

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

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

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

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

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

ADM 199 2285

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War Diary.

1.12.1943.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- Operation F.T. 1. D/F bearings at several times today indicated that U-Boats may be near Convoy R.A. 54B to the South of Bear Island, and C. in C. H.F. has asked that A/S air escort may be provided for the Convoy to the maximum limit of A/C range.
- North Cape S/M Patrols. 2. After consulting C. in C. H.F., F.O.(S) intends to reduce the number of S/Ms on the North Cape Patrol to a minimum and to employ the available S/Ms instead in anti-shipping attacks on the Norwegian coast South of Vest Fiord. He intends also to cover the next North Russian Convoy with one S/M.
- VALIANT. 3. VALIANT with 2 destroyers left Plymouth at 0925A for the Clyde.
- NÜRNBERG. 4. N.A. Stockholm reports that the German Cruiser NÜRNBERG arrived at Copenhagen today.
- U-Boats attacked. 5. At 0204 today an A/C on patrol attacked a U-Boat about 75 miles West of La Rochelle; and between 1438A and 2100A ATHABASKAN and JANUS made six attacks upon a U-Boat seen by A/C to dive about 100 miles W. by S. of Lands End.
- Convoy T.U. 3. 6. The U.S. Troop Convoy T.U.3 sailed from the Clyde at 0954A today for New York and Norfolk, and C.T.F.60 in ARKANSAS with 6 U.S. destroyers left Belfast as Escort.
- Convoy C.E.226 attacked. AVANTURINE sunk. 7. At 2130A today two groups of E-Boats appeared off Beachy Head. One of these attacked Convoy C.E.226 with torpedoes without result; and the other, overtaking the "Haulabout" group proceeding eastward on the inshore route S.E. of Beachy Head, torpedoed and sank the M/S Trawler AVANTURINE in tow of a tug at 2259. No survivors of AVANTURINE have been found.
- MAURETANIA. 8. MAURETANIA arrived at Liverpool at 1000A today from New York.
- Mining. 9. 44 Bomber Command aircraft last night were despatched to lay mines in Biscay and north-west French ports.

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SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

10. At 1732 today SS. EMPIRE PENNANT in 07.01 S. 21.56 W. reported being followed by a suspicious ship. It was later ascertained that the ship sighted units of the U.S. 4th Fleet.

Mediterranean.

"Avalanche".

11(a) Destroyers patrolled between Durazzo and Dubrovnik last night, but sighted nothing. Shore batteries made ineffective reply. Large fires were started at Durazzo following bombardment. No suitable targets were seen at Dubrovnik.
(b) BICESTER and ZETLAND also operated between Sibenik and Split, and M.T.Bs. south of Split to Dubrovnik, but neither patrol sighted anything.

ADRIAS.

12. ADRIAS, damaged on 22nd October and beached, left Gumishlu under her own power after dark today, escorted by 3 M.G.Bs. and arrived at Kastelorizo a.m./3rd whence she proceeded to Alexandria escorted by two "Fleets".

China.

13. In the Changteh area (Hunan Province) U.S. Kittyhawks today sank 50 boats and damaged 30 more.

14. 8 U.S. Mitchells escorted by 24 U.S. Kittyhawks and 8 Mustangs attacked shipping and installations at Tai Kao docks and Kowloon shipyards. A vessel, shipyards and the docks were hit.

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SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

15. A two-ship convoy was attacked by Allied aircraft in Gazelle Channel (New Britain) last night; explosions and towering flames were caused in a transport. Four hours later, a Naval Catalina attacked what was probably the same convoy, a few miles west of Gazelle Channel, and hit each of the two escorting destroyers with a 500 lb. bomb. About the same time and place a second Naval Catalina reported two hits with 1000 lb. bombs on a large tanker in a group of 10 to 12 ships which probably formed part of the same convoy.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

VIOLET for Eastern Fleet. My 301010 October. For PENNYWORT read VIOLET. (C. in C. W.A. 011030A to Admty.)

1st Coastal Force Flotilla. M.G.B's 312, 316, 317, 326, 324 and 330. M.T.B's 344 and 352 and C.M.B's 103 and 104 are to constitute the 1st Coastal Force Flotilla which is allocated to Force 'J'.
 (2) C. in C. Nore is requested to sail M.G.B's 324 and 330 on completion of present refit to Portsmouth for special training by NORTHNEY and subsequent transfer to Force 'J' on 1st January, 1944. (D.D.O.D. C. 011333A to C. in C. Nore.)

33rd M.L. Flotilla. M.Ls. 588, 589, 591, 595, 596, 597, 598 and 901 are to constitute the 33rd M.L. Flotilla which is allocated, until required for foreign service to C. in C. Portsmouth and is to be based at Newhaven. (D.D.O.D.(C), 011336A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

KISMET, NIGHTJAR, ANNIE II. Liverpool 2383/8088P/648P of 26th November not to C. in C. Plymouth. Patrol vessel KISMET has been renamed NIGHTJAR as from 29th November.
 (2) H.M. Drifter NIGHTJAR has been renamed ANNIE II. This exchange of names is dated 29th November. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 011514A to Admty.)

3 Captain-Class Frigates for Conversion. Amend A.M. 301246 by cancelling para.4 and substituting new paras.
 (4) C. in C. W.A. is requested to nominate one frigate to be taken in hand now.
 (5) B.A.D. Washington is requested to sail direct to U.K. for this purpose 2 frigates who have shaken down but not worked up to arrive as early as possible.
 (6) Frigates for conversion should be preferably but not necessarily diesel electric. (D.O.D.(H), 011725A to B.A.D. Washington.)

Capt. G.L.1. Headquarters of Capt. G.L. 1 have today been established H.M.S. WOOLVERSTONE under the command of Acting Capt. R.P. Selby. (Capt. C.L.1. 011801A to C. in C. Nore.)

Trawlers for Force 'S'. Fuelling trawlers CONGRE, CLYTHENESS, REGARDO, LUDA LORD, CHASSE MARIE will on completion of conversion probably be required as servicing craft with Force 'S' in Inverness-Invergordon area.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Trawlers
 for
 Force 'S'
 (Contd.)

(2) As these vessels may be required either as Water or Fuel carriers, Tank Tests should not, repetition not, be carried out with fuel oil or Kerosene.
 (D. of P.011856A to F.O.I.C.London)

EMPEROR
 SEARCHER.

EMPEROR and SEARCHER must have their rotors changed before proceeding on service.
 Work cannot be undertaken in U.K. and ships must proceed to New York.

R.A.E.C. has been consulted and agrees that the best answer is to work up the ship to the state when aircraft can be handled on and off satisfactorily and then send them to New York and to rejoin the carrier squadron at the earliest possible date. Present arrangements aim at sailing from U.K. about 19th December. Squadrons would remain embarked and arrangements will be made for reserve aircraft to be available for embarkation in U.S.A. Request working up programme be adjusted accordingly.
 (A.C.N.S. A. 012001A to F.O.C.T.)

Two
 Trawlers
 for
 Azores.

Admiralty 301614.
 (1) Earliest date Trawlers can sail is with O.S.62/K.M.S. 36.
 (2) F.O.I.C.Liverpool to details.
 (C. in C. W.A. 012238A to Adnty.)

Movements.

RENOWN,
 NELSON.

Following is a repetition of my 302350 to OPPORTUNE, METEOR, OPPORTUNE with METEOR proceed passing Switha 2200A/1st to R/V with RENOWN in 000 degs. Dunnet Head 3 miles at 2300A/1st.

(2) RENOWN unescorted is to proceed from Cape Wrath to Rosyth. RENOWN's 301007 refers. When met provide escort.

(3) On arrival you will be required to escort H.M.S. NELSON to Scapa as ordered by Capt. (D) Londonderry, Ends.
 (R.A.D. 010359A to OPPORTUNE, METEOR)

Request you adjust speed to arrive Oxcars Gate at 1200/2nd. On completion escort direct destroyers to proceed Methil to await NELSON sailing p.m. 2nd.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 011313A to RENOWN)

Intend sailing NELSON p.m. 2nd December for Scapa by searched channel route, S.O.A. 15 knots. E.T.D. 22A buoy 2000/2nd. E.T.A. 0745/3rd. OPPORTUNE and METEOR escorting.
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 011643A to C. in C. H.F.)

ILLUSTRIOUS /...

1.12.1943.
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ILLUSTRIOUS. Sailed R.A.A.H.F. in ILLUSTRIOUS.
ILLUSTRIOUS 302024 refers.
(F.O.I.C. N.I. 010826A to F.O.I.C.Greenock)

VALIANT. My 271836A. VALIANT sailing escorted by
TANATSIDE and TALYBONT not MELBREAK.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 010925A)

NORFOLK. Sailed NORFOLK one hour late on my 301116A.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 011158A to A.C.O.S.)

ARIADNE. A.M. 301723.
Route for ARIADNE sailing Liverpool 6th December.
G 293 Trevoise Head 5 miles.
H 50.35 13.45. J 47.20 17.30. K 40.50 17.20
thence as ordered by F.O.I.C.Gibraltar.
(D.O.D.(F), 011740A to F.O.I.C.Liverpool)

GARLAND. My 082228 November.
(1) GARLAND has been further delayed.
(2) Intend sailing ship to Gibraltar with K.M.F
27 December 14th for onward routeing to Freetown.
(C. in C. W.A. 011745A to F.O.C.W.Af.)

S/M
Movements. Positions of S/M's at 0800/2 and movements for
following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 011756A, 012151A, 020841A, 021021A,
021129)

Operations.

Bay Patrol. Have A.S.V. contact in 46 degs. 00' N. 03 degs.
U-Boat 25' W. probably U-Boat.
attacked (A/C Duty O 010151 to 19 Group)
by A/C. Am over enemy submarine in 45 degs. 50' N.
03 degs. 10' W. When first sighted was on
surface, course 330 degs. speed 15 knots.
(A/C Duty O 010200 to 19 Group)

Have attacked U-Boat with depth-charge, estimate no hits.
(A/C Duty O, 010204 to 19 Group)
Lost touch with U-Boat last seen 045 degs. (755') N. 003
degs. W. 15' W. course S.E. 15 knots. U-Boat has dived.
(A/C Duty O 010300 to 19 Group)
Large suspicious Swirl 49 degs. 38' N. 10 W.
(A/C Duty P 011200A to 19 Group)
Many unknown A/C 47.16 N. 09.52 W.
(A/C Duty A. 011212A to 19 Group)
Am over dinghy with 3 air crew in 48 degs. 30' N. 09 degs.
40' W.
(A/C Duty X 011327A to 19 Group)
Over dinghy with 2 aircrew in 47 degs 35' N. 09 degs. 05' W.
(A/C Duty D. 011420 to 19 Group)

Am /...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Bay Patrol. Am being attacked by enemy A/C in 48 degs. 30' N.
U-Boat 09 degs. 40' W.
attacked (A/C Duty U. 011520A to 19 Group)
by A/C. Have A.S.V. contact position 43.00 degs. N. 19
(Contd.) degs. 19 W. probably U-Boat.
(A/C Duty V. 011556Z to 19 Group)
Over dinghy with 3 air-crew position 47.35 N.
09.05 W.
(A/C Duty O 011650 to 19 Group)

Operation Intend sailing LOYALTY to Skaalefiord 1600
S.F. today.
(A.C.O.S. 010937 to N.O.I.C.Faeroes)
Request port for boiler-cleaning HOUND Ship
ready to sail in about three days time.

C. in C. Rosyth's 301903 refers.
(A.C.O.S.010951 to Admty.)
Sailed HOUND, RATTLESNAKE, ORESTES, COCKATRICE in company.
HOUND 302004 refers.
(R.N.O.Seidisfiord 011122A to C. in C. Rosyth.)
Scapa departure at 1605, LOYALTY.
(A.C.O.S. 011721 to N.O.I.C.Faeroes)

Operation By D/F at 0631Z U-Boat estimated South of Bear
F.T. Island.
(D.D.I.C. 011020A to A.I.G.47, H.Q.C.C.)
By D/F at ?(08)?(27) Z/01 U-Boat in 074 degs.
20' N. 020 degs. 20' E. Reliable fix.

By D/F at 0830Z/01 1 unidentified A/C in Barents Sea, position
unknown.

(Murmansk, 011105A to H.F.)
By D/F U-Boat at 0902Z at 073 degs. 32' N. 021 degs. 55'
E. unreliable. U-Boat at 0941Z at 073 degs. 02' N. 021 degs.
25' E. reliable.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 011240A to Admty.)
H.F. Memorandum 01325/158.para4 (k). Insert SALADIN,
SKATE, MIDDLETON, BRISSENDEN.

(C. in C. H.F. 011445 to H.F.)
U-Boat transmission at 1509Z may indicate convoy has been
reported.

(D.D.I.C. 011627A to A.I.G.47)
Immediate by D/F. U-Boat at 1508Z in 074 degs. 07' N.
018 degs. 14' E. reliability (B)

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 011645A to Admty.)
Your 121535.

Request A/S air escort for R.A. 54B to maximum limit of
aircraft range.

(2) I estimate position of convoy at 0001A/2nd 73 degs. 14'
N. 11 degs. 12' E. course 248 degs. speed 7½ knots.

(C. in C. H.F. 011755A to H.Q.C.C.)
Request MATCHLESS may be ordered to join me in 065 degs.
10' N. 003 degs. 40' W. at 0930A/3rd. Destroyers have rejoined.
My P.C.S. 071 degs. 40' N. 012 degs. 54' E. 250 degs. 15 knots.
Weather 6678 1443.

(V.A.2, 011929 to C. in C. H.F.)

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Operation E.T.A. Toros Island 1000A/2nd. P.C. and S. of
F.T. White Sea section at 2000A/1st 070 degs. 26' N.
(Contd.) 041 degs. 20' E. 180 degs. 10 knots.
(Capt. (D) 23, 012003A to S.B.N.O. North Russia.
Comply with C. in C. H.F.'s 011755A subject to
light and weather.
(H.Q.C.C. 012210A to 18 Group)
Your 1755A/1st and Coastal Commands 2210A/1. Regret weather
at present unsuitable.
Will despatch aircraft as soon as conditions permit.
(18 Group, 012330A to C. in C. H.F.)
Join R.A.(2) at 0930A/3rd. December in 065 degs. 10' N.
003 degs. 40' W.
(C. in C. H.F. 012355A to MATCHLESS)

Coastal Intend sailing M.G.B's 318 and 329 at 1615 to
Force Southward returning 0830/2nd.
Patrols. (2) Air escort arranged with St. Eval.
(3) Request surface bombing restrictions 10 miles
each side of line Lizard Head to Ile Vierge.
(N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 011025 to C. in C. Plymouth)

Intend sailing M.G.B. 502 and M.T.B. 673 at 1645/1st to South-
ward returning Dartmouth 1000/2nd.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 011049A)

Orders for night 1st/2nd December.

- (1) Following Anti E-Boat patrols weather permitting.
(A) 3 M.G.B's from Newhaven 10 miles South of convoy route
between C.2A buoy and Eastern limit of Command abreast C.E.226
from 1800A to 2300A.
(B) 2 CHASSEURS on 50 degs. 24' N. between 00 degs. 48' W.
and 00 degs. 35' W. from 1800A to 0700A.
(C) 3 M.G.B's from Portland on 50 degs. 15' N. between 01 degs.
30' W. and 02 degs. 20' W. from 1830 to 0700A.
(2) 6 M.T.B's from Newhaven offensive patrol for torpedo targets
only off enemy coast in area bound by longitude 00 degs. 10' W.
latitude 49 degs. 34' N. and a line 335 degs. from St. Valery
En Caux. Under no circumstances to proceed West of longitude
00 degs. 10' W. Proceed and return by passage two so as to
arrive at the southern limit of patrol by 0045A and to be within
20 miles of own coast by 0700A.
(3) 3 S.G.B's immediate notice Yarmouth from 1800A to 0700A.
(4) M.L.344 immediate notice St. Helens.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 011443A)

Dover Dispositions for night 1/2nd December.

SARPENDON and BROCK two miles south of D buoy, E.T.D. 1545,
E.T.R. 0900/2.

M.L.'s 101, 102 and 107 at East Bullock Buoy, E.T.D. 1615.
M.T.B's 430, 413 and 416 at No.7 buoy, E.T.D. Ramsgate 1715.
M.G.B's 2 and M.A/S.B's 33, 23 and 24 return Dover from
Southwards. E.T.R. 2030.
(V.A.Dover, 011617A)

"Hardtack" Dover 00639 of 18th November. "Hardtack" period
Operations. extended to include 3rd/4th December.
(V.A. Dover, 011210A to Admty.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

S/M As a result of consultation with C. in C. H.F. intend to reduce number of S/Ms on North Cape Patrol to a minimum and possibly later to ask the Russians to take over this patrol.

Consider that operation of S/Ms could be more profitably used for attack on shipping on Norwegian coast south of Vest Fjord retiring to anti-U-Boat patrol line as necessary between attacks.

(3) Areas in which it is intended to carry out attack and in which C. in C. H.F. concurs are

- (a) Bredsund and Statlandet.
- (b) Vicinity Kyalight (064 degs. 28' N.)
- (c) Skudesnes. (d) Vicinity Bodo.

(4) Intend instituting patrols.

(a) (b) and (c) with one S/M each sailing on 14th December.

(5) Intend covering next Russian convoy with one S/M.

(F.O.S. 011644A to Admty.)

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

(A) SEADOG, SCEPTRE, SEANYMPH, VIKING, 015 as in my 291731 Nov.

(B) SEAROVER 45 degs. 15' N. 12 degs. 26' W. dived by day to southward, daily advance 165 miles, crossing 43 degs. N. at 0330/3rd.

(C) UNSHAKEN 49 degs. 50' N. 12 degs. 10' W. dived by day course 090 degs. to 09 degs. W. thence to R/V 180 degs. Bishop Rock 10 at 1300/4th, daily advance 110 miles.

(D) TRIDENT 49 degs. 30' N. 12 degs. 25' W. dived by day, course 090 degs. to 09 degs. W. thence to R/V 180 degs. Bishop Rock 10 at 1300/4th, daily advance 120 miles.

(E) UNRIVALLED 47 degs. 40' N. 12 degs. 54' W. dived by day 49 degs. 10' N. 12 degs. 56' W. and 49 degs. 30' N. 12 degs. 26' W. thence course 090 degs. daily advance 120 miles.

(F.O.S. 011756A to Admty.)

O.15 is to leave patrol at 2200/2nd through 064 degs. 07', 001 degs. 05' E. thence by route Grey to arrive Lerwick 4th December, proceed diving by day when north of 062 degs.

(Capt. (S) 9, 011851A to S/M's)

Enemy Intelligence.

NÜRNBERG. My 301549. Cruiser NÜRNBERG arrived Copenhagen today. Graded B.2.
(N.A. Stockholm 011701 to Admty.)

German Flag in Dutch M/V's. My 071805. It appears Germans have now taken precautions against further seizure of Dutch Vessels in compelling them to fly German Flag on leaving German-controlled countries and by restricting Dutch (?coasters) proceeding to Sweden.

(2) One coaster recently hoisted German flag on sailing from Holtensau and 2 more discharged cargo for Sweden at Hamburg and then returned to Holland.

(N.A. Stockholm, 011801 to D.N.I.)

N.I.D. Comment: N.A. Stockholm 071805 Oct. reported that the Dutch Consul General in Sweden had requisitioned four Dutch vessels lying in Swedish ports waiting return to Holland.

(2) The enemy action now reported is designed to prevent a repetition of such seizure.

CELEBES /...

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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence. - Contd.

CELEBES. German minor warship movements believed 18th
2 Destroyers. November.
My R.S.2214 October 18th submarine depot ship
CELEBES passed Brunnsbuttel proceeding into
Baltic.
(2) Two NARVIK- class destroyers passed through Kiel Canal into
Baltic. Graded B.3
(N.A. Stockholm 011827 to Admty.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat A/C reported U-Boat dived in 049 degs. 16'
attacked. 010 degs. 32'. ATHABASKAN investigating.
(JANUS 011438A to C. in C. Plymouth)
Have been in intermittent contact in 049 degs.
35', 010 degs. 22'. ATHABASKAN in company.
Unable to maintain search on account of shortage of fuel
ATHABASKAN? (taken over).
(JANUS 011650A to C. in C. Plymouth)
Correct my 011650A all after fuel to read.
ATHABASKAN remaining in area. 6 Attacks have been carried out.
(JANUS 011845A to C. in C. Plymouth)
Search abandoned. My P.C.S. 049 degs. 21' N. 010 degs.
14' W. 084 degs. 13.
(ATHABASKAN 012100A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Casualties and Defects.

KISTNA. Your 291859. Arrangements made for ship to be
docked at Londonderry.
(D. of D. 010110A to F.O.I.C.Glasgow.)

SCHELDE. Tug SCHELDE sailed 1820/30th.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 011116A to R.N.O. Fort
William)
Proceed forthwith to assist Dutch Tug SCHELDE
ashore on Black Rock Sound of Islay lat.55 degs. 48' N. 06 degs.
04' W.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 011211A to GRIPER)
Sailed GRIPER in accordance with my 011211A .
(N.O.I.C.Campbeltown, 01225A)

SOPHIE Arrived M.D. SOPHIE FRANCOIS towed by tug EMPIRE
FRANCOIS. SPRITE.
(N.O.I.C.Aultbea, 011511A to F.O.I.C.Greenock.)

LAGAN. LAGAN is to be towed to Tail of Bank at 0830
tomorrow.
(F.O.I.C.Glasgow, 011534 to LAGAN)

ROSS /...

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ROSS. My 281218. ROSS delayed with fouled propellor. Will necessitate docking.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 011743A)

Shipping and Convoys.

T.U.3. My 281821. Sailed C.T.F.60 in ARKANSAS with DAVISON, PARKER, CHAMPLAIN, MERVINE, TILLMAN and SALAMONIE.
(F.O.I.C.N.I. 010249A to Admty.)
Convoy sailed composed, escorted, and routed as in A.M. 251640A November except that JOHN ERRICSON and TRADEWIND did not sail.
A.M. 281431A. SUFFOLK did not sail.
(N.O.I.C.Greenock, 010954A to Admty.)

A.T.76. MAURETANIA arrived 0805/1st.
(P.S.T.O. N.W. Ports, 011000A to D.S.T.)

O.N.S.24. Sailed ICARUS, CHILLIWACK, SACKVILLE, KAMLOOPS, FENNEL, Tankers AMPECTO, BRITISH FREEDOM and CHARLES TH. BOE for O.N.S.24. ST. CATHERINES will be sailed about 1800 today on completion of calibration. MORDEN will be sailed to overtake.
(Cdre. D. W.A. 011225A to C. in C. W.A.)
Non sailers SORVARD, DELMAR, WEST NOHNO, MINERVA, BELGIQUE.
(C. in C. W.A. 011601A to Escorts O.N.S.24)
31 ships. Names and destinations.
(C. in C. W.A. 011612Z to Admty.)

O.S.61
K.M.S.35. C. in C. W.A. 231847. LADY MADELEINE and SAPPER detailed.
(F.O.I.C.Liverpool, 011250A to Cdre. D. W.A.)

J.W.54B. B.A.M.S. has been made in the sense of S.B.N.O. Archangel's 261028 except OCEAN STRENGTH and FORT MACMURRAY proceed Murmansk.
(D.T.D. 011259A to A.I.G.47)

S.L.140/
M.K.S.31. My 301852. Attention is called to position of O.S.60/K.M.S.34 at 2000 tonight. Route L.S.T's so as to pass well astern of O.S.60/K.M.S.34, thence as in C. in C. Plymouth's 011101.
(C. in C. W.A. 011413A to B.1)
After dark tonight detach fourth E.G. to Belfast.
(C. in C. W.A. 011449 to E.G.2)
Cancel my 011449A.
(C. in C. W.A. 011535A to Admty.)

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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- S.L.140/
M.K.S.31.
(Contd.) Detach BYARD and CALDER forthwith at best speed for Belfast. S.O. 4th E.G.'s 261706 and 261824 refer.
(C. in C. W.A. 011624A to E.G.2)
My P.C.S. at 2200Z, 050 degs. 35' N. 018 degs. 18' W. 051 degs. 16 knots. KHEDIVE in company.
Your 011624 refers.
(BYARD 012202Z to C. in C. W.A.)
- S.L.60/
K.M.S.34. Focke-Wulf 200 shot down by Martlets. P.C.S. 048 degs. 14' N. 018 degs. 01' W. 190 degs. 7 knots.
(FENCER, 011501Z to Admty.)
If situation permits request you will detach tanker KALDFONN with one escort to Horta as convenient.
(2) The above escort would subsequently be required to escort FORT BINGER and CORNFIRTH from Ponta Delgada to Gibraltar (D.O.D.(H), 011926A to C. in C. W.A.)
- C.U.7. Barry Roads portion arrived 5 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Barry, 011507A to Admty.)
- R.U.99. (1) 1600A/1st. (2) CAPE COMORIN S.O. HUGH WAL-
POLE. (3) 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
(N.C.S.O. Iceland, 011716A to Admty.)
- O.N.M.214. 10 ships. Names and destinations.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 011724A)
- T.A.76. MAURETANIA will be ready to leave Liverpool p.m. 4th December.
(2) F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to sail ship to Halifax.
(4) Route.
(D.O.D.(H), 011925A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)
- H.X.269. (1) Convoy sailing dispatch.
Part 1. 2. Position C at 1500Z/2nd. Items 3, 5, and 8. Standard route C as per Admty. 241150 October and 101946 November and C. in C. C.N.A.
291851 Nov. West "Chop" 0400Z/4th.
6. Task Unit W.5. LINCOLN (S.O), HEPATICA, MONCTON, MELVILLE, DIGBY.
(Port Director, N. York, 011932Z to Admty.)
- S.D.47. S.D.47 sailed at 1740A in accordance with my 302358. E.T.A. 1200A/4th.
(A.C.I.C.012136A to N.O.I.C.Greenock)

1.12.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. - Contd.

H.X.267.

E.T.A. position C.D. 0800Z/2nd. THOMAS WALTER
has broken degaussing cable and help on
arrival to shore up cargo in number 2 hold.
(AFFLECK, 012151Z to C. in C. W.A.)

O.S.62/
K.M.S.36.

PIMPERNEL is to proceed to Gibraltar with
K.M.S. 36 to join E.G. 38.
(C. in C. W.A. 012207A to F.O.C.Gibraltar)

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- M.K.F.26. Sailed NUBIAN, VELOX, SWAY escorting Gibraltar section M.K.F.26.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 010231A to Admty.)
- G.U.S. 22. Encypherment of my 010715 sent to P.N. Norfolk for action. (1) Sailing telegram part 2.
(59 ships).
(C.M.S.F., 010724 to Admty.)
- Survivors of U/B sunk 1st Nov.1943. First attack was 5.1 miles from shore, subsequent attacks were even further out.
2. Reference para. 2 (A) Consider 3.2 miles can be sustained. Spaniards will probably rely on statements from observers at military posts ashore to corroborate fishermens story. Such evidence not necessarily conclusive as military observers not same navigation equipment or advantages as FLEETWOOD.
3. Reference para. 2 (B) No truth in these allegations.
(F.O. Gib., 011145A to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.)
- CHANTICLEER. Arrival 1st, towed by SALVEDA.
(N.O.I.C. Horta, 011341 to S.B.N.O. Azores, (R) Admty., N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)
- Italian ships in Spanish ports. My 222036/11 and your 251515/11. In view of (i) possible delay and complications attendant on the introduction into Spain of Italian personnel (ii) probable disaffection of further members of present crew (iii) supply of fuel (iv) ever present danger of sabotage, request I be informed whether you consider towing of GAETA from Huelva and LAVORO from Cartagena to Gib. would be preferable. If so, I think I could make similar arrangements as those for FULGOR without much delay.
(N.A.Madrid, 011427A to C. in C.Med., F.O.Gib., Admty., F.O.T.A.L.I.)
- BABBITT. Arrival 1st U.S. Destroyer BABBITT.
(S.B.N.O. Horta, 011629/0 to S.B.N.O. Azores, Info. Admty.)
- U/B attacked. SANDWICH attacked good S/M contact in 029° 14' N. 012° 50' W. at 1255Z. American Catalina present and told to watch the spot. My P.C. and S. 029° 46' N., 012° (732') W., 034°, 7½ knots, weather 6380 1612.
(LEITH, 011759Z to G.O.C. Gib., (R) Admty., C.M.S.F.)
- U/B Follows re-encypherment of C.F.A.W.15 011754A action to C.M.S.F., A.C.H.Q. Gib., A.H.Q. West Africa now repeated to you for info. quote following message received from clipper (begins).
011516Z submarine sighted position 25.10 N. 15.30 W. diving south(ends).
(C.M.S.F.F., 011938A to Cominch, Admty., C. in C. Med., Comnavaw.)

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

DOUGLAS

DOUGLAS urgently required to escort Troop movements
Request I may be informed as soon as possible when
she may be expected.
(F.O.C.W.A.F., 011222Z to F.O. Gibraltar)

EMPIRE PENNANT
"Q"
Report.

Following has been read by FORT MINGAN.
QQQQ EMPIRE PENNANT 0701 Z., 21.56 W. Suspicious
following T.O.R. 1732. Strong jamming.
(Simonstown W/T, No T.O.O. recd. 011905)

War Diary.

1.12.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- U/B report. Am over enemy S/M in 34.08 N. 22.00 E. S/M was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 220 degs. speed 5 kts. (A/C GQQP 010628Z.)
- B.A.55(S) Arrived escorted by NIGELLA and ROCKROSE. (N.C.S.O.Aden 010647Z.)
- BIRMINGHAM Alexandria Nov. 30th. Arrival BIRMINGHAM. (torpedoed (R.A.Alexandria 010820.) 28th Nov.)
- Air attack. Situation report 144. Monday 30th a.m. 4 Me. 109 seen attacking 5 ships just north of Penna Point (no information of these ships held here). (N.L.O. N.O.l. M.O.R.U. 010934A to F.O.T.A.L.I.) W.D.Note: Nothing is known of this attack. Note: Above message is an intercept.
- SEEROSE. Arrived Istanbul December 1st in ballast. Reported B.3 will load chrome for Bourgas. (S.O.(I) Istanbul 011003C.)
- M.E.Daily Opsum. 30 Nov. 1 Baltimore (A.30) attacked a 150 ton caique 10 miles North of Candia, dropped 3 x 250 lb. bombs scoring 1 near hit at bows and 1 at stern. Hits were also scored with machine gun crew abandoned ship which was left smoking. (H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 011009Z.)
- ROCKWOOD. Preliminary report on damage. (C. in C.Levant 011031B.)
- M.N.B.D.O.II Your 271308A. Para. 1 of A.M. 251510 confirmed 7th R.M. W.O. have been informed. Battn. 2. Request you will state how 7th R.M.Battalion is being employed, decision will then be given whether it may temporarily be retained. (A.C.N.S.(F) 011033A.)
- 6 Yugoslav Officers, etc. 15th Army Group have requested that 6 officers and 2 petty officers of the Royal Yugoslav Navy who are now in Taranto awaiting passage to Malta to join 2 P.Os. ships there should be interned. I should be grateful for a decision. (F.O.T.A.L.I. 011035A to C. in C.Med.)
- P.A.62. Arrived escorted by PUNJAB, MADRAS, CARNATIC. (N.C.S.O.Aden 011107Z.)

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

M.E.Joint 24 hours to 1000Z/1st.
 Army R.A.F. Leros. 0620Z hours. Porto Lago Bay, departures
 Intell. 2 U-Boats and SS. GERDA TOFT in company 3 R-Boats
 Appreciation. and 3 escort vessels later seen at sea course N.W.
 presumably returning Piraeus.
 Crete. Candia. 0750Z hours. Departure 1 caique
 40/60 foot. Still present. SS. LIVENZA and
 TANAIIS (C.X. reports re SS. TANAIIS and SS. LIVENZA.)
 2. Visual R/C shipping. 30 Nov. At sea. 0955Z hours. North of
 Ios 1 vessel 1000 tons, 3 escort vessels course 050 degs. with
 air escort 3 Me.109s. Comment. Probably convoy mentioned para.
 one appreciation 28 Nov. southbound off north coast Ios a.m. 27
 Nov. Believed returning from operation against Santorini which
 reliable source reports occupied by Germans a.m. 28 Nov.
 3. (C.X. reports re SS. APRILIA (1,250 tons) ORIA (2,125 tons)
 and motor lighter ESTE.)
 (C. in C.M.E. 011435B.)

Re-organization Consider Com. Aden can assume Operational Control
 of Naval air envisaged in your 301042 provided A. Captain
 operational Heathcote at present Capt. D.Aden escort force
 control in Ara-becomes My C.O.C. and represents me at A.H.Q.Aden.
 bian Sea. B. Four Lieuts. R.N.V.R. be sent as soon as
 possible to act as Watchkeepers at Combined H.Q.
 C. Control can however be assumed before arrival
 of officers mentioned in B.
 (Com. Aden 011540Z to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C).)

X.T.10. Sailing telegram part II, 5 ships.
 (R.A.Alexandria 011559.)

K.M.F.26. RANCHI arrived.
 (R.A.Alexandria 011602B.)

CARA. K.M.S.33. Arrived (5 ships and) CARA damaged in
 collision with French RICHEBOURG. My 301042 not
 to Admiralty or F.O.C.Gib. RICHEBOURG returned
 damage.
 (Com. Algeria 011633.)

Yugoslav Situation. Summary of position is as follows:
 2. Instructions have been received from Combined
 Chiefs of Staff that every effort is to be made to
 assist forces acting in active opposition to the
 Germans in the Balkans.
 3. At present genuine fighting against common enemy appears only
 to be conducted by Tito Partisans who comprise forces of the
 order of 200,000 and hold the only repeat only islands and por-
 tions of coastline open to supply by sea. The Mihailovitch Forces
 numbering apparently about 20,000 only have no access to the sea.
 Yugoslav Government in Egypt wish to make it a condition of em-
 ployment of their naval forces that they shall not assist the
 Tito Faction.

1.12.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Yugoslav
Situation.
(Contd.)

4. As stated in my 181904 the only naval forces which can usefully be employed in Mediterranean are those which will accept without question employment as required by C. in C.Allied Forces against the common enemy Germany. Those wishing to make conditions are not wanted here.

5. Replies to A.M. 252230 as follows:

A. Only one. LUBIANA used as Depot Ship for Yugoslav vessels at Brindisi. B. No.

C. Some deserters from Italian Navy have joined partisans. Some internees in camp at Bari wish to position of Yugoslav Nationals from Province of Istria serving in Italian Navy is delicate and has not yet been solved.

D. Entirely partisans except for few deserters in C. in number of the above undoubtedly call themselves partisans because it is only method open to them of fighting Germans.

E. Warships nil. Partisans have seventeen miscellaneous small craft, none exceeding 200 tons which have been captured by them or came over from Yugoslavian coast in disturbance following Armistice.

6. All ex Yugoslav Naval vessels recaptured from Italians are now in Malta waiting transfer to Royal Yugoslav Navy. Except QUARANEROLO submarine depot ship temporarily detained for use with Italian submarines at Augusta Boom vessel JAKIS four tugs temporarily employed in heel ports.

7. I feel that it is essential for the prosecution of the war that I should be free to use Yugoslav vessels both Naval and Merchant to carry on the war against Germany without question and without having to investigate in each case the particular political leanings of a particular ships company vis a vis the particular island or coast which C. in C.Allied Forces may require them to supply.

(C. in C.Med. 011738A to Admty.)

S.N.F.8.

(corrupt group). Request you will sail convoy at 1100/2nd to (?) Oran. 6 ships. Escort Condesron 13 in U.S.WOOLSEY, GLEAVES, BENSON SWAY, SYMBOL, SEER. 1 a.m. detach with Bizerta 499.
(F.O.W.It. 011804A to N.O.I.C. Naples.)

M.L.126.

Your 291045 to F.O.W.It. No. Damage too extensive M.L.126 would require completely rebuilding from Engineerroom forward. Propose she be paid off forthwith.

(C.F.B.Ischia 011812A to C.C.F.)

SS. BARDALAND,
CAMELIA.

1. A.M. 151359 Nov. Swedes are anxious to send BARDALAND and CAMELIA to Salonika instead of Piraeus. (A.M. 271917 August gives standard route.)
2. Recently we have refused to guarantee safety of relief vessels proceeding by above route in view of Dodecanese operations. In light of present situation

/we...

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

SS. BARDALAND, we propose to agree to BARDALAND and CAMELIA proceeding to Salonika unless you object.

(Contd.)

3. Germans refuse to agree to alternative route but are prepared to omit Castelrosso and to permit vessels to proceed direct from Kaso Channel to Fethiet. Request you will reply by immediate

signal whether you agree to vessels proceeding to Salonika and whether you wish to accept proposed German amendment in standard route.

4. If you agree, request you will inform Air and other authorities concerned.

(Admty. 011935A to C. in C. Levant. Info. F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Mediterranean.)

BIRMINGHAM. Damage due to torpedo (probably non-contact.)
(A.S. Alexandria 011939B.)

CUBA, Request you will sail CUBA to Messina ARONDA and
ARONDA, TAKLIWA to Augusta at 1500A/2nd. Arrangements.
TAKLIWA. (F.O.W. It. 012130A to N.O.I.C. Naples.)

SS. ATHINA Was reported torpedoed in 12° 20' N. 44° 00' E. at
LIVANOS, 1630Z/29th. Details about fate of ship and
(Greek.) survivors not yet available.
(C. in C. Levant 012209B to Admty.)

Air Cosit- Part 3, 30 Nov. Day November 30. 31 B.24s
intrep No. 144. escorted by 48 P.38s attacked Fiume with unobserved
results.
(Air C. in C. Med. No T.O.O.)

SS. ALMENARA SS. ALMENARA straggler from convoy had safe route
(mined off which was not followed.
Taranto.) 2. Detail of minefields are not given to Masters
of Merchant vessels C.B. 016181 (43) articles
60 and 61 refer.
3. Since escort was minor war vessel route instructions only were given. Your 261303 November refers.
4. T.D/139/1947 of 26th October not yet received.
(C. in C. Med. 012340A to Admty.)
re SS. ALMENARA mined off Taranto.

Situation 1. During night 29th/30th Nov. P.T. boats returning
report No. from patrol* encountered 5 E-Boats laying mines off
240. Bastia harbour. Gunfire was exchanged at close
range and 1 P.T. boat collided with an E-Boat. Bad
weather frustrated attempts to continue action. E-
Boat retired probably damaged by gunfire and weather. One P.T.
boat damaged but no casualties. 2. LOYAL and QUILLIAM patrolling
between Sibenik and Split during same night but sighted nothing.
3. Brindisi re-opened 30th Nov.
(C. in C. Med. 012348A.)

* C. in C. Med. 012354A says the P.T. boats were on a minelaying operation.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

- S/M Patrols. Intended programme of submarine patrols TALLY HO 3rd, Zones F, G and H, TAURUS 14th vicinity Andamans.
(Capt. (S) 4, 010217Z to C. in C. E.F., (.S.E.A.C.) (R) Admty).
- U/B dispositions. Ref. E.F.427 Y of 30th Nov. (A) to (G) no change. (H) still unfixed, may be in area 300 miles S.E. Ceylon. (J) A D/F fix 1405Z/30th Nov. within 200 miles position 04° 30' S., 083° 00' E, probably transmission from this U-boat.
(C. in C. E.F., 010332Z to E.F.429 Y)
- O.21 Para. 2 of your 291958. Concur.
(C. in C. E.F., 010446Z to Admty. (R) B.A.D. S.4, B.D.Z., M.C.A., Comsouwespac, B.S.O., A.C.N.B.)
- A.K.D.7 (2) Kilindini portion (4 ships) 0400Z 1st to R/V A.K.D.7 off Kilindini.
(6) ARCTIC EXPLORER, FALMOUTH (Additional escort) LADY ELSA, ST. ZENO, CAPE WARWICK.
(N.C.S.O. Kilindini, 010501C to Admty).
- Monthly U-boat attack assessments. A.M.091845 July 42.
(A) EF 18 (A) EF 19. (B) 2200Z/23rd Oct.
(B) 1005Z/26th Nov. (C) TOOWOOMBA (C) QUICKMATCH.
(D) 022° 27' N., 060° 04' E. (D) 005° 51' N., 081° 14' E. (E) H (E) H. (F) nil (F) nil.
(A) EF 20 (A) EF 21 (B) 1540Z third Nov. (B) 0727Z 9th Nov. (C) Catalina Aircraft Y.413 (C) Catalina Aircraft K.205. (D) 008° 42' N., 076° 22' E.
(D) 004° 40' N., 086° 37' E. (E) DB (E) F (F) Ref. C. in C. E.F. 050237 Nov. (F) Ref. C. in C. E.F., 100955 Nov.
(C. in C. E.F., 010846Z to Admty).
- Re-organisation of Naval Air Operational Control in Arabian Sea. Propose following procedure to implement your 301042 Nov.
(1) Aden informs Hormuz intended date of sailing P.A. P.B. convoys and names of escorts week ahead.
(2) N.O.I.C. Hormuz informs Aden, Masirah, Bombay Karachi repeated other addressees intended time of sailing, codeword and call sign four days ahead.
This is necessary to organize air protection, and for Karachi to arrange their sailings to R/V with P.B. convoys.
3. Many subsequent amendments to time of sailing to be made by immediate signal by N.O.I.C. Hormuz.
4. Internal Persian Gulf arrangements concerning composition and routing of convoys to remain as at present until modification seems desirable therefore S.N.O.P.G. must be included in address of all signals.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Re-organisation of Naval Air Operational Control in Arabian Sea. (contd).

5. Communications from Hormuz as at present viz. Hormuz/Aden via Basra Hormuz/Masirah via Sharjah.
6. I have found considerable inconvenience in controlling Gulf of Oman through not being able to transmit to ships direct in broadcast V. This will now apply to Aden.
7. I have some misgivings about Aden directing movements of P.B. convoys having in mind the complications of Karachi, R/V and recommend that Hormuz should be allowed latitude in sailing times.

8. I do not like the proposed plan which seems to upset a practical working arrangement for theoretical considerations but I think it can be made to work with some initial creaking of the machinery.

(S.N.O.P.G., 011021Z to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty. C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.) C. in C. Levant, Comic Aden, 222 Group R.A.F.)

Defence of Madagascar Control of Naval and Air Bases.

From G.O.C. in C. Your OZ.5888 25th Nov. (251935Z F.O.E.A. and A.O.C., E.A. agree the following views:

1. Recommend British should retain complete control area Diego Suarez under circumstances in your para. 2.

2. Your plans not implemented consider we have no reasonable grounds to retain control whole area. Essential British maintain complete control in certain cantonment areas for R.N. and R.A.F. in which small British Guard det. would be retained to prevent major damage and pilfering.

3. R.N. require full protection for dockyard Naval W/T sta. Andrakaka airfield and full control all under water and A/S defence including A.M.T.B. coast btys. and Radar eqpt. Orangea.

4. R.A.F. require protection and control for following.

6. With exception requirements paras. 2, 3, 4, 5 consider French should be invited take over control all other defences and installations including Mayotte.

(H.Q., E.A.C., 011030 011700 to Chiefs of Staff, (R) C. in C. E.F. F.O.E.A., A.O.C. in C. M.E.F., A.H.Q., E.A.)

Exchange of L.S.Ts. and P.S.S.Ps. in Eastern Fleet.

L.S.I.(L) SOBIESKI and L.S.P. BATORY are both manned by Polish Officers and Men whose warlike interests must lie entirely in European theatre. (2) It is, therefore, strongly recommended that these two ships should be used in that theatre, and in their place it is proposed to substitute following Dutch manned ships which are considered

especially suitable for service in the tropics: L.S.I.(L) TEGELBERG L.S.P. RUYS.

(3) RUYS sails (2 corrupt groups) from Bombay on 2nd.

(4) Pending (corrupt group) decision on the above proposed exchange A.P.S.T.O.I. Karachi is to hold RUYS. A.P.S.T.O.I. Bombay acknowledge.

(5) D. of S.T. is requested to give very early decision.

(C. in C. E.F., (S.E.A.C.) 011315Z to Admty. for D. of S.T., A.P.S.T.O.I. Bombay, A.Z.R.A.G., P.S.T.O.I.) As amended 020219Z.

U/Bs estimated positions.

(D.D.I.C., 011746A to C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.) A.C.N.B.)

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Radio-controlled Glider bombs information. D.S.D. from D.S.D. (W). All available information regarding U.S. shipborne countermeasures to Radio-controlled glider bombs was forwarded by Air Mail 20th Nov. 2. Request details of any similar plans for fitting H.M. Ships. (B.A.D. 010015Z to Admty.)

Manning Situation. A.M. 302111 has been repeated for information to C. in C. Western Approaches. (D.O.D. (H) 010022A to N.S.H.Q., B.A.D., B.A.M.R., S.C.N.O. London, N.M.C.S. Washington.)

T.A.74. (AQUITANIA.) Sailed from U.K. a.m. 30th Nov. for New York. (2) Details of personnel on board are being communicated by W.O. to Milstaf Washington and C.G.S. Ottawa. (D. of S.T. 010041A.)

MIRAGLIA, Special Craft. Concur that reference to special craft should not be included in recommendation concerning MIRAGLIA. C. in C. Med. 281243 refers. It is considered desirable, however, that recommendation should not be purely negative and it should be made as in para.2 of A.M. 241746, omitting words "Special Craft". (A.C.N.S. (F) 010100A to B.A.D., Info., C. in C. Med., F.O.T.A.L.I.)

P.B.64, speed of ships in convoy. Lack of escorts precluded separate convoy for faster ships in P.B.64. C. in C.E.F. has now been asked to release such ships from convoy, and to consider independent sailings of T.2 tankers, whenever U-Boat situation permits. Your 242235Z not to B.A.D. refers. (V.C.N.S. 011211A to Cominch (R) B.A.D.)

X.B.86. (1) Sailing telegram. (2) Halifax 1300Z/1st. (6) COLUMBIA. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 011345Z to Admty.)

O.K.SERVICE VII, HARVESON, collision. Schooner O.K.SERVICE VII en route Halifax to Puerto Rico in collision with U.S.S. HARVESON all hands from O.K.SERVICE VII landed Bermuda Nov.26. Schooner last seen decks awash 32 degs. 12' N. 62 degs. 57' W. 0600 Nov. 25th. (N.S.H.Q. 011350Z to Admty.)

N.S.H.Q. S/M. Estimate. (N.S.H.Q. 011409Z.)

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

- C.U.8. 1. Sailing despatch. Part 1. 2. 2200Z/2 point Z seaward and Swept Channel. 6. Task Group 21.6. U.S.S. CHARLES LAWRENCE, S.O. U.S.S. D.T.GRIFFIN, DONNELI, SIMS, HOPPING, REEVES. (P.D. New York 011430Z to Com.10th Fleet C. & R.)
- B.Y.M.S. 252, 41. Depart Charleston Buoy 2 A.C.1800 Q. this date for Bermuda. Arrival Bermuda obtain onward routing to Londonderry via Azores. This compliance Cominch 261930 Nov. (Com. 6th Nav. Dist. Charleston 011519 to B.Y.M.S. 252, 41.)
- U.S. (Cominch 011601.)
S/M.
Estimate.
- L.27 Anticipate defects in L.27 will be completed and refit. ship ready to sail p.m. Dec. 5 Cape Henry a.m. Dec 7. Your 301612 (301610 intended) Nov. (C. in C. C.N.A. 011736Z to B.A.M.R.)
- HADLEIGH CASTLE. Intend HADLEIGH CASTLE continues with O.N.215 to New York. She would then proceed New London on 26th December and sail from there on 2nd January for Halifax. Your 241731 refers. (2) C. in C. C.N.A. is requested to arrange for return of HADLEIGH CASTLE to U.K. after inspection by Canadian Authorities. (B.A.D. 011903Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) Admty., Cominch, N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A., HADLEIGH CASTLE.)
- S/M. attack and sighting summary. All times Z. Para. A. BOGUE aircraft attacks S/M. 41.07 N. 18.30 W. 30.17.20. Para.D. P.C. 1239 sound contact 1157 N. 63.31 W. 28 2255. U.S.C.G. SPENCER attacked sound contact 19.04 N. 67.33 W. 01 1412. (Cominch 012051 to Admty.)
- Convoy. My position 044 degs. 49' 051 degs. 27' E.T.A. Point X 1000Z/2nd. Detached at 1730Z when following was situation. C.5 group and approx. 20 ships including Cdre. and MACKAY hove to within 10 miles of estimated position 044 degs. 20' 051 degs. 15'. Neither escort Oiler (corrupt group) nor trawler contacted. Visibility under 2 miles. Cmdre. has new route given in C. in C. C.N.A.'s. 302310Z. 5 ships steering for F.G. from roughly position 044 degs 00' 052 degs 50' at 1400Z. OAKVILLE detached. ARROWHEAD escorting BABCOCK with hull damage and badly injured man to St.Johns, N.F. Nothing known of FAIRFAX or JASON LEE. Weather report 00.99 1.8.52 02.37. (LEAMINGTON 012101Z to F.O.N.F. Connnav, C. in C. C.N.A. Admty., C. in C.W.A., N.S.H.Q., H.Q.C.C., Cdre. D.Argentia, Cdre. D.W.A. (R) C.5 WINNIPEG.)

/L.S.E.2...

1.12.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

- L.S.E.2. Sail British L.S.E.2 in Convoy U.G.S.27. Ultimate destination Mediterranean Port to be designated by C. in C. Med.
(Cominch 012215Z to C.E.S.F.)
- O.N.212. Departures LETHBRIDGE, BRANTFORD, GRANBY, BROCKVILLE with O.N.212.
(C.O.P. Halifax 012231Z.)

Australia & New Zealand.

- Digest Convoy reported area south of Kavieng heading
Serial No. northwest night hours Nov. 30.
680 Nov. 2. Liberator reports sighting several unoccupied
30th. lifeboats and much wreckage approx. 60 miles west
of South New Hanover forenoon 29th probably
result submarine attack enemy convoy this area.
3. Allied destroyers bombarded Sio night 28th and
Madang following night. Spotting aircraft report bombardment
accurate and apparently effective. Small vessel destroyed near
Madang. Our destroyers straffed by enemy aircraft off Sio while
returning early hours 30th. Another destroyer group also bom-
barded Gasmata night 29th without encountering any enemy opposition
4. Four enemy barges reported arriving Cape Hoskins Area dawn 30th
while several barges attacked Willaumez Peninsula Ubili Area and
Rein Bay.
5. 8 Mitchells with 11 Lightnings escorting on fighter sweep from
Borgen Bay to Willaumez Peninsula bombed straffed gun positions
Rein Bay silencing at least 4 and attacked several barges along
coast.
11. Enemy submarine reported 100 miles south Port Moresby after-
noon 28th.
19. Four Airocobras attacked this area forenoon scoring hits on
6 barges and 3 A/A positions. Five Airocobras again straffed
barges and A/A positions Tonolei during afternoon.
20. Our destroyers with fighter cover shelled enemy positions
Empress Augusta Bay without interference.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 010703Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 011450A, 011455A.)

1.12.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

Sub. attack and sighting summary for 24 hours to 0900Z/1st.

Para. A. 1. Wellington A/C O/612 sighted and attacked U-Boat on surface with D/Cs at 0100/1st in 45° 50' N. 5° 10' W. course 330° 15 knots.
2. A/C from U.S.S. BOGUE sighted and attacked U-Boat on surface at 1346/29th Nov. in 39° 33' N. 19° 01' W.
3. A/C sighted U-Boat on surface at 0628/1st in 34° 08' N. 22° 00' E. course 220° 5 knots.
4. A/C G/407 reported U-Boat on surface at 1648/30th Nov. in 50° 15' N. 08° 07' W.

Para. B. 1. A/C (K.19 group) reported A.S.V. contact at 2255/30th Nov. Position not reported.
2. Halifax D/502 obtained A.S.V. contact at 0046/30th Nov. in 43° 00' N. 09° 24' W.

Ref. A.M. 301019Z para. A.4 is cancelled.
Para. A.2 unknown ship was possibly FORT DE VAUX.
(D.D.I.C. 011125A, 031027Z to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

2.12.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.T.

1. 7 M/Vs of Convoy J.W.54B escorted by destroyers and HALCYON arrived at the Kola Inlet at 1450A; and D/F bearings indicate that Convoy R.A. 54B may have been reported by U-Boats today about 300 miles E.N.E. of Jan Mayen.

NÜRNBERG.

2. NÜRNBERG is reported (B.2.) to have arrived at Copenhagen yesterday.

TALYBONT
damaged.

3. TALYBONT collided off Hartland Point at 0046A today with the SS. FLORENCE REYNOLDS which was sunk. TALYBONT was damaged above the waterline and is proceeding to Plymouth escorted by TANATSIDE.

Mining.

4(a) 300 Squadron, Bomber Command has laid 2000 mines in enemy waters during this war.
(b) Bomber Command aircraft last night laid 95 mines in Frisian/Elbe and Baltic waters.

Mediterranean.

"Avalanche".

5(a) Last night, TROUBRIDGE, TEAZER and PALADIN carried out a bombardment in the Minturno area (Gulf of Gaeta) in support of the 5th Army. The shore batteries opened fire, but our ships suffered neither damage nor casualties.

(b) QUILLIAM and LOYAL fired 270 rounds this afternoon from short range at various fixed targets near Pescara (Italian Adriatic coast). Three bridges were damaged and final rounds fired into Pescara caused an explosion. Mitchell aircraft bombed the town soon afterwards.

(c) N.O.I.C. Naples reported at 2138 today that U.S. L.C.T.242 had been struck by a suspected circling torpedo. She was badly damaged and was beached. Casualties were 16 killed and 1 injured.

Air attack
on Marseilles.

(d) It is reported that 46 B.17s escorted by 30 P.38s attacked the submarine pens at Marseilles today. No details are known, but the bombing is believed to have been good. It is also reported 118 U.S. Fortresses escorted by U.S. Lightnings attacked Marseilles submarine pens today with 1000 lb. bombs. (cf. 10th November). Workshops, construction facilities and installations were damaged or destroyed.

/Air ...

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2.12.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean - Contd.

Air raid
on Bari.
17 ships
lost.

6. 20 to 30 enemy aircraft raided Bari between 1930 and 2030 today, dropping mines and bombs. Two ammunition ships blew up. Air raid damage together with the resulting fires caused the loss of 17 ships (though 3 of these are salvable), and several others were damaged. ZETLAND, BICESTER, the depot ship VIENNA, and a French naval auxiliary were damaged: the Hunts were sent to Taranto and VIENNA to Brindisi. The total casualties are estimated at 1000, mostly merchant seamen and soldiers. The bulk petrol pipe was pierced and fires in the harbour were still burning at 2358A/3. However, it was subsequently found that the port facilities had sustained little damage and reduction in capacity should not be more than 500 tons a day after the initial clearance. It was estimated that 38,000 tons of cargo were lost. Bari had a full scale of Radar, fighter, balloon and A.A. defence.

7. RORQUAL sailed from Malta today for Gibraltar and the U.K., to refit.

Aegean.

8. An Italian tug towing M.M.S.102 arrived at Haifa on 1st and L.C.Ts. 114 and 139 arrived at Cyprus on 2nd. All the small craft used in the recent operations in the Aegean are now accounted for. (p. 91)

East Indies.

LE
TRIOMPHANT.

9. The French contre-torpilleur LE TRIOMPHANT and the U.S. Tanker CEDAR MILLS were caught in a typhoon today about 800 miles south-east of Diego Garcia. LE TRIOMPHANT's condition became critical and CEDAR MILLS took her in tow at 1110 on 5th in 17.20 S. 83.25 E.

10. It is reported that SS. NITSA was torpedoed and sunk at 2145 today in 11.42 N. 45.32 E. (about 80 miles S.S.E. of Aden) 29 survivors landed at Berbera.

/Burma ...

2.12.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Burma.

11. Aircraft today hit and set on fire a large river steamer in the Thayetmyo area. In the Prome/Henzada area many other river craft and steamers were damaged.

Australia and New Zealand.

12. 59 Mitchells with escort of Lightnings attacked the barge base and concentrations at Borgen Bay (New Britain) at midday today. Results were not seen.

2.12.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

1st M.T.B. Flotilla. A.M. 301202 October is cancelled. 1st M.T.B. flotilla is reallocated to Plymouth Command. V.A. Dover is requested to sail M.T.Bs. to Dartmouth as soon after 4th December as possible. At the same time, C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail M.T.Bs. 211, 205, 207, 212 to Dover. A.M. 091811 August allocating these M.T.Bs. to Portsmouth Command temporarily is cancelled. (D.D.O.D. C. 021237A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Two Trawlers for Azores. C. in C.W.A. 012238. HUGH WALPOLE and CAPE COMORIN detailed. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 021241A to Admty.)

DACRES for conversion. Admiralty 011725 para. 4. DACRES nominated. (C. in C.W.A. 021656A to Admty.)

Defence of U.K.

Scapa A/S vessels. It is understood that some of the A/S fitted Seine net fishing vessels surrendered in 1941 (My No. 1187/O. S.12 of 23rd September 1941 refers) are no longer employed on A/S duties. The employment of these vessels at Scapa instead of non A/S fitted ring net fishing vessels would be an economical way of increasing A/S defence of Scapa Flow. If the above is confirmed request consideration may be given to the exchange of six ring net fishing vessels now at Scapa for six Seine net fishing vessels fitted A/S. (A.C.O.S. 021434A to Admty.)

Movements.

JANUS ATHABASKAN. On completion of work on H/F D/F and calibration request you will sail JANUS without delay for Gibraltar and subsequently as ordered by C. in C. Med. (D.O.D.H 020005A to C. in C. Plymouth). Arrived JANUS and ATHABASKAN. My 251651A. (C. in C. Plymouth 021549A to Admty.)

FURIOUS. N.O.I.C. Greenock is request to sail FURIOUS for Scapa a.m. 3rd. 3. FURIOUS is to proceed unescorted an at best from North Minch. (C. in C.H.F.021036A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.) Intend sailing FURIOUS for Scapa 1030/3rd, E.T.A. 0835/4th to comply with C. in C.H.F. 021036A. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 022214A to C. in C. H.F.)

/HOWE...

2.12.1943.

Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

- HOWE. Arrived HOWE at 0900/2nd.
(C. in C. Plymouth 021121A to A.C.O.S.)
- RENOWN. Arrived RENOWN, OPPORTUNE, METEOR.
(C. in C. Rosyth 021205A to C. in C. H.F.)
- VALIANT. Your 191646A amended by your 201609A November.
Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Lamdash 021230A to C. in C. Plymouth)
- NORFOLK. Scapa arrival NORFOLK.
(A.C.O.S. 021516A to N.O.I.C. Greenock)
- S/M
movements. Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/3 and movements
for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 021728A, 021842A, 030002.)
- MALLOW. MALLOW commissioned by R. Yugo-Slav Navy
arrived Campbeltown November 27th. Individual
training of Officers and Ratings has started
in NIMROD. Strongly recommend that ship
be retained at Campbeltown until 1st January by which date she
should have reached reasonable efficiency.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 021811A to Admty.)
- NELSON. Rosyth departure NELSON escorted by OPPORTUNE
and METEOR.
(C. in C. Rosyth 021915A to A.C.O.S.)

Operations.

- Bay
Patrol. Preliminary D/F bearings at 0343Z indicate U/B
U/Boat possibly within 100' of 43° N. 17° 30' W.
attacked (D.D.I.C. 020555A to ROCKAWAY.)
by A/C. Have attacked U/Boat with depth-charge. U/Boat
has dived position 44.03 N. 09.27 W.
(A/C duty N. 022137A to 19 Group.)
Am over enemy S/M in 44° 00' N. 09° 25' W.
Enemy previously reported was on surface, course
225°, speed 10 knots.
(A/C Duty N. 022142 to 19 Group.)
Lost touch with U/Boat last seen 44° 21' N. 09° 27' W.
Returning to base to fuel.
(A/C duty N. 022230A to 19 Group.)

/Operation...

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2.12.1943.

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

Operation H.F. Memorandum 01325/158. Appendix 1. para.8.
F.T. Amend route as follows after position (PP).
Through positions (1) 60 miles 180° from (O).
(2) 120 miles 180° from (E). Thence direct
Skaalefiord to fuel if required, otherwise
Scapa through position LL.
(C. in C. H.F. 021112A to SAUMAREZ.)

MIDDLETON with BRISSENDEN proceed to pass Switha 1630A/3rd
by route "Brown" to arrive Seidisfiord a.m. 5th.

2. Your will be required with SALADIN and SKATE to act as
local escort R.A.54B. S.O. of through escort 1st S.O.M/S
Flotilla in HARRIER. H.F. 01325/158 paragraph 8 (F) and (H)
refers.

3. When released return Scapa.
(R.A.D. H.F., 021205A to MIDDLETON, BRISSENDEN.)
D/F bearings at 1045Z indicate U/Boat in vicinity of R.A.
54B.
(D.D.I.C. 021302A to A.I.G.47.)
By D/F at 1040Z/2nd unknown enemy vessel, possibly U/Boat
supply-vessel, at 074° 25' N. 013° 40' E. Reliable B.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 021341A to Admty.)
Intend sailing for Seidisfjord at 1800A today SALADIN and
SKATE, speed 12 knots. C. in C. H.F. 281415 refers.
(A.C.I.C. 021350A to R.N.O. Seidisfiord.)
J.W.54B. Capt. (D) 23, Destroyer escort, HALCYON and
7 merchant ships have arrived in Kola Inlet.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 021450A to Admty.)
D/F bearings at 1454Z and 1507Z indicate U/Boat or
U/Boats may have reported R.A.54B.
(D.D.I.C. 021652A to A.I.G. 47.)
Estimated position of R.A.54B 0800A/3rd. 069° 55' N.
001° 50' E. Convoy may have been reported by U/Boat.
(F.O.S. 021731A to S/Ms.)
Hoxa main and emergency gate will be closed between 1000 and
1800 on 5th. Time of arrival should be adjusted accordingly.
(C. in C.H.F. 022255A to C.S.1.)

Operation 2 Catalinas and one Sunderland will be carrying
S.F. out patrol in your area p.m. today.
(C. in C. Rosyth 021125A to HOUND.)
1 Sunderland patrolling in your area December
3rd from 1st Light.
(C. in C. Rosyth 022221A to HOUND.)

Unknown Dover 00638 of 18th November Operations abandoned.
operation. (V.A. Dover, 021212A to Admty.)

Coastal 1. Orders for night 2/3 December.
Force A. 2 Chasseurs anti E/Boat patrol 50° 24' N.
Patrols. between 00° 48' W. and 00° 55' W. from 1800A to
0700A.
B. M.L.291 immediate notice St. Helena.
C. STEVENSTONE immediate notice Yarmouth.
D. 3 M.Ls. from Portland patrolling 50° 15' N.
between 01° 30' W. and 02° 20' W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 021416A)

/M.Ls.

War Diary.2.12.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Coastal Force Patrols. (Contd.) M.Ls. 138 and 257 2 miles S. of D. Buoy. M.T.Bs. 418, 437 and 436 from Ramsgate at 9.7 Buoy, E.T.D. 1720. (V.A.Dover, 021436A.)

Convoy C.E.226 attacked by E/Boats. AVANTURINE sunk. At 2130A/1st when convoy C.E.226 was south of Beachy Head two enemy tracks appeared from southwestward heading for Beachy Head. Covering force of M.G.Bs. was not able to intercept at a safe distance from convoy. Enemy appeared to be in two groups, one of which followed astern of the convoy for an hour and then retired to southwestward, the other group worked round inshore of convoy and overtook the "Haulabout" group which was proceeding eastward on the inshore route south east of Beachy Head at 2259. Trawler AVANTURINE in tow of tug was torpedoed and it is regretted that no survivors have been found although search of area has continued during the night and today. The second group was not plotted during retirement but the area was clear of enemy by 0037. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 021605A to Admty.)

One lifebelt belonging to AVANTURINE recovered at 1410A/2nd in 080° 2 miles from Eastbourne Gas Works. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 021802A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

S/M patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800A/3rd and movements for following 24 hours.
A. SEADOG on patrol off Soroy.
B. SEANYMPH 71° 28' N. 20° 23' E. probably on surface through 71° 28' N. 15° 50' E. towards 69° 03' N. 08° 42' E.
C. SCEPTRE 71° 10' N. 18° 56' E. through 71° 09' N. 16° 13' E. towards 69° N. 10° E.
D. O.15, 63° 11' N. 00° 01' E. dived by day north of 62° N. through 62° 02' N. 01° 27' W. towards Lerwick.
E. VIKING patrol vicinity 62° 10' N. 02° 34' E. (F.O.S. 021728A to Admty.)

Operation KJG. Fifty per cent successful. No incidents. (F.O. Force "J" 021841A to ANC/XF.)

Allied Air Activity.

R/Cs. requested. Request P.R.U. of Ile de Groix anchorage and Brest tomorrow to locate enemy shipping. (D.D.I.C. 021755A to A.D. of I.ph.)

War Diary.

2.12.1943

Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Scapa. At 1425 today one unidentified A/C plotted in 105° "A" buoy 27 miles flying North at less than 1000 feet altered course at 1430 to North East and engaged by two Spitfires from Sumburgh in 055° "A" buoy 60 miles. Ju. 88 claimed as probably destroyed. (A.C.O.S. 021915 to Admty.)

Mining.

No.300 Sqdn. It has given us great satisfaction to note the laying by No.300 Squadron of their two-thousandth mine. We have watch the exploits of this squadron with admiration and the laying of 300 mines in November is a further proof that they are determined to maintain their fine record. (V.C.N.S. 021041A to Air Ministry.)

Harwich. My 012147. 2 Mines detonated by Sweepers as follows. One at 012057A in 52° 6.1' N. 01° 48.6' E. and one at 012322A in 52° 6.3' N. 01° 49.3' E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 021121A to Admty.)
Explosion heard and felt by Roughs Fort at 1925 bearing 030° close, confirmed by Sunk Head Fort, no aircraft in vicinity. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 022147A to Admty.)

Proposed operation. It is proposed to carry out minelaying from 14th Motor Torpedo Boat Flotilla with 7 day sterilisers to cover the full moon periods on the enemy coastal route between Le Havre and Treport and West of Le Havre on the line to Cap Barfleur. If approved request supply of mines may be arranged in the same way as for operations under Admiralty letter M/OD 2032/42 of 9th April 1942. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 022106A to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

NÜRNBERG. NÜRNBERG arrived Copenhagen December 1st. Graded B.2. (D.D.I.C. 020142A to A.I.G.21, A.I.G.47.)

Blockade runners. No confirmed raider activity since June. 2. Following movements of potential blockade runners in Biscay may be preparatory to departure. TANNENFELS from Bordeaux seen at Brest on 16th Nov. and 25th. PIETRO ORSEOLO from Bordeaux seen off Ile de Groix (Lorient Area) on 26th Nov. and 1st Dec.

/HIMALAYA...

2.12.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Blockade
runners.
(Contd.)

HIMALAYA from Bordeaux seen at anchorage near mouth of the Gironde on 1st Dec.
DRESDEN from Bordeaux was seen at mouth of Gironde on 2nd Nov. but has returned to Bordeaux. It is reported (graded B.2) that DRESDEN was damaged by mine.

Ex. Italian steamship ATLANTA from Bordeaux was seen at anchorage in mouth of Gironde on 1st Dec. but is unsuitable for blockade running and may be a decoy to cover movements of blockade runners.

3. It is reported (graded B.3) that three German ships were at Saigon on 15th Oct. preparing to sail for Europe. These or other ships could by now be in the Atlantic.

4. Following ships are unlikely to be used as blockade runners in near future.

MUNSTERLAND now at Cherbourg and probably damaged.

KERTOSONO converted to a U/Boat depot or supply ship and probably damaged.

KULMERLAND badly damaged.

(D.D.I.C. 021232A to A.I.G.13.)

SCHNEER,
KÖLN,
GRAF ZEPPELIN,
EMDEN.

1. SCHNEER and KÖLN at Swinemunde November 23rd.

2. GRAF ZEP. at Stettin 20th November.

3. EMDEN at Gdynia 16th November.

Graded B.2.

(N.A. Stockholm, 021559 to Admty.)

O.I.C. Comment: SCHNEER was last seen at

Swinemunde by P.R.U. on 28th November but KÖLN was

not present on that date and was last reported at Kiel on 8th October (P.R.U.)

- GRAF ZEPPELIN was at Stettin on 28th November (P.R.U.) and EMDEN at Gdynia on 10th October.

Baltic.

No German Naval activity other than small escorts and patrol craft observed for long period at Baltic ports or Tallin. Graded B.3.

(N.A. Stockholm, 021654 to Admty.)

Navigational.

Sounds
of Mull
and Islay.

Cancel my 1455 of 2nd September 1941 and my 1814 of 25th March 1942. All operational restrictions on the passages through the Sounds of Mull and Islay are now withdrawn.

(C. in C.W.A. 022134A.)

Casualties and Defects.

Collision.
TALYBONT
damaged.
FLORENCE
REYNOLDS,
sunk.

Have been in collision with merchant ships. 1500 stern set back, am open to sea, but all damage is above waterline. Am standing by merchant ship. Request immediate assistance. My position 236°. Hartland Point 10.
(TALYBONT 020046A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

/LORD STANHOPE...

War Diary.2.12.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

Collision. LORD STANHOPE ordered ordered to detach 1
TALYBONT trawler forthwith from P.W.438 to assist you.
damaged. Trawlers ORPHEUS and COMMILES leave Mumbles
FLORENCE Head and 1 M.L. leaves Lundy Island now to join
REYNOLDS you. Tug DEXTEROUS leaves Falmouth for you
sunk. shortly. Report situation and name and
(Contd.) condition of merchant ship.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 020242A to TALYBONT.)
Am proceeding to assist you. E.T.A. 0400.
(TANATSIDE 02033B to TALYBONT.)

Merchant Ship - FLORENCE REYNOLDS sunk in 051° 01' N. 004°
43.8' W. Am returning to Plymouth.
(TALYBONT 020340A to C. in C. Plymouth.)
M/V FLORENCE REYNOLDS sunk at 0340 in 51° 01' N. 04° 43.8' W
after collision with TALYBONT. Crew on board TALYBONT
proceeding to Plymouth. Two minor casualties.
(C. in C. Plymouth 020806A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)
Tug DEXTEROUS is being sailed from Falmouth shortly to
stand by TALYBONT.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 020952A to TANATSIDE.)
C. in C. Plymouth's 020952A. DEXTEROUS sailed, speed
11 knots.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 021127A to C. in C. Plymouth.)
DEXTEROUS has been ordered to part company D.1 Buoy and
enter Falmouth, not required further.
(TANATSIDE 021753A to N.O.I.C. Falmouth.)
E.T.A. 0020A/3rd. TALYBONT cannot anchor and requests
tug to meet her in Sound.
(TANATSIDE 021925A to C. in C. Plymouth.)
Arrival DEXTEROUS.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 022110A.)

SCHELDE. My 011211. GRIPER reports efforts to refloat
SCHELDE unsuccessful. Salvage has been turned
over to Liverpool and Glasgow Salvage Association.
GRIPER standing by SCHELDE pending further orders.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 021109A to F.O.I.C.
Greenock.)

Following from GRIPER begins.
Attempt refloat SCHELDE unsuccessful. Tide falling. Master
requests you send working party to assist discharging bunker
coal. Have 185 tons on board. Put to sea for the night.
Wind freshening. 022130A. Ends.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 022240A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Your 022130A. Salvage Vessel RANGER proceeding to assist
SCHELDE. Remain in position until released by Salvage Officer.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 022241A to GRIPER)

RIVER RIVER TAY our officer report stranded on
TAY. mainland on Pinnacle Rock eastward of Grey Rock,
listed forty degrees starboard and thirty five
degrees by the stern. Impaled on Pinnacle amid-
ships and unsupported elsewhere except at stern
which is sunk in thirty five feet and forebody sticking out of
water. Fore end of fire and blazing furiously last night.
Consider vessel constructive total loss.
(Salvage Officer, Liverpool, 021127 to Salv. London.)

War Diary.

2.12.1943.

Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

M.T.B.685. M.T.B.685 has effected temporary repairs at Middlesbrough caused by heavy weather whilst on passage. Request vessel may be taken in hand at Rosyth for items which cannot be undertaken at Middlesbrough.
(N.O.I.C. Tees, 021745A to A.S. Rosyth.)

SKJOLD. Collier SKJOLD broke away from D.4, Buoy Hvalfjord at 0044A/2 in Northerly gale gusting to 70 miles and grounded on rocky shore two cables astern at 0115A/2. Forepeak and numbers one and two holds tidal. Engine room dry at present.
(S.T.O. Iceland 022030 to D.S.T.)

Shipping and Convoys.

P.W.F.439. My 011635. Cancelled.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 020155 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

W.P.M. W.P.M.440 is not sailing owing to weather.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 020731A.)

O.S.60/
K.M.S.34. ALLERTON returned. Heavy weather damage.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 020803 to C. in C.W.A.)
If convoy not threatened part company at noon tomorrow and proceed to position 043° N. 022° W. thence carry out A/S search in area bound by 043° N. and 046° N. and 020° W. and 024° W. Work from South to North. Leave area at daybreak 5th or on P.L.E. if sooner and proceed to Londonderry.
(C. in C.W.A., 021951A to E.G.6.)

K.X.12. 1. XMAS EVE will not sail.
2. A.M. 301501 para. 2, amend position M.B. to read 5002 N. 09.58 W.
(D.O.D. H., 021320A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

T.U.3. At 1200Z T.U.3 at 055° 58' N. 015° 07' W. changed course to 180° speed 10 knots, due to weather.
MONTEREY unable keep station was ordered proceed independently. Request change in routing for T.U.3.
(C.T.F.60 021320Z to Admty.)
Convoy T.U.3 has been ordered to alter for 049° 05' N. 023° 57' W. as soon as weather permits.
(C. in C.W.A. 021739A to Escorts S.L.140)

/Your...

War Diary.

2.12.1943.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

T.U.3.
(Contd.)

Your 021320. You should alter course if weather permits direct to position M.D.

2. Estimated position at 1900Z/2 S.L.140 of 54 ships is 52.15 N. 17.49 W. 059° 7½ knots.

3. Request report if MONTEREY is proceeding direct to first position on stragglers' route and S.O.A. (D.O.D.H. 021742A to T.F.60.)

S.C.147.

E.T.A. 0430Z/3rd. In company SKEENA, EYEBRIGHT, RIMOUSKI, SUMMERSIDE, PICTOU escorting EMPIRE GULF. (C.3 021622Z to Cdre. D.W.A.)

QUEEN
ELIZABETH.

Sailed at 2056/2. (D.S.T.O. Greenock, 022100.)

M.K.F.26.

Convoy M.K.F.26 is due U.K. 8/12 comprising the following 13 British troop transports. Names. (D.S.T. 022150A.)

U.S. Combat Loader ARCTURUS is due Liverpool 8/12 in convoy M.K.F.26. (D.S.T.022200A.)

U.S. combat loaders. Names. Convoy M.K.F.26 is due 8/12 comprising the nine following (D.S.T. 022215A)

2.12.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

BABBITT.

Departure U.S. Destroyer BABBITT.
(S.B.N.O. Horta, 0211160)

Trawlers.

Your 300125. H.M.Ambassador favours para. 4B. Trawlers should if possible be officially based on Gibraltar but would actually operate from Horta. Officers and men should be informed that they are based on Gibraltar. (B.N.A.Lisbon, 021140 to Admty.(R) F.O.Gib. C. in C. Med., C. in C. W.A., S.B.N.O.Azores.)

MONARCH OF
BERMUDA,
DUCHESS OF
BEDFORD
collision.

MONARCH OF BERMUDA returned ex M.K.F.26 after collision with DUCHESS OF BEDFORD whose steering gear failed. Damage starboard side to boats and boat deck superficial but light buckling of frames and plates below water causing moderate leakage to No.4 starboard wing tank, necessitates temporary repairs before proceeding it is provisionally considered that H.M.Dockyard can render seaworthy within about seven days. Further report follows after divers examination vessel fully embarked with 3067 British and Allied personnel including 194 prisoners of war.
(S.T.O.I.C.Gib; 021238A to D. of S.T.(R) P.S.T.O.Med.)

JED
M.K.F.26.

In view of amended route it is doubtful whether fuel situation will allow me to remain convoy as far as Merville after rejoining. To fuel at Azores would prevent me overtaking (until) day 6th. Intend therefore to rejoin (incomplete group) and accept risk of fuel shortage. My P.C.S. 036 degs. 59' N. 012 degs. 08' W. 280 degs. 17 knots. Weather report.
(JED? 021402 to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. W.A. PELICAN)

Italian
Ships in
Spanish
Ports.

Following is repetition of my 021504 (Begins):
B.N.A.Madrid's 011427A Dec. Consider towing impracticable due to lack of tugs and escorts and distances involved.
(2) Suggest N.A.Madrid places first importance on arranging fuel requirements and obtaining necessary visas for crews to be sent via Algeciras.
(3) As alternative in the case of GAETA and LAVORO requisite crew members could be sent by sea from Gibraltar in ship flying Red Ensign. Request N.A.Madrid confirms there could be no objection(Ends.)
(Gibraltar, 021519 to C. in C. Med. B.N.A. Madrid. (R) Admty. F.O.T.A.L.I)

Italian /...

2.12.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

Italian
Warships,
Balearic
Islands.

Question of internment of Italian Warships in Balearic Islands has been referred back to M. of M. by Foreign Affairs. M. of M. has agreed to see me and U.S. N.A. after he has given further consideration to matter. From what he has already said to me I am confident if decision is left to him it will be favourable to us. (B.N.A. Madrid, 021931A to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.C.N.At.)

South Atlantic.

SUSSEX.

Sailed SUSSEX to Kilindini routed through the following positions:

(A) 29 degs. 00' S. 33 degs. 10' E.

(B) 16 degs. 00' S. 42 degs. 10' E.

(C) 08 degs. 10' S. 42 degs. 30' E. S. of A. 19 knots
E.T.A. 0600Z/6th.

(3 & 4) Re practices and working up.

(Com. Durban, 020721Z to Admty. C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.), F.O.E.A.)

Convoy
Routes,
Beira and
Lourenco
Marques.

For reasons of security request convoy routes between Beira and Lourenco Marques may be amended as follows in order to keep ships out of sight of land.

(2) Northbound standard (route).

(3) Southbound standard (route).

(4) Northbound stragglers (route), thence rejoining standard route in latitude 19 degs.

20' South.

(5) Southbound stragglers (route).

(6) If you concur request you will promulgate revised routes.

(C. in C. S.A. 021147C to C. in C. E.F.(S.E.A.C.) (R)

F.O.E.A. Com. i/c Durban, Com. i/c Aden, Admty. F.O.C.R.S.)

Shipping
Estimates.

A.M. 25/1646 August.

Any figures giving estimated future traffic on these routes would be appreciated.

(F.O.C.W.Af. 021210Z to Admty.)

Diego /...

2.12.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.Diego
Suarez
docking
facilities.

In view of necessity for maximum development of docking facilities in Indian Ocean, it is suggested that the potentialities of Diego Suarez should be re-examined.

(2) M.W.T.R. Cape Town has cabled M.W.T.R. Mombasa (Number 2047) suggesting that representative visits Diego Suarez and consults N.O.I.C.

in order to formulate an agreed opinion on practicable measures for making fullest possible use of drydock.

(3) Request you afford every assistance.

(C. in C. S.A. 021605 to F.O.E.A.(R) Admty. C. in C. E.F.)

Italian
Ships.Adml. Biancheri states unable to reveal his ships plans without special instructions from M. of M. Request inhibition be removed as it is desired to assess ships suitability for rough weather and other requirements.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 022136Z to F.O.T.A.L.I.(R) Admty.)Italian
Ships,
Patrols.

Your 252047 Oct. Following report (details) deals with AOSTA only. Ship has carried out one patrol of 7 days. Endurance ten days at 16-18 knots. Ship 7 months out of dock and claims maximum speed 33 knots.

Summary. Ship considered fit and suitable for blockade runner patrol in this area but probably not suitable for work in North Atlantic winter. Amplifying report will be sent on return of ABRUZZI from first patrol.

(F.O.C.W.Af. 022201 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.T.A.L.I.)

2.12.1943.
Thursday..War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Adriatic
Operations.

QUILLIAM and LOYAL will be in 000° Penna Point 5 miles at 1200A/2nd. Intend proceeding as far North as 042° 38' N. N.L.O. 8th Army's 012214* refers.

(Capt. (D) 4, 020415A to F.O.T.A.L.I., No.1 M.O.R.U., N.L.O. Army, (R) S.N.O.A.L.E., LOYAL.)
* N.T. in W.R.

QUEENBOROUGH and RAIDER detailed for para. 2 of F.O.T.A.L.I. 011907.*

2. QUILLIAM and LOYAL detailed for Italian Coast as in paras. 3 and 4.

3. QUEENBOROUGH acknowledge.

(Capt. (D) 4, 020729 to F.O.T.A.L.I., 4th D.F., (R) C.F.W., S.N.O. Ale., N.O.I.C. Bari, 1 M.O.R.U., 242 Group.)
* (N.T. in W.R.)

QUILLIAM and LOYAL fired 270 rounds from 1330 to 1500 from short range at various fixed targets between latitude 042° 32' and 042° (00' or 40') N. Only 3 lorries sighted including 2 northbound. 3 bridges damaged 1 badly. Opposition from 2-gun battery at Pann also rifle fire. No damage.

Final rounds fired into Pescara caused 1 explosion. Mitchell A/C bombed town soon afterward.

Destroyers air escort very good.

(Capt. (D) 4, 021701A.)

Rescue
tugs.

H.M.R.T. JAUNTY now overdue for refit and almost non-operational but cannot be spared without relief request H.M.R.T. ASPIRANT may be onward routed as soon as possible. A.M. 122122 Nov. and F.O.I.C. Newfoundland 281430 Nov. refer.

2. H.M.R.T. FAVOURITE also requires refit request relief may be arranged.

(C. in C. Med., 020810 to Admty.)

SOKOL.

1st December arrived.
(S.O.(I) Beirut, 020842B.)

M.E. Daily
Opsum. 218.

A.314. 1 Baltimore (A.30) anti-shipping R/C 1 Dec. south eastern Aegean. 1 caique 80 tons attacked at Khalkia Island, 1 near miss with bomb hits with machine gun fired crew abandoned ship.

Nov. 30th. Merchant ship reported torpedoed and sunk Nov. 30th in Gulf of Aden near Bab el Mandeb Straits (? ATHINA LIVANOS torpedoed 29th Nov. intended) searches by Vincents from Aden Nov. 30th did not sight submarine, 2 Wellingtons searching December 1st sighted possible submarine same area while a French Potez reported submarine at periscope depth off Obokh same date. Further details awaited.
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., 020916Z.)

Bari,
movements.

Arrivals QUEENBOROUGH, RAIDER, CHIDDINGFOLD, POLLOCK, GRAYLING, 9 M.T.Bs, 3 M.Ls. Departures QUILLIAM, LOYAL, WHITING, L.C.I.129, 318, M.L.1302.
(Bari, 021020.)

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2.12.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- LEINSTER. Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 021040A.)
- Yugoslav situation. F.O.T.A.L.I. 010035 being passed to Admiralty and my 021115 give an indication of the difficulties being experienced with these Yugoslav factions. Request these signals may be read in conjunction with my 011738.
(C. in C. Med., 021141A to Admty., (R) F.O.T.A.L.I. C. in C. Levant.)
- Italian ships in Spanish ports. Concur your 011427. Subject to remarks of F.O.I.C. Gibraltar request you will proceed with arrangement for towage of these ships.
(C. in C. Med., 021229Z to B.N.A. Madrid, (R) F.O.I.C. Gib., Admty., F.O.T.A.L.I.)
- U.S.S. SAVANNAH. Request ocean route for U.S.S. SAVANNAH sailing Casablanca about Dec. 10th passing in vicinity of Bermuda in case fuel required.
(C. in C. Med., 021245A to Admty., (R) C.T.F.86, Comnavnaw, U.S.S. SAVANNAH, Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet (C. and R.), S.B.N.O.W.At., N.O.I.C. Abadan, V.A. Malta, C.M.S.F., F.O.C.W.Af.)
- K.M.S. 33. Augusta section sails 0600/4th (11 ships). Local escort WILTON, LEDBURY.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 021310A.)
5 joiners. Local escort L.30.
(V.A. Malta, 021313A.)
- Joint Army R.A.F. Intell. Appreciation. 389073. I/42720 cipher 2 Dec.
24 hours to 1000Z/2nd.
5. All indications point intensification caique traffic throughout Aegean and in particular to and within Dodecanese. Castelrosso appreciation unchanged.
(C. in C. M.E., 021400B.)
- Glider bombs. Technical.
(C. in C. Med., 021523A.)
- M.K.S.33. Sailing signal part I. 44 ships including Port Said section.
(V.A. Alexandria, 021527B.)
Sailing signal part II. 5 ships.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 021555B.)

/ATHINA ...

43

2.12.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- ATHINA
LIVANOS. Details of sinking.
(B) 12° 20' N. 44° 00' E. at 1430Z/29th Nov.
(C) Submarine which partly surfaced after attack showing half of conning tower resembled Japanese type I.53.
(D) Torpedoed ship sank. (E) Two in No.2 and 3 hatches starboard side. (F) 25 survivors, 11 missing. (G) No. (H) S S S S message made by BIBERA 7 hours after attack not by A. LIVANOS which sank in 30 secs. HILDA MOLLER who was five miles away at time of torpedoing made no signal.
(Com. Aden, 021529Z.)
- N.V. 10A. Intend sailing (17 ships).
(N.O.I.C. Naples, 021606A.)
- S.N.F.8. Sailed 1200A/2. Otherwise in accordance with F.O.W.It. 011804.
(N.O.I.C. Naples, 021620A.)
- N.W.A.A.F.
Opsum 284. 30th Nov. 1 Italian Cant. 501 despatched to investigate reported U-Boat off Brindisi, dropped 1 bomb on oil patch 2 miles off shore. No results observed.
(H.Q.N.A.A.F., 021656A.)
- CUBA,
ARONDA,
TAKLIWA. F.O.W.It.'s 012130A sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Naples, 021709A.)
- C.S. 12. Broad? pendant number 15 Cdre. Agnew as F.O. 12th C.S. will be struck in DIDO at sunset/3rd at which time DIDO, AURORA and PENELOPE will form part of 15th C.S.
(C. in C. Med., 021710A.)
- Glider bombs;
jamming equipment. As it now appears definitely established that 48-50 m/cs band is used for control of H.S.293 and F.X. ?bombs I consider it most important that suitable jamming equipment should be supplied to ships on this station. At present only the two specially fitted United States destroyers can jam this frequency and this is quite inadequate in view of the serious air threat to our through convoy.
2. Request maximum number of sets of equipment consisting of suitable transmitter and receiver and panoramic scope together with necessary personnel may be sent out for fitting in AA and FD ships and escorts on station as a matter of highest operational priority.
(C. in C. Med., 021726A to Admty., (R) C. in C. Levant.)

/BIRMINGHAM ...

2.12.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- BIRMINGHAM** Preliminary investigation indicates repairs to refit. BIRMINGHAM, even of temporary nature to enable ship to steam, will employ majority of English skilled workmen for a lengthy period. A.S. Alexandria's O11939.
- (2) Repercussion would mean preclusion of fitting 271 and other A and A's involving high degree of skill in QUILLIAM, QUEENBOROUGH RAIDER.
- (3) Under circumstances intend to give first priority to QUILLIAM, QUEENBOROUGH.
(C. in C. Levant, O21728B to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. E.F., A.S. Alexandria, R.A. Alexandria.)
Para. 3 - concur - V.C.N.S. O31221A.
- CUBA.** Following is a repetition of S.T.L.O. Bizerta O10930 (begins). Addressed D. of S.T., (R) P.S.T.O. (P.S.T.O.) Med., Algiers from S.T.L.O. Bizerta.
- (A) arrived 28th sailed for Naples 30th a.m. (B) Disembarked British troops and embarked American troops.
(Bizerta C.C.O., O21817A to Algiers C.C.O.)
- Balkan** 3. Sea Ops. Adv. H.Q. Force 133 reports.
Sitrep First. 15 - 30 Nov. approx. 600 tons stores
No. 16. despatched to Dalmatian Islands.
Second. 470 armed and equipped Partisans have reached the Islands by sea from South Italy.
Third. First batch 40 Partisan wounded reached South Italy from the Islands and has been accommodated in special hospital.
4. Air Ops.
(C. in C. M.E., O22020B.)
- Radar** Your 271514. Request following information may
Decoy. be signalled.
(a) Were any Allied aircraft using I.F.F. Mark 3 in vicinity of convoys while incidents were noticed.
(b) Are the U.S. destroyers fitted with directional interrogator aerials if so, what is approx. angular beam.
(c) Approx. how many enemy aircraft were in the formations and what proportion of them were believed to be using I.F.F.
(d) Were observations of I.F.F. made by officers or ratings? Were personnel concerned fully conversant with appearance of I.F.F., including stray responses frequently observed.
(e) Have R.A.F. or Army in Mediterranean reasons to suspect compromise of I.F.F. Mark 3.
(f) Can P.O.W. interrogation throw any light on this matter.
(D.S.D., O22028A to C. in C. Med.)
- SALVESTOR.** Re employment.
4. Ship will presumably not be employed in Tripolitanian or Libyan ports raising Italian ships, since policy is to seize such ships in prize.
(1st Lord, O22040A to C. in C. Med.)

2.12.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|------|----------|------|----------------|------|------------------------|---|
| Movements, Gulf of Naples. | Gulf of Naples and Salerno 2nd. Arrivals SALTERELO. Departures U.S.S. WOLSEY, GLEAVES, BENSON, SWAY, SYMBOL, SEET, DALLAS, BERNADOU, PILOT. (N.O.I.C. Naples, 022136A.) | | | | | | | | | | |
| U.S. L.C.T. 242 torpedoed. | Regret to report that U.S. L.C.T. 242 struck suspected circling torpedo. Stern from bridge aft was destroyed by explosion. Beached at Nisida after unloading two tanks. Casualties 16 killed, one injured including two officers, all U.S. personnel. (N.O.I.C. Naples, 022138 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty., F.O.W.It., Comphib 8, Comnavnaw.) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Movements Augusta. | Departure 2nd QUANTOCK, LAMERTON, JULIET, STROMA, EMPIRE TOTANIA, EMPIRE ANN, M.Ls. 258, 232, 575. Arrival QUANTOCK, LAMERTON, ILEX. (N.O.I.C. Augusta, 022207A.) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Situation Report No. 241. | 1. QUILLIAM and RAIDER sighted nothing during sweep from Durazzo to Dubrovnik night 30th/1st. Bombardment of Durazzo started large fire. Shore batteries made ineffective reply. Dubrovnik illuminated by star-shell but no suitable target seen. 2. BICESTER and ZETLAND patrolled off Dalmatia coast between Sibenik and Split during same night. 3. M.T.Bs. also operated south of Split but without incident. (C. in C. Med., 022213A to Admty.) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Naval W/T at Army & Air H.Qs. | N.L.O. with Naval W/T communications are attached to the following Army and Air H.Qs. in the Central Mediterranean. 177B is cancelled. <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">H.Q.</td> <td style="text-align: right;">?Broadcast read</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">15th Army Group and N.A.T.A.F.</td> <td style="text-align: right;">M.X.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">8th Army</td> <td style="text-align: right;">M.X.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">No. 1 M.O.R.U.</td> <td style="text-align: right;">M.X.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">Fighter Sector Ajaccio</td> <td style="text-align: right;">X</td> </tr> </table> (C. in C. Med., 022237A to Med. Station, Levant Station 356B.) | H.Q. | ?Broadcast read | 15th Army Group and N.A.T.A.F. | M.X. | 8th Army | M.X. | No. 1 M.O.R.U. | M.X. | Fighter Sector Ajaccio | X |
| H.Q. | ?Broadcast read | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15th Army Group and N.A.T.A.F. | M.X. | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8th Army | M.X. | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. 1 M.O.R.U. | M.X. | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fighter Sector Ajaccio | X | | | | | | | | | | |

12.
2.11.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

JACOB VAN HEEMSKERCK. Reporting for duty. (U.S.) Cdr. Task Force 71 010907 (N.T. in W.R.) refers.
(JACOB VAN HEEMSKERCK, 020047Z to C. in C. E.F. (R) N.O.I.C. W.Australia, (U.S.) Cdr. 7th U.S. Fleet, (U.S.) Cdr. Task Force 71, R.N.N.L.O. D. of Plans Division. A.C.N.B.)

B.A.56 (A). Sailing telegram (2 ships)
(2) 0130Z/2nd.
(6) KALE, DERG.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 020149Z to Admty.)

Anti-torpedo gear fitted in M/V's. Amendment to F.O. 277 (T.O.O.251154Z/Nov.).
(A) Para. No.1 delete "Mark 29".
(B) Para. No.3 add to first sentence "As it also applies to Stragglers from Convoy".
(C) Add to Para. No.4. S.O. Escort should be reminded of the importance of reporting Stragglers (Repeated Admiralty) so that diverting authorities can take action as in Para.B.
(C. in C. E.F. 020341Z to F.O.N.I.C. (R) Admty. C.S.W.S.F., N.Z.N.B.)

U/B Dispositions. (C. in C. E.F. 020347 to E.F.430 Y)

B.M.76. Arrived Colombo portion minus EMPIRE PROSPERO escorted by RAJPUTANA, BATHURST, AGRA, BARODA.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 020525Z to Admty.)

S.E.A. Air Report. A.310. 3 Dec. Daily Opsum No.628 29 Nov.
2 Beaufighters Theyetmyo? or Thayetmyo? area.
Large river steamer attacked. Many hits, left smoking.
4 Beaufighters Prome-Henzada damaged 3 small river steamers, 1 launch, 2 barges 12 other rivercraft.
14th U.S.A.A.F. 1st Dec. 8 U.S. Mitchells (B.25) 24 U.S. Kittyhawks (P.40) and 8 Mustang (A.36) shipping and installations Taikao. Hits on 1 vessel ship yards and docks.
14 U.S. Kittyhawks (P.40) offensive Changteh area. 50 boats sunk 35, or 30 damaged many casualties.
(S.E.A.A.C. 020627)

Attacks on U/Bs Assessments. A.M. 091845 July 1942.
1043/29th Sept QUADRANT 11 degs. 40 N. 43 degs. 31 E.
0720/30th Sept QUADRANT 11 degs. 58 N. 45 degs. 25 E.
1810/3rd Oct. H.M.A.S. QUADRANT 14 degs. 50 N. 35 degs. 20 E.
(C. in C. E.F. 020803Z)

12.
2.11.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

RECORDER.

2nd Cable Ship RECORDER.
(Mauritius, 021128Z)

Defence of
Madagascar
Control of
Naval and
Air Bases.

O.Z. 3957 2nd.
Following from Chiefs of Staff Committee.
Your 46988(O) of 1st will be considered in
light of strategic decisions taken at recent
conference.
(Air Min. 021355Z to G.O.C. in C. E.Af. (R)
C. in C. E.F., A.O.C. in C. M.E.)

Exchange of
L.S.T's and
P.S.S.P's in
Eastern
Fleet.

Your 011315 received corrupt and too late to
make any change in respect of RUYS. This
ship is urgently required at Suez for other
moves already planned and must sail as
programmed. BATORY would be too late.
(D. of S.T. 021513A to C. in C. E.F. (R)
A.P.S.T.O.I. Bombay, A.Z.R.A.G., P.S.T.O.I.)

2.12.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

H.X.268, WINNIPEG. H.X.268. At 012230Z left pendant 124 J.R.DRAKE in position 045° 22' N. 051° 53' W. estimate, believed to be steering for Point B. at 9.5 knots. My P.C. and S. at 020300Z 046° 10' N. 052° 37' W. estimated 01 5° 12 knots. (WINNIPEG 020301Z to C. in C.C.N.A.)

U/B attacked. S.Y.76 2nd. Herewith repetition our T.O.O. 280120Z as follows: L.172 at 0020Z/28 Nov. sighted and attacked U/B in 39.04 N. 16.12 W. on surface course 310 speed 4 knots. (247 Group 020302A to Admty.)

B.Y.M.S. 252, 41. This re-encyphers and cancels my 020007 (N.T. in W.D.) Re my 011519. Departed Charleston 1940Q/5. (Comt. 6th Nav. Dist. Charleston 020519.)

Stragglers report No. 29. 1 arrived New York from H.X.268 SOVAC 27th Nov. machinery defect. (N.S.H.Q. 021136Z to Admty.)

Manning Situation. (B.A.M.R. 021432Z to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

N.S.H.Q. S/M Estimate. (N.S.H.Q. 021443.)

H.X.269. This completes my D.I.S. 011932. Convoy sailing despatch (32 ships). (P.D.New York 021520Z, 021606 to Admty.)

U.S. S/M Estimate. (Cominch 021543.)

D.E.279. Boston departed 1907Z/1st D.E.279 for Bermuda. (N.S.H.Q. 021657Z to Admty.)

S.C.148. Sailing telegram (32 ships). 2. Gate 1400Z/2nd. 6. W.6. (N.C.S.O.Halifax 021731Z, 021747Z to Admty.)

MAYA. From Cdre. (begins): Request ?permission to detach MAYA with ?injured man. Weather report 6672 1575. (LETHBRIDGE 021800Z to C. in C.C.N.A.)

QUEEN MARY (A.T.78). Departing New York 031700Z Ambrose, Clyde E.T.A. Little Cumbrae 082400. (P.D.New York 021838Z to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)

A.W. 100
48A.

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.)

Manning Situation.

~~MOST~~ SECRET.

M E S S A G E

IN

021432Z/December.

From: B.A.M.R.

Date 3.12.43.

Recd. 0120

Naval Cypher XD Plug by cable.

Addressed: Admiralty repeated N.S.H.Q. N.M.C.S. Washington
S.O.N.O. London S.B.N.O. Western Atlantic.

IMPORTANT.

Unofficial conversations have taken place with N.S.H.Q. to explore the possibilities of utilising R.C.N. personnel required to proceed to the U.K. within the next two months to man CASTLE class corvettes and for infiltration in cruisers to provide runner crews for Captain Class Frigates for passage to U.K. It is considered that nine such runner crews might be provided and I intend now to request N.S.H.Q. officially for this valuable assistance.

2. With the information provided by para. 12 of your 302111Z November and assuming a favourable reply from N.S.H.Q. to para. one above, the following proposals to implement our first priority manning requirement are forwarded -

- (A) DE 519 - 522 inclusive (diesel ships) to be laid up at Halifax N.S. in accordance with arrangements already in hand.
- (B) Runner crew from UGANDA to man DE 90 completing on 7th December.
- (C) Five crews in TA.74 to man DE Nos. 92 93 94 523 and 524 completing between 11th and 24th December.
- (D) One crew in TA.76A to man PF 82 completing on 11th January.
- (E) MANSFIELD and SALISBURY to man DE 95 and 96 completing on 22nd and 26th December.
- (F) BAYNTON and BUXTON to man DE 525 and 526 on 30th December and 5th January.
- (G) R.C.N. runner crews as in para. one to man DE Nos. 97 98 563 and 564 completing between 28th and 31st December.

(H).....

MOST SECRET

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

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" O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

-2-

- (H) Crews available at end December from U.K. to man PF Nos. 83 and 84 and DE Nos. 565 and 566 completing between 4th and 23rd January.
- (I) Crews available early January from U.K. to man DE 567 on 14th January and DE 568 on January 19th in U.S.A. and DE 519 and 520 laid up at Halifax.
- (J) Runner crews from R.C.T. as in para. 1 to man DE Nos. 569 570 and 571 and PF Nos. 85 and 86 completing between 24th January and 4th February.
- (K) R.C.N. crews for six rivers and one lock to ferry to U.K. DE Nos. 521 and 522 laid up at Halifax E.R. ratings to be given diesel instruction in U.S.A. if desired.

3. CLEOPATRA having already been reduced herself to a ferry crew in the Medn. will be unable to provide a runner crew for DE's.

4. Facilities can be made available for R.C.N. runner crews to receive adequate training in existing DE training set up to enable them to handle American type equipment in these ships.

5. Ships manned by R.C.N. runner crews would require 16 days for fitting out storing and trials and seven days shake down at Casco. They would then be sailed independently in two groups of four and five with R.N. Commanding and Engineer Officers direct for U.K. leaving Casco on 23rd January and 27th February respectively to enable crews to arrive U.K. in time for their own CASTLE class corvette requirements. Ships would require to be taken over by R.N. crews or care and maintenance parties in U.K. on or about 30th January and 6th March respectively.

6. With the exception of nine ships manned by R.C.N. runner crews and DE 90 521 and 522 all other ships referred to above should be available to carry out full programme including work up at Bermuda although number of ratings available from crews ex SALISBURY and MANSFIELD is at present an unknown quantity.

7. The above proposals will leave three turbo-electric DE's and six Maritime class Frigates to be manned in February and March. Three of these ships will be provided for from the R.N. crews ex NENE TWEED and ETTRICK. Can it be confirmed that balance can be provided? from U.K. observing that your present forecast only goes as far as early January.

8. As soon as N.S.H.Q. approve the provision of runner crews I intend to put this programme into effect in anticipation of your covering approval.

9. In view of the above suggest your proposal to lay up TOWN class destroyers at Halifax could be reconsidered.

Admiralty pass to S.C.N.O. London

021432Z.

Advance copy D.C. D.O.D.(F) Plot.

✓ Summary of manning situation.

JR.

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--------|
| 1st Lord. | A.C.R. | |
| 1st S.L. (2) | S.C.N.O.(L)(2) | |
| D.F.S.L. | Ad. Binney | |
| 2nd S.L. | Hd. of M.A.S(4) | |
| 3rd S.L. | A.S.(C) | |
| Vice Contr. | M.D.G. | |
| 4th S.L. | F.D.G. | |
| 5th S.L. | D. of S.T. (6) | |
| V.C.N.S. | E.A.P. | |
| A.C.N.S.(H) | D.T.S.D. | |
| A.C.N.S.(F) | Ad. Blake (4) | |
| A.C.M.S.(W) | D. of D. | |
| A.C.N.S.(UT)(2) | D.N.C. | |
| Sec. | I.P.(2) | |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | W.D. | |
| P.A.S.(S) | Ad. Harris | |
| Under Secretary | Dep. Contr. | |
| P.P.O. | D.N.C. | } Bath |
| D. of P.(2) | D. of D. | |
| D. of P.(Q)(3) | Hd. of P. | |
| D.N.I.(4) | Hd. of S.W.R. | |
| D.O.D.(F)(2) | | |
| D.O.D.(H)(4) for action as necessary | | |
| D.A/S.W. | | |
| D.A.U.D. | | |
| Hd. of M.(2) | | |
| D.P.S. for action as necessary | | |
| Hd. of C.W. | | |
| Hd. of N. | | |
| N.A. 2 S.L. | | |

2.12.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

- H.X.266. Average speed 9.12 knots. Arrived off Oversay 1445Z/26 Nov. All arrived. (D.T.D. 021916A to Connav, N.S.H.Q. Info. C. in C.W.A. C. in C.C.N.A.)
- C.U.8. This completes my D.I.S. 011430 convoy sailing despatch. (20 ships). (P.D. New York 021946Z, 022040Z to Com. 10th Fleet. C. & R.)
- Unit T.5. Sailing telegram part 1 (8 ships). 2. E.T.D. Gate Boston 061130Z. 6. C.D.D. 30 in U.S.S. COWIE, KNIGHT, EARLE and DORAN. (P.D. Boston 022011.)
- Minesweeping St. Johns. Your 171506Z Oct. A. One December 2nd detonated in sweep. B. Swept Oropesa in position 47/19/46 N. 52/29/24 W. C. St. Johns swept channel Oropesa clearance swept of area bounded as follows (details) (N.O.I.C. St. Johns 022028Z to N.S.H.Q.)
- Sub. attack & sighting summary. A. U.S.S. CLEMSON and DUPONT attacked moving oil slick 42.18 N. 18.59 W. 0825Z/1 with D.Cs. and H.H. followed by two explosions from H.H. Later CLEMSON attacked sound contact same area. D. PB 2 Y Radar contact vicinity 10.50 N. 79.25 W. about 1830Z/1. (Cominch 022105 to Admty.)
- Cunard Vessels. Re carryings on winter voyages. (B.M.W.T. New York 022105Z.)
- L.27 GUYSBOROUGH. My 011736. 1. Intend to sail L.27 escorted by GUYSBOROUGH depart Galveston 1900Z/5th routed Q.J.A. 215. A. 043° 12' 065° 29' B. 043° 00' 068° 57' C. 042° 18' 070° 16' D. 041° 50' 070° 20'. thence Cape Cod Canal for Philadelphia proceeding on surface throughout at 10 knots E.T.A. Cape Cod Canal 1100Z/7th. 2. Request total bombing and attack restrictions 50 miles ahead and astern and 20 miles on either side of tracks. 3. Request onward escorts and route from Cape Cod N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. (C. in C.C.N.A. 022112Z to (U.S.) Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet C. & R. A.O. Dakar, E.A.C. (R) N.O.I.C. St. John, N.B., B.A.M.R. L.27, N.S.H.Q. D. Halifax, GUYSBOROUGH, (U.S.) Cdr. E.S. Frontiers, (U.S.) Cdr. 1st U.S. Fleet, (U.S.) Cdr. 3rd U.S. Fleet, (U.S.) Cdr. 4th U.S. Fleet, F.O.S. (U.S.) C. in C.U.S. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.) Cdr. Subs. Atlantic, Admty.)

/Proposed...

War Diary.2.12.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Proposed additional Canadian Support Group. The value of support groups having been amply demonstrated it is proposed to create another Canadian Group to replace the late E.G.9. This group would be comprised of Frigates and modernised corvettes and should be ready to operate early in the New Year.

2. This group would be comprised of Frigates and modernised corvettes and should be ready to operate early in the New Year.

3. If above is acceptable it is suggested that E.G.6 now an experienced Group retain its present composition and that WASKESIU remain with C.5.

4. In the provision of a suitable S.O. we will probably have to ask your assistance. Further signal will be made. (N.S.H.Q. 022144Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A. C. in C.C.N.A.)

TRACKER. Direct Com. 5 comply para. 3 F.O.N.F. 251055 Nov. (Cominch 022205 to Comeastseafon, Info. Com. 5, F.O.N.F. C. in C.C.N.A. Cinclant, C.T.F.24, N.S.H.Q. Admty. C. in C.W.A.)

KINGSMILL, LAWFORD. Sail KINGSMILL and LAWFORD in company when ready about 5th Boston to U.K. Vessels had shakedown period but no workup. Advise time of departure and speed. Previous orders these vessels cancelled. (Cominch 022207Z to C.E.S.F.)

Oiling at Sea. H.X. and S.C. Convoys. Points emerging from discussions. (B.A.D. 022215Z to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

S.C.148. Departure MONTGOMERY and COBALT, TRAIL, TIMMINS escorting S.C.148. (C.O.P. Halifax 022236Z.)

ATHENE. Your 301734. ATHENE will not now be required. (B.A.D. 022253Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A. F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial No. 681 Dec. 1st. Submarine sighted 30 miles north east Finschhafen heading north forenoon. 2. 2 small, 1 medium merchant ship observed Wewak Harbour morning. Another small enemy vessel unsuccessfully attacked by aircraft afternoon anchored Kandover Island 60 miles east Wewak.

SECRET

Linn

A.W.1

50A

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

SECRET

MESSAGE

022215Z/December

IN

Date: 3.12.43.

From: B.A.D. Washington.

Read: 1405.

NAVAL CYTHER (X) PLUG BY CABLE.

Addressed: Admiralty.

Oiling at Sea

Escort Oilers for HX and SC Convoys. During discussions regarding oiling at sea the following points emerged.

to provision 4 escort oilers upon us as well as British Naval Authorities

(2) The Division of responsibility for complying with Admiralty requirements, is not clearly defined. A.M. 2234/26 November 1942 states that escort Oilers arriving in ON and ONS Convoys lead at New York and return in corresponding HX and SC Convoys, and A.M. 2030/8th January 1943 gave definite instructions to this effect. A.M. 1854/28th March 1943 recognises two escort Oilers per group as an integral part of the convoy escort system in the North Atlantic. A.M. 091230 April, Para.3 (C) assigns the selection and equipment of escort Oilers for HX and SC to MOSO.

(3) B.M.W.T. in practice carries out programming of tankers and must therefore be responsible for providing escort Oilers for convoys leaving this side. Repair programmes and long term planning are part and parcel of the provision of escort Oilers but B.M.W.T. have never received any definite statement of this requirement.

(4) It is strongly recommended that the requirement of a minimum of two escort Oilers per convoy be communicated officially to B.M.W.T. for necessary action. Any existing instructions which place the responsibility for the provision of escort Oilers upon Naval Authorities being cancelled.

(5) It is intended that Admiralty shall continue to control design and equipment.

022215Z.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L. (2)
- Controller.
- Vice Controller.
- 2nd S.L.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)
- Ops. (3)
- O.D. (5)
- D.T.D. (4) for action.
- D.T.D. (C)
- Plot.
- D.A/S.W.
- D.A/U.D.
- D. of P. (3)
- D. of S. (3)

- D.T.S.D.
- D.57 O.B.
- D.N.C.
- D. of S.T. (15)
- I.P. (3)
- W.D.
- Adml. Blako.
- Dep. Centr. (3)
- D. (4)
- D.N.C. (2)
- S.W.R.

Bath.

2.12.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

- Digest serial 5. R/C Liberator observed 5 ships eastbound convoy comprising 4 merchantmen, 1 gunboat, 12 miles south west New Hanover afternoon. Previously had unsuccessfully attacked single westbound freighter 60 miles east Lirengau and strafed motor launch with 20 small boats loaded with Japs. 65 miles west south west New Hanover.
- No. 681 Dec. 1st. (Contd.)
6. Ref. ?first para. Digest 680, convoy described as 1 large transport, 1 whaling factory ship, 2 destroyers, 2 unidentified type vessels in Gazelle Channel course 300°. 2 Liberators reported scoring two possible 1000 pound bomb hits on transport causing explosion and towering flames. Four hours later Navy Catalina attacked probably same convoy few miles west Gazelle Channel scoring 1 hit on each of 2 destroyers with 500 pound 5 second delay bombs. Approx. same time and vicinity second Navy Catalina claimed two hits with 1000 pound bombs on large tanker in group of 10 to 12 ships stated heading east but possibly same convoy.
8. Full report raider operation east of Torokina refer Digest 678 para. 11 states landing conducted against minor opposition on wooded coast where ammunition and medical supplies located. Estimated 1000 Japs attacked at daybreak increasing in numbers during day using effective mortar fire which was countered by air attacks and 155 millimetre battery. Surface craft including destroyers covered withdrawal after dusk and landing craft withdrew without damage or casualties. American casualties approx. 15 killed, 70 wounded. 200 known Jap. dead probably many more ammunition stores medical supplies destroyed documents captured. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 020650Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 021431, 021438.)

Submarines Attacked.

Sub. attack & sighting summary for 24 hrs. to 0900Z/2nd.

Para. A. 1 A/C attacked U/B at 1720/30th Nov. in 41 degs. 07' N. 18° 30' W. 2. Transit A/C sighted C/T at 0943/1st in 37° 06' N. 12° 20' W. Para. B. 1 A/C V/19 reported A.S.V. contact at 1526/1st in 43° 00' N. 19° 19' W. 2. Clipper A/C sighted U/B diving at 1516/1st in 25° 10' N. 15° 30' W. course S Para. C. 1. SANDWICH attacked good contact at 1255/1st in 29° 14' N. 12° 50' W. 2. A/C had Radar contact at 1351/1st in 43° 34' N. 10° 07' W. (D.D.I.C. 021123A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

3.12.1943.
Friday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
"F.T."
U-boat
attacked on
1st Dec.
by
INCONSTANT.

1(a) The 8 M/V's constituting the Archangel section of Convoy J.W.54B and its escorts arrived off the North Dvina Lightship at 0756A to-day and anchored in thick fog; and Capt.D.23 in SAUMAREZ with 7 destroyers left the Kola Inlet at 1400A for Scapa.
(b) Convoy R.A.54B was about 180 miles E.N.E. of Jan Mayen Island at 0800A to-day, and at least six F.W. 200 A/C were airborne from Trondheim at about 1130. INCONSTANT (S.O. of Escort) reports to-day having attacked and probably damaged a U-boat at 0455A on 1st December about 60 miles South of Bear Island.

Home
Fleet

2. NELSON and BERWICK arrived at Scapa to-day; FURIOUS and ARGONAUT left the Clyde for Scapa; and GAMBIA left Scapa at 1506 for Plymouth.

Mining

3. Bomber Command aircraft last night laid 85 mines in the Kattegat and off the Frisian Islands.

North Atlantic.

CHANTICLEER

4. S.B.N.O. Azores considers that CHANTICLEER (damaged by U-boat on 18th Nov.) will be found uneconomic to repair, and he wishes to employ her as a depot ship at Horta, where she arrived on 1st Dec.

Mediterranean.

"Avalanche"

5(a) QUILLIAM and LOYAL operated last night between Benedetto and Ancona. They sank 3 schooners, badly damaged a fourth and left a fifth sinking; both the latter two were abandoned. They shot up coast roads wherever traffic lights were seen.

/At...

3.12.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

"Avalanche"
(Contd.).

At 2330 they bombarded Ancona at a range of 6 miles; big guns replied but the destroyers were not damaged. At 0210 they bombarded Benedetto at a range of 2 miles; there was no opposition. (b) Bostons attacked warehouses and docks at Split last night; and 48 U.S. Mitchells and 32 Warhawks attacked targets at Sibenik and Split to-day. Hits were made on the main unloading quay. There were explosions amongst small craft in harbour and a merchant vessel at Rogosnica was hit.

Aegean

6. There was a fairly concentrated raid on Kastelorizo by Ju.88 at 2015 to-day. No naval damage or casualties were caused.

East Indies.

7. SS FORT CAMOSUN (British) reported at 2005Z today that she had been torpedoed by a U-boat in 11.21 N. 46.03 E. in the Gulf of Aden, whilst on passage from Vizagapatam to Aden. Assistance was sent, but the ship reached Aden under her own steam. About 25 of the crew abandoned ship without permission and did not arrive with the ship.

America and West Indies.

8. The U.S. tanker TOUCHET, Baytown (Texas) for New York, was torpedoed and sunk at 0730Z today in 25.50 N. 86.30 W. (off Cape Florida):

3.12.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Eastern Fleet Re-inforcement. A.M. 281556 Oct. In view of the increased air threat in the Atlantic and in the Mediterranean, further consideration has been given to the dispatch of 9 A/A sloops to the Eastern Fleet. 2. You may, at your discretion, substitute up to a maximum of 4 frigates for A/A sloops, provided these can be ready in all respects to leave U.K. by 15th January. (V.C.N.S., 031715A to C. in C. W.A.)

Captain class Frigates for conversion. A.M. 011725. Request confirmation in that these ships will be manned by C.C.O. personnel on arrival in U.K. (C. in C. W.A., 031930A to Admt.) See also D.R.O.C.O. 081525A.

Movements.

ILLUSTRIOUS. Sailed ILLUSTRIOUS for exercises, anchoring Greenock on completion. (N.O.I.C. Belfast, 030815A.)

BERWICK. Sailed my 021102. (C. in C. Rosyth, 030845A to A.C.O.S.) Scapa arrival BERWICK. (A.C.O.S., 031828A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

NELSON. Scapa arrival NELSON escorted by METEOR and OPPORTUNE. (A.C.O.S., 030847A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

FURIOUS. Sailed FURIOUS in accordance with my 022214A. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 031058A to C. in C. H.F.)

GAMBIA. (? Scapa) departure GAMBIA. (A.C.O.S., 031506A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

SHEFFIELD. Intend sailing SHEFFIELD at 1400A/5th to Scapa (C. in C. H.F. 281305 refers). (2) Routed standard route, S.O.A. 18 knots. (3) E.T.A. 1000A/7th. (C. in C. Plymouth, 031734A to C. in C. H.F.)

S/M Movements. Positions of S/Ms at 0800/4 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.(S), 031739A, 041028A.)

3.12.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

STOIC. Leaves vicinity of Bishop Rock at 0100/9th to 049° 10' N. 009° W. diving by day thence to 049° (?10') N. 013° 22' W. thence by route B to cross 043° N. at 1200/13th thence as ordered by F.O.I.C. Gibraltar. Daily advance 140 miles.

4. Last Q.B.A.116 S/M painted dark blue with no number. (Capt. (S) 5, 032130A to F.O. Gibraltar, (R) STOIC, C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.(S), C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 8, S.O.(S) Gib.)

Operations.

Operation F.T. U-Boat attacked by INCONSTANT on 1st December. Position given in my 021731 should read 071° 35' N. 001° 12' W., course 245°, 7½ knots. (R.A.54B) (F.O.(S), 030016A to S/MS.) J.W. 54B with escort and 8 M/S arrived off Archangel in position North Dvina Lightship bearing (true) 054° 16 miles. Anchored in dense fog. (BEAGLE, 030756A to S.B.N.O. North Russia.) (A) INCONSTANT. (B) 0455A/1st. (C) R.D.F. contact followed by sighting by C.O. (D) 073° 48' N. 018° 24' E. (E) 1. (F) 0740A/1st.

2. Consider U-Boat surprised on the surface and probably damaged. Subsequent D/F bearings astern did not conclusively indicate convoy was being reported. Subsequent shadowing not confirmed.

3. R/T and W/T silence not broken. (Capt. (D) 17, 031010A to Admty.) At least six F.W.200 were airborne from Trondheim about 1130. (D.D.I.C., 031229A to R.A.54B, V.A.2.) SALADIN, SKATE 064° 43' N. 013° 42' W., bound Seidisfjord, 12 knots. (A.C.I.C., 031310A to ships.) Sailed (D) 23 in SAUMAREZ with 7 destroyers in company from Kola Inlet 1400A/3. Route in accordance with C. in C. H.F. 021112A. E.T.A. Scapa 0900A/7. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 031406A to C. in C. H.F.) Unless you can join by 1700A proceed to Scapa. My P.C.S. 063° 30' N. 003° 46' W., 180°, 18 knots. (V.A.2, 031501A to MATCHLESS.) My P.C.S. 065° 10' N. 003° 40' W., 180°, 19 knots. V.A.2's 031501 refers. E.T.A. Scapa 1330A/4th. (MATCHLESS, 031618A to A.C.O.S., V.A.2.) Sailed MIDDLETON and BRISSENDEN to Seidisfjord. E.T.A. 0900A/5th. (R.A.D., 031642A to A.C.I.C.) By D/F at 031312Z U-Boat in 074° 05' N. 001° 58' E. Unreliable. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 031715A to Admty.) E.T.A. Force 2 less MATCHLESS 0715/4th. Request Hoxa and Switha Gate 0800. (C.S.2, 031901A to C. in C. H.F.)

/Bay ...

3.12.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Bay Patrol. P.C.S. of one small merchant vessel 1500 tons 43° 10' N. 09° 28' W, 060°, 8 knots. One small merchant vessel 500 tons 43° 04' N. 09° 30' W., 310°, 8 knots. Both lighted neutral.
(A/C Duty 'K', 030205 to 19 Group.)

Have A.S.V. contact position 47° 10' N. 07° 52' W., probably U-Boat.

(A/C Duty 'N', 031910A to 19 Group.)

U-Boat has dived position 44° 45' N. 20° 27' W., time 2145.

(A/C Duty 'B', 032245 to 19 Group.)

Am over enemy submarine in 44.50 N. 20.20 W.

(A/C Duty 'B', 032320 to 19 Group.)

Spitzbergen. No activity in November. Small force kept at Barentsburg and Sveagrava.
("Locomotive", 031305Z to Admty.)

Coastal Force Patrols. Orders for night 3rd/4th December.
1. (A) 6 M.T.Bs. from Newhaven offensive patrol for torpedo targets only on enemy coast east of 00° 10' W. north of 49° 34' N. and west of 00° 40' E. Proceed by passage 4 to be on patrol by 0001A and return by passage 4 or 2 to be 20 miles from own coast by 0800A.

(B) 2 Chasseurs anti E-Boat patrol on 50° 24' N. between 00° 48' W. and 00° 35' W. from 1800A to 0700A.

(C) M.L.292 short notice St. Helens.

(D) 3 M.G.Bs. from Portland patrolling 50° 15' N. between 01° 40' W. and 02° 35' W., keeping south of W.P. convoy during its passage.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 031346A.)

Patrols 3rd December.

1. (A) Force 111, M.T.Bs. 678 (S.O.), 679. (B) 2030A/3. (C) 180° Eddystone 8. (D) Vicinity of C. (F) 0645A/4.

2. (A) Force 114, M.T.B. 673 (S.O.), 676, M.G.B.322. (B) 2030A/3. (C) 100° Start 16. (D) Vicinity of (C). (F) 0645A/4.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 031411A.)

M.Ls. 213, 210, 101, 102, 107 and M.T.Bs. 208, 209, 221 and 38 carrying out Operation N.L.112 with M.T.Bs. 710, 700 and 705 in support. E.T.D. 2015, E.T.R. 0530/4.

M.T.Bs. 413, 431 and 434 from Ramsgate at West Bullock buoy, E.T.D. 1600, E.T.R. 0830/4.

M.T.Bs. 417, 437 and 415 from Ramsgate at No. 7 buoy, E.T.D. 1715, E.T.R. 0800/4.

(V.A. Dover, 031623A.)

My 031411. Force 111, 114 are to remain at short notice in harbour.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 031855A.)

Operation S.F. Your 031147. Sail LOYALTY for 064° 24' N. 007° 33' W. HOUND to inform LOYALTY position of merchant ship.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 031536A to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)

C. in C. Rosyth's 031536A. E.T.A. rendezvous 0900Z tomorrow.

(LOYALTY, 032222A to HOUND.)

/Faroes ...

3.12.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation S.F. (Contd.) Faroes departure LOYALTY. Your 031536A refers. (N.O.I.C. Faroes, 032226A to C. in C. Rosyth.) One Sunderland and one Catalina will be carrying out patrol in your area commencing 1000A tomorrow. (C. in C. Rosyth, 032305A to HOUND.)

S/M Patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800/4th and movements for following 24 hours.
(A) SEADOG 70° 17' N. 14° 43' E., probably on surface, speed 10 knots, through 69° 02' N. 10° 42' E., thence course 210°.
(B) SEANYMPH 69° 30' N. 10° 22' E., probably on surface, speed 10 knots, through 69° 03' N. 08° 42' E., thence course 210°.
(C) SCEPTRE 69° 01' N. 10° 01' E., probably on surface, speed 10 knots, course 210°.
(D) O.15, 16° 56' N. 00° 30' W., probably on surface speed 10 knots to Lerwick.
(E) VIKING arriving Lerwick from northward.
(F.O.(S), 031739A to Admt.)

"Hardtack D". "Hardtack D" will be carried out tonight. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 031801A.) My 031801A. Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 032130A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Mining.

River Thames. Mine clearance operations are being undertaken. Vessels must give the mine clearance vessels as wide a berth as possible and ease down as necessary when passing. Mine clearance operations are in addition to the minesweeping operations. (F.O.I.C. London, 031301.)

Portsmouth. One magnetic mine red detonated by LL in app. position 072° 1 mile from F Buoy. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 031829A to Admt.)

N.L.112. My 031623A. Operation N.L.112 postponed 24 hours owing to weather. (V.A. Dover, 031924A to Admt.)

Harwich. 2 ground mines detonated by sweepers as follows. One at 031012 in 52° 07' N. 01° 48.9' E., and one at 031140 in 062° 52 Buoy 9 cables. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 031930A.)

3.12.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

PRINSES
IRENE. Intercept 0025 G.M.T. de LEONIDAS POLK. S O S.
Small vessel sunk in collision 9 miles West Mull
of Galloway. Some men in water.
(Lands End Radio No T.O.O. to Admty., Recd. 030150)
Collision 0126A/3 reported by LEONIDAS POLK.

Report situation.

(C. in C. W.A., 030220A to AQUAMARINE.)

Small vessel sunk in collision 12 miles 240° true from Mull
of Galloway, some men in water.

(LEONIDAS POLK, No T.O.O. Recd. 030305.)

2 survivors recovered. Am standing by until daylight.

(LEONIDAS POLK No T.O.O. Recd. 030431.)

Intercept 0428Z following received from vessel. Have
picked up 2 survivors and standing by till daylight. Have you
seen this vessel. Your position? Suggest you enter port unread
over.

(North Foreland Radio, 030528A to Ad. Chatham.)

L.C.T. 2663. L.C.T. 2663 ashore in Bridlington Bay. Salvage
officer sent to take charge of operations.
NORTHNESS ordered to stand by.
(F.O. Humber, 030959 to Capt. M.L.C.)

L.C.A. 553
sunk. L.C.A. 553 of 507 Flotilla was sunk in collision
with L.C.F. 24 in vicinity of Bourn Gap Buoy 2nd
December. No injury to personnel.
(GJ4, 031052A to F.O. Force J.)

GRAIGLAS. Merchant vessel GRAIGLAS ex F.N.93 ashore in Tees
Bay in 54° 40' N. 01° 10' W. Ship appears to
have sustained very little damage. Salvage
prospects favourable but the vessel cannot be
refloated until the next spring tides.
(N.O.I.C. Tees, 031340 to F.O.I.C. Tyne.)

BENEDICK. SS. BENEDICK (T) stopped in 057° 10' N. 015° 18'
W. Expects to proceed 2200Z tonight, course 109°,
speed 8 knots, returning to Clyde with defective
compressor.
(ICARUS, 031801Z to C. in C. W.A.)

INVER. At 2230 INVER not returned at Merville from full
power trials.
(Cdre. (D) W.A., 032244A to C. in C. W.A.)

Shipping and Convoys.

O.S. 60/
K.M.S.34. At dusk tonight detach KALDFONN escorted by
LINARIA direct to Horta. Admty. 011926 refers.
(C. in C. W.A., 031141A to Escorts O.S.60.)

3.12.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- O.N. 214. Sailed HAVELOCK, VIMY, BUTTERCUP, GODETIA, LAVENDER, NORTHERN WAVE, BUSTLER, Adn. Tanker SCOTTISH HEATHER for O.N.214. VOLUNTEER will be sailed to overtake tomorrow.
(Cdre. (D) W.A., 031223A to C. in C. W.A.)
- (A) 1045Z/3rd. (B) B.5. (C) 50.
(C. in C. W.A., 031641 to C. in C. C.N.A.)
Intend to sail Merville at 2100A/3 and to overtake O.N.214 at approximately 0900/4. S.O.A. 15 knots.
(VOLUNTEER, 031917A to Cdre. (D) W.A.)
My 031223A. Sailed VOLUNTEER.
(Cdre. (D) W.A., 032057A to C. in C. W.A.)
- T.U. 3. 1200Z, 051° 15' N. 016° 05' W., course 250°, to original prescribed route. Present advance 15 knots.
(C.T.F.60, 031340 to Admty.)
- T.A. 76. A.M. 011925A. Intend sailing MAURETANIA 1600Z/4th. S.O.A. 19 knots. E.T.A. position C 0230Z/5th. "Chop" 2200Z/8th. E.T.A. Halifax 2115Z/20th. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 031604Z to Admty.)
- M.K.F. 26. Request you will instruct GLASGOW to join M.K.F. 26 during daylight tomorrow to give A/A support to the convoy until further orders.
(D.O.D.(H), 031945A to C. in C. Plymouth.)
- 25 ships. Names and destinations.
(D.T.D., 032109A.)
Proceed as soon as possible to join M.K.F.26 during daylight tomorrow to give A/A support to convoy. Estimated P.C.S. M.K.F. 26 at 0920 tomorrow is 040° 00' N. 025° 00' W., 353°, 12.5 knots, steering for position TT 046° 01' N. 026° 02' W.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 032222A to GLASGOW.)
- A.T. 76A. Arrived PASTEUR.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 032200Z to Admty.)

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3.12.1943.

Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

M.K.S.32 Sailing telegram.
 (2) 0730A/3rd.
 (6) ROCHESTER, SCARBOROUGH, MIGNONETTE, GERANIUM, TAVY, BALSAM.
 (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 030733A, 030737 to Admty.).

M.K.S.32 SCARBOROUGH sailed to overtake.
 (F.O. Gibraltar, 031943A).

VELOX, Following from PELICAN (Begins) R.A.F. personnel
 M.K.F.26. transferred to VELOX at sea. SPEY remains in company. JED has probably insufficient fuel for passage but weather permitting diesel oil can be obtained from TEGELBERG. S. of A. EXHIBITOR and

MARGARET BAKKE 14 knots T.O.O. 021240A (ends).
 (2) Convoy passed position LL at approx. 1930/2nd.
 (3) Am shifting to BN broadcast at 1000/3 Dec.
 (4) My P.C. and S at 0800/3 037 degs. 55' N. 023 degs. 50' W. 283 degs. 24.
 (VELOX, 030801A to F.O. Gibraltar, (R) Admty.).

M.K.F.26, • One U-boat estimated probably in your vicinity
 U-boat. today 3rd December.
 (D.D.I.C., 030934A to Escorts of M.K.S.26, JED, Info. S.B.N.O. Azores., F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. W.A., H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Med.).

MONARCH OF MONARCH OF BERMUDA rerouted? to Gibraltar ex
 BERMUDA. M.K.F.26 with collision damage.
 (2) Ship is carrying 2800 British army personnel and 190 prisoners of war.
 (3) Anticipate ship will be ready for sea 9th.
 (4) There are 200 Gibraltarians awaiting passage to U.K. His Excellency the Governor attaches great importance to their arrival in U.K. before Christmas.
 (5) There is no accommodation for prisoners of war in Gibraltar.
 (6) Propose therefore (A) prisoners of war should be temporarily transferred to North African port using GOVERNEUR GENERAL LEPINE or SIDI BRAHIM and Gibraltarians embarked in lieu and (B) MONARCH OF BERMUDA to sail on completion of defects escorted by two of 13 destroyer flotilla to 43 North to be relieved by two U.K. based escorts.
 (F.O. Gibraltar, 030956).

My 021238A. Confirmed by divers report. Temporary repairs to be carried out afloat expected date of completion 9th.
 (S.T.O.I.C. Gib., 031031A to D. of S.T. London, (R) P.S.T.O. Med.).

SALVEDA My 021345. Suggest SALVEDA sail in company with CLUMBERHALL to join STRENUOUS convoy.
 (S.B.N.O. Azores, 031120Z to F.O. Gibraltar, (R) Admty., C. in C.W.A.).

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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

CHANTICLEER Consider that CHANTICLEER will be found uneconomical to repair. In her present state she can be most useful as a depot ship for Naval port at Horta and could solve all our difficulties as regards accommodation and centralised communication. Permanent berth can be found for her which would not interfere with the capacity of the port.
(2) Only 6 ratings would be required to augment Horta part of these being retained from CHANTICLEER.
(3) Very small alterations required to make officer accommodation forward can be carried out locally.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 031130Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A.).

A/C for Bay of Biscay offensive. It is a fact that Americans have put considerable effort into "Percussion" by day since August. This day effort has been shared by Gibraltar based aircraft who have also had few sightings and attacks.
(2) It is fully appreciated that this flying is tedious but there can be no doubt that these patrols have contributed very largely in keeping U-boats under by day with the result that a considerable number of night attacks by Leigh light Wellingtons from Gibraltar and 19 Group have been carried out in adjacent area.
(3) According to figures in our possession the effort put into "Percussion" by Commorseafron has varied from one third August to one sixth in November of his total effort.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 031216A to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty.).

Spanish Warships exercises. M. of M. have just informed me that exercises outlined in my 171915/11 for 27th Nov. were postponed through weather conditions and will be carried out when circumstances permit any day up to and including Dec. 10th.
(B.N.A. Madrid 031304A to Admty. (R) F.O. Gib. V.A. Malta, C. in C. Plymouth).

Axis shipping. Arrival 3rd 61, 5, 9, 14. Departure 2nd 18, 8. Departure 3rd 55.
(H.M. Consul Bilbao, 031305).

P.218, (SEAROVER). Proceed on the surface at discretion from 2000 tonight 3rd through (a) 036 degs. N. 013 degs. W. at 0130/5th thence (b) 035 degs. 49' 006 degs. 06' at 0830/6th thence by Q.B.A. 87 to arrive Gib. 1150,
6th. Total bombing restrictions arranged details later. Cancel my 302303A.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 031432A to P.218 (SEAROVER) (R) Admty. C. in C. U.S.F., Cdr. S.E.(U.S.) Morocco, C. in C. Med.).

GENERAL Request route, expected depart 6th.
A.E. (C.M.S.F., 031656A to Admty.).
ANDERSON.

/M.K.F.26...

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Friday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

- M.K.F.26
escort. A.M. 012030 Oct. M.K.F.26. An A/A cruiser escort has been dispensed on this occasion owing to the wide routeing of the convoy.
(D.O.D.(H) 031829A to F.O. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Plymouth. C. in C.W.A., C. in C. Med.).
Cancelled 041256A.
- O.S.60/
K.M.S.34. P.C. and S. 040 degs. (?52') N. 018 degs. 53' W. 175 degs. 8 knots. Propose retaining KALDFONN until WALKER fuelled. Latter not yet joined.
Admty. 011926A addressed C. in C.W.A. if necessary to detach escort suggest LINARIA bound (corrupt group).
Straggler RADCLIFFE not in company since 28th Nov. O.S. portion 9 ships.
Weather report.
(B.4., 032002Z to F.O. Gibraltar, (R) S.B.N.O. Azores, WALKER, C. in C.W.A., Admty., C. in C. Med.).
- C.T.G.21.14 Re-encypherment of Comtaskgroup 21.14's 031845 action to Cinclant and info to Commorseafron and Comservlant (Begins) rough and windy position 42.40 N. 20. W. proceeding 45 N. 20 W.
(C.M.S.F. 032210A to C. in C. Mediterranean, Admty.).

South Atlantic.

- T.U.27.5.2 Task Unit 27.5.2 comprising U.S.S. HALL, U.S.S. HALLIGAN and U.S.S. MACOMB ordered to join you before dark 3rd.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 030937Z to C.T.G. 27.5 (R) C.T.U. 27.5.2.).
- GEORGES
LEYGUES. Arrived 1700Z A.G.I.B. 301207 refers.
(Comar Dakar, 031837Z to F.O.C.W.Af., A.G.I.B. Com.N.O.B. Oran, C.M.S.F. Admty. C. in C. Med.).

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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- LE CURIE. Add 6 hours to all times on surface your 281153A. Have been delayed by heavy sea. (LE CURIE 030235A to Capt. S.10.) Acknowledged your 030235 bombing restrictions have been adjusted. (Capt. S.10, 030921 to LE CURIE, (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers, C. in C.Med.)
- LORRAINE. Refer to this as 021041A from Comnob Oran to F.O.C. Gibraltar for action. Arrived French LORRAINE escorted by SIMOUN and ALCYON. (Comnaveu 030331 to Admty.)
- A.K.D.8. Sailing telegram (15 ships). 2. 0300Z/3rd. 6. BANN, BANFF, JASMINE, VIRGINIA. (N.C.S.O.Aden 030341Z to Admty.)
- QUILLIAM, LOYAL. Following activities by QUILLIAM and LOYAL night 2nd/3rd between Benedetto and Ancona. 3 schooners sunk. 1 schooner left in sinking condition. 1 schooner badly damaged. Last 2 both abandoned. All close inshore. Coast roads shot up wherever traffic lights seen. Ancona bombarded at 2330 range 6 miles. 76 rounds. Big guns replied when destroyers were retiring but no damage. Benedetto bombarded at 0210 range 2 miles. 69 rounds. No opposition. Total rounds during night 318 H.E. and 97 star shells. (Capt. D.4 030628A to F.O.T.A.L.I. (R) N.L.O.8th Army Tripoli, C.F.W. S.N.O. Ale, N.O.I.C. Bari, N.L.O. 15th Army Gp. 4th D.F.)
- PROTEE. Intend sailing PROTEE at 0830/5th on the surface through 038° 00' (?003°) 10' at 1430/5th (?039°) 35' 001° 42' at 0030/6th 040° 23' 002° (?00') at 0630/6th thence diving by day to R/V at position 041 degs. 10' 002° 06' to carry out a special mission on night 6th/7th. Surface speed 12 knots. 2. All times zone minus one all positions north and east. (N.O.I.C. Algiers 031116A to C. in C.Med. Capt. S.10, (R) S.M.F. 10, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, P.67 (LE CURIE), CASABIANCA, ORPHEE.)
- V.N.11. M.S.C.I.22 V.N.11. Sails 1600/5th as follows, 20 ships (list) all for (?Naples). 8. LAMERTON, QUANTOCK, WILTON. (N.O.I.C. Augusta 031157 to F.O.W.I.)
- SERAPH. Patrol report blank. (S.10 031217 to C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant, V.A. Malta, Capt. S.1, Capt. S.8, (R) F.O.S. Admty. R.A.Alexandria.)

/BIRMINGHAM...

3.12.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

BIRMINGHAM
refit. Your 021728 para. 3. Concur.
(V.C.N.S. 031221A to C. in C.Levant, Info. C. in C.
Med. C. in C.E.F. A.S.Alexandria, R.A.Alexandria.)

Tug C.T.7
sunk in
collision
1st Nov. Ref. S.T.O.Tripoli 070230 (071230A intended) Nov.
Now established tug C.T.7 sunk in collision with
AGHIOS NICOLAOS. Request you take necessary action
Para. 2. Copy of finding court enquiry despatched
air mail.
(D.S.C.L. 031301 to D. of S.T.)

Italian
Cargo
Carrying
S/Ms. Cargo carrying submarines A.M. 100215 para. 4.
Although technically under Armistice terms we can
require Italians to place these at our disposal
and complete them for us, practical difficulties
of work and payment in Taranto Dockyard make
this course inadvisable.
2. It is recommended that Italians should complete
and man them at least up to the trial stage and if it is then
still not desired that they should be manned by Italians on
operations, transfer could be effected after leaving Taranto.
3. Italian cargo carriers have, however, been successfully used
by C. in C.Levant in Leros operations and Italian M. of M. has
already suggested on his own initiative to F.O.L.I. that these
craft building could be usefully employed in the Far East.
(C. in C.Med. 031559A to Admty. (R) F.O.L.I. B.A.D.)

10th S/M
Flot.
Operation
control.
N.O.I.C.
Maddalena. Intend to assume operational control of 10th Sub-
marine Flotilla and duties of N.O.I.C. Maddalena at
1200/5th. S.10 in Malta acknowledge.
(S.10 at Maddalena 031612A to C. in C.Med. S.10,
Malta, (R) F.O.S. S.1, S.O.Submarines Gibraltar,
C. in C.Levant, V.A.Malta, F.O.C.Gibraltar, France
Navale.)

M.T.Bs.
allocation. C. in C.Med's 171719 and A.M. 221840 both November.
The next 8 Vosper M.T.Bs. available in U.S.A. for
shipment are allocated to Mediterranean as replace-
ments for M.T.Bs. of the 7th Flotilla.
2. These M.T.Bs. will form the 19th M.T.B.Flottilla.
B.A.D. is requested to signal pendant numbers of boats selected.
3. C. in C.Med. is requested to inform B.A.D. at which port
M.T.Bs. are to be disembarked.
4. B.A.D. is requested to arrange for the requisite spares to be
shipped with the M.T.Bs. allocated to Mediterranean and consigned
to C.F.M.S.O. Malta.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 031635A to C. in C.Med. B.A.D. Info. C.C.F. Med.
HORNET, C.F.M.S.O.Malta.)

100.65
3.12.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

UNIVERSAL report. UNIVERSAL reports 19th Nov. missed westbound passenger liner of 5000 tons off Antibes. 22nd Nov. sank landing craft loaded M/T off Cannes. (S.10 031643 to C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant, V.A.Malta, Capt. S.1, Capt. S.8, F.O.S. (R) Admty. R.A.Alexandria.)

UNSPARING. Expect me 1101B/4th Dec. blank patrol. (P.55 (UNSPARING) 031754B to Capt. S.1st, (R) C. in C.Levant.)

X.I.F.5. Port Said section sailed 1511B/3rd. (N.O.I.C. Port Said 031825B to Admty.)

MENOTTI. Following is a repetition of my 031204 (N.T. of previous receipt) (begins):
A. total. B. Italian S/M MENOTTI. C. Passage. D. Haifa 1800B/5th. On the surface, course 277° to 034° 15' N. 021° 55' E. at 1130B/8th. E. 10 knots. F.O.T.A.L.I. is requested to arrange onward route and bombing restrictions to Taranto. MENOTTI carries Naval Code and decode I table, major war vessel recognition, indicating groups and D.Gs. and maintain constant W/T watch on 425 k/cs. (Ends.) (S.O.S/M Haifa 031827B to F.O.T.A.L.I.)

Situation Report No. 242. 1. BICESTER and ZETLAND patrolled between Sibenik and Split (Spalato) during the night 1st/2nd Dec. but again sighted nothing. 2. Bari raided by about 30 aircraft between 1930 and 2030/2nd. Mines and bombs dropped. 2 ammunition carriers blew up starting fires on adjacent ships and 17 merchant ships now total losses. VIENNA, ZETLAND and BICESTER suffered some damage but are seaworthy. Total casualties probably about 1,000. Fires still burning. (C. in C.Med. 031900A to Admty.)

FORT CAMOSUN torpedoed. SSSS Torpedoed position 11.21 N. 46.03 E. (FORT CAMOSUN via Colombo W/T T.O.R. 032005Z.) Proceeding to FORT CAMOSUN torpedoed in 011° 23' N. 046° 03' E. JASMINE in company. (BANN 032156Z to N.O.I.C. Aden.)

Assistance being sent. (Aden W/T 032205Z to FORT CAMOSUN.) FORT CAMOSUN torpedoed in 11° 20' N. 46° 03' E. at 2000Z/3rd. (Com. Aden 032109Z to C. in C.E.F. S.E.A.C. (R) Admty. C. in C.Levant.)

2nd M/S Flot. Take no further action with my 292012 Q.F. See my 300955B. (C. in C.Levant 032022B to Admty.)

/Turkish...

3.12.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Turkish
Territorial
Waters.

Cancel 294B (092121 Nov.) M.S.U. 56 para. 5 as originally printed is to be brought into force forthwith.
(C. in C.Med. 032120A to Med. Station and Levant Station 359B.)

Joint Army
R.A.F.Intel.
appreciation.

24 hours to 1000Z/3rd.
Destroyer 300 foot reported as left Salamis by 30 Nov. now seen to have moved into dry dock Piraeus. Five. Sailing of convoy at least 2 merchant vessels from Piraeus to probably Crete appears imminent.
(C. in C.M.E. 031400B to W.O.)

SERAPH,
UNTIRING,
DOLFIJN,
ULTOR.

Intend sailing P.219 (SERAPH), P.59 (UNTIRING), P.47 (DOLFIJN), P.53 (ULTOR) to join M.K.S.33, P.219 (SERAPH) for passage to Gibraltar for onward routing to U.K.

2. UNTIRING is to be detached in position 88 at about 0830/9th followed by remaining 2 S/Ms at 90 minutes interval, to proceed independently to patrol as routed by Capt. S.10 JOHAN MAURITS (D.S.) to report if times of detachment are delayed.
3. Request sailing authority inform all concerned.
4. JOHAN MAURITS (D.S.) pass to Cmdre.
(V.A.Malta 031548.)

ADRIAS.

Your 031511 (N.T.) Sighted by enemy aircraft this afternoon. Speed of tow uncertain. Consider route via Cyprus affords greater protection. Direct route to Alexandria nears arrival in dark.

Intend acting as in my 031112.

2. M.G.Bs. must fuel Limasol before proceeding Alex.
(Capt. D.14 031706B to C. in C.Levant, (R) C.F.B. Kastelorizo, ADRIAS, PENN, GREER, C. in C.Alex. N. & A.Authorities East of Alex.)

BRONZO.

State of BRONZO is given in V.A.Malta 301456 (N.T in W.D.) Nov.being passed to Admiralty and B.A.D. Work required including docking, if taken in hand in near future, would delay our already overloaded programme of maintenance and repairs of H.M.Ships, but could be carried out by British or French resources in this theatre if considered of sufficient importance and provided suitable time for taking in hand was left to my discretion.

2. Political repercussions should not be unduly great since we have made it quite clear to Italians from the beginning that status of BRONZO having been captured during "Husky" is different from remaining Italian S/Ms.
(C. in C.Med. 031840 to Admty.)

/Air...

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3.12.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Air Cosit-
intrep No.
Q.146.

2nd December. A.242 cipher 3rd Dec. 177620.
N.W.A.A.F.
Night 1/2 Dec. Day 2nd Dec. 46 B.17 escorted by
30 P.38 attacked the submarine pens at Marseilles.
Bombing believed good 12/15 enemy aircraft en-
countered by escort 2 claimed destroyed. Bombers
encountered 15/20 enemy aircraft immediately after bombing.
Claim 2 destroyed, 4 probably destroyed 2 damaged. No losses.
Fighter bombers on armed R/C off Yugoslav coast claim 1 Siebel
ferry destroyed 1 tug and 1 100 foot vessel set on fire.
(Air C. in C.Med. No T.O.O.)

Cositintrep
No. 145.

Part two signed Eisenhower.
1. Destroyers sighted nothing whilst patrolling
during the night 1st/2nd Dec. between Sibenik and
Split.
(C. in C.Med. 032300A.)

Air raid
on Bari 17
ships lost.
ZETLAND,
BICESTER,
VIENNA
damaged.

Following is a repetition of my 031828*.
Serious air raid took place on Bari at 2000/2 by 30
aircraft. 17 ships lost of which 4 are still
burning all at outer mole. During raid one ammu-
nition ship blew up setting four other ships on
fire. Shortly after the raid one of these latter
blew up and set fire to outer section of harbour
involving remainder of ships. VIENNA, BICESTER
and ZETLAND damaged. Former proceeding to
Brindisi, Hunts to Taranto. Casualties estimated
at about 1,000 mostly merchant seamen and soldiers. Bulk petrol
pipe pierced and serious fires continue.
2. Full investigation has been ordered by Allied C. in C. into
circumstances which resulted in this severe blow, observing that
Bari has a full scale of Radar, fighter, balloon and A/A defence.
(C. in C.Med. 032358A.)

* Former undecypherable.

3.12.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

J.C. 27. Arrived J.C.27 escorted CALCUTTA.
(N.C.S.O. Calcutta, 030338Z to Admty.)

U/B Ref. E.F. 420Y (U/B dispositions No.4) In
dispositions, considering the areas "A" to "G" the limits of
air action these areas as far as air action is concerned
limits. may be taken to be as follows -
A. North Arabian Sea. North of 020° 00' N.
East of 061° 30' E.
B. Gulf Oman. North of 019° 00' N. West of
061° 30' E.
C. Gulf Aden. North of 005° 00' N., South of 019° 00' N., West
of 061° 30' E.
D. Approaches Mombasa. North of 018° 00' S., West of 050° 00'
E., South of 005° 00' N.
E. West coast of India. South of 020° 00' N., East of 070° 00'
E., North of 010° 00' N., except coastal strip 100 miles wide
down west coast to latitude of Cape Comorin.
F. East coast of India. Coastal belt 100 miles wide from
Calcutta to latitude 010° 00' N.
G. Ceylon. On the east coast a belt 100 miles wide South of
010° 00' N. The coastal belt extending to 080° 00' E. The
area bounded by the equator and 010° 00' N. 070° 00' and 080°
00' E., except the coastal strip in Section E.

2. U-Boat dispositions No. 6.
A. Air escort W. B. Air escort W. C. One Japanese unfixed in
Gulf since reported sightings by aircraft 30th November but
believed still patrolling area air escort Y. D. Air escort W.
E. Air escort W. F. Air escort X. G. No information since
reported sighting by H.M.S. QUICKMATCH 26th November. Air
escort X.
Indian Ocean. One Japanese unfixed may now be approaching
Sabang homeward bound.

3. Following message cancelled.

| Y number | Date |
|----------|-----------------|
| 332 | 30th July. |
| 337 | 6th August. |
| 341 | 13th August. |
| 349 | 20th August. |
| 357 | 27th August. |
| 366 | 17th September. |
| 373 | 24th September. |

(C. in C. E.F., 030503 to Eastern Fleet (431 Y), (R) C. in C.
E.F. (S.E.A.C.), Admty., Cdre. i/c Aden, C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C.
W. Australia, A.C.N.B., U.S. Cdr. 7th U.S. Fleet, N.Z.N.B.,
U.S. C.T.F.71, F.O.E.Af., Capt. (S) 4 Trincomalee.)

R.A.F. It is not proposed to ask Admiralty to take
beacons. action as in para. 3 of Admty.*241606 Nov. unless
you consider beacons as now operated are being
unnecessarily exposed in relation to scale of air
transport service in operation. Consider need of
air transport service in this area comes first.

(C. in C. E.F., 030619Z to S.N.O. Persian Gulf, (R) A.H.Q.India,
222 Group, Admty.)

* re difficulties at Masirah and Ras al Hadd.

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Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

- J.C. 28. Sailing telegram. (2) 0745Z/3rd. (3) R/V
(? J.C. 8) Trincomalee 1130Z/5th, Madras 0330Z/7th,
Vizagapatam 0330Z/9th, (? Calcutta) 0030Z/11th.
(6) RAJPUTANA, AGRA (not NU).
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 030745Z to Admty.)
- P.A. 63. Sailing telegram (22 ships). (2) 0900Z/3rd.
(6) CESSNOCK, KONKAN, BALUCHISTAN.
(N.C.S.O. Hormuz, 030940Z.)
- U-Boat
attack
assessment. A.M. 091845 July 1942.
A. E.F.22, B. 2224Z/12th Nov. C. TAURUS.
D. 05° 17' N. 100° 05' E. C, B, F. U-Boat
had sloping front to conning tower suggesting it
to be Japanese G.S.T. 3/Dec.
(C. in C. E.F., 030950 to Admty.)
- Flying
Boats
Umm Rasas. A.X.496. Proposals outlined in para. 3 of 222
Group's A.622 30th Nov. (300610Z) for cessation
of work to Umm Rasas as advanced base for six
flying boats agreed subject to retention of
facilities for emergency landings.
(Air Min., 031220Z to H.Q. S.E.A.A.C., (R) 222
Group, A.H.Q. Aden, H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., A.H.Q. Iraq
and Persia.)
- X.C. 12. Sailing telegram. (2) 1230Z/3rd. (6) SCOUT.
(? C. in C. E.F., 031257Z to Admty.)
- A.P. 54. A.P.54 escorted by KHYBER and CAIRNS arrived at
0915Z.
(N.C.S.O. Hormuz, 031330Z to Admty.)
- KEDAH. KEDAH A.M. 270726 Oct. refers. In view of the
ship's future service, and observing that local
repair facilities are fully extended, propose to
defer re-tubing of number 1 and 2 boilers and
alteration to all steam drum boilers.
(2) F.O. Ceylon is requested to arrange for the manufacture of
tubes for number 1 and 2 boilers in anticipation of replacement
at a future date.
(C. in C. E.F., 031628Z to Admty., (R) F.O. Ceylon, KEDAH.)
- UNICORN. Your 180336 (Hush). UNICORN has been converted,
complemented and stored as an Aircraft Repair
Ship and this has entailed considerable alterations
to hangars and internal arrangements.
2. Complement has been adjusted to allow workshops to work
continuously in three watches, and with a minimum Ships Staff
(Air). Provided that she is employed as Repair Ship only, it
is estimated that she will supply workshops' facilities for

/approximately ...

3.12.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

UNICORN.
(Contd.)

approximately 8 squadrons and this has been allowed for in the considerations given to the repair facilities generally in Ceylon and Southern India. For some time UNICORN will provide the only fully equipped maintenance and repair facilities in the area.

3. In order to provide accommodation for squadron personnel and for increased Ship's Staff (Air) necessary for an operational role, workshops' complement would have to be reduced drastically and there would be a serious falling off in repair output.

4. In any case Fighter Squadrons could only be provided at the expense of the Assault Carriers. If provided and embarked the ship would require about 4 weeks working up in her operational role.

5. The employment of UNICORN as an operational carrier has not been catered for and is not recommended. One flight of four Swordfish has been provided for defensive A/S work on passage. (A.C.N.S.(F), 031655A to C. in C. E.F.)

FORT
CAMOSUN
torpedoed.

FORT CAMOSUN reports torpedoed by U-Boat in 011° 21' N. 046° 03' E. at 032005. (C. in C. E.F., 032113Z to C. in C. Levant, F.O. R.S.C.A., S. and A. E. Indies Station, Air H.Q. Aden, 222 Group, Admty.)

War Diary.3.12.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.

LOSSIE. Delete LOSSIE from my 291333 Nov. not S.O. B.6. Now intend ship to proceed U.K. with B.6 escorting S.C.148. (F.O.N.F. 031945Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) C. in C. W.A., Admty. N.S.H.Q. S.O.B.7. S.O.B.6, Capt.(D) Argentia, LOSSIE, CATHERINE)

L.C.I.(L)'s. ~~Expected departure 1600Z/4th.~~ H.M. L.C.I.(L)'s 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380. Plymouth England via Bermuda and Horta Azores. (P.D. Norfolk, 032026 to C.E.S.F., Admty. Cdre. 10th Fleet, C. & R. Connav, C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A. N.O.I.C. Bermuda, F.O.N.F.)

Sub.attack and sighting summary. Para. (C) Surface craft sound contact 15.50 N. 77.46 W. 022035Z. Sub. sighted 19.48 N. 75.00 W. 051705Z. (Cominch, 032045 to Admty.)

BULLEN (B.D.E.78) Departs Boston Gate 0930Q/4th en route Bermuda. (C.T.G. 02.1 032103 to N.O.B.Bermuda)

PROVIDER, SHIEL. Sailed PROVIDER escorted by SHIEL 1500Z/3 for Bermuda. (C. in C. C.N.A. 032120Z to S.B.N.O. W.At.)

ENGAGE, PERLE. U.S.S. ENGAGE departure Bermuda 1100Z/6 Dec. proceeds direct to position 0 latitude 032 degs. 00' longitude 059 degs. 00' to R/V with F.S.PERLE Cinclant 2041/15th Nov. at 1040Z/7th. (Opnav., 032150 to C. in C. Lant, F.S. PERLE F.L.O.Bermuda, S.B.N.O. W.At. Cominch, Admty. F.O.I.C.Gibraltar, Com. N.O.B.Bermuda.) See S.B.N.O. W.At. 042331Z.

INDOMITABLE. Will INDOMITABLE return to U.K. on completion of refit. (B.A.M.R. 032216Z to Admty.)

KEMPTHORNE. Arrival Bermuda. (S.B.N.O. W.At. 032250Z to Admty.)

I.F.F. (1) It is considered important that all forces operating together should use the same I.F.F. system.
(2) Re supply of equipment.
(Air Min.032325Z)

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3.12.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

- TRUMPETER. New York sailed 2nd TRUMPETER in C.U.8.
(N.S.H.Q. 030413C to Admty.)
- Vessels
ex Wabana
ore trade. Request you will reduce speed for inclusion
either of S.C.150 or S.C.151 to 7 knots and
include all the ships referred to in your
251641 Nov. in the one convoy.
(D.T.D. 031120A to N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A.
Info: C. in C. W.A., F.O.N.F., B.A.D.)
- U-Boat. Submarine sighted 19 degs. 45' N. 75 degs. 00'
W. at 1705Z.
(S.O.(1) Kingston, 031446R to Admty.)
- O.N.212. Arrivals ST. CLAIR, MIDLAND, SHERBOOKE escorting
O.N.212.
(C.O.P. Halifax, 031510Z)
- BLIGH
(B.D.E.76) BLIGH (B.D.E.76) departs Boston Gate 11300/3rd
en route Bermuda.
(C.T.G.02.1 031513 to N.O.B.Bermuda)
- U.S. S/M
Estimate. (Cominch, 031555)
- KINGSMILL,
LAWFORD. Cominch 022207 makes arrangements required by
para.5 of A.M.301246 as amended by A.M.011723
(B.A.D. 031647Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A.,
C. in C. C.N.A. S.B.N.O.W.At.)
- S.S.C.148. Sailing Telegram Part 2 (9 ships)
(N.C.S.O. Sydney, 031649Z to Admty.)
- C.T.G.21.13. Re-encipherment Comtaskgroup 21.13 (Begins)
Comtaskgroup 21.13 sends action Commoraseafron
Cominch, Cinclant and Info Comairlant.
My 022000 (N.T. in W.D.) position 40.20 N.
19.24 W. Departing area for Casablanca. E.T.A. entrance
Swept Channel 050800A. (Ends.)
(Cominch, 031757 to Admty.)
- A.T.78
(QUEEN MARY). Departed Ambrose 1800Z/3rd for Clyde. E.T.A.
Little Cumbrae 8th. S. of A. 26.5 knots.
(P.D. New York, 031854Z to Com. 10th Fleet
C. & R.)

LOSSIE /...

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3.12.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
Serial
No.682
Dec.2nd.

Early hour strike seaplane base total by four Catalinas caused several fires explosions along waterfront.

(4) 59 Mitchells with Lightnings escorting Heavily bombed strafed barge base and concentrations Borgen Bay midday. 63 tons 300 pounders dropped besides 98,000 rounds small calibre and 175 shells, 75 millimetres all from minimum to 500 feet altitude. Target area well covered but results generally unobserved.

(5) Noon R/C Liberator unsuccessfully attacked, 7 ships convoy including 2 destroyers, 5 merchant ships between 5 and 9 thousand tons each 100 miles North West New Hanover course westerly.

(7) Same night (1st) Navy Catalina observed Hospital ship in Gazelle Channel also 2 destroyer escorts 50 miles North Garove Island while Liberator attacked probable single sea truck 20 miles East Garove course easterly without observing results.

(9) Previous night (30th Nov.) American M.T.B's encountered enemy craft possibly similar type off Sag Sag. (11 miles South West Cape Gloucester).

(14) Four Aircobras strafed Tonolei harbour dawn.1st, with unobserved results while other fighters searched (?and) machine gunned targets East Coast Bougainville.

(15) 12 Merchant vessels including 2 large, 2 medium, 8 small totalling 64,000 tons estimated sighted noon 2nd by Liberator Kavieng anchorage also 1 small vessel patrolling outside.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 030630Z)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions. (D.D.I.C. 031413A, 031420A)

Submarines Attacked.

Submarine
Attack and
Sighting
Summary for
24 hours
to 0900Z/3rd.

Para.A. (1) Aircraft attacked U-Boat at 2042/2nd. in 44 degs. 00' N. 09 degs. 25' W.

Para.B. (1) Two aircraft sighted possible U-Boat 1st Dec. in p.a. 12 degs. 00' N. 44 degs. 00' E.

(2) French aircraft reported U-Boat p/s depth 1st in p.a. 12 degs. 00' N. 43 degs. 35' E.

Para.C. (1) Italian aircraft dropped bomb on oil slick on 1st p.a. 40 degs. 43' N. 18 degs. 00' E
Ref. A.M.011125A Para.B 2 position should read 43 degs. 00' N. 09 degs. 24' W.
(D.D.I.C. 031027Z to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

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4.12.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.T.

1. V.A.2 in ANSON and C.S.10 in BELFAST with 3 destroyers arrived at Scapa at 0816A, followed by C.S.1 in KENT at 1504 and BERMUDA at 1744A. Convoy R.A.54B was estimated to be about 100 miles South of Jan Mayen Island at 0800 today.

Coastal
Batteries.

2. One large and about ten small enemy vessels were engaged by our coastal batteries between 0125 and 0520 this morning while proceeding from Etaples towards Dunkirk. Our batteries fired 10 rounds of 15 inch and 34 of 9.2 inch without known result; and the enemy batteries replied with 11 rounds which caused no damage or casualty.

Enemy Mines.

3. 3 ground mines were detonated by sweepers yesterday in the Eastern Approaches to Portsmouth, and 6 more today.

North Atlantic.

Azores.

4.(a). The maintenance of facilities in the Azores involves a continual stream of store ships and tankers. At present, protection of these ships when breaking off from or rejoining convoys, is being provided by escorts detached from convoys, thereby reducing escorts in the area of U-Boat activity.

(b). The Admiralty are sending two trawlers to the Azores for duty as local escorts, and they ordered C. in C.W.A to despatch them; they will be based officially on Gibraltar, in order not to offend the susceptibilities of the Portuguese, but actually they will work from Horta.

5. The 3/M SEA ROVER, proceeding to join the Mediterranean Station from the U.K., is being sent to Casablanca temporarily instead of calling at Gibraltar, in order to avoid A/S Operations in the approaches to the Straits of Gibraltar.

4.12.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

- "Avalanche". 6. (a). M.L.126 was paid off at Ischia (Naples) today on account of extensive damage received from striking an explosive object believed to be a circling torpedo.
- (b). Last night, 4 Bostons based on Italy attacked targets at Split; hits were made on the east and south sides of the main port.
- (c). The harbour at Bari was bombed last night. No details are known.

Aegean.

7. SHAKESPEARE sank a 100 ton caique off Kos today.

East Indies.

Burma.

8. 25 U.S. Liberators laid mines today in Rangoon estuary and Moulmein Channel.

America & West Indies.

9. The Cuban SS. LIBERTAD was torpedoed and sunk about 90 miles S.E. of Cape Hatteras this morning.

Australia & New Zealand.

10. 2 U.S. M.T.Bs. operated successfully against barges off shore 25 miles S.E. of Saidor last night.
11. 2 Beaufighters destroyed 5 barges, probably laden with fuel, off the north coast of central New Britain today.

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4.12.1943.

Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

12. 2 Liberators last night attacked a convoy of 11 ships 30 miles south of New Hanover and hit one of the two transports in it with a 1000 lb. bomb.

13. (a). 20 to 25 Japanese torpedo and dive bombers attacked a transportation echelon 30 miles south of Empress Augusta Bay, Bougainville last night. Negligible damage was caused. Ships' guns shot down 3 and a fighter destroyed a fourth enemy aircraft.

(b). Two U.S. destroyers with aircraft co-operation bombarded supply dumps and camps at Mawaraka, Empress Augusta Bay, today.

War Diary.

4.12.1943.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

DACRES. A.M. 301246 Nov. 011724 Dec. and C. in C.W.A. 021656 and 031818. DACRES can be taken in hand forthwith for fitting out as H.Q.ship by Messrs. Caledon of Dundee.
(D.O.D.H. 041420A to C. in C.W.A.)

Movements.

FURIOUS. Scapa arrival FURIOUS.
(A.C.O.S. 040935A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

SEAGULL. SEAGULL sailed for Archangel. E.T.A. Dvina Bar 0630A/6th.
(S.B.N.O.North Russia 041300A to S.B.N.O.Archangel.)

ARIADNE. Admiralty 011740. Onward route from K.L. 36 N. 13 W. and Q.B.A. 87 to Gibraltar.
2. ARIADNE is to stream paravanes before crossing 07° W.
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 041551A to Admty.)

ATHENE. A.M. 141105 is cancelled.
2. ATHENE will be required to ferry aircraft to Gibraltar.
3. Aircraft will be uncased and it is hoped to load at Clyde.
4. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to report the earliest date that aircraft can be accepted.
(D.O.D.H. 041646A to C. in C.W.A.)

S/M Move- Positions of S/Ms at 0800/5 and movements for
ments. following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 041721, 042214A, 042249A, 050831A, 051641A.)

ASHANTI. Sailed ASHANTI to Rosyth. E.T.A. 0700A/5th.
(R.A.D. 041923 to C. in C.Rosyth.)

ZEEHOND. Request you will sail Dutch S/M ZEEHOND for St. Johns N.F. and onward passage to Bermuda about 10th December on the surface at C.Os. discretion. My 041914 November refers, Route.
2. "Chop" in long. 035° W. Admiralty 301808 September refers.
(F.O.S. 042331A to Capt. S.7.)

Operations.

Operation E.T.A. in KENT 1430A. 2. Request following for
F.T. BERMUDA estimated 3 hours astern KENT.
(C.S.1 040546A to A.C.C.S.)

/Scapa...

War Diary.4.12.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation F.T. (Contd.) Scapa arrival at 0816A V.A.2 in ANSON, C.S.10 in BELFAST with ASHANTI, OBDURATE and MUSKETEER. (A.C.O.S. 040912A to A.I.G. 47.)
In view of IROQUOIS 040930A, am proceeding with BRISSENDEN at best speed. E.T.A. 0200A/5th. (MIDDLETON 041130A to R.N.O.Seidisfjord.)

Scapa arrival MATCHLESS. (A.C.O.S. 041353 to H.F.)
Scapa arrival KENT. (A.C.O.S. 041504 to H.F.)

1 Arrival Dvina Roads BEAGLE, HALCYON, RHODODENDRON, DANELLA, POPPY.
2. Economia portion J.W.54B consisting of FORT POPLAR, FORT COLUMBIA and EMPIRE STALWART entered Dvina. Molotovsk portion 5 ships anchored at Nikolski buoy owing to fog. Expected to enter a.m. 5th.
(S.B.N.O.Archangel 041546A to H.F.)
E.T.A. Hvalfjord 0900A/5th.
(JAMAICA 041700A to A.C.I.C.)
Seidisfjord arrival at 1432A IROQUOIS.
(A.C.I.C. 041706A to A.I.G. 47.)

Operation S.F. Position at 042000. LOYALTY, RATTLESNAKE, ORESTES, COCKATRICE searching vicinity 064° 24' N. 007° 33' W. HOUND 062° 40' N. 006° 00' W. to south-eastward, 13. (A.C.O.S. 041134A to Admty.)

V.P. Operation. Sailed at 1100A today my 101031 November, M.T.B. 623 (S.O.), and M.T.B. 684.
2. No. 3. Amend aircraft R/V to read 065° Bressay. (A.C.O.S. 041144 to Admty.)

Coastal Batteries. One large and about 10 small from off Etaples at 0125 northbound at 15 knots faded at 0520 five miles west of Dunkirk. Engaged by our coastal batteries which fired ten rounds of 15 inch and 34 rounds of 9.2 inch. No claims made. Enemy replied with 11 rounds which fell in Dover and Folkestone areas, mostly to seaward. No casualties or damage reported. (V.A.Dover 041231A to Admty.)

Coastal Force Patrols. 1. Orders for night 4th/5th December.
A. 3 M.G.Bs. from Newhaven Patrol on 50° 33' N. between 00° 10' E. and 00° 10' W. from 1900A, leaving patrol as requisite to take up Patrol 10 miles south of route of convoy from eastern limit of command abreast C.W.229 from 0100A until daylight when they are to return to Newhaven. M.G.Bs. are not to proceed west of 00° 30' W.
B. 2 CHASSEURS anti E-Boat patrol on 50° 24' N. between 00° 35' W. and 00° 48' W. from 1800A to 0700A.

War Diary.4.12.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Coastal Force Patrols. (Contd.)

C. M.L.344 short notice at St. Helens.
 D. STEVENSTONE, BLEASDALE short notice at Yarmouth.
 E. 3 M.Ls. at short notice in Weymouth Bay.
 (C. in C.Portsmouth 041442A.)
 A. Force 111, M.T.Bs. 678 (S.O.), 679. B. 2000A/4.
 C. 180 Eddystone 8. D. Vicinity of C. F. 0645A/5.
 II. A. Force 113, M.T.Bs. 94 (S.O.), 96, 92, 91,
 239, 227. B. 1700A/4. C. BB. 030 Roches Douvres 2 to CC. 090
 Roches Douvres 8 - 20 knots. D. 220° and 040° in vicinity of CC.
 E. Destruction of enemy shipping. F. 0430A/5 (CC). G. BB. to
 Dartmouth.
 (C. in C.Plymouth 041500A.)
 BROCK, FYLDEA two miles south of D.Buoy.
 (V.A.Dover 041616 to Admty.)

S/M Patrols. Positions of S/Ms at 0800/5th and movements for following 24 hours.
 A. SEADOG 67° 13' N. 08° 12' E. SEANYMPH 66° 05' N. 04° 34' E. SCEPTRE 65° 36' N. 04° 58' E. all steering 210° probably on surface at 10 knots.
 F. UNRIVALLED 49° 28' N. 09° 22' W. diving by day through 49° 28' N. 09° 01' W. thence probably on surface towards 340° Round Island 7 miles, daily advance 110 miles.
 (F.O.S. 041721 to Admty.)

Allied Air Activity.

R/Cs. Request P.R.U. of Cherbourg, Le Havre, Dunkirk, and Flushing today to locate enemy shipping.
 (D.D.I.C. 040453A to A.D.I. Ph.)

A/S Patrol "Hancox." A new A/S patrol has been designed to cover the probable track of U-Boats in the area between 64° and 65° N. and 02° E. to 10° W. The codeword "Hancox" has been allotted to these patrols. The area covered by these patrols is a rectangle lying between the parallels 65° 10' N. and 64° 00' N. and the distance from the east side to the west side is 115 Nautical Miles. The area is covered by a 'creeping line-ahead patrol, creeping south to north at 5 miles visibility, giving 7 legs numbered 1 to 7 south to north. A/C will be ordered to fly the number of legs appropriate to their endurance and the eastern edge of the area will be notified daily on Form Green. The procedure for co-operation with surface vessels is to be the same as that laid down for operation "Moorings". T.O.O. 030022A.
 (18 Group 041845A.)

Enemy Air Activity.

A/C attacked. Attack in 50° 15' N. 07° 20' W.
 (A/C Duty B. 17 Group 040915 to 19 Group.)

4.12.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Minelaying
off French
Coast.

Your 022106. 1. Proposals are concurred in.
(D.D.O.D.M. 041128A to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

Portsmouth.

2 Ground Mines detonated by Sweepers as follows.
One at 031459A in 00° 51' 6" W. 50° 35' 24" N.
One at 031527 in 50° 37' 13" N. 00° 55' 55" W.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 041140A, 041804.)

6 magnetic mines detonated by LL. in the following approx.
positions. 1. 1 mile 339° from E.A.1 buoy.

2. 9 cables 335° from E.A.1 buoy.
3. 8=3/4 cables 33° from E.A.1 buoy.
4. 5=1/2 miles 145° from Nab Tower.
5. 4 cables 046° from E.A.2 buoy.
6. 1 mile 318° from E.A.1 buoy.

(C. in C.Portsmouth 041804 and 061019A.)

U-Boats.

Attack on
U-Boat by
E.G.4 on
26th Nov.

Following is a repetition of my 270001Z. Ends.
Two explosions concerned. One under BENTINCK,
probably decoy-mine. One after good attack by
CALDER possibly indicates damage to or destruction
of same U-Boat.

(E.G.4 041419A to C. in C.W.A.)

S.O. E.G.4's 270001Z November. The following

amplifying information is requested:-

- A. Speed at which attack was being made.
- B. Setting of depth charges.
- C. Whether the explosion causing violent shuddering occurred before or after depth charge explosions.
- D. Appearance of spray dome from the heavy explosion in relation to ship.
- E. Any shock damage in ship. Minor details should be reported.
- F. Approximate duration of shuddering also nature, i.e. whether movement on bridge was vertical or longitudinal.

(A.C.N.S.W. 041411A to BENTINCK.)

Navigational.

Rosyth.

Port of Rosyth closed owing to low visibility.
(C. in C.Rosyth 041943A to Admty.)

Technical.

German
Incendiary
Bomb.

New German one Kilogram Incendiary Bomb in use.
Called by the Germans B 1.EZB. It is similar in
shape and size to original bomb but has a hollowed
out steel nose containing detonator and explosive
charge. Detonation is caused by heat from in-
cendiary portion and may occur between half a
minute and five minutes from time of ignition of Incendiary
portion.

Fragmentation effect as for I.B. described in C.A.F.O. 1672/42
para. 4.

(D.U.B.D. 040411A.)

4.12.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

SKJOLD. My 022030. SKJOLD aground on rocky bottom in Graenavik Bay 1371 tons cargo coal on board. Four feet number 1 and 4 holds tidal, engine-room dry, and vessel under steam. No fresh damage apparent. Discharging commences 031900A. Prospects salvage good but dependent entirely upon favourable weather. (S.T.O.I.C. Iceland 041404A to D.S.T.)

ATHENE. Owing to defects to boilers ATHENE will not be ready for service until 14th December. (F.O.C.T. 041450 to Admty.)

M.L.488, M.L.179. DEFIANCE 291317A and 271457A. M.Ls. 488 and 179 sustained collision damage in the course of this operation. Probable time required for repairs as 3/4 weeks and 8/10 weeks respectively. (C. in C.Plymouth 041537A to Admty.)

Balloon Barrage Barge. Balloon Barrage barge was sunk at number 28 buoy in Dover Harbour presumably by enemy action during the night of 3/4th December. (V.A.Dover 041659A to Admty.)

Shipping & Convoys.

H.X.268. 5 stragglers not accounted for. Request following (?R/V) for 041200 and 051200 convoy time be promulgated on B.A.M.S. P.C. and S. 2000Z, 048° 56' N. 045° 14' W. 041°, 9.5 knots. (KOOTENAY 040052Z to C. in C.W.A.)

PASTEUR. PASTEUR arrived 0730/4th. (P.S.T.O.N.W.Ports 040900A to D.S.T.)

EMPRESS OF RUSSIA. Arrived at 0918/4th. (D.S.T.O.Greenock 040930A to S.S.T.O.Iceland.)

T.U.3. ROBIN TUXFORD returned from T.U.3. (N.C.S.O.Clyde 040948A to C. in C.W.A.) My 040948A. C. Heavy weather, ballast shifted on dangerous list. (N.C.S.O.Clyde 041257A to C. in C.W.A.)

A/S search by E.G.6. My 021951. Area of search tonight should be between 046° and 048° N. 021° to 023° W. 2. Report fuel situation. (C. in C.W.A. 040948Z to E.G.6.)

/Your...

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4.12.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- A/S search by E.G.6. (Contd.) Your 040948Z. Days fuel remaining at 12 knots NENE TWEED 19, CALGARY, SNOWBERRY 9. My P.C. and S. 043° 20' 022° 15' 350° 12 knots. (E.G.6 041101Z to C. in C.W.A.)
- FENCER. Request you will arrange to transfer FENCER from O.S.60/K.M.S.34 to S.L.141/M.K.S.32 when convoys pass. (C. in C.W.A. 041045A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)
- F.S. and F.N.Convoy Escorts. C. in C.Nore's 261920 and C. in C.Rosyth 271355. This matter has been further examined. It has been decided that the increased risks must be accepted and the convoys run on 7 days a week. (A.C.N.S.H. 041343A to C. in C.Nore, C. in C. Rosyth.)
- O.S.61/
K.M.S.35. Routed on outer standard route Admiralty 151713 November lettered NC. to NN. Estimated S.O.A. 7½ knots, passing through position NE. at about 0700A/10th. S.C.B.3 in TOWY. Admiralty's 031837A refers. (C. in C.W.A. 041529A to C. in C.Plymouth.)
- A. 1710A/4. B. SETTER. C. 7 including 1 special and 1 N.D. KIRUNA sailed Barry Roads 1500A/4 to overhaul convoy. Speed 9 knots. Escort TEXADA. (N.C.S.O.Milford Haven 041724A.)
Convoy K.M.S.M.35. 5 ships. Names and destinations. (N.C.S.O.Milford Haven 041732A.)
- Standard Reference Positions. A.M. 032246. Two series of Standard Reference Positions are hereby established for O.N., O.N.S., H.X., and S.C. Convoys. Particulars. (D.T.D. 041640A.)
See separate file.
- MAURETANIA. MAURETANIA sailed 1622/4th. (P.S.T.C.N.W.Ports 041710A to D.S.T.)
- X.K.12F. P.C. and S. 050° 24' N. 011° 20' W. 088° 6 knots. (CAMELIA 041802Z to C. in C.W.A.)
- M.K.F.26. My 042004A para. 4. Estimated position at 0800A/5th 044° 15' N. 023° 33' W. to VV. 047° 021°, WW. 052° 021°, OO. 055° 010° 12½ knots. 2. E.G.1 S.O. in PELICAN. A/A Escort GLASGOW. 25 ships. (C. in C.W.A. 042138A to E.G.6.)

/K.M.F.27...

4.12.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

K.M.F.27.

Convoy K.M.F.27 will be ready to leave U.K. 14th December. 2. 15 ships. Names and destinations. 5. A/S escort will consist of 6 ships of 4th E.G. (S.O. in BENTINCK) also GARLAND to Gibraltar for onward routing to Freetown and URCHIN to proceed as ordered by C. in C.Med. (D.O.D.H. 042355A to C. in C.W.A.)

4.12.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

P. 218 My P.C. and S. 039° 10' N. 013° 18' W., 176°,
 (SEA ROVER). 11 knots. Weather report.
 (P.218 (SEA ROVER), 040800A to F.O. Gib.)
 After passing through (a) 036° N. 013° W. at
 0130/5th proceed on surface at discretion to
 Casablanca through following positions: (X) 034° N. 013° W. at
 1230/5th. (Y) 034° 01.5' N. 008° 01.7' W. at 1130/6th thence
 by Q.B.A.102 and 106 to Casablanca. S. of A. 11 knots. Cancel
 my 031432A. Total bombing restrictions arrange details later.
 (F.O. Gibraltar, 041553A to (P.218) SEA ROVER, (R) F.O.(S),
 Admty., C. in C. Med., C.M.S.F., Cominch.)
 Attention is called to Q.B.A.81 and 83 and Q.B.27 and 36.
 My 041553 refers. Total bombing restrictions arranged 20 miles
 either side of your route from 50 miles ahead to 50 miles astern
 of your estimated position. Report by immediate signal if unable
 to keep within your bombing restrictions. Cancel my 031552 not
 to C.M.S.F. C.M.S.F. is requested to provide escort to meet
 you at outer end Q.B.A.102 if available.
 (F.O. Gibraltar, 041701A to SEA ROVER, (R) C.M.S.F.)
 Submarine SEA ROVER is being sent to Casablanca in order
 to keep clear of U-Boat operations in approaches to Gibraltar.
 It is requested you will keep her at Casa. until further signal
 is made. My 041553A and 041701A refer.
 (F.O. Gibraltar, 041717A to C.M.S.F., (R) F.O.S.)

GLASGOW. Departure 4th at 0510/0.
 (S.B.N.O. Horta, 040849 to S.B.N.O. Azores, (R)
 Admty., F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Plymouth,
 C. in C. W.A., E.G.1.)

SALVEDA. Your 031120 approved.
 (F.O. Gibraltar, 041113A to S.B.N.O. Azores.)
 My 021709 to S.B.N.O. Azores. Salvage ship
 SALVEDA will join in company with CLUMBERHALL.
 (F.O. Gibraltar, 041119A to STRENUOUS, TOURMALINE,
 (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

TOURMALINE, E.T.A. Horta 2200Z/5 TOURMALINE, STRENUOUS.
 STRENUOUS. Position at 1000Z/4 036° 53' 034° 46'.
 (TOURMALINE, 041245Z to S.B.N.O. Azores, F.O. Gib.,
 (R) N.O.I.C. Horta, C. in C. W.A., Admty.)
 Aircraft position for STRENUOUS, TOURMALINE and
 IERE at 1231Z today 037° 12' N. 035° 04' W., 070°, 6/8 knots.
 (S.B.N.O. Azores, 041910Z to Admty., (R) F.O. Gibraltar.)

M.K.F. 26, A.M. 031829 is cancelled.
 Escort. (D.O.D.(H), 041256A to F.O. Gibraltar, Info. C.
 in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Med.)

Axis HOCHERINER sails 2350/3rd.
 shipping. (H.M. Consul Bilbao, 041330 to M.E.W.)

/LINARIA ...

4.12.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

LINARIA. E.T.A. 0400Z/6. P.C. and S. 039° N. 020° 01' W. X 12 266°, 10. Weather report.
(LINARIA, 041400Z to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

MONARCH OF BERMUDA. Your 030956 para. 6(B). No escorts can be made available from the U.K.
(V.C.N.S., 041415A to F.O. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med.)

ROCKAWAY. Arrived.
((U.S.) C.M.S.F., 041426A.)

B.Y.M.S. Sailed B.Y.M.S.60, 236, 168, 181 and 162 at 1600/(? Dec.) to Straits of Gibraltar. E.T.A. 1100Z/9th.
(S.B.N.O. Horta, 041757 to F.O. Gibraltar, (R) S.B.N.O. Azores, Adnty.)

BARDALAND, Sailed Gib. 1805/4th Swedish relief ships
CAMELIA. BARDALAND 2595 gross tonnage and CAMELIA 1688 gross tonnage route, thence Salonika by standard route. Speed 12 knots. Markings white hulls with national colours, ship's name, Sverige and red crosses in black circle painted on sides. Fully illuminated at night. Not to be molested this voyage.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 041821A to 10th S/M.F., PROTEE, LE CURIE, ORPHEE, CASABIANCA, (R) Capt. (S) 10.)
In view of your 011935 and (? 012248) BARDALAND and CAMELIA sailed 1805/4th for Salonika although Masters have as yet had no instructions from their Government to proceed Salonika instead of Piraeus.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 041846A to Adnty., (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant.)

HUGH WALPOLE, A.M. 300125 Nov. and B.N.A. Lisbon 021140 Dec.
CAPE COMORIN. A/S Trawlers HUGH WALPOLE and CAPE COMORIN are being sailed in O.S.62/K.M.S.36 to Horta for duties in accordance with para. 1.
2. In order not to offend the susceptibilities of the Portuguese they must be based officially on Gibraltar.
3. F.O. Gibraltar is accordingly requested to make the necessary arrangements for their employment by S.B.N.O. Azores.
4. C. in C. W.A. is requested to issue necessary orders to trawlers in order to conform with the above arrangements and to warn officers and men in accordance with B.N.A. Lisbon's 021140.
5. EAGLET should continue to carry their accounts and administer these trawlers.
(D.O.D.(H), 042005A to F.O. Gibraltar, S.B.N.O. Azores, C. in C. W.A., Info. N.A. Lisbon, C. in C. Med.)

/Italian ...

4.12.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.Italian
ships in
Spanish
ports,
sabotage.

Admty. please pass to C. in C. Med. and F.O.T.A.L.I. Following the information supplied by Italians that Master of GAETA in Huelva had completed arrangements to scuttle his ship with dynamite I was in the process of requesting M. of M. to take action to prevent this when news was received that she was sabotaged externally by bomb placed near propellor. Damage believed slight. In accordance with M. of M. am instructing Italian Consul at Huelva to ask Port Commandant to take Master and crew off ship and hold her till arrival of tug from Gibraltar. I will specify if and when ship is ready for tow. Italian Asst. N.A. further reports that bomb has exploded internally in CESENA in Barcelona. Damage believed slight. I will take strongest line with M. of M. and also request H.M. Minister to make this a major issue with Ministry of Foreign Affairs in which department all matters of a Naval character continue to be impeded and whose failure to put an end to German activities results in present state of chaos. (B.N.A. Madrid, 042200A to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.T.A.L.I. Security Officer Huelva.)

South Atlantic.

Corvettes.

Your 011822 not to C. in C. W.A. D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES can be available to sail with S.I.144 22nd but this will leave me very short of corvettes. Request early information expected time of sailing CROCUS and WOODRUFF and that these may be expedited if possible. BELLWORT is also due to return U.K. to refit and modernise. (F.O.I.C.W.Af., 041230Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. Nore, C. in C. W.A.)

DUCA D'AOSTA
patrol.

Intend sailing DUCA D'AOSTA at 1000/5th Dec. to patrol in triangle with corners at (O) Equator 020° W. (D) 015° S. 015° W. (E) 005° S. 020° W. DUCA D'AOSTA will leave area a.m./12th route to and from patrol through position (X) 008° 01' N. 015° 01' W. and (Z) 001° 50' S. 018° 05' W. (F.O.C.W.Af., 041723Z to CILICIA, DUCA DEGLI ABRUZZI (IS) T.U. 41.2, (R) Com. 4th Fleet, Comar Dakar, Admty.)

VISCOUNT.

Delayed by adverse currents. My P.C. and S. at 2100Z 004° 03' N. 007° 37' W., 089°, 15 knots. E.T.A. 2200Z/5th, MALCOLM and DUNNOTTAR CASTLE in company. (VISCOUNT, 042105Z to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)

07

4.12.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.BICESTER,
ZETLAND.
(Damaged
at Bari).Arrivals 3rd.
(N.O.I.C.Taranto, 040100)ADRIAS,
Kastelorizo
bombed."Blanket" estimated P.C. S. at 0600B 035 degs. 15'
N. 031 degs. 20' E. 127 degs. 7 knots.
Kastelorizo Island flared and bombed from 1955
for 20 minutes.
(Capt.(D) 14, 040229B to C. in C. Levant (R)
Greek C. in C. Alexandria, ADRIAS, PENN Naval
and Air Authorities East of Alexandria, C.F.B.
Kastelorizo.)Convoy "Blanket" E.T.A. Limassol 1915/4th intend sailing
0400/5th to take advantage of good weather, ADRIAS proceeding
under own power as towing difficult. Constructor agrees.
E.T.A. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots. Your 041246 refers.
(Capt. (D) 14, 041707B to C. in C. Levant (R) PENN, R.A. Alex.
Capt. (S) 10, Commodore Levant Area, N.O.I.C.Port Said,
N.O.I.C.Palestinian Ports, N.O.I.C.Beirut, N.O.I.C.Famagusta
(Cyprus), 201 Naval Co-op Group, 209 Group, 219 Group, 245 Wing,
Fighter Sectors East of Alexandria, ALDENHAM, EXMOOR, Greek
C. in C. Alex.)

CASABIANCA.

Leave patrol to pass 042 degs. 30' 006 degs. 28'
at 0400/8th proceeding on the surface except
during daylight 8th Dec. through 038 degs. 44'
006 degs. 28' at 1400/9th to R/V with escort
in 036 degs. 56' 003 degs. 03' at 0900/10th.
(Capt. (S) 10, 040719, 051648 to CASABIANCA F.S.
(R) ORPHEE F.S., 10th S/M. F. F.O.C.Gib.
N.O.I.C.Algiers, C. in C. Med.)

MYOSOTIS.

E.T.A. 1230A. Request transport for 1 Officer,
4 ratings and 13 bags of mail. Main steam joint
blown which will necessitate releasing pressure
on 1 boiler and delay sailing by 16 hours.
(MYOSOTIS, 040900A to N.O.I.C.Algiers)

TORBAY.

3rd Dec. arrived.
(S.O.(I) Beirut, 040905B)APRILIIA,
ORIA.(Descriptions) reported en route from Piraeus
either to Dodecanese or Crete. Might well
be encountered tonight.
(Capt. (S) 1, 040937B to UNRULY, SHAKESPEARE)

X.I.F. 5)

(2) 0831B/4th. (3) Sailed together.
(4) (5) (6) As in C. in C. Levant's 301616 Nov./
and C. in C. Med. 011143*.
(R.A.Alexandria, 040953B)
/ N.O.I.C.Port Said requested to sail X.I.F.
3rd December.

* No trace in W.R.

Air/

4.12.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Air Reports. Daily Opsum 220.
3/4 Dec. Ju.87s and Ju.88s made concentrated attacks on Kastellosso Harbour. Full details not yet available. But majority of bombs reported to have fallen in water, slight damage to high speed launch.

2nd Dec. A French aircraft from Jibuti reported sighting submarine at Periscope depth 3rd Dec. In Gulf of Aden south of Obokh. 1 Bisley searched area but made no sightings. (H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 040958Z)
M.S.23301. A.320 December 5.

Daily Opsum 221 4th Dec. No suitable targets. 4 Beaufighters armed R/C in the Aegean encountered 3 Arado 196's in the air over Levithas/Cabinos area. 1 was shot down into the sea and sank immediately, 1 Arado 196 was attacked on the water. It was seen to break up and the crew take to the dinghy. An H.S.L. was attacked in the Levithas/Cabinos area and left smoking close inshore. 4 Beaufighters offensive sweep Eastern Aegean. An 80 ton caique in full sail was attacked off Kos, the mast being shot away and the vessel left smouldering and listing to port. 1 Arado 196 on the water was attacked and burst into flames. A 120 ton caique was hit and left down by the stern and smouldering. The crew abandoned the vessel, off Leros. 4/5 Dec. 5 Hudsons anti-shipping strike sighted no targets and bombs were dropped on jetties and warehouses on Rhodes Harbour. Results unobserved. 2 Wellingtons successfully mined Syros Harbours. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.051049Z)

N.W.Af.A.F. N.A.Strategic Air Force 2nd Dec. 133 U.S. Opsum 286. Fortresses escort 42 U.S. Lightnings Marseilles submarine pens. 15 bombers 4 fighters returned early. Remainder attacked target with 1,000 pound bombs. Complete reports have not been received.

Northwest African Tactical Air Force. 2/3 Dec. 7 Bostons intruded Split, Sibenik and Trogir 1 returned early total 12 x 500 dropped warehouses and dock area attacked at Split.

3rd Dec. 4 Missions total 48 U.S. Mitchells Sibenik. 266 x 500, 210 x 250 hits Choke Point marshalling yards and main unloading quay. Explosion caused among small craft in harbour 1 direct hit and several near misses merchant vessel at Rogosnica.

U.S. Invaders attacked a ship at Anzio.
3 Missions 32 U.S. Warhawks armed R/C coastal areas Yugoslavia. 24 x 250 66 x 20. Direct hit claimed on small merchant vessel Sibenik Harbour. 60 foot schooner bombed and strafed in Split Channel.

Part 3 Air Cosintrep No.147 Dec. 3.
N.W.Af.A.F. Day 3rd. 48 B.25's attacked the marshalling yards and the main unloading quay at Sibenik. (Air C. in C. Med. T.O.O. Nil)

4.12.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

SURF,
STONEHENGE.

Second stage Head of Wirs H.P. Air Compressor type 4H4 in SURF cracked beyond repair to enable SURF to operate corresponding item taken from STONEHENGE.

Request replace head complete with third stage liner set of third stage carrier rings and two sets third stage plunger rings be flown to Port Said to arrive by 10th Dec. STONEHENGE intended programme leave Beirut 8th Dec. arrive Port Said 9th Dec. for docking to change propellers leave Port Said for passage to Eastern Fleet or patrol yet to be decided 11th Dec. Request despatch particulars be signalled so that gear can be met.

(S.1, 041205B to F.O.S.)

F.O.S.161332 Oct. STONEHENGE is being retained in Levant for present.

(C. in C. Levant, 041228B to C. in C. E.F.)

Information
for S/M's
Levant.

(a) ADRIAS towed by BRIGAND escorted by JERVIS, PENN 3 M.G.B's E.T.A. Limassol 2200/5th from westward.

(b) EXMOOR, ALDENHAM 306 1800/4th 476, 0630/5th to relieve JERVIS, PENN who proceed Alexandria on relief.

(c) M.G.B's in (a) may be proceeding Alexandria from Paphos independently.

(2) Above informed of your movements.

(C. in C. Levant, 041318B to SURF (F.S.) ZOEIA (I.S.) (R) Capt.

(S) One S.O.S/MS Haifa.)

Landing
Equipment.

India requires up to eight additional U.S. naval pontoon assembly units i.e. four complete causeways.

(2) Request you will report whether any can now be spared from the Mediterranean. Your 021212

August refers.

(3) Reference para. 3 of A.M.041316 July request confirmation that one trained British crew took passage to India in U.S. L.S.T.

(D. of P. 041344A to C. in C. Med.)

Landing
Craft.

Minor landing craft in Mediterranean are very scattered only EMPIRE SHARMAIN is available to collect and difficulty is being experienced in shipping to U.K. numbers required by A.M.041919 Sept. /

(2) It would be of great assistance if one L.S.G. from U.K. could be made available for two trips between Mediterranean and U.K. with landing craft to be returned.

(C. in C. Med. 041418A to Admty.)

/ Re supporting ships for operation "Baytown" etc.

4.12.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Biscay Air Patrols. Your 261011 Commorseafrons 221145 (N.T. in W.R.) has been passed to all Naval Authorities concerned the apparently unprofitable patrols carried out by Moroccan Sea Frontier Aircraft in Percussion area F South have in fact contributed very largely to keeping U-Boats under by day with the result that a considerable number of night attacks by Leigh Light Wellingtons from Gibraltar and 19 Group have been carried out in adjacent areas. It is understood that importance is attached to the maintenance of effort in the Percussion areas though it is fully appreciated that this involves much tedious flying with little apparent success.
(C. in C. Med. 041449A to Comnavnaw)

Naples. All ships and craft approaching Naples are to keep a vigilant look-out for floating mines and circling torpedoes.
(C. in C. Med. 041521A to Med. Stn. 360 B.)

FORT CAMOSUN. The following particulars forwarded in accordance with E.F. 714 H/71/27.
(B) 11 degs. 23' N. 46 degs. 3' E. 2000Z/3.
(C) S/M. (D) Torpedo. Ship damaged but made Aden under own steam. No.4 lower hold flooded, tween decks on fire.
(E) 1. Port side No.4 hold.
(F) 23 abandoned ship without permission and not yet accounted for this is being investigated.
(G) SSSS message sent and received.
(Com. Aden, 041536Z)

Italian S/M TIOTTI. Route to Taranto. Your 031827 refers.
(F.O.T.A.L.I. 041615A, 051134B to S.O.S/M Haifa. Ships Western Desert Naval and Air Authorities East of Alex. Ships East of Alex. C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8. Capt.(S) 10. (R) Admty. R.A. Alex. Naval and Air Authorities Malta to Heel.)

Convoy Naples/Bizerta. Request N.O.I.C.Naples will sail convoy at 1400/5 M.S.C.I.22 refers.
9 ships (arrangements), escort, TROUBRIDGE, TEAZER.
(9) Request N.O.I.C.Tunisia Bizerta will sail destroyers to Augusta for further escort duty to Naples unless otherwise ordered by C. in C. Med.
(F.O.W.I.T.041722A)

JERVIS, PENN. JERVIS, PENN E.T.A. Alexandria 1630B/5th.
(2) JERVIS has following defects.
(Capt. (D) 14, 041727B)

War Diary.4.12.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation Report No.118. Up to 1800B/4th. ADRIAS escorted by 3 M.G.B's left (?Gumishlu) under her own power after dark 1st arriving Kastelorizo a.m. 3rd. Due Limassol tonight in tow of BRIGAND with escort of two fleets for onward passage to Alexandria. (2) Italian tug towing M.M.S.102 arrived Haifa. first; L.C.T's 114 and 139 arrived Cyprus 2nd. All craft from Aegean now accounted for.

(3) Kastelorizo reports no naval damage or casualties in fairly concentrated raid by Ju.88 at 2015/3rd.

(4) Enemy floating dock under tow northbound in Northern Aegean was sunk by TORBAY 22 Nov. as previously reported. Length of dock 300 feet. In addition TORBAY reports sinking 1015/21st 50 ton northbound caique 10 miles northwest of Psathura and at 0800/27th torpedoed and sank 3000 ton westbound escorted M.V. three miles of Karlovassi (Samos). Latter sinking observed by aircraft and already reported in my Sitrep No.116. N.L.O. M.A.C. is included in the address of this and future situation reports.

(C. in C. Levant, 041918B, 041946B)

Disposal and Berthing of Italian Battleships. It has become urgently necessary to review this question.

(2) ITALIA, V. VENETO: C. in C. Levant reports "I consider complements should be reduced as much as possible from present strength of about 900 each i.e. 50 per cent of full crew for following reasons: (A. to E).

(2) Propose to agree. Ships would be at one months notice for steam and probably four months for active service.

(4) As regards Battleships at Malta similar conditions as regards leave and morale occur.

(5) Italian Navy continues to co-operate loyally to the best of its not very efficient ability and I consider time is now suitable to authorise return of one battleship as depot ship to Taranto. My 171808.

(6) I have also under consideration a project to berth one or both of the then remaining Malta battleships at Syracuse to ease berthing situation at Malta and allow some amenities to C. & M. parties.

(7) It would be necessary for these three Cavour Class to retain a proportion of their A/A armament in working order but demilitarisation could be achieved by retaining essential parts of main and secondary armament mechanisms in allied charge or landing main and secondary armament cordite outfits.

(8) Request approval to proceed with proposals in paras. 3 and 5. It is assumed that A.M. 072349 Nov cancels A.M. 141755 Oct. and that there is no longer need to keep any battleship at short notice for steaming.

(9) Since proposal in para. 6 involves return of further heavy ships to Italian territory I should be grateful if Admiralty view of desirability of proposal. Also whether matter is considered to be one which should be referred to C. in C. A.F. for such further action with C.C.S. as he thinks fit or whether Admiralty themselves will initiate necessary action.

In view of Command organisation in this theatre former course appears preferable.

(C. in C. Med. 041941A)

War Diary.4.12.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

French Navy. Re: Supplies.
(C. in C. Med. 041948A)

Balkan Sitrep No.18. O/4361 cipher 4th Dec. 389716.
(3) Air Ops.
A. Bombing. 2 Dec. 72 U.S. Warhawks based Italy on offensive R/Cs over Yugoslavia attacked shipping Omis Harbour leaving on fire one M/V one tug one barge blew up on Siebel Ferry.
Night 2/3 Dec 7 Bostons based Italy attacked Warehouses docks at Split and M.T. at Sibenik. Results not reported.
3 Dec. 48 U.S. Mitchells 32 U.S. Warhawks based Italy attacked shipping Sibenik Split Harbours 2 hits 2 near missed M.V.'s explosion among small craft at Sibenik where hits also obtained Rly. sidings at main unloading quay near misses on schooner at Split.
(C. in C. M.E. 041950B)

HILARY. A.M.182210A/November.
Is to be sailed for U.K. at the first available opportunity.
(D.O.D.(F), 041952A to C. in C. Med.)

S/M Movements. ZOEA and KING GEORGE II sailed 4th Dec.
GALATEA arrived.
(N.O.I.C. P.P. 042029B)

X.I.F.5. Sailing Tel. Part II 5 transports.
(N.O.I.C.Port Said, 042155?)

S.O.I.S. On 6th Dec. Capt. N.V. Dickenson, D.S.O. D.S.C. will take over the duties of S.O. Inshore Squadron (short title S.O.I.S.) with his H.Q. at Bastia in the Area Combined H.Q. there. He will be responsible for the operations of British and U.S. Light surface forces operating from Corsica and Sardinia against enemy communications. He will also act as C. in C. Med's representative in Corsica for the purpose of co-operation with the French Naval Command there (Comar Corse). The B.N.L.O.Corsica will however continue his present liaison duties at Ajaccio.
(C. in C. Med. 042207A to Med. and Levant Stations.)

Situation Report No.242. (1) During night 1st/2nd Dec. TROUBRIDGE, TEAZER and PALADIN carried out bombardment in Minturno area in support of Fifth Army. Shore batteries opened fire but caused neither damage or casualties.

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4.12.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation
Report
No.242.
(Contd.)

(2) UNIVERSAL reported sinking a L/C loaded with M/T off Cannes on 22nd Nov.
(3) Further report from Bari states little damage to Port facilities and capacity should not be reduced by more than 500 tons per day after initial clearance.
Cargo lost estimated at 38000 tons.
(C. in C. Med. 042245A)

4.12.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U-boat Ref. Eastern Fleets 431Y 3rd area C.
dispositions. (1) Japanese torpedoed SS FORT CAMOSUN in 011 degs.
21' N. 046 degs. 03' E. 2005Z/3rd (corrupt group) Y.
All other areas no change.
(C. in C.E.F. 040330 to E.F. 433Y).

U-boat (A) SCOTIA. (B) 3 degs. South approx. 00 degs. E.
attack on 27th Nov. 1915 local time.
SCOTIA (C) 1 large Japanese S/M. (D) Torpedo. Ship
27th Nov. broke in two and sunk. (E) 2. (F) Survivors 31.
Unhurt 7, believed to have gone down with ship 1,
believed prisoner on board S/M.1. All boats
accounted for. (G) Yes. (H) SSSS message made.
(I) S/M. carried 6 inch gun and aircraft catapult. (J) Master
dropped books overboard. (K) Not known. (L) In weighted and
eyeletted bags. Very deep water. (M) Ship could not have been
boarded. Consider little risk of compromise.
(N) 2nd Officer Senior survivor. (O) No information.
(N.O.i/c Addu Atoll, 040347Z to Admty. C. in C.E.F., S.O.(I)
Colombo).

C.J./J.C. F.O.N.I.C.281. Pass to N.C.S.Os. M.E.I.R.I.
convoys amendment No.40 section IX add new para.(H).
cycle. Instructions for C.J./J.C. convoys (I) in order
to maintain convoy cycle and equalize passage time
of north and south bound convoys only ships of 9
knots and over to be included in J.C. convoys
until strong southerly current on east coast of India has moderated
Minimum speed of ships for inclusion in C.J. convoys is to be 8
knots.
(2) Time that convoys pass Vizagapatam, Madras and Trincomalee
must be arranged so that ships joining or leaving from these
ports can do so in daylight. This is particularly important at
Vizagapatam where relief escorts have to join.
(3) Signalled information of joiners from intermediate port may
not reach C. in C.E.F. in time for escorts to be given adequate
warning. N.C.S.Os. at ports on convoy route should therefore
signal number of joiners or "nil" joiners direct to S.O. Escort.
This information must be given in plenty of time before convoy is
due at R/V off port concerned.
(4) Independent sailings between Chittagong, Calcutta and
Vizagapatam may continue as at present.
(5) Ships of 8 knots and over sailing from Chittagong for port
west of Vizagapatam are to be routed to Calcutta or Vizagapatam
for inclusion in convoy.
(C. in C.E.F., 040358Z to All interested on Station).

P.B.65 Arrived P.B.65 escorted by TALWORTH, ORISSA less
NORTHERN SUN straggler.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 040821Z to Admty.).

A.B.22 Arrived A.B.22. Escorted by ASTER.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 040843Z to Admty.).

4.12.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

S.E.A. A.201.
 Air 2/3 December. 15 Wellingtons detailed Bassein.
 Report. 13 A/C attacked target including 1 A/C carrying
 flares only 12 x 500 delay 24 x 500 inst. 72 x 250
 inst. Most bombs target area 3 large fires. 1 A/C
 unable to reach primary returned early.

Remaining A/C report outstanding.

3 December. 4 U.S. Mitchells B.25 escort 8 U.S. Lightnings P.38
 Thayetmyo area. Large river steamer reported demolished direct
 hits. Cement plant hit.

14th U.S.A.A.F. 2 Dec. 13 U.S. Mitchells B.25 (?24) U.S.
 Kittyhawks P.40 detailed Kowloon docks shipping. No offensive
 action due cloud. 1 Kittyhawk crashed take off. 1 Kittyhawk
 crashed Taohsein.
 (S.E.A.A.C. 040947Z to Air Min.).

U-boat Release of shipping from convoy A.M. 301642
 threat. Nov. not addressed to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.).
 Release of (2) In view of S/M threat in Gulf of Aden and on
 shipping from India East Coast do not propose to release any
 convoys. ships from standard orders for convoy in either
 area at present.
 (3) Intend release all shipping of 13 knots and
 over in P.B./B.P, B.M./M.B. and D.K./K.D. portions
 of D.K.A./A.K.D. convoys.

(4) The following speed groups are instituted class A 13 knots
 and over, class B 12 knots and over, Class C 11 knots and over,
 classes to be released by signal commencing forthwith with class
 A.

(5) These ships to be routed from port to port on stragglers
 route to reduce work for N.C.S.Os. and shorten route signals.

(6) If S/M threat should develop in any area, release to be
 cancelled by standard signal. For example B.P./P.B. convoys
 negative release classes A and B.

(7) It is not proposed to release any T.2. tankers from P.A./A.P.
 convoys at present.

(8) Station orders by F.O.N.I.C. is being issued.

(C. in C.E.F. 041142Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.).,
 F.O.E.A., Com. i/c Aden, C. in C. S.A., S.N.O. Persian Gulf,
 F.O.C.R.I.N., Com.R.I.N.).

F.O.N.I.C. 282 pass to N.C.S.Os.

(1) Release of ships from convoy.

(2) When enemy submarine activity permits ships of higher speed
 will be released from convoy in order to expedite turning round
 of shipping.

(3) The following speed groups are instituted: Class A 13 knots
 and over, Class B 12 knots and over, Class C 11 knots and over.

(4) On receipt of this signal class A ships are to be released
 from P.B./B.P, B.M./M.B and D.K/K.D. portion D.K.A./A.K.D.convoy.

(5) Ships are to be routed from port to port on stragglers route
 in order to reduce work for N.C.S.Os. and shorten route signals.

(6) Ship thus released for ocean voyage may sail similarly
 to 1st position on ocean route.

(7) Release of ships in any area is ceased on receipt of signal,
 in form "P.B./B.P convoy negative release class A and B".

(8) Authority sailing convoy may cancel release order for their
 area should an immediate S/M. threat develop, informing C. in
 C.E.F.).

(C. in C.E.F. 041143Z to all interested on station).

/U.S....

4.12.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

U.S. Air Four. U.S. Air.
Report China, 26th Nov. 2 Mitchells B.25s on sea sweep of
25th Nov.- South China Sea attacked a 200 ft. freighter off
1st Dec. Tsai Tao Island, boat left burning and sinking. All
Liberators B.24s this Air Force now in India for
Tactical reasons 8 P.40s on sweep East of Changteh
straffed and burned a 70 ft. power boat, also straffed 10 boats
20 ft. long apparently loaded with rice. 27th Nov. 2 Mitchells
B.25s on sea sweep bombed warehouses and docks at Swatow. noted
large explosions. 2 Mitchells B.25s. on sea sweep South China Sea
sighted a convoy at 25 degs. 20' N. 120 degs. E. attacked and
sank a 350 ft. destroyer. Started fired on a 250 ft. freighter
and scored two near misses on a 600 ft. freighter. Results
unobserved.
28th Nov. 2 B.25s. Mitchells on sea sweep on Tongking Gulf
attacked and sunk a 170 ft. coastwise freighter.
29th Nov. 8 fighters bombed boats in Jap encampment in Southern
Hsutu Hu Lake area, sinking a large 2 deck steamer, 8 more fighters
reported over Ansiang, hit 25 to 30 boats and inflicted about
100 casualties, and 8 P.40s on food mission to Chinese troops
near Changteh straffed boats in channel between Hsumu and Tungting
Lake, inflicting many casualties.
Operations by Chinese American Wing. Destroyed were 4 barges
100 ft. carrying 30 ft. cranes at (?Cove) at 22 degs. 47' N.
115 degs. 11' E.
1st Dec. 7 P.40s. straffed 200 boats in Changteh area, sinking
50 and damaging 15. 7 P.40s damaged 15 boats in Hsutu Hu Lake
area. 8 Mitchells B.25s. escorted by 24 P.40s. and 8 Mustangs
attacked shipping and installations at Taikao docks and Kowloon
shipyards. Results not definite.
(C. in C. India, No T.O.O. recd. 041720 to W.O.).

M.A.20. Calcutta section. Sailing telegram.
(3) R/V 5 miles south of Western Channel Light
Vessel 1900 G.M.T. 4th.
(6) ROHILKHAND.
(N.C.S.O. Calcutta, 041905Z to Admty.).

War Diary.4.12.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

- T.A.75. Sailed from U.K. 2.12 for New York.
(D. of S.T. 040219A.)
- B.E.C.5. New York departed 3rd to Bermuda.
(N.S.H.Q. 040435Z to Admty.)
- PATROLLER. San Francisco departed 23.59 G.M.T. 3rd.
PATROLLER.
(N.S.H.Q. 040608Z to Admty.)
This is a re-encypherment of Comwesseafrons
041714 addressed action to Comsopac Comnzseafron Comsopacfron
Info to Cominch B.A.D. Comhawseafron.
"From Sanfran 2300 3rd. PATROLLER E.T.A. Melbourne for
onward routeing 24th local time via Cook Strait. S. of A.
15.5 through. C. 31 N. 125 W. D. 24 N. 128 W. E. 07 N. 139 W.
F. 18 S. 154 W. G. 32 S. 165 W. H. 41 S. 154 W. J. 42 S.
177 E. K. 40.30 S. 168 E. L. 40 S. 154 E. M. 39 S. 148 E.
Sopacfrons to C. in C., Eastern Fleet.
(Radio Washington, 042217Z to Admty.)
- MATAGORDA. This is Comairlant's 031833 addressed to U.S.S.
MATAGORDA, proceed to U.K. to Bristol when ready
about 6 Dec. Transport material and personnel for
logistic support Fairwing 7. Report to me as
soon as practicable after arrival date ready depart. Further
orders later.
(Comnavcu 041012 to Admty.)
- ST. ALBANS. In the absence of further instruction request
ST. ALBANS be sailed to Halifax as additional
escort of convenient B.X. convoy your 032124 refers.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 041412Z to B.A.M.R.)
- U.S. S/M. (Cominch 041515).
Estimate.
- H.D.X.269. Departure ST. CLAIR, MIDLAND, SHERBROOKE
escorting H.D.X.269.
(C.O.P. Halifax, 041659Z to Admty.) As amended
052116Z.
- H.S.71. Departure DUNVER escorting H.J.71 Nov. 27th.
(C.O.P. Halifax, 041802Z.)
- L.27. Cancel my 022112 S/M delayed engine defects
estimated 7 days to make good further signal will
be made.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 041806 to Cominch, B.A.M.R.)

4.12.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

WILLOWHERB. Departure WILLOWHERB St. Johns Nf.
(C.O.P. Halifax, 041945Z to Admty.)

H.X., S.C., Revised programme of H.X., S.C., O.N., O.N.S.,
O.N., O.N.S. convoys as given in my 021807 para. 2 is to be
Convoys brought into force.
revised 2. Request necessary authorities may be
programme. informed.
(D.T.D., 042030A to Connav, C. in C.W.A., C. in C.
C.N.A., Info. N.S.H.Q., B.A.D., H.Q.C.C., F.O.C.T.)

GLOIRE. Following is re-encypherment of N.O.B., B.D.A's
291347 states: French Cruiser (?GLOIRE)
sailing Bermuda for Dakar 1900Z/29 at 20.7 knots
through positions {p} 032.16 064.18 {q} 030.
(?40) 055.02 (r) 028.30 046.01 (s) 025.22 036.45 (t) 021.47
027.32 (u) 018.20 019.59 (v) 015.10 017.32 thence Dakar.
F.T. (Ends.)
(Bermuda C.C.O. 042032Z to Admty. Algiers C.C.O.)

U.T.5. 1. Sailing despatch. Part 1.
2. 2130Z 5th. Point Z Seaward end Swept
Channel.
6. Task Force 69. U.S.S. NEVADA. S.O.
U.S.S. NELSON, GLENNON, BUTLER, GHERARDI, HERNDON, QUICK, RHIND,
CHEMUNG, JEFFERS.
(P.D. New York 042050Z to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)

Sub. Para. C. P.B.Y. attacked surfaced sub. 26.19 N.
attack 78.26 W. 041650Z. Sub. submerged course 270.
and Para. D. B.24 Radar contact 36.28 N. 73.38 W.
sighting 040109Z. U.S.C.G. rush sound contact 30.20 N.
summary. 80.40 W. 041900Z.
(Cominch 042100 to Admty.)

LAWFORD At 1045Q/5th LAWFORD. (B.D.E.516) and KINGSMILL
(B.D.E.516) (B.D.E.280) Depart Boston Gate in company en
KINGSMILL route position:
(B.D.E.280) F.55.30 N. 08.20 W. via B. 42.20 N. 60.50 W.
C.43.10 N. 49.05 W. D. 49.30 N. 35.40 W.
E. 53.10 N. 25.01 W.
(C.T.G.02.1 042114 to Admty.)

AQUILIA, Both Frigates mentioned in my 272301 October
ANTIGUA. delayed two to three weeks.
(B.A.D. 042221Z to Admty.)

/ENGAGE...

4.12.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

ENGAGE, Following from (?N) O.B. Bermuda (begins.) -
 PEARLE. C. in C. Atlantic F.S.PEARLE information FL
 (corrupt group) Cominch S.B.N.O. W.At. Admty.
 F.O.I.C.Gibraltar, U.S.S. ENGAGE departs Bermuda
 1100Z 6th proceeding to position (O) 032° 00' N.
 059° 00' W. to R/V F.S. PEARLE, C. in C. Atlantic 152041, at
 1040Z/7th and escort to Bermuda through position (A) 032° 03' N.
 064° 18' W. (B) 032° 16' N. 064° 18' W. E.T.A. Sea Buoy 1300Z/
 9th 032150 (Ends.)
 (S.B.N.O.W.Af., 042331Z to PEARLE.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest One Squadron reported surfacing Submarine off
 Serial shore Cape Gloucester and 6 to 9 barges,
 number southeast Coast Reoke Island.
 683. 3. Small surfaced Submarine sighted 55 miles
 Dec. 3rd. southeast Gasmata morning.
 A. Afternoon R/C Liberator destroyed with bomb
 5 or 6 barges in harbour Garove Island, also saw
 3 Float Planes Unea Island.
 8. At dusk single Enemy Plane ineffectually attacked M.T.B.
 15 miles south of Long Island.
 (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 040525Z.)

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
 (D.D.I.C. 041440A, 041450A.)

Submarine Para. A. 1. British FORT CAMOSUN SSSS
 attack torpedoed at 2005/3rd in 11° 21' 46° 03' E.
 2. Belated report. American WILLIAM B. TRAVIS
 torpedoed at 2250/12th Sept. in 37° 17' N. 09°
 54' E. Ship arrived Bizerta. 3. TAURUS attacked
 U/Boat (probably Jap.) at 2224/12th Nov. in 05°17' N. 100° 05' E.
 4. Welling. B/172 sighted U/Boat which dived at 2045/3rd in 44°45'
 N. 20°27' W. 5. Wellington B/172 sighted U/B on surface which
 dived at 2220/3rd in 44°50' N. 20°20' W. Para. B. 1. Wellington
 N/407 reported Radar contact believed U/B 1810/3rd in 47°10' N.
 07° 52' W.
 (D.D.I.C. 041106A to Cominch N.S.H.Q.)

I.34

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5.12.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.T.

1. Convoy R.A. 54B at 0800 this morning was about 120 miles North of Seidisfjord; and JAMAICA arrived at Hvalfjord at 1100.

HOLDERNESS
damaged.

2. The destroyer HOLDERNESS was mined at 2159A today 16 miles E.N.E. of Cromer. Her steering gear was damaged, but she is proceeding to Harwich under her own steam.

Mediterranean.

10th S.M.F.

3. Capt. (S) 10 assumed operational control of the 10th S/M.F. and duties of N.O.I.C. Maddalena at noon today.

"Avalanche".

4. 36 B.25s bombed the harbour at Split today and made hits on the shipyards. Kittyhawks on R/C of the Yugoslav coast made two hits on a 400 ton merchant ship at Post Paludi. At Ortobello fighter bombers left a floating dock on fire.

Levant
area.

5(a) 5 Hudsons bombed the jetties and warehouses at Rhodes harbour last night. Results were not seen.

Wellingtons successfully mined Syra harbour with diversionary bombing.
(b) At 2000 today a mixed force of Stukas and Ju.88s carried out a concentrated attack on Kastelorizo harbour area.

East Indies.

Air raid
on Calcutta.

6. There was an air raid on Calcutta (the first daylight raid on the port) this morning, the target being Kidderpore Docks. Eight merchant vessels and an R.I.N. ship were hit, but none of them was seriously damaged. Some sheds were damaged or destroyed. All fires were out and the area clear by 1500 hours. No damage was caused to Calcutta jetty or King George Dock. (p. 139) (p. 278)

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5.12.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

7. 60 U.S. fighters attacked and destroyed 45 river craft in the Changteh area today.

Australia and New Zealand.

8. Last night, 6 Beauforts attacked shipping in Rabaul outer harbour. A freighter was torpedoed and burned fiercely.

9. Three U.S. destroyers bombarded enemy positions at Choiseul Bay this morning for about an hour.

10. 51 Dauntless and 28 Avengers escorted by fighters bombed Kieta harbour this morning.

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5.12.1943.
Sunday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Use of Azores. My 012238 and your 021241. In order to avoid any possible complications with Portuguese Authorities on the grounds that we are using the Azores as an operating base, it is necessary that HUGH WALPOLE and CAPE CORMORIN should officially be based at Gibraltar. F.O. Gibraltar has accordingly been requested by Admty. to make the necessary arrangements for their employment with Senior British Naval Officer, Azores.

(2) HUGH WALPOLE and CAPE CORMORIN are to be sailed for Horta as arranged. Officers and men are to be informed that they will be based at Gibraltar.

(3) EGLET should continue to carry the accounts and administer these trawlers.

(C. in C.W.A., 051827A to F.O.i/c Liverpool).

Movements.

HOUND Faeroes arrival HOUND.
(N.O.i/c Faeroes 050954A to C. in C. Rosyth).
Intend to sail HOUND at 2000A today to Aberdeen.
(N.O.i/c Faeroes, 051416A to A.C.O.S.).
My 051416 sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 052115A to A.C.O.S.).

ARIADNE Admiralty 301723 November, 011740 December and F.O. Gib. 041551. Intend sailing ARIADNE 1015A/6 to Gibraltar. S.O.A. 20 knots. E.T.A. 1000A/10th.
(N.O.i/c Liverpool, 051307A to Admty.).
My 051307A. Delayed through engine defests.
(N.O.i/c Liverpool, 051934A to Admty.).

SHEFFIELD SHEFFIELD sailed as in my 031734A. E.T.A. 1000A/7.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 051359A to C. in C.H.F.).

GAMBIA Arrived GAMBIA as in your 01108A.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 051557A to C. in C.H.F.).

CROCUS, WOODRUFF. Intend CROCUS, WOODRUFF to sail with O.S.63 to rejoin command of F.O.C. West Africa.
(C. in C.W.A. 051639A to F.O.C.W.Af.).

S/M. movements. Positions of S/Ms. at 0800A/6 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 051646A, 051908A, 052144A).

Operations.

Operation "F.T." Sailed SALADIN, SKATE.
(R.N.O. Seidisfiord, 050525A to A.C.I.C.).

/Scapa...

5.12.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation "F.T." (Contd.). Scapa arrival at 1744A/4th BERMUDA. (A.C.O.S. 050913A to H.F.). Arrived Seidisfiord your 031642. (MIDDLETON, BRISSENDEN). (R.N.O. Seidisfiord 051207A to R.A.D.). Sailed from Seidisfiord MIDDLETON, BRISSENDEN. (R.N.O. Seidisfiord 051455A to Capt.(D) 17).
Seidisfiord arrival at 1550/5th ONSLAUGHT, HURON. (A.C.I.C. 051746A to HARRIER, D.17). HAIDA and IMPULSIVE arrived Seidisfiord. (R.N.O. Seidisfiord 052015A to A.C.I.C.). A/S escort will be provided on December 6th from first to last light by one Catalina. (C. in C. Rosyth, 052337A to R.A.54B.).

Operation "S.F." One Sunderland and 2 Catalinae will be operating in your area today. (C. in C. Rosyth, 050758A to RATTELSNAKE). Position at 052000 LOYALTY, RATTLESNAKE, COCKATRICE.
ORESTES search vicinity 062 degs. 24' N. 007 degs. 33' W. (A.C.O.S. 051223). One Catalina and one Sunderland will be operating in your area from 1st light tomorrow. (C. in C. Rosyth, 052303A to RATTLESNAKE).

Coastal Force Patrols. M.T.Bs. 710, 705, 700 at Bullock Bank, E.T.D.1700 M.T.Bs. 417, 436 at No.7. buoy E.T.D. 1745 M.Ls.141, 203 two miles south of D buoy. (V.A. Dover, 051632A to Admty.).

S/M Patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800A/6 and movements for following 24 hours.
(A) SCEPTRE 62 degs. 10' N. 00 degs. 19' E., through 62 degs. 00' N. 00 degs. 11' E. to Lerwick, probably on the surface 10 knots.
(B) SEANYMPH 62 degs. 37' N. 00 degs. 04' E, through 62 degs. 00' N. 00 degs. 38' W. thence to Lerwick probably on the surface 10 knots.
(C) SEADOG 63 degs. 48' N. 03 degs. 20' E., through 62 degs. 00' N. 01 degs. 00' E. thence to Lerwick probably on the surface 10 knots. (F.O.S. 051646A to Admty.).

Mining

Scheveningen. Cancel message 1150 Q.Z.X. The mines referred to are now safe. (D.M.S. 051145A to Admty.).

Harwich Heavy explosion reported 1153 today in 52 degs. 05.8' N. 1 deg. 44.2' E. Confirmed by M.M.S. Nearest ship M.M.S. distant 8 miles. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 051447A to Admty.).

/Portsmouth...

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Sunday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. - Contd.

Portsmouth Two Magnetic mines detonated by LL in approx.
(1) 051 degs. $3\frac{1}{2}$ cables from E.A.1 Buoy, (2) 086
degs. $5\frac{1}{2}$ cables from E.A. 1 Buoy.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 051804A and 061256A).

M/S 4. Return to Harwich tomorrow. On passage weather
permitting carry out H formation OROPESA search
of area between 3 miles and 7 miles to east of
Q.X.S. 401 between latitudes of No.4. buoy and
54B buoy.
(C. in C. Nore, 051850A to M/S 4.).

HOLDERNESS Your 052106. Proceed to Harwich. Do you require
damaged. tug.
(C. in C. Nore, 052143A to HOLDERNESS).
(W.D. Note: N/T of former. Ship apparently
mined off ~~Nor~~folk coast p.m. 5th and steering gear
damaged. See D.O.R. 1570).

U-boats.

Attack on Your 041411A.
U-boat by A. 15 knots. B. E for easy. C. 2 or 3 seconds
E.G.4, on after explosion of the first charge of the
26th Nov. pattern.
D. About 30 yards astern, shallow mound, no spray.
E. Some crockery broken, two mess tables on after
messdeck uprooted. Main feed pump pipe fractured.
Steering gear breaker thrown off the board. Bottle on siren
lanyard fractured and siren started to sound continuously. Two
after depth charge loaders distorted. Ship being docked tomorrow
and if any structural damage is observed further report will be
made.
F. 30 to 40 seconds. Vertical.
G. Representation of D.T.M. has been given full particulars.
(BENTINCK 051732A to Admty.).
Report in accordance with 06223A/Nov.
A. 26th November, 2238,39.05 N. 18.39 W. B. 090/2000 yards.
C. Disappeared rapidly into groundwave. (Seen to pass over
BENTINCK at Crownsnest height at 2244).
D. Echo had characteristics of Wave echo, obviously not a U/B.
because it was too small, and not a persicope because it was too
big. Disregarded at once. E. 6 knots West. F. 200 yards.
G. Slight Sea, low swell.
(BENTINCK, 051910 to Admty.).

Casualties and Defects.

LONDONDERRY Intend to sail LONDONDERRY in tow of NORTHERN GEM
at 1200/5th. E.T.A. 0800/6th. LONDONDERRY
condensers and boilers greased up causing serious
loss of vacuum LONDONDERRY unable to manoeuvre and
has been instructed to anchor at Moville on arrival.
(WESTERN ISLES, 051101A to Cdre.D.W.A.).

/Sailed...

5.12.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

LONDONDERRY
(Contd.).

Sailed my 051101A.
(WESTERN ISLES, 051201A).

WILD GOOSE,
VESPER,
VANESSA,
SPEY.

Ships require docking for weather damage repairs.
Details.
(C. in C.W.A., 051105A to F.O.i/c Liverpool).
Your 051105. WILDGOOSE will be docked in No.2.
Birkenhead Graving Dock on 7th December.
(2) VESPER will be docked in the same dock on 10th
December.

(3) Only damage repairs can be undertaken in either ship.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 051850A to C. in C.W.A.).

BELLONA

BELLONA's working up has been seriously delayed
by the unsatisfactory condition of Radar equipment.
(2) The ship will not be fit for service for some
weeks.
(C. in C.H.F. 051134A to Admty.).

L.C.T.760

L.C.T. 760 grounded in Studland Bay during exer-
cises and assistance of salvage service is
requested to refloat the craft as early as
possible.

(C. in C.Portsmouth, 051537A to Admty.).

DEVERON

Your 031429.
DEVERON examined at Ardrossan today.
Defects as follows.
Anticipate completing 19th December.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 051755 to Admty.).

H.L.D.
421045.

Ramsgate 5th December. Admty's. 271729A.
H.L.(D) 421045 entered Ramsgate 2200 today having
sustained slight damage in collision with tug
T.I.D.23. Understand Master sustained minor
injuries.
(N.O.i/c Ramsgate, 052346 to Admty.).

Shipping and Convoys.

S.C.147

S.C.147 arrived. 9 ships. Names.
(N.C.S.O. Barry 050630A to C. in C.W.A.).

R.U.99

Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 050850A to Admty.).

/M.K.F.26...

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Sunday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- M.K.F.26 On crossing longitude 21.30 W. M.K.F.26 alter course to pass through new XX 50.01 N. 21.50 W. thence to WW. NU and AB.
(2) Stragglers route no amendment.
(D.O.D.H. 051035A to Escorts M.K.F.26).
A.M. 031945. When M.K.F.26 crosses 51 degs. N. GLASGOW is to part company with convoy and act under the orders of C. in C. Plymouth.
(A.C.N.S.H. 052230A to GLASGOW).
- J.W.55A (1) Following ships are to arrive Loch Ewe p.m. 11th.
(A) Through escort. WESTCOTT (S.O.) WRESTLER preliminary,
(B) local escort, SCIMITAR.
(2) Escorts are to come under orders of C. in C. H.F. on arrival at Loch Ewe.
(C. in C.W.A. 051041A to C. in C.H.F.).
My 051041. Regret shortage of through and local escort which is due to late arrival of corvettes from Med. and requirements for an additional D.S. convoy.
(C. in C.W.A., 051043A to C. in C.H.F.).
- D.S.47A Admiralty 251736. Escort SALADIN S.O., SKATE.
(EMPRESS OF RUSSIA). (C. in C.W.A. 051053A to N.O.i/c Greenock).
- DOMINION Intend sailing DOMINION MONARCH 1000Z/6th.
MONARCH. Route to New York.
Estimate passing 007 degs. W. 2030Z/6th. "Chop" 11th.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey, 051114Z to Admty.).
- J.W.54B. Murmansk arrived 7 ships. Names.
(2) All ships now discharging.
(Macgregor, 051152A to M.W.T.).
- MIJDRECHT MIJDRECHT escorted by BEAGLE and 3 Russian minesweepers sailed for Kola Inlet 1100A today.
E.T.A. 0600A Toros Island 7th.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 051340A to S.B.N.O. North Russia).
- S.C.148 (1) S.C.148 (2) December 2nd. (3) 1000Z/7th
(4) 7½ knots. (7) 43 ships.
11 tankers sailed.
(D.T.D. 051448A to C. in C.W.A.).
- C.U.8. (1) C.U.8. (2) December 2nd. (3) 1200Z/8th.
(4) 13 knots. (7) 20 ships including TRUMPETER.
(D.T.D. 051735A to C. in C.W.A.).

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5.12.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- H.X.268 SUSAN V. LUCKENBACH put back to Sydney C.B.
(D.T.D. 051754A to C. in C.W.A.).
- O.S.61/
K.M.S.35. Liverpool portion is delayed by fog.
(2) SETTER is to proceed ahead with Milford
Haven portion.
(3) N.C.S.O. Clyde is to arrange R/V with Clyde
and Milford Haven portion.
(4) Liverpool, Loch Ewe, Oban, Clyde and Milford
Haven sections are rendezvoused in 270 degs. Oversay
6 miles at 1100Z/7th.
(C. in C.W.A. 051804A).
- M.K.S.31. U.S. L.S.T. escorted by HONEYSUCKLE and OXLIP
arrived.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 051840A to Admty.).
- Anti
U-boat
tactics. Your 292002 November. Approved.
(D.A.U.D. 051911A to C. in C.W.A.).
- X.K.12S.
PINZON
missing. One Liberator will search for PINZON tomorrow
commencing at dawn from 44 degs. 10' N. 14 degs.
11' W.
(2) BLACKFLY to continue voyage independently
with ZWARTE ZEE and ESSEX.
(3) VIZALMA to continue independently with ROODE
ZEE when CAPE MOHICAN is again in tow reporting
situation at last light 6th.
(4) ST. ELSTAN with EMPIRE LARCH to continue
search for PINZON reporting situation at last light tomorrow.
(5) Above reports to state whether crews are on board CAPE
MOHICAN and PINZON and fuel and water situation in tugs and traw-
lers.
(6) ST. ELSTAN's 050930A refers.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 052235A to Escorts X.K.12S).
Should be grateful for all the help which can be given in
locating M/X PINZON and in giving cover to scattered units of
X.K. 12S. My 052235A and ST. ELSTAN's 050930A and 051730Z refer.
ST. ELSTAN's 050930A and 051730Z are being passed to H.Q.C.C.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 052347A to H Q.C.C.).

War Diary.5.12.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- P. 231
(STOIC). Following is a repetition of my 032130 begins addressed F.O.I.C. Gib., (R) F.O.(S), C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 8, S.O.S. Gib., C. in C. Plymouth, P.231.
H.M.S. P.231 leaves vicinity Bishop Rock at 0100/9th to position 049° 10' N. 009° W. diving by day thence position 049° 10' N. 013° 22' W. thence by route "Brown" to crossing 043° N. at 1200/13th December thence as ordered by F.O.I.C. Gibraltar daily advance 140 miles.
2. Communications.
3. Painted dark blue with no numbers.
(Capt. (S) 5, 050923A to Capt. (S) 8.)
- SEA ROVER. P.C.481 proceeds via Casablanca swept channel in time to R/V with SEA ROVER (P.218) in 034° 01' N. 008° 01' W. at 061130A. Escort to Casablanca. F.O.C. Gibraltar pass to P.218 (SEA ROVER). (C.M.S.F.F., 050951A to F.O.C. Gib.)
- K.M.S.34. REDPOLE will R/V in position (Z) 035° 01' 012° 33' at 1700A/Dec. 6th.
(2) - (5) Arrangements for ships bound for Lisbon and for Spanish ports.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 051246A.)
- Y.M.S. N.U. Alter course at 0800A/6th Dec. for new position (D) 035° 40' N. 015° 00' W. thence Q.B.A. 87 omitting B. and C.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 051810A to Y.M.S.60, 236, 168, 181, 162.)
- French refugees from Malaga. 5th evacuation of about 1600 French refugees from Malaga for destination Casablanca will take place on 13th using SIDI BRASLIT and LEPINE. French can supply 2 escort ships DELAGE and one other. F.O.I.C. Gib. is requested to supply one British escort in accordance with my 261841 Nov.
(C. in C. Med., 051839A to F.O.I.C. Gib., B.N.A. Madrid, (R) Admty., Commorseafon, Navale France.
- Air patrol. A.C.36 December 5 my A.?C.33 Dec. 5 Cancs night programme Dec. 5th/6th weather.
(A.C.H.Q. Gibraltar, 051925A.)

5.12.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.DUCA
D'AOSTA.

Sailed F.O.C.W.Af.'s 041723Z* refers. (For patrol).
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 051003Z.)
* DUCA D'AOSTA.

LUCIA -
sabotage.

Damage has occurred to LUCIA in circumstances which almost certainly indicate sabotage (reported to D. of N.I. in N.L.O. Port Elizabeth 040955). This necessitates removing crank shaft bearing re-aligning and remetalling. Approximate estimate 14 days.
(2) Board of Enquiry being held.
(3) Cdre. Superintendent Simonstown is requested to report firms date of completion when known.
(C. in C. S.A., 051202C.)

DUQUESNE.

Arrival 051140 F.S. DUQUESNE from Ocean patrol.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 051530Z.)

ROCHESTER
CASTLE.

If ROCHESTER CASTLE has not been heard to cancel the alarm report made at 301345 November request she be instructed to report her P.C. and S.
(D.T.D., 052109A to F.O.C.W.Af.)

War Diary.5.12.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- APRILLIA. My 040937. Ship has not yet left Piraeus.
(Capt. S.1 050125B to P.49 (UNRULY), (P.221)
SHAKESPEARE.)
- H.D.M.L. Details of re-allocation and re-constitution.
Flotillas. 4. Authorities are requested to sail H.D.M.Ls.
to join flotilla as requisite and as soon as
possible.
(C. in C.Med. 050501A.)
- Caique Position of enemy (one caique 60 tons) 36.30 N.
bombed. 27.32 E. at 1055B. One caique 70 tons 37.10 N.
36.55 E. at 1105B.
Have attacked enemy (one caique 100 tons) with
bombs level and estimate 3 hits, position 37.18 N.
26.40 E. at 1115Z.
(A/C OALA 051106B.)
- PAPANICOLIS, 4th Dec. arrivals.
UNSPARING. (S.O.I. Beirut 050927B.)
- B.Y.M.S. The following movements of B.Y.M.S. are to take
place at early opportunity. Authorities addressed
are requested to sail accordingly. Includes
B.Y.M.S. 11, 12, 14, 20, 23, 24 and 28 for onward
routeing to Eastern Fleet.
3. My 181050 Nov. and C. in C.Levant's 221208 Nov.
refer.
(C. in C.Med. 051109.)
- SEEROSE. My 011003C.* Sailed for Bourgas 4th with 320 tons
Chrome.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul 051125C.)
* re SEEROSE arrived Istanbul.
- Yugoslav ^{para 16}
Naval Your 011035* being passed to Admiralty and V.A.
Personnel. Malta. Officers and personnel of Royal Yugoslav
Navy who are being a disturbing influence in your
area should be sent to Malta at first opportunity.
2. While I fully sympathise with 15th Army Group's
desire to intern these persons I do not consider
we are yet in a position to take such drastic action with the
official service representatives of an Allied Government.
3. Request you will pass my 011738+ to General Alexander to make
clear my views.
(C. in C.Med. 021142 to F.O.T.A.L.I.)
* Yugoslav situation. + re Internment of officers and P.
officers of Royal Yugoslav Navy.
- U.G.S.24. Augusta section sailed 0600A/7th as follows:-
5 ships, route to R/V. Escort, EGGESFORD, WILTON.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta 051415A.)

/Air...

5.12.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Air reports. N.A.A.F. Opsum 287. N.A.Strategic A.F. Following is complete report of attack on? Marseilles reported in my Opsum 286 123 U.S.Forts with 32 U.S.Lightnings as escort took off to attack the target. 5 bombers, 2 fighters returned early. Remainder dropped 138 tons of 1,000 pound bombs from 27,500 ft. Workshops, construction facilities and installations including tracks, rolling stock and several buildings damaged and partially destroyed. Submarine drainage facilities possibly damaged. Escort encountered 12/15 enemy aircraft destroying 2 bombers encountered 15/20 enemy aircraft immediately after bomb run. Claim 9 destroyed, 4 probables and 2 damaged.

Air raid on Bari 2nd Dec. Enemy activity approximately 25 enemy aircraft attacked Bari Harbour at 1925 hours. 3 Dec.* 2 or possible 3 aircraft preceded main force dropping Radar jamming devices. 1 U.S.Beau-fighter was on patrol at the time and 3 Beau-fighters were scrambled. No claims by the fighters or anti-aircraft. 17 ships reported lost. Main damage caused by early hit on ammunition ship amongst closely packed shipping. (H.Q.N.A.A.F. 051520A.)

*W.D.Note: The attack on Bari took place on 2nd Dec. not 3rd Dec.

Air reports. Part three air cositintrep No. 148 Dec. 3rd. N.W.A.A.F. Night 3/4 Dec. no operations by Strategic Air Force. (?25) enemy aircraft approaching through "window" bombed the harbour at Bari -

Beaufighters were scrambled but there are no claims. Bari raid 3 Dec.* Additional report states 3 enemy aircraft approached from north climbed and circled up to 10,000 ft. dropping W "window" throughout raid. Attacking force believed not exceeding 20 aircraft also dropped "window" main damage caused by early hit on ammo. ship among closely packed shipping. No claims fighters or A/A three R/Cs. made during day on third 2 Me. 109s destroyed.

(Air C. in C.M.E. No T.O.O/5.)

*W.D.Note: Should be 2nd Dec.

SS. NITSA sunk. 29 survivors from SS. NITSA landed Berbera report ship torpedoed 2145/2 in 11° 42' N. 45° 32' E. (Com. Aden 051547Z.)

Air raid on Bari 2nd Dec. Your 051122 (N.T. in W.R.) A. Ships sunk.

1. Sunk.

| Name | G.R. | Amount of Cargo on Board. |
|-----------------|------|---------------------------|
| JOHN MOTLEY | 7176 | 5131 |
| JOHN HARVEY | 7176 | 5607 |
| FORT ATHABASKAN | 7132 | Empty |
| IWOW | 1408 | Empty |
| JOSEPH WHEELER | 7176 | 8037 |
| JOHN BASCOMBE | 7176 | 8344 |
| TESTBANK | 5840 | Empty |
| LARSKRUSE | 1807 | 1400 |
| LOM | 1268 | 906 |

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Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

| Air raid on Bari 2nd Dec. (Contd.) | Name | G.R. | Amount of Cargo on Board. |
|---|------------------------|------|------------------------------|
| | PUCK | 1200 | 770 |
| | BOLLSTA | 1832 | 1427 |
| | SAMUEL TILDEN | 7176 | 1711 |
| | BARLETTA (It.) | 1014 | Empty |
| | FROSINONE (It.) | 5000 | 1000 |
| 2. Sunk but salvable. | NOROLM | 6411 | 7458 being salvaged. |
| | CASSALA | 1400 | Empty |
| | DEVON COAST | 782 | 50 |
| 3. Damaged still at Bari. | VEST (Nor.) | 5087 | 5000 cargo intact. |
| B. Damaged but sailed | ODYSSEUS | 1038 | Medium damage |
| | LYMAN ABBOT | 7176 | Heavy |
| | DAGO | 11 | 1993 slight |
| | CHRISTO | 2590 | Medium |
| | DIRECTOR | 5107 | Very slight |
| | FORT LA JOIE | 7128 | Medium |
| | BRITTANY COAST | 1389 | Medium |
| | JOHN SCHOFIELD | 7176 | Very slight |
| C. In addition | French Naval Auxiliary | | |
| | LA DROME | 1055 | Medium damage |
| | (LA DROSE*) | | (Still at Bari.) |
| | (F.O.T.A.L.I. 051623.) | | |
| | * as received. | | |

Aegean Latest Intelligence. 1. A/S net has been laid across Skiathos Channel. 2. Believe reliable source reports mines laid North of line joining Mount Athos Cape Tigani Lemnos Cape Plako (Lemnos) Alexandropoulos. Do not cross this line unless in pursuit of important target. (Capt. S.1 051709B to SURF, UNRULY.)

M.K.S.33. Sailing telegram part II, 13 ships. (R.A.Alexandria 051728.)

SURF. P.239 (SURF) left Beirut 1730B/5th for Scarpanto Straits at 11 knots ordered to patrol west of Kandaliusa or south of Levitha. She may later be ordered to North Aegean. (Capt. S.1 051740B to UNRULY.)

ADRIAS (damaged 22nd Oct.) Cyprus 5th Dec. arrived and left ADRIAS Greek BRIGAND. Departure JERVIS, PENN, FIRMAMENT. (N.O.I.C. Famagusta 051741B.)

/SHAKESPEARE...

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5.12.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- SHAKESPEARE. Request you order onward route for P.221 (SHAKESPEARE) from 035° 37' 023° 02' where she arrives at dusk on 9th. (Capt. S.1, 051857 to Capt. S.10.)
- "Foyer" Re fitting to 28 escort vessels at Levant 8 at Gear. Gibraltar and 15 at Malta. (C. in C.Med. 051912.)
- UNTIRING, Addressees are to detach from M.K.S.33 and proceed ULTOR. as follows. P.59 (UNTIRING) in (037°) 16' 008° 22' at 0830/9 through 040° 11' 007° (?38') at 0630/10 thence 043° 08' 007° 20' at 0230/12 to patrol in SS. P.53 (ULTOR) in 037° 16' 007° 53' at (?11)30/9 thence (042°). 28' 005° 55' at 0100/(?12) to patrol in SU. S/Ms are to (?proceed) submerging by day north of 040° N. (Capt. S.10 051926A, 082215 to P.59 (UNTIRING) P.53 (ULTOR), (R) 10th S/M F. V.A.Malta, F.O.C.Gibraltar, C. in C.Med. N.O.I.C. Algiers, CASABIANCA, ORPHEE.)
- Balkan Adv. H.Q.Force 133 reports. 26 Nov. 300 armd. and Sitrep No.19. equipped partisans from south Italy were landed Yugoslavia, 27 Nov. further 170, 30 Nov. 300, 2 Dec 300.
4. A. Bombing. 2 Dec. 19 Spitfires attacked barges Corfu. 3 Dec. 32 Warhawks armed R/C Yugoslavia causing direct hit small M/V Sibenik Harbour bombed and strafed 60 foot schooner Split Channel. (C. in C.M.E. 051930B.)
- S.O. S/Ms. Propose to delegate the following responsibilities Malta. to S.O. Submarines Malta.
A. Sailing S/Ms from Malta to join westbound convoys.
B. Detaching S/Ms from eastbound convoys and routeing them to Beirut vide C. in C.Levant 251841.
C. Onward routeing of S/Ms from Levant Station to Malta.
D. S/M movement summary in area. L.C.
E. Arranging bombing restrictions in B. and C. above. (S.10 051945 to C. in C.Med.)
- X.I.F.5. NEURALIA, PRINCESS KATHLEEN both ships carrying troops Augusta for Tranto. (N.O.I.C. Alex. 052010.)
- Situation 1. QUILLIAM and LOYAL bombarded bridges along Report No. coast road between Pescara and Giulianova during 244. the afternoon of 2nd Dec. Air patrols report at least 1 direct hit on bridge at Pescara. No traffic on road. During the night of 2nd/3rd same destroyers shelled Ancona and San Benedicto and sank 3 schooners off the coast in the same area.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation
Report No.
244. (Contd.)

2 further schooners damaged and abandoned by their crews. 1 10 feet in sinking condition. Shore batteries opened fire during both bombardments but caused no damage.

2. QUEENBOROUGH (corrupt group) RAIDER sank a small boat motor vessel position 042° (730') N. 015° 55' E. at 0220/3rd.
(C. in C.Med. 052043A.)

CASABIANCA.

Your 051227*addressed P (corrupt group). Cannot understand second sentence as I remain in ST. until 0400/8th. 2. Your 040719(??A) request position at 1400A.
(CASABIANCA 052104A to Capt. S.10, (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers, P.31 (UPROAR).)
(*N.T. in W.R.)

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Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.U-Boat
Dispositions.

(C. in C. E.F. 050320Z)

Madagascar
defences,
control.Ref. G.O.C. in C. E.A.'s message 46988 of 1st
Dec. T.O.O. 011030 and C.O.S.'s O 3957 T.O.O.
021355 of 2nd December re general defences of
Madagascar, I agree generally with G.O.C. in C.
E.A. but would stress the following points -(A) consider Diego Suarez should remain complete-
ly controlled by British as at present.(B) Mayotte is used as a flying boat base for A/S operations
in the same way as Tulear and I therefore advocate its
retention under British control.(C. in C. E.F. 050424Z to Admty. (R) G.O.C. in C. E.A.,
F.O.E.A., A.H.Q.E.A., A.O.C. in C. M.E.)

P.B.66.

Sailing telegram (15 ships).
(2) 0400Z/5th.
(6) CAIRNS, KHYBER.
(N.C.S.O. Hormuz, 050440Z)
as amended 101446Z.C.M.47.
EMERALD.Convoy C.M.47 E.T.A. 010 degs. N. 0600Z/9th.
E.T.A. Aden 0600Z/11th. EMERALD E.T.A. Kilin-
dini 0730Z/7th.
Weather report.
(EMERALD 051603Z to C. in C. E.F.)LE TRIOM-
PHANT
typhoon
damage.Free French ship LE TRIOMPHANT and CEDAR MILLS
caught in typhoon 2nd December received S.O.S.
from LE TRIOMPHANT when found was in critical
condition 045 degs. list no steam no electric
power, evacuated half ship's complement 5th Dec.
condition improved took her in tow position
11.10 017 degs. 20' S. 083 degs. 25' E. steer
0315 speed 4 knots, all her water fuel provisions lost she
requires 2 tons fresh water, 500 tons of oil fuel, 300 torches
10 days provisions for 120 men if relieved of tow will have
150 men to place aboard relief provide towing hawser. I
require water and provisions when I reach port, send escort
and advise course and port to proceed, hope to increase speed
if her condition improves, wounded and sick men aboard here.
(CEDAR MILLS, 051717Z to C. in C. E.F.)

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- O.N. 212. 34 ships arrived New York 4th. First arrival 0625Z, last arrival 2159Z. All ships accounted for.
(P.D. New York, 050012Z.)
- U.C./C.U.,
U.T./T.U.
convoys. Propose for consideration that U.C./C.U., U.T./T.U. convoys be added to para. 1 of A.M. 041640.
(D.T.D., 051240A to Comnav, B.A.D., N.S.H.Q.)
- U.G.S. 26. Sailing telegram part 1 (ships). (2) 0855Z/5th.
(5) Standard ocean route ND through NL.
(6) Task Force 65 LIVERMORE, EBERLE, ERICSSON, D.L. HOWARD, FARQUHAR, HILL, J.R.Y. BLAKELY, FESSENDEN, RISKE, PETERSON, JOYCE, P.C.1226, 1227, 1235, S.C. 1337, RESTORER, WINOOSKI. Task Group 21.15 CORE, GOLDSBOROUGH, BELKNAP, GREENE, KEARNEY.
(P.D. Norfolk, 051250, 051329 to Com. 10th Fleet (C. and R.))
- TRACKER. Departed Cape Henry 5th at 1219Z.
(P.D. Norfolk, 051256.)
- CAMROSE. CAMROSE delayed with defects will be sailed upon completion to overtake.
(F.O.N.F., 051334Z to Group B.6.)
Ref. my 051334. CAMROSE sailed 2330.
(F.O.N.F., 052331Z to Group B.6.)
- N.S.H.Q.
S/M Estimate. (N.S.H.Q., 051341Z.)
- Destroyers,
transfer
to R.C.N. Admty. 291226A Nov. transfer much appreciated.
(2) Ref.? para. B, VIXEN will be most acceptable.
(N.S.H.Q., 051450Z to Admty., (R) S.C.N.O. London)
- CLINTON. Your 051258Z (N.T. in W.R.) cannot exceed 13 knots. Main bearing will require to be examined on arrival. Repairs required to W/T motor alternator and R.D.F. equipment. E.T.A. 1300Z/6th.
(CLINTON, 051552Z to F.O.N.F., (R) C. in C. C.N.A. S.O. E.G. B.7.)
- U.S. S/M
Estimate. (Cominch, 051552Z.)
- Monsters,
W/T silence. There appears to be considerable reluctance on the part of Monsters to break W/T silence in order to home aircraft in accordance with A.F.O. 2/43 procedure B.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Monsters,
W/T silence.
(Contd.)

2. This procedure was ordered by F.O.N.F. in the case of A.T.71, T.A.72 (twice), A.T.74 and A.T.75 during November but in no case were aircraft answered resulting in two not mets. Similar cases have occurred when this procedure has been ordered by C. in C. C.N.A.

3. If Monsters are not prepared to break silence it would appear better not to order this procedure and rely on M.A.B. beacon only (thus cutting down aircraft transmissions) but it is observed that, in cases of long distance cover, this will increase the number of not mets.

4. I would be grateful for your remarks.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 051621Z to C. in C. W.A., (R) Admty., F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q., A.O.C. in C. E.A.C., Cominch.)

T.G. 21.13.

Arrived. This is Commorseafon's 051006 addressed to C. in C. Lant.
(Comnavu, 051657 to Admty.)

PATROLLER.

Referring to your 120734 and 140236 Nov. PATROLLER now expected to arrived Melbourne 24th Dec. in accordance with Comwesseafron 041714 to Comsouwespacfron.
(B.A.D., 051711Z to A.C.N.B., (R) Admty. D. of S.T., N.Z.N.B.)

H.M.S.
HALSTED
(B.D.E.91).

Departs Boston Boom 1000Q/6th Dec. for Casco Bay via direct route.
(C.T. 02.1, 051716 to (U.S.) S.O.P.A. Casco Bay.)

U.T. 5.

This completes my Dis. 042050.
Parts 1 and 2 (20 ships).
(7) Formation from New York 20 ships.
(P.D. New York, 051838Z, 051926 to Com. 10th Fleet (C. and R.))

Reference positions, independent ships.

Further to para. 2 A.M. 032210 request you will instruct authorities concerned to issue reference positions to independent ships plying between U.K. and - (a) North American or Caribbean ports as in A.M. 041640. (b) South American or African ports as in A.M. 041946 neither to all addressees.
2. Double letters should be used.

3. The series of positions will be changed monthly.
4. Consider that above positions plus those en route will suffice for purposes of diversion throughout voyage.
(D.T.D., 051900A to Connav, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.W.Af., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, A.C.I.C. (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica, B.A.D.)

/Rocket ...

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

Rocket and glider bombs information. Retired Italian Naval Officer, Eugenio Minissini, who is reported to have been intimately connected with invention of rocket and glider bomb and who may have valuable information regarding torpedoes and possible tactics in use of the above weapons, has left North Africa for U.S.A., where it is understood he is to work with the U.O.B. Naval Authorities. 2. Minissini showed reluctance to co-operate with us before leaving Italy, although he was prepared to co-operate with U.S. Request any information obtained from Minissini may be forwarded to Admiralty.
(A.C.N.S.(W), 051914A to B.A.D.)

Sub. attack, and sighting summary. Para. B. SS. TOUCHET reported torpedoed area 25.50 N. 86.30 W., 0730Z/3.
Para. D. Y.P.602 sighted submerged submarine area 25.45 N. 80 W., 0045Z/5.
(Cominch, 052010 to Admty.)

Movements, Bermuda. Following arrived Bermuda B.Y.M.S. 252 and 41, BLIGH B.E.C.5, WETASKIWIN escorting M.L.090, 100, 101, 103, 110, 111.
(S.B.N.O.W.At., 052015Z.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest Serial No. 684, Dec. 4th. Midday R/C Liberator saw 1 possibly 2 enemy submarines close proximity 30 miles South of Cape Saint George. First was stationary, second heading South. Third apparently wrecked vessel seen approx. 5 miles further South.
2. Patrol Liberator sighted lone 1000 tons freighter 135 miles North-east Wewak proceeding south early afternoon. Ship thoroughly strafed bow and stern guns silenced, truck on deck destroyed, bridge shot up.
4. 16 Bostons effectively bombed strafed coastal trails Wagdokai neighbourhood morning.
5. 2 Beaufighters conducting afternoon sweep North coast Central New Britain strafed 7 probably fuel laden barges Cape Hoskins area destroying 5.
6. 10 Mitchells hit barge bases near Sio.
7. Previous night 2 U.S. M.T.Bs. sank 1 barge probably another and damaged 2 more off shore 25 miles south-east Saidor. Also scored probable torpedo hit on unidentified hundred foot craft amongst barges but investigation prevented by intense shore fire.
8. Same time 2 search Liberators attacked 11 ship convoy described as 2 transports each approx. 9000 tons, 5 unidentified vessels, 4 probable escorts 30 miles south New Hanover course undetermined. Transports ?Skip - bombed and near miss with 1000 pounder scored on one. One Liberator missing.

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Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
Serial
No. 684
Dec. 4th.
(Contd.)

10. Submarine observed off Numa Numa east coast Bougainville morning 4th for 2nd time in 2 days.
15. 20 to 25 Japanese torpedo and dive bombers attacked transportation echelon 30 miles south of Empress Augusta Bay en route Torokina night 3rd. Minimum 6 torpedoes passed escorting destroyers and some near misses suffered but negligible damage. Ships guns shot down 3 planes plus 3 probably whilst Do?ht (sic) Fighter destroyed 4th before being lost himself.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 050700Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 051341A.)

Submarines Attacked.

Submarine
attack and
sighting
summary for
24 hours to
0900Z/5th.

(A) INCONSTANT sighted U-Boat on surface at 0640Z/
1st in 73° 48' N. 18° 24' E. and attacked same.
(D.D.I.C., 051106A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

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Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.T.

1. Convoy R.A.54B was about 30 miles S.S.E. of Seidisfiord at 0800 today, and Admty., consider that it may encounter U/Boats during the next 24 hours. Capt. D.17 in ONSLOW with 6 destroyers left Seidisfiord this morning and experts to arrive at Scapa at 0915 tomorrow.

Convoy
K.X.12.

2. Convoy K.X.12, consisting of 7 M/Vs, 6 M.M.S., 2 B.Y.M.S. and BREEZE escorted by M/S 19, sailed from Milford Haven at 1033 today for Gibraltar.

Mediterranean.

S.O.I.S.
Corsica.

3. H.Q. of S.O. Inshore Squadron were set up at Bastia today. S.O.I.S. will be responsible for the operations of British and U.S. light surface forces operating from Corsica and Sardinia, against enemy communications.

M.N.B.D.Os.

It has been decided to disband M.N.B.D.O.I. and M.N.B.D.O. II, in order to meet urgent man-power commitments. These units will be withdrawn from their present theatres of operations, as soon as possible.

ADRIAS.

5. The Greek destroyer ADRIAS, damaged in the Aegean and beached, entered Alexandria this afternoon having proceeded under her own power from Cyprus, a distance of some 600 miles, *b.* Steaming ahead with bows blown off to No.37 bulkhead; the ship was not manoeuvrable astern and made the passage at speed of 8 to 10 knots without the assistance of tugs.

Aegean.

6a. 3 mid-east Liberators mined Salonika harbour last night, with diversionary bombing by 9 Halifaxes.
b. U.S. Mitchells today set on fire a 150 ft. oiler entering a harbour in Santorin.

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War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

S/M
operations.

7a The only ship that TRESPASSER was able to attack on her recent patrol which extended to Penang, was a merchantman at which she fired 6 torpedoes on 28th Nov. when about 60 miles north-west of Nancowry. The result was not seen.
b. Early on 14th in (about 04.16 N. 100.23 E. 70 miles south of Penang), TAURUS was put down and depth charged by a submarine chaser. After repairing considerable temporary defects caused thereby TAURUS surfaced and attacked the enemy vessel with gunfire, making 8 hits, but was unable to close sufficiently to attack. A Mitsubishi T.97/1 dropped a bomb at TAURUS in about 09.09 N. 89.38 E. but no damage was caused.

Andamans.

8. 12 U.S. Liberators attacked Chatham Island, Andamans today.

Landing
craft
bases.

9. C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) intends to develop in India 4 main bases for minor and major landing craft, at Bombay, Cochin, Mandapam and Vizagapatam respectively, and in addition to hold a Commander of L.S.Ts at Karachi, Madras and Calcutta. The scheme is based on the eventual arrival in India of 1000 minor and 400 major landing craft.

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Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

- SEAGULL. SEAGULL arrived North Dvina Bar.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 061003A.)
- ANSON. V.A.2 is requested to proceed in ANSON to Rosyth passing Hoxa Gate at 2200A/7th. 2. Route via War Channels. Speed to be adjusted to pass Beamer Rock at 1130A/8th. Ship will then proceed into Basin. 3. R.A.D. is requested to sail two destroyers to screen ANSON to Eyebroughy Buoy then return Scapa. 4. Fighter protection is not being requested. (C. in C.H.F. 061123A to V.A.2.)
- JAMAICA. Proceed Scapa to arrive a.m.12th.
(C. in C.H.F. 061306A to JAMAICA.)
- VALIANT. Intend sailing for Scapa exercise area passing Clyde light vessel at 1200/10th, E.T.A. position J.J.0700/11th.
(VALIANT 061350A to C. in C.H.F.)
- ARIADNE. My 051307A. Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 061645A to Admty.)
- S/M. Positions of S/Ms. at 0800A/7 and movements for
movements. following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 061714A, 062216A, 071723A.)
- QUEEN QUEEN ELIZABETH leaves Needles 0945/11th. Consider
ELIZABETH. that two destroyers should escort. Suggest that the two available Portsmouth destroyers should escort her instead of the P.W. convoy, the latter proceeding by daylight with trawler escort only, and then return with W.P. convoy. Plymouth destroyers to take over escort when Portsmouth destroyers leave her.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 061859A to C. in C. Plymouth.)
- KING GEORGE V. KING GEORGE V proceeding to Gibraltar passing
Hoxa Gate at 0700A/7th Dec. Route. S.O.A. 16½ knots. 2. R.A.(D) (H.F. is requested to sail OBDURATE (S.O.) KEMPENFELT and TERMAGANT to screen until relieved by Gibraltar escort when they are to proceed to Horta, complete with fuel, and await further orders. 3. F.O.C. Gib. is requested to (a) sail Gibraltar escort to R/V in 043° 01' N. 019° 01' W. at 0900A/10th. (b) to order R/V for H.F. destroyer for homeward passage.
(C. in C.H.F. 061958A to KING GEORGE V.)

Operations.

- Operation Seidisfjord departure HAIDA, IMPULSIVE, ONSLAUGHT
F.T. and HURON.
(Convoy (A.C.I.C. 060424A to HARRIER.)
R.A.54B.)

/Seidisfjord...

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Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation Seidisfiord departure at 0300 Capt. (D) 17 in
F.T. ONSLOW with IROQUOIS and ORWELL in company.
(Convoy (A.C.I.C. 060602A to HARRIER.)
R.A.54B.) You may encounter U-Boats during the period 24 hours
(Contd.) beginning 0800A/6th.
(D.D.I.C. 060857A to Escorts U.R.100, R.A.54B.)
E.T.A. in ONSLOW with 6 destroyers 0915/7th.
(Capt. D.17 061345A to A.C.O.S.)

This is Alusna Archangel's 031111 addressed to Alusna London and repeat to Washington and Moscow. Reliable information 2 enemy submarines definitely sunk and two more believed sunk at entrance White Sea by Soviet escort while escorting J.W.54A. One of them sunk by Destroyer GROZNIE and the other definitely sunk by new Minesweeper No.112.

(Commaveu 061522 to Admty.)

Request you enquire from Russians if they intend to institute S/M. cover E. of 25° 30' E. for the passage of J.W.55A and B.
(D.O.D.H. 061742A to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Operation Position at 06200. HOUND 35 buoy to Aberdeen 12.
S.F. ORESTES, LOYALTY, RATTLESNAKE, COCKATRICE search
vicinity 064° 24' N. 007° 33' W.
(A.C.O.S. 061117 to Ships.)

If not in contact and no sightings by 1700 today proceed with ORESTES, COCKATRICE, LOYALTY to Skaalefiord.

(C. in C. Rosyth 061132A to RATTLESNAKE.)

On next occasion of taking up S.F. patrol the following lines of bearing patrol scheme is to be used. 2. The line of bearing of searching vessels is to be the N.E., S.W. axis of the ordered rectangle. Distance apart of ships by day 3 miles by night 5 miles. 3. The line of advance of searching vessels is to be along the N.W., S.E. axis of the ordered rectangle. Course being reversed on reaching its limits. 4. S.O.A. to be 10 knots. Ships are to zigzag and the selected zigzag is to be altered at least daily. 5. Ships are to keep asdic watch for echoes irrespective of visibility. 6. The patrol rectangles selected are areas through which U-Boats will most probably pass during patrol periods. Scheme of searching across the expected tracks of U-Boats offers a good chance of contact, but even if not obtained U-Boats will be hampered by sound of asdic transmission and thus assist air search.
(C. in C. Rosyth 062000A to N.O.I.C. Faroes for M/S.18.)

Bay Patrol. On parting company with M.K.F.26 estimated 1800A today pass through (GA) 048° 04' N. 021° 32' W.
(GB) 045° 59' N. 022° 29' W. (GC) 040° 28' N. 027° 52' W. and thence Horta to fuel and await further orders for operation "Stonewall". (2) If opportunity occurs request you will transfer brief report of oiling and berth facilities for a cruiser at Horta to one of convoy escort before parting company. (3) Estimate M/V PARDO in 048° 04' N. 022° 05' W. at 2000A/6th, course 359° 13½ knots.
(C. in C. Plymouth 061237A to GLASGOW.)

/V.P...

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Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

V.P. Operations. My 041144. M.T.B.623 and M.T.B.684 returned at 0900A today. 2. Observing party successfully dropped. 3. Subsequently torpedo attack unsuccessful owing to contact with patrol craft. (A.C.O.S. 061241 to Admty.)
My 051535 Nov. Sailed at 1115A today M.T.B.653 (S.O.) and M.T.B. 625. 2. No. 3. Amend A/C. rendezvous to read 090° Bressay. (A.C.O.S. 061246A to Admty.)

S/M. Patrols. Positions of S/Ms. at 0800A/7th and Movements for following 24 hours. (A) SCEPTRE, SEANYMPH, SEADOG arriving Lerwick from North. (F.O.S. 061714A to Admty.)
M.T.B.705 and 700 two miles S. of D. Buoy, E.T.D. 1930. M.T.Bs. 204 and 236 at Number 7 Buoy, E.T.D.1800. M.Ls.213, 101, 102, 107 and M.T.Bs. 208, 209 and 221 carrying out operation N.L.112. Route outwards via Downs and U Buoy. Return via U and Number 1 Buoys. E.T.D. 0045/7, E.T.R. 1000/7. M.T.Bs. 418, 437 and 436 in support of N.L.112. E.T.A. Ramsgate 0200/7.

(V.A. Dover 061725A.)
Patrols tonight. (U) 2 Motor Gunboats Z.16. (W) 2 M.T.Bs. Z.22. (X) 2 M.T.Bs. Z.55. (Y) 2 M.T.Bs. Z.57. (M) 2 rescue M.Ls. Z.20. (C) 3 M.T.Bs. Z.12. (J) 2 Motor Gunboats Z.14. (D) 2 Motor Gunboats Z.16. (K) 2 M.T.Bs. Z.52. (E) 2 M.Ls. Z.9. (G) 2 M.T.Bs. Z.4. (L) 2 M.T.Bs. Z.6. (H) 2 M.T.Bs. Z.34. (C. in C. Nore 061755A.)

Allied Air Activity.

Air R/C and protection of North Russian Convoys. Following has been agreed with Russian Naval Staff during the passage of convoys to and from North Russia in regard to air reconnaissance and protection. Request future operation orders may circulate this information. 2. R/C. (a) of area bounded by lines joining Kildin Is., Bear Is., position 075° N. 035° E. Kildin Is. Carried out by D.B.3s. or Boston flying singly or in pairs. This is a routine reconnaissance flown daily. (b) By same types and number as in para.2. (a) and also P.R.3s. to Eastward of meridian 035° E. with the object of locating convoys. 3. Reconnaissance A/C. have instruction not to break W/T silence. 4. Fighter escort may be expected. (a) within 60 miles Kildin Island consisting of Hurricanes, Airocobras, Jaks, and Kittyhawks. (b) In approaches to and through the White Sea and in vicinity Archangel P.E.3s. Hurricanes, and Jaks. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 060934A to C. in C.H.F.)

Mining.

HOLDERNESS. (Mined 5th December.) Your 060905A. HOLDERNESS reports suspected ground mine. Force of explosion just aft of propellers. Flash seen variously reported as yellow or blue. Time 2159A position 065°. Cromer 16 miles. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 061310A to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth.)

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Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

MONTE ROSA. My 251729 November confirmed. MONTE ROSA arrived Trondjheim in ballast November 21st. Graded B.2. (N.A. Stockholm 061229 to Admty.)

Blockade Breakers. My 021232. QQQQ message from 7° S. 22° W. on 1st December not yet cancelled but only enemy ships likely to be in area are homeward-bound blockade runners from Far East. 2. TANNENFELS from Brest seen at La Pallice on 6th December. PIETRO ORSEOLO still in Lorient area on 6th December. ELSA ESSBERGER at Bordeaux reported (Graded B.2.) to be loaded and FUSIYAMA was also photographed at loading berth in Bordeaux on 4th December. If sailings for Far East are intended present disposition of potential blockade-runners suggests possibility of simultaneous sailings from different ports possibly to coincide with arrivals from Far East.
(D.D.I.C. 061733A to A.I.G.13, F.O.S., C. in C.Plymouth.)

Casualties & Defects.

CHERRO GORDO. Aground.
(CHERRO GORDO 060530Z to C. in C. Plymouth.)

ARDROSSAN. Departure tug DIVERSION to assist in tow of ARDROSSAN. F.O.I.C. Harwich's 031329A refers. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 060821A to C. in C. Nore.) ARDROSSAN in tow, proceeding by Dudgeon cut Northbound, passing 12A buoy 2000A.
(C. in C. Nore 061829A to WINCHESTER, WELLS.)

AVANTURINE. H.M.T. AVANTURINE was torpedoed and lost with all hands S.E. of Beachy Head on night of December 1st. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 061510 to F.O.I.C. Aberdeen.)

L.C.T.760. Your 051537. Salvage assistance will be rendered.
(D. of S. 061753A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

SEADOG. Major defect. Port propeller sings badly, starboard less. My position 062° 47' N. 002° 00' E. E.T.A. 1200/7th.
(SEADOG-061842A to Capt. S.9.)

Shipping & Convoys.

X.K.125. Para.1 of my 052235A. For Liberator substitute PINZON, CAPE MOHICAN. Sunderland. Search will commence from 43° 00' N. 14° 30' W. relief Sunderlands will take over search at about 1100A and 1300A.
(C. in C. Plymouth 060140A to Escorts X.K.125.) Sunderland reports objective probably PINSON reached at 1105 in 042° 55' N. 014° 30' W. TRUE position may be 20 miles further search.
(C. in C. Plymouth 061337A to ST.ELSTAN.)

/EMPIRE LARCH...

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X.K.125. EMPIRE LARCH in company standing by PINZON position
PINZON, 042° 36' 014° 28' at 1830A drifting 190° one knot.
CAPE Crew on board and stores for 10 days. EMPIRE LARCH
MOHICAN. has damaged steering-gear. Fear cannot tow PINZON,
(Contd.) will attempt at daylight. Request tug and relief
escort be sent. Endurance EMPIRE LARCH 10 days,
ST.ELSTAN 7 days. Request instructions. Weather
66.61 78.05.

(ST. ELSTAN 061900A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Following received by A/C. to Admiralty from Admiral Blakelly.
Tug under way with CAPE MOHICAN position 44° 18' N. 15° 17' W. at
0800, course 020° speed 2½ knots. "Endurance" VIZALMA and Tug
20 days T.O.O. 0930.

(C. in C. Plymouth 062137A to Admty.)

DOMINION My 051114Z. Delayed 24 hours. Amend position to
MONARCH. read (Q) 040° N.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey 061015Z to Admty.)

K.X.12. K.X.12 sailed less LUCIEN GOUGY. Admiralty 231250A,
301501A November and 021320A December refer.
(2) Escorts M/S.F.19, S.O. in RINALDO, ROSARIO,
BRAVE, SPANKER, WATERWITCH.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 061033 to F.O.C.Gibraltar.)
1. 1045A/6th. 2. RINALDO (S.O) ROSARIO, WATERWITCH, BRAVE,
SPANKER. 3. 16 including two specials, six M.M.S., two B.Y.M.S.,
and one H.M. Trawler.* Names and destinations.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 061058A to Admty.)*E.T.A. Gib. 17th Dec.

U.S.N. ships It appears that certain ships of the U.S.N. employed
on Convoy on Convoy Escort Duty and proceeding through the
Escort Area under my operational control are not fully
Duty. briefed with the necessary instructions.
2. The following regarding C.U.7. escorted by
Task Group 21. 9 is forwarded. 6. The reason for
non-receipt of messages as stated in 4 (A) above was
that Escorts were not at the time of transmission of these messages
keeping watch on B.N. 7. The question of whether U.S. Escorts
should carry Convoy Escort Code was raised in my W.A.3904/0751/5 of
27th November. 8. In view of the serious consequences which may
arise if Escort of Convoys fail to receive operational instructions
it is requested this may be taken up with the U.S. Authorities as
a matter of urgency.
(C. in C.W.A. 061221A to Admty.)

P.S.6. P.S.6 cancelled.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 061221A.)

O.N.213. Cancel ASSIDUOUS returned U.K. My 280807Z November
refers.
(C. in C.W.A. 061358Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

M.K.F.26. SPEY and WOODPECKER searching. Request air patrol.
Search My P.C.S. 049° 57' N. 021° 43' W. 008° 13.
for U/B. (PELICAN 061415A to C. in C.W.A.)
By D/F at 1314Z U/B estimated within 75 miles of
48° 40' N. 23° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 061512A to M.K.F.26, GLASGOW, E.G.6.)
PELICAN's 061415. Regret weather prevents sending aircraft.
2. WOODPECKER and SPEY continue search till midnight. U/B. is
probably homeward bound to Bay of Biscay.
(C. in C.W.A. 061712A to PELICAN.)
My 061512. Bearings of further transmission at 1526Z
indicate that U/B. is within 45 miles of 50° 00' N. 21° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 061732A to M.K.F.26, GLASGOW, E.G.6.)

W/T Cancel 833 N. of 27th/11. The accumulating
silence. evidence of the use to which the enemy hoped to
States put H/F D/F in U-Boats renders necessary a stricter
"W", "X", interpretation of instructions regarding the main-
and "Y". tenance of silence and with this object in view,
the following states are defined. (2) State "W"
normal procedure for use of W/T and R/T. A.C.I.
Article 310 Homing of aircraft will be carried out.
State "X" as for state "W" but no Homing of aircraft will be
carried out. State "Y" strict silence to be maintained on 2410
k/cs. except when it is clearly essential that the S.O. of escort
should be informed at once. (3) Unless otherwise ordered convoys
will be in state (W) and if (X), (Y) Sector (Z) are ordered will
immediately revert to (W) on sighting the enemy either U/Bs.
aircraft, or surface craft. (4) There are no restrictions on the
use of VH/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.
(C. in C.W.A. 061842A, W.A.G.M. 843 N.)

Homing C. in C. C.N.A. 051621. Reluctance felt by Monsters
by Monster to carry out homing is not considered justified. It
Ships. is considered that Monsters should be informed that
the signal detailing homing should be regarded as
an order and that such an order will never be
given by a shore authority if risk is involved.
(2) The alternative of homing on M.A.B. Beacon is not at present
universally applicable since all aircraft concerned are not yet
fitted with interrogators.
(C. in C. W.A. 061857Z to Admty.)

J.W.55A. J.W.55A. Should consist of the following 18 ships
in the order given:- 1. SAN AMBROSIO (T).
2. LUCERNA (T). 3. LAPLAND (Crane ship).
4. COLLIS P. HUNTINGTON. 5. EMPIRE ARCHER.
6. EMPIRE PICKWICK. 7. FORT ASTORIA. 8. FORT MISSANABIE.
9. FORT NAKASLEY. 10. FORT ROMAINE. 11. FORT THOMPSON.
12. GEORGE WEEMS. 13. JAMES A. FARRELL. 14. JAMES WOODROW.
15. OCEAN GIPSY. 16. PHILIP LIVINGSTON. 17. STAGE DOOR
CANTEN. 18. THOMAS SCOTT. 2. In the event of any of the
above ships being unable to sail the following order of preference
is to be observed:- 19. LEWIS EMERY JUNIOR. 20. DANIEL WILLIARD

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

J.W.55A.
(Contd.)

21. CARDINAL GIBBONS. 22. THISTLEDALE.
23. BROCKHOLST, LIVINGSTON. 24. FORT HALL.
25. OCEAN MESSENGER.
(D.T.D. 062000A to N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe.)

U.C.7.

Postponed at least another 12 hours from time given
in A.M. 051716A.
(D.T.D. 062036A to C. in C.W.A.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

LINARIA. Arrived 6th.
(S.B.N.O. Horta, 061127)

SIBYL. Arrived H.M.S. P.218 F.O.C.Gib's 041553A/refers.
(C.M.S.F.061431A)
/ Most Secret Distribution.

Escorts TOURMALINE and STRENUOUS now escorting 3 ships.
Azores. Engines and equipment reported (?unreliable).
Consider it insufficient escort.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 061545Z to Admty. (R) F.O.C.Gib)

DOUGLAS. Intend to sail at 1800A/7th for Dakar.
(2) Route.
(F.O.I.C.Gib. 061739A to F.O.C.W.A.F., (R) C.M.
S.F. Comar Dakar, Admty.)

SAON. Your 291736/
Portuguese will not object as long as SAON only
flies red ensign. They already know SAON
has been employed on escort duties flying white
ensign. Your 242251, refers.
(N.A. Lisbon, 061916 to B.S.N.O. Azores, (R) Admty. F.O.I.C.
Gib. C. in C. Med.)
/ Re confirm Portuguese raise no objection to SAON visiting
Ponta Delgada flying Red Ensign.

K.G.V. My 061958 (Most Secret.)
Escorts. Expect destroyers will arrive p.m./11 and will
require about 360 tons each.
(C. in C. H.F. 062003A to S.B.N.O. Azores (R) R.A.
(D) H.F. OBDURATE, TERMAGANT, KEMPENFELT.)

Italian My 042201/ to Admty, was sent before arrival of
Ships in your 021504 to C. in C. Med. today. Latest
Spanish information about GAETA is that explosion
Ports. appears to be internal but confined to shaft and
Sabotage. propeller in which case she will not be able to
steam until repairs can be effected. LAVORO
should be ready to sail under own steam about 2000
if fuel is supplied and which I can arrange with
U.S.N.A. but she lies close to German LIPARI which is training
school for sabotage who have already made one attempt on her.
Question of visas for crew still awaiting particulars asked
for in my 231846 addressed C. in C. Med.
(B.N.A. Madrid, 062031A to F.O.C.Gib. (R) C. in C. Med.
F.O.T.A.L.I.Admty.)
/ 2200 intended re GAETA.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

BLACKWOOD. Departed Horta 2045Z in accordance with F.O.C. Gib's 301901A.
(BLACKWOOD, 062250Z to C. in C. W.A.)
/ Re: BLACKWOOD to proceed to Belfast.

South Atlantic.

STELLA POLARIS. Rescue abandoned. E.T.A. 1300Z (remainder corrupt).
(STELLA POLARIS, 060403Z to Cdre. Durban)

A.K.D.7. Fast section arrived consisting of PULASKI and EMPIRE TROOPER escorted by CHITRAL.
(N.C.S.O. Durban, 061408Z to Admty.)

L.G.W.4. Arrivals 6th. WESTON, COWSLIP, F.S. COMDT. DESTIENNE D'ORVES with L.G.W.4.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 061621Z)

French Cruisers, Patrol area. From 0001Z/8 French Patrol area PQRS established as follows area enclosed by lines joining: P. 012 degs. N. 024 degs. W.
Q. 005 degs. N. 024 degs. W.
R. 005 degs. N. 029 degs. W.
S. 012 degs. N. 029 degs. W. area PQRS to be divided into sub areas PQRS North and PQRS South by latitude 006 degs. 30' N.
(2) French cruisers will patrol whenever available one in each sub. area. When only one is available the northern half of area will be filled.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 061831Z to Cdr. 4th U.S. Fleet (R) CICCILIA, DUCA D'AOSTA, T.G.41, Cdr. 3rd U.S. Fleet, Comar Dakar, Admty.)

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- Floating Docks. From Comnavu to C.N.O. for Budocks; Dirlant-docks; C. in C. Med., Admty. Are 2 docks my 030801 (N.T. in W.D.) to be retained in Med. or shipped out. If latter request shipping instructions. Exclusive these 2 docks there will remain in Med. only 4 250-ton docks. Arrangements already made ship 7 250-ton docks to U.K. Do not understand your 041532 (N.T. in W.D.) (Comnavu, 060239 to Admty.)
- A.B. 23 Sailing telegram. 31 ships. 2. 0300Z/6th.
A.P. 55. 6. A.B.23 TULIP, BANN. A.P.55 PUNJAB, MADRAS, CARNATIC.
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 060321Z.)
- 7th R.M. R.M. Sub. Area including detachments of the Field
Battalion. Security Section 7th Battalion R.M. are in the Taranto area. Remainder are in Sicily employed in operational role. Your 011033* refers.
(C. in C. Med., 060935 to Admty.)
* Request how 7th R.M. Battalion is being employed.
- K.M.S. 34. Onward route from (AC) 109 at 1300A/December 10th.
(8) (A) CUCKMERE (S.O.), ANEMONE, COLTSFOOT, CONVULVULUS, HYDERABAD (B) to Bizerta, COLOMBO (C) to Bone, Tug MINDFUL.
(C. in C. Med., 060937 to COLOMBO.)
- PROTEE. Cancel para. 3 (A) of F.S.P.106.
(2) Leave 041° 10', 002° 06' at 0200/7th through 039° 35', 001° 42' at 1900/7th, 038° 00', 003° 10' at 0500/8th to R/V Algiers escort in 036° 57' 003° 02' at 0930.
(3) Conditions of para. 3(B) still remain.
(4) All times zone minus 1 all positions north and east.
(N.O.I.C. Algiers, 061001A, 061526 to PROTEE, (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.C. Gib.)
- Air Reports. M.S. 23349. A.322, 6th 0952Z. Daily Opsum. 222. 5th. 4 U.S. Mitchells (B.25) anti-shipping R/C Eastern Aegean. 2 caiques each 50 tons attacked off Tilos and Kalimno respectively both being hit by machine gunfire. 1 caique 150 tons attacked off West Coast of Leros, 2 near misses with bombs 2 hits with 75 mm. shells crew abandoned caique which was left with heavy list and smoking. 2 Baltimores (A.30) bombed 2 caiques 60 tons and 150 tons respectively in Symi Harbour, no hits.
Following delayed details 4th. 2 Baltimores (A.30) anti-shipping R/C Eastern Aegean bombed 1 caique 15 tons in Symi Harbour. Bombs fell wide and hit dockside building causing large column of smoke. My Opsum. 221. Amend supply dropping sorties 4th/5th to read 6 Halifaxes successful over Albania and Greece. Report of enemy raid on Kastelorizo at 2000/4th was incorrect and should be deleted from Opsum. 221.
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., 061050Z.)

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Air Reports. A.262, 6th. 178525, signed Eisenhower.
(Contd.) Part 3 Air Cositintrep No.149. N.W.A.A.F.
Day 5th. 36 B.25s bombed the harbour at Split.
Kittyhawks on R/C of the Yugoslavian coast scored
two hits on a 4000 tons M/V at Post Paludi and
coastal Spitfires bombed a suspected R.D.F. station at Fier,
Albania. Other fighter bombers attacked bridges and communi-
cations and left a floating dock burning at Ortobello.
(Air C. in C. Med., No T.O.O./6.)

Enemy ship. 200 tons merchant ship reported in 036° 50' 024°
45', course 210°, speed 5 knots at 0731B/6th.
(Capt. (S) 1st S.F., 061057B to P.221 (SHAKESPEARE))

ATHEL 134 Your 041608* (N.T. in W.D.)
VIKING. Ready Wed. morning 8th Dec. Capt. Attray confirms
crew definitely declines clean tanks at sea.
Signal definite instructions.
(I.Y.S.C.O. Taranto, 061152 to M.W.T.R. Med.)
* Re C.O. Rattray taken command of ATHEL VIKING
to confirm crews unwillingness to clean tanks at
sea.

Refrigeration ships. An unsatisfactory situation is developing
regarding fast refrigerated ships being sailed
to Gib. for supplying the Med. area. Ships such
as WAIPAWA especially when diesel driven are
unsuitable for slow convoy and cannot be sailed
unescorted through the Med. nor with existing or projected escort
strength can special convoys be arranged to meet the programmes
planned by the W.O. and the M. of W.T.
(2) Requested that this matter be taken up with the Ministries
concerned with a view to the employment of ships suitable for
slow convoys whenever practicable.
(3) As bulk of convoys have to be discharged in Egypt it is for
consideration whether route River Plate via Cape of Good Hope
would not be preferable as this would usually permit of whole
voyage being made unescorted.
(C. in C. Med., 061202 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Levant, F.O.C.
Gibraltar.)

Yugoslav Navy. See my 061225* to F.O.T.A.L.I. It is not the
intention that substance of this message should
be communicated to Yugoslav Naval Authorities
pending Admty. instructions.
(C. in C. Med. (Personal), 061221 to C. in C.
Levant, (R) Admty.)

* Re C. in C. Allied Forces directed that no more ships or craft
be handed over to Yugoslav Government pending further
negotiations.
My 011738 and my 171658 C. in C. Allied Forces has now
directed no more ships or craft shall be handed over to the
Royal Yugoslav Govt. until negotiations now in progress for
employment of these ships as required by C. in C. A.F. are
satisfactorily completed.

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Navy.
(Contd.)

2. No further transfers whatever are to take place in your area until further orders and no more ships are to be sailed to Malta in anticipation of transfer.

3. Present arrangements for small warships at Malta to which we are already committed should proceed. V.A. Malta is requested to report exact status of Yugoslav ships now at Malta or Augusta (A) Flag now flown (B) Crew now on board (C) For which ships crews are now known to be on passage.

(5) C. in C. Med. has informed M.W.T.R. F.O.T.A.L.I. pass to It. S.C.O.

(C. in C. Med., 061225A to F.O.T.A.L.I., (T) C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Admty.)

F.O.T.A.L.I.'s 011035. Anxieties of 15th Army Group appreciated, but internment of these Yugoslav officers and men impossible for political reasons.

2. Request your full report of activities of naval representatives of Yugoslav Govt. in Italy and, (a) whether there is now any legitimate need for representatives of Yugoslav Navy to remain in Italy. (b) whether immediate removal of Yugoslav naval mission and all ex-Partisan officers to Malta will obviate risk of intrigues and provide adequate security protection.

3. Foreign Office agree with para. 1 and ask that C. in C. Levant pass urgently to H.M. Ambassador.

(1st Lord, 061543A to C. in C. Med., Info. F.O.T.A.L.I., C. in C. Levant, 15th Army Group.)

JEANNE
D'ARC.

Understand she requires docking for urgent defects at Dakar and will not be available at Casablanca as in my 261827.

(2) Alternative arrangements are being made for personnel movement referred to.

(3) F.O.C.W.Af. is requested to sail her to Casablanca as soon as practicable since similar troop movement requirements will almost certainly recur.

(C. in C. Med., 061304A to C.M.S.F., F.O.C.W.Af., (R) Navale France, Comnavnaw, F.O.C. Gib.)

M.T.Bs.
allocation.

Reference A.M. 031635* These M.T.Bs. can be hoisted out at Algiers or Naples.

2. If however ships derricks can handle, they can also be accepted at Malta or Bizerta.

(C. in C. Med., 061318A to B.A.D., (R) C.C.F., Admty.)

* Re M.T.Bs. forming 19th Flotilla.

Joint Army.
R.A.F. Intell.
Appreciation.

24 hours to 1000Z/6th. R/C of enemy shipping in Aegean 6th mentions LIVENZA, TANAIS, CITTA DI SAVONA. Salamis 0735Z departure 1 destroyer.

2. Visual R/C shipping. 5th Dec. Following caiques sighted and attacked by B.25s. 0850Z east of Piscopi 50 ton caique - nil hits. 0905Z

off Alinda Bay 50 ton caique strafed. 0915Z off Portolago Bay 150 ton 2-masted caique - 2 direct hits with cannon, near misses bombs. Caique left listing and smoking. 6th. No sightings yet received.

/4. G.A.F. ...

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R.A.F. Intell.
Appreciation.
(Contd.)

4. G.A.F. activity 5th. 4 Ju.88 R/C aircraft active in Peloponnese/Dodecanese area and Crete to Cyprus route. No bomber sorties reported.

5. Further caique movement Scarpanto strengthens belief caique traffic Crete to Rhodes route has been resumed. Successful attacks against caiques on Rhodes - Leros and Rhodes - Scarpanto - Crete routes may prove deterrent to this traffic.

Appreciation Kastelorizo unchanged.
(C. in C. M.E., 061340B.)

SIMOOM.

Propose to pay off SIMOOM to date 19th Nov. My 231931* Nov.
(C. in C. Levant, 061626B to Admty., (R) (S) 1.)
* re SIMOOM three days overdue.

TETCOTT,
CROOME.

Intend searching northern half of area tonight then proceeding with CROOME in company to fuel at Benghazi, E.T.A. 1130B/7th.
(TETCOTT, 061650B to S.N.O. Cyrenaica.)

Levant
Situation
Report
No. 119.

To 1800B/6th. ADRIAS entered Alexandria 1330 today having proceeded under her own power from Cyprus. Success of this hazardous operation due largely to skill and determination of her Captain.

(2) R.A.F. mined Syra night 4th/5th and Salonika last night with diversionary bombing effort.
(C. in C. Levant, 061910B.)

Balkan
Sitrep
No. 20.

390251. O/44285, 6th.

(1) Int. Yugoslavia. Following completion island ops. off Zara appreciate Germans will attempt take islands off Split. Preparations reported.

(4) Air ops. A. Bombing. Night 3rd/4th. 4 Bostons based Italy attacked targets Split, XU94 hits on east and south sides of main port. Night 5th/6th Dec. 3 Liberators based Mideast successfully mined Salonika harbour while 9 Halifaxes provided diversionary bombing railway station starting fires goods yards.
(C. in C. M.E., 061915B.)

Summary of
attacks on
U/Bs.

Your 051333. My 031928 Nov. previously passed air mail encypherment (begins). To Admty., Cominch, (R) Comnavnaw, H.Q.M.A.C., C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, F.O.C. Gib., from C. in C. Med. Cancel Most Secret A.D.L.S. summary of attacks on U-Boats assessed by Med. Joint Assessment Board.

My 302359 Sept. refers (see Lion Copy). Following assessments made - Serial five assessment for serial 6A assessment H serial 7A assessment H serial 7B assessment H serial 8 assessment H serial 8A assessment G serial 9 assessment G serial 11 assessment H serial 13 assessment H. My 061941. Serial 14 assessment F serial 16 assessment H, serial 17 assessment H, serial 18 assessment D, serial 20 assessment C, serial 21 assessment H, serial 23 assessment H, serial 24 assessment I.

/2. Serial ...

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attacks on
U/Bs.
(Contd.)

2. Serial 12 not identified as ACCIAIO.
3. Following attacks not previously reported and not yet assessed, all positions north and east.
Serial 3A, 061522? Aug. H.M.S.A.S. SOUTHERN MAID 32.52, 22.35.
Serial 3B, 121155 Aug. H.M.S.A.S. SOUTHERN MAID 35.49, 13.40.
Serial 11A, 061727 Sept. H.M.S. CAIRNS 36.54 02.02.
Serial 21A 14600 (sic) Sept. H.M.I.S. SUTLEJ 33.58, 32.15.
Serial 23A 171321 Sept. U.S.S. SUSTAIN 40.23, 14.44.
Serial 26A 241340 Sept. H.M.S.A.S. SOUTHERN ISLE 36.22, 00.00.
Serial 28, 272207 Sept. H.M.S. ACUTE 40.32, 14.41.
Serial 29, 031350 Nov. U.S.S. NICHOLSON 36.58, 04.17.
Serial 30, 031354 Oct. U.S.S. STEADY 39.46, 14.37.
Serial 31, 041800 Oct. GLOXINIA 32.35, 21.24.
Serial 32, 150703 Oct. UNTIRING (P.59) off Toulon.
Serial 33, 200004 Oct. Wellington aircraft 36.43, 01.57.
Serial 34, 200559 Oct. CATTERICK 36.45, 01.52.
Serial 35, 220825 Oct. U.S.S. SUSTAIN 38.16, 12.23.
Serial 36, 271815 Oct. H.M.S. ROTHEL (sic) off Algiers.
Serial 37, 300716 Oct. ULTIMATUM (P.34) off Toulon. (Ends).
(C. in C. Med., 061941Z to Admty.)

Augusta
movements.

Arrival 6th ONICE (Italian). Departures QUILLIAM, LOYAL, ALISEO, ABBA, RIBOTY, FORTUNALE, URANIA, GIADA, DANDOLO, GOFFREDO, MAMELI, BRIN (Italian).
(N.O.I.C. Augusta, 062005.)

DOLFIJN.

My 031548 (N.T. in W.D.) and 050958 (N.T. in W.R.) P.47 (DOLFIJN) not now sailing.
(V.A. Malta, 062115 to BLANKNEY, P.219 (SERAPH), P.59 (UNTIRING), P.53 (ULTOR), S.E. M.K.S.33.)

M.N.B.D.O.
I & II.

Final decision has now been taken to disband M.N.B.D.O. I and M.N.B.D.O. II to meet urgent man-power commitments.
(2) These units will be withdrawn from present theatres of operations as soon as relief and movement can be arranged.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 062310A to C. in C. Med.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

M.A.20. Arrival.
(N.C.S.O. Chittagong, 060147Z)

B.P.105A. Sailing telegram. (2) 0200Z/6th.
(6) TRAVANCORE.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 060221Z to Admty.)

Treatment of L.S.T's as Merchant Ships. Although L.S.T's are warships their signal equipment is more akin to that of merchant ships. They should normally therefore be sailed as merchant ships or as a trade convoy, the sailing authority directing them to obtain their passage instructions from the N.C.S.O. Attention is to be called to C.B.04024 Article 32.
(C. in C. E.F. 060438Z to F.O.N.I.C. (R) Admty. N.Z.N.B. C.S.W.P.S.F.)

X.C.12. Arrived escorted by SCOUT.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 060630Z)

LE TRIOMPHANT
Cyclone Damage. Following is repetition (Begins) FROBISHER (R) R.A. E.F., F.O. Ceylon, C. in C. S.At. C. in C. E.F., S.E.A.C., N.O.I.C. Addu, CEDAR MILLS. My 060508 (N.T. in W.R.) not to all addressees. LE TRIOMPHANT badly damaged by cyclone now in tow of tanker CEDAR MILLS proceeding toward Addu Atoll at 4 knots.

Position 05.30Z 6th 016 degs. 32' S. 082 degs. 30' E.
(2) LE TRIOMPHANT reported to have no fuel, water or provision and to be listing 045 degs. 150 if LE TRIOMPHANT's crew including sick and wounded now in CEDAR MILLS.

(3) After fuelling at Addu proceeding R/V with CEDAR MILLS. Position of R/V will be signalled.

(4) Transfer LE TRIOMPHANT's crew now in CEDAR MILLS to FROBISHER. Take LE TRIOMPHANT in tow and proceed towards Diego Suarez.

(5) It is hoped that it will be possible to sail tug PRUDENT from Seychelles to relieve you of tow before you reach Diego Suarez but your speed on passage from Addu to R/V and speed of tow should be adjusted to allow you to complete tow to Diego Suarez.

(6) CEDAR MILLS to be instructed to proceed independently to destination when you have assumed tow.

(7) If towing hawser is available at Addu this should be embarked before sailing. T.O.O.060607 (Ends.)

(Adml. Colombo, 060654Z to B.A.M.S.7A, B.A.M.S.7C (R) CEDAR MILLS.)

F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT has been badly damaged by cyclone and is now in tow of tanker CEDAR MILLS proceeding toward Addu Atoll at four knots. Position at 1110Z/5 17 degs. 20' S. 83 degs. 25' E.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

LE TRIOM-
PHANT
cyclone
damage.
(Contd.)

(2) Following action has been taken.
(A) FROBISHER on passage Seychelles to Trincomalee has been diverted to Addu Atoll for fuel thence to R/V with CEDAR MILLS to take over tow and proceed toward Diego Suarez.
(B) Tug PRUDENT on passage Addu to Seychelles to fuel at Seychelles and be held in readiness to relieve FROBISHER of tow if considered

desirable.

(C) CEDAR MILLS to proceed independently to destination after being relieved of tow.

(C. in C. E.F. 061328Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F.(S.E.A.C.), C. in C. S.A.)

Your repetition 060654Z received 1800/6th. P.C.S.
016 degs. 16' S. 081 degs. 58' E. 328 degs. 5 knots. Her condition improving.

(CEDAR MILLS, 061700Z to Mauritius Radio, Adml.Colombo)

TRESPASSER
Patrol,
Report.

Following received from S.4 addressed C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.) (Begins) TRESPASSER patrol 10th Nov. to 3rd Dec. 16 to 21 between Diamond Point and Delhi Bank no sighting.
(2) 22nd Nov. unsuccessfully attacked northbound convoy of 4 ships in position 123 degs. 54 miles

from Diamond Point.

(3) 23rd and 24th off Penang no targets sighted.

(4) 26th to 29th patrol south east Cape Nicobar. 1355 F.G. 27th sighted Japanese seaplane carrier KAMAI could not close to attacking range. Japanese carrier KAMAI seen to enter Sawi Bay Cape Nicobar.

(5) 28th attacked ship of about 4,000 tons bound South east in approx. 009 degs. 08 N. 093 degs. 08' E. with six torpedoes. Three explosions after approx. correct interval, result not observed but H.E. of target ceased.

(C. in C. E.F. 060721Z to Admty. Info: F.O.S.)

M.A.21.

Sailing telegram (2) 1001Z/6th.
(6) KATHIAWAR, BOMBAY.
(N.C.S.O. Vizagapatam, 061006Z to Admty.)

S.E.A.
Air Report.

A.222. 6th December Daily Opsum No.631.
4th December. 25 U.S. Liberators B.24 laid mines Rangoon Estuary and Moulmein Channel. Successful. Also L.A. positions Elephant Point bombed.
(S.E.A.A.C. 061021Z to Air Min.)

Re-organisa-
tion of Naval
Air operational
control in
Arabian
Sea.

Intend to put re-organisation in my 301042 Nov. not to C. in C. S.A. into force as soon as Aden becomes part of E.F. command.
(2) Ref. Cdre. in charge Aden's 011540 Dec. not to C. in C. S.A. consider Capt. Heathcote can combine duties of C.S.O. to C. in C. Aden with those of Capt. of escort forces working

from/

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Re-organisa-
tion of
Naval Air
operational
control in
Arabian
Sea.
(Contd.)

from Aden. It is observed however that the Officer is on loan from S.A. Stn. in the event of escort force now based on Aden being required to return to S.A. Stn. a Senior Officer would be required to accompany them. Request necessary appointments for Heathcote as C.S.O. to C. in C. Aden and Capt. Aden escort forces may be issued.

(3) The 4 Lieutenants referred to in (B) of Cdre. in Charge Aden O11540 December cannot be provided from Stn. resources and it is requested they may be sent from U.K. (C. in C. E.F. 061024Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant, C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.) S.N.O., P.G., C. in C. Aden, 222 Group)

J.C.28(A).

Sailing Telegram (5 ships).
(2) 1945Z/6th. (6) RAPID.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 061045Z to Admty.)

Air Raid
Calcutta
5th Dec.

Following details.

Para. 1 Enemy attacked in two waves from 15,000 feet 20 at 1147 hours and 8 at (?12), 25. Fighter escort but no machine gunning.

Para. 2. Target Kidderpore docks. Three M.V. and one R.I.N. ship hit none seriously damaged but one M.V. stopped loading 15 barges set on fire seven sheds hit and two others gutted. All fires out and area clear by 1500 hours. No damage Calcutta Jetty or King George Dock.

(3) Casualty figure not yet firm believed to be military 1 killed 13 injured civilians believed approx. 500 casualties.
(4) Morale. Calcutta town reported quiet. All labour left dock area some military labour being provided.
(5) Preliminary warning received 1120 hours. Air raid warning sounded 1130 hours.
(C. in C. India, T.O.O. nil recd. 061115 to W.O.)

Landing
Craft
bases in
India.

A comprehensive scheme for the development of its organization in India has been prepared to meet expected expansion of amphibious warfare in S.E.A.S.C. Outline of scheme has received the approval of the Supreme Command.

(2) The scheme is based on eventual arrival in India of 1000 minor and 400 major Landing Craft including 108 L.S.T's, together with crews, maintenance organization and staffs.

(3) To meet these arrivals the intention is to develop the 4 main bases for minor and major landing craft at Bombay, Cochin, Mandapam and Vizagapatam and in addition to hold a Commander of L.S.T's at Karachi Madras and Calcutta.

(4) Allocation of craft to ports is as follows.

(5) R.I.N. have agreed to coastal craft base at Cochin and landing craft base at Mandapam being taken over by R.N.

(C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.) 061117Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.R.I.N.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

U-Boat.

Aircraft sighted U-Boat in 002 degs. 52' N.
084 degs. 00' E. at (?1710Z/6), graded B.2.
(C. in C. E.F. 061915Z to S. & A's E.I. Station)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

MATAGORDA Refer to this as 051951 from MATAGORDA addressed Comnavu, C. in C.W.A. F.O.i/c Milford Haven and F.O.i/c Avonmouth for action. At 061200 MATAGORDA departs Norfolk proceeding independently to Bristol U.K. Z times throughout. (Route). E.T.A. Barry Roads 161530. (Comnavu, 060131Z to Admty.).

STEADFAST When ready about 8 hours Q 7th Dec. proceed Bermuda (route). This compliance Cominch 261750. (Com. 6, 061355 to STEADFAST).

N.S.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q. 061407Z).
S/M
Estimate.

COLDSTREAMER Request immediate assistance for COLDSTREAMER disabled. disabled with faulty steering gear - GALT at present standing by position 050 degs. 43' 046 degs. 00' (X). (S.O.C.1, 061451Z to F.O.N.F. (R) Capt. (D) St. Johns, GALT, COLDSTREAMER). Following for C.C.R.T. TENACITY sailed St. John's 1825 Nov. (Dec. intended) 6th to assist COLDSTREAMER disabled in vicinity 50.43 N. 46.00 W. (F.O.N.F. 062026Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C.C.N.A.).

B.Y.M.S. Cominch 261930 and 011853 (not received). B.Y.M.S. 252 and 41 depart Bermuda 062030 for Horta and onward routeing to Londonderry at 9.5 knots. Through positions. E.T.A. 151130. Times Z. (N.O.B. Bermuda, 061459Z to N.O.i/c Horta).

U.S. S/M (Cominch, 061520Z).
Estimate.

B.Y.M.S. Depart Charleston buoy 2 A.C. 1800 Q this date 182, 61. for Bermuda. Do not exceed 850 R.P.Ms. E.T.A. point C. 1400 Q 10th. Arrival Bermuda obtain onward routeing to Londonderry via Azores. This compliance Cominch 261930 Nov. (Com.6., 061521 to B.Y.M.S. 182 and 61).

G.U.S.21. This is a re-encypherment of P.D. New York 052154 addressed Com. 10th Fleet C and R. (R) Comeastseafron. G.U.S. 21 arrival. Chesapeake Section 18 ships last in 1528Z/5th. Delaware Section arrived Overfalls 051100Z. New York Section 27 ships first in 051820Z last 052051Z. (Com. 10th Fleet C and R., 061600Z).

/Pontoon...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Pontoon Drydocks. This is C.N.Os. 061708 addressed to Comnavnaw and (R) to C. in C. Med. Comnavau and Admty. Reference your 051625. 6 of 350 ton pontoon drydocks and 13 of 250 ton pontoon drydocks shipped Mediterranean. Your 011306 indicated 3 of 350 ton and 3 of 250 ton British and four of 250 ton U.S. Docks being shipped U.K. Now desire to retain in the Mediterranean total of 3 of 350 ton docks and 8 of 250 ton docks. This will permit shipping total 3 of larger docks and 5 of smaller to U.K. Advise.
(Comnavau, 061717 to Admty.).

ANDES

(2) 071500Z Cape Henry.
E.T.A. off Casablanca 151700Z.
(Route) thence destination most practicable route.
(P.D. Norfolk, 061811 to C.M.S.F., C. in C. Med. Admty., F.O.C.Gib., S.B.N.O. W.At., Bermuda, Comenthflt C and R. (R) C.E.S.F., N.S.H.Q., C. in C.C.N.A., F.O.N.F.).

KING

HAAKON VII.

Norwegian ship KING HAAKON VII not suitable for escort duties in Canadian waters during winter due to inadequate heating arrangements.
(2) Ship require main engine overhaul but could be used in warmer climate this winter.

(3) Possibly might be of some value at Bermuda in working up programmes.

(4) Request instructions.

(N.S.H.Q. 062023Z to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O.W.At., C. in C.C.N.A., F.O.N.F.).

AQUITANIA

Arrived New York 1805Z/6th.
(P.D. New York, 062044Z).

Sub. attack and sighting summary.

All times Z.
(A) LIBERTAD torpedoed sunk area 34.30 N. 74.32 W. 040800.
(C) Sub. sighted 08.36 N. 58.24 W. 06/1251.
Navy plane sighted sub. 12.45 N. 78.48 W. 051435.
B - 24 Radar contact 36.05 N. 74.10 W. 051840.

(D) P.A.A. pilot sighted submarine 11.15 N. 74.45 W. 051550.
(Cominch, 062128 to Admty.).

BULLEN

Arrived Bermuda.
(S.B.N.O. W.At., 062249Z).

LAWFORD,
KINGSMILL.

Boston sailed 5th for U.K. (D.E.516) LAWFORD and (D.E.280) KINGSMILL.
(N.S.H.Q., 062315Z to Admty.).

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Monday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

W.6.

E.T.A. 1230Z/7th.

MONTGOMERY and TRAIL defects.

TIMMINS and COBALT no defects. 046 degs. (?15') N.
050 degs. 00' W. Weather.

(W.6., 062359Z to F.O.N.F. (R) D. Newfoundland).

Australia and New Zealand.Digest
Serial
No.685
Dec.5th.

Three Catalinas struck Kaimana waterfront early hours causing fires Jetty area.

(2) Nine Beaufighters bombed strafed targets of opportunity in harassing morning sweep Tanimbar Islands damaging jetty at Adaoet.

Midday R/C Liberator observed 4 warships, described 1 heavy, 1 light cruiser, 2 destroyers 100 miles

North Mussau Island course two ten degrees. Heavy A/A barrage prevented attack.

(4) Probably same force reported after dark by Navy Catalina 14 hours later as 1 light cruiser, 3 destroyers 60 miles South New Hanover. Later description more likely correct.

(9) Eight Kittyhawks conducting dawn sweep Madang ?to Alexishafen destroyed loaded lugger and left ablaze 2 barges carrying cargo.

(10) Same time 2 Beaufighters on similar mission south east coast New Britain strafed laden sailing coaster Wide Bay area Libale, later 2 Bostons destroyed 50 ton vessel near Cape Hoskins.

(11) Night 4th 2 U.S.M.T.Bs. destroyed 7 of 8 rafts found half mile off Sio coast. 5 rafts loaded with total possibly 1,000 double rubber bags weighing 60 pounds each containing rice, meat extract, soya flour. Other 3 each carried three fifty gallon drums with heavy boxes possibly ammunition. Rafts perhaps dumped by visiting submarine. Another patrol craft later contacted possible submarine off South Coast Rooke Island.

(12) Same night 6 Beauforts attacked shipping outer Rabaul Harbour scoring torpedo hit 1 medium freighter which burned fiercely. 4 ships noticed altogether in area. One Beaufort missing.

(15) Three U.S. Destroyers bombarded enemy positions Choiseul Bay morning for about 1 hour. 3 spotting Avengers reported excellent coverage of target and added their bomb load after shelling completed.

(18) Same time enemy aircraft dropped flares and bombs ineffectually on M.T.Bs. operating West of Buka Passage.

(19) Later before dawn similar type attack made on other T.Bs. off Torokina.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 060615Z).

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 061444A, 061445A).

Submarines Attacked.

Sub. attack
and sighting
summary for
24 hours to
0900Z/6th.

Para.A. (1) Greek NITSA, torpedoed at 2145/2nd
in 11 degs. 42' N. 45 degs. 32' E.
(D.D.I.C. 061031A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.).

Points from
27th Meeting
A.U. Committee
1st Dec.

- (a) U-boats appear to be operating on the surface only by night when within range of air cover.
- (b) Convoys on Gibraltar/U.K. route attacked without success by fairly heavy concentrations of U-boats being homed on by reconnaissance aircraft.
- (c) Leigh-light aircraft being used whenever possible. Efforts to increase the number so

fitted continue.

- (d) Favourable reports of new trial tactics for "Night" co-operation between air and escort forces.
- (e) First kill by an aircraft from Azores has taken place. Cover provided extremely valuable.
- (f) Eight M.A.C. ships adds considerably to presence of these ships adds considerably to confidence of the convoy.
- (g) Swordfish, Liberator, Hudson, Beaufighter aircraft cleared for service use with R.P. Fitting programme for installation firing salvo of 4 R.Ps has now commenced.
- (h) Possibility that enemy's use of L.R. aircraft for reconnaissance and shadowing might become dangerous both as regards U-boat attack and air attack with new weapons was discussed. Possibility of introducing modified form of Fighter Direction into escort vessels under examination.
(D.A.U.D. 061756A to B.A.D., Info A.O.C. in C.C.C.).
As amended 071350A.

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7.12.1943.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Zig-zagging.

1. In order to expedite shipping, during lulls in submarine activity, C. in C. S.A. suggests relaxation of the orders regarding zig-zagging. The Admiralty concurred, and on 16th December they proposed to Connav that the arrangement should be put into force from 1st January 1944. Com. Tenth Fleet concurred, with certain reservations (see Com. Tenth Fleet C and R 201828Z.)

Home Commands.

Home Fleet.

2. SHEFFIELD arrived at Scapa at 1255 from Plymouth. KING GEORGE V left Scapa for Gibraltar this morning.

Operation
F.T.

3. Convoy R.A.54B was about 150 miles West of the Faroes at 0800 today.

Mediterranean.

"Avalanche".

4(a) QUEENBOROUGH and RAIDER last night carried out a sweep between Durazzo and Dubrovnik. No shipping was sighted but the destroyers were fired on by machine guns from the shore and they returned the fire. Coastal forces also operated in the Adriatic last night and the night before, but no incidents are reported. These forces operate from the Yugoslavian islands Vis and Hvar. The Yugoslav Partisan H.Q. are situated on Hvar Island. It is reported that two Me.109s attacked shipping at Hvar today.
(b) 56 U.S. Mitchells attacked Civitavecchia today, making hits on oil storage, the port and ammunition stores, causing explosions. 32 U.S. Invaders also attacked the harbour; a freighter was near missed and fires were started in a warehouse.

Aegean
mining.

5. A mining campaign has recently been started against Greek harbours.*
Last night a Liberator and two Wellingtons laid 9 mines in Port Herakles and Salamis Straits with diversionary bombing.

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War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

6. In the early hours of today U.S. torpedo boats sank a similar enemy craft 3 miles north-east of Araki (Espiritu Santo). Others destroyed 4 loaded barges at Singor (14 miles west of Saidor).

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Poole. Consideration has been given to gunnery training of crews of major support craft taking part in "Overlord". As majority of craft will not commission until shortly before the operation time will not permit of working up gunnery efficiently unless crews can be trained beforehand.

2. Approved therefore to form temporary Assault Gunnery School Training Flotilla consisting of L.C.G.(L) and L.C.T.(R) as detailed below in which crews of craft concerned already undergoing shore training can be given necessary instruction. Firing practices could be undertaken at Studland Bay range without dislocation of present programme and craft could be conveniently berthed at TURPLE, Poole.

3. C. in C.Portsmouth is requested to report by signal urgently whether any objection is seen to above proposals.

4. A.N.C.X.F. is requested to nominate necessary craft from Force J.
(Head of M. 072105A to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

Movements.

KING GEORGE V. Scapa departure KING GEORGE V escorted by OBDURATE, KEMPENFELT, TERMAGANT.
(A.C.O.S. 070658 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

BERMUDA. Scapa departure BERMUDA.
(A.C.O.S. 070901A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

BLACKWOOD. Your 061400 and 062250. In view of unsuitable oil you are using it is advisable to proceed at a reduced speed. Should engine trouble be experienced ship should proceed to Plymouth.
(C. in C.W.A. 071240A to BLACKWOOD.)
In view of temporary repairs effected intend maintaining present speed until weather conditions cause excessive splashing of lubricating oil on to cylinder walls of main engine. Position 42° 25'
(BLACKWOOD 071320Z to C. in C.W.A.)

QUEEN ELIZABETH. Your 061859. Concur.
(C. in C.Plymouth 071302A to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

SHEFFIELD. Scapa arrival at 1255 SHEFFIELD.
(A.C.O.S. 071412A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

N.Atlantic dispositions. Dispositions of operational units in North Atlantic:
Area Iceland (C) JAMAICA. Area Scapa: ANSON, KING GEORGE V, DUKE OF YORK, NELSON, RICHELIEU, FURIOUS, BELFAST, BERMUDA, BERWICK, KENT, NORFOLK, SHEFFIELD, 20 destroyers. Area Clyde: RODNEY, ILLUSTRIOUS. Area Plymouth: HOWE, GAMBIA. Area Azores: GLASGOW, Disposition of Escort Carriers FENCER - Biscay Area.
(D.O.D.H. 071510A to C. in C.U.S.Fleet.)

/QUEEN...

War Diary.

7.12.1943.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

QUEEN
ELIZABETH, RENOBN, etc. Demands are to be forwarded to respective storing yards to fully store and victual.
2. C. in C.H.F's 251734 November refers.
(D.O.D.F. 071615A to QUEEN ELIZABETH, RENOBN, VICTORIOUS, ATTACKER, HUNTER, STALKER, SEARCHER, PURSUER, CHASER, CUMBERLAND, LONDON, ROYALIST, SCYLLA.)

S/M Move- Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/8 and movements for
ments. following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 071739A, 071824A, 072137, 080029A.)

ANSON. Scapa departure V.A.2 in ANSON escorted by
OPFORTUNE, TENACIOUS.
(A.C.O.S. 072156 to C. in C.Rosyth.)

Operations.

Bay Patrol. 005Z 48 (?48) N. 22 (?02) W. sighted suspicious
flash (corrupt group) light.
(RETAKO 070059Z to Admty.)

Operation By D/F at 0113Z U-Boat position 074° 00' N. 023°
F.T. 20' E. unreliable.
(S.B.N.O.N.Russia 070710A to Admty.)
Scapa arrival at 1045. Capt. D. 17 in ONSLOW with
IROQUOIS, ORWELL, HAIDA, IMPULSIVE, DERWENT, HURON.
(A.C.O.S. 071056A to H.F.)

Situation at 072000. R.A.54A HARRIER 061° 00' N. 011° 50' W. to
Minches, 7½.
(A.C.O.S. 071057 to Admty.)
SAUMAREZ and 7 destroyers 061° 20' N. 004° 10' W. at 2000,
proceeding Scapa 12½ knots.
(A.C.O.S. 071814A to Capt. D.23.)

Operation Following is operation F.V. Object passage of
F.V. convoys J.W.55A, J.W.55B, R.A.55A, R.A.55B to
and from North Russia.
2. D. day is the day J.W.55A sailed from Loch Ewe
and will be 12th December unless otherwise ordered.

J.W.55B sails on D.plus 7.
3. Routes are being signalled separately. Enemy information is
being sent to S.Os. of certain forces only.
4. Forces taking part:-
A. Local escorts for all convoys. 2 escorts from W.A. and 2 of
18th M/3 Flot.
B. Through escort for J.W. and R.A.55A. 4 escorts detailed by C.
in C.W.A. BEAGLE, DIANELLA, POPPY are also to return with R.A.55A.
C. Through escort for J.W. and R.A.55B. 4 escorts detailed by
C. in C.W.A. RHODODENDRON is also to return with R.A.55B.
D. Minesweepers of first M/3 F. in accordance with my 131648
November.

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Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation E. Destroyers escort J.W. and R.A.55A, MILNE, (Capt. D. or S.O.3rd D.F.) MATCHLESS, MUSKETEER, METEOR, F.V.(Contd). ASHANTI, ATHABASKAN, OPPORTUNE, VIRAGO.

F. Destroyer escort J.W. and R.A.55B ONSLOW (Capt. D.17th D.F.) ONSLAUGHT, OBDURATE, ORWELL,

IROQUOIS, IMPULSIVE, HAIDA, HURON.

G. Cruiser covering force, Force 1, F.O.10th C.S. in BELFAST with NORFOLK, SHEFFIELD.

H. Battleship covering forces. Force 2, one battleship, one cruiser, 4 destroyers. Force 3, one battleship, one cruiser, 4 destroyers.

J. Russian local escort as arranged by S.B.N.O.North Russia.

5. Preliminary movements.

The S.Os. concerned are requested to order preliminary movements as follows N.O.I.C. Aultbea has asked that escorts should arrive in daylight at Loch Ewe if possible.

Para. 4A, local escort for J.W.convoys to arrive Loch Ewe p.m. day minus one and day plus 6. Local escort for R.A.convoys to arrive Skaale Fjord not less than 24 hours before convoys are due to pass Faroes. B. and C. to arrive Loch Ewe p.m. day minus one and day plus 6. D. as ordered by R.A.(D) H.F. and S.B.N.O.N. Russia. E. and F. S.Os. attend conferences Loch Ewe D. day and day plus 7 then to Skaale Fjord independently.

Remaining destroyers to arrive Skaale Fjord a.m. day plus one and day plus eight respectively. G. C.S.10 in BELFAST to attend conferences Loch Ewe D.day, then to Seidis Fjord. Remainder force one to arrive Seidis Fjord a.m. on day plus 3.

6. Conduct operations. A. J.W.55A and B. are to sail p.m. D.day and day plus 7 respectively escorted by through and local escorts. Route "Red" unless otherwise ordered. All ships are capable of 10 knots.

B. Destroyer escorts are to join convoys in approx. lat. 064° N. when local escorts are to leave. After leaving and when in lat. of Faroes S.O.Local Escort is to report P.C. and S. of convoy addressed A.I.G. 47 prefixed immediate.

C. Force one is to sail (i) to cover J.W.55A between long. 015° and 038° E. then proceed Kola Inlet.

(ii) to cover R.A.55A and J.W.55B in Barent Sea then returning to Kola Inlet.

(iii) to cover R.A.55B between 038° E. and 005° E. then Seidis Fjord if necessary to fuel, otherwise Scapa.

D. Force 2 is to proceed (i) from Scapa to cover J.W.55A between lon. 027° E. and 038° E. then proceed Akureyri.

(ii) from Akureyri to cover J.W.55B as for J.W.55A then return Scapa.

E. Force 3 is to proceed Scapa to cover R.A.55B between long. 030° E. and 015° E. then return Scapa or Akureyri if necessary for fuel. Battle fleet covering area is in vicinity 072° 30' N. 012° E. Battleships proceeding and returning Scapa are to pass through 068° N. 003° 40' W.

7. S.B.N.O.North Russia is requested to sail R.A.convoys about 24 hours after arrival of each J.W. reporting expected time of sailing as early as possible in order to assist S.Os. of covering-

/forces...

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Tuesday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation F.V.(Contd.) forces route. Route "Red" to position (?) Then through positions Y, X to D. then route "Red" to Loch Ewe.
8. British submarines will be on patrol off Alten Fjord.
9. Routes of all convoys may be altered during voyage. Lettered positions given in my 071051 will be used. New positions may be ordered with reference to those lettered positions, for example 30 miles 140° from position X. 10. Communications.
(C. in C.H.F. 070943A.)
Minesweepers are to be detailed for following duties:
A. One as local escort to convoy J.W.55A to arrive Loch Ewe a.m. 11th returning to Skaalefjord about 15th December.
B. One for similar duty with J.W.55B 7 days later. ONYX will also be with this convoy and will rejoin flotilla on completion of duty.
C. 2 to arrive Akureyri, Eyiafjord p.m. 19th to carry out exploratory-sweep of fjord south of 066° 10' N. and east of Hrisey Island the following day. Sweeps to be at 25 fathoms. These vessels will rejoin Flotilla about 25th December.
D. 2 to be at Skaalefjord 24 hours before arrival R.A.55A to act as local escort to Loch Ewe, sailing about 26th and rejoining about 31st December.
E. 2 for similar duty with R.A.55B sailing about 7 days after D.
(C. in C.H.F. 071742A to RATTLESNAKE.)

Operation S.F. Faroes arrival RATTLESNAKE, COCKATRICE, LOYALTY, ORESTES.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 071142A to C. in C.Rosyth.)

Coastal Force Patrols. 1. Orders for night 7/8th December.
A. 2 CHASSEURS anti E-Boat patrol on 50° 24' N. between 0° 35' W. and 0° 48' W. from 1800A to 0700A.
B. M.L. 344 short notice St. Helens.
C. 2 M.G.Bs. from HORNET carry out anti E-Boat patrol 10 miles south of convoy-route between 2° 35' W. and long. of N. 3 buoy from 1900A to 0600A keeping abreast of W.P.442 while in area.
(C. in C.Portsouth 071310A.)
2. A. Force 114 M.T.Bs. 673 (S.O.), 676, M.G.B. 322.
B. 2000A/7. C. 090 Start 25. D. Vicinity of C. F. 0645A/8.
3. A. Force 115 M.T.Bs. 430 (S.O.), 413, 415, 416, 431.
B. 2000A/7. C. 125 Start 10. D. Vicinity of C. F. 0645A/8.
(C. in C.Plymouth 071527A and 071725A.)
M.Ls. 139 and 141 two miles south of D.Buoy. M.A.S.Bs. 38 and 25 at No. 7 buoy, E.T.D. 1750. M.G.Bs. 41 and 40 at V. Buoy, E.T.D. Ramsgate 1715. M.T.Bs. 208, 209, 359, 724 and 710 patrolling 5 miles N.W. of Blankenberghe.
(V.A.Dover 071646 and 072034A.)
A. Force 116, M.T.Bs. 94 (S.O.), 91, 92, 96, 227, 239.
B. 1945A/7. C. AA. 030 ILE DE BAS 5, 15 knots. D. 5 miles, 252° from AA. E. Destruction of enemy shipping. F. 0430A/8 from AA.
G. Direct to Dartmouth weather permitting. Attention is drawn to Q.Z.X.1174.
(C. in C.Plymouth 071832A.)

/S/M...

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

S/M Patrols. Cancel forecast submarine patrols in my 291706 November and substitute Submarines are to be sailed to conform without further signal.

| Submarine. | Leave | Return |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| | Lerwick | Lerwick. |
| A. STUBBORN | 14th Dec. | 28th Dec. |
| B. SATYR | 14th Dec. | 28th Dec. |
| C. VENTURER | 13th Dec. | 27th Dec. |
| D. SIRDAR | 13th Dec. | 28th Dec. |
| E. TAKU | 20th Dec. | 8th Jan. |
| F. ULA | 24th Dec. | 7th Jan. |
| G. UNSWERVING | 29th Dec. | 12th Jan. |
| H. SEANYMPH | 24th Dec. | 27th Dec. |
| J. SCEPTRE | 24th Dec. | 7th Jan. |
| K. SEADOG | 24th Dec. | 7th Jan. |
| M. O.15 | 14th Dec. | 28th Dec. |
| O. SPITEFUL | 29th Dec. | 12th Jan. |
| P. SYRTIS | 24th Dec. | 7th Jan. |

2. C, G, L, N, O and P. are anti U-Boat patrol.
(F.O.S. 071931, 181044, 212129A and 231832A to Capts. S.3, S.9.)
My 071931.

| Submarine | Patrol Zone | Object. |
|---------------|--|-----------|
| A. VENTURER | FF. | F. and A. |
| B. SIRDAR | T.7 - T.11 (inclusive) | C. |
| C. TAKU | T.7 - T.11 (inclusive) | C. |
| D. UNSWERVING | EE. | F. and A. |
| G. SPITEFUL | EE. | F. and A. |
| H. SYRTIS | K.5 (western limit ex- tended to 003° 00' E.) | F. and A. |

(F.O.S. 071934A, 181044 to Capts. S.9, S.3.)

V.P. Carry out V.P. 1. Patrol A.H. 2. V.P.57. 3.
Operation. a.m. 9th December or first suitable day there after.
4. One. 5. No. 6. No. 7. 060° Bressay. 8. Yes.
(A.C.O.S. 071947A to Admty.)

Allied Air Activity.

Enemy convoy Have attacked 2 enemy medium merchant vessels and
attacked off 4 merchant vessels with bombs dive. Position 62.
Aalesund. 10 N. 05.02 E. course 170°.
(A/C RGGC 071417A to 18 Group.)

Have attacked one enemy merchant vessel. Result
of attack unobserved.
P.C. and S. of 4 small vessels and 2 merchant vessels, 62° 10' N.
05° 02' E. 135° 10 knots.
(A/C RGGM 071418A to 18 Group.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

HOLDERNESS. 1. 1959/5. 2. HOLDERNESS. 3. Hunt type 1. 4. 53°
(mined on 02' 27" N. 01° 42' 18" E. 5. 293° 11.1/2 knots.
5th Dec.) 6. Close under starboard quarter. 7. Nil.
(HOLDERNESS 071020A to C. in C.Nore.)

Portsmouth. Ground mine detonated by sweepers at 061333 in
150° Nab Tower 5 miles 1 1/4 cables.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 071134A to Admty.)
Ground mine detonated by sweeper at 061023 in
147° Nab Tower 5.95 miles.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 071136A to Admty.)

N.L.112. My 061725A. M.L.112 abandoned owing to weather.
(V.A.Dover 071151A to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

CEUTA. German steamer CEUTA 2719 tons speed 12 knots
carrying munitions and stores leaves Emden 9th
December for Trondhjem via Kiel Canal, Great Belt,
and Christiansand. Graded C.2.
(N.A.Stockholm 071717 to Admty.)

Navigational.

Brightlingsea. Port of Brightlingsea closed owing to fog.
(N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 071501A.)

Harwich. Port closed owing to fog.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 071747A.)

Casualties & Defects.

L.C.T.2263. My 030959. L.C.T. 2263 refloated at 0200 today.
2. Request you will sail a trawler to arrive
Bridlington so as to commence tow of L.C.T. to
Tyne as early as practicable tomorrow.
(F.O.Humber 070910 to F.O.Tyne.)

M.T.B.691. My 271815A. Damage is as follows. Details.
Estimated time for repairs 35 days. Propose to
sail vessel to Bangor as soon as possible.
(BEE 071307A to Admty.)

Unknown Vessels. Proceed with all despatch to assist vessels
reported in distress in position 270° Machrihanish
Bay distance 8 miles.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 071550A to ALLEGIANCE.)

/KISINA...

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Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects - Contd.

KISTNA. KISTNA docked at Londonderry p.m. today.
(Cdre. D.W.A. 071916A to Admty.)

Shipping & Convoys.

X.K.12. ST. ELSTAN reports SS. PINZON and EMPIRE LARCH
PINZON. in company in 42.36 N. 14.28 W. at 1830A/6
drifting 190° one knot, with stores for 10 days.
EMPIRE LARCH damaged, feared cannot tow PINZON
but will attempt daylight.

ST. ELSTAN reports endurance 7 days. Request F.O.I.C. Falmouth
will sail DEXTEROUS at best speed escorted by EDMUNDSTON and
LUNENBERG as soon as possible, route and codeword as in my
061819A, to relieve EMPIRE LARCH and tow PINZON to Clyde.
Request extra victualling stores be put on board DEXTEROUS before
sailing. ST. ELSTAN to remain with EDMUNDSTON and LUNENBERG
until further orders.

(C. in C.Plymouth 070126A to F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)

DEXTEROUS sailed escorted by EDMUNDSTON and LUNENBERG in
accordance with your 070126A.

(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 070654A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

O.N.214. By D/F at 0305Z U-Boat estimated within 60 miles
of 47° 30' N. 22° 00' W. It is suggested that
H/F D/F watch be kept both on series seven and
series one.

(D.D.I.C. 070617A to O.N.214, E.G.6, GLASGOW.)

Enemy S/M transmitting a B-signal at 0755Z. My P.C. and S. at
?0655, 047° 10' N. 022° 12' W. 270° 9.6.

(HAVELOCK 070755Z to Admty.)

MIJDRECHT. BEAGLE escorting MIJDRECHT outward Kola Inlet.
(S.B.N.O.N.Russia 070715 to S.B.N.O.Archangel.)

Stragglers. Admiralty's 041340B May. - Stragglers return week
ending 0915A/7th December.
THEODORE SEDGWICK ex O.N.213, shell plating
strained and cracked both port and starboard
due to heavy weather.

ALLERTON ex H.M.S.34, heavy weather damaged all life-boats.
YEWMASSE ex O.N.U.213 previously damaged in collision, temporarily
repaired in New York. Heavy weather and new leak developed.

G.S.WALDEN ex O.N.M.214, main engine defects. 2 cylinders with
leaking water cooling pipes.

ROBIN TUXFORD ex T.U.3 heavy weather. Ballast shifted and
dangerous list developed.

BENEDICK ex O.N.S.24, main engine compressor defect. Unable to
steam at reduced speed without stopping.

(N.C.S.O.Clyde 070915A to Admty.)

O.N.M.215. Intend to sail BERN at 0900/8 to Barry Roads as
escort for PACIFIC EXPORTER and ESPERANCE BAY late
departures, sailing 1800A/8 thence to overtake.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 071137A to F.O.I.C. Cardiff)

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

- K.M.F.27. In order that preparations may be made request any available information regarding the inclusion of suitable vessels for rescue duties vide para. one of C. in C.W.A's 251612 November may be passed to F.Os.I.C. Liverpool and Greenock. (C. in C.W.A. 071212A to Admty.)
- Convoy K.M.F.27 sails from Clyde 14th December, S.O.A. 12½ knots.
2. C. in C.Plymouth is requested to detail a cruiser as A/A escort from 51° N. to vicinity of Azores.
 3. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to sail PRINCE ROBERT to relieve the cruiser A/A escort in vicinity of Azores and escort to Gibraltar. (A.C.N.S.H. 071909A to C. in C.Plymouth.)
- O.S.61/
K.M.S.35. Convoy delayed 2 days by fog. Oversay R/V now 1700A/8th. (C. in C.W.A. 071453A to C. in C.Med.) Request you sail PRINCE ROBERT to R/V with O.S.61/K.M.S.35 in (7054° or 051°) 05' N. 018° 09' W. at 1500A/11th. Admiralty 031837 and my 041529 refer. (C. in C.W.A. 071457A to C. in C.Plymouth.)
- Anti "Gnat" procedure. It is emphasized that it is not necessary for ships proceeding at over 20 knots to adopt stepping-aside procedure to avoid danger of "Gnats". Provisional A.C.I. 138 is being amended to make this point clear. (C. in C.W.A. 072112A: W.A.G.M. 844N.)
- D.F.17. LOCHNAGAR is required to be ready to sail from Clyde 19/12 in convoy D.F.17 for Faroes.
2. Approximately 260 personnel will embark at Tail of the Bank on 19/12 for Faroes.
 3. After embarking approximately 260 personnel in Faroes vessel is required to proceed to Aberdeen for disembarkation. (D.S.T. 072145A to P.S.T.C.Clyde.)
- SAMARIA,
FRANCONIA,
DUCHESS OF
BEDFORD. SAMARIA, FRANCONIA and DUCHESS OF BEDFORD if latter can be prepared in time are required to be ready to sail from Liverpool 13/12. 2. No personnel will embark. (D.S.T. 072210A.)
- H.X. 268. B. barred signal 4 groups intercepted bearing 044° within ground wave at 2345 on series 7. Convoy P.C. and S. 058° 21' 022° 06', 090° 10 knots. 45 ships in company. LAMAR and VANN are unaccounted for since my 040052. (KOOTENAY 072346Z to C. in C.W.A.)

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- ? U/B. Possible S/M contact by U.S.S. FECHTELER at 2325A/6 in vicinity (? 035°) 52' N. 006° 43' W. made one attack then sound equipment failed. No further contact.
(C.T.G. 21.4, 070244Z to F.O.C. Gib., (R) Cominch, C.M.S.F.)
- ASPHODEL. My course from Q.B.A. (102 or 310) 318°, 12½ knots alter to 253° at 1215Z/7th in 035° 05' N. 009° 15' W.
(ASPHODEL, 070501Z to S.O. E.G. B.4, (R) F.O.C. Gib.)
- STOCKTON,
THORN. (U.S. destroyers) left 1117 G.M.T./7th.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 071009.)
- T.G. 21.13. Intend sailing T.G. 21.13 U.S.S. BOGUE, U.S.S. GEORGE F. BADGER, U.S.S. OSMOND INGRAM, U.S.S. DUPONT, U.S.S. CLEMSON, U.S.S. ALLEN, C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet, 062155 departs Casablanca
081200A via Q.B.A. (? 115) to R/V G.U.S. 23 daylight 9th Dec.
(C.M.S.F., 071531A to F.O.C. Gibraltar.)
- MONARCH OF
BERMUDA. Temporary repairs for seaworthiness completed here a.m./7th. Estimated time required home dry-dock for permanent underwater repairs about 10 days, for damaged upper works about 21 days.
My 031031A refers.
(S.T.O.I.C. Gib., 071529 to D. of S.T. London.)
- B.Y.M.S.
206, 233
36, 205. Departed 1800Z to Falmouth. Route.
(S.B.N.O. Horta, 071631.)
- U/B. Hunt U/B reported to be in 43° 45' N. 07° 38' W. (Gib., 071738A to A/C Duty 'N' Honington.)
U-Boat reported by transit aircraft stationary on surface in 43° 45' N. 07° 50' W. at 1052A/7.
(F.O.C. Gib., 071758 to Admty., C. in C. Plymouth)
- Supply
ships,
Azores. Your 271024 S.B.N.O. Azores 271340. M. of M. state as we have same number of days to unload one ship as they have for 2, 2 of which call twice, hope only very exceptionally we infringe on their dates. Have informed them dates as in my 251526 para. no.1 will be adhered to unless exceptional circumstances make unloading within their period imperative. Subject to your approval this will remain as final arrangement.
(N.A. Lisbon, 071756 to Admty., B.S.N.O. Azores, (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.C. Gib.)

/SALVEDA ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

- SALVEDA.. In view of S.B.N.O. Azores 061545 consider preferable to hold SALVEDA for next suitable M.K.S. convoy.
(D.T.D., 071805A to F.O.I.C. Gib., Info. S.B.N.O. Azores, C. in C. W.A.)
- Axis shipping. Arrival 5th without enemy control JACQUELINE in ballast.
(Gijon, 071930A to Admty. B.B.)
Arrival 6th Segunto (German) NICOLIN MAERSK from Marseilles in ballast to load 4000 tons iron ore and proceed Valencia to left 3000 tons same. Expected sailing 11th.
(Valencia, 072210 to Gib., (R) London and Madrid.)
- O.S. 60. Departures BALINDERRY, AUBRETIA, CYCLAMEN escorting Gib. section O.S.60.
(F.O.C. Gib., 072158A to F.O.C.W.Af.)

South Atlantic.

- DUQUESNE Intend to sail French Cruiser DUQUESNE 1100Z/8th patrol. to patrol P, Q, R, S south. My 061831 refers. Vessel patrolling a.m./11th Dec. and proceeding Dakar E.T.A. p.m./13th.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 071056Z to Comar Dakar, (R) Admty., Com. 4th Fleet, CILICIA, Italian Cruiser EMANUELE FILBERTO, DUCA D'AOSTA.)
- Zig-zagging. In order to expedite shipping, during lulls in submarine activity, I suggest that diverting authorities should restrict the areas for zig-zagging as laid down in C.A.M.S.I. 86/42, whenever circumstances permit.
2. The orders for any ship to cease zig-zagging within definite limits would be given either by B.A.M.S. message, or in the route orders which would include a general order to commence zig-zagging if any signal was received indicating a threat from submarine attack close to their route.
 3. Adjacent diverting authorities would inform each other of the policy they wished to be carried out in their area and of any orders given to a ship sailing into an adjacent area, modifying C.A.M.S.I. 86.
 4. At the present time I consider zig-zagging could be suspended in the S.A. area, except East of Durban, when north of 28° S.

/5. It ...

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(Contd.)

5. It is thought that Masters would carry out their zig-zagging orders more strictly if they knew that these were relaxed whenever possible. (C. in C. S.A., 071143C to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F.(S.E.A.C.), F.O.C.W.Af., Connnav.)

TAIGETE,
ARCOLA.

Admiralty has instructed me to arrange for moving Italian tankers ARCOLA and TAIGETE from St. Vincent to Dakar.

(2) On orders from Lisbon Italian crews have been removed from these ships by Portuguese who have placed armed guards on board. Further intentions of Portuguese concerning Italian crews and ships unknown at St. Vincent. Request information.

(3) Organisation of British Merchant Service crew for TAIGETE and arrangements for towing ARCOLA proceeding. (F.O.C.W.Af., 071359Z to B.N.A. Lisbon, (R) Admty., N.C.S.O. St. Vincent.)

DOROTEA.

Have you any news of DOROTEA (Swedish) due Buenos Aires 30th Nov. from Durban. (D.T.D., 071619A to A.B.N.S.O. Recife.)

Operation
"Tabarin".

2. It is intended that SS. HIGHLAND MONARCH should carry out the following approximate programme (taking personnel to South Georgia and bringing back troops from Falkland Is.)

3. Request confirmation that you can provide A/S escort from vicinity of Ascension to Freetown. Unless local U-Boat situation deteriorates it is approved for ship to proceed unescorted as far as Ascension. (D.O.D.(F), 071715A to F.O.C.W.Af.)

CORFU.

There is no Admiralty objection to embarkation in CORFU of personnel for West Africa up to limit of C.A.F.O.2247/43 para. 8. 2. P.S.T.O. Capetown's 291436 Oct. to D. of S.T. and D.S.T.O.W.Af. refers. (D.O.D.(F), 071741A to C. in C. S.A., (R) P.S.T.O. Capetown, F.O.C.W.Af.)

L.G.W.4.

Sailed 1600Z/7th WESTON, COWSLIP, F.F.S. COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES escorting Convoy L.G.W.4, Freetown 0800Z/11th. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 071741.)

EMPIRE
PENNANT
"Q" report.

Your 061733A. EMPIRE PENNANT's "QQQQ" message made upon sighting units of U.S. 4th Fleet. (Cominch, 072034 to Admty.) W.D. Note: Re QQQQ message from 7° S. 22° W. on 1st December.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Air attacks on Enemy shipping. Position of 8 enemy medium vessels 3 escort vessels 36.56 N. 25.10 E. course 160 speed 12. (A/C FZK/T, 070020Z to 201 Group.) Have attacked enemy with torpedoes result of a attack unobserved. (A/C FZK/Z, 070025Z to H.Q. 201 Group.) Illuminate enemy now. I shall attack from K. (A/C using FZK/Z, T.O.R. 070146 to A/C FZK/T.) P.C. and S. of enemy (one medium merchant vessel 3 escort vessels) 36.59 N. 24.50 E. 170° 12 knots. (A/C FZK/Y, 070115 to H.Q. 201 Group.) Enemy has altered course to 120° approx. (A/C FZK/Y 070120B to H.Q. 201 Group.) Have attacked enemy with torpedoes and estimate no hits. (A/C FZK/Y 070210Z to H.Q. 201 Group.) Nr. 1. Position of 1 merchant vessel 1500 tons, 1 merchant vessel 1000 tons, 2 merchant vessels 500 tons Portolago Harbour. Have attacked enemy heavy flak. (A/C ZFS/A 071150B to 201 Co-op Group.)

SHAKESPEARE. Onward routeing from 035° 37' 023° 02' at 1800 9th. Proceed submerged by day to pass 035° 43' 019° 15' at 1800/11th thence on surface to meet escort 5 miles east of B. in Q.B.B.147 at 1400 12th. 2. Request bombing restrictions. (S.O. Submarine Malta, 070717 to SHAKESPEARE, C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 10, C. in C. Levant, Capt. (S) 1, A.H.Q. Malta, V.A. Malta, 201 Group. Capt. (S) 8, (R) Admty., R.A. Aledandria.)

Italian movements. Alexandria. 6th. Departures MOCENIGO, GREGALE BRAGADINO, CORRIDONI DA ECCO. (R.A. Alex, 070816.)

V.N.11 A. M.S. C1 22. Propose to sail 0600 9th: 19 ships for Naples: Escorts WHADDON, ECHO, QUANTOCK, WHEATLAND. (N.O.I.C. Augusta, 071013A, 081129A.)

ORPHEE. Leave patrol to pass 042° 30' 005° 34' at 2200/10th, 038° 48' 006° 26' at 1100/26th, to R/V with escort in 036° 57' 003° 04' at 0900/13th surface passage except for daylight 11th. (Capt. (S) 10, 071040 to ORPHEE (R) C. in C. Med. 10th S/M.F., F.O.C. Gib., N.O.I.C. Algiers, CASABIANCA.)

Air reports. A.324 Dec. 7. Daily Opsum 223. 5/6th. 2 Wellingtons armed torpedoes and bombs anti- shipping R/C Western Aegean. One bombed a small vessel east of (?Melos). No other sightings. 6th. 3 Beaufighters anti- shipping R/C Aegean, attacked a 150 foot oiler entering Oia Harbour (Santerin) scoring strikes with 20 mm. cannon on superstructure

/and...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Air
reports.
(Contd.)

and amidships. Vessel burst into flames and was left covered by haze of smoke and burning well.

(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 071052Z.)

M.S.23368 A.F.910 6th. N.West A.A.F. Opsum 288.

N.W.Af. S.A.F. 5th 36 U.S. Mitchells B.25 Split

harbour and reported cruiser in Solin Bay 216 x 500 no cruiser present. Hits MY and shipyards Split. (9 groups missing).

12 Kittyhawks (P.40) dropped 24 x 250 M/V near Split.

2 direct hits claimed.

3rd Dec. (Add. 4 Spitfire bombers escort 4 Spitfires attacked 5000 ton M.V. in Gulf of Kotor?. Hits claimed on decks and superstructure.

(H.Q. N.Af. Air Force, 061700A.)

Responsibilities, Approved your 051945.

of S/Ms Malta. (C. in C. Med., 071055 to S.10 (R) C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Capt. (S)1, Capt. (S) 8, Admty., R.A. Alexandria, F.O.S.)

DOLFIJN,
UNSEEN,
UNIVERSAL.

Intend to sail to join G.U.S.24.

2. S/Ms are to be detached by orders of Capt. (S)10, DART to report if times of detachment are delayed.

3. Request sailing authorities inform all concerned.

(N.O.I.C. Malta, 071055 to DART, S.E.C. G.U.S.24 (R) F.O.S. N.A.A. Algiers to Bizerta, F.O.C. Gib., Capt. (S)10.)

HILARY.

A.M.041958.

Request you sail to U.K. in M.K.S.33.

(C. in C. Med., 071112A to F.O.C. Gib. (R) A.N.C.X.F. Admty.)

D.K.A.7.

Arrived convoy D.K.A.7, escorted by LANDGUARD and SENNEN.

(N.C.S.O. Aden, 071153Z.)

Swedish
relief
and ships.

Mining campaign recently been started against Greek harbours may endanger Swedish relief traffic. Consider this interference must be accepted in same way as risk from bombing.

2. Propose Swedes be informed that while we shall continue to respect safe conduct routes we

can accept no responsibility for safety of relief ships in harbours themselves.

(C. in C. Levant, 071209B to Admty. (R) H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., 201 Groups, C. in C. Med.)

[Reply: Admty 211235A page 482]

/LE TRIOMPHANT...

7.12.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

LE TRIUMPHANT. Naval France have received information that ship is badly damaged in Typhoon and in tow of British tanker CEDAR MILLS. Request signals indicating progress may be repeated to C. in C. Med. per information of Naval France. (C. in C. Med., 071228 to C. in C.E.F.(R) Admty., Naval France.)

Joint Army R.A.F. Intelligence appreciation. 390580 I/44629 7th Dec. Officer only - for D.M.I. 24 hours to 1000Z 7th Dec. 1. Ph. R/C of enemy shipping in Aegean 6th. Mentions LIVENZA, TANAIS, GERDATOFT, JOHN KNUDSEN, CATERINA SCHIAFFINO, CITTA DI SAVONA. 6. Apparent movement German troops from Samos - Leros areas to Khios and possibly Mityleni. Apparent diminution caique traffic to and from Rhodes but this probably only temporary lull. Indications further impending sailings ships from Piræus. (C. in C. M.E. 071400B.)

SURF. Proceed forthwith to patrol on a line east and west of 039° 46' 025° 36'. Attention is drawn to my 061457B ref. SHAKESPEARE. (Capt. (S) 1, 071443B to SURF (R) 1st S.F. C. in C. Levant.)

Situation at Bari and Heel ports. S.T.O. F.O.T.A.L.I.'s 051623 gives details of recent unfortunate events at Bari. 2. Several days discharge capacity has been entirely lost and reduced capacity for some time to come is inevitable. 3. Immediate action taken to relieve situation included holding some ships already arrived at Augusta and diverting to Bizerta four U.S. ships in U.G.S.24. 4. Situation aggravated by congestion at Taranto due partly to temporary factors such as bad weather but probably also to over estimate of number of M.T. ships port can handle as visualised in N.A.S.A.B. 613. 5. Taranto situation relieved temporarily by diversion to Sicily of two M.T. ships ex North Africa in U.G.S. 24 and cancellation of loading of 10 M.T. ships in North Africa and Mid. East in U.G.S. 25 and M.K.S.34. Advanced A.F.H.Q. had also proposed to relieve situation by diverting some Taranto M.T. ships to Bari but obviously this will no longer be possible. 6. Advanced A.F.H.Q. are examining urgently the loading programme from all areas to Heel ports in the light of (A) temporary reduction of capacity at Bari and (B) possible overestimates of capacity of Heel area generally. A.F.H.Q. representatives leave for Naples on Wednesday to discuss whole problem. (P.S.T.O. Med, 071541 to D. of D. of S.T. (R) P.S.T.O.M.E.)

/Axis...

7.12.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Axis shipping losses. My 081613 Nov. Levant Area for Nov. Sunk 5 ships of 10500 tons, 19 auxiliary schooners and caiques - 1800 tons and a 300 foot floating dock. (Capt. on Staff Alexandria, 071543B to D.N.I. (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, F.O.I.C. Gib.)

M.T.Bs for Med. Your 191804 Nov. Not desired to allocate a separate flotilla number to these boats since no crews or maintenance personnel can be allocated to them from U.K. and no permanent increase in front line strength of small type M.T.Bs in your command can be approved.

Proposed armament.

4. Dates of shipment of remaining ex-Russian M.T.Bs, will be signalled when available. (A.C.N.S.(F) & A.C.N.S.(W) 071622A to C. in C. Med., Info., C.C.F.)

Glider bomb jamming equipment. 3. Consider necessary to have one technical expert on C. in C. Med. staff to assist with radio countermeasures against radio controlled bombs and move may be required to achieve best results with equipment asked for in my 021726. 4. Request Admiralty's views. (C. in C. Med., 071641A to Admty., (R) V.A.M. C. in C. Levant.)

G.U.S.24. Sailing Telegram 24 ships. 2. 1245B 7th. (R.A. Alexandria, 071652B.)

Yugoslav Navy. Yugo-Slavs. Your 061543. No precipitate action is being taken, see my 021142. 2. F.O.T.A.L.I. is requested to signal summarized report of activities of Yugo-Slav Naval Representatives (R) to Admty. and C. in C. Levant. 3. In view of C. in C. Allied Forces' decision communicated in my 061225 it can be definitely stated now: A. No need for any representative of Yugo-Slav Navy in Italy. B. Their removal to Malta is acceptable as a temporary measure but as stated in my 011738 para. 4, and my 181904 there is no employment for Yugo-Slav Navy on Med. Station unless they accept without question the orders of C. in C. Allied Forces. (C. in C. Med., 071730A to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant, F.O.T.A.L.I. 15th Army Group.)

U.340. It is considered that following attacks which have been assessed by Admiralty also contributed towards destruction of U.340.

| Time. | Date. | Position. | Aircraft. |
|-------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 2156A | 29th Nov. | 37° 00' N. 08° 41' W. | Wellington P/179 |
| 2203A | 30th Nov. | 35° 33' N. 06° 37' W. | Wellington W/179 |

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

U.340.
(Contd.)

2. Credit for this success has therefore been apportioned 30% to each aircraft and 40% to FLEETWOOD.

3. Your 302359 Nov. para. 3 refers.
(D.A.U.D. 071908A to C. in C. Med., Info. F.O.C. Gib., Cominch.)

STONEHENGE.

Cancel my 041228. STONEHENGE is being sent to you shortly on completion of docking.
(C. in C. Levant, 072015B to C. in C. E.F.(R) Admty., F.O.S.S.I, C. in C. Med.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

J.C.28. Sailing telegram, (Madras portion) 2. 0130Z/7th
(N.C.S.O.Madras 070134Z to Admty.)

B.A.57. Sailing telegram (3 ships). 2. 0200Z/7th.
6. GAWLER, MARYBOROUGH.
(N.C.S.O.Bombay 070218 to Admty.)

B.C.77. Following is a repetition of 050926Z (begins):
2. 0900Z/5th. 6. D.S.WILLIAM VAN DER ZAAN,
SHOREHAM, POONA. (Ends.)
(N.C.S.O.Bombay 070320Z to Admty.)

U/B dis- Bi-weekly U-Boat disposition No. 7.
position. (C. in C.E.F. 070417 to E.F.439Y.)

M.B.57. Sailing telegram (16 ships). 2. 1026Z/7th.
6. IPSWICH, BATHURST, DIPAVATI, (?BARODA).
(N.C.S.O.Colombo 071026Z to Admty.)

U-Boat 1. Your 041142. Present shipping situation justi-
threat, fied acceptance some risks in measures to expedite
release of turn-round. Existing convoy system entails monthly
shipping from loss of about 1800 ship days in insuring against
Convoys. relatively modest and local threats.

2. In general consider whole system should now be
made elastic with convoys operating only on routes
actually or potentially threatened and with escorts

thus released from other routes operating wherever practicable as
hunting groups in areas of known probability.

3. Following are suggested.

A. Class D. meaning all ships. Your para. 4 refers.

B. 14 knot independent limit for all ships except in narrow and
threatened waters when adequate security cannot be achieved by air
cover and/or evasive action.

4. In convoy areas turn-round will also be materially assisted
if schedules are notified well in advance for the benefit of
authorities controlling loading and off-loading programmes.

(D.T.D. 071128A to C. in C.E.F. (R) C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.).)

GUARDIAN,
BRITTANY,
PROTECTOR.

Your 241208Z Nov. GUARDIAN will be available in any
case vide my 060156A Nov.

2. C. in C.Med. will be requested to release
BRITTANY when it is certain she will not be required
in the Mediterranean.

3. PROTECTOR will be available on completion of
damage repairs later in 1944.

(A.C.N.S.(F) 071213A to C. in C.E.F. (R) C. in C.
Med.)

7.12.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Hospital Ships, policy. Your 280844 Oct. (N.T. in W.D.) Following is policy regarding Hospital Ships recently approved by Combined Chiefs of Staff:-
A. In order to acquire right to immunity at night, hospital ships must be illuminated continuously from sunset to sunrise.
B. In order to acquire right to immunity at night, the funnels and hulls of hospital ships must be illuminated from sunset to sunrise to show the red crosses, white painting and green band. Distinctive markings which must at all times be displayed on the decks for identification from the air must be similarly illuminated at night.
C. If markings are not illuminated at the time of an attack at night, no complaint can be entertained. It is not, however, illegal for a hospital ship to darken ship at her own risk on necessary occasions such as when lying in a port, passing through defensive minefields or in company with the fleet.
D. Any form of manoeuvres or stratagems at sea such as practised by naval vessels to deceive an enemy is not permitted to hospital ships, except when alteration of course is necessary in special circumstances to avoid compromising an operation.
(V.C.N.S. 071302A to C. in C.E.F. (R) S.A.C.S.E.A. Armindia.)

NEW LONDON, collision. Adm. Lyness. Intercept at 1856 G.M.T. from unknown station (begins): S.O.S. de KBCY (NEW LONDON) 25.39 N. 57.09 E.? collision W.X.26134 (unread) (ends.)
(Wick 071958 to Adm. Lyness.)

Collided with escort vessel 1840Z/7th Dec. approx. 025° 45' N. 057° 05' E. sustained slight damage am proceeding destination.
(NEW LONDON 072155Z to Adm. Mombasa.)

M.A.21. Calcutta section. 3. R/V 5 miles south of Western Channel Light Vessel 2100 G.M.T. 7th. 6. KELAVATI (not N.U.)
(N.C.S.O. Calcutta 072107Z to Admty.)

FROBISHER. Departure 2128Z/7th.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 072203Z.)

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7.12.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

- W.6. My 062359. Delayed by heavy weather. E.T.A. before dark 7th December. (W.6, 070724Z to F.O.N.F. (R) Capt. D. Newfoundland) H.M.S. MONTGOMERY Port H.P. Thrust requires adjustment.
- T.G.66.9 constituted. This is Cinclant's 070704. Addressed to Comcordiv 20. Refer to C. in C. Lant's 062115. The following are additional small craft which will sail U.G.S.27: SWIVEL, PATRIDGE, Y.M.S. 346 - 352 inclusive. This detachment is constituted Task Group 66.9, Lieut. Snipes in PATRIDGE as Task Group Commander. At an appropriate point near Azores C.T.F.66 direct this detachment proceed to Horta for fuel. Whenever ready proceed to U.K. via route prescribed and to the destination which Admiralty directs. Report to Com.12th Fleet for duty upon arrival U.K. at which time Task Group 66.9 is dissolved. (Comnaveu, 071234Z to Admty.)
- N.S.H.Q.S/M. Estimate. (N.S.H.Q. 071404Z)
- STEADFAST. My 061355 departed Charleston Seabuoy 1030Q/7th. (Com. 6. 071505 to C.E.S.F.)
- LE MALIN, U.G.S.27. French Destroyer LE MALIN as additional escort U.G.S. 27. Direct vessel upon arrival Gibraltar report C. in C. Med. for further orders (Cominch, 071520Z to Cinclant (R) C.E.S.F. Cdt. 1st Naval Dst. Boston Cdt. 3rd Naval Dst. New York, Commorseafron, Comnavnaw, C. in C. Med. Admty. F.O. Gib. Comdeslant, Navale France Algiers.)
- ANDES. Virginia Cape 7 Dec. See my 061811. Departed at 1443Z. (P.D. Norfolk, 071522 to R.D.O. Washn. pass action to Commoroccanseafon, C. in C. Med., Admty. F.O. Gibraltar, S.B.N.O. W.At. Bermuda, Comtenthflt. C. & R.)
- U.S. S/M Estimate. (Cominch, 071559)
- Movements, Bermuda. Departed Bermuda 6th. B.Y.M.S. 252 and 41 for Horta and Londonderry, WETASKIWIN for Galvaston. (S.B.N.O. W.At. 071615Z to Admty.)

Escort /...

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7.12.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

Escort Oilers. Whenever a ship is sailed in S.C. or H.X. after equipment in U.S. Port it is proposed to send a separate message in the form "Blank newly fitted escort Oiler".
(2) It is requested that ocean escorts may make a special point of fuelling from these ships.
(B.R.L.O. New York, 071747Z to F.O.N.F. (R) N.S.H.Q. C. in C. C.N.A., Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

Stragglers arrived week-ending 4th. 2nd S.M. BABCOCK (F.S.) H.X.268. Slight weather damage.
2nd HENRY GEORGE (U.S.) H.X. 268 Lost Convoy Slight weather damage.
3rd GEORGE POPHAM (U.S.) H.X. 268 Lost Convoy. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 071804Z to Admty.)

COLDSTREAMER disabled 6th. Situation now changed. COLDSTREAMER steering with great difficulty using only 5 degs of helm in heavy gale. In view of this and Halifax weather report 071620Z consider tug should again be sent. My position at 071800Z 049 degs. 40' 048 degs. 14' course and speed 234 degs. 4. Weather 6562 0468. (GALT, 071829Z to F.O.N.F. (R) S.O.E.G. C.I., TENACITY, Capt. (D) St. Johns.)

KING HAAKON VII. Your 062023. Request KING HAAKON VII be sailed for Halifax to await instructions from Norwegian Naval Headquarters.
(D.O.D.(H), 071914A to N.S.H.Q., B.A.D., Info S.B.N.O. W.At., C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F. Norg. Naval Service, New York.)

R.C.N. Frigates and Corvettes, Cancellation of orders for construction. All orders for construction of Frigates and Corvettes building in Canada for R.C.N. completing after 1st Oct. 1944 have been cancelled. These cancellations amount to 41 Frigates and 11 revised single screw Corvettes.
N.M.C.S. to inform Cominch.
(C.N.S. Canada, 071914Z to S.C.N.O. London, N.M.C.S. Washington, Admty. (R) B.A.D., C. in C. C.N.A., C.O.P.C., B.A.T.M.)

Bay of Biscay A/S offensive, C.V.E's. Concur in general with appreciation Your 272126. Our plans to equip planes with searchlights are being expedited. As to Bay and fringes thereof we agree that your C.V.E's with appropriate balance between fighters and bombers will serve to improve position of U.K./Gibraltar Convoy both against U-Boat and Air and to Supplement Bay offensive. We also feel Bay offensive would be greatly strengthened by surface support groups. While greatest successes by C.V.E's against U-Boat concentrations

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Biscay A/S
Offensive,
C.V.E's.
(Contd.)

may be past we still consider them profitable (vide BOGUE operations last week) the more so as we plan soon to employ one or more support groups consisting of two C.V.E's and attached escorts to strenghten night coverage.
(Cominch, 071945 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.
Comnaveu, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Lant.)

Sub.attack
and Sighting
Summary.

Para A. My 052010. TOUCHET sunk presumed enemy action. All times Z.
Para. C. A.T.C. plane sights sub. 08.36 N. 58.24 W. 061251 (I) Jamaica.
Para.D. A.T.C. plane sights sub. course 300 about 14.30 N. 61.10 W. 071420.
(Cominch, 072027 to Admty.)

H.M.S's
DAKINS,
LORING.

Comply my 191828 Oct. for DAKINS when ready about 11th and my 041805 for LORING about 15th.
(Cominch, 072112Z to C.E.S.F.)

COLLINGWOOD.

COLLINGWOOD expected to be ready to sail 15th. Request destination.
(B.A.M.R. 072236Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) Admty. F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q., S.B.N.O. W.At. COLLINGWOOD)

Movements,
Bermuda.

Bermuda PROVIDER, SHIEL and L.C.I.(L) 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380 arrived.
(S.B.N.O. W.At. 072301Z)

Australia and New Zealand.Digest
Serial
No.686 Dec.6th.

Two Catalinas strafed and burned up fuel laden schooner off Kaimana early hours. One medium sized vessel few other small ships observed Kaimana Bay.
(2) Three Liberators missed small Freighter at Kokas with half bomb load from 10,000 feet morning and later dropped remaining bombs Boela Oil Centre on Ceram Island.
(7) Two Beaufighters three Bostons bombed strafed buildings along waterfront P Harbour Garove Island morning without observing results.
(8) Five Ship Convoy apparently unescorted including 3 small, 2 Medium Freighters sighted before noon 20 miles West New

Hanover /...

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7.12.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
Serial
No.686
Dec.6th.
(Contd.)

Hanover course 300 degs. 2 Zeros covering ships. Probably same Group attacked by patrol Liberator four hours later 50 miles further North West. One near miss claimed.
(9) Photographic Lightning Report observing single Light Cruiser 40 miles Northwest Rabaul heading North West midday.
(17) Two U.S. Destroyers bombarded supply dumps and camps Mawaraka (Southern Empress Augusta Bay where Buin Road reaches coast) 4th. Two Dauntless spotted and another two attacked in support.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 070745Z)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C.071405A, 071415A)

Submarines Attacked.

Sub.
Attack and
Sighting
Summary
for 24
hours to
0900Z/7th.

Para.A. 1. Azores A/C sighted U-Boat, Co. 240 degs. 8 knots at 0405/6th in 32 degs. 45' N. 24 degs. 30' W.
2. A/C sighted U-Boat at 1710/6th in 02 degs. 52' N. 84 degs. 00' E.
Para. B.1 U.S.S. FLETCHER attacked U-Boat contact at 2225/6th in 35 degs. 52' N. 06 degs. 43' W.
(D.D.I.C. 071106A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

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8.12.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

French Atlantic patrol area.

1. From 0001Z today a French patrol area has been established in the Atlantic Narrows. Whenever available, two French cruisers will patrol the area. (p. 130)

SS. LEONIDAS reported as suspicious ship.

2(a) A U.S. Liberator, apparently operating from a carrier, sighted at 1105Z today in 05.22 S. 23.18 W. a suspicious ship resembling BURGENLAND steering 040°. The ship identified herself as a British ship known to be in Bombay at the moment. Efforts to intercept by MARBLEHEAD and WINSLOW were unsuccessful. Aircraft and a Task Group are to search the area.

(b) It would appear that the suspicious ship was the Greek SS. LEONIDAS, Victoria (Brazil) for Freetown and U.K.

Mediterranean.

"Avalanche".

3(a) TROUBRIDGE and TUMULT this evening intercepted the German hospital ship GRADISCA in 41.22 N. 17.50 E. (about 35 miles north-east of Bari) and escorted her into Brindisi for examination. The ship was carrying a number of unwounded Italian prisoners who did not suffer from any complaint which justified their being carried on board.

(b) The M/S-A/S trawler RYSA was mined and sunk in the approaches to Maddalena today, during sweeping operations.

(c) Coastal forces intercepted enemy craft north of Bridport, Elba p.m. today.

(d) 12 U.S. Marauders attacked Civitavecchia harbour today. Warehouses and oil storage were hit. 14 Bostons also made an attack; they hit and set on fire a vessel at the outer entrance to the harbour and also hit a ship alongside the mole.

Aegean.

4(a) During November Axis shipping losses in the Levant area comprised 5 ships of 10,500 tons, 19 auxiliary schooners and caiques of 1800 tons, and a 300 ft. floating dock.

/(b) ...

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8.12.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Aegean.
(Contd.)

(b) The recent activities of Allied submarines in the Aegean have proved very damaging to the enemy, and might well strain the Axis supply organisations in the Aegean to breaking point. SERAPH and SHAKESPEARE are to refit in the U.K., and SURF and STONEHENGE are leaving very shortly to join the Eastern Fleet. This will make it difficult to maintain pressure, and C. in C. Levant is asking C. in C. Med. if he can spare any submarines. In response, C. in C. Med. ordered Capt. (S) 10 to send two submarines to Beirut.

UNSWERVING, VAMPIRE and VOX are being sent out to the Mediterranean early next year.

(c) Two Wellingtons successfully mined Naxos harbour last night.

East Indies.

5. 5 Liberators bombed Moulmein last night; bursts were seen on the jetties.

America and West Indies.

6. The small Panamanian M.V. COLOMBIA was torpedoed and sunk in the area 09.50 N. 78.55 W. (east of Manzanillo Point, Canal Zone) at 1100Z today.

Australia and New Zealand.

7. Two Dutch Mitchells bombed the wharf at Kupang (Timor) after dark today whilst 2 others attacked the airfield and barracks.

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8.12.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

8. In the Solomons area, Allied aircraft made a possible hit today on an enemy submarine 30 miles south of Cape Orford.

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8.12.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Eastern
Fleet re-
inforcement.

As there has been unexpected delay to certain corvettes allocated to Eastern Fleet by Admty's 211105 August it is intended to expedite as far as possible the despatch of corvettes allocated by Admiralty's 281556.

(2) Following are intended sailings.

- (A) SNOWFLAKE with K.M.S. 36. December 14th.
- (B) MONKSHOOD, BUGLOSS with K.M.S. 37 December 25th.
- (C) MEADOWSWEET, VIOLET, BURNET, WILLOWHERB as ordered by Admiralty early January.

(3) No dates can yet be given for DITTANY, SMILAX, STATICE.
(C. in C. W.A. 081507Z to Admty.)

JED, SPEY, WEAR, ROTHER, EVENLODE, FINDHORN, TAFF, NADDER are allocated to Eastern Fleet and will proceed abroad with convenient convoys approx. one month after relief in my command by Capt. and Maritime Frigates.

(2) Anticipate ships will be required to sail as follows:-

- (A) WEAR early January.
- (B) EVENLODE, SPEY, FINDHORN early February.
- (C) ROTHER, JED, TAFF, NADDER mid February.

(3) ROTHER, EVENLODE, SPEY, FINDHORN will be required as Support Groups between December 20th and January 15th approx.
(C. in C. W.A. 081651A)Manning of
Captain-
class
Frigates.Your 031930. Reply No. Para. 8 of C.A.F.O.
2005/43 refers.
(D.R.O. C.O.081525 to C. in C. W.A.)KINGSMILL,
LAWFORD.

A.M. 011725 and Cominch 022207. On arrival in U.K. about 13th December, KINGSMILL and LAWFORD can be taken in hand for conversion to H.Q. ship, KINGSMILL at Birkenhead, LAWFORD at Liverpool.

(2) One of these ships is required to commence work-up 1st February and one by 1st March.
(D.O.D.(H), 081812A to C. in C. W.A.)Movements.

ARIADNE.

Several eastbound U-Boats estimated near you today.
(D.D.I.C. 081014A to ARIADNE)

ANSON.

Rosyth arrival V.A. 2 H.F. in ANSON.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 081055A to C. in C. H.F.)

JAMAICA.

C. in C. H.F. 061306A.
Intend proceed 1030A/10th.
Route. E.T.A. 0820A/12.
(JAMAICA, 081634A to C. in C. H.F.)

My /...

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8.12.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

JAMAICA. My 061306. For a.m. 12th December read a.m. 11th
(Contd.) (C. in C. H.F. 082332 to JAMAICA)
My 081634A. All times advanced 24 hours.
E.T.A. 0820A/11.
(JAMAICA, 082359A to C. in C. H.F., A.C.I.C.)

S/M Positions of S/M's at 0800/9 and movements
Movements. for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 081657, 082237A.)

ZEEHOND. (1) Dutch S/M ZEEHOND will be sailed escorted
from Rothesay to arrive position ZA at 1200A/12.
ZEEHOND proceeding thence unescorted in
accordance with your 042331A Dec. S.O.A. 9 knots.
E.T.A. "Chop" 2359A/16.
(Capt. (S) 7, 081723A to F.O.S.)

CHASER. F.O.C.T. 071515. It has been decided that
CHASER should sail even though not fully worked
up. She will be required to leave U.K. on
January 15th and to allow maximum time for
working up, it is requested that every endeavour be made to
complete her repairs as early as possible.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 082330A to F.O.C.T., F.O.I.C. Glasgow)

Operations.

Operation Your 071742A. Following ships detailed:
F.V. (A) COCKATRICE. (B) RATTLESNAKE.
(C) RATTLER (S.O) and HYDRA.
Propose sailing COCKATRICE for Loch Ewe leaving
Skaalefiord p.m. 9th.
(RATTLESNAKE, 080502A to C. in C. H.F.)
Your 061742A. Intention is to maintain 4 submarines on patrol
in areas 3, 4, 4A and 5 during passage of J.W. 55 A and all
future J.W. and R.A. convoys.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 081612A to Admty.)
(1) Following amendments are to be made to North Russian
Convoy instructions.
Part 3. Add Air R/C and Protection from North Russia. 33.
3 Following R/Cs will be flown:
(A) by D. B.3's or Bostons flying singly or in pairs in
areas bounded by line joining Kildin Islands - Bear Islands -
075 degs. N. 035 degs. E. - Kildin Islands.
This is a routine R/C flown daily.
(B) By D. B.3's Bostons or P.E.3's flying singly or in pairs to
Eastwards of meridian 032 degs. E. to locate Convoy. R.C.
Aircraft have instructions not to break W/T silence.
34. Fighter Escort may be expected:
(A) By Hurricane, Airacobras, Jaks and Kittyhawks within 60 miles
of Kildin Island.

(B) /...

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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation F.V. (Contd.) (B) by P.E.3's, Hurricanes and Jake in approaches to and through White Sea and in vicinity of Archangel.
Part XII para. 141. (B) for 39.25 K/cs read 2012 K/cs.
(2) Attention is particularly called to para. 142 (F).
(C. in C. H.F. 081991A to H.F.)

Operation F.T. Scapa arrival Capt. (D) 23 in SAUMAREZ with SAVAGE, SCOURGE, SCORPION, HARDY, STORD, VENUS, VIGILANT.
(A.C.O.S.080922A to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)
Scapa Arrival MIDDLETON, BRISSENDEN.
(A.C.O.S.082017A to H.F.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (a) 3 M.G.B's short notice Newhaven.
(b) 2 CHASSEURS Anti - E-Boat patrol on 50 degs. 24' N. between 00 degs. 35' W. and 00 degs. 48' W. from 1830A to 0700A.
(c) M.L.291 short notice St. Helens.
(d) GLAISDALE short notice Yarmouth.
(e) 3 S.G.Bs Anti E-Boat patrol on 50 degs. 18' N. between 02 degs. 00' W. and 02 degs. 20' W. from 1830A to 0500A.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 081301A and 081350A)
(A) Force 113, M.T.B's 430 (S.O), 415, 416.
(B) 2000A/8. (C) 090 Start 18. (D) Vicinity of (C)
(F) 0645A/9.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 081305A)
M.A.S.B's 25 and 23 2 miles south of D buoy, E.T.D. Ramsgate 1615, E.T.R. 0930/9.
M.T.B's 417 and 437 at No.7 Buoy. E.T.D. Ramsgate 1645; E.T.R. 0815/9.
M.T.B's 353, 357, 204, 236, 700 & 705 patrolling 5 miles N.W. of Blankenberghe, E.T.D. 1900, E.T.R. 0800/9.
(V.A.Dover, 081612A)
My 081305A. Patrol to remain in harbour at immediate notice.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 081822A to N.O.I.C.Dartmouth)

Exercises.

Exercise C.P.2. Intend following exercise C.P.2 on 11th Dec.
(2) Object.
To exercise FURIOUS combined air strike on shipping target with an alternative military target, on an enemy coast.
(4) Forces taking part KENT (F.O 1st C.S.) BERWICK, ENTERPRISE, FURIOUS and Destroyers (which R.A.D. H.F. is requested to arrange)
(7) Method of execution.
(A) Force will sail from Scapa practice area p.m. 10th as arranged by F.O.1st C.S. and will be in flying-off position approx. 060 degs. 30' N. 004 degs. 10' W. ready to fly off first range at 0900A/11th.
(D) On completion forces will return to Scapa.
(C.S.1, 081134A and 091210 to C. in C. H.F.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

- SPEY. SPEY thinks F.O.C.Gibraltar may not have reported that repairs to hull were completed although docking is still necessary for repairs to asdic dome. Perhaps this could be done at Liverpool. C. in C. W.A.'s 051922 refers. (E.G.1 080859A to Capt. (D) Liverpool)
- RODNEY. Port condenser out of action. Returning harbour. Port engine will not be available. Request Gate at 1300 and tug to stand by. (RODNEY, 080941A to N.O.I.C.Greenock)
- DUKE OF ROTHESAY. Intercept 1120Z DE DUKE OF ROTHESAY to S.N.O. Liverpool. Send Tug urgent. Ashore. (C. in C. Nore, 081220A to Admty.)
- DUCHESS OF BEDFORD. Owing to collision DUCHESS OF BEDFORD has only one anchor and no mooring facilities port side forward. (WOODPECKER, 081225A to C. in C. W.A.)
- JAMAICA. W.T. hold compartment stations 195 and 203 underneath after steering compartment is making water at about 6 to 8 tons per hour. Leaks due to loose lower rivets at 201 frame. (JAMAICA, 081431A to C. in C.H.F.)
- REIGER. REIGER refloated and safely berthed St. Ives. (C. Salvage Officer, St. Ives, 081545A to F.O.I.C.Falmouth)
- LOCHNAGAR. D. of S.T.'s 072145. LOCHNAGAR will not complete boiler repairs until the end of the month. (P.S.T.O. Clyde, 081838 to D.S.T.)
- LONDON. Intend LONDON should arrive Rosyth about Dec. 22nd to give twelve days leave and is to be docked for exchange of propellers. She is required back at Scapa p.m. 7th January. (C. in C. H.F. 081906 to C. in C. Rosyth)
- KISTNA, WANDERER. KISTNA undocked. WANDERER docked at Londonderry p.m. today. (Cdre. D. W.A. 082011A to Admty.)
- SKJOLD. My 041404. SKJOLD refloated at 1600A today after discharging approx. 650 tons cargo coal. Now follows base collier LANARK for discharging remainder of cargo. Anticipate dry docking Saturday (S.T.O.Iceland, 082106A to D.S.T)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

PETUNIA. My 081854. PETUNIA returned to Clyde with defects.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 082314A to Cdre. D. W.A.)

Shipping and Convoys.

E.G.4.
BURGES. In view of BLACKWOOD's defects BURGES is to take her place in E.G.4th for the forthcoming K.M.F./M.K.F. Escort duties.
(C. in C. W.A. 080030A to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

K.M.F.27. ORONTES and SCYTHIA are required to be ready to sail from Liverpool in convoy K.M.F.27.
(2) No personnel will embark.
(D.S.T.080040A to P.S.T.O. N.W. Ports.)

Your 071212/Dec. and A.M.042355.
(1) SS. SCYTHIA and ORONTES will be sailing empty from Liverpool
(2) SS. CHEYEBASSA and PEGU sailing from Clyde are suitable for equipping as rescue-ships.
(D.O.D.(H), 081750A to C. in C. W.A.)
A.M. 042355. Following ships will leave U.K. in K.M.F.27 parting company to proceed independently as directed by Admty.
(a) SS. PERTSHIRE 16 knots from Clyde, destination Capetown.
(b) SS. PORT JACKSON 15 knots from Mersey, destination Horta for onward passage to Capetown after disembarkation of passengers.
(D.O.D.(H), 082310A to C. in C. W.A.)

U.T.5.
T.U.5. Convoy U.T.5 is due Clyde a.m. 15/12, Liverpool p.m. 15/12, and Bristol Channel a.m. 16/12 comprising the following 17 troop transports.
Names and destinations.

(3) All U.S. vessels are required to be ready to sail in convoy T.U.5 on 19/12 from Bistol Channel and 20/12 from Clyde. Separate signal follows regarding U.S. EVANGELINE.

(4) As far as can be seen no British personnel will embark.
(D.S.T. 080109A)

Convoy U.T.5 is due Belfast a.m. 15/12 comprising the six following troop transports. Names.

(4) All U.S. vessels are required to be ready to sail from Clyde in convoy T.U.5 on 20/12.

(5) As far as can be seen no British personnel will embark.
(D.S.T.080120A to D.S.T.O. Belfast.)

H.X.268 /...

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- H.X.268, Preliminary D/F bearings at 2346Z indicate U-Boat in your vicinity which may have reported you.
(D.D.I.C. 080110A to Escorts H.X. 268)
Ships comprising H.X 268 fast. Your 081043A. JAMAICA, PRODUCER, BEAVER HILL, K. LUCKENBACK, MANCHESTER TRADER, DUALA. Escorted by WASKESIU and DAUPHIN. My 072346 LAMAR rejoined convoy.
(KOOTENAY 081344Z to C. in C. W.A.)
- U.C.7. Sailed at 0133/8th. 9 ships. Names.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 080245A)
C.T.G.219 in AMESBURY plus BATES, BUNCH, BLESSMAN, J.E. CAMPBELL and CHATELAIN sailed for
U.C.7 at 0815A.
(E.C. Londonderry, 080815Z)
U.C.7 convoy is to proceed at 11 knots pending the receipt by me of information from Medina San Antonio U.S.S. OKLAHAMA.
(C. in C. W.A. 080902Z to Escorts U.C.7)
OKLAHOMA with convoy U.C.7. Refer C. in C. W.A.
081515 MM.
(C.T.G. 21.9 082356 to C. in C. W.A.)
- E.G.6. Return Londonderry forthwith.
(C. in C. W.A. 080839Z to E.G.6)
- P.S.8. My 071652A. P.S. and S.P.8 cancelled.
S.P.8. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 080911A)
- S.C.148. My P.C.S. 047 degs. 30' N. 046 degs. 07' W.
105 degs. 14. Expect to join 1200Z/9th.
(VERVAIN, 081000Z to FAME)
- C.W.230, My 222150A. C.W.230 and C.E. 228 postponed 24
C.E.228. hours owing to Fog.
(C. in C. Nore, 081215A)
- X.K.12 F. Request confirmation that all stragglers from X.F.12 F have been accounted for and that these ships had full routes to their destinations.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 081345A to C. in C. W.A.)
- T.A.76A. A.M. 041915. Intend sailing SS. PASTEUR
0930Z/9th. S.O.A. 19½ knots. E.T.A. Ambrose
Light Vessel 1015Z/16.
(F.O.I.C.Liverpool, 081532A to Admty.)

S.L.141/...

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Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.S.L.141/
M.K.S.32E.
FENCER.It is intended to transfer FENCER to O.S.61/
K.M.S.35 on 11th December for further leg to
southward before returning to U.K. in S.L.142/
M.K.S.33.(2) FENCER is to report if anticipated service-
ability of aircraft will permit fulfilment of
this programme.

(C. in C. W.A. 081548A to FENCER)

Your 081548A. Yes. Serviceability 8 fighters, 7 Swordfish,
My P.C.S. 040 degs. 43' N. 018 degs. 15' W. 330 degs. 6½
knots, altering to 005 degs. at 0700Z tomorrow.Unidentified aircraft which might have sighted convoy or
fighters at 1130Z today was driven off.

(FENCER, 081901Z to C. in C. W.A.)

E.G.2.

STARLING, KITE, MAGPIE are to pass Bar Light
Vessel at 1030A/9th and proceed to 057 degs. N.
025 degs. W. at 14 knots.

(2) WILD GOOSE is to follow when ready.

(C. in C. W.A. 0816A to N.O.I.C.Liverpool.)

My 081731. Amend S.O.A. to R/V 16 knots.

(F.O.I.C.Liverpool, 082135A to C. in C. W.A.)

O.S.62/
K.M.S.36.
KISTNA.KISTNA is to proceed to Gibraltar with K.M.S.36
for onward routeing to Bombay.

(C. in C. W.A. 081748A to Cdre. D. W.A.)

M.K.F.26.

A.C.I. Article (4).

(a) 0415a/9. (b) 0845A/9. (c) 9 ships.
Names.

(JED, 081815A to C. in C. W.A.)

C.W. and C.E.
Convoys.My 222150 Nov. Add one day to all sailing
dates in para. 1.

(C. in C. Nore, 081834A to Admty.)

X.K.12.
PINZON.C. in C. Plymouth 081551A. ST. ELSTAN, EMPIRE
LARCH, PINZON in tow, P.C.S. at 2000A/8th,
043 degs. 48' N. 014 degs. 54' W. 007 degs. 3
knots.

(VIZALMA, 081845 to C. in C. Plymouth)

E.G.3.

My 081604.

(1) E.G.3rd comprising DUCKWORTH, COOKE, BERRY
are to R/V with E.G.2nd in 056 degs. N. 010 degs.
20' W. at 1000A/10th.

(2) E.G.3rd to come under orders of S.O.E.G.2nd on joining.

(C. in C. W.A. 081845A to N.O.I.C.Belfast.)

O.N.M.215.

My 081744A para (C) (1).

SS. PACIFIC EXPORTER sailed Barry Roads to over-
haul convoy speed 11 knots.

Escort /...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

O.N.M.215.
(Contd.)

Escort FAIRAY (returns to Milford Haven).
ESPERANCE BAY sails Barry Roads 1000/9 to over-
take, speed 14 knots.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 082152A to C. in C. WA.)

D.F.17,
D.F.18,
D.F.19.

SS. LOCHNAGAR will be used sailing from Clyde
to Faeroes on 19th December and returning
to Aberdeen.
(2) Ship may proceed independently between
Clyde and vicinity of Cape Wrath.
(4) D.F.18 is expected to sail from Aberdeen on
18th Jan. and D.F.19 from Aberdeen on 15th Feb.
(D.O.D.(H), 082210A to A.C.O.S.)

8.12.1943.

Wednesday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

R.A.F. Report. W.X.73940. A.l. 890 8th. Gib. Opsum 7th.
H. N.F.A. 179 Beaufighter in transit Portreath
Gib. 1052 sighted stationary U/Boat on surface
43.745 N. 7.5 W. U/Boat submerged.
(A/C H.Q. 080305Z.)

SALVEDA. Has STRENUOUS, TOURMALINE convoy sailed? If not
SALVEDA is to be held in accordance with A.M.
071805*.
(F.O.I.C. Gib., 081657A to S.B.N.O. Azores (R)
C. in C. W.A. TOURMALINE. Admty.)
* Re. consider preferable to hold SALVEDA for
next suitable M.K.S. convoy.

Through fault of communications SALVEDA has sailed 0159 8th
escorted by TOURMALINE and STRENUOUS. Routed.
CLUMBERHALL and IERE still at Horta.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 082148Z to Admty. (R) F.O.C. Gib.)

T.G.21.13. Sailed to join G.U.S.23.
(C.M.S.F. 081251A F.O.I.C. Gib.)

G.U.S.23. Sailings Telegrams part 1 and 2. 42 ships.
Escorts T.F.63 U.S.S. WILKES, U.S.S. ROE, U.S.S.
SWANSON, U.S.S. SLOAT, U.S.S. MOORE, U.S.S.
SEARAVEN, U.S.S. HUSE, U.S.S. SNOWDEN (Corrupt
group) U.S.S. WARD, U.S.S. OTTERSTETTER, U.S.S. ESCALANTE,
U.S.S. KEITH.
(C.M.S.F. 081523Z, 082200Z to U.S. Port Director Norfolk.)

MONTE
MONJUICH. Spanish S.S. MONTE MONJUICH sailed Las Palmas
7th for Cadiz due 10th and should be intercepted
and sent to Gib. under armed guard.
2, 3. Re. examination.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 081716A to F.O.C. Gib.)

MONARCH
OF
BERMUDA. 27297. 9th Dec., 1943. IZ. 4679. For Cs. of
S. from Governor and C. in C. Your OZ. 3361
25 Oct. F.O.C. Gib. states owing to lack of
escorts unlikely that MONARCH OF BERMUDA ex
M.K.F.26 and now at Gib. since 2nd for repairs
will be able to proceed U.K. before about 27th.
(Gib. 082250 to Air Min.)

NICOLINE MAERSK. Understood to be under German flag now in
Segunto loading 4000 tons of ore. She will
then proceed Valencia for further 3000 tons.
Expected to sail from this port to Marseilles
on 11th. Shall I make special arrangements for
notification of departure?
(N.A. Madrid, No T.O.O./8 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

- CHITRAL. Sailed CHITRAL routed through A. 28.53 S. 33.40 E. (B) 16.20 S. 42.10 E. C. 08.00 S. 42.30 E. to Kilindini. S. of A. 15 knots. 2. E.T.A. Kilindini 1300Z 13th. (Com. i/c Durban, 081044Z to Admty., C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.), C. in C.S.A., F.O.E.A.)
- DOROTEA. Your 071619 ship arrived Buenos Aires 30th Nov. sailed 7th Dec. due Rio de Janeiro 13th. (A.S.S. B.N.S.O. Recife, 081253Z to Admty.)
- O.S.59. Arrivals 0850Z/8th. FOLKESTONE, BIDEFORD, STONECROP, ODZANI, BELLWORT with O.S.59. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 081350Z to Admty.)
- ABRUZZI, DUQUESNE, patrols. Arrived 0810Z/7th. ABRUZZI from Ocean Patrol. Sailed 1137 8th DUQUESNE to Ocean Patrol. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 081720Z to Com.4th Fleet (R) Comar Dakar, Admty.)

8.12.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.NITSA,
particulars
of sinking.

Following particulars forwarded in accordance with E.F.716H/71/27.
 B. 11° 42' N. 45° 32' E. 2145C/2/12/43.
 C. S/M D. Torpedo ship sunk. E. Two torpedoes a few seconds apart hit ship amidships.
 F. 29 survivors, 11 missing. G. No. H. No. W/T gears and ?aerials destroyed by explosion.
 (Com. Aden 080743Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) C. in C.Levant, F.O.R.S.C.A.)

SURF.

Following is a repetition of my 072013+begins: Cancel my 272155 Nov.* SURF is to proceed to E.F. on completion of rest period after present patrol. Report intended date of sailing in due course (ends.)
 (C. in C.Levant 080830B to S.1, (R) F.O.R.S.C.A. N.O.I.C. Port Said, C. in C.Med. Admty. S.4, N.O.I.C. Suez, C. in C.E.F. F.O.S.)
 * T.O.O. 272135 intended.
 + Originally recd. undecypherable. Re retention of SURF on Levant Station until further notice.

Air reports.

M.23477 part 1. A.327 8th. Daily Opsum 224 6/7th 4 Liberators (B.24) 3 Wellingtons despatched to mine Port Herakles and Salamis Straits one Wellington returned early. One Liberator (B.24) two Wellingtons successfully laid 9 mines. Remaining 3 Liberators (B.24) were held in S/Ls. Two laid 12 mines outside the prescribed area 3rd A/C returned with mines. 8 Halifaxes provided diversionary bombing of Salamis dockyard, one hit on searchlight position other bursts near A/A positions. 108 x 250 lb. 2 torpedo Wellingtons anti shipping R/C. Central Aegean, attacked 1 M/V about 3500 tons west of Antiparos Island 1 torpedo missed, result of 2nd unobserved. 1 Hudson bombed Portolago Bay Leros bursts seen Ijehonga Cove damage unobserved.
 (H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 081033Z.)

M.S. 23477. Part 2 A.327

7th Mitchells (B.25) 7 Beaufighters, 3 Baltimores (A.30) 4 U.S. mitchells attacked 1 merchant vessel 1500 tons in Alinda Bay, Leros, with 75 m.m. fire. No hits. Second formation 4 U.S. Mitchells (B.25) attacked 1 merchant vessel 500 tons in Portolago Bay no hits, but fire started among buildings on shore by 75 m.m. shells. 4 Beaufighters engaged 6 Arado 196s escorting eastbound convoy 1 merchant vessel, 6 small vessels, 2 destroyers west of Calimno. 1 Arado 196 damaged. 2 Baltimores (A.30) attacked 1 caique 30 tons south east of Stampalia Island. Vessel damaged by 2 near misses. 3 Beaufighters attacked 2 E-Boats south of Samos scoring hits with cannon fire, 1 Beaufighter hit by A.A. fire missing.
 (H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 081040Z.)

A.F.228 8th. N.A.A.F.Opsum 290. N.A.T.A.F. 7 Dec. 5 Missions total 60 U.S.Mitchells. Civitavecchia. 4 returned early. Remainder dropped 313 x 500, 64 x 250, direct hits oil storage, port and ammunition stores, causing explosions. 1 hit merchant vessel in harbour, near misses others. Hits barracks

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Air reports. (Contd.) area and gas works. Strings across Mole and Ferry Terminal. 32. U.S. Invaders dropped 42 x 500 Civitavecchia Harbour scoring near misses on freighter and starting fires in warehouse. (H.Q.N.A.A.F. 081520A.)

Convoy Protection Air Authorities. 227B T.O.O. 191112* Oct. Add to para. 3. Read in 4 columns. J. Vicinity of Corsica and Sardinia. S.O.I.S. Bastia N.O.I.C. Maddalena, N.L.O. Ajaccio Fighter Sector. 63 Fighter Wing and A.C.H.Q. Bastia. 2. Add to para. 5. Bastia, Ajaccio, Maddalena, Cagliari. 3. 373B and 357 B. N.L.O. Ajaccio fighter sector holding S.Ps. in accordance with P.O.N.C.(F) Appendix II table VI only. (C. in C.Med. 081057A to Med. Station, Levant Station 374B, (R) M.A.C. N.A.C.A.F.) *227B was circulated under T.O.O. 191607A Oct.

Refrigeration Ships. Your 2099 repeated Cairo and Gibraltar. 1. In our experience DARRO should not enter Med. because of speed and difficulty arranging suitable convoy and if cargo stowage permits she should be replaced by ROYAL STAR which vessel being a steamer can proceed in convoy without risk of damage to machinery. C. in C.Med. has already submitted this proposal to Admty. in his 061202. (M.W.T.R.Med. 081228 to M.O.W.T. London, M.A.S.T. 1725.)

Joint Army R.A.F. Intel. appreciation. I/45114 8th 390875. 24 hours to 1000Z/8th. 1. R/C enemy shipping 7th in Aegean (details). Convoy consisting 1 merchant vessel 3/4000 tons, 2 destroyers one other escort vessel sighted and unsuccessfully attacked by 3 torpedo aircraft between 2315Z and 0025Z night 6/7 southeast of Siphnos. Night 7/8 bomb attack by Wellingtons on merchant vessel approx. 4000 tons Port Vathy (Samos) with unobserved results. Probably same vessel. 6. Caique departures from Rhodes suggest possible resumption supply and evacuation traffic. Caique supply traffic Piraeus to Islands continues. (C. in C.M.E. 081400B.)

UNTIRING, ULTOR. Your 031548* para. 2. Intend detaching P.59 (UNTIRING) 0700A/9th and P.53 (ULTOR) 3 hours later 48 miles west of position 88. In view of expected meeting with O.T.11 during dark hours. (S.O.37th E.G. 081427A to V.A.Malta, (R) F.O.S. Capt. S.10, 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.) * re Intend sailing P.219 (SERAPH?, P.59 (UNTIRING) P.47 (DOLFIJN) and P.53 (ULTOR) to join M.K.S. 33, P.219 to Gibraltar for onward routing U.K.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

UNTIRING,
ULTOR.
(Contd.)

S.O.E.G.37 081427 not to S/MS is not clear. Arrange with S.O. Escort to detach you when safe to do so in a position from which you can conform to the routing instructions in my 051926 as quickly as possible.
(Capt. S.10, 082235 to P.53 (ULTOR), P.59 (UNTIRING) (R) N.O.I.C. Malta.)

UNRULY.

Shift patrol at dusk today 8th to cover North Eastern Approaches to Steno Pass and Mykoni Channel
(Capt. S.1 081525 to UNRULY, (R) SOKOL, SURF.)

HEBE
particulars
of sinking.

My 221140. Ref. C.A.F.O. 1968/40 para. 11 numbers 4, 5, 6 and 7.
4. 041° 08' 47" through 016° 50' 45" E.
5. Course 100° speed 7 knots. 6. Keart (sic) to Midship section on port side near keel.
7. 3 mines had previously been detonated in area. 2 explosions were heard.
(S.O. M/S F. 17 081605 to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med.)

TOSCANA,
PRINCIPESSA
GIOVANNA.

Cominch having now concurred in Admty. proposals for TOSCANA and PRINCIPESSA GIOVANNA A.M. 271256 (N.T. in W.D.). Request you will now follow up my 281259 with a formal proposition to Italian Minister of Marine on the lines of A.M. 271256 paras. 3 and 4.

2. Request you will confirm Italian acceptance and understanding of reasons.
3. Request you will arrange for PRINCIPESSA GIOVANNA to have hospital markings painted out and Italian Medical staff landed during current repairs and report if she could be ready to sail for U.K. in M.K.F. 27 for which she must have declared speed of 14½ knots.
4. Intend TOSCANA completes present service and then proceeds to Taranto to prepare for passage to U.K. in similar manner.
(C. in C.Med. 081625 to F.O.T.A.L.I. (R) Admty. Commavnav.)

Radar
Decoy.

A.M. 022028. A. One Wellington on A/S Patrol approx. ten miles ahead of convoy.
B. Yes approx. thirty degrees. BEATTY detected one group of five unidentified aircraft at ten miles two of which showed code number one after closing to seven miles. BEATTY detected second group of two both showing code number one. This group was fired on and one turned toward and fired a torpedo. TILMAN observed friendly indication two minutes before the attack on bearing and range confirming BEATTY's report. LAUB reports enemy aircraft flew in groups before attack one showing I.F.F. when signalling up. LAUB also reports some used wrong code. COLOMBO reports that seven minutes after the attack aircraft flying very low towards the north showed I.F.F. at twenty five miles. PRINS ALBERT reports a large number of enemy aircraft which attacked M.K.3.28 showed I.F.F.

/D...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Radar D. Observations were made by experienced Operators
Decoy. fully conversant with the appearance of I.F.F.
(Contd.) the observations in BEATTY are confirmed by the
Radar Officer. The time space between the code
number one narrow pulses was two point nine seconds.
E. No. F. P.O.W. have stated that the principles of
I.F.F. are known but give no evidence of its use by the enemy.
Matter is being pursued.

2. Full report being forwarded by air mail.
(C. in C.Med. 081706 to Admty.)

Add to my 022028. G. Were the enemy aircraft fired on by
ships before they attacked, in spite of I.F.F. i.e. may the
Germans have the impression that ruse was successful and worth
repeating?

H. Have there been any further cases?
(D.S.D. 081919A to C. in C.Med.)

X.T.11. Intend sailing p.m. 10th, 8 ships.
8. Escorts BURRA, KINGSTON CYANITE, IMHOFF, BOKSBURG
(R.A.Alexandria 081723.)

GRADISCA TROUBRIDGE and TUMULT are to sail from Brindisi to
intercepted. intercept German hospital ship GRADISCA.
2. Estimated position 2000/8th 041° 13' N. 018°
05' E. course 308° 10½ knots.
3. Ship is to be brought into Brindisi for exami-
nation.

4. Interception must be reported at once to Admty. C. in C.Med.
and F.O.T.A.L.I.
(F.O.T.A.L.I. 081831 to Capt. D.24, (R) TUMULT, N.O.I.C. Brindisi,
C. in C.Med. Admty.)

F.O.T.A.L.I. 081831. GRADISCA intercepted in 041° 22' N.
017° 50' E. and being escorted into Brindisi.
(Capt. D.24 082243A to Admty. C. in C.Med. F.O.T.A.L.I.
(R) N.O.I.C. Brindisi.)

Landing Para. two of your 041344 is being investigated
Equipment. C.N.O. has already instructed Comnavnaw to cancel
shipment of Pontoon causeways to U.K. presumably
with a view to reallocation.
2. Confirmed that one team of party "chair" has
been sent to India.
(C. in C.Med. 081900A to Admty.)

POMPEO MAGNO. Not desired to delay return trip of Italian Light
Cruiser POMPEO MAGNO with Italian Military
Mission and Italian Naval Attache Madrid. My
031846 (N.T. in W.D.) Dec. and 251609 (N.T. in W.D.)
Nov.

2. If Visas for Italian Merchant Seamen F.O.T.A.L.I. 062243
(N.T. in W.D.) are not ready on arrival of POMPEO MAGNO my
081111 (N.T. in W.D.), request you will accommodate seamen tem-
porarily in other Italian ship present or as convenient.
(C. in C.Med. 081917 to F.O.C.Gib. (R) B.N.A.Madrid, Admty.
F.O.T.A.L.I.)

/Greek...

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8.12.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Greek L.S. Ts. Greek manned L.S.T.(2) 33, 36 and 37 sailed in K.M.S.35.
2. Greek manned L.S.T.(2) 35 delayed by defects. Further signal will be made.
(D.O.D.(F) 081933A to C.in C.Med. Info. F.O.I.C. Gib.)

Command at Diego Suarez. French Admty. informs me they have appointed Capitaine de Fregate Richard as Commandant de la Marine in Madagascar to relieve Commandant Galleret.
4. French Admty. are renewing the question of a French N.O. i/c at Diego Suarez.
6. The present position at Algiers the main traffic port of North Africa is that French are now entirely in charge of all harbour defences and man local defence plot and provide X.D.O.
(C. in C.Med. 081942A to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F. C. in C.Levant.)

M.Ls. for Minesweeping. Your 102210A* Nov. (N.T. in W.D.) 50 sets Mark V+ Oropesa will be despatched at the rate of 10 sets per week commencing at an early date. Anticipated date of shipment of first consignment will be made by signal later.
(D.M.S. 081949A to C. in C.Med. Info. C. in C. Levant, Capt. M/S Med.)
* re M.Ls. being used for sweeping shallow mine-fields ahead of Fleet Sweepers.

S/M Operations in Aegean. 1. S/M activities in Aegean recently has proved very damaging to the enemy see C.O.I.S. Levant 071543*.
2. The loss of (P.219) SERAPH (P.221) SHAKESPEARE for refit in U.K. and (P.239) SURF (P.232) STONEHENGE very shortly to E.F. will make it difficult to maintain the pressure.
3. I am not aware of the scale of opportunity for attacks in the Toulon Genoa area but if you could spare any S/M reinforcements, if only temporarily, for 1st S.F. they might well strain enemy supply organizations in Aegean to breaking point which would be invaluable to future operations.
(C. in C.Levant 082032B to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty.)
* Axis shipping losses.

Summary of attacks on U/Bs. Your 061941Z para. 3 serial 36. Action plot and recorder traces have been sent to Admty.
2. The hunt has been analysed and assessment "H" is suggested.
(D.A.U.D. 082049A to C. in C.Med.)

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Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Air Stations. Your 270403/Oct. Pending decision on future programme for Ceylon and Southern India (your 230531/Sept., 230541/Sept. and 230545/Sept. refer), no major works should be undertaken at present on R.A.F. Stations where Fleet Air Arm are being given emergency facilities.
(Hd. of Air Branch, 080209A to R.A.N.A.S. I.O., Info, C. in C. E.F.)

P.B.66. (?Karachi) portion sail 0300Z 8th to R/V KK at 1000Z 8th (6 ships) N.C.S.O. Hormuz 050440 refers (N.C.S.O. Karachi, 080342Z to Admty.)

U/B dispositions. (C. in C.E.F. 080334Z to E.F. 440Y)

JUMNA. JUMNA arrived and left James 7th E.T.A. Colombo 1000Z 12th. My 020427 refers.
(C. in C.E.F. 080446Z to A.C.N.B. (R) C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.) Admty. F.O.C. R.I.N. F.O.Ceylon.)

TEMPLAR (P.316) Patrolled 18th Nov. to 8th Dec. blank report.
2. Special operation successfully carried out on 26th Nov.
(Capt. (S) 4 081005Z to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) F.O.S.)

S.E.A. Air Report. A.250. 8th Dec. Daily Opsum No.633.
6/7 December, 5 Catalinas special patrols Bay of Bengal. 1 Aircraft sighted enemy submarine area (JE SE as recd.) Ceylon.
(H.Q. S.E.A.A.C. 081039Z.)

Relaxation of convoy. As an immediate measure to expedite shipping and to take advantage of the lull in the U/Boat threat in the North Arabian Sea the following action is proposed. Admty. 071128 refers.
2. All ships which are being held for BP PB PA and AP convoys at Bombay Karachi Bandar Abbas and Aden to be released and sailed independently.
3. All ships from Bombay bound for ports south of Aden which are normally sailed in BA convoy and dispersed when clear of Bombay focal area to be routed in a similar manner but sailed independently.
4. This procedure to continue until further orders.
5. Escort vessels of the BP cycle to remain at their present port. Those at sea to be held at next port of arrival.
6. Further proposals will follow.
(C. in C.E.F. 081629Z to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) (R) Admty., F.O.C.R.I.N., Comrin, C. in C.S.A., S.N.O. Persian Gulf, N.O.I.C. Hormuz, N.O.I.C. Karachi, N.O.I.C., Bombay, Cdre. i/c Aden.)

/A/C...

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8.12.1943.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

A/C over
Kilindini
and Diego
Suarez,
A/A
equipment
requested.

1. Recently unidentified aircraft probably Japanese flew low over both Kilindini and Diego Suarez on R/C by night. Aircraft not engaged because no searchlights nor suitable A/A. GL equipment. Local Naval authorities press me to establish suitable A.A. defence against similar R/Cs.

2. Searchlights if provided by you could be installed, but Navy object as frequent practise would provide beacon for enemy S/MS and nullify value of existing successful partial blackout. Only alternative provision by you of A.A. No. three mk. two and A.A. No. four mk. three star equipment. My EAC/RA/835/A/27 of eighth Aug. para. three refers.

3. Consider this equipment should be shipped earliest for deployment Kilindini. Recommend similar equipment made available Diego Suarez if you consider Naval strategic deployment necessitate prevention repetition similar R/Cs.

4. I require for Kilindini four A.A. No. three mk. two two A.A. no. four mk. three star - sixteen fuze setters No. eleven.

(G.O.C. in C.E.Af., 081715 to W.O. (R) F.O.E.A. C. in C.E.F., A.H.Q.E.A.)

U/B
Estimate.

One German U/B not fixed since D/F 29th Nov. but estimated anywhere off southern India or Ceylon between Madras and Cochin.

One Japanese in Gulf of Aden from attacks of 2nd and 3rd Dec.

One Japanese sighted by aircraft on 6th Dec., about 250 miles S.E. of Ceylon possibly homeward bound from Mozambique Channel. (D.D.I.C. 081640A to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.), A.C.N.B.)

8.12.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Interception of M/Vs. Your 270015 Nov. Decision to intercept ships and results of subsequent examinations will in future be passed to you. (A.C.N.S.(F), 080045A to B.A.D.)

MILLTOWN. E.T.A. No.6 Halifax L.V. 1130Z/8th. Boiler hours. Holed in upper forward (? only) 10 feet above waterline. Request survey and repairs. (MILLTOWN, 080105Z to Capt. (D) Halifax, (R) S.N.O. Pictou N.S.)

VERVAIN. My P.C. and S. 047° 30' N. 046° 07' W., 105°, 14. Expect to join 1200Z/9th. (VERVAIN, 081000Z to FAME, (R) C. in C. W.A., Admty.)

T.G.21.16 constituted. Refer to this as C. in C. Lant's 071350 to BLOCK ISLAND for action. Task Group 21.16 hereby reconstituted Capt. Ramsey in BLOCK ISLAND Comdesdiv 58 in BULMER Desdiv 58. Co-operate with Task Force Commander in supporting Task Force 66 escorting U.G.S.27 sailing 15th Hampton Roads. When you consider appropriate cease support Task Force 66 operate offensively against reported submarines. Further orders later. You may enter Bermuda for fuel. (Comnaveu, 081421 to Admty.)

N.S.H.Q. S/M Estimate. (N.S.H.Q., 081431Z.)

CHEVREUIL. Refer to this as Cominch's 072147 to Comwestseafro for action and for information Cincpac, Com. 3rd Fleet, Com.11, R.D.O. Algiers. "About 15th Dec. upon completion repairs, sail French sloop CHEVREUIL to Numea via Tahiti and Bora Bora. Members of crew will be obtained at two latter ports and also A/A guns destined for French Naval Commander at Papeete. Advise routing instructions. Direct vessel upon arrival Numea report Com. 3rd Fleet for further orders." (Comnaveu, 081438 to Admty.)

QUEEN ELIZABETH (T.A.75). Arrived New York 080441?Z. (P.D. N.Y., 081600.)

Proposed additional Canadian Support Group. Your 022144 (re creating Canadian Group to replace E.G.9) Your suggestion to form another R.C.N. Support Group is welcomed. In view of the anticipated transfer and recommissioning of NENE and TWEED and the

/consequent ...

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Proposed
additional
Canadian
Support
Group.
(Contd.)

consequent Group disturbance which will take time to settle down we would prefer that WASKESIEU should be allocated to the 6th Escort Group. (D.O.D.(H), 081619A to N.S.H.Q., Info. C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.A.)

U/B.

Following from Yarmouth Controller to Command Controller 'R' C.O.A.C. Halifax. Intercepted by radio station Rockville WSVQ subs. sighted 32.05 SN. 79.53 W., 1647 G.M.T. (Halifax, 081700Z to C. in C. W.A., Admty.)

H.X. 267.

Average speed 9.2 knots. Off Oversay at 1000Z/2nd December. All arrived. (D.T.D., 081731A to Connav, N.S.H.Q.)

S.C. 147.

Average speed 7.3 knots. Off Oversay at 0830Z/3rd December. All arrived. (D.T.D., 081735A to Connav, N.S.H.Q.)

KING
HAAKON VII.

Take necessary action on A.M. 071914 sailing KING HAAKON VII to Halifax as additional escort of O.N. Convoys Cdt. 3rd Naval Dist. New York pass to Norwegian Naval Service. (C. in C. C.N.A., 081833Z to F.O.N.F.)

Para. 3 of N.S.H.Q. 062023. There is no requirement for KING HAAKON VII at Bermuda working up base. (S.B.N.O.W.At., 082355Z to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F., Norwegian Naval Service New York.)

GATINEAU.

In view of absence of MORDEN and PRIMROSE from C.2 and H.M.C.S. KAMLOOPS refitting on arrival ex O.N.S.24 vide your 072142 Nov. Request if possible completion date of GATINEAU may be advanced to enable ship to arrive St. Johns N.F. p.m./17th Dec. Your 042036 (N.T. in W.R. also refers. (F.O.N.F., 081906Z to C. in C. C.N.A., (R) CROCUS, S.O. E.G. C.2.)

B.E.C.8.

New York arrived 7th B.E.C.8 from Casco Bay. (N.S.H.Q., 081947Z to Admty.)

Sub. attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. C. U.S.C.G. NEMESIS attacked sound contact 32.46 N. 76.07 W. 081630. Para. D. P.B.M. Radar contact 24.53 N. 85.10 W. 081640. All times Z. (Cominch, 082040 to Admty.)

O. 21,
O. 24.

Request I may be informed to what command it is intended that Dutch submarine O.21 and O.24 shall be allocated on completion of refits stated in your 291958 November. (B.A.D., 082113Z to Admty.)

/Italian ...

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

Italian Vessels in Med. Re maintenance and supply. (B.A.D., 082115Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.)

CABO ORTEGAL examination. Aluslo Gibraltar has reported to Navy Department that Spanish CABO ORTEGAL was examined at Gib. and various irregularities discovered. Advice of subsequent development will be appreciated. My 270015 Nov. refers. (B.A.D., 082211Z to Admty.)

CLINTON. Estimated P.C. and S. 45° 00' N. 42° 12', 53°, 12, 2230Z. Weather report 5572 0467. (CLINTON, 082251Z to S.O. E.G. B.7, (R) C. in C. W.A.)

L.C.T.(I)s. Cominch 291931 Nov. and 032026 Dec. 6 British L.C.T.(I)s 375 to 280 Bermuda to Horta, E.T.D. 1630Q/9th, E.T.A. Horta 0030Q/18th. Speed 10. (N.O.B. Bermuda, 082257 to N.O.I.C. Horta.)

EMILE BERTIN. Norfolk arrived 7th EMILE BERTIN French cruiser for working up. (N.S.H.Q., 082258Z to Admty., (R) B.A.D., C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest Serial No. 687 Dec. 7th. (5) Single Liberator strafed barges Rein Bay area during afternoon 6th. (6) 8 Kittyhawks meanwhile strafed small craft barges Ulingan harbour forenoon. (8) 18 Mitchells attacked barge hideouts along south coast New Britain forenoon. (11) 13 Liberators attacked air strip and village north coast Haroekoe Island (near Ceram) forenoon starting fires and thoroughly covering target. One possible four engined flying boat observed anchored and one medium bomber three fighters in dispersal area. Two enemy aircraft airborne but nil interception. Same aircraft report sighting 2 unidentified vessels near Laha and another 2 off Babar Island (in Banda Sea). (12) Bad weather prevented majority operations Solomons area during day. 13 Mitchells unable attack Kahili bombed Kieta Harbour forenoon while another 5 bombed Kahili with unobserved results. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 080655).

8.12.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 081419A, 081423.)

Submarines Attacked.

Submarine
attack and
sighting
summary for
24 hours to
0800Z/8th.

Para. A. (1) A/C D/256 sighted U-Boat on surface
at 0952/7th in 43° 45' N. 07° 50' W.
Ref. A.M. 071106A, para. A (1).
Corrected to Azores A/C attacked U-Boat at 0405/
6th in 32° 45' N. 24° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C., 081111A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

9.12.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.T.

1. Convoy R.A.54B. arrived off the Butt of Lewis yesterday afternoon, and the ships are proceeding direct to their respective destinations.

JAMAICA.

2. JAMAICA left Hvalfiord for Scapa at 1250 today.

QUEEN MARY.

3. QUEEN MARY arrived in the Clyde at 0738 from New York.

Mediterranean.

French
S/Ms.

4. There are at present in the Mediterranean 6 operational French S/Ms. all of which are employed under C. in C. Med. for patrols and clandestine landing operations off the South Coast of France.

5a. The Destroyers TYRIAN and TEASER last night carried out a sweep in the approaches to the Gulf of Quarnero, but sighted nothing.

b. 14 Bostons bombed the harbour of Civitavecchia last night and claim to have hit two ships.

"Avalanche".

c. SS. CAPE PADARAN in Convoy H.A.11 from a Heel port to Augusta was reported torpedoed or mined at 1310 today in 39.15 N. 17.30 E. (about 22 miles N.E. of Cotrone) and sank in tow at 1855. During the ensuing hunt destroyers, who were joined later by Italian corvettes twice attacked a firm contact, but no results were seen.

Aegean.

6a. SURF, on patrol in the North Aegean reports that she has sunk an armed trawler.

b. SHAKESPEARE has sunk a caique off Cape Phuka, Kos.

c. 2 Liberators and a Wellington successfully laid 14 mines at the entrance to Heraklion harbour, Crete, last night, with diversionary bombing which caused 3 large fires in the harbour area.

9.12.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

C.J.8.

7. The first Calcutta to Colombo convoy, C.J.8. sailed today. (The numbers 1-7 inclusive were not used for this series of convoys.)

9.12.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary

General

Classification A.M. 040004/Feb. not to all addressees. For of A/S escorts.planning purposes it is intended to classify A/S escorts as follows. As from 1st January, 1944 unless further signal is.made.

(1) Destroyers: This term will apply exclusively to Fleet Destroyers of "E" and later classes.

(2) Escorts: This term will apply to all A/S escorts except Fleet Destroyers and Trawlers.

A lettered suffix may be added to indicate category for speed, endurance or A.A. armament as follows:-

(1) Speed. Suffix Y, X or Z indicates maximum speed of approximately 25, 20 or 15 knots respectively.

(ii) Endurance. Suffix L, M or S indicates endurance at 12 knots of at least 14, 9 or 6 days respectively.

(iii) A/A Armament:

(A) Long range control of at least four 4-inch or larger guns and close range armament of 40 m.m guns and Oerlikons.

(B) - Long range control of at least four 4-inch or larger guns and close range armament of Oerlikons only.

(C) No long range control but close range armament of 40 m.m guns and Oerlikons.

(D) Oerlikons only.

(3) Examples: (i) If moderately good endurance only is essential Escort M is required. If low endurance is acceptable, but high speed and good H.A. armament are essential, Escort X.A. is required. If moderate speed, long endurance and good H.A. armament are essential, Escort Y.L.A. is required.

| (ii) Ship | Classification |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Hunt types I to IV | Escort X S A |
| A/S Sloop | Escort Y L A |
| Frigate | Escort Y L C |
| Escort destroyer | Escort X M C |
| Sloop | Escort Z L C |
| Corvette | Escort Z M D |

(4) Request you will report if this does not meet your requirements or if you have further suggestions.

(D.O.D.(H) 091841A to B.A.D., Cs. in C. E.F.(S.E.A.C.), Portsmouth, Plymouth, Nore, Rosyth, W.A., A.C.O.S., A.I.G.13.).

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Gunnery School training flotilla at Poole.

A.M. 072105A para. 3. I gave no objection to this proposal.

(2) It is intended that the general control of the flotillas and instruction be vested in S.O. Force J so as to avoid any possibility of confusion regarding responsibility and co-ordination in Studland Bay.

(3) It is observed that the landing craft G (L) are not at present available.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 091852A to Admty.).

S/Ms. for Med.

(?Anticipate) following submarine reinforcements will be ready to leave U.K. for Med.

(1) UNSWERVING mid January 1944.

/ (2) VAMPIRE...

9.12.1943.
Thursday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDSPolicy.

S/Ms. for (2) VAMPIRE end February 1944.
Med. (3) VOX end March 1944.
(Contd.). (F.O.S. 092101A to Admty.).

Defence of U.K.

Scapa Your 021434A. Of the five A/S M.F.Vs. surrendered
A/S by you in 1941 only four are available. These are
Defences. M.F.Vs. HELEN WEST, BRAEMAR, DEO VOLENTE and
MEMENTO. They are being re-allocated to you to
release four ring net fishing vessel names of which
should be reported to Admty.
(D.S.V.P., 090242A to A.C.O.S.).

Movements.

HARRIER Scapa arrival HARRIER.
(A.C.O.S., 090501A to H.F.).

ZEEHOND Dutch S/M ZEEHOND will sail from Rothesay, 1700A/
11th escorted by KIHNA, speed 9 knots, by
searched channel to 270 degs. Skerryvore 10 miles
E.T.A. 1200A/12. Thence ZEEHOND to westward in
accordance with F.O.S. 042331A.
(Capt.(S) 7, 0901034 to F.O.S.).

STOIC My 231338 November. Sailed 9th December.
(F.O.S. 091151A to C. in C.E.F.).

STORM Request you sail STORM for Gibraltar about 23rd
December. My 161332 October refers.
(F.O.S. 091159A to Admty.).

JAMAICA Hvalfiord departure JAMAICA. JAMAICA's 082359
refers.
(A.C.I.C., 091250A to C. in C.H.F.).

S/M Positions of S/Ms. at 0800/10 and movements for
movements. following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 091732A).

QUEEN My 061859A.
ELIZABETH. Intend to sail QUEEN ELIZABETH from Needles
0930/11th for Scapa.
(2) Route.
(3) QUEEN ELIZABETH will be escorted from
Needles by GLAISDALE and STEVENSTONE to 050 degs.
07' N. 003 degs. 53' W. at 1430/11th where escort will be taken
over by TANATSIDE and MELBREAK who will escort as far as
(?Oversay).
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 092002 to A.C.O.S.).

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Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

Operation "S.F." Request you will sail ORESTES to Aberdeen for boiler clean to arrive p.m. 13th. (A.C.O.S., 090808S to N.O.i/c Faeroes). Proceed in company LOYALTY and HYDRA to establish patrol by 1801/10.

- (1) Group A. (2) 064 degs. 30' N. 006 degs. 00' W. 60 - 60.
(3) 270 degs. (4) "Apricot".
(C. in C. Rosyth, 091745A to RATTLESNAKE).
Intend sailing at 0001A/10th in accordance with your 091745A. (?LOYALTY) and HYDRA in company.
(RATTLESNAKE, 092040 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Operation "F.V." J.W. 55B.
(1) Following ships are to arrive Loch Ewe p.m. 18th as through escort. INCONSTANT S.O., WHITEHALL, OXLIP, HONEYSUCKLE.

- (2) Escorts are to come under orders of C. in C.H.F. on arrival at Loch Ewe.
(3) C. in C.H.F. is requested to give necessary orders if it is desired to use SCIMITAR as local escort to J.W.55B.
(C. in C.W.A., 091035A to C. in C.H.F., F.O.i/c Greenock).

Operation "F.V." para. 4.

(A) J.W.55 A. HARRIER (S.O.), COCKATRICE, SCIMITAR, J.W.55 B, HOUND, RATTLESNAKE, SCIMITAR.

Para.4 B. WESTCOTT, WRESTLER, ACANTHUS.

Para.4 C. INCONSTANT, WHITEHALL, OXLIP, HONEYSUCKLE.

- (2) Motor M/S 1005 and 1023 will sail with J.W. 55A.
(C. in C.H.F., 091201A to H.F.).

S.O. 1st M/S Flotilla in HARRIER with SPEEDWELL proceed passing through Switha 0400A/11th to Loch Ewe.

(2) HARRIER will be required to act as S.O. local escort J.W.55A sailing from Loch Ewe p.m. 12th with COCKATRICE, SCIMITAR and through escort of WESTCOTT, WRESTLER, ACANTHUS, SPEEDWELL. C. in C.H.Fs. 070943 refers.

(3) When relieved by destroyer escort in vicinity 064 degs. N. HARRIER returning Scapa.

- (4) Attention is drawn to C. in C.H.Fs. 070943 para. 6 (B).
(R.A.D.H.F., 091940A to M/S 1).

Coastal Force Patrols. (1) (A) Force 113. M.T.Bs. 430 (S.O.), 415, 413.
(B) 2000A/9. (C) 090 Start 20. (D) Vicinity of (C). (F) 0645A/10.

(2) (A) Force 114. M.T.Bs. 416 (S.O.), 431.
(B) 2000A/9. (C) 180 Eddystone 8. (D) Vicinity of (C). (F) 0645A/10.

(3) (A) Force 115. M.T.Bs. 94 (S.O.), 91, 92, 96, 227, 239.
(B) 1700A/9. (C) (AA) 030 Roches Douvres 2 to (BB) 090 Roches Douvres 8 - 20 knots. (D) 5 miles 220 degs. and 040 degs. from (BB). (E) Destruction of enemy shipping. (F) 0430A/10 (BB).
(G) (AA).
(C. in C. Plymouth, 091413A).

/M.T.Bs...

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Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal Force patrols (Contd.). M.T.Bs. 417, 437 at Bullock Bank, E.T.D. Ramsgate 1645, E.T.R. 0900/10.
M.G.Bs. 43, 41 at East Varne Buoy, E.T.D. Ramsgate 1700, E.T.R. 0845/10.
M.Ls. 128, 573 two miles south of "D" Buoy E.T.D. 1645, E.T.R. 0845/10.
M.T.Bs. 212, 205, 209, 724, 700 patrolling five miles north west of Blankenbergh, E.T.D. 1900, E.T.R. 0800/10. (V.A. Dover, 091627A).

"V.P." operation. My 061246A. M.T.B.653 and M.T.B.625 returned at 1625A today.
(2) Operation not successful owing to lack of merchant ship targets and activity of enemy patrol vessels.
(A.C.O.S., 091827A to Admty.).

Bay patrol. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to conduct operation "Stonewall" using GLASGOW as necessary and stating his requirements to H.Q.C.C. and naval authorities concerned.
(V.C.N.S. 092320 and 100731A).

Enemy Intelligence.

JACQUELINE Departure December 8th without enemy control JACQUELINE for Bayonne, cargo F Spar.
(Gijon, 092040 to Admty.).

U-Boats

U-Boat reported. By D/F at 0749Z U-boat within 60 miles of 46.30 N. 15 W. may have reported you.
(D.D.I.C., 090924A to VIZALMA).

U-boat attacked by WHITEHALL on 31st Dec. In attacks carried out by WHITEHALL and GERANIUM on 31st October result of WHITEHALL's first attack has been assessed as a probable.
(C. in C.W.A., 092308A to WHITEHALL).

Navigational.

Brightlingsea My 071501A/12. Port now open.
(N.O.i/c Brightlingsea, 090759A).

Harwich My 071747A. Port open.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 091209A to Admty.).

Portsmouth My 271146A.
Port eastern entrance is now open by Q.Z.S.373 and

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Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Navigational.

Portsmouth
(Contd.).

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All convoys and deep draft vessels will be swept in and out for the present. Movements outside the searched channel are still restricted.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 091308A).

Technical

"Gamma"
search.

Request your comments on desirability of issuing in A.C.Is. the following Asdic Scheme of Search. Short title "Gamma" Search applicable when U-boat M.L.A. can be estimated within certain limits. Details.
(C. in C.W.A. 091730A to Admty.).

Casualties and Defects.

SCIMITAR

SCIMITAR is to arrive Belfast daylight 10th for docking with split asdic dome.
(C. in C.W.A., 091135A to Capt.S.7.).

HOLDERNESS

Admiralty's 071840A. Intend to sail HOLDERNESS assisted by tug KENIA escorted by SANDOWN at 0900A via Q.Z.S. 263 and 285 to Sheerness for de-oiling and de-ammunitioning, E.T.A. 1530A.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 091301A).

Shipping and Convoys.

M.K.S.26

Your 081815A. Destination of SCYTHIA is Mersey. Report whether she is in company.
(C. in C.W.A. 090050 to JED).
Arrived Clyde portion M.K.F.26 escorted by SPEY.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 090718A to Admty.).

A.T.78
(QUEEN
MARY).

Arrived at 0738/9.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 090745A).

PORT
PHILIP.

Intend sailing PORT PHILIP 1300Z/10th. Route to Panama Approach.
Estimate passing 007 degs. W. 0200Z/11th, "Chop" 16th December.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey, 091135Z to Admty.).

K.M.S.36

Intend sailing GODAVARI and KISTNA with K.M.S.36 leaving U.K. Dec.14th for onward routing to Bombay.
(C. in C.W.A., 091057A to F.O.R.I.N.).

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

T.A.76 A. My 081532A. Sailed.
(PASTEUR). (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 091101Z to Admty.).

DOMINION Sailed 0950Z/9th, E.T.A. New York 17th.
MONARCH. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 091130Z to Admty.).

FORT My 090941A. Sailed at 1321A/9.
THOMPSON. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 091323A).

H.X.270 It is requested that you will sail TRACKER to
TRACKER. join and support H.X.270.
(C. in C.W.A., 091408A to F.O.N.F.).

K.M.F.27 A.M. 071909, para.2, 3, and 4 are cancelled.
(2) C. in C.W.A. is requested to detach PRINCE
ROBERT as necessary to R/V with K.M.F.27 in 51
degs. N. and provide A/A escort to Gibraltar.
A.M. 031837 and C. in C.W.A. 071457 refer.
(D.O.D.H. 091509A and 100245A to C. in C.W.A.).

O.S.62/ It is intended that STRIKER should provide air
K.M.S.36 A/S and fighter support for O.S.62/K.M.S.36 during
passage to Gibraltar.
(2) R/V is at 1400Z/15th off Oversay.
(C. in C.W.A., 091512A to F.O.C.T.).

R.U.100 (1) 1200A/9th.
(2) VELETA, STAFNES (Additional) SOUTHERN SHORE.
(3) 8 knots.
(N.C.S.O. Reykjavik, 091746A to Admty.).

X.K.12, Left LUNENBERG supporting VIZALMA in 046 degs.
PINZON. 59', 014 degs. 03' at 1730/8th.
Met ST. ELSTAN in 045 degs. 40' 014 degs. 38' at
1630/9th. ST. ELSTAN reached (corrupt group) E.
detached at 1700. EMPIRE LARCH reports able
continue towing. DEXTEROUS now passing tow line.
Both tugs will tow, course 007 degs. probable speed 6.
EDMUNDSTON Radar out of action.
(EDMUNDSTON 091800Z to C. in C. Plymouth).

E.G.3. C. in C.W.A. 081845A. Sailed DUCKWORTH, COOKE,
BERRY.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast 091856A to C. in C.W.A.).

O.S.61/ C. in C.W.A. 071457 and A.M. 091509. PRINCE
K.M.S.35. ROBERT is to pass Gate 0400A/10th and proceed
through position (P.A.) 180 degs. Bishop Rock

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Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

O.S.61/
K.M.S.35
(Contd.).

10 to R/V convoy O.S.61/K.M.S.35 in 051 degs. 05' N. 018 degs. 09' W. at 1500A/11th to provide A/A escort. On joining O.S.61 PRINCE ROBERT is to act under orders of C. in C.W.A.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 091925A to PRINCE ROBERT).

O.S.61. 5 ships. Names and destinations.

(C. in C.W.A., 092157Z to F.O.C.W.Af.).

K.M.S.35 38 ships and 3 L.S.T. craft. Names and destinations.

(C. in C.W.A., 092206Z to F.O. Gibraltar).

U.T.5.

N.K. and N.U. on crossing longitude 41 degs. W. steer for new position H 49 degs. N. 27 degs. W. new J 54 degs. N. 21 degs. W. and rejoin route at G.

(2) Stragglers from R to new T 48 degs. N. 26 degs. W., new U 52.45 N. 21.50 W., thence to G.

(D.O.D.(H), 092204A to T.F.69).

R.A.54B.

R.A.54 B arrived off Butt of Lewis p.m. 8th Dec. Ships proceeding direct to destination.

(D.T.D. 092114A to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

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9.12.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.North Atlantic.

- Sabotage of GAETA & CESENA. C. in C. Med. Italian N.A. (?asked) me pass to Supermarine A.2 signals regarding sabotage of GAETA and CESENA. Information contained therein already telegraphed in my 042201* to Admty. (B.N.A. Madrid 091142A to F.O.T.L.I. (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.C. Gib., Admty.) * W.D. Note. ?042200A intended.
- RORQUAL. Intend to sail for U.K. 0830/11. Route. (F.O.C. Gib. 091618A.)
- Spanish Warships' Exercises. My 031304. Exercises referred to have not yet been carried out. Period now extended and including 15th. (B.N.A. Madrid 091831A to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A., H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Plymouth.)
- ALBEMARLE. Route. (D.O.D. (H) 091944A to C.M.S.F. (R) F.O.I.C. Gib.)
- RITA GARCIA. Spanish SS. RITA GARCIA 12th Nov. Buenos Aires to Melilla via Las Palmas is to be sent in when boarded in straits. 2. Buenos Aires report undetermined contraband definitely concealed in bulk wheat in No.2 hold. Boatswain Jorge Gonzalez Argon believed implicated. 3. American sources report fireman Alfonsino Mayo Rivadaneira carried two small envelopes containing microfilm and coded material all enclosed in one large envelope. These were to be handed to German Consul at first port of call and may have been done at Las Palmas. To avoid compromising source search persons of some other crew members in addition to Mayo. If these articles found important to detain envelopes as well as contents. 4. Believed apprentice Jose Diaz Mier and carpenter Ramon Miguens Lado brought on board at Rosario package measuring 80 by 60 by 50 centimetres. This may be stowed in hiding place believed to exist under bookshelf at head of stairs leading from officers mess to bridge. 5. Particularly careful search of quarters of all officers and ratings of this ship advisable. (D.E.W.D. 091958A to C.C.S.O. Gib.)
- MONTE MONJUICH. Departures. LADY HOGARTH left to intercept Spanish MONTE MONJUICH vicinity Cadiz. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 092003A to Admty., C. in C. Med.)
- LINARIA. LINARIA, which has been sent to escort SS. CORFIRTH from Ponta Delgada, arrived 8th and anchored just outside breakwater at 1520, weighted anchor at 1835 when CORFIRTH came out of harbour. LINARIA should have stayed outside 3 mile limit, and Portuguese S.N.O. Azores has been reluctantly obliged to signal her presence to Ministry of Marine in Lisbon, with the result that we may again be open to protest from Portuguese Gov. In this connection please refer to your 251900 Oct. (H.M. Consul Ponta Delgada 092320 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O. Azores, B.N.A. Lisbon.) /DEMPO...

War Diary.

9.12.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

DEMPO. Owing to late arrival of DOUGLAS at Dakar and unexpected additional troop movements urgently require DEMPO arrived Freetown 12th. Request ANTELOPE may escort DEMPO Dakar to Freetown sailing p.m. 9th before returning Gib. E.T.A. ANTELOPE Gib. 17th. (F.O.C.W.Af. 091104Z to F.O.C. Gib. (R) Comar Dakar.)

Operation Tabarin. Tabarin party now proceeding Falklands in ship carrying relief force. (W.O. 091225A.)

RICHARD HENRY DANA. Suspected Sabotage. C.A.F.O. 199/41 3 small fires in Officers Quarters damage slight. Suspect crew of sabotage. No attempt in hold. Report follows to S.O. (I) Capetown. (C.S.A. Beira 091336Z to D.N.I., Admty. (R) C. in C. South Atlantic, S.O. (I) Capetown.)

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9.12.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.SERAPH,
ULTOR,
UNTIRING.Following is repetition of my 072141.* Departed.
(V.A. Malta, 090543.)
* Originally received undecypherable.Axis
shipping
ALBA JULIA
sunk.A. My 261745C. BALKAN reported loading guns and
ammunition at Varna for Salonika. Expected tran-
sit Straits within next three or four days. B.4.
B. ALBA JULIA reported sunk between Varna and
Constanza beginning November. B.4.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 090959C to C. in C. Levant,
S.O.(I) Levant, (R) Capt. (S) 1, D.N.I.)My 0511??C*(corrupt group). SEEROSE arrived Istanbul 9th.
Expect to complete loading chrome for Bourgas 10th.
2. Bulgarian MILCA arrived 5th and is now ready to sail for
Bourgas with cargo of nuts.
((Beyoglu) (sic), 091541C to Admty.)
* 051125 intended. Re SEEROSE sailed for Bourgas 4th.

RANCHI.

My 072049B, 082034B put into Alexandria with
damaged turbo generator. Details of necessary
repairs.
(P.S.T.O.M.E., 091003B to D. of S.T.)S/Ms to
reinforce
Levant
Command.Request you will sail two S/Ms to Beirut to come
under orders of (S) 1. C. in C. Levent's
082032 to Admty. refers.
(C. in C. Med., 091030A to (S) 10, (R) V.A.M.,
C. in C. Levant, (S) 1, Admty.)Air
Reports.M.S.23547. A.329, 9th. Daily Opsum 225.
7th/8th. 3 Wellingtons bombed one M/V 4000 tons
in Port Vathy. Samos. 1 bomb within 20 yards
other results unobserved. 1 Wellington bombed a
vessel 120 feet in Port Vathy. No hits. 2Wellingtons successfully mined Naxos Harbour. 1 enemy aircraft
flew over West coast of Cyprus at 25,000 feet photographic flash
bombs reported dropped Paphos and Limassol areas.
8th. 4 U.S. Mitchells (B.25) attacked 1 M/V 1000 tons in Porto-
lago Bay, Leros, with 75 mm. fire. No hits claimed, but some
smoke was seen coming from vessel after attack. 2 Baltimores
(A.30) attacked a caique 25 tons off Tilos Island. Vessel
claimed damaged by 1 near miss with bomb and hits with machine
gun fire.

(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., 091036Z.)

M.S. 23547, Part 2.

6 torpedo Beaufighters despatched to attack netlayer reported
in Monemvasia Harbour, southern Greece found vessel has departed,
1 caique about 150 tons attacked with cannon fire south Spetsai
Island and left settling down by bows.

(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., 091055Z.)

M.S. 23575. A.F.230, 9th. N.A.S.A.F.

8th. 12 U.S. Marauders Civitavecchia Harbour. 18 tons hits
warehouses and oil storage.

(H.Q.N.A.A.F., 091742A.)

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9.12.1943.

Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Air Reports. (Contd.) 179333. A.286, 9th. Signed Eisenhower. Air Cositintrep No.152. N.W.A.A.F. Day 8th December. 21 B.17s attacked the harbour at San Stefano. B.26s bombed the harbour at Civitavecchia. (Air C. in C. Med., T.O.O. Nil.)

FLIGHT QUEEN. Opportunity is to be taken of suitable weather to sail FLIGHT QUEEN for U.K. subject to recall notwithstanding Admty. 081017. (C. in C. Med., 091141A to F.O.I.C. Gib., (R) Admty.)

GRADISCA. Returned personnel in Hospital ship GRADISCA being landed. (Details). (N.O.I.C. Brindisi, 091210A to Admty., F.O.T.A.L.I. (R) C. in C. Med.)

H.S. GRADISCA. 2 members of crew were entrained at Constantinople*. Base Medical Officer statement states number of Italians were unwounded prisoners. Crew were co-operative but in some cases disappointed at being released, others report to have stated our haste to recover prisoners not understood as we were likely to be in Berlin in 6 months. Base staff were thanked for considerate way task was carried out. (N.O.I.C. Brindisi, 092327A to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.T.A.L.I.)

* Another version reads "were wearing revolvers".

Italian U/Bs. building at Taranto. A.M. 100215 November. 1, 3. After discussions between F.O.(S) and Constructor Captain King about the four Italian supply U-Boats building at Taranto it appears that building of these S/Ms as directed in A.M. 100215 Nov. would be a waste of time and the project will be dropped. (Reasons). Request you will make alternative proposals for using Tosi's yard. (Controller, 091407A to C. in C. Med., Info. F.O. T.A.L.I., Comnavnav, B.A.D., F.O.S.)

DOLFIJN, CURIE.. Request you will sail DOLFIJN to Beirut as soon as she is ready. C. in C. Med., 091030 refers. Further signal will be made regarding second submarine. (S.10, 091509 to V.A. Malta, (R) C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med., (S) 1, Admty.)

Your 051030. Is there any objection to CURIE being detailed in addition to DOLFIJN. My 091509 refers. This is previously considered in your 122130 Jan. F.N.F.L. (?F.F.N.L.O.) London being in agreement. Under existing arrangements the visits of this S/M to Maddalena for torpedoes and spares is uneconomical of time. (S.10, 091545 to C. in C. Med., (R) C. in C. Levant, S.1, Admty.)

/Radar ...

9.12.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Radar A.M. 081919.* G. Yes. Para. B my 081706/ refers.
Decoy. H. Reports of suspected use during Salerno operations received but not confirmed.
(C. in C. Med., 091512A to Admty.)
* Requesting whether enemy aircraft were fired on before they attacked, in spite of I.F.F.
/ Re use by enemy aircraft of I.F.F.

SOKOL, SOKOL proceed forthwith to pass close westward of
SURF. Nikaria. Thence to patrol off Lemnos between Cape Irene and longitude 025° 43' E. to intercept shipping between Mudros and Dardanelles.
2. SURF to keep to east of the above longitude after 1400/11th.
(Capt. (S) 1, 091551B, 101547B to SOKOL, SURF, (R) UNRULY.)

FORT Reference FORT CAMOSUN. Damage to number four
CAMOSUN, and five holds necessitates retaining services
OCEAN OCEAN SALVOR to fit patch to enable her to
SALVOR. reach Massawa or Egyptian ports for full repairs.
Request approval.
(Com. Aden, 090726Z to C. C. (S.E.A.C.), (R) Admty., C. in C. Levant, F.O. Ceylon.)

Difficulties Commander Saksida's visit resulted in recruiting
with Yugoslav of some 300 volunteers for Royal Yugoslav Navy
Naval from Yugoslav Camp who have now gone to Malta
Personnel. with possibly another 300 to follow. Unfortunately his activities resulted in a number of officers and men deserting from Partisan ships which are the only ones active against the enemy. My 011055 refers. Commander Baikov and two other Yugoslav officers who were formerly employed in our M.T.B. have also gone over to Royalist after being threatened by Partisans for not wearing communist ?badges. There was also some subversive recruiting activity among Italian Naval ratings of Slav origin, but I believe this was stopped since I spoke to Commander Baikov about it. Serrida sent me a letter on leaving demanding that Partisan flag should be hauled down in all their ships which should be transferred to Royalists, all objectors being ?interned. This in spite of my having patiently expounded to him that fighting the enemy must take precedence over political differences and having pointed out that it was only the Partisans who were active in the Adriatic and Dalmatia. Baikov seems honest and sensible as opposed to Saksida who appears the reverse. Concur with your para. 3A. At present there are in Taranto following Royal Yugoslav Naval personnel, Commander Baikov and a Paymaster, one officer and four men in hospital and two officers and one Petty Officer newly arrived. Your 071730 refers.
(F.O.T.A.L.I., 091817 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty., C. in C. Levant.)

/Refrigeration ...

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9.12.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Refrigeration ships. Your 061202 has been discussed with M. of W.T. who state:-
 (a) Adequate supplies of frozen stores to Med. cannot be ensured by use of other than fast independent tonnage.
 (b) Since supplies to Algiers, Malta and Middle East virtually require through voyage nothing would be gained by routeing via Cape of Good Hope.
 (c) Limited storage accommodation in Med. depends on careful timing best achieved by regular service in one direction.
 2. Ministry fully appreciates difficulties and has undertaken to avoid sending diesel ships into area as far as possible. Time does not however, permit substitute to be found for M.V. DARRO which left Buenos Aires 2nd.
 (A.C.N.S.(U.T.), 091930A to C. in C. Med., Info. C. in C. Levant, F.O.C. Gib.)

SURF. Your 091510 (N.T. in W.D.) Sunk by torpedo one armed trawler? 1908. 5 torpedoes (missing group) (SURF, 091952B to Capt. (S) 1.)

1st S/M 1200B/9th.
 Flotilla. (A) Refitting - NEBOJSCA, SEVERN, SIBYL. (quick docking) STONEHENGE (defects), MATROZOS, NEREUS (both working up).
 (B) Operational - TORBAY, UNSPARING, DZIK, SPORTSMAN, SICKLE, PAPANICOLIS all at Beirut. SURF patrol North Aegean. UNRULY patrol North Aegean. SOKOL patrol South Aegean. SPORTSMAN leaving Aegean for Malta. ZOEIA Alexandria A/S training. ALAGI, GALATEA Haifa.
 (C. in C. Levant, 092025 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty., S.1, 8 and 10.)

NICOLINE Request you arrange special notification of
 MAERSK. departure of NICOLINE MAERSK from Madrid to F.O.C. Gibraltar and C. in C. Med.
 (C. in C. Med., 092104A to B.N.A. Madrid, (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, Admty.)

SHAKESPEARE, One caique sunk off Cape Phuka. One two funnel
 Caique sunk. hospital ship left Rhodes a.m./1st no other ships seen anywhere except in Turkish territorial waters under Turkish flag.
 (P.221 (SHAKESPEARE), 092122B to Capt. (S) 1, (R) C. in C. Levant, 1st S/M.F.)

Unless otherwise ordered intend proceeding on the surface through 035° 41' 020° 37' at 0600B/10th thence course 272°, speed 10 knots to meet escort 5 miles east of B of Q.B.B.147 at 0900B/11th. (SHAKESPEARE, 092137B to Capt. (S) 10, C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 1, (R) Admty., R.A. Alexandria, 201 N.C. Group (B), H.Q. Malta.)

P.211 (SHAKESPEARE 092137 acknowledged. 2. Request bombing restrictions be amended accordingly.

(S.O. S/Ms. Malta, 092349 to SHAKESPEARE and as last message)

/ U/B ...

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Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

U/B report.

Have obtained 3rd class D/F bearing German S/M at 2028. Bearing 110° sense determined. My position 039° 02' N. 017° 12' E.
(INGLEFIELD, 092135 to F.O.T.A.L.I., V.A. Malta.)

Med.
Situation
Report
No. 245.

(1) During night of 6th/7th QUEENBOROUGH and RAIDER carried out sweep between Durazzo and Dubrovnik. No shipping was sighted but destroyers exchanged machine gun fire with the shore.

2. RYSA was mined and sunk in approaches to Maddalena on 8th during sweeping operation.

(3) Coastal forces operated in Adriatic during night of 5th/6th and 6th/7th. no incidents reported.

(4) Coastal forces intercepted enemy craft North Bridport, Elba p.m./8th. Details not yet received.

(C. in C. Med., 092201A.)

MIRAGLIA.

FAN.305. C.C.S. approve employment as a depot ship initially in the Med. and subsequently in the Eastern Theatre.

(The Combined Cs. of S. Freedom, 092253Z to Eisenhower Freedom Algiers, (R) C. in C. Med. and U.S.F.O.R., Adnty.)

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Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

S.E.A.C. (1st Lord 090036A to C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.))
Bases, See Lion Copy.
Staff.

Bi-weekly Ref. E.F. 420 Y of 26th Nov. Para. (H).
U/Boat One Japanese believed Homeward bound - estimated
Disposition in the vicinity Addu Atoll.
No. 4 (A). Para. (J). One Japanese Homebound from Europe
estimated within 300 miles 002° 30' S. 090° 00' E.
Other Paras. no change last 24 hours.
(C. in C. E.F., 090318Z to E.F.425Y.)

D.K.A.8. 1. Kilindini portion. 2 ships.
6: Escorts LULWORTH, GENISTA.
(N.C.S.O. Kilindini, 090501Z.)

S.E.A. A.274 9. 9 Dec. Daily Opsum No.634.
Air 8th. 12 Hurricanes (?Maungdaw) 1 launch
Report. destroyed, 1 launch several buildings damaged.
(S.E.A.A.C. 090915Z to Air Min.)
Note: by A.M.C.S. Amend reference in part 2
to read A274.

Station Ref. A.M. 062011 November. Consider desirable
Limit Massawa should be included with Aden in East
in Red Indies Station with station limit in Red Sea at
Sea. 13° N. Massawa to be administered by Cdre.
Aden.
2. If it is decided to retain Massawa in Med.
St. prefer limit in Red Sea to be in 15° N.
This will ensure any A/S operations in Straits of Bas El Mandab
remain under one command as recommended in C. in C. Levant
211921 Oct.
(C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.), 091015Z, 100300Z to Admty., (R)
C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant.)

WILLIAM WILLIAM WHIPPLE damaged by enemy action
WHIPPLE Calcutta air raid and did not sail in C.J.8
damaged. My 080303Z (N.T. in W.D.) refers.
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 091021Z to Admty., C. in C.
E.F. S.O.(I) Kilindini S.O.(I) Bombay.)

C.J.8. 2. 1030 G.M.T. 9th 13 ships.
6. Escort to Vizagapatam BERAR (not NU)
(N.C.S.O. Calcutta, 091035Z.)

Relaxation of Further proposals concerning release of ships
Convoy. from convoys, my 081629 refers.
2. A.K.D. - D.K.A. convoys.
A. All ships normally included in these convoys
to be released forthwith and sailed independently

/B...

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.

desirable for Senior S.N.O. (R.N.) on East and West Coasts of India respectively to have authority over others, and so occupy intermediate position between them and Deputy C. in C. (Colombo) provided administrative delays are not thereby introduced.

6. Experience here also shows necessity for SOMSC(I) and SOMLC(I) to be directly responsible to Deputy C. in C. (Colombo) in view of their dependence on shore services for exercising their functions i.e. command of Unallocated Landing Ships (and their embarked Flotillas) and Unallocated Major Landing Craft respectively.

7. To supervise activities of SNOS., Landing Craft Bases, S.O.A.S.C. and SOMLC, Deputy C. in C. (Colombo) will require an officer on his staff specially appointed for these duties.

8. Position of R./.(Q) on your diagram is ambiguous and we think it should be made clear that he is member of staff of Deputy C. in C. (Colombo) and would deal with Sub Commands on your behalf.

9. We should be grateful for list of your staffs at Colombo, Delhi and with Fleet including F.A.A. appointments. Steps will then be taken to provide balance.

10. We assume that functions of DCO(I) do not cut across your own organisation in any way, but that he is responsible for training of military forces in India prior to their rehearsals with Naval Assault Forces. Can you confirm this.

11. Amplifying letter follows by air mail and a further signal regarding title of Rear Admiral Miles.

090036A

for Hd. of M.II (671)
Approved 1st Lrd.

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| 1st Lord. | Sec. | D.P.S. |
| 1st S.L. (2) | Nav.Sec. | Hd.of C.W. |
| D.F.S.L. | P.A.S.(S) | N.A. 2. S.L. |
| 2nd S.L. | D. of P.(2) | C.C.O.(2) |
| 3rd S.L. | D.T.S.D. | D.C.O.M.(4) |
| Vice Centr. | D.N.I.(4) | D.N.A.O. |
| 4th S.L. | D.S.D. | D.T.D.(4) |
| 5th S.L. | D.O.D.(F)(2) | Hd.of M.II (M.07921/43) |
| V.C.N.S. | D.O.D.(H)(4) | (2) |
| A.C.N.S.(W) | D. of P.(Q)(3) | Ad. Blake (4) |
| A.C.N.S.(F) | D. of L.D. | I.P.(2) |
| A.C.N.S.(UT)(2) | D.R.O.(CO)(2) | W.D. |

MAG
MG

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9.12.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Relaxation
of Convoy.
(Contd.)

(B) Ships of all speeds to be routed through Mozambique Channel until further orders, in accordance with Meiri II A, and III A but not as in II B. Ships to and from Aden to be routed through Guardafui Channel.

(C) C. in C. S.A. to confirm that no objection is seen in so far as ships on South Atlantic Station are concerned.

(D) Half of Kilindini Escort Force to remain at Aden and half at Kilindini. South Atlantic escorts to proceed as ordered by C. in C. S.A.

3. A.B. - B.A. convoys.

(A) All ships normally included in these convoys, with the exception of combined operations and personnel ships to be released forthwith and sailed independently.

(B) Two groups of Aden Escort Force to remain at Aden and two groups at Bombay. Com. i/c Aden to adjust this as necessary when escort are required for special ships as in para. 3(A).

(C. in C. E.F., 091307Z to C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.), (R) Admty., C. in C. S.A.)

MARIPOSA.

Proposed to embark approx. 2700 New Zealand troops in U.S.S. MARIPOSA leaving Bombay for New Zealand in late Jan.

2. New Zealand have asked that ship be escorted.

3. Request your remarks.

(D.O.D.(F), 091801A to C. in C. E.F.(S.E.A.C.))

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Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

T.G.27.4 (2 corrupt groups) departs Bermuda for Casablanca. C. in C.U.S.At. 291617. (N.O.B.Bermuda 090103 to N.O.B.Casablanca.)

C.T.G.21.14. C.R.No. 503. 090231. This is C.T.Gs. 21.14 081830 to C. in C.Lant and (R) to Comnavu, Cominch and R.D.O.Empedocle. Position 46.14 N. 22.47 W. at 081811Z. No luck. (Comnavu 090231 to Admty.)

Laying up "Town" class ships. 1. Your 271917 Nov. which has been repeated to C. in C.W.A. ships should be sailed for U.K. as soon as convenient.
2. Your para. 3. following officers are appointed as being additional for D.Es.
3. Your para. 4. Equipment not required for passage to U.K. is at disposal of R.C.N.
(D.O.D.(F) 090245A to N.S.H.Q. Info. B.A.D. B.A.M.R. C. in C.N.A. Capt. D.Halifax, S.C.N.O.London, C. in C.W.A.)
Admty. 090245. Comply. N.S.H.Q.'s 271917 Nov. refers.
(N.S.H.Q. 092247Z to C. in C.N.A. (R) Admty. B.A.D. B.A.M.R. Capt. D.Halifax, S.C.N.O.London, C. in C.W.A.)

Manning Situation. B.A.M.R. 021432 has been repeated to C. in C.W.A. Your proposals are welcomed and approved subject to the following minor qualifications.
2. Your para. 2 request you will give an early forecast of dates of arrival in U.K. of ships concerned. It is observed that crews of BUXTON, MANSFIELD, SALISBURY and UGANDA will man ships due to carry out full working up programme at Bermuda. Since the main part of these crews require adjustment on arrival in U.K. it is considered preferable that they should bring their new ships direct to U.K. after shake-down at Casco as in the case of ships manned by R.C.N.runner crews
3. Para. 7 confirmed so far as can be foreseen. As regards NENE, TWEED and ETTRICK prefer that crews from these should man maritime frigates.
4. Para. 9 ships of W.E.F. should return to U.K. N.S.H.Q. is being requested to arrange on the general lines laid down in his 271917.
(D.O.D.(H) 090250A to B.A.M.R. Info. N.S.H.Q. N.M.C.S. Washington, S.C.N.O.London, S.B.N.O.W.At. C. in C.W.A.)

S/Ms. This is 081629 from C.N.O. to Comnavu for action and Comsubpac, Comsubs. 7th Fleet, C.T.F. 17.5 Comsublant for Info. S/Ms now deem it necessary to postpone establishing effective date of columns six S.P. 443 until Commander Subs. 7th Fleet reports receipt and readiness due re-routing vessel carrying new S/M flares for use southwest Pacific.
(Comnavu 090727 to Admty.)

/NEMESIS...

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

NEMESIS
U/B. C.R.No. 510
This is Cominch's 082040 to Admty. (O.I.C.) for action. "C. Sound contact attack by U.S.C.G. NEMESIS 32.46 N. 76.07 W. at 081630. D. P.B.M. contact (Radar) 24.53 N. 85.10 W. at 081640. Times Z." (Comnaveu 090951 to Admty.)

T.G.21.13. C.R. No. 512. This is 082140A of Commorseafron to Com. 12th Fleet for action. "Your 081612 refers (N.T. in W.D.) Composition T.G.21.13 correctly given as CLEMSON, DUPONT, BOGUE, G.E.BADGER, OSMOND INGRAM." (Comnaveu 091053 to Admty.)

LA PERLE. Arrived 081905Z.
(N.O.B.Bermuda 091245.)

COLLINGWOOD. B.A.M.R.'s 072236*. Halifax please. New York pass to COLLINGWOOD.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 091259Z to B.A.M.R. (R) Admty. F.O.N.F. N.S.H.Q. S.B.N.O.W.At. COLLINGWOOD.)
* H.M.C.S. COLLINGWOOD sailing Dec. 15th. Destination requested.

QUEEN
ELIZABETH. Arrived New York 8th.
(N.S.H.Q. 091317Z to D. of S.T.)

N.S.H.Q.
S/M Estimate. (N.S.H.Q. 091325Z.)

B.Y.M.S.
for U.K. One. B.Y.M.S. 2057 (S.O.) 2035, 2202, 2161 sailed St. Johns 1330Z/9 for Horta.
(F.O.N.F. 091335Z to S.B.N.O.Azores.)
Intend sailing B.Y.M.S. 2035, 2057, 2161 and 2202 to U.K. via Azores now.
2. Intend sailing remainder in ?not less than pairs for U.K. via Azores when ready.
3. Those in para. 2 state is as follows:-
(a) B.Y.M.S. 2069 and (?2201) at Halifax preparing for passage.
(b). B.Y.M.S. 2037, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2188 and 2189 returning to Halifax from Sydney and St. Johns N.F. for overhaul and repairs latter part of December.
(c). B.Y.M.S. 2155 and 2156 proceeding to Halifax from St. John N.B. end of December on completion of repairs.
4. Naval Board directs that their appreciation for the valuable services of these ships be conveyed to T.L.
(N.S.H.Q. 092101Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.C.N.A. F.O.N.F.)

COLDSTREAMER. Following for C.C.R.T. My 062026 TENACITY arrived at St. Johns 1352Z December 9th in company with COLDSTREAMER.
(F.O.N.F. 091555Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. C. in C.C.N.A.)

/Use...

9.12.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd

Use of "King" band equipment. I.Z. 4683 J.S.M. 1348. 9th December 1943. Reference C.O.S. (43) 649 (O) and C.O.S.(W) 912.
1. In reply to C.C.S. 133/3 U.S.Cs. of S. state that they do not agree that the operational use of "King" band equipment should not be permitted under any circumstances without prior consent of the C.C.S.
2. They take the view that the advantage to be gained by the use of such equipment when required will outweigh any advantage to be gained by withholding its use until the equipment is available in large quantities.
3. They therefore propose that all area and theatre commanders
(a) be informed of the secret character and special value of the equipment in question.
(b) be informed that "King" band equipment includes equipment which is designed to operate on wavelengths between 1 and 1½ Cms. and embodies techniques believed unknown to the enemy.
(c) be instructed that although no restrictions are now placed on the use of "King" band Radar equipment the operational use of this equipment should be employed only when in the opinion of the area or theatre commander concerned the advantage to be gained justifies the risk that the equipment will be compromised.
(d) be instructed to notify the C.C.S. forthwith of the use of any such equipment.
(J.S.M.Washington 091625Z to War Cabinet Offices London.)

U.S.S/M (Cominch 091635.)
Estimate.

CLEOPATRA. Your 291629 Oct. Request you will ask if CLEOPATRA can be completed as a two shaft ship. It is under consideration to adapt her as Escort Carrier Flag-ship. A decision on this will be communicated shortly.
(Controller 091700A to B.A.M.R.)

BRONZO. In view of his 031840 (N.T. in W.D.) it is considered that C. in C.Med. should be given full discretion to transfer BRONZO on loan to French and to arrange her refit as and when he thinks fit.
2. You should therefore take up the question again with Cominch, using arguments in C. in C.Med's 031840.
(Hd. of M.I. 091729A to B.A.D. Info. C. in C.Med. V.A.Malta.)

R.C.N.Frigates Your 071914. This conforms to the conclusions we and corvettes have reached in discussion with Captain Creery which cancellation are summarised as follows:-
of orders for 2. Manpower situation will only permit manning 800 construction. of the 889 escort vessels given in P.D.0242/43 leaving some 80 in reserve.
3. In these circumstances we consider it acceptable to stop building escort vessels subsequent to those completing in Oct. 1944, and to utilise the 80 referred to in para. 2 as a reserve for replacement of worn-out ships and casualties in the Empire escort forces or to commission at the

/expense...

9.12.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

R.C.N. frigates and corvettes cancellation of orders for construction. (Contd.)

expense of other naval commitments in an emergency. 4. Since the cancellation of the building programme results in a reduction of the R.C.N. target for local escorts, Admty. will be ready to support the R.C.N. in the event of serious U/B threat off the Canadian coast.

5.. We attach the greatest importance to the proposals now under consideration by you for the construction of L.S.T.3s. and other vessels of

British account in berths made vacant by the cancellation of escort vessels.

6. If the cancellation of frigates and corvettes will result in further R.C.N. reserves of manpower being available it would be of great assistance if you would consider the manning of other vessels.

(A.C.N.S.(H) 091757A to N.S.H.Q. (R) B.A.D. B.A.M.R. S.C.N.O. London.)

NORTHWAY,
OCEANWAY.

Your 082352 Nov. Confirmed that two crews can be provided.

2. Request details of advance and main party requirements vide page 6 of U.S.M.R. dated 13th Sept. (D.P.S. 091819A to B.A.M.R.)

Air raid
Calcutta.

A high level air attack was made on Kidderpore Docks Calcutta at 1145/5.

2. Attack was in two waves A. 27 bombers with fighter escort of 20 - 50 B. 8 bombers with fighter escort of 20.

3. About 86 bombs A.P. and H.E. 50 and 100 kilogrammes dropped. No incendiaries.

4. Damage light. Only one serious fire.

5. Casualties so far ascertained killed 187, injured 435.

6. Two enemy fighters destroyed and 4 damaged.

7. Dock labour nervous. 20% strength only on day after raid. Port workshop labour not affected.

8. Labour in other areas not noticeably affected except in case of Hoogly Jute Mill 400 yards from bombing. All labour here has disappeared.

9. No noticeable exodus from Calcutta by road or rail.

10. Public morale generally good. No panic.

11. Considered however, that if further attacks had followed effect on labour and general morale might have been serious.

(Govt. India Civil Defence Dept. 091930 to Secy. of State for India.)

Cat gear.

Technical.

(N.S.H.Q. 092010Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A. C. in C.C.N.A. S.C.N.O.(L).)

H.X.270.

1. Sailing telegram. Escorts SAULT STE. MARIE, (S.O.) NORANDA, SUDBURY. (P.D.New York 092032Z.)

9.12.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

A/S Trawlers Admiralty's 301453 Nov. Anticipate six A/S
as Escorts. trawlers ready to sail to U.K. about end of Dec.
2. Request destination.
3. Naval Board direct that T.Ls. be informed of
their appreciation of the loan of these trawlers.
(N.S.H.Q. 092058Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.C.N.A.
N.O.I.C. Sydney.)

CABO ORTEGAL. Your 082211. Examination and analysis of detained
items not yet completed at Gib.
2. M.E.W. has also been asked by Embassy Washington
for details and is sending interim reply.
3. M.E.W. intends to send reports of such searches regularly to
War Trade Dept. of Embassy. To avoid duplication suggest you
always obtain details from Embassy in future, Admiralty keeping
you informed of intended and actual interceptions.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 092106A to B.A.D.)

COLOMBIA Para. A. COLOMBIA Panamanian torpedoed, sunk area
sunk. 09.50 N. 78.55 W. 081100Z. Action to Admty. for
O.I.C. from Cominch. Para. C. P.B.M. Radar con-
tact 25.30 N. 85.08 W. 082025Z.
(Cominch 092107 to Admty. Info. Ctds. All Nav. Dist.
Lant. Cdrs. All T.Fs. Lant Cdrs. All Sea Fron. Lant.
N.O.B. Bermuda, N.O.B. Guantanamo, N.O.B. Trinidad,
N.O.I.C. Jamaica who gives to S.O.I. Jamaica,
Comnavu, H.Q.C.C. Cinclant, C.A.F.A.C. N.S.H.Q.
B.A.D. N.M.C.J.S.)

Stragglers One arrived New York from D.X. 269. (?H.X.
Report No. 30. intended). AUEAHIOUS (Sic) (Pan) 2nd condenser
trouble. 3 arrived St. Johns N.F. from H.X.268.
S/M BABCOCK U.S. and HENRY GEORGE U.S. 2nd lost
from escort vessel, slight weather damage.
GEORGE POPHAM U.S. 3rd lost convoy. 2 arrived Sydney from H.X.268.
JAMES B. EADS U.S. 3rd lost convoy, heavy weather damage.
SUSAN V. LUCKENBACH U.S. 3rd lost convoy in heavy weather.
One arrived H.X. 268. ROBERT LAVANN U.S. 7th lost convoy bad
weather. One arrived Halifax for O.N.212. EMPIRE FLAG 2nd
straggler due to bad weather. Two arrived St. Johns N.F. from
O.N. 213. GEORGE B. SELDON U.S. 7th lost convoy hull damage.
ALCOA CUTTER U.S. 8th to land sick man. One arrived Halifax from
S.C.148. NORDANGER (Nor.) 3rd engine defects. One arrived Hali-
fax from H.H.X. 269. KOFRESI U.S. 7th engine defects.
(N.S.H.Q. 092153Z to Admty.)

Battleship Personal from Admiral Noble. I am opening nego-
modernisation tiations with Navy Dept. forthwith on the battle-
programme. ship modernisation programme. I observe however,
that the programme forwarded with A.L. M/P.D.
0241/43 of 24th Nov. shows NELSON to be taken in
hand in June 1944 while A.L.D. 02247 June, 1943
of 7th Sept. states she could be made available about 1st Nov.
1943 (?1944 intended) on which date do you wish me to work?
(B.A.D. 092217Z to Admty.)

/ARETHUSA...

9.12.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

ARETHUSA. When ready about 15th sail ARETHUSA Charleston to Norfolk for working up. Advise routeing instructions.
(Cominch 092340 to Comeastseafcon.)

EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND. Further repair work necessary. Expect leave drydock 13th or 14th for departure 18th.
(B.M.W.T. New York 092301Z to D. of S.T.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial No. 688 Dec. 8th. 3. United States M.T.Bs. sank similar enemy craft three miles north east Araki? early hours 7th while others destroyed four loaded barges at Singor (14 miles west Saidor).
4. Full photograph coverage Rabaul harbour midday 6th reveals one damaged converted destroyer tender, five submarines, two subchasers, one large tanker, 12 merchant ships totalling approx. 55000 tons also 85 harbour craft. 97 barges, 17 floatplanes.
7. 4 Dutch Mitchells bombed Kupang after dark 8th. Two dropped bomb load Wharf area 3rd hit Penfoei airfield and 4th Barracks.
9. Submarine observed off central southwest coast Choiseul Island dawn 8th.
10. Four laden enemy barges in Torau Bay (S.E.coast Bougainville) contacted by M.T.Bs. night 6th/7th. Many hits believed inflicted, but contact (Los. 1 group missing N.) barges beached.
11. Next night enemy S/M sighted by aircraft off Empress Augusta Bay and following midday another observed 30 miles south of Cape Orford.
12. Midday R/C Liberator observed one destroyer, one large, one small merchantmen, seven small auxiliaries Kavieng midday 8th. Also attacked six cargo carrying fishing boats southbound 180 miles northeast Mussau Island sinking three, damaging remainder. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 090615Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Sub. attack & sighting summary for 24 hrs. to 0900Z/9th. Nothing to report.
(D.D.I.C. 091036A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 091409A, 091422A.)

10.12.1943.
Friday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Enemy
M/V sunk.

1. Six M.T.Bs. of the 11th M.T.B. Flotilla while sweeping last night off the Dutch coast sighted an Enemy convoy of 2 M/Vs. escorted by 4 E/R boats and 5 trawlers. Several torpedo attacks were made by our Force and at 0039 M.T.Bs. 355 and 352 each fired both torpedoes at a 2000 ton M/V which was later seen to be sinking about 4 miles N.W. of Noordwylch. Our Force suffered no damage.

Bay
patrol.

2. Six U-boats in all were sighted by aircraft today in the Biscay area and 3 were attacked. At 2056A to-day in 46.36 N. 08.26 W. Leigh light Liberator S/53 attacked a U-boat sighted on the surface. A straddle with depth charges is claimed and the bow of the U-boat is reported to have risen at a steep angle after the explosions. No further results were seen in the darkness.

South Atlantic.

3. The U.S. cruiser MILWAUKEE with one destroyer in company arrived at Freetown on 8th and sailed again this afternoon for patrol.

Mediterranean.

Unification
of
Mediterranean
command.

4.(a) At 0001 today unification of command in the Mediterranean took effect. General Eisenhower assumed responsibility for all operations in the whole of the Mediterranean theatre, which comprises the following areas in addition to those already in his command:- Greece, Albania, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Rumania, Hungary, Crete, the Aegean Islands and Turkey. Three Cs. in C. Cairo will be under his orders for these operations, but will remain responsible to the British Chiefs of Staff for the operation of the Middle East base and for all matter pertaining to those parts of the present Middle East Command situated in Africa, Asia and the Levant (except Turkey).

/(b) The...

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SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Unification
of
Mediterranean
command.
(Contd.).

(b) The Mediterranean Air Command is renamed Mediterranean Allied Air Forces with effect from today.

5. The French contre-torpilleurs LE FANTASQUE and LE TERRIBLE arrived at Algiers today from operating under C. in C. Levant.

"Avalanche"

6(a) TYRIAN and TEASER patrolled North of Ancona last night. They sighted no shipping but shelled San Benedetto; mist prevented observation of results.

(b) M.T.Bs. operated from Vis and Hvar Islands last night, but sighted nothing.

(c) 24 U.S. Invaders bombed Civitavecchia today. A 10,000 ton vessel in harbour was hit and set on fire.

Australia and New Zealand.

8. A U.S. Navy Catalina sank a large freighter transport off Dyaul Island, 20 miles south of Kavieng, New Ireland, today.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Flag of Rear-Admiral Bisset. Flag of Rear-Admiral Bisset will be transferred to ROYALIST at 0900/15th. (R.A.E.C.E.F., 101217 to Admty.)

Use of A/S Escort ships. Request your comments on the following scheme for increasing our offensive effort in the anti U-Boat campaign by reducing the convoy close escort when the convoy is out of danger and using the forces so gained in aggressive action against U-Boats. Details.

9. It is proposed that the plan should be tried out on the plot with actual convoys proceeding on passage before any further action is taken. (A.C.N.S.(U.T.), 102340A to C. in C. W.A.)

Defence of the United Kingdom.

Scapa A/S defences. It is intended to carry out trials with a Welman during week commencing 12th December to test efficiency of Scapa defences. Should you wish to send a representative he would be welcome. (A.C.O.S., 101148A to Admty.)

Movements.

VALIANT. Sailed VALIANT in accordance with her 061350A. (N.O.I.C. Lamlash, 101040A to C. in C. H.F.)

S/M movements. Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/11 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.(S), 101509A, 101702A.)

TUDOR. TUDOR completes building at Devonport 16th Dec. Anticipate she will be ready to sail 29th. (C. in C. Plymouth, 101855 to Admty.)

INDEFATIGABLE. Will be ready to sail from the Clyde to Rosyth on 2nd January. 2. The ship will not be worked up. (D.O.D.(H), 102005A to C. in C. H.F.)

Operations.

Operation S.F. Faroes departure RATTLESNAKE, LOYALTY, and HYDRA. Your 091745A refers. (N.O.I.C. Faroes, 100015A to C. in C. Rosyth.) My 091745A. Amend patrol as follows. (1) Group A. (2) 064° 24' N. 007° 33' W. (3) 240°. (4) "Apricot". (C. in C. Rosyth, 101201A to RATTLESNAKE.)

/Position ...

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Operation S.F. Position at 102000. RATTLESNAKE, LOYALTY, HYDRA searching 064° 24' N. 007° 33' W. (A.C.O.S., 101203 and 101922.) Catalina will be operating in your area tonight. (C. in C. Rosyth, 101650A to RATTLESNAKE.)

Total of 2 Catalinas, 3 Sunderlands scheduled to operate in your area between 0001 and 2359/11th. (C. in C. Rosyth, 102249A to RATTLESNAKE.)

Bay Patrol. Am over enemy submarine in 45° 38' N. 04° 40' W. 6 U-Boats Enemy was sighted on surface and observed to sighted and submerge. 3 U-Boats (A/C NOQR, 100020A to 19 Group.) attacked Estimate STOIC in 049° 10' N. 011° 26' W. at by A/C. 0800A/10th, steering 270° to 013° 21' W., thence 180° diving by day with daily advance 140 miles. (C. in C. Plymouth, 100040A to LUNENBURG.) U-Boat previously reported course 325°, 12 knots when first sighted in 45° 38' N. 04° 40' W. (A/C NOQR, 100040A to 19 Group.)

Operation "Stonewall". Keep steaming at 1 hours notice from 0800A/11th. (C. in C. Plymouth, 101553A to GLASGOW.)

Am over one enemy submarine on surface in 48° 08' N. 08° 08' W. (A/C 461 Sqdn. Duty 'J', 101950A to 19 Group.)

Am over one enemy submarine in 48° 10' N. 09° 01' W. (A/C of 15 Group, 101950 to 19 Group.)

U-Boat previously reported course and speed unknown when first sighted in 48° 09' N. 08° 58' W. Submerged marker dropped. Returned to base to refuel. (A/C 461 Sqdn. Duty 'J', 102022A to 19 Group.)

Am over one enemy submarine in 46° 40' N. 08° 40' W. Position uncertain. Submarine was on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 290°, estimated speed 4 knots. (A/C 53 Sqdn. Duty 'S', 102056 to 19 Group.)

Have attacked U-Boat with depth charges. Estimate straddle. (A/C 53 Sqdn. Duty 'S', 102145 to 19 Group.)

Am over 2 enemy S/Ms in 45° 32' N. 07° 07' W. (estimated) on surface. When first sighted were on course 315°, 12 knots. (A/C 502 Sqdn. Duty 'G', 102304 to 19 Group.)

U-Boats previously reported were on surface and seen to submerge. Have attacked U-Boats with bombs. (A/C 502 Sqdn. Duty 'G', 102340 to 19 Group.)

Operation F.V. WESTCOTT take ACANTHUS under his orders and proceed passing Gate at 1800A/10th for Loch Ewe. E.T.A. 1300A/11th. C. in C. W.A.'s 051041 refers. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 101008A to WESTCOTT.)

C. in C. W.A.'s 091035. On completion of local escort duty with J.W.55A return to Loch Ewe.

(2) You are then to carry out similar duties with J.W.55B. (C. in C. H.F., 101112A to SCIMITAR.)

Operation F.V. para. 4 (H). Force 2. DUKE OF YORK (C. in C. H.F.), JAMAICA, SAVAGE, STORD, SAUMAREZ, SCORPION. Force 3. KING GEORGE V (R.A.D.H.F.), BERMUDA, HARDY, VENUS, VIGILANT, SCOURGE. (C. in C. H.F., 101128A to H.F.)

/My ...

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Operation F.V. (Contd.) My 071742. Ships for duty C are not now required to arrive Akureyri until p.m./20th. They will be required to transport mail for Force 2 from Skaalefiord to Akureyri.

2. Centre line of channel to be swept on 21st Dec. through (A) 066° 10'00", 018° 24'48". (B) 066° 00'12", 018° 19'00". (C) 065° 54'48", 018° 15'00".

3. R.A.D.H.F. is requested to sail HARRIER with mail for Force 2 to arrive Skaalefiord a.m./18th.
(C. in C. H.F., 101132A to RATTLESNAKE.)

Request you will arrange that one oiler returns with each R.A. convoy and that it sails with not less than 1500 tons fuel for supply to escorts.
(C. in C. H.F., 101755 to S.B.N.O. Polyarnoe.)

Coastal Force Patrols. 1. (A) 3 M.G.Bs. from Newhaven anti E-Boat patrol 10 miles southward of convoy route between C.3 buoy and eastern limit of Command from 1900A to 0500A. Firstly abreast of C.E.228 until out of command. Secondly return to keep abreast of L.S.I. until out of command.

(B) M.T.Bs. exercising from Newhaven to cover L.S.I. while at anchor off Newhaven.

(C) 2 Chasseurs anti E-Boat patrol on 50° 24' N. between 00° 35' W. and 00° 48' W. from 1800A to 0700A.

(D) M.L.344 short notice St.Helens.

(E) GLAISDALE short notice Yarmouth.

(F) 3 M.Ls. from Portland patrolling 50° 15' N. between 01° 30' W. to 02° 20' W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 101408A.)

V.P. operations. Carry out V.P. 1. Patrol A.P. 2. V.P.56 and 106. 3. a.m./12th Dec. or first suitable day thereafter. 4. At S.O's discretion. 5. No. 6. No. 7. 055° Bressay. 8. No.
(A.C.O.S., 101518A to Admty.)

My 091742. M.T.B.666 returned to Base at 0745A today owing to engine trouble.

(2) M.T.B.684 returned at 1715A today. (3) No shipping seen. (A.C.O.S., 101852A to Admty.)

Carry out V.P. (1) Patrol A.U. (2) V.P.101A. (3) a.m./12th Dec. or first suitable day thereafter. (4) 1. (5) No. (6) No. (7) 080° Bressay. (8) No.

2. My 170908 Nov. para. 2 cancel "and 101A".
(A.C.O.S., 101951A to Admty.)

Enemy Convoy attacked. One M/V sunk. Preliminary report of C/F operations on night 9th/10th December.

1. Six boats of 11th M.T.B. Flotilla were ordered to carry out sweep Egmond to the Hook.

2. Unit arrived off Egmond 2041 and proceeded on sweep. At 2217 in 250° Ymuiden 14.2 miles unit listened hydrophones. At 2331 proceeded S.E. At 0010 sighted ships red 45° 3 to 4 miles. At 0015

/Radar ...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Enemy Convoy attacked. One M/V sunk. (Contd.)

Radar contact red 30° 16,000 yards. As result of plot S.O. decided enemy proceeding south and unit divided.

3. 2nd div.: 350, 351, 348 remained stopped. 1st div.: 355, 353, 360 proceeded S. 60E 9 knots to gain position for attack. Convoy proceeding S.20W 6 knots observed to consist of 2 large M/V, 4 E/R boats and 5 trawlers. Unit was challenged but challenge unreadable. FIM 0037 enemy opened fire on 1st div. Fire was low and hit water ahead of unit, leading M/V observed firing 20 and 40 mm. guns, larger guns appeared to be firing star-shell. At 0039 M.T.B.355 and 352 fired both torpedoes at leading M/V, one 2000 tons disengaged to starboard under smoke, rejoined 2nd div. who reported seeing two large red explosions at 0039.

4. At 0122 M.T.B.348, 360 ordered to attack ahead of convoy. M.T.B.355, 353 made diversion astern. Convoy had separated and diversion was made on M/V that had been hit, and attack was made on part of convoy that had proceeded, consequently diversion was not effective. At 0139 M.T.B.348, 360 fired both torpedoes at large M/V last ship of convoy, range 700-800 yards, no result observed.

5. M.T.B.350, 351 ordered to attack head of convoy. At 0229 M.T.B.350, 351 sighted object which was approached to within 100 yards and was found to be bow of M/V sticking out of water, position 311° Noordwyck 3.9 miles. 4 E/R boats standing by. Fire opened and 350, 351 retired at speed making smoke.

6. At 0305 M.T.B. 355 and 352 rejoined 320, 350. Weather then wind E. force 5 increasing. At 0320 350 reported 351 defective steering and 350 FQNB ordered to attack. At 0340 M.T.B.350 proceed having received position of convoy from S.O. At 0352 sighted convoy and attempted to attack, but heavy spray and enemy's fire made visibility difficult. 352 disengaged and rejoined 351 at 0357.

7. At 0400 M.T.B.352, 351 made another attempt to gain attacking position without success. At 0425 S.O. decided weather had become too bad for a successful attack and ordered 352, 351 to rejoin unit. Course set for base.

8. Visibility good, 3 to 4 miles, moon covered with cloud but very light.

9. Claim 1 merchant vessel over 2000 tons definitely sunk.

10. No casualties or damage to our forces.
(C. in C. Nore, 101815A and 121010A to Admty.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat reported. Your 102145Z. Continue hunting. Report situation at 1200Z tomorrow.
(C. in C. W.A., 102342Z to LAWFORD, KINGSMILL.)

Casualties and Defects.

SCIMITAR. S.7's 091927. Arrived SCIMITAR.
(F.O.I.C.N.I., 100757A to Capt. (S) 7.)

/PINZON ...

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PINZON. P.C.S. 10(16?)/10th, 48° 02' N. 13° 59' W., 63°, 8 knots. EMPIRE LARCH reported can continue to destination if weather remains moderate. Rudder probably strained and off centre from violent banging when steering chain broke.
Weather 5582 1444.
(EDMUNDSTON, 101116Z to C. in C. Plymouth.)

HOLDERNESS. HOLDERNESS returned owing to weather. My 091301A postponed.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 101531A to C. in C. Nore.)
My 091301A. For SANDOWN read RYDE.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 101912A to C. in C. Nore.)

Shipping and Convoys.

O.N. 215. Sailed HOTSPUR, NASTURTIUM, TRILLIUM, WOODSTOCK, ORILLIA, ALGOMA, SAMSONIA and NORTHERN FOAM for O.N.215. CHURCHILL will sail to overtake on completion of calibration p.m. today.
(Cdre. (D) W.A., 100720A to Admty.)

S.L. 141/
M.K.S. 32. 1 shad. 170 - 1 SAMPFORD DD HE 0707 - 005 - 7.
(FENCER, 100831Z to Admty.)

O.S. 61/
K.M.S.35. My 091925. PRINCE ROBERT sailed at 0400/10th.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 100914A to Admty.)

O.S. 62/
K.M.S.36. C. in C. W.A. 231847 November. COTILLION and NORTHERN GIFT detailed.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 101212A to Cdre. (D) W.A.)

F.N. 100.
PRESTATYN
ROSE. PRESTATYN ROSE straggled and was ordered into Yarmouth by VANITY p.m./9th. LUDLOW reported ship disregarded order and was 2 miles astern of convoy at 1050 today.
2. Ship is bound Grangemouth. Request you will investigate cancelled order.
(C. in C. Nore, 101215A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

? DOMINION
MONARCH. 091135Z. Sailing delayed. Fog.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey, 101425Z to Admty.)

K.M.F. 27. Request you will arrange for CHEYBASSA to be equipped for rescue duties. PEGU is expected to arrive Clyde in E.N.18 which will not give sufficient time for equipping this vessel. If it should be possible to supply any rescue gear to PEGU in the time available this should be done.
A.M. 081750 refers.
(C. in C. W.A., 101647A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/O.S.63 ...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

O.S. 63/
K.M.S.37.

Cancel para. 2 of my 111715A in view of F.O.I.C. Greenock's 121048A. F.O.I.C. Belfast is requested to retain ATHENE at Belfast on completion of loading and sail her in convoy O.S.63/K.M.S.37.

2. Para. One (A) of Admty. 111211A should be amended to read - Belfast.
(C. in C. W.A., 121733A.)

E.G.2, E.G.3;
WILD GOOSE.

Proceed at best speed.
(C. in C. W.A., 101835A to E.G.2, E.G.3, WILD GOOSE.)

Troopship
movements.

Following is summary No.17 of major troopship movements in and out of Clyde and Liverpool during next two weeks to 30th December.
(D.S.T., 102315A.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Axis Shipping. 65 SPERBER arrived 0015/10th.
(H.M.Consul Bilbao 101135 to M.E.W. (R) Admty.
for D. of N.I. B.N.A.Madrid, Staff Officer Intel.
Madrid.)

RITA GARCIA. My 091958. Left Las Palmas 9th due Melilla 13th.
(D.E.W.D. 101202A to C.C.S.O.Gib.)

STOIC. After passing through K. 043° N. 013° 22' W. at
1200/13th proceed on surface at discretion through
following positions at time stated.
P. 036° 51' 009° 13' at 0001/13th.
R. 036° 37' 007° 24' at 0730/15th. S. 035° 53' 006° 15' at
1330/15th. T. 035° 49' 006° 06' 30" at 1410/15th thence by Q.B.A.
87 to arrive Gibraltar at 1730/15th.
2. S.O.A. 11.5 knots increasing to 12 knots at 0001/15.
3. Total bombing restriction arranged accordingly 10 miles either
side your route from 50 miles ahead to 50 miles astern your
estimated position. Report if unable to keep within your bombing
restriction by signal prefixed immediate.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 101247A to P.231 (STOIC) (R) Admty. F.O.S. Capt.
S.3, C. in C.Med. Capt. S.5, C. in C.Plymouth, Cominch, C.M.S.F.
Capt. S.10, N.74.)

POMPEO MAGNO. Your 091103. As confirmation of arrival cruiser
POMPEO MAGNO did not reach me till 9th regret not
possible for Military Attache and Spanish, to
provide train accommodation till night of 12th and
13th. My 091350 to S.O.I. Gib. refers.
2. It is highly improbable that Capt. Muffone will need instruc-
tion to take passage and matter is in hands of Italian Ambassador
and Foreign Office. Your 091107., C. in C.Med. 081221 and
F.O.T.A.L.I. 021237 to C. in C.Med. F.O.C.Gib. and B.N.A.Madrid
refers.
(B.N.A.Madrid 101337A to F.O.C.Gib. (R) C. in C.Med. Admty.
F.O.T.A.L.I.)

U/B. Am over enemy S/M in 42.22 N. 9.00 W.
(A/C Duty L. of 1st U.S.Wing 101348A to Gib.)
Am over enemy S/M. S/Ms periscope only sighted.
Position 42.20 N. 9.56 W.
(A/C Duty L. of No. 1 U.S.Wing 101348A to Gib.)
Am over one enemy S/M, S/Ms periscope only sighted. Position 42.20
N. 9.56 W.
(A/C Duty L. of No. 1 U.S.Wing 101358A to Gib.)
N.R. 3. Suspicious object previously reported is probably
sea mark. Have dropped depth charges. Request instructions.
(A/C Duty L. of No. 1 U.S. Wing 101430 to Gib.)

MONTE MONJUICH. Ref. A.M. 081716* intercepted off Cadiz 0925/10th
and being sent in to Gib. for control.
(F.O.C.Gib. 101703A to Admty. B.N.A.Madrid.)
* re MONTE MONJUICH sailed for Cadiz.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

LUGELA, Portuguese SS. LUGELA will arrive Terceira to
LIMA. unload 2000 tons wheat about 19th. SS. LIMA is due
to visit Terceira about 20th/21st but only for
few hours. Ministry of Marine would much appreciate if all facilities could be accorded these
ships as it is for reason beyond their control that the ships
will be at Angra during period. B. of my 251526 Nov. para. one.
(N.A.Lisbon 101739 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O.Azores, F.O.C. Gib.)

14th M/S F. Request you will investigate possibility of using
CLUMBERHALL, two ships of 14th M/S Flotilla to proceed to
IERE. Azores and escort CLUMBERHALL and EIRE to U.K.
without prejudice to X.K.13 commitment. S.B.N.O.
Azores 082148 and C. in C.Med. 201535 Nov. refer.
(Admty. 101740A to F.O.I.C. Gib. Info. C. in C.
Med. S.B.N.O.Azores.)
Through fault of communications SALVEDA has sailed
escorted by TOUMALINE and STRENUOUS. CLUMBERHALL
and IERE still at Horta.

ST. GOTTHARD. Leaves Marseilles about 14th for Gib.
(D.E.W.D. 101830A to F.O.I.C. Gib. Info. C. in
C.Med.)

Gib. Move- Arrivals POMPEO MAGNO from the east, LADY HOGARTH
ments. with Spanish MONTE MONJUICH.
(F.O.C.Gib. 102048.)

U.S.Movements. This is Commorseafron's 101529. Arrived Casa.
Section U.G.S. 25. 4 ships, U.S.S. HOUSATONIC, S.C
1345, STURTEVANT, INCH, JACOB JONES.
(Comnaveu 102216 to Admty.)

South Atlantic.

SS. LEONIDAS Following paraphrase of Com. Fourth Fleet's
reported as 091246 at 1150Z/8th. Liberator sighted suspicious
suspicious ship 05° 22' S. 23° 18' W. course 040° speed 8
ship. knots. Later altered to 060, speed 12. Used call
sign of BRITISH PROME. No authenticator after
challenge. Resembles BURGENLAND Task Group and
planes searching area.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 101029Z to Admty.)

Release of As far as South Atlantic ships are concerned fully
shipping from concur in proposals of C. in C.E.F. in his 091307
Convoys. not to F.O.E.A.
2. Propose that ships of South Atlantic Escort

/Force...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Release of shipping from convoys. (Contd.)

Force now at Kilindini consisting of four South African Oil Burners should remain there. These to be joined by Escort Force of D.K.A. 9 which will also remain there. This will enable regular cycle of southbound convoys to be resumed at short notice.

3. If proposals are approved F.O.E.A. is requested to arrange as many A/S practices as possible for these escorts. It is important that practices should take place in groups under their own C.Os.

4. Ships in D.K.A. 9 for Aden can be released at any time to proceed by Stragglers route through Guardafui Channel. (C. in C.S.A. 101437C to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) (R) Admty. F.O.E.A.)

FANDANGO.

Arrival 10th FANDANGO. Essential repairs to forced draft fan taken in hand. Intend to sail ship to Capetown, on completion estimated on 12th. (N.O.I.C. Walvis Bay 101456 to C. in C.W.A.)

U/B.

Americans report submarine sighted on surface at 1115Z/10 in 04° 47' S. 23° 54' W. course 140° speed 4 knots. Submarine avoided attack by submerging. (F.O.C.W.Af. 101656Z to Admty.)

T.G.41.2

Task Group 41.2 U.S. Ships MILWAUKEE, MOFFETT arrived 8th, sailed 1515Z/10th on patrol. (S.O.I. Freetown 101741Z to Com. 4th Fleet, (R) Admty.)

SOUTHERN GEM, F.Ts.

1. Intend to sail SOUTHERN GEM escorting Fleet Tenders 6, 17, 18, 23 and 25 at 1600Z/12th, to proceed Dakar through Z. 11° 01' N. 17° 18' W. speed 8 knots. E.T.A. Dakar 0900Z/15th.
2. Comar Dakar is requested to sail ships as soon as possible after fuelling to proceed to Gibraltar by British Standard Coastal route omitting points R. Q. and F.
3. F.O.C. Gibraltar is requested to provide an escort to relieve SOUTHERN GEM at position N. about 1300Z/19th SOUTHERN GEM returns to Dakar on relief for docking.
4. Comar Dakar is requested to signal time of sailing and E.T.A. position N. to F.O.C. Gibraltar.)
(F.O.C.W.Af. 101811Z to F.O. Gibraltar, Comar Dakar, (R) SOUTHERN GEM, Fleet Tenders 6, 17, 18, 23, 25.)

Op. "Tabarin". A.M. 011825 Nov. and 071715A Dec. BRANSFIELD's defects cannot be made good in time and "Tabarin" party has embarked on HIGHLAND MONARCH.
2. Lieut. V.A.J.B. Marchesi, R.N. has been appointed to WILLIAM SCORESBY in command vice Lt. H.O. Olsen, R.N.R. who should return to U.K.
3. Lieut. J. Mc.C. Fleck, R.N.V.R. and Sub. Lieut. I. Graham R.N.V.R. have been appointed to SCORESBY and Sub. Lieut. R.W. Reid, R.N.V.R. transferred to ROYDUR. These officers are travelling with "Tabarin" party, together with balance of stores which include one 16ft. motor boat and three 14½ ft. dinghies.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Op. "Tabarin" (Contd.) 4. Request you prepare FITZROY and SCORESBY for reception of stores and despatch "Tabarin" at earliest possible date.
(Hd. of M.I. 101911A to N.O.I.C. Falklands, Info. F.O.C.W.Af. C. in C.S.A.)

A.K.D.7. (slow). Arrived Durban Section A.K.D.7 (slow) escorts ARCTIC EXPLORER, LADY ELSA, ST. ZENO, CAPE WARWICK and FALMOUTH support escort.
(N.C.S.O. Durban 102010Z to Admty.)

AOSTA, ABRUZZI. Your 252047 and my 022201. ABRUZZI generally as for AOSTA and endurance similar. Ship four months out of dock and claims speed $30\frac{1}{2}$ knots last refitted 18 months ago and some auxiliary machinery is in poor condition but not to extent of affecting general efficiency. Ship is of heavier construction than AOSTA but fore-castle is very light and requires stiffening for heavy weather. A small breakwater is fitted but deck fittings require additional securing against weather. Fan intakes better than AOSTA but requires shield plates to deflect water when washing down. Propeller shafts are out of alignment due to torpedo damage but officers state ship can steam 10 hours at full speed without serious overheating of bearings. German type radar is fitted which officers state is inefficient. No asdics.
Summary. As for AOSTA.
Officer from my operational staff who was embarked for extra liaison duties in each cruiser in their first cruiser reports favourably on morale and discipline but considers junior officers are war weary and lack keenness. He suggests personnel will fight satisfactorily when odds are on their side but doubt their capacity to take punishment.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 102234Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med. F.O.T.A.L.I.)

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Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

U/B reports. Aircraft 947 Fs. 2150Z. TETCOTT and CROOME carrying out square search round 033° 21' N. 021° 11' E. where aircraft dropped flares. Aircraft could not confirm contact. (TETCOTT, 100106B to S.N.O. Cyrenaica, (R) 235 Wing.)

U/Boat by D/F bearing within 20 miles of 039° 30' 007° 00' at 0306/10th.
(C. in C. Med. 100408A to ULTOR, UNTIRING, Capt. (S) 10)
Have obtained second class bearing H/F D/F bearing of German S/M at 0240. 253°/073° sense not determined. My position 037° 36' N. 016° 13' East.
(INGLEFIELD, 100410 to F.O.T.A.L.I., V.A.Malta.)

Attack on Enemy Caique. Nr. 1. Position of enemy caique DKZT 5052 (Indecypherable). Have attacked with bombs level and estimate one hit.
(A/C ANL/C, 100820Z to 201 Group H.Q.)

Air Reports. A.331 10th 0847Z. MS 23609.
Daily Opsum 266.
8/9 Dec. 2 Liberators (B.24) 1 Wellington successfully laid 14 mines at entrance to Heraklion Harbour, Crete. 2 Liberators (B.24) 9 Halifaxes despatched to provide diversionary bombing of harbour defences. 2 Halifaxes returned early. 1 Liberator (B.24) bombed defences on Dhia Island (off Heraklion) owing to instrument failure. Remaining aircraft bombed target. AA guns south of harbour silenced by bombs. 1 explosion 3 large fires in harbour. 105 x 250 lb 480 x 20 lb. Fragmentation.
(H.Q.R.A.F. M.E. 100902Z.)
M.S.23639. A.F.234. N.W.A.A.F. Opsum 292. N.W.A.T. A.F. 8/9th 14 Bostons (A.50) Civitavecchia Harbour 58 x 500. Hits ship at outer entrance to Harbour. Vessel seen to catch fire. Another ship alongside mole opposite harbour (1 group missing) hit.
9th. 16 spitfires strafed, previously damaged merchant vessel in Gulf of Kotor.
(H.Q.N.A.A.F., 101605A, 101718A.)
A/289 10th. 179715. Signed Eisenhower.
Cositintrep No. 153. N.W. Af. A.F. Night 8/9th.
2. Air Intelligence. Balkan intelligence reports 2 Me. 109s attacked shipping at Hvar Yugoslavia 7th.
(Air C. in C. Med., 101209A.)

Net defences. Net defences should normally be streamed by merchant ships who can do so and maintain speed of convoy in following areas where torpedo attacks by U/B (German) and aircraft are most likely.

- a. Between Alboran and War Channel.
- b. Off Cyrenaica.
2. In other areas decision must depend on latest intelligence.
3. In all areas however escort must keep Cdre. informed of latest intelligence for (?D/F) in areas in para. 1

/it...

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defences.
(Contd.)

it may sometimes be justifiable to proceed without net in view of importance of preserving their life.

4. Sailing authorities are responsible for issuing necessary orders to ships routed individually.

(C. in C. Med., 100940 to Med. St. and Levant St. 378B.)

S.N.F.9.

Request N.O.I.C. Naples will sail 2 ships at 1630/10th to Oran.

Escorts LUDLOW (SO) U.S. NIBLACK, U.S. MAYO. (F.O.W.I.T., 101046A, to N.O.I.C. Naples, N.O.B. Oran.)

(2 corrupt groups) S.N.F.9 sailed in accordance with F.O.W.I.T.'s (+101016?).

(N.O.I.C. Naples, 101813A to Cdr. N.O.B. Oran.)

+ ? 101046 (most secret distribution)

GEORGES
LEYGUES.

To comply with Admty. 292250 Nov. directing dispatch of GEORGES LEYGUES to Dakar it was necessary to stop her bombardment training when half completed and cancel plans for her use in Naples area.

2. Request she may be returned as soon as she can be spared.

3. In view of prompt French compliance with para. one it is specially requested that she should be actively employed if it is considered essential to retain her at Dakar.

(C. in C. Med. 101106A to Admty., (R) F.O.C. West Africa.)

Yugoslav
Warships
and
merchant
Ships.

Ref. your 061225.

1. At sunset on 6th the Italian colours were struck in the following ships: ZAGABRIA, T.1, T.5, FATA, SOLTA, MELIDA, CHIARAVALO, FERROLDI, FAIS, ATTANESE, SALERNO, ACCORDI, M.B.34 and VERGADA.

2. Vessels were taken over and manned by Yugoslavs on 8th and Yugoslav colour hoisted.

3. The Yugoslav crews had arrived on 7th in KUMONOVO. Understood this ship is a M.W.T.R. vessel and no orders for her disposal have been received. The Yugoslavs are anxious to keep her at Malta to act as a depot ship. She is in need of refit and docking.

4. The following ex Yugoslav Italian manned ships arrived Malta on 8th merchant vessels FRANCIPANI, MALINSCKA, QUARNOARO, NAIS, PASMAS, GALIANO and M.Bs. 33, 37 and 40. These vessels are berthed at Marsa Klock with Italian crews on board pending decision as to their ultimate disposal. In view of your 061225 last sentence para. 2 should it be decided that these ships are to be turned over to the Yugoslavs it will be necessary to send crews from Alexandria.

/5. ...

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Yugoslav
Warships
and
merchant
ships.
(Contd.)

5. The Yugoslav C.O. requests that as many officers and engine room ratings as possible be sent to Malta at the earliest opportunity since the crew that arrived in KUMONOVO are a motley collection who have mostly been two years in Italian prisons and concentration camps and are therefore quite untrained and unable to prepare their ships for sea service.
(V.A. Malta, 101112 to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.T.A. L.I., C. in C. Levant, Admty.)

DOLFIJN.

Intend sailing DOLFIJN at 0430A/11th proceeding on surface through 35° 50' 15" 20' at 0915A 11th, then 34° 54' 15" 42' at 1615A 11th, 33° 54' 25" 00' at 2215A 13th for onward routing by S.I.

2. Request bombing restrictions.
(V.A. Malta, 101137 to DOLFIJN, C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Capt. S.I., Capt. S.10, (R) F.O. S/M A.H.Q. Malta, 201 N.C. Group, Admty., R.A.Alexandria.)

HEBE

My 221140. Ref. C.A.F.O. 1698 para. 11 items
4, 15, 7.

sunk

22.11.43.

4. 041° 08' 47" N. 016° 50' 45" E.

5. Course 100° speed 7 knots.

6. Close to midship section on port near keel.

7. The explosion gave the impression of a lucky

near miss. As to mine being actually on the ground, this area had been covered twice previously same day.

(M/S 17 101142 to Admty., (D.T.M.) (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. M/S (?Malta).)

CURIE.

It is not desired that (P.67) CURIE should proceed to Levant. Your 091545*.

(C. in C. Med., 101146A to Capt. S.10, (R) C. in C. Levant, Capt. (S) 1, Admty.)

* Re detailing of CURIE in addition to DOLFIJN.

ADRIAS.

I suggest that T.L. might like to pay some tribute to Messrs. Swan, Hunter for ?fine performance of ADRIAS when she steamed some 600 miles ahead with bows blown off to number 37

bulkhead. The latter bulkhead was damaged and eventually the full pressure of the sea was taken on 44 bulkhead.

2. Ship was not manoeuvrable astern and made passage at speed 8 to 10 knots ahead without assistance of tug.

(From C. in C. Levant, 101224B to Admty.)

CAP

PADARAN
sunk.

SHEPPEY reports that SS. CAP PADARAN struck by either torpedo or mine at 1310 9th in 39° 15' N. 17° 30' E. Ship abandoned immediately by crew but taken in tow by SHEPPEY with a view to towing her to Crotone. Tow parted at 1745 9th and vessel broke her back and sank at 1855 9th.

/Request...

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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- CAP
PADARAN.
sunk.
(Contd.)
- Request I may be informed whether a Board of Inquiry is to be convened to enquire into the circumstances attending the loss of the ship. (N.O.I.C. Augusta, 101243 to C. in C. Med., Admty., (R) E.O.T.A.L.I., V.A.M., F.O.W.It., SHEPPEY, M.W.T.R. Med. Algiers.)
- T.O.11.
- Request you will sail at 1600 11th. Escorts. C.T.G.21.4 in FETCHELER, CHASE, LANNING, LOY. (C. in C. Med., 101659A, to F.O.I.C. Tunisia.)
- UNRULY.
- Leave present patrol area at 0001 11th and proceed patrolling off Port Vathi (Samos.) (Capt. S.l., 1017513 to UNRULY (R) 1st S.F.)
- Verification of Med.Command.
- OZ.4046. 10th. Following from C. of S.C. Prime Minister and President have approved following recommendations of C.C.S.
- a. That unification of Command in Med. shall take effect from 10th. There should be no public announcement of this change of organisation.
- b. General Eisenhower will now be designated Allied C. in C. Med., Theatre.
2. C. in C. Med. Theatre, will assume responsibility for operations in the following areas in addition to those already in his Command, Greece, Albania, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Roumania, Hungary, Crete, Aegean Islands and Turkey.
3. Three C. in C. in Cairo will be under his orders for these operations but will remain responsible to the British C. of S. for operation of the M.E. base and for all matters pertaining to those parts of the present M.E. Command situated in Africa, Asia and Levant (except Turkey).
4. The Med. Air Command will be renamed Med., Allied Air Forces.
(Air Min, 101845Z to C. in C.M.E., Admiral Mountbatten, C. in C. E.F., C. in C. P.A.I.C., G.O.C. in C.East Africa, G.O.C. in C. West Africa, Governor and C. in C. Malta, Governor and C. in C. Gib., 203 Military Mission Pretoria (via War Office), General Eisenhower, J.S.M. Washington.)
- GRADISCA.
- Reference statement in your 092327Z* number of Italians were unwounded prisoners. Request confirmation that these men were not suffering from sickness justifying travel by hospital ship also of number concerned.
(C. in C. Med., 101904A to N.O.I.C. Brindisi (R) Admty., F.O.T.A.L.I.)* Hospital Ship.
- SAVANNAH.
- My 092145A* (N.T. in W.D.) postponed for 12 hours.
(N.O.B. Oran, 101921A.)
* Sailing of U.S. Cruiser SAVANNAH, escorted by U.S. Destroyers, DALLAS, BERNADOU and COLE.

/ULTIMATUM...

10.12.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

ULTIMATUM.

Should be sailed to Beirut as soon as she is ready.

My 091509 refer.

(S.10, 101957 to V.A. Malta (R) C. in C. Levant, S.1, C. in C. Med., Admty.)

Med.
Situation
Report
No.246.

1. TYRIAN and TEAZER carried out patrol of route Pola to Asinello Island during night of 8th/9th but sighted nothing.
2. SS. CAP PADARAN in convoy H.A.11 ^{9th intended} was torpedoed by U/B (German) 1310/10th in 039° 15' N. 017° 30' E. Ship was taken in tow by SHEPPEY but subsequently sank. FARNDALE and LIDDESDALE twice attacked from contact but no results seen. Italian corvettes subsequently joined hunt.
(C. in C. Med. 102107A.)

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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

- Naval Air Stations maintenance and repairs facilities, report S. India and Ceylon. Ref. my 011027 Nov. (N.T. in W.D.) following is report regarding maintenance and repair facilities at Naval Air Stations and B. Class Repair Yards in South India and Ceylon. (R.A.N.A.S. I.O. 100303Z to Admty. for D.A.M.R.)
- B.M.77. Arrived Colombo portion escorted by WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN, SHOREHAM, POONA. (N.C.S.O.Colombo 100330Z to Admty.)
- Bi-weekly U-Boat disposition No. 8. Areas A. and B. no further indication. (C. in C.E.F. 100348 to E.F. 1447.) As amended 120518Z.
- TAURUS. Patrol Report 6th Nov. to 27th Nov. At 0454/13th Nov. sighted large U/B northbound in approx. 5° 17' N. 100° 5' E. Attacked from submerged with 6 torpedoes 1 explosion heard after ?short interval 2. At 0344/14th Nov. 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 S/M chaser with gun obtaining 8 hits. KAMIKAWA MARU class northbound speed about 18 knots. TAURUS was unable to close sufficiently to attack. 4. 1402/24th Nov. in approx. 9° 9' 89° 38' TAURUS was attacked by a Mitsubishi T.97/1 with one bomb no damage. 5. All times ?zone negative 6½ (ends) (Capt. S.4 270842 to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C).)
- Release of shipping from convoys. Shipping in Arabian Sea. Proposals in your 081629 approved. 2. Where possible request A.P.shipping may be given escort until clear of Gulf of Aden. (C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) 100918Z to C. in C.E.F. (R) Admty. F.O.C.R.I.N. Com. R.I.N. C. in C.S.A. N.O.I.C. Karachi, N.O.I.C. Bombay, N.O.I.C. Hormuz, S.N.O.P.G. Cmdre. i/c Aden.)
- A/A defences. 1. In accordance authority granted latest Kos Defence Hills and after consultation C. in C.E.F. and Air H.Q.E.A.G.O.C. in C. has decided that A/A Defences Seychelles, Mauritius, Tanga will not be implemented. All work is to stop forthwith. Further instructions will be issued covering disposal personnel and equipment. 2. (?A/A) defences Kilindini, Diego Suarez will be maintained at minimum allowed Kos plan. 3. Coast artillery not effected. Kos plan is being implemented. 4. Coast watching and early warning will continue as planned. (G.O.C. in C.E.Af. 091220C to W.O. H.Q.Islands Area Madagascar, (R) C. in C.E.F. F.O.E.A. Com. N.A.A. Air H.Q. E.A.Central Area.)

/Naval...

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10.12.1945.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Naval Assault Groups and Forces, organisation. Your 020239 Nov. (N.T. in W.D. but see C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) 02024Z Nov.) Ideal organisation would involve much larger number of White Ensign L.S.I. (L) than exist. No white ensign L.S.I. (L) additional to the two already allocated S.E.A.C. can be made available for present.

2. Pending further decisions the general lines upon which Force G (as part of original "overseas Assault Force ") was organised up to time of leaving U.K. may be taken as model for present re-organisation.

3. L.C.M. Flotillas of Force G formed part of the Force and it is considered essential for them to be under clearly defined chain of command.

6. It is considered most desirable that all major Landing Craft taking part in the assault should be allocated to and organised as integral part of the Naval Assault Force (s).

7. For 1945 requirements question of providing landing craft parent ships to accommodate and serve L.C.M. and L.C.T. Units operating off captured beaches during build-up period is under consideration.

(A.C.N.S. (F) 101228A to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) Info. S.O. Force G, S.O. Force F.)

R.M.A.B. 12. Sailing telegram. 2. 2230Z/10th. 6. ROHILKHAND.
(N.C.S.O. Calcutta 102235Z to Admty.)

10.12.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

SS. LEONIDAS This is Com. 4th Fleet's O91246 addressed to
Reported Taskforce 41 and (R) to Cinclant and Cominch.
as Cominch passed this dispatch for information of
Suspicious Comnaveu and Admiralty.
Ship. Liberator on Barrcer (?Carrier) sweep sighted
suspicious ship at 1105Z/8 Dec. at 05.22 S.
23.18 W. course 040 speed 8. Used call GZNS
of British PROME. No authenticator after
challenge. Later altered to course 060 speed 12. Resembles
BURGENLAND. Efforts to intercept by MARBLEHEAD and WINSLOW
and 2nd Liberator unsuccessful on 8 Dec. Planes sweeping to
north 9 Dec. to intercept and Task Group searching in area of
35.22 W.

(Comnaveu, 100016, 100725 to Admty.)

This is Cominch's O92105 addressed to Com. 4th Fleet and
(R) to Comnaveu Task Force 41 and C. in C. Lant.
Since arrival Bombay April 20 no information on British PROME.
Reference your O91246.

(Comnaveu, 100131 to Admty.)

Cominch O92105 and A.M.100725 neither to all addressees.
PROME is at present in Bombay.

(D.D.I.C. 101605A to Cominch, Info. Comnaveu, F.O.C.W.Af.
F.O.Gib. C. in C. S.A., S.B.N.O. Azores, C. in C. Plymouth,
C. in C. W.A.)

THISTLE, This is Cominch's O82357/36 addressed to
CHATEAU, U.S.Fleet (R) N.Z.N.D., G.C.N.D., N.S.H.Q., Admty
THIERRY, Chief of Staff Army.
(Hospital Following two ships have been designated as
Ships) Hospital Ships by War Department - U.S.A.T.
THISTLE and U.S.A.T. CHATEAU THIERRY.
Descriptions.
(Comnaveu, 100141Z to Admty.)

CUBITT CUBITT (B.D.E. 83) ?CRANSTON (B.D.E. 82) and
(B.D.E.83) CURZON (B.D.E.84) depart Boston Gate in company
?CRANSTON 10300/10th en route for Casco via direct route.
(B.D.E.82) CUBITT is senior.
CURZON (C.T.G.02.1, 011237 to U.S. S.O.P.A.Casco Bay.)
(B.D.E.84)

C.T.G.21.15. This is C.T.G.21.15's O91445 to Cinclant (R)
Cominch, C.T.G.21.12, C.T.G.21.14, C.T.G. 27.8.
C.T.F.65 Commorseafron, Comnavnaw, Comnaveu,
Admty.
Plan operate within 300 miles Lat. 36 Long 21 un-
til U.G.S.26 enters Morrocan Seafron. Course 085 advance 14
from 1600Z/9 position 33.04 long 56.45.
(Comnaveu, 100344Z to Admty.)

WINNIPEG /...

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

WINNIPEG. E.T.A. Halifax L.V. 102000Z boiler hours. Suspected leak in condenser. (WINNIPEG, 100406Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) D. Halifax.)

STATICE, SMILAX. Departures STATICE and SMILAX to Bermuda. (C.O.P.Halifax, 100530Z to S.B.N.O. W.At.)

O.N.213. Departures KAMSACK, THE PAS, TRURO, to relieve W.7 escorting O.N.213. (C.O.P.Halifax, 100535Z to Admty, N.S.H.Q.)

EMPEROR, SEARCHER, TRUMPETER. Authority requested included three H.M. Escort Carriers EMPEROR, SEARCHER, TRUMPETER, in first available U.C. or T.U. Convoy. Ships will be non or semi operational. Urdis 171522 Oct. refers. (Comnaveu, 101216 to Com. 10th Fleet. Info: Admty.)

U.S. S/M Estimate. (Cominch, 101451)

Convoy Reference Positions. Urdis 051240A. Prefer not to issue reference positions to U.C. C.U. U.T. T.U. Convoys at present time. (Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 101528Z to Admty.)

O.N.214. (1) Westomp established 044 degs. 00' N. 048 degs. 43' W. at 1500Z/12th when you will be relieved by Group W.5 S.O. HEPATICA, MONCTON, MELVILLE, DIGBY.
(2) Upon relief Group B.5 proceed Argentia negative NORTHERN WAVE and BUSTLER who are to proceed St. John's N.F. (F.O.N.F. 101601Z, 101733, 102316 to Ships escorting O.N.214)

T.A.76 (MAURETANIA) Arrived. (C. in C. C.N.A. 101612Z)

A.M's for Russian Navy. Following is P.D. Tampa 101303. A.M's 145, 146, 147, S.Cs 720, 1075, 1076 all for Russian Navy, E.T.D. 1800Z/12th. M.A.C.R.I. A to Key West South anchorage for onward routing to Murmansk Russia via New York Saint Johns and Reykjavik. E.T.A. Key West 1800Z/13th. (Radio Washington, 101700Z to Admty. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C. in C. C.N.A.)

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

LA PERLE, Time Z dates December.
D.E.171, French Submarine LA PERLE escorted by
(CARROLL). U.S. DE 171 (CARROLL) to Point 759 departing
Bermuda 121900 en route Philadelphia Navy
Yard via Points.
(A) 32.16 64.18 at 122100.
(B) 33.16 64.18 at 130420 thence direct.
(C) 38.(?19) 10.74 26.45 at 160500
(D) 38.47 15.75 (?00) 45 at 160945.
and via Delaware Bay Channel to destination. E.T.A. 162100
S.O.A. 8 knots. On the surface entire route diving at
discretion. Area 50 miles ahead 100 miles astern and 15
miles either side of submarine estimated position. DE 171
detaching at Point (D) proceeding to Norfolk via X.S.
(N.O.B. Bermuda, 101715 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C.E.S.F.
Cdmt. 4th Naval District Philadelphia, Cdmt. 5th Naval District
Norfolk.)

H.X.270. This completes my Dis.092032. Sailing dispatch
Part 1, Part 2, 54 ships. (P.D. New York,
101720Z, 101752 to Admty.)

LIGHTFOOT, Anticipate LIGHTFOOT will be ready to proceed
H.X.271. to U.K. as additional escort H.X. 271.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 10818Z to F.O.N.F.)

B.X.87. Sailing telegram part L.
(2) Dec. 11 1800Z at position F.
(3) Task Unit W.1 Lt. Cmdr. Campbell R.C.N.R.
in U.S.S. PONTIAC. CHICOUTIMI (S.O) NIPIGON,
BARRIE.
(Comnav 101845 to Admty.)

T.A.67A Sailed from U.K. a.m. 9/12 for New York and
(PASTEUR) then Halifax.
(2) Details of personnel on board have been
communicated by W.O. to Milstaf Washington
and C.G.S.Ottawa. (3) Agreed.
(D. of S.T. 101905A to B.M.W.T. New York, B.A.D)

Sub.attack All times Z. Para. B. Aircraft sighted sub.
and 04.47 S. 23.54 W. 101150. Para. C. U.S.S.
sighting BOISE Radar contact 10.06 N. 79.46 W. 101450.
Summary. P.V.Radar contact 24.22 N. 82.52 W. 092330.
O.S. 2 U sighted submerging sub. course 030
34.20 N. 76 W. 091655.
SS. MANITOU PARK sighted periscope 10.30 N. 80.
12 W. 082330.
(Cominch, 102124)

MOST SECRET

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

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

MOST SECRET.

M E S S A G E

IN
102040/ December.

From: Com. 10th Fleet C. and R.

Date 7.1.44.
Recd. 2217

P/L BY D/R

Merchant Ship reference positions.

Addressed: All Routing officers East and Gulf Coasts U.S. Bermuda
Iceland. All reporting centers West Lant area less
Com. 4th Fleet. Repeated COMEAST and GULF SEAFRONS.
ALUSNA London and Ottawa N.S.H.Q. Admiralty.

CR. No. 1469.
1660.

All merships from North American or Caribbean ports routed independently to United Kingdom shall be provided with one of the following two series of 15 reference positions at sea and with corresponding double code letters in alphabetical order. The series and the first letter assigned shall be included in the route message. The series of positions will be changed monthly. The numbers are for office use only and should not be issued to ships. Blue series read in three columns number lat. north. long. west.

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| (1) 5227 | (2) 4362 | (3) 5646 | (4) 5714 | (5) 6231 |
| (6) 5038 | (7) 4717 | (8) 4844 | (9) 4433 | (10) 6022 |
| (11) 4655 | (12) 5419 | (13) 4141 | (14) 5835 | (15) 4029 |

Red series read in three columns number lat. north. long. west.

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| (1) 4525 | (2) 5948 | (3) 5615 | (4) 4455 | (5) 4020 |
| (6) 5542 | (7) 4145 | (8) 4818 | (9) 5136 | (10) 4263 |
| (11) 5728 | (12) 4930 | (13) 6122 | (14) 4740 | (15) 5333 |

102040.

Advance copy D.C. D.O.D. (H) Plot.

A.C.N.S. (F)
U.W.R.
D.O.D. (H) (4)
D.O.D. (T) (2)
D.C.
Plot,
D.D.I.C. (2)
D. of P. (2)
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (C)
Hd. of M. (10)
N.A. Mails.
D.S.O
W.D.
I.P. (2)
Admiral Blake.
D. Map Room.

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10.12.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

U-Boat. Have sighted enemy sub. in 50 K. 34, 32.50 W.
(As received, alternative is 50.43 N. 32.50 W.)
An attacking.
(LAWFORD, 102145Z to Halifax W/T.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest (3) Eight Kittyhawks forenoon strafed left
Serial smoking 1 large lugger, 3 loaded barges in Uligan
No.689 Harbour 50 miles N.N.W. Madang, also sighted 1
Dec.9th. lugger and 8 or 9 small craft Hansa Bay.
(4) Night 7th - 8th U.S.M.T.B's destroyed 2
empty Northbound barges 20 miles West of Sio
while forenoon 8th four aircobras strafed 1 of
2 loaded Westbound barges 15 miles North Finschhafen and 1
camouflaged barge on shore 5 miles West Sio.
(10) Weather again hampered air operations in Solomans 2 huts
and 2 barges strafed in Feni Islands area by Soupac aircraft
on patrol on 8th also targets in Kieta and Buka passage area.
One possible direct hit scored on enemy submarine attacked
on 8th 30 miles South Cape Orford.
(G.H.Q. S.Q.P.A. 100630Z)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C.101430A, 101445A)

Submarines Attacked.

Sub.attack Para. A. (1) A/C R/53 sighted U-Boat on
and sighting surface at 2320/9th December in 45 degs. 38' N.
summary for 4 degs. 40' W. Course 325 degs. 12 knots.
24 hours to (D.D.I.C. 101040A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)
0900Z/10th.

11.12.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Operation
F.V.

1(a) The outgoing Russian Convoy J.W.55A now assembling at Loch Ewe will consist of 19 M/Vs including tankers; and C.S.10 in BELFAST (S.O. of the Cruiser Covering Force) with Capt. D.3 in MILNE (S.O. of the Destroyer Escort) arrived at Loch Ewe at 1637A and 1439A today respectively.

(b) C. in C. H.F. intends to proceed from Scapa at 1600A tomorrow in DUKE OF YORK with JAMAICA and 4 destroyers (being the Battleship Covering Force 2) at 17 knots for the Kola Inlet in readiness to cover the Convoy between 27° and 38° E.

Bay
Patrol.

2(a) The air requirements for Operation "Stone-wall" are now to take precedence over all A/S air operations except those of "Stipple A"; and A/C from Gibraltar are to institute a continuous daylight cross-over patrol N.W. of Cape Finisterre from daylight on the 13th December designed to intercept any enemy blockade breaker making for a Biscay port. A/C of 19 Group will also fly a "Percussion T" patrol every night from the 12th December.

(b) GLASGOW is at one hours notice from 0800A today in the Azores.

Southend
damaged.

3. Some damage was caused by blast to requisitioned buildings at Southend last night.

VALIANT.

4. VALIANT arrived at Scapa at 1503A today from the Clyde.

Air attack
on Emden.

5. 525 U.S. Fortresses and Liberators bombed Emden today. Together with the escorting Thunderbolts they claim to have shot down 138 enemy aircraft. 17 U.S. bombers and 3 of the fighter escort are missing.

North Atlantic.

6. The S/M RORQUAL (Levant Station) left Gibraltar this morning, to refit in the U.K.

11.12.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.

- "Avalanche". 7(a) N.O.I.C. Augusta has assumed responsibility for east Sicilian ports under the general direction of V.A. Malta. His title will be S.N.O. Eastern Sicily (S.N.O.E.Sy.)
(b) P.T. boats operated from Bastia last night on a sweep between Piombino and Spezia. E-Boats were encountered, but they disengaged and no action ensued. No enemy shipping was seen.
(c) UPROAR reports that she obtained one hit on a 6000 ton merchant ship in the Gulf of Genoa on 6th December.
- K.M.F.
Convoys. 8. On account of the changed military situation in the Mediterranean C. in C. Med. considers it desirable that Naples should now be the port of turnround of the Western and Central Mediterranean section of the K.M.F. convoys, which will avoid transshipment in North Africa and consequent waste of personnel shipping. Proposals to implement this are made in a message from C. in C. Med. today.
- U/B attack
on K.M.S.34.
CUCKMERE
torpedoed. 9. The frigate CUCKMERE escorting K.M.S.34 was torpedoed by a U-Boat in 36.55 N. 03.01 E., off Algiers, at 1313 today, but reached Algiers in tow of MINDFUL.
CALPE and 4 U.S. destroyers hunted for the U-Boat with air co-operation.
- Levant. 10. The R.A.F. mined Suda Bay last night.

Australia and New Zealand.

11. A U-Boat was attacked by aircraft today, 70 miles south of Mutupina Point, Bougainville. Oil and debris were seen after the attack.

11.12.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Use of A/S convoy escorts. A.M. 102340. Trial proposed in para. 9 was begun at 1200 yesterday. (C. in C.W.A. 111129A to Admty.)

Corvettes for Eastern Fleet. My 081507. Amend as follows - Para. 2 (B) Delete BUGLOSS. Para. 2. (C) Delete VIOLET, add BUGLOSS. Add para. 2. (D) VIOLET with K.M.S.39 January 14th. (C. in C.W.A. 111453A to Admty.)

S/M Training. Your 081728. My 2344/S.M. 11 of 7th November 1943 and my 2425/S.M. 11 of 24th November 1943 to Admiralty only.

2. For the training of the large proportion R.N.V.R. Officers which now has to be taken direct from KING ALFRED it is essential that one of the target vessels allocated Capt. S.3 should be a ship comparable to WHITE BEAR but capable of accommodating up to 30 additional officers.

5. The present number of escorts and target vessels allocated to Capt. S.3rd is insufficient.

* 6. It is essential therefore that CONQUEROR or some other suitable vessel should be allocated to Capt. S.3rd in addition to and not in place of BONAVENTURE or LA CAPRICIEUSE both of whom must be retained in the 3rd S.F.

7. Any other course will act adversely on the training and therefore the efficiency of our new submarines. (F.O.S. 111458A to Admty.)

Strike at Belfast. At 052206 November strike of (Holders-up) necessitated transfer of Riveters to GLENROY and PAMPAS from M.V. GEORGIC, Algerine minesweepers, and MINOTAUR as temporary measure. 85% (Holders-up) resumed work today, and all are expected to return on 13th December. (F.O.I.C. N.I. 111543A to Admty.)

Movements.

JAMAICA. Scapa arrival JAMAICA. (A.C.O.S. 110850 to A.C.I.C.)

JANUS. Intend sailing JANUS at 1700A/11th to Gibraltar, E.T.A. 0800A/15th, routed as in my 090905A. (N.O.I.C. Falmouth 111014A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.) My 111014A. Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 111700A to F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

BELFAST. BELFAST Scapa departure. (A.C.O.S. 111118A to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

* Nd. Conventions. Should be City Sub on Saturday

/WRESTLER...

11.12.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

- WRESTLER. My 071319. Sailing deferred owing to failure of manoeuvring value. Anticipate ship will sail at daylight tomorrow for Tail of Bank.
(N.O.I.C. Glasgow 111253 to C. in C.W.A.)
- EMPEROR,
SEARCHER. C. in C.W.A. is requested to sail EMPEROR and SEARCHER to U.S.A. in U.C.8.
2. Both ships will be taken in hand at Charleston Navy Yard.
(D.O.D.H. 111345A to C. in C.W.A.)
- VALIANT. Scapa arrival VALIANT.
(A.C.O.S. 111503A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- ZEEHOND. Sailed ZEEHOND in accordance with my 081723A.
(Capt. S.7 111708A to C. in C.C.N.A.)
- S/M Move- Positions of submarines at 0800/12 and movements
ments. for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 111709A.)
- ATHENE. Request you sail ATHENE to arrive Belfast on 16th December for loading in accordance with A.M. 051816A.
2. On completion loading N.O.I.C. Belfast is requested to sail ATHENE for Clyde to await convoy O.S.63/K.M.S.37
(C. in C.W.A. 111715A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Operations.

- Bay Patrol. Air requirements for Operation "Stonewall" are to take precedence over A/S operations except those required for "Stipple".
(V.C.N.S. 110040A to H.Q.C.C.)
- Am searching for U-Boat reported in 45° 32' N. 07° 07' W.
(A/C 612 Sq. Duty D. 110131A to 19 Group.)
Have A.S.V. contact, position 45° 58' N. 07° 43' W. 0825, probably U-Boat.
(A/C 8PFF Group, Duty X 110900 to 19 Group.)
- Operation "Stonewall". Request all reports received from aircraft may be passed immediately to Whitehall W/T for re broadcast on B.N. in view of possible non receipt direct by C. in C. Plymouth.
(C. in C.Plymouth 111145A to F.O.C.Gibraltar, S.B.N.O.Azores.)
- After allowing for "Stipple" a commitments, Gibraltar is to institute a continuous daylight crossover patrol on a line 300° from Cape Finisterre with effect from daylight 13th Dec. 19 Group will fly percussion T each night with effect from 12 Dec. Patrols to be designed to intercept A 15 knots ship making for Abiscayan

11.12.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Bay Patrol. Port. A visibility of 10 miles is to be assumed. (Contd.) Air-craft are to make first sighting reports, then shadow and carry out homing procedure on any blockade-runner sighted either inward or outward bound. No attacks should be made unless aircraft has reached P.L.E. or has been relieved by another aircraft. Nine torpedo Beaufighters are being sent to Predannock on 12 Dec. (H.Q.C.C. 111201A to 19 Group Gibraltar.)

Operation Sailed Captain D.3 in MILNE to Loch Ewe, E.T.A. F.V. 1500A/11th. (R.A.D. 110910A to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.) F.V. Intend proceeding to Kola Inlet with Force 2 leaving Scapa practice-area 1600A/12th.

2. Route through position AA. 063° 45' N. 003° 25' W. BB. 071° 20' 009° 30' E. CC. 073° 15' 028° 40' E. DD. 071° 25' 035° 30' E. S.O.A. 17 knots, E.T.A. Toros Island 1100A/16th. 3. H.Q.C.C. is requested to arrange A/S air escort during daylight 13th.

(C. in C.H.F. 111055A to H.F.)

Operation F.V. Para. 6D. One. For "From Scapa" read "From Kola Inlet".

(C. in C.H.F. 111059A to H.F.)

J.W.55A. THRAPSTON (A) 1700/12 (B) escorted (C) 19.

(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 111122A to C. in C.W.A.)

Arrived WESTCOTT and ACANTHUS.

(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 111253A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

My 071319. Sailing of WRESTLER has been deferred owing to failure of manoeuvring valve. Anticipate ship will sail at daylight tomorrow for Tail of Bank.

(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 111253 to C. in C.W.A.)

Arrived Captain D.3 in MILNE.

(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 111439A to R.A.D.)

Sailed SCIMITAR, E.T.A. Aultbea 0800E/12. C. in C.W.A.

091135, refers.

(F.O.I.C. N.I. 111548A to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

Arrived HARRIER and SPEEDWELL.

(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 111555A to R.A.D.)

Arrived BELFAST.

(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 111637A to A.C.O.S.)

J.W.55A. Request you will include one extra ship as this convoy is now to consist of 19 ships. My 062000A amended by 072005A and 101745A refer.

(D.T.D. 111722A to N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe.)

N.O.I.C. Glasgow 111253. Request you sail WRESTLER as soon as ready direct to Skaalefjord at best speed.

2. On arrival ship will come under the orders of Capt. D.3.

(C. in C.W.A. 111825A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Sailed EL GRILLO to relieve SCANDIA in company with (?RAPIDOL) to Seidisfjord escorted by ELM and FETLAR. E.T.A. 1200A

(A.C.I.C. 112006A to C. in C.H.F.)

J.W.55A and B. will consist of 19 ships including tankers.

(C. in C.H.F. 112218A to H.F.)

/S/M...

11.12.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

S/M Patrols. My 071931 para. one (p) and my 071934 para. one (h)
It is appreciated that U-Boats sailing from Bergen leave leads from Sogneor Feijosen Fjord and cross long. 004° E. between lat. 061° 15' N. and 061° 45' N. steering course between 330° and 350°. SYRTIS is not to patrol east long. 004° 30' E.
(F.O.S. 111121A to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)
Request you will sail submarines from Lerwick as follows:
1. SIRDAR at 1200A/13th through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 and route "Orange" to 070° 45' thence direct to patrol position T.7 to T.11
2. VENTURER at 1500A/13th through 090° Muckle Flugga 5 miles and route "Pink" to patrol line FF.
3. SIRDAR to proceed on surface at discretion of C.O. VENTURER diving by day when north of 062°.
(Capt. S.9 111625A to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

Operation Position at 112000. RATTLESNAKE, LOYALTY, HYDRA
S.F. searching vicinity 064° 24' N. 007° 33' W.
(A.C.O.S. 111141A to Admty.)
A/Cooperating in your area tomorrow same as in my 102249A.
(C. in C.Rosyth 112319A to RATTLESNAKE.)

Coastal Force Patrols. 1. Orders for night 11th/12th December. A. 2 CHASSEURS anti E-Boat patrol on 50° 24' N. between 0° 35' W. and 0° 48' W. from 1800A to 0700A.
B. M.L. 291 short notice to St. Helens.
C. 3 M.G.Bs. from HORNET anti E-Boat patrol 10 miles south of convoy route between 2° 35' W. and longitude of N.3 buoy from 1900A to 0500A, keeping abreast W.P.444.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 111216A.)
FYLDEA and LOUIS two miles south of D.Buoy. M.T.Bs. 417 and 436 from Ramsgate at No. 7 Buoy. E.T.D. 1715 E.T.R. 0830/12th.
(V.A.Dover 111629A.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Zenit Patrols. Areas covered by enemy meteorological aircraft and activity from 11th November - 10th December, 1943, inclusive.
A. Arctic Zenit. Probably operates frequently from Banak as far as Icefjord, Spitzbergen. Times of operation 0600 - 1300.
B. Trondheim Zenit. Twenty-one flights were made during the month by this aircraft in the direction of Jan Mayen and once in a Westerly direction towards Iceland (C). (See note). Normal times of operation 0530 - 1230.
C. North Sea Zenit. Active from Zwischenahn daily. Twenty-eight flights were made over the usual North Sea area up to 59° N. whilst two flights were made direct to Stavanger and back. (see note). Times of operation 0530 - 1030.

/D....

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11.12.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.Zenit
Patrols.
(Contd.)

D. Stavanger Zenit. Operated on twenty-eight occasions over the usual area North of the Shetlands, south and west of the Faroes as far as 14° W. Average times of operation 0600 - 1300. Note:- On 22nd November the North Sea Zenit aircraft was shot down 30' S.W. of Stavanger. For the next two days the North Sea flight was made direct to Stavanger and back, the Zenit aircraft from Stavanger did not operate and the Trondheim aircraft flew due Westerly to 12° W. (D.D.I.C. 111256A to A.I.G. 47.)

U-Boats.U-Boat
reported.

Your 201342Z. Hunt was abandoned at 2241Z owing to deteriorating weather. No further contact after 2117Z. Returning search area. Request further instructions.
(LAWFORD 110050Z to C. in C.W.A.)

My 110050Z. Weather deteriorating further. Hove to.
(LAWFORD 110210Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Your 110050Z. If no further contact obtained proceed on voyage.

(C. in C.W.A. 110352Z to LAWFORD, KINGSMILL.)

Technical.Device against
enemy W/T
controlled
bombs.

D.S.D. Bath 101339 and S.S.E. 111334. S.S.E. is sending representatives to Liverpool to supervise the fitting of a 50 watt Army experimental transmitter in WOODPECKER for use in jamming enemy W/T controlled bombs.

3. It is intended to fit it in other selected escorts as more sets become available.

(C. in C.W.A. 112018A to Cdre. D.W.A.)

Casualties & Defects.CAPE MOHICAN,
ROODE.

Situation of LUNENBURG escorting CAPE MOHICAN and ROODE at 2000Z/10th. P.C. and S. 049° 34' N. 009° 31' W. 063° 5½ knots. CAPE MOHICAN has (group omitted) days stores left and requests instructions. ROODE 17 fuel remaining, compasses

and D/F defective. LUNENBURG 5 days fuel remaining. Am proceeding Falmouth.

(VIZALMA 110001A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Southend.
WESTCLIFF
damaged on
10th Dec.

Damage was sustained to WESTCLIFF by blast at approx. 2005 hrs. on 10/12/43. Damage consists of approx. 80 broken windows to requisitioned properties. First aid repairs making buildings weatherproof are in hand.
(O.C.W. Sheerness 111350A to C.E. in C.)

/PINZON...

War Diary.

11.12.1943.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects - Contd.

PINZON. Estimate EDMUNDSTON with tugs and tow steering for Trevoze Head and ST. ELSTAN steering 099° will be in approx. 049° 55' N. 008° 22' W. at 1700 today.
(C. in C.Plymouth 111502A to EDMUNDSTON.)
Your 111330. M/. 491 will meet you in position TH. 180° Lizard Head 3 miles about 0900/12th and will escort you to Falmouth.
(C. in C.Plymouth 111713A to ST. ELSTAN.)

SKJOLD. My 082106A. SKJOLD docked in A.F.D. Hvalvjord at 1715A today. Remainder cargo being discharged in dock.
(S.F.O.I.C. Iceland 112004A to D.O.S.T.)

Shipping & Convoys.

S.C.148. My 061842A. Assume state of Y.
(C. in C.W.A. 11005 to Escorts S.C.148.)

O.N.215. CHURCHILL sailed to overtake O.N.215. My 100720 refers.
(Cdre. D.W.A. 110315A to Admty.)
A. 1030Z/10th. B. C.4. HOTSPUR, CHURCHILL, ORILLIA, WOODSTOCK, TRILLIUM, NASTURTIUM, ALGOMA, HADLEIGH CASTLE (add.) NORTHERN FOAM, rescue ship ACCRINGTON H/F D/F, Rescue tug SAMSONIA. C. 61 including M.A.C. EMPIRE MACALPINE Radar R/T.
(C. in C.W.A. 110626Z to C. in C.C.N.A.)
O.N.215. Names of ships.
(C. in C.W.A. 110630Z.)

N.Russia, Intend to sail Group One consisting of FORT YUKON, Group 1. OCEAN VANITY, HENRY VILLARD, GILBERT STEWARD, and WILLIAM WINDOM total 5 ships from Dvina Bar 0900A/12th.
2. S.C.A. 9½ knots. E.T.A. Toros Island 0400A/14th
3. Escort POPPY, DIANELLA, SEAGULL and RHODODENDRON which will be reinforced by 2 Soviet Destroyers from Pondi onward.
4. Request you will say if you intend to reinforce escort at Cape Gorodetski.
(S.B.N.O.Archangel 110849A to S.B.N.O.N.Russia.)

E.G.2. My P.C. and S. 054° 13' N. 020° 49' W. 245° 18 kts.
E.G.3. (E.G.2 111000 to C. in C.W.A.)
WILD GOOSE. My P.C. and S. 054° 16' N. 019° 56' W. 246° 16.
(WILD GOOSE 111059Z to C. in C.W.A. E.G.2.)
Cancel my 101835A. Report your P.C. and S.
(C. in C.W.A. 111120A to E.G.2, E.G.3, WILD GOOSE.)

Estimated position at 2000A/11th 060° 31' (7014°) 11' 125° 7½.
(E.G.3 111600Z to C. in C.W.A.)
Plan for 12th and 13th Dec. from position A. 053° N. 025° W. proceed to westward, thereafter adjusting course and speed to pass position B. 053° N. 030° 30' W. at 1600/12th on course 060° at 10 knots.
2. During passage westward from position A. You should act in

/the...

11.12.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

- E.G.2. the normal way as support group proceeding to meet
E.G.3. an eastbound convoy.
WILD GOOSE. 3. During passage eastward from position
(Contd.) B. endeavour should be made to simulate an undis-
ciplined convoy with talkative escort. An attack
should not be simulated until the enemy has shown
his hand.
(C. in C.W.A. 111658Z to E.G.2, E.G.3, H.Q.C.C.)
- O.S.62/
K.M.S.36. Intend to sail COTILLION, NORTHERN GIFT, HUGH
WALPOLE, and CAPE COMORIN at 1500A/13th to Merville
for escort conference. E.T.A. 1100A/14.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 111605A to Cdre. D.W.A.)
- S.L.141/
M.K.S.32. My P.C. and S. 048° 46' N. 018° 32' W. 015° 8 knots
(ROCHESTER 111701Z to TOWY.)
- O.N.S.24. My 111001. Convoy hove to at 1400Z, making good
170° 4? knots. My 111224Z, delete ICARUS.
(E.G.2 111706Z to C. in C.C.N.A.)
- O.N.S.25. Escorts for O.N.S.25, HESPERUS, VANESSA, VESPER,
MOURNE, GENTIAN, SWEETBRIAR, CLEMATIS, HEATHER.
(Capt. D.Liverpool 111720A to C. in C.W.A.)
- U.G.S.26. U.S.CORE has been ordered to operate within 300
G.U.S.24. miles of 36° N. 21° W. until U.G.S.26 enters
Morroccan Seafron.
2. U.S.CARD is proceeding from patrol N.E. of
Azores to arrive at Casablanca about 15th Dec.
CARD will sail from Casablanca to support G.U.S.24.
about 18th Dec. and will operate against any
reported concentration.
(D.O.D.H. 112024A to C. in C.W.A. F.O.I.C.
Gibraltar.)

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War Diary.11.12.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

U-Boat.

Am over enemy sub. in 36.10 N. 06.04 W.
(A/C Duty H.16 Group(Benson), 100300A to
Gib. W/T.)OBDURATE,
TERMAGANT,
KEMPENFELT.Arrived.
(S.B.N.O. Horta 111104 to F.O.I.C.Gib.)

RORQUAL.

Sailed 3 hours late on my 091618 / defer all
times accordingly.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 111136A, 111228A, Admty.
F.O.S.(R) C. in C. Plymouth, C.M.S.F., Cominch,
C. in C. Med. (S) 3, (S) 5, (S) 10.)
/ Most secret distribution.Axis
Shipping.Telegram 204 11th.
66 arrived 0220/11th. 59 sailed to Bayonne
0545/11th.
(H.M. Consul Bilbao, 111245 to M.E.W. (R) Admty.
for D.N.I., B.N.A. Madrid, S.O.(I) Gib.)
66 - HOCHHERINER. 59 - KAULDI.POMPEO
MAGNO
Cape
Muffone.Request orders be sent immediately to Captain
Muffone by Minister of Marine to hand over
duties of N.A. to Commander Fucci.
My 101337 para. 2 to N.O.I.C.Gib.
(B.N.A. Madrid, 111315A to F.O.T.A.L.I. (R)
C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C.Gib. Admty.)FINN
Safe
Conduct.A.M. 290231B June. International Red Cross
intimate SS. FINN will leave Marseilles 16th
for Buenos Aires where she is due Jan.20th.
(2) Vessel should not be molested.
(Head of M.I, 111422A to F.O.I.C.Gib. (R) C. in C.
Med., S.B.N.O. Azores, Connav, Cominch, Commorsea-
fron.)

SERAPH.

Hoped to sail 13th for U.K. Request Route.
(F.O.I.C.Gib. 111528A to F.O.S.)TAIGETE,
ARCOLA.Your 071359 / para. 2, none of the ships can be
moved pending request to Portuguese Government
by Italian Legation for their release. Legation
will presumably not act until status of ships
under Armistice Agreement been clarified fully
by Italian Government. Further information will be communicated.
(2) Ambassador has suggested to Foreign Office that as many
as possible of Loyal elements of the crews should be removed in
their ships in order to save cost of their maintenance at

St. Vincent /...

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11.12.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.TAIGETE,
ARCOLA.
(Contd.)

St. Vincent.
(3) Admty. please see Embassy telegrams to Foreign Office number 23 69 and 23 70.
(N.A. Lisbon, 111551 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty. N.C.S.O. St. Vincent.)
/ Arrangement for the moving of Italian tankers ARCOLA and TAIGETE from St. Vincent to Dakar.

ALBEMARLE,
BARRY
and
GOFF.

C.R. No.703.
Refer to this as 110855 from T.G.28.8.
Depart Casablanca 1030/12, K. 37.35 68.30.
for New York.
(Comnaveu, 111559)

South Atlantic.

KELT.

Departure Pointe Noire 1730Z/10th KELT calling Sao Thome daylight 13th to deliver C.B's and safe to Vice Consul thence direct to Takoradi.
E.T.A. p.m. 16th.
(B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, 110715A to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C.Takoradi.)

A/S
Tactical
Policy
Signals.

There are several contradictions between T/P signals as issued on South Atlantic Station and the policy laid down in C. in C. E.F. 071410 Oct It is considered that a common policy should be adopted on both stations where conditions are approx. the same and it is suggested that the T/P series provide all the detailed guidance required by S.O's of escorts.
(2) The need for this is more pressing owing to the numbers of escorts from South Atlantic Station who have been trained in T/P series that are now serving in Eastern Fleet Area. Escorts between Kilindini and Durban when passing station limits at present have to change their tactics.
(C. in C. S.A. 111041C to Admty. for D.A/S.W. (R) C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.))

DOUGLAS.

Arrived 0700Z. A Gibraltar's 072202 refers.
(Comar Dakar, 111141Z to F.O.C.W.Af. A.Gib. Admty. C.M.S.F., C. in C. Med.)

S.L.143.

Intend to sail S.L.143 escorted by BIDEFORD (S.O) ODZANI, STONECROP, BELLWORT at 0615Z/12th.

routed /...

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S.L.143. routed as in N.C.S.O. Freetown's 071157Z amended
(Contd.) by 091909Z thence by outer standard route
lettered E.F. to E.P. estimated speed $7\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
Convoy comprises Freetown section. Two ships
for Bathurst. One for Dakar. 21 for U.K.
Dakar section three ships for Casablanca. BELLWORT will be
detached as convenient to escort NEW NORTHLAND and NEWCHANG
to Bathurst. Request Comar Dakar sail local escorts with
Dakar section to join at 1000Z/15th in 14 degs. 37' 18 degs.
00' W. and escort CHARLES SCHIAFFINO from above position to
Dakar. Commorseafron is requested to issue instructions for
detaching Casablanca section. F.O.C. Gibraltar is requested
to arrange R/V with M.K.S.34.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 111415Z to C. in C. W.A., F.O.Gib. C.M.S.F.,
Comar, Dakar, N.O.I.C. (corrupt group), (R) Admty. C. in C. Med.
escorts, S.L.143)

APOLO. Spanish SS APOLO left Buenos Aires 29th Nov. due
Las Palmas 24th Dec. American sources report
reliably 2 kilograms platinum on board -
persons implicated Chief Engineer Benito
Thiguran Onandia and W/T Operator Francisco Marcos Benegas see
Alusna Buenos Aires Signal 111345 chief of Naval Operations
Washington repeated Com. 4th Fleet.
(S.O.(I) Buenos Aires, 111432Z to B.A.D. (R) Admty. B.N.S.O.
Rio de Janeiro.)

L.G.W.4 Arrivals 083017 WESTON, COWSLIP, F/S CDTE.
D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES with L.G.W.4.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 111730Z)

DUCA DEGLI (1) Intend to sail DUCA DEGLI ABRUZZI at 0730Z
ABRUZZI. 12th speed 16 through positions (X) 008 degs.
N., 015 degs. W. (Z) 000 degs. 00' 017 degs.
30' W. to patrol area enclosed by lines joining
the following positions (C) 000 degs. 00' 020 degs. W. (D) 005
degs. S. 015 degs. W. (E) 005 degs. S. 020 degs. W.
(2) At 1200Z/15th DUCA DEGLI ABRUZZI passing position (C) to
patrol area defined by positions (A) 005 degs. N. 025 degs. W.
(B) 005 degs. N. 020 degs. W. (C) 12 000 degs. 00' 020 degs. W.
DUCA DEGLI ABRUZZI leaves patrol at position (A) p.m./19th to
return Freetown.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 111822Z to It(C) EMANUELE FILBERTO DUCA D'AOSTA,
CILICIA, t.g. 41.2, (R) Cdr. 4th U.S. Fleet, Comar Dakar,
Admty. N.O.I.C. Ascension.)

ANTELOPE ANTELOPE returning Dakar to fuel E.T.A.1900
12th thence Gibraltar as in my 061830 (N.T. in
W.R.)
(F.O.C.W.A.F., 111917Z to Comar Dakar (R)
F.O. Gibraltar)

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SAVANNAH

My 092145A modified by my 101921A sailed at 110810.
(N.O.B. Oran, 110847A).

UPROAR

No recall received. All torpedoes expended. One hit on 6000 ton merchant ship 6th. Will pass 043 degs. 10' N. 007 degs. 45' E. at 2000/11 thence course 180 degs. diving by day (through?) position 043 degs. 23' N. 007 degs. 00' E. by day.
(UPROAR, 111003 to Capt.(S) 10, UNTIRING, (R) N.O.i/c Algiers 10th S/M. Flotilla).

111003 acknowledged. Proceed diving by day through 043 degs 10' 007 degs. 45' and 042 degs. 09' 007 degs 48' to R/V with M/S 240 degs. Monachi Rock 5 miles at 1200/13th.

(Capt.(S) 10th, 111635 to P.31 UPROAR (R) 10th S/M Flot. Cmdr. Algiers).

Vosper
M.T.Bs.

Ref. A.M. 031635. Request following modifications be carried out before shipment.
(a) Silencing of main engines. (b) Elimination of thrust blocks. (c) Hull strengthening in accordance A.F.O. 2917/42.

(2) Provision of spares vide para.4 of A.M. quoted essential due to recent losses by enemy action.

(C. in C. Med., 11112 A to B.A.D. (R) Admty., C.C.F.).

✓ Vosper M.T.Bs. available in U.S.A. as replacements for M.T.Bs. of 7th Flotilla in Mediterranean.

S.N.O.E.Sy.

N.O.I.C. Augusta has assumed responsibility for East Sicilian Ports under general direction of V.A. Malta and will deal with matters concerning the whole area which do not require reference to higher authority. His title will be S.N.O. Eastern Sicily (short title S.N.O.E.Sy.). Signification of Sh. A. No.117 is amended to read S.N.O. East Sicily or Augusta Coding and Cypher Officer.
(C. in C. Med., 111149A to Med. Station and Levant Station 381B, Admty.).

Air
reports.

M.S. 23692. A.333 11th Dec. (1006Z).

Daily Opsum 227 9th.

10th Dec. Beaufighters armed with torpedoes escorted by 2 Fighter Beaufighters 4 U.S.

Mitchells (B.25) and 1 Baltimore (A.30) made offensive sweeps in the Aegean, Melos, Suda Bay and Candia (Crete) nil sightings. 2 Baltimores (A.30) sighted an 80 ton Caique off S.W. Rhodes. 3 out of crew of 4 abandoned ship as aircraft approached. 5 X 250 lbs. were dropped 1 of which fell alongside causing Caique to heel over sharply and then right itself. Vessel was strafed and was left drifting with a slight forward list and lower parts of sails tattered. On leaving the target 1 aircraft saw what was thought to be upper part of a submarine conning tower.

(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 111204Z).

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Air M.S. 23707. A.F. 239 11th.
Reports. N.W.A.A.F. Opsum 293.
(Contd.). N.W.A.T.A.F. 10th. 10 U.S. Warhawks armed recce
Yugoslavia coast dropped 20 250 on 250 foot (R)
250 foot merchant vessel hit result unobserved.
24 U.S. Invaders Civitavecchia 45 X 500 hits storage tanks,
railway and warehouses. Direct hit and near misses 10,000 ton
(?1000 ton) merchant vessel in harbour. Vessel left burning.
(H.Q. N.A.A.F., 111655A).

UNIVERSAL,
UNSEEN,
SHAKESPEARE.

P.57 (UNIVERSAL) is to detach from G.U.S.24 at
about 0800/13th in 037 degs. 17' 007 degs. 28'
thence 041 degs. 55' 007 degs. 28' at 0600/16th,
through 043 degs. 25' 008 degs. 40' at 0600/17th
to patrol in zone S.O.
(2) P.51 (UNSEEN) detach at 1000/14th in 037 degs.
17' 007 degs. 12' through 039 degs. 58' 006 degs. 54' at 0600/15th
043 degs. 01' 007 degs. 08' at 0300/17th to patrol in zone S.S.
(3) Submarine proceed submerged by day North of 040 degs. North.
(Capt.(S) 10, 111210 to UNSEEN, UNIVERSAL, (R) C. in C. Med.,
N.O.i/c Malta, S.O. S/M Malta, Cmdre. Algiers).
My 071055 intend sailing (SHAKESPEARE) with UNSEEN and
(UNIVERSAL) to join G.U.S.24. (SHAKESPEARE) per passage to Gib.
and U.K.
(V.A. Malta, 111347 to DART, S.E. G.U.S.24, (R) F.O.C.Gib.,
C. in C. Med. N.Os.i/c Algiers, Bone, Jijelli, Bizerta, F.O.i/s
Capt.(S) 8, N.A.C.A.F., 242 Group, Capt.(S) 10).

Joint Army,
R.A.F.
Intelligence
Appreciation.

24 hours to 1000Z/11.
One R/C enemy shipping Aegean (details). 10th Dec.
Six. Evidence continued caique traffic on
Rhodes-Scarpanto route. Indications Symi garrison
being reinforced in island being possibly devel-
oped as base for surface raiding force for interception traffic
in Turkish waters. Sighting 11th merchant vessel 2,000 tons
Suda Bay suggests arrival of 1 expected supply ship. (ORIA
or APRILIA) from Piraeus.
(C. in C.M.E. 111330B).

SHAKESPEARE
Patrol
report.

SHAKESPEARE reports. One hospital ship 4000
tons sailed northbound from Rhodes a.m. 1st.
(2) One caique 100 tons sunk by gunfire off Kos
on 4th Dec.
(3) No other shipping sighted.
(S.O. S/M Malta, 111407 to C. in C. Med., C. in
C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Capt.(S) 1, Capt.(S) 10,
Capt.(S) 8, (R) F.O.S. Admty., R.A. Alex., F.O.i/c
Gib.).

Unification
of Med.
Command.

179910 12623/W7386 11th.
Signed Eisenhower.
Cositintrep No.154 to 1200 hrs. 10th Dec.
Allied C. in C. assumed responsibility for all
operations in the whole of the Med. theatre
0001/10.
(A.F.H.Q. Algiers, 111500 to W.O.).
/BOXER...

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Mediterranean - Contd.

BOXER

Arrived.
(Com. Aden, 111514Z).

DOLFIJN

From 033 degs. 54' 025 degs. 00' proceed on surface to 033 degs. 45' 034 degs. 48' to arrive 0730B/16th. Thence to Beirut E.T.A. 1130B/16th. (2) Total bombing restrictions arranged. (Capt. (S) 1, 111529B to (P.47) DOLFIJN (R) N. and A.A. East of Alex. V.A. Malta).

Reports of difficulties.

Attention is drawn to M.J.A.O. one para. 3. Due to length of voyage considerable delay in reception of reports of difficulties is occurring. S.O. escort should consider possibility of passing brief reports on port wave or by detaching an escort at some convenient port. (C. in C. Med., 111623A to Med., Station, Levant Station 383B, (R) M.A.C., N.A.C.A.F.)

CARLISLE

My 181615 Nov. In anticipation of approval my 031245 Nov. work is proceeding on CARLISLE. (2) Request covering approval for repairs, (details). (C. in C. Levant, 111641B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., C.S.15, A.S. Alexandria, C. in C. E.F., F.O.R.S., N.O.I.C. Aden).

SPORTSMAN
UNRULY.

(1) P.229 SPORTSMAN northbound is to pass westward of Buey Rock and within 10 miles of Stapodia thence direct to patrol in accordance with sailing orders. (2) UNRULY is to leave patrol p.m./12th thence by standard route (my 071423 Nov). to arrive at 035 degs. 06' 026 degs. 44' at 0400/14th thence through 034 degs. 25' 029 degs. 59' at 0800/15th to arrive Beirut 1600/16th. (Capt. (S) 1, 111649B to SPORTSMAN, UNRULY (R) 1st S/M F., DOLFIJN, C. in C. Levant).

H.D.M.Ls.
1283,
1292.

Request you will signal flotillas to which they have been allocated and present location. (D.D.O.D. (C) 111656A to C. in C. Levant, (R) Info C.C.F. Med., C. F.E. Med., HORNET).

ROBERTS,
FLORES,
SOEMBA.

My 021810 Oct. To be retained in Med. for the present. (V.C.N.S. 111757A to C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med., (R) C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.) F.O. Ceylon).

SOKOL

Should you consider it essential to withdraw from your present patrol position for any reason you are not to proceed within (?20) miles of Cape Sigri Mityleni. (Capt. (S) 1, 111923B to SOKOL, (R) P.239, (SURF) P.229 (SPORTSMAN)).

/K.M.F....

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K.M.F. By reason of the changed Military situation in the
M.K.F. Med. it is desirable that Naples should now be
convoys. the Port of turnround of the Western and Central
Malta Med. section of K.M.F. convoys this will avoid
turnround. transshipment in North Africa and consequent waste
of personnel shipping. The approx. number of
ships in the Naples section will be that needed to
lift about 15,000 troops (say 4 to 5).

(2) To allow the Naples personnel ships to turn round at Naples it would be necessary to open the K.M.F. cycle to 35 days if the ten day turnround in U.K. is to be maintained. This would mean the W.A. escorts wasting 7 days at Algiers. It is therefore proposed that a proportion of them should go through to Naples especially as it is not practicable to provide a Med.E.G. for the Naples portion in addition to the through portion of K.M.F. convoys.

(3) A cycle of 35 days will have the following advantages.

(A) Allow Med. personnel shipping to make 2 trips from French North Africa to Naples and 2 from Levant to Taranto between successive K.M.F. and M.K.F. convoys instead of only 1 from each end as at present.

(B) The departure from stereotyped timing should temporarily interfere with German routine for attacks on these convoys.

(C. in C. Med. 111925A to Admty. (R) F.O.W.It., Com. Algeria, C. in C.W.A., C. in C. Levant, D. of S.T., P.S.T.O.Med.).

M.E. Balkan 391784 0/46524 12th.
Sitrep Partisan H.Q. Croatia reports 28th Nov. during
No.25. raid on Zara W.O. (or W.P.) 90 Allied Air Force
sank German cruiser DALMATIA (?DALMACIJA) and
supporting cruiser (destroyer) BEOGRAD scored
direct hits power sta., water works, main harbour.
(C. in C.M.E. 112045B).

SHAKESPEARE Arrived.
(V.A. Malta, 112143A).

Command C. in C. Med's 081942. Subject to concurrence
at of C. in C.E.F. Capitaine de Fregate Richard
Diego should be permitted to proceed to Madagascar and
Suarez. establish his office in Diego Suarez. A.M.110033/
Oct., para.1 (d) refers. It should be clearly
understood, however, that question how far French
participation in naval defences can subsequently
be accepted will depend on Richard showing a thoroughly co-
operative attitude in working under N.O.i/c Diego Suarez, who
represents C. in C. E.F., Allied Naval Commander in the Islands
area.
(V.C.N.S. 112147A to C. in C. Med.(R) C. in C.E.F., C. in C.
Levant).

CUCKMERE Arrivals CUCKMERE, MINDFUL.
(damaged by Arrived and departed CALPE.
torpedo) (Comm. Algeria, 112212A).

/Situation...

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Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation
Report
No.247.

- (1) TYRIAN and TEAZER sighted no shipping while patrolling between Ancona and 042 degs. 50' N. during night of 9th - 10th, San Benedette was shelled but mist prevented result being seen.
- (2) M.T.Bs. operated from Vis and Hvar during the same night but sighted nothing.
- (3) P.T. boats operated from Bastia night 10th-11th on sweep between Piombine and Spezia. E-boats were encountered but no action ensued. No enemy shipping seen.
- (4) CUCKMERE escorting K.M.S.34 was hit in the bow by torpedo from German U-boat in position 036 degs. 55' N. 003 degs. 01' E. at 1313 on 11th. She reached Algiers in tow of MINDFUL. CALPE and 4 U.S. Destroyers hunting for German U-boat with air co-operation.
- (5) UPROAR reports obtaining one hit on 6000 ton Merchant ship in Gulf of Genoa on 6th.
(C. in C. Med., 112231A).

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East Indies.

U/B
dispositions.

(C. in C.E.F. 110349Z to E.F. 446Y.)

C.J.8.

Departure LAUNCESTON, RAJPUTANA, AGRA, escorting
C.J.8.
(N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam, 110430Z.)

Convoy
programme,
release
of M/Vs
from Convoy.

F.O.N.I.C.(290) pass to N.C.S.O.'s.
1. The following convoys are to be sailed as
arranged: PA 64, BP 106, AP 56, AB 24, AKD 9.
2. After the sailing of above convoys, the
following convoys will cease until further orders
and D class ships are to be released - A.K.D. -
D.K.A., A.B. - B.A., A.P. - P.A., P.B. - B.P.
except as in (3). Convoys D.K.A.9 and A.K.D.9
are to disperse off Kilindini.
3. All personnel and combined operations ships will continue
to be sailed in convoy.
4. JC. - C.J. convoy. Release Class A.
5. M.B. convoy. All ships bound for Karachi or Persian Gulf
are to be dispersed off Marmagao.
(C. in C.E.F. 110615Z to All interested on Station.)

BOXER.

BOXER should proceed to Bombay in convoy A.B.24A.
N.O.I.C. Massawa's 101340 refers.
(C. in C.E.F., 110635Z to Com. I.C. Aden.)

Pontoon
Causeway
equipment.

Pontoon Causeway equipment has been embarked in
British L.S.Ts. 238 and 180 cannot be
retransferred to U.S. L.S.Ts. without delaying
sailing. Intend leaving in British ships.
C. in C.U.S. Fleet's 081825 (N.T. in W.R.) not
to all addressees refers.
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 110643Z to C. in C.E.F.,
(S.E.A.C.) (R) Admty., F.O.C.R.I.N., S.O.A.S.C.
(I))

P.B.66.

Arrived, escorted by CAIRNS, KHYBER.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 110705 to Admty.)

J.C.29.

Sailing telegram (ships).
2. 0720Z 11th.
6. DS. WILLEM VAN DER Zaan, SHOREHAM, POONA
not (NU).
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 110720Z to Admty.)

C.X.13.

Sailing telegram (2 ships)
2. 1045Z/11th.
6. SCOUT.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 111045Z to Admty.)

/ATREUS...

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East Indies - Contd.

ATREUS. Ref. A.M.262002 June ATREUS has completed repairs to C.M.(L) Field at Addu Atoll.
2. Intend to sail her to U.K. via Mediterranean.
3. This ship can carry up to 5,000 tons of cargo and will leave Ceylon empty. Request information if ATREUS is required to load cargo en route.
(C. in C.E.F. 111141Z to Admty., (R) D. of S.T., F.O. Ceylon, S.S.T.O. Colombo.)

Indian Naval Salvage organisation. 1. Inadequacy is causing us and U.S. authorities considerable anxiety. Present position.
(Armindia, 111145Z to Air Min.)

STALKER. STALKER is due to sail from Liverpool on 15th December to commence working up.
2. It is understood that only part of gear for oiling at sea has been delivered and that in any case only a portion of it can be fitted in the time available.
3. Subject to your concurrence it is considered that all available gear should be placed on board and inconvenience accepted.
4. Gear could be landed at ultimate destination for subsequent fitting.
5. Request you will signal your concurrence or otherwise to F.O.I.C. Liverpool as soon as possible.
(D.O.D.(H) 111329 to R.A.E.C.(E.F.) Info. F.O.I.C. Liverpool, STALKER, F.O.C.T.)

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- SS. LEONIDAS This is Com. 4th Fleet's 101243 addressed T.F.41 and (R) Cinclant, Comnavu, Cominch, F.O.C.W.A., F.O.C.W.A. informed. Efforts unsuccessful to relocate suspicious ship on Dec. 19th (? 9th intended). Refer my 091246. In further effort to intercept, barrier from Natal being flown by three planes to north-east on Dec. 10th. Ascension flying normal barrier. (Comnavu, 110101Z to Admty.)
- C.T.G. 21.14. Refer to this as Cinclant's 102236 addressed action C.T.G. 21.14, (R) C.T.G. 21.16, C.T.G. 21.13, Com. 10th Fleet, C.T.G. 21.15, Cominch, C.T.G. 27.4, Comnavnaw, Commorseafon, Comnavu, Admty., C. in C. Med. and G.O.C. Gibraltar. Proceed so as to arrive about 15th Dec. Casablanca. When directed by Commorseafon depart therefrom to support G.U.S.24 sailing about 18th Dec. Cease support that convoy when appropriate operate against any reported concentration or refueller. Further orders will follow.
(Comnavu, 110758 to Admty.)
Cominch action A.D.E.E. re-encyphers C.T.G. 21.14 111750 to you for info. (Begins). C.T.G. 21.14 sends. No subs. position 49.41 N. 19.33 W. 111700Z. C.T.G. 21.14 proceeding 40 N. 15 W. thence Casa. Speed 12.3. E.T.A. swept channel Casa. 150800Z. (Ends). C. in C. Lant also has for action.
(Cominch, 111950 to Admty.)
- O.N.S. 24. Your 101925 at dawn tomorrow intend detaching KAMLOOPS to St. Johns N.F. for fuel and mail then to rejoin convoy. Permission is requested for ICARUS and SACKVILLE to proceed to Halifax.
(S.O. E.G. C.2, 111224Z to F.O.N.F.)
(1) KAMLOOPS make every effort to fuel. Mail being forwarded Halifax. Not approved for ICARUS and SACKVILLE to proceed Halifax insufficient (lay over*) Your 111224 not to W.6 refers.
(2) Amended Westomp established as in S.O. C.2 111001 position 047° 56' N. 049° (? 50') W. at 1000Z/12th.
(F.O.N.F., 111525Z to S.O. E.G. C.2.)
W.R. Note. * As received. Could be "Ocean" "Escort Vessels".
- O.N.S.24. My 111001*(N.T. in W.D.) Convoy hove to at 1400Z making good 170°, 4 knots.
My 111224Z delete ICARUS. Weather report 2652 6268.
(S.O. E.G. C.2, 111706Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)
* Re TAHHEE straggling 80 miles astern with fuel contaminated by water.
- Patron 63. Refer to this as Cominch's 102141 to C. in C. Lant for action and to Comairlant, Comnavu, Comnavnaw, Commorseafon, Admty., C. in C. A.F. for information. Transfer to duty Morseafon Patron 63.
(Comnavu, 111326 to Admty.)

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S/M Estimate.

(N.S.H.Q., 111420Z.)

U.S. S/M
Estimate.

(Cominch, 111515.)

SEMINOLA.

Com. 10th Fleet re-encyphers R.O. Charleston
110001. "Departure 10th 2400Z U.S.A.H.S.
SEMINOLA Gibraltar 22nd. (B) Date 19th."
(Com. 10th Fleet, 111517Z.)Manning
situation.Admty. 302111A Nov. it is intended to implement
proposals laid down on B.A.M.R's 021432. Admty.'s
090250 also refers.(2) Ref. paras. 6 and 8. (A) MANSFIELD and
SALISBURY are being laid up at Pictou, N.S.H.Q's
281526 refers. (B) 7 R.N. and two Norwegian "Towns" being
sailed to U.K. in accordance with N.S.H.Q's 271917 Nov. and
Admty. 090245 with necessary R.N. steaming parties from existing
crews.

(3) Para. 7 offer of equipment is much appreciated.

(4) It is agreed for R.C.N. to man NENE, TWEED, ETTRICK, 6
"Rivers", 1 "Loch" and to accept foreign service. Presume
NENE, TWEED and ETTRICK will be paid off in Canada and then
commissioned by R.C.N.(5) Ref. para. 14 and Admty. 071618 would be glad if you would
approach U.S. Navy Department on this point but final decision
whether R.C.N. will man two C.V.Es. cannot be given until the
Canadian Cabinet has considered the terms under which these
ships would be made available.(6) It is presumed your approach to U.S.N. will be to obtain
permission for R.C.N. to commission and man Naval Vessels on Lend
Lease to R.N. without involving Canada in Lend Lease.(N.S.H.Q., 111530Z to Admty., (R) B.A.M.R., B.A.D., S.C.N.O.
London, N.M.C.S. Washington, C. in C. C.N.A.)Request I may be informed latest acceptable dates for the
arrival in U.K. of R.C.N. crews for "Castle" class Corvettes,
so that in the event of any of the destroyers for which they are
providing runner crews in accordance with my 021432 being
delayed either before completion or during trials, I shall be
in a position to decide whether the delay is acceptable for the
crew or whether I must transfer personnel to an earlier vessel.

(B.A.M.R., 111930Z to Admty.)

U/B.

Sub. sighted 21.22 N. 75.59 W. at 111545Z.
(Kingston, 111546R to Admty.)COLLINGWOOD,
MAGIC.Sail COLLINGWOOD New York to Halifax when ready
about 15th. About same date from Charleston sail
MAGIC to Bermuda for A/S work-up. Advise all
routeing instructions.
(Cominch, 111840 to C.E.S.F.)

/Reference ...

11.12.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Reference positions for merchant ships.

Inform Routeing Officers your area. All Merships from South American (not Caribbean) or African ports routed independently to U.K. shall be provided with one of the following 2 series of 12 reference positions at sea and with corresponding Double Code Letters in alphabetical order. Details. (Com. 10th Fleet (C. and R.), 111841 to Admty.)

Convoy Night Defence.

U.S. escorted convoys. Instructions when British aircraft operate in support. (Comnavu, 111918 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

CUMCO, SPRUCE LAKE in difficulty.

Your 111438 (N.T. in W.R.) Reached corrected position 1918. Assumed this furthest West position am now searching to leeward, course and speed 95°, 20. Wind and sea improving rapidly. Weather 6471 8465.

(MONTGOMERY, 111921Z to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C. C.N.A., C.T.24, TENACITY, KIAWA.)

Request confirmation ? correct last known position 046° 33' N. 051° 39' W. at 0655Z/11th. MONTGOMERY reaches farthest on at 2300 then parallel track sweep of area south. TENACITY of area north.

(MONTGOMERY, 112135Z to F.O.N.F., (R) C. in C. C.N.A., TENACITY, KIAWA.)

H.M.R.T. TENACITY sailed St. Johns 1345Z/11 to assist Tug CUMCO and barge SPRUCE LAKE in difficulties 10 miles south-east of Cape Race.

(F.O.N.F., 118159 (? 111859Z intended) to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q.)

Sub. attack and sighting summary.

Para. D. A.T.C. plane sighted sub. 08.35 N. 59.35 W. 111125Z. (Cominch, 112015 to Admty.)

AQUITANIA (A.T.79)

Departing New York 121300Z Ambrose Clyde. (P.D. New York, 112026Z to Com. 10th Fleet C. and R.)

Close Escort Groups. Support Groups.

My 291742 Sept. and subsequent additions and amendments the following is the intended Canadian mid ocean and Support Group Organisation. Where present status differs necessary signals will be made to authorities concerned. Groups will be strengthened by new constructions as it becomes available.

2. Close escort groups C.1 - ASSINIBOINE, FORESTER, ST. LAURENT, ETRICK, AGASSIZ, GALT, CELANDINE, HALIFAX, FREDERICTON, GIFFARD. C.3 - PRINCE RUPERT, SASKATCHEWAN, SKEENA, PICTOU, MAYFLOWER, EYEBRIGHT, NAPANEE, LA MALBAIE, BITTERSWEET, RIMOUSKI. C.4 - HOTSPUR, CHURCHILL, RESTIGOUCHE, ORILLIA,

A.W.1
260A

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 111918 December IN

From COMNAVU

Date 11.12.43.

P/L BY D/R

U.S. escorted convoys, British
Aircraft Night Defence.

Addressed Admiralty, C.in C. Western approaches
(Admiralty pass).

CR. No. 737.

This is Cinclant's 100152 sent to Lanflit for information only. The following operating instructions promulgated by C.in C. W.M., are pertinent when British aircraft operate in support of U.S. escorted convoys.

Convoy Night Defence:

1. The following procedure is to be brought into force forthwith for cooperation at night between air and surface convoy escorts in the event of close air cover of convoys at night being ordered. This does not apply to A/S sweeps ahead and astern of convoys but only to aircraft engaged in close cover.
2. Defence of the convoy by destruction of U-boats before they close near enough to become an immediate danger is the intention.
3. Phase BAKER (ACI 105(6) is covered by these instructions. Phase A and C, now in the course of distribution, are covered by ACI 107.

4. Initial dispositions will be in operational areas established as follows:

RED Area extending from convoy perimeter to a depth of 6 miles - Close Escort.

WHITE area extending from outer limit of RED to a depth of 12 miles from convoy perimeter - Support Groups.

BLUE Area extending beyond the limit of WHITE - Night Air Patrols.

When enemy is located the division between BLUE and WHITE Areas will be abolished.

5. Senior Officer Support Force requiring any particular patrol should request Senior Officer Close Escort to arrange. Support Forces may be placed under the Command of a selected Senior Officer aircraft once in contact with the convoy will come under control of the Senior Officer Close Escort.

6. Aircraft will have been briefed to carry out COBRA type patrols at distance of 15 miles unless Senior Officer Close Escort orders otherwise.

7. RED areas should only be entered for ascertaining position or for identification purposes. Aircraft are free to attack contacts in BLUE and WHITE areas.

8. Aircraft, in the event of a U-boat sighting, will report to the Senior Officer Escort on the R/T indicating the position by ZZ method. On completion of this a sighting report to Control on convoy wave followed by long dash will be transmitted by aircraft. Escorts or support forces fitted with H/F D/F on hearing the R/T report will shift to convoy wave and obtain a bearing of this aircraft W/T sighting report. Escorts will be guided by R/T direction, flares or by pyrotechnics dropped by the aircraft.

9. Aircraft (non-Leigh light) are to use flares to illuminate a contact for attack and after attacking climb to a 1000 feet and drop further flares, if practicable, to guide surface vessels. Leigh Light aircraft attack immediately and adopt the same procedure after attack.

10. In BLUE or WHITE areas an escort close within 2 miles by an aircraft is to assume she is being attacked and is to flash VF identification lights both sides until the danger is passed. The minor war vessel night display signal, which should be kept hoisted, is to be flashed by ships not fitted with VF identification light.

11. An aircraft wishing to indicate its position to an escort should switch downward recognition lights on and off over a period of up to one minute until the ship replies on R/T that aircraft has been seen.

12. When ordering aircraft to investigate H/F D/F fixes Senior Officer Close Escort will indicate position by bearing and distance from ZZ position.

13. Units joining and leaving - Escorts joining should report to Senior Officer Close Escort before coming within 100 miles. In accordance with paragraph 10 all escorts in BLUE area must be prepared to identify themselves with aircraft. Relative approaches or clearing courses for surface escorts joining or leaving will be promulgated by Senior Officer Close Escort. Aircraft will leave BLUE area direct informing Senior Officer Close Escort.

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.)

-3-

14. Communications - Should R/T line become undertain convoy H/F is to be used to ensure rapid communication with aircraft. If aircraft cannot be raised on R/T or convoy H/F message is to be passed into operational headquarters in the same form for retransmission to aircraft. Senior Officer of Close Escorts and Support Forces keep watch on Convoy H/F.

Cinclant Number one.

111918

Advance Copy D.C., D.O.D. (H)., D.D.I.C.,
Plot.

IHb.

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (2)
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)
U.W.R.
D. Map Room
Capt. Pjm
B.C.N.A.E.
D.O.D. (H) (4)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.D.I.C. (2)
D.C.
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (C)
Plot
D.A/S W.
D.A.U.D.
D.A.W.T.
C.C.L.S. (2)
D.N.I. (4)
D. of P. (2)
A.L.O
Admiral Usborne.
D.S.D. (2)
Admiral Blake.
D.T.S.D.
I.P. (2)
W.D.

JR.

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11.12.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Close Escort Groups. Support Groups. (Contd.)

TRILLIUM, NASTURTIUM, WOODSTOCK, COLLINGWOOD, AMHERST, BRANDON. C.5 - DUNVER, OTTAWA, KOOTENAY, ARVIDA, WETASKIWIN, ROSTHERN, DAUPHIN, DIANTHUS, KITCHENER, NEW WESTMINSTER, SUMMERSIDE.

3. Support Groups. C.2 - ST. CATHERINES, GATINEAU, ICARUS, KAMLOOPS, MORDEN, SACKVILLE, FENNEL, DRUMHELLER, PRIMROSE, CHILLIWACK.

E.G.6 - NENE, TWEED, WASKESIU, CALGARY, CHAMBLY, SNOWBERRY, LUNENBURG, EDMUNDSTON, CAMROSE, PRESCOTT. E.G.9 - SWANSEA, MATANE, BADDECK, ATHOLL, NORTH BAY, FRONTENAC, OWEN, SOUND.

4. It is proposed to put more fast ships into Support Groups when available vide C. in C. W.A's 021813 and my 031440 both not to Admiralty.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 112054Z to F.O.N.F., (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A., Admty.)

T.Bs. Lorsa 14926. T.Bs. 371 to 378 formerly the 26th M.T.B. Flotilla will be shipped to the Meditn. and off loaded at Algiers. A.M. 031635 not to F.O.C.R.I.N. refers.

(2) Certain spares for this flotilla have already been shipped to India but are being diverted to Malta vide your para. 4.
(B.A.D., 112101Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.C.R.I.N., C.C.F. Med., HORNET, C.F.M.S.O. Malta.)

O.N. 213. Fundy section 12 ships scattered over 8 miles since 1930Z. Request all instructions to (corrupt group) be passed by B.A.M.S. as V/S now rarely possible. P.C. and S. 42° 50' N. 65° 42' W., 305°, 6. Weather report 0099 3857 8209.
(LEAMINGTON, 112115Z to Connav, (R) C. in C. C.N.A., A.C.I.C., Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., Cdr. (D) Argentinia, Cdre. (D) W.A., H.Q.C.C.)

T.U. 3. 15 ships arrived New York 111230Z.
(P.D. New York, 112140.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest Serial No. 690 Dec. 10th. Early 10th Dec. large freighter transport attacked by U.S. Navy Catalina off Dyaul Island 20 miles South Kavieng. 3 direct hits scored and vessel reported sinking within 5 minutes. No lifeboats observed.
(2) Same aircraft earlier attacked without success 5 ship convoy 50 miles west-north-west Rabaul heading for Rabaul.

/(3) ...

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11.12.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Digest (3) Forenoon 9th Dec. 10 Mitchells and 9 Bostons
Serial bombed strafed coastal track and barge unloading
No. 690 area between fortification Point and Masaeeng
Dec. 10th. River 15 miles North of Finschhafen causing heavy
(Contd.) smoke.
(4) 8, 9-10 Dec. U.S.M.T.Bs. destroyed 5 empty
northbound barges off Reiss Point 20 miles West
of Sio and 5 further barges off Hardenberg Point
25 miles south-east Sio.
(10) Air operations in Solomons 10th Dec. again hampered by
weather. 10 Mitchells bombed supply area South of Kahili
aerodrome while 8 Aircobras strafed 4 barges Tonolei Harbour
and bombed supply houses A/A positions in same area causing
fires.
(12) Night 7th/8th Dec. 2 enemy barges strafed by night fighter
10 miles south-east of Torokina while 1 beached barge same area
was destroyed by U.S.M.T.Bs. early morning 8th. Patrol vicinity
continues around our perimeter.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 110535Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 111440A, 111441A.)

Submarines Attacked.

Sub. attack Para. A. (1) Br. CAP PADARAN struck by torpedo or
and sighting mine at 1310/9th in 39° 15' N. 17° 30' E. Ship
summary for sank later.
24 hours to (2) A/C S/53 attacked U-Boat on surface with
0900Z/11th. depth charges at 1956/10th in 46° 40' N. 08° 40'
W. Course 290°.
(3) A/C G/502 attacked 2 U-Boats which were
sighted on surface at 2204/10th.
(4) LAWFORD sighted and attacked U-Boat at 2145/10th in 50°
34' N. 32° 50' W.
(5) A/C J/461 sighted U-Boat on surface at 1850/10th in 48° 10'
N. 09° 01' W.
(6) A/C sighted U-Boat on surface at 1115/10th in 4° 47' S. 23°
54' W. Course 140°.
Para. B. (1) A/C reported U-Boat at 0700/11th in 36° 10' N.
06° 04' W. Course 120°.
(D.D.I.C., 111114A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

12.12.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

Operation
 F.V.

- 1(a) Convoy J.W.55A, consisting of 17 M/Vs and 2 tankers escorted by WESTCOTT, ACANTHUS and SPEEDWELL of the Through Escort and by HARRIER, COCKATRICE and PRESERVER as Local Escort and accompanied by M.M.S.1005 and M.M.S. 1023, sailed from Loch Ewe at 1700 today.
- (b) At 1228A C. in C. H.F. in DUKE OF YORK with JAMAICA, SAVAGE, STORD, SAUMAREZ and SCORPION, forming the Battleship Covering Force 2, left Scapa for the Kola Inlet; C.S.10 in BELFAST (S.O. of the Cruiser Covering Force) left Loch Ewe at 1353A for Seidisfjord; and at 1711A the 7 destroyers, which with Capt. D.3 in MILNE are to form the Convoy's Destroyer Escort, left Scapa for Skaalefiord.
- (c) WRESTLER and SCIMITAR, owing to defects, were unable to sail with the Convoy.

Bay
 Patrol.

- 2(a) Admiral King's present intention is that the Navy B.24 Squadrons will continue duty on the Bay offensive after January 1st, so long as the U-Boat situation continues to render such employment more profitable than elsewhere. (See Situation Report 27th October 1943).
- (b) At 1146 today GLASGOW was ordered by C. in C. Plymouth to leave Horta forthwith for a patrol in the western Biscay area, and at 1650A GAMBIA left Plymouth for Horta and to carry out Operation "Stonewall" on passage. A/C from the Azores are to carry out continuous patrols between 31° and 34° W. from daylight tomorrow; and FENCER and PRINCE ROBERT are with Convoy O.S.61/K.M.S.35 in the Bay.

North Atlantic.

3. KING GEORGE V arrived at Gibraltar from the U.K. today.

U/B sunk.
 (U.172)

4. At 0722 today aircraft from U.S. escort carrier BOGUE (operating in support of Convoy G.U.S.23) and her surface escorts commenced an attack on a U-Boat in 26.27 N. 29.44 W. (about 780 miles south of Flores). At 131221 the U-Boat sank in 26.19 N. 29.58 W. 46 survivors were picked up.

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12.12.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.

Italian escorts.

5. Italian escort groups are now employed escorting certain convoys.

K.M.S.34
TYNEDALE &
HOLCOMBE
sunk.

6(a) The U-Boat attack on Convoy K.M.S.34 (see 11th December) was renewed today, and at 0710 the destroyer TYNEDALE was torpedoed and sunk in 37.10 N. 06.05 E. (off the Gulf of Bougie). HOLCOMBE, U.S.S. NIBLACK, H.M.S. ANEMONE and the trawler ROUSAY hunted the U-Boat with air co-operation. At 1530 the destroyer HOLCOMBE was torpedoed in 37.20 N. 05.50 E. and sank. CALPE and 2 U.S. destroyers proceeded to join the hunt for the enemy S/M, which is now known to have been U.593.

(b) Two U.S. destroyers and aircraft are still hunting the U-Boat which attacked CUCKMERE yesterday.

"Avalanche".

7. Allied patrol boats from Bastia last night report being fired at south of Piombino by two enemy ships described as destroyers. No damage was caused.

East Indies.Relaxation
of convoy.

8(a) Owing to the reduced U-Boat threat in the Indian Ocean C. in C. Eastern Fleet intends as a temporary measure to discontinue convoys from this date except as follows:-

?J (b) Shipping between Bombay, Colombo and Calcutta will continue to sail in B.M./M.B. and L.C./C.J. convoys, but ships of 13 knots and over will proceed independently between Colombo and Calcutta.

(c) Personnel and combined operations ships will continue to be sailed in Convoy.

(d) Where possible, shipping from Aden is to be given escort until clear of the Gulf of Aden.

(e) Convoys P.A.64, B.P.106, A.P.56, A.B.24, A.K.D.9 will be the last of their series.

(f) The messages leading up to this arrangement are precised in the Situation Report of 30th November.

12.12.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

9. Allied M.T.Bs. engaged 3 southbound heavily armoured barges off south-east Bougainville at midday today and sank one and drove the other ashore.

12.12.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

A.S.V. Training. H.Q.C.C.'s. 101810.
It is considered that these trials can only be satisfactorily carried out by basing a submarine on Plymouth or Falmouth for approximately one month and carrying out two exercise patrols of about 12 days in an area to be agreed with C. in C. Plymouth.
(2) This commitment can only be met by allocation of a Radar fitted S/M. from A/S training, or home operational Flotillas. Number of S/Ms. for A/S training are already far short of requirements.
(3) Decision is therefore requested from which source S/M is to be detailed.
(F.O.S., 121314A to Admt.).

Force "S". S.O. Force "S" 021247.
Destroyers No destroyers can be made available locally.
for Request 2 destroyers preferably Hunt may be
Combined detailed to arrive Moray Firth by 18th Dec.
training. (C. in C. Rosyth, 121600A to Admt.).

Eastern Admiralty 031715.
Fleet. (1) The decision to man NENE and TWEED with
Sailing R.C.N. crews means that two out of the four
of A/A frigates which I had in mind as Eastern Fleet
Sloops. substitutes for A/A sloops will not be available
by the required date.
(2) In the circumstances therefore it is not practicable to effect proposed substitution.
(3) I would submit however that need for A/S escort in my command has not decreased and would propose deferring for as long as possible the sailing of a proportion of the A/A sloops allocated to Eastern Fleet.
(C. in C.W.A., 122328A to Admt.).

Movements.

CARD My 112024. Position of CARD at 111700Z 49 degs. 41' N. 19 degs. 33' W., proceeding through 40 degs. N. 15 degs. W., to Casablanca. Speed 12.3 knots. E.T.A. 150800Z.
(D.O.D.H. 121106A to C. in C.W.A.).

S/M Positions of S/Ms. at 0800A/13 and movements for
movements. following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 121711A).

QUEEN Cancel my 092002. Intend sailing QUEEN
ELIZABETH. ELIZABETH from Needles 1045/14th for Scapa.
(2) Route.
(3) QUEEN ELIZABETH will be escorted from Needles by LA COMBATTANTE and STEVENSTONE to 180 degs.
Start Point 4 miles at 1515/14th where escort will be taken over by TANATSIDE and MELBREAK who will escort as far as Longships.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 121739A to A.C.O.S.).

12.12.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Bay patrol. Have A.S.V. Contact position 44.05 N. 09.38 W. Probably U-boat. Bombs dropped. (A/C Duty H, 120408A to 19 Group).

GLASGOW. (A/C Duty H, 120408A to 19 Group).

GAMBIA. Present intention that Navy B.24 Squadrons continue duty Bay offensive after January 1. My 262052 of October. This so long as U-boat situation continues to render such employment more profitable than elsewhere. (Comnaveu, 120745 to Admtty.).

Four U-boats attacked by A/C. Am over 2 enemy submarines in 44 degs. 29' N. 08 degs. 11' W. periscope only sighted on course 220 degs. 4 knots. (A/C Duty G, 121115A to 19 Group).

Have attacked U-boats with depth-charge. Lost touch with U-boats. (A/C Duty G. 121115A to 19 Group).

GLASGOW is to leave Horta forthwith and proceed to carry out patrol (D) within 50 miles each side of line joining position (EE) 042 degs. 01' N. 030 degs. 18' W. and (FF) 045 degs. 28' N. 033 degs. 37' W. (C. in C. Plymouth, 121146 to GLASGOW).

GAMBIA is to pass Gate at 1630A today and proceed through: (G.A.) 180 degs., Bishop Rock 15., (G.B.) 049 degs. 02' N. 018 degs. 31' W., (G.C.) 046 degs. 32' N. 023 degs. 02' W. and thence arrive Horta a.m. 15th to complete, carrying out operation "Stonewall" on passage. (C. in C. Plymouth, 121214A, 121709A to GAMBIA).

Disposition at 122000.

(1) GAMBIA 165 degs. Lands End 13 through 180 degs. Bishop 10, thence 266 degs. 20 knots.

(2) STOIC 044 degs. 30' N. 013 degs. 23' W. 180 degs. daily advance 140 miles.

(3) JANUS 048 degs. 16' N. 016 degs. 00' W. 180 degs. 18 knots. (C. in C. Plymouth, 121509A to Ships).

Cancel patrol A and as from daylight 13th Dec. substitute Patrol C between 4130 N. 3100 W. and 44.57 N. 34.33 W. to be maintained as continuously as resources permit subject to Stipple A commitments. Patrol B to be continued as already ordered. (H.Q.C.C. 121625A to 247 Group).

My 121214A. GAMBIA sailed, E.T.A. Horta 1100A/15th. (C. in C. Plymouth, 121650A to S.B.N.O. Azores).

Lost touch with U-boat last seen in 45 degs. 42' N. 09 degs. 38' W. (A/C Duty R, 122250A to Q.A.1.).

Am over enemy submarine in 45 degs. 44' N. 09 degs. 38' W., course 022 degs. Enemy was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted course and speed unknown. (A/C Duty R, 122328A to Q.A.1.).

Have A.S.V. contact, position 45 degs. 55' N. 09 degs., 49' W., probably U-boat. Bombs dropped. (A/C Duty A, 122335 to 19 Group).

Operation Your 101210A. Arrived (ASHANTI).
"F.V." (A.C.O.S. 120709A to C. in C. Rosyth).
Convoy J.W. My 111253 trials of WRESTLER unsatisfactory.
55A sailed. Sailing postponed.
Force 2 (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 120825 to C. in C.W.A.).
left Scapa.

/Arrived...

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12.12.1943.
Sunday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation Arrived SCIMITAR.
"F.V." (N.O.i/c Aultbea, 120829A to F.O.i/c N.I.).
Convoy J.W. Comply with C. in C.H.F. 111055A.
55A sailed. (H.Q.C.C. 121015A to 18 Group).
Force 2 Scapa departure C. in C.H.F. in DUKE OF YORK
left Scapa. with JAMAICA, SAVAGE, SJORD, SAUMAREZ, SCORPION.
(Contd.). (A.C.O.S., 121228A).
Departure C.S.10 in BELFAST. E.T.A. Seidisfiord
1900/13th.
(N.O.i/c Aultbea, 121353A to A.C.I.C.).
Unable to sail SCIMITAR with J.W.55A. Air pump
defect being repaired. Expect to complete in 20 hours.
(N.O.i/c Aultbea, 121613A to C. in C.H.F.).
Sailed MUSKETEER, METEOR, MATCHLESS, OPPORTUNE, ASHANTI,
ATHABASKAN, VIRAGO to Skaalefiord E.T.A. 1000A Monday 13th Dec.
(R.A.D.H.F. 121711A to N.O.i/c Faeroes).
J.W. 55A.
(A) 1700/12th. (B) WESTCOTT, ACANTHUS, SPEEDWELL, HARRIER,
COCKATRICE, PRESERVER, M/S's 1005, 1023. (C) 19. (D) Cmdre.
W.J. Mills R.N.R. in FORT HALL. (E) Vice Comdre. of convoy
in EMPIRE ARCHER. (F) Rear Cmdre. in FORT THOMPSON.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 121712A to S.B.N.O. Arhcnagel).
J.W.55A. FORT HALL, THISTLEDALE, SAN AMBROSIO, LAPLAND,
FORT MISSANABIE, FORT ASTORIA, LUCERNA, FORT THOMPSON, EMPIRE
ARCHER, EMPIRE PICKWICK.
U.S.S. THOMAS SCOTT, GEORGE WEEMS, LEWIS EMERY JUNIOR, COLLIS P.
HUNTINGDON, JAMES WOODROW, JAMES A. FARRELL, PHILIP LIVINGSTONE,
STAGEDOOR CANTEEN, DANIEL WILLARD.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 121714 to C. in C.W.A.).
Sailed Capt.(D) 3 in MILNE. E.T.A. Skaalefiord 0900/13th.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 121719A to N.O.i/c Faeroes).

S/M. Request you will sail submarines from Lerwick
Patrols. as follows. F.O.S. 04318/227 dated 5th December
refers.

(1) STUBBORN at 1200A/14th December through 090
degs. Muckle Flugga 5 miles and route O to 064
degs. 03' thence through 064 degs. 39' N. 008 degs. 42' E. to
patrol area A.
(2) SATYR at 1600A/14th through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 10 and
062 degs. 11' N. 004 degs. 05' E. to patrol area B.
(3) O-15 at 1800A/14th Dec. through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 20
miles thence through (X) 061 degs. 17' N. 001 degs. 48' E. (Y) 060
degs. 55' N. 003 degs. 30' E. (Z) 059 degs. 08' N. 004 degs. 25'
E. to patrol area C.

(Capt.(S) 9, 120921A to S.O. S/M Lerwick).

Positions of submarines at 0800A/13th December and movements
for following 24 hours.

(A) SIRDAR leaves Lerwick at 1200/13th through 090 degs. Muckle
Flugga 10 and 62 degs. N. 01 degs. E. thence course 030 degs.
probably on the surface 10 knots.

(B) VENTURER leaves Lerwick at 1500/13th through 090 degs. Muckle
Flugga 5 and 62 degs., N. 00 degs. 38' W. toward 63 degs. 30' N.
01 degs. 10' E. diving by day when N. of 62 degs. N.

(F.O.S. 121711A to Admty.).

/Coastal...

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Sunday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Coastal Force patrols. 1.(A) 2 Chasseurs Anti E-boat patrol on 50 degs. 24' N. between 00 degs. 35' W. and 00 degs. 48' W. from 1800A to 0700A.
(B) M.L.292 Short notice at St. Helens.
(C) LA COMBATTANTE, STEVENSTONE short notice at Yarmouth.
(D) 2 M.Ls. 1 R.M.L. from Portland patrolling 50 degs. 18' N. between 01 degs. 40' W. and 02 degs. 20' W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 121404A).

"V.P." operation. My 111046A.
Sailed 1430A today H.N.5 MOLDE and RISOR with M.T.B. 684 (S.O.) and M.T.B.653 in tow. MOLDE and RISOR will detach M.T.Bs. in position 062 degs. 48' N. 002 degs. 38' E. S.O.A. 8 knots. MOLDE and RISOR will return to Lerwick at 12 knots. (2) No. (A.C.O.S. 121453 to Admty.).

Operation "S.F." 2 Sunderlands will be operating in Hancox area tomorrow.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 122301A to RATTLESNAKE).

U-Boats.

Search by E.G. 2 & E.G.3. My 111658. U-Boats patrol line given in A.M. 111441 should prove a fruitful hunting ground but its continuance in the same area is naturally uncertain. At the same time in view of present weather the postponement of operations until conditions are more propitious is entirely at your discretion.
2. If you decide to postpone operations you should remain to the westward of 031 degs. W.
3. Heavy weather is likely to persist for the next 24 hours at least.
(C. in C. W.A., 121125Z to E.G. 2.)
Your 121125Z. My P.C.S. 054 degs. 02' N. 028 degs. 40' W., 270 degs., 9 knots. Intend to postpone operation as in your 111658Z for 24 hours.
(E.G.2, 121300Z to C. in C., W.A.)

U-Boats reported. My P.C.S. at 1200Z/12th 53 degs. 44' N. 21 degs. 08' W., 076 degs., 15 knots. KINGSMILL in company.
(LAWFORD, 121200Z to C. in C. W.A.)
At 1425Z U-Boat transmitted probably a sighting report. D/F indicates that this would be of either E.G.2 and E.G. 3 or LAWFORD.
(D.D.I.C., 121603A to LAWFORD, E.G.2, E.G.3.)
Your 121603A. Not second or third Escort Group.
(E.G.2, 121630Z to Admty.)
A.M. 121603A. Further bearings make it unlikely that LAWFORD was reported.
(D.D.I.C., 121650A to LAWFORD, E.G.2, E.G.3.)
By D/F at 1825Z U-Boat position 072 degs. 08' N. 025 degs. 00' E. Reliable.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 122135A to Admty., (R) H.F.)

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12.12.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

HOLDERNESS

Departure. My 091301 refers.
(F.O.i/c Harwich, 120903A to C. in C. Nore).

ASPIRANT

Your 031516. Vessel arrived Glasgow. Engine repairs in hand.
(F.O.i/c Glasgow, 121606 to Admty.).Sheerness arrival at 1709A. HOLDERNESS in tow of KENIA and SEAMAN. Holderness proceeding in tow to N.Woolwich a.m. tomorrow.
(C. in C. Nore. 121740A to Admty.).Shipping and Convoys.

O.N.S.24

O.N.S.24 badly scattered, will be hove to until daylight. My P.C.S. 048 degs. 57' 047 degs. 00' 180 degs. 5 knots.
(C.2., 120003Z to TIMMINS).

C.U.8.

C.T.G. 21.6 in CHARLES LAWRENCE and SIMS, DONNELL, HOPPING, REEVES and GRIFFIN provide escort Merville from C.U.8.
(U.S.E.C. Londonderry, 120015Z to C. in C.W.A.).

P.S.12.

My 111859A/12. Cancel P.S.12.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 120817A).H.X.269,
S.C.148.Cancel my 110005.
(C. in C.W.A. 120939Z to Escorts.).

D.S.47A

Intend sailing EMPRESS OF RUSSIA passing Clyde Boom 0500A/15th to R/V with SALADIN (S.O.), and SKATE in 270 degs. Oversay 6 miles at 1400A/15th, thence in accordance with C. in C.W.A. 111746B June. S.O.A. 14½ knots. E.T.A. Reykjavik 0200Z/18th.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 121014A to C. in C.W.A.).

K.M.F.27

Intend sailing Clyde portion escorted by GARLAND and URCHIN passing Clyde Boom 2000A/14th to comply with A.M. 091734A.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 121026A to Admty.).

Sailed Bristol Channel portion of K.M.F.27 (my 101143) escorted by WINCHELSEA.

(N.O.I.C. Cardiff, 121414A to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
Admiralty 042355.

(1) A/S escort (A) Liverpool portion. URCHIN to R/V at Bar Light Vessel 1330A/14th. After making Oversay R/V URCHIN is to fuel at Merville and overtake convoy.

(B) Clyde portion GARLAND.

(C) To join from Belfast at Oversay R/V BENTINCK S.O., BYARD, CALDER, DRURY, BAZELY, BURGESS.

(C. in C.W.A. 121513A).

/Escorts...

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

- K.M.F.27
(Contd.). Escorts for K.M.F.27. BENTINCK (S.O.), BYARD, CALDER, BAZELY, BURGESS, DRURY, GARLAND and URCHIN. (Capt.(D) Belfast, 121746 to C. in C.W.A.).
- S.L.141/
M.K.S.32. Ships capable of 10 knots and over for Mersey and ARAWA for Glasgow and AKAROA for Barry Roads are to be detached at dusk tonight with 2 escorts to 7 degs. W. thence independently. (C. in C.W.A., 121033A to Escorts).
- U.C.8,
EMPEROR,
SEARCHER. It is requested that EMPEROR and SEARCHER may be made available to sail in convoy U.C.8 on 17th December in accordance with A.M. 111345A December. (C. in C.W.A., 121043A to F.O.C.T.).
- O.S.O.62/
K.M.S.O.36. (A) 0300A/15.
(B) SOUTHERN STAR.
(C) 12 ships (including 9 specials).
(N.C.S.O. Oban, 121220A to A.I.G. 209).
- O.N.S.25 A.M. 062027.
Following tankers are to sail as escort oilers in O.N.S.25. BRITISH HONOUR, EMPIRE GULF, BENTE MAERSK. (D.T.D. 121627A to Comdre. D. W.A.).
- O.S.63/
K.M.S.37,
ATHENE. Cancel para. 2 of my 111715A in view of F.O.i/c Greenocks 121048A. F.O.I.C. Belfast is requested to retain ATHENE at Belfast on completion of loading and sail her in convoy O.S.63/K.M.S.37. (C. in C.W.A. 121733A to F.O.i/c Belfast).
- S.L.141/
M.K.S.32. Your 121033A para.3. Following 13 ships detached. Escort SCARBOROUGH and BALSAM. (E.G.39, 121801Z to C. in C.W.A.).
- O.N.214 My 031641. Cancel NORTHERN WAVE. (C. in C.W.A., 121934Z to C. in C.C.N.A.).
- North
Russia.
Group 1. (Corrupt group) Group 1 sailed. Negative OCEAN VANITY owing to steering defect. My 110849 refers. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 122005A to S.B.N.O. North Russia).
- U.T.5. U.T.5, 2000/12th, 51.35 N. 24.05 W. 037 to J and 078 to G. Advance 14.5. E.T.A. G 1700/14. (C.T.F.69, 122118 to Admty.).

/J.W.55B...

12.12.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

J.W.55B.

My 091035 WALLFLOWER, BORAGE are to arrive Loch Ewe p.m. 18th as local escorts in place of SCIMITAR.
(C. in C.W.A., 122145A to Cdre. D.W.A. C.S.1.).

12.12.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Gib. G.R. W.X.75136. A.I.909, 12th.
 Opsum 11/12. Hud. S/520 on met. flight sighted surfaced U/B
 0759A 36.10 N. 06.05 W., co. 20, speed unknown -
 submerged - no attack.
 (A.C.H.Q. Gibraltar, 120420A)

U.S. U.S.D. SWANSON arrived and left Ponta Delgada
 Movements. 12th.
 (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 120957, 121136.)
 KALDFONN and GULFGEM left 1315 G.M.T./12th to
 R/V G.U.S.23. U.S. Destroyer SWANSON waiting off
 port. Request Gibraltar inform Cominch (C. and R.), C.T.F. 63,
 S.B.N.O. Azores.
 (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 121145.)
 U.S. A/C Tender ALBEMARLE, U.S.D. BARRY, U.S.D. GOFF
 depart buoy A Casablanca Channel 1030 Dec. 13th.
 (? C.M.S.F., 121828Z to N.O.B. Iceland.)

U/B. A.T.C. plane reported U-Boat sighted on surface
 seen to submerge 10 miles West of Rabat at 0930Z
 13 or 12, course 200.
 (C.M.S.F., 121010Z to Cominch, (R) F.O.C. Gib.,
 Admty., Comnavnav.)

KING GEORGE Arrived.
 V. (F.O.C. Gib., 121012A to Admty.)

SIDI BRAHIM Following is a repetition of my 121053. Arrive
 and G.G. Malaga 0830 B.S.T./13th to embark French
 LEPINE. refugees.
 (F.O.I.C. Gib., 121059A to B.N.A. Madrid, R.O.
 Malaga, (R) Admty., C. in C. Med.)

T.F. 64. This is Commorseafron 112251.
 (Comnaveu, 121112Z to Admty.)

MONTE Your 081716. Spanish MONTE NONJUICH sent in
 NONJUICH. under armed guard. W/T operator removed.
 (081711 from D.N.I. refers).
 2. Results of search. A. On his person one
 package and two films and mail. B. In cabin
 enemy correspondence including shipping intelligence report.
 In panel behind couch small quantity skins and tobacco. In
 airshaft two packages and mail. C. In wireless set loaded
 camera. D. under chronometers mail.
 3. All passed to Defence Security for primary examination.
 4. Ship released in accordance with your para. 3.
 (F.O.C. Gib., 121301A to Admty.)

/TAGUS

12.12.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

TAGUS
safe
conduct. Not to be molested this voyage. Portuguese TAGUS
sailed Gib. 1600/12th for Marseilles.
(F.O.C. Gib., 121618A to 10th S.F., ORPHEE, (R)
Capt. (S) 10.)

GLASGOW. Ref. C. in C. Plymouth 121146. Left Horta
1807Z/12th.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 122322Z to C. in C. Plymouth).

South Atlantic.

DUCA DEGLI
ABRUZZI. F.O.C.W.Af. 111822Z sailed.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 120737Z to Com. 4th Fleet.)

ANTELOPE. Arrived 1430Z/12th ANTELOPE. Sailed 1940Z/12th
for Gibraltar. E.T.A. 1600Z/16th.
(Comar Dakar, 121040Z to F.O.C.W.Af., U.S.
Moroccan Sea Frontier, F.O. Gibraltar, Admty.,
ANTELOPE.)

GEORGES
LEYGUES. Your 101106. There is no doubt but that GEORGES
LEYGUES will be actively employed on anti-blockade
runner patrol as long as she remains in my area.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 121259Z to C. in C. Med., (R)
Admty.)

TURCOMAN. Unable to maintain speed of convoy. My posn. 04.18
N. 006° 17' W., S. of A. 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ knots.
(TURCOMAN, 121800Z to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) Capt. (D))

TAIGETE,
ARCOLA. For Consul General. N.A. Lisbon's 111551. Have
Italian ships TAIGETE and ARCOLA been
requisitioned by Italian Consul in accordance
with order from Italian Government understood
from secret source to have been despatched to
him by telegram on 7th Oct.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 121257Z to N.C.S.O. St. Vincent,
(R) Admty., N.A. Lisbon.)

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12.12.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

U/B attack on K.M.S.34
TYNEDALE,
HOLCOMBE
sunk. TYNEDALE sunk.
(COLOMBO, 120810A to Algiers.)
TYNEDALE torpedoed by U-Boat and sunk while
escorting K.M.S.34 at 0710A today in 37° 10' N.
6° 5' E. C.O., gunner and about 80 ratings
survivors.
(C. in C. Med., 121434A to Admty.)
Following received addressed. Any British Man-of-
War from (? and) any U.S. Warship. (Begins). Ship torpedoed in
37.20 N. 05.50 E. T.O.O. 121455. (Ends).
(C. in C. Med., 121550A to ORPHEE, (R) Capt. (S) 10.)
HOLCOMBE torpedoed and sunk at 1455A today while hunting
TYNEDALE's U-Boat in 37° 20' N. 5° 50' E.
(C. in C. Med., 121912A to Admty.) See also 122229A p. 277.

UNRULY. Remain on patrol until p.m./13th then act in
accordance with my 111649B. All times 24 hours
late.
(Capt. (S) 1st, 120928B to UNRULY, (R) 1st S.F.,
DOLFIJN, C. in C. Levant.)

ORPHEE. Alter forthwith so as to pass 038° 30' N. 003°
00' E. at 0500A/13th thence to R/V Algiers escort
in 036° 57' N. 003° 04' at 1600/13th. Acknowledge.
(N.O.I.C. Algiers, 120954A to ORPHEE, (R) Capt.
(S) 10th S.F., C. in C. Med.)
Your 120954 received. My position 038° 35' N. 006° 03' E.
(ORPHEE, 121231A to N.O.I.C. Algiers.)

Air M.S.23732. A.335, 12th. Daily Opsum. 228.
Reports. 10th/11th. 2 Wellingtons bombed Adamas Harbour
on Melos Island. Results unobserved.
11th. 4 U.S. Mitchells (B.25) made 75 mm. attacks
on 2 Caiques each 100 tons entering Port Vathy,
Amorgos Island. No hits but 1 shell hit building on the quay,
starting a fire.
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., 120958Z.)
M.S.23754. A.F.241, 12th. N.W.A.A.F. Opsum. No.294.
N.W.A.T.A.F. U.S. Warhawks, U.S. Invaders attacked Anzio. Direct
hits jetty near misses large barge in harbour.
(H.Q.N.A.A.F., 121626A.)

A.K.D.9. Sailing telegram 9 ships. (2) 1100Z/12th Dec.
Escorts LANDGUARD, SENNEN.
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 121115Z.)

ARIADNE. Programme intended (? for) ARIADNE: from
Alexandria to Gibraltar.
(C. in C. Med., 121201A to Admty.)

/ELISHA ...

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12.12.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.ELISHA
MITCHELL.

Arrived CHRISTOPHER GADSEN. 827. Master states ELISHA MITCHELL refused to act on your 111(?749)A and is proceeding to Augusta.
(V.A. Malta, 121231 to C. in C. Med.)

Employment
of Italian
Escort
Groups on
Convoy
duties.

Italian escort groups are now employed escorting certain convoys. Ships of these groups do not all carry liaison personnel as for Allied war ships though it is intended to provide A parties for S.O. of Group and class B for the remainder.

2. A British liaison ship will whenever possible be attached to each Italian Escort Group: the duties of such ships are -

A. to assist in external communications and to originate "Help" and "Shad" messages.

B. to provide Radar cover and communication with escorting aircraft.

C. to assist in control of the convoy.

D. to take individual offensive action when opportunity offers.

3. The Senior Italian Officer of the escort is responsible for the defence of the convoy and the Cdre. is responsible for its safe navigation along route ordered.

4. The British liaison ship will not form part of the escort for tactical purposes. She will be stationed as previously arranged with the Senior Italian Officer of the escort.

5. Full instructions are being issued in A.S.G.O. In the meanwhile C.Os. of ships concerned should see Memorandum Med. 00382/20 of 8th Nov. held by British F.O. and N.O.I.C. (C. in C. Med., 121344A, 131056A to Med. Station 387B, Levant Station 387B.)

Information
for M.E.D.B.O.
(Italy).

M.E.D.B.O. (Italy) requests that he is included in address of all signals dealing with damage to or sinkings of merchant ships bound Occupied Italy and Sicily, both outside and inside Med. (F.O.W.It., 121453A to C. in C. Levant, Admt., Comnavaw, Cominch, C. in C. Med., (R) M.E.D.B.O. (Italy).)

Disposal and
Berthing of
Italian
Battleships.

Your 019141. Concur that -

(a) crews of LITTORIOS should be reduced as much as possible. It is assumed that you have taken food situation at Taranto into account.

(b) C. and M. parties of LITTORIOS be changed over at your discretion.

(c) one CAVOUR be stationed at Taranto under conditions of demilitarisation satisfactory to you.

2. Reference (c) above and your para. 6. There is no objection to berthing a battleship at Syracuse but, in view of commitment eventually to transfer to Russians one CAVOUR, you should aim at retaining at Malta the CAVOUR you consider most suitable for transfer.

3. So far as food situation in Italy permits, it is considered your general policy should be to reduce complements of ships laid up in non-Italian ports as much as possible to facilitate

/the ...

12.12.1943.
Sunday..

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Disposal and berthing of Italian Battleships. (Contd.) the carrying out of any future decision concerning disposal of the ships.
 4. Reference to C.C.S. is not considered necessary Agreement of Allied C. in C. should be obtained and reported to B.A.D. who should refer to Cominch for his concurrence.
 (1st Lord, 121912A to C. in C. Med., Info. B.A.D., C. in C. Levant, F.O.T.A.L.I., V.A. Malta.)

GRADISCA. My 101904 F.O.T.A.L.I. confirms that a number of Italian prisoners removed from H.S. GRADISCA were unwounded and did not suffer from any complaint to justify their being so carried.
 (C. in C. Med., 121947 to Admty.)

Mideast Balkan Sitrep No. 26. C. Yugöslavia. 9th December approx. 100 Ustachi from Kalobag W085 landed on Pag Island. Germans have evacuated Uljan and Pasman Islands.
 4. Sea Ops. Brit. L.O. reports. Night 8th/9th Partisan vessels captured enemy ship near Makarska XQ41 with cargo 120 tons food one German Officer, 70 Ustachi. Night 9th/10th Partisan vessels attacked enemy ship off Pt. Sucuraj east end Hvar Island. Ship beached on mainland crew fled. Partisans brought ship Hvar with cargo hay and food.
 (C. in C. M.E., 121950B.)

Gnats. Recent attacks on convoy escorts indicate that Germans may now be using Gnats in Med. A.G.M. 687A refers.
 (C. in C. Med., 122120 to S. and A. Med. Station, S. and A. Levant Station, (R) Admty., B.A.D., F.O.C.W.Af.)

Med. Situation Report No. 248. (1) P.T. boats on patrol from Bastia during the night 11th/12th encountered 2 enemy ships described as destroyers southbound off Piombino. Destroyers opened accurate fire but caused no damage.
 (2) TYNEDALE was torpedoed and sunk by U-Boat whilst escorting K.M.S.34 in 037° 10' N. 006° 05' E. at 0710/12th. (My 121434 to Admty. only refers) HOLCOMBE, U.S.S. NIBLACK, ANEMONE and ROUSAY hunted U-Boat with air co-operation. At 1530 HOLCOMBE was torpedoed and sunk. There are about 80 survivors including C.O. My 121(?534) (121912A intended) to Admty. only refers. CALPE and 2 U.S. destroyers are proceeding to join hunt.
 (3) Two U.S. destroyers and A/C still hunting U-Boat which attacked CUCKMERE on 11th.
 (C. in C. Med., 122229A.)

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12.12.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

P.B.65A. 1. Sailing telegram (3 ships)
2. 0300Z/12th December.
6. FULLMOON, FLICKER.
(N.C.S.O. Karachi, 120312Z to Admty.)

Air Raid Ref. C.A.F.O. 97/43 and your 091732 A. and B.
Calcutta 1. ITRIA.
5th Dec. 2. SIR HARVEY ADAMSON.
M/Vs. 3. YARERID. (VARELA)
damaged. 4. CLAN MATHESON.
5. MALAKAND.
6. NANCHANG all British.
7. WILLIAM WHIPPLE American.
8. NICARAGUA Panamanian.

| | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| C. | All 5th 0530 G.M.T. (corrupt group) | D. | Port of Calcutta. |
| E. | Enemy air raid. | F. | All afloat with varying damage. |
| G. | Officers killed. | Crew killed. | Officers wounded. |
| 1. | Nil. | 1 | 4 |
| 2. | Nil. | 1 | 1 |
| 3. | Nil. | 2 | 2 |
| 4. | Nil. | Nil. | 1. |
| 5. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. |
| 6. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. |
| 7. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil Naval Gunner. |
| 8. | Nil. | One. | Nil. |

88 names will be passed in P/L as a trailer to this signal paragraph G. when lists are completed.
(N.C.S.O. Calcutta, 120332Z to Admty.)

Release of shipping from Convoys. Arabian Sea and East Africa shipping. Proposals in your 091307 approved.
2. Where possible shipping from Aden should be given escort until clear of Gulf of Aden.
3. My 100918 also refers.
(C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) 120457Z to C. in C.E.F. (R) Admty., C. in C.S.A.)

Owing to reduced U/Boat threat in Indian Ocean C. in C. E.F. intends as a temporary measure to discontinue convoys from this date, except as follows.
2. Shipping between Bombay Colombo and Calcutta will continue to sail in B.M. - M.B. and J.C. - C.J. convoys but ships of 13 knots and over will proceed independently between Colombo and Calcutta.
3. Personnel and combined operations ships will continue to be sailed in convoy.
4. C. in C. E.F. is requested to repeat to B.A.D. any signals modifying this policy.
(D.T.D. 121532A to B.A.D., Info. C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.)

/U/B...

12.12.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B
dispositions. (C. in C.E.F., 120512Z to E.F.448Y)

M.B.57. Arrived M.B.57 escorted by IPSWICH, BATHURST,
DIPAVATI, BARODA.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 120539.)

War Diary.12.12.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

- O.N.213. Your 112115Z B.A.M.S. has been made instructing ships to proceed independently.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 120050Z to LEAMINGTON, Connav, (R) Admty. C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. H.Q.C.C. Cmdre. D.Argentia, Cmdre.D. W.A.)
- CUMCO, KIAWA met 0300Z. Night searches co-ordinated and
SPRUCE LAKE 3 ships will concentrate in 46° 33' N. 51° 39' W.
in difficulty. at 1100Z. Weather again deteriorating. Weather
report 5771 8267.
(MONTGOMERY 120330Z to F.O.N.F. (R) KIAWA, C. in
C.C.N.A. C.T.F. 24, TENACITY.)
- TENACITY and KIAWA both standing by barge in 046° 02' N. 051° 14' W. Barge drifting 120° at 3 knots no towing at present.
MONTGOMERY now detaching to Halifax speed 3 knots. Weather 6471 9668.
(MONTGOMERY 121630Z to F.O.N.F. (R) TENACITY, C. in C.C.N.A. C.T.F. 24, KIAWA, D.Halifax.)
- AYLMER My P.C. and S. at 0400Z/12 038° 35' N. 060° 46' W.
damaged. 207° 8 knots. After propulsion board burnt out and consequently, after engine room out of action: gyro out of action. Damage caused by very heavy sea. Am returning to Bermuda on 1 engine unless required to proceed to Boston when weather moderates
Weather report.
(AYLMER 120400Z to B.A.M.R. S.B.N.O.W.At. Capt. D. N.O.B.Bermuda.)
- U/B. Refer to this as Cominch's 112015 addressed to Admty. (O.I.C.) for action. Para. D. Sub. sighted at 111125Z 08.35 N. 59.35 W. by A.T.C. plane.
(Comnaveu 120551Z to Admty.)
- LA PERLE. My 101715 delayed 24 hours.
(N.O.B.Bermuda 121048.)
- N.S.H.Q. 1200Z December. Situation remains as in my
S/M estimate. 111420Z.
(N.S.H.Q. 121430Z.)
- WASKESIU. Request you detach WASKESIU from C.L. now to join E.G.6. A.M. 081619 to N.S.H.Q. and not to F.O.N.F. refers.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 121436Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F.)

/U.S...

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12.12.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.U.S. S/M
Estimate.

(Cominch, 121447.)

AQUITANIA
(A.T.79.)Departed Ambrose 121317Z Dec. for Clyde.
(P.D. New York, 121450Z.)

T.J.17.

Sailing telegram.
2. 2130Z 12th.
6. U.S.S. SURPRISE, CANNON.
(B.R.,L.O. Trinidad, 121616Q to Admty.)French
Ships
proposed
duties.

1. In accordance with C.C.S.358 Para. 3 Adm. Fenard on instructions from the French Admty. Algiers has submitted the following proposal to Cominch as Executive agent of C.C.S.
 - a. French Ship CHEVREUIL on completion of present refit U.S.A. 31st Dec. to proceed Dakar instead of to the South Pacific as planned.
 - b. French Ship LA GRANDIERE on completion of present refit Casablanca 1st Feb. 1944 to proceed to South Pacific instead of operating from Dakar on patrol and convoy duty.
 - c. French Ship SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA now under C. in C.E.F. to be temporarily detached for duty to the South Pacific until the arrival of LA GRANDIERE.
2. Reason for proposed exchange of duties in a and b is that LA GRANDIERE is one of the latest class of French colonial sloops and better fitted for Pacific duties than the smaller vessels of the CHEVREUIL class.
3. Request your views on this proposal.
(B.A.D. 121701Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F., C. in C. Med., F.O.C. W.Af.)

H.H.X.270.

Departures WINNIPEG, MINAS, MILLTOWN escorting
H.H.X.270.
(C.O.P. Halifax, 121940Z.)Sub. attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. (C) U.S.S. SOMERS sound contact 07.52 S. 24.27 W. 111149. P.C. 1213 attacked sound contact 21.22 N. 75.59 W. 111545 and 112321.
D. YP 388 sound contact about 34.18 N. 76.23 W. 120310. PBY Radar contact 26.39 N. 96.54 W. 112205. Y.M.S.368 attacked sound contact 23.01 N. 784.05 W. 111520. Nats plane sighted wake and swirl vicinity 19.45 N. 74.40 W. 111510. All times Z.
(Cominch, 121957 to Admty.)

NELSON.

Personal for Admiral Noble. Your 092217. June 1944 was selected for NELSON's date on the understanding that it was the earliest which the Americans could take her. If, however, she can

/be...

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12.12.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

NELSON
(Contd.)

be made available and the sooner she is taken
in hand the better.
(V.C.N.S. 122047A to B.A.D.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
Serial
No.691
Dec.11th.

2. Midday R/C Liberator unsuccessfully attacked medium merchant ship in convoy with another small freighter, 1 escort 70 miles west New Hanover course 300°.
4. Five Aircobras conducting forenoon coastal sweep Saidor-Sio probably destroyed 2 barges, 1 launch. Previous night 2 U.S.M.T.Bs. sank 2 north bound barges and damaged remaining 3 located near Blucher Point.
5. Eight each Mitchells Marauders bombed barge unloading Point and camp near fortification Point morning.
6. Enemy submarine observed by a aircraft 70 miles northwest Garove Island morning 10th heading east.
9. Three Beauforts attacks submerged object believed submarine 30 miles south Gasmata evening 10th. Delay action bombs burst within 20 feet followed by disturbance and large oil patch.
13. Three Navy Catalinas searching Bismarck Sea night 10th - 11th sighted only hospital ship 7 miles northwest Rabaul.
14. Search Liberator sighted 2 freighters, 1 destroyer, M.T.B. 3 barges Kavieng Harbour midday 11th also some 40 barges in Bay 5 miles southeast Kavieng.
16. 54 Dauntless, 28 Avengers dropped 54 tons mixed bombs supply dumps bridges jetties near Buin afternoon 11th causing large explosion and fires destroying 3 buildings, 1 pier, 3 guns. All planes returned.
17. Photos 11th disclose all five main Bougainville airfields unserviceable also 20 barges Buka Passage - Chaba area. (G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 120700Z.)

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 121257A, 121258A.)

12.12.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

Sub.
attack
and
sighting
summary
for 24
hours
to 0900A/
12th.

Para. B. Aircraft dropped A/S bomb on A.S.V.
contact 44° 05' N. 09° 38' W. at 0308Z/12th.
My 111114 Para. 1. CAP PADARAN considered U/Boat
casualty. FARNDALE and LIDDESDALE subsequently
twice attacked contact.
(D.D.I.C. 121007A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

13.12.1943.
Monday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
"F.V."

1(a) Capt.(D) 3 in MILNE with the other 7 Destroyers of the Destroyer Escort of Convoy J.W.55A arrived at Skaalefiord at 0846A; and C.S.10 in BELFAST arrived at Seidisfiord at 1812A where he will be joined by SHEFFIELD and NORFOLK who left Scapa at 0002A.
(b) Admiralty have to-day assumed responsibility for ordering and keeping C. in C.H.F. informed of any further air R/C connected with Fleet movements,

Bay
patrol.

2 (a) At 0650 about 130 miles N.N.W. of Cape Ortegal a Liberator A/C attacked a U-boat and saw two survivors after the attack.
(b) GLASGOW and GAMBIA are both on patrol in the Western Biscay area.

Air attacks
on Bremen,
Kiel,
and Hamburg.

3. 174 U.S. heavy bombers attacked Bremen today, 352 attacked Kiel, and 114 attacked Hamburg. Five bombers are missing.

South Atlantic.

4. B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro reported on 14th December that a Panairplane pilot reported sighting p.m. today near Ilka Grande (23.10 S. 44.15 W.) a large submarine on the surface. The vessel, which was thought to be a minelayer, submerged at once. No Brazilian submarines were operating in that area.

Mediterranean.

U 593
sunk.

5. CALPE and U.S. destroyer WAINWRIGHT attacked a U-boat p.m. today off the Gulf of Bougie where TYNEDALE and HOLCOMBE were torpedoed and sunk yesterday.

/After...

13.12.1943.
Monday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

U.593
sunk
(Contd.).

After being forced to remain submerged almost continuously for 31 hours the U-boat surfaced 30 miles north of Jijelli after depth charge attacks and was shelled by the destroyers. The U-boat's crew scuttled their ship and about 45 prisoners were taken. The U-boat was U.593, the same which sank TYNEDALE and HOLCOMBE yesterday.

T.G.80.2
PALOMARES.

6. T.G.80.2 consisting of U.S. destroyers H.C. JONES and F.C. DAVIS, will be attached to the escorts of through convoys as directed by C. in C. Med., for technical investigations and for jamming enemy radio controlled bombs. PALOMARES also undertakes similar duties.

"Avalanche"

7(a) The destroyers TROUBRIDGE and TUMULT carried out a sweep last night between Dubrovnik and Durazzo; no incidents are reported.
(b) There was an air raid on Bari at 1828 today. No damage or casualties were caused in the port. A/A fire claim to have shot down two aircraft.
(c) 24 U.S. Mitchells bombed Sibenik today; most of the bombs fell in the water, but fires were started in warehouses and the marshalling yards.

Levant
area.

8(a) 3 Liberators and 6 Halifaxes attacked Suda Bay last night. Results generally were not seen owing to bad weather.
(b) Aircraft on offensive sweeps in the south-eastern Aegean today sank or damaged caiques in Santorin Harbour and Marmari Bay, Stampalia.

East Indies.

Control of
Air
Operations,
Indian
Ocean.

9(a) A message from the Chiefs of Staff today contains fresh instructions for the Air C. in C. S.E.A., designed to ensure centralised control of air operations related to security of sea communications in the Indian Ocean. Command of all flying boats, G.R. Landplanes and coastal striking force units allotted for such operations in the India Ocean area, including the Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oran, Persian Gulf and Bay of Bengal will rest with the Air C. in C.S.E.A., outside as well as inside the boundaries of the S.E.A. Commands.

/(b)...

13.12.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Control of
Air
Operations,
Indian
Ocean.
(Contd.).

(b) It is proposed to extend the boundaries of the Naval C. in C.E.F's. command to include Aden, in order to facilitate co-operation with coastal aircraft there which will be under the command of Air C. in C.E.A.

10. SS DAISY MOLLER was sunk by a Japanese submarine at 2150Z (0420 1st) today in 16.21 N. 82.13 E. After the vessel sank the submarine rammed and machine gunned the boats.

Australia and New Zealand.

11. 5 Navy Catalinas attacked the wharf area at Kupang in the early hours of today, followed by 4 Dutch Mitchells shortly afterwards.

12. Before dawn a Naval Catalina attacked a southbound convoy of 4 ships close off the southwest coast of New Ireland and sank a 4000 ton freighter.

13. Earlier last night U.S. M.T.Bs. sank or destroyed 9 barges of Heiss Point.

13.12.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

General.

Movements of Blockade Breakers. Cancel para 1 of A.M. 061733. Vessels sighted were Allied warships.

2. Vessel sighted by aircraft in 5° 22' S. 23° 18' W. at 1200A 8th December on northerly course may be blockade runner as she identified herself as a British ship known to have been in Bombay at a time of sighting. Other homeward bound blockade runners may have reached North Atlantic ahead of this vessel and others may follow.

3. Movements of potential blockade runners on Biscay coast continue and may be intended to confuse appreciation of German intentions.

HIMALAYA from Gironde seen at Brest 11th December.
PIETRO ORSEOLO shifted anchorage in Lorient area between 3rd December and 11th December.
(D.D.I.C. 131557A to A.I.G.13.)

Movements.

RORQUAL. From position G. in F.O.C. Gibraltar 091618 proceed via route Green diving by day to R/V escorts in 180 Bishop 10 miles at 1200A/19th. December.

3. Passage to be made on the surface at C.Os. discretion during daylight on day of meeting escort.
(F.O.S.131148A to RORQUAL.)

S/M movements. Positions of S/Ms at 0800/14 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S.131804A, 141403A.)

ARABIS, ARBUTUS. When ready for sea H.M.N.Z. Corvettes ARABIS and ARBUTUS should be sailed for Tobermory to work up.

2. On conclusion of work-up C. in C.W.A. is requested to sail them in convenient convoy for destination New Zealand.
(D.O.D. H. 131820A to A.S. C.B.S.)

Operations.

Operation F.V. Scapa departure SHEFFIELD and NORFOLK.
(A.C.O.S. 130002A to R.N.O. Seidisfiord.)
Faeroes arrivals:-
MILNE, MUSKETEER, METEOR, MATCHLESS, ASHANTI, ATHABASKAN, OPPORTUNE, VIRAGO.
(N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 130846A to R.A.D.)

J.W.55A. Cancel my 111825. WRESTLER has been delayed and will not join convoy since endurance will not allow of overtaking.
(C. in C.W.A. 131110A to N.O.I.C. Greenock, C.S.1.)

13.12.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation F.V. (Contd.) Admly. have assumed responsibility for ordering and keeping C. in C.H.F. informed of further air R/C in connection with Fleet movements.
(D.O.D.H. 131516A to C. in C.H.F.)
Arrived Seidis Fjord your 121353 (BELFAST)
(R.N.O. Seidisfiord, 131812A to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

V.P. Operations. My 101951. Sailed from Scalloway at 0415A today S/M Chaser HESSA. 2. No. (A.C.O.S. 130500 to Admty.)
Carry out V.P.
1. Patrol A.L. 2. V.P.204.
3. A.M. 13th December or first suitable day thereafter.
4. One. 5. No. 6. No. 7. 060° Bressay. 8. No. (A.C.O.S. 130936A to Admty.)
Sailed at 1245A today M.T.B.666. My 130936. 2. No. (A.C.O.S. 131309A to Admty.)

Bay Patrol. Am over enemy submarine in 45.45 N. 09.38 W. (A/C 53 Sq. Duty B. 130650 to 19 Group.)
Over survivors from U/Boat. (A/C 53 Sq. Duty B. 130800 to 19 Group.)
Have A.S.V. contact 49° 13' N. (?08) 25 W.

probably U/Boat. (A/C NHAL 130830 to 19 Group.)
Suspicious object previously reported is submerged submarine.
(A/C L. 130900 to 19 Group.)
Lost touch with U/Boat last seen 49° 15' N. 08° 40' W., speed unknown. Continuing search.
(A/C Duty L. 131000 to 19 Group.)
Position 43° 02' N. 09° 54' W.
(A/C Duty L. 131120A to 19 Group.)
Safe.
(A/C Duty L. 131130A to 19 Group.)
Your 131017A. Your 111142 not received.
2. Weather 4482 2764. Position 43° 31'. (GLASGOW, 131200Z to C. in C. Plymouth.)
T 1230 in 49° 19' N. 08° 56' W.
(A/C Duty L. T.O.R. 131319 to 19 Group.)
A/C last seen position 49.17 N. 08.36 W., course uncertain height 2000.
(A/C Duty L. 131333 to 19 Group.)
Disposition at 132000.
1. GAMBIA 049° 05' N. (?017°) 32' W. through 049° 02' N. 018° 31' W. thence 230° 20 knots.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 131516A to Admty.)
Attention is called to the position of O.S.61 K.M.S.35.
(C. in C.W.A. 131953A to GAMBIA.)

/Operation...

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13.12.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

Operation S.F. Situation at 132000.
RATTLESNAKE, LOYALTY, HYDRA searching the vicinity of 064° 24' N. 007° 33' W. (A.C.O.S. 131156A to Air Ministry.)
If not in contact and no sightings by 2359A today, Group A return Skaalefiord and comply with C. in C.H.F. 071742A as amended by his 101132A. (C. in C.Rosyth 131455A to RATTLESNAKE.)

S/M Patrols. VENTURER sailed 1510A/13th in accordance with Capt. (S) 9th 111625A. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 131521A to S/Ms.)
Positions of submarines at 0800/14th and movements for following 24 hours.

A. SIRDAR 62° 50' N. 02° 02' E. probably on surface 10 knots course 030°.

B. VENTURER 62° 05' N. 00° 35' W. dived by day to patrol vicinity of 63° 30' N. 01° 10' E.

E. STUBBORN sails Lerwick 1200/14th probably on surface 10 knots through 090° Muckle flugga 5 and 62° N. 01° E. thence course 030°.

F. O.15 sails Lerwick 1800/14th probably on surface 10 knots but dived by day when within 60 miles of Norwegian coast through 090° Muckle Flugga 20 miles. 61° 17' N. 01° 48' E. 60° 55' N. 03° 30' E., and 59° 08' N. 04° 25' E.

G. SATYR sails Lerwick 1600/14th probably on surface 10 knots but dived by day when within 60 miles of Norwegian coast through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles to 62° 11' N. 04° 05' E. (F.O.S. 131804A to Admt.)

Allied Air Activity.

3rd B.24 Squadron. Refer to this as 262052 October from Cominch/C.N.O.
Until full logistic support for other two B.24 Squadrons is provided and pending more pressing need for this squadron in Azores or elsewhere, third B.24 Squadron will remain U.K.
C. in C. Lant furnish mobile maintenance Echelon for third B.24 Squadron. Retention in U.K. of Navy Squadrons beyond January one contingent upon effectiveness of bay offensive. This summarizes my decision as set forth in my serial to Admiral Noble of this date 002320. (Commaveu, 130213 to Admt.)

Mining.

Dover. Mines swept on December 10th QZX 1178.

1. 50° 30' 08" N. 01° 10' 32" E.
2. 50° 29' 50" N. 01° 10' 45" N.
3. 50° 29' 32" N. 01° 10' 10" E.

4. Red or Acoustic 50° 29' 15" N. 01° 09' 53" E. (V.A. Dover, 131420A and 131926A to Admt.)

13.12.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.U/Boats.

Search by E.G.2 and E.G.3. Your 131300. At 1700A commence sweeps on course 065° at 15 knots till daylight 14th. Cancel para. 3 of my 111658. (C. in C. W.A. 131436Z to E.G.2.)

U/Boat, reported. By D/F at 1158Z/13th position of enemy U/Boat was 071° 28' N. 018° 00' E. unreliable fix. My 122135A. Russians now state this was obtained on 3750 Kc/s. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 131900A to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects.

PINZON. Position EDMUNDSTON with DEXTEROUS and EMPIRE LARCH towing PINZON 270° S. Stack 5 miles at 1245Z, speed 8 knots. E.T.A. Corsewall Point 0200Z/14th. (EDMUNDSTON 131050Z to C. in C.W.A.)
Your 131050Z. Proceed to Rothesay Bay. (C. in C.W.A. 131542A to EDMUNDSTON.)

VALETA. Arrived VALETA with defects. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 131719A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

Shipping and Convoys.

SAMARIA. Intend sailing SAMARIA 1315Z/13th, to New York. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 131010Z to Admty.)

O.S.62/
K.M.S.36
STRIKER. Request you will sail STRIKER on 15th December for Ratog trial in accordance with F.O.C.T. 121554A. After disembarking Admiralty trial party p.m. 15th December STRIKER is to overtake O.S.62/K.M.S.36. (C. in C.W.A. 131111A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
My 131111A Dec. RATOG trials will not be carried out. N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail STRIKER to R/V with O.S. 62/K.M.S.36. (C. in C.W.A. 131505A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
My 271733 November. Cancel reference to sailing (HELVIG) (Cdre. D.W.A. 131438A to Admty.)

K.M.F.27. URCHIN proceed passing Gate p.m. today to comply with para. 1A G. in C.W.A.'s 121513A. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 131146A to Cdre. D.W.A.)
A.M. 042355A and 091734A and C. in C.W.A.'s 121513A. Intend to sail 1330A/14th December NEA HELLAS, MALOJA, ORBITA, SCYTHIA, OTRANTO, ORONTES, and PORT JACKSON portion in 055° 46' N. 007° 40' W. at 0900A/15th. On making R/V URCHIN to Merville to fuel and overtake convoy. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 131503A to Admty.)

/LARGS BAY...

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13.12.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- LARGS BAY. TAISHAN, HIGHLAND MONARCH escorted WINCHELSEA arrived Clyde.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 131644A to N.O.I.C. Cardiff.)
- D.S.37A. A.M. 092234.
MERAK. 1. Cancel para. 1(a).
2. U.S.S. MERAK is to proceed to Moville for onward passage to Iceland with D.S.37A.
(D.O.D.H., 131342A to C.T.F.69)
- T.A.78. Intend sailing SS. QUEEN MARY passing Clyde Boom 1730A/14th December to comply with Admiralty 121328. S.O.A. 26½ knots. E.T.A. Ambrose Light Vessel 2030Z/19.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 131514A to Admty.)
- U.T.5. A.M.092234 Convoy U.T.5, C.T.F.69 reports E.T.A. as follows.
2. Destroyers detailed - Belfast: NELSON, JEFFERS, GLENNON, RHIND, EARL and DORAN.
Swansea: COWIE and KNIGHT.
Londonderry: BUTLER, GHERADI, HERNDON and QUICK.
(D.O.D.H., 131514A.)
Request you will comply with Admiralty's 131342 para. 3.
(C. in C.W.A., 131608A to Cdre. D.W.A.)
- H.X.269. My P.C.S. at 1800Z, 053° 40' N. 017° 10' W. 066° 14½. May overtake you.
(ROSE, 131747Z to B.7.)
- D.F.17. In view of your 081838 TORDENSKJOLD is now
F.D.17. required to be ready to sail from Clyde on 19/12 to comprise Clyde portion of convoy D.F.17 for Faroes.
2. Approximately 100 personnel will embark at Tail of the Bank on 19/12.
3. After embarking approximately 100 personnel in Faroes vessel should return to Clyde for disembarkation.
(D.S.T.131846A to P.S.T.O. Clyde.)
In view of P.S.T.O. Clyde and Scottish Ports 081838 MORIALTA to be sailed empty from Dundee to Aberdeen as soon as ready.
2. Vessel will comprise Aberdeen portion of convoy D.F.17 for Faroes and should be ready to sail on 19/12 after having embarked approximately 140 personnel.
4. Vessel will return to Aberdeen in convoy F.D.17 with approximately 140 personnel on board. After disembarkation at Aberdeen she should proceed empty to Dundee.
(D.S.T. 131901A to D.S.T.O. Leith.)
1. Cancel A.M. 082210.
2. As SS. LOCHNAGAR cannot be ready for D.F.17 request following arrangements may be made in place.
3. SS. TORDENSKJOLD from Clyde on 19th December to R/V with SS. MORIALTA from Aberdeen as arranged by A.C.O.S.
4. Ships will return as F.D.17 to Clyde and Aberdeen respectively.
(D.O.D.H. 132015A to A.C.O.S., F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

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13.12.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Gib. GR W.X.7364. A.I.914 13.
Opsum 12. U-Boat sighted on surface by American Transport
 Command A/S 19 miles West Rabat 1030A - course
 200? seen to submerge. All times A.
 (A/C H.Q. Gib. 130110A)

T.G.28.8. Sailed 130945A.
 (C.M.S.F. 131010)

U.S.S. TURNER. Sailed 131230A accordance with my 121550 R/V
 position P 141200A.
 (C.M.S.F. 131242A to ANDES)

Axis Telegram 205 13th (R) Admty., D.N.I., B.N.A.
Shipping. Madrid S.O.(I) Gib.
 61~~4~~ and 65~~4~~ sailed 0010/12th.
 (H.M. Consul Bilbao, 131255 to Admty. D.N.I. (R)
 M. of E.W.)
 / 61 BALDUR. * SPERBER.

Wearing Your 061130/Nov. Ambassador reports that
of Ministry of Marine have issued instructions
Uniform by that British personnel serving in Portuguese
British trawlers may land in uniform at Horta and
personnel Ponta Delgada and that permission had also been
in Azores. extended to wearing of uniform by shore party at
 Horta.
 (Head of M.1, 131602A to S.B.N.O. Azores, Info:
 S.B.N.O. Horta, N.A. Lisbon)
 / Former given Most Secret Distribution.

MONARCH OF A.M.131350 (N.T. in W.D.) Intend to sail
BERMUDA. escorted by ISIS, ANTHONY, REDPOLE for U.K. at
 1800A/14th route.
 (F.O.C.Gib. 131720A to C. in C. W.A.)

Gibraltar Arrivals LONDON, INGLEFIELD, FURY from East
Movements. French LA SETOISE from Oran. JOHAN MAURITS,
 CAMPION, DEPTFORD, FOWEY, FRISCO, WHITEHAVEN,
 ULSTER QUEEN, SERAPH, Tug ORIANA from M.K.S. 33.
 Departures BRILLIANT to intercept Spanish VILLA
DE MADRID vicinity Cadiz. U.S.P.C.471 escort duties
Casablanca.
(F.O.I.C.Gib. 132207A)

STOIC, At 1800/A/14th 121435A refers proceed on the
SERAPH. surface at discretion at 11 knots, through (R) at
 0200/15th (S) at 0830/15th (T) at 1910/15th
 thence by QBA 87 to arrive Gib. at 1300/15th.
 Total bombing restrictions arranged as in
para. 3 of my 1Q1247A total bombing restrictions referred to
in my 122211A are cancelled at 0100A/15th. S/M P.219 (SERAPH)
sail 0830A/15th westbound.

SERAPH /...

War Diary.

13.12.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

STOIC,
SERAPH.
(Contd.)

SERAPH intend sailing 0830/15 for U.K.
(F.O.C.Gib. 132322A)

South Atlantic.

B.Y.M.S.

Request allocation of B.Y.M.S. 2142, 2225, 2264.
C. in C. U.S. Fleet's 101750 Dec. refers.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 131040Z to Admty.)

13.12.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- U/B. Am over enemy S/M in 37.30 N. 6.20 E. Enemy submarine previously reported is still on surface. (A/C GDG/B 130035 to A/C base 7 GP.)
- A.B.24A, Sailing telegram, 14 ships. 2. 0300Z/13th. 3.
A.B.24B, Position E. 1300Z/15th, Bombay 1300Z/19th, Kilindini
A.B.24C. 1100Z/19th, Trincomalee 0200Z/22nd. Escorts
A.B.24A, QUIBERON, ROEBUCK, QUALITY, KALE, DERG.
A.B.24B, NEPAL. A.B.24C, QUIBERON and QUALITY.
7. 5 columns 2, 3, 4, 3, 2.
(N.C.S.O.Aden 130317Z.)
- Malta Movements. Movements 12th departures KLO escorting S/Ms. UNSEEN, UNIVERSAL and SHAKESPEARE. Arrived and departed RYE. (V.A.Malta 130726.)
- Enemy patrol. Position of enemy 37.50 N. 26.56 E. 1 auxiliary, 1 destroyer patrolling harbour mouth. (A/C XAB/Q 130732Z to H.Q. 201 Group.)
- SPORTSMAN. Will arrive to patrol area south of Lemnos to westward 025° 22' E. tonight 13th/14th. (Capt. S.1 130945B to SOKOL, SURF, (R) SPORTSMAN.)
- UNRULY. My 111649. Cancel para. 2. Leaving patrol p.m. 13th passing close westward Nikari and Kinaros to eastward of Stampalia to arrive in 035° 38' N. 027° 45' E. at 0600/15th. Thence diving by day to arrive 035° 26' N. 028° 19' E. at 1800/15th. Thence on surface to 034° 17' N. 031° 29' E. at 1500/16th to arrive Beirut at 1500/17th. 2. Bombing restrictions arranged. (Capt. S.1 131038B to UNRULY (R) C. in C.Levant.)
All torpedoes expended, regret no hits. Complying with your 120928. Merchant ship, destroyer and 2 E-Boats in Port Vathi at 0900B.
(UNRULY 131436B to Capt. S.1, (R) SPORTSMAN.)
- Fast convoy from Gib. to Levant. Request you will sail fast convoy at 0001/16th to Levant. Composition LETITIA from Gib. CUBA and LLANGIBBY CASTLE from Algiers. Escorts JANUS and 1 destroyer of 13th D.F. Escort will be relieved off Algiers. SPANKER for Levant. (C. in C.Med. 131211A, 151217A to F.O.I.C. Gib.)
- UNTIRING. Is to move to zone SN. by 0001/17th. (Capt. S.10 131235 to P.59, P.51, (R) 10th S/M F. C. in C.Med. N.O.I.C. Algiers.)

/Joint...

13.12.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Joint Army I/47118 15th, 24 hours to 1000/13th. All times
R.A.F. Intel. G.M.T. 1. Ph. R/C enemy shipping Aegean 12 Dec.
Appreciation. (details)
2. Visual R/C shipping. 12 Dec. 1 100 ton caique
off West Coast Thermia heading west attacked by
cannon fire Crew abandoned ship.

5. G.A.F. activity. Night 11/12. 3 Ju.88s active on R/C 1 at
least covering sea area round toe of Italy probably searching for
Allied Convoy (see para. 5 appreciation 12 Dec.) 2 other aircraft
also active but nature activity and area unknown.

6. Indications shipment fortification materials to Ionian
Islands mainly from Piraeus. Expected further convoy (possibly
with troops) now en route Samos/Leros Area. Indications further
supply traffic to Crete in progress. Continued movement sailing
vessels and coasters from Piraeus Area. Apparent temporary dimi-
nution caique traffic to Rhodes. Appreciations Kastelorizo
unchanged.
(C. in C.M.E. 131350B.)

V.N.12. Intend sailing at 1530/15th 33 ships for Naples.
1 ship for Salerno. Escorts SAGITTARIO (S.O.)
SIRIO, ANIMOSO, APE, MINERVA, SFINGE, LIDDESDALE
sails as liaison ship.
(N.O.I.C. Augusta 131356A.)

Med. Allied A.X. 268 13th. A new command under the title of
Air Forces Med. Allied Air Forces has been formed with effect
Command. from 10th in place of Med. Air Command and will
assume administrative control in addition to
operational control over all R.A.F. formations in
Med. and M.E. Theatres. Further details of the
new organization with effective dates for assuming administrative
control will follow.
(Air Min. 131500Z to All commands at Home and Overseas, Dechief
and Rafdel Washington (Webber 1212).)

BOXER. Departures DERG, BOXER and AIMWELL.
(Com. Aden 131521Z.)

G.U.S.25. N.O.I.C. Port Said. Sail p.m. 16th to Alexandria.
8. Escorts STORK (E.G.50) AIRE, SAXIFRAGE, SPIREA.
(C. in C.Levant 131529B.)

M.K.F.27/
X.I.F.6. N.O.I.C. Port Said sailing p.m. 16th to Alexandria.
Escorts ANTWERP (S.O.) THEMISTOCLES, G.S.MIAOULES,
CROOME, TETCOTT, EXMOOR.
(C. in C.Levant 131531B.)

CUCKMERE,
TYNEDALE,
HOLCOMBE. Request full details of attacks may be signalled
as soon as possible.
(A.C.N.S. (W) 131533A to C. in C.Med.)

13.12.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

K.M.S. 34. Escorts CUCKMERE (E.G.46), ANEMONE, COLTSFOOT, CONVULVULUS, HYDERABAD.
(C. in C.Levant 131535B.)

Commando Personnel. The withdrawal of all following commando personnel from Med. to U.K., is approved. Following moves are to take place as soon as possible.
1. H.Q. and Naval Section less Lt. Orton, R.N.V.R. from Bari.
2. Army Section from Bastia.
3. 3 survivors of Army Section from Alex. By agreement with Colonel Neville, Lt. Orton is to report for duty with F.O.T.A.L.I. and Lt. Philip for duty at A.F.H.Q.
(C. in C.Med. 131559A to C. in C.Levant, for S.O.(I), N.O.I.C. Bari for 30 Commando, S.O.I.S. Bastia for 30 Commando, (R) Admty. for C.C.C. and D.N.I. C.O.I.S. Med. F.O.T.A.L.I. 15 D.G. F.O.W.It.)

ORPHEE. My position is 036° 59' N. 003° 50' E. speed 11 knots. Request escorts R/V in 036° 50' 003° 04' at 1900.
(ORPHEE 131602A to N.O.I.C. Algiers, (R) C. in C.Med.)

Italian War-ship maintenance policy. B.A.D. 082115.
2. My 101428 gives general lines on which Italian Fleet is being employed. From this it will be seen that except for the ferry service operating between U.S. operated ports of Palermo and Cagliari Italian warships are working from British or British controlled ports.
3. In view of French feelings there is no intention of basing Italian warships at U.S. operated ports of Oran and Casablanca U.S. Naval staff may be reassured that no Italian maintenance commitment will be asked of them in these ports.
4. Re supply of essential operational requirements, stores, material for refits, etc.
8. F.O.T.A.L.I. is authority responsible for dealing with Italian M. of M. in all major matters connected with Italian Fleet and dockyards other than day to day operations.
9. Arrangements for merchant ships are being handled by M.W.T.R. and W.S.A.
(C. in C.Med. 131814 to Admty. (R) B.A.D. Comnavna.)

Balkan Sitrep No. 27. 392298. O/47102 (or 47202) cipher 13 Dec. Dalmatia. Partisan H.Q. Croatia reports enemy evacuating coast between Zara W.O.90 and Sibenik W.U.56 and large enemy column has left coast for Kistanje W.U.59. Large German concs. remain between Zara and Obrovac X.Q. 16.
(C. in C.M.E. 131950B.)

War Diary.13.12.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

T.G.80.2. PALOMARES. T.G.80.2 consisting of U.S. destroyers H.C.JONES, and F.C.DAVIS will be attached to escorts of through convoys as directed by C. in C.Med. These ships are fitted with special apparatus for investigation of frequency of radio controlled bombs and enemy airborne radar and for jamming. PALOMARES is fitted with special receiving apparatus for frequency investigation of radio controlled bombs.

2. When T.G.80.2 or PALOMARES is in company with a convoy no attempt should be made by other ships to jam any enemy radio transmission.

3. 230B to Med. Station only is cancelled. Amend ref. in para. 5 of 321B* to read B to Med. Stn. and Levant Station. (C. in C.Med. 132009A to Med. Station, Levant Station 390B, (R) M.A.C. H.Q.N.W.A.C.A.F.)

* re Allocation of codeword "Tiptree" to assist in organising counter-measures against Radio Controlled bombs. re PALOMARES and U.S.S. H.C.JONES, F.C.DAVIS fitted with special gear and will escort ships through Med.

Med. Situation report No. 249. WAINWRIGHT and CALPE hunting U-Boat (German) in vicinity of where TYNE DALE and HOLCOMBE encircled and attacked with depth charges in 037° 41' N. 006° 06' E. at 1450/13th forced U-Boat to surface and then engaged with gunfire. Crew abandoned ship and scuttled U-Boat. About 45 survivors picked up. (C. in C.Med. 132107A.)

GRADISKA. Your 101905*. One British stoker P.O. who had not been in hospital. One Lieut. R.N.R. who had been discharged from hospital several days before hospital ship sailed, and had been sent to Prisoner Evacuating Ship, but was shut out through overcrowding. B. M.O. reports addressing at least 12 Italians with full kit negative firearms, who replied to queries "not wounded, not sick" Lieut. Crowder reports larger number. (N.O.I.C. Brindisi 132341 to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty. F.O.T.A.L.I.) *re Italian non wounded prisoners not justified in travelling by hospital ship. 101904 intended.

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13.12.1943.

Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- A.K.D.8. Arrived 12th Kilindini portion SALWEEN, CADUGUES and THIPOSHAN escorted by JASMINE, BANFF and VIRGINIA.
(N.C.S.O. Kilindini, 130502Z to Admty.)
- GERALDTON, NEW LONDON collision 7th Dec. GERALDTON in collision with U.S. Tanker NEW LONDON, owners U.S. Maritime Commission, on 7th Dec. and sustained moderate structural damage mainly above waterline.
(2) Temporary repairs for passage have been completed at Hormuz and D.G.S.R. has been asked if permanent repair may be effected at Karachi.
(3) NEW LONDON E.T.A. Fremantle 29th December.
(4) D.G.S.R. and N.O.I.C. Fremantle are requested to carry out surveys in accordance with K.R. and A.I. 1167, (4) and arrange for attendance of representatives of owners.
(C. in C. E.F., 130840Z to Admty., D.G.S.R., N.O.I.C. Fremantle, (R) A.C.N.B., GERALDTON, S.N.O. Persian Gulf.)
- Command at Madagascar. Madagascar A.M. 112147. C. in C. Med. 092128 states that Capitaine de Fregate Richmon (? Richard) has been instructed to proceed to Madagascar but not to set up his office in Diego Suarez yet. Prefer this arrangement should stand pending the outcome of the conferences taking place between the Comite Francais de la Liberation Nationale and the British Government.
(C. in C. E.F., 130902Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, F.O.E.A.) *Repl: 261844.*
- B.M. 78. Sailing telegram (9 ships). (2) 0900Z/13th.
(6) IPSWICH.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 130916Z to Admty.)
- B.M. 77A. Sailing telegram (5 ships). (2) 1030Z/13th.
(6) DIPAVATI joining a.m./14th and LILAVATI.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 131041Z to Admty.)
- S.E.A. S.E.A.C.(R.L.) 12, 13th Dec.
Commands, 1. Confusion has arisen between short titles of
Short titles. S.E.A. Air Command and S.E.A. Command also between 11th Army Group and Chinese 11th Group of Armies. It has therefore been decided to change style of both these Commands and titles of Supreme Allied Commander and the three British Cs. in C. are set out for convenience in para. 2 below.

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13.12.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

| S.E.A. Commands, Short titles. (Contd.) | 2. Personal title of Commander | Title of Command. |
|--|---|--|
| | (i) Supreme Allied Commander (S.A.C.S.E.A.) | South East Asia Command (S.E.A.C.) |
| | (ii) Commander-in-Chief Eastern Fleet South East Asia (C. in C. E.F. S.E.A.) | Eastern Fleet. |
| | (iii) Commander-in-Chief Army Group South East Asia (C. in C. Army Gp.S.E.A.) | Army Group South East Asia. (Army Gp. S.E.A.) |
| | (iv) Air Commander-in-Chief South East Asia (Air C. in C. S.E.A.) | Air Command South East Asia. (Air C. S.E.A.) |

3. The term H.Q.S.E.A.C. embraces the headquarters S.A.C.S.E.A., H.Q.E.F.S.E.A., 11 Army Gp. S.E.A. and H.Q. Air C. S.E.A.

4. Note that term C. in C. E.F. S.E.A. refers to the Commander-in-Chief or his representative when with H.Q.S.E.A.C.

5. All signals for Supreme Allied Commander and his headquarters should be addressed to S.A.C.S.E.A.

6. Please inform services ministries and C.O. H.Q. (S.A.C.S.E.A., T.H.I. 131511Z to Air Min.)

| | |
|--|--|
| Convoy programme, release of M/Vs from Convoy. | Request you will inform C. in C. Med. and C. in C. Levant, of policy outlined in your 110615 and any future changes. (D.T.D., 131657A to C. in C. E.F.) |
|--|--|

| | |
|----------|---|
| H.C. 13. | 2. 2230Z/13th. 6. BOMBAY, KALAVATI. (not NU). (N.C.S.O. Calcutta, 132237Z to Admty.) |
|----------|---|

Lion E 1

299A

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

131250Z/December
MESSAGE

OUT

To ARMINDIA

Reptd. Naval C.in C. S.E.A.,
Air C.in C. S.E.A.
C.in C. India
Air C.in C. M.A.C.,
A.O.C. in C. M.E.,
C.in C. S. Atlantic
DECHIEF
J.S.M. Washington

Date 13.12.43

From Air Ministry

Air C.in C., South East Asia, Directive.

IMPORTANT

OZ.4064 COSSEA 22 13th Dec. 1943

Following from Chiefs of Staff.

1. Para. 6 of Annex II your Directive defines position of Naval Commander in Chief in relation to security of sea communications in Indian Ocean but no similar provision is at present made for centralised control of air operations related to security of sea communications in that area, except as provided by C.O.S. (India) 70 of 21st July, 1942. Submarine threat in Indian Ocean is liable to increase and can readily be switched by enemy from one part of area to another. It is, therefore, operationally essential that air aspect of anti-submarine warfare in area should be considered as a whole so that air forces can be concentrated quickly where threats develop.

2. It has, therefore, been decided to cancel C.O.S. (India) 70 and to substitute instructions which follow. Effect of these instructions is that Air C.in C. will be in a position parallel to that of Naval C.in C. as set out in para. 6. of Annex II your Directive and will have certain responsibilities both inside and outside area of S.E.A. Command in respect of which he will be responsible to Air Ministry direct. This was already implicit in instructions contained in C.O.S. (India) 70 and is present practice and we do not propose to put forward any formal amendment to Annex II of your Directive.

3. Detailed arrangements for co-operation will be for settlement between Air and Naval Cs.in C. but it is contemplated that Air C.in C. should normally exercise command through A.O.C. No.222 Group in Ceylon. A.O.C. 222 Group will work in close liaison with appropriate Naval Authorities in Ceylon and will also be responsible for liaison with S. African air authorities who will exercise

day

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"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

day to day operational control of all air forces operating from S. Africa. Naval Authorities in Ceylon will maintain similar liaison with C.in C. S. Atlantic.

4. It is proposed to extend the boundaries of Naval C.in C.'s. command to include Aden. This will facilitate co-operation with coastal aircraft there which will be under command of Air C.in C. S.E.A.

5. Instructions are as follows:-

6. Command of all flying boat, G.R. Landplane and coastal striking force units allotted for operations related to security of sea communications in Indian Ocean area including Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman, Persian Gulf and Bay of Bengal will rest with Air C.in C. S.E.A., outside as well as inside the boundaries of S.E.A. Command.

7. Responsibility for day to day operational and administrative control of these units will remain with the A.O.C. in whose command they are located. Units allotted to the Air C.in C. S.E.A. under para. 6 above will include R.A.F. Operational Units based in S. Africa. Day to day operational control of such units as well as of S.A.A.F. units in S. Africa will rest with S. African authorities; R.A.F. units will be administered by British Air Liaison Mission in S. Africa.

8. Air C.in C. will work in the closest collaboration with Naval C.in C. S.E.A., and disposition of Units under Air C. in C.'s. command to meet strategic requirement of Naval C.in C. in accordance with maritime situation in Indian Ocean area as a whole, will be a matter for their mutual agreement.

9. On matters relating to security of sea communications as set out above Air C.in C. S.E.A. will report direct to Air Ministry.

10. Air C.in C. S.E.A. will maintain close liaison with South African authorities through R.A.F. Liaison Officer in Centralised Headquarters : Cape Town, and he is authorised to approach Union Authorities direct regarding movement of additional units to their area in event of a threat developing.

11. Naval C.in C. S.E.A. will maintain a similar liaison with C.in C. South Atlantic.

12. Air C.in C. S.E.A. will maintain closest liaison with Air C.in C. M.A.C. regarding operation of above units from Bases under administrative control of A.H.Q. Aden and A.H.Q. East Africa. M.A.C. will remain responsible for broad administrative requirements of these bases.

13. Naval C.in C. and Air C.in C. S.E.A. are to issue to their subordinate commanders such Directives and to delegate

to

MOST SECRET

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to them such authority as they see fit so as to ensure full co-ordination between Naval and Air Forces engaged in operations related to security of sea communications.

131250Z

Circulated by S.S.O. to
W.C.O., F.O., W.O., A.M.,
Admy.,

Received in War Reg. at
2245/13

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.(2)
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(F)
- A.C.N.S.(U.T.)(2)
- A.C.N.S.(A)(2)
- N.A.1st S.L.
- P.A.S.(S)
- N.A. Mails
- U.W.R.
- Capt. Pim
- D.C.
- D.O.D.(F)(2)
- D.O.D.(H)(4)
- D.N. (4)
- D.D.I.C.(2)
- D.N.A.C.
- Hd. of M.(2)
- Ad. Blake (4)
- D.A/S.W.

- D.A.U.D.
- D. of P.(2)
- D. of P.(Q)(2)
- D. of L.D.
- Ad. Ramsay(4)
- I.P.(2)
- W.D.

S

300

13.12.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.CALDWELL,
CHELSEA,
RICHMOND.

At 0100Z sailed CALDWELL S.O., CHELSEA, RICHMOND (route). St. Johns N.F. via Q.J.A. 246 speed 15 knots. E.T.A. 1700Z/14th.
(2) Request ships be screened on arrival and sailed in company for U.K. via Azores.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 130126Z to F.O.N.F., (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A., S.B.N.O. Azores, N.S.H.Q.)

A/S
Trawlers
for U.K.

Your 092058. When available, request these 6 A/S trawlers be sailed with S.C. convoys to Liverpool.
(D.O.D.(H), 131041A to N.S.H.Q., Info. C. in C. C.N.A., N.O.I.C. Sydney (C.B.), C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Liverpool, IRWELL.)

Patron 63.

Refer to this as Comairlant's 121953 addressed Comfairwing 7.
When ready direct Patron 63 proceed N.A.S. Port Lyautey. Upon arrival Squadron detached Atlantic Fleet and directed report to C.F.A.W.15 for duty Com. 8th Fleet for operational control by C.M.S.F. Utilize MATAGORDA as necessary assist in movement excess personnel material and baggage Patron 63 and all Catalina material. Transfer administration of Squadron to C.F.A.W.15. Advise when services MATAGORDA no longer required connection this transfer. C. in C. Lant SPDLTR serial 001244 of 11th Dec. not to all addressees (N.T. in W.D. but see Comnav 111326.)
(Comnav 131139 to Admty.)

C.U. 8.

Arrived off Oversay 2400Z/11th. All arrived.
(D.T.D., 131215A to Connnav, N.S.H.Q.)

EMPEROR,
SEARCHER.

EMPEROR and SEARCHER will now be taken in hand at Navy Yards Norfolk. Your 111345 para. 2 refers.
(B.A.D., 131454Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Greenock, F.O.C.T., R.A.E.C.(E.F.), F.O.N.A.S., R.A.N.A.S.(N), EMPEROR, SEARCHER, Comnav.)

ST. ALBANS.

Referring to my 041412. Now request ST. ALBANS be sailed independently to Halifax when ready.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 131454Z to B.A.R.M., (R) Cmdt. 1st N.D. Boston, Admty., S.B.N.O.W.At., N.S.H.Q., (D) Halifax, ST. ALBANS.)

KILKENZIE
(B.E.C.8)

C. in C. C.N.A. 271520 Nov. orders to proceed from New York about 1600Q/14th to Bermuda. Arrival report N.O.B. Bermuda for further disposition.
(C.E.S.F., 131457 to KILKENZIE.)

/U.S. ...

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13.12.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.U.S. S/M
Estimate.

(Cominch, 131556.)

B.Y.M.S.
for
Trinidad.
WHITECAP,
REDCAP
condition.

Request that two B.Y.M.S. may be allocated to Trinidad as soon as possible to relieve WHITECAP and REDCAP. M.M.S. not suitable in Bocas on account of weather and currents with which American A.M.C. type proved unable to cope. (2) On arrival at Halifax in 1941 general condition of hulls and engines of WHITECAP and REDCAP was poor. WHITECAP now unserviceable, cost of repairs is prohibitive and three months required in dock is unacceptable at Barbados or Bermuda.

Propose ship be sold.

(3) Six sweepers are necessary at Trinidad RECAP is unsatisfactory if used with the four other available minesweepers as she slows down speed from seven to three and half knots. She can however be usefully employed as Guardship and independent search sweeper in Serpents Mouth.

(S.B.N.O.W.At., 131705Z to Admty., (R) S.B.N.O. Trinidad, B.A.D.)

VOLUNTEER.

E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 1300Z/14th. Oil fuel tank leaking more seriously than anticipated and docking probably required. In view of this propose not to oil on arrival. S.O. B.5 131106Z (N.T. in W.D.) refers.
(VOLUNTEER, 131800Z to F.O.N.F.)

QUEEN
ELIZABETH
(A.T.80).

Departing New York 141400Z Ambrose, Clyde. E.T.A. Little Cumbrae 191400Z.
(P.D. New York, 131950Z.)

Sub. attack
and sighting
summary.

All times Z.

A. BOGUE aircraft and surface escorts attacked U-Boat 26.27 N. 29.44 W. commencing 120722 resulting in U-Boat sinking 26.19 N. 29.58 W. 131221 with 46 survivors recovered.

B. J. ROBERTS BATEMAN U.S. Schooner believed total loss marine cause 22.21 N. 78.03 W. November 27th.

C. Navy plane Radar contact 07.46 S. 24.45 W. 121432. U.S.

C.G. BODEGA attacked sound contact 09.28 N. 79.55 W. 122011.

D. A.T.C. plane sighted periscope 10.54 N. 60.55 W. 131615.

AQHY B.25 sighted surfaced submarine course South 06.20 S. 29.40 W. 121019.

(Cominch, 132038 to Admty.)

TRUMPETER.

Comnavu 101216. There will be insufficient aircraft to fill TRUMPETER until 20th Jan. at the earliest owing to number being ferried in AMEER, ATHELING and BEGUM 3.

2. AMEER and ATHELING are expected to sail in U.T.6 and BEGUM probably in C.U.12.

3. Suggest TRUMPETER is included in T.U.6 or U.C.10.

(B.A.D., 132117Z to Admty.)

/GOODALL ...

13.12.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.- Contd.GOODALL
(D.E.275)

Request No. S.350 allocated GOODALL (D.E.275)
Your 121510 and 122313 refer. Request ship be
sailed to arrive Navy Yard Boston by 20th for
replacement of defective items.
(B.A.M.R., 132258Z to S.B.N.O.W.At., (R) MALABAR,
ASBURY, GOODALL.)

French
Ships,
proposed
duties.

Your 121701. Subject to remarks by C. in C. E.F.
Admty. have no objection to these exchanges.
(D.O.D.(F), 132333A to B.A.D., Info. C. in C.
E.F., C. in C. Med., F.O.C.W.Af.)

Australia and New Zealand.Digest
No. 692
Dec. 12th.

3 Liberators on midday armed R/C north-west New
Guinea Banda Aradura Seas bombed barracks at
Boela (Ceram Island) where 4 small boats
observed. Then hit town and ten barges anchored
Kokas.

(3) Midday R/C Liberator observed Jap S/M 95 miles
south-west New Hanover. Another search plane later reported 2
S/Ms. approx. 90 miles North Woodlark Island.

(11) Evening 11th aircraft straddled submerged enemy submarine
70 miles south-west Mutupina Point causing oil slick and some
debris (?).

(12) That night U.S. M.T.Bs. wrecked single schooner Queen
Carola Harbour.

(13) Same time lone Jap Ple. damaged and inflicted few
casualties by near misses on 1 landing craft off Torokina.
Bomber shot down by ship's guns.

(14) 4 Kittyhawks strafed Tonolei Harbour early daylight next
day with unobserved results.

(15) Later 46 tons mixed bombs up to 1,000 dropped by 46
Dauntless, 27 Avengers on shore installations Matchin Bay. One
jetty demolished besides gun emplacements and huts. 40 fighters
escorted and portion thereof strafed Kieta Harbour during
return trip starting 4 fires.

(17) Meanwhile 8 Mitchells escorted a.m. 16 fighters each dropped
one ton of bombs from medium height Bonis supply area. Another
9 struck Kieta Harbour area with similar lead and 18 hit Kahili.
Main targets well covered.

(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 130620Z.)

HOBART
armament.

Your 290216Z Nov. Proposed alteration to
armament.
(Controller, 131209A to A.C.N.B.)

13.12.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarine Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 131407A, 131408A.)

Submarines Attacked.

Sub. attack
and sighting
summary for
24 hours to
0900Z/13th.

Para. A. (1) H.M. Ship attacked by U-Boat at 0610/12th in 37° 10' N. 06° 05' E.
(2) H.M. Ship attacked by U-Boat at 1355/12th in 37° 20' N. 05° 50' E.
(3) Sunderland G/10 sighted and attacked two U-Boat periscopes with depth charges at 1015/12 in 44° 29' N. 08° 11' W.
(4) Liberator E/53 sighted and attacked U-Boat with depth charges at 0550/13th in 45° 52' N. 09° 38' W.
(5) A/C R/53 sighted U-Boat on surface at 2228/12th in 45° 42' N. 09° 38' W.
(6) A/C sighted U-Boat at 2335/12th in 37° 30' N. 06° 20' E.
Para. B. (1) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact on probable U-Boat at 2235/12th in 45° 55' N. 09° 49' W. Bombs dropped.
Para. D. (1) A.T.C. A/C sighted U-Boat on surface which submerged at 0930/12th in 34° 05' N. 07° 03' W. Course 200°. (D.D.I.C., 131144A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

Admiralty
appreciation
of present
trend of
U-Boat war.

The following is the Admiralty appreciation of the present trend of the U-Boat war and has been concurred in generally by Cominch.
(Admty., 131908A to C. in C. Med., C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, A.C.I.C.)
W.D. Note. This message is identical with A.M. 272126A as amended by A.M. 290452A, both to Cominch.

14.12.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
"F.V."

1(a) Convoy J.W.55A had reached latitude 62 degs. N. at 2200 to-day and was steering 15 degs. at 9½ knots. Capt.(D) 3 left Skaalefiord (Faeroes) at 0031A with the 8 destroyers of the Destroyer Escort to relieve the Local Escort; and the cruisers SHEFFIELD and NORFOLK joined C.S.10 in BELFAST at Seidisfiord (Iceland) at 1236A to form the Cruiser Covering Force.

(b) The submarines SIRDAR and VENTURER are patrolling between the convoy and the Norwegian coast; and the submarines STUBBORN, SATYR, and O.15 left Lerwick today to patrol off Kya, Stadlandet and Skudesnes respectively.

Enemy
mines.

2 One Ground Mine was detonated by sweeper off Harwich to-day, and the British ROBRIX, 292 tons was damaged by a mine off B6A Buoy in the Harwich area.

QUEEN
MARY.

3. QUEEN MARY left the Clyde at 1730 to-day for New York.

North Atlantic.

Percussion
area V.

4. A new Percussion Area V has been allocated to aircraft from Gibraltar and Commorseafron, lying between 42 degs. N. and 44 degs. W. and 8 degs. W. and 11 degs. W. This is a focal area in which there are almost always some U-boats on passage in or out of the Bay, and it is far more likely to be productive than sweeps in the area south-east of the Azores which are very unlikely to be effective now that the enemy has evidently a new search receiver.

Mediterranean

5. UPROAR reports that she hit with one torpedo at 0810/6 a 6000 ton modern passenger ship in 43.23 N. 06.54 E. (off Marseilles).

/ Avalanche...

14.12.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

"Avalanche"

6 (a) Destroyers last night carried out a sweep from Benedetto to Ancona, but sighted nothing.
(b) UNTIRING reports probable minelaying between Cape Ferrat and Cape d'Aggio and that she sank a naval auxiliary probably a minelayer in Monaco Harbour at 1556 today .

Levant
area.

7(a) The force of M.T.Bs. based on the Turkish coast report last night leaving a tug in a sinking condition and damaging a caique and a barge in Trianda Bay, Rhodes. Secret reports subsequently confirmed that the tug and the caique sank.
(b) 27 aircraft of N.W.A.F. dropped 81 tons of bombs on Piraeus Harbour and shipping today. Heavy attacks were also made on the Athens airfield.
(c) The destroyers QUEENBOROUGH, QUILLIAM and RAIDER from the Western Mediterranean (on loan from Eastern Fleet) arrived at Alexandria today, to refit.

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14.12.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

ZEEHOND. On reaching longitude 020° W. proceed through following positions.
(F.O.(S), 141107A to ZEEHOND.)

QUEEN ELIZABETH. QUEEN ELIZABETH sailed Needles 1053A. My 121739A refers.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 141115A to A.C.O.S.)

WRESTLER. Return to Greenock forthwith.
(Capt. (D) Greenock, 141650A to WRESTLER.)

S/M movements. Positions of S/Ms at 0800/15 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.(S), 141706A.)
X.23 and X.24 arrived Kames Bay 1720/14th.
(Capt. (S) 12, 141730A to F.O.S.)

Group A. Your 122329.
Group B. 1. Escort for Group A as in your para. 1.
2. Five ships of the Escort Group will be required to provide escort to Port Said, returning thence to U.K.
3. Escorts for Group B and date of sailing are under further consideration.
(D.O.D.(H), 142301A to C. in C. W.A.)

North Atlantic dispositions. Dispositions of operational units in North Atlantic.
Operating in North Waters - DUKE OF YORK, JAMAICA, BELFAST, NORFOLK, SHEFFIELD, 12 destroyers.
Area Scapa - NELSON, RICHELIEU, FURIOUS, KENT, 5 destroyers.
Area Clyde - RODNEY.
Area Bay of Biscay - GAMBIA, GLASGOW.
2. Disposition of escort carriers: FENCER - Biscay Area.
TRACKER - Argentina.
(D.O.D.H., 142316A to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

Operations.

V.P. operations. Carry out V.P. (1) Patrol A.Q. (2) V.P.27A.
(3) a.m./14th Dec. or first suitable day thereafter. (4) 1. (5) No. (6) No. (7) 065° Bressay. (8) No.
(A.C.O.S., 140022A to Admty.)

Weather permitting sail M.T.B.623 today so as to arrive at East shore of Gaasvaer at 2359A to recover party dropped before

/recent ...

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14.12.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

- V.P. recent operation V.P.27.
Operations. (2) R/V is just opposite northernmost point of
(Contd.) Lamholmen.
(4) Operation is V.P.27A. My 140022 refers.
(A.C.O.S., 140031A to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)
My 121453. MOLDE and RISOR returned at 2030/
13th December.
2. M.T.B.684 and M.T.B.653 returned at 0615 today owing to
engine trouble in M.T.B.653.
(A.C.O.S., 140702A to Admty.)
Sailed at 1200A today M.T.B.623. (My 140022A.)
- (2) No.
(A.C.O.S., 141246A to Admty.)
M.T.B.666 returned 1335A today. (My 131309A.)
- (2) Operation successful.
(A.C.O.S., 141550A to Admty.)
My 101951. Submarine Chaser HESSA returned at 1345 today.
Operation unsuccessful.
(A.C.O.S., 141630A to Admty.)
- Operation Faroes departure MILNE, MUSKETEER, METEOR,
F.V. MATCHLESS, ASHANTI, OPPORTUNE, ATHABASKAN,
VIRAGO.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 140031A to R.A.D.)
Your 130002. Arrived Seidisfjord (SHEFFIELD
NORFOLK).
(R.N.O. Seidisfjord, 141236A to A.C.O.S.)
SEAGULL, DIANELLA, POPPY and RHODODENDRON escorting FORT
MIRS POINT, HENRY VILLARD, GILBERT STEWART, and WILLIAM WINDOM
arrived Kola Inlet.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 141435A to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)
Position as at 0800/14th.
MIJDRECHT arrived Kola Inlet. FORT YUKON, HENRY VILLARD,
GILBERT STEWART, WILLIAM WINDOM on passage Kola Inlet.
OCEAN VANITY fell out owing steering gear defects proceeding
next sailing 17th.
OCEAN VERITY, JUNECREST loading D.B.B. EMPIRE NIGEL, MAGNESITE,
JAMES SMITH, THOMAS SIMM LEE, chrome ore as ballast.
All will sail for Kola Inlet on 17th. EMPIRE STALWART, FORT
POPLAR, FORT COLUMBIA endeavouring finish discharge for sailing
17th failing this will load part cargo. HORACE GRAY discharged
1180 tons. DALDORCH, EUGENE FIELD, JOHN FITCH, EMPIRE LIONEL
expected berth morning 16th. Rate of discharge is very
disappointing.
(2) Russians having hopelessly failed to fulfil their promises.
Lack of organised labour is mostly the reason.
(3) Weather remains exceptionally mild and ice which is soft
only extends to Dvina Bar.
(4) From J.W.55A propose meantime to berth three ships at
Economia and four including tanker Molotovsk as latter port
will still have four ships discharging.
(Watson, 141440A to Admty.)
HARRIER position at 1800A, 20° position C 184 miles,
course 15°, 9¼ knots.
(COCKATRICE, 142200 to Capt. D.3.)

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14.12.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

S/M Patrols. STUBBORN sailed 1206A/14th in accordance with Capt. (S) 9 120921.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 141212A to S/MS.)
Number S.M.04318/227 of 5th December 1943.

Object of patrol is as stated in para. 2. Withdrawal areas in para. 4 are instituted solely to give S/MS sea room to withdraw from coast if required at any time. Attacking area may be re-entered from withdrawal area if desired. No signals reporting own movements between the 2 areas are necessary.

(F.O.(S), 141547 to Capt. (S) 9, O.15, STUBBORN, SATYR.)

Sailed SATYR in accordance with Capt. (S) 9's 120921 at 1633A/14th.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 141654A to S/MS.)

Positions of submarines at 0800/15th and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) SIRDAR 66° 18' N. 06° 50' E. probably on surface, speed 10 knots, through 69° 01' N. 10° 59' E. towards 70° 45' N. 16° 10' E.

(B) VENTURER on patrol vicinity 63° 30' N. 01° 05' E.

(C) O.15, 61° 06' N. 02° 45' E., diving by day through 60° 55' N. 03° 30' E. to patrol off Skudesnes.

(D) STUBBORN 63° 01' N. 02° 15' E., probably on surface, speed 10 knots, through 64° 03' N. 03° 42' E., thence through 64° 39' N. 08° 42' E. to patrol off Kya.

(E) SATYR 61° 48' N. 03° 01' E., dived by day through 62° 11' N. 04° 05' E. to patrol off Stadtlandet.

(F.O.(S), 141706A to Admty.)

At 1815A/14th. O.15 sailed in accordance with Capt. (S) 9's 120921.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 141820A to S/MS.)

Coastal Force Patrols. 1 (A) 3 M.G.B. from Newhaven anti E-Boat patrol 10 miles southward of convoy route between C.3 buoy and eastern limit of command abreast C.E.229 from 2100/14th to 0200/15th.
(B) 2 Chasseurs anti E-Boat patrol on 50° 24' N. between 00° 35' W. and 00° 48' W. from 1800A to 0700A.

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

(D) LA COMBATTANTE, STEVENSTONE short notice Yarmouth.

(E) 3 M.L. from Portland patrolling 50° 18' N. between 2° 00' W. and 2° 35' W.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 141310A and 141745A.)

1. (A) Force 111. M.Ls. 259 (S.O.), 180. (B) 1930A/14.

(C) 180 Eddystone 8. (D) Vicinity of (C). (F) 0700A/15.

2. (A) Force 113. M.T.Bs. 673 (S.O.), 676. (B) 1930A/14.

(C) 080 Start 20. (D) Vicinity of (C). (F) 0700A/15.

3. (A) Force 114. M.T.Bs. 96 (S.O.), 90, 91, 92, 227, 239.

(B) 1500A/14. (C) (AA) 240 Hanois 18. (BB) 030 Roches Douvres 2.

(CC) 090 Roches Douvres 8 - 20 knots. (D) 5 miles 220 and 040 from (CC). (E) Destruction of enemy shipping. (F) 0445A/15 (CC).

(G) (BB) (AA).

(C. in C. Plymouth, 141341A.)

ALEXANDRITE and YASHIMA 2 miles south of D Buoy. M.Ls. 137 and 257 at Bullock Bank. E.T.D.1630. E.T.R. 0845/15.

(V.A. Dover, 141621A to Admty.)

/Operation ...

14.12.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

Operation S.F. Faroes arrivals RATTLESNAKE, LOYALTY, HYDRA. Your 131455 refers. (N.O.I.C. Faroes, 141330A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Bay Patrol. On arrival Horta GAMBIA is to fuel as soon as possible and is to keep steam at one hours notice.
2. Unless otherwise ordered GAMBIA is to leave Horta at daylight on 16th and proceed to take up patrol (D) as laid down in my 121146.
3. GLASGOW is to discontinue patrol (D) as requisite to arrive Horta at 1200A/16th to fuel on arrival and to keep steam at 2 hours notice.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 141821A to GAMBIA, GLASGOW.)

Mining.

Harwich. One ground mine detonated by M.M.S. in 51° 54' 57" N. 01° 45' 47" E. at 141150A. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 141250A and 141828A.)

ROBRIX damaged. M.V. ROBRIX reports propellor damaged by mine explosion 2 cables S.W. by S. from B.6A buoy at approximately 1350A today. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 141650 to C. in C. Nore.)

Enemy Intelligence.

MONTE ROSA. My 061229. MONTE ROSA now stated bound for Petsamo to fetch troops escorted by three or four destroyers. Graded B.3. (N.A. Stockholm, 141636 to Admty.)

U-Boats.

Battle of Atlantic. Recent changes in Enemy Tactics. (C. in C. W.A., 142141A.)
See Lion Copy.

Casualties and Defects.

RABY CASTLE. 14th December 0130 G.M.T. (aground ?) 66 miles Aultbea. (RABY CASTLE, 140200Z to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

RATTLESNAKE. My port bilge keel has come adrift from forward and is endangering port propellor. (RATTLESNAKE, 140835A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

/My ...

MOST SECRET

309A

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

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

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From C. in C. W.A.

Date 15.12.43.
Recd. 1243.

NAVAL CYPHER (RR) O.T.P. BY W/T

Addressed S.O. Escort Groups. 27 NS. Repeated H.M.S.
M.L.A.B.R. Cmdre. (D) W.A. Capt. (D) Liverpool.
Capt. (D) Greenock. Capt. (D) Belfast.

Battle of the Atlantic, recent changes in Enemy Tactics.

Following review is promulgated for the guidance of S.O.'s of escort group.

(2) Experiences during last few weeks have showed that U-Boats (German) are now rarely found on surface by day. This implies a very marked change of tactics which calls for corresponding change in our counter measures

(3) By remaining submerged by day the enemy reduces risk of detection and counter attack but at the same time denies himself the following important advantages of his previous policy.

- (A) Surface reconnaissance and immediate receipt of sighting reports by consorts.
- (B) Subsequent shadowing and homing of consorts.
- (C) The ability to trail a convoy and carry out a series of attacks extending over a number of days.
- (D) The mobility which enables the more distant German U-Boats to intercept a reported convoy.

(4) Such tactics have already greatly promoted safe and timely arrival of the convoys but they must inevitably give us fewer opportunities to destroy enemy. It is my intention now to take full advantage of enemy's weakened offensive by neglecting opportunity to destroy him whenever contact is made.

(5) To this end orders may be expected under certain circumstances for support groups, and even a proportion of close escorts, in aftermath of a battle to leave convoy and return to battle area for mopping up.

(6) I desire that Commanding Officers should henceforth use more care and deliberation in execution of their attacks on U-Boats which are not an immediate threat to Convoy. It has become increasingly clear that the old methods of Depth charge attack, which provide such ample warning of their approach, are

/ not

not effective against a deep and highly manoeuvrable U-Boat.

(7) In the HEDGEHOG and in the SQUID are combined 2 attributes of precision and surprise which ensure its effectiveness in a deliberate attack.

For U-Boat which is too deep for the HEDGEHOG the "Creeping attack" which has the same attributes has recently proved on 3 occasions its deadly accuracy.

(8) It is my view that when escorts are hunting in pairs the delivery of the standard depth charge attacks on a deep submarine are no longer justified except for the purpose of driving it deeper for a creeping attack.

142141

Isr Lord.
1st S.L.(2).
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)
A.C.N.S.(W).
A.C.N.S.(A)(2).
N.A. 1st S.L.
U.W.R.
Capt. Pim.
D.C.
D.O.D.(F)(2).
D.O.D.(H)(4).
D.D.I.C.(2).
D.T.D.(4).
D.N.A.O.
Adl. Usborne.
D. of P.(2).
D.T.S.D.
Adl. Blake.
U.S.N.(3).
D.A/S.W.
D.A/U.D.
D.P.D.
Hd. of M.(2).
C.C.L.S.
I.P.(2).
W.D.

310

14.12.1943.

Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.RATTLESNAKE.
(Contd.)

My 140835A. Port bilge keel carried away within 10 feet of after end and approximately 25 feet is hanging vertically from that position. Remaining 35 feet has apparently parted and sunk during the heavy weather last night. Weather permitting an attempt will be made tomorrow to secure hanging portion.

(RATTLESNAKE, 141511A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

CAPE
MOHICAN.

Request you sail ROODE ZEE towing CAPE MOHICAN to Loch Ewe when ready escorted by 1 trawler. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to provide trawler escort to vicinity of Holyhead and F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to provide escort thence to destination.

(C. in C. W.A., 141105A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

SOUTH
COASTER.

SOUTH COASTER ashore on Pole Sands off Exmouth. Ship being lightened. Tugs RAMIER and WATERCOCK standing by to assist in refloating at high water.

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 141123A to C. in C. Plymouth)

VELETA.

Your 140955A. Escorts for U.R.102. Request instructions for VELETA as defects would take seven days.

Ship could be sailed to you at 6 knots.

(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 141321A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

Request you sail VELETA to Liverpool with orders not to exceed 6 knots.

(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 141750A to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

PINZON.

DEXTEROUS, EMPIRE LARCH towing PINZON arrived Clyde. C. in C. Plymouth's 101522A, refers.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 141426A.)

STALKER.

My 161530A November. On account of sickness, ship's sailing will be delayed 24 hours to complete V.H/F equipment and carry out satisfactory tests.

(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 141514 to Admty.)

STARLING.

Quarter deck between 100 and 101 station is splitting badly port and starboard. The after end of ship is working to such an extent as to endanger propellor shaft.

Weather is unsuitable to transfer to another ship of group. Request permission turn over to WILD GOOSE and bring STARLING back to Liverpool.

(E.G.2, 142315A to C. in C. W.A.)

311

14.12.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- H.X. 269. Your 140311A. Owing to heavy swell A/S conditions poor. Escorts have not been detached.
(B.7, 140845A to C. in C. W.A.)
If ships detailed are not in contact they are to rejoin convoy. My 140311 refers.
(C. in C. W.A., 140858Z to B. 7.)
- DUCHESS OF RICHMOND. Intend sailing DUCHESS OF RICHMOND 1200Z/14th. Route to New York. (Z) 270° 6 miles from Oversay.
(A) 056° N. 010° W. (B) All positions North and West. 055°, 017°. (C) 050°, 024°. (D) 045°, 030°. (E) 044°, 042°. (F) 042°, 057°. (G) 040°, 067°. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 141010Z to Admty.)
- S.L. 141 F. Amended E.T.A. 007° W. 2030A/14th. My P.C.S. 055° 11', 009° 26', 070°, 10.5 knots.
(2) BALSAM escorting RECORDER with boiler trouble 054° 34', 011° 37', 067°, 8 knots at 1000A.
(3) EMPIRE ARUN straggled night of 12th/13th during gale, not seen since.
(SCARBOROUGH, 141201A to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 141618A. RECORDER will proceeding independently from 007° W. My P.C.S. 055° 06' N. 009° 28' W., 067°, 9.5 knots.
(BALSAM, 141800A to C. in C. W.A.)
- O.N.S. 25. O.N.S.25 and O.S.62/K.M.S.36 are delayed 24 hours.
O.S. 62/ (2) Milford Haven section of both convoys are to
K.M.S.36. proceed Belfast.
(3) F.O.I.C.N.I. is requested to sail both convoys as necessary to their respective R/V.
(4) Loch Ewe section of O.S.62/K.M.S.36 is to proceed Oban. N.O.I.C. Oban is requested to sail combined Oban and Loch Ewe portions as necessary.
(C. in C. W.A., 141227A.)
- K.M.F. 27. My 131503 and my 131635. Delayed.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 141317A to Admty.)
- U.C. 8. Request following 6 Combat Loaders be sailed in
T.U. 5. Convoy U.C.8. Names. Reduction in convoy speed to speed of slowest Combat Loader is authorized. Cominch 132056 refers.
Sail following Combat 4 Loaders in convoy T.U.5 Names.
(Comnaveu, 141626 to Admty.)
- O.S. 61/ P.C.S. at 1900Z/14th, 045° 15', 021° 22', 168°,
K.M.S.35. 7½.
(B. 3, 141652Z to C. in C. W.A.)

14.12.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. - Contd.

- K.M.F.27. My 121026 codeword "Teapot". Sailing delayed 24 hours. Delete URCHIN. C. in C. W.A. 121513 refers.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 141706A.)
- O.N. 216. GRIPER is to be sailed to arrive Moville 1200A/16th for escort conference. My 141856 refers.
(2) Cdre. (D) W.A. is requested to sail GRIPER as requisite for O.N.216.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 141904A to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown.)
- U.T. 5. A.M. 092234, para. 1(a).
MERAK. MERAK will not now proceed Loch Ewe.
(D.O.D.(H), 142029A to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)
- T.A. 78. Sailed in accordance with my 131514A at 1730.
(QUEEN MARY). Three hours late.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 142034A to Admty.)

14.13.1943
Tuesday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Landing Craft Flight Q. Owing to heavy adverse weather and insufficient fuel stocks remaining in landing craft flight Q. returning Gib. Request instructions re escort P.C. and S at 141400A 039 degs. 22' N. 013 degs. 01' W. 140 degs. 7. KINGSTON AGATE, 141330A to F.O. Gib.). Informing addressees. (F.O.i/c Gib. 142115A to Admty., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C.W.A., HAMILCAR, C. in C. Med.). Escorts are to return with convoy to Gib. Your 141330 refers. (F.O.C. Gib. 142117A to KINGSTON AGATE, (R) Admty. C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C.W.A., C. in C. Med., HAMILCAR).

Spanish Fishing vessels, routeing. If application is made to you for a route for any Spanish Fishing Vessels, such applications must be referred to me by cable. Necessary route information will then be cabled you in reply. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 141650A to British Consul Alicante, Almeria, Barcelona, Bilbao, Cadiz, Carthagena, Corunna, Gijon, Huelva, Santander, San Sebastian, Seville, Valencia, Vigo, Malaga, All R.O. Mainland of Spain, (R) B.N.A. Madrid, Admty.).

CORE A.M. 112024 para.1. U.S.S. CORE position at 111200Z 33 degs. 30' N. 43 degs. 30' W. course 093, S. of A. 15 knots. (2) On reaching 25 degs. West CORE will patrol to the south west. (D.O.D.(H) 141738A to C. in C.W.A., F.O.i/c Gib., S.B.N.O. Azores, H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Plymouth).

M.K.S.33. Gibraltar Joiners. Sailing telegram. (2) 1200A/12. (6) HIGHLANDER, WALKER, AVON? ASPHODEL, CELIA, CLOVER, NORTHERN SUN, NORTHERN SPRAY. Rescue tug STORMKING. (F.O. Gibraltar, 141753A, 141755A to Admty.).

Percussion V. A.194 14th. The following new Percussion area is allocated to Gib. and C.M.S.F. The area is bounded by 42 degs. N. to 44 degs. N. and 8 degs. W. to 11 degs. W., and is to be known as Percussion V. It is a focal area in which there are almost always some U-boats on passage in or out of Bay. It is far more likely to be productive than sweeps in the area Southeast of Azores which are very unlikely to be effective now that enemy has evidently new search receiver. Percussion V will include Percussion U which will continue to be flown by LL Wellingtons at night. (H.Q. Coastal Command, 141810A to A.C.H.Q. Gib. C.M.S.F., (R) D.A.U.D., Admty., ?D.A.U.D., Air Min. 19 and 15 Groups).

Gib. movements. Sailed ISIS, ANTHONY, REDPOLE escorting MONARCH OF BERMUDA. (F.O.C. Gib., 141826A to C. in C.W.A.).

/Arrivals...

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Tuesday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Gib.
movements.
(Contd.).

Arrivals BRILLIANT from interception of Spanish VILLA DE MADRID. ISIS from Casablanca. HAMBLEDON, BLENCATHRA with SS LETITIA from the east. Departures LOCH OSKAIG escorting to Melilla. (F.O.C. Gib. 142002A).

U-boat

Am over enemy submarine in 43.13 N. 10.30 W. was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. (A/C Duty E of R.A.F. H.Q. Gib., 141830A to Air H.Q. Gib.).

My 1830A/no action course S.W. / Reporting enemy S/M. (A/C Duty E Gib. R.A.F. H.Q., 141845 to Air H.Q. Gib.).
Nr 1. Hunt U-boat reported position 43.13 N. 10.30 W. (Gib. W/T 141850A to Gib. A/C).

Rosia H.D.A.
Station
proposed
closing
down.

As only one sea unit remains in operation it is proposed that Rosia H.D.A. Station should be dismantled and closed down and a proportion of personnel made available for draft.
(2) The reduced probability of attack combined with the very poor results obtained particularly during summer months render the station unwarrantably expensive in man power.

(3) Admty. 071649B+ August refers.
(4) While type 135 sets are operating at harbour entrances one officer and 14 ratings must be retained for these duties. (F.O. Gibraltar, 142059A to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. CURLEW).
+ Re laying and relaying H.D.A's. at Gibraltar.

South AtlanticTAIGETE,
ARCOLA.

My 121257. Consul General replied that ships were requisitioned by Italian Gov. on 21st Oct. and that control rested with committee on Lisbon consisting of British and U.S.A. Ambassadors, Italian Minister and Portuguese Minister of

Colonies.

(2) Request I may be informed whether this committee will make decisions which will enable me to carry out A.M. instructions. My 071359 refers. (F.O. C.W.Af. 141134Z to N.A. Lisbon, (R) Admty. Consul General St. Vincent).

M.Ls. 1202
and 1204.

My 121812 August M.Ls. 1202 and 1204 have now been turned over to the S.A.N.F. (C. in C.S.A. 141242 to Admty.).

/SOUTHERN...

14.12.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

SOUTHERN
GEM
visiting
St.Vincent.

Your 271016 Nov. Intend SOUTHERN GEM visiting
St. Vincent 19th for purpose stated in my
261122Z Nov.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 141244Z to N.A. Lisbon (R) Admty.
Comar Dakar).

U-boat

Pilot of Panairplane reported sighting large
U-boat on surface near Ilka Grande (23 degs. 10'
S. 44 degs. 15' W.) p.m. 13th. U-boat was
thought to be a minelayer and submerged at once.
No Brazilian S/MS. were operating in that area.
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 141503Z to Admty. (R)
C. in C.S.A., F.O.C.W.Af.).

S.R.8.

Sailing telegram (2 ships).
(2) 1800/14th.
(6) B.M. ships DOUGLAS S.O., MALCOLM and WOLVERINE.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 141505Z to Admty.).

EMPIRE
PENNANT
"Q" report
1st Dec.

Ref. your 140102. Master of EMPIRE PENNANT reports
that at 1650 G.M.T. on 1st December on sighting
strange suspicious vessel signalled QQQQ 007 degs.
10' S. 021 degs. 56' W. on M/F and H/F.
Identification signal flown from sighting was E6C
in accordance with instructions in his possession.
After Boarding Officer pointed out error in
identification signal ship allowed to proceed. At 2050 G.M.T.
cancellation message sent by EMPIRE PENNANT in code to Admty.
C.Q. and recipient on M/F. H/F having burnt out. Message
repeated at 2120 G.M.T.
(B.R.L.O. Buenos Aires, 142140Z, 142141 to Admty. (R) Connav
Washington, B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro).

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

G.U.S.25. Onward route. Escorts A STORK, S.O., AIRE, SAXIFRAGE, SPIREA, ALISMA. B. from Bizerta ULSTER QUEEN. C. from Bone tug ORIANA. (C. in C.Med., 140957A.)

Italian Ships for Escort duty Med. Your 081745 Nov. and your 7489/00320/P of 28th Nov. In order that Admiralty may be fully informed regarding the escort situation in Med. request you will forward by Air Mail the following information concerning the Italian destroyers, T.B.Ds. and Corvettes now under Allied Control.

- A. The Names of those you consider now are operationally fit for regular employment as escorts.
B. To what extent and at what rate the remainder may be expected to come into service as Med. escorts.
C. Brief details of A/S and A/A capabilities and potentialities of each.
D. Your intentions as to their equipment and employment.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 140958A to C. in C.Med.)

Air reports. M.S. 23844. A.340 14th 1024Z. Daily Opsum 230. 12/13 3 Liberators (B.24) and 6 Halifaxes attacked Suda Bay Crete. Results were generally unobserved due to bad weather but 2 sticks were seen to burst across base of Mole. 111 x 500 lbs. 6 Wellingtons armed torpedoes and bombs, offensive shipping R/C in the Eastern Aegean. In poor weather conditions 2 aircraft attacked a 1300 ton vessel and 2 escort vessels about 50 miles east of Kithera but torpedoes and bombs all missed targets. Other sighting of 3000 ton M/V 1 destroyer and 2 smaller escort vessels could not be attacked owing to low cloud.

13th. 4 Mitchells (B.25) offensive sweep south eastern Aegean, a caique of 50/70 tons in Santorin Harbour attacked and 1 hit by 75 m.m. cannon sunk the vessel. 5 caiques and one 500 ton vessel in Marmari Bay Stampalia were attacked later a direct hit aft being scored by 75 m.m. on the latter. 2 direct hits by cannon were also scored on 1 caique of 100/150 tons which was left burning and sinking. All the vessels were attacked with machine gun-fire.

(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 141041Z.)

M.S. 23867. A.F. 246. 14th. N.W.A.A.F. Opsum 296. N.W.A.T.A.F. 13th 24 U.S.Mitchells B.25 Bihac (Yugoslavia). 1 explosion hits on Mole to south. 24 U.S.Mitchells B.25 Sibenik 65 x 500, 147 x 250 majority bombs fell in water fires started in warehouse and marshalling yards. 13 missions total 144 U.S.Warhawks P.40 enemy defended position Miglianico Area. 12 x 500, 244 x 250 most bombs fell in target area (?84 or 24) U.S.Invaders A.36 Terracina Town 48 x 500 hits quays. 46 Spitfires searched East Italian Coastal communications only scattered movement seen. 12/13th December. 9 Wellingtons U/B hunt in area off Jijelli/Philippeville. 1 Wellington sighted U/B and made a run but was unable to drop depth charges due failure lights to focus. Aircraft suffered extensive flak damage and headed for base, other aircraft failed to locate. 13th, 6 Wellingtons continued U/B hunt Jijelli/Philippeville area 1 aircraft observed U/B brought to surface by Naval Depth Charge

/attack...

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Air reports. (Contd.) attack and sunk by gunfire. U-Boat had been forced to remain submerged almost continuously for 31 hours. (H.Q.N.A.A.F. 141755A.)

Admiral Lemonnier. Admiral Lemonnier accompanied by Admiral Auboyneau and Capitaine de Frigate Ballanoe have now arranged to leave Marakesh on 21st for London. (C. in C.Med. 141049A to Admty. (R) Navale France Comnavnaw, Commorseafron.)

Number of personnel carried. When more than a small number of personnel is taking passage authorities sailing convoys are to indicate for the information of the escorts the number of personnel on board each ship in which the passengers carried exceed 100. Similarly authorities sailing ships to join are to include in their joining signal number of passengers carried in excess of 100. (C. in C.Med. 141127A to Med. Station, Levant Station 392B.)

Yugoslav Ships. V.A.M. 101112 and F.O.T.A.L.I. 121043 not to Admty. In view of decision of C. in C.A.F. contained in my 061225 following action should be taken.

2. Merchant ships quoted in V.A.M. 101112 should continue temporarily to be Italian manned and wear Italian flag being employed by M.W.Tr. as required in Central Med. M.W.Tr. has been requested to designate loading ports.

3. V.A.M. is requested to inform C. in C.Levant and F.O.T.A.L.I. of requirements of officers and engine room personnel of Royal Yugoslav Navy required to complete the complements of warships quoted in his para. one in regard to whose hand over we are already committed. C. in C.Levant and F.O.T.A.L.I. requested to send personnel required to Malta accordingly.

4. F.O.T.A.L.I. is requested to arrange passage to Malta for Commander Baikov four officers and five men referred to in his 091817 not to V.A.M. My 071730 Dec. para. 3B also refers.

5. Balance remaining of 300 men referred to in F.O.T.A.L.I. 121043 not required by V.A.M. should be retained in Heel. (C. in C.Med. 141224 to V.A.M. F.O.T.A.L.I. (R) Admty. C. in C. Levant, M.W.Tr. Med.)

Joint Army R.A.F. Intel. Appreciation. 392630. I/47574 24 hours to 1000/14. All times G.M.T. R/C enemy shipping in Aegean 13 Dec. (details). Five. Strong indications from Ph. and visual R/C destination DRACHE may have been Samos. C.X. and Ph. R/C also indicate further troop and supply convoy now in preparation Piraeus, C.X. suggest caique movement Scarpanto-Rhodes route now resumed. Further use in addition Leros - Rhodes route following recent apparent lull also possible. Further to earlier indications from Ph. R/C enemy recommissioning shipping formerly inactive Piraeus. C.X. now reports him planning

/salvage...

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Joint Army salvage sunken ships Leros, suggesting he is
R.A.F. Intel. anxious remedy shipping shortage. Appreciation
Appreciation. Kastelrosso unchanged.
(Contd.) (C. in C.M.E. 141405.)

S/M Zones. UPROAR recommends 043° 23' 007° 00' as Focal
Point for enemy traffic by day and night.
2. Amend dividing line between ST. and (?SS.)
as follows. Line drawn 143° from 043° 24' 006° 47'
Both zones bounded on south east by line joining 042° 30' 006°
10' to 043° 29' 008° 10'.
3. Amend Western Boundary SU. to 005° 33'.
4. Add new zone SW. between 004° 40' and 005° 33'.
(Capt. S.10th S/M Flot. 141416 to 10th S/M F. (R) N.O.I.C.
Algiers, S.M. S/M Malta, Navale France.)

"Vosper"
M.T.Bs. In order that "Vosper" M.T.B. may be efficient
and reliable on arrival in Mediterranean some
delay in shipment as in B.A.D. 112101 can be
accepted to enable modifications in my 111112 to
be carried out.

2. Admty. is requested to make early decision on rearmament of
these boats C.B. 04272 (8) Section two I.G. 74 refers. Propose
Oerlikon M.K. 8A should be fitted on foredeck. Request confir-
mation that O.5 mounting already fitted is being replaced by
Oerlikon M.K.9 H.A./L.A. mounting.
(C. in C.Med. 141448A, 161546 to Admty. B.A.D. (R) C.C.F.)

UPROAR. UPROAR reports at 0810/6 in 43° 23' N. 06° 54' E.
Attacks on fired four torpedoes at 6000 ton modern passenger
enemy ship- ship. One hit.
ping. 2. At 0440/11 in 43° 26' 07° 14' fired four tor-
pedoes at 3000 ton merchant vessel. Missed.
(S.10 141500 to C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant, V.A.
Malta, Capt. S.1, (R) F.O.S. Admty. R.A.Alexandria.)

UNTIRING, Probable minelaying between Cape Ferrat and Cape
patrol report. D'Aggio. Suspect minelayer sunk in Monaco harbour.
(P.59 (UNTIRING) 141556A to Capt. S.10, P.51
(UNSEEN) (R) C. in C.Med.)

PROTEE. Intend sailing F.S.PROTEE at 1000 Dec. 18th through
038° 11' 006° 06' at 0100/19th (?040°) 03' 006°
06' at 1100/19th thence as ordered by Capt. S.10
to patrol in ST. All times zone minus 1. All
positions N. and E.
(N.O.I.C. Algiers 141609A to C. in C.Med. Capt. S.
10, (R) 10th S/M F. F.O.C.Gib. for 50 Inshore Sqdn.)

/Information...

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14.12.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Information required from Italians. My 261726 Sept. and 302346 Aug. The following information is also required:-

A. Accurate information on damage sustained by Italian ships from gunfire, torpedo or bomb hits. (Italian damage reports would be of greatest value in determining in what particulars our weapons have fallen short of requirements.)

B. Any information on the tactical employment of smoke.

C. Any material giving enemy views on efficiency of our propaganda in neutral territory.

2. There are also required process cameras and high quality lenses used in chart reproduction work.
(A.C.N.S.(W) 141627A to C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant.)

CURIE. Intend to sail CURIE at 1700/15th through 038° 07' 006° 11' at 1300/16th. 040° 05' 006° 11' at 0300/17th thence as ordered by Capt. S.10 to patrol in ST. all times zone minus one all positions N.&E. (N.O.I.C. Algiers 141737A to C. in C.Med. Capt. S. 10, (R) 10th S/M F. F.O.I.C. Gib. S.O.I.S. Bastia.)

A.H.13. M.S.C.1 22 sail 1200/17th. 7 A. BLACKMORE. 8. As liaison ships with Italian escort group ex H.A. 12, A. WHADDON to Taranto. LAUDERDALE and EGGESFORD for East Coast Section as ordered by F.O.T.A. L.I.
(S.N.O. East Sicily 141751A to F.O.T.A. L.I. (R) BLACKMORE, EGGESFORD, Admty. C. in C.Med. N. & A. Authorities Malta to Heel. WHADDON, LAUDERDALE.)

Germans using "Gnats" Ref. B.388 time of origin 122120 Dec. Preliminary investigation of torpedoing of CUCKMERE, TYNEDALE and HOLCOMBE confirms that U-Boats in Med. are using "Gnats".

2. These have so far been fired singly from an approximate range of 2000 yards.

3. There is no evidence at present to show that "Gnats" home on Asdic transmission which has been suggested due to large numbers of torpedo hits forward.

4. It appears more likely that "Gnats" miss astern subsequently circling under full rudder to hit on disengaged side unless speed of ship is sufficient to draw clear of "Gnats" turning circle.

(C. in C.Med. 141815A to Med. Stn. Levant Stn. 394B, (R) Admty. C. in C.W.A. B.A.D. F.O.C.W.Af. Cdr. Naval Forces N.W.Afr. Waters.)

Preliminary reports. Your 131533 not to all refers. CUCKMERE escorting K.M.S.34 in position A. torpedoed by a "Gnat" torpedo while attacking Asdic contact. Torpedo hit forward of bridge. U-Boat contact at time of explosion was on port bow at 1600 yards. No H.E. from torpedo which may have missed astern and then circled under full port rudder to hit forward.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- Germans using "Gnats" (Contd.)
2. TYNEDALE escorting K.M.S.34 in position M.12.5 knots, zigzagging 120° every five minutes but had prolonged leg of zigzag rather over five minutes at time of attack. Asdic listening watch only being kept during temporary adjustment to S/R key. No H.E. heard from torpedo or U-Boat. Ship hit port side abreast funnel and broke in half.
 3. HOLCOMBE hunting U-Boat in company with NIBLACK gained contact 40° on port bow at 1700 yards and turned towards to attack. "Gnat" hit aft. U-Boat contact at time of explosion right ahead 1400 yards. No H.E. from torpedo.
 4. TYNEDALE and HOLCOMBE both sunk by U.593 which was subsequently sunk by CALPE and WAINWRIGHT in same area. Survivors of U.593 state C.O. was manoeuvring to fire "Gnat" at CALPE was forced deep by depth charge attacks. WAINWRIGHT streamed lash-up "Foxyer" gear during part of A/S hunt.
 5. It appears "Gnats" were fired at range of approx. 2000 yards and that if they miss astern they subsequently circle under full rudder to hit target on disengaged side if speed of ship is insufficient to draw clear of "Gnats" turning circle.
 6. From inspection of damage to CUCKMERE it is possible that non-contact pistol is being used.
 7. Summary of interrogation report will be signalled.
(C. in C.Med. 141818A to Admty. (R) C. in C.Levant, Comnavnaw.)

Number of M/Vs in convoy.

A.M. 131738. The increase in Air attack with no corresponding increase in the number of escorts available makes it undesirable to accept a greater number of ships than the maximum laid down in my 061232 Sept.

2. If however there are particular reasons why this number should be exceeded on this occasion the Med. Escort will reinforce the convoy in the Oran area and it will be necessary for the Western Approaches escort to proceed to the vicinity of Bone.
(C. in C.Med. 141928A to Admty.)

Levant Situation report No. 120.

Up to 1800B/14th. Force of M.T.Bs. based on Turkish Coast reported last night leaving one tug* in sinking condition and damaging one caique and one barge in Trianda Bay Rhodes.

2. R.A.F. mined Salamis night 6th Candia night 8th and Suda Bay night 10th.
3. QUEENBOROUGH, QUILLIAM and RAIDER arrived today for refit at Alexandria.
(C. in C.Levant 141956B.)

* M. 01364/47 *Swiss name of tug as VENETIA. G.H.H.*

Situation Report No. 250.

1. TROWBRIDGE and TUMULT carried out sweep of Albanian Coast from Dubrovnik to Durazzo during 12th/13th but sighted nothing.
2. Air raid took place on Bari p.m. 13th. Bombs dropped causing no damage to port or casualties. A/A fire claim 2 shot down.
3. F.S. ORPHEE claims hit on Fleet tug in Gulf of Genoa on 7th Dec. Tug possibly sunk.
(C. in C.Med. 142014A.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

S/Ms extension of positions. 14th arrangements are being made to extend S/M positions. (corrupt group) (P.314) TACTICIAN no change from my 130019. (Capt. S.4 140156Z to Admty. C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C. A.C.C. Ceylon.)

A.B.23. Arrived, including THRUSTER escorted by BANN, TULIP. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 140420.)

Classification of A/S escorts. A large proportion of the vessels employed on A/S escort duties on the East Indies station are BATHURST and BANGOR class A/S minesweepers (steam). 2. It is presumed these are included in the term escort, vide para. two of your 091814, and it is suggested an addition to this effect in para. three (2) be made. (C. in C.E.F. 140510Z to Admty.)

Bi-weekly U-Boat dis- position No. 9 Areas A. and B. Air Escort W. Area C. no further indication of Japanese U-Boat since D/F fixed to eastward of Socotra 7th Dec. but may still be in the area. Air escort X. Area D. F.S. SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA reports attacking Asdic contact in 011° (720') S. 056° 50' E. at 0615Z/13th which may indicate that Japanese U-Boat believed sighted by aircraft south east of Ceylon on 6th is moving toward Mombasa/Mozambique Channel Area. Air escort X. Areas E. F. G. No further news of U-Boat (German) plotted by D/F in Andamans Area 29th Nov. but she is probably still at sea and may be anywhere in these areas. Air escort X. 2. Final para. of 362Y of 13th Sept. is cancelled. (C. in C.E.F. 140517Z to E.F. 452Y.)

^I
M.E.I.R.A. Amendment No. 42. Section 1 P delete and substitute. Convoy definition. 1. A convoy is 2 or more Naval Auxiliary Vessels, Merchant ships or both, assembled and organized for an operation or passage together; "or" a single Naval Auxiliary Vessel or Merchant Ship under escort of 1 or more warships. C.B. 04024(43) in course of distribution refers. 2. When single escorted ships are sailed (except when only escorted outward through a focal area) they are now to be designated and treated as convoys. Standard abbreviated sailing telegram procedure, C. in C.E.F. 041240 Nov. is to be carried out including advanced information signals to air authorities in accordance with East Indies Station Message 469C 17th Nov. 3. When no standard designation for a convoy is laid down in C.A.F.O. 1572/43 the title to be used is to consist of place names from and to e.g. "convoy Mauritius to Seychelles".

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

M.E.I.R.I.
Amendment
No. 42.
(Contd.)

4. C. in C.E.F. 041240 Nov. is to be passed to all N.Os.i/c and N.C.S.Os. and will be included in M.E.I.R.I. which is in course of being printed.
5. Numbering of convoys. Normally single escorted ships should be given the number of the last routine convoy with a lettered suffix.
(C. in C.E.F. 141106Z to F.O.N.I.C. (R) Admty. Comsouwespac, N.Z.N.B.)

Fighter
Direction
Ships,
requirements.

It is understood that the existing fighter direction ships do not meet the requirements for fighter direction during an assault.
2. For future operations in the Eastern theatre the following are considered to be the main essential requirements for fighter direction ships (details).
(C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) 141204Z to Admty.)

Kantalai A/C
accommodation.

Your 041132 (Kantalai) and your 270225 Nov. to A.H.Q. India and S.E.A.C. reply number X.8795 (Sollur).

2. A decision on Sollur and Kantalai will be communicated as soon as possible. It is probable that the accommodation required at Kantalai, if approved, would be for 8½ Squadrons (102 I.E. aircraft.)
(5th S.L. 141402A to R.A.N.A.S.I.C. Info. C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.))

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Tuesday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

EMPIRE
PENNANT
"Q" Report
1st Dec.

Request interrogation Master of EMPIRE PENNANT regarding Q Q Q Q on 1st Dec. and why message was not cancelled or amplified.
(D.T.D. 140102A to Connav, Info: C.S.A. Buenos Aires. B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro.)
See B.R.L.O. Buenos Aires 142141 (South Atlantic)

"Monsters"
W/T
Silence.

C. in C. C.N.A. 051621Z/Dec. and C. in C. W.A. 061857Z/Dec.
Admiralty is in agreement with proposals of C. in C. W.A.
Subject to your concurrence it is proposed to issue instructions to sailing authorities to inform Masters of Monsters accordingly.
If agreed request you will take similar action with sailing authorities in U.S.A.
(D.O.D.(H), 140204A to Cominch, Info: C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, A.O. C. in C. E.A.C.)

LE MALIN.

Norfolk arrived 12th, French Light Cruiser LE MALIN for fuelling and onward passage to Gibraltar.
(N.S.H.Q. 140239Z to Admty. (R) B.A.D., C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F.)

O.T./T.O.
Convoys,
Tankers
Numbers.

This is Cominch's 131930 addressed C.A.F.A.C. Cinclant, (R) Admty. Connavnaw, C. in C. Med. Comcaribseafon, Comorrocseafon.
Maximum number of tankers which may be sailed in O.T./T.O. convoys raised from 8 to 10 beginning with O.T.12.
(Connaveu, 140556Z to Admty.)

U-Boat.

Cuban Schooner VALERIANO FERNANDEZ reports submarines sighted 45 miles S.E. of American Shoal course N.E. at 0700 G.M.T.12th. B.Two.
(S.O.L. Jamaica, 141259R to Admty.)

Castle
Class
Corvettes
completion
Dates.

Following are anticipated dates of completion of the Castle class corvettes building in U.K. for R.C.N.
(2) Request you will obtain from N.S.H.Q. the latest dates for the arrival of R.C.N. crews.
(D.O.D.(H), 141511A to B.A.M.R. A.S.C.B.S. Info: N.S.H.Q.)

C.V.E's.

Forecast of C.V.E. completion and sailing dates.
(B.A.D. 141511Z to Admty.)

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

LINCOLN,
GEORGETOWN. Refer to my 101848 para. 3 anticipate sailing
LINCOLN, GEORGETOWN p.m. 16th to U.K. via
Azores.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 141518Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.
W.A., F.O.N.F., S.B.N.O. Azores, N.S.H.Q.)

GLASGOW. C. in C. W.A. 131819A and 141247A request
forecast movements of GLASGOW in order that
Mercantile Intelligence may be passed.
(N.S.H.Q. 141551Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A.)

U.S. S/M (Cominch, 141557)
Estimate.

QUEEN ELIZA- Departed New York, 1437Z/14.
BETH. (P.D. New York, 141602Z)
(A.T.80).

U-Boat Refer to this as C.T.G. 21.15's 132110.
attacked. Weather 9481 3162. GOLDSBOROUGH attacked sound
contact 131534Z lat. 32.34 Long. 30.15 results
unknown. KEARNY and GOLDSBOROUGH continuing
search.
(Comnaveu, 141623 to Admty.)

AYLMER Your 132245. Request ship be sailed to
repairs. arrive Navy Yard Boston by 22nd Dec. for repairs
(B.A.M.R.141644Z to S.B.N.O. W.At. Info: AYLMEER,
Admty. MALABAR.)

A/S Admty. 131041 (Re six A/S trawlers to sail to
Trawlers. U.K.) comply N.S.H.Q. 092058 refers.
(N.S.H.Q. 141914 to C. in C. C.N.A.)

B.Y.M.S. C. in C. U.S. Fleet 261930. B.Y.M.S.182 and 61
182 and depart Bermuda for Horta 142200Z. Destination
61. Londonderry.
(N.O.B. Bermuda, 141919Z to N.O.I.C.Horta)
as amended 152200Z.

O.N.213 Arrivals New York Dec.14. Total 32 ships (list)
TAMAROA and MEXICAN arrived 9th and 12th
respectively independent.
(B.R.L.O.New York, 141930)

PRINCE DAVID /...

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

PRINCE DAVID. N.S.H.Q.'s 262135. Expect PRINCE DAVID will leave Vancouver 22nd Dec. en route U.K. via Panama.
(2) Request destination be (?passed) to C. in C. U.S.Fleet for onward routeing from Panama Canal Zone.
(N.S.H.Q. 141942Z to Admty. (R) C.O.Pacific Coast, (Esquimalt), Naval Member C.J.S. Washn. S.C.N.O. London, C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C. in C. Portsmouth S.O. Force 'J')

A/S Trawler Convoy Escorts. Your 081412 (N.T. in W.R.) not to F.O.N.F. Intend sailing LORD MIDDLETON, ST. KENAN, PAYNTER, CAPE MARIATO and CAPE ARGONA to St. Johns N.F. in sufficient time to complete with bunkers and be available for passage to Liverpool with S.C.150.
(2) AYRSHIRE requires docking on completion of refit approx. 28th. Provided docking takes place at Sydney similar action will be taken to make ship available for first applicable S.C. convoy.
(N.O.I.C.Sydney, 142005Z, 151559 to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F.)
W.R. Note: See A.M.131041.

H.X.270. FORESTER, TRACKER. delayed by weather ETRICK by defects will not join at Westomp further signal. My 141316 (N.T. in W.D.)
(F.O.N.F. 142029Z to S.E.C. H.X.270, C. in C. C.N.A.)

LEANDER. Arrived Balboa 1500Z/14th.
(U.S. Cdr. Panama Sea Fron, 142058A to C. in C. U.S.Fleet (R) N.Z.N.B., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. U.S. Pacific Fleet, Opnav, Admty. B.A.D., Cominch, S.O.(I) Jamaica, S.O.(I) Callao, S.B.N.O. W.At. Area.)

COTTON (B.D.E.81) En route Bermuda and at speed of 16 knots
CONN (B.D.E.517) depart Boston Gate in company 1700Q/14th. Route.
LOUIS (C.T.G.02.1, 142120 to N.O.B.Bermuda)
(B.D.E.517)

Sub.attack and sighting Summary. A. BOGUE sub contact and moving oil slick 3111 N. 27.34 W. 1755Z/14.
D. Panam plane sighted surfaced sub. 23.20 S. 44.10 W. 2010Z/13.
(Cominch, 142125 to Admty.)

War Diary.14.12.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.Movements,
Bermuda.BYRON arrived.
GOZO and FRIENDSHIP departed.
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 142209Z)C.T.G.21.13
U-Boat.

This is 141755 from C.T.G.21.13 to Cominch and C. in C. Lant for action and to the following for information: Comairlant, Comfair Norfolk, C.T.G.21.15, Comnaveu, Admty. and U.S.S. SAVANNAH. "Remaining this area.

Developing moving oil slick and definite submarine contact 31.11 N. 27.34 W. have informed CORE. Escort running out of D.C."
(Comnaveu, 142306 to Admty.)Australia and New Zealand.

U.S.23.

Sailing telegram (HEMITAGE, URUGUAY)
(2) 0100Z/14th. (3) 0700Z/18th at position
(Y) 0300Z/25th.
(6) D.S. JACOB VAN HEEMSKERCK to position (Y)SUFFOLK from (Y) to destination.
(N.C.S.O. Fremantle 140130Z, 140135Z to Admty. Connv.)Digest
Serial
No.693
Dec.13th.

5 Navy Catalinas struck Kupang wharf area early hours starting several fires. 4 Dutch Mitchells follows shortly afterwards. Catalinas were ineffectively intercepted by 2 night fighters.

(3) During dawn sweep 2 Beaufighters strafed and set afire 3 barges near Cape Hoskins.

(5) Before dawn 1 Navy Catalina attacked Southbound 4 ship convoy comprising 1 destroyer, 2 medium merchantmen, 1 small oiler, half mile off shore central southwest coast New Ireland. Direct hit sank 4000 ton freighter in low level attack. Little later same plane observed 1 large cargo vessel, 2 small ships, 4 miles further north heading north, radio jamming prevented contact with second Navy Catalina in area.
(6) Earlier same night U.S. M.T.B's sunk or destroyed 9 barges off Heiss Point. Night 11th-12th similar allied craft sank 3 barges off East Coast Huon Enninndla. Another large armed barge also encountered same area, besides 5th barge towing supply raft.

War Diary.

14.12.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest (12) Forenoon 12th 4 Aircobras sweeping North
Serial Coast Huon Peninsula destroyed or damaged 9
No.693 barges by strafing.
Dec.13th. (15) Allied M.T.B's engaged 3 southbound heavily
(Contd.) armoured barges off South East Bougainville
mid-day 12th. 1 barge sunk, second beached
although intense return fire met same area
causing clouds of smoke some fire. Escorting
fighters strafed Tanekau Area also Suin-Augusta Bay
communication trails while returning E.F.S.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 140815Z, 141705)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 141351, 141352)

Submarines Attacked.

Sub.attack and sighting summary for 24 hours to 0900Z/14th. Para. A. (1) A/C and surface craft attacked U-Boat at 1221/13th in 26 degs. 19' N. 29 degs. 58' W.
(2) U.S.S. WAINWRIGHT and CALPE attacked U-Boat with gunfire and depth charges at 1350/13th in 37 degs. 41' N. 6 degs. 06' E.
(D.D.I.C. 141108A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)
My 221059 July, 1942.
(1) No promising attacks reported for week ending 7th. Dec.
(2) At 2056A/10 in 46 degs. 36' N. 8 degs. 26' W. Leigh Light Liberator S/53 attacked a U-Boat sighted on the surface. Straddle with depth charges is claimed and bow of U-Boat is reported to have risen at steep angle after explosions. No further results seen in darkness.
(3) Leigh Light Liberator B/53 attacked fully surfaced U-Boat on westerly course at 0710A/13 in 45 degs. 45' N. 9 degs. 38' W. Depth charges straddled forward of Conning Tower and later two bodies were seen in the water.
(4) At 1350/13 CALPE and U.S.S. WAINWRIGHT sank a U-Boat in 37 degs. 41' N. 6 degs. 06' E. Probably same U-Boat had previously torpedoed HOLCOMBE and TYNE DALE.
(D.A.U.D. 141955A to Cominch, Commaveu, B.A.D., N.S.H.Q.)

15.12.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Fog.

1. The port of Rosyth was closed today from 0505A to 2341A, on account of fog. Dundee was closed at 1055A until 0500/16.

C.V.Es.

2. C. in C. W.A. anticipates that 6 C.V.Es. will be available in his Command for trade protection in January 1944. In order to maintain a round the clock air offensive against U-Boats and against bombing attacks whilst within range of Biscay airfields he considers the C.V.Es. should be operated in pairs, forming 3 groups.

North Atlantic.

SERAPH.

3. The S/M SERAPH (Levant Station) sailed from Gibraltar for the U.K. today.

Mediterranean.

Adriatic.

4(a) During a patrol last night by the destroyers TYRIAN and TEAZER between Dubrovnik and Durazzo a tug and a lighter were attacked with gunfire off Kotor. The tug is believed to have been sunk and the lighter damaged.

(b) The Yugoslav Partisan Naval H.Q. on Hvar Island reports that the partisans have been reinforced by 2350 armed volunteers from south Italy. Small partisan units are being landed on the mainland, to cut communications and test the enemy strength.

(c) 3 minesweepers are reported to have been attacked (presumably by aircraft) in the channel between Peljesae Channel and the mainland, and 2 were hit and damaged.

/Aegean ...

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Aegean.

5. C. in C. M.E. appreciates that the successful interference by naval and air action, with the renewed caique activity on the Leros - Kos - Rhodes route may have deterrent effect on this important traffic which is believed to carry supplies and/or troop reinforcements to Rhodes and evacuating prisoners of war.

East Indies.

6. It is intended to form a coastal force division for clandestine operations on the coast of Burma.

China.

7. Two Mitchells of the 14th U.S.A.A.F. sank a large tug in Tongli Gulf today.

Australia and New Zealand.

U.S. landing
in New
Britain.

8. At dawn today U.S. troops landed in some strength at three points on Arawa Peninsula, in south-west New Britain. Destroyers bombarded the beach heads prior to and covering the landing of amphibious craft; and aircraft co-operated. All small craft were successfully run ashore before the first Japanese air strike developed, and the enemy air attacks were ineffective. The objective was reached by noon. The Allied casualties were light.

9. Allied M.T.Bs. last night damaged a large barge beached east of Saidor.

War Diary.15.12.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

H.M.Ts. ADAM and BLIGHTY. Are to be returned to the Poles for fishing. (D.M.S. 151231A, 151232A.)

Movements.

RODNEY. Request you will sail RODNEY for Scapa to arrive not earlier than 17th where time in harbour can be arranged. RODNEY's 14303 refers. (C.S.1 150251A to F.O.Greenock.)

C.S.1's 150251. Owing to great congestion at Clyde it is most desirable that you proceed to Scapa as soon as possible.
2. Intend that you proceed unescorted on completion of firings. 16th. Your 141303 refers.
3. Report A. E.T.D. Clyde Boom. B. S.O.A. C. E.T.A. Scapa. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 151044A to RODNEY.)
Your 151044. A. 1730/18th. B. 16 knots. C. 1330/17th. (RODNEY 151459A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

U.S.S. NEVADA And destroyers escorting U.T.5. Arrival. (C.T.F.69). (N.O.I.C. Belfast 150255A, Comdesdiv. 30 151130A.)
See Shipping and Convoys.

SERAPH. From position G. in F.O.I.C. Gibraltar's 132322 proceed diving by day via route "Green" to R/V in 180° Bishops 10 miles at 1100A/21.
2. Capt. S.5 is requested to arrange escort R/V to Portsmouth.
3. On day of meeting escort passage may be made on the surface in daylight at C.Os. discretion.
4. Bombing restrictions north of 043° will be arranged. (F.O.S. 151122A to Capt. S.5, SERAPH, (R) Admty. C. in C.Plymouth, C. in C.Portsmouth, N.O.I.C. Falmouth, H.Q.C.C. F.O.I.C. Gib.)

S/MS. Positions at 0800A/16 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 151546, 151741.)

Operations.

Blockade-Runner Patrol. GLASGOW on anti-blockade-runner patrol. Your 141551 refers.
2. For these particular operations Admty. assumes responsibility for passing mercantile intelligence.
3. GAMBIA relieves GLASGOW 16th Dec. (D.O.D.(H) 151328A to N.S.H.Q.)

Coastal Force Patrols. 1. Orders for night 15/16th December.
A. 2 CHASSEURS anti E-Boat patrol on 50° 24' N. between 0° 35' W. and 0° 48' W. from 1800A to 0700A.
B. M.L. 292 short notice St. Helens.

/C...

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15.12.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Coastal Force Patrols. (Contd.) C. 3 M.G.B. from HORNET anti E-Boat patrol south of convoy route between $2^{\circ} 35'$ W. and long. of N.3 Buoy from 1900A to 0500A keeping abreast W.P.446 times of passing Portland and Needles will be signalled if differing from programme. (C. in C.Portsmouth 151340A.)

V.P. Operations. My 141246A. M.T.B. 623 returned at 1425A today 15th December. Two operations successful. (A.C.O.S. 151532A.)

S/M patrols. Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/16 and movements for following 24 hours. All times zone A.
A. SIRDAR (P.226) $69^{\circ} 39'$ N. $12^{\circ} 50'$ E. probably on the surface speed 10 knots through $70^{\circ} 45'$ N. 16 degs. 10' E. thence to patrol N. of Soroy.
B. VENTURER (P.68) on patrol vicinity $63^{\circ} 30'$ N. $01^{\circ} 05'$ E.
C. O.15 $59^{\circ} 25'$ N. $04^{\circ} 15'$ E. diving by day to patrol off Skudesnes.
D. STUBBORN (P.238) on patrol off Kya (Folden Fjord.)
E. SATYR (P.214) on patrol off Stadtlandet. (F.O.S. 151546, 151741.)

Allied Air Activity.

Operation of C.V.Es. It is anticipated 6 C.V.Es. will be available for trade protection in January 1944. In order to maintain a round-the-clock offensive against U-Boats and against bombing attacks while within range of Biscay air fields, we shall now I consider operate C.V.Es. in pairs providing at the same time a concentrated and increased air effort with economy in escorts.

2. Taking into account the various types of aircraft, weapons and special equipment carried it is proposed that C.V.Es. allocated to Western Approaches Command be divided into air groups as follows:

Group A. One FENCER (S.O.) and ACTIVITY.
A. two BITER (S.O.) and TRACKER.
A. three VINDEX (S.O.) and STRIKER.

3. Re working up. 4. Aircraft - technical.

5. It is most desirable A.one and A.2 groups should be available by mid January and A.3 group by early February. In order to facilitate group-training it is requested that no further changes in complements of aircraft may take place except to increase numbers of fighters carried when they become available. (C. in C.W.A. 151629A to F.O.C.T.)

Mining.

M.V.ROBRIX. My 141650. Master of M.V.ROBRIX confirms position as S.W. by S. from B.6A. Explosion under port quarter boiler on surface no plume. Slight detonation felt on deck. Vessel will be slipped at Ipswich, for examination of damage when further signal will be made. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 151042A.)
See also F.O.I.C. Harwich 241654.

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15.12.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

2 ships in Bay of Biscay. P.C. and S. of enemy two merchant vessels 45.47 N. 04.46 W. 030°, 10 knots. (A/C 19E 152340A.)

Enemy Destroyers. A. 3 large destroyers reported in Stavanger Nov. 27th. B. 2 large destroyers passed Bergen northwards Nov. 18th. Graded B.2. (N.A. Stockholm 151714 to Admty.)

U-Boats.

A/S search by E.G.2 & E.G.3. Your 142315. In view of weather damage cancel operation. E.G.2 is to return to Liverpool. (C. in C.W.A. 150107Z to E.G.2.)

Report by HORTEN. C.A.F.O. 1342/43. A. Norwegian Whaler HORTEN. B. 150923A. C. Asdic. D. Lat. 57° 26' 10" N. Long. 1° 37' 30" W. E. Two. F. 20955. Reported on arrival in harbour. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 151614A.)

My 151614A. HORTEN being sent to search area again early a.m. 16th as soon as fuelled returning p.m. for escort duty 17th. Consider report doubtful though C.O. states submarine. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 151634A.)

Navigational.

Rosyth. Port of Rosyth closed owing to low visibility. (C. in C.Rosyth 150505A.)
Cancel my 150505.
(C. in C.Rosyth 152341A.)

Dundee. Port of Dundee closed until further notice on account of fog. (N.O.I.C. Dundee 151055A.)

Casualties & Defects.

RATTLESNAKE. My 141511A.* Efforts to secure hanging portion of port bilge keel have been unsuccessful owing to weather. Propose sailing p.m. tomorrow Thursday to comply with your 071742A para. B. (RATTLESNAKE 151215A to C. in C.H.F.)

Your 140835 and 141511 not to R.A.D. Report whether you are able to carry out Duty B. of C. in C. Home Fleet's 071742. If not report name of ship detailed. (A.C.O.S. 151257 to RATTLESNAKE.)

Your 151215A. Proceed to Scapa forthwith. Bilge keel will be removed on arrival. You will be sailed to arrive Loch Ewe in time to carry out duty B. of C. in C.H.F. 071742A. (A.C.O.S. 151733 to RATTLESNAKE.)

*re Damage to port bilge keel.

/STARLING...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects - Contd.

STARLING
and E.G.2.

My 142315A. All ships of the group are suffering from the same trouble but STARLING is the most advanced. I do not consider that the ships are fit to stand up to the Atlantic winter until they are strengthened aft.
(S.O.E.G.2 151240A to C. in C.W.A.)

BELGIAN GULF.

Ref. A.M. 141601. Tanker BELGIAN GULF. At Bidston prevented from proceeding to first discharging berth at Barton Manchester on account of fog will not sail in O.N.216. Damage to stern sustained during docking. This may cause further delay.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 151315A.)

U.S. CROWN
POINT.

Hit submerged object returning Barry Roads. Master.
(CROWN POINT No T.O.O.)

M.T.Bs.
673, 676.

M.T.Bs. 673 and 676 sustained collision damage, while on patrol in accordance with my 141341A.
2. Full report will be forwarded.
(C. in C.Plymouth 151740A.)

Shipping & Convoys.

U.T.5.

Following have arrived U.S.S. NELSON, JEFFERS, GLENNON, DOROTHEA L.DIX, EARLE, DORAN, BUTLER, GHERARDI, HERNDON and QUICK at Larne and C.T.F. 69 in U.S. Battleship NEVADA with U.S. escort oiler U.S.S. CHEMUNG at Belfast.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast 150255A.)
Arrived (6 ships).
(N.C.S.O. Belfast 150320A.)

Comdesdiv. 30 in U.S.S. COWIE with U.S.S. KNIGHT and Bristol Channel section of U.T.5, E.T.A. Scarweather lightship 2030A/15.
(Comdesdiv. 30 151130A.)

U.T.5 Clyde portion arrived (6 ships).

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 151208A: D.S.T.O.Greenock, 151245A.)

U.T.5 Bristol Channel portion 4 ships arrived anchorage for their ports.

(N.O.I.C. Barry 152215A to C. in C.W.A.)

Bristol Channel portion, 4 ships arrived.

(N.O.I.C. Barry 152215A.)

Coasters'
balloons.

It is suggested that all coasters plying to and from ports north of Milford Haven in P.W/W.P. convoys should sail throughout without balloons in both directions.

2. This would obviate northbound coasters having to call at Milford Haven to land balloons or to deflate at sea.
3. It is estimated that with all Bristol Channel and ocean ships flying balloons average number so fitted will not be less than eighty per cent in each convoy.

War Diary.15.12.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.Coasters'
balloons.
(Contd.)

4. Request your remarks.
5. A.M. 271922 November refers.
(D.T.D. 151331A to C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. Plymouth.)

R.A.55B.

Intend to sail Group 2 consisting of (6 snips) from Dvina Bar at 1100/17 for Kola Inlet.
2. Escorts from Dvina BEAGLE, HUSSAR and HALCYON, to be reinforced by 2 Soviet destroyers joining off Ponoi and by RHODODENDRON at Situation YY.
3. S. of A. 9½ knots. E.T.A. Toros Island 0630A/19th. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 151337A to S.B.N.O.N. Russia (Polyarnoe) (R) Admiral Fisher, BEAGLE, HUSSAR, Admty. C. in C.H.F. M.W.T. S.B.N.O.N. Russia (Murmansk 40).)

T.U.5.

Convoy T.U.5 will be ready to leave U.K. on 20th December (Bristol Channel Section 19th Dec.) comprising the following 23 U.S. ships (names).
2. Escort T.F.69 comprising U.S.S. NEVADA, escort oiler CHEMUNG and U.S. destroyers NELSON, GLENNON, BUTLER, GHERARDI HERNDON, QUICK, RHIND, JEFFERS, COWIE, KNIGHT, EARLE and DORAN.
3. Fighter protection codeword "Peacock".
4. Admiralty will promulgate route.
5. C. in C.W.A. is requested to arrange sailing of convoy and escort.
6. F.Os. i/c and N.Os. i/c pass to N.C.S.Os. and U.S. Nav. P.Os. (D.O.D. (F) 151635A.)
A.M. 151635. 1. Route. 2. Stragglers route. 3. No ref. positions. 4. "Chop" 27th December. 5. F.Os. i/c and N.Os. i/c pass to N.C.S.Os. concerned. (D.O.D.H. 152115A.)

J.W.55B.

Your 151257A and my 151215A not to R.A.(D) H.F. RATTLESNAKE will carry out duty B. of C. in C.H.F.'s 071742 as no other ship is at present available. (RATTLESNAKE 151728A to A.C.O.S.)
My 080502 not to all addressees amend to read as follows:-
Ships detailed B. HYDRA, C. RATTLER (S.O.) and COCKATRICE.
Propose sailing HYDRA 1300/16th E.T.A. Loch Ewe 1400/17th. (RATTLESNAKE 152001A to C. in C.H.F. (R) A.C.I.C. S.O.18th M/S F. R.A.(D) H.F. C. in C. Rosyth, N.O.I.C. Aultbea, N.O.I.C. Faroes, A.C.O.S. HYDRA, RATTLER, COCKATRICE.)
Your 151733 (see Casualties & Defects) received and understood. HYDRA has been detailed as in my 152001. Request further instructions. (RATTLESNAKE 152049A to A.C.O.S.)

K.M.S. &
M.K.S.
convoys.

In para. 2 of my 221053 Nov. for B.1 Group read B.3 Group.
(C. in C.W.A. 151813A.)

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoy - Contd.

K.M.F.27. My 131503 and my 131635. Sailed 1505A/15th less SCYTHIA and ORONTES delayed.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 151857A to Admty.)
SCYTHIA and ORONTES are delayed. Proceed with remainder of ships to Belfast reporting E.T.A.
(C. in C.W.A. 151915A to URCHIN.)

K.M.F.27. Sailing delayed. Amended R/V will be promulgated later. My 151915A not to all addressees refers.
(C. in C.W.A. 151956A.)
C. in C.W.A. 151915. E.T.A. Belfast 0030A/16 with 5 ships.
Request berth.
(URCHIN 152023A.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

JANUS. Arrived.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 150929 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

^RVITA
GARCIA
searched. Admty. 091958. Spanish ^RVITA GARCIA ship and crew minutely searched. Nothing found but mail carried by Carpenter and Mayo and others. Also sack tobacco hidden in disused compressor.
2. Former handed censor, latter will be disposed of as usual, after examination.
3. Hiding place under bookshelf found, but empty.
4. Many other constructed empty hiding places also located.
5. Several of crew stated they heard in Buenos Aires that interception was likely.
6. Bulk wheat for Valencia, in number 2 hold, heavily overstowed by Melilla cargo.
7. Recommend release of ship of holdback guarantee, enforcing discharge of this wheat at Valencia under Consular supervision.
(C.C.S.O. Gibraltar, 151108 to Admty.)

B. and C. Propose reporting to C. in C. Plymouth repeated
Patrols, F.O.C. Gibraltar when B. or C. Patrols commence
reports, or cease or any area searched with percentage
of effectiveness.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 151150Z to C. in C. Plymouth,
(R) Admty., F.O. Gibraltar, C. in C. W.A.,
C. in C. Med.)

LAVORO, My 062031*. LAVORO expected ready to sail under
GAETA. own steam 23rd. Speed 13 knots.
(2) In view of S.O.(I) Gib.'s telephone statement
I assume visas for Italian crew are being
obtained in Gibraltar.
(3) Owing to difficulties of railway transport I am tentatively
approaching Ministry of Marine regarding alternative mentioned
in para. 3 of your 021504.
(B.N.A. Madrid, 151215A to F.O.C. Gib., (R) C. in C. Med.,
F.O.T.A.L.I., Admty.)
* Re damage to GAETA and LAVORO.
/ Re towing impracticable owing to lack of tugs and escorts.

SERAPH. Sailed 0830. My 132322 refers.
(F.O.C. Gib., 151315A.)

CHANTICLEER. S.B.N.O. Azores' 031130 and B.N.A. Lisbon's
101748 neither to all addressees. It is approved
for CHANTICLEER to be held as base ship Horta.
2, 3. Re disposal of guns and equipment.
4. Request N.A. Lisbon consult Ambassador and ascertain whether
it is considered necessary to obtain prior Portuguese consent.
(Controller, 151405A to S.B.N.O. Azores, B.N.A. Lisbon, Info.
F.O. Gib., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Med.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

STOIC.

Arrived.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 151425A to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.(S), S.5, 8, 10, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth.)

GAMBIA.

Arrived Horta.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 151557Z to C. in C. Plymouth, (R) Admty., F.O.C. Gib., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Med.)

LUGELA,
LIMA.

Agreed facilities requested should be accorded as an exceptional measure subject to any urgent requirements by S.B.N.O. Azores of the use of the port.

2. Should such exist S.B.N.O. Azores is requested to make suitable arrangements locally and to report any difficulties. N.A. Lisbon's 101739* refers.

3. Arrangements referred to in N.A. Lisbon's 071756 is approved. (Hd. of M.(1), 152041A to N.A. Lisbon, S.B.N.O. Azores, Info. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

* Arrival of SS. LUGELA at Terceira and visit of SS. LIMA for few hours only.

Gibraltar
garrison.

OZ.4104 - 15th.
British Cs. of S. consider that a reduction of the military garrison amounting to some 4,000 personnel is justified in the present situation.
2. We propose to release (details).

3. This will leave (details).

4. If the situation in the Iberian Peninsula or Med. deteriorates and the threat to Gibraltar revives, the reduced garrison will be immediately restored to its present strength. In addition a Commando would be required immediately for spiking the guns of Spanish batteries on the South Coast.

5. Request your comments before we take final decision.

(Air Min., 152345Z to A.F.H.Q., (R) J.S.M. Washington as C.O.S. (W) 995.)

South Atlantic.

Anti-blockade
runner
patrols.

It is not clear to Admty. on what basis you have arranged your anti-blockade runner patrols. Why for instance North-South dispositions rather than East-West were decided on.

2. No doubt your cruiser dispositions are based on air patrols on which we lack information, and it is requested you will signal brief explanation of your general plan.

(V.C.N.S., 150046A to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) F.O. Gibraltar.)

/S.R.8 ...

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S.R. 8. Departures 1751Z/14th DOUGLAS, MALCOLM, WOLVERINE with S.R.8.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 150929Z.)

ALSACE,
PORTSDOWN.

Cable ship ALSACE now working in estuary at Libreville expects to be ready to leave for Pointe Noire about 20th. S/M Chaser 43 which has been her escort effecting 15 day repairs at Pointe Noire because of (? split) in cylinder clock (? between) 2 cylinders is increasing. Submit that PORTSDOWN (C. in C. S.A. 131045 refers) may be retained for escort duty for ALSACE for approx. 15 days. My 151045 refers (N.T. in W.D.)
(B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, 151035A to R.A.W.Af., (R) Admty.)

ALSACE,
PRESIDENT
HOUDUCE.

My 011005 and 151035 (Escort for ALSACE working at Libreville).
F.S. PRESIDENT HOUDUCE will be out of action till the middle of January as it has been found necessary to send shafts of both generators to (corrupt group) because the lathes at Pointe Noire cannot cope with this work.
(B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, 151045A to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) Admty.)

CANTON.

Sailed CANTON to Bombay route.
(Com. i/c Durban, 151131Z to C. in C. E.F. (S.E. A.C.), Admty., C. in C. S.A., F.O.E.A., Com. R.I.N.)

SS. LEONIDAS reported as a suspicious ship.

My 100725 (N.T. in W.R.) Cominch requests Master LEONIDAS be interrogated as to any contacts made with U.S. Ships or aircraft particularly U.S. aircraft on 8th near 05° 22' S. 23° 18' W.
(D.D.I.C., 151200A to F.O.C.W.Af.)
W.R. Note - See F.O.C.W.Af. 101029Z.
Your 151200 not to Com. Fourth Fleet. Master of

LEONIDAS states ship was circled height 150 feet by American Liberator at 1100 ships time 8th in 06° 30' S. 23° 06' W. Aircraft flashed letter M. Ship made recognition signal exposed large name board hoisted International signal letters and National flag.

(2) No contact with any ship.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 151632Z to Admty., (R) Com. Fourth Fleet.)

U/B sighted
13th Dec.

After further investigation I (? stress) report of sighting of U-Boat as C.1. My 141503 refers.
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 151920Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.W.Af.)

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SALVESTOR. Request answers at convenience to the various points in A.M.022040. Meanwhile has SALVESTOR been transferred to Italian crew? If so signal date of transfer and confirm that all previous crew were paid off by that date. Also confirm for protection of agents that cash, stores and equipment were checked as requested in (c) of Admty. Message. (Head of S.150128A to C. in C. Med.)

MIRROR. Sailed Cable ship MIRROR. (V.A.Malta, 150621A to Admty. F.O.Gib. C. in C. Med. R.A. Alexandria, C. in C. Levant, Cdre. Algiers.)

PELLICULA, Admiralty chartered oiler PELLICULA whilst at SAMBRAE anchor in outer harbour was rammed by SS. collision. SAMBRAE a.m. 14th. Damage in number 3 tank clean cut 18 feet long by 2 feet wide tapering to point. Temporary patch being fitted at Aden to enable her to proceed Egyptian or Indian Ocean Port for repair which will include necessity of docking. (Com. Aden, 150949Z to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty. C. in C. Levant, D. of S.T., S.N.O. P.G.)

Axis Shipping. A. BALKAN expected from Black Sea to-day in transit for Aegean. Reported B.3 vessel will proceed straight through to Salonica without stopping here (My 090959 refers). B. SEEROSE arrived 15th from Black Sea to load chrome? for Bourgas. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 150955C to C.O.I.S.Alex. C. in C. Levant, (R) S.1, D.N.I.)

My 150955C. BALKAN arrived Istanbul. Expected time of sailing Salonica 0930 G.M.T. 15th. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 151134C to C.O.I.S.Alexandria, C. in C. Levant, (R) Capt. S.1, D.N.I.)

BALKAN passed Istanbul for Salonica 9.30 G.M.T. 15th. Vessel loaded and has deck cargo timber also four small ? motor boats. Cargo declared as coal. Probably enter ? Aegean day break Dec.16th.

(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 151254 to C. in C. Levant, Capt.(S) 1, D.N.I.)

SS. BALKAN 350 feet draught 23 feet expected to pass through Dardanelles from 2030/15th for Salonika.

(2) You have freedom of action to the eastward of 025 degs. 43' East and may patrol to westward of Dardanelles at your discretion.

(Capt. (S) 1, 151603B to SURF (R) 1st S/M. Flotilla, C. in C. Levant.)

CURIE /...

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CURIE. Onward routeing from 040 degs. 05' 006 degs. 11' at 0300/17 through 042 degs. 28' 006 degs. 23' at 1200/18 to patrol in zone S.T. Proceed submerged by day.
(2) Dividing line between S.T. and S.S. is now 143 degs. from 043 degs. 24' 006 degs. 47'.
(Capt.(S) 10, 151042 to CURIE (R) 10th S/M Flotilla, C. in C. Med. F.O.C.Gib., N.O.I.C.Algiers.)

S/M Zones. Your 141403 F.S.PROTEE will be required to patrol in zone SW. My 141416 refers and will be moving to ST on (?23rd).
(Capt.(S) 10, 151050 to N.O.I.C.Algiers, (R) S.M.F.(10), C. in C. Med F.O.Gib. CURIE.)

NICOLINE MAERSK. Can any more information be given regarding likely move of NICOLINE MAERSK.
(C. in C. Med. 151058A to B.N.A.Madrid, (R) Admty. F.O.I.C. Gib.)

TRUCULENT (P.315) (A) Part company with U.G.S.25 at about 1630A/16th in position 036 degs. 14' 014 degs. 49' and proceed independently on the surface at 11 knots through
(1) 035 degs. 56' 017 degs. 29' at 0429/17th.
(2) 034 degs. 47' 021 degs. 53' at 0110A/18th thence to Beirut as ordered by Capt.(S) 1st Submarine Flotilla.
(B) 201 Group is requested to arrange M.J. A.O 24 for above route.
(C) DELPHINIUM pass by V/S to Submarine.
(S.O.S/M's Malta, 151202 to (P.315) TRUCULENT, (R) DELPHINIUM, S.N.O. E.Sy., 201 Group, WHADDON, S.E.C. U.G.S.25, Naval and Air Authorities Western Desert, C. in C. Med. Capt.(S) 10, C. in C. Levant, Capt.(S) 1, V.A. Malta, Admty. R.A. Alex. F.O. Gibraltar.)

Med. "Hunts". Captain (H) Malta is to administer Med. Hunts.
(C. in C. Med. 151222 to Admty. C. in C. Levant Captain H. (R) Capt.(F) V.A. Malta, Med. Hunts.)

Joint Army R.A.F. Int. appreciation. 392887 I/48018 15.
24 hours to 1000/15. All times G.M.T.
(1) Ph. R/C enemy shipping 14th in Aegean (details).
One caique claimed sunk Kos harbour a.m. 15th by cannon fire from Mitchells.

Suda Bay /...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Joint Army R.A.F. Int. appreciation. Suda Bay. Ref. para. 1 appreciation 19th Nov. reporting from C.X. source that SS.PIERELUIGI (300 foot) had caught fire and sunk in Suda Bay 13 Nov. Further C.X. report 10 Dec. states Capt. now returned Athens states vessel hit port during air raid and Germans sank her immediately (to prevent explosion cargo

ammunition.)

Merchant vessel believed SIFNOS attacked by torpedo and bomber aircraft 0310/13 North of Cape Spada but no hits claimed. Possibly vessel diverted to Monemvasia.

(6) Conclusions. Renewed caique activity on route Leros-Kos-Rhodes successfully interfered with by naval and air action. Continuation these attacks may have deterrent effect this important traffic which believed carrying supplies and/or troops reinforcements Rhodes and evacuating prisoners war. Appreciation Kastellosso unchanged.

(C. in C. M.E. 151415B)

SICKLE. Proceed forthwith to patrol off Karlovassi (Samos). Do not carry out operation "Headsman" until you received further signal. (Capt.(S) 1st, 151556B to SICKLE (R) C. in C. Levant, 1st S/M.F.)

Air Report. M.S.23921. A.F.250 15th. N.W.Af. A.F. Opsum 297. N.W.A.S.A.F. 14 December. 27 Aircraft dropped 81 tons Piraeus Harbour and shipping.

Encountered 15/20 enemy aircraft claiming 3 destroyed and 1 probable. Escort engaged 5 enemy aircraft.

N.W.A.T.A.F. 13/14. 14th. 60 U.S. Invaders Civitavecchia. Damage to dock.

(H.Q. N.A.A.F. 151626A)

ARAGO. French Authorities state that personnel can be provided from French reserves and ARAGO made operational as soon as cable equipment arrives. (C. in C. Med. 151629A to Admty.)

SIMOOM. Your 061626B. / Approved. (Head of M. Branch II, 151742A to C. in C. Levant Info: Capt.(S) 1.) / Former Given Most Secret Distribution.

See P. 134.

V.N.12. V.N.12 my 131356 sailed less EMPIRE TORRIDGE, SCORTON, COLYTTO, plus ROBERT MORRIS and NORELG both for Naples. 33 ships. L.S.T.321 sailed astern of convoy to Naples and SALTARELO and MIRROR joined as additional escort. (S.N.O. E.Sy. 151751A to F.O.W.It.)

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B.Y.M.S. My O51109 refers. C. in C. E.F. has requested
for E.F. that B.Y.M.S. should be docked overhauled and
completed with spares before sailing for
Eastern Fleet.
(2) F.O.T.A.L.I. is requested to hold B.Y.M.S.
11, 12, 20, 23, 14 and 24 arrange docking in Station Med.
B.Y.M.S., and demand necessary spares both for engine overhaul
and to complete spares on A/S Malta, sailing them when ready
to Malta for onward routeing to E.F.
(C. in C. Med. 151827A to V.A. Malta, F.O.W.I.T., F.O.T.A.L.I.,
(R) Capt. M/S Med. Admty. C. in C. E.F.)

Fighter Fighter aircraft escorting convoys on North
A/C Patrol. African Coast will carry out the following patrol
during the dusk period within the artillery
zone of escort.
(2) 2 sides of rectangle surrounding the convoy
will be patrolled by day fighters flying in one formation low
down keeping bombing aircraft more than 2 miles and not less
than 1 mile from perimeter of convoy.
The 2 sides selected will be in probable direction of attack.
(3) Beaufighters will also patrol on a line 15 miles long
placed 12 to 15 miles to seaward of the (?convoy) flying as
low as possible while still maintaining R/T touch with ground
station.
(4) Ships are reminded that no enemy single engine fighter
will be encountered between Oran and Bone.
(5) B'gram was 395B.
(C. in C. Med. 151841A to Med. and Levant Stations 396B (R)
M.A.C., N.A.C.A.F.)

M.E.Balkan 392996. O/48115 15th Dec.
Sitrep (4) Sea Ops. Partisan Naval H.Q. on Hvar Island
No.29. reports small partisan units being landed on
mainland to cut comms. and test enemy strength.
(C. in C. M.E. 151900B)

Preliminary Your 141818A. Request following additional
Reports of information.
Attack's (A) CUCKMERE. (1) Time, Bearing and Range
by U/B's of initial Asdic contact.
using (2) Courses and speeds for 5 minutes before
"Gnats" explosion and particularly speed when hit.
torpedoes. (B) HOLCOMBE. Courses and speeds for 5 minutes
before explosion.
(C) At what stage of hunt did WAINWRIGHT stream
lash up "Foxyer".
(2) Request advance copies of Asdic records of CUCKMERE,
WAINWRIGHT and CALPE and a report of the lash up "Foxyer".
Gear used by WAINWRIGHT may be forwarded by air.
(A.C.N.S.(W), 151932A to C. in C. Med. Info: C. in C. Levant,
Connav, N.A.W., C. in C. W.A.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

ULTOR
(P.53)
LE CURIE
(P.67.)

Leave patrol to pass 042 degs. 24' 006 degs. 02'
at 0200/19th to meet escort 240 degs. Monarch I
Rock Naval 5 miles at 1200/20th.
(Capt.(S) 10, 151925 to P.53 (ULTOR) (R) P.67
(LE CURIE) C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Algiers,
10th S/M Flotilla)

UNRULY.

Expect me 0903B/17th.
(P.49 (UNRULY), 152150B to Capt.(S) 1.)

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dispositions.

(C. in C.E.F. 150314.)

S/M.
patrols.

Intended programme of S/M. patrols up to and including 31st. 1. TRESPASSER 26th vicinity Mergui Archipelago. 2. TEMPLAR 28th Zone (? G). (Capt. (S) 4th 150320Z to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) (R) Admty.)

K.15.

Add new para.4 to my 150258Z. (N.T. in W.R.).
4. K.15 (Dutch Submarine) leaves Aden at 0900Z 15th escorted by GAWLER and MARYBOROUGH through positions C, D. and E. of the A.K.D. route speed 9 knots.
(S.O. S/Ms. E.F. 150518Z to N.O.I.C. Aden.)

Burma
coastal
force.

It is intended to form a coastal force division for clandestine operations on Burma coast.
(C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) 150522Z to Admty.)

C.J.8.

Arrived escorted by LAUNCESTON, RAJPUTANA, AGRA.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo 151215.)

P.B.65A.

Arrived. Escorted by FULLMOON, FLICKER.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 151220Z to Admty.)

U/Bs.
estimated
positions.

Apparently only one German U-Boat at sea within 100 miles of 12° 30' N. 81° 30' E. by D/F 1418Z 14th. 1 Japanese possibly homeward bound since D/F of 7th which indicated position about 250 miles E. of Socotra. Possibly one Japanese Westbound from attack on contact on 13th in 11° 20' S. 56° 50' E. (D.D.I.C. 151307A to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) A.C.N.B.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

- AGASSIZ My P.C. and S at 0200Z/15 is 044 degs. 03' N. 063 degs. 45' W. 256 degs. 12.5. NORTH GASPE has not joined; request she be informed. (AGASSIZ, 150205Z to C. in C.C.N.A., R.N.C.S. (R) Capt.(D).)
- Suspicious ship, sighted 8th Dec. Com. 4th Fleet's 132021 states:- "Amplifying suspicious merships sighting by Ascension plane Dec. 8th. Following firing across bow British R.A.F. Concentric Circle Ensignia uncovered on bow deck. Strong resemblance to BURGENLAND but no King Post forward of bridge. Gray superstructure extended forward resembling ~~PROME~~ PROME. Two A/A guns at bow emplacements along superstructure one large protected gun rut. Refer A.M. 140123". (Comnav, 150307 to Admty.).
- MONTGOMERY E.T.A. 1400Z/14th. Boiler hours. Ref. my 101230Z (N.T. in W.R.) to D. Halifax tank now leaking in addition but not serious. M.B. stove in. (MONTGOMERY, 150601Z to C. in C.C.N.A. (R) B. Halifax).
- CLEOPATRA My 091700. CLEOPATRA is not to be converted to Escort Carrier Flagship. (D. of Dockyards, 150635A to B.A.M.R.).
- LORD KELVIN, ESQUIMALT. LORD KELVIN P.C. and S at 1100Z 046 degs. 10' (037 degs.) 46' 076 degs. 9.5 E.T.A. position H 2300Z. LORD KELVIN requests Cape St. Francis light be operated at reduced power if weather suitable for cable operation. ESQUIMALT A/S (?escort). Weather report. (ESQUIMALT, 151145Z to F.O.N.F.).
- H.X.268 Average speed 9.1 knots. Off Oversay at 0630Z/10. All arrived. (D.T.D. 151220A to Connnav, N.S.H.Q.).
- H.M.S. LORING (B.D.E.520). Departs Boston Gate 1015Q/15th Dec. enroute Halifax. C. in C.C.N.A. pass to LINDSAY (B.D.E.519) for Info. (C.T.G. 02.1, 151230 to C. in C.C.N.A.).
- (A.T.81) MAURETANIA. Sailed as in my 131921 and 142037. CHEBUCTO 1400Z Dec. 15th. (C. in C.C.N.A. 151255Z).

/ ELKINS...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

ELKINS,
BRAITHWAITE. When ready about 18th Dec. comply my 191828
Oct. for ELKINS and about 19th for BRAITHWAITE.
(Cominch, 151356 to C.E.S.F.).

COLLINGWOOD
MAGIC. Departed Charleston 1830Q for Bermuda.
(Com. 6th 151605Z, 152231).

U.S. S/M
Estimate. (Cominch, 151615).

Landing
craft. Admty's. 140324 July 202109 Sept.
Request instructions whether (A) landing craft
are to be returned to U.K. or (B) retained in
Canada for training purposes after completing of
trials.
(N.S.H.Q. 151651Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.C.N.A.,
S.C.N.O.(London)).

ATHELING,
AMEER. When ready about 23rd sail ATHELING and AMEER
loaded with non-operational aircraft from
Norfolk to New York for inclusion in Convoy
U.T.6.
(Cominch, 151744 to C.E.S.F.).

U.T.S.27 Sailing telegram, part 1.
(2) 1750Z/15th.
(6) Task Force 66 MARCHAND, HURST, CAMP, HOWARD
D. CROW, PETTIT, RICKETTS, BALDWIN, HARDING,
SATTERLEE, THOMPSON, CASSATOT, PARTRIDGE, SWIVEL,
Y.M.S.346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, P.C.1235,
Task Group 21.16 BLOCK ISLAND, BULMER, PARROTT,
BARBER , PAUL JONES.
(P.D.New York, 151828).

?CALDWELL,
CHELSEA,
RICHMOND. (1) At 1917Z/15th sailed (?CALDWELL) (S.O.)
CHELSEA, RICHMOND to U.K. via Horta.
(F.O.N.F. 151921Z to S.B.N.O. Azores, (R) C. in
C.C.N.A.,C. in C.W.A., Admty. N.S.H.Q.,Com.
10th Fleet, C and R, Comdre. (D) W.A.).

C.T.G.
21.15 C.R. No.21 Refer to this as C.T.G's 21.15 151554
addressed Action Cinclant. At 160000Z intend to
join U.G.S. 26 furnish air cover to longitude 21
then operate southeast to South of Azores.
W.X.5481, 2086 delivered 50 Sonobuoys shipped to
BOQUE.
(Comnaveu, 151931 to Admty.).

Ocean
Escorts
to meet U/B
menace. Admiral King has replied as follows to my letter
on A.M. 301153 Oct. and Admty. letter P.D.
0242A/13 which was an enclosure.

/ (2) The...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

- Ocean Escorts to meet U/B menace. (Contd.). (2) The proposals set out in para. 4(a) and (b) of Admty. Despatch 301153A of Oct. are acceptable in principle. (3) If and when there becomes available to us uncontrovertible evidence that the U-boat menace may be expected to be nullified prior to 1st October 1944 it would appear that further downward revision of the escort ship programme should be considered. In order to assist in bringing about this desirable condition I think it most important that we should both bend every effort now to the early commissioning of escort craft rather than the replacement of less capable ships by new ones. (B.A.D. 152011Z to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q., B.A.T.M.).
- C.U.9. (1) Sailing despatch. Part 2. (P.D. New York, 152034Z to Com. 10th Fleet C and R).
- H.X.271 This completes Mydis 142122. Sailing dispatch. 36 ships (list). (P.D. New York, 152036Z, 152134Z to Admty.).
- P.554, P.553, BITTERSWEET. On completion of (?group missing) exercise at 1500Z/16th proceed to Halifax P.554 and P.553 surface throughout escorted by H.M.S. BITTERSWEET. Routed Pictou Approaches to Gut of Canso passing 2 miles off Cape George thence through:-
X 045 degs. 24' N. 060 degs. 43' W.
Y 045 degs. 18' N. 060 degs. 34' W.
Z 044 degs. 46' N. 061 degs. 47' W.
thence direct to Q.J.A.216 keeping close south west of Channel buoys. Speed 10 knots E.T.A. Halifax 1600Z/17th Dec. (S.T.O. Pictou, 152041Z to BITTERSWEET, P.554, P.553, (R) C. in C.C.N.A., Cominch., N.S.H.Q., N.O.I.C. Sydney C.B., A.O.C. E.A.C., S.N.O. Pictou, S.N.O. Mulgrave, D. Halifax, H.M.C.S. ST LAURENT).
- Sub. attack and sighting summary. Para.C. SS BALLS BLUFF sighted torpedo wake 16.40 N. 68.28 W. 1200Z/14. Para.D. P.B.M. Radar contact 17.02 N. 67.35 W. 0835/15. (Cominch, 152105 to Admty.).
- INDOMITABLE INDOMITABLE is due to complete repairs at the end of Feb. and should be ready to sail about three weeks later. (2) On the assumption that she will be required to proceed direct to the U.K. it is proposed to earmark a Tarpoon Squadron for her to operate on passage for A/S protection and to utilize remaining hangar space for ferrying all available aircraft. Request confirmation. (B.A.D., 152127Z to Admty. Info INDOMITABLE).
- O.N. and O.N.S. convoys, detaching M/Vs. to save time. In order to save ships time it is suggested that permission should be given to the Commodore when /west...

15.12.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

O.N. and west of the Westomp to detach ships of 11 knots or
O.N.S. Convoys over in the case of O.N. convoys and 9 knots or
detaching over in the case of O.N.S. convoys to proceed
M/V's. to independently to New York, or destination north
save time. thereof. The controlling authority would give
this permission only when the situation was clear
and no risk from enemy action involved and it
would be acted upon at the Commodore's discretion
in view of weather and other conditions. Masters would be warned
at convoy conference that if such action were taken they could
rest assured that they would be running no repeat no risk from
enemy action.

(2) If N.S.H.Q. concurs with this proposal P.A.D. is requested
to obtain Connav's views. ,
(D.T.D., 152305A to B.A.D. N.S.H.Q. Info. C. in C.W.A.).

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
Serial
No.694 14th
December.

Navy Catalina scored two hits with 1,000 pound
bombs on Myhawk (as received) reported a heavy
cruiser stationary Steffen Strait early hours.
Intense attack from ship and shore while enemy
fighters also pursued Catalina.

(5) Morning 5 Aircobras straffed damaged two
barges along coast near Sio.

(9) Night 12th 2 fighters straffed burned and sank troop laden
barge off Northeast Buka passage.

(10) Same time allied M.T.Bs. located 2 enemy barges 10 miles
Northwest Torokina but barges withdrew into ?river. Single Jap
Floatplane ineffectively straffed Allied craft Mutupina Point
area same night.

(11) Next night solitary barge attacked by similar? craft
Central Empress Augusta Bay, but shore fire prevented further
action while other M.T.Bs. rendered unserviceable 2 barges Torab
Bay (S.I. Bougainville).

(12) Following midday R/C Liberator bombed wooden fuel barge
70 miles ?northeast Hanover heading northwest. Direct hit set
barge afire left sinking.

(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 150525Z).

HOBART
armament.

Your 131209A. Proposed alteration to armament.
(A.C.N.B. 150930Z to Admty.).

15.12.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 151420A, 151441A).

Submarines Attacked.

Sub. attack
and sighting
summary for
24 hours to
0900Z/15th.

Para.A. (a) A/C sighted U-boat on surface at
1324/14 in 47 degs. 45' N. 03 degs. 58' W.
(2) A/C sighted U-boat on surface at 1730/14 in
43 degs. 13' N. 10 degs. 30' W.
(D.D.I.C. 151122A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.).