

16.11.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

U-Boat  
 attacked.

1. A/C from BITER which, with Escort Group C.2, is escorting Convoy H.X.265, attacked and possibly damaged a U-Boat ahead of the Convoy about 800 miles West of Ushant this morning; and at 0915Z S.O. of C.2 reported that the 5th and 7th Escort Groups were hunting this U-Boat and another. BITER has been ordered to remain with the Convoy.

Plymouth  
 bombed.

2. Plymouth, which has been closed to traffic since yesterday on account of mines, was raided by A/C early this morning. No naval casualties are reported and the damage caused was slight.

Flight "P".

3. L.C.T.418 is still unaccounted for, and TANATSIDE sailed from Falmouth at 1940A to assist TALYBONT and A/C in searching for her. (It was later reported that TALYBONT depth charged L.C.T. 418 in approx. 48.39 N. 06.30 W.; the landing craft was seen afterwards to be settling).

TANNENFELS.

4. The blockade-breaker TANNENFELS which was found on the 10th November to have left the Gironde, was photographed yesterday at Brest.

Mediterranean.

Hospital  
 ship  
 attacked.

5. U.S. Army Hospital ship SHAMROCK reported at 0300 G.M.T. that she was being attacked by enemy aircraft in 39.26 N. 12.32 E. (in the Tyrrhenian Sea.)

French  
 naval  
 units.

6. A message from C. in C. Mediterranean today gives the movements and plans for the immediate future for the major French units in the Mediterranean - Africa area.

Adriatic.

7. Sibenik was bombed today and the docks and harbour were hit.

/Fall ...

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SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Fall of  
Leros.

8(a) The enemy appears to have got some reinforcements into Leros last night. The situation deteriorated during the night, but was partly restored by counter attack this morning. Two more companies of the King's Royal Rifles arrived last night in small naval craft, one being ex - BELVOIR (see 15th November).

(b) PENN and ALDENHAM operated off Leros last night, but made no contacts. They carried out a dawn sweep close east of Leros where PENN was shelled and holed above the waterline without suffering casualties or serious damage. PENN and ALDENHAM withdrew south with 80 wounded transferred by small craft from Leros today; they are to overtake and provide escort for BLENCATHRA and ROCKWOOD after daylight tomorrow.

(c) At 1126B C. in C. Levant reported that communication with the island had ceased except by portable W/T in plain language.

(d) An evacuation scheme by caiques is ready, and C. in C. Levant hopes that naval craft will be able to get away some personnel. Orders were given this evening for the emergency evacuation scheme to begin tomorrow night.

(e) C. in C. Levant is using Turkish waters as a base for offensive operations to the full. Three M.T.Bs. and two M.G.Bs. are to act as a striking force tonight.

(f) ECHO and BELVOIR left the Aegean north of Rhodes last night after detaching BLENCATHRA with repair materials to join ROCKWOOD and tow her out of Losta Bay.

(g) FURY, EXMOOR and KRAKOWIAK arrived at Mandelyah Gulf from Limasol today.

(h) Organised resistance on Leros ceased this evening. It was subsequently reported that the island officially capitulated at 2000B today.

(i) Beaufighters attacked a Siebel ferry off Levitha today with cannon; it blew up.

(j) Since 11th November one B.Y.M.S, one M.F.V. and one L.C.M. are unaccounted for and their present whereabouts are unknown.

Raid on  
Symi.

9. A small but most successful raid was made on Symi last night. H.Q. in Symi town was partly destroyed; the O.C. troops was killed, the power station partially destroyed and the main ammunition dump was destroyed. Four caiques were destroyed and 3 damaged. Our casualties were nil. The 22 Fascist casualties included 3 Germans.

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SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

10(a) Admiral Mountbatten today assumed command as Supreme Allied Commander S.E. Asia and set up his headquarters in New Delhi.

(b) Concurrently with this appointment, the Air Forces in the area are being reorganised. (See A.M. 151717Z.)

China.

Kowloon  
attacked.

11. U.S. Liberators and 2 U.S. Mitchells with fighter escort attacked Kowloon Docks today and sank a 250 ft. (or 520 ft.) ship. 15 U.S. Liberators bombed the docks as a diversion for 6 U.S. Liberators laying mines: the mission is reported to have been very successful.

12. 4 U.S. Mitchells sank two 200 ft. freighters near St. Johns Island (South China) and made a direct hit on a 500 ft. vessel.

Australia and New Zealand.

13. A force including 2 destroyers, 2 cargo vessels and two other escorts was attacked north of Rabaul last night by 3 different Catalinas over a period of 6 hours. One Catalina made direct hits with 1000 lb. and 250 lb. bombs on a large cargo vessel. Half an hour later, another Catalina reported that there were only 5 vessels in the convoy.

14. Two Beaufighters made a barge sweep off the south coast of New Britain this forenoon, and destroyed several small craft near Cape Dampier.

15. A Liberator made two direct hits on a small coaster 40 miles north-east of Hansa Bay (north side of New Guinea) this forenoon. The vessel was probably destroyed.

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Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

German, Japanese Naval Enthusiasm. After many months of complete indifference there has been very recently a sudden revival of interest by Japanese Legation in German Naval Affairs. It would appear that Japanese have reported

German intention of paying off heavy warships in North Norway as a result of which Tokyo Government has urged their representatives in Berlin and

Stockholm to encourage German Navy to maintain these vessels in commission. These instructions have resulted in visits complimentary letters and even presents from Japanese to their German Naval contemporaries.

2. On November 13th Admiral Abe passed Stockholm from Berlin by special aircraft accompanied by two staff officers en route Oslo where Admiral Schrader is to conduct him round Norwegian Bases.

3. Meanwhile Japanese military attache who is usual spokesman on current opinions within their Legation has expressed official view that it is of vital importance to Japan that Germany should maintain her heavy ships in commission in order to "contain" British Battleships in U.K. and thus preventing them from sailing to Eastern waters.

With this theme in mind he is at present entertaining German Legation Officials in Stockholm prior to visiting Berlin on November 17th where Admiral Abe should (?meet) him November 20th on return from Norway.

(N.A. Stockholm 161124 to D.N.I.)

Comment.

SCHARNHORST, TIRPITZ and the necessary destroyer force are at present in N. Norway - although TIRPITZ will probably not be fit for operations for a considerable period there is at present no indication that either TIRPITZ or SCHARNHORST is to be paid off. It is possible that the threat to do so has been made in order to obtain some reciprocal benefit from Japan.

The Japanese point of view is sufficiently obvious. Rear Admiral Abe is now head of the Naval Mission in Europe (having relieved Nomura).

Russian procedure. (Mails.)

Anticipate mail for Russia will arrive Inlet 24/25 November and as yet no alteration of procedure re ships has been promulgated. I am unaware of the present position and request early information. 2. All mail for onward transmission in Russia will have to go by courier and I will not (corrupt

group) H.M. Ships in Kola Inlet to collect, or sort the mail on arrival.

3. If mail is to be handed over to Murmansk post office as before, consider endless delay and difficulties will occur in view of quantity of mail; moreover loss of mail has already been experienced locally.

4. Your 061652 para. 5 and Admiralty's 071400 para. 2 (c) refer. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 161212A to 30 Mission.)

Movements.

FORMIDABLE.

Your 151632 para. 6. Proceed as requisite to pass Clyde Boom at 0800A/19 so as to arrive Banger Bay at 1300A/19th.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 161104A to FORMIDABLE.)

/RICHELIEU...

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RICHELIEU. F.O.C.Gib. 131514A. Onward route from J. to M. 000° Butt of Lewis 10 miles.  
(C. in C.W.A. 161633A to RICHELIEU.)

S/M Move- Positions of submarines at 0800/17 and movements  
ments. for following 24 hours.  
(F.O.S. 161656, 161748A, 170827A.)

North Disposition of operational units in North Atlantic  
Atlantic Area Scapa DUKE OF YORK, HOWE, KING GEORGE V,  
Dispositions. AUGUSTA, RANGER, 9 destroyers, 1 U.S. destroyer.  
Area Iceland (C) TUSCALOOSA, BELFAST, ANSON, KENT,  
BERMUDA, JAMAICA, 8 destroyers, 4 U.S. destroyers.  
Area Plymouth PRINCE ROBERT, 1 destroyer.  
Ocean Escort BIRMINGHAM. Patrol Bay of Biscay GLASGOW.  
2. Disposition of Escort Carriers: Clyde FENCER. Operating in  
Atlantic BITER. Argentia TRACKER.  
(D.O.D.H. 161900A to C. in C.U.S.Fleet.)

Operations

Bay Patrol. Unidentified craft position 44° 51' N. 05° 58' W.  
course (?probably) 020° 10 knots 1200 tons.  
(A/C Duty N 160145 to 19 Group.)

Am over enemy submarine in 48° 06' N. 08° 45' W.  
Enemy was on surface on course 090.  
(A/C Duty D 160206 to 19 Group.)

P.C. and S. of enemy (one merchant vessel) 43° 50' N. 07°  
55' W. 265° 8 knots.

(A/C Duty T 160300A to 19 Group.)  
Disposition at 162000.

2. ORIBI 046° 27' N. 017° 17' W. to 044° 08' N. 018° 00' W. 12 kts

3. GLASGOW patrolling vicinity 038° 40' N. 013° 44' W. and 041°  
06' N. 015° 57' W.

(C. in C.Plymouth 161550A and 161708A to Admty.)

Have A.S.V. contact, probably U-Boat.

(A/C Duty G 161735A to 19 Group.)

Operation My 152326. All patrols cancelled owing to weather.  
S.F. (C. in C.Rosyth 160829A to H.F.)

Position at 162000.

HYDRA, HOUND, READY, RATTLESNAKE searching the  
vicinity 062° 24' N. 013° 50' W.

(A.C.O.S. 161131A to Ships.)

My 141955. Port bilge keel now entirely missing. Starboard bilge  
keel partially detached, possibly entire missing. 2 attacks made  
on possible U-Boat in 62° 04' 14" 02' at 0230Z/16 with no results.

(M/S 18 161334 to C. in C.Rosyth.)

Your 161334. If A/S efficiency is materially affected by  
damage READY is to proceed Hvalfjord.

(C. in C.Rosyth 161806A to M/S 18.)

Your 161806A. In present favourable weather A/S efficiency  
in no way affected. Intend to remain on patrol. Weather 9090 2961

(M/S 18 161935N to C. in C.Rosyth.)

"Moorings" area is being moved 120 miles 225° from normal  
tomorrow and is being flown by 6 Sunderlands, 2 Liberators, and  
12 Hudsons or P.V.Ones.

(C. in C.Rosyth 162308A to H.F.)

/Operation...

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Operation Intend proceed KENT with BERMUDA and JAMAICA  
F.T. passing Hoxa Gate at 0630A tomorrow, thence by  
route "Brown".

2. E.T.A. Seidisfjord 1400A/18.  
(C.S.1 161142 to A.C.O.S.)

Your 151510. Confirmed. (LORD AUSTIN.)  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 161236A to Admty.)

Your 131741. If practicable request HUSSAR may refuel at  
sea in order to reinforce local escort for R.A.54B.  
(S.B.N.O.N. Russia 161515A to C. in C.H.F.)

Operation Present approval for transfer of British craft for  
"Overlord". manning by U.S.N. for "Overlord" is for 5 L.C.G.  
(L), 12 L.C.T.(R), 11 L.C.F. and 48 L.C.P.(L).  
Your 111852 indicates it is now desired 6 L.C.G.  
(L) and 6 L.C.G.(M) be manned by U.S.N.

2. Request you will confirm that no other changes are desired  
before above are put to U.S. Naval Authorities for formal  
agreement.

3. Subject to above request also that you will state whether  
you wish the 48 L.C.T.(A) to be organised into four flotillas  
of twelve as at present intended or into three Flotillas of 16.  
(D.R.O.C.O. 161203A to A.N.C.X.F.)

A.M. 061838 October and N.S.H.Q. 082128 and 231643 Oct.  
and A.M. 262115 Oct. Admiralty attach particular importance to  
complying with A.M. 061838 para. 1. Have received further  
assurance that any outstanding items will be completed in U.K.  
on arrival.

(S:C.N.O. London 161444A to N.S.H.Q.)

Coastal Patrols 16th November weather permitting P.C.W.O.  
Force 120. 1. A. Force 113, M.T.Bs. 673, (S.O.), 664,  
Patrols. 676. B. 2000A/16. C. 100 Start 22. D. Vicinity  
of C. F. 0645A/17. 2. A. Force 114, M.G.Bs. 329  
(S.O.), 322. B. 2000A/16. C. 160 Start 15.  
D. Vicinity of C. F. 0645A/17.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 161314A.)

Force 115. M.T.Bs. 94 (S.O.), 91, 92, 90, 227. B. 1800A/16.  
C. XX. 048 Sept Isles 8 25 knots. D. Reduced speed through 000  
Triagoz 35, thence on course 252 continuing to westward to 320  
Ile de Bas 8. YY. E. Interception of enemy shipping. F. From  
Western end in time to be within 30 miles of own coast at first  
light. G. Direct.

(C. in C.Plymouth 161741A.)

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

A. VENTURER and SATYR as in my 151752. VENTURER  
leaves patrol at 2000/17 through 71° N. 17° E.

probably on the surface at 8 knots towards 69° N. 11° E.  
B. STORM 69° 55' N. 12° 15' E. through 71° 16' N. 16° 20' E. to  
patrol off Hjelmsoy, probably on the surface at 10 knots.

C. SEANYMPH 67° 05' N. 06° 58' E. through 69° 01' N. 09° 56' E.  
towards 71° 10' N. 16° 10' E. probably on the surface at 10 knots.

D. SCEPTRE 66° 22' N. 05° 56' E. following SEANYMPH.  
(F.O.S. 161656 to Admty.)

/Operation...

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Operations - Contd.

Operation "Applejack". My 152315 and 160705. Operation "Applejack" is cancelled.  
(C. in C.H.F. 162344A to C.T.F.121.)

Allied Air Activity.

RICHELIEU. "Stipple" for 17 Nov. Owing to priority of forthcoming operations not covering RICHELIEU.  
(A.C.H.Q. Liverpool 161807A to A.C.H.Q. S.S.S.)

Portsmouth Command. My 032112 and 061532. At a meeting held at H.Q.C.C. on 9th November my representative was informed that a Directive has been given to H.Q.C.C. to establish a Flight of Ten Albacores, and that H.Q.C.C. had asked for this establishment to be increased to fifteen. It was stated that without this increase it would not be practicable to maintain a detachment at Thorney Island. H.Q.F.C. 151435 October and 041920 November both definitely indicated that Albacores would be available for the Portsmouth Command. The resumption of E-Boat attacks on south coast convoys has made the presence of an air striking force essential and I hope there will be no delay in establishing this force.  
(C. in C.Portsmouth 161904 to Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Plymouth bombed. Approximately 12 aircraft raided Plymouth between 0505 and 0620. Raid not serious. One H.E. dropped near pattern shops, south yard, damage not thought to be serious. Small fire, now out in Sergeants mess, Royal Marine Barracks. Blast damage to W.R.N.S. quarters Mannamead. No naval casualties reported.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 160720 to Admty.)

Mining.

Start Bay. R.A.F. Exeter and C.H.L. Station Kingswear report possibility of mine-laying by aircraft between Dart Buoy and Prawle Point.  
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 161015A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Q.Z.S.417. Intend sailing LFRACOMBE at 0800A/17 to Plymouth sweeping Q.Z.S.417 on route. E.T.A. 1400A/17.  
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 162000A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Unknown ships. 2 unknown ships 49° (?30') N. 08° 10' W.  
(A/C Duty L 160030 to 19 Group.)  
P.C. and S. of enemy, one tanker, 48° 50' N. 07° 24' W. 120° 6 knots.  
(A/C WNZ/C 160406A to 19 Group.)

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Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence - Contd.

TANNENFELS. A.M. 110838A. P.R.U. of Brest a.m. 16th shows TANNENFELS present.  
(D.D.I.C. 161650A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Navigational.

Plymouth. Port of Plymouth will be opened from 1000A/17.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 162214A to Admty.)

Casualties & Defects.

MARKAY. Your 152224A. Sailed tugs SAUCY and EMPIRE PIXIE.  
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 160009A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
Position Eugenie Rock MARKAY is holed in fore of well-deck and putting salvage air in fore peak.  
Ready for towing in 3 to 4 hours. Gaining on the water.  
SAUCY connected and commenced towing at 0400. MARKAY states no further assistance will be required.  
(SAUCY 160400Z to C. in C.W.A.)

MARKAY requests assistance further tug and air-compressor.  
Still aground Eugenie Rock.

(SAUCY 160944A to C. in C.W.A.)

Sail BUSTLER with all despatch to assist MARKAY aground on Eugenie Rock, Skye. SAUCY and two harbour tugs are standing by. BUSTLER's air compressor will be required.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 161157A to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown.)

Proceed with all despatch to assist MARKAY aground on Eugenie Rock Isle of Skye 57° 47' N. 6° 28' W. Vessel is holed forward and compressed air is required. Tugs SAUCY, EMPIRE PIXIE and EMPIRE SPIKE standing by.

(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 161201 to BUSTLER.)

Sailed tug EMPIRE SPRITE to assist SAUCY.

(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 161235A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Sailed POLKA. Capt. V.R.Radcliffe R.N.R. on board to investigate MARKAY.

(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 161245A.)

Sailed BUSTLER, E.T.A. Eugenie Rock 0230A/17th.

(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 161245A.)

Tugs BUSTLER and EMPIRE SPRITE proceeding with all despatch.

(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 161432A to SAUCY.)

Sailed tug EMPIRE PIXIE to assist.

(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 161557A to SAUCY.)

Sailed tug HECTOR for Eugenie Rock. E.T.A. 2200. Has derrick to lift air-compressor.

(N.O.I.C. Lochalsh 161712A to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

EMPIRE PIXIE towing with SAUCY and EMPIRE SPRITE. MARKAY not yet floating.

(SAUCY 161820A to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

JANUS. Proceed passing Switha 1700A/16th to Plymouth routed through Minches North Channel Q.Z.L. 15 and searched channels in force. Admiralty's 152200 refers.  
(R.A.D. 161212A to JANUS.)

SUNFLOWER. SUNFLOWER requires docking urgently for A/S repairs. It is understood that ship can be

/accepted...



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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

- SUNFLOWER. accepted Belfast p.m. 17th. Estimated time in dock 24 hours. Ship is being sailed in anticipation of approval.  
(Cdre. D.W.A. 161300A to Admty.)
- SUTTON. Arrival SUTTON for refit at Grimsby.  
(F.O.Humber 161315A to F.O.Harwich.)
- READY. Bilge-keels defective.  
See Operation S.F.
- UMBRA. 1. It is understood that UMBRA will be towed from Fishguard to Milford Haven weather permitting on 17th Nov. After about 4 days at Milford Haven it is hoped to make one engine available at reduced power. This will enable her to charge batteries but not to steam any distance. Admiralty is therefore requested to detail a tug to tow UMBRA from Milford Haven to Portsmouth as soon as she has one engine available. Further repairs will then be carried out by 5th S.F. resources. My 141956 refers.  
(F.O.S. 161601A to Admty.)
- VIMY. VIMY delayed by flooding bomb-room with fuel when oiling. Estimated date of departure on completion of repairs 25th November.  
(F.O.I.C.N.I. 161758A to C. in C.W.A.)
- SKOMA. My 161704A. Returned with engine defect.  
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 161848A to WESTERN ISLES.)

Shipping & Convoys.

- Flight P. BLUEBELL and party at D.3 at 2351 proceeding Falmouth.  
(N.O.I.C. Falmouth 160012A to Escorts P.W.431.)  
Arrived BLUEBELL and DEXTEROUS towing L.C.T.345.  
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 160442A to C. in C.Plymouth.)
- Your 161038 and aircraft 0603. Signal thought to have been made by L.C.T. reported by aircraft near this position on course 070°.
2. Hudson aircraft has been despatched to search.
3. My 160613. L.C.T.418 not in Falmouth, still unaccounted for.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 161130A to M/S 16.)  
My P.C. and S. 230° Wolf Rock 10 miles, 055° 10 knots.  
Intend anchoring Mounts Bay to investigate heavy vibration port main engine gearing.  
(ILFRACOMBE 161131 to C. in C.Plymouth.)  
If fuel permits proceed to search for L.C.T. reported by aircraft at 1300A drifting with crew on board in 048° 42' N. 006° 40' W. Section of Beaufighters will cover until 1700A.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 161500A to TALYBONT.)  
Landing barge 48° 27' N. 08° W.  
(A/C Duty E. 161730A to 19 Group.)  
Over L.C.T. drifting, position 48° 06' N. 008° 10' W.
- Circling.  
(A/C Duty C 161817A to Fort Southwick.)

/Request...

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- Flight P.  
(Contd.) Request you will sail TANATSIDE as soon as ready to patrol in the vicinity of position X. 049° 20' N. 006° 30' W. to support TALYBONT search for L.C.T. in approx. position Y. 048° 42' N. 006° 40' W. If nothing found TALYBONT retires to northward at 0530/17th.
2. Bombing restrictions arranged 40 miles either side of line joining Bishop Rock and position Y. and 40 miles radius from position Y.
3. Leigh Light Wellington will co-operate with TALYBONT from 1920/16th.
4. Estimate up to 4 ELBING Class destroyers in Brest.
5. Cancel reference to TANATSIDE in my 161545.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 161834A to N.O.I.C. Falmouth.)  
Departure TANATSIDE.  
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 161940A to C. in C.Plymouth.)  
Sail DEXTEROUS to 135° Bishop Rock 15 miles to await further orders.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 162237A to N.O.I.C. Falmouth.)  
If nothing sighted at first light return to Plymouth. Detach STORMKING south of Bishop Rock to proceed by standard route to Campbeltown.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 162314A to M/S 16.)

H.X.265. H.X.265 possibly reported at 2206/15th but no  
U-Boat further close activity until A/C from BITER attac-  
k attacked and possibly damaged U-Boat ahead of convoy.  
by A/C 5th and 7th Escort Groups hunting this U-Boat and  
from BITER. another. They transmitted on series 8 about 5B  
barred signals close to convoy between 0719Z and  
0744Z. No attack on convoy. No stragglers.  
P.C. and S. 048° 47' N. 025° 41' W. 047° 9.4 kts.  
at 0900Z.  
(C.2 160915Z to C. in C.W.A.)

D/F of transmissions at 0719Z, 0732Z, and 0734Z indicates that H.X.265 has been reported.

(D.D.I.C. 160928A to Escorts H.X.265, E.G.7.)

Your 160945. H.X. 265. 5th Escort Group has not parted company. Search is being carried out for U-Boat sighted by aircraft and detected by Escort.

One torpedo exploded 2000 yards ahead of NENE at 1000Z in 265 ZZ 24. Weather 3572 3225.

(E.G.5 161155 to C. in C.W.A.)

It is highly important that you complete with fuel as quickly as possible. If still with H.X.265 commence fuelling forthwith. If now proceeding to S.C.146, fuel immediately on arrival.

2. Report anticipated time of completing fuel as soon as this can be reasonably forecast.

(C. in C.W.A. 161313A to E.G.5.)

Your 161313A. 5th Escort Group parted company 1415 in 254° ZZ 58 and has not fuelled. Proceeding to join S.C.146, E.T.A. 0300/17th.

(E.G.5 161521Z to C. in C.W.A.)

BITER remain with H.X.265 and detach forthwith FOLEY, GARLIES, BSSINGTON to overtake remainder of 7th Escort Group.

2. My 161324. PHEASANT to assume S.O. of 7th Escort Group.

(C. in C.W.A. 162045A to BITER, PHEASANT.)

/Your...

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- H.X.265. U-Boat attacked, by A/C from BITER. (Contd.) Your 162045A. GARLIES and FOLEY detached forthwith. ESSINGTON to overtake them after fuelling daylight 17th. (BITER 162110Z to C. in C.W.A.) D/F bearings at 2129Z indicate U-Boat in your vicinity. (D.D.I.C. 162345A to E.G.5.)
- Stragglers. Stragglers return for week ending November 16th. T.U.4 FAIR ISLE Feed pump defect. O.N. 211 CHAMP CLARK Damaged lifeboats and bulwarks returned to Clyde on orders from Commodore. O.N. 210 STANHILL Unable to maintain speed. (N.C.S.O.Clyde 160915A to Admty.)
1. Stragglers arrived nil.
  2. Returned from Convoy O.N.M.211 SS. ELIPHALET NOTT, engine defects.
- Returned from Convoy O.S.M.59/K.M.S.M. 33 SS. THISTLEFORD, collision damage.  
(N.C.S.O.Milford Haven 161936A to Admty.)
- R.U.97. Arrived less MARKAY and JOHN GORRIE. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 160916A.)
- P.S.16. P.S.16 cancelled. (C. in C.Portsmouth 160936A.)
- S.C.147, E.G.2, TRACKER. Capt. D.Argentia 151915Z. Request you will sail 2nd Escort Group including TRACKER when ready to overtake and support S.C.147. (C. in C.W.A. 161006A to F.O.N.F.)
- PAPANUI. PAPANUI sailed at 0933/16th. E.T.A. 1st Dec. (N.C.S.O. Gourock 161009A to Admty.)
- K.M.F.26. Convoy sailed composed and escorted as in A.M. 062109A with addition of WOODPECKER to escort. Routed as in A.M. 091742A. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 161014A to C. in C.W.A.)
- My 151718. Intend sailing JED 1900A/16 to overtake. Standard route to K.3 Buoy thence Q.Z.L. 53. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 161256A to C. in C.W.A.)
- Sailed JED to overtake. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 161906.)
- To enable JED and SPEY to join convoy at an earlier time course is to be reversed for 4 hours at daylight tomorrow. (C. in C.W.A. 161933A to Escorts K.M.F.26.)
- Proceed to overtake convoy via North Channel. (C. in C.W.A. 161935A to JED.)

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Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- O.N.211. A. 1100Z/14. B. C.5 OTTAWA H/F D/F, WASKESIU H/F D/F, ROSTHERN, DAUPHIN, WETASKIWIN, ARVIDA, DIANTHUS. Rescue ship ABOYNE H/F D/F M.A.C.Ship EMPIRE MACANDREW fitted Radar. C. Fifty.  
(C. in C.W.A. 161040Z to C. in C.C.N.A.)  
GOLDEN EAGLE has been given position as in your 160943Z and ordered to join.  
(C. in C.W.A. 161535A to Escorts O.N.211.)
- M.K.S.29. Ships are to proceed unescorted from daylight 17th. Your 161005Z refers.  
(C. in C.W.A. 161524A to HIGHLANDER.)
- O.S.59/  
K.M.S.U.33. 4 ships. Names and destinations.  
(N.C.S.O.Loch Ewe 161604A to Admty.)  
Sailed BETONY and ROSEBAY as additional escorts to K.M.S. 33 to comply with C. in C.W.A. 081929.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 162216A.)
- 14 ships. Names and destinations.  
(N.C.S.O.Clyde 162347.)
- PRAGUE,  
AMSTERDAM. My 131200A. Sailed escorted by CHARLESTOWN.  
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 161731A to A.C.O.S.)  
Intend sailing transport AMSTERDAM at 2215/17th, speed 16 knots, to R/V at time and position given in N.O.I.C. Lerwick's 151655.  
(N.C.S.O.Kirkwall 161825 to A.C.C.S.)
- U.T.4A. Clyde portion arrived.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 161738A to Admty.)
- F.D.16,  
D.F.16A.  
F.D.16A. N.O.I.C. Faroes 151634.  
1. Concur that TORDENSJOLD proceed to Clyde.  
2. It is proposed to embark 76 passengers ex SS. GALTESUND at Thurso on 23rd November, is SS. MORIALTA for passage to Faroes as convoy D.F.16A.  
3. She would return to Thurso with passengers as F.D.16A.  
4. If escort can be provided request you will confirm that these arrangements are suitable and that you will divert MORIALTA to Thurso to conform.  
(D.O.D.H. 161745A and 171921A to A.C.O.S.)
- K.X.12. Steam drifters OCEAN BREEZE, XMAS EVE, BOY PHILIP, and LUCIEN GOUGY are to be sailed on 4th December from Milford Haven in convoy K.X.12 to Gibraltar for onward routing to Algiers.  
(D.O.D.H. 161850A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)
- E.G.23. Following will form 23rd Group based at Greenock.  
RHODODENDRON, OXLIP, HONEYSUCKLE, BLUEBELL, CAMELLIA.  
(C. in C.W.A. 162218A.)

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

M.K.F.25A  
T.U.3.

Convoy M.K.F.25A is due U.K. p.m. 21/11 comprising the following 16 troop transports. Names.  
3. All above U.S. vessels are required to be ready to sail in convoy T.U.3 on 28/11.  
(D.S.T. 162255A.)

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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.General.Anti-torpedo  
Gear.

Routeing and diverting authorities are to control the use of anti-torpedo gear in independent merchant ships from 1st Dec.1943 when a.m. 121905 Oct.1942 and subsequent amendments are to be regarded as cancelled. A.M.121606 refers. (D.T.D.161355A to C. in C. Med., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.At., C. in C. Levant, C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.C.Gib. and West Africa., N.S.H.Q.Ottawa. (R) B.A.D., Com. 10th Fleet, C.& R., C. in C. W.A. Comnaveu.)

North Atlantic.

WALLFLOWER.

E.T.A.Horta, 161930Z.  
(WALLFLOWER, 160320Z to S.B.N.O. Azores)

K.M.S.32.

Intend sailing: 12 ships, Names and destinations. Agreed S.T.O. and M.W.T.R. (F.O.C.Gib. 161027A)

SETE  
CIDADES.

Portuguese merchant vessel SETE CIDADES ex German LUIS BORTHOFFEN leaves Horta for Lisbon via Ponta Delgada on 18th bringing war material from Azores. (N.A.Lisbon, 161052 to Admty. for D.N.I. (R) S.O.(I) Gib.)

ORIBI,  
RICHELIEU,  
TUMULT.

When ORIBI has joined part company and proceed Gib. through (L) 037 degs. N. 011 degs. W. and Q.B.A. 87. S. of A. 17 knots. (2) When 3 miles clear report (A) P.C. & S. RICHELIEU (B) P.C. and S. TUMULT. (F.O.C.Gib. 161159A to TUMULT, S.B.N.O. Azores. (R) RICHELIEU, Admty. H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Plymouth, GLASGOW, C. in C. W.A.(U.S.) Cdr. Mor.S.F.)

IRIS,  
LADY  
HOGARTH.

Cable Ship IRIS returned to Funchal unable to work on account of weather. Will proceed to cable ground when weather moderates. (N.C.S.O. Funchal, 161221 to F.O.C.Gib.(R) Admty.)

H.M.Trawler /...

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

IRIS,  
 LADY  
 HOGARTH.  
 (Contd.)

H.M.Trawler LADY HOGARTH arrived Funchal with engine defects. Has been granted until 1500 G.M.T. 17th to make repairs which is sufficient time. Will then proceed to sea and await R/V with cable ship IRIS.  
 My 161221 16th refers.  
 (N.C.S.O.Funchal, 161640 to F.O.Gib. (R) Admty.)

German  
 CORRIENTES.

My 231230 Jan. 1943. Lighter with some 200 tons of gas oil was taken (to) Spanish Naval Base on Nov.12th. It is understood gas oil has been requisitioned by Naval Authorities.  
 (R.O.Las Palmas, 161245 to Admty. S.O.(I) Gib. B.N.A. Madrid)

Dutch  
 S/M.K.15.

Arrival.  
 (F.O.C.Gib. 161423A)

Shipping  
 Information  
 for  
 S.B.N.O.  
 Azores.

Existing method of passing information to S.B.N.O. Azores regarding shipping has revealed communications over-loaded.  
 (2) From 17th Admty. will originate each afternoon a situation report for 0800A the following day. This will include all ships whether British or American controlled or neutral.

(3) Items will be name, position, speed and next point or points on route.

(4) Shipping will be classified under four heads:

A. Operational convoys. On the first occasion of a convoy appearing in the signal the number of ships, S.O. Escort and total number of Escorts and codeword will be given.

B. Trade Convoys. Similarly to A. C. Med of War.

D. Independent Ships including neutrals.

(5) Admiralty will pass diversions by separate signal when considered necessary.

(6) No information of this nature need by addressed to S.B.N.O. Azores by any Authority other than Admiralty.

(7) The following Admiralty messages not to all addresses are cancelled 251910, 261550, 262043, 291745 Oct. 081730, 112011 Nov. and 111959 to Connav only.

(D.T.D. 161520A to S.B.N.O. Azores, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.A. N.S.H.Q., Cominch, Com.10th Fleet C. & R. F.O.I.C.Gib. C. in C. Med. Commorseafon, Air Min. H.Q.C.C., F.O.C.West Africa, B.A.D., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Home Fleet, S.B.N.O. W.At.)

Crashed /...

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Crashed  
German  
A/Cs.

Ref. German aircraft which crashed on Nov. 11th one at Alicante and 2 at Cartagena. It is possible one or more of these may have been Do. 217s. If so glider bomb control unit would be of utmost value if it can be obtained.  
(2) One of the Cartagena ones appears to have crashed on land.  
(F.O.C.Gib. 161538A to B.N.A. Madrid (R) Admty. for (D.N.I))

SPERBER.

65 sailed 0015/16th.  
(H.M.C. Bilbao, 161700 to M.E.W. Telegram 186 Nov. (R) Admty. (D.N.I.) B.N.A. Madrid, S.O.(I). Gib.)

LOURENCO  
MARQUES.

Portuguese merchant ship leaves Leixoes 20th with contingent of troops for Ponta Delgada. Thence proceeding to Philadelphia.  
(N.A. Lisbon, 161702 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Gib.)

B.Y.M.S. 58.

Arrival 16th Nov. B.Y. Minesweeper 40.  
B.Y.M.S. 58 sailed in company but delayed by fog and not yet arrived. Request route and destination to U.K.  
(S.B.N.O. Horta, 161759 to S.B.N.O. Azores (R) Admty. N.O.I.C., St. Johns, N.F.)

South Atlantic.

Italian  
Cruisers  
Treatment.

Italian cruisers - Subject to our local conditions I should like to keep in line with your treatment of these. Do you permit (A) exchange of visits etc. between British C.O. and Italian C.N.S.  
(B) Ditto between Wardrooms.

(2) I propose forwarding all their mails whether Service or private to you via Gibraltar. Is that convenient?  
(3) Admiral has asked me whether you will be able to forward mails from Mediterranean for them.  
(4) What was done about N.A.A.F.I. supplies such as cigarettes?  
(5) Until re-actions of natives are gauged I am keeping them incommunicado as certain Africans particularly those with past service in Abyssinia have views of their late enemies. They can understand our making prisoners of war work for us but it is difficult to translate co-belligerency into native dialects.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 161231Z to C. in C. Med. (R) C. in C. Levant, Admty.)

INKPEN /...



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16.11.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

INKPEN.

At Tabu with VENDOME.  
(INKPEN, 161715Z to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) N.O.I.C.  
Takoradi.)

Coloured  
route  
Signals.

Coloured route schedules held by S.O.(I) Recife  
are to be handed to Com. 4th Fleet.  
(2) Com. 4th Fleet is to be substituted for S.O.(I)  
Recife in the address of all coloured route  
signals.  
(D.T.D.161757A to F.O.C.W.Af., F.O.Gib. C. in C.  
S.A., B.N.S.O. Rio, Connav, Asst. S.O(I) Recife,  
Com. 4th Fleet. Info. C. in C. W.A.)

Operation  
"Tabarin".

Your 151443C November. Object of operation is  
to establish wintering parties on South Shetlands  
and Grahamland.  
(2) Copy of revised regulations was forwarded to  
you by A.L. M.O.54689/43 on 14th.  
(Hd. of M.I, 162210A to C. in C. S.At., (R) F.O.C.  
W.Af., N.O.I.C.Falklands.)

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16.11.1943.  
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

AURORA. Arrived 15th.  
(N.O.I.C. Taranto, 160002.)

ROCKWOOD. Anticipate repairs will be complete by 1600.  
Intend to take her in tow at 1800 proceeding to  
Limasol via Cape Khelidonia. Weather permitting  
hope to make good 15 knots.  
(BLENCATHRA, 160052B to C. in C. Levant, (R)  
ROCKWOOD, Capt. F., R.A.L., S. & A. Aegean.)

U/B. At 0130/16 sighted U-Boat in 042° 20' N. 006°  
35' E. U-Boat dived.  
(P.57 (UNIVERSAL), 160131A to Capt. (S) 10, (R)  
C. in C. Med., (S) 10.)

Hospital Ship SHAMROCK, A/C attack. Intercept 0305 G.M.T. 500 k/cs 125° Gonio A first  
class. All ships from WQBI\*. Enemy A/C  
attacking U.S. Army H.S. SHAMROCK at 0300 G.M.T.  
lat. 39.26 N. long. 12.32 E. course 234, speed  
8.5 knots. Master.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 160406A to Admty.)  
\* SHAMROCK.

Alexandria movements. 15th arrivals FAULKNER, BEAUFORT, PINDOS, BURRA.  
Departures PENELOPE, PATHFINDER, TETCOTT, HAYDON.  
(R.A.L., 160725.)

Siebel ferry W.of Stampalia. Nr.4. Target now Siebel ferry 36.58 N. 26.20 E.  
course 090°, speed 8 knots must destroy.  
(JC7, 160905Z to A/C VKOC, A/C ONPC.)

Italian warships exercise area. Exercise area for It. S/MS and surface craft is  
established in Gulf of Taranto North of 040° 26'  
N. Surface craft operating in company with  
submerged subs. will fly a large red flag to warn  
approaching vessels of submerged subs. in the  
vicinity. N.C.S.Os. are to warn merchant ships  
bound for Taranto accordingly.  
(C. in C. Med. Fleet, 160907A to Med. Stn.,  
Levant Stn. 309B, (R) M.A.C.)

Enemy ship ? off Venice. Nr.3. Position of one small merchant vessel  
200 tons is TQYH 30 55 (position indecipherable),  
course 080, speed 10, position based on fix  
obtained within half hour of 1000.  
(A/C XAJY, 161021A to Air H.Q. Malta.)

Position of one medium vessel of 3000 tons is TQET 24 28  
(position indecipherable), course 095, speed 8, position based  
on a fix obtained within half hour of 1000.  
(A/C XAJY, No T.O.O. to Air H.Q. Malta.)

/Air ...

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Air Reports. M.S.22172. A.332, 16th. Daily Opsum 202. 15th. 15 Beaufighters, 3 U.S. Mitchells (B.25) made sweeps round Leros. Second sweep sighted 2 destroyers west of Capines escorted by 4 Ju.88 and 4 Arado 196. Direct hit with 75 mm. shell scored on 1 destroyer by U.S. Mitchell (B.25) causing large cloud of black smoke. Ceaseless enemy air activity over Leros during the day total 280 bombing sorties. Bombing and strafing by Ju.88s and Ju.87s. Supplies by seaplanes to north-east Leros.

(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 161041Z.)

M.S.22202. A.V.016 E. 16th. N.W.A.A.F. Opsum 268. N.W.A.T.A.F. 13th/14th. 8 Bostons (A.20) bombed Civitavecchia Harbour. Hits on outer jetty south-east causing large explosion visible 40 miles. Hits or near misses on north-east jetty and small craft adjacent. Near miss on 5,000 ton vessel at entrance to harbour. 14th (add.) Siebel ferry with deck cargo at Marigidw west of Split bombed and strafed.

(H.Q. N.A.A.F., 161514A.)

Condition of warships under Levant Command. Following available for Aegean operations at 1800/15th. A. At sea PHOEBE, PENELOPE, 4 "Fleets", 7 "Hunts". B. In harbour less than 48 hours 2 "Hunts", two French destroyers. C. In harbour more than 48 hours 1 "Fleet".  
2. PENELOPE's tail shaft ready 17th for shipment from Taranto. DIDO completes 27th or earlier.  
3. PALADIN ready 16th. JERVIS completes refit and practices 22nd. FAULKNOR taken in hand for short refit today expected date of completion 24th. THEMISTOCLES and KANARIS boiler cleaning and ready 17th. ROCKWOOD damaged in Turkish waters. (C. in C. Levant, 161050B to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.)

Situation at Leros. Deteriorated during the night.  
(3) Hopeful that naval craft will be able to get away some personnel if evacuation is required, but communication with island has now ceased except by portable W/T in P/L.  
(4) An evacuation scheme by caique is ready and will be put into operation by? the Attaches' Local Organisation.

(C. in C. Levant, 161126B.)

0/0289, 16th Nov. As at 1100 hours.

1. Our attack to eliminate enemy positions Gachi area 15th failed owing continuous enemy bombing totalling 440 sorties. By 2359B hours situation generally unchanged although somewhat obscure in North. Enemy still held Appetici which fortress guns had bombarded intermittently throughout day. Only two 25 pounders still in action and communication difficulties reported as acute. Situation further aggravated by exhaustion of troops.  
2. Enemy reinforced Leros Peninsula during night and neutralised our positions Meraviglia by Stukas and M.G. fire. Situation reported very critical at 0815B hours. Troops very tired and suffering severely from fatigue and continuous bombing. Most ciphers destroyed but communications eventually partially restored by 1100B hours. Situation regarding wounded very difficult.

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at Leros.  
(Contd.)

3. At 1130B hours reported Meraviglia still held and re-organisation in progress. Command reported possible that situation could be restored if reinforced but must have more air cover.

4. At 1200 reported Meraviglia in our hands with exception some snipers posts. H.Q. restored. Attempt to be made to clear Gachi Ridge later. Reserve reformed in area 096407. All informed.

(C. in C. M.E., 161720B.)

Garrison still fighting back and by counter attack this forenoon partially restored the situation two more companies of R.W.K. arrived last night in Naval small craft, one ex BELVOIR and the one which has been missing for three days. My 151815 para. 6 refers.

2. Two "Hunts" are ferrying 350 Greek Sacred Hearts from Samos to Portolago tonight.

3. (?)FUR, three M.T.Bs. and two M.G.Bs. at Turk Burkt acting as striking force tonight.

4. FANTASQUE and TERRIBLE sail at dawn tomorrow to put troops and supplies into Leros night 16th/17th.

5. Beaufighters attacked Siebel Ferry off Levitha today with cannon. It blew up.

6. Am using Turkish waters as base for offensive operations to the full, and hoping for the best.

(C. in C. Levant, 161845B, 162316B.)

384546 O/0304, 16th Nov.

Last W/T link with Leros went off air 1947B. Deduction is that enemy captured Meraviglia including Fortress H.Q. Signal in clear timed 1835B hours read as follows "Island surrendered. Stop bombardment, assurance has been given German convoy expected this evening not to be attacked". This signal accepted at first as from enemy sources and is being disregarded. Convoy if located will be attacked. But total W/T silence tends to indicate it may have come from Fortress H.Q. under pressure after capture. Nor have emergency sets opened up. Orders therefore issued for executing emergency evacuation scheme beginning tomorrow night 17th/18th. Naval Forces operating tonight may throw further light on situation. Landing of Greek Sacred Sqdn. has been cancelled but supply dropping S. end Island continues.

(C. in C. M.E., 162330B to W.O.)

ATROPO.

It. S/M ATROPO left Haifa searched channel at 0200/16th routed through 032° 59' N. 034° 34' E. 034° 25' N. 027° 10' E. on surface. S. of A. 10 knots to dive North of Kaso Straits at dawn on 18th November.

(S.O. S/Ms. Haifa, 161218B to 1st S.F.)

L.C.T. Flot.

Reorganisation of L.C.T. Flot. remaining on Med. Station is as follows: Details.  
(C. in C. Med., 161223, 240701A.)

/Local ...

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- Local escorts for Dakar. A.M. 091543\* With French undertaking Corsican Convoy cycle in addition to Local Escort between Casablanca and Algiers no destroyers or avisos can be spared. Arrangements are being made with French for next two U.S. S.Cs. turned over to be allocated Dakar.
2. Could release of Chasseurs from Pointe Noire be reconsidered with a view to local defence there being carried out by trawler type or M.Ls.  
(C. in C. Med., 161229A to Admty., (R) F.O.C.W.Af., Comnavnaw.)  
\* Re no vessels at Dakar suitable for escort or strikes for which destroyers are required.
- Major French units in Mediterranean - Africa Area. Following movements and plans for immediate future are passed for information of Cominch as executive agent C.C.S. in accordance with B.A.D. 252135.
1. RICHELIEU left Oran 14th for U.K. to join Home Fleet.
  2. LORRAINE arrived Casablanca 12th Nov. from Dakar. Planned to move to Mers-el-Kebir about first week December for use as base ship with reduced complement.
  3. Modernised cruisers. MONTCALM at Dakar. GEORGES LEYGUES Algiers - Oran. Planned for GLOIRE to Dakar on arrival. Subsequently change round at intervals to have one at a time in the Med.
  4. Old cruisers used as troop carrier. JEANNE D'ARC fitted locally with Radar, Bofors Oerlikons employed troop transport to Corsica. DUGUAY-TROUIN Oran planned to refit November, December. There being only employment for one in Med. at present planned for JEANNE D'ARC to refit at Casablanca when DUGUAY-TROUIN completes.
  5. Eight inch cruisers. At Dakar. Visit Casablanca one at a time as convenient to operations of F.O.C.W.Africa. Possibilities some rearmament and retubing boilers at Casablanca under consideration.
  6. FANTASQUE and TERRIBLE. Left for Levant, 12th November for temporary duty in Aegean operations. Plan to reassemble Squadron in Western Med. in December after arrival LE MALIN, LE TRIOMPHANT and EMILE BERTIN. To operate with advance base Ajaccio.  
(C. in C. Med., 161308Z to B.A.D., (R) Admty., Comnavnaw, F.O.C. West Africa.)

VEDETTE  
foundered.

While on passage to Alexandria Greek M.G.B. VEDETTE foundered at 1315/13 in heavy sea off Benghazi having sprung a leak.  
Para.2. VEDETTE had been commissioned with Greek crew at Taranto. No casualties or injured.  
(C. in C. Levant, 161315B to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., Greek C. in C., F.O.T.A.L.I.)

/Situation ...

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Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Situation 384496 O/36032, 16th. Cositrep No. 57.  
 Aegean. 2. Ops. Aegean. (A) Leros. See special Sitrep O/0289 of 16th Nov. (B) Kastelorizo. One recce 15th Nov. (C) Samos N.T.R.  
 4. Naval Aegean. (B) 16th BLENATHRA towing ROCKWOOD to Limasol. PHOEBE, ECHO, BELVOIR returning Alex. FURY, KRAKOWIAK, EXMOOR in Turkish waters. PENELOPE, PATHFINDER, TETCOTT, HAYDON arriving Limasol carrying 60 troops, 33 tons ammn. 10 tons stores.  
 (C. in C. M.E., 161325.)  
 I/36034, 16th. Joint Army R.A.F. Int. appreciation 24 hours to 1000Z/16th.  
 1. Our naval forces report sinking a.m./15th of 2 landing craft in addition to 1 F lighter sunk during night 14th/15th Nov.  
 2. Photographic reconnaissance shipping 15th November. Details. Bad weather throughout day prevented any photographic cover of operational area.  
 4. Prisoners of war captured documents and other evidence gives following picture Leros assault force. Details.  
 5. Appreciate craft sighted a.m. today approaching Pandeli Bay probably represent follow up of heavy weapons and troops. Strength latter cannot be estimated. Probable arrival Siebel operational area today will considerably increase transport capacity.  
 (C. in C. M.E., 161420B.)

UPSTART. UPSTART report one. At 0838 (?) 2nd in 43° 01' 05" 50' fired 3 torpedoes at 2000 ton merchant vessel westbound in ballast missed.  
 2. At 1022/6th in 43° 03' 06" 00' fired three torpedoes at 5000 ton merchant vessel eastbound laden missed. (S.10, 161345 to C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8, (R) F.O. S/MS., Admty., R.A. Alex.)

V.N. 9. M.S.C.I.22. Intend sailing 1600/18th as follows. Escort WHEATLAND, EGGESFORD. (N.O.I.C. Augusta, 161357.)

Italian S/MS. Owing to development of defects in H.2 intend to retain H.1 in lieu for A/S running from Malta. My 201620 Oct. refers.\*  
 2. H.4 without crew will also be retained as a source of spare parts for H.1 as former is not considered to be worth refitting. My 171421 Oct. refers.  
 F.O.T.A.L.I. pass to Admiral De Zara. (V.A. Malta, 161453Z to C. in C. Med., F.O.T.A.L.I., Admty., Admiral De Zara.)  
 \* ALAGI and GALATEA to Alexandria for A/S exercises etc.

/PERAK ...

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War Diary.16.11.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- PERAK. Hospital carrier. Re employment.  
(P.S.T.O. Med., 161505A to D. of S.T.)
- SOKOL,  
SICKLE. (1) O.R.P. SOKOL leave your area to pass (A) 035° 06' 026° 44' at 2300B/19th thence proceeding on the surface through (B) 034° 25' 029° 59' to arrive Beirut 0615B/22nd.  
(2) (P.224) SICKLE has freedom of action between Tunis and Anaphi after dark on 19th.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 161522B to SOKOL (P.224), SICKLE, (R) 1st S.F., C. in C. Levant.)
- DZIK. (1) Proceed at your own discretion as follows:  
Down east coast Morea from Phokianos to Cape Malea. Thence inshore Cape Spada (Crete) and clear of minefield off north coast of Crete.  
Believe enemy is using this route.  
(2) Adjust your progress to pass (A) 036° 05' 026° 44' 2301B/21st thence proceeding on surface through (B) 034° 25' 029° 59' to arrive Beirut 0615B/24th.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 161555B to DZIK, (R) 1st S.F., C. in C. Levant.)
- PHOEBE. Your ?160718B\*. Passing 475 at 1840B/16th.  
Have given destroyers 100 tons fuel each.  
(PHOEBE, 161555B to C. in C. Levant, (R) R.A.Alex., S.N.O.C., N.O.I.C. Tobruk, No.201 N.C. Group, No. 212 Group, No.235 Wing, No.245 Wing, No.247 Wing, etc.)  
\* Not received.
- Destroyers  
Levant  
Command. Your 090932.  
The distribution of destroyers shown in A.M. 031326 is the most equitable that can be devised to meet known commitments.  
2. ULSTER and JANUS are expected to join your Command in November and URCHIN early in December.  
ROCKET and TEAZER should also be available for you from November until required to join Eastern Fleet.  
3. These reinforcements should compensate for the withdrawal of the 4th D.F. in mid December ( A.M. 122244 refers) and leave a small margin.  
(A.C.N.S.(F), 161645A to C. in C. Med., (R) C. in C. Levant.)
- M.K.F. 25A. Sailing telegram. 20 ships. (2) Sailed Augusta 111200. Route. Escort T.G.60.2 plus VELOX.  
(Comnob. Oran, 161649, 161656.)
- HAZMAHEN. Not to be molested. Swedish Relief Ship HAZMAHEN leaves Piraeus for Venice by standard route at 0800/20th. See L.T.M.628.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 161712B to 1st S.F.)

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

HIGHWAY, GOULD. Include HIGHWAY in U.G.S.25 for ultimate destination Bombay. Sail GOULD when ready Norfolk to Argentinia for onward passage to U.K. as additional convoy escort upon completion movement my 092232.  
(Navy Charge Alexandria, 161933Z to C.M.S.F.)

Levant Situation Report No. 111. Up to 1800B/16th. ECHO and BELVOIR left Aegean North of Rhodes last night after detaching BLENCATHERA with repair materials to join ROCKWOOD and tow her out of Leros Bay.  
2. PENN and ALDENHAM carried out dawn sweep east of Leros without sighting any shipping. Before withdrawing to Mandelyah Gulf PENN was hit above waterline by shell without casualties or serious damage. FURY, EXMOOR and KRAKOWIAK arrived at Mandelyah Gulf from Limasol.  
3. PENN and ALDENHAM withdrawing South with 80 wounded transferred by small craft from Leros today, overtake and provide escort for BLENCATHERA and ROCKWOOD after daylight.  
4. Since 11th one B.Y.M.S., one M.F.V. and one L.C.M. unaccounted for and present whereabouts unknown. ?M.G.Bs., M.T.Bs. and M.Ls. lying up with destroyers during daylight.  
5. Intentions for tonight: (A) EXMOOR, KRAKOWIAK lift reinforcements from Samos to Leros. (B) FURY, M.T.Bs., M.G.Bs. striking force.  
6. Situation Leros uncertain and may affect intentions: reports of surrender not yet confirmed. Ends.  
(C. in C. Levant, 162012B, 171609B.)

ATROPO. Sailed 16th.  
(N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports, 162015B.)

NUBIAN. Your 090932, para. 3. Arrangements can be made for NUBIAN to be taken in hand in U.K. Request you will indicate when ship may be expected in order that refitting port may be assigned.  
(D.O.D.(F), 162301A to C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. C. in C. Levant.)

Human torpedoes. Trials. Approval has been given for F.O.C. Gib. to retain stock of human torpedoes ex OLTERRA to carry out trials with type 135 defences.  
2. It is under consideration to carry out further trials later in V.A. Malta's area with Catenary nets and mill loops.  
(C. in C. Med., 162302A to Admty., (R) F.O.C. Gib. F.O.L.I., V.A. Malta, C. in C. Levant.)

Cyprus Movements. 16th arrival PENELOPE, PATHFINDER, TETCOTT, HAYDON, S.T.1602. Arrived and left BREAM, PHOEBE, BELVOIR, ECHO. Departure H.S.L.166, H.S.L.2520, M.T.B.260.  
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta, 162347B.)



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16.11.1943.  
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

S.A.C.,  
S.E.A. assumes command. Following from Admiral Mountbatten (Begins) I have today assumed command as Supreme Allied Commander South East Asia and set up my H.Q. in New Delhi.  
(2) (C. in C. Eastern Fleet), C. in C. 11th Army Group A.O.C. S.E.Asia and Commanding General U.S. Forces China Burma and India have all established their H.Q. or elements thereof in New Delhi. Signals outward or inward are passed by hand in P/L to Cs. in C. and for Armindia when they are concerned and need not include them in the (?address) for information. In the same way signals to and from Cs. in C. and Armindia will be passed to S.A.C., S.E.A. when of interest to him and need not quote him in the address for information(Ends.)  
(C. in C. E.F. 160001 to All S.Os Ships, establishments W/T Stations, and other Naval Authorities and Air Establishments which may be concerned ashore and afloat (including R.I.N. R.N.N. on E.I.Stn.) (R) Navy Office Melbourne, C. in C. S.A., Cmdre. Durban, F.O.R.S.C.A.)

B.M.74. Arrived Colombo portion escorted by JUMNA, NETRAVATI, AGRA.  
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 160303 to Admty.)

Bi-weekly disposition U-Boats No.1. Japanese 1 in area between Socotra and Masirah by D/F 14th. One on passage returning to Base from Mozambique Channel may now be S. of S.W. of Ceylon by indefinite D/F between Seychelles and Addu Atoll 13th. One possibly outward bound by suspicious Radar contact 500 miles S by E. of Ceylon 14th and 1 Homeward bound from Europe estimated within 100 miles 035 degs. S. 045 degs. E. 15th German. No German U-Boats believed operating in the Indian Ocean at the present time:  
(C. in C. E.F. 160410Z to E.F.409Y)

S.E.A. Air Report. A.208 16 Nov. Daily Opsum 611.  
14/15 Nov. 5 Hurricanes offensive Rivercraft Akyab area. 10 Sampans damaged.  
15 Nov. 14 Mohawk fighter bombers P.36 enemy positions Kalemoyo area. All bombs target. Areas machine gunned. 4 Beaufighters offensive oil installation Myaunghla. Tanks damaged, results unobserved. 25 Rivercraft damaged area.  
(S.E.A.A.C. 160835Z to Air Min.)

Allied Communiques S.E.A. Command. S.E.A.C.O.S.27.  
Following for Chiefs of Staff from Mountbatten. On and after the 17th. Allied Communiques will be issued from the S.E.A. Command H.Q. by myself. These will replace the India Command Joint War Communiques.  
(Armindia, 161125Z to Air Min. (R) J.S.M. Washington.)

Liberator/...

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16.11.1943.  
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Liberator P.R.cover. S.E.A.C.O.S.26.  
Following for Chiefs of Staff from Mountbatten. Since Auchlinleck's 77130/C.O.S./of 11th Oct. (para. 8 refers) prospect of Liberator P.R. cover of most important operational areas has further receded owing losses incurred through greatly strengthened Japanese defences. Present situation is that cover south of Andamans is thus practically excluded. Nicobars can be covered only by diverting long range Mosquitoes from present essential tasks in Andamans, Tenasserim and Siam. Cannot afford such a detachment at present as total only four Mosquitoes Mk. IX are available. Above emphasises urgent need to expedite despatch of Mosquitoes Mk.IX destined for this theatre.

(S.A.C., S.E.A. 161142Z to Air Min.) / No T.O.O.11/Oct. (M/S)

X.C.10. Sailing telegram (2 ships).  
(2)1230Z/16th. (4) 10 knots.  
(5) (Route). (6) SCOUT.  
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 161207Z to Admty.)

H.C.9. Sailing telegram (3 ships) escort PANSY (not NU) KATHIAWAR.  
(N.C.S.O. Calcutta, 161734Z, 161739Z to Admty.)

Dutch Ships for Eastern Fleet. C. in C. Eastern Fleet's 141024/November. Concur. (2) B.A.D. Washington is requested to inform U.S. Authorities accordingly. (A.C.N.S.(F), 162355A to C. in C. Eastern Fleet (S.E.A.C.) B.A.D., Info. A.C.N.B.)

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16.11.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

- B.A.M.19. Charleston departed B.A.M.19 15th Nov. for Bermuda due 1500Q/17th.  
(N.S.H.Q. 160100Z to Admty.)
- Independent sailings Caribbean cancelled. This is Com.10th Fleet C. & R's 152056 addressed to all Routeing Officers East and Gulf Coast U.S., Bermuda and Iceland. "Ref. MYDIS 241320Z August. Independent sailings of all shipping under 14½ knots between Caribbean ports E. of 72 W. and E. coast U.S. ports are to be cancelled.  
(Comnavcu 160251Z to Admty.)
- DACRES, GRINDALL. Intend sailing DACRES and GRINDALL to U.K. as additional escorts for S.C.147 with group C.3.  
(F.O.N.F. 161351Z to C. in C. N.A.)
- Enemy torpedoed. Your 122042Z to N.S.H.Q. Gnats were not expected as electric torpedoes would sink. 2. Possibility exists they are air torpedoes fitted with Curly mechanism.  
(D.T.M. 161431A to F.O.N.F., Info. N.S.H.Q., C. in C. N.A.)
- N.S.H.Q. S/M. Estimate. 1200Z/16th November possibly one in Canadian coastal area.  
(N.S.H.Q. 161528Z.)
- U.S. S/M. Estimate. (Cominch 161554Z.)
- G.U.S.19. Following is re-encypherment of Port Dir. New York 160144Z. Action Com. 10th Flt. C. and R. Info. to C.E.S.F. "Convoy G.U.S.19 arrival Chesapeake section 22 Merships and one A.O. Last ship arrived 152040 Delaware section arrived Delcapes 151245 New York section 37 ships last 152314. All times Z".  
(Radio Washington 161810Z to Admty.)
- B.E.C.5. When released by British training officer at Casco Bay about 20 Nov. sail B.E.C.5 to Bermuda stopping at New York for stores. Advise routing instructions.  
(Cominch 161929 to C.E.S.F.)
- Troop Convoys situation reports. D. of S.T. 211744 Sept. not to Admty. or C. in C.W.A. directs that all troop transports should be omitted from normal situation reports and reported in a separate position signal prefixed Most Secret. General concensus of opinion in this command is that T.A. and A.T. Convoys are known by most personnel in the North Atlantic ashore and afloat to be monsters carrying troops. Accordingly C. in C. C.N.A. puts these in a separate situation report prefixed Most Secret. It is noticed that

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16.11.1943.  
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Troop  
Convoys  
situation  
reports.  
(Contd.)

C. in C. Western Approaches includes these in his situation reports in Secret Code. Request ruling. (C. in C. C.N.A. 161956Z to Admty.)

B.Y.M.S. Departing Bermuda 1230Z/17th for Horta (route), at 9 knots B.Y.M.S. 60, 162, 168, 181, and 236. Cominch 011853. E.T.A. (?0230)Z/26th. (N.O.B. Bermuda 162026 to N.O.I.C. Azores.)

S/M. attack  
and  
sighting  
summary.

Para. D. All times Z. A.T.C. plane sights S/M. 12.10 N. 62.29 W. 161545. S/M. contacts and attack reported 08.25 S. 34.31 W. 151949. (Cominch 162034Z to Admty.)

AQUITANIA  
(A.T.74.)

Departing Ambrose 1630Z/17th. Clyde, E.T.A. Little Cumbrae 241300Z. S. of A. 20.5 knots. (Route). Fighter protection code word "Direction" with call sign 109. "Chop" 200700Z. (P.D. New York 162042.)

MAURETANIA,  
T.A.72.

Sailed from U.K. 15 Nov. for Halifax. 2. Details of personnel etc. on board are being communicated by W.O. to C.G.S. Ottawa and Milstaf Washington. (D. of S.T. 162226A to N.S.H.Q.)

U/B.

S/M sighted 12.10 N. 62.29 W. at 161545A. (Com. Fort de France 162230 to Unknown Station.)

GOULD,  
HIGHWAY.

Norfolk sailed 15th. (N.S.H.Q. 162238Z to Admty.)

SALAMONIE.

This is C.T.F.67s. 161805 to U.S.S. SALAMONIE for action and C.T.F.60, C.T.F.29, Comnavu and U.S.S. CHICOPEE, Admty. and C. in C.W.A. for Info. Report to C.T.F.60 in compliance Comnavu 160932. (Comnavu 162319 to Admty.)

B.Y.M.S.

B.Y.M.S.36, 205. Arrived Bermuda. (S.B.N.O. W.At. 162326Z to Admty.)

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War Diary.16.11.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.Digest  
Serial  
No.665  
Nov.15th.

During early hours 21 Beauforts struck shipping Rabaul Harbour from medium height to mast top level. Bomb load included some 1,000 pounders. Two hits one 8,000 ton transport last seen sinking. Another large merchantman damaged by hits or near misses. Seaplane anchorage and waterfront also effectively bombed. (2) Same time two Liberators unsuccessfully bombed single small eastbound ship 28 miles S.W. Ubili and observed two similar type craft 35 miles N.W. Talasea heading S. (3) Meanwhile Navy Catalina damaged large cargo vessel escorted by 2 corvettes proceeding up Saint Georges Channel. Ship beached. (4) One gunboat, 1 freighter observed 80 miles N. Massau Island heading North mid-day. (5) After dark 1 light cruiser, 1 destroyer, 1 transport reported 25 miles North Rabaul course 300. (13) Fighter patrols Empress Augusta Bay negative 15th, but destroyed 8 barges, damaged another 7 plus one small freighter, set many buildings on fire Tonolei Harbour. (G.H.Q., S.W.P.A. 160912Z.)

Movements.

Arrival Milne Bay 15th. U.S.S. GILMER.  
(A.C.N.B. 161059Z.)U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 161400A, 161405A.)Submarines Attacked.S/M. attack  
and sighting  
summary for  
24 hours  
to 0900Z/16th.

Para. A. (1) Halifax aircraft E/502 reported U-Boat on surface at 43° 45' N. 08° 05' W. course 090° 15 knots. (2) Halifax D/502 reported U/B on surface at 0106/16th in 48° 06' N. 08° 45' W. (position doubtful). (3) H.M. S/M sighted U/B. at 0030/16th in 42° 20' N. 06° 35' E. (D.D.I.C. 161055A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

A/S Attacks  
assessments.

The following A/S attacks have been assessed as "Known Sunk". (a) 4th Oct. Ventura B/128. (b). 8th Oct. Liberator R/86. (c) 8th Oct. Sunderland J/423 (d) 16th Oct. Liberator Y/86. (e) 16th Oct. Combined attacked by Liberators Z/120, C/59 and E/120. Credit 50%, 30% and 20% respectively. (f) 16th Oct. Combined attack by Liberators H/120 and D/59. Credit 60% and 40% respectively. 2. Request you will convey our congratulations to those concerned with these successes. (D.A.U.D. 162050A.)

/A...

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War Diary.

16.11.1943.  
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

A/S Attacks  
assessments.  
(Contd.)

A destroyer escorting convoy K.M.S.29 (?M.K.S.29 intended) attacked a U-Boat which was sighted after Radar contact at 0500Z/9 in 41° N. 19° 33' W. Depth charge attack appeared promising and may have caused damage. (2) Fortress aircraft J/220 operating from Azores sank a U-Boat at 0728Z/9 at 40° 31' N. 20° 17' W. About 15 survivors were seen in oil and wreckage. This is the first kill from the Azores. (3) At 0306Z/10 in 44° 39' N. 9° 08' W. Wellington B/612 attacked an inward bound U-Boat. Possibly the same U-Boat was sighted in daylight on 10th making towards Spanish coast and was attacked by three U.S. Liberators. When very close to Spanish coast E. of Cape Ortegal it was attacked with R.Ps. by a Liberator of a Czech Squadron. It has subsequently been reported that the U-Boat sank and survivors landed in Spain.

(D.A.U.D. 162155A to Cominch, Comnaveu, B.A.D., N.S.H.Q.)

War Diary17.11.1943.  
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORTHome Commands.Operation  
"F.T."

1. C.S.1 in KENT, with BERMUDA and JAMAICA, left Scapa at 0632A for Seidisfiord, where Capt. D.17 in ONSLOW with 7 Destroyers of the Escort arrived at 1015A; and ONSLAUGHT sailed again at 1850 with 5 Russian ships for the convoy. The convoy was reported at 2307A to have been 120 miles North of the Faeroes at 1630 to-day, steering 338 degs. at  $9\frac{1}{2}$  knots.

Bay  
patrol.

2. GLASGOW left her patrol in the Bay area at last light today for Plymouth; and in 45 degs. N. 21 degs. 30' W. ( about 600 miles W. by S. of Ushant). FOLEY of E.G.7 sighted and made six depth-charge attacks upon a U-boat between 2200Z and 2317Z when contact was lost.

U-boat  
suspected  
in Plymouth  
area.

3. C. in C. Plymouth considers that a U-boat may have laid mines in the approaches to Plymouth on the 4th November and may possibly still be operating off Dartmouth, Appledore, or Fowey.

Flight "P".

4. Search for the missing Landing Craft of Flight "P" was abandoned by M/S 16 at 0114A this morning when the Flotilla was ordered to return to Plymouth.

Mediterranean

5. Admiral King has criticised the air arrangements for covering shipping in the Mediterranean.

Dodecanese

6. (a) At 0010B today a message from Leros stated that fighting was continuing in isolated areas on Leros. Small parties of escapees got away in M.G.Bs. and various craft.  
(b) M.T.B. striking force patrolling last night east of Leros sighted nothing; it was attacked with glider bombs, but no hits were sustained.  
(c) PENN, FURY and ALDENHAM bombarded Kos last night.

/BLENCATHRA...

War Diary.17.11.1943.  
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.Dodecanese  
(Contd.).

(d) BLENCATHRA took ROCKWOOD in tow from Losta Bay last night for Limasol where they arrived this evening. PENN and ALDENHAM joined off Kastelorizo having withdrawn south from Mandelyah Gulf after bombarding Kos Roads. The two destroyers had on board 80 wounded transferred by small craft from Leros today. .

(e) The movement of reinforcements from Samos last night in EXMOOR and KRAKOWIAK was cancelled after they had arrived there, and the destroyers joined FURY in Mandelyah Gulf.

(f) Heavy air attacks were reported on the two ports of Samos, Tigana and Vathi, today; reports on the condition of the ports are conflicting, but both appear to be badly damaged, and one or both may be out of action.

(g) The Polish S/M. DZIK sank a 140 ton caique loaded with oil drums off Monemvasia this morning.

East Indies.Administration  
of escort  
vessels.

7. From now on, the ships forming the convoy escort force based at Kilindini are to be operated and administered by F.O. East Africa. All R.N. and R.A.N. escort vessels on the East Indies Station, other than those administered by F.O.i/c East Africa, Cmdre. i/c Aden and S.N.O.P.G. are to be administered by C. in C.E.F. through Capt. A.B.C.E.F. who is responsible direct to C. in C. E.F.

8. An unidentified aircraft, later reported as a twin float monoplane, flew over Kilindini harbour at 0220 today. The R.A.F. are carrying out a large A/S sweep of the area.

China

9. 2 Mitchells bombed the warehouse and docks area at Swatow today, and 2 Mitchells hit and left sinking a heavily loaded tanker south of Swatow.



War Diary

17.11.1943.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand.

Moluccas

10. Five Catalinas attacked Kaimana water front and adjacent Utarom airfield in the early hours today, causing explosions and fires.

m | 11. At midday a Mitchell sank a freighter west of the Tanimbar Islands (Banda Sea), and aircraft later attacked its escorting vessel and left it beached, abandoned and gutted.

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War Diary.17.11.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Force  
"S".

It is desired that M.L's attached to Force "S" should be allocated four to each assault group and based accordingly at Port Edgar, Inverness and Invergordon.  
(F.O. Force "S", 171015 to C. in C. Rosyth)

Use of  
Italian  
S/M's.

In order to determine the possible use of the four supply submarines now building at Taranto. para. 2 of Admiralty's 100215 refers, it is requested C. in C. Med. may be asked to signal the following details.  
(F.O.S.171906A to Admty.)

Movements.

AUGUSTA.

Intend to cancel Serial 163. Request Hoxa Gate at 1700A.  
(AUGUSTA, 171400A to C. in C. H.F.)

QUEEN  
ELIZABETH.

In view of A.S. Portsmouth 131350. Admiralty has approved QUEEN ELIZABETH remaining at Portsmouth until 10th December.  
(D.O.D.(H), 171631A to C. in C. H.F.)

S/M  
Movements.

Position of S/M's at 0800A/18 and movements for following 24 hours.  
(F.O.S.171711A, 171854A)

Operations.Operation  
F.T.  
(Convoys  
J.W.54A  
and  
R.A.54B.)

Scapa Departure S.O. 1st C.S. in KENT with BERMUDA, JAMAICA in company.  
(A.C.O.S. 170632A to H.F.)  
Request names of ships of J.W.54A with destination Kola Inlet. N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe's 151748 refers.  
(2) It would be appreciated if arrival of R.A. convoys could be signalled.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 170909A to Admty.)  
My 152039. Unable to sail SALADIN, propeller still foul. Propose to retain her for J.W. 54B.  
(N.O.I.C.Aultbea, 170931A to C. in C. H.F.)  
Seidisfiord arrival 1015A/17th. Capt.(D) 17 in ONSLOW with ONSLAUGHT, OBEDIENT, ORWELL, (?IMPULSIVE), IROQUOIS, HAIDA and HURON.  
(A.C.I.C.171300 to C. in C. H.F.)  
Your 170909. Selection of ships required for White Sea which is made in conjunction with Russians in Archangel cannot be given until details of drafts and lifts are furnished by M.W.T. who have been requested to expedite this information.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 171332A to S.B.N.O. North Russia)

Your /...

War Diary.17.11.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation F.T. (Convoys J.W.54A and R.A.54B) (Contd.) Your 170931. Concur. (C.in C. H.F. 171408A to N.O.I.C.Aultbea) TUSCALOOSA sailed. E.T.A. Akureyri 1400A/18. (C. in C. H.F. 131116 refers). (A.C.I.C.171638A to V.A.2) Request you will proceed in BELFAST arriving Akureyri p.m. 25th November and join V.A.2. (C. in C. H.F. 171740A to C.S.10) H.F.Memorandum 01325/158 dated 6th November. Operation F.T. amendment No.4. Para.4(e) C.S.10 in BELFAST and MUSKETEER, MATCHLESS, ASHANTI, OBDURATE will replace U.S.S. after 25th November. Para. 4 (I) for CAUVERY read SPEEDWELL. Para.4 (n) for convoy J.W.54A read convoy J.W.54B. (C. in C. H.F. 171745A to A.I.G.47) Intend proceeding Akureyri arriving a.m. 23rd. C. in C. H.F.141855A refers. (C.S.10. 171802A to C. in C. H.F.) S.O. of escort gave P.C.S. of J.W.54A at 1630/17th as 064 degs. 15' N. 007 degs. 32' W. 338 degs. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ . (C. in C. Rosyth, 172307A to H.F.) Sailed Seidisfiord 1850/17th CNSLAUGHT, Russian A.M.144 and 143, S.C.721, 1074 and 1287 in company. (A.C.I.C.172356A to C. in C. H.F. INCONSTANT)

V.P. Operations. Carrying out V.P. (1) Patrol at (2) 54 and 101A. (3) A.m.19th November or first suitable date thereafter. (4) At S.O's discretion. (5) No. (6) No. (7) 070 degs. Out Skerries 110 miles. (8) Yes. (A.C.O.S.170908 to Admty.)

My 051540A. Sailed at 0901A to-day M.T.B. 653 (S.O) and M.T.B.623. (2) Yes. (A.C.O.S.170927A to Admty.) My 101045A. Sailed at 0930A today M.T.B. 627 (S.O), M.T.B's 625 and M.T.B. 675. (2) No. (A.C.O.S.170936 to Admty.) My 170927A. Force returned at 1215A today owing to weather conditions. (M.T.B's 653 and 623). (A.C.O.S.171459A to Admty.)

S/M Patrols. Request you will sail SEADOG at 1800A/19th through 090 degs. for 10 miles and route Black to 070 degs. 20' thence direct to patrol position T.7. (2) SEADOG is to move from T.7 to T.8 at 2359/25. (Capt.(S) 9, 171015A to S.O.S/M Lerwick)

Positions of submarines at 0800A/18th and movements for following 24 hours. (A) SATYR as in my 151752.

(B) /...

War Diary.17.11.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

S/M (B) VENTURER 71 degs. 01' N. 18 degs. 10' E. probably on the surface at 8 knots through 71 degs. 01' N. 16 degs. 59' E. and 69 degs. 01' N. 10 degs. 59' E. thence course 210 degs.  
 Patrols. (C) STORM 71 degs. 16' N. 22 degs. 35' E. to  
 (Contd.) patrol off Hjelmsoy.  
 (D) SEANYMPH 70 degs. 22' N. 13 degs. 51' E. through 71 degs. 10' N. 16 degs. 10' E. to patrol off Ingoy, probably on the surface 10 knots.  
 (E) SCEPTRE 69 degs. 40' N. 11 degs. 49' E. through 71 degs. 10' N. 16 degs. 10' E. and 71 degs. 02' N. 22 degs. 40' E. to patrol off Soroy, probably on the surface 10 knots.  
 (F.O.S.171711A to Adnty.)

Operation My 162308A. Cancel reference to Hudsons or P.V.  
 S.F. ones.  
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 171102A to H.F.)  
 Position at 172000.  
 READY, HOUND, HYDRA, RATTLESNAKE searching vicinity 062 degs. 24' 013 degs. 50'.  
 (A.C.O.S.171132A to Ships)  
 Moorings area as in my 162308A being flown on November 18th by 8 Sunderlands, 3 Liberators, 8 Hudsons and 4 P.V.1.  
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 172315A to H.F.)

Coastal (1) Orders for night 17/18 November.  
 Force (A) 3 M.G.Bs from HORNET carry out Anti-E-Boat  
 Patrols. 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.432. Not to be Northward of patrol-line except in contact with enemy and in no circumstances to approach within 5 miles of convoy. Enter Harbour after convoy has passed Needles.  
 (B) M.L.344 immediate notice St. Helens.  
 (C) CHASSEURS 11, 15 patrolling QZS 384 between F for Fox and E.A.5 Buoys.  
 (D) 2 M.G.Bs immediate notice Newhaven.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 171244A)  
 M.L.'s 257 and 293 two miles South of D Buoy.  
 (V.A.Dover, 171601A to Adnty.)  
 Forces 113 and 114 returned to harbour, weather unsuitable.  
 (N.O.I.C.Dartmouth, 172328A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Bay Patrol. (1) GLASGOW patrolling between 038 degs. 40' N.  
 U-Boat 013 degs. 44' W. and 041 degs. 06' N. 015 degs.  
 attacked 57' W.  
 by FOLEY. (C. in C. Plymouth, 171501A to Adnty.)  
 GLASGOW is leaving patrol-line at last light today and proceeding through position  
 (A) 048 degs. 10' N. 017 degs. 08' W.  
 (B) 049 degs. 45' N. 013 degs. 59' W. (C) 180 degs. Bishop Rock 12, and thence to Plymouth keeping west of the Lizard during dark hours.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 171722A to GLASGOW.)

War Diary.

17.11.1943.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Bay Patrol U-Boat attacked by FOLEY. GLASGOW left patrol at last light today proceeding through 048 degs. 10' N. 017 degs. 08' W. to U.K.  
(2) TUMULT position 044 degs. 08' N. 018 degs. 00' W. at noon today, proceed through 037 degs. 00' N. 011 degs. 00' W. to Gibraltar.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 172102A to TUMULT, GLASGOW.)  
One S/M seen to submerge. Have attacked with depth-charges.  
My P.C.S. 044 degs. 56' N. 021 degs. 30' W. 209 degs. 20 knots.  
(FOLEY, 172204Z to Whitehall W/T)  
My 172204Z. 6 attacks. Contact lost. Proceeding in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 162045A.  
(FOLEY, 172317Z to Admty.)

Special Operation. E.G.4. FENCER. All available ships of 4th E.G. will be required to sail for an A/S operation in Bay of Biscay leaving as early as possible on 20th November.  
(2) Every endeavour to get ready as many ships as possible.  
(3) Report is to be signalled in due course giving names of ships which it is anticipated will be ready to sail.  
(C. in C. W.A. 172225A to Capt. (D) N.I.)  
FENCER will be required to sail for an A/S operation in Bay of Biscay escorted by 4th Escort Group leaving Belfast a.m. Nov. 20th.  
(2) Additional fighters should be embarked as previously arranged.  
(C. in C. W.A. 172314A to F.O.C.T.)

Allied Air Activity.

Operation "Cohabit" A.158 17 Nov. Operation "Cohabit" in force night 18/19 to night 22/23. Time on 1900A time off 0730A.  
(H.Q.C.C. 171650A to 19 Group)

Percussion Areas R.S.T. and U. Enemy policy of passing through the Bay submerged surfacing only for a minimum period at night necessitates our concentrating major part of flying effort, Leigh Light and otherwise, during the hours of darkness. U-Boats forced to surface by day as a result of being harried during normal charging period are thought most likely to be encountered in early morning. In order to meet these circumstances all the remaining aircraft must be used to cover the patrol-area at dawn.  
(2) Areas to be patrolled: (1) Percussion R. Limits of area 43.00 N. 09.00 W. 48.00 N. 07.00 W - Spanish Coast at 07.00 W. coastwise to 43.00 N. 43.00 10.00 W - 44.00 N. 09.00 W.  
(2) Percussion S. Limits of area 48.00 N. 10.00 W - 48.00 N. 08.00 W - Spanish Coast 08.00 W - coastwise 43.00 N. 43.00 N. 10.00 W.

(3) /...

War Diary.17.11.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air activity.

- Percussion Areas R.S.T. and U. (Contd.)
- (3) Percussion T. Limits of area 48.00 N. 11.00 W. 48.00 N. 09.00 W. Spanish coast at 09.00 W - coastwise 43.00 N. 43.00 N. 11.00 W.
- (4) Percussion U (Gib. area) limits of area 43.00 N. 10.00 W. - Spanish coast at 43.00 N. coastwise to 42.00 N. 10.00 W.
- (3). 19 Group night patrols. Percussion R.S. and T. will be covered at night, the areas being changed at A.O.C.'s discretion or on information from this Hqs. (H.Q.C.C. 172218A to 19 Group)  
Part 2 of 172218.
- (4) 19 Group day patrols. Follow up night effort with dawn-patrol of area flown previous night except when percussion R. has been flown. In this event percussion S. to be covered the following morning.
- (5) Percussion U. to be covered by Gibraltar day and night.
- (6) Employment of squadrons. 19 Group. Details.
- (8) Gibraltar percussion U to be flown nightly by Leigh Light A/C or 172 and 179 Squadrons. All available non Leigh Light A/C to be employed on morning patrol in Area U.
- (9) These patrols to be brought into force as early as possible. (H.Q.C.C. 17222A)

Enemy Air Activity.

Scapa. Prep X<sup>4</sup> was made at 1329 today on an E/A which approached from due east and was then 090 degs. A buoy 4 miles, height 34,000 feet course west. E/A turned north west and then through west and south to S.E. The nearest point reached was 070 degs. A buoy 22 miles. E/A retired on course S.E. diving to 28080 feet and withdrew to the east and later N.E. Probably good photographs of anchorage taken. Fighters went up but no interception was made. (A.C.O.S. 171655A to Admty. (R) C. in C. H.F.) / as received.

Jan Mayen. Following from Jan Mayen T.O.O. 171100Z. Aircraft heard south of Island 1030. (A.C.I.C. 172106A to Admty.)

Mining.

Humber. Following two mines detonated today by Sweepers. At 1115 in 148 degs. 57E Buoy 5 cables. At 1444 in 075 degs. 59A Buoy 3 Cables. Details. (F.O.Humber, 171837A and 182247A)

Possible /...

War Diary.17.11.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Possible  
minelaying  
by S/M.

Possibility exists that a hostile S/M passed inward over Plymouth A/S loops, on 1st November, and out on 2nd November, afterwards laying mines in approaches on 4th November. This should be borne in mind, should there be any suspicion of a S/M off your port, in which event all possible counter measures should be taken at once. (C. in C. Plymouth, 172350A to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, Appledore, Fowey)

Casualties and Defects.

MARKAY.

MARKAY refloated at 170818A and will proceed Clyde under her own power. (SAUCY, 170725Z to N.O.I.C. Aultbea) Afloat 0710. Proceeding to Clyde. (MARKAY, 170755Z)

UMBRA.

Your 161601. Towage postponed 24 hours, weather. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 170951A to F.O.S.)

TRACKER.

As it is essential for TRACKER to be fitted with rebladed rotor request you will arrange for her to proceed to U.S.A. on the next suitable operational occasion for this work to be carried out. Work will take about five days. (D.O.D.(H), 171804A to C. in C. W.A.)

WARWICK.

Your 161910. Machinery defects in WARWICK can be undertaken on arrival at Grimsby and docking can be arranged at the end of November. (D.O.D.(H), 171943A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

Shipping and Convoy.

O.N.211.

Following has been received. Amend stragglers route. From (N) to (A) 057 degs. 51' N. 027 degs. 57' W. (B) 057 degs. 20' N. 035 degs. 38' W. thence to (Q) omitting (O) and (P). (C. in C. W.A. 170007Z to Escorts and Stragglers O.N.211)

M.K.F.25A.  
T.U.3.

Bristol Channel portion of convoy M.K.F. 25A is due 22/11 comprising following U.S. troop transport SANTA PAULA, SANTA ROSE, HENRY GIBBINS. (3) All above vessels are required to be ready to sail in convoy T.U.3 on 27/11. (D.S.T.170010A)

Flight /...

War Diary.17.11.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. - Contd.

- Flight "P". Cancel my 162334.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 170056A to A.I.G.31)  
Abandon search. Return to Plymouth detach  
STORMKING as in my 162314.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 170114A to M/S 16)
- S.C.146. A.M.162345. Further transmissions at 2306Z and  
2310 from your general area intercepted.  
(D.D.I.C. 170144A to S.C.146, E.G.5)
- U.T.4A. SS. BRAZIL, EXAMINER, KHEDIVE arrived.  
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 170800Z to C. in C. W.A.)
- T.U.4A. A.M.151217A and 161906A.  
(1) Sail Bar Light vessel at 1400Z/19.  
(2) All ships R/V at 0800Z/20th, 270 degs. Oversay  
6 miles.  
(3) Noon G.M.T. 20th 055 degs. 58' N. 008 degs. 15' W.  
Noon G.M.T. 21st 056 degs. 26' N. 013 degs. 07' W.  
(N.C.S.O. Mersey, 170825Z to N.C.S.O. Clyde.)  
(1) C.T.F.67 is requested to detail one escort to join  
Liverpool portion at Bar Light Vessel at 1400Z/19.  
(2) Following Escorts to join at Oversay R/V.  
(A) From Belfast JEFFREY. (B) From Londonderry, C.T.F.67 in  
FRANKFORD, CARMICK, DOYLE, ENDICOTT, McCOOK, LEE-FOX.  
(C. in C. W.A. 171258A to F.O.I.C. N.I.)  
Intend sailing Clyde portion and CHICOPEE passing Clyde  
boom 2200/19th to R/V with Liverpool portion and escorts in  
position "PA" at 0900A/20th. thence in accordance with Admiralty  
151336A.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 171536A to Admty.)  
A.M.151217 para. 2 Add.  
From Liverpool U.S. tanker PINE RIDGE, destination New York.  
(D.O.D. (H), 171844A to C. in C. W.A.)  
IRA JEFFERY detailed to join Liverpool portion convoy  
T.U.4A at Bar Light Vessel at 1400Z/19th and escort to R/V off  
Oversay.  
(C.T.F.67, 172117 to IRA JEFFERY)
- ATLANTIS. After disembarkation at Avonmouth, Hospital Ship  
ATLANTIS should be sailed on 19th November, on  
a voyage to the Middle East calling at Gibraltar  
for orders.  
(D.S.T. 171208A to D.S.T.O. Avonmouth)
- H.X.265. BITER is to proceed at dusk tonight with ships  
capable of 12½ knots and 3 escorts.  
(C. in C. W.A. 171242A to BITER, Escorts H.X. 265)  
Your 171242. H.X. 265 fast section detach 1800Z.

PERTH /...



War Diary.17.11.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- H.X.265.  
(Contd.)  
PERTH, GDYNIA, BAYANO, ROBIN TUXFORD, LUCELLUM, MARINA and BITER escorted by (?gp omitted) S.O. MORDEN, CHILLIWACK. No stragglers. My P.C.S. 052 degs. 26' 020 degs. 18', 043 degs. 9.5 knots. (C.2, 171801Z to C. in C. W.A.)
- O.S.59/  
K.M.S.33.  
Sailed TAVY, ROCHESTER, FOLKESTONE, GERANIUM, BALSAM for O.S.59/K.M.S.33. SCARBOROUGH will sail late to overtake. (Cdre. D. W.A. 171401 and 181047 to C. in C. W.A.) SCARBOROUGH sailed to overtake. O.S.59/K.M.S.33. (Cdre. D. W.A. 172121A to C. in C. W.A.)
- F.D.16.  
Intend sailing TORDENSKJOLD, MORIALTA escorted by HAMLET, FLATHOLM at 2300A tomorrow to 058 degs. 56' N. 004 degs. 36' W.  
(2) Routed through 061 degs. 51' N. 005 degs. 30' W. S.O.A. 9 knots.  
(3) Thence MORIALTA escorted by HAMLET to Thurso, E.T.A. 0800A/20.  
(4) TORDENSKJOLD proceeding Clyde, E.T.A. 1500/21st escorted to 270 degs. Rustoer 10 miles by FLATHOLM. (N.O.I.C.Faeroes, 171529A to C. in C. W.A.)
- O.N.212.  
TENACITY detailed Convoy O.N.212. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 171906A to C. in C. W.A.)
- AMSTERDAM.  
My 161825. Sailed. (N.C.S.O. Kirkwall, 172235 to A.C.O.S.)

War Diary.17.11.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Operation  
of A/Cs.  
in north  
Atlantic.

Your 212111Z Sept. (Hush M/S distribution).  
Two L.R. Fortress (30 aircraft) Squadrons are  
now established in Azores and 10 Hudsons are  
also being temporarily retained at Terceira.  
2. In conjunction with Canadian E.A.C. and the  
squadrons in U.K. and Gibraltar/Morocco area,  
this force should be sufficient in present

circumstances to provide air cover for all British controlled  
convoys across the Atlantic and to your U.G./G.U. convoys,  
whilst also providing its necessary share of the cover for  
convoys between U.K. and Gibraltar.

3. This is based on the following assumptions -

(a) That the new Southern route as defined in our 201021A Sept.  
will be standard route for British controlled convoys subject  
to diversions to old Northern route when necessary owing to  
U-Boat dispositions.

(b) That C.V.Es. can be made available to supplement or relieve  
shore-based aircraft from Azores to meet exceptional peaks in  
convoy commitments or to support a specially threatened convoy.

(c) That when U-Boat situation so required U.G. and G.U. convoys  
can be routed reasonably close to Azores to take advantage of  
short range cover by Hudsons.

(d) That all air operations in the area Azores, Morocco, United  
Kingdom are co-ordinated and that only threatened or specially  
important convoys are given air cover, as has been our practice  
in North Atlantic for some months. This involves the application  
of the "Stipple" arrangement to the U.G. and G.U. convoys when  
under air cover from Azores. In these circumstances we do not  
at present intend to replace the long range Fortresses with  
V.L.R. Liberators because,

(a) The former can meet requirements.

(b) They could only be replaced with Liberators at serious cost  
to the effort in other areas, where Liberators are more valuable  
than Fortresses.

5. Provided U.G. and G.U. convoys are routed reasonably close to  
Azores when necessary as in para. 2(c) good use can be made of  
short range aircraft which have a very limited use elsewhere in  
the Eastern Atlantic. It is therefore intended to retain the  
Hudsons until it becomes politically practicable to relieve them  
with the P.V. Squadron mentioned in your 212111Z Sept., should  
you still wish to make this arrangement.

6. H.Q.C.C. will detach Leigh Light aircraft for operation from  
Azores as favourable opportunities occur.

7. It is anticipated that R.A.F. aircraft from Azores can readily  
conform to your escort procedure, signals, or homing procedure  
but it will be necessary to agree on the system of patrols to be  
adopted by aircraft under the orders of S.O. Escorts. It would  
naturally be easier for us if you could adopt our Reptile Code  
for this purpose, but we see no real difficulty in using your  
system of patrols for aircraft covering U.G. and G.U. convoys.  
(V.C.N.S., 170136Z to Cominch, (R) N.S.H.Q.)

U/B.

D/F bearings on 8142 N k/cs at 0530Z indicate  
U-Boat within 50' either side of line from 42° N.  
23° W. to 44° N. 21° W.  
(D.D.I.C., 170756A to S.B.N.O. Azores, F.O.I.C.  
Gib., Info. H.Q.C.C.)

/WITHERINGTON ...

War Diary.17.11.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- WITHERINGTON. Sailed 0432 to R/V RANPURA, ARAWA and escort to Gibraltar.  
(F.O.C. Gib., 170959A.)
- HUMBOLDT. Unless otherwise directed intend sailing independently 190900A to (? Norfolk (Virginia)). Request Admty. furnish route.  
(C.M.S.F., 171028Z to Admty., C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet.)
- NANCY. My 111213.\* NANCY sailing 2015/16th for Gib.  
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 171038.)  
\* SKAANE and EGHOLM sailed for Gibraltar 10th.
- KAULDI. 59 sailed 2300/16th.  
(R.O. Bilbao, 171125 to M.E.W., (R) Admty. (for D.N.I.))
- ARROW. Intend including ARROW in K.M.S.32. Destination Taranto for repairs. Your 242333\* Oct. refers.  
(F.O.I.C. Gib., 171202A to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty., F.O.T.A.L.I., C.S. Taranto, V.A. Malta.)  
\* re permanent damage repairs of ARROW to be undertaken at Taranto.
- IRIS,  
LADY  
HOGARTH. Cable ship IRIS with H.M. Trawler LADY HOGARTH sailed for cable ground at 1500 G.M.T./17th.  
(N.C.S.O. Funchal, 171455 to F.O.C. Gib., (R) Admty.)
- B.Y.M.S.204,  
203, 232. Sailed at 1400(0) to Gib. Route. E.T.A. 1300Z/22nd.  
(S.B.N.O. Horta, 171631(0) to F.O.I.C. Gib.)
- L.C.M.,  
L.C.Ps.  
Azores. A.M. 081845A. 2 L.C.M. and 2 L.C.P. retained No. 205, 332, 60 and 80 respectively. L.C.M. lost No. 181.  
Nominal list of personnel follows by letter.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 171646Z to Admty., (R) Advisor Com. Ops.)
- Operation  
"?Cohabit". A.158/17th Nov. Operation "Colsbit" (? "Cohabit" intended) in force night 18th/19th to night 22nd/23rd. Time on 1900A time off 0730A.  
(Coastal Command, 171650A to 19 Group Gib., (R) Admty., F.O.(S), A.M.D.A.U.B. Transport Command, Feltwell, Hamworthy, 248 Wing N.A.A.F.)

/TUMULT ...

War Diary.17.11.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

TUMULT.

Your 161159.

(A) At 1300 043° 37' N. 018° 00' W., 000°, 17 kts.

(B) At 1700 042° 50' N. 017° 00' W., 142°, 17 kts.

Area one book are not held. Weather report 1310 0256.

(TUMULT, 171710A to F.O.C. Gib., (R) C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A., RICHELIEU, PIORUN.)

Spanish  
Warships  
exercise.

Your 122151. M. of M. have agreed to limit all exercises North of Finisterre to the following. Details. I asked Spanish C. of N.A. to abandon them. He replied in negative and consider further concessions improbable. They are aware of (? this) and accept risk.

(B.N.A. Madrid, 171915A to Admty., F.O.C. Gib.)

U/B sunk  
off Cape  
Ortegal  
10th.

My 121900. I am now informed by Ministry of Marine that U-Boat was abandoned in sinking condition and with unexploded depth charge in casing inside territorial waters. Originally retaining some buoyancy she has now grounded one cable off Estaca with conning tower visible at low water. Our case for internment now beyond

arguing and is still with Foreign Affairs, am informed (? privately) by C. of S. that this will be confirmed shortly. (B.N.A. Madrid, 171947A to Admty., (R) C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.C. Gibraltar, H.Q.C.C., (? C. in C. Med.))

SIMOUN.

Arrived.

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 171957A.)

?L.C.T.332.

An L.C.T. with engine broken down has come near Gijon. 3 Officers and 16 ratings in hand for \* Naval authorities. Will report further details when available and also press for time for repairs and release.

(B.N.A. Madrid, 172114A to Admty., (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.) \* as received ? of intended.

Attack on U.S  
A/C by Spanish  
A/C.

C. in C. Med. 022005 and A.M. 312146 Oct. Request report whether U.S.N.A. has obtained any explanation from Spaniards.

(Head of M.I., 172306A to N.A. Madrid, C. in C. Med., Connav.)

17.11.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Enemy M/Vs.  
Saigon.

Following report was obtained by U.S. Military Attache from a passenger aboard Swedish ship GRIPSHOLM. 3 merchant ships were ready to sail from Saigon on 15th Oct. with cargo of rubber destination said to be Germany. French were ? reported to be trying to delay departure by sabotage - end. Report ungraded but passenger is said to have been in Saigon recently.

(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 172036Z to Admty., (R) S.O.(I) Capetown, S.O.(I) Freetown, B.A.D.)

Comment: This report is probably true. Vessels available are RIO GRANDE, OSORNO, WESERLAND, BURGENLAND, HAVELLAND, Tankers BRAKE, MADRONO, CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN and U-Boat supply ship ALSTERUFER.

War Diary.17.11.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Leros O/0305 17th. 384547. Further my O/0304. First A/C returned from dropping supplies Leros tonight and reports no sign of firing on ground. All pilots on previous nights have reported seeing firing.  
(C. in C. M.E., 170020B to W.O.)

384600. O/0307 17th. Further my O/0304 and O/0305. LRDG W/T set Leros opened up 0010B hours passed corrupt plain language message that fighting continuing an isolated areas, and asking instructions. Have asked him for more information in cipher.  
(C. in C. M.E., 170058B to W.O.)

Leros fell yesterday evening 16th.  
(C. in C. Levant, 170631B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med)

384660 O/0311 17th. Further my O/0307.\* No longer any doubt many of our forces at Leros have surrendered. Isolated fighting may still be continuing incl. Portolago area according to report originated 0203B/17.  
(C. in C. M.E., 171145Q to W.O.) \* Recd. in W.R. at 172020 from W.O. \*170020B.

Yugo-Slav warships. Question in your 271835 and C. in C. Levant's 302101 was taken up strongly by H.M. Ambassador with Yugo-slav Gov., who replied they are unable to withdraw restriction. Are most anxious for ships to be used against the Germans, but do not believe that their employment in supplying partisans is essential.

2. F.O. not disposed to accept Yugoslav reply particularly if restriction is still embarrassing your operations to supply partisans. H.M. Ambassador understands, however, that partisans may now be disposing of sufficient shipping to meet their own needs. Even so it may not be enough in future when there may be considerable increase in supplies by sea.

3. Request your views.  
(A.C.N.S. 170128A to C. in C. Med., Info. C. in C. Levant, F.O.T.A.)

F.O.L.I. 121545 being passed to Admty. Your 261330 and 302101 and my 271835 none to V.A. Malta also refer.

2. Majority of Naval vessels now in Yugoslav hands or to be turned over to them from Italians at Malta are small and not suitable for employment except over short distances in sheltered waters.

3. It is therefore impracticable to employ Yugoslav Navy on Med. station unless Yugoslavs can compose their differences between Govt. and Partisans and their ships be instructed to work together in the general Allied cause from bases in the heel of Italy as required by C. in C. Allied forces.

4. Request you will consider again representing this strongly to the appropriate Yugoslav Authorities in Egypt.

5. In event of continued difficulty request information whether you could usefully employ any Yugoslav vessels in the Levant.  
(C. in C. Med., 171658A to C. in C. Levant, (R) Admty. V.A. Malta, F.O.T.A.L.I.)

U/B

U-boat believed operating north of Scarpanto Straits.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 170821B to 1st S.F. C. in C. Levant).

/ATROPO...

War Diary.17.11.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

ATROPO Return to Haifa forthwith by reverse of outward route reporting your E.T.A. (Capt. (S) 1, 170903B to ATROPO (R) C. in C. Levant, 1st S.F.)

UNSPARING 16th. Departed. (S.O.I. Beirut, 170907B).

QUEENBOROUGH, Detailed patrol tonight F.O.T.A.L.I. 170249\*  
RAIDER. refers. \*(N.T. in W.D.)  
(2) Request fighter cover during daylight today two destroyers anchored Manfredonia Bay priority normal "Vampire" 529 fighter protection from 0600A/18. P.C. and S. 042° 10' N., 015° 40' E. 130° 25 knots to Bari.  
(Capt. (D) 4, 170937A to S.N.O.A.L. (E), F.O.T.A.L.I. (R) No.1, M.O.R.U. N.O.I.C. Bari, N.L.O. 8th Army, C.F.W. 242 Group 4th D.F.)

German shipping. A. German barges from Black Sea SEESCHLANGE and SEERÄUBER passed Istanbul 1730 G.M.T. 16th in transit for Aegean.  
B. Reported similar in appearance to ESTE (my 091125 refers), B.3.  
C. Expected of entry Aegean between 0800 and 1000 G.M.T. 17th, destination Salonica.  
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 170940C, 171045C to C. in C. Levant, S.O.(I) Levant, (R) S.l., D.N.I.)

CEDARDALE, CEDARDALE without gyro compass sails end Nov.  
PEARLEAF. Your 111040. PEARLEAF being fitted gyro compass ex OLIGARCH. See my 021936. Your para. two yes.  
(C. in C. Levant, 170947B to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty. C. in C. Med).

Air Reports. A.334 17th. 15/16 Nov. Daily Opsum 203.  
A total of 160 bombing sorties were made by enemy aircraft on Leros.  
16th. 2 Hurricanes offensive sweep Crete observed an explosion and column of black smoke up to 2,000 ft. 7 Beaufighters strike against 1 Siebel ferry and 2 small barges sighted 3 miles west of Kalimno. Fire started on Siebel which afterwards blew up.  
16/17 Nov. 8 Dakotas (C.47) dropping supplies on Leros 1 Dakota (C.47) missing.  
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 171043).  
N.A.T.A.F. 16th. 24 U.S. Mitchells Sibenik, Yugoslavia 78 x 500 24 x 250. Hits on harbour railroad and docks. 18 U.S. Warhawks armed recco. Ancona/Pitcara area. 36 x 20 on small motor vessel Porto Recanato. Two 100 ft. vessels at Giottamare straffed with unobserved results.  
(H.Q., N.A.A.F., 171452A).

/CURIE...

War Diary.17.11.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

CURIE Intend to sail CURIE at 0900A/19th proceeding on the surface through 038° 00' N., 006° 14' E., at 0600A/20th and 040° 00' N., 006° 14' E. at 2130A/20th thence as ordered by Capt. (S) 10th for patrol in zone SU.  
(N.O.I.C. Algiers, 171052A to C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 10, (R) 10th S.F., Capt. (S) 8th, PROTEE, F.O.C. Gib).

Convoy Cycle. If sailing date of K.M.S. convoys is advanced it would be desirable to advance that of G.U.S. convoys also in order that westbound convoys should be evenly spaced. If this were done effect of proposals in A.M. 151759 would be to advance everything by one day excepting,  
(A) Sailing of U.G.S. convoys from U.S.A. which would continue as at present.  
(B) Sailing of K.M.S. convoys from U.K. which could be advanced two days.  
(2) An equal result could be achieved more simply by advancing sailing date of K.M.S. convoys by one day and delaying sailing date of U.G.S. convoys by one day.  
(3) This would go some way to meeting our requirements but insistence on a minimum layover of 10 days for W.A. escort groups means a maximum layover of only 7 days for Med. escort groups. It is therefore considered that sailing date of K.M.S. convoys should be advanced two days? instead of one.  
(4) In any case? it is desirable that M.K.S. convoys arrive Gib. two days before the R/V with the corresponding S.L. convoy at C.O.M.P. It is requested therefore that the S.L. convoy should not arrive at C.O.M.P. before 12 days after the scheduled date of departure from Freetown. Para. 7 of A.M. 162131 June refers. Recent early arrivals have caused considerable difficulty.  
(C. in C. Med., 171144A to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A., F.O.C.W.Af. F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in C. Levant, C. in C. S.A.)

M.E. and S.E.A.C. OZ 3766 17th 1943. Following from C. of S. C.O.S. (M.E.) 442. We have examined question of using M.E. as a base for S.E.A.C. and have decided as follows:- details.  
8. The Army base in the M.E. should not be reduced so as to prejudice present or future requirements of Navy and R.A.F. and Merchant Navy.  
(Air Min. 171225Z to Cs. in C. M.E. (Reference CC/329) C. in C. India (Reference 78832/COS), S.E.A.C.)

M.K.F.25 A. Sailing telegram part 2. 9 ships.  
(Com. N.O.B. Palermo, 171238Z).

/Air...



17.11.1943.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Air cover for Merchant vessels. Following message received (begins) Comnavnav (R) C. in C. Med. from Cominch C.N.O. Recent merchant vessel losses in the Mediterranean by air attack create doubt as to adequacy of air coverage in your 201152 Oct. War Dept. concurs and requests you take up with General

Eisenhower. 101237 (ends).

2. I consider I should not be required to accept a situation in which such a message implying criticism of arrangements for the security of shipping, should be made to a U.S. Naval Commander under my command with instructions to take the matter up direct with General Eisenhower.

3. Whatever the reason for this criticism may be

(A) Arrangements for air cover are the responsibility of the Air C. in C. and myself conjointly.

(B) Enquiry into its inefficiency, directed to Comnavnav, as it was, places both him and me in a difficult position and should not I suggest be allowed to recur.

(C. in C. Med., 171242 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)

A.H. 9 A. Intend sailing at 0600/19th. Route. Escort BICESTER, ZETLAND, M.S.C.I. 22 refers. (N.O.I.C. Augusta, 171344A)

CEYLON Onward route from 032° 58' N., 020° 00' E., 0530B/18th thence 349 512, Q.B. 328, 508, 310, 309, 0330/19th thence by inshore route to Port Said arriving 1030/19th speed of advance 23 knots. Codeword "Sampler" normal. (C. in C. Levant, 171455B to CEYLON (R) N.O.I.C. Port Said, F.O.C. Red Sea, C. in C. E.F. E.C. M.K.F. 26, E.C. G.U.S. 22, E.C. K.M.S. 31, R.A. Alex. S.N.O.C. N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 201 N.C. Group 212, Group, 235 Wing, 245 Wing, 247 Wing).

Situation 384774 O/36483 17th. Cositrep 58. 1. Leros. Aegean. B. Unconfirmed report Germans shooting Italian officers P.Ws. C. Ph. R. 16th showed no significant change enemy distribution. 2. Ops. Aegean. A. Leros. See special Sitreps O/0305 O/0307

and O/0311 all of 17 Nov..

B. Samos. Greek Sacred Sqn. was embarked at 1900B hrs. for Leros, but in view of situation was disembarked again. 4 officers and 167 Ors. Pt. from Leros have arrived Samos.

C. Kastelorizo. One Ju.88 R/C 1114B hrs. 16 Nov.

D. Most successful raid on Symi carried out by Det. S.B.S. night 15/16. Three patrols totalling 11 men penetrated Symi Town. Follg. damage done. H.Q. at Governors House partially destroyed. O.C.tps killed. Power Sta. partially destroyed. Four caiques destroyed three damaged. Main amm. dump destroyed. Our casualties nil. Fascists casualties 22 incl. 3 Germans. (C. in C.M.E. 171700B.)

17.11.1943.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Situation 384723 I/36482 17 Nov. Joint Army R.A.F.Int.  
 Aegean. Appreciation 24 hours to 1000Z/17th.  
 (Contd.) 1. From study recent ph. and visual R/Cs. of enemy shipping in Kos/Kalimno/Leros area and in Cyclades Islands and Piraeus area it is estimated that enemy now has available following landing and other similar craft suitable for an operation against Samos and/or Kastelorizo. Siebel ferries 1 at present believed to be on passage from Piraeus to probably Leros. Possibility of one or more Siebel ferries being transferred from Adriatic to Aegean cannot be excluded. F.Lighters total 8 have been identified in Kos/Kalimno/Leros area of which 4 were evidently unserviceable on 14th, since 14th. Navy report sinking 1 F.Lighter night 14/15 Nov. leaving 3 runners which were all identified in service by Ph. R. 16th. 1 F.Lighter has been lying at Amorgos (Nikuria Bay) since 9th evidently unserviceable - possibility cannot be excluded that some of the unserviceable F.Lighters may be repaired and brought back into service. Also indications from Ph. R. that captured British L.C. at Kos being recommissioned. L.C. Ph. R. 10th showed total 16 L.C. left Levitha/Stampalia and believed all arrived in operational area. 3 L.C. reported sunk and others damaged by coast defences Leros 12th and further two landing craft sunk by Navy 15th. Ph. and visual R/C of operational area 16th showed total 11 L.C. Further two L.C. type craft were sighted 16th in company with Siebel Ferry approaching Kalimno. Siebel was destroyed by air action but the two L.C. type craft escaped and probably reached Kalimno. Further reinforcement of L.C. by rail transport (in sections) to Piraeus is possible. Escort vessels Ph. R. shows that enemy now has 1 destroyer and 3 T.Bs. in service which have taken part in Leros operation. In addition Ph. R. of Kos/Kalimno/Leros area show 4 corvette and trawler type escort vessels of 100/200 feet. Also 3 armed caiques 60/100 foot 3 E type Boats 100/110 foot 3 motor escort launches 40 foot.

2. Enemy therefore could make immediately available for further operations a total of 1 Siebel ferry 3 F.Lighters 13 L.C. with an estimated total lift of up to 1500 troops. Also escort vessels as above.

3. Ph. R. shipping 16th Piraeus. 0755 and 1200Z hours. Arrived merchant vessel from Suda Bay 300 foot. Departures CITTA DI SAVONA (305 foot) 1 Siebel Ferry destroyed 300 foot seen at Kalimno by Ph. R. 1105Z/16 quayside activity noted alongside 3 cargo vessels. Cretan ports not covered owing cloud. Rhodes arrival and departure of caiques again noted. Visual R/C shipping 17th 0800Z and 0833Z, 2 T.Bs. approaching Kos/Kalimno/area separately coming from west.

5. Although indications enemy next move lacking appreciate enemy has sufficient shipping immediately available to launch attack on Samos and/or Kastelorizo. Craft lift estimated up to 1500 maximum or approx. 1000 troops with proportion heavy weapons. These troops believed available in Leros/Kos area. Since enemy now in possession Leros he will probably attempt run convoy to Rhodes, earliest possible.  
 (C. in C.M.E. No T.O.O.)

G.U.S.22.

Sailing telegram, part 1. 22 ships.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 171701.)

War Diary.17.11.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.- Contd.

- H.A.9. Intend to sail 21 ships.  
(N.O.I.C. Bari 171716.)
- M.T.Bs. Vosper M.T.Bs. of 7th M.T.B. F. are now completely worn out and useless. There is a good field for coastal force operation from Corsica and French are also desirous of obtaining M.T.Bs. to operate in this area. Request consideration to supply of 9 M.T.Bs. to re-equip 7th F. and a further 9 for loan to the French.  
(C. in C.Med. 171719A to Admty. (R) C.C.F.)
- M.K.F.26. Sailing telegram part 1, 5 ships.  
X.I.F.4. (N.O.I.C. Port Said 171731B.)
- Crews for Arrangements.  
It. Ships (C. in C.Med. 171815A to F.O.C.Gib. F.O.L.I.  
in Spanish B.N.A.Madrid, (R) Admty.)  
Ports.
- Use of Italian Warships. It was never the intention to employ the Italian battleship operationally, idea is to use her as a depot cum training ship at Taranto where Italians consider her presence would be of value to morale. Time for move to Taranto not yet ripe but will be proposed later if Italians continue to co-operate.
2. May yet prove that there is useful work for the cruisers. It is recommended that no action be taken at present to lay up the three suggested.
3. Admiralty 072349 refers.  
(C. in C.Med. 171818A to Admty. (R) B.A.D. C. in C.Levant.)
- BARSPPEAR, BARHOLM. BARSPPEAR can be spared now and BARHOLM about end of Dec. Your 100546.  
(C. in C.Med. 171906A to C. in C.E.F. (R) Admty. F.O.E.A.C. F.O.Ceylon.)
- M.K.F.26/ (corrupt group). My 141436, S.O.A. now 12 knots.  
X.I.F.4. E.T.A. 033° 08' N. 020° 00' E. 0330/20th.  
(C. in C.Levant 171931B.)
- ROCKWOOD. Pieces unexploded glider bomb taken from ROCKWOOD have been sent by air to R.A.F. experimental station Farnborough. Trailing aerial length 2.1 metres and much damaged very low frequency relays are main items of interest.  
(C. in C.Levant 171945B to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med.)
- Italian Movements. 17th departed It. ALISEO, FORTUNALE, AREFUSA, SIRIO, FYTRIGE (as recd.)  
(N.O.I.C. Augusta 171950A.)

War Diary.17.11.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

**CHERRYLEAF.** Sailed with escorts at 2145 today.  
(?PENN) 172226 to C. in C. Levant, Cmdre. Levant.  
Area Beirut, N.O.I.C. Famagusta.)

**Cyprus Movements.** 17th arrivals PENN, ALDENHAM, BLENCATHRA,  
ROCKWOOD. Arrived and left EOLO (It.).  
Departure PENELOPE, CHERRYLEAF.  
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta, Cyprus 172229.)

**Levant Situation Report No. 112.** Up to 1800B/17th. Leros fell evening 16th.  
2. Movement of reinforcements from Samos last  
night in EXMOOR and KRAKOWIAK cancelled after  
they had arrived there. These ships joined FURY  
in Mandelyah Gulf.  
3. M.T.B. striking force patrolling last night  
east of Leros sighted nothing but was attacked with  
glider bombs, no hits.  
4. ROCKWOOD cleared the Rhodes Channel by daylight today in tow  
of BLENCATHRA and due Cyprus this evening, PENN and ALDENHAM  
joined off Kastelorizo having withdrawn south from Mandelyah  
Gulf after bombarding Kos Roads.  
(C. in C. Levant 172245B.)

**UNRIVALLED.** Departed.  
(V.A. Malta 172253A.)

**Patrols 1st S.F.** A. move forthwith as follows begins:  
1. SOKOL to examine Sitia Bay before complying  
with para. 1 of my 161522.  
2. P.224 (SICKLE) to Cape Mala (Morea) thence up  
the coast roughly as far as lat. 37° N. finally to  
patrol in Piraeus - Milos - Crete route.  
3. P.229 SPORTSMAN to patrol approaches to Suda Bay.  
4. P.217 SIBYL to patrol between Sporades and Gulf Salonika.  
5. TORBAY to patrol between Psathura and Strati.  
6. My 161555 DZIK arrange to avoid clashing SICKLE and  
SPORTSMAN.  
B. proceed on surface at your discretion.  
(Capt. S.1 172350B to 1st S.F. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

**S.N.F.7.** Request you will sail convoy at 1630/18 to Oran.  
Route and arrangements.  
(F.O.W. It. 172357A to N.O.I.C. Naples.)

War Diary.

17.11.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Naval  
personnel  
for amphi-  
bious  
training  
in India.

After discussion with D.C.O.(I) it is considered that to keep requirements of amphibious training in India the following personnel will be needed by the dates given in addition to the personnel asked for in my 051133Z Nov. (details).  
(C. in C.E.F. 170437Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) Armindia, D.C.I.(I).)  
As amended 180229

J.C.25.

SHILLONG arrived escorting J.C.25.  
(N.C.S.O.Calcutta 170525Z to Admty.)

S.E.A.  
Air Report.

A.226 17th Nov. Daily Opsum No. 612.  
15/16 Nov. Night 4 Hurricanes Akyab Kaladan Hunters Bay. Village area. River-craft attacked.  
(H.Q.S.E.A.A.C. 170558Z to Air Min.)  
A.233 18th Nov. Daily Opsum No. 613.

16th Nov. 14th U.S.A.A.F. 1 U.S.Mitchell (B.25) and 12 U.S. Kittyhawks (P.40) Lichow area. Buildings destroyed many fires started many river-craft and troops attacked. 130 Japs and 50 horses killed. 10 U.S.Liberators (B.24) 2 U.S.Mitchells (B.25) 6 fighters Kowloon Docks. Most bombs west end of Hongkong Island 250 ft. boat sunk. Formation intercepted by 2 enemy fighters. No damage no claims.

(H.Q.S.E.A.A.C. 170945 to Air Min.)

Daily Opsum No. 612, instalment No. 2.

14th U.S.A.A.F. Nov. 15. 21 U.S.Liberators (B.24) Kowloon and Hongkong. Believed successful. 1 A/C lost, 1 A/C force landed friendly territory. 2 U.S.Mitchells (B.25) sweep South China Sea bombed dock Fort Bayaral 6 U.S.Mitchells (B.25) detailed sea sweep returned early due weather. 6 U.S.Kittyhawks (P.40) offensive R/C Haiphong. Nov. 16, 15 Liberators (B.24) bombed Kowloon docks as diversion for 6 U.S.Liberators (B.24) laying mines. Mission successful. 1 A/C force landed friendly territory. 4 U.S.Mitchells (B.25) sank 2 200 foot freighters near St. Johns Island and scored direct hit on 520 foot vessel.

(S.E.A.A.C. 171030Z to Air Min.)

O.W.7.

Arrived Colombo portion escorted by NIZAM.  
(N.C.S.O.Colombo 170620Z to Admty.)

TORNUS (Br.)  
attacked by  
U/B.

Unsuccessful torpedo attack 010° 47' N. 059° 54' E.  
1530Z/16.  
(TORNUS 170715Z to Colombo W/T.)

P.A.61.

Sailing telegram parts 1 and 2, 10 ships. Escort.  
(N.C.S.O.Hormuz 170740Z to C. in C.E.F.)

Unidentified  
A/C over  
Kilindini.

An unidentified aircraft later reported as Twin float Monoplane flew over Kilindini harbour at 0220C/17th. Aircraft apparently approached low as first picked up by surface Radar by 160° 17000 yards fading at 13,000 but picked up by A.A.

/Radar...

War Diary.17.11.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- Unidentified A/C over Kilindini. (Contd.) Radar until going away out of range later. Heard overhead but not seen by shore A.A. Seen overhead by Newcastle lookouts. Height given varying from 500 to 1,500 feet. No fire opened. Aircraft contact faded 48,000 yards by 192°. R.A.F. are carrying out large A/S sweep of area. RAMILLIES escorted by destroyers and air being recalled Kilindini to arrive in daylight today. (F.O.E.Af. 170844Z to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) (R) R.A.E.F.)
- A.B. 20F. Arrived A.B.20F with CITY OF AGRA and GLENGYLE escorted by BATTLER, NORMAL, NEPAL, ROTHERHAM and RAPID. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 170934Z to Admty.)
- P.B. 63. Arrived Bombay portion, escorted by BALUCHISTAN, TAANKAN. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 171221Z to Admty.)
- Escort Vessels administration. From now on all R.N. and R.A.N. escort vessels on East Indies Station other than those administered by F.O.I.C. E.Af. and Azanzibar Cmdre. i/c Aden and S.N.O.P.G. are to be administered by C. in C. E.F. through Capt. A.B.C.E.F. who is responsible direct to C. in C.E.F. (C. in C.E.F. 171307Z to F.O.Ceylon, Capt. A.B.C.E.F. (R) Com. R.I.N. F.O.C.R.I.N. Cmdre. i/c Aden, Combay, S.N.O.P.G. F.O.I.C. E.A. & Zanzibar, Admty. A.C.N.B.)
- Kilindini Convoy Escort Force, administration. With reference to E.F.G.O. number 4 and E.F.T.M. 609 ships forming the convoy escort force based at Kilindini are from now on to be operated and administered by the F.O.East Africa. (C. in C.E.F. 171319Z to F.O.E.Af. (R) C. in C.S.A. Station, Cmdre. i/c Aden, Cmdre. i/c Durban, Admty.)

War Diary.17.11.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

ESSO  
PITTSBURG,  
"S"  
Report. Naval Wireless Admty. Adm. Devonport. De Wax  
(Hialeah Florida Radio). SSSS DE KFQO S/M attack  
0039 GCT 13.30 N. 68.25 W. De Wax 170054 (ends).  
(Valentia Radio 170123Z to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Operation of A/C's in North Atlantic. (V.C.N.S. 170136Z to Cominch (R) N.S.H.Q.) See North Atlantic.

Manning of Convoy Escort Vessels. (1st Lord 170137A to C.N.S. Canada).  
(D.P.S. 171821A to B.A.M.R.) See Lion Copy.

T.F.64 constituted. Cinclant's 161320 to Comdesron 19 for action. This constitutes Task Force 64, Capt. Conner Comdesron 19 in STEVENSON, Desdiv 37 Comcortdiv 3 in JACOB JONES Cortdiv 3 inch. STANTON, SWASEY, HOUSATONIC and also S.C.1345. Nov.24 escort U.G.S.25 to North Africa from Hampton Roads. When directed by Commorseafron return Hampton Roads escorting G.U.S.24. Upon arrival direct S.C.1345 report Com. 8th Fleet for further orders. British L.S.E.1 will sail in convoy.  
(Commaveu 171433 to Admty.)

N.S.H.Q. S/M. Estimate. (N.S.H.Q.171505Z.)

YANKEE SWORD aground. YANKEE SWORD U.S. en route Galveston to Baltimore aground in 030° 56' N. 081° 09' W. 15th Nov.  
(N.S.H.Q. 171525Z to Admty., B.R.L.O. Baltimore, New York, N.C.S.O. Montreal.)

UGANDA, CLEOPATRA. Your 082154, approved on assumption that sufficient key ratings will be retained in Cruisers to meet requirements of U.S. Authorities for ships refitting 2. These runner crews cannot be returned to U.S.A. nor can reliefs be sent from U.K. Both ships must, therefore, return to U.K. after refit with the reduced complement remaining on board. 3. Sufficient officers for runner crew should be available in U.S.A. but following are required in U.K. and should be used:- Navigating Officers of both UGANDA and CLEOPATRA. Lieut. B. Kane of UGANDA.  
(D.P.S. 171623A to B.A.M.R., Info. C. in C. Med., F.O.Gib., UGANDA, CLEOPATRA.)

AQUITANIA (A.T.74) Departed Ambrose 1600Z/17th Nov. for Clyde. Little Cumbrae 241300Z. S. of A. 20.5 knots. E.T.A. (P.D. New York 171624Z to Com.10th Fleet C. & R.)

A W /

# 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                      170137A/November                      OUT

To C.N.S. Ottawa  
INFO B.A.D. Washington  
      B.A.M.R. Washington  
      N.M.C.S. Washington

Date 17.11.43  
*Manning of Convoy  
Escort Vessels*

Naval Cypher XD Plug

From Admiralty

Your 102052/November (Personal to First Sea Lord) and 101703.

The offer of help is greatly appreciated and will, if implemented as suggested, go a long way to solving our future problems, but the immediate problem remains.

2. In spite of all the measures we have taken, including the formation of runner crews from ships refitting, we are quite unable to man up to time the new construction escort vessels and C.V.E's. now being completed in America, and are obliged therefore to devise immediate measures to meet this situation.
3. In full recognition of your own difficulties we put forward following remarks on, and additions to, the proposals in your 102052.
4. Western Escort Force. If the British and Norwegian-manned ships in the Western Escort Force could be relieved now by ships already in service, the British crews of these ships would be sent direct to America to man new construction U.S. built escort vessels. On paying off, these old ships would be laid up in Canadian ports where they could be surveyed to decide on their future employment, and those suitable for non-operational duties such as target vessels would be British-manned and brought to U.K., the remainder being laid up in Canada without Care and Maintenance parties. Later we would, of course, consider any request you might make for the use of some of these ships.

5. ....



# 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.)

- 2 -

5. British built Frigates. The following points arise from your offer to man 10 of these vessels between now and February 1944:

- (a) Owing to lack of spares and the difficulties of maintenance, Captain and Loch Class Frigates and Castle Class Corvettes are restricted to the Atlantic. Therefore all foreign requirements must for the present be met from River class Frigates.
- (b) These ships are suitable for Group Leaders or to relieve destroyers as the fast ships in Groups. Such as are allocated to the Atlantic would therefore be unlikely to be employed in homogeneous groups.
- (c) We appreciate you would prefer escort vessels to serve in R.C.N. Groups. We could not guarantee this in North Atlantic at present, but we are more likely to be able to arrange it on foreign stations if you can accept service abroad.
- (d) Delays would be involved in steaming these ships across the Atlantic to Canada.
- (e) British built frigates could, however, be made available between the dates you mention but you will appreciate that, although we should do our best to meet your wishes as to their employment, the restrictions on dispositions of escort vessels are already so severe that we can not now make a definite promise.

6. U.S. built Captain Class Frigates. We understand from B.A.M.R. that from the U.S. point of view the difficulties arising over Lease-Lend might be overcome.

7. If, instead of British built river class, you could agree to manning 10 U.S. built Captain Class Frigates, the following advantages would accrue:-

- (a) These, together with the early release of the Western Escort Force, would go a long way to solving our immediate problem of manning U.S. new construction escort vessels.
- (b) The delays involved in ferrying River Class Frigates to Canada would be avoided.
- (c) As all the Captain Class ships are at present restricted to the Atlantic and are normally employed in Homogeneous groups, their manning by the R.C.N. is convenient from both these aspects.
- (d) They are, of course, modern in every way.

8. Fleet Destroyers. It is hoped shortly to give you the names of the two Fleet Destroyers being allotted to you in accordance with the offer in your 101534 to B.A.D. It is suggested that the crews for these two ships should provide runner crews for U.S. built Captain Class Frigates and that, if you agree, the latter should be R.N. commanded so that no Lease-Lend problem is involved.

9. C.V.M's. It would be of the greatest assistance if anything can be done towards providing the personnel referred to in my 061840 para. 1 (e).

10. If you can see your way to adopting any of the above proposals it is suggested that details should be arranged direct with B.A.M.R. keeping Admiralty informed, particularly with regard to any proposal which would require approach to U.S. Government by us on Lease-Lend questions.

. 170137A  
for A.C.N.S. (H)  
Approved 1st Lord

1st Lord	S.C.N.O. (L)	
1st S.L. (2)	D.C.N.A.E.	
D.F.S.L.	Hd. of Air Br.	
2nd S.L.	Ad. Binney	
3rd S.L.	Hd. of M.A.S. (4)	
Vice Contr.	A.S. (C)	
4th S.L.	Ad. Blake (4)	
5th S.L.	D. of D.	
V.C.N.S.	D.N.C.	
A.C.N.S. (H)	I.P. (2)	
A.C.N.S. (F)	W.D.	
A.C.N.S. (U.T.) (2)	Dep. Contr.	} Bath
A.C.N.S. (W)	D.N.C.	
Sec.	D. of D.	
N.A. 1st S.L.	Hd. of S.W.R.	
P.A.S. (S)		
P.A.S. (PR)		
D. of P. (2)		
D. of P. (Q) (3)		
D.N.I. (4)		
D.O.D. (H) (4)		
D.O.D. (F) (2)		
D.A/S.W.		
D.A.U.D.		
Hd. of M. (2)		
N.A. 2nd S.L.		
D.P.S.		
Hd. of C.W.		
Hd. of N.		
A.C.R.		

# SECRET

A.W.1

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M E S S A G E

OUT

171821A/November

Addressed:- B.A.M.R.

Date: 17.11.43

Info:- C.in C.Western Approaches.

*Manning of Convoy  
Escort Vessels*

Naval Cypher (X)

From:- Admiralty.

Your 051434 para. 6.

(A) This will be done so far as possible.

(B) Arrangements are being made for depots to signal advance information of crews leaving U.K.

(C) Confirmed.

(D) Two main parties will be sent at end of November subsequent parties will be

communicated later. It is hoped that Admiralty 061847 and Admiralty 170137 have sufficiently informed you of our situation.

171821A.  
for D.P.S. (Q.A.H.251)

1st Lord  
1st S.L.(2)  
D.F.S.L.  
2nd S.L.  
3rd S.L.  
Vice Controller  
4th S.L.  
5th S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(H)  
A.C.N.S.(F)  
A.C.N.S.(W)  
A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)  
A.C.N.S.(A)(2)  
Sec.  
P.A.S.(S)  
P.A.S.(PR)  
U.W.R.  
O.D.(5)  
D,of P.(3)

N.A.2nd S.L.  
D.P.S.(3)  
C.W.(2)  
N.  
D.of S.T.(15)  
Hd.of M.A.S.  
Admiral Blake (4)  
D.A./S.W.  
D.A./U.D.      Dep.Contr.(3) )  
M.(2)      D.of D.(4) )  
D.N.C.      D.N.C.(2) )  
D.of D.      E.in C.(4) ) Bath  
C.C.R.T.      P. )  
E.in C.      S.W.R. )  
E.A.P.  
I.P.(2)  
W.D.

War Diary.17.11.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

- C.3. E.T.A. 1000Z/18th. Boiler hours. In company SKEENA, EYEBRIGHT, H.M.C.S. RIMOUSKI. Boiler hours. Urgent defects. EYEBRIGHT, SASKATCHEWAN. Acknowledge.  
(C.3 171812Z to F.O.N.F.)
- CONN. Sail CONN when ready about 22nd as my 191828 Oct.  
(Cominch 171837 to C.E.S.F.)
- ARGONAUT. When ready about 23 Nov. sail ARGONAUT Norfolk to Argentia via (route) and onward route to Clyde. Advise time of departure S. of A.  
(Cominch X 171839 to C.E.S.F.)
- PATROLLER. Sail PATROLLER when ready about 21st Nov. Seattle to San Francisco for loading. Advise time of departure, route, S. of A.  
(Cominch 171841 to C.N.W.S.F.)
- Convoy O.N.209. 40 ships arrival New York. 1st arrival 170039Z. Last arrival 170555Z. HENRY BACON and PHILIP PETER BARBOUR diverted to Philadelphia.  
(P.D. New York 171920Z.) (B.R.L.O. New York 171941Z.)
- U.S. S/M. Estimate. Re-encipherment of Cominch. <sup>171626</sup>  
(Radio Washington 171626Z.)
- S/M. attack and sighting summary. ESSO, PITTSBURG sighted S/M 13.30 N. 68.25 W. 170039Z Para.C. Aircraft Radar contact 13.42 N. 68.38 W. 170325Z.  
(Cominch 172118 to Admty.)
- U.S.A.T. Nov. 17th 2400 U.S.A.T. EL LIBERTADOR Vieux Fort Nov.18th.  
(B.R.O. Barbados 172355.)
- RAMILLIES, Destroyers. Arrivals Kilindini RAMILLIES, RELENTLESS, QUADRANT, ROEBUCK, SOLVRA.  
(F.O.E.A. 171530 to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) Com.i/c. Durban, N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez.)
- U/B. estimate. No evidence of any German U-Boats at present at sea. One Japanese either in Gulf of Aden area or possibly returning as result of attack by LANDGUARD on 12th and in the latter case reported by S.S. TORNUS 300 miles E. by S. of Socotra on 16th November.  
One Japanese returning Eastward from D/F 2058Z/13th. One Japanese bound N.E. within 250 miles of 32° 30' S. 50° 00' E. from D/F 2224Z/13th.  
(D.D.I.C. 171632A to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) A.C.N.B.)

/American...

War Diary.17.11.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.American  
built escort  
Carriers,  
stocks of  
stores.

Stocks of stores of peculiarly American types and manufacture are not held in Eastern Theatre. Urgent need for provision of maintenance stocks of such stores has been discussed with U.S. Navy representatives now visiting London.

2. Meanwhile, it is very important that American built escort carriers proceeding to Eastern Theatre should carry outfits of such stores completed to a reasonable level having regard to the limited stocks held in the U.S. Naval Supply Base at Londonderry.

(4th S.L. 171934A to R.A. Escort Carriers (E.F.) (R) C. in C.H.F., C. in C.W.A., C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) ).

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements.

Arrived Port Moresby 15th U.S.S. SHIKELLAMY BROOME  
16th U.S.S. VAN GALEN. Departed Milne Bay 15th,  
U.S.S. GILMER for Brisbane. Sydney 15th U.S.S.  
TOWNSVILLE for Brisbane.  
(A.C.N.B. 170807Z.)

Digest  
Serial No.666  
Nov.16th.

Photographs Rabaul Harbour forenoon 15th reveal 3 destroyers, 5 S/Ms., 1 destroyer tender and 19 merchant vessels of approx. 84,000 tons.

2. Ref. my serial No.665 Nov. 15th para.5. Further details enemy shipping reported North Rabaul night 15th indicates Force included 2 destroyers, 2 cargo vessels and 2 other escorts apparently heading away from Rabaul on course 300°. This Convoy attacked by 3 different Catalinas over period of 6 hours. One Catalina reported scoring direct hits with 1,000 pound and 250 pound bombs on large cargo vessel while another Catalina attacking 30 minutes later reported only 5 vessels are in Convoy. 3. Two Beaufighters made barge sweep South Coast, New Britain destroying several small craft vicinity Cape Dampier forenoon 16th. 5. Single Liberator attacked small Coaster 40 miles N.E. Hansa Bay forenoon 16th scoring 2 direct hits and probably destroying the vessel. 10. Photographs Toeal (Ai Islands) indicate airstrip being surfaced and further developed, also 2 small Coasters and several barges nearby. 11. Forenoon 15th 4 Mitchells on sweep around Bougainville coast damaged 1 small Coaster and destroyed 1 barge and supplies. Three Mitchells also attacked East Coast following day destroying 3 barges vicinity Kaeta and strafed villages.

(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A. 170850.)

War Diary.

17.11.1943.  
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 171352, 171355.)

Submarines Attacked.

S/M Attack  
and Sighting  
Summary for  
24 hours to  
0900Z/17.

Para. A.1. NENE missed by torpedo at 1000/16th. in  
49° 10' N. 25° 40' W. 2. A/C. M/86 attacked S/M on  
surface at 0930/16th. in 49° 18' N. 27° 40' W.  
3. A/C. of BITER attacked S/M course 050° at  
0434/16th. in vicinity of H.X.265. Para.B. H.M.M/S.  
18 attacked possible S/M. without results at 0230/16  
in 62° 04' N. 14° 02' W.  
(D.D.I.C. 171101A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

War Diary.18.11.1943.  
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Operation  
F.T.

1. Capt. D.17 in ONSLOW with 6 Destroyers left Seidisfiord at 2318A last night to escort Convoy J.W.54A to the Kola Inlet. C.S.1 in KENT with BERMUDA and JAMAICA, who will form the Cruiser Covering Force in the Barents Sea, arrived at Seidisfiord at 1636A today; and V.A.2 in ANSON, with TUSCALOOSA and 4 U.S. Destroyers, who will form the Battle Fleet cover S.W. of Bear Island, arrived at Akureyri at 1846A.

Biscay  
Area.

2. An A/C of 19 Group attacked and apparently disabled a U-Boat at 0355 today about 480 miles West of Cape Finisterre.

Convoy  
S.L.139/  
M.K.S.30.  
U-Boat  
Attacked  
by EXE.  
CHANTICLEER  
damaged.  
Striking-  
Force No.31  
formed.

3 (a) At 1101Z today EXE (S.O. of E.G.40 escorting Convoy S.L.139/M.K.S.30) attacked a U-Boat 2 miles ahead of the Convoy, about 480 miles W. by S. of Lisbon, and re-joined at 1231Z after making five attacks. It is possible that the U-Boat was lightly rammed by EXE during a run in to attack.

(b) At 1535Z PHEASANT (S.O. of E.G.7 supporting the Convoy) reported that CHANTICLEER had been torpedoed about 500 miles West of Lisbon; but CHANTICLEER at 1632Z considered that her damage had been caused by the explosion of a war-head on board the U-Boat which appeared to be stopped and was being attacked by CRANE. CHANTICLEER, screened by GARLIES and CRANE is being towed by the Salvage Steamer SALVEDA towards the Azores, and the Tug JAUNTY is sailing from Gibraltar to assist. The casualties in CHANTICLEER, most of whose stern is blown off, are believed to be 2 officers and 26 ratings dead or missing and one rating seriously wounded.

(c) Further U-Boats are believed to be near the Convoy: and at 1449A C. in C. W.A. ordered the 3rd, 7th, 4th, 5th, and 40th. Escort Groups with FENCER, WINCHELSEA, and WATCHMAN to form a Striking-Force No.31 for operation in the area. H.Q. Coastal Command, also have asked 247 Group (Azores) to use the maximum possible effort tonight and tomorrow night, as it is thought the present situation will develop into the biggest U-Boat battle we have had and the outcome may have critical results on future Gibraltar convoys.

18.11.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

4. SS. EMPIRE DUNSTAN was torpedoed and sunk by a U-Boat at 1617 today in 30.24 N. 17.40 E. (S.E. of Cotrona) and subsequently sank.

Aegean.

5. (a) M.T.B's and M.G.B's carried out sweeps in the Leros/Kos area last night.  
(b) An evacuation scheme by caique from Leros is in operation.  
(c) Nearly all British troops in Samos having been thrown into Leros it has been decided to withdraw the remainder except a Brigadier and small staff, who will stay for the time being and command the Greeks and Italians.  
(d) Destroyers in the area withdrew last night, being short of fuel. Three more are proceeding into the Aegean tonight, to lay up and be available for anything that may be required. There are a number of coastal craft in the area, but their situation and state is obscure, due to difficulties of communication.  
(e) Three M.T.B's from Mandelyah Gulf arrived at Kastelorizo today.  
(f) Heavy air attacks were reported on Vathi, Samos, today.

East Indies.

6. SS. SAMBRIDGE, Colombo for Aden independently was torpedoed and sunk by a large Japanese U-Boat at 1525Z today in 11.25 N. 47.25 E (about 160 miles south-east of Aden). The submarine remained in the vicinity for 12 hours.



War Diary.18.11.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

**MALAYA.** Sailed MALAYA escorted by TANATSIDE and MELBREAK.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 181023A to C. in C.W.A.)

**S/M Move-  
ments.** Positions of submarines at 0800A/19 and move-  
ments for following 24 hours.  
(F.O.S. 181722A, 191024A, 191218A.)

**SEA ROVER.** Request you will sail SEA ROVER for Gibraltar  
about 25th November. My 161332 October.  
(F.O.S. 181806A to Capt. 3.3.)

**RICHELIEU.** P.C. and S. at 1500A/18th, 050° 58' 017° 32'  
(?065°) 17 knots. E.T.A. Butt of Lewis 0330A/20th  
Your 151(?713) refers.  
2. RICHELIEU can communicate with aircraft on  
convoy R/T and ship - aircraft M/F wave only.  
3. My P.C. and S. at 2000A/18th, 050° 40' 014° 29' 100° 23 knots.  
ORIBI in company.  
(PIORUN 182001A to C. in C.H.F.)

Operations.

**V.P.  
Operations.** My 170936A. Force returned at 0100 today owing  
to engine defect.  
(A.C.O.S. 180150 to Admty.)  
My 051540. Sail at 0935A today M.T.B.138 (S.O.)  
and 623.  
(A.C.O.S. 181041A to Admty.)

**Operation  
F.T.** Sailed Seidisfjord at 2318A/17 Capt. D.17 in  
ON3LOW, OBEDIENT, IROQUOIS, ORWELL, IMPULSIVE,  
HURON, HAIDA in company.  
(A.C.I.C. 180216A to H.F.)  
Reference report of 18 Group aircraft time 181012.  
Can assist with 13 Tarpons which could be at Sumburgh first  
light tomorrow. Fighter cover essential but cannot be provided  
from F.A.A. resources in Orkneys.  
(C. in C.H.F. 181307 to 18 Group.)  
Seidisfjord arrival C.S.1 in KENT with BERMUDA and JAMAICA  
in company.  
(A.C.I.C. 181636A to H.F.)  
Akureyri arrivals, 1. V.A.2 in ANSON with FORREST, HOBSON,  
CORY, FITCH. 2. TUSCALOOSA.  
(A.C.I.C. 181846A to H.F.)

**Bay  
Patrol  
U-Boat  
attacked  
by A/C.** Have attacked U/B with depth-charge. U/B on  
surface, position 43° 08' N. 21° 17' W. apparently  
disabled.  
(A/C Duty D. 180355 to 19 Group.)  
Am over enemy submarine position 43° 10' N. 20° 50'  
W. surfaced, course 040.  
(A/C Duty D. 180400 to 19 Group.)

War Diary.18.11.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Bay Patrol. D/172 sighted and attacked U-Boat in 43° 10' N.  
U-Boat 20° 50' W. course 310° speed 5 knots. On surface  
attacked by when sighted at 0400Z/18.  
A/C. (Contd.) (247 Group 180855Z to H.Q.C.C.)  
Disposition at 182000. 1. GLASGOW 045° 32' 016°  
40' through 048° 10' 017° 03' thence 053° 18 kts.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 181455A to Ships.)

S/M Patrols. Request you will sail submarines from Lerwick as follows:  
1. ULA at 0900A/20 through 090° Muckle Flugga 15 miles thence direct to vicinity 062° 18' N. 004° 35' E. to carry out operation "Epsom."  
2. VIKING at 1200A/21 through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles thence direct to patrol line LL. Object is O.H. 200 (2) F. and A. (Capt. S.9 181011A to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

Operation F.T. Russian naval staff intend to send submarines to area two and two A if these are not occupied by British submarines.

(S.B.N.O.North Russia 181050A to Admty.)

Your 181050 not to all addressees.

Areas 2 and 2A are occupied by British submarines.

2. It is the intention to occupy those zones for the passage of all North Russian convoys this winter.

3. Request you will arrange for Russian submarines not to operate west of 28° 30' E.

(D.O.D.H. 181631A to S.B.N.O.North Russia.)

Positions of submarines at 0800A/19th and movements for following 24 hours.

A. SATYR as in my 151752.

B. VENTURER 69° 02' N. 11° 02' E. probably on surface, speed 8 knots course 210°

C. STORM on patrol off Hjelmsøy.

D. SEANYMPH on patrol off Ingøy.

E. SCEPTRE 71° 03' N. 22° 08' E. to patrol position off Sorøy.

(F.O.S. 181722A to Admty.)

As it is understood that R.A.(D) wishes to employ O.15 on 21st November A.C.O.S. is requested to sail her to arrive Lerwick 22nd November.

2. Capt. S.9 is requested to sail O.15 on 26th November for patrol line EE. (?CE.) F. and A. returning to Lerwick 10th December.

(F.O.S. 182036A to A.C.O.S.)

Coastal  
Force  
Patrols.

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

A. 3 M.G.Bs. from Newhaven carry out anti E-Boat patrol 10 miles south of convoy route abreast C.W. 22 between Eastern limit of command and E.A.5 buoy from 2300A to 0700A.

B. CHASSEURS 10, 41 patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between F.

and E.A.5 Buoys.

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

D. STEVENSTONE immediate notice Yarmouth.

E. 3 M.Ls. from Portland patrolling 50° 15' N. between 2° 10' W. and 2° 35' W.

(C. in C.Portsmouth 181248A.)

/M.Ls...

War Diary.18.11.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Coastal  
Force  
Patrols.  
(Contd.)

M.Ls. 139 and 140 2 miles south of D. Buoy.  
M.G.Bs. 3.2 and 41 at No. 7 Buoy, E.T.D. 1800,  
E.T.R. 2130.  
M.T.Bs. 413 and 431 from Ramsgate at Newcome Buoy  
proceeding to 2 miles south east of C. one Buoy,  
E.T.D. 1645, E.T.R. 0230/19.  
(V.A. Dover 181609A to Admty.)

Unknown  
Operation.  
(FURIOUS.)

In view of possible operations in near future with  
FURIOUS on Norwegian coast I consider it necessary  
she should have Martlet V aircraft with wing  
tank to enable them to escort the T.B.F. aircraft  
throughout a strike.  
(C. in C.H.F. 182005A to Admty.)

Casualties & Defects.

M.M.S.1023.

M.M.S.1023 reports that she sustained damage to  
Port quarter bulwark during passage through  
Caledonian Canal 17th November.  
(R.N.O. Fort William 181050A to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

Tank  
Lighter.

At 1730A/15 a tank lighter was sighted in 063°  
34' N. 022° 42' W. drifting south east.  
If seen lighter should be recovered and brought  
to Reykjavik.  
(A.C.I.C. 181117A to COTILLION.)

SALADIN.

SALADIN propellor now free. Retain her in accor-  
dance with your 171408.  
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 181241A to C. in C.H.F.)

L.C.T.354.

Tug RAMIER is to be routed from Plymouth to Scillie  
for salvage operations on L.C.T.354.  
(D. of Salvage 181931A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

TRACKER.

Admiralty's 171804A. TRACKER is now at Argentinia.  
Propose ship proceeds direct to U.S.A. from  
Argentinia for reblading of rotors to be carried out.  
(C. in C.W.A. 181951A to Admty.)

EMPIRE SEDGE.

Departure at 1940 tug HEADMAN to assist SS.  
EMPIRE SEDGE. Anchored in position 130° Flamborough  
Head 15 miles with engine trouble.  
(F.O.Humber 182005.)

SIDMOUTH.

My 180620A. SIDMOUTH in collision with ST.  
MELLONS when leaving oiler today. Damage will not  
be made good in time to sail tomorrow.  
(M/S 9 182215A to C. in C.Nore.)

War Diary.18.11.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

U.C.6. C.T.G. 21.7 in SCOTT plus BURKE, BULL, WEBER, SCHMITT and FRAMENT sailing for U.C.6. (U.S.E.C.Londonderry 180615Z to C. in C.W.A.)

S.L.139/  
M.K.S.30. I am being shadowed by one enemy A/C 5,000 feet, position 39° 27' N. 19° 42' W. course 000° speed 7.5 knots. (EXE 180901Z to Gibraltar W/T.)  
U-Boat attacked by EXE. Periscope sighted, am attacking. P.C. and S. 039° 42' N. 019° 42' W. 000° 7½.  
CHANTICLEER damaged. (EXE 181101Z to F.O.C.Gibraltar.)  
Striking My 181101Z. Submarine was 2 miles ahead of convoy.  
Force 31 Have rejoined after 5 attacks. My 180901Z. Ju.90 formed. still present. (EXE 181231 to C. in C.W.A.)  
180932Z O.N. 210 oiling report. Details. (C.3 181319Z to C. in C.W.A.)

All available ships of 4th E.G. are to be sailed at noon tomorrow at best speed routed through Q.Z.L. 53 to join and support S.L. 139/K.M.S.30.

2. Should BENTINCK not be ready she is to be sailed to overtake. S.O. of group should embark in another ship of group unless it is reasonably certain BENTINCK can overtake before 050° N.

(C. in C.W.A. 181154 to Capt. D.Belfast.)

Appreciate S.L.139 will be attacked tonight and again even more heavily night 19th November. Request you keep at least six Leigh-Light Wellingtons for night 19th November. Suggest you use maximum possible effort each night on patrols ahead and astern of convoy as present situation will more than likely develop into biggest U-Boat battle we have ever had any outcome may have critical results on future Gibraltar convoys. Maximum possible day effort also first importance. This will be hard going for both aircrews and ground personnel but the battle may well put paid to U-Boat morale for some time to come. 19 Gp. will take on the battle on night 20th November.

(H.Q.C.C. 181230A to 247 Group.)

After embarking stores and personnel referred in my 181228 not to all addressees DUCKWORTH is to be sailed forthwith for Clyde.

2. Cdr. R.G.Mills is to embark in DUCKWORTH and assume duties as S.O. 3rd Escort Group.

DUCKWORTH is then to be sailed to overtake FENCER.

3. When FENCER has complied with para. 3 of my 181228 she is to proceed at best speed routed through Q.Z.L. 53 to join and support S.L.139/M.K.S.30.

4. BURGESS and BERRY are to be sailed to R/V with FENCER off Belfast. FENCER to arrange R/V.

(C. in C.W.A. 181254A to N.O.I.C. Belfast.)

Units addressed will compose Striking Force Number 31. All ships are to decode all messages made bearing delivery group for Striking Force 31.

(C. in C.W.A. 181449A to 5th E.G. 7th E.G. 4th E.G.

WINCHELSEA, 3rd E.G. FENCER, 40th E.G. WATCHMAN, Info. Admty.)

CHANTICLEER torpedoed in 039° 47' N. 020° 12' W.

Both engines and steering gear out of action. CRANE standing by salvage steamer SALVIDA proceeding to her assistance. Request tug to Azores.

(PHEASANT 181535Z to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

Torpedoed in 040° 06' N. 019° 48' W. Both engines and steering gear out of action, most of stern blown off. CRANE

/attacking...

War Diary.18.11.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

S.L.139/  
M.K.S.30.  
U-Boat  
attacked  
by EXE.  
CHANTICLEER  
damaged.  
Striking  
Force 31  
formed.  
(Contd.)

attacking U-Boat which is stationary close to me. Some casualties which will be reported later. Still flooding aft but hope to save ship. Torpedo hit when directly above U-Boat. S/M was closing on reciprocal course when attacked. Periscope in view only 200 yards ahead. Depth-charge patterns all fired just previous to being hit. Do not suspect "Gnat" as S/M was underneath when we were hit, ordinary torpedo equally impossible. Consider U-Boat warhead exploded, as contact was held stationary for 20 minutes afterwards and then faded out. My speed was 15 knots to drop patterns at 50 feet.  
(CHANTICLEER 181632Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Your 181535. Remove crew from CHANTICLEER and sink ship.  
(C. in C.W.A. 181837A to PHEASANT.)  
Your 181837A. CHANTICLEER is in tow proceeding Azores. CRANE still in contact with German U-Boat. Have ordered GARLIES to close and screen CHANTICLEER and not sink ship.  
(PHEASANT 181935Z to C. in C.W.A.)  
If possible salvage steamer SALVIDA should prepare to tow CHANTICLEER to Ponta Delgada.

2. Tug JAUNTY escorted by WISHART sail from Gibraltar to your assistance.
3. Report when SALVIDA joins and whether she can tow CHANTICLEER to Ponta Delgada.
4. Keep me informed of situation.  
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 181941B to CRANE.)  
Am screening CHANTICLEER in tow of tug SALVIDA. P.C. and S. 039° 55' N. 020° 02' W. 240° 5 knots. 2 U-Boats known to be in close vicinity. Urgently request air support.  
(CRANE 182010Z to S.B.N.O.Azores.)  
Am in tow position 040° 00' N. 019° 57' W. course 240° speed 4 knots for Ponta Delgada. Hope to increase to 6 knots in daylight. Casualties believed to total 2 officers, 26 ratings dead or missing, one seriously injured. Several U-Boats in the area by H/F D/F.  
(CHANTICLEER 182130Z to C. in C.W.A.)  
D/F of transmission at 1916Z/18 indicate that convoy S.L. 139/M.K.S.30 may have been reported by a U-Boat.  
(D.D.I.C. 182131A to Escorts S.L.139/M.K.S.30, E.G.7, E.G.5)  
If possible provide air escort FM dawn 19th November to CHANTICLEER RN tow to Azores using Hudsons only. Approx. position 2000A/18, 40.00 N. 21.00 W. Information 15 group only.  
(H.Q.C.C. 182215A to 247 Group.)  
PHEASANT 181935 and CRANE 182010. In view of action taken cancel my 181837. One escort only is to accompany tow and this escort should rejoin convoy as soon as it is considered U-Boats have been shaken off. Air cover will be provided.

2. For future guidance it is important that striking-forces should not be denuded to provide escort for damaged ship which should be sunk when personnel have been transferred.  
(C. in C.W.A. 182247A to GARLIES, CRANE, CHANTICLEER.)  
My 181449. For 3rd E.G. read 3rd E.G. negative COOKE and DOMMETT.  
(C. in C.W.A. 182340A to E.G.3.)

War Diary.18.11.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

K.M.F.26.

My P.C. and S. 052° 47' 019° 43' 255° 17.  
(JED 181202Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) PELICAN.)

T.U.4A.

Intend sailing Liverpool portions escorted by  
IRA JEFFERY 1500A/19th to R/V with Clyde portion  
in 270° Oversay 6 miles at 0900A/20th.  
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 181245A to Admty.)

F.D.16.

My 171529. Delayed 24 hours due to weather.  
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 181314A.)

AMSTERDAM.

Proceed immediately to render any assistance  
necessary to L.C.Ts. escorted by KUVERA and  
SIMMERSON at present on passage from Flamboro  
Head to Hartlepool.  
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 181515A to AMSTERDAM.)Flight P.  
4 L.C.T.  
craft sunk.Flight P arrived as follows Falmouth BLUEBELL,  
MAN O' WAR, EMPIRE RUPERT, L.C.T. 302, 303, 306,  
311, 317, 324, 341, 345, 382, 384, 390, 411, 422,  
L.C.G.(L) One St. Mary, Scilly Isles, L.C.T. 318,  
320, 399, 413, 354 the latter damaged. Penzance  
L.C.T. 313.2. L.C.T. 343 sunk in approx. 049° 40' N. 007° 56' W. L.C.T. 385  
sunk in approx. 050° 13' 010° 30' L.C.T. 333 abandoned in approx.  
050° 13' 010° 30' L.C.T. 333 abandoned in approx. 050° 15' 009°  
45'. An abandoned L.C.T. was attacked by A/C in 048° 30' 008°  
00', 48 hours after L.C.T. 333 was abandoned. Attacking A/C  
did not see craft sink but no trace has subsequently been seen  
of it. L.C.T. 418 depth-charged by TALYBONT in approx. 048° 39'  
N. 006° 30' W. and seen to be settling.

3. L.C.T. 421 returned to Gibraltar.

4. L.C.T. 332 presumed to be landing craft referred to in B.N.A.  
Madrid 172114.5. Crews of L.C.T. 333, 343, 385, 418 rescued with exception  
of one rating from L.C.T. 343.

(C. in C.Plymouth 191649A to Admty.)

M.K.F.25A.

21 ships. Names and destinations.  
(D.T.D. 181822A.)

S.C.146.

In 051° 30' N. 021° 34' W. at 1745Z and again at  
1750Z sighted pair of flares, similar to star-  
shells at very long range, bearing 343°.2. ORCHIS investigated to depth 20 miles and  
found nothing.

3. S.C.146 course 021° speed 7½.

(B.3 181945Z to C. in C.W.A.)

War Diary.18.11.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- TRUCULENT. Leaving Scilly Isles at 1430A/21st and making good 160 miles a day P. No.315 (TRUCULENT) proceeding by route Green diving by day arriving in 043° N. at 0900A/25th thence as ordered by F.O.C. Gib.  
4. S/M. is painted blue.  
(Capt. (S) 3rd 181105A to F.O.C.Gib. (R) F.O.S., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med., P.315 (TRUCULENT) Capt.(S) Gib. S.O. S/M. Gib.)
- Axis shipping. Arrival 18th 5\*, 10.✗  
(Bilbao 181115 to B.B. (R) S.O. (I) Gib.)  
\* HENK, ✗ WATERWEG.
- ? L.C.T.332. Report received that damaged British L/C. is ashore near Gijon. Have you any information?  
(S.O. (I) Gib.181204A to British Consul,Gijon. (R) Admty. for D.M., D.N.A. Madrid.)
- CHANTICLEER torpedoes. PHEASANT 1815352 to F.O.I.C.Gib.  
(F.O.C. Gib. 181941B.) See Home Commands.
- HUMBOLDT. (?In view of) necessity of U.S. Seaplane Tender HUMBOLDT call at Bermuda en route Norfolk (?Intend) unless otherwise directed sailing vessel. E.T.D. seaward end Q.B.A.102 at 191700Z S. of A. 15 knots route all following positions are N.S.W. unless otherwise indicated PHEASANT. Route, thence Bermuda E.T.A. 1700Z/27th Q.J.A.9, Q.J.C. 157.  
(C.M.S.F. 181613Z, N.O.B. Bermuda.)
- Portuguese Lighters. M. of M. informs me that of the 5 lighters lent to Angra for Alacrity (2) have been lost. They ask (A) if the remaining 3 lighters are required any more at Angra observing there are 10 lighters there belonging to the port. (B) If not required could our tugs at Horta tow the 3 lighters to Horta when convenient.  
(B.N.A. Lisbon 181619 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O. Azores, S.B.N.O.Horta.)
- Supply ships Azores. M. of M. enquires whether arrangements could conveniently be made whereby our supply ships for Terceira Island could arrive and discharge at Angra during the following periods in each month.  
A. 6th to 13th. B. 20th to 28th. (2) This would avoid clashing with arrival of Portuguese mail steamers. (3) They would much appreciate early prior information of exact date of arrival of our supply ships so that programme of smaller Portuguese vessels could be adjusted accordingly. This information would be very carefully kept secret.  
(B.N.A. Lisbon 181725 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O. Azores.)

War Diary.18.11.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

SOMERSETSHIRE. Sailed 1645A/17th to Avonmouth. (3) S. of A.9 knots. (C).  
(F.O.C. Gib. 181933A.)

ALBULA,  
LUGANO. My 121947 will leave about 22nd and 24th respectively.  
(D.E.W.D. 181936A to F.O.C. Gib. Info. C. in C.Med.)

South Atlantic.

FROBISHER. Sailed FROBISHER towing B.P.T. route. S. of A. 15 knots. E.T.A. 1030Z/23rd.  
(Cdre. Durban 181131Z to Admty.)

Italian Cruisers, CILICIA, FAL, Patrol. 1. Intend sailing I.S. EMANUELE FILBERTO DUCA D'AOSTA wearing flag of R.A. Biancheri 1100Z/19th speed 16 knots through positions:- X-Ray 008° 01' N. 015° 31' N. (?W. intended). Z. 005° 00' N. 022° 30' N. (?W. intended) to patrol area enclosed by lines joining positions:- A. 005° 00' N. 025° 00' W. B. 005° 00' N. C. Equator 020° 00' W. until p.m. 24th then returning Freetown through positions Z and X. 2. CILICIA and FAL are to patrol in area enclosed by lines joining position:- C. Equator 020° W. D. 005° 00' S. 015° W. E. 005° 00' S. 020° W. after completing fuelling of FAL on the 19th and on leaving patrol p.m. 24th are to return to Freetown through position Y. 008° N. 015° W. 3. Request Cdr. 4th U.S. Fleet and Comar Dakar inform ships patrolling adjacent area. (F.O.C.W.Af. 181220Z to Cdr. 4th U.S. Fleet, Comar Dakar, ATAL, CILICIA (R) Admty.)

Chasseurs 42 and 43. C. in C. Med's. 161229 para.2. Do not consider Chasseurs should be withdrawn from Pointe Noire. My 121628 Oct., not to Commavnaw refers. No trawlers or M.Ls. available permanently for Pointe Noire owing to large and apparently constant Surf Port Commitments.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 181725Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., Commavnaw.)

Italian Cruisers, arrangements. Adm. Biancheri has agreed for the present that his two cruisers will work under the orders of any British or American warship if operating with them. No mention has yet been made of French in similar circumstances. Request I may be informed what arrangement is in force on Mediterranean.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 181727Z to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.)

/CILICIA...



War Diary.

18.11.1943.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

CILICIA,  
FAL.

CILICIA and FAL leave patrol a.m. 19th for Freetown.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 181731 to O.S.T. Comar Dakar, Com.4th  
Fleet.)

SUFFREN.

Arrived a.m/18 F.S. SUFFREN from Patrol.  
(S.O. (I) Freetown 181807Z to Comdr. Dakar (R)  
Admty. Com.Flt.4.)

18.11.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean.

- PATHFINDER Request disposal of troops and stores, whether they should be retained.  
(PATHFINDER, 180130B to C. in C. Levant).
- K.M.S.31, Intend to leave K.M.S. 31 in time to make 309 at  
CUCKMERE. speed of 16 knots. Vide C.A.F.O. 1746/41  
WHITEHAVEN assumes S.O.  
(CUCKMERE, 180605 to C. in C. Levant (R) V.A. Malta).
- DA RECCO, My P.C. and S. at 0630A/18th 037 degs. 46' N. 017  
GRECALE. degs. 36' E. 174 degs. 8 knots (group omitted)  
GRECALE report engine defect despatched Augusta arriving 1130A/18th request pilot and water.  
She will rejoin on completion.  
(DA RECCO 180717A to N.O.1/c Augusta (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, V.A.M., A.H.Q. Med. etc.).  
Convoy can steam at 10 knots and arrive Alexandria a.m. 22nd.  
(DA RECCO, 181059A to F.O.T.A.L.I.).
- Alexandria 17th Arrivals PHOEBE, ECHO, BELVOIR.  
movements. (N.O.1/c Alexandria, 180731B).
- PENELOPE Propose to (fuel) destroyers at Paphos E.T.A. 1000, and then escort "Nursemaid" till dark. Propose be sailed (2 corrupt groups) direct Alex. when ready about 1100/18th. Weather report.  
(PENELOPE, 180748B to C. in C. Levant (R) (?TYNEDALE) ?25 Sector, FURY, N.O.1/c Famagusta, PATHFINDER).
- Yugoslav A.M. 170128~~+~~ crossed my 171658+ in which para.2  
Warships. expresses my views. Future requirements for shipping difficult to forecast but they still undoubtedly grow.  
(2) Essential requirements for Naval operations in Med. is that ships shall work without question as required by C. in C. Allied Forces against the common enemy.  
(3) Have recently been undesirable attempts by Cdr. Saksida to obtain recruits for Yugoslav Navy from the Italian Armed Forces by dubious methods. F.O.T.A.L.I. is taking appropriate action to regularise this.  
(C. in C. Med., 180904A to Admty. (R) F.O.T.A.L.I., C. in C. Levant).  
+ Naval vessels now in Yugoslav hands, or to be turned over to them from Italians.  
~~+~~ Re Yugoslav Government unable to withdraw restrictions regarding ships to be used against Germany.
- SHEFFIELD SHEFFIELD left Malta with passengers as shown in my 180937 (refers personnel only - limited circulation). (A) Gibraltar. (B) U.K.  
?D.S.T.O. Malta, 180933 to S.T.O. Gibraltar (R) D. of S.T., Admty.).

/JULES VERNE...

War Diary18.11.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean. - Contd.

JULES  
VERNE. Fr. Admty. wish to move S/M Depot ship JULES VERNE to Mers El Kebir shortly. In view of forthcoming departure of MAIDSTONE from North Africa this is recommended.  
(2) If no objection to her removal from Dakar request you will arrange to sail her as requested by Comar Dakar. (C. in C. Med., T.H.I. 181000 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty., Comnavnaw, Com.N.O.B. Oran).

CURIE Onward routing from 040 degs. 00' 006 degs. 14' at 2130/20th through 042 degs. 17' 005 degs. 58' at 0400/22nd thence to patrol in zone S.U., proceeding submerged by day.  
(Capt.(S) 10, 181001A to (P.67) CURIE, (R) 10th S.F., C. in C. Med., PROTEE, F.O.i/c Gib., Com. Algiers).

Air reports. A. 336 18th Nov. 1943. Daily Opsum 204.  
16/17th Nov.  
17th Nov. 5 Baltimores A.30 offensive sweep Western Crete area sighted and attacked 200 ton Caique off Cape Sidero with bombs and M/G. 1 near miss and Caique was left in a smoking condition. Heavy enemy air attacks on Vathi (Samos) commenced 1230 hours still in progress 1400 hours.  
17/18th Nov. 2 Wellingtons search for Siebel Ferry north of Amorgos no sighting.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 181033Z).

B.Y.M.S. allocation. B.Y.M.S. allocation at present on Med. Station, following B.Y.M.S. allocated other commands 151 flot. Four boats E.F. 152 flot. Four boats E.F. 156 flot. Six boats Levant. 162 flot. Two boats Levant.  
(2) Two of 156 flot. and two of 162 flot. are at present on passage to Levant. F.O. Gib. 111643 refers. (N.T. in W.D.).  
(3) To allow of release of the eight boats for E.F. Propose to hold boats in para. two and also the other four boats allocated to Levant (now?) on Med. Station.  
(4) In view of recent additions to your auxiliary M/S forces and the growing commitments in Italy is this acceptable?  
(C. in C. Med. 181050 to C. in C. Levant, (R) Admty. Capt. M/S Med., V.A. Malta).

Axis shipping. My 181020C (N.T. in W.D.) Vessels entered Aegean at 20100 G.M.T. 18th. Course West South of Lemnos. No escort observed.  
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 181055C to C. in C. Levant, S.O.(I) Levant, S.1., D.N.I.).

Enemy movements Aegean. Reported that enemy transferred cargoes from merchant ship to large caiques Suda Bay and (Candia?) for freighters transit to Rhodes.  
(Capt.(S) 1st, 181059B to 1st S.F. (R) C. in C Levant).

/SIMOOM...

War Diary

18.11.1943.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

- SIMOOM Para.(1) of my 131832. For 0901B/20th read 0901B/19th. Report if you cannot comply. (Capt.(S) 1st, 181244 to SIMOOM, (R) C. in C. Levant).
- G.U.S.22. Sailed 14 ships. (Names and destinations). (R.A. Alexandria, 181317). Sailing telegram. Part 2. 22 ships. (Names and destinations). (N.O.i/c Port Said, 181515B).
- M.K.F.26/  
X.I.F. 4. Sailed 5 ships. (Names and destinations). All carrying troops. Cdre. Whitehorn Vice Cdre. of convoy in STAFFORDSHIRE. To be Cdre. of X.I.F. (R.A. Alexandria, 181319).
- SHEFFIELD Call at Plymouth to re-embark C.B. B.C.K. yellow ammunition before proceeding to Scapa. (D.O.D.(H) 181327A to C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta., (R) F.O.I.C. Gib., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C.H.F. C. in C.W.A., C.S.10., SHEFFIELD).
- U-boat Am over enemy submarine in 38.50 N. 14.40 E. (A/C FML/J 181424 to 79 P). Following has been read. Nr.2. Enemy submarine previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. Sighting made at 20 miles no attack, remaining in area. (A/C FML/J, 181425A to 79 P.). Am over enemy submarine in 37.45 N. 9.13 W. (QGR/F, (181450, 181530 to 79 P. (Med. Local)). Following had been read by Malta. Enemy submarine previously reported periscope only sighted. When first sighted was on course 180 degs. speed 6 knots. Am investigating suspicious object, possibly periscope (no position indicated). Am returning to Blida. (A/C GQR/F, 181445 to 79 F.).
- 12 M/S.F. Intend 12th M/S. anchoring off Torre Patria for the night. (S.O. 12th M/S.F., 181453A to F.O.W.It. (R) N.O.i/c Naples.).
- Aegean operations. Most grateful for A.M. 181846 (N.T. in W.D.). which will inspire and encourage officers and men engaged in Aegean operations. Deeply regret that combined efforts failed to save Leros. Overwhelming air superiority was the deciding factor in a grim and close struggle. (C. in C. Levant, 181530B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.).  
/ Re congratulating work being done in the Aegean.

/Situation...

War Diary

18.11.1943.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation M.T.B's. and M.G.B's. carried out sweeps in Aegean. Leros, Kos area last night. No reports yet received. Communications with Samos, where both ports were heavily air attacked yesterday, difficult.

(2) Small parties of escapees have got away from Leros in M.G.B's. and various craft and hope there may have been some more last night. Evacuation scheme by caique in operation.

(3) Nearly all British troops in Samos having been thrown into Leros, it has been decided to withdraw remainder except a Brigadier and small staff who will stay for time being and command Greeks and Italians.

(4) Destroyers in area withdrew last night being short of fuel. Three more proceeding into Aegean tonight to lay up and be available for anything that may be required. The situation and state of coastal craft, of which there are a number in the area, is obscure due to communication difficulties.

(C. in C. Levant, 181630B).

384962. O/36848 18th November.

(A) S.B.S. patrol reports Leros officially capitulated 2000B/16th One Brit. Offr. 27 Brit. and Ind. O.Rs. 58 Italians arrived Gumusluk p.m. 15th 22 wounded with one senior N.O. arrived Hosp. Smyrna. Three Italian M.A.S. Leros surrendered to Turks Kushadasi.

(B) 17th Nov. O.C. Troops. Samos took over from G.O.C. Aegean 1800B hrs. As result of air attack Port Vathi inoperative Tigani badly damaged and comms. broken down.

(3) Naval Aegean 17th Nov. PATHFINDER, TETCOTT, HAYDON en route for Gulf of Kos, PENN, ALDENHAM, BLENCATHRA, ROCKWOOD leaving Limasol for Alexandria.

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

384985. I/36915 18th. Officer Only.

Joint Army R.A.F. Int. appreciation 24 hours to 1000Z/18th.

(1) Photo. R/C shipping 17th Kos/Kalimno/Leros area. 0635Z/1215Z and 1350Z hours majority serviceable L/C and escorts now located Leros. But Photo. also show apparent movement of W craft between Kos/Kalimno and Leros presumably transporting troops and supplies. Photos. show no material change in composition of enemy's flotilla in operational area other arrival at Porto Lago by 1350Z 17th Nov. of 1 destroyers 300 feet seen by visual R/C at sea at 0800Z midway between Amorgos and Kalimno. Course East. Photo. R/C 0635Z shows departure of 1 F.lighter from Partheni Bay and another from Porto Lago. These probably two F.lighters recently in use by us. But not known whether they succeeded in making a get-a-way or whether recapture by enemy. In latter case his F.lighter strength will be increased by 2.

(2) Visual R/C shipping 18th Nov. 0610Z following convoy seen 2 miles east of East Coast Kalimno, course N.E. 1 Siebel ferry 1 F.lighter 5 L/C. 2 small launches 1 merchant vessel 100 foot (probably escort vessel). This evidently the Siebel ferry seen at Amorgos 17th Nov. (see para. one above).

(4) Bombing Samos 17th suggests this next objective. Consider enemy troops and craft available sufficient launch immediate attack (see para. five our I/36482 which stands). Passage Leros-Samos 6 knots 6 hours. Employment paratroops possible.

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

M.K.F.26

Sailing telegram part 2.  
(N.O.i/c Port Said, 181631B).

/K.X.12...

War Diary

18.11.1943.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

K.X.12, M/S escort X.K.13. Subject to return of 14th M/S.F. with X.K.13 the following five M/S.s. of the 19th M.S.F. are proposed as escort for K.X.12 leaving U.K. on 4th December:-

RINALDO, ROSARIO, WATERWITCH, BRAVE, SPANKER to be followed shortly by ARIES.

(2) Request reply to para.3. of A.M. 261725+ September and that proposed sailing date of X.K.13 may be signalled.

(D.O.D.(H) 181725A to C. in C. Med. Info. C. in C. Levant, F.O. i/c Gibraltar, C. in C.W.A.).

+ (W.D. Note: ?261705A intended).

N.V.9. Intend sailing. 8 ships. (Names) for Augusta. (N.O.i/c Naples, 181752A).

Request you will sail convoy as in your 181735/ (?at) 1230A/19th to Augusta M.S.C.1 22 refers.

Route. (6) Jessie 206. Normal and A/S. (8) BLACKMORE (S.O.) LEDBURY.

(F.O.W.It. 181853A to N.O.i/c Naples).

✓ ?181752 intended

Italian Arrivals LEGIONARIO (It.) ORIONE (It.) ABA. movements. (Com. Algeria, 182044A).

Arrival 18th Nov. GRECALE, GOFFREDO MAMELI, OTARIA, departure GRECALE.

(N.O.i/c Augusta, 182201A).

HILARY Your 151840. Should be held at Gib. pending further instructions.

(V.C.N.S. 182210A to C. in C. Med. Info. A.N.C.X.F. F.O.i/c Gib.).

18.11.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

- M.A.16A. (IRRAWADI) arrived escorting M.A.16 A.  
(N.C.S.O. Calcutta, 180300Z to Admty.)
- Japanese Flying Boat, tinfoil strips Radar. H.Q.222 Group report that shortly after Japanese flying boat was in Trincomalee area on night 11th/12th a number of tinfoil strips of varying lengths but all approx. 150 centimetres long fluttered to the ground.  
(2) This caused slight confusion to operation of Radar. Now (however?) that it is known that this is to be expected in the Ceylon and India area no undue handicap should result.  
(C. in C. E.F. 180330Z to E.F.(410 Y)(R) Admty.)
- D.K.A.6. Kilindini portion D.K.A.  
II Kilindini portion 0343Z/18th to R/V with D.K.A. 6 off Kilindini  
III E.T.A. Aden 0600Z/27th "Chop" 10 degs. N.  
0100Z/24th.  
IV 8 knots.  
V. Standard. IMA, BRITISH ENERGY, H.D. COLLIER to be detached in approx. position Q thence as in Kilindini's 170546Z/17th, 170542Z/17th, 170537Z/17th.  
VI FALMOUTH, JASMINE. FALMOUTH returning Kilindini on being relieved by BANFF.  
(N.C.S.O. Kilindini, 180501Z to Admty.)  
Arrived Kilindini portion D.K.A.6 comprising STRATEGIST escorted by NORTHERN CHIEF, INDIAN STAR, HERTFORDSHIRE, LADY ROSEMARY, COVENTRY CITY.  
(N.C.S.O. Kilindini, 180727Z to Admty.)
- B.P.103. Sailing telegram (17 ships) Escort PUNJAB, CARNATIC, MADRAS.  
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 180852Z to Admty.)
- FLAMINGO. Your 101800Z. Nov. State of FLAMINGO (details)  
(C. in C.E.F. 180920Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant, R.A.T.E. Durban, FLAMINGO, BRAGANZA.)
- LUCIA, WAYLAND, repair facilities. (1) Remarks on your 140522 depend upon whether it is intended that all 16 ships of Kilindini escort force are to be refitted at Kilindini.  
(2) Whilst LUCIA is at Kilindini (no?) difficulty is foreseen in maintaining escort force and (?training) S/MS. S/M crews (?naval) party and (?specialist) ratings would be accommodated in LUCIA.

War Diary.

18.11.1943.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

LUCIA,  
WAYLAND,  
repair  
facilities.  
(Contd.)

(3) With WAYLAND only available her repair facilities would be used for maintenance and repairs of Kilindini escort force and S/MS. as part of Kilindini dockyard. Accommodation for ratings in para.2 would be required in WAYLAND thus displacing equivalent number of S.R.R's (D) who would need accommodation ashore. Plans for necessary expansion of dockyard ramp to appropriate requirements are prepared and early approval to commence work is requested.

(4) 8 extra offices ashore will be required for operational and specialists officers of Kilindini escort (?force) group and approval for vote of work is also requested.  
(F.O.E.Af. 181209Z to C. in C.E.F. (R) Admty. Cdre.i/c. Durban, C.S.Durban, F.O. Ceylon, LUCIA.)

H.Q.S.E.A.  
Command.

Following for P.M. and Chiefs of Staff. (R)  
J.S.M. Washington from Mountbatten.  
S.E.A.C.O.S.29.  
After consultation with C. in C. and Governor Ceylon, I have decided to move my main H.Q. together with appropriate elements of the H.Q. of the Commander in Chief to Kandy about mid-March. A rear H.Q. will remain in Delhi.  
(S.A.C.S.E.A. No T.O.O. 18th Rec. 0435Z/19th to Air Min.)



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War Diary.18.11.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

B.E.C.6. Sailed B.E.C.6 1000Z/18th to Casco Bay route, 12 knots, E.T.A. 1600/19th. C.E.S.F. is requested to sail ship to Bermuda upon completion of shake down.  
(C. in C. C.N.A., 181140Z to C.E.S.F.)

N.S.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q., 181441Z.)  
S/M Estimate.

Escort Carriers, manning. At the risk of appearing to labour the point I stress the harm that will result if we fail to man any of the C.V.E. as soon as they are ready. If delays through manning occur the result may be far reaching in the whole of our lease-lend programme, both Naval and Mercantile.

2. Without having an overall knowledge of cruiser requirements it appears to me here that it might be worth considering laying up one of the older cruisers to provide general service ratings for C.V.E. rather than have C.V.E. laid up.  
(B.A.D., 181505Z to Admty.)

ALGOMA. Your 181204Z (N.T. in W.D.) acknowledged. Expect to join convoy 1400Z/21st. P.C. and S. at 1500Z 045° 00' N. 058° 10' W., 077° (?X) 13.5 knots. Weather report.  
(ALGOMA, 181520Z to F.O.N.F., (R) C. in C. C.N.A., C.O.P.C., C.4.)

Manning of Convoy Escort Vessels. (C.N.S. Canada, 181632Z to Admty.)  
See Lion Copy.

STATICE, 70th Fairmile Flotilla. Anticipate sailing STATICE escorting 70 Fairmile Flotilla consisting of M.Ls. 104 to 109 inclusive to Bermuda 23rd.  
(C. in C. C.N.A., 181706Z to S.B.N.O.W.At.)

Stragglers Report No. 27. One arrived St. Johns Nfld. from S.C.146 GYLFE (Nor.) 12th DAMARO from underwater explosion. One arrived Halifax from O.N.209, KELMSCOTT 14th engine defects.  
(N.S.H.Q., 181907Z to Admty.)

EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND. 2. 191700Z Cape Henry. 3. Passing A 201120Z speed 19.75. 4. "Chop" 24 West to F.O.C. Gib. 250600Z. Radio shift 20 West 251600Z, E.T.A. off Casablanca 270115Z. 5. (Route). Fighter codeword "Elastic" associated call sign 135.  
(P.D. Norfolk, 182020 to C.M.S.F.)

/Sub. ...

him A.W.I  
517A

# MOST SECRET

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

(\*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    181632Z/November    IN

From: C.N.S. Canada.

Date: 20.11.43.  
Recd. 1208

NAVAL CYPHER (XD) BY CABLE.

---

Addressed: Admiralty, Repeated: B.A.D. Washington.  
B.A.M.R., Washington, N.M.C.S. Washington, S.C.N.O.  
London.

Your 170137A. I am sending Captain W.B. Creery Assistant Chief of Naval Staff to U.K. by air immediately to discuss with you the best and quickest way in which the R.C.N. can help in meeting the immediate problem of manning new construction.

2. It becomes increasingly clear that (A) No major repair work should be done on TOWN class destroyers in W.E.F. and their constant need of minor repairs is hindering other and more important jobs. They have outlived their usefulness. (B) The manning of Captain class frigates by the R.C.N. will not be possible. (C) The R.C.N.'s immediate contribution to your problem lies in manning U.K. built escort vessels for service as necessary with a natural preference as follows:

- (1) Those likely to serve in North Atlantic in any groups.
- (2) Those likely to serve as homogeneous groups in any theatre of war.
- (3) Those likely to serve individually anywhere.

3. Your para. 8 arrangements have already been made for passage of one of these crews in ARETHUSA and while we might possibly assist in runner crews for Captain class frigates we are faced with a similar or more difficult problem than yourselves in that engine room ratings are not experienced and the time taken to train does not help therefore to solve your immediate problem.

4. Provision of engine room ratings only for C.V.E.'s is not considered desirable. The policy of infiltration with the intention of completing to whole R.C.N. crew in time is acceptable. Otherwise R.C.N. policy is definitely to maintain its own ships company identity.

5.....

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18.11.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Sub. attack  
and sighting  
summary.

Para. A. U.S.S. MEMPHIS plane sighted submarine  
course 140° 00.27 N. 22.28 W. 171355Z.  
Para. D. P.C.1196 sound contact 12.42 N. 68.44  
W. 171750Z.  
(Cominch, 182113 to Admty.)

Bermuda  
movements.

Arrived Bermuda GRECIAN. Departure HIGHWAY  
and? GOULD.  
(S.B.N.O.W.At., 182210.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest  
Serial  
No. 667  
Nov. 17th.

(3) Dawn three Beaufighters strafed 2 small  
craft during coastal sweep Wide Bay area.  
(6) Forenoon 16th November 15 Lightnings on  
fighter sweep Newak encountered about 30 Zeros  
and shot down 4 plus one probably in 30 minute  
engagement. Half hour later another 7 Lightnings  
attacked 20 out of some 70 enemy fighters seen  
in area destroying two. Two Lightnings missing from first  
combat.

(7) First mission Lightnings previous para. reported 1 cruiser,  
1 destroyer, 8 merchant ships about 15 barges Hansa Bay. Early  
next morning special R/C Liberator observed 1 cruiser, 4  
unidentified merchantmen still there.

(9) Four empty northbound barges encountered near Sio night 15th/  
16th by 1 patrol craft which sank 2 probably damaged other.  
Following night single southbound barge sunk same area.

(10) Morning 16th nine Mitchells bombed strafed coastal track  
Sio towards Finschhafen. Midday next day two Liberators bombed  
staging bases along Sio coast. Observed possibly 20 barges and  
piled trucks on road nearby.

(16) During early hours 17th five Catalinas struck Kaimana water  
front and adjacent Utarom airfield causing explosions, fires near  
main jetty also in dispersal areas.

(17) Same time single Catalina strafed 3 schooners, 2 small  
craft near Dobo (Aroe Islands) besides 2 barges Kaukenau  
neighbourhood.

(18) At midday 1 large sea truck, 1 small escort seen 40 miles  
West Tanimbar Group course 100°. Observing Mitchell sank  
freighter with direct hit and subsequent strike consisting of 3  
Dutch Mitchells, 3 Beaufighters found escort vessel scored  
several hits, last seen beached abandoned and gutted.

(24) Previous night U.S. destroyers contacted and shelled Jap.  
submarine 45 miles south-west Empress Augusta Bay. Approx.  
midnight several planes made ineffective torpedo attack and 1  
possibly 2 aircraft shot down. Before dawn same destroyer force  
effectively bombarded Buka Passage airfield.

18.11.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.Digest  
Serial  
No. 667  
Nov. 17th.  
(Contd.)

(25) Amphibious craft with destroyer escort en route Torokina attacked before dawn 17th by numerous torpedo carrying planes. One ship sunk, 2 aircraft shot down. Balloon barrage aided landing craft considerably. After daybreak minimum 35 mixed fighters, dive and torpedo bombers engaged by Empress Augusta Bay fighter patrol destroying 16 planes. Two Corsairs lost. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 180958Z.)

Movements.

Departed Milne Bay 17th U.S.S. SUSQUEHANA for Buna.  
(A.C.N.B., 181112Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Attacks by FOLEY at 2204Z/17th and by aircraft at 0255Z/18th confirm appreciation that a group of U-Boats is within 100 miles of 43° 30' N. 21° 30' W.

Periscope reported by EXE 1101Z/18th may indicate another group close to Convoy S.L.139/M.K.S.30. Other estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 181434A, 181435A.)

Submarines Attacked.

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

Para. A. (1) FOLEY sighted U-Boat submerging in 44° 56' N. 21° 30' W. at 2204Z/17th. Six attacks with depth charges. Contact lost by 2317Z/17th. (2) Aircraft D/19 attacked U-Boat with depth charges in 43° 08' N. 21° 17' W. at 0255Z/18th. After attack U-Boat was reported on surface apparently disabled.

Para. B. SS. TORNUS missed by torpedo in 10° 47' N. 59° 54' E. at 1530Z/16th.

Para. C. L/612 obtained Radar contact and sighted possible wake in 46° 25' N. 06° 57' W. at 1948Z/17th.

Ref. A.M. 161055A, para. A. (1) sighting was at 2015Z/15th.  
(D.D.I.C., 181046Z to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

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19.11.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation  
F.T.  
(Convoy  
J.W.54A).

1. V.A.2 in ANSON, with TUSCALOOSA and 4 U.S. Destroyers left Akureyri at 1702A to cover convoy J.W.54A off Bear Island; and C.S.1 in KENT, with BERMUDA and JAMAICA, left Seidisfiord at 1823A as the Cruiser Covering Force.

Bay Area.  
(Convoy  
S.L.139/  
K.M.S.30.)

2 (a) C. in C. W.A. has to-day assumed command of A/S operations in the Bay area; but GLASGOW, is to remain under the orders of C. in C. Plymouth who will control any operations required against enemy surface-forces.

(b) A U-Boat was attacked at 0255Z by a search-light Wellington F/179 operating from the Azores in 40.15 N. 19.18 W. (about 450 miles W. by S. of Oporto) without observed result though a straddle is claimed; and at 0530Z CALGARY in E.G.5 on passage to support Convoy S.L.139/K.M.S.30 reported 5 U-Boats about 420 miles West of Cape Finisterre of which she sighted two.

(c) At 2035Z ROCHESTER (S.O of E.G.39) considered that at least six U-Boats were in close touch with the Convoy; and a close air-escort of the Convoy is to be maintained by two Liberator A/C during daylight tomorrow.

NURNBERG.

3. A report from Stockholm graded B.2 states that NURNBERG passed northwards through the Sound at 1525 to-day preceded by one M-class vessel; but Admty. consider her unlikely to proceed further than a Danish port or Oslo.

Mines  
Sunk.

4. 255 drifting British Mines have been sunk by Sweepers between the 16th and 19th November between Farne Island and Whitby.

South Atlantic.

5. EMANUELE FILIBERTO DUCA D'AOSTA (Flag of R.A. Biancheri) the first of the Italian cruisers to be employed on patrol in the Atlantic narrows, sailed from Freetown today.

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19.11.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.

## Convoys.

6. Means are being sought to provide better mail service for all forces in the Mediterranean and more frequent opportunities for return of Naval personnel to U.K. The Admiralty are asking C. in C. Mediterranean whether he could provide escorts for an additional six ship K.M.F. convoy monthly, this ensuring, with the existing K.M.F. convoys, a fast fortnightly service.

7. It is proposed to reduce the speed of advance of Mediterranean through convoys to  $7\frac{1}{2}$  knots on 1st December.

## Adriatic.

8(a) QUILLIAM and LOYAL intercepted enemy craft at 2132A today in 42.55.7 N. 13.56.0 E. about 30 miles N.N.W. of Pescara. One F lighter was sunk, one lighter in tow of a tug was hit and is believed to have been sunk, and the tug was hit at least 3 times. A coast defence battery opened fire which continued intermittently for 30 minutes after the destroyers had left. Both destroyers received superficial damage and QUILLIAM had one officer killed.

(b) The Italian M.A/S.B.433 (similar to E-Boat) arrived at Termoli to-day and reports having escaped after sinking the German escort vessel in company with her on passage from Sebenik to Split.

## Aegean.

9(a) FURY, EXMOOR and KRAKOWIAK withdrew from Mandelyah Gulf last night and passed north of Rhodes without incident, arriving at Alexandria today.

(b) Two Wellingtons successfully mined the harbour of Naxos and Lavrion last night. Four Liberators and 8 Halifaxes carried out mining and diversionary bombing of Candia and Khalkis.

(c) An enemy M.T.B. entered Port Vathi, Samos in the early hours of today and hailed the shore; on being ordered alongside the M.T.B. opened fire and withdrew under smoke cover.

(d) PHOEBE with French destroyers LE FANTASQUE and LE TERRIBLE left Alexandria today. The destroyers are to carry out a sweep in the Aegean tonight and act as a diversion from small craft plying to and from Samos. PHOEBE reported being attacked at 1635B in 34.50 N. 29.20 E. (south of Kastelorizo) by 20 Ju.88s and again at 1720B by 7 Ju.88s, but no hits were made in either attack. C. in C. M.E. reports that a third unsuccessful attack was made between the above two. PHOEBE shot down at least two and possibly 4 of the enemy aircraft.

(e) /...

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19.11.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Aegean.  
(Contd.)

(e) Rescue operations from Leros continue. A further 175 survivors have been evacuated to Turkey. PETARD, CROOME and THEMISTOCLES left Alexandria to-day to operate in the Gulf of Kos tonight and organise small craft engaged in the evacuation. CROOME returned to Alexandria with defects. All available M.T.B's, M.G.B's, and M.L's are being sent to Samos tonight, to help with the withdrawal.  
(f) Two M.G.B's, one L.C.M. and one Italian F lighter from Leros arrived at Kastelorizo to-day. Most of these had on board evacuees from Leros.  
(g) A R.A.F. H.S. launch and available M.T.B's and M.G.B's are being sent to Samos to assist in withdrawal tonight; two M.L's are already lying up near Samos and two more near Gunishlu.  
(h) Two Ju.88's bombed Kastelorizo to-day; the only damage reported is to 2 small caiques.  
(i) SPORTSMAN sank by gunfire a 100 ton caique at noon to-day in 35.03 N. 24.15 E (South of Sphakia, (Crete)). Heavy coast defence batteries retaliated.

Levant:  
Employment  
of  
Destroyers.

10 (a) Now that Leros has fallen and most of the British garrison of Samos has gone with it C. in C. Levant considers there is no longer sufficient justification for trying to maintain destroyers in the Aegean, since the chances of these being able to intercept a seaborne attack on Samos are negligible; they would contribute a great deal more to the war effort in the Central Mediterranean where aircraft are friendly and plentiful.  
(b) He wishes to retain one Cruiser, two Fleets and the excess Hunts until the Lebanon situation is cleared up and the threat to Kastelorizo can be assessed; and the M.G.B's and M.T.B's for the present for offensive sweeps from Kastelorizo and for the defence of the Island. He also wishes to use LE FANTASQUE and LE TERRIBLE for one or two night sorties into the Aegean before sending them back.

Situation in  
Lebanon.

11. PENELOPE has been moved from Limasol to Haifa ready to move to Beirut if required in connection with possible developments in the Lebanon situation.

SS.SINFRA.

12. It is now confirmed by prisoners' of war statements that the vessel set on fire by aircraft in Kithera Channel on the night 18/19 October (see para.12(a)) was SS. SINFRA carrying German personnel and Italian and Greek prisoners of war. The vessel sank.

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19.11.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

P.B.64.

13(a) Convoy P.B.64, which sailed from Hormuz to-day for Indian ports, contains amongst its 25 ships one of 8 knots and 3 U.S. ships of  $14\frac{1}{2}$  knots and above, including one of 16 knots with troops.

(b) The explanation is given in C. in C. E.F. 281101Z.

China.

Air  
Activities.

14. Mitchells today sank a 175 ft. freighter off Tsao Tao Island; bombed wharves and warehouses at Swatow, starting many fires; sank a 150 ft. gunboat at Jani Island; and damaged a 300 ft. freighter 50 miles east of Swatow. Off Hainan Strait a 300 ft. and a 225 ft. freighter were severely damaged.



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19.11.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Seven  
Frigates for  
Eastern  
Fleet.

Seven frigates are required for station duties in Eastern Fleet. 2. Request you will nominate seven "River" class and arrange where necessary for refits and As and As to be undertaken to enable them to proceed abroad approx. 1 month after relief in your Command. 3. The following American new construction Captain and Maritime frigates are nominated as reliefs:- GARDINER, BALFOUR, GOODALL, BENTLEY, BICKERTON, GORE, ANTIGUA. 4. "Rivers" should be sailed to join E.F. by convenient convoy as they become ready and not held for the remainder of the group.  
(V.C.N.S. 192345A to C. in C. W.A.)

Defence of U.K.South  
Hayling.  
Sentry  
shot.

At 0200A/19th November Ordinary Seaman D. Harbottle while acting as sentry at Copp Depot, South Hayling was fired at and killed by unidentified assailant. Investigation shows shot fired at close range from behind. Sentry in company with Harbottle heard one shot but saw nobody. Full investigation and search is being made locally. Security Officer and police informed. Next of kin has been informed. (2) Sentry was fired and wounded in similar circumstances on 1st November. Portsmouth number 5874/C/9783/30 of 12th November to Admiralty for D.N.I. Refers.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 191622A to Admty.)

Movements.

RICHELIEU.

MUSKETEER with SCOURGE proceed passing Switha 2130A/19th to R/V in 00° Butt of Lewis 10 at 0330A 20th with RICHELIEU. (2) RICHELIEU is on passage to Scapa unescorted and routed in accordance with C. in C.W.A's 161633. When met provide escort to Scapa. (3) MUSKETEER is to comply with C. in C.H.F. 151836 and is to lead RICHELIEU through Hoxa Gate.  
(R.A.D. 190917 to MUSKETEER, SCOURGE.)

MALAYA.

Arrived MALAYA.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 191308A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

S/M  
movements.

Positions of S/MS. at 0800/20 and movements for following 24 hours.  
(F.O.S. 191734A, 192146, 200017.)

RANGER,  
AUGUSTA.

C.T.G.121 is requested to proceed in RANGER with AUGUSTA, MUSKETEER, MATCHLESS, ASHANTI, OBDURATE, CAPPS to Hvalfiord passing Hoxa Gate 1500A/22nd. 2. Route. S.O.A. 15 knots. 4. C.T.G.121 is requested to detach British destroyers to Akureyri after crossing latitude 064° 05' N. 5. Admiralty is requested to order onward route for Task Force to U.S.A.  
(C. in C.H.F. 191745A to C.T.G.121.)

BITER.

Arrived BITER.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 192136A.)

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19.11.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Bay Patrols. Am over enemy S/M in 40° 15' N. 19° 30' W.  
U-Boat (A/C. W.U.A.F. 190245Z to 15 Group.)  
attacked Am over enemy S/M in 40° 15' N. 19° 18' W. Enemy  
by A/C. S/M was on surface and when first sighted was on  
C. in C.W.A. course 270° speed 5 knots.  
to command (A/C. Duty F. 190255Z to 15 Group.)  
operations. Have attacked U-Boat with depth charges. Nothing  
seen after.  
(A/C. Duty F. 190415Z to 15 Group.)  
A/C shadowing me, Dornier 217, 43° 20' N. 10° 40' W.  
(A/C. Duty S. 190925A to 19 Group.)

Safe. A/C previously reported last seen position 43° 25' N.  
11° 00' W. course 180° ht. 4000 ft.  
(A/C. Duty S. 190935A to 19 Group.)  
Am being attacked by 3 Ju.88s. position 45° 38' N. 11° 32' W.  
(A/C. Duty W. 191130 to 19 Group.)  
My P.C.S. 49° 29' N. 14° 34' W. course 53° 19 knots increasing  
to 25 knots after passing The Lizard. E.T.A. 00940A/20th.  
Engagement of Liberator A/C which attacked pack at 2359/18th  
confirmed.  
(GLASGOW 191159 to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
Am being attacked by 3 Ju.88s. in 45° 33' N. 12° 00' W.  
(A/C. Duty W. 191200 to 19 Group.)  
Safe returning to base.  
(A/C. Duty W. 191240A to 19 Group.)

Operations now in progress in the Bay area are primarily in  
support of a convoy. Accordingly C. in C.W.A. is requested to  
assume control of forces engaged. 2. C. in C. Plymouth is  
requested to place PRINCE ROBERT under his command of C. in C.W.A.  
temporarily. 3. In the event of enemy surface forces operating  
C. in C. Plymouth will be requested to assume control of such  
forces as may be detailed to counter them. 4. GLASGOW is avail-  
able for surface support and is to remain under the orders of  
C. in C. Plymouth.)  
(V.C.N.S. 191632A to C. in C.W.A., C. in C. Plymouth.)  
Have A.S.V. contact, probably U-Boat.  
(A/C. Duty R. 192046 to 19 Group.)  
C. in C.W.A's. 191648 and my 191732. Sailing of PRINCE ROBERT  
postponed.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 192206A to PRINCE ROBERT.)

Operation Your 162308. Request confirmation that my rectangle  
S-F. has not been similarly moved.  
(M/S. 18. 190817 to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
My 182335A. All A/C. cancelled except one, 18  
Group Sunderland.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 191235A to H.F.)  
Situation at 192103A. 4 Minesweepers group A. in (?061°)  
00' N. 016° 45' W. patrolling.  
(A.C.I.C. 191304A to Ships.)  
Your 190817. Confirmed your rectangle has not been moved.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 191401A to M/S.18.)  
(1) Normal mooring area being flown Nov.20th by 1 Liberator,  
5 Hudsons or Venturas, 1 Sunderland, and 1 Catalina.  
2. Mooring moved 225° 120 miles by 6 Hudsons or Venturas.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 192325A to H.F.)

S/M...

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19.11.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

S/M. Your 181631. Necessary arrangements made in  
Patrols. accordance with para.3.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 191016A to Admty.)  
Positions of S/Ms. at 0800/20th and movements for  
following 24 hours. (A) VENTURER 66° 01' 06° 10' E  
probably on surface 8 knots to 62° N. 01° E. (B) SATYR, STORM,  
SEANYMPH, SCEPTRE on patrol between North Cape and Soroy.  
(C) ULA sails Lerwick 0900/20th probably on surface 8 knots through  
090°. Muckle Flugga 15 to 62° 18' N. 04° 35' E. (D) SEADOG sails  
Lerwick 1800/20th. through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 and 61° 59' N.  
00° 11' E. thence course 030° probably on surface 11 knots.  
(F.O.S. 191734A to Admty.)

Coastal 1. Orders for night 19th/20th November.  
Force (A) 3 M.G.Bs. from Newhaven carry out anti E-Boat  
Patrols. patrol 10 miles S. of convoy-route between C.3  
buoy and Eastern limit of command between 1800A and  
0100A keeping abreast C.E.223. (B) 3 M.G.Bs. from  
HORNET carry out anti E-Boat patrol 10 miles South  
of convoy route between 02° 35' W. and longitude of N.1 buoy from  
1900A to 0100A keeping abreast of W.P.433. Enter harbour after  
convoy has passed Needles. (C) Chasseurs 5 and 10 patrol Q.Z.S.  
384 between F. and E.A.5 buoys. (D) M.L.292 immediate notice  
St.Helens.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 191233A.)

Your 092309A/11. Intend to sail Force 'A' MM/S 298, M.F.V.  
ALIANORA, M.Ls.194, (S.O) 193, 230, R.M.L.513 at 0745/20 to 50°  
35' 00" N. 00° 30' W. E.T.A. 1030/20. Thence turning and proceed-  
ing East by convoy route. Speed 8 knots. 2. Force 'B' M.T.Bs.  
212 (S.O) 211, 205, 253, 254, 255, 257 at 0900/20 to 50° 13' N. 00°  
15' W. E.T.A. 1030/20 approx. Force will simulate 'E' Boat attack  
on Force 'A'. 3. Force 'C' M.G.Bs.602 (S.O) 608 at 0900/20 to  
50° 27' N. 00° 21' E.T.A. 1030/20. Will be used as intercepting  
Force. 4. All will be directed to return to harbour on completion  
of exercise.  
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven 191701A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Operation Am assisting OBEDIENT with temporary repairs to  
F-T. defects. Her 191240 refers. Ship hopes to be able  
to leave Seidis Fjord for Scapa in 48 hours but she  
will confirm this later.  
(C.S.l. 191434A to C. in C.H.F.)

Have had difficulties in fuelling at Seidis Fjord owing to  
local weather conditions which seem permanent in winter. If  
necessary for cruisers to fuel on return from operation F-T intend  
to detach them Akureyri.

(C.S.l. 191505A to C. in C.H.F.)

Seidis Fjord departure 191515A BRISSENDEN for Hvalfiord.

(A.C.I.C. 191734A to C. in C.H.F.)

My 121918 and 191745. Request you will detach TUSCALOOSA to  
Hvalfiord after crossing latitude 070° N. on your return from  
covering J.W.54A. 2. U.S. Destroyers of your screen are also to  
proceed Hvalfiord at best speed after ANSON enters Akureyri.  
3. If you expect to arrive Akureyri later than p.m. 25th instruct  
the 4 British destroyers referred to in my 191745 to R/V with you  
and relieve your screen.

(C. in C.H.F. 191755A to V.A.2.)

/Sailed...

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Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation F-T. (Contd.) Sailed Seidis Fjord at 1823A/19th, C.S.1 in KENT, BERMUDA, JAMAICA in company. (A.C.I.C. 192158A to H.F.) Akureyri departure at 1702A/19th. V.A. (2) H.F. in ANSON with TUSCALOOSA, FORREST, CORRY, HOBSON, FITCH. (A.C.I.C. 192346A to H.F.)

Allied Air Activity.

A/C for FURIOUS. Your 182005. It is regretted that the supply of Martlet V and other operational requirements make it impossible to allocate a Martlet V Squadron to FURIOUS. 2. Investigations are being made as to whether the operational range of the Seafire I.B. can be increased beyond that obtained with the 30 gallon drop tank. 3. Request you will state the maximum distance from the target from which you require to operate the fighter escort. (A.C.N.S.A. 192225A to C. in C.H.F.)

Mining.

Q.L.10. Carry out operation Q.L.10 first suitable night on or after 20th Nov. Force 21st M.T.B. Flotilla. Mines to be laid as near as practicable to the entrance in a direction 108° from Q.L.10. If mines have to be jettisoned they are to be dropped safe. Mines are not to be laid to westward of Q.L.10. (C. in C. Nore 191415A to BEEHIVE.)

Plymouth to Lundy sweep. Your 181222A. Intend following programme. (M/S.16 191419A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Thames Estuary. HOLDERNESS reports mine observed to detonate in 225° B.D.7 bouy, 1 mile at 1010 to-day. Two destroyers passing at 20 knots in Q.Z.S.285. Tongue Sand Fort reports mine detonated 060° 5 miles at same time. No vessel in vicinity. Minelaying not suspected in these areas recently. (C. in C. Nore 191425A to Admty.)

Q.U.25. Q.U.21Z-14. Prepare to carry out the following operations. Q.U.25 034°. Force 21st M.T.B. Flotilla. 51st M.L. Flotilla. Q.U.21Z-14. Force 21st M.T.B. Flotilla, 51st M.L. Flotilla. Details. (C. in C. Nore 191636A to BEEHIVE.)

Tees area. Drifting British Mark XV and Mark VIV and Mark XVII mines 255 in number have been sunk by H.M. Minesweepers since 1400 Nov. 16th until 1700 today between Farne Island and Whitby. (N.O.I.C. North Shields 191825A to Admty.)

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Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

NURNBERG. Helsingborg Fiord. NURNBERG passed Sound northwards at 1525 to-day preceded by one M-class vessel Graded A.2.  
(N.A. Stockholm 191617 to Admty.) O.I.C. Comment. German 6" cruisers are thought to be employed on training duties only. It is therefore considered unlikely that she will proceed further than a Danish port or Oslo where German units have previously proceeded on training cruises.  
Report graded B.2 states that NURNBERG passed Helsingborg, Co. N., at 1525/19th.  
(D.D.I.C. 192245A to A.I.G.21, A.I.G.47.)

Navigational.

Irish My 191240 and your 181737. Cancel reply.  
Sea 3. Sanctuary now declared as follows:-  
S/M. M. 054° 06' N. 003° 56' W. N. 054° 06' 003° 38'.  
Sanctuary. O. 053° 56' 003° 38'. P. 053° 56' 003° 56'.  
(INSKIP 191905A to Capt. S.7.)

Casualties & Defects.

EMPIRE SEDGE. EMPIRE SEDGE proceeding under own power. Tug standing by. E.T.A. Tyne 0800. Position 0100 17 buoy, speed 10 knots.  
(LUDLOW 190131A to N.O.I.C. Tyne.)

LOYALTY. LOYALTY will boiler clean at Scapa whilst awaiting repair for damaged stem. She will be sailed on completion to rejoin flotilla about 27th November.  
(A.C.O.S. 191026 to M/S.18.)

CHESTERFIELD. CHESTERFIELD delayed by defects. See my 071321 October.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 191036 to F.O.N.A.S.)

ST.MELLONS. Salvage officer reports following damage sustained by ST.MELLONS in collision. It is proposed to cement-box damaged area and make her seaworthy to proceed to necessary port for docking and repairs.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 191156A to Admty.)

UMBRA. UMBRA towed by ABELLE IV and escorted by GLEN-HEATHER sailed Fishguard 1000/19th for Milford Haven, E.T.A. 1800/19th.  
(F.O.S. 191218A to Admty.)

/CHANTICLEER...

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War Diary.

19.11.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects - Contd.

CHANTICLEER. Your 181632. Request further details of incident as soon as possible with particular reference to the following points. (a) Did periscope sighted show any feather. Could it in fact have been a dummy periscope attached to a mine and released by a U-Boat from deep. (b) Do A/S records confirm that contact and periscope sighted were same target. (c) At what range was A/S contact gained and lost. What were its S/M characteristics. (d) Could damage to CHANTICLEER have been caused by premature explosion of one of the depth charge patterns. (C. in C.W.A. 191348A to CHANTICLEER.)

Your 191348A. (A) Periscope was held by director from (?2000) yards to 200 yards. No feather seen. At initial sighting it was showing 4 feet. At 1000 yards it dipped to one foot and remained there. A dummy periscope was considered in view of audacity of U-Boat Captain but dismissed on following grounds:-  
1. Raising and lowering of periscope. 2. Contact was gained on Asdic on same target as periscope sighted. Range on Asdic 1800 yards. Estimated range from director 2000 yards. 3. Asdic and plot gave the alteration of U-Boat toward and closing speed of 16 knots own attacking speed 15 knots. 4. Contact regained at 1500 yards increasing very slowly to 1700 where it faded, after 20 minutes firm contact, during which time CRANE was being directed (B) See (A)2. (C) 1800 yards and 100 respectively. Doppler high. Excellent echo. The alteration of course toward easily distinguished. (D) Yes. Complete rudder is on the forward end of Quarterdeck. Ship Badly buckled from aft to forward. U-Boat war head considered possibility. Unanimous opinion of 4 Officers on the bridge coincide with my opinion that depth charges from thrower were in the air still when the first explosion occurred which did damage to H.M.S. CHANTICLEER. A few seconds later second explosion which was colossal and sent water and debris to 200 feet did no harm to ship. Water from second explosion fell solid on director and bridge guns were trained at once on huge air bubble and I expected to see U-Boat surface. H.S.D. reports blowing of tank. Nothing seen. U-Boat had been sighted on surface at about 6 miles range at 1413Z a square search was carried out and contact gained within 100 yards of estimated diving position. Correct my statement in my 181632Z that explosion occurred after complete pattern had been fired it should read as above. After explosion 2 echoes were reported astern but one only was held. H.M.S. CRANE's initial attack on firm echo did not coincide with our firm echo. It is possible that 2 Submarines were working together and one acted as decoy.

(CHANTICLEER 191725Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Your 191348. (1) CRANE saw torpedoing from 4 miles distance. (2) First half of shallow pattern seen to explode normally. (3) Then whole after part obscured by higher dispersed spraying cloud. (4) CRANE directed by CHANTICLEER obtained S/M. contact 18' later, 1500 yards ahead stationary ship. (5) This contact held 3 hours, was deep moving N.E. 0 to 4 knots. (6) Numerous S.B.T. identified. (7) Second S/M contact by CHANTICLEER 3 hours after torpedoed. (8) Delayed action (?depth charges) dropped on 1st contact now 4 miles (?from) CHANTICLEER whilst this new contact closed confirmed S/M and attacked once, contact note recovered. (9) One hour after dark single conspicuous torpedo-track passed 50 yards ahead of CRANE. (10) Illuminated and searched up track without results. (11) Am in company with S.O. E.G.7.

(CRANE 191835Z to C. in C.W.A.)

I am afraid that it will be found that CHANTICLEER is, from a point of repair, an uneconomic proposition. This view is based

/on...

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War Diary.19.11.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

CHANTICLEER (Contd.) on serious buckling between boiler rooms on all decks, in addition to complete wreckage of stern up to after engine-room bulkhead.  
(CHANTICLEER 191938Z to C. in C.W.A.)

TRACKER. Admty. 191245A and C. in C.W.A.'s. 181951A. Consider Roblading 32 unimportant and not necessary. Turbine as at present very satisfactory.  
(TRACKER 191853Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Shipping & Convoys.

O.S.59 (A) 1500Z/17. (B) ROCHESTER, SCARBORO, TAVY, /K.M.S.53. BALSAM, GERANIUM. O.S.59. FOLKESTONE. Additional K.M.S.33. Escort BETONY, ROSEBAY, MIGNONETTE. Rescue ship BURY.  
(C. in C.W.A. 190423Z to F.O.C.W.Af.)

S.L.139/ Position of 2 S/Ms. on surface and 3 unknown 43.19 N. K.M.S.30. 19.32 W. FENCER. (CALGARY 190530Z to Whitehall W/T.)  
Two U/Bs. My 0530Z. S/Ms. previously reported have been sighted and 6 observed to dive. Searching. believed in (CALGARY 190607Z to Admty.) touch. My 0607. One S/M. dived and one S/M. escaped on the surface.  
(CALGARY 190652Z to Whitehall W/T.)

Close escort to be provided by one Liberator ahead and one astern of S.L. 139 throughout the hours of daylight 20th November. One aircraft in each group to be at immediate readiness and to be despatched if a sighting is reported. 15 Group to be prepared to reinforce with stripped Sunderlands during p.m. 20th November. 19 Group to carry out Leigh Light A/S patrols throughout the hours of darkness on night 20/21st November ahead and astern of S.L.139 as far as resources permit, particular attention being paid to predawn period.

(H.Q.C.C. 190930A to 15 and 19 Group.)

One enemy A/C (F.W.) shadowing convoy position 42° 03' N. 19° 27' W. course 000° speed 7.5 knots.

(EXE 190931Z to Whitehall.)

R/V 090° Copeland Island 5 miles at 1500A today.

(FENCER 191008 to BURGESS, BERRY.)

Sailed BURGESS and BERRY to R/V with FENCER at 1500A/19, off Copeland Island. BLACKWOOD will be sailed to overtake. C. in C.W.A. 181254A.

(F.O.C.N.I. 191552 to C. in C.W.A.)

C. in C.W.As. 181154A. Sailed BENTINCK S.O., DRURY, BAZELY, BYARD, CALDER.

(F.O.I.C. Belfast 191554A to C. in C.W.A.)

Close Machrihanish. A/C. will be flown to you if opportunity offers. Keep station informed of your position. Your 191345 refers.

(C. in C.W.A. 191604A to FENCER.)

My 181254. FENCER is delayed due to inability to embark aircraft and is proceeding to close Machrihanish from Westward and in case break in weather gives opportunity for embarkation.

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

S.L.139/  
K.M.S.30.  
FENCER.  
Two U/Bs.  
sighted and 6  
believed in  
touch.  
(Contd.)

(2) If not already in company FENCER is to give new R/V to BERRY and BURGES and also to BLACKWOOD who will now be joining screen. (3) If aircraft are successfully embarked tonight FENCER is to proceed North of Ireland to effect R/V with S.L. 139/M.K.S.30. (4) If aircraft are not embarked FENCER is to lay off for the night and return to vicinity of Machrihanish to effect embarkation at daybreak thence proceeding in accordance with para.3 (C. in C.W.A. 191648A to FENCER, BERRY, BLACKWOOD, BURGES.)

Sailed DUCKWORTH to overtake in accordance with C. in C.W.As. 181254A para.2.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 191654A to C. in C.W.A.)

S.L.139. Considerable activity on series 1 indicates at least 6 U-Boats in close touch.

(E.G.39 192035Z to Admty.)

C. in C.W.As. 191648A para.2. BERRY has main generator defect and is unable to sail.

(F.O.C.N.I. 192200A to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 1845. Your action in obtaining the 3 Swordfish is much appreciated but in view of the fact that your screen is at present inadequate and that you are required to provide fighter protection you should comply with my 191648 and embark the 4 Martlets and such Swordfish as you require. (2) Nature of defect in BURGES is to be reported. (3) R/V should be given to BLACKWOOD, BERRY and DUCKWORTH. BLACKWOOD and DUCKWORTH are to indicate their position and BERRY her probable time of sailing forthwith.

(C. in C.W.A. 192209 to FENCER.)

ATLANTIS. Intend to sail one Hospital ship ATLANTIS from Breaksea 1500A/20th to Gib. Route.  
(N.C.S.O. Avonmouth 191158A to Admty.)

E.G.39. On completion of exercise today complete with fuel at EMPIRE CONTROL and sail to overtake 39 Escort Group.  
(Cdre. D.W.A. 191217A to MIGNONETTE.)

T.U.4A. My 181245. Sailed.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 191824A.)  
PINERIDGE did not sail.  
(C. in C.W.A. 192151A to IRA JEFFERY.)  
Clyde portion sailed in accordance with my 171536A.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 192318A to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

J.W.54B. SPEEDWELL, MIDDLETON will be required to form part of local escort J.W.54B under order of BEAGLE, sailings from Loch Ewe p.m. 22nd November.  
2. Local and through escort consists of BEAGLE (S.O.) HALCYON, SPEEDWELL, MIDDLETON, SALADIN, BEAGLE, RHODODENDRON POPPY, DIANELLA. 3. When released SPEEDWELL return Scapa routed West of Iceland Faeros mine barrier. MIDDLETON proceed Seidis Fiord and complete, then return Scapa.  
(R.A.D.-H.F. 191901A and 201746A to SPEEDWELL, MIDDLETON.)



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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

- D.S.47. My 130209A. Sailing date of convoy D.S.47 has been postponed by one day to p.m. 26 Nov.  
2. Approx. 900 personnel will embark at Tail of the Bank a.m. 26 Nov.  
(D.S.T. 192115A to P.S.T.O. Clyde.)
- D.F.16A. MORIALTA after arrival at Thurso will embark personnel ex GALTESUND and sail for Faeroes 23 Nov. as D.F.16A. 2. Ship will return from Faeroes to Aberdeen for disembarkation. 3. After disembarkation at Aberdeen ship is to proceed empty to Dundee to complete overhaul.  
(D.S.T. 192145A to D.S.T.O. Leith.)
- F.D.16. My 171529 amended by my 181314. Sailed.  
(N.O.I.C. Faeroes 192302A to C. in C.W.A.)
- O.N.S.23. My 181226A. Sailed SUNFLOWER to overtake O.N.S.23.  
(Cdre. D. W.A. 192341A to A.I.G.196.)

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War Diary.19.11.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

CHANTICLEER Your 181941A to CRANE. My P.C.S. 039 degs. 08' damaged while attacking U-Boat. (See also p 529)

N. 021 degs. 25' W. 245 degs. 6 knots in tow of SALVADOR. Have abandoned all watertight bulkheads up to after end of engine room. Touring comfortably. GARLIES escorting me. (CHANTICLEER, 190800Z to F.O. Gib.(R) CRANE, Admty., C. in C. W.A., S.B.N.O. Azores, PHEASANT) Report forthwith whether you can make passage to Gibraltar in tow. If so course is to be (?altered) for (Q) 036 degs. N. 019 degs. W. thence Q.B.A.87 to Gibraltar. In this event WISHART and JAUNTY will be directed to assist you. (F.O. Gib. 191250A to CHANTICLEER (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A. S.B.N.O. Azores. GARLIES, WISHART, PHEASANT.)

JAUNTY has choked main condenser and cannot maintain vacuum. Am returning in company pending further instructions. P.C.S. 036 degs. 02' N. 007 degs. 30' W. 101 deg. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  knots. Weather report 9190 0685. (WISHART, 191330A to F.O. Gibraltar.)

CHANTICLEER seriously damaged by enemy action is expected to arrive Ponta Delgada in tow of tug SALVADA, p.m. 21st or a.m. 22nd (2) N.A. Lisbon is requested to arrange with Portuguese for necessary time to be given for repairs to make ship sea-worthy. (3) H.M. Consul Ponta Delgada is requested to report as soon as possible. (a) details of damage. (b) possibility of repairs being effected and (c) any repair materials required but not available locally. (Head of M.1, 191400A to N.A. Lisbon, H.M. Consul Ponta Delgada, Info: CHANTICLEER, C. in C. W.A., F.O. Gibraltar, S.B.N.O. Azores)

Your 191250A. Regret impossible to make Gibraltar without temporary repairs at Ponta Delgada first. My P.C. and S. 38 degs. 51' N. 22 degs. 10' W. 244 degs. 6 knots. Weather report 6481 3683. (CHANTICLEER, 191500Z to F.O. Gibraltar, (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A., S.B.N.O. Azores, GARLIES, WISHART, PHEASANT.) Your 191500 Acknowledged. Portuguese authorities informed. (F.O. Gibraltar, 191920A to CHANTICLEER (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A., S.B.N.O. Azores, (N.O.I.C. Terceira)) Admiralty 191400A amend E.T.A. Ponta Delgada p.m. 20th or a.m. 21st GARLIES in company. (CHANTICLEER, 192201Z to Admty. (R) B.N.A. Lisbon, H.M. Consul Ponta Delgada, C. in C. W.A., F.O.C. Gib. S.B.N.O. Azores, GARLIES)

Axis Shipping. 66 (HOCHHERINER) sailed 2350/18th. (H.M. Consul Bilbao, 191135 to M.E.W.)

REDPOLE. Weather report 9080 2485 patrolling off Lisbon your 181719 (not received) refers. (REDPOLE, 191201A to F.O. Gib.)

Facilities at Horta. Ref. A.M. 081305. Over 900 depth charges. 1000 Hedgehog. Ammunition up to and including 4.7. Asdic spares and maintenance parts. No Radar spares or maintenance Small stock of Victualling stores. Very limited

supplies /

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19.11.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Facilities at Horta. (Contd.) supplies fresh provisions obtainable. Limited fresh water unfit for drinking. Engineering repairs of all kinds and divers are (2) British tug working in conjunction with pilots who are reliable and must always be employed. Coal and oil stocks are ample at present and will be reported weekly on Saturday as will any large change in depth charge, Hedgehog and other ammunition. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 191246Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.Gib. C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth)

HUMBOLDT. Sailed U.S.S. HUMBOLDT refer my 181613Z. (C.M.S.F. 191540Z to N.O.B. Bermuda)

Horta Accommodation. Your 081750. When SAN UBALDO has left HORTA can accommodate 1 Cruiser up to 10,000 tons and at the same time 1 Escort Group of 5 ships leaving room alongside Oiler for 2 Destroyers to oil at one time. This allows for normal port traffic and for small ships B.Y.M.S. and Trawlers. Stocks and coal and oil reported weekly to Admiralty on Saturday. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 191624Z to C. in C. Plymouth (R) Admty. F.O.C. Gib. C. in C. Med.)  
/ Refers to date anticipated large cruiser can be received for fuel. Capacity of Horta.

IRIS cable repair. Cable Ship IRIS has completed repair to cable at sea and returned to Funchal to repair shore end. Expects to finish about 21st. Request destination and route instructions. (N.C.S.O. Funchal, 191653 to F.O.Gib. (R) Admty.)

Gibraltar Movements. Arrival TUMULT from West. Departures: Tug JAUNTY to assist CHANTICLEER. Dutch Submarine K.15 to K.M.S.32 K. (F.O.I.C.Gib. 191957A)

PERLE. Intend to sail PERLE at 0730/22nd for Bermuda through following positions at times stated  
K 035 degs. 49' N. 006 degs. 06' 30" W. 1230/22nd.  
L 030 degs. 00' 018 degs. 00' 0500/26th.  
M 030 degs. 00' 027 degs. 00' 1630/28th.  
N 031 degs. 00' 042 degs. 00' 1900/2nd.  
O 032 degs. 00' 059 degs. 00' 1040/7th thence to Bermuda ETA.0730 9th  
(2) Proceeding on the surface at discretion unescorted, S. of A. 8 knots until 1040/7th Dec. and 7 knots thereafter.  
(3) W/T Watch in A.F.O. S.1/43 section M.L. table 2. (3) until 0500/2nd Dec. and S.I/43 Section W.A. table 3 (3) thereafter.  
All times G.M.T. unless otherwise indicated.  
(F.O.C.Gib. 192128A to Admty. Cominch, F.O.S., S.B.N.O. W.At. Area. S.O. Force B Commorseafron (R) C. in C. U.S. At. Fleet. Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet C. & R., C. in C. Med. S.B.N.O. Azores. Cdr. U.S. N.F. N.W.Af. Waters Capt.(D) 10th H.Q.C.C., F.O.C. W.Af.)

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19.11.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

FROBISHER.

My 181131. Destination Kilindini.  
(Com. I.C. Durban, 190654Z to Admty.)

U-Boat.

For Information.  
Aircraft from U.S.S. MEMPHIS sighted U-Boat at  
1355Z/17th 00 degs. 27' N. 22 degs. 28' W.  
course 140 degs.  
(D.D.I.C. 191004A to CILICIA, FAL, F.O.C.W.Af.)

Italian  
Cruisers,  
CILICIA,  
FAL, Patrol.

F.O.C.W.Af's 181220Z November. Sailed.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 191111Z to Com.4th Fleet (R)  
Admty. Comar Dakar.)

FRENSIA.

Arrived and sailed FREESIA to East London Coastal.  
S. of A. 12 knots. E.T.A. 1200Z/20th Nov?  
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 191534Z to Admty., C. in C. S.A.  
C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.), F.O.E.Af. Kilindini.  
N.L.O.East London.)

U-Boat  
attacked by  
ARCTIC  
EXPLORER.

ARCTIC EXPLORER attacked A/S contact at 0645Z in  
24 degs. 30' S. 35 degs. 25' E. Reports contact  
firm no movements observed, much oil and few  
bubbles seen.  
(C. in C. S.A. 192056C to Admty. (R) C. in C.  
E.F. (S.E.A.C.), Comic, Durban. F.O.E.A.)

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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

X.T.9. M.S.C.I.22. Intend sailing 9 p.m. 20th Escort  
BURRA, ROMEO.  
(R.A.Alex. 190030B)

COMMANDANT Your 210955/Oct. French Liaison in London have  
DETROYAT. been informed that Admiralty agree that  
COMMANDANT DETROYAT should be attached to a  
French escort group in the Med. but that it is  
an essential condition that a French ship should  
be provided as a relief at Freetown.  
(2) Arrangements for fitting of new furnaces will be determined  
as soon as reply is received from the French.  
(A.C.N.S.190449A to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.I.C.Gib. F.O.C.W.Af.)

Malta 18th. Arrived Yugoslav Yacht QAQABRIA.  
Movements. (V.A.Malta, 190829)

Egyptians There have during the last few days been demonstra-  
Anti-French tions by Egyptians against French officials in  
demonstration. Egypt on account of situation in Lebanon.  
(2) On 14th French Naval Establishments in  
Alexandria were attacked with stones by  
considerable mobs.  
(3) Egyptians police appears to have taken no action.  
(4) Appeal is alleged to have been made to British Military  
Authorities who French assert stated that they could take no  
action.  
(5) Two French Destroyers arrived at the critical moment and  
with my permission landed a guard which maintained order until  
matters quietened down.  
(6) I have received a very strongly worded letter of protest  
from the French Naval Liaison Officer at Alexandria who states  
that he is referring to Algiers with a request that the matter  
should be reported to London.  
(7) I am having matter fully enquired into and will signal result.  
(C. in C. Levant, 190831B to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.)

DA RECCO. My P.C. and S. at 190702A 034 degs. 14' N. 017  
degs. 58' E. 174 degs. 7 knots. (1 group missed)  
rejoining 236 (corrupt) target in this position.  
(DA RECCO, 190929 to C. in C. Med. F.O.T.A.L.I)

SICKLE, (1) My 172350 para. 2. P.224 (SICKLE) keep  
UNSPARING. North of Milos.  
(2) P.55 (UNSPARING) enters Aegean today and is  
to patrol South of Milos until further orders  
amending S.J.32 accordingly.  
(3) French Destroyer will operate in Stampalia,  
Amorgos area tonight.  
(Capt.(S) 1, 191004B to UNSPARING, SICKLE (R)  
1st S.F., C. in C. Levant.)

Air /...

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Air Reports. M.S.22336. A.338 19th.  
Daily Opsum 205 18th. 5 Beaufighters and 3 Mitchells (P.25) 1 of each returned early sweeping Eastern Aegean sighted and attacked A.30 ton Caique west of Amorgos and Beaufighters scored hit with 30 millimetre cannon caique left with 40 degree list. 6 Baltimores (A.30) Offensive Sweeps South Eastern Aegean only sighting 1 20 ton caique no attacks made. 2 Enemy R/C over Samos during day no other air activity reported. Night 18/19 Nov. 4 Dakotas (C.47) successfully dropped supplies on Samos. 2 Wellingtons successfully mined harbours at Naxos and Lavrion (Greece) 4 Liberators (B.24) and 8 Halifaxes Mining and Diver-sionary Bombing Candia (Crete) and Khalkis (Greece). Early report indicates successful operation one Liberator (B.24) missing.

(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.191022Z)

M.S.22361 N.A.A.F. Opsum No.271 19th.  
38 U.S. Warhawks armed R/C Sibenik area Yugoslavia.  
Small M.V. on river Krka N. of Split bombed and strafed.  
Vessel left sinking at bows and smoking. Two M.Vs. attacked in Sibenik Harbour near misses observed. Total 84 x 20, 24 x 500 or 550? dropped

(H.Q. N.A.A.F. 191635A)

173908. A.268 19th.

(No.T.O.O)

TUZLA, Turkish ferries TUZLA and DARICA transferred to  
DARICA. Turkish Flag at 1030/16.  
(C. in C. Levant, 191047 to Admty.)

DZIK. My (?161555\*) para. (2) for 036 degs. 05' read  
035 degs. 06'.  
(Capt.(S) 1, 191154B to P.52 (DZIK) (R) C. in C.  
Levant, 1st S.F.)  
\* Former Most Secret.

Axis Shipping. A. German Motor Destroyer SEEROSE, 2 G.R.T. (as received) arrived from Bourgas with 250 tons bunker coal for JOHANNES MAERSK. Vessel has loaded at Istanbul about 2,500 tons chrome for Germany via Bourgas and will be ready to sail 20th. SANTA (gr. ut) and BACCHUS sailed for Black Sea in accordance with my 111130C, para. B. Reported B.4 SEEROSE will return Constanza after discharge (gr. ut) bunkers.) B. 16 more German motor lighters of about 200 tons similar ESTE and SEECRAFT expected to transit straits for Aegean in near future. B.4.  
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 191237C to C. in C. Levant, S.O.(I) Levant, (R) Capt. (S) 1, D.N.I.)

RORQUAL /...

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RORQUAL. Leaves Beirut at 0630B/21st routed on surface speed 10 knots through (A) 034 degs. 07' 035 degs. 01' (B) 033 degs. 58' 024 degs. 11'. (C) 034 degs. 16' 021 degs. 56' thence as ordered by Capt. (S) 10th.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 191242B to (A.I.G.72), Naval and A.A. Western Desert, C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 10, Capt. (S) 1 (R) Admty. R.A. Alexandria.)

S/M's 1st S/M Flotilla 18th.  
Levant (A) Refitting NEBOJSCA, NEREUS, MATROZOS, PAPANICOLIS (last two completing shortly).  
Command. (B) Operations. TORBAY Patrol N. Aegean.  
UNSPARING Patrol. DZIK Patrol W. Aegean.  
SOKOL Patrol W. of Leros.  
SIMOON returning from patrol. SPORTSMAN patrol W. of Leros.  
SIBYL patrol N. Aegean. SICKLE patrol W. of Leros.  
SURF, SERAPH, SHAKESPEARE Beirut. UNRULY, RORQUAL, SEVERN.  
(C) Italians. ATROPO returning Haifa. ZOEIA, MENOTTI, CORRIDONI Haifa completing repairs shortly. BRAGADINO Haifa defective GALATEA Haifa. ALAGI Alexandria aircraft training.  
(C. in C. Levant, 191313 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty (S) 1, (S) 8 (S) 10).

Mail Service and Leave. We are trying to provide better mail service for all forces in Med. and more frequent opportunities for return of Naval personnel to this country. One suggestion is additional six ship K.M.F. convoy might be instituted between U.K. and Med. with monthly sailings, thus ensuring, with existing monthly K.M.F. convoy, a fast fortnightly service. In view of Atlantic escort position, no escorts could be provided from home resources. Request you will consider this suggestion and report whether escort from Med. to U.K. ports and back could be provided for this service from Med. resources. At least four escorts per six ship K.M.F. convoy would be needed. (V.C.N.S. 191431 to C. in C. Med.)

BANFF Arrived.  
and (Com. Aden. 191511Z)  
12. L.C.I.  
Flotilla.

Med. It is proposed to reduce the S. of A. of Med.  
through convoys to  $7\frac{1}{2}$  knots on 1st Dec.  
Convoys. Speed of acceptance will be reduced to  $8\frac{1}{2}$  knots.  
(2) In working out timing following factors have been considered.  
(A) Augusta R/V to be in daylight owing to size

of /...

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Mediterranean.

Med. of joining section and in a position which will  
 through ensure arrival at Augusta in daylight.  
 Convoys. (B) Entry into and as much as possible of  
 (Contd.) passage of war channel to be in daylight.  
 (3) Following is intended timing of convoys.  
 (A) Eastbound. Gib. 0100 D, Oran 0800 D plus  
 one, Algiers 1000 D plus 2, Bizerta 0700 D plus  
 4, Augusta 1600 D plus 5, 20 east 1100 D plus 7, Alexandria  
 0600 D plus 10, Port Said a.m. D plus 11.  
 (B) Westbound. Port Said p.m. D Alexandria 1800 D plus one,  
 20 E. 1400 D. plus 4, Augusta 0700 D plus 6, Bizerta 1800 D  
 plus 7, Algiers 1430 D plus 9, Oran, 1800 D plus 10 Gib. 2330 D  
 plus 11.  
 (4) In order to join the S.L. convoys it is necessary that  
 the arrival date at Gib. should remain unchanged. It will  
 therefore be necessary to advance the sailing date of convoys.  
 Pending Admty. decision on proposal in para. 2 of my 171144  
 M.K.S.33 should sail Alexandria p.m. Dec. 1st to arrive Gib.  
 p.m. 11th. A.M. 151759 para. 1 (B) refers. G.U.S.24 should  
 sail from Alexandria p.m. 7th to arrive Gib. p.m. 17th  
 thereafter M.K.S. and G.U.S. convoys sail a.m. Dec. 11th and  
 17th respectively and every 10 days.  
 (5) If you concur intend to issue a revised sailing programme.  
 (C. in C. Med. 191625A, 202109A to C. in C. Levant (R) Admty.)

PHOEBE. Enemy A/C bombing position 34.50 N. 29.20 E.  
 (PHOEBE, 191635B to Alexandria.)  
 Attacked by 20 Ju. 88 no hits, I think we were  
 lucky.  
 (PHOEBE, 191644B to Alexandria)  
 Attacked by 7 Ju. 88s no hits or damage.  
 (PHOEBE, 191720B to Alexandria.)

STONEHENGE. Cancel A.M. 301556 (N.T. in W.D.) October.  
 STONEHENGE should proceed to Eastern Fleet.  
 (A.C.N.S.F. 191700A to C. in C. Med. (R) C. in C.  
 Levant.)

Destroyers, Following is repetition of my 190825\* (begins)  
 M.G.Bs., Leros having fallen and the majority of the  
 M.T.Bs., British Garrison of Samos having gone with it  
 Levant, there is no longer sufficient justification for  
 trying to maintain destroyers in the Aegean,  
 since chances of these being able to intercept  
 a sea borne attack on Samos are negligible due  
 to distance and lack of air R/C etc. and the little they can  
 do now to discomfort the enemy out of all proportion to the  
 risks involved and the effort required.  
 (2) I could use a few fleet destroyers for night raids working  
 to and from Alexandria direct, but feel sure they could  
 contribute a great deal more to the war effort in the central  
 Med. where A/C are friendly and plentiful.

/ (3) ...



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Destroyers, (3) I should like however to retain one cruiser  
M.G.B's, two Fleets and the excess Hunts for a short period  
M.T.B's, till the Lebanon situation is cleared up and the  
Levant, threat to Kastelorizo can be assessed. I should  
(Contd.) also like to retain the M.G.B's and M.T.B's for  
the present for offensive sweeps from Kastelorizo  
and for its defence if you can spare them.  
(4) Also I should like to use FANTASQUE and  
TERRIBLE for one or two night sorties into the Aegean before  
sending them back. (Ends.)  
(C. in C. Levant, 191745B to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.)  
\* undecypherable.

M.T.Bs M.T.B.419. Admty. 301251 Oct. refers, has  
for Med. arrived Algiers and been inspected. Can further  
information regarding shipment of remainder now  
be given.  
(2) Propose these boats should form the 8th  
M.T.B. Flot.  
(3) Re: Armament.  
(C. in C. Med. 191804A to Admty. (R) C.C.F.)

Aegean I/37356 19th. 385314.  
Situation. Joint Army R.A.F. Int. Appreciation 24 hours to  
1000Z/19 43.  
Ref. para. 2 Appreciation 15th. reporting departure  
from Suda Bay between 13/14th of M.V. 300 foot  
(PIER LUIGHI). C.X. 17th reports this vessel (heavily laden with  
ammunition and wood) caught fire 13th in Suda and was sunk by  
Germans to prevent explosion. Sabotage suspected. This  
report probably correct as subsequent Ph.R has failed to re-  
locate this vessel.  
Ref. paras. 5 and 7 Appreciations 19 and 20 Oct. respectively  
reporting believed successful air torpedo attack on M.V. 400  
foot which left Suda night 18/19 Oct. P. of W. statements  
confirm sinking of this vessel stated to be SS. SINFRA (4500  
tons) carrying 2000 "Badoglio" Italians 200 Greek Partisans and  
some 500 Germans including Navy, Army and G.A.F. personnel  
going on leave and ships crew. Also 2000 Italian bombs, olive  
oil and raisins etc. for Piraeus. P.of W's state vessel  
caught fire and bombs exploded. About 500 Italians 20 Greeks  
and all the Germans except 30/40 men were rescued. On  
following morning further A/C attacked the small vessels which  
had been sent to the rescue and sank 1 A/S vessel.  
(2) Ref. para. 3 Appreciation 17th repeating departures from  
Piraeus by a.m. 16th. C.X.18th reports CITTA DI SAVONA sailed  
from Piraeus for Corinth Canal night 15/16th carrying 4 heavy  
guns and cement. Same source reports that destroyer 300 foot  
which left Piraeus night 15/16 is TURBINE. Later seen by  
Ph. R. off Kalimno Harbour 1105Z/16th.  
(4) 3 unidentified vessels and 3 naval craft believed enemy  
reported by ground sources off south-east coast Nikaria 1300B/  
18th. This and continued bombing Samos yesterday strenghtens  
view enemy action against Samos imminent.  
(C. in C. M.E. No. T.O.O)

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Aegean Situation (Contd.) O/37277 19th. 385273. Cositrep 60.  
B. Aegean. 3 ships and 3 M.T.Bs reported off S.E. coast Ikaria a.m. 18th. Also estimated that enemy craft area Leros Kos would give maximum single lift of 1,500 personnel of 1,000 with supporting weapons. No direct evidence however that assault on Samos or Kastelorizo is imminent.  
(2) Ops. Aegean. A.Leros. Rescue Ops. continue. Further 175 survivors evacuated to Turkey.  
B. Samos. 18th H.Q. moved to battle positions Port Tigana unserviceable from bombing. Vathi still serviceable.  
C. Kastelorizo nothing to report.  
(3) Naval Aegean. A. Night 18/19. PATHFINDER, HAYDON, TETCOTT did not enter Aegean, now returning Alex.  
B. 19 Nov. PHOEBE, FANTASQUE, TERRIBLE left Alex. destroyers bound for Aegean. PENELOPE leaving Limassol for Haifa. PETARD, CROOME, THERESTOCLES remaining Limassol. FURY, KRAKOWIAK, EXMOOR, BLENCATHRA, PENN, ALDENHAM and ROCKWOOD in tow returned Alex.  
(C. in C. M.E. T.O.O. Nil.)

Use of Red light. Ship in convoy exhibited the all round red light required by Mersigs one, article nine, when torpedoed by A/C. Light is alleged to have attracted a further attack resulting in loss of ship.

(2) Whether true or not in this instance practice appears dangerous when convoys are attacked by A/C or E-Boats  
(3) Request consideration be given to restricting use of red light to U-B. torpedo attack.  
(C. in C. Med. 191905A to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A.)

Enemy Traffic Gulf of Lions Area. Observations by P.65 UPSTART confirm that enemy traffic keeps very close inshore probably routed inside Porquerolles Island. Enemy patrol activity by night makes interception west of Petite Passe difficult, but possibility of good interception by PROTEE in vicinity 006 degs. 21' E. Counter attacks by "Chaffeur" type vessels inaccurate.  
(Capt.(S) 10, 191912 to CURIE, PROTEE)

Yugoslav Islands. 385321. O/37476 19th. Balkan Sitrep No.3.  
(1) Int. A. Yugoslavia. Infm. dated 17th suggests Germans have followed up attack on KRK island by lds. on Cherso and Lussino. No details available.  
(C. in C. M.E. 191950B to W.O)

Palestinian /...

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Port  
Movements.Arrived PENELOPE, ATROPO sailed 19th.  
(N.O.I.C.Pal. Ports, 192002B to Admty.)Levant  
Situation  
Report  
No.113.Up to 1800B/19th. FURY, EXMOOR, KRAKOWIAK  
withdrew from Mandelyah Gulf night 18th and  
passed north of Rhodes without incident. Three  
M.T.B.'s from Mandelyah Gulf arrived Kastelorizo  
yesterday followed by two M.G.B.'s, one L.C.M.  
and one It. Fighter from Leros today,  
mostly having evacuees from Leros.(2) R.A.F. H.S. launch and available M.T.B.'s and M.G.B.'s being  
sent to Samos to assist in withdrawal tonight, two M.L.'s already  
lying up near Samos and two more in vicinity Gumishlu?  
(C. in C. Levant, 192009B)Italian  
Movements.Departures LEGIONARIO, ORIONI.  
(Com. Algeria, 192030A)  
19th departure S/M OTRANI (sic) (Italian?).  
(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 192108)  
Departure STROMA, URANIA.  
(Bari, 192348)Sailed CHIMERA with BRIN, SQUALO, SETTEMBRINI and BANDIERA.  
(V.A. Malta, 192357)PENELOPE  
Lebanon  
Situation.Have moved PENELOPE to Haifa ready to move to  
Beirut if required in connection with possible  
developments in the Lebanon situation.  
Minister of State's number 2620 of 1st to O.C.  
Office refers.  
(C. in C. Levant, 192041B to Admty. (R) C. in C.  
Med.)

UNSEEN.

Torpedoes expended returning by route in your  
121850 to P.47 passing position A at 0530/20th  
arriving D 1030/23rd. One hit on medium tanker  
on 12th missed Westbound Merchant Ship on 19th.  
(UNSEEN, 192353A to Capt. (S) 10 (R) C. in C.  
Med. 10th S.F. CURIE, PROTEE (F.S.))Cyprus  
Movements.Cyprus 19th Arrived and left PENELOPE, PETARD,  
CROOME, THEMISTOCLES.  
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta, 192359B)

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- M.B.55. Sailing telegram part 1.  
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 190100Z to Admty.)
- R.A.C.L/C. Your 29061 Oct. What arrangements are proposed for supply of victualling stores at bases detailed in para. 4 and what numbers of personnel are involved.  
(4th S.L. 190128A to C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.)  
(R) A.S. Ceylon for D.D. of V.E.T.)
- X.C.10. Arrived Convoy X.C.10 escorted by SCOUT.  
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 190200Z to Admty.)
- U/B. By D/F at 1744Z on 18th Nov. the position of a Japanese U-Boat was within 200 miles of 031 degs. S. 053 degs. E.  
(C. in C. E.F. 190524Z to S. and A. E.I. Stn.(R)  
Admty. C. in C. S.At. 246 Wing, A.H.Q. F.A. 222 Group)
- Bi-weekly U-Boat disposition. Details.  
(C. in C. E.F. 190525Z to E.F. 411Y)
- A.B.20 S. Arrived escorted by IPSWICH, TRENT and NIGELLA.  
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 190527Z to Admty.)
- S.E.A. Air Report. M.S.22322. A.243 19th November.  
19th November Daily Opsum No.614.  
18 Nov. 4 Beaufighters offensive R/C (?YYV4-as decyphered) and rail communications south of Yatha.  
3 80 ft. steamers damaged. 1 A/C force landed enemy territory, hit by ground fire, pilot unhurt, destroyed A/C.  
(H.Q. S.E.A. Air Command, 190541Z to Air Min.)
- VIVIANA. Sail VIVIANA independently for Durban through Mozambique channel. E.T.A. 1200C/27th.  
(N.O.I.C.Diego Suarez. 1909217 to N.O.I.C.Durban,  
(R) C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.) Admty. C. in C. S.At. F.O.E.A. Kilindini).
- P.B.64. Sailing telegram (25 ships).  
(2) 0900Z/19th.  
(6) GERALDTON, BENGAL.  
(N.C.S.O. Hormuz 190940Z to C. in C. E.F.)

HAWKINS /...

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HAWKINS, FROBISHER refits. Suggest torpedo tubes be removed from HAWKINS and FROBISHER at next refit. These ships are unlikely to be used for offensive operations requiring the use of torpedo fire and space gained would be invaluable contribution to -

(A) Messing Space. Messes are small and allow of insufficient dispersal of personnel.

(B) Stores space.

(C) Reduction of topweight all of which are adversely affected by alterations and additions to improve fighting efficiency.

(2) Request early decision to enable work to be carried out in HAWKINS during present refit.

(C. in C. E.F. 191011Z to Admty. (R) C.S.4 HAWKINS, FROBISHER, C.S.Simonstown.)

A/S Offensive, Instructions to A/C. C. in C. E.F. 071410 Oct. Instructions are being issued by R.A.F. Authorities to G.R. Aircraft as follows:

(2) Hunting a U-Boat to destruction unless specific information from Air H.Q. or from Naval Source show that more than one enemy S/M is in any one Area, a S/M sighted G.R. Aircraft on patrol or escort is to be attacked if feasible and then hunted to exhaustion

(3) Escort and other duties are to be abandoned to accomplish this, and the S.O. of the surface hunt escort is to be informed.

(4) If however it is found that more than one U-Boat is in area. escort is to be continued by aircraft detailed for that duty. At same time maximum effort is to be instituted for hunting known S/M.

(C. in C. E.F. 191204Z to E.I. Stn. General. 473 C. Admty. C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.), 222 Group, 246 Wing Air H.2. India, 215 Group)

RELENTLESS. Departure.  
(F.O. E.Af. and Kilindini)

SAMBRIDGE (Br.) sunk 18th Nov. SS. SAMBRIDGE torpedoed and sunk in 011 degs. 25' N. 047 degs. 25' E. at 1525Z/18th S/M last seen in vicinity of sinking at 0445Z/19th.  
(C.in C. E.F. 191759Z to S. & A. E.I. Stn. (R) Admty. 222 Group. A.H.Q. Aden.)

H.O.10. Sailing Telegram (3 ships).  
(2) 1730 G.M.T.19th.  
(6) NARBADA, ROHILKHAND.  
(N.C.S.O. Calcutta, 191835Z to Admty.)

U/B Attacked. At 2027F.G.19th in 007 degs. 33' N. 077 degs. 50' E. NETRAVATI fired full pattern on contact which was reported to have Dopple effect. At 2059 she fired full pattern on similar contact which was lost and not resumed. D.S. WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN swept the area for 1 hour from 2120 without establishing contact.  
(WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN, 192250 F.G. to C. in C. E.F.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

TRACKER. C. in C.W.A.'s 181951. Concur, provided short notice enables ship to be placed without undue delay.  
(D.O.D.(H) 191245A to B.A.M.R., info. B.A.D., C. in C.W.A., F.O.C.T., C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F. S.O.E.G.2, Capt. (D) Argentina, TRACKER.)  
C. in C.W.A. 181951. Re bladed Rotor will be available 27th Nov. at Norfolk (V.A.) and will take about 5 days to instal. If this is acceptable request E.T.A. so U.S. Authorities may be ready.  
(B.A.M.R. 191404Z to Admty., (R) C. in C.W.A., TRACKER, F.O.C.T., C. in C. N.W.At., F.O.N.F., Capt. (D) Argentina, Escort Group 2.)

Route messages; Speed of advance. Concur that S. of A. in route message should be that speed which ship can maintain in moderate sea with force 4. N.C.S.I.10 will be amended accordingly.  
2. Would prefer to retain speed zigzagging in route message as it is found by experience that this speed is usually given after consultation with master and is probably more accurate than an arbitrary deduction by diverting authority.  
3. Your 171425 (N.T. in W.D.) refers. (D.T.D., 191312A to Connav. Info. B.A.D.)

N.S.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q. 191411Z.)  
S/M  
Estimate.

QUEEN Arrival at New York 190950Z.  
ELIZABETH (P.D. New York, 191552Z.)  
(T.A.71.)

U.S.S/M (Cominch, 191555Z.)  
Estimate.

A/S Your 091816A. Request consideration may be given to retain 3 of the 6 A/S trawlers which are specially strengthened for ice.  
Trawlers and Escorts. 2. 3 Western Isle Trawlers and the 3 remaining A/S trawlers will be released at close of navigation in St. Lawrence River. (N.S.H.Q. 191651Z to Admty.)

JOHN H.X.266, JOHN WANAMAKER reports on arrival that gear blew up. WANAMAKER, gear blew up. at 1015Z/17th in approx 43° N. 57° W. when well astern of convoy lost previous night dark 29 gear port side armed and blown up. No other concrete evidence. Vessel may be able to fix gear one side on passage in which case he will inform Commodore.  
(N.C.S.O. Sydney, 191717Z to C. in C.C.N.A.(R) C.E.S.F., N.S.H.Q. Admty., Com D. 10th Fleet, C. and R.)

/H.X.267...

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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

- H.X.267. Convoy sailing dispatch. Part 2 Part 1 is Mydis 182136 and 191540 (53 ships). (P.B. New York 191750Z to Admty.)
- C.147. Departure ANNAPOLIS, KENOGANI, SHEDIAC, SASKATOON, escorting C.147. (C. in C. C.N.A., 192011Z to Admty.)
- H.J.69. Departure GRANDMERE, SUMMERSIDE escorting H.J.69. (C. in C.C.N.A., 192144 to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand.

- Digest Serial No.668 Nov.18th. Two Navy Catalinas unsuccessfully attacked 2 convoys off southwest coast New Ireland early hours. First group 2 destroyers, 3 freighters, 1 small escort 45 miles southeast Kavieng course 135°. Second comprised 1 medium merchantman, 2 patrol craft close central southwest coast New Ireland heading northwest slow speed.
2. Midday R/C Liberator bombed without success 1 light Cruiser with 1 destroyer 50 miles south Kavieng proceeding east.
3. Photos Hansa Bay morning 16th reveal 9 luggers, 6 barges, refer digest 667 para. 14 and patrol Liberator reported nil significant shipping there before dawn 18th.
4. Small probable coastal craft heading northwest offshore 50 miles southeast Hansa Bay early morning also 2 possible sea trucks near Karkar Island 30 miles north northwest Madang.
11. Ref. Digest 667 latter part para. 25, 12 torpedo bombers ineffectually bombed beached landing craft Totolina at first light 17th.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 190620Z.)

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War Diary.

19.11.1943.  
Friday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

D/F activity and attacks indicate about fifteen within 90 miles of S.L.139. Some of these U/Boats are likely to be ahead of convoy. A second group may be within 120 miles of 48° 00' N. 00' W.

Other estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 191405A, 191410A.)

Submarines Attacked.

Sub. attack and sighting summary for 24 hours to 0900Z/19th.

Para. A. (1) H.M. Escort vessel whilst attacking U/Boat at 1535/18 in 39° 47' N. 20° 12' W. was damaged by an explosion - cause not yet entirely clear.

(2) EXE attacked U/Boat at 1101/18 in 39° 42' N. 19° 42' W.

(3) CRANE attacked U/Boat contact at 1535/18 in 40° 06' N. 19° 48' W.

(4) A/C F/179 attacked U/Boat at 0255/19 in 40° 15' N. 19° 18' W.

(5) CALGARY sighted two U/Boats at 0533/19 in 43° 19' N. 19° 32' W.

(6.) A/C sighted U/Boat at 1324/18 in 38° 50' N. 14° 40' E. and periscope at 1350/18 in 37° 43' N. 10° 47' E.  
(D.D.I.C., 191149A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)



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

- |                  |   |                           |
|------------------|---|---------------------------|
| HOME COMMANDS    | - | Policy                    |
| (Classification  | - | Defence of United Kingdom |
| by subjects)     | - | Movements                 |
|                  | - | Operations                |
|                  | - | Allied Air Activity       |
|                  | - | Enemy Air Activity        |
|                  | - | Mining                    |
|                  | - | Enemy Intelligence        |
|                  | - | U-Boats                   |
|                  | - | Navigational              |
|                  | - | Technical                 |
|                  | - | Casualties and Defects    |
|                  | - | Shipping and Convoys      |
| <br>             |   |                           |
| 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.

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20.11.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

- Operation F.T. 1. The Russian Convoy J.W.54 A is estimated to have been about 240 miles E.N.E. of Jan Mayen at 0800 to-day.
- Operation S.F. 2. The regular A/S air-patrols in the "Moorings" area off the Denmark Straits, which have been flown from Iceland since last July, are cancelled to-day for the time being.
- Bay Area. Convoy S.L.139/M.K.S.30. U.536 sunk by E.G.5. 3 or 4 U-Boats Attacked. 3(a) At 2000 to-day Convoy S.L.139/M.K.S.30 was in 45 degs. 38' N. 18 degs. 47' W. (about 780 miles due West of the Gironde). The several Escort Groups forming Striking Force 31, from which FENCER has now been withdrawn, are converging on the Convoy; and the Auxiliary Cruiser PRINCE ROBERT left Plymouth at 0415A to join the Escort.  
(b) At least 3 and probably 4 U-Boats were attacked during last night; and at 0247 this morning U.536 was abandoned by her crew and seen to sink in 43 degs. 50' N. 19 degs. 39' W. after having been depth-charged and brought to the surface by NENE of E.G.5 and shelled by NENE, SNOWBERRY and CALGARY in a series of attacks which commenced at 2150/19. 17 survivors of the U-Boat were rescued, including her Captain. A second U-Boat escaped to the S.E. and was attacked by PHEASANT of E.G.7; and in 50 degs. 43' N. 10 degs. 53' W. a third U-Boat was twice attacked by E.G.4 which lost contact at 1600A.  
(c) A Dornier 217 A/C was sighted by an A/C of 19 Group at 0925A yesterday due West of Cape Finisterre; and Admty. consider that this type of A/C, which operates Glider and Rocket-control Bombs, may now again be based on the Biscay Ports.
- RICHELIEU. 4. The French Battleship RICHELIEU arrived at Scapa with two Destroyers at 0940.
- Convoy T.U.4A. 5. The troop convoy T.U.4A, consisting of 11 M/V's escorted by Task Force 67, left the Clyde at 1004A for New York and Boston.
- QUEEN MARY. 6. QUEEN MARY from New York arrived in the Clyde at 1038.
- Convoy H.X.266. 7. Convoy H.X.266, which left Halifax on the 13th November, consists of 78 ships including 4 Escort Oilers and 1 Rescue Ship.

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20.11.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

CHANTICLEER. 8. The sloop CHANTICLEER, torpedoed on 18 Nov. arrived at Ponta Delgada this evening in tow of SALVEDA and screened by GARLIES. It is reported that her repair will not be an economic proposition; her crew will be returned to U.K. and the ship will be laid up at Gibraltar after temporary repairs. Eventually, however, CHANTICLEER was used as depot ship at Horta.

Mediterranean.

"Avalanche". 9(a) 158 mines have been swept in the Gulf of Gaeta during operations by 12th M/S. Flotilla to date.  
(b) A small schooner was sunk by mine off Bari to-day. Subsequent sweeping operations to-day produced no result (see 21 Nov.)  
(c) CADMUS was slightly damaged by a near miss in an attack by a single aircraft during sweeping operations off Naples to-day.

Aegean.

10(a) All remaining British and important Greek and Italian personnel were evacuated from Samos last night and are now lying off Kusadasi, Turkey. They will be transported overland, their arms being sent south by schooner.  
(b) LE FANTASQUE and LE TERRIBLE made no sightings last night in a sweep which extended northward to the Mykoni Channel.  
(c) PETARD and THEMISTOCLES arrived at the Gulf of Kos to-day and are withdrawing tonight. Small craft in the Aegean are attempting further evacuations from Leros and Lipso.  
(d) At 1245B today SOKOL reported that she had sunk an A/S schooner off Amorgos, a small caique off Santorin, 2 schooners and an E-Boat off Sitia Bay (Crete). About 200 Germans were killed in the course of these operations.

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20.11.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

RICHELIEU. Scapa arrivals RICHELIEU, MUSKETEER and SCOURGE.  
(A.C.O.S. 200940 to Admty.)

VENUS,  
VIGILANT,  
HARDY,  
SAVAGE,  
SCOURGE,  
SCORPION,  
STORD. VENUS with destroyers addressed proceed passing  
Switha 1600A/22nd by route "Brown" to arrive  
Seidis Fjord a.m. 24th November.  
2. On arrival complete with fuel and act in  
accordance with H.F. 01325/158 as ordered by  
SAUMAREZ.  
(R.A.D. 201152A to VENUS, VIGILANT, etc.)

S/M Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/21 and movements for  
movements. following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 201714, 202142A,  
220034).

Operations.

Operation S.F. If not in contact and no sighting by 1800 today  
READY to proceed Hvalfjord, other ships to  
Seidisfjord.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 200950A to M/S 18.)  
My 192325. Patrols cancelled owing to weather.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 201002A to H.F.)  
Position at 20200, READY, HYDRA, HOUND, RATTLESNAKE  
searching 062° N.  
(A.C.O.S. 201051 to Admty.)

V.P. My 101045A. Sailed 0925A today. M.T.B.625 and  
operation. and M.T.B.627.  
2. No.  
(A.C.O.S. 201014A to Admty.)

Bay Arrived GLASGOW.  
Patrol. (C. in C. Plymouth, 201036A to Admty.)

S/M Proceeding unescorted and on the surface at C.O.  
patrols. discretion till within 60 miles of Norwegian coast  
ULA left Lerwick 1033A/20th, routed through 090°  
Muckle Flugga 15 miles, thence to 062° 18' N.  
004° 35' E. thence to operate on Norwegian coast  
between 062° 10' and 062° 40'.  
(S.O.S/M Lerwick, 201043A to S/Ms.)  
Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/21st and movements for following  
24 hours.  
(A) VENTURER approximately 63° 20' N. 02° 48' N. probably on  
surface 8 knots through 62° 02' N. 01° 01' E. to Lerwick.  
(B) SATYR, STORM, SEANYMPH, SCEPTRE, patrolling between North  
Cape and Soroy.

(C)...

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20.11.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

S/M Patrols. C. ULA 61° 55' N. 03° 15' E. diving by day to  
(Contd.) vicinity 62° 18' N. 04° 35' E.  
D. SEADOG 62° 30' N. 000° 43' E. probably on  
surface, course 030° 10 knots.  
E. VIKING leaves Lerwick 1200/21st on surface 8  
knots through 090 Muckle Flugga 10 thence to patrol vicinity  
62° 10' N. 02° 35' E.  
(F.O.S. 201714 to Admty.)

SEADOG left Lerwick 1805A/20th through 090° Muckle Flugga  
10 thence by route "Black" to 070° 20' thence direct to T.7.  
Proceeding unescorted and on the surface at C.Os. discretion  
till within 60 miles Norwegian Coast.

SEADOG moves from T.7 to T.8 at 2359/25th.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 201835A to S/MS.)

Operation MUSKETEER with destroyers addressed proceed pass  
F.T. Switha 1440A/22nd to comply with C. in C.H.F.  
181745.  
2. When detached British destroyers are to proceed  
Akureyri and act under orders of V.A.2.  
(R.A.D. 201209A to MUSKETEER, MATCHLESS, ASHANTI,  
OBDURATE, U.S.S. CAPPS.)

Arrived BRISSENDEN from Seidisfjord.  
(A.C.I.C. 201814A to R.A.D.)

Intend retaining BARNARD. Additional moorings have been  
laid to ensure safety whilst repairs are in progress. My 191240  
refers:

(OBEDIENT 201830A to A.C.I.C.)

Coastal A. 3 M.G.B. immediate notice Newhaven.  
Force B. CHASSEURS 11, 5 patrolling Q.Z.S. 384 between F.  
Patrols. and E.A.5 Buoys.  
C. M.L. 344 immediate notice St. Helens.  
D. LA COMBATTANTE, MELBREAK immediate notice  
Yarmouth.

E. 3 M.Ls. from Portland patrolling 50° 15' N. between 02° 10' W.  
and 02° 35' W.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 201430A.)

M.Ls. 101, 107, M.T.Bs. 221, 240, 231, 33 carrying out  
operation N.L.111. E.T.D. 1700, E.T.R. 2300. Route onward via  
Downs and U.buoy. Return via U. and number one buoys.  
M.T.Bs. 431, 413, 434 from Ramsgate acting in support of operation  
E.T.D. 1745.

M.G.Bs. 43 and 40 at number seven buoy. E.T.D. 1800.

M.Ls. 143, 257 patrolling two miles south of D.buoy.

(V.A. Dover 201545A.)

A. Force 115. M.T.Bs. 94 (S.O.) 91, 227. B. As soon as  
possible. C. Patrol in vicinity of 320 Les Heaux 5. E.  
Interception of enemy shipping. F. To be within 30 miles of own  
coast by first light.

(C. in C. Plymouth 202000 to CICALA.)

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War Diary.20.11.1943.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity."Moorings"  
cancelled.

Operation "Moorings" has not paid the dividend we hoped for.

2. This is most unsatisfactory for all concerned but we cannot be strong everywhere and it is necessary to consider priorities. Our first priority must be round convoys and next in order is the Bay of Biscay where traffic is regular on a fairly heavy scale.

3. Owing to the above it is considered necessary to cancel operation "Moorings" at any rate for the time being. At the same time it is most undesirable that we should let the enemy think we have left the "Moorings" area and allow him a free and easy passage to the Atlantic and the following should be used as a guide by A.O.Cs. concerned.

4. 18 Grp. after providing escort for northern convoys and Fleet movements should use remaining A/S aircraft on patrols as indicated in "Tubular" signals and in such a way that the enemy will from time to time sight aircraft anywhere between long. 02° 00' E. and long. 15° 00' W. covering the normal line of advance of U-Boat

5. Iceland after providing for convoy commitments should carry out "Potman" and "Copper" patrols and sweeps to the S.W. of Iceland in accordance with information contained in the "Tubular" sigs. 6. At specified times it may be necessary to reinstitute operation "Moorings" and a sig. will be made by this H.Qs. to this effect. In this event 18 Grp. will co-ordinate patrols as in the past, Iceland and 15 Grp. offering all available A/S aircraft.

(H.Q.C.C. 201600A to 18 and 15 Groups.) *Admty concus, 231241 A. p. 618.*A/C for  
FURIOUS.Your 192225 para. 3. Total distance required 260 miles plus 15 minutes fighting.  
(C. in C.H.F. 202036A to Admty.)Enemy Air Activity.

Bay Ports.

At 0925A/19th November a Dornier 217 was sighted in 43° 20' N. 10° 40' W.  
This may indicate that this type of aircraft which operate Glider and Rocket Control bombs is again based on Bay ports.  
(D.D.I.C. 201207A to A.I.G. 62.)Mining.

Harwich.

One ground mine detonated by M.M.S. at 1214 in approx. 51° 47.3' N. 01° 34.2' E.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 201226A and 201824A.)

N.L.111.

My 201545. Operation N.L.111 postponed 24 hours owing to weather.  
(V.A.Dover 201718 to Admty.)

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War Diary.20.11.1943.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

E-Boats. Suspected E-Boat activity (?F).  
(C. in C.Nore 202126.)

Casualties & Defects.

MINER I, NIGHTINGALE. MINER I involved in collision with NIGHTINGALE on 13th November. Both vessels are fit for sea, and defective items of MINER I being taken in hand. (VERNON P 201024 to Admty.)

TRACKER. Your 191853Z. This work is to be carried out in accordance with B.A.R.M. Washington's 191404Z. 2. C. in C.C.N.A. is requested to arrange escort and onward routing to Norfolk (Vir.) (C. in C.W.A. 201150Z to TRACKER.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Convoy S.L.139/  
M.K.S.30. U.536 sunk  
by E.G.4. 3 or 4 U/Bs  
attacked. U-Boat  
attacked by EXE on  
18th Nov. Operation is cancelled. Return base. My 191648  
and my 181254 refer.  
(C. in C.W.A. 200029A to FENCER, BERRY, BURGESS,  
BLACKWOOD, DUCKWORTH.)  
Request you sail PRINCE ROBERT as soon as ready at  
best speed to join escort S.L.139/M.K.S.30, routed  
as you think fit.  
(C. in C.W.A. 200031A to C. in C.Plymouth.)  
My 200114A. PRINCE ROBERT sailed at 0415A/20.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 200917A to C. in C.W.A. 31st S.F.)  
Am over enemy submarine in 44° 53' N. 19° 40' W.  
Enemy was sighted on surface and observed to sub-  
merge.  
(A/C 138W 201050A to 19 Group.)

Striking Force 31. At least 3, probably 4, U-Boats were attacked during the night 19th/20th. One U-Boat sunk by 5th E.G. No U-Boat penetrated extended screen. My P.C. and S. at 0800Z 044° 30' N. 019° 24' W. 000°, 7 knots. Weather 6371 3214.

(PHEASANT 201210Z to C. in C.W.A.)

C.A.F.C. 1342/43.

A. NENE. B. H/F D/F bearings from 1757/19th followed R.D.F. contact at 2137 range (?4400) yards.

C. Sighted on the surface at 2150, chased, illuminated, and made to dive by gunfire at 2213 at range 4300 yards.

D. Diving position 043° 50' 019° 34'.

E. NENE one "Hedgehog" attack at 2239, one depth-charge attack at 2249. No result.

SNOWBERRY 2 depth-charge attacks at 2357 and 0021, no apparent result. NENE one deep attack different contact at 0118 brought U-Boat to surface which was engaged by gunfire from SNOWBERRY, CALGARY, NENE.

F. U-Boat was U.536 and was abandoned by crew with engine running and under port helm and sank at 0247 in 043° 50' N. 019° 39' W.



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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Convoy 17 survivors of U-Boat were rescued. SNOWBERRY  
S.L.139/ 2 officers, 2 P.O. and 7 ratings, CALGARY 2 ratings  
M.K.S.30. and TWEED U-Boat Captain, 2 P.O. and 1 seaman.  
U.536 sunk There were probably 2 U-Boats in area 1 which  
by E.G.4. escaped to S.E. and was subsequently detected and  
3 or 4 U/Bs attacked by PHEASANT.  
attacked. (E.G.5 201237Z to C. in C.W.A.)  
U-Boat 4th E.G. attacked asdic contact 051° 43' 010° 53'.  
attacked Oil brought to surface by ? (B.U.) No wreckage.  
by EXE on Contact lost. Hunt continues. Weather 6380 3672.  
18th Nov. (E.G.4 201325A to C. in C.W.A.)  
(Contd.) Your 201325. U-Boat in this locality is highly  
improbable, two ships should be left to hunt only  
if there is very strong evidence of presence of  
U-Boat, remainder proceeding to join convoy.  
(C. in C.W.A. 201540A to E.G.4.)

Contact regained and further attack carried out. My 201325  
refers. Believed S/M. Amend lat. to read 050° 43'. Contact  
finally lost and hunt abandoned. My course and speed 237° 18  
knots. Depth charges dropped BAZELY 38, DRURY 20. BLACKWOOD  
not in company.

(E.G.4 201600A to C. in C.W.A.)

My P.C. and S. at 2001A, 050° 30' N. 020° 26' W. 236° 8 kts.  
(ROCHESTER 201701A to C. in C.W.A.)

In the major concerted attack now in progress on S.L.139 I  
have the greatest confidence you will continue your successful  
work and take every opportunity to achieve a record bag. Warmest  
congratulations to 5th Escort Group on their kill. Your 201210  
refers.

(C. in C.W.A. 201745Z to Striking Force 31.)

Attack on U-Boat by EXE in 39.34, 19.42 at 1107Z/18th Nov.

1. Asdic contact was gained at 150 yards green 65 from convoy  
course, with screen formed in accordance with A.C.I. 130A. EXE  
ahead of (?number) 14 column closed to 3 cables apart.
2. Counter-attack was immediately carried out. "Foxers" were not  
waded.
3. Periscope was sighted about 400 yards ahead. Apparently S/M  
was sure he had (?cleared) screen and was racing and headed toward  
convoy. The hull was seen abreast of ship.
4. First pattern of 10 Minol just after boiler room, heard peris-  
cope scraping down port side.
5. 2 further good attacks were carried out before entering column  
of convoy.
6. 1 "Hedgehog" with no result and 4th pattern were fired when  
clear of convoy (VII). In view of general situation EXE rejoined  
at 1225Z.

(EXE 202031Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Situation at 2000/20th. BENTINCK, BYARD, DRURY, BAZELY,  
CALDER 049° 53' N. 012° 15' W. to support S.L.139/K.M.S.30, 18 kts.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 202154A to Admty.)

O.S.59/  
K.M.S.33.

MIGNONETTE sailed to overtake O.S.59/K.M.S.33.  
(Cdre. D.W.A. 200212A to C. in C.W.A.)

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20.11.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- T.U.4A. Convoy sailed, composed and escorted as in A.M. 151217A as amended by A.M. 161906 Nov. Route as in A.M. 151336A. S.O.A. from R/V 14 knots. A.M. 171844A, PINERIDGE did not sail.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 201004A to Admty.)
- A.T.77. QUEEN MARY arrived Clyde.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 201038.)
- A.T.74A. ANDES arrived 0949/20th.  
(P.S.T.O.N.W.Ports 201040A to D.S.T.)
- J.W.54B. 1. Close escort SALADIN, SKATE. 2. SKATE is to arrive Loch Ewe p.m. 21st. 3. BURZA is to proceed to Greenock.  
(C. in C.W.A. 201118A to C. in C.H.F.)
- H.X.266. My 201045Z. Amended route for stragglers from F. to L.  
(C. in C.W.A. 201130Z to Escorts H.X. 266.)  
1. H.X. 266. 2. November 13th. 3. 1000Z/19th.  
4. 9½ knots. 7. 78 ships including rescue ship. 15. 15 tankers sailed.  
(D.T.D. 201425A to C. in C.W.A.)  
Sailing telegram. Ships and destinations.  
(D.T.D. 201825A.)
- O.N.212. Sailed FAME, VANQUISHER, EGLANTINE, POTENTILLA, ROSE, DEVERON, TENACITY, GRENADIER for O.N. 212. VERVAIN delayed by defects will be sailed to overtake.  
(Cdre. D.W.A. 201250A to Admty.)  
Sailed VERVAIN to overtake O.N. 212.  
(Cdre. D.W.A. 201920A to Admty.)
- ATLANTIS. ATLANTIS sailed 1258A/20th.  
(D.S.T.O.Avonmouth 201300A to D.S.T.)
- D.F.16A. Your 171137 and A.M. 171921.  
F.D.16A. 1. Embarkation in MORIALTA at Thurso cannot be arranged until 23rd November. Request that sailing may be delayed accordingly. 2. Cancel para. 3.  
A.M. 161745 Nov. F.D.16A MORIALTA is to embark 140 passengers at Faroes and return to Aberdeen to disembark. 3. She will continue thence empty to Dundee.  
(D.O.D.H. 201331A to A.C.O.S.)
- ERIN. My 190936. From position O. pass through new Q. 47° N. 37° W. new R. 50° N. 26° W. thence to P. Destination changed to Glasgow.  
(D.T.D. 201405Z to ERIN.)

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20.11.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.General.Loss of  
U.S. Naval  
Vessels.

Following policy re announcement of losses of U.S. Naval Vessels has been approved by C.C.S: "Initial announcement of loss of U.S. Naval Vessels shall be made by the U.S. Navy Dept. Area or Fleet Cdr. under whom vessel serving when lost shall promptly advise the C. in C. U.S. Fleet, through normal channels, of a date when he considers announcement of the loss can be made without giving the enemy information which he could use to the disadvantage of our forces" (Head of M.11, 202052A to C. in C. Med., C. in C. S.At., F.O.C. West Af., C. in C. Levant, C. in C. (S.E.A.C.) (R) A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B.)

North Atlantic.

CHANTICLEER.

P.C.S. at 0800Z, 037 degs. 57' N. 023 degs. 58' W. 256 degs. 6 knots. E.T.A. Breakwater Ponta Delgada 2200Z. Request tugs to assist and ambulance for 7 hospital cases on arrival. (CHANTICLEER, 200800Z to S.B.N.O. Azores, (R) C. in C. W.A., Admty. Capt. (D) Greenock, PHEASANT WATCHMAN.)

In view of CHANTICLEER 191938 Nov. propose that GARLIES and SALVEDA embark as many as possible of CHANTICLEER survivors and return in company to U.K. It is considered that one or 2 officers and about 12 ratings as guard should be sufficient to ensure security of CHANTICLEER but final decision should be left to S.B.N.O. Azores.

(C. in C. W.A. 201853A to Admty. (R) CHANTICLEER, GARLIES, S.B.N.O. Azores, F.O.I.C. Gib.)

Re: repairs to CHANTICLEER an uneconomic proposition.

NANCY.

Danish NANCY Lisbon to Gib. seized. Colonial Office message 615 Oct. 5th to Gov Gib. refers. (C.C.S.O. Gib. 200955A to M.E.W.)

C.G.75-A.

French naval ship BARFLEUR escorted by COMDT. DELAGE and P.C.481. E.T.D. 21 1800A. S. of A. 13 knots route to Gib. E.T.A. 221100A. Modify my C.G.75 dispatch-191430A(N.T. in W.D.) accordingly. (C.M.S.F.F. 201101A to F.O.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med., Admty. N.O.B., Casa. C.M.S.F.)  
/ Re C.G.75 5 ships.

Axis /...

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20.11.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Axis Telegram 191 20th.  
Shipping. 61\* sailed 2355 19th.  
(H.M. Consul Bilbao, 201150 to M.E.W. (R) Admty.  
for D.N.I., B.N.A. Madrid, S.O.(I) Gib.)  
Arrival 19th 11 (?REGEJA intended) Departure  
19th CABO, LA PLATA, plus ULTRA. 61\*  
(H.M. Consul, Bilbao, 201155 to Admty. B.B. (R) S.O.(I) Gib.)  
\* BALDUR.

"Miniature Reports received here re possible attacks on  
Torpedoes". shipping in Gib. Bay by what has been described  
as "Miniature torpedoes" that can be released  
from boats at a distance of 50 to 60 yards from  
the target.

(2) Have you any information concerning any apparatus of this  
nature that was used or projected by Italian Spezia Assault  
Forces.

(F.O.C.Gib. 201201A to F.O.T.A.L.I.(R) Admty., C. in C. Med.)  
Note: Received very corrupt - hence delay in circulation.

U-Boat. By D/F at 0538Z/20th U-Boat in 39.30 N. 21.00 W.  
(D.D.I.C. 201230A to S.B.N.O. Azores, F.O.C.Gib.  
H.Q.C.C.)

IRIS. Following is a repetition of my 201221 (N.T. in  
W.R.) to N.C.S.O. Funchal begins: IRIS escorted  
by LADY HOGARTH is to proceed Gib. when ready,  
route. S. of A. 9 knots.

Your 191653 refers. T.O.O. 201221 (Ends.)  
(F.O.I.C.Gib. 201247A to Admty., C.M.S.F., LADY HOGARTH)

K.M.F.26. Sailed from U.K.15th. 13 troops transports:  
5 freightships. Names and Destinations.  
(10) Cdre. of convoy Cdre. Wakeman-Colville  
R.N.R. in RANCHI, Vice Cdre. Master of MONARCH OF  
BERMUDA, and Rear-Cdre. Master of DUNNOTTAR CASTLE.  
(D. of S.T. 201254A to F.O.I.C.Gib., C. in C. E.F., C. in C.  
Med., C. in C. Levant, F.O.C.W.Af., C. in C. S.At. (R) F.O.C.R.I.M.  
F.O.R.S.C.A., Commorseafron, N.O.I.C. Durban.)

WARSPITE. Repairs to be undertaken. Details.  
(Cdre. Supt. Gibraltar, 201501A to C. in C. Med.  
Admty.)  
Further to my 161019 and 201501. Anticipate  
undock WARSPITE 24th Dec. Carry out Tilt test Dockyard work  
complete about mid Jan. 1944.  
(C.S. Gibraltar, 201529A to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.I.C.  
Gib., WARSPITE.)

Portuguese /...

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War Diary.20.11.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

Portuguese Lighters. B.N.A. Lisbon 181619. Arrangements have been made to return these lighters to Horta as soon as possible dependent upon weather.  
(B.S.N.O. Azores, 201716Z to Admty. (R) B.N.A. Lisbon, B.S.N.O. Horta.)

Azores. These is an immediate need for a small local escort force to be stationed in the Azores.  
(Reasons).  
(7) Vessels selected should preferably be trawlers and must be capable of standing up to full Atlantic weather.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 201720)

Supply ships, Your 181725 has been passed to C. in C. Med. Azores. and F.O.I.C.Gib. for information.  
(D.T.D. 202134A to B.N.A. Lisbon, (R) Info: S.B.N.O. Azores.)  
B.N.A.Lisbon's 181725. All supply ships from U.K. will proceed to Horta.  
(2) S.B.N.O. Azores should arrange to send them forward to Angra so as to comply with periods A and B in B.N.A's para.1.  
(3) B.N.A's para. 3. S.B.N.O. Azores is requested to pass movements of supply ships to local authorities who could then inform Ministry of Marine.  
(4) For security reasons expected movements to and from ocean convoys should not be imparted.  
(D.T.D. 202348A to B.N.A. Lisbon, S.B.N.O. Azores. Info: F.O.I.C.Gib. C. in C. Med.)

PROTEE Leave patrol to pass 042 degs. 22' 006 degs. 20' at 0400/24th thence through 038 degs. 36' 006 degs. 17' at 1600/25th to R/V escort in 037 degs. 00' 003 degs. 14' at 1100/26th proceeding on surface except during daylight 24th.  
(Capt.(S) 10, 202225 to PROTEE, (R) CASABIANCA, CURIE, N.O.I.C. Algiers, 10th S.F., C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C.Gib.)

C.T.G.21.11. C. in C. Lant (Sqdn.Office) 201944 to C.T.G.21.11 for action and for info. to C.T.F.61, C.T.G. 21.16, C. in C. Lant, C.T.F.63 Com. 10th Fleet, C.T.G.21.13, C.T.G. 21.18 Commorseafon (Begins).  
Cease support G.U.S.21 proceed operate against concentrations. Cominch 201526. Until time return my 172128. Commorseafon inform those interested. (Ends.)  
(C.M.S.F. 202312A to - (R) C. in C. Med. Comnavnaw, Admty. F.O.I.C. Gib.)

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20.11.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

C.B.6. Sailed (A) HELFORD, and (B) VERBENA escorting C.B.6 to Dar Es Salaam N.C.S.O. Durban's 201021 refers. Thence proceeding through Zanzibar and Pemba Channels to Kilindini for onward routeing to Aden. (2) S. of A. from Dar Es Salaam  $14\frac{1}{2}$  knots. E.T.A. Kilindini 1500Z/29.  
(Com. Durban, 201037Z to Admty.)

Enemy Units. Following received from Comar Dakar begins. U.S. Ferry A/C reports 2 Destroyers, 1 Merchant Vessel 13 degs. 10' N. 27 degs. 15' W. 13 degs. 10' N. 27 degs. 15' W. at 1300Z/19. Course 210 speed 15. Sighting from 9000 feet. Graded C.3.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 201311Z to Com. 4th Fleet (R) Admty.)

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20.11.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Surface craft for Merchant Shipping Protection. Request you will forward by air mail names of ships included in totals given in paras. 2, 3 and 4 of your 081745. (D.O.D.(F) 200351A to C. in C.Med.)

Alexandria Movements. 19th arrivals FURY, PENN, ROCKWOOD, ALDENHAM, BLENCATHRA, EXMOOR, KRAKOWIAK, PATHFINDER, TETCOTT, HAYDON. Departure PHOEBE, LE TERRIBLE, LE FANTASQUE, BLENCATHRA, HAMBLEDON. (N.O.I.C. Alex. 200701.)

QUILLIAM, LOYAL. QUILLIAM and LOYAL intercepted enemy (?small) craft at 2132A/19 in 042° 55.7' N. 013° 56.0' E. 2. One F.lighter sunk. One lighter in tow of tug hit and believed sunk.. Tug hit at least 3 times. Believe one M.L. escaped inshore.

3. Coast defence battery of 4 guns 3 inch opened fire. Accuracy good.

4. Further explosion observed and short range and coast defence firing between enemy continued intermittently for 30 minutes after destroyers had left.

5. (?Superficial) damage in both ships. Only casualty is one officer killed in QUILLIAM. (Capt. D.4 200731 to F.O.T.A.L.I. (R) C.S.15, N.L.O. 8th Army Tripoli, C. in C.Med. N.O.I.C. Bari.)

Aegean Operations Suggested Press Interview. May I publish in local press A.M. 161846 (N.T. in W.D.) suitably paraphrased. 2. A.M. 181050 April. Very desirable I should give interview to press out here on Aegean operations as C. in C.M.E. has already done so. Information given would be an expansion of communique issued in my 152017 including reference to our losses in general terms e.g. that ships lost and damaged amounted to say half our effective force. (C. in C.Levant 200922B to Admty.) Your 200922B. No objection to paraphrase of A.M. 161846A being given to the press. 2. In view of question being raised in House next week you should not give press interview or give any indication of Naval losses. (D. of P.D. Approved 1st Lord 201728A to C. in C.Levant, Info. C. in C.Mediterranean.)

SOKOL. RORQUAL. Leaves Beirut on the surface at 10 knots through 034° 07' 035° 01' thence on course 269° may sight you about 1700B/21st. Warned of your movements. (Capt. S.1st 201004B to O.R.P. SOKOL (R) 1st S.F.)

Air report. A.340? 20th Daily Opsum 206. 19th 2 Ju.88s dropped bombs on Kastelorizo. No damage reported. 19/20th 1 Dakota successfully dropped supplies on Samos. (H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 201007Z.)

/SAMBRIDGE...

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20.11.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

SAMBRIDGE,  
sunk.

Torpedoed at 1525Z/18 in 11° 25' N. 47° 20' E.  
S/M established large Japanese. Second officer  
taken prisoner. S/M remained in vicinity 12 hrs.  
3 torpedoes fired.

(Com. Aden 201013Z to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) (R)  
Admty. C. in C.Levant, F.O.R.S. & C.A.)

Following particulars forwarded in accordance with E.F. 716H/71/  
27. C. Large Japanese probably type 1-52. D. Torpedo, ship sunk.  
F. 48 survivors out of total crew of 53. G. No. H. Part of  
SSSS message made on emergency set. Main set disabled by  
explosion and emergency set caught fire during transmission.  
I. Second officer taken prisoner. Ship caught fire immediately  
on being hit in engine room. Torpedo explosion appeared to  
indicate shallow setting.

(S.O.I. Aden 201505Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.)  
C. in C.Levant.)

PHOEBE,  
LE FANTASQUE,  
LE TERRIBLE.

LE FANTASQUE, LE TERRIBLE in company E.T.A.  
(group missing) 15B/20th.  
(PHOEBE 201024B to R.A.Alexandria, (R) C. in C.  
Levant.)

Aegean  
Islands.

Confidential code cancel 297B.\*  
(C. in C.Med. 201218A to Med. Station, Levant  
Station, 319B.)  
\* T.O.C. 101224. Re quote "Minimize Leros,  
Samos, Castelouso."

SOKOL.

One A/S schooner 140 tons off Amorgos one small  
caique off Santorin, 2 schooners, 200 tons, one  
E-Boat off Sitia Bay. All sunk. About 200  
Germans killed. Have 2 Greeks, 2 Germans on board.  
Warn P.52 (DZIK) area Mirabello Gulf may be  
searched for S/Ms.  
(SOKOL 201245B to Capt. S.1, (R) C. in C.Levant,  
P.52 (DZIK).)

SHEFFIELD.

Request you will sail SHEFFIELD to Plymouth as  
convenient.  
(C. in C.Med. 201526A to F.O.C.Gib. (R) C.S.10,  
Admty. C. in C.W.A. SHEFFIELD, C. in C.H.F. C. in  
C.Plymouth.)

NUBIAN.

A.M. 162301\* not to all addressees. It is intended  
that NUBIAN should proceed to refit in U.K. acting  
as additional escort to M.K.F.26.  
(C. in C.Med. 201528A to Admty. (R) C. in C.Levant,  
V.A.Malta, Capt. D.19, NUBIAN, Capt. H.)  
\* re Arrangements can be made for NUBIAN to be  
taken in hand in U.K.



War Diary.

20.11.1943.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

X.K.13,  
WHITEHAVEN,  
ROMNEY,  
RYE.

A.M. 181752 para. 3. My 301938 Sept. and C. in C. Levant's 032235 Oct. refer.  
2. Propose to sail X.K.13 from Gib. on Dec. 20th.  
3. C. in C. Levant is requested to sail WHITEHAVEN, ROMNEY and RYE as convenient to arrive Gib. Dec. 19th. A.M. 261752 Sept. para. 2 refers.  
(C. in C. Med. 201535A to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant. F.O.C. Gib. C. in C.W.A.)

ACADIA.

Rep. Routeing Officer's Charleston 191717 - 20th 2000Z. W.U. X.I. U.S. A.H.S. ACADIA Oran via Gib. 30th 17 knots. Route.  
(Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet C. & R. 201545Z to U.S.N.O.B. Bermuda, F.O.C.W.Af. Cdr. U.S.N.F. in Europe, C. in C.U.S. Atlantic Fleet, U.S.C.M.S.F. C. in C. Med. F.O.C. Gib. U.S. C.N.O.B. Oran.)

Counter  
Measures  
against  
Radio Con-  
trolled  
bombs.

In order to assist in organizing counter measures against Radio controlled bombs, codeword "Tiptree" is allocated local meaning "attack radio controlled bombs expected." Any ship suspecting this type of attack is to make this signal by quickest available method.  
2. On receipt of this signal, the following action is to be taken.  
4. Ships are to be ready to carry out above procedure without delay, both at sea and in harbour whenever warning of possible air attack has been received.  
5. If ships fitted for special investigation of enemy transmissions are in company no attempt should be made to jam.  
Message 230B to Med. Station only refers.  
(C. in C. Med. 201649A to Med. Station and Levant Station 321B.  
(R) Admty.)

Aegean  
Situation.

I/37824 20th 385530. Joint Army R.A.F. Int. appreciation 24 hours to 1000Z/20th.  
1. Ph. R/C shipping 19th. Evident that movement of troops and supplies from Kos to Leros continuing yesterday. Majority of enemy's naval vessels now using Porto Lago as base.  
3. C.X. reports departure from Piraeus night 18/19th of SS. BOCCACCIO (3,150 tons) with petrol and war material. Same source also reports SS. ORIANA (2,100 tons) and GERDA TOFT (1,950 tons) ready sail 19th from Piraeus loaded with ammunition and foodstuffs. Destinations of above ships not stated.  
5. Enemy M.T.B. entered Port Vathi 19th and hailed shore. Subsequently withdrew firing under smoke cover. No reports received of air attacks Samos 19th. Consider enemy delaying assault in hope securing unopposed occupation.  
(C. in C.M.E. No T.O.O.)  
385560 C/37851 20th. Cositrep 61.  
2. Ops. Aegean. A. Leros. Further 11 personnel Lrdg. reported escaped.  
B. Samos. All British and important Greek and Italian personnel have been evacuated and are now lying off Kusadasi (sic). No report of air action 19th. Unidentified N.B. entered Vathi

/harbour...

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Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Aegean harbour 190400B and asked infm. re British and Italian tps. On being ordered alongside she opened fire and withdrew under smoke screen.  
(Contd.) C. Kastelorizo. 191641B two Ju.88s dropped bombs. 2 small caiques damaged no casualties.  
3. Naval Aegean.

A. 19th PHOEBE attacked 3 times south of Kastelorizo first wave 1635 second wave of 20 Ju.88s 1644 hrs. third wave 6 (or 7) Ju.88s 1720 hrs. No hits or damage. PETARD, THEMISTOCLES, CROOME went to Aegean CROOME returned Alex. with engine defects others lying up Gulf of Kos.

B. Night 19/20 FANTASQUE and TERRIBLE carried out sweep and returned PHOEBE 200800B.

C. 20th November. PATHFINDER, TETCOTT, HAYDON returned Alexandria. PENELOPE in Haifa.  
(C. in C.M.E. 201535B.)

M.N.B.D.O. Allied Force H.Qs. Military Authorities would appreciate any indication as to when M.N.B.D.O. may be expected to be withdrawn in order to assist future planning A.A. defences. A.M. 041022 Sept. refers.  
(C. in C.Med. 201658A to Admty. (R) C. in C.Levant)

RORQUAL. Onward routeing from 034° 16' 021° 56' at 0130/24th through 035° 50' 015° 20' at 1100/25th to meet escort in position 5 miles E. of B. of Q.B.B. 147 at 1300/25th.  
2. All times zone minus 1 surface passage speed 10 knots.  
3. M.J.A.C. 24 request total bombing restrictions.  
(Capt. S.10 201713A to RORQUAL, (R) Capt. S.8, Capt. S.1, C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant, V.A.Malta, A.H.Q.Malta, Admty. R.A. Alexandria, 201 N.C. Gp.)

CEYLON. Left Suez 20th.  
(F.O.R.S.C.A. 201758B.)

Hospital Ships. F.O.C.Gib. asked in his 171206 (N.T. in W.D.) if hospital ships could fill up with water at Malaga instead of at Gibraltar.  
2. Would there be any Admty. objection. My 201739 (N.T. in W.D.) to B.N.A.Madrid also refers.  
(C. in C.Med. 201727A to Admty.)

Request your views on F.O.C.Gib. 171206 substance of which is being passed to Admty. in my 201727.  
(C. in C.Med. 201739A to B.N.A.Madrid, (R) F.O.C.Gib. Admty.)

ROCKWOOD 192141. Report of damage by unexploded glider bomb damaged (ROCKWOOD 201757.)  
11th Nov.

/convoy...

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20.11.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Convoy route signals. Your 181708 (N.T. in W.D.) and 181718 (N.T. in W.D.) Admty. will pass Med. routes by numbered positions to N.C.S.Os. in U.K.  
2. Request F.O.I.C. Gib. will signal route letters for K.M.S. convoys five days before each convoy leaves U.K.  
3. Signal to be addressed C. in C.W.A. pass to N.C.S.Os. info Admty.  
4. Lettered routes will be included in ships sailing orders. (D.T.D. 201834A to C. in C.Med. F.O.I.C. Gib. Info. Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. C. in C.W.A.)

EOLO. Sailed 21st EOLO (It.) Kastelorizo. (N.C.S.O. Haifa 201837B.)

Italian Warships. Italian units have as far as possible been operated separately (your 181727 being passed to F.O.T.A.L.I. refers) but Italian warships have occasionally been placed under control of Junior British Unit to simplify communications.  
2. Recommend mixed French and Italian operations should be avoided. (C. in C.Med. 201913A to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) F.O.T.A.L.I. Admty.)

1st S.F. Patrols. 1. TORBAY now has freedom of action in North Aegean suggest Skiathos, Mudros line. Doro channel not at present in use.  
2. P.55 (UNSPARING) at your discretion? between Milo and Suda Bay after dark 21st.  
3. P.229 (SPORTSMAN) concentrating on Candia on way out.  
4. P.224 (SICKLE) suggest North of Milo minefield but no enemy report at present.  
(Capt. S.1 201952B to 1st S.F. (R) C. in C.Levant.)

EMPIRE DUNSTAN torpedoed by U/B 18th Nov. Reference M.S.O. 436D part one.  
B. British. C. 1617/18. D. 30° 24' N. 17° 40' E.  
E. Mine, torpedo or possible sabotage. F. Sunk.  
G. Whole except two.  
Part two. Missing crew - 2 (names).  
(F.O.T.A.L.I. 202020A to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med.)

Rocket projectile weapons. Until further notice Geziret, Barda Island in Gulf of Bomba will be used as target for testing.  
(C. in C.Med. 202059A to Med. Station. Levant Station 323B.)

Med. Situation report 230. 1. Coastal craft patrolling north west of mouth of Tiber during the night 17th/18th sighted nothing.  
2. SS. EMPIRE DUNSTAN torpedoed by U/Bs south east of Cotrone, p.m. 18th. No further details yet available.  
3. QUILLIAM and LOYAL intercepted convoy of small craft in 042° 56' N. 013° 57' E. at 2132/19th. One F.(?) Lighter

/sunk...

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20.11.1943.

Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Med. Situation report  
230. (Contd.)

sunk one believed sunk and tug also damaged. Coast Defence battery of 3 inch guns offered accurate fire but caused only superficial damage casualty one officer killed.

4. P.51 (UNSEEN) reports one hit on medium size tanker in Gulf of Genoa on 12th.  
(C. in C.Med. 202203A.)

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War Diary.20.11.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

A.K.D.6. Kilindini portion of A.K.D.6 comprising DUBROVNIK Plot GEORGE KENNY.  
2. Kilindini portion 0357Z/20th to R/V with Aden portion off Kilindini. TANGA portion comprising HOOGERK escorted by LADY ROSEMARY and Dar es Salaam portion comprising ALPHARD escorted by COVENTRY CITY to R/V with A.K.D.6 in 006° 52' S. 041° 20' E. at 0400Z/21st. 5. "Standard" Beira ships to R/V with A.K.D.6 in 020° 06' S. 035° 10'.  
6. NORTHERN CHIEF, INDIAN STAR, COVENTRY CITY, HERTFORDSHIRE, LADY ROSEMARY. TAY joins escort group later.  
(N.C.S.O. Kilindini 200501Z to Admty.)

L.V.Ts. Mountbatten to C.O.S. S.E.A.C.O.S/31. Consider that provision of large numbers of L.V.T. (3) and L.V.T. (4) will be essential requirement in this theatre of operation in 1944/1945. Request allocation of 2000 L.V.T. (3) or L.V.T. (4) from U.S. production may be asked for with priority delivery. 2. In addition request 12 L.V.T. (3) or L.V.T. (4) may be sent at earliest possible date in order that preliminary training may be undertaken with this type and determination made re capabilities. 3. Information urgently required as to expected delivery dates for L.V.Ts. asked for in Paras.1 and 2, above, in any case most important that majority requested in Para.1 above be delivered not later than October 1944.  
(Armindia 201010Z to Air Min.)

O.21. Ref. C. in C.E.F. 111018Z/Nov. and considering state of battery does not allow O.21 to arrive in U.K. later than March 1st. Suggest vessel to sail from Colombo to arrive in U.K. by that date.  
Commencing date of refit to be considered later.  
(B.D.Z. 201205A to Admty. (R) F.O.S. Nethnav, Colombo.)

China, (Begins). 4. U.S. Air. 11th Nov. 15th Nov.  
U.S. Air 21 B-25s. Liberators departed from Kunming to bomb  
Report shipping and dock installations at Kowloon and  
11 November, Hong Kong. 2 B-25s. Mitchells of Kweilin on sea  
17 November, sweep South China sea bombed dock area at Fort  
Bayard. 1 B-25 Mitchell attacked freighter over-  
shot, bomb exploded in town. 6 fighters on  
straffing mission to Haiphong straffed 8 to 10  
Sampans. 16th Nov. 17th Nov. 2 B-25s. Mitchells bombed warehouse  
and docks area at Swatow both areas left burning. 2 B-25s.  
Mitchells on sea sweep attacked 2 300 feet tanker (?23)° 42' N.  
17° 35' E. ?117° 35' E. intended (?scored) 3 near misses and 1  
direct hit on stern, tanker heavily loaded (?stern) sinking fast.  
2 B-25s. Mitchells attacked barracks, buildings and warehouses  
Nanping Islands. Dense smoke observed from warehouses believed  
hits on oil storage. (Ends.)  
(C. in C. India No T.O.O. recd. 2016410 to W.O.)

S.A.C., No.271. S.A.C., S.E.A. has decided to transfer his  
S.E.A.C. headquarters to Kandy, Ceylon. Projected date  
Headquarters. 15/3/44.  
(C. in C. Ceylon, No T.O.O. recd. 20/11 to S. of  
S. Colonies.)

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20.11.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

GLOIRE Upon completion and training and when ready about 20/25th Nov. Comeastseafron sail French Cruiser GLOIRE Norfolk to Dakar via Bermuda for fuel. Direct vessel on arrival Dakar report to F.O.C.W. Af. for initial employment. Cinclant provide escort for first 12 hours. Advise all addressees routeing instructions. (Cominch, 201450Z to Cinclant, C.E.S.F. Cotalant, Admty., Com.5., Commorseafron. N.O.B. Bermuda, Comnavnaw, S.B.N.O.W.At., F.O.C. Gib., C. in C. Med., F.O.C.W.Af., Navale France Algiers, French Naval Liaison Officer Bermuda, (R) P.D. Norfolk ).

H.S.69A Departure PORT HOPE, MAHONE escorting H.J.69A. (C. in C.C.N.A., 200055Z to Admty.).

S.H. 112A Arrivals SHIEL, B.E.C.8 escorting S.H.112A. (C. in C.C.N.A. 200311Z).

F.T.3. Departure 20th British F.T. 3 in K.G.671 destined Mediterranean via Guantanamo 24th Trinidad and Recife. (B.R.O. Key West, 201301Z to Admty.).

BALFOUR (B.D.E.73). BALFOUR (B.D.E.73) departs Boston Gate 1730Q/20th Nov. (Speed 17 knots) en route Bermuda via (route). Speed 15 knots. E.T.A. position Y 1300Q/22nd Nov. (C.T.G. 02.1, 201532 to N.O.B. Bermuda). as amended 202129.

U.S. S/M Estimate. (Cominch, 201532).

N.S.H.Q. S/M Estimate. (N.S.H.Q. 201628Z).

Convoy O.N. 210, R/T silence. Report of C.3. group with O.N. 210 as follows, ref. your 021108. (A) Always except when tuning or joining convoy unknown contact at night and R/T testing with shore based aircraft. (B) Yes 3925 k/cs with relief escort. (C) One. Not at all. Two. Not experienced. (D) No. (E) Not applicable. (F) Silence never relaxed. (G) Nil. (F.O.N.F. 201707Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) Com. D. W.A., C. in C. C. N.A., Admty.).

U-boat attacked by A/C. Have attacked enemy with depth charges. Result of attack unobserved. (A/C.J.5, 201919 to C. in C.C.N.A.).

/Am...

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20.11.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

U-boat  
attacked  
by A/C.  
(Contd.).

Am over enemy S/M in in 42 degs. 42' N. 54 degs. 30' W. S/M was sighted on surface and observed to submerge course 320 degs. speed 15 knots. (A/C J.5, 202103 to C. in C.C.N.A.). S/M sighted and attacked by aircraft in 042 degs. 39' N. 055 degs. 28' W. at about 2100Z/20th. (C. in C.C.N.A., 202140Z to G.B.7A). As amended 210250Z.

Streaming  
of A/T  
Net Defence.

On 1st Dec. 1943 the following becomes effective.  
(1) All specific areas in which Merchant Ships are now required to stream A/T net defence shall be cancelled.  
(2) Ships underway in convoy which are equipped with A/T nets shall stream nets at discretion of convoy Comdre. or S.O. Escort.  
(3) Independent ships and stragglers from convoys shall be individually instructed to stream nets. The diverting authorities shall take the responsibility of instructing the ships in their areas and shall do so by ensuing B.A.M.S. messages whenever the ships are in waters threatened by enemy submarines. Attention is drawn to the provisions of amendment 23 to GIRO Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet C. & R. despatch 041859. (Com. 10th U.S. Fleet C.& R. 201952Z to U.S. Cdre. all sea frontiers, U.S. Cdr. 3rd U.S. Fleet, C.S.W.P.S.F., Com.N.Z.S.F., U.S. Cdr. 4th, U.S. Fleet, (R) U.S. C. in C.U.S. Pacific Fleet, Admty. N.S.H.Q.).  
✓ As received presumably "issuing" intended.

C.U.7.

Convoy sailing dispatch.  
Part two. Part one is my Dis. 192034 and 200114 and 201906 and 202032. (18 ships).  
(P.D. New York, 202122 to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.).

CARTHAGE

Ex A.M.C. CARTHAGE is being sailed from U.K. on 30/11 in convoy T.U.3. for Norfolk to be fitted for service as a troop transport.  
(D. of S.T., 202126A to B.A.D., B.M.W.T. New York).

F.T.16

This is Capt. of Port Ponce 202140 from Comcarib. (Begins) G.G.R.119 escorting Br. F.T.16 to San Juan for repairs.  
(Comcarib, 202357 to Admty.).

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest serial  
No.669  
Nov.19th

(2) 9 Mitchells 11 Lightnings conducting forenoon coastal sweep Cape Gloucester to Rein Bay destroyed 1 of 3 loaded luggers sighted damaged other 2.  
/ (3) Midday...

569

20.11.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest serial No.669 Nov. 19th. (Contd.).

(3) Midday R/C observed 7 ships southbound convoy 135 miles North Mussau Island. Ships described as 2 cruisers 5 merchantmen. Also saw 1 medium freighter with small escort 70 miles east Manus Island course west.

(5) 21 Mitchells 6 Marauders 9 Bostons attacked prepared positions and camp areas north west Satelberg morning while another 8 Bostons struck supply and barge bases along coast north of Finschhafen. Attacks from minimum to medium altitude. Results generally unobserved.

(8) Southbound submarine passed Cape Orford afternoon 18th probably same unit attacked by patrol craft early hours following morning 40 miles south east Gasmata heading west. Depth charges dropped with unobserved results.

(9) Enemy planes over Treasury Islands thrice night 16th but nil bombs dropped. At daybreak 15th 2 aircraft ineffectually attacked allied landing craft entering harbour. 1 aircraft shot down.

(16) Photographs 19th disclose Ballale Kahili Kara Buka airfields all unserviceable Bonis possibly partially serviceable. 3 fighters Kahili 2 float planes off Bonis nil aircraft elsewhere, few barges small craft at various Bougainville anchorages. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 200640Z).

U-boat S/M sighted on surface fired on 001 degs. 48' S. 158 degs. 47' W. (Ship at sea (name unknown) via Colombo W/T 201056Z to Comsawsefron).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported.

Large scale operation against convoy S.L.139/M.K.S.30 is expected to continue until first light 21st after which a number of U-boats are likely to return to Biscay ports. Other estimated positions. (D.D.I.C. 201336A, 201337A).

Submarines Attacked.

Sub. attack and sighting summary for 24 hours to 0900Z/20th.

Para.A.1. A/C sighted U-boat at 1443/19th in 42 degs. 31' N. 19 degs. 40' W.

2. Br. SAMBRIDGE torpedoed and sunk at 1525/18th in 11 degs. 25' N. 47 degs. 25' E.

Para.C.1. NETRAVATI attacked U-boat contact at 1353 19th in 07 degs. 33' N. 77 degs. 50' E.

2. ARCTIC EXPLORER attacked U-boat contact at 0645 19th in 24 degs. 30' S. 35 degs. 25' E. (D.D.I.C. 201051A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.).



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21.11.1943.  
Sunday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

Convoy S.L.  
139/M.K.S. 30  
attacked by  
A/C with  
Glider Bombs.  
MARSA aban-  
doned. DELIUS  
damaged. U/B  
damaged by  
ESSINGTON.  
U/B sunk by  
FOLEY.

1. (a) At 0315 today an A/C escorting Convoy S.L. 139/M.K.S. 30 attacked a U-Boat, at 0733A another U-Boat was sighted by A/C ahead of the convoy, and during last night several attacks upon U-Boats were made by Striking Force 31 of the Convoy Escort, in one of which ESSINGTON of E.G. 7 blew a U-Boat to the surface and saw it disappear leaving large quantities of oil followed by an explosion 36 minutes later.

(b). S.O. of E.G. 7 reported on 22 Nov. that, after a final creeping-attack by FOLEY directed by CRANE this morning upon a deep U-Boat about 550 miles W.S.W. of Lands End, oil, wreckage, and clothing appeared on the surface and the U-Boat is believed to have been destroyed.

(c). At 1530Z when about 550 miles W.S.W. of Lands End the convoy was attacked by at least eight Heinkel 177 A/C which, flying across the wind and across the convoy-course, in 46.46 N. 18.30 W. dropped a total of about 16 Glider Bombs from a height of about 3000 feet at 2½ miles distance. MARSA, straggling 3 miles astern of the convoy was damaged and abandoned at 1600, DELIUS was damaged, and at 1735A DRURY was attacked by 3 Glider Bombs but not hit. 47 survivors from MARSA are in PETUNIA and 5 in ESSINGTON, one of her crew being missing; and the Captain of DELIUS was killed.

(d). PRINCE ROBERT and E.Gs. 5 and 7 are remaining with the convoy until 1400A tomorrow; and E.G. 4 is to carry out an A/S sweep in the area.

(e). During the glider bomb attacks on the convoy Liberators supplied A/A as well as A/S escort and probably shot down two glider bombs. The Liberators report these aircraft to be much slower than was expected and to be very unmanoeuvrable.

WINCHELSEA  
damaged.

(f). The destroyers WINCHELSEA and WATCHMAN were attacked at 1605 today in 45.41 N. 19.43 W. (about 620 miles S.W. of Lands End) by a Ju. 290 and a Heinkel 177 A/C with 2 glider bombs. One of the bombs was shot down and the other near missed, and WINCHELSEA was damaged by near miss. (A.M. 262026A states that WINCHELSEA shot down both glider bombs.)

Escort  
Vessels.

2. (a) C. in C. Western Approaches in a message to-day deals with the escort vessel question. It appears to be the policy of the Admiralty to send British built escort vessels to foreign stations and to replace them in the Western Approaches Command with new escorts built in U.S.A.

/(b)...

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21.11.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Escort  
Vessels.  
(Contd.)

2.(b). Such of the latter as have arrived in this country, namely the diesel-electric Captain Class (B.D.Es.) are operationally unreliable, have shown serious defects, and require a very high standard of training and technical skill to run, repair, and maintain. The only British base where they can be maintained is Belfast. This places severe limitations on the degree to which the escorts can be regrouped, and also restricts the terminal ports to which the Captain Class vessels can be operated.

(c). Spare parts have proved unobtainable beyond the original supply and C. in C.W.A. advocates the desperate course of bringing over all diesel-electric frigates and cannibalising them; and he warns the Admiralty that unless this country can receive from the U.S.A. at a very early date the essential spare parts and special stores in adequate quantities we shall shortly be faced with the probability of being unable to carry out impending important operational commitments.

(d). The old destroyers are already operationally unreliable through age and fatigue of material, and many of them are now uneconomic to repair. Nevertheless, they must be kept running until such time as we can place full reliance on the B.D.Es.

Mediterranean.

Bari closed. 3. Following the explosion of 3 more mines today the harbour of Bari was closed.

"Avalanche". 4. U.S. Marauders dropped 41 tons of bombs on Civitavecchia harbour today.

5. Mine-sweeping operations in the Gulf of Gaeta were continued today and 5 mines were swept.

Aegean. 6. A further 3000 Greeks and Italians were evacuated to Kusadasi last night.

/Losses...

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21.11.1943.

Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Losses in  
Aegean.

7. Since 17th September, when the occupation of certain Aegean islands by the Allies commenced the following losses of warships have been incurred in Aegean operations:

Lost: 1 cruiser (damaged beyond repair), 7 destroyers (includes one beached), 2 submarines, 8 coastal craft.

Damaged: 3 cruisers, 3 destroyers.

Enemy losses by naval action were:-

Lost: 9 merchant vessels of 18,000 tons.

10 F.Lighters and landing craft, 8 T.Bs., escort vessels and one small minelayer. 5 armed caiques. About 4000 Germans were put into the sea during the above operations.

Levant.

8. Two destroyers are remaining at Limasol at present for possible eventualities.

Cairo  
Conference.

*HMS. RENOWN arrived at Alexandria with the Prime Minister and First Sea Lord for an International Conference at Cairo, (Operation "Sextant")*

East Indies.

9. Hurricanes made further attacks today on river-craft in the Akyab area and central Burma, destroying a considerable number.

China.

10. In a raid on Hong Kong today U.S. Mitchells hit and probably sank a merchant ship in Honghai Bay.

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21.11.1943. .  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

11. Liberators dropped 60  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton bombs on shipping at Manokwari, New Guinea, at noon today. One small freighter was sunk.

12. A freighter was sunk at Taberfane, Aru I. (south of Dutch New Guinea) at first light.

13. A convoy of 4 ships with air cover was attacked at midday by 2 Liberators 50 miles S.W. of Mussau Island, New Hanover; the largest ship was hit and near missed and was last seen on fire and is considered to have been destroyed.

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21.11.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

TITLARK II, Your 120937A. Approved.  
CURLEW. (Head of M.II, 210104A to F.O.i/c Greenock).

SUSSEX, SUSSEX has developed defects which render her  
CUMBERLAND, unfit for active service.  
GAMBIA. (2) In order to maintain the eight-inch cruiser  
strength in the Eastern Fleet it is intended that  
CUMBERLAND shall relieve SUSSEX.  
(3) GAMBIA will remain under your orders until DEVONSHIRE is  
ready for service late in February.  
(V.C.N.S. 211656A to C. in C.H.F.).

E.G.5, Several instances have occurred of confusion having  
E.G.6. arisen between C.5 Escort Group and the 5th Escort  
Group due to the similarity of their titles and  
the fact that they are both Canadian Groups.  
Propose if you concur to re-number the 5th Escort  
Group as 6th Escort Group from the time of their  
next arrival in harbour.  
(C. in C.W.A. 211842A to C. in C.C.N.A.).  
Concur - C. in C.C.N.A. 212010Z.  
(See America and West Indies).

American- Admiralty 281556 October and 192345 November.  
built Captain- This policy if continued, will result in the fast  
class ships of the W.A. escort force consisting mainly  
Frigates. of old British destroyers and American-built  
Shortcomings frigates. We are now just gaining sufficient  
and experience to realise the shortcomings and present  
unreliability. operational unreliability of the Captain-class,  
particularly the diesel-electric ships.  
(2) Both the diesel-electric and turbo-electric  
ships require a very high standard of training and  
technical skill to run, repair and maintain. Except at Belfast  
there are at present no technical experts with sufficient  
knowledge to look after these ships properly. The bases must  
have special equipment. Belfast is partially so equipped with  
borrowed plants. No other British naval base is yet so equipped.  
(3) Serious defects and operational delays have already occurred  
in the Captain-class frigates. Instances.  
(4) Spare parts have so far proved unobtainable beyond original  
supply except by taking from other ships. Unless this country can  
receive from the U.S.A. at a very early date the essential  
spare parts (large and small) and special stores we shall shortly  
be faced with the probabilities of being unable to carry out  
impending important operational commitments.  
(5) In view of the unlikelihood at present of any assurance  
that these stores will be supplied it seems a wise precaution to  
bring over all diesel-electric frigates to this country so that  
they may be (a) used to supply spare parts to operational ships or  
(b) be commissioned in lieu of defective B.D.E's.  
(6) The old destroyers are already operationally unreliable due  
to age and fatigue of the material and many of these are now  
uneconomic to repair. Nevertheless it is my opinion that these

/old...

21.11.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

American-  
built Captain-  
class  
Frigates.  
Shortcomings  
and  
unreliability.  
(Contd.).

old ships must be kept running until we can place full reliance on the B.D.E's.  
(7) I wish to make certain the Their Lordships are fully aware of the serious shortcomings and present unreliability of these fast ships which are destined to shoulder the major offensive duties in our close escorts and support groups and on whose success in this role so much depends in relation to impending offensives and the Battle of the Atlantic.  
(C. in C.W.A. 212251A to Admty.).

Movements.

ARIADNE

ARIADNE will be required to make a special trip to Alexandria leaving Liverpool on 6th Dec, to carry Christmas mail for service personnel in the Mediterranean and the East.  
(D.O.D.(F) 211553A to C. in C.H.F.).

S/M  
movements.

Positions of S/M's. at 0800/22 and movements for following 24 hours.  
(F.O.S. 211712A, 220034).

ROCKAWAY

When ready for sea request you will sail ROCKAWAY to Norfolk. Route.  
S.O.A. 16 knots.  
(D.O.D.(H) 212004A to F.O.i/c Cardiff).

Operations.

Operation  
"S.F."

HOUND, HYDRA and RATTLESNAKE E.T.A. Seidisfiord 1145N.  
(HOUND 210743N to R.N.O. Seidisfiord).  
Seidisfiord arrival HOUND, RATTLESNAKE, HYDRA at 1206A.  
(A.C.I.C. 211632A to C. in C. Rosyth).

S/M  
patrols.

VIKING left Lerwick 1153/21st unescorted through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 10, thence direct to patrol-line LL.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 211213A to S/MS.).

Positions of submarines at 0800/22 and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) SATYR, SEANYMPH and SCEPTRE patrolling between North Cape and Soroy.

(B) STORM patrolling off North Cape, withdrawing to westward at 0200/23rd.

(C) ULA on patrol off Stadlandet.

(D) VIKING 61 degs. 58' N. 002 degs. 30' E. to patrol vicinity 62 degs. 11' N. 002 degs. 33' E.

(E) VENTURER due Lerwick from Northward.

(F) SEADOG 65 degs. 40' N. 05 degs. 01' E. course 030 degs. speed 10 knots on the surface.

(F.O.S. 211712A to Admty.).

/STORM...

21.11.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

S/M STORM is to leave patrol at 0200A/23rd through  
patrols. (X) 071 degs. 43' N. 022 degs. 12' E. (Y) 070  
(Contd.). degs. 52' N. 014 degs. 05' E. thence by route  
Pink to arrive Lerwick 27th November.  
(Capt.(S) 9, 211805A and 221157A to S/Ms.).

"V.P." My 201014A. M.T.B. 625 and M.T.B.627 returned at  
Operation. 1125A today.  
(2) Launching successfully accomplished at 2320A/  
20th November under favourable operational  
conditions.  
(A.C.O.S. 211219 to Admty.).

Coastal (A) Force 113. M.T.Bs. 673 (S.O.) 676.  
Force (B) 1930A/21. (C) 090 Start 18. (D) Vicinity  
Patrols. of (C). (F) 0645A/22.  
(C. in C. Plymouth. 211257A).  
(1) Orders for night 21st/22nd November.  
(a) 5 M.T.Bs. from Newhaven carry out offensive  
patrol for torpedo targets only between 112 degs. VV 14 miles and  
243 degs. VV 12 miles. Proceed and return by passage four  
passing 4 N at 2000A and leaving patrol line at 0200A/22nd. Force  
is to be within 20 miles of own coast by 0700A/22nd.  
(b) 3 M.G.Bs. short notice at Newhaven. (c) Chasseurs 11, 15  
patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between F. and E.A.5 buoys. (d) M.L.291  
immediate notice at St. Helens. (e) STEVENSTONE immediate notice  
at Yarmouth.  
(f) 3 M.G.Bs. from Portland patrolling 10 miles southward of  
convoy-route keeping abreast W.P. between 02 degs. 35' W. and N.1.  
buoy from 1900A, returning to Portland by 0700A/22nd. M.G.Bs.  
are not to be northward of patrol-line except in contact with the  
enemy and in no circumstances to approach to within 5 miles of  
convoy.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 211408A).

Operation Adjust position of White Sea portion so as to  
"F.T." arrive position ZZ not before 0600A/24th SEAGULL,  
2 Russian destroyers, and 3 Russian M/S will  
reach position ZZ at that time sweeping northward in  
daylight to make contact. On relief through  
escort less HUSSAR to Iokanka to fuel from hulk NARIAN MARIN.  
Radio beacons at Sviatoi Nos (corrupt group), Kanin Nos will be  
operated from 0100A 24th November to assist you. Lights at Iokanka  
will be exhibited if you have not been able to make harbour in  
daylight 24th November. Pilot's cutter will meet you outside  
harbour. Do not break W/T silence to make E.T.A. Russians will  
report your arrival by land line. Similarly HUSSAR should not  
make an E.T.A. for convoy unless told to by S.B.N.O. Archangel.  
Russian shore signal station report progress of convoy. S.O.  
Minesweepers one in HARRIER will arrive Iokanka dawn 25th.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 211574A to INCONSTANT).

Intend to sail R.A.54B for Loch Ewe from Molotovsk Roads  
2200A/25. 8 ships.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel 212021A to H.F. Operational, S.B.N.O.  
North Russia, (R) V.A.2., S.O. 1st C.S., S.O. M/S Flotilla 1,  
N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, Admiral Fisher).

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21.11.1943.  
Sunday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

DEVERON Returning to Merville, E.T.A. 1800A. Asdic oscillator type A.S.95 requires renewal. (DEVERON, 210845A to Cdre. D.W.A.). Oscillator Pattern 95 failed, returning Merville, E.T.A. 0100A. Request assistance of A/S Officer. (DEVERON, 212331A to Cdre. (D) W.A.).

M.T.B.699 My 201725. M.T.B. 699 returned Fishguard with fractured frame port bow. Estimated time for repairs 24 hours. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 211123A).

VULCANUS VULCANUS grounded at 0815 today. Refloating so far unsuccessful and efforts being renewed next high tide. No damage apparent yet. (S.T.O. Iceland, 212016A to D.S.T.).

Shipping and Convoys.

Convoy S.L. 4 E.G. is to come under the order of S.O. 7 E.G. on joining.  
139/M.K.S.30 (C. in C.W.A. 210019A to Striking Force 31).  
attacked with Am over enemy submarine in 45 degs. 10' N. 20 degs. Glider-Bombs. OO' W. Enemy was on surface. When first sighted MARSAS abandoned. was on course 070 degs. speed 15 knots.  
DELIUS Have attacked enemy with depth-charges.  
damaged. (A/C 138D4, 210315Z to 19 Group).  
U-boat damaged Am over enemy S/M in 45 degs. 20' N. 19 degs. 30' W.  
by ESSINGTON. (A/C 138D4, 210408A to 19 Group).  
Am over 1 enemy S/M in 45 degs. 20' N. 19 degs. 30' W.  
(A/C B8DH, 210545 to 19 Group).  
Am over enemy S/M in 46 degs. 12' N. 19 degs. 12' W.  
(Position considered reasonably accurate). S/M. was on surface and when first sighted was on course 210 degs. speed 8 knots.  
(A/C 138D6, 210733A to 19 Group).  
Lost touch with U-boat last seen position 47.12 N. 19.13 W.  
(A/C 138D6, 210831A to 19 Group).  
F.W. 200 and Ju.290 aircraft are operating in your vicinity.  
(D.D.I.C. 211122A to Escorts S.L. 139/M.K.S. 30).  
Cancel my 181449.

- (2) Seventh E.G. and PRINCE ROBERT are remaining with convoy until further orders.
- (3) Fifth E.G. are remaining with convoy until 1400A/22nd and are then to escort L.S.Ts. to Falmouth proceeding through 050 degs. N. 014 degs. W. thence as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth. Group is then to proceed to Plymouth and fuel on arrival. It is intended they should sail approximately a.m. 28th to support O.S. 60/K.M.S.34.
- (4) Fourth E.G. cancel all previous instructions. They are to carry out A/S sweep orders for which following. Group will then proceed to support O.S.59/K.M.S.33.  
(C. in C.W.A. 21124A to Striking Force 31).

/Striking...



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21.11.1943.  
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

Convoy S.L. 139/M.K.S.30 attacked with Glider-Bombs. MARSA abandoned. DELIUS damaged. U-boat damaged by ESSINGTON. (Contd.).

Striking force 31. A number of attacks were carried out during night. Attack by ESSINGTON blew U-boat to surface, when it disappeared leaving quantities of oil. An explosion occurred 36 mins. after attack. CRANE is still in contact with deep U-boat. WATCHMAN and WINCHELSEA are joining her. No evidence from other attacks. My P.C.S. at 1000Z, 046 degs. 19' N. 018 degs. 15' W. 027 degs., 6 knots. Weather 6572, 3084. (PHEASANT, 211152Z to C. in C.W.A.). Am being attacked by 3 enemy aircraft (F.Ws.) My P.C.S. 46 degs. 41' N. 18 degs. 21' W., 004 degs. 6.5 knots. (EXE, 211530Z to Whitehall W/T.).

Am being attacked by enemy A/C. (A/C 211620A to 15 Group). Am being attacked by enemy aircraft in 46 degs. 50' N. 18 degs. 15' W. (A/C 211624 to 15 Group). Am engaging aircraft with convoy. (A/C W.2, 211635A to 15 Group). Am engaging shadowing Dornier with convoy. (A/C W.2. 211641 to 15 Group). S.L. 139. SS MARSA straggler 3 miles damaged by glider bomb in engine-room. Have abandoned ship, position 46.39, 18.23 at 1600. SS DELIUS bridge damaged. No other casualties after attack by at least 8 aircraft. PRINCE ROBERT in company. (E.G.40, 211716Z to C. in C.W.A.). Enemy A/C still engaged. (A/C D.10, 211720A to 19 Group). DRURY bombed but not hit, position 046 degs. 14' N. 019 degs. 08' W. (E.G.4, 211735A to C. in C.W.A.). DRURY reports glider bombs had red tail light. (E.G.4, 211743A to C. in C.W.A.). At dawn tomorrow proceed to Milford Haven for fuel through Q.Z.L.53. (PHEASANT, 211815Z to WATCHMAN, WINCHELSEA). 3 glider bombs with red tail-lights which missed DRURY and one possibly with white tail-light which missed CALDER almost certainly dropped by Heinkel 177. My 211735 and 211743 refer. During final attack loud continuous wave transmission heard by BENTINCK on 20080. (E.G.4, 211924A to C. in C.W.A.). Following observations on Glider-bomb attack on convoy M.K.S.30/S.L. 139 today.

- (1) Bombs were released from Heinkel 177 aircraft.
- (2) Transmissions heard on 24146 kc/s characteristics, frequencies varying slightly at H,S, with audible frequency super-imposed at about 1000 cycle strength increasing on approach of aircraft.
- (3) Flare in tail was (?red).
- (4) About 16 bombs only achieved 2 hits. (E.G.7, 212111Z to C. in C.W.A.). My 211715Z. Master of MARSA considers prospects of salvage good, although engine and boiler-room flooded and rudder jammed hard port.

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21.11.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Convoy S.L. 2.(A) MARSA, 47 survivors in PETUNIA and 5 in  
139/M.K.S.30 ESSINGTON, one missing.  
attacked with (B) DELIUS, captain and (?3) killed. Only one  
Glider-Bombs. executive officer remaining. Intend transferring  
MARSA 3 Officers from MARSA at dawn tomorrow.  
abandoned. (E.G.40, 21212A to C. in C.W.A.).  
DELIUS Your 211924. Report estimated height and range of  
damaged. parent aircraft from target when glider bombs were  
U-boat damaged released, also weather conditions including height  
by ESSINGTON. of clouds. Check and repeat frequency heard.  
(Contd.). (C. in C.W.A., 212235A to E.G.4.).  
Your 211716. Report estimated height and range of  
parent aircraft from target when glider bombs were  
released, also weather conditions including  
height of cloud.  
(C. in C.W.A., 212236A to E.G.40).  
Your 212236A. F.W. (?200) released Glider when flying  
across the wind and convoy course both ahead and appeared at about  
3000 feet distant 2½ miles.  
(2) Guiding Red light most conspicuous.  
(3) 7/10 Cumule-Nimbus Cloud Base 2, to 4000 feet. Wind north  
4/5.  
(4) This is single ship's observation. Collective report will  
be signalled later.  
(E.G.40, 212358A to C. in C.W.A.).

ATLANTIS ATLANTIS from Breaksea 0800A/21st, E.T.A. Gib.  
0900A/25th.  
My 191500, amend E.T.A. 007 degs. W. to read  
1930A/21st and "Chop" to read 23rd.  
(N.C.S.O. Avonmouth, 210900 to Admty.).

H.X.265 Barry Roads portion arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. Barry, 211130A to Admty.).

R.U.98 My 171148 delayed 24 hours, weather.  
(N.C.S.O. Iceland, 211346A to Admty.).

O.N.212 O.N.212. (A) 1300Z/20th.  
(B) B Six FAME, VANQUISHER, DEVERON, POTENTILLA,  
ROSE, VERVAIN, EGLANTINE. Additional A/S escort  
and for rescue duties GRENADIER. Rescue ship  
MELROSE ABBEY, rescue tug TENACITY, SALACIA.  
(C. in C.W.A. 211401Z to C. in C.C.N.A. etc.).  
59 ships. Names.  
(C. in C.W.A. 211406Z to Admty.).  
Arrived DEVERON from O.N. 212 with minor A/S defects and  
sailed to rejoin convoy.  
(Cdre. D.W.A., 212145A to Admty.).

O.S.59/  
K.M.S.33. Aircraft from U.S.S. SANTEE may be operating in  
your vicinity during 22nd and 23rd.  
(C. in C.W.A. 211835A to Escorts O.S.59/K.M.S.33).

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War Diary.21.11.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.B.Y.M.S. 40  
and 58.

Your 181921A. Request route.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 210035Z)  
Re: Destinations B.Y.M.S. 58 and 40 are Har-  
wich and Lowestoft respectively.  
Your 210035. Route.  
(D.O.D.(H), 211313A to S.B.N.O. Azores, (R)  
F.O.I.C. Gib., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth,  
H.Q.C.C.)

CHANTICLEER,  
GARLIES,  
SALVEDA.

C. in C. W.A.'s 201853.  
If Consul agrees CHANTICLEER should transfer as  
many crew as practicable to GARLIES and SALVEDA  
for return to U.K. leaving only sufficient to  
assist in temporary repairs and to provide towage  
crew to British port.

(2) B.N.A. Lisbon inform addressees immediately if Portuguese  
re-actions are unfavourable.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 210120A to CHANTICLEER, B.N.A. Lisbon, S.B.N.O.  
Azores, Info: F.O.I.C.Gib., C. in C. W.A., GARLIES.)

Your 201853. CHANTICLEER arrived Ponta Delgada in tow  
of SALVEDA at 2200Z/20th GARLIES arrived 1930Z. Both  
anchored GARLIES fuelling to-day must leave by 1930Z.  
Will send as many ratings to U.K. as can be accommodated in  
GARLIES approx. 70.

Request SALVEDA may be retained to assist in salving C.B's and  
for transport of remaining ratings and officers to Angra for  
onward passage.

Permission to carry out salvage operations will be obtained to-  
day if possible.

No salvage equipment or tug available here.

SS. CLUMBERHALL straggler, S.L.139 waiting sailing orders.

Suggest she also be used for accommodating.

Require all officers for at least four days. Believe can arrange  
air transport for them from Angra after turning over to security  
party.

(CHANTICLEER, 210315Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. F.O.C.  
Gib. S.B.N.O. Azores, Capt.(D), Greenock. PHEASANT,  
Combrax Devonport. )

Your 210120 Ministry of Marine have been informed of  
arrival of CHANTICLEER. Usual facilities will be accorded.

(B.N.A. Lisbon, 21136 to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C.Gib. C. in C.  
W.A., S.B.N.O. Azores, Consul Ponta Delgada.)

My 201853. CHANTICLEER's 210315. Request.

(A) SALVEDA be retained in Azores.

(B) GARLIES be sailed to Greenock.

(C) As many as possible of remainder of CHANTICLEER crew be  
embarked in WALLFLOWER and/or SAN UBALDO.

(C. in C. W.A. 211724A to S.B.N.O. Azores (R) CHANTICLEER,  
Admty. GARLIES, F.O.C.Gib. N.O.I.C.Greenock, B.N.A. Lisbon,  
Capt. (D) Greenock, N.O.I.C. Belfast, Capt.(D) Belfast.)

Passed /...

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21.11.1943.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

CHANTICLEER, Passed by N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada. My 210315Z.  
 GARLIES, Have arranged to embark 159 ratings in GARLIES for  
 SALVEDA. U.K. She may now sail 22nd. SALVEDOR flying  
 (Contd.) Red Ensign is remaining for salvage purposes. 16  
 ratings remaining as security party. 6 ratings  
 hospital cases ashore. All 11 officers remaining  
 for cypher duties and recover C.Bs. etc. Will  
 try to arrange transport to U.K. for them as in my 210315Z.  
 This accounts for whole ship's company. At survey today,  
 CHANTICLEER was given 10 days for necessary repairs. Further  
 extension will be given if required. All repair material is  
 available to render ship fit for towing. GARLIES cannot get  
 satisfactory fuel at Ponta Delgada. Intend to sail her for  
 Gibraltar. In view of this am dismantling all A/S Radar and  
 W/T gear possible and transporting it to GARLIES to be landed  
 at Gib. or U.K. as desirable. Consul has been informed. Am  
 closing down wireless guard from 2000Z/21. All communications  
 may be addressed to British Consul, Ponta Delgada. Progress  
 will be reported.

(CHANTICLEER 211800Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A., S.B.N.O. Azores,  
 F.O.I.C. Gib., B.N.A. Lisbon, Capt. (D) Greenock.)

Unless other instructions have been given by S.B.N.O. Azores  
 proceed through all positions N. and W. 040° 00' 025° 00' 024°  
 00' thence as ordered by C. in C.W.A. S. of A. 15 knots.

(Gib. 212302A to GARLIES (R) C. in C.W.A., S.B.N.O. Azores,  
 N.O.I.C. Greenock, Capt. D. Greenock, Admty.)

U/Bs. W.X.68988. Al. 781 21 Nov. Gib. Gr. Opsum 20  
 Nov. times A. Z.B. P.86 1050 D.N.Y. 44.53 N.  
 19.28 W. 360 unknown 25/346° not attacked U/B  
 seen in sudden break in rain-submerged immediately  
 2 hrs. Beaufighter M.945 on transit Portreath-Gib. sighted U/B.  
 swirl at 0941 in 47<sup>30</sup> N. 7.32 W.  
 (A.H.Q. Gib. 210215Z.)

W.X.69111. Part 2 of my Al. 783 21st. Gib. Gr. Opsum.  
 Sup. 20th. 30.30 N. 11.12 W. escort of O.S.58 believed contacted  
 U/B search by P 9/73 gave no results.  
 (A.H.Q. Gib. 211515A.)

U/B. NR.2. Am over 1 enemy S/M in 45.22 N. 18.08 W.  
 position estimated and considered reasonably  
 accurate. Enemy S/M previously reported was on  
 surface, course 330° speed 10 knots.  
 (A/C 138D4 210440Z to Gib.)

TRIDENT. Ready to sail 24th. Request route.  
 (S.O. S/Ms. Gib. 210948A to F.O.S.)

IRIS, Sailed Gib. 21st. Your 201221. E.T.A. 0900/24th.  
 LADY HOGARTH. (N.C.S.O. Funchal 211012 to F.O.C. Gib.)

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21.11.1943.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

- S.L.140. Intend to sail one destroyer, to be later designated, plus P.Cs.471 and 472 to R/V in estimated position  $034^{\circ} 24' N. 010^{\circ} 10' W.$  at 231600A to escort Tankers BELINDA and CANADA Casablanca.  
(C.M.S.F. 211115A to F.O.C. Gib. (R) S.E.C., S.L.140, C. in C. Med., Admty., C.T.F.62.)
- AUBRETIA defects. Proceeding Las Palmas with engine room defects time required to make good defects about 6 hours. Shore assistance not required. Request arrangements be made for (corrupt group) E.T.A. 212000Z. P.C. & S. of S.L.140 at 211100Z  $028^{\circ} 16' N. 013^{\circ} 20' W.$  041° 5471 8075.  
(AUBRETIA 211147Z to F.O.C. Gib. (R) BALLINDERRY, N.C.S.O. Las Palmas.)
- SHEFFIELD. Intend sailing to Plymouth at 1830A/21st. Route. (F.O.C. Gib. 211158A to Admty., C. in C. Plymouth.) My 211158 sailed.  
(F.O.C. Gib. 211825A.)
- Shipping Information S.B.N.O. Azores. To reduce volume my 161520 Section D. Independents will be shown once only, on entering area, together with route and speed, unless diverted or found to be out of position, when correction will be included. 2. In all section speeds given are speeds for plotting.  
(D.T.D. 211327A to S.B.N.O. Azores, Info. C. in C. Med., F.O.I.C. Gib.)
- UNSHAKEN. (P54) UNSHAKEN intend sailing at 231300 for U.K. Route. (P)  $035^{\circ} 49' 006^{\circ} 06' 30''$  at 231720. (Q)  $035^{\circ} 53' 006^{\circ} 15'$  at 231810. (R)  $036^{\circ} 37' 007^{\circ} 24'$  at 240200. (S)  $036^{\circ} 51' 009^{\circ} 13'$  at 242200. (T)  $042^{\circ} 00' 013^{\circ} 10'$  at 280200. (K)  $043^{\circ} 00' 013^{\circ} 22'$  at 281900 thence as ordered by F.O. (B) 9 knots until 240700 thereafter 7 knots (110 miles per day.) (C) Ready for patrol 100% fuel. Time Zone minus one.  
(F.O.C. Gib. 211742A to Admty., F.O. (S) (R) C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 3, Capt. (S) 5, Capt. (S) 10, Commorseafon (P.315) TRUCULENT, TRIDENT (P.54) UNSHAKEN, C. in C.U.S. Fleet, C. & R. S.B.N.O. Azores.)
- C.G.75A. Sailing cancelled. My 201101A refers.  
(C.M.S.F.F. 211829A to F.O.C. Gib.)
- U/B. (?Enemy) S/M seen 0930/20th between Cape Prior and Ferrol entrance.  
(Guyatt, Coruna 211840B to Admty. (R) Gib., B.N.A. Madrid.)

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21.11.1943.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

BIRMINGHAM.

My P.C. & S. 039° 28' N. 022° 40' W. 142° 13 knots, all escorts have enough fuel to reach Algiers. An unidentified aircraft was (?sighted) ahead of convoy at (?11)17A and 1320A today. Weather report.  
(BIRMINGHAM 211902 to F.O.C. Gib.)

Arrivals,  
information  
from Azores.

Request signals reporting other than planned arrivals may state briefly:- (a) reason for arrival. (b) cause of straggling if applicable. (c) date of readiness. (d) other relevant information. 2. C.S.As. 201055 CLUMBERHALL and S.B.N.O. Azores 251225 DAVID G. BURNET refer. (D.T.D. 211912A to S.B.N.O. Azores, C.S.A. Ponta Delgada, Info. C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.C. Gib.)

South Atlantic.

Operation  
"Barrage".

Your 151031C. The attempt to intercept the Japanese blockade running U-Boat by your operation Barrage is of great interest. The use of all forces and H/F D/F escort on patrol in an endeavour to strike at the enemy widens our offensive capabilities in your command.

2. Request you will convey to the forces which took part our opinion of the great value of an operation of this kind in the general offensive now being mounted against the U-Boat. (V.C.N.S. 211203A to C. in C.S.A. Info. C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.) Com.i/c. Durban.)

S.L.14.

1. Intend to sail S.L.141 at 1230Z/22 escorted by LEITH, SANDWICH, and ANCHUSA. 2. Composition of convoy. Codeword "Sampford" 178.

3. Routed as in N.C.S.Os. 171704Z thence by outer standard route lettered CN to CW. 4. Comar Dakar is requested to sail Dakar section with local escorts to join S.L.141 in 14.18 N. 17.47 W. at 1800Z/25th Nov. escorts to return Dakar. 6. Commorseafron is requested to issue instructions for the detachment of EL BIAR to Casablanca. 7. F.O. Gibraltar is requested to arrange R/V with M.K.S.32 and detaching of Gibraltar section.

(F.O.C.W.Af. 211329Z to C. in C. Western Approaches, F.O. Gib. Commorseafron, Comar Dakar (R) Admty., C. in C. Med., Escorts S.L.141.)

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21.11.1943.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- Alexandria Movements. Arrivals PHOEBE, LE FANTASQUE, LE TERRIBLE, CROOME. Departures PATHFINDER, TETCOTT, HAYDON. (R.A.Alexandria 210746B.)
- A.B.20A. Sailing telegram, 4 ships, escort DANAE, KALE, DERG. (N.C.S.O.Aden 210912Z.)
- Axis Shipping. A. My 191237C. SEEROSE ready to sail. Reported C.4 destination Salonica. B. Further report C.4 considerable traffic through Straits during coming week. (S.O.I. Istanbul 210959C to C. in C.Levant, S.O.I. Levant, (R) Capt. S.1, D.N.I.)
- Air reports. M.S. 22452. Part.1. A.342 Nov. 21st. Daily Opsum 207, 19th. 6 Beaufighters escorting Naval Unit intercepted 13 Ju.88 about 80/100 miles South of Kastelorizo. After combats and heavy A.A from ships a large splash with red base was observed in the sea. No hits by enemy aircraft were seen on the shipping. Later a second formation of 7 Ju.88s was attacked and subsequently 1 of the Ju.88s was observed emitting black smoke and brilliant red flash. was seen on the water about 3 miles to starboard of the ships position. (H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 211044Z.)
- A.K.D.7 F.S. Sailing telegram, parts 1 & 2. Escorts A.K.D.7F CHITRAL. A.K.D.7S LUDWORTH, MAID MARION. (N.C.S.O.Aden 211117Z.)
- X.T.9. Sailing telegram part 2, 9 ships. (Names and destinations. (R.A.Alexandria 211149B.)
- CASABIANCA. Add 24 hours to all times in my 201135. (N.O.I.C. Algiers 211208A to C. in C.Med. Capt. S. 10, (R) 10th S/M Flot. PROTEE, F.O.I.C.Gib. CURIE.)
- Stragglers Route. Further to my 181718 (N.T. in W.D.) Request Admty. and Com. 10th Fleet (C. & R.) allot letters for Med. Stragglers for each convoy, since Stragglers route in the Med. and convoy route coincide. These letters will also be used for convoy route and be signalled to Med. Sailing Authorities by F.O.I.C. Gib. and C. in C.Med. in their onward route signals. 2. Admiralty's 201815\* (N.T. in W.D.) refers. (C. in C.Med. 211231A.)  
\* Requesting early despatch route letters K.M.S.34.

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21.11.1943.

Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd

- K.M.F.26. Request you will sail COLOMBO as A.A. escort.  
(C. in C.Med. 211237A to F.O.C.Gib. (R) PELICAN.)
- Aegean Situation. 385860. O/38214 21st. Cositrep No. 62.  
2A. Leros. Rescue ops. continuing. Approx. 186 escapees 10 wounded; 177 German P.W. due leave Bodrum 1800B/19. C. Kastelorizo. One R/C 20th.  
3. Naval Aegean. 21 Nov. PATHFINDER, TETCOTT at Limasol. HAYDON detached to Haifa. PETARD, THEMISTOCLES Gulf of Kos as rallying Pt. for small craft ex Samos. L.C.Ts. 108 and 138 en route Famagusta. EOLO, LA MOQUEUSE, KING GEORGE 2 at Famagusta.  
(C. in C.M.E. 211340.)  
385867. I/38218 21 November.  
Joint Army R.A.F.Int. Appreciation 24 hours to 1000Z/21.  
1. Ph. R. shipping 20 Nov. Kos/Kalimmo/Leros area. Details of Ph. R/C. Ref. para. 1 appreciation 18th. Ph. and visual R/Cs of operational area have failed locate the 2 R.Lighters used by us during our occupation of Leros. Assumed therefore these 2 lighters made successful get away. At sea 1210Z hours. Convoy consisting of 1 merchant vessel 300 feet, 1 merchant vessel 260 feet with 3 escort vessels 100/150 feet and 1 E-Type boat proceeded by 2 other E-Boats seen passing off Ferada Island northwest of Leros proceeding towards Portolago Bay.  
Note. This evidently identical with convoy sighted 0550Z/20th reported in para. 2 appreciation 20th. Believed those merchant vessels may be SS. CATERINA, SCHIAFFINO and GERDA TOFT reported by C.X.as having left Piraeus 1200Z/19 loaded with food-stuffs and some motor transport.  
Piraeus. 4. Yesterday's appreciation enemy's intentions Samos remains unchanged.  
(C. in C.M.E. No T.O.O.)
- WARSPITE. Amend date in my 121943 Oct. (circulated under T.O.O. 121043 Oct.) to end January 1944.  
(C. in C.Med. 211631A to B.A.M.R. (R) Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, WARSPITE.)
- Attacks on ROCKWOOD, DULVERTON, ALDENHAM. Confirmed that attacks in Aegean during early mornings of 11th, 13th and 15th when ROCKWOOD was hit, DULVERTON sunk and ALDENHAM near missed respectively were by glider type H.S. 293. No indication that F.X. bombs have been used. Your 151821.  
(C. in C.Levant 211650B to Admty. (R) C. in C.M.E. C. in C.Med.)
- F.S. P.9. N.O.I.C. Augusta reports F.S. P.9 successfully carried out 18th between EGGESFORD and It. S/M DANDOLO.  
(C. in C.Med. 211755A to Admty. (R) V.A.Malta, N.O.I.C. Augusta.)

/PETARD...



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21.11.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

PETARD. Nothing arrived. All quiet. Weather report.  
 (PETARD 211840B to C. in C.Levant.)

Losses in Aegean Operations. Following profit and loss account from 18th Sept. may be useful. Your 201728\* para. 2 refers.  
A. Enemy losses by Naval Action: 1. Merchant vessels sunk or destroyed in harbour 9 of 18,000 tons. 2. F.Lighters and L/C 10. 3. Torpedo boats escort vessels and similar craft including small minelayer 8. 4. Armed caiques 5. 5. Estimated number of Germans about 4,000 put into the sea.  
B. Our losses: 1. Cruisers damaged, one beyond repair, 4. 2. Destroyers lost including one beached, 7. 3. Destroyers damaged 3. 4. Submarines lost 2. 5. Coastal craft sunk or missing 8.  
C. During the actual battle for Leros (included in B.) we lost one destroyer sunk and 2 damaged one minesweeper one M.L. lost several coastal craft missing.  
D. Approximately 6,000 troops were transported to our occupied Islands by H.M. Ships besides a quantity of supplies, guns and vehicles. During the actual battle for Leros 560 reinforcements were ferried there from Samos.  
 (C. in C.Levant 211951B to Admty.)

\*Questions to be asked in Parliament.

Balkan Sitrep No. 5. O/38353 21st. 16th, hits on harbour and docks Sibenik W.U.56.  
 (C. in C.M.E. 212030B.)

Levant Situation Report No. 114. Up to 1800B/21st. Withdrawal from Samos carried out night 19th/20th to Turkish Port and arrangements made for onward transport overland for British Greek and Italian troops, arms being sent south by schooner.  
 2. PHOEBE shot down two certain, possibly four Ju. 88 on 19th FANTASQUE and TERRIBLE made no sightings night 19th/20th in anti-shipping sweep that extended north to Mykonos/Tinos Channel  
 3. PETARD and THEMISTOCLES arrived Gulf of Kos 20th and withdrawing tonight. Small craft in Aegean attempting further evacuations from Leros and Lipgos (?Lipso).  
 4. SOKOL from Aegean patrol reports sinking one A/S schooner 140 tons off Amorgos, one small caique off Santorin, two schooners 200 tons and one E-Boat off Sitia Bay. She claims that she killed some 200 Germans. Two Samfies (as recd.) recovered.  
 5. Report received that motor launch 358 hit by shell off Leros 12th without any survivors as far as is known.  
 6. Two destroyers remaining Limasol at present for possible eventualities.  
 (C. in C.Levant 212037B.)

Med. Situation report No. 231. 1. My 202203 para. 2 EMPIRE DUNSTAN sank, all crew except 2 picked up.  
 2. Italian M.A.S.B. 433 arrived at Termoli on 19th reported that on passage from Sibenik to Split accompanied by German E/V crew demanded to escape.

/Capt....

War Diary.

21.11.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Med. Situa-  
tion report  
No. 231.  
(Contd.)

Capt. who refused was shot and crew claim to have sunk the German escort vessel with depth charge. 3. Small schooner was mined and sunk off the (?entrance) to Bari Harbour at 201322. Subsequently sweeping operations on 20th produced negative results but 3 ground mines exploded in approaches p.m. 21st and harbour was closed.

4. Bad weather has seriously hampered sweeping operations in Gulf of Gaeta but up to p.m. 20th 158 mines accounted for by 12th M/S Flot.  
(C. in C.Med. 212210A.)

M.K.F.26.

Sailing composed as in my 211539 (N.T. in W.D.) at 1200A/26th. M.S.C.1 22. Route.

8. A. Augusta to Algiers ANTWERP S.O., BEAUFORT, BELVOIR, CRETE, KANARIS, PINDOS. , B. Malta to U.K.

NUBIAN, N.O.I.C. Malta is requested to order R/V as convenient. C. Bizerta to Gibraltar COLOMBO. D. Bizerta to Oran U.S.S.JONES (corrupt group) E. Algiers to U.K. PELICAN S.O., JED. ROTHER, JAVELIN, WOODPECKER, EVENLODE. F. Gibraltar to U.K. VELOX.  
(C. in C.Med. 212241A.)

Sailing postponed 24 hrs.

(C. in C.Med. 231635A.)

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War Diary.21.11.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

U-Boat. By (?D/F) at 2101Z on 20th the position of Japanese U-Boat was within 150 miles of 2½ degs. S. 47½ degs. E.  
(C. in C. E.F. 210031Z to S. & A's E.I. Stn.)

BARSPEAR, Request you will sail BARSPEAR for Trincomalee  
BARHOLM. now and BARHOLM as soon as you can release her.  
Your 171906 refers.  
(C. in C. E.F. 210344Z to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.  
F.O.E.A., F.O. Ceylon.)

JOHN W. Arrival 0805Z/21st BALTA escorting cable ship  
MACKAY. JOHN W. MACKAY.  
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 210809Z to Admty.)

S.E.A. Air A.279 21st Nov.  
Report. Daily Opsum No.616 19th Nov.  
19th Nov. 14th U.S.A.A.F. 2 U.S. Mitchells B.25  
Tsao Tao and 175 ft. freighter sunk. 2 U.S.  
Mitchells B.25 Swatow. Fires in wharves and  
warehouses areas. 2 U.S. Mitchells B.25 Jani Island and  
Swatow area. 1 gun boat 1 300 ft. freighter damaged. 2 U.S.  
Mitchells B.25 on sweep Hong Kong to Nadpeng attacked freighter.  
All bombs wide. Machine gunned other craft. (? 2 or 3) U.S.  
Mitchells B.25 Hainan Straits. Near misses 300 ft. and 225 ft.  
freighters (?Bwngshan) harbour. Both severely damaged. B.25  
intercepted by 2 fighters sustained minor damage.  
(H.Q. S.E.A.A.C. 210857Z to Air Min.)

Landing My 301731 Oct. para. 3. It will not be possible  
Craft. to send any landing craft from U.K. in EASTWAY.  
(2) Do you wish her to embark 2 L.C.G.(L) or 2  
L.C.T.(R) from the Mediterranean.  
(3) C. in C. Mediterranean is requested to say  
whether the craft in para. 2 could be spared from operations in  
the Mediterranean.  
(D.O.D.(F), 211439A to C. in C. E.F.(S.E.A.C.), Info: S.O.A.S.C.(1)  
C. in C. Med.)

CUMBERLAND, Your 121337. Concur in your proposal in para.2.  
SUSSEX. (2) CUMBERLAND will relieve SUSSEX about the end  
of February. SUSSEX is then to return to U.K.  
for repairs.  
(3) Further signal will be made.  
(V.C.N.S. 211725A to C. in C. E.F.(S.E.A.C.),  
Into: C. in C. H.F., C.S.1. Cdre.i/c Durban, A.S.  
Simonstown, C.S.4, C. in C. S.A., A.S. Durban.)

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21.11.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U/B attacked. H.A.C.663 21 Nov. Daily Gr. Opsum 71 period ending 0100 G.M.T/21 Nov.3. (A) Can 'A' J/5.  
(D) 42.39 N. 55.28 W. (B) Close cover T.A.72.  
(F) None given. (C) 21.03 G.MT/20th.  
(H) 4 250 lb. D.Cs. (E) 320° T. (G) 7 N. miles  
054° true. (I) No evidence if damage seen due to darkness.  
(H.Q. E.A.C. 211016, 110700 to Air Min.)

DAUNTLESS British Schooner DAUNTLESS Kingston 9th for Tampa overdue and no information obtainable.  
(S.O.I. Jamaica 211146R to N.S.H.Q. Admty.)

DESTINY. H.M.R.T. DESTINY has developed defects completion date undetermined. 2. Intend sailing LANCER with H.X.267 and DESTINY with first appropriate East-bound convoy. Further signal will be made.  
(F.O.N.F. 211326Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q., Admty.)

N.S.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q. 211440Z.)  
S/M.  
Estimate.

ROCKAWAY. When ready about 23rd please sail ROCKAWAY independently for Norfolk, S. of A. 16 knots.  
(Comnavu 211558 to Admty.)

H.H.X.267. 1. Sailing telegram part 1. (8 ships).  
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 211621Z to Admty.)  
Departure MULGRAVE, CAMROSE escorting H.H.X.267.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 211931Z to Admty.)

U.S. (Cominch 211651Z.)  
S/M.  
Estimate.

ARGO. French S/M. ARGO left Bermuda for Philadelphia 20th  
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 211703Z to Admty.)

Situation Reports, A.T/T.A. Convoys. Your 161956. (A) Para.1. D. of S.Ts. 211744 (N.T. in W.D.) did not refer to Situation Reports but only to Position Reports, which deal with programmes and positioning of ships in port.  
(B) Para.2. Consider that you should employ the same procedure as C. in C.W.As. as regards inclusion of A.T. and T.A. Convoys in Situation Reports.  
(D.O.D. (H) 212002A to C. in C. C.N.A. Info. C. in C.W.A., N.S.H.Q., D. of S.T.)

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21.11.1943.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.E.G.5,  
E.G.6.Concur with your 211842A.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 212010Z.)S/M.  
attack and  
sighting  
summary.Para.A. Colombian Schooner RUBY shelled by S/M.  
presumed sunk p.m. 17th. Survivors picked up -  
11.24 N. 79.54 W. 191515. U.S. (R) U.S. POMPOON  
en route Christobal to Baranquilla overdue and  
presumed sunk about 11th. Aircraft attacks S/M.  
01.25 S. 41.45 W. about 211600. Para. C. U.S.S.  
MARTS attacks sound contact 00.51 S., 43.03 W.  
(Cominch, 212012 to Admty).Australia & New Zealand.Digest  
Serial  
No.670,  
Nov.20.Southbound S/M. passed Cape Orford evening.  
(2) R/C. Lightning over Rabaul mid-day reported  
exceptionally light shipping in harbour including  
possible only 1 or 2 warships. (3) Fighter  
patrol Wewak same time saw 5 merchant ships  
probably mainly small besides 2 possible destroyers  
Night R/C reported single medium freighter 20  
miles North West Wewak course 320°. (9) Night  
19th. Navy Catalina attacked 1 freighter of 10,000 tons  
accompanying 2 medium tankers, 2 destroyers heading Northwest  
close central Southwest coast New Ireland. Two direct hits  
scored and ship last seen being abandoned burning fiercely.  
(ii) Three ships reported Hansa Bay night 19th. but striking  
force 18 Mitchells escort 7 Thunderbolts found only luggers  
barges there noon next day, destroying 1 lugger, 7 barges by  
low level attack. One Mitchell lost to anti aircraft. Observed  
single sea truck Ulingan harbour. (12) 4 Catalinas struck  
during darkness 19th. causing violent explosion near main jetty.  
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A. 210620Z.)

/LE TRIOMPHANT...

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War Diary.21.11.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

LE TRIOMPHANT. When ready about 25th sail LE TRIOMPHANT in company with Tanker CEDAR MILLS in accordance with C. in C.E.Fs. 081453Z. (2) TRIOMPHANT expects to stay 4 days at Diego Suarez and 2 days at Djibouti. (A.C.N.B. 212357Z to N.O.I.C. Fremantle (R) N.O.I.C. Diego Garcia, C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) Com.i/c.Aden, C. in C. Levant, F.O.E.A., N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, F.O.R.S.C.A., B.A.D., F.O. Ceylon, Admty., C. in C. Med.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

No indication whether U-Boats are still operating against S.L.139/M.K.S.30 or have moved away. In the latter case some may return to Biscay others may probably move to Southward. Majority probably between latitudes 46° 00' N. and 44° 00' N. and between longitudes 18° 00' W. and 20° 00' W. 7 or 8 outward and a like number inward in Biscay E. of longitude 20° 00' W. Other estimated positions. (D.D.I.C. 211338A, 211348A.)

Submarines Attacked.

S/M.  
attack and  
sighting  
summary for  
24 hours to  
0900Z/21st.

A.1. Br. EMPIRE DUNSTAN torpedoed p.m. 18th in 38° 40' N. 17° 30' E. 2. NENE and SNOWBERRY attacked U-Boat at 2150 19th in 43° 50' N. 19° 34' W.  
3. NENE, SNOWBERRY and CALGARY attacked U-Boat at 0118/20th in 44° 00' N. 19° 30' W.  
4. PHEASANT attacked U-Boat during night of 19/20th in 44° 00' N. 19° 30' W. 5. A/C. attacked U/B. at 0308/21st in 45° 10' N. 20° 00' W. 6. A/C P/86 sighted U-Boat at 0905/20th in 44° 53' N. 19° 40' W.  
7. A/C sighted U/B at 0440/21st in 45° 22' N. 18° 08' W.  
8. A/C sighted U/B at 0633/21st in 46° 12' N. 19° 12' W.  
B. 9. An unidentified A/C probably from Japanese U/Bs. was sighted at 2320/16th over Kilindini. D. BAZELY and DRURY attacked U/B contact at 1225/20th in 50° 43' N. 10° 53' W.  
(D.D.I.C. 211000Z to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

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22.11.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation  
F.T.

1. C.S.10 in BELFAST left Hvalfjord at 1714A for Akureyri; and 4 destroyers left Scapa at 1452A to join him. The destroyers were accompanied by RANGER and AUGUSTA who, with one destroyer, are bound for Hvalfjord.

J.W.54B.

2. Convoy J.W.54B, consisting of 15 ships, sailed from Loch Ewe this evening for North Russia.

Convoy  
S.L.139/  
M.K.S.30.

3. At 1900 today 11 L.S.T. craft and PRINCE ROBERT escorted by the 5th Escort Group were detached from the Convoy about 250 miles W. by S. of Cape Clear.

4. M.T.Bs. 686 and 626 were destroyed by fire following an explosion at Lerwick today.

Mediterranean.

"Avalanche".

5. (a). Coastal craft operated from Maddalena last night after a week of inactivity caused by the weather. They sank a lighter loaded with petrol 2 miles south of Leghorn.

(b). The boom defence vessel BARFLAKE was lost at 1150 today off Naples, following an explosion attributed to a mine.

Bari.  
HEBE sunk.

6. During minesweeping operations whilst re-opening the port of Bari today 14 mines were detonated. The port was opened, but had to be closed again after HEBE was sunk by a mine during further operations this forenoon. There were 38 fatal casualties, and 50% of the 72 survivors were injured.

7. UNIVERSAL, returning from patrol in the Gulf of Genoa, reports that she sank today a large tank landing craft in tow, laden with M.T.

3. (a). 4 groups of U.S. Fortresses of N.W.A.A.F. escorted by 1 group of U.S. Lightnings were despatched to bomb Toulon Submarine Base today, but encountered bad weather and returned.

/(b)...

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22.11.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

8. (b) 24 U.S. Mustangs attacked Civitavecchia harbour. A large explosion on board a freighter resulted from a hit or near miss.

Aegean.

9. (a). PHOEBE, LE FANTASQUE and LE TERRIBLE left Alexandria for the Aegean today. TETCOTT returned to Alexandria; ALDENHAM arrived at Limasol.

(b) Germans landed at Samos today.

(c) TORBAY today sank an enemy floating dock 300 ft. in length which was being towed northward in the northern Aegean.

Australia & New Zealand.

10. A reconnaissance Liberator attacked a two-ship northbound convoy 140 miles north of Mussau Island, New Hanover, at noon today, and after a hit with a 1000 lb. bomb one of the freighters was left apparently sinking and being abandoned. This convoy is believed to have been the remains of the convoy of 4 ships attacked at noon yesterday 50 miles south-west of Mussau.



22.11.43.  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

TAMARISK, TOMPAZIS. TAMARISK has been taken over by the Royal Hellenic Navy as from November 20th and renamed TOMPAZIS. (TAMARISK, 221530 to Admty.)

Seven Frigates for Eastern Fleet. Admiralty 192345. ROTHER, JED, SPEY, WEAR, EVENLODE, FINDHORN, TAFF. (C. in C. W.A. 221909A to Admty.)

Escort Vessels to re-inforce Eastern Fleet. My 301019 Oct. For CHANTICLEER read, PELICAN. (C. in C.W.A. 221910A to Admty.)

CARNARVON, CASTLE. On arrival of CARNARVON CASTLE at Swansea, ship is to be disarmed, de-stored, paid off, and handed over to P.S.T.O. A.M. 131238A refers. (Head of M.II 222242A to N.O.I.C. Swansea.)

Movements.

OBEDIENT. Seidis Fjord departure OBEDIENT. Your 212201 refers. E.T.A. Scapa 1202A/23. (A.C.I.C. 221026A to A.C.O.S.)

TACTICIAN. Sailed. My 081424 21st refers. (F.O.S. 221126A to C. in C.E.F.)

K.14. Request you will sail Netherlands S/M K.14 about 7th December for Gibraltar for onward passage to Australia via Mediterranean. (F.O.S. 221428A to Capt. S.3.)

RANGER, AUGUSTA. Departures RANGER, AUGUSTA, CAPS, MUSKETEER, MATCHLESS, ASHANTI, OB DURATE, RANGER, AUGUSTA, CAPS, E.T.A. Hvalfiord 1525A/24. (A.C.O.S. 221452A to H.F.)

S/M movements. Positions of S/Ms at 0800/23rd and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 221716A, 221917A.)

Operations.

Coastal Force Patrols. 1. A. Force 115. M.T.B.96 (S.O.) 92, 227, 91. B. 1730A/22. C. (PP) 000° Les Heaux 4 miles 20 knots.

/(D)...

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22.11.1943.

Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Coastal Force Patrols. (Contd.)

D. Immediate vicinity of (C).  
 E. Destruction of enemy shipping.  
 F. 0430A/23 from (PP).  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 221340A.)  
 M.T.Bs. 415, 416 and 434 from Ramsgate at number seven buoy, E.T.D. 1715, E.T.A. 0745/23.  
 M.Ls. 101, 102, 107, 213 and M.T.Bs. 231, 240, 221 and 38 carrying out operation N.L.112, E.T.D. 1645, E.T.A. 0200/23. Route outwards via Downs and U. buoy. Return via U and No. 1. buoy.  
 M.T.Bs. 418, 437 and 413 from Ramsgate in support of N.L.112. E.T.D. 1730, E.T.A. 0230/23.  
 M.Ls. 255 and 275 2 miles South of D buoy till 0730/23 when they proceed to Newhaven.  
 (V.A. Dover, 221617A to Admty.)

Operation F.T. SEAGULL sailed for Iokanka and local escort duties.  
 (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 221540A to H.F.)  
 Amend para. 9 of my 21(22) 46\* Russian M/Ss and patrol vessels will proceed only as far as position ZZ or until Iokanka escorts join.  
 Admiralty pass to all outside Russia S.B.N.O. N. Russia pass to S.O. 1st M/S.  
 (S.B.N.O. Archangel 221624A to Home Fleet Operational, S.B.N.O. N. Russia (Pol.) Admty., A.C.I.C., C. in C. Rosyth, C. in C.W.A. A.C.O.S., F.O.S.(R) V.A.2, C.S.1., S.O.1st M/S F.)  
 \* Received corrupt - 212046 intended of which only Part 1 received under T.O.O. 212021A.  
 Sailed C.S.10 in BELFAST. C.S.10's 221114 and C. in C. H.F.'s 171740 refer.  
 (A.C.I.C. 221714A to C. in C.H.F.)

Operation "Hardtack Dog" will not be carried out tonight.  
 H.D. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 221701A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

S/M patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800/23rd November and movements for following 24 hours.  
 (A) SATYR, SEANYMPH, and SCEPTRE patrolling between North Cape and Soroy.  
 (B) STORM 71° 43' N. 22° 12' E. through 70° 50' N. 14° 05' E. and 69° 01' N. 08° 52' E., probably on the surface at 10 knots.  
 (C) ULA on patrol vicinity Stadlandet.  
 (D) VIKING patrolling vicinity 62° 11' N. 02° 33' E.  
 (E) SEADOG 69° 01' N. 09° 56' E. through 70° 20' N. 13° 40' E. thence to patrol off Soroy, probably on the surface, speed 10 knots.  
 (K) TRUCULENT 48° 40' N. 12° 54' W., dived by day to the southward, daily advance 160 miles.  
 (F.O.S. 221716A to Admty.)

/Bay...

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22.11.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Bay Patrol. Intend sailing GLASGOW to Horta at 1000A/26th Nov. Routed through position (GA) 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles. (GB) 049° 35' N. 016° 40' W. (GC) 047° 26' N. 023° 28' W. E.T.A. Horta 1200A/29th.

4. GLASGOW is to carry out anti-blockade breaker operation from Horta.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 221747A to S.B.N.O. Azores, GLASGOW).

V.P. operation. My 181041A. Force returned at 1500 today. Unable to carry out operation.  
(A.C.O.S. 221821A to Admty.)

Operation S.F. Hvalfiord arrival READY. C. in C. Rosyth's 200950 refers.  
(A.C.I.C. 222046A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Exercises.

Trials of Anti-Boat Booms. 1. Your 111908A and 201924A Bombardon. As a result of further consultation it was agreed that sea trials of Anti-Boat Booms shall take place in an area approximately two miles square to the west of Newhaven west pier. Details.  
(D.M.W.D., 222102A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Enemy Air Activity.

WINCHELSEA damaged. My P.C.S. 048° 45' N. 018° 07' W. 065°, 12 knots. E.T.A. Milford Haven 0300Z/24th. WATCHMAN in company. Attacked by Heinkel 177 with 2 H.S. 293 glider-bombs in estimated 045° 40' N. 019° 43' W. Damage by near miss in number 3 fuel-tank, gaining one ton of water per hour. Slight leak in A/S compartment and No. 1 store. Both bombs shot down. Weather 7872 7713.  
(WINCHELSEA 221125Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Mining.

Nore Command. Weekly report of mines rendered safe in Nore Command for week ended 20th November. Four British M.K.XIVA.  
(R.M.S.O. Gt. Yarmouth, 220945A.)

N.L.112. My 221617. Operation N.L. 112 abandoned owing to weather.  
(V.A.Dover, 221752A to Admty.)

Technical.

German Air-Bombs H.S.293 and F.X. Additional information re probable features of new German Air Weapons.  
(D.G.D. 221943A to A.G.M. 32A.)

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22.11.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

- DEVERON. DEVERON again returned with A/S defects. Will be sailed to rejoin convoy on completion of repairs.  
(Cdre. D.W.A. 220044A to Admty.)  
DEVERON sailed to rejoin convoy. My 220044 refers.  
(Cdre. D.W.A. 221250A to Admty.)
- ST. MELLONS. Your 191156A. ST. MELLONS can be taken in hand for collision damage repairs at Chatham Dockyard on 2nd December.  
(Capt. Rescue Tugs, 221638A to F.O.I.C. Harwich)
- VERITY,  
PRIMROSE  
in  
collision. VERITY and PRIMROSE have been in collision. Damage sustained as follows. Temporary repairs to VERITY to enable her to proceed for repairs will be completed by A.M. 24th. Temporary repairs to PRIMROSE will probably take ten days.  
(Cdre. D.W.A. 221640 to Admty.)
- M.T.Bs.  
686  
and 626  
lost. Following received from N.O.I.C. Lerwick T.O.O. 221135A begins. Report loss of M.T.Bs. 686 and 626 through fire caused by explosion origin of which I am investigating. Presumed casualties 6 British missing and 3 injured in hospital, 1 Norwegian severely and 8 others seriously injured in hospital. Ends.  
(A.C.O.S. 221903 to Admty.)
- A/C in  
FURIOUS. A fatal accident occurred in a Barracuda aircraft of 827 Squadron from FURIOUS last night. From personal enquiry on board I have formed the opinion that a possible cause was the bursting of a Hydraulic pipe or the reservoir in the pilot's cockpit completely blinding the pilot and causing him to lose control. The aircraft was near the ship waiting to land on and at a low altitude. Six failures of a similar nature have previously occurred in FURIOUS Squadrons without fatal results.  
3. Recommend that the Board of Enquiry should be convened by Their Lordships and should be composed of technical experts from Admiralty departments and M.A.P. and that it should be attended by a representative from the Fairy Aviation Company.  
4. I have ordered all Barracudas under my administration to be grounded pending the finding of this Board of Enquiry.  
(F.O.C.T. 221935 to Admty.)

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22.11.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

S.L.139 At 211614 in 47° 08' N. 18° 17' W. A/C sighted  
M.K.S.30. 7 F.W. 200s. At 211627 in 47° 00' N. 17° 15' W.  
U/Boat F.W.200 A/C bombing convoy, only result one M/V  
believed smoking. No engagement with E/As.  
sunk by FOLEY (R.A.F. Castle Archdale, 220145A to 15 Group.)  
on 21/11, A/B St. Eval on A/S Escort to S.L.139/M.K.S.30  
Further details homing procedure B ordered. Not carried out.  
of attack on At 211327 in 46° 25' N. 18° 08' W. met C/V  
21/11. S.L.139.  
At 1635 back with C/V, sighted two He. 177.  
Information approaching C/V from North on its  
starboard, also 1 He. 177 approaching from North on Port.  
Latter He. disappeared in cloud. Flak from E/Vs appeared  
inaccurate and Hes. took no evasive action.  
He. 177s on starboard approached at 4000 ft. in steady flight and  
then released rocket glider bombs when over leading M.Vs. of  
columns, continuing to track over centre column. Port He.177  
was seen to make attack from port beam also flying at 408 ft.  
releasing glider-bomb when over port column X and continuing  
over C/V on steady course. These tactics used in all attacks.  
2 Hes. attacked throughout from N. to S., turning and attacking  
next from S. to N. 2 other Hes. made attacks from W. to E.,  
turning and then attacking from E. to W.  
F.W.200 also seen making bombing-run from N. to S. over C/V and  
releasing ordinary bombs. A/C K set chase after He. but did  
not continue as A/C passed into E/Vs flak range. A/C K then  
took station ahead of C/V in order to intercept enemy A/C on  
their way to make bombing run. 2 combats with Hes took place.  
Hes. were carrying glider bombs under wings. Hes. released  
one glider bomb at time, believed each released more than 2  
bombs. Hes. camouflage white or silver under wings surfaces.  
Upper surfaces grey-green. No turrets on Hes. neither in tail  
nor in dorsal position, but tail-gun fired cannon which was inaccurate.  
Tracer also noticed apparatus similar to Yougi Aerials carried  
from nose of He.  
(R.A.F. Ballykelly 220230A to 15 Group)  
Gliders. Your 212235. Attacks on DRURY height 5000 feet,  
range 4 miles; on CALDER 3000 feet, 2 miles. Existing weather  
report 6582 3482. Frequency 20080 Kc/s, that is 20 point  
nought 8 megacycles.  
(E.G.4, 220257A to C. in C.W.A.)  
Convoy being attacked by 6 planes (?height 3 miles or 3,000  
ft.) positions 48.42 N. 18.09 W., course 004° speed 7 knots.  
(Convoy "Floore" 220945Z to Admty.)  
My 211124 para. 3. 5th Escort Group and L.S.Ts. are not  
to detach until dark tonight thence as ordered.  
2. PRINCE ROBERT is to proceed in company with 5th Escort Group  
and L.S.Ts. proceeding to Plymouth on completion.  
(C. in C.W.A. 221051A to E.G.5, PRINCE ROBERT.)  
No further U/Boat indications. After final creeping  
attack by FOLEY directed by CRANE a.m. 21st thick diesel oil  
patch appeared in which was wreckage and clothing. Consider U/B  
destroyed. PRINCE ROBERT in company. My P.C.S. 1100, 048°  
53' N. 018° 07' W. 004° 7 knots.  
(E.G.7, 221345Z to C. in C.W.A.)

/Dispositions...

22.11.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

S.L.139 Dispositions at 222000.  
M.K.S.30 1. WATCHMAN, WINCHELSEA 049° 28' N. 014°  
U/Boat 59' W., 062° 13 knots.  
believed 4. PRINCE ROBERT, TWEED, CALGARY, SNOWBERRY,  
sunk by FOLEY LUNENBURG, EDMUNDSTON, 11 L.S.T., NENE 049°  
on 21/11. 40' N. 018° 05' W. 083° 12½ knots.  
Further details (C. in C. Plymouth, 221602A to Ships.)  
of attack on 11 L.S.Ts. and PRINCE ROBERT escorted by 5th.  
21/11.. Escort Group detached in 049° 55', 018° 03', at  
(Contd.) 1900. Speed 8 knots. Weather 3772 2372.  
(E.G.5, 221915Z to C. in C.W.A.)  
My 212358Z. Further evidence confirms height  
of 3 thousand feet though estimate of range varies from 2 to  
5 miles.

2. Consider attack on convoy was carried out by 10 to 15  
planes (F.W.200 and Heinkel 177) with glider, Rocket, and  
ordinary bombs.

3. About 16 bombs were directed at main body of convoy and  
14(?) on MARSA the nearest of which was a near miss  
fracturing main inlet.

4. DELIUS developed fire in copra cargo in No. 2 and 3 holds.  
This is under control.  
(E.G.40 222115A to C. in C.W.A.)

U. R. 99. 7½ knot convoy.  
(A) 1245/24.  
(B) H.M.Ts. HUGH WALPOLE, CAPE COMORIN, EBOR  
WYKE.  
(C) 9 (including 2 Tankers) and H.M.Cable Ship  
SPRAYVILLE.  
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 220950A to Admty.)

K.M.S. and M.K.S. convoys. The present routeing of K.M.S./M.K.S. Convoys  
entails voyages of over 2100 miles which has  
proved to be beyond the fuel capacity of a  
number of escorts employed, and these distances  
are likely to be increased as a result of the  
new air threat.

2. Requested that the escort oilers SCOTTISH AMERICAN and  
SAN TIRSO at present employed on the Gibraltar/Freetown run  
may be transferred to the Gibraltar U.K. run for passage  
with convoys escorted by B.1 and B.4 groups. It is hoped  
that the 39th and 40th groups will be able to compete without  
fuelling on passage unless the distances are materially  
increased.

(C. in C.W.A., 221053A to Admty)\*See Amendment 151813A Dec.

R.U.98. 1. 1200A/22nd.  
2. COTILLION (S.O.), STAFNES, THIRLMERE.  
3. 8 knots.  
3. As in my 191126.  
(N.C.S.O. Iceland, 221216A to N.C.S.O. Loch  
Ewe.)

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22.11.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

O.S. 60/  
K.M.S. 34  
FENCER.

Request you will sail FENCER with O.S. 60/K.M.S. 34 to Gibraltar.  
2. F.O.C. Gibraltar is requested to sail FENCER to Clyde with M.K.S. 33.  
(C. in C. W.A. 221509Z to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

O.N.S. 23.

Sailed VERSATILE to overtake O.N.S. 23.  
S.O.A. 17 knots.  
(Cdre. D. W.A. 221626A to Admty.)

O.N. 212.

My P.C.S. at 2000A/22, 054° 55' N. 009° 48' W. 247° 17' to 051° 00' 024° 45', thence to (SB).  
Estimate shall join 1600Z/24th.  
(DEVERON, 221631A to C. in C.W.A.)

J.W. 54B.

15 ships. Names.  
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 221708.)  
Sailed VENUS, VIGILANT, HARDY, SAVAGE, SCORPION, SCOURGE, STORD for Seidis Fjord.  
E.T.A. 1030A/24th. 24th November. Mails for Seidis Fjord, Kola Inlet, and Archangel on board SAVAGE and VIGILANT. Total number of passengers for North Russia amongst all ships 10 officers, 2 sergeants, 3 couriers, and 36 ratings.  
(R.A.D. H.F. 221859A to A.C.I.C. S.B.N.O., North Russia.)  
RHODODENDRON, HALCYON sailed to overtake J.W. 54B.  
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 222104 to C. in C.H.F.)

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22.11.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

- C.T.G.21.11. British long-range A/C may be operating in your area.  
(D.O.D.(H), 220039A to C.T.G.21.11, (R) F.O.I.C. Gib., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, Cominch, Comnaveu, H.Q.C.C., Cinclant.)
- PERLE. Sailed. My 192128 refers.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 220752 to N.O.B. Bermuda, Comnavraw, Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)  
My 220752A. PERLE will be kept informed of U-Boats estimated to be in her vicinity as far as 40 degs. W. Request Cominch may pass information west of this Meridian.  
(F.O.C. Gib. 221849A to Admty. (R) Cominch)
- T.F.62. Arrived from U.G.S.23.  
(C.M.S.F. 220910Z to (U.S.) C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet.)
- JAUNTY,  
ITHURIEL. Propose JAUNTY who is overdue for refit should tow ITHURIEL to U.K. in X.K.12 sailing a.m. 24th.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 221223A to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.)  
Your 221223. ITHURIEL is not required in U.K. vide A.M.271650 Sept. My 011301 Oct. also refers.  
(2) JAUNTY cannot yet be spared to refit.  
(C. in C. Med. 221832A to F.O.C. Gib. (R) Admty.)
- Re attack on Patrol Plane 73PIO near Las Palmas. U.S.N.A. states his Embassy awaiting explanation. U.S.N.A. London kept fully informed of any developments. Your 172306 refers.  
(B.N.A. Madrid, 221319A to Admty. C. in C. Med. Comnavraw.)
- CHANTICLEER. Passed by S.B.N.O. Ponta Delgada. My 211800Z Part 2.  
All gear possible was dismantled over-night and was transferred to GARLIES under officer guard. Impossible to obtain transfer notes for these items, but trust that this action will be accepted in view of shortage of material.  
(CHANTICLEER, 221510Z to Admty. C. in C. W.A. (R) S.B.N.O. Azores.)
- Supply Ships at Azores. Admiralty's 202348A.  
Unloading will be much delayed if this is adhered to. Mail steamer generally only stops a few hours at Angra and arrangements have been made

already /...



War Diary.22.11.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic

Supply Ships at Azores. (Contd.) already with local Naval Authorities guaranteeing mail boat precedence for unloading and that anchorage will be kept clear for mail.  
(2) The loading of the smaller ship can easily be arranged locally and less delay will be a saving to every one.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 221606Z to Admty., B.N.A.Lisbon, (R) F.O.C. Gib., C. in C. Med.)

Axis Shipping. Departure 20th 11 (to Rivadesella) 5, 10. (H.M. Consul Bilbao, 221735 to Admty. B.D. (R) S.O.(I) Gib.).  
Passing action being taken by W.R. for H.Q.C.C., F.O.S., C. in C. Western Approaches, C. in C. Plymouth P.1737.  
5 - HENK. 10 - WATERWEG. 11 - RECEJA.

LIMA, SS.FINLAND, collision. Portuguese Destroyer LIMA at 0900/20th whilst proceeding to sea for first experimental anti submarine trials became not under control and rammed SS. FINLAND berthing alongside at Alcantara. FINLAND now in dock. LIMA has bows crumpled to first bulkhead abaft of chain locker. Time required to repair LIMA unknown. Further signal will be made.  
(N.A. Lisbon, 221751 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.Gib.)

TRUCULENT. (corrupt group). Proceed through following positions at times stated:  
(g) 043 degs. 01' 012 degs. 54' at 250900.  
(s) 036 degs. 51' 009 degs. 13' at 280500.  
(r) 036 degs. 37' 007 degs. 24' at 282330.  
(q) 035 degs. 53' 006 degs. 15' at 290730.  
(p) 035 degs. 49' 006 degs. 06' 30" at 290820 thence by QBA 210 to Gib.  
(2) S. of A. diving by day. 144 miles per day. After passing (r) proceed on surface at discretion at 9 knots increasing to 12 knots after 290820.  
(3) Submerged bombing restrictions arranged until 282330 thereafter total bombing restriction 10 miles either side of your route from 35 miles ahead to 35 miles astern of your estimated position.  
Report if unable to keep within your bombing restriction.  
(F.O.C. Gib. 221809A to TRUCULENT. (R) Capt.(S) 10th. Capt.(S) 3rd. C. in C. Med. F.O.S., S.B.N.O. Azores, C. in C. Plymouth, C.M.S.F., TRIDENT, UNSHAKEN.)

Spanish Warships, exercise. Ministry of Marine is now showing considerable anxiety as to whether exercises outlined in my 171915 have received Admty. approval, having stressed warning limit I am letting them worry. It might induce Spaniard to call (?exercise) off. Request your attitude toward these modified exercises.  
(B.N.A. Madrid, 221946A to Admty.)

Italian /...

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22.11.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.Italian  
Ships in  
Spanish  
Ports.

Ministry of Marine have now issued instructions to ?(Port Authorities) to release 6 remaining Italian Merchant Ships in Spanish Ports. I.N.A. requests following personnel should be sent Gib. (Details)  
Position is roughly as follows. FULGOR is ?ready for tow Gib. Will signal when tug should arrive at (?Cadiz) but crew unreliable and it is desirable to have enough additional hands in tug for emergencies. Camouflage and crew must appear commercial. Understand ship has neither boat nor lifejackets. First two ships requiring crew should be ready for sea in about 10 days other later. Ships in other port still under argument. Will keep you informed.  
(B.N.A. Madrid, 222036A to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.I.C. Gib. Admty. F.O.L.I., F.O.T.A.L.I.)

AUBRETIA.

Repairs completed. Sailed Las Palmas 221932. E.T.A. S.L.140 241900Z S. of A. 13 knots. (AUBRETIA, 222210Z to F.O.C.Gib. (R) BALLINDERRY, Admty., N.C.S.O.Las Palmas.)

TRIDENT.

Intend to sail at 0930/24th for U.K. My 211742A refers:  
P. at 1400/24th. Q. at 1450/24th.  
R. at 2240/24th. S. at 1400/25th.  
T. at 2130/28th thence to G. 043 degs. 00' N. 012 degs. 54' W. at 0600/29th thence as ordered by F.O.S.  
(F.O.C.Gib. 222253A, 222331Z to Admty. F.O.S. (R) C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med. Capt. 3rd S/F. Capt. (5th S/F. Capt. 10th S/F. TRIDENT, C.M.S.F. Cominch, UNSHAKEN, TRUCULENT.)

South Atlantic.

TEES.

Your 24/1711A Oct. Request information when TEES may be expected Freetown. TEES urgently required by mid-December for blockade runner patrol.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 220953Z to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

FREESIA /...

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22.11.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.FREESIA,  
MANGKALIAT  
Incident.

C. in C. E.F. 100902 Nov. not to FREESIA. Report now received from FREESIA concerning allegation by Master of MANGKALIAT that he was prevented from boarding his ship because he would not sign certificate of abandonment. Report is being forwarded to Admty. and C. in C. H.F.

in continuation of S.A. number 1213/1220 of 21st Sept.

(2) In fairness to C.O. of FREESIA it must be said that this report throws a new light on Master's statement in that Master originally abandoned ship against orders of FREESIA. On following morning Master was sent back to his ship but beyond sounding tanks and wells he did nothing but fetch his own and other Officer's gear in the numerous boat trips between the two vessels.

(3) According to FREESIA's report Master suggested that he should sign a statement that his return to the ship would not alter legal salvage position. This was agreed but Master was not called upon to sign it.

(4) I have interviewed C.O. of FREESIA and am satisfied that the action he took was in order to safeguard possibly salvage claim by Rescue Tug PRUDENT about whose legal position he was uncertain.

(C. in C. S.A. 221207C to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F., FREESIA, N.C.S.O. Durban, Cdre. Durban.)

S.T.L.7.

Intend to sail S.T.L.7 at 1330Z Nov. 23rd. escorted by TOTLAND (S.O) T. DROGOU, AMARANTHUS, HYDRANGEA, DUNKERY, YESTOR by route M.X.B. estimated speed 9 knots.

(2) Convoy consists of 4 ships for Takoradi, 1 for Accra, 11 for Lagos.

(3 - 7) Arrangements.

(F.O.C.W.Af. 221305A to N.O.I.C.Lagos, N.O.I.C. Takoradi, F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty. Escorts of S.T.L.7.)

FANEROMENI  
(Greek)  
Sunk.

Your 031237 (N.T. in W.D.) to Consul General Lourenco Marques.

Master confirms position as 016 degs. 21' S. 040 degs. 04' E. As position was fixed by eye and not compass bearing it cannot be considered reliable but probably correct within mile. (Consular Shipping Adviser Lourenco Marques, 221825 to Admty.)

Montevideo  
Br.Met.Stn.

Uruguayan Gov. has agreed to establishment of British Meteoritical Station here. W/T facilities required will be available. Your 301227 Aug. refers.

Full details of met. messages received from Argentine Brazil and Chile, and which would be made available to our officers have been sent N.O.I.C. Falkland Is. by mail.

(N.A. Montevideo, 222005Z to C. in C. S.A.(R) N.O.I.C. Falkland Is. Port Stanley. Admty.)

W/T facilities for broadcasts to cover W/T area and for regular communication to the Cape.

F.T.1.

Returned to Pernambuco 21st. My 271144 Oct. refers (B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 222110Z to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.Af. C. in C. Med. S.B.N.O. W.At.)

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22.11.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- X.I.F.4. Arrived.  
(N.O.I.C. Taranto 220802A.)
- Air reports. M.S. 22513 part 1. A.V.63E 22nd. N.W.A.A.Fs.  
Opsum 274. N.A.S.A.F. 21 Nov.  
(?38 or 48?) U.S. Marauders Civitavecchia Harbour.  
41 tons from (?15500 or 10500 ft.) entire East  
Dock area well covered with bombs extending into commercial  
building area. Some bursts marshalling yards N.E. of harbour.  
Railroad ?Spurs, railroad Ferry Terminal, mole at South End of  
harbour, large warehouse, forts, munitions stores hit. 6 boat  
and 100 foot vessel covered by bursts.  
(H.Q.N.A.A.F. 221421A.)  
Part 3 A.V. 63 E Opsum 274. N.A.T.A.F. 21st 14 Spitfires  
offensive sweep Yugoslavian coast strafed 2 merchant vessels  
Sibenik harbour.  
(H.Q.N.A.A.F. 221452Z.)
- M.K.S.32. Sailing telegram part 1.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 221041B.)
- N.V.9A. Request you will sail 23rd to Augusta. Escorts  
EGGESFORD S.O., QUANTOCK.  
(F.O.W.It. 221127A to N.O.I.C. Naples.)
- HEBE sunk. HEBE mined and sunk off harbour entrance at Bari.  
Details of casualties will be signalled.  
(M.S.17 221140 to C.C.O. Bari, (R) Admty. F.O.T.A.  
C. in C.Med.)
- My 221140 consider mines were laid by surface craft or S/M.  
(M.S.17 221150A to N.O.I.C. Bari, (R) F.O.T.A. Admty. C. in  
C.Med.)
- SURF. Sail SURF as soon as ready to Port Said for onward  
passage to E.F. Report anticipated date of sailing  
(C. in C.Levant 221244B to Capt. S.I.)  
Your 221244. Intend sailing P.239 to arrive Port  
Said dawn 28th. Request she may dock on arrival to clean bottom.  
She may require to change singing propeller. Anticipate time  
required 24 hours.  
(S.I 222145B to C. in C.(L) (R) C. in C.Med. C: in C.E.F.  
F.O.R.S.C.A. Admty. F.O.S. S.4, Com. Aden, R.O.C.A. A.S.(L)  
N.O.I.C. Port Said.)
- Situation 0/38479 22 386022. Cositrep 63.  
Aegean. 2. Ops. Aegean. A. Leros N.T.R. B. Samos. 1000  
Greeks 400 Italians and S.Bs. patrol evacuated by  
caique night 20/21. C. Kastelorizo. 1 R/C 21.  
3. Naval Aegean. 22 Nov. PETARD, THEMISTOCLES  
en route to Alexandria. HAYDON arrived Limasol from Haifa.  
(C. in C.M.E. 221245B.)

/Italian...

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War Diary.22.11.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Italian Cruisers treatment of personnel. Your 161231. Local conditions may make it desirable to relax rigid rules about not mixing socially or for meals which I have thought desirable to impose at places such as Taranto and Malta. Line taken here has been that of all necessary consideration for units who are working in the common interest coupled with an attitude of courteous reserve visits to ships are frequent but confined to service matters only. Your para. 1 suggest A. yes B. not yet.

2. Your para. 2 rules by C. in C.Allied Forces for this theatre require 100% unit censorship to be carried out aboard by Italians Mails subsequently to pass through Allied supervised Base Censorship unless otherwise ordered by Admty. Request private mails be bagged separately and forwarded to Taranto addressed N.B.C.Taranto. Service mails should for the time being be forwarded to C. in C.Med.

3. Your para. 3. This can be arranged.

5. Trust understanding by Natives of co-belligerency will improve by time two Italian S/Ms I am trying to get to you for A/S Training arrive Freetown.  
(C. in C.Mediterranean 221450A to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) C. in C.Levant, Admty.)

AIMWELL. Sailed in U.G.S.23 Port Said for onward routing to E.F.  
(U.S.N.O.B. Oran 221726A.)

MAIDSTONE. Onward route from 033° 00' N. 020° 00' E. 1300B/23rd 353, 350, 346, 340, 328, 326, 314, 310, 309 1100B/25th. S.O.A. 11½ knots.  
(C. in C.Levant 221822B to MAIDSTONE, (R) R.A. Alexandria, S.N.O.C. N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 201 N.C. Group, 212 Group, 235 Wing, 245 Wing, 247 Wing, Fighter section between Alexandria and Benghazi, C. in C.Med. Admty. Capt. F.)

ITHURIEL, JAUNTY. C. in C.Med. 221832A to F.O.C. Gib. North Atlantic.

M.T.Bs. for French. Your 171719A\*. Decision upon replacement of 7th M.T.B. Flot. or allocation of craft to the French will not be possible whilst man-power investigations are proceeding.

2. To facilitate planning request you indicate whether small type M.T.Bs. or D. type are required A. in replacement and B. by French.  
(A,C.N.S.(F) 221840A. to C. in C.Med. (R) C.C.F. Med.)  
\* 7 M.T.Bs. are now worn out and useless.

K.M.F.27. Will leave U.K. on 14th Dec. 2. C. in C.Med. requested to promulgate sailing dates for M.K.F.27 to authorities concerned.  
(D.O.D.(F) 221847A to C. in C.Med. F.O.C.W.Af. F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in C.W.A. (R) C. in C.Levant, F.O.R.S.C.A. C. in C.E.F. V.A.Malta, F.O.C.R.I.N. C. in C.South Atlantic.)

/UNIVERSAL...

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22.11.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

UNIVERSAL. One torpedo remains. Returning by DOLFIJN's route in your 121850 passing position A. at 230630A sailing S.O.A. 110 miles. Request instructions. Missed westbound merchant ship 19th, sunk large L.C.T. in tow - laden M/T 22nd. Am towing heavy object from starboard propellor.  
(UNIVERSAL 222110A to Capt. S.10, (R) LE CURIE, F.S. PROTEE, F.S. CASABIANCA, C. in C.Med. 10th S/M Flot.)

Naval Bombardment procedures. My 041800 Oct. Current and recent operations in the central Med. show that it is most desirable that Br. and U.S. bombardment procedures both with A/C and F.O.O. Spotting should be standardised in order that Br. ships can operate with U.S. troops and A/C and vice versa.  
2, 4. Advocates the introduction of a common bombardment code.  
5. Comnavnav is addressing signal to Cominch with similar proposal.  
(C. in C.Med. 222205A to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F. Cominch, C. in C.Levant, Comnavnav.)

4th D.F. Movements. Intend following movements Tues. to take place as soon as Bari is open for operational movements.  
QUILLIAM, LOYAL to Barletta.  
QUEENBOROUGH, RAIDER, BICESTER and LIDDESDALE to Brindisi.  
QUILLIAM, LOYAL detailed any patrol ordered for night 23rd/24th subsequently proceeding direct for Hardman(sic).  
(Capt. D.4th D/F 222215A to F.O.T.A.L.I. (R) N.O.I.C. Bari, N.O.I.C. Barletta, N.O.I.C. Brindisi, S.N.L.O.E. 15th C.3. 4th D.F. C.F.W. M.3.17, N.L.O. 8th Army Tripoli, N.L.O. 15th Navy Group, BICESTER, LIDDESDALE.)

Med. Situation report No. 232. 14 mines were detonated by sweeper whilst re-opening port of Bari on 22nd. During further operations HEBE mined and sunk port was again closed.  
(C. in C.Med. 222215.)  
W.D.Note: No. of mines given as 4 in C. in C.Med. 222219A to Cositintrep.

BARFLAKE lost. Regret to report loss of BARFLAKE 1150/22nd following an explosion attributed to mine, 3 killed. (Names). Further details will be given following investigation.  
(N.O.I.C. Naples 222230A to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty. F.O.W.It.)

Convoy Cycle. Concur with para. 2 of your 171144. K.M.S.35/O.S.61 will be sailed from U.K. on Dec. 5th with convoys at 9 and 11 day intervals thereafter. Comtenthfleet (C. & R.) is being requested to delay the sailing of U.G.3.convoys by one day.

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22.11.1943.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Convoy cycle. (Contd.) 2. Your para. 3. It appears from your 131716 Oct. that out of a 35 day turn round, seetime with the convoys amounts to 21 days which allows 14 days in harbour. This will become 22 days and 13 days when your 191625 comes into effect. It is not clear why you quote 7 days only.

3. Your para. 4. Some variation in time of arrival must be expected after a 12 day passage from Freetown. If, however, S.L. convoys continue to take substantially less than 12 days as in the case of S.L.138, time of sailing from Freetown will be delayed one day. Not practicable to introduce a variable sailing time to meet a fixed time of arrival at Comp. (A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 222319A to C. in C.Med. (R) C. in C.W.A. F.O.C. W.Af. F.O.C.Gib. C. in C.Levant, C. in C.S.A.)  
See also Admty. 222307A to Connav.

Deception Plans.

F.A.N. 279 22nd Nov. For Eisenhower, Freedom Algiers, From C.C.S.

The Combined Chiefs of Staff request that you render a report to C.C.S, feeling that the experiences gained in the Mediterranean in the

planning and implementation of deception would be of considerable interest and value to other theatres:

A. Stating the extent to which cover and deception plans have assisted real operations in the Mediterranean during the last year, and

B. Explaining the deception organization which has been responsible for this work and whether such organisation has proved satisfactory.

(Agwar 222346Z to Etousa, Algiers and Cairo, Egypt.)

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22.11.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

RACEHORSE,  
REDOUBT.

Intended that RACEHORSE and REDOUBT should escort C.M.48 which is due to leave Durban about Dec. 7th P.S.T.O. Capetown's 201222 not to F.O.E.A. refers.  
2. Request date that destroyers will arrive Durban on completion of refit.  
3. Admiralty pass to D. of S.T.  
(C. in C.E.F. 220620Z to C. in C.S.A.)

Atlantic  
Reference  
Letters.

Atlantic reference letters for the four weekly periods from 2nd Jan. 1944 to 29th inclusive.  
(details.)  
(C. in C.E.F. 221104.)

TRUCULENT  
(P. 315.)

Sailed my 081424 refers 21st Nov.  
(F.O.S. 221126A to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) (R)  
Admty. C. in C. Levant, C. in C.E.F. Capt. S.1,  
Capt. S.4, Capt. S.10.)

FREESIA,  
MANGHALIHAT  
incident.

Your 100902Z. Request C.O. FREESIA be instructed to forward in writing his version of the Master's allegation that the Master was refused permission to reboard his ship on the grounds that Master was not prepared to sign certificate of abandonment.  
(Head of N.L. 221235A to C. in C.E.F. Info. C. in C.S.A.)

H.C.11.

Sailing telegram (4 ships). 2. 1900Z/22nd. 6.  
BOMBAY, KALIVATI (Not N.U.)  
(N.C.S.O. Calcutta 221907A to Admty.)



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22.11.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

TRACKER escorts. Propose sailing TRACKER escorted by GARDINER, PARRETT and AFFLECK direct to Norfolk, Virginia. Tentative departure Argentia a.m. 23rd, E.T.A. p.m. 26th and that escorted remain Norfolk the five days necessary to complete repairs vide C. in C.W.A. 201150 and B.A.M.R. 191404. (F.O.N.F. 220532Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) TRACKER, Com.5, B.A.M.R., F.O.C.T., C.T.F.24, Cominch, C.E.S.F., S.O. E.G.2, N.S.H.Q. Admty., C. in C.W.A., G.D. Argentia.) Request your concurrence of F.O.N.F. 220532 considered only practicable (?alternative) in view of affected performance W.E.F. destroyers. (C. in C. C.N.A. 221118Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., Cmdt. 5th Nav. Dist. Norfolk Va., B.A.M.R., S.O., E.G.2, Capt. D. Argentia, C.T.F.24, Cominch, Comeaseafon, Admty., TRACKER, F.O.C.T.)

CATO. Intend sailing CATO to U.K. with group B.2 as additional escort for H.X.267. (F.O.N.F. 221253 to C. in C. C.N.A.)

Stragglers arrived week ending Nov.20. Nov.19 POLARBJORN (Nor.) G.S.35. Lost convoy. (N.C.S.O. St.Johns 221407Z.)

MIRAGLIA. May your final recommendation about MIRAGLIA now be signalled please as U.S. authorities are pressing us for them. My 091729 refers. (B.A.D. 221443Z to Admty.)

H.M.S. COTTON. Sail COTTON when ready about 27th and British D.E.91 about 26th as vessels my 191828 Oct. (Cominch 221445 to C.E.S.F.)

B.E.C.6. Modify C. in C. C.N.A. 181140, B.E.C.6 Casco Bay to Bermuda stopping New York for stores when released by British Training Officer at Casco Bay. Advise routing instructions. (Cominch 221447 to C.E.S.F.)

U.S. S/M. Estimate. (Cominch 221543.)

B.Y.M.S.60, 162, 168, 181, 236. My 162026 and 182027 new departure 1530Z/22nd. Speed 10 knots, E.T.A. 0800Z/30th S.B.N.O. West Atlantic has sailing orders. (N.O.B. Bermuda 221649 to N.O.I.C. Horta.)

/ARGONAUT...

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War Diary.22.11.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

ARGONAUT. ARGONAUT will depart 1530Z/23rd Nov. Clyde via Argentinia 26th. Route.  
(?P.D. Norfolk 221743 to C. in C.W.A.)

O.N.211 escorts. O.N.211. (1) Gys. W.4. CHELSEA (S.O) BATTLEFORD, KAMSACK, THE PAS, TRURO relieved you in "Westomp" established in 046° 37' N. 051° 43' W. at 1000Z/24.  
(2) Upon relief OTTAWA, WETASKIWIN proceed direct to Halifax. Remainder C.5 to St.Johns, N.F.  
(3) "Chop" 1000Z November 23rd.  
(F.O.N.F. 221805Z to S.E.C., O.N.211.)

H.X.264. H.X.264 average speed not reported. Off Oversay at 2000Z/16th November. All arrived.  
(D.T.D. 221833A to Connav, N.S.H.Q.)

LUCULUS, U.G.S.25. 1. British tanker LUCULUS is being sailed in U.G.S.25 with fuel oil urgently required at the Azores. 2. It is unlikely that a special escort will be available in Azores and unless escorts can be detached from the convoy ship must proceed independently after parting company with convoy. 3. In order to lessen this risk it will be appreciated if this convoy can be routed as near to the Azores as S/M situation permits. 4. Request you will inform if this can be arranged.  
(D.O.D. (H) 221919Z to Cominch C. & R. Info. F.O. Gib., C. in C. Med., S.B.N.O. Azores.)

O.N.210. Following arrived New York 22nd. Total 27 ships.  
(List).  
(B.R.L.O. New York 222002Z to Admty.)

ROCKAWAY. Refer to this as Comfairwing 7's. 221850 for action ROCKAWAY Info. Admty. and Comnav. For necessary work ROCKAWAY assigned 6 days make local arrangements for this and if present location unsuitable advise. Refer comairlants 221407.  
(Comnav 222004 to Admty.)

Troop transports, T.U.4A. Following troop transports sailed from U.K. 19 Nov. in convoy T.U.4.A. (a) for New York CAPETOWN, CASTLE, BRITANNIC, DURBAN CASTLE, ATHLONE CASTLE, U.S. BRAZIL. (b) For Boston EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA, U.S. FRED LYKES, U.S. EXPLORER, U.S. G.W. GOETHALS.  
(D. of S.T. 222042A to B.M.W.T. New York, B.A.D.)

S/M attack and sighting summary. For O.I.C. All times Z. Para. A. U.S. VARIETY 89 tons sunk en route Miami for Sama Cuba 13th. Presumed marine casualty. Para. B. A/C. attacks S/M. 06.51 N. 53.23.W. 220057. Para. C. A/C. Radar contact and sighting 20.40 N. 63.00 W. 211330, second Radar contact 211830.  
(Cominch 222109 to Admty.)

/BENTLEY...

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22.11.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

BENTLEY, BICKERTON. BENTLEY (Bde.74), BICKERTON (Bde.75) depart Boston Gate in company 1230Q/23rd en route Bermuda. (C.T.G.2.1 222121 to N.O.B. Bermuda.) Cancelled C.T.G.2.1 231623.)

H.J.70. Departure FREDERICTON escorting H.J.70. (C. in C. C.N.A. 222125Z to Admty.)

BALFOUR. Arrived Bermuda. (S.B.N.O. W.A. 222132Z.)

U.G.S, K.M.S, Convoy Cycle. C. in C. Med. has represented that U.G.S. convoys have been arriving at Gib. early, and K.M.S. convoys late, on the schedule given in A.M.162131 June. 2. Commencing with K.M.S.35 on 5th Dec., these convoys are being sailed one day early on present programme. 3. In A.M. 162131 June, 18 days was allowed for passage of U.G.S. convoys,

Hampton Roads to Gib. No recent convoy has taken more than 17 days. 4. To maintain existing programme within the Med., request you will retard the sailing date of U.G.S. convoys by one day.

(A.C.N.S. (U.T) 222307A to Connav. (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. W.A.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest 7 Liberators struck shipping Manokwari noon dropping 63 quarter ton bombs from 10,000 feet. Serial No. 671 Nov.21st. One small to medium freighter sunk by direct hits. Also observed 2 sea trucks several barges in bay another sea truck heading away. 2 float planes 4 zeros intercepted and 2 fighters destroyed another damaged one Liberator lost to A/A another crash landed at Base. (2) At first light 4 Mitchells, 6 Beaufighters attacked 1 freighter of 2 to 4,000 tons 2 sea trucks at Taberfane Mast head attacks sank largest ship damaged another. Three float planes intercepted whereof Beaufighters shot 2 down third by Mitchells. One Mitchell lost. 14 Liberators followed afternoon bombing from 9,000 feet scoring several hits and near misses one sea truck. Four float planes attempted interception and 1 was shot down. (3) Three Navy Catalinas patrolling R.F. Eastern Bismarck sea early hours reported 3 groups shipping. (1) cargo vessel, 1 S/M chaser 30 miles N. Rabaul course 140°. (2) freighter 2 escort 50 miles S. Uavedblete Kavieng course 330° and thirdly minimum 6 ships probably warships 45 miles S. East Kavieng heading towards Rabaul. Bombs dropped on last group with unobserved result. (4) Mid-day R/C Liberator observed 4 ship convoy described 1 destroyer, 2 medium merchantmen, 1 small cargo ship

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22.11.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.Digest  
Serial  
No. 671  
Nov. 21st.  
(Contd.)

50 miles S.W. Mussau Island course westerly.  
Could be same as 4 ship group previous para. 8  
Zeros, 1 float plane, covering ships, but 1  
direct hit 1 near miss scored largest ship last  
seen burning considered probably destroyed.  
In addition one intercepting Zero shot down.  
(5) Two Beaufighters conducted dawn sweep Hoskins  
Peninsula Coast destroying 1 of 4 barges seen.

Afternoon sweep 2 Bostons South Coast New Britain East of Gasmata  
destroyed power barge while similar formation searched coast west  
of Gasmata. (8) After dark 26th single small tanker type vessel  
unsuccessfully attacked by Liberator 12 S.E. Garove Island pro-  
ceeding eastwards. (9) Preliminary study photographs Rabaul  
harbour forenoon 20th discloses 1 light cruiser, 9 destroyers,  
97,000 tons merchant shipping. (10) Before dawn 20th Jap planes  
dropped 50 to 60 bombs Horokina area inflicting some damage and  
casualties. Two aircraft probably shot down. At first light 2  
Zeros strafed patrol craft entering Empress Augusta Bay wounding  
few men. (11) Negative Mitchell shipping search East Coast  
Bougainville day break 21st.  
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A. 220806Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 221422A, 221423A.)

S/M. attack  
and sighting  
summary for  
24 hours to  
0900Z/22nd.

During night 20th/21st escorts of S.L.139 made a  
number of attacks. ESSINGTON blew U/B to surface.  
U/B disappeared leaving quantities of oil. 36  
minutes later an explosion. CRANE still in contact  
with deep U/B at 1152Z/21.  
(D.D.I.C. 221030A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

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23.11.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation  
F.T.

1. C.S.10 in BELFAST arrived at Akureyri at 1936A today from Hvalfjord.

U-Boat  
attacked.

2. BLACKWOOD, BAZELY and DRURY of the 4th Escort Group all attacked a U-Boat at 0001 today about 500 miles due West of Cape Finisterre and at 1015Z were ordered to continue the hunt. A/C from the Azores will be co-operating tonight, and the U.S. Escort Carrier SANTEE may be operating in the area.

K.M.F. and  
M.K.F.  
convoy  
Rescue-ships.

3. Admiralty have today informed C. in C.W.A. that in view of the importance of maintaining the speed of these convoys at 15 knots, it has been found impossible to provide suitable Rescue-ships to accompany them without unduly reducing the number of Troops carried. As many store-ships as possible however with each K.M.F. convoy are to be equipped with rescue-gear as proposed by PELICAN's 131525 November.

Mediterranean.

"Avalanche".

4. (a). Two schooners operating in the Adriatic with British Naval personnel on board have been missing since 10th November.

(b). The destroyers ILEX, NUBIAN and MENDIP, today carried out a successful bombardment north of the Gerigliano River, opposition was from a single gun and was ineffective.

(c). The minesweeper SANTA was mined and sunk whilst engaged in clearing the western approach channel to Maddalena, Sardinia, today.

(d). The port of Bari was reopened today and destroyer patrols in the Adriatic were resumed. Evidence points to the mines having been laid by U-Boats.

Aegean.

5. (a). Rescue operations at Leros are continuing.

(b). C. in C.M.E. reported today that all British have been evacuated from Nikaria Island and a patrol is being evacuated from Mykoni.

(c)...

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23.11.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Aegean.  
(Contd.)

5. (c). By noon today the following military and naval personnel had been evacuated from Samos:-  
222 British (including 84 from Nikaria).  
358 Greek Sacred Squadron.  
400 Greek Guerillas. 1778 Italians.

(d). A camouflaged 2000 ton enemy vessel, with an unusual superstructure, is reported to have been seen yesterday and today apparently laying mines in the Seriphos Channel, Cyclades.

SIMOOM  
lost.

6. The submarine SIMOOM is three days overdue from patrol in the Aegean and must be considered lost.

East Indies.

7. SS. HONG KHENG (British) fired 6 rounds at a submarine on the surface in 06.30 N. 79.17 E. (about 30 miles S.W. of Colombo) at 0740Z today. The submarine made off.

Australia & New Zealand.

U/B sunk.

8. (a). The U.S. destroyer FRAZIER reports sinking an I.52 class submarine by ramming and gunfire today in the Gilbert Is. area. There were 2 survivors.

(b). At dawn today an aircraft attacked a surfaced Japanese submarine 100 miles west of Buka Passage, Solomons. A direct hit was made and the submarine is claimed as probably destroyed.

9. A Marine raiding party landed last night at the mouth of the Torokina River.

10. 13 Liberators today attacked unsuccessfully some 12 merchant ships and probably one or two destroyers in Wasile Bay. Five other Liberators

/attacked...

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23.11.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

attacked a small convoy 40 miles north of the south-eastern tip of Halmahera (Moluccas) and hit with a 500 lb. bomb an 8000 ton merchant ship.

11. Enemy artillery and aircraft caused slight damage to Allied Landing Craft unloading east of Torokina Point early today. Two Allied destroyers co-operated with air and shore gunfire to silence the enemy artillery after daylight.

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23.11.1943.  
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Salcombe U.S. Base. U.S. Naval advanced Amphibious training sub-base Salcombe will be placed in commission 25th November with Lieutenant-Commander U.S.N.R. in command.  
(Comlan crabeu, 231513 to Admty.)

Movements.

North Atlantic Dispositions. (1) Disposition of operational units in North Atlantic. Operating in Northern Waters: ANSON, KENT, BERMUDA, JAMAICA, TUSCALOOSA, 7 Destroyers, 4 Destroyers (U.S.).  
Area Iceland: RANGER, AUGUSTA, BELFAST, 12 Destroyers, 1 Destroyer (U.S.).  
Area Scapa: DUKE OF YORK, HOWE, KING GEORGE V, RICHELIEU.  
Area Clyde: FURIOUS.  
Area Plymouth: GLASGOW, PRINCE ROBERT, 2 Destroyers.  
Passage to U.K: SHEFFIELD.  
(2) Disposition of escort carriers, Area Clyde: BITER, FENCER.  
(D.O.D.(H), 231248Z to C. in C. U.S. Fleet)

WINCHELSEA. Amended E.T.A. 0800A/24th. My P.C.S. 210  
Fastnet Rock 12, 073 degs. 10 knots. WATCHMAN  
in company. Weather 5865 9954.  
(WINCHELSEA, 231350A to C. in C. W.A.)

S/M Movements. Positions of S/M's at 0800/24 and movements for following 24 hours.  
(F.O.S. 231658A. 231902, 241211.)

URCHIN. On completion of practices in accordance with A.M. 111450, request you will arrange for boiler cleaning of URCHIN, who is to sail as additional escort to K.M.F.27, and subsequently join Med. Fleet.  
(D.O.D.(H), 231849A to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.

Bay Patrol. Being shadowed by one enemy A/C in 47 degs. 13 N. 16 degs. 51 W. course 006 degs. speed 20 knots.  
(SHEFFIELD, 231229A to Whitehall W/T)  
E.T.A. 1410A.  
(2) My P.C.S. 049 degs. 39' N. 012 degs. 45' W. 089 degs. 23 knots.  
(SHEFFIELD, 232345A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Orders /...



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23.11.1943.  
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Bay Patrol. (1) Orders for night 23/24 November.  
 (a) 6 M.T.B's from Newhaven carry out offensive patrol for torpedo targets only between 126 degs. VV 12 miles and 252 degs. VV 10 miles. Proceed and return by passage 4, passing 4 N 1930A, and leaving patrol-line 0300A.  
 (b) 3 M.G.B's from Newhaven carry out anti E-Boat patrol 10 miles South of convoy-route abreast C.W.226 between Eastern limit of command and E.A. 5 Buoy from 2300A to 0700A.  
 (c) CHASSEURS II, V, patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between F. and E.A.5 Buoys.  
 (d) STEVENSTONE M.L.344 immediate notice St. Helens.  
 (e) 3 M.G.B's from Portland patrolling 10 miles South of W.P.435 between 02 degs. 35' W. and N.l. Buoy.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 231416A)  
 M.G.B's 43 (S.O), A.J.D.40 at No.7 Buoy. E.T.D. 1800, E.T.R. 0700/24.  
 M.M.S.78, 1035, 1033 leave Dover Westwards E.T.D. 0600/24.  
 M.T.B's 418, 8X (S.O) 437 from Ramsgate E.T.A. Dover 1800.  
 Leave for West Bullock Buoy E.T.D.1830 E.T.R. Ramsgate 0845/24.  
 M.T.B.413 (S.O), 434, and 416 from Ramsgate at U-Buoy E.T.R. 1700.  
 (V.A. Dover, 231633A)

S/M Patrols. SATYR is to leave patrol at 1900A/25 through 071 degs. 11' N. 020 degs. 30' E. and 070 degs. 46' N. 015 degs. 00' E. thence by route Black to arrive Lerwick 29th November.  
 (Capt. (S) 9, 231441A to S/M's)

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

- (A) SATYR, SEANYMPH, and SCEPTRE on patrol between Soroy and North Cape.  
 (B) STORM 69 degs. 58' N. 11 degs. 29' E. through 69 degs. 01' N. 08 degs. 52' E. thence course 210 degs. probably on the surface at 10 knots.  
 (C) SEADOG 70 degs. 43' N. 19 degs. 25' E. to patrol position off Soroy.  
 (D) ULA on patrol off Stadlandet.  
 (E) VIKING on patrol vicinity 62 degs. 11' N. 02 degs. 33' E.  
 (H) TRUCULENT 46 degs. 05' N. 12 degs. 54' W. dived by day to the southward, daily advance 160 miles.  
 (F.O.S. 231658A to Admty.)

Operation My 221714. Akureyri arrival. F.O.10th C.S.  
 F.T. (A.C.I.C. 231936A to C. in C. H.F.)

Allied Air Activity.

"Moorings" H.Q.C.C. 201600. Admty. concurs.  
 Patrol. (D.O.D. (H), 231241A to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Rosyth.)

Barracuda /...

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23.11.1943.  
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity. - Contd.

Barracuda F.O.C.T. 221935 (See Casualties)  
A/C. In view of relatively small number of serious accidents attributable to failure of hydraulic pipes in shore-based Barracuda aircraft on training duty from N.A.S., I consider these must be accepted as war risk and intend to continue this type flying.  
(R.A.N.A.S. 231840A to Admty.)

Mining.

Off Q.Z.X.1163.  
Yarmouth. (A) Today Tuesday detonated 2 and swept 1 G.R. mine in a position 052 degs. 30'.8 N. 002 degs. 12' E.  
(B) Tomorrow Wednesday intend sailing DANLAYERS at 0615 and Sweepers at 0645.  
(C) Request fighter protection.  
(M/S.9, 231911A to C. in C. The Nore, N.O.I.C. Yarmouth, (R) N.O.I.C. Harwich Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Unknown P.C.S. of enemy 1 medium M/V 43 degs. 25' N. 09 degs. 05' W. 060 degs. 15 knots.  
Ship. (A/C. Duty E. 230140A to 19 Group)  
My 230140A. 40(?tons), lighted, believed neutral  
(A/C. Duty E. 230150A to 19 Group)

LA HORAINÉ. At 0930 today the following craft was escorted into Dartmouth by M.T.B. 673, which was sent out to investigate a suspicious ship. LA HORAINÉ, French fast fishing-boat, length 45 feet.  
5 French and one German naval prisoner on board. Vessel has been detained under naval care.  
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 231509A to C. in C. Plymouth)

2 T.B's. Two modified T Class Torpedo boats passed through sound southward at 0855 and one at 0135/23 latter in company with 2000 tons.  
(N.A.Stockholm, 231751 to Admty.)

Main By Russian visual R/C of Altenfiord 1000A/23  
Units. Kaa Fiord ADMIRAL VON TIRPITZ, 3 Destroyers, 8 Auxiliaries.  
Lang Fiord, SCHARNHORST, KÖLN and 2 Transports.  
Admty. pass to H.Q.C.C.  
(S.B.N.O.N. Russia, 232035 to Admty. (R) C. in C. H.F. V.A.2. H.Q.C.C.)

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23.11..943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats.

U-Boat  
attacked  
by  
BLACKWOOD,  
BAZELY and  
DRURY of  
E.G.4.

U-Boat dived in 043 degs. 05', 021 degs. 03'.  
BLACKWOOD, BAZELY, DRURY hunting.  
(E.G.4, 230001A to C. in C. W.A.)  
5 attacks carried out. My 230001 refers.  
Contact lost 0135. Ships concerned ordered to  
hunt to a kill. Remainder joining O.S.59.  
Weather 5350 3382.  
(E.G.4, 230201A to C. in C. W.A.)  
If convoy not threatened BENTINCK, BYARD and CAL-  
DER are to part company at dusk tonight, and

proceed at 20 knots to Horta and fuel.

(2) On completion of fuelling they are to sail at 18 knots to  
rejoin remainder of group.

(3) BLACKWOOD, BAZELY and DRURY are to continue operating within  
an area enclosed by a circle of 100 miles radius from position  
of their present hunt. If they have abandoned hunt to rejoin  
convoy they should return to area so as to arrive at dusk,  
unless convoy is threatened. SANTEE may be operating (in vicin-  
ity).

(4) Whole group will ultimately be ordered to join and support  
M.K.S.31/S.L.140.

(C. in C. W.A. 231015Z to E.G.4)

C.A.F.O.1342/43. (A) BLACKWOOD.

(B) Radar contact at 2349/22 followed by Asdic contact at 0018A/23

(C) Radar, A/S sighting by BAZELY at 0723A/22.

(D) 043 degs. 05' N. 021 degs. 03' W.

(E) BLACKWOOD 6 attacks with depth-charges. BAZELY 7 attacks  
with depth-charges, one with Hedgehog. DRURY 8 attacks with  
depth-charges.

(F) Hunt continuing. Depth-charges remaining 241, BLACKWOOD 62,  
BAZELY (corrupt group), DRURY 19.

(BLACKWOOD 231400A to C. in C. W.A.)

My 231015. Leigh-light Wellingtons from the Azores will  
be co-operating in your area tonight.

(2) If aircraft contact a U-Boat they will home escorts on  
385 K/cs. Should homing prove unsuccessful they will drop  
parachute flares or other illuminants.

(3) M/F D/F guard on 385 K/cs. is to be maintained throughout  
the hours of darkness.

(C. in C. W.A. 231616 to BLACKWOOD, BAZELY, DRURY)

Your 231616. Leigh-light Wellington operating in your area  
tonight from 2330 until 0500/24 will adopt the following procedure  
in event of U-Boat sighting.

(A) After attack will drop Marine Marker.

(B) Homing procedure on 385 K/cs.

(C) If unsuccessful after 30 minutes ?cartridge flares plus  
lowering of Leigh-light every 15 minutes and rotating through  
360 degs. Illuminants will only be used if more than fifty  
miles from Convoy.

(R.A.F. Azores, 232010Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Technical.

U-Boat  
Armament.

My 201237Z. German P.O. Telegraphist in TWEED  
has stated that German U-Boat carried 8 bombs near  
conning tower. They are propelled upwards at

attacking /...

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23.11.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Technical. -

U-Boat attacking A/S vessel when passing over target.  
Armament. This could only happen with end on attack.  
(Cont.) Interrogation of prisoners carried out by  
Sub-Lieut. D. Williamson R.N.V.R. now transferred  
to SNOWBERRY.  
(E.G.5, 231037Z to C. in C. W.A.)

"N.I.D. Comment: This signal was made in the belief that the information had been obtained by Sub-Lieutenant Williamson, a training interrogator.

(2) It was in fact obtained by 2 R.N. ratings in conversation with the prisoner.

(3) The Report has been carefully checked by interrogation of all the prisoners from the U-Boat and there is no evidence to support the use of such mines operationally.

(4) There have been reports from time to time of such a development, which are not at present credited, and the possibility that a development along these lines may eventually be made must not therefore be entirely disregarded"

Use of My 222304A. The following method of operating  
Smoke-laying aircraft is recommended for  
investigation. Details.  
A/C. (C. in C. W.A. 232157 to FENCER)

Casualties and Defects.

AVON. Arrived AVON with condenser defects.  
(Cdre. D. W.A. 230545A to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown.)

DEVERON. Sustained following heavy weather damage.  
Unable to effect repairs on board. Consider  
essential to return. Request instructions.  
(DEVERON, 230920A to C. in C. W.A.)

Return to base.  
(C. in C. W.A. 231211A to DEVERON)  
My 230920A. Split in upper deck considerably extended.  
Consider essential to return. My P.C.S. 053 degs. 47' N. 014  
degs. 14' W. 066 degs. 10. Weather 5672 9667.  
(DEVERON, 231124A to C. in C. W.A.)

PENNYWORT. It will only be possible to undertake small  
proportion of main and auxiliary machinery defects  
within the period prescribed by C. in C. W.A.  
301010 Oct. To undertake complete defects will  
require nine weeks and this will include important A. and A's.  
It is not considered that vessel can be brought to a state of  
fighting and seagoing efficiency by the date indicated in above-  
quoted signal.  
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 231545A to Admty.)

A/C /...

622

23.11.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

A/C in FURIOUS. F.O.C.T's 221935A. Request Board may also enquire into apparent failures of propellor during dive of which three cases have recently occurred and that Rotol representation should attend. FONAS concur. (R.A. N.A.S. N. 231920 to Admty.)

TEES. Estimated date of completion of repairs to TEES is 16th December. Ship will be sailed with first available convoy after ready date. Your 220955 and F.O.I.C. Milford Haven's 221755 refer. (C. in C. W.A. 231925A to F.O.C.W.Af.)

VULCANUS. My 212016 still aground making water but pumps are holding it. Expect refloat next tide. (S.S.T.O. Iceland, 232012A)

MARSA, (From Convoy S.L.139/M.K.S.30) At 1445A/22nd MARSA 4,400 tons was in approx. 046 degs. 35' N. 018 degs. 20' W. abandoned and with engine and boiler-room flooded and rudder jammed hard aport. (2) Request you will sail rescue tug DEXTERIOUS escorted by CAMBRIDGESHIRE at 0600/24th routed through:-  
(a) 180 degs. Bishop Rock 8 miles.  
(b) 048 degs. 28' N, 016 degs. 05' W. thence as requisite. Returning with tow by reverse route.  
(4) Air search will be arranged.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 232242A to N.O.I.C. Falmouth)

Shipping and Convoys.

K.M.F. and M.K.F. Convoys. Proposed Special Rescue Ships. Your 061241. Consideration has been given to your proposals, but it has not been found possible to provide a suitable ship with sufficient speed without an unacceptable reduction in the troop lift. (2) It is important that the speed of these convoys should be maintained at 15 knots. (3) As a partial solution, as many store ships as possible in each K.M.F. convoy should be equipped in accordance with PELICAN's 131525/November. (D.O.D.(H), 230838A to C. in C. W.A.)

H.X.266. O.N.212. D/F bearings at 0106Z indicate U/B probably within 120 miles of 52 degs. 30 N. 24 degs. 30 W. (D.D.I.C. 230855A to Escorts H.X.266, O.N.212)

S.L.139 /...

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23.11.1943.  
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. - Contd.

S.L.139/  
M.K.S.30.  
(Attack on  
night  
21/22nd Nov.)

Your 222346A.  
(1) Homing was completely successful by MOYALA detailed as Homing guard in position "R". EXE could not compete with this in addition to convoy H/F, routine (?and RCO).  
(2) When in proximity R/T communication was established and aircraft instructed to report on gaining contact with convoy. Necessary patrol or search was steamed on receiving this report.  
(3) Aircraft on at least 2 occasions illuminated escort on extended screen (?when) searching to the prejudice of surprise attack on S/M. This could be avoided, as proved successful on one occasion, by aircraft reporting "investigating suspicious object". Control Officer then confirmed "escort" from plot.  
(4) R/T communication was successful by co-operation between escorts when aircraft was allotted frequency.  
(5) EXE is unable to tune R/T from R.C.O. at plot. It is considered essential that this requirement should be met forthwith in S.O.ship.  
(6) Suggest T.V.5 transmitter be broken to allow immediate W/T transmission on 2410 K/cs and fitting of B.375 as receiver in R.C.O. Suggest A/C should commence procedure B immediately on attacking S/M.  
(E.G.40, 231107 to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 212358. It is reported that the glider-bomb is controlled by observer seated on starboard side of aircraft which gives an uninterrupted line of sight only if target is placed initially on starboard bow of aircraft. Does your experience with S.L.139 confirm this(?). Reply tonight.  
(C. in C. W.A. 231904A to E.G.4)

Your 222348A. Your 211836A ordering me to home A/C at 1840A decoded at 1930A. D/F watch immediately set but A/C not heard or seen. A/C BCND 2 1st heard at 2315A and homed successfully. R/T communications established at 0051A/22nd. Sweep ahead of me was ordered and presumably carried out. Leigh lights not seen. No indication of departure received.  
(E.G.4, 231920A to C. in C. W.A.)  
Hove to in 052 degs. 19' N. 015 degs. 50' W. course 270 degs. Have lost touch with ESSINGTON.  
(FOLEY, 23200(?0)Z to Capt.(D) N.I.)  
Hove to in 052 degs. 41' N. 014 degs. 42' W. My port engine and gyro not working. FOLEY not in company. Weather report 4471 8369.  
(ESSINGTON, 232045Z to Admty. F.O.I.C.Beflast, FOLEY)

Your 231904A. During first attack DRURY and A/C were too far from ships now in company for observation of A/C. DRURY is reporting now inclining of all A/C during approach and on releasing bombs.  
Last attack on DRURY appeared to me to confirm report and CALDER definitely confirmed it for her attack.  
(E.G.4, 232157Z to C. in C. W.A.)  
Your 231904A. Yes, in each attack A/C maintained us on his starboard bow throughout run.  
(DRURY, 232215Z to C. in C. W.A.)

J.W.54B /...

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23.11.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- J.W.54 B. Position at 232000.  
BEAGLE, POPPY, RHODODENDRON, HALCYON, SALADIN,  
MIDDLETON, SPEEDWELL, DIANELLA, SKATE, 062 degs..  
20' N. 005 degs. 50' W. to North westward.  
(A.C.O.S. 231119 to Admty.)  
Escorting aircraft recalled today due to weather at Base.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 231409A to Escorts J.W.54B)
- K.X.12. The following 9 ships, 6 M.M.S., 2 B.Y.M.S., & 1 Stm. Drifter.  
will be ready to sail from Milford Haven as  
Convoy K.X.12 on 4th December to Gibraltar for  
onward routeing. Names and destinations.  
(2) Escort RINALDO, ROSARIO, WATERWITCH, BRAVE and SPANKER of  
19th M.S.F.  
(D.O.D.(H), 231250A, 242253A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).
- O.N.S.23. My P.C.S. 055 degs. 20' N. 015 degs. 10' W.  
086 degs. 15 knots. Have turned to avoid damage  
by seas. Unless weather moderates intend  
returning to harbour. Weather 6661 6268.  
(VERSATILE, 231330Z to C. in C. W.A.)
- O.S.60/  
K.M.S.34. My 221509Z. FENCER should be sailing to arrive  
Meville p.m. 25th November for conference with  
E.G.B.4. FENCER and E.G. B.4 should then proceed  
in company to R/V with O.S. 60/K.M.S.34.  
(C. in C. W.A. 231511A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- T.A.77. Intend sailing SS. QUEEN MARY passing Clyde Boom  
2359A/24th to comply with A.M.212009A.  
S.O.A. 20 $\frac{1}{4}$  knots "Chop" 27th November, E.T.A.  
Ambrose Light Vessel 2200Z/29th.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 231638A to Admty.)
- Rescue  
Facilities. K.M.S. and M.K.S. convoys are until further  
orders to have priority regarding rescue  
K.M.S./M.K.S. (facilities?). N.O.I.C. Liverpool and N.O.I.C.  
Convoys. Greenock are requested to arrange for the  
following ships to be sailed with each K.M.S.  
convoy starting with K.M.S.34 2 A/S and Rescue  
Trawlers, 1 Rescue Tug and 1 Rescue ship. 1 of  
the 2 Trawlers is to be rescue tug escort. Destination of all  
ships is Gibraltar. It is intended, unless salvage operation  
prevents it, that these vessels should operate the same cycle  
as escort groups and remain with same group. F.O.I.C. Gib. is  
requested to sail ships from Gibraltar to join M.K.S. convoys  
accordingly.  
(2) The balance of trawlers rescue tugs and rescue ships is to  
continue to be employed on transatlantic routes as follows rescue  
tugs and attendant trawlers and rescue ships with O.N. and H.X.  
convoys, remaining trawlers with O.N.S. and S.C. convoys.  
(C. in C. W.A. 231847A to N.O.I.C. Liverpool, N.O.I.C. Greenock,  
F.O.C. Gib. (R) Admty, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, etc)

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

General.

Net Defence  
and M.29  
gear.

A. A.M. 161355A applies also to known stragglers from convoy. B. The control of Nets of ships in convoy is governed by I.C.O.C. 68 which assumes that S.O.E. will be aware, or will be warned, of U-Boat situation in their vicinity.  
(D.T.D. 230334A 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. C. in C.W.A. F.O.C.Gib. F.O.C.W.Af. Info. N.S.H.Q. B.A.D. Comtenth Fleet C. & R. Comnaveu.)

North Atlantic.

C.T.G. 21.13. C.R. 393. Refer to this as Cinclant 221636 addressed C.T.G. 21.13 for action. Until such time required arrive Casablanca Dec. 5th remain in area of reported concentrations unless logistics require earlier arrival. Be prepared depart therefrom on Dec. 8th. My 062209 modified accordingly. Further orders later. Comnaveu Com. 10th Fleet, Cominch, Commorseafon, C.T.F. 63 have for information.  
(Comnaveu 230059 to Adnty.)

UNSHAKEN.

Sailed. My 211742 refers. Route.  
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 231303.)

CHANTICLEER.

Will be fit for tow within 10 days allowed for repairs. Suggest she is towed by SALVEDA to British Naval Base at Horta where constructor should survey ship. If considered best course is to gutt ship of all valuable gear this could be done at Horta whereas it would be impossible at Ponta Delgada. Mr. Kay Salvage Officer of SALVEDA considers ship possible to repair. I still think it an uneconomic proposition. Request early instructions. All damaged C.Bs. destroyed.

(CHANTICLEER 231330Z to Adnty. C. in C.W.A. (R) S.B.N.O.Azores, B.N.A.Lisbon, Capt. D.Greenock, PHEASANT, F.O.C.Gib.)

\* Would like to discuss matters with you. Request you will send for me if required. \* Passed by N.C.S.O.Ponta Delgada.

(CHANTICLEER 231705Z to S.B.N.O.Azores, (R) Adnty. C. in C.W.A. B.N.A.Lisbon, Capt. D.Greenock, PHEASANT.)

GARLIES.

Request route to U.K.  
(S.B.N.O.Azores 231630Z to Adnty.)

M.K.S.31.

Sailed M.K.S.31 U.S.L.S.T.338 escorted by HURRICANE, GLENARM, BORAGE, MEADOWSWEET, DAHLIA, HONEYSUCKLE, OXLIP.  
(F.O. Gib. 231634A to Adnty.)

/X.K.12...



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War Diary.23.11.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- X.K.12. Intend to sail, escorted by CAMELLIA S.O., BLACKFLY, CAPE PALLISER, KINGSTON AMBER, ST. ELSTAN, VIZALMA 24th. Route.  
3. H.M.Ts. EMPYREAN and RETURNO also sailing in convoy to U.K. to refit.  
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 231640A.)
- O.S.59. Not threatened. C. in C.W.A. 231015Z (N.T. in W.D.)\* refers. MIGNONETTE joined. BENTINCK, BYARD, CALDER detached 1830A. P.C. and S. of convoy 2000A 041° 32' 023° 10' X. 173° 8 kts. W/R 7480 3262.  
(S.O.E.G.4 231915A to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) S.E.C.O.S. 59, E.G.2, C. in C.W.A. C. in C.Plymouth, S.B.N.O. Azores, Admty. U.S.S. SANTEE, BLACKWOOD.)
- \* re If convoy not threatened BENTINCK, BYARD and CALDER are to part company at dusk tonight Tuesday and proceed at 20 knots to Horta and fuel.
- CANDINA, Damage to shipping CANDINA E.A.D.L. reports damaged  
CAMPANARIO in 31° 48' N. 41° 59' W. proceeding 1400/22  
damaged. CAMPANARIO E.H.T.O. reports repairs to engine  
completed in 35° 18' N. 29° 25' W. 1600/22 and  
proceeding normal speed.  
( Gib. 232019A to B.B.)
- UNRIVALLED. Informing addressees of position and route.  
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 232224A, 240041A to R.A.F. Gib.  
H.Q.C.C. (R) Group 247, Admty. F.O.S. C.M.S.F.  
Cdr. Fleet Air Wing 15 S.B.N.O. Azores.)
- Intend sailing at 241330 for U.K. my 211742A refers.  
P. at 241830. Q. at 241930. R. at 250540. S. at 260300. T.  
at 290700 thence to G. 043° 00' N. 012° 54' W. at 0010/30th.  
thence as ordered by F.O.S. shifting W/T watch at 0010/30th.  
2. F.O.S. 1149/8th January, 1942. A. 4 mark 8. B. 7 knots,  
110 miles per day. C. ready for patrol 100% fuel. D. (i) one,  
(ii) nil. 3. As in para. 3 my 211742A.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 232359A to Admty. F.O.S. (R) Capt. S.3,  
Capt. S.5, C. in C.Plymouth, C. in C.Med. Cominch, P.45  
(UNRIVALLED), TRIDENT, C.M.S.F. Capt. S.10, P.54 (UNSHAKEN), P.  
315 (TRUCULENT).)

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23.11.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

- S.A.N.F. trawlers. With a view to reducing coal shipments to Kilindini arrangements have been made with Union Authorities for temporary exchange of duties of eight S.A.N.F. oil burning trawlers with eight Royal Naval coal burners. The S.A.N.F. trawlers will form two of the four groups working between Durban and Kilindini with A.K.D. and D.K.A. convoys and have been placed under my operational control.  
(C. in C.S.A. 231145C to Admty.)
- S.T.L.7. Sailing telegram. Parts 1 and 2, 16 ships.  
2. 1330/23rd.  
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 231330A to Admty.)
- EMPIRE ARTHUR, sunk 22nd. Water carrier EMPIRE ARTHUR capsized and sunk alongside Kissy whilst loading 2000/22nd. Regret Captain drowned, Chief Engineer missing. Kissy jetty unusable for water and oil. Immediate salvage operations in hand by Naval authorities.  
(D.S.T.O.W.A. 231400Z to D. of S.T. (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)
- RACEHORSE, REDOUBT. Completion date of RACEHORSE ex trials is 4th Dec. ULASKI does not arrive Durban until 5th Dec. Earliest probable date for C.P.48 is 10th Dec. It is considered that both RACEHORSE and REDOUBT will be available as A/S escort by this date.  
C. in C.E.F. 220620 refers.  
(C. in C.S.A. 231531C to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.)  
(R) D. of S.T. F.O.E.A. Com. Durban, Admty.)
- U.S.S. MACOMB and another destroyer sighted. 2 destroyers sighted 014° 00' N. 018° 52' W. course 180°, 1 giving signal letters NIVF. Not in situation report.  
(MONTCALM 231550Z to Comar. Dakar, (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)  
MONTCALM reports U.S.S. MACOMB and 1 other destroyer in 014° 00' N. 018° 52' W. at 1550Z/23rd. course 180°. Have no knowledge of this movement.  
2. Can you explain.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 232001Z to F.O.Gib. (R) C. in C.Lant, Comar Dakar, Commorseafron, C. in C.Med. MONTCALM.)
- Your 232001Z. No knowledge of this movement.  
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 232226A to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Comar Dakar, Cominch, C.M.S.F. C. in C.Med. MONTCALM.)

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23.11.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

UNIVERSAL. Your 222110. Proceed to Maddalena (route) to arrive 1500 26th. Proceeding on the surface except during daylight 23rd. and 24th. (Capt. ~~SD~~ 230225A to P.57 (UNIVERSAL) (R) CASABIANCA, PROTEE, N.O.I.C. Maddalena, Cmdre., Algiers, P.67 (CURIE) C. in C. Med.) Report (A) Position at 2000A/23rd (B) Surface speed (C) If able to dive (D) Nature of object towed (E) Extent of Propeller damage. (Capt. (S) 10, 230941 to UNIVERSAL, (R) C. in C. Med.) Your 230941. (a) 041° 23' N. 006° 57' E (R) 041° 23' N. 006° 57' E. (b) 10 knots. (c) Yes. (d) Not known. Now broken away. (e) No sign of damage to shaft. Consider propeller will require replacement. (UNIVERSAL, 231907A to Capt. (S) 10 (R) C. in C. Med.)

SOKOL. 22nd. Arrived. (S.O.I. Beirut, 230845B.)

Troopship Rescue arrangements. Request you make following rescue arrangements in case of a troop ship in M.K.F. convoys being sunk. 2. In cases where an M.K.F. convoy includes no empty or partially empty troop ship as many store ships as possible should be supplied with scrambling nets, rafts and stores and be detailed as rescue ships. 3. SS. CLAN CAMPBELL and SARMIENTO in K.M.F. 26 were so equipped. (D.O.D.(H) 230849A to C. in C. Med., Info, C. in C. Levant, F.O.I.C. Gib., C. in C.W.A.)

Enemy Minefields. Italian and German minefields in Med. C. in C. Levant's 210123 (N.T. in W.D.) refers. Information regarding minefields laid in Med. particularly in the Aegean is still far from complete. 2. Request you will approach It. M. of M. for complete information in accordance with Armistice terms as follows. 1. Position of enemy minefield laid by Italians and Germans in Med. Both moored and ground mines, laid by all types of minelaying craft including aircraft. 2. Details of each line or group of mines laid. 3. Full details of all types of Italian and German mines used with any modifications which have been fitted. 4. Report to be prepared by Italians in English and forwarded to Admiralty, C. in C. Med. Comnavnav and C. in C. Levant, at an early date in sections in the following order of priority. A. Aegean (two copies for C. in C. Levant.)

/B. ...

23.11.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Minefields. (Contd.)

B. West Coast of Italy.  
C. Sardinia and Corsica.  
D. The Adriatic and South Coast of Italy.  
E. Sicilian Straits.  
F. Around Malta.  
G. Remainder of Med. (2 copies for C. in C. Levant.)  
(C. in C. Med. 231000 to F.O.T.A.L.I. (R) C. in C. Levant, Admty. )

Axis shipping.

A. My 191237C. JOHANNES MAERSK sailed for Bourgas p.m. 21st.  
B. My 210958\*C. SEEROSE loading chrome for Bourgas.  
C. Two German motor lighters expected pass Istanbul from Black Sea to Aegean Sea today. C.4.  
(S.O. Istanbul, 231016C to C. in C. Levant, S.O.(I) Levant. (R) Captain S.l., D.N.I.) \* 210959C/Nov. intended.

SURF.

My 222145B\* Postpone 24 hours until completion of SOKOL.  
(S.l., 231016B to C. in C. Levant, (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C.E.F., F.O.R.S.C.A., Admty. F.O.S.S.4, Cdre. Aden, ROLA, A.S. Alexandria, N.O.I.C. Port Said.) \* Re intend sailing P.239 to arrive Port Said down 28th Nov.

M.K.S.32.

Sailing telegram part 2,7 ships.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 231042)

Landing craft for S.E.A.C.

In view of amphibious operations in progress and projected no L.C.G.(L) or L.C.T.(R) can be spared. Your 211439 (See East Indies.)  
(C. in C. Med., 231118A to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F., (S.E.A.C.), S.O.A.C.)

CASABIANCA.

Now intend to sail at 1000 25th. Through 038° 00' 006° 14' at 0100 26th 041° 00' 006° 14' at 1800 26th 042° 50' 006° 52' at 0400 27th to zone S.T. to carry out special mission leaves night of 28th/29th or on one of the 4 (?following) nights.  
2. All times zone minus 1. All position N. and E.  
(N.O.I.C. Algiers, 231215A to C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 10. (R) 10th S.F. ?PROTEE P.67 CURIE, F.O.I.C. Gib.)

CAGNI.

A.M. 261857 Oct. Should be sailed to Malta for inspection by Captain S.10.  
2. May subsequently be sailed for an Italian port at C. in C. Med's discretion.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 231217A to C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med., Info. Capt. S.10, F.O.S., F.O.T.A.L.I., B.A.D.)

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23.11.1943.

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

HEBE. My 221140. HEBE was sweeping "LL" "SA" on 3rd lap of same area when mined. What was seen of damage before she sank indicated very near miss or hit by smaller type of magnetic mine than "E". N.O.I.C. Bari 222354 (N.T. in W.R.) refers Regret 38 fatal casualties. 72 survivors of whom 50% are injured. Names and details will be signalled. (S.O. M/S Flot. 17, 231237A to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty., N.O.I.C. Bari, F.O.T.A.L.I.)

Situation 386423 0/38904 23rd. Cositrep 64.  
 Aegean. A. Leros. Rescue Ops. continue.  
 B. Samos. Further 3,000 Greeks and Italians evacuated to Kusadasi night 20/21. 6,700 Dodecanese awaiting shipment form Bohrum to

Kastelorizo.  
 C. Kastelorizo. One 22nd Nov.  
 D. Nikaria. All British evacuated.  
 E. Mykonis. Patrol being evacuated.  
 3. Naval Aegean. 22nd. Nov. PHOEBE, FANTASQUE, TERRIBLE left Alex. for Aegean. TETCOTT returned Alex. ALDENHAM arrived Limasol.  
 (C. in C. M.E. 231255)

I/0420 23rd. Joint Army R.A.F. Int. Appreciation 24 hours to 1000Z 23rd. One. Ph. R. shipping 22nd.  
 Kos/Kalimno/Leros area. Covered at 0600Z and 1230Z hours. 0600Z hours. Cloud prevented photography Leros and Kalimno. 1230Z hours. Leros and Kalimno not covered owing enemy opposition. Comment. Enemy air opposition probably serving as screen for operation against Samos.  
 Five. Samos now believed occupied by enemy.  
 Kastelorizo. Appreciation enemy's intentions unchanged.  
 (C. in C. M.E. 231415B.)

V.N.10. Intend sailing at 1600 25th 22 ships. Escorts.  
 8. LAMERTON, WILTON, BROCKLESBY.  
 (N.O.I.C. Augusta, 231347A.)

Convoy Admiralty will allot Med. route letters for  
 route, K.M. Convoys.  
 letters. 2. Route and letters will be the same for  
 convoy and stragglers.  
 3. Cancel para. 4 a.m. 202029 (N.T. in W.D.)  
 not to Connav and paras. 2 and 3 a.m. 201834.  
 (D.T.D. 231353A, to C. in C. Med., C. in C.W.A.etc)

A.V.71E. 23rd.  
 Air WX 69674. N.W.A.A.F. Opsum 275 Pts. 2 and 3.  
 report. N.W.T.A.F. 21/22nd. 24 U.S. Mustangs Civitavecchia  
 Harbour. Total ? 24 or 44 x 500 LN.S.T. 24 x  
 500 12 hour ?delay. 21 bombs fell on railway  
 yards southeast of docks, 7 on chemical works,  
 7 in town, 1 on freighter in harbour, 8 on wharf. Black smoke  
 and fire chemical works. Large explosion from freighter

/resulting...

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Air freighter resulting from hit or near miss.  
Report. 2 tankers strafed.  
(Contd.) (H.Q.N.A.A.F. 231520A.)  
WX. 69674. Pt. 1.  
AV. 71 E. November 23rd. Northwest African  
Air Forces Opsum 275.  
(N.A.A.F., 232225 to A.M. Whitehall, etc.)

RENOWN Onward route from  $033^{\circ} 08' 020^{\circ} 00' E.$  at  
and Escorts. 1300A 24th through 242, 274, 280, 278, 81 at  
1145A 25th Q.B.B. 150 Q.B.B. 149, 79 at 1700A  
25th 40  $037^{\circ} 04' 003^{\circ} 19' 120$  to Algiers.

2. S. of A. 23 knots adjusted speed after  
dark 25th to arrive Algiers 0600A 26th.

3. Codeword "Raven" 9737 priority special.  
(C. in C. Med. F., 231524A to RENOWN, (R) S.N.O. Cyrenaica,  
F.O.I.S. Capt. (S) 8, N.O.I.C. Malta, Admty., C. in C. Med.,  
N.A.C.A.F., N.O.I.C. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Bone, N.O.I.C. Jijelli,  
242 Group, N.O.I.C. Bizerta, A.H.Q.U.D.E.M., Wing 247, Com. Nob.,  
Palermo.)

A.M. 221831 N.T. in W.D.

Intend to sail RENOWN escorted by ULSTER, ROCKET and  
GRENVILLE at 0030A 27th from Algiers.

2. Route through 74, 12, 2, 13, 8, 37 at 2000A 27th Q.B.A. 87  
then as ordered by F.O.C. Gib. and Admty.

3. S. of A. 23 knots.

4. Codeword "Tunic" Priority special.

5. F.O.C. Gib. is requested to sail TYRIAN and TUMULT to R/V  
in  $35^{\circ} 47' 049^{\circ} 19' W.$  at 1730A 27th. ROCKET and GRENVILLE  
are to be detached to Gib. on passing position 27. ULSTER is  
to continue with RENOWN to  $40^{\circ} N.$  then return to Gib.

6. On relief in lat.  $43^{\circ} N.$  as arranged by Admty. TYRIAN and  
TUMULT proceed to Gib.

(C. in C. Med., 231601A to Admty., (R) RENOWN, GRENVILLE, ROCKET,  
ULSTER, TYRIAN, TUMULT, C.O.M. Algeria, Commob Oran, F.O.C. Gib.,  
C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C.W.A., C. in C.H.F., C. in C. Rosyth,  
H.Q.C.C., N.A.C.A.F.)

CEYLON. Arrived.  
(Com. Aden, 231545Z.)

GUARDIAN. Intend she should be docked and ready to sail  
by first Jan. Your 060156 and my 221725 refers.  
(C. in C. Med., 231606A to Admty. (R) GUARDIAN,  
V.A. Malta, F.O.T.A.L.T. N.O.I.C. Philippeville,  
C. in C.E.F.)

1st S.F. 1. P.55 (UNSPARING) patrol at your discretion  
patrols. off Candia.  
2. P.224 (SICKLE) patrol between Hydra and  
Shermia.  
3. P.219 (SERAPH) between 26th and 30th will  
proceed Santorin and Hydra approach.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 231642 to P.55 (UNSPARING) P.224 (SICKLE) (R)  
1st S.F. C. in C. Levant.)

/UNTIRING...

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23.11.1943.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

UNTIRING,  
DOLFIJN.

Patrol reports blank.  
(S.10, 231709 to C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant,  
V.A. Malta, Capt. (S)1, Capt. (S) 8, Capt.  
(S) 10, (R) F.O.S. Admty., R.A. Alexandria.)  
Arrived.  
(V.A. Malta, 232147A.)

Schooners  
missing.

2 schooners operating in Adriatic under S.N.O.  
A.1. (E) have been missing since 10th when they  
were reported at Lussinpiccolo.  
2. Following 7 personnel are missing (names).  
(F.O.T.A.L.I., 231803, Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.,  
H.M.S. QUEBEC (sic) S.N.O. A.1. (E)).

French  
Refugees.

4th Evacuation of about 1600 from Malaga for  
destination Casablanca will take place on 29th  
using SIDI BRAHIM, and LEPINE. French can  
supply 2 escorts, ANNAMITE and COMMANDANT DELAGE.  
N.O.I.C. Gib., is requested to detail one  
British in addition.  
(C. in C. Med., 231823A to F.O.I.C.Gib., B.N.A.,  
Madrid, (R) Admty., C.M.S.F., Navale France.)

Oran  
movements.

My 201017 (N.T. in W.R.). Sailing delayed 24 hrs.  
Cruiser having a line in one of her propellers.  
(Commob, Oran, 231856A to C. in C. Med., F.O.C.  
Gib., (R) F.O.C. W.Af., Naval France, C.M.S.F.  
Comar Oran.)

Convoy  
Cycle.

Para. 2 of your 222319 does not take in to  
account fact that Med. escorts have to escort  
through convoys.  
A. From G.I.S.P. or Casablanca to Gib.  
B. From Gib. to C.O.M.F. or Casablanca.  
2. Gib. escort force undertakes (B) when possible but often  
cannot do so owing to other commitments.  
3. Thus out of each 35 days they will spend 24 to 26 days at  
sea.  
4. If convoys run to time they will therefore have seven days  
layover at their base at Alexandria or Port Said and two to four  
days at Gib. as compared with W.A. Escorts with at present  
minimum ten days layover and three days at Gib.  
(C. in C. Med. 231910A to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A., F.O.C.W.Af.,  
F.O.C.Gib., C. in C. Levant, C. in C.S.A.)

FANTASQUE,  
TERRIBLE.

Sweeping down West Coast Scarpanto (?to Mirabello  
Gulf) retiring through Kaso Strait to pass  
(Corrupt Group) (?by) 0558B 24th.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 231930B to 1st S.F.)

/SIMOOM...

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23.11.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

SIMOOM  
Lost. Regret to report SIMOOM 3 days overdue from patrol, has twice failed to answer signals and must be considered lost.

2. SIMOOM entered Aegean through Kaso Strait 4th, to patrol between Naxos and Mykoni. On 5th she was ordered to patrol approaches to Dardanelles and presumably arrived west of Tenedos 6th. She was ordered to leave patrol 15th.

3. No indications as to cause of loss but German War Communique of 15th may refer.

4. Considered unlikely books were compromised.  
(C. in C. Levant, 231931B to Admty., (R) S.L., C. in C. Med., F.O.(S).) *R by 0/13, 19/11 - (Byz. Letter 4000. in Hist. March 5/56.)*

Minesweeping  
Bari. Request short appreciation by signal of mining situation off Bari including such details as number and type of sweepers employed and any indications of new mining technique. Such information is valuable for comparison with experience at home, where mixed bags of ground and moored mines by "E" boats have occurred on several occasions. There is no positive evidence of longer delay clocks but this cannot be ruled out.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 231941A to C. in C. Med., Capt. M/S, F.O.T.A.L.I.)  
(Reply: 252103A)

Med.  
Situation  
report  
No. 233. 1. CADMUS suffered slight damage from near miss in attack by single A/C during sweeping operations off Naples on 20th. 5 mines swept in this area on 21st.

2. After 8 days when bad weather prevented M.T.B. operations from Maddalena coastal craft sank lighter loaded with petrol 2 miles South of Leghorn during night of 21st/22nd.

3. UNIVERSAL reports sinking large L.C.T. loaded with M/T on 22nd in Gulf of Genoa.  
(C. in C. Med., 232155A.)

U/Boat  
1722  
(Italian.) Left Cyprus 23rd.  
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta Cyprus, 232201B.)



War Diary.23.11.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

M.B.55. Arrived M.B.55 escorted by NETRAVATI, AGRA and WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN.  
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 230345Z to Admty.)

Eastern Fleet U/B. estimate. B.1 weekly U/B. disposition No.3. (details).  
(C. in C.E.F. 230619, 231619, to E.F. 4167.) See 250329Z.

HONG KHENG attacks U/B. Following has been read SSSS SSSS SSSS 6 R 41 N.  
79 R. 20 E. S/M. sighted.  
(From HONG KHENG 230634Z to Colombo W/T.)  
Now position 6.30 N. 79.17 E. fired 6 rounds no return fire S/M. now out of sight.  
(HONG KHENG 230740Z to Colombo W/T.)  
Ref. my 230740 sighted S/M. breaking surface 4 miles off opened fire at 6,000 yards ceased fire at 12000 when S/M. lost sight of, still on the surface position (incomplete group) 5.54 N. 78.46 E. course 218°.  
(HONG KHENG 231100Z to Colombo W/T.)

S.E.A. Air Reports. A.300 23rd. 23rd Daily Opsum No.618 21st.  
22nd 4 Beaufighter Monywa-Pakokku. Damaged 1 launch 27 rivercraft. 21st 2 U.S. Mitchells (B.25) Honghai Bay Q? E. Hongkong 4 x 500 inst. Direct hits, near misses, one M/V probably sunk.  
(H.Q.S.E.A.A.C. 230830Z.)

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War Diary.

23.11.1943.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

O.N.210. 27 ships arrived New York. First arrival 1439Z/  
22nd. Last arrival 1631Z/22nd. SS. EMPIRE CAMP  
stragglings.  
(P.D.New York 230224Z to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)

TRACKER, Your 222120. Intend sailing ROXBOROUGH from  
ROXBOROUGH. Halifax to Argentia p.m. 23 Nov. to escort  
TRACKER to Norfolk (V.A.) direct.  
(C. in C.C.N.A. 230257Z to C. in C.W.A. (R)  
F.O.C.T. U.S.Cmdnt. 5th Nav. Dist. (Norfolk), B.A.  
D. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C.T.F. 24, Cominch, Capt. D.  
Argentia, Admty. TRACKER, Cdr. E.S.F.)  
Your 230257 Navy Dept. require TRACKER at Norfolk on 27th.  
F.O.N.F. 220532 refers.  
(B.A.R.M. 231322Z to C. in C.C.N.A. (R) Com. 5, Capt. D.  
Argentia, N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. Admty. C.T.F. 24, Cominch,  
TRACKER, F.O.C.T. C.E.S.F.)

U.T.convoys, This is 221825 from Cominch addressed Cinclant,  
sailings. C.E.S.F. and Admiralty for action. Beginning  
with U.T.5 all U.T.convoys will sail on day later  
than scheduled in my serial 001941 of 11 Sept.  
to avoid speed reductions en route in order to  
meet arrival dates in U.K. Consider that this will result in  
acceptable arrival times in U.K. Comnaveu, Port Director, New  
York and Port Director Boston are info. addressees.  
(Comnaveu 230311 to Admty.)

O.T.11. Sailing notice. (7 ships). 2. Departing Aruba  
2230Z/22. 6. T.G.21.4 U.S.S. FECHTELER, CHASE,  
LANING and LOY.  
(C.A.F.A.C. 230511, 230527 to F.O.C.W.Af.)

T.G.21.13 This from Cinclant 062209. Action BOGUE Info.  
composition. Cominch, Comnaveu, Commorseafon, C.T.G. 23.9,  
C.T.F. 63, Comairlant. Task Group 21.13 is com-  
posed as follows Capt. Dunn in BOGUE Comcortdiv.  
1 in B.E.BADGER, OSMOND INGRAM, CLEMSON, DUPONT.  
In co-operation with C.T.F. 63 Support T.F. 63 escorting U.G.S.  
24 sailing Hampton Roads 14th Nov. When you consider it  
appropriate cease Support T.F. 63 operate offensively against  
submarine reported positions until time support U.G.S.24 when  
latter reaches danger zone. At a later date further orders will  
be issued.  
(Comnaveu 230942 to Admty.)

SS. ROCKY British failed to sail T.J.15 due to having  
MOUNTAIN signed on two coloured firemen at Trinidad and  
PARK. other firemen refusing to sail. Civil discip-  
linary action being taken.  
(.B.R.L.O. Trinidad 230959Q.)

/STATICE...

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23.11.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

STATICE,  
70th M.L.  
Flot. STATICE and 70th M.L. Flotilla delayed 24 hours  
due to weather my 181706 refers.  
(C. in C.C.N.A. 231240Z to S.B.N.O.W.At.)  
My 231240 refers. Sailing postponed indefinitely  
due to breakdown STATICE. Further signal will be  
made when time known.  
(C. in C.C.N.A. 232110Z to S.B.N.O.W.At. (R) Admty  
Cominch, Cinclant, N.S.H.Q. C. in C.W.A. F.O.N.F.  
B.A.D.)

B.X.34. Sailing telegram part 1. 3. Task Units W.6,  
Cmdre. Comdr. Mitchell R.C.N.R. in SS. FORT  
AMHERST, MONTGOMERY S.O., COBALT, TIMMINS,  
TRAIL.  
(P.D.Boston 231452Z.)

N.S.H.Q. S/M (N.S.H.Q. 231502Z.)  
Estimate.

U.S. S/M (Cominch 231524.)  
Estimate.

LUCULUS,  
U.G.S.25. Your 221919 affirmative.  
(Connav 231635Z to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in  
C.Med. S.B.N.O.Azores.)

EVADNE. U.S. Authorities at Bermuda no longer require  
EVADNE for local operations. Cominch requests  
necessary action be taken with Admty. for re-  
assignment.  
2. EVADNE is not required on W.A. Station for operations.  
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 231748Z to Admty.)

U.G.S. Convoys Beginning with U.G.S.26 all U.G.S. convoys will  
Cycle. sail one day later than at present scheduled.  
U.G.S. 26 sails 5th thence every ten days.  
(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 231829Z to P.D. New York,  
P.D. Norfolk, (R) C. in C.Lant, F.O.I.C. Gib.  
Comeastseafon, Comorseafon, Admty. N.S.H.Q.  
C. in C.Med.)

L.S.E.1. Include British L.S.E.1 in U.G.S. 26. My 122036  
TRUMPETER. modified accordingly. Sail TRUMPETER Norfolk to  
New York when ready about 29th for inclusion in  
C.U.S. for U.K. Will ferry non-operational A/C.  
(Cominch 232010Z to Comeastseafon.)

BEATRICE BECK Sailed St. Johns N.F. 10th Oct. due Barbados 10th  
overdue. Nov. not arrived.  
(N.S.H.Q. 232026Z to Admty. Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.  
(R) S.O.I. Jamaica.)

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23.11.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Capital Ships, Personal for Admiral Noble. Your 271815 Sept. modernisation A forecast programme of modernisation for our or refit in capital ships is being forwarded to you for the information of the U.S. Naval Authorities, and to explain how the "build-up" of our Fleet in the Eastern Theatre is governed by the available resources for their modernisation. The result corresponds closely to our forecast in C.P.S. 86/2 - Annex E to Appendix A - provided NELSON and WARSPITE are both under-taken in U.S.A.

2. Until Germany is defeated, no more than two capital ships can be in hand in the U.K. for modernisation or refit at the same time, because a large proportion of the facilities on the South Coast have to be kept available for "Overlord" and its follow up, and this results in our being unable to make use of Portsmouth; Rosyth has to be kept available for the maintenance of the Home Fleet. This leaves us with only Liverpool and Devonport where battleships can be taken. In addition to this, the programme has to be phased to suit the supply of up-to-date equipment and we have a number of cruisers to modernise as well. After Germany is defeated, it should be possible for 3 ships to be taken in hand at the same time.

3. It is important that WARSPITE should be modernised during the period required for making good her action damage, but it is hoped that this will not interfere with NELSON being taken in hand in U.S.A. at an early date.

4. If at any time in the future the U.S. Navy can undertake the modernisation of one of our ships, the result will be faster build-up of our Eastern Fleet.

(1st Lord 232040A to B.A.D.)

QUEEN  
ELIZABETH,  
(A.T.75.)

Departed Ambrose 2152Z/23, Clyde, E.T.A. Little  
Cumbrae 232300Z, S.O.A. 26.5 knots.  
(P.D. at New York 232218 to Com. 10th Fleet, C. & R.  
(R) Admty. M.S.H.Q. C.E.S.F. F.O.N.F. C. in C.W.A.  
C. in C.C.N.A. F.O.I.C. Greenock, Com. 3.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial  
No. 672 Nov.  
22nd.

R/C Liberator attacked two ships Northbound Convoy 140 miles north Mussau noon. One hit another near miss 1,000 pound bombs medium freighter last seen settling with accompanying destroyer collecting complement. This convoy believed remains of four ship group reported Digest 671 para. 6.

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23.11.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial. 2. Midday photos. Rabaul Harbour disclose 10 merchantmen totalling 72,000 tons including 2 tankers, 1 YUBARI Class cruiser, possibly damaged, 9 destroyers whereof 1 unserviceable, 1 converted destroyer tender, also 13 floatplanes. 3. Surfaced submarine sighted 60 miles E. Gasmata heading N.E.  
10. Four Catalinas detailed strike Ambon night 21st. Two hit waterfront causing heavy explosions followed by large fires. Third struck Melana Island (26 miles N.E.Ambon). Fourth unreported. 12. Dawn 21st enemy aircraft ineffectually bombed surface patrol of Empress Augusta Bay.  
13. 22nd shortly after noon eight Lightnings strafed Chabai Area setting aflame 3 barges several buildings.  
16. Midday R/C Liberator sank 2 northbound barges close to Central S.W.Coast New Ireland. Observed 2 medium cargo vessels Kavieng anchorage.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 230715Z.)

Increase of (A.C.N.S.(W) 232030A to A.C.N.B. (R) N.Z.N.B.)  
A/A armament See Lion Copy.  
of cruisers.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 231334A, 231356.)

Submarines Attacked.

Sub. attack & sighting summary for 24 hrs. to 0900Z/23rd. Para. A. 1. E.G.4 carried out 5 attacks at 2301/22 Nov. in 43° 05' N. 21° 03' W. 2. Br. HONG KHENG sighted U/B at 0634/23rd Nov. in 6° 41' N. 79° 20' E. Para. D. 1. A/C reported U-Boat contact at 1205/20th Nov. in 30° 30' N. 11° 12' W.  
(D.D.I.C. 231106A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/Bs attacked weekly summary. My 221059 July 1942. 1. At 1107Z/18 EAE carried out depth charge attacks on contact followed by sighting of periscope. Possibility that U/B was lightly rammed by EAE during run in to attack. 2. At 0255Z/19 searchlight Wellington F/179 operating from the Azores claims to have straddled a surfaced U-Boat in 40° 15' N. 19° 18' W. near S.L.139. 3. Ships of 5th E.G. supporting S.L.139 carried out series of attacks commencing 2150/19 which resulted in destruction of U.536 in 43° 50' N. 19° 34' W. 17 survivors recovered including C.O. 4. Several attacks carried out by escorts of S.L.139 during night 20/21. In one attack by ESSINGTON U/B was blown to surface and disappeared leaving much oil. After several attacks by CRANE and FOLEY, final attack produced large diesel oil patch, wreckage and clothing.  
(D.A.U.D. 232050A to Cominch, Comnavu, B.A.D. N.S.H.Q.)

*lion*      *Australia*  
**638A.**

# MOST SECRET

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

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

232030A/November

OUT

To: A.C.N.B.  
Repeated N.Z.N.B.

Date 23/11/43

NAVAL CYPHER (XD) PLUG

From Admiralty

*A.A. Armament in Cruisers, Decree.*

It has been decided to increase the A.A. armament of  
Cruisers by surrendering "X" turret in all 4 turret Cruisers  
and "Q" turret in 5 turret DIDO's for the following reasons: ~

- 1.1 A large increase in close range fire power is  
essential against the Japanese and cannot be  
made good either by support from other ships,  
by fighter defence by night or by anything  
less than overwhelming fighter defence by day.
- 1.2 After full investigation it has become clear that  
no less drastic measure will balance the increase  
in topweight involved in providing an adequate  
A.A. armament.
- 1.3 The decrease in L.A. fire power can be made good  
against the Japanese by strategical and tactical  
concentration of our superiority in surface forces  
and by our superiority in Radar control.

2. The result of this policy which is now being implemented  
in R.N. Cruisers as they come in hand, is that there will be an  
increase in the 40 m.m. and 20 m.m. armament to the following  
maximum totals:

DEVONSHIRE Class, six 8-barrelled R.P.C. Pom-poms and up  
to 40 Oerlikon barrels.

AJAX Class, four 4-barrelled R.P.C. Pom-poms and up to 20  
Oerlikon barrels.

3. Since 4 and 8 barrelled R.P.C. Pom-poms are in very short  
supply it is intended to fit U.S. 4 barrelled Bofors instead,  
if these can be obtained. Owing to its superior ballistics  
one Bofors barrel is considered as roughly equivalent to two  
Pom-pom barrels at fighting ranges. The U.S. Quad Bofors is  
therefore looked upon as a good substitute for the 8 barrelled  
Pom-pom.

4. Request an early reply with regard to your intentions for  
HOBART. Two 4-barrelled R.P.C. Pom-poms and Mark IV Pom-pom  
directors have already been allocated. Additional R.P.C.  
pom-poms cannot be supplied and it would be necessary to ask  
the American Authorities for 2 U.S. Quad Bofors with Mark 51  
or Mark 52 directors.

MMB

232030A (A.C.N.B. (R) N.Z.N.B.)

B.C.D. (Approved A.C.N.S. (W))

/ circulation overleaf

- 1st S.L. (2)
- D.F.S.L.
- 3rd S.L.
- Vice Controllor
- 5th S.L.
- D.C.N.A.E.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (A) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (W)
- D.C.
- D.O.D. (H) (4)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- D. of P. (2)
- D. of P. (Q) (3)
- D.G.D.
- D.A.W.T.
- Admiral Blake (4)
- Hd. of M.A.S.
- Hd. of M. (2)
- A.M.W.
- D.S.D.
- D.T.S.D.
- D. of D.
- D.N.C.
- D.N.O.
- D.A.S.
- Hd. of P. (L)
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- Dep. Contr.
- D. of D.
- D.N.C.
- D.N.O.
- D.A.S.
- Hd. of P.
- Hd. of S.W.R.

BATH

MMB

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24.11.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation  
F.T.

1. C.S.1 in KENT with JAMAICA and BERMUDA, covering the Murmansk section of convoy J.W.54A arrived at Kola Inlet this morning. Capt. D.17 and the destroyer escort of J.W.54A together with the Kola Inlet section (8 ships) of the convoy arrived this evening.  
V.A.2 in ANSON arrived at Akureyri this afternoon and U.S. cruiser TUSCALOOSA arrived at Hvalfjord this evening.

SHEFFIELD.

2. SHEFFIELD (15th C.S.) arrived at Plymouth this afternoon from the Mediterranean and Bay patrol.

3. Typhoons damaged 4 minesweepers off North Brittany today.

North Atlantic.

4. BIRMINGHAM (for the Eastern Fleet) arrived at Gibraltar this morning. She had brought K.M.F.26 out from U.K. COLOMBO sailed from Gibraltar to take the convoy on through the Mediterranean.

Mediterranean.

"Avalanche".

5. About 25 aircraft attacked Maddalena, Sardinia p.m. today. Four of the enemy were shot down. M.T.B. 73 was hit and sunk in the attack. 16 U.S. aircraft bombed Civitavecchia docks today.

Toulon  
bombed.

6. 105 B.17s escorted by 36 P.38s bombed the submarine base at Toulon today. The target was well covered, and hits were also made on the dry docks and on shipping.

/Aegean...



24.11.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Aegean.

7.(a). The French contre-torpilleurs LE FANTASQUE and LE TERRIBLE last night carried out a sweep down the west coast of Scarpanto and retired through Kaso Strait. They met PHOEBE at 0600B today and returned to Alexandria.

(b). A patrol raided Nisiro (Dodecanese) today and destroyed a telegraph station and 2 caiques.

CEYLON.

8. CEYLON left Aden this morning for Bombay, to join the Eastern Fleet.

China.

9. A Mitchell made direct hits today on an armed merchant vessel in Amoy harbour and severely damaged or sank it. The docks were also hit.

America & West Indies.

U/B in  
Caribbean.

10.(a). SS. MELVILLE E.STONE was reported to have been torpedoed and sunk yesterday in 10.36 N. 80.19 W. (3.0.(I) Jamaica states that the ship was sunk at 0512Z today in 10.30 N. 80.18 W.) The American tanker ELIZABETH KELLOGG was reported to have been torpedoed yesterday morning about 100 miles N.W. of Cristobal and was left derelict. An unidentified ship is reported to have been torpedoed in 11.25 N. 81.20 W.

(b). Independent sailings of merchant ships of less than 14½ knots speed were suspended this afternoon in the Caribbean Sea south and east of a line joining Cape Gracias A Diaz to the south coast of Cuba at 80° W.

11. CLEOPATRA arrived at Philadelphia today from the Mediterranean.

War Diary.

24.11.1943.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

12. A Liberator bombed and near missed a destroyer or cruiser north-east of Garove Island after dark today. It is thought the vessel was damaged. Subsequently, two Naval Catalinas attacked a cruiser and two destroyers off the north-west of Gazelle Peninsula (New Britain). The cruiser was hit by a 1000 lb. and a 1500 lb. bomb, causing an explosion below deck followed by fire.

13. Fighter patrols sank 9 enemy barges in Empress Augusta Bay, Bougainville today.

E. Caroline Is. 14. U.S. Liberators attacked the airfield of Toyoa at Kusaie today and probably sank a vessel in the harbour.

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24.11.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

W/T silence. Your 240912\*. W/T silence should not be broken again for messages of a similar nature. NR Cl 142 over-rides A.C.I.37. 2. Secret block should not have been used.  
(C. in C.H.F. 241708A to BEAGLE) \*240912, BEAGLE's P.C. & S. 240800

Frigates for Eastern Fleet. A.M. 192345. 8 Frigates are now required for station duties in Eastern Fleet in place of 7.  
2. C. in C.W.A. is requested to nominate an additional River Class frigate accordingly.  
3. Captain Class frigate KEATS is nominated as relief in addition to the 7 names listed in above quoted signal.  
(Admty. 242130A.)

Movements.

T.F.121. T.F.121 in U.S.S.A/C RANGER with U.S.S. AUGUSTA and U.S.S. CARPS arrived Hvalfiord.  
(A.C.I.C. 241446A.)

SHEFFIELD. Arrived.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 241502A.)

S/Ms. Positions at 0800/25 and movements for following 24 hours.  
(F.O.S. 241658, 240351.)

HADLEIGH CASTLE. Admty. 171750. (1) Intend HADLEIGH CASTLE to sail with O.N.215 on December 9th and subsequently visit New London and Halifax for inspection by U.S.A. and R.C.N. Authorities. (2) B.A.D. is requested to arrange details of R.N. visit and for return of HADLEIGH CASTLE with first suitable convoy.  
(C. in C.W.A. 241731Z to B.A.D., N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

T.E.121. This is Cominch's 231800. Comnaveu direct T.F.121 terminate duty with British Home Fleet about 26th November and report Cinclant. Cinclant direct force to proceed that date to U.S. from Iceland. Grant necessary Navy Yard availabilities all ships upon arrival.  
(Comnaveu 242046.)

Operations.

Operation F.T. (Convoy J.W.54B.) My P.C.S. at 240800 062° 23' N. 005° 26' W. 337° 6 knots. Weather 42.91 58.63.  
(BEAGLE 240912A to C. in C.H.F.)  
C.T.F.121 reports:- Detached MUSKATEER, MATCHLESS, ASHANTI and OBDURATE at 1140Z/24. C. in C.H.F.  
191745 refers. T.O.O. 241531A. Ends.  
(A.C.I.C. 242250A to C. in C.H.F., V.A.2.H.F.)

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War Diary.24.11.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Operation Arrived IOKANKA, INCONSTANT, WHITEHALL, HEATHER.  
F-T. (S.B.N.O. Polyarnoe 241701A.)  
Capt. D.17 and destroyer escort of J.W.54A together  
with Kola Inlet section (8 ships) of that convoy  
arrived.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 241924A.)  
Akureyri arrival 1548A V.A.2 in ANSON. 2. Hvalfiord arrival  
U.S.S. TUSCALOOSA at 2240A.  
(A.C.I.C. 242348A.)

O.15. F.O.S. 182036 (not to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
Request you will sail O.15 from Lerwick at 0900A/26  
through 090° Muckle Flugga 5 miles and route Grey  
to 064° 07' thence direct to patrol line EE  
proceeding diving by day when N. of 062° 00'.  
(Capt. (S) 9 241013A to S.O. (S) Lerwick. (R) F.O.S., A.C.O.S.,  
C. in C.H.F., C. in C. Rosyth.)

Coastal 1. Orders for night 24/25th Nov. (A) 2 M.G.B.  
force short notice Newhaven. (B) 2 Chasseurs Patrol  
patrols. Q:Z.S. 384 between F. and E.A. 5 buoys. (C) M.L.291  
immediate notice St.Helen's. (D) LA COMBATTANTE  
immediate notice Yarmouth. (E) 3 M.Ls. from  
Portland patrolling 15 miles Southward of Portland.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 241555A.)

Operation Reference H.Q.C.C. 201600. (See Allied Air Activity)  
S-F. Propose M/SS. be (A) based on Faeroes. (B) utilized  
in conjunction with patrols, flown by A.O.C. 18  
Group as indicated in para.4 but not to proceed E.  
meridian of Greenwich. (C) divided into 2 groups  
when numbers sufficient. One working E. and the other W. of  
minefields keeping 20 miles clear. Request your concurrence of  
remarks.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 241605 to C. in C. Home Fleet (R) H.Q.C.C.,  
A.O.C. 18 Group, Admty.)

S/M. Positions of S/Ms. at 0800A/25th and movements for  
Patrols. following 24 hours. All times zone A.  
(A) SATYR (P.214) SEANYMPH (P.223) SCEPTRE (P.215)  
and SEADOG (P.216) on patrol between Soroy and North  
Cape, SATYR (P.214) withdraws to the westward at  
1900/25th. (D) VIKING (P.69) on patrol vicinity  
62° 11' N. 02° 33' E.  
(F.O.S. 241658.)

Negative patrol. Request total bombing restriction and route  
from position 063° 00' 004° 00' E. at 0400A/25th speed 6 knots  
3966 5674.

(ULA 242358A to F.O.S. (R) C. in C.Rosyth, C. in C.H.F.,  
Capt. (S) 9, S.O. S/Ms. Lerwick, A.C.O.S.)

/Glider...

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Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity - Contd.

Glider bomb attack on WINCHELSEA & WATCHMAN. At 1605/21 in 45° 41' N. 19° 43' W. Detailed account. (C. in C.W.A. 241853A.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Blockade runners. Following report graded B.2. dated 15th Nov.  
1. S.S.DRESDEN returned to Bordeaux 8th Nov. and is unloading having been damaged by mine.  
2. PIETRO ORSEOLO has completed loading and is ready to leave Bordeaux. (D.D.I.C 241207A.)

U-Boats.

Search for U-Boat by E.G.4. Homing on contact lost 2 miles position 42° 20' N. 19° 57' W. 03.25 Z. (A/C. Duty G. 240415 to 19 Group.) D/F bearings at 2007Z/23 and 2218Z/23 indicate that area of U/B concentration is now within 90 miles of 42 N. 22.30 W. (D.D.I.C. 241010A to E.G.4, SANTEE.)

Shift centre of area of search to position referred to in Admty. 241010.\*

(C. in C.W.A. 241038Z to BLACKWOOD, DRURY, BAZELY (R) E.G.4, Admty., S.B.N.O. Azores, F.O.C. Gib., H.Q.C.C., U.S.S. SANTEE.)  
\* Area of U/B Concentration.

Casualties & Defects.

O.N.S.23, VERSATILE. Your 231330. Unless you have received damage which renders you not fully seaworthy you are to proceed with your voyage. Report state of affairs. (C. in C.W.A. 240016 to VERSATILE.)

Your 240016A. Am hove to in 055° 58' N. 010° 30' W. Sea 50 feet high. Have sustained damage to depth charge trap starboard Oerlikon, aerial and other upper deck fittings full examination not practicable at present. Type 291 and 271 out of action due to flooding of starter. Consider should return to Londonderry when weather permits. (VERSATILE 240305A to C. in C.W.A.)

Return to Londonderry.

(C. in C.W.A. 241028A to VERSATILE.)

A.M. 231854 which is being passed to you. Request you will sail WINCHELSEA to Cardiff as soon as convenient. (C. in C.W.A. 241031A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

CHANTICLEER. Passed by N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.\* Further to my 191725Z para. (D) on examination after raising stern it is considered that damage could not have been caused by premature explosion of depth charge.

All damage points to severe explosion taking place well below ship's keel underneath position of rudder slightly to starboard

/of...

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Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

- CHANTICLEER  
(Contd.) of centre line, rudder and both propellers being shipped home in S.S. CLUMBERHALL. One blade of starboard propeller slightly damaged. Port undamaged. Rudder intact.  
(CHANTICLEER 241338Z to C. in C.W.A.) \* Re report on action and damage sustained.
- VULCANUS. Refloated 0505A. Extensive damage not anticipated.  
(S.T.O. Iceland 241406A.)
- WINCHELSEA. Arrived.  
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 241726A.)
- PRINSES  
MARIA PIA. Position K returning Clyde with motor trouble 9 knots, course 062°.  
(PRINSES MARIA PIA 240600A to Admty., Liverpool.)
- KISTNA. In view of urgent defects request I may go to Greenock.  
(KISTNA 240950Z to C. in C.W.A.)  
On completion of Escort proceed to Londonderry where defects can probably be made good.  
(C. in C.W.A. 241826A to KISTNA.)
- UNBENDING. My 211644.\* Owing to unsatisfactory engine trial sailing delayed by minimum one week.  
(Capt. (S) 7 241121A.) \* Re sailing of P.37 UNBENDING.)
- BITER. Your 241029 to A.C.O.S. only. Tug FREEBOOTER is proceeding forthwith keeping W/T watch on 1740 k/cs. per sec. In view of heavy Northerly gale warning suggest you seek shelter in South Minch. Report intention.  
(A.C.O.S. 241203 to BITER (R) C. in C. Rosyth, N.O.I.C. Greenock, C. in C.W.A., C. in C.H.F.)
- RENOWN. On her arrival in U.K. RENOWN will proceed to Rosyth where she will be taken in hand for docking and such A's. and A's. as can be undertaken.  
2. C. in C.H.F. is requested to arrange for RENOWN to be sailed from Rosyth to comply with A.M. 122332.  
(D.O.D. (H) 241521A to C. in C.H.F., C. in C. Rosyth.)
- PRINCE  
ROBERT. PRINCE ROBERT will be docked 26th Nov. for repairs to A/S dome having previously disembarked fuel and ammunition in adjacent compartment. Ship can be taken up harbour between 1045 and 1130 or between 1610 and 1715 tomorrow 25th.  
(2) At her discretion PRINCE ROBERT may part company with S.L. 139/M.K.S.30 S. after dark to-day 24th and proceed ahead to Plymouth escorted by 2 ships of 5th E.G. S.O. E.G.5th with

/remaining...

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Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

PRINCE ROBERT.  
(Contd.)

remaining ships conforming with my 231926A.  
(3) PRINCE ROBERT to report intentions also E.T.A. of 5th E.G. and L.S.Ts. at Falmouth and Plymouth. Only 5 L.S.Ts. are required to proceed Plymouth at present S.O.E.G.5th 241047Z\* not to all addressees.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 241609A to PRINCE ROBERT, S.O.E.G.5th, (R) Comlan crabeu, C. in C.W.A. Cousnaab, Admty., Comnaveu, K.H.M.P. HALIFAX, H.M.C.S. A.S. Devonport.)\*Re 5 L.S.T. to proceed to Plymouth  
Your 241609A E.T.A. PRINCE ROBERT at Plymouth (?16 or 17)00Z S.O.E.G.5th and L.S.Ts. at Plymouth 1700Z. L.S.Ts. (?to) Falmouth at 1300Z. Request C. in C. Plymouth pass to others concerned.  
(PRINCE ROBERT 241844Z to C. in C. Plymouth.)

M.G.B.40. LADY BRASSEY sailed at 1940/23 to assistance of M.G.B.40 whose engines had broken down. They sheltered for the night in Margate Roads and entered Dover at 1445/24.  
(V.A. Dover 241649A.)

Shipping & Convoys.

M.K.F.25A. Para.2 of C. in C.W.A's. 231647.\* When detached off Milford Haven U.S.S. ANCON is to proceed by (route) to Plymouth adjust speed as necessary so as not to pass Lizard Head before first light.  
(2) If Q.Z.S. messages are not held U.S.S. ANCON is to be sent into Milford Haven for onward routing. (3) Codeword for U.S.S. ANCON when detached is Scant. (4) U.S.S. ORDRONAUX pass to U.S.S. ANCON and report if Q.Z.S. messages are carried.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 240214A to U.S.S. ORDRONAUX (R) U.S.S. ANCON, C. in C.W.A., N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, Falmouth, Comnaveu, Admty.)  
\* Re M.K.F. 25A requesting ANCON be detached from Bristol Channel port as necessary.

AQUITANIA. Arrived Clyde.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 240614A.)

W.P.B.436. My 231141. Postponed 24 hours owing to weather.  
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 240655A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Operation F-T.  
(J.W.54A.) C.S. 1 in KENT, JAMAICA and BERMUDA in company arrived Kola Inlet.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 240745A.)

W.P.M. 436. W.P.M. 436 cancelled.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 240753A to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
My 240753. For W.P.M.436 cancelled read W.P.M. 436 postponed 24 hours.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 241019A.)

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Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- M.K.F. 25A. U.S.S. BOYLE plus U.S.S. NIELDS, U.S.S. LAUB, U.S.S. MCLANAHAN arrived Moville from M.K.F. 25A. (U.S. Escort Control, Londonderry 240900Z.)
- P.S. 24 and S.P. 24. Cancelled, due to weather. (C. in C. Portsmouth 241044A.)
- S.L. 139/M.K.S. 30. S.S. DELIUS has 5 serious cot cases and 5 walking casualties. Have instructed her to enter Loch Foyle to land casualties. Request arrangements for immediate transfer on arrival. Approx. E.T.A. 251500Z. (S.O.E.G. 7 241145Z to C. in C.W.A.)
- My 232045Z sea taken in at supply fan swamped main propulsion motor. Suggest baffle plates as A. & A. 2. Repairs completed.
3. My P.C. & S. at 1200Z 053° 58' N. 012° 27' W. 051° 10.
4. Weather 55.71 78.04. (ESSINGTON 241150Z to Admty., F.O.I.C. Belfast (R) FOLEY.) Cancel my 182247\* November. (C. in C.W.A. 241538A to 7th E.G. GARLIES, ESSINGTON, FOLEY. 5th E.G. WINCHELSEA, WATCHMAN, 40th E.G. Info. F.O.C. Gib., Admty., S.B.N.O. Azores.) \* Re PHEASANT and CRANE. E.T.A. Moville 1100A/25. A.F.O. 2718/43. (A) PETUNIA. (B) MARSA. (D) Four. (E) 6. (F) 26. (H) 3. (N) 39. (Q) 3 of (F) 2nd degree burns. (PETUNIA 241742A to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)
- R/T silence. Cancel my 021108. \* (C. in C.W.A. 241541 to F.O.N.F. Greenock, Cdre. D. W.A. Capt's. D. Belfast, Greenock, Liverpool. Info. Admty., C. in C. C.N.A., Capt. D. N.F.) \* Re Convoys and groups ordered to keep strict R/T silence except in emergency etc.
- QUEEN MARY. Sailed 2327/24 bunkered to capacity. (D.S.T.O. Greenock 242330A.)



War Diary.24.11.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- X.K.12. Sailing telegram part 1, 13 ships.  
(F.O.C.Gib. 240852A, 240911.)  
Sailing telegram part 2, 13 ships.  
(F.O.Gib. 240854A to Admty.)
- CAMELLIA's 241410 (N.T. in W.D.) X.K.2 (?X.K.12 intended) is to split into 2 portions at daylight 25th.
2. X.K.12F to consist EMPYREAN, RETURNO and merchant ships under own power escorted by CAMELLIA and 2 trawlers.
3. X.K.12S to consist of tugs and tows escorted by 3 trawlers.
5. CAMELLIA report trawlers detailed.  
(F.O.C.Gib. 241743A to Escorts X.K.12 for Cdre.)
- GARLIES. S.B.N.O.Azores 231630Z.\* Route to Clyde.  
(C. in C.W.A. 240854A, 241302A to S.B.N.O.Azores, GARLIES, (R) F.O.C.Gib. N.O.I.C. Belfast, Admty. H.Q.C.C. C. in C.Plymouth.)
- Left 24th.  
(S.B.N.O.Horta 240926 to S.B.N.O.Azores, (R) Admty. C. in C.W.A.)  
\* Requesting route from GARLIES to U.K.
- DIOMEDE. My 231601. Lat. of R/V is 035° 47'.  
(DIOMEDE 241001A to F.O.C.Gib. (R) Admty. TYRIAN, TUMULT, REDOUBT.)
- M.K.F.26. Numbers 2 and 4 O.F.tanks in SPEY are leaking so badly they have had to be shut off. Unless provision can be made for fuelling SPEY en route with M.K.F.26 it will be necessary to dock her before return. Fuel obtained this time from BIRMINGHAM.  
SPEY defects. (PELICAN 241123A to F.O.C.Gib. C. in C.Med. (R) Admty. C. in C.W.A. (?N.O.I.C.Algiers) SPEY.)  
C. in C.Med. reply see 2413.
- PELICAN 241123. Request you will sail 1 of 13th D.F. to relieve SPEY who should be docked to enable her to return with M.K.F.26.  
(C. in C.Med. 241536A to F.O.C.Gib. (R) Admty. C. in C.W.A. SPEY, PELICAN.)
- Axis Arrivals 23rd LE VIOLENT, HENK (from Castro).  
Shipping. Arrivals 24th SPERBER. Departures 23rd MARIBEL, JACQUELINE. Departures 24th LE VIOLENT (to Rivadea.)  
(Consul Bilbao 241225 to Admty.)
- TRIDENT, Departed 0931. My 222317, 232359 refer. Route.  
UNRIVALLED. (F.O.C.Gib. 241402A.)
- T.G.21.14. Re-encipherment C.T.M. 21.14 232200 action Com. Five (begins);  
T.G.21.14 comprising CARD, DECATUR, LEARY, BABBITT, and SCHENCK proceeding 241230Z to support U.G.S.25 course, speed etc.  
(C.M.S.F. 241455A to C. in C.Med. Admty. F.O.C. Gib. Comnavnav, for Info.)

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

RENOWN. Onward route from Q.B.A. 87A all positions N. and W. 036° 011' B. 039° 019' C. 045° 019' C. in C. Med's 231601 para. 2 refers.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 241659A to Admty. C. in C.Med. (R) C. in C.Plymouth, C. in C.Rosyth, C. in C.W.A. C. in C.H.F. RENOWN, GREENVILLE, ROCKET, ULSTER, TYRIAN, TUMULT.)

Swiss SS. My 181936 leaves about 26th.  
LUGANO. (D.E.W.D. 241715A to F.O.C.Gib. Info. C. in C.Med.)

British asdic officers & ratings lent to the Portuguese. Early return required.  
4. Portuguese should now be able to train their own A/S ratings with apparatus supplied.  
(A.C.N.S.F. 241855A to N.A.Lisbon.)

Spanish Warships Exercise. Your 171915 concur. Inform M. of M. that we appreciate their helpful attitude and are grateful for extent to which they have met our request.  
2. We hope Min. will understand that even now we cannot guarantee the safety of Spanish Warships in combat area, particularly as it is impossible to forecast in advance extent of our own operations  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 241908A to B.N.A.Madrid, Info. F.O.C.Gib.)

South Atlantic.

RELENTLESS. Arrived RELENTLESS 22 and sailed coastwise to Simonstown, S.O.A. 22 knots, E.T.A. 1600Z/25th.  
(W.D.Note: Eastern Fleet to refit.)  
(Com. i/c Durban 240551Z to Admty. C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) C. in C.S.A. F.O.E.A.)

INKPEN. H.M.Trawler INKPEN will visit Sao Thome E.T.A. 0700Z/27th, S.O.I. Freetown's 271229 Oct. refers.  
2. British Vice Consul Sao Thome has been informed  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 241656Z to Admty.)  
Cancelled - see F.O.C.W.Af. 250859Z.

DUCA D'AOSTA. Intend to pass position Z. at 0900Z/25. E.T.A. 1800/26.  
(DUCA D'AOSTA. 242130Z to F.O.C.W.Af.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Alexandria Movements. Alex. Nov.23rd Arrivals RENOWN, PHOEBE, GRENVILLE, ULSTER, ROCKET, ECHO, F.S. LE TERRIBLE, LE FANTASQUE. Italian Depot Ship MOCENIGO. (R.A. Alex, 240757)

Axis Shipping. A. German tanker GEISERICH (ex Italian MEGHELLI). 712 g.r.t. passed Istanbul from Aegean Sea and entered Black Sea 0530 G.M.T. 24th.  
B. Bulgarian BALKAN expected today from Black Sea in transit Aegean Sea. B.4.  
C. N.L.O. Black Sea informed.  
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, T.O.O.240940C to C. in C. Levant, S.O.(I) Levant, (R) Capt. S.I, D.N.I.)

Papers on French Re-armament. Asking for a personal copy of C.Cs. of S. papers affecting French Re-armament.  
(C. in C. Med. 241003A to B.A.D. (R) Admty.)

Air Report. M.S.22633 Pt.1 A.V.76 24.  
N.W.Af. A.F. Opsum 276. N.W.Af. S.A.F. 22nd (add). Reference my Opsum 275 total of 152 U.S. Fortresses (B.17) escort 44 U.S. Lightnings (P.38) were despatched to Toulon submarine base.  
N.W.Af.T.A.F.22nd (add). U.S. Mustangs A.36 dropped 42 x 500 Civitavecchia Harbour scoring hits on docks and adjoining railway near misses 1 M.V.  
(H.Q.N.A.A.F. 241340Z Recd. from Air Min. 0029/25. Circulated by Air Min. to Air Min. Depts. Admty. and W.O.)

CURIE Information. Minefields 3 miles off shore reported at Cape Croisette, Cape Couronne and Faraman and that shipping passes inshore of minefields.  
This information graded B.2.  
(Capt. (S) 10th, 241355 to P.67 ( CURIE) (R) 10th S/F. N.O.I.C. Algiers)

5th D.F.  
22nd D.F. Following is repetition of my 241400 (Begins)  
5th D.F. and 22nd D.F. are organised as follows.  
5th D.F. TETCOTT (Capt. (D) 5) BELVOIR, BEAUFORT, G.S. MIOULES, G.S. PINDOS, G.S. THEMISTOCLES.  
22nd D.F. EXMOOR (Capt. (D) 22) ALDENHAM, CROOME, ROCKWOOD, G.S. CRETE, G.S. KANARIS.  
(C. in C. Med. 241400A to Med.Stn. Levant 330B)

Situation /...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation 386682. I/39445 24th. Joint Army R.A.F. Int.  
 Aegean. appreciation 24 hours to 1000Z/24th.  
 (3) C.X. 23rd reports SS. CORSO FOUGIER (1,350 tons) with cargo munitions and torpedoes due sail from Piraeus a.m. 23rd. Destination unknown.  
 C.X.18th reports departure from Patras for Zante SS. CITTA DI SAVONA with 14 (or 10) guns and constructional material probably for fortifications. C.X.21st reports no caiques seen en route from Eastern Crete to Dodecanese since 19th on which date 3 caiques carrying troops and material reported torpedoed and sunk in Mirabella Bay. Comment. Ph.R/C Rhodes harbours show no arrivals or departures caiques since 21st.  
 (5) Departure enemy invasion craft from Porto Lago probably connected with occupation Samos. Still no indication enemy intentions Kastelorizo but our appreciation 22nd unchanged.  
 Sinking of caiques by naval action reported by C.X. para. 3 above appears to have had deterrent effect on this traffic. But consider unlikely enemy will permanently abandon this important supply link to Rhodes. Attempt to resume passage of larger shipping to Rhodes now probable.  
 (C. in C. M.E. 241425B)  
 386650. O/39384 24th. Cositrep 65.  
 (1) Int. Confirmed Germans landed Samos 22nd. Landing reported Maritocampos Tigani and possibly Vathi area.  
 (2) Ops. Aegean. A. Leros N.T.R. B. Samos. Up to 231200B following military and naval personnel had been evacuated. Brit. 222 incl. 84 from Nikaria. 358 Greek Sacred Sqn. 400 Greek Guerillas 1778 Italians plus 1200 en route from Dipburnu. C. Kastelorizo N.T.R.  
 (3) Naval Aegean. Night 23/24 FANTASQUE, TERRIBLE swept Aegean object destroy Crete, Rhodes shipping 240600B hours they met PHOEBE now returning Alexandria.  
 (C. in C. M.E. No.T.O.O.)

Convoy I am confirming that you agree with my 191625  
 Cycle. Para.5 (2) My para. 4. In view of A.M.231910 M.K.S. 32 now passes Alexandria 2nd Dec. and M.K.S. Convoys subsequently every ten days.  
 (3) Am issuing programme accordingly.  
 (C. in C. Med. 241452 to C. in C. Levant.)

Concur with your 191625 amended by your 241452.  
 (C. in C. Levant, 242139B to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.)

M.K.F.26 C. in C. Med. 241536A to F.O.C. Gib. See North  
 SPEY defects. Atlantic.

Boom laying (3) Re her turnover to Turkish Navy from Ministry  
 LA VAILLANTE. of (?Marine).  
 (4) The position at Smyrna is that the ten northern buoys in shallow water have been laid but all work except making nets has now ceased.  
 (B.N.A. Ankara, 241540 to C. in C. Levant (R) Admty. for D. of B.D.)

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

CEYLON.

Left.  
(Com. Aden, 241603Z)Med.  
Situation  
Report  
No.234.

(1) BARFLAKE was mined and sunk at Naples on 22nd, 3 Ratings killed.  
 (2) 13 mines swept to date whilst clearing western approach channel to Maddolena. H.M.M/S SANTA was mined and sunk during these operations on 23rd.  
 (3) Port of Bari was re-opened 23rd and destroyer patrols in the Adriatic resumed.  
 (C. in C. Med. 241907A to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant, S.O. Force H., F.O.C.Gib., V.A. Malta, F.O.Sy. F.O.T.A. Com. 10th Fleet. N.O.I.C.Bizerta, Comnavnaw.)

Minature  
torpedoes.

Your 201201.  
 I am informed that these miniature torpedoes were only in the experimental stage with the Italians who did not think much of them.  
 The Germans however were showing great interest and may be developing them independently. There are at least 20 two man torpedoes and 10 two man torpedo boats amongst the equipment in Northern Italy but as far as is known very few trained personnel are there other than what may have been trained since the Armistice.  
 (F.O.T.A.L.I. 241931 to F.O.Gib. (R) Admty. C. in C. Med.)

Situation  
Report  
No.45.

To 1800B/24th. Evacuation of small numbers of personnel from Leros still in progress.  
 (2) LE FANTASQUE and LE TERRIBLE last night carried out anti-shipping sweep round Scarpanto Island and Alimnia and westward to Gulf of Mirabella. No result.  
 (3) DZIK from Aegean Patrol reports 1150/17th she sank by gunfire close off Monemyesia 40 ton caique loaded with oil drums.  
 (4) SPORTSMAN from Aegean patrol reports 0724/15th close North of Naxos she sank by gunfire 100 ton caique loaded small arms ammunition. 1200/19th in 35 degs. 3' N. 24 degs. 15' E. she destroyed by gunfire 100 ton caique. Heavy coast defence batteries retaliated.  
 (5) Ref. Situation Report 0113 para.6. M.F.V. 199 has since arrived at Kastelorizo.  
 (C. in C. Levant, 242042B to Admty.)

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24.11.1943.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

M.A.(?71) Sailing telegram (2 ships).  
2. 0101Z 24th.  
6. KATHIAWAR not (?remaining).  
(N.C.S.O. Vizagapatam, 240253Z to Admty.)

B.Y.M.S. Arrived convoy B.M.75 Colombo portion escorted by SHORKHAM, TRAVANCORE not arrived CALCUTTA escorting Pamban portion.  
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 240318Z to Admty.)

U/B Ref. E.F. 416\* Y of 23rd.  
disposition. (B) Now estimated in Seychelles Area from report of unidentified aircraft over Silhoyetts Island 23rd.  
(D) Possibly now west of Colombo from reported sighting 23rd. No change any other area.  
(C. in C.E.F., 240415 to E.F.418 Y.)\* Re week U/Boat disposition.

Trincomalee Provision of police for Port security and anti-  
and Colombo. sabotage duties in view increasing importance Trincomalee as Naval Base. Considerations.  
(C. in C. Ceylon, 240817.)

BRITTANY. Request information whether it is intended that BRITTANY shall return to Eastern Fleet in time to take part in operations.  
(C. in C.E.F. 241208Z, 290436 to Admty., (R)  
C. in C. Med.)

Eastern My 122332 (Hush) para. 3. Following tentative  
Fleet arrangements are intended:-  
additions. 1. Group A. Through escorts joining Eastern Fleet.  
TUSCAN, TERMAGENT, TENACIOUS, KEMPENFELT, to be sailed by C. in C. H.F., and AVON, LOSSIE, PARRET, SHIEL to be sailed by C. in C.W.A. Arrangements will be made for three additional escorts to Gibraltar.

2. Group B. Through escorts joining Eastern Fleet.  
BLACK SWAN, AMETHYST, HART, WOODCOCK, PHEASANT, CRANE, WHIMBREL, ERNE and one A.A. sloop to be detailed by C. in C. W.A. Arrangements will be made for three additional escorts to Gibraltar.

3. Group C. Escort to Gibraltar.  
URINIS, UNDINE, ULYSSES joining Mediterranean Fleet. Onward escort as arranged by C. in C. Med. and C. in C. Levant.  
(D.O.D.(H), 241245A to C. in C. H.F., C. in C.W.A., Info., C.in C.Med.  
C. in C. Levant, C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.))

M.T.Bs., A.M. 121809. In consultation with C.C.F.  
M.G.Bs., Eastern Area, the following are the proposed  
proposed allocations of M.T.Bs. and M.G.Bs.  
allocations. A. 3 flotillas of 1942 American Vosper M.T.Bs.  
armed with 2 in number 21" torpedoes and 2 in

/number...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

- M.T.Bs, number 0.5" machine guns. Radius of action  
M.G.Bs. 180 miles. These flotillas are already  
proposed allocated to R.I.N.  
allocations. B. 2 flotillas of 1943 British Vosper M.T.Bs.  
(Contd.) armed with 4 in number 18" torpedoes and 1 twin  
H.A./L.A. Oerlikon. Radius of action 250  
miles or with only 2 torpedoes 280miles.  
C. 3 flotillas of 1943 British Power Boat  
M.G.Bs. armed with 2 in number 18" torpedoes, one power  
operated 6 pounder and one twin H.A./L.A.Oerlikon. Radius  
of action 220 miles or without torpedoes 250 miles.  
2. Maximum speed of all boats reduced from 40 knots to 35  
in order to reduce maintenance and strain on engines. Radius  
of action is calculated at 25 knots.  
3. Remaining M.T.B Flotilla to be 1943 British Vosper type  
armed either as in para. 1B or 1C as you desire.  
4. 6 pounder is the largest gun which can at present be  
mounted in these boats and is the most effective weapon  
available.  
5. Operational experience in U.K. where maintenance and  
accommodation of crews are not difficult favour the combined  
type of armament as in para. 1C, but in view of extra complement  
required for this armament and anticipated difficulties of  
mobile maintenance and accommodation you may wish to dispense with  
the torpedoes in this type. Tubes could be landed in U.K. in  
India.  
6. It is considered that the 1941, American Vospers comprising  
the 16th, 17th and 18th flotillas should be scrapped in spring  
of 1945 by which time 1943 British built boats should have  
reached India.  
7. Request your decision of paras. 3 and 5.  
(A.C.N.S. (W) 241535A to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) (R) F.O.C.R.I.N.)

U/Bs. Japanese submarines in Indian Ocean. 1 in Gulf  
Indian of Aden area from sinking of SS SAMBRIDGE 18th.  
Ocean. 1 off Mombasa or returning to base from D/F 20th.  
1 returning from Europe in Central Indian Ocean  
from D/F 18th. 1 fired on by SS. HONG KHENG  
23rd off S.W. coast Ceylon. 2. No evidence any  
German U/Boat at sea.  
(D.D.I.C., 241733A to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.), A.C.N.B.)

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24.11.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

U-Boat. Submarine attack reported in 11.34 N. 71.34 W. at 0500 G.M.T. 24th Nov. (Kingston, 240030R to Admty.) See 251214R.

TRACKER. Your 231322. TRACKER cannot arrive Norfolk before p.m. 28th. Escort not available until a.m. 25th, vide C. in C. C.N.A. 231620. (F.O.N.F. 241301Z to B.A.M.R.) As amended 251636Z.

LETHBRIDGE. STATICE delayed about 4 days due tank defects. 70th M.L. LETHBRIDGE will escort 70th M.L.Flottilla. Flottilla. Refer my 231240. (C. in C. N.A. 241354Z to S.B.N.O. W.At.) At 1800Z/24th sailed. At 1800Z/24th sailed LETHBRIDGE escorting 17th M.L.Flottilla to Bermuda route. E.T.A. 1500Z/27th. (2) On completion fuelling request you sail LETHBRIDGE to Halifax. (C. in C. C.N.A. 241821Z to S.B.N.O. W.At.)

N.S.H.Q. 1200Z/25th Nov. One probably North of G.V. and S/M East of C.S. from poor D/F at 1546/23rd Nov. Estimate. (N.S.H.Q. 241515Z)

Air J.S.M. 1335. 24th Nov. Control of Ref. COS(W) 927 (041331 Nov. from Air Min.) Moroccan (1) Transfer of R.A.F. Gibraltar to control of Sea Frontier Coastal Command has raised question with regard to and deployment of French patrol plane squadron (ref) Gibraltar. CCS 297 series). Air Min. have agreed to proposal by Mediterranean Air Command that this Squadron should be stationed at Agadir and come under the control of A.O.C. Gibraltar. Med. Air Command's Statement that squadrons already at Port Lyautey and Agadir are also controlled by A.O.C. Gibraltar is being questioned by Americans who feel that this goes beyond the intention expressed in the phrase in para. 4 of COS(W) 927 -

"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 Gibraltar".

(2) /...



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Air Control  
of Moroccan  
Sea Frontier  
and  
Gibraltar.

(2) We have always understood here that though the operations of the Moroccan sea Frontier are co-ordinated by Gibraltar the latter do not exercise operational control over the M.S.F. Request clarification as decision regarding French naval patrol plane squadron cannot be made without it.  
(J.S.M. 241625Z to C.C.O.)

Independent  
Sailings,  
Caribbean.

Independent sailings Merchant ships under 14.5 knots suspended immediately in Caribbean Sea South and East of line joining Cape Gracias Adigz to South Coast of Cuba at 80 degs. W. Sail all ?Merships of less than 14.5 knots bound ports this area via convoy listed until further orders.  
(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 241632 to All R.O's East and Gulf Coasts, All Reporting Centres Western Atlantic Area. Infor: Com. Gulf Seafron, Com. East Seafron, Admty. N.S.H.Q.)

LANCER.

My position 35 miles astern H.X. 267. Unable to overtake in present weather. Request instructions (LANCER, 241732Z to F.O.N.F. (R) HESPERUS.)

U.G.S.25.

Sailing telegram part 1. (2) 1716/24th.  
(6) Task Force 64 STEVENSON, STOCKTON, THORN, TURNER, JACOB JONES, HAMMANN, ROBERT E. PEARY, BLAIR, BROUGH, STURTEVAN, INCH, STANTON, SWASEY,

HOUSATONIC, S.C.1345 Task Group 21.14 CARD, DECATUR, BABBITT, LEARY, SCHENCK.

(7) 64 Ships when HOUSATONIC and CARD are in formation.  
(P.D. Norfolk, 241738Z, 241759 to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)

MIRAGLIA.

On information available capacity of MIRAGLIA as aircraft transport is estimated to be 10 Baracudas with wings off in her two hangars and 6 folded Baracudas on dock.

(2) Accordingly if C. in C. Med. confirms para. 2 of his 081249 she is not considered worth allocating to air transport service and recommendation that she shall be employed as depot ship for a special craft initially in Med. and subsequently in Eastern theatre is agreed. C. in C. Med. is requested to make early report.

(V.C.N.S. 241746A to B.A.D., C. in C. Med. Info: F.O.T.A.L.I.)

FENRIS,  
TAMARA,  
Safe  
Conduct.

Swedish Govt. intimate safe conduct vessels FENRIS and TAMARA will sail from St. John N.B. for Piræus by standard route at 0700 hrs. 27th.  
(2) Request you will inform air and other authorities concerned.  
(Head of M.I, 241806A to N.S.H.Q., Info: C. in C. C.N.A., S.B.N.O. W.At. Connnav, C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, F.O.C.Gib. S.B.N.O. Azores.)

YANKEE SWORD /...

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24.11.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.- Contd.

YANKEE SWORD (U.S.) YANKEE SWORD refloated 23rd now proceeding to St. Simons Georgia for hull inspection E.T.A. Charleston 24th. My 171525 refers. (N.S.H.Q. 241848Z to Admty.)

B.E.C.7, B.E.C.8. Anticipate B.E.C. 7 and B.E.C. 8 will be ready to sail(?) in company to Casco Bay 27th. My 220159 modified. (C. in C. C.N.A. 242018Z to C.E.S.F.)

H.X.268 Sailing despatch Part 1. (2) Position Q at 2100Z 26. 6 Task Unit W.7 CALDWELL, S.O. WINNIPEG, ARROW-HEAD, OAKVILLE. (P.D. New York, 242020Z to Admty.)

IERE, TOURMALINE, STRENUOUS Escorting SS. IERE, TOURMALINE originator with STRENUOUS depart Bermuda for the Clyde 251230Z (route). C. in C. U.S. Fleet 082152. (N.O.B. Bermuda, 242121 to Admty.) Amended - See N.O.B. Bermuda, 261341,

S.C.146. Average speed 7.4 knots. Off Oversay 2300Z/ 21st. All arrived. (D.T.D. 242129A to Connav, N.S.H.Q.)

Sub.attack and sighting Summary. No report 19th, 20th or 23rd. My 212012 POMPOON considered due sub action. Para. A. MELVILLE E. STONE torpedoed 1Q36 N. 80.19 W. 230530. Unidentified torpedoed 11.25 N. 80.20 W. 241430. U.S.S. FRAZIER reports sinking I.52 class sub by ramming and gunfire on 23rd Gilberts area. 2 survivors E all times Z. Para. B. U.S.S. ATHERTON attacked sound contact 17.44 N. 64.09 W. 230850. Para. D. B.24 sighted sub area 07.40 N. 58.10 W. 231150. (Cominch, 242137 to Admty.)

Speeds of Ships in P.B.64. It is noted with concern the inclusion in P.B.64 of one 8 knot ship restricting speed of convoy to 8 knots and three U.S. ships of 14.5 and above especially one 16 knots with troops, a total of 25 ships. N.C.S.O. Hormuz 190940Z refers. (Cominch, 242235Z to Admty.)

CLEOPATRA /...

War Diary.

24.11.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

CLEOPATRA. Philadelphia arrived 24th for refitting.  
(N.S.H.Q. 242310Z to Adnty.)

HIGHWAY. Sailed (Details of equipment).  
(B.A.D. 242311Z to Adnty. (R) C.C.O., C. in C.  
E.F., C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.), D.C.O. India.)

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24.11.1943.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest  
serial  
No.673.  
Nov.23rd.

2. Night 22/23rd Navy Catalina sank enemy barge northern end Saint George's channel where another patrol craft also observed.

12. Our P.T. Boats engaged several enemy barges loaded with supplies and troops Vitiaz Strait night 22nd 23rd destroying 3 probably another and damaging a fifth.

13. Five Liberators attacked shipping Halmahera area afternoon scoring 5 direct hits on 7,000 ton Merchantman which was left in sinking condition Kae Bay area. Two possible Destroyers, 7 other small Freighters also reported this general area.

15. Two enemy submarines reported 80 miles southeast San Cristobal forenoon. Another sighted on surface 20 miles West Gajongga Island afternoon 22nd.

17. 11 damaged barges observed Tonolei Harbour 23rd, 14 others observed anchorages this area previous day. 20 barges observed Matchin Bay area 22nd but nil in Buka passage. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 240850Z.)

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 241411A, 241415A.)

Submarines Attacked.

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

Para. 1. A/C reported making U/Boat contact at 0325/24th in 42° 20' N. 19° 57' W.  
Ref. A.M. 231106A. Para. A. (2)  
Br. HONG KHENG attacked the U/Boat sighted by her at 0634/23rd.  
(D.D.I.C. 241048A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

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25.11.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

V.P.  
Operations.

1. M.T.B. 625 sailed from Lerwick this morning and returned at 1510/26; the operation was unsuccessful.

2. BAZELEY and BLACKWOOD, of the 4th Escort Group, made a promising attack on a U-Boat early this morning in 41.42 N. 22.30 W. (about 270 miles North-East of Terceira, Azores). BAZELEY considers the U-Boat was destroyed. DRURY sighted and shelled a surfaced U-Boat in the same area, the U-Boat dived and the hunt continued.

East Coast  
Convoys.

3 (a) Owing to the withdrawal of coastal shipping for operational requirements and the lagging behind schedule of the "Bolero" build-up the Admiralty are asking C. in C. Nore whether he can run routine East Coast convoys on seven days a week. No reinforcements, other than the 5<sup>town</sup> class destroyers allocated to Rosyth, can be made available at present.  
(b) C. in C. W.A. agreed (26 Nov.) to run the convoys on seven days a week, but he pointed out that the scale of protection afforded to these convoys was already below what he considered to be the minimum to ensure reasonable safety. He was unable exactly to assess the increase of risk, but he estimated that the increase of cargoes will only amount to 2% per year, and that the sinking of 10 ships which might well result from a successful attack or well-placed minefields would nullify all gain.

(c) Another factor to be borne in mind is the risk of probable delays in the sailing of northbound convoys on account of escorts not being available when the F.S. convoy has been delayed by weather.

South Atlantic.

4. The U.S. authorities report that a U.S. Naval aircraft attacked and claims to have sunk an enemy submarine at 1045 today in 06.30 S. 05.40 W. (560 miles north of St. Helena). 20 to 30 survivors on life rafts were located in the immediate neighbourhood of this position.

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25.11.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

UNSEEN,  
patrol  
report.

5. On return from patrol off Toulon UNSEEN reports that she hit with one torpedo a 5000 ton escorted tanker at 1701/12 in 43.01 N. 06.00 E. Both her periscopes were damaged during an accurate hunt in 43.01 N. 06.00 E. a.m./16th.

"Avalanche".

6 (a) Destroyers carried out a patrol in the Adriatic last night, but sighted nothing. An M.T.B. sweep turned back on account of the weather.  
(b) 23 U.S. Mitchells bombed Ancona Harbour today. Most of the bombs fell in the water. No results were seen.

China.

7. In an offensive sweep in the Hanshow area today U.S. Kittyhawks destroyed 22 plus enemy supply boats.

America and West Indies.

8. UGANDA arrived at Norfolk today from the U.K. and left the same day for Charleston, to refit.

Australia and New Zealand.

5 Japanese  
Destroyers  
Sunk in  
Action.

9 (a) In the early hours of today 5 U.S. destroyers intercepted 6 Japanese destroyers 50 miles west of Buka (Solomon Is.) heading for Rabaul. Two of the 3 enemy units comprising the first group were sunk by torpedoes. The remainder

were/

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25.11.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

5 Japanese  
Destroyers  
Sunk in  
Action.  
(Contd.)

were pursued westward, and during a running fight lasting 2 hours 3 of the enemy were damaged by gunfire, two of which were overtaken and sunk, the third being seen later by aircraft burning and exploding east of Cape St. George, the sixth enemy destroyer apparently escaped undamaged. The Allied ships suffered no damage.

(b) Subsequent air search in the area reported two groups of about 150 survivors in the water, the second group being near the position of the burning and exploding destroyer. A surfaced submarine seen approaching the latter group from the North was bracketed with 3 depth charges causing a large oil patch and much debris; and it is considered to have been sunk.

10. Four Liberators attacked Halong seaplane base near Ambon at noon today. Results were not seen.

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25.11.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

- 19th M/S.F.  
(for Med.) Request information whether ships of 19th M/S.F. will be employed in escort duties. A.F.O. 3812/43 Para.1 (F) and Admty. 031332 refers.  
(Capt. (D) Greenock 250130A to Admty.)
- FURIOUS. My 131101 FURIOUS is now operationally efficient but has only 10 Barracudas available in near future. My 251721 refers.  
(F.O.C.T. 251724A.)
- REVENGE,  
RESOLUTION. Reference Portsmouth No.6037/0/012/47 of 20th Nov. 1943 great care will be taken by REVENGE and RESOLUTION and especially by RESOLUTION the outside ship to keep as many watertight compartments closed as practicable both by day and by night.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 251920A to F.O.I.C.Southampton)
- E.G.40. In view of C. in C.W.A. 231534 request dates for 40th Group may be amended to 10th to 13th December inclusive. Your 211105 refers.  
(Capt. (D) Greenock 250150A to PHILANTE.)
- ULA. P.66 (ULA) is to pass through following positions on surface at C.Cs. discretion 063° 01' N. 004° (05') E. 063° 01' N. 002° 20' E. 062° 01' N. 001° 01' E. 090° Muckle Flugga 10. Bombing restrictions follow. ULA 242358 not to Admty. refers.  
(F.O.S. 250331A to S/Ms. operating N. of 51° N. (R) C. in C.H.F., C. in C. Rosyth, A.C.O.S. Admty.)
- U.S.  
movements. Arrived ANCON C. in C.U.S. Fleet in European Waters pass to U.S. authority concerned.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 251037A.)  
Arrived SALAMONIE codeword Eager.  
(N.O.I.C. Belfast 251406A.)
- GLASGOW. GLASGOW is to pass gate at 1315A/26th and proceed in accordance with my 221747A.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 251334 to GLASGOW.)
- T.F.121. T.F.121 detached 12th Fleet Nov.26th. Report Cinclant for duty.  
(Commaveu 241342Z.)
- ONSLAUGHT  
& Russian  
craft. A.C.I.Cs. 172356 arrived Kola inlet.  
(S.B.N.O. N.Russia 251532A.)

/Escort...



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25.11.1943.

Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy - Contd.Escort of  
RENOWN.

ORIBI take JANUS and ATHABASKAN, under his orders pass Gate at 1700A/26 and proceed through position (S) 180° Bishop Rock 8 miles and (T) 048° 40' N. 016° 01' W. to pass through (U) 044° 59' N. 017° 59' W. at 2300A/28th and thence to R/V in 043° N.

with RENOWN 20, TYRIAN and TUMULT. Details of R/V with RENOWN who will be steering 000° S. of A. 23 knots will be signalled.

(2) On meeting ORIBI, JANUS and ATHABASKAN are to relieve TYRIAN and TUMULT as escorts to RENOWN to 050° when they are to part company and return Plymouth through (4) Codeword when not in company RENOWN Limited.

(C. in C. Plymouth 251651A to ORIBI, JANUS, ATHABASKAN (R) C. in C. Rosyth, H.Q.C.C. Admty., JED, TYRIAN, TUMULT, N.O.I.C. Falmouth, C. in C.W.A., F.O.I.C. Gib., F.O.S. GLASGOW, C. in C. Med. F., C. in C.H.F.)

S/Ms.

Positions at 0800/26 and movements for following 24 hours.

(F.O.S. 251752A.)

Operations.

Operation F.T. My 212046.\* Departure time delayed until 0700A/26. Admiralty pass to all concerned outside Russia. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 251024A to H.F. Operational, Admty., C. in C.W.A., A.C.I.C., F.O.(S), A.C.O.S., C. in C. Rosyth, S.B.N.O. N.R. (R) V.A.2.H.F., C.S.1, N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, N.C.S.O. Murmansk, Admiral Fisher.) \* Parts 1 and 11 of message 212046 have been circulated under T.O.O.212021A and 212032 respectively. Other parts not yet received.

Para.10 (A) of orders for Operation F.T. Intend BELFAST to return to Scapa with ANSON.

(V.A.2 H.F. 251337A to C. in C.H.F.)

S.B.N.O. Archangel's 212046A. R.A.54 B. delayed 9 hours, now sails at 0700A/26.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia 251610A to Home Fleet Operational, Admty. C. in C.W.A., A.C.I.C., A.C.O.S., C. in C. Rosyth, F.O.S., N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

Akureyi. Arrival at 1300A MUSKETEER, MATCHLESS, ASHANTI, OBDURATE in company.

(A.C.I.C. 251610.)

M/S.1 in HARRIER sailed for Iokanka and as S.O. of through escort.

(S.B.N.O. N.Russia 251630A.)

Seidis Fjord departures at 0710A/25. SAUMAREZ, VENUS, SCOURGE SCORPION, HARDY, SAVAGE, VIGILANT, STORD.

(A.C.I.C. 252334A.)

Operation V.P. My 170908A. Sailed at 1010A/25 M.T.B.625. 2. No. 3. V.P.54 is not being attempted. (A.C.O.S. 251112A.)

Operation S.F. Your 241605. Concur except that minesweepers should not patrol to Eastward of 2°. 2. LOYALTY at present at Scapa will be ready to sail on 27th Nov. Request you will sail her as required.

(C. in C.H.F. 251121A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

/S/M...

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Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.S/M.  
patrols.

Positions of S/Ms. at 0800/26th and movements for following 24 hours. All times Zone A. (A) SEADOG (P.216) SCEPTRE (P.215) SEANYMPH (P.223) on patrol between Soroy and North Cape. (E) VIKING (P.69) on patrol vicinity 62° 11' N. 02° 33' E. (F.O.S. 251752A.)

Enemy Intelligence.SS. MONTE  
ROSA.

Sea transport between Norway and German controlled ports. My 151548/Nov. and R.S. 2545/22 Nov. It is reported from Peverett Nov.11th that MONTE ROSA 13882 tons made her last trip from Albore to Oslo Nov.5 and is now to make 3 troop trips to North Norway. B.2. (N.A. Stockholm 251729.)

U-Boats.U/B.  
attacked by  
BAZELY,  
BLACKWOOD,  
DRURY.

C.A.F.O. 1342/43. (A) BAZELY and DRURY. (B) BAZELY Radar contact at 0241A followed by A/S contact at 0316A. DRURY Radar contact at 0231A chased on surface illuminated engaged with gunfire, dived at 0455A. (C) Radar and A/S by BAZELY Radar and sighting by DRURY. (D) 041° 42' N. 022° 30' W. (E) BAZELY 4 Hedgehog attacks. Hedgehog explosion heard. Intervals between Hedgehog projectiles striking water and explosions 20 to 20½ seconds. BAZELY has samples of oil brought to surface and is convinced destroyed U/B. States debris too minute for recovery. (F) Hunt for DRURY's contact continuing. (BLACKWOOD 250455Z, 251410A.)

U/B.  
in  
White Sea  
Approaches.

Russian Trawler reports sighting U/B. in 068° 19' N. 039° 07' E. at 1510Z/25. Russian light craft have left Iokanka to carry out search. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 251805A.)

Casualties & Defects.

M.G.B.40.

My 241649\*for 1940, 2140.  
(V.A. Dover 250915A.)

\* Re LADY BRASSEY sailed at 1940 to assist M.G.15.40 (N.T. in W.D.)

KISTNA.

Your 1406A. Para.3 E.T.A. Barra Head 0300A/26th. 2. Consider KISTNA requires docking. (KISTNA 251720A to C. in C.W.A.)

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Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

S.L.139                    My E.T.A. 1300Z. 5 Seamen survivors from SS. MARSA  
/M.K.S.30.                    (ESSINGTON 250925Z to C. in C.W.A.,F.O.I.C.N.I.)  
Your 251037A.\* My P.C. & S. 0800A/25 054° 55' N.  
010° 48' W. 040° 7.2 knots. CLARKIA in company.  
Request clarification of your para.3. Weather report 82.72 87.28  
04.19. \* re detaching of ships from S.L.139.  
(KISTNA 251032A to C. in C.W.A.)  
Arrived FOLEY and ESSINGTON.  
(F.O.I.C.N.I. 251732A.)

J.W.55A.                    Request you will ensure that M.M.S.1005 and 1023  
are ready in all respects for ocean passage and  
sail them to Loch Ewe in time for inclusion in JW55A  
(D.M.S. 250352A to A.C.O.S.)

T.A.74.                    Will be ready to sail from Clyde p.m/29th.  
AQUITANIA.                    2. Request you will sail ship to New York  
Admiralty will signal route. 3. Fighter protection  
codeword Sparrow.  
(D.O.D. (H) 251205A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

C.E.225.                    Postponed 24 hours owing to lack of shipping. Now  
sailing Nov.28th.  
(C. in C. Nore 251445A.)

M.K.F.25A.                    Arrived Maelfre Bay A.M/24 entering River as and when  
required.  
(P.S.T.O. N.W.Ports 251525A.)

T.U.3.                    T.U.3 will be ready to sail on 30th Nov. 20 ships.  
2. Escort. T.F.60 comprising U.S.S. ARKANSAS  
(S.O. escort oiler SALAMONIE and U.S.S. MACKENSIE,  
MERVINE, TILLMAN, ORDRONAU, LAUB, MCLANAHAN, NIELDS, BOYLE,  
DAVISON, PARKER, CHAMPLIN. 3, 4. Route. 5. Chop 7th December.  
6. Fighter protection codeword Redbreast. 7. C. in C.W.A. is  
requested to arrange sailing of convoy and escort.  
(D.O.D. (H) 251640A.)

H.X.266,  
SETTER.                    O.S.60/K.M.S.34. When junction with main convoy  
has been made proceed direct to join H.X.266. My  
251221 para. (2) refers.  
(C. in C.W.A. 251724A to SETTER (R) Cmdre. (D) W.A.  
AQUAMARINE, FIARAY, F.O.I.C. Liverpool, N.O.I.C.  
Milford Haven, S.E., H.X.266.)

East Coast                    From 1st Dec. East coast convoys will operate the  
Convoys.                    following timetable. Unless otherwise ordered  
Southbound convoys proceed by the Hearty Knoll route  
and Northbound convoys by the Would Route.  
(C. in C. Rosyth.251925.)

Owing to the withdrawal of coastal shipping for operational  
requirements, it is necessary to speed up the turn-round of the  
remaining tonnage between London and Methil. Moreover the BOLERO  
build up is lagging behind schedule. 2. M. of W.T. have urgently

/represented...

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Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

East  
Coast  
Convoys.  
(Contd.)

represented the essential need for E. Coast convoys on seven days a week as regular routine. 3. As a result of your letter 4932/50616 dated 16th October 1943, the escort situation has again been examined but it is regretted the reinforcements, other than the five Towns allocated to Rosyth, cannot at present be made available. It is hoped however that in spite of this you will be able to find a means of running daily convoys. 4. D.D.T.D. and D.C.S.S.S.D., Min. of War Transport, will visit you to discuss the problem at your convenience, after which your remarks are requested. 5. You may also wish to reconsider the laying of small short-dated minefields as a counter to E-Boats. PLOVER can be made available.  
(A.C.N.S. (H) 251956A to C. in C. Nore.)

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25.11.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

WANDERER. My 250430 (N.T. in W.D.) (Re red pyrotechnic signal seen).  
Nothing further sighted. Am continuing in execution of previous orders.  
My P.C. and S. 035 degs. 39' 008 degs. 37', 265 degs. 12.  
(WANDERER, 250825A to F.O. Gib. (R) S.O.E.G.B.1)

X.K.12. P.C. and S. 006 degs. 30' W. 035 degs. 58' N.  
290 degs. 5.5 knots.  
(PROSPEROUS, 250830A to F.O.Gib.)  
X.K.12 your 241743 para. 5 BLACKFLY, ST. ELSTAN,  
VIZALMA with ZWARTE ZEE and EMPIRE ARCH detached 0900/25th to join ROODE ZEE.  
Have instructed BLACKFLY use stragglers route if X.K.12 F reports attack. My position, course and speed 036 degs. 01' 007 degs. 22' 278 degs. 6 knots.  
(CAMELLIA, 250910A to F.O. Gibraltar (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.)

Request P.C. and S. of ZWARTE ZEE and other tow.  
Consider ROODE ZEE cannot make more than 4 knots fair weather alone. Consider it imprudent for me to proceed to U.K. having regard to steering gear defect temporarily repaired and fresh water supply.  
(PROSPEROUS, 251200A to F.O.Gib.)  
P.C. and S. at 1300 036 degs. 15' N. 007 degs. 11' W.  
280 degs. 6 knots.  
(PROSPEROUS, 251300A to F.O.Gib.)  
ROODE ZEE and tow now in convoy. Am returning to Gibraltar.  
E.T.A. daylight 26th Nov.  
(PROSPEROUS, 251915A to F.O.C.Gib.)

DAVID G. BURNET, CLUMBERHALL, Reasons for arrival Ponta Delgada. Your 240948 and Admty. 211912A. DAVID G. BURNET arrived Ponta Delgada 24th Oct. F.O.I.C. Gib's 231600\* Oct. refers. Master is unaware of any reason for his being detached from convoy as vessel was fully maintaining speed of convoy and well found in every respect. Other than daily provisions he has no requirements here and is ready for sea at short notice.

CLUMBERHALL arrived Ponta Delgada 20th Nov. .  
(1) Being south of 042 degs. N. and having lost convoy Master proceeded Ponta Delgada in accordance with Admty. 181011Z.  
(2) Owing to foul condition of bottom ship was unable to maintain speed of convoy.  
(3) Ready for sea at short notice: maximum 7 knots.  
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 250947C to B.S.N.O. Azores (R) Admty.)  
\* Re S.S.D. BURNETT escorted by U.S. Destroyer STOCKTON.

DAVID G. BURNETT detached from G.U.S.18 arrived Ponta Delgada 24 Oct. on orders given S.O. escort by F.O.C.Gib.  
Request information source or reason for these orders.  
(Cdr.10th U.S. Fleet C. & R. 251546Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. Lant, F.O. Gibraltar, S.B.N.O. Azores.)

INKPEN /...

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25.11.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

INKPEN. F.O.I.C. W.Af. 241656 (INKPEN to visit S.A.O. THOME 0700Z/27th). H.M. Trawler INKPEN visited St. Vincent 2nd Sept. Attention is called to B.N.A. Lisbon's 1551/20th July 1943, Admty's 2314/21st July and B.N.A. Lisbon's 1600/22nd July 1942 none to N.O.I.C.W.Af. Pending immediate instructions do not intend approaching M. of M. for permission to enter for time being. (N.A. Lisbon, 251209 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)

Italian Ships in Spanish Ports FULGOR. My 220036 (222036A intended) para.2. Request you will send tug FULGOR. I will withhold advise of Tug's dispatch for Spanish Authorities as long as permissible(?) for security reasons but I should know 24 hours before arrival at Cadiz. (N.A. Madrid, 251401A to F.O.Gib. (R) C. in C. Med. Admty. F.O.L.I., F.O.T.A.L.I.)

All supply ships from U.K. will proceed to Horta. Your 202348 M. of M. agrees this procedure but wish make slight alteration dates period (A) to be 5th to 13th period (B) to be 20th to 27th. (2) S.B.N.O. Azores 221606 was not received until after Admty's proposed arrangements had been submitted Ministry. Does Admty. desire to submit new proposals (?). (B.N.A. Lisbon, 251526 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O. Azores. N.O. Gibraltar. C. in C. Med.) Shipments for Angra are not expected to exceed about one ship per month and 1000 tons per ship. (2) Request you will comply with A.M. 202348 as a general rule and arrange exceptions with local authorities when necessary to avoid over long delays. (3) B.N.A. Lisbon now in London agrees. (4) Your 221606 refers. (D.T.D. 251717A to S.B.N.O. Azores, Info: B.N.A. Lisbon, F.O. Gib. C. in C. Med.)

BIDEFORD. Request very early reply to my 221631. (2) Estimate BIDEFORD will sail in O.S. 59 G. 27th Nov. (F.O.C. Gib. 251914A to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A.) 38th and 41st, Escort Groups.

CHANTICLEER, SALVEDA. CHANTICLEER's 231330. Approved for SALVEDA to tow CHANTICLEER to Horta when ready. (2) SALVEDA is subsequently to be sailed to Liverpool in S.L.141, M.K.S.32 or first convenient convoy. (3) Further signal will be made to arrange for survey of CHANTICLEER. (D.O.D. (H), 251916A to CHANTICLEER, S.B.N.O. Azores, F.O. Gib. Info: C. in C. W.A., B.N.A. Lisbon.)

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25.11.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Naval Air  
requirements  
investiga-  
tion.

Your 130906. Arrangements have been made for Lt. J.D. Harris, R.N.V.R. of A.C.R. Department, Admiralty, to visit Azores to investigate how Naval Air requirements in the area can best be met.

(2) Lt. Harris has been told that his R/C is to be confined to the Island of Terceira, and that while short visits to the ports of Horta and Ponta Delgada are not ruled out, there must be no question of a detailed inspection of the remaining islands.

(3) Lt. Harris leaves U.K. by air 26th and is expected to arrive Lagens a.m. 28th.

(Hd. of Air Branch, 252005 to S.B.N.Q. Azores (R) F.O.Gib. C. in C. S.A.)

BIRMINGHAM.

BIRMINGHAM sailed in accordance with C. in C. Med. 241119.

(F.O.Gib. 252207A to C. in C. Med. (R) N.O.B. Oban. V.A. Malta, C. in C. Levant, C. in C. E.F., N.O.I.C. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Bone, N.O.I.C. Djidjelli, N.O.I.C. Bizerta, F.O.I.S. Capt.(S) 8, N.A.C.A.F. 242 Group, S.N.O. Cyrenaica, Cdr. N.O.B. Palermo. A.H.Q. Aden.)

South Atlantic.Visit to  
Sao Thome.Your 251209 Nov. Cancel my 241656 intend KELTS visit Sao Thome about Dec. 10th.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 250859Z to B.N.A. Lisbon, (R) Admty.)U/B sunk  
by U.S.  
Naval A/C.Following received from N.O.I.C. Ascension (Begins) American Authorities report enemy submarine sighted at 1045/25 in 06 degs. 30' S. 05 degs. 40' W. attack made by U.S. Naval Aircraft who reports submarine sunk. Survivors located in immediate vicinity same position. 251207 (Ends.)  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 251405Z to Admty.)FANEROMENI  
(Greek)  
Sunk.C.S.A. Lourenco Marques, 221825 is being passed to you separately. My 031237 refers.  
(C. in C. S.A. 251500C to Admty. C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.))

Establishment /...

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25.11.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Establishment of British Meteorological Station in Uruguay.

In view of N.A. Montveideo 222005 it is requested that a decision may be given on the proposal contained in N.O.I.C. Falkland Is. letter number L1 2/6 dated 27th May 1943 a copy of which was sent direct to D.N.M.S. Admty.

(2) The additional information available from Montveideo would be of great value to the S.A. Station Fleet Synoptic organisation as a whole and would greatly assist the progress of

forecasting in south and east Africa.

(3) The reasons adduced by N.O.I.C. do not of themselves appear to justify complete abandonment of the forecasting office at Port Stanley.

(C. in C. S.A. 251857C to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Falkland Is. (Port Stanley), N.A. Montveideo.)



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25.11.1943.

Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

M.T.B.? 73

Regret to report following casualties when M.T.B. 73 was sunk in harbour due to near miss at 1840/24. 2 missing, presumed killed, (2) 6 slightly wounded, being reported by letter. (A.C.F.B. Maddalena, 251059 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, Combrax Portsmouth, C.F.B. Malta, C.C.F., B.A.O. ST.ANGELO, N.O.I.C., Maddalena, HORNET.)

CASABIANCA.

My 231215. Add 24 hours to all times. (Cmdre. Algiers, 251040A to C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 10, (R) 10th S/M Flotilla, F.O.C. Gib., PROTEE, LE CURIE.)

Slow convoys, speed.

Your 191625. Agree to reduction in speed of slow convoys but consider little protection is afforded by zig zagging at this speed. (C. in C. Levant, 251047B to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.)

Information re German controlled A/C bombs, Reports by ships on attacks.

In order that maximum information about German controlled bombs may be obtained, ships attacked or witnessing attack by aircraft with either H.S. or F.X. bombs are to state in their reports of proceedings the following details where possible:  
A. Numbers, types and tactics employed of attacking aircraft, including heights and distances from the targets and behaviour of aircraft before and after release of missile.

B. Number of bombs seen to be delivered and their type H.S. or F.X.  
C. Type of A/A fire used by ship and its effect.  
D. Information about behaviour of H.S. or F.X. including appearance, observed trajectory, proximity to target and numbers failing to detonate on hitting ship or water.  
E. (2) Damage report should indicate number of decks penetrated and size of hole in each deck.  
(3) 334 B not Levant station.  
(C. in C. Med. 251101A to Med. and Levant Stations 335B, (R) Med. Air Command, Admty.)

SICKLE.

Leave patrol to pass:  
(A) 035° 06' 026° 44' repeated 035° 06' 026° 44' at 1901B 27th thence through (B) 034° 25' 029° 59' repeated 034° 25' 029° 59' to arrive Beirut 1115B 29th. Surface on 28th.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 251133B to SICKLE (R) S.1.)

/QUILLIAM...

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25.11.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.QUILLIAM,  
LOYAL.

QUILLIAM and LOYAL detailed for patrol tonight 25th/26th. Destroyers return to Brindisi. F.O.T.A.L.I. 250925 (Not received) refers. (Capt. D.4, 251152A to F.O.T.A.L.I.(R) 4th D.F., S.N.O.L.E., N.O.I.C. Barletta, N.O.I.C. Bari, B.O.I.C. Brindisi.)

Request air protection for QUILLIAM and LOYAL from 0630A 26th. P.C. and S. 042° 11' N. 015° 37' E. 125° 25 knots to Brindisi. Codeword "Vampire" 529. E.T.A. Brindisi 1300/26th. (Capt. D.4, 251212A to No. 1 M.O.R.U. (R) F.O.T.A.L.I., LOYAL, N.O.I.C. Brindisi, 242 Group N.L.O., 8th Army.)

UNSEEN  
reports.

1. At 0701/12 in position 43° 01' 06° 00' fired four torpedoes at 5,000 ton tanker with escort of four U.J. Boats, one hit.
2. At 1256/19 in position 43° 03' 05° 43' fired four torpedoes at 2,500 ton M/V escorted by three U.J. Boats. Missed.
3. Search ordered in C. in C. Med.'s 161620 unavailing. Empty aircraft dinghy sighted in 42.31 05.14.
4. Both periscopes damaged during accurate hunt in 43.01 06.00 east a.m. 16th. (S.10 251205A to C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta, C. in C. Levant. Capt. S.1. Capt. S.8, (R) F.O.S. Admty. R.A., Alexandria.)

H.D.M.Ls.

- Your 091649A (not to HORNET).  
Approved to transfer a further flotilla of eight H.D.M.Ls. on loan to French for limited period necessary to cover immediate operational requirements.
2. Request you will report pendant numbers of H.D.M.Ls. concerned, dates of transfer and disposal of British personnel.
  3. It is essential that these vessels should later be available for transfer to Far East if required. You should tell French that terms of loan of these ships will be those already handed to M. Masse. (1st Lord, 251213A to C. in C. Med., (R) A.C.F. HORNET.)

M.E.  
Situation  
Report.

3. S.O.I. Istanbul reports German ship GERSORICH (ex-Italian Noghelli 700 tons) entered Black Sea from Aegean A.M. 24th Nov. Same source reports Bulgarian ship Balkan (3850 tons) due Istanbul 24th November from Black Sea for Aegean.
5. No further information enemy movements Samos area. Appreciation Castelrosso unchanged. (C. in C. Me. 251345B to W.O.)

/Protville...

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25.11.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Protville H/F D/F station commissioned. Protville H/F D/F station in 10° 01' 43" E. 36° 58' 06" N. commissioned 1200 13th. (C. in C. Med., 251400 to Admty., (R) F.O.C.Gib., C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, S.N.O. Tripoli.)

M.N.B.D.O.II. Your 201658A. It should be assumed that M.N.B.D.O.II will be withdrawn but probably not within the next six weeks. Meanwhile there is no objection to its continued employment in the interim period.  
2. Request you will inform A.F.H.Q. accordingly. (Director of Plans, 251510A to C. in C. Med., (R) C. in C. Levant)

Air Reports. Part 2 of my Opsum 277 A.V. 81E. 24th November, 16 U.S. Invaders dropped 24 x 500 Civitavecchia docks. Results unobserved. (H.Q.N.A.A.F., 251514A.)  
Air Cositintrep No. 138 Nov. 24th. N.W.A.A.F. night 23/24th Nov. No operations due to weather. Day 24th 105 B.17s escorted by 36 P.38s bombed the submarine base at Toulon. The target was well covered and hits were also scored on dry docks and shipping. 15 others unable to locate the primary target bombed the Antheor Viaduct but results were not observed. 10/15 enemy fighters engaged this last formation and one F.W. 190 was claimed destroyed. (Air C. in C. Med. No. T.O.O. recd. 252325.)

Italian ships in Spanish Ports. Request F.O.T.A.L.I. arrange with M.M. for personnel required for merchant ships in B.N.A. Madrid 222036 to take passage to Gibraltar in Italian Light Cruiser POMPEO MAGNO(?). My 241751.  
2. B.N.A. Madrid is requested to confirm entry into Spain has been arranged via Algeciras see F.O. Gib. 191055 and signal any special requirements for passports or visas to F.O.T.A.L.I.  
3. F.O.T.A.L.I. requested to signal names in accordance with B.N.A. Madrid 222036. (C. in C. Med. 251515A to F.O.T.A.L.I., B.N.A. Madrid, (R) F.O. Gib., Admty.)

CAGNI. Arrivals 1314Z VIRGINIA and Italian Submarine CAGNI in company. (Com. Aden, 251523Z to Admty.)

G.U.S.23. N.O.I.C. Port Said sail G.U.S. 23 p.m. 27th by inshore route to Alexandria. Request R.A. Alexandria sail Alexandria section a.m. 28th.  
8. WHITEHAVEN (SO) SAKTOURIS (GS) from Port Said. DELPHINIUM, SAXIFRAGE, KLO, APOSTOLIS from Alexandria. (C. in C. Levant, 251625B to Ships escorting G.U.S. 23 and K.M.S.32 N.O.I.C. Port Said.)

/WOOLWICH...

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War Diary.25.11.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

WOOLWICH. As there is considerable leeway to be made up as result of recent Aegean operations, subject to your concurrence, intend retaining WOOLWICH two weeks after arrival of BLENHEIM to avoid undue dislocation of repair work and sail ship from Alexandria about December 12th a.m. 081956 Oct.  
(C. in C. Levant, 251709B to C. in C.E.F.(R) Admty.. C. in C. Med., F.O.R.S.C.A., R.A. Alexandria, Capt. F., F.O. Ceylon, F.O.C.R.I.N., F.O.E.A., Dir. Gen. Ship repairs, A.S. Alexandria)

German controlled A/C bombs. Following is repetition of C.T.G.8.2's 081430. Your 240829 (W.R. request for repetition of 081430) refers. Begins. Addressed: Cominch and Commaveu (R) Commavnaw, V.C.N.O. from C.T.G.8.2. This amplifies my 062020. (Technical details.) (C. in C. Med., 251715A to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence. No. 59 of Nov. 24th for M.I.3. Judy gives the following dated Nov. 1st - Nov.13th Genoa. Re Submarine pens building. German minefield in Gulf about 1,500 metres from the port with gaps opposite S. Margherita, Portofino and Nervi.  
(M.A. Berne, No T.O.O. recd. 251825 to F.O.)

Mines Bari. Mining at Bari your 231941 refers. Analysis delayed by non arrival of M/S reports No. 5.  
2. Evidence show mines carefully laid in line or lines this precludes aircraft or fishing boat laying.  
3. It is not considered likely that a lay before evacuation would have been made employing such a long ripening period.  
4. Evidence from submarine tracking points strongly to U/Boats lays boldly executed.  
(C. in C. Med. 252103A to Admty. (R) F.O.T.A.L.I. Capt. M/S Med.)

TORBAY. After dawn 26th or as soon as your presence in present area is compromised proceed with all dispatch to patrol off Karlovassi (Samos).  
(Capt. (S) 1, 252207 to TORBAY (R) C. in C. Levant 1st S/M Flot.)

Ex-Yugoslav M/Vs. under Partisan Flag - Policy. M.W.T. have received report that some of the ex- Yugoslav merchant ships recaptured from Italians are being employed in supplying Partisans with Partisan crews and under Partisan flag. Under the general agreement with Allied Governments, recaptured Allied ships ought to be returned to the Gov. concerned and Yugoslav Gov. are likely to take the transfer of ships to Partisans even more hardly than carriage of supplies in Yugoslav Gov. ships.

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25.11.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Ex-Yugoslav  
M/Vs under  
Partisan  
Flag -  
Policy.  
(Contd.)

2. As important political issues are involved, it is desirable for us to know exactly what is being done. Request clarification, and particularly on the following points:-
- a. Whether, and if so, how many, Yugoslav merchant ships have actually been turned over by us to Partisan flag.
  - b. Whether any Yugoslav naval vessels have been turned over to Partisans.
  - c. What has been done with Yugoslav personnel formerly serving in Italian Navy or Mercantile Marine?
  - d. Are Partisan crews former Partisan adherents or new recruits from among (c)?
  - e. How far, if at all, Yugoslav Gov. warships or merchant ships have been used to carry supplies to Partisans.
3. C. in C. Med. and C. in C. Levant pass to Resident Minister and H.M. Ambassador respectively.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 252230A to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.T.A.L.I., C. in C, Levant.)

Situation  
Report  
No.235.

Maddalena attacked by about 25 aircraft p.m.24th  
M.T.B.73 hit and sank. 4 planes shot down.  
(C. in C. Med., 252234A to Admty.)

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25.11.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- X.C.11. Arrived, escorted by QUICKMATCH.  
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 250315Z to Admty.)
- U/Boat Ignore Eastern Fleet 416Y (231619) of 23rd.  
dispositions No fresh information.  
No. 3. (C. in C.E.F. 250329Z to E.F.419Y.)
- SANTHIA Calcutta report SANTHIA caught fire on surface  
fire. GARDLN (sic) reached jetty last night and  
capsized. No loss of life. Deputy P.S.T.O.  
India proceeding to Calcutta by air tomorrow.  
(P.S.T.O. India, 250457Z to D. of S.T. (R) C. in  
C. E.F., A.P.S.T.O., India N.O.I.C. Karachi.)
- M.T. Ships 1. Armindia requires loading of M.T. ships to  
loading to revert to Calcutta after M.A.21 from Vizagapatam.  
revert to My 061013 refers.  
Calcutta, 2. It is hoped that in the sailing on 11th Dec.  
Convoy from Saugor and in subsequent convoys I shall be  
Cycle. able to despatch 3 personnel and 2 M.T. ships  
in each convoy keeping to the present cycle of  
sailing dates.  
3. Request your concurrence to para. 1 also  
to increase in number of ships involved in para. 2.  
(P.S.T.O.I. Delhi, 250922Z to C. in C.E.F.)
- J.C.27. Sailing telegram (6 ships)  
2. 0930Z/25th.  
6. CALCUTTA full voyage. QUICKMATCH to  
Trincomalee.  
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 250930Z to Admty.)
- B.P.104. Sailing telegram (14 ships).  
CESSNOCK, 2. 0830Z/25th.  
KONKAN. (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 250951Z to Admty.)
- Anti- 2. As from 1st Dec. 1943 all Admiralty or  
torpedo F.O.N.I.C. instructions issued as to Areas in  
gear (N.D. which the gear is to be streamed, are cancelled.  
or Mark 3. Independents. This para. is to be  
29) fitted included in route instructions for all ships.  
in Merchant Routeing authorities on sailing a ship, if  
Ships. informed of a definite danger area adjacent to  
their ports, are to order anti torpedo gear to be  
streamed in danger area and then to be recovered.  
In all other cases Admiral Colombo or Admiral  
Mombasa (diverting authorities) will order each ship by  
individual B.A.M.S. messages, where to stream and recover the  
gear.
4. Ships in convoy. In accordance with I.C.O.C.68 anti-  
torpedo gear is only to be streamed if threatened with attack.  
With only Acting Cmdre., the decision rests entirely with S.O.  
Escort. He should if possible consult the Cmdre. and Masters of  
ships fitted at Convoy Conference and inform them of proposed  
action in event of attack.  
(C. in C.E.F. 251154Z to all concerned on the station) Amended,  
See C. in C. E.F., 020341Z/Dec. /Landing...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

- Landing Ships and Craft. Request early report on state of Landing Ships and Craft in accordance with F.A.N.218. (Hd. of M.II, 251236A to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.))
- M.A.17. 1.(Calcutta section) ref. N.C.S.O. Vizagapatam's 240253 (4 ships) Sailing telegram.  
6. KATHIAWAR, PANSY (not corrupt group)). (N.C.S.O. Calcutta, 251909Z to Admt.)
- Defence of Madagascar, Control of Naval and Air bases. OZ 3888 25th. Following from Chiefs of Staff. We are considering whether the general defences of Madagascar and responsibility for provision of necessary forces should be handed over to the French now that the danger of external threat to the safety of the island has diminished and will be further reduced as the war against Japan becomes intensified.
2. Nevertheless, we must retain full control of all naval and air bases which we use at present and must reserve right to use or to construct any additional bases of facilities which we may consider necessary. Facilities at Diego Suarez and the vicinity may also be required for purposes of training and/or mounting of operations against the Japanese.
3. Request your views:-  
(Air Min. 251935Z to G.O.C. in C.E.Af. (R) C. in C.E.F. and A.O.C. in C.M.E.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

TRACKER,  
ROXBOROUGH.

1. At 1030/25 sailed TRACKER escorted by ROXBOROUGH from Argentia to Norfolk, route.  
3. In absence other orders request TRACKER on completion repairs be sailed to Argentia with same escort.  
(F.O.N.F. 251055Z to Com. 5.)

ARETHUSA.

Destination in U.K. of ARETHUSA will be Clyde for onward routing to Chatham where she will be taken in hand for completion of outstanding work.  
2. B.A.M.R. pass to ARETHUSA.  
(D.O.D.(H) 251212A to B.A.M.R. (R) N.S.H.Q.  
C. in C.C.N.A. C. in C.Nore, C. in C.W.A. A.S.  
Chatham, C. in C.H.F. F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

MELVILLE  
E.STONE,  
unidentified  
vessel possibly  
sunk  
24 Nov.

Balboa reports A. U.S.Ship MELVILLE E.STONE sunk by torpedo 0512Z/24 010° 30' N. 080° 18' W.  
B. Unidentified vessel possibly sunk 1448Z/24 011° 25' 080° 20'. My 240030 position doubtful  
A. above may refer.  
(S.O.I. Jamaica 251214R to Admty.)

FREDERICTON.

H.J.70. One merchant ship. E.T.A. 2130Z. Boiler hours, No. 2 100. Defects. Can ship enter if arrival is after dark. W/R 4666 0514.  
(FREDERICTON 251300Z to BLANKNEY, (R) D.Halifax.)

MAURETANIA,  
(A.T.76.)

Sailed as in my 231941 and 241311. Chebucto 1330Z/25th.  
(C. in C.C.N.A. 251333Z.)

FRANCIS V.  
SYLVIA  
aground.

British Schooner FRANCIS V.SYLVIA went aground on Pacific Reef Florida Strait 12th expected to be refloated.  
(S.O.I. Jamaica 251531R to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

U.S. S/M  
Estimate.

(Cominch 251543.)

BENTLEY  
(B.D.E.74.)

Boston departure 24th for Bermuda.  
(N.S.H.Q. 251615Z to Admty.)

PASTEUR  
(A.T.76A.)

Departing New York 1630Z/26th at Ambrose. E.T.A. Liverpool Bar Light Vessel 032100 Dec. S.O.A. 19.5 knots. (Route).  
(P.D.New York 251630Z to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)

/Vessels...



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Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Vessels ex Wabana ore trade. 1. M. of W.T. will have 10 vessels ex Wabana ore trade ready to proceed with lumber cargoes to U.K. from Halifax at end of December.  
2. Since speed will preclude their sailing in S.C. convoy, is it intention to sail them either in A. special convoy (slow speed precludes inclusion in S.C.) or B. independently.  
3. If A., difficulty in providing escort over and above present commitments envisaged. Request your proposals. (N.S.H.Q. 251641Z to Admty.)

Sub. attack & sighting summary. Para. A. My 242137 MELVILLE E.STONE torpedoed 240512 sunk. ELIZABETH KELLOGG torpedoed area 11.10 N. 80.42 W. 230830 derelict. Liberator sank sub. 06 S. 05.40 W. 251045 with 25 survivors reported in life rafts. All times Z.  
Para. B. Army plane bombed sub. 11.10 N. 79.10 W. 242320. Sub. contact 17.22 N. 64.35 W. 250257. U.S.S. CLEMSON attacked sub. 41.23 N. 32.34 W. 222040. BOGUE Radar contact same area about 222046. (Cominch 251800 to Admty.)

H.M.S. ANQUILLA (P.F.72.) At speed 16 knots ANQUILLA (P.F.72) departs Boston Gate 0830 zone time 26th en route Casco Bay via Butt of Canso. ((U.S.) C.T.G. 02.1 251825 to S.O.(U.S.) P.A.Casco)

UGANDA. UGANDA will depart 2000Z/25 escorted by P.L. 123E Charleston M.A.C.R.I.(C) (P.D.Norfolk 251858 to Admty.) My 251858 departed Cape Henry. (P.D.Norfolk 252052 to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)

PATROLLER. When ready about 29th sail PATROLLER San Francisco to Melbourne for onward routeing to Cochin India. Advise routeing instructions. Vessel will ferry non-operational aircraft. ((U.S.) Cdr. i/c U.S.Fleet 241948Z to (U.S.) C.W.S.F. (R) (U.S.) C. in C.U.S.Pacific Fleet, (U.S.) Cdr. Hawaiian S.F. (U.S.) Cdr. 3rd U.S.Fleet, (U.S.) Cdr. 7th U.S.Fleet, Admty. C. in C.E.F. A.C.N.B. N.Z.N.B. C. in C.S.W.P.)

H.M.S.KEATS (B.D.E.278) KEATS (B.D.E.278) en route Bermuda and at a speed of 15 knots departs Boston Gate 1500Q/25. (C.T.G. 02.1 252016 to N.O.B.Bermuda.)

T.A.77. (QUEEN MARY). Sailed from U.K. 24/11 for New York.  
2. Details of personnel on board have been signalled by W.O. to Milstaff Washington and C.G.S. Ottawa. (D. of S.T. 252025A to B.M.W.T.New York, B.A.D.(R) N.S.H.Q.)

/Stragglers...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Stragglers 1 arrival St. Johns N.F. from H.X. 266 JOHN  
report No.28. WANAMAKER (U.S.) Nov. 18th. Lost convoy.  
Insufficient speed.  
(N.S.H.Q. 252141Z to Admty.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial After dark single destroyer unsuccessfully  
No. 674 Nov. attacked by patrol Liberator 70 miles N.E. Garove  
24th. Island heading south.  
2. Noon sighting Wewak Harbour one patrol craft,  
2 small merchantmen also burning Sea Truck  
attacked Wokeo Island (30 miles to N.E.)  
4. Submarine sighted forenoon off Merobe Harbour.  
10. Eighteen Liberators despatched to strike Shipkin Kae Bay  
area midday 23rd. 13 attacked approx. 12 merchant ships varying  
from 500 to 5000 tons possibly 1 or 2 destroyers in Wasile Bay  
without success. Other five hit 3 ship convoy described 1 each  
corvette, Sea Truck, 8000 freighter, transport 40 miles north  
of Southeastern Tip Halmahera. Largest ship in convoy hit with  
quarter ton bomb also 2 near misses. Sea Truck received 2 near  
misses. Possibly 2 or 3 other ships seen vicinity convoy.  
About 6 enemy fighters intercepted bombers over Wasile Bay and  
one destroyed certain another damaged. All our aircraft returned.  
13. Surfaced Jap submarine attacked by aircraft 100 miles West  
Buka Passage dawn 23rd. One direct hit scored and submarine  
claimed probably destroyed.  
14. Marine raiding party landed Mouthsy Torokina River (3 miles  
E. Cape Torokina) night 22nd/23rd.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 250645Z.)

LE TRIOMPHANT. F.S.LE TRIOMPHANT departed Fremantle 0630Z/25th  
for Diego Suarez escorting convoy O.W.8  
CEDARMILLS and JAVA to position A. C. in C.E.F's  
081453 refers. From A. JAVA proceeds to Bandar  
Shahpur (P.G.) CEDARMILLS to Karachi. My 250707 refers.  
(N.T. in W.D.)  
(N.O.I.C. Western Australia 250803Z to C.S.W.P.S.F.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 251430A.)

/Following...

War Diary.

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Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported - Contd.

Following further attacks early 25th on U-Boats in area 42° 00' N. 22° 00' W. and many W/T signals from there, this group may shift to south or south-east as intention is presumably to operate against S.L.140/M.K.S.31 in an area where their presence has not been previously established.

Other estimated positions.

(D.D.I.C. 251435A.)

Submarines Attacked.

Sub. attack  
& sighting  
summary for  
24 hrs. to  
0900Z/25th.

Para. A. DRURY, BAZELY and BLACKWOOD, attacked U-Boat at 0131 and 0141/25th in 41° 42' N. 22° 30' West.

Para. B. An unidentified A/C presumably from Japanese U-Boat reported on 23rd in 04° 30' S. 55° 14' E.

(D.D.I.C. 251109A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

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Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation  
F.T.

1. Convoy R.A. 54 B was delayed, and sailed this morning from Archangel. Three ships of the Archangel section went aground in the Channel inside Baku.

C.T.F.121.

2. RANGER with AUGUSTA and TUSCALOOSA and 5 U.S. destroyers left Hvalfiord this afternoon for the U.S.A. Bomber Command aircraft laid 121 mines last night in Biscay ports and the Frisian/Elbe area.

North  
Atlantic  
Convoy  
Cycles.

3. In order to make more forces available for the anti-U-Boat offensive the Admiralty propose to open out the North Atlantic convoy cycle and to sail fast convoys on an alternate 7 and 8 day cycle and slow convoys on a 15 day cycle.

Portsmouth  
Approaches.

4. Portsmouth eastern entrance and Needles Channels were closed at 2148A today on account of suspected minelaying by E-Boats this evening. The inshore routes were re-opened at 271146 A.

5. SS. MORAR in Convoy F.N.88 was mined and sunk today off Harwich, through quitting the swept channel.

U-Boat's in  
Biscay  
Approaches.

6 (a) BAZELEY and DRURY sighted and attacked 2 U-Boats at 0148 today in 40.07 N 21.05 W. (about 265 miles North-East of San Miguel, Azores) BENTINCK, BYARD and CALDER took over the hunt and report that they probably damaged the U-Boat. About noon they proceeded to join S.L.140, and during the early evening S.O. E.G.4. reported that CALDER was reduced to 13 knots by damage caused, it was believed, through striking submerged wreckage, and BYARD's full speed was reduced to 17 knots by defect. A/C. H/172 attacked a U-Boat with depth charges at 0449 today in 38.40 N. 19.00 W. (b) At 2035Z the three frigates obtained contact with a U-Boat in 38.40 N. 18.14 W. and heavy under-water explosions recurred 73 seconds after attack by CALDER and under BENTINCK during drop of pattern, the latter ship being badly shaken but only slightly damaged. At 2333Z contact having been lost the ships proceeded to join S.L.140.

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SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Air Raid  
on Bremen.

7 (a) 423 out of 508 Fortresses attacked Bremen today. 25 are missing.  
(b) 8 Typhoon bombers attacked the MÜNSTERLAND in Cherbourg Harbour.

Russian  
Reports of  
U-Boat  
Sinkings.

8. The Russians report that whilst escorting convoy J.W.54 A the American type minesweeper No.112 sank a German U-Boat at 1145A/24 about 100 miles east of Kola Inlet and a second German U-Boat was attacked about 150 miles east of Kola Inlet at 1008/24 by the Russian destroyer GROZNI, after which a patch of oil 200 meters in diameter and wreckage was seen. O.I.C.Comment (6 Dec.) is that there is no corroboration of the presence of any U-Boat in the area mentioned.

Mediterranean.

"Avalanche".

9(a) The detached squadron patrolled south of Ancona last night. At 0100 today QUILLIAM and LOYAL illuminated Civitanova, south of Ancona, and fired 34 rounds of H.E. into the harbour. No shipping was seen. Three destroyers operated in the Straits of Otranto; nothing was sighted.  
(b) 24 U.S. Mitchells bombed Ancona today. Warehouses, the railway and docks were hit, and vessels in harbour were near missed.

K.M.F.26  
attacked.

10. About 30 Enemy aircraft attacked convoy K.M.F. 26 off Bougie at dusk today. SS. ROHNA was hit and sunk with loss of half the troops embarked, darkness, a heavy swell and the initial bomb damage having hampered the work of the 6 rescue ships.  
Fighters report 8 enemy aircraft shot down and 5 damaged; and L.C.I.(L) 174 shot down one more.

Aegean.

11 (a) A raid was carried out last night on the Fascist positions at Panormiti, Symi.  
(b) An L.R.D.G. patrol was successfully evacuated from Mykonos last night by high speed launch.

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War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

12 (a) C. in C. E.F. sends today a message giving details of the alteration to existing routing of shipping which will be adopted in the event of renewed U-Boat activity in the Mozambique Channel or to the eastward of Madagascar.

(b) The remarks of C. in C. S.A. are in his 291242C.

China.

13. Two U.S. Mitchells on a search for shipping in the South China Sea attacked a 200 ft. freighter off the island of Tsai Su (85 miles E.N.E. of Hong Kong) today, and left it on fire.

Australia and New Zealand.

14. Aircraft attacked a surfaced submarine at noon today 40 miles west of the north part of Buka Island (Solomon Is). It is believed the depth charges hit the vessel, which resurfaced 40 minutes later, stem first.

15. Last night, two Allied patrol craft sank an enemy barge 18 miles north of Bouga, and two others sank 5 loaded landing craft carrying about 200 men and equipment off the western extremity of New Britain.

16. A YUBARI class cruiser or large destroyer was hit last night with a 1000 lb bomb by a Liberator 50 miles West of the North-West tip of Gazelle Peninsula, New Britain, causing a great explosion.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

- E.G.6. In order to avoid confusion with C.5 group, 5th Escort Group is to be renumbered 6th Escort Group forthwith.  
(C. in C.W.A. 260840Z.)
- 19th M/S F. Your 250130 minesweeping and escort duties as situation requires.  
(D.M.S. 261248A to Capt. D.Greenock.)

Movements.

- T.F.121. This is 251736 from C.T.F.121 to A.C.I.C. for action. C.T.F.121 departs in RANGER with TUSCALOOSA, AUGUSTA, FORREST, CORRY, HOBSON, FITCH and CAPPS from 1st 63.46 N. long. 24.24 W. at 1510/26. All times Z. Speed 14 knots through (positions) thence as ordered by Cinclant. E.T.A. point S. 2030/30. Entry into Canadian Coastal zone about 0345/30. May operate Cruiser and Carrier aircraft daily en route. (Comnavu 260211Z.)  
Sailed C.T.F.21 (sic) in U.S.RANGER with TUSCALOOSA, AUGUSTA, FORREST, CORRY, HOBSON, FITCH and CAPPS. My 260506 not to all addressees refers.  
(A.C.I.C. 261300A.)

- BLACKWOOD, My 252119. BLACKWOOD is to proceed forthwith  
BAZELY, to 037° 49' N. 021° 18' W. where Wellington air-  
DRURY. craft is down in sea. Aircraft from Azores will  
co-operate. BAZELY and DRURY proceed to Horta  
in accordance with previous instructions.  
(C. in C.W.A. 261001A to BLACKWOOD, (R) 4th E.G.  
2nd E.G. F.O.C.Gib. H.Q.C.C. Adnty. S.B.N.O.  
Azores, S.E.C. S.L.140/Escorts M.K.S.31.)
- My P.C. and S. at 1330Z 039° 10' N. 023° 29' W. 128° 17 knots.  
Weather report 6681 5663.  
(?BLACKWOOD 261340Z.)  
Aircraft safe proceed forthwith to join S.L.140.  
(C. in C.W.A. 261424A to BLACKWOOD, (R) E.G.4, E.G.2,  
Escorts S.L.140, F.O.C.Gib. S.B.N.O.Azores.)  
I assume your 261424 cancels your 252119\* in spite of  
shortage of depth charges in BLACKWOOD.  
(S.O.E.G.4 261727Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) BLACKWOOD.)  
Confirmed that BLACKWOOD should join S.L.140 at best speed,  
BAZELY and DRURY proceed to Horta.  
(C. in C.W.A. 262031A to S.O.E.G.4th, (R) BLACKWOOD.)

- S/Ms. 1. From position G. and K. TRIDENT and UNSHAKEN  
proceed diving by day by routes "Green" and  
"Brown" respectively to R/V with escort in 180°  
Bishop 10 miles at 1300A/4th December.
2. UNRIVALLED route as for TRIDENT to R/V at 1100A/5th December  
in 340° Round Is. (Scillies) 7 miles.
3. Submarines may proceed on surface in daylight on day of  
making R/V.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

S/Ms. (Contd.) 4. S.3 is requested to arrange escort.  
5. F.O.Gibraltar's 211742, 222317 and 232359 not to all addressees refer.  
6. TRIDENT and UNSHAKEN will proceed to Falmouth sailing again with escort to meet UNRIVALLED thence all northward.  
(F.O.S. 261204 to S.3, TRIDENT, UNSHAKEN (P.54) UNRIVALLED (P.45) Info. Admty. C. in C.W.A. C. in C.Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Falmouth, H.Q.C.C. F.O.C. Gibraltar S.5.)

Positions at 0800A/27 and movements for following 24 hours.  
(F.O.S. 261719.)

GLASGOW. My 221747A amended by my 251334A GLASGOW sailed E.T.A. Horta 1400A/29th latest messages held Q.B. 219 Q.B.A.116.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 261356A.)

Escort of RENOWN. My 251651A\*ORIBI, JANUS and ATHABASKAN sailed.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 261720A.)  
\* Instructions to ORIBI, JANUS and ATHABASKAN.

Operations.

S/M Patrols. At 0908A/26 0.15 sailed from Lerwick unescorted and on the surface at C.O.discretion till 062° N. then diving by day. Routed through 090° Muckle Flugga 5 miles then by route "Grey" to 064° 07' thence direct EE.  
(S.O.S/Ms Lerwick 260910A to Submarines operating N. of 51° N. (R) A.C.O.S. 260912A to Admty.)

Positions of submarines at 0800A/27 and movements for following 24 hours. All times Zone A.  
1. SEADOG (P.216) SCEPTRE (P.215) SEANYMPH (P.223) on patrol between Soroy and North Cape.  
4. VIKING (P.69) on patrol vicinity 62° 11' N. 02° 33' E.  
5. O.15 63° 10' N. 00° 05' W. diving by day through 64° 07' N. 01° 05' E. to patrol vicinity 64° 20' N. 00° 55' E.  
(F.O.S. 261719, 271744.)

Operation F.T. My 212046 sailed 0723A/26 Admiralty pass to all concerned outside Russia. North Russia pass to S.O. M/S 1.  
(S.B.N.O.Archangel 260912A.)  
Sunderland aircraft call sign WQGF may be met patrolling in your area between 1401 and last light today 26th.  
(C. in C.Rosyth 261055A to Escorts J.W.54B (R) Home Fleet, Admty. C. in C.W.A. A.C.I.C. A.C.O.S. F.O.S. H.Q.C.C.)  
1. Part one of S.B.N.O.or B.N.L.O.Archangel 212046A as amended by S.B.N.O.North Russia 251610A was received 25th Nov. Part two not yet received.  
2. My present intention is to sail Force 2 at about 1800A/28 to comply with para. 8G of orders for F.T. depending on the most recent information of R.A.54B.



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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation  
F.T. (Contd.)

3. I estimate that destroyers fuel will only allow me a maximum of 30 hours in the covering position.  
4. As my programme is based on R.A.54B the amount of cover I can give to J.W.54B is dependent on the latter's speed made good.  
(V.A.2 261344A to C. in C.H.F. (R) C.S.10.)  
Note: 212046 now received complete re Operation F.T.

Coastal  
Patrols.

P.C.W.O.120. 1.A. Force 113. M.T.Bs. 96 (S.O.), 92, 227, 91. B. 1730/26. C. QQ. 000° Les Heaux Light 4'. D. Patrol in vicinity of QQ. keeping east of 3° 10' W. E. Destruction of enemy shipping. F. 0430A/27 from QQ. G. Direct.  
2. A. Force 114. M.T.B. 676 (S.O.) M.G.B. 322. B. 2000A/26. C. 090° Start 12. D. Vicinity of C. F. 0645A/27 (C. in C.Plymouth 261324A.)  
1. Orders for night 26th/27th November.  
A. 3 M.G.Bs. from Newhaven carry out anti E-Boat patrol 10 miles south of convoy route abreast C.W.227, between eastern limit of command and E.A.5 buoy from 2300A to 0700A.  
B. 6 M.T.Bs. from Newhaven carry out offensive patrol for torpedo targets only off the enemy coast, in area bounded by long. 00° 10' W. lat. 49° 34' N. and a line 335° from St. Valery en Caux. Under no circumstances are they to proceed west of long. 00° 10' W. Proceed and return by passage two so as to arrive at southern limit of patrol by 0030A, and to be within 20 miles of own coast by 0700A.  
C. CHASSEURS 15, 5 patrol Q.Z.S. 384 between F. and E.A.buoys.  
D. M.L. 344 immediate notice St. Helens.  
E. 3 M.Ls from Portland patrolling 50° 15' N. between 02° 10' W. and 02° 35' W.  
(C. in C.Portsmouth 261536A.)  
Anchor in Yarmouth Road a.m. on Saturday. Carry out patrol that night then return Sheerness.  
(Capt. D.21 261548A to HOLDERNESS.)

V.P.  
Opération.

My 251112. M.T.B. 625 returned at 1510/26.  
2. Operation unsuccessful owing to contact with patrol vessel in Fensfjord.  
(A.C.O.S. 261656A.)

T.G.21.11  
SANTEE.

3 U.S. destroyers operating with U.S.S. SANTEE vicinity 041° 57' N. 020° 02' W. My 261224 refers.  
(C. in C.W.A. 261736A to S.E.Section.)

T.G.21.14  
T.F.64.

Cr. No. 684.  
This is C. in C.Lant's 252118 addressed to C.T.G. 21.14 and repeated to N.O.B.Bermuda, Cominch, Comairlant, C.T.G. 21.11, Commorseafon, C.T.G. 27.8 C.T.F. 64 Com. 10th Fleet.  
Cease support T.F.64. Proceed to general area reported submarine positions vicinity Azores. Fuel destroyers at Azores if required. Further orders later. My 172137\* not to all addressees modified accordingly.  
(Comnavu 262358.) \* 172137 not previously passed to Admty. is enclosed as Comnavu 262359 Cr. 685 (not received by W.D.)

26.11.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

Co-operation between air and surface convoy escorts. (C. in C.W.A. 261711A.) The following procedure has been agreed upon between C. in C.W.A. and H.Q.C.C. Convoy Night Defence.

Enemy Air Activity.

Glider Bombs. A.G.M. 32A of 22nd Nov. para. 4. It is confirmed that He.177 make direct attacks with glider bombs and follow glider in along line of sight towards target.

2. In a recent attack on WINCHELSEA both gliders released by an He.177 were shot down into the sea by Oerlikons. (D.G.D. 262026A.)

A.C. 362. 26 Nov. During latter part of passage of S.L.139 a number of He.177s carried out attacks using glider bombs. Liberators supplied A/A as well as A/S escort and probably shot down two. These aircraft are much slower than we expected and Liberators overtook and passed them with ease at 180 knots. They also appeared to be very unmanoeuvrable. S.L.140 was reported at 1400/26 by a Ju.290.

(H.Q.C.C. 262200A.)

Mining.

Operation "Hostile 17". Intend to carry out operation "Hostile 17" tonight 26th/27th November.

2. Force "Hostile 17" is to sail from Plymouth to pass Gate at 1730A/26th.

(C. in C.Plymouth 26112A.)

My 261112A. Support Force TALYBONT S.O., MELBREAK is to sail from Plymouth to pass through position AA. at 1930A/26th proceed thence at 13 knots to position YY. 049° 05' N. 004° 15' W.

2. Destroyers are to patrol in the vicinity YY. and are to support force "Hostile 17" if required.

3. Destroyers are to leave YY. at 0300A/27th and return at 20 knots to R/V W.P. 437 estimate convoy will be at D.One Buoy at 0730A/27th.

(C. in C.Plymouth 261113 to DEFIANCE S.O., M.T.B. 52 Flot.S.O. M.L.10th Flotilla, Capt. D.15, TALYBONT, MELBREAK, H.Q.No. 10 Group, (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Falmouth.)

Off Berry Head.

Brixham Trawler B.M. 337 reports that at approx. 1000 today Friday in position E.S.E. Berry Head 12 miles, a mine exploded in her trawl. Mine was apparently on the bottom. Trawl destroyed but otherwise no damage of casualties. It is considered that this mine was one which had been cut and sunk by M.S. 16.

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 261531A.)

26.11.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - Contd.

SS. MORAR. Mined and sunk in approx. 51.20 N. 01.33.21 E. at 1352A today Thursday. (W.D.Note: 26 Nov. was Friday.) Sank in 35 seconds, 6 survivors out of crew of 26 landed at Harwich by M.T.B.685, ship in F.N.loaded cement bound Belfast, position will be danned today. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 261610A, 261644A.)  
 C.A.F.O. 1968/40\*. 1. 1345/26. 4. In convoy 51° 50' 20" N. 01° 34' 12" E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 261744A.)  
 \* Enemy mines Information - request reports. (T.07386/40 31.10.1940.)

Biscay Ports & Frisian/Elbe area. 3. Minelaying. 48 A/C were despatched, 38 laid their mines in enemy waters successfully. 1 Stirling is missing. (H.Q.B.C. 261615A.)

Portsmouth. Port of Portsmouth, Eastern Entrance and Needles Channels, closed due to suspected minelaying. (C. in C.Portsmouth 262148A.)

Enemy Intelligence.

NURNBERG, LEIPZIG. My 221727\* October para. B. later information states NURNBERG received damage to engine by near miss. Repairs are likely to take 6 months. C.2. Inference. Cruiser reported in my 191617 was LEIPZIG not NURNBERG. (N.A.Stockholm 261201.) \* re German units at Gdynia.

German Cruiser in Lang Fjord. My 232035 further investigations show that WELLESLEY reported (?target) in Lang Fjord as NURNBERG later amended this to KOLN during interrogation stated that ship has 2 funnels. Russian Naval Staff satisfied that ship is KOLN, Admiralty with other sources of information available may not be. R/C 25th Nov. to obtain confirmation unsuccessful due to weather, for same reason no R/C possible 26th Nov. (S.B.N.O.N.Russia 261459A.)

U-Boats.

U/B hunt by E.G.4. BAZELY reports 2 U-Boats dived approx. position 040° 26' 021° 31'. BENTINCK, BYARD, CALDER going to take over from her. (S.O.E.G.4 260148Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) Admty. F.O.C.Gib. Escorts of S.L.140, U.S.S.SANTEE, BOGUE, E.G.2.) W.D.Note. For subsequent movements of BAZELY see Movements.

Amended position 040° 07' 021° 05'. My 260148 refers. A/C in vicinity. Have taken over from BAZELY, DRURY who carried out attacks without result contact now lost might (?be) (?sitting) observant. BLACKWOOD, BAZELY, DRURY proceeding Horta. (S.O.E.G.4 260315Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) Admty. F.O.C.Gib. Escorts of S.L.140, U.S.S.SANTEE, BOGUE, E.G.2.)

26.11.1943.  
Friday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats.

U/B Hunt by E.G.4. (Contd.) S.O.4th E.G's. 260315Z. Unless in contact (?abandon) search and proceed to join S.L.140 at best speed.

(C. in C.W.A. 260811A to BENTINCK, BYARD, CALDER, (R) Admty. F.O.C.Gib. S.E.C. S.L.140, U.S.S.SANTEE, BLACKWOOD, U.S.S.BOGUE, 2nd E.G. BAZELY, DRURY.)

Re U-Boat attack.

BENTINCK, BYARD, CALDER in contact your 260811A refers.

(S.O.E.G.4 260837Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Your 260837 continue hunt until 1600 provided contact is retained then proceed to join convoy.

(C. in C.W.A. 261208Z to S.O.E.G.4, (R) BAZELY, DRURY, BLACKWOOD, Admty. F.O.C.Gib. Escorts S.L.140, E.G.2, U.S.S.SANTEE, BOGUE.)

Contact held and attack made one U-Boat (German) until 1130Z. Probably some damage. Joining S.L.140. Depth charge and hedgehog pattern remaining BENTINCK 89 and 5 BYARD 110 and 6 CALDER 110 and 7. My P.C. and S. 1300Z 040° 12' 020° 37' 127° 20 knots.

(S.O.E.G.4 261227Z to as formers.)

C.A.F.O. 1342/43. A. E.G.4. B. 0055Z/26th. C. H/F D/F transmission by Radar and A/S. D. 040° 07' N. 021° 05' W. E. BENTINCK, CALDER 6 each, BYARD 5, DRURY 2. F. 1200Z/26th. 2 consecutive attacks by 9 ships each produced considerable air bubbles possibly caused by hasty change of trim consequent on damage. 2 U-Boats originally located by Radar one only by A/S.

(S.O.E.G.4 261405Z.)

CALDER reduced to 13 knots. Am screening her. Suspect damage to a bracket port propellor believed struck submerged wreckage. Excessive vibration at greater speed. My P.C. and S. 039° 24' 019° 12', 122° 13 knotg.

(S.O.E.G.4 261706Z to C. in C.W.A. F.O.I.C. Gib. E.G.B.1. E.G.2, BLACKWOOD, Capt. D.Belfast.)

BYARD full speed now 17 knots except emergency. Vibration at over 15 knots has become progressively worse. Shaft believed out of alignment.

(S.O.E.G.4 261824Z to C. in C.W.A.)

U/B attacked by A/C. Am over enemy S/M in position QLPR\* 03.05 at 0407Z. Enemy S/M previously reported was on the surface.

(URZH 260425C to 19 Group.)

\* As received QLPA intended.

N.R.1. Have attacked U-Boat with depth charge. U-Boat reported was on surface. Lost touch with U-Boat last seen 40° 01' N. 20° W.

(URZH 260449Z.)

U/B sighted. New position of sighting 038° N. 40° 019 W. (A/C H/19 260940Z.) Note by W.R. 260449Z probably refers.

Russian attacks. Russians report one U-Boat (German) attacked and sunk at 1145A/24th by American Type Minesweeper in 069° (708' or 26') N. 041° 54' E. and a 2nd U-Boat (German) attacked in 069° (group omitted) N. 041° 06' E. at 1008/24th Nov. by U.S.S.R. Dest.

GROZNI in this 2nd attack patch of oil 200 metres in diameter and wreckage was seen.

(S.B.N.O.Archangel 260958A.)

/U/B...

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats - Contd.

U/B in  
far north.

Following is a repetition of my 251605 Russian report enemy sub. 1153Z at 073° 04' N. 025° 44' E. 2nd Class.  
(S.B.N.O.N.Russia 262153A to H.F.Opnl.)

Casualties & Defects.

KISTNA.

Arrived.  
(Cdre. D.W.A. 261108A.)

SS. RALOO.

Harwich 26th Nov. Departure ATTENTIF to assist SS. RALOO fouling 54A Buoy.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 261115A.)

RENOWN.

Your 211521A and C. in C.H.F. 281828A October. Request information of length of period in hand to enable preparations to be made.  
(RENOWN 261629A to Adnty.)

ARDROSSAN.

My position 4 C. ARDROSSAN in tow, making about 6 knots. Northbound convoy at 4 Buoy at 1935.  
(S.O.M/S 9 261653A to EASTBOURNE.)

SS. MARSA.

Further to my 232242 air search for MARSA on 25th and 26th unsuccessful but will continue tomorrow 27th.  
2. Failing other information you should commence your search from position C. 046° 10' N. 016° 05' W.  
(C. in C.W.A. 261800A to CAMBRIDGESHIRE, DEXTEROUS.)

Shipping & Convoys.

K.M.F.27.

4th E.G. and URCHIN are to escort K.M.F.27 sailing December 14th.  
(C. in C.W.A. 260940A.)

North  
Atlantic  
Convoy  
Cycles.

In order to make more forces available for the anti U-Boat offensive it is proposed to sail fast convoys on an alternate 7 and 8 day cycle and slow convoys on a 15 day cycle in the North Atlantic.  
2. It is considered that on the above schedule only 8 groups would be required for escort between the North Channel and Westomp and only 7 groups between Westomp and North American terminal ports.  
3. Following amended sailing dates for convoys are proposed:-  
A. O.N. 215 on December 10th and then at intervals of 7 and 8 days. B. O.N.S.25 on December 15th and then at intervals of 15 days. C. H.X. 269 on December 3rd and then at intervals of 8 and 7 days. D. S.C.148 on December 4th and then at intervals of 15 days. 4. Request your early remarks.  
(A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 261054A to C. in C.W.A. C. in C.C.N.A. Info. N.S.H.Q. Connnav, B.A.D. Connaveu, H.Q.C.C.)

/Concur...

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26.11.1943.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

North  
Atlantic  
Convoy  
Cycles.  
(Contd.)

Concur with proposal to open out N. Atlantic Convoy Cycle and with amended sailing dates given in your 261054.

2. It is confirmed that new schedule can be run with 8 escort groups provided routeing and weather conditions remain reasonably favourable. If however these deteriorate an extra group will be necessary on close escort as was visualised in A.M. 151215 Oct. para. 2.

(C. in C.W.A. 262312Z to Admiralty, C. in C.C.N.A. Info. N.S.H.Q. Comnav, B.A.D. Comnav, H.Q.C.C.)

Convoy  
Sailing  
Telegrams.

Serial numbers of latest Q messages held by routeing authority are to be included in Convoy Sailing Telegram as item 9.

2. Names of ships fitted with depth charge stowage ("improvised" or flotation) but carrying no depth charges are to be reported as new item 19.  
(D.T.D. 261142A to A.I.G.19.)

O.S.60/  
K.M.S.34.

Non-sailers (7 names).

(C. in C.W.A. 261212A.)

Request you will sail E.G.6 at 2000A/27th to join and support O.S.60/K.M.S.34 in approx. 048° 55' N. 019° 35' W. at 0900A/30th.

(C. in C.W.A. 261330A to C. in C.Plymouth, (R) Admty. H.Q.C.C. E.G.6th, S.E.C.O.S.60/K.M.S.34, F.O.N.F. C. in C.C.N.A. N.S.H.Q. Cmdr. D.W.A.)

Sailed HIGHLANDER, ABELIA, ASPHODEL, LINARIA, FENCER, H.M.R.T. STORM KING for O.S.60/K.M.S.34, CLOVER sailed early for Loch Ewe portion. WALKER will sail to overtake.

(Care. D.W.A. 261452A.)

O.N.214.

Escorts HAVELOCK, VIMY, GODETIA, BUTTERCUP, LAVENDER, HAVELOCK, VIMY have H/F D/F.

(Capt. D.Liverpool 261446A.)

East Coast  
Convoys.

Admty. 251956. Subject to concurrence of C. in C. Rosyth East Coast convoys can be run on seven days a week commencing at once. I have only agreed to this on the understanding that the situation renders it essential to accept a considerably

increased risk.

2. As reported in Nore 4932/50616 of 16th October the scale of protection afforded to these convoys is already below what I consider to be the minimum to ensure reasonable safety and the institution of convoys on seven days a week will still further increase the risk. The increase of risk cannot exactly be assessed, but it is estimated that the increase of cargoes will only amount to about two per cent, per annum. The sinking of ten

/ships...

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26.11.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

East Coast  
Convoys.  
(Contd.)

ships which might well result from a successful attack or well placed minefield would nullify all gain. At the same time complete immunity can never be guaranteed.

3. The implications were fully explained to D.T.D. and Min. of W.T. at a meeting today including the risk of probable delays in the sailing of northbound convoys due to escorts not being available when the F.S. convoy has been delayed by weather.

4. Small short dated minefields are not considered likely to prove of much value and they hamper our own forces.

(C. in C.Nore 261920A to Admty. (R) C. in C.Rosyth, C. in C. Portsmouth). re Seven days a week convoys.

S.L.140.

My P.C. and S. 042° 09' N. 023° 31' W. 115° 15 knts  
Expect to join S.L.140 from ahead tomorrow Sat.  
afternoon. In order to decide how far to leave  
convoy in pursuit of U-Boat request estimate of

chance of air attack on convoy and the warning that may be expected. Weather report 7270 5324.

(S.O.E.G.2 262000A to C. in C.W.A. (R) F.O.I.C. Gib. Escorts S.L. 140 and M.K.S.31, E.G.4.)

Necessity of  
keeping to  
Swept Channels.

SS. MORAR was mined and sunk today when 2½ cables  
to south eastward of swept channel in vicinity of  
51 buoy.

2. It is imperative that ships should adhere to  
the swept channels and the attention of Masters  
should again be called to the necessity of standing  
up into the tide so that each ship passes over the same ground as  
nearly as may be. This cannot be achieved by following blindly  
in the wake of the next ahead.

3. Masters should be encouraged to take every opportunity of  
checking that their ships are in the searched channels and pro-  
ceeding by the route ordered.

(C. in C.Nore 262153A to N.C.S.Os.)

P.W.437.

Postponed 24 hours.

(C. in C.Portsmouth 262245A.)

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26.11.1943.

Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

U/B.                   A.G/A.C.1 26th. H/172 sighted and attacked  
 attacked.            U-Boat in 40° 01' N. 20° 00' W., course 130,  
                           speed 14 knots at 260449Z.  
                           (A.H.Q. Gibraltar, 260522A to H.Q.C.C., (R) Admty.,  
                           15 Group.)

CHANTICLEER.        My 231330Z. Am now ready to proceed in tow of  
                           SALVEDA. Request early instructions. Time  
                           limit expires 1200Z/1st December.  
                           (CHANTICLEER, 260953Z to C. in C. W.A., Admty.,  
                           (R) Capt. (D) Greenock, F.O. Gib., S.B.N.O.  
                           Azores, B.N.A. Lisbon, PHEASANT.)

Horta,                Ammunition landed Horta was removed to  
 ammunition.         Portuguese Military Magazine to which Portuguese  
                           refuse to allow part access. The discussions  
                           and theories are such that it is impossible to  
                           arrange supplies promptly in an emergency.  
                           Request instructions be given that we have free access and  
                           arrangements made for immediate issue at any time of day or  
                           night.  
                           (B.S.N.O. Azores, 261000Z to B.N.A. Lisbon, Admty., (R) F.O.  
                           Gibraltar.)

A/C in sea,         C. in C. W.A. 261012. Request aircraft co-operate  
 search.             in search for Wellington aircraft in sea in 37°  
                           49' N. 21° 18' W.  
                           (D.O.D.(H), 261012A to S.B.N.O. Azores, Info. C.  
                           in C. W.A., F.O. Gibraltar, H.Q.C.C., Escorts S.L.  
                           140, BENTINCK, BYARD, CALDER.)  
                           My 261012 not to BLACKWOOD. For 260935A read 261001A.  
                           Aircraft should home BLACKWOOD in accordance with A.C.I.330  
                           procedure C.  
                           (D.O.D.(H), 261025A to S.B.N.O. Azores, Info. F.O. Gibraltar,  
                           H.Q.C.C., C. in C. W.A., BLACKWOOD, BENTINCK, BYARD, CALDER,  
                           S.E. Convoy S.L.140.)  
                           Your 261012 aircraft landed 1042Z/26th.  
                           (S.B.N.O. Azores, 261100Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A.,  
                           F.O. Gibraltar, BENTINCK, BYARD, CALDER.)  
                           Your 261001. Aircraft has landed in Azores.  
                           (F.O. Gibraltar, 261205A to C. in C. W.A., (R) BLACKWOOD,  
                           4th E.G., 2nd E.G., H.Q.C.C., Admty., S.B.N.O. Azores,  
                           Ships escorting S.L.140, Escorts of M.K.S.31.)

Italian             Following a repetition of my 261112 to B.N.A.  
 ships in            Madrid. (Begins). Tug EMPIRE JOHN flying Red  
 Spanish            Ensign will arrive Cadiz 0900/28th. Your  
 ports,             251401A refers.  
 FULGOR.           (2) Request you will instruct British Consul  
                           Cadiz.  
                           (F.O. Gibraltar, 261127A to C. in C. Med., Admty.)

/Axis ...



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26.11.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Axis shipping. 59 (KAULDI) and 66 (HOCHHERINER) arrived 0030/26. (H.M. Consul General Bilbao, 261200 to M.E.W.)

SAON, WALLFLOWER, S.L. 140. You will detach SAON at 0001Z/28 who will return to Angra. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 261230 to WALLFLOWER, (R) SAON.) SAN UBALDO and LORD COCHRANE with WALLFLOWER and SAON sailed Horta 261430Z. Request new R/V with S.L.140 be passed to them. SAON ordered to return at 280001Z. Air cover is being provided. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 261445Z to F.O. Gibraltar, (R) WALLFLOWER) My P.C. and S. at 261800Z 038° 52' N. 028° 01' W., 075°, 8½. Unable to rendezvous position (TT) at 281100Z. (WALLFLOWER, 261650Z to F.O. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. W.A., S.B.N.O. Azores, S.O. E.G.B.1.) Your 261650. Amend R/V to (UU) 043° 47' N. 019° 27' W. at 1200A/29th. (F.O. Gibraltar, 262305A to WALLFLOWER, (R) E.G.4, C. in C. W.A., E.G.2, Ships escorting M.K.S.31 for Cdre., Admty., S.B.N.O. Azores.)

Convoys, Cycle. O.S.61/K.M.S.35 will sail on 5th Dec. and subsequent convoys at intervals of 9 and 11 days. 2. U.G.S.26 will sail on 5th Dec. and every 10 days. 3. A.M. 081856 refers. (D.T.D., 261232A to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

INKPEN, Visit to Sao Thome. My 251209 request immediate instructions whether Portuguese authorities to be (as received) request (as received) permission for INKPEN visit Sao Thome despite equal monthly rule or whether, preferably, visit being cancelled. (N.A. Lisbon, 261301 to Admty., (R) F.O.W.Af.) Your 251209. INKPEN is proceeding to Sao Thome solely for purpose of delivering a safe and S.Ps. to British Vice-Consul. As there is no question of her requiring fuel, water or stores there is no reason why visit should not take place and M. of M. be informed. (A.C.N.S.(F), 261650A to N.A. Lisbon, (R) Info. F.O.C.W.Af.)

TRUCULENT (P.315) Proceed on surface with despatch to Gibraltar by route given in my 221809A at 262000. (F.O. Gibraltar, 261721A to P.315 (TRUCULENT), (R) P.54 (UNSHAKEN), P.45 (UNRIVALLED), (Corrupt groups ? TRIDENT), F.O.S.) My P.C. and S. 039° 53' 011° 02', 155°, 11 knots by dead reckoning. Your 261823\*refers. (P.315 (TRUCULENT), 262001A to F.O. Gibraltar, (R) F.O.(S), P.54 (UNSHAKEN), P.45 (UNRIVALLED), TRIDENT.) \* Re total bombing restrictions.

/Human ...

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War Diary.26.11.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.Human  
Torpedoes,  
defence  
trials.

Lieut. Hayes and his assistant Sub-Lieut. Engelson Royal Norwegian N.V.R. leave U.K. for Gibraltar by air 30th with details of information required by Admiralty and to advise on trials referred to in para. 1 of C. in C. Med. 162302. (Admty., 261746A to F.O. Gibraltar, Info. C. in C. Med., C.A/S.E.E.)  
As amended 291832A.

M.K.F.26,  
cruiser  
escort.

Request your intentions regarding A/A cruiser escort for M.K.F.26.  
(D.O.D.(H), 262310A to F.O. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Plymouth.)

South Atlantic.

ALSACE.

Arrivals Pointe Noire 0630Z/26th FANDANGO, French CHASSEUR 43 escorting cable ship ALSACE.  
(B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, 260745A.)

Visit to  
Sao Thome.

Your 251209. Visit was to deliver set of books to Vice-Consul and has been cancelled. Intend H.M. Trawler KELT shall visit Sao Thome for purpose about 10th December.

(2) Following now received from Consul General St. Vincent (C.V.) T.O.O. 241055. (Begins).  
If practicable request any H.M. Ships may call St. Vincent (C.V.) to collect arrears of Confidential Consular mails. Cannot send via Lisbon except by safe hand of which none available for indefinite period. (Ends).  
3. Request I may be informed immediately whether St. Vincent (C.V.) may be visited by H.M. Trawler SOUTHERN GEM before 3rd Dec. No other opportunity in sight.  
(F.O.C.W.Af., 261122Z to B.N.A. Lisbon, (R) Admty.)

Names of  
B.E.Cs.  
3 to 9.

Approval has been given for B.E.C.3 - 9 to be named respectively KILCHATTAN, KILCHRENAN, KILDARY, KILDWICK, KILHAM, KILKENZIE and KILKHAMPTON.  
Request you will arrange for necessary action to be taken accordingly.  
(Hd. of P. Branch, 261605A to F.O.C.W.Af.)

Streaming  
of anti-  
torpedo  
nets.

All existing orders as to areas where anti-torpedo nets (N.D. or M.29) are to be streamed are to be cancelled as from 1st Dec. 1943 and are to be withdrawn from A.N.D. ships. The instructions as to operating gear as issued by Admiralty and given

/in ...

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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Streaming  
of anti-  
torpedo  
nets.  
(Contd.)

in C. in C. S.A. 050/D10/11 remain in force.  
(2) Masters are to be given the following  
instructions with their route orders:  
"Orders to stream and recover nets will be given  
as follows:-

(A) For first part of your route they will be  
issued by the N.C.S.O.

(B) At any time during the voyage they may be  
sent out as individual B.A.M.S. messages.

(C) In convoy by signal.

(D) You should stream your nets if you intercept a signal  
indicating a submarine in proximity to your route recovering  
them when danger appears part".

(3) With reference to (2) (A) these orders are only to be issued  
for any known danger in the vicinity and are to be reported by  
important signal to C. in C.S.A. and repeated to next diverting  
authority if area is close to "chop".

(C. in C. S.A., 261643C to interested addresses on Station.)

U/B sunk by  
U.S. Naval  
A/C, 25th  
November.

My 251405Z (N.T. in W.D.) 20 to 30 survivors  
seen in water. Rubber raft dropped by plane.  
EMPIRE MARLOW directed to pass through position  
of sinking to look out for survivors.  
(F.O.C.W.Af., 262055Z to Admty.)

DUNKERY,  
TOTLAND,  
S.T.L.7.

Estimate DUNKERY 80 miles astern of convoy.  
Request instructions with respect to ? detaching  
NICANIA in accordance with your 221305Z.\*  
DUNKERY is proceeding direct Accra unless other-  
wise ordered. My E.T.A. position X 1500Z/27th.  
(TOTLAND, 262145Z to F.O.C.W.Af., N.O.I.C.Takoradi,  
N.O.I.C. Lagos, (R) DUNKERY.)  
\* Intend to sail S.T.L.7.

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26.11.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

SURF. Your 221244 is noted. Cancel A.M.122240/Oct. and 292300/Oct. (A.C.N.S.(F), 260239A to C. in C. Levant, Info: C. in C. Med., C. in C. E.F.(S.E.A.C.))

RENOWN, Escorts. Amend my 231601 which is being passed to ISIS. For ROCKET read ISIS throughout. For TUMULT read ROCKET throughout. (C. in C. Med. 260835A to Admty. (R) GRENVILLE, ROCKET, ULSTER, TYRIAN, TUMULT, ISIS, RENOWN Com. Algeria, Com. N.O.B.Oran, F.O. Gib., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. H.F., H.Q.C.C., N.A.C.A.F.)

Para.3 your 251702 not to RENOWN. RENOWN will enter Gib. Bay at 2015A/27th to embark up to thirty Naval Officers and ninety Ratings for U.K. request you will make arrangements so that she can proceed with the minimum of delay, para.2 of my 231601 para. 5 as amended my 260839 TYRIAN and ROCKET are not now to R/V with RENOWN at 1730A/27th onward escort from Gib. as previously arranged. (C. in C. Med. 261652A to F.O.Gib. (R) RENOWN, Admty, TYRIAN, ISIS, ROCKET, ULSTER, GRENVILLE.)

Air attack on Ancona. 25 Nov. Ancona attacked, some hits in target area, but majority of bombs fell in sea. (N.L.O. No.1.M.O.R.U. 260926A)

M.L.Flottillas re-allocations and reconstitution. M.L.Flottillas are re-constituted as follows: (2) M.L.Flottillas are allocated as follows. Third Flotilla - 1st Division F.O.W.It. 2nd Division Maddalena, 3rd Division F.O.T.AL.I. Ninth Flotilla Gib. 22nd Flotilla Augusta, 25th Flotilla F.O.T.A.L.I. 28th, 29th and 8th. Flotilla's N.O.I.C. Algiers for North Africa. 31st Flotilla F.O.W.It. (3) Authorities are requested to sail M.L.'s to join their Flotilla's as necessary. (4) A number for the new Flotilla now being formed will be promulgated in due course. (C. in C. Med. 261120A, 291803A to Med. Station 339B (R) Admty.)

V.N.10A. Intend sailing V.N.10 A at 1600 as follows: 22 ships for Naples. One ship for Salerno. (8) EGGESFORD, BLACKMORE, WHEATLAND. (N.O.I.C.Augusta, 261144 to F.O.T.A.L.I) Note: Part I of this signal included in this message, has already been circulated under T.O.O. 261158.

M.E. Situation /...

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26.11.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

M.E. Situation Report. 26 Nov. Cositrep 67. (1) Int. N.T.R. (2) Ops. Aegean. A. Results of raid 24 Nov. by S.B.S. Patrol. Nisiro. Destroyed telegraph Sta captured secret documents and all codes. Destroyed 2 caiques. Piscopi. Removed all M.G.S. from Carabinieri post. Cut telegraph comms, to Nisiro and Kos. B. Samos. Last Italians to leave report all M.T. Arty. mules Pet and Amn. dumps destroyed excl. small quantities with blackshirts. (C. in C. M.E. No.T.O.O/23 recd. 261320 to W.O)

ALMENARA mined 20th Sept. ALMENARA mined off Taranto 20th Sept. Request report on Master's complaint that neither he nor escort was informed of known minefield. T.D./139/1947 of 26 Oct. (Report of Interview) refers. (D.T.D. 261303A to C. in C. Med.)

AKKA, YARRAWONGA. Swedish Government intimater safe conduct vessels AKKA and YARRAWONGA will sail from Piraeus for St. John N.B. 0630 hours Nov. 30th by standard route. (2) Request you will inform air and other authorities concerned. (Head of M.1, 261442A to C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med., F.O.C. Gibraltar, V.A.Malta.)

QUILLIAM, LOYAL. QUILLIAM and LOYAL illuminated Civitanova at 0100/26th. 34 rounds H.E. fired into harbour area. No shipping seen. (Capt. D.4, 261447A to F.O.T.A.L.I. (R) N.L.O. 8th Army.)

P.221. (SHAKESPEARE) P.221 (SHAKESPEARE) sailed from Beirut to pass north of Rhodes on 28th is ordered to patrol between Rhodes and Kos until dusk 3rd Dec. Thence she will proceed via Amorgos and Santorin to leave Aegean via Gordon on 9th December. (Capt. (S) 1, 261630 to 1st S.F. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

COMMANDANT DETROYAT, ANNAMIGO. COMMANDANT DETROYAT your 190449\*not to all ship is again temporarily out of action at Casablanca with further boiler defects in spite of temporary repairs done at Gibraltar. (2) French Admiralty intend sending AVISO ANNAM-IGO to Dakar early December to provide replacement in F.O.C.W.Af's area. (3) On completion temporary repairs intend COMMANDANT DETROYAT joins Casablanca French Escort Group. With present limitations she is only suitable for short distance escort work in Casablanca-Gibraltar-Oran Area. (C. in C. Med. 261651A to Admty. (R) F.O. Gib. F.O.C.W.Af. Navale France, Comnavnav, Commorseafon.) \* COMMANDANT DETROYAT being attached to a French Escort Group in the Mediterranean.

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

- K.M.F. 26. Onward route.  
(8) SLAZAK, CATTERICK, ATHERSTONE, CLEVELAND, MIAOULES (G.S.).  
(9) Overtake U.G.S. 23 and pass to seaward p.m. 29th.  
(C. in C. Levant, 261812B)
- K.M.F.26  
Attacked  
by A/C. Codeword "Annex" is being attacked by enemy aircraft in 36 degs. 56' N. 5 degs. 20' E. course 065 degs.  
(COLOMBO, 261817 to Algiers W/T.)  
(?ROHNA) only casualty. Last seen settling by stern and on fire. Rescue ship CLAN CAMPBELL destroyer ATHERSTONE and U.S.S. PIONEER standing by. About 30 A/C attacked many H.S. bombs one A/C seen to fall. ATHERSTONE has orders to rejoin when position allows.  
(COLOMBO, 262004A to C. in C. Med.)  
Following is a repetition of my 262241A (N.T. in W.R.) (Begins) addressed HOLCOMBE (R) ATHERSTONE, COLOMBO Polish Destroyer SLAZAK. Escort of convoy K.M.F. 26 U.S. ship PIONEER, STONEHENGE, P.267 (Signification not known). N.O.I.C. Bougie, N.O.I.C. Philippeville from C. in C. Med. On arrival relieve ATHERSTONE and U.S.S. PIONEER standing by ROHNA reported on fire.  
(2) Tug MINDFUL in company.  
(3) Codeword "Liege", "Able", "Zebra", "Howe" normal.  
(4) On relief ATHERSTONE and PIONEER escorting CLAN CAMPBELL proceed at best speed to Phillippeville to disembark survivors then rejoin convoy.  
(5) S/M STONEHENGE may be astern of convoy. If encountered ATHERSTONE is to arrange her escort to rejoin K.M.F.26. ATHERSTONE report intentions.  
(7) ATHERSTONE pass to PIONEER. T.O.O.(Ends.)  
(C. in C. Med. 262251A to P.232 (STONEHENGE))
- P.57  
(UNIVERSAL) Your 261611 (N.T. in W.D.) acknowledged. Proceed to Malta as ordered by N.O.I.C.Bizerta. (Capt.(S) 10, 262159A to P.57 (UNIVERSAL) (R) N.O.I.C.Bizerta.)
- Situation  
Report  
No.236. (1) Destroyer patrol in the Adriatic night 24th/25th sighted nothing. M.T.B's had to turn back owing to weather.  
(2) Convoy K.M.F.26 attacked by 30 plus aircraft off Bougie 1700/26th. SS. ROHNA hit being taken in tow. Details not yet available fighters claim 8 shot down.  
(C. in C. Med. 262215B to Admty.)

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26.11.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Bi-weekly U/B. dispositions No.4. (C) Gulf of Aden. One Japanese unfixed but still believed to be patrolling area. Last report was of suspicious Radar contact S.E. of Aden 21st Nov. Full scale air escort but dark nights only for important convoys. (K) (2) In future signals grading of scale of air activity will be as follows (W) No immediate threat. To Air escort only.

(Begins) Terminating last (?) light with a sweep ahead of convoy or independently routed merchant ships. (X) Position not entirely clear but probably no immediate threat. Scale of escort as in (W) but all remaining A/C to be at high state of readiness for immediate action. (Y) Full scale of escorts including dark night escort at request of local Naval Authorities for important convoys. Information not sufficiently accurate for laying on searches but all A/C not on escort to be at high state of readiness for immediate action. (Z) Full scale of escort in (Y) maximum effort to be employed in searching area or areas specified. When U/B contacts are made or when U/B attacks develop in any area local R.A.F. Commanders in consultation with local Naval Authorities are authorized to alter the scale of effort in area to meet new situation. C. in C.E.F. and 222 Group must at once be informed by immediate signal of any such change giving details of information or action which has necessitated the change. N.O.I.C. West Australia pass to C.T.F.71 Brisbane C.C.O. pass to Cdre.7th U.S. Fleet. (C. in C.E.F. 260516Z to E.F.4207 as amended 270351.) ~~as amended 270351.~~

Aden, proposal to transfer to E.F. Command. Would be grateful to know what progress has been made on the proposal in C. in C. Levant's 211921 Oct. for transfer of Aden to E.F. Command. (C. in C.E.F. 260520Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant F.O.R.S.C.A., Com.i/c. Aden.)

Loading of M/T ships. Concur with Arminia proposal to discontinue sailings of Motor Transport ships from Vizagapatam after M.A.21. (2) H.C. (?22) sailings from Sangor will recommence with H.C.12 on Dec.11th. (3) Approved for these convoys to comprise of 3 personnel and 2 M/T ships. (4) Your 050922 Nov. refers. (5) Admiralty pass to D. of S.T. (C. in C.E.F. 260653Z to P.S.T.O.I. (R) Admty., A.P.S.T.O.I., F.O.C.R.I.N., S.E.A.C., D. of S.T., N.O.I.C. Calcutta, N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam, N.O.I.C. Chittagong, N.O.I.C. Bombay.)

P.B.64. Arrived Bombay Portion escorted by GERALDTON and BENGAL. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 260729Z to Admty.)

/S.E.A...

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26.11.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.S.E.A.  
Air Report.

26 Nov. Daily Opsum No.621 23 Nov. Outstanding reports. 14th U.S.A.A.F. 24 Nov. 2 U.S. Mitchells (B.25) Amoy Harbour. 1 aircraft returned with bombs. 1 aircraft scored direct hits armed M/V. Ship severely damaged probably sunk. One hit on docks.  
(S.E.A.A.C. 260800Z to Air Min. etc.)

Routeing of ships in event of U/B activity. Mozambique Channel.

In the event of renewed U/B activity in the Mozambique Channel, or to the Eastward of Madagascar it is intended to adopt the following alteration to existing routeing of shipping. F.O.N.I.C. 230 refers. (A) All traffic Northbound from South and Portuguese East African ports for Persian Gulf and Karachi which is capable of convoy speed but below 13 knots to be included in D.K.A. convoys, being dispersed to proceed independently when clear of Kilindini Focal area. (B) All traffic Southbound from Persian Gulf and Karachi for South and Portuguese East African ports, capable of convoy speed but below 13 knots to be routed independently to Mombasa for inclusion in A.K.D. convoys. (C) All traffic to and from India South of Karachi including Ceylon to proceed independently East and South of a line joining the following positions. GG. 22° 00' S. 64° 00' E. MM. 30° 00' S. 52° 30' E. LL. 30° 00' S. 45° 00' E. (D) All traffic to and from Persian Gulf and Karachi, South, and Portuguese East African ports not independently South of positions MM and LL of para. (C) above and to pass between Mauritius and position GG above. (E) Traffic to and from Beira to be routed as follows (1) Northbound from Beira of 8 knots and over to Aden, Persian Gulf, India and Ceylon to proceed in D.K.A. convoy dispersed as in (A), except ships under 13 knots for Aden. (2) Southbound to Beira of 8 knots and over from Persian Gulf, India or Ceylon to be routed independently to Mombasa for onward convoy. Ships from Aden to Beira of 13 knots and over to remain in A.K.D. convoy. (3) Ships under 8 knots northbound from Beira for all destinations to proceed independently via Mozambique Channel by route in Meiri 2A para.2.(A) (4) Ships under 8 knots Southbound to Beira from all destinations to proceed independently via Mozambique Channel. (5) Ships under 8 knots Southbound from Beira to proceed as directed by C. in C. S.A. 2. It is anticipated that the result of A.B. and E. will be to increase the number of ships in A.K.D. and D.K.A. convoys during passage of Mozambique Channel by an average of 5 ships. 3. Air cover from Mauritius for independent shipping routed East of Mauritius is in general uneconomical, and with approach of the hurricane season operation of flying boats cannot be relied upon. Unless threat centres around Mauritius intention is therefore to dispose long range aircraft primarily to provide air cover to A.K.D. D.K.A. convoys during passage of Mozambique Channel, some Catalina aircraft reinforced. Proposals will be made when other operating crews of U/Bs. are known. 4. Request your remarks. (C. in C.E.F. 260951Z to C. in C.S.A. (R) F.O.E.A., Admty., 222 Group.)



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26.11.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

- M.B.56. Sailing telegram (6 ships). (2) 1017Z/26th.  
(6) SHOREHAM, TRAVANCORE, POONA.  
(N.C.S.O. Colombo 261017Z to Admty.)
- THOS. Nippon Times Weekly states German auxiliary cruiser THOS arrived Japan August 24.  
(Military Attache Chungking 261137 F.G. to C. in C. India (R) W.O.)
- ROYALIST, SCYLLA. A.M. 091834. Use of ROYALIST as Escort Carrier Flagship is a temporary measure only. It is intended that ship will sail from U.K. with Group B. A.M. 122332/11 refers. 2. SCYLLA is also being converted to escort carrier flagship and will relieve ROYALIST during 1944.  
(V.C.N.S. 261242A to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) C. in C. H.F., Info. F.O.E.C. (E.F.) ).
- ? EXCELSIOR. SS. ?EXCELSIOR referred to in your 170330 (N.T. in W.R.) as one of two Naval M.F.V's which broke adrift while being towed from Durban to Kilindini. Full report was forwarded in my letter number 146/EA 970 of 24th August.  
(F.O. E.Af. 261340 to Admty.)
- P.B.64, speed of ships in Convoy. Following received addressed Admty. from Cominch. Timed 242235 Nov. It is noted with concern the inclusion in convoy P.B.64 of one 8 knot ship restricting speed of convoy to 8 knots and 3 U.S. ships of 14.5 and above especially one 16 knots with troops, a total of 25 ships, N.C.S.O. Hormuz 190940Z refers.  
(D.T.D. 261855A to C. in C.E.F.)

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26.11.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

UGANDA Norfolk arrived 25th, UGANDA and departed same day for Charleston to refit. (N.S.H.Q. 260031Z to Admty.)

State of Landing ships and Craft. C.O.S.(W) 970. 26th Nov.  
1. My immediately following telegram contains the return of landing craft for 1st Nov., prepared for U.K. and Levant Stations in accordance with F.A.N. 218.  
2. It is proposed, in this and future telegrams to adopt the following procedure in order to economise in signal traffic. (details) (Air Min., 260540Z to Britman Washington.)  
C.O.S. (W) 971. 26th Nov.  
1. My immediately preceding telegram.  
2. Attention is drawn to C.O.S. (W) 892 of the 21st Oct. which shows the interpretation we have placed on the terminology used in F.A.N. 218. The British interpretation of the terms "operational" and "non-operational" is laid down in C.A.F.O. 2005/43.  
3. First return begins: State of landing ships and craft on the U.K. Station as on 1st Nov. (details)  
Second return begins: State of Landing Ships and craft on the Levant Station as on 1st Nov. (details). (Air Min, 260545Z to Britman, Washington.)

NOTOS (Dutch) overdue. NOTOS 5 days overdue at Barranquilla from Port-au-Prince request information. (S.O.(I) Kingston, 260914R to N.O.B. Guantanamo, Companseafon (R) Admty., N.S.H.Q.)

IERE, TOURMALINE, STRENOUS. Amend my 242121 departed Bermuda 13 (?30)Z/26. (? "Chop") 1900Z/(?6) Dec. E.T.A. Clyde boom 1930Z/14. (N.O.B. Bermuda, 261341 to Admty.)

C.T.F.121. C.T.F.121 will pass under operational control of Cominch at 281201Z. (D.O.D.(H) 261350A to Cominch, C.T.F.121, Info. C. in C.H.F., C. in C.W.A., Comnavu, Cinclant, A.C.I.C., C. in C.C.N.A., N.S.H.Q.)

SALISBURY, MANSFIELD, Laying up of "Town" Class Destroyers. Admiralty's 211850A not to S.C.N.O. London para. 2. this matter is under consideration but it is felt R.C.N. will be unable to comply.  
2. Ships mentioned are being reduced to care and maintenance forthwith.  
3. In view of existing situation and on assumption Support Groups will be available should U/Boats threaten convoys in our coastal and laying up remainder "town" class now considered. Admiralty's 170137 para. 4 refers.  
4. Presume R.D.F. and H.F./D.F. Equipment may be removed and used for modernising H.M.C. Ships.

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26.11.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

SALISBURY,  
MANSFIELD,  
Laying up  
of "Town"  
class  
destroyers.  
(Contd.)

5. De-storing, de-ammunitioning, convenient place to lay up ships, and question of how ships are to be guarded is being explored.  
6. Would welcome representative from B.A.M.R. proceeding to Halifax to consult with C. in C. C.N.A. on these matters.  
(N.S.H.Q. 261425Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. C.N.A., B.A.D., B.A.M.R., Capt. D. Halifax, S.C.N.O. London.)

Mark 29  
anti-  
torpedo  
gear.

B.A.M.S. Message 24.  
Vessels equipped with Mark 29 anti-torpedo gear shall not stream gear until further notice.  
(Com. 10th Fleet, 261444Z to B.A.M.S. all areas (R) Admty.)

H.X.268.

This completes my Dis. 242020. Sailing dispatch. Part 1.  
7. 34 ships.  
(P.D. New York, 261506Z to Admty.)

FREDERICTON  
O.N.213.

1. FREDERICTON sails St. Johns N.F. 2000Z 26th via Great Circle Route toward 052° 00' N. 030° 00' W. to join Group C.1. on westbound passage with O.N. 213.

2. Request C. in C. W.A. divert as necessary to facilitate junction.  
(F.O.N.F. 261537C to C. in C.W.A.)

Escorts  
of O.N.S.23.

O.N.S.23. 1. You will be relieved in Westomp. 047° 53' N. 050° 02' W. at 1000Z 28th by group W.8, ANNAPOLIS, S.O. SHEDIAC, SASHATOON, KENORA

2. On relief B.7 proceed Argentia negative NORTHERN REWARD, NORTHERN SKY who are to accompany shipping for St. Johns N.F. to destination.  
3. B. 1000Z 27th.  
(F.O.N.F. 261539Z to Ships Escorting O.N.S.23, (R) C. in C.C.N.A C. in C.W.A., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Admty., Cmdre. D.W.A., Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet, C.R., Cdr. T.F.24, Capt. D. Argentia, W.8.)

U.S. S/M  
Estimate.

(Cominch, 261550)

Names of  
B.E.Cs.  
10 to 13/15  
To be known  
as A/S  
vessels.

Approval has been given for B.E.C.10 - 15 assigned U.K. to be named respectively KILMALCOLM, KILMARNOCK, KILMARTIN, KILMELFORD, KILMINGTON and KILMORE. Request you will arrange for necessary action to be taken accordingly. These vessels are to be known in future as "A/S vessels" and not as British Escort Craft. (Head of P. Branch, 261554A to B.A.D., Info. Cdre. R.N. Bks. Devonport, Cdre. R.N.Bks. Portsmouth, Cdre. R.N.Bks. Chatham.)

/N.S.H.Q. ...

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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

N.S.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q. 261654Z.)  
S/M  
Estimate.

PASTEUR (A.T.76A). Departed New York at Ambrose 1616Z 26.  
Liverpool Bar 2100/3 Dec.  
(P.D. New York, 261706 to Com. 10th Fleet C. and R.)

T.F.65. C. in C. Lant's 252213 addressed to Comdesdiv 21  
constituted. for action informs as follows:-  
Task Force 65 constituted as follows: Com.  
Wright (Com. Des. Div. 21) in LIVERMORE,  
Des. Div. 21 (LIVERMORE, EBERLE, ERICSSON less  
KEARNY) Com. Escort Division 9 in HOWARD, Cortdiv. 9 (DOUGLAS  
L. HOWARD, FARQUHAR, J.R.Y. BLAKELY, HILL, FESSENDEN, FISKE  
plus P.C.1226, P.C. 1227, P.C. 1235, S.C.1337, RESTORER,  
PETERSON, JOYCE, WINOOSKI. Escort U.G.S.26 departing Hampton  
Roads 5th Dec. for North Africa. When Commorseafron directs  
return to the U.S. escorting G.U.S. 25. Upon arrival North  
Africa direct RESTORER and three P.Cs. report Com. 8th Fleet for  
duty and S.C.1337 for further orders. British L.S.E. 1 and  
FNT.VAR (as received) may sail in convoy.  
(Commaveu, 261711Z to Admty.)

PROVIDER. Anticipate PROVIDER escorted by SHIEL will be  
ready to proceed to Bermuda 3rd Dec.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 261712A to S.B.N.O.W.At.)

GLOIRE. Departed 2112Z/26 for Bermuda, escort GREER.  
(P.D. Norfolk, 262334).

STEADFAST. Comeastseafron sail STEADFAST when ready about  
27th Nov. Charleston to Bermuda for working up.  
Upon completion work up N.O.B. Bermuda sail  
onward to Argentinia for employment by C. in C.  
C.N.A. as additional convoy escort to U.K. Action Addressees  
advise routing instructions.  
(Cominch, 251750 to Comeastseafron, N.O.B. Bermuda.)

P.B.64 Your message 242235 regarding P.B.64 has been  
Speed of passed to C. in C. Eastern Fleet.  
Ships in (D.T.D. 261751Z to Cominch.)  
Convoy.

C.U.6. Your 251527Z, arrived off Oversay at 1700/11th.  
All arrived.  
(D.T.D. 261834A to N.S.H.Q., Info. C. in C.  
C.N.A.)

B.Y.M.S. Sail B.Y.M.S. 61, 182, 252 when ready about 1st  
Dec. Instructions my 011853 apply except route  
/Bermuda...

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26.11.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

B.Y.M.S.  
(Contd.) Bermuda to Londonderry via Azores with ultimate destination U.K. and vessels must not operate above 850 R.P.M.  
(Cominch, 261930Z to C.E.S.F., N.O.B. (R)  
Cinclant, S.B.N.O., W.At. Admty., N.S.H.Q.,  
C. in C.W.A., S.B.N.O. Azores, F.O. Gibraltar.)

Sub.  
attack  
and  
sighting  
summary. Para. C. Conning tower sighted 11.35 N. 61.40 W.  
261740Z.  
Para. D. P.C. 446 attacked sound contact near  
10.30 N. 80.18 W. about 251940Z.  
(Navcom. 262053 to Admty.)

T.F.65  
constituted. This is C. in C. Lant's 252213 addressed  
Comdesdiv 21.  
T.F. 65 hereby constituted Com. Wright  
Comdesdiv 21 in LIVERMORE Desdiv 21 less KEARNY  
Comcortdiv 9 in HOWARD Cortdiv. 9 PETERSON,  
WINOOSKI, JOYCE plus P.Cs. 1226, 1227, 1235,  
S.C. 1337, RESTORER. Dec. 5th escort U.G.S. 26 Hampton Roads  
to North Africa. When Commorseafron directs return U.S.  
escorting G.U.S.25. British L.S.E.1 and FMT.VAR (As received)  
may sail in convoy. Upon arrival, direct S.C.1337 report Com.  
8th Fleet for further orders, and direct 3 P.Cs and RESTORER  
report Com. 8th Fleet for duty.  
(Commaveu, 262130 to Admty.)

PRINCE  
DAVID,  
PRINCE  
HENRY. Admiralty 061838 Oct. Anticipate completion date  
PRINCE DAVID 6th Dec. PRINCE HENRY 20th Dec.  
Intend sailing independently as soon as ready.  
Allowing 14 days for trials storing and  
ammunitioning expected these ships will arrive  
U.K. before February. Every endeavour being  
made to better these dates. Request you will  
indicate destination N.S.H.Q. 082128 Oct. refers.  
(N.S.H.Q. 262135Z to Admty., (R) S.O. Force J, C. in C.  
Portsmouth, B.A.D., C.O.P.C., S.C.N.O. London.)

T.G.21.14  
constituted. This is C. in C. Lant's (Admin. Office)  
172137 addressed to U.S.S. CARD.  
This constitutes Task Group 21.14 Capt.  
Isbell in CARD Comdesdiv. 53 in DECATUR, LEARY,  
SCHENCK, BABBITT. C.T.F.23 direct Comdesdiv  
53 in DECATUR report to CARD ready in all respects by noon  
23rd. C.T.G.23.5 have other 3 escorts report to CARD as  
directed by speedletter 03196 of Oct. 28th. Support T.F.64 in  
co-operation with C.T.F.64 escorting U.G.S.25 sailing 24th from  
Hampton Roads. You may enter Bermuda for fuel. Cease  
support T.F.64 when you consider appropriate. Operate  
offensively against submarine reported positions until time  
support U.G.S.25 when latter reaches danger zone. Further  
orders later.  
(Commaveu, 262359 to Admty.)

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26.11.1943

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

Digest  
Serial  
No. 675  
Nov. 25th.

Satelberg captured by evening after heavy shelling and mortar fire.

3. Midday R/C Liberator observed 1 medium freighter, 1 transport Wewak Harbour.

Similar sighting also small craft off Boram reported by forenoon Thunderbolt sweeps which contacted and shot down solitary light bomber

contacted airborne over Wewak.

5. Ref. first para. U.K. digest 674 additional Liberator also attacked destroyer or cruiser north-east Garove Island course 45° half hour later. Bombs fell 25 feet off bow. Vessel thought damaged. Subsequently 2 Navy Catalinas contacted 1 cruiser, 2 destroyers off north west gazelle Peninsula heading west height, speed. Second Catalina scored 1,000 pound (?and) 1500 pound bomb hits on cruiser causing explosion below deck followed by fire.

6. Photos Rabaul Harbour morning 24th show 1 Yubari class light cruiser, 9 destroyers, 1 destroyer tender, 17 merchant ships totalling approx. 70,000 tons, 2 large tankers also 20 floatplanes.

7. Barge base Kiari (10 miles west Sio) bombed strafed by 5 Bostons afternoon 24th with unobserved results.

8. Previous night Allied patrol craft sank 2 north bound empty barges 30 miles north Finshhafen.

10. Photographs Waisile Bay during Liberator strike 24th show 7 merchantmen, 2000 to 8000 1 possible minelayer.

11. Four Liberators hit Halong seaplane base near Ambon noon 25th with unobserved results. Nine floatplanes one flying boat observed at Halong. Two sizeable ships numerous small craft in Ambon Bay.

13. Five U.S. destroyers intercepted, 6 Japanese destroyers 50 miles west Buka heading Rabaul early hours 25th. Two of three enemy units comprising first group sunk by torpedoes. Remainder, pursued westwards and during running engagement lasting 2 hours, 3 damaged by gunfire whereof 2 overtaken and sunk third later seen by aircraft burning exploding east of Cape Saint George. Single remaining unit apparently escaped undamaged. Allied ships suffered nil damage.

14. Subsequent air searches this area reported 2 batches each approx. 150 survivors in water. Second close to position of burning exploding destroyer. Surfaced submarine seen approaching latter group from north bracketed with 3 depth charges causing large oil patch and much debris thought probably destroyed.

16. Early same date enemy artillery and aircraft inflicted slight damage landing craft unloading east of Torokina Point. Bombardment by 2 Allied destroyers combined with air and shore gunfire silenced enemy artillery after daybreak.

21. 24th fighter patrols strafed and sank 9 barges South Empress Augusta Bay, also set afire lugger in Queen Carol Harbour west coast Byka.

23. R/C 24th observed 2 freighters of 6000 and 10,000 tons each approx. 12 other smaller ships Kavieng Harbour.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A.. 260918Z to Admty. etc.)

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26.11.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Yesterday's appreciation of South Easterly movement by main concentration appears to be confirmed by attacks 0148Z and 0449Z/26th Nov. and about 15 U/Bs. are probably within 100 miles of 39° 30' N. 19° 30' W. Other Estimated positions. (D.D.I.C. 261408, 261414.)

Submarines Attacked.

S/M. attack and sighting summary for 24 hours to 0900Z/26th.

Para.A. 1. A/C. attacked U/B. at 1045/25th Nov. in 6° 30' S. 5° 40' W. 2. BAZELY and DRURY sighted and attacked 2 U/Bs. at 0148/26th in 40° 07' N. 21° 05' W. 3. A/C. H/172 attacked U/B. with D/Cs. at 0449/26th in 35° 40' N. 19° 00' W. course 130°. Para. B. 1. U.S.S. CLEMSON attacked U/B. at 2040/22nd in 41° 23' N. 32° 34' W. (D.D.I.C. 261102A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.) as amended 270957Z.

27.11.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.

1. An Admiralty message to-day gives an appreciation of the present trend of the U-Boat war.
- Manning Situation. 2. The shortage of special ratings is so acute that for the present the Admiralty can only man new construction by paying off at least an equivalent number of other ships. In the first place such action would be limited to the Western Approaches Command; and a message from the Admiralty today gives an outline of their policy as it affects that Command.
- Home Commands.
- Operation F.T. 3. C.S.1 in KENT with JAMAICA and BERMUDA sailed from Kola Inlet this afternoon to cover convoy R.A.54B.
- Operation S.F. 4. On completion of the next patrol ordered the M/S. Flotilla will be based on the Faeroes (Skaalefiord) instead of Seidisfiord.
- ULA, patrol report. 5. On return from patrol off the coast of Norway ULA reports that she sank a merchant ship and an 800 ton whaler escorting it, 1415/22 about 150 miles S.W. of Trondheim at 1455/24 she hit with one torpedo a merchant ship off Hogstenen Light in the same area but could not wait to see the result.
- S.L.140 /M.K.S.531. 6a. Reports indicate that a group of probably about 15 U-Boats is within 90 miles (of 39° N. 18° W. the group is presumed to be moving North-Eastward to intercept convoy S.L.140/M.K.S.31.  
 b. BENTINCK and WILD GOOSE each sighted a U/B ahead of the convoy in about 39.02 N. 16.19 W. this evening. One was attacked by aircraft and was reported on the surface, apparently disabled, in 39.03 N. 16.12 W. in the early hours of 28 Nov.
- Operation Hardtack D. 7. This operation was carried out last night. (Apparently a small raid.)
- Bay Patrol. 8a. In common with Admiral King (see 27 October), C. in C. Mediterranean also considers that his aircraft are being wasted in support of operation Percussion. It is his definite opinion that his entire A/S effort not employed in escort duty should not, as at present, be expended in what is now the least probable area of S/M. sightings. F.O.C. Gibraltar on the other hand, considers (3 Dec.) that the Percussion patrols have contributed very largely to keeping U/Bs. under by day.  
 b. Owing to weather to-day, aircraft were recalled and the remaining patrols were cancelled in the area. No patrols were flown during the night.



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27.11.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands. - Contd.

9. At 0437 A/C. A/179 attacked a U-Boat on the surface with depth charges in 38.45 N. 17.40 W.

Mining.

10. Bomber Command laid 113 mines in N.W.German areas last night.

ORIBI  
damaged.

11. ORIBI was damaged in collision with L.C.I.178 in the early hours of today in 49.36 N. 07.40 W. L.C.I.178 was taken in tow by another landing craft and eventually proceeded for Falmouth at 5 knots where arrived today. ORIBI arrived at Plymouth on 28 November.

North Atlantic.

12. RENOWN arrived at Gibraltar to-day from Algiers and sailed again for the U.K.

South Atlantic.

13. V-A. A.M. Peters, C.B., D.S.C. assumed the appointment of F.O.C. West Africa today in succession to V-A. H.B.Rawlings, C.B., O.B.E.

Mediterranean.

Avalanche.

14a. ORION, TROUBRIDGE, TEAZER and PALADIN carried out a successful bombardment North of the River Garigliano last night. M.G.Bs. were on patrol between Mljet Island and Dubrovnik. A bombardment of Dubrovnik was carried out; nothing was sighted.  
b. 20 aircraft attacked Naples last night; only a small number of bombs was dropped and no damage was caused.  
c. 24 U.S. Mitchells bombed Porto Civitanuova today and others bombed Zara and attacked shipping at Sibenik and hit a merchant vessel which blew up and started fires in warehouses and 2 other ships.

27.11.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Aegean.

15a. Two M.T.Bs. lay up in the Gulf of Doris today to carry out a sweep tonight.  
b. TORBAY torpedoed and sank a 3000 ton escort in Westbound merchant ship off Samos today.

East Indies.

J.C/C.J.  
Convoys.

16. The threat of U/B attacks in the Bay of Bengal is increasing and C. in C.E.F. intends to institute a convoy system between Calcutta and Colombo, Trincomalee, Madras and Vizagapatam ships will join or leave convoys off those ports. The first convoy (J.C.28.) will leave Colombo on 3 December. The first convoy (C.J.1.) will leave Calcutta on 8 Dec. the sailing dates of M.B. convoys will be adjusted to connect with the above.

Tanker  
SCOTIA  
sunk.

17. The Norwegian tanker SCOTIA, Bandar Abbas for Melbourne, reported being torpedoed 1240Z today in 03° S. 69.03 E. (260 miles S.W. of Addu Atoll.) The Captain was taken prisoner, 6 of the crew were shot, the Chief Engineer was found shot on a raft. OKAPI rescued the survivors.

China.

Japanese  
destroyer  
sunk.

18. 2 U.S. Mitchells bombed a convoy of 6 merchant ships and sank one of the 3 escorting destroyers in 25.20 N. 120° E. in Formosa Straits today. They also set fire to a merchant ship and near missed a second.

27.11.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

16th M/S F. Important to F.O.I.C. Falmouth.  
Request you will sail available ships of 16th M/S F. as soon as convenient to operate temporarily under C. in C.Portsmouth. M.S.16 261414 is to be postponed.  
(D.M.S. 270137A to F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)  
Arrived.  
(C. in C.Portsmouth 271911A.)

A.M. 270137A\*. Intend to sail from Falmouth 0615A today.  
(M.S.16 270301A.) \* re Requesting sailing of available ships of 16th M/S F.

Submarines at Gib. F.O.C.Gibraltar proposes that submarines arriving from U.K. do 7 days A/S and air exercises at Gibraltar.  
2. Intend to reply that I have no objection except in cases where the urgency of reinforcing operational flotillas will not permit.  
(F.O.S. 271048A to Admty.)

Manning Situation. The shortage of certain special ratings is so acute that for present we can only man new construction if we pay off at least equivalent number of older ships. In the first place such action would be limited to Western Approaches Command, but when the situation has clarified these measures may be extended to other Commands in which old and uneconomical ships are employed.  
2. Following is outline of Admiralty policy as it affects Western Approaches:-  
A. Maintain present number of Transatlantic and U.K.-Gibraltar escort groups viz. 15 with a paper strength of 9 ships.  
B. Build up first to 5 support groups, and ultimately to 6 if resources permit with a paper strength of 6 in each group.  
C. Man as high a proportion of new construction as possible, particularly U.S. new construction.  
D. Pay off old and uneconomical ships and extend the provision of C.A.F.O. 1555/43 to apply to any class of escort vessel.  
E. Transfer the crews of ships paid off in accordance with D. to new construction, subject to normal periodic drafting adjustments.  
F. Pay off a limited number of older ships, corvettes etc., which, although neither inefficient nor uneconomical from material point of view, are less efficient and operationally useful than new construction. Transfer the crews of these ships as in E.  
G. C. in C.WA. to submit for Admiralty approval names of ships for paying off in accordance with D. E. and F. above.  
H. The transfer of ships' companies from old to new ships can only be accepted if profitable operationally and if it assists the manning situation by also releasing a proportion for training and advancement.  
I. A Reserve Fleet organisation will be established.  
3. Further details, including the estimated intake from new construction and anticipated commitments for other commands, will be forwarded by letter.  
(V.C.N.S. 271756A, 281529A.)  
F.O.I.C. Tyne's 231545\* and A.M. 250349 request you will nominate another corvette to replace PENNYWORT allocated to E.F. as required by A.M. 281556.  
(D.O.D.H. 271817A to C. in C.W.A. etc)\* re Refit of PENNYWORT.

27.11.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

- VENTURER. Arrived Lerwick.  
(S.O.(S) Lerwick 270957A.)
- QUALICUM. Cancel para. 2 of A.M. 152320.  
2. QUALICUM should not be sailed for Milford Haven without further orders, but should continue to be held in readiness.  
(D.M.S. 271141B to C. in C.Plymouth.)
- GAMBIA, SHEFFIELD. Your 251834 not to all addressees. Cancel A.M. 261951.  
2. C. in C.H.F. is requested to sail GAMBIA in accordance with H.F.242328 to arrive Plymouth on 5th December to come under the orders of C. in C. Plymouth.  
3. C. in C.Plymouth is requested to sail SHEFFIELD to arrive Clyde p.m. 4th December to carry out bombardment practices at Troon as ordered by C. in C.H.F.  
4. In emergency SHEFFIELD is available for operations to C. in C. Plymouth but is required in any case to arrive at Scapa not later than 9th December.  
(D.O.D.(H) 271554A to C. in C.H.F. C. in C.Plymouth.)
- S/Ms. Positions and movements.  
(F.O.S. 271746A.)
- HOWE. A.M. 121558 and C. in C.Plymouth 141855 neither to all. HOWE proceed to Plymouth passing Hoxa Gate at 0930A/30 to arrive breakwater 0900A/2nd Dec.  
2. Route via Minches and War Channel. S.O.A. 17 knots. Attention is called to A.G.M. 322 A.Z. of 1st March.  
3. HOWE is to proceed unescorted until met by Plymouth escort which C. in C.Plymouth is requested to arrange.  
4. Fighter protection is being requested codeword "Dimple".  
(C. in C.H.F. 272116A to HOWE, C. in C.Plymouth, (R) Admty. V.A.2 H.F. C. in C.W.A. A.C.O.S. H.Q.C.C. H.Q.F.C. A.S.Devonport, VALIANT.)

Operations.

- Operation F.T. Request position and speed of J.W. 54B when local escort was detached.  
(C.S.1 270805 to C. in C.H.F. (R) F.O.(2) H.F. SALADIN, A.C.I.C. BURGA, S.B.N.O.N.Russia.)  
Destination of cruisers on completion of Operation F.T. A. C.S.1. in KENT with BERMUDA to Scapa.
- B. JAMAICA, Hvalfjord. C. BELFAST, Scapa with Battle Fleet.  
(C. in C.H.F. 271054A.)  
Capt. D.17 in ONSLOW and 6 destroyers, tanker NORLYS carrying 1000 (?tons) oil fuel for refuelling escort. Rescue

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War Diary.27.11.1943.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation F.T. (Contd.) Ship COPELAND sailed from Kola Inlet (?to) R/V with R.A. (?54)B in 070° 25' N. 042° 50' E. at 1000Z/(?28).  
(S.B.N.O.N.Russia (Polyarnoe) 271301A.)  
Sailed from Kola Inlet C.S.1 in KENT with JAMAICA and BERMUDA in company.  
(S.B.N.O.N.Russia 271403A.)

Operation "Hardtack D." Carry out operations "Manacle H", "Hardtack E", "Hardtack N", "Hardtack S" tonight Saturday 27th Nov.  
(V.A.Dover 271203A to S.O.M.G.B. S.S.O. M.T.B. S.S.O. L.C.I.S. No. 4 Commando M.G.B. 698, (R) Admty. C.C.O. C. in C.Portsmouth, H.Q.F.C. H.Q. 11 Group.)

My 271203\*. These operations will not be carried out tonight.  
(V.A.Dover 271511A.) \* "Manacle", "Hardtack".

"Hardtack D" was carried out night of 26/27 Nov. Dory lowered at 2215 approx. two miles off shore. Landing and withdrawal successful. Dory returned at 0445 on board. Le Treport, Point D'Ailly and Dieppe Lights observed during night. Shore battery appeared to be six inch at Mount Jolibois opened fire on M.T.B. 249. Returned Newhaven 0830.

(N.O.I.C. Newhaven 271541A to C. in C.Portsmouth, (R) Admty. C.C.O. V.A.Dover, Force J, 11 Group.)

Operation S.F. 1. On completion next patrol ordered which may be either east or west of mine barrier dependent on area searched by A/C of 18 Group M/S Flotilla will be based on Faroes.  
2. Ships are not to proceed eastward of 002° W. or within 20 miles of mine barrier.  
3. Flotilla is to be organized in 2 groups so as to be available to operate independently in any area ordered.  
4. Reference orders for operation S.F. dated Sept. 16th 1943, para. 9 (2) for Seidisfjord read Skaalefjord Faroes.  
Para. II Flying of "Moorings" as such is cancelled for time being.  
(C. in C.Rosyth 271233A to S.O.M/S F. 18, N.O.I.C. Faroes, (R) C. in C.H.F. A.C.I.C. Admty. H.Q.C.C. A.C.C.S. Group 18.)

Operation F.S. My 131711 referred to in S.B.N.O.Archangel's 212046 para. 3 was not to all addressees. It contained the route for R.A.54B given in the Operation Order for F.T. (H.F.Order 1325/158 of 6th Nov.)  
(C. in C.H.F. 271248A.)

Coastal Force Operations. Orders for night 27th/28th Nov. 1. A. 1st S.G.B. Flotilla carry out anti E-Boat patrol on lat. 50° 20' N. between 01° 15' W. and 01° 40' W. from 1800A to 0700A thereafter proceed as ordered by F.O.Force J.

/B...

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27.11.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal Force Operations. (Contd.)

B. 2 M.G.Bs. from Newhaven carry out anti E-Boat patrol in vicinity of 140° E.A.5 10 miles from 1800A to 0600A.

C. CHASSEURS 11, 5 patrol near N.A.B.

D. M.L.291 immediate notice St. Helens.

E. 3 M.G.Bs. from Portland patrolling 50° 15' N. between 02° 10' W. and 02° 35' W.

F. GLAISDALE immediate notice Yarmouth. (C. in C.Portsmouth 271432A.)

ULA, patrol report.

ULA (P.66) reports:-

22nd Nov. At 1415 attacked 3500 ton M/V which appeared to have fire in an after hold, and escort of 800 ton whaler. P.C. and S. of enemy 317° Staalet 1.5 miles 170° 3 knots, range 700 yards.

*Only the merchant vessel sunk. ARCTURUS, 1682 tons. (see G.P. 350)*

Fired two torpedoes both ships sank.\* Remaining escort of small drifter or tug circled area but made no counter attack.

24th. At 1430 fired two torpedoes at 8000 ton M/V in convoy with two others. Enemy P.C. and S. 000° Hogstenen Light 1 mile 192° 9 knots. Range 9000 yards. 8 minutes after firing each torpedo an explosion was heard, no result observed on target which appeared to proceed. 9 depth charges were dropped four minutes later but nowhere near ULA.

24th. At 1455 attacked 4500 ton M/V escorted by M.Class minesweeper, P.C. and S. of enemy 000° Hogstenen Light two miles 17° 9 knots range 7000 yards. Fired two torpedoes first probably hit bottom at dybefz second hit target. Result not observed as ULA had to go deep. A search of the area was immediately carried out by several vessels but no counter attack developed.

No aircraft sighted. Buholmene light was burning normally.

Ends. 270250A.

(F.O.S. 271559A.)

S/Ms.

Positions at 0800A/28th November and movements for the following 24 hours. All times zone A.

A. SEADOG (P.216, SCEPTRE (P.215), SEANYMPH (P.223) on patrol between Soroy and North Cape.

C. VIKING (P.69) on patrol vicinity 62° 11' N. 02° 33' E.

D. O.15 on patrol vicinity 64° 20' N. 00° 55' E.

E. SEA ROVER (P.218) escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE 53° 05' N. 05° 01' W. to 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles. E.T.A. 0900/29th 11 knots.

(F.O.S. 271746A.) Paras. G. & H. cancelled by F.O.S. 281116A.

M.T.B. encounter.

(See amended signal 281356A.)

M.T.B. 205 (Lt. M.Arnold Forster D.S.C. R.N.V.R.) 252 and 257 encountered a force of 4 enemy destroyers steering west at 0443A in 325° Cap D'Antifer 9 miles M.T.Bs. endeavoured to attain attacking position but enemy turned away. When

/closing...

27.11.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

M.T.B.  
encounter.  
(Contd.)

closing enemy at 17 knots starshell fire was opened at about 7000 yards, and unit was forced to disengage in smoke under heavy fire. M.T.B. 254 and 256 patrolling further to the south.  
(C. in C.Portsmouth, 271840A.)

Enemy Air Activity.

S.L.139/  
M.K.S.30.

Technical details noted during air attack on convoy on 21st November, 1943.  
(Capt. D.Greenock 271656.)  
See Lion Copy.

Mining.

9th M/S F.

Q.Z.X.1163 Yesterday Friday accounted for 8 mines (types not yet established). Consider mines all came from same vicinity as in my 231911A, 16 cables remain unswept.  
(M/S 9, 271115A to C. in C.Nore.)

Portsmouth.

My 262148A. Port Eastern area is opened by inshore route through Looe only.

Port Needles Channels are open by inshore route through North Channel and by special route from

N.3 Buoy which is being signalled to authorities concerned.  
(C. in C.Portsmouth 271146A.)

At 1940A/26 two enemy forces, estimated by Radar as about 6 vessels in each, were detected approaching The Needles and Nab areas at 30 knots. Plots show typical minelaying raid by E-Boats. Minelaying is suspected near Durlstone Buoy and in Eastern Approach Channel, Q.Z.Xs. have been requested. Interception was attempted by CHASSEURS patrolling Eastern Approach Channel but they had insufficient speed. M.G.B. Patrol off Portland also could not intercept.

(C. in C.Portsmouth 271835A.)

Bomber  
Command.

3. Minelaying, night 26/27 Nov.  
13 out of 14 Wellingtons of 1 group and 16 out of 19 Stirlings of 3 group laid mines in their allotted positions.  
(H.Q.B.C. 271445A.)

SS. MORAR.

Ref. my 261744A C.A.F.O. 1968/40. (Details of mining.)  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 271730A, 280134A.)

Enemy Intelligence.

LEIPZIG.

Cruiser believed NURNBERG sighted Gdynia Nov. 19th.  
C.2.

(N.A.Stockholm 271211.)

Comment: NURNBERG was last reported in the Sound course N. on 19th Nov. The cruiser sighted at Gdynia on 19th Nov. may however have been LEIPZIG.

/LA...

# SECRET

7/8 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.)

M E S S A G E

IN

271656 November

Date 28.11.43

Reed. 0045

From: Captain D. Greenock  
Naval Officer (Z) by T/P

Addressed C. in C. W.A., Repeated Admiralty, D.G.D. Commodore D. W.A., Captain D. Belfast, Captain D. Liverpool, PHILADELPHIA,

The following points were noted during the attack by about 15 to 20 H.E. 177's on convoy S.L. 139/M.K.S. 30 on 21st November 1943.

Height of release of bat 3,000 feet. Range of release of bat 5,000 to 10,000 yards. Aircraft flew round convoy in a clockwise direction and all attacks except one were made from the beam or astern of the convoy. Only one attack from ahead. In all cases except one aircraft and bat continued on same course for from 1500 to 4000 yards from moment of release. During this time aircraft kept the target fine on its starboard bow. Speed of approach of both bat and aircraft during this run up was estimated at 200 knots. F.K.C. settings and Radar in PHILADELPHIA confirm this speed. Aircraft turned away at about 3,000 to 4,000 yards and bat was directed at target in a steady glide. At end of run bat was between starboard beam and starboard quarter of aircraft and nearest approach of aircraft to target was 2,000 to 3,000 yards. No evidence of homing or automatic height control in bat appeared to increase speed during final approach but speed not believed to exceed 300 knots. About 50 per cent of bats failed immediately on release and dived into sea. The majority of these did not explode, of the remainder, all burst on hitting the water. Considered that some of these exploded and did not detonate. The blast effect of bats bursting in water was mainly directed backwards according to some observers. Three or four of bats observed had green lights, the remainder had red lights in the tail. There is some evidence that maximum range of bat is about 8,000 yards. Several bats released at 8,000 to 10,000 yards (range by 291) fell up to 2,000 yards short. Most of the bats emitted three or four puffs of smoke at intervals during time aircraft and bat were in company. Bat accelerated at smoke emission and appeared difficult to control for height. It appeared that bat was more difficult to control for height than for direction. On only one occasion were two bats observed in the air at the same time. Total number of bats released estimated to be 30.

Details .....



Details of transmission heard during attacks have been signalled in escort group seven's 212111 not to all addressees. Observers were unanimous that wing span was more than 11 feet and suggested 18 feet as nearer correct, but was plainly visible at 10,000 yards. All commanding officers agree that the menace of this form of attack is considerably less than that to be expected from H.L.B.

271656A

1st Lord	D.S.D. 9 (3)	
1st S.L. (2)	D.E.E.	
D.F.S.L.	A.M.W.	
3rd S.L.	D.P.D.	
Vice Controller	U.C.N. (3)	
5th S.L.	Ad. Blake	
V.C.N.S.	C.A.O.R.	
A.C.N.S. (H)	I.P. (3)	
A.C.N.S. (F)	W.D.	
A.C.N.S. (UF) (2)	Deputy Controller (3)	
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)	D.E.E. (3)	) Bath by
A.C.N.S. (W)	D.T.M.	) Courier
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.S.D. (2)	)
U.W.R.		
P.A.S. (S)		
Asst. Contr. R. and D.		
Ops. (2)		
Plot		
O.D. (5)		
M. (25) and for W.C.O.A.M. and MAP for D.S.R.D.C.D.		
	D.Arm. D. and Tel. Section	
D.N.I. (5)		
O.I.C. (3)		
D. I.P. (3)		
D.S.R.		
D.M.W.D.		
D. of P. (O) (3)		
I.M.N.G.		
D.T.S.D. (3)		
D.G.D. (2)		
A.S. (C)		
D.U.B..D		
D.S.D. (3)		
D.T.M. (3)		

IRP

War Diary.

27.11.1943.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence - Contd.

LA HORAINÉ. Your 231509A. French Fishing Vessel should remain in Naval care and maintenance pending disposal instructions.  
(D.S.V.P 271746A.)

Vessel in Lang Fjord. Your 232035A and 261459A. Information available suggests that two-funnelled ship seen in Lang Fjord on 23rd November was a destroyer. KOLN and EMDEN are both believed to be still in Baltic.  
(D.D.I.C. 272207A to S.B.N.O.N.Russia.)

U-Boats.

U/B attacked by E.G.4. A/S contact obtained and several attacks carried out. My 262149 refers. Heavy under-water explosion 73 seconds after attack by CALDER. Very violent explosion under BENTINCK during drop of pattern which shook ship badly but damage only slight. Contact lost. Joining S.L.140 at 13½ knots.  
(?S.O.E.G.4 270001Z.) See also E.G.4 041419A/Dec.

C.A.F.O. 1342/43. A. BENTINCK, BYARD, CALDER. B. 2035Z/26th.

C. R.D.F. confirmed by A/S. D. 038° 40' N. 018° 14' W.

E. BENTINCK and BYARD one each CALDER 3. F. 2333Z/26th.

(S.O.E.G.4 270048Z.)

Tactics adopted by the U/B.

(S.O.E.G. 4 270100Z.) See Lion Copy.

U/B reports by aircraft. N.R.1. Suspicious object previously reported is probably U-Boat course E. lost touch with U-Boat last seen in 043° 43' N. 008° 20' W. cannot remain over U-Boat.  
(O/19 270045.)

Am over enemy S/M in 38.42 N. 17.59 W. When first sighted was on course 070° estimated speed 10 knots.

(A/19 270410Z.)

N.R.1. U-Boat previously reported was on surface. Have attacked U-Boat with depth charge

(A/19 270437Z.)

N.R.2. Over U-Boat still on surface request instructions.

(A/19 270457Z.)

Am over enemy S/M in 38.45 N. 17.40 W.

(A/C A.270502 to Gib. W/T.)

Am over enemy submarine in 39.20 N. 16.27 W.

(L/19 272351Z.)

Technical.

W/T silence. 1. The accumulating evidence of the use to which the enemy hopes to put H/F D/F in U-Boats renders necessary a stricter interpretation of instructions regarding the maintenance of silence and with this object in view the following categories are defined.  
3. Unless otherwise ordered convoys will be in category A., and if B. or C. are ordered will immediately revert to A. on sighting the enemy either U-Boats or aircraft or surface craft.

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Saturday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Technical.

- W/T Silence. (Contd.)
4. There is no restrictions on the use of V H/F R/T.
  5. Nothing in these instructions over-rides the discretion given to the S.O.escort to use R/T if, in his opinion the safety of ships in convoy demands its use.
  6. On occasion 1 category may be ordered during daylight hours and another during hours of darkness.
  7. For instructions re wireless silence see Western Approaches general message 823 N of 13th Nov. 1943.  
(C. in C.W.A. 271201A 271219A to S. & A.W.A.Cmd.)

Casualties & Defects.

- ORIBI, L.C.I.178. Have been in collision with L.C.I.178 whose bulk-heads are holding. L.C.I.(147?) is taking her in tow position 049° 36' N. 007° 40' W. Request tug. Have instructed JANUS to proceed with ATHABASKAN and am remaining vicinity till daylight. Have compartments forward of number 9 bulkhead flooded.  
(ORIBI 270401A to C. in C.Portsmouth.)
- ORIBI 270401 not to all addressees. ORIBI take L.C.I.(L) 178 in tow and proceed to Plymouth.
2. JANUS take ATHABASKAN under his orders and act in accordance with my 261651 ( most secret (presume 251651 intended)).
  3. Codeword "Drain I".  
(C. in C.Plymouth 270658A to ORIBI, JANUS, (R) ATHABASKAN, Admty. N.O.I.C. Falmouth, Capt. D.Plymouth.)  
Your 271330A. L.C.I.(L) 171, 241,305, 295 and 169 proceeding Falmouth remainder of Flight except 178, 276, 306, 245 proceeding Plymouth. 178 proceeding 5 knots towards Falmouth after collision with ORIBI 0300 today, 276 standing by, no casualties. Lost contact with 306, 245 during fog today assume these making for Milford Haven independently. Your 261238A not received. C. in C.Plymouth pass to all concerned.  
(L.C.I.(L) 164 271456A to C. in C.Plymouth, Info. Admty. F.O.I.C. Falmouth, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, C. in C.W.A. Capt. M.L.O.)
- SS. ELINI, At 0215 in 55B. Ships Nos. 22237 and 30814 in collision. Both ships proceeding. Further signal will be made.  
SS. WILLIAM M. MERIDITH. (VIVIEN 270914A.)
- H.M.T. ADVENTURINE. Your 261841A. Request you will sail ADVENTURINE in tow of FAIRPLAY to Tilbury as soon as convenient.  
(C. in C.Nore 271135A to N.O.I.C. Newhaven.)  
H.M.T.ADVENTURINE sustained damage.
- SS. RALOO. Arrived from F.S.81 with damage through fouling buoy.  
(N.C.S.O.Harwich 271249A.)

War Diary.

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects - Contd.

- DANISH BETTY. Your 261601A\* and F.O.Humber's 171706A arrived vessels rudder and propeller damaged ship will be detained until further notice.  
(R.N.O.Berwick 271615A to N.O.I.C. Blyth.)  
\* re Sailing of M.V. DANISH BETTY.
- M.T.B. 691. M.T.B. 691 grounded momentarily on East Platter Rocks at 1533/27. Rudders and both starboard shafts are out of action. Full report of damage will be forwarded after examination.  
(BEE 271815A.)
- MARSA. Continue search for MARSA until dark tomorrow 28th. if not sighted by that time return to Falmouth passing through positions D. 49° 36' N. 13° 50' W. and A. 180 Bishop Rock 8. 2. Aircraft will continue search tomorrow.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 271845A to CAMBRIDGESHIRE, DEXTEROUS.)

Shipping & Convoys.

- S.L.140/  
M.K.S. 31. On joining convoy S.O. E.G.2 is to take charge of all supporting forces and co-operate with close escort.  
(C. in C.W.A. 270011A to E.G.2, E.G.4, B.1 E.G.)  
Appreciation. Air attack with glider bomb is unlikely today saturday but more probable sunday or monday. High level attack from 10000 to 15000 feet by F.W. 200 is always a possibility. Most unlikely that prior warning will be received. Your 262000A refers.  
(C. in C.W.A. 270026A to S.O.E.G.2, (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, S.L.140, E.G.4, E.G.2.)  
Convoy was probably reported by enemy aircraft p.m. yesterday Friday. Attack by U-Boats should therefore be expected particularly submerged. Attack during daylight hours today Sat.  
(C. in C.W.A. 270031A to Escorts S.L.140/M.K.S.31, (R) Admty. F.O.I.C. Gib. S.B.N.O.Azores, E.G.4, E.G.2.)  
My P.C. and S. 040° 30' N. 018° 52' W. 123° 18½ knots. If no previous contact with U-Boat expect to join you soon after dark. E.G.2 will proceed to sectors XK. and XJ. vide A.C.I.105 appendix 2. E.G.4 are to assume sectors XT. and XU. at dark. Will speak to you in the morning.  
Weather report 6772 5226.  
(S.O.E.G.2 271130A to S.O.E.G.B.1, S.O.E.G.4, (R) C. in C.W.A. S.L.140 met. Am chasing H/F D/F bearings 268° and 341°.  
(S.O.E.G.2 271922Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) F.O.C.Gib. H.Q.C.C. S.O.E.G.B.1, S.O.E.G.4, S.B.N.O.Azores.)  
S.L.140/M.K.S.31. Stragglers up to 040° N. have been ordered to return to Gibraltar.  
(C. in C.W.A. 271732A to Escorts S.L.140/M.K.S.31, (R) Admty. F.O.C.Gib. S.B.N.O.Azores, E.G.4, E.G.2.)

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27.11.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

S.L.140/  
M.K.S.31.  
(Contd.)

D/F bearing indicates several German U-Boats close to S.L.140. 2000Z P.C. and S. 039° 02' N. 016° 19' W. 336° 7½ knots. E.G.2 has just joined. (S.O.E.G.B.1 271954Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) Admty. F.O.C.Gib. S.B.N.O.Azores.)

Reference S.O.S. from aircraft O/172 at 2013Z/27th position (039°) 02' N. 017° 41' W. R.A.F. request diversion of escort vessel from S.L.140 to search area.

B. Search will be carried out at dawn 28th. (S.B.N.O. Azores 272324Z to F.O.C.Gibraltar.)

BLACKWOOD has diesel oil remaining for 6½ days at 12 knots. Propose detaching her for Plymouth at P.L.E. (S.O.E.G.4 272353Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Signals on series 7 at 2312Z, 2324Z by control indicate homing by aircraft about to take place in your vicinity. (F.O.C.Gibraltar 272358A to S.E.C. S.L.140, S.E.C. M.K.S.31, S.O.E.G.2, S.O.E.G.4, (R) Admty.)

O.N.213. Sailed ETRICK, CELANDINE, GALT, AGASSIZ, COLDSTREAMER and Rescue Tug ASSIDUOUS for O.N.213. ASSINIBOINE and FORESTER will sail to overtake on completion of defects and calibration. Latest Q.J.A. held 247. (Cdre. D.W.A. 270845A.)

My 270845A\*. Sailed FORESTER. (Cdre. D.W.A. 271221A.)

\* Sailed ETRICK, CELANDINE, GALT, AGASSIZ, COLDSTREAMER and Rescue Tug ASSIDUOUS for O.N.213. ASSINIBOINE and FORESTER will sail to overtake. FORESTER joined at 1500A/27th. (FORESTER 271540Z.)

ASSINIBOINE sailed to overtake in accordance with my 270845A. (Cdre. D.W.A. 272225A to C. in C.W.A. F.O.I.C. Greenock, Info. F.O.I.C. Liverpool, F.O.I.C. N.Ireland, FORESTER.)

E.G.40. Your 250150A\*yes certainly. (PHILANTE 270937A to Capt. D.Greenock.)

\* Requesting dates for 40th Group may be amended to 10th to 13th December inclusive.

O.N.212. P.C. and S. 049° 29' N. 039° 55' W. X. 257° 10 knots 049° 52' N. 037° 03' W. Weather 5481 1085. (E.G.B.6 271103Z.)

O.S.60/  
K.M.S.34  
M.K.S.33.

My 261452\*. WALKER grounded. Damaged propellers will not sail. (Cdre. D.W.A. 270943.)

\* Sailed HIGHLANDER etc. from O.S.60/K.M.S.34.

My 271108 not to all addressees. AVON is required to reinforce E.G.B.4 in place of WALKER for escort of K.M.S.34 and M.K.S.33.

27.11.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

- O.S.60/  
K.M.S.34,  
M.K.S.33.  
(Contd.)
2. Request you will sail ship as soon as ready after fuelling to overtake convoy.  
(Capt. D.26th D.F. 271117A to Cmdre. D.W.A.etc.)  
Your 261330 regret 6th E.G. cannot sail at 2000A/27th owing to defect.  
2. Anticipate NENE, TWEED, LUNENBURG, SNOWBERRY will be sailing p.m. 28th to R/V O.S.60/K.M.S.34.
3. Date of completion of defect in CALGARY and EDMUNDSTON is doubtful.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 271158A to C. in C.W.A. (R) Admty. H.Q.C.C. 6th E.G. Escorts O.S.60/K.M.S.34, C. in C.C.N.A. F.O.N.F. N.S.H.Q. Cdre. D.W.A.)  
6th E.G. is to pass Gate as soon after 1200A/28 as ready and proceed through position A. 180° Bishop Rock 10.  
B. 048° 31' N. 015° 19' W. and thence join and support Convoy O.S.60/K.M.S.34 estimated in 048° 55' N. 019° 35' W. at 0900A/30th course 180° 7 knots. S.O.Escort HIGHLANDER, convoy codeword "Grasp".  
3. Codeword until joining "Obstacle".  
4. S.O.6th E.G. report in due course intended time of passing Gate and (?ships) in company.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 271824A, 280720A to C. in C.W.A. (R) Admty. H.Q.C.C. 6th E.G.Escorts O.S.60/K.M.S.34, C. in C.C.N.A. F.O.N.F. N.S.H.Q. Cdre. D.W.A.)  
Sailing signal part 1.  
A. 1500Z/26. B. FENCER. B. four HIGHLANDER H/F D/F, AVON, CLOVER, ABELIA, ASPHODEL, LINARIA, additional A/S escort and for rescue duties NORTHERN SPRAY, NORTHERN SUN, rescue tug STORMKING, rescue ship FASTNET H/F D/F. C. 49 (41 breaking off with K.M.S. 34) ships.  
(C. in C.W.A. 272022Z.)  
Arrived AVON and sailed to join O.S.60/K.M.S.34 as additional escort. Latest messages held as in my 261452 (not to S.O.E.G.B.4.)  
(Cdre. D.W.A. 272031A to C. in C.W.A.)

E.Coast Convoy Cycle. C. in C.Nore 261920. It is confirmed that under existing conditions Rosyth Escort Force can provide two close escorts for both F.S. and F.N. convoys on 7 days a week. It must be appreciated however, that A. 1 of these escorts will generally be a Town Class destroyer of Low escort value.  
B. All R.E.F. destroyers are veterans and consequently breakdowns are more likely.  
(C. in C.Rosyth 271355 to Admty. (R) C. in C.Nore, C. in C.Portsmouth.)

Balloons. Pass to F.Os.I.C. and N.C.S.Os. Request you will instruct northbound coasters passing Milford Haven by night that balloons are to be deflated by D.E.M. 3. ratings on board when passing Smalls and ships not to call Milford Haven to disembark. 2. In view of small numbers risk of damage to balloons is acceptable. 3. Coasters passing by day to continue to call Milford Haven as at present.  
4. C. in C.W.A's 201219 not to C. in C.Portsmouth and C. in C.Plymouth refers.  
(D.T.D. 271922A to C. in C.Portsmouth, C. in C.Plymouth.)

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27.11.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

U/B attacked 27th by A/C. U-Boat on the surface after aircraft attack at 0437Z/27th in 038° 42' N. 017° 59' W. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 270545Z to S.O. Escort Group 4, (R) C. in C. W.A., Admty., F.O.C. Gib., S.E.C. S.L.140, Escorts of Convoy M.K.S.31.)

S.L.140/  
M.K.S.31. Am being shadowed by one enemy aircraft bearing 180° height 3,000 feet codeword "Newman" (S.L. 140/M.K.S.31) position 37.36 N. 15.57 W., course 342°, 7 knots.

(HURRICANE, 270801Z to Whitehall W/T.)

Following has been read by Gib. W/T. Am over enemy S/M in 38.30 N. 16.05 W.

(A/C G.2 attached to convoy "Newman", 271030 to A.H.Q. Gib.)  
Codeword "Newman" is convoy S.L.140/M.K.S.31.

KINGSTON AGATE, X.K.12(S). Sailed KINGSTON AGATE to overtake and join X.K.12(S). (F.O. Gibraltar, 270826A to Admty.)  
Cancelled - see 281447.  
Estimate: KINGSTON AGATE will R/V in (Y) 039° 06' N. 013° 01' W. at 1200A/29th to act as additional escort.

(F.O.C. Gib., 271902A to BLACKFLY, Escort X.K.12(S), (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.)  
Have developed serious boiler defect. Tube in combustion chamber leaking badly. Am returning Gibraltar. E.T.A. 1500 tomorrow Sunday.

(KINGSTON AGATE, 272306 to F.O. Gibraltar.)

SOUTHERN GEM, visit to St.Vincent. Your 261122, para. 2 and 3, this vessel may visit if necessary. Request proposed dates of visits may be communicated as soon as possible in order that ministry be informed.  
(N.A. Lisbon, 271016 to F.O.W.Af., (R) Admty.)

Supply ships, Azores. No objection to new periods B.N.A.'s 251526 subject to para. 2 A.M. 251717.  
(D.T.D., 271024A to B.N.A. Lisbon, S.B.N.O. Azores, (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

M.K.F. 26, Cruiser escort. A.M. 262310. I have had no A.A. cruisers operating under my orders since removal of PRINCE ROBERT. A.M. 010127 refers.  
(F.O. Gib., 271258A to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Plymouth.)

Supply ships, Azores. B.N.A. Lisbon 251526. It is strongly urged that no arrangement that might be construed into an agreement be come to in this matter. It may well be that the landing of petrol is of vital operational importance. Recommend that it should

/be ...

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27.11.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Supply ships, Azores. (Contd.) be stated that every consideration will be given to the unloading of the mail steamer. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 271340Z to Admty., (R) B.N.A. Lisbon.)

CHANTICLEER. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada for CHANTICLEER). CHANTICLEER 260953Z, Admty. 251916. Failing other orders take advantage of weather to proceed in tow to Horta as soon as possible. Report E.T.D. (B.S.N.O. Azores, 271410Z to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, (R) Admty., F.O. Gib., C. in C. W.A.)

EMBLA. Left Gibraltar 1315/27 for Marseilles by approved route to Cape San Sebastian thence coastwise Swedish EMBLA 1053 gross tonnage speed 7 knots usual National and International Red Cross markings. Not to be molested this voyage. (F.O. Gibraltar, 271445A to 10th S/M Flotilla, PROTEE, F.S. LE CURIE, CASABIANCA F.S., (R) S.I.D.)

O.S. 59. Sailed BIDEFORD, STONECROP, ODZANI escorting Gibraltar section O.S.59. (F.O. Gibraltar, 271513A to F.O.C.W.Af.)

TRUCULENT. My P.C. and S. 036° 51' 009° 06', 099°, 11.5 knots. Based on fix. (TRUCULENT, 271601A to F.O.C. Gib., (R) F.O.C. Subs.)

CARD destroyers. U.S.S. CARD and four destroyers sailed from Hampton Roads 24th escorting U.G.S.25 and have now been ordered to patrol in the vicinity of the Azores. 2. Destroyers may fuel at the Azores. (D.O.D.(H), 271708A to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, S.B.N.O. Azores, H.Q.C.C.)

British Asdic Officers & ratings lent to Portuguese. Your 241855. It is considered inadvisable to raise this question with Portuguese Naval authorities until date can be given of receipt of material requested in my 221832. Your 261450 refers. (N.A. Lisbon, 271821 to Admty.)

BOGUE. U.S.S. BOGUE is expected to operate in area 39° N. 19° W. from 28th November. (D.O.D.(H), 272119A to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, S.B.N.O. Azores, H.Q.C.C., RENOWN.)



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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

S.L. 140/  
M.K.S. 31.

S.B.N.O. Azores, 272324Z, F.O.C. Gibraltar 272358A.  
See Home Commands.

RENOWN.

Arrived. Sailed for U.K. escorted to R/V by  
ULSTER, TUMULT, ROCKET.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 272324A, 272330A to Admty., (R)  
C. in C. H.F., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth,  
C. in C. Med.)

South Atlantic.

EMERALD,  
C.M. 47.

Sailed EMERALD escorting convoy C.M.47.  
N.C.S.O. Durban's 270814 refers.  
2. EMERALD detaches in position (X) 6° 00' S.  
48° 50' E. and proceeds to Kilindini. C. in c.  
E.F. 150447 para. I (not to Admiralty) refers.  
3. S. of A. from position (X) to Kilindini 20 knots, E.T.A.  
0700Z/7th Dec.  
(Com. i/c Durban, 270921Z to Admty., C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.),  
C. in C. S.A., F.O.E.Af., N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, N.O.I.C. Aden,  
F.O. Destroyers E.F.)

STELLA  
POLARIS  
sabotage.

C.A.F.O.199/41. STELLA POLARIS reports discovery  
of Crayfish claw between primer and detonator  
envelope in depth charge.  
(2) Evidence points to claw having been inserted  
while ship refitting at Capetown during July -  
August.  
(3) Full report follows.  
(4) Precautionary measures have been taken by other ships in  
S.A.E.F.  
(Com. Durban, 270925Z to D.N.I., (R) S.O.(I) Capetown.)

S.L. 141,  
SUFFREN,  
JEANNE  
D'ARC.

(1) Convoy S.L.141 has received instructions to  
change course at 0700Z/27th to pass through  
position 019° 31' N. 017° 40' W. then to rejoin at  
position 024° 40' N. 018° 00' W.  
(ii) (Fr. cruiser) SUFFREN passes through position  
(R) 018° 00' N. 017° 00' W. (Q) 020° 00', 017°  
50'. (P) 021° 25', 017° 56'. (O) 025° 01' 016°  
36' reaching position (R) approx. 1930Z/27th, speed 19 knots.  
(iii) (Fr. cruiser) JEANNE D'ARC must steer from 1900Z/27th to  
0700Z/28th 20 miles to the westward of the route already given her.  
(iv) JEANNE D'ARC acknowledge.  
(Comar Dakar, 271157Z to SUFFREN, JEAN DE VIENNE, (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)

/GENISTA ...

War Diary.27.11.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

- GENISTA. Sailed GENISTA to Kilindini through the following positions (route). S. of A. 12 knots, E.T.A. 0400Z/4th.  
(Com. i/c Durban, 271353Z to Admty., C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.), C. in C. S.A., F.O.E.Af.)
- D.K.A. 8. Sailing telegram. (2) 1400Z/27th. (6) A.S. ODBERG, STANDERTON, PRETORIA, CEDARBERG.  
(N.C.S.O. Durban, 271429Z to Admty.)
- Mark 29 A.T. gear. Is your 261444 (B.A.M.S. numbered message 24) intended to apply to U.S. ships in all areas. Admiralty's 121606, 161355 and 230334 refer.  
(C. in C. S.A., 271436C to Connnav, (R) Admty., C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.W.Af.)
- V.Adm.Peters, F.O.C. West Africa. V.A. A.M. Peters C.B., D.S.C. assumed appointment of F.O.C. West Africa today Saturday in succession to V.A. H.B. Rawlings, C.B., O.B.E.  
(F.O.C.W.Af., 271714Z.)
- SUSSEX. SUSSEX following is anticipated programme.  
(A) Dock 30th Nov. to remove propellor and fit cone. (B) Undock 1st Dec. (C) Ready for sea 2nd Dec.  
2. Request route.  
(Com. i/c Durban, 271802Z to C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.), (R) Admty., C. in C. S.A., R.A.E.F., SUSSEX.)  
See A.C.N.S.(F) 272134A to C. in C. E.F. (East Indies).

War Diary.

27.11.1943.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

K.M.F. 26  
attacked by  
A/C 26th,  
ROHNA  
survivors.

CLAN CAMPBELL escorted by ATHERSTONE and U.S.S. PIONEER arrived. Intend to sail to rejoin K.M.F. 26 on completion of landing survivors in accordance with C. in C. Med. 262251 (repetition of 262241 N.T. in W.R.) para. 4. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville 270731A, 270751A to Admty., V.A. Malta, F.O. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, Cdre. Algiers.)

CLAN CAMPBELL sailed my 270731 refers. Codeword "Watchdog". (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 271752A to SLAZAK, E. of C. K.M.F. No. 26.)

M.E. Air  
Report.

A.304, 27th. Daily Opsum 213, 26th. 1  
Baltimore attacked an 80 ton caique off Cape St. John scoring a direct hit with one 250 lb. bomb. Vessel was left smoking from starboard and with sails shredded.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 270948Z.)

SHAKESPEARE.

(1) You are not to enter Aegean before daylight on 29th as M.T.Bs. are operating in your area until then.

(2) While waiting, patrol east coast Rhodes for caiques. Keep clear soundings east and south of Lindos. (Capt. (S) 1, 271040B to SHAKESPEARE, (R) C. in C. Levant.)  
M.T.Bs. are being withdrawn tonight 27th. Cancel my 271040 and proceed in accordance with your sailing orders.  
2. Enemy are expected to use territorial waters between Kos and Rhodes.

(Capt. (S) 1, 271355B to SHAKESPEARE, (R) C. in C. Levant.)

M.K.F. 26.

1. Sailing telegram (11 ships). 2. 1200/27th. 3, 4, 5, 6, 15. As in C. in C. Med. 212241 and 231635.  
(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 271158A, 271346A to C. in C. Med.)

ROODE ZEE  
ship in  
tow.

Request repetition of name of ship in tow of ROODE ZEE in your 240845. Your 151055 also refers.  
(C. in C. Med., 271224A to F.O. Gibraltar.)

Employment  
of aircraft  
on Bay  
patrol.

Following received addressed Commavnaw from Commorseafon (begins).  
Since 25th August planes of Fairwing 15 have flown over 1800 hours in support of operation "Percussion". After mid-September estimated submarine routes and positions made our section of this area of least probability. With few exceptions it has so remained. While it is realised denying area FF south to surfaced submarines in daylight has been of value it is my definite opinion that entire air anti-submarine effort not employed in escort duty should not be expended in least probable area.

/Statistical ...

729

27.11.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Employment  
of aircraft  
on Bay  
patrol.  
(Contd.)

Statistical information promulgated by Cominch indicates fruitful results obtained by searches in most probable areas. Before inauguration of "Percussion" S/M sightings averaged 4.6 per month. Since practically entire offensive effort has been confined to this operation our sightings have been nil although sightings have frequently occurred in close by probable area. While fully appreciating desirability complete co-operation with Coastal Command effort it is desired employ A/S aircraft available after all escort requirements have been met in searches with planes from Gib. and Azores.

2. Request your views.

(C. in C. Med., 271229 to F.O. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Plymouth, Admty., Comnavnaw.)

TORBAY.

Patrol at your discretion off Steno Pass and Mykoni Channel. Should you have no torpedoes left leave by Scarpanto Strait.

(Capt. (S) 1, 271250B to TORBAY, (R) 1st S.F., C. in C. Levant.)

M.N.B.D.O.  
proposed  
withdrawal.

Withdrawal of M.N.B.D.O. Your 251510 will require as much notice as possible in view of considerable military movement problem involved in redistributing heavy attack in this theatre. 2. Request confirmation of A.M. 251510 para. 1 observing W.O. informed A.F.H.Q. on 24th Nov.

that there was no immediate intention of withdrawal.

(C. in C. Med., 271308A to Admty., (R) C. in C. Levant.)

K.M.F. 26  
attack by  
A/C 26th.  
Report on  
German  
controlled  
bombs.

Following information received from D.E.136 re attack Nov. 26th on convoy K.M.F.26. Bomb control frequencies (details). At least 6 bombs observed to have been jammed. One scored hit out of 15 dropped.

(Comnavew, 271446 to Admty. D.S.D.)

U.S.S. DAVIS's report during late afternoon attack on convoy K.M.F.26. (Control frequencies). Of 15 bombs dropped one scored hit at least six when seen to have been jammed. <sup>? were }</sup>

(C. in C. Med., 271710A to Admty., C. in C. Levant)

A.H. 10A.

Intend to sail at 0600/29th as follows: 11 ships for Taranto. 4 ships for Bari. 2 ships for Barletta (lists).

(8) QUANTOCK, JULIET KERRERA to return to Augusta when relieved. My 270829 refers. Italian corvette SFINGE to continue to Taranto.

(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 271446A to F.O.T.A.L.I.)

/Radar ...

730

27.11.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Radar decoy. Use by enemy aircraft of device simulating Mark III I.F.F. considered confirmed my 100900 to Admty. and Comnavnaw's 092057 (N.T. in W.R.) to Cominch refer.  
(2) Three U.S. destroyers and COLOMBO with M.K.F. 25A on 6th Nov. and PRINS ALBERT with M.K.S.28 on 21st Oct. report this effect.  
(3) No information from five "Hunts" destroyers whose Radar sets gave no warning and so interrogators were not switched on. No effect noted by three U.S. destroyers fitted with interrogators. (C. in C. Med., 271514A to Admty., (R) Cominch, C. in C. Levant, Comnavnaw, M.A.C.)

S/M Patrols. 1. Submarines now have freedom of action east of 026° 30' E. They will be informed if surface force are intended to operate inside Aegean.  
2. Cancel my 241046, 261035 and 271515 all October re store carrying to Leros.  
3. My 071433 re routes inside Aegean still should be complied with when applicable.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 271622B to S.1, (R) C. in C. Levant.)

M.T.Bs. manning. Small type M.T.Bs., see para. 5 of A.L. 06743/43 of 24th July are required for A and B. Your 221840 refers.  
2. It is proposed to man boats A with crews from 7th M.T.B. Flotilla remaining after Higgens Boats (ex Russian M.T.Bs.) are manned. B entirely by French.  
3. It is therefore hoped that both A and B can be manned without any additional call on manpower from U.K. other than normal replacements.  
(C. in C. Med., 271644A to Admty., (R) C.C.F.)

Air Report. A.F.200, 27th. 26th Nov. 24 U.S. Mitchells M/Ys. Ancona. 1 returned early. 132 x 500 hits warehouses. Tremendous explosion with flames up to 600 feet. Railway and docks also hit. Near misses vessel in harbour.  
(H.Q. N.A.A.F., 271702A.)

Axis shipping. (A) My 240940C. Reported B.4. BALKAN put into Bourgas and now expected November 27th.  
(B) SEEROSE sailed for Bourgas November 25th.  
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 261745C to C. in C. Levant, S.O.(I) Levant, Info. Capt. (S) 1, D.N.I.)

CAGNI. Inspection of submarine CAGNI A.M. 231217 directed S.10 to carry out inspection at Malta in view of impending move of S.10 to Maddalena request you will arrange for inspection in Levant by S.1 and movement of CAGNI to Taranto in accordance with your 262050 (N.T. in W.R.) not to all.  
(C. in C. Med., 271804A to C. in C. Levant, (R) Admty., V.A. Malta, F.O.T.A.L.I., S.10, S.1.)

/Hospital ...

War Diary.

27.11.1943.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Hospital  
ships,  
water.

Your 201727A. No Admiralty objection.  
(A.C.N.S.(F), 271813A, 281627A to C. in C. Med.)

P. 31  
(UPROAR).

P.31 (UPROAR) detaches from M.K.S.32 in 037° 16' 008° 22' at 1000/29th and proceed to patrol in Zone SS. Routed through 040° 05' 007° 33' at 0600/30th thence diving by day through 043° 12' 007° 33' at 0400/2nd.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 271920 to F.S. CASABIANCA, H.M. S/M P.67 (LE CURIE), (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers, C. in C. Med., 10th S/M Flotilla.)

N.U. 10.

Request you will sail convoy at 1130A/30th to Augusta M.S.C.I.22.  
8. LAMERTON (S.O.), WILTON, BROCKLESBY.  
(F.O.W.It., 271939A to N.O.I.C. Naples.)

SURF.

My 221244 SURF is to be retained on Levant station till further orders.  
(C. in C. Levant, 272135B to S.1, (R) F.O.R.S.C.A., N.O.I.C. Port Said, Admty., S.4, N.O.I.C. Suez, C. in C. Med., F.O.Subs., C. in C. E.F.)

Situation  
Report  
No. 237.

(1) My 262215, para. 2. SS. ROHNA sank 30 minutes after being hit. In spite of the presence of 6 rescue vessels darkness heavy swell and initial bomb casualties unfortunately resulted in loss of 50 per cent of those embarked. L.C.I.(L) 174 shot down one aircraft and fighters claim 5 damaged in addition to 8 shot down.  
(2) ILEX, NUBIAN and MENDIP carried out successful bombardment North of Garigliano River on 23rd only opposition from single gun was ineffective.  
(3) The Detached Squadron patrolled South of Ancona and 3 in Straits of Otranto during the night 25th/26th but sighted nothing.  
(C. in C. Med., 272200A to Admty.)

Italian  
S/M ATROPO.

Route to Haifa.  
(? F.O.T.A.L.I., 272357 to S.O. S/M Haifa.)

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27.11.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- U/B attacked. (2) Only change areas E and G. U-Boat attacked by QUICKMATCH 005° 52' N. 081° 41' E. 1010Z/26th. Scale air effort area E - W. Scale effort area G - Y.  
(C. in C. E.F., 270351 to E.F. 422 Y.)
- M.A. 18. Sailing telegram (2 ships). 2. 0723Z/27th. NARBADA.  
(N.C.S.O. Vizagapatam, 270731Z to Admty.)
- TAURUS, patrol report. 6th to 27th. At 0454/13th sighted large untersee boat northbound in approx. 5° 17' N. 100° 5' E. Attacked from submerged with 6 torpedoes one explosion heard after ?short interval.  
2. At 0344/14th in approx. 4° 16' N. 100° 23' E. TAURUS was detected by submarine chaser and forced to dive and subsequently attacked with depth charges causing considerable temporary defects. TAURUS surfaced and attacked submarine chaser with gun obtaining eight hits and putting her out of action before being forced to dive by M.B. aircraft.  
3. At 0714 Nov. 22nd vicinity Blundell Island (Mergui Archipelago) sighted large ship KAMIKAWA MARU class northbound, speed about 18 knots. TAURUS was unable to close sufficiently to attack.  
4. 1402/24th in approx. 9° 9' 89° 38' TAURUS was attacked by a Mitsubishi T.97/1 with one bomb no damage.  
5. All times Z one negative six and half (ends).  
(Capt. (S) 4, 270842 to C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.))
- B.M.(?34). Sailing telegram (25 ships) 2. 0930Z/27th.  
6. BATHURST, RAJPUTANA, AGRA, BARODA,  
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 270936Z to Admty.)
- SUFFOLK, CEYLON. Arrivals 0345Z SUFFOLK 0800Z CEYLON.  
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 271138Z to Admty., C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.), F.O.C.R.I.N., Com. Aden.)
- J.C./C.J. Convoys (Calcutta - Colombo) instituted. (? Threat) of U-Boat (? attacks) in Bay of Bengal is increasing.  
2. Intend to institute convoy system between Calcutta and Colombo. Trincomalee, Madras and Vizagapatam ships are to join or leave convoys off these ports.  
3. All ships with a speed of 8 knots and over are to be held for inclusion in convoy at ports indicated from the following dates: Colombo Nov. 30th. Trincomalee Dec. 1st. Madras Dec. 2nd. Vizagapatam Dec. 1st for southbound ships. Dec. 4th for northbound ships. Calcutta Nov. 29th.  
4. First convoy will leave Colombo on Dec. 3rd and will be known as J.C.28 (as received). First convoy will leave Calcutta on Dec. 8th and will be known as C.J.1. J.C. and C.J. convoys will subsequently run on an 8 day cycle.

Attended to C.J. 8  
(page 807)

/5. ...

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27.11.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

J.C./C.J.  
Convoys  
(Calcutta  
- Colombo)  
instituted.  
(Contd.)

5. Sailing dates of M.B. convoys will be adjusted to connect with the above.  
6. Separate signal is being made regarding escorts.  
(C. in C. E.F., 271202Z to F.O.C.R.I.N., (R) N.O.I.C. Bombay, Admty., N.O.I.C. Chittagong, C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.), Com. R.I.N., Bombay, N.O.I.C. Ceylon, N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, N.O.I.C. Madras, N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam, N.O.I.C. Calcutta, N.O.I.C. Cochin, 222 Group, 225 Group.)

SCOTIA  
"S" Report.

Torpedoed 3° S. 69° 03' E.  
(Colombo W/T, 271240Z to Admty.)  
Ref. A.M. A.F. position 003° S. 069° 03' E.  
(Adm. Colombo, 271240Z to B.A.M.S. 7A.)  
SCOTIA reports being torpedoed at 1240Z on 27th  
in 003° S. 069° 03' E.  
(C. in C. E.F., 271341Z to S. & A. East Indies Station (R) Admty., C. in C. S.A., 276 Wing, A.H.Q.E.A., 222 Group.)

Administrative Ref. W. Office 251930A Sept. and C. in C. India's  
Craft. 78209/Q cipher 16th Oct., para. 2.  
Re requirements.  
(A.C.N.S.(F), 271718A to C. in C. E.F.)

SUSSEX.

Ref. A.M. 211725 Nov. Owing to the congestion in the repair yards SUSSEX cannot be refitted in the U.K. The necessary blading will be sent to Simonstown and SUSSEX should be taken in hand on relief by CUMBERLAND.  
(A.C.N.S.(F), 272134A to C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.), Info. C. in C. H.F., C.S.1, Cdre. i/c Durban, A.S. Simonstown, C. in C. S.A., A.S. Durban, C.S.4)

STUART PRINCE, C. in C. E.F. 131019 (not to all addressees).  
PALOMARES. STUART PRINCE and PALOMARES have been allocated to Eastern Fleet.  
2. STUART PRINCE cannot arrive before early Feb.  
3. C. in C. Med. is requested to arrange for PALOMARES to be docked and sailed to Eastern Fleet by the end of the year.  
4. It is desired to fit three additional W/T sets type 87 in PALOMARES before she leaves Med. if sailing will not be unduly delayed thereby.  
5. Request C. in C. Med. and C. in C. Levant will state whether equipment can be provided locally. Fitting of V.H/F D/F is also a requirement and provision is under investigating in Admiralty.  
(V.C.N.S., 272336A to C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.), C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, Info. F.O. Gibraltar, F.O.E.C.(E.F.))



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27.11.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Spanish  
Vessels,  
subversive  
activities  
information.

Navy department have been of much assistance in questions dealing with subversive activities of Spanish vessels in Central and South American Trade. They would much appreciate if both decisions to intercept ships, and results of subsequent examinations may be signalled to B.A.D. as early as possible for their information. Request this may be done. (B.A.D. 270015Z to Admty.)

Comcortdiv  
6, C.U.8.

Refer to this as 261549 from Cinclant to Comcortdiv 6 for action. Escort Convoy C.U.8 scheduled to sail New York Dec. 2nd to U.K. Return to New York escorting U.C.8 when directed by Cmt. N.O.B. Londonderry. TRUMPETER will sail in convoy without operational aircraft. Commercial tankers in convoy to fuel escorts at sea will be named by P.D. New York. (Comnaveu, 271012 to Admty.)

D.E.278.

Boston sailed 25th for Bermuda. (N.S.H.Q. 271315Z to Admty.)

UGANDA.

Arrived Charleston 08 15Q. (C.T.G. 02.6 271347 to C.E.S.F. Com. 10th Fleet C. and R., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A., Admty. F.O. N.F., C.T.G. 02.5.)

ARGONAUT.

ARGONAUT when ready about 271615Z departs Argentia for Clyde. (C.T.F.24 271351 to Admty., ARGONAUT.)

Vessels  
ex Wabana  
ore trade.

Request (a) declared speed of slowest ship referred to in your 251641. (b) Probable date of readiness to sail as convoy. (D.T.D. 271411A to N.S.H.Q., Info: C. in C. C.N.A., C. in C. W.A., F.O.N.F., B.A.D.)

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

(N.S.H.Q. 271440Z)

ROCKAWAY.

This is Comairlant's 262302Z to Comfairwing 7 (R) Cominch, Comnaveu, Com. 10th Fleet, ROCKAWAY, Admty. Com. 8th Fleet, C.M.S.F. and Comfairwing 15.

Direct ROCKAWAY proceed Casablanca as soon as practicable. On arrival report Comfairwing 15 temporary duty awaiting further orders connection future employment. My 221407. (Comnaveu, 271447Z to Admty.)

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27.11.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.U.S. S/M.  
Estimate.

(Cominch, 271517)

TRUMPETER.

Expected departure 1600Z/28th. TRUMPETER New  
York.  
(P.D. New York 271517)B.E.C.7,  
B.E.C.8.(1) Sailed B.E.C. 7 (S.O.) B.E.C. 8 1500Z/27th to  
Casco Bay.  
(2) C.E.S.F. is requested to sail ships to  
Bermuda upon completion of "Shakedown".  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 271520Z to C.E.S.F.)

TRACKER.

E.T.A. Point X.S. 1330 zone plus 4 28th.  
If not required to land ammunition 4 days will  
be saved and aircraft will be retained on board.  
(TRACKER, 271842Z to Cmdt. 5th N.D. Norfolk.  
(R) Cominch, B.A.D., Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet,  
C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.C.T.)Convoy  
Cycles.Your 261054A. N.G. Convoys were changed 23rd  
Nov. to sail 3rd Dec. and every five days to  
avoid U.G.S. under new schedule. Regret you  
were not informed this change in N.G.  
Therefore H.X.269 and odd numbered H.X. would  
sail same day as N.G.402 and every third N.G. Would  
appreciate consideration of suggestion to sail all H.X. convoys  
one day earlier than you propose.  
(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 271901Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A.  
C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q. Comnavu, A.O.C. in C. C.C.  
Comeastseafron.)Laying up  
of "Town"  
Class  
Destroyer.N.S.H.Q. 261425. It has been ascertained from  
C. in C. C.N.A. that with exception of SALISBURY  
and MANSFIELD all "Town" class now in W.E.F.  
are capable of trans-atlantic passenger and  
suitable for non-operational use in U.K.  
(2) Anticipate ships can be released from  
operational duties as follows LEAMINGTON,  
RICHMOND, CHELSEA, MONTGOMERY, CALDWELL and LINCOLN by Dec. 1st  
ROXBOROUGH and GEORGETOWN by Dec. 10th ST. ALBANS late Dec.  
(3) Propose ships be sailed to U.K. via Azores reduced to  
steaming parties if R.N. personnel urgently required on this side  
(4) Approval to strip ships of Hedgehog H/F D/F and type 271  
would be much appreciated.  
(5) Request your instructions.  
(N.S.H.Q. 271917Z to Admty. (R) B.A.D., B.A.M.R., C. in C. C.N.A.  
S.C.N.O. London, Capt. D. Halifax.)

INDIA /...

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War Diary.27.11.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- INDIA. M. of W.T. have received information tanker INDIA arrived unnamed port 3rd Nov. in damaged condition. S.W.P.S.F's 091220Z Oct. (not to A.C.N.B.) refers.  
Request investigation of this report.  
(Admty, 271921A, 272232A to Connnav, Info. A.C.N.B. N.O.I.C. Sydney.)  
See D.T.D. 301653Z.
- GLOIRE. Norfolk departed 26th. French Cruiser GLOIRE for Dakar via Bermuda for fuel.  
(N.S.H.Q. 271946Z to Admty.)
- T.2 Tankers, Independent Sailings Indian Ocean. Your should see A.M.A.S.T. 7467 (N.T. in W.R.) Assuming M.O.W.T. information correct request your views regarding acceptance of risk of independant sailing of T.2 tankers in all areas of Indian Ocean. E.G. They are at present in 8 knot P.A. convoy throughout voyage.  
(B.A.D. 271947Z to Admty.)
- Sub.attack and sighting Summary. Para. C. P.C.610 sound contact 31.48 N. 77.15 W. 270050. All times Z. U.S.S. SANTEE sighted Wake 42. N. 20 W. 240914 Radar contact 42 N. 22 W. 241623.  
(Cominch, 272001 to Admty.)
- H.M.S. LOUIS. (2) LOUIS (B.D.E. 517) (? departs) Boston Gate 0930Q/28th. en route Casco Bay via direct route. (C.T.G. 02.1, 272030 to (U.S.) S.O.P.A. Casco Bay.)
- B.Y.M.S. Following is N.O.B. Bermuda's 271722. N.O.I.C. Azores (R) Cominch, Cinclant, Admty., S.B.N.O. W.At. C. in C. W.A., F.O. Gibraltar, B.A.D. C. in C. C.N.A., C. in C. E.F., N.S.H.Q., S.B.N.O. Azores, TOURMALINE from N.O.B. Bermuda. Cominch 052235, Comeasa from 181545 and 101601. B.Y.M.S. 36, 205, and 206 and 233 departed Sea Buoy at 1600Z/27th for Horta and onward routeing to Londonderry.  
(Bermuda C.C.O. 272040 to Admty.)
- Admty. Appreciation of present trend of U-Boat War. Following is our appreciation of present trend of the U-Boat war, and we should be glad to know if you are thinking on same lines.  
(2) The renewal of the U-Boat offensive in the North Atlantic which started in Sept. has proved a costly failure to the enemy. The moral of crews, in consequence, has seriously deteriorated, and there is a conspicuous reluctance on the part of U-Boat Commanders to attack.

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27.11.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

- Admiralty (3) The enemy's chief problems are:-  
 Appreciation (a) To avoid or repel attack by aircraft - this  
 of present is his predominant and urgent need.  
 Trend of (b) To locate the convoys, observing that he  
 U-Boat has lost so much mobility by the activity of our  
 War. aircraft.  
 (Contd.) (c) To reduce the effectiveness of escort  
 vessels.  
 (4) The German High Command have provided the  
 following solution to these problems:  
 (a) U-Boats to remain submerged by day and to surface at night  
 for the least possible time compatible with charging  
 batteries. When in contact with convoy, attack to be at night  
 only and not followed up. Improved flak, listening devices  
 for our A.S.V. and Radar.  
 (b) Long range air R/C to locate convoys.  
 (c) New Weapons such as the Gnat.  
 (5) In the circumstances our aircraft are unlikely to have much  
 opportunity to kill until we can attack more frequently at  
 night, or force U-Boats to surface by day owing to exhaustion.  
 This requires more searchlight-fitted aircraft and an effective  
 counter to the enemy's listening devices.  
 (6) The operations of our carriers will also be affected and  
 opportunities for kills by daylight in fuelling areas or  
 probability areas, in which the U.S. carriers have been so  
 successful, will not recur.  
 (7) The enemy's main concern will be to recover mobility by  
 extensive use of long range air R/C to place the U-Boats on the  
 path of the convoy, making passages during night only, and  
 relying on Radar or listening devices for early warning.  
 (8) Thus we must expect concentrated pack attacks, perhaps  
 for one night only, since the enemy is unlikely to surface in  
 daylight to regain the convoy. If this procedure fails, we  
 must be prepared for a series of comparatively small units  
 disposed along the path of the convoy for submerged attack by  
 day or night.  
 (9) It is clear that the enemy intends to reduce the effective-  
 ness of surface escorts by attacking them as often as possible  
 with U-Boats and aircraft. It would appear that the measures  
 we have taken against the acoustic torpedo are proving effective  
 at any rate for the time being and other promising devices are  
 under trial. It remains to be seen to what extent we are able  
 to counter the glider bomb.  
 (10) The situation in the Bay remains unaltered. It seems  
 that U-Boats are surfacing at night only and for the minimum  
 period required for charging. It is not thought that the  
 enemy is yet using effective listening devices extensively,  
 but we must be ready for their general adoption soon.  
 (11) The situation regarding Leigh Lights is that we have now  
 one Liberator Squadron (15) equipped and two more should be  
 fitted by the end of the year. We have five squadrons of  
 Wellingtons (75) temporarily rather under strength. This  
 excludes the Catalinas which will not be effective for Leigh  
 Light work until they can be fitted with A.S.V. which we hope to  
 do early in the new year.

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27.11.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Admiralty  
Appreciation  
of present  
Trend of  
U-Boat  
War.  
(Contd.)

(12) The counter measures against enemy listening devices which are immediately in view are:  
(a) The high powered 10 c.m. A.S.V. with attenuator, which is considered an important and promising counter. The first of these will be fitted next month.

(b) The new American search equipment of which we hope to obtain the first equipment for Liberators and Catalinas early in new Year.

(13) An important factor, though not directly a part of the U-Boat war, is the serious threat of air attack with new weapons now facing our convoys within one thousand miles of the Bay Ports; these attacks will be greatly facilitated if we permit convoys to be shadowed by aircraft.

Conclusion: (14) The increased use of L.R. aircraft by the enemy to locate convoys for U-Boats and air attack calls for action to destroy the shadowing aircraft and to repel air attack. This is particularly desirable on the U.K./Gibraltar passage, where convoys are always within range of enemy R/C and bomber aircraft bases.

(15) Since, under the conditions of 4 (a), it is seldom likely that we shall get kills by using C.V.Es. offensively in fuelling and probability areas, they should be employed, for the time being, to cover convoys against air attack. This will require adjustment of the number of fighters carried in C.V.Es. The shortage of shipborne fighters in British C.V.Es. allocated to trade is a serious factor.

(16) It will also sometimes be necessary to use shore-based A/S aircraft to assist in the protection of convoys against air attack, on lines which have already proved successful.  
(Ends.)

(17) It is essential to increase night flying by shore-based and carrier-borne aircraft as quickly as possible and to increase the number of searchlight-equipped aircraft. This involves the utmost acceleration of the programme of fitting counter measures to the enemy search receiver, as well as readiness to counter enemy A/A Radar should he resort to its use. When these are available in adequate numbers we may also have a return of our previous rate of kills in the Bay. Meanwhile, it is essential to keep up the pressure in that area, particularly by night, which in addition to its effect of the morale of U-Boats crews, is most valuable in reducing his rate of progress through the Bay and thus his effective time on patrol.  
(V.C.N.S. 272126A, 290452A to Cominch, Info: N.S.H.Q., B.A.D. Air Min. Comnavu, C. in C. W.A., A.O.C. in C. C.C.)

CALDWELL.

Port propeller damaged by underwater obstruction. Blades believed bent causing excessive vibration. Possible bend in shaft. Intend detaching at Homp for Halifax for inspection of it.  
Weather report.

(CALDWELL, 272359Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) D. Halifax.)

War Diary.27.11.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.Digest  
Serial  
No. 676  
Nov. 26th.

- (4) 10 Bostons conducted negative forenoon coastal sweep South-East New Britain bombing Southern shore Wide Bay.
- (6) 28 Mitchells, 8 Marauders, 15 Lightnings escorting struck barge base 4 miles East Sio with nearly 50 tons 500 pounders from three to 6,000 feet. Target well covered.
- (8) After dark 4 Beauforts bombed Vunakanau airfield while another struck waterfront starting large fire amongst installations and two hit enemy positions wide Bay.
- (9) Allied patrol craft sank one of two loaded Southbound barges South-East of Sio night 24/25th.
- (10) Next day daybreak surfaced submarine sighted 30 miles North North-West Finschhafen.
- (12) 8 minutes prior first contact enemy surface forces refer Digest 675 para. 13. 3 Allied patrol craft encountered 2 Jap destroyers off Matchin Bay proceeding out to sea at high speed.
- (13) Aircraft attacked surfaced submarine noon 26th 40 miles West Northern Buka Island. Depth charges believed hit and seriously damaged ship which resurfaced 40 minutes later stern first.
- (17) On 25th November enemy forced retire 300 yards from prepared positions North-East sector Torokina perimeter with heavy losses. Marine casualties approx. 300. Total enemy counted dead this area prior above action number 1,146. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 270628Z)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.Estimated Positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 271416A)

Reports 2149Z/26th Nov. 0402Z and 0930Z both 27th November indicate group of U-Boats within 90 miles of 39 degs. 00' N. 18 degs. 00' W. Probably about 15 in total and presumed to be moving N.E. to intercept S.L.140/M.K.S.31. Other estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 271422A)

Submarines Attacked.Sub.attack  
and  
sighting  
Summary for  
24 hours to  
0900Z/27th.

- Para. A. (1) CALDER and BENTINCK attacked U-B with depth charges at 2149/26th in 38 degs. 40' N. 18 degs. 14' W.
- (2) A/C A/179 attacked surfaced U-Boat with depth charges at 0402/27th in 38 degs. 45'

N/...

740

27.11.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

Sub.attack  
and  
sighting  
Summary for  
24 hours  
to  
0900Z/27th.  
(Contd.)

N. 17 degs. 40' W.

Para.B. (1) A/C sighted U-Boat (suspicious  
object possibly) at 2345/26th in 43 degs. 43' N.  
08 degs. 20' W. course E.

Para. D. (1) Russian Trawler sighted U-Boat  
at 1510/25th in 68 degs. 19' N. 39 degs. 07' E.

Ref. A.M. 261102A Para. A. (3)

The position of the A/C attack by H/172 has been  
altered to 38 degs. 40' N. 19 degs. 00' W.  
(D.D.I.C. 270957Z to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

BALLOON seen drifting about 60 feet over Rangas Island  
obtained

**SECRET**

lim  
740A

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

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

**M E S S A G E I N**

270100Z/Nov

Date: 27.11.43

Time: 0537

From: S.O.E.G.4.

**NAVAL CYPHER M BY T/P & W/T**

Addressed: O in C Western Approaches, Admiralty,  
Capt (D) Belfast.

**IMPORTANT.**

U-boat night tactics when chased, MY 270001/ refers.

(1) U-boat was detected by S.L. R.D.F. at 9 miles and chased at 24 knots. He steamed away zig-zagging making good 14½ knots. He adopted extremely bold policy and delayed diving until escorts were within 2 miles despite almost continuous star shell fire and searchlights from 7000 yards which however, failed to illuminate him sufficiently for recognition.

(2) Extreme range and size of R.D.F. contact made me doubt whether it was a U-boat. He possibly took advantage of our shyness in approach caused by

- (a) Our doubt as to his identity
- (b) His knowledge of our caution concerning GNATS. Foxers not evident.

(3) Consider proper action with escort of over 20 knots would be to ignore GNATS and close to immediate close action or LV.

(4) On diving he released decoy ballo on which momentarily gave the impression he had not dived but some escorts reported this +echo as periscope. Sea very calm. Balloon seen drifting about 60 feet over Rangas Island obtained asdic contact.

(5) S B T probably used and at time he was very shallow. Violent and prolonged shuddering when very heavy explosions took place under BENTINOK asights from depth charges were dropped made me think at the time we had rammed him. Not repetition not considered to be premature depth charge.

No/.....

- (a) Our doubt as to his identity
- (b) His knowledge of our caution concerning GNATS. Foxers not evident.



(2)

No splash of spray over or near ship.

270100Z

Advance Copy Ops O.D. O.L.O.

+ As received.

\* Re attacks carried out on A/S contd

- 1st Ldr
- 1st S.L. (2)
- 4th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (W)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- U.W.R.
- Capt Pim
- Ops (2)
- Flot
- O.D. (5)
- D.N.I. (2)
- D.T.D. (4)
- D.T.D. (3)
- O.L.O. (4)
- D of P. (3)
- D.A/S. (2)
- D.A.U.D.
- I.P. (3)
- W.E.
- D.P.D.
- D.S.D. (3)
- M. (3)
- U.S.N. (3)
- D.H.W.D. (3)
- D. Map Pm
- D.P.S.D.
- D of P. (4) (3)
- Adml USSORNO
- F.D.S. by Courier
- D.T.H. (2)
- C.A.C.

dob

741

28.11.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation  
F.T.

1. V.A.(2) H.F. in ANSON and C.S.10 in BELFAST with MUSKETEER, OBDURATE, ASHANTI and MATCHLESS left Akureyri this evening to cover the north Russia convoys.

S.L.140/  
K.M.S.31.

2. About 9 attempted attacks on S.L.140 last night were all beaten off without loss. Many attacks were made on the U-Boat force, of which one by DAHLIA was promising. Wellingtons from the Azores, escorting the convoy, made two attacks on U-Boats in the early hours of today.

Mediterranean.

BIRMINGHAM  
torpedoed.

3. BIRMINGHAM, on passage through the Mediterranean to join the Eastern Fleet, was torpedoed forward by a U-Boat in 33.05 N. 21.43 E. (about 50 miles north-west of Derna) at 1242B today. Her main machinery is undamaged and she proceeded towards Alexandria at 10 knots, arriving on 30th November.

"Avalanche".

4.(a). A total of 81 B.25s attacked the harbours and installations at Dubrovnik, Zara and Sibenik today. They claim hits on two merchant ships, and several fires and explosions amongst store depots, warehouses and docks.

(b). It was subsequently reported from Partisan H.Q.Croatia that during the raid on Zara, the German (ex-Yugoslav) cruiser DALMACIJA and the destroyer BEOGRAD were sunk.

Evacuation  
of Kastelor-  
izo.

5. The bulk of the garrison of Kastelorizo was withdrawn to Cyprus last night, by JERVIS, FURY, PENN, PATHFINDER and various small craft. The remainder with all guns and transport embarked in three Allied escort vessels, 2 L.C.Ts. and one Italian F lighter are sailing after dark tonight. A party numbering about 50 all ranks, is being left on the island to simulate full occupation and prevent small enemy landings. Craft have been provided for the purpose of withdrawing the detachment in the event of enemy attack in force. It is intended to use the island or its near vicinity as an advanced base for M.T.Bs. or a raiding force of caiques in the future.

/Aegean...

War Diary.

28.11.1943.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Aegean.

6.(a). B.Y.M.S. 72 is now known to have been captured in Kalimmo on the night 11/12th November and L.C.M. 923 in Alinda Bay on 12th November.

(b). On return from patrol in the Aegean SIBYL reports that she sank three caiques between 14th and 18th November.

TORBAY reports that she sank a floating dock on 22nd November in the northern Aegean,

(c). It is reported that a German steamship from the Piraeus, with stores and 1000 personnel on board, was sunk off Naxos last night.

(d). C. in C.M.E. reported on 1st December that it was reported from a reliable source that the Germans occupied Santorin this morning.

America & West Indies.

7. The U.S. JOHN B. HOOD reported being chased by a submarine in 33.08 N. 78.35 W. at about 0655 today.

Australia & New Zealand.

8. G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. reports that in the early hours of today aircraft successfully attacked an enemy submarine off the northern tip of Buka Island, Solomon Is. After daybreak another aircraft unsuccessfully depth charged a surfaced submarine 60 miles west of Buka Passage. Later probably a third submarine was bombed and is believed to have been damaged 60 miles west of Empress Augusta Bay.

743

War Diary.28.11.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Destroyer  
for  
A.C.O.S.Your 191743. Regret no relief for SLEIPNER can be made available at present.  
2. Request you will ask for assistance as necessary from C. in C. H.F. or C. in C. W.A. (A.C.N.S.(H), 281957A to A.C.O.S.)Facilities  
in Iceland.Re taking over by U.S. (Parish pump staff).  
(Comnaveu, 282307.)Movements.U.S.S.  
ROCKAWAY.Comnaveu originates this as 281014 to you for action. Request that you sail U.S.S. ROCKAWAY on 29th Nov. from Bristol Channel for Casablanca. 16 knots, S. of A. ROCKAWAY and Comfairwing 7 have been informed.  
(Comnaveu, 281031 to Admty.)  
Orders to proceed. Route &c.  
(D.O.D.(H), 281432A.)

RENOWN.

C. in C. Plymouth's 251651.\* Destination of RENOWN is Rosyth.

2. After Plymouth escort part company RENOWN is proceeding best speed to Pentland Firth.

3. When well clear JANUS is to report RENOWN's P.C. and S. and E.T.A. in Pentland Firth.

4. R.A.(D) H.F. is requested to sail 2 destroyer to join RENOWN in Pentland Firth and escort to Rosyth.

(C. in C. H.F., 281250A to RENOWN, R.A.(D) H.F., JANUS, A.C.O.S., Admty., C. in C. Rosyth, H.Q.C.C., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, NELSON.)

\* re orders for H.M.S. ORIBI, H.M.S. JANUS and H.M.C.S. ATHABASKAN.

Para. 1 of my 251651A\* and A.M. 281200A/ not to all addressees. JANUS and ATHABASKAN are to R/V with RENOWN escorted by TYRIAN and ROCKET at 1600A/29th in position (V) 041° 08' N. 020° 50' W.

(2) If fuel shortage necessitates RENOWN is requested to detach destroyer before reaching 050° N.

(3) U.S.S. SANTEE with 3 destroyers is patrolling vicinity of 042° 02' N. 019° 58' W.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 281603A to JANUS, ATHABASKAN, RENOWN, (R) Admty., F.O.I.C. Gib., H.Q.C.C., C. in C. W.A., S.E.C. S.L.140, S.E.C. M.K.S.31, C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Med., S.O. E.G.2, S.O. E.G. 4.)

\* Re route for H.M.S. RENOWN.

/ Orders for ORIBI, JANUS and ATHABASKAN.

U.S.S.  
ROCKAWAY.Intend to sail at 0930Z/29th. Arrangements.  
(N.O.I.C. Avonmouth, 281740A.)

RENOWN.

Your 261629. RENOWN is to be ready to sail from Rosyth on 27th December.  
(D.O.D.(H), 282028A to RENOWN, (R) C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Rosyth.)

/NELSON ...

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War Diary.28.11.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

- NELSON. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to sail NELSON for Scapa after arrival of RENOWN 2nd December. My 281250 not to V.A.2 refers.  
(2) Destroyers with RENOWN are to escort NELSON to Scapa.  
(C. in C. H.F., 281302A to R.A.D., C. in C. Rosyth, NELSON, (R) Admty., A.C.O.S., V.A.2, RENOWN, H.Q.C.C.)
- SHEFFIELD. Admiralty's 271554.  
Arrangements have now been made for RODNEY to carry out the bombardment practices referred to in para. 2.  
2. C. in C. Plymouth is therefore requested to sail SHEFFIELD for Scapa on relief by GAMBIA.  
(C. in C. H.F., 281305A.)
- HOWE. Your 272116A, para. 3 and my 271836A neither to all addressees.  
VALIANT will be ordered to detach TANATSIDE S.O. and MELBREAK to form astern of HOWE when ships meet in vicinity St. Govan's Head L.V. at approx. 2045A/1st December.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 281643A to C. in C. H.F., (R) F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, HOWE, VALIANT, TANATSIDE, MELBREAK, C. in C. W.A., Admty., N.O.I.C. Falmouth.)
- H.M.T.  
BREEZE. Is to be sailed to arrive Milford Haven by 2nd December for onward passage to Gibraltar in convoy K.X.12.  
(D.O.D.(H), 281845A to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth.)
- AFFLECK. Your 281825Z. Route orders in your 250937 not received. Continuing with 2 ships course (7083°) 10.5 knots. My position 2200Z 053° 47' N. 034° 51' W. (S). Weather report 4862 2253.  
(AFFLECK, 282214Z to C. in C. W.A., (R) HESPERUS, Connav, Admty., N.S.H.Q., Cdre. (D) Argentia, Cdre. (D) W.A., H.Q.C.C., S.B.N.O. Azores, F.O.N.F. C. in C. C.N.A., A.C.I.C.)
- BLACKWOOD. Arrived in area at 0430Z/29th. Your 281150Z refers.  
Request homing of aircraft sighting survivors. On completion of search intend proceeding to Horta to fuel and replenish depth charges.  
E.T.A. and requirements to be signalled later.  
(BLACKWOOD, 282305Z to C. in C. W.A., (R) S.B.N.O. Azores, H.Q.C.C., Capt. (D) Belfast, S.O. E.G.4.)

War Diary.28.11.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation F.T. Arrival Molotovsk 0540A/26 (6 ships).  
2. Archangel section: OCEAN VANITY, arrived Economia. 3 ships JUNECREST, FORT YUKON and HENRY VILLARD aground in channel inside Baku. Every effort being made to refloat on p.m. tide today.

OCEAN VANITY anchored outside Baku awaiting clearance of channel. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 260734A.)  
All ships now refloated and channel clear. Para. 2 my 260734\* and para. 1B my 261028/ refer. Admiralty pass to Escort J.W. 54B and all concerned outside Russia. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 281642A.)  
\* re Operation F.T.  
/ re destinations of ships of J.W. 54B.  
Akureyri departures at 1745<sup>5</sup>/28th. R.A.(2) H.F. in ANSON and C.S.10 in BELFAST with MUSKETEER, OBDURATE, ASHANTI, MATCHLESS. (A.C.I.C., 282008A.)

M.T.B. encounter. Substitute following for my 271840A\* while on patrol in accordance with my 261536, M.T.B.254 and 256 encountered a force of 4 enemy destroyers steering west at 0443A in 325° Cap D'Antifer 9 miles. M.T.Bs. endeavoured to attain attacking position but enemy turned away when closing enemy at 17 knots star-shell fire was opened at about 7000 yards, and unit was forced to disengage in smoke under heavy fire. M.T.B.205, 252, 257 patrolling further to the north-east westward were unable to make contact. No damage or casualties. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 281356A.)  
Re M.T.B.205, 252, 257 encountered enemy destroyers.

S/M Patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800A/29th and movements for following 24 hours. All times Zone A.  
(A) SEADOG (P.216), SCEPTRE (P.215), SEANYMPH (P.223) on patrol between Soroy and North Cape.  
(C) VIKING (P.69) on patrol vicinity of 62° 11' N. 02° 33' E.  
(D) O.15 on patrol vicinity 64° 20' N. 00° 55' E.  
(F.O.(S), 281714A, 281836A, 290816, 291031A.)

Exercises.

RODNEY. To carry out practice bombardments on Clyde Bombardment ranges between 6th and 18th December for military F.O.O's under training. (C. in C. H.F., 281312A.)

Allied Air Activity.

Co-operation between air and surface convoy My 261711, para. 10. Captain escorts are not fitted with air warning Radar and the chances of detection of A/C with surface warning sets if problematical. Visual or audible warning may therefore have to be relied upon.  
Request A/C may be warned accordingly. (C. in C. W.A., 281846 to W.A.G.M.836N, H.Q.C.C.)

War Diary.28.11.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity - Contd.

S.L. 140. S.L.140 sorties cancelled weather base.  
(247 Group, 282230Z.)

Mining.

Harwich area. One ground mine detonated by LL trawlers at 0349 in position 52° 09' N. 01° 49.7' E.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich., 280439.)  
Ground mine report my 280439\*  
(A) 0359A/28th. (D) 52° 08'28" N. 01° 49'36" E.,  
198°. (H) Probably 8th October 1943.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 281433A.)  
\* One ground mine detonated by LL trawlers at 0340 in position  
52° 09' N. 01° 49'7" E.

Vergoyer Bank. Dover 00638 of 18th. November enemy minelaying suspected in the ?Vergoyer Bank Area will be investigated as soon as weather permits. In the meanwhile these operations must be postponed.  
(V.A. Dover, 281605A to C.C.O., C. in C. Portsmouth, H.Q.F.C., A.O.C. 11 Group.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy shipping plotted by Radar in Dover Strait. From 0900/27 to 0900/28. E.18 D. Six small at 0017, from 17 miles west of Etaples, south westward until 0046, then due south at 17 knots, faded at 0058 possibly minelaying.  
(V.A. Dover, 280955A.)

U-Boats.

U/B disabled by A/C. Am over enemy S/M in 39.04 N. 16.12 W. When first sighted S/M was on surface course 310°, speed 5 knots.  
(A/C L/19, 280020Z.)  
Have attacked U-Boat with depth charge, lost touch with U-Boat last seen in 039° 04' N. 016° 12' W.  
U-Boat previously reported course 180°, speed 5 knots.  
(A/C 377M6, 280045Z.)  
Am over enemy submarine in 39.03 N. 16.12 W.  
(A/C 377M6, 280120Z.)  
U-Boat on surface position 39° 03' N. 16° 12' W. apparently disabled.  
(A/C 377M6, 280128Z.)  
Hunt U-Boat reported position 39° 03' N. 16° 12' W. U-Boat on surface apparently disabled.  
(Gib. R.A.F., 280300 to Duty L of R.A.F.H.Q. Gib.)  
S.Y.63, 28th Nov. My T.O.O. 280122Z (N.T. in W.D.) X5312 correct version begins A.G/A.C.3 28th Nov. H/172 at 0020Z/28th Nov. sighted and attacked U/B in 39.04 N. 16.12 W. on surface course 310, speed 4 knots.  
(247 Group, 280540Z to H.Q.C.C.)

/U-Boat ...

War Diary.

28.11.1943.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats - Contd.

U-Boat  
tactics  
when  
chased.

Your 270100Z, para. 3. Ships proceeding at over 20 knots should not take side stepping action. Para. 13 of provisional A.C.I.138 refers. (C. in C. W.A., 281838A to S.O. E.G.4.)

New U/B  
weapon.

Recent experience at sea tends to show that some U-Boats may now carry a new weapon which is in principle a deep floating mine detonated magnetically or acoustically. Instructions for dealing with this. (C. in C. W.A., 281938A to (837 N) W.A. General Message.)

U/B  
attacked  
by BLACKWOOD.

Have attacked enemy S/M with depth charge in 040° 45' N. 017° 22' W. S/M dived at 2220Z. (BLACKWOOD, 282230Z to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav, Capt. (D) Belfast, Admty., S.O. E.G.4, H.Q.C.C., C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q., A.C.I.C., S.B.N.O. Azores, F.O.N.F., Cdr. D. Argentinia, Cdre. (D) W.A.)

Technical.

Homing  
and R/T  
communication  
with convoys.

Technical.  
(H.Q.C.C., 281900A to C. in C. W.A.)

Wireless  
silence.

My 271201A (833 N) is suspended pending further instructions. (C. in C. W.A., 282315A to W.A.G.M.838 N, (R) H.Q.C.C.)

Casualties and Defects.

CHANTICLEER.

GARLIES arrived Clyde with personnel from CHANTICLEER. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 280928A.)

Swiss roll  
adrift.

My 261236. 100 lengths Swiss roll heavy broken adrift at 0830/28th 6 miles South of Scarweather L.V. 2nd 100 length broken adrift at 0930/28th 4 miles South of Scarweather L.V. Tug DANUBE return Cardiff. H.M. Trawlers SIESTA and EROICAN endeavouring later to locate. Consider extreme danger to navigation and request navigational warning from Admiralty. (N.O.I.C. Cardiff, 281212A to D. of N., N.O.I.C. Appledore, (R) Admty., for D.M.W.D., C.C.R.T., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, N.O.I.C. Swansea, D. of S.T., N.O.I.C. Barry, C.O.S.(X), H.M.S. GIPSY.)

/SS. THEODORE ...



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28.11.1943.

Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects. - Contd.

SS. THEODORE SEDGEWICK. Ship cracked to waterline, require assistance. (T. SEDGEWICK, 281425A to Cdr. of O.N.213.) Ship dangerously cracked 119° 249 miles from U course and speed 104°, 6 knots, returning to harbour Belfast request instructions and escort. (T. SEDGEWICK, 281445Z to Admty.)

THEODORE SEDGEWICK side fractured to waterline position 056° 21' 012° 50' at 1445Z/28th. COLDSTREAMER standing by to hand over to ASSIDUOUS for escort to U.K. COLDSTREAMER rejoining convoy after handing over. My P.C. and S. 056° 27' 013° 06', 288°, 4½ knots. Weather report 4461 0778.

(ASSINIBOINE, 281630Z.)

Tug being sent.

(C. in C. W.A., 281650Z to T. SEDGEWICK.)

Proceed with all despatch to assist SS. THEODORE D. SEDGEWICK reported at 1545A in 56° 18' N. 13° 10' W. steering 104°, speed 6 knots. Returning Belfast with severe hull damage. Maintain W/T watch on 500 k/cs.

(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 281830A to SAMSONIA.)

Cancel my 281650Z.\*

(C. in C. W.A., 281954Z to B.A.M.S.1A (KFQA) THEODORE SEDGEWICK.)

\* re tug being sent.

Shipping and Convoys.

S.L.140/  
M.K.S.31. My 271954Z. One U-Boat sighted by BENFINCK, one by WILD GOOSE ahead of convoy. Wellington aircraft attacked U-Boat on port bow supported by E.G. 2. Aircraft patrolling to eastwards probably homing. (S.O. E.G.B1., 280043Z to C. in C. W.A., (R) Admty., F.O.C. Gib., S.B.N.O. Azores.)

Departed Horta at 0501Z/28th DRURY in company speed 18 knots, expect join S.L.140/M.K.S.31 about noon 29th.

(BAZELY, 280521Z to C. in C. W.A., S.O. 4 E.G., Escorts S.L.140, Info. Admty., F.O.G., S.B.N.O. Azores, S.O. 2 E.G., S.O. B.1 E.G., DRURY.)

S.B.N.O. Azores 272324Z.\* Regret impossible owing to U-Boat situation.

(S.O. E.G.2, 280900Z to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) S.B.N.O. Azores, Admty.)

\* Re ref. S O S from A/C search will be carried out dawn 28th October.

Your 272353.\* Approved.

(C. in C. W.A., 280950A to S.O. 4th E.G., Info. S.O. 2nd E.G., S.O. B.1 E.G., Admty., C. in C. Plymouth.)

\* Re propose detaching BLACKWOOD for Plymouth.

Brief summary of last night operations.

Approximately 9 attempted attacks on S.L.140 all beaten off without loss, 7 by ships in southward and eastward screening sector, mainly 4th E.G., 2 by close screen. Many attacks on U-Boat force, one by DAHLIA promising. W.R. 6680 6225.

(S.O. E.G.2, 281015Z.)

S.B.N.O. Azores 272324. Detach an escort not an A/A ship to search for missing air crew unless you know that U.S.S. BOGUE is effecting rescue. Escort selected should report in due course whether she will require to refuel at Azores before rejoining convoy.

(C. in C. W.A., 281150 to S.E.C. S.L.140/S.E.C. M.K.S.31, etc.)

/Arrival ...

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28.11.1943.  
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

S.L. 140/  
M.K.S.31.  
(Contd.)

Arrival 27th Nov. BAZELY and DRURY.  
(S.B.N.O. Horta, 271207.)  
Your 281150Z. It seems essential to have full strength tonight. Request BAZELY or DRURY may be detailed.  
(S.O. E.G.2, 281416Z to C. in C. W.A.)  
Your 281416 carry out the purpose of my 281150Z\* immediately.  
(C. in C. W.A., 281720Z to S.O. E.G.2, (R) Escorts Convoy S.L. 140 and M.K.S.31, Admty., T.G.21.13, BAZELY, DRURY, S.B.N.O. Azores, H.Q.C.C., F.O.C. Gib.)  
\* Search for missing air crew.  
Your 281720Z BLACKWOOD detailed.  
(S.O. E.G.2, 281829Z to C. in C. W.A., (R) S.E.C. S.L.140/M.K.S. 31, T.G.21.13, S.B.N.O. Azores, F.O.C. Gibraltar, H.Q.C.C., Admty., BAZELY, DRURY.)

O.S. 60/  
K.M.S.34.

My 271824A\* amend codeword in para. (B) to read "Grasp".  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 280720A.)  
\* Route of 6th Escort Group.  
My 271824A. Sailed MENE, TWEED, CALGARY, SNOWBERRY at 1700A/28th.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 281738A to C. in C. W.A., F.O.C. Gib., Cdre. (D) W.A., (R) Admty., F.O.S., Escorts O.S.60, Escorts K.M.S.34, C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q.)  
My 271824. LUNENBURG and EDMUNDSTON delayed by defects.  
Date of completion will be signalled when known.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 281832A to C. in C. W.A., (R) C. in C. C.N.A., Capt. D. Plymouth, S.O. E.G.6, Admty., S.E.C. K.M.S. 34, LUNENBURG, EDMUNDSTON, F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q., Cdre. (D) W.A., S.E.C. O.S.60.)

J.W. 54B.

Continued mild weather conditions make it possible to accept in Dvina ports 10 dry cargo ships and one clean tanker, if included, from J.W.54B.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 241005A to S.B.N.O. N.Russia (Polyarnoe), Admty., (R) C. in C. H.F., S.B.N.O. N. Russia Murmansk, M.W.T., Admiral Fisher.)  
Following 5 ships of J.W. 54B have been selected to proceed to White Sea ports as amended destination Molotovsk.  
(B) Destination Economia. Following 5 ships, subject to Dvina Channel being cleared vide my (?260)734.  
2. Remainder to Kola Inlet.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 261028A.)

T.A. 74  
(AQUITANIA).

Intend sailing AQUITANIA (SS.) passing Clyde boom 2359A/29th to comply with A.M. 261959A. S. of A. 19½ knots, "Chop" 3rd December. E.T.A. Ambrose L.V. 2200Z/6th Dec. Codeword "Sparrow".  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 281008A to Admty., C. in C. W.A., Cominch.)

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

T.U. 3. A.M. 251640, para. 1 add from Mersey SS. SUFFOLK.  
(D.O.D.(H), 281431A.)  
Intend sailing 4 U.S. destroyers at 2300A/30th  
and U.S.B. ARKANSAS, U.S. Tanker SALAMONIE and  
remaining U.S. destroyers at 0100A Dec. 1st to R/V in position  
(MA) as in Admty.'s 251640A, para. 3.  
(N.O.I.C. Belfast, 281821A.)

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War Diary.

28.11.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

- U/B. Am over enemy S/M in 38° 10' N. 8° 55' W.  
(A/C MUTD 280125 to R.A.F. Gibraltar.)  
Aircraft sighted submerging Sub. 38° N. 18° W.  
28 0552.  
(C.M.S.F. 281138 to Cominch (R) Comnavnaw,  
F.O. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. Admty.)
- U/B attacked. Have attacked U/Boat with depth charge 160 miles  
"Red" area straddled.  
(Duty L. of R.A.F. H.Q. Gibraltar)
- U/B disabled. Gibraltar R.A.F. 280300 see Home Commands.
- ?L.C.T. 332. Request early report whether you have heard  
anything more of incident concerning L.C.T. in  
your 172114.  
(Head of M.L. 280316A to N.A. Madrid, (R)  
F.O. Gibraltar, H.M. Consul, Gijon.)
- S.L.140/  
M.K.S.31. Departures 28th BAZELY, DRURY.  
S.B.N.O. Horta, 280901 to S.B.N.O. Azores (R)  
F.O. Gibraltar, C. in C.W.A. Admty.)
- RENOWN. Request you will re-route RENOWN forthwith  
through new position D. 38.30 N. 21.02 W.  
New position E. 44.59 N. 20.30 W.  
2. Onward route through F 55.00 N., 18.30 W.  
G. 58.00 N. 10.01 W. thence to Butt of Lewis.  
(D.O.D.(H) 281200A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med.,  
C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C.W.A., RENOWN, JANUS, ATHABASKAN,  
C. in C. H.F., H.Q.C.C.)  
Taking into consideration endurance of U.K. destroyers  
and undesirability of bringing RENOWN nearer enemy air bases  
it is not (?intended) to reroute to avoid U/boat concentration  
east of Azores.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 281217 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Plymouth,  
C. in C.W.A., C. in C.H.F.)  
Insufficient information of movement of Force L.A.
- RENOWN. Request I may have fuller details.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 281227Z to Admty., (R) F.O. Gibraltar.)  
Comply with A.M. 281200.  
(F.O. Gib, 281455A to RENOWN (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C.  
H.F., C. in C.W.A. JANUS, ATHABASKAN, H.Q.C.C., Admty.)  
A.M. 281200 which has been repeated to S.B.N.O. Azores,  
request you will divert RENOWN in crossing longitude 20° W.  
direct to position E. omitting position D.  
(D.O.D.(H) 281830A to F.O.C. Gib., (R) C. in C. Med.,  
C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C.W.A., RENOWN, JANUS, ATHABASKAN,  
C. in C. H.F., H.Q.C.C.)  
Comply with A.M. 281830A.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 282211A to RENOWN (R) JANUS, C. in C. Med.,  
C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C.W.A., ATHABASKAN, C. in C.H.F.,  
H.Q.C.C., LATONA.)

/NIMBLE...

28.11.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

NIMBLE. Return to Gibraltar through 035° 50' N. 004° 04' W. where L.C.Ts. were reported steering 270° by A/C at 1227.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 281359 to NIMBLE.)

KINGSTON, AGATE. H.M.T. KINGSTON AGATE returned defective. Cancel my 270826.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 281447 to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med., C.M.S.F.)

CAPE MOHICAN. Your 271224 (re Name of ship in tow of ROODEZEE.) CAPE MOHICAN owing to difficulty with French crew in MATHEW MAURY.)  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 281610A to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. C. in C.W.A.)

South Atlantic.

ABRUZZI patrol. Intend to sail Italian Cruiser ABRUZZI 1000 29th Nov. speed 16 knots through positions. X. 09° N. 15° W. Z. Equator 17.30 W. to patrol area enclosed by lines joining following positions.  
C. Equator 20° W. D. 05.00 S. 15° W. E. 05.00 S. 20° W.  
ABRUZZI leaves patrol 1200Z 5th Dec. returning Freetown through positions Z, X.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 281331Z to Com. 4th Fleet, Comar Dakar (R) Admty.)

S.T.77. 1. Intend to sail S.T.77 0800Z 30th escorted by WELLINGTON S.O.) LOWESTOFT, BUTSER, DUNCTON.  
2. Convoy consists of 4 ships for Takoradi, 1 for Lagos and 1 for South America.  
(F.O.C.W.Af., 281622Z to N.O.I.C. Takoradi (R) Admty., Escorts S.T.77.)

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Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Summary of  
Operations  
18th to 21st  
November.(2) Navy. On 18th Nov. SS. EMPIRE DUNSTAN was  
torpedoed by U-Boat off Cotrone and subsequently  
sank.  
(A.F.H.Q. Algiers, 280130A to W.O.)

JERVIS.

Expect to pass position 482 to 0655.  
PENN, PATHFINDER, FURY in company S. of A 28  
knots. Destroyers embarked 1200 troops. All  
quite. E.T.A. Famagusta 1325.  
(Capt. (D) 14, 280318B to C. in C. Levant (R)  
Fighter Sectors East of Alex. 245 Wing 219 Group  
209 Group, N.O.I.C. Port Said, N.O.I.C.  
Palestinian Ports, N.O.I.C. Beirut, N.O.I.C. Fama-  
gusta, 201 Naval Co-op Group R.A. Alexandria.  
Capt. (S) 10, PENN, PATHFINDER, FURY, Cdre.  
Levant Area.)

SURF.

Cancel my 222145 / your 272135 refers. SURF  
does not now require docking.  
(S.1, 281106B to C. in C. Levant, (R) C. in C.  
Med. C. in C. E.F., F.O.R.S.C.A., Admty. F.O.S.  
S.4, Com. Aden, R.O.C.A.A.S. Alexandria, N.O.I.C.  
Port Said)  
/ Re sailing P.239.

ORPHEE.

Intend to sail ORPHEE (F.S.) at 0900 Nov. 30th or  
the surface through 037 degs. 58' 006 degs.  
08' at 0630/1st. 039 degs. 59' 006 degs. 08'  
at 2130/1st thence as ordered by Capt. (S) 10 for  
patrol all S.U.  
(2) All times zone minus one. Positions North and East.  
(N.O.I.C. Algiers, 281111A to C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 10,  
(R) 10th S/M.F., F.O.C. Gibraltar, CASABIANCA (F.S.) LE CURIE)

T.X.9.

My 271246 sailed 3 hours late.  
(S.N.O. Tripolitania, 281120A to R.A. Alex.)  
M.S.C.122. T.X.9 onward routing from 267.  
2nd 321, 315, 0835/3rd then adjusting speed  
through 501, 310, 309 to arrive Alexandria boom 0756/4th.  
(8) ROMEO, BURRA.  
(S.N.O. Cyrenacia, 281133B to N.O.I.C. Alexandria)BIRMINGHAM  
Torpedoed.My 1044Z (N.T. in W.R.)  
BIRMINGHAM (torpedoed?) by S/M in (?) 033 degs.  
(05'?) N. (021 degs.?) (09'?) E. No track  
(group missed) multiple discharge bubbles dis-  
tinctly visible 6 cables on my portbeam.  
Ship flooded to 53 bulkhead. All main machinery correct.  
Am proceeding to Alexandria at 12 knots. G.S. THEMISTOCLES  
and O.R.P. KRAKOWIAK now (?screening).  
(BIRMINGHAM, 281141Z to C. in C. Levant (R) C. in C. Med.  
V.A. Malta.)

BIRMINGHAM /...

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28.11.1943.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- BIRMINGHAM** reports torpedoes forward in 33 degs. 05' N. 21 degs. 43' E. at 1242B. Now proceeding Alexandria at 10 knots.  
(C. in C. Levant, 281530B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta, C. in C. E.F., F.O.R.S.C.A.)  
See BIRMINGHAM 281702B.
- LE CURIE.** Leave patrol for Algiers through 042 degs. 30' 005 degs. 33' at 2000/1st and proceed through 040 degs. 46' 006 degs. 00' at 2000/2nd, thence 038 degs. 54' 006 degs. 00' at 1015/3rd to R/V with escort in 036 degs. 58' 003 degs. 03' at 0900/4th surface passage throughout except for daylight 2 December.  
(2) If torpedoes are required these will be supplied at (Maddalena?) en route to next patrol.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 281153 to LE CURIE (R) F.S. CASABIANCA, 10th S/M Flot. F.O. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. Fleet, N.O.I.C. Algeria.)
- P.232** Italian Submarine ATROPO leaves Haifa at 1600B/ (STONEHENGE) 28th course 277 degs. to 034 degs. 15' 021 degs. information. 55' at 1130B/1st. Speed 10 knots. You may encounter her p.m. 30th.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 281159 to P.232 (STONEHENGE) (R) C. in C. Levant, Capt. (S) 1st, S.O. S/M Haifa.)
- G.U.S.23.** Sailing Telegram.  
(2) 0750B/28th. (6) SAXIFRAGE S.O., G.S. APOSTOLIS, G.S. SAKTOURIS, FALK.  
(N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 281203B to Admty.)
- P.49** At 9 knots on the surface leaving Beirut 1800B/ (UNRULY) 28th for Kaso Straits on reverse of P.224 (SICKLE) 11 to patrol north Aegean after visiting west coast of Scarpanto and Kandeliusa.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 281206B to 1st S/M Flot. (R) C. in C. Levant.)
- MIRAGLIA.** A.M. 241746 and my 261226. Suggest action in Washington should be confined at present to confirming that ship is not worth allocating to Air Transport Service and that possible use for special craft should not be pursued pending further report.  
(2) There appear possibilities of using her as coastal forces depot ship so as to enable VIENNA to be released to Eastern Fleet.  
(C. in C. Med. 281243A to Admty. (R) B.A.D., F.O.T.A.L.I.)

M.E. /...

War Diary.28.11.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- M.E. (4) Air. Own. 27 Nov. Three U.S. Mitchells two  
Cositrep 69. torpedo Beaufighters despatched to attack one  
M.V. 2500 tons with two escort vessels sighted  
by R/C Baltimore North of Samos unable to locate  
ships. A Baltimore bombed 50 ton Barge off  
South Coast Crete scoring one near miss.  
(C. in C. M.E. 281300)
- U/B Nr. 1 Am over enemy S/1 in 32.59 N. 22.09 E.  
Attacked. (A/C CXUE 281430 to J.9 W.)  
Nr. 2. Have attacked enemy with depth charges  
(corrupt group).  
(A/C CXUE, 281430 to J.9 W.)
- X.T.10. Here is repetition of my 281237B addressed M.S.C.  
1 22. Convoy X.T.10 about 7 ships sailing p.m.  
30th.  
(R.A.L. 281543B)
- MAURITIUS. MAURITIUS left Famagusta 1515 S.O.A. 28 knots.  
Your 272325 para. 1 refers.  
(Capt (D) 1, 281601B to C. in C. Levant (R)  
PENN, N.O.I.C. Famagusta.)
- Kastelorizo (1) Kastelorizo Garrison less small det numbering  
Garrison approx. 50 all ranks successfully withdrawn to  
withdrawn. Cyprus during night 27/28 by destroyers and  
small craft under arrangements R.N. Intend  
using Island or near vicinity as Adv. Base for  
M.T.Bs or raiding force caiques in future.  
(2) Composition of remaining Det. as follows.  
(3) This Garrison ordered to keep up appearances of full  
occupation of Island and prevent small parties of enemy landing  
and having free run of Island without our knowledge.  
Garrison Comd. has orders to withdraw should enemy attack in  
force. Craft for this purpose have been provided.  
(C. in C. M.E. 281615C to W.O.)
- German Further to my 271710 C.T.G. 20.2 reports as  
controlled follows: Technical.  
bombs. (C. in C. Med. 281640 to Admt. C. in C. Levant.)
- THEMISTOCLES, My P.C. and S. 033 degs. 10' N. 022 degs. 45' E.  
KRAKOWIAK, 126 degs. 12 knots. Am detaching G.S. THEMIS-  
Operation TOCLES and O.R.P. KRAKOWIAK at 1815B to carry  
"Strangle". out Operation "Strangle" as directed by S.N.O.  
Cyrenaica. BIRMINGHAM will join convoy U.G.S.23  
at about 2300B and remain with convoy for the  
night.  
(BIRMINGHAM, 281702B to C. in C. Levant (R)  
BRIGAND, S.N.O. Cyrenaica, G.S. THEMISTOCLES,  
ART. Capt. (D) 8th D.F., O.R.P. KRAKOWIAK.)

Detached /...



War Diary.

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Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

THEMISTOCLES, Detached from BIRMINGHAM according to her orders.  
KRAKOWIAK, Proceeding with O.R.P. KRAKOWIAK to carry out  
Operation "Strangle" as your 281441B (N.T. in WR.)  
"Strangle". Expect to reach initial position at 2130B.  
(Contd.) Intend to carry our square search to the north  
of initial position.  
(THEMISTOCLE, 281841B to S.M.O. Cyrenaica,  
(R) C. in C. Levant, O.R.P. KRAKOWIAK,  
A.I.G.71, A.I.G.72)

SICKLE, (1) 4 hours early.  
(Aegean (2) ?One medium size merchant ship and 3 caiques  
Patrol). sunk. One prisoner.  
(SICKLE, 281707B to Capt. (S) 1 (R) C. in C.  
Levant.)

TORBAY. (1) Leave patrol dawn 30th passing between  
Amorgos and Linaros thence direct diving through  
Scarpanto Straits by day on first examining  
east coast of Scarpanto en route. Not now  
considered necessary to dive deep for minefields there.  
(2) Pass through (a) 035 degs. 33' 027 degs. 23' at 1731B/1st.  
(b) 034 degs. 25' 029 degs. 59' at 1910B/2nd to arrive Beirut  
0931B/3rd.  
Proceed on surface by day on 2nd.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 281802B to TORBAY (R) 1st S/M.F.)

UNSPARING. Leave Candia area to pass Kaso Straits on 2nd  
December proceed through.  
(1) 035 degs. 06' 026 degs. 44' at 1502B/2nd.  
(2) 034 degs. 25' 029 degs. 59' to arrive  
Beirut 1559B/4th.  
Surface passage by day 3rd and 4th.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 281822 to UNSPARING (R) 1st S/M.F.)

ATHERSTONE. My P.C. and S. 2000A/28th 035 degs. 32' N. 013  
degs. 52' E. 118 degs. 14 $\frac{3}{4}$  knots. The order  
to join before dusk 30th. intend steering direct  
from position 235 to position 346. Request ap-  
proval and that necessary authorities be informed.  
(ATHERSTONE, 281906A to C. in C. Med. (R) C. in C. Levant,  
SLAZAK.)

SICKLE. Estimate SICKLE crosses track of Destroyers  
position 034 degs. 06' N. 033 degs. 02' E.  
at 2330 tonight 28th.  
(2) SICKLE course 094 degs. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  knots.  
Destroyer course 224 degs.  
(C. in C. Levant, 281922B to PATHFINDER, FURY,  
SICKLE, (R) Capt. (S) 1st S.F.)

War Diary.28.11.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.MESSINA,  
NASPRITE  
collision.

Whilst proceeding alongside Ferry Vessel SS. MESSINA on 26th in charge of pilot. NASPRITE's anchor davits and stem struck top passenger deck and wood rubbing band of MESSINA. Slight damage to both vessels. MESSINA owned by railway company and based at Messina. (Ends.) (Master R.F.A. NASPRITE, 281957 to Admty.)

Situation  
Report  
No.238.

(1) QUILLIAM and LOYAL on patrol during night 25th/26th fired 34 rounds of H.E. into Civitanova.  
(2) During night 26th/27th 20 aircraft attacked Naples only small number bombs dropped and no damage caused.  
(3) ORION, TROUBRIDGE, TEAZER and PALADIN carried out successful bombardment, north of river Garigliano during night 26th/27th M.G.Bs were on patrol between Mljet Island and Dubrovnik, A bombardment of Dubrovnik was carried out, nothing sighted.  
(4) F.S. PROTEE reports obtained one possible hit on 2000 ton merchant ship off Toulon on 23rd Nov.  
(C. in C. Med. 282016A to Admty.)

Levant  
Situation  
Report  
No.116.

To 1800B/28th. JERVIS, FURY, PENN, PATHFINDER and various small craft withdrew bulk of garrison from Kastelorizo to Cyprus last night. Remainder with all guns and transport embarked in three Allied Escort Vessels two L.C.T's and one Italian F lighter sailing after dark tonight. Small Military Party and elements of Coastal Forces Base being left in the Island and vicinity.  
(2) BIRMINGHAM while on passage to Alexandria torpedoed forward by U-Boat, in 33 degs. 5' N. 21 degs. 43' E. at 1222B today, now proceeding at 10 knots. Reports no damage to machinery. Hunt in progress.  
(3) B.Y.M.S. 72 now known to have been captured in Kalymnos night 11/12th and L.C.M. 923 in Alinda Bay 12th. Ref. Situation Report No.108.  
(4) B.Y.M.S. 73 should read B.Y.M.S. 72. TORBAY on North Aegean patrol reports sinking floating dock 22nd. Aircraft report sighting M.V. torpedoed and sinking in her patrol area north of Samos at 0800/27th.  
(5) SIBYL from Aegean patrol reports 2030/14th sinking by gunfire small caique bound Khios from Piraeus at 2212/15th 150 ton schooner in 39 degs. 39' N. 25 degs. 33' E. at 0650/18 small caique bound Salonika from Mitylene and at 1245/18th small caique bound Piraeus from Stavros.  
(C. in C. Levant, 282130B to Admty.)

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War Diary.28.11.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

U/B dispositions. Ref. E.F. 420 (250516) Y of 26th Nov. Para. (H) SS. SCOTIA torpedoed in 003° 00' S. 069° 03' E. 12 1240Z 27th. Other paras. no change last 24 hours. (C. in C.E.F., 280431 to E.F. 424Y.)

P.B.65. Sailing telegram.  
2. 0400Z 28th.  
6. TAMWORTH, ORISSA.  
(N.C.S.O. Hormuz, 280440Z.)

D.K.A.7. 1. Kilindini portion.  
2. Kilindini portion 0428Z 28th to R/V with D.K.A. 7 off Kilindini.  
6. LANDGUARD, SENNEN.  
(N.C.S.O. Kilindini, 280505Z to Admty.)

S.E.A. Air Report. A.240 Nov. 28.  
Nov. 28 Daily Opsum No. 623.  
14th U.S.A.A.F. Nov.26th. 2 U.S.S Mitchells (B.25) sea sweep South China Sea. 200 ft. freight left burning off Tsai Tao Island.  
(S.E.A.A.C., 280608Z to Air Min.)

Movement summary No.101 26th Nov.  
1. CEYLON left Aden 24th due Bombay 27th.  
2. TAURUS arrives Colombo 27th from patrol.  
3. TACTICIAN leaves Colombo 27th for patrol.  
4. SUFFOLK left Colombo 25th due Bombay 27th.  
5. NIZAM left Seychelles 24th due Kilindini 26th.  
(C. in C.E.F. 260814.)

P.B. 64 Speed of ships in Convoy. Owing to the shortage of escorts and particularly fast escorts it is seldom possible to form fast as well as slow convoys on the Bombay-Persian Gulf-Persian Gulf route. It is usually found quicker to sail ships in the first available slow convoy rather than to hold them until a separate escort can be provided. In the convoy referred to in Admty. 261855 the 8 knot ship was a laden tanker and there were other slow ships in the convoy which would have limited its speed to 9 knots in any event.  
(C. in C.E.F., 281101Z to Admty.)

HAWKINS, FROBISHER. Your 191011Z Nov. (suggested removal of torpedo tubes) Approved.  
(A.C.N.S.(W) 281713A to C. in C.E.F., Info. C.S.4, HAWKINS, FROBISHER, C.S. Simonstown.)

/Aden...

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War Diary.

28.11.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Aden,  
proposal  
to transfer  
to E.F.  
Command.

Your 260520. Your remarks on A.M. 062011 are  
awaited.  
(A.C.N.S.(F), 282215A to C. in C.E.F., Info.  
C. in C. Levant, F.O.R.S.C.A., Com. i/c Aden.)

M.A.18.

1. Sailing telegram. (2 ships plus ships  
from Vizagapatam.)
3. R/V 5 miles South of Western Channel  
?1022A G.M.T. 28th.
6. ROHILKHAND, IRRAWADI (not NU)  
(N.C.S.O. Calcutta, 282207Z to Admty.)

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War Diary.28.11.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Air-Sea co-operation between British and U.S. forces. Differences between A.C.I's. and E.C.I's. exist and are likely to cause confusion when U.S. and British air or surface forces are co-operating in the defence of a particular convoy. 2. To meet immediate requirements, suggest U.S. escorts and C.V.E's working in the North Atlantic and believed to carry A.C.I's should use the following common procedure (details). (D.A.U.D. 280124A to B.A.D.) See 161907A/Dec.

T.G. 21.15 constituted. This is Cinclant's 271450 addressed U.S.S. CORE. This constitutes T.G. 21.15 Capt. Dudley in CORE, BELKNAP, GOLDBOROUGH, KEARNY, GREENE. Co-operate with C.T.F. 65 in supporting T.F.65 escorting U.G.S. 26 sailing Hampton Roads Dec. 5. Cease support T.F.65 when you consider appropriate operate offensively against reported S/M positions. Further orders later. You may enter Bermuda for fuel. (Comnaveu 280652Z to Admty.)

T.F. 69 constituted. This is Cinclant's 271843 addressed to U.S.S. NEVADA. Task force 69 constituted as Capt. Rhea in NEVADA Comdesron 17 in NELSON Desron 17 less MURPHY SHUBRICK plus QUICK RHIND Comdesdiv 30 in COWIE Desdiv 30 CHEMUNG. Escort convoy U.T.5 scheduled depart New York and Boston Dec.5 for U.K. Boston Section will be escorted by Desdiv 30 joining New York section at sea at R/V designated by Port Directors Boston and New York. When directed by Admiralty return U.S. escorting T.U.5. (Comnaveu 280654Z to Admty.)

JOHN B. HOOD "S" Report. SSSS from KCMT (JOHN B. HOOD). Chased by S/M 33.08 N. 78.35 W. (Amangansett Radio No T.O.O. recd. 280655.)

TRACKER, ROXBOROUGH. My 271842. ROXBOROUGH with defective steering and unable to steam more than 12 knots following me 40 miles astern. (TRACKER 280815Z to Comdt. 5th Naval District (Norfolk Va.) (R) Cominch B.A.D., C. in C. C.N.A., C. in C.W.A., ROXBOROUGH.)

U/B. S/M sighted 6 miles off Boone Island. (Newfoundland No T.O.O. 28th. recd. 280921 to A.C.I.C. (R) Admty.)

LOSSIE, CATHERINE, GOULD. Intend sailing LOSSIE, CATHERINE, GOULD to U.K. additional to C.5 with H.X.268. (F.O.N.F. 281238Z, 282328 to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) C. in C.W.A., Admty., N.S.H.Q., S.O.5, Capt. (D) Argentia, LOSSIE, CATHERINE.

/D.E.75...

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28.11.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

D.E.75.

Boston sailed 27th for Bermuda.  
(N.S.H.Q. 281311Z to Admty.)

ASPIRANT.

Sails St.Johns (N.F.) 30th with Group C.5 for U.K. with H.X.268. Your 122122A para.A. refers. (F.O.N.F. 281430Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A., C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.C. W.Af., B.A.D., F.O.C.Gib., F.O.I.C. Greenock, N.O.I.C. Campbeltown.)

U.S.  
S/M.  
Estimate.

(Cominch 281523.)

Movements  
Bermuda.

Bermuda departure 27th French S/M LE GLORIEUX  
arrival 28th French Cruiser GLOIRE.  
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 281616Z to Admty.)

H.H.X.268.

Sailing telegram (21 ships). 2. Gate 1430Z/28.  
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 281647Z, 281659Z to Admty.)

Mark 29  
anti-torpedo  
gear.

UR/DIS 271436C. (Is your 261444 (B.A.M.S. numbered message 24) intended to apply to U.S. ships in all areas.) affirmative. Applies to mark 29 only. (Com.10th Fleet C. & R. 281807Z to C. in C.S.A.(R) Admty., C. in C.E.F., F.O.C.W.Af.)

S/M attack  
and sighting  
summary,

A. JOHN PETER GAINES lost Marine Cause 55.13 N. 159.50 W. on 25th. U.S.S. BADGER attacked sound contact 39.24 N. 2206 W. 27.10.15.  
C. S.C.1324 attacked sound contact 11.44 N. 77.48 W. 26.21.31. D. P.B.M. Radar contact 34.12 N. 75.27 W. 27.17.00. All times Z.  
(Cominch 282007 to Admty.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest Serial  
No.677,  
Nov.27.

6. Night 26th. 2 allied patrol craft sank a single enemy southbound barge 18 miles N. of Bonga while 2 others sank 5 loaded landing craft carrying approx. 200 men provisions? and gun carriages heading N.W. around Western extremity of New Britain.

War Diary.28.11.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.Digest Serial  
No. 677,  
Nov. 27,  
(Contd.)

8. Night 26th. Convoy comprising 2 Sub-chasers, 2 freighters, 1 trawler reported 75 miles N. Manus Island heading S.E. 9. Another convoy same night 2 merchantmen, 2 escorts sighted 100 miles N. Mussau Island Northbound. 10. Same night single Yubari class or large destroyer hit by 1,000 pound bombs from Liberator 50 miles W. of N.W. tip of Gazelle Peninsula causing terrific explosion. Possibly additional destroyer seen shortly afterwards heading westwards towards scene of attack. (11) Next night probably 4 destroyers observed W. of Gazelle Peninsula. Moving towards Garove Island. (13) Jap. planes approached Treasury Islands forenoon 26th. but failed penetrate anti aircraft fire. One bomb dropped that night Stirling Island damaging communication base. (G.H.Q., S.W.P.A. 280738Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 281425A.)

Group of U/Bs. operating against S.L.140/M.K.S.31, are now estimated between latitudes 38° 30' N. and 41° 00' N. and between longitudes 16° 30' W. and 19° 00' W. Other estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 281430A.)

Submarines Attacked.

S/M. attack  
and sighting  
summary for  
24 hours  
ending  
0900Z/28th.

Para.A. 1. Nor. SCOTIA torpedoed 1240Z/27th 03° 00' S. 69° 03' E. 2. 2 Wellington aircraft attacks near S.L.140 night 27th/28th but clear details not yet to hand. 3. BENTINCK and WILD-GOOSE each sighted one U/B prior to 0043Z/28th in approx. 39° 30' N. 16° 25' W. 4. Gibraltar aircraft sighted U-Boat about 0930Z/27th in 38° 30' N. 16° 05' W.

(D.D.I.C., 281110A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

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29.11.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation  
F.T.

1. At 1617 V.A.2 reported that he had had to slip his screen owing to a heavy north-easterly sea.

At 0800 today Convoy J.W. 54B is estimated to be about 180 miles south-west of Bear Island and Convoy R.A. 54B about 310 miles east of Bear Island.

H.X. 267(E).

2. At 2140Z today VESPER one of the escorts of H.X.267, sighted a U-Boat on the surface in 54.34 N. 24.24 W. and dropped a full pattern on the swirl as it dived.

Bremen  
bombed.

3. 153 out of 361 Fortresses which were despatched bombed Bremen today. Cloud prevented results from being seen. 13 Fortresses are missing.

South Atlantic.

(Brach)  
4. SS. FORT DE VAUX, was torpedoed at 2327 in 06.35 N. 12.28 W. (about 120 miles south of Freetown).

Mediterranean.

Air attack  
on K.M.F.26.

5(a). The German Air Force yesterday resumed the reconnaissances of the Cyrenaican littoral which had been suspended since the beginning of island operations in the Dodecanese.  
(b) Convoy K.M.F.26 was shadowed by aircraft during most of today and was attacked this afternoon by about 15 Ju.88s, off Benghazi. Allied fighters broke up the attack. RANCHI (16,738 tons) sustained superficial damage and 4 casualties from a near miss. It is reported that fighters destroyed 2 or 3 Ju.88. Neither glider bombs nor torpedoes were used.

/"Avalanche" ...



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29.11.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

"Avalanche".

6(a) Last night, LOYAL, QUILLIAM and M.G.Bs. carried out a diversionary bombardment as part of a feint landing on the east coast of Italy in support of the 8th Army's attack across the Sangro River.

(b) The port of Brindisi was closed today following the detonation of 3 mines in the approach channel by sweeper. M.M.S.3 was damaged and beached.

East Indies.

7. SS. ATHINA LIVANOS was torpedoed and sank in 30 seconds at 1630Z today in the Gulf of Aden in 12.20 N. 44.00 E.

Burma.

8. In the Kalewa-Pakoku area 2 Beaufighters today attacked two river steamers, setting one of them on fire and possibly sinking the other. Three smaller steamers were set on fire and 41 other river craft were damaged.

Australia and New Zealand.

Raid on  
Torokina.

9. Last night, Allied troops carried out a raid 6 miles east of Torokina, Bougainville Island (Solomons) where ammunition and medical supplies were located. They encountered greatly superior enemy forces, and withdrew after dusk, covered by surface craft, including destroyers, having destroyed ammunition, stores and medical supplies and captured documents.

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29.11.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

S/M's (F.O.S. 291021A to F.O. Gibraltar).  
from U.K. See North Atlantic.

Movements.

RENOWN. My 290057A and A.M. 290831A. R/V in position  
(X) 041 degs. 10' N. 021 degs. 20' W. at  
1600A/29th.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 290845A to JANUS, ATHA-  
BASKAN, RENOWN)  
P.C.S. at 1500A of RENOWN 041 degs. 22' N. 021 degs. 24' W.  
008 degs. 23.5 knots.  
P.C.S. TUMULT, ROCKET 040 degs. 15' N. 020 degs. 30' W. 120 degs  
17 knots.  
(TUMULT, 291901A to Admty.)

BLACKWOOD. BLACKWOOD arrived in position of crashed aircraft  
at 0430Z today.  
(2) If search is unsuccessful by dark today  
request you will sail her at best speed to  
Horta to replenish fuel and depth charges, thence to Belfast  
where she is required by 5th December.  
(C. in C. W.A. 290918Z to F.O.C. Gibraltar)  
To comply with your 290918Z intend to proceed to Horta at  
1500Z/29th.  
Sea calm, visibility extreme. A (?Beaufighter) or Wirlwind  
co-operating in search. Present engine defects include 9  
cylinder head studs broken. Maximum speed 17 knots.  
(BLACKWOOD, 291125Z to C. in C. W.A.)

ARGONAUT. On crossing 48 degs. W. steer for new  
positions S 59.10 N. 28.50 W.  
T 58.25 N 19.05 W. U 56.50 N. 14.01 W.  
thence to R.  
(D.O.D.(H), 291137A to ARGONAUT)

SALMON,  
SKATE. Your 281013. Arrived.  
(A.C.I.C. 291139A to R.N.O. Seidisfiord)

SPEEDWELL. Scapa arrival at 1206 SPEEDWELL.  
(A.C.O.S. 291333A to H.F.)

MIDDLETON. E.T.A. 0100A/30th. My position 062 degs. N.  
006 degs. W.  
(MIDDLETON, 291428A to A.C.O.S.)

Operations.

Operation HUSSAR and SEAGULL in company arrived Kola  
F.T. Inlet.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 290737A to Admty.)  
Was detached to Seidisfiord by V.A.2 at 0600A in

067 degs /...

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War Diary.29.11.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation F.T. (Contd.) 067 degs. 42' N. 014 degs. 32' W. to repair leak in starboard condenser, with orders to report on completion of repairs to himself and to report on completion of repairs to himself and to await further orders. If practicable V.A.2 will make a R/V on his return route.  
(MATCHLESS, 291515A to C. in C. H.F.)

Have had to slip screen owing to heavy north easterly sea. My P.C.S. 068 degs. 58' N. 009 degs. 30' W. 060 degs. 10 with BELFAST. Weather permitting destroyers will R/V with me on 1st December.  
Weather 5762 0916.  
(V.A.2, 291617 to Admty, C. in C. H.F.)  
MATCHLESS arrived Seidisfiord 1545A with defect.  
(A.C.I.C. 291704A to V.A.2)  
Based weather forecast I estimate position J.W.54 B at 1200A/30th 073 degs. 22' N. 024 degs. 08' E.  
(2) No position R.A. 54 B has been received since departure.  
(3) In absence of other information force 1 is to give priority to cover of J.W. 54 B between longitude 030 degs. and 041 degs. E.  
(C. in C. H.F. 292248A to V.A.2, C.S.1)  
V.A.2 P.C.S. at 1617A/29th, 068 degs. 58' N. 009 degs. 30' W. 060 degs. 10 knots. BELFAST in company.  
(2) Destroyer screen parted company and will rejoin weather permitting 1st December.  
(C. in C. H.F. 292332A to Admty.)

T.G.21.15. T.G.21.15 consisting of U.S.S. CORE and four destroyers, supporting U.G.S. 26, leave Hampton Roads on 5th December.  
(2) Group has orders to cease supporting convoy as appropriate to operate offensively against reported submarine positions.  
(D.O.D.(H), 291139A to C. in C. W.A.)

Coastal Force Patrols. Orders for night 29th/30th November.  
(1) Following anti-E-Boat patrols to be carried out from 1800A to 0700A weather permitting.  
(A) 3 M.G.B from Newhaven on 50 degs. 33' N. between 00 degs. 10' W. and 00 degs. 10' E.  
(B) 2 CHASSEURS on 50 degs. 24' N. between 00 degs. 48' W. and 00 degs. 35' W.  
(C) 1st S.G.B. Flotilla on 50 degs. 18' N. between 01 degs. 15' W. and 01 degs. 37' W.  
(D) 3 M.G.B. from Portland on 50 degs. 15' N. between 02 degs. 10' W. and 02 degs. 35' W.  
(2) M.L.344 immediate notice St. Helens.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 291303A)

S/M /...

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War Diary.

29.11.1943.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

S/M  
Patrols.

Following is forecast of submarine patrols. Submarines are to be sailed to conform without further signal.

Submarine.	Leave Lerwick.	Return Lerwick.
(A) STUBBORN	13th December	30th December
(B) SATYR	13th "	30th "
(C) VENTURER	13th "	27th "
(D) SIRDAR	13th "	28th "
(E) H.M.S. TAKU	20th "	8th January
(F) ULA	23rd "	6th "
(G) UNSWERVING	20th "	2nd "
(H) SEANYMPH	22nd "	8th "
(J) SCEPTRE	22nd "	8th "
(K) SEADOG	22nd "	8th "
(L) VIKING	27th "	10th "
(M) O.15	27th "	10th "
(N) SURF	29th "	12th "
(O) SPITEFUL	29th "	12th "

(2) (C) (G) (L) (M) (N) and (O) are anti U-Boats patrol. (F.O.S. 291706A to Cpts. (S) 3, (S) 9)

Positions of submarines at 0800A/30th November and movements for following 24 hours.  
(1) SEADOG, SCEPTRE, SEANYMPH on patrol between Soroy and North Cape.

- (2) VIKING patrolling vicinity 62 degs. 12' N. 02 degs. 36' E.
  - (3) O.15 patrolling vicinity 64 degs. 21' N. 00 degs. 56' E.
  - (4) SEA ROVER 49 degs. 10' N. 10 degs. 01' W. diving by day through 49 degs. 10' N. 12 degs 26' W. then 180 degs. daily advance 165 miles.
  - (5) UNSHAKEN 46 degs. 12' N. 13 degs. 22' W. course 360 degs. diving by day, 120 miles per day.
  - (6) TRIDENT 45 degs. 24' N. 12 degs. 54' W. course 360 degs. diving by day, 120 miles per day.
  - (7) UNRIVALLED 43 degs. 50' N. 12 degs. 54' W. course 360 degs. diving by day, 120 miles per day.
- (F.O.S. 291731A to Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Use of  
Glider  
Bombs.

There is evidence that the Glider Bomb is controlled by an observer from the starboard side of the parent aircraft. Aircraft will probably therefore manoeuvre so as to keep target and bomb on their starboard side during the approach and attack I.E. proceeding into clockwise direction round the target. This has been borne out in practice (C. in C. W.A. 291258A to Ships, W.A. 841N)

Mining.

Nore  
Command.

Weekly report of mines rendered safe in Nore Command for week-ended 27th November. One British Mark XIV A, Two British Mark XVII, Eight British V I.  
(R.M.S.O. 291406 to C. in C. Nore.)

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War Diary.

29.11.1943.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

NÜRNBERG.

NÜRNBERG was reported at Oslo on November 27th. graded B.2.  
(D.D.I.C. 291228A to A.I.G.21, A.I.G.47)

U-Boats.

U-Boats  
Reported.

D/F bearings on six U/B transmissions on Series 3 and 7 between 1832Z and 2228Z indicate U-Boats within 150 miles N.E. or S.W. of 40 degs. N. 17 degs. 30 W.  
(D.D.I.C. 290032A to RENOWN)

115 degs. SS SS Class 3.  
(Portrush Radio, 292354Z to N.O.I.C.Greenock)

Technical.

Homing  
and R/T  
Communication  
with  
convoys.

H.Q.C.C.'s 281900. Following amendments to my 271201A \* are proposed.  
(C. in C. W.A. 292002).  
/ re: 271201 suspended binding clarification of point effecting shore based aircraft of this Command.  
\* re: Accumulating evidence of the use to which the enemy hopes to put H/F D/F in U-Boats.

Casualties and Defects.

TREVORIAN,  
OLI GARDA.

051 degs. First Class distress bearing.  
(TREVORIAN 290555Z to N.O.I.C.Greenock)  
0500 G.M.T. from TREVORIAN bearing 337 degs. uncalibrated Class 4. S.O.S. TREVORIAN, list now 13 degs. heading for Aberdeen Beach Decks awash abandoning ship. Ends.  
(Ormesby Radio, 290654 to N.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth)  
Received at 0725 G.M.T. from Coastguard Aberdeen to Wick Radio begins: Your 0556 two high-speed launches, Aberdeen lifeboat, one armed trawler called out and Newburgh Lifeboat launching now. L.S.A. Belhelvie Bridge of Don and harbour called out and searching beaches end.  
(Wick Radio, 290729Z to Ad. Lyness)  
SS. TREVORIAN on passage in E.N.12 Methil to Oban, cargo Government stores, was in collision in approx. 57 degs. 23' 40" B. 01 degs. 37' 00" W. at 0130A/29th with Icelandic Trawler OLI GARDA on passage Iceland to Humber.  
TREVORIAN sank at 0655A/29th 6 miles 075 degs. Girdleness. All crew saved and landed Aberdeen. All C.B's and papers lost with ship. OLI GARDA entered Aberdeen 1123A/29th damaged bow. No casualties.  
(F.O.I.C.Aberdeen, 291505A to Admty.)

L.C.A. 813 /...

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29.11.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects. - Contd.

- L.C.A. 813. L.C.A. 813 sank during exercise VIDY in 50 degs. 39' 7/4 N. 01 degs. 54' 3/4 W. in about six fathoms. Crew safe. Captain G.J.2 has been directed to arrange salvage. (F.O. Force J. 291513A to C. in C. Portsmouth) / as received.
- EMPIRE UNITY. SEA GIANT escorting EMPIRE UNITY into Harwich with steering gear defects. (C. in C. Nore, 291542A to WINCHESTER)
- CARRAIG. Admiralty 270023. It is not considered that N.A.B. CARRAIG is in a fit condition to be sailed to Glasgow Dock, owing to serious Hull defects. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 291731 to Admty.)
- SOPHIE FRANCOIS. SOPHIE FRANCOIS arrived Gairloch under sail with cracked cylinder, vessel will be towed to Aultbea for examination and repaired if possible. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 291739A to N.O.I.C.Oban.)
- KISTNA. KISTNA 251720 and your telephone message. Request information as to reason for request to dock the ship. Is only cleaning and painting required or is damage suspected? (F.O.I.C.Glasgow, 291859 to Admty.)
- RAVAGER. At 2010 in heavy gust wind whilst anchored 6 shackles on port cable in X 4 berth Tail O' the Bank ship suddenly jerked the anchor free whilst heading approx. 340 degs. immediately dragged, and not later than 2015 came into collision with PRETORIA CASTLE heading 280 degs. believed in C.2 berth. Ship was successfully detached with superficial damage approx. 20 feet starboard walk way and starboard after oerlikon Sponson Ship then proceeded to sea. (RAVAGER, 292323A to F.O.C.T.)

Shipping and Convoys.

- A.T.75. SS. QUEEN ELIZABETH arrived Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 290824A)
- F.D.16A. My 171402. Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 291004A to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen)
- O.S.60/  
K.M.S.34. Unable to raise NORTHERN SUN on 2410 K/cs. Last heard 1038Z hove to. Request B.A.M.S.

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War Diary.29.11.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. - Contd.

O.S.60/  
K.M.S.34.  
(Contd.)

as follows. R/V for 1200Z/1st, 049 degs. 18' N. 018 degs. 30' W. 6 Stragglers. P.C.S. at 1200Z, 052 degs. 25' N. 015 degs. 32' W. 245 degs. 6 knots. Weather 2281, 2367. (B.4, 291437Z to C. in C. W.A.)  
My 291437. Now in communication with NORTHERN SUN, hove to 80 miles to the northward. (B.4, 291723Z to C. in C. W.A.)  
You were probably sighted by enemy aircraft at 1503. (D.D.I.C. 291835A to Escorts O.S.60 /K.M.S.34)  
Following Commodore R/V have been broadcast 1200Z/30th. 051 degs. 16' N. 017 degs. 56' W. and 1200Z/1st 049 degs. 18' N. 018 degs. 30' W. (C. in C. W.A. 291918A to Escorts O.S.60/K.M.S.34)  
My P.C.S. at 2300Z/29, 053 degs. 51' N. 016 degs. 41' W. 201 degs. 9 knots. (NORTHERN SUN 292325Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) B.4, E.G.6)

P.W.438. P.W. 438 anchored in Weymouth Bay owing to weather. Intend sailing at first light 30th via Q.Z.S.421 and standard route. (F.O.I.C.Portland, 291634 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

S.L.140/  
M.K.S.31. My 281015Z. Outstanding points are:-  
(1) About 9 U-Boats all made H/F D/F signals between 1917 and 1946. None of these can have been in sight of convoy at the time.  
(2) An A/C was heard homing them on between 2245 and 2325.  
(3) Attacks were mainly from ahead or starboard.  
(4) 2 attempted attacks at about 2320, remainder between 0345 and 0635.  
(5) 2 Gnats reported from one U-Boat. (E.G.:2, 292130Z to C. in C. W.A.)

H.X.267 E. One S/M on surface 54.34 N. 24.24 W. (HESPERUS, 292140Z to Whitehall W/T.)  
My 292140. VESPER sighted U-Boat on the surface and dropped full pattern on swirl as she dived. HESPERUS and VESPER hunting, but not at present in contact. (HESPERUS, 292248Z to C. in C. W.A.)

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29.11.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- U-Boat. Aircraft report at 0025Z/28th. Referred to in your 291450A (BLACKWOOD attacked U-Boat 28th.) was cancelled by the aircraft almost immediately. (F.O. Gibraltar 300941A to Admty.) W.D.Note. A.M. 291450A was not received by W.D.
- S/Ms. from U.K. Your 261609 and my 271048 (see Home Commands) to Admiralty only, I have no objection except in cases where the urgency of reinforcing operation Flotillas will not permit. (F.O.S. 291021A to F.O. Gib. (R) Admty., H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 10, Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 4)
- U-Boat's. D/F bearings at 0425Z, 0609Z and 0655Z indicate U/Bs. in following position respectively between 43° N. 15° W. and 40° N. 18° W. 41° N. 17° W. and 40° 30' N. 17° 30' W. (D.D.I.C. 291032A to F.O.C. Gib., S.B.N.O. Azores, Info. H.Q.C.C.)
- Escort Groups O.S/S.L. Convoys. Your 272351. (Cannot be identified in W.R.) which is being passed to Admty. Ref. to W. Approach Escort Groups not understood. 2. O.S/S.L. Convoys are escorted between Gibraltar and Freetown by Escort Groups based on and operated from Gibraltar. (F.O. Gibraltar 291120A to C. in C.W.A. (R) F.O.C. W.Af., Admty., Capt. D. Freetown.)
- GLASGOW. Arrival 29th. (N.O.I.C. Horta 291259 to S.B.N.O. Azores (R) Admty C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)
- Employment of aircraft on Bay patrol. Ref. C. in C. Med. 271229A Nov. A.O. C. in C. Coastal visiting Gibraltar and Casablanca this week and will discuss points raised with A.O.C. and Commorseafront. (H.Q.C.C. 291305Z to Gibraltar (R) Admty. Med. Air Command.)
- CLUMBERHALL. Request CLUMBERHALL may join STRENUOUS convoy for U.K. 2. N.O.B. Bermuda's 242121 amended by 261341 refers. (D.T.D. 291343A to F.O.C. Gib., Info. S.B.N.O. Azores, C. in C.W.A.)
- Unknown Ship. One merchant ship bearing 225° 12 miles course 260° speed unknown. My posn. 044° 39' N. 20° W. (ULSTER 291400A to Gib. (R) Admty.)

/Survivors...



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29.11.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

Survivors of U/B sunk 1.11.1943. Your 061831. Detailed protest has now been received which alleges, among other things, that:-  
 (a) U/B dinghies were first sighted and survivors picked up two miles from shore. (b) warning shots were fired but vessels did not obey order to stop as they were within territorial waters.  
 (c) boarding took place at 500 metres repeat 500 metres from shore. (d) "In the attack made by seamen of V.47 with sub-machine guns, several cases of fish were destroyed, one of which, containing 25 kilos of sardines, was taken away from the VUEVOGURGU after Master has declined to accept tobacco in exchange".  
 2. To simplify reply to Spaniards, it is proposed to amend the figure 2.8 in your 061831/Nov. to 3.2 repeat 3.2 miles. Request report (a) whether, in the light of FLEETWOOD's reports, you think this amendment too difficult to sustain. (b) any information about allegation in (d) above which presumably refers to boarding. (Hd. of M. (I) 291402A to F.O.Gib. (R) C. in C. Med.)

Movements Horta. U.S. Destroyer LEARY will arrive Horta 1000Z/30th. U.S. Destroyer's SCHENCK, DECATUR, BABBITT at intervals thereafter same date. (C.T.G. 21.14 291500Z to S.B.N.O. Azores.) Arrived and left same day U.S. Destroyer SIMPSON. (N.O.I.C. Horta 291659.)

LORRAINE. Intend sail F.B. LORRAINE SENIOR (as received) escorted by SIMOUN and ALCYON to Gibraltar for onward routeing to Mers El Kebir. Arrangements. (C.M.S.F. 291601A to F.O. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med., Com. N.O.B. Oran, Admty.)

CHANTICLEER. CHANTICLEER in tow of SALVEDA left Ponta Delgada at 1730 G.M.T. 29th for Horta E.T.A. 1500Z/30th. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 291615 to Admty. N.O.I.C. Horta (R) S.O. (I) Gibraltar, B.N.A. Lisbon, S.B.N.O. Azores.)

Pass following to CHANTICLEER addressed CHANTICLEER from Admiralty. Your 260953 comply with A.M. 251916. Acknowledge. (Ends.)

(D.O.D. (H) 291901A to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)

Axis shipping. Arrivals 27th KAULDI, ZALMHAVEN, SYDNEY from Castro loaded, LE VIOLENT from Rivadesella. Arrivals 28th SPES, WATERWEG, RECEJA. Departure 27th LE VIOLENT, Departure 28th RECEJA, LINETTE. Departure 29th SPERBER. (H.M. Consul Bilbao 291620 to Admty. (R) S.O. (I) Gibraltar.)

B.Y.M.S. Arrival 25th November B.Y.M.S. 2060, 2236, 2168, 2162, 2181. Request sailing orders for Gibraltar. (N.O.I.C. Horta 291707 to S.B.N.O. Azores (R) Admty. F.O.C. Gib., N.O.I.C. Bermuda.)

/British...

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29.11.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

British Asdic Officers and ratings lent to Portuguese. Your 271821. Concur. 2. Further signal will be made when report from Lt.Sims dated 16th Nov. has been studied here.  
(D. of P. 291717A to N.A. Lisbon.)

SAON visits to Ponta Delgada. Will you confirm that Portuguese will raise no objection to SAON visiting Ponta Delgada from time to time flying the Red Ensign.  
(B.S.N.O. Azores 291736Z to B.N.A. Lisbon (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med.)

CORVO missing. Portuguese S.N.O. Azores informs me has no word of Portuguese Motor Vessel CORVO. At 1200 G.M.T. on 27th she was 330 miles East Arnel Point. On 28th at 2200 she did not give position but replied to calls stating she was not in a position to signal. On 29th she did not reply to call. Portuguese aircraft reconnoitring 160 miles without result. S.N.O. fears unless CORVO has been diverted by our Naval Patrol she may have been attacked by enemy. Information has been communicated to C.O. CHANTICLEER before departure for Horta today at 1730 G.M.T. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 291741 to S.B.N.O. Azores (R) Admty., B.N.A. Lisbon, S.O.(I) Gibraltar, N.C.S.O. Funchal.) See F.O. Gibraltar 301126A.

Italian Ships in Spanish ports. FULGOR. My 251401. Italian tanker FULGOR successfully removed from Cadiz today now in tow proceeding Gibraltar.  
(B.N.A. Madrid 291801A to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.C. Gib.)

South Atlantic.

U/B MONTCALM. Suspicious "Radar" contact at close range in 013° 32' N. 020° 21' W. at 290034 a.m. proceeding after taking avoiding action.  
(MONTCALM 290150Z to Comar Dakar (R) F.O.C.W.Af.) MONTCALM reports suspicious Radar contact at close range in 13° 32' N. 20° 21' W. at 0034Z/?29.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 291121Z to Admty.)

ABRUZZI, patrol. Sailed F.O.C.W.A's. 281331Z refers.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown 290935 to Com. 4th Fleet, Comar Dakar (R) B.A.D. Admty.)

/M.K.S...

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Monday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

- M.K.S. Convoy sailing dates. It is not thought that an advance by one day of M.K.S. Convoys requires a similar advance in S.L. sailing a.m. 222319 and N.C.S.O. Freetown's 282126 refers.  
(D.T.D. 301132A to F.O.C.W.Af., Info. F.O. Gib.)
- Routeing of ships in event of U/B activity, Mozambique Channel. Concur fully with your 260951 but consider that some modification would be desirable if renewed activity were confined to Mozambique Channel.  
(C. in C.S.A. 291242C to C. in C. E.F. (R) F.O.E.A. Admty., 222 Group.)
- D.K.A.8. Lourenco Marques section of D.K.A.8 sailed 0100Z to R/V off Lourenco Marques at 1000Z/29th.  
(Consular Shipping Adviser, Lourenco Marques 291243Z to Admty.)
- U-Boat. Dakar reports that U.S. Aircraft sighted S/M. at 1228/29 in 14° 10' N. 17° 10' W. submerging slowly on course 230° approx.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 291538Z to Admty.)
- Employment of Italian Warships. Request report in accordance with A.M. 252047 Oct. para.4.  
(D.O.D. (F) 292315A to F.O.C.W.Af.)

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War Diary.29.11.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- BIRMINGHAM. C. in C. Levant's 281938B not to DART. My position 032° 19' N. 024° 09' E. thence to 328 and 508, S.O.A. 12½ knots, reducing to 10 knots when convoy U.G.S.23, now 26 miles ahead, is joined. FAULKNER is in company.  
(BIRMINGHAM 290015Z to PATHFINDER, FURY, (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, S.N.O. Cyrenaica, Capt. D.8, DART, N. & A. Auth. Western Desert.)  
Your 291147B. E.T.A. position 309, 0730B. Request arrangements for landing following on arrival:- casualties 30, passengers, stores, bullion, mails.  
(BIRMINGHAM 291229Z to C. in C. Levant, (R) R.A. Alexandria.)
- EXMOOR. Expects to arrive initial position at 0700B. Intend to carry out rectangular search sweeping 100% seaward between long. 021° 15' E. and 022° 05' E.  
(EXMOOR 290219B to S.N.O. Cyrenaica, (R) C. in C. Levant, Ships Western Desert Naval and Air Authorities Western Desert.)
- A.K.D. 7A. 1. Sailing telegram. 2. 0400Z/29th. 6. HONESTY to position F. thence to Kilindini.  
(N.C.S.O. Aden 290421Z to Admty.)
- U/B. U-Boat transmission bearing 340° 350° from 031° 55' N. 026° 07' E. at 0722B.  
(DART 290750B to Naval & Air Authorities West Desert.)
- ATHERSTONE. Am being shadowed by 1 enemy aircraft 090° 10000 feet WATCHDOG VZ?A 3220 ????  
(ATHERSTONE No T.O.O. recd. 290850 to Alex. W/T.)
- P.219 (SERAPH.) (P.219) SERAPH arrives position 035° 37' 023° 02' at dusk 30th for onward routeing by you to Malta.  
(Capt. S.1 290928B to Capt. S.10, (R) (P.219) SERAPH.)  
Onward routeing from 035° 37' 023° 02' at 1800/30th proceed submerged by day to pass 035° 45' 018° 07' at 1800/2nd thence on the surface to meet escort 5 miles east of B. of Q.B.B. 147 at 0900/3rd.  
2. ATROPO passes 035° 44' 019° 00' at 0730/2nd on the surface 10 knots course 341°. ATROPO informed your movements.  
3. Request bombing restrictions.  
(Capt. S.10 291301 to P.219 (SERAPH) V.A. Malta, Capt. S.8, Capt. S.1, 201 N.C. Group, H.Q. Malta, C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, (R) Admty. R.A. Alexandria.)
- Air reports. A.308 Nov. 29 0938Z. Daily Opsum 215, Nov. 28. Convoy escorted by 2 Baltimores (A.30) was attacked by submarine off Ras Aamer. Cruiser BIRMINGHAM was struck on bows by a torpedo. A/C did not sight submarine but depth charges were dropped. Search continued throughout the day and periscope was sighted on 4 occasions and

/depth...

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29.11.1943.  
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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Air reports. depth charges were dropped. Search continues and (Contd.) BIRMINGHAM is making satisfactory progress at 5 knots. Wellingtons continued search for the submarine reported above. Nil sightings.  
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 290913Z.)

A.F. 205 29th Nov. 1943. N.A.A.F. Opsum 281 N.A.Strategic Air Force. N.A.Tactical A.F. 27th Nov. Add. 24 U.S.Mitchells dropped 72 x 500, 90 x 250 Porto Civitanuova. Area well covered. Explosions and fires. 12 U.S.Mitchells shipping Sibenik. 72 x 500 direct hit merchant vessel unloading. Fires started in warehouses 12 U.S.Mitchells dropped 36 x 500 24 x 250 Sibenik scoring near misses on shipping. Hits on town and road south east Harbour. 6 U.S.Mitchells dropped 72 x 250 Sibenik scoring direct hits on town. Results unobserved.

(H.Q.N.A.A.F. 291540A.)

Part 3 Air Cositintrep No. 142 Nov. 28 N.W.A.A.F. Night 27/28 Nov. No operations. Day 28 Nov. A total of 81 B.25 attacked the harbours and installations at Dubrovnik, Zara and Sibenik claiming hits on 2 M/V and several fires and explosions among stores (?depots) warehouses and docks.

(Air C. in C.Med. No T.O.O. Recd. 292320.)

U.S.L.S.T. It is possible 12 U.S.L.S.T. scheduled to return U.K. 15th Dec. from Oran may be required to operate in Med. until 5th or 15th Jan. and will have to return to Bizerta Ferry Service on completion of refit. Decision is not expected before 7th Dec. Request ships should not be sailed to Oran until decision is reached.  
(C. in C.Med. 291124A to Comnavnaw, (R) Comlan crabnaw, Comnaveu, F.O.I.C. Tunisia, Admty. Capt. L.S.T. Cominch.)

BARNEHURST. Owing to loss of BARFLAKE at Naples it will be necessary to withdraw BARNEHURST from Gibraltar. Request you will sail her to Malta for onward routing to Naples at first opportunity.

2. Boem requirements for Med. and E.F. make it necessary for Gibraltar to revert to allowance of one Bar and one Trawler in 1944. Trawler will be sent about mid-December.

(C. in C.Med. 291151 to F.O.Gibraltar, (R) V.A.Malta, Admty. F.O.W.I.)

BARHOLM. My 171906\*. In view of loss of BARFLAKE release of BARHOLM will be delayed.

(C. in C.Med. 291244A to C. in C.E.F. (R) Admty. S.E.A.C.)

\* re BARHOLM can be spared about end of Dec.

ORPHEE. Onward routing from 039° 59' 006° 08' at 2130/1st through 040° 55' 006° 25' at 0430/2nd and 042° 25' 006° 04' at 0300/3rd proceeding submerged by day to patrol in SU.

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29.11.1943.  
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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- ORPHEE.  
(Contd.)                    2. S/MS are warned that A/C recognition signals up to 3rd Dec. may be compromised.  
(Capt. S.10 291310A to ORPHEE (F.S.) (R) P.67  
(LE CURIE) F.O.Gib. CASABIANCA (F.S.) Cdre.  
Algiers, 10th S/M Flot. C. in C.Med.)
- M.K.F.26.                    Algiers section sailed as follows. (4 ships).  
(Com. Algeria 291624A to C. in C.Med.)
- K.M.F.26  
attack by  
A/C 26th.  
Report on  
German con-  
trolled bombs.             Your 271710. Request details of radiated power and type of modulation of successful jamming.  
(D.S.D. 291720A to C. in C.Med. Info. C. in C. Levant.)
- (P.31)  
UPROAR.                    Proceed on surface on 30th to catch up routing schedule total bombing restrictions arranged to 040° 39' 00" 07° 33'.  
(Capt. S.10 291735A to P.31 (UPROAR).)
- M/S Summary.             For week ending 28th. Searches of approach channels have been carried out whenever convoys or important units entered or left Alexandria.  
(R.A.Alexandria 291740 to Admty.)
- GEORGES  
LEYGUES.                    French cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES is urgently re-  
quired at Dakar.  
2. Request you will sail her for Dakar as soon as ready. Onward route as ordered by F.O.Gibraltar and F.O.C.W.Af.  
(C. in C.Med. 291750A to Com. N.O.B.Oran, (R) Naval France, Admty. F.O.Gibraltar, F.O.C.W.Af.)
- GEORGES LEYGUES is being sailed for Dakar but French Admiralty have asked confirmation that it is appreciated that GLOIRE leaves Bermuda today and JEANNE D'ARC arrives Dakar today. In view of above GEORGES LEYGUES is not needed, request early information so that she may be stopped when passing Gibraltar.  
(C. in C.Med. 291755A to Admty. (R) F.O.Gibraltar, F.O.C.W.Af.)  
Your 291755. Desirability of GEORGES LEYGUES proceeding to Dakar is confirmed.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 292250A to C. in C.Med. (R) F.O.Gibraltar, F.O.C.W.Af.)  
Intend sailing French cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES unescorted to Dakar at 300700A. 6. E.T.A. Dakar 4th Dec. 7. 291750A C. in C. Med's refers.  
(Com. N.O.B.Oran 292353A to C. in C.Med. F.O.Gibraltar, F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Naval France, Commorseafon, Comar Oran, Comnavnaw.)

/M/L...

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War Diary.

29.11.1943.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

M.L.  
Flotillas.

Your 261120 and 261129. M.L. 560 is omitted from your 261120. Request allocation for this boat may be signalled.  
(Admty. 291803A to C. in C.Med.)

Ships for  
Controlling  
Night  
Fighters.

Request information how provision of ships equipped for controlling night fighters in defence of convoys is progressing.  
2. Consider this requirement is growing in urgency in view of developments by enemy of moonlight as well as dusk attacks by glider bombs which can be concerted with torpedo air attacks.  
3. With the suspension of operations in the Aegean the air threat to convoys along the Cyrenaican coast has obviously increased.  
(C. in C.Levant 291915B to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med. M.A.C. A.O.C.in C.M.E.)

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Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

B.A.53. Sailing telegram (4 ships). 2. 0200Z/29th.  
6. TRENT, THYME.  
(N.C.S.O.Bombay 290024Z to Admty.)

U/B dis- (C. in C.E.F. 290318 to E.F.425Y.)  
positions.

S.O.Subs. On departure of Capt. S.4 in ADAMANT from Colombo  
Colombo. to Trincomalee which will take place about first  
December, intend that C.O.WUCHANG shall assume  
title of S.O. Submarines Colombo.  
(C. in C.E.F. 290349Z to Admty.)

S.E.A. A.225 29 Nov, Daily Opsum No. 624.  
Air report. 2 Beaufighters damaged large steamer, smaller river  
craft, 2 Beaufighters Toungoo-Pyinmana. Damaged  
1 large river-craft. 2 Catalinas A/S and sea  
searches S.W.Ceylon, torpedoes M/V survivors life-  
boats located.  
14th? U.S.A.A.F. 26 Nov. 8 U.S.Kittyhawks (P.40) Changteh area.  
1 power boat fires. 10 watercraft machine gunned 27 Nov. 2 U.S.  
Mitchells (B.25) Swatow. Bombed warehouses docks. Large ex-  
plosions. 2 U.S.Mitchells (B.25) Formosa Straits 4 x 500 lb.  
inst. 1 destroyer sunk. 1 M/V fired. Near misses large M/V.  
These in convoy 3 destroyers escorted 6 M/V travelling direct on  
Amoy.  
(S.E.A.A.C. 290810Z to Air Min.)

Eastern A.M. 121809. Concur with para. 4.  
Fleet 2. A.M. 241535 part 1, concur with allocation of  
Coastal M.T.Bs. and M.G.Bs.  
Forces. 3. Request 9th Flotilla be armed as in para. 1C  
of A.M.  
5. Request tubes and torpedoes be sent out to India  
with Flotillas so that tubes will be available  
for use in Eastern Theatre if required.  
(C. in C.E.F. 291031Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F.  
(S.E.A.C.) F.O.C.R.I.N.)

CLEMENT CLAY CLEMENT CLAY net defence was already streamed when  
streaming of B.A.M.S. 011831 was received. Master states both  
net defence. nets streamed when ship independent in Arabian  
Sea to Colombo. Your 060114 refers.  
(N.C.S.O.Calcutta 291116Z to Admty. (R) F.O.Ceylon.)

Shortage of Serious shortage of Naval stores has been caused at  
Naval Stores Bombay by heavy demands from L.S.T. and L.C.T. re-  
and Spares, cently arrived. L.C.T. temporarily unloaded in  
Bombay. Mediterranean from L.S.T. were found to have been  
stripped of spares and stores when re-embarked.  
Spares carried in L.S.T. have also been removed.



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Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Shortage of  
Naval Stores  
and Spares,  
Bombay.  
(Contd.)

2. These were no doubt urgently required for operations but it is hoped that similar acquisitiveness can be avoided in future as replacements are not easily obtained in this most remote theatre (C. in C.E.F. 291226Z to C. in C.Med. C. in C. Levant, (R) Admty. S.O.A.S.C.I. C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C).)

NEWCASTLE,  
KENYA,  
FROBISHER,  
CEYLON.

NEWCASTLE, KENYA, FROBISHER, CEYLON are to arrive in Ceylon by 10th Dec.  
2. CEYLON to proceed from Bombay. My 250432 to C.O.M.R.I.N. is cancelled.  
3. Signal your proposed programme for NEWCASTLE, KENYA and FROBISHER.  
(C. in C.E.F. 291241Z to C.S.4 (R) Admty. F.O.E.Af. F.O.Ceylon, Cdre. R.I.N. C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, CEYLON.)

SUSSEX.

Your 271802. Request you will sail SUSSEX when ready for sea on 2nd Dec. via Mozambique Channel to Kilindini.  
2. SUSSEX will be required subsequently at Colombo about 28th Dec. but may possibly be routed via Aden to embark a special mail. Further signal will be made regarding her departure from Kilindini.  
(C. in C.E.F. 291441Z to N.O.I.C. Durban, (R) Admty. C. in C.S.A. F.O.E.Af. R.A.E.F. SUSSEX.)

O.24.  
O.21.

C. in C.E.F. 111018Z Nov. and B.A.D. 161825 Oct. Dutch Naval Authorities have requested that -  
A. O.24 should be released for refit in U.S.A. to arrive there by 1st March, 1944.  
B. O.21 to arrive in U.K. about the same time to await being taken in hand for refit at Grangemouth at the first opportunity.  
2. Subject to concurrence of C. in C.E.F. request B.A.D. will approach U.S.Navy Dept.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 291958A to C. in C.E.F.(S.E.A.C.) B.A.D. (R) A.C.N.B. Comsowespac, Capt. S.4, B.D.Z. B.S.O. M.C.A.)

Weekly summary 4. U.S.A. Air. 18 Nov. 12 P.40s straffed area at of events in Takei Ferry. Five fires started at Chungsai and China. Pingka villages.  
19 Nov. 2 Mitchells B.25s on sea sweep off Tsao Tao island attacked a 175 foot freighter, scored a direct hit and sank vessel. One Mitchell B.25 bombed wharves and warehouses at Swatow, started many fires. Two Mitchell B.25s sank a 150 foot gunboat at Jani Island, damaged a 300 ft. freighter 50 miles east of Swatow. Two Mitchell B.25s on sea sweep off Hainan Strait attacked a 300 ft. freighter and a 225

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Weekly  
summary  
of events  
in China.  
(Contd.)

foot freighter anchored at Kuingshan harbour. Near misses and direct hits were scored, severely damaged both ships, planes strafed boats and 2 light junks. On leaving 2 Japanese fighters attacked Mitchells (B.25s) planes returned safely with minor damage.

21st Nov. 16 P.40s on sweep east of Lichow and south to Changteh, shot up 50 to 75 boats, sampans, and boats carrying about 20 men each; killing over 100 Japanese. (? Allies) fighters supporting Chinese ground troops on sweeps strafed shipping on western part of Tung Ting (? stretching from) due west of Changteh to region west of Ansiana. Over 50 junks and barges shot up, many Japanese killed. 8 P.40s strafed troops and boat at crossing in vicinity west of Changteh, one launch destroyed, over 50 boats ferrying troops strafed, also strafed troops on banks of river. 2 Mitchells (B.25s) on sea sweep south China Sea area Honghai Bay, scored direct hits and near misses on a 200 foot freighter. 2 Mitchells (B.25s) on sea sweep south China Sea between St. Johns Island and Kwangshowan Peninsula, bombed air port and barracks at Fort Bayard. Several buildings destroyed, results excellent.

22nd Nov. Sweep of Changteh area by 12 P.40s strafed on river, activity in this area thoroughly disrupted, inflicted many casualties. Sweep of 7 fighters strafed boats in river west of Changteh, 30 boats and 200 Japanese put out of action. Sweep of 8 fighters hit string of boats in river east of Changteh inflicting many casualties.

23rd Nov. 6 Mitchells (B.25s) escorted by 12 fighters bombed warehouses and buildings Yonhow. Bombs fell through 1500 feet of warehouses and buildings causing fires and explosions indicating ammunition dumps and oil storages hit. 8 P.40s in fighter sweep of Hanshow area strafed Japanese concentrations, hit boats, barges, troops and cavalry east of Hanshow.

24th Nov. 2 P.40s scored 2 direct hits on a 375 feet freighter Amoy Harbour.

(C. in C. India, No T.O.O./29, Recd. 292015.)

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Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.H.M.S.  
COTTON.

En route Casco Bay via direct route and making speed 20 knots COTTON (B.D.E.81) (? B.D.E.77 intended) depart Boston Boom 1030Q/29th. ((U.S.) C.T.G.02.1, 290237 to S.O.P.A.Casco Bay.)

Appreciation of present trend of U/B war.

A.M. 290452A to Cominch.  
See A.M. 272126A.

TRUMPETER.

My 271517Z. Departed Cape Henry 1617Z/28th. (P.D. Norfolk, 290610.)

Air Control of Moroccan Sea Frontier and Gibraltar.

C.O.S.(W) 975. Following from Chiefs of Staff Committee.  
Reference J.S.M. 1335 (241625 Nov.) Mediterranean Air Command's statement that all Allied squadrons operating from Agadir and Port Lyautey are controlled by A.O.C. Gibraltar is incorrect, an error which was overlooked here. Position is as stated in your para. 2 and phrase from C.O.S.(W) 927 quoted in your para. 1 stands.

2. Although Moroccan Sea Frontier operate a Catalina Squadron from Agadir this Station is situated in the Gibraltar area and outside that of the Moroccan Sea Frontier. There should, therefore, be no difficulty in placing the French patrol squadron under the control of the A.O.C. Gibraltar. (Air Min., 291157Z to Britman Washington.)

Destroyers, transfer to R.C.N.

Destroyers are available for transfer to R.C.N. as follows:

(a) VALENTINE due to complete in Jan. 1944 and allocated to H.F.

(b) Either URSA due to complete in Jan. 1944 and allocated to the Med. or VIXEN due to complete in

mid-Feb. and allocated to the H.F.

2. Decision with regard to (b) is requested. Terms of transfer will be forwarded later.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 291226A to N.S.H.Q., Info. S.C.N.O. London.)

ARGONAUT.

My 291137A (N.T. in W.D.) for 48° W. read 38° W. (D.O.D.(H); 291258A.)

S.O. E.G.  
B. 7.Intend to transfer to CHELMER for homeward passage with H.X.269.  
(S.O. E.G.B.7, 291307Z to C. in C. C.N.A., C. in C. W.A., Connav, N.S.H.Q., Cdr. (D) W.A., Admty., F.O.N.F., A.C.I.C., H.Q.C.C., Cdr. (D) Argenticia, (R) DUNCAN.)

/LOSSIE ...

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Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

LOSSIE,  
CATHERINE.

My 281238 and 282328 in view of numerical weakness Group B.7 upon arrival Argentina ex O.N.S.23 intend retaining LOSSIE and CATHERINE for temporary allocation to B.7 for passage to U.K. with H.X.26 (? H.X.268 intended).  
(F.O.N.F., 291333Z to C. in C. C.N.A., (R) C. in C. W.A., Admty., N.S.H.Q., S.O. C.5, S.O. B.7, Capt. D. Argentina, LOSSIE, CATHERINE, GOULD.)  
See F.O.N.F. 031945Z December.

Opening out  
of north  
Atlantic  
convoy  
cycle.

Cancel para. 3 of A.M. 261054. Following amended sailing dates for convoys are proposed  
(a) O.N.216 on Dec. 16th and then at 8 and 7 day intervals. (b) O.N.S.25 on Dec. 14th and then at 15 day intervals. (c) H.X.270 on Dec. 10th and then at intervals of 7 and 8 days. (d) S.C.149 on Dec. 17th and then at intervals of 15 days.  
2. Request early concurrence.

(A.C.N.S.(U.T.), 291343A to Connav, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.A., Info. N.S.H.Q., B.A.D., Comnav, H.Q.C.C.)

Your 291343A. Concur.

(U.S. Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet (C. and R.), 291936Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.W.A., N.S.H.Q., U.S. Cdr. U.S. Naval Forces in Europe.)

Concur with proposals in A.M. 261054 as qualified by para. 2 of C. in C. W.A. 262312 and amended by A.M. 291343.

(2) An extra group between Westomp and North American terminal will be necessary in adverse conditions since all "Town" class destroyers are being withdrawn from W.E.F. now or in near future consider all remaining ships in this force will be required to form the necessary eight groups. The extra group will be available for offensive operations west of Westomp when not escorting.

(C. in C. C.N.A., 291540Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., Comnav, H.Q.C.C., Comtenthfleet (C. and R.), B.A.D., F.O.N.F.)

Speeds of  
Advance  
zig-zagging.

We find that the speeds of advance when zig-zagging declared by Masters vary between 6 and 18 per cent. The use of this speed over periods when the ship should zig-zag produces a more accurate plot than would be obtained by an arbitrary deduction of say 12 per cent by the

diverting authority. The effects of seasonal winds and currents are allowed for by the plotting authority.  
2. In view of the above we wish to retain both (a) and (b) speeds in route messages. Your 242029 refers.  
(D.T.D., 291345Z to Connav.)

GLOIRE.

(Corrupt group) French Cruiser GLOIRE departing Bermuda for Dakar 1900Z/29 (arrangements).  
(U.S.N.O.B. Bermuda, 291347Z to Comar Dakar.)  
See corrected version - Bermuda 042032Z December.

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.N.S.H.Q.  
S/M Estimate.

(N.S.H.Q., 291353Z.)

U.S. S/M  
Estimate.

(Cominch, 291550.)

Convoy  
T.U. 4A.5 ships arrived New York 1300Z/29th.  
(P.D. New York, 291556.)Convoy  
O.N. 211.36 ships arrived New York Nov. 29th. First  
arrival 1103Z, last arrival 1311Z.  
(P.D. New York, 291558Z.)  
(B.R.L.O. New York, 291943Z.)

H.X. 265.

Average speed 9.17 knots. Off Oversay 1130Z  
November 20th. All arrived.  
(D.T.D., 291624A to Connav, N.S.H.Q.)

BICKERTON.

Arrived Bermuda.  
(S.B.N.O. W.At., 291915Z.)

TRACKER.

Norfolk arrival 28th TRACKER for repairs escorted  
by ROXBOROUGH.  
(N.S.H.Q., 291926Z to Admty.)CRANSTOUN,  
BRAITHWAITE.My 191828 Oct. sail CRANSTOUN and BRAITHWAITE  
when ready about December 5th.  
(Cominch 10th, 291933 to C.E.S.F., Info. Com.1,  
C. in C. Lant, N.O.B. Bermuda, who informs  
S.B.N.O.W.At., N.S.H.Q., Admty.)

H.X. 268.

One Westomp established in 044° 50' N. 050° 28'  
W. at 1000Z Dec. 1st (? when) you will be  
relieved by Group C.5 KOOTENAY H/F D/F S.O.,  
WASKESIU H/F D/F, DUNVER, ROSTHERN, DAUPHIN,  
ARVIDA, DIANTHUS, GOULD, Trawler LANCER, Tug  
ASPIRANT. 2. "Chop" 1000Z Dec. 2nd.  
(F.O.N.F., 292029Z to S.E.C. H.X.268.)L. 27  
refit.L.27 is overdue and in need of refit. Request  
arrangements be made for ship to be taken in hand  
in a U.S.A. port and name of port and date of  
acceptance indicated.

(2) Defect lists now prepared.

(3) Anticipate L.27 can be made ready for sea 5th December.  
(C. in C. C.N.A., 292059Z to B.A.M.R., (R) N.S.H.Q., F.O.(S),  
Admty., Cominch, U.S. Cdr. S/Ms. Atlantic.)

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Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

HOBART,  
armament.

Your 232030A\* Nov. Proposed alteration to  
armament.

(A.C.N.B., 290216Z to Admt.)

\* Re alterations in A.A. armament of cruisers.

Digest  
Serial  
No. 678  
Nov. 28th.

3. Summary previous days strike. Additional  
claims to those reported Digest 677, para. 2,  
several barges, small craft off shore destroyed  
and small freighter hit by 75 millimeter shell.  
5. Ref. Digest 676, para. 11. 4 ships subse-  
quently reported as 2 destroyers, 2 unidentified  
vessels. Latter were possibly 2 barges later

seen approaching Cape Hoskins while 2 destroyers proceeded  
Garove Island last seen before dawn 30 miles East Garove heading  
north-east high speed. Patrol Liberator reported probably  
damaging one unit.

7. M.T.Bs. contacted enemy S/M 15 miles south of Long Island  
North Vitiaz Strait night 27th-28th.

8. Same night 3 Catalinas bombed wharf and barracks area Ambon  
starting fires. Two ships observed in bay.

9. Observer reports estimated 2000 Japs at Choiseul Bay  
patrolling only few miles southward. Some Japanese still at  
Luti Central south-west coast Choiseul possibly being evacuated  
by submarine.

10. Early hours 28th aircraft successfully attacked enemy  
submarine off Northern Tip Buka Island. After daybreak another  
aircraft unsuccessfully depth-charged surfaced submarine 60  
miles West Buka Passage. Later probably third submarine bombed  
believed damaged 60 miles west Empress Augusta Bay.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 290804.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

BLACKWOOD attacked U/B at 2220Z/28th in 40° 45' N.  
17° 22' W. and one was D/Fd. in similar position  
at 0655Z/29th. These reports suggest that group  
which operated against S.L.140/M.K.S.31 may now  
be moving to N.W. but are probably at 1200Z/29th  
still south and east of 42° 00' N. 20° 30' W.  
Other estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 291450A, 291453A.)

/Submarines ...

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Monday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

Sub. attack  
and sighting  
summary for  
24 hours  
ending  
0900Z/29th.

Para. A. (1) H.M. Ship was torpedoed by U-Boat  
at 1141/28th in 33.05' N. 21.09' E. Now  
proceeding to port.

(2) DAHLIA attacked U-Boat during night 27th/28th  
in approx. 39° 00' N. 17° 00' W.

(3) BLACKWOOD attacked U-Boat at 2220/28th in 40°  
45', 17° 22' W.

(4) A/C attacked U-Boat at 1130/28 in 32° 59' N.  
22° 09' E.

(5) A/C sighted U-Boat at 0552/28th in 38° 00' N. 18° 00' W.

(6) A/C sighted U-Boat at 0025/28th in 38° 10' N. 08° 55' W.

Para. B. (1) F.S. MONTCALM reported suspicious contact at 0034/  
29th in 13° 32' N. 20° 21' W.

(D.D.I.C., 291020Z to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

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30.11.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- HOWE. 1. HOWE left Scapa at 0934A today for Plymouth.
- NÜRNBERG. 2. The German Cruiser NÜRNBERG preceded by a Sperrbrecher and one M.Class minesweeper was reported passing Helsingor southbound at 1430 today. The report is graded A.2 by Admiralty.
- AQUITANIA. 3. AQUITANIA left the Clyde at 0015 today for New York.

South Atlantic.

4. M.V. ROCHESTER CASTLE (Buenos Aires for Clyde) made a warship raider signal at 1345Z today in 06.05S 29.15 W. On 14th December the Admiralty instructed N.C.S.O. Mersey to interrogate the Master as to the use of R R R R and not Q Q Q Q, and why the message was not cancelled or amplified.

Mediterranean.

"Avalanche" 5. Last night, U.S. M.T.Bs. returning from patrol encountered 5 E/Boats laying mines off Bastia. A short action ensued, but was determined by bad weather. One M.T.B. collided with an E/Boat. Some damage was probably caused to the E/Boats. The M.T.B. was damaged, but there were no casualties.  
LOYAL and QUILLIAM patrolled between Sibenik and Split last night, but sighted nothing.

Brindisi. 6. The port of Brindisi was reopened today.

/Aegean...



30.11.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Aegean.

7. On return from patrol in the Aegean SICKLE reports that on 25th November she sank a 3500 ton merchant vessel anchored in Monemvasia Bay and 2 caiques west of Thermia, and a caique off Amorgos on 17th November.

East Indies.

Expediting  
shipping  
turnround.

8(a) Now that the Eastern Fleet convoy system is working well the Admiralty are asking C. in C. E.F. to make such relaxations as the U-Boat situation permits from time to time, in order (a) to expedite turnround of shipping generally, and (b) to release the faster ships from slow convoys. The need for (a) justifies the acceptance of some additional risks.  
(b) In particular, the Admiralty would like T.2 tankers to be sailed independently instead of in A.P./P.A. and P.B./B.P. convoys.  
(c) C. in C. E.F., however, felt unable in view of the S/M threat in the Gulf of Aden and on the east coast of India, to release any ships from standard orders for convoy in either area at present (4th December), though he proposed to release ships of higher speeds when enemy submarine activity permitted. Meanwhile ships of 13 knots and over were to be released from P.B./B.P., M.B./B.M., and D.K./K.D. portions of D.K.A./A.K.D. convoys are to be routed from port to port on stragglers route in order to reduce work for N.C.S.Os. and to shorten route signals.  
(d) The Admiralty were not satisfied with these measures, and on 7th December they informed C. in C. E.F. that the present shipping situation justifies the acceptance of some risks in measures to expedite turnround. The existing convoy system entails a monthly loss of about 1800 ship days in insuring against relatively modest and local threats. In general, they consider the system should now be made elastic, with convoys operating only on routes actually or potentially threatened, the escorts thus released being used to operate wherever practicable as hunting groups in areas of known probability.  
(e) C. in C. E.F. thereupon (8th and 9th December) proposed that all ships which were being held for B.P./P.B., P.A./A.P. convoys, all ships normally

/included ...

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30.11.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies - Contd.

included in A.K.D./D.K.A. convoys, and those normally included in A.B./B.A. convoys, with the exception of combined operations and personnel ships should be released forthwith and sailed independently.

Naval air  
operational  
control in  
Arabian Sea.

9. C. in C. E.F. sends today proposals for reorganisation of Naval air operational control in the Arabian Sea.

Australia and New Zealand.

10. Allied destroyers bombarded Sio (about 25 miles north of Finschhafen, Papua) on the night of 28th and Madang (Papua) last night. Spotting aircraft reported the bombardment to have been accurate and apparently effective. A small vessel was destroyed near Madang. Enemy aircraft attacked our destroyers off Sio whilst returning in the early hours of today.

11. Another destroyer group bombarded Gasmata, New Britain last night; no enemy opposition was encountered.

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30.11.1943.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

3 Frigates  
for conver-  
sion.

It has been approved that three Captain Class Frigates instead of three Rivers as previously intended, should be converted to H.Q. Ships.

2. These ships are required to be worked up: two by 1st March, one by 1st April.

3. It is estimated that approximately one month is required for working up from date of arrival at working up base and that some two months are required for conversion.

4. Request you nominate three frigates accordingly.  
(A.C.N.S.H. 301246A to C. in C.W.A.)

Two escort  
Trawlers  
for Azores.

Two trawlers are required in the Azores to escort merchant vessels to and from ocean convoys.

2. You are requested to select two of the smaller ocean escort of Dance Class trawlers and sail them with O.S. 61/K.M.S. 35 breaking off as necessary for Horta or independently as soon as practicable.

(A.C.N.S.H. 301614A to C. in C.W.A.)

Use of  
Italian  
Supply S/Ms.

My 171906 November and 181202 November: after discussion with Constructor Captain King, of staff of C. in C.Med. on the four Italian supply U-Boats at Taranto, it appears that:-

A. Major equipment, such as main engines, motors and batteries for several of the vessels is not available from Italian sources. British equipment would not be suitable without drastic modifications to structure and general arrangement and could not be made available except at the expense of existing new construction.

B. Vessels are not suitable, as designed, for tanker supplying S/Ms at sea on the line of P. and R. class conversion requirements.

C. Design is applicable to transport of stores from base to base and appears always to require a full cargo.

D. Times for completion quoted in A.S. Malta's 231853 October are very optimistic even if equipment is made immediately available which would not be possible and assuming generally favourable conditions.

2. Consider that confirmation or otherwise of these statements should be sought by signal from F.O.T.A.L.I.

3. If they are substantiated it is a waste of time to proceed with the building of these S/Ms as directed in A.M. 100215 Nov. and it is considered that the project should be dropped. No doubt Tosi's Yard could be put to other useful purposes.  
(F.O.S. 301818A to Admty.)

STUART  
PRINCE.

When STUART PRINCE is ready for sea request you will sail her for Clyde to work up as Fighter Direction ship under F.O.C.T.

3. When ready for service STUART PRINCE will join the Eastern Fleet.

(D.O.D.H. 302241A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

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30.11.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

MIDDLETON. Scapa arrival MIDDLETON.  
(A.C.O.S. 300132A to H.F.)

HOWE, Scapa departure HOWE.  
VALIANT. (A.C.O.S. 300934A to C. in C.Plymouth.)  
Intend sailing MELBREAK for Plymouth at 1800 today,  
E.T.A. 2359/30.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland 301715A to C. in C.Plymouth.)  
My 301715A. Sailed.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland 301750A to C. in C.Plymouth.)  
My 271936A. TALYBONT will proceed as escort to VALIANT and  
HOWE in place of MELBREAK.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 301818A to VALIANT, HOWE.)

RENOWN. My P.C. and S. at 1200A, 049° 15' N. 019° 35' W.  
008° making good 26 knots. E.T.A. Pentland  
2300A/1st thence 20 knots to Rosyth, E.T.A. May  
Island 0800A/2nd.  
(RENOWN 301007A to C. in C.H.F.)

ILLUSTRIOUS. Sailed R.A.A.H.F. in ILLUSTRIOUS for exercises in  
accordance with ILLUSTRIOUS 291433, and to Belfast  
on completion.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 301038A to Admty.)  
Arrived ILLUSTRIOUS.  
(F.O.I.C.N.I. 301651A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

NORFOLK. My 291228. Undocking delay. NORFOLK will now  
pass Clyde Boom 1100A/1st.Dec. E.T.A. practice  
area 0900A/2nd.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 301116A to A.C.O.S.)

N.Atlantic Dispositions. Disposition of operational units in North Atlantic:  
Operating in N.Waters: ANSON, BELFAST, BERMUDA,  
JAMAICA, KENT, 18 destroyers.  
Passage to U.S.: TUSCALOOSA, AUGUSTA, RANGER, 5 U.S.  
destroyers.  
Area Scapa: DUKE OF YORK, HOWE, KING GEORGE V, RICHELIEU, NORFOLK,  
2 destroyers. Area Clyde: FURIOUS, ILLUSTRIOUS.  
Area Plymouth: SHEFFIELD. Passage to U.K.: RENOWN, 2 destroyers.  
Area Azores: GLASGOW. Disposition of Escort Carriers FENCER Bay  
of Biscay.  
(D.O.D.H. 301620A to C. in C.U.S.Fleet.)

Submarine Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/1 and movements for  
movements. following 24 hours.  
(F.O.S. 301636A, 302128, 302133, 302309A.)

ARIADNE. A.M. 211553. F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to  
(Mails for sail ARIADNE for Gibraltar on 6th December on com-  
Med.) pletion of loading of mail.  
2. Admiralty will promulgate route.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

ARIADNE.  
(Mails for  
Med.)  
(Contd.)

3. Other authorities concerned are requested to route and sail ARIADNE so as to conform as nearly as possible with the following programme. Details. (A.C.N.S.F. 301723A.)

Operations.

Coastal  
Force  
Patrols.

Orders for night 30th Nov./1st Dec.

1. Following anti E-Boat patrols to be carried out weather permitting.
  - A. 3 M.G.Bs. from Newhaven 10 miles south of convoy route between Eastern limit of command and C.2A buoy abreast C.W.228 from 2300A to 0700A. From 1830A to 2130A off C.2A buoy.
  - B. 2 CHASSEURS on 50° 24' N. between 00° 48' W. and 00° 35' W. from 1800A to 0700A.
  - C. 3 S.G.Bs. on 50° 18' N. between 01° 15' W. and 01° 37' W. from 1800A to 0700A.
  - D. 3 M.Ls. from Portland on 50° 15' N. between 02° 10' W. and 02° 35' W. from 1800A to 0700A.
2. M.I. 292. immediate notice St. Helens.
3. ALBRIGHTON immediate notice Yarmouth.  
(C. in C.portsmouth 301322A.)  
M.Ls. 140 and 143 two miles south of D.Buoy. M.Ls. 213, 128 and 210 at number seven buoy, E.T.D. 1745. M.Ls. 101, 102 and 107 patrolling between East and West Bullock Buoys, E.T.D. 1615.  
(V.A.Dover 301539A.)

S/M Patrols. Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/1 and movements for following 24 hours.

- A. SEADOG, SCEPTRE, SEANYMPH, VIKING and O.15 as in my 291731.
- B. SEAROVER 48° 01' N. 12° 26' W. diving by day to the southward, daily advance 165 miles.
- C. UNSHAKEN 48° 10' N. 13° 22' W. diving by day through 49° 10' N. 13° 22' W. 49° 50' N. 12° 34' W. thence to 090° daily advance 120 miles.
- D. TRIDENT 47° 25' N. 12° 54' W. diving by day course 360° to 49° 10' N. 12° 54' W. thence through 49° 30' N. 12° 26' W. thence to 090° daily advance 120 miles.
- E. UNRIVALLED 45° 50' N. 12° 54' W. to 360° diving by day, daily advance 120 miles.  
(F.O.S. 301636A to Admty.)

Submarines are to leave patrol for Lerwick as follows.

1. SEANYMPH at 0001A/3rd, through 071° 28' 022° 55' and 071° 28' 015° 50', thence by route "Pink".
2. SCEPTRE at 0001A/3rd through 071° 10' 022° 10' and 071° 10' 016° 13', thence by route "Black".
3. SEADOG at 1700A/3rd through 070° 52' 016° 35' and route "Orange".
4. VIKING at 0600A/3rd through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles.
5. SEANYMPH, SCEPTRE, SEADOG proceeding on the surface at C.O. discretion to arrive Lerwick 7th.
6. VIKING diving by day when North of 062° to arrive Lerwick 4th.  
(Capt. S.9 301803A to S/Ms.)

/Operation...

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

Operation S.F. Proceed with all available M/S 1. Group A.  
 2. 064° 24' N. 007° 33' W. 60 - 60.  
 3. 240°. 4. "Apricot."  
 (C. in C.Rosyth 301801A to HOUND.)  
 Request you will sail LOYALTY to Skaalefjord.  
 On arrival LOYALTY to refuel and sail to relieve HOUND on patrol in order that latter may boiler clean.  
 (C. in C.Rosyth 301903A to A.C.O.S.)  
 Intend to sail with RATTLESNAKE, ORESTES, and COCKATRICE at 0900N/1st to comply with your 301801A.  
 (HOUND 302004A to C. in C.Rosyth.)

Enemy Intelligence.

PIETRO ORSEOLO. PIETRO ORSEOLO was seen off Ile de Croix by P.R.U. on 26th and again on 29th November.  
 2. This ship is a potential blockade-runner. If she can be sunk or damaged in her present position it will save a great deal of air and surface effort later when we may have to search for her in the open seas.  
 3. For this reason, and her value to the enemy, this ship is considered to be a Class One target.  
 (D.O.D.H. 301305A to H.Q.C.C.)

NÜRNBERG. Cruiser definitely NÜRNBERG passed Helsingor southbound at 1430 today. She was preceded by SPERRBRECHER and M.Class M/S. Graded A.1.  
 (N.A.Stockholm 301549 to Admt.)  
 German cruiser NURNBERG was reported passing Helsingor southbound at 1430/30 graded A.2.  
 (D.D.I.C. 302256A to A.I.G. 21, A.I.G. 47.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. Have A.S.V. contact, probably U-Boat.  
 (A/C Duty K. T.O.R. 301155 to 19 Group.)  
 U/B previously reported was on surface and seen to submerge 50.15 N. 08.17 W.  
 (A/C Duty G. 301748A to 19 Group.)

Casualties & Defects.

THEODORE SEDGWICK. Clyde arrivals SS. THEODORE SEDGWICK in tow of rescue tug ASSIDUOUS.  
 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 300834A.)

PRETORIA CASTLE. RAVAGER's 292323A. Superficial damage received to forecastle bulwarks and one section of plating of flight deck support above forecastle.  
 (PRETORIA CASTLE 300-51A to F.O.C.T.)

/CARISBROOKE...

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Casualties & Defects - Contd.

- CARISBROOKE CASTLE. N.O.I.C. Dundee 292322A. CARISBROOKE CASTLE arrived with engine defect. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 301210A to N.O.I.C. Dundee.)
- MELBREAK. Make good defect and proceed to Plymouth as soon as possible. Do you require assistance with defect (F.O.I.C. Portland 301212A to MELBREAK.)
- RAVAGER. My 292323. Further examination in daylight confirms no (hull?) damage. Delete reference starboard after Oerlikon Sponson which is undamaged. For 20 feet of walk way read 80 feet. Damage of importance requiring repairs at earliest convenience is to 1 length of shafting of secondary steering position. Consider this could be postponed until present programme expiring 3rd Dec. is completed. (RAVAGER 301221A to F.O.C.T.)
- MARSA. Detach DEXTEROUS to Falmouth at D.One Buoy and then return to Plymouth. My 271845A refers. (C. in C.Plymouth 301441A to CAMBRIDGESHIRE.)
- North Russia. My 261613 October. Further answer received that Soviet Admiralty are now prepared to accept the proposal in your 161843 June, developing the proposition they propose the following points:  
A. The salvage and refitting of the four ships shall be completed according to Soviet possibilities in wartime. No definite time can be fixed.  
B. Of the four ships, two, as chosen by Soviet party, will become property of U.S.S.R. the other two ships shall be salvaged and refitted, sufficiently for them to proceed to U.K. ports under their own power, by the Soviet party at their own expense.  
C. The ships remaining British property shall be, if the Soviet party so wishes, available for charter by the latter under the usual conditions until the conclusion of peace.  
D. The British party is freed from all expenses in connection with the salvage, refitting, and also protection of the four ships.  
E. If the salvage of any one ship should prove to the satisfaction of both parties to be impracticable the issues arising from such a case shall be settled by mutual agreement by the British and Soviet parties on the basis of the above agreement.  
2. Soviet Naval Staff request that agreement with these points may be confirmed.  
(30 Mission 301559C to Admty.)
- VANESSA. VANESSA arrived with A/S defects which it is expected will be completed by 1400A/1st. (A.C.I.C. 302352A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

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30.11.1943.  
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- T.A.74. T.A.74 sailing in accordance with my 281008A.  
(AQUITANIA.) (N.O.I.C. Greenock 300014A to Admty.)
- H.X.267. My 292248. No further confirmed contacts made.  
Hunt abandoned at 0145Z. Returning to convoy.  
There are no stragglers from H.X.267 other than  
those with AFFLECK.  
(HESPERUS 300147Z to C. in C.W.A.)  
At 0900Z/30th my P.C. and S. 057 degs. 00' N. 025 degs. 02' W.  
090 degs. 11 knots.  
(AFFLECK 300926Z to C. in C.W.A.)
- T.U.3. My 281031. Sailed less ROBIN TUXFORD sailing 3  
hours late to overtake.  
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 300630A to C. in C.W.A.)  
My 300630. ROBIN TUXFORD sailed 5½ hours late to  
overtake.  
(N.O.I.C. Cardiff 301121A to C. in C.W.A.)  
My 281718. Sailed, calling Belfast to disembark pilots. SUFFOLK,  
JOHN ERICSSON, TRADEWIND did not sail.  
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 301405A to Admty.)  
Clyde portion sailed in accordance with my 281028A.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 302218A to Admty.)
- P.S.30. P.S.30 cancelled.  
(C. in C.P., rtsmouth 300832A.)
- O.S.60/  
K.M.S.34. Intend to sail WALKER to overtake O.S.60/K.M.S.34  
from Lough Foyle at 1700 today. Routed as O.S.60,  
speed 15 knots or as weather allows.  
(Cdre. D.W.A. 301002 to C. in C.W.A.)  
My P.C. and S. 048 degs 23' 015 degs. 11' 270 degs.  
11 knots, altering at 0300 to 000 degs.  
(E.G.6 301501Z to B.4.)
- S.L.139/  
M.K.S.30. The following extracted from report of Senior Gun-  
layer of DELIUS convoy M.K.S., attacked by group  
of enemy aircraft in 46.46 N. 18.30 W. (approx.)  
Attacked on between 1530 and 1730 21/11/43. One aircraft  
21st Nov. attacked this ship, flew from port to starboard,  
appeared to be He. 111 or Ju.88. Speed about 200  
m.p.h., estimated height when object released  
2000 feet, range 1500 feet, on starboard bow of ship. Plane  
carried on its course, object banked steeply in towards ship and  
hit derrick over No. 3 hatch exploded with little sound but  
terrific blast. Aircraft when passing from port to starboard  
emitting white vapour from forward end of fuselage. When off  
starboard bow vapour stopped, leaving object detached and clear  
of aircraft. Object had appearance of small fighter-plane with  
a red light at the fore and after ends, wing-span about 16 feet  
and about 12 feet long shaped like a torpedo with wings on and  
a small single tail fin. After release it carried on course of  
aircraft for about two seconds then banked steeply, steadied,  
flapped its wings, and dived at ship at a speed as fast as a  
Spitfire.  
(D.E.M.S.Greenock 301114A to Admty.)

/W.N.12...



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30.11.1943.  
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- W.N.12. W.N.12 cancelled.  
(N.C.S.O.Loch Ewe 301132A.)
- East Coast Convoys. Cancel my 130045.  
(C. in C.Rosyth 301232A to Admty.)
- J.W.55A. FORT HALL for J.W.55A. Full government cargo.  
(F.N. 93 301233A to C. in C.No're.)  
Ships for J.W.55A. Amend date of arrival at Loch Ewe to read not later than p.m. 10th December.  
My 361850A refers.  
(D.T.D. 302119A to C. in C.W.A.)
- J.W. 54B. Crew replacements for EMPIRE BARD are embarked in OCEAN STRENGTH and FORT MACMURRAY.  
2. Propose these ships proceed Kola Inlet first to discharge passengers. A.M. 232206A and S.B.N.O. Archangel's 261028A refer.  
(D.T.D. 301235A to S.B.N.O.N.Russia.)  
Admiralty's 301235. This is convenient as no berths will now be available for them for a few days.  
(S.B.N.O.Archangel 301629A to S.B.N.O.N.Russia.)
- D.S.47. D.S.47 arrived. Your 270034 refers.  
(A.C.I.C. 301426A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- K.X.12. A.M. 231250. para. 1. Delete COTTON VALLEY, RIO BRAVO, ICICLE. Add SS. STAL destination Bone, H.M.Trawler BREEZE destination Algiers for S.O.A.C.F. Salvage Vessel SALVAGE DUKE, destination as ordered by C. in C.Mediterranean.  
2. Route: MA. 290 degs. Trevoise Head 5 miles.  
MB. 55.02 N. 09.58 W. MC. 48.01 N. 15.10 W. MD. 41.10 N. 15.09 W. ME. 36.20 N. 10.10 W.  
3. Stragglers Route:  
R. 48.00 N. 16.09 W. S. 41.01 N. 16.08 W. T. 36.20 N. 10.10 W.  
(D.O.D.H. 301501A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)
- Opening out of N.Atlantic Convoy cycles. Admiralty 291343 and my 292322.  
1. In order to maintain the proportion of lays-over and avoid sailing a group empty handed it is desirable that the opening of the cycle on one side of the Atlantic should be delayed till the arrival of escorts which have sailed from the other side of the new cycle.  
2. The following sailing dates are therefore considered preferable:  
A. O.N.216 on December 16th and then at 8 and 7 day intervals.  
B. O.N.S. 25 on December 14th and then at 15 day intervals.  
C. H.X. 273 on December 29th and then at 8 and 7 day intervals.  
D. S.C.150 on December 30th and then at 15 day intervals.  
(C. in C.W.A. 301726A to Admty.)

/Programme...

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30.11.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

- Opening out of N.Atlantic Convoy cycles. (Contd.) Programme for H.X., S.C., O.N. and O.N.S. convoys given in A.M. 291343 is to be brought into force. 2. Request necessary authorities may be informed. (D.T.D. 302208A to C. in C.W.A.)
- M.K.S.31. 1. At 1800A/1st if convoy is not threatened the 12 U.S.L.S.T. two's escorted by HONEYSUCKLE S.O., OXLIP are to proceed Falmouth as routed C. in C. Plymouth. (C. in C.W.A. 301852A to B.1.)
- J.W.55A. Ships for J.W.55A. Amend date of arrival at Loch Ewe to read not later than p.m. 10th December. My 261903A refers. (D.T.D. 302126A, 011205A to C. in C.Nore.)
- S.D.47. Intend to sail EMPRESS OF RUSSIA escorted by VANESSA and SCIMITAR from Reykjavik at 1400A/1 December routed in accordance with C. in C.W.A. 111746 June. (A.C.I.C. 302358A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Azores,  
maintenance  
facilities.

Maintenance of facilities in Azores involves continual stream of store ships and tankers. At present protection of these ships when breaking away from, or rejoining convoys, is being provided by escorts detached from convoys.

This is serious embarrassment as escorts are thereby reduced in active U-Boat area.

(2) Six ships are now waiting in Azores to rejoin convoys.

(3) Obvious practical solution is to station local escorts at Horta and it is desired to send two trawlers there at once. Portuguese may consider this goes beyond facilities allowed by Clause 1 (a) of the Agreement, but provision of this small local escort may be represented as essential to maintenance of facilities already granted.

(4) Alternatives are:

(a) to seek Portuguese agreement, using argument in para.3.

(b) to operate the trawlers from Horta without reference to Portuguese, and, if complaint is made, justify ourselves by argument in para.3. As trawlers would constantly be at sea, we might argue that they were not stationed at Horta but operating from there in accordance with right to unrestricted facilities.

(5) Request you consult H.M. Ambassador as to the course to be pursued. Meanwhile, two trawlers are being sailed to Horta to meet immediate requirements. Should Portuguese object strongly, trawlers could, in the last resort, be based on Gibraltar with serious reduction in their usefulness.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 300125A to N.A. Lisbon (R) S.B.N.O. Azores, F.O. Gibraltar, C. in C.Med., C. in C. W.A.)

Italian  
Ships in  
Spanish  
Ports  
FULGOR.

Italian Tanker FULGOR arrived Gibraltar a.m. 30th in tow damaged Cadiz B.N.A. Madrid's 291801 refers.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 301102A to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. F.O.T.A.L.I., B.N.A. Madrid.)

Horta  
ammunition.

Your 261000. M. of M. informs me that instructions have been given to Local Portuguese Authority that ammunition is to be issued at your request as and when you require it.  
(B.N.A. Lisbon, 301119 to S.B.N.O. Azores (R) Admty., F.O.Gib.)

CORVO  
(Missing)

N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada's 291741. Unidentified ship was sighted by aircraft p.m. 27th. stationary in 038 degs. 25' N. 018 degs. 18' W. At 1400/29th unidentified ship was sighted by surface craft in 039 degs. 12' N.

019 degs. 45' W. heading 270 degs.

Probably Portuguese Merchant ship CORVO in each case.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 301126A to S.B.N.O. Azores, (R) Admty. B.N.A. Lisbon, N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)

Your 291741 CORVO sighted by our aircraft in 038 degs. 32' N. 018 degs. 28' W. at 271628Z and in 037 degs. 49' N. 022 degs. 47' W. at 301142Z course 262 degs. estimated speed 4 knots.

(B.S.N.O. Azores, 301400Z to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada etc.)

SUFFREN /...

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30.11.1943.  
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.- Contd.

SUFFREN.

Arrived.  
(C.M.S.F. 301217A)Axis  
Shipping.KAULDI sailed 0130/30th.  
(H.M.Consul (Bilbao), 301315A to M.E.W.)Hospital  
Ships  
fitting  
up with  
water at  
Malaga.

Your 201739. M. of M. states they have no objection to proposal but matter still under consideration with Foreign Affairs. Should permission be granted consider there is no little danger to safety of ship but no unnecessary personnel should be allowed ashore. (B.N.A. Madrid, 301351A to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty.)

G.U.S.22.

(1) Sailing telegram part 1.  
(2) Casablanca R/V 035 degs. 11' N. 009 degs. 04' W. 0700Z/30.  
(6) MADISON, POPE, FLAHERTY (sic) LANDSDALE, MATTAPONI, ELDRIDGE, AMICK, CHARLES F. HUGHES, COONER. (C.M.S.F. 301430Z to P.D. Norfolk.)

BLACKWOOD.

On completion of fuelling and embarkation of stores proceed to Belfast.  
(2) Route (A) 040 degs. 00' N. 027 degs. 20' W.  
(B) 045 degs. 00' N. 022 degs. 00' W. thence as ordered by C. in C. W.A.  
(3) Report intended S. of A.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 301901A to BLACKWOOD (R) C. in C. W.A., S.B.N.O. Azores, Admty. N.O.I.C. Belfast.

L.C.T.332.

My 172114 latest information from Ministry of Marine today is craft is still (?beached) in cove Playade San Pedro and will be towed into Sanestaban when weather permits. My A.N.A. has spoken with Captain in hotel at Gijon who states L.C.T. 332 sailed from (?Rock) Gibraltar on Nov. 5th in convoy. When 100 (?miles) to England engine failed with cracked cylinder head and craft finally came ashore at Playade. C.B's destroyed. All crew safe and being well cared for. Ship's log being forwarded by bag. I am working to get the ESTACA U-Boat crew interned if possible before pressing for facilities to be given for repairing and rebasing L.C.T. (B.N.A.Madrid, 302031A to Admty. (R) F.O.Gibraltar.)

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Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.P.218  
(SEA ROVER)

The following is your onward route at times given.

(c) 043 degs. 01' 012 degs. 26' at 0330/3rd.

(q) 042 degs, 01' 013 degs. 10' at 1930/3rd.

(p) 040 degs. 01' 013 degs. 01' at 0630/4th.

(r) 036 degs. 51' 009 degs. (?13') at 0140/6th.

(s) 036 degs. 37' 007 degs. 24' at 2200/6th.

(t) 035 degs. 53' 006 degs. 15' at 0700/7th.

(u) 035 degs. 49' 006 degs. 06.5 at 0800/7th.

thence by Q.B.A. 87 to Gib.

S. of A. diving by day 156 miles per day reducing to 120 miles per day at 0140/6th. After passing (s) proceeding on the surface at your discretion at 8 knots increasing speed to 12 knots at 0800/7th.

(2) Submerged bombing restrictions arranged until 2200/6th there after total bombing restrictions 10 miles either side of your route from 35 miles ahead to 35 miles astern of your estimated position.

(3) Report if unable to keep your bombing restrictions.

(F.O.Gibraltar, 302303A to P.218 (SEA ROVER) (R) F.O.(S) Admty.

Cominch, C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med. Capt.(S) 10, Capt.

(S) 3, C.M.S.F.)

(Substance of para. 1 is given in para. 1 of 302303A)

(2) (a) Total required 50 miles ahead and astern estimated position.

(b) SEA ROVER. (c) Passage.

(d) 2200/6th 036 degs. 37' 007 degs. 24'. 0700/7th 035 degs.

53' 006 degs. 15'. 0800/7th 035 degs. 49' 006 degs. 06' 30" to arrive Gib. at 1130/7th.

(e) 8 knots increasing to 12 knots at 0800/7th.

(3) All times zone minus (?one) positions north and west.

(F.O.Gib. 302301A to R.A.F. Gibraltar, H.Q.C.C. (R) Comfairwing 15, 247 Group, Admty. Commorseafront, F.O.(S), S.B.N.O. Azores.)

South Atlantic.FORT DE  
VAUX,  
torpedoed  
? 29th.SOUTHERN PRIDE reports FORT DE VAUZ torpedoed in  
006 degs. 35' N. 012 degs. 28' W. Further  
details not yet received.

T.O.O. of reporting signal 29/2327.

(F.O.C.W.Af. 300116Z to Admty.)

ROCHESTER  
CASTLE 'R'  
Report.Following has been received from FORT GASPEREAL.  
(Begins) RRRR / RRRR from ROCHESTER CASTLE 06  
degs. 05' S. 29 degs. 15' W T.O.R.1345Z. Strong  
jamming heard (Ends.)  
(Freetown W/T. No.T.O.O. Recd. 301535 to Admty.)  
/ Warship Raider Signal.

Routeing /...

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30.11.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Routeing  
M/Vs from  
S. America  
to Gibraltar.

The only ships direct from South America to Gibraltar for convoy are those of suitable speed for fast operational convoys. Dates of these convoys are irregular. Admiralty will notify you through Comtenthfleet C. & R. as heretofore when opportunities offer.

2. Such of these ships are bound U.K. should have U.K. approach routes in case of diversion.

3. Conversely fast independents routed direct U.K. should have approach instructions for Gibraltar.

4. All other shipping for Gibraltar and eastward should continue to be routed Freetown for Convoy.

5. Above will be included in M.A.R.I.

6. Your 291532 to Admiralty only.

(D.T.D., 301657A to B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, (R) Comtenthfleet (C. and R.))

Freetown  
Docks.

1. Civil take over Freetown Docks week ending Friday 7th January.  
(G.O.C. in C. W.Af., 301725ZA to W.O.)

S.L. 142.

Intend to sail S.L.142 0800Z/2nd December escorted by ENCHANTRESS, ACTIVE, COLUMBINE, BELLWORT, SOUTHERN GEM.

(2) Convoy consists of - (A) Freetown section 17 ships for U.K., 1 for Bathurst. 1 minesweeper and 1 with defective steering for Dakar.

(B) Dakar section 2 for Casablanca, 1 for U.K. (Arrangements).

(8) Commorseafron is requested to issue instructions for detaching ships for Casablanca.

(9) F.O. Gibraltar is requested to arrange rendezvous with M.K.S.33.

(F.O.C.W.Af., 302046Z to C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C.M.S.F., Comar Dakar, N.O.I.C. Bathurst, (R) Admty., C. in C. Med., Escorts S.L.142.)

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30.11.1943.  
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- ATHINA  
LIVANOS  
torpedoed  
29th. Following received SSSS SSSS SSSS ATHINA LIVANOS  
torpedoed 12.20 N. 44.00 E. approx. at 1620  
G.M.T./29.  
(Aden W/T, No T.O.O./30 recd. 300250 to Colombo  
W/T.)  
(North Foreland Radio, 300050Z, 300058A.)  
(Burnham Radio No T.O.O./30 recd. 300108 G.M.T.)
- THEMISTOCLES. Parts company from ATHERSTONE and CLAN CAMPBELL  
to join G.U.S.23 as ordered in your 292149B (N.T.  
in W.R.) Fuel remaining 26%. I ordered  
KRAKOWIAK with 10% fuel remaining to continue  
with ATHERSTONE and detach when North of Tobruk to arrive there  
for fuelling, E.T.A. 1330.  
(THEMISTOCLES, 300630B to C. in C. Levant, (R) Capt. F., S.N.O.  
Cyrenaica, R.A. Alexandria, N.O.I.C. Tobruk, No.201 N.C. Group,  
No.212 Group, No.235 Wing, No.245 Wing, No.247 Wing. Fighter  
sections between Alexandria and Benghazi, Escorts K.M.F.26,  
Escorts G.U.S.23, O.R.P. KRAKOWIAK, ATHERSTONE.)
- .GEORGES  
LEYGUES. My 292353A, sailed.  
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 300817A to C. in C. Med., F.O.  
Gibraltar, F.O.C.W.Af., (R) Navale France,  
Commorseafron, Comnavnaw, Comar Oran.)
- Air Reports. A.310. Daily Opsum 216, 29th Nov.  
15 Ju.88 and Do.217 made dark attack on eastbound  
convoy 80 miles north-north-west of Benghazi.  
Enemy were first located 12 miles north-west of  
Benghazi. 4 Hurricanes on patrol over convoy and further 15  
Hurricanes 1 Spitfire sent up intercepted enemy and destroyed 2  
Ju.88. Probably destroyed one Ju.88 damaged one Ju.88. No  
damage reported to ships. 9 Hudsons, 7 Wellingtons, 1 Beaufort,  
8 Baltimores (A.30), 1 Ventura (B.34) anti-submarine.  
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., 301034Z.)  
A.F. 206 E. N.A.A.F. Opsum. 282.  
28th/29th Nov. 15 Bostons harbour, railway yards and military  
installations Pescara. 1 returned early. 55 x 500. Fires  
and explosions Harbour. Railway Bridge and line straddled.  
Fire at Railway junction.  
(H.Q.N.A.A.F., 301630A.)
- M.K.F. 26. Oran section sailed as in C. in C. Med. 211539  
less AORANGI previously sailed to Gibraltar.  
(U.S. Cdr. N.O.B. Oran, 301135A.)
- Joint Army 24 hours to 1000Z/30th Nov.  
R.A.F. Intell. 3. Unconfirmed ground report states German  
Appreciation. steamship from Piraeus with stores and 1000  
unspecified personnel sunk off Naxos night 27th/  
28th Nov. All sailings from Naxos suspended.

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30.11.1943.  
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Joint Army R.A.F. Intell. Appreciation. (Contd.)

5. G.A.F. activity. 28th November G.A.F. resumed reconnaissances Cyrenaican littoral which had been suspended since beginning island operations in Dodecanese. 29th November attack carried out on eastbound convoy off Benghazi between 1500Z and 1530Z hours by about 15 aircraft variously reported as Ju.88 and He.111s with possibly some Do.217s. No report of torpedoes or glider bombs being used. Probable therefore attacking force consisted Ju.88 only. 2 Ju.88 reported destroyed and 1 damaged. No damage believed suffered by convoy.

6. Still no indications intention launch surface assault on Kastelorizo. Possibility air attack still remains. R/Cs. and CX. reports indicate enemy now making intensive use caiques from mainland in addition those from Crete for supply traffic to Dodecanese and possibly also for evacuation therefrom of troops and prisoners of war.  
(C. in C. M.E., 301350B to W.O.)

RORQUAL. Intend sailing RORQUAL to join G.U.S.23 for passage to Gibraltar and onward routing to U.K. for refit.  
(2) Request sailing authorities inform all concerned. (3) SAXIFRAGE pass to Cdre.  
(V.A. Malta, 301447 to S.E.C. G.U.S.23, SAXIFRAGE, (R) F.O. Gibraltar, F.O.(S), 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.)

Recon-struction of Escort Groups. Cancel 222B. Following is composition of Med. Escort Groups.

36th - JONQUIL, PENTSTEMON, USK, VETCH, PROTEA, SOUTHERN ISLE.  
37th - CAMPION, DARTFORD, FOWEY, FRISO, JOHAN MAURITS.  
46th - ANEMONE, COLTSFOOT, CONVULVULUS, CUCKMERE, HYDERABAD.  
47th - DELPHINIUM, G.S. SAKTOURIS, APOSTOLIS, INVER, SOUTHERN SEA - one of 19th M/S Flotilla.  
48th - BERGAMOT, BRYONY, F.S. LA MALOUINE, MYOSOTIS, BARLE.  
49th - DART, GLOXINIA, PRIMULA, SOUTHERN MAID, WOLBOROUGH - one of 19th M/S Flotilla.  
50th - ALISMA, SAXIFRAGE, SPIREA, STORK, AIRE.  
(C. in C. Med., 301537A to Med. Station, Levant Station, 348B.)

Axis shipping. My 261745C. BALKAN not yet arrived. Still expected B.3. B. My 231016C, para. 3. Reported C.4 that 2 German motor lighters delayed at Varna; may arrive Istanbul end of this week.  
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 301601C.)

/X.I.F.5 ...



30.11.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

X.I.F.5. N.O.I.C. Port Said requested sail X.I.F.5 p.m./  
3rd Dec. by (? inshore) route to 59.  
8. INGLEFIELD (S.O.), FURY, BLENCATHRA, HAMBLEDON,  
HAYDON, CROOME, O.R.P. KRAKOWIAK relieving  
CROOME as arranged by S.N.O. Cyrenaica.  
(C. in C. Levant, 301616B to X.I.F.5.)

Routine overhauls,  
French Fleet. (Algiers, 301730A to Etousa.)  
See Lion Copy.

4 Italian supply S/Ms at Taranto. My 171906 and 181202 November.  
Duty for which they are suitable and proposal  
for their future.  
(F.O.(S), 301818A to Admty.)

Balkan Sitrep No. 14. 1. Int. Nil.  
2. Land Ops. Brit. L.Os. report. Yugoslavia,  
Dalmatia Partisans have repelled four German  
landings on Uljan Island. German forces still  
attacking.  
3. Air Ops. A. Bombing. Yugoslavia, 27th Nov.  
24 Mitchells bombed Sibenik harbour. One merchant vessel  
unloading hit near misses other shipping, fires started at  
warehouses. 48 U.S. Mitchells despatch against targets at  
Serajevo Travnik and Zara unable to bomb owing to cloud.  
28th Nov. 24 U.S. Mitchells bombed Dubrovnik harbour hit docks  
and Mil. Stores Depot. 24 U.S. Mitchells bombed Zara fire  
and explosion at docks. 33 U.S. Mitchells despatched Serajevo  
and Travnik unable to bomb owing to cloud and bombed Sibenik  
harbour scoring hits or near misses on shipping. 3 fires seen  
on ships one of which blew up. Marshalling yards, warehouses,  
barracks also hit. All above Ops. based on Italy.  
(C. in C. M.E., 301940 to W.O.)

PALOMARES. A.M. 272336, para. 3. Sailing of PALOMARES may  
be delayed until end of January.  
(V.C.N.S., 202003A to C. in C. Med., C. in C.  
E.F. (S.E.A.C.), C. in C. Levant, Info. F.O.  
Gibraltar, F.O.E.C.E.F.)

Levant Situation Report No. 117. Up to 1800B Nov. 30th. BIRMINGHAM entered  
Alexandria this morning drawing 33 feet forward.  
Damage not yet surveyed, but ship flooded to  
No.56 bulkhead. Casualties 27 killed and 28  
wounded.  
2. Convoy K.M.F.26 shadowed by aircraft most of  
29th. Attacked at 1710 by 15 Ju.88s broken up by  
fighters who claim two shot down, one probable and one damaged.  
SS. RANCHI near missed and suffered superficial damage. One man  
killed, three injured. No other damage to convoy.

30.11.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Levant  
Situation  
Report  
No. 117.  
(Contd.)

3. SICKLE from Aegean patrol reports p.m./17th close S.W. of Amorgos she sank by gunfire 80 ton westbound caique, at 1645B/19th she sank 3500 ton (? M/V) anchored in ?Monemvasia Bay, a.m./25th sank by gunfire two 50 ton caiques west of Thermia.  
4. The 5 R.A.F. H.S.L. which have done good work in assisting Naval Craft in evacuating personnel from Islands are now clear of Aegean, Leros and elsewhere.  
(C. in C. Levant, 302044B.)

Radio  
controlled  
missiles.

Technical.  
(D.S.D., 302244A to C. in C. Med.)

Situation  
Report  
No. 239.

1. A feint landing was staged on the night 28th/29th on the east coast of Italy in supporting the 8th Army across the Sangro River LOYAL, QUILLIAM and M.G.Bs. carried out a diversionary bombardment as part of same operation.  
2. Brindisi closed on 29th following detonation of three mines by sweeper in the approach channel. M.M.S. 3 was damaged and beached.  
(C. in C. Med., 202318A.)

Mark 29  
anti-torpedo  
gear.

Anti-torpedo gear in merchant ships. In view of Com. 10th Fleet (C. and R's) 261444 (B.A.M.S. message 24) instructions issued in accordance with A.M. 161355 are to be confined to N.D. ships only until further notice.  
(D.T.D., 302358A to C. in C. Med., E.F., S.A., Levant, C.N.A., W.A., F.O.C. Gibraltar, W.Af., Info. B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., Com. 10th Fleet (C. & R.), Comneveu.)

Summary of  
attacks on  
U-Boats  
assessed  
by Med.  
Joint  
Assessment  
Board.

(N.T. in W.R.)  
My 031928 Nov. refers following attacks previously reported have been assessed as follows:-

Serial	Assessment
3A	H
10	H
11A	F
22	F
23A	H
26A	H
27	F
28	I
30	F
33	F
35	H

2. Following attacks not previously reported and not yet assessed.

Serial 26B 240421 Sept. U.S.S. MAYO 40° 11' N. 14° 40' E.

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Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Summary  
of attacks  
on U-Boats  
assessed by  
Med. Joint  
Assessment  
Board.  
(Contd.)

Serial 26C 241332 Sept. U.S. aircraft 39° 59' N.  
14° 29' E.

Serial 26D 251542 Sept. U.S.S. MAYO 40° 24' N.  
14° 33' E.

Serial 28A 282019 Sept. U.S.S. MAYO 39° 51' N.  
14° 48' E.

Serial 30A 040343 Oct. H.M.S. POPPY 36° 04' N.  
1° 30' W.

Serial 30B 041552 Oct. H.M.A.S. GAWLER 32° 57' N.  
21° 11' E.

Serial 31A 070934 Oct. H.M.<sup>H</sup>S. THEMISTOCLES 34°  
47' N. 32° 08' E.

Serial 34A 210050 Oct. Wellington A/C 37° 23' N. 00° 35' E.

Serial 39 021452 Nov. H.M.S. COLOMBO 36° 23' N. 00° 27' E.

Serial 40 031910 Nov. Wellington A/C 37° 10' N. 02° 10' E.

Serial 41 101605 Nov. H.M.S. CUCKMERE 35° 55' N. 04° 16' W.

3. Following attacks not previously reported has been assessed  
A and identified as U.340. Serial 38 012154 Nov. FLEETWOOD 35°  
50' N. 05° 13' W.

4. B.A.D. Washington pass Cominch.  
(C. in C. Med., 302359.)

*Trin* *held*  
806<sup>A</sup>

# MOST SECRET

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

(\*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                      301730A/November                      IN

From: Algiers.

Date: 1.12.43.  
Recd. 1200A.

*Routine overhauls, French Fleet*

---

Addressed: Etoussa.

U.S. 1243.

Ref. No. W-6537/7720 NAF.535. 30th November, 1943.

Interior Addressee: To: Agwar,  
For: U.S.S.  
To: USFOR,  
For: British Chiefs of Staff,  
To: USAFIME,  
Sgd. Eisenhower,  
Cite: SPILA, NAJRO.

Reference: CCS 358 (no record)

Please advise whether local routine overhauls to extent necessary to keep French Cruisers *SUFUREW*, *DUQUESNE*, *TOURVILLE*, *DUQUAY*, *TROMIN* and *JEANNE D'ARC* in service for limited operations in accordance with CCS 358 par. 5 is primarily British or U.S. responsibility since they are not to go to the United States for major overhaul. Assuming in either case dockyard labor at port selected would be primarily French.

For reasons of operational congestion with higher priority ships, C. in C. Med. does not wish repairs to be carried out inside Mediterranean and would prefer work done at Casablanca as opportunity offers. Decisions requested whether demands for repair material should be made by port Commandant concerned in accordance with CCS 358, para. 18 or whether ship repair materials for such repairs will be furnished to French as part of their monthly re-armament tonnage allocation, details being arranged by Fenard Mission with appropriate agencies.

Latter procedure since it gives flexibility for transfer of material as between British or U.S. port according to circumstances at time of overhaul. Items required will include boiler and condenser tubes and electric cable, in all of which French are deficient.

First case occurring for decision under para. 2 is *DOUQUAY TROUIN* (?) which was not intended to overhaul at Oran but is now unserviceable there with defective condensers.

Decision in CCS.358/3 to provide AA armament when and if available is noted.

French could install concurrently when required with local overhaul is confirmed.

301730A.

Recd. in W.R. 2nd December.

Circulation.

Brig. Jacco  
FOR, SEC.  
1st S.L.  
C. 6 Tels. W.O.  
A.M.C.S. (C)

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

Dep. Contro. )  
D. of D. ) BATH BY COURIER.  
Hd. of S.W.R. )

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War Diary.30.11.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.ATHINA  
LIVANOS  
torpedoed  
29th.ATHINA LIVANOS torpedoed in 012° 20' N. 044° 00' E.  
at 1630Z/29th.  
(C. in C.E.F. 300215Z to S. & A. E.I. Station (R)  
Admty., 222 Group, C. in C.S.A., N.O.I.C. Wing,  
Air H.Q. E.Af.)

M.A.19.

1. Sailing telegram (2 ships). 2. 0111Z/30th.  
6. BOMBAY.  
(N.C.S.O. Vizagapatam 300231Z to Admty.)Mark 29,  
anti-torpedo  
gear.Anti torpedo gear in Merchant ships. Reference to  
B.A.M.S.24 and your 121606 and 161355 both November  
Please confirm final action to be taken. Com. 10  
Fleet C. & R. 281807 refers.  
(C. in C.E.F. 300418Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.S.A.)

Tugs.

Your 130048. "Empire" class Tugs are not entirely  
suitable for the work outlined in my 281115 Oct.  
We propose therefore to earmark 4 of the 7 rescue  
tugs ("Integrity" class) allocated to the E.F. for  
operations where "Empire" class are unsuitable.(3) Their place will be taken as far as possible by the "Empire"  
class Tugs referred to in your 130048.(C. in C.E.F. 300419Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med, F.O. Ceylon,  
C. in C. (S.E.A.C.) S.O. Force G.)S.E.A.  
Air  
Report.M.S.22963. A.265 30th Nov.  
2 Catalinas sea search off Ceylon for survivors  
torpedoed motor vessels life boats and rafts  
located. Rescue vessel took on board 29 survivors.  
28 Nov. U.S. Mitchells B.25 escorted by 16 U.S.  
Mustangs P.51 (? Botataung or Bosytaung) docks  
(Rangoon). Formation intercepted by 30 plus  
enemy fighters. 2 enemy aircraft destroyed 3 probably destroyed  
4 damaged. 1 P.51 missing 2 damaged. 14th U.S.A.A.F. 28th Nov.  
2 U.S. Mitchells B.25 sea sweep Tonking Gulf. 1 175 ft. freighter sunk.  
(S.E.A.A.C. 300421Z to Air Min.)Flying  
Boats  
Umm Rasas.A.622 30th. Development of advanced base for 6  
flying boats at Umm Rasas (Umm Rasas on Masirah  
Island) referred to in part 4 your A.X.31 12 June  
now considered unnecessary. (Reasons).  
(222 Group 300610Z to Air Min.)C. in C.  
Convoys.First convoy from Calcutta to Colombo leaving  
Calcutta Dec. 8th is to be known as C.J.8. Convoy  
numbers C.J.1 to C.J.7 inclusive will not be used.  
My 271202, para. 4 refers.  
(C. in C.E.F. 301031Z to N.O.I.C. Calcutta.)

/Re-organisation...

War Diary.

30.11.1943.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Re-organisation of Naval air operational control in Arabian Sea. For efficient co-operation in Naval and air operations, it is important that the operational headquarters of the Senior Naval and air authorities in any area should be in the same place and have adequate communications, and it is undesirable that two separate Naval authorities should overlap QQ operational control with one air authority.

2. The Headquarters of 219 Group formerly at Basra has been abolished and the Aden R.A.F.

Command has now been extended along the South Arabian shore and the entrance of the South Arabian shore and the entrance of the Persian Gulf to include Masirah and Sharkah and the South Persian and Baluchistan coast as far as 61° 30' E. 3. Thus S.N.O.P.G. can no longer retain personal contact with R.A.F. Command and has no combined operations room in which to plan operations. The following re-organisation is therefore considered desirable.

(a) Com.i/c. Aden to assume responsibility for operational control and protection of convoys and shipping between the Straits of Perim and the Straits of Hormuz including the whole coastal route from Aden to Hormuz and in the Gulf of Oman as far as 61° 31' E. (b) S.N.O.P.G. to relinquish operational control of shipping in the Gulf of Oman. 4. It is considered that S.N.O.P.G.

should retain his present responsibilities and political contacts on the shores of the Gulf of Oman as far as existing boundaries. 5. It is proposed that N.O.I.C. Hormuz should remain under the administrative Command of S.N.O.P.G. but should sail convoys from Bandar Abbas in accordance with instructions of Com.i/c.

6. It is proposed that S.N.O.P.G. should retain administrative and operational control of the Hormuz patrol. 7. As Headquarters R.A.F. at Aden has already taken over the air responsibilities referred to above and since it is anticipated that the Aden Naval Command will shortly be transferred to the East Indies Station your very early remarks on these proposals are requested.

(C. in C.E.F. 301042 to Com.i/c. Aden S.N.O.P.G. (R) Admty. 222 Group R.A.F. C. in C. Levant, C. in C. (S.E.A.C.) ).

Smoke screen Trincomalee. At request C. in C.E.F. and after consultation with A.O.C. and G.O.C. propose to provide smoke screen to cover inner harbour and anchorage Trincomalee by night and at dusk and dawn.

2. Following equipment and personnel required (details). 6. In view early arrival Eastern

Fleet request British personnel and equipment required be supplied as early as possible.

(C. in C. Ceylon 301629 to S.E.A.C.)

Eastern Fleet Convoys system relaxations. T.2 Tankers. 1. Now that Eastern Fleet convoy system is working well request you will make such relaxations as U-Boat situation permits from time to time in order to (A) Expedite shipping turnaround generally. (B) Release the faster ships from convoys in which owing to slow speed they are difficult to handle. The need for (A) above justifies acceptance of some additional risks. 2. Request you will in particular consider independent sailings of T.2

tankers now retained in AP/PA and PB/BP convoys. (V.C.N.S. 301642A to C. in C.E.F.)

30.11.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

SCOTIA  
torpedoed  
27th Nov.  
Survivors.

OKAPI has accounted for all crew of Norwegian tanker SCOTIA. Captain taken prisoner. Six of crew shot. Chief engineer found shot on raft remainder including one dead now on board OKAPI. (C. in C.E.F. 301016 to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) ).



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30.11.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

QUEEN MARY. Arrived New York 0117Z/30th.  
(P.D.New York, 301324Z.)

GLOIRE. French Cruiser GLOIRE departing Bermuda for  
Dakar 1900Z/29.  
(U.S. N.O.B. Bermuda, 291347Z to Comar Dakar.)

T.U.4A. New York arrived 29th. (5 ships)  
(N.S.H.Q. 301349Z.)

A/S Your 191651. We are short of large A/S  
Trawlers capable of long Ocean Escorts in  
as Escorts. winter. "Western Isle" class are not suitable  
for this duty.  
2. Though your need for Trawlers strengthened  
for ice is appreciated, the requirement in other  
theatres is such that we must adhere to our request for the  
release of the 6 A/S trawlers when St. Lawrence closes.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 301453A to N.S.H.Q.)

N.S.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q. 301459Z.)  
S/M  
Estimate.

U.S.S/M (Cominch 301540Z.)  
Estimate.

ARETHUSA. ARETHUSA is expecting to sail for Norfolk,  
Virginia on 15th Dec. and for Clyde about  
26th Dec.  
(B.A.M.R. 301542Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.,  
C. in C. C.N.A., S.B.N.O. W.At. ARETHUSA, F.O.N.E.)

L.27 refit. My 191902 being passed to you. Your 292059  
refers. Request E.T.A. which should be as early  
possible.  
(B.A.M.R. 301610Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) N.S.H.Q.,  
F.O.S., Admty., Cominch, Comsublant.)

INDIA. Information in A.M. 271921A re tanker INDIA is  
now known to be erroneous. Inconvenience  
caused is regretted.  
(D.T.D. 301655Z to Connav, Info. A.C.N.B., N.O.I.C.  
N.O.I.C. Sydney, N.S.W.)

ATHENE. A.M. 231859 Oct. and A.M. 141105 Nov. As  
TRUMPETER will be carrying out a second ferrying  
trip to U.S.A., do you consider that the ferrying  
trip by ATHENE leaving U.K. early December will  
be required.

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30.11.1943.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

ATHENE.  
(Contd.)                    2. Request an early reply.  
(D.N.A.O., 301734A to B.A.D., Info. C. in C.  
W.A., F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Summary                    My 221059 July, 1942.  
of                            1. At 0241A/25 in approx. 41° 42' N. 22° 30' W.  
Attacks                    ships of 4th Escort Group carried out 2 Hedgehog  
on U/B.                    and 4 depth charge attacks on a U/Boat. There  
                              was an explosion from the second Hedgehog attack  
                              and much oil came to the surface.  
                              2. There have been a number of attacks by  
ships and aircraft escorting or supporting convoy S.L.140.  
Several of these attacks show promise particularly one by  
DAHLIA on night 27th/28th Nov., but full details have not yet  
been received.  
(D.A.U.D. 301812A to Cominch, Comaveu, B.A.D., N.S.H.Q.)

Sub.                        Para. A. BOGUE Aircraft attacks Sub. 39.33 N.  
attack                    19.01 W. 291346.  
and                        (Cominch, 302020 to Admty.)  
sighting  
summary.

Ships                      Your 271411.    A. All ships 6 knots except  
ex Wabana                RUDBY which may be sailed in S.C. convoy.  
Ore trade.                B. 31st Dec.  
                              (N.S.H.Q., 302107Z to Admty.)

T.G.27.4                    Refer to this as 291617 from Cinclant to Com.  
constituted.                8th Fleet, CROATAN (ACV) Comdesron 31 for Action  
                              and Taskgroup 27.4 hereby constituted Capt.  
                              Vest in CROATAN, NICHOLSON, BROOME, MCCORMICK.  
                              On Dec. 6th when loaded ASTKHBADY (As received.  
                              Ref. not held.) taskgroup proceed North Africa  
via Bermuda for fuel. As directed by Com. 8th Fleet destination  
North Africa accordance Cominch 041510. Return to U.S. when  
directed by Com. 8th Fleet. BROOME, MCCORMICK to be directed  
by Comdesron 31 to report to CROATAN for this duty.  
(Comaveu 302107 to Admty.)

Manning                    (Dep. 1st S.L. 302111A to N.S.H.Q.)  
Situation.                See Lion Copy.

KEMPTHORNE.                Making speed of 15 knots KEMPTHORNE (BDE 275)  
                              departs Boston Gate 1245Q 1st Dec. en route  
                              Bermuda.  
                              (C.T.G. 02.1. 302112 to N.O.B. Bermuda.)

/Minesweeping...

AWI Lion

# MOST SECRET

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811<sup>A</sup>.

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

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

302111A/November.

OUT.

To: N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.  
B.A.D. Washington.  
B.A.M.R. Washington.  
Info: S.C.N.O. London.  
N.M.C.S. Washington.  
C. in C. W. A.

Date: 30.11.43.

Manning Situation.

NAVAL CYPHER (XD) PLUG

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From: Admiralty.

N.S.H.Q. 181638Z and 271917Z. The immediate needs of our manning situation may be summarised in the following order of priority -

- (a) Remove new construction from U.S. building yards.  
Fulfil Western Approaches requirements outlined in para. 4.
- (c) Bring all new construction to U.K.
- (d) Remove Town Class ex W.E.F. to U.K.

2. The proposals outlined below are made after discussion with Captain Greery and are in addition to the welcome Canadian offer to man cruisers and Fleets. Signals quoted are being passed to authorities concerned.

3. It is proposed that a proportion of Captain Class Frigates be sailed direct to U.K. with minimum shakedown for the passage and without working up at Bermuda. These vessels would be put into reserve in U.K. or used to enable old ships in Western Approaches Command to be paid off. Their crews would return immediately to U.S.A. for a further ferry trip.

4. Following Frigates are needed to meet our immediate commitments to relieve ships in Western Approaches for foreign service and are therefore not repetition not available for purpose indicated in paragraph 3.

- (a) Those Frigates allocated to Western Approaches by Admiralty Message 281556/October.
- (b) Those Frigates allocated to Western Approaches by Admiralty Message 192345 and Admiralty Message 242130.

5. Any other Captain Class Frigates can be used as in paragraph 3 to assist B.A.M.R. to clear U.S.A. yards.

/6.....

6. All R.N. and Norwegian Town Class Destroyers of W.E.F. to be withdrawn from service. We appreciate the operational risk involved and N.S.H.Q. is assured that Support Groups will be moved to assist R.C.N. in the event of a threat developing in the W.E.F. area in accordance with our policy of following the U-Boats. The opening out of the convoy cycle (A.M. 261054) should permit W.E.F. groups to be strengthened and increase the number of R.N. Support Groups.

7. N.S.H.Q. 271917Z. Equipment not repetition not required for passage to U.K. is at disposal of R.C.N.

8. It is intended R.N. and Norwegian-manned Town Class destroyers will eventually be brought to U.K. for paying off, but crews can meanwhile be used for ferrying Captain Class Frigates to Halifax if required on the following lines, keeping crews intact so far as possible.

- (a) Detail say 5 Town Class crews as ferry crews.
- (b) Remaining Town Class crews to act as C. and M. parties for all Town Class destroyers of W.E.F.
- (c) Allocate say 5 Captain Class Frigates which have already been commissioned to berth at Halifax and form a reserve pool of trained engine-room ratings.
- (d) From this pool reinforce the crews referred to in 8(a) above as necessary to enable 5 more Captain Class Frigates to be ferried from building ports to Halifax.

9. Following British Escort Vessels to be manned by R.C.N. crews between now and end of February next:-

NENE  
TWEED  
ETRICK  
Six RIVERS  
One LOCH

It will not repetition not be possible to modify these ships to suit Canadian manning e.g. arcticisation.

10. It would be of great assistance if R.C.N. crews could come to U.K. for the Six RIVERS and One LOCH, and could thus be made available to form runner crews of Maritime Commission Frigates which already have key ratings and would sail under British C.O. to avoid Lend-Lease complications. R.N. crews of NENE, TWEED and ETRICK can be used as B.M.R. requires for M.C.F. or Captain Class Frigates.

11. Our requirements for RIVERS on foreign service (A.M. 170137A refers) have only barely been met and further requirements for replacing casualties might entail sending R.C.N. manned RIVERS foreign.

12. For your information the present position as regards arrival in U.S.A. of R.N. crews is as follows, apart from the proposals made in this signal -

- Read in 2 columns (i) Trained Crews from U.K.
- (ii) Crews ex Canada.

(a) Available now

- (i) 1 diesel crew ex BAYNTUN trained for service
- (ii) One crew each ex BULTON  
UGANDA  
CLEOPATRA } for training.

(b) Available mid-December

- (i) 2 Diesel and 3 Turbo crews for service crossing in T.A. 74.
- 1 M.C.F. main party crossing in T.A. 76A.
- (ii) 1 crew each ex SALISBURY and MANSFIELD for training.

(c) Available end December

- (i) 2 Turbo crews and M.C.F. crews.

(d) Available early January

- (i) 2 Diesel crews and 2 Turbo crews.

13. We appreciate that the measures outlined in paras. 3 to 10 can hardly meet the needs of B.A.M.R. in time, and will therefore be grateful for any assistance the R.C.N. can give towards their fulfilment.

14. C.V.Es. We understand R.C.N. may be able to provide ship's company of one C.V.E. now and one in six weeks' time excluding flying and maintenance personnel. This would be most welcome. Since the purchase of C.V.E's by R.C.N. is unlikely to prove practicable, we are prepared to approach Navy Department now to attempt a solution of Lend-Lease problems. We should of course endeavour to secure that ships would be commissioned H.M.C.S. but in the last resort would N.S.H.Q. agree to waive this? We shall present this case at the same time as L.C.I.(L)'s. An approach on a high level may be necessary, but we understand prospect of agreement is promising.

/15.....

15. B.A.M.R. will be further informed concerning the manning of remaining C.V.E's.

16. A separate signal will be made concerning outstanding points such as Canadian building programme and accommodation for personnel for ships building on West coast.

302111A.

Sec to A.C.N.S. (H) (699)  
Approved Dep. 1st Sea Lord.

1st Lord,  
1st S.L. (2)  
D.F.S.L.  
2nd S.L.  
3rd S.L.  
Vice Contr.  
4th S.L.  
5th S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (F)  
A.C.N.S. (H)  
A.C.N.S. (W)  
A.C.N.S. (UF) (2)  
Sec.  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
P.A.S. (S)  
P.A.S. (PR)  
D. of P. (2)  
D. of P. (Q) (3)  
D.N.I. (2)  
D.O.D. (F) (2)  
D.O.D. (H) (4)  
D.A/S W.  
D.A/U.D.  
Hd of L. (2)  
N.A. 2nd S.L.  
D.P.E.  
Hd of C.W.  
Hd of N.  
A.C.R.  
S.C.N.O. (L) (2)  
D.C.N.A.E.  
Hd of Air Br.  
Ad. Binnoy.  
Ed of M.A.S. (4).  
A.S. (C)

Ad. Blake. (4)  
D. of D.  
D.N.C.  
I.P. (2).  
W.D.  
Ad. Harris.  
Dep Contr. )  
D.N.C. )  
D. of D. ) Bath  
Hd of S.W.R. )

812

30.11.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Minesweeping Your 171506Z/10 (N.T. in W.R.)  
St. Johns. A. 1 Nov. 30 sunk by gunfire.  
B. Swept by Oropesa in 47.20.06 N. 52.34.06 W.  
C. St. Johns Swept Channel Oropesa.  
Clearance sweep of area bounded as follows:  
47.24.00 N. 52.37.30 W. 47.23.00 N. 52.38.00 W. 47.23.00 N.  
52.23.00 W. 47.22.00 N. 52.23.00 W. 47.20.30 N. 52.38.30 W.  
47.20.30 N. 52.15.30 W. 47.20.30 N. 52.38.24 W.  
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 302348Z to N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty.  
Cominch, C. in C. C.N.A.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest 4. 6 Liberators dropped 35 quarter ton bombs  
Serial from medium altitude on barracks and shipping  
No.679 Manokwari with unobserved results noon. 2 float  
Nov.29th, Zeros ineffectually attempted interception.  
4 or 5 small sea trucks observed in area. One  
bomb dropped Nabire airfield while returning.  
5. After dark aircraft sighted 2 groups ships  
comprising 2 and 4 possible destroyers respectively West  
Gazelle Peninsula apparently heading West.  
9. Before dawn 28th single enemy bomber ineffectively  
attacked transportation Echelon approaching Torokina.  
10. Another bombed destroyers on submarine hunt West of  
Empress Augusta Bay noon same date without effect.  
12. 29th our M.T.Bs. met and forced ashore 1 loaded Japanese  
barge off Southern shores Bougainville.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 300630)

U/B Admty. 302142B refers. Assessment of damage  
attacked resulting from attacks by H.M.A. M.L.425 on a  
12th Oct. submarine on the night of 12th Oct. in 7° 50' S.  
assessment 148° 05' E. is considered to be "D" probably  
of damage. damaged.  
(A.C.N.B. 301058Z to Admty.)

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 301418A, 301421A.) /Sub. ...

30.11.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines attacked.

Sub.  
attack  
and  
sighting  
summary  
for 24  
hours at  
0900Z/30th.

Para. A. 1. Gk. ATLINEA LIVANOS torpedoed at  
1630/29th in 12° 20' N. 44° 00' E.

2. Unknown ship torpedoed at 2327/29th in  
06° 35' N. 12° 28' W.

3. VESPER attacked U/Boat with depth charges  
at 2140/29th in 54° 34' N. 24° 24' W.

4. U.S. A/C sighted U/Boat at 1228/29th in  
14° 10' N. 17° 10' W. course 230°.

Para. B. 1. QUICKMATCH attacked U/Boat at  
1010/26th in 05° 52' N. 81° 41' E.

Para. D. 1. Russians report U/Boat attacked by  
minesweeper at 1045/24th in app. 69° 08' N.

41° 54' E.

2. U.S.S.R. Destroyer GROZNI attacked U/Boat at 0908/24th  
in 69° 00' N. 41° 06' E. Oil and wreckage seen.  
(D.D.I.C. 301019Z to Cominch N.S.H.Q.)