailing telegram part 1.
1. Kilindini Portion A.K.D.5.
2. Kilindini Portion 0347Z/10 to r/v with Aden Portion off Kilindini. Dar-Es-Salaam Portion comprising CHINA MAIL escorted by SPHENE to r/v 06° 52' S. 41° 20' E. at 05001/11 (0400Z/11), thence SPHENE continuing with convoy.
3. E.T.A. Beira 1200Z/16, Lourenco Marques 2300Z/18, Durban 0900Z/20. (4) 8 knots. (5) Standard. (6) STELLA POLARIS, WELLARD, DRANGEY, SPHENE.
(N.C.S.O. Kilindini, 100502Z to Adnty.) As amended 111214Z.

/Escort

302

10.11.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.Escort
Groups,
Bases,
Facilities.Colombo Escort Base requirements Admty. 011904
and my 100537 refer.

2. Escorts. To maintain B.M. M.B. convoy cycle at strength of three escorts per convoy cover escort requirements to Island bases and provide a fast support group, intention is to base 20 escorts on Colombo and Indian East Coast Group of 20 escorts based on Calcutta is also envisaged at strength of four escorts per convoy and it is intended that the latter ships shall be trained at Colombo.

3. The Base Staff at Colombo will therefore require to maintain 20 ships and to train 40 ships.

4. - 10. (No para. 5) Re Staff, equipment and base ship. (C. in C. E.F. 100533Z, to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.), F.O. Ceylon, Capt. A.B.C.E.F., C. in C.S.A., F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Re Escort Base requirements.

2. A statement showing existing organization of (? escorts) to East Indies convoys with total reinforcements recommended and allocation of bases (2004/EF 767/131 of 6th November) this was forwarded by Air Mail.

3. Summary as follows:

(A) Escort bases and totals of escort vessels envisaged:

Kilindini 16, Aden 24, Bombay 24, Colombo 20, Calcutta (?20).

(B) Training facilities are required at Kilindini, Aden, Bombay, Colombo.

(C) Consideration of escort problem for Australia to India shipping is not being included at present.

(D) C. in C. South Atlantic is being requested to remark on requirements, Durban which must be considered separately, from Kilindini. Your 011904 para. 2 (c) refers.

5. Auxiliary escort bases. My 021152 August, para. 3 refers. (A) Experience shows Diego Suarez is not required as auxiliary escort base.

(B) Consider facilities already being built up at Madras, Vizagapatam and Karachi will meet requirement for number of escorts envisaged as calling at these ports.

(C) Facilities at Bandar Abbas are under consideration.

(C. in C. E.F. 100537Z, to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.), F.O. Ceylon, N.O.i/c Aden, F.O. East Africa, Capt. A.B.C.E.F., F.O.C.R.I.N., Com. R.I.N., C. in C. S.A., S.N.O., P.G., A.C.N.B., F.O.R.S.C.A.)

BARSPEAR,
BARHOLM.

Request information when BARSPEAR and BARHOLM may be expected to join Eastern Fleet. A.M. 191342 July to C. in C. E.F. only refers. (C. in C. E.F. 100546Z, to Admty.)

A.B.19.

Arrived escorted by TULIP and GAWLER. (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 100551Z, to Admty.)

FREESIA,
MANGKALIHAT.

FREESIA formed part of the South Atlantic escort force at time of incident referred to in your 062047 Nov. not to C. in C. S.A. 2. C. in C. S.A. has investigated and reported

/on

303

10.11.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

FREESIA, on this matter in his 01213/1220 dated 21st Sept.
MANGKALIHAT - addressed to Admiralty.
Contd.

3. After reading the master's report I am of the opinion that (A) It is evident that the C.O. H.M.S. FREESIA refused permission to the master to reboard his ship on grounds that master was not prepared to sign a certificate of abandonment. (B) The fact that the master was not on board to supervise personally the measures necessary to preserve the integrity of his ship for the best part of 24 hours may have been a contributory cause of the final sinking of the ship.

4. ? My 100917Z (100907Z intended) (460C) directs attention to this matter.

(C. in C. E.F. 100902Z, 100907Z to Admty. (R) N.C.S.O. Durban, C. in C. S.A.)

War Reg. Note. Refusal of C.O. FREESIA to allow Master and crew to reboard S.S. MANGKALIHAT.

A case has occurred recently of C.O. of one of H.M. Ships withholding permission for Master of torpedoed merchant ship to reboard his ship when Master was not prepared to sign a Certificate of Abandonment.

2. Attention is called to A.F.O. 239/43.

3. Action of this nature is inconsistent with primary duty of every C.O. to ensure that all measures are taken without let or hindrance to assist in securing safety of a vessel suffering a war casualty.

(C. in C. E.F. 100917Z, to E.I. Station 460C. (R) Admty.)

PANGKOR.

Concur in principle with your 040706. Details under consideration with Com. R.I.N.

(F.O.C.R.I.N. 100903Z, to C. in C. E.F. (R) Com.R.I.N., BRAGANZA, Admty.)

U/B attacked. Following attack on U/B reported in my 050237. A series of patrols and searches was carried out along U/B's probable route assuming her to be returning to Malacca Strait.

2. At 1005 F/G on 8th a Liberator attacked periscope feather in 04° 09' N. 86° 09' E. Depth charges failed to release.

3. A Catalina homed to the area sighted short periscope feather at 1309 F/G but it disappeared before she could attack. This Catalina later attacked suspicious patch of bubbles with no result.

4. Weather in area which at no time was good deteriorated steadily and at 1500 F/G on 9th search was abandoned.

(C. in C. E.F. 100955Z, to Admty. (R) 222 Group, C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.))

Landing
Craft,
Provision.

Your 210301Z.

2. Chief of Staff are being asked to approve provision of following craft in the first instance for training and operations:-

- (a) L.C.T.(R) 27 Speed 9 knots
- (b) L.C.S.(R) 26
- (c) L.C.G.(M) Mk.I.45 Speed 13½ knots
- (d) L.C.G.(M) Mk.II.60

/3.

304

10.11.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Landing
Craft,
Provision -
Contd.

3. Of these (a) and (c) are expected survivors from "Overlord" and should be available in India about the end of 1944, assuming that they are released from Europe by 1st Sept. (b) and (d) are new construction and will be sent out as they complete but date of arrival cannot yet be forecast.

4. It is proposed that subsequent construction should be confined to L.C.S.(R) and L.C.G.(M) Mk.II and should aim at maintaining in S.E. Asia 50 rocket craft and 100 gun craft.

5. Admiralty view that more gun craft are required than rocket craft is based on following considerations:-

(a) Lack of tactical flexibility of rocket craft.

(b) Small maximum range of rockets.

(c) Expected scale and nature of opposition and beach defences.

(d) Difficulty of landing and deploying Army artillery in conditions of jungle warfare.

(e) Suitability of gun craft for use in rivers, creeks and estuaries.

6. Staff requirements for L.C.S.(R) and L.C.G.(M) Mk. II are not yet decided but maximum speeds is unlikely to exceed 13½ knots.

(A.C.N.S.(W), 101646A, to C. in C. E.F.)

Convoy
sailings
and arrival
telegrams.

Abbreviated procedure on E.F. Station. Reply to C. in C. E.F.

(D.S.D. 101719A, to C. in C. E.F.)

U/B's,
N. Indian
Ocean.

No evidence at present of more than two U/B's in Northern Indian Ocean area probably both Japanese, one from D/F of 1st Nov. S.W. of Laccadives may possibly have been sighted on 5th Nov. off Muscat, the other possibly attacked by QUADRANT off Mozambique on 7th Nov. may be homeward bound from Mozambique Channel.

(D.D.I.C. 101747, to C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.), A.C.N.B.)

FLAMINGO.

Asking for brief report on general state etc. in order to enable allocation to be decided.

(D.O.D.(F), 101800A, to C. in C. E.F. Info. C. in C. Levant, R.A.T.E. Durban, FLAMINGO, BRAGANZA.)

305

10.11.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

- C.T.G.27.4. Originator's correction to C.T.G.27.4's 092230A. Addressed to Com.3, Com.5 and N.O.B. Casablanca for action. Speed 13.5 E.T.A. 212200. E.T.D. Casablanca 101200 no air coverage in group. Enters Bermuda coverage about 172100 and Eastseafron coverage about 210100. Cinclant 021856 refers expect detach this Unit 27.4.2 for Hampton Roads about Point Q. E.T.A. X.S.212200. All times Z. (Comnaveu 100144 to Admty.)
- T.G.21.9 Cinclant sends 092324 to Comcordiv 19 to action. constituted. To C.E.S.F., Com. 10th Fleet, Cominch, C.T.F.24, P.D.N.Y., C.T.F.29, Com.3, Comnaveu, C.T.F.23, C. in C. C.N.A., Londonderry and Admty. for Info. This constitutes Task Group 21.9 Cortdiv 19 less BULL plus J.E. CAMPBELL Comdr. Howe in AMESBURY. Escort Convoy C.U.7 to U.K. sailing New York 20th. Comdt. N.O.B. Londonderry will direct you return New York escorting convoy U.C.7. Convoy consists not over 24 tankers. Routes will be furnished you. F.T.P.215 Article 702 contains information on "Chops". (Comnaveu 100537 to Admty.)
- E.G.2. My P.C.& S. 045° 40' N. 042° 17' W. 277° 11 knots, E.T.A. Argentia a.m. 12th. Weather report. (S.O. Escort Group 2 101000A to C. in C.W.A.)
- DACRES. When ready sail DACRES Boston to Argentia for passage to U.K. as additional convoy escort. (Cominch 101150 to C.E.S.F.)
- E.G.5. E.G.5 NENE H/F D/F (S.O.) TWEED H/F D/F LUNENBURG, EDMUNSTON, CALGARY, SNOWBERRY, sails St. Johns, N.F. 1900Z/10th to provide support for H.X.265 from Westomp. (F.O.N.F. 101248Z to C. in C.W.A.)
- TRACKER. Salor 10364. Lorsa 13367 (190233/10) TRACKER returning to Argentia request modified pump unit be despatched there for ship. (Head of M.A.S. 101334A to B.A.D.)
- RENONCULE. My 091824. Sailed RENONCULE at 1300Z/10th. (C. in C. C.N.A. 101429Z to Cmdt. 5th Naval District Norfolk.)
- N.S.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q. 101442Z.)
S/M.
Estimate.

306

10.11.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Italian Vessels. Re maintenance asking for reply to his 232215. His 301925 Oct. also refers. (B.A.D. 101545Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

U.S. S/M. Estimate. (Cominch 101553Z.)

U.G.S.23. Sailing telegram. Part 2. P.D. Norfolk originated this as 041410. (P.D. Norfolk 101600 to Com.10th Fleet C. & R.)

B.Y.M.S.36, 205. Arrangements for proceeding from New York to Londonderry. When ready about 1030Q/13th. (C.E.S.F. 101601 to B.Y.M.S.36 and 205.) Amended see C.E.S.F. 111927.

LORD COCHRANE dredging. B.A.M.R's 200049 Oct. (?B.A.D.) Question as to informal agreement put to local authorities. Following is in extract from Col.Secretary's reply (begins). This Gov. has no knowledge of any such arrangement as that referred to. (Ends.) (Cdre. Supt. Bermuda 101656Z to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O. W.At., B.A.M.R.)

CATHERINE, CATO. Sail CATHERINE and CATO when ready about 12 Nov. New York to Argentia for passage to U.K. as additional convoy escort. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 101932Z to C.E.S.F.)

B.Y.M.S. 60, 236, 168, 181, 162. When ready about 2200Q/11th proceed in company Charleston to Bermuda (route). This withdraws Cominch 011853. (Cdt. 6th U.S. Navn. Dist. Charleston 102007 to B.Y.M.S.60, 236, 168, 181, 162 (R) C.E.S.F.Cominch, Cinclant, Admty., N.S.H.Q., C. in C.W.A., F.O.C. Gib., C. in C. Med., C. in C.E.F., N.O.B. Bermuda, Comnavnaw, S.B.N.O. Azores.)

GRINDALL. Left Bermuda 2345Z/10th for Argentia. S. of A. 12 knots, route. S.B.N.O.W.At. 131529. (Halifax 102015, 102345Z to N.D.B. Argentia.)

GOULD. Left Bermuda for Norfolk 2340Z/10. Route. Speed 11 knots. (U.S. Navcom Washington 102020, 102340Z to R.D.O. Washington pass to Admiralty, B.A.D. Cominch.)

U/B attacked. Have lost touch with enemy S/M last seen in 44.18 N. 52.27 W. results of attack hits probable Flak? (Newfoundland 102028Z to A.C.I.C. Admty.)

/Enemy...

307

10.11.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

U/B. Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on surface
attacked. and observed to submerge 44° 35' N. 52° 48' W.
(Contd.) (Nfld. 102028 to A.C.I.C. Admty.)
Fuel permitting proceed forthwith to position 044°
35' N. 052° 12' W. where S/M sighted by aircraft at
102028Z aircraft will co-operate.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 102140Z to W.6 (R) C.2, E.G.7,
Connav, Admty., A.C.I.C., C. in C.W.A., N.S.H.Q.,
F.O.N.F., Cdr.(D) Argentia, H.Q.C.C., Cdre. (D) W.A.)
My 102140 not to all. Report your intentions. Aircraft
attacked U-Boat in amended position 044° 18' N. 052° 27' W.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 102250Z to W.6 (R) C.2, E.G.7, Connav,
Admty., A.C.I.C., C. in C.W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F. Cdr. (D)
Argentia, H.Q.C.C., Cdre. (D) W.A.)
Detach forthwith one escort to 044° 18' N. 052° 27' W. where
aircraft attacked S/M at 2028 aircraft will co-operate. Report
name of escort detached.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 102240Z to W.6 (R) C.2, E.G.7, Connav,
Admty., A.C.I.C., C. in C.W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F. Cdr. (D)
Argentia, H.Q.C.C. Cdre. (D) W.A.)
Your 102240Z. KENORA. Convoy. P.C. & S. 045° 41' 052° 50'
240° 9.5. Weather report.
(W.9 102359Z to C. in C. C.N.A.) as amended 110405Z.
Your 102250. 047° 54' N. 048° 04' W. course 220° speed 14.
MONTGOMERY only speed 22. In view of distance please confirm
this section.
(W.6 102330Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) Connav, Admty., A.C.I.C.,
N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., Cdre. (D), Crew A Argentia, Cdre. (D) W.A.,
H.Q.C.C., W.9., W.3.)

KHEDIVE. My 291833Z April. KHEDIVE in convoy U.T.4A has
following aircraft on board. 849 Squadron 12
Tarpon. 1834 Squadron 10 Corsair. Also 10 Tarpon I
9 Tarpon II, 3 Harvard all erected and inhibited,
and one Albacore crated.
(B.A.D. 102031Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A., F.O.C.T.)

MARNIX VAN Netherlands N.A. understand MARNIX VAN ST.ALDEGONDE
ST.ALDEGONDE. was sunk at 1800/7th 6 miles North of Philippeville.
He would be grateful for any further details
particularly with regard to fate of personnel.
(B.R.L.O. New York 102033Z to N.S.H.Q.) W.R.Note:
Signal not addressed Admty., passed for information by
Ottawa.

Manning Personal for 1st S.L. from C.N.S. Canada.
of British Your 060258A. It is our endeavour to do everything
built possible to alleviate your manning situation but
Frigates. manpower situation in Canada is such that Cabinet
look with disfavour on undertaking any commitments
in addition to those we assumed as a result of
Quebec Conference. Any additional assistance
therefore necessitates further spreading of our
personnel and can only be done after careful study and considered
planning with no quick personnel moves possible. As an immediate

/step...

308

War Diary.10.11.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.Manning
of British
built
Frigates.

step, however, which would avoid lease-lend complications, I have been able to arrange subject to your concurrence for the R.C.N. to man ten British built frigates by mid-February releasing some 1400 R.N. Officers and men. In addition, all British manned vessels in the Western Escort Force can be relieved. N.S.H.Q.'s 101703 and A.M.061840 Para.20 refer. This I believe to be the most expeditious method of assisting the solution of your problem, but the situation will be given continuous study. Hearty congratulations on your appointment.
(C.N.S. Canada 102052Z to Admty.)

Submarine
attack and
sighting
summary.

Para C. All time Z. B.25 sighted S/M. 08.15 N. 58.50 W. 091545. P.V.Radar contact 13.26 N. 68.06 W. 090444.
(Cominch 102055Z to Admty.)

BARON
SEMPLE
overdue.

Consider BARON SEMPLE F.O.C.W.Af. 100923 probable U-Boat victim about 2nd Nov. Area 05 S. 21 W.
(Cominch 102131Z to Com.4th Fleet. (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)

ARGONAUT.

My 262030 Oct. ARGONAUT now expected to sail for Norfolk (Virginia) on 13th and for U.K. about 23rd. (B.A.M.R. 102214Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., S.B.N.O., W.A., C. in C. C.N.A., ARGONAUT.)

Australia & New Zealand.

MOOLTAN.

Your 030439. N.Z.Government will not agree to MOOLTAN leaving Wellington unescorted. Request you will provide escort from 159° E. Com. Third Fleet is being requested to supply escort from Wellington to 159° E. Should operational requirements make it impossible for Com. Third Fleet to meet this commitment a further request will be made to you to provide escort from Wellington.
(N.Z.N.B. 100439 to A.C.N.B. (R) Com. 7th Fleet, Admty., D. of S.T.)

Digest Serial
No.659
Nov.9th.

1. Forenoon 9th Liberator reported 1 Destroyer, 2 Medium Merchantmen, 55 miles North Mussau Island heading North. 2. Near midnight 8th 1 Liberator attacked Convoy described 1 possible light cruiser, 1 Destroyer, 1 large Merchantman off western tip New Hanover, scoring 1 direct hit and 2 near misses on large merchantship which was claimed sunk.

War Diary.10.11.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand

Digest (3) Late forenoon convoy described 1 light cruiser
Serial No. 659 3 Destroyers, 5 Merchantmen reported just South of
Nov. 9th. Western end New Hanover on easterly course. Probably
(Contd.) same convoy reported later during night hours off
mid South Coast New Ireland approaching Rabaul at
slow speed. (4) Navy Catalina unsuccessfully
attacked Convoy, 1 Destroyer, 1 Subchaser,
2 Merchantmen, 95 miles W.N.W. of Rabaul on course 150° near ?
midnight 8th. (5) Photographs Rabaul harbour forenoon reveal
1 damaged heavy cruiser, 1 light cruiser, 9 Destroyers including
1 damaged, 2 Submarines, 1 damaged Destroyer Tender and 8 Merchant-
men of which 7 appear damaged. In addition 5 probable Warships
observed off Cape Gazelle heading North. (6) Navy Catalina
straffed 3 large Barges North of Rein Bay prior midnight 8th while
3 other Barges reported passing Cape Hoskins on Easterly course
earlier same night. (7) Single Liberator attacking A/A positions
Garove Island afternoon 8th observed enemy submarine submerging
this area on North Easterly course, (13) Allied troops with
artillery and tanks engaged enemy force estimated 300 landed near
mouth Laruma River (North West Cape Torokina) early hours 7th
killing approx. 150 troops. Our general situation reported to be
secure and satisfactory casualties total approx 60. (14) Further
details interception enemy force Dive Bombers and Fighters Empress
Augusta Bay 8th indicated additional 3 Dive Bombers and 1 Fighter
destroyed and additional 3 Dive Bombers probably destroyed. We
lost additional 3 Fighters. (15) R/C Liberator over Kapingamarangi
noon 9th reported destroying 1 of 5 enemy Float-Planes attempting to
intercept our aircraft. (16) Fighter patrols straffed enemy
positions and barges Laruma River forenoon 8th.
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A. 100816Z.)

Movements. Departed
Exmouth Gulf 9th U.S.S. CHANTICLEER for Fremantle.
(A.C.N.B. 101236Z.)

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 101405A, 101410A.)

Submarines Attacked.

S/M attack and sighting summary for 24 hours to 0900Z/10th.
Para. A. Fortress A/C sighted U-Boat at 0720/9th in about 40° 26' N. 20° 05' W. Lib.R/105 reports U-Boat on surface at 0810Z/10th in 44° 15' N. 9° W. Course 180°. Para. B. Br. BECHEVILLE reported U-Boat at 1025/9th in 41° 24' N. 19° 39' W. Transit A/C reported two U-Boats on surface at 1130/9th in 40° 08' N. 09° 53' W. Course 180°. Reference A.M. 250953Z. Para.A. Br. CONGELLA shelled by two U-Boats and sank on the 24th Oct. Ref. A.M. 091042A. Para.A. HAVELOCK sighted and attacked U-Boat at 0500/9 in 41° 00' N. 19° 33' W.
(D.D.I.C. 101056A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

11.11.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Bay
Patrol.

1. A photographic R/C of the Gironde Ports yesterday shows that the German TAINENFELS has left; and two U-Boats were sighted by A/C to-day in the Biscay area.

Enemy
Mines.

2. One more moored Mine was detonated by Sweepers close to 59A Buoy in the Humber area to-day.

U-Boats
attacked
by KISTNA
on 4th
November.

3. F.O.C. Gibraltar reports to-day that the British KISTNA in Convoy O.S.57/K.M.S.31 attacked and possibly damaged a U-Boat about 620 miles West of Cape Ortegale on the 4th November, and also then attacked a possible second U-Boat without apparent success.

Foreign Stations.

Owing to illness of the Staff, the Situation Report today is incomplete.

Mediterranean.

Air Attacks
on K.M.S.31.

See 12 November.

K.M.S.
Convoys.

4(a) Considerable dislocation has been caused to the Mediterranean Convoy cycle by the fact that K.M.S. convoys are consistently two days late in arriving at Gibraltar. This is due mainly to the fact that the passage time was calculated for the inner route in June. C. in C. Med. asks that the date of sailing of the convoys from the U.K. should be adjusted.
(b) The Admiralty reply and proposals for revised sailing programme are in A.M.151759A.

Rockwood) Aegean
KRAKOWIAK
damaged.

5 (a) The destroyers engaged in Aegean operations last night were heavily and accurately bombed with glider bombs in bright moonlight, particularly the Kalimmo force.
(b) At 0045 today ROCKWOOD was hit by an unexploded bomb which penetrated to her gearing room in 36.23 N. 26.55 E. (about 15 miles west of Stampalia). PETARD (Lt. Comdr. Egan) took ROCKWOOD in tow whilst still under bombing attack, with KRAKOWIAK in company, for Port Losta (36.43 N. 26.09 E.) in the Gulf of Doris, to assess the damage. Losta Bay was reached by daylight and the three destroyers lay up there. Repair gear is
being /...

11.11.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Rockwood Aegean
KRAKOWIAK
damaged.
(Contd.)

being sent to ROCKWOOD by destroyer tomorrow night.
(c) FAULKNER, BEAUFORT and PINDOS were bombed at 0302 today whilst approaching Kos Harbour which they bombarded between 0330 and 0355. Results were not seen. The destroyers retired to Port Deremen in the Gulf of Kos.

East Indies.

6. The SS. HALLBJORG reported on arrival at Kilindini being unsuccessfully attacked 10 miles East of Mozambique at 0700Z/4 and again unsuccessfully in about 13 S. 41 E at 1000Z/5. The submarine was not sighted.

Landing
at
Daiyer.

7. The landing of troops from SEABELLE (see 10 Nov.) commenced at 0145Z today in ship's whalers and a motor boat. The forts were surrounded and captured, but the brigand leader escaped. All troops and stores were landed by 1500Z and the Navy's part in the operations was completed.

8. The S/M TALLY HO reports that she has sunk a medium merchant ship whilst on patrol off Penang.

America and West Indies.

9. An aircraft attacked a U-Boat at 1155 today in 43.35 N. 52.50 W. (320 miles north of St. Johns N.F.) and reported probable hits.

312

11.11.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

Air
Attack on
Rabaul.
Light
Cruiser
and 2
Destroyers
Sunk.
Over 100
Enemy
Aircraft
Destroyed.

10 (a) This forenoon, 143 escorted U.S. carrier borne aircraft and 42 U.S. Liberators attacked enemy warships in Rabaul harbour. The Striking Force was composed of 71 Dauntless, 72 Avengers, 125 fighters from two Carrier groups plus 42 Liberators. It is reported that a light cruiser or destroyer leader and two destroyers were sunk; one heavy cruiser was hit by certainly two torpedoes and up to 11 destroyers were damaged. 31 of the enemy fighter aircraft which intercepted were shot down. The Allies lost 14 carrier borne aircraft and one Liberator.

(b) Five hours later, one Carrier Group was attacked by enemy torpedo aircraft and bombers. Shore based fighter cover and carrier fighters and A/A fire destroyed over 80 of the enemy. 7 Allied fighters were lost.

313

11.11.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.LOCHY,
BRAID.

Frigates are allocated as follows:-
LOCHY to Londonderry, BRAID to Greenock.
(2) BRAID will be French-manned.
(C. in C. W.A. 112301A to Cdre. D. W.A.)

Defence of U.K.Faroes
A/A
defences.

There is no Admiralty requirement for increased A/A
defences at Skaalefjord and no objection to with-
drawal of L.A/A troops from Sudorsy and Klaksvig.
(Admty. 110037A to War Office.)

Firth of
Forth fixed
defences.

Your 091200A. It was fully realised that details of
the final scales in Coast Artillery had not yet been
referred to you officially and that minor modifi-
cations within the reduced manpower now allotted would
probably be necessary. 2. Your proposals with which
we concur in principle are being examined and a
further communication will be made.
(D.L.D. 111202A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Movements.

VANESSA.

Sailed VANESSA in accordance with C. in C.W.A.
101033.
(Cdre. D.W.A. 111341A to C. in C.W.A.)

S/M.
movements.

Positions of S/Ms. at 0800/12 and movements for
following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 111802A, 111841A, 120713, 120733.)

T.G.21-7.

C.T.G.21-7 in U.S.S. SCOTT and U.S.S. BULL,
BURKE, WEBER, SCHMITT and FRAMENT arrived from
C.U.6.
(E.C. Londonderry 112034Z to C. in C.W.A.)

FORMIDABLE.

FORMIDABLE proceed Clyde passing Hoxa Gate at
2100Z/12. Route via Minches and War channel speed
to be adjusted to pass Clyde Boom 2100A/13.
(2) R.A.(D) H.F. is requested to sail 2 destroyers
to escort FORMIDABLE to Cape Wrath then Scapa.
(C. in C. H.F. 112234A to FORMIDABLE.)

/T.F.121...

11.11.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

T.F.121. A.M. 260145. It is confirmed that Task Force 121 cannot be retained after the 1st December and is to be sailed for U.S.A. on that date.
 (V.C.N.S. 112307A to C. in C.H.F.)

Operations.

Bay Patrol. Am over enemy S/M in 42° 00' N. 19' 50' W.
 (A/C. L.L.Q.D. 110403Z to 19 Group.)
 U-Boat previously reported was on surface and seen to submerge. Remaining in position till 0600.
 (A/C. L.L.Q.D. 110403Z to A.K.8.)
 Am over enemy Submarine in 41.49 N. 19.58 W. estimated. First sighted on surface. When first seen was on course 270° estimated speed 5 knots.
 (A/C.Duty D. 110403Z to 19 Group.)
 P.R.U. of Gironde ports at 1225/10th shows TANENFELS has left. Remaining Biscay ports not covered.
 (D.D.I.C. 110838A to C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.C.Gibraltar, S.B.N.O. Azores, F.O.S.)
 Time of reaching position (PD) in para.1 of my 102349A should read 1200A/13th. (PRINCE ROBERT.)
 (C. in C. Plymouth 111004A to S.B.N.O.Azores, PRINCE ROBERT.)
 F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to sail GLASGOW at 1000A/12th to reach position. (GJ) 038° 40' N. 013° 44' W. at about 1000/13th thence patrol within 40 miles of line joining (GJ) and (GH) 041° 06' N. 015° 57' W. Object operation "Stonewall". (2) CEYLON is to leave patrol line at 1200/13th., passing through position 235° (GJ) 40' and thence to Gibraltar as ordered by F.O.I.C. Gibraltar. (C. in C. Plymouth 111329A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, CEYLON.)
 A/C previously reported last seen position 47° 03' N. 11° 02' W. Course 140° height 1800 safe.
 (A/C Duty K. 111435 to 19 Group.)
 Disposition at 112000. 1. CEYLON patrolling 041° 06' N. 015° 57' W. to 038° 40' N. 013° 44' W. 2. ORION 046° 45' N. 016° 55' W. through 045° 00' N. 017° 32' W. thence 187° 23 knots. 4. UNRUFFLED 047° 05' N. 013° 23' W. 000° daily advance 111 miles. 6. VOLUNTEER 049° 17' N. 017° 20' W. through 050° 10' N. (016°?) 35' W. thence 080° 12 knots. 7. K.15, 043° 30' N. 012° 50' W. 180° daily advance 120 miles. 8. AJAX 049° 40' N. 011° 20' W. 087° 20 knots.
 (C. in C. Plymouth 111526A to Admty.)
 Position course and speed of enemy. One Merchant Vessel 43° 27' N. 08° 47' W. 040° 12 knots. Spanish marking, 1500 tons.
 (A/C. Duty P. 111725A to 19 Group.)
 Submarine between 44.51 and 44.61.
 (A/C. Y.43. No. T.O.O. to Gib. W/T. Recd. 111925.)

Operation Position at 112000. WESTCOTT, EGLANTINE, BRISSENDEN
 F.S. HALCYON, SPEEDWELL, MIDDLETON, JASON, BRITOMART 061°
 (Convoys 03' N. 012° 05' W.
 J.W.54A (A.C.O.S. 111218A to Admty.)
 and R.A.54A.) Scapa arrivals. 1740 MILNE, MAHRATTA, SAUMAREZ,
 1655 SAVAGE, MUSKETEER, MATCHLESS, 1743 SCOURGE,
 SCORPION.
 (A.C.O.S. 112006A to A.C.I.C.)
 J.W.54A. My 091111. Delete RHODODENDRON owing to defects.
 (C. in C.W.A. 112044A to C. in C.H.F.)
 My 112044 and 112048. I much regret that it has been
 necessary to reduce the close escort of J.W.54A. to 3 ships.

/The...

11.11.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

Home Commands

~~FORN STATIONS~~

Operations. Cont:

Operation
F.S.
(Convoys
J.W.54A
and R.A.54A.)
(Contd.)

The only other ship ready is BEAGLE who must how-
ever be retained as being the sole destroyer
available for J.W.54B.
(C. in C.W.A. 112055A to C. in C.H.F.)

Encounter
off Zanddyck.
M.T.B.230
scuttled.
M.T.B.222
mined and
scuttled.

Preliminary report of C/F Operations on night
9/10th November. 4 boats of 22nd M.T.B. Flotilla
sweeping North from Hook arrived in 252 Zanddyck 5
at 0420. Visibility from then onwards varied from
2 miles to 50 yards owing to fog patches.
2. At 0420 three Radar contacts believed to be
trawlers were obtained to seaward steering South.
Unit stopped and started plot. At 0437 Unit
proceeded South and manoeuvred into firing position,
stopping at about 0520 in 52° 43' N. 4° 33' E. but
enemy was not sighted even at 500 yards range. 3. Enemy apparently
heard Unit as alarm gongs were heard and spasmodic firing took place
Enemy must then have altered towards M.T.Bs. 238 and 93 had to
accelerate to avoid being rammed, circling to seaward to regain
position. 4. M.T.B.222 was apparently surprised by an enemy vessel
trying to ram. 222 turned to port at high speed and rammed 230 in
engine room. 230 filled rapidly listing 30°. C.B.S. were
transferred and boat abandoned, forward scuttling-charge being
seen to explode. 222 then proceeded stern first to Westwards
escorted by 238 and 93 at 7 knots. 5. At 0643 in approx. 52° 42'
N. 4° 28' E. what is believed to be a mine exploded between 238 and
222. At 0812 238 took 222 in tow making 8 knots until deteriorat-
ing weather reduced this to 4 knots. 6. At 1140 M.T.Bs.693 and
609 took over the tow. These had been ordered by C. in C. Nore to
search for 22nd Flotilla. 238 and 93 then returned to Lowestoft
arriving at 1636. 7. At 1950 weather was so bad that 222 had to
be sunk in 52° 47' N.3° 15' E. 693 and 603 then returning to base.
8. There were no casualties.
(C. in C. Nore 111235A to Admty.)

Operation
F.T.
(Convoy
J.W.54A.)

H.F. memorandum 01325/158 dated 6th November
Operation F.T. now in course of distribution.
Amendment number 1. (1) For LONDON read KENT through-
out. (2) Para.4 (a) Insert against 2 INCONSTANT
(SO).Against WHITEHALL delete (SO). (3) Para.4(c)
against 1 insert SKATE. Against 2 insert SALADIN.
Against 3 insert TERMAGANT. (4) Para.4(E). After
KING GEORGE (V) insert V.A.2, H.F., complete as foll-
ows 1 FORREST, 2 CORRY, 3 HOBSON, 4 FITCH, (5) Add to distrib-
ution N.O.I.C. Aultbea SKATE, SALADIN. (6) Apendix 1 route Blue
positions (q) to (z) inclusive for longitude E. and W.
(C. in C.H.F. 101239A to Admty.)

Operation
"League".

Operation "League" is cancelled.
(C. in C.H.F. 111345A to Admty.)

316

War Diary.11.11.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.Coastal
Force
Patrols.

1. Orders for night 11/12th. (A) 3 M.G.Bs. from Newhaven carry out anti E-Boat patrol 10 miles South of convoy route between E.A.5 buoy and Eastern limit of command from 1930A to 0300A. Keeping abreast C.E.221. (B) 3 M.G.Bs. from Portland carry out anti E-Boat patrol 10 miles South of convoy route between 02° 35' W. and longitude of Durlstone buoy from 2000A to 0400A, keeping abreast W.P.249. In (A) and (B) M.G.Bs. are not to be to the Northward of their patrol-line except in contact with enemy and under no circumstances are they to approach within 5 miles of convoy. (C) CHASSEUR 15 and 5 patrol Q.Z.S.384 between F. and E.A.5 buoys. (D) M.L.291 immediate notice St.Helens (C. in C. Portsmouth 111434A.)
M.T.Bs. 354 and 209 at number seven buoy. E.T.D. 1815. E.T.R. 0730/12. M.T.Bs. 434 and 416 at V. Buoy. E.T.D. Ramsgate 1745. E.T.R. 0800/12. M.G.Bs. S.2 and 40 two miles S. of C.1 buoy. E.T.D. 1730. E.T.R. 0815/12.
(V.A. Dover 111655A.)

S/M.
Patrols.

Positions of S/Ms. at 0800/12th and movements for following 24 hours. A. VENTURER 70° 20' N. 14° 50' E. probably on surface but dived when within 60 miles of the coast through 71° 01' N. 16° 55' E. to patrol vicinity 71° N. 23° E. B. SYRTIS probably on surface approx. 30 miles N.W. of Muckle Flugga for Lerwick. C. VARANGIAN probably on surface approx. 10 miles N. of Muckle Flugga, E.T.A. Lerwick 1100/12th. D. ULA probably on surface approaching Shetlands from N.E. J. UNRUFFLED 48° 05' N. 13° 22' W. dived by day, 110 miles per day, through 49° 10' N. 13° 22' W. thence course 090° to 09° W.
(F.O.S. 111802A to Admty.)

Movement fleet units in my 072212 has been cancelled.
(F.O.S. 111812A to S/Ms.)

Request you will sail SATYR for position T.8 as soon as convenient tomorrow. Object C repeat C.

(F.O.S. 111828A to Capt. S.9.)

Request you will sail S/Ms. from Lerwick as follows. Proceeding on the surface at C.Os. discretion until within 60 miles of Norwegian coast thence diving by day. (1) SATYR at 1200A/12th through 090° Muckle Flugga. 10 miles and route Orange to 070° 24' thence direct to patrol position T.8. (2) STORM at 2000A/13th through 090° Muckle Flugga 5 miles and route Black to 071° 16', thence direct to patrol position T.11. (3) SCEPTRE at 0800A/15th November through 090° Muckle Flugga 5 miles and route Bembridge to 071° 10' thence direct to patrol position T.10. (4) SEANYMPH at 1400A/15th November through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles and routed Bembridge to 071° 10' thence through 071° 02' 022° 40' to patrol position T.9.

(Capt. S.9. 112215A and 120909A to S.O. S/M. Lerwick.)

Mining.

Swansea.

At 111150 one Mine detonated by Sweeper in 121°. Mumbles Light 3.5 miles. Details.
(Comdr. M/S. Swansea 111527A to Admty.)

/Humber...

317

11.11.1943.

Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - Contd.

Humber. One moored mine detonated in sweep 0950 today 010° 59 A bouy 3 cables.
(F.O. Humber 111840A.)

Enemy Intelligence.

JACQUELINE. Departure JACQUELINE enemy control, November 9th for Bayonne.
(Gijon No. T.O.O. to Bank Block. T.O.R. 110534)

U-Boats.

U-Boat reported. At 1140A detected submerged S/M very close in 062° 04' N. 002° 21' E. approx. course and speed 150° 3 knots.
(ULA 111201 to F.O.S.)

Casualties & Defects.

MIDDLETON. On completion of present duty MIDDLETON is to be diverted to Greenock.
(R.A.D., H.F. 111120A to JASON.)

H.S.L. 2564 sunk. (I) 7 Barracudas sighted dinghy 004° 8 miles from Oversay Light. (C) Two of the crew of the Barracuda were picked up by Walrus 878 H/772 Squadron transferred to H.S.L. 2564 and later to Naval Craft which landed them at Londonderry. H.S.L. holed during operation. Became waterlogged and drifted towards Sound of Sleat where it is believed to have sunk.
(15 Group 111545A to Air Ministry.)

Flight "P". Two landing craft totally disabled and in tow. Landing Craft damaged. Remainder have engines in bad state and are leaking badly with heavy pounding into head sea. All spare parts have been expended. (?) S.O. L.C.T.'s request permission to proceed to Falmouth. My P.C.S. at 1800A 48° 22' N. 13° 54' W, 000° 5 knots. Weather 4481, 2885.

(BLUEBELL 111815A to C. in C. Plymouth.)
From position 50.00 N. 13.40 W. pass through 50.30 N. 11.40 W. thence to join Q.Z.S. 433.
(D.O.D.H. 111823A to BLUEBELL.)

Shipping & Convoys.

O.S. 58/K.M.S. 32 and M.K.S. 29E. C. in C.W.A's. 102303A. Have detached WALKER to R/V with you about 1500Z/11th. Propose HIGHLANDER does likewise dawn 12th. Request oiler be warned and ships homed if necessary.
(B.4. 110050Z to HURRICANE.)
Have left convoy and should join you from ahead at about 0100Z if C. in C. W.As. 1227 is correct.
(HIGHLANDER 112105Z to HURRICANE.)

/D.F.16...

318

11.11.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- D.F.16. Sailed GALTESUND and TORDENSKJOLD in accordance with my 091038A.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 110128A to C. in C.W.A.)
- U.T.4A. Convoy U.T.4A is due U.K. 16 November comprising the following U.S. troop transports:-
FREDERICK LYKES, EXPLORER, GOETHALS, BRAZIL.
(D.S.T. 110255A to P.S.T.O. Clyde.)
- MAURETANIA. To relieve congestion at the Tail of the Bank it is intended that the terminal port in U.K. for S.S. MAURETANIA will be Liverpool.
(D.O.D.H. 111208A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)
- O.N.S.22. P.C.S. at 1300Z 047° 14' N. 023° 10' W. 223° 8.
(HESPERUS 111325Z to C. in C.W.A.)
- Escort Carrier Training. C. in C.W.A. 091230. In order that escort-carriers to be employed on trade protection may be fully worked up for night-flying under North Atlantic conditions it will be necessary to extend working-up period to 8 weeks observing that their night-flying training has hitherto had to be confined to sheltered Clyde and Irish Sea area. The final week of working-up period must be spent in open sea conditions as stated in my 081526 to C. in C.W.A.
(F.O.C.T. 111636A to Admty.)
- O.S.57/
K.M.S.31. U-Boat possible damaged by KISTNA. KISTNA sighted and attacked U-Boat in 43° 34' N. 23° 00' W. at 0615/4. Possibly damaged. Further attacks carried out between 0626 and 1056 on possible second U-Boat. No evidence of success.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 112008A to Admty.)
- S.C.146E. In view of small convoy, strong escort, and reasonable weather prospects request approval to use convoy R/T freely. (2) P.C.S. at 2000Z, 045° 34' 044° 18' 081° 6½.
(B.3 112026Z to C. in C.W.A.)
- J.W.54B. 1. Following ships are to arrive Loch Ewe p.m.21st BEAGLE S.O., RHODODENDRON, POPPY, DIANELLA.
2. Escorts are to come under order of C. in C.H.F. on arrival at Loch Ewe.
(C. in C.W.A. 112048A to C. in C.H.F., N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/G.U...

11.11.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

G.U. and
U.G. Convoys.
Air
Cover.

Your A.235 11th November not to 247 Group. Policy for air cover of G.U. and U.G. convoys requires co-ordination with Admiralty and U.S. Navy Dept. Arrangements not yet completed, but if it is decided that these convoys are to be routed so that air-cover from Azores can be economically afforded we agree that 500 miles from Terceira is suitable dividing line.
(H.Q.C.C. 112200Z to A.C.H.Q., S.W.S.)

320

11.11.1943.

Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

ORION. Onward route from position CE. through CF. 036° 02' N. 012° 02' W. thence Q.B.A. 87. F.O.I.C. Gib. 091616 (N.T. in W.R.) refers. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 111124A to ORION, (R) Admty. (U.S.) C.M.S.F. C. in C.W.A. C. in C.Med. C. in C.Plymouth S.B.N.O.Azores.)

MATILDE. Your 101205. MATILDE left Brava 22nd Aug. officially for St. Jago with approx. 30 passengers. No Navicert or authorization from U.S.A. Consul for voyage or entering U.S.A.

2. Probably correct as some passengers believed to be U.S.A. citizens.

3. Captain Port St. Vincent will be grateful for further information when available.

(N.C.S.O.St. Vincent C.V. 111135C to B.N.A.Lisbon, (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q. S.B.N.O.W.At.)

^{#BIMER?}
HOCHHERWER, 66 and 59 arrived 2300/10th to load Iron Ore.
KAULDI. (Bilbao 111155 to M.E.W. Admty. for D.N.I. B.N.A. Madrid, S.O.I. Gib.)

SKAANE, My 081310*, sailed p.m. 10th for Gibraltar.
EGHOLM. (N.C.S.O.Lisbon 111213 to S.O.I.Gib. (R) Admty.)
* re Urgent that Danish ships SKAANE and EGHOLM leave 10th or they will be detained by German order from Copenhagen.

Rabo de A.33 11th Nov. M.S. 21913.
Peixo, Following for Cs. of S. Conditions under which Br.
(Azores.) A/C may use Landing Grounds (only in emergency)
F. The flying of British aircraft over the island of San Miguel is limited to the minimum required for landing and take-off at Rabo de Peixo.

I do of course accept F. and instructions to this effect are in force. Important question of diversion will be taken up with the Portuguese Government. Meanwhile any aircraft which have to land at Rabo de Peixo will be warned to give 1 of the reasons specified. Reference B. and C. these limited resources have to be accepted for the time being and Captains of aircraft have been warned accordingly. As regards D. I would observe that both the equipment and the personnel who are required are available here for despatch to Rabo de Peixo for installing and operating as soon as permission is given and I am opposed to the stipulation in B. and D. and E. on the score of delay and uncertainty as to Portuguese efficiency in these matters. British Consul Ponta Delgada has been informed of the above and I await your instructions.

(S.B.O.Azores 111245Z to Air Min.)

GLASGOW F.O.C.Gib. is requested to sail GLASGOW at 1000A/
Operation 12th to reach position GJ. 038° 40' N. 013° 44' W.
"Stonewall" at about 1000/13th thence to patrol within 40 miles
CEYLON. of line joining GJ. GH. 041° 06' N. 015° 57' W.
Objection operation "Stonewall."

321

11.11.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

GLASGOW. 2. CEYLON is to leave patrol line at 1200 on 13th
Operation passing through position 235° GJ 40' and thence
"Stonewall". Gib. as ordered by F.O.C. Gib.
CEYLON. (C. in C. Plymouth, 111329A to F.O.C. Gib.,
(Contd.) CEYLON, (R) GLASGOW, Admty., H.Q.C.C., C. in C.
W.A., C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Med., C.S.10,
PRINCE ROBERT, ENCHANTRESS, S.H.A.126, S.B.N.O.
Azores.)

Intend sailing GLASGOW at 1000A/12th to carry out operation
"Stonewall" as in your 111654 (N.T. in W.D.)
(2) Route (A) 036° N. 012° W. thence (GJ) S. of A. 21 knots.
(3) Codeword "Theft".
(F.O.C. Gib., 111744A to C. in C. Plymouth, (R) Admty., C.M.S.F.,
C. in C. W.A., S.B.N.O. Azores, H.Q.C.C., F.O.C. 10th C.S.,
(? CEYLON), PRINCE ROBERT.)

ALBULA Sailed Gib. 1400/11 for Marseilles by approved
safe route Swiss ALBULA 1200 g.t., speed 7½. Not to
conduct. be molested this voyage.
(F.O.I.C. Gib., 111413A to 10th S.F., LA SULTANE,
(R) Capt. (S) 10.)

247 Group. Intend to cease transmission to you of information
you require on shipping movements; this should be
obtained from S.B.N.O. Azores who has it all.
(H.Q. Coastal Command, 111600A to 247 Group, (R)
15, 19 Groups, Admty., C. in C. Plymouth and W.A.,
S.B.N.O. Azores, Air Min.)

U/B sunk Your 101145 (N.T. in W.R.) U-Boat sunk 42
off Cape members of crew saved at Vivero.
Ortegal, British plane brought down 4 miles from Estaca
10th Nov. de Vares. 6 airmen picked up dead. 5 Germans
reported airmen also picked up dead.
(Guyatt Corunna, 111615B to S.O.(I) Gibraltar,
(R) Admty., D.N.I., B.N.A. Madrid.)

CORFIRTH, Cancel my 100023A.
EMPIRE (2) Request you will sail CORFIRTH, EMPIRE OUTPOST,
OUTPOST, CAPE CLEAR and DUX escorted by 6 trawlers at
CAPE CLEAR, 1800A/12th to R/V G.U.S.20 in position (A) at
DUX. 0900A/14th. On R/V being made EMPIRE OUTPOST and
CAPE CLEAR are to join G.U.S.20 and remainder to
proceed to Gibraltar.
(3) Route Q.B.A.87. S. of A. 8 knots.
(4) Estimated that G.U.S.20 will pass through (A) at 1200A/14th.
(F.O.I.C. Gib., 111622A to S.B.N.O. Azores, (R) S.E.C. G.U.S.20 for
Cdre., Admty., C. in C. Med.)
Cancelled - see 120159A.

/M.K.S. 30 ...

322

11.11.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- M.K.S. 30. Request that approach routes for Plymouth and Falmouth in addition to Milford Haven be given to the 12 U.S. L.S.Ts. which are included in this convoy.
(D.T.D., 111650A to F.O.C. Gib., Info. C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Falmouth, Comnaveu, Comlancrabeu.)
- U.S. Movements. Arrival 11th ELLYSON, EMMONS and RODMAN.
(S.B.N.O. Horta, 111701.)
- GENEROSO safe conduct. Leaving Marseilles about 13th for Gibraltar and not to be molested this voyage Swiss GENEROSO.
Route.
(F.O.I.C. Gib., 111852A to 10th S.F., LA SULTANE, (R) Capt. (S) 10.)
- H.X. 265. Informing him that 53 ships sailed including rescue ship. 2. Route.
(D.T.D., 112025A to S.B.N.O. Azores, Info. C. in C. W.A., H.Q.C.C.)
- G.U.S. 20. Sailing telegram part two. 77 ships (names). This is part one Commorseafon 112120Z action by Port Director Norfolk. Info. to Cominch (C. and R) C. in C. Med., N.O.B. Oran, Comeastseafon, Connav, N.A.W., C.T.W., C.T.F.64, 66, N.O.B. Bermuda.
(C.M.S.F.F., 112120Z.)
- WALLFLOWER. After arrival SAN UBALDO at Horta, WALLFLOWER should escort LORD COCHRANE to join M.K.S.30 then return Horta and escort SAN UBALDO to join M.K.S. 31 then with convoy to U.K.
(D.T.D., 112140A to S.B.N.O. Azores.)
- Azores: Inter-island shipping traffic. A.X.811, 12th. Your A.31* of 6th. Following from C.O.S. We agree that ban should now be lifted, subject to security measures prescribed in para. 6(IV) of A.P.P. (43) 13.
(Air Min., 112358Z to S.B.O. Azores.)
* 061930. W.D. Note. This signal was placed in Mediterranean in error.

323

War Diary.11.11.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.RAMILLIES,
ROEBUCK,
QUADRANT,
RELENTLESS.

Sailed RAMILLIES, ROEBUCK, QUADRANT and RELENTLESS to Manza Bay routed through the following positions (route).
2. S. of A. 15 knots, E.T.A. 1400Z 16th Nov, E.T.A. Boom 1500Z 16th Nov.
(Com. i/c Durban, 111236Z, to Admty., C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.), C. in C. S.A., F.O.E.A.)

CILICIA,
FAL.

Sailed. F.O.C.W.Af.'s 101553Z refers.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 111350Z, to Admty.)

DALTON HALL,
LADY ROSEMARY.

DALTON HALL assisted by Portuguese tug LESBOA proceeding into Beira with damaged steering gear. LADY ROSEMARY escorting ship to Beira Fairway Buoy thence rejoining convoy course 056° speed 10 knots.
(LADY ROSEMARY, 111500Z, to C. in C. S.A. (R) Cdre. I/C Durban, NORTHERN CHIEF.)

Treatment of
Italian
personnel.

Your 071332. Subject to consultation with Governor, treatment of Italian personnel is at your discretion. C. in C. Med. 081245 refers.
2. Basis of our disciplinary powers over Italians is that legally they are all regarded as prisoners of war. It should, however, only be necessary to assert these powers in case of serious breaches of discipline ashore.
(Head of M. (I), 111531A, to F.O.C. W.Af. (R) C. in C. Med., F.O. Gib.)

Net Defence.

Cancel my 251524 net defence needed after daylight in F.O.C. W.Af.'s area until further orders. (F.O.C. W.Af. 111729Z, to Routeing authorities concerned in the area.)

JOSIAH NELSON
CUSHING,
EMPIRE
BRONZE.

Have you any news of JOSIAH NELSON CUSHING (U.S.) due Bahia 5th from Capetown and EMPIRE BRONZE due Recife 6th from Ascension.
(D.T.D., 111735A to A.B.N.S.O. Recife.)

S.L.140.

A.M.261550Z Oct.
(B) 7½ knots.
(C) BALINDERRY S.O. AUBRETIA, CYCLAMEN.
(F.O.C. W.Af. 111819Z, to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

O.S.57.
DUMANA.

Comar Dakar 111037 not to Admiralty. Escort O.S.57 will not allow ship to be detached to collect DUMANA. Air escort from Port Etienne will be requested to assist R/V convoy O.S.57 proceed position VH to position VZ 020°45'N. 017°20'W. thence VJ.
(F.O.C. W.Af. 111821Z, to Comar Dakar, Escort O.S.57. (R) Admty.)

/S.T.L.6. ...

324

11.11.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

S.T.L.6.

1. Intend to sail S.T.L.6 at 1700Z 13th escorted by WELLINGTON, LOWESTOFT, WESTON, SNOWDROP, COWSLIP and TURCOMAN. (Arrangements).
(F.O.C. W.Af. 112024, to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, N.O.I.C. Lagos. (R) Admty., WELLINGTON, N.C.S.O. Freetown, Cdr. (D).)

O.S./S.L.
Convoys,
size of
escorts.

Your 091644 has been repeated to C. in C. W.A.
2. A.M.131957 and 181448 Oct. accepted a lighter scale of escort between 33° North and Freetown in view of the disposition of U/B's. Should these at any time indicate a resumption of the threat to this route, Admiralty will revert these convoys to the 20-day cycle and escort by a full group.

3. The present escort is considered sufficient to deal with a single U/B which may attack, particularly as the convoy route is under good air cover throughout its length.

4. Under these circumstances Admiralty do not share the view expressed in your para. 3.

(V.C.N.S. 112306A, to F.O.C. W.Af. (R) C. in C. Med., F.O. Gib., C. in C. W.A.)

325

11.11.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

ROCKWOOD. Damaged - U.X.B. in gearing room and may require towing. Am proceeding for Gulf of Doris. My P.C. and S. 036° 23' 026° 55', 115°, 10 knots enemy still bombing.
(PETARD, 110114B to C. in C. Levant, PENELOPE, (R) S.B.N.O. Aegean, Capt. F, Capt. (D) 8.)
Enemy aircraft bombing in 36.33 N. 27.18 E.
(PETARD, 110336 to Alex. W/T.)
My 0336. ROCKWOOD in tow.
(PETARD, 110338 to Whitehall W/T.)
Intend towing ROCKWOOD Port Losta 036° 43' N. 028° 09' E. to assess damage. My P.C. and S. are 036° 39' N. 027° 43' E., 030°, 11 knots. KRAKOWIAK in company.
Extreme accuracy of night bombing very sinister an anxious night. Will report activities at Port Kalimno later.
(PETARD, 110515B to C. in C. Levant, (R) Capt. (D) 8th D.F., Capt. (D) 14th, PENELOPE, Capt. F.)
3 destroyers bombarded Kos Roads and harbour last night 10th 11th and three Port Kalimno. Results not yet known.
2. Destroyers were heavily and accurately bombed in bright moonlight particularly the Kalimno Force. ROCKWOOD hit in gear room by unexploded bomb, but she had to be towed by PETARD (Lt.-Cdr. Egan) while still under bombing attack. These two with KRAKOWIAK reached vicinity of Gulf of Doris by daylight and are now laying up at Losta Bay.
(C. in C. Levant, 111123B to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.)

UNRIVALLED. Arrived 10th.
(V.A. Malta, 110118.)

Cdre. Q. Unless you have reasons to the contrary request you refer to Cdre. Packer as Cdre. (Q) to accord with general Naval practice.
2. Request you will delete "Q" from letters allocated to you in A.M. 291207 Sept.
(Hd. of M.II., 110349A to C. in C. Med.)

U.S. MONTEREY, MERVINE, TILLMAN arrived 0200/11th.
Movements. (Com. N.O.B. Palermo, 110715A.)

Enemy ships: W.D. Note. The enemy sightings by aircraft are
Aegean. classified in C. in C. M.E. message No T.O.O.,
recd. 1815 q.v.

Broad (Commodore W.G. Agnew, R.N.) Transferred from
Pendant of AURORA to DIDO at 0800/11th.
C.S. 12th. (C. in C. Med., 110802B, 111722A to Med. Stn.,
Levant Stn. 301B.)

/Beirut ...

11.11.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Beirut movements. 10th arrival RORQUAL. 11th arrival UNRULY.
(S.O.(I) Beirut, 110835B.)

SS. SAMBO details of sinking. Survivors SAMBO report position of sinking as within a mile 12° 28' N. 43° 31' E.
(A) Evidence 2 explosions very close together with a third small one, all right aft,
(B) S/M did not surface and not seen even though HELROY steamed round for 20 minutes looking for survivors in daylight.
(C) Explosion gave impression of being deep - no column of water.
(D) No torpedo tracks observed. Consider weight of evidence particularly.
(B) is in favour of a mine from Perim field having dragged into shallower water. Air search last night and today failed to locate any S/M. GAWLER patrolling large Straits of Bab el Mendeb. 35 survivors picked up no injuries twelve known ?killed no missing.
(Com. Aden, 110842Z, 111512Z to C. in C. Levant, (R) C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.), F.O.R.S.C.A., Admty.)

A.H.8A. My 081519 sailed 0600A/11. 14 additional ships draught.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 110913A.)

VELOX. VELOX will return U.K. with M.K.F.26. A.M. 092255* and my 051235/ refer.
(C. in C. Med., 111032A to Admty., (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)
* Re VELOX can be taken in hand but not until 18th December at Sheerness.
/ Re intend VELOX return to U.K. with M.K.S.25A. Request early relief may be sent.

Sleeve target and towing requirements. Regret that no A/C can be spared from 728 Sqdn. Your 091343 not to all refers. My 102148 not to Admty. being passed to you for info.
(C. in C. Med., 111057A to C. in C. Levant, (R) Admty., GREBE, V.A.M., F.O.C. Gib., C.O.N.A.S. Med.)

A.K.D. 6. Sailing telegram part 1. 10 ships. Escort LANDGUARD, SENNEN, BURNIE, TAY.
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 111119Z.)

Oran movements. C.R.652. This is Com. N.O.B. Oran's 092109A (N.T. in W.D.) to Admty. (Begins) Arrivals today FANTASQUE, GEORGES LEYGUES, RICHELIEU, TERRIBLE, U.S.S. GANTNER.
(Comnavau, 111121.)

/UNIVERSAL ...

327

11.11.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- UNIVERSAL. Intend sailing P.57 (UNIVERSAL) at 1700A/13th as necessary at discretion through 038° 00' N. 003° 11' E. at 0130A/14th to 040° 00' 005° 12' at 2000A/14th then as ordered by Capt. (S) 10 for (? course) SS. Capt. (S) 8 081024 not to all addressees refers (N.T. in W.D.) (N.O.I.C. Algiers, 111131A to C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 10, (R) 10th S.F., Capt. (S) 8, UNIVERSAL, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)
- X.T.8. Sailing telegram part 2. 11 ships (names). (R.A. Alexandria, 111151B.)
- UNRIVALLED. Rescued pilot and observer of Beaufighter of 603 Squadron shot down off Paros on 6th. No other airmen rescued. incidents. (S.10, 111157 to C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 10, (R) Admty., F.O.(S), R.A. Alexandria.)
- Air Reports. M.S.21895. A.322, 11th. Daily Opsum. 197. 10th. 4 Baltimores (A.30) Stampalia Harbour. Bad weather prevented 3 from locating the target and one bombed through cloud with unobserved results. 5 Baltimores (A.30) on photo R/C Aegean made sighting 14 barges with 3 escort vessels. 1 Baltimore (A.30) missing. 11 Beaufighters despatched to attack the convoy near Kos sighted by Baltimores (A.30) found no shipping but encountered Me.109s. The enemy aircraft made repeated attacks and 2 Beaufighters are missing. Continuous bombing raids were made on Leros throughout the day amounting to 70 sorties mainly by Ju.88 attacking gun positions but including 2 waves of Ju.87 10 in each. Only minor damage was caused and 1 Ju.87 was destroyed and 1 damaged. 10th/11th. 2 Halifaxes successfully dropped supplies for patriot forces in Crete. Six Dakotas (C.47) successfully dropped supplies on Leros and Samos. 10? Halifaxes, 2 Liberators (B.24) made a successful attack on Maritza landing-ground (Rhodes). Many hits on the aerodrome but full details not yet known. 4 Wellingtons, 4 Hudsons, 6 Baltimores (A.30) Antimacchia landing-ground. Bombs were dropped and bursts observed on landing-ground. Full results not yet known. Following delayed details. 9th Nov. 3 separate raids on Leros by single aircraft 1 He.111, 1 Ju.88 and 1 unidentified. Little damage. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 111203Z.) M.S.21904. A.V.981 E, 11th. N.W.A.A.F. Opsum. 263. N.W.A.S.A.F. 10th. 1 U.S. Fortress dropped 12 x 500 dock area Genoa with unobserved results. N.A.T.A.F. 10th Nov. (add) 12 U.S. Mitchells, docks and shipping Durazzo, 66 x 500, 20 x 250. 8 barges claimed destroyed. Near misses large merchant vessel. Bombs among oil tanks north-east of Harbour. Much smoke. Hits railway north harbour, 12 U.S. Mitchells, Harbour and shipping Split. 70 x 500, 20 x 250. 4 direct hits claimed on large merchant vessel resulting in 2 large explosions. Hits on small craft and on railway. Much smoke dock area. (H.Q.N.A.A.F., 111402A, 111430.)

/M.K.F.25A ...

War Diary.11.11.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- M.K.F. 25A. My 091207A. Sailed as in your 071537A.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 111247A.)
- PROTEE. Onward routing from 040° 02' 005° 47' at 1900/
13th through 041° 59' 006° 15' at 1900/14th, 042°
30' 006° 24' at 2330/14th to patrol in zone ST.
Proceed submerged by day. 101150 of N.O.I.C.
- Algiers refers.
(Capt. (S) 10, 111345 to PROTEE, (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers, F.S. LA
SULTANE, 10th S.F., F.O.I.C. Gib., C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 8.)
- U.S.S. TACKLE, My 101849A (N.T. in W.D.) sailed. Additional
SS. EMPIRE escort M.L.566. S.O. 26th M/S Flot. sustained
CANDIDA, two near misses during air raid. Following
JEAN provisional assessment of damage (details).
SCHIAFFINO, (N.O.I.C. Naples, 111443A to N.O.I.C. Bizerta,
RHYL, M.L.566 (R) N.O.I.C. Palermo, C. in C. Levant, Admty.,
damaged C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, Cdre. Algiers, F.O.C.
by A/C. Gibraltar.)
- Axis A. My 111520C (N.T. in W.D.) Vessel passed
shipping. Istanbul 1230 G.M.T. expected time of entry
Aegean between 0400 and 0700 G.M.T./12th.
B. BOURGAS not arrived and not at present
expected. B.3. (My 111130C (N.T. in W.D.) refers.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 111542C to C. in C. Levant,
S.O.(I) Levant, Capt. (S) 1, D.N.I.)
- F.O.T.A., Ready to take over duties of F.O.T.A. in addition
F.O.L.I. to those of F.O.L.I. on 15th if required.
(F.O.L.I., 111601A to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty.,
F.O.T.A.)
- Escort Your 292150A. Original Admiralty Message was
Carriers. issued immediately after the meeting in order to
Operations give C. in C. E.F. early information for planning.
off Salerno. Subsequent investigation shows that no radio
breakdown did occur in the H.Q. ship, and that the
lack of information in Carriers due to other
causes. All Escort Carrier Capts. referred to
the almost complete lack of information from Military sources.
Amendment being issued.
(Approved A.C.N.S.(Air), 111705A to C. in C. Med.)
- ST. ANDREW. Your 072243. Request report on bombing of
hospital ship ST. ANDREW stating - (a) Position
and time of attack. (b) State of visibility.
(c) Whether vessel was alone or in company with
other vessels.
(d) Whether attack was considered deliberate.
(Head of M.I., 111715A to C. in C. Med.)

/Med. ...

11.11.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Med. convoy cycle. Considerable dislocation has been caused to the through Med. convoy cycle by the fact that K.M.S. convoys are consistently two days late arriving at Gibraltar this is further aggravated by the fact that G.U.S. convoys frequently arrive anything up to two days early. The result is that instead of there being a gap of five days between U.G.S. and K.M.S. convoys there is often only one day between followed by a gap of nine days.

2. This causes dislocation in Med. ports and seriously impairs the efficiency of the maintenance routine of the convoy escorts.

3. Main cause of late arrival at Gib. is that the passage time from U.K. to Gib. is now in excess of that given in para. 5 of A.M. 162131 June which was calculated for the inner standard route then in use.

4. It is for urgent consideration that the date of sailing K.M.S. convoys from U.K. should now be adjusted to allow the correct day of passing Gib. to be adhered to namely 17th Nov. and every 10 days.

(C. in C. Med., 111727A to Admty., (R) C. in C. Levant, F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.W.Af.)

GLOXINIA defects. Intend detaching to Malta at daylight to effect repairs to defective circulating pump. Estimated time to make good defect 4 hours.
(DART, 111741 to V.A. Malta, (R) C. in C. Med.)

RICHELIEU and escort. Request you will sail RICHELIEU escorted by INGLEFIELD, PIORUN and TUMULT at 1000A/14th.
(2) Route through (A) 35.51, 01.28. (B) 35.38, 02.14. (C) 35.40, 03.45. (D) 35.59, 05.21.
All North and West and Q.B.A.87. Thence as ordered by F.O.C. Gib. and Admiralty.
(3) S. of A. 17 knots. (4) Codeword "Turban" 476 priority high.
(5) PIORUN is to be detached at 1600A/14th at best speed to Gib. to refuel and rejoin.
(6) INGLEFIELD is to be detached on crossing 10° W. to return to Gibraltar.
(7) TUMULT will be relieved by ORIBI in lat. 43° N. and is to return to Gibraltar.
(8) PIORUN and ORIBI are to be detached in lat. 51° N. to proceed to Plymouth.
(9) RICHELIEU is then to proceed independently at best speed to vicinity of Butt of Lewis where escort will be provided to Scapa as arranged by C. in C. H.F.
(C. in C. Med., 111756A to Com. N.O.B. Oran, (R) F.O.C. Gib., C. in C. Plymouth, Admty., C. in C. H.F., C. in C. W.A., Navale France, RICHELIEU, PIORUN, TUMULT, INGLEFIELD.)

Situation in Aegean. 383012 I/33874, 11th.
Joint Army R.A.F. Intelligence appreciation 24 hours to 1000Z/11th.
1. Samos and Leros no surface assault developed up to 1000Z/11th but continuous air attacks reported on Leros throughout day 10th directed especially

/against ...

11.11.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Situation in against gun positions may presage imminent assault on island.
 Aegean. 3. Ph. R/C shipping 10th Kos, Kalimno, Pserimos. Covered at 0650 and 1145Z hours. No significant change in area but 4 of the 7 F-Boats in this area now apparently serviceable. First R/C reported no F-Boats in Kalimno Harbour but saw 3 F-Boats and 1 caique 40 foot at sea west of Pserimos Island heading for Kalimno Harbour. Second R/C reported 3 F-Boats in Kalimno Harbour. Visual R/C 0815Z hours reports 3 probable landing craft leaving Atti Bay, course south. Nil shipping reported by Ph. R/C in Pezonde, Isola Vecchia, Sicati, Archinenda and Linaria Bays. Ref. para. 7 appreciation 10th. Ph. R/C reports since received show composition of the 2 sections of landing craft flotilla probably as follows - From Stampalia 11 L/C 60 foot type 1 E type boat, 3 naval auxiliaries. From Levitha 1 F-Boat, 1 E type boat, 5 L/C, 3 probable naval auxiliaries. These had not arrived in Kos/Kalimno area by time of later ph. R/C of this area. Visual R/C shipping. 10th. Naxos. 4 merchant vessels 800/1000 tons (probably naval auxiliaries). 11th November. Visual R/C 0800Z hours today shows:- Kos-Kalimno. Kos Harbour area, 12 L/C stationary, 1 naval auxiliary. North coast Kos, 4 L/C stationary. Port Kalimno area 3 F-Boats, 4 naval auxiliaries. Amorgos area. 3 L/C E type boats, 2 naval auxiliaries moving easterly course this probably follow-up portion of flotilla. 4. C.X. reports departure a.m./10th from Kos of 3 F-Boats fully loaded German troops also 1 caique loaded direction Kalimno. These most probably identical with 3 F-Boats and caiques seen by ph. R/C (see para. 3 above). This indicates earlier reported movement troops from Kos to Kalimno still continuing. 6. Appreciation. Existing craft Kos/Kalimno suggests attack Leros imminent but position and course Amorgos follow-up L/C group (see para. 3 above sightings 11th) may indicate intention delay till arrival latter for which earliest E.T.A. 1800Z/11th. (C. in C. M.E. No T.O.O.) 383052 O/33886, 11th. Cositrep 52. 1. Int. Aegean. (A) Convoy mentioned in Cositrep 51 para. 1D sighted morning 10th Nov. moving eastwards and N.N.E. from Levitha and Stampalia respectively. Should have arrived Kos Kalimno area afternoon 10th Nov. Assault on Leros therefore considered imminent. 2. Ops. Aegean. (A) Leros. Owing to enemy convoy Kos Kalimno area all troops and H.Q. moved to battle positions 9th. Two M.Ls. carrying 61 rfts. unloaded night 9th/10th. Enemy air 9th one R/C and three bombing sorties. Enemy air 10th. Total 70 bombing sorties including 2 waves 10 Ju.87s 1325 hours remainder Ju.88s. Bombs Clidi Patella Castello gun positions also Blefuti Alinda Portolago areas. No apparent damage. 1 Ju. 87 destroyed 1 probable. 1 possible Ju.88. (B) Samos. Certain number Blackshirt troops now en route Kastelorizo by caique. (C) Kastelorizo. 1 R/C 10th Nov. (D) Symi. Patrol SBS landed successfully night 9th/10th Nov. 4. Naval Aegean. (B) 11th Nov. FAULKNER, BEAUFORT, PINDOS in Mandelyah Gulf. DULVERTON, ECHO, BELVOIR at Limassol. PENELOPE returning Alex. 6. Your 87695 (M.O.5) 10th Nov. Dispositions and Def. plan Leros as follows. Method. Island divided 3 sectors within which all troops including Italians under command Bn. Comds. North - The Buffs. Centre - Royal Irish Fusiliers. South - K.O.R.R. Task allotted to military units (details). (C. in C. M.E. no T.O.O.) /SICKLE ...

331

11.11.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

SICKLE, (1) P.224 (SICKLE) (? left) (sic) Bay of Biscay
SOKOL. 1100B/11th to pass Kaso Strait by day 13th.
(2) After 0001B/14th SOKOL is to patrol between
Anedro Santorin and Anaphi retiring to the
south between last 2 if necessary.
(3) P.224 will patrol between Amorgos Nio and Anaphi retiring to
West between Nio and Santorin if necessary.
(Capt. (S) 1, 111821B to SOKOL, (R) 1st S.F., C. in C. Levant.)

K.M.S. 31 Help glider bomb attack. My position now is
air attack. 36.13 N. 00.11 W., course 063°, 7½ knots.
INDIAN (BICESTER, 111825A to Gib., C. in C. Med.)
PRINCE, K.M.S.31 attacked by glider and torpedo bombers
CARLIER, at 1830. 1 plane shot down by CUCKMERE following
BIRCHBANK, ships have been hit BIRCHBANK, NIVOSE, JOSIAH
NIVOSE sunk. PARKER, INDIAN PRINCE, TAKLIWA. My P.C. and S.
TAKLIWA, was 036° 13' N. 000° 05' W.
JOSIAH (CUCKMERE, 112031A to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty.,
PARKER F.O.I.C. Gib.)
slightly
damaged.

SEMINOLE. Following received at 2253/11 G.M.T. (Begins):
From C. in C. Med. Addressed SEMINOLE. Proceed
to Bizerte acknowledge.
(Lands End Radio, 112003A to Admty.)

Enemy TZAR FERDINAND 262 feet and BOURGAS 315 feet
shipping. expected to enter Aegean from Dardanelles between
0600B and 0900B/12th probably bound Salonika.
(Capt. (S) 1, 112008B to SIMOOM, (R) C. in C.
Levant.)

Algeria Departures U.S.S. FOGG, FOSS, INGRAM.
movements. (Com. Algeria, 112016A.)

Levant Up to 1800B/11th. A number of small M/Vs and
Situation L/C arrived in the Kos Kalimno area 10th.
Report 2. Between 2140 and 2315/20th PETARD, ROCKWOOD
No. 106. and KRAKOWIAK fired 1500 rounds four inch into
Port (? Kalimno) and small bay to eastward. No
L/C or caiques seen but M/V inside breakwater
plastered and burned well.
3. On withdrawal ships were attacked individually with glider
bombs. ROCKWOOD hit at 0045 by U.X.B. in gear room and compart-
ment flooded. Only casualty one missing. ROCKWOOD taken in tow
by PETARD under bombing and force reached Port Losta, Gulf of
Doris.
4. FAULKNOR, BEAUFORT and PINDOS bombed at 0302/11th while
approaching Kos Harbour which they bombarded between 0330 and
0355. Results not observed. Retired to Port Deremen in Gulf
of Kos.

332

11.11.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Levant
Situation
Report
No. 106.
(Contd.)

5. Repair gear being sent to ROCKWOOD by
destroyer tomorrow night.
(C. in C. Levant, 112151B.)

M.K.F. 25A.

My 102250A sailed at 2200A/11th less MONTEREY
and U.S. WAINWRIGHT. MONTEREY sailing 4 hours
late escorted by U.S. WAINWRIGHT to join convoy
at 20 knots, S. of A. Route F. MONTEREY and

U.S. WAINWRIGHT using codeword "Thirsk" - 5. C.S. 484/5.
Priority high. Estimated overtaking Palermo section at 1100/
12th. 335 Wing pass to 325 Wing. 335 Wing has by hand.
(Comnob. Palermo, 112220.)

Cyprus
movements.

11th Arrived and left DULVERTON, ECHO, BELVOIR,
F.S. LA MOQUEUSE, EOLO (It.).
(F.O.I.C. Famagusta (Cyprus), 112334B.)

333

11.11.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- M.B.54. Sailing telegram, (2 ships), escort SHOREHAM, BATHURST, RAJPUTANA.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 110132Z, to Admty.)
- FREESIA. Cancel my 100907Z (?100908 intended) re FREESIA.
(C. in C. E.F. 110404Z, to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A., N.C.S.O. Durban.)
- J.W. MACKAY. Arrival 0142Z/11th. BALTA escorting Cable Ship J.W. MACKAY.
2. Late arrival due to escort being unable to maintain sufficient head of steam.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 110457Z, to Admty.)
- U/B. R.A.F. plane reports sighting S/M in 025° 00' N. 061° 23' E. at 0616Z/11th. Grade 0 (Zero).
(N.O.I.C. Karachi, 110729Z, to C. in C. E.F. (R) F.O.C.R.I.N., S.N.O. P.G., S.O.(I) Bombay.)
Rear Gunner of A/C reports sighting conning tower and wake heading 270° from height 3,000 feet which disappeared shortly after sighting. My 110729 refers.
(N.O.I.C. Karachi, 110959Z, to C. in C. E.F. (R) F.O.C. R.I.N., S.N.O. P.G., S.O.(I) Bombay.)
Informing S. and A. E.I. Station (R) Admty, 215 Group, 225 Group.
(C. in C. E.F. 111513Z.)
- P.B.63. Sailing telegram, escort BALUCHISTAN, KONKAN.
(N.C.S.O. Hormuz, 110840Z, to C. in C. E.F.)
- O.21. As mechanical state of O.21 is such that she cannot be used operationally request that you will sail her for Colombo on completion of present rest period where it is intended to use her for A/S training until she is required to sail for U.K.
2. B.S.O. concurs.
(C. in C. E.F. 111018Z, to A.C.N.B. (R) Admty, B.D.Z., N.O.I.C., Fremantle, C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.))
- B.M.74. Sailing telegram, escort JUMNA, LAUNCESTON, LISMORE, NETRAVATI.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 111051Z, to Admiralty.)
- Co-operation between naval A/C and troops. A.M.231911A/Oct. para.H, it has now been established that lack of information in Escort Carriers was due to causes other than technical breakdown. Amend para. H first part to read as follows:-

/H.

334

11.11.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Co-operation
between
naval A/C
and troops -
Contd.

H. Carrier force at Salerno had virtually no information from Military. Adequate arrangements in both Staff and Signal Organisation should be made to ensure that the carrier force is kept informed of the situation ashore.

(A.C.N.S. Air, 111700A, to C. in C. E.F. (R) F.O.C.T., R.A.N.A.S. I.O., F.O.N.A.S., B.A.D., C. in C. Med.)

HALLBJORG
attacked by
U/B 4th and
5th Nov.

Master of Norwegian S.S. HALLBJORG reported on arrival Kilindini being unsuccessfully attacked 10 miles (East?) of Mozambique at 0700Z on 4th and again unsuccessfully in approx. 013° S. 041° E. at 1000Z on 5th. First occasion 3 torpedoes were fired from a swirl of water (?apparently) simultaneously passed ahead. On second occasion 2 torpedoes fired apparently simultaneously followed by one further torpedo passing close astern. Submarine not sighted (?ships) speed approx. 5 knots. Graded B.3. Chance of interrogation of witnesses missed owing to breakdown of administrative authority organisation.

N.O.I.C. Aden is requested to arrange full interrogation on her arrival in port.

(N.O.I.C. East Coast of Africa, 111746C, to Admty., C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.) (Cdore. i/c) Aden.)

P.317
(TALLY HO)
reports
sinking M/V.

All ships keep in 10 fathoms near Penang. Increasing day and night patrol near Penang North Channel has good hydrophone. Have sunk one medium merchant ship 6° 11' 99° 4' or 22'.

(P.317 (TALLY HO) 112031Z to Capt. S.4 (R) P.339 (TAURUS).)

KISOGAWA sunk on 10.11.43 (Torpedo Attack Reports)

11.11.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Operation "Salmon". Search for U/Bs. My 102104 (N.T. in W.R.) not to all addresses. Amend U-Boat (German) position to read 044° 28' N. 052° 38' W. Information received on interrogation of R.C.A.F. crew. (F.O.N.F. 110054Z to C. in C.C.N.A. (R) W.6. W.9, W.3, C. 2. Connav. Admty. A.C.I.C. C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q. Cmdr. D.Argentia, Cmdre. D.W.A. E.G.5, H.Q.C.C.)

My 102240 and 102250. On arrival carry out organised box sweep within 9 miles radius 044° 18' N. 052° 27' W. to limit of endurance

2. At 0057Z/11th D/F S/M immediate vicinity.
3. Aircraft callsign DS CS now searching area until 0950Z. Expect aircraft to co-operate from first light call sign will be signalled.

(C. in C.C.N.A. 110224Z to W.6, W.9, (R) W.3, 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, Cmdre. D.W.A.)

My 110225 (N.T. in W.D.) not to all addressees on relief at Westomp W.3 is to be detached at best speed to assist. (C. in C.C.N.A. 110231 to W.3, (R) E.G.5, H.Q.C.C. Connav, Admty. A.C.I.C. C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. Cmdre. D. Argentia, Cmdre. D.W.A.)

Your 102330 confirms this action required fuel. My 110224 and 110231 refer..

(C. in C.C.N.A. 110254Z to W.6.)

Situation so far. KENORA commenced search 110530Z. MONTGOMERY 27 knots (?arriving) 1200Z. TIMMINS (corrupt group) on arrival arriving 2015Z. Am not in touch with aircraft DSCS. MONTGOMERY for aircraft homing. In good weather and bright moonlight consider surface escape undetected by aircraft unlikely. Weather.

(W.6 110801Z to C. in C.C.N.A. (R) TIMMINS, KENORA, W.3, Connav, N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. Admty. C. in C.W.A.)

1. 2 Cansos will sweep area 045° N. 053° W. 043° N. 053° W. 045° N. 050° W. 043° N. 050° W. from first light to dark.
2. Call signs ACLN and ACLC.

(C. in C.C.N.A. 111110Z to W.6, W.3, BRANTFORD, CANSO, KENORA, (R) Connav, Admty. A.C.I.C. C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. H.Q.C.C. Cmdre. D.Argentia, Cmdre. D.W.A.)

Am over enemy S/M in 43.35 N. 52.50 W. (Halifax W/T 111155 to C. in C.W.A. (R) A.C.I.C. Admty.)

Am over enemy S/M in position 43° 08' N. 52° 50' W. Enemy S/M previously reported was on surface, flak. (Halifax W/T 111213 to C. in C.W.A. (R) A.C.I.C. Admty.)

My 111155. Result of attack hits probable. (A/C ACLC via Halifax W/T 111214 to A/C VTNH)

MONTGOMERY, KENORA and A/C ACLR and ACLN joining A/C ACLC.

Remainder W.6 ordered to new position. Weather.

(W.6 111217Z to C. in C.C.N.A. HOTSPUR, (R) Connav, A.C.I.C. C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. Com. D.Argentia, Cmdre. D.W.A. H.Q.C.C. W.3, KENORA, TIMMINS, Admty.)

Latest accurate position of attack by aircraft 043° 08' N. 052° 50' W. (C. in C.C.N.A. 111320Z to W.6, W.3, KENORA, BRANTFORD, CANSO, (R) F.O.N.F. N.S.H.Q.)

Taking over direction of operation "Salmon". Latest signal made by C. in C.C.N.A. is my 111320Z. (C. in C.C.N.A. 111329Z to F.O.N.F. (R) W.6, W.3, KENORA, BRANTFORD, CANSO, C. in C.W.A. Connav, A.C.I.C. Admty. N.S.H.Q. H.Q.C.C. Cmdre. D.Argentia, Cmdre. D.W.A. S.B.N.O. Azores.)

/Proceeding...

336

11.11.1943.

Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Operation "Salmon." Proceeding 043° 08' 052° (750') LETHBRIDGE, SHAWINIGAN following at best speed. My P.C. and B. Search for 045° 28' N. 050° 33' W. 214° (720). Weather report U/Bs. (Contd.) (W. (?2 or 3) 111430Z to C. in C.W.A., (R) Connav, A.C.I.C. C. in C.C.N.A. Admty. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. H.Q.C.C. Cmdr. D.Argentia, Cmdr. D.W.A. S.B.N.O. Azores, LETHBRIDGE, MONTGOMERY, SHAWINIGAN.)

Situation. Box search commenced by MONTGOMERY and KENORA 1615Z/11th round Marker dropped by ACLN in 043° 19' N. 053° 10' W. best known position. ACLN close search ACLR COBRA on farthest on circle.

Fuel MONTGOMERY, KENORA 6 days at 12 knots, remainder W.6 group 4 days.
(W.6 111618Z to F.O.N.F. (R) CANSO, W.3, Connav, N.S.H.Q. C. in C.C.N.A. Admty. C. in C.W.A. TIMMINS, BRANTFORD.)
E.T.A. position 043° 08' N. 052° 50' W. 12th.

My position 045° 35' N. 052° 23' W. course 188° speed 14 knots.
Weather report.
(BRANTFORD 111831Z to F.O.N.F. (R) W.6, W.3, CANSO, KENORA, N.S.H.Q. C. in C.C.N.A.)
Regret MONTGOMERY developed Asdic defect. Visibility deteriorating rapidly A.S.V. A/C essential. Intend MONTGOMERY H.S. Radar sweep till other ship arrives then remain near Datum Point 043° 19' N. 053° 10' W. to home A/C and co-ordinate operation.
(W.6 111911Z to F.O.N.F.)
Your 111550Z and my 111100Z (N.T. in W.R.) E.T.A. Homp 1900Z/12th weather report.
(W.9 112002 to C. in C.C.N.A.)
E.T.A. MONTGOMERY amended position 043° 19' N. 053° 10' W. 2300Z/11. 40% O.F. remaining on arrival.
(GEORGETOWN 112031Z to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C.C.N.A. W.6, W.3, N.S.H.Q. BRANTFORD.)
Endurance 3 days at 12 knots repairs considered only safe to search for 24 hours. Request instructions.
(GEORGETOWN 112049Z to F.O.N.F. N.O.I.C. Kingston, MONTGOMERY, C. in C.C.N.A. (R) N.S.H.Q.)
Your 111911Z. Regret aircraft recalled due to weather at base. Weather permitting 3 Liberators will cover you at first light.
(F.O.N.F. 112211Z to W.6, (R) W.3, BRANTFORD, TIMMINS, CANSO, Connav, N.S.H.Q. C. in C.C.N.A. Admty. C. in C.W.A. KENORA.)
Amended E.T.A. 043° 19' N. 053° 10' W. (?120) (?400)Z.

Fuel oil remaining on arrival BRANTFORD 791% CANSO 76%.
(BRANTFORD 112216Z to F.O.N.F. (R) KENORA, C. in C.C.N.A. ?C. in C.W.A. CANSO, W.6, W.3, (2 groups missing.))

CELERITE. CELERITE departed San Diego 1700/10th Balboa Canal Zone knots 14 through (route). E.T.A. 18th "Chop" 16th.
(Com. 11th 110240 to Cominch.)

U/B attacked. H.A.C. 563 11 No. my H.A.C. 562 11 Nov. X.656
Add para. III A. CANSO "A" G.5 Sq. B. Cover B.W. 80. C. 102028Z. D. 44.28 N. 52.37 W. E. Surfacing. F. N.A. G. 15 miles bearing 045°. H. M.G. and D.C. I. Submerged within 30 seconds. Moonlight and difficult to observe results. D/C believed to straddle U/B. Some flak.
(H.Q.E.A.C. 110518 to Air Min.)
As amended 132325. /N.S.H.Q...

337

11.11.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.N.S.H.Q.
Sub. attack
& sighting
summary.No report 9th. All times Z. A. CANSO attacks
U-Boat 44.28 N. 52.38 W. 2028/10th.
(N.S.H.Q. 110530Z to Admty. Cominch.)
As amended 110754Z.SCHENECTADY,
U/B.At 0445 G.M.T. sighted a S/M starboard in the moon-
light. Sea smooth. Altered course. S/M showed no
wake or motion. No eastward wake observed.
Detector did not register any torpedoes. Am
proceeding east at high speed.
(SCHENECTADY via Freetown W/T 110620Z to Com.
Pacific Seafron.)T.O/O.T.
Convoys to
sail from
and to Aruba.This from Cominch as 102110 to Cinclant, C.A.F.A.C.
and C.E.S.F. for action and (R) to Comcaribseafon,
Commorseafon, Admty. and Comnavaw. Convoy T.O.
10 and all succeeding convoys returning from N.
Africa will be dissolved upon arrival in Aruba
Curacao area. Convoy O.T.11 sailing from New
York 12th for North Africa via Aruba Curacao area
will be last O.T. convoy sailed from New York. Convoy O.T.12
will sail from Aruba Curacao area 9th Jan. and succeeding O.T.
convoys from the same area at 50 day intervals.
(Comnavaw 111032Z to Admty.)

B.Y.M.S.

1. B.Y.M.S. 58 (S.O.), B.Y.M.S. 40 sailed St.
Johns 1300Z/11 for Horta via Q.J.A. 243 thence
great circle to 38.29 N. 28.45 W. thence destination
2. Speed 10 knots, E.T.A. Nov. 16.
4. Request (i) Ships be given onward routeing to U.K.
(ii) C. in C.W.A. divert ships as necessary in view of present
U-Boat situation.
(F.O.N.F. 111310Z to S.B.N.O. Azores, (R) C. in C.C.N.A. N.S.H.Q.
Admty. C. in C.W.A. B.A.D. Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)E.G.5.
SNOWBERRY.My 101248. SNOWBERRY returned St. Johns with
defects ship will be sailed p.m. this date to
overtake.
(F.O.N.F. 111337Z to C. in C.W.A.)N.S.H.Q.
S/M Estimate.

(N.S.H.Q. 111445Z.)

C.T.F.67.

Weather prevented fuelling escort vessels. CARMICK
LEEFOX proceeding Ponta Delgada for fuel to rejoin
as practicable. My position 1400Z 040° 51' N. 035°
29' W. Fuel in other escort vessels (?) postponed
until weather moderates. Shorter route requested.
Admiralty inform those (?interested).
(C.T.F. 67 111627Z to Admty.)

/SEAWOLF...

11.11.1943.

Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

SEAWOLF. Bermuda arrival.
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 111645Z to Admty.)

U.S.S/M (Cominch 111646Z.)
Estimate.

A.T.74A Departing Ambrose 1230Z/12 Nov. Liverpool. E.T.A.
(ANDES). Liverpool Bar L.V. 1300Z/20 Nov. S.O.A. 19 knots.
(Route). Fighter protection codeword "Berserk"
with callsign 120. "Chop" 2400Z/16th.
(P.D.New York 111738Z to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)
As amended 112052Z.

PRESERVER, Your 091509 (N.T. in W.R.) M.L.073 proceeding St.
NORTHERN Anthony 1430Z today to intercept NORTHERN RANGER.
RANGER. (PRESERVER 111835Z to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C.C.N.A.
N.S.H.Q. N.O.I.C. Quebec, N.O.I.C. Sydney, C.T.F.24)

B.Y.M.S. My 101601 info. Cominch, N.O.B.Bermuda, C. in C.
36, 205. Lant, S.B.N.O.W.At. from C.E.S.F.
Report N.O.B.Bermuda instead S.B.N.O.W.At. for
onward routing. B.Y.M.S. 36 S.O., B.Y.M.S. 205
have by hand for action.
(C.E.S.F. 111927.)

Convoy Your 091958 Admiralty will furnish information
positions under para. 2D of A.M. 081730. 2. A.M. 112011
for S.B.N.O. refers.
Azores. (D.T.D. 111959Z to Connav.)
A.M. 261550 October and 081730 have been repeated
to C. in C.Western Approaches.
2. Ref. A.M. 261550 para. 2 sub. para. (d) and
para. 3 Admty. will despatch daily signal to S.B.N.O.Azores giving
positions at 0800A of all convoys, H.M.Ships, Support Groups and U.
S.C.V.Es. within the area eastward of 50° W. and between 20° and
50° N.
3. It will not be necessary for other authorities to address
daily situation reports to S.B.N.O.Azores.
(D.T.D. 112011A to Connav, C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q. C. in C.C.N.A.
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C.Med. F.O.C.W.Af. Commorseafron, Air
Min. H.Q.C.C. B.A.D. S.B.N.O.Azores.)

Stragglers 2 arrived Halifax from O.N.208. DAVID J.BREWER
Report No.26. (U.S.) 4th lost convoy. WILLIAM EATON (U.S.) 4th
lost convoy due to ballast shifting 1 arrived
Halifax from H.X.264 FRANCIS VIGO (U.S.) 4th,
condenser defects. One arrived Halifax from O.N.S.
21 MAUNAKEA (U.S.) 5th lost convoy due to broken feed pump. One
arrived St. Johns N.F. from O.N.S.21 BONUTA (Pan.) 4th engine
trouble. One arrived New York from (?H.X.) R.X.265 JEREMIAH S.
BLACK (U.S.) 9th boiler trouble.
(N.S.H.Q. 112050Z to Admty.)

/Sub...

339

11.11.1943.

Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Sub. attack & sighting summary. All times Z. Para. C. B.25 sighted wake course 220 09.10 N. 58.05 W. 101628. Mariners radar contacts 14.57 N. 63.12 W. 110056 and 14.30 N. 67 W. 110750.
(Cominch 112100Z to Admty.)
As amended 122035.

H.X.265. ARCTURUS and SNOWBERRY sailed St. Johns N.F. 2045Z/11th Nov. to overtake and join group C.2 and E.G.5 respectively.
(F.O.N.F. 112114Z to Ships escorting H.X.265.)

DACRES. DACRES (B.D.E.268) making 15 knots report Boston Gate 1130Z/12 Nov. en route Argentina. Route. E.T.A. Gate Argentina 17(?00)Z/14th Nov.
(C.T.G. 02.1 112150 to U.S.C.T.F.24.)

BYRON,
LAWFORD,
GRECIAN. Sail BYRON when ready about 19th and LAWFORD about 20th following instructions my 191823 Oct. Sail GRECIAN, Charleston to Bermuda when ready about 15th for working up.
(C. in C.U.3.Fleet 112315Z to C.E.S.F.)

BITTERSWEET. When ready about 18th sail BITTERSWEET Baltimore to Halifax. Advising routing instructions.
(Cominch 112316 to C.E.S.F.)

B.Y.M.S. My 102007 departed Charleston Sea Buoy 2000Z/11th. 60, 236, (Cmdr. 6th Naval Dist. Charleston 112353 to Admty.) 168, 181, 162.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial No. 660 Nov. 10th. Earlier same night (?10th) 3 Beauforts bombed Vunakanau. 24 hours previously 9 Beauforts raided Vunakanau, 4 Beauforts struck Rapyo and 3 attacked shipping Rabaul Harbour. Both airfields well covered from about 10,000 feet. Probable torpedo hit scored on light cruiser.

2. Forenoon photos. show Rabaul Harbour, 2 light cruisers, 13 destroyers, 5 submarines, 4 medium merchant vessels, 1 tanker, all apparently undamaged, plus 10 damaged vessels as previous day.

11.11.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

- Digest serial No. 660 Nov. 10th (Contd.)
5. Same time 9 Mitchells destroyed 2 Luggers plus probably third and 2 barges Rein Bay in mast top attacks. Shore installations also burned.
 6. Patrol Liberator scored direct hit, left burning 1 of 2 Sea Trucks off shore 20 miles west Rein Bay noon 9th, other vessel and 3 barges nearby strafed.
 7. Night 8/9th, our patrol craft destroyed 1 large barge beached near Sio. Next night intercepted and sunk 4 loaded southbound barges 20 miles north Finschhafen. Enemy planes ineffectually raided our craft latter Mission.
 9. Ref. Digest 659 latter part. Para. 3 night sighting southbound convoy reported by 4 patrolling Liberators. Several bombing runs made and 1 destroyer hit seen to sink.
 10. Same aircraft also sighted single destroyer off northwest tip Gazelle Peninsula course 221°.
 12. 2 Sub. chasers 2 merchantmen of 7 to 10,000 tons each sighted 27 miles west Mussau Island course 33°. Larger merchantman apparently carrying deck cargo.
 13. Midnight 9/10th 14 Liberators struck Surabaya Naval Base and Aerodrome with results unobserved due weather.
 14. 30 to 40 Japanese Torpedo planes attacked shipping off Empress Augusta Bay dusk 8th. 7 shot down by A/A. 2 ships damaged with some casualties.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 110530Z.)

Movements. Arrival Fremantle 9th U.S.S.CHILDS.
(A.C.N.B. 111122Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 111343A, 111344A.)

Submarines Attacked.

Sub. attack & sighting summary for 24 hours to 0900Z/11th.

Para. A. A/C E/103 attacked U-Boat with depth charges at 1035/10th in 43° 40' N. 08° 35' W.
A/C D/311 attacked U-Boat at 1233/10th in 43° 50' N. 07° 52' W. Course 160°. A/C E/110 attacked U-Boat at 1235/10th in 43° 33' N. 08° 15' W. course 150°.
A/C B/612 attacked U-Boat at 0306/10th in 43° 39' N. 09° 08' W. course 045°. CUCKMERE attacked contact with depth charges at 1505/10th in 35° 55' N. 04° 16' W. A/C attacked U-Boat at 2028/10th in 44° 18' N. 52° 27' W.
A/C D/19 sighted U-Boat at 0403/11th in 41° 49' N. 19° 58' W.
Para. B. U-Boat sighted at 0913/10th in 13° 26' N. 52° 35' E.
Periscope sighted at 1005/8th in 4° 09' N. 86° 09' E.
(D.D.I.C. 110959Z to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

X See amendment 140958Z.

341

12.11.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.S.

1. Convoy R.A. 54A was off the Butt of Lewis at 2200A today; and the Minesweepers JASON and BRITOMART, returning in this Convoy after ten months continuous service in North Russia, are to proceed from Scapa tomorrow to refit at Portsmouth and Plymouth respectively. The passage of the Convoy from the Kola Inlet has been made without incident.

U-Boat
sunk.

2. N.A. Madrid reports today that the U-Boat attacked by our A/C on the 10th November off Cape Ortegal sank in deep water off Punta de la Estaca and that 42 survivors and 4 dead of her crew have landed at Ferrol.

Foreign Stations.

Owing to illness of the staff, the Situation Report today is incomplete.

North Atlantic.

3. GLASGOW sailed from Gibraltar for Operation "Stonewall" this morning.

Mediterranean.

"Avalanche".

4(a) P.T. boats and M.T.Bs. on patrol last night reported intercepting a northbound escorted tanker north of Civita Vecchia. They attacked unsuccessfully with torpedoes, but it is believed that one of the escort of 2 E or R-Boats and flak lighters was considerably damaged by gunfire.
(b) A minefield in the Gulf of Gaeta is being cleared to assist the bombardment forces. 28 mines were swept today.

12.11.1943.
Friday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean - Contd.

5. UNSEEN, on patrol off Toulon, hit with torpedo a medium sized tanker today.

Air attack
on K.M.S.31:
4 ships
sunk.

6. An air attack by about 25 glider and torpedo bombers was made on Convoy K.M.S.31 about 2030A yesterday whilst passing north of Oran. CUCKMERE shot down one aircraft and EMPIRE COPPERFIELD claims one. The escorting fighters may also have shot down one, and they damaged a second. The convoy was thought to have been attacked by U-Boat in 36.13 N. 00.05 W. about midnight, but this was apparently incorrect. Six ships were reported hit in the air attack. Of these, INDIAN PRINCE, CARLIER, BIRCHBANK and NIVOSE were sunk (the first named after being taken in tow); and TAKLIWA and JOSIAH PARKER, though hit, were only slightly damaged and continued with the convoy.

Attack
on Leros.

7(a) An attack on Leros from about 18 landing craft from Kos/Kalimno began shortly after 0400Z today. The landings were supported by Stukas and by about 4 vessels variously reported as destroyers and naval auxiliaries, but probably one destroyer (probably ex-Italian TURBINE, cf. C. in C. M.E. 19th November 385314) and 3 torpedo boats.

Landings were made from 15 landing craft in the north-east part of the island, and from 3 landing craft at P. Bianco, east of Leros town.

(b) It was later estimated that the enemy put ashore today 2000 troops by sea and 500 by air. Three landing craft were reported sunk and others damaged, by the coast defences. At 0850B it was reported that no vital ground had been lost in any area, but the enemy were clinging to the lower slopes of Appetici and Vedetta. Two landing craft are reported sunk and 2 damaged.

FAULKNER (D.8) and two "Hunts" will patrol close round Leros and the west coast of Kalimno tonight for follow-up craft. There are 3 M.T.Bs. at Leros and one "Fleet" and two "Hunts" should arrive in the area tonight.

(c) During the afternoon parachutists landed from 36 Ju.52s about the head of Alinda Bay.

(d) The R.A.F. can do little in daylight, as our Beaufighters are at a disadvantage with enemy Me.109s on Rhodes.

(e) Enemy follow-up convoys, each escorted by 2 destroyers and 2 M.Ls., are reported to east and west of the island; and 8 ships, types unknown, 8 miles west of Gaidaro Island.

(f) PETARD and KRAKOWIAK left Port Losta last night and returned to Alexandria. ROCKWOOD remained at Port Losta, awaiting repair gear to enable her to be towed.

12.11.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Attack
on Leros.
(Contd.)

(g) B.Y.M.S.73 was damaged by bombing at Leros last night.
(h) It was subsequently reported that M.L.358 was hit by a shell off Leros today and there is no knowledge of any survivors.

America and West Indies.

O.T./T.O.
Convoys.

8. Convoy O.T.11 (fast tanker convoy) sailing from New York today for North Africa via Aruba Curacao area will be the last O.T. convoy sailed from New York. Convoy O.T.12 will sail from Aruba Curacao area on 9th January and succeeding O.T. convoys from the same area at 50 day intervals. Convoy T.O.10 and all succeeding convoys returning from North Africa will be dissolved on arrival in the Aruba Curacao area.

Australia and New Zealand.

9. Last night, 7 Japanese aircraft made an ineffective torpedo attack on an Allied cruiser and destroyer task force near New Georgia. One of the enemy was shot down.

10. Photographs of Rabaul Harbour this morning after yesterday's air attack show 2 destroyers, one of which is damaged: one destroyer tender: 5 submarines: and 23 merchant vessels totalling 111,000 tons, of which some 40,000 tons are damaged.

12.11.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

TITLARK II, A.M. 100029A. Propose that N.A.B. TITLARK II
CURLEW. be renamed CURLEW.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 120937A to Admty.)

Rescue Tug The following transfers of H.M. Rescue Tugs are
allocations. to take place as soon as suitable opportunities
occur.
(A) ASPIRANT from Newfoundland to Mediterranean.
(B) EMINENT and DESTINY from Western Approaches
to Eastern Fleet.
(C) LARIAT (under repair U.K.) from Mediterranean to Eastern
Fleet.
(D) TENACITY from Western Approaches to Newfoundland.
(E) ANTIC from West Africa to Western Approaches, on relief by
FLARE completing in U.S.
Following allocations are made. PATROCLUS and ATHLETE
completing in U.S. re-allocated from Eastern Fleet to Meditn.
FLAUNT, CHEERLY, EMPHATIC, JUSTICE also completing in U.S. are
allocated to U.K.
(Capt. Rescue Tugs, 122122A.)

Movements.

HARRIER, S.B.N.O. North Russia in HARRIER arrived Kola
SEAGULL. Inlet 120630A with SEAGULL in company.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 121115A to S.B.N.O.
Archangel.)

AJAX. AJAX arrived Needles 1349/12.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 121419C to Admty.)

JASON, JASON with BRITOMART proceed in company passing
BRITOMART. Switha 1600A/13th to Portsmouth and Plymouth
respectively for refit.
(R.A.D., 121548A to JASON, BRITOMART.)

M/S. 18. HOUND and HYDRA to R/V M.S.18 in READY with
RATTLESNAKE in 59° 18' N. 03° 20' W., thence
Sksalefiord. E.T.A. 1500/13th.
(A.C.O.S., 121637 to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)

S/M Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/13 and movements
Movements. for following 24 hours.
(F.O.(S), 121729A.)

FORMIDABLE. Scapa departure at 2100 FORMIDABLE escorted by
VENUS and ASHANTI to vicinity Cape Wrath.
(A.C.O.S., 122218A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

345

12.11.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Bay Patrol. Am over enemy S/M.
U-Boat sunk (A/C Duty 'C', No T.O.O. to 19 Group, Recd.
by A/C on 120334.)
10th Nov. Your 102005. Ministry of Marine states U-Boat
sank in deep waters off Punta de la Estaca
outside territorial waters. 39 unwounded, 3
wounded, and 3 dead of crew now ashore. Latter
being buried Vivero today. Others at Ferrol waiting decision
M.F.A. Bodies 6 British airmen also being buried Vivero
today.

(N.A. Madrid, 121340 to Admt.)

Disposition at 122000.

CEYLON patrolling between 041° 06' N. 015° 57' W. and 038° 40'
N. 013° 44' W.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 121447A to Ships.)

Investigating oil patch position 45° 13' N. 07° 05' W.

(A/C on S/R Service 47, 121810A to 19 Group.)

Operation Your 111830. E.T.A. 000° Butt of Lewis 6 miles
F.S. at 2200A/12. 060° 14' N. 010° 22' W., 141°,
Convoy 9 knots.

R.A. 54A.

(JASON, 120400A to C. in C. W.A.)

Position at 122000. R.A. 54A. WESTCOTT,
EGLANTINE, BRISSENDEN, HALCYON, SPEEDWELL,
MIDDLETON, JASON, BRITOMART, 058° 37' N. 006°

40' W. to Loch Ewe. PRESTON NORTH END R/V vicinity Butt of
Lewis to escort 6 ships to East Coast.

(A.C.O.S., 121304A to Ships.)

My 102352A and SPEEDWELL'S 121629A. Ships for West Coast
ports are to continue in company omitting call at Loch Ewe.
WESTCOTT is to escort to vicinity of Mull of Kintyre.

2. On completion of escort WESTCOTT proceed to Londonderry,
EGLANTINE to Liverpool.

(C. in C. W.A., 122127A to SPEEDWELL, WESTCOTT, EGLANTINE.)

S/M Patrols. SATYR leaves Lerwick northbound at 1200A/12th.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 120952A to SYRTIS, ULA.)

At 1215A/12th. SATYR sailed from Lerwick
unescorted and on the surface at C.O. discretion

till within 60 miles of Norwegian coast thence diving by day
for patrol position T.8. Proceeding by route "Orange" to 070°
24', thence direct.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 121315A to S/Ms.)

Positions of submarines at 0800A/13th November and movements
for following 24 hours.

(1) VENTURER vicinity 71° N. 23° E.

(2) SATYR 63° 02' N. 02° 20' E., probably on surface, course
030°, 10 knots.(3) STORM leaves Lerwick 2000/13th through 090° Muckle Flugga
5 miles and 62° 01' N. 00° 11' E., thence 030°, 10 knots.

Probably on surface.

(F.O.(S), 121729A to Admt.)

/Operation ...

12.11.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation F.T. (Convoys J.W. 54A & R.A. 54B.) Following is onward route for White Sea portion of J.W. 54A. From position M through ZZ 068° 30' N. 041° 20' E. (YY) 067° 43' N. 041° 14' E. (XX) 066° 54' N. 041° 37' E. (WW) 066° 24' N. 040° 53' E. (VV) 066° 01' N. 039° 30' E. (UU) 065° 19' N. 039° 30' E. (TT) Nikolski Buoy 064° 39' N. 039° 44' E. (marks entrance to port of Molotovsk). Ships for Economia to detach at position (UU) and proceed to position of (B) Fairway Buoy. C. in C. H.F. 061807A/11 para. 3 refers.

2. Onward route for Kola Inlet portion. From position (M) proceed through position (MX).

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 121045A to C. in C. H.F.)

Your 1807A/6th and further to my A.P.911, 10th November. A/S escort will be provided throughout daylight hours by one A/C for J.W. 54A from Minches to approximately 70° N. A/S air escort North of 70 N. will only be provided if convoy is actually threatened and then only when requested. Two long-range Catalinas are to be held available at Sullom Voe to meet this latter commitment. Similar arrangements to the above will be made for the return and future convoys.

(H.Q.C.C., 121535A to C. in C. H.F.)

TERMAGANT, BRISSENDEN will be required to act as local escort for J.W. 54A with SKATE, SALADIN acting under orders of S.O. (? of) escort in INCONSTANT.

2. Convoy J.W. 54A sails from Loch Ewe on 15th November in accordance with H.F. 01325/158 dated 6th November.

3. When released TERMAGANT proceed to Scapa routed west of Iceland, Faroes (? through) barrier, fuelling at Seidisfjord if necessary. BRISSENDEN completes with fuel Seidisfjord thence proceeding to Hvalfjord with mail. On completion returns to Scapa.

(R.A.D.H.F., 121551A to TERMAGANT, BRISSENDEN.)

Anticipate that defects all Russian vessels will be completed a.m./13th November and that they will sail from Hvalfjord p.m. the same day to arrive Seidisfjord a.m./15th. My 101532 and C. in C. H.F. 031045 refer.

(2) Capt. Morozovski will accompany Russian vessels to Seidisfjord and return Reykjavik in SOUTHERN FLOWER who will act as escort from Reykjavik to Seidisfjord.

(A.C.I.C., 122016A to Admty.)

J.W. 54A. My 091111. For SKATE read BURZA.

(C. in C. W.A., 122134A to C. in C. H.F.)

H.F.'s memorandum 01325/158 dated 6th November 1943.

Amendment number 2.

- (1) Para. 4(a) delete RHODODENDRON.
 - (2) Para. 4(d) delete AUGUSTA insert JAMAICA.
 - (3) Para. 4(e) delete K.G.V. (V.A.2) substitute ANSON (V.A.2.)
 - (4) Para. 4(f) complete as follows:- (1) BEAGLE S.O. (2) RHODODENDRON. (3) POPPY. (4) DIANELLA.
 - (5) Para. 4(h) W.A. escort SALADIN, SKATE. H.F.'s escort CAUVERY, MIDDLETON.
 - (6) Para. 4(i) for (1) W.A. escort read INCONSTANT. Delete RHODODENDRON.
 - (7) Para. 6(a) (9) for KING GEORGE V read ANSON.
- (C. in C. H.F., 122358A to H.F.)

/Coastal ...

12.11.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Coastal Force Patrols. Dover dispositions for night of 12th/13th Nov. M.Ls. 255 and 275 two miles south of D Buoy. (V.A. Dover, 121638A to Admty.)

Mining.

Q.Z.X.1163. Available ships of 9th M.S.F., DUNBAR and SPINA are to sail to Gt. Yarmouth tomorrow to carry out clearance sweep of Q.Z.X.1163 commencing on 12th. M.S.9 is to be in charge of operation and is to take DUNBAR under his orders. (C. in C. Nore, 121558A to M/S.9.)

Explosion. Mine explosion felt in 315° 12 Buoy 3 miles at 1905 today. Am investigating to see if any ships in convoy damaged. (WALLACE, 121935A to N.O.I.C. Humber.) My 121935A. No damage. (WALLACE, 122208A to N.O.I.C. Humber.)

Technical.

Frigates and Corvettes for Eastern Fleet. A.M. 281556 October, para. 4. Six pounders are not to be fitted in these frigates and corvettes and where fitted are to be removed. 2. Additional single Oerlikons are to be fitted to bring totals to the following:- Frigates - 10. Corvettes - 8. (D.G.D., 120012A to C. in C. W.A.)

Casualties and Defects.

Flight "P". Landing Craft damaged. Your 111815. Approved to proceed Falmouth through position 050° N. 013° 40' W., 050° 30' N. 011° 40' W., 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles. Tug DEXTEROUS escorted by GRASSHOLM being sent along this route to meet you. (C. in C. Plymouth, 120034A to BLUEBELL.)

BROWN RANGER. Engines almost disabled. Request tug immediately. Position number 8 Channel Buoy Clyde. (BROWN RANGER, 120505 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.) Request you will sail STORMKING to assist BROWN RANGER disabled and at anchor in Whiting Bay. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 120705A to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown) Proceed with all despatch to assist BROWN RANGER anchored and disabled in Whiting Bay. Report situation on arrival. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 120715A to STORMKING.) My 120715A. Sailed. E.T.A. Whiting Bay 1030A. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 120830A to N.O.I.C. Lamlash.)

/Arrived ...

12.11.1943.

Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

BROWN RANGER. (Contd.) Arrived your 120715 in Whiting Bay. (N.O.I.C. Lamash, 121035A to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown) Repair completed. Am proceeding to Pilot. STORMKING has been requested to accompany. (BROWN RANGER, 121100 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

STORMKING is to escort BROWN RANGER to Boom, returning to Campbeltown on completion. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 121137A to STORMKING.) BROWN RANGER proceeding under own power accompanied by tug. (N.O.I.C. Lamash, 121140A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.) Arrived STORMKING. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 121725A.)

VANESSA. My 101033. VANESSA is returning to Liverpool with defects. (C. in C. W.A., 120927A to LLANDUDNO.)

ARIADNE. 1. Understood that cracks have developed in one of 40 m.m. twin mountings in ARIADNE.
2. Request that on completion of working up ship may be sailed for Liverpool, where replace mounting will be available. (D.O.D.(H), 121229A to C. in C. H.F.)

GODAVARI. Following from GODAVARI begins. Defect has increased considerably today and it is considered inadvisable for ship to make long ocean passage until this has been remedied. In view of this do not intend sailing for exercises tomorrow Friday until decision has been reached. T.O.O. 111925. The defect reported by GODAVARI is apparent weakness in design of ship' structure at 102 station, and is similar to the trouble experienced in modified BLACK SWAN class sloops. C. in C. W.A's 311243 Oct. refers. Request arrangements may be made to have the necessary stiffening carried out in GODAVARI before ship sails for India. (Cdre. (D) W.A., 121504A to Admty.)

NELSON. Urgent defects in NELSON may be taken in hand while ship is giving leave. (D.O.D.H., 121550A to A.S. Rosyth.)

Shipping and Convoys.

D.F. 16. RIPLEY delayed by defects. HAMLET diverted to R/V in 090° Tiupan Head 10 miles at 0830A/12th. My 021711, 101818, 101823 and N.O.I.C. Greenock 110128, FLATHOLM is being sailed from Scapa to R/V in 058° 56' N. 004° 36' W. at 1430A/12th November to provide additional escort. (A.C.O.S., 120043A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/HIGHLAND ...

349

12.11.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- HIGHLAND
CHIEFTAIN. Intend sailing HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN from Breaksea
1300A/13th New York. Route.
(N.C.S.O. Avonmouth, 121244A and 130930A to
Admty.)
- T.A. 71. Intend sailing QUEEN ELIZABETH pass Clyde Boom
2000A/13th November to comply with A.M. 102015.
S.O.A. 26½ knots. "Chop" 17th November. E.T.A.
Ambrose light vessel 0900Z/19th.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 121524A to Admty.)
- O.N.M. 211. 16 ships. Names and destinations.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 121738A to C. in C. W.A.)
- W/T in
Escort
Trawlers. Your 081932. Owing to the acute shortage of
leading rates, and also V.S. and W/T threes,
these G.S. ratings cannot be made available
for Ocean Escort Trawlers.
The complement of such vessels in your command
is, however, being amended so that each of the
16 Trawlers shall carry two trained operators both V.S. and
also W/T without substantive increase.
(D.P.S., 121814A to C. in C. W.A.)

350

12.11.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

CORNFIRTH,
EMPIRE
OUTPOST,
CAPE CLEAR,
DUX. Cancel my 111622A. Ships escorting convoy G.U.S.20 estimate their position at 0900A/14th as 035° 09' N. 033° 28' W. speed 9.1 knots. (F.O. Gibraltar, 120159A to S.B.N.O. Azores (R) Escorts G.U.S.20 for Comdre., Admty., C. in C. Med.)
My 111400 (KINGSTON AMBER) and (ST. ELSTAN) to escort DUX. (CYRUSFIELD) (PALLISER) (VIZALMA) (KINGSTON AGATE) to escort CAPE CLEAR and EMPIRE OUTPOST. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 120956Z to F.O. Gibraltar (R) Admty., C. in C. Med.) As amended 131745.

CAPE CLEAR, EMPIRE OUTPOST and DUX sailed in accordance with your 102217 and 111155. One trawler escort only. (Corrupt Group)

2. DAVID G. BURNET. Master requests approx. date of sailing. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 121138 to B.S.N.O. Azores (R) Admty., S.O.(I) Gib. N.A. Lisbon.)

As EMPIRE OUTPOST and CAPE CLEAR cannot now join G.U.S.20 my 120159 refers, request you sail DUX to Gibraltar escorted by trawlers in address.

2. Route.

3. Report S. of A.

(F.O. Gibraltar, 121507 to S.B.N.O. Azores, (R) Admty., C. in C.W.A., C. in C. Med. C.M.S.F., VIZALMA, BLACKFLY, CAPE PALLISER, ST. ELSTAN, KINGSTON AGATE, KINGSTON AMBER.)

GLASGOW. Sailed GLASGOW to comply with C. in C. Plymouth's 111329. (F.O. Gibraltar, 121047A to C. in C. Plymouth, Admty., (R) C. in C.W.A., C. in C. Med., C. in C. H.F., H.Q.C.C., S.B.N.O. Azores.)

U/B sunk by A/C off Cape Ortegale 10th. Your 120425. 101145 not originated here. Following is repetition of my 101955 addressed B.C. Corunna (R) B.N.A. Madrid - begins. U/Boat damaged by aircraft last known position 43° 50' N. 07° 52' W. Course 090° speed two knots at 1345. Later reported same course 200 yards from coast. At 1735 aircraft reported oil patch and five dinghies one containing 11 persons in position 43° 46' N. 07° 43' W. near Pta. De La Estaca.

2. Request subsequent movements U/Boat and crew. Ends. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 121100B to Admty.) W.R. Note. No trace of previous receipt of 101955 in W.R. A.M. 120425 requested repetition of signal quoted in Corruna's 111615 Nov. as 101145.

My 121340 H.M. Ambassador is demanded to intern U/Boat crew on the grounds given in your 281132/10* para. 2. U.S.N.A. is requesting his Ambassador to take similar action. It is not considered advisable to quote case Italian VIVALDI survivors at this stage.

(N.A. Madrid, 121900A to Admty. (R) C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med., H.Q.C.C., F.O. Gibraltar.)

* Re: U/Boat sunk off Punta de la Estaca.

+ Re: Survivors picked up by Spanish trawlers outside territorial waters.

/Your...

351

12.11.1943.

Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

U/B sunk
by A/C
off Cape
Ortegal
10th.
(Contd.)

Your 102005 M. of M. states U/Boat sank in deep water off Punta de la Estaca outside territorial waters. 39 unwounded, 3 wounded and 3 dead of crew now ashore, latter being buried Viviro today others at Ferrol awaiting decision M.F.A. Bodies 6 British airmen also being buried Viviro today. Further report will follow.
(N.A. Madrid, 121340 to Admty. (R) F.O.C. Gib., C. in C. Med., C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.)

H.M. Ships
visiting
Azores.

Your 041858. Request existing arrangement laid down in C.A.F.O. 1924/42 be continued until communications are satisfactory but that signals should be repeated to S.B.N.O. Azores.
2. If a ship cannot be accepted at Horta for fuel and must of necessity be sent to Ponta Delgada, S.B.N.O. Azores will initiate necessary instructions. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 121230Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Med., F.O. Gibraltar.)

SPERBER
(German)

65, SPERBER, arrived about 0400/12th.
(H.M. Consul, Bilbao, 121250C to M.E.W. (R) Admty. D.N.I., B.N.A. Madrid, S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)

U/B
destroyed
first kill
from Azores.

Request you will convey our congratulations to the crew of Fortress J/220 on the destruction of a U/Boat on the 9th Nov., the first kill from the Azores.
(1st S.L., 121302A to Air Min., Info: S.B.N.O. Azores, F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med., H.Q.C.C.)

S.R.7.

Arrival ISIS, MALCOLM, NESS, CARNARVON CASTLE with S.R.7.
(F.O. Gib., 121708A to Admty.)

Rescue Tug
Azores.

Your 261137* Oct. not to Azores it is intended to base a steam ocean going Rescue Tug under orders of S.B.N.O. Azores. First available under Red Ensign will be sent from U.K. first week Jan. (Capt. in Charge Rescue Tugs, 121914A to F.O. Gibraltar, S.B.N.O. Azores, Info. C. in C. Med.)
* Request for additional tugs at Gib.

/Neutral...

352

12.11.1943.

Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Neutral shipping to and from Marseilles.

Understand Germans have decided that henceforth no neutral vessels will be permitted to navigate between Spanish frontier and Marseilles during hours of darkness. Accordingly neutral ships bound to or from Marseilles may be encountered at anchor in vicinity of Sete during hours of darkness. Request you will inform Air and other authorities concerned.
(Head of M.I., 122107A to F.O. Gibraltar, Info: C. in C. Med.)

Spanish Warships exercise.

Your 061413A. You will appreciate that since U/Boats often keep as close inshore as practicable the presence of the Spanish Fleet anywhere in the area, whether inside or outside territorial waters will not only endanger Fleet but will seriously obstruct air offensive. Indeed it is highly desirable that Fleet Exercise should be called off. You should, therefore, after consulting Ambassador, re-open matter with Minister of Marine stressing:

- a. the serious interference to our operations in the battle area.
- b. grave danger of Spanish war vessels, especially smaller vessels, being mistaken for surfaced U/Boats and subjected to attack by aircraft or surface vessels.
- c. great danger of Spanish aircraft of German design or appearance being mistaken for German aircraft.
- d. We can accept no responsibility for damage which may be sustained in event of accidental attacks on Spanish forces in battle area in low visibility or at night.

(A.C.N.S.(H) 122151A to N.A. Madrid, Info: C. in C. Med., H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Plymouth, S.B.N.O. Azores.)

War Diary.12.11.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

CAGNI. C.O. of CAGNI has been instructed to take no offensive action against enemy S/MS while in company with escort but told that enemy surface vessels may be attacked.

(2) CAGNI was instructed to place himself under the orders of C. O. of escort.

(C. in C. S.A. 121153C to C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.) (R) F.O. E.A., Admty., Com. I/C Aden.)

JOSIAH
NELSON
CUSHING,
EMPIRE
BRONZE.

Your 111735A.
(1) Arrived Bahia 6th.
(2) Arrived Recife 5th.
(Asst. B.N.S.O. Recife, 121159Z to Admty.)

S.L.140.
ABERDEEN,
AUBRETIA,
CYCLAMEN.

Sailed F.O.C.W.A. 111848Z Nov. refers.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 121714Z to C. in C. W.A., F.O. Gib., C.M.S.F. Comar Dakar, (R) Admty., C. in C. Med.)

T.G.E.4.

Sailed 1800Z/12th ARRAN, M.L. 285, 265, 1018 Escorting Convoy T.G.E. 4 E.T.A. Lagos 0800Z/14th.
(? H.M.M.L.) 265 E.T.A. Kotonou 0600Z/14th.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 121820Z to F.O.C.W.Af.)

ST. WISTAN.

Your 111610Z. H.P. Packing blowing badly, water consumption risen from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 14 tons per day at 7 knots. Ship's staff can effect temporary repairs on arrival in harbour. Time required approx. 48 hours. Can proceed BUSTER and DUNCTON to Lagos at maximum 7 knots using salt water feed.
(ST. WISTAN, 122218Z to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)

354

12.11.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Air attack
on K.M.S.31.
INDIAN PRINCE,
CARLIER,
BIRCHBANK,
NIVOSE sunk.
TAKLIWA,
JOSIAH
PARKER.
damaged.

Suspect S/M attack in 036° 13' N. 000° 05' W.
Explosion close astern no damage sustained steering
gear still defective.
(?OXLIP 120017A to C. in C. Med. (R) CUCKMERE.)
My 120004A for all read 51. These have been
transferred to U.S.S. TRIPPE. Am rejoining convoy
with OXLIP who has 43 other survivors on board.
(COLTSFOOT 120147A to Oran (R) Algiers.)
Your 120030. 5 ships reported hit COLTSFOOT towing
INDIAN PRINCE OXLIP states she has been attacked by
S/M MINDFUL proceeding Algiers with 122 survivors
CUCKMERE has 3 German prisoners.
(CUCKMERE 120200A to C. in C. Med. (R) N.O.I.C.
Oran.)

My 120200 ships missing from convoy are INDIAN PRINCE, CARLIER,
BIRCHBANK, NIVOSE, TENDER XI none are believed to be afloat.
TAKLIWA and JOSIAH PARKER reported hit but they are in good order.
(CUCKMERE 120756A to C. in C. Med. (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers,
N.O.I.C. Oran.)

My 120756A * TENDER XI is now rejoining EMPIRE COPPERFIELD
claims enemy plane.

(CUCKMERE 120924A to C. in C. Med. (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers,
N.O.I.C. Oran.) * K.M.S.31.

Convoy K.M.S.31 was attacked by about 25 D.O.217 and H.E.111
at 1825/11th in 36° 10' N. 00° 05' W. S.S. INDIAN PRINCE was hit by
torpedo and taken in tow but subsequently sank. S.S. BIRCHBANK and
NIVOSE blew up. S.S. CARLIER missing believed to have blown up.
S.S. TAKLIWA and JOSIAH PARKER reported damaged but continued with
convoy. (3) Attack was made in two waves. First by glider
bombers was detected by type 291. All bombs dropped ahead of
convoy. Second attack from landward with torpedoes probably caused
all casualties in para.2. (4) Smoke has been ordered before attack
and appeared to spoil attack by glider bombs. (5) Air protection
consisted of seven close escort and four on patrol line North of
convoy closing as light failed, but few made contact. Fighters
claim one probable and one damaged, and convoy two certain.
(6) Above is initial report from one of the escorts. Full details
not yet available.

(C. in C. Med. 121901A to Admty.)

V.A. Malta 111509A to FOWIT only. (N.T. in W.D.). Reference
quoted in N.O.I.C. Naples 101901A should be FOWIT's 092036A.

(FOWIT 120046A to Comnob, Palermo (R) Admty., F.O.C. Gib.,
C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta., C. in C. Levant, N.O.I.C. Malta, 325
Wing, Cmdre. Algiers.)

PETARD's
report.

P.C. & S. of (corrupt group) at 0600B 033° 52' N.
029° 52' E. 185° 22 knots.
(PETARD 120200B to N.L.O.25 Sector (R) C. in C.
Levant.)

M.K.F.25A.

My 112220Z. U.S.S. MONTEREY, U.S.S. WAINWRIGHT
sailed at 0245A/12th.
(Comnob Palermo 120200Z.)

/Enemy...

355

12.11.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Enemy A/C attack on K.M.F.25A. U.S.S. BEATTY & 2 transports. Sunk.

Refer to this as C.T.G.60.2 081915A addressed Action C. in C. Med. Convoy K.M.F.25A at 1804A/6 attacked by estimated 25 enemy planes in 37.13 N. 06.12 E. Estimated 8 planes equipped with H.S.293 rocket bombs remaining planes torpedo bombers. No rocket bomb hits. At 1805A U.S.S. BEATTY torpedoed and sank at 2304A with casualties 1 man killed and 12 missing and 1 Officer 6 men wounded. MARNIX VAN ST. ALDEGONDE and transport SLOTTERDICK torpedoed in engine rooms. These last two ships present status not definitely known. Few casualties believed. My reports incomplete but 5 enemy planes definitely destroyed 4 by by screen and 1 by convoy. Plane brought down by convoy exploded near ALMANZORA which ship recovered planes log book maps and plans re attack procedure normal and perfectly timed with rocket bomb attack first then torpedoes then rocket then torpedoes again. J Rockets all equipped with bright red tail lights and were directed at screening ships. Cominch C. in C. Lant, Comnavnaw, Comdeslantflt C.T.F.60 Comnavew and Admty. have for information. (Comnavew 120443 to Admty.) as amended 150351. W.R.Note. Garbled but believed SLOTTERDICK (SLOTTERDIJK intended) Admty. Plot. by Check. Originator probably at sea unable to service. Reason for delay not included in original heading but forwarded by Cominch. W.D. Note. ? should be SANTA ELENA.

U.S.S. MERVINE reports (technical re glider bombs.)
(C. in C. Med. 121233A.)

U.S.S. BROOKLYN, EDISON, WAINWRIGHT. Have withdrawn to Algiers. (C.T.F.86 120635 to F.O.W.I.T.)

U.G.S.22. My 110926A sailed. (Comnob Oran 120835A to DELPHINIUM.)

Alexandria movements. Nov.11 arrivals PENELOPE, THRUSTER, BRYONY, BERGAMOT, KANARIS, THEMISTOCLES, M.T.B.309. Departures PHOEBE, ABERDARE, DERBY FALK, M.T.B.260. (R.A. Alexandria 120841C.)

GAYRET, MAUVENET. Para.2 A.M. 012020/October. Request information as to whether these vessels have been transferred to Turkish Govt. (Hd. of M.I. 120932A to C. in C. Levant.)

P.57 (UNIVERSAL.) Onward routeing from 040° 00' 005° 12' at 2000/14th proceed diving by day through 042° 01' 006° 28' at 0100/16th 043° 06' 007° 06' at 2000/16th to patrol in zone SS keeping W. of 007° 30' until 0800/17th. (Capt. (S) 10 120950 to P.57 (UNIVERSAL). (R) Capt. (S) 8th. N.O.I.C. Algiers, F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. LA SULTANE, PROTEE, 10th Sub.)

/Attack...

356

12.11.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Attack
on Leros.

Attack on Leros by Landing Craft from Cos/Kalimmo began at 0700 this morning. Destroyers may have got at some of these approaching close to East Coast of Kalimmo but doubtful in view of extensive mined area there and have no report yet.

2. D.8 in FAULKNOR with two Hunts will comb area close round Leros and West Coast Kalimmo tonight for follow up. Three M.T.Bs. at Leros. 3. One Fleet and two Hunts should arrive in area tonight.

(C. in C. Levant 120952B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

Ref. Map Dodecanese 1/25000 Lero North and South. Attack on Leros began 0630B/12. Landings supported by Stukas and about 4 destroyers made Pasta di Zotto 10.44 North Appetici 11.41 strength approx. 300 at latter. Subsidiary landings Della Palma Bay 08.45 Seracampo 11.36. Reported 0850B hours no vital ground lost any area but enemy clinging lower slopes Appetici and Vedetta 09.45 (or Vedetna 09.45). Three L.C. sunk. Preliminary reports indicate approx. 25 L.C. involved.

(C. in C. M.E. 121150B.)

1. Personal for C.I.G.S. from General Wilson. 2. Enemy attacked Leros this morning using some 25 landing craft but no F lighters. 15 craft approached from N.E. between point Pasta di Sotto and La Madonna. 11 of these landed infantry, two others sunk and two damaged. Enemy infantry now pinned in shallow bridgehead from Pasta di Sotto to Baia della Palma, and Buffs were engaging with mortars and machine guns. 3. Three L/C landed infantry at P. Bianco East of Leros town and gained footing N, Appetici, but were counter-attacked and driven back and now pinned on slopes. Another small party behind town landed about Valle Lunga in Southern sector, but no firm reports. 4. At 1445 hours parachutists landed from 36 J.U.52s. about head of Alinda Bay. Unfortunately reserve coy. had previously been moved from this area to meet threat in N.E. but parachutists at present confined to ridge M. Trachi which is overlooked by our positions, and we still cover beaches Alinda Bay with fire. 5. By landing infantry at difficult places using Stukas as his artillery and employing paratroops, enemy no doubt intended to secure safe landing for his heavier weapons. This plan may be foiled if the Navy are successful in intercepting his supporting convoys tonight. 6. Up to 1400 hours there had been 107 enemy bomber sorties over the island and there were always 8 Stukas in the air. 7. The Italian C.D. artillery opened fire but first reports indicate that it was ineffective. I do not know yet whether Italian infantry has been engaged. 8. R.A.F. can do little in daylight, as our Beaufighters are at a disadvantage with enemy M.E.109s. on Rhodes, but I hope the Navy will have luck tonight. 9. Provided we can stop enemy's follow up, situation is reasonably satisfactory.

(Mideast 122100 to Air Min.)

383350. 0/0214 12th. Further my 0/0196. Reports originated up to 1600B hours clarify Leros situation as follows. 1st. 0630B hours 500 Tps. from 15 L/C landings N.E. of Island. Gained line high ground Della Palma Bay 0845 Grifa 0944 which still hold. Buffs in contact. Enemy has made little progress. Forts Rs. Coy. M.T. Clidi 0844. 2nd. 0630B hours 120 Tps.

/Landed...

357

12.11.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Attack on Leros. (Contd.) landed from 3 L/C North Appetioi 1141 (or 1181). Successfully counter attacked and pinned area 108418. 3rd. 1430B hours equivalent one Bn. Paratps. from 39 Ju. 52s. dropped area Gachi Ridge 0841 which they hold. Own Tps. hold all high ground overlooking Ridge and cover all beaches with fire.

4th. Air. Heavy dive bombing attacks in support Inf. and on gun positions by Ju.88s. and Ju.87s. 107 sorties up to 1400B hrs.
5th. Shipping. No F. Lighters in original assaults. Enemy convoy 3 F Lighters, 2 Destroyers, 2 M.Ls. 1 Gunboat waiting to West of Island. Another of 2 Destroyers, 2 M.Ls. 1 Schooner to East of Island. Also reported 8 ships types unknown 8 miles W. Gaidaro (Esek) Island.
(C. in C. M.E. T.O.O. Nil. to W.O.)

T.C. Convoys. Intend to allocate letters T.C. (Tunisia-Corsica) for convoys from Bizerta to Ports in Sardinia and Corsica.
(C. in C. Med. 121012A to Admty. (R) F.Os. and N.Os.i/c. Med. Station, C. in C. Levant.)

Air Reports. Daily Opsum 198. 11th November. 6 Beaufighters, 2 U.S. Mitchells (B.25) on offensive shipping sweep Stampalia Island area, Southern Aegean. No sightings. Between 1023 hours and 1715 hours 56 Ju. 88 sorties were made over Leros, including 3 separate formations of 7 aircraft. Coast Defences and an observation post were attacked 3 Ju.88s. destroyed, 1 damaged. 11/12th November. 1 Halifax successfully dropped supplies on Greece. 4 Wellingtons, 7 Baltimores (A.30), 3 Hudsons Cos/Kalimmo. Wellingtons sighted 15 barges, 2 aircraft attacked with unobserved results. The Baltimores (A.30) attacked Antimachia (Cos) landing-ground reports awaited of this operation and from the Hudson Sorties 8 aircraft, Halifaxes and Liberators, successfully attacked Maritza (Rhodes) aerodrome runway well covered by all aircraft. Following delayed details 10th November. Further to Opsum 197 it is now confirmed that 3 Ju.87s. were destroyed over Leros.
(H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 121030Z.)

A.V.985 E.12th. N.W.A.A.F. Opsum 264. N.W.A.C.A.F. 11th 4 Baltimores, 1 Hudson, 1 Beaufighter, 3 U.S. Beaufighters, 6 U.S. Airacobras, P.39 22 French Spitfires 27 French Airacobras P.39 3 French Walrus, 2 Warwicks convoy escort 9 to 10 enemy aircraft were sighted attacking convoy W. of Oran at dusk. Only effective interceptions made by 1 U.S. Beaufighter which damaged 1 Do.217 with 20 m.m. cannon fire. Second Do.217 was attacked but no claim (1 group missing).

(H.Q.N.A.A.F. (Spatz)121645A.)

M.V.8. Intend to sail. 18 ships, names and destinations.
(N.O.I.C. Naples 121032A.)

12.11.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.BOURGAS,
TZAR
FERDINAND

A. My (?11)1645C. BOURGAS sailed for Salonica 0130 G.M.T. 12th. Expected to enter Aegean between 1500 and 1700 G.M.T. 12th.

B. May proceed into Aegean with TZAR FERDINAND (my 1115(745) C. refers.) (S.O.I. Istanbul 121055C to C. in C. Levant, S.O.I. Levant, (R) Capt. S.I, D.N.I.)

Oran
Movements.

DOROTHY DIX, BANFORA all (A) arrived 10th November. (Comnob Oran 121100A.)

TAKLIWA (A) sailed p.m. 11th. (Comnob Oran 121102.)

Personnel
Ships.

Expected sailings from Suez week ending 18th Nov. With over 100 personnel 15th Nov. STRATHMORE, DEVONSHIRE Aden, Bombay. 15th PULASKI, EMPIRE TROOPER Aden, Durban. 16th RUYLS Aden, Bombay. (F.O.R.S.C.A. 121147B, 151731B.)

TOSCANA,
PRINCIPESSA
GIOVANNA,
(hospital
ships.)

My 031645 para. 8.

Request early report of intentions re these two ships, particularly whether they are to go to U.S. A. or U.K. for overhaul and conversion.

2. Owing to the complicated status they are not being used as hospital ships at the moment and it is therefore necessary to get the position clear. (P.S.T.O. Med. 121215A to D. of S.T.)

"Foxyer"
Gear.

Your 101304. It is not considered desirable to proceed with production in your area in view of difficulties mentioned. Stocks will be earmarked for your requirements and despatched as early as possible probably early in January.

Meanwhile suggest elected ships be fitted with necessary davits and winches if these are available. (D.T.M. 121244A to C. in C. Med.)

SS. SAMBO,
sunk.

Liberty ship SAMBO sunk in 12° 28' N. 43° 31' E. at 1511Z/10th. 12 killed, 35 survivors picked up no missing. Evidence suggests cause was a mine that dragged from Perim Field into shallow water. Air search during night 10th/11th and daylight 11th failed to locate any S/M.

(C. in C. Levant 121350B to Admty. (R) Com. Aden, F.O.R.S.C.A. C. in C.E.F.)

Can you spare the sweepers to skim the vicinity in which SAMBO is alleged to have been mined. Com. Aden's 101545. Assume the mines must have dragged from Bab el Mandeb field during monsoon. I cannot get sweepers there for 10 days and then only by retaining two urgently required by C. in C. Med.

(C. in C. Levant 121830B to C. in C.E.F. (R) C. in C. Med. Com. Aden, F.O.R.S.C.A.)

359

12.11.1943.

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

Yugoslav Navy. Commander Saksida, Royal Yugoslav Navy has suggested two Yugoslav M.T.Bs. from Alexandria being transferred to Adriatic. At present all Yugoslav operations in Adriatic are conducted by partisan ships and troops with our support and I feel some concern as to the result of introducing a rival faction as Commander Saksida's visit has already caused difficulties owing to the desertion of a few partisan Naval Officers to join him. We cannot (?well back) both horses in the same area and I consider best for ships wearing Royal Yugoslav ensign to be employed elsewhere. F.O.T.A. agrees.
(F.O.L.I. 121545Z to C. in C.Med. (R) C. in C.Levant.)

A.N.D. Gear. From a date to be announced shortly the existing areas for the streaming of Anti-torpedo gear (N.D. or Mark 29) by merchant ships will be abolished. Routeing and diverting authorities will then become responsible for watching independent British and U.S. Ships so fitted and instructing them by individual B.A.M.S. Message or if necessary on sailing when to stream or recover their gear in accordance with the local submarine situation.
(A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 121606A 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.Gibraltar and W.Af. N.S.H.Q. Info. B.A.D. Comtenth Fleet C. & R. C. in C.W.A. Comnavu.)

HILARY. Request you will report date it is proposed to sail HILARY to U.K.
(V.C.N.S. 121649A to C. in C.Med.)

L.C.I.(L). C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) requires additional L.C.I.(L) to be used as S.N.O.L. H.Q. ships. His 281200 October to Admty. only refers.
2. If you can spare 3 or more L.C.I.(L) out of the 48 approved to remain in the Med. for operations in that theatre request you will sail them to Bombay as soon as possible.
(V.C.N.S. 121659A to C. in C.Med. (R) C. in C.E.F.(S.E.A.C).)

F.O.L.I. F.O.T.A. F.O.L.I. takes over duties of F.O.T.A. in addition to his own on 15th.
3. F.O.L.I. 111601 refers.
(C. in C.Med. 121729A to F.O.L.I. F.O.T.A. (R) Admty.)

Aegean Situation. 382389. I/34281 12th.
Joint Army R.A.F.Int. appreciation 24 hours to 1000Z/12th.
One. The long expected assault on Leros was launched shortly after 0400Z/12th. Enemy landings reported areas Palma Bay Pasta di Sota Castello Appetici in north of Island and Serocampo Bay in south. Total invasion craft employed initial lift not yet clear. 300 enemy troops reported landed Appetici area. Attack supported by dive bombers and naval auxiliaries. Leros reports 0650Z no vital ground lost but enemy holding lower slopes Appetici and Vedetta. 3 L.C. claimed sunk.

/Two...

360

12.11.1943.

Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Aegean Situation (Contd.)

Two. Ph. R/C shipping 11th Nov. Kos, Pserimo, Kalimno. Ph. R/C at 0600Z, 1100Z and 1240Z hours and visual R/C showed elements of invasion flot. in Kos harbour Pserimo Bay Kalimno harbour, Port Vathi. No shipping seen in Fezonda, Isola Vecchia and Sicati Bays in first and last Ph. R/Cs. Other bays not covered by last Ph. R/C which showed 8 F-Boats at Kos of which 3 most probably unserviceable.

Amorgos. No further sightings of follow-up portion of L.C. Flot. reported visually yesterday morning in Amorgos area. 1 F-Boat seen in bay Nikaria Island a.m. 10/11 Nov.

Levitha Bay. Nil shipping seen a.m. and p.m. Naxia Harbour. a.m. shows 1 armd. trawler 110 foot 2 caiques probably naval auxiliaries 1 motor launch.

Piraeus. Ph. R/C a.m. showed following departures. From Piraeus harbour 1 destroyer, 2 torpedo boats, 1 coaster. From Salamis 1 torpedo boat, 1 E-Boat. Port Rafti (north of Lavrion) a.m. 9 caiques 40/60 foot 12 sailing craft under 40 ft.

Three. C.X. reports 12 vessels 100/200 tons in Lavrion 9th of which 6 loading guns stores and motor transport and 6 ready to load. See Ph. R/C Port Rafto above.

Five. Reports so far received from Leros give total of 56 sorties by Ju.88 on island between 0820Z and 1515Z hours 11th. Number of Ju.87 sorties not yet known.

Six. Visual R/C 0800Z/12th shows 3 F-Boats and 2 landing craft off west coast Kalimno Island course unknown. Off east coast Leros 2 probable naval escorts and one F-(?Boat) and one L.C. on southerly courses. 2 probable naval escorts approaching Kalimno from west. Two convoys first comprising 2 merchant vessels 400 tons and 5 small craft on courses towards Suda Bay sighted at 0800Z and 0915Z respectively.

Seven. Appreciate from landings so far reported enemy intends attempt initially capture high ground Clidi and Appetici areas with object obtaining control Alinda Bay area. If successful second wave may be intended for this area. Scale of second wave cannot be estimated at present. Sightings of L.C. off west coast Kalimno (see para. 7) suggests possibility further attempted landings west or south west coast Leros. Convoys seen approaching Crete (see para. 7) may indicate attempt to pass ship or ships to Rhodes.

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

CALPE,
SS. ALBULA.

CALPE at 2000A/12 to proceed to position 037° 40' 00" 35' W. E.T.A. 0100A/13th to intercept Swiss SS. ALBULA and escort her to Gibraltar.

2. ALBULA left Gibraltar 1400/11th coastwise to San Sebastian S.O.A. 7½ knots estimated to pass Palos Cape 0030A/13th.

(C. in C.Med. 121749A to DELPHINIUM, (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty. CALPE, PALOMARES, TYRIAN, N.O.I.C. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Cran.)

Interception must take place outside Spanish Territorial Waters. If met in Territorial Waters report and shadow. My121749*refers. Acknowledge.

(C. in C.Med. 122137A to CALPE, (R) F.O.I.C. Gib. Admty.)
* M.T. in W.R. repetition requested.

/Transfer...

361

12.11.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Transfer to Turkish Flag of French ships interned at Erdek concluded on 8th. These ships go to the navy and 6 including tanker ADOUR to stab* shipping line.
2. The minesweeper ELAN not included in transfer, has recommissioned from Vichy France and is to remain at Istanbul.
3. C. in C-Levant please pass to Admty.
(B.N.A. Ankara 121801C to C. in C-Levant, Admty. (for D.N.I.)
*Sic.

P.47 Leave patrol proceeding submerged by day through
DOLFIJN. 043° 19' 008° 22' at 0530/16th, thence through following positions A. 041° 59' 007° 04' at 0530/17th. B. 039° 00' 007° 04' at 0300/19th. C. 038° 08' 009° 15' at 0430/20th. Thence by surface passage R/V with escort in D. 037° 24' 009° 30' at 1030/20th. Escort will fly a large black flag for distinguishing purposes.
(Capt. S.10, 121850A to P.47 (DOLFIJN) (R) S.10, N.O.I.C. Bizerta, S.5, Capt. S.8.)

U.S. Cruiser Arrival and departure.
CLEVELAND. (N.O.I.C. Bizerta 122001A.)

PHOEBE. Your 121924B. At 2000B my position 035° 27' N. 030° 51' E. S. of A. 28 knots. Oil fuel remaining 780 tons.
(PHOEBE 122030B to C. in C-Levant, (R) Capt. D.8th D.F. Capt. D.5th D.F.)

Augusta Arrival 12th Nov. BLACKMORE, CHIDDINGFOLD, Movements. QUANTOCK, BROCKLESBY. Italian ALISEO, FORTUNALE, ARETUSA, SIRIO, FATRIGE. Departure BLACKMORE, BENITO, KERRERA.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta 122118.)

Cyprus Cyprus 12th Nov. arrivals H.S.L.2520, L.C.T.101, Movements. KING GEORGE II, POLA (It.) Arrived and left PHOEBE, M.G.B.646, departure M.S.11 (It.) DULVERTON, ECHO, BELVOIR, H.S.L. Me.9 M.L.1028.
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta 122227B, 132301B.)

QUILLIAM, A.M. 301834 Oct. para. 2A.
QUEENBOROUGH, For "15th January" read "end January".
QUAIL, (A.C.N.S.(F) 122244A to C. in C.Med.)
RAIDER.

/Levant...

12.11.1943.
Friday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Levant Situation Report No. 107. Up to 1800B/12th. Assault on Leros began at 0700 this morning. Enemy used up to 20 assault and L.C. and reported at 1530 to have a foothold on the northeast and east of the Island and paratroops landed in the neck. Reinforcements in the offing. Two L.C. sunk and two damaged. Four enemy T.Bs. reported in the Aegean. 2. FAULKNER, BEAUFORT and PINDOS operating close round Leros and Kalimno tonight to destroy enemy shipping any follow up L.C. PHOEBE, DULVERTON, ECHO and BELVOIR entering Aegean north of Rhodes. 3. PETARD and KRAKOWIAK left Port Losta last night and returned to Alexandria. ROCKWOOD remaining there awaiting repair gear as she cannot be towed until gear room is pumped out and turbines disconnected. 4. Since 6th 360 troop reinforcements have been landed in Leros by naval vessels of all sorts. (C. in C. Levant 122256B.)

Algiers, U.S. Arrivals BROOKLYN (U.S.S.) DAVIS (U.S.S.) JONES Movements. (U.S.S.). (Com. Algeria 122247A.)

Med. Situation report No. 227. TUMULT, TYRIAN, PIORUN and GRENVILLE carried out successful bombardment in support of 5th Army in Gulf of Gaeta during the night 8/9th. 2. Naples raided approx. 30 A/C between 0300/0400 10th RHYL damaged by near miss but is seaworthy. 3. K.M.S.31 attacked by about 25 A/C off Oran about 1815/11th my 121901 to Admiralty only also refers. 4 merchant ships were sunk and 2 slightly damaged but continued with convoy. (?2) aircraft (?claimed) shot down by A/A fire and second one (?stated) damaged by fighters. (C. in C. Med. 122254A.)

TRIDENT. Sailed. (V.A. Malta 122353A to Admty. C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, S.1, S.8.)

363

12.11.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

SONTAY,
number of
passengers.

If it is intended that numbers carried in SONTAY exceed trade convoy limits (para.3 of D. of S.T. 110325 refers) request early information. My 310901 Oct. refers. (C. in C. E.F. 120506Z to P.S.T.O.M.E.)

O.21.

Propose the following W/T cover for passage of H.N.M.S.O.21 from Australia to Colombo, my 111018 Nov. refers. (details). (C. in C. E.F. 120508 to A.C.N.B. (R) Admty. B.S.O. C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.) Capt. (S) 4, N.O.I.C.Fremantle.)

R.D.F.
contact.

Catalina escorting (?A) B (?20) reported suspicious R.D.F. contact at (?0500D) in 014 degs. (?26') N. 051 degs. (?32') East which was later (2 corrupt groups). (?Contact) (corrupt group) ED on being closed. Have ordered aircraft to remain in that area until daylight and am (?searching) (2 corrupt groups) with H.M.S. TRENT. (?RAPID, 121027 to N.O.I.C.Aden (?R) C. in C. E.F.)

TEVIOT
BANK.

(1) Consideration is being given to the reversion of TEVIOT BANK to trade.
(2) Request you will signal whether you have any intentions with regard to her further employment as a minelayer.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 121221A to C. in C. E.F.)

SUSSEX.

Starboard turbine SUSSEX. As no blading is available, para. 4 Cdr. i/c Durban's 030754 Nov. refers. The following alternatives require consideration with reference to Cdre. i/c Durban's 110806 Nov.
(A) To close up turbines in all respects complete (?for) steaming and accept a reduction in speed, probably on all shafts.
(B) To close up and not use this shaft. Dock ship and remove starboard inner propeller.
(C) Send ship to U.K. for reblading of damaged turbine.
(2) Propose to accept alternative (B) and retain SUSSEX in service on this station with 3 shafts until she can be relieved by another 8 inch gun cruiser.
(C. in C. E.F. 121337Z to Admty. (R) Cdre. i/c Durban, A.S. Simonstown, SUSSEX, C.S.4., C. in C. S.A., A.S. Durban.)

Coastal
Force
Requirements.

Coastal Force requirements contained in your 300534 Sept. are concurred in generally.
(2) It is regretted however that the essential mobile maintenance facilities cannot arrive in India until early 1945.
(3) It is fully appreciated that this will seriously

limit /...

12.11.1943.

Friday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Coastal Force Requirements. (Contd.)

limit the operations of the mobile coastal forces and it is not therefore intended to meet your full requirements for mobile Coastal forces until the latter part of 1944.

(4) Subject to your concurrence it is intended to bring the R.N. Coastal Forces in the Eastern Area up to 2 M.L. Flotillas and 6½ H.D.M.L. Flotillas by shipping 19 further H.D.M.Ls as soon as possible. This will provide 2 M.L. flotillas to be fitted as Gunboats 2 H.D.M.L. flotilla for Combined Operations and 2 H.D.M.L. flotillas for defence of occupied ports in addition to the H.D.M.L. requirements for the defence of Ceylon and Kilindini. These flotillas will have to be maintained by existing resources.

(5) M.T.B. flotillas allocated to R.I.N. will be shipped as already arranged but further officers for these flotillas cannot be allocated.

(6) Arrangements are being made to ship to Bombay the navigational equipment for the Combined Operation H.D.M.L. Flotillas.

(7) The provision of suitable M.T.Bs and M.G.Bs and of gun armament for the M.L. Flotilla fitted as Gunboats is being investigated.

(A.C.N.S.(F), 121809A to C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.) Info. F.O.C. R.I.N.)

U-Boat attacked. Have attacked suspected U-Boat asdic contact in 011 degs. 58' N. 048 degs. 57' E. am searching with TAY, SENNEN and BURNIE proceeding with convoy.

(LANDGUARD, 122045Z to N.O.I.C. Aden, F.O.I.C. East Africa.)

R.A.Miles, suggested titles. Your 250447 Oct.

No objection to R.A. Miles carrying out the duties outlined by you (in paras. 3, 4 and 5) but the title Vice C. in C. is not agreed.

(2) As he is to have direct control of Assault Forces and Combined Operations units some other title than C.O.S. would probably be preferable. Rear Admiral (X) Eastern Fleet, Naval Commander Assault Forces, Flag Officer Commanding Assault Forces have been suggested. Request you will report which you select of these or suggest another.

(3) It would be feasible to promulgate to all concerned that he would act for you on all matters during your absence from Delhi.

(4) It is hoped the above arrangements will meet your wishes.

(1st L. 122326A to C. in C. E.F.)

365

12.11.1943.
Friday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Search for U/B's. Situation at 0200Z/12th. (?TIMMINS), TRAIL, COBALT, KENORA, SHAWINIGAN square search side 30 miles. MONTGOMERY, GEORGETOWN, (LETHBRIDGE) outer (?mine) sweep. CANSO will establish patrol line 50 miles to East and BRANTFORD 50 miles to south. Fog.

Estimate farthest on (corrupt group) radius 108 miles all circumstances considered. Weather. (W.6. 120202Z to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C.C.N.A. (D) Halifax).
Fog cleared. Weather 4772, 1872.
(W.6. 120559Z to F.O.N.F.).
Situation 1830Z COBALT, TRAIL, SHAWINIGAN, TIMMINS in position XX 042 degs. 30' N. 051 degs. 43' W. MONTGOMERY, LETHBRIDGE, KENORA E.T.A. XX 2000Z from N.W. am proceeding St. Johns N.F. weather report.
(GEORGETOWN 121845Z to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C.C.N.A., MONTGOMERY LEAMINGTON, W.10).
My P.C. and S 042 degs. 53' N. 051 degs. 12' W. 353 degs. 15 E.T.A. 131630Z. Request early entrance fuel very low.
(GEORGETOWN 122040Z to F.O.N.F. (R) MONTGOMERY, LEAMINGTON, W.10, Capt.(D) St.Johns N.F.).
My 121200Z. 100 miles A/S sweep to South East completed by 7 ships at 2200Z/12 and square search commenced round new data point. Visibility now good and ships found in good line. CANSO and BRANTFORD patrolling 50 miles to east and south respectively. LEAMINGTON sweeping to south east. Have turned over to LEAMINGTON. MONTGOMERY and COBALT reach prudent limit of endurance at dawn. Weather.
(W.10, 122315Z to F.O.N.F. (R) N.S.H.Q., LEAMINGTON, SEAGULL).

N.S.H.Q. sub attack and sighting summary. Para.A. A/C N/5 attacks U-boat 43, 08, 52, 50 W. at 1214Z/11th.
(N.S.H.Q.120537Z to Admty., Cominch).

U/B attacked H.A.C.576, 12 Nov. Daily Gr. Opsum No.62 period ending 0100 G.M.T. 12th.
3. (A) Canso C/5 (B) A/S patrol (C) 111200 (D) 4308 N. 52.50 W. (E) 150 degs. (F) 12 knots (G) N.A. (H) Four 250 Torpex and M/G (I) 3 D/C's.
close to hull 1 overshoot Flak. No slick.
(H.Q. E.A.C. 120620).

CARAQUET E.T.A. position X 1130Z boiler hours WASAGA in company. Boiler hours.
(CARAQUET 120630Z to F.O.N.F. (R) Capt.(D).

A.T.74A, (ANDES). Departed Ambrose 1216Z/12th. E.T.A. Liverpool Bar L.V. 1300Z/20th. S. of A. 19 knots.
(P.D. New York, 121300Z).

/S.C.145...

366

12.11.1943.
Friday

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

- S.C.145 Average speed 7.73 knots. Off Oversay at 1620Z/6.
All arrived.
(D.T.D. 121310A to Connav, N.S.H.Q. (R) C. in C.
W.A., C. in C.C.N.A.).
- H.X.263 Average speed 10 knots. Off Oversay at 1200Z/7th.
All arrived.
(D.T.D. 121311A to Connav, N.S.H.Q., (R) C. in C.
W.A., C. in C.C.N.A.).
- U/B. Submarine contact 012 degs. 23' N. 069 degs. 53' W.
1540Z.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 121502R to Admty.).
Cancelled - see S.O.I. Jamaica 161521R).
- U.S. S/M (Cominch, 121529Z).
Estimate.
- Task Group Consists CROATAN, ALBERMARLE, PHILADELPHIA,
27.4. MATAGORDA, A.P. and 7 destroyers departs Casablanca
10th with no operating aircraft.
(Connaveu 121606 to Admty.).
- CATHERINE, Com.10th Fleet pass information also to B.A.D.
CATO. Cominch 101932. When ready about 1100Z/13th
depart New York Gate. Proceed Argentina (route).
Speed 14.
(C.E.S.F. 121611 to CATHERINE, CATO).
See C.E.S.F. 132127.
My 121611. Delayed 24 hours.
(C.E.S.F. 122213Z to CATHERINE, CATO).
- Escort Your 112011 para.2. as to U.S. CVES my 301431 of
Carriers Oct. applies.
Atlantic, (Cominch, 121645Z to Action Admty. info, Cinclant).
interchange
of information.
- GYLFE S.C.146. Arrival 1700Z/12th GYLFE (Nor.).
damage Damage from explosions.
from (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 121819Z to Admty.).
explosions.
- H.X.266 Sailing dispatch. Part 1.
2. Position B.A. at 2300Z/13th. Items 3, 5 and 8.
Standard route A as per Admty. 261625 Sept. and
C. in C.C.N.A. 100052. "Chop" 1130Z/15th.
- Task Unit W.4. COLUMBIA. S.O. CHELSEA. Battleford, KAMSACK,
TRURO.
(P.D. New York, 121914Z to Admty.).

/Enemy...

12.11.1943.
Friday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Enemy
torpedoes.

Your 082040. Torpedo Officer to photograph parts of enemy torpedoes. Torpedo Officer reports no indication that E.G.2's torpedoes are Gnats. (F.O.N.F. 122042Z to N.S.H.Q. (R) C. in C.C.N.A., Admty.).

AQUITANIA
(T.A.70).

Arrived New York at 1400Z/12th.
(P.D. New York, 122104Z).

Italian
Navy.

Re supplies.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 122108A to B.A.D.(R) C. in C. Med.).

Use of
Mark 29
Gear.

Mark 29 gear should not be armed when escorts towing F.X.R. marker are in vicinity. F.X.R. produces characteristic buzz and will probably cause subject gear to fire at ranges up to 600 yards.
(Com. 10th Fleet C and R 122126Z to U.S. C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet (R) Admty., N.S.H.Q., U.S. Cdr. Task Force, 61., U.S. Cdr. Task Force 62, U.S. Cdr. Task Force 63, U.S. Cdr. Task Group 60.2, U.S. Cdr. Naval Forces, N.W. African Waters, U.S. Cdr. 4th U.S. Fleet).

HADLEIGH
CASTLE,
Squid and
A/S
equipment.

It is requested that if convenient arrangements may be made for HADLEIGH CASTLE to call in at Halifax after the U.S. visit so that the training and technical staffs of R.C.N. establishments may have an opportunity of making themselves familiar with Squid and latest A/S equipment for which provision is now being made in R.C.N. ships. (N.S.H.Q: 122200Z to Admty. (R) N.M.C.S., C. in C.C.N.A., S.C.N.O.(L).

CLEOPATRA

My 231940 Oct. and A.M. 091606. Refitting yard Philadelphia.
(B.A.M.R. 122206Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. V.A. (M)., F.O.C. Gib., C.S.12., A.S. Malta, CLEOPATRA, N.S.H.Q., S.B.N.O.W.At., C. in C.C.N.A.).

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements

Arrived Port Moresby 10th U.S.S. SANDS, HUMPHREYS
Fremantle 11th U.S.S. CHANTICLEER.
Departed Milne Bay 10th U.S.S. HELM, REID, RALPH
TALBOT for Port Purvis.
(A.C.N.B. 120924Z).

/Digest...

12.11.1943.
Friday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand-Contd.

Digest 3 Destroyers 3 Transports sighted noon 60 miles
Serial No.661 north Mussau Island heading south.
Nov. 11th. (2) Strong force heavy bombers detailed strike
Lakunai airfield before dawn preparatory to South
Pacific land based and carrier borne aircraft
attack after daybreak. Weather interfered only 13 Liberators
reaching target dropping light bombs and fragmentation clusters
from 9,000 to 12,000 feet causing explosion large and small
fires. Details S.O. Pac. operation not yet complete. Earlier
same night 4 Beauforts bombed Vunakanau field with good results.
(3) After dark patrol Liberator unsuccessfully attacked 1 heavy
cruiser, 1 destroyer 30 miles southwest Kavieng course northwest
speed 20 knots.
(7) Four Catalinas bombed Babo early hours causing explosion
and several fires. 3 ships observed in vicinity.
(8) Midday patrol Beaufort shot down Jap R/C floatplane over
Arafura Sea 70 miles southwest Cape Valsco.
(10) United States Forces extending positions Torokina area
in all directions. Estimate 300 Japanese killed during engage-
ment northwest our beachhead 8th/9th November. Contact lost 10th.
Enemy planes over night 9th but nil bombs dropped.
(11) 3 escorted Mitchells swept coast N.W. Bougainville dusk 10th
sinking 1 freighter of 200 feet. Two barges all located Northern
Matchin Bay trucks and huts same area also strafed.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 120940Z).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 121350, 121401).

Submarines Attacked

Sub. attack Para.A. Nor. HALLBJORG missed
and sighting 1. by torpedoed at 0700/4th in 15 degs. S. 40
summary for 24 degs. 50' E. and again missed by torpedoes at
hours to 0900Z/1000/5th in 13 degs. S. 41 degs. E.
12th. 2. Aircraft attacked U-boat at 0221/12th in
approx. 46 degs. N. 07 degs. 30' W.
3. ULA reported U-boat at 1040/11th in 62 degs.
04' N. 02 degs. 21' E.
4. Aircraft sighted U-boat at 0616/11th in 25 degs. N. 6 degs.
23' E.
Para.B. OXLIP suspected U-boat attack at 2317/11th in 36 degs.
13' N. 00 degs. 05' W. ship not hit.
Para.C. Unknown ship in convoy sighted U-boat at 1807/11th in
approx. 29 degs. 40' N. 12 degs. W.
(D.D.I.C. 121106A to Ccminch, N.S.H.Q.).

369

13.11.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.QUEEN
ELIZABETH.

1. QUEEN ELIZABETH left the Clyde at 2006A tonight for New York.

Flight P.
L.C.T. 385
abandoned.

2. Flight P, consisting of 24 L.C.T. craft (2 of which are in tow) and one L.C.G. craft escorted by BLUEBELL and MAN OF WAR, has become much scattered in a heavy N.W. gale about 160 miles due west of Lands End. BLUEBELL reported at 1927A that L.C.Ts. 385 and 418 were flooding beyond the capacity of their pumps, and at 2241A MAN OF WAR reported that L.C.T. 385 had been abandoned but that all her crew had been rescued. Several of the remaining L.C.Ts. have one engine disabled, and C. in C. Plymouth has asked C. in C. Portsmouth to sail the Rescue Tug MARAUDER to assist the tugs DEXTEROUS and EMPIRE RUPERT already with the Flight.

R.A.F.
Gibraltar.

3. The operational control of R.A.F. Gibraltar is to be transferred to A.O.C. in C. Coastal Command at 0001 on the 15th November.

Attack on
Bremen.

4. 130 out of 459 aircraft of U.S.A. VIII Bomber Command which were despatched bombed the submarine and warship building yards at Bremen today. Results were not seen but are believed to have been poor. About 30 to 50 enemy aircraft were destroyed.

Foreign Stations.Owing to illness of the staff, the Situation Report today is incomplete.North Atlantic.Facilities
at Azores.

5. (a). H.M. Ships are not permitted to visit Ponta Delgada without notifying the Portuguese authorities, and aircraft are not permitted to land on the aerodrome or in the harbour. S.B.N.O. Azores reports that although the possession of an aerodrome in Terceira is exceedingly advantageous, the purely Naval facilities in the Azores do not amount to much if Ponta Delgada and the aerodrome on San Miguel are excluded.

(b)...

370

13.11.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

Facilities
at Azores.
(Contd.)

5. (b). The weather has been particularly favourable for unloading at Angra, and a gale that has blown incessantly since this was finished shows that the majority, if not all, of our landing craft might well have been lost and that the operation might not have been completed this winter.

South Atlantic.

Operation
"Barrage."

6. With a view to intercepting a Japanese blockade running submarine detected by D/F at 032139Z. Operation "Barrage" was carried out from 11 to 13th November. Air and surface forces searched to 43° S. between 18° 20' E. and 21.40 E. (south of Capetown). Apart from a bearing on ground wave of a Japanese transmission at 121110Z indicating a U-Boat within about 100 miles no result was obtained.

Mediterranean.

VEDETTE
foundered.

7. Whilst on passage to Alexandria, the Greek motor gunboat VEDETTE foundered this afternoon in a heavy sea off Benghazi, having sprung a leak. VEDETTE had been commissioned with a Greek crew at Taranto. There were no casualties.

8. The French contre-torpilleurs LE FANTASQUE and LE TERRIBLE sailed from Malta today for the Levant, for temporary duty in Aegean operations.

Aegean,
DULVERTON
sunk.

9. (a). FAULKNER, BEAUFORT and PINDOS searched close round Leros and the west coast of Kalimno last night but no contacts are reported. M.T.Bs. operated off the east coast of Kalimno. Nevertheless the enemy appears to have got reinforcements into the island and another paratroop battalion is reported

/to...

371

13. 11. 1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Aegean,
DULVERTON
sunk.
(Contd.)

to have landed early this morning. The situation in Leros is deteriorating, and communications are now slow and unreliable.

(b). DULVERTON was hit by a glider bomb in 36.50 N. 27.30 E. (5 miles east of Kos) at 0130 and sank two hours later; ECHO and BELVOIR picked up over 100 survivors, but Captain D.5 was not among them. These two destroyers lay up today in the Gulf of Kos with a number of seriously wounded survivors.

SS. PIER
LUIGI.

10. SS. PIER LUIGI, loaded with ammunition and wood, is reported, it is believed correctly, to have caught fire today in Suda Bay and to have been sunk by the Germans to prevent explosion.

Australia & New Zealand.

11. Before dawn today the cruiser and destroyer task force which was attacked yesterday night near New Georgia was attacked with torpedoes off Empress Augusta Bay and one ship was damaged.

372

War Diary.13.11.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

L.C.F. craft allocations. The allocation of L.C.F. to forces in Home Waters is to be as follows. Force O for manning by U.S.N. 8 L.C.F.(3) and 2 L.C.F.(4) total 10 craft. Force J. 9 L.C.F.(4) and 1 L.C.F.(2) total 10 craft. Force S. 9 L.C.F.(4) total 9 craft.

2. You are requested to propose a programme of dates for handing over the craft to U.S.N. Authorities for Force O. Force O should be completed not later than mid February.

3. No. 301 Flotilla is allocated to Force S as from 30th November and should reach Inverness on that date or as soon after as possible being completed by the addition of craft from new construction as they become available. C. in C. Rosyth's 111805 refers.

(D.R.O.C.O. 132234A to Capt. M.L.C.)

Movements.JASON,
BRITOMART.

Scapa arrival JASON and BRITOMART at 130157.
(A.C.O.S. 130241 to H.F.)
Sailed JASON and BRITOMART in company, BRITOMART E.T.A. Plymouth 1200/16th. JASON E.T.A. Portsmouth 2200/16th.
(R.A.D. 131705.)

M/S F.15
and M/S F.
18 exchange.

1. C. in C.H.F.'s 061718A para. 2. Anticipate completing turn over to S.O.M.F. 18 on 14th Nov.
2. Propose sailing with 15th Flotilla 1000A/15th speed 11. Instructions are requested as to paying off Harwich 0900A/18th.
(M/S 15 130839A to A.C.O.S.)

MALAYA.

Your 051743. Intend MALAYA to proceed unescorted from vicinity of Milford Haven.
(C. in C.W.A. 131054A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

TUSCALOOSA.

Request you sail TUSCALOOSA to arrive Akureyri p.m. 18th and complete with fuel.
(C. in C.H.F. 131116A to C.S.10.)

BIRMINGHAM.

Scapa departure BIRMINGHAM.
(A.C.O.S. 131309A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

LORD AUSTIN.

LORD AUSTIN arrived Archangel 1230 today.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 131322A to S.B.N.O. N. Russia.)

HOUND,
HYDRA.

Your 121637. Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 131421A to A.C.O.S.)

RICHELIEU.

ORIBI is passing Gate at 0830A/14 and proceeding through position OA. 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles OB. 049° 30' N. 016° 15' W. and thence R/V RICHELIEU escorted by INGLEFIELD, PIORUN and TUMULT in lat. 043° N. Position and time of R/V will be signalled. S.O.A. 15 knots.
(C. in C. Plymouth 131547A to ORIBI.)

/FORMIDABLE..

373

War Diary.13.11.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Conti.

FORMIDABLE. FORMIDABLE arrived Clyde.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 131708A to C. in C.H.F.)

S/M Move- Positions of submarines at 0800/14 and movements
ments. for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 131806A, 140706A, 141556A.)

FENCER. In view of A.M. 122332 FENCER will remain under
your orders until 15th December.
(D.O.D.H. 132030A to C. in C.W.A.)

Operations.

Operation Scapa arrivals SPEEDWELL, HALCYON at 0745.
F.S. (A.C.O.S. 130941 to H.F.)

Operation On completion of practice p.m. 16th V.A.2 is re-
F.T. requested to proceed in ANSON with FORREST, CORRY,
(Convoys HOBSON, FITCH to Akureyri, leaving Scapa practice-
J.W.54A, area about 1800A.
& R.A.54B.) 2. Route and subsequent movements in accordance
with H.F. memorandum 01325/158 dated 6th Nov.
3. H.Q.C.C. is requested to arrange A/S air
escort during daylight 17th.
(C. in C.H.F. 131112A to V.A.2, H.Q.C.C.)

ONSLAUGHT, with HURON, HAIDA, IROQUOIS, OBEDIENT, ORWELL,
IMPULSIVE proceed passing Switha 1800A/15th by route "Brown"
to arrive Seidisfjord a.m. 17th.

2. On arrival complete with fuel and act in accordance with
H.F. 01325/158 as ordered by Capt. D.17th D/F.
(R.A.D.H.F. 131415A to Ships named.)
Your 101137. Paras. 1 and 2 concur.

2. Para. 3. Concur except that HARRIER will be S.O. of through
escort R.A.54B vide my 101225 and must therefore join the re-
mainder at Iokanka for conference before they sail. HARRIER will
therefore not be available for local escort R.A.54B. HUSSAR will
have Army Captain McLaughlin as passenger for Archangel and will
continue with J.W.54A unless you alter destination.

3. Para. 6. Following is intention as regards escorts remaining
in North Russia. HUSSAR and HALCYON remain from arrival of J.W.
54A and B until departure R.A.56A and B respectively. SEAGULL
remains until return of R.A.55A. SPEEDWELL and GLEANER remain
from arrival J.W.55A and B until departure R.A.57A and B res-
pectively. After arrival J.W.54B this should provide you with
3 M/S until arrival J.W.55B when there will be 4.

4. 4 W.A.Escorts of J.W.54B will also remain in North Russia until
departure R.A.55A.

5. Para. 7 concur.

(C. in C.H.F. 131648A to S.B.N.O.N.Russia.)

S.B.N.O.Archangel pass this message to S.O.1st M/S Flotilla
Route for R.A.54B. As ordered by S.B.N.O.North Russia to L. 070°
01' N. 042° 50' E. K. 072° 09' N. 042° 50' E. J. 073° 26' N.
040° 30' E. Onward route will be ordered either through O. 074°
10' N. 028° 20' E. E. 073° 35' N. 009° 40' E. P. 073° 25' N.
005° 50' E. or through H. 074° 12' N. 034° 55' E. G. 074° 52' N.
019° 30' E. F. 074° 21' N. 013° 20' E. P. 073° 25' N. 005° 50' E.

/Onward...

374

13.11.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation F.T. (Convoys J.W.54A, & R.A.54B.) (Contd.)

Onward route from P. to Q. 071° 24' N. 003° 18' W. R. 066° 50' N. 015° 02' W. thence Loch Ewe by same route as R.A.54A vide my 272315 October. (C. in C.H.F. 131711A to S.B.N.O.N.Russia, S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

My 061807. Para. 4, amend first sentence to read through escort INCONSTANT (S.O.), WHITEHALL, HEATHER, HUSSAR from Loch Ewe to position 068° 30' N. 041° 20' E. then to Iokanka except HUSSAR who continues to Archangel.

Para. 9, amend to read convoy R.A.54B to sail from Dvina Bar on arrival White Sea section J.W.54A. Through escort joins from Iokanka, destroyer escort from Kola Inlet. Both escorts same as for J.W.54A except that HARRIER returns with R.A.54B and HUSSAR remains in North Russia.)

(C. in C.H.F. 131718A to S.B.N.O.North Russia.)

H.F. 32201325/158 dated 6th November, amendment number 3.

1. Para. 4C and 4H for SKATE read BURZA (S.O.)
2. Para. 7A delete last sentence. Add the through escort is to continue with convoy to position ZZ. where Russian local escort will join. Through escort less HUSSAR is then to proceed to Iokanka and fuel. HUSSAR continue Archangel.
3. Para. 8D cancel and substitute convoy R.A.54B will sail from Dvina Bar on arrival White Sea section J.W.54A. It will be escorted by Russian local escort. The through escort is to sail from Iokanka to join convoy in position ZZ.
4. Appendix one, para. 2, add route for Murmansk section from position M. to position MX. 032° 18.5 miles from Cape Teri Berski.
5. Appendix one para. 4 route "Black" cancel and substitute ZZ. 068° 30' N. 041° 20' E. YY. 067° 43' N. 041° 14' E. XX. 066° 54' N. 041° 37' E. WW. 066° 24' N. 040° 53' E. VV. 066° 01' N. 039° 30' E. UU. 065° 19' N. 039° 30' E. TT. Nikolski Buoy 064° 39' 039° 44' marks entrance to port of Molotovsk. Ships for Economia detach at position UU. and proceed to position of Dvina Fairway Buoy.

(C. in C.H.F. 131741A to H.F.)

Special Operation. A requirement has arisen for one C.type M.G.B. for one special operation to be carried out on November 21st or on the first suitable night after that date.

2. C. in C.Plymouth is requested to nominate one C.type M.G.B. for this operation. (D.D.O.D.C. 131501A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Bay Patrol. Disposition at 132000. UNRUFFLED 049° 10' 011° 15' 090° daily advance 110 miles. GLASGOW patrolling between 038° 40' N. 013° 44' W. and 041° 06' N. 015° 57' W. PRINCE ROBERT patrolling between 049° 05' N. 047° 15' W. and 017° 20' N. 018° 35' W.

(C. in C.Plymouth 131508A to Ships.)

Cancel para. 2 my 121624. 2. At 0800A/14th PRINCE ROBERT is to leave patrol line and proceed through position PG. 049° 58' N. 015° 34' W. PH. 049° 57' N. 009° 59' W. PJ. 180° Bishop Rock 8 miles PK. 180° Lizard Head 3, and thence by Q.Z.S.410 and 409 to Plymouth.

305

13.11.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Bay Patrols. 3. PRINCE ROBERT is to keep west of Lizard Head during dark hours.
(Contd.) (C. in C.Plymouth 131531A to PRINCE ROBERT.)
A.M. 310401. CEYLON is no longer required for operation "Stonewall".

2. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to sail her for Bombay as soon as practicable.
(D.O.D.H. 131741A to C. in C.Plymouth.)
Amend time leaving patrol line in my 131531A to read after dark on 14th November.
(C. in C.Plymouth 131816A to PRINCE ROBERT.)

S/M Patrols. My 251354 Oct. VIKING patrol line LL. (?negative) F. and A.
(F.O.S. 131557A to Capt. B.3.)
Intend ULA to operate against shipping on Norwegian coast between lat. 062° 10' N. and lat. 062° 40' N. from 22nd to 30th November. Code name operation "Epsom."
(F.O.S. 131703A to A.C.O.S.)
Positions of submarines at 0800/14th and movements for following 24 hours.
A. VENTURER on patrol vicinity 71° N. 23° E.
B. SATYR 66° 30' N. 07° 01' E. probably on surface 10 knots through 69° N. 11° E. thence to N.E.
D. UNRUFFLED 49° 10' N. 09° 01' W. dived by day to R/V 180 Bishop Rock 10 at 0800/15th with CHASSEUR 41 for escort to Plymouth.
(F.O.S. 131806A to Admt.)

Operation Proceed to establish patrol by 1401/15th.
S.F. 1. Group A. 2. 062° 24' N. 013° 50' W. 60 - 60.
3. 225°. 4. "Apricot". Attention is called to C. in C.H.F. 231207 Oct. 1943 para. C.
(C. in C.Rosyth 131620A to M/S 18.)
Intend sailing in READY with HOUND, HYDRA, and RATTLESNAKE in company at 1500A tomorrow to comply with your 131620.
(M/S 18 132240A to C. in C.Rosyth.)

Coastal M.Ls., 139 and 143 at Newcome Buoy.
Force (V.A.Dover 131636A.)
Patrols.

Operation Operation "Spade" is indefinitely postponed.
"Spade". (V.C.N.S. 132135A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Allied Air Activity.

R.A.F. My A.X.240 4th Nov. Operation control of R.A.F.
Gibraltar Gibraltar is to be transferred to A.O.C. in C.
operational Coastal Command with effect from 0001 hours Nov.
control. 15th.
(Air Min. 131830Z to H.Q.C.C. R.A.F.Gibraltar,
H.Q.Med. A.C.)

376

13.11.1943.

Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Harwich.

Explosion presumed ground mine reported by Rough Port at 1415 bearing 130° close ahead of ship in F.N. Ship apparently damaged. Sweepers in vicinity. 2nd explosion presumed ground mine reported by M.M.S. at 1415 in 52° 02.6' N. 01° 48.4' E (F.O.I.C. Harwich 131446 and 131529.)

Enemy Intelligence.

R/C of Kaa Fjord and Lang Fjord on 4th Nov.

Amend my 041702 to read "visual reconnaissance of Kaa Fjord etc."
2. Russians now admit after repeated requests for photographs that no interpretation of these (?previously) possible. This point has been taken up strongly.
(S.B.N.O.N.Russia 131556A to Admty.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat reported.

By D/F 1 U-Boat at 1152C 75° 08' N. 22° 36' E. and 1 U-Boat at 1230C 75° 12' N. 16° 10' E.
(S.B.N.O.N.Russia 131307 to Admty.)

Casualties & Defects.

STALKER.

Boiler explosion resulting in damage to boiler-casing occurred at 0530 this morning. No casualties to personnel. Request investigation.
(STALKER 131003 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

MIDDLETON.

Arrived MIDDLETON.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 131156A to R.A.D.)

DUCKWORTH.

My 131116. DUCKWORTH has returned to Rothesay Bay with defects.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 131507A to Admty.)

CORMOUNT.

Departure tug KENIA to assist SS. CORMOUNT.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 131509A to Admty.)
My 1553. Back SS. CORMOUNT broken amidships. Towing by the stern. Appears liable to break in half.
(LUDLOW 131625 to C. in C.Nore.)

Shipping & Convoys.

R.A. 54A.

Your 121749A. BRISSENDEN, EMPIRE FORTUNE, EMPIRE GALLIARD proceeding to Loch Ewe for bunker. Remainder to Clyde.
(WESTCOTT 130005A to C. in C.W.A.)

/East...

377

13.11.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- East Coast Convoys. East coast convoys now operating the following timetable. Details. Unless otherwise ordered southbound convoys proceed by the Hearty Knoll route and northbound convoys by the Mould route. (C. in C.Rosyth 130045 to Admty.)
- D.S.47,
S.D.47. EMPRESS OF RUSSIA capacity 2530 is required to be ready to sail from Clyde on 25/11 as convoy D.S.47 3. She will be embarked to full capacity in Iceland and return to Clyde about 2/12 as Convoy S.D.47. (D.S.T. 130209A to P.S.T.O.Clyde.)
- O.N.M.211. Tanker PAN MAINE sailed 0430A/13 to overhaul convoy. Escort DAMSEY (Lough Foyle) speed 10 knots. SIMON NEWCOMBE sailed 0600A/13. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 130608A to Admty.)
- O.N.211. 23 ships, names and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 131604A to Admty.)
- D.F.16. Proceed in execution of previous orders, all times 24 hours late. (A.C.O.S. 130617A to FLATHOLM, HAMLET.)
- HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN. Sailed, 0830A/13. (D.S.T.O. Avonmouth 130845A to D.S.T.) Sailed HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN 1320A/13th from Break Sea, E.T.A. Ambrose Light Vessel 0045Z/24th. (N.C.S.O. Avonmouth 131321A to Admty.)
- U.T.4A. D/F of transmission at 0656Z indicates that convoy U.T.4A may have been reported. (D.D.I.C. 130850A to Escorts U.T.4A.) A.M. 130850A. D/F of further transmission at 0755Z indicates that U.T.4A is being shadowed. (D.D.I.C. 130920A to Escorts U.T.4A.)
- T.U.4. My 070954A. FAIR ISLE (U.S.A) returned Clyde on orders of C.T.F.69. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 130904A to Admty.)
- M.K.S.29. Your 101447 and 111024 and my 102103. No other stowaway discovered. BECHEVILLE not interrogated. My P.C. and S. 051° 31' 015° 23' 016° 6 knots. (B.4 130955Z to C. in C.W.A.)
- Owing to shortage fuel have detached PENNYWORT to proceed independently Erisort. (HIGHLANDER 131401Z to N.O.I.C. Stornoway.)

/Your...

378

13.11.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

M.K.S.29. Your 131237A. PANDORIAN detached. No other ship
(Contd.) capable of increasing speed in present weather.
LAVENDER's engine unreliable and doubtful if
capable of maintaining 10 knots. She is remaining
in company pending further orders. Convoy expected
to straggle badly tonight and is being set 40 miles E. of position
SS. My position 052° 00' N. 014° 58' W. course 016°. Weather
4471 5821.
(B.4 131600Z to C. in C.W.A.)
My 131600Z. Estimated course and speed being made good 030°
4 knots.
(B.4 131605Z to C. in C.W.A.)

K.M.F.26. Intend sailing Clyde portion escorted by
BIRMINGHAM passing Clyde Boom 2100A/15th to R/V
with Liverpool portion and escorts in position
QR. at 0800A/16th thence in accordance with Admty.
091742.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 131104A to Admty.)

A.M. 062109. 1. Intend sailing PELICAN (S.O.), EVENLODE, JED,
SPEY and WOODPECKER 1700A/14 Nov. to Larne for exercises, E.T.A.
0800A/15.

2. On completion N.O.I.C. Larne is requested to sail group to
Moville for fuel and K.M.F.26.

3. When ready ROTHER will be sailed direct to Moville to join
group.

(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 131136 to N.O.I.C. Larne.)

Request CLAN CAMPBELL and SARMIENTO in convoy K.M.F.26 may
be detailed as Rescue ships and supplied with scrambling-nets,
rafts, and stores as requisite in case a Trooper is sunk.

(PELICAN 131525 to C. in C.W.A.)

PELICAN's 131525. I attach considerable importance to this
requirement.

F.O.I.C. Liverpool and F.O.I.C. Greenock in collaboration are
requested to make such arrangements as are possible in the time
available.

(C. in C.W.A. 131854A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

PRAQUE, Intend sailing with troops at 1730A/16th SS.
AMSTERDAM. PRAQUE for Lerwick, SS. AMSTERDAM for Kirkwall,
no K/Bs escorted by RIPLEY, S.O.A. 16 knots. Route.
E.T.A. 0730/17. AMSTERDAM leaves escort in 058° 58'
N. 002° 25' W. and proceeds independently through
A. 059° 00' 30" N. 002° 47' 00" W. B. 180° Hacksness 5 cables
thence through "String" to Kirkwall Bay, E.T.A. 0230/17.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 131200A and 141900A to A.C.O.S.)

F.N. 77S F.N.77S sailed Southend to Methil onward routing
FROMLOORCH. to N.Russia SS. FROMLOORCH Admiralty cargo. E.T.A.
Methil as per convoy A.Q.1.
(N.C.S.O.Thames 131233A to C. in C.Nore.)

/M.K.S.29...

379

13.11.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- M.K.S.29. M.K.S.29.. Detach forthwith PANDORIAN to proceed independently and other ships for Mersey of 10 knots and over escorted by LAVENDER.
(C. in C.W.A. 131237A to Escort M.K.S.29.)
- T.A.72. Admiralty 101522. Intend sailing SS. MAURETANIA 1200Z/14, S.O.A. 19½ knots, "Chop" 0630Z/19th, E.T.A. Halifax 2145Z/20.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 131352A to Admty.)
- P.S.14, P.S.14 and S.P.14 cancelled.
S.P.14. (C. in C.Portsouth 131603A.)
- O.N.210. P.C. and S. at 2000Z, 043° 36' N. 032° 48' W. 10, 270°. HERANGER joined p.m. 8th. CAMP straggling from p.m. 9th.
(C.3 131847Z to C. in C.W.A.)
- O.S.58/
K.M.S.32. Detach SAN UBALDOON crossing 040° N. escorted to Horta by WALLFLOWER.
(C. in C.W.A. 131857A to Escorts O.S.58/K.M.S.32.)
- Flight P.
L.C.T.385
abandoned. Flight P scattered. North Westerly gale, force 8 to 9. My position 050° 09' N. 009° 40' W.
2. L.C.T.385 and L.C.T.418 situation critical owing to flooding beyond capacity of pumps. MAN O' WAR standing by L.C.T.385, BLUEBELL standing by L.C.T.418.
3. DEXTEROUS towing L.C.T.333 is near me. GRASSHOLM towing L.C.T.306 is to Westward of me. MAN O' WAR and L.C.T.385 to westward of me. Remainder void including EMPIRE RUPERT towing L.C.T.411 are to Eastward of me up to 20 miles making for 180° Bishop Rock 10 at about 7 knots. Several L.C.Ts. have one engine disabled.
(BLUEBELL 131927A to C. in C.Plymouth.)
My 1940A. L.C.385 abandoned. have taken on board all officers and men without injury. Engine-room, mess-deck, and tank-space flooded. Ship still afloat but would require assistance of salvage tug and fair weather conditions to save her. Am standing by and awaiting your orders. My position is as yours at 1300^a today.
(MAN O' WAR 132241A to BLUEBELL.)
L.C.T.flight P are scattered in approx. 50° 09' N. 09° 40' W.
2. Several L.C.T. are broken down and in critical condition.
3. Following ships are present BLUEBELL, GRASSHOLM and MAN O' WAR. Tugs DEXTEROUS and EMPIRE RUPERT. Request you will sail MARAUDER to assist.
(C. in C.Plymouth 132340A to C. in C.Portsouth.)
- T.A.71. T.A.71 sailed in accordance with my 121524 Nov.
(QUEEN ELIZABETH.) (F.O.I.C. Greenock 132006A to Admty.)

13.11.1943.
SaturdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

Facilities at Azores. With reference to A.M. 041858A and my 121230Z. As regards the visits to Ponta Delgada, full notice was given of my visit there, flying my broad pennant in VOLUNTEER on 1st when calls were exchanged with Civil Governor, Military Governor (G.O.C. Azores) and C. in C. Maritime Defences, and stay was limited to 24 hours. It was perfectly clear that no relaxation of restrictions or co-operation could be arranged locally, everything having to be referred to Lisbon, so that little can be accomplished there, even if permission is obtained for visits to be made.

Now there are no ships to go in and aircraft are not permitted to land on the aerodrome or in the harbour. Although the possession of an aerodrome in Terceira is exceedingly advantageous, the purely Naval facilities in the Azores do not amount to much if Ponta Delgada and the aerodrome on San Miguel are excluded. Recent proposals from the Air Min. for Fleet Air Arm to set up an organisation for dealing with crated aircraft in Terceira are in my opinion impossible owing to shipping difficulties, and it would only be possible if use could be made of the Island of San Miguel.

Weather has been particularly favourable for unloading at Angra and a gale that has now blown incessantly since this was finished shows that the majority if not all, of our landing craft might well have been lost and that the operation might not have been completed this winter.

(S.B.N.O. Azores, 130906 to Admty. F.O. Gib.).

BLACKFLY, My position 0900 0 034 degs. 44' N. 029 degs. 30'
G.U.S.20. W. course and speed 241 degs. 10 knots.
CAPE PALLISER, VIZALMA, KINGSTON AGATE, EMPIRE
OUTPOST, and CAPE CLEAR in company. Request your
P.C. and S.
(BLACKFLY 130925 (O) to U.S. Destroyer NIBLACK,
Escort G.U.S.20, (R) F.O. Gib., S.B.N.O. Azores).

If impossible to join convoy take ships back to Ponta Delgada. Trawler proceed Gibraltar keeping me informed. Route from Ponta Delgada to Gibraltar:-

A. 036 degs. 00' N. 020 degs. 00' W. B. 035 degs. 30' N. 010 degs. 00' W.

(S.B.N.O. Azores, 131445Z to BLACKFLY, (R) F.O. Gib.).

When R/V has been made with G.U.S. 20 proceed Gibraltar routed through positions P. 035 degs. 30' N. 020 degs. 00' W. Q. 035 degs. 15' N. 010 degs. 00' and Q.B.A. 87.

(2) When 100 miles clear of convoy report (A) P.C. and S. of G.U.S.20. (B) P.C. and S. of trawlers.

(F.O. Gib. 131900A to BLACKFLY, CAPE PALLISER, KINGSTON AGATE, VIZALMA, (R) S.B.N.O. Azores, Admty. C.M.S.F.).

DUX Your 130112 (N.T. in W.R.). Escort DUX to Gib. by following route A. 036 degs. N. 020 degs. W. B. 035 degs. 30' N. 010 degs. W. Report S. of A.

(S.B.N.O. Azores, 131045Z to KINGSTON AMBER, (R) (Group omitted) BLACKFLY).

Acting under orders S.O. of escort DUX returned to Ponta Delgada 0920 G.M.T. 13th further instructions are requested. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 131127 to B.S.N.O. Azores, (R)Admty.etc.)

/Your...

13.11.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd

DUX
(Contd.). Your 130932 (N.T. in W.R.). DUX sailing 1545 G.M.T. 13th. Escort waiting off port.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 131444 to B.S.N.O. Azores, (R) Admty. S.O.(I) Gibraltar, N.A. Lisbon).

Cypher traffic. Reporting congestion and enquiry whether anything can be done to reduce traffic.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 131349Z to Admty.).

RICHELIEU,
ORIBI. C. in C. Med. 111756. French battleship RICHELIEU onward route from Q.B.A.87 (details), thence as ordered by C. in C.W.A.
2. Admiralty is requested to sail ORIBI to R/V in position (Z) 044 degs. 08' N. 018 degs. W. at 1200A/17th.
(F.O.C. Gib. 131514A to Admty., U.S. Nob Oran (R) C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C.H.F., C. in C.W.A., S.B.N.O. Azores, H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Med., INGELFIELD, U.S. Cdr. Moroccanseafon., O.R.P. PIORUN, TUMULT, Navale France).

CARMICK,
LEE FOX. Your 121119A. (Repetition of C.T.F. 67's 111627). U.S.A. Destroyers CARMICK and LEE FOX arrived and left same day 0800, 1915 G.M.T. 13th.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 131744 to Admty.).

SS.GENEROSO My 101555. Swiss SS. GENEROSO now leaves about 15th.
(D.E.W.D. 131835A to F.O. Gib. Info. C. in C. Med.).

Daily Situation Signals of H.M. Ships, convoys, etc. Your 112011 concur that the signal should be sent off by 1600 the day before and bear priority. If fuller details could be given as is done in form white sent out by 15th Group at 247 (7050 26550) group reference 111600 from H.Q.C.C. A0/92/11 November repeated Admiralty it would make it much easier to keep an accurate plot even without any other information.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 132345Z to Admty. (R) F.O. Gib.).

hear N.A

MOST SECRET

381^A

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

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

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E 131510Z Nov.

OUT

To S.B.O. Azores.

Date: 13.10.43

247 Group pass to S.B.O. Azores.

CYPHER

From Air Ministry.

Azores, Aircraft Facilities

IMMEDIATE. MOST SECRET

AX.943 November 13th.

Following from Chiefs of Staff

Reference your A.33.

In general, you should continue to issue instructions that any aircraft which have to land at Rabo de Peixe should give one of the reasons specified by G.O.C. Azores.

2. If you consider that this subterfuge would not adequately meet your requirements for diversion, you should take this matter up once more with G.O.C., Azores, asking him to refer the matter again to Lisbon for further instructions, and stressing the importance you attach to the grant of extended facilities at Rabo de Peixe so that aircraft based in the Azores may operate efficiently.

3. If you decide to raise this again with G.O.C., H.M. Ambassador, Lisbon, will be instructed to take parallel action in Lisbon.

4. We sympathise with your difficulties, but it is not the policy of H.M.G. to press for a formal extension of facilities at the present time when United States negotiations for air facilities are imminent. You will appreciate that the Portuguese will, for the present, stick to the letter of the Agreement except in such minor points as you may be able to arrange locally in the spirit of Clause 10 of the Agreement.

131510Z

Received in War Reg. 132329.

Circulation overleaf.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.(3).
D.F.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(A)(2)
A.C.N.S.(F).
A.C.N.S.(W).
D.C.N.A.E.
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.(C)(3).
Hd. of M.(2).
I.P.(2).
W.D.
Adl. Bleke.
D.F.C.(C.O.)(2).
D.N.A.O.
D.L.W.T.
C.C.I.S.(2)
Hd. of Air Br.
D. /S.W.
D.Q/U.D.

Circulated by Air Min. to
Brig. Jacob.
Foreign Sec.
First Sea Lord.
C.6 Tels.
A.M.C.S.

382

13.11.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Operation
"Barrage."

Complying with your 122225 (N.T. in W.D.) Sense of bearing correctly determined. Have experienced $2\frac{1}{2}$ knot easterly set since 1000/11. Suggest S.O.A. of S/M may now be 10 knots. My 0200C position $039^{\circ} 35' S.$ $022^{\circ} 28' E.$ Weather report. (HELFOED 130100C to C. in C.S.A., (R) Force W.)

Italian
Warships.

Arrived F.O.I.C. Gibraltar's 051804A refers. (S.O.I. Freetown 131812Z to F.O.Gibraltar, (R) Admty. F.O.L.I. C.M.S.F. C. in C-Med. Comar Dakar.)

383

13.11.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Aegean: W.D.Note: There were a number of reports by air-
Enemy Reports. craft from 130010Z to 131507. These are summarised
in C. in C.M.E. 141415B, with his inferences.

M.K.F.25A. Pass to Cmdr. My 10145A/ BARRY sailed to join.
(N.O.I.C.Philippeville 130303A)
LETITIA, ARONDA, VILLE D'ORAN arrived.
(Com. Algeria, 131706A) / re Intend to sail BARRY.

SS. ALBULA. Your 121749A/ expect intercept Swiss SS. ALBULA at
0430/13 in 037 degs. 20' 00l degs. 02' W. Am pro-
ceeding Gibraltar coastwise S. of A. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
(?CALPE 130525A to C. in C.Med. (R) F.O.I.C.Gib.
Admty. N.O.I.C.Algiers, N.O.I.C.Oran) / not recd.

My 121749. Intercepted and under escort of CALPE to Gibraltar.
(C. in C.Med. 131527A)

BOURGAS, My 120955C (?121055C intended) signal from R.O.
TZAR Canakkale indecypherable but believed both vessels
FERDINAND. entered Aegean 2000 G.M.T/12th.
S.O.(I) Istanbul 130948C to S.O.(I) Levant, C. in
C.Levant, (R) Capt. S. D.N.I.)
My 130948C. Confirmed.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul 131146C.)

Entry into Aegean of BOURGAS and TZAR FERDINAND. My 111542C.
Cancel para. B. BOURGAS delayed by engine trouble now entered
Bosphoros . (B) Reported B.4. Will sail for Aegean night Nov.
11/12th.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul No T.O.O.)

CAMELLIA, Request you will sail CAMELLIA as additional escort
X.K.12. to X.K.12 to U.K. C. in C.W.A. 051113 and A.M.
071927 neither to F.O.C.Gibraltar or BARLE refers.
(C. in C.Med. 131019A to F.O.C.Gib. (R) Admty.
BARLE, C. in C.W.A.)

Air Reports. Daily Opsum 199. 12th Nov. 2 Beaufighters armed
with torpedoes. 6 Fighter Beaufighters and 3 U.S.
Mitchells (B.25) anti-shipping strike off Antiky-
thera Island (N.W. of Crete) made sighting of 1
2,000 tons 2 funnelled M.V. Another M.V. of 2000 tons and 1 of
1500 tons with 5 escort vessels, covered by 7 Arado 196s. Cannon
strikes were scored on both large M.Vs., 1 of which was left with
column of smoke issuing from stern. Many hits with cannon were
also scored on the bridge and superstructure of 1 escort vessel.
2 Arado 196s were damaged. L (? 1 intended) torpedo Beaufighter
is missing. 10 Baltimores (A.30) bombed shipping and jetty Suda
Bay. Bursts seen on Western side of jetty. No results observed
against shipping but 1 M.V. 3000 tons was attacked. One convoy
sighted of 6 small barges moving very slowly and 5 stationary
destroyers.
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 131047Z.)

No attack made as destroyers thought to be British.
Continuous escort was provided for Naval Units throughout the day.

War Diary.13.11.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Air
Reports.
(Contd.)

Single engine fighters with long range tanks made sweeps over Leros. Continuous enemy air attacks were made on Leros throughout the day, 107 Bomber Sorties by Ju.87's and Ju.88's being reported up to 1400 hours. Raiding continued during afternoon, total Sorties not yet known.

Ju.52's dropped paratroops estimated at 500 personnel. 12/13th Nov. 1 Halifax successfully dropped supplies on Greece. 3 Hudsons Antimacchia Landing Ground (Kos). No results observed 4 Baltimores Kos Island. Bombs dropped Antimacchia and Lambia Landing Grounds. Results unobserved. 1 Baltimore (A.30) is missing. 9 aircraft, Halifaxes and Liberators, on Maritza Aerodrome (Rhodes).

(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 131252Z)

N.A.A.F. Opsum 265. 11/12 Nov. 11 Bostons harbour and shipping Civitavecchia. 1 returned early.

40 x 500 and flares. Hits warehouse south side harbour.

South jetty, ferry terminal, mole, fort and ammunition stores near miss ship in harbour. Some bombs west part of town.

Large fire seen after bombing. 4 Beaufighters patrolled

Naples area 12 Nov. N.A. coastal A.F. 10/11 Nov. (Add) 9 Spitfires strafed oil tanks, barracks and harbour installations Durazzo. Wireless station strafed North headland Saseno.

Gun position attacked and silenced.

(Spatz, 131541A)

Signed Eisenhower. Part three. Air Cositintrep No.126

12 Nov. N.W. A.A.F.

Night 11/12 Nov. 10 Bostons bombed docks and harbour at Civitavecchia.

(Med. Air Cmd. Post No T.O.O.)

Control
of R.A.F.
Gibraltar.

Agree your proposal ref. A.X. 697 10th Nov. that effective date of change-over of operational control be 0001/15th Nov. subject to provisions of your A.X.240/4th Nov. and additional provision that A.O.C. Gibraltar should carry a dual responsibility to Air C. in C. Med. and to A.O.C. Coastal Command.

(H.Q.Med. Air Cmd. 131100A to Air Min.)

Aegean:
Situation
Reports.

FAULKNER, BEAUFORT and PINDOS searched close round Leros and West coast Kalimno last night but no contacts reported. M.T.Bs operated off East Coast of Kalimno nevertheless enemy appears to have got reinforcements into the Island and another paratroop battalion is reported to have landed early this morning. Situation in Leros deteriorating and communications now slow and unreliable.

(2) DULVERTON? hit by glider bomb in 36.50 N. 27.30 E. at 0130 and sank at 0330 six officers and 103 ratings picked up by ECHO and BELVOIR Comdr. D.5 not among them. These two destroyers now lying up in Gulf of Kos with a number of seriously wounded survivors.

War Diary.

13.11.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Aegean:
Situation
Reports.
(Contd.)

(3) These two will operate in Leros area tonight but am not hopeful they will achieve anything as enemy will know their movements from his night R/C and can adjust his own accordingly.

(4) Planning with army to get reinforcements into Leros from Samos by M.Ls, M.M.s etc. tonight.

(5) FAULKNOR, BEAUFORT, PINDOS must withdraw tonight as they only have just enough fuel to get back.
(C. in C. Levant, 131145B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

Situation report No.108 up to 1800/13.

FAULKNOR, BEAUFORT, and PINDOS report making no contacts during close search round Leros and West coast Kalymno last night.

M.T.B's operated off east coast Kalymno.. Nevertheless enemy reinforcements penetrated to the Island and another paratroop battalion is reported to have landed early this morning.

(2) DULVERTON hit by glider bomb in 36 degs. 50' N. 27 degs. 30' E. and sank at 0330/13th. 6 officers and 103 ratings picked up by ECHO and BELVOIR. Commander D.5 not found. Number of seriously wounded survivors being transferred tonight to L.C.T's at Bedrum if weather permits.

(3) FAULKNOR, BEAUFORT, PINDOS short of fuel and withdraw south to-night after bombardment of enemy positions in Leros. Gale reported to be blowing in the area this afternoon.

(4) B.Y.M.S.73 damaged by bombing at Leros at 2000/11th casualties two killed one missing five injured. M.M.S.102 carrying troops for Leros ran hard aground 10th West of Ketapaluka Lighthouse opposite Kos. Troops disembarked for onward passage in M.L. Vessel now refloated and towed away for inspection by divers.

(5) SHAKESPEARE reports 26th October she sank by gunfire north of Doro channel medium sized caique bound Khios.

(C. in C. Levant, 132015B)

Rhodes,
approach
route.

QBC 859. Dodecanese approach routes.
Port of Rhodes. Approach position 108 degs. Cape Vodi 1.7 miles on any course between 015 degs. and 255 degs. thence 336 degs. for 4.4 miles to Secca Chiara light buoy (to be left to port) thence into harbour.
(Alexandria, 131205B to all concerned.)

M.K.S31.

Following sailed from Alexandria. Total 952
(Names and Details).
(N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 131218B)
Ships, loadings, destinations.
(N.O.I.C.Port Said, 131648B)

DERBYSHIRE,
M.K.F.25A.

DERBYSHIRE arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 131245A)

Escort /...

13.11.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Escort Groups: re-organisation. The withdrawal of Arcticised Corvettes and need for an additional through convoy escort group requires following re-organisation of escort groups.

(2) 36th Escort Group JONQUIL, PENSTEMON, VETCH, 37th E.G. CAMPION, DEPTFORD, FRISCO, JOHAN MARIT, FOWEY 46th E.G. CUCKMERE, CONVULVULUS, COLTSFOOT, HYDERABAD, ANEMONE. 48th E.G. BARLE, BARGAMOT, BRYONY, LA MALOUINE, MYOSOTIS. 50th E.G. AIRE, ALISMA, SPIREA, SAXIFRAGE, STORK.

(3) It is intended that 37th E.G. should escort 1st Mediterranean Convoy from Levant, thereby increasing lay over of E.G. between convoys in Levant.

(4) Further signals will be made to implement above intentions. (C. in C. Med. 131306 to F.O.C. Gibraltar, V.A. Malta. (R) C. in C. Levant, Admty.)

Joint Army R.A.F. Int. Appreciation. 24 hours to 1000Z/13.

(1) Up to 1215Z/12 Nov. total approx. 107 bomber sorties reported on Leros.

(2) Photographic R/C's shipping 12 Nov. Bad. weather prevented any photographic R/C's except distant obliques taken south of Levitha 0820Z which showed 2 landing craft 50/60 foot with 1 escort vessel 100 foot course E. Probably part of follow up landing craft convoy, 2 destroyers seen heading W. between Kalimno and Levitha (see also visual R/C's below). 0815Z 2 small vessels believed F-Boats seen in Isola Vecchia Bay. Visual R/C's shipping. 12 Nov. Kos/Kalimno/Leros Area. 0800/0830Z. Total 5 F-Boats sighted at sea of which 1 off south of Kalimno Island moving W.3 (and 2 landing craft) off west coast Kalimno moving S. and 1 (with 1 landing craft) off N.E. coast Kalimno moving S.S.E. Later Leros reports destruction of one F-Boat Alinda Bay. Also sighted 4 enemy destroyers or T.B's of which 2 off N.E. coast Kalimno moving S.S.E. and 2 off west coast Kalimno moving N.W. At 1435Z sighted 6 landing craft round shore at head of Gurna Bay and concentration small craft close inshore south west Cape Conisma. Amorgos (Nikuria Island) a.m. 1 F-Boat 1 small craft. Naxia. a.m. 1 Naval auxiliary and 3 small craft. Kythnos, Paros, Syphnos, Tenos, Mykonos, Melos. a.m. nil seen. Andros. Cloud covered. Syros. a.m. 1 Naval auxiliary 1 landing craft.

(3) C.X. reports departure from Piraeus 12 November steamships TANAIIS (1550 tons) and PIER LUIGI (2570 tons) bound for Crete with ammunition and war material. These probably the two merchant vessels sighted in convoy approaching Suda Bay on 12 Nov. (see para.7 appreciation 12 Nov.) Same source also reports departure from Piraeus 4 destroyers or T.B's destination unknown. These evidently the vessels sighted off Kalimno a.m. 12 Nov. (see para. 3 above.)

(4) /...

387

13.11.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Joint Army R.A.F. Int. Appreciation. (Contd.)

(4) Photographic R/C G.A.F. airfields 12 Nov. Bad weather prevented photographic cover of all airfields in Greece Crete Rhodes and Kos Areas.

(5) Visual R/C a.m. 13 Nov. reports. Kos Harbour 0750Z hours. 5 Naval auxiliaries 6 landing craft. Paros Naxos Channel 0815Z hours. 5 Naval auxiliaries 1 landing craft 5 small craft, 1 Caique.

(6) Appreciate enemy main effort now directed at obtaining control area Alinda Bay Gurna Bay and retaining ground gained Clidi and Appetici. Total force landed estimated max. 2,000 plus 500 parachute troops. Further reinforcements in area Kos/Kalimno estimated 2,000, still consider further parachutist drop possible. No indications immediate threat Samos from other areas.
(C. in C. M.E. T.O.O.Nil.)

Convoy to Bizerta. My 121857A sailed. For WILTON read BROCKLESBY. (N.O.I.C.Augusta, 131702A)

Cositrep No.54. (A) Leros. Following picture up to 0001 G.M.T. 13th.

(1) Estimate enemy had landed seaborne force about 2000-2500 and about 500 paratroops. Bulk of seaborne force and about 250 paratroops employed against areas Alinda and Gurna Bays. Neck connecting these bays held by enemy.

(2) Estimate further 1500 incl. 1 Inf. Bn. plus guns (none of which yet reported on island) available in Kos Kalino waters. Further paratroop drop also possible.

(3) Identifications.

(2) Ops. Aegean. (A) Leros. See special Sitreps O/0214 of 12 Nov. and O/0241 of 13 Nov.

(B) Samos. G.O.C. Aegean moved H.Q. to Samos night 11/13 Otherwise NTR.

(5) Naval Aegean. Night 12/13.

(A) FAULKNER, BEAUFORT, PINDOS now lying up Berku.

(B) ECHO, DULVERTON, BELVOIR divebombed when entering Gulf of Kos 0141B hrs. DULVERTON hit and sinking 0145B hrs. ECHO picked up surviving 6 Officers 103 ratings went on with BELVOIR to lie up Gulf of Kos. Force was accompanied by PHOEBE who was recalled to Limassol before entering Aegean.

(6) Air. (A) Own. Day 12th Nov. 2 Beaufighters armed with torpedoes 6 fighter Beaufighters 3 Mitchells shipping strike off Antikythera sighted convoy of one 2,000 ton two funnelled M.V. a second of 2,000 tons and one of 1,500 tons with five escort vessels and covered by seven Arado 196s. Canon strikes were scored on the two large M.V.s one left with coln. of smoke issuing from stern. Many hits observed on Br. and superstructure of one escort vessel. Two Arados damaged smoke coming from engine of one and large red flash seen from engine of other.

1 torpedo Beaufighter missing. 10 Baltimores bombed shipping and jetty Suda Bay. Bursts seen on western side of jetty.

No /...

13.11.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Cositrep No.54. (Contd.) No results observed against shipping but one M.V.8,000 tons attacked. Two Arado 196s encountered one of which broke away after hits on engine by Baltimore. 15 Beaufighters encountered several Me.109s over Leros no contacts. One convoy sighted of six small barges moving very slowly and five stationary destroyers. No attack made as destroyers thought to be British. Continuous escort provided for naval units throughout day. S.E. fighters with long range tanks carried out sweeps over Leros.
Night 12/13. 3 Hudsons Antimacchia L.G. 4 Baltimores Kos. Antimacchia and Lambia L.G. 9 aircraft Halifaxes and Liberators on Maritza L.G.
(B) Enemy 12 Nov. Continuous enemy air attacks were made on Leros throughout day. Total sorties not yet known.
(C. in C. M.E. 131745B)

SHEFFIELD. A.M.171850. Destination of SHEFFIELD is Scapa on relief by ORION.
(D.O.D.(H), 131811A to C. in C. Med.)

SIMOOM, SYBIL. (1) P.225 (SIMOOM) leave patrol after dark 15th proceeding between Psara and Khios to pass
(A) 035 degs. 06' 026 degs. 44' disperse 1700B/17th thence on the surface through
(B) 034 degs. 25' 029 degs.59' to arrive Beirut

0901B/20th.
(2) P.217 (SYBIL) leaves present billet after dark 14th proceeding West of Kaloyeri Rock and within 10 miles East of Strati to patrol Dardenelles area.
(Capt (S) 1, 131832B to SIMOOM (R) 1st S/M.F. C. in C. Levant.)

1st S/M.F. If patrolling north west Aegean do not pass North of line drawn due west from the Paliuri to Greek mainland unless in pursuit of enemy owing to suspected minefields.
(Capt.(S) 1, 131841B to 1st S/M.F.)

M.E. Week ending incl. 12 November.
Situation Dodecanese. 3 to 9 Mov. incl. Maintenance continued to max possible by destroyer submarine and caiques. 6 Dakota sorties.
Review. P.O.W. 1,000 repatriated B.P.O.W. disembarked 3 Mov. at Alexandria.

(9) Aegean. Departures of personnel week ending 11 Nov. Alexandria to Leros 130. Haifa to Kastelorizo 39. Beirut to Leros 480 (incl 331 Inf Rfts.)
(C. in C. M.E. 131915B)

MUTINE /...

389

War Diary.13.11.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- MUTINE. Request MUTINE may be sailed on completion of repairs to reinforce the 12th M/S.F. for important M/S Operations which are in progress. Your O41201*refers. (S.O. 12th M/S.F. 131943A to V.A. Malta.)
* N.T. in W.R.
- Cyprus, Movements. Cyprus 13th Nov. Arrival BREAM. Arrived and left PHOEBE, PENN, ALDENHAM, EXMOOR (?) F.S. LA MOQUEUSE, FIRMAMENT, EOLO (Italian). Departure KING GEORGE 11 (Greek) L.C.T.101, POLA (Italian). (N.O.I.C.Famagusta, 132301B)
- Leros. Situation Leros as reported 1600B/13.
1st Northern sector enemy holds excl. Della Palma Bay - incl.pt. 320 032443 - incl. Ste. Madonne 091433 and is infiltrating area 075429 preparatory to attacking Quirico. 4 Buffs in contact holding area from 300 yards West pt. 320 - incl. Quirico 072434 - incl. Calogero 056435.
2nd Gurna-Alinda neck. Paratps. reinforced by landing night 12/13 in Gurna Bay have but comms between North and Central sectors and are in control whole of the neck area. One pl R IR F believed still holding out inside enemy area.
3rd. Central sector. Enemy strongly reinforced Appetici which he unexpectedly captured 1200B hours thus exposing our right flank. All British tps. less 4 Buffs now astride high ground Leros-Patella 066386.
4th. Heavy bombing throughout day. 10 Ju.52s and many Ju.88's seen. Own air results not yet known. 48 Beaufighter sorties made.
5th. Shipping RN made no contact night 12/13. No enemy shipping in sight to 1600B hrs. today. High wind and rough sea reported.
(C. in C. M.E. No T.O.O)

390

War Diary.13.11.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Landing Craft. From C.O.S. for Admiral Mountbatten. Re requirements for South East Asia in 1945. (Air Min., 130025Z.)

Tugs. Your 281115 Oct. It would appear that tugs with following specifications would meet your requirements. (Admty., 130048A to C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Med.)

JOHN W. MACKAY. Departure 0120Z/13th (?BA)LTA escorting cable ship JOHN W. MACKAY. (N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 130154Z to Admty.)

B.A. 54 (S). Sailing telegram. Escort BANN, ASTER. (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 130155Z to Admty.)

Convoy sailing and arrival telegrams. Your 101719 refers. 2. Since introduction of convoy code and associated W/T call sign in sailing telegram, experience to date shows one or other as often received corrupt.. Inclusion of both therefore helps as an additional check. 3. Para. 9 of C. in C. E.F. 041240 orders that convoy W/T call sign is to be obtained from sailing authorities. Para. 10 orders this convoy W/T call sign to be shown in item 15 of sailing telegram. (C. in C. E.F., 130421Z to Admty.)

U-Boat Disposition No. 36. Japanese. 1 may still be patrolling in Mozambique Channel if not already on passage back to Base. Last reported Mozambique area 7th. 1 probably operating North of Socotra by report shelling SS. SAMBLADE 10th and suspicious Radar contact 014° 45' N. 051° 32' E. 12th. A number of unconfirmed sightings by aircraft in Gulf of Oman and approaches during past week may indicate presence of another U-Boat in this area but no confirmation from D/F or other source and consider unlikely. Small indication one U-Boat may have been reconnoitring Trincomalee area 12th. German. No German U-Boat believed operating in Indian Ocean at the present time. (C. in C. E.F., 130621Z to E.F. 406Y.)

GAWLER. Suggest Com. i/c Aden uses GAWLER until required at Aden as escort for A.B. 21. (2) Evidence that this was a mine is far from conclusive and I am reluctant to remove sweepers from their present A/S escort duties while

/submarines ...

391

13.11.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

- GAWLER.
(Contd.) submarines are known to be operating in Gulf of Aden.
 (3) Suggest vicinity of sinking be declared a dangerous area until sweepers are available to investigate your 121830 (re sweepers to skim vicinity in which SAMBO is alleged to have been mined) refers.
(C. in C. E.F., 130802Z to C. in C. Levant, (R) Com. Aden, F.O.R.S.C.A., C. in C. Med.)
- P.B. 62A. Arrived escorted by TRAVANCORE.
 (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 130848Z to Admty.)
- B.R. 637. Re bringing into force.
 (C. in C. E.F., 130950Z.)
 As amended 141207Z.
- U.S. Air Report, China. Nov. 2 Mitchells (B.25s) on shipping sweep of Amoy sunk 5 of the 7 boats in the harbour one of which was a 250 ft. destroyer. A/A and machine gun fire encountered.
 (C. in C. India, No T.O.O. Recd. 131800 to W.O.)
- H.C. 8. Sailing telegram (4 ships) escort NARBADA, ROHILKHAND.
 (N.C.S.O, Calcutta, 132141Z, 132148Z to Admty.)

398

War Diary.13.11.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Search
for
U/B's.

S.O. Search Force. MONTGOMERY, GEORGETOWN returning to harbour. Consider chance of intercepting U-Boat now very remote owing to time expired since last sighting. Am stationing ship to patrol the arc of a circle 090 degs. to 140 degs. 160 miles from 043 degs. 08' N. 052 degs. 50' W. commencing at dawn tomorrow. Weather forecast. (W.10, 130300Z to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q.)

TIMMINS in contact 042 degs. 23' 049 degs. 16' 4 attacks completed. (W.6? 131400Z 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., Com.(D) Argentia, Cdore.(D) W.A., H.Q.C.C.)

My estimated position 042 degs. 43' N. 049 degs. 04' W. with TIMMINS who has lost touch with S/M. Searching. First A/C heard but not yet contacted. Thick fog. CANSO returning to St. Johns N.F. A/S out of action and one sick officer.

(W.10. 131853Z to C.C.N.F. (R) C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q.)

MONTGOMERY and COBALT E.T.A. 1530Z/14th. Neither ship due Beypur. MONTGOMERY defective A/S, leaking distiller and feed heater pipe essential. Require 500 gallons 3050 lubricating oil. COBALT for engine piston replaced at sea. My 131100Z is confirmed.

(W.6, 132000Z to F.O.C.N.F.(R) Capt.(D) St. Johns N.F.)

Your 131919Z para.3. 6 attacks carried out by TIMMINS on Echo? classified as S/M in approx. 042 degs. 44' N. 049 degs. 09' W. First attack was made at 1130Z and was finally lost after 6th attack at 1515Z. LEAMINGTON sighted TIMMINS at 1600Z with CANSO who had arrived shortly before and search organized. No evidence of damage and little information as regards behaviour and movements of target. Am remaining in vicinity with KENORA until daybreak. Weather report.

(W.10, 132350Z to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C. C.N.W.A., N.S.H.Q.)

LADY
DENISON
PENDER.

Cable ship LADY DENISON PENDER delayed Trinidad due cracked dynamo shaft anticipate date of completion repairs 20 Nov. (B.R.L.O.Trinidad, 131101Q to Admty.)

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

(N.S.H.Q. 131428Z)

HAWSER,
P.554.

Proceed 15th to east entrance Cape Cod Canal. There report for escort duties to C.O. P.554. E.T.A. 1800Q/15th. Speed 10. On arrival Halifax when released return to Boston. (C.T.U. 021.J. 131621 to U.S.S. HAWSER, C. in C. C.N.A. C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet, C.T.F.24 N.S.H.Q., Com. 1st Naval District, Boston. C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Admty. C.E.S.F., Cdr. S/MS. Atlantic. P.554. Com. Blimp Squadron 11.)

ARGONAUT /...

War Diary.

13.11.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

ARGONAUT. My 262030. Can reply now be given regarding destination of ARGONAUT.
(B.A.M.R. 131646Z to Admty.)
Your 102214. Destination of ARGONAUT in the U.K. is Rosyth.
(2) The ship will be taken in hand for completion of refit by Messrs Palmers at Hebburn, but it is not practicable for her to be received in the Tyne before 7th Dec.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 131750A to B.A.M.R.)

HADLEIGH CASTLE. Your 061656 para.3.
(A) New London. (B) Not longer than a week.
(B.A.D., 131931Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A.)

H.X.266. This completes my dis.121914.
Sailing despatch.
(P.D.New York, 132030, 132114 to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest Serial No.662 Nov.12th. Seven Ship Convoy described as 1 probable cruiser, 3 Destroyers, 3 transports observed early hours 50 miles South Kavieng course 330 degs.
(2) Twelve hours later probably same Convoy including 1 ATAGO Class, 1 possible AGANO Class Cruiser identified by photographs remainder Destroyers and Merchantmen attacked by 2 R/C Liberators 150 miles, further Northwest course 300 speed 15 knots One Freighter damaged by near misses.
(3) Approx. same time separate 7 ship convoy observed Southbound in near vicinity. This group probably includes 3 Destroyers, 1 Transport, 3 Medium Cargo Vessels.
(4) Forenoon photographs Rabaul Harbour disclose 2 Destroyers whereof 1 damaged, 1 Destroyer Tender, 5 Submarines, 23 Merchant Vessels totalling 111,000 tons including some 40,000 tons damaged. Also 26 float planes. Ninety aircraft on 4 aerodromes Lakunai Vunaksnau Tobera Rapopo last 2 fully covered first 2 90 per cent. Total classified 52 Fighters 16 Light 22 Medium Bombers. 8 additional aircraft seen airborne.
(5) Three loaded Southbound Barges sunk off shore 20 miles North Finschhafen night 10/11 by our patrol craft.
(6) Ten Bostons covered by 15 Aircobras conducted coastal sweep Sio area midday 11th bombing straffing 6 barges also hostile Villages.

(8) /...

394

13.11.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.Digest
Serial
No.662
Nov.12th.
(Contd.)

(8) Five Liberators bombed Ambon Barracks area night 11th causing fires. 3 Fighters encountered. Three ships possibly medium Freighters seen in Bay.

(10) Early next morning 12 Liberators again hit Scurabaya Naval Base starting fires. Possibly 5 enemy fighters airborne.

(11) Before dawn 12th probably 9 Enemy Planes raided Darwin Town area causing slight damage. 11 Spitfires intercepted destroying 2 aircraft.

(12) Forenoon 11th Warships Rabaul Harbour attacked by carrier borne and land based Aircraft. 71 Dauntless, 72 Avengers, 125 Fighters from 2 Carrier Groups plus 42 Liberators comprised Striking Force. Weather unfavourable low level attack but 1 Light Cruiser or Destroyer Leader, 2 Destroyers claimed sunk, 2 certain torpedoes in 1 Heavy Cruiser also independent report hits 11 Destroyers possibly duplicating but majority present probably damaged. First Carrier Group encountered 30 to 40 Enemy Fighters whereof 2 destroyed. Second Carrier Group also met opposition shooting down 24 fighters. Liberators last over 40 minutes after fight intercepted by maximum 15 Zeros of which 5 destroyed. Our losses were 14 Carrier Planes, 1 Liberator.

(13) Five hours after Rabaul raid 1 Carrier Group attacked by 4 waves escorted Enemy Torpedo Dive Medium Bombers. Shore Based Fighter cover Carrier Fighters and A/A shot down 85 planes described 3 medium, 37 dive 32 torpedo bombers, 10 Fighters. Only 20 dive bombers, 25 to 30 Torpedo Bombers penetrated screen and nil serious damage resulted our ships. 7 our Fighters lost.

(18) Nil Japanese aircraft seen over Bougainville 12th while photographs this date show all airfields unserviceable except Bonis and few aircraft. 76 barges show Buka Matchin Bay area 30 Barges, 4 small craft South Bougainville anchorages.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 130632Z)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 131340A, 131400A)

Sinkings
by A/C's
in Oct.

(1) October proved to a successful month in the anti-U-Boat campaign. 11 U-Boats are provisionally claimed to have been sunk by Coastal Command aircraft. It is significant that all these U-Boats fought back and adopted violent evasive manoeuvres.

395

13.11.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Sinkings
by A/C's
in Oct.

Gunfire from our aircraft inflicted very heavy casualties on U-Boats' gun crews. Only 3 aircraft were shot down the crews of two of which were saved. 2 attacks were made during the month on convoys which coast the enemy not less than 9 U-Boats for only one escort vessel and one M.V.

torpedoed Tactics U-Boats are believed to be extending their cautious sailing policy, surfacing only by night even in the mid-Atlantic. It is probable that there is a general movement of U-Boat packs in the North Atlantic towards the Newfoundland area.

(Air Min. 1309162)

Submarines Attacked.

Sub.Attack
and
sightings
summary for
24 hours
to 0900Z.

Para.A (1) KISTNA sighted and attacked U-Boat at 0515/4th in 43.34' N. 23.00' W.
Para. B. (1) Escorts of O.S.57 and K.M.S.31 made attacks on possible U-Boat from 0525 to 1956/4th N.N.E. of the Azores.
(D.D.I.C. 131110A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

396

14.11.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Home Fleet.

1. KING GEORGE V with 2 destroyers arrived at Scapa at 1803 from Rosyth; and KENT and NORFOLK left Scapa for Loch Ewe and Clyde respectively, KENT arriving at Loch Ewe at 1730.

Flight "P".
L.C.Ts.385,
343 and
333 sunk.

2. Flight "P" of 25 landing craft is still scattered to the west of Lands End, and at 0240A BLUEBELL (S.O. of the Escort) reported that L.C.T. 343 had sunk, all her crew but one being picked up by BLUEBELL. At 1041A MAN O' WAR reported that L.C.T.385, abandoned yesterday, sank early this morning; and at 1700A BLUEBELL reported that the tug DEXTEROUS had survivors from L.C.T.333. 3 minesweepers of M.S.F.16 were sent from Plymouth to assist and at 1743Z S.O. M/S.16 reported having met 9 landing craft and that he had detached QUALICUM to escort them to the Lizard. L.C.T.262 with 5 other landing craft are proceeding to shelter under the Scillies; and MARAUDER, TALYBONT and GRASSHOLM are assisting.

Foreign Stations.

Owing to illness of the Staff, the Situation Report today is incomplete.

Mediterranean.

3. RICHELIEU sailed from Oran today for the U.K. to join the Home Fleet.

Leros.

4(a) FAULKNER, BEAUFORT and PINDOS bombarded enemy positions at 2045 yesterday and again at 0100 today, in support of our counter attacks. The destroyers patrolled the area all night, but no contact with the enemy is reported. They withdrew by Rhodes Channel this morning.
(b) A gale was blowing last night and reinforcements in small naval craft from Samos failed to reach Leros and were still unlocated today. The weather was moderating this evening.
(c) At 1601B today C. in C. Levant reported that all naval cyphers and codes at Leros had been destroyed.
(d) ECHO and BELVOIR bombarded enemy positions as required by the army, and patrolled east of the island without incident, withdrawing to Mandelyah Gulf.
(e) PENN, BLENCATHRA and ALDENHAM shot up small /craft ...

Aegean.

14.11.1943.
Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Aegean
(Contd.).

craft and the enemy held foreshore at Alinda Bay at about 1815 today, then patrolled East of Leros. They were subjected to frequent air attack, and ALDENHAM had a near miss but was not damaged.

Alexandria

5. Considerable mobs of Egyptians, enraged by the situation in Lebanon, attacked with stones the French Naval Establishments in Alexandria. The Egyptian police appear to have taken no action. Two French destroyers arrived at the critical moment and by permission of C. in C. Levant landed a guard which maintained order until matters quietened down.

Australia and New Zealand.

6. Beaufighters today attacked shipping in Rabaul Harbour. One 8,000 ton vessel was left sinking and another large vessel was damaged.

7. A U.S. Naval Catalina damaged a large vessel in St. George's Channel today. The vessel was beached.

War Diary.14.11.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

VELOX. My 092255. Approval has now been given for VELOX to be refitted for target ship duties. (A.C.N.S.H., 140603A to Cdre. Sheerness.)

COREOPSIS, My 071100. Ship has now been taken over by KRIEZIS. Royal Hellenic Navy as from November 10th and has been renamed KRIEZIS. (COREOPSIS, 141202A to Admty.)

Movements.

KING GEORGE V. Departure KING GEORGE V screened by VIGILANT and HARDY, passing North Rathground buoy at 0045A. (C. in C. Rosyth, 140050A to A.C.O.S.) Scapa arrival at 1803 KING GEORGE V escorted by VIGILANT and HARDY. (A.C.O.S., 141905 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

RICHELIEU. My 131547A. ORIBI sailed 0850A/14th. (C. in C. Plymouth, 140854A to Admty.) R/V 1200A/17th in position (Z) 044° 08' N. 018° 00' W. My 131547A refers. 2. RICHELIEU will approach R/V on course 000°, 17 knots. (C. in C. Plymouth, 141045A to ORIBI.)

KENT. Scapa departure C.S.1 in KENT. (A.C.O.S., 140906A to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

BIRMINGHAM. Arrived BIRMINGHAM. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 141008A to C. in C. H.F.)

NORFOLK. Scapa departure NORFOLK. (A.C.O.S., 141035A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

ATHENE. When ready for sea about 7th December request you will sail ATHENE in convoy to U.S.A. She will be required to ferry aircraft stores etc. to U.K. (D.O.D.(H), 141105A to C. in C. W.A.)

S/M Positions of S/Ms at 0800/15 and movements for Movements. following 24 hours. (F.O.(S), 141714A, 141824A.)

399

14.11.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation F.T. (Convoys J.W.54A and R.A. 54B.) Sailed Russian Vessels A.M. 144 (S.O.), A.M. 143, S.C.721, 1074 and 1287, E.T.A. Seidisfjord 0800A/15th.
2. Ships are not routed beyond Seidisfjord. (A.C.I.C., 140040A to C. in C. H.F.)
N.O.I.C. Greenock 131118A. Much delay by heavy weather. Position at 0930A 056° 46' N. 006° 27' W., speed 10. Am endeavouring to reach Loch Ewe by 1800A.
(BURZA, 141028A to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)
Comply with C. in C. H.F. 131112A.
(H.Q.C.C., 141050A to 18 Group.)
Arrived your 131714. (BURZA, INCONSTANT, WHITEHALL.)
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 141711 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
My 061807. Para. 5 for AUGUSTA read JAMAICA. Para. 6 for KING GEORGE V read V.A.(2) in ANSON. Add C.S.10 in BELFAST will replace TUSCALOOSA after 25th November.
(C. in C. H.F., 141855A to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Operation S.F. Position at 142000.
READY, HOUND, HYDRA, RATTLESNAKE 062° 05' N. 009° 45' W. to search vicinity 062° 24' N. 013° 50' W. (A.C.O.S., 141156A to Admty.)
Faroes departure READY, HOUND, HYDRA, RATTLESNAKE. (N.O.I.C. Faroes, 141523A to C. in C. Rosyth.)
Normal "Moorings" being flown November 15th by 9 Hudsons or P.V.1s., 7 Sunderland, 1 Catalina, subject to cancellation owing to weather.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 142325 to H.F.)

Coastal Force Patrols. Orders for night 14th/15th November.
(A) M.G.Bs. 613 (S.O.), 614, 616 from Newhaven carry out anti E-Boat patrol 10 miles south of convoy route abreast C.W. convoy between eastern limit of Portsmouth command and E.A.5 buoy from 2300A to 0700A/15th. Under no circumstances is patrol to approach to within 5 miles of convoy.
(B) Chasseurs 10, 14 patrol searched channel between F and E.A. 5 buoys.
(C) M.L.344 immediate notice at St. Helens.
(D) TANATSIDE immediate notice at Yarmouth.
(E) 3 M.G.Bs. from Portland patrolling 50° 15' N. between 02° 10' W. and 02° 35' W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 141241A.)
ALEXANDRITE and LOIS two miles south of D Buoy.
(V.A. Dover, 141611 and 141654A to Admty.)

S/M Patrols. Proceeding unescorted and on surface at C.O's discretion till within 60 miles of Norwegian coast then diving by day STORM left Lerwick 1311A/14 for position T.11 proceeding by route "Black" to 071° 16', thence direct.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 141315A to S/Ms.)

/Positions ...

400

14.11.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

S/M Patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800/15th and
(Contd.) movements for following 24 hours.
(A) VENTURER as in my 131806.
(B) SATYR 69° 40' N. 12° 58' E., probably on
surface, speed 10 knots through 70° 24' N. 15°
01' E., thence diving by day to patrol in position 70° 53' N.
22° 06' E.
(C) SEANYMPH leaves Lerwick 1400/15th probably on surface speed
10 knots through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 and 62° 01' N. 00° 10' E.,
thence course 030°.
(D) STORM 62° 51' N. 01° 15' E., course 030° speed 10 knots,
probably on surface.
(E) SCEPTRE leaves Lerwick 0800/15th probably on surface speed
10 knots through 090° Muckle Flugga 5 and 62° 01' N. 00° 10' E.,
thence course 030°.
(F.O.(S), 141714A to Admty.)
My 112215 paras. 3 and 4. SCEPTRE and SEANYMPH to exchange
times, routes, and patrol positions.
(Capt. (S) 9, 141813A to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

Bay My 131816A. Leave patrol line at 1600/14th.
Patrol. (C. in C. Plymouth, 141500A to PRINCE ROBERT.)
Disposition at 142000.
PRINCE ROBERT 049° 21' N. 016° 41' W., through
049° 58' N. 015° 34' W., thence through 049°
57' N. 009° 59' W., 15 knots.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 141556A to Admty.)

Spitzbergen. No enemy activity last seven days.
("Locomotive", 141630Z to Admty.)

Special A.M. 131501A. M.G.B. 329 selected.
operation. (C. in C. Plymouth, 141821A to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy By Russian air R/C enemy convoy reported at
Convoy. 0815A/14th November off Nord Kyn consisting 2
destroyers, 4 merchant ships, 6 minesweepers, 8
patrol vessels, 19 patrol launches, course 310°,
speed 8, air escort 3 aircraft.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 141110A to Admty.)

Navigational.

Wick. Wick Harbour closed through weather.
(R.N.O. Wick, 140845A to Admty.)

401

14.11.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

PAPANOI. PAPANOI independent outwards from Liverpool, returned Clyde with engine trouble. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 140650A to C. in C. W.A.)

GODAVARI. My 021806 and 041258. Owing to structural defects GODAVARI cannot sail with K.M.S.33 as intended. 2. Her departure for India is indefinitely postponed. (C. in C. W.A., 141156A to Admty.)

READY. Suspect READY's port bilge keel is becoming detached from ship. On conclusion of patrol propose proceeding Hvalfjord for docking and boiler cleaning. (M/S. 18, 141955 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Shipping and Convoys.

Flight "P". L.C.T.385, L.C.T. 343, L.C.T. 333 sunk. C. in C. Plymouth's 132340A. MARAUDER is to be sailed as soon as possible. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 140048A to F.O.I.C. Southampton.) M/S.16 in SHIPPIGAN with QUALICUM and ILFRACOMBE is to pass the Gate at 0815A/14 and proceed through position (F) 180 Bishop Rock 10' towards position (G) 50.09 N. 09.46 W. to assist with L.C.T. Flight "P" scattered in the vicinity of this position at 2000A/13.

(2) Following ships are present BLUEBELL, MAN-O-WAR, GRASSHOLM, EMPIRE RUPERT, DEXTEROUS, 25 L.C.T., 1 L.C.G.

(3) MARAUDER is proceeding from Southampton to assistance of Flight "P". Expect to pass Needles 0730A/14. (C. in C. Plymouth, 140059A to M/S.16.) Plymouth's 132340. Intend to sail MARAUDER at 0330 today to Falmouth. E.T.A. 1600/14. (F.O.I.C. Southampton, 140234 to F.O.I.C. Falmouth.) MAN-O-WAR 132241A. L.C.T.385 abandoned and all personnel on board MAN-O-WAR. L.C.T.385 still afloat with MAN-O-WAR standing by. Chances of salvage small with present weather. MAN-O-WAR requests instructions. His position at 2241A 050° 15' N. 010° 30' W.

2. L.C.T.343 sunk. Personnel on board BLUEBELL with one missing drowned. Am standing by L.C.T.418 in 049° 40' N. 007° 56' W., course and speed 105°, 7 knots. (BLUEBELL, 140240A to C. in C. Plymouth.) My 140234. Sailed. (MARAUDER.) (F.O.I.C. Southampton, 140342 to F.O.I.C. Falmouth.) MAN-O-WAR continue to stand by L.C.T.385. BLUEBELL 140240 refers. Assistance is being sent. (C. in C. Plymouth, 140523A to BLUEBELL.) Proceed into Plymouth to complete with coal. (C. in C. Plymouth, 140817A to MARAUDER.)

/C. in C. ...

402

14.11.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

Flight "P". C. in C. Plymouth's 140523A. L.C.T.385 sunk.
 L.C.T. 385, Ship disappeared at 0230A. Have waited until
 L.C.T. 343, daylight to confirm. Have this morning sighted
 L.C.T. 333, much wreckage from L.C.T.385, visibility good.
 sunk. 050° 13' N. 010° 30' W. Am proceeding now
 (Contd.) (corrupt group) 101°, speed 10.
 (MAN-O-WAR, 141041A to BLUEBELL, C. in C.
 Plymouth.)
 Your 140800. DEXTEROUS is to remain standing
 by L.C.T.333 in approx. 050° 15' N. 009° 45' W.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 141046A to DEXTEROUS.)
 Report situation. DEXTEROUS will stand by you if you
 require assistance.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 141324A to GRASSHOLM.)
 P.C.S. of M.S.F. 16 with 3 minesweepers at 1300/14th,
 242° Lizard Head 13, course 270°, 13 knots.
 2. Sunderland despatched at 1200A to report position of all
 ships will remain in company until dark.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 141329A to BLUEBELL.)
 Paraphrase of my 141424Z to EMPIRE RUPERT. Remain in
 company with L.C.T.311. Your position received corrupt. Check
 and repeat. Your 141215A refers. Ends.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 141531A to BLUEBELL.)
 DEXTEROUS is to stand by GRASSHOLM and L.C.T.306 in approx.
 050° (? 01') N. 009° 45' W. L.C.T. is broken down. GRASSHOLM
 unable to tow owing to weather.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 141533A to GRASSHOLM, DEXTEROUS.)
 TALYBONT is to pass Gate at 1700A/14th and proceed to R/V
 with MARAUDER at D.1 Buoy at 1930A/14th.
 (2) TALYBONT and MARAUDER are to proceed in company through
 position (F) 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles toward position (J)
 050° 01' N. 009° 45' W.
 (3) GRASSHOLM and DEXTEROUS are standing by L.C.T.306 in
 vicinity of position (J).
 (4) On meeting, MARAUDER is to take L.C.T.306 is tow and proceed
 Falmouth.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 141617A to MARAUDER, TALYBONT.)
 My position 049° 20' N. 007° 08' W. Local situation.
 L.C.T.317 making good progress north-eastward. L.C.T.345 one
 engine and pumps out of action, hatch cover stove in, being
 taken in tow by DEXTEROUS who made contact about 1400.
 DEXTEROUS has on board survivors of L.C.T.333. No other ship
 seen since daybreak. Your 141533A refers.
 (BLUEBELL, 141700A to C. in C. Plymouth.)
 Have met the following in 190° Bishop Rock Light 10 miles
 at 1700A today.
 (1) L.C.Ts. 214, 218, 220, 221, 302, 303, 341, 411 and L.C.I.252.
 (2) 5 miles astern are L.C.T.282 and 384.
 (3) None required immediate assistance, but several L.C.Ts. have
 shipped a considerable amount of water.
 (4) Have detached QUALICUM to escort this group to Lizard Head,
 then to rejoin me.
 (5) My P.C.S. at 1800A, 233° Bishop Rock Light 13 miles, 282°,
 10 knots.
 (M/S.16, 141743Z to C. in C. Plymouth.)
 Aircraft reports 5 L.C.T. in 49° 58' N. 06° 40' W., course
 108°, 4 knots at 1340/14 and 9 plus L.C.T. in 49° 40' N. 06°
 35' W., course 040°, 4 knots at 1500A/14.

403

14.11.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

Flight "P".
L.C.T. 385,
L.C.T. 343,
L.C.T. 333
sunk.
(Contd.)

2. L.C.T.262 reports himself in sight of Bishop Rock at 1547A/14 proceeding with 5 landing craft in company to shelter under lee of Scillies.
3. DEXTEROUS, GRASSHOLM standing by L.C.T.306 in 50° 01' N. 09° 45' W.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 141756A to BLUEBELL.)
Departure MARAUDER.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 141931A to C. in C. Plymouth)
Request position of L.C.I.306 may be confirmed at daylight tomorrow. L.C.I.252 escorted by LOCH PARK is at D.3 buoy.

(TALYBONT, 142130A to C. in C. Plymouth.)
D.3 Buoy at 2355. Am rejoining. Speed 10 knots.
(QUALICUM, 142359A to M/S.16.)

D.F. 16.
GALTESUND
damaged.

My 131808. Position of codeword "Crown 2" at 2045A/13, 059° 25' N. 004° 46' W. speed 5 knots.
2. Position of codeword "Crown 1" at 1750A/13th 058° 46' N. 004° 50' W. speed 6 knots.
3. Following intercepted Wick Radio at 2235 G.M.T. from P.Z.11. Begins: S O S de P.Z.11 engine broken we are sinking fast. 2337 B.S.T. Ends.
4. RIPLEY and HOBSON sailing from Scape at 0325A/14th November to search.
5. Request air search at daylight.
6. My 021711 to Admiralty and C. in C. H.F. refer.
(A.C.O.S., 140331 to C. in C. Rosyth.)
Your 140138A. Position at 0355/14, 059° 30' N. 005° 08' W. Ships in company TORDENSKJOLD. GALTESUND last seen 0230/14th.
(HAMLET, 140430A to A.C.O.S.)
My 130631. Convoy dispersed by weather and now in 2 parts
(1) FLATHOLM and MORIALTA and possibly also COLL (codeword "Crown 2") in 060° 39' N. 005° 00' W. speed 5 knots, at 1100A/14th.
(2) HAMLET and TORDENSKJOLD (codeword "Crown 1") 059° 30' N. 005° 08' W. speed probably 5 knots at 0355A/14th.
(3) GALTESUND believed in difficulty last seen by TORDENSKJOLD at 0230A. Air and surface searches today have failed to locate her.

(A.C.O.S., 141716A to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)
Arrived Loch Ewe at 1644 today. My 141716 para. 3.
GALTESUND with superstructure badly damaged.
(A.C.O.S., 142212A to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)

O.N.C.211. My 132122A. EMPIRE MACANDREW (M.A.C.) R/T - Halifax - sailed to overtake at 0510A/14. Request escort may be detailed to contact ship.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 140515A to Admty.)
GOLDEN EAGLE sailed to overtake convoy at 141300A.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast, 141315A to Admty.)
Non-sailers: JOHN STEVENSON, ELIPHALET NOTT, FJORDAAS, LUMINETTA, HENRY FOOTE, EMPIRE GARRICK, THAMES FIELD, EMPIRE FLAG, ATLANTA CITY.
2. Additional from Loch Ewe OSTHAV (Nor.) for New York.
3. EMPIRE MACANDREW sailed Clyde 0500/14th.
(C. in C. W.A., 141056A to Escorts O.N.211.)
JOHN ARMSTRONG returned ex O.N.211 with engine defects.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast, 141140A to C. in C. W.A.)

404

14.11.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- H.X. 265. My P.C.S. at 140700Z, 048° 43' N. 003° 59' W.,
075°, 9.
(E.G.7, 140630Z to C. in C. W.A.)
- O.N. 210,
O.N.S.22. U-Boat estimated probably to your general vicinity
today.
(D.D.I.C., 141003A to O.N.201, O.N.S.22.)
- U.R. 8. My 131110A. Delayed 24 hours.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 141048A to C. in C. W.A.)
- T.A. 72
(MAURETANIA) My 131352 and 131353. Delayed owing to weather.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 141101A to Admty.)
- K.M.F. 26. PELICAN's 131525 and C. in C. W.A.'s 131854A.
CLAN CAMPBELL is being equipped with additional
cargo nets, floats, rafts and 1000 sets warm
clothing from Naval and Sea Transport resources.
Military authorities are arranging for supply of emergency
rations sufficient for 3000 men for two days also medical
stores subject to War Office concurrence.
All arrangements should be completed by 1100 tomorrow.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 141319A to C. in C. W.A.)
Intend sailing Liverpool portion escorted by SCIMITAR
1400/15th to R/V with Clyde portion in position (QR) at 0800/16.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 141547A to Admty.)
My 141605 November.
Intend sailing PELICAN (S.O.), JED, ROTHER, SPEY, EVENLODE,
and WOODPECKER 1700A/15th November to Moville to top up with
fuel thence to R/V with K.M.F.26. E.T.A. 0800A/16th.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 141728 to Cdre. (D) W.A.)
- M.K.S.29. BECHEVILLE was ordered to return to Gibraltar
in Admiralty's 090117Z/11. Request investigation
of non-compliance.
2. Request information whether British stowaway
believed to have boarded ship of Convoy M.K.S.29 at Gibraltar
is aboard. If so he should be closely guarded and handed over
to Security Control Officer on arrival.
(C. in C. W.A., 141523A to N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe.)
- O.N.S. 23. NORTHERN REWARD and NORTHERN SKY detailed and
intend to sail at 1600A/16th November to Moville
for escort conference. E.T.A. 1200A/17th.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 141604 to Cdre. (D) W.A.)
- M.K.S. 29. Estimated P.C.S. 53° 12' N. 14° 04' W., 20°,
4 knots.
(HIGHLANDER, 141807Z to C. in C. W.A.)
- U.T. 4A. Your 141105. Mersey portion need only be escorted
as far as Mew Island. My 132313 para. 1(B) refers.
(C. in C. W.A., 142148Z to C.T.F. 67.)

14.11.1943
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

U/B
Survivors.

Every endeavour should be made to secure internment, your 121340 (N.T.) refers. If survivors reach territorial waters in U-Boat's dinghies you should press argument in para. 2 of my 281132 not to all addresses. (Head of M.L. 140121A to N.A. Madrid, Info. F.O.Gib. C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.)

GLASGOW.

Your 131740A.
In continuation of my 051200Z (N.T. in W.D.) cruiser cannot be accepted until oiler is topped up and second oiler cleared.

This will allow room for (?unexpected) calls by British and American escort groups. Final analysis will be made when LORD COCHRAN, FORT BINGHAM, (?RIVER) FIRTH and ex German cable ship have left. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 141105Z to Admty.)

GENEROSO.

Now report that Swiss GENEROSO leaving Marseilles about 15th Nov for Gib. Ref. my 111852. / (F.O.I.C. Gib. 141107A to 10th S/M.F. LA SULTANE F.S. PROTEE F.S. (R) Capt. (S) 10). / Re: Swiss GENEROSO leaving Marseilles.

Routes for neutral vessels other than Swedish traffic and Eire ships across N.Atlantic.

A.M.211859 Oct. (neutral routes) has been passed for information to C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med and S.O.(I) Jamaica. (D.T.D.141125A to F.O.I.C.Gib.)

French Refugees.

Intend to sail SIDI BRAHIM and G.G. LEPINE escorted by CDT.DELAGE, LA BOUDEUSE and CDT. DETROYAT to Malaga at 0100/15th. (2) Route. (F.O.C. Gib. 141135 to C. in C. Med. C.M.S.F.(R) Admty.)

SIDI BRAHIM and G.G. LEPINE arriving Malaga 0830A/15th to embark French refugees. Request ships be sailed on completion of leading to R/V with escort in position (C) 140 degs. San Nicolas battery light 4 miles. (F.O.I.C.Gib. 141143A to B.N.A. Madrid, R.O.Malaga (R) Admty. C. in C. Med.)

ALBULA /...

406

14.11.1943.
Sundav.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

- ALBULA. My 111413. Swiss ALBULA returning to Gib.
(F.O.I.C.Gib. 141202A to 10th S.F., LA SULTANE
F.S., PROTEE F.S., (R) Capt.(S) 10).
- PERLE. Request Oran route. C. in C. Med's 091446A
para. 3 refers.
(F.O.I.C.Gib. 141241A to Admty.)
- TAGUS. Sailed Gibraltar 141335 for Marseilles by
approved route to Cape San Sebastian thence coast
wise Portuguese TAGUS 1092 G.T. speed 9 knots.
Not to be molested this voyage. Ship carries
usual National and International Red Cross markings.
(F.O.Gib. 141410A to 10th S.F. (F.S.) LA SULTANE, (F.S.) PROTEE,
(R) Capt.(S) 10.)
- S.L.139: FOWEY and FRISO with Gib. break off from S.L.139
E.T.A. 0700A. My P.C. and S.1400A 035 degs. 25'
FOWEY, (007degs ?) (738') / 072 degs 7 for knots. Weather
FRISO. report.
(FOWEY, 141416A F.O.C.Gib.)
/ Groups decoded as received.
- CEYLON. Arrival CEYLON.
(F.O. Gib. 141455 to Admty. C. in C. Med. (R)
C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A., S.B.N.O.Azores)
Intend to sail CEYLON at 1600A/15th to Levant
for onward routing to Bombay.
(2) Routed through 32,12,40 and 79 thence as ordered by C. in C.
Med. S. of A. 23 knots.
(3) Codeword "Valiant".
(F.O. Gibraltar, 141637A to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. C. in C.
Levant, C. in C. E.F., Com. N.O.B. Oran, Comdr. Algeria,
F.O.Tunis, V.A.Malta.)
- HILARY. A.M.121649A. HILARY will be ready for sea
2359/20th.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 141639 to C. in C. Med. (R)
Admty. N.C.X.F.)
- German A/C's crashes. Alicante reports that at 19 hours 11th German
twin engine plane crashed and sank Alicante Bay.
Crew of four wounded and rescued.
(2) Cartagena reports that at 19 hours 11th two
German planes crashed one in sea of Cabo Palos
four survivors and one Los Alcazares crew saved.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 141802A to Admty. for D.N.I.
(S.O.(I), Med.)
Note: C. in C. Med.151744 relates.

407

14.11.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

INGLEFIELD
PIORUN.

Have been unable to detach PIORUN on account of weather. S. of A. reduced to 11 knots. My position 035 degs. 40' N. 003 degs. 19' W. Weather report. (INGLEFIELD, 141931 to F.O.I.C.Gib. (R) C. in C. Med.)

C.T.G.
60.2.

Will be 6 hours late with M.K.F.25A. U.S. Destroyer DAVISON arrived Gib. for fuel about 0500A/15th. Several cases Diphtheria. Request for medicine, be placed on DAVISON while fuelling. (C.T.G.60.2, 142229A to F.O.I.C.Gib.)

408

14.11.1943.
Sunday

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Aegean Enemy reports. W.D. Note: Between 140155Z and 142300Z there were a number of reports by aircraft of enemy sightings.

Alexandria movements. Alexandria 13th arrival HAYDON, departures FURY, EXMOOR, KRAKOWIAK, MIAOULES. (N.O.i/c Alexandria 140725B).

Glider Bomb investigation. A1.113 14th. Enemy A/C Technical Intelligence signals branch. Preliminary examination shows fragments of Glider Bomb recovered in Aegean unlikely to yield much fresh data except on aerodynamical features. Following points noted. Technical details. Sending by air earliest. (201 Group, 140801Z to Air Min.).

Air Reports. A.308 of 328? 14th M.S. 22081. Part 1. Daily Opsum 200. 12/13 Nov. 4 Wellingtons attacked landing grounds on Kos. Results generally unobserved. 13th Nov. 34 Beaufighters and 4 U.S. Mitchells (B.25) in 4 sweeps Leros. No sightings of shipping encountered enemy aircraft. Fighters with long range tanks made daylight offensive sweeps over Rhodes and continuous protection was given to naval units. Enemy air activity over Leros continued on an extensive scale throughout the day and the previous night. Ju.88s. and Ju.87s. were employed with Me.109 cover and Ju.52s. dropped further personnel. (End Part 1). (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 141116Z). Night 13/14 Nov. 10 aircraft Liberators and Halifaxes Calato landing ground (Rhodes). Targets well covered but results were not observed owing to haze. 4 Baltimores (A.30) 4 Wellingtons, 3 Hudsons made various attacks on landing grounds and other targets Kos. Results are awaited but Antimacchia was bombed at least twice and a Wellington scored direct hits on a small vessel due South of the Island. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 141246Z). A.V.4 14th. N.A.T.A.F. 12 Nov. 6 Tri-motored A/C with floats strafed and destroyed Orbetello Naval Base 3 Landing Barges strafed near Orbetello. 13th Nov. 12 U.S. Warhawks anti-shipping mission attacked 1 merchant vessel near Guilianova with 10 x 500, results unobserved. (H.Q. N.A.A.F. 141730A).

M.Ls. being transferred to Turkey. Your 012020 Oct. 1. Transfer expected to take place by the end of Nov. 2. 1243 expected to be transferred on 17th Nov. Remaining three have been transferred. (C. in C. Levant, 141122 to Admty. (R) B.N.A. Ankara).

/LE...

14.11.1943.
Sunday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

LE FANTASQUE, F.F.S. LE FANTASQUE and LE TERRIBLE are to be
LE TERRIBLE. administered temporarily by R.A. Alexandria.
(C. in C. Levant, 141138 to R.A. Alexandria, (R)
Admty. Capt. F. F.F.S. FANTASQUE, TERRIBLE,
F.N.F.L. (Beirut)).

ST. ANDREW, Report in accordance A.M. 111715.
Details of (A) In 41 degs. 56' N. 15.24 E. time 1741 G.M.T.
bombing. (B) Visibility clear weather cloudy.
(C) Alone.
(D) Attack deliberate. Plane circled for some
minutes dropped 3 bombs and attacked with cannons.
All Geneva Lights burning.
(C. in C. Med. 141227A to Admty.).

F.O.T.A.L.I. R.A. R.R. McGrigor assumes combined duties of
F.O.T.A. and F.O.L.I. with title of F.O. Taranto
R.A.C. Adriatic and for Liaison duties with Italian
(short title F.O.T.A.L.I.) on 15th 1943. Title of
F.O.L.I. will be retained for domestic duties with Italian.
(C. in C. Med. 141246A to Med. Station, Levant Station 306B, Admty.
B.A.D. C. in C.E.F., F.O.C.W.Af.).

U.G.S.22. EGGESFORD and LAMERTON provide escort for Augusta
section (corrupt group). Codeword "Pungent"
229 (?H/F wave) A/S.
(N.O.i/c Augusta, 141346).

V.N.9. M.S.C.I.22. Intend to sail at 1600/16th as
follows. 24 ships, names, destinations, arrange-
ments. Escort BLACKMORE, LEDBURY, QUANTOCK.
(N.O.i/c Augusta 141347A).

A.H.9. M.S.C.I.22. Intend sailing A.H.9. at 0600/17th
as follows. 26 ships names and destinations.
Route. Escort CHIDDINGFOLD as communication ship
with my+(?Italian) ships ALLISEO, FORTUNALE,
ARETUSA, SIRIO, (sic) FABRURI.
(N.O.i/c Augusta 141348).
+ As received.

Situation 384027 I/35193. 14th.
Aegean. Joint Army R.A.F. Int. Appreciation 24 hours to
1000Z/14.
1. Photo. R/C shipping 13th Nov. (details).
Patmos. 1455Z. 4 large Caiques anchored in bay.
Port Lipso 1500Z. Concentration of medium Caiques and barges.
Shipping in Patmos and Lipso strongly suggests enemy using Northern
Islands as hide-out during daylight.
3. No reason to modify conclusion in para.6 our I/34813.
(C. in C.M.E., 141415B).

410

14.11.1943.
Sunday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Situation 383955. 0/35243 14th.
Aegean. Cositrep No.55. 1 Int. Leros. A.P.Ws. identify
(Contd.). 2 Bn. 65 Gren. Regt.

Comment: This formed part of Kos Assault Force.
780 Engineer Landing Coy. Paratroops of "Einheit
Hase" shown by cap docs. as in Rome Sept. 1943.

Comment. Probably therefore of 2 Para. Div. B. P.W. states 6
Bns. involved Leros assault. Comment. Appreciate these are 3
Bns. of Kos Assault Force 2 Bn.22 Gaf Jaeger Regt.1 Paratroop
Bn. (already dropped) and other unidentified Inf. elements
equivalent 1 Bn.

C. Now estimate only about 2,000 seaborne personnel and pro-
bably no (rpt. no) guns landed up to last light 13th plus some
500 parachutists. At that time therefore estimate that
remainder seaborne assault force namely about 2,000 men and all
guns of force were still to be landed. Enemy reported using 2
cap Italian guns on Rachi Ridge (0841) morning 14th. D.Cannot
yet estimate scale of landings 14th.

2. Ops. Aegean. A. Leros. See special Sitrep 0/0253 14th.
B. Samos and Kastelorizo N.T.R.
(C. in C.M.E. 141740B).

M.K.F.26, N.O.i/c Port Said sail 17th by inshore route to
X.I.F. 4. Alexandria. Request R.A. Alexandria section A.M.
18th.
Route etc. (8) Escort will be detailed later.
(C. in C. Levant, 141436B, 141636B).

UNRIVALLED Intend sailing P.45 UNRIVALLED to join M.K.S.31
for passage to Gib. for onward routeing to U.K.
for refit.

2. Request sailing authority inform all

concerned.

3. AIRE pass to Cdre.
(V.A. Malta, 141520A to AIRE, Escorts M.K.S.31 (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, F.O.C. Gib., Capt.
(S) 10, F.O.S.).

ORPHEE Intend to sail ORPHEE at 1700/15th for special
operation proceeding on the surface at her
discretion through:-

1. 037 degs. 58' 003 degs. 11' at 0030/16th.
2. 039 degs. 46' 004 degs. 58' at 1500/16th. 3. 040 degs. 21' 004
degs. 25' at 2000/16th thence diving by day to 4. 041 degs.
12' 002 degs. 06' at 1300/17th.

(2) F.S. ORPHEE will leave at 0200/18th by reverse route diving
by day to R/V with escort for Algiers in 036 degs. 59' 002 degs.
59' at 0830/20th.

(3) All position north and east. All times zone minus one.
(Cmdre. Algiers, 141527A, 151024 to C. in C. Med., (R) Navale
France, Capt.(S) 10, Capt.(S) 8, F.O.i/c Gib. LA SULTANE).

Situation Still very critical but after deteriorating
Leros. yesterday and last night, is reported as

/improved...

411

14.11.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation improved this forenoon our counter-attack having
Leros. made some progress to constant Stuka attacks
(Contd.) immobility and ammunition shortage are a severe
handicap.
2. Destroyers bombarded enemy positions at 2045
and again at 0100 in support of our counter-attack
and patrolled area all night but no contact reported.
4. Gale blowing last night and reinforcements in small craft
from Samos failed to reach Leros. Trying again tonight.
5. All naval cyphers and codes at Leros destroyed and Army
line which is very congested now only means of communication.
(C. in C. Levant, 141601B to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.)
0/0253 cipher 14th Nov. 383945.
Up to 1230B hours. (1) General situation deteriorated during
night 13/14 but has improved considerably during day 14th Nov.
Over 200 prisoners to date casualties fair.
(C. in C. M.E. 141745?B to W.O.)
Situation Leros this evening. Enemy branch landing on 12th
have formed bridgehead on narrow neck by Alinda Bay. Allied
garrison assisted by destroyer bombardment counter-attacked
last night and are still making small progress. Enemy reinforce-
ments are present but may be intercepted by own surface force
otherwise situation will become black. No known attack on
Samos yet.
(Capt. (S) 1, 141704B to 1st S/M.F., (R) C. in C. Levant.)

HELFDOR, If escort commitments allow some delay suggest
VERBENA. that HELFDOR and VERBENA carry out A/S practices
before leaving Durban. C. in C. S.A. 081047C/
refers. No A/S practice facilities exist at Aden.
(Cdre. Aden, 141622Z to C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.),
(R) C. in C. Med., Cdre. Durban, Admty., F.O.E.A.)
/ Re sailing HELFDOR, VERBENA to join Aden Escort
Force.

Corvettes Request you will sail HONEYSUCKLE and OXLIP as
for North additional escorts to M.K.S.31 to U.K. My 131111
Russian (N.T. in W.D.) to F.O.C. Gib. only and C. in C.
Convoys. W.A. 051113 and A.M. 071927 refer.
(C. in C. Med., 141726A to F.O.C. Gib., (R)
Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

Med. (1) P.T. boats and M.T.Bs. on patrol during
Situation night 11/12 reported intercepting northbound
Report tanker north of Civita Vecchia. 2 Torpedo
No. 228. attacks unsuccessful but one of escort of 2 E
or R-Boats and Flak lighters believed considerably
damaged by gunfire. Further sweeps by P.T. boats
night 12/13 was unproductive.
(2) Minefield in Gulf of Gaeta is being cleared to assist
bombardment forces. 28 mines were swept by 12th M/S.F. on 12th.
(C. in C. Med., 141903A.)

Levant Up to 1800B/14. Military situation in Leros
Situation improved during the day.
Report
No. 109. / (2) No ...

412

14.11.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Levant
situation
report
No.109
(Contd.).

(2) No report yet received of last night's bombardment by FAULKNER, BEAUFORT and PINDOS. Force withdrew by Rhodes channel this morning. ECHO and BELVOIR? bombarded enemy positions as required by the army and patrolled east of the Island without incident withdrawing to Mandelyah Gulf.

(3). PENN, ALDENHAM, BLENCATHRA entered Aegean last night. Left Turkish Waters to arrive Alinda before dark to-day and search for ship and L.C. reported there, subsequently to sweep west of Leros and unload ammunition at Portolago.

(4) ECHO and BELVOIR ordered to transfer 320 H.Q. and all ranks from Samos to Portolago+ tonight and lie up on completion in Turkish Waters.

(5) Three M.T.Bs. to operate in Kos/Kalymnos area tonight. Weather moderating.

(6) Reinforcements for Leros in small naval craft which started from Samos last night did not arrive and have not yet been located.

(C. in C. Levant, 142230B).

+ ?Port Laki.

PENN,
ALDENHAM.

Bombed and shadowed continuously am retiring to eastward ALDENHAM near miss but undamaged.
(PENN 142310B to C. in C. Levant).

Siebel
Ferry.

1 Siebel Ferry-sighted Syra (?Syros) Harbour 1135/14th. May be expected to move eastward. Destruction important.
(C. in C. Levant, 142318B to 1st S.F.).

Cyprus
movements.

14th. Arrivals FURY, KRAKOWIAK, EXMOOR, FAULKNER, BEAUFORT, M.T.B.260, PINDOS. Arrived and left PHOEBE.
(N.O.i/c Famagusta 142346B).

ROCKWOOD

Your 141252/. Gearings room pumped dry. Shafts uncoupled ready for towing. Hole now 1 foot above (?waterline). Possible to tow without patch in flat calm sea.
(H.M.S. ROCKWOOD, 142355B to C. in C. Levant (R) Capt.F.).
/ Not received.

413

14.11.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

M.A. 16A. Sailing telegram (2 ships).
(N.C.S.O. Madras, 140218Z, 140224Z.)

LUCIA,
WAYLAND. 1. On completion of her refit about 30th intend LUCIA to return to Kilindini as mother ship for corvettes and training S/MS.
2. After arrival of WAYLAND and departure of Fleet from Kilindini LUCIA will be required in Ceylon. She should be sailed so as to arrive at Trincomalee not later than 20th Feb. Arrangements must be made to maintain escort vessels at Kilindini for WAYLAND and shore facilities after departure of LUCIA. 3. Request your remarks.
(C. in C. E.F., 140522Z to F.O.E.Af., (R) LUCIA, F.O. Ceylon, Admty., Capt. Supt. Durban, Cdre i/c Durban.)
A.M. 081956 October.

WAYLAND will probably be required in Mediterranean until early January. 2. The need for a repair ship at Kilindini is appreciated and C. in C. Med. is requested to sail WAYLAND as soon as she can be spared. 3. A.M. 041904 Nov. to C. in C. Med. only refers.

(Controller, 141848A to C. in C. E.F.(S.E.A.C.), C. in C. Med., (R) C. in C. Levant, F.O.E.Af.)

M.A. Convoys, At request of Arminia escorted sailings of M/T sailings from ships from Vizagapatam to Chittagong will recommence on 23rd. Personnel ship will continue to Chittagong to sail from Calcutta as at present.
to recommence. 2. The first convoy to be known as M.A.17 will leave Vizagapatam on 23rd and will R/V with Calcutta section as arranged by N.O.I.C. Calcutta.
3. Ships joining from Calcutta are to be known as Calcutta section of appropriate M.S. Convoy.
Delete reference to H.C. convoy in para. 2 of my 121553 not to all addressees. 4. Admty. pass to D. of S.T.
(C. in C. E.F., 140649Z to F.O.C.R.I.N., (R) C. in C. E.F.(S.E.A.C.), Admty., D. of S.T., N.O.I.C. Calcutta, N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam, P.S.T.O. India (Bombay), Port Officer Chittagong.)

India Air 13th Nov. 2 Beaufighters communications Mandalay Report. Area. Damaged 4 steamers, 4 cargo boats.
11th Nov. 1 motor boat several small supply craft sunk. 1 river steamer left sinking.
(A.H.Q. India, 140840Z.)

Dutch ships A.M. 061319. It is suggested that the three for Eastern small minesweepers should be retained in Fleet. Australia waters where they can be usefully employed rather than undertake the very long passage to Ceylon. B.S.F. concurs.
(C. in C. E.F., 141024Z to Admty., (R) B.A.D., A.C.N.B.)

/Landing ...

414

14.11.1943.

Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Landing
at
Daiyar.

Following consultation with P.R.P.G. General Jepnabi, G.O.C. South Persia evolved a plan to settle question of security in Tangistan and Dashti Districts of South Persia and at the same time denying Quashgai tribes access to sea vide recent Persian Gulf Intelligence reports.

2. Plan comprised attack by road from Bushire on Ahram and simultaneous landing at Daiyar (120 miles East of Bushire) with object of capturing troublesome Brigands and their strongholds.

3. P.R.P.G. requested S.N.O.P.G.'s assistance in latter operation Jepnabi having argued that we have deprived them of means to keep order in coastal provinces in impounding their fleet.

4. H.M.S. SEABELLE was detailed and sailed from Bushire at 1300Z/10 having embarked 200 troops with two Mortars, four machine guns and 14 days provisions and proceeded to Daiyer.

5. Landings in ships Whalers and Motor-boat commenced at 0145Z/11 2 miles West of Daiyer village and Fort were surrounded and captured but Brigand Leader had fled. One Persian Air Force aircraft co-operated by machine gunning villagers and dropping bombs, which did not explode on Fort. No other firing took place.

6. All troops and stores landed by 1500Z and Navy's part in operation completed.

7. It is considered that show of force from unexpected quarter together with Allied co-operation will have good effect on tribes in Bolstering Persian Army's present low prestige.

(S.N.O.Persian Gulf 141451Z.)

Defences
of Mada-
gascar.

Your 201244 Oct. Following reduced garrison and scales in terms of British Units for A.A. and C.A. defences for Madagascar approved by Chiefs of Staff (details.)

2.(a). All naval and military defences for Diego Suarez and Tulcar to be retained for present under British control
(b). Existing air bases for R.A.F. and R.N. including facilities for flying boat bases near above ports to be maintained as British bases with British reserving right construct and control additional bases as necessary.

3. Participation by French in military defence of remainder Madagascar under consideration. Any instructions to F.O.C.E.Af. asking for proposals in this connection will be repeated to you.

4. Re more suitable French Naval Officer as French S.N.O. in Madagascar.

(A.C.N.S.(F) 141855A to C. in C.E.F. Info. N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez.)

14.11.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.Escort
Vessels.Commitments.
(N.S.H.Q. 140025Z to Admty.)
See Lion Copy.MAYFLOWER
refit.Request refit port and yard for MAYFLOWER be indicated. Ship will be sailed to arrive about 1st December.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 140036Z to B.A.M.R.)

CANSO.

Am returning to St. Johns N.F. course and speed 334° 12 knots. Skipper D.J. Williams has sub. acute appendix. Medical Officer from LEAMINGTON on board and looking after patient.
(CANSO 140230Z to F.O.N.F.)Sub. attack
& sighting
summary.TIMMINS makes 6 attacks on U-Boat about 42.44 N. 49.09 W. from 1130 to 1515Z/13th Nov.
(N.S.H.Q. 140503Z to Admty. Cominch.)U.S.S./M
Estimate.

(Cominch 141630Z.)

Sub. attack
& sighting
summary.No report on 13th. Para. C. P.B.M. Radar contact 09.16 N. 57.50 W. 140030Z. Para. D. Transport plane sighted sub. 11.39 N. 62.08 W. 141440Z.
(Cominch 142004Z to Admty.)

U.G.S.24.

Sailing telegram part 1. Escort T.F.63 WILKES, ROEYM SWANSON, MOORE, KEITH S. TOMICH, J. RICHARD WARR, OTTERSTETTER, SLOAT, FROST, HUSE, SNOWDEN, ESCALANTE, DEXTROUS. Task group 21.13 BOGUE, DUPONT G.E. BADGER, OSMOND INGRAM, CLEMSON.

7. 73 when BOGUE, ESCALANTE, A.T.R. one in formation.
(Radio Washington 142010Z to Admty.)

KENORA.

E.T.A. 151700Z. Boiler hours. Defects in condenser repaired.
(KENORA 142200 to F.O.N.F. (R) Capt. D.)QUEEN MARY
(A.T.77).Departing Ambrose 1500Z/15 Nov. QUEEN MARY (A.T.77) Clyde. E.T.A. Little Cumbrae 1230Z/21 Nov. S.O.A. 26.5 (route). "Chop" 2000Z/18 Nov.
(P.D. New York 142246Z to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)

Simon A.W.I.
415A STB

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 IN
140025Z/November.

From: N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.

Date 15.11.43.
Recd. 1523.

Naval Cypher XD by cable.

*Escort Vessels
Commitments*

Addressed: Admiralty repeated S.C.N.O. London B.A.D. Washington.
N.M.C.S. Washington

IMPORTANT.

STB

Admiralty paper PD 0242/43.

(1) Summary of main points brought out in consideration of this paper.

(A) Adequate allowance for Canadian commitments requires increase of maximum target figure from 889 to 984

(B) It is not clear whether figure of 186 in appendix B for RCN ships in service on 1st July 1944 includes or excludes construction completed during May and June 1944. If excluded total should be 150, if included total should be 178, neither figure allowing for casualties

(C) Execution of Canadian commitments is considered to require a total of 275 escort vessels.

(D) By 1st October 1944 R.C.N. expects to have 201 escort vessels in commission to meet these commitments assuming no casualties. Inclusion of 60% of Bangors will increase this figure by 32.

(2) It is considered that requirements for commitments in which R.C.N. participates should be as follows

(A) Mid-ocean escort force to consist of 110 ships and Atlantic support groups of 36 as proposed.

(B) Western escort force to consist of 10 groups of nine ships each, to give an average of six effective ships per group, and to provide a support group. These are considered minimum requirements in view of protection required and average flying weather.

(C) Canadian local requirements considered to be duty ships, local convoys Atlantic 50, local convoys Pacific 28, local defence forces Atlantic 22. Local defence forces Pacific 18. Canadian local defence forces necessarily include high proportion of ocean-going escort vessels

(D).....

(D) total of foregoing estimates is 354 as compared with Admiralty estimate of 259, an increase of 95 which would increase total Empire requirements from 889 to 984.

(3) Number of R.C.N. escort ships expected to be in service and in commission on 1st July 1944 and 1st October 1944 not allowing for casualties are
1st July 1944 1st October 1944. Escort destroyers 12
12 Frigates-R.C.N. construction 43, 60, corvettes-R.C.N. construction 95, 101. corvettes-ex R.N. 16 15, Algerines 12 12, total commissioned 178 201. Commissioned during preceding two months 28 16, total in service 150 185, inclusion of 60% of the 53 Banger minesweepers adds 32 to both totals.

(4) 275 escort vessels are required to meet commitments which R.C.N. seeks to fulfil namely duty ships. 50% of mid ocean escort force 55, two Atlantic support groups 12, 100% of Western escort force 90 Canadian local convoys and local defence forces 118, total 275.

(5) Insofar as R.C.N. construction programme is curtailed, ability to execute foregoing commitments is reduced.

(6) The foregoing figures will require amendment insofar as additional destroyers may be transferred to make up the total of 14 requested in my 1512/9 December 1942 and to include any arrangements made in consequence of my 101703/November 1943.

(7) Request your remarks.

140025Z.

✓ Manning of escort vessels.

Advance copy D.C. D.O.D. (H) Plot.

1st Lord.	D.C.
1st S.L. (2)	Plot
D.H.S.L	D.D.I.C. (2)
2nd S.L.	D.T.D. (4)
Controller.	D.T.D. (C)
Vice Controller.	D. of P. (2) for action
4th S.L.	D. of P. (Q) (3)
V.C.N.S.	D.P.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)	Hd. of C.W.
A.C.N.S. (F)	Hd. of N.
A.C.N.S. (W)	Hd. of M. (2) (M.054136/43)
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)	S.C.N.O. (L)
Sec.	D.A/S W.
P.A.S. (S)	D.A.U.D.
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.M.S.
N.A. 2nd S.L.	I.P. (2)
U.W.R.	W.D.
D.O.D. (H) (4)	
D.O.D. (F) (2)	

416

14.11.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial 3 Catalinas struck Kaomana shipping and waterfront early hours with unobserved results. 5 small to medium merchant vessels in neighbourhood. 3. Single sea truck unsuccessfully bombed by Patrol Mitchell early afternoon off east coast Northern Tanimbar?. Group heading southwest. 3 hours afterwards strike of 3 Mitchells, 3 Beaufighters sank ship by mast top bombing. 4. Navy Catalina observed 11 ships anchored Gazelle Channel early hours with single destroyer approaching convoy from southeast. Scored probable torpedo hit 1 large freighter. 5. Few hours previously submarine reported 1 light cruiser, 2 destroyers standing by single unidentified vessel 140 miles North Mussau Island. 6. One heavy cruiser, 2 undetermined class ships sighted by aircraft midday close to Mussau Island heading north. 7. Same time 2 gunboats, 1 transport 8 miles south New Hanover course northwest. 8 Zeros intercepted observing plane. 9. After dark 2 destroyers, 3 large merchantmen 40 miles N.N.W. Rabaul course 170°, while 1 large tanker, 3 freighter transports with escorts 30 miles southwest Kavieng proceeding south. 10. At first light 16 Kittyhawks strafed both Alexishafen strips followed three hours later by 57 Liberators bombing from medium level 70 Mitchells bombing and strafing including 75 m.m. shells from minimum altitude escorted by 48 Thunderbolts thoroughly worked over four grounded aircraft being destroyed others strafed. Fuel dumps fired numerous barges destroyed or damaged. 13. Allied patrol craft destroyed 2 northbound barges off Sio coast night 11th/12th. 15. 6 Mitchells conducted negative shipping search noon 12th northwest coast Bougainville bombed Matchin Bay instead. 16. Early next morning Lightning night fighters strafed Benis field destroying four grounded aircraft damaging another also probably destroyed troop laden barge Matchin Bay. 19. Night 11th 7 Jap floatplanes medium bombers combined made ineffective torpedo attack cruiser, destroyer task force vicinity New Georgia. 1 plane shot down. 20. Before dawn 13th same force torpedo attacked off Empress Augusta Bay suffering damage 1 ship. Ventura night cover shot down 1 enemy bomber. 21. Patrol Liberator surprised and destroyed 5 floatplanes Kapingamarangi afternoon 13th. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 141000Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 141416, 141429.)

Submarines Attacked.

Sub. attack & sighting summary for 24 hours to 0900Z/14th.

Para. B. 1 H.M.C.S. attacked contact at 1400/13th in 42° 23' N. 49° 16' W. Para. D. 1. Ferry A/C reported 2 U/Bs at 1110/13th in 60° 00' N. 10° 00' W. course N.W. Ref. A.M. 110959Z para. A. A/C D/19 which sighted a U/B at 0403/11 in 41° 49' N. 19° 58' W. was in fact D/172 who subsequently attacked. Ref. A.M. 101056A para. A. Fortress

A/C sighted and attacked U/B at 0720/9th in about 40° 26' N. 20° 05' W.

(D.D.I.C. 140958Z to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

417

15.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

TIRPITZ,
SCHARNHORST.

1. A visual Russian R/C of Alten Fiord at 1130A today showed TIRPITZ and 5 destroyers in Kaa Fiord and SCHARNHORST with a large depot ship alongside in Lang Fiord.

Operation
F.T.

2. The North Russian Convoy J.W.54A, consisting of 8 British, 9 U.S.A., one Panamanian, and one Dutch M/Vs. or 19 M/Vs. in all, left Loch Ewe at 1700 today escorted by 7 destroyers for Iceland, where the Russian ships to accompany the Convoy have all arrived. KENT arrived at Scapa at 1932 today from Aultbea, and ONSLAUGHT with 6 destroyers of the Convoy Escort left Scapa at 1822A for Seidisfiord.

MAURETANIA.

3. MAURETANIA sailed from Liverpool at 1300 today, 24 hours late on the scheduled time, having been delayed by the weather.

Plymouth
closed.

4. 2 mines were detonated by Sweepers this morning about 4 miles South of Rame Head, and at 1130 the port of Plymouth was closed in consequence. The mines are believed to have been laid by S/M on the 4th November.

Flight "P".
4 landing
craft sunk
in all.

5. Eight L.C.T. craft of Flight "P" are still scattered to the South of Lands End between 5° and 9° 30' W. But four of them are being escorted or in tow towards Falmouth, and only the remaining four (L.C.Ts. 324, 332, 418 and 421) are unaccounted for - the rest (20 in number) having now arrived in various harbours (Falmouth, Penzance, and St. Mary, Scilly Isles). Search for the missing craft continues, and A/C co-operation will be continuous tomorrow. L.C.T. 324 eventually arrived at Falmouth; 418 was sunk (see 16th November); 421 returned to Gibraltar; 332 is presumed to be the landing craft reported by B.N.A. Madrid on 17th November to have arrived near Gijon. L.C.T.343 and 385 were sunk; and 333 was abandoned and believed sunk by aircraft. Only one life was lost.

Convoy
K.M.F. 26.

5a. The 10 M/Vs constituting the Clyde portion of troop convoy K.M.F.26 sailed from Greenock at 2203.

North Atlantic.

6. Operational control of R.A.F. Gibraltar today reverted to G. in C. Mediterranean (see 4th November). *As per C. Central Command*

15.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

7. The Mediterranean Escort Groups were reconstituted today.

8. Flag Officer, Liaison, Italy (Rear-Admiral R.R. McGrigor) today took over the duties of Flag Officer, Taranto Area, in addition to his own.

9. DANAE (Eastern Fleet) arrived at Aden today.

QUAIL
mined.

10. The destroyer QUAIL was mined this morning, close off the entrance to Bari and was berthed in the harbour, badly damaged aft.

Aegean.

- 11(a) ECHO ferried a party of 187 2nd R. West Kents from Samos to Leros last night; she sank an F lighter loaded with troops off Alinda Bay at dawn and then withdrew to Pharos Bay and joined BELVOIR, also carrying troops who had been unable to make the speed and was detached to Turkish territorial waters. The ships were bombed in full moon throughout the operation.
- (b) M.T.Bs. patrolling off the east coast of Kalimno this morning sank two landing craft full of troops.
- (c) FURY, EXMOOR and KRAKOWIAK arrived at Limesol today, each carrying 10 tons of ammunition.
- (d) C. in C. M.E. today asked the War Office for immediate approval to use the 11th Para. Bn. to reinforce Leros if necessary. This was approved. Ammunition and supplies are being put in nightly by aircraft.
- (e) There were 280 bombing sorties on Leros today.
- (f) The enemy aircraft are using glider bombs on the destroyers by moonlight. ROCKWOOD produced a number of hits.
- (g) 15 Beaufighters and 3 U.S. Mitchells made sweeps round Leros today: a direct hit with 75 mm. shell was made on a destroyer by a Mitchell.
- (h) SPORTSMAN sank a 100 ton caique loaded with small arms ammunition close north of Naxos this morning.

15.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

12(a) In the early hours of today Naval Catalinas hit with a 500 lb. bomb a large freighter accompanied by a tanker and two medium cargo ships 60 miles N.N.W. of Rabaul. At about the same time another Naval Catalina hit with a 1000 lb. bomb a light cruiser accompanying a large merchant vessel and a small ship, 18 miles N.W. of Rabaul.

(b) 21 Beauforts attacked Rabaul last night and sank an 8000 ton transport.

(c) 77 escorted Naval light bombers attacked Kara airfield, Bougainville, today.

420

15.11.1943.
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

- S/M allocations
1. Intend following allocations of S/M's (A) SUNFISH to 7th Flotilla S/M training for C.O. Q.C.
 - (B) SEALION to 7th Flotilla for A/S training on relief by SUNFISH.
 - (C) VARANGIAN to 7th Flotilla for A/S training on completion defect.
 - (D) UTHUR to 7th Flotilla for A/S training on completion defect in December.
 - (E) TRUSTY to 7th Flotilla for S/M training on completion of refit at end of November.
 - (F) VIKING to 9th Flotilla on completion working up in December.
 - (G) VENTURER to 9th Flotilla on completion of working up in December.
 - (H) UNBENDING to 6th Flotilla S/M training on relief by UTHUR in December.
 - (J) P.556 to 5th Flotilla S/M training.
- (2) Captains (S) concerned to arrange transfers mutually.
(F.O.S. 151906A to Cpts. (S)).

Movements.

- NORFOLK Clyde arrival NORFOLK.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 150806A to C. in C.H.F.).
- MALAYA Intend sailing MALAYA at 0900A/16th for Gare Loch escorted vicinity Milford Haven by TANATSIDE and MELBREAK, thence MALAYA to proceed independently to destination.
- (2) Route.
 - (3) S.O.A. 17 knots. E.T.A. Clyde boom 1445/17th (C. in C. Plymouth 151352A to C. in C.W.A.).
- My 151352. Sailing postponed owing to port being closed.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 152227).
- RICHELIEU. A.M. 111756. After parting company with RICHELIEU and when well clear ORIBI is to report P.C.S. of RICHELIEU and E.T.A. off Butt of Lewis.
- (2) R.A. (D) Home Fleet is requested to sail 2 Destroyers to R/V off Butt of Lewis and provide escort to Scapa.
(C. in C.H.F. 151713A).
- S/M movements. Positions of S/Ms. at 0800A/16th and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 151752A, 152307A).
- ANSON Intend V.A.2 in ANSON to arrive Rosyth 8th December.
- (2) On arrival ANSON may grant home leave and ship is to be ready to sail for Scapa p.m. 31st December.
- (C. in C.H.F. 151716 to ANSON).

421

15.11.1943.
Monday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation Arrived your 131101A (SALADIN).
"F.T.". (N.O.i/c Aultbea, 150149A to Cdre. D.W.A.).
(Convoys Sailed KENT.
J.W.54A (N.O.i/c Aultbea, 151245A to C. in C.H.F.).
and R.A.54B). My 140040. Arrived at 0902A/15th. (Russian
Ships). Request Admiralty pass to Admiral
Kharlamov.
(A.C.I.C. 151340A to C. in C.H.F.).

Your 151719 October. Request confirmation that it is
intended to sail LORD AUSTIN with R.A.54B.

(D.O.D.H. 151510A to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

M.M.S. 1005 and 1023 not included in J.W.54A. They will be
sailed in J.W.54B.

(D.M.S. 151652A, to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

SALADIN sailing delayed. Wire foul of propeller.

(N.O.i/c Aultbea, 151709A to C. in C.H.F.).

J.W.54A. (A) 1700/15th. (B) INCONSTANT, WHITEHALL, HEATHER,
HUSSAR, BURZA, TERMAGANT, BRISSENDEN. (C) 19. (D) Cdre. in
FORT YUKON. (E) Vice Cdre. Master EMPIRE CARPENTER. (F) Rear
Cdre. Master OCEAN VANITY.

(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 151746A to C. in C.W.A.).

J.W.54A. FORT YUKON, EMPIRE CELIA, EMPIRE CARPENTER, OCEAN
VANITY, EMPIRE NIGEL, JUNECREST, COPELAND, OCEAN VERITY. U.S.A.
JAMES SMITH, THOMAS SIM VANCOUVER, JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PARK
HOLLAND, EDMOND FANNING, GILBERT STUART, HENRY VILLARD, DANIEL
DRAKE, WILLIAM WINDOM.

NORLYS (Panama) MIJDRECHT (Dutch).

M/F Guard EMPIRE CELIA and EMPIRE NIGEL, OCEAN VERITY, OCEAN
VANITY.

(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 151748A to C. in C.W.A.).

Sailed ONSLAUGHT, OBEDIENT, ORWELL, IMPULSIVE, IROQUOIS,
HAIDA, HURON, for Seidisfjord. E.T.A. 1000A/17th.

(R.A.D.H.F. 151822A to A.C.I.C.).

Scapa arrival your 151245A (KENT).

(A.C.O.S. 151932A to N.O.i/c Aultbea).

Sailed Tanker SALVATOR escorted by TRONDRA. E.T.A. Akureyri
1000A/17th. C. in C. H.F.'s. 101059 refers.

(A.C.I.C. 151950A to C. in C.H.F.).

My 151709A. Hope to sail SALADIN p.m. tomorrow to overtake.

(N.O.i/c Aultbea, 152039A to C. in C.H.F.).

A/S escort to Pelman will be provided as follows from
first to last light on (1) November 16th by one Sunderland.

(2) November 17th and 18th by one Catalina.

(C. in C. Rosyth 152126A to Escorts J.W.54A).

S/M
patrols.

Proceeding by route Black to 071 degs. 10' thence
direct to T.10 SEANYMPH left Lerwick, 0815A/15
unescorted and on the surface at C.Os. discretion
till within 60 miles Norwegian coast.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick 150818A to S/Ms.).

At 1428A/15 SCEPTRE left Lerwick unescorted and on the
surface at C.O's. discretion till within 60 miles of Norwegian
Coast proceeding by route Black to 071 degs. 10' thence direct
T.9.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 151433A to S/Ms.).

/VENTURER....

422

15.11.1943.
Monday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDS.Operations.S/M
patrols.
(Contd.).

VENTURER is to leave patrol at 2000A/17 through 071 degs. 02' 016 degs. 59' and route "Orange" to arrive Lerwick 22nd.
(Capt.(S) 9, 151749A to S/M's.).
Positions of submarines at 0800A/16th and movements for following 24 hours.

- (A) VENTURER as in my 131806. (B) SATYR on patrol in 70 degs. 53' N. 22 degs. 06' E.
(C) STORM 66 degs. 20' N. 05 degs. 55' E. probably on the surface through 69 degs. 00' N. 09 degs. 58' E. towards 71 degs. 16' N. 16 degs. 20' E. speed 10 knots.
(D) SEANYMPH 63 degs. 46' N. 02 degs. 24' E. probably on the surface course 030 degs. 10 knots.
(E) SCEPTRE 62 degs. 55' N. 01 degs. 25' E. probably on the surface, course 030 degs. 10 knots.
(F.O.S. 151752A to Admty.).

Operation
"S.F."

READY, RATTLESNAKE, HOUND, HYDRA, UNSPARING 062 degs. 24' N. 013 degs. 50' W.
(A.C.O.S. 151139 to Ships).

- (1) Normal moorings being flown November 16th by 4 Sunderlands, 4 Hudsons and 2 Liberators.
(2) Mooring-area moved 225 degs. 80 miles being flown by 8 Hudsons. All patrols liable to cancellation owing to weather conditions.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 152326A to H.F.).
(1) Orders for night 15/16 November.
(A) 3 M.G.Bs. from Newhaven carry out anti E-boat patrol 10 miles south of convoy route between E.A.5. buoy and Eastern limit of command from 1930A to 0300A, keeping abreast of C.E.222.
(B) 3 M.G.Bs. from HORNET carry out anti E-boat patrol 10 miles south of convoy route between 02 degs. 35' W. and longitude of N.1. buoy from 2300A to 0400A, keeping abreast W.P.431. Patrol southward of N.1. until 0600A, then enter Needles clear of PRINS ALBERT's movement.
In (A) and (B) M.G.Bs. are not to be to the northward of their patrol line except in contact with enemy, and in no circumstances are they to approach within 5 miles of convoy.
(C) CHASSEURS 5, 10 patrol Q.Z.S.384 between F and E.A.5. buoys.
(D) M.L. 344 immediate notice St. Helens.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 151407A).
MAHRATTA, WIGAN patrolling two miles south of D.buoy.
(V.A. Dover, 151555A to Admty.).

Bay
patrol.

Disposition at 152000.

- (1) PRINCE ROBERT 049 degs. 50' N. 008 degs. 00' W. through 180 degs. Bishop Rock 8 to Plymouth 15 knots.
(2) GLASGOW patrolling vicinity 038 degs. 40' N. 013 degs. 44' W. and 041 degs. 06' N. 015 degs. 57' W.
(C. in C. Plymouth 151557A to Ships).
U/B. previously reported was on surface, course 090 degs. speed 15 knots, 43 degs. 45' N. 08 degs. 05' W.
(A/C UHAE, 152132A to 19 Group).
P.C.S. of enemy. (One merchant vessel 1500 tons) 45 degs. 13' N. 06 degs. 27' W. 200 degs. 12 knots.
(A/C Duty R, 152140A to 19 Group).

/My...

423

15.11.1943.
Monday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDS.Operations.Bay
patrol
(Contd.).

My 2140. Spanish invasion barge.
(A/C Duty R, 152215A to 19 Group).
My 131531A para.2. From position (P.K.) proceed
by Q.Z.S. 347 to Falmouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 152302 to PRINCE ROBERT).

Operation
"Applejack".

Intend following operation "Applejack" with object
attack by RANGER's air group on shipping targets in the
Leads in Stadlandet and Stav Fiord areas.

- (2) Forces taking part DUKE OF YORK, RANGER,
AUGUSTA, GAMBIA and six destroyers.
(3) Force will leave Scapa about 1600D day which will be 17th
November or first following day with suitable weather forecast
and pass through following positions -
M. 360 degs. Muckle Flugga 8 at 0400, N. 61.09 N. 00.52 E. at
0730, O. 61.37 N. 01.35 E. at 0930 all times Zone minus 1.
(4) At 0930 D plus one RANGER will fly off all available aircraft
in two air striking groups at approx. half an hour interval which
will carry out attacks in the Stadlandet and Stav Fiord areas as
arranged by C.T.F. 121.
(5) On completion of attacks RANGER's fighters will return to
RANGER, remainder of her aircraft (24 Dauntless and 10 Avengers)
landing Sumburgh.
(6) A.O.C. 18 Group is requested to provide on D plus one (A)
two sections of Beaufighters over the force as fighter escort
from first light until 1400 at the earliest (B) two A/S air
escorts from first light until dusk.
(7) RANGER's Air Group will not take off until Beaufighter
escort has arrived over the force.
(8) Beaufighters and A/S Air Escort will be directed by DUKE
OF YORK.
(9) During flying operations the force will make good a mean
line of advance of 250 degs. 8 knots from position O.
(10) On completion of flying operations at about 1230 the Force
will retire on approximately 240 degs. 20 knots and return to
Scapa west of Shetlands.
(11) R.A.D. is requested to pass this signal to Destroyers
detailed.
(12) RANGER's aircraft using Sumburgh will return to RANGER or
Hatston on D plus two as arranged by RANGER.
(13) A.O.C. 18 Group is requested to bring Air-Sea Rescue
Organisation in the Shetlands to short notice on D plus one and
warn Scatsa (Scatsa Landing Ground) that it may be used for
emergency landings.
(14) RANGER will direct her own fighters. DUKE OF YORK will
direct shore-based fighters on 116, 1 Megacycles.
(15) N.O.i/c Lerwick informed.
(C. in C.H.F. 152315 to C.T.F. 121).

MiningPlymouth
closed.

Port of Plymouth closed 1130 due to mines.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 151328A to Admty.).

Dover
Area.

Operations projected in Admiralty 281543A/Sept.
para. 1 (b) and (c) are postponed indefinitely.
(A.C.N.S.H. 151609A to C. in C. Nore., F.O. Dover,
F.O.i/c Harwich).

/Plymouth...

War Diary15.11.1943.
MondayHOME COMMANDSMining - Contd

Plymouth Following 2 mines detonated by sweepers. At 150850 in 50 degs. 15' 54" N. 04 degs. 12' 50" W. At 150937 in same position. (C. in C. Plymouth, 151904 to Admty.).

Enemy Intelligence.

SCHARNHORST, SCHARNHORST present in Lang Fiord, 13th Nov.
TIRPITZ. B.2. report.
(D.D.I.C. 151105A to A.I.G. 21 and 47, N.S. Stockholm, Ad. Fisher).

Visual report of Russian R/C Altenfiord at 1130A/15th. Kaafiord ADMIRAL VON TIRPITZ, 5 destroyers, one coastal defence ship, one depot ship, 10 trawlers or patrol craft. Langfiord SCHARNHORST with large depot ship alongside. 6 trawlers. (2) Photographs taken. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 151555A to Admty.).

GRAF GRAF ZEPPELIN sighted Stettin apparently out
ZEPPELIN. of commission and with no activity on board at F. berth November 1st. Graded C.2. (N.A. Stockholm, 151211 to Admty.).

Baltic My 021239.
Troopship (A) Reference W.I.R. number 191 November page 62.
movement. Troopship voyages through Sound during October northbound 27 southbound 22. Graded A.1. Troopships plying between Jutland Ports and Oslo Fiord. Northbound 12, southbound 12. A further 14 transports arrived Norway probably from Jutland ports but no conclusive date is available. Graded B.2. (B) Reference N.I.D.U.C. report number 388 para. 7 of Nov. 2nd Following sea-transport statistics are available for month of October. Details. (N.A. Stockholm, 161548 to D.N.I.).
N.I.D. Comment: This report shows a slight increase in troopship movement, and some increase in quantities of equipment withdrawn from Norway, but the number of troops withdrawn remains unaltered. It substantiates the thinning out previously noted.

Casualties and Defects.

RIPLEY F.O.I.C. Aberdeen's 131200. RIPLEY has returned to harbour with serious condenser leak and will be unable to provide escort tomorrow. (A.C.O.S. 150932A to Admty.).

MARKAY S.O.S. de MARKAY. Position 57 degs. 46' 30" N. 6 degs. 26' 30" W. aground pounding heavily. (Burnham Radio, T.O.R. 152118 G.M.T.).

/We...

425

15.11.1943.
Monday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDSCasualties and DefectsMARKAY
(Contd.).

We need salvage tugs immediately.

(MARKAY, 152150 to Port Patrick Radio).

MARKAY aground in 57 degs. 46' 30" N. 6 degs. 26' W. at 1930A today.

(2) SAUCY is to be sailed with all despatch to assist and is to report the condition of MARKAY and whether further assistance is required.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 152224A to N.O.I.C. Aultbea).

Your 151930. SAUCY is being sailed forthwith from Loch Ewe to assist.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 152225A to MARKAY).

Lifeboat unnecessary.

(MARKAY, 152250Z to Port Patrick Radio).

Shipping and Convoys.

Flight "P". My 141041A. P.C.S. 180 degs. Bishop Rock 10 miles, 076 degs. 10.

Have not met any landing-craft except GRASSHOLM landing craft 306, in 049 degs. 32' N. 010 degs. 02' W. at 1325A/14. E.T.A. Falmouth 1000A/15.

(MAN O'WAR, 150305A to C. in C. Plymouth).

Expect Beaufighters to search for and report all ships from 0800 to 1200A/15.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 150554A to BLUEBELL, M/S.16).

My position 49 degs. 00' N. 05 degs. 20' W. DEXTEROUS towing L.C.T. 345 in company unable to make much northing. Request fighter protection.

(BLUEBELL, 150800A to C. in C. Plymouth).

A number of L.C.Ts. of Flight "P" are scattered and may be encountered between 49 degs. 20' N. and 50 degs. N. and between 5 degs. W. and 9 degs. 30' W. The following ships are searching in this area:-

BLUEBELL, SHIPPIGAN, ILFRACOMBE, QUALICUM, MAN O'WAR, GRASSHOLM, TALYBONT, tugs DEXTEROUS, EMPIRE RUPERT, MARAUDER.

(2) Any unescorted landing craft sighted west of 6 degs. 30' W. are to be reported immediately.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 151020A to PRINCE ROBERT).

Landing craft position 50 degs. 21' N. 08 degs. 07' W. engine unserviceable, request tug. Request instructions.

(A/C Duty Z, 151110A to 19 Group).

Ship reports may be adrift, immediate assistance requested.

(A/C Duty Z, 151245A to 19 Group).

Estimated positions at 2000A/15. BLUEBELL, DEXTEROUS, L.C.T.345 190 degs. Lizard 10'. EMPIRE RUPERT, L.C.T.311, 130 degs. Bishop Rock 10'. GRASSHOLM, L.C.T.306 280 degs. Bishop Rock 45'. QUALICUM, STORMKING 49 degs. 44' N. 7 degs. 58' W. TALYBONT, MARAUDER, 1 L.C.T. 50 degs. 15' N. 7 degs. 52' W. SHIPPIGAN, ILFRACOMBE, 50 degs. 10' N. 7 degs. 30' W.

(2) L.C.T.324, 332, 418, 421 unaccounted for, but one of these may be in company with TALYBONT and MARAUDER. Remaining landing craft have reached harbour except L.C.T.333, 343 and 385 which are known to have sunk.

(3) All ships making for Falmouth except SHIPPIGAN, ILFRACOMBE, QUALICUM, and STORMKING who R/V 180 degs. Bishop Rock 10 at 0800A/16 to continue search.

(4) Aircraft co-operation will be continual at daylight tomorrow.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 151911A to TALYBONT, GRASSHOLM).

/ H.X.265...

426

15.11.1943.

MondayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSShipping and Convoys - Contd.H.X.265,
S.C.146.

D/F Bearings at 0647Z of transmission of type not associated with sighting-reports corroborates estimation that there may be up to six U-boats in area 46 degs. to 48 degs. N. 25 degs. to 28 degs. W.

(D.D.I.C. 150918A to E.G.5, E.G.7, Escort H.X.265 and S.C.146).

Your 150918. Transmissions at 0647 apparently 30 to 60 miles from H.X.265 but bearings quite inconclusive. No stragglers. Weather 2775, 2824 (position) 4705 (last 3 groups corrupt).

(C.2, 150931Z to A.I.G. 303).

S.C.146. Ships straggling West of 027 degs. West have been ordered to proceed to Horta.

(C. in C.W.A. 151744Z to Escorts S.C.146).

PAPANUI

Intend to sail PAPANUI at 1000/16 for Colon. Route.

(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 151044A to Admty.).

K.M.F.26

SCYTHIA arrived Clyde.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 151146A to N.O.I.C. Cardiff).

My 141547 sailed.

(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 151559A to Admty.).

My 141728A. Sailed (negative ROTHER and JED).

ROTHAR sails later to overtake and R/V. JED delayed owing to defects.

(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 151718A to C. in C.W.A.).

My 141236A. Following items have been placed on board

SARMIENTO in accordance with your 131854A/November.

Survivors kits, 20 buoyant apparatus, food for 3000 men for 4 days, 14 life-saving nets, 1 emergency medical-chest, bedding and blankets, 300 lifebelts, mess utensils.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 151836A to C. in C.W.A.).

Sailed ROTHER to overtake and to R/V.

(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 152115A to C. in C.W.A.).

Clyde portion sailed in accordance with my 131104.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 152204A to admty.).

MONARCH OF BERMUDA, ARUNDEL CASTLE, SCYTHIA, ORION, DUNNOTAR CASTLE, HIGHLAND PRINCESS, DELPHINULA, FRANCONIA, SARMIENTO, CAMERONIA. Sailed at 152203.

(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 152206).

T.A.72,
(MAURETANIA)

My 141101. Sailed 24 hours late. Amend all times accordingly.

(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 151200Z to Admty.).

T.U.4A.

Convoy T.U.4A is required to sail on the 18th November or as soon after as practicable depending on the readiness of U.S. ships ex U.T.4A.

2. The convoy will include the following ships:-

EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA, ATHLONE CASTLE, BRITANNIC, CAPETOWN CASTLE, BRAZIL, EXAMINER, FREDERICK LYKES, GOETHALS, DURBAN CASTLE, EXPLORER, FAIR ISLE.

(3) Escort. Task Force 67 comprising FRANKFORD, (S.O.), CARMICK,

/DOYLE...

427

15.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

- T.U.4A.
(Contd.). DOYLE, ENDICOTT, MCCOOK, IRA, JEFFERY, LEE FOX and escort oiler SALAMONIE.
(D.O.D.H., 151217A).
A.M. 151217A. Route and Stragglers route, to New York except destination of EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA, FREDERICK LYKES, EXPLORER and GOETHALS is Boston.
(D.O.D.H. 151136A).
- D.F.16 Faeroes arrival COLL and FLATHOLM with MORIALTA.
(N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 151356A to A.C.O.S.).
Faeroes arrivals HAMLET with TORDENSKJOLD.
(N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 151631A to A.C.O.S.).
- O.N.212 GRENADIER detailed as rescue tug escort.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 151607A to Cdre. D.W.A.).
- F.D.16 Anticipated date of sailing F.D.16 18th.
Propose routeing MORIALTA, TORDENSKJOLD to Clyde.
(N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 151634A to A.C.O.S.).
- K.M.S.M.33 10 ships. Names and destinations.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 151644A to C. in C.W.A.).
- PRAGUE,
AMSTERDAM. Intend sailing transport PRAGUE escorted by CHARLESTOWN at 1800A/17th, speed 16 knots routed 5 miles east Fair Isle 058 degs. 56' N. 002 degs. 27' W. E.T.A. 2330/17th, thence in company with AMSTERDAM, E.T.A. Aberdeen 0745/18.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 151655A to A.C.O.S.).
- R.U.97 Cancel my 141715. MARKAY and ESSO HARTFORD are to be detached to Loch Ewe.
(C. in C.W.A. 151741A to Escort R.U.97).

428

15.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

M.K.F. 25A. Sailed Gib. section.
(F.O.C. Gib., 150133A.)

PERLE. Your 141241 to Admty. only and C. in C. Med.
091446. (L) 30° N. 18° W. (M) 30° N. 27° W.
(N) 31° N. 42° W. (O) 32° N. 59° W. thence to
Bermuda.
(D.O.D.(H), 151056A to F.O.I.C. Gib., (R) C. in
C. E. Med., Comnob. Oran, C. in C. Lant,
S.B.N.O.W.At.)

Axis shipping November 15th. 59, 61, 65, 66 fully loaded ready
Bilbao. for sea.
(H.M. Concul Bilbao, 151315 to M.E.W., (R) Admty.,
(D.N.I.), B.N.A. Madrid, S.O.(I) Gib.)
59 - KAULDI; 61 - BALDUR; 65 - SPERBER; 66 -
HOCHERINER.

Arrival 13th 59* (from Castro). Arrival 14th: 11/ (from
Rivadesella).
(H.M. Consul Bilbao, 151625 to Admty., S.O.(I) Gib.)
* KAULDI; / REGEJA.

CEYLON. My 141637. Sailed. Q.B.218, B.B.282, B.C.854.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 151607A to C. in C. Med.,
(R) Admty., C. in C. Levant, C. in C. E.F., Com.
N.O.B. Oran, Cdre. Algiers, F.O. Tunis, V.A.
Malta.)

Italian ships in Spanish ports. My 091745. M. of F.A. has informed H.M.
Ambassador he will release all Italian merchant
ships except 2 pending negotiation for charter
or transfer of (? these). I am in consultation
with department concerned as to which 2 ships
should be left and will make necessary arrange-
ments to sail others immediately this is agreed
upon. For time being and after consultation with Ambassador I
am saying nothing of this to Italians to avoid complications
or delay.
(Madrid, 152011A to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.I.C. Gib.)

South Atlantic.

U/B search, With view to intercepting Japanese blockade
Operation running submarine detected by D/F at 032139Z Nov.
"Barrage". Operation "Barrage" was carried out from 11th to
13th Nov. Air and surface forces searched to 43°
S. between 18° 20' E. and 21° 40' E.

/(2) ...

429

15.11.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.U/B search,
Operation
"Barrage".
(Contd.)

(2) HELFORD obtained bearing on ground wave of Japanese transmission at 121110Z indicating U-Boat within approx. 100 miles 010° from 41° S. 20° E.

(3) On 13th Nov. search was moved to area between 24° and 25½° E. to allow for speed between 7½ and 10 knots.

(4) Operation was terminated at 131700Z as no further results had been obtained. U-Boat was fixed in 39° S. 37° E. at 132145Z. (C. in C. S.A., 151031C to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.), Com. Durban, F.O.E.A.)

RECORDER,
cable
repair.

Departure RECORDER 1400Z/15th position 019° 41' 45" S. 057° 48'00" E. to repair cable p.m./22nd. (Durban, 151412Z.)

Operation
"Tabarin".

Request further details of Operation "Tabarin".

2. Only information so far received is that contained in Admiralty messages 011903, 061057, 061105 and N.O.I.C. Falkland Island 121216.

(C. in C. S.A., 151443C to Admty., (R) F.O.C.W.Af. N.O.I.C. Falkland Islands.)

HELFORD,
VERBENA
A/S
practices.

Request facilities may be given for HELFORD and VERBENA to carry out A/S practices at Kilindini as OTUS is out of action at Durban due to defects. (2) Intend both ships to sail from Durban 17th to overtake D.K.A.77 and act in support to Kilindini.

(3) Cdre. i/c Aden's 141622 refers.

(C. in C. S.A., 151515C to F.O.E.Af., (R) N.O.I.C. Durban, C. in C. E.F.(S.E.A.C.), Cdre. i/c Aden, HELFORD, VERBENA.)

430

15.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- M.G.Bs. Motor gunboats not yet arrived. Your 141518.*
Weather report.
(ROCKWOOD 150129B to C. in C. Levant (R) N.O.I.C. KastelOrizo.)* Not received.
- SHEFFIELD. On relief by (F.S. ORION)* request you will sail
SHEFFIELD to Algiers for routing to U.K.
(C. in C. Med. 150151A to V.A. Malta (R) F.O. 15th
C.S., N.O.I.C. Algiers, Admt., F.O.I.C. Gib.,
SHEFFIELD.) * Presumably H.M.S. ORION intended.
- FANTASQUE,
LE TERRIBLE. Arrived 14th.
(R.A. Alexandria 150736.)
- Enemy reports Aegean. W.D. Note. From 150815Z to 152345B. There was a
number of aircraft reports of enemy sightings.
These are reproduced in C. in C., M.E. 161420B.
- CEYLON. Onward route from 79 at 2200A/16th through War
Channels 299, 293, 275, 235 at 1400A/17th. 242 032°
58' 020° 00' E. at 0430A/18th. Then as ordered by
C. in C. Levant. 2. S. of A. 23 knots reducing to
15 knots between 79 and 299. 3. 207 "Valiant" 305 normal.
(C. in C. Med. 151101A to CEYLON (R) N.O.I.C. Bone, N.O.I.C. Bizerta
N.O.I.C. Malta, S.N.O. Cyrenaica, C. in C. Levant, C. in C.E.F.,
247 Wing, A.H.Q., A.D.E. Oran.)
- F.O.T.A.,
F.O.L.I. R.A. R. McGrigor assumed the duties of F.O.T.A. vice
V.A. A.M. Peters 15th, R.A. McGrigor also carries the
duties of F.O.L.I.
(F.O.T.A. 151127 to Admt., C. in C. Med., C. in C.
Levant, V.A. Malta, N.L.O. 15th Army Group, N.L.O.
8th Army, S.N.O. A.L. (E) F.O.W.I.T., D.4., C.F.W.,
N.O.'s.i/c. Sicily, Augusta, Syracuse, Catania,
Taranto, Brindisi, Bari. Air H.Q. Malta, N.L.O. 211,
Group, N.L.O. No. One M.O.R.U.)
- Med. Escort
Groups. Cancel 222B. Med. escort group are reconstituted as
follows:- 36th JONQUIL, PENTSTEMON, VETCH. 37th
CAMPION, DEPTFORD, FOWEY, FRISO, JOHAN MAURITS (D.S.)
46th ANEMONE, COLTSFOOT, CONVULVULUS, CUCKMERE.
- HYDERABAD. 48th BARLE, BERGAMOT, BRYONY, F.S. LA MALOUINE, MYOSOTIS
50th AIRE, ALISMA, SAXIFRAGE, SPIREA.
(C. in C. Med. 151131A to Med. Station and Levant 307B.)
- Destroyer
Levant Force. Personal. You will have seen how critical is the
situation at Leros. If we win the battle there, and
prospects are not too bad, shall be faced with a
continuation of the very strenuous programme my
depleted Destroyer Force has been carrying out the
last 2 months. Army will need the garrison further reinforced,
casualties, which must be heavy, replaced, and more supplies
run in, and this will have to be done quickly before the next moon.
2. Would be grateful if you would consider urgently the
possibility of gradually exchanging some of my present Fleets with
an equivalent number of

/yours...

15.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Destroyers, yours. Most of mine have had a very bad time at
Levant the hands of the German Air Force day and night and
Force. in my opinion must have a spell at some less
(Contd.) strenuous and hazardous work. 3. Can change round
the hands on escort work. 4. Many thanks for
FANTASQUE and TERRIBLE. If they can get through
they will be invaluable for running in men and supplies.
(C. in C. Levant 151145B to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.)

Air M.S.22114. A.330 15th. Daily Opsum 201.
reports. 14th. 16 Hurricanes straffing sweeps on Crete.
7 Hurricanes missing. 19 Beaufighters, 4 U.S.
Mitchells (B.25) on offensive sweeps round Leros
made no shipping sightings. 4 Baltimores (A.30)
Suda Bay sighted 1 4,000 ton M/V and another of 2,000 tons. Bombs
were aimed at larger vessel from 4,000 feet results unobserved.
Numerous small craft and one M/V 1,500 tons were attacked at the
jetty also with unobserved results. Protection was given to Naval
Units throughout the day and long range fighters made continuous
offensive sweeps over Rhodes. Continuous air activity throughout
the day over Leros included sorties by H.E.111, Ju.87s, and Ju.88s
and possibly some Arado 196s. Many anti-personnel bombs dropped.
M.E.109s. seen on patrol. 14/15 Nov. . 2 Dakotas successful over
Leros with supplies.
(H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 151156Z.)
172668. A/242 15 Nov. Signed Eisenhower. Part 3 Air
Cositintrep No.128 14 Nov. N.W.A.A.F. night 13/14. 8 Bostons
bombed the harbour of Civitavecchia. Day 14. Warhawks attacked
a Siebel Ferry near Split.
(Air Command Post No T.O.O/15.)

Para Bn. 3841.1 O/35472 15th. Your 86115 (S.D.5) of 5 Nov.
for 1943. Propose use 11 Para. Bn. to reinforce Leros
Leros. if necessary. Request immediate approval.
(C. in C. M.E. No T.O.O/15 to W.O.)
*Ref. your O/35472 of 15th. Approved. But trust you
can make arrangements which will ensure security of
passage by air. Should like further details.
(C. in C. M.E. 151440A to W.O.)*89222 (M.O.5) 15th.

Rocket Lieut. Comdr.Plunket reports he has secured two
bombs. P.C.500 rocket bombs from Foggia main aerodrome
fuzes 49 circle A.1. Further signal will be made
regarding despatch.
(N.O.I.C. Naples 151252A to C. in X.C.Med., Admty.,
D.U.B.D., F.O.W.I.T.)

M.K.S.31. Sailing signal. Augusta Section 30 ships.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta 151334A.)

TORBAY, TORBAY in 034° 10' N. 032° 43' E. at 0001/16
PENELOPE. Westbound 10½ knots. PENELOPE and destroyers in
034° 00' N. 032° 20' E. steering N.E. 22 knots.
(C. in C. Levant 151335B to PENELOPE, TETCOTT,
TORBAY, PATHFINDER, HAYDON (R) Capt. (S) 1 (one).)

/Attack...

432

15.11.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Attack on
enemy
destroyers.

NR. 1. Have attacked 2 enemy destroyers and estimate 1 hit. Position of enemy 37.06 N., 26.46 E. Course 120°. Speed 8 knots. Enemy accompanied by 5 aeroplanes. (A/C BSV/C 151335 J.9W).

U.G.S.22.

Onward route from 030° 00' N., 020° 00' E. 0830/18th (details). Escort. DELPHINIUM S.O., SAKTOURIS, KLO, WOLBOROUGH, APOSTOLIS. (C. in C. Levant, 151435)

ORIANA,
MATTHEW MAURY.

Intend to sail H.M. ORIANA towing MATTHEW MAURY escorted by THALASSA to Gib. at 0900A/16th. 2. Route. 3. S. of A. approx. 4 knots. E.T.A. 1200A/20th. 4. Codeword "Cadwallader". (Com. Algeria, 151610A F.O.I.C. Gib).

Situation
Aegean.

384264 0/35585 15th. Cositrep No. 56. 1 Int. A. Leros. One. Further identifications up to 1715 G.M.T. 14th show elements 2 Bn. 16 Gren. Regt. and 3 Bn. 440 Gren. Reg. both of Kos Assault Force among Tps. already on Leros but impossible say what proportion of any unit has been landed. PW of Bn. 16 Gren. Regt. states time table badly upset. Bn. intended land 12th but only landed 13th suffering heavy casualties to one coy. Number of PWs. to 1030 G.M.T. 14 Nov. 200. Two. No indications of heavy weapons having been landed up to 1715 G.M.T. 14th but clear that enemy must make every effort land these and reinforcements as soon as possible. 5. Naval Aegean. B.15 Nov. FURY, EXMOOR, KRAKOWIAK, arrived Limasol each carrying 10 tons amn. 7. Lebanon (C. in C. M.E., 151615B).

Crashed
German
A/C.

It is possible that aircraft mentioned in S.O.(I) Gibraltar 141802 may be D.O.217. In this case glider bomb control unit would be of utmost value if it could be obtained. (C. in C. Med., 151744A to F.O.C.Gib. (R) Admty. for D.N.I., M.A.C.) Subject. Twin engined plane sank Alicante Bay 2 German planes crashed in sea off Cabo Palos.

K.M.S/M.K.S.

Your 111727. To compensate for increased voyage time of K.M.S/M.K.S. convoys and to maintain minimum lay over of 10 days in U.K. for W.A. escort groups the following revised sailing programme is proposed:-

(a) K.M.S.35/O.S.61 sail Liverpool Dec.4th and then at 9 and 11 day intervals. (b) M.K.S.33 sail Alexandria Dec. 2nd and then at 10 day intervals. (c) S.L.142 sail Freetown Dec.1st and then at 10 day intervals. 2. Sailing date of K.M.S. convoys cannot be advanced by 2 days unless the date of M.K.S. is brought forward 1 day to allow the minimum lay over, para.1. 3. Request early remarks so that loading programme may be adjusted accordingly. (Approved A.C.N.S. (UT) for D.T.D.(983) 151759A to C. in C. Med., C. in C. W.A. Info. F.O.C.W.Af., F.O.C. Gib., C. in C. Levant, C. in C. S.A.)

/Leros...

433

15.11.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Leros: situation reports. Though improved yesterday still very critical and garrison are being subjected to still heavier bombing and M.G. attack. 2. Enemy estimated to have put in 2,000 troops by sea 500 by air first day. Very few reinforcements thought to have arrived and no heavy equipment up to last night. 3. Last night ECHO ferried 187 troops to Leros from Samos under frequent bombing attacks in full moon. To enable full speed to be used to save daylight he detached BELVOIR with 190 troops to Turkish Territorial waters. ECHO sank an F Lighter full of troops and guns off Alinda Bay at dawn and then withdrew to Pharos Bay where BELVOIR was. Latter's troops being ferried to Leros in small craft tonight. Ammunition and supplies being put in nightly by aircraft. 4. PENN, BLENCATHRA and ALDENHAM shot up small craft and enemy held foreshore at Alinda Bay at about 1815, then patrolled East of Leros under frequent air attack. Failed to find convoy of four lighters reported from Leros during first watch. Convoy probably turned back on information from enemy air R/C as no news of any attempted landings last night. 5. M.T.Bs. patrolling off East coast of Kalimno sank two landing craft full of troops. 6. Possible some of troops from Samos in small naval craft which failed to arrive on night 13th/14th May have arrived last night. 7. Communications with Leros becoming increasingly difficult. 8. Confirmed that G.A.F. are using glider bombs on destroyers by moonlight. ROCKWOOD produced a number of hits. (C. in C. Levant 151815Z.)

384357. 0/0278 15th to 1300B hours. 1. General. Counter attack of 14th achieved fair success and succeeded in opening comms. between North and centre of Island. Situation at 1945B/14th still obscure but appeared as follows. 2. Enemy held Appetici - Castello and had access to these through small bridgehead at St. Marina Bay 0942. His line then ran to P.T.100 080417 thence due North to 43 northing grid at Coast. He still held Vedetta 0945. 3. Our line incl. M.T. Meraveglia Southern P.T. Tgachi, Spur incl. Germano Spur 0742, Quirico, Glidi. Attack started 0800B/15 to eliminate enemy posn. Tgachi Spur and close Northern exits bridgehead. 4. At 1300B/15th reported that attack was making slow progress but hampered by terrific bombing aerial machine gunning and comm. difficulties. Tps. very tired. 5. One destroyer successfully disembarked 250 troops 2 R.W.K. from Samos night 14/15. R.N. report one F Lighter carrying tps. sunk by destroyer and 2 F Lighters also carrying tps. by M.L.S. 6. Air. Very heavy bombing throughout 14th. 12 Dakotas successfully dropped ammunition night 14/15 November. All informed. (C. in C. M.E. 152045B.)

Attack on DULVERTON.

Your 132015B para. 2 and C. in C. M.E.'s. 131745B para.5B. Request confirmation whether air attack on DULVERTON was made by glider bomb (Type H.S.293) or by dive bombers and whether glider bombs or F.X. bombs have yet been used in Aegean. (D.G.D. 151821A to C. in C. Levant, Info. C. in C. M.E.)

/HILARY...

434

15.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

HILARY. HILARY will be ready to sail from Gib. on and after 21st November. Your 121649 refers. It is however pointed out that with the exception of BISCAYNE who is suitable for small landings on divisional scale no other H.Qs. ships will remain this area. In event of damage to or departure of BISCAYNE control of a combined operation would be most difficult.
(C. in C. Med. 151840A to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.)

M.K.F.26, My 141436 S.E. M.K.F.26/XI.F.4, ANTWERP (S.O) CRETE*
X.I.F.4. from Port Said. BELVOIR, BEAUFORT, PINDOS from
Alexandria.
(C. in C. Levant 151923B)*(W.D. note ex HURSLEY.)

QUAIL. Was mined close off entrance to Bari at 1106/15th. Ship berthed in harbour badly damaged aft. Casualties 9 ratings dead 6 missing 5 seriously wounded.
(C. in C. Med. 151936A, 152200A.)
Capt. (D) 4's 151315. N.T. in W.D. QUAIL mined aft outside Bari at about 1100A/15th. Heavy damage from amidships to stern. Aft 4.7 gun blown overboard. Gearing room leaking and all abaft gear room flooded. Bodies of some missing ratings may still be in the flooded compartments remainder blown overboard. No officers killed nor wounded. My 0901A/16 contains nominal list of casualties.

(QUAIL 152215A to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.T.A., F.O.L.I. N.O.I.C. Bari, Combrax, Devonport, Capt. (D) 4.)

Aegean Intend issuing following communique. Text.
communique. (C. in C. Levant 152017B, 161733B, 171320B to Admty.)

Cyprus 15th. Arrived and left PHOEBE, LA MOQUEUSE, BOLO
movements. (Italian). Departures FURY, KRAKOWIAK, SANDWICH,
FAULKNER, BEAUFORT, PINDOS.
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta, Cyprus. 152331.)

435

15.11.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- U/B. My 142316 (N.T. in W.R.) Echo considered S/M which dived when star shell was fired. Subsequent A/S search failed re-locate.
(NIZAM 150135Z to C. in C.E.F.)
- M.B.54. Arrived M.B.54 escorted by SHOREHAM, MELAMPUS and BATHURST.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 150317Z to Admty.)
- India Air Report. A.257 15th Nov. daily opsum No. 610.
14th Nov. 1 Beaufighter Irrawaddy north of Mandalay. Paddle steamer 5 other river-craft damaged. 2 Beauforts shipping patrol Bombay/Ceylon
1 Wellington Arakan coast patrol. Attacked creek steamer and launch. Bawmi Bay. 3 x 250 lb. inst. No hits.
13th Nov. 4 U.S. Kittyhawks (P.40) damaged 20 (or 60) sunk 6 Sampans Santsaho (Tungting Lake.)
(A.H.Q. India 150714Z to Air Min.)
- S/M Patrols. Intended programme of submarine patrols. TEMPLAR 17th zones G. and F. TACTICIAN 27th zone C.
(Capt. 3.4 150720Z to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) (R) Admty.)
- HESPERIA, Sailed 0930Z/15th HESPERIA towing EMPIRE THANE
EMPIRE THANE. and escorted by ST. ANTONY due Cochin a.m.? 19th knots $6\frac{1}{2}$ (route).
2. No steam available EMPIRE THANE. HESPERIA draft 17 feet 7 inches overall length 205 feet.
Towing on wire no lifting gear. Essential local tugs take over at entrance to dredged Channel, chosen fighter codeword "Pendant" call sign BGW
(Bombay 151038Z to Admty.)
- R.A.Miles, In reply to para. two of your 122326 I suggest that
proposed Deputy Naval Commander South East Asia Command
title. (short title D.N.S.E.A.C.) would make it quite clear that R.A.Miles deputises for me in my absence from Delhi.
(C. in C.E.F. 151106Z to Admty.)
- TEVIOT BANK. TEVIOT BANK's slow speed makes her unsuitable for offensive minelaying operations in this theatre. No defensive lays are contemplated.
2. I have no objection to the suggestion contained in para. 1 of your 121221.
(C. in C.E.F. 151326Z to Admty.)

/South...

15.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

South East
Asia Air
Command
established
with effect
from 16th
November.

O.X. 94. 15 Nov.

Concurrently with and consequent on the appointment of a Supreme Allied Commander in South East Asia the Air Forces in that theatre are to be re-organized.

2. A new Air Command under the Supreme Allied Commander will be formed in New Delhi with effect from 16th Nov. 1943. This will be known as the South East Asia Air Command.

3. The status of A.H.Q. India will simultaneously be reduced and the A.O.C. India will remain under the direct control of the C. in C. India.

4. South East Asia Air Command will assume command of (A) all R.A.F. Units in India, Burma and Ceylon including training, maintenance and base units, with the exception of such units as may be lent by the Supreme Allied Commander to the C. in C. India for the local defence and internal security of India. (B) Any India Air Force Units which may be lent by the C. in C. India to the Supreme Allied Commander for operations.

5. A.H.Q. India will comprise (A) All Indian Air Force Units except those which may be lent by the C. in C. India to the Supreme Allied Commander for operations. (B) All R.A.F. Units which may be lent by the Supreme Allied Commander to C. in C. India for local defence and internal security of India.

6. R.A.F. Units and Indian Air Force Units wherever situated will be administered by the commands under which they are placed.

7. All R.A.F. Units whether under A.H.Q. India or S.E.A.A.C. will be transferred to British Establishments with effect from 16th Nov. 1943.

(Air Min. 151717Z to All R.A.F. Commands at Home and Overseas, Dechief, Rafdel Washington.)

Escort
Carriers,
maintenance.

Experience has shown that escort carriers require much more "nursing" than the usual run of ship.

2. In particular:

(i) As they are shorthanded, boiler cleaning parties are required from outside sources.

(ii) Berths alongside, or at buoys, are desirable

so that fires can be let out.

(iii) A considerable amount of repair work, chiefly welding is required.

(Dep. 1st S.L. 151809A to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) Info. F.O.C.T. Greenock C.C.O. (for R.A. Greenock).)

437

15.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

- O.N.209, CALDWELL. O.N.209. W.7. Am detaching and proceeding New York at 13 knots for evaporator repair having only 24 hours water remaining. E.T.A. New York entrance swept channel 0200Z/16th. O.N.209 P.C. and S. at 0400Z/15th. 039 degs. 29' 067 degs. 33' 254 degs. 7.5 knots. Weather report. (CALDWELL, 150302Z to C. in C. C.N.A., C.E.S.F.)
- FRIENDSHIP. Departure to Bermuda. (C. in C. C.N.A. 151116Z to S.B.N.O. W.At.)
- Stragglers Arrived Nov.13. Nov.12 GYLFE (Nor.) S.C.146. Damage from underwater explosion. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns, N.F.151303Z to Admty.)
- BARDALAND, CAMELIA. Swedish Government intimate that safe conduct vessels BARDALAND and CAMELIA will sail from St. John N.B. for Piraeus for standard route at 0700 hours 20th. (2) Request you will inform air and other authorities concerned. (Head of M.1, 151359A to N.S.H.Q., Info. C. in C. C.N.A., S.B.N.O. W.At., Connav, C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, F.O.C. Gib. S.B.N.O. Azores.)
- O.N.210. Escorts. (1) You will be relieved in Westomp 043 degs. 28' N. 052 degs. 36' W. at 1000Z/17th by group W.3 GEORGETOWN H/F D/F (S.O) LETHBRIDGE, SHAWINIGAN, BRANTFORD, GRANBY. (2) Proceed St. Johns (N.F.) upon relief negative MAYFLOWER who is to proceed direct to Halifax. (3) "Chop" 1000Z/16th. (F.O.N.F. 151401Z to S.E.C.O.N.210 (R) C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C., C. in C.C.N.A. Admty. N.S.H.Q., H.Q.C.C., C.T.F.24. Cdr.10th Fleet C. and R. Cmdr. D. Argentia Cmdre. D. W.A., S.B.N.O. Azores W.3.)
- F.T.19. British Fleet Tender 19 sailed 15th for Mediterranean in K.G.670 via Guantanamo 18th Trinidad and Recife. (Consular Shipping Advisor Keywest, 151401Z to Admty. (R) F.O.C. W.Af., C. in C. Med., N.S.H.Q. Kingston.)
- U.C.24 Numbers. Your 171522 Oct. limits U.C. convoy to 24 ships. Present entry 24 U.S. Flag ships for U.C.6 excludes STRAAT SOENDA (Du.) 16 knots for Galveston. Request favourable consideration for inclusion of this ship. Connaveu agreed. (D.T.D. 151455Z to Connav, Info: Connaveu.) This is Cominch's 152031. Regret that small size of escort

group/...

438

15.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

- U.C.24
Numbers.
(Contd.) group precludes inclusion of more than 24 ships.
Refer your 151455.
(Comnaveu, 152301Z to Admty.)
- QUEEN
MARY
(A.T.77) Departed Ambrose 1426Z/15th for Clyde. E.T.A.
Little Cumbrae 1230 1230Z/21st. S. of A.
26.5 knots.
(P.D. New York, 151500Z to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)
- Landing
Ships
and
Craft. My 300023 Oct. American reports from all
authorities except one are ready for presentation
to C.C.S. Apart from N.A.F. 506 we have no
corresponding British information. When may
this be expected?
(B.A.D. 151511Z to Admty.)
- N.S.H.Q. S/M. (N.S.H.Q. 151512Z)
Estimate.
- U.S.S/M. (Cominch, 151601Z)
Estimate.
- P.554. On departure accordance my 131754 as modified
by my 142009 P.554 held QJA 247.
C.157, H.108.
(Comsublant, 151604Z to Com. 1, C. in C. C.N.A.)
- U-Boat. Possible submarine sound contact and attack at
08.25 S. 34.31 W. 1949/15.
(Trinidad Radio, 152017 to Any U.S. Warship.)
- H.H.X.266. Departure THE PAS, OAKVILLE, NORANDA escorting
H.H.X.266, HEPATICA with M.A.C., M.A.C. R.A.E.
to H.H.X. 266.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 152041Z to Admty.)
- T.A.71. Sailed from U.K. 13th for New York.
(D. of S.T. 152228A to B.M.W.T. New York, B.A.D.,
(R) N.S.H.Q.)
- EMPIRE
BATTLEAXE,
number of
passengers. Master of EMPIRE BATTLEAXE now states he cannot
declare more than 13.7 knots in the standard
conditions of wind force four and moderate sea.
B.M.W.T. are therefore sailing her in H.X.267
with 435 U.S. troops embarked, conforming to
British rule for trade convoy.
(2) For your information and as a guide to
current Navy Dept. views. In answer to our
request made in accordance with Navy Dept. memo quoted in para.
2 of my 032235 and before it was known that ship could not

qualify/

439

15.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

EMPIRE
BATTLEAXE,
number of
passengers.
(Contd.)

qualify for C.U. speed, Cominch had today
authorised the embarkation of 450 U.S. troops
in EMPIRE BATTLEAXE in convoy C.U.7.
(B.A.D. 152333Z to D. of S.T.)

Australia and New Zealand.

O.21.

Concur your 120508 W/T cover for passage of O.21
from Australia to Colombo.
(A.C.N.B. 150253Z to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty.
C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.) Capt.(S) 4, N.O.I.C.
Fremantle.)

Digest
Serial
No.664
Nov.14th.

(2) Previous night 3 Catalinas bombed wharf
areas Sorong while 2 more hit Waterfront Boefa
causing explosions fires both targets.
(3) Three Navy Catalinas had successful predawn
search northwest Rabaul. First reported Convoy
described as 2 destroyers 3 large merchantmen,
40 miles northwest Rabaul course 172 degs. refer
Digest No.663 para. 9. Two hours later second plane scored
direct hit quarter ton bomb large freighter accompanied by 1
tanker, 2 medium cargo ships, 1 probable small escort heading
North West 20 miles North of earlier sighting. Approx. same
time third Catalina put 1,000 ton bomb into light Cruiser
accompanying 1 large Merchantman, 1 small ship 18 miles North
West Rabaul headed thereto.
(4) Nine Mitchells struck Coastal Targets, including suspected
barge hideouts near Sio forenoon.
(5) Our patrol craft sank 3 barges damaged fourth along coast
Sio to Finschhafen, also engaged enemy camp area Bonga (10 miles
North of Finschhafen).
(7) Forward elements made minor advances Empress Augusta Bay
11th November. 7 Jap planes raider our positions that night
inflicting some casualties. Patrols active next day contacting
small party enemy.
(8) Prisoner captured this area states landing Laruma river night
6th/7th from 4 destroyers direct from Rabaul. Each destroyer
carried small landing barges and collapsible boats.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 150515Z)

15.11.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 151353A, 151354A)

Submarines Attacked.

Submarine
Attack
and
sighting
Summary for
24 hours
to 0900Z/15.

Para. B. (1) LANDGUARD attacked suspected
contact at 2045/12th in 11 degs. 58' N. 48 degs.
57' E.
(2) Aircraft E/272 sighted C/T of U-Boat at
0720/14th in 35 degs. 50' N. 04 degs. 43' W.
(D.D.I.C. 151037A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)