

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

HOME COMMANDS  
(Classification by subjects where inclusion in an operational area is impracticable).

- Policy
- Defence of United Kingdom
- Operations
  - North Sea (from 58° N. to Dungeness - Gris Nez)
  - Channel (between Dungeness - Gris Nez, 48° 30' N., and 6° W).
  - West Coast France (to 48° 30' N., and 5° W).
  - Western Approaches (West of above between 40° and 58° N. to 30° W).
  - Norway (to 80 miles off shore between 58° and 70° N).
  - Northern Waters (north of 58° N. outside "Norway").
  - Baltic (eastward of the Skaw).
- Enemy Intelligence
- Navigational
- Port Facilities
- Casualties
- Movements (of H.M. Ships)
- Shipping and Convoys

FOREIGN STATIONS  
(Classification by stations).

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



War Diary.

1.1.1945.  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

North Sea.

1. (a) Junkers 88's have been flying in singly and low over the Schelde for the last 3 nights, but without confirmed mining or any bombing activity. This morning 30 F.W. 190's came in machine-gunning, and ROYAL EAGLE shot down two of them and wounded another.

(b) A midget U-Boat has been found beached at Breskens.

Channel.

2. (a) TONKINOIS reports dropping 19 depth charges on a target moving slowly up-tide off A.4 buoy.

(b) C.T.F. 125 is of the opinion that U-Boats, from a "sanctuary" in Alderney, are homed onto Cherbourg convoys by radar. C. in C. Portsmouth doubts this, but A.N.C.X.F. desires that a maximum use be made of ports up Channel from Cherbourg.

Western Approaches.

3. PLOVER has completed her deep anti-U-Boat mine-field off Hartland Point and is now transferring to the Channel.

Foreign Stations.

North Atlantic

U-Boat.

4. Escort Group 5 attacked a U-Boat at 1605A in 36.04 N. 06.36 W. At 1720A, Escort Group 40 was ordered by F.O.G.M.A. to proceed with all despatch to join in the hunt, and at 1736A E.G. 38 was also ordered to close and assist.

Mediterranean.

Rough weather.

5. (a) C. in C. Med. reports very rough weather throughout station. Details are in his 011947A January.

Enemy Units.

(b) A summary of enemy naval units now active is contained in C. in C. Med. 011600A.



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SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean - Contd.

Greece.

6. (a) During today South-East Athens was virtually cleared. Little opposition encountered. In Piraeus good progress was made in Western outskirts. An E.L.A.S. attack on the W/T station at Pallini eight miles West of Athens was repulsed but one garrison was later withdrawn.

(b) At Levkas - Zervas troops are split into two parts, Greek destroyer THEMISTOCLES and L.C. are standing by to evacuate one part but the second part in Southern half of island cannot be taken off by H.M. ships owing to minefield.

Caiques are being arranged.

(c) At Corfu situation is reported quiet. R.M. Commandos have been withdrawn and B.N.L.O. Preveza is now established as N.O.I.C. Corfu in Greek destroyer PANTHER.

(d) At Mitylene SIRIUS reports situation much improved and she intends proceeding to Khios at 0700 on 3rd Jan.

Aegean.

7. The danlayer HUNDA which went aground at Mudros, has been refloated.

East Indies.

U-Boat  
attack.

8. American SS. EDWARD RICHARDSON Calcutta to Colombo reports having been missed by a U-Boat torpedo at 0149Z in 09.29' N. 72.28' E. S.W. of Malabar Coast.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest  
No. 1077  
Jan. 1st '45.  
Philippines  
and  
S.W. Pacific.

9. (a) 4 enemy aircraft ineffectively attacked Allied convoy, 200 miles S.W. of Leyte this afternoon - one torpedo bomber shot down by A/A.

(b) Previous night 2 Liberators raided Laoag and also attacked shipping West coast of Luzon sinking one gun-boat on way back.

/(c)...



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SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand

Digest  
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Philippines  
and S.W.  
Pacific.  
(Contd.)

- (c) Previous night P.T. boats operating between Masbate Island and Luzon encountered strong shore fire from South shores of Luzon.
- (d) 2 battleships, 2 cruisers, 2 destroyers reported as being off Deyo Tee Cap, Saint Jacques 30th Dec. but having only 2 destroyers and 1 freighter there next morning.
- (e) Aircraft bombed and sank 6 seatrucks or small freighters and setting fire to 12-15 smaller ships.
- (f) Darwin based Liberator strafed coastal craft E. Celebes in Tanigai Archipelago.



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1.1.1945  
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HOME COMMANDS

Beginning with January 1st 1945, "Movements" (of H.M. Ships) will be recorded next before "Shipping and Convoys".

Operations

North Sea

Probable midget U-Boat. Am investigating probable midget S/M sighting position 52 degs. 23' N. 02 degs. 47' E. (M.L.903, 010945 to N.O.I.C. Ostend)

Operation "Moonshine". Your 311100A. Para. 1 concur and para.2 confirmed. (C. in C. Rosyth, 011244A to C. in C. Nore.)

Coastal forces present and desired in Low Countries. (1) Present disposition of coastal forces allocated A.N.C.X.F. for Com. Belgium is: -  
(A) For local defence of Ostend, 11th M.L. Flotilla based at Ostend.  
(B) For local seaward defence of Schelde 151st, 153rd and 154th H.D.M.L. Flotillas based at Terneuzen.  
(2) Consider it necessary that additional forces be allocated A.N.C.X.F. as soon as available.  
(A) To provide anti-midget S/M patrol in lower reaches of Schelde.  
(B) For possible operations under N.C. Force T in East Schelde.  
(3) Request information.  
(A) From Admiralty what forces can be made available and when  
(B) From Com. Belgium and  
(C) From NC Force T what type of craft is considered most suitable.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 011248A to Admty., C. in C. Nore, Com. Belgium)

Situation Report. Cositintrep No.272 part 4. Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600A/31st December.

<u>British</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores.</u> (incl. coal)	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
Antwerp	9	767	7,297	19,247	488
Ostend	1,010	-	1,073	127	99
Boulogne	-	-	772	-	-
Dieppe	17	-	642	-	-
Caen	-	-	241	-	-
Calais	-	2	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:	1,036	769	10,025	19,374	587
<u>U.S. North</u>					
Antwerp	-	-	16,191	-	-
Cherbourg	1,311	74	7,352	-	2,464
Le Havre	209	224	6,610	4,234	3,576
Rouen	380	201	3,032	787	654
Granville	-	-	572	-	-
Totals:	1,900	499	33,757	5,021	6,694

/U.S. South ...



War Diary

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Situation Report. Cositintrep No.272 part 4 - Contd.

<u>U.S. South</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores.</u> <u>(incl.</u> <u>coal)</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
Marseilles	-	24	5,320	-	-
Port de Bouc	-	-	-	-	-
Toulon	-	-	269	-	-
Totals:	-	24	5,589	1,877(sic)	-
<u>British</u>					
Antwerp	327	5,522	121,008	89,717	6,745
Ostend	20,096	2,008	49,370	37,758	6,365
Boulogne	297	451	8,324	-	-
Dieppe	378	1	28,134	-	-
Caen	2	-	18,814	-	-
Calais	6,166	726	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	5,625	-	-
Totals:	27,265	8,709	231,275	127,475	13,110
<u>U.S. North</u>					
Antwerp	20	2	245,556	-	1,155
Cherbourg	26,840	5,423	102,306	84,977	12,736
Le Havre.	48,015	4,232	97,530	25,285	8,144
Rouen	16,874	8,268	75,081	16,737	3,801
Granville	-	-	24,451	-	-
Totals:	91,749	17,825	544,894	126,999	25,836
<u>U.S. South</u>					
Marseilles	16,071	2,038	215,282	10,806	24,763
Port de Bouc	-	-	14,314	59,997	-
Toulon	-	-	5,447	-	-
Totals:	16,071	2,038	235,043	70,803	24,763

Note: Ammo. totals for period 26/31 December (inclusive).  
(S.H.A.E.F. 011730A to Admty.)

Cositintrep No.272 Part 11 Naval.

On nights 30th, 31st, 1st approx. 12 Junkers 88 entered Schelde area flying low and singly apparently with intention of minelaying. No bombs were dropped and only one doubtful report of mining (not in channel) was received each night. A.M. 1st January 30 F.W.190 machinegunned shore installations and shipping in Schelde Estuary. No serious damage. ROYAL EAGLE destroyed two F.W. and damaged one.

(2) Early Friday morning 29th December lock gates at Southern end of Walcheren Canal were damaged believed by sabotage.

(3) Midget S/M has been found beached 1 miles West of Breskens.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 012359A to Admty)

Midget U-Boat in Dover. My 311926A December. Wreck located by sweeping this afternoon but divers unable to identify due to darkness. Operations being resumed at daylight.  
(V.A. Dover, 011904A to Admty)



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Patrols and escorts. (1) DETEST leave T.B.C.23 forthwith to take up patrol as in my 311720A para.2.  
(2) F.B. trail T.B.C.23 to Lizard, HESPERUS and LOCH INSH detaching as requisite to comply with my 311720A, para.1.  
(3) COTTON and ANTIGUA join GOODALL on patrol between Lizard and Start.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 010020A to S.O. E.G.'s 19,14)  
C.T.G.125.15's 011048\* . . .

On completion sweep inshore coastal route West of F buoy and R/V with an support at F buoy at 0815/2nd January.  
(A) Westbound coastal convoy T.B.C. 25, speed 7 knots.  
(B) Codeword FRANK L U.  
(C) Escort MIMICO.  
(D) Inshore coastal route.  
(E) Detach at 02 degs. 27' W.  
(F) Subsequent orders follow.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 012149A to ANTHONY, TONKINOIS)  
Day patrol 2nd January as in my 312146 paras 2 and 3.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 012159A to S.O. E.G.10)  
\* Not yet identified in W.R.

Suspected U-Boat. Contact was good at all times and was thought to be possible wreck until target moved westward up tide slowly. 19 depth charges dropped in 4 attacks.  
(TONKINOIS, 010133 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Second suspected U-Boat. Investigating unconfirmed periscope sighted by ICARUS in position 050 degs. (?19' or 58') N. 02 degs. 38' 30" W.  
(S.O. E.G.14, 011117A to C. in C. Portsmouth)  
My 011117A, no contact obtained. Am proceeding in accordance with your 011027A.  
(S.O. E.G.14, 011155A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

U-Boat threat to mid-Channel shipping. Your 311209A/December concur. 9th M/S.F. will continue sweep in this channel and delay from escorting duties accepted.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 012125A to C.T.F.125)

Third suspected U-Boat. Am attacking bottomed contact in position 50 degs. 24' 30" N. 03 degs. 03' 00" W. which after lengthy investigations is not positively classified.  
(S.O. E.G.14, 012247A to C. in C. Portsmouth)



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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

West Coast France

Minesweeping at Brest. Report of sweeping yesterday December 31st at Brest. Static LL sweep in Port De Commerce detonated one blue magnetic mine. (Comm. Y Sqdn. 011912A to C.T.F.125)

Opening of Bayonne. Your 301910. On completion of conversion it is desired to use F.Y.M.S. to open Bayonne both so that French may use the port and also to release valuable merchant shipping at present confined there. This is an important requirement as French have no other possible port of entry in the Biscay area. (A.N.C.X.F. 011930A to C. in C. Med.)

Operations

Western Approaches

Suspected sabotage in BERRY. Suspected attempt at sabotage in BERRY was under investigation by S.O.(I) when second case was reported on Sunday 31st December which leaves no room for doubt that sabotage was intended on second occasion both cases concern number one main generator in BERRY in view of the fact that a similar case in BERRY was investigated without definite decision being reached last November it is proposed subject to approval of C. in C. W.A. that ship should remain in Harbour pending thorough investigation. If approved D.N.I is requested to send special investigator immediately. (F.O.I.C.N.I.011010A to D.N.I.)

Weather-reporting ships. Your 241117A. Met. My P.C.S. at 1100Z/1st January 55 degs. 49' N. 12 degs. 28' W. (S) 095 degs. 11, E.T.A. Bar Light Vessel 2300/2nd. (NORTHERN GEM, 011105Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Patrols and escorts. F.O.I.C.Falmouth's 312041 not to all. (1) Of not in contact E.G.6 S.O. NEW WATERFORD is to meet PERSIMMON off Milford Haven buoy at 0600A/3 and escort to Ailsa Craig. (2) On completion of escort E.G.6 is to proceed to Londonderry to lay-over. (C. in C. W.A. 011237A to S.O. E.G.6)

Formation of new Escort Groups 18, 22 and 23. Following groups are to be formed as ships become available:- (A) E.G.18 Base Greenock TOWY, ZANZIBAR, LOCH FYNE, GOODHOPE, PERIM, ST. HELENA, S.O. Commander King in TOWY.



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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches

Formation of  
new Escort  
Groups 18,  
22 and 23.  
(Contd.)

(B) E.G.22 Base Liverpool HART, AMETHYST, MAGPIE, PEACOCK, STARLING, LOCH CRAGGIE. S.O. Acting Commander Leftwich in HART.  
(C) E.G.23 Base Londonderry. BARBADOS, MONT'SERRAT, NYASALAND PAPUA, LOCH GORM, LOCH SCAVAIG. S.O. will be nominated.  
(2) SARAWAK is to replace PAPUA in E.G.20.  
(C. in C. W.A.011838A to Coms. D. W.A. Liverpool, Greenock)

Programme  
for Support  
Groups.

Following programme for support groups supersedes my 031733/Dec. and 191558/Dec. neither to C. in C. Portsmouth.

<u>Group</u>	<u>Sail</u>	<u>Return</u>	<u>Sail</u>
1	12/1	-	-
2	-	11/1	21/1
3	9/1	-	-
4	-	6/1	18/1
5	-	6/1	16/1
6	-	3/1	15/1
9	-	25/1	-
10	-	14/1	26/1
14	-	23/1	-
15	-	14/1	27/1
17	-	17/1	29/1
19	-	20/1	-
21	12/1	-	-
25	4/1	28/1	-
26	9/1	1/2	-
30	-	11/1	23/1
31	-	18/1	30/1

(C. in C. W.A. 012221A to Coms. D. W.A. Liverpool, Greenock, Belfast)

Operations

Norway

Operation  
"Spellbinder".

Operation "Spellbinder". Request Pr. of ports and harbours from Stavanger to Kristiansand (south) inclusive by D-Day - 1 to determine whether E-Boats are present my 241001, 241031 and 241036. (C. in C. H.F. 011056A to Admty)

Operation  
"S.C".

(1) 0100A/3rd January from Scalloway.  
(2) 089 degs. from Sumburgh Head 13 knots.  
(3) 1900A/3rd January.  
(4) Between 1930A/3rd January and 0600A/4th (intend sailing S.C. Operation from Shetlands).



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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

Operation "S.C." (Contd.) (5) 269 degs. to Sumburgh Head 15 knots.  
(6) p.m. 4th January.  
(7) 089 degs. Sumburgh Head.  
(8) No. (N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 011751A to A.C.O.S.)  
(1) 2100A/3rd January from Scalloway. Intend sailing S.C. operation from Shetlands.  
(2) 053 degs. from Muckle Flugga to 062 degs. 30' N. 003 degs. 30' E. thence 098 degs. 13 knots.  
(3) 1900A/4th Jan.  
(4) Between 1930A/4th Jan. and 0600A/5th Jan.  
(5) 243 degs. to Muckle Flugga 15 knots.  
(6) p.m. 5th Jan.  
(7) 063 degs. Muckle Flugga (8).  
(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 011755A to A.C.O.S.)  
My 011755A. (1) 62 degs. 23' N. 05 degs. 34' E.  
(2) Ramose, Revoke.  
(3) Blank.  
(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 011757A to A.C.O.S.)

Operations "V.P". V.P.73 and V.P.77 further postponed. E.T.D. now 0300A/3rd January.  
(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 011816A to A.C.O.S.)

Operation "Sample". My 191307 not to N.O.I.C.Lerwick. Force 5 sailing at 2359A/1st Jan. proceeding East of Orkneys and West of Shetlands to arrive position PP 62 degs. 02' N. 03 degs. 14' E. at 0400A/3rd Jan. to fly off strike. On completion strike Force 5 will return single. If weather is unfavourable strike may be postponed 24 hours. 18 Group aircraft are requested to show I.F.F. when in vicinity of Force 5.  
(C. in C. H.F. 011937A to Admty.)

Operations

Northern Waters

Russian Co-operation Para.(3) of your 292005 / December can be arranged.  
(2) Your para. (5). This request being made practical see my 281525X Dec. and Moscow telegram 3867 of December 29th to Foreign Office.  
(3) No further developments except handing over of one document p.m. December 31st. This was a provisional hand book on German Radar equipment FUMO 61 (SEETAKT) issued by the makers, Lorenz of Berlin.  
(4) Pending your instructions this is being retained for YEO but if necessary could be sent by special A/C.  
(Adm. Archer, 011031A to Admty.)  
/ Arrangement with U.S.S.R. for Interpreter.  
X Request for the release of documents etc. U.250.

Possible U-Boat. Investigate ASV contact reported by A/C E/311 in position 59 degs. 14' N. 01 degs. 32' W.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 011315A to BENTINCK)



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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters

Possible U-Boat (Contd.) If not in contact at 2100A tonight resume Gamma as in my 311750 December.  
(2) Flying will recommence at 2359 first aircraft will be P.P.1 ULG 13.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 012046A to BENTINCK)

ZEPHYR. Damage to ZEPHYR examined in dock. Small hole between 50 and 52½ frames extending from seventh to twelfth longitudinal. Plating dished inboard between 50 frame and 54 W/T bulkhead. Sheer Strake and bilge keel intact.  
(2) Very localized damage indicates small contact change at or just below water-line no Plume observed, orange flash only. No Asdic or Radar contact and subsequent search negative. Speed of ship 8 knots steady. Steady course at moment of impact.  
(3) Temporary repair for passage to repair port 6 days. Request dock be allocated for permanent repair.  
(4) (?Internal) damage to auxiliary machinery electric circuit and retubing of port tubes and downcomer of No.2 boiler.  
(R.A.D. H.F. 011430 to Admty.)

Operation "Moonshine". My 311100A and C. in C. Rosyth 011244A. Request you will sail the 3 motor coasters to Rosyth for onward routing to Aberdeen as ordered by C. in C. Rosyth.  
(C. in C. Nore, 012206 to F.O.I.C.Humber)

Mining (And see under apposite localities)

Completion of deep mining off Harlandet Point. Carry out operation H.Y.A.8 at 1800 January 2nd. On completion PLOVER and her escort CONQUEROR are to proceed direct from area to Portsmouth. Ships concerned acknowledge this as sailing instruction and receipt of route and communication orders.  
(F.O.I.C.Milford, 011127A to PLOVER)

Minesweepers for Pacific. Cominch has notified us of urgent and ever increasing need for minesweepers in advanced Pacific areas. Please advise number of U.S. Y.M.S. that can be released now and dates when remaining ships including CHIMO will be released.  
(Comnavu, 011231 to A.N.C.X.F.)

M.S.F.168 to relieve M.S.F.165 in Belgium. (1) 168th M.S.F. is allocated Com. Belgium as from 15th January to relieve 165th M.S.F.  
(2) C. in C. Portsmouth and C.T.F.125 are requested to sail available ships to arrive Ostend by that date.  
(3) Admiralty are requested if possible to allocate 2 ships to bring Flotilla up to nominal strength of 8 ships.  
(A.N.C.X.F.011548A to Admty,C. in C. Portsmouth, C.T.F.125)

/M.S. ...



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MondayHOME COMMANDSMining - Contd.

M.S.Aux. Groups. 182 & 183.

In view of your 311655 December have you any further requirement for

(a) 182nd M/S Auxiliary Group.  
(b) 183rd M/S Auxiliary Group.  
(c) Mine Clearance Drifter Flotilla.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 011552A to C.T.F.125)

Technical

"Noisemaker" protection against gnats: "Unifoxers".

Towed "Noisemakers". It is now established that single towed "Noisemakers" consisting of British PNM Unit towed 350 yards astern at speed between 10 and 20 knots will give good protection against existing Gnats fired from any position not less than 020 degs. on bow. Protection increases with speed.

(2) W.A.G.O. will shortly be issued embodying all orders in force concerning Gnat counter-measure both tactical and material.

(3) Meanwhile use of double "Foxyer" is to be discontinued in all British Escorts of W.A. Command and single British PNM Units towed at end of 350 yards of  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch wire is to be (?forthwith) (?fitted with) Gnat counter-measure. This device to be known as "Unifoxer".

(4) Towing wires are to be made up on board and stowed on type G Winches which will take 350 yards of  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch wires.

(5) W.A.G.M. 106 N. 132 N.S. and paras. 1 to 5 of 085 N are cancelled. In para. 8 of 085 N for 150 fathoms read 350 yards. (C. in C. W.A. 012329A to Western Approaches Command)

Movements

UGANDA Cruiser. H.M.C.S. UGANDA arrived Clyde. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 010808A to A.C.O.S.) Intend sailing UGANDA passing Clyde Boom 2130A/1st Jan. for Gibraltar. Routed in accordance with A.M. 301132A December S. of A. 21 knots

E.T.A. 0700Z/5th Jan.

(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 011224A to Admty, C. in C. W.A. F.O.G.M.A.)  
From position H steer for new N 55 degs. 40' N. 14 degs. 30' W. thence to K.  
(Admty. T.D. Plot, 012338A to UGANDA)

MONTCLARE Destroyer Depot ship.

H.M.S. MONTCLARE who is expected to be ready to proceed about 19th February on completion of short work up reports that 13 knots is the maximum speed that can be maintained on passage. (2) Ship is thus not suitable for inclusion in K.M.F. convoy and C.O. considers that this large ship would be unmanageable at  $8\frac{1}{2}$  knots in a slow convoy. (3) It is therefore submitted that MONTCLARE should be sailed independently with suitable escort. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 011144A to Admty.)



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HOME COMMANDS

Movements - Contd.

A.F.D's 37  
and 50.

C. in C. Portsmouth's 221535A/December, intend A.F.D.37 shall be substituted for A.F.D.50 at Southampton. The latter should remain in the Portsmouth Command pending decision as to its future use.

(2) Information is required if A.F.D. 50 can now be released A.N.C.X.F's 291755A/October refers.  
(D.C.O.D. 012343A to C. in C. Portsmouth, A.N.C.X.F.)

Shipping and Convoys

Convoy  
N.S.P.1.

Departure N.S.P.1 CANTERBURY for Calais.  
(V.A. Dover, 011120A to N.O.I.C.Calais)  
Arrival at Folkestone 1730 NSP 1 CANTERBURY.  
(V.A. Dover, 011800A to N.O.I.C.Calais)

Sailings to  
and from  
Far Shore.

Your 311840.

I concur in your proposals and if military authorities insist on these sailings C.T.G.125 will comply. I do consider however that wounded still face an unreasonable and possibly unnecessary risk. My 301205 (passed to you),

My 311653, 312141 and A.N.C.X.F's 311307A all refer.  
(C.T.F.125, 011131 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Cancel my 302320A December,

(2) From your 312111A December and from Buco. I understand that movements of L.S.Ts from Portland to Cherbourg are exceptional and therefore a special escort will have to be arranged in such cases if practicable.

(3) PVL convoys will be routed 5 miles West of ZK and escort will continue to Pasture.

(4) I believe your apprehensions regarding enemy radar at Alderney are ill founded.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 011524A to C.T.F.125)

Your 311328., In general I should prefer L.S.T. to take a more easterly route and to make the maximum possible use of ports to the eastward of Cherbourg.

(A.N.C.X.F. 011928A to C. in C. Portsmouth)



1.1.1945.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

- E.G. 38, Amend time in my 311520A to read 1325A.  
E.G. 40. Course when first sighted 000°, Casablanca pass to  
A/S search. Port Lyautey.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 010004A to E.G. 38).  
Continue to patrol in area bounded by lat. 037°  
Formal and Haisborough (?keeping outside), Formal  
between 008° 30' W., and 010° W.  
(2) Report P.C. and S. every 6 hours together with your intentions for following 6 hourly periods.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 011130A to E.G. 38).  
On completion of exercises tomorrow 2nd Jan. BERGAMOT is to proceed to join 40th E.G. carrying out patrol "Kidney" to Westward of Strait.
2. E.G. 40 is requested to signal R/V position and time.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 011514A to E.G. 40, BERGAMOT)  
If not in contact, 38th Escort Group is to leave patrol so as to R/V K.M.S. 75 in position (W) 038° 00' N., 011° 11' W. at 1600A Jan. 3rd and act as additional escort to Gibraltar.  
(2) K.M.S. 75 (12 ships) escorted by ABELIA and AMARANTHUS, Commodore in MAHANADA, is routed through (XK) 039° 00' N., 012° 00' W. (XL) 036° 20' N., 009° 50' W. to (V) 035° 51' N., 006° 10' W. S. of A. 7½ knots.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 011654A to E.G. 38).  
Proceed with all despatch to hunt U-boat in 036° 04' N., 006° 36' W.
2. Attacked by Escort Group 5 at 1605A/1.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 011720A to E.G. 40).  
Close Escort Group 40 and assist in hunt, my 011720A refers.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 011736A to E.G. 38).

MILNE, M.S.C.I. 5. Intend to sail D.3 in MILNE with  
MATCHLESS, MATCHLESS and ACTIVE at 1200Z January 2nd to  
ACTIVE. Malta.  
2. 20. 3. Positions (A) 180° Europa Point 2  
miles (73), (12), (87), (40), (206), (79) War  
Channel (214), (275), (284), (264) and northwest

Approach Channel.

4. 1400 Jan. 4th at Boom.  
6. Radio 503. 7. A.  
9. MILNE and MATCHLESS for onward routeing as ordered by C. in C. Med. ACTIVE for onward routeing to Alexandria after disembarkation of stores and personnel.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 011132A to V.A. Malta, C. in C. Med).

ODZANI, Departure 1038/1 ODZANI, BIDEFORD. My 301143/Dec.  
BIDEFORD. refers.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 011324A to C. in C. Plymouth).  
Proceed forthwith with BIDEFORD in company to R/V  
M.K.F. 37 estimated position (BQ) 036° 13' N., 007° 16' W. at  
1915A tonight 1st Jan. course 285° speed 12½ knots to position  
(MB) 036° 40' N., 009° 20' W. thence (MC) 038° 00' N., 010° 30' W.  
(2) SS. WORCESTERSHIRE unable to maintain convoy speed.  
(3) You are to escort WORCESTERSHIRE to U.K. at best speed by route held by her.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 011612A to ?ODZANI).  
My 011612. From position (MC) ships to proceed through  
(MD) 039° 10' N., 010° 30' W. (ME) 043° 20' N., 010° 30' W.  
(MF) 047° 30' N., 007° 30' W. (MG) 270° Bishops Rock 10.

/MH)...



1.1.1945.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

ODZANI,  
BIDEFORD.  
(contd).

(MH) 000° Round Island 10.  
(MJ) 293° Trevoze Head 4.  
2. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange for relief escorts so that ODZANI and BIDEFORD may proceed to destination as in my 301143. Dec. not to all.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 011614A to C. in C. W.A. etc).

T.U.27.1.1.

His 2000 P.C. and S. 40.15 N., 33.54 W., 120° 10.  
E.T.A. Horta 2200/2. All times Z.  
Weather 2825 9837.  
(C.T.U. 27.1.1., 012245Z to S.B.N.O. Azores, Comnavnor).

South Atlantic.

CUMBERLAND.

Simonstown arrival.  
(C. in C. S.A., 010949B to Admty. etc).

Greek  
Shipping Crew  
Trouble.

No objection to ZEPHYROS proceeding to Durban in view of your 311045. Ships at Lourenco Marques are being held pending investigation.  
(C. in C. S.A., 011222).

A.F.D.24

KILMALCOLM and KILKHAMPTON sailed at 1641 31st Dec. Escorts for A.F.D.24 as far as Dakar.  
(S.O.I., Freetown, 011237Z).

LANDGUARD

Arrived.  
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 011450Z to Admty).

WOODRUFF

F.O. West Africa's 301041Z/ Dec. para. 4.  
Intend sailing WOODRUFF 0600Z Jan. 2nd to rejoin you at 0900Z approx. 22 miles west of Dakar.  
(Comar Dakar, 011709Z to E.G.55).  
/Requesting Comar Dakar sail WOODRUFF.



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1.1.1945  
MondayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Levkas  
evacuation My E.T.A. Corfu 1245. Coprev on board.  
(G.S. THEMISTOCLES, 011001B to N.O.I.C. Corfu.)

Messina. Restrictions on drafting of personnel and movement  
of craft to and from Messina imposed by my 061815\*  
Dec. are removed as from Jan. 2nd 1945.  
(Cdr. in Ch. Mediterranean, 011130A to Med. Stn.  
336B.)  
\* Drafting of Naval personnel to HAMILCAR is to  
cease and only urgent operational drafting will be  
carried out from that Base.

S/M  
TALLY-HO TALLY-HO sails for Malta at 1100A/2nd Jan. by  
reverse G.K. standard route "L" to arrive  
Gibraltar 0900A/6th Jan. for onward routeing to  
U.K.  
(2) Speed 11 knots.  
(3) Constant W/T watch on Malta M broadcast until 1600A 3rd then  
shifting to Gibraltar G broadcast.  
(S/M one, 011215 to C. in C. Med.)

NEWFOUNDLAND Concur your 312013 Dec. providing no objection by  
Admty. C. in C. Med. has no information of 7 weeks  
working up period.  
(C. in C. Med., 011301 to F.O.L.E.M.)

SIRIUS  
Mitylene. Situation has now improved in Mitylene to such  
extent that I intend sailing to Khios at 0700  
3rd Jan. Remaining there 24 hours thence Alexandria  
E.T.A. 309 at 0800/5th Jan.  
(2) Request alongside berth on arrival to store and make good  
minor defect.  
(3) Cdr. Force 142 concurs.  
(SIRIUS, 011536B to F.O.L.E.M.)

Enemy  
units Following enemy Naval Units now active:  
(a) Gulf of Genoa. One destroyer, 2 T.Bs.,  
4 escort vessels, 5 M.T.Bs. 15/20 heavily armed  
F. lighters (T.L.C.) 10 R.boats.  
(b) Northern Adriatic. One Destroyer, 4 T.Bs.,  
30/35, M.T.Bs. 5 R.boats.  
(c) Crete and Dodecanes. 5 armed wooden drifters one armed  
trawler 18 armed launches.  
(2) Midget S/Ms, human torpedoes and explosive M/Bs. are known to  
be active in areas (a) and (b).  
(3) This cancels 296B T.O.O. 081515 December.  
(C. in C. Med., 011600A to Med. Station 338B.)

JEANNE  
D'ARC My 010815 (incomplete group) (N.T. in W.R.)  
(1) Forward compartments are waterlogged and  
cannot be pumped.  
(2) Various minor damage requires provisional  
repair, am returning to Algiers E.T.A. 0700A/2.  
(Fr.cruiser JEANNE D'ARC, 011630A to Comar Algiers.)

/Freeborn...



War Diary1.1.1945  
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.Freeborn  
(Allied  
Commission  
for Austria)

Planning for Freeborn is now under consideration at A.F.H.Q. In the light of recent developments it is becoming clear that although the occupation of Austria and the establishment of the tripartite control commission will to a certain extent be the responsibility of Sacmed and that, therefore, much of the planning must be carried out at

A.F.H.Q., it is desirable that the naval planning should, as far as possible, be done in London for the following reasons:

(a) C. in C. Med. has not the necessary background or, up to date knowledge to provide Naval advice to

(b) The Naval element of tripartite commission is already at work in London.

(c) Naval disarmament in Germany and Austria will presumably be handled by one central office.

(d) Experience has shewn that differences of view with the Russian can only be settled on the highest level between London and Moscow.

(2) Suggested, however, that the British Naval element of the Allied Commission for Austria should be prepared to transfer in whole or in part to A.F.H.Q. if and when circumstances make it desirable.

(C. in C. Med., 021842A to Admt.)

Situation  
Report  
No. 523.

(1) Very rough weather is being experienced throughout Med. A dredger being towed by H.M.R.T. HENGIST from Oran to Sfax has capsized; a Liberty Ship holed above water line is hove to South End of the Balearic Islands with Allied Warships standing by; and L.S.T. BRUISER has lost a bow door 60 miles South of Taranto where she is slowly proceeding stern first with CLEVELAND and tug in attendance.

(2) B.N.L.O. Preveza is now established in G.S. PANTHER as N.O.I.C. Corfu. Situation at latter place is quiet R.M. Commandos have been withdrawn.

(3) Zervas troops in Levkas are split into two parts. The first of these is in Citadel North of town. G.S. THEMISTOCLES and L.C. are standing by to evacuate this party but second party which is in Southern half of island cannot be taken off by H.M.S. due to minefield. Caiques are, however, being arranged.

(Group missed) HUNDA aground at Mudros has been refloated.

(Cdr. in Ch. Mediterranean, 011947A to F.O. Levant and Eastern Med., etc.)

Cositintrep  
No. 541  
Part IV

Greece. Athens/Piraeus. During 31 December Southeast Athens was virtually cleared. Little opposition was encountered. In Piraeus good progress was made in the Western outskirts and the suburb of Evyenya was cleared. Contact was made with our Garrison in the Power Station on the

Eastern shores of St. Georges Bay. An E.L.A.S. attack on the Wireless Station at Pallini (or Palliji) eight miles West of Athens was repulsed but our Garrison was later withdrawn.

(A.F.H.Q., No. T.O.O. to W.O.)



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1.1.1945  
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Danube

M/379 cipher 1st Jan.

From General Oxley.

Ref. your 55712 (C.A.6) of 30th December.

(3) I consider naval section in Sofia could be abolished altogether and Danube questions be dealt with from Bucharest but on condition naval section Roumania should have right to visit Bulgaria at any time without reference to Moscow and on giving notice to both local Soviet Commanders. This condition would have to be have to be explicitly agreed by Moscow and local Commanders.  
(A.C.C. Bulgaria, 011720B to W.O.)



War Diary1.1.1945  
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

U-boat Dispositions No fresh information, scales in all areas remain unchanged.  
(C. in C.E.I., 010347Z to S. and A. East Indies Station)

U-boat attack SSSS\*72° 28' E. 09° 23' N. Submarine apparently sighted on starboard bow.  
(EDWARD RICHARDSON, No T.O.O. received 0358 - 1)  
SSSS Position 72° 28' E. 09° 29' N. Torpedoes missed, fired on starboard bow.  
(EDWARD RICHARDSON, 010149Z.)  
\*S/M attack signal.

Palk Straits scheme. Tug EMPIRE PHYLLIS allocated for Palk Straits Scheme. Your 121250 (Mast 1150 and para. 2 of my 191405 neither to all refer.) In view of tugs employment request ship sail with properly qualified berthing tug Master in command who will remain with tug.  
(C. in C. E.I., 011109 to M.W.T. London.)

SEAROVER Intend SEAROVER sails for Trincomalee at 0330Z 5th Jan. proceeding through (a) 030° 01' S. 113° 32' E (b) 026° 02' S. 110° 03' E. thence as ordered by C. in C.E.I. E.T.A. at (b) 0800Z (7th).  
Request onward route. S. of A. 9 knots. SEAROVER will guard BAKER until 0800Z/7th.  
(C.T.F.71, 011148Z to C. in C.E.I.)

Duke of Gloucester For Governor Aden from C.O.S. to H.R.H. Duke of Gloucester (begins) - Have encountered unfavourable head wind possible we shall not arrive until 1630C/2nd January but will send you amended E.T.A. 1000 tomorrow (ends.)  
(H.M.S. EURYALUS, 011230Z to N.O.I.C. Aden.)  
P.C.S. at 1900C, 014° 42' 042° 11' 145° 13½ knots.  
(2) E.T.A. Steamer Point 1600C Jan. 2nd.  
(3) Do not intend commencing Zig-zag when south Perim.  
(4) H.R.H. would like to disembark before finally securing if this will accelerate programme.  
(EURYALUS, 011605Z to N.O.I.C. Aden.)

TAY defects Examination of No.1 boiler in TAY shows it requires complete retubing. No. 2 boiler has not been drilled? tested but is considered serviceable for steaming to refitting port. Your 061037 not to all refers.  
(2) Suggested that TAY returns to U.K. for retubing, (reasons).  
(Com. Aden, 011410Z to C. in C.E.I.) Concur 040421Z from C. in C. E.I.S. to Admty.

S/M VISIGOTH Arrived S/M VISIGOTH.  
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 011641Z to Admty.)



1.1.1945  
MondayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

U-boat German U-boat transmitting Bar-B signal on 5085 kcs. at 0711Z bearing 233°. My position 44.33 N., 62.34 W., 244° 10 knots. Transmissions lasting approximately 2 minutes text not copied.  
(STETTLER, 010739Z to C. in C., C.N.A. N.S.H.Q.)  
My 011107 (N.T. in W.D.). In view of STETTLER's bearing at 0711Z combined with that of KIRKLAND LAKE at 1008Z, ANTIGONISH and KIRKLAND LAKE have been detached on last bearing to investigate. Weather 2856 2336.  
(SAULT STE MARIE, 011242Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

U-boat Estimates.  
dispositions (N.S.H.Q. 011418Z, Cominch, 011620Z.)

Routeing C.R. No. 1066.  
Instructions, In order to improve operational control of  
proposed areas where in Merchant Vessels may burn lights  
changes and to eliminate present unnecessary worldwide promulgation of temporary changes in local areas, propose delete all present article 178 WIMS 1 except present reference to Article 205, adding general statement similar that governing zigzagging Article 177A. Area light directives if not of temporary nature to be included applicable routeing publications such as M.A.R.I., M.P.R.I., M.S.C.I. and M.E.I.R.I. and light instructions to be given Master as part of route instructions with provisions for amendment by B.A.M.S. Emergency changes to be originated by diverting authority concerned and broadcast to such B.A.M.S. areas as he deems necessary. General amendments to be handled in same manner as other changes to publications. Also propose similar change in method control zigzagging for some reasons. If you concur will propose U.S. areas for inclusion M.A.R.I. (Com. 10th Fleet C. and R., 011600 to Admty.)  
Concur, 040013A.

T.G.21.10 Correct my 311833Z to read: Depart that date from Boston and Casco, destroyers R/V 42° N. 64° W. at 1200Q/11.  
(Cinclant Adcomd., 011629Z to MAYRANT and RHIND.)  
Cancelled by 042232Z from C. in C. Lant, and MAYRANT.

Black Sea SABWA 783 MOSSY. W.S.A. schedule for Black Sea  
Convoys is now as follows.  
U.G.S. 69 sailing Jan. 18 5 ships of which one will have cargo sugar.  
U.G.S.71 2 ships. U.S. 73 2 ships. Please keep Admty. advised.  
(C.S.A.B. Washington, 011635 to C.S.A.B. London.)

LADY Mention of LADY RODNEY in H.M.C.S. FENNELS  
RODNEY 301519\* is presumed to refer to incident on 23rd Oct. 1944. N.S.H.Q. 241420+ Oct. refer. (C. in C. C.N.A., 011806Z to Admty.)  
\*Gnat report.  
+ N.S.H.Q.'s routine S"M attack and sighting summary.



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1.1.1945  
MondayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

Routeing  
Ex British  
Columbia

Urdis 291952Z\* agreeable to U.S. Authorities.  
(Com. 10th Fleet C. and R., 011822Z to N.S.H.Q.)  
\* Requesting ships from British Columbia Ports to South Africa when requested by owners be routed via Magellan Straits.

TROUNCER  
defect.

Resulting from flooding of aviation hold TROUNCER smaller components A/S set type 132 V totally destroyed. (Details).  
Replacement of major portion Radar and W/T only possible in time available. Detailed list of losses and replacements effected follows by air mail. Understood C.O. making report to F.O.C.T. and LARGS. (B.A.D. Washington, 011901Z to Admty.)

SAVORGNAN  
DE BRAZZA

As a separate case C. in C.U.S. Fleet concurs in refit and future employment proposals for F.S.(SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA) made in A.M. 172310 Dec. Caserta pass to F.O.N.A.M. (B.A.D. Washington, 012237Z to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand

CHALLENGER  
surveys.

*Torus Strait*

Ref. CHALLENGER's 050338Z Dec.  
(1) Request report in terms of latitudes and longitudes limits of areas of Great N.E. Channel on Charts F.063 and F.064 which have been covered by recent surveys. When may these surveys be expected? Full reply to para. 3 cannot be given until these have been examined.  
(2) Request endeavour may be made to locate a channel with not less than 48 feet between Roberts Islet and Vigilant Channel.  
(3) Essential all sharp turns be swept to a depth of 48 feet and for a distance of 1000 yards on either side of turning points.  
(4) Para. 4 is concurred in.  
(Hd. of M., Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 010248A to A.C.N.B. and 031015)

A/S  
training  
B.P.F.

Request these 2 S/Ms proceed to Sydney N.S.W. as soon as ready and that expected date of departure may be signalled. Admiralty's 141150A\* Dec. and your 231117Z refers.  
(C. in C. B.P.F., 010423Z to C. in C.E.I.)  
\* 2 "U" Class Submarines allocated to meet requirements of A/S training in B.P.F.

ATHELING

Departure Sydney 0555Z 1st. Jan. ATHELING for Purvis Bay. S.O.A. 15 knots. E.T.A. Purvis

/Bay...



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1.1.1945  
MondayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New ZealandATHELING  
(Contd.)

Bay. 1600L 6th Jan. Guarding Bells continuously till 1400Z 4th, then LOPE. My 311231Z refers.  
(N.O.I.C. Sydney, 010601Z to N.O.I.C. Brisbane, C. in C. B.P.F., Cominch etc.)

Monab. 4

It appears probable that Monab 4 will be established at Manus and it may be desirable to send it there direct instead via Sydney (N.S.W.) Request confirmation that personnel and equipment ships will be loaded so (?that) this can be done.  
(2) Ref. A.M. 091435 Dec. para. 5 (not to C. in C. B.P.F.) request arrangements be made to sail 2 M.S.R. components with Monab 4. 2 will also be required with Monab 6.  
(F.O.N.A.S.(A) 011148Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGNSubmarine  
attack  
and  
sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900 1st Jan.

Para. A.

(1) A/C B/120 sighted U-boat at 1606Z/31st Dec. in 50° 54' N. 06° 48' W. course 350°

Para. B.

(1) A/C Q/202 obtained A.S.V. contact at 0553Z/31st Dec. in 51° 06' N. 08° 53' W.

(2) A/C L/43 reported object believed to be

periscope at 1000Z/31st December in 51° 25' N. 09° 55' W.

(3) A/C H/110 obtained A.S.V. contact at 1030Z/31st December in 49° 55' N. 02° 55' W.

(4) A/C P/206 sighted possible Snort at 1040Z/31st Dec. in 58° 21' N. 02° 21' W.

(5) A/C L/423 sighted possible Snort at 1140Z/31st Dec. in 51° 18' N. 10° 15' W.

(6) A/C sighted periscope, course 000°, at 1225Z/31st Dec. in 35° 32' N. 09° 33' W.

(7) A/C D/423 sighted possible Snort at 1246Z/31st Dec. in 50° 47' N. 09° 54' W.

(8) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 1436Z/31st Dec. in 36° 05' N. 09° 25' W.

(9) F.S. TONKINOIS attacked good contact at 2124Z/31st December in 50° 27' N. 01° 21' W.

(10) AmSS. EDWARD RICHARDSON sighted U-boat and was missed by torpedoes at 0149Z/1st Jan. in 09° 29' N. 72° 28' E.

(D.D.I.C. 011040Z to Cominch N.S.H.Q.)

U-boat  
dispositions

Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C. 011445A, 011447A.)



Admiral  
Ramsay  
Killed.

With the deepest regret I have to inform you that Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay was killed instantaneously when his aircraft crashed shortly after taking off from Toussus aerodrome about 1115 today, Tuesday. Next of kin not informed.

(C.O.S. to A.N.C.X.F., 021315A,  
to Admiralty, S.C.A.E.F.)



2.1.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

1. PATROLLER, REAPER, RANEE and THANE, escort carriers, are to be lent to the United States Navy for ferrying duties in the Pacific until April.

North Sea.

2. (a) Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay, Allied Naval Commander-in-Chief Expeditionary Force, was killed in flight over the Western Front.  
(b) HEYBOURNE WYKE, dan laying trawler to 1st M.S.F. was torpedoed at anchor and sunk 4 miles W.N.W. of Ostend.  
(c) COWDRAY sank a midget U-boat off Blankenberghe. CATTISTOCK attacked another off Zeebrugge and probably sank it and "a fisherman" has reported a 60 ft. submarine off Ostend. M.L. 903 also sighted "a 30 ft. object with small mast amidships" which disappeared into a fog bank off N.F. 8 buoy and which she followed up with 25 lb. water bombs. None of the U-boats attempted any offensive action.  
(d) With VANITY, destroyer, now under repair, and DAKINS, frigate, to follow her, and with the immediate acceptance of PRIMULA, corvette, for refit, Antwerp is beginning to prove its value as a refitting port.

Channel

3. Fourteenth Escort Group have attacked a bottomed contact in Lyme Bay and produced air bubbles from a hedgehog attack, but no more definite evidence.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

Riviera

4. Near Franco-Italian border Allied destroyers continue to carry out periodical bombardments with success.

Greece.

5. (a) Zervas troops have now all withdrawn to Southern half of Levkas where there is little chance of evacuating them as H.M. ships cannot assist due to mines, and caiques are not obtainable.  
Situation quiet at Kavalla.  
(b) KIMBERLEY at Kalamata reports that all stores not evacuated were destroyed.



2.1.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Greece  
(contd).

(c) Clearance operations Southeast of the Faliron -Athens road have been virtually completed. Situation in the Athens-Piraeus area remains virtually unchanged.

(d) Gl. Alexander reports as follows on situation between Dec. 28th and 31st at Piraeus. Reported quiet except for some shelling of naval establishments. Clearance operations proceeding satisfactorily. H.M. ships evacuated Zervas troops and civilians from Preveza to Corfu without incident. Situation at Mitylene where SIRIUS standing by has improved rapidly. Situation at other Greek ports is in general tense but gives no cause for alarm. H.M. ships continue to stand by.

East Indies.

U-boat  
attack.

6. American SS. JOHN L. STODDARD which left Abadan for Calcutta Dec. 24 reported being attacked in 07.16 N., 78.54 E., 70' West of Colombo.

Aden

7. H.R.H. Duke of Gloucester arrived in SS. RIMUTAKA escorted by EURYALUS, and two destroyers today and sailed.

America & West Indies.

SS. FERNFIELD  
Loss.

8. SS. FERNFIELD (335 tons gross) reported wrecked near Picadenis, Port au Port Bay (West Coast of Newfoundland) - Total loss, crew saved.



2.1.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

S.W. Pacific  
Borneo.

9. Liberator patrolling north Borneo bombed  
2 sea trucks destroying one.

Air Station  
Transfer.

10. R.A.A.F. Station Nowra, New South Wales was  
taken over this morning and is now Royal Naval  
Air Station Nowra with ships name H.M.S.  
NABBINGTON.

Philippines.

11. (a) Three squadrons of Bostons attacked  
shipping off San Fernando - destroying one large  
and two medium transports, one sea plane carrier  
and 9 sea trucks and severely damaging one large  
transport and 3 escort vessels.  
(b) Japanese aircraft raided Mindoro at night  
and hit 2 Liberty ships with bombs.  
C. in C. embarked in U.S.S. NEW MEXICO at  
Tacloban this afternoon reported unlikely to  
leave Philippine area before 15th January.

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Situation Air. Sunset 31st Dec. to Sunset 1st Jan., 1945.  
Reports. German Airforce activity. Considerable activity was experienced throughout the day. An effort comprised the shooting up of roads and shipping in the Schelde and one enemy A/C which penetrated the defences reached Antwerp and set fire to an oil tank in the harbour. (S.H.A.E.F. 021030 to Admty., and others.)

Discharge by sea - 24 hours period ending 011600 January.

British	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores (inc. coal)	Bulk Pol	Ammo.
Antwerp	4	251	7,384	3,404	1,095
Ostend	398	162	1,786	-	478
Boulogne	17	30	-	-	-
Dieppe	10	-	898	-	-
Caen	-	-	66	-	-
Calais	-	2	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>10,134</b>	<b>3,404</b>	<b>1,573</b>

U.S. North

Antwerp	-	-	17,598	-	-
Cherbourg	474	162	5,790	1,199	2,350
Le Havre	8,112	400	6,920	1,252	4,062
Rouen	1,758	1,037	5,584	3,766	789
Granville	-	-	548	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,344</b>	<b>1,599</b>	<b>36,440</b>	<b>6,217</b>	<b>7,201</b>

U.S. South

Marseilles	9	79	3,995	-	-
Port de Bouc	-	-	-	-	-
Toulon	- No report received				
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>3,995</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

(Signed Eisenhower CITE SHGDS.)  
(S.H.A.E.F. 021230A to Admty. and Others.)

Monitors Required My 241312 November. Request EREBUS and ROBERTS may be brought to 24 hours notice for an operation. (2) Request you will report when they are at this notice. (A.N.C.X.F. 021128A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Anti-Midget U-boat patrols. H.D.M.Ls. with Asdics Type 134C and two operators per boat most suitable for para. 2A of your 011248. (Com. Belgium 021231 to A.N.C.X.F.) Have sunk midget submarine in position 51° 22' 48" 03° 12' 30" E. (COWDRAY 021710A to C. in C. Nore, N.O.I.C. Antwerp)

Have attacked midget S/M 280° Zeebrugge East Mole 1.8 miles. (CATTISTOCK, 021737A to C. in C. Nore.) S/M 60 ft. long reported by fisherman 040° Ostend 5.2 course 221° at 1647?. (N.O.I.C. Ostend, 021747 to Com. Belgium.) My 021747. Fishermen are being further interrogated. Will report results.

(N.O.I.C. Ostend, 022051A to C. in C. Nore.) At 0930 today M.L.903 sighted group of suspicious objects in position 020° N.F.8 buoy one mile observation difficult owing to swell and poor visibility. Object approximately 25 - 30 ft. long with small mast amidships disappeared into fog bank almost /immediately...



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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Anti-  
Midget  
U-boat  
patrols  
(Contd.)

Immediately after sighting. M.L. 903 searched vicinity and proceeded to conduct H.E. and A/S sweeps of area and 25 lb. water bombs were dropped. Search abandoned at 1400 area five miles radius N.F.8 covered. Negative result. (N.O.I.C. Ostend, 021955 to Com. Belgium.)

Possible  
U-boat

Have attacked contact in position 018° Ostend 18 miles with depth charges. (EKINS, 022005A to C. in C. Nore.)

Admiral  
Ramsay

Admiral Ramsay, A.N.C.X.F. was killed when flying to a conference behind the Western Front. His machine is understood to have been shot down. (B.B.C. 022100 news.)

Midget  
U-boat  
sunk in  
Dover  
Harbour.

My 011904.  
Various contacts examined by diver with no success. Sweeping and A.S./E.S. search continue at daylight tomorrow Wednesday. (V.A. Dover, 022104A to Admty.)

HEYBOURNE  
WYKE  
torpedoed.

Trawler HEYBOURNE WYKE hit by torpedo in approximate position 125° OD buoy 2 miles at 2225. (HALCYON 022231 to Admty.)

Operations

Channel

Possible  
U-boat

My 012247A 2 Hedgehog attacks completed without definite evidence apart from 2 air bubbles from first. Contact broken up after second attack and only scattered non-submarine could be regained. Classified non-submarine. Resuming patrol.

(S.O.E.G.14, 020007A to C. in C.H.F.)

Have attacked bottomed contact in position 50° 24' N. 02° 54' W. with Hedgehog and depth charges.

(2) Hedgehog brought large bubbles to surface.

(3) Echo sounder trace shows similarity to a trace recently obtained on known submarine.

(4) No other evidence on which to base classification.

(5) Intend to remain in the vicinity until daylight.

(S.O.E.G.14, 022359A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Rescue  
Tug for  
Portland.

Reference C. in C. Portsmouth's 302147 December, Cotug is requested to take necessary action. (Captain in Charge, Rescue Tugs, 020508A to A.N.C.X.F.)

/Your...



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2.1.1945  
TuesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsChannelRescue  
Tug for  
Portland  
(Contd.)

Your 302147 December, and A.M. 020508 January. Regret there is no improvement in the tug situation since my letters Cotug/0003 of the 14th November. No additional rescue tugs can, therefore, be allocated to Portsmouth Command.

(2) Suggest that the situation may be eased by transferring one of the two Portsmouth rescue tugs to Portland. (A.N.C.X.F. 021717A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Patrols  
and escorts

Anti-snort patrol area limits given 01° 20' 00' 40' W. 50° 30' 50° 15' ships to be 5 miles apart. Course 090° 270° Leave patrol in time to R/V at 02A buoy at 0600/3rd Jan. and escort  
(a) Westbound convoy O.N.A.276 speed 7½ knots.

- (b) Codeword "Batten" C.N.O.3.
  - (c) Escort HOLMES (S.O.) HEATHER.
  - (d) Route W.
  - (e) From C2A buoy to 02° 20' W.
  - (f) Subsequent orders follow.
- (C. in C. Portsmouth 021509A to LA DECOUVERTE, L'AVENTURE.)  
Night Patrol 2nd 3rd January.

E.G.30 Search area North of Cherbourg limits 01° 20' 01° 47' W. 50° 10'.

(2) E.G.10. Anti-Snort patrol area limits given 01° 20' 00' 40' W. 50° 15' 49° 50'. Ships to be 5 miles apart. Course 270° 090°.

(3) E.G.10. Report dispositions of ships.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 021510A to S.O.E.Gs. 10, 30.)

My 021510. There is a possibility of U-boats using Schnorkel at night in vicinity of Point de Barfleur. Extend Eastern limit of night patrol to 01° 00' W.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 021653A to E.G.30.)

Air Patrols.

My 281708 para.12, not to all.

(a) Night 2/3. None in Portsmouth Command. Day 3rd Patrol 5 and 6 between H channel and Kansas by Swordfish.

Patrol 4 west of H Channel by Liberators.

(b) 838 Squadron R.Q.K. 842 Squadron T.V.Z.

Liberator R/T Hostess W/T L.T.F.72.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 021915A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force)

A/S M/S  
Sweep.

Pass Gate at 0930 tomorrow Wednesday with available ships of 14th M.S.F.

(2) Carry out two laps of a low percentage search in open double H formation at a depth of 17 fathoms, of Q.Z.S.607 and Q.Z.S.590, between the seaward end of Q.Z.S.601 and Portland Bill.

(3) Anchor as convenient during dark hours.

(4) All ships are to use Asdics and one ship is not to sweep.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 021533 to M.S.F.14.)

Intend sailing 31st M.S.F. at 0900 tomorrow to sweep Q.Z.S.619 and carry out a clearance sweep of Q.Z.X.1450 and Q.Z.X.1451.

(Cdr. M/S le Havre, 021614A to C.T.F.125.)

/Q.Z.S. ...



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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

A/S M/S  
Sweep  
(Contd.)

Q.Z.S.583 swept from northern limit to lat. 50° 20' N. Negative result. Anchor St. Ives proceeding daylight tomorrow Wednesday entering Swansea on completion.  
(S.O.M.S.F.4, 021623A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Deep A/U  
mining  
in Channel

My 011127A. Sailed PLOVER, escort CONQUEROR. Mails for both ships to Portsmouth.  
(2) Admiralty's 311636A on completion of operation.  
Route Q.Z.S.583, 607, route E, Q.Z.S.618, 373. Passing Lizard 1240/3rd E.T.A. Nab 0800/4th.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 021831A to Cs. in C. Plymouth, Portsmouth.)

Release of  
minesweepers  
from  
Western  
Front for  
Pacific.

British Y.M.S. are fully committed for present and future operations in Low Countries.  
(2) Consequently the 18 U.S. Y.M.S. referred to in your 011231 are the only ships of this type available to C.T.F.125 who is responsible for ports from Brest to Le Treport. They are fully employed by him and none can be spared.  
(3) Situation will be reviewed on completion of clearance operations now in progress to improve security of shipping in Havre and Seine Channels and anchorages.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 021847A to Comnavu.)

Operations

Western Approaches

3rd  
Escort  
Group.

Sailed 3rd Escort Group to Holyhead negative BERRY. DOMMETT will be sailed on completion of calibration. Admiralty is requested to divert mails to Holyhead less BERRY.  
(F.O.I.C.N.I., 021340A to N.O.I.C. Holyhead.)

22nd  
Escort  
Group.

Request you will sail E.G.22 negative LOCH CRAGGIE to arrive Larne 0800A/6 for group training.  
(2) Group will be required to proceed on service p.m. 9th January.  
(C. in C. W.A. 021639A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Patrols

On crossing 11° W. detach from U.C.51A and return to patrol area as in my 311133 not to all.  
(C. in C.W.A. 021805A to S.O.E.G.15.)  
Request you will sail 31st E.G. a.m. 3rd January to patrol area between 55° 00' and 56° 30' N. and 06° 00' and 08° 30' W.  
(C. in C.W.A. 021858A to Com. D.W.A.)

/INCONSTANT...



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Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches

Patrols  
(Contd.)

INCONSTANT is to proceed as requisite to R/V with STUBBORN in position 250° Pladda light 10 miles at 1115A/3rd. Jan. to carry out A.S.P.7 in area Y from 1215A to 1630A, returning to Campbeltown on completion for orders. N.O.I.C.

Campbeltown is requested to sail INCONSTANT to comply with C. in C.W.A.'s 311638 December.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 022236A to INCONSTANT, N.O.I.C. Campbeltown.)

H.M.C.S. St. JOHN and H.M.C.S. PORT COLBORNE proceed forthwith at best speed towards 270° Bishop Rock 10. Orders follow.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 022303A to E.G.9.)

Operations

Norway

Operation  
"Sample"

Report graded B.2 states that at 1000Z/2 one merchant vessel over 10,000 tons loaded and one merchant vessel 2,500/5,000 tons loaded arrived Aalesund from the North.

(D.D.I.C., 021549A to S.O. Force 5.)

Operations

Northern Waters

Night  
Fighters  
for Home  
Fleet.

The training of night fighter crews, your 151245 December refers, is proceeding as fast as available facilities and A/C permit.

(2) Employment of Firefly night fighters from Escort Carriers is dependent on result of night deck-landing trials now in train. If these are successful, a small detachment of two Firefly

N.F. for you as a temporary measure will be made available from 7th January. This would be done by robbing Trials Unit and would be in the nature of operational trials. Continuance of and increase of such provision will be reviewed at end of January.

(3) Present indications are that only American type C.V.E. are likely to be able to operate Fireflies. Further information on this point will be forwarded on completion of trials mentioned above.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 021153A to C. in C.H.F.)

N.F.I.U. are to be ready to embark 2 Firefly N.F. Mk.I by January 7th for operational trials as directed by C. in C. H.F. This unit will be referred to as 746 Squadron "A" Flight.

(2) 784 Squadron are to lend Lieut. P.H. Bliss and Lt. G.E. Fenner for these trials. Lt. H.J. Hunter and Lt. R.J. Babington of N.F.I.U. will form the other crew.

(3) Maintenance personnel and spares are to be provided by N.F.I.U.

(4) One Firefly N.F. Mk.I has already been allotted to N.F.I.U. for operational trials. One more will be allotted from 32 M.U.



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TuesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorthern Waters

Night fighters for Home Fleet. (Contd.) (5) F.O.C.T. is requested to arrange Night D.L.T. for Lt. Hunter if this is possible. (6) C. in C.H.F. is requested to signal embarkation instructions to N.F.I.U. (A.C.N.S.(A) 021235A to N.F.I.U. Ford, F.O.C.T.)

Patrols Position for 2000 Tuesday section 1. BAZELY, DRURY, PASLEY searching between Dunnet Head, Cape Wrath and 59° 05' N. (A.C.O.S. 021201A to Admty.)

25th and 4th E.Gs. On completion of training 4th January, T.C.Larne is requested to sail 25th E.G. at best speed to Scapa to operate under orders of C. in C. Rosyth. (2) On arrival of 25th E.G., C. in C. Rosyth is requested to detach 4th E.G. to Belfast for lay over. (C. in C.W.A. 021904A to C. in C. Rosyth T.C. Larne)

Mining (See also under apposite localities)

182nd and 183rd Auxiliary Groups. Your 011552A 182nd 183rd M/S Auxiliary Groups and mine clearance drifter Flotilla no longer required. (C.T.F.125 021147A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Port Facilities

Antwerp Your 301942 PRIMULA can be accepted now. (2) DAKINS can be accepted for docking about 15th January on completion of VANITY. Repairs to Asdic will be dependent on:  
(a) Supply from U.K. of necessary replacements.  
(b) Decision as to whether secret equipment of this nature can be worked on by selected local civilian labour. (N.O.I.C. Antwerp, 021107A to Admty., C. in C. Nore.)

Casualties and Defects

BEN-MY-CHREE V. FORT ST.PAUL S.O.S. urgent been in collision with FORT ST. PAUL send tug assistance position between No. 2 and No. 3 seareach buoys. Master. (BEN-MY-CHREE 021103Z to North Foreland Radio.) S.O.S. We are now heading for a position between No. 2 and No. 3 Gantlet Buoys for Shoalwater please send tugs with pumps. Master. (BEN-MY-CHREE 021202A to Admty.)  
SS. BEN-MY-CHREE in collision this morning with SS. FORT ST. PAUL in Yantlet Channel. BEN-MY-CHREE holed below water line but ship's pumps keeping water under control.

/FORT ST.PAUL...



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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects

BEN-MY-CHREE V.  
FORT ST. PAUL (Contd.)

FORT ST. PAUL holed above water line. Both ships proceeded to Gravesend Reach. F.O.I.C. London is requested to inform owners. (Com. Southend, 021954A to Admty., C. in C. Nore.)

MFULI

Request suitable lifting craft may be provided to raise MFULI sunk in position 50° 29.9 N. 3° 23.8 W. It is requested that this operation may be treated as urgent. (C. in C. Plymouth, 021618A to Admty.) Also circulated as 021718.

<sup>N</sup>  
H.M. M.F.V. SVERRE

My 010839A (not to Cdr. I/C Southend). Crew ex. M.F.V. SVERRE landed at Great Yarmouth p.m. today. Vessel foundered and crew picked up at 0715 today 2nd January vicinity S.E. docking by M/V West Coaster. Crew being returned to Southend a.m. tomorrow, Wednesday. Full report follows. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 021805A to C. in C. Nore.)

Movements

LARGS L.S.H.(L)

Your 301715A December and Cdre. Southend's 311434A December LARGS arrived. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 020610A to C. in C. Nore.)

A.F.D. 50

A.M. 012343 and my 291755 October one A.F.D. is still required to be held in the Portsmouth Command for use in the Low Countries as required. (A.N.C.X.F 021118 to Admty.)

PATROLLER, REAPER, RANEE, THANE, Escort Carriers.

Approval has been given to lend PATROLLER, REAPER, RANEE and THANE to U.S. Navy for ferrying duties in the Pacific until April. Arrangements for taking these ships in hand are postponed until their return.

(2) F.O.C.T. is requested to report earliest date by which these ships can be ready to sail.  
(3) C. in C.W.A. is requested to sail each ship as she becomes ready in the first appropriate U.C. convoy to U.S.A.  
(4) F.O.C.T. inform ships.  
(D.O.D.(H), 021330A to C. in C.W.A., F.O.C.T.)

AVONVALE, BRECON, EGGESFORD, destroyers.

A.M. 170027 December para. 5. Ships have been allocated as follows:- AVONVALE to Taranto. BRECON to Malta. EGGESFORD to Gibraltar. All to be taken in hand on 1st February. (D.O.D.(H), 022151A to Cs. in C. Plymouth, Portsmouth)



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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

MAURITIUS,  
Cruiser

- (1) On completion of practices about 1400A Thursday/4th January proceed by Minches and standard route to Greenock arriving Clyde Gate at 0900A/5th January.
- (2) Speed through water is to be at least 24 knots from Scapa to 58° N. weather permitting.
- (3) On completion of bombardment training return to Scapa arriving by A.M. Monday 15th January.  
(C. in C. H.F. 022241A to MAURITIUS)

DEVONSHIRE  
Cruiser

- (1) Leave Scapa by Hoxa at 2200A Thursday 4th January and proceed by Minches and standard route to arrive Plymouth Gate at 1030A 6th January
- (2) Speed through water from Hoxa to 58° N. is to be at least 24 knots weather permitting.
- (3) Shift to broadcast CN at 0100A 6th January
- (4) DEVONSHIRE will be docked a.m. Sunday 7th January.
- (5) Leave may be given subject to concurrence to C. in C. Plymouth.
- (6) DEVONSHIRE is to sail so as to arrive Scapa on 25th January.  
(C. in C.H.F. 022307A to DEVONSHIRE.)



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Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

MIRROR, KILMARTIN Your 311012A Dec. At 0210A/2 parted company with MIRROR in position N. MIRROR proceeding independently  $231^{\circ} 10\frac{1}{2}$  to position O thence through route held to Dakar. W/T organization of MIRROR is B.A.M.S. Guard in accordance with C.A.M.S.I. 1/44 article 33. My P.C.S. at 0210/2 N.  $034^{\circ} 14'$  to position Z thence through position Y to Gibraltar. Weather report 9070 2011.  
(KILMARTIN, 020336A to F.O.G.M.A.)

E.G.38 Pass instructions contained in my 011654 to A.S. Hunt. E.G.40 and detach 40 E.G. as necessary to comply with these instructions.  
(2) BERGAMOT will join E.G.38 a.m. tomorrow 3rd January.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 020855A to E.G.8.)

My P.C.S.  $035^{\circ} ?(37' \text{ or } 58')$  N.  $006^{\circ} 14'$  W. (X)  $156^{\circ} 10$  knots.

(2) Your 020855 complied with.  
(3) Intend maintaining present course and speed until 1130 then (Heading)  $195^{\circ}$   
(4) S.O.E.G.40 reports (contact) non-submarine in vicinity AYLMER's contact.

(5) ANCHUSA (2 corrupt groups) U.S. (2 corrupt groups)

(6) Suitable.

(7) Weather report 7280 2222.

(S.O.E.G.38, 021031A, F.O.G.M.A.)

If not in contact by 1600A today Tuesday proceed to carry out patrol "Kidney".

(2) A/C will operate during dark along Coast between Tarifa and Cadiz. Commencing close inshore and work out to seaward.

(3) Your patrol should be governed by A/S 41 of M.A. O.P. (one) with particular attention to Sub-para. (C) of para. 41.

(F.O.G.M.A., 021131A to E.G.38.)

ABELIA's 021133A. Intend to R/V K.M.S.75 at 031101 in  $037^{\circ} 27'$  N.  $074^{\circ} 43'$  W. (sic)

(2) My P.C.S. at 021459  $035^{\circ} 27'$  N.  $006^{\circ} 19'$  W. 298 12.  
(E.G.40, 021452A to ABELIA.)

SOLENT SOLENT sailed in O.S.102/K.M.S.76 for Gibraltar, Malta and Eastern Fleet. Last Q.B. number, Q.BA139 colour green. Communications 500 kcs. for H.S. routine.  
(Captain (S) 3, 021322 to F.O.G.M.A.)

South Atlantic

PARRETT Sailing PARRETT to Diego Suarez through:  
(a) ( $?025^{\circ}$ )  $01'$  S.  $036^{\circ} 06'$  E.

/ (b) ...

War Diary

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Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

PARRETT (Contd.)      {b} 016° 49' 041° 29'.  
                          {c} 012° 17' 047° 08'.  
                          {d} 011° 47' 049° 15'.  
                          (2) S. of A. 13 knots.

(3) E.T.A. 1400Z, 7th Jan.  
(4) Continuous W/T watch on broadcast S.L. shifting to V. at 1200Z/5th, Jan.  
(Cmdre Durban, 021631Z to Admty.)

VALIANT,              Capetown arrivals 2nd Jan.  
WYE,                    VALIANT, WYE, DOVEY.  
DOVEY.                  (C. in C.S.A. 021830B.)



War Diary2.1.1945  
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Hunt class Destroyers, refits. Your 311412 December. All available stores should arrive Alexandria before 1st February, except some items which anyhow are too large to be carried in a Hunt. These are being shipped as soon as possible. (2) As it is not now possible for any ship in para. 2 (B) of your 311412 to adjust complement and reach Alexandria by 1st February, request you will arrange for either BICESTER or OAKLEY to be refitted at Alexandria. (D.O.D.(F), 020017A to C. in C. Med. etc.)

Greece Evacuation Kalamata. Your (011822). All stores not evacuated were destroyed. Have on board portable W/T set and sufficient general stores to re-establishment of a B.N.L.O. at Kalamata. This policy has been suggested to the E.A.M. controller and no reply has yet been received. (KIMBERLEY, 021401B to S.B.N.O. Greece)

German merchant seamen. F.O.L.E.M's 061252B Nov. German Government state that they have no news of the fate of these men and inquire as to their whereabouts and welfare. Request confirmation that they were on board TUEBINGEN when she sailed from Bari and that you have no information about them. (Hd. of M. 021527A to C. in C. Med.)

CROCUS. Intend to sail CROCUS to Gibraltar 1700Z/2nd Jan. by British standard coastal route omitting positions Jig and How and Fox. S. of A. 11 knots E.T.A. Gibraltar 1000Z/8th Jan. "Chop" 0400Z/5th Jan. (Comar Dakar, 021640A to F.O.C.W.Af., F.O.G.M.A., Commorseafron)

NEWFOUNDLAND, UGANDA. A.M. 031259/Nov. and 041547 Dec. neither to all. On completion of each ship's working up, C. in C. Med. is requested to sail NEWFOUNDLAND and UGANDA for Ceylon. (2) C. in C. E.I. is requested to onward route to join British Pacific Fleet as required by C. in C. B.P.F. (3) F.O.L.E.M.'s 312013 not to all, no Admty. objection. (D.O.D.(F), 021642A to C. in C. Med. & C. in C. E.I.)

Destroyer Organisation. Capt. (D) 3rd in MILNE has arrived on the station and will now take over the administrative of Fleet Destroyers from MUSKETEER. Station message 1305 BAKER T.O.O.121713A para. 2 refers. (C. in C. Med, 021722A to Med. Stn. 342B. (R) Admty) Amended by C. in C. Med. 031728A.

/SAGGAT ...



War Diary2.1.1945  
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.

SAGGAT. -A.M. 232043. Following has been received from Stockholm. Begins: Swedish authorities have been requested by Commission in Athens to expedite sailing of SAGGAT to Piraeus, as she carries provisions urgently needed for other Relief ships there. Swedish authorities therefore wish vessel to leave Gibraltar for Piraeus on Jan. 4th at 0900 hours local time. Ends.  
(2) Request S.B.N.O. Greece will reply by immediate signal whether proposed sailing can be agreed. If agreed request all air and other authorities concerned by informed.  
(Hd. of M. 021744A to S.B.N.O. Greece, C. in C. Med., F.O.G.M.A., V.A. Malta, F.O.L.E.M., 3 Corps)

SIRIUS. After consultation with O.C. Force 142 intend sailing to Khios at 0700/3rd Jan. (to land him) and embark company of Alwar Troops for Mudros.  
(2) Intend following programme subsequently -  
your 021036 not to all addresses refers.  
Arrive Mudros p.m. 4th Jan. thence Kavalla Salonika and Khios before proceeding Alexandria.  
(3) Probable date of arrival Alexandria 12th Jan. dependent on speed of transferring stores. Sailing signals will be made to authorities concerned.  
(SIRIUS, 021841B to F.O.L.E.M., R.A. Alex.)

Cositintrep 282530. Cite FHRNA - Signed Alexander.  
No.544 Zervas troops have now all withdrawn to Southern  
Part 2. half of Levkas whence there is little change of  
evacuating them as H.M. ships cannot assist due to  
mines and no caiques are obtainable.  
No.543 para. 3 refers. Situation is quiet at  
Kavalla and caique movements there are slight.  
(C. in C. Med. T.H.I. 021848A to W.O., C. in C. Med. 021940A  
to Admty.)

Cositintrep 282434. F.X. 77918 cipher 2 Jan.  
No.542, Cite FHGCT signed Alexander.  
part 4. Greece. Ref. Cositintrep No.535 part 4.  
Since clearance operations southeast of the  
Faliron-Athens road have been virtually completed,  
this area has been taken over by a small composite  
force so as to enable 4 British Division to start clearance  
operations in the northeast suburbs of Athens.  
The situation in the Athens/Piraeus area remained virtually  
unchanged. Activity was confined to mopping and consolidation  
of positions.  
(A.F.H.Q. No T.O.O/2nd.)

BARFLEUR. Approve proposal for BARFLEUR subject to  
concurrence of Admty. C. in C. Plymouth and  
A.N.C.X.F. Your 311825/ Dec. refers.  
(C. in C. Med. 021933A to F.O.W.M.)  
/ New programme for BARFLEUR.

/Part ...



2.1.1945  
TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.

Part 3 282438. MX 42369 cipher 2nd Jan. Cite FHGCT FH  
 Air Cositin- GBI - Signed Alexander.  
 trep No.541. Coastal Air Force. During night 31/1 Jan,  
 3 Venturas on anti-shipping R/C Spezia/Savona  
 attacked and straddled 4 barges and 3 F-Boats but  
 no apparent damage was seen.  
 (H.Q. M.A.A.F. T.O.O.Nil/2nd Jan.)

Linrep No. 282663. FX.77801 cipher 2 Jan.  
 218. Summary Cite FHGCT signed Alexander.  
 of Ops. 28 Para. 2. Naval. Gulf of Genoa. Near Franco-  
 Dec. to 31 Italian border Allied destroyers continue to  
 Dec. carry out periodical bombardments with success.  
 Sicily. R.Y.N.S. ~~Kumoneve~~ had engine trouble  
 east of Sicily and sank with loss of 2 lives.  
 Greece. At Piraeus except for some shelling of  
 naval establishments situation has been quiet and clearance  
 operations are progressing satisfactorily. Discharge of ships  
 at the coal quay has been recommenced. H.M. ships evacuated  
 Zervas troops and civilians from Preveza to Corfu without  
 interference or incident. At Mitylene where H.M. cruiser SIRIUS  
 is standing by situation was tense during general strike but  
 this having ended improved rapidly. Situation is now calm and  
 libertymen have landed and had good reception. Situation at  
 other Greek ports is in general tense but gives no cause for alarm.  
 H.M. ships continue to stand by.  
 (A.F.H.Q. No T.O.O/2nd Jan. W.O)



War Diary2.1.1945  
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSEast IndiesU-boat  
dispositionsScales in all areas remain unchanged. No fresh information.  
(C. in C.E.I. Station, 020343 to S. and A., E.I. Station.)TALMA  
escort

Intend SENNEN or VERBENA escort TALMA sailing Durban 1st Feb. P.S.T.O. Capetown 011127 not to all addressees refers(?).

(2) C. in C.S.A. requested to detail whichever of above ships he considers most suitable in regard to date of completion inform authorities accordingly.

(3) F.O.E.A. is requested to detail in due course one escort for TALMA from Kilindini to Aden.

(4) Capetown pass to Dechief Pretoria.

(C. in C.E.I., 020501Z to C. in C.S.A., F.O.E.A.)

Confirmed by 031417Z, and 041621B.

JOHN L.  
STODDARD  
U/B.

Following has been read SSSS from WE2QI (Signal letters undecypherable).

Position 0-7° 19' N. 78° 44' E. attacked by S/M starboard quarter.

(Colombo W/T, No T.O.O. to Admty. received 1233/2.)

Following has been read SSSS from (WE2KI)

(JOHN L. STODDARD).

Submarine following and gaining. Send planes immediately.

(Colombo W/T, No T.O.O. to Admty. received 1255/2.)

Following has been read SSSS from (WE2KI)\*

Correct position now 07° 16' N. 78° 54' E.

(Colombo W/T, No T.O.O. to Admty. received 1256/2.)

\* KUZX (JOHN L. STODDARD).

S/M has submerged out of sight our speed 13 knots 007° 22' 079° 07', course 050° might change course to suit emergency.

(JOHN L. STODDARD 021228Z to Colombo W/T.)

Duke of  
Gloucester

Arrived EURYALUS, ULSTER, URCHIN, RIMUTAKA.

(Com. Aden, 021622Z to Admty.)

Departed EURYALUS, ULSTER, URCHIN, SS. RIMUTAKA.

(Com. Aden, 022225Z to Admty.)



War Diary.

2.1.1945.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

T.G. 61.2 Task Group 21.5 hereby dissolved Task Group 61.2 constituted. Capt. Gallaher in SOMERS retain present communication team. Task Unit 61.2.1 Capt. Gallaher in SOMERS, PETERSON, HARVESON, JOYCE, OSWALD, KIRKPATRICK. Task Unit 61.2.2 Comdr. Roberts U.S.C.G. Comcordiv 21 in POOLE, SLATER, EBERT, BURROWS. Task Group 61.2 depart New York and Boston 10th-11th Jan. escorting convoy C.U.14 to U.K. and Continent. Task Unit 61.2.1 return escorting U.C.54 A and Task Unit 61.2.2 escorting U.C.54 B when directed by Admty.  
(Cinclant, Adcomd., 021348Z to Com. Task Group 21.5).

U/B N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 021426Z & Cominch, 021515Z)..  
Dispositions

HAIDA Destination for HAIDA is Plymouth where arrangements have been made to fit equipment referred to in para. 2 of your 301626 Dec.  
(D.O.D. (H), 021502A to C. in C. C.N.A.)

CAMROSE Following repeats my 012210Z begins:  
My 301639 not to all addressees. H.M.C.S. CAMROSE departed Bermuda for Horta at 2205Z. Admty. pass to C.N.M.O. Ends. Cancel my 020740Z.  
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 021707Z to Admty).

Japanese suicide bombing. *Publicity* Following is repetition of despatch from Com. 7th Fleet T.O.O. 171238 Dec. addressed 7th Fleet, repeated C. in C. S.W.P.A., Cominch and Com. 7th Fleet rear Echelon: (Begins).  
"Following from Cominch and C.N.O. is quoted for information and compliance. 'Director of Censorship is asking all editors and news casters to refrain from mention of suicide bombing of Japanese as requested by C. in C. P.O.A. All Naval personnel returning to United States and visiting Australia should be warned not to discuss the matter'" (Ends).  
Cabinet has been informed.  
(B.A.D., 021915Z to Admty).

RIMOUSKI Admty's 190353 Nov. N.T. in W.D. Anticipated D.L. control. that Corvette RIMOUSKI will sail for U.K. about 15 Feb. Ship is equipped with automatic D.L. control and will be available for D.L. trials on arrival. Two technical officers experienced in the development work will sail in ship.  
3. Unless Admty. feel that there is a real tactical requirement for the installation of D.L. it is intended to abandon further development work.  
(N.S.H.Q., 022013Z to Admty).

SOMMELSDIJK. Have you any information regarding M.V. SOMMELSDIJK Message from Holland America Line Sydney, N.S.W. infers that ship was torpedoed.  
(D.T.D., 022042A to B.A.D.) Reply 031825Z.



War Diary.

2.1.1945.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

H.X. 326 H.X. 326. Average speed 10 knots. Off Fastnet at 1230Z/26th Dec. All arrived except JAMAICA PLANTER which sank after collision off Breaksea L.V. (D.T.D. 022046A to Connav).

Troop Transport. Para. 3 of your 240612 not to all. Particulars of C.4 type troopships as follows: Door screw turbine length overall 523 feet, beam 72 feet, loaded maximum (corrupt group) saltwater unnecessary 25 feet speed 17.5 knots troop capacity approx. 227 officers 2870 other ranks.

2. It is understood that ships can be trimmed before arrival to meet all draft restrictions in Hooghli River.

3. Your para. (1) (a) noted. Also your 281646 not to all paras. (2) and (3). Prospective sailings as follows:

<u>Type</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Sailing U.S.A. West Coast</u>	<u>Destination</u>
C.4	GENERAL C.G. MORTON	10th Jan.	Calcutta
C.4	GENERAL J.H. MCRAE	10th Jan.	Calcutta
P.2	GENERAL W.A. MANN	7th Feb.	Bombay

Further forecast cannot be made pending a decision on transhipment arrangements from K.M.F. convoys. (B.A.D., 022051Z to C. in C. E.I.)

Escort maintenance. Concur that, in view of circumstances described in your 181730 Dec., Canada should not man two escort maintenance ships. (Head of M., Approved Second Sea Lord, 022304A to C.N.M.O.)

Task Units. Task Units 27.1.1., 27.1.2, 27.1.3, hereby dissolved and reconstituted as follows: T.G. 22.8 Comdr. Bowling in OTTER, VARIAN, HAYTER, HUBBARD. T.G.22.9 Comdr. Isaacs in WILLIAM T. POWELL, ALEXANDER J. LUKE, SPANGENBERG, ROBERT I. PAYNE. T.G.22.10. Comdr. Headland in BUCKLEY, JACK W. WILKE, REUBEN JAMES, SCROGGINS. These groups will hunt and kill enemy subs. as directed. (C. in C. Lant, 022258Z to Comtaskunits 27.1.1., 27.1.2, 27.1.3)

Australia & New Zealand.

Air Station NABBINGTON R.A.A.F. Station Nowra, New South Wales, was taken over at 0001Z Tuesday 2nd Jan. and is now the Royal Naval Air Station Nowra with ship's name NABBINGTON.

2. Request above may be generally promulgated. (F.O.N.A.S., 020020Z to Admty).

/Sitrep...



2.1.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

A/S Request consideration be given to allocation of training. 3rd U-class S/M for A/S training with B.P.F. Your 141150A\* December not to F.O.(S/M) refers. 2. S/Ms will be based in first instance at Sydney (N.S.W.) but one or more will later be required to work from Manus. (C. in C. B.P.F., 020418Z to Admty). \*Measures taken to meet requirements for A/S training in B.P.F.

LEWES Following is a repetition of my 010740 begins:- Admty. (R) V.A.Q., B.P.F., C. in C. E.I., S.O. Submarines, E.I.S., F.O.N.A.S.A., R.A.F.T. LEWES. From C. in C. B.P.F. Concur with C. in C. E.I.S.

280812/ Dec.

2. Colombo pass to S.O. Submarines E.I. and Basegram to LEWES 010740Z.

(C. in C. B.P.F., 020941Z to Admty).

/H.M.S. LEWES. Ship proved satisfactory working in South Africa and should be suitable for employment from Sydney, N.S.W.

Digest 1077 3. 4 enemy aircraft ineffectively attacked Allied Jan. 1st. convoy 200 miles south east of Leyte afternoon: Ack Ack shot one torpedo bomber down.

5. Vigak. Previous night 2 Liberators raided Laoag and also attacked shipping west coast

Luzon on way back sinking one gunboat.

10. Previous night P.T.? Boats operating between Masbate Island and Luzon encountered strong shore fire up to 90 millimetre from southern most shores of Luzon.

11. Enemy scale of air effort over Mindoro maintained 30th Dec. two suicide divers hit destroyers and another dive bomber strafed seaplane tender with nehcysle? effect.

13. P.T. Boats operating from Ormoc destroyed four barges and probably destroyed 5th along east coast Cebu night 29th Dec. and sunk five luggers one motor launch off Northern most tip Cebu night 31st.

20. 2 battleships, 2 cruisers, 2 destroyers Deyo Tee, Cap Saint Jacques night 30th Dec. having only 2 destroyers one freighter there next morning. This confirmed by recce. planes noon 31st with reported Cauranh Bay and Cap Saint Jacques anchorages empty except for few (part 6 undecypherable).

24. 2 Patrol Liberators sunk 1 lugger damaged 3 coasters Balikpapan-Tarakawa coast 31st: met 4 rept. 4 Zekes near Balikpapan.

(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 021127Z to Admty. etc).



War Diary.

2.1.1945.  
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarine  
attack  
and sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900 2nd January.

- Para. B. (1) A/C K/423 attacked possible Snort at 1005Z/1st Jan. in 51° 05' N., 10° 30' W.  
(2) ICARUS reported possible snort before 1017Z 1st Jan. in 50° 19' N., 02° 38' W.  
(3) U.S.N. A/C E/103 sighted possible Snort at 1405Z 1st Jan. in 49° 46' N., 01° 31' W.  
(4) 5th Escort Group attacked U-boat at 1505Z 1st Jan. in 36° 04' N., 06° 36' W.  
(5) F.S. LA DECOUVERTE attacked contact at 1730Z 1st Jan. in 49° 45' N., 01° 36' W.  
Para. C. (1) A/C J/407 obtained A.S.V. contact at 0608Z 1st Jan. in 49° 47' N., 02° 57' W.  
(2) A/C reported possible Snort at 0843Z/1st Jan. in 53° 38' N. 10° 45' W.  
(3) A/C E/331 obtained A.S.V. contact at 1143Z 1st Jan. in 59° 14' N., 01° 32' W.  
(4) A/C B/228 reported A.S.V. contact at 2143Z/1st Jan. in 50° 18' N., 01° 58' W.  
(5) LOCH ECK reported radar contact at 0240Z 2nd Jan. in 50° 22' N., 01° 07' W.  
(D.D.I.C., 021145A to Cominch).

Attacks  
on U/Bs.

- My 221059 July, 1942. 1. Aircraft E/11 attacked periscope course 275° approximately 80 miles S.E. of Halifax at 251412. Reports oil and wreckage.  
2. E.G.C.3 escort of convoy H.X.327 sank U.877, 475 miles N.N.W. of Flores at 271040. Most of crew, including C.O., picked up.  
(D.A/U.D., 021941A to Cominch).

U/B  
Dispositions.

Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C., 021351A and 021412A).



3.1.1945  
Wednesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

- North Sea. 1(a) Zeebrugge Harbour is now cleared of mines.  
(b) Minesweeping and patrols had to be abandoned due to the weather.  
(c) N.O.I.C. Ostend is of opinion that a new and larger type (than the Biber) of midget U-Boat is in operation with non-electric torpedoes.
- Norway. 2. Operations "S.C" and "V.P" were cancelled, due to the weather.
- Baltic. 3. Sweden has placed an embargo on all Swedish goods to Germany and other enemy territory as from Jan. 1st.

Foreign Stations

North Atlantic

- G.U.S.63 attacked,  
HENRY MILLER torpedoed.
4. SS. HENRY MILLER in G.U.S.63, at 1806A reported as having been torpedoed in number 3 hold. Her position 35 degs. 51' N. 06.24 W. about 30' west of Tangier and attempting to make Gibraltar under escort of MUIR. U.S.S. CARTER attacked twice and produced oil slick NEALASCOTT also attacked with charges set to magnets which produced one very heavy Explosion. E.G.38 continuing extensive search.

Mediterranean

- Greece. 5(a) S.N.O. Greece reports 5 caiques engaged on private trade and sailing without permits seized under order then in force and taken in tow Salonica. 3 parted company in heavy weather one sank under tow and 5th taken to Salonika.  
(b) Dispositions are being made to prevent E.L.A.S. invading Corfu.  
(c) Situation at Patras reported threatening.  
(d) All quiet Piraeus, harbour now open all types shipping. Also all quiet at Kavalla and Mitylene.



War Diary

3.1.1945  
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Greece.  
(Contd.)

- (e) Island of Zante in E.L.A.S. hands.
- (f) Sweeping of Dardanelles approaches progresses.
- (g) Troops and refugees evacuated from Preveza.
- (h) Kalamata reported all quiet.
- (i) AJAX sailed this afternoon for Patras where she expects to reach tomorrow morning.

Riviera.

6. F-Boats, barges bombed in St. Margherita and Rapallo harbours. A direct hit scored on an F-Boat. Spitfires scored hits on a barge.

East Indies

C. in C.  
Ceylon.

7. Lieut. General H.E. D.R. Wetherall will take up his appointment on Monday 8th January. Flag of Admiral Sir Geoffrey Layton struck sunset that day and will leave by air on 9th for U.K.

Burma.

8. C. in C. East Indies reports troops landed this morning at Akyab without opposition. No enemy mines on beaches. Occupation of island completed by evening. Akyab town much damaged and deserted, main pier unserviceable.

U-Boat  
attack.

9. U.S.A. RICHARD COULTER reported at 12.30 a.m. being chased by U-Boat in 7 degs. 57' N. 77 degs. 05' E. about 250 miles W. of Colombo, and that she was engaging enemy with gunfire.

Australia and New Zealand

Philippines  
and S.W.  
Pacific.

- 10 (a) This morning 4 mitchells and 9 warhawks attacked small type shipping Subic bay sinking 2 sea trucks destroying 2 luggers and damaging or setting afire 6 sea trucks, 4 coasters or luggers. During the night before Liberators damaged one medium freighter scored near misses on possible destroyer both apparently departing San Fernando northwards.
- (b) Corsairs destroyed 2 trawlers in Catahn bay.



3.1.1945  
Wednesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand

Philippines  
and S.W.  
Pacific.  
(Contd.)

(c) Tonight P.T. boats sank one sea truck and 2 luggers off east coast Cebu island.  
(d) Liberators west coast Luzon bombed and damaged large freighter alongside jetty and the previous night one medium freighter off Vigan left sinking.

Formosa.

11. Patrol Liberators saw 20 sea-truck type ships, 7 probable warships and numerous small craft in TAKAO Harbour including 5 or 6 ships burning. Also saw one medium and three small merchant ships burning off N.E. coast Formosa. 5 sea trucks anchored off Gigan were bombed on way home apparently damaging one.



3.1.1945.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea.

Situation Cositintrep No.273.  
Reports. Part 2 naval.  
Fishermen reported midget submarine at 1600/2nd in position 9.2 miles N.E. of Ostend.  
(2) COWDRAY reported sinking midget submarines at 1710/2nd in Nore-Flushing Channel north of Zeebrugge.  
(3) Mine clearance of Zeebrugge Harbour was completed p.m. today Tuesday.  
(Adm. Mansergh, 030015 to Admty.).  
Cositintrep No.274 Part 4.  
Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600A/2 January.

British:

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> (including coal).	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
Antwerp	27	283	2587	13613	1838
Ostend	2219	180	5255	-	2912
Boulogne	53	43	240	-	-
Dieppe	23	-	1372	-	-
Caen	-	-	2182	-	-
Calais	-	2	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	45	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2322</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>17681</b>	<b>13613</b>	<b>4750</b>
<u>U.S. North:</u>					
Antwerp	-	-	18363	-	-
Cherbourg	66	38	6379	8678	1644
Le Havre	5942	253	5863	2821	3309
Rouen	250	239	4812	2926	464
Granville	-	-	2023	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>6258</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>37440</b>	<b>14425</b>	<b>5417</b>
<u>U.S. South:</u>					
Marseilles	-	-	4023	-	-
Port De Bouc	-	-	-	-	-
Toulon	860	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4023</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Note: Toulon personnel figure includes some discharged previous 24 hours.

(S.H.A.E.F., 031530A to Admty. etc.).

Ref. Cositintrep No.273.

CATTISTOCK also attacked a midget submarine west of Zeebrugge and probably sank it.

(Adm. Mansergh, 032252A to Admty.).

Torpedoing HALCYON's 022231A not to all addressees, amend of HEYBOURNE bearing to read 112° O.D.4 Buoy. HEYBOURNE WYKE WYKE torpedoed at anchor, 2 survivors in LORD danlayer ASHFIELD.  
(JASON, 030048A to C. in C. Nore).

/Clearance...



War Diary3.1.1945  
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea. - Contd.

Clearance of Hansweert. Naval Part 1574 commenced operation at Hansweert this morning.  
(R.N.O. Beveland, 031145A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Midget U-Boats. COWDRAY reports having sunk a German Midget U-Boat in position 51 degs. 22' 49" N. 03 degs. 12' 10" E. at 1710A/2. 2 survivors picked up.  
(2) CATTISTOCK sighted and attacked another midget in position 280 degs. Zeebrugge Mole 8. Hits obtained with pom-pom and area plastered with small charges. Probably sunk.

(C. in C. Nore, 031156A to Admty.)

Your 141829A November.

In view of present and likely scale of attack in Schelde area by midget submarines and other small battle units (N.I.D. U.C. Report No.576 of 1st Jan. refers), do you still adhere to your original opinion that boom and net in mouth of Schelde as proposed in A.M. 021246A November are not acceptable.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 031547A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Summary Midget S/M activity ending 24 hours 0900 to-day Wednesday. At 0930 M/L 903 sighted suspicious object 020 degs. N.F. 8 Buoy 1 mile, my 021955 refers. At 1600 Fisherman reported S/M 60 ft. long 040 degs. Ostend 5.2 miles course 090 degs. At 1710 COWDRAY reported sinking S/M in vicinity of N.F. 12 Buoy 2 prisoners taken. This suggests a type craft other than type Biber. At 1737 CATTISTOCK reports attacked S/M in position 280 degs. Zeebrugge East Mole 1.8 miles. Result uncertain. At 2231 HALYCON reports trawler HEYBOURNE WYKE torpedoed 125 degs. O.D. 4 Buoy 2 miles. HALYCON reports just previously sighting a flash and wake passing under her stern. The sighting of wake and position of sinking again suggests different type of S/M with greater range and non-electric torpedo. Information as to all these incidents was passed to all patrols and stand by boats before confirmation.

(N.O.I.C.Ostend, 031551A to C. in C. Nore).

Patrols. The Nore and Dover patrols tonight January 3rd/4th.  
(1) 12 L.S.T.(2), 401, 414, 14 RETALICK, 16 TORRINGTON, 18 WIDGEON, 19 THORNBOROUGH and COTSWOLD.

(2) Coastal Force unit F.C.5 at Z.9, F.C.6 at Z.7, F.C.7 at Z.5, F.C.8 at Z.3, F.B.8 at 53 Buoy, F.B.3 at 51 degs. 40' N. 02 degs. 55' E.F.L.2 and 3 51 degs. 22' N. 02 degs. 25' E. From Ostend F.C.1, 2 and 3, 51 degs. 39' N. 03 degs. 21' E. F.B. 2, 51 degs. 21' N. 03 degs. 00' E. F.A.8 51 degs. 24' N. 03 degs. 15' E. F.G.2 and 3 51 degs. 28' N. 02 degs. 54' E.  
(V.A. Dover, 031456A to Nore and Dover Patrols.)

Harwich minesweeping patrols, withdrawn owing to weather.

(F.O.I.C.Harwich, 031630 to C. in C. Nore).

Intend sailing (A) D.S. DOLFIJN 0900A/6th January routed through 60 degs. 00' N. 00 degs. 30' E. 59 degs. 20' N. 01 degs. 01' E. to 58 degs. 45' N. 01 degs. 15' E. thence line 000 degs. and 180 degs. 15 miles each side of mid point 57 degs. 35' N. 01 degs. 15' E.

(B) SEANYMPH 1500A/6th January by same route as in (A) to patrol line 000 degs. and 180 degs. 15 miles each side of mid point 58 degs. 45' N. 01 degs. 15' E. (2) S/Ms proceed on surface at discretion of C.Os.

(S.O.S/M.Lerwick, 031631A to A.C.O.S. C. in C. Rosyth, F.O.S.)  
/Coastal...



3.1.1945.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea.

Coastal Force dispositions night 3/4 January.  
No patrols due to weather.  
(C. in C. Nore, 031747A to Admty.).  
(1) On completion of sweeping Q.F.X.1479 conduct L.L./S.A. E.G.M.S. either side of centre line N.F.8 - N.F.5 buoys, and return to Margate Roads.  
(2) CASWELL will be detailed in lieu of HEYBOURNE WYKE.  
(C. in C. Nore, 032115A to M.S.1 in JASON).

Admiral Ramsay. The Board of Admiralty regrets to announce the death of the Naval Commander in Chief of the Allied Expeditionary Force, Admiral Sir Bertram H. Ramsay, K.C.B., K.B.E., M.V.O.  
(2) The funeral will take place in France as arranged by S.H.A.E.F.  
(3) A memorial service will be held at Westminster Abbey at 1230 Monday 8th January 1945. There will be no procession.  
(4) Part two which follows in plain language time of origin 031737 is being passed to Home Authorities only as Admiralty General Message Home Basegram and is numbered 76OAZ.  
(Admty., 031720A General Message).

Monitors required. From 0001 Thursday 4th Jan. Your 021128A para. 2 refers.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 031907 to A.N.C.X.F., EREBUS, ROBERTS).

Operations

Channel.

Patrols. On relief by HOTHAM p.m. today return to harbour for defect.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 031030A to L'AVENTURE).  
Patrol for M.T.Bs. night 3/4 Jan. weather permitting anti-snort patrol at slow speed inshore from Portland Bill to 02° 55' W.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 031047 to M.T.B.F.66).  
Night patrol 3/4th. 30th E.G. anti-snort patrol area limits given:  
(a) North of Cherbourg Peninsula. (b) 49° 50' N. (c) 01° 00' W. (d) 01° 47' W. ships to 4000 yards apart course 270° 090°.  
(2) 17th E.G. 3 ships anti-snort patrol area limits given  
(a) 49° 48' N. (b) 50° 30' W. (c) Q.Z.S.636 and (D) 10 miles west to be at north end of patrol at 0300 4th.  
(3) 17th E.G. 2 ships patrol Q.Z.S.636, 618 50° 20' N. to F Buoy so. as to R/V F buoy at 0300 with and form additional escort to :  
(a) Convoy W.V.P. 28 2 ships 14 knots. (b) Codeword "Bayonet" YX. (c) WATCHMAN (S.O.), LOCHSHIN. (d) 5 miles west of Q.Z.S.636. (e) Detach at 58E buoy. (f) On completion rejoin group for day patrol.  
(4) CAISTOR CASTLE and E.G.17 report dispositions of ships.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 031325A to S.O.E.Gs. 10, 30, 17).

/Day...



War Diary.

3.1.1945.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel.

Patrols (Contd.) Day patrol 4th January.  
30th E.G. Patrol 2 miles each side of H channel from H.2 to H.10 Buoy.  
(2) 17th E.G. as in my 021936A not to all.  
VANOC, SPRAGGE, HOTHAM.  
On completion of my 031029A to HOTHAM and 021600 to SPRAGGE and VANOC, sweep patrol route E.H.2 Buoy to Z.buoy.  
(4) M.T.Bs. Patrol area limits given.  
(a) Line joining Portland Bill, Cap de la Hague. (b) 02° 00' W.  
(c) 50° 20' (d) 50° 30'.  
(5) CAISTOR CASTLE and S.O.E.G.17 report dispositions of ships.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 031938A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Forces).

Operations

Western Approaches

20th Escort Group. Sailed TAVY (S.O.), TORTOLA, SOMALILAND, BAHAMAS, PITCAIRN.  
My 011619 (not to Admiralty) refers.  
(2) C. in C. Western Approaches is requested to divert mails as necessary in accordance with his 211745A (not to all).  
(Com. D.W.A., 030615A to C. in C.W.A.).

Escorts and Patrols. R/V. with K.M.S.76/O.S.102 (S.O. in PIMPERNEL) in position J on route at 0200A/4th. Convoy routed thence to 48° 00' 08° 30' 6 knots.  
Submarine SOLENT will be in convoy.  
(2) Detach from K.M.S.76/O.S.102 at latest possible time as necessary to R/V with O.N.276 (S.O. E.G.C.4) in GLACE BAY in position J on route B at 1800A/4th. Convoy routed thence to (N.C.) 50° N. 10° E. thence 238° 8½ knots. On crossing 10° 30' W. resume present patrol.  
(3) Both convoys are to be supported in accordance with operation C.E.3.  
(C. in C.W.A., 031318A to S.O.E.G.15).  
Request you will sail 2nd E.G. at 1200 tomorrow 4th to patrol area between  
(a) 50° 10' N. 11° 00' W. (b) 51° 00' N. 10° 30' W.  
(c) 50° 55' N. 10° 00' W. (d) 50° 05' N. 10° 30' W.  
U-Boat may be either east or west bound.  
(C. in C.W.A., 031854A to F.O.I.C. Falmouth).

Operations

Norway

Operations "S.C." Ramose Audacity.  
(1) HITRA returned Lerwick 0930A/3rd Jan. owing weather conditions.  
(2) Operation will be repeated as soon as circumstances permit.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 030942A to A.C.O.S.).

/Intend...



3.1.1945.  
Wednesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

Operations Intend sailing S.C. operation from Shetlands.  
"S.C." (1) 0001A/5th January from Scalpay.  
(Contd.) (2) 068° from Sumburgh Head 13 knots.  
(3) 1800A/5th January.  
(4) Between 1830A/5th January and 0600A/6th Jan.  
(5) 250° to Sumburgh Head 14 knots. (6) P.M. 6th January.  
(7) 070° Sumburgh Head.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 031905A to A.C.O.S.).

Operation "Sampler". If weather prevents operation a.m. tomorrow 4th January and provided your force has not been detected, you may postpone operation "Sampler" a further 24 hours at your discretion.  
(C. in C.H.F., 031011A to BERWICK, Force 5).

Report graded B.2 states that 1 Merchant Vessel about 16,000 tons, 1 Merchant Vessel 8000 tons, 7 destroyers and 3 trawlers passed Oksbasen 64° 25' N. 10° 30' E. course S, at 0830Z January 3rd.

(D.D.I.C., 031249A to S.O. Force 5).

Report graded B.2 states that at 0235Z January 3rd a loaded motor vessel, possibly a tanker, escorted by 3 patrol vessels, passed Floro 61° 36' N. 05° 08' E. Co. N.8 knots.

(D.D.I.C., 031440A to Force 5).

Patrols. Request you will sail UTSIRA to leave Lerwick 6th January to carry out a further patrol off Fro Havet in accordance with my 051242 December. Passage north of 62° to be made diving by day.  
(F.O.S.M., 031648A to Capt. S/9, S.O.S.M. Lerwick).

Operation "V.P." V.P.73 and V.P.77 postponed until 0300A/5th January.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 031747A to A.C.O.S.).

Operations

Northern Waters

Enemy destroyers off N. Norway. Norwegians report that 2 German destroyers were sighted from shore off Baas Fiord on 12th Dec. after TUNSBURG CASTLE had been sunk and remainder of squadron had set course for Kola Inlet.  
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 030903A to Admty.).

Minesweeping West of Orkney. 70 per cent Oropesa search to depth of 20 fathom carried out in area 59° 00' N. 3° 54' W.  
59° 00' N. 4° 06' W. 58° 54' N. 4° 06' W.  
58° 54' N. 3° 54' W. negative result.  
(A.C.O.S., 030947 to C. in C.H.F.).

Patrols. Following is repetition of my 231327A begins:

/Addressed...



War Diary3.1.1945.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorthern Waters.Patrols  
(Contd.)

Addressed C. in C.Rosyth.  
The next submarines due for working up patrol are SEA NYMPH and DOLFIJN due to leave Holy Loch on 3rd January and Dundee on 4th January respectively. Request S.O. submarines Lerwick may be informed in due course of route to be used.  
References Admiralty 212340 and submarine 9 221135. T.O.O. 231317 ends.  
(F.O.S/M, 031218 to Admt.).

Following is a repetition of my 011839. Begins:-  
Addressed S.O. S/Ms. Lerwick. My 231327/December not to C. in C.H.F., H.Q.C.C., SEA NYMPH and DOLFIJN are to patrol lines 000° and 180° 15 miles either side of mid-points, 58° 45' N. 01° 15' E. and 57° 35' N. 01° 15' E. respectively.  
R.O.O. 011839A Ends.

(F.O.S/M, 031227A to Admt.).

My 030016A. On arrival Kinnaird Head search in reverse direction as far as Duncansby Head.

(C. in C.Rosyth, 031442 to BENTINCK).

Shipping  
ex White  
Sea.

White Sea group 18 sailed 1400A/3rd speed of advance 10 knots.  
(2) My 290945 refers. Sailed an addition 4 American ships W.R. GRACE, AUGUST BELMONT, WILLIAM H. WILMER, and ANDREW TURNBULL making total 14 ships.

(3) This clears White Sea of all ships ex J.W.62.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 031522A to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

OperationsBalticEmbargo on  
Swedish  
goods to  
Germany.

SATURNUS arrived Swedish waters 3 hours Jan. 1st.  
Embargo on exports of Swedish goods to Germany was imposed as from midnight on Dec. 31st.  
There are and will be no exports to other enemy territory other than relief goods and goods exported to Denmark and Norway to complete outstanding barter transactions arranged in 1944.

We shall be consulted regarding any further such transactions.  
The Swedish authorities believe this to be in accordance with their understanding with you.

(Ministry of Economic Warfare, T.O.D.1150/3rd from Stockholm).

Mining (and see under apposite locality)Deep mine  
exploded  
off Trevoise  
Head.

M.S.16 reports that whilst sweeping Q.Z.S.583 one deep mine of Q.Z.X.1464 was exploded in position 293° Trevoise Head 6.6 miles in SHIPPI-GANS sweep. Ship was sweeping to 7 fathoms only but altering course at bend of channel.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 031155A to Admt.).



War Diary3.1.1945.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDSMining (and see under apposite locality)169th  
M.S.F.

Reference A.N.C.X.F.011548 para.3 no ships are available for permanent allocation.  
(2) A.C. Diver is requested to assist Comdre. in Charge Belgium by loan of two ships of 169th M.S.F. whenever possible.  
(D.M.S. 032203A to A.N.C.X.F.).

Casualties and DefectsWESTERLY  
VICTORY.

C.U.52.  
WESTERLY VICTORY has been ordered to Horta to effect repairs.  
(D.T.D., 031403A to C. in C. Plymouth).

Port Facilities

Lowestoft.

Ref. your 191235A Dec. and A.N.C.X.F. Cotug's 011225A January not to F.O.1/c London.  
(1) It is considered useless to berth A.F.D. B.A.2 at Lowestoft unless additional shore labour consisting of 6 woodworkers and 6 engine fitters can be made available. Present labour position is barely sufficient for existing repair facilities at Yarmouth and Lowestoft. My 111725A Dec. refers.  
(2) Before dock can be accepted additional dredging is necessary which will take approx. 3 weeks. My 101159A Dec. not to all refers.  
(3) Request immediate instructions whether dredging is to commence.  
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 031405A to C. in C. Nore).

Movements.Landing  
Barges  
to French  
Navy.

All Landing Barges at Cherbourg with exception of L.B.E.43 have been taken over by French Navy as from a.m. today 3rd January 1945.  
(B.N.L.O. Cherbourg, 031005A to C.T.F.125).

ETHIOPIAN  
boom  
carrier.

A.M. 302113A December 1944 (not to S.B.N.O. Azores) sailed ETHIOPIAN (W/T call sign V W 5J A) in K.M.S.76 convoy to Port Said for onward routeing.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 031007A to F.O.G.M.A., C. in C.W.A., Admty.).

REAPER  
escort  
carrier.

Request you will sail REAPER in U.C.51B to U.S.A. A.M. 021330A (not to all) refers.  
(C. in C.W.A., 031245A to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

ODZANI  
frigate.

My P.C.S. at 031400A 43° 25' N. 10° 26' 027° 12 knots. F.O.G.M.As. 011612A and 011614A refer. Weather report 9080 1453.  
(ODZANI, 031401A to C. in C.W.A.).

DACRES  
L.S.H.(S)

On conclusion of refit which is to be restricted to machinery repairs only, DACRES will revert to general service and is to join Portsmouth /Command...



3.1.1945.  
Wednesday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDSMovements

DACRES Command.  
L.S.H.(S) (2) C. in C.W.A. is requested to sail her  
(Contd.) accordingly when ready.  
(3) A.M. 221347 December not to all is cancelled.  
(D.O.D.(H), 032358A to C. in C.W.A.).

Shipping and Convoys

Convoy (A) R.V.C.1 sailed 0930A/3.  
R.V.C.1. (B) U.S.P.C. 1262.  
(C) Expected time of arrival Pasture 2130A/4.  
(D) A.N.J.  
(E) For Le Havre for onward routing Seine DON MICHEL NOBLET  
(Commodore), ARGONAUTE MECYEL NOBLE, JEANNE BAPTISTE, PIEUSE  
LAYSANNE, PETIT PATRICK, VILLE DYS.  
(F) Speed of advance 5.5 knots. French Liaison Officer aboard  
P.C.  
(C.T.G.125.14, 031043A to C.T.G.125.15).

Caen-Antwerp Following from M.W.T. Buco.  
shuttle Reference my 131815A December and 011657A January  
service to original Shuttle Service plan Caen - Antwerp  
cease. will not operate from this date.  
Coasters will load U.K. for Caen and after  
discharge there load for Antwerp. All coasters  
from Caen are to be returned to Thames on  
completion of discharge at Antwerp.  
This action is due to reduced R.M.A. bid.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 031347A to P.S.T.O., N.W.E., D. of S.T.).

"Appian" A.M. 161956A December. Owing to the large  
number of craft of "D" and "K" L.C.T. Squadrons  
still remaining to be sailed, it is proposed  
that a further flight "F" should be sailed from  
Falmouth on or about 20th January.

(2) It is proposed that the composition of Flight "E" to be  
sailed on or about 10th January should be 70th Flotilla L.C.T.  
1329, 334th Flotilla L.C.G.(L) 18, 424, 426. 72nd Flotilla  
L.C.T.738, 741, 742, 913, 1147, 1149. 9th Flotilla L.C.T.441,  
451, 462, 466, 489, 7022, 7023.

(3) It is further proposed that the composition of Flight "F"  
should be all the 73rd Flotilla and all the 10th Flotilla.

(4) It is intended:-

(a) That Lt. Cdr. Miller, R.N. S.O. K. L.C.T. Squadron shall  
command Flight "E" taking passage in L.C.H.317. My 271637 Nov.  
refers.

(b) That Lt. Cdr. Emery R.N.V.R. S.O.10th L.C.T. Flotilla shall  
command Flight "F".

(R.A.L.S.G.U., 032004A to Admty., F.O.I.C. Falmouth).



War Diary3.1.1945  
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

HENRY MILLER At 1806A in position 35.51 06.24 SS. HENRY MILLER torpedoed. torpedoes number 3 hold attempting to make Gib. U-Boat under escort of MUIR. attacked, Request relief for MUIR, U.S.S. CARTER attacked A/S hunt. results unknown.

(C.T.F. 63, 031823A to F.O.G.M.A., Admty.)

Made 4 attacks 35 miles Cape Trafalgar bearing 063 degs. sound contact 2 magnetic depth charges 2 forward throwers. Heard explosion on first 3 last negative Searching area with U.S.S. MUIR awaiting relief and instructions from you.

(U.S.S. NEAL A. SCOTT, 031906 to F.O.G.M.A.)

CARTER produced oil slick from 2 attacks. NEAL A. SCOTT attacked different sound contact with promising results. 2 attacks with charges set to magnets only produced several depth charge explosions and one very heavy explosion. 3rd attack with hedgehogs produced 2 explosions.

In view of U.G.S. 64 proximity 2 escorts remaining with each contact until relieved by you.

(C.T.F. 63, 031919A to F.O.G.M.A. Info: Admty, Cominch, C. in C. Lant.)

Taking ALISMA, KILBIRNIE and KILMINGTON under your orders proceed as soon as ready with all despatch to Hunt U-Boat 21 H/V G.U.S. 63 torpedoed at 1805A to-day Wednesday.

(3) G.U.S. 63 estimated in approx. position 35 degs. 51' N. 06 degs. 24' W. at time of torpedoing.

(4) These ships to form group one forthwith.

(5) Acknowledge. (6) LEITH pass to ANCHUSA.

(F.O.G.M.A. 031924 to WOODCOCK, (R) ALISMA, C.M.S.F. Admty., KILBIRNIE, KILMINGTON, C. in C. Med. E.G. 38, C.T.F. 63)

Request you leave two escorts to hunt until relieved by Gibraltar escorts.

(2) One U-Boat estimated in area 3 PENNYWORT will be sailed to relieve MUIR.

(F.O.G.M.A. 031946A to C.T.F. 63, Info: PENNYWORT, C.M.S.F. C. in C. Lant, E.G. 38, Group 1, Cominch, Admty.)

PENNYWORT is to slip and proceed as soon as A/S defects completed approx. 2200A tonight Wed. so as to R/V and relieve U.S.S. BRUNSWICK escorting torpedoed merchant ship back at best speed Gib.

(2) Ship was torpedoed at 1806A to-day Wednesday in position 035 degs. 51' N. 006 degs. 24' W.

(3) U.S.S. BRUNSWICK is requested to proceed through position A. 035 degs. 51' N. 006 degs. 10' W. thence Southern half of Straits and to signal P.C.S. at 2200A tonight Wed.

(4) On relief BRUNSWICK rejoins C.T.F. 63.

(F.O.G.M.A. 031956A to BRUNSWICK, PENNYWORT etc.)

As soon as ships are ready they are to proceed independently with all despatch and place themselves under order of E.G. 38 in LEITH.

(2) Amend my 031924 accordingly.

(3) 38th E.G. consisting of LEITH, CONVULVULUS and ANCHUSA is proceeding to hunt.

(4) LEITH pass to ANCHUSA.

(F.O.G.M.A. 032008A to WOODCOCK, KILBIRNIE, KILMINGTON, ALISMA)

/Escort ...



War Diary

3.1.1945  
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic - Contd.

Escort Group 38. My P.C.S. 035 degs. 50' N. 006 degs. 10' W. (X)  
000 degs. 9 knots.  
(2) Intend to maintain this course until 1800  
then alter to 333 degs.  
(3) Suitable.  
(S.O. E.G. 38, 031601A to F.O.G.M.A.)  
My P.C.S. 036 degs. 16' N. 006 degs. 19' W. (X) 153 degs. 13  
knots.  
(2) Intend maintain this course until West of Spartel then sweep  
down coast to Southward.  
(3) Suitable.  
(S.O. E.G. 38, 032101A to F.O.G.M.A.) See 040056A etc.  
Following repeats my 032040.  
"Ships of E.G. 38 WOODCOCK, ALISMA, KILBIRNIE, KILMINGTON, (R)  
Admty. C.M.S.F., C.T.F. 63, C. in C. Med. C.T.F. 64 PENNYWORT,  
S.E.C. K.M.S. 75 from F.O.G.M.A. Ships addressed are to form  
Group 1 until further orders".  
(F.O.G.M.A. 032102A to Admty.)  
I am coming to join you call sign "Merlin".  
(S.O. E.G.38, 032206A to MUIR)



War Diary3.1.1945  
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

- M.L. Flotillas. AS all motor launches building in Egypt are allocated to Eastern Fleet further reinforcement of 90th M.L.Flottilla now appears unlikely. Propose therefore to regard temporary attachments of M.L.838 to 43rd M.L.Flottilla and of M.Ls 839 and 840 to 44th M.L.Flottilla as permanent and to discontinue use of 90th M.L.Flottilla title.  
(C.C.F. Med. 030653A C. in C. Med.) Appd. 041112A.
- Turkish Ferry Boats. Turks not yet sending Ferry Boat but only personnel for instruction, my 191015/October, in view of above and your 112128\*November, my instruction covers LL Mark III and SA Type A Mark IV Gear and may notes be taken.  
(F.O.L.E.M. 031051B to Admty, (R) B.N.A. Ankara)  
/ Four Turkish Ferry Boats have been inspected.  
\* Training Turkish Officers.
- Caiques. 5 caiques engaged in private trade and sailing without permits were seized under order then in force and taken in tow for Salonika, 3 parted company in heavy weather, one sank under tow and 5th was taken in to Salonika.  
(S.B.N.O. Greece, 031305B to Admty.)
- G.U.S. & G.U.F. Convoys. Intend to sail signals. Now that all G.U.S. and G.U.F. convoys are assembled and sailed from Oran, it is requested that you make the convoy route signal M.S.C.I. 5 as an Intend To Sail signal, addressed to C. in C. Med., Info: to F.O.G.M.A., C.M.S.F., C. in C. Lant, Com. 10th Fleet (C. & R.) Admty. Your 021630 to C. in C. Med. only refers.  
(2) Particulars of items 2 through 7 and (?10) (A) and 10 (B) are to be furnished by you.  
(3) A block of convoy W.S.T. callsigns and fighter protection codewords will be allocated to you for this purpose.  
(5) C. in C. Med. will continue to order dates of sailing and escorts for G.U.S. and G.U.F. convoys and obtain ocean route for G.U.F. convoys from Admty.  
(C. in C. Med. 031450 to Com. N.O.B. Oran and Admty.)
- AJAX. AJAX sailed at 1600/3rd for Patras. E.T.A. 0800/4th.  
(S.B.N.O. Greece, 031630B to Admty. (R) F.O.L.E.M. C. in C. Med. F.O.T.A.L.I., B.N.C.N.A. B.N.L.O. Patras.)

/Air ...



3.1.1945  
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Air 282738. MX 42459 cipher 3 Jan.  
 Cositintrep Cite FHGCT FHGBI signed Alexander.  
 No.542. Part 3. Strategic Air Force. Day 2nd January.  
 No operations due to base and route weather.  
 Coastal Air Force. F-Boats, barges and St.  
 Margherita and Rapella harbour bombed. A direct  
 hit scored on an F-Boat. Spitfires on weather R/Cs Padau-  
 Treviso area scored hits on a barge and set motor transport on  
 fire.  
 Special operations 1 January. 19 sorties were attempted to  
 North Italy, 14 successful.  
 (H.Q. M.A.A.F. No.T.O.O)

ACTIVE. ACTIVE is to join 3rd D.F. while on the Med. Stn.  
 (C. in C. Med. 031723 to V.A.M. Info: C. in C.  
 Levant etc.)

French As from 3rd Jan. France operated Dornier 24  
 Aircraft, Transport A/C may be encountered between Toulon,  
 Marking. Arzeu and Port Lyautey. A/C have French markings  
 and do not carry I.F.F.  
 (2) as from 5th Jan. Spanish operated Douglas  
 and J.U.52 Transport A/C may be encountered be-  
 tween Balearic Islands, Barcelona and Valencia. A/C will carry  
 Spanish markings and no I.F.F.  
 (3) Amend 342B for MATCHLESS read MUSKETEER.  
 (C. in C. Med. 031728A to Med. Stn. 347B (Bone))

Marseilles The 6 F.Y.M.S. to which your 011930A N. in W.D.  
 and refers were counted upon in planning the clearance  
 Bayonne. of Minefields in the approaches to Marseilles to  
 Minefields. permit of independent sailings with the consequent  
 saving in shipping and also for the opening of  
 other ports in the South of France urgently re-  
 quired whilst appreciating the necessity for  
 opening Bayonne I suggest that 4 F.Y.M.S. be returned to me as  
 soon as modifications are completed and the other four as soon  
 as you can release them from Bayonne.  
 (C. in C. Med. 031802 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Situation (1) Dispositions are being made to prevent  
 Report E.L.A.S. infiltration or invasion of Corfu.  
 No.525. The situation at Patras threatening. All quiet  
 at Piraeus except for sporadic mortaring. The  
 harbour now open for all types of shipping.  
 Situation at Kavalla and Mitylene (Lestos) also  
 quiet. Island of Zante in E.L.A.S. hands. LEDBURY has bom-  
 barded positions at Livadia on Piscopi. Sweeping of  
 Dardanelles approaches progresses.  
 (2) 6540 troops 3233 refugees 958 prisoners (majority Italian)  
 300 mules 75 vehicles and 400 tons stores were evacuated from  
 Preveza. No civilians who wished to leave were left behind.  
 (C. in C. Med. 031817 to Admty. etc.)

/Situation ...



3.1.1945  
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation Report No.525. (Contd.) Situation Report Kalamata. All quiet. (2) Caiques intercepted entering and leaving examined but no contraband found. (3) Local E.A.M. authorities pleased about negotiations in general and public intensely interested in formation of Government. (KIMBERLEY, 031837B to S.B.N.O. Greece, (R) F.O. L.E.M.)

Sitrep No.70. Arrivals. KELVIN, G.S. MIAOULES, NAVARINON. Caiques, nil. Caiques. 1 to Zante with medical officer and medical supplies. Situation. Easier on our climb down and arrival of naval reinforcements. E.L.A.S. however, still preparing to attack. Guns 105 mms. (B.N.L.O.Patras, 032001B to Greek C. in C. Piraeus, Info: F.O.L.E.M., S.B.N.O. Greece, B.C.O.P.A.)

Cositintrep No.543. 282760. F.X.78695 cipher 3 Jan. Cite F.H.G.C.T. signed Alexander. Part IV. Greece. There were no material changes in the Athens/Piraeus area during 2 January, where our forces are regrouping prior to further clearance operations. A number of prisoners, arms and ammunition were taken in areas previously cleared. (A.F.H.Q. No T.O.O. to W.O)



War Diary3.1.1945  
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

New C. in C. For Chiefs of Staff.  
Ceylon. Lieutenant General H.E. D.R. Wetherall will assume the appointment of Commander in Chief, Ceylon on Monday 8th Jan. Flag of Admiral Sir Geoffrey Layton will be struck at sunset on that day and he will leave for U.K. by air on 9th Jan. Admty. please pass to Secretary of State for Colonies. (C. in C. Ceylon, 030314 to Admty, Info: S.A.C.S.E.A., C. in C. E.I., C. in C. India.)

U-Boat Area C.B.2. U.S.S. JOHN L. STODDARD reported attack. being attacked by a U-Boat 70 miles West of Ceylon in position 007 degs. 15' N. 078 degs. 56' E. at 1616F.G. 2nd Jan. Scale X.5. Other areas. No fresh information. Scales remain unchanged.  
(C. in C. E.I.S. 030352 to S. and A. E.I.S. (R) Admty, C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Fremantle, N.Z.N.B., A.C.N.B., R.N.L.O. Delhi, Comtask 71, Com. 7th Fleet, F.O.L.E.M.)

Storage on Your 160456 and my 030440A aim is to provide a E.I. Station. total of 17 V.S.I.S. including BALTAVIA for Extract. service on East Indies Stn.  
(2) The increasing seriousness of world shipping shortage has resulted in availability of V.S.I.S. lagging behind requirements and makes it quite impossible to provide more than the 17 ships planned even though the scope of operations may thereby be affected.  
(7) There may be some delay in build-up of numbers communicated in my 091551/Nov.  
(D. of V. Apprd. by 4th S.L. 030444A to C. in C. E.I.)  
see 101300Z.

U-Boat. SSSS SSSS SSSS followed by S/M position lat. 7.57 N. long. 77.05 E.  
((KSOJ) RICHARD COULTER, No T.O.O/3)

*S/M SHAKESPEARE fired torpedoes at unescorted merchant ship (possibly decoy ship) - severely damaged in gun action & a/c attacks, see Jan 9<sup>th</sup>, P. 160.*



60

3.1.1945  
WednesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

U-boat dispositions      Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q. 031530Z, Cominch, 031601Z.)

CARTHAGE escort      Subject to your concurrence it is intended to request Navy Dept. to provide escort for CARTHAGE sailing Trinidad about 25th January for New York via Jamaica and Bermuda.  
(2) Request confirmation exception to passenger rules D. of S.T. 212335 not to all para. 3 refers.  
(B.A.D. Washington, 031559Z to Admty. etc.)

SS. FERNFIELD      SS. FERNFIELD, (335 tons gross) wrecked near Picadenis Port au Port Bay, Jan. 2nd. Total loss. Crew saved.  
(N.S.H.Q., 031629Z to Admty.)

T.G. 60.5      Task Group 60.5 hereby constituted (details).  
(C. in C. Lant, 031636Z to C.T.G.60.5.)

SOMMELSDIJK      Only information received on your 022042\* as follows. Hit by A/C on 26th December off Samar, Phillipines. Forty casualties.  
(B.A.D., 031825Z to Admty.)  
\* Request information on M.V. SOMMELSDIJK.

British and U.S.A. strategic areas.      Your 210039\* has been discussed with Navy Department.  
(2) It cannot be established that the demarcation of the British and U.S.A. strategic areas was ever formally agreed.  
(3) Experience has shown that, when necessary, areas of responsibility have been agreed individually for each purpose as it arises, e.g. control of merchant shipping (Busra and subsequent revisions of Chop not recorded as amendments to Busra), H.M. Submarines in transit (B.A.D.'s 042001/October and A.M. 042102/November refer.)  
(4) A.G.M. 982+, paragraph 2 would appear to have relation to the limits of the home station, an undefined portion of which would seem to be in the U.S.A. strategic area. Subject to your concurrence it is considered preferable to deal with this problem as an individual subject similar to those mentioned in paragraph 3 above rather than attempt at this stage to agree the limits of the strategic areas which would presumably require C.C.S. and even Government approval. Para. 3 of A.G.M. 982A indicates that this individual method is desirable.

/(5)...



3.1.1945  
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

British  
 and U.S.A.  
 Strategic  
 Areas.  
 (Contd.)

(5) It is considered that the original line described in Busra represented an attempt by each party to agree upon what was then thought to be the strategic limits of British and U.S.A. responsibility but no commitment was entered into other than for the purpose of Busra. It is, therefore, suggested that if it is intended to amend para. 2 of A.G.M. 982A the westward limit of the area should be delineated as the original Busra line. On the other hand if it is desired that these instructions should apply to as far west as long. 26° W. to the northward of 53° north Cominch is agreeable. In this case the words "under British strategic control" in the first sentence of para. 2 of A.G.M. 982A should be deleted, and the western limits of area (a) delineated.

(B.A.D. Washington, 032139Z to Admty.)

\* Boundary lines in U.S. strategic area.

+ Rules for conduct of A/C and surface craft T.O.O. 021005A December.

U-boat  
 attack  
 and  
 sighting  
 summary.

First report since Cominch 292025 para. C. U.S.S. QUICK reported she attached good sound contact with D.C.S. at 031723Z 42° 56' N. 70° 19' W. Admiralty Pass to H.Q.C.C. (Cominch, 032125Z to Admty. for O.I.C.) Amended by 040540Z.

Australia and New Zealand

Convoy  
 H.B.1

My 270315 para. 5 when relieved ACHILLES is to proceed forthwith, QUIBERON and QUICKMATCH to Albany. (Cdr. S.W. Passeafron, 030448 to N.O.I.C. Hobart etc.)

Digest  
 1078  
 2.1.45

(2) Same night undetermined number of Jap A/C raided Mindoro straffing San Jose town and strip with negligible effect and hitting two Liberty ships with bombs.  
 (13) Following night Liberator patrolling west coast Inzon bombed Vigan Wharf demolishing same and damaging large freighter alongside. Previous night 1 medium freighter off Vigan was bombed by Liberator and left sinking.  
 (21) Darwin based Liberator searching East Celebes waters effectively straffed two coastal craft in Tanggai Archipelago noon 1st. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 030821Z to Admty. etc.)

CHALLENGER  
 surveys.

The latest information regarding Great N.E. Channel is contained in chart A.U.S.F.O.102,

*600055 S/P*

/and...



War Diary3.1.1945  
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New ZealandCHALLENGER  
Surveys.  
(Contd.)

and A.U.S.F.O.103 which were despatched to you by air on 23rd Oct. Your 010248 para. 1 refers. These charts give the extended limit of survey additional to those covered by charts F.O.64 and F.O.65. Exact geographical limits with relevant dates are being forwarded to the

Hydrographer by C.T.G.5, T.F.70 by air mail.

(2) Ref. paras. 2 and 3 your signal under reply C.T.U.2, T.G.5, T.F.70 in CHALLENGER has already been instructed to continue the sweep of the Great North East Channel to 48 feet as far (?eastward) as Stephens Island.

(3) Your 140157 Nov. 1944 and my 211150 Nov. 1944 neither to C. in C. B.P.F. present estimate completion of work end of Jan. Additional sweeping assistance has been afforded to C.T.U.2, T.G.5, T.F.70. CHALLENGER's 050338 December 1944 refers.

(A.C.N.B., 031015 to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarine  
attack  
and  
sighting  
summary  
for 24  
hours.

To 0900Z/3rd January. Para. B.

(1) A/C ZFF/22 obtained A.S.V. contact at 2252Z 2nd January in 36° 08' N. 06° 22' W.

(2) A/C W/461 obtained A.S.V. contact at 0135Z/2nd January in 50° 21' N. 07° 57' W.

(3) A/C Y/407 reported A.S.V. contact at 2115Z/2nd January in 50° 02' N. 02° 21' W.

Para. C.

(1) A.M. JOHN L. STODDARD reported having been attacked by U-boat prior to 1233Z/2nd January in

07° 13' N. 78° 54' E.

(2) A/C P/36 obtained A.S.V. contact at 1440Z/2nd January in 50° 05' N. 06° 26' W.

(3) A/C P/36 obtained A.S.V. contact at 1620Z/2nd January in 50° 33' N. 05° 38' W.

(4) 14th Escort Group attacked bottom contact at 2259Z/2nd January in 50° 24' N. 02° 54' W.

(D.D.I.C. 031102, to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U-boat  
dispositions

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 031432A and 031438A.)



4.1.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

- North Sea. 1(a) The defensively armed SS. SAMARINA sank a midget U-Boat by gunfire W. by N. off Zeebrugge.  
(b) One magnetic mine was detonated off Blankenberghe.
- Channel. 2. M.T.B. patrols were cancelled due to weather.
- West Coast France. 3. One magnetic mine was detonated in Rade Abri at Brest.
- Norway. 4. BERWICK's attempted air-strike on Bredsdund shipping with NAIRANA and TRUMPETER (Operation "Sample") has had to be cancelled due to weather, as have also two V.P. (M.T.B.) operations staged from the Shetlands.

Foreign Stations

North Atlantic

- U-Boat search. 5(a) Extensive and concentrated search continuing by escort groups area west of Gibraltar bounded by 36° 40' N. - 35° 40' N., and 08° 40' W. and 07° 10' W.
- Escort Groups. (b) On arrival in England 38th and 41st Escort Groups are to be allocated temporarily to Portsmouth and Plymouth Commands respectively. Intended for them to be used as far as practicable as support groups.

Mediterranean

- Greece. 6(a) Operations in Athens - clearing up etc. continue in face of stiff resistance.  
(b) Piraeus and Kavalla all quiet. Situation at other Greek ports quieter though tense.  
(c) C.S.15 in AJAX arrived Patras to deal with situation described as threatening.

/(d) ...



4.1.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Greece.  
(Contd.)

- (d) S.N.O. Ionian Islands has been appointed and based on Corfu.  
(e) Coastal craft and armed caiques captured Elan caiques in Esgasteria Bay.

East Indies.

Sumatra.

(Operation  
"Lentils")

7. Aircraft of Force 65 which consisted of INDOMITABLE, VICTORIOUS, INDEFATIGABLE, SUFFOLK, CEYLON, ARGONAUT, BLACK PRINCE and 8 destroyers under command of R.A.(A) B.P.F. carried out an attack on oil refineries at Pangkalan Brandan in N.E. Sumatra which was highly successful. A number of enemy aircraft were destroyed on ground and a small tanker was set on fire.

America and West Indies

MIDLAND  
attack.

8. Corvette MIDLAND reported having attacked contact which brought up oil in 40° 17' N., 69° 29' W. Considered to be a wreck, though not confirmed by wreck chart.

Norwegian  
POLARLAND,  
M.V. NIPIWAN  
PARK  
torpedoed.

9. Norwegian POLARLAND and Br. M.V. NIPIWAN PARK reported torpedoed and former sunk this afternoon. Latter still afloat in lat. 44° 30' N., 63° W. PERAST reports U/B in same area at 1724.

Australia and New Zealand

- Philippines. 10(a) Jap planes attacked Allied convoy 60' south of Mindoro at dusk hitting the combatant ship. At same time more aircraft raided Allied shipping Mindoro causing loss of Liberty ship (LEWIS L. DYCHE US 7178 TMS)

/((b) ...



4.1.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand

Philippines.  
(Contd.)

10(b) Tonight P.T. Boats sank 4 enemy barges  
off east coast Cebu.



War Diary.

4.1.1945.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of the United Kingdom

Heavy  
A/A guns  
remaining.

A.M. 011344A December. Authorized adjustment to reductions in heavy A/A when completed will leave the following guns operational. A.C.O.S. area 56. Dover 24. Portsmouth 24. Southampton 24. Isle of Wight nil. (D. of L.D., 042015A to A.C.O.S., C. in C. Portsmouth, A.C. Dover.)

Operations

North Sea

Midget  
U-Boat sunk  
off Zeebrugge.

SS. SAMARINA reports sinking midget S/M in position 265° N.F.11 2 miles. (MENDIP 041125A to C. in C. Nore.) My 1125 was sunk by gunfire. (MENDIP, 041204A to C. in C. Nore.)

Requirement  
of Monitors.

Your 031907. Request one monitor be brought to eight hours notice. (A.N.C.X.F., 041314A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Minesweeping.

Sweeping report for today Thursday. Channel from N.F.18 - N.F.13 swept LL/SA and H.G. by 3 B.Y.M.S. and 3 M.M.S. 4 cables either side of centre line 2 actuations 1 magnetic mine detonated in position 51.24.50 N., 03.24.50 E. Channel from N.F.18 - Bat swept LL/SA by 2 M.M.S. One actuation negative result. (Com. M.S. Terneuzen, 041516 to N.O.I.C. Antwerp.)

Situation  
Report.

Cositintrep No. 275 part 4. Discharge by sea - 24 hours period ending 1609A/3rd January.

<u>British</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> <u>inc. Coal</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
Antwerp	-	122	10,047	9,010	2,722
Ostend	1,067	131	5,185	-	2,866
Boulogne	-	-	360	-	-
Dieppe	21	-	484	-	-
Caen	-	-	2,192	-	-
Calais	239	2	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	433	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,327</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>18,701</b>	<b>9,010</b>	<b>5,588</b>
<u>U.S. North</u>					
Antwerp	-	-	18,713	-	-
Cherbourg	-	-	5,935	8,629	2,086
Le Havre	1,744	345	6,720	5,024	3,724
Rouen	134	133	4,988	4,665	712
Granville	-	-	2,003	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,878</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>38,359</b>	<b>18,318</b>	<b>6,522</b>

/U.S. South ...



4.1.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Situation  
Report.  
(Contd.)

Cositintrep No. 275 part 4 (Contd.)

<u>U.S. South</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> <u>inc. Coal</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
Marseilles	1,826	96	4,737	-	-
Port de Bouc	-	-	-	2,326	-
Toulon	-	-	386	-	-
	1,826	96	5,123	2,326	-

(S.H.A.E.F., 041545A to Admty., etc.)

Bombing targets. Combined Strategic Targets Committee. Navtar 25. Group (1) U-Boats. (A) Hamburg. Slips at Blohm and Voss for assembly of type XXI. Slips at Finkenwaerder for assembly of type XXIII. (B) Bremen. Slips at Deschimag for assembly of type XXI. Farge near Vegesack, covered berths under construction. Shelter at Bremen (not roofed). (C) Danzig. Slips at Schichau for assembly of type XXI. Danziger Werft Shipyard. Group (2) U-Boats and Midget U-Boats. (A) Kiel. Germania assembly slips. Deutsche Werke shipyard. Howaldts Werke shipyard. (B) Vegesack. Vulkan Werke. (C) Poortershaven (N. bank of Maas 2 miles N.W. Maasluis). Midget U-Boat base. (Ref. Admty. out signal 282017 December to C. in C. Nore). Note 1: The E-Boat bases have been removed from the list as the bases at Ymuiden and Waalhaven have both been seriously damaged in the recent raids. Dispersed E-Boats at Den Helder and elsewhere are not considered a suitable target. (Ref. H.Q. Coastal Command Signal 281100 December). Group (3) U-Boat operating bases. (A) Bergen. (B) Trondheim. (Air Ministry, 041850A to Bomber Command.)

Operations

Channel

Patrols. M.T.Bs. 757, 304, 733, 752 detailed for patrol from 1400 today, Thursday, will not sail owing to weather. (N.O.I.C. Portland, 041152A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Night patrols 4th/5th. Area of responsibility six miles either side of route Z.K. to be assumed by 17th E.G.

(2) W.V.C.27 consisting of 16 coasters sails Portsmouth 1900A for Havre. Speed 7 knots. S.O. Escort HOTHAM.

(3) W.V.P.29 consisting of two Personnel ships sails Portsmouth 0200A/5th for Havre. Speed 14 knots. S.O. Escort SPRAGGE.

(4) W.V.L.43 seven ships sails Portsmouth 2200A. Speed 9 knots. S.O. Escort QUADRILLE. Trail and protect. Report intentions.

/ (5) ...



War Diary.

4.1.1945.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

Patrols.  
(Contd.)

(5) Area of responsibility as in my 031325A, para. 1 to be assumed by 30th E.G. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 041607A to S.O. E.Gs. 30. 17.)

(1) COTTON and ANTIGUA pass Gate at 0930A/5 and proceed to relieve NENE and MONNOW carrying out zig-zag search between 180 Lizard 7 and 090 Bishop Rock 14. COTTON and ANTIGUA R/T codeword "Freak B".

(2) NENE and MONNOW leave patrol in sufficient time to enter Plymouth for short lay-over by 1600A/5 or on relief by COTTON and ANTIGUA whichever is the earlier, reporting E.T.A. Signal defects and requirements as soon as possible.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 041607A to COTTON, ANTIGUA, NENE, MONNOW.)

Operations

West Coast France

Mine clearance of Brest.

Report of sweeping yesterday, January 3rd at Brest. Static LL sweep in front of the submarine pens in Rade Abri detonated one blue magnetic mine.

(Com. Y Sqdn., 042228A to C.T.F. 125.)

Operations

Western Approaches

Swordfish versus Barracuda and Firefly Squadrons.

In my 062235 December (not to C. in C. H.F.) it was requested that naval air arm aircraft equipped with A.S.V. Mark XI be placed at my disposal to operate under No. 15 Group C.C.

(2) Admty. Message 251515 December and C. in C. H.F. 191217 December indicate that CAMPANIA and NAIRANA, with Swordfish replace equipped with Mark XI A.S.V. and highly trained and

experienced anti-U-Boat crews, are to be employed on ship/shore operations on the Norwegian coast, while three naval air arm squadrons (one Firefly and two Barracuda II) - quite unsuitable for anti-U-Boat operations under present conditions, but apparently quite suitable for the Norwegian operations - have been lent to Coastal Command.

(3) In view of the U-Boat threat in British Coastal Waters it is considered that there is a pressing requirement for these Swordfish III Squadrons to operate in threatened areas.

(4) It is suggested therefore that the three Swordfish III Squadrons now operating under C. in C. H.F. be exchanged with the three Barracuda and Firefly Squadrons at present lent to Coastal Command.

(C. in C. W.A., 040800A to Admty., (R) C. in C. H.F.)

Your 040800. I think there is a misunderstanding.

(2) VINDEX, CAMPANIA, NAIRANA equipped with Swordfish are normally employed on North Russian convoys where their Swordfish do invaluable work. VINDEX is now with J.W.63. CAMPANIA and NAIRANA are standing off this time and are earmarked for J.W.64.

/ (3) When ...



4.1.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches

Swordfish  
versus  
Barracuda  
and Firefly  
Squadrons.  
(Contd.)

(3) When not employed on Russian convoys I intend to employ these carriers with their night flying Swordfish for occasional sweeps by moonlight against the convoys which now move mainly by night in the Leads.  
(C. in C. H.F., 040944A to C. in C. W.A., (R) Admty.)

Milford  
Haven  
Convoy  
Anchorage.

Concur your 111018 December. Request you will implement as from 15th January.  
(D.T.D., 041230A to C. in C. W.A.)

Patrols.

O.N.S.276 codeword "Batten" consisting of 30 ships S.O. Escort HOLMES due Lizard westbound 1500A/4th by route W, thence to R/V in 50.00 N., 10.00 W. Speed 9 knots.

(2) 2nd E.G. meet convoy at Lizard and support as far as R/V subsequently complying with C. in C. W.A. 031854.

(3) NENE, MONNOW not to comply with my 031945.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 041256A to E.G.2, NENE, MONNOW.)

2nd E.G. sailed to comply with your 031854A.

(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 041330A to C. in C. W.A.)

On completion of duty as in my 040201A, para. 2. Resume patrol between Lundy and Trevoze Head, trailing T.B.C. and B.T.C. convoys when possible.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 042150A to S.O. E.G.9.)

Operations

Norway

Operation  
"Spellbinder".

My 241036. For Tuesday 9th January read Monday 8th January.

(C. in C. H.F., 041104A to Admty., C.S.1, R.A.

(D) H.F., A.C.O.S., C. in C. Rosyth, 18 Group C.C., H.Q.C.C., F.O.(S/M), BELLONA, NORFOLK, APOLLO, DIDO, PREMIER, TRUMPETER.)

Operation  
"Sample".

Regret must cancel "Sample" due to weather.

E.T.A. Scapa with Force 5 in company at 0600A/5th. Weather report 4762 1388. P.C.S. 61° 37' N., 03° 02' W., 185°, 12 knots.

(BERWICK, 041412A to C. in C. H.F.)

Mines A  
Mark VI.

15 mines A Mark VI assembly F.642/23, together with fuses impact, tools and accessories have been despatched to Lyness.

(2) Aircraft from PREMIER and TRUMPETER only have received temporary clearance for laying

mines A Mark VI.

(3) It is not proposed to lay these mines until a stock is available for both Home Fleet and Bomber Command to carry out

/simultaneous ...



War Diary.

4.1.1945.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

Mines A  
Mark VI.  
(Contd.)

simultaneous strikes, so as to stretch enemy sweeping resources to maximum. Sufficient stock should be available during third week of January, but impact fuses have not yet been cleared for service.

(4) An Officer from VERNON will proceed to Scapa or as indicated by you to check over and carry out E.A.T. on these mines after embarkation in carriers.  
(D.D.O.D.(M), 041737A to C. in C. H.F.)

Operations  
V.P.

V.P.73 and V.P.77 cancelled. Fresh preparatory signals will be made when weather conditions improve.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 041738A to A.C.O.S.)

Operations

Northern Waters

Patrol.

Continue to accompany coastwise search adjusting courses and speed to arrive 30 Buoy at 1800A/4.  
(2) 2 S/Ms. escorted by LOCH MONTEITH sailed Dundee 1000/4th.

(3) Effect R/V and search ahead to 35 Buoy.  
(4) On arrival 35 Buoy establish Gamma between 58° 52' N., and 58° 22' N. on 02° 24' W.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 041037A to BENTINCK.)

Operation  
"Interim".

Intend sailing operation of which codeword is given in my 041423A and D day will be signalled later.

(2) Ships taking part are His Norwegian Majesty's Motor fishing vessels KVALSUND S.O., HAVORN and NJAAL.

(3) Route to be followed from Lerwick Harbour, which force leave on D Day. Position (NX) 60° 26' N., 00° 30' W. (NY) 60° 50' N., 00° 30' W. (NZ) 63° 00' N., 00° 10' E. (NB) 70° 10' N., 08° 30' E. (NC) 72° 50' N., 17° 10' E. (ND) 72° 15' N., 31° 00' E. (J) 71° 45' N., 35° 40' E. (MX) 032° Cape Teriberski 18.5 miles.

(4) After passing Cape Teriberski vessels proceed Kola Inlet speed of advance estimated 5 knots throughout.

(5) Vessels have been instructed to make E.T.A. at Kola Inlet to Murmansk W/T in Loxo on 500 k/cs. when they are not less than 60 miles from Cape Teriberski.

(7) All ships have been instructed to hand operation orders to S.B.N.O. North Russia or his representative at end of voyage.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 041421A to S.B.N.O. N.Russia.)

My 041421, codeword "Interim".

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 041423A to S.B.N.O. N.Russia.)



War Diary.

4.1.1945.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Port Facilities

Flushing. Request I may be informed how a proposal to berth an accommodation vessel at Flushing for the use of an advance coastal force base would be received.  
(C.F.M.U.1, 040958A to F.O. 1731.)

Lowestoft. Your 031405A. Dredging should commence forthwith. Presume F.O.I.C. London will arrange for additional shore labour referred to in para. 1.  
(C. in C. Nore, 041124A to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth.)

Casualties and Defects

LEOPOLDVILLE. Agwar have asked for issue of following statement in connection with loss of LEOPOLDVILLE. An escorted Allied ship carrying more than 2,200 U.S. personnel was sunk recently in European waters by enemy mine or torpedo. 264 men were killed and 538 are missing. Over 1,400 men were saved. Subject to your concurrence propose to advise that announcement should be by U.S. War Department and not by S.H.A.E.F.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 041230A to Admty.) *Reply: 061234A page 107.*

Movements

SILVIO Cancel reference to SILVIO in my 301752 and (L.S.I.(L), 311952 December.  
PRINS (2) F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail ALBERT SILVIO for Gibraltar in company with PRINS L.S.I.(S). ALBERT on 8th Jan. escorted in accordance with my 291554 Dec., speed of ships being adjusted as necessary.  
(3) SILVIO is to be detached off Gibraltar to proceed at best speed to Port Said. F.O.L.E.M. is requested to arrange onward passage as required by C. in C. E.I.  
(4) Signals quoted not to all.  
(D.O.D.(H), 040132A to F.O.I.C. Greenock, R.A.L.S.C.U., C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Liverpool, F.O.L.E.M., F.O.G.M.A.)

EMPIRE Admty. 022306 not to all. EMPIRE CUTLASS CUTLASS arrived Falmouth 23rd December.  
(L.S.I.(L). (2) Red Ensign crew has been withdrawn with the exception of officers and men required for port work whilst vessel is under repair.  
(3) T.124X Engineer and Accountant Officer will be required approx. 12th January.  
(4) Request key personnel may be drafted as soon as possible to take over ship. Also that the scheme of complement may be forwarded and from which depot vessel will be manned.  
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 041124A to Admty.)

MAURITIUS, Scapa departure MAURITIUS.  
cruiser. (A.C.O.S., 041257A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/SLINGER ...



War Diary.

4.1.1945.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements - Contd.

SLINGER,  
SPEAKER,  
KHEDIVE,  
RULER  
Escort  
Carriers.

F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail SLINGER, SPEAKER and KHEDIVE for Gibraltar on 11th Jan. escorted by VOLAGE, VENUS, ESKIMO and NUBIAN. Route will be promulgated by Admiralty. All ships are for onward routing to E.I. Station. (2) RULER will not now leave U.K. until about 23rd January. A.M. 052040 and 061938 December neither to all refer. (D.O.D.(H), 042328A to F.O.I.C. Greenock, F.O.G.M.A., F.O.C.T.)



War Diary.4.1.1945.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.HENRY  
MILLER  
U.B. Search.Have relieved U.S.S. MUIR who completed last (?way) in position  $035^{\circ} 51' N.$ ,  $006^{\circ} 34' W.$ , at 2000A. This is data position.

2. Carrying out square search data distance 12 miles speed 12 knots, clockwise. LEITH with ANCHUSA, CONVULVULUS with KILMINGTON on opposite sides.
3. U.S.S. MUIR reported explosions of all hedgehog attacks but no wreckage.  
(S.O.E.G. 38, 040056A to F.O.G.M.A.)  
Aircraft has dropped pattern narrowly missing ALISMA only radar damaged.  
(LEITH, 040340A to F.O.G.M.A.)  
My position, course and speed  $035^{\circ} 56' N.$ ,  $006^{\circ} 15' W.$   
(X)  $180^{\circ} 10$  knots.
2. Intend continuing square search till daylight then will collect all groups one and sweep inside 100 fathom line south from Spartel.  
(S.O.E.G. 38, 040445A to F.O.G.M.A.)  
Entering Casablanca now. Request instructions on leaving.  
(E.G. 57, 041015A to F.O.G.M.A.)  
My position course and speed  $35^{\circ} 50' N.$ ,  $06^{\circ} 39' W.$   $090^{\circ}$   
12 knots.
2. Am joining Group 1 who commence sweep off Spartel at 1000Z. Intend sweeping shallow water in case U-boat is damaged and bottomed.
3. Consider less likely he will have gone to shallows off Trafalgar as I was sweeping in that area at time of attack and swept down to position of attack.
4. Your 040731. Closed these boats at 0129 illuminated with searchlight and could see no sign of any occupants tug was vicinity.
5. Suitable. Weather Report 5881 2073.  
(E.G. 38, 041030A to F.O.G.M.A.)  
Your 040731.\* Three boats, 2 rafts, in position  $035^{\circ} 53' N.$ ,  $005^{\circ} 29' W.$  all empty. Shall I sink them. One boat appears to have a W/T set in it.  
(S.O.E.G. 38, 041041A to F.O.G.M.A.) \*Former not identified.  
On completion of fuelling in Casablanca E.G. 57, consisting of LOWESTOFT (S.O.), and BELLWORT proceed with all despatch to hunt U-boat sighted by aircraft in position  $036^{\circ} 10' N.$ ,  $007^{\circ} 53' W.$ , at 0845A 4th.
2. Request you report anticipated T. of S. and S. of A.
3. Composition of Group one will be signalled to Escort Group 57  
(F.O.G.M.A., 041101A to E.G. 57).  
Your 041103A\*my position course and speed  $035^{\circ} 51' N.$ ,  $006^{\circ} 29' W.$   
(X)  $285^{\circ} 13\frac{3}{4}$  knots.
- (2) ALISMA and KILBIRNIE in company WOODCOCK overtaken in position  $035^{\circ} 20' N.$ ,  $006^{\circ} W.$
- (3) CONVULVULUS and KILMINGTON complying with F.O.G.M.A.'s 041103A para. (2).  
(S.O.E.G. 38, 041200A to F.O.G.M.A.) \*Former not identified.  
Datum point ZZ is established in position  $036^{\circ} 10' N.$ ,  $007^{\circ} 53' W.$   
(S.O.E.G. 38, 041255A to F.O.G.M.A.)

/Following...



War Diary.

4.1.1945.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

HENRY

MILLER  
U.B. Search.  
(contd).

Following repeats my 041255A.

All hunting ships are to form Group one forthwith and are to carry out search in area bounded by 36° 40' N., 35° 40' N., and 08° 40' W. 07° 10' W.

2. Ships detailed by you to patrol inside 100 fathom line are to form Group Two forthwith.
3. Call signs for Group One and Group Two are to be used for all reports.
4. Report names of ships forming each group.
5. Details of air patrols in area will be signalled.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 041335A to LEITH).

It is intended that Group one shall continue (to?) search in area between 036° 40' N., 035° 40' N., 008° 40' W., 007° 10' W. during the night 4/5th January and during daylight 5th Jan.

2. (?) One S/L Liberator will operate throughout tonight Thursday with 2 Venturas (further to?) Westward during moonlight period.
3. As many aircraft as possible will search same (area?) tomorrow Friday.
4. Details later.
5. On joining the hunt Escort Group 57 is to form part of group A.R.B.
6. Group 2 will remain on patrol inside 100 fathom line to Westward of Straits.

(F.O.G.M.A., 041641A to E.G. 57, H.M.S. LEITH).

Your 041533A N.T. in W.D. My 041200A refers.

- (a) (corrupt grp.) CONVULVULUS and KILMINGTON.
- (b) WOODCOCK, ABELIA, ALISMA, ~~KILMARTIN~~, KILMARTIN now in company.  
(S.O.E.G. 38, 041731A to F.O.G.M.A.)

E.G. 57 sailed at 1700A/4 speed 13 knots as directed in your 041101 and 041305A (N.T. in W.D.)

2. In view commitments for local escorts for 5th and if no change in submarine situation, request permission to use KILDWICK to reinforce escort for C.G.137. My 041702A refers.
3. KILDWICK will require 48 hours in Casablanca to repair evaporators and check auxiliary engines before sailing to Freetown. Your 021455A refers.

(C.M.S.F., 041840A to F.O.G.M.A.)

NADA Y.S. is to slip and proceed 0800A Jan. 5th to join Group 1 (?and) hunt German U-boats to westward.

- (2) Speed of advance to rendezvous 12 knots.
- (3) LOWESTOFT is to arrange rendezvous position and time, and is to detach ABELIA to return to Gibraltar on arrival of NADA Y.S.
- (4) Composition of Group 1 and area of search as in my 042225 to NADA Y.S. only.

(5) NADA Y.S. acknowledge.

(F.O.G.M.A., 042333A to NADA Y.S., H.M.S. LOWESTOFT).

Escort Groups On arrival in U.K. 38th and 41st Escort Groups are allocated temporarily to Portsmouth and Plymouth Commands respectively. It is intended as far as practicable that these Groups should be used as support groups.

2. My 300130 Dec. and your 311212 Dec. neither to all, have been passed to C. in C. Plymouth and C. in C. Portsmouth.

(A.C.N.S. (H), 040128A to F.O.G.M.A. etc).



War Diary.4.1.1945.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.Route for  
UGANDA.

AX. From position. (L) proceed through new position (P) 035° 00' N., 010° (00'?) W.  
 (O) 035° 00' N., 007° 00' W. thence to (M)  
 (2) Proceed with all despatch.  
 (F.O.G.M.A., 041457A to UGANDA, amended by 041541A.

South Atlantic.Air  
U-boat  
Offensive.

Part Two. Can not agree your statement that reduced Air Force would provide ample insurance "even when allowance has been made for potential threat of renewed U-boat offensive". Simultaneous threat North and East of Freetown would preclude air reinforcement of the one area from the other and close air escort would be required in each but approx. two thirds of effort of reduced air forces would be needed in moonlight periods for slow convoys in each area whereas it usually happens that more than one convoy is present in each area at any time. Thus under these conditions we could not meet our commitments. Situation would be aggravated by necessity to escort Trans-Atlantic independents to Dakar, Freetown and Takoradi.

Part three. Net result of reduction will therefore be  
 (a) Delays in shipping awaiting air escort  
 (b) Reversion to completely offensive flying  
 (c) Chances of destroying a located U-boat by surface forces greatly prejudiced since there will be insufficient aircraft to prevent his escape on the surface at high speed. Alternatively a far greater risk of loss must be accepted.

Part Six. F.O.C.W.A. agrees. Please pass to Admty.  
 (A.H.Q.W. Africa, 041215, to A.M. Whitehall and Admty).  
 Your 020501 escort will be arranged.  
 (C. in C. S.A., 041621B to C. in C. E.I.)

VALIANT

A.M. 231646\*Nov. not to C. in C. Western Approaches. Following is intended programme for VALIANT leave Capetown 8th Jan. arrive Freetown 19th Jan. leave Freetown 21st Jan. In view of difficulty of handling ship and extra distance involved VALIANT requests that if possible ship may be routed direct to U.K. from Freetown and not call Gibraltar.  
 (C. in C. S.A., 041712A to Admty).  
 \*Escort arrangements for H.M.S. VALIANT.

COMMANDANT  
DROGOU

COMMANDANT DROGOU will arrive Gibraltar from escorting A.F.D. 24 about 17th Jan. for onward passage to U.K. for refit. My 271852Z Dec. refers. Amiral Afrique Ouest requests permission for vessel to make short call at Brest to exchange

/personnel...



4.1.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

COMMANDANT  
DROGOU  
(contd).

overdue for relief. Similar procedure has been done at Toulon with other vessels of E.G. 59 and is recommended. Request approval may be given and if so Amiral Afrique Ouest intends to warn Brest. (F.O.C.W.A.F., 041952Z to Admty).  
\*Intend sailing A.F.D. 24 in tow of HESPERIA, EMPIRE SANDY, and EMPIRE JULIA.



War Diary.4.1.1945  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean.

- ZETLAND. Sail at 2000B/4th and act as escort to BERGENSFIORD to Volo.  
(3) S. of A. 16 knots. E.T.A. 1030/5th.  
(6) On arrival Volo you are to leave BERGENSFIORD and proceed through Q.B.C.036 to position 905 thence to Q.B.C. 923, 939 to Salonika with troops, stores and mail. Advise E.T.A.  
(7) B.N.C.N.A. Salonika is requested to return ZETLAND to Volo with all despatch to escort BERGENSFIORD by route "Sherry" R.12, R.10 to Taranto.  
(8) ZETLAND is requested to signal time of sailing from Volo and E.T.A. Taranto.  
(S.B.N.O. Greece, 041047B to ZETLAND).
- Red Cross ships. Can normal sailings of Red Cross ships to Piraeus now be resumed, if so request you will comply with para. 2 Admty. message 232043 Dec. My 201011 Dec. refers.  
(C. in C. Med., 041050A to S.B.N.O. Greece etc.).
- Human torpedo, Mentone. The captured material referred to in A.M. 281530 Dec. is human torpedo it is not fitted with any additions to permit diving. Material is in custody of Naval Authorities Toulon who are being told that they can retain it.  
(C. in C. Med., 041129A to Admty.).
- Air Cositintrep No.543. 282952.  
MX/42549 cipher 4 Jan. Cite F.G.H.T.C. F.H.G.B.I. signed Alexander.  
Part 3.  
Strategic Air Force. Bad weather cancelled operations.  
Tactical Air Force. Night 2/3.  
Coastal Air Force. Night 2/3.  
(H.Q.M.A.A.F. No T.O.O. to War Office and usual addressees).
- South Aegean Summary. 002984 GI/75156 cypher 4 Jan.  
(1) Shipping. Ground source reports that on 29 Dec. caique transporting refugees from Lisse to Patmo was bombarded presumably by enemy from Leros and casualties sustained.  
(C. in C. M.E., No T.O.O. War Office).
- Situation report No.527. (1) ZARA. No change in attitude of local authorities but oiler has been berthed inside harbour without complaint though it was previously stated this would not be permitted.  
(2) Corfu. An S.B.N.O. Ionian Islands has been appointed and will be based on Corfu.  
(3) Patras. F.O. 15th C.S. has arrived in AJAX to deal with situation described as threatening.  
(4) Piraeus and Kavalla. All quiet.  
(5) Gib. One ship in convoy G.U.S.63 was torpedoed in position 035° 51' N. 006° 24' W. Air and surface search in progress.  
(C. in C. Med., 042018A to Admty. etc.).



4.1.1945.

Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

- U-Boat attack. S.S.S.S. firing on submarine. Position 8.05 N. 76.53 E.  
(KSOJ) RICHARD COULTER, 040030Z General).
- IMPALA Sailed. IMPALA E.T.A. Khar Kuwai 2100Z/6th Jan. (?routed) coastwise to Aden for onward passage Durban. Speed 8 knots. A.M. (?151)956A (?29th) Dec. not to all.  
(S.B.N.O. Persian Gulf, 040605Z to Cmdre. Aden ).
- TULIP Arrived and sailed TULIP to East London through following positions:  
(2) E.T.A. 1200Z/10th Jan. S. of A. 12½ knots.  
(3) Shifting to Broadcast S/L at 0000Z 7th January.  
(4) Latest messages Q.C.B.279, Q.C.H.198, Q.G.A.188, Q.G.H.25.  
(B.N.L.O. Diego Suarez, 040831Z to Admty. etc.).
- SALVESTOR Request date when SALVESTOR is expected to leave Alex. for Colombo and onward passage to Pacific Fleet.  
Your 041404 December, not to all addressees refers.  
(C. in C.E.I., 041001Z to C. in C. Med. Fleet).  
\* SALVESTOR expected to complete present salvage work on 25th December.
- Convoy H.B.1. LONDON will R/V with convoy H.B.1 comprising U.S.S. GENERAL MITCHELL, U.S.S. GENERAL RANDALL and troopship EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND in position (C) 033° 33' S. 108° 01' E. at 0300Z/14th Jan.  
Cdr. S.W.Pac. Sea Frontier 270315 refers.  
(3) S.N.O.(A) Trincomalee is requested to sail ROTHERHAM and RELENTLESS to arrive Addu Atoll a.m. 17th Jan. and ROEBUCK to arrive Addu Atoll a.m. 19th Jan.  
(5) When ROEBUCK has joined LONDON is to part company and proceed to Trincomalee.  
(C. in C.E.I., 040618Z to Cdr. S.W. Pacific Sea Frontier).



4.1.1945  
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

Routing Instructions. Merchant Ships Lights. Concur your 011600. (2) Instructions will be issued to British Authorities in due course. (C.T.D. 040013A to Connav etc.

U-Boat contact. Change position in my 032125/ to read 42.56 N. 70.19 W. (Cominch, 040540Z to Admty.)

MIDLAND. MIDLAND attacked contact brought up oil, set it afire by her marker flare, my P.C.S. at 0600Z 40. 17 N. 69.29 W. 087, 9.5. (S.O. W.2, 040650Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

Request you take any necessary action on S.O. W.2's 040650/ addressed to A.I.G.302 being passed.

(C. in C. C.N.A. 040801Z to Cdre. E.S.F.)

/ Contact attacked by MIDLAND.

My 040650/ hedgehog and depth charge attacks brought up oil which is still burning, consider this a wreck although not confirmed by wreck chart. MIDLAND remaining with contact until daylight.

(S.O. W.2, 040847Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

/ MIDLAND attacked contact.

Attacks carried out on Asdic contact between 0539Z/4th and 0729Z/4th in position as in your 040859Z. Oil still coming to the surface and burning at 1135. Contact considered wreck. Proceeding to overtake convoy. C. and S. 087 degs. 14 knots, your 040859 refers.

(MIDLAND, 041137Z to C.E.S.F., C. in C. C.N.A.)

U-Boat dispositions. 1200Z/4th Jan. Estimates. One patrolling in Gulf of Start Bay possibly in ND RR 2641 at 1723Z/3rd from attack. One estimated within 100 miles of YH SE heading northwest, one homebound possibly in area ND RU 1500. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 041407Z and Cominch 041530Z)

JASEUR, PROMPT French Trawlers. Admty. 301309 December /. M.S. JASEUR (S.O) PROMPT sailed St. Johns at 1400Z/4th Jan, escorting French Trawlers CAP FAGNET, DUGUAY TROUIN, CAPRICORNE to position. E 46.48 N. 50.01 W. J 45.30 N. 45.01 W. where trawlers detach and proceed to Horta Azores. (2) Escorts proceed in company from position L to Londonderry thence Q.Z.S. 388 to destination.

(3) S. of A. to position L 7 1/2 knots, thence 12 knots, E.T.A. position UU p.m. 12th Jan.

(4) Communications.

(F.O.N.F. 041424Z to C. in C. W.A.)

/ PROMPT and JASPER to escort French Trawlers DUGUAY TROUIN, TEMERAIRE CAPRICORNE and CAP FAGNET.

/U-Boat ...



War Diary

4.1.1945  
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies - Contd.

U-Boat attack. 2 ships torpedoed 044 degs. 30' N. 063 degs. 00' W. at 1718Z/4th.  
Norwegian POLARLAND and British NIPIWAN torpedoed. (C. in C. C.N.A. 041724Z to G.B. 7A)  
SSSS de BNPW/ 44.30 N. 63.00 W.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 041746Z to Ships in area D etc.)  
/ (BNPW) PERAST.  
A. 1718Z/04 Norwegian POLARLAND and British NIPIWAN PARK torpedoed 44.30 N. 63.00 W.  
1724Z/04 Yugoslav PERAST in same area reported U-Boat.  
D. 1750Z/04 Army plane reported surfaced U-Boat 22.45 N. 73.53 W.  
B.A.D., N.M.C.J.S. info: by hand. Admy. pass info: to H.Q.C.C. (Cominch, 042116Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)  
SS. POLARLAND sunk.  
SS. NIPIWAN PARK still afloat amended time of torpedoing 1658Z/4th My 041724 refers.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 042312Z to G.B.7A)

Task Group 21.10 H.R. Kenyon. T.G.21.10 constituted Comdr. Harmon in <sup>GILLETTE</sup> Gillette. Depart New York 8th Jan for Plymouth, England. Return U.S. escorting Special L.S.T. convoy when directed by Comtwelfthflt about 20th Jan. Return Horta Azores at discretion.  
(C. in C. Lant, 042208Z ao Comcoartdiv 56) amended by 081852Z.  
Cancel C. in C. Lant ADCOMD 311833Z December and 011629Z Jan. (C. in C. Lant, 042232Z to Admty. , MAYRANT 3rd?, etc.)

S/M attack and sighting Summary. No report since My 282212 December.  
Para. (C). U.S.S. QUICK attacks sound contact 42 degs. 26' N. 70 degs. 19' W. at 1723/3rd.  
Para. (D). H.M.C.S. MIDLAND attacks contact probably wreck 40 degs. 23' N. 69 degs. 36' W. 0539 to 0729/4th. All times Z.  
(N.S.H.Q. 042346Z to Admty., Cominch).

Australia and New Zealand

NEWFOUNDLAND. Concur in F.O.L.E.Ms. 312013 Dec.  
(2) Colombo C.C.O. pass to NEWFOUNDLAND.  
(C. in C. B.P.F. 040251Z to C. in C. Med. Info: F.O.L.E.M., C. in C. E.I. Admty. NEWFOUNDLAND)

/American ...



4.1.1945  
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

American  
Organisation  
S/M Bases.

My 300330 para. 14.  
Cdr. 7th Fleet reports accommodation at existing port bases prevents his using ADAMANT and her S/Ms until further base has been established in forward area (probably Philippines).

(2) The date on which this new base will be ready depends on progress of operations and is at present unpredictable.

My estimate however is that ADAMANT and her S/Ms should be ready to leave Ceylon on 1st April. A further estimate will be made before first March.

(3) It is understood MAIDSTONE and her S/Ms will be moved to this same base. So also will AORANGI and further British S/Ms and it is requested Logistics should be prepared on this assumption.

(4) Admiralty pass to F.O.S/M.  
(C. in C. B.P.F. 040640 Admty.)

Digest 1079  
Jan. 3rd.

No. 1079 is Serial for this Digest covering Jan. 3rd.

(6) Forenoon 2nd January 3 Squadrons Bostons from Mindoro attacked shipping of San Fernando destroying one large Transport, 2 medium Freighter Transports, one Seaplane Carrier or possibly engine-aft Freighter and 9 Sea Trucks: severely damaging one large Freighter transport 3 Sea Trucks and 3 small Escort Vessels.

(7) Morning next day, 3rd January, 4 Mitchells 9 Warhawks attacked small type shipping Subic Bay sinking 2 Sea Trucks, destroying 2 Luggers and damaging or setting afire 6 Sea Trucks 4 Coasters or Luggers.

(8) During intervening night patrol Liberator damaged one medium Freighter and scored near misses on possible Destroyer both apparently departing San Fernando Northwards.

(13) One Sea Truck, 3 Coasters or Luggers, 12 Barges and one M.L. all sunk or destroyed plus one Barge damaged.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 041121Z to Admty.)

U.S.S. NEW  
MEXICO.

C. in C. embarked in U.S.S. NEW MEXICO at Tacloban p.m. 2nd Jan. He is unlikely to leave Philippine Is. (?area) before 15th Jan.  
(C. in C. B.P.F. 041458Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack  
and sighting  
summary.

To 0900Z/4th Jan.  
Para. A. (1) HENRY MILLER torpedoed and U.S.S. CARTER attacked U-Boat results unknown at 1706Z/3 Jan in 35 degs. 51' N. 06 degs. 24' W.

/Para. B. ...



4.1.1945

Thursday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack  
and sighting  
summary.  
(Contd.)

Para.B. (1) U.S.S. NEAL A. SCOTT made 4 attacks  
on contact at 1806Z/3rd Jan. in 35 degs. 50' N.  
06 degs. 30' W.

Para. C. (1) RICHARD COULTER reported firing a  
U-Boat at 0030Z/4th Jan. in 08 degs. 05' N.  
76 degs. 53' E.

(D.D.I.C.041129A, Cominch, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa etc.)

U-Boat  
dispositions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 041431A and 041435 to A.I.G.332,  
Cominch)



War Diary.

5.1.1945.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North Sea.

1. Zeebrugge channel has silted seriously, but it is hoped that L.S.T. drawing not more than 12 ft. will be able to use the port after January 15th.

Western Approaches.

2(a) GLACE BAY, frigate, of E.G. C.4, escorting Convoy O.N.276, attacked a promising U-Boat contact about 200 miles west of the Scillies. The hunt was taken over later by E.G.2, who report very hopeful details of the shape of the target and diesel oil exudations, but no eruption of wreckage.

(b) Barry Roads are to be used as a convoy assembly port for the overflow from Milford Haven as from January 15th.

Northern Waters.

3. Some three score documents out of U.250 have been made available to Admiralty by the Russians, who captured her.

Foreign Stations

North Atlantic

U-Boat.

4. Tanker BLACK JACK reported early this morning that she was chased by a U-Boat for an hour.

Mediterranean

L.C.Flottillas commandos and B.S.S. reduction of.

5. Considered that operational situation on Mediterranean Station will now permit of a reduction in number of minor landing craft flotillas beach commandos. Proposed by C. in C. Med. to reduce numbers to be retained other than L.C.A. flotillas, embarked in L.S.I.(M).

Adriatic.

6. Last night coastal craft fired 4 torpedoes at 3 unidentified decoy craft off Parenzo but without result.

/Greece ...



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SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean - Contd.

Greece.

- 7(a) Situation at Patras still very undecided and evacuation of our troops may be necessary.  
(b) Kavalla situation quiet.  
(c) F.M. Alexander reports today following naval operations from 1st to 3rd January. A destroyer\* has bombarded enemy positions at Livadia on Piskopi Island. [*\*LEDBURY, see page 57*]  
(d) Situation at Corfu whence R.M. Commandos have been withdrawn is quiet.  
(e) All quiet at Piraeus except for sporadic mortaring.

8. S.O. 8th Minesweeping Flotilla reports minesweeping operations in vicinity of Corfu.

Loss of  
H.D.M.L.  
1163.

9. H.D.M.L. 1163 reported torpedoed and sunk by 4 enemy craft while patrolling Maknare Channel near Begulze Bay, Mulat Island. No survivors. Two officers and 9 ratings presumed killed.

America and West Indies

Norwegian  
POLARLAND,  
M.V. NIPIWAN  
PARK  
sunk.

10. 18 missing are reported from sinking of POLARLAND yesterday. 5 of crew landed at Halifax, early this morning together with 25 of crew of NIPIWAN PARK which has broken in two - 2 of her crew are also missing.



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HOME COMMANDS

Defence of United Kingdom.

Reduction  
of A/A  
defences.

The unmanning of the following heavy A/A guns has been authorised as part of manpower cut in A/A Command.  
Clyde 24. Ipswich 8.  
(D. of L.D. 052142A to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Nore)

Operations

North Sea

Advanced  
Coastal  
Force Base  
at Flushing.

Your 040958. No objection. Outer harbour would appear to be suitable. Please arrange with N.O.I.C. Flushing.  
(F.O.N.P.1731 051027A to C.F.M.U.I.)  
Ref. my 040958 not to all addressees and F.O.N.P.'s 1731 051027A.

(1) It is requested that I may be informed whether the ORIOLE or BOURNEMOUTH QUEEN could be made available.  
(2) If Flushing is used as an additional base it will appreciably decrease the congestion at Ostend.  
(3) The time of stay for boats in the Advanced Base would be limited to a maximum of 72 hours so that fuelling and maintenance would still be retained at Ostend.  
(4) Intend sending an Officer to interview N.O.I.C. Flushing ref. berthing.  
(C.F.M.U.1, 051840A to C. in C. Nore, F.O.N.P.1731, N.O.I.C. Flushing.)

L.C.T.  
Shuttle  
Service.

A.N.C.X.F. (Buco's) 041145 S.H.A.E.F's 041930 Jan. and my 221215 December.  
Arrangements made to meet S.H.A.E.F's requirements of 46 operationally fit L.C.T.(R) in the Shuttle Service have not yet proved satisfactory.

(2) A.N.C.X.F. Buco reports that at 1000 on 3rd Jan. there were 7 craft at sea or on the Far Shore, 7 available for loading of which only one was at Southampton. 19 in hand for minor defects and 65 undergoing or awaiting major repairs.  
(3) The Green List in showing 43 in state A does not give an accurate picture of the state of affairs.  
(4) It is impossible to carry out the planned L.C.T. Shuttle programme in these circumstances and if no improvement can be expected it will be necessary to ask Com. Zone and the R.A.F. to consider making other arrangements.  
(5) Information is therefore requested whether the figure of 46 fit L.C.T.(4) in the Shuttle Service is likely to be reached and maintained.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 051228A to Admty.)

Anti-missile  
measures.

Should enemy guided missile activity be renewed



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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Anti-missile measures. (Contd.) it is desirable that early technical data and counter measures should be available. As a first step propose a Y Unit trained in noise be provided and attached to MONWHY in Schelde area as selected by Com. Belgium.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 051246A to Admty.)

Requirement of Monitors. My 041314. Request both monitors revert to 24 hours notice.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 051310A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Situation Report. Cositintrep No.276 Part 4. Discharge by sea - 24 our period ending 1600A/4 January.

<u>British</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> <u>(inc.coal)</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo</u>
Antwerp	-	10	10,727	3,637	2,315
Ostend	856	235	4,222	-	-
				(sic)	2,256
Boulogne	19	39	281	-	-
Dieppe	-	-	1,528	-	-
Caen	-	-	754	-	-
Calais	354	-	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	413	-	-
Totals:	1,228	284	17,925	5,637	4,771
<u>U.S. North</u>					
Antwerp	-	-	15,499	-	-
Cherbourg	-	-	8,801	3,093	2,529
Le Havre	74	359	6,166	5,325	3,420
Rouen	-	-	4,607	2,154	1,099
Granville	-	-	1,625	-	-
Totals:	74	359	36,699	10,572	7,048
<u>U.S. South</u>					
Marseilles	503	534	10,753	-	4,030
Port De Bouc	-	-	-	6,162	-
Toulon	-	-	327	-	-
Totals:	503	534	11,080	6,162	4,030

Also 1,856 tons rolling stock discharged at Marseilles.  
(S.H.A.E.F. 051445A to Admty. and etc.)

Berthing of 66th M.S.F. at Ostend. C. in C. Nore, 261325 December para.2. Extra berthing can be arranged.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 051657A to Admty.)

/ Controlled ...



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FridayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea - Contd.Controlled  
mining in  
Schelde.Your O31145A January. Controlled mining party  
is available. Is this required?  
(VERNON C/M, O51722 to R.N.O. Beveland)OperationsChannelClosure of  
Office of  
P.S.T.O.  
Devon and  
Cornwall.

As from 0900 on the 12 Jan. 1945, Principal Sea Transport Officer South Coast will assume the administration of sea transport duties at all South Coast ports previously administered by principal Sea Transport Officer Devon and Cornish Ports. The office of Principal Sea Transport Officer Devon and Cornish ports will be closed as from that time and date. Sea Transport officer in charge Plymouth will be Principal Sea Transport Officer South Coast's representative and through him will administer all Devon and Cornish ports. (P.S.T.O. Devon and Cornwall, O50930 to C. in C. Plymouth)

Patrols.

Night patrols 5th/6th Jan. E.G.17 Anti-Snort patrol Area limits. (A) Q.Z.S. 636. (B) 10 miles to West. (C) 49 degs. 48' N. (D) 50 degs. 27' N. (2) E.G. 30. Anti-Snort Patrol area limits. (A) N. of Cherbourg. (B) 50 degs. 00' N. (C) H Channel. (D) 01 degs. 10' W. (3) M.T.B. As in my O31047 not to all. (C. in C. Portsmouth, O51135A to S.O. E.G.'s 17, 30, 66 M.T.B.F., F.O.I.C. Portland).

On completion of my O50004A, patrol route E from 02 degs. 20' W. to H.2 buoy to be at West End of patrol at 0001/6th Jan. Further signal follows.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, O51223A to ANTHONY, TONKINOIS)

HAVELOCK entered Plymouth 1000/6th to replenish.

(2) On arrival of INCONSTANT and ASSINIBOINE S.O.E.G.14 detail 2 ships to form "Detest" "Baiter" and carry out zigzag search between 49.36 N. 02.52 W. and 50.03 N. 02.42 W. Remainder of Group to be known as "Detest Able". (3) If ICARUS has not rejoined by 0800/6th. All ships patrol Portland to Start Point.

(4) S.O. E.G.14 acknowledge.

(C. in C. Plymouth, O51709A to S.O. E.G.14)

Day patrol 6th Jan. 17th E.G. 2 miles each side of ZH Channel from Z buoy to Kansas. (2) 10 E.G. on sailing proceed to relieve 30th E.G. On relief 30th E.G. proceed Spithead. Capt. D. will allocate berths. (3) 30th E.G. and 10th E.G. Gamma search line from H.10 buoy to position 02 degs. 06' W. 49 degs. 58' N. thence to position 02 degs. 12' W. 50 degs. 07' N.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, O52220A to S.O. E.G.'s 10, 17, 30)

Your O51709A. Ships detailed as follows:

"Detest A". ICARUS, INCONSTANT. "Detest B", DUNCAN, ASSINIBOINE.

(2) HAVELOCK join "Detest B" on completion of replenishing.

(S.O. E.G. 14, O52244A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Deep anti-  
U-Boat  
mining.

Carry out serial A.1 passing Spithead Gate at 0930A/6th Jan. (2) Acknowledge. (C. in C. Portsmouth, O51232A to PLOVER, GENTIAN, SNOWBERRY).



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FridayHOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel - Contd.

Suspected U-Boat N.E. of C. Barfleur. Following received on TBS from MOORSOM. Have sighted Schnorkel ahead of me. My position 190 degs. 23 miles from Z buoy. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 051240 to A.I.G.61) Your 051614 3 bottom contacts have been attacked and many others investigated. All now considered non-S/M. As no contact was obtained in position of original sighting search was started to Eastward because tide was setting that way. (S.O.E.G.17, 051640A to C. in C. Portsmouth) My 051640. Several further non-S/M contacts investigated and 1 doubtful contact attacked and oil produced. Considered wreck. Intend to abandon search and to comply with your 051135A unless in contact by 2100A. BURGESS has rejoined. (S.O.E.G.17, 051931A to C. in C. Portsmouth) My 051240 to A.I.G.61, on subsequent evidence the position of sighting Schnorkel was probably 50 degs. 13' N. 00 degs. 52' W. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 051932A to Admt)

Channel Escort Groups. Escort groups allocated for duty in this command take some time to become accustomed to the difficult Asdic conditions due to wrecks, non-S/M echoes, and tidal conditions. (2) It is suggested that these groups should be changed infrequently and that when removed for boiler cleaning should be replaced as far as possible by groups which have had experience in this area. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 051853A to C. in C. W.A.)

Operation "Nestegg". Your 291122 December. Replacement cannot be made except at the expense of more important commitments. It is therefore requested that you will replan Operation "Nestegg" using the small ships listed in para. 2 of A.M. 250048/Dec. in lieu of a third L.S.I.(L). (Sec. to 1st S.L. 052135A to A.N.C.X.F.)

OperationsWest Coast France

Mine-clearance of Bayonne. C. in C. Med's 031802. Four ships would be totally inadequate for clearance of Bayonne. In view of fact that four F.Y.M.S. have been fitted for low salinity sweeping and all for sweeping British mines consider all eight should be employed on clearance of Bayonne before return to Med. (2) A requirement for French minesweepers for clearance of other Biscay ports may arise at lower priority in the future. (A.N.C.X.F. 051455A to Admt.)



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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches

Probable U-Boat. O.N. 276 GLACE BAY attacking possible S/M no movement position 49.39 N. 10.55 W. Suitable. (S.O. C.4, 051510A to C. in C. W.A.)  
My 051510A still in contact echo sounder run gives bottom 580 feet target 540 feet. Have carried out Squid depth charge and Hedgehog attacks. Oil patch spreading in area with strong smell of diesel oil. (S.O. C.4, 051630A to C. in C. W.A.)  
Join GLACE BAY attacking possible S/M 49 degs. 39' N. 10 degs. 55' W.  
(C. in C. W.A. 051646A to S.O.E.G.2)  
Have taken over GLACE BAY contact.  
(S.O.E.G.2, 051814A to C. in C. W.A.)  
GLACE BAY and PETROLIA relieved by E.G.2 at 1815A still in firm contact. Target still exuding oil fuel. Last echo sounder run gave 60 feet height of target. No movement. No. H.E.  
My 051510A and 051630A refer.  
GLACE BAY and PETROLIA rejoining convoy.  
Weather report 5882 3973.  
(S.O.C.4, 051831A to C. in C. W.A.)  
My 051814A. Target is on bottom, head northeast, length 220 feet, beam 20 feet, height, maximum 48 feet, minimum 36 feet. Eight attacks by E.G. C.4 and one by LOCH RUTHVEN produced fair amount of oil but no wreckage. Intend to remain for night and attack again in daylight unless otherwise ordered.  
Weather report 6982 2872. Good. Suitable.  
(S.O. E.G. 2, 052047A to C. in C. W.A.)

Barry Roads as Convoy Assembly Port. Pass to N.C.S.O's as from 15th Jan. Barry Roads will be used as a convoy assembly port for (A) ships from Cardiff and Barry Roads for O.N. Convoys and from other Bristol Channel Ports when Milford Haven is unable to berth them.  
(B) Bristol Channel ships negative Swansea and Milford Haven for U.C.A. convoys.  
(C. in C. W.A. 051538A to F.O.I.C's in W.A.)

Operations

Norway

Abnormal traffic at Skibotn (near Tromso). Norway: Probable evacuation of Rendulic's Southern flank via Skibotn. There has been a sudden increase in lorry traffic proceeding from Finland to Skibotn.

Date	Into Norway,	Returning transit.
Jan. 1st	37	63
Jan. 2nd	89	76
Jan. 3rd	134	170
Jan. 4th	278	84

(2) Yesterday Jan. 4th some of these lorries from Finland carried troops whilst others towed anti-A/C and anti-tank guns. In addition these figures 61 tractors passed into Norway. A.2.

(3) Comment: See my 271811 December para. C. Normally 50

/lorries ...



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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

Abnormal traffic at Skibotn (Near Tromso). (Contd.) lorries a day have been sufficient maintain details 7th Mountain Division in Karesuando. (4) Inference. German evacuation of this southern flank is now being initiated. Consequent concentration of military traffic at Skibotn thus arising suggests itself as possible target for British offensive operation. (Naval Attache, Stockholm, 051707 to Admty.)

Operations V.P.

Intend carrying out V.P.73.

- (1) 0300A/6th January.
- (2) Not later than 2100/6th January.
- (3) Not later than 0900A/10th January.
- (4) 249 degs. toward Noss Head not more than 20

knots.

- (5) Not later than p.m. 10th January.
- (6) No. (7) No. (8) 069 degs. Noss Head Bressay. (9) No. (N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 051832A to A.C.O.S.) My 051832A.

- (1) 69 degs. from pivot not more than 20 knots.
- (2) 61 degs. 10' N. 04 degs. 30' E.
- (3) Blank.

(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 051833A to A.C.O.S.)

Intend to carry out V.P.75 (1) 0305A/6th Jan.

- (2) Not later than 2100A/6th Jan.
- (3) Not later than 0900A/10th Jan.
- (4) 249 degs. towards Noss Head not more than 20 knots.
- (5) Not later than p.m. 10th Jan.
- (6) No. (7) No.
- (8) 069 degs. Noss Head Bressay. (9) No. (N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 051835A to A.C.O.S.) My 051835A. (1) 069 degs. from Noss Head not more than 20

knots.

- (2) 61 degs. 10' N. 04 degs. 30' E.
- (3) Blank.

(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 051837A to A.C.O.S.)

Intend carrying out V.P.77.

- (1) 0310A/6th Jan. (2) Not later 2100A/6th Jan.
- (3) Not later than 0900A/10th Jan.
- (4) 278 degs. towards Noss Head not more than 20 knots.
- (5) Not later than p.m. 10th Jan.
- (6) No. (7) No. (8) 098 degs. Noss Head Bressay.
- (9) No. (N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 051839A to A.C.O.S.) My 051839A.

- (1) 098 degs. from pivot not more than 20 knots.
- (2) 59 degs. 41' N. 05 degs. 05' E.
- (3) Blank. (N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 051841A to A.C.O.S.)

Patrols.

Times all Zone A. S/M positions 0800/6th January and movements for following 24 hours. Positions North and East.

(A) UTSIRA leaves Lerwick 0900/6th through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 10 miles and 62 degs. 01' 01 degs. 01' probably on surface 9 knots. Thence course 030 degs. diving



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Patrols by day 130 miles in 24 hours.  
 (Contd) (B) DOLFIJN leaves Lerwick 0900/6th through 60 degs. 00' 00 degs. 30' 59 degs. 20' 01 degs. 01' and 58 degs. 45' 01 degs. 15' to patrol 000 degs. and 180 degs. 15 miles either side of mid-point 57 degs. 35' 01 degs. 15'. Probably on surface 9 knots.  
 (C) SEANYMPH leave Lerwick 1500/6th by same route as DOLFIJN to patrol 000 degs. and 180 degs. 15 miles either side of 58 degs. 45' 01 degs. 15' probably on surface 9 knots.  
 (C. of W. 051955A to A.I.G.25)

OperationsNorthern Waters

Patrol. C. in C. W.A. 021904A. Proceed direct to establish Gamma patrol between position 58.52 N. and 58.22 N. in 02.24 W. (2) (?DAUNTLESS) 1 escort to Scapa to collect orders from Cdre. (D) H.F. subsequently rejoining.  
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 051007 to E.G. 25)

"Group 18" Kola Inlet 5th Jan. arrived Group 18 at 1105A your arrived 031522A refers, with FORT ISLAND. Total 14 ships Kola. with Russia escort. (2) Admty. pass to M. of W.T. (S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 051108A to S.B.N.O.Archangel).

Enemy Intelligence

Midget German midget U-Boats. The following cancels U-Boats. AGM 557A of 2nd Sept. 1944. (1) Type BIBER is one-man midget U-Boat (Fact).  
 (a) Displacement 6.0 tons, overall length 29 ft. 6" overall Beam 4 ft. 9" (Fact).  
 (b) Armament two modified electric torpedoes, range about 5,000 yards at 20 knots, slung on either side outboard. (Fact.)  
 In place of one or both of the torpedoes one or two G.S. mines may be carried (B.2).  
 (c) Conning tower with armoured glass scuttles rises about two feet above waterline at normal trim. (Fact).  
 (d) A projector compass, air intake and periscope are mounted on the conning tower. Periscope rises 4 ft. 6" above conning tower. Air intake enables BIBER to proceed on engines with hatch closed. (Fact). (e) Maximum speed with armement submerged 6 knots, surfaced 6½ knots. (B.2)  
 (f) Maximum surfaced endurance about 100 miles, submerged endurance about 5 miles, average human endurance 48 hours. Craft can be towed to increase endurance. (B.2)  
 (g) Maximum diving depth about 80 ft. (B.2)  
 (3) Type MOLCH is none-man midget U-Boat (B.3)  
 (a) Overall length approx. 46 ft. overall beam approx. 7½ ft. (B.3)  
 (b) Armament two torpedoes slung one on either side outboard. (B.3).

/(c) ...



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Midget (c) Conning tower similar to BIBER (B.3).  
 U-Boats. (d) Periscope mounted on conning tower (B.3).  
 (Contd.) (e) Electric propulsion only giving maximum speed of 6-7 knots, slow speed 3-4 knots, no intermediate speeds. (B.3).  
 (f) Endurance at least 24 hours. (B.1)

(3) Two other small submersibles, known to the Germans under the cover names HECHT and SEEHUND, exist (B.2).

They are both probably manned by a crew of two and armed with torpedoes. (B.3).

No further details are available.

(4) Detailed information on BIBER and MOLCH is promulgated in Snips (M.P) C.B. 03122 (C.B.)

(D.N.I.051146A General Message Home and Abroad)

Prisoners from midget U-Boat sunk by COWDRAY off Zeebrugge on 2nd Jan. state as follows. Graded C.3. N.O.I.C.Ostend's 031551 A not to all addressees refers.

(2) Craft was two-man midget U-Boat known to the Germans under the cover name SEEHUND.

(3) Length about 35-40 feet, beam 3-4 feet.

(4) Armament two torpedoes, slung one on either side overboard.

(5) Conning tower with armoured glass scuttles, possibly fitted with periscope and air in-take.

(6) Propulsion diesel and electric. Maximum speeds, surfaced six knots, submerged two knots.

(7) Endurance three days. Sufficient oxygen for 30-40 hours submerged.

(8) Maximum diving depth 100 feet.

(9) No W/T equipment carried.

(10) 6 craft of first flotilla arrived Holland 1st January.

Remaining twelve boats of this flotilla and eighteen of the second flotilla are still in Germany but ready to operate.

(11) Prisoners craft operated from a Point about 15 miles down coast from IJmuiden.

(D.N.I. 051749A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Documents  
 ex U-250.

Following are lists of documents from U.250.  
 My 041341. Russian Serial Numbers have been retained for ease of reference.

A. Secret list.

(3) Description of attack calculating disc.

(4) Description of fixed periscope C/2.

(6) Specification of fixed periscope C/2.

(7) Embarking, loading of torpedoes, types C 7A, C.7E, TMA, TMB, TMC for bow and stern tubes of S/Ms type 7C.

(9) Drawing of error detector used during torpedo attack.

(10) Description of torpedo tubes type 11C, 1 XE, XD (steel constructions).

(12) Instructions for torpedo inspections in S/Ms.

(14) Instructions for torpedo attacks by S/Ms.

(16) ? Aiming device for S/Ms.

(17) Engine and electro mechanical arrangement for S/M type 7C.

(24) Flooding system of S/Ms.

(26) Mechanical system of S/Ms (Issued by Cmdr. Officer S/M. Flotilla in 1943).

(42) Transformer for additional charging and heating system in S/Ms.

(15) Description of sliding (?) fixed serial in S/Ms.

/ (17) ...



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- Documents  
ex U.250.  
(Contd.)
- (17) Description of arrangement for feeding(?) from the network (?). (Note. This may refer to a Radar Item.)  
B. (5) Description of fixed periscope C/2 extract from description of fundamental arrangement and use of periscope C/2.
- (8) Torpedo tube armament in S/M. Servicing as torpedo tubes.  
(1) Calculating table for firing torpedoes in S/M. (1) Auxiliary machinery. System of driving gear.  
(19) Orders of welding constructions in S/M Type 7C (valid also for type 7 P and seven, year of construction 1942).  
(21) Instruction for water system in S/M type 7C.  
(22) Water cooling systems. Protection from corrosion by means of oiling. Auxiliary water cooling pump in S/M type 7C.  
(23) Description of air pressure indicator. Electrical air compressor. Diesel air compressor.  
(28) Description of heating and cooling system in S/M type 7C.  
(29) Description of fuel supply in submarine Type 7C.  
(30) Description of auxiliary ventilation constructions in S/M type 7 C.  
(41) Description of motors lubricating supply system. Auxiliary lubricating pump for motors. Oil refining system for motors in submarine type 7 C.  
(32) Water draining vent part ten.  
(33) Description of anchor arrangements in S/M type 7C (Vol)14.  
(34) High pressure piston ring lock.  
(35) Description of shaft system, diesel motors and thrust bearing.  
(38) Calculating table of performance in ampere hours, description of hand storage battery in S/M type 7C part 17 B.  
(39) Description of electrical motors (part one) electrical motors, ventilator and air cooler in S/M type 7C.  
(40) New electrical installation in S/M type 7C.  
(41) Description of battery arrangement.  
(43) Description of new electrical installation in S/M type 7C volume 18A.  
(44) Description of apparatus for absorption of moisture.  
C. Unspecified.  
(1) Instructions for servicing of electro-compass in S/Ms types PO-45. Destroyers from 1-16, minesweepers and destroyers.  
(2) Instructions for servicing the elector-compass without the repeater.  
(11) Corresponding weights of different parts of torpedoes.  
(15) Service test for torpedoes.  
(20) Sketches of engines for S/M type 7C (Main engine) Volume A and S copies 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.  
(27) Hydroplane arrange in S/M type 7C.  
(36) Description of diesel motor (Bumag or Bumah).  
(37) Description of non-reversing diesel motors.  
(56) Description of main and auxiliary electrical system in S/M type 7C. Construction year 1941.  
(47) Latest descriptions and instructions for radio apparatus.  
(48) Description and instructions for combined loud speakers in S/M.  
(49) Description of an arrangement for feeding from network type E.H.P. 410, 51, 140.  
(50) Radio frequencies (own and enemy).  
(51) Instructions for use of radio-location set FUM.139.  
(52) Bearing arrangement in S/M two copies.



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Enemy Intelligence

Documents (53) Receiving set ELAE 1012 Telefunken 1940.  
ex U.250. (54) Transmitter LO 40 KDZ PA 1940.  
(Contd.) (55) Modifications to instruments and to trans-  
mitter LO 39.  
(56) Electro acoustics.  
(58) Radio location FU MO 61.  
(59) Receiver type EZ 8 10 Telefunken.  
(60) Description of bearing set "2800".  
(Adm. Archer, 051305 to Admty.)

Navigational

North Your 062126A December para. (3).  
Goodwin L.V. In consultation with Chief Supt. T.H. Harwich  
suggest the position of the N. Goodwin Lightship  
be amended to read 134 degs. 4.9 miles from N.  
Foreland. Lighthouse.  
(V.A. Dover, 051320A to Admty.)

Port Facilities.

Lowestoft. Your 041124A. Following on conference with  
C.E. Yarmouth and L.N.E.R. Harbour Board dredging  
to depth of 19 feet will take at least three  
weeks and dock would require fendering ten feet  
off quay with Catamarans.  
(2) Site could be dredged to 16 feet in about 1½ weeks and would  
allow for docking for period around high water. Catamarans not  
required in this case. Suggest this would suffice.  
(3) Request approval to conform to suggestions in para.2.  
(N.O.I.C. Lowestoft, 051806A to C. in C. Nore.)

Zeebrugge, Cositintrep 5276 part II Naval.  
Seine. Zeebrugge. Estimated that L.S.T. will be accept-  
able at Zeebrugge on 15th January but draft will  
be limited to 12 ft. at M.H.W. Neaps. Detailed  
sounding, which has been in progress since mine  
clearance has permitted, shows serious silting up of the channel.  
Seine. Seine Channel is slowly filling in in spite of dredging.  
Maximum draught now acceptable is six feet less than height of  
high water for the day concerned.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 052119 to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects

LOCH KILLIN Have been in collision with H.M.S. QUADRILLE who  
V is abandoning ship. Request tug may be diverted  
QUADRILLE. from convoy in position 49 degs. 46' N. 00 degs.  
50' 56 W.  
(LOCH KILLIN, 050359 to C. in C. Portsmouth)  
My 050359 intend taking QUADRILLE in tow and  
proceeding to Portsmouth.  
(LOCH KILLIN, 050429 to C. in C. Portsmouth)  
Ref. my previous message, QUADRILLE holed and flooded in  
engine room LOCH KILLIN 3 small holes forward in cable

/compartment ...



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FridayHOME COMMANDSPort Facilities.

LOCH KILLIN compartment. No casualties.  
V (LOCH KILLIN, 050441A to C. in C. Portsmouth)  
QUADRILLE.  
(Contd.)

ARTHUR K.R.A.I. 900 para.2. A  
SEWELL. U.S. Ship ARTHUR SEWELL owners U.S. War Shipping  
A Administration taken in tow by H.M. Tug PILOT  
8 miles west of Portland Bill at 1700/29th Dec.  
and brought safely to Weymouth after serious  
damage by enemy action. No cargo form D.46 signed but no bail  
has been given and vessel not arrested.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 051200 to Admty.)

Movements

APOLLO Your 042121.  
Minelayer. Leave Scapa passing Hoxa at 0300A to-day 5th Jan.  
and proceed Rosyth for urgent repair to feed pump.  
(2) Speed through water to May Island at least  
24 knots.  
(3) Report E.T.A. May Island to C. in C. Rosyth.  
(4) A.C.O.S. and C. in C. Rosyth are requested to arrange lights  
according to plot.  
(C. in C. H.F. 050057A to APOLLO)

MAURITIUS Arrived Clyde MAURITIUS.  
cruiser. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 050904A to C. in C. H.F.)

A.F.D. 50. A.M. 012343A. On arrival of A.F.D. 37. A.F.D.  
50 can be released.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 050925A to Admty.)

A.F.D.20. My 041730A. Tug EMINENT returning Falmouth.  
Has broken rod of steering engine and is in  
hand steering.  
(2) Tug DESTINY endeavouring to take A.F.D.20 in  
tow again as weather moderates.  
(3) Request relief for EMINENT.  
(4) My position at 0830A/5th Jan. 46 degs. 50' N. 08 degs. 06' W.  
(SAPPER, 051030 to C. in C. W.A.)  
SAPPER's 041730A and 051030A. Request you will sail  
H.M.R.T. ENVOY to assist.  
(2) A.F.D. 20 routed through following positions:  
(D) 48 degs. 00' N. 08 degs. 00' W. (E) 43 degs. 00' N.  
12 degs. 00' W. (F) 37 degs. 00' N. 12 degs. 00' W.  
(G) 35 degs. 51' N. 06 degs. 10' W.  
(3) SAPPER pass amended position of AFD 20 to ENVOY as necessary.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 051646A to F.O.I.C. Falmouth)  
A.F.D.20 amend to read SAPPER 3 trawlers tug DESTINY have  
to vicinity 46.30 08.06 drifting 180 degs. resuming tow when  
feasible.  
My 051231 refers.  
(C. in C. W.A. 051728A to Admty.)

/ My ...



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HOME COMMANDS

Movements

A.F.D. 20. My 051030. My P.C.S. at 1800A/5th Jan. 46 degs.  
(Contd.) 30' N. 08 degs. 10' W. 220 degs., 4 knots.  
(SAPPER, 051855A to C. in C. Plymouth)  
Ref. SAPPER's 051030A. Propose substituting  
H.M.R.T. ENVOY for EMINENT - C. in C. W.A. concurs.  
It is requested that ENVOY be despatched forthwith to R/V with  
SAPPER.  
(C. in C. Rescue Tugs, 052138A to C. in C. Plymouth)

A.F.D. 55. F.O.I.C. London's 301725A - sailing delayed owing  
to breakdown of tug- further signal will be made.  
(C. in C. Nore, 051531A to C's in C. Portsmouth,  
W.A. Plymouth, Adnty.)

BIDEFORD Arrived BIDEFORD.  
sloop. (C. in C. Plymouth, 051726A to F.O.G.M.A.)



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BLACKJACK

34.40 N. 18.00 W. followed by submarine.  
 (BLACKJACK, 050044Z.)  
 My 050045 G.M.T. Chased one hour then all quiet.  
 (BLACK JACK, 050235Z.)

E.G.1

ALISMA is to be detached to return Gibraltar forth  
 with. KILLBIRNIE  
 (2) ~~KILLBIRNIE~~ and WOODCOCK to be detached  
 forthwith to proceed to eastward.  
 (3) Ships in paragraph 2 will be required to reinforce escort  
 of M.K.S.75 sailing from Gibraltar 1700A tonight. Further  
 details follow.  
 (4) Remainder of group (1 one?) to continue search in areas in  
 my 041641.  
 (F.O.G.M.A., 050926A to S.O. Group 1.)

E.G.2

CYCLAMEN is not to sail owing to defect.  
 (2) KILMINGTON is to leave patrol and R/V  
 M.K.S.75 to act as additional escort and is to  
 report in accordance with paragraph 7 of my 050942  
 (3) CONVULVULUS continue to patrol line between 036° N. and 036  
 30 N.  
 (F.O.G.M.A. 051232A to Group II, H.M.S. CYCLAMEN.)

UGANDA

UGANDA arrived 0740 and sailed 1900 5th for  
 Malta.  
 (F.O.G.M.A., 052104A to Admty C. in C. Med.)  
 Amended by 061037A.

TALLY-HO

My P.C.S. 037° 03' N. 000° 40' W. 250° 8 knots.  
 E.T.A. 0700 G.M.T. 7th.  
 (TALLY-HO 052203Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

U-boat  
 search.  
 Re HENRY  
 MILLER  
 (torpedoed  
 3.1.45)

Situation. German U-boat attacked and torpedoed  
 one merchant ship G.U.S.63 at 1805A Jan. 3rd,  
 position 035° 51' N. 006° 24' W.  
 (2) U.S. escorts carried out counter attack  
 but no definite indication German U-boat damaged.  
 (3) German U-boat sighted by aircraft almost  
 fully surfaced position 036° 10' N. 007° 30' W.  
 at 08(?) 13) Jan. 4th.  
 (4) Aircraft did not attack.  
 (5) Appreciate German U-boat will remain in area for further  
 period moving again to eastward with object to attack shipping  
 at focal point eastward 007° W.  
 (F.O.G.M.A., 052226A to LOWESTOFT.)

When R/V has been effected with remainder of Group one,  
 LEITH is to be detached to return to Gibraltar and KILMARTIN  
 relieve CONVULVULUS now patrolling inside 100 fathom line between  
 036° 00' N. & 036° 30' N. (2) On relief CONVULVULUS return to harbour.  
 (3) ENCHANTRESS will be sailing at 1000A 6th Jan. to join  
 KILMARTIN both ships forming Group II.  
 (4) KILMARTIN to signal R/V.

/(5)...



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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

U-boat  
Search  
Re HENRY  
MILLER  
(torpedoed  
3.1.1945)  
(Contd.)

(5) Group I is to proceed to take up patrol Bacon with amended positions (b) and (d) each moved 20 miles to northwards.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 052256A to LOWESTOFT.)

South Atlantic

VALIANT

VALIANT should refuel at Freetown on passage from Durban to U.K. as she is not to call at Gibraltar. A.M. 231636 Nov. and C. in C.S.A. 041712 not to all refer.

(2) Estimated that VALIANT whose speed is limited to 12½ knots, will pass lat. of Gibraltar about 31st Jan. F.O.G.M.A. is requested to detail 3 ships to relieve West African Escorts in Mediterranean approaches and provide escort to Plymouth.

(3) If necessary sailing date of VALIANT from Freetown may be adjusted so that 3 frigates of E.G. 20 can be used for this duty between K.M.F. 39, and M.K.F.39.

(D.O.D.(H) 051412A to C. in C.S.A., F.O.C.W.Af., F.O.G.M.A.)



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INVER. INVER will enter Algiers at 0500A/6th.  
Probable E.T.D. noon 6th. My 031100 to C. in  
C. Med. refers.  
(F.O.W.M., 051034 to F.O.G.M.A., etc.)  
Amended by 052102A.

Linrep 219. Para. (1) Ground.  
1st Jan. to Para. (2) Naval. Satisfactory progress is  
3rd Jan. being made with sweeping of Dardanelles  
approaches. A destroyer has bombarded enemy  
positions at Livadia on Piskopi Island. All is  
quiet at Piraeus except for sporadic mortaring.  
The harbour is now open to all types of shipping. Situation  
at Kavalla and Mitylene is quiet but that at Patras is  
threatening. Situation at Corfu whence R.M. Commandos have  
been withdrawn is quiet. It was intended to evacuate Zervas  
troops from Levkas but they withdrew to southern half of the  
Island. H.M. Ships were therefore unable to assist due to  
mines and no caiques were available.  
Para. (3) Air. Weather conditions prevented the Strategic  
Air Force from operating.  
Coastal Air Force. Attacking shipping in North Adriatic, gave  
cover to minesweepers and flew mine spotting sorties in Gulf of  
Genoa. Fighter-bombers attacked targets in the Valdieri area  
north-west Italy.  
(A.F.H.Q., 051100A to War Office, etc.)

L.C. Flotillas Considered that the operational situation on  
reduction of. the Mediterranean Station will now permit of a  
reduction in number of minor landing craft  
flotillas, beach commandos and B.S.S.  
(2) It is proposed to reduce the numbers to be  
retained other than L.C.A. Flotillas embarked in L.S.I.(M) to  
the following: 2 Flotillas L.C.A., 2 Flotillas L.C.M.(3), 2  
Flotillas L.C.P.(R), 2 Beach Commandos and 2 B.S.S. The L.C.M.  
Flotilla to be reduced from scale A to scale B manning.  
(3) This would make available for release the personnel of 2  
L.C.A. Flotillas, 2 L.C.M.(3) Flotillas and one L.C.M.(1)  
Flotilla. One Beach Commando and 1 B.S.S. craft of Flotilla  
disbanded to be placed in pooled reserve on the station.  
(4) L.C.M.(1) Flotilla embarked in DEWDALE is not included in  
above as this Flotilla is still employed on operations but it  
is presumed this Flotilla will be disbanded when DEWDALE proceeds  
to eastern waters.  
(C. in C. Med., 051102 to Admty.) Reply: 131959.

H.D.M.L. Regret loss by torpedo from surface forces of  
1163 H.D.M.L.1163 in Brgulje Bay, Mulat Island lat.  
torpedoed 044° 12.4' N., long. 014° 50' E. No survivors,  
5th Jan. have been found up to now. List of crew follows.  
(S.B.N.O. Zara, 051110 to Admty.)

French As soon as leave is completed request you will  
destroyers. sail BASQUE, SIMOUN, HOVA and SOMALI to Gib.  
(C. in C. Med., 051301A to A.N.C.X.F.)

/Greece ...



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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Greece My 051716B.  
minesweeping. Depth swept 8 fathoms.  
Mines were cut between following latitudes 039° 21' and 039° 25' N. 5 being detonated. One mine exploded by gunfire the remainder drifting. One mine detonated in position 305° Sivota Island Light 7 miles. This mine was very deep, possibly on bottom, and was detonated by parted trailing sweep wire. MARY ROSE dragged mine in sweep and cut sweep in position 007½° Cape Sidero Light 3.95 miles. ROWENA swept 2 laps over position without result. THISBE dragged mine in sweep and sank it in position 045° Cape Sidero Light 1.8 miles.  
THISBE, ROWENA and MARY ROSE parted sweep when mine detonated. ROWENA and REGULUS parted sweep in position 318° Novara Point Light 2.4 miles and 187° Sivota Island Light 3.9 miles, both probably on uncharted shoals.  
In view of number of mines encountered intend to clear area enclosed by following positions, all positions north and east- 039° 27.2' 020° 06.4 039° 27.2' 020° 13' 039° 23.6' 020° 13' 039° 21' 020° 15.7 039° 20' 020° 13'.  
(S.O.M/S Flotilla 8, 051831B to C. in C. Med.).

Swiss A.M. 201401 Oct. Is there yet any alteration in  
sailings the position? Your 231051 Oct. refers.  
to (Hed of Mil. Br., 052006A and 101553A to C. in C.  
Marseilles. Med., Info. V.A. Malta, F.O.W.M., F.O.G.M.A.).

Situation (1) Greece. Situation at Patras still very  
report undecided and evacuation of our troops may be  
No.527. necessary. All quiet at Kalamata. At Kavalla  
an E.L.A.N. Caique brought to by shot across her  
bow. No repercussions so far and situation quiet.  
No other reports of interest received.  
(2) Adriatic. Night of 4th Jan. coastal craft fired 4 torpedoes  
at 3 unidentified decoy craft off Parenzo but without result.  
H.D.M.L.1163 blown up by enemy torpedo in (Corrupt group) Gulje  
Bay, Mulodd Island. No survivors found so far. She was  
apparently attacked while patrolling Maknare Channel by 4 enemy  
craft. Enemy force fired 2 torpedoes into PORT LUCINA but  
neither detonated.  
(C. in C. Med., 052120A to Admty. etc.).



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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-boat  
dispositions

Anquilla area C.B.2 A/C reported sighting  
Diplomat periscope at 1126 FG in position 008°  
20' N. 075° 50' E. scale remains X 5 other areas  
no fresh information scales unchanged.  
(C. in C.E.I., 050359Z to Ships and Authorities  
East Indies Station.)

GOMBROON

Intend to allocate GOMBROON to SORNE (I) as a  
depot ship for major landing craft. As at  
present visualised will be stationed initially  
at Bombay but will move to Mandapam.  
(3) Vessel will require a short refit to make good essential  
repairs to auxiliary machinery and piping before coming into  
service.  
(SORNE (I) 051300Z to C. in C.E.I.) See 121100A from Admty.)  
Your 291115. Request brief report by signal summarising  
main factors rendering GOMBROON unsuitable for trade.  
(Head of M., 051329A to C. in C.E.I.) Reply 100437Z)



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Friday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

U-Boat Estimates.  
dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. 051402Z, Cominch 051515Z.)

POLARLAND SS. POLARLAND (Nor.) Pts. 31 in S.H. 194  
torpedoed and sunk 44.28 N., 62.59 W. 1720Z/4th  
and sunk. Jan. 1945. 5 crew members landed in Halifax  
0500Z/5th Jan. 1945. 18 missing. My 051511  
with list of survivors follows.  
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 051510Z to Admty.)

M.V. NIPIWAN PARK (Br.) Pts. 21 in S.H. 194 torpedoed and  
broken in two, 44.28 N., 62.59 W. 1657Z/4th Jan. 1945. 25  
crew members landed in Halifax 0500Z/5th Jan. 1945. 2 missing.  
My 051530Z with list of survivors follows.

(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 051529Z to Admty.) See N.S.H.Q. 051937  
and 061230Z to Admty., &c.

POLARLAND and NIPIWAN PARK now reported torpedoed at  
041658Z and the former sunk. Cominch 042116\* refers.

(Cominch, 052019Z to Admty.) See 071615Z.

\* POLARLAND and NIPIWAN PARK.

S/M attack (A) (1) SS. POLARLAND (Nor.) and NIPIWAN PARK  
and sighting (Can.) torpedoed 44.30 N., 63.00 W. at 1658Z/4th.  
summary. POLARLAND sunk, NIPIWAN PARK in tow.  
(2) SS. PERAST reports torpedo track in 44.30  
N., 63.00 W. at 1725Z/4th.  
(N.S.H.Q., 051937Z to Admty., Cominch.)

American Reference C. in C. B.P.F.'s 300330 December,  
organisation para. 17 (not to C. in C. H.F. or C. in C. Med.)  
signals, and intention that B.P.F. should use American  
B.P.F. signalling systems, consideration has been given  
to the Radar Reporting Code to be used.  
(2) British policy is now that R/T shall be the  
primary method with W/T as a secondary alternative  
for use at discretion of Local Commanders.

(3) In order that training of ships about to proceed to B.P.F.  
can proceed on right lines request you will ascertain and  
forward as soon as possible details of the American R/T  
procedure now in use in Pacific area both for air and surface  
warning.

(D.A.W.T., 052058A to B.A.D. and 122115Z.)



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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand

B.P.F. auxiliaries. Your 160627\* Dec. concurs generally with the following reservations.  
 (A) SPRINGDALE is required as soon as possible on completion of refit. My 220435 and your 250302 not to all refers.  
 (C) ADAMANT is deferred until April, see my 040640/.  
 (C. in C. B.P.F., 050115Z to C. in C. E.I. Station.)  
 \* Refers onward passage for B.P.F. repair ship and auxiliaries.  
 / Refers establishment in forward area of new base for ADAMANT and her S/Ms.

Digest January 4th.  
 Serial (2) Jap planes attacked Allied convoy 60 miles  
 No. 1080. south of Mindoro at dusk hitting one combatant ship further details not yet available.  
 (3) Same time more aircraft raided Allied shipping Mindoro causing destruction to Liberty ship.  
 (8) Other patrol Liberators 3rd Jan. saw 20 sea trucks type ships, 7 probable warships plus numerous small craft Takao Harbour including 5 or 6 ships burning, also sighted one medium three small merchant ships all burning off north-east coast Formosa. During return trip aircraft strafed 5 sea trucks anchored off Gigan apparently damaging one.  
 (18) Liberator patrolling north Borneo 2nd Jan. bombed two sea trucks destroying one.  
 (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 050738Z to Admty., etc.)

EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND. Departure Wellington H.M.T. EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND escorted by H.M.A. ships QUIBERON and QUICKMATCH, E.T.A. Hobart 1300Z/8th.  
 (Comnzseafron, 051726Z to Admty.)

Monab 4. Your 011148. Following are provisional dates for arrival of Monab 4 at Sydney. Personnel in DOMINION MONARCH Feb. 19th. Equipment in CLAN MACAULAY March 3rd. It appears possible to arrange direct shipment to Manus for equipment but not for personnel. As arrival of equipment will decide operational date of Monab, suggest you investigate means of transporting personnel to arrive Manus in time to meet equipment.  
 (2) Your para. 2. No M.S.Rs. will be available to sail with Monab 4 (see my para. 6). Matmu personnel will sail with Monab personnel but equipment will arrive Sydney later, approx. March 17th.  
 (3) Owing to manpower difficulties it appears improbable that Army support for Monab 4 as laid down in A.00125/44 of 15th Nov. will be available. Will depend on progress of inter-Service negotiations in London.  
 (4) Request you investigate whether present development of intended airstrip and camp allows for installations and accommodation of Monab 4 without extra construction. If not can any works required be arranged from local resources? In view of para. 3 it is highly improbable that any provision for hutting can be made from U.K. until after Monab has been installed, and date of arrival of Army support is uncertain.

/(5) ...



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FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Monab 4.  
(Contd.)

(5) Installation of Monab 4 must therefore be an improvisation in first instance.

(6) Owing to Naval manpower difficulties delays must be expected in despatch of Monabs 6 - 15 inclusive Tamy 2, M.Rs. 2 to 5 inclusive and

all M.S.Rs.

(7) Request your remarks. Further details on paras. 4, 5 and 6 will follow.

(5th S.L., 051835A to F.O.N.A.S. (A), and 100601Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack  
and sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/5th Jan.

Para. (A) (1) A/C D/22 sighted U-Boat course 264° at 0905Z/4th Jan. in 36° 10' N., 07° 53' W.  
Para. (D) (1) BLACK JACK reported being followed by submarine at 0044Z/5th Jan. in 34° 40' N., 18° 00' W.

(D.D.I.C., 051120A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U-Boat  
dispositions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C., 051339A and 051338A.)



War Diary.

6.1.1945.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

- North Sea. 1(a) WALPOLE, destroyer, was mined off Flushing but towed back to Sheerness.  
(b) A midget U-Boat, SEEHOUND type, scuttled herself off Ostend and the crew were picked up by a Coastal Force Unit.  
The midget U-Boat towed under by LADY BRASSEY in Dover Harbour on December 30th has now been located. It is hoped to raise and beach her tomorrow.
- Channel. (2) PLOVER is now carrying out deep anti-U-Boat mining in the Channel. (*Operation "Crazier"*)
- Western Approaches. (3) U.S.S. O'REILLY carried out a hopeful attack on a U-Boat sound contact some 80 miles W.S.W. of Scilly, and U.S.S. BROUGH on another, 40 miles farther west. Both produced oil slicks but nothing more definite.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

- Adriatic. 4(a) Relations with local authorities unchanged at Zara.  
(b) Search for possible survivors of H.D.M.L. 1163 continues.
- Greece. 5(a) Situation at Corfu stabilised by arrival of warships - naval patrols established. Channel swept through southern approaches in view of probability E.L.A.S. will attempt control northern channel.  
(b) General situation Patras uneasy.  
(c) F.M. Alexander reports that there is every indication that bulk of E.L.A.S. forces have withdrawn from Athens and Piraeus into the hills.



War Diary.

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Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT

America and West Indies

NIPIWAN  
PARK  
torpedoed  
4th Jan.

(6) Reported that NIPIWAN PARK broke in two forward of bridge and after part towed in and arrived Halifax this morning. Chief Officer killed and 1 A.B. missing.

Australia and New Zealand

Philippines.

(7) During 24 hours ended dusk Allied Naval surface forces off west coast Luzon between Lingayan Gulf and Manila subjected to intense and strongly pressed air attack involving many suicide bombers - damage suffered but details not yet available.  
At daylight today Allied heavy naval surface forces bombarded Japanese shore positions Lingayan Gulf, hitting shore areas and few small ships.



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Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Loss of  
LEOPOLDVILLE  
with 802 U.S.  
personnel.

Press release proposed in your 041230\* which is being passed to B.A.D. would be contrary to policy and normal practice. It is particularly important now to keep U-boat morale low. To admit the extent of such a marked success as LEOPOLDVILLE would be a great encouragement to U-boat fleet. Admiralty desire to maintain strict silence in accordance with existing policy.

(1st Lord 061234A to A.N.C.X.F.)

\*See "Casualties" section of 4.1.1945.

Defence of United Kingdom.

Abandonment  
of state of  
readiness in  
Thames and  
Medway  
Coastal  
Artillery.

Ref. C.C.A. Thames and Medway's 261230A (not to all addressees) with the abandonment of all states of readiness in shore batteries of Thames and Medway coast artillery it is approved to discontinue the coast artillery plot at Sheerness in the near future at a date to be reported by C.C.A. Thames and Medway.

2. From this date Nore Plot will pass to Great Nore Fort (U.5) for retransmission to U.6 and U.7 in these forts anti-surface craft role (A) all

unidentified surface plots that might possibly prove to be hostile (B) at half an hour before sunset the known positions and movements of shipping in the estuary for the night.

3. Army forts U.5, U.6 and U.7 will engage surface craft which have shown themselves to be hostile.

4. C. in C. Nore will be responsible for ordering the army forts U.5, U.6 and U.7 to engage surface targets identified by Nore plot as hostile.

5. Comdr. 28 A.A. Brigade is requested to arrange that the speech circuits P.W/S.E.32072/3 are so re-routed as to afford the same service to X.D.O. Sheerness and A.C.H.Q. Chatham as at present. Nore No.2047/600/6 of 14 April 1944 refers.

(C. in C. Nore, 061120A to C.C.A. Thames and Medway, X.D.O. Sheerness).

Anti-  
Flybomb  
patrols.

Your No. F.C/S 38772/Ops. 2 of 30/12/44 as Mine Barrier provides a defence against U-boats consider it undesirable to sweep a gap in it especially as it would be necessary to buoy it.

2. Reference para. 3 CAICOS will be sent to Immingham forthwith. It is understood that 12

Group wish her to patrol N.W. and S.E. from a point 40 miles East of Spurn Point. Suggest patrol 15 miles long in 320° direction from 53° 35' N., 01° 18' E. (W.B. 6632). Request this may be confirmed. Ship can work same schedule as at Harwich, starting on Monday 8th January. F.O.I.C. Humber will be operational authority.

3. If attacks do not develop in this area it may be necessary to reconsider the employment of CAICOS in view of the increasing shortage of Destroyers and Frigates in Nore Command.

(C. in C. Nore, 061730A to H.Q.F.C.) *[Agreed by Higher Command, page 126]*

Not identified by War Registry.

Starting on Monday 8th Jan. operation "Alphabet" will be carried out in Humber area. F.O.I.C. Humber is requested to operate CAICOS for this purpose.



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Anti-Flybomb patrols. (Contd.)

(2) Coastal forces will not accompany CAICOS.  
 (3) Patrol 15 miles in 320° direction from 53° 35' N., 01° 18' E. (B.6632) from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise.  
 (4) CAICOS is to operate on cycle of 2 nights on patrol and one in harbour.  
 (5) Presume H.Q. 12 Group will inform F.O.I.C. Humber as early as practicable on days when weather is unsuitable for enemy aircraft. F.O.I.C. Humber will inform H.Q. 12 Group should he find it necessary to cancel the operation.  
 (6) Communications instructions will follow.  
 (7) My O31145 December is cancelled.  
 (C. in C. Nore, 061945A to F.O.I.C. Humber, CAICOS.)

OperationsNorth Sea

WALPOLE, destroyer, mined. WALPOLE mined 049° H.K.2 Buoy 4½ miles. (RUTHERFORD, 060751A to C. in C. Nore.)  
 WALPOLE mined in position 51° 33' N., 03° 06' E. Forward boiler room flooded. 2 missing 5 minor casualties. Ship is being towed to Sheerness. (C. in C. Nore, 061246A to Admty.)

Patrols. Patrols for tonight Saturday.  
 1 ARENDAL, 2 MACKAY, 3 MIDDLETON, 4 HAYDON, 5 SHEARWATER, 6A GUILLEMOT, 12 EKINS with coastal force from BEEHIVE, 14 SOUTHDOWN, 16 CURZON with coastal force from Ostend, 18 MALLARD, 19 STAYNER and SLAZAK.  
 (3) Escort for T.A.M. 41 VIMY, BLENCATHRA. (4) CAICOS will carry out operation "Alphabet". (5) Coastal Force patrol from U.K. F.B.1 Z.15. F.A.4 Z.13. F.A.5 Z.11. F.C.5 Z.9. F.C.8 Z.3. F.B.8 53 Buoy. F.A.2 3 S.W. T.V. 14 17. F.L.2 3 patrol 12. F.B.3 M.U. T.V. 40 55. From Ostend - F.C.1, 2, 3 M.U. O.L. 39 21. F.B.2 M.U. O.L. 21 00. F.A.8 M.U. O.L. 24 15. F.G.2 3 patrol 16.  
 (C. in C. Nore, 061000A to S. & A. in U.K.)

Midget U-Boat sunk off Ostend. Following received begins: From C.F.M.U.1 to C. in C. Nore.  
 F.C.5 unit reports sighting at 051610 an enemy submarine which was in position 2 cables west N.F. 13. S/M sank immediately after the crew of 2 had fired Verrey pistols and abandoned. The survivors were picked up by the Unit and landed Ostend. 052124A. Ends.  
 (C. in C. Nore, 061006 to Admty.)

1st M.S.F. Programme tomorrow Sunday.  
 (1) Sail from Small Downs at 0500A. Conduct Oropesa search in "G" formation 1 mile either side of centre line H.K.2 to H.K.4 Buoys.  
 (2) Ship mined in position 030 H.K. 2 4 miles.  
 (3) C. in C. Nore to be informed of intentions and progress.  
 (4) Return to Small Downs for the night passing N.F.3 Buoy not later than 2000. Acknowledge.  
 (C. in C. Nore, 061110 to M.S.F.1.)

/157th ...



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Operations.

North Sea. - Contd.

157th M.S.F. Operating base of 157th M.S.F., on completion of repairs is to be Sheerness. (C. in C. Nore, 061301 to Com. Sheerness).

Situation Report. Cosintrep No.277 part 4. Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 051600A Jan.

<u>British</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> (incl. coal)	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
Antwerp	51	229	11,803	9,376	2,362
Ostend	998	125	1,400	590	-
Boulogne	-	-	470	-	-
Dieppe	-	-	386	-	-
Caen	-	-	1,358	-	-
Calais	166	-	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	1,076	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,215</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>16,493</b>	<b>9,966</b>	<b>2,362</b>
<u>U.S. North</u>					
Antwerp	-	-	12,825	-	-
Cherbourg	-	-	9,116	-	2,622
Le Havre	5,069	195	5,600	1,880	2,692
Rouen	630	388	3,005	2,208	997
Granville	-	-	2,006	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,699</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>32,552</b>	<b>4,088</b>	<b>6,311</b>
<u>U.S. South.</u>					
Marseilles	283	128	16,636	-	5,728
Port de Bouc	-	-	-	7,909	-
Toulon	-	-	341	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>16,977</b>	<b>7,909</b>	<b>5,728</b>

(S.H.A.E.F., 061600 to Admty, etc).

Midget U-boat towed under by LADY BRASSEY. My 051910A. Midget located. Hope to lift and beach tomorrow Sunday. (V.A. Dover, 061859A to Admty).



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Operations.

Channel.

Operation "Nestegg". Request you will comply with Admty's 052135. (A.N.C.X.F., 061058 to C. in C. Plymouth).

Patrols. My 052220 cancel para. (2) and ref. to E.G.10 in para. 3.  
2. E.G.10 on sailing relieve E.G.17 vide para.(1)  
3. E.G.17 when relieved return to Spithead for

defects.

(C. in C. Ports. 061122A to E.G.10, E.G.30, E.G.17.)

"Freak" "Baker" is to make occasional A/S sweeps both by day and night close in to Scillies and between Lizard and Runnelstone inside 20 fathom line.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 061122A to S.O.E.G.19).

Night Patrols - 6th/7th Jan.

30th E.G. as in my 051135A leave patrol so as to rendezvous at 50° 18' N., 02° 30' W., at 0500 7th January and act in support of:-

- (A) Eastbound convoy C.U.52 14 knots.
- (B) Call sign YQ.
- (C) Escorts U.S.S. KOINER (S.O.), U.S.S. O'REILLY, COSBY.
- (D) Route E.
- (E) Support from Rendezvous to Z Buoy.
- (F) Return to Patrol.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 061235A to S.O.E.G.30).

Night patrols 6th/7th January.

10th E.G. Anti snort patrol area limits.

A. Q.Z.S.636. B. 10 miles to west. C. 49° 48'. D. 50° 27'.

2. 17 E.G. conform with para. 1 until relieved by 10 E.G.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 061245A to S.O.E.Gs. 10, 17).

Day Patrols 7th. 30th E.G. On completion of my 061235A patrol two miles each side of H channel from H.2 to H.10.

10th E.G. 3. Patrol two miles each side of Q.Z.S.636 from Kansas to Z Buoy.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 062116A to S.O.E.Gs., 10, 30).

Deep mining.

*of Brazier*

Deep contact mines are now being laid to foul an area about 1 mile to westward of the following buoys H.2 Z, K, C.2 A, J.9 and 8 miles to the westward of H.10 buoy.

2. Mines are spaced (?200) feet apart and take up a depth of 30 feet above the bottom.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 061211A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force).

L.C.T. Shuttle Service.

A.N.C.X.F. 051228. Request you will report on situation observing that Com. L.C.B. is responsible under your direction for maintaining serviceability of shuttle service L.C.T. (4).

2. Repair of these craft continues to have top priority with appeal to Admty. should

assistance be required outside your command.

(D.C.O.D., 062100A to C. in C. Portsmouth).



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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel. - Contd.

Suspected  
U-boat off  
the Start.

Proceeding with all despatch to investigate 1st  
class M/F D/F bearing 056° within 15 miles.  
My position 50° 17' N., 03° 30' W.  
(ICARUS, 062224A to C. in C. Plymouth).

Suspected  
U-boat off  
Barfleur.

BAYNTUN reports hearing strange transmission  
similar to slow E/S transmission, duration about  
one minute, on 3 occasions about 2305A/6th in  
position 49° 54' N., 00° 52' W.  
(S.O.E.G.10, 062359A to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Probable  
U-boat.

Report whether target attacked by GLACE BAY was  
on the bottom when initially detected. If not,  
when did it bottom.

(C. in C. W.A., 060117Z to S.O.E.G. C.4).

Your 060117 in initial attack by Hedgehog sinking time  
not recorded by watch but estimated only. Time between firing  
and explosion of bombs approximately 10 - 15 seconds. This is  
early for recorded depth of 580 feet. No other evidence of  
target being off bottom there being no movement or Doppler.

(S.O.E.G. C.4, 060455A to C. in C. W.A.).

My 052047A. Oil still rising 12 hours after last attack.  
No movement during night. Fresh depth charge attack produced  
more oil but no wreckage. Echo sounder run on (2 corrupt groups)  
now gives length 250 feet and therefore beams and heading are not  
confirmed. Suspect old wreck. Am complying with your 061057A.  
W/R 8491 2974. Good. Suitable.

(S.O.E.G.2, 061112A to C. in C. W.A.)

E.G.4

Arrived E.G.4 comprising H.M. Frigates BENTINCK,  
BYARD, CALDER, PASLEY, DRURY and BAZELY..  
(F.O.I.C. N.I., 060943A to A.C.O.S., C. in C. W.A.)

Patrols.

My 051114 on detaching from U.C.51 B patrol area  
between (a) All following positions are North  
and West unless otherwise indicated. 49° 40', 09°

30'. (b) 50° 30', 08° 50'. (c) 50° 20', 08° 20'. (d) 49° 30',  
09° 00'.

(C. in C. W.A., 061456A to S.O.E.G.15).

Possible  
U-boat 80  
miles W.S.W.  
of Scilly.

U.S.S. O'REILLY had promising sound contact at  
1422A in 49.30 N., 08.02 W. Still investigating.  
Reported oil slick and hydrophone effect after  
dropping depth charges.  
(Comcorddiv 20 in MARCHAND, 061630Z to "C. in C.  
pass to those who need to know".)



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Operations.

Western Approaches.

Possible  
U-boat 80  
miles W.S.W.  
of Scilly.  
(contd).

Broke off attacking contact at 1800A U.S.S.  
O'REILLY to rejoin convoy. My 061630Z. Reported  
target moved about 800 yards during attacks and  
two different kinds of oil appeared on surface  
from depth charges. Contact possible but doubtful.  
(Comcortdiv 20, 061945Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Possible  
U-boat  
120 miles  
West of  
Scilly.

Attacked Sonar contact 49.49 N., 09.14 W. 1650Z  
Jan. 6th. completed three depth charge and three  
hedgehog attacks. Observed underwater explosion  
and oil slick. Search abandoned 1840Z Jan. 6th.  
to rejoin convoy U.C.51 B by order Escort  
Commander.  
(U.S.S. BROUGH, 061945Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.

Norway.

Operation  
"S.C."

"Ramose Precipace". Sailed VIGRA at 0001A Jan.  
6th. 2. Air escort not especially required on  
return journey.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 060003A to A.C.O.S.)  
"Ramose Audacity" sailed HITRA from Lerwick at

0255A 6th January.

2. Air escort not especially required on return journey.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 060301A to A.C.O.S.)

D.S. DOLFIJN

Port diesel engine out of action beyond repair  
at sea. Returning to Lerwick at 6 knots.  
Position 60° 00' N., 00° 15' E, course 275°  
(DOLFIJN, 061630A to F.O.S/M Lerwick).

Patrols.

Submarines at 0800 7th and movements for following  
24 hours zone A times.  
(1) UTSIRA 63° 02' N., 02° 19' E. diving by day  
to 64° 30' N., 04° 15' E. thence 090° daily advance  
130 miles.  
(2) SEANYMPH on patrol line 15 miles North and  
South of 58° 45' N., 01° 15' E.  
(F.O.S/M, 061704A to Admty).

Cancel para. (B) of my 051832 and para. (3) of my 061704.  
Add new para. (G) to my 051832. DOLFIJN at 1630A/6th position  
60° 01' N., 00° 15' E. returning to Lerwick with engine defects  
6 knots E.T.A. 0005A.

(F.O.S.M., 061917A to Admty).



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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Possible  
U-boat 15  
miles East  
of Orkney.

In firm A/S contact submarine or wreck in approx.  
position 58.52 N., 02.20 W, contact is bottomed.  
Attacks to date have not assisted classification.  
Am leaving LA HULLOISE and THETFORD MINES to hold  
until daylight. ORKNEY and ST. THERESE continuing  
Gamma. Suitable.  
(S.O.E.G. 25, 060405Z to C. in C. Rosyth).

Operation  
"Interim".

My 041421A D-day 8th January.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 061136A to S.B.N.O. N. Russia).  
As amended 061621A.

J.W.  
convoys.

SABWA 789. Mossy Sablo 697 Mossy Para. 1.  
We are glad to note probability that Admty. will  
be able introduce 30 days cycle after J.W. 64 and  
will consider during March feasibility of further  
reduction in cycle.

2. Since SABWA 782 Mossy W.S.A. have further considered question.  
Having regard to opening of Black Sea route which should reduce  
pressure on Northern route and indication that substantial return  
cargoes from North Russia are not likely to be available during  
winter W.S.A. now think they attached too much importance to  
question of lay over in White Sea for second return convoy by  
vessels homeward there. In these circumstances they now consider  
that any shortening of cycle even if not to 22 days would be  
preferable to present 35 days cycle and would for present favour  
30 days cycle as proposed above.  
(Combined Shipping Adjustment Board, New York, T.H.I. 1344/6 to  
Combined Shipping Adjustment Board, London).

Convoy  
J.W. 63

Your 060934. Estimate J.W. 63 will arrive Kola a.m.  
8th January. BLUE RANGER with convoy.  
(C. in C. H.F., 061703A to S.B.N.O. N. Russia).

Enemy Intelligence.

Midget  
U-boat  
SEEHUND  
type.

From Lt. Cdr. Izzard.  
Inspection of two man U-boat stranded near Domburg  
Walcheren reveals following external characteris-  
tics

- (A) Overall length 38 feet. (B) Depth from keel  
to Conning Tower top 9 feet
- (C) One screw surrounded by hollow cone shaped  
rudder tapering aft open at both ends.
- (D) No air intake or exhaust visible.
- (E) Conning tower shape proportionally similar to large U-boats.
- (F) Conning tower hatch has glass dome.
- (H) Hull painted dark blue.
- (I) Hull slightly waisted to take two 21 inch electric torpedoes  
carried externally.
- (J) Pistol of only torpedo visible is marked PI2F.
- (K) U-boat lying on starboard side conning tower submerged in  
water and sand at low water salvage proceeding further report  
follows;  
(N.O.I.C. Antwerp, 061754 to A.N.C.X.F., Admty).

/Comment...



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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Midget  
U-boat  
SEEHUND  
type.  
(contd).

Comment by D.N.I. - Prisoner stated that this craft was known as "SEEHUND", and operated against shipping off Ostend on 1st to 3rd January. Details of "SEEHUND" graded C.3 were promulgated in A.M. 051749.

Comment by N.I.D. Will departments who wish to send a representative, phone Whitehall 9000 Extension 839.

Navigational.

North  
Goodwin  
L.V.

Elder Brethren of Trinity House have raised objections to the position proposed in your 051320 owing to proximity of shallow water. This station is considered a dangerous one and light vessel is liable to drag.

2. The best compromise keeping clear of searched channels and of prohibited anchorage 846 Q.Z.H. appears to be 123° North Foreland light 5.1 miles. Request your remarks.  
(D. of N., 061714A to V.A. Dover).

Port Facilities.

Lowestoft

Your 051806A. Approved.  
(C. in C. Nore, 061045A to N.O.I.C. Lowestoft).

Calais

B.O.P.O. 53. Availability of Port of Calais. Following statement cancels my 191220A/December and further signals.

2. Despatch draught acceptable Springs 33 foot  
Neaps 29 foot but see para. 4 Et Seq.  
3. Maximum length 450 foot.  
4. Quai Paul Devot. (A) One L.S.T. berth on double hard. Length 400 foot draught 14 foot. Capacity 4 L.S.T. per tide. Alternatively 12 L.C.T. per tide.  
(B) Personnel or hospital carrier berth. Length 350 foot draught 14 foot. In emergency only this berth could be used for stores discharge. In addition occupation of this berth will slow down rate of turn round of L.S.T. or L.C.T.  
5. Bassin A Flot De L'ouest. Two tanker berths to take two ships each. Length 300 foot draught 18 foot. Alternatively one berth alongside length 350 foot draught 18 foot. Ready 14th January subject to dredging. Entry into Bassin limited by lock gates to two ships out and two in per tide and 48 foot beam.  
6. Quai De Colonne. Reserved for Harbour craft.  
7. Quai Gare Maritime. Train ferry berth length 600 foot draught 16 foot. Three personnel ships berths each 400 foot draught 18 foot.  
8. Bassin Carnot. Available one month after arrival of last Shark Unit subject to dredging.  
9. Berths available in open anchorage for discharge: nil.  
10. Entry into port is dangerous at night and can only be attempted by masters who have had experience of the port in wartime. Entry is also limited by strong current across pier heads especially for low powered vessels. Draught is limited by 11 foot patch. 11. Agreed P.E.C.  
(S.N.O.B.P.F., 061215 to A.N.C.X.F.)



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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

M.V.  
OREGON I.

M.V. OREGON I (<sup>British</sup> Danish) dragged and stranded on Wilson's Point Belfast Lough at 0410 January 4th. Shipping and Casualties Dept. Admty. informed by telephone, ship is in charge of Salvage Officer. Crew were landed. Confidential books have been taken on charge by N.C.S.Os. C.B. Officer. D.E.M.S. have instructed Salvage Officer to remove guns. Portable convoy equipment is being removed. (N.C.S.O. N.I., 061005 to Admty).

Movements.

M.M.S.,  
1055, 1065,  
1069, 1070  
to French  
Ensign.

Position regarding motor minesweepers to be handed over to French as follows:-  
(a) M.M.S. 1069 now at Plymouth has been transferred.  
(b) M.M.S. 1055, 1065, and 1070 on passage. E.T.A. Plymouth about 20th January.  
(c) Remaining two vessels expected to reach U.K. by end of February.

2. Your 051656 not to C. in C. Plymouth, para. 3 refers.
3. Six outfits Mark V Star Oropesa are being made available and will be sent to Plymouth, for fitting in these motor minesweepers.
4. Detailed instructions will be forwarded to C. in C. Plymouth.  
(D.M.S., 061829A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Shipping & Convoys.

R.V.C.  
convoys.

Urdis 131458. First R.V.C. convoy arrived Seine Estuary today. Request steps be taken to obtain French Chasseurs as escorts for these convoys.  
(C.T.F.125 061643A).  
Note. Address not given and Urdis 131458 cannot be identified.



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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

L.C.T.1174 Sail at 1715A today Sat. to render assistance to L.C.T. 1174 who has engine defects.  
(2) L.C.T. 1174 is escorted by BALANCIER  
P.C.S. at 1200A today Sat 039° 00' N. 009° 10' W.  
182°, 5 knots.  
(5) S. of A. 12 knots.  
(6) Keep W/T watch in accordance with C.C.O. 35 para. 2.  
(7) Acknowledge.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 061549A to NIMBLE.)

ANGOLA Portuguese ANGOLA under instructions from Capt. of Port sailed direct for Lisbon at 1800 G.M.T. 6th January without Navicert. Speed 12 knots. (N.C.S.O. Funchal, 061711 to F.O.G.M.A.)  
Part company from SANDY CREEK and proceed so as to arrive position (A) 35° 58' N. 12° 34' W. at 1500A Jan. 7th.  
(2) On arrival (A) alter course to 224° so as to intercept Portuguese Merchant Vessel ANGOLA bound Lisbon from Funchal.  
(3) Merchant Vessel sailed at 1900A Jan. 6th at approximately 12 knots. Ship may make better speed.  
(4) Endeavour to intercept and assist R/V.  
(5) Ship is to be brought into Gibraltar.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 062217 to MALCOLM.)

Rescue Tug, SALVONIA. Rescue Tug SALVONIA has been sent to Ponta Delgada to assist **WESTERLY** VICTORY in entering harbour.  
Your 031437 refers.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 062010Z to Admty.)



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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

M.T.Bs. Approved to reduce now M.T.Bs. 65, 78, 81, 85, 86, 89, 97, 226, 242, 243, 290, 296 and 635 subject to the provisions of C.A.F.O. 2566/44\*  
(2) Arrangements are to be made to tow these boats at Adriatic ports to Malta as convenient.  
(3) Also approved for M.T.Bs. 397 and 399 to be laid up at Alexandria under C.A.F.O. 406/44 category B.  
(4) C.C.F. number C.F. 5664/59 and number C.F. 5658/3116 of 12th Dec., not to Admty. refer.  
(5) Admty is requested to inform C.C.F. if M.T.Bs. 290 or 296 are lease lend craft.  
(C. in C. Med. 061020A to C.C.F.)  
\* Damaged lease lend ships. Appointment of Sub Board of Inspection and Survey. (M07381/44 - 23rd Nov. 1944.)

OAKLEY Sail at 1200 A/7 S. of A. approx. 15 knots, to Gibraltar  
(4) OAKLEY is for O/R to U.K. in accordance with C. in C. Med.'s 021835 not to all and will require navigation information for area one on arrival at Gibraltar.  
(5) OAKLEY acknowledge.  
(V.A. Malta, 061536A to OAKLEY.)

French Destroyers Para. 1. Your 051301\* and 271252 December and my 281910\* December not to all. Marine Paris now states that the earliest date leave parties can be returned and ships made ready to sail is 13th January. It is, therefore, proposed to sail DUQUESNE, GLOIRE, BASQUE, SIMOUN, HOVA and SOMALI from Brest on that date for Gibraltar. French desire to retain LORRAINE at Cherbourg.  
(2) If urgently needed by you Marine Paris states that DUQUESNE can be sailed on 48 hours notice and personnel on leave ordered join the ship at port in South France.  
(3) Your concurrence in above is requested. Also please advise if return of S.B.L.O. and B.L.O. and F.O.B. for DUQUESNE and GLOIRE is desired.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 061540A and 081310 to C. in C. Med.)  
\* Not identified in W.R.

Naval Drafts. Understand it is Admiralty intention to send the main naval drafts to Eastern and Central Mediterranean in alternate K.M.F. convoys under the new schedule.  
(2) Consider this would considerably affect the already acute accommodation problem in Malta (and to lesser extent Alexandria) as it would be necessary to keep accommodation available continuously which would only be required during the peak periods when the draft from U.K. arrives. This accommodation although empty for the last 20 days in each 40 day cycle could not be used for other urgent requirements of a permanent or semi-permanent nature.  
(3) If paragraph one is confirmed strongly recommend that although bids be made every 40 days when called for by Admty. ratings be sent to Mediterranean in each convoy. This procedure

/would...



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SaturdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanNaval  
Drafts.  
(Contd)

would also effect a saving in manpower awaiting passage both in United Kingdom and on this station.

(4) Intend sending drafts to U.K. from Med. in each M.K.F. convoy.  
(C. in C. Med., 062047 to Admty.)Shipping  
for Black  
Sea.

Russians have agreed to sailing of up to 9 dry cargo ships and 5 tankers simultaneously for Odessa arrivals commencing late Jan. War Shipping Administration are, therefore, arranging to switch 8 vessels from Persian Gulf to Black Sea. First 4 ships will sail in

U.G.S.69 on 18th January; next 2 in U.G.S.71 on 28th Jan. and last 2 in U.G.S.73 on 7th Feb. Vessels will load cargo which can be discharged by ship's gear and all available and suitable cargoes which can be discharged by ship's. First 5 vessels will be bunkered for round voyage.

(2) Your 091343.

(1) Para. 4(a) - concur but assembly at Piraeus should be avoided as far as possible to reduce shipping delays.

(ii) Paragraph 4(b) - concur. B.N.A. Ankara's 131841, 230945 and 231547, not to all addressees, confirming that waiting at Mudros is unnecessary, also refer.

(iii) Paragraph 4(c) - concur.

(iv) Paragraph 4(d) - concur. Routes set out in Admiral Archer's 221401 December (not to all) are not considered safe in view of dangerous areas off Bosphorous and off Odessa. Separate signal is being made proposing alternative routes.

(v) Paragraph 4(e) - Captain R.M.T. Stephens, C.M.G., R.N. (Retd.) is being appointed as C.S.A. Istanbul and in view of small number of ships proceeding to Black Sea Ports in near future is being given only one officer to assist him, viz.

Acting Temporary Lt. Cdr. J.M. Boileau, R.N.V.R.

These two officers are sailing in K.M.F.38. Concur in B.N.A. Ankara's proposal that Lt. Taylor, R.N.R., should be appointed

N.L.O. Cannakale, but appointments should not be made until further notice. Organisation of American Navpo will presumably be dealt with in Washington.

(vi) Paragraph 5(a) (5) - in view of above no action appears to be necessary at present.

(vii) Paragraph 5(a)(6) - agreement received. Admiral Archer's 191445, not to all addressees, refers.

(viii) Paragraph 5(a) (7) - presumably Admiral Archer has discussed this with U.S. Mission in Moscow.

(ix) Paragraph 5(a) (8) - no further representation is considered necessary. B.N.L.O. Black Sea should deal with such matters as may affect British interests.

C. in C. Med. pass S.A.C. Med. and Com. 8th Fleet.

(Hd. of M., approved A.C.N.S.(U.T.), 062154A.)

Admiral Archer's 221401 December not to all. Routes for Allied convoys from Bosphorus to Odessa proposed by Soviet Naval Staff are not considered suitable in view of dangerous areas off Bosphorus and Odessa and in view of report from S.O.(I) Istanbul that owing to storms in Black Sea considerable numbers of floating mines have been found in Bosphorus in last few days. S.O.(I) Istanbul's 271128 not to all refers.

/(2)...



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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Shipping  
for Black  
Sea.  
(Contd.)

(2) Admiral Archer is requested to inform Soviet Naval staff above reasons and to request their agreement to following routes: Named.  
(3) In view of the number of floating mines reported off the Bosphorus, it is considered advisable to make this part of the passage in daylight.

(4) On receipt of signal from Admiral Archer that modified routes are agreed by Soviet Naval Staff, B.N.A. Ankara is requested to seek Turkish concurrence where necessary.  
C. in C. Med. pass Sacred and Com. 8th Fleet.  
(A.C.N.S.(U.T) 062211A to Adm. Archer, B.N.A. Ankara.)

Situation  
report  
number 528

(1) Adriatic. Relations with local authorities at Zara unchanged. Search for possible survivors of H.D. M.L.1163 continues.

(2) Greece.

(a) Situation at Corfu stabilised by arrival of warships. Plan will not be fully operative for 1 week. Naval patrols established Channel swept through southern approaches in view of probability E.L.A.S. will attempt to control northern channel with guns on mainland.

(b) General situation at Patras uneasy and E.L.A.S attack threatened.

(d) Coastal craft and armed caiques captured E.L.A.N Caiques in Ergasteria Bay (?on) 4th Jan. S.A. fire from shore but no casualties.

(C. in C. Med., 062322A, to F.O.L.E.M. etc.)

Cositintrep  
No. 540  
Part 4.

283624. FX 80402 cipher 6th January.

Cite FHGCT - Signed Alexander.

There is every indication that bulk of E.L.A.S. forces have withdrawn from Athens and Piraeus into the hills North and Northeast of Kifisia, North of Tatoi, and to the Eleusis-Mandera area,

their main supply dump.

(A.F.H.Q., T.O.O. Nil/6th to W.O.)



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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONSEast IndiesAttack on  
Sumatra.*Op: "Lentel"*

Following is proposed press communique (begins).  
On 4th Jan. a very accurate and successful  
attack was delivered by British Naval Carrier  
borne A/C against the Oil Refinery Pangkalan  
Brandan in Sumatra.

(2) Weather was excellent for attack and whole weight of bombs  
from Avenger and missiles from Firefly fell within area of  
Refinery. Photograph shows powerhouse and other important  
plants received direct hit as did oil tank and many other  
buildings.

(3) 7 enemy A/C were shot down by our escorting Corsair and  
Hellcat and number of enemy A/C were destroyed on ground. In  
addition our fighters hit 2 locomotives and set fire to a small  
tanker.

(4) Some of our A/C were damaged but none lost by enemy action.  
(Ends).

(C. in C. E.I. Stn., 060237Z to S.A.C.S.E.A.C.)

W.D. Note: Repeated in S.E.A.C. 060655Z.

[S/M SHAKESPEARE damaged severely on 6<sup>th</sup> Jan arrives Trincomalee see P.160

S.E.A.C.  
communique  
No. 30069  
dated 6th  
Jan. 1945.

For immediate release.

Reference C. in C. E.I. 060237\*, proposed  
communique has been included in following S.E.A.C.  
communique.

Naval. On the 4th Jan. a very accurate and  
successful attack was delivered by British Naval  
Carrier borne A/C against the oil refinery at  
Pangkalan Brandan in Sumatra. The weather was  
excellent for attack and the whole weight of bombs from the  
Avengers and missiles from Fireflies fell within the area of the  
refinery. Photographs show that the powerhouse and other  
important plants received direct hits as did oil tanks and many  
other buildings. Seven enemy aircraft were shot down by our  
escorting Corsairs and Hellcats, and a number of enemy A/C were  
destroyed on the ground. In addition our fighters hit two  
locomotives and set fire to a small tanker. Some of our A/C  
were damaged, but none lost by enemy action.

(S.E.A.C., 060655Z to Admty., Info. C. in C. E.I. Fleet.)

\* Proposed Press Communique.

GENERAL  
MCRAE,  
GENERAL  
MORTON.

Cruiser escort for GENERAL MCRAE and GENERAL  
MORTON sailing from Australia about 30th Jan.  
not likely to be available.  
(C. in C. E.I., 060525 to B.A.D. Washington.)

Situation  
Report.

Naval bombardment of Akyab cancelled on report  
Japanese had evacuated.

(2) Troops landed a.m./3rd according to plan  
without opposition no enemy mines in beach area.  
Occupation of Island completed by evening.

(3) Akyab town much damaged and deserted, main pier unserviceable.

(4) Anticipate harbour fit for use 4th after sweeping completed.

(5) Standing patrol of 4 M.Ls. established in entrance to Myebon  
river from midnight 3rd/4th.

(7) Cincpac pass to Captain Tuanell.

(C. in C. E.I., 060539Z to Admty., etc.)

U-Boat  
dispositions.

Estimates.

(C. in C. E.I., 061111Z to Admty. for D.A.U.D.)



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Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

U-Boat                      Estimates.  
dispositions.      (N.S.H.Q. 060045Z and S.O. C.5 060247Z.)

LEOPOLDVILLE. My 061234. Following is A.N.C.X.F. message referred to begins: "Agwar have asked for issue of following statement in connection with loss of LEOPOLDVILLE.

An escorted Allied ship carrying more than 2,200 U.S. personnel was sunk recently in European waters by enemy mine or torpedo. 264 men were killed and 538 are missing. Over 1,400 men were saved.

Subject to your concurrence propose to advise that announcement should be by U.S. War Department and not by S.H.A.E.F." Ends.

(C.N.I., 061016A to B.A.D.)

NIPIWAN                      Reference O.R.S. 742.  
PARK.                      (1) NIPIWAN PARK.      (2) Park S.S. Company.  
                                 (3) 1657Z/4th Jan.      44° 28' N., 62° 59' W.  
                                 (4), (5), (6) Not seen.      (6A) Not fitted.  
                                 (7) Broke in two forward of bridge, aft part towed in and arrived Halifax 0100Z/6th Jan.      (8) J.E. Carrol, Chief Officer killed, H.Baxmnet A.B. missing.      (9) Not seen.  
(10) Torpedo.      (11) Masters books presumably gone down with forepart of vessel. W/T C.Bs. were left on board and recovered by N.C.S.O.  
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 061230Z to Admty.)

U/B                              Estimates.  
dispositions.      (N.S.H.Q. 061354Z and Cominch, 061545Z.)

PURSUER                      Your 142311 December.      PURSUER is required for U.K.                      for working up her squadron and will not be available for ferrying aircraft to Australia.  
(2) She should be sailed to U.K. on completion of her refit.  
(V.C.N.S., 061843A to B.A.D.)

N.S.H.Q.                      Para. (D) (1) A/C radar contact in 41.10 N.,  
S/M attack                      53.15 W. at 2017Z/5th.  
and sighting                      (N.S.H.Q., 062254Z to Admty., Cominch.)  
summary.



War Diary.

6.1.1945.

Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New ZealandFleet  
repairs.

(Extract)

Following message from High Commissioner, Canada has been received by Dominions Office. Begins: "No.1 Secret. Your telegram No. 2420 of 7th November, 1944.

Reply has now been received from D.E.A. stating that War Committee have reviewed question of maintenance and repair of fleet to be sent to Central Pacific.

(2) As regards repair yards on west coast, reply states that these facilities for most part are controlled by private firms and that consequently question of keeping them fully manned is primarily not a Naval one; there will however be no difficulty in keeping them in full operation during period in question and available for ships of R.N. as well as R.C.N.; questions of relative priority of R.N. as compared with R.C.N. and merchant shipping repair work would have to be determined in each case by arrangement between Naval Service Headquarters and the Admiralty.

(3) It is suggested as a more acceptable alternative that R.C.N. should accede to Admiralty's earlier request that they man two escort maintenance vessels for duty with the Pacific Fleet, provided that this could be done within limits of approved programme for Canadian naval participation in Pacific war." Ends.

Reference suggestion in para. (3) as escort maintenance ships could only be manned at expense of 8 Castle class corvettes of R.C.N. Pacific Force the Canadian Naval Board have been informed that the Admty. prefer them not to man escort maintenance ships.

(Hd. of M. Branch, 061027A to C. in C. B.P.F.)

Digest.

(First portion undecypherable, repetition has been requested).

southern tip Negros Island but torpedoes passed through formation missing all ships. Midget

was rammed and depth charged.

(6) Night 3rd Jan. P.T. Boats sank one sea truck and 2 luggers off east coast Cebu Island. *Patrol Vessels*

(7) During daylight 3rd P.Ts. sank 2 Jap barges on beach south-east Mindoro and shot up estimated 70 Japanese in caves that vicinity at request of land forces.

(8) 2 enemy planes shot down by shore A/A when 2 dive-bombers one fighter attacked Allied shipping at Mindoro as reported in Digest 1080, para. (3)

(17) 3 Jap planes approach Marotao from south-west night 4th, dropped bombs in sea and retired to south-west.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 061101.)



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Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack and sighting summary. For 24 hours to 0900Z/6th January.  
Para. (A) (1) MOORSOM sighted Schnorkel at 1140Z/5th Jan. in 50° 13' N., 00° 52' W.  
Para. (B) (1) H.M.C.S. GLACE BAY attacked possible U-Boat at 1410Z/5th Jan. in 49° 39' N., 10° 55' W. E.G.2 attacked same contact at approx. 1714Z/5th Jan.  
(2) E.G.25 attacked U-Boat contact or wreck at 0405Z/6th Jan. in 58° 52' N., 02° 20' W.  
Para. (C) (1) A/C B/103 reported submerged contact at 1010Z/5th Jan. in 50° 08' N., 04° 03' W.  
Ref. A.M. 051120A para. (A) (1) Time and position of sighting amended to 0743Z/4th Jan. in 35° 59' N., 07° 30' W.  
(D.D.I.C., 061031A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B dispositions. Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C., 061356A, 061401A.)



7.1.1945

Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Norway.

1. M.T.Bs. 722 and 709 have returned from Operation "V.P. 75" in Stavfjord where they yesterday sank a 9,000 ton merchantman and scored hits with torpedo on a second 5,000 ton merchantman, and with 6 pdr. on an "M" class minesweeper escort. We suffered neither damage nor casualties.

Northern waters.

2. British SS. ASHBURY, 3,900 tons, drifted ashore in the gale west of Dunnet Head and was lost with all hands.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

Riviera.

3.(a) Fighter bombers flew sorties in Genoa Harbour. Near misses claimed on 550 ft. tanker in Savona Harbour and damage to docks.

(b) At San Remo direct hits were scored on a 150 ft. vessel and the dry docks at Sestre Ponete were bombed.

Adriatic.

4. Search party returned from Mulat Island - Fore part of H.D.M.L. 1163 still afloat and anchored. Weather at present too rough to board, 3 bodies found including that of C.O.

Greece.

5.(a) At Volo the E.L.A.S. are reported as refusing to release 2000 Italian Prisoners of War.

(b) At the Piraeus E.L.A.S. are retreating northward and fighting has ceased in Athens/Piraeus area. Large forces of arms, ammunition and food discovered.

(c) A small force of Greek National Guard supported by coastal Spezzia Island (East Peloponnese.)

*fraxulandem*



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Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Submarine  
THULE.

6. C. in C. East Indies reports that submarine THULE on her second Far East patrol successfully laid 12 mines on 16th Dec. Between 17th and 24th Dec. in vicinity of Langkawi between Pulo Penang and Dindings sank by gunfire and ramming total of 19 Junks etc. totalling 240 tons all laden and northbound. On 28th Dec. in 5° 50' N. 100° 4½' E. fired 3 torpedoes at Japanese U-Boat, one hit observed amidship - U-Boat claimed sunk. 29th Dec. sank 20 ton Junk by ramming in 4° 53' N. 100° 8' E. Counter attacked by submarine chaser minor damage only.

Australia & New Zealand.

Formosa.

7. Nine U.S. Liberators attacked a convoy of 7 M.Vs. and one escort vessel S.W. of Formosa and claim one M.V. of 2000 tons sunk.



War Diary

7.1.1945  
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of United Kingdom

Reduction  
of Coastal  
Artillery

Urgent manpower requirements necessitate further review of coast artillery commitments in U.K.  
(2) Scale of attack on your Command is confined to U-boats only.  
(3) It is suggested that one of the two 6 pounder twin at Drake's Island should be reduced to care and maintenance.

(4) Request you will consider this suggestion as a matter of urgency and report by signal.

(D. of L.D., 070046A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Urgent manpower requirements necessitate further review of coast artillery commitments in U.K.

(2) Scale of attack in your Command is confined to U-boats and possibly Midget U-boats.

(3) It is suggested that 2 - 6 inch 15° guns at Inchkeith North and searchlights be reduced to care and maintenance.

(4) Request you will consider this suggestion as a matter of urgency and report by signal.

(D. of L.D. 070057A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Urgent manpower requirements necessitate further review of coast artillery commitments in U.K.

(2) Scale of attack on Dover is confined to "U" Boats, "E" Boats and possibly midget "U" boats.

(3) Request you will consider as a matter of urgency and report by signal what further reductions in coast artillery guns and searchlights can be made in your Command.

(4) It is suggested that the following guns with lights might be reduced to care and maintenance.

Fanhole 1 - 6 inch 45°.                      Langdon 2 - 6 inch 15°.  
Wanstone 2 - 15 inch.                      Lydden Spout 3 - 6 inch 45°  
Ramsgate 2 - 12 pdrs.

(D. of L.D. 070118A to V.A. Dover.)

Urgent manpower requirements necessitate further review of coast artillery commitments in U.K.

(2) Scale of attack in your Command is confined to "U" boats and possibly Midget "U" boats.

(3) Request you will consider as a matter of urgency and report by signal what further reductions can be made in coast artillery guns and searchlights in your Command.

(4) It is suggested that Links and Graemsay batteries be reduced to care and maintenance provided the lights are retained.

(D. of L.D. 070229A to A.C.O.S.)

Admty. message 070057A to meet the type of attack envisaged:

(a) retention of searchlights at Inchkeith north is required for illuminating controlled minefield.

(b) No six inch guns are considered necessary but should it be intended to retain any of these then Inchkeith North should be retained in preference to Kincaig battery as better sites for defence of port and more economical in manpower.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 071544 to Admty.)

Anti-Flybomb  
patrol.

A.80 7th January 1945.  
Reference your 061730 agree your suggested patrol line. Understand arrangements proceeding between yourself and H.Q. 12 Group.  
(H.Q.F.C. 071900A to C. in C. Nore.)



War Diary

7.1.1945  
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Midget U-boat on Walcheren Two man U-boat stranded on Walcheren cannot be moved owing to dangerous surroundings. Endeavouring to secure U-boat above high water for inspection by experts on site. Visitors should be prepared for 2 days excursion from Antwerp in uncomfortable conditions and should bring warm clothing and bedding.

Comment: Will departments who wish to send a representative 'phone Whitehall 9000 Ext. 839.  
(N.O.I.C. Antwerp, 071252A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Defences of Schelde A.M. 031547 which has been passed to Com. Belgium. Still consider boom and nets should not be laid. An additional reason is that very rough seas and strong tides would involve great effort in laying and maintenance and render their efficiency doubtful.

(2) Additional patrol craft are however most necessary as stated in my 011248 para. 2(a).  
(A.N.C.X.F. 071308A to Admty.)

Patrols My 070945A. Following ships anchored and remaining at 30 minutes notice. At Yarmouth CATTISTOCK, FARNDALE, COTSWOLD. At Cork MALLARD, SHEARWATER.

(2) HAYDON takes number 18 patrol PUFFIN reverts to normal notice in Harwich.  
(C. in C. Nore, 071440A to Admty. and Nore Command.)

Situation Report Cositintrep No. 278 Part 4.  
Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600A 6th January.

<u>British</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> (Inc. Coal.)	<u>Bulk</u>	<u>Ammo</u>
Antwerp	-	661	12,075	1,510	1,938
Ostend	1,980	304	3,773	-	1,336
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-
Dieppe	24	-	1,413	-	-
Caen	-	-	1,139	-	-
Calais	66	-	20	-	-
Ghent	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2,070	965	18,420	1,510	3,274
<u>U.S. North</u>					
Antwerp	-	-	24,970	-	-
Cherbourg	-	-	8,152	-	2,640
Le Havre	3,489	410	7,960	1,935	3,352
Rouen	-	-	1,982	1,679	106
Granville	-	-	132	-	-
Total	3,489	410	45,196	3,614	6,098

/U.S. South...



War Diary

7.1.1945  
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Situation Report (Contd.)	<u>U.S.</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> (Inc. Coal)	<u>Bulk</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
	Marseilles		1	47	18,538	-	5,680
	Port De Bouc		-	-	1,082	3,488	-
	Toulon		-	-	429	-	-
	Total		1	47	20,049	3,488	5,680
	(S.H.A.E.F. 071510A to Admty. and others.)						

140th M.S.F. M.M.S. 282, 287, 173 and 269 will form Part 140th M.S.F. at Harwich.  
(2) C. in C. Nore's 301106 December, refers.  
(D.M.S. 071606A to F.O.I.C. Harwich.)

M.S.F.18 Programme tomorrow Monday. Sail from Small Downs 0500A.  
(1) Conduct LL/SA E.G.M.S. of following:  
(a) N.F.8 to H.K.2 buoys. 5 cables either side of centre line.  
(b) H.K.2 to H.K.4 buoys. 1 mile either side of centre line.  
(2) C. in C. Nore to be kept informed of intentions and progress  
(3) Return to Small Downs for the night passing N.F.3 buoy not later than 2000. Acknowledge.  
(C. in C. Nore, 071820A to M.S.F.18.)

Midget U-boat towed under by LADY BRASSY<sup>E</sup>  
My 061859A.  
Wreck not raised today due to difficult in passing slings.  
(V.A. Dover, 071936A to Admty.)

Operations

Channel

Mine-sweeping report 31st M.S.F. Oropesa clearance Q.Z.X.1450 and Q.Z.X.1451 continued negative result.  
168th M.S.F. Oropesa clearance of area to westward of Q.Z.H.477 negative.  
119th M.S.F. Q.Z.S. 600.  
104th M.S.F. A.2 buoy to H.V. three and H.V. one buoy.

Belated report of ground mine (red magnetic) detonated in position 42° 26' 24" N. 00° 11' 10" W. on December 29th, 1944.  
(Cdr. M/S le Havre 070948 to C.T.F.125.)

Patrols Night patrol 7th/8th as in my 051135A. Important convoy from Portland to Cherbourg arrives H.2 1900, 7th January. Cover from H.2 to Cherbourg.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 071207A to S.O.E.G.30.)

/On...



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SundayHOME COMMANDSOperationsChannelPatrols.  
(Contd.)

On completion of my 062115, patrol route E. from 02° 20' W. to H.2 buoy. Be at west end of patrol at 0700 8th January.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 071213A to L'AVENTURE, LA DECOUVERTE.)  
On completion of my 071141A take day patrol as in my 062116A be at North end of patrol at 1500.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 072245A to S.O.E.G.10.)

M.S.F.14

Pass Gate with available ships of 14th M.S.F. at 0900 tomorrow, Monday and carry out search at a depth of 20 fathoms in double H formation of routes E. and W. between D 3 buoy and Western ends and between Start Point and Eastern limit of the Command.  
(2) Begin search at D.3 buoy.  
(3) All ships are to use Asdics and one ship is not to sweep.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 071627 to M.S.F.14.)

Channel  
Escort  
Groups

I fully appreciate the difficulties put forward in your 051853 but since the number of groups to be allocated to a command by Admiralty decision must depend on the fluctuating U-boat situation it is not possible to allocate a permanent pool of groups to any one command.  
(2) Allocation of individual groups to various commands is necessarily governed by the availability of particular groups when relief is required. If support groups are to be used in the most economical way it cannot be guaranteed that the relieving group has had experience in a particular area.  
(3) At the present time thirteen groups out of eighteen have had Channel experience and since it is a practical impossibility to confine Channel experience to a few it seems best to give the experience to all.  
(4) Meanwhile all groups are given special training in anti-U-boat warfare in shallow water and against bottomed submarines.  
(C. in C. W.A., 071743A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Use of  
L.S.Ts.  
for  
personnel  
conveyance

The limitation of personnel lift on L.S.Ts. proposed in C. in C. Portsmouth cable number 302142A of 30.12.44 would seriously affect the build up of personnel on the Continent. It is urgently recommended that L.S.Ts. continue to be used for the full personnel lift and that adequate escort vessels be provided to ensure maximum protection for convoys. Reduction in personnel lift on L.S.Ts. could be made only by the additional use of L.S.Is. which now are unavailable and indications are that several now in use are to be withdrawn within the near future.  
(E.T.O.U.S.A. 071843A to A.N.C.X.F.)



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SundayHOME COMMANDSOperationsWest Coast FranceMine  
clearance  
of  
Bayonne.Concur para. 1 your 051455.  
(D.M.S. 070124A to A.N.C.X.F.)OperationsWestern Approaches

Patrols

U.S.S. BROUGH attacked contact in 49.49 N.  
09.14 W. from 1750A to 1840A and then rejoined  
convoy. Underwater explosion and oil slick  
observed. Close this position and establish  
Gamma search on assumption that U-boat is  
making for the Channel.

(C. in C.W.A. 070108A to S.O.E.G.5.)

My 061057. On detaching from H.X.328 2nd E.G. is to  
patrol area between:

- {a} 51° 18' N. 05° 00' W.
- {b} 52° 26' N. 05° 00' W.
- {c} 51° 57' N. 06° 52' W.

Attention is called to Q.Z.X.293.

(C. in C.W.A. 071152A to S.O.E.G.2.)

If not in contact by 0001 8th whole 15th E.G. proceed to  
Falmouth for fuel and about 24 hours rest. Your 070950 refers.  
(C. in C.W.A. 071417A to S.O.E.G.15.)Deep  
anti-U-boat  
mining in  
Western  
Approaches.Your 251201 December and A.M. 050002, supply of  
mines is being arranged at Milford Haven in units  
of 50. All mines fitted to take up depth 30 feet  
from bottom.(2) It is suggested that mines be laid as  
follows.References are to sub-headings in your 251201  
December:-

- (1) and (2) Ten lines each consisting of 50 mines laid across  
each convoy route at an angle of 40°, to direction of route.
- (3) Four lines each consisting of 100 mines laid at an angle  
of 40° to line joining positions proposed by you.
- (4) and (5) To be considered later.
- {3} Mines spaced at 200 feet in all cases.
- {4} F.O.I.C. Milford Haven pass to APOLLO on return.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 071851 to C. in C.W.A.)

OperationsNorwayOperation  
"Spellbinder".My 241036 and my 041104. D-day is to be  
Tuesday 9th January.(C. in C.H.F. 071216A to Admty., C.S.1, R.A.(D)  
H.F., A.C.O.S., C. in C. Rosyth, 18 Group,  
C.C. H.Q.C.C., F.O.S.M.H.F., BELLONA, NORFOLK,  
APOLLO, DIDO, PREMIER, TRUMPETER.)

/Operations...



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7.1.1945  
SundayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSNorway - Contd.

Operations "S.C." "Ramose Precipice". VIGRA returned Lerwick at 1130A/7th January.  
(2) Operation successful.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 071229A to A.C.O.S.)  
"Ramose Audacity".

(1) HITRA returned Lerwick at 1608A/7th January.  
(2) Operation successful.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 071635A to A.C.O.S.)  
(1) Intend to sail S.C. operation from Shetlanda, 2100A 8th January from Lerwick.  
(2) 053° from Muckle Flugga to 62° 30' N. 03° 30' E. thence 098° 13 knots.  
(3) 1900A 9th January.  
(4) Between 1930A 9th January and 0600A 10th January.  
(5) 243° to Muckle Flugga 15 knots.  
(6) p.m. 10th January.  
(7) 063° Muckle Flugga.  
(8) No.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 071832A to A.C.O.S.)

Operation "V.P.75" V.P. 75. M.T.Bs. 722 and 709 returned at 1601A today 7th January.  
(2) Attacked southbound convoy of three ships in Stavfjord at 2001/6th January. One merchant ship (approximately 9000 tons) hit with two torpedoes and seen to break in two and sink. A second Merchant ship (5000 tons) hit with one torpedo. Last seen down by head. Convoy escorted by one "M" Class minesweeper, one destroyer (probably "Narvik" Class) and one other ship. 6 - pounder hits were seen on "M" Class minesweeper.  
(3) No casualties or damage to M.T.Bs. other than that caused by returning through gale force 8.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 071656A to A.C.O.S.)

Patrols Times all Zone A. Submarine positions 0800 8th and movements for subsequent 24 hours.  
(a) UTSIRA 64° 30' N. 05° 13' E. course 090° advance 130 miles in 24 hours to patrol off Fro Havet.  
(b) SEANYMPH on patrol as in A.M. 062052.  
(C. of W., 071955A to A.I.G. 25.)

Operations  
Northern Waters

Patrols Parted company ST. MAGNUS 0830Z off Fair Island. Complying your 062102A.  
(S.O.E.G. 25, 070900Z to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
My 062102A. Convoy about 1½ hours late. When met support as far south as 28 buoy thence establish Gamma as in my 051007.  
(2) Attention is called to general signal instructions article 156.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 071006A to S.O.E.G.25.)  
Report of situation at 2101A 7th January.  
U.R.149 NORTHERN FOAM. All the following positions are north and west unless otherwise indicated.

/62°...



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SundayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorthern WatersPatrols  
(Contd.)

62° 53' 20° 43' bound Reykjavik 7½ knots.  
WINDERMERE, FARSUND patrol vicinity 64° 14' 23° 07'  
and OXSLIP, HONESUCKLE patrolling vicinity 63°  
21' 22° 45' joining UR 149.  
(A.C.I.C. 071320A to Admty., C. in C.W.A.,  
A.C.O.S., C. in C.H.F.)

Convoy  
J.W.63

(1) White Sea portion of J.W.63 proceeded M.X.  
1230A 7th with Russian escort. Speed 9 knots.  
S.B.N.O. Archangel 041000A refers.  
(2) Owing to visibility conditions am uncertain  
if all ships have arrived Kola. Further  
signal will be made.  
(3) Admiralty pass to M. of W.T.  
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 072257A to Admty., C. in C. W.A., C. in C.  
Rosyth, A.C.O.S., A.C.I.C., M. of W.T. Hd. of British Naval  
Mission Moscow, F.O.S.M., F.O.I.C. Greenock, S.B.N.O. Archangel,  
F.O.I.C. N.I.)

Enemy IntelligenceGerman  
cruiser  
in Great  
Belt.

Report graded B.2 states German cruiser passed  
northbound through Great Belt on 4th January.  
Comment: Probably NURNBERG. Since EMDEN  
has not been reported in Oslo Fjord for some time,  
it is possible that she has returned to the East  
Baltic and NURNBERG is replacing her in Oslo  
Fjord. LEIPSIG is known to be defective from  
collision damage.  
(D.D.I.C. 071154A to General.)

NavigationalNorth  
Goodwin  
L.V.

Your 061714A.  
Concur in this position as the best compromise.  
(V.A. Dover 071217A to Admty.)

Casualties and DefectsLoss of  
SS. ASHBURY  
with all  
hands.

Unmanageable, require tug to stand by, urgently.  
Drifting towards shore. Position 20 miles  
West Dunnett Head. Am drifting quickly practi-  
cally on shore. Is any help being sent.  
(ASHBURY, 072200Z to General.)  
Steamship ASHBURY and Trawlers CELIA and HORTEN\$  
not located ST. THERESE searching. Ships last  
sighted hove to a.m. today Whiten Head. Does Radar plot give  
their position. THETFORD MINES in company, ~~EGSMOOR~~ CASTLE  
and RISOR 7 miles North 33 Buoy. ~~OGMORE~~  
(S.O.E.G.25 072330A to C. in C. Rosyth.)



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SundayHOME COMMANDSMovements

CHARLESTOWN and CHESTERFIELD, destroyers. My 271447A Dec. 1944. CHARLESTOWN will now be reduced to Category C. by 14th January. She could, therefore, be laid up on mud berth at the same time as CHESTERFIELD. (C. in C. Rosyth 071009A to S.O.R.F.)

DEERSOUND, PERSIMMON, SILVIO, L.S.I.(L)s, and PRINS ALBERT, L.S.I.(S) Intend sailing Capt. D. 26 (S.O.) in SAUMAREZ and VIRAGO escorting DEERSOUND, PERSIMMON, SILVIO and PRINS ALBERT passing Clyde Boom 1500A 8th January. By Standard Irish Sea route rendezvousing with VIGILANT in position (H) on Route (B) at 1100A 9th Jan. thence in accordance with A.M. 051132 Jan. Speed of Advance to R/V 13½ knots thence at best speed to Gibraltar. E.T.A. daylight 14th January.  
(2) N.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail VIGILANT to comply.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 071138A to Admty., C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Milford, F.O.G.M.A.)

EASTWAY, L.S.D. FANCY, SEABEAR, minesweepers Programme for EASTWAY. A.M. 291258 December and F.O.I.C. Tyne's 061037, neither to all, refer.  
(2) F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail EASTWAY to arrive Tyne on 15th January. FANCY and SEABEAR will be available as an escort on completion of working up at Tobermory.  
(3) F.O.I.C. Tyne is requested to sail EASTWAY, embarked with L.C.T.(R) 419 and 458 for Gibraltar on 16th January escorted by FANCY and SEABEAR. Route southabout.  
(4) Further signal will be made regarding EASTWAY's return to U.K.  
(5) FANCY and SEABEAR are for onward routeing to Mediterranean Fleet.  
(D.O.D.(H) 071454A to F.O.I.Cs. Greenock, Tyne, F.O.G.M.A.)

A.F.D.20 Tug ENVOY joined A.F.D.20 at 1200A 7th. In view of improving weather ENVOY standing by to assist if necessary. DESTINY towing on 320 fathoms on winch and cannot reduce length of wire with safety. ENVOY can tow only on 240 fathoms rope and wire. My P.C.S. at 1200A 7th 43° 40' N. 11° 26' W. 213° 5½ knots.  
(SAPPER, 071512A to C. in C.W.A.)



War Diary.

7.1.1945.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

SANDY CREEK  
(tanker.)

Parted company SANDY CREEK 0030Z in position 34.38 N. 07.24 W. My course 288° 20 knots suitable. Your 062217A acknowledged. (MALCOLM 070500Z to F.O.G.M.A., Info. Admty. C.F.A.W. 15, Commorseafon, C. in C. Med.)

E.G. 41.

Intend sailing S.O.E.G. 41 in DELPHINIUM with STONECROP and ALISMA for U.K. at 1800A/7th Jan. (route). (3) S.O.A. 12 knots. (5) E.T.A. position D 1300A/9th. (6) A.M. 300130\* not to all. (F.O.G.M.A. 071120A and 071830A to C. in C.W.A.) \* On arrival of 55th and 57th E.Gs. at Gibraltar request nominate 2 escort groups from 38th and 41st E.Gs. to return U.K. for A/S reinforcement urgently required.

Whilst on passage carry out line abreast A/S search along your route until lat. of 39 N. without alteration to your S.O.A. My 071120 refers.

(F.O.G.M.A. 071212A to E.G. 41, (R) Admty. C. in C. Med., C.M.S.F.)

Submarine  
TALLY HO.

Arrived H.M. submarine TALLY HO from Malta, arrived with C.G. 137, departed escorting G.C. 106 F.S. L'EMPORTE, LE RUSE. (F.O.G.M.A. 071846A to Admty.)

South Atlantic.

KILCHATTAN.

KILCHATTAN, KILDARY in company. (a) P.C.S. at 0200/8 036° 10' N. 015° 22' W. 041° 12 knots. (b) E.T.A. Casablanca 0700/10th Jan. (KILCHATTAN 071945Z to F.O.G.M.A.)



War Diary.7.1.1945.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanMinefields  
Black Sea.

My 221401. Reference para. 2 additional information on areas dangerous to navigation has been received. Western portion of Black Sea.

(A) Along the Bulgarian and Roumanian coasts to the west of a line running through points, etc.

(B) On approaches to the port of Odessa to the north and north-west of a line running through point, etc.

(C) Separate minefields on the passage Bosphorus-Odessa -

(1) Field of a circle described by radius of five miles with a centre 'K' at point lat. 44.51, long. 31.11, etc.

(2) Field "LMNO" the boundaries of which run through points.

(D) Along the west and south coasts of the Crimea Peninsula to the east and north of a line running through points, etc.

Soviet Naval Staff state that minesweeping is proceeding and that details of areas cleared will be furnished.

(3) Reference para. (6). Soviet Naval Staff state that it is not practicable at present time to substitute a lightship for this buoy owing to lack of equipment but that a gunboat will be sent to this point. Gunboat will carry a white revolving light with a visibility of 8 miles. They have also agreed to establish a light on Tendra Island in a position latitude 46.14.7 N., long. 31.39.7 E. Characteristics - white revolving all round light visible 12 miles in addition to setting up a radio beacon on Tendra Island position and characteristic to be furnished later.

(4) A considerable amount of navigational data for the Black Sea and routes to be followed when proceeding to Black Sea ports other than Odessa has also been furnished and is being forwarded to all addressees by letter. U.S. Naval Mission has given Washington and Commander 8th Fleet extracts of Black Sea routes and navigational aids by signal and is forwarding complete data to Washington by mail.

(5) I am informed by American Mission Moscow that the first U.S. ships are now expected to arrive Bosphorus before about 20 Feb. (Admiral Archer, 071025A.)  
See 151641A.Black Sea,  
Mines.

Today Chief of Turkish Naval Staff stated that during last gale 30 mines came ashore in Northern Bosphorus approaches. S.O.(I) Istanbul's 271128 not to all refers.

He asked if action could be taken to persuade Russia to clear minefields in north and north-west Black Sea.

(2) He also stated that majority of large type of mines washed up on Turkish Black Sea coast are of shipped type.

C. in C. Med. pass to C.O.I.S. F.O.L.E.M. pass to S.O.(I) E.M.

S.O.(I) Istanbul pass to Black Sea.

(B.N.A. Ankara, 071201C to Admty.)

Routeing  
of ships.

Request ships bound for Mideast ports other than Haifa for discharge be sailed to Alexandria for orders. It is to be noted that this does not affect ships bound through the Suez Canal which should continue to be routed to Port Said.

(C. in C. Med., 071607A)

See 101701A from Admty.



7.1.1945

Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation (1) Adriatic. Search party has returned from  
Report Mulat Island. Number 528 para. 1 refers.  
No.529. 3 bodies found including that of C.O. Fore part  
H.D.M.L.1163 still afloat and anchored. Weather  
(at present) too rough to board.  
(2) Greece. (A) Volo. E.L.A.S. refuse to release  
2,000 Italian prisoners of War.  
(B) Piraeus. E.L.A.S. are retreating Northward and fighting has  
ceased in Athens/Piraeus area. Large stores arms, ammunition  
and food discovered.  
(C) Spetsai. Island capture. No. 528 para.2(E) refers.  
(C. in C. Med. 071910 Admtty etc.)

*No trace. This signal  
(page 119), only goes as  
far as 2(d).*



7.1.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

S/M THULE. THULE 2nd Far East Patrol. 16th Dec. successfully laid 12 mines. Between 17th and 24th Dec. in vicinity Langkawi in between Pulo Penang and Dindings, sank by gunfire and ramming total of 19 junks or native craft totalling 240 tons, all laden and northbound. 76 survivors rescued, 2 died, 54 transferred to small craft, 20 retained for interrogation. 28th Dec. at 0914 FG, position 005° 50' N. 100° 04½' E. Fired stern salvo 3 torpedoes fitted C.C.R. Pistol set to 8 feet at R.O. 100 class Jap. U-Boat escorted by one seaplane, course 135° speed (9?) knots. One hit observed amidships, Jap. U-Boat claimed sunk. 29th Dec. west of Langkawi sank 20 ton junk by ramming. 31st Dec. at 1430 FG in position 004° 53' N. 100° 08' E. counter-attack by one submarine chaser 2 pattern total of 7 charges dropped fairly close, after which chaser gave up and returned Penang. Minor damage only.  
(C. in C. E.I.S. 070201Z to Admty. Info. Capt. S/M 2, Capt. S/M 4, Capt. S/M 8.)

U/B dis- Areas V.P. 1 and 2 and C.B. 2. No fresh information. Scale remains X.5, all other areas scale W.5.  
(C. in C. E.I. Station 070259Z to Ships and Authorities E.I. Station.)

5th Cruiser Squadron. All cruisers belonging to the East Indies Fleet will form 5th C.S. from Monday 8th Jan. and R.A. A.D. Read C.B. is being appointed R.A.C. 5th C.S. from that date. Ships forming the squadron are: NEWCASTLE, LONDON, CUMBERLAND, SUFFOLK, NIGERIA, KENYA, PHOEBE, EURYALUS, TROMP (D.S.) Titles of Force 61 and F.O. Force 61 will in future be for local operational use only. Correspondence and signals are to be addressed accordingly.  
(C. in C. East Indies Station 070854Z to East Indies Station (255C), (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A. A.C.N.B. Melbourne, CUMBERLAND, TROMP D.S.)



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7.1.1945  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies.

U-Boat report. CHARLOTTETOWN reports enemy submarine transmitting a naval enigma signal on 5650 kc/s at 0048Z/3rd Class bearing 085 reciprocal 281. Position 4353 N. 64.11 W.

(S.O.E.G.16, 070105Z to N.S.H.Q., Info. C. in C.C. N.A., C.T.G.22.10, C.T.G.22.9, E.G.27).

U-Boat transmitting enigma message between 0006 and 0117 on 6280, 5715, 5650, 3800. Unheard by control fixed within 60 miles of 45.00 N. 44.00 W. Continue to guard area frequencies. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 070126Z to Ships Escorting S.C.164, etc.).

U-Boat Dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 071418Z and Cominch, 071534).

POLARLAND and NIPIWAN PARK. First report since Cominch 052019\* Para.D. 052017Z aircraft Radar contact 41.10 N. 53.15 W. 1410Z/6 Dutch M/V. TIBA fired on periscope sighted 33.55 N. 58.50 W., convoy escorts subsequently attacked doubtful sound contact same area. Admiralty give to H.Q.C.C: for info. (Cominch, 071615Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)\*POLARLAND and NIPIWAN PARK torpedoed and former sunk.

E.G.16. E.T.A. Sambro Light vessel 1001Z/8, my P.C. and S. at 2200Z/7th Jan. 43.52 N. 64.11 W. 050° 10.5 knots. Defects SPRINGHILL Hedgehog?, 2 D/C throwers, 16 B 45 volts batteries urgently required. H.P. bottom ends. KIRKLAND LAKE safety valves, two feed pumps, one bulkhead stop valve. STETTLER split in deck, Q attachment, meridian log. CHARLOTTETOWN port engine throttle, auxiliary feed pump, two cracked deck plates, whaler davit, C.C.M. defective, all signal projectors Radar. ANTIGONISH, signal projectors, T.B.S. Suggest SPRINGHILL, KIRKLAND LAKE, CHARLOTTETOWN be berthed under crane to remove? gear damaged by weather. Add to STETTLER's defects T.B.S. Weather report 1957 2224. (S.O.E.G.16, 072221Z to C. in C.C.N.A. etc.).

S/M. attack and sighting summary. N.S.H.Q. Para. (D). Penvfield Training A/C.886 sights partly submerged submarine 45° 03' N. 66° 25' W. 1330Z/7th. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 072357Z to Admty., Cominch).

Australia and New Zealand

U.S. Pacific Fleet. Disposition of U.S. Pacific Fleet to which changes referred to in A.M. 031830 Jan. are not held here. Request current dispositions may be signalled in full. (C. in C.B.P.F., 070125 to D.N.I.).

/Digest...



7.1.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

Digest This Digest covering Jan. 6th bears serial  
1082 number 1082.  
Extract. (2) Another Leyte based Liberator saw 15 ship  
convoy comprising one aircraft carrier, one  
cruiser (3) (?with) 7 escort vessels and other  
merchant ships, 45 miles south east Amoy, course north east at  
12 knots midday.  
(3) Third patrol Liberator sighted one large warship probably  
cruiser two destroyers, two tankers, four transports, 15  
unidentified vessels, plus numerous small craft anchored Cap  
Saint Jacques shortly after noon, having earlier seen only two  
small ships underway in Comrah Bay.  
(5) During twenty hours ended dusk, allied naval surface forces  
off west coast Luzon between Lingayan Gulf and Manila subjected  
to intense and strongly pressed enemy air attacks, involving  
many suicide dive bombers: details not yet available, but damage  
suffered.  
(10) Night 4th January P.T. boats sank 4 enemy barges off East  
Coast Cebu.  
(13) Night 5th Jan. P.T. boats sank one enemy barge loaded with  
ammunition and personnel, heading south along west coast of Rau  
Island off south western Morotai.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 071117Z to Admty. etc.).

Signal It is under consideration to discontinue the  
series. series of signals of which A.M. 271832 Dec. was  
the last.  
(2) This series was always of limited value and  
more detailed information will now no doubt be  
available to C. in C. British Pacific Fleet.  
(3) Request your remarks.  
(Hd. of M. Approved A.C.N.S.(F), 072015A to C. in C.B.P.F.,  
C. in C.E.I.). Reply: 112215Z Jan. 45.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M. attack For 24 hours to 0900Z/7th Jan.  
and sighting Para.C. Aircraft sighted P/S at 0456Z/5th Jan. in  
summary. lat 08° 20' N. long. 75° 50' E.  
A.M. 061031A para.B. Contacts attacked by H.M.C.S.  
GLACE BAY and by E.G.25 now classified non-submarine.  
(D.D.I.C., 070855Z to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.).

U-Boat Estimates.  
dispositions. (D.D.I.C., 071429A and 071431A).



8.1.1945  
Monday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

1. Bad weather prevailed throughout the commands.
- North Sea. 2.(a) Port of Ostend was closed due to weather.  
(b) At Dover the midget U-Boat towed under by LADY BRASSEY has now been salvaged.
- Channel. 3. One ground mine was detonated off Le Havre.
- Norway. 4.(a) M.T.Bs. 712 and 716 have returned from Operation "V.P. 77" in Bommelfjord, during which a 2000 ton merchantman was hit by torpedo and may have had her stern blown off, and several 6 pdr. hits were scored on her escort. More trouble was experienced from weather on the return journey than from enemy gunfire.  
(b) The sailing of Norwegian M.F.Vs. for North Russia has had to be postponed due to the gale.

Foreign Stations.

North Atlantic.

- Shipping Casualty. 5. HENRY MILLER torpedoed in convoy G.U.S. 63 on the 3rd has arrived at Gibraltar.

Mediterranean.

- Riviera. 6. WOOLSEY (U.S.S.) and LOOKOUT have effectively bombarded enemy positions near Massa in Gulf of Magra.
- Adriatic. 7. At Split partisan attitude reported stiffened so ~~POLEY~~ will be asked to leave.
- Greece. 8.(a) LA MALOUINE reports that islands of Skopelos and Skyros were quiet, the latter being free of E.L.A.S. forces, but that Kymi (on the adjacent mainland) was said to be an E.L.A.S. stronghold.  
(b) CALEDON reports that at Kavalla number of E.L.A.S. troops much reduced. Improvement in weather increased. Caique movements.

/(c)...



War Diary.

8.1.1945  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean.

Greece.  
(Contd.)

8.(c) In Athens and Piraeus clearing operations continue without incident. Outside Athens mobile columns have occupied Keratel, Laviron and Porto Rafti.

(d) Situation at Patras is still very tense. Six caiques reported to have arrived Piscopi with German reinforcements from Rhodes, but air and sea search shows no sign of them.

East Indies.

5th C.S.

9. All cruisers belonging to East Indies Fleet will form 5th C.S. from today and R.A. A.D. Read C.B. is appointed R.A.C. 5th C.S. from today. Ships forming squadron are NEWCASTLE, LONDON, CUMBERLAND, SUFFOLK, NIGERIA, KENYA, PHOEBE, EURYALUS, TROMP D.S.

America & West Indies.

JOHN BURKE,  
HOBART BAKER.

10. Reported today from Cominch the American SS. JOHN BURKE, 7180 tons, and HOBART BAKER, 7176 tons were lost through enemy action off Mindoro on the 27th and 31st December respectively.

Australia & New Zealand.

Indo China.

11. Planes searching Western shores of S. China Sea at noon today observed one large warship, seven destroyers and 15 merchant ships anchored off Cap Saint Jacques.

Borneo.

12. Plane attacked docks and warehouses Brunei causing damage also strafed 2 luggers there.



8.1.1945  
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

Philippines. 13. Allied battleship cruiser task group continued bombardment Lingayan Gulf coastal defences throughout day immobilising numerous known gun emplacements and destroying dumps. No details yet received concerning enemy air scale of effort against bombardment forces.



War Diary.

8.1.1945.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea.

Ostend  
weather-  
bound.

Port of Ostend closed owing to weather T.A.P.7,  
T.A.C.99, T.A.L.89 and Ostend Section of T.A.M.42  
being instructed to return to Downs for shelter.  
(N.O.I.C. Ostend, 080847A to C. in C. Nore).

M.S.A.Gs.  
182 and 183.

If 182nd and 183rd M/S. Auxiliary groups are not  
required for other service they could be based at  
Terneuzen for mine recovery operations in Schelde  
and Approaches.

- (2) Bad weather, strong tides and silting would probably make  
detection and recovery of mines difficult.
- (3) If however Admiralty concur propose C. in C. Portsmouth sail  
these groups when ships are ready.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 081145A to Admty., C. in C. Portsmouth).

Situation  
Report.

Cositintrep No.279 Part 4.  
Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 071600A  
January.  
British:

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores bulk</u> <u>(Incl. coal)</u>	<u>Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
Antwerp	24	304	10258	7232	1520
Ostend	1521	97	2239	-	648
Boulogne	60	47	196	-	-
Dieppe	15	-	2016	-	-
Caen	-	-	597	-	-
Calais	111	2	33	-	-
Ghent	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1731</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>15339</b>	<b>7232</b>	<b>2168</b>
<u>U.S. North:</u>					
Antwerp	-	-	12300	-	-
Cherbourg	-	-	8280	-	2802
Le Havre	3343	742	8009	184	2781
Rouen	1312	531	1435	2769	46
Granville	-	-	2009	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>4655</b>	<b>1273</b>	<b>32033</b>	<b>2953</b>	<b>5619</b>
<u>U.S. South:</u>					
Marseilles	11	59	15904	-	6118
Port de Bouc	-	-	1225	4651	-
Toulon	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>17129</b>	<b>4651</b>	<b>6118</b>

Note: Amend Antwerp (U.S.) Stores discharged 6th January to  
13681.  
(S.H.A.E.F., 081345A to Admiralty etc.).

Patrols.

Nore and Dover patrols tonight 8th/9th January.  
(1) TORRINGTON, THORNBOROUGH, SEYMOUR, SOUTHDOWN  
and RETALICK anchored in Small Downs.

- (2) No coastal force patrol.
- (3) Anchored group of M/S. at Kwinte Bank.  
(V.A. Dover, 081555A to Admiralty).

/ Nore...



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Monday.

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea.

Patrols (Contd.) Nore Night Dispositions 8th - 9th January.  
Humber Force (Group 1) Patrol ALPHABET, CAICOS.  
(Group 2) Harbour MIDDLETON.  
Harwich Force (Group 3) Patrols cancelled owing to weather. MACKAY, EKINS, RIOU. (Group 4) Harbour COTSWOLD, FARNBOROUGH, TORRINGTON, SLAZAK, SOUTHDOWN, SEYMOUR, THORNBOROUGH, RETALICK, CURZON, RUTHERFORD, STAYNER, MALLARD, PUFFIN, GUILLE-  
SHELDRAKE MONT, SHEARWATER, SHELDRAKE, WIGEON, CUBITT.  
SEYMOUR, THORNBOROUGH, TORRINGTON, RETALICK and SOUTHDOWN are anchored in Downs.  
At Yarmouth, EGLINTON, CATTISTOCK.  
Sheerness Force (Group 5) T.A.P.8, VANQUISHER, T.A.M.43 BLEAS-DALE, HOLDERNESS, A.T.M.32 LA COMBATTANTE, PYTCHLEY.  
(Group 6) Harbour COWDRAY, VIMY, VIVACIOUS, BLENCATHRA, HAYDON, COSBY, ARMERIA, LOOSESTRIFE, BADDECK, HEATHER, SUNFLOWER.  
At Southend MENDIP.  
(C. in C. Nore, 081600A to Admiralty).

Midget My 071936A. Craft lifted and beached on p.m.  
U-Boat high water today.  
towed (V.A. Dover, 082130A to Admiralty).  
under by  
LADY  
BRASSEY.

Operations

Channel.

E.G.9. Expected time of arrival 1500 Monday.  
(S.O.E.G.9, 080445A to C. in C. Plymouth).

Minesweeping report. Sitrep: 31st M.S.F. Oropesa clearance of Q.Z.X. 1450, 168th M.S.F. Q.Z.S.588, 159th T.G. Q.Z.S. 647, 538, 119th M.S.F. A.2 buoy to H.V. 3 and Q.Z.S.665, 104th M.S.F. H.V.3 to H.D.1 B.U.C.Q. One ground mine detonated in position  
49° 34' 12" N. 0° 2' 48" W.  
(Com. S. le Havre, 080941 to C.T.F.125).

F.O.I.C. Vice Admiral Sir F. Thomas B. Tower has assumed  
Southampton. duties as F.O.I.C. Southampton in succession to Vice Admiral Sir James M. Pison p.m. 8th Jan.  
(F.O.I.C. Southampton, 081451A to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Patrol. Night patrol 8th/9th Jan. On completion of my  
081000. Take up night patrol as in 051135A.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 081535A to S.O.E.G.30).

Operations

Western Approaches

E.G.15 Your 071417A LOUIS, NARBOROUGH, INGLIS and  
/LAWSON...



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Monday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsWestern Approaches .E.G.15  
(Contd.)

LAWSON arrived.  
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 080940A to C. in C.W.A.).  
Request you will sail 15th E.G. to R/V. with special convoy in 49° 12' N. 12° 00' W. at 2100A 9th and escort it until relieved by Plymouth escorts in vicinity Scillies. Convoy at present unescorted consists of DURBAN, NEW ZEALAND STAR, TELEMACHUS, JAVANESE PRINCE, routed through (C) 49° 30' N. 9° 00' W. to Falmouth 13½ knots.  
(C. in C.W.A., 081302A to F.O.I.C. Falmouth).

Patrol.

Establish Gamma patrol between 57° 00' N. 08° 45' W. and 57° 06' N. 09° 20' W. U-Boats may be bound S.S.W.  
(C. in C.W.A., 081324A to S.O.E.G.31).  
Your 081324A. E.T.A. eastern end of Gamma 2300A/8th.  
My P.C.S. 56° 10' N. 07° 52' W. 329° 7 knots.  
Weather 3678 1088. Hail. Unsuitable.  
(S.O.E.G.31, 081447A to C. in C.W.A.).

E.Gs.  
26,30.

On completion of training 9th January T.C. Larne is requested to sail 26th E.G. at best speed to Lands End thence as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth.  
(2) On relief by 26th E.G. request 30th E.G. may be sailed to Londonderry to lay over.  
(C. in C.W.A., 081633A to T.C. Larne).

E.G.22.

On completion of training 9th Jan. request you will sail 22nd E.G. to fuel at Bangor or Moville as convenient, thence to carry out operation C.E.2 in N.W. Approaches. Patrol orders will be signalled. Force 33 at present consists of 31st E.G. on joining S.O.22nd E.G. becomes S.O. Force 33.  
(C. in C.W.A., 081635A to T.C. Larne).

OperationsNorway.Operation  
V.P.77.

V.P.77. M.T.B.712 and M.T.B.716 arrived 0405A today 8th January.  
(2) At 0250A 7th January attacked one merchant ship and one escort vessel southbound in Bommelfjord. One torpedo hit seen abaft funnel on 2000 ton merchant ship whose stern was thought to have been blown off. Several six-pounder hits seen on escort vessel. Return fire opened from escort vessel from Titelsnaes Battery and from a position near Nappen. The latter probably a patrol boat.  
(3) No damage or casualties to M.T.Bs. Extremely bad weather experienced on return journey.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 080527A to A.C.O.S.).

/Aerial...



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Monday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorway.

- Aerial attack off Korsfiord. 1 Landing craft, 1 escort vessel, 1 submarine submerged position 60° 05' N. 5° 33' E. stationary. Have attacked enemy. (A/C, JGU90, 081444 to 18 Group).
- Operation S.C. Ramose Revoke 3 postponed E.T. now 2100A/9th Jan. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 081507A to A.C.O.S.).
- Operation "Winded" Intend the following operation against enemy shipping on Norwegian coast.  
(2) Force 1 consisting BERWICK, NAIRANA, CAMPANIA, PREMIER and six destroyers detailed by Cmdre. (D) sail from Scapa p.m. D-day to carry out night air sweep of communications route between Sildegabet and Bredsund by Swordfish from NAIRANA and CAMPANIA on night D plus one/D plus 2. PREMIER will provide fighter cover at first light on D plus 2.  
(3) If after sailing weather proves unfavourable the operation may be postponed 24 hours. Force may proceed into Sullom Voe to wait if desired.  
(4) BERWICK is requested to plan operation. NAIRANA is to prepare the air plan.  
(5) Codeword and D day follows.  
(C. in C.H.F., 081815A to BERWICK, PREMIER, NAIRANA, CAMPANIA, R.A.D.H.F.).  
My 081815. D day Saturday 27th January.  
(C. in C.H.F., 082001A to as above).  
My 081815. Codeword "Winded".  
(C. in C.H.F., 082005A to as above).
- Operation "Charlton" Intend the following operation:-  
Force four consisting DIDO, PREMIER, TRUMPETER and 6 destroyers detailed by R.A.(D) H.F. sail from Scapa p.m. D day to carry out mining strikes on Norwegian coast with aircraft from PREMIER and TRUMPETER.  
(2) Mining objectives are:-  
(a) Lepsoyrev 62° 35.7' N. 06° 16' E. Harhamsfiord 62° 38.7' N. 06° 09.4' E.  
(b) Skatestrommen 61° 52.5' N. 05° 13' E. Aaramsund 62° 12.1' N. 05° 29.7' E.  
(3) DIDO is requested to plan the operation. PREMIER is to prepare the air plan.  
(4) Following outline of plan should be followed:-  
D plus one strike A, D plus two strike B.  
If only one strike is possible owing to weather preference to be given to strike A.  
(5) If after sailing weather proves unfavourable the operation may be postponed 24 hours. Force may proceed into Sullom Voe if desired.  
(6) Codeword and D day follows.  
(C. in C.H.F., 082101A to DIDO, PREMIER, TRUMPETER, R.A.D.H.F.).  
My 082101. Codeword "Charlton".  
(C. in C.H.F., 082105A to as above).

082101 cancelled by 211601 page 411.

/My...



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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

Operation "Charlton" (Contd.) My 082101. D day Saturday 20th January. (C. in C.H.F., 082141A to DIDO, PREMIER, TRUMPETER, R.A.D.H.F.).

Operations "Spellbinder" and "Gratis". My 241001 and 241016. Force One will arrive off Utsire at 2000A D plus one thence sweep southward towards Lister. (2) Force 2 will start lay west of Karmo about 0001 D plus 2 and return independently on completion.

(3) Forces 1 and 3 R/V. position D.D. 60° 38' N. 02° 05' E. at 0900D plus 2.

(4) Force 3 will fly off strike about 1200D plus three in position J.J. 59° 15' N. 01° 25' E.

(5) 18 Group is requested to make following arrangements if practicable.

(a) R/C. between Stavanger and Kristiansund (S) as soon as possible after last light on D day plus one to report enemy shipping. Force 1 will keep guard on 18 Group W/T. organisation one B.

(b) Air/sea rescue aircraft to R/V Force 3 in J.J. at 1200A D plus three.

(c) In event of damage to units of Force 1 to provide any available fighter cover during withdrawal.

(d) All aircraft to show I.F.F. when in vicinity of any of above Forces.

(C. in C.H.F., 082215A to Admty., A.C.O.S., C. in C. Rosyth, 18 Group, H.Q.C.C., F.O.S/M., N.O.I.C. Lerwick, C.S.1, NORFOLK, BELLONA, APOLLO, DIDO, PREMIER, TRUMPETER, R.A.(D)H.F.).

Operations

Northern Waters.

Operation "Interim". My 061621A (which is being passed to F.O.10th C.S. by S.B.N.O. North Russia) postponed 24 hours owing to weather. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 081044A to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

Convoy J.W.63. Kola Inlet. Arrived "Greystoke" escort with ALNWICK CASTLE, BLUE RANGER and 36 merchant ships in J.W.63. My 072220 para.2 refers. (2) BEAGLE did not sail. (3) Admiralty pass to M. of W.T. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 082121A to Admty. etc.).

Casualties and Defects.

Loss of S.S. ASHBURY. Tug proceeding to your assistance. E.T.A. approx. 0300. Strathie Point Light is operating. Request you will signal your position when known. (A.S. Lyness, 080017A to ASHBURY).

/Your...



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HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects.

Loss of S.S. ASHBURY (Contd.) Your 080205 BANDIT position at 0215 000° Dunnet Head 6 miles. Direct her by radar when in contact. Lifeboats launched from Thurso at 0040 proceeding to your position. (A.C.O.S., 080245A to ST. THERESE).  
Tanker ASHBURY reported ashore at 0330A today Monday in position (tanker message) 58° 33' N. 04° 18' W. ST. THERESE and tug BANDIT standing by. Further signal will be made. (A.C.O.S., 081026 to Admty.).  
My 081026A ASHBURY now a total loss with all hands in position 58° 32.8' N. 04° 24.3 W. This has been confirmed by aircraft R/C. (A.C.O.S., 081612A to Admty.).

T.E.V.

~~S.S.~~ TAMPICO tanker. C. in C. Portsmouth pass to others who need to know. TAMPICO went aground Cherbourg breakwater while attempting to enter at 0142A. Jettisoned some gasoline to lighten ship. Reported floated at 0444A being towed to seaward to anchor for night. (Com Cortdiv 20, 080418Z to Cs. in C. Plymouth, Portsmouth).

Movements.

MAURITIUS cruiser. (1) F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to pass Admiralty 071132 and Admiralty 242014 Dec. MAURITIUS who is detailed to transport these stores.  
(2) On completion of bombardment training F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail MAURITIUS to Reykjavik to embark stores as arranged by A.C.I.C. and return to Greenock. (C. in C.H.F., 081504A to F.O.I.C. Greenock, etc.).

DEERSOUND, PERSIMMON, SILVIO, L.S.I.(L)'s and PRINS ALBERT, L.S.I.(S). Sailed Capt. (D) 26 (S.O) in SAUMAREZ and VIRAGO escorting DEERSOUND, SILVIO, PERSIMMON and PRINS ALBERT to R/V VIGILANT in accordance with A.M. 081231A Jan. Route amended to comply with above signal. Latest message held B 353 less 297, 324, 327, 346, Q.B. 457 Q.B.A. 424, Q.B.B. 455, Q.B.C. 956, Q.B.H. 902, Q.B.Y. 118 less 116.  
(2) SILVIO and PERSIMMON part company off Gibraltar and proceed in company at best speed to Port Said A.M. 311952/December refers. Remainder to Gibraltar for onward routing following messages refer A.M. 291554 December A.M. 040132 Jan. N.O.I.C. Greenock, 042334 Jan. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 081508A to F.O.I.C.Milford, F.O.G.M.A. Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

/TROUBRIDGE ...



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HOME COMMANDS

Movements - Contd.

TROUBRIDGE,  
TEAZER,  
TERMAGANT,  
TENACIOUS  
destroyers.

Your 271645 November and your 021414 Jan.  
In view of short time available between completion of refit and sailing date for making good defects revealed during trials request that date of sailing of TROUBRIDGE, TEAZER, TERMAGANT and TENACIOUS be deferred until 28th Jan.  
(Capt. D.24, 081531A to Admty.)

DACRES,  
L.S.H.(S).  
*Landing Ship HQs.*

In view of Admiralty's 051506 December and 032358A January request further information as to administrative authority of DACRES and date of change over made known.  
(R.A.L.S.C.U. 081843A to Admty.)

Cancel A.M. 032358.

(2) Items A-G of para.2 of F.O.I.C. Northern Ireland's 051826 should be taken in hand for completion with machinery defects. Subject to further instructions as regards top weight which will be forwarded.

(3) On conclusion of refit DACRES is to join Western Approaches Command for inclusion in a support group.

(D.O.D.(H), Apprd. Vice Contr. 082052A to F.O.I.C. N.I. C. in C. W.A.)

E.G.41.

F.O.G.M.A's 071120A para. 2 not to F.O.I.C. Falmouth. From position (D) 43 degs. 00' N. 09 degs. 45' W. pass through position 180 degs. Lizard 5 thence by Q.Z.S. 607 and 601 to Plymouth.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 082135A to S.O.E.G.41)



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HAIDA My 061702Z\* shall be 10 hours late. My P.C.S. at 2359Z/7 039° 10' N. 034° 38' W. (X) 098° 12. Weather report 2856 9225. (HAIDA, 080028A to S.B.N.O. Azores.) \*E.T.A. Horta 080028A.

TALLY-HO Intend to sail TALLY-HO (P.317) with M.K.S.76 destination Blyth F.O.S.M. 291727 Dec. not to all. (2) Communications 500 Kcs. and HS routine reverting to normal W/T organisation if detached. (F.O.G.M.A. 081039A to Admty., F.O. S/M)

SPIRAEA SPIRAEA is to slip and proceed at 1800A January 8th to R/V Group II (?joining) inside 100 fathom line to westward at Straits between 036° 30' N. and (?048° or 024°) N.  
(2) On SPIRAEA joining, KILMARTIN is to be detached to Gibraltar.  
(3) ENCHANTRESS is to arrange R/V with SPIRAEA. (F.O.G.M.A., 081045A to Group II, SPIRAEA.)

CAMROSE H.M.C.S. CAMROSE arriving Horta a.m. today 8th. Request onward route to U.K. N.O.B. Bermuda's 011745 refers. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 081406Z to Admty.)

C.T.G.22.8 Am conducting retiring sound search about datum U-boat 48° 45' N. 29° 12' W. based on strong H.F./D.F. search (?sound) at 1258Z. Have sufficient fuel remain in area about 30 hours only. Air search might be profitable. Weather 6771 0823. (C.T.G.22.8, 081428Z to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

Routeing On arrival at Horta request M.M.S. 1065, 1055 and of M.M.S. 1070 be onward routed to Plymouth. (2) C. in C. C.N.A's. 031620 not to all refers. (D.M.S. 081652Z to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

KILMARTIN KILMARTIN attacking contact in position (?298) U-Boat Cape Spartol 14 miles. Search (H.M.S. ENCHANTRESS, 082013A to F.O.G.M.A.) My 082013 carrying out search, false alarm suspected. (ENCHANTRESS, 082039, to F.O.G.M.A.)  
Have carried out one depth charge and one Hedgehog attack and one Hedgehog (corrupt group) depth of water 60 fathoms target has no movement and no doppler suspect non-S/M. Target appears to be on the bottom. (ENCHANTRESS, 082120 to Gibraltar.) Consider (incomplete group) to be non-submarine and am resuming patrol. (ENCHANTRESS, 082130A to Gibraltar.) KILMARTIN attacked again at 2140 with Hedgehog, 2 further explosions. (ENCHANTRESS, 082204, to F.O.G.M.A.)

/OXNA...



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Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

- OXNA Request assistance with all despatch suspect propeller gone both anchors down 2 cables off shore approx. position 23.21 S. 14.30 E. (OXNA, 080708B to N.O.I.C. Walvis Bay.)
- Routeing Capetown departure 0930Z 8th Jan. VALIANT, Instructions WYE, DOVEY for Freetown, route etc. S. of A. 12 knots, E.T.A. 1200Z 19th Jan. shift to W/T organization for area P at 2300Z 13 Jan. radio distinguishing group P.C. Q.L.A.23 (?). (C. in C.S.A. 081137A to Admty.)
- A.F.D. (1) Escorts for Admiralty Floating Dock 24 24 shifting to Med. W/T organisation at 0800Z 9th Jan.  
(2) Reference my 271852 Dec. following are amended escort arrangements north of 026° 10' N.  
(3) F.O.G.M.A. is requested to sail AIR FRANCE (1) and (4) KILCHATTEN, KILDARY from Casablanca to join F.S. CHEVREUIL and F.S. GAZELLE with Admiralty Floating Dock 24 (?on) 15th when ANNAMITE, F.S. LOBELIA and F.S. CDMT. DROGOU detach to Casablanca to fuel. ANNAMITE to be sailed to rejoin, as quickly as possible, GAZELLE (F.S.) to be S.O. during absence of ANNAMITE. CDMT. DROGOU (F.S.) as in para. 5 of my 271852.  
(4) On arrival Gibraltar, F.O.G.M.A. is requested to sail  
(a) F.S. CHEVREUIL to Toulon as quickly as possible to effect change of complements.  
(b) ANNAMITE, GAZELLE (F.S.) AIR FRANCE (1) and (4) KILCHATTEN, KILDARY to Dakar joined off Casablanca by LOBELIA (F.S.)  
(5) No air escort will be available from this command north of 026° 10' N.  
(F.O.C.W.Af., 081429Z to ANNAMITE, F.O.G.M.A.)



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

UGANDA. Sail at 1630A/8th S.O.A. 18 knots to Alex.  
(4) C. in C. Med. 081818 Dec. and F.O.L.E.M. 071151 neither to all refers.  
(V.A. Malta 081005 to UGANDA, (R) R.A. Alex. F.O.L.E.M. A.H.Q.E.M., C. in C. Med. C. in C. B.P.F., C. in C. E.I., Admty., V.A. Malta, S.N.O. Cyrenaica.)

Mine clearance Bayonne I do not require DUQUESNE and have never asked for her neither do I require at present LORRAINE and GLOIRE. What I do require are the DE DD and F.Y.M.S. lent for the operation, indefinitely postponed. Your 051455 and 061540 Jan. refer neither to all.

(2) Return of S.B.L.O. B.L.O. and F.B.O. not required but more can be made available from the station should the operation take place.

(C. in C. Med. 081310A to A.N.C.X.F., (R) F.O.G.M.A. F.O.W.M., Comnavforfrance, C.T.F. 122, Admty., Marine Paris, C.E.N.B.F. C.T.F. 125.)

Exchange of Nationals. German Government have notified further voyage of GRADISCA leaving Trieste Jan. 6th at 0800 hours for Aegean Islands. Berne telegram No. 101 to Caserta contains details of route.

(2) If route is acceptable request promulgation to air and other operational authorities concerned with view to ensuring safe passage.

(4) Request early reply to Admiralty message 021527A Jan. (not to all) in order that pressure may be brought to bear on German Government for release of British equivalents before interception of GRADISCA.

(Hd. of M. 081420A to C. in C. Med. etc.)  
See 090930A from W.O.

Reference 151756 Dec. and A.M. 161903 Dec. GRADISCA in position 45° 11' N. 13° 32' E. at 1200Z Jan. 8th is proceeding to Milos, Suda, Rhodes and finally to Leros.

(2) Ship is to be intercepted on return voyage and escorted to Alexandria.

(3) Admiralty are requested to arrange for War Office to inform Mid. East and A.F.H.Q. what classes of wounded are to be disembarked.

(C. in C. Med. 081810 to F.O.L.E.M. Info. Admty. F.O.T.A.L.I B.A.D. Cominch.) See 201910B.

SS. LEINSTER. Intercept 1653 500 k/cs type AZ begins:  
To Alexandria W/T from Radio Istanbul - you are being called by Ismailia W/T for distress from (GCGZ) LEINSTER. Ends. Niton Radio.  
(Niton Radio 081753 to Admiral Portsmouth.)

/Greek...



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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Greek relief. Greek relief. Swedish authorities are informed FORMOSA bound for Piraeus is held at Gib. Would be grateful to know reason for delay and expected date of sailing.  
(N.A. Stockholm 081813 to Admty.)  
See 091714.

LA MALOUINE. LA MALOUINE left Volo a.m. 8th now at Skiathos with TREERN and M.L. 458. On 7th/8th M.L. visited Skopelos and Skyros. All quiet with no E.L.A.S. in Skyros. Kymi reported to be E.L.A.S. stronghold having at present 20 ton caique with machine guns and possibly 2 machine guns in harbour. Repl light has fuel for 10 days. All quiet LA MALOUINE returning Volo a.m. 9th.  
(LA MALOUINE 081827B to S.B.N.O. Greece, Info. B.N.C.N.A., F.O.L.E.M., MUSKETEER.)

Situation Since 22nd Dec. number of regular E.L.A.S. troops report No. much reduced.  
27 Kavalla. Improvement in weather has increased. Caique movements. Leaflets dropped over town p.m. today were seen to be quickly collected.  
(CALEDON 082013B to S.B.N.O. Greece, etc.)

Cositintrep Greece. In Athens and Piraeus, clearing operations No. 548. continue without incident. Outside Athens mobile columns have occupied Keratel, Laviron and Porto Rafti. One column has approached within four miles of Eritrai where E.L.A.S. opposition has been met.  
(A.F.H.Q. No T.O.O/8.)

Situation (1) Western Italy. WOOLSEY U.S.S. and LOOKOUT report No. 530. have effectively bombarded enemy positions near Massa in Gulf of Magra.  
(2) Adriatic. At Split it is appreciated that partisan attitude is stiffened and that as result ~~SOLEY~~ will be asked to leave.  
<sup>DELHI</sup>  
(3) Greece. All quiet at Kavalla. Situation at Patras still very tense. Six caiques reported to have arrived Piscopi with German reinforcements from Rhodes, but air and sea search shows no sign of them.  
(C. in C. Med. 082155A to Admty., etc.)

General Intend sailing G.S. THEMISTOCLES to Piraeus and Zervas. BEAUFORT to Taranto 10th Jan. General Zervas (corrupt group) to take passage to Piraeus. Understand he should proceed via Italy. Request instructions.  
(Unallocated) 082352B to S.B.N.O. Greece, etc.)

/Cositintrep...



War Diary.

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Cositintrep  
No. 547.

Part 3 Air. Strategic Air Force.  
Low cloud with poor visibility at bases and en  
route forced cancellation of all operations.  
Tactical Air Force. Night 6/7, one A.20 flew  
weather R/C.

Day 7. 4 near misses were claimed 11 x 550 foot tanker in  
Savona Harbour and damage to docks. At San Remo direct hits  
were scored on 1 x 150 foot vessel believed to be a blockship  
and the dry docks at Sestre Ponete were bombed with hits among  
five ships.

(H.Q. Med. A.A.F. No T.O.O. to W.O.)



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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

NIGERIA

Arrival KENYA and NIGERIA.  
(Bombay, 080107Z to Admty.)

U-boat  
dispositions

No fresh information. Scales in all areas  
remain unchanged.  
(C. in C. E.I. Station, 080356 to S. and A. E.I.  
Station.)

A.F.D.17

Arrival A.F.D.17 and Tug LARIAT escorted by  
BUGLOSS.  
(N.O.I.C..Cochin 080612Z Admty. etc.)



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MondayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

Tanker Collided. Damage to superstructure.  
ST. GOBAIN Proceeding to destination.  
(ST. GOBAIN, 080130 to Admty.)

TROUNCER Following is passed to you as requested by B.A.D. begins:  
To B.A.D. Washington (R) F.O.C.T., B.N.L.O. New York. From H.M.S. TROUNCER. Secret.  
Damage survey by New York Navy Yard who estimate 15 days required for repairs, but that ship was seaworthy for eastbound ferrying voyage to U.K. Consider it desirable that damage be re-surveyed on arrival in U.K. to ensure that ship is seaworthy for a westbound crossing of the Atlantic in winter. T.O.O.  
021500A January (Ends.)  
(F.O.C.T., 081243A to Admty.)

U-boat Estimates.  
dispositions (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 081426Z and Cominch, 081607.)

Task Group My 042208Z\*. Delete UNDERHILL and add <sup>HENRY R.</sup> ~~H.R.~~  
21.10 KENYON change 7th Jan. to read 8th Jan.  
(Cinclant, 081852Z to Comcortdiv 56)  
\* Task Group 21.10 constituted Comdr. Harman in GILLETTE.

T.G.61.3 Task Group 61.3 Capt. Connelley in MAYO. T.U.  
61.3 DOHMANE Capt. Connelley in MAYO.  
Comcortdiv 55 in EISNER, GARFIELD, THOMAS, WING-FIELD, RINEHART, ROCHE and Task Unit 61.3.2,  
Capt. Litchfield, Comcortdiv 35 in CATES, GANDY\* E.K. OLSEN, THORNHILL hereby constituted. T.G.61.3 depart New York and Boston 18-19 January escorting C.U.55 to U.K. and continent. T.U.61.3.1 return escorting U.C.55 A and T.U.61.3.2 escorting U.C.55 B when directed by Admty.  
(C. in C. Lant, 081928Z to C.T.G.61.3.)

Examination The examination service East Coast Canada and  
Service Newfoundland will be abolished as from 1st Feb. A shipping regulation organisation will be substituted at the ports of Halifax, Sydney Saint John N.B. and St. Johns Newfoundland only and ships employed will be known as Traffic Control Vessels.  
(2) Masters of all inward bound Merchant ships are to be instructed to contact the T.C.S. before entering port.  
(N.S.H.Q., 081957 to Admty., Cominch.)

/U-boat...

\*EARL K. OLSEN



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

U-boat sighting reports. JOHN BURKE and HOBART BAKER lost through enemy action off Mindoro 27th and 31st Dec. respectively Para. (C) 042115Z surface craft had Radar contact 44.17 N., 29.50 W. Para. (D) 071330Z training A/C reported sighting partially submerged U-boat from 4,000 feet 45.03 N., 66.25 W. 070880Z P.B.Y. had Radar contact 44.27 N. 49.23 W. B.A.D. N.M.C.J.S. have info. by hand. Admty. give to H.Q.C.C. (Cominch, 082100Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)

H.N.M.S. VAN KINSBERGEN. Compliance Cominch 291645 H.N.M.S. VAN KINSBERGEN departs Curacao 101130 for Punta Delgada Azores for onward routeing U.K. E.T.A. 18th (Route). S. of A. 15 knots. (All Forces Aruba - Curacao, 082110).

NELSON. P.D. New York Give infor. B.N.L.O. New York. Com. 4 not an addressee give info. B.N.L.O. Philadelphia. Comeastseafon sail NELSON Philadelphia to New York. Vessel will depart 14 Jan. anchor overnight 14th Brown Shoal Delaware Bay departing 0930 Q 15th for Gun trials at Seadan passage New York E.T.A. a.m. 16th. Provide alongside berth until departure 18th in C.U.55. Ultimate destination Portsmouth England. Cinclant provide escorts for passage to New York 15th and 16th. (Cominch, 082130Z to Comeastseafon, Cinclant).

Submarine Attack and Sighting Summary. Para. (D) U.S. P.B.Y. A/C radar contact 44.27 N. 49.43 W., at 0800Z/7th. (N.S.H.Q., 082223Z to Admty).

Australia and New Zealand

Transfer Torpedo Stores. Admty. Message 181916 Nov. 1944 to A.C.N.B. only. Commander 7th Fleet informs me that the equipment for servicing 22.4 inch torpedoes at Nowra will be turned over to the Royal Navy on following basis

(a) The entire U.S. Navy torpedo workshop and equipment shall be turned over to the British Admty. upon the completion of an inventory of the materials and equipment transferred so that the appropriate prices can be assigned for the purpose of lease lend counting.

(b) That no U.S. Navy personnel be available to assist the Royal Navy.

(c) That no U.S. Navy torpedoes shall be retained at Nowra. 2. It is important that adequate supplies of 22.4 inch torpedoes with exercise head and air tails should be available in Australia at earliest possible date and it is suggested that representations be made to Washington for the American torpedoes at Nowra to be handed over in aid of future assignments. Such an arrangement will be most economical.



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MondayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New ZealandTransfer  
Torpedo  
Stores  
(Contd.)

4. Earliest confirmation that U.S. Authorities are willing to hand over the 123 Mark 13 torpedoes and 22 blowing heads at Nowra or the adequate stocks will be supplied from other sources is requested to enable the transfer to take place on arrival of Wingfields Torpedo Party. Quick transfer on arrival of this party is necessary in order to ease the accommodation situation.  
(V.A.(Q) B.P.F., 080550Z to Admty.)

Digest  
Serial  
1083

"Daylight 6th and 7th January Allied heavy naval surface forces bombarded Japanese shore positions Lingayan Gulf hitting shore areas and few small ships, severe enemy air opposition encountered 6th as previously reported 15 Japanese aircraft were shot down by fighter cover excluding suicide diver: support aircraft shot down one Japanese plane over land and destroyed one on ground. Nil enemy air offensive 7th Jan. until afternoon one small ship hit."  
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 081109Z to Admty. etc.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGNSubmarine  
attack  
and  
sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/8th January.  
Para. A. 1. THULE attacked Japanese U-boat course 135° at 0244Z 28th Dec. in 05° 50' N., 100° 04' E.  
Para. B. 1. Aircraft reported possible U-boat at 1210Z/7th Jan. in 36° 25' N., 07° 00' W.  
(D.D.I.C., 081053A to Cominch.)

U-boat  
Dispositions.

No fresh information.  
(D.D.I.C., 081406A to A.I.G.332, Cominch, etc.)  
Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C., 081423A to Cominch etc.)



9.1.1945  
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

- North Sea 1(a) The port of Ostend was re-opened.  
(b) M.L.466 was mined off N.F.13 buoy.  
(c) E.C.7 has gone ashore east of Blankenberghe, but salvage will not be attempted until the area has been made safe for the salvage craft by minesweeping.
- Channel 2(a) Mines have been found between Dieppe and Boulogne, and the coastal channel has accordingly been closed.  
(b) Minesweeping off le Havre was suspended due to weather.
- Western Approaches 3. The American SS. JONAS LIE has been torpedoed off the Smalls. Second Escort Group are hunting the vicinity.
- Norway 4. M.T.Bs. 711 and 623 have returned from their "V.P.73" patrol, during which they torpedoed and sank a heavy-laden 8,000 ton merchant-man, torpedoed and probably sank a torpedo-boat or minesweeper and silenced by gunfire one of the trawler escorts. They themselves suffered neither damage nor casualties.

Foreign Stations

North Atlantic

- L'ENJOUE (sunk) (5) F.S. L'ENJOUE escort to G.C.107 blew up and sank without survivors in Latitude 35° 56' N., 5° 49' W. at 1715 today. In light of recent U-boat activity in Mediterranean Approaches sinking considered due to torpedo. Search for submarine in progress.

Mediterranean

- Riviera 6. Further successful bombardment made by Allied warships near Franco Italian frontier



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TuesdaySITUATION REPORTMediterranean - Contd.

Adriatic

- 7(a) Two M.Ls. ran aground in Cintra Cove near Zara. Both refloated. Another body has been found at Mulat.  
(b) Situation at Split difficult and at Zara local authority obstructionist.

Greece

- 8(a) Rhodes. Reported that Este lighter ANNA from Marmaris captured and taken to Symi. This vessel engaged evacuating civilians from Rhodes.  
(b) Athens and Piraeus remain quiet. Search for arms proceeds.  
Piraeus main W/T Station again operating.  
E.L.A.S troops withdrawing from Kavalla.  
Situation quiet at Heraklion.

Levant

9. C. in C. Med. reports minesweeper ACUTE aground in Besika Bay at entrance to Dardanelles. Ship undamaged. SALVOR proceeding to assist. She has since been refloated and is undamaged.

East Indies

31<sup>st</sup> Dec  
S/M SHAKESPEARE.

X. 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan  
possibly decoy ship

10. C. in C. E.I. reports: H.M. S/M SHAKESPEARE on her first far East patrol reports that on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. S.E. of Nancowry Straits, Andaman Is. attacked Southbound convoy of two merchant ships with 3 escorts. 6 torpedoes fired at leading ship of 1,000 tons. Vessel considered sunk. Ineffective counter attack. On 3<sup>rd</sup> January fired 4 torpedoes at 700 ton unescorted merchant ship. All torpedoes missed. SHAKESPEARE surfaced in ensuing gun action was hit on pressure hull, holed, partially flooded and unable to dive. Merchant vessel's gun was knocked out, ship turned away and last seen stopped and listing. From 0930 until sunset SHAKESPEARE proceeding at 8 knots subject to 25 air attacks by bombers, seaplanes, fighter bombers and fighters. Damage and casualties caused by bomb splinters and cannon fire. One seaplane shot down in flames, several others hit. SHAKESPEARE, with one engine, main motors, W/T and only ballast pump out of action left patrol for Trincomalee and met H.M./S.M. STYGIAN at 0300 on 6<sup>th</sup> January. Destroyers sent to assist and she was taken in tow by H.M.S. WHELP 200' East of Trincomalee where she arrived 0900, 8<sup>th</sup> January.



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War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies - Contd.

Colombo

11. Euryalus and two destroyers escorting RIMUTAKA with H.R.H. Duke of Gloucester on board arrived from Aden.

Australia and New Zealand

New Guinea

12. An Australian destroyer bombarded enemy positions near Aban.

Philippines

13(a) Strong U.S. forces landed on 4 beaches near base of Lingayan Gulf at 0930 supported by Battleship cruiser naval surface forces and Escort Carriers.

(b) Late this afternoon single enemy suicide dive bombed 2 auxiliary ships in Lingayan Gulf causing slight damage.



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HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Exchange of technical information with U.S.S.R. Following for Admiral Archer from Chiefs of Staff. (1) We have considered the information in your MIL 2175 of 14th December, 1944 and implications and repercussions of the bulk release by General Deane. (2) Releases by you should continue in accordance with our 3607 of 9th July, 1944. We are content to leave selection of items for release to your discretion, but bulk release should be avoided. (A.M.S.S.O. 092140Z to No. 30 Military Mission)

Operations

North Sea

Ostend weather-bound. My 080847 Port of Ostend open. (N.O.I.C. Ostend, 090040A to C. in C. Nore)

Situation Report. Cositintrep No.280 Part 4. Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 081600A January.

<u>British</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> <u>incl.coal.</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo</u>
Antwerp	61	558	7,951	5,117	1,358
Ostend	562	192	4,065	743	1,576
Boulogne	40	69	-	-	-
Dieppe	18	-	2,345	-	-
Caen	-	-	1,506	-	-
Calais	82	2	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>15,867</b>	<b>5,860</b>	<b>2,934</b>
<u>U.S. North</u>					
Antwerp	-	-	10,354	-	-
Cherbourg	-	-	7,623	-	2,859
Le Havre	1,974	681	7,540	-	3,216
Rouen	571	366	4,236	2,110	1,387
Granville	-	-	2,016	-	-
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>2,545</b>	<b>1,047</b>	<b>31,769</b>	<b>2,110</b>	<b>7,462</b>
<u>U.S. South</u>					
Marseilles	-	7	14,533	-	4,173
Port De Bouc	-	-	2,042	-	-
Toulon	-	-	807	-	-
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17,382</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,173</b>

(S.H.A.E.F. 091430A to Admty and ors.)

E.C.7. E.C.7 is ashore just East of Blankenberghe. Salvage Officer proceeding now to investigate. SEAHAM and EASTBOURNE anchored Ostend Roads. (N.O.I.C.Ostend, 091437 to Com. Belgium)  
 E.C.7 is aground in approx. position 51.19.48 N. 03.09 30 E. Consider sweeping necessary before salvage could be attempted. M.L.S. not immediately available for this purpose. Estimate three sweeping days required to ensure safety of Salvage

/craft ...



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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

E.C.7.  
(Contd.)

craft.  
Construction of E.C.7 and sandy nature of beach will make salvage difficult if delayed for sweeping operations. Request decision whether salvage is to be attempted in view of the risks involved.  
(N.O.I.C.Ostend, 091901 to Com. Belgium)

Your 091901A/. No risks with salvage vessels to be taken. Sweeping should take place as soon as opportunity offers.  
(Com. Belgium, 092330A to N.O.I.C. Ostend.)

M.L.466 mined. Have struck a mine within 2 miles of N.F.13 buoy.  
(M.L.466, 091600 to N.O.I.C.Ostend)

Midget  
U-Boat  
towed under  
by LADY  
BRASSEY.

A.M. 301906 Midget ready for examination one torpedo disposed of in accordance with Admiralty instructions no mines on board.  
(2) Dimensions as follows:  
Length 30 feet height including periscope 10 feet 6 inches beam overall with torpedoes 4 feet 7 inches without torpedoes 3 feet 9 inches.  
(3) Very minor damage apparent to Rudder and Hydro-

plane rods.

(4) Craft can be sent by rail approx. 24 hours required to obtain truck.

(V.A. Dover, 091622A to Admty, F.O.S.M.)

Operations

Channel

Minesweeping off Le Havre. Sweeping postponed owing to weather.  
(Com. M/S Le Havre, 090929 to C.T.F. 125)

Patrols.

Night Patrol 9th/10th.  
10th E.G. as in my 061245A para. (1) not to all. Be at southend of patrol at 2000.  
(2) 30th E.G. as in my 051135A para.2.

(3) If groups are divided S.O's report dispositions of ships.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 091201A to S.O.E.G's 10, 30)

L.C.T.  
Shuttle  
Service.

A.N.C.X.F's 051228 and Admiralty message 062100 both being passed to F.O.I.C. Southampton, F.O.I.C. Portland and A.S. Portsmouth.



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TuesdayHOME COMMANDSOperationsChannelL.C.T.  
Shuttle  
Service.  
(Contd.)

The situation described in para. 2 of A.N.C.X.Fs. signal was approx. correct.

(2) This position was brought about by:

(A) Force T Craft having had higher priority for repair until receipt of Admiralty message O32155 Jan. giving Shuttle Service Craft top priority at Southampton.

(B) 19 L.C.T. Mark IV with dated priority having to be taken from the Shuttle Service Pool for the French Vide Admiralty Message 261425 December.

(C) Delay to maintenance repairs at Hythe by arrival of 9 craft from East Coast Ports with weather damage which needed repair.

These were on passage to Falmouth for Eastern Fleet requirements.

(D) Continued periods of thick fog delaying movements to and from repair berths and delay in swinging craft for compass adjustments.

(3) The situation to-day, 8th January is as follows:

26 Operational craft in Southampton.

20 Operational craft at Portland.

(4) Although the figure of 46 craft has thus been reached it is considered that it can only be maintained by Admiralty authority being given fully to man the L.C.T. Slips in the Command including all the Horsea Slips of which only 3 are at present in use due to shortage of labour.

Also that priority given in Admiralty Message O32155 to F.O.I.C. Southampton only be extended to Portsmouth and continued during the operation of the shuttle service.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, O91728A to Admty.)

Speed  
restrictions  
in Portsmouth  
Command.

During the present threat of U-Boat attack the provisions of 530 Q.Z.Y. are to be modified as follows until further notice.

(1) All speed restrictions in depths of over 20 fathoms are removed.

(2) Maximum speed in depths of between 10 and 20 fathoms is 10 knots.

(3) In depths of less than ten fathoms restrictions in speed specified in A.G.M. O51301 December, 1944, are to be applied.

(4) Shore Authorities pass to ships for whom responsible.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, O91900A to Portsmouth Forces.)

Possible  
U-Boat.

Have intercepted 3rd class German naval enigma at 2147A bearing 020 degs. or 219 degs. distance over 30 miles but in ground wave. Series local. My position 049 degs. 56' N. 001 degs. 16' W. at 2147A.

(PEVENSEY CASTLE, O92200A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Situation  
Report.

Cositintrep No.280 Part II Naval.

(1) Havre limiting depth of water in approaches and entrance is now 41 feet at M.H.W.S.

(2) Ostend port re-opened a.m. 9th Jan.

(3) Mines have been found in Dieppe-Boulogne coastal channel. It has been closed pending further sweeping.

(A.N.C.X.F. O92310A to Admty.)



War Diary

9.1.1945  
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

West Coast France.

Intended  
Bombardment  
of Belle  
Ile.

- (1) After fuelling to capacity request you sail DUQUESNE, HOVA, SOMALI, BASQUE, and SIMOUN at night 10th January for Brest. Ships to arrive there at first light on 11th January.
- (2) Further request that as soon as possible after return of leave parties, and not later than 13th January, above ships be sailed from Brest with destination Gibraltar for all, less DUQUESNE.
- (3) Admiralty requested to provide routeing close aboard Belle Ile in order that DUQUESNE can carry out short diversionary bombardment after which she will return to Brest unescorted.
- (4) Ships should be provided by C.T.F.125 with all necessary Q.B. and Q.Z. messages before leaving Cherbourg.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 091848A to C.T.F.125)

Operations

Western Approaches.

E.G.15.

My 081302 amend time of R/V to 2315.  
(C. in C. W.A. 091041A to S.O. E.G.15)

Patrols.

On crossing 49 degs. 30' N. detach from K.M.S. 77/OS 103 and return to area given in my 071152 proceeding via Trevoise Head where NENE and MONNOW are on patrol.  
(C. in C. W.A. 091056A to S.O.E.G.2)

Irish Sea  
S/M Sanctuary.

RSAR 50 C. in C. W.As. 082313 passed for info:  
Begins.  
Southern limit of Irish Sea Sancturay (AA) is temporarily amended to read 52 degs. 34' N. 06 degs. 12' W. to 52 degs. 10' N. 05 degs. 00' W. thence 180 degs. to Welsh Coast. AGM 480 A.Z. refers. Ends.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 091125A to Rosyth Command)

U-Boats  
believed  
to be in  
Irish Sea.

Reference C. in C. W.A. 111720 December. Unless suitable escort can be provided for Radar calibration and fighter direction exercises in light Fleet carriers and C.V.E's, training programme of ships concerned will be seriously curtailed.

(2) Request provision of these escorts may be considered on a high priority. COLOSSUS commences working up on the 13th January.

(3) Escorts will be required whilst the above quoted signal remains in force.  
(F.O.C.T. 091621A to Admty.)

/SS. JONAS LIE ...



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Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches - Contd.

SS. JONAS LIE, Merchant ship reported mined or torpedoed in torpedoed position 187 degs. South Bishop Light 6 miles at off Smalls. 1729 to-day 9th.  
HUDDERSFIELD TOWN standing by. Tug STORMKING escort HELIER II being sent.  
Proceed to position with all despatch and carry out hunt.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 091903A to S.O.E.G.3)  
Proceed at best speed to relieve 3rd E.G. in vicinity Smalls where ship was torpedoed at 1830.  
(C. in C. W.A. 091956A to S.O.E.G.2)  
Evidence of survivors points to damage being caused by torpedo on starboard side abreast engine room.  
Hole showing above water-line about 25ft. by 10 ft. Extent of damage below water-line not known. Vessel was No.4 in starboard column. Asdic conditions bad.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford, 092301 to S.O. E.G.3)

~~Operation~~ "Winners". When ready Cdre. D. W.A. is requested to sail 22nd E.G. to patrol area between parallels 55 degs. and 56 degs. and Meridians 08 degs. and 10 degs.  
(2) My 081408 not to all passed to action addressees, 22nd E.G. is to R/V with CELANDINE at 0900/11th in position 001 degs. Inishtrahull 5 miles and screen her during laying of "Winners". Progress to be reported daily.  
(C. in C. W.A. 092229A to S.O. E.G. 22, Com. D.W.A.)

E.G.3. On relief by 2nd E.G. 3rd E.G. is to proceed at best speed to Milford Haven.  
Quick turn-round is essential as there will be an important commitment for 3rd E.G. early a.m. 11th January.  
(C. in C. W.A. 092234A to S.O.E.G.3)

Operations

Norway

Operation "Spellbinder". My 071216. D Day is to be Wednesday 10th January.  
(C. in C. H.F. 090953A to Admty., F.O. 1st C.S. R.A.(D) H.F. A.C.O.S., C. in C. Rosyth, 18 Group CC. H.Q.C.C., F.O.S/M BELLONA, NORFOLK, APOLLO, DIDO, PREMIER, TRUMPETER.)

Operation V.P.73. V.P.73, M.T.B. 711 and M.T.B. 623 returned at 1400A to-day 9th January.  
(2) Attacked southbound convoy consisting of 1 Merchant ship, 2 (M) Class minesweepers or 'T' class

/ torpedo ...



War Diary

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Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

Operation "V.P.73".  
(Contd.)

torpedo boats and 2 trawlers off Sogneoksen Light at 0315A/9th January. Merchant ship of 8,000 tons heavily loaded and possibly carrying iron ore, hit by 2 torpedoes and seen to sink. 1 'T' class torpedo boat or 'M' class minesweeper hit by 1 torpedo and probably sunk. 1 large T trawler hit by gunfire and believed badly damaged as a large explosion was seen and vessel ceased firing. (3) Own force suffered no damage or casualties. (N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 091459A to A.C.O.S.)

Operation "Moonshine".

Outward route leave Aberdeen at dusk on D day to 25 Buoy thence course 086 degs. to dusk position D+1 about 57 degs. 08' N. 06 degs. 58' E. thence to Swedish coast E.T.A. between midnight and 0400 speed of advance 14 knots. Return route in accordance with Nore orders, Nore 311100A December. (C. in C. Rosyth, 091631A to N.O.I.C.Aberdeen, C. in C. Nore)

Patrols. All times Zone A. S/M positions at 0800/10th and movements for following 24 hours. UTSIRA on patrol off Fro Havet. SEANYMPH as in my 061704 until 0300/11th. Thereafter patrolling within 10 miles of position 57 degs. 35' N. 01 degs. 15' E. DOLFIJN leaves Lerwick about 0800/10th through 60 degs. 01' N. 00 degs. 31' E. 59 degs. 20' N. 01 degs. 15' E. 58 degs. 45' N. 01 degs. 15' E. on surface 10 knots at C.O.'s discretion to patrol within 10 miles of position 57 degs. 10' N. 00 degs. 01' E. (F.O.S.M. 091804A to Admt.) (1) At 0400A/10th Jan. shift centre of patrol line 20 miles 090 degs. (2) DOLFIJN D.S. leaves Lerwick 1000A/10th January through 60 degs. 00' 10 degs. 30' 59 degs. 20' 01 degs. 15' and 58 degs. 45' 01 degs. 15' to patrol within 10 miles 57 degs. 10' 00 degs. 01'. (3) Attention is called to Q.Z.X. 1452. (4) All positions are N. & E. unless otherwise indicated. (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 091925A to SEANYMPH)

Operation "S.C".

Ramose, Revoke III. Sailed VIGRA from Lerwick at 2235/9th Jan. (2) Air escort not especially required on return journey. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 092239A to A.C.O.S.)

Operations

Northern Waters.

Convoy J.W.63.

J.W. 63. Arrived Molotovsk 1st White Sea group my 041000 refers. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 091310A to S.B.N.O. N. Russia)



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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters

Withdrawal  
of Fulmar  
A/C from  
CAMPANIA.

Further to A.M. 242051A/November, it is undesirable that Fulmars whether fitted for night fighting or otherwise should be retained in CAMPANIA owing to lack of crews and the fact that the Fulmar is Obsolete and cannot be maintained.

(2) As a result of trials carried out by the Naval Air Fighting Development Unit it is considered that Wildcat Fighter components of Squadrons already embarked, if trained in night flying would prove more effective than Fulmars. Instructions for the fitting of exhaust blinkers and repositioning of cockpit lighting as a Squadron modification are available and are being sent to ships concerned. Night flying training required consisting of night A.D.D.L. and night D.L.T. is estimated to take two weeks.

(3) The Fulmar night Fighter crews are required to take their place in the Firefly night Fighter training programme, which is proceeding as expeditiously as possible. It is therefore requested that the Fulmar flight in CAMPANIA may be released as early as possible.

(V.C.N.S. 091851A to C. in C. H.F.)

J.W. Convoy  
cycle.

A.M. 241650 and your 261339 both December. M.W.T. in conjunction with C.S.A.B. Washington, have now asked Admiralty to consider closing the J.W. convoy cycle to 30 days after the sailing of J.W.64.

(2) Admiralty sees no objection and suggests following sailing dates to stagger the cycle:

J.W.64 - 3rd February. J.W. 65-3rd March. J.W.66 - 4th April. Request your early remarks.

(3) M.W.T. still hope that a further reduction to a 22 day cycle may be practicable in the spring. Request you will therefore state what scale of escort you consider necessary for J.W. Convoys consisting of about 20 ships running to a 22 day cycle.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 091959A to C. in C. H.F.)

Casualties and Defects

SS. NORMAN  
STAR.

NORMAN STAR holed in No.3 hold will leave under tow of Tug SAUCY, for Cowes Roads a.m. to-day Tuesday. E.T.A. will be signalled.

(2) Com. i/c Southend's 081023A refers.

(V.A. Dover, 091145A to C. in C. Portsmouth, N.C.S.O.Cowes)

Movements

ACTIVITY  
Escort  
Carrier.

Anticipated ACTIVITY will sail for Belfast a.m. 16th January. A.M. 231237 refers.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 091250A to Admty.)



War Diary.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

**HAIDA** Arrived Horta at 1801Z 8th fuelled and sailed at 0051 9th H.M.C.S. HAIDA to Plymouth routed as in Admiralty's 081907 not to all. S. of A. 22 knots, E.T.A. 1200Z/11th.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 091140Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

**ERNE** Sail at 0800A Jan. 11th for Devonport.  
(2) S. of A. 13 knots.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 091452A to ERNE)

**CAMROSE** Arrived Horta at 1451Z/8th fuelled and sailed at 1425 9th CAMROSE to Plymouth routed as in Admty's 282305 S. of A. twelve knots. E.T.A. 0100Z/14th.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 091620Z F.O.G.M.A.)

**MARRAKECH** Intend sail C.R.D.7 MARRAKECH escorted by Chasseur 71 (S.O.) and Chasseur 72 for Dakar at 101300A route coastal omitting F.H. and J speed 11.5 chop 122200A E.T.A. 151630A.  
(C.M.S.F.F., 091638A to F.C.W.Af).

**FORMIDABLE** The following programme for FORMIDABLE is as follows.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 091720A as amended by 111718 to C. in C. Med).

**U-boat Search.** Group one composed of LOWESTOFT, BELLWORT, Y.S. NADA, KILMARTIN, SPIREA, WOODSTOCK, sweep in centre approaches between 005° 40' W. and 006° 40' W.  
(2) Group Two composed of PHEASANT (S.O.), INVER, AIRE, KILMINGTON, sweep out inside 100 fathom line alongside Spanish Coast keeping close inshore to 036° 20' N.  
(3) Group Three composed of WELLINGTON, (S.O.) HYDERABAD, CROCUS, sweep out inside 100 fathom line along African coast keeping close inshore to 035° 30' N.  
(4) Appreciate U-boat will either bottom in shallow water or withdraw slowly to westward.  
(5) WOLVERINE remain with group one until separating before sailing orders for MALCOLM and WOLVERINE are received.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 092012A to LOWESTOFT, etc).

**E.G. 20** MALCOLM sail forthwith to R/V K.M.F. 38 (?and) act (?as) additional escort.  
(2) WOLVERINE joins MALCOLM as ordered by MALCOLM.  
(3) Convoy escorted by Escort group 20 in TAVY with TORTOLA, BAHAMAS, LOCK FYNE and PITCAIRN is in estimated position (A) 035° 58' N., 007° 47' W., at 0001A Jan. 10th steering for (SQ) 035° 51' N., 006° 10' W. at S. of A. 13½ knots.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 092152A to MALCOLM, WOLVERINE).

/L'ENJOUE...



9.1.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

L'ENJOUE My 092012. F.S. L'ENJOUE escorting G.C.107 blew up and sank without survivors in position 35° 56' N., 05° 49' W., at approximately 1715A today Tuesday.

2. In light of recent U-boat activity in Med. Approaches consider sinking to have been due to torpedo.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 092252A to Admty).

South Atlantic.

Movements. This features text of my 081137 to same addressees begins:  
Capetown departures 0930Z/8th Jan. VALIANT, WYE, DOVEY for Freetown. Route.

S. of A. 12 knots E.T.A. 1200Z/19th Jan. Shifting to W/T organisation for Area P at 2300Z/13th Jan. Radio Distinguishing Group PC Q.L.A., 230.  
(C. in C. S.A, 091147B to Admty).



War Diary.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean.

U.G.S. convoys. Ships in U.G.S. convoys destined for Southern France ports are in future not to disperse when south of Europa Point.  
(2) The Southern France section is to continue as a convoy by basic eastbound route and route Y or as ordered by C. in C. Med.  
(3) Two escorts of ocean escort group are to continue with the convoy until relieved off Oran.  
(4) O.M. convoys will be discontinued see para. 7 and the escorts hitherto provided by Premar Three for O.M. are to be detailed in future to relieve the ocean escort of U.G.S. convoys off Oran and act as escorts to South France section.  
(7) This arrangement will come into force with U.C. 65.  
(9) C.T.G. 60.1 is to detail Commodore as in para. 6.  
(C. in C. Med. 090849A to Admty. etc.)

GRADISCA. 58201 cipher P.W. 3 9th Jan.  
Ref. Immediate Signal No. 151756A December from C. in C. Med. and A.M. No. 161903A Dec.  
(1) Intention is that GRADISCA should be intercepted and brought into Allied Port when she has taken all German sick and wounded off Aegean Islands and Crete.  
(2) Those Germans who in opinion of British Medical Officer would be passed as repatriable by M.M.C. should be left on board for oncarriage to Trieste. All other German sick and wounded must be disembarked and held as prisoners of war.  
(W.O. 090930A to C. in C. M.E. (R) A.F.H.Q.)

Flying restrictions over ports. (2) M.S. 60 53 part 3. Para. 21. Flying restrictions over Mediterranean Ports as follows.  
(C. in C. Med. Fleet 091155A to Med. Station 363B)

Balearic Islands. Italian Warships. It is possible that Italian warships in Balearic Islands may be released this week.  
(D.N.A. Madrid 091300A to C. in C. Med. Fleet.)  
See 122030A.

South Aegean. (Extract) Rhodes. Now reported Este Lighter ANNA from Marmaris captured and taken to Symi. This vessel engaged in evacuation civilians from Rhodes but (1 group missing) made one trip.  
(C. in C. M.E. 091310B to W.O.)

Routeing of ships for Black Sea. Request ships for Black Sea ports be sailed direct to Piraeus for onward routeing to Dardanelles.  
(C. in C. Med. 09527 to Cdr. 10th Fleet, Admty.)

Black Sea Navigation. Admiral Archer 091605A to Admty.  
See Lion Copy.



Med

171A

# TOP SECRET

IN

**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.)

091605A January

From Admiral Archer

Date 10.1.45

Recd. 1312

I.D.C. BB BY W/T

Addressed: Admiralty.

Repeated: C. in C. Med., F.O.L.E.M., B.N.L.O. Black Sea.

My 071025. Following additional radio beacons have been established and should enable ships bound Bosphorus - Odessa to obtain fixes en route: *details*

*Black Sea. navigational aids*

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Wavelength</u>	<u>Method</u>	<u>Call Letter</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Range</u>
KALLAKRA	43 degs. 22' N 28 degs. 28' E	1048 metres (286.1 kilocycle)	modulat- ing	Z rpt. Z	24 hrs.	90 miles
CONSTANTA	44 degs. 09' N 28 degs. 38' E	1048 metres (286.1 kilocycle)	modulat- ing	C rpt. C	24 hrs.	90 miles
KHERSONESE (Cape KHERSONESE)	4 degs. 34' N 33 degs. 22' E	942 metres (318.5 kilocycle)	non oscillat- ing	II rpt. II	when required	180 mls.

2. In view of dangerous areas given in my 071025 have not taken up question of route proposed in Admiralty message 062211. Soviet Naval Authorities have however been requested to (?clear) area K repeat K (para. C (1)) as first priority followed by areas L M N O (para. C (2)) and projection of coastal area at E F G (para. A.)

3. Provision of Russian N.C.S.O. at Istanbul has been taken up with Soviet Naval Staff, U.S. Mission Moscow concurring. Your 062154 para. 2 VIII refers. Admiralty pass to C. in C. Med., F.O.L.E.M. other authorities as necessary.

091605A *Adm. B.*

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L. (3)
- D.F.S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)
- P.A.S. (S)
- P.A.S. (L)
- U.W.R.
- D.C.
- Plot
- D.O.D. (H) (4)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)

Advance Copies D.C., D.O.D. (F), Hd. of M.

✓ Passing action taken by W.R. to C. in C. Med. and F.O.L.E.M.

✓ Additional information on areas dangerous to navigation.

- D.D.I.C. (2)
- D.N.I. (4)
- D. of P. (2)
- D. of P. (Q) (3)
- Hd. of M. (2)
- for action
- D.T.D. (4)
- D.T.D. (C)
- W.D.
- Ad. Blake (4)
- P.N.L.O.
- Hydrog.
- D.S.D.
- D. of N.
- D.M.S.
- D.A/S.W.
- D.A/U.D.



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- Greek relief. Greek relief my 081813. Swedish authorities desire FORMOSA should leave Gibraltar Jan. 14th at 0900 local time for Piraeus.  
(N.A. Stockholm 091714 to Admty.)
- Minesweeping. C. in C. Med's 031217.  
Progressed from eastward to line joining the following positions.  
14 mines cut comprising of 7 Italian K and 7 Italian I of these 10 were sunk by gunfire one exploded by gunfire and 3 had to be left drying.  
Continuing tomorrow 10th Jan.  
(S.O. M.S.F. 8th 092030B to F.O.T.A.L.I., Info. S.O. M. Med. Fleet, B.N.C.S., etc.)
- Situation report No. 242. (1) ACUTE is aground in Besike Bay at entrance to Dardanelles, ship is undamaged SALVOR and a Turkish salvage steamer proceeding to assist.  
(2) Piraeus main W/T station is again operating E.L.A.S. troops appear to be withdrawing from Kavalla.  
(3) Situation is quiet at Heraklion.  
(4) Another body has been found at Mulat number 529 para. 1 refers.  
(5) 2 M.Ls. ran aground in Cinta Cove near Zara, both have been refloated.  
(6) Situation Split difficult and at Zara local authority obstructionistic.  
(7) Further successful bombardments made by Allied warships near Franco Italian frontier.  
(C. in C. Med. 092054 to Admty., etc.)
- Red Cross Relief. Negotiations are proceeding with Turks to send Red Cross relief to Dodecanese my 221814 Dec. refers. Preliminary discussions with Military Attache by B.N.A. Ankara favourable. Following is intended.  
(4) In order to reduce delay to a minimum request negotiation with Germans as to conditions and routes be instituted forthwith.  
(F.O.L.E.M. 092125B to C. in C. Med. (R) G.H.Q.M.E. Admty., B.N.A. Ankara.)
- Cositintrep No. 549. Part 4. Greece. Athens and Piraeus remain quiet while the search for arms and ammunition proceeds.  
(A.F.H.Q. No T.O.O/9th to W.O.)



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TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

NIGERIA Departure NIGERIA E.T.A. Trincomalee 1030Z 11th January. S. of A.  $24\frac{1}{2}$  knots. (F.O. Bombay, 090324Z, to Admty.)

U-boat No fresh information. Scale remains unchanged dispositions in all areas. (C. in C. E.I. Station, 090332Z to S. and A. E.I. Station, etc.)

S/M H.M.S/M SHAKESPEARE First Far East Patrol  
SHAKESPEARE 31st December South East Nancauri Strait  
Patrol attacked South-bound convoy, two merchant ships, 3 escorts, 6 torpedoes fired at Leading ship of 1,000 tons. Vessel considered sunk. Ineffective counter attack. 3rd Jan. 0750 S.E. Nancauri Strait fired 4 torpedoes at 700 ton unescorted merchant ship. All torpedoes missed. SHAKESPEARE surfaced and in the ensuing gun action was hit on the pressure hull holed partially flooded and unable to dive. Merchant vessel's gun was knocked out, ship turned away and last seen stopped and listing. From 0930 until sunset SHAKESPEARE proceeding at 8 knots on one engine was subjected to 25 air attacks by bombers, seaplanes, fighter bomber and fighters. Damage and casualties caused by bomb splinters and cannon fire. One seaplane shot down in flames and several others were hit. With one engine, main motors, W/T and only ballast pump out of action SHAKESPEARE left patrol for Trinco along known outward route of S/M STYGIAN whom she met 0300 F.G. 6th. Destroyers sent to assist and SHAKESPEARE was eventually taken in tow by WHELP 200 miles east of Trinco, where she arrived 0900 8th Jan. (C. in C.E.I., 090941Z to Admty. etc.)

FORMIDABLE Your 011201.  
Working up of FORMIDABLE on E.I. Stn. quite convenient.  
(3) Ship will have few days working up with squad. at Alexandria before sailing for Ceylon. Therefore, consider little working up will be required here and ship should be ready to sail for Australia mid-February.  
(4) Further signal will be made after consulting FORMIDABLE.  
(5) Intend retention of 2 B.P.F. destroyers in Ceylon after Meridian to act as escort for FORMIDABLE working up and on passage to B.P.F.  
(C. in C.E.I., 090946Z to C. in C.B.P.F.) See 102340A.



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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

T.G.60.6 BALTIMORE\* BILLE WUL Task Group 60.6 hereby constituted. Captain Whiting Comdesdiv 30 in COWIE, DOBLER, WALTER S. BROWN, SMARTT, KEY WEST. (C. in C. Lant, 090036Z to Comdesdiv 30.)  
 \*As received ? Padding.

U.boat dispositions Estimates.  
 (N.S.H.Q., 091350Z and Cominch, 091520Z.)

TROUNCER Presume you investigate circumstances of flooding  
 Flooding. of aviation hold TROUNCER on 11th Dec. .  
 (B.A.D., 091420Z to F.O.C.T.)

C.T.G.22.8 When refuelled proceed with your group including  
 U-boat HUBBARD and operate against weather reporting submarine estimated within 150 miles 47° N. 30° W. Take drastic action to improve HF/DF net. When fuel dictates return Horta, refuel then

Taskgroup 22.8 proceed New York for assigned availability.  
 (C. in C. Lant, 092237Z to C.T.G. 22.8.)

Special When ready about 17th Jan. Comeastseafron sail  
 convoy special convoy composed of 6 small 6 knot Army Tankers (Y-boats) from New York to to Gibraltar for onward routeing to Mediterranean Ports, designated by C. in C. Med. Cinclant provide escort my 041940 and Cinclant 051854 neither to all refer. (Cominch, 092300 to Comeastseafron, Cinclant.)

Australia and New Zealand

Digest January 8th.  
 Serial (3) Patted planes searching western shores  
 number South China Sea noon observed one large warship  
 1084 seven destroyers or destroyer GAGPUTS 15 merchant  
 Extract. ships anchored Cap Saint Jacques: one freighter  
 heading northeast away from Cap Saint Jacques:  
 four seatrucks off Capavarella course south:  
 Camranh Bay unreported. Shot down one enemy floatplane off  
 Camranh Bay.  
 (4) Other planes reported Brunei Bay, Miri and other North Borneo anchorages empty midday: one plane attacked docks, rail terminal and warehouses Brunei inflicting damage also strafed two Luggers there.  
 (8) Allied battleship cruiser task groups continued bombardment Lingayan Gulf coastal defences throughout day immobilizing numerous known gun emplacements and destroying dumps.



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FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Digest  
Serial  
number  
1084  
(Contd.)

(9) Night 7th January enemy destroyer located by night patrol plane off Vigan: three Allied destroyers gave chase and sank Gihk (sic).  
(18) Flash report: strong United States Army Forces landed Lingayan Gulf morning 9th January. (S.H.Q. S.W.P. 091115Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarine  
attack and  
sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z 9th January.

Para (b).

(1) A/C sighted positive snort which submerged at 1551Z 8th January in 37° 48' N. 11° 12' W.

Para. C.

(1) ENCHANTRESS and KILMARTIN attacked doubtful contact from 1913Z to 2040Z/8th Jan. in approx. 34° 51' N. 06° 17' W.

(D.D.I.C., 091050A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

U-boat  
dispositions

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C., 091425A, 091430A.)



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Wednesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North Sea.

1(a) The midget U-Boat stranded a mile east of Domburg has been inspected by P.S.V.O to A.N.C.X.F. who proposes to recover her entire, cut her into sections and ship her to U.K. Meanwhile, another was sunk by Bren and Borfors guns at Wemeldinge, and H.D.M.L. 1469 is considered to have sunk another off N.F.17 buoy, but COWDRAY, whilst attacking yet another off Flushing, struck submerged wreckage and damaged herself.

(b) A.N.C.X.F. has asked for 4 more L.C.S(M)'s for the East Schelde patrols.

(c) H.N.M.Submarine DOLFIJN, approaching her patrol area some 70 miles east of Peterhead, was machine-gunned by 5 unidentified aircraft at 1547. Both her periscopes were hit and she is returning to Lerwick.

Western Approaches.

2. JONAS LIE, afloat but abandoned, has been located by aircraft of 19 Group 30 miles west of Lundy. HELIER II, whaler, with deck crew and STORMKING, tug, have been sent to intercept her. The hunt for the U-Boat is proceeding, so far without results.

Foreign Stations

North Atlantic

BLACKHEATH  
(torpedoed.)

3. F.O.G.M.A. reports that ship in K.M.<sup>S.</sup>76 torpedoed in position 35 degs. 49' N. 6 degs. 3' W. at 1603. (60' W. of Gibraltar). Escort Group 1, ordered to hunt U-Boat with all despatch. Ship torpedoed is the BLACKHEATH (Br. 4,637 tons) Now aground 2 miles South of ~~Sorfa~~ Spartel, Salvage being attempted. Later reported that she had broken in two after pounding by heavy seas on 14th Jan.

*Cape*



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SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

- Riviera. 4(a) Tonight coastal craft in Gulf of Genoa fired 4 torpedoes at F lighters believed to be minelayers. Two lighters were definitely hit and one other probable hit claimed.  
(b) LE FORTUNE (French destroyer) was attacked by 2 explosive motor boats 12' South of San Remo and sank one of them.  
(c) Our aircraft damaged 5 vessels in Gulf of Genoa.
- Adriatic. 5(a) Medium bombers to-day sank a merchant vessel near Venice.  
(b) Tonight enemy raided Island of Ist.

East Indies

- S/M THOROUGH. 6(a) S/M THOROUGH on her 4th Far East Patrol reports that on 23rd December she laid 12 mines, on the 29th in 8 degs. 10' N. 98 degs. 14' E. she sank by gunfire 2 60 ton junks on 1st Jan. bombarded a 120 ton junk and set it on fire with 7 hits.
- S/M RORQUAL. (b) S/M RORQUAL on her 1st Far East Patrol reports that on 3rd Jan. laid 49 mines and on the 4th 12 mines.
- S/M TUDOR. (c) S/M TUDOR on her 4th Far East Patrol reports that between 22nd and 29th December in vicinity of Tavoze River and Port Owen sank 7 large schooners and junks totalling 395 tons. All northbound loaded explosives and petrol.

Australia and New Zealand

- Philippines. 7(a) Before dawn this morning estimated 6 enemy small boats raided ships in Lingayan Gulf inflicting minor damage by underwater explosions - 3 enemy boats sunk - Survivor states boats carried depth charges. In afternoon some Japanese seen swimming towards ships with explosive charges, but all drowned.



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SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand

Philippines.  
(Contd.)

*Date in correct.  
Landing took place  
at 0930 local time  
on 9<sup>th</sup> January.*

*CSG.*

7(b) Strong United States army forces landed on 4 beaches near base of Lingayan Gulf, at about 0930 hours (local time) supported by - battleship - cruiser. Naval surface forces and Escort carriers. Some mortar and artillery fire on one beach necessitated temporary retraction of Landing craft until naval gunfire neutralised enemy artillery. Otherwise landings were unopposed.

(c) Mustangs and Lightnings attached set on fire 5 merchant vessels and 38 barges off Vigan. (N.W. Luzon).



War Diary.

10.1.1945.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of United Kingdom.

Reduction  
of Coastal  
Artillery.

Your 070229 consider it essential Links and Graem-  
say remain as defence against midget S/MS.  
If further reductions essential 6 inch guns at  
Stanger and Ness suggested but my 221220 Dec.  
para. 3 refers.  
(A.C.O.S., 101505A to Admty).

Admiralty message 070118 consider following guns and lights  
can be reduced to care and maintenance now: Fanhole one six  
inch 45°, Langdon two six inch 15°, Wanstone two 15 inch, Lydden  
spout one six inch 45°. Remainder of guns and lights given in  
para. four to be reduced to care and maintenance when the  
liberation of Dutch coast is further progressed.

(V.A. Dover, 101538A to Admty).

Operations.

North Sea.

Midget  
U-boats.

Midget submarine craft bearing 270° Ostend 7  
miles.

(Ostend W/T 100925 to "32 YB").

From P.S.V.O.

Senior Salvage Officer has surveyed two-man  
submarine stranded one mile West of Domburg.  
Vessel is 38 feet long by 9 feet diameter, and carries two  
21 inch electrically-driven torpedoes, carried port and starboard  
outboard.

List is 120° from upright. Conning tower half buried, and hatch  
partly open. Two hydroplanes aft. One two-bladed propeller.  
Naval type bell-shaped rudder acting on slipstream from propeller  
No engine exhaust found. Propulsion assumed to be all  
electric. Vessel built in 3 welded sections. Salvage only  
possible under finer weather conditions owing to surf. Beach  
must be cleared of teller mines and mined obstacles in close  
vicinity. This is being arranged. Danger of sea-mines in  
unswept waters nearby makes salvage from seaward impracticable,  
meantime. Consider best method of salvage is to refloat and  
pull craft 100 yards inshore where it can be cut into suitable  
size sections and transported overland for shipment to U.K.  
Constructor Captain Merrington is arranging to send a Constructor  
Officer to take full structural details before any attempt is  
made to move object. Suggest that other interested technical  
officers may be sent to inspect submarine if desired.

(N.O.I.C. Antwerp, 101046A to Admty., A.N.C.X.F.)

Following received. From R.N.O. Beveland. Begins:-

1440 today a suspicious object was engaged by Bofors and Bren  
gun 900 yards north Wemeldinge Harbour entrance. Object hit  
and sunk after which nothing was seen except small oil patch.  
Description of object - dome shaped, height 2 to 3 ft., small  
tube or pipe projected from water close to dome. Colour lower  
2/3 black, upper 1/3 lighter colour. Documentary report follows.  
091623A Jan. ends.

2. Endeavour is being made to secure any remains.

(F.O. Holland, 101604A to Admty).

Have struck submerged wreckage whilst attacking Midget S/M  
in position 51° 25' 44" N., 03° 29' 15" E. Asdic dome punctured,  
damage to propellers and possibly shafts. Am proceeding at 12  
knots.

(COWDRAY, 101645A to C. in C. Nore, D.21, N.O.I.C. Antwerp)

Midget U-boat summary for 24 hours ending 2000/10.

(1) 0900/10 H.S.L. 2633 reported trial as made by midget U-boat



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Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Midget U-boats. (contd)  
290 Ostend 7 miles course 110. Ships and patrols alerted, no contact obtained.  
(2) 1100/10 VIMY had active contact 025 OD3 buoy 1 mile. M.T.B. 776 with Mark XII charges. Contact lost considered doubtful.  
(3) 1220 M.L. 901 attacked contact 064 N.F. 13 1.5 miles. Contact considered non-sub.  
(4) 1510/10 H.D.M.L. 1469 attacked midget U-boat 320 N.F. 17 1 mile. Considered sunk.  
(5) Weather unsuitable for aircraft co-operation. (N.O.I.C. Ostend, 102050A to C. in C. Nore).

E.C. 7 N.O.I.C. Ostend 091901. M/S M.Ls. are at present engaged on sweeping operations at Wemeld-Inge. (Wemeldinge).  
In order to expedite salvage of E.C.7 request loan to Ostend of 4 M/S M.Ls. from Nore Command. (Com. Belgium, 101135A to C. in C. Nore).  
Com. Belgium, 092330. In view of N.O.I.C. Ostend's 091901 consider minesweeping for this purpose would be unprofitable diversion of effort.  
2. Propose abandoning E.C.7. (A.N.C.X.F., 101207A to Admty).  
Salvage will proceed when minesweeping is completed. Vessel has been detailed.  
Your 092330 to N.O.I.C. Ostend refers. (N.O.I.C. Antwerp, 101330A to Com. Belgium).

Situation Report. Cositintrep No.281 Part IV. Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 091600A Jan.

<u>British</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> (incl. coal).	<u>Bulk</u> <u>Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
Antwerp	6	135	8,694	15,691	556
Ostend	197	60	3,391	-	1,552
Boulogne	7	39	-	-	-
Dieppe	12	-	134	-	-
Caen	-	-	1,457	-	-
Calais	66	-	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	-	-	-
Total	288	234	13,676	15,691	2,108
<u>U.S. North.</u>					
Antwerp	-	-	10,820	-	-
Cherbourg	-	-	7,341	13,016	2,816
Le Havre	7,198	427	7,654	-	2,697
Rouen	189	100	3,846	1,366	1,209
Granville	-	-	438	-	-
Total	7,387	527	30,099	14,382	6,722



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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Situation  
Report.  
(contd).

<u>U.S. South.</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> <u>(inclu.</u> <u>coal).</u>	<u>Bulk</u> <u>Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
Marseilles	-	36	11,014	-	-
Port De Bouc	-	-	1,241	1,111	-
Toulon	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	36	12,255	1,111	-

(S.H.A.E.F., 101430A to Admty. etc).

Cositintrep No. 281 part II Naval.

(1) Patrol was landed near Zype on East Schouwen by L.C.A. of Force "T" today Wednesday. No casualties to our own troops or craft.

(A.N.C.X.F., 102225A to Admty).

- Minesweeping
1. Conduct following programme tomorrow Thursday
    - (A) L.L./S.A. E.G.M.S. either side of centre line. N.F.1 - N.F.3 buoys.
    - (B) L.L./S.A. E.G.M.S. from centre line N.F.3 - 53 F. buoys to 2 miles east of centre line.
  2. Return Small Downs on completion. Acknowledge.
  - (C. in C. Nore, 101516A to M.S.F.42).

L.C.S.(M) required for East Schelde. Request 4 more L.C.S. (M) may be allocated Force T for patrols in East Schelde. It was hoped to use L.C.A. but these have proved unsuitable.

2. Army have been informed that Naval Patrols cannot be considered as a substitute for troops, but it is considered that adequate patrols will do much to discourage enemy raiding parties and in event of an enemy assault L.C.S.(M) may be able to disrupt that attack.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 101730A to Admty).

Operations.

Channel.

Patrols. (1) Proceed to 180 Lizard 4 then to carry out A/S sweep through (AA) 49.30 N., 04.00 W. (BB) 50.00 N., 03.00 W. then towards H.4 Buoy and as ordered by C. in C. Portsmouth.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 101026A to S.O.E., 26).

Night patrol 10th/11th January. 10th E.G. as in my 061245A para. (1) 17th E.G. anti-snort patrol area limits (A) North of Cherbourg. (B) 49° 52' (C) 01° 47' N., (D) 01 10' W.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 101155A to S.O.E.Gs., 10, 17).

/Possibility...



10.1.1945.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

Channel.

Patrols.  
(contd).

Possibility of U-boats.

In order to eliminate snorting in close inshore areas anti-submarine patrols are being carried out by Coastal Craft off the English Coast.

Request you will consider similar action around

Cherbourg Peninsula keeping me informed of your intentions.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 101216A to C.T.F.125).

30th E.G. negative CAISTOR CASTLE proceed to Portland to fuel.

(2) 26th E.G. on arrival in Portsmouth Command proceed Portland report E.T.A.

(3) 30th E.G. turn over orders to 26th E.G.

(4) On completion N.O.I.C. Portland is requested to sail 30th E.G. to Londonderry and 26th E.G. for patrol.

(5) CAISTOR CASTLE will be sailed when defects are completed.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 101230A to S.O.E.Gs. 30, 26, F.O.I.C. Portland).

Intend to sweep through Lyme Bay during dark hours after passage of coastal convoy.

(S.O.E.G.14, 101502 to C. in C. Plymouth).

On completion of my 101256 patrol in vicinity of Portland Bill. Meet FAULKNER (S.O.), VAN GALEN and TJERK HIDDERS escorting SS. DURHAM, TELEMACHUS and JAVANESE PRINCE on route E due 180° Portland Bill at 0400A/11th.

2. VANOC and SPRAGGE also rendezvous from eastwards.

3. Act under orders of VANOC as additional escort to E.A.5 buoy thence returning to Portsmouth reporting E.T.A.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 101535A to L'AVENTURE, LA DECOUVERTE)

Take up following patrols:-

(1) ST. JOHN, PORT COLBORNE (Groom A) relieve HESPERUS GOODALL (Freak B) patrolling between Lizard and Scillies.

(2) On relief Freak B zig-zag search through (XX) 49.16 N., 04.14 W. (YY) 49.43 N., 02.53 W., thence to relieve E.G.14 (Detest) patrolling between Portland and Start.

(3) On relief Detest zig-zag search between 49.50 N., 03.00 W. and 49.22 N., 03.09 W.

(4) S.Os. report respective E.T.As. on new patrols.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 101601A to S.O.E.Gs. 14, 9, 19).

Pass the gate at 0930A/11 and proceed towards 50.10 N., 03.00 W. thence to join E.G.14 as ordered by S.O.E.G.14.

2. HAVELOCK, ASSINIBOINE, INCONSTANT are to arrive Plymouth 0930A/12 for lay over.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 101651A to E.G.14, DUNCAN, ICARUS)

Detach one ship to carry out inshore A/S sweep in Lyme Bay.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 102105A to S.O.E.G.14).

Operation  
"Nestegg".

C. in C. Plymouth 081454. Propose PRINCESS\$ ASTRID INVICTA and PRINCESS\$ JOSEPHINE CHARLOTTE be allocated as replacement for EMPIRE JAVELIN.

2. As ULSTER MONARCH is no longer able to be at seven days notice for operation "Nestegg" propose

either ROYAL ULSTERMAN or ~~STEIN~~ HELIER be allocated in her place.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 101043A to Admty).

/Possible...



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Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel - Contd.

Possible  
U-boat  
off Falmouth.

Bottomed contact in position 50° 07.7' N., 04° 39.7' which is marked by small buoy and giving off long oil slick. Request instructions. (COTTON, 101212A to C. in C. Plymouth).

Mine-  
sweeping.

Your 081145. It is considered preferable for 182nd and 183rd M/S Auxiliary Groups to remain at Portsmouth until hours of daylight lengthen and weather is likely to be more settled. Groups will however be available at any time if required for a specific operation. (D.M.S. 101225A to A.N.C.X.F.)

S.N.O.B.O.P.  
(F)  
proposes  
Channel  
channels  
responsibility  
organisation.

In view of two cases of possible minelaying in last 48 hours and to avoid delay and possible ambiguity in responsibility for closing channels, etc., suggest instructions should be issued to ensure that:-

1. C. in C. Portsmouth and A.C. Dover assume responsibility for French Coastal and Approach Channels within their command.
2. N.Os. I.C., and R.N.Os. take necessary immediate action in approach channels and ports reporting any incident direct to Flag Officer concerned repeated to adjacent ports, S.N.O.B.O.P. (F), A.N.C.X.F. (Main), C.T.F. 125, Flag Officer taking all final action including request for Q message. (S.N.O.B.O.P.(F) 101253A to C. in C. Portsmouth, V.A. Dover).  
Your 101253 should have been addressed A.N.C.X.F. and as C.T.F.125's responsibilities are affected should have been repeated to him.
3. All Channels in Dover Command are already the responsibility of V.A. Dover except Nore to Flushing and Ostend Approach Channels.
4. In Portsmouth Command French Coastal and Approach Channels are responsibility of C.T.F.125 who is responsible for Q messages in respect of these Channels. Cross-Channel routes are responsibility of C. in C. Portsmouth.
5. No change in these responsibilities is considered necessary or desirable at present.
6. You should instruct N.Os. I.C. and R.N.Os. in sense of your Para. 2 except that report should be made to C. in C. Portsmouth V.A. Dover or C.T.F. 125 as appropriate. (A.N.C.X.F., 101818A to S.N.O.B.O.P. (F))

Possible  
U-boat  
off Portland.

1. Proceed to vicinity 260 Portland Bill 19 and take over from HYDRANGEA carrying out observant. Lost contact 1340A.
2. HYDRANGEA on relief rejoin VILLE DE QUEBEC at low speed. (C. in C. Plymouth, 102126A to S.O.E.G.14, HYDRANGEA).

Report classification of your contact and relevant particulars repeating to E.G.14.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 102246A to HYDRANGEA).



War Diary.

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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel - Contd.

E.G. 41 46° 30' N., 07° 54' W. 030° 12 my P.C.S.  
2. E.T.A. 2030A/11th under present weather conditions. W/R 6876 8614.  
(S.O.E.G. 41, 102157A to C. in C. Plymouth).

E.G. 30 Intend at 0900/11 30th E.G. PEVENSEY CASTLE (S.O.) KENILWORTH CASTLE, LAUNCESTON CASTLE to Londonderry by Q.Z.S. 642, 590, 607, 583, 432, 668, 667, 670 route A and S. 388.  
2. Speed of advance 12½ knots E.T.A. 0800/13. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 102320 to Com. D. Derry).

Operations.

West Coast France.

Intended bombardment of Belle Ile. My 091848. Sailing in accordance with para. one is to be postponed until British Liaison Officers have returned.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 101240A to C.T.F. 125).  
A.N.C.X.F., 091848.  
Comply with para. one and four notwithstanding British Liaison Parties not available for all ships. Supply recognition signals to all ships for voyage to Brest. (C.T.F. 125, 101527A to C.T.G. 125.2).

Operations.

Western Approaches.

SS. JONAS Your 092250A HUDDERSFIELD TOWN returned Milford Haven with 65 survivors.  
LIE (F.O.I.C. Milford, 100007A to DUCKWORTH (E.G. 3).  
torpedoed off the Smalls. Am in contact bottomed target 150° The Smalls 14. Target measures 190 feet long 36 foot high. Intend attack. Becoming suitable.  
(S.O.E.G. 3, 100135A to F.O.I.C. Milford).

Unidentified plot faded in position 51° 29' N., 04° 48' W. at 0746, course east, speed 4 knots.

(F.O.I.C. Milford, 100905 to S.O.E.G. 3).

Search in area bounded by A. 51° 17' N., 05° 00' W.

B. 51° 44' N., 06° 20' W. C. 52° 30' N., 06° 00' W.

D. 52° 13' N., 04° 22' W.

(F.O.I.C. Milford, 101345 to S.O.E.G. 2).

Arrived 3rd E.G.

(F.O.I.C. Milford, 101347 to C. in C. W.A.)

Over drifting ship position 51° 19' N., 05° 47' W.

(A/C LGV 42, 101120 to 19 Group).

Position ship 51.15 N., 05.54 W. Drifting southwest.

(A/C PD 576 101505A to 19 Group).

Anticipates that derelict will be in vicinity of position 51° N., long. 06.21 W., at 0800A/11.

HELIER II and Tug STORMKING proceed from present position through following positions to intercept derelict at daylight.

A. 51° 53' N., 06° 15' W. B. 51° 33' N., 07° W.



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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

SS. JONAS  
LIE  
torpedoed off  
the Smalls.  
(contd).

2. F.S. ROSELYS with deck crew of JONAS LIE will sail from Milford Haven to join HELIER II and Tug STORMKING at daylight.  
3. Attention is called to Q.Z.X.1018, 1465, 1006. HELIER II pass details to Tug.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford, 101811A to HELIER II, STORMKING repeated to S.O.E.G.2, 19 Group).  
If not in contact at 0500A/11th leave your search area and proceed to Liverpool for lay over.  
(C. in C. W.A., 102331A to S.O.E.G.2).

Weather  
reporting  
ship.

CAMELLIA is to sail January 14th to relieve PRIMROSE as weather reporting ship fuelling at Londonderry on outward passage.  
2. E.T.A. in 53 N., 20 W. to be reported.  
3. PRIMROSE is to proceed to Liverpool on relief.  
(C. in C. W.A., 101207A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool, PRIMROSE).

H.M.C.S.  
RIVIERE  
DE LOUP  
corvette of  
E.G. C.3,  
H.M.C.S.  
ANNAN,  
frigate,  
E.G.6.

H.M.C.S. RIVIERE DU LOUP has been delayed sailing to range and swing at 0730 today 10th January About 40 Ordinary Seamen and Communication Ratings shut themselves into fore mess deck and refused duty. Commanding Officer spoke to them on broadcast without effect. I have visited ship and taken necessary action. They will be arrested individually and placed under arrest as they emerge from mess deck. Commanding Officer, Temp. Lieut. R.N. Smillie, R.C.N.V.R. was discharged to sick quarters 9th January. Act. Temp. Lieut. Comdr. Frk. Naftel R.C.N.V.R. is being lent to ship from Commodore D Staff as relief.  
(F.O.I.C. N.I., 101340 to C. in C. W.A.)

Action has been taken subsequent to telephone communication with F.O.I.C. N.I., Chief of Staff to C. in C. W.A., and D.C.N.M.O. Addressed Officers and ships company of H.M.C.S. ANNAN who are in my opinion a fine team proven by recent spirited action in sinking U.1006.

2. I explained that essential requirement was timely sailing and efficiency of RIVIERE DU LOUP and that since they were going to dock, deficiencies in personnel would be drafted from ANNAN to join RIVIERE DU LOUP noon tomorrow January 11th but that I would guarantee that every man transferred would return to ANNAN on return of C.3 to Londonderry and receive 1 weeks leave which would have been given them during docking.

3. I explained that whilst my decision to draft the first Lieut. and 46 ratings was final I would appreciate to know that their sense of responsibility demanded that all were volunteers. I then left the ship. Within 10 minutes I was informed by the Commanding Officer ANNAN that all categories had immediately been filled by volunteers.

4. It is understood that all ratings refusing duty have now been removed and placed under arrest and ship should be able to sail p.m. tomorrow for exercises and escort duty. The question whether Lieut. Smillie R.C.N.V.R. should return to command or Lieut. Commander Naftel continue in this duty, would best be

/decided...



10.1.1945.  
Wednesday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

H.M.C.S. RIVIERE DE LOUP corvette of E.G. C.3, H.M.C.S. ANNAN, frigate, E.G.6. (contd).

decided by F.O.I.C. N.I. but under the exceptional circumstances I am prepared to allow Naftel to undertake the round trip in this duty. (Com. D.W.A., 102015 to C. in C. W.A., (R) F.O.I.C. N.I.)

E.G. 31

Rendezvous with E.N.68 escorted by STOKE CITY and POLKA in position 090° Barra Head 14 at 0530A 11th and support convoy to 55° N. in North Channel. Convoy speed 8 knots. (C. in C. W.A., 101438A to S.O.E.G.31).

Possible U-boat.

PEACOCK reports H.E. before, and oil and noises after 2 attacks and contact appeared stationary. He still considers submarine contact.

2. HART and STARLING unable to confirm as submarine contact now lost.

3. Intend searching area thoroughly. Request instructions regarding CELANDINE. (S.O.E.G.22, 102358A to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.

Norway.

H.N.M.S. DOLFIJN

My 091930A sailed. (S.O. S/Ms Lerwick, 101007A to F.O.S/M, A.C.O.S., C. in C. Rosyth). DOLFIJN sailed for patrol. (S.O. S/Ms Lerwick, 101015A to Admty).

Machine gunned by 5 unidentified aircraft at 1547. Both periscopes hit and out of action. Returning Lerwick, E.T.A. 0100/11. (DOLFIJN, 101704A to F.O.S.M. S.O.S/M Lerwick). Report your position course and speed at 1545A today Wednesday. (F.O.S/M 101933A to DOLFIJN). My 101812. Cancel para. (C) DOLFIJN returning to Lerwick. E.T.A. 0100/11. (F.O.S/M, 102144A to Admty).

Patrols.

0800/11th Submarine positions and movements for following 24 hours. All times Zone A.

(A) UTSIRA on patrol off Fro Havet.

(B) SEANYMPH as in my 061704.

(C) DOLFIJN probably on surface 9 knots position 57° 48' N., 00° 32' E. to patrol within radius 10 miles of 57° 10' N., 00° 01' E. (F.O.S/M, 101812A to Admty).

/Operation....



10.1.1945  
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

Operation "Spellbinder". Scapa departures - C.S. One in NORFOLK with APOLLO and BELLONA Capt. (D) 17 in ONSLOW with ORWELL, ONSLAUGHT, ZEALOUS and CARRON. (A.C.O.S., 102202 to Admty.)

Operations

Northern Waters

J.W. convoy cycles. A.M. 091959. Para. 2 concur. Para.3. is under consideration, further signal will be made. (C. in C. H.F. 101158A to Admty.)

Possible U-Boat. E.T.A. position of attack 1545A your 101106 refers. Suitable. (S.O.E.G. 25, 101230A to C. in C. Rosyth.) E.G.25 will carry out search diagram No.10 from F.T.P.223. (S.O. E.G. 25, 101430A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Am now carrying out box search about new oil patch reported by A/C position 59.17 N. 04.20 W.

(S.O. E.G.25, 101602 to C. in C. Rosyth)

If not in contact at 2359A/10th abandon search and proceed to R/V with SS. NOVA, TORDENSKJOLD and ST. MAGNUS escorted by 4 Trawlers (SCALBY WYKE S.O.) in position 35 Buoy at 0430A/11th and support to Aberdeen.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 102310A to S.O.E.G.25)

Need of harbour tug in Iceland. Loss of harbour tug EMPIRE WOLD on 10th Nov., 1944 has left only one British tug EMPIRE PIPER available for Revikernd Hvalfjord area. Latter vessel has accordingly had to be kept at almost continuous notice, crew have been practically confined to ship and winter conditions with frequent gale warnings have prevented men from having adequate rest periods. In addition vessel is developing defects which will soon necessitate laying up for repairs.

(2) Only other tugs available are one British rescue tug and Icelandic tug MANGI, services of latter can be obtained only in great emergency but this vessel is normally employed on Icelandic work and cannot be used to relieve EMPIRE PIPER.

(3) M.O.W.T.R. Iceland has been informed by M.O.W.T. London and D. of S.T. that there is no prospect of replacement for EMPIRE WOLD the former stressing the fact that a rescue tug is also at present allocated to Iceland (C).

(4) Rescue tugs such as MEDIATOR and EARNER are quite unsuitable for harbour work as they are difficult to manoeuvre and their draught is too great for inshore work at Fuel Depot Hvalfjord when oilers require assistance. Furthermore a rescue tug is required for operations beyond the scope of harbour tugs. My 251300 Sept. 1944 emphasised this necessity before the loss of EMPIRE WOLD.

(5) Consider therefore that replacement is essential if harbour services fuelling operations and speed turn-round of convoys are to be maintained. My 191654 July, 1944 also refers.

(A.C.I.C. 101914A to Admty.)



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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

TROUNCER  
escort  
carrier.

TROUNCER will be available in the Clyde from about 16th January. Request you will make arrangements for (a) Survey of damage to be carried out, (b) Work found necessary to be undertaken (c) Completion date to be reported in due course.

2. F.O.C.T., 081243 being passed to F.O.I.C. Glasgow refers.  
(D.O.D. (H), 100107A to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

Movements.

SLINGER,  
SPEAKER,  
KHEDIVE,  
escort  
carriers.

Subject to timely arrival of ESKIMO and NUBIAN intend sailing SLINGER (S.O.) SPEAKER and KHEDIVE escorted by VOLAGE, VENUS, ESKIMO and NUBIAN passing Clyde Boom 1530A 11th Jan. for Gibraltar. A.M. 042328A Jan. refers. Speed of advance  $14\frac{1}{2}$  knots. E.T.A. 0830A 16th Jan. Codeword "Bottom".  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 101228 to Admty, C. in C. W.A. F.O.G.M.A.)

A.M. 042328 para. (1). As NUBIAN is defective, C. in C. W.A. is requested to provide a 4th escort as far as latitude  $48^{\circ}$  N.

2. F.O.G.M.A. is requested to arrange a 4th escort in Med. Approaches as considered necessary.

(Admty., 101953A to C. in C. W.A., F.O.G.M.A.)



War Diary10.1.1945  
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

- C.T.G.22.9 Radar contact lost after 6 minutes 8 miles Northeast of 41.55 N. 60.30 W. at 1020Q. (Corrupt group) at 18 knots, course northeast. Conducting box search for next 24 hours. (C.T.G.22.9, 100231Z to R.D.O. Halifax.)
- E.G.2  
U-boat  
Search Cancel my 100245 H.M.S. WELLINGTON again defective.  
(2) WELLINGTON is to return Gibraltar forthwith.  
(3) (?H.M.S. HYDERABAD) is to remain with Group 2.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 100343A, to Group 2, H.M.S. WELLINGTON.)  
On completion of sweep back to Eastwards Group II return Gibraltar.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 100921A to Group 2.)  
If not in contact by 2100A tonight Wednesday proceed to sweep along Moroccan Coast from 005° 51' west approaching 035° 20' N.  
(2) Sweep in line abreast at 8 knots from close inshore, ships spread 1 mile apart.  
(3) On completion sweep reverse route covering unswept water to seaward.  
(4) Appreciate U-boat may be bottomed in shallow water to southward to torpedoing.  
(5) QRY.105 may be considered safe.  
(6) Report time of commencement of sweep and reversal.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 101951A to Group 2.)
- CROCUS CROCUS 13 to detach from K.M.S.76 and proceed to join M.K.S.76 as convoys pass in Strait at approximately 1830A tonight 10th Jan. (F.O.G.M.A. 100953A to S.E. K.M.S.76.)
- E.G.1 SPIREA and WOODCOCK are to be detached to return to Gibraltar forthwith report E.T.A. (F.O.G.M.A., 100929A to S.O. Group 1.)
- K.M.S.76  
Ship  
torpedoed Following repeats my 101635A, addressed Group one, repeated Admiralty, C.M.S.F., C. in C. Mediterranean, S.E.C., K.M.S.76, from F.O.G.M.A. Proceed all despatch to hunt U-boat.  
(2) Ship in K.M.76 torpedoed in position 35° 49' N. 006° 03' W. at 1603.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 101639A to Admty.)
- WELLINGTON,  
LOWESTOFT WELLINGTON is to slip and proceed as soon as ready to join Group 1.  
(2) LOWESTOFT is to arrange R/V.  
(3) WELLINGTON report time of sailing, repeat to LOWESTOFT.  
(4) My 101645\* and 101653\* being passed to WELLINGTON.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 101721A to Group 1, WELLINGTON.)  
\* Formers not identified.

/ERNE...



10,1.1945  
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic - Contd.

ERNE

E.T.A. 1030A Thursday, 11th.  
(ERNE, 100950A to F.O.G.M.A.)

OAKLEY

Sail for U.K. at 1600A January 11th.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 101221A to OAKLEY.)

TEES

TEES as S.O. escorts to Flight "E" due to leave U.K. 10th Jan.  
(2) On arrival Gibraltar F.O.G.M.A. is requested to sail TEES as convenient to rejoin F.O.C.W.Af. (D.O.D.(F) 101525A to F.O.G.M.A.)

E.G.20

S.O.E.G.20 in TAVY is to take SOMALILAND and LOCH FYNE under his orders and proceed at 0730A January 11th to relieve LOWESTOFT, BELLWORT and NADA Y.S. in 1 patrolling to westward.  
(2) On taking over 20th E.G. will form group 1.  
(3) (?) LOWESTOFT to arrange R/V.  
My 101653 being passed to E.G.20.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 101753A to Group 1, S.O.E.G. 20, in TAVY.)



War Diary

10.1.1945  
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Swiss  
sailings  
to Marseilles

No naval objection Admiralty message 052006\*  
passed to F.O.N.A.M. Military agreement and  
security arrangements are now responsibilities  
of S.H.A.E.F.  
(C. in C. Med., 101553A to Admty.)  
\* Any alteration in position yet.

Routeing  
of Ships

Request clarification of "Mideast Ports" in  
your 071607.  
(D.T.D. 101701A to C. in C. Med.)



10.1.1945  
Wednesday

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies.

- U/B dis-positions. No fresh information. Scale in all areas remains unchanged.  
(C. in C. E.I. 100340Z to Admty., etc.)
- EURYALUS. E.I. Station 255C of 7th Jan. Delete EURYALUS who will now join, 4th C.S.  
(C. in C. E.I. 100352 to E.I. Station 259C.)  
Note: All cruisers belonging to the East Indies Fleet will join 5th C.S.
- GOMBROON. GOMBROON. Your 051329\* refers. Ship 20 years old and apart from expense involved in removing existing fittings and equipment considered unadvisable for return to Commercial service as follows.  
(C. in C. E.I. 100437Z to Admty.)  
\* Request brief report concerning GOMBROON.
- S/M THOROUGH. THOROUGH Fourth East (Far) Patrol. 23rd Dec. laid 12 mines. 29th 008° 10' 098° 14' by gunfire sank 2, 60 tons junk. 1st Jan. bombarded 120 tons junk at anchor 7 hits ship on fire. 4th Jan. air sea rescue duty.  
(C. in C. E.I. 100614Z to Admty.)
- RORQUAL. RORQUAL 1st Far East Patrol. 3rd Jan. laid 49 mines 3rd and 4th Jan. laid 12 mines.  
(C. in C. E.I. 100718Z to Admty.)
- S/M TUDOR. TUDOR 4th Far East Patrol. 22nd - 29th Dec. vicinity Tavoy River and Port Owen by gunfire sank seven large schooners and junks totalling 395 tons. All northbound loaded explosives or petrol.  
(C. in C. E.I. 100911Z to Admty.)
- Storage on E.I. Station. (Extract.) (3) As the Admiralty is already aware the limit of the capacity of Ceylon to handle victualling supplies will be reached whilst numbers are still short of 100000 men. The balance was to have been met by V.S.I.S. restoring in Australia and South Africa. This will now be impossible until towards the end of 1945 and then only on a limited scale.  
(5) Unless there is a marked reduction in rate of increase of personnel indicated in A.M. 091551 the critical point will be reached about the end of May.  
(C. in C. E.I. 101300Z to Admty.)

/FORMIDABLE...



War Diary.

10.1.1945  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

FORMIDABLE  
aircraft.

Your 090946. The re-equipping of one Fleet Carrier with Corsair IV in place of Corsair II aircraft should be done in the near future as ample Corsair IV reserves are already at Sydney. A.M. 280323 September para. 4 (not to C. in C. B.P.F.) or F.O.N.A.S.(A) refers.

(2) As no conversion to Corsair IV has yet been carried out and in order to avoid having to do this at Sydney it is considered very desirable to convert FORMIDABLE Corsair Squadrons whilst in East Indies Station.

(3) Subject to the concurrence of C. in C. B.P.F. and availability of aircraft request you re-equip 1841 and 1842 Squadrons with Corsair IV before joining B.P.F.

(4) Airframe spares manufactured by Messrs. Goodyear for Corsair IV aircraft may not yet be available in Ceylon but airframe spares supplied to ship for Corsair II are either fully interchangeable or can be made so with slight adjustment when required for use. Ship should be supplied with Corsair IV airframe spares from stocks at Sydney to supplement stocks issued in U.K.

(D.A.E. 102340A to C. in C. E.I., 150810Z from C. in C. B.P.F.)



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10.1.1945.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Com. Group 22.9. Alter my time of contact to read 100220Z refer my 100231Z. Request plane radio Halifax pass to all addressees.  
(Comtask Group 22.9 100547Z to C.in C.N.A.)

U/B dis-positions. Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q. 101325Z, Cominch 101517Z.)

VAN KINSBERGEN. H.N.M.S. VAN KINSBERGEN en route Curacao to U.K. arrives Ponta Delgada for fuel about 18th Jan.  
(Cominch 101407Z to Alusna Lisbon, Info. 3.B.N.O. Azores, Admty.)

NELSON, draught. Draughts required by A.M. 241312 Dec. have been estimated to be as follows.  
(B.A.D. 101905Z to Admty.)

U/B radar contact. No report 9th Jan. para. C. 0220Z/10 surface craft had radar contact which was lost after 6 minutes 8 miles northeast of 41.55 N. 60.30 W. plotted at 18 knots course northeast. Admiralty give info. to H.Q.C.C.  
(Cominch 102045Z to Admty.)

S/M attack & sighting summary. No report since my 082223Z. Para. C. U.S.T.G. 22.1 obtained radar contact in approx. 42.0 N. 60.22 W. at 0220Z/10.  
(N.S.H.Q. 102227Z.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Monab 4. Your 051835 not to R.A.F.T. Your para. 1 onward passage of personnel is being investigated.  
(2) F.O.N.A.S.(A) is proceeding to Manus shortly. Reply to your para. 4 will be made after discussion with U.S. Authorities.  
(F.O.N.A.S.(A) 100601Z to Admty.)

FENCER. Subject to your confirmation that a ferry trip is required (F.O.N.A.S. Australia 070315) following programme is intended for FENCER:  
12th Jan. sail for Cape Andrea.  
28th Jan. to 11th Feb. at Cochin boiler clean and embark aircraft. 27th Feb. arrive Sydney N.S.W. 4th March sail for Manus.  
(2) N.O.I.C. Sydney is requested to sail FENCER accordingly.

/No...



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10.1.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

FENCER. No escort can be provided by B.P.F.  
(Contd.) (C. in C. B.P.F. 100930Z to F.O. Air E.I. Station  
and 120124Z.)

B.P.F. American operational policy as outlined in part  
operational one of my 300330 Dec. is to keep their fleet at  
policy. sea operating in the combat area for an indefinite  
length of time.

(2) It is my aim and purpose that the British  
Pacific Fleet should adopt the same operational  
policy, but it is quite clear that in order to do so logistic  
support will be needed on a scale hitherto not contemplated.  
(3) At first, the scope of the operations to be carried out will  
be limited, the precise length of each being dependent on the  
quantity of resources available. Later, when the pipeline of  
supply has grown, I am planning to operate on the full American  
scale.

(4) In the meanwhile in order to avoid confusion when signalling  
between my full and my immediate requirements the following two  
scales of operation will be referred to:-

Scale A. Full American scale of continuous operation over a  
prolonged period.

Scale B. Operation over a period of four weeks after which the  
fleet must return to at least an intermediate base while fresh  
resources build up.

(5) Com. in Chief East Indies pass to V.A. B.P.F. and R.A.A.  
B.P.F.

(6) Admiralty pass to R.A.D. B.P.F.  
(C. in C. B.P.F. 100430Z to Admty., etc.)

British I expect to be able to move the Fleet into Manus  
Pacific about 1st March and move forward shortly after.  
Fleet (3) I consider it important however that a N.O.I.C.  
movements. and suitable staff should arrive before that date  
for liaison with American Authorities.  
(4) He would not be required to deal with harbour  
defence or to act as local operations Authority  
both of which are American responsibilities.  
(C. in C. B.P.F. 100515Z to Admty.)  
Reply 131534A.

When ready 13th Jan. sail for Manus in SWIFTSURE with Rear Admiral  
Fleet Train in HOWE accompanied by Capt. D. 4 in QUILLIAM and  
QUALITY and QUADRANT. Proceed on "Blue" route to following  
positions. C. in C. B.P.F. 090017 and your 080615 not to all  
refers. C.S. 4 acknowledge.  
(F.O.C. Sydney 100615Z to C.S.A. etc.)

Digest 1085. (Extract.) (1) Strong U.S. Army forces landed on  
4 beaches near base of Lingayan Gulf at about 0930  
hours (local) time supported by battleship cruiser  
Naval Surface Forces and Escort Carriers. Some  
mortar and artillery fire on one beach necessitated temporary  
retraction of landing craft until naval gunfire neutralized enemy  
artillery but otherwise landings were unopposed.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 101107.)

/PRIAM...



10.1.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

PRIAM. PRIAM transferred to Sea Transport Service at 0800K 4th Jan. at Melbourne. Your 301905\* Dec. refers. Fuel on board 1262.56 tons. Water 486 tons. Vessel sailed Melbourne 5th Jan. and arrived Sydney 7th Jan. for fitting out and loading. Anticipate only work required will be converting one cabin for use as office.  
(A.C.N.B. 102157B to D.S.T.)  
\* Urgent requirement for additional V.S.I.S's.

ARIADNE (minelayer) Ref. Para. 13 of your 300330 Dec. with the formation of the British Pacific Fleet as a balanced force it would seem inappropriate that the only British Fast Minelayer in the Pacific should continue on loan to the Americans. It is proposed therefore to seek the concurrence of Cominch to the ARIADNE being re-transferred to our operational control and becoming part of the British Pacific Fleet.  
(2) Request your remarks.  
(Hd. of M. Branch 102335A to C. in C. B.P.F.)  
See reply 160655Z Jan. 1945

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack & sighting summary. For 24 hours to 0900Z/10th Jan.  
Para. A. (1) Am. JONAS LIE torpedoed or mined at 1729/9th Jan. in 51° 45' N. 05° 27' W.  
(2) F.S. L'ENJOUE blew up and sank at 1615/9th Jan. in 35° 56' N. 05° 49' W. Torpedo suspected.  
Para. B. DUCKWORTH attacked a contact at 0035/10th Jan. in 51° 32' N. 05° 30' W.  
Para. C. A/C M/36 reported A.S.V. contact at 2034/9th Jan. in 49° 16' N. 03° 05' W.  
(D.D.I.C. 101150A to Cominch.)

U/B dis-positions. Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C. 101411A to A.I.G. 331, Cominch, and 101415.)



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11.1.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Channel.

1. PLOVER started laying deep anti-U-Boat minefields in the Channel.

Western Approaches.

2.(a) SS. NORMANDY COAST, and U.S. SS. ROANOKE were torpedoed <sup>? which?</sup> (in ~~convoy~~) off Holyhead. DUCKWORTH, ROWLEY, ESSINGTON, P.C. 74, LOCH TULLA, 6 minesweepers, 6th, 21st, 31st and half the 3rd Escort Groups have been sent to hunt the area.  
(b) HART, STARLING, PEACOCK, JASEUR and 22nd Escort Group have continued an abortive hunt for U-Boats in two areas about 100 miles west of Tory Island, Donegal.

Norway.

(3) On her way to patrol in Norwegian waters, DOLFIJN, Netherlands submarine was machine-gunned in 60° N., 0° 9' E. by four twin-engined aircraft (believed British), and forced to return to Lerwick with both her periscopes out of action.

Northern Waters.

4. Convoy R.A.63, 30 merchant ships, sailed from Kola.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Riviera.

5. Today French cruiser GEORGE LEYGUES bombarded barges or ships at Pietra Ligure and several direct hits were claimed.

Adriatic.

6. Situation at Zara and Split is easier.

Greece.

7(a) The roads in Attica are still being covered by mobile patrols.  
(b) No change at Corfu. Martial law declared at Patras where Greek reinforcements are arriving and E.L.A.S. have left the town as result of military ultimatum.  
(c) All quiet at Kavalla except for anti-Plastiras demonstration. Situation uneasy at Salonika.  
(d) MUSKETEER reported she had been fired on from outskirts of Gardiki Village (Greek mainland 30' S. of Volos) and had returned the fire.  
(e) Reported all quiet at Athens and Piraeus today.



War Diary

11.1.1945  
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

8(a) Ship reported gunned by armed merchant raider in position 14° 01' N. 54° 20' E. (north of Socotra.)

(b) Between the 22nd and 29th December H.M. S/M TUDOR sank 7 large schooners loaded with explosives or petrol in the vicinity of Tavoy River (Burma due East of the Andaman Islands). On the 23rd December H.M.S/M THOROUGH laid 12 mines in the Malacca Strait.

Singapore

(c) Today 24 Super Fortresses bombed the floating dock at Singapore.

(d) During the last fortnight in December over 600 river craft were destroyed or damaged on the Irrawaddy.

America and West Indies

ALCEE  
FORTIER

9. U.S. Liberty ship ALCEE FORTIER reports torpedoes fired at her in position 43° 25' S. 143° 28' E. at 11.59 today. Torpedoes missed.

Australia and New Zealand

Philippines

10.(a) Today Allied destroyers attacked a freighter transport and 45 barges unloading at San Fernando (near Lingayan Gulf) destroying or damaging all the stores. They also shelled harbour facilities and destroyed Japanese ammunition dumps.

(b) Liberators patrolling from Leyte strafed 11 landing craft heading northwards probably damaging 4 and setting 5th on fire.



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Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Patrols Nore and Dover Patrols tonight January 11th/12th.  
(1) 12 THORNBOROUGH, 14 STAYNER, 16 EKINS,  
18 EGLINTON, 19 CURZON and SLAZAK P.S.  
21 KITTIWAKE.

Coastal Force Unit.

F.C.5 at Z.9, F.A.3 at Z.5, F.A.2 at Z.7, F.C.8 at Z.3,  
F.L.2 and 3 with THORNBOROUGH F.G.2 and 3 with EKINS.  
(V.A. Dover, 111211A to Admty., C. in C. Nore.)

Mysterious German airborne object Small parachute alighted in the water in position 323° N.F.9 1½ miles at 1410. Recovery effected and identified German. Possibility of small mine. Further reports follow. (EKINS 111451A to C. in C. Nore.)  
My 111451. Parachute composed of material which rapidly decomposed in water.

Probable diameter about 12 feet. 180 feet single strand piano and 2 feet fuse wire with 4 inch metal ring attached. No attached object observed in EKINS but black object observed by pilot vessel.

Pilot vessel warned to keep shipping clear of position.  
(EKINS 111533A to C. in C. Nore.)

Situation report Cositintrep No. 282 Part four.  
Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1700A/7 January.

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> <u>(Incl. coal.)</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
<u>British</u>					
Antwerp	11	192	9620	7647	1250
Ostend	2597	140	1052	603	500
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-
Dieppe	69	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	771	-	-
Calais	973	2	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	390	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>3650</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>11833</b>	<b>8250</b>	<b>1750</b>
<u>U.S. North</u>					
Antwerp	-	-	10835	-	-
Cherbourg	-	-	9166	13696	4147
Le Havre	12479	454	945	-	2580
Rouen	610	386	2465	2661	203
Granville	-	-	1390	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>13089</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>24801</b>	<b>16357</b>	<b>6930</b>
<u>U.S. South</u>					
Marseilles	-	-	7393	-	2052
Port de Bouc	-	-	413	3889	-
Toulon	-	-	782	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8588</b>	<b>3889</b>	<b>2052</b>

(S.H.A.E.F. 111725A to Admty. etc.)

/Mysterious...



War Diary

11.1.1945  
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

Mysterious German airborne object. My 111533. Further examination indicates possibility of balloon. Apparatus frail and unlikely to support more than 100 pounds. Fuse attacked similar to Bickford. Consider:-  
(a) Probable meteorological balloon.  
(b) Possible but unlikely suspensions for small mines.  
(EKINS, 112207A to C. in C. Nore.)

E.C.7. Your 101207 para. 2 approved.  
(D.M.S. 111521A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Sitrep. 1 midget U-Boat.  
One was attacked and probably sunk by harbour defence motor launch 5 miles W.S.W. of Flushing. Another was sunk by shore defences 900 yards N. of Northern End of South Beveland Canal.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 112315A to Admty.) As amended by his 120935, Jan.

Operations

Channel

Anti-U-Boat deep mining. Pass Spithead Gate 1000A/11th and carry out series C.1 acknowledge.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 110019A to PLOVER, SNOWBERRY, MAYFLOWER).

Possible U-Boat off Portland. My 110037A have investigated 7 non-S/M contacts in an area 3 miles square about position in your 102126A.  
(2) HAVELOCK proceeding to sweep Lyme Bay remainder of group resuming patrol.  
(S.O.E.G.14, 110237A to C. in C. Plymouth)  
E.G.14 to proceed to vicinity 260 Portland Bill 19 and take over. No trace H.M.S. HYDRANGEA in area quoted.

Night patrols 11th/12th January.

- (1) 10th E.G. as in my 061245A para. (1)
- (2) 17th E.G. as in my 101910A para. (2).
- (3) 26th E.G. Anti-snort patrol area bounded by (a) 02° 00' W.  
(b) 01° 30' W. (c) 50° 07' N. (d) 50° 27' N.
- (4) If groups are divided S.O.'s report dispositions of ships.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 111245A to S.O. E.Gs. 10, 17, 26)  
(1) H.X.A. 329 consisting 22 ships escorted by VOLUNTEER (S.O) and 3 Corvettes and supported by 15th E.G. (S.O. in LOUIS) estimated in 49° 56' N. 07° 07' W. at about 0300A/12 proceeding to 180° Bishop Rock thence to 180° Lizard 5 and via route E. (Q.Z.H.568) at 8.5 knots.  
(2) E.G.9 negative NENE and MONNOW relieved E.G.15 in position as in para.1 and act in support of convoy as far as 05° 00' W. E.G.19 take over support as follows. Freak Able 05.00 W. to Start Point. Feak Baker Start Point until relieved by Plymouth escorts vicinity Portland Bill.  
(3) If necessary E.G.15 pass amended E.T.A.07.00 W. to E.G.9.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 111522A to S.O.E.Gs. 9, 15, 19).

/Cancel ...



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11.1.1945  
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

Possible  
U-Boat  
off Portland.  
(Contd.)

Cancel para. 3 of my 111245.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 112127A to S.O.E.G.26)  
F.O.I.C. Northern Ireland is requested to sail 1st  
E.G. when ready 12th January to vicinity Longships  
thence as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth.  
(2) On relief by 1st E.G. C. in C. Portsmouth is  
requested to detach 10th E.G. to Londonderry for  
lay-over.  
(C. in C. W.A. 112351 to F.O.I.C.N.I., C. in C.  
Portsmouth)

Telephone  
cable to  
Far Shore.

propose cable  
ship ARIEL should  
now proceed Dal-  
muir (Clyde) for  
refit.

Laying of St. Margarets - Sangatte Cable completed.  
(V.A. Dover, 110901 to Admt, A.N.C.X.F.)  
In view completion of laying of St. Margarets-  
Sangatte Nos. 2 and 3 cables and reduction in  
priority of St. Margarets - La-Panne cable, G.P.O.  
(2) IRIS will be available to replace ARIEL should laying of St.  
Margarets-La-Panne be advanced in priority but 30 days notice of  
the requirement would be necessary.  
(3) On completion of present refit, ALERT will resume as duty cable  
ship at Dover, and MONARCH, now working on Aldeburgh - Domburg  
cables, is immediately available for any urgent repair work that  
may arise on cross-Channel cables.

Operations

West Coast France

23rd M.T.B.F.  
for Biscayan  
Operations.

French Authorities intend basing 23rd M.T.B. Flotilla  
at Brest from about 15th Jan. for operations off  
South-West Brittany Coast. Do you or 19 Group  
consider any limitations necessary on these  
operations.  
(A.N.C.XF. 111021A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Intended  
bombardment  
of Belle Ile.

Your 101240. (A) Ships were sailed to Brest  
with British Liaison Officers embarked in SOMALI,  
HOVA and DUQUESNE (Lieut. Morris ex LORRAINE) but  
without B.L.O.S. in SIMOUN or BASQUE. My 101527  
refers.  
(B) Two Officers and 20 ratings of Liaison Parties  
due Dieppe by N.M.S.M. 10th Jan. Request you issue instructions  
for this Party to proceed overland direct to Brest.  
(c) Request definite instruction be issued delaying execution  
your 091848 paras. 2 and 3 until arrival of Liaison Party in (B)  
above. (D) Understand leave was granted by C.F.N.T.F. and Party  
was due to return 6th Jan. Lack of sailings held Party in  
Portsmouth.  
(C.T.F.125, 111133 to A.N.C.X.F.)

/Chasseurs ...



11.1.1945  
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

West Coast France - Contd.

Chasseurs  
for Brest

French authorities desire to base three Chasseurs at Brest now with possibility of remaining four also being based there at a later date. Request Admiralty approval for transfer of first three to full French control. (A.N.C.X.F. 111147A to Admty.)

Operations

Western Approaches

Possible  
U-boat  
90 miles  
west of  
Aran  
Island.

Your 102358A. If not in contact R/V with CELANDINE as previously ordered. (C. in C.W.A. 110242A to S.O.E.G.22.) Regained contact HART and STARLING have attacked considered submarine on bottom. (HART, 110305A to C. in C.W.A.) Your 110403 as STARLING and PEACOCK still in firm contact and my A/S out of action since depth charge attack, am leaving them to continue hunt.

HART proceeds to join CELANDINE alone.

(2) STARLING considers definitely bottomed German U-boat and reports echo sound trace shows contact 15 feet high and right length. Heard tanks blowing and H.E. on bearing after last attack.

Strong smell of oil only.

(HART 110531A to C. in C.W.A.)

Held contact until daylight then attacked with depth charges no evidence of destruction.

Consider wreck number 5 would give similar echo sounding trace to that of bottomed submarine.

Further signal will be made. HART's 110531A refers.

(STARLING 110952A to C. in C.W.A.)

No further evidence that contact is U-boat in spite of good echo sound trace. My 110952. Have buoyed position and intend remaining in vicinity. PEACOCK instructed to join E.G.22.

(2) Suitable.

(STARLING, 111129A to C. in C.W.A.)

My contact most probably wreck of merchant vessel intend to recover dan buoy and comply with C. in C.W.A.'s 111236\*.

(STARLING, 111320A to S.O.E.G.22.)

\* Not to Admiralty. Following is text: E.G.22 to proceed to 055.07 N. 011.09 W. where JASEUR reports S/M contact. (Passed to Admty. for Info. by C. in C.W.A.)

Possible  
U-boat  
100 miles  
west of  
Tory Island.

Attacking Submarine in position 55° 07' N. 11° 09' W.

(JASEUR, 111104Z to C. in C.W.A.)

My 111104 4 attacks contact lost carrying out operation "Observant".

(JASEUR, 111219Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Night intention.

Contact JASEUR and, in company, start square search at 8 knots round last position German U-boat, expanding.

My position, course and speed - 55.13, 10.02, 261° 16.5.

Weather report 7380, 2123, 4837.

(S.O.E.G.22, 111846A to C. in C.W.A.)



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- Patrols Proceed via swept channels towards H.2 buoy. Further orders will follow from C. in C. Portsmouth.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 111012A to BEACON HILL.)
- H.M.C.S. My 101340 and Commodore (D) Western Approaches  
RIVIERE 102015 47 ratings concerned have been placed  
DU LOUP. under arrest on board PRETORIA CASTLE.  
(2) It is requested that Acting Temporary Lieut. Commander F.R.K. Naftel, R.C.N.V.R., may be appointed temporarily in command of RIVIERE  
DU LOUP vice Smillie, sick and that Lieut. Belanger R.C.N.V.R. of H.M.C.S. ANNAN may be appointed temporarily. Presence of last named officer is necessary as witness during investigation which would otherwise have to be delayed until return of C.3 Group to U.K.  
(4) It is proposed to nominate an officer of the Royal Canadian Navy to assist the accused. It is proposed to deal with the accused summarily as far as possible.  
(5) I take the view that this indiscipline has been a foolish escapade on the part of young ratings rather than insubordination of a serious nature.  
(F.O.I.C. N.I., 111122 to C. in C.W.A.)  
Cancel my 101805. RIVIERE DU LOUP will not take part in exercises.  
(F.O.I.C., N.I., 111349A to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown.)
- STAR OF Skipper of S.T. STAR OF PEACE reports on 30th Dec.  
PEACE's 1944, at 1945A whilst in 51 degs. 40' N. 10 degs.  
report 50' W. seeing a submarine in the moonlight distant 1/2 cable.  
(2) Two Sunderlands were observed in vicinity of trawler during day and were heard during the night. Explosions were heard from 1930 throughout the night.  
(3) Skipper noticed that conning tower looked squarer than usual  
(4) At 2000A the Bull light distant about 18 miles showed a long steady light for a period of about 10 minutes then reverted to normal. This process was repeated three times.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford, 111125A to Admty., C. in C.W.A.)
- SS. JONAS LIE When Derelict is in tow you are to proceed to Mumbles Roads passing through position 293 degs. Trevose Head 4 miles and then by Q.Z.S. 583, 434 pm.  
(2) The tow is to be kept as short as possible when east of 05 degs. 30' W. in view of Q.Z.X. 1464, 1486, 387.  
(3) Tug EMPIRE SPRITE escorted by SETTER is being sent to intercept you and assist.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford, 111505A to ROSELYS.)
- E.G. 31 My 101438, 111236 and 111241 none to all. On de-  
taching from E.N.68 about 2300 11th in 55 degs. N.  
31st E.G. proceed towards Inishtrahull to R/V  
with CELANDINE whom Cdre. D.W.A. is requested to  
sail accordingly.

/(2)...



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- E.G.31 (Contd.) (2) 31st E.G. is to screen CELANDINE during laying of winners. CELANDINE is to pass a copy of the operation orders to S.O.31st E.G.  
(3) My 092229 not to all is cancelled.  
(C. in C.W.A. 111520A to Com. D.W.A., S.O.E.G.31)
- SS. ROANOKE and NORMANDY COAST, torpedoed. off Holyhead TTT. A ship in position 04.48 W. (53.19 N.) sinking in distress.  
(SS. SENGA, 1534Z, general.)  
S.O.S. Another ship sunk. Position 04.48 W. (53.19 N.) Please assistance.  
(SS. SENGA 111621Z General.)  
Ship believed torpedoed 53 degs. 19' 04 degs. 48'.  
Close at best speed.  
(C. in C.W.A., 111704A to S.O.E.G.3.)  
Detach from convoy and proceed with all despatch to 53 degs. 19' N. 04 degs. 48' W. Ship believed torpedoed. S.O.E.G.3 closing.  
(C. in C.W.A. 111725A to S.O.E.G.31.)  
Join 31st E.G. and half 3rd E.G. with all despatch in position 53 degs. 19' N, 04 degs. 48' W. Two ships believed torpedoed. Sanctuary cancelled south of 54 degs. N.  
(C. in C.W.A. 111736A to S.O.E.G.21.)  
Search for U-boat as follows:  
A. DUCKWORTH, ROWLEY, ESSINGTON, approaching from southward. Area 53.18, 52.55, between Welsh coast and 05.20. Search inshore waters carefully first.  
B. 21st E.G. approaching from northward 53.18 to 53.40, between 04.00 and 05.20, searching north coast of Anglesea first.  
C. 31st E.G. approaching from northward 52.40 to 52.55 between Welsh coast and 05.45, searching west end first.  
D. 6th E.G. from northward 52.20 to 52.40 between Welsh coast and 06.00, searching west end first.  
E. P.C. 74, LOCH TULLA and 6 Minesweepers now searching vicinity south Stack.  
(C. in C.W.A. 111941A to S.O.E.Gs., 3, 6, 21, 31.)
- Submarine sanctuaries A.G.M.480Z of 7th October, 1944. Existing U/B threat in Irish Sea necessitates re-adjustment of submarine sanctuaries and submarine exercise areas in the Irish Sea.  
(2) After discussion with representative of H.Q.C.C. the following proposals were agreed to:  
(a) The following sanctuaries to be temporarily cancelled forthwith:  
(I) (aa) (Irish Sea)  
(II) (S) (Cardigan Bay)  
(b) Existing S/M exercise areas in the Irish Sea Vide Wago 521 dated 27th October, 1944 para. 4 be temporarily cancelled forthwith and the following permanent S/M sanctuaries introduced.  
(1) Rockabill A.1: Bounded by a line drawn through the following positions:  
(a) 54 degs. 10' 05 degs. 20' W. (b) 54 degs. 10' N. 05 degs. 31' W. (c) 53 degs. 54' N. 05 degs. 57' W. (d) 53 degs. 54' N. 05 degs. 20' W.  
(2) Rockabill A.2. Bounded by parallels of 53 degs. 54' N. 53 degs. 42' N. and meridians 05 degs. 20' W. and 05 degs. 57' W.



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- Submarine sanctuaries (Contd.)
- (3) Rockabill B. Bounded by parallels 53° 42' N. 53° 20' N. and meridians 05° 20' W. and 05° 57' W.
- (4) Rockabill C. Bounded by parallels 53° 25' N. 53° 09' N. and meridians 05° 20' W. and 05° 41' W.
- (5) Elswick. Bounded by a line drawn through

the following positions:

- (1) 54° 30' N. 03° 47' W.  
 (11) 54° 30' N. 04° 06' W.  
 (111) 54° 06' N. 04° 06' W.  
 (1V) 54° 06' N. 03° 56' W.  
 (V) 53° 56' N. 03° 56' W.  
 (VI) 53° 56' N. 03° 38' W.  
 (VII) 54° 06' N. 03° 38' W.
- (6) Larne sanctuary to remain unchanged.
- (3) It is proposed to allocate sanctuary Rockabill C. to 19 group and C.C.D.U. instead of Cardigan Bay.
- (4) To enable aircraft to carry out any useful scale of A/U operations in narrow waters of the Irish Sea, it is of paramount importance that the 20 mile border normally added to sanctuaries (C.B.03092 (43) appendix 2 para. (VI)) should be abolished for all Irish Sea Sanctuaries. My 161640 December 1944 and 082206 January refer.
- (5) If approved, request very early promulgation of permanent sanctuaries proposed in para. 2 above with C. in C.W.A. as the authority responsible for ordering the sanctuaries, also immediate approval of para. 4 above.  
 (C. in C.W.A. 111625 to Admt.)

C.A.S.O.7 Request your remarks on following C.A.S.O. No.7 which it is proposed to issue:

"Convoy Protection in inshore waters

(1) With reference to C.A.S.O. 6, operation of U-boats in inshore waters with the use of Schnorkel has entailed considerable changes in the employment of forces for the protection of convoys.

(2) On ocean routes the U-boats must usually move considerable distances in order to reach a favourable attacking position. Air reconnaissance and advanced screens prevent U-boats moving on the surface within visual range. In coastal waters U-boats can position themselves on the convoy routes and movement over large distances is unnecessary. The use of Schnorkel makes air R/C and distant screens of little use for detection.

(3) The chief menace is, therefore, submerged attack, and the dispositions given in the following paragraphs are suggested incorporating the principles of:-

- (a) Maximum asdic protection.  
 (b) Immediate counter-attack after a U-boat attack.  
 (c) Defence in depth.  
 (4) Escort Dispositions and (ii) action to be taken if a ship is torpedoed.

Convoy on a Broad Front (Day or Night)

(a) Convoy Escort only. No support group. One escort 2,000 yards astern, remainder 4,000 yards ahead forming asdic screen. Ships in line abreast not more than 4,000 yards apart.

(ii) Escort astern carry out Observant and mark Datum.

/Remainder...



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(Contd.)

Remainder carry out "Artichoke" then operation "Scabbard"

One Escort rejoin after "Artichoke".

(b) One support group with convoy escort.

All convoy escort on asdic screen 4,000 yards ahead. Support group provide two escorts 2,000 yards astern. Remainder of support group reinforce asdic screen on the wings of the convoy escort.

(ii) As for sub-para. (a) (ii) except that all convoy close escort rejoin after operation "Artichoke".

(c) Two support groups with convoy escort. Convoy escort as in (b) above, one support group extending wings of convoy escort. Second support group 2,000 yards astern of the convoy.

(ii) Escorts astern carry out "Observant" and then "Scabbard" (box search round probability area). Escorts ahead carry out "Artichoke" then convoy close escort rejoin convoy. Support group form outer square search.

(d) Three support groups with convoy escort. As for (c) Third support Group 6,000 yards ahead of asdic screen in line abreast.

Note. Where Radar cover against surfaced U-boats is insufficient wing escorts of the asdic screen may be dropped back and escorts astern positioned on the beam of the rear ships in convoy.

(ii) As for sub-paragraph (c) (ii). Advanced asdic screen fall back to form close asdic screen taking station on the wings of the convoy escort when they rejoin after "Artichoke"

(5) Convoy on a Narrow Front (Day or Night).

Two escorts 2,000 yards ahead. Remaining escorts equally disposed 1,000 yards clear down each side. Groups keeping together as far as possible.

(ii) Operation "Observant" to be carried out by nearest ship followed by "Scabbard" by first group to join. If a second group is available this will carry out an outer square search and the last part of "Scabbard" is omitted.

(D.A.U.D., 112120A to Cs. in C.W.A., Plymouth, Rosyth, Portsmouth.)

Force 36

As from 0800A 12th January ships engaged on A/U operations in the Irish Sea will constitute Force 36. Codeword "Grasp" W/T Call sign 769. (C. in C.W.A., 112305A to S.O.E.Gs. 3, 6, 21, 31)



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ThursdayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorway

H.N.M.S. DOLFIJN arrived Lerwick.  
 DOLFIJN. (S.O. S/M. Lerwick, 110152A to F.O.S.M. A.C.O.S. C. in C. Rosyth)  
 DOLFIJN reports at 1545A/10th January in position 60 degs. 01' N. 00 degs. 09' E. course 050 degs. speed 10 knots sighted a single A/C bearing red 040 degs and almost simultaneously sighted four twin engine A/C flying low straight at S/M from right ahead. Range approx. 4,000 yards. Officer of watch gave order to dive.  
 (2) When S/M was passing 20 ft two bursts of machine gun or cannon fire were heard to hit bridge and periscopes. After remaining at 80 ft for 10 mins. DOLFIJN came to periscope depth and found both periscopes out of action.  
 (3) Went deep again until 1639 and then surfaced. After finding that damage could not be made good at sea set course for Lerwick.  
 (4) Extent of damage is reported in my 110245 to F.O.S/M and S/M 9 only.  
 (S.O.S/Ms Lerwick, 110241A to F.O.S/M)

Operation Intend to carry out V.P.73.  
 "V.P". (1) 0300A/12th January.  
 (2) Not later than 2100A/12th January.  
 (3) Not later 0900A/16th January.  
 (4) 249 degs. Toward Noss Head. Not more than 20 knots.  
 (5) Not later than p.m. 16th January.  
 (6) No. (7) No. (8) 069 degs. Noss Head Bressay.  
 (9) No.  
 (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 111127A to A.C.O.S.)  
 My 111127A. (1) 069 degs. from Moss Head. Not more than 20 knots.  
 (2) 61 degs. 10' N. 04 degs. 30' E.  
 (3) Blank.  
 (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 111129A to A.C.O.S.)

Operation Ramose, Revoke 3. VIGRA returned at 1710A/11th  
 "S.C". Jan. (2) Operation successful.  
 (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 111715A to A.C.O.S.)

North Norway (1) Evacuation. (a) There is now no doubt that  
 withdrawal of troops. evacuation of Saarenpaa is well under way. Barracks are gradually being burnt for fuel and equipment is being evacuated. Same increased quantity motor transport continues daily and has included horse carts. Yesterday January 10th  
 3 columns of troops were observed possibly comprising one infantry regiment.  
 (b) Kautokeine, halfway between Karesuando and Alta is now being evacuated and most probably Germans have begun to evacuate line at Porsanger.  
 (2) New lines of defence. Northern front will then be held in vicinity of Alta probably by 8th Alpine division whose flank will be guarded temporarily by a new line of defence believed to be prepared at junction Norwegian Swedish and Finnish frontiers.  
 (A.2).  
 (N.A. Stockholm, 111724 to Admt)



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- E.G.25. Complying your 102310A. E.T.A. 35 buoy 0600A/11.  
(S.O. E.G.25, 110201A to C. in C. Rosyth)
- Patrol. Part company with convoy off 28 buoy and proceed  
to establish "Gamma B".  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 111029A to S.O.E.G.25)  
My position 180 29 buoy one mile. Am proceeding  
to investigate Schnorkel reported by WWY.67 in position 57.48  
N. 02.26 W.  
(S.O.E.G. 25, 111201A to C. in C. Rosyth)  
Am carrying out cross-tide sweeps within and covering area  
with radius 10 miles datum. If U-Boat was present consider it  
probable that under these circumstances he would bottom within  
this area. Suitable.  
(S.O.E.G.25, 111445A to C. in C. Rosyth)  
On completion of search round datum, carry out search between  
Kinnaird Head and Covesea Skerries as close inshore as safe  
navigation permits.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 111607A to S.O.E.G.25)  
If not in contact at 0100/12 carry out search passing through  
position 58 degs. 00' N. 03 degs. 40' W. thence coastwise to  
Duncansby Head subsequently establish Gamma B.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 112025A to S.O.E.G.25)  
Am in firm contact with wreck or possible S/M position 57.  
45.5 N. 02. 48.5 W.  
(S.O.E.G. 25, 112353A to C. in C. Rosyth)
- Convoy Kola Inlet 11th January departure R.A. 63, 30  
R.A.63. merchant ships with "Greystoke" escort at 1050A  
Speed 9½ knots. S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 091315 refers.  
Admiralty pass to M.W.T.  
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 111146A to Admty., C. in C.  
W.A., C. in C. Rosyth, A.C.O.S., M.W.T., Hd. of  
British Naval Mission Moscow, Cdr. D. W.A., A.C.I.C.  
F.O.S/M. F.O.I.C.Greenock, F.O.I.C. N.I., S.B.N.O.  
Archangel, F.O.'s of H.F., Cmdre. D. H.F. N.O.I.C.  
Aultbea, N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, N.O.I.C.Faeroes,  
H.Q.C.C., 18 Group R.A.F.)
- From N.C.S.O. (1) R.A.63.  
(2) Toros 1, 0800A/11th January (4) 9½ knots (5) My 091315A para.  
3 and 4.  
(7) 10 columns 4 4 4 2 2 1 2 3 4 4.  
(13) (A) Cdre. M.W.S. Boucher R.N. in BRITISH RESPECT.  
(B) Vice Cdre. of convoy Master, EMPIRE STALWART.  
(C) Rear Cdre. Master FORT BOISE.  
(14) S.P.2406 (780) S.P.2272 (33) and (34).  
(15) 7A.  
(16) LACKLAN and BLUE RANGER.  
Admty. pass to M.O.W.T.  
(S.B.N.O. Murmasnk 111450A to Adty)  
From N.C.S.O.(1) R.A.63 (10) 10½ STEPHEN LEACOCK, 10½  
OWEN WISTER, 10½ W.R. GRACE, 10½ A.D. BELMONT, 10½ FORT HIGHFIELD,  
10 FORT BOISE M/F D/F 300 to 500 K/cs 10 LONGWOOD (T) M/F D/F  
527 K/cs 10 ANDREW TURNBULL, 10 WILLIAM TYLER PAGE 10½ U.S.O.10  
CECIL N. BEAN 10½ WILLIAM H. WILMER 10 JOHN GIBBON, 10 WOODBRIDGE  
N. FERRIS, 10 ROBERT LOWRY, 12 BLUE RANGER (T), 11 BRITISH RESPECT  
(T), 10 RENAID FERNALD, 10 LACKLAN (T) M/F D/F 365 K/cs



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R.A.63.  
(Contd.)

10 NELSON W. ALDRICH, 10 AMASA DELANO, 10 FORT ISLAND, 10 LINN BOYD, 10½ EMPIRE STALWART, 10 EMPIRE GARRICK (T) Q.S. M/F 446 K/cs 10 BARBARA FRIETCHIE, 10 EDWARD N. HURLEY, 10 STANTON H. KING. 10 STEVENSON TAYLOR 10½ FORT MASSAC.  
(12) Loch Ewe, Admiralty pass to M.W.T.  
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 111510A to Admty)

Movements

NELSON.

A.M. 030210 January and Cominch 082130 January. Consider that if NELSON can arrive Spithead by A.M. 28th January it should be possible to de-ammunition sufficiently to Basin on 1st February. Request therefore that Admiralty be asked to consider the possibility of sending a Destroyer Escort to meet C.U.55 at longitude 20 degs. West to enable NELSON to proceed independently from there at best speed. Decision would naturally be dependant on weather conditions prevailing at the time.  
(NELSON, 110926Z to B.A.D. Washington)

BIRMINGHAM  
Cruiser.

Intend sailing BIRMINGHAM to Scapa passing Spithead Gate 1640A/12th Jan. thence by searched channel and standard routes in force routed from Nab by Q.Z.S. 363, 618 and route W.  
(2) S. of A. 22 knots zigzag whilst in Portsmouth Command and there after at discretion adjusting speed after passing Skerkichannel to arrive Scapa 1000A/14th.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 111032A to A.C.O.S., C. in C. H.F.)

ULSTER  
QUEEN  
Fighter  
Direction  
Ship.

ULSTER QUEEN's 101032. Regret this ship cannot be accepted at Belfast in view of amount of work at present in hands.  
(F.O.I.C. N.I. 111111A to Admty.)  
ULSTER QUEEN's 101032 is being passed to you for action.  
A.M. 111526 not to F.O.I.C. N.I. refers.  
(D.O.D.(H), 111659A to F.O.C.T.)

*Adlly Floating Dock*  
A.F.D.32,  
A.F.D.20.

In view of the necessity to commence movement of A.F.D. 32 as soon as possible A.N.C.X.F. (Cotug) is requested to relieve SAMSONIA as Rescue Tug at Plymouth.

(2) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail SAMSONIA to New York in O.N.279 about 18th January.  
(3) When A.F.D. 20 in tow of DESTINY with tug ENVOY standing by arrives at Gibraltar, F.O.G.M.A. is requested to detach ENVOY and sail her to New York in G.U.S. 66.  
(4) H.M.R.T. EMINENT will be sailed to Gibraltar for onward routing to assist DESTINY on completion of repairs about 18th

/January ...



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HOME COMMANDS

Movements

A.F.D.32,  
A.F.D.20.  
(Contd.)

January. Movement of A.F.D.20 in tow of DESTINY through the Mediterranean should not however, be delayed.  
(5) My 041955 and 041826 cancelled.  
(D.O.D.(H),111319A to A.N.C.X.F., F.O.G.M.A.)

BARFLEUR  
destroyer.

Request you will sail BARFLEUR to Scapa for 14 days preliminary work-up on satisfactory completion of trials about 25th January.  
(2) C. in C. H.F. is requested to sail BARFLEUR to Gibraltar on completion of preliminary work-up to carry out special gunnery trials and complete work-up.  
A.M. 041656/December not to all refers.  
(D.O.D.(H), 111557A to F.O.I.C.Tyne)

SLINGER,  
KHEDIVE,  
SPEAKER  
Escort  
Carriers.

Sailed SLINGER (S.O), KHEDIVE, SPEAKER escorted by VOLAGE (SOE) VENUS, ESKIMO and WHITEHALL in accordance with my 101228 January. NUBIAN defective. WHITEHALL escorting to 48 degs. N. thence returning to Greenock.  
Route in accordance with A.M. 081641 January.  
Latest message B.362 Q.B. 457, Q.B.A. 144, Q.B.B. 455, Q.B.C. 956, Q.B.Y. 118, Q.B.H. 906.

Reference A.F.O. 5811/44 only SLINGER holds first 2 items other ship not complete. No supply available.  
Codeword "Bottom".

(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 111756A to Admty, C. in C. W.A. F.O.G.M.A.)  
Proceed North and West of Ireland. Route follows.

Acknowledge forthwith.

(C. in C. W.A. 111805A to SLINGER)  
My 111805.

- (E) 270 degs. Oversay 6 miles.
- (F) 56 degs. 45' N. 08 degs. 01' W.
- (G) 56 degs. 46' N. 15 degs. 00' W.
- (H) 49 degs. 02' N. 15 degs. 01' W. thence to A.  
(C. in C. W.A. 111934A to SLINGER)



Thursday  
11.1.1945

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

E.G.3 WELLINGTON (S.O.) HYDERABAD and KILMARTIN are to form group III forthwith.  
2. Group III is to proceed forthwith (?to) rendezvous with A.F.D.20 towed by (?EN)VOY and DESTINY (?and) escorted by SAPPER (S.O.) AYRSHIRE, NORTHERN REWARD and HOME GUARD and act as additional close escort to Gibraltar.  
3. A.F.D.20 estimated in position (X) 036° 17' N. 008° 17' W. at 0800A Jan. 11th steering direct for (G) 035° 51' N. 006° 10' W. at 6½ knots.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 110920A H.M.S. WELLINGTON)

FORMIDABLE Subject to C. in C. Mediterranean's approval intend to sail FORMIDABLE escorted by WOLVERINE at 1700A Jan. 13th to carry out trials to eastward of Rock.  
2. Intend to sail Capt. (D) 26 in SAUMAREZ with VIRAGO and VIGILANT in company to rendezvous FORMIDABLE P.M. 14th Jan. relieving WOLVERINE and escorting FORMIDABLE to Alexandria.  
4. S.O.A. 17 knots and as requisite for flying operations.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 111606A C. in C. Medn., Admty.)

OAKLEY Destination in U.K. is Nore.  
2. On arrival OAKLEY is allocated to C. in C. Nore for operations until required to give leave and adjust complement about end Feb.  
(D.O.D.(H) 111159A to F.O.G.M.A.)

Escort With present U-boat situation in Med. Approaches Groups the entire Gib. escort force is required to Gibraltar maintain patrols and hunting groups.  
2. Local escort commitments alone, including the backing up of escorts of M.K.S. and K.M.S. convoys necessitate reduction of patrols etc. and in order to keep local escort force in running condition it has been found necessary to employ 20th Escort Group.  
3. 13th D.F. consisting of three Destroyers the only fast escorts available are at present required for FORMIDABLE, WESTPOINT and MOUNT VERNON and may also be required for MARIPOSA and U.S.S. MEMPHIS (A.M. 232115 Dec.)  
4. Following additional fast escort commitments have now been ordered. (a) CITY OF CANTERBURY (A.M. 061852) Azores to Gib. escort to sail from Gib. 21st Jan. approx. (b) FRANCONIA (A.M. 100011) from 43° N. escort to sail Gib. approx. 19th Jan. (c) Escort Carriers (A.M. 101953) one additional escort from Cape St. Vincent required approx. 14th Jan.  
5. Further, on arrival of 20th Escort Group with K.M.F.39 ships will require boiler clean, and as a result of this, no escort can be made available for VALIANT unless it is acceptable to reduce number of escorts with M.K.F.39 (A.M. 051412).  
6. The exchange of 57th and 41st Escort Groups and the arrival of 55th Escort Group has not bettered the situation as the entire 55th Escort Group require docking and two out of three ships defective on arrival.  
7. It is not therefore considered possible to release 38 Escort Group at present (A.M. 300130 and my 311212 Dec.)  
8. Escort commitments in paras: 3, 4, and 5 cannot all be met.  
9. Request assistance or Admty. policy for priority of escort commitments.  
(F.O.G.M.A.111206A Admty. reply 132125 from Admty.)



Thursday  
11.1.1945War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSNorth AtlanticCOMMANDANT  
DROGOU

COMMANDANT DROGOU can be taken in hand for refit at Messrs. Russell, Liverpool on 7th Feb.  
3. F.O.G.M.A. and C.T.F. 125 are requested to sail COMMANDANT DROGOU to comply.  
(D.O.D.(F) 111508A F.O.G.M.A.)

FORMIDABLE

"C.S.Gibs.' 101807 being passed to all addressees. It is now proposed FORMIDABLE proceeds direct to Alexandria p.m. 14th Jan.  
2. Request you amend my 091720 accordingly. Ends."  
(F.O.G.M.A. 111718A C. in C. Mediterranean.)

U/B off  
Medn.  
Approaches.

For info of Admiralty and Com. 12th Fleet. Cominch re-encyphers Commorseafrons\* 101701A which was passed by Com. 8th Fleet as 101754 to Cominch and C. in C. Mediterranean for info: "In view of three recent torpedoings approaches to Straits consider it inadvisable transfer two full Squadrons U.K. Request at least half each Squadron remain Fleet Airwing 15".  
(Commorseafron 112151 Com. 8th Fleet.)

\* *Commander Morocco Sea Frontier*



War Diary

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Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

A.F.D.18. A.M. 082106 not to all addressees.  
As it is intended that ENFORCER should return to U.K. After arrival at Colombo do not intend to retain her in Mediterranean, and she will sail with A.F.D.18 in tow, as soon as weather conditions are suitable. (C. in C. Med. 111145A to Admty.)

MUSKETEER. Have been fired on by guns probably 75 mm in outskirts of village of Gardiki 38.57 N. 22.50 E. Replied with 4.7. Damage to some houses could not be avoided.  
(MUSKETEER, 111725B to S.B.N.O. Greece (R) F.O.L.E.M.)

Cositintrep No.551. 284850. FX 83100 cipher 11 Jan. Cite FHGCT signed Alexander. Part 4. Greece. Athens and Piraeus are quiet. The roads in Attica are still being covered by mobile patrols etc.  
(A.F.H.Q. No T.O.O. to W.O.)

Situation Report No.53. (2) Adriatic situation at Zara and Split is easier.  
(3) Greece no change at Corfu. Martial law declared at Patras where Greek reinforcements are arriving and E.L.A.S. have left town as result of military ultimatum. All quiet at Savalla except for Anti-Plastiras demonstration. Situation uneasy at Salonika.  
(C. in C. Med. 112203A to F.O.L.E.M. etc.)

Cositintrep No.550. 284916. MX 43150 cipher 11 Jan. Cite FHGCT FHGBI signed Alexander.  
(H.Q.M.A.A.F. No.T.O.O)



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ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

Akyab. A N.O.I.C. is newly established at Akyab.  
(2) The Akyab area extends from the India-Burma frontier at the Naaf River southwards to the limit of British occupation on the Arakan Coast. (C. in C. E.I.S. 110201Z to Admty. etc.) See 171315.

WHIMBREL (repairs). Request you will not delay WHIMBREL in Mediterranean longer than the 1 week for A/A. (C. in C. E.I. 110709Z to C. in C. Med. Info.: Admty. H.M.S. WHIMBREL, V.A. Malta, F.O.G.M.A.)

TAY onward routeing. Intend to sail TAY on 15th Jan. to Suez for onward routeing to United Kingdom. C. in C. E.I's 040421/ not to all refers. (2) Tubes have been replaced in number one boiler but her maximum speed is considered to be 15 knots except in emergency. (Com. Aden, 110845Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.I. F.O.L.E.M. Cs. in C. Med., W.A., F.O.G.M.A., F.O.W.M., S.N.O.R.S.C.A.) / TAY should return to U.K. for retubing.

U-Boat dispositions. No fresh information. No changes in scales. (C. in C. E.I. 110852 to Admty. etc.)

Escort for Duke of Gloucester SUFFOLK and 2 Destroyers. Colombo 11th January arrivals TRENT H.M.S. HALLADALE, SHOOTING STAR. Departures, SUFFOLK, ULSTER, URCHIN, H.M.I.S. HINDUSTAN, HALLADALE. (F.O. Ceylon, 111216Z to Admty. F.O.C.R.I.N.)

EURYALUS. Arrivals KENYA, EURYALUS, NIGERIA sailed FULL MOON. (N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 111635Z to Admty, (R) C. in C. E.I.s.)

Trincomalee. O.Z.277 Cossea 189 11th January, 1945. Reference Seacos 286/. This will form part of world-wide post war strategy which is now under examination. (S.A.C.S.E.A. 111845Z to A.M.S.S.O.) / 221613. Recommendation that Trincomalee be developed as permanent first class naval operating base.

Armed merchant raider. Gunned by armed merchant raider position 14.01 N. 54.20 E. ((WZ2BO) (Undecypherable) No T.O.O/11) Note: Message has been passed to Colombo and Bombay. Ship originating QQQQ in position 014 degs. 01' N. 054 degs. 20' E. report if you are all right. (2) C/S not received. (C. in C. E.I.S. 111944 to Admty. 151541A. Cancelled by 230542Z)



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Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

C.T.G. 22.9. At 1100Z. 41.55 N., 56.13.5 W. (2 corrupt groups) searching either side 070 Base course. Eight knots S. of A. R.D.O. Halifax pass to all addressees. This refers C. in C. C.N.A.110220. (Comtaskgroup 22.9, 111002Z to (Addressees received corrupt)).

U/B Dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 111336Z, & Cominch 111548).

Censorship restrictions. Your 021915 has been passed to C. in C. B.P.F. and C. in C. E.I. Request you will ascertain from Mr. Byron Price, U.S. Director of Censorship whether it is desired that similar restriction be placed on British press. (H. of M., 112027A and 162221Z).

T.G. 21.4 constitution of. Task Group 21.4 hereby constituted REAPER (S.O.) NAIFEH. NAIFEH depart New York to R/V with C.T.G. 21.8 at 1500/14 Q Jan. lat. 39.30 N., long. 68 W. When R/V effected C.T.G. 21.8 detach REAPER, NAIFEH and direct them proceed to Canal Zone. On arrival CZ Task Group dissolved REAPER report C. in C. Pac. for operational control and transport duty in Pacific. (C. in C. Lant, 112146Z).

Australia & New Zealand.

Serial number 1086. Jan. 10th. Midday R/C Liberator saw one Lazlo warship, three destroyers, three destroyer escorts, four merchant ships whereof three were Tankers plus two Sea Truck type ships off Camranh Bay course 40° speed 10 knots. Later same plane sighted one Transport, four tankers, three Destroyers and numerous small craft anchored off Cap Saint Jacques. (2) 30 - 40 Coastal Freighters revealed at anchor 15 miles Ahbiyad Vigan (Northwest Luzon) ships were loaded and camouflaged (4) Enemy air activity Lingayan Gulf negligible during days. During preceding day only three enemy planes raided our beachhead and Ack Ack shot one down, Mustang got one other: enemy air opposition against naval covering force offshore 9th Jan. described as comparatively light but suicide divers damaged 3 ships. (9) P.T. boats operating from Mindoro night eight Jan. destroyed one small freighter in Coron Bay ((across) Straits from southeastern Mindoro) while another pair boats destroyed possible whale boat or picket off Bulan near San Bernardino Strait.



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Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Serial number (10) Following night <sup>ORMOCK P.T's</sup> ORMOCK ~~PEPEES~~ sank two  
1086. luggers (off Zotes) Island.  
(contd). (16) Patrol Liberator from Darwin bombed and  
straffed small coaster off South coast ? (Bgoroe)  
Island noon 9th without observed effect.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 110837 Admty. etc).

B.P.F.  
Movements.

The following are my general intentions with regard to the future movements of the Fleet:  
(a) On conclusion of the present series of operations the fleet will fuel in Western Australia about 8th Feb. and proceed direct to Sydney arriving mid Feb.

(b) At Sydney the fleet will replenish and make good aircraft lost during these operations and will then proceed to Manus arriving there by first March.  
(c) Approximately 7th March the fleet will leave Manus for an advanced anchorage and should be ready to sail for a prolonged operation shortly after.

2. R.A.A. B.P.F. is requested to -

(a) arrange details of the AWWES after arrival in Australian waters in conjunction with A.C.N.B. observing that the whole programme is a close fit and the minimum time must be spent in Western Australia particularly by the fleet carriers  
(b) inform Vice-Admiral (Q) of the requirements of the fleet in Australia including requirements for aircraft, such signals being repeated to F.O.N.A.S.(A).

3. Rear-Admiral Fleet Train is requested to estimate and provide for the requirements of the fleet forward of Australia and to move the fleet train accordingly.

4. R.A.A. B.P.F. will receive a staff study of the operation referred to in para. one (c) above on arrival in Fremantle.

5. C. in C. East Indies Station pass to V.A. B.P.F., R.A.A., B.P.F., and R.A.D. B.P.F.

(C. in C. B.P.F., 110743Z to Admty. etc, see 120504Z and 210302Z)  
Note: This message is referred to in C. in C. B.P.F.'s 111343 and R.A.F.Ts. 110743 not trace of it having been previously received.

B.W.P.  
Organisation.

A Service Force operating immediately in rear of Combatant forces is an essential feature of the operational policy outlined in part one of my 300330 Dec.

2. This Service Force will consist of ships detached from the Fleet Train and will form part of R.A.F.Ts. organisation.

3. During the period of operations this Service Force will be temporarily based at forward anchorage and such units as are required to maintain the Combatant force at sea will be sailed from there for this purpose.

4. It is therefore considered essential that the following be appointed:-

(A) A Senior Captain R.N. in charge of Service Force who would normally remain at forward anchorage and operate Service Force from there.

(B) Captain R.N. Junior to (A) or acting Captain to take command of the ships detailed by (A) on each occasion of supplying the Combatant force. 5. Staff for (A) One Lieut.-Com.

/or...



War Diary.

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

B.W.P.  
Organisation  
(contd).

or Lieutenant as S.O.O. one assistant fuelling Officer one C.P.O. Telegraphist one C.P.O. Writer one Chief Yeoman three Signalmen three Telegraphists.

6. Staff for (B) one Yeoman three Signalmen.

7. It is requested that all the above may be sent to reach Manus not later than early March. (C. in C. B.P.F., 110522Z Admty. etc).

CEYLON

Defects in CEYLON R.A.(A) B.P.F. 091403.

Ship cannot now be accepted in Australia and it is requested that she may be taken in hand in a suitable Port in the Indian Ocean. 21 days is estimated time required.

2. There is no objection to CEYLON taking part in Meridian as proposed provided no excessive delay in joining B.P.F. after repair is involved.

(C. in C. B.P.F., 110843Z to C. in C. E.I.)

Task Unit  
70.5.3.

Bad weather has seriously delayed completion of your requirements as laid down in Items (E) and (F) of Admiralty message 300222/June 1944 by Task Unit 70.5.3. My 181030\*August 1944 refers.

2. It is intended to disband temporarily the majority of this Task Unit for refit and docking during ensuing bad weather months and to reform at beginning of April. Consequently it is not now expected to complete your requirements quoted in para. 1 above before end of May.

3. Certain vessels of the unit will be retained in the area in an attempt to complete establishment of a clear route from Clarence Strait to Scott Reef by Feb.

(A.C.N.B., 111203 to Admty).

\* Passage of Battleships etc. between Pacific and Indian Ocean.

\*Survey programme for S.W. Pacific Area.

Suicide  
Bombing.

B.A.D. has reported that following signal T.O.O. 171238 has been sent by Com. 7th Fleet addressed 7th Fleet repeated C. in C. S.W.P.A., Cominch and Com. 7th Fleet Rear Echelon:-

Begins: "Following from Cominch and C.N.O. is quoted for information and compliance. 'Director of Censorship is asking all editors and newscasters to refrain from mention of suicide bombing of Japanese as requested by C. in C. P.O.A. All Naval personnel returning to United States and visiting Australia should be warned not to discuss the matter'".

(Head of M., 112028A C. in C. B.P.F., C. in C. East Indies).

U.S. Signal  
Series.

The information contained in series of signals mentioned in your 072015A Jan.\*is not at present supplied by U.S. Authorities and it is requested that these signals may be continued until further notice.

(C. in C. B.P.F., 112215Z to Admty)

\*Re U.S. Pacific Fleet Disposition.



11.1.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarine  
attack  
and sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/11 Jan.

Para. A. 1. A/C F/333 sighted surfaced U-boat at 1010/10th Jan. in 60° 40' N., 04° 52' E., course 180°.

2. A/C A/330 attacked U-boat with D/Cs at 0950 /10th Jan. in 59° 18' N., 04° 38' W.

3. PEACOCK attacked U-boat contact at 1931/10th Jan. in 55° 31' N., 08° 38' W.

4. Unknown ship torpedoed at 1503/10th January in 35° 49' N. 06° 03' W.

Para. B.

1. Training A/C sighted possible Snort at 1330/10th in 58° 05' N., 03° 15' W.

2. A/C M/422 had contact at 1400/10th Jan. in 50° 12' N., 02° 21' W.

(D.D.I.C., 111131A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

U-boat

Estimates.

dispositions. (D.D.I.C., 111440A, A.I.G. 332, and 111453 Cominch)



War Diary

12.1.1945  
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North Sea  
and  
Channel

1. Minesweeping was cancelled owing to weather.

Western  
Approaches

2. 67 survivors have been landed at Holyhead from NORMANDY COAST and ROANOKE, but no sign of the U-boat has yet been found.

Norway

3. C.S.1 in NORFOLK with BELLONA and 3 destroyers engaged a convoy of about 8 ships close off Egersund at 0045 and left 3 or 4 of them burning on or near shore. (*Operation "Spellbinder"*)

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Greece

4(a) Today the TREERN (M/S Auxiliary) struck 2 mines on passage to Oreos in a position N. of Pondiko Nisi one mile E. of Cape Griva in Trikirixe Channel. The ship was manned by South African Naval Forces. The sole survivor was picked up by a caique.  
(b) REGULUS (Fleet minesweeper) was mined and sunk at 1.49 p.m. today off Sivota Island (between Southern Corfu and Greek mainland). Five officers and 111 ratings are being taken to Taranto in ROWENA. She only had one casualty.  
(c) At Patras martial law has been declared. Greek reinforcements are arriving and E.L.A.S. have left the town as a result of a military ultimatum.  
(d) Tonight M/Ls encountered Peter Lighters off Kalymicos and obtained hits in ensuing action in which one of our craft received under water damage.  
(e) MUSKETEER captured two large caiques and a motor boat at Port Vathondhi (S. of Volos.)  
(f) H.M.S. KIMBERLEY reports all quiet today at Kalamata on relief by ANTWERP. Authorities state they will abide by truce but have not as yet heard of terms. If terms cover it, they agree to appointment of Greek N.O.I.C. A B.L.N.O. would then be landed which would be welcomed.  
(g) C. in C. Mediterranean reports that improvement in weather has enabled starving garrison of Paxos Is. to be relieved. Patriots are reduced to caique movements in Gulfs of Patras and Corinth.  
(h) All quiet at Kavalla. S.B.N.O. Greece reports that truce between government forces and E.L.A.S.

/will...



War Diary

12.1.1945  
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Greece  
(Contd.)

will come into force at 0001B/15th January and that Piraeus, Patras, Navplion, Volos, Salonika and Khalkis will then be held by British.

East Indies

5. S/M STORM on her 8th far East patrol - total duration 38 days - 21 days north of Malay Barrier, reports that on 18th December in 0.23 N. 118° 35' E. fired 3 torpedoes at a 1000 ton southbound merchant ship escorted by 3 small craft - no hits.

Australia and New Zealand

New Guinea

6. At daybreak this morning 3 torpedoes were fired at ships in Humboldt Bay presumably by submarine or Midget, but no subsequent contacts reported.



War Diary.

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Cancellation of mine-sweeping. Your 111555. Sweep abandoned at N.F.2 owing to deterioration in weather. Sweeper and danlayer returning to Small Downs E.T.A. 1330A/12th.  
(S.O. M.S.F.42, 121120A to C. in C. Nore.)  
Harwich minesweeping patrols and position 51 withdrawn owing to weather.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 121817A to C. in C. Nore.)

Patrols. Group 2 Harbour CATTISTOCK, MENDIP, MIDDLETON, CAICOS.  
Harwich Force: Group 4 Harbour EGLINTON, COTSWOLD, FARNDALE, HAMBLEDON, MACKAY, SLAZAK, SOUTHDOWN, CURZON, EKINS, RETALICK, RIOU, SEYMOUR, STAYNER, THORNBOROUGH, GUILLEMOT, KITTIWAKE, MALLARD, SHEARWATER, SHELDRAKE, WIDGEON.  
Sheerness Force: Group 5 with O.N.A.278 VIMY, BADDECK: U.C.52B CUBITT. T.A.P.12 VANQUISHER. T.A.M.47 BLENCATHRA, HAYDON. A.T.M.36 BLEASDALE, VERSATILE. A.T.P. VERDUN.  
Group 6: Harbour HOLDERNESS, LA COMBATTANTE, PYTCHLEY, COSBY, HEATHER, MIMICO.  
(C. in C. Nore, 121515A to Admty.)

Situation Report. Cositintrep No. 283 part 4.  
Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 111600A January.

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> (inc. Coal)	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
<u>British -</u>					
Antwerp	24	508	11,119	8,044	1,330
Ostend	1,233	264	3,462	167	2,179
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-
Dieppe	-	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	1,689	-	-
Calais	949	2	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	1,321	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,208</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>17,591</b>	<b>8,211</b>	<b>3,502</b>
<u>U.S. North -</u>					
Antwerp	-	-	10,541	-	-
Cherbourg	-	-	10,310	2,744	3,328
Le Havre	12,063	166	6,811	-	2,601
Rouen	1,059	382	1,519	1,574	36
Granville	-	-	3,167	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,122</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>32,348</b>	<b>4,318</b>	<b>5,965</b>
<u>U.S. South -</u>					
Marseilles	-	7	4,861	4,670	-
Port de Bouc	-	-	-	4,444	-
Toulon	-	-	406	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5,267</b>	<b>9,114</b>	<b>-</b>

(S.H.A.E.F., 121620A to Admty. and others.)



War Diary.12.1.1945.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel

Cancellation of mine-sweeping 31st M.S.F. Oropesa clearance of Q.Z.X. 1450 completed negative results.  
104th M.S.F. LL/SA A.2 Buoy to H.V.3 in Q.Z.S. 664. Remainder of sweeping postponed owing to weather.  
(Cdr. M/S. Le Havre, 120925 to C.T.F. 125.)

Patrols.

Night patrols 12th/13th.  
(1) 10th E.G. as in my 061245 para. (1) cover convoys V.W.P. and W.V.P.  
(2) 17th E.G. as in my 101910A para. (2).  
(3) 26th E.G. as in my 111245A.  
(4) If groups are divided S.O.'s report dispositions of ships.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 121427A to S.O. E.Gs. 10, 17, 26.)  
Your 101216A. Intend to establish patrol of one D.E. in area off Cape Barfleur operating from east end of Willard east to former position L Wash 3 Buoy. This ship will be withdrawn from the Red patrol station.  
(C.T.F. 125, 121601A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)  
Add the following to my 121601. "This patrol will be designated as Ark".  
(C.T.F. 125, 121605A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)  
Carry out A/S patrol between following positions 50.05 N., 03.37 W. and 49.43 03.00 W.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 121934A to S.O. E.G.14.)  
C. in C. W.A.'s 112351. On passing Longships carry out zig-zag search through (AA) 49° 30' N. 05° 00' W. (BB) 49° 30' N. 03° 12' W. (CC) 50° 17' N. 02° 00' W., thence as ordered by C. in C. Portsmouth. Report E.T.A. at (CC).  
(2) On passing Lundy set watch on 2840 k/cs. guards on C.N. and 19 Group Recco. Shift to 2980 k/cs and act under operational control of C. in C. Portsmouth on passing 2° 30' W.  
(3) Guernsey batteries have range of 19 miles.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 122323A to S.O. E.G.1.)  
Leave patrol so as to R/V at 50° 18' N. 02° 30' W. at 0700/13th Jan. and form additional escort to:  
(A) Eastbound convoy H.X.A. 329, 28 ships, Speed 8½ knots.  
(B) Codeword. (C) Escorts VOLUNTEER (S.O.), KINGCUP, BALSAM, MIGNOETTE. (D) Route E. (E) Detach at Z Buoy. (F) On completion return to patrol.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 122240A to S.O. E.G.26.)

Possible  
U-Boat.

Torpedo seen H.V.  
(FLINT, A/S Trawler, 122215A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)  
Am investigating contact 130° 58 E Buoy 2 miles have ordered convoy to return.  
(FIARAY, A/S Trawler, 122230 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)  
Am attacking contact.  
(FIARAY, 122342 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

/M.S.F. 50 ...



War Diary.

12.1.1945.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel - Contd.

M.S.F. 50. SEAHAM, FORT YORK, EASTBOURNE, WEDGEPORT, STORNOWAY, BUDE are to form the 50th M.S.F.  
(2) SIRRA, SLUGA and DOMINO are allocated to 200th M/S Aux. Group attached to 50th M.S.F.  
(3) As Southampton is the main base for Egg Crates request you will nominate a port in your command as base for this Flotilla and Group.  
(D.M.S., 122305A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Operations

West Coast France

Intended bombardment of Belle Ile. Your 111133. Para. (B) Party reported at Arromanches last night and have been instructed to proceed Brest as quickly as possible.  
(2) SIMOUN and BASQUE should not be sailed without B.L.Os. Remaining ships should be sailed as in my 091848.  
(3) If delayed SIMOUN and BASQUE should be routed direct to position (E) in A.M. 111618.  
(4) C.T.F. 125 encypher and pass to C.T.G. 125.10 and for C.F.N.T.F.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 121216A to C.T.F. 125.)  
Your 121216A received too late to comply. All ships sailed at 1600 today as in your 191848.  
(C.T.F. 125, 122041 to A.N.C.X.F.)  
If British Liaison Officers are not on board SIMOUN and BASQUE those ships are to return Brest when DUQUESNE returns.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 122052A to C.F.N.T.F.)

M.T.B.F. 23 to Brest. Your 111021A January concur provided that I am kept informed of intended operations and that no operation takes place south of 47° N., without my prior agreement.  
(2) 19 Group have no objection.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 121430A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Operations

Western Approaches

Patrols. Amend my 111446 as follows.  
On leaving H.X.329 establish patrol between St. Davids Head and Tuskar Rock. U-Boat may endeavour to leave Irish Sea southbound.  
(2) Leave this patrol so as to R/V with and support Milford Haven section of O.S.104/K.M.S.78 escorted by AMBERLEY CASTLE and SETTER at Milford Haven buoy about 0800A/13th or as ordered by F.O.I.C. Milford Haven. Irish Sea section will R/V in 185° Tuskar 20 at 1600/13th escorted by LEEDS CASTLE S.O.E. and OXFORD CASTLE. Support O.S.104/K.M.S.78 in accordance with C.E.3 until ordered to detach. Routed by route B to J thence 188° 7 knots.



War Diary.12.1.1945.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsWestern Approaches

Patrols. (3) Submarine SLEUTH will be in Irish Sea  
(Contd.) section. Submarines TIPTOE and TRUMP join in  
49° 49' 08" 07'.

(4) Force 36 consisting of 3rd, 6th, 21st and  
31st E.Gs. are operating in Irish Sea with  
codeword "Grasp" W/T 769.  
(C. in C. W.A., 120022A to S.O. E.G.15.)

Your 121152. Area searched 53° 40' N. to north coast  
Anglesey between 04° 00' and 05° 00' W. Asdic conditions:  
(A) Average. (B) No.

Night. Intend to complete search of area as in your 111941  
then re-sweep area between standard convoy route and western  
light vessel. Unsuitable.  
(S.O. E.G.21, 121605A to C. in C. W.A.)

ROANOKE and Arrived P.C. 74 with 40 survivors on board  
NORMANDY COAST including 6 stretcher cases ex U.S. SS. ROANOKE  
torpedoed off and SS. NORMANDY COAST. Additional 27  
Holyhead. including 1 stretcher case landed from Yugoslav  
ship SENGA. Total number of survivors up to  
present 67.  
(N.O.I.C. Holyhead, 120031A to F.O.I.C.  
Liverpool.)

Submarine Concur with C. in C. W.A. 111625. Reference  
sanctuaries. para. (4) Concur in this special case that 20  
miles border should be abolished.  
(2) Suggest - (A) That authorities concerned  
will arrange that submarines should not  
normally approach within two miles of the limits of their  
sanctuaries during exercises.  
(B) That aircraft in doubt of their position should also  
adopt procedure in C.B. 03093 section III, para. 15 (B).  
(F.O. S/M., 121219A to Admty.)

A.G.M. 480 AZ of 7th October 1944 and C.B. 03092 (43).  
Existing U-Boat threat in Irish Sea necessitates re-adjustment  
of submarine sanctuaries and submarine exercise areas in the  
Irish Sea.

(2) The following sanctuaries are temporarily cancelled forth-  
with (i) (AA) (Irish Sea). (ii) (S) (Cardigan Bay).  
Existing submarine exercise areas in the Irish Sea vide W.A.G.O.  
521 dated 27th October 1944, para. 4, are temporarily  
cancelled forthwith and the following permanent submarine  
sanctuaries introduced.

Rockabill A: bounded by a line drawn through the following  
positions: (A) 54° 10' N., 05° 20' W. (B) 54° 10' N., 05°  
31' W. (C) 53° 54' N., 05° 57' W. (D) 53° 54' N., 05° 20' W.

Rockabill A.2: bounded by parallels 53° 54' N., 53° 42' N.  
and meridians 05° 20' W. and 05° 57' W.

Rockabill B: bounded by parallels 53° 42' N., 53° 25' N. and  
meridians 05° 20' W. and 05° 57' W.

Rockabill C: bounded by parallels 53° 25' N., 53° 09' N. and  
meridians 05° 20' W. and 05° 41' W.

/Elswick ...



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Submarine sanctuaries. Elswick: bounded by a line drawn through the following positions: (A) 54° 30' N., 03° 47' W. (Contd.) (B) 54° 30' N., 04° 06' W. (C) 54° 06' N., 04° 06' W. (D) 54° 06' N., 03° 56' W. (E) 53° 56' N., 03° 56' W. (F) 53° 56' N., 03° 38' W. (G) 54° 06' N., 03° 38' W.

Larne sanctuary remains unchanged.

(3) C. in C. W.A. is the authority for ordering the above sanctuaries.

(4) The twenty mile border normally added to sanctuaries (C.B. 03092 (43) appendix 2, para. VI) does not in future apply to any sanctuary in the Irish Sea. Authorities concerned are, however, to arrange that submarines are not normally to approach within two miles of the limits of their sanctuaries during exercises.

(5) C.B. 03092 (43) will be amended as above in due course by P. Order.

(D.A/S.W., 122152A to A.G.M. Home 797.)

Rescue Tug An urgent requirement exists for the towage of dispositions. SS. ASTURIAS from Freetown to Gibraltar where she can be accepted for docking about the middle of February.

(2) C. in C. Western Approaches is requested to sail THAMES and ZWARTZ ZEE for Freetown for this duty in K.M.S.80 on 22nd January. Tugs should be sent ahead from the convoy as soon as the U-Boat situation permits.

(3) To provide reliefs as rescue tugs in the N.W. Approaches.

(A) EARNER is to be retained temporarily by C. in C. W.A.

(B) A.C.O.S. is requested to sail FREEBOOTER as required by C. in C. W.A. on arrival of BUCCANEER at Scapa, the refit of FREEBOOTER being postponed temporarily.

(4) The resulting shortage of a rescue tug in Iceland until the return of THAMES and ZWARTZ ZEE to the U.K. must be accepted. Authorities concerned are requested to expedite the passage of these tugs as far as practicable.

(5) A.M. 041826 not to all is cancelled.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 121822A to C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C., F.O.G.M.A., F.O.C.W.Af., A.C.O.S.)

Working up of Aircraft Carriers.

Your 091621.

Special escorts cannot be provided. Working up programmes for carriers must be curtailed to that possible without escorts. Possibility of radar calibration and fighter direction training being done abroad is being investigated. (A.C.N.S.(H), 122312A to F.O.C.T.)



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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway.

Operation "Spellbinder". Engaged convoy of about 8 ships off Egersund. (C.S.1, 120045A to C. in C. H.F.) My 0045. 3 or 4 ships left burning on or near shore 3 miles S.E. of Egero. (C.S.1, 120103A to C. in C. H.F.)  
Scapa arrival C.S.1 in NORFOLK with BELLONA and D.17 in ONSLOW with ORWELL and ONSLAUGHT. (A.C.O.S., 122220A to Admty.)

Operation V.P. V.P.73. Sailed M.T.B.715, M.T.B.716 (S.O.) and M.T.B.717 at 0300A today 12th Jan. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 120306A to A.C.O.S.)

Night fighters for Aircraft Carriers in Home Fleet. Every endeavour will be made to meet the requirements of your 291537 December so far as available resources permit.  
(2) Your para. 6(A). QUEEN, with 853 Sqdn. comprising 8 Avenger and 4 Wildcat, is the only available carrier and will join your flag at the end of February 1945. F.O.C.T. is requested to arrange that particular attention is paid to night A/A work during QUEEN's working up period.  
(3) Your para. 6(B). No fighter squadron not allocated to a carrier, is available to relieve 881 Squadron. Instead, SEARCHER, with 882 Squadron of 24 Wildcat, will join your flag during February when 881 Squadron must be withdrawn. Wildcat component of all general purpose carriers will be raised to 8 each as soon as pilots are available.  
(4) Your para. 2: the necessary equipment to enable Avengers to carry "B" bombs will be available shortly.  
(5) A reply to your para. 6(C) will be made shortly. (V.C.N.S., 121503A to C. in C. H.F., F.O.C.T.)

Operation S.C. Intend sail S.C. operation from Shetland.  
(1) 0100A/14th Jan. from Scalloway.  
(2) 085° from Sumburgh Head 13 knots.  
(3) 1800A/14th Jan.  
(4) Between 1830A/14th Jan. and 0600A/15th Jan.  
(5) 265° to Sumburgh Head 15 knots.  
(6) p.m./15th Jan. (7) 085° Sumburgh Head. (8) No. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 121747A to A.C.O.S.) My 121747A.  
(1) 060° 05', 005° 05' E. (2) Ramose Brilliant. (3) Blank. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 121749A to A.C.O.S.)

Operations

Northern Waters

E.G. 25: Proceed to investigate wake or swirl in position patrol. 58° 56' N. 01° 28' W., reported by aircraft "Pistol Peter" 27 JVR.37 at 0040/12th. (C. in C. Rosyth, 120100A to S.O. E.G.25.)

/My ...



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Friday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorthern Waters

E.G. 25: My 112353A not to all addressees. Four  
patrol. Hedgehog attacks carried out, contact  
(Contd.) established wreck. Am now complying with your  
112325A. Suitable.  
(S.O. E.G.25, 120210A to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
Complying with your 120100A. E.T.A. attack  
position 0615A/12.  
(S.O. E.G.25, 120225A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

J.W. Admiralty 091959, para. 3 and my 101158 passed  
Convoys. to C. in C. W.A.  
(1) These convoys would consist of 20 merchant  
ships, two escort carriers, two oilers and  
possibly one rescue ship, total 25 ships.  
(2) As it would be impossible to use the same escorts for two  
consecutive convoys the minimum escort requirements for a 22  
day cycle in the Spring would be two separate escort units each  
consisting of the following - 8 Western Approaches escorts for  
outer screen, 6 Home Fleet destroyers for close screen (Cdre.  
(D) H.F. 011323, para. 1 refers) and two escort carriers.  
(3) The above destroyers and escort carriers could be provided  
by Home Fleet. This would allow for operations on Norwegian  
coast and for increased call for escorts for ships proceeding  
northabout between Rosyth and Clyde due to new U-Boat activity.  
(C. in C. H.F., 121816A to Adnty.)

Casualties and Defects

JONAS LIE. SS. JONAS LIE adrift in position 292 Lands End  
20 at 1610.  
(2) ROSELYS, SETTER and tugs STORM KING and  
EMPIRE SPRITE are standing by but STORM KING  
has parted her last tow.  
(3) Proceed with all despatch to take JONAS LIE in tow and tow  
her to Falmouth.  
(4) You will be kept informed of her position by plot.  
(5) Place yourself under orders of ROSELYS on joining.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 121753A to SAMSONIA.)

Movements

CAESAR, Intend to sail CAESAR 1830A/12th Jan. to comply  
destroyer. with C. in C. W.A. 111422 and 120032.  
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 121028A to C. in C. W.A.,  
F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

BIRMINGHAM, Cancel my 111032 ship will sail eastabout.  
cruiser. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 121040 to A.C.O.S.,  
C. in C. H.F.)  
Intend to sail BIRMINGHAM eastabout to Scapa  
passing Spithead Gate 0100/13th Jan. Speed  
of advance 20 knots.



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Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSMovements

BIRMINGHAM, (2) Routed standard route and Q.Z.S. 513, 517 to  
cruiser. Dumpton Buoy adjusting speed to R/V with  
(Contd.) HAMBLEDON at Dumpton at 0800/13th thence by  
Q.Z.S. 463, 577 to B.1 Buoy and thence by searched  
channel in force through Barrow Deep and The  
Wold and by Q.Z.S. 277 to East Dudgeon Buoy by  
Q.Z.S. 444 and 380 and standard east coast route passing  
Tyneside on Q.Z.S. 334.  
(3) HAMBLEDON will provide escort from Dumpton to H.4 Buoy off  
the Humber.  
(4) E.T.A. Scapa 1100/14th January.  
(6) C. in C. Nore is requested to provide fighter protection  
as necessary while in the Nore Command. Codeword "Burdett".  
(7) BIRMINGHAM will zig-zag whilst in Portsmouth Command and  
thereafter at discretion.  
(8) Request lights as indicated by the plot.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 121312A to A.C.O.S., C. in C. H.F.)

VENERABLE, Proposed programme now is Sunday 14th Jan.  
light leave Basin 1100 and sail to Clyde speed of  
carrier. advance 14 knots, escorted in accordance with  
C. in C. W.A. 112348A Jan., E.T.A. Ailsa Craig  
2315. Gun, radar and echo sounding trial on  
passage.

(2) Monday 15th Jan. carry out preliminary full power stopping  
starting reversing and steaming trials east of Arran Island  
on completion expected time of arrival Clyde 1300, Boom 1400.  
Carry out preliminary D.G. ranging. Request buoy on completion  
about 1600 commence reeving deperming coils.  
(3) Tuesday 16th Jan. examine gearing and deperm.  
(4) Wednesday 17th Jan. 0730 leave Tail o' Bank and carry out  
four hours full power trials, with runs on measured mile. On  
completion return to Tail o' Bank.  
(5) Thursday 18th and Friday 19th Jan. dead load trials.  
(6) Saturday 20th Jan. D.G. ranging.  
(7) Remainder of programme as planned by F.O.C.T. but two days  
late.  
(8) All times are Zone One.  
(VENERABLE, 121555 to F.O.C.T.)

KENT, Admiralty's 170059A December (not to S.O.R.F.  
cruiser. Clyde) and R.F.T.M. 3 and 4. As the only  
instructions received state that the ship  
is to be at 14 days notice for steaming,  
request confirmation that this means 14 days  
notice for service when reduced to category "B" and conse-  
quently only such work laid down in R.F.T.Ms. as can be  
restored by a full ship's company in 14 days is to be under-  
taken.  
(KENT, 121600A to Admty., F.O.C.R.F., S.O.R.F. Clyde.)

SKATE, SKATE, SCIMITAR and SALADIN accepted in reserve  
SCIMITAR, category "C" today Friday 12th Jan.  
SALADIN, (F.O.C.R.F., 121630A to Admty.)  
destroyers.



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Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSMovements - Contd.

- BACHAQUERO.** In view of training of P.B. Units lasting until May 1945 and necessity of BACHAQUERO relieving L.S.T. 237 as training ship should latter be ordered by Admiralty to refit, request reconsideration of A.M. 111225A Jan. (R.A.L.S.C.U., 121712A to Adnty.)
- LORRAINE, battleship.** French Naval Authorities have asked that F.S. LORRAINE may be docked in U.K.  
(2) Ship can be received in "D" Lock Portsmouth for coating bottom and underwater fittings between 24th and 27th Jan. No other work can be undertaken.  
(3) Ship need not de-ammunition but fuel is to be reduced to 500 tons.  
(4) Ship's staff will be required to scrub down while dock is being pumped out. A.N.C.X.F. is requested to confirm that this is understood by French.  
(5) Docking plan should be forwarded to A.S. Portsmouth as soon as possible and ship's draught reported.  
(6) A.N.C.X.F. is requested to arrange for LORRAINE to be sailed from Cherbourg to arrive as required by C. in C. Portsmouth. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to provide escort.  
(7) Above arrangements are subject to cancellation in event of dock being required for more important use. (V.C.N.S., 121738A to A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. H.F.)
- APOLLO, minelayer.** (1) On completion of practices Saturday 13th Jan. proceed by Minches and standard route as amended by C. in C. W.A. 112132 to arrive Milford Haven 14th Jan. Adnty. 071132 refers.  
(2) Weather permitting speed through water is to be at least 24 knots on passage. Report E.T.A. Milford Haven to authorities concerned.  
(3) Adnty. divert mails to Milford Haven forthwith. (C. in C. H.F., 121746A to APOLLO.)
- BLACKMORE, destroyer.** C. in C. Nore is requested to sail BLACKMORE to Scapa for 10 days exercises on completion of trials about 14th Jan.  
(2) On completion of exercises BLACKMORE is allocated to Nore Command temporarily for operations.  
(3) Com. (D) H.F. is requested to give first priority to BLACKMORE's exercises and sail ship as required by C. in C. Nore on completion.  
(4) Cancel A.M. 272041 December not to BLACKMORE. (V.C.N.S., 121756A to C. in C. Nore, Com. (D) H.F.)
- CROOME, destroyer.** C. in C. Med. 232014 December not to all. CROOME is allocated to refit at Malta on 1st March.  
(2) C. in C. Nore is requested to sail CROOME to arrive Plymouth by 26th Jan. to give leave in

/accordance ...



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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

CROOME,  
destroyer.  
(Contd.)

accordance with A.F.O. 5998/44 and to adjust complement.  
(3) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail ship on completion of leave to arrive at refitting port by 1st March.  
(4) Further allocations will be signalled later.  
(D.O.D.(H), 121800A to Cs. in C. Nore, Plymouth, Med.)

BELLONA,  
cruiser.

(1) Leave Scapa passing Hoxa at 2230A Sunday 14th Jan. and proceed by standard route to Rosyth arriving Oxcars Gate at 0830A/15th Jan.  
(2) Weather permitting speed through water is to be at least 24 knots until south of 58° N.  
(3) Pass over deep D.G. range on passage up harbour.  
(4) Leave may be given subject to concurrence of C. in C. Rosyth.  
(5) Sail from Rosyth so as to arrive Scapa a.m./1st Feb.  
(6) Admty. divert mails to Rosyth forthwith.  
(C. in C. H.F., 122221A to BELLONA.)



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FridayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

C.T.G.22.8 Departing Praia Bay Terceira 0200Z for Oparei 500 miles due North of Azores to hunt weather reporter.  
(C.T.G.22.8, 120235Z to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

Enemy Agents Following is re-encypherment of my 120741 begins, German Agents Straits of Gibraltar area reliably reported to have new instructions report convoy movements as promptly as possible. Alusnas have by order Meons.  
(C.M.S.F.F., 120748 to Cominch, C.N.O.)

WOLVERINE WOLVERINE is to slip as requisite to R/V tanker ESSO CAMDEN in Bay at 1300A today Jan. 12th and escort her to west.  
(2) ESSO CAMDEN is routed through (X) 35.59 N.  
06.10 W.  
(a) 35.00 N. 10.00 W. S. of A. 12½ knots.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 121037A to WOLVERINE, etc.)

F.S. DUQUAY My 111430A\* sailed.  
TROUIN (C.M.S.F., 121117A to F.O.G.M.A.)  
\* Intend to sail F.S. DUGUAY TROUIN at 0900/12.

SPIRAEA, Part company with M.K.S.76 as requisite to R/V  
CROCUS. K.M.S.77 in position P.A.038° (?54) N. 011° 41' W. at 0800A Jan. 13th and act as additional escort to Gibraltar.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 121139A to SPIRAEA, CROCUS.)

BLACKHEATH CONVULVULUS will relieve ~~KILBURNIE~~<sup>KILLBIRNIE</sup> standing by  
(Torpedoed) grounded S.S. BLACKHEATH south of Cape Spartel at  
<sup>on 10/1</sup> about 1700A today Friday.  
\*KILLBIRNIE (3) \*~~KILBURNIE~~ is to return Gibraltar on relief bringing members of crew of BLACKHEATH unwilling to assist.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 121031A to Group 1.)  
SS. BLACKHEATH torpedoed in K.M.S.76 is now aground in position 2 miles South of Cape Spartel.  
(2) Inspection shows collision bulkhead gone, numbers 1, 2, 3 and 5 holds, engine room and boiler room all flooded and number 4 hold dry.  
(3) Spanish have given permission for Salvage to be carried out if possible but if ship cannot be refloated they do not agree to transshipment and salvage of cargo.  
(4) British crew abandoned ship and Spanish put 4 men on board considering them as guard and not prize crew.  
(5) Spanish Gunboat is patrolling vicinity of wreck.  
(6) Spanish claim abandoned ship is normally prize but have conceded to arrangement in para. (3).  
(7) H.M. Tug NIMBLE and Red Ensign BLAND and Company Tug RESCUE alongside wreck.  
(8) KILBIRNIE patrol outside territorial waters.  
(11) Request instructions.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 121517A to C. in C. Med.)  
Reply 120223A (See Med.) and 131208A.

/Further...



12.1.1945  
FridayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSNorth AtlanticBLACKHEATH  
(Torpedoed)  
(Contd.)

Further to my 121517A\* following has just been received from Acting Consul General **Tangier** begins: Your 121515+ Spanish authorities are prepared to sanction refloating of vessel but think? that this may not be possible if cargo must be removed. Spanish authorities insist that it be unloaded on shore. Ends.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 122337A, to C. in C. Med.)  
\*BLACKHEATH (formerly of K.M.S.76 aground near Cape Spartel.  
+ No trace in W.R. at time of circulation.

A.F.D.20

Arrived A.F.D.20 H.M.T. NORTHERN REWARD, SAPPER, AYRSHIRE. ✓ ~~HOME GUARD (Tugs)~~ ENVOY, DESTINY.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 121327A to Admty.)

S/M  
SLEUTH

SLEUTH sails in O.S.104/K.M.S.78 for Gibraltar, Malta and E.F.  
(Capt.(S) 3rd S/M Flot. 121347A to F.O.G.M.A. etc.)

South Atlantic

FREESIA

Sailed FREESIA to Kilindini (route).  
(2) S. of A. 12 knots.  
(3) E.T.A. Kilindini 1200Z 18th.  
(Cmdre. Durban, 120741Z to Admty. etc.)



12.1.1945  
FridayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

BLACKHEATH (Salvage of) Every effort is to be made to salve this ship with the means at your disposal F.O.G.M.A.'s 121517\* (C. in C. Med., 120223A, F.O.G.M.A.) \* SS. BLACKHEATH torpedoed in K.M.S.76 is now aground.

Cositintrep No. 551 Extract. MX 73225 cipher 12th January. CITE FHGBI - Signed Alexander. Part 3 Air. Strategic Air Force. Day 11th January. Operations were cancelled owing to unserviceable bases and unfavourable base and route weather. Coastal Air Force. Spitfires and Beaufighters flew weather and anti-shipping R/C North Adriatic and Viareggio to Genoa. Mosquitoes scrambled for hostiles north of Ancona and 30 miles east of Cap Camarat, no contacts. Mine sweeping patrols and convoy escort were carried out off the south coast of France without incident. (H.Q.M.A.A.F. 121058A to War Office.)

TREERN Much regret to report have met caique carrying Stoker James J. Bosch 181198 (U) South Africa, sole survivor from H.M.S.A.S. TREERN which struck 2 mines this morning on passage from to Oreos. Survivor states end was north of Pondiko Nisi. (MUSKETEER, 121258B to S.B.N.O. Greece.)

REGULUS mined REGULUS mined and sunk in position 278° Sivofa Light 1.8 miles at 1349. (S.O.M/S 8, 1213?? to F.O.T.A.L.I.; and 122130A from C. in C. Med.) Regret to report REGULUS mined and sunk at 1349/ 12 278° Sivota light 1.8 miles (Corfu South Channel. (F.O.T.A.L.I., 122130A to Admt.)

Greece, Kalamata Situation Kalamata on relief by ANTWERP 121200 January. All quiet. (2) Authorities state they will abide by truce. (3) If terms of truce cover it they agree to appointment of Greek N.O.I.C. who is willing to co-operate with British in every way until a N.O.I.C. can be appointed by Government. A.B.N.L.O. from ANTWERP would be then landed and this they would welcome. (H.M.S. KIMBERLEY, 121648B to S.B.N.O. Greece.)

HOVA, SOMALI. Require HOVA and SOMALI to reinforce Gibraltar escort froces and BASQUE and SIMOUN to join Flanfor. My 121727 refers. (N.T. in W.D.) C. in C. Med., 121746 to F.O.W.M.)

Aegean, enemy action. Following is repetition of my 081422 not to all addressees. Begins:

/The...



12.1.1945  
FridayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanAegean,  
enemy  
action.  
(Contd.)

The Germans remaining in the Aegean Islands may still have some torpedoes remaining. The possibility that they extemporise means discharging these from caiques and other small craft must be borne in mind when operating in area where such craft may be encountered.

(2) Now further reported that at Canea Crete an enemy launch was seen fitted with torpedo tubes.

(3) H.M. Ships are to be darkened and not burn navigation lights when within 60 miles of Suda, Milos, Leros and Rhodes. This regulation does not apply to ships while in Q.B.C.927.

(4) Sailing authorities are to avoid as far as possible Merchant ships being underway in these areas during dark hours. (F.O. Levant, and East Med., 122016 to E.M. General etc.)

Balearic  
Islands.  
Italian  
ships

My 091300\*.

Unless something unforeseen occurs 5 major ships will sail Sunday night, Jan. 14th in accordance with T.A.G.O. orders.

(3) Suggest Cdr. Storich, Italian N.L.O. Gibraltar, would be helpful in Algeciras.

(B.N.A. Madrid, 122030A to C. in C. Mediterranean Fleet.) See 131950A

\* Possible that Italian Warships in Balearic Is. may be released this week.

Situation  
report  
number 534

(1) In Gulf of Genoa coastal craft on patrol night tenth January fired 4 torpedoes at F lighters believed to be minelayers. 2 lighters definitely hit. Large fires explosions followed. Probable hit claimed on third lighter.

(2) REGULUS mined and sunk in Corfu South

Channel.

(3) Improvement in weather has enabled starving garrison of ? Paxos Island to be relieved.

(4) Patrols are reduced to caique movement in Gulfs of (?Patras) and Corinth.

(5) All quiet at Kavalla.

(6) S.B.N.O. Greece reports truce between Government forces and E.L.A.S. will come into force at 0001B/15th January and that Piraeus, Patras, Navplion, Volos, Salonika and Khalkis will then be held by British.

(C. in C. Med., 122150A to F.O.L.E.M.)



12.1.1945.  
Friday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U.B. Dispositions No fresh information position unchanged.  
(C. in C. E.I.S. 120351Z S. & A. East Indies Station.)

STORM Far East Patrol. STORM 8th Far East Patrol. Macassar Strait. Total duration 38 days. 21 days N. of Malay Barrier.  
2. 18th Dec. in 000 degs. 34 mins. N. (? 118 degs.) 35 mins. E. fired 3 torpedoes at 1 thousand tons southbound Merchant ship escorted by 3 small craft.  
No hits.  
(C. in C. E.I.S. 120613Z Admty.)

Carriers Intend to plan for immediate future on following assumption (1) ROYALIST, EMPEROR, KHEDIVE, RULER and SPEAKER forming Nos. 3 460 Hellcat Wing will arrive Feb./March for operation on East Indies (2) Nos. 10 Wing in PURSUER, SEARCHER, ARBITER, SLINGER will be available for operation on E.I. Station by July. Comec now in Colombo request information as to intention for employment of Nos. 4 460 Seafire Wing in HUNTER, STALKER, ATTACKER and CHASER.  
(C. in C. East Indies 120659Z Admty.) Reply 131907.

Defects to Escort Vessels. The number of crippling defects developed in East Indies escort vessels is already serious and position is deteriorating. 5 Ships have been withdrawn for refit before their normal time within past 2 months and a further 6 are unlikely to stay the course. PELICAN and HIND arrived on the station unfit for operations.  
2. Main cause of defects.  
3. Reinforcements promised in your 311500 Dec. are insufficient to make up wastage and to remedy situation. Request that: (a) additional reinforcements may be sent. (b) the escort maintenance ships referred to in your 231516 Dec. may be hastened.  
4. Unless situation improves troop ships may have to sail unescorted at less frequent intervals or at reduced speed whilst operational efficiency is being restored.  
(C. in C. E.I. 120736 Admty.) Reply 152325A.

GOMBROON Your 291115Z Dec., and S.O.R.N.E.(I) 051300Z. Final decision as to disposal of GOMBROON will be given later. In meantime vessel should not be allocated for further Naval Service except as a temporary measure.  
(Head of M. 121100A C. in C. E.I.)

U. Boat 94.8 N. 69.17 E. Periscope sighted W.X.09002.  
(WILLIS VAN DEVANTER 121335.)

/L.S.T.'s ...



12.1.1945.  
Friday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

L.S.T.'s            Sailed L.S.T.199 (S.O.) Eight, 403, 163, 11,  
                     escorted by CRANE and LINARIA at 1430Z 12th.  
                     2. E.T. of A. Colombo 1100Z 22nd. S.O.A. 9.2  
                     knots.  
(Com. Aden 121553Z to F.O. Ceylon.)

Escorts for        The introduction of a 10 day cycle for K.M.F.  
proposed.         convoys in March, 1945 is under examination.  
Cycle for.         2. Request you will report what scale of escort  
K.M.F.             could be made available to A.B.F. - B.A.F. convoys  
Convoys.           on this cycle.  
                     (D.O.D.(F) 122341A C. in C. E.I.) Reply 171131Z.



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FridayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

C.T.G.22.9  
contact. Cancel my 120233Z. Sonar contact evaluated as possible. Time 0105Z/12. 42.53.8 N. 53.42.9 W. Boxing area next 12 hours. (Comtaskgroup 22.9, 120631Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

S.O. W.5. Re C. in C. C.N.A.'s J on my 112327Z/. Check with escort sent to close Radar contact. Intercepted U.S.S. SOMERS at 2330Z/11 in position 40.02 N. 67.00 W. (S.O. W.5, 121004Z to C.E.S.F.) / O.N.275 Met U.S.S. SOMERS headed for U.C.54.

U-Boat Dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 121328Z and Cominch, 121525Z)

Routeing of Hospital Ships. It is urgently requested that destinations of hospital Ships sailing from Halifax be promulgated as far in advance as possible. (2) Considerable confusion has resulted due to receipt of your 111941 negative priority which gave destination of LLANDOVERY CASTLE as Naples only a few minutes before ship was ready to sail for U.K. etc. (N.S.H.Q. 121646 to Admty.)

U-Boat Weather report. By D/F on 8275NK/cs at 1648Z/12, position of U-Boat making a weather report was within 75 miles of 47 degs. 30' N. 29 degs. 30' W. (D.D.I.C.121735Z to C.T.G.22.8)

B.P.F. American Organisation. Details of Signals. Details of U.S. Naval Voice Procedure asked for by your 052058/ January both for air and surface warnings are given in "Centcom 2". (B.A.D. 12215Z to Admty) / Re B.P.F. using American signalling systems.

STRATHADAM. Due to heavy weather will be approx. 7 hours from BARSLEY position at zero time tomorrow. Intend commencing operation at schedule time in position 174 degs. 100 miles from A. (H.M.C.S. STRATHADAM, 122132Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

S/M attack and sighting summary. N.S.H.Q. No report since my 102227Z. Para. C. (1) Asdic contact in 42.53.8 N. 53.42.9 W. at 0105Z/12. (2) H.M.C.S. CARAQUET obtained Radar contact at 0715Z/12 in 44.23 N. 63.07 W. (N.S.H.Q. 122149Z to Admty, Cominch etc.)

No report 11th. C. 120105 Surface craft had Sonar contact 42.53 N. 53.42 W. All times Z. D. 121210 C.G. vessel had Sonar contact 43.07 N. 70.21 W. while investigating intermittent targets reported by shore based radar from 120010 to 120929. (Cominch, 122152Z to Admty.)

/U-Boat ...



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FridayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies - Contd.

U-Boat contact. 2 (?patterns depth charges) dropped in position 046 degs. 59' N. 057 degs. 40' W. on doubtful contact at 2320Z. Rejoining convoy as no further contact.  
(H.M.C.S. GANAQUE, 122350Z to F.O.N.F.)

Australia and New Zealand

FENCER. Sail at 1600 K/12th proceed to Cochin in accordance with C. in C. B.P.F. 100930 Jan. Route.  
(N.O.I.C.Sydney, 120124Z to FENCER)

*Victualling Stone Lining Ships*

V.S.I.S. Investigation of logistic support necessary for  
B.P.F. operation envisaged in C. in C. B.P.F./ 110743 Jan. shows that all V.S.I.S. available for service will be required. Therefore DENBIGHSHIRE and FORT AWASAVA must be retained with B.P.F. until replaced by V.S.I.S. of equivalent capacity. In order to legislate for future commitments it is essential that FORT PROVIDENCE be sailed to Sydney for repairs at the earliest possible date.  
(Rear Admiral Fleet Train, 120504Z to Admty.)  
/ Not yet received in War Registry. Has been called for.

B.P.F. In order to proceed with the logistic planning  
Fleet necessary in view of C. in C. B.P.F.'s 110743 Jan.  
Train ships. it is essential that the Fleet Train ships should be in Australian waters on or before their advertised dates and that I should be informed without delay of any variations in their respective programmes. This applies particularly to ships which will require repair docking or fitting out on arrival at Sydney.  
(2) Early confirmation of the following movements is requested, as follows:  
(3) Information is also sought as to the movements of SERBOK/ and R PJDOL/  
(R.A. F.T. 120525Z to Admty. See 171120A)  
/ as received.

Visit of Propose HOWE escorted by two destroyers shall  
HOWE to visit Auckland about 7th Feb. for a period of  
Auckland. about nine days for gunnery practice.  
(2) Regret no (?ranges) can be spared for this force.



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War Diary12.1.1945  
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New ZealandVisit of  
HOWE to  
Auckland.  
(Contd.)

(3) If you agree request H.M.N.Z.S. GAMBIA may be retained in New Zealand until then so that combined practices may be carried out.  
 (4) Intend both ships and escort to return to Sydney (N.S.W) in company.  
 (C. in C. B.P.F. 120530Z to N.Z.N.B. etc.) Reply 130040Z.

Digest  
No.1087  
11.1.45.

(2) Forenoon search Liberator over French Indo China Coast sighted 7 destroyers or escorts, 3 tankers, 6 medium freighters transports, 3 sea trucks anchored Cap Saint Jacques, 18 probable small ships at anchor Kamranh Bay.  
 Second searcher over during afternoon reported convoy of 5 escorts including possible destroyers, 4 tankers, 2 freighter transports departing Cap Saint Jacques course 50 degs. leaving 5 escort vessels 5 freighter transports, 2 tankers many small craft anchored Cap Saint Jacques; also reported 5 sea trucks at anchor Phanrang Bay and 15 ships anchored, 1 gunboat patrolling Kamranh Bay, this plane didn't return Base.  
 (3) Apparently another convoy northbound along French Indo-China Coast described as 1 heavy cruiser, 1 light cruiser, 2 destroyers, 12 freighter or transports believed entering (corrupt) Erella late afternoon 10th.  
 (4) Other patrol Liberators from Leyte 11th Jan. sighted 2 tankers, 1 medium transport, 5 small freighters anchored (?Inawa Vima): straffed 11 landing craft heading northwards (corrupt) probably damaging 4 and setting 5th on fire. observed 4 small freighters, 60 miles southeast of Keelung course west. 1 gunboat 2 tankers, 6 sea trucks anchored Miyako Retto and several small ships underway southwestern Nansei Shoto.  
 (6) Late afternoon 9th January single enemy suicide dive-bombed 2 auxiliary in Lingayan Gulf causing slight damage. Before dawn 10th estimated 6 enemy small boats raided ships in Lingayan Gulf inflicting minor damage by underwater explosions, 3 enemy boats sunk: survivor prisoners state boats carried depth charges. That afternoon some 7 Japs carrying charges seen swimming towards ships, but all drowned.  
 (10) 6 Mustangs, 11 Lightnings attacked small type shipping Vigan and along coast south there of 10th Jan. 16 sea trucks 4 small coastal freighters 38 barges damaged or set on fire.  
 (17) 2 Venturas sweeping coasts noon 10th attacked 1 small sea truck 1 barge at Bima on Soembawa, bombs missed but vessels were straffed.  
 (18) Next day 4 Mitchells searching Aoafera Sea straffed and probably destroyed 2 camouflaged barges northeast shores (?Ar) Islands.  
 (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 120801 to Admty. etc.)

/C. in C. ...



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FridayFOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand - Contd.

C. in C.                   LOTHMAN has been inspected as intended by my  
B.P.F.                   212228 December not to all and being an ex-cargo  
Command                 ship is unsuited for use as a Command Headquarters  
H.Q. ship.               ship. She could at a pinch temporarily house a  
                              small advanced Headquarters for about two months  
                              when a refit will be essential.

- (2) It is out of the question to prejudice the fighting qualities of a battleship to accommodate my NTACS.
- (3) There is no dependable possibility of obtaining sufficient, if any, office accommodation at Manus. The only buildings there are components of the American base which is to be moved forward as a whole. They would not in any case be suitable as they were built for base and not headquarters purposes.
- (4) To build a base at Manus would require time labour and constructional materials none of which are available.
- (5) General MacArthur's Headquarters at Hollandia would isolate me and my staff from the Fleet. The same applies even more to Sydney.
- (6) It is essential as the sphere of operations of the Fleet moves northwards that I should move my Headquarters to conform. This in any case prohibits the use of a shore headquarters owing to the time factor.
- (7) I have therefore concluded that a command headquarters ship is the only solution communications being carried out initially ashore with facilities it is hoped to obtain from the Americans and subsequently in MONTCLARE on her arrival.
- (8) The requirement is for a liner with living and office accommodation for at least 80 officers and 230 men in addition to the ship's complement.
- (9) These numbers are based on the staff and retinue of the C. in C. H.F. with additions whose equivalent would normally be supplied from the complement of the Fleet Flagship.
- (10) This number may well be increased since:
- (A) The Fleet will eventually be larger than the H.F. at its maximum strength.
- (B) As the Fleet is now operating continuously V.A.B.P.F., whom it was previously hoped would shoulder some of the administration duties of the Fleet, will have little time for anything but operations and training.
- (11) I am quite certain that the efficiency and welfare of the Fleet depends on the provision of such a ship and I believe that it should therefore take priority over almost all other merchant ship commitments. Indeed I can see no alternative.
- (12) Could it be ready by 15th March, 1945.
- (C. in C. B.P.F. 121002Z Admiralty and 140555Z)  
Reply 190030A.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack  
and sighting  
Summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/12th Jan.  
Para. A.(1) Br. SS. NORMANDY COAST and Am. SS.  
ROANOKE torpedoed ~~and~~ at 1520Z and 1536Z/11th Jan.

/ in ...



War Diary

12.1.1945  
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack and sighting summary. (Contd.) in latitude 53 degs. 19' N. long. 4 degs. 48' W.  
Para. B. (1) A/C P/86 attacked possible U-Boat at 0025Z/12th Jan. in lat. 58 degs. 54' N. long. 1 deg. 53' W.  
(2) H.M.C.M/S JASEUR attacked U-Boat at 1104Z/11th Jan. in lat. 55 degs. 7' N. long. 11 degs. 9' W.  
(3) A/C O/423 attacked possible Snort at 1235Z/11th Jan. in lat. 57 degs. 56' N. long. 9 degs. 50' W.  
(4) A/C F/304 sighted possible Snort at 1640Z/11th Jan. in lat. 57 degs. 35' N. long. 9 degs. 55' W.  
(5) A/C S/304 obtained A.S.V. at 1725Z/11th Jan. in lat. 57 degs. 53' N. long. 9 degs. 6' W.  
(6) A/C P/172 attacked U-Boat at 1956Z/11th Jan. in lat. 57 degs. 15' N. long. 10 degs. 30' W.  
Para. C. (1) Unidentified ship reported being gunned by armed merchant raider on 11th Jan. in lat. 14 degs. 1' N. long. 54 degs. 20' E.  
(D.D.I.C. 121202A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.Ottawa)

U-Boat dispositions. Estimates. (D.D.I.C.121415A, A.I.G. 332 Cominch and 121426A)



13.1.1945  
SaturdayWar DiarySITUATION REPORTHome CommandsNorth  
Sea

1. N.O.I.C. Antwerp reports an increase in V-bomb incidents in the docks area, and is of opinion that "it is only a matter of time before a ship is hit and a serious incident occurs." He asks, therefore, that no ammunition other than that urgently required for immediate operational needs be sent to Antwerp for the present.

Norway

2. DIDO reports a successful aerial mining strike by aircraft from PREMIER and TRUMPETER 30 miles north of Stavanger. (*operation "Gratis"*)

Gibraltar

3. Rear Admiral Crutchley V.C. appointed Flag officer Gibraltar and Mediterranean approaches in succession to Vice Admiral Sir Harold Burrough, today.

Foreign StationsMediterranean

Greece

4(a) All quiet reported at Kavalla where the population is pro-British.  
(b) The political situation in Western Crete is reported deteriorating due to lack of food.  
(c) Movements of army columns from Patras was supported by Naval gunfire.

East Indies

5. C. in C.E.I. reports H.M. S/MS'. TRENCHANT and TERRAPIN combined report of their 4th Far East War Patrol:-  
(a) On 19th and 20th December, TERRAPIN one special operation successful.  
(b) On 20th at 2030 in vicinity of Pulo Pandang TRENCHANT fired on and attacked by unseen vessel. Minor damage.  
(c) On 21st off Bernam River TERRAPIN sank by gunfire Jap Naval auxiliary mining tender SAKURA MARU 900 tons. 3 Chinese survivors.

/(d)...



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Saturday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

5(d) 25th near Pulo Pandang both engaged by gunfire convoy of 4 coasters of 200 tons escorted by one A/S Trawler. Trawler blew up and sank. One coaster burnt out, another caught fire, other beached.

(e) 26th near Pulo Pandang TRENCHANT sighted one minelayer and two submarine chasers 8 miles away. She reported to TERRAPIN who fired 5 torpedoes at minelayer. One observed hit, vessel disintegrated. No counter attack.

(f) 27th TRENCHANT ordered patrol off Penang.

(g) 29th surfaced coastal sweep against junks. TERRAPIN destroyed 170 tons and TRENCHANT 220 tons in vicinity of Bernam River by demolition and ramming.

(h) On 30th TRENCHANT off Sungai Panel sank a 20 ton junk and TERRAPIN in 2° 49' 100° 15½' one 20 ton junk.

(i) 31st TRENCHANT sunk by Oerlikon 30 ton Motor Junk and a 20 ton and 15 ton by ramming.

(j) 4th January both submarines bombarded Pulo Pandang Watch tower, destroyed it and damaged camp.

Australia and New Zealand

Philippines

6. Today 4 Mustangs swept Bicol Peninsula destroying troop laden ferry San Miguel Bay. 3 Mitchells bombed oil tanks sank launch anchored N. coast of Gram.



War Diary

13.1.1945  
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Situation Cositintrep No.284 Part 4.  
Report. Discharge by sea - 24 hours period ending 1600A/12 January.

<u>British</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> <u>(incl.Coal)</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
Antwerp	12	248	10,614	7,957	884
Ostend	910	128	3,418	-	-
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-
Dieppe	34	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	2,366	-	-
Calais	1,031	-	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	1,005	-	-
Totals:	1,987	397	17,403	7,957	2,408 (sic)
<u>U.S. North</u>					
Antwerp	-	-	11,461	-	-
Cherbourg	-	-	5,031	9,276	1,121
Le Havre	7,434	556	5,657	-	2,018
Rouen	113	64	2,574	1,425	-
Granville	-	-	1,483	-	-
Totals:	7,547	620	26,206	10,701	3,139
<u>U.S. South</u>					
Marseilles	586	89	5,228	-	802
Port De Bouc	-	-	250	7,145	-
Toulon	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:	586	89	5,478	7,145	802

Signed: Eisenhower - Cite SHGDS.  
(S.H.A.E.F. 131545A to Admty and others.)

Danger from ammunition ships at Antwerp.

Reference S.H.A.E.F. Main G.4 S. 74481 D.T.G. 101930.

(1) Consider that rules for acceptance of ammunition at Antwerp require immediate reconsideration. The scale of attack by V weapons shows no sign of decreasing and the main point of impact of missiles has moved to the dock area.

(2) The number of incidents in this area which have caused minor damage and casualties has increased in the last few days and it is evident that it is now only a matter of time before a ship is hit and a serious incident occurs.

(3) The number of ships carrying ammunition and the quantities on board are high and continuance of the present policy is in the opinion of the P.E.C. courting disaster.

(4) The working conditions in Antwerp are very arduous and the morale of the workers is being maintained on a fine margin. The general shortage of food, clothes and coal on top of enemy action is causing distress. A serious accident such as might happen to ammunition ships would have very serious repercussions apart from the material damage caused.

(5) It is therefore recommended that no ammunition other than that urgently required for immediate operational needs should be sent to Antwerp for the present.

(6) Agreed P.E.C.

(N.O.I.C.Antwerp, 131642 to Exford Rear Movements)



War Diary13.1.1945  
SaturdayHOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel

Possible U-Boats. Have lost contact am carry out Observant. (FLINT, 130215 to C. in C. Portsmouth)  
Your 130138A. On obtaining (?first) contact convoy unfavourable to returning. Four attacks made and contact finally considered non-S/M. Have assisted FLINT without regaining contact myself. He reports his first contact as S/M and second as non-S/M. AVONSTREAM reports his position as Kansas buoy O115. Propose proceeding to overtake presuming convoy in company. Please confirm. (FIARAY, 130231A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Have obtained a bearing by H/F D/F of 2 German S/Ms transmitting 29 groups of a naval enigma signal bearing is first class bearing 267 degs. Distance estimated over 30 miles but in ground wave. My position E.A.3 buoy.

(VIMY, 130354Z to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Have obtained bottomed contact in position 178 Wolf Rock 7.3 miles, unable to classify. Holding till daylight before attacking.

(S.O. E.G. 9, 130740A to C. in C. Plymouth)

My 130740A. Attacks have produced only a little oil. E.S. trace, which is difficult to obtain in this weather, does not suggest submarine. Consider I am on a wreck.

(S.O.E.G.9, 131137A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Operation "Nestegg". Provided that ships in para. 1 of A.N.C.X.F.(Main) Message 101043 are allocated ROYAL ULSTERMAN is required to complete lift of Force 135 for operation "Nestegg". SAINT HELIER has not sufficient personnel carrying capacity.

(2) If allocation is approved then ALBRIGHTON would not be required as H.Q. ship provided that V.H/F set is fitted in L.C.H. 239 for communication with aircraft.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 131055A to Admty.)

Patrols. Night patrols 13/14 January. As in my 121427A. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 131250A to S.O. E.Gs. 17, 10, 26)

(13) "Groom A" 9th E.G. 2 ships - patrolling

Scillies to Lizard.

- (14) "Groom B" 9th E.G. 2 ships - patrolling Lundy to Trevose.
- (15) "Freak A" 19th E.G. 2 ships - patrolling Start to Lizard.
- (16) "Freak B" 19th E.G. 2 ships - patrolling Start to Portland.
- (17) "Detest B" 14th E.G. 2 ships - patrolling between 50.05 N. 03.37 W. and 49.43 N. 03.01 W.
- (18) SKOMER patrolling vicinity Lunday.
- (19) DOCHET Falmouth 1830 to Plymouth 8.
- (20) TJERK HIDDES Portland Bill 2000 to Plymouth 20.

/ (21) ...



War Diary13.1.1945  
SaturdayHOME COMMANDS.OperationsChannel

Patrols. (21) NARCISSUS, PETUNIA - 090 Start 18 to Plymouth  
(Contd.) 12.  
(22) GWEAL 250 Lands End 15 to vicinity Scillies  
11.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 131408A to Admty. C. in C. Portsmouth)

Your 131721A and 131807A.

(1) S.O. E.G.1 proceed at best speed to Portland reporting E.T.A. Portland has been informed of defect.

(2) Remainder of group abandon search as in my 122323A and proceed to sweep up English Channel so as to arrive Portland 0800A/14.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 132001A to S.O. E.G.1)

"Freak" "Baker" continue present duty as far as Lizard until relieved by "Groom" "Able".

(2) "Freak" "Able" escort 2 L.S.Ts 2 M/Vs and 1 M.F.V. joiners to B.T.C. 36 now ahead of convoy and in position 180 Start 4 at 2330A/13. Escort into Portland.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 132331A to E.G.19)

OperationsWestern Approaches

Rescue Tug A.M. 121822. N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 121740 not to all.  
dispositions. FREEBOOTER will be available on 22nd Jan.  
(A.C.O.S. 131233 to C. in C. W.A.)

Patrols. Your 131133A acknowledged. E.T.A. patrol area  
2100A.  
(S.O. E.G.21, 131329A to C. in C. W.A.)

Suspected M.L. reports submerged U-Boat 52 degs. 07' N. 04  
U-Boat. degs. 46' W. Close.  
(C. in C. W.A. 131431A to S.O.E.G.6)  
Your 131431. Searching semi-circle radius 15 miles  
datum point and within one mile coast line.  
suitable.  
(S.O. E.G.6, 131927A to C. in C. W.A.)

E.G.15. My 120022. If not in contact detach from O.S.  
140/K.M.S.78 on crossing 49 degs. N. and proceed to  
Belfast for lay-over.  
(C. in C. W.A. 131903A to S.O. E.G.15)

OperationsNorway

Mined Area Following German plain language broadcast has been  
in Skagerrak. received. "The declared mined area in the  
Skagerrak is extended to the eastward with effect  
from 0000 hours on 15th January, 1945.  
It is now bounded in the west by a line joining

/Lister ...



War Diary

13.1.1945  
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

Mined Area in Skagerrak. (Contd.) Lister lighthouse and Thyboron (southern point of Agger Tange) and in the east by the lines joining 57 degs. 09' N. 09 degs. 22' E. and 58 degs. 11' N. 08 degs. 28.5 minutes E."  
(2) Comment. Final position is not on land and is possibly corrupt. Subject to this the declared area in the Skagerrak is extended approx. nine miles eastward. (D.D.I.C. 131425A to C. in C. H.F., C.S.10, C.S.1, A.C.O.S., C. in C. Rosyth, C. in C. Nore, A.N.C.X.F., F.O.S/M, (by courier) Comm.(D).) As amended by his 141130 Jan.

Operation "Moonshine". Operation "Moonshine". D day January 13th. (C. in C. Rosyth, 131747 to Admty, H.Q.C.C., N.O.I.C.Aberdeen, C. in C. Nore, N.O.I.C.Humber)

Operation "Gratis" DIDO reports operation "Gratis" strike successful. No casualties, E.T.A. Hoxa Gate 2100. (C. in C. H.F. 131947A to Admty.) Scapa arrival DIDO, PREMIER, TRUMPETER, OPPORTUNE, CAVENDISH, ZEST, ZODIAC. (A.C.O.S. 132137 to Admty)

Operations

Northern Waters

Suspicious object in Scapa Flow. Suspicious object sighted in Flow last night. Most probable entry through Hoxa at 1000A this morning. All necessary offensive measures are being taken. (A.C.O.S. 131104A to Admty.)

Patrols. If not in contact leave patrol at 1500A to-day Saturday and proceed to R/V with convoy E.N.69 escorted by 2 trawlers (ANGLE S.O) off 28 buoy at approx. 2130A/13th and support to 36 buoy thence resume Gamma B for Baker. (C. in C. Rosyth, 131114A to S.O.E.G. 25)  
My Position 58 degs. 17' N. 02 degs. 06' W. am proceeding to search area in which U-Boat report by K.W.G.16. (S.O. E.G.25, 131700A to C. in C. Rosyth)

Movements

MAURITIUS cruiser. Intend sailing MAURITIUS passing Clyde Boom 1330A/14th January to comply with C. in C. H.F. 081504A January. E.T.A. 1030A/January 16th.  
(2) Routed through following positions:  
(A) 270 degs. Oversay 6 miles.  
(B) 56 degs. 45' N. 08 degs. 01' W.  
(C) 56 degs. 50' N. 15 degs. 10' W. thence direct to destination. S. of A. 23 knots to 15 degs. W. thence 20 knots. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 131504A to C. in C. W.A., Admty, A.C.O.S. A.C.I.C. C's in C. H.F., Rosyth)

/PENN ...



War Diary

13.1.1945  
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements - Contd.

PENN  
destroyer.

Request you will sail PENN to Scapa for 14 days  
exercises on completion of trials about 17th Jan.  
(2) Further signal will be made.  
(D.O.D.(H), 131707A to C. in C. Nore)

Shipping and Convoys

C.U.  
Convoys.

Your 122100A to C.O. 16th Port. This command  
furnishes ships in C.U. Convoys with complete route-  
ing instructions to the United States based on  
orders from Admiralty who schedules and exercises  
overall control of convoy assembly and sailing in  
this theatre. Attempted diversion of these ships to U.K. ports  
by local army comdr. may seriously interfere with proper arrival  
at R/V points and may cause ships to miss the return convoy.  
Port commanders do not have authority, facilities or information  
for routing of ships. If there are reasons for Troopers pro-  
ceeding definite U.K. Ports such as embarking troops or casualties  
for U.S. this info. should be communicated Admiralty, info. this  
command, and necessary sailing orders will be issued by former if  
approved.  
(C.T.F. 125, 131649A to O.C.O.T. H.Q.Com. Z.)

K.M.S./O.S.  
ships in the  
Channel to  
sail in  
T.B.C.  
convoys under  
name K.M.S/  
O.S.(A).

Until the U-Boat situation permits of ships from  
East Coast ports destined for K.M.S/O.S. convoys  
dispersing as provided for in A.M.301804/Nov. such  
shipping should assemble in the Downs and sail a  
Channel section (to be known as K.M.S/O.S.(A)) of  
the appropriate T.B.C. convoy.  
(2) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to detach the  
K.M.S/O.S.(A Section) in the vicinity of Falmouth  
and to provide escort for this section to a R/V  
with the main convoy in approximately 8 degs. W.  
(3) E.G.41, may be used as required to provide  
this escort. Para. 1 of A.M.040128 not to all refers.  
(D.O.D.(H), 132356A to C's in C. Plymouth, Nore)



War Diary13.1.1945  
SaturdayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

BLACKHEATH

C. in C. Med's 122312. My 121517/ and 122337 CONVULVULUS standing by wreck reports salvage hopeless unless cargo is off loaded.

2. Request pressure be brought to bear on Spanish authorities to allow off loading of ship and transport of cargo to Gib.

3. Pending Admty's decision intend holding one L.C.T. of flight D temporarily which can be used for transfer of cargo. (F.O.G.M.A. 131208A to Admty.) (Advance copy Ops O.D. M. Admty.) / S.S. BLACKHEATH torpedoed.

Your 131208A Minister of Marine informs me that Franco has ordered High Commissioner of Morocco to permit transshipment to British ship.

(B.N.A. Madrid 131945A to F.O.G.M.A.)

FORMIDABLE

2. FORMIDABLE delayed by engine defect. (F.O.G.M.A. 131516A V.A.M. etc.)

E.G.1.

Group 1's 131301 concur en route.

E.G.3.

2. Group 3 is to proceed so as to rendezvous with K.M.S. 77 in position 036 degs. 13 mins. N. 009 degs. 00 mins. W. at 0930A Jan. 14th to reinforce escort.

3. K.M.S. 77 20 ships escorted by WALLFLOWER, CROCUS and SPIREA. Commodore Crabbe in TARKWA.

(F.O.G.M.A. 131655A to G.R.3, G.R.1.)

Group 1 consisting of TAVY, SOMALILAND, LOCH Fyne will now replace Group 3.

(F.O.G.M.A. 131854A to S.E. K.M.S. Convoy No. 77 etc.)

Group 1 is to proceed to rendezvous K.M.S. 77 as in my 131655/ which is to be amended accordingly. Group 3 is to proceed with all despatch to investigate in area bounded by latitudes 035 degs 50 mins. 40 secs. N. and 035 degs. 49 mins. 30 secs. N. and longitudes 005 degs. 40 mins. 45 secs. W. and 005 degs. 38 Mins. 45 secs. W.

3. Reliable source reports German U-boat based and provisioning at night inside territorial waters in this area.

4. Investigations must take place under cover of darkness.

(F.O.G.M.A. 131855A Group 1, Group 3.)

Appointment  
of F.O.  
Gibraltar.

Personal for Rear-Admiral Crutchley.

You are appointed Flag Officer Gibraltar and Mediterranean Approaches in succession to Vice-Admiral Sir Harold Burrough.

2. Request date of hoisting your flag may be reported in due course.

(Hd. of M. 131851A to F.O.G.M.A.)



Saturday  
13.1.1945

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Escorts. Your 111206.  
Gibraltar. It is appreciated that, owing to the presence of a U-Boat in the Mediterranean Approaches, the passage of A.F.D.20, VALIANT and additional escort commitments for CITY OF CANTERBURY, FRANCONIA and Escort Carriers have created a peak period for your escorts which it is estimated will end with the passage of VALIANT out of your command about the 29th Jan.  
2. To assist you during this peak period, the following arrangements are approved: (a) Escort Group 38 to be retained at Gibraltar and used to escort VALIANT to U.K. (b) C. in C. W.A. will provide escorts for FRANCONIA, who may now be accompanied by LARGS, all the way to Gibraltar. You should augment escort as necessary in the approaches to the Straits.  
3. It is suggested that corvette escort for CITY OF CANTERBURY (12 knots) should be adequate.  
4. Request you will ensure that Escort Group 38 is boiler cleaned and in good running order prior to leaving Gibraltar.  
(D.O.D.(F) 132125A F.O.G.M.A.)

BLACKHEATH Spanish patrolship ALCAZAR ordered 13th patrol Tangier coast near grounded Mership BLACKHEATH to oppose any attempt destruction. Refer your 131855A not to all  
(COMMORSEAFRON 132231 F.O.G.M.A. See 141201A from F.O.G.M.A. to Madrid.)

South Atlantic

Spanish Ships. Information has been received from F.O.G.M.A. that M.E.W. has given instructions that Spanish Ships on round trip South America to Canary Islands without calling at European Ports are to be navicerted via Freetown for control on southbound voyage.  
Facilities for this control have been withdrawn from Freetown and I have therefore no option but to concur in Governor Sierra Leone and suggest that these ships should be sent to Gibraltar - reply 161856A.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 132156Z to Admty.)



War Diary13.1.1945  
SaturdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

South Aegean Summary. GI/78621 005401. To 0900 hours 13th Jan.  
 (1) Shipping. Photographic cover 12 Jan. failed everywhere due to weather. Report of vessel armed with torpedo tubes at Canea. Probably one of launches 80/100 foot. Special photograph R/C arranged. Hospital ship GRAFISCA (or GRADISCA) probably sailing Melos for Crete to-day.  
 (2) Air. Nothing to report.  
 (C. in C. M.E. 131150B to W.O.etc.)

ETHIOPIAN. ETHIOPIAN entered Algiers 1500/12th with engine room defects. Estimated date of completion 18th Jan.  
 (F.O.W.M. 131520A to F.O.L.E.M.)

F.S. BARFLEUR. (1) F.S. BARFLEUR arrives Oran a.m. 16th to complete loading.  
 (2) In view of U-Boat situation propose she is sailed to Gibraltar for inclusion in M.K.S.78. Admiralty's 051255/  
 (F.O.W.M. 131720 appd. by 141125A to C. in C. Med.)  
 ✕ Concur in F.O.W.M. 311825/ unloading port in U.K. Plymouth.  
 ✕ Re BARFLEUR.

Minesweeping. My 120620 N.T. in W.D. para.3 and B.N.A. Ankara 111455 N.T. in W.D. In order to avoid turning sweepers in unswept waters, it had been intended to sweep in 045 degs. and obtain 225 degs. direction turn in Turkish waters N.W. of Cape Helles. Risk of further damage to loop system now prohibited this plan rendering if necessary either to expose sweepers in unswept waters or to defer operation until M.L's can co-operate. Request decision on degree of risk acceptable observing that swept waters already exist to a distance of 2.8 miles N.W. of Mansell shoal.  
 (S.O. M/S.F. 5, 131754B to F.O.L.E.M.) See 142052B.

Situation Report No.535. (1) Gibraltar. Reference No.533 para.1. SS. BLACKHEATH has been beached near Spartel Cape. It is hoped to salvage her. Spanish lay claim to cargo as ship was abandoned. CONVULULUS and 2 tugs standing by. Spanish Gun Boat is also present  
 (2) Gulf Fiumicino. Amend number 639 para. 1 to read "Lighters believed not to be A.F". F.F.S. L'FORTUNE was attacked by 2 explosive boats 12 miles south of San Remo night 10th Jan. and sank 1 of them. Same day she fired 83 rounds at enemy vehicles and personnel. On 11th Jan. French Cruiser GEORGE LEYGUES bombarded barges or ships at Pietra Ligure and several direct hits claimed.  
 (3) Adriatic. Night 10th Jan. enemy raided island of Ist.  
 (4) Greece; only one life was lost when H.M.S. REGULUS was sunk ref. No.534 para.2. H.M.S. MUSKETEER on 11th Jan. replied to fire from guns near village of Gardiki in Oreoi Strait. Next day she took 1 rating from a Caique who stated his ship TREERN which is South African manned had been mined a.m.12th Jan. near Pondiko details available. All quiet at Kavalla where

/population ...



13.1.1945  
SaturdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Situation Report No.535. (Contd.) population is pro-British. (5) Crete. Political situation in Western Crete reported deteriorating due to lack of food. (C. in C. Med, 131914A to F.O.L.E.M. etc.)

Italian Warships. My 122030 sailing postponed 24 hours. (B.N.A. Madrid, 131950A to C. in C. Med,) Confirmed by 141945A.

L.C.Flottillas Reduction of. Your 051102 not to all addressees. Proposals in para. (2) and (3) approved. (2) Your para. 4. When DEWDALE proceeds to Eastern waters flotilla is to be disbanded. (3) Both DEWDALE and ENNERDALE are, when they proceed to Eastern waters, to carry a full complement of L.C.M.(1) in state A, craft being drawn from pooled reserve on station as necessary. (5) Craft are to be placed in pooled reserve on arrival in India. (6) Further signal will be made proposing general re-adjustment of strength of landing craft and C.O. units on Med. station. (D.C.O.D., 131959A to C. in C. Med.)

Cositintrep No.552. Strategic Air Force. No operations due weather. Coastal Air Force. Wellingtons attacked 2 small vessels and 2 E-Boats with unobserved results in upper Adriatic. Rocket Beaufighters with Spitfires escorting scored hits on two beached F Boats East of Caorle. Spitfires damaged 5 M/T on R/C Sarajevo-Doboj. Minesweeping patrols were flown off South France. (H.Q. M.A.A.F. No T.O.O/13)

Cositintrep No.555. 285496. 131901 cipher 13 Jan. Cite FHRNA. Signed Alexander. Part II. (2) Gulf of Genoa amend No.554 para. 1 to read lighters believed not to be minelayers (?). A French Destroyer fired 83 rounds at enemy vehicles and personnel on 10th January. Same night near San (?remo) she was attacked by two explosive boats and sank one of them (?). On 11th a French Cruiser bombarded barges on slips at Ruetra Ligure several direct hits claimed. (3) Adriatic. Enemy raided 1st Island night 10th. (4) At Kavalla where population is pro-British all is quiet. (5) Crete political situation reported deteriorating in Western Crete due to food shortage. (C. in C. Med. No T.O.O/13 to W.O) / Greece.



War Diary.

13.1.1945  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dis-positions      No fresh information. Scale in all areas remain unchanged.  
(C. in C. E.I. 130352Z to S. & A. E.I. Station,  
(R) Admty. etc.)

S/M STOIC.      Sailed submarine STOIC at 1000Z/13th to Suez for onward routing to U.K. E.T.A. Suez 1100Z/18th S.O.A. 11 knots.  
(Com. Aden 130742A to N.O.I.C. Suez.)

S/Ms TRENCHANT, TERRAPIN.      S/Ms TRENCHANT and TERRAPIN combined report of 4th Far East War Patrol.  
(1) 19th and 20th December TERRAPIN one special operation successful.  
(2) 20th at 2030 in vicinity Pulo Pandang TRENCHANT fired on and attacked by unseen vessel. Minor damage.  
(3) 21st vicinity Pulo Pandang TRENCHANT sank by gunfire two landing craft. Counter attack from aircraft no damage.  
(4) 22nd TRENCHANT and TERRAPIN R/V South of Pulo Jarak and commenced Wolf Pack.  
(5) Same day off Bernam River TERRAPIN sank by gunfire Japanese Naval auxiliary mining tender SAKURA MARU 900 tons. Three Chinese survivors.  
(6) 25th vicinity Pulo Pandang both submarines surfaced and engaged by gunfire convoy of four coasters of 200 tons each escorted by one A/S trawler. Trawler blew up and sank one coaster burnt out another caught fire other two beached.  
(7) 26th vicinity Pulo Pandang TRENCHANT sighted one minelayer and two submarine chasers distance 8 miles report passed to TERRAPIN who gained position half hour later fired 5 torpedoes at minelayer one observed hit vessel disintegrated no counter attack.  
(8) 27th TRENCHANT ordered patrol off Penang. Wolf pack continued 29th.  
(9) 29th surfaced coastal sweep against junks TERRAPIN one 170 ton. TRENCHANT 220 ton vicinity Bernam River by demolition and ramming.  
(10) 30th TRENCHANT off Sengi Panel by gunfire sank 20 ton junk. TERRAPIN by gunfire and demolition sank in position 02.49 100.15 $\frac{1}{2}$  1 20 ton junk.  
(11) 31st vicinity 02.31 100.13 TRENCHANT sunk Oerlikon 30 ton motor junk by ramming 20 ton motor junk and 15 ton junk.  
(12) 4th Jan. both submarines bombarded Pulo Pandang watch tower destroyed and possible damage to camp.  
(C. in C. E.I. 131217 to Admty.)

STOIC.      Departed submarine STOIC.  
(Cmdre. Aden 131633Z to Admty.)

Carriers.      Your 120659. Disposition of assault carriers is under active consideration and further signal will be made.  
(V.C.N.S. 131907A to C. in C. E.I.)



War Diary13.1.1945  
SaturdayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

U-boat contact  
Obtained A/S in position 037° 04' N. (2 corrupt groups) west, attacked with depth charge. Under water explosion and tapping heard. Contact lost. Carrying out search till daylight. H.M.C.S. BUCKINGHAM in company. (H.M.C.S. STRATHADAM, 130058Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

NORTHLAND (search)  
Reference your 130143Z (N.T. in W.D.) am unable to contact NORTHLAND yet. Am carrying out opening spiral search around datum point. (H.M.S. CARAQUET, 131006Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

U.Boat dispositions  
Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 131333Z to Cominch, 131533Z.)

FOGG?  
Request you arrange maximum assistance available locally for return FOGG to Horta. FOGG 130231 (N.T. in W.D.). Will order salvage vessel from Bermuda to Horta to assist preparation next voyage. (Cinclant, 131454Z to Comnavzor.)  
Temporary repairs at Azores FOGG (D.E.57) torpedo damage unsatisfactory ship being towed back to Horta. Make necessary repairs to permit vessel be towed to U.S. (Cominch, 131500Z to Com. 8th Fleet.)

Suicide bombing (extract)  
Summary of Fleet letter on suicide bombing follows:-  
(a) Use maximum speed and manoeuvre consistent with fire control.  
(b) Lookout and lookup particularly with low ceiling. Beware false feeling security from clear screen in (?LA B) area.  
(c) Early recognition by all topside personnel.  
(d) Open fire immediately at limiting range and keep shooting. (B.A.D. 132007Z to Admty., C. in C. B.P.F. etc.)

U-boat contacts  
(C) 120615 H.M.C.S. CARAQUET had radar contact 44.23 N. 63.07 W.  
(D) 122310 USCG NORTHLAND made three attacks on sound contact 44.37 N. 59.08 W.  
Prior to 130058 H.M.C.S. STATHADAM attacked contact 37.04 N. 65.05 W. (Cominch, 132053Z to Admty.)

Submarine attack and sighting summary.  
N.S.H.Q. para. D.  
(1) H.M.C.S. GANANOQUE attacked doubtful contact in 46.30 N. 57.40 W. at 2320Z/12th.  
(2) U.S.C.G. NORTHLAND attacked contact in 44.37N 59.08 W. about 2300Z/12th.  
(3) H.M.C.S. STRATHADAM attacked contact in 37.04 N. 65.05 W. prior to 0058Z/13th. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 132058Z to Admty. etc.)



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SaturdayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies - Contd.

C.4 C.4 Group WENTWORTH (S.O.) with BEAUHARNOIS, WHITBY, APETROLIA to Halifax. GLACE BAY to St. Johns N.F. DOUFS 1303Z/11 refers. My P.C.S. at 2100Z 44.33 N. 54.45 W. (S) 270° 13.3 knots O.N. 276 P.C.S. at 1200Z 44.35 N. 42.06 W. (S) 260° 9.8 knots 44.59 N. 49.26 W. (S). W.3 and Escort Group 16 in company.  
(S.O. C.4, 132101Z, to C. in C. C.N.A. etc.)

Australia and New Zealand

HOWE Your 120530\*. Proposed visit of HOWE escorted by 2 destroyers to Auckland about 7th Feb. for gunnery practice will be very welcome.  
(3) Concur that GAMBIA remain in New Zealand so that combined practice may be carried out both ships and escorts return to Sydney (N.S.W.) in company.  
(4) Further signals will be made giving facilities for gunnery practice.  
(N.Z. N.B. 130040Z to C. in C.B.P.F. etc.)  
\* Propose HOWE escorted by 2 destroyers shall visit Auckland for gunnery practice.

ACHILLES Intend ACHILLES shall sail from Sydney so as to arrive Auckland 3rd Feb. My 050545 Dec. refers. (Com. in Chief Brit. Pac. Fleet, 130559Z to New Zealand Navy Board.)

Movements Departure Sydney 0407Z 13th C.S.4 in SWIFTSURE R.A. Fleet Train in HOWE Capt. (D) in QUILLIAM with QUALITY and QUADRANT for Manus S. of A.17 knots being adjusted to pass position WK at 0700K/17th position ZO at 0700K/18th and to arrive Manus at 1000K 19th January guard Bell.  
(N.O.I.C. Sydney, 130641Z to C. in C. Pacific, etc.)

Digest January 12th.  
serial (5) Progress continues rapidly ashore at number 1088. Lingayan Gulf and consolidation proceeds practically unhindered. East Flank meeting stiff opposition in Hiflsfio Northeast of Yan Fab Pn but resistance over rear of Druy Front very light: Due south of Lingayan element share (Recafvd) San Carlos end Malusique, 12 miles inland.



13.1.1945  
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Digest serial No. 1088 (Contd.)

(7) Afternoon 11th Jan. Allied destroyers attacked one Freighter transport and 45 barges unloading at San Fernando destroying or damaging all stores Harbour facilities there also shelled destroying Japanese ammunition dumps.

(12) 5 enemy barges landed troops and supplies W. Coast Morotai night 10th.

(15) Search Liberator from Darwin strafed small coastal freighter northbound 50 miles north of Famoso Island carrying deck cargo noon 12th: strafed set vessel afire and destroyed same.

(18) Daybreak 12th January 3 torpedoes fired at ships in Humboldt Bay presumably by S/M in Midge but nil subsequent contacts reported.  
(G.H.Q., S.W.P. 130856Z to Admty. etc.)

B.P.F. movements

Reference your 100515Z. Request that after visit of R.A.F.T. (para. 7 of your 100325Z Jan. refers) you will report what services are involved and numbers and types of officers and men required. On receipt of this information Admty. will arrange to meet the requirement by air provided personnel are available. N.O.I.C. designate Acting Captain H.F. Waight, R.N. arrives Sydney at the end of the month.  
(Head of M. N.A., 2nd S.L. concurs, 131534A to C. in C. B.P.F.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack and sighting summary

For 24 hours to 0900Z/13th January.

(b) (1) H.M.T. FLINT saw torpedo at 2115Z/12th January in approx. 49 degs. 41' N. 00 degs. 30' W.

(2) H.M.T. FIARAY attacked contact at 2130Z/12 January, in 49 degs. 41' N. 00 degs. 30' W.

(3) A/C B/172 reported possible U-boat contact at 0823Z/12th January in 56 degs. 34' N. 09 degs. 28' W.

(4) Training A/C sighted snort at 0942Z/12th January in 55 degs 18' N. 06 degs. 10' W.

(5) A/C E/304 attacked object believed snort with depth-charges at 1630Z/12th January in 56 degs. 48' N. 08 degs. 38' W.

(6) A/C reported U-boat at 0806Z/13th January in 57 degs. 39' N. 07 degs. 58' W.

(7) A/C J/120 attacked U-boat course 260 degs. at 1730Z/12th January in 53 degs. 07' N. 04 degs. 52' W.

(8) A/C had A.S.V. contact at 2259Z/12th January in 52 degs. 24' N. 04 degs. 22' W.

(c)(1) WILLIS VAN DEVANTER made SSSS periscope sighted at 1235Z/12th January 09 degs. 48' N. 69 degs. 17' E.  
Reference A.M. 111131A para. A(4) unknown ship has been reported as BLACKHEATH.  
(D.D.I.C., 131205A to Cominch.)

U-boat dispositions

Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C., 131432A., 131433A to Cominch etc.)



14.1.1945  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands.

North Sea.

- 1.(a) Two midget U-Boats have been engaged in the Schelde by shore artillery; one of them was destroyed.  
(b) A 150 ft. gap has been blown in the Nijmegen boom by a mine floated down the stream attached to a hollow log.  
(c) The first L.S.T. berth is now ready at Antwerp.

Channel.

- 2.(a) Two ground mines were detonated off Le Havre.  
(b) PLOVER continued her anti-U-Boat deep mining.  
(c) S.N.O.B.O.P.(F) proposes the liquidation of his office at the end of January, leaving on the French coast only a commander as N.O.I.C. Calais, N.L.Os. at Boulogne, Dieppe and Cherbourg, and a Sea Transport officer at Ouistreham. Le Treport and Arromanches are completely evacuated.

Foreign Stations.

North Atlantic.

Gibraltar.

3. Rear Admiral Crutchley V.C. hoisted his flag at 0900 today.

Mediterranean.

Riviera.

4. F.S. TROMBE fired 45 rounds at a command post and 41 rounds at a supply building today.

Adriatic.

5. Situation at Split friendlier but unchanged at Zadar.

Greece.

- 6.(a) WOLBOROUGH intercepted a caique with 80 refugees from Khalkis who stated Germans had invaded island 4 days ago. This is not confirmed by air and surface search.  
(b) All quiet at Kavalla. E.L.A.S. reported as having withdrawn from all ports in the Morea.  
(c) MUSKETEER reports, captured diesel tug with prize crew towing 3 caiques and one M.B. to Khalkis. M.L. 458 has sunk one caique, struck an X lighter carrying field guns and 3 prisoners. Lighter set adrift without prize crew.  
(d) ANTWERP reports situation Kalamata quiet. E.L.A.S. willing to co-operate on terms of truce.



14.1.1945  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Greece.  
(Contd.)

Local daily papers up to now generally anti British and anti regency.

Aegean.

7. (a) Enemy raid on Stampalia reported today.  
(b) L.S.T.(I) 4, struck a mine in the Aegean at 3.25 p.m. in position Cape Turle, 194° 5 miles. She reached Piraeus under her own power - one of her crew killed and 12 wounded.  
(c) Tonight 2 M.L. encountered enemy craft north of Kalymnos, sank one and set 2 on fire.  
(d) British troops have landed on Volos without incident.  
(e) Situation at Mitylene confused and at intervals quiet.  
(f) At Kalamata general feeling friendly and all quiet at Salonika situation satisfactory.

America & West Indies.

ATHELVIKING,  
BRITISH  
FREEDOM,  
MARTIN VAN  
BUREN,  
torpedoed  
and sunk.  
BX 14)

8. Three ships in convoy B.X. 141 were torpedoed at 1.40 p.m. today in the approaches to Halifax. They are the ATHELVIKING, Br. tanker 8,779 tons, BRITISH FREEDOM Br. 6,985 tons, MARTIN VAN BUREN, American 7,176 tons. The former sank. The master and 3 others are missing from her. The BRITISH FREEDOM in lat. 44° 27' 30" N. 63° 27' 30" W. was abandoned in a sinking condition and sunk by escorts. 56 of her crew landed at Halifax at 5 p.m. The MARTIN VAN BUREN was left sinking in 43° 47' N. 63° 28' W. 66 of her crew landed at Halifax.

Australia and New Zealand.

Philippines.

9. (a) Gen. McArthur reports: During today P.T. boats probably destroyed 1 barge off Caidwn Cebu. At night Ormoc P.Ts. destroyed more barges off N.E. coast Pacijan Is.  
(b) Carlotta aircraft destroyed or damaged two sea trucks and several barges off Hoins.  
(c) Before dawn this morning an enemy submarine was contacted 12 miles S.E. of Dulag. Destroyers attacked with unknown results.  
(d) There was no enemy air activity over ships in Lingayan Gulf today.

China,  
Hong Kong.

10. Liberators and fighter bombers claim to have destroyed 2 vessels and damaged 42 others in the Hong Kong/Kinkiang/Augking area today.



14.1.1945  
Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Situation Reports	Cositintrep No. 285 Part 4. Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600A/13 January.				
	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> (Inc. Coal.)	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
<u>British</u>					
Antwerp	23	425	17,050	7,060	1,243
Ostend	2,004	191	4,227	-	1,993
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	1,746	-	-
Dieppe	-	-	-	-	-
Calais	2,126	-	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	154	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,153</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>23,178</b>	<b>7,060</b>	<b>3,236</b>
<u>U.S. North</u>					
Antwerp	36	-	10,296	-	-
Cherbourg	-	-	5,367	821	1,389
Le Havre	6,234	377	5,015	144	2,219
Rouen	149	96	2,836	-	-
Granville	-	-	1,541	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,419</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>25,055</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>3,608</b>
<u>U.S. South</u>					
Marseilles	30	101	10,349	-	4,927
Port du Bouc	-	3	1,842	4,302	-
Toulon	-	-	1,416	-	-
	30	104	13,607	4,302	4,927

Note also 1602 tons rolling stock discharged at Marseilles. (S.H.A.E.F. 141530A to Admty. and others.)

In Holland mine attached to hollowed log floating down stream blew 150 foot gap in boom at Nijmegen; two midget S/MS engaged and one destroyed at A 7736. Enemy observed reinforcing bridgehead at Capelle (E1049).

(S.H.A.E.F. 141740A to W.O. and others.)

Patrols Night dispositions 14/15th January. Humber Force (Group 1) Patrol "Alphabet" - CANICOS (Group 2) Harbour - MENDIP. Harwich Force (Group 3) Patrols 3 HAMBLEDON, 5 MALLARD, 6A SHEARWATER, 12 EKINS, 14 SEYMOUR, 16 RIOU, 18 ARENDAL, 19 COTSWOLD and CURZON, 21 WIDGEON. (Group 4) Harbour EGLINTON, FARNDAL, MACKAY, SLAZAK, SOUTHDOWN, RETALICK, THORNBOROUGH, GUILLEMOT, KITTIWAKE, SHELDRAKE. Sheerness Force (Group 5) A.T.M.38 VERDUN, HOLDERNESS, T.A.M.49 LA COMBATTANTE, BLEASDALE, T.A.P.14 VERSATILE. Patrols 1 MIDDLETON, 2 CATTISTOCK, 4 COSBY. (Group 6) Harbour BLANCATHRA, CROOME, HAYDON, VESPER, VOLUNTEER, CUBITT, MIMICO. (C. in C. Nore, 141535A to Admty.)

Operations

Channel

Liquidation of S.N.O.B.O.P. (F) By the end of Jan. it is considered that the naval parties remaining in French Ports will have been reduced to such small proportions that the retention of the organisation known as

/S.N.O. ...



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SundayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsChannelLiquidation  
of  
S.N.O.B.O.P.  
(F)  
(Contd.)

B.O.P.(F) will no longer be justified  
(2) No minesweeping, escorts or allocation of local defence craft commitments now remain under S.N.O.B.O.P.(F)'s administration.  
(3) It is considered that the following staffs exclusive of sea transport officers should then be adequate, thus allowing a considerable reduction of officers and men now in these ports:-  
(a) Calais. To reduce to status of Naval Officer-in-Charge with a Commander, R.N., in command and small port party on 1st February, 1945.  
(b) Boulogne. To reduce to B.N.L.O. and small communications party as soon as the French take over. The L.C.T. shuttle service is understood to be shortly transferring to Calais.  
(c) Dieppe B.N.L.O. and small communications party to remain as at present.  
(d) Caen/Quistreham Sea transport Officer in charge.  
(e) Commander M/S Le Havre. To be administered by C. in C. Portsmouth who provides ships for this commitment.  
(f) Le Treport and Arromanches. All British Naval Parties will have been withdrawn by then.  
(g) Cherbourg. Reducing forthwith to B.N.L.O. and his assistant only.  
(4) A.C.Dover to remain responsible for matters of administration as at present, except as at para. 3 (E) above.)  
(5) Detailed proposals for this reduction follow by letter. (S.N.O.B.O.P.(F) 140901A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Minesweeping  
off le Havre

31st M.S.F. Q.Z.X.1450 and 1451 completed Oropesa search. Negative result.  
104th M.S.F. A.2 to H.V.3 buoy and Q.Z.S.665.  
119th M.S.F. H.V.3 to H.V.1 buoy.  
159th T.G. Q.Z.S.619. Two ground mines detonated in positions (approximately):  
49.37 N. 00.05 W. 49.36 $\frac{1}{2}$  N. 00.04 $\frac{1}{2}$  W.  
(Cdr. M/S le Havre 140914 to C.T.F.125.)

A/S work-up  
and  
practices

Under the present circumstances of enemy S/M activity in this command it is important that local escort force and M/S employed on escort should have an A/S work-up and A/S exercises.  
(2) As all facilities with trained staffs and unit exist in Clyde area it would be appreciated if these exercises could be carried out in Western Approaches Command.  
(3) It would be further appreciated if it were possible to exchange two ships from Western Approaches with the two ships from this command during period of exercises.  
(4) It is felt the difficult Asdic conditions in the Channel would prove a valuable experience for any ships you could allocate as reliefs.  
(5) Your remarks are requested.  
(6) If you concur with proposal in para. 2, 2 Fleet M/S will be sent at once. Exchange for these ships will not be expected.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 141206A to C. in C.W.A.)

/Deep...



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anti-  
U-boat  
mining.

Proceed at 0200 15th January and carry out serial A.2 repetition A.2. Acknowledge.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 141755A to PLOVER, SNOWBERRY, MAYFLOWER.)  
Pass Needles entrance at 1300A Monday 15th and continue Serial D 1.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 141845A to V.64, PLOVER, HORNET.)

E.Gs. 6  
and 17

If not in contact at daylight tomorrow 15th 6th E.G. is to detach from Force 36 and proceed at best speed to Portland for Fuel, thence as ordered by C. in C. Portsmouth. Report E.T.A.

(2) On relief by 6th E.G., C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail 17th E.G. to Greenock for lay over.  
(C. in C.W.A. 141838A to S.O.E.G.6 and C. in C. Portsmouth.)

OperationsWest Coast FrancePossible  
U-boat

Attacking contact. My position course and speed (at commencement of current watch) 047.43 N. 007.15 W. 036° 8.  
(CAMROSE, 141230Z to Admty.(Sic.))  
My 1230Z. Lost local contact HH attack completed no result. Contact doubtful am proceeding.  
P.C.S. 076° 51' N.(sic) 07° 10' W. 036° 9'.  
Weather report 6872 3551.  
(CAMROSE, 141510A to C. in C.W.A., C. in C.Plymouth.)

OperationsWestern ApproachesPossible  
U-boat

H.M.C.S. TRILLIUM attacking contact considered to be German U-boat in position 053° 27' N. 05° 34' W.  
(S.O.E.G. C.3, 140030A to C. in C.W.A.)

Supposed  
U-boat

Proceed with all despatch to vicinity Great Ormeshead where explosion reported. Disregard my 141136 in transit.  
(C. in C.W.A. 141153A to S.O.E.G.3.)  
Investigate forthwith vicinity of Great Ormeshead where explosion reported. 3rd E.G. will join you.  
(C. in C.W.A. 141207 to F.S. MISTRAL.)  
Sweep channel 6 miles wide commencing in 053° 32' 30" 004° 37' on course 90° for 30 miles.  
(C. in C.W.A., 141250A to S.O.E.G.3.)

/On...



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SundayHOME COMMANDSOperationsWestern ApproachesSupposed  
U-boat  
(Contd.)

On completion of sweep ordered in my 141250 search area to the southward of this line. (C. in C.W.A. 141302A to S.O.E.G.3.) My 141153\* and 141250 neither to all. Explosion confirmed friendly. Return to area ordered in my 141136. (C. in C.W.A., 141653A to S.O.E.G.3.)  
\* Proceed to vicinity Great Ormeshead where explosion reported.

Cardiff  
Sub-plot

(1) It is proposed to institute a Sub-plot in Cardiff operations room ancilliary to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven Plot, to record all movements in the Cardiff Sub-Command and approaches.  
(2) Information regarding sailings from Bristol Channel will be collated at Cardiff and frequent exchange of information with Milford Haven maintained.  
(3) Experience has proved that present system is cumbersome and owing to communication difficulties, often inaccurate.  
(4) In the past, Plot have had to seek information of sailings from the ports concerned.  
(5) A Sub-plot is necessary for the following reasons:-  
(a) Present U-boat situation.  
(b) Sailing of convoys from and to Barry Roads.  
(c) Establishing of A/S patrol within the Sub-Command.  
(d) Recent casualties such as Phoenix Units and JAMAICA PLANTER.  
(6) Request approval for  
(a) Three W.R.N.S. Plotters to be drafted to Cardiff under the terms of paragraph 2 of A.F.O.6373/44.  
(b) P.W.53292 to be connected direct to Milford Haven Plotting Room. This supersedes proposal to release one Cardiff - Milford Haven circuit vide IV (i) of my letter C.1423/391/41 of 19th December, 1944 and paragraph 2 (1) of W.A. 3693/2085A of 8/12/44.  
(7) Apart from paragraph 6(a) the Plot can be established with local resources.  
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 141236A to C. in C.W.A.)

Suspected  
U-boat

My 131927\* Search completed. Have resumed patrol  
(a) Above average.  
(b) Yes one. Suitable.  
(S.O.E.G.6, 141720 to C. in C.W.A.)

Insubordination  
in H.M.C.S.  
RIVIERE DU  
LOUP

My 101340A, Board of Enquiry was held on Thursday and Friday, 11th and 12th January and cases individually investigated by Lt.Commander F.R.K. Naftel, R.C.N.V.R. Temporary Commanding Officer H.M.C.S. RIVIERE DU LOUP on Saturday 13th January.



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Insubordin- (2) None of the 47 cases merited trial by Court  
ation in Martial. One accused acquitted.  
H.M.C.S. (3) I have approved summary sentences to imprison-  
RIVIERE DU ment in lieu of detention on remainder for periods  
LOUP varying from 42 to 90 days. Two sentences will  
(Contd.) be suspended before committal.  
(4) In view of lack of accommodation in detention  
quarters, arrangements with verbal concurrence  
of C.N.M.O. have been made to send offenders  
to Belfast Civil Gaol.  
(5) Three Warrants were read on board RIVIERE DU LOUP for sake  
of disciplinary example before vessel sailed yesterday.  
Remainder will be read tomorrow on board PRETORIA CASTLE, where  
all offenders are temporarily accommodated.  
(F.O.I.C. N.I., 141721A to C. in C.W.A.)

OperationsNorthern Waters

Supposed Am in firm contact with wreck or S/M in position  
U-boat 58° 20' N. 02° 30' W.  
(S.O.E.G.25, 140925A to C. in C.Rosyth.)  
My 140925A contact classified wreck 4 hedgehogs and  
2 depth charges attacks carried out am proceeding  
to Gamma B.  
(S.O.E.G.25, 141059A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Suspicious My 131104. No further incidents. Defences  
object in have reverted to normal.  
Scapa Flow (A.C.O.S. 141051A to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects

TRILLIUM Have been in collision with SS. ELY out of Milford  
Corvette Haven in position 52° 48' N. 05° 33' W.  
V. 4 survivors, 7 casualties, including Master.  
SS.ELY. Am searching for further survivors. Intend to  
proceed Milford Haven with bow damaged. Will  
report expected time of arrival.  
(TRILLIUM, 140505A to C. in C.W.A.)  
O.N.278 H.M.C.S. TRILLIUM arrived with bow damage.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford, 141553A to C. in C.W.A.)

Port Facilities

Antwerp First L.S.T. Berth now ready at Antwerp.  
(N.O.I.C. Antwerp, 141046A to Com. Belgium.)



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SundayHOME COMMANDSMovements

A.F.D.(B.A)2 floating dock. A.N.C.X.F. (Cotug's) 011225, C. in C. Nore's 101503 and MYLODON's 120958 none to all. Dockmaster of A.F.D. (B.A.) 2 and sufficient crew to operate pumps should accompany dock. Remainder of crew should proceed to destination by rail.

(2) Portable pumps and pump spares should be routed overland to N.O.I.C. Lowestoft clearly marked "for A.F.D. (B.A.)2". Inventories to addressee and Admiralty (D.C.O.M.), R.D.B. 78 should be moved to join dock. A.M.221708 August paras. 2(b) and 5 refer.

(3) R.D.B.74 should remain under C. and M. until decision on her future use is reached. A.M.172025 October refers.

(4) Further signal will be made regarding disposal of crew for pay.  
(D.C.O.D. to Cs. in C. Rosyth, Nore, and A.N.C.X.F.)

E.G.20 On arrival 36 buoy part company with E.N.69 and proceed to Scapa to fuel. It is anticipated that you will be sailed 16th January.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 140956A to S.O.E.G.20.)

KENT cruiser KENT's 121600 and your 131247. KENT is at 14 days' notice for steam for passage to a refitting port and is non-operational until completion of a refit.  
(F.O.C.R.F. 141100 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

BIRMINGHAM cruiser Scapa arrival BIRMINGHAM.  
(A.C.O.S. 141137 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

PUNCHER Escort carrier A.M. 081417A January after watching PUNCHER by day and night I consider she should be reasonably efficient by end of this month. I consider it would be detrimental to divorce 821 Squadron from PUNCHER even for a short period at this stage. PUNCHER is becoming due for boiler cleaning and 821 Squadron are due for leave. In view of your operational requirements I suggest PUNCHER should proceed to join H.F. at end of January and that when she can be spared she should return to Clyde for these purposes.  
(F.O.C.T. 141227A to C. in C.H.F.)

MAURITIUS Cruiser Sailed H.M.S. MAURITIUS in accordance with my 131504A January.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 141324A to A.C.I.C. C. in C. W.A., Admty. A.C.O.S.)

SMITER Escort carrier F.C. D.F. H/F's 131320A. Delayed by weather expect to arrive position VV 0115/15th Jan.  
(SMITER 141512A to Capt. D.17.)

BELLONA Scapa departure BELLONA.  
(A.C.O.S. 142237 to C. in C. Rosyth.)



War Diary.

14.1.1945  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

BLACKHEATH  
(salvage.)

F.O.G.M.A.'s 121517 and 131208 latter not to Consul General Tangier, legal position appears to be approx. as follows:-

(a) Any Spanish claim that abandonment of the ship by crew gives them rights over ship or cargo is ill-founded. Abandoning ship in such circumstances

cannot commit owners of either ship or cargo to abandonment of their title.

(b) If Spaniards argue that salvage of military supplies from ship in Spanish territorial waters is inconsistent with neutrality our case may be weaker.

(2) It appears to us that (a) jettisoning may in any case be necessary if the ship is to be saved in view of difficulty of removing sufficient quantity of cargo either to Gibraltar or to a Spanish port before ship begins to break up.

(b) Spanish attitude is probably dictated by desire to obtain cargo but we presume off-loading direct to shore is impracticable.

(3) Accordingly if Spanish objections to transhipment is founded upon (a) Spaniards should be pressed strongly for permission to tranship. If on the other hand objection is based on (b) request should be made for permission to tranship on the basis that it is a necessary measure for salvage of ship. Should Spaniards persist in refusing permission on grounds of (b) they should be informed that any cargo taken off in order to lighten ship will be jettisoned to which there can be no objection on score of neutrality.

(4) F.O.G.M.A. may employ L.C.T. to off-load cargo should Spanish permission be forthcoming. L.C.T. should wear Red Ensign, if possible.

(P.A.S.(L) 140239A to N.A. Madrid, F.O.G.M.A., etc.)  
See 152318A.

U/B report.

H.F. D.F. at 140956Z on 84 60 k/cs places U-Boat within 90 miles of 48.10 N. 24.50 W.  
(C.T.G. 22.8 141155Z to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

BLACKHEATH.

Intend to commence discharging cargo from BLACKHEATH as soon as weather moderates. Your 131945 not to C.M.S.F. refers.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 141201A to B.N.A. Madrid.)

My 121517 and 131208. CONVULVULUS now reports ship has broken in half after pounding in heavy sea.

(2) RESCUE and NIMBLE attempting to take off crew who are safe up to the present.

(3) CONVULVULUS has been asked to report whether any cargo can now be saved if weather moderates.

9F.O.G.M.A. 141641A to B.N.A. Madrid, Admty., etc.)

Gibraltar.

Rear Admiral V.C. Crutchley hoisted his flag at 0900 today Sunday 14th Jan.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 141343A to Admty.)

G.E.G. 1.

Proceed with K.M.S. 77 and detach off Carnero Point to enter Gibraltar.

(2) Group III to act in accordance with instruction to cover convoy's passage through

/Straits...



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Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

- G.E.G.1.  
(Contd.) Straits thence to patrol Cape Trafalgar - Spartel daylight 15th Jan.  
(3) Group II yet to be constituted will be sailed to replace Group I at daylight 15th.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 141449A to Group I.)
- KILCHATTAN and KILDARY. Intend sailing KILCHATTAN S.O. and KILDARY B.W. 0800A/15 S.O.A. 12 knots to R/V with A.F.D. 24 in position 034° 30' N. 007° 45' W.  
(C.M.C.F. 141450A to F.O.G.M.A.)
- E.G. II Addressees are to form Group II forthwith.  
(2) Group II (BAHAMAS) (S.O.) is to sail at 0800A/15th Jan. to take up patrol Bacon to westward of Straits with southern limits of patrol moved 20 miles to northward.  
(3) Group III has been ordered to cover passage of K.M.S. 77 through Straits and Groups I reinforcing escort to Gibraltar.  
(4) Group II will patrol between Cape Trafalgar and Cape Spartel daylight 15th Jan.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 141541A to TORTOLA, BAHAMAS.)  
Amended by 142201A.

South Atlantic.

- LOCHY. (Sailed?) LOCHY coastal to Capetown for refit.  
(2) S.O.A. 14.5 knots.  
(3) E.T.A. Capetown 1500Z/16.  
(N.O.I.C. Durban 140659Z to Admty.)
- E.G. 59. (1) In view of defect in Air France 4 C.M.S.F.S. 121743A refers. F.O.G.M.A. is requested to utilise all ships of E.G. 59 for escort of A.F.D. 24 as required until arrival of dock at Gibraltar.  
(3) Consider escort necessary only north of 28 N. under present conditions.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 141831Z to F.O.G.M.A.)



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Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

S/M SOLENT, (1) Submarine SOLENT 36.36 02.20 W. route L to  
A.F.D. 18. Malta 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ .  
(2) A.F.D. 18 towed D.I.S.M.A.L.? 36.25 00.03  
through 20 route L for onward routeing to Port Said  
Five.  
(F.O.W.M. 140858 to Admty.)

Cositintrep Part two. (1) Adriatic. Situation friendlier at  
No. 556. Split but unchanged at Zadar.  
(C. in C. Med. No T.O.O. to W.O.)

Transfer of Air Squadrons U-Boat Situation. It appears from signals not repeated to you but  
now passed by Com. Eighth Fleet that it has been  
agreed with Cominch to release of one Liberator  
Squadron and one Ventura Squadron plus 4 M.A.D.  
Catalinas all from C.F.A.W. 15 at Port Lyautey.  
Comnaveu's 301746 Dec. not to C. in C. Med. refers.  
(2) Com. Eighth Fleet's 312040 Dec. not to Admty.  
now being passed indicates that he also was unaware of proposed  
transfer of aircraft other than four M.A.D. Catalinas referred  
to in A.M. 111346 Dec.  
(3) I entirely concur with para. two of Com. Eighth Fleet's  
312040 Dec. and request reconsideration of proposed move in view  
of present U-Boat situation in the Mediterranean Approaches, and  
expected developments.  
(5) Ventura Squadron has been retained temporarily pending  
decision Com. Eighth Fleet 131512 Jan. refers and being passed.  
Casablanca pass to C.F.A.W., 15.  
(C. in C. Med. 141052A to Admty.)  
Transfer to U.K. of one Liberator Squadron and one Ventura  
Squadron from Fairwing 15 is considered most important. Recent  
U-Boat successes to westward of Gibraltar make this difficult  
as it will leave Gibraltar area with no searchlight aircraft.  
It is considered unlikely that U-Boats will attempt to enter  
Mediterranean but probable that activity will increase against  
shipping approaching Gibraltar.  
(2) Air Ministry have proposed to H.Q.M.A.A.F. that 458 R.A.A.F.  
Leigh Light Wellington Squadron from M.A.C.A.F. be loaned to  
Gibraltar and have asked for urgent and sympathetic consideration.  
(3) Request your remarks.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 141810A to C. in C. Med.)

39th L.C. 39th Personnel Flotilla leave Malta 15th in VILLE  
Flotilla. D'ORAN for onward routeing to U.K. via Naples in  
M.K.F. 38.  
(V.A.M. 141133A to C. in C. Med.)

MUSKETEER. Situation report. Captured diesel tug with prize  
crew is towing 3 caiques and one M.B. to Khalkis,  
passing long. 23 E. in Oreos Channel at 1800.  
M.L. 458 has sunk one caique, struck X-lighter  
carrying field guns and (corrupt group) 3 prisoners. X-lighter  
has been set adrift without prize crew.  
(MUSKETEER 141800B to S.B.N.O. Greece.)

/Italian...



14.1.1945  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- Italian Warships. My 122030 and 131950 confirm sailing night Jan. 15th.  
(B.N.A. Madrid 141945A to C. in C. Med.)
- Minesweeping. Request B.N.A. Ankara report damage sustained by loops as it is not clear whether loop system was damaged by A. Oropesa. B. LL. S.O. M.S.F. 5 131754, not to all.  
(2) If by A. consider damage probably done when turning. Turn, therefore, in waters well, to northward of loop number one, and line A (Q.B. 365) as no mines are believed to exist in Dardanelles vicinity except those in Q.B. 365 and (?risk) of turning in unswept waters can be accepted. No motor launches available.  
(3) If by B. request B.N.A. Ankara arrange with Turks for loop system to be switched off as and when required by S.O. M.S. Flotilla 5.  
(F.O.L.E.M. 142052B to S.O. M.S.F. 5.)
- Greece. Situation Kalamata quiet. Common feeling is friendly. E.L.A.S. willing to co-operate on terms of truce.  
(2) Athens radio broadcasts on 499 metres 601 k/cs have not been heard.  
(3) Local daily papers up to now generally anti-British and anti-regency. Strongly submit that important official proclamation on Greek situation and general propaganda be distributed over Kalamata by leaflets from aircraft held, these would be enthusiastically received by general population.  
(4) Port party from ship can be established without difficulty when necessary.  
(5) Conference with local authorities takes place tomorrow.  
(ANTWERP 142103B to S.B.N.O. Greece, (R) F.O.L.E.M.)
- TREERN sunk, (12/1) TREERN undoubtedly struck a mine in position 039° 06' N. 023° 14' that is one mile E. of Cape Griva.  
(MUSKETEER 142216B to F.O.L.E.M.)
- Situation report No. 536. (2) Greece. WOLBOROUGH intercepted a caique with 80 refugees from Khalki<sup>s</sup> who stated Germans invaded ~~island~~ 4 days ago. This is not confirmed by air and surface search. All is quiet at Kavalla. Coastal craft report E.L.A.S. withdrawn from all ports in the Morea.  
(C. in C. Med. 142218A to F.O.L.E.M.) *Amended 152145A.*
- Cositintrep No. 554. Part 4. Greece. Athens and Piraeus remain quiet, the search for arms and ammunition continues, and many dumps have been located. Corinth Canal has been crossed, and a small ferry is in operation.
- Patras. After meeting slight opposition our troops occupied Araxos airfield. At Salonika the situation is tense, all Empire troops have been confined to barracks.  
(A.F.H.Q. No T.O.O.)



War Diary

14.1.1945  
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-Boat  
dispositions.

No fresh information. Scales in all areas remain  
unchanged  
(C. in C. E.I.S. 140328 to S. and A. E.I. Stn.)



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Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U/B dis- Estimates.  
 positions. (N.S.H.Q. 141332Z, Cominch 141626Z.)

Merchant ships Merchant ships torpedoed 125° Chebucto Head 4  
 torpedoed, miles at 1330Z/14th.  
*in B.X. 141* (C. in C. C.N.A. 141359Z to All ships in Area D,  
 C. in C. C.N.A.)  
 My 141359 not to Cdr. Eastseafron 3 ships torpedoed  
 one sank at number one buoy.

(C. in C. C.N.A. 141824Z to All ships in area D.)

SS. MARTIN VAN BUREN U.S. P.Ts. 71 in B.X. (?141) torpedoed  
 and left sinking 43.27 N. 63.28 W. 1345Z/14th Jan., 1945. 66  
 crew members landed in Halifax 1700Z/14th Jan. 1945. 3 missing.  
 My 142030Z with list of survivors follows.

(N.C.S.O. Halifax 142028Z to Admty., etc.)

M.V. BRITISH FREEDOM (Br.) P.Ts. 12 in B.X. 141 torpedoed  
 at 1340Z/14th Jan. 1945, and abandoned in sinking condition at  
 44° 27' 30" N. 63° 27' 30" W. 56 crew members landed in Halifax  
 at 1700Z/14th Jan. 1945, one missing. My 142132 is list of  
 survivors.

(N.C.S.O. Halifax 142131, as amended 142331Z to Admty., etc.)

Reference O.R.S. 742. (1) BRITISH FREEDOM (Br.)  
 (2) Br. tanker CORPORATION. (3) 1340Z/14th (1) 45. 44° 27' 30" N.  
 63° 27' 30" W. (4) Not seen. (5) Not seen. (6) Presumably  
 submerged. (6A) Not fitted. (7) Ship abandoned in sinking  
 condition. (8) Missing believed killed W. Henderson electrician.  
 (9) Not seen. (10) Torpedo. (11) Masters C.Bs. thrown overboard  
 in perforated metal box W/T C.Bs. thrown overboard in weighted  
 perforated bag, depth 30 fathoms.

(N.C.S.O. Halifax 142136Z, as amended 142331Z to Admty.)

French S/M Submarine notice. French submarine LE CENTAURE  
 LE CENTAURE. escorted by SCOTT New London to Gibraltar via  
 Horta, Azores. Departs 7 M.I. East of Montauk  
 Point 1400/16th Speed 12 knots on surface diving  
 at will throughout. Proceeds through Point, etc.  
 Thence direct to Horta E.T.A. 2035/23rd. Departs Horta 1000/26th.  
 Thence Gibraltar E.T.A. 0830/30th. Attack and total bombing  
 restrictions imposed 30 M.I. ahead 60 astern 15 M.I. each side  
 estimated position.  
 (C.T.F. 25, 141823 to Cominch.)

ATHEL VIKING, Para. A. Three ships torpedoed in approaches to  
 torpedoed. Halifax about 1400Z/14th. These ships reported as  
 BRITISH FREEDOM, ATHEL VIKING and MARTIN VAN BUREN.  
 Para. D. 2320Z/12th H.M.C.S. GANANOQUE attacked  
 doubtful contact 46.30 N. 57.40 W.  
 (Cominch 142037Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)  
 Admty. pass info. to H.Q.C.C.

H.M.C.S. C. in C. C.N.A. 081659Z Dec. 1944, H.M.C.S.  
 SASKATCHEWAN. SASKATCHEWAN sailed St. Johns 1330Z/14th Jan.  
 independently to Londonderry routed via Great  
 Circle to BB 55.30 N. 07.30 W. thence Q.Z.S. 388 to  
 destination. (2) S.O.A. 18 knots.  
 (F.O.N.F. 141405Z to C. in C. W.A.)



War Diary.

14.1.1945  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

T.G. 21.4. All times Q. T.G. 21.4 departed 39.37 N. 66.23 W. 141730. 58521245. Course 224. E.T.A. 212130 point X. S.O.A. 12 knots may be increased when weather moderates, BROUGH detached rejoining C.T.G. 21.8. E.T.A. Panama seafron 201000. (U.S.S. NAIFEH (De. 352) 142335 to Com. 15, Com. 3, REAPER.)

Australia & New Zealand.

C. in C.B.P.F. (1) Communication requirements in Command ship to H.Q. ship. enable ship to be independent of MONTCLARE or shore communication for a limited period are:  
(a) equipment. 20 receivers, 6 H.F. transmitters, 2 V. H.F. sets T.B.S. frequency, 2 type S.C.R. 608, 10 type S.C.R. 610 set, 6 C.C.M. machine and in addition V.H.F. equipment to work MONTCLARE transmitter.  
(b) Space. Message handling space to allow for 2000 messages a day 1500 of which are encrypted.  
(2) The fitting of the above should not delay the early sailing of the ship as fitting could continue on passage if commissioned telegraphist and maintenance rating for staff of C. in C. B.P.F. are embarked in her. Low power set such as T.C.S. would be better than none at all.  
(3) There are many additions and refinements to above which are necessary to turn the ship into satisfactory communication ship. It is requested they may be added if space and time permit.  
(C. in C. B.P.F. 140555Z, amended 19.1.45, to Admty., etc.)

B.P.F. air- Your 300359 (?Dec.) Until additional fighter  
craft per- pilots and maintenance crews are available must  
sonnel. operate with existing fighter initial equipment.  
Note: In absence of her Firefly Squadrons, i.e.  
Hellcat complement of INDOMITABLE could be  
increased by 8.

(2) To enable optimum fighter operation ILLUSTRIOUS class will carry 15 Avengers only.  
(3) Spare aircraft in carriers nil spare air crews T.B.Rs. 10% aboard remainder in fleet training fighters all aboard.  
(4) Additional to flying control personnel necessary is one D.L.C.O. to each ship.  
(5) The one and only apparent way by which the carriers can be operational for the extended periods you desire is by formation of reserve carrier groups. Could not some of the Assault Carriers equipped with Hellcats, Corsairs and Seafires be best employed for (?this) purpose in the near future.  
(V.A. (A)B.P.F.) 141034Z to C. in C. B.P.F., 192347A from Admty. etc.)

/American...



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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

American ? <sup>see P 102</sup> 052058 N.T. in W.D. not to all. American R.T. R.T. procedure procedure for both air and surface warning is contained in cent Com. two copies of which are being sent to C.S.S. by B.A.D.  
The publication mentioned contains the current Pacific fleet doctrine on communications including radar R.C.M. and authentication shackle systems.  
(C. in C. B.P.F. 141331Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarine attack & sighting summary. For 24 hours to 0900Z/14th Jan.  
Para. A. (1) A/C E/206 attacked possible snort course 90° at 1530Z/13th Jan. in 58° 40' N. 04° 15' W.  
Para. b. (1) Patrol vessel attacked suspicious object in Scapa Flow at 1945Z/12th January.  
(2) A/C P/86 reported possible U-Boat at 1910Z/13th January in 59° 05' N. 01° 42' W.  
(3) A/C K/53 obtained A.S.V. contact at 0110Z/14th January in 59° 48' N. 04° 08' W.  
(4) CARISBROOKE CASTLE attacked contact at 1658Z/13th January in 53° 00' N. 04° 58' W.  
(5) STAR OF PEACE reported U-Boat at 1845Z/30th December in 51° 40' N. 10° 50' W.  
Para. C. (1) A/C -/304 reported possible U-Boat at 1311Z/13th January in 56° 30' N. 09° 20' W.  
(2) H.M.C.S. TRILLIUM attacked contact at 2330Z/13th January in 53° 27' N. 05° 34' W.  
(3) E.G. 26 attacked doubtful contact at 1948Z/13th January in 50° 32' N. 01° 25' W.  
Para. D. (1) M.L. reported submerged U-Boat at 1331Z/13th January in 52° 07' N. 04° 46' W.  
(D.D.I.C. 141147A to Cominch.)

U/B dis- Estimates.  
positions. (D.D.I.C. 141410A, 141425A.)



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Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

North Sea.

1. E-Boats came to the vicinity of Sheringham buoy in the early hours, crossing the east coast swept channel, and laid mines near 57 D buoy. Our patrols failed to make contact with them. Three mines were swept during the afternoon, but DALEMOOR, 5835 tons was mined and sunk off 12 A buoy.

Western Approaches.

2. (a) Four suspected U-Boats were investigated and attacked without success in Western Approaches command. Two more proved their presence by torpedoing (a) the Norwegian tanker SPINANGER and the escort carrier THANE off the Clyde Light Vessel and (b) The British tanker MAJA thirty miles off Holyhead. SPINANGER and THANE remained afloat, but MAJA caught fire and sank. U-Boat hunts are proceeding.

(b) JONAS LIE was last seen off the Scilly Islands three days ago and is presumed sunk.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

Riviera.

3. This afternoon at 1.30 a combined attack was carried out by French cruisers MONTCALM and GEORGES LEYGUES with air cover against harbours of San Remo and Porto Maurizio. MONTCALM fired 114 rounds on San Remo. Several direct hits and heavy explosions in harbour area.

LOOKOUT while in escort fired 48 rounds into the harbour. GEORGES LEYGUES fired 87 rounds into Porto Maurizio and reports all boats in it destroyed.

MONTCALM also fired 89 rounds at command post at Bordighera, 8 direct hits.

Adriatic.

4. A number of Fol Boats after being driven ashore by bad weather have been captured by Partisans in Zara area.

Malta.

5. SS. NARVA (Br. 1575 tons) Naples to Alexandria sunk by underwater explosion, two minutes after at 1530. Ship not considered torpedoed. Position 33° 24' N. 19° 25' E. 11 survivors landed at Alexandria.

/Greece...



15.1.1945  
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Greece.

6.(a) An M.L. sank 2 E.L.A.N. caiques at Limni.  
(b) Towns people at Patras and Salonika are re-gaining confidence.  
(c.) At Volo situation friendly and all remains quiet at Kavalla.

Australia & New Zealand.

Celebes.

7. At noon today 8 Lightnings swept Kendari for shipping destroying one schooner, one oil barge, and damaging 12 schooners and setting Pier on fire.

China.

8.(a) 2 freighters were sunk in the Kiangshi/ Anhwei area and two other ships were probably sunk today by six Mustangs.  
(b) Fukien. 2 Mitchells probably destroyed one tanker of 350 ft. and damaged a cargo vessel of 200 ft. and probably a tanker of 200 ft. in Amoy Harbour.  
(c) Hong Kong. 16 Mustangs probably sank a destroyer and two freighters and damaged six freighters.



War Diary15.1.1945  
MondayHOME COMMANDSDefence of United Kingdom

Searchlights in the Orkneys and Shetlands. All military A/A searchlights for the defence of Scapa Flow ceased to be operational at 0900 to-day 15th January.  
(A.C.O.S. 151512 to C. in C. H.F.)  
It has always been my intention to keep a C.A.S.L. at each entrance to Scapa Flow and Lerwick. In the welter of reductions that have been ordered I find that Greenhead C.A.S.L's (north entrance Lerwick) are about to go. I request they may remain as this entrance is used by a lot of odd craft including Norwegian refugee craft and it is essential that the patrol vessel in this area should have the assistance of illumination.  
(A.C.O.S. 151531A to Admty.)

OperationsNorth Sea

Suspected E-Boats. E-Boat activity suspected.  
(C. in C. Nore, 150105A to Nore Command)  
Three unknown vessels 005 degs. Sheringham Buoy 7 miles.  
(C. in C. Nore, 150112 to C/S 3 EEO)  
My 150112, bearing 340 degs. Sheringham Buoy 9 miles.  
(C. in C. Nore, 150128A to MIDDLETON)  
My 150128 035 degs. Sheringham Buoy 10.5 miles course 090 degs.  
(C. in C. Nore, 150139 to MIDDLETON)  
My 150139 - position 007 degs. Sheringham Buoy 12 miles, course 090 degs.  
(C. in C. Nore, 150156 to MIDDLETON)  
Surface craft detected by Radar bearing 250 degs. distance 3.5 miles, my position 350 degs. Sheringham Buoy 12 miles.  
(MIDDLETON, 150215A to C. in C. Nore.)  
(1) E-Boats plotted crossing Q.Z.S. 308 at 57B and 57D Buoys.  
(2) 15th M.S.F. is to carry out Oropesa search in "G" formation between East Dudgeon and 57 F Buoys forthwith.  
(3) C. in C. Nore to be kept informed of intentions and movements.  
(C. in C. Nore, 150232A to F.O.I.C.Humber)  
E-Boats detected by Shore Radar crossed East Coast Swept Channel between 0100 and 0200/15th Jan. Mines were laid in vicinity 57 D Buoy. 2 patrols did not make contact.  
(C. in C. Nore, 151533A to Admty)  
No.5 P.C.S. 3 E-Boats 53 degs. 23' N. 2 degs. 50' E. 280 degs. 30 knots.  
(A/C RCA.24 15227A to 16 Group)

Mining off Humber. Two contact mines cut at 1157 in position 132 degs. 57D buoy 2.5 miles.  
(F.O.Humber, 151302 to C. in C. Nore)  
One moored mine cut at 1603 in position 129 degs. 57D buoy 2.6 miles.  
(F.O.Humber, 151655 to C. in C. Nore)  
DALEMOOR mined off 12A (buoy).  
(WIVERN, 151813A to F.O.I.C.Humber)  
Following moored mines swept to-day Monday 15th Jan. 2 mines at 1157 in position 132 degs. 57D 2.5 miles. 1 mine at 1603 in position 129 degs. 57. D 2.6 miles.  
(F.O. Humber, 151818 to C. in C. Nore)

/DALEMOOR...



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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Mining off Humber. (Contd.) DALEMOOR sunk in position 278 degs. 12A buoy 1 mile. Stern above water bow anchored and grounded. Wreck exhibiting light and lit dan buoy close to Southwards. All crew and secret matter safe. Rejoining HANKEY. (WIVERN, 152140A to C. in C. Nore.)  
Your 151813. Report exact position of mining. (C. in C. Nore, 152230A to WIVERN)  
A/C report at 2153 6 E-Boats 52 degs. 18' N. 3 degs. 30' E. course 280 speed 30 knots. (C. in C. Nore, 152237A to N.O.I.C's Harwich, Yarmouth)  
Your 152230A. 278 degs. 12 A buoy one mile. (WIVERN, 152302A to C. in C. Nore)  
A/C report 2245 3 E-Boats 69 degs. 35' N. 4 degs. 25' E. course 270 speed 30 knots. (C. in C. Nore, 152338A to N.O.I.C's Yarmouth and Harwich)

Danger from ammunition ships at Antwerp. Ref. signal from N.O.I.C. Antwerp D.T.O. nil. S.H.A.E.F. Main G 4 S 74481 refers. (1) 21st Army Group view is that minimum quantity of ammunition should be accepted in Antwerp subject to the following principles. (A) British ammunition must come through a British Controlled port. (B) There must be no wastage of shipping. (2) 21st Army Group can accept ammunition through Ostend and Ghent and will arrange for ammunition shipments from U.K. to be put through these ports as quickly as practicable but ships now under load which cannot enter Ghent must be sent to Antwerp. (3) Doubt if shipments of ammunition from U.S.A. can be loaded for Ghent without wasting shipping but will take up question of loading this into as few ships as possible for acceptance in Antwerp. (M.G.A. 21st Army Group, 151400A to S.H.A.E.F.)

Situation Report. Cositintrep No.286 part 4. Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 141600A Jan.

<u>British.</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> <u>(incl.coal)</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
Antwerp	62	245	18,467	8,186	1,232
Oxtend	1,151	154	3,344	200	1,060
Boulogne	350	125	37	-	-
Dieppe	128	-	186	-	-
Caen	-	-	1,060	-	-
Calais	2,304	4	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	375	-	-
Total:	3,995	528	23,469	8,386	2,292
<u>U.S. North</u>					
Antwerp	-	-	11,882	-	-
Cherbourg	245	-	7,157	-	2,377
Le Havre	2,795	319	6,346	5,905	2,515
Rouen	1,638	1,240	3,453	4,829	-
Granville	-	-	3,011	-	-
Totals:	4,678	1,559	31,849	10,734	4,892

/U.S. South ...



War Diary

15.1.1945  
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Situation Report. Cositintrep No.286 Part 4.  
(Contd.)

<u>U.S.South.</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> (incl.coal)	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo</u>
Marseilles	-	50	13,867	-	6,178
Port De Bouc	-	24	1,957	4,651	-
Toulon	-	-	118	-	-
Totals:	-	74	15,942	4,651	6,178

(Signed Eisenhower Cite SHGDS)  
(S.H.A.E.F. 151445A to Admty.and others)

Operations

Channel

- Patrols. HESPERUS, GOODALL (Freak, Baker) pass Gate at 1730A to-day Monday and carry out A/S search through:
- (AA) 49 degs. 50' N. 4 degs. 10' W.  
(BB) 49 degs. 37' N. 03 degs. 00' W. (CC) 49 degs. 55' N. 02 degs. 38' W. thence to relieve COTTON and ANTIGUA patrolling between Portland and Start. Adjust speed so that COTTON, ANTIGUA arrive Plymouth 0900A/16th.  
(2) LOCH INSH to R/V with S.O. E.G.19 in 150 degs. Eddystone 8 at 1840/15th to take part in above search.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 151040A to HESPERUS, GOODALL, E.G.19)  
Night patrols 15th/16th January. 26th E.G. Anti-snort patrol area limits.  
(A) Q.Z.S.636. (B) 10 miles to West. (C) Route E.  
(D) 49 degs. 48'.  
1st E.G. as in my 141837 para. (3). 17th E.G. as in my 101910A.  
(2) If groups are divided, S.O's report disposition of ships.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 151300A to S.O. E.G's 26, 1, 17.)  
Day patrols 16th January. 1st E.G. Patrol area limits.  
(A) Q.Z.S.636. (B) 01 degs. 15' W.  
(C) 50 degs. 00' N. (D) Route E(?).  
(2) 26th E.G. Patrol area North of Cherbourg bounded by a line running from (A) Coastline 01 degs. 47' W. to  
(B) Position 49 degs. 50' 01 degs. 47' W. to  
(C) Position 49 degs. 50' 01 degs. 05' W. to  
(D) Position 49 degs. 34' 01 degs. 05' W. thence  
(E) 49 degs. 34' coastline.  
(3) If Groups are divided S.O's report dispositions of ships.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 152238A to S.O. E.G's, 1, 26)

A/S work-up and practices. It is much regretted that present U-Boat situation makes any action on the line of your 141206A impossible for the time being.  
(C. in C. W.A. 152233A to C. in C. Portsmouth)



War Diary

15.1.1945  
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches

- Suspected U-Boat. Explosion report bearing 350 degs. from Loch Inchard at 2255/14th. Detach one escort to investigate and rejoin if nothing found. (C. in C. W.A. 150028A to ANGLE)
- Anti-U-Boat Deep mining. Ref. by W.A.152/00246/9 of 13th January, 1945. It is intended that APOLLO should start mine-laying operations in South-West and North-West Approaches on Tuesday 16th January. Fields B, C, D and E are to be laid first followed by J and K. Escorts for APOLLO will be arranged by C. in C. W.A. and APOLLO is requested to signal C. in C. W.A. date time and place for R/V for the day's minelaying, 24 hours beforehand. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven and F.O.I.C. Greenock are requested to issue any necessary warnings to ships and authorities affected. (C. in C. W.A. 150043A to Admty.)  
Subject to the following amendments, the proposals contained in your No. W.A. 152/00246/9 dated 13 Jan, 1945 are concurred in generally.  
(2) It is considered: (A) That minefield "T" should be laid before "J" and "K", and that in order to provide some degree of cover to the North Channel at an early date minefield "T" One should be laid on completion of minefield "B".  
(B) That in all cases mines should be laid at a depth of 60 to 70 feet below chart datum but that initial lays by APOLLO should not be held up pending provision and fitting of 60 foot depth reels, which is in hand.  
(3) Paras. 7 and 8 of your letter are fully concurred in and all possible steps are being taken to improve the position.  
(A.C.N.S.(H), 151846 to C. in C. W.A.)
- E.G.10. My P.C.S. 051 degs. 37' N. 007 degs. 16' W. 063 degs. 16 knots. E.T.A. Merville 0630/16th. Have set watch on B.N. (S.O.E.G.10, 151058A to Com. D. W.A.)
- Cardiff sub-plot. F.O.I.C. Cardiff's 141236. This proposal will be of great assistance to the Milford Haven plot and should help greatly to reduce the number of unidentified tracks which are at present causing considerable inconvenience. (F.O.I.C. Milford, 151109A to C. in C. W.A.)
- Second suspected U-Boat. Commodore reports sighting periscope investigating P.C.S. 53.43 1243 094.8.5. (S.O. E.G. C.5, 151200A to C. in C. W.A.)  
My 1220 not to all. Carried out "Anti-choke". No contact. Rejoined. Weather 3461 3372 suitable. (S.O. E.G. C.5, 151330A to C. in C. W.A.)

/Third ...



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MondayHOME COMMANDSOperationsWestern Approaches - Contd.

Third At 0830A attacked probable S/M contact in P.C.S.  
suspected 54.45 N. 14.43 W. 218 degs. 8 knots (X)  
U-Boat. position 56.05 N. 12.53 W. Contact lost at  
1000A. STONETOWN firing on floating mine in a  
position 54.25 N. 15.10 W. which passed down  
through convoy. At 1215A contact not regained  
LEASIDE and GUELPH rejoining O.N.S.40. M.A.C.A/C patrolling  
area.  
Weather report 7471 3473.  
(S.O. E.G. C.8, 151217A to C. in C. W.A.)

U-Boat off Torpedoed 2 miles off Clyde light vessel.  
Clyde. (Norwegian SPINANGER, tanker, No T.O.O. but about  
151300 to general)

Torpedoed 2 miles off Clyde Light vessel at 1300  
ship still afloat need immediate tug assistance  
to try to save ship. Master.

(SPINANGER No T.O.O./15 to Admty, F.O.I.C. Glasgow)

Have struck a mine or been struck by a torpedo am uncertain  
which, off Clyde Light Vessel.

(THANE, escort carrier, 151331Z to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Am being taken in tow by drifter and have made 6" of water  
in hour flooding appears under control at present.

(THANE, 151340Z to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Have settled 1 foot more. Shall try and make Lamlash.

Request Salvage tugs immediately.

(THANE, 151341Z to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Proceed utmost despatch Clyde light vessel.

H.M.S. THANE hit.

(C. in C. W.A. 151404A to S.O.E.G.22)

1 Norwegian Tanker mined or torpedoed in position 55 degs.  
08' N. 05 degs. 25' W.

(CAPRICE, 151405A to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Ship torpedoed off Clyde L.V. 1330A. When UNTIRING is  
near Boom take ALTAIR under your orders and carry out A/S  
search remaining ships of flotilla will be sailed to assist.  
TOWEY and other escort vessels will join search at 1630A with  
TOWEY as S.O.

(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 151416A to SHEMARA, ALTAIR)

22nd E.G. now ahead of you have been ordered to Clyde Light  
Vessel. Should you overtake them order them to screen you past  
dangerous area.

(C. in C. W.A. 151416A to VENGEANCE)

Am proceeding Clyde Light Vessel pending further instructions.

THANE's 151331 refers.

(TOWY, 151424A to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Damage appears to be all abaft frame (?) unable to use main  
engine. Weather deteriorating.

(THANE, 151427Z to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

On passing Lamlash detach and return to vicinity of Clyde  
Light Vessel to hunt.

(C. in C. W.A. 151439A to ORIBI and CAPRICE, destroyers.)

/Proceed ...



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MondayHOME COMMANDSOperationsWestern Approaches

U-Boat off Clyde. Proceed forthwith with all despatch to Clyde Light vessel.  
(Contd.) (C. in C. W.A. 151442A to S.O. E.G.3)

Proceed assistance THANE and SPINANGER in vicinity Clyde light vessel.

(VENERABLE, 151444A to TOWY)

When additional personnel has been embarked proceed forthwith to R/V with SHEMARA off Clyde L/V to carry out A/S search as ordered by SHEMARA.

(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 151458A to L'ATLANTIQUE)

Proceed forthwith to R/V with SHEMARA off Clyde L/V and carry out A/S search as directed by SHEMARA.

(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 151500A to BOARHOUND)

Assume command of ships in address and others who may join and conduct A/U operations in Firth of Clyde. Your Force is Force 37 codeword "Crown". W/T 962.

(C. in C. W.A. 151504 to TOWY, ORIBI, CAPRICE, LORING, CLEMATIS, E.G.22.3)

E.T.A. Clyde Light Vessel 1645A.

(LORING, 151519A to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Following received Begins: From CERESIO 151430A to N.O.I.C.

Ardrossan.

A/C Carrier and tanker struck by heavy explosion at Clyde Lightship. F.Y. 524 and CYPRESS standing by.

(N.O.I.C. Ardrossan, 151530 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Third E.G. is required to hunt in vicinity of Clyde light vessel.

E.G.31 is required to hunt in vicinity 053 degs. 40' 005 degs. 14'. Report your respective Position Course and Speed.

(C. in C. W.A. 151556A to S.O. E.G's 3, 31)

Reference CERESIO's 151430A January 6 Oropesa Trawlers and 4 LL vessels are at sea or at short notice in case mining is suspected.

(N.O.I.C. Ardrossan, 151615A to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Have swept area 5 miles each side of wreck from the furthest south without result. RAMSEY and CLARE remaining until 1830.

E.T.A. Clyde light vessel 1900A suitable.

(S.O. E.G.3, 151650 to C. in C. W.A.)

(1) LORING taking THANE in tow. SHERMARA, ALTAIR, BEDLINGTON, LA CORDELIERE screening.

(2) ORIBI, CAPRICE, CARRON, CLEMATIS carrying out Gamma Patrol between Mull of Kintyre and Tow Point.

(3) Intend 22nd E.G. to sweep area of 9 miles radius from Datum Point 230 degs 5 miles from Clyde L/V on arrival at about 1820A.

(4) TOWY and MILFORD sweeping this area until arrival of 22nd E.G. and will then establish Gamma patrol between Corsewall Point and Muck Island.

(5) SS. SPINANGER floating well and in no immediate danger.

Request tug.

(S.O. Force 37, 151750A to C. in C. W.A.)

My 151504. When both 3rd E.G. and 22nd E.G. have arrived turn-over Command of Force 37 to S.O. 3rd E.G. TOWY proceed to Liverpool for special duty.

(C. in C. W.A. 151934A to TOWY)

3rd E.G. proceed at best speed to patrol area between

(A) 52 degs. 10' 06 degs. 17'. (B) 52 degs. 05' 05 degs. 59'.

(C) 52 degs. 35' 05 degs. 39'. (D) 52 degs. 40' 05 degs. 57'.

(2) 31st E.G. patrol area between parallels 53 degs. 15' and 53

/ degs...



War Diary15.1.1945  
MondayHOME COMMANDSOperationsWestern Approaches

- U-Boat off Clyde. (Contd.) degs. 25' and meridians 04 degs. 35' and 05 degs. 53'.  
(C. in C. W.A. 151325A to Force 36.)
- U-Boat 30 miles N.W. of Holyhead. 53.40 N. 5.14 W. mined listing over no immediate danger of sinking. Request immediate assistance. On fire now.  
(S.S. MAJA No T.O.O/15th but about 1330 to general.)  
Proceed with all despatch to 53 degs. 40' 05 degs. 14' SS. MAJA reported struck. Disregard my 151325 in transit.  
(C. in C. W.A. 151334A to S.O. E.G.31)  
Have detached CARISBROOKE CASTLE to relieve ROWLEY standing by wreck. Am searching for S/M attacked by 769 W.18 in position 53 degs. 22' N. 05 degs. 03' W. Suitable.  
(S.O.E.G.31, 151733A to C. in C. W.A.)  
CLARE reports good contact in the vicinity of sinking. Am joining up with MINSTRAL.  
(RAMSEY, 151800 to C. in C. W.A., Admty.)  
Intend remaining in search vicinity of 769 W.18' attack until 2100A and then join CARISBROOKE CASTLE to comply with your 151556A. Suitable.  
(S.O. E.G.31, 152058A to C. in C. W.A.)  
Lost contact. My 151931 may have been wreckage MAJA.  
(RAMSEY, 152135 to C. in C. W.A. Admty.)  
Am detaching MISTRAL short of fuel to Greenock.  
(2) Am carrying out box search until further orders. My position 323 degs. Selstack Light 29.4 miles.  
(RAMSEY, 152159 to C. in C. W.A. Admty.)  
Request you will sail 4th E.G. at 1200 Tomorrow 16th. to join 31st E.G. in A/U hunt vicinity 53 degs. 30' N. 05 degs. 15' W. R/V to be arranged by S.O. 31st E.G.  
(2) On joining S.O. 4th E.G. assume command of force 36 codeword "Grasp".  
(C. in C. W.A. 152347A to F.O.I.C.N.I.)
- E.G.6. Proceed to Tuskar Rock.  
(C. in C. W.A. 151451A to S.O.E.G.6)  
Your 1451. E.T.A. 1900.  
(S.O. E.G.6, 151537 to C. in C. W.A.)
- E.G.4. My 071152A. It is anticipated that 4th escort Group will be ready for sea by 1200A tomorrow Tuesday.  
(Capt. (D) Belfast, 151738A to C. in C. W.A.)
- E.G.15. E.T.A. 0830A/16th. RETALICK and INGLIS in company.  
(S.O. E.G.15, 151840A to F.O.I.C. N.I.)

/E.G's 6...



15.1.1945  
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches - Contd.

E.G's 6, 17, 19. The following re-allocation of support groups is to be made:

- (A) E.G.6 to remain in West Approaches.
  - (B) E.G.17 to lay over when due without relief.
  - (C) E.G.19 to rejoin Western Approaches, now.
- (A.C.N.S.(H), 151852A to C's in C. W.A. Plymouth, Portsmouth)

4th Suspected U-Boat. STELLARTON attacked possible S/M in position 50 degs. 26' N. 09 degs. 53' W. at 0800Z. Considerable amount of light oil produced.  
(S.O. E.G. C.3, 151930Z to C. in C. W.A.)



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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway.

Patrols.

Leave patrol so as to pass through 64° 30' N., 08° 30' E., at 2200A/17th January, thence to Lerwick by reverse of outward route. Diving by day north of 62°.  
(S.O. S/Ms Lerwick, 151045A to UTSIRA).

Attack on enemy merchantman.

Nr. 1. Position of merchant vessel is 59° 47' N. 5° 30' E., have attacked enemy with RP.  
(A/C SVP 43, 151130A to 18 Group).

Skagerrak mined area.

A.M. 131425A new Eastern Boundary of Skagerrak declared area now confirmed as 57° 09.4' N., 09° 22' E., to 58° 11' N., 08° 28.5' E.  
2. In addition the area for a further five miles to the east of above Boundary is declared closed to Swedish shipping except by permit.  
(D.D.I.C., 151735A to C. in C. H.F., C.S.10, C.S.1., A.C.O.S., C. in C. Rosyth, C. in C. Nore., A.N.C.X.F., F.O. (S/M), Commodore. (D) H.F.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Suspected U-boat.

Poor class D/F bearings on 3923 <sup>k/s</sup> ~~k/os~~ series 8 at 0250Z indicate U/B in area 58° 30' N., to 59° 30' N., 00° to 01° 30' E.  
(D.D.I.C., 150617A to S/Ms north of 51° N).

Convoy R.A. 63.

R.A. 63. Request R.F.A. BLUE RANGER may be detached with Escorts to Scapa.  
(D.T.D., 151911A to C. in C. H.F.)

Operations.

Baltic.

Return of German merchantmen.

Reported recall German merchant vessels. Swedish press announce that German merchant vessels in Swedish West coast ports have been ordered to sail for German ports.  
2. Neither Ministry Defence nor Chief Naval Staff admit having any information.  
(N.A. Stockholm, 151739 to Admty).  
N.I.D. Comment. Sweden closed all her ports in the Baltic - Gulf of Bothnia to foreign shipping on 27/9/44, but German ships continued to trade to Swedish W. coast ports. On 1/1/45 Sweden ceased trading with Germany. On 16/1 the German Legation in Stockholm denied any knowledge of an order for German merchant ships in Swedish territorial waters to sail at once but in view of the German need for shipping it seems a logical act unless Germany expects the embargo to be withdrawn.



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Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

JONAS LIE Derelict JONAS LIE last sighted at 2040/12 in position 012 round Island Scillies 7.  
2. Extensive search by surface craft and aircraft has since failed to locate her.  
3. Consider ship probably sank during heavy weather on night 12/13th January.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 152309A to Admty).

Movements.

CHASER, QUEEN, escort carriers. C. in C. Rosyth 141430 passed to you. Request you sail one destroyer to R/V with CHASER and QUEEN at 28 buoy at 2330 Thursday 18th Jan. to provide additional escort to Pentland Firth arriving at 0900 Friday 19th January for practices (C. in C. H. F., 151213A to Com. D.H.F.)

MAURITIUS, cruiser. Request route for MAURITIUS to Clyde. (A.C.I.C., 151240A to Admty).

VALIANT, battleship. A.M. 040128 para. 1. E.G.38 will leave Gibraltar about 28th January to escort VALIANT to Plymouth before joining your Command. A.M. 051412 para. (2) and 132125 para. 2 (A) neither to all also refer. (D.O.D. (H), 151511A to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Shipping & Convoys.

Channel coastwise convoys. Your 112120. Concur but suggest new para. giving Senior Officer escorts discretion to dispose close escorts if convoy is otherwise unsupported in the interests of convoy discipline. Para. two. It is pointed out that coastwise convoys in Plymouth Command at times numbering twenty vessels proceed usually with one escort and with two escorts only on rare occasions. (C. in C. Plymouth, 151623A to Admty).

Zig-zagging in Irish Sea. Pass to N.O.I.Cs. and N.C.S.Os. concerned. Ships of 8 knots and over sailing independently in the Irish Sea are to be instructed to zig-zag by day. (C. in C. W.A., 152342 to F.O.I.Cs. in W.A.)



War Diary.

15.1.1945.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

E.G.1 and 2 Patrol orders for night 15th/16th Jan. Group  
U-boat II Leave patrol at 1800 15th Jan. to sweep  
Search. (100%) along Spanish coast close inshore at slow  
speed (from) 036° 40' N., to Tarifa returning to  
patrol Bacon by daylight 16th Jan.  
2. Group III after dark 15th Jan. carry out a  
similar sweep (100%) along Morocco coast from 005° 50' W.,  
to 035° 10' N., and back resuming patrol between Cape Spartel  
and (?Cape Trafalgar) by daylight 16th Jan.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 151158A to Group 1, Group 2).

BLACKHEATH  
Salvage.

Your Op. 140239A.

Ship has broken up and it seems unlikely that  
Salvaging of cargo will be physically possible.

2. If, however, it should prove to be possible,  
Spanish Authorities will oppose salvage by us  
with both abandoned and Neutral arguments. If you wish me to  
press this matter please (?elaborate) argument in (1) (A) of  
your telegram. From information in my possession and scant legal  
books available Spanish abandoned argument seems strong and  
Neutral argument unanswerable.

Can I invoke article 33 of Anglo-Moroccan Treaty of 9th Dec.  
1856?

4. Gibraltar please inform Admty. and me immediately if  
it is found to be physically practicable salvage cargo.  
(C.G. Tangier, 151209A to Admty).

My 111442A. Since ship has broken up Spanish authorities  
have now withdrawn their authority British Naval Vessel to enter  
territorial waters. While rescue could still enter territorial  
waters they would not allow personnel to visit ship as they  
consider themselves responsible to see that no one removes any-  
thing from it. They state salvage cargo is impossible.

(T.C.G., 151415A to F.O.G.M.A.)

British Consul Tangier's 151209 being passed to C. in C.

Med.

2. Anticipate all cargo in stern half of ship can repeat can be  
salvaged.

3. All arrangements have been made to commence operations a.m.  
tomorrow Tuesday.

(F.O.G.M.A., 151710A to British Consul Tangier).

Your 151710/ and my 151415 I am pressing Spanish  
Authorities to permit salvage of cargo in stern and have quoted  
English Morocco Treaty of 1856. They will not take decision  
without reference to Madrid. They are standing on neutrality  
argument. Consul General.

(Consul Gen. Tangier, 152018A to F.O.G.M.A.)

✓F.O.G.M.A.'s 151710 (Arrangements for off loading SS.

BLACKHEATH).

B.N.A. Madrid's 131945 being passed to Tangier and Tangier's  
151415 and 152018 both being passed to C. in C. Med.

2. Intend taking no further action until situation is clarified  
by Admty. Para. 3. of my 151710 refers.

(F.O.I.C. Gib. 152318A see 161210A).

/Carriers...



15.1.1944.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

- Carriers. Unless Carriers require to enter Gibraltar for fuel or urgent operational reasons they are to proceed direct to Port Said by basic eastbound route M.S.C.I. 5 appendix 2 (?refers).
2. Destroyer screen negative MALCOLM is to enter Gibraltar for fuel and will be required to sail on completion.
  3. Assistance to fit ESKIMO's radar aerial cannot be provided. Amend my 141827 not to all accordingly.
  4. All Mediterranean serial orders and Q messages are being sent in MALCOLM.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 151312A to SLINGER.)  
My (?151)150 not to WOLVERINE, MALCOLM defective.
- (2) Proceed as necessary to (?R/V) SLINGER (S.O.) KHEDIVE and SPEAKER escorted by VOLAGE (S.O. E.) VENUS and ESKIMO and act as additional to 003° W.
- (6) My 151312 paragraph 4 not to WOLVERINE these will be put aboard on passing Gibraltar.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 151802A to WOLVERINE.)

FORMIDABLE My position 2000/15th Jan. 036° 05' N. 000° 50' W.  
course and speed 070° 17.  
(FORMIDABLE, 151941A to F.O.G.M.A.)



War Diary15.1.1945  
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Greek Naval Policy Intend to proceed in SIRIUS on Thursday 18th to Piraeus to discuss future naval policy there after visiting Salonika, Mytilene and Simi returning to Alexandria about Friday 26th. Communication arrangements follow in my 151031. (F.O.L.E.M., 151011B to C. in C. Med.)

L.S.T. (1) 4. Regret to report L.S.T.(I)4 struck a mine in position to Cape Turle bearing 194° distance 5 miles at approx. 1525 14th. Ship proceeded Piraeus under own steam. Preliminary survey indicates minor damage not affecting seaworthiness after shoring. Casualties all other ranks, 1 dead, 12 wounded. (S.B.N.O. Greece, 151203 to C. in C.Mediterranean.)

Ryn At discussion in Belgrade with my Deputy C.O.S. Tito raised question of Ryn. After hearing account of what had occurred from British standpoint Tito stated he would like to see Captain Kern, Royal Yugoslavian Navy.  
(2) I consider every effort should be made to expedite this interview.  
(3) Kern is now in U.K.  
(4) Similar signal has been made by Brigadier Maclean to (?Foreign) Office.  
(C. in C. Med., 151257A to Admty.)

Black Sea navigational aids. Adml. Archer, 15641A to Admty.  
See Lion Copy.

Situation Report No. 537 Greece. In No. 536\* para. 2 for Khalkis read Khalkia and delete Island. Night of 12th January 2 M.Ls. encountered 2 Peter Lighters off Kalymnos and obtained hits in ensuing action in which one of our craft suffered under water damage. MUSKETEER captured 2 large caiques and a M/B at port Vathoudhi and after brisk opposition ?an (?M/L) sank 2 Elan caiques at Limmi. Elan are reported evacuating Khalkis in Ca(iq?)ues which it is hoped to intercept. Townspeople at Patras and Salonika are regaining confidence, at Volos situation is friendly and all remains quiet at Kavalla.  
(2) Adriatic. A number of Folboats after being driven ashore by bad weather have been captured Partisans in Zara area. (C. in C. Med. 152145A to F.O.L.E.M. etc.)

Cominsitrep Number 72 Ending 152400A. No change in situation. On 14th TROMBE fired 45 rounds at a command post and 41 rounds at a supply building. Several direct hits. Accurate counter fire during both missions. On 15th at 151330A a combined attack was carried out by MONTCALM and GEORGES LEYGUES with air cover and air spotting against the harbours of San Remo and Porto Maurizio, to destroy the vermin reported in both harbours MONTCALM fired 114 rounds on San Remo harbour, 100 rounds inside the harbour.



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Monday \_\_\_\_\_

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Cominsitrep      Area well covered.      Several direct hits and heavy  
Number 72      explosions sighted.      LOOKOUT, while in escort  
(Contd.)      fired 52 rounds, of which 48 in harbour.      Good  
shooting.      GEORGES LEYGUES fired 87 rounds at  
Porto Maurizio harbour.      Aircraft reports all  
boats destroyed.      She fired 18 rounds on  
barracks and 27 on enemy headquarters with good results in  
Porto Maurizio.      On the same day MONTCALM at 151500A fired 89  
rounds at command post in Bordighera.      Excellent shooting.      8  
direct hits.      No counter fire on this day.      BENSON was relieved  
in flankforce by LOOKOUT, who arrived in Gulf Juan at 111600A.  
BENSON left for Leghorn at 111410A, after escort duty of  
GEORGES LEYGUES in Pie Ra Ligure slips bombardment.      Four  
mines sighted and two sunk.  
(Comflanfor, 152359A to F.O.N.A.M.)



# TOP SECRET

IN

**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.)

151641A/January.

From Admiral Archer.

Date 16. 1. 45.

Recd. 0640.

S.T.O.I.C. X PLUG BY T/P RECIRCULATION

*Ships for Black Sea.*

Addressed Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE.

My 131605 route for ships proceeding from Bosphorus to Sebastopol. Relevant danger areas and navigational aids given in my 221401 December and my 071025 and 091605 January are repeated herein for convenience (K) from departure position off Bosphorus in 41 16 North 29 25 East to a position off Cape Fakaz co-ordinates unspecified, thence to meeting point in the position 44 20 North 34 00 East from whence ships will be piloted through Swept Channel detailed in para. 3.

*Ships for Black Sea containing of.*

2. Danger areas *details*

(A) ~~Bosphorus. West of a line running through the points 'A' in 41 19 North 29 20 East and 'B' 41 33 North 29 20 East~~

(B) Along the west and South sides of Crimea Peninsula running through the points *details*

- 'U' 45 24 North 32 29 East
- 'V' 45 21 North 32 20 East
- 'W' 45 13 North 32 20 East
- 'X' 44 28 North 32 28 East
- 'Y' 44 30 North 33 00 East
- 'Z' 44 17 North 33 33 East
- 'E' 44 17 North 33 47 East
- 'EIQB' 44 20 North 33 51 East
- 'EIVB' 44 22 North 33 51.5 East.

3. Approach point for Swept Channel to Sebastopol through danger area given (in para.2 'B'?) is in position 44 22.3 North 33 52.4 East. Channel thence extends five cables on either side of a line running through the following points *details as follows*

- 1. 44 22.3 North 33 52.4 East
- 2. 44 22.3 North 33 44 East
- 3. 44 28.8 North 33 28.4 East
- 4. 44 34.4 North 33 21.2 East
- 5. 44 36.5 North 33 22 East
- 6. 44 37.4 North 33 28.5 East.

4. Radio .....



TOP SECRET

4. Radio Beacons. *details*

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Wave-length</u>	<u>Method</u>	<u>Call letter</u>	<u>Service</u>
KALIAKRA	43 22 N. 28 28 E.	1048 metres	286.1 K/Cs modulating	Z	24 hours 90 miles
CONSTANTA	44 09.9 N 28 38.1 E	1048 metres	286.1 K/Cs modulating	C	24 hours 90 miles
CAPE KERSONESE	44 34.8 N 33 22.9 E	942. metres	318.5 K/Cs Non-oscillating II was required		180 miles

5. Lights. *details*

Read in six columns, Name, Position, Characteristic, Visibility, Height, Remarks.

AITODORSKI, On site of Destroyed Lighthouse 44/25.6 North 34/07.4 East, Fixed Green, 25 miles, 96 metres, All round.

LOWER KASTROPOL, 44/24.1 North 33/53.8 East, Flashing Blue every 4 seconds, 5 miles, Not mentioned, All round.

SARICH, 44/23.2 North 33/44.4 West, Fixed Red, 17 miles, 38.1 Metres, Show from 096 degrees to 300 degrees.

CAPE KHERSONESE, On site of destroyed lighthouse 44/35 North 33/23 East, Flashing Green every three seconds with red sectors, 5 miles, Not mentioned, Two red sectors 333 degrees to 343 and 234 degrees to 244 Green sectors 343 to 065 145 to 34 and 244 to 333 degrees.

INKERMAN MARKERS (CHANNEL) LOWER, On Mackenzie Hill 44/37 North 33/35.4 West, Fixed Red, 7 miles, 91.1 Metres, Direction of Channel 274.5 to 094.5 degrees are required.

UPPER MARKER, On steep rock in Inkerman 44/36.8 North 33/37.8 West, Fixed White, 9 miles, 195.7 Metres.

151641A  
As received. Certification has been requested.

*amended by [signature] 19-1-50*



**TOP SECRET****IN**

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3.

1st Lord  
1st S.L.(3)  
D.F.S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(H)  
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)  
A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)  
P.A.S.(S)  
P.A.S.(L)  
U.W.R.  
D.C.  
Plot  
D.O.D.(H)(4)  
D.O.D.(F)(2)  
D.D.I.C.(2)  
D.N.I.(4)  
D. of P.(2)  
D. of P.(Q)(3)  
Hd. of M.(2) for action  
D.T.D.(4)  
D.T.D.(C)  
W.D.  
Admiral Blake  
P.N.L.O.  
Hydrog.  
D.S.D.  
D. of N.  
D.M.S.  
D.A/S.W.  
D.A/U.D.  
Staff Charts.  
W.C.O.(14)



War Diary.

15.1.1945.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dispositions. No fresh information. Scales in all areas remain unchanged.  
(C. in C. E.I., 150358 to Admty).

TAY Sailed TAY at 0800Z/15 by standard route to Suez. Standard routing to U.K.  
2. E.T.A. Suez 1100Z/19 at S. of A 13 knots.  
(Com. Aden, 150945 to N.O.I.C. Suez).

U-boat SSSS SSSS SSSS  
lat. 09.11 N., 73.47 E. periscope off Port beam  
am firing WX 07071, Master.  
(No T.O.O. 15th.)  
Have re-opened fire, object resembling periscope.  
(No T.O.O. 15th,)  
Object submerged have ceased firing target no longer visible.  
(From (KWIO) WYOMING VALLEY, No T.O.O. 15th)

S/M ~~S/A~~ TAY, Arrival TORBAY departure TAY, MARGUERITE.  
TORBAY. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 151552 to Admty).

Defects of Escort vessels. Your 120736. B.P.F. 121020 and Admty. 311500 Dec.  
It is regretted that requirements for escort vessels for anti U-boat operations at home and for British Pacific Fleet must at present be given priority.  
3. The earliest date at which the first escort maintenance ship can reach your station is May '45  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 152326A to C. in C. E.I.)



15.1.1945  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

N.S.H.Q.

S/M attack  
 & sighting  
 summary.

No report since 2058Z/13.  
 A. M.I.Vs. ATHEL VIKING (Br.) BRITISH FREEDOM (Br.)  
 MARTIN VAN BUREN (Am.) torpedoed in approx.  
 position 44.28 N. 63.28 W. about 1330Z/14th.  
 ATHEL VIKING sunk. BRITISH FREEDOM total loss  
 sunk later by escorts. MARTIN VAN BUREN afloat  
 in tow.  
 (N.S.H.Q. 150259Z to Admty.)

SS. TAYGETOS,  
 U-Boat  
 report.

SSSS SSSS SSSS 10.25 S. 64.35 E. submarine  
 suspicious.  
 (TAYGETOS 150800.)

U-Boat  
 attacks.

U.S. Liberty Ship ALCEE FORTIER reports torpedoes  
 fired at her in position 043° 25' S. 143° (704'  
 28') E. at 2359K/11th. Torpedoes missed, report  
 graded D.5.  
 (A.C.N.B. 151223Z to Admty.)

ATHEL VIKING  
 sunk.

M.V. ATHEL VIKING (Br.) P.Ts. 11 in B.X. 141  
 torpedoed 1345Z/14th Jan 44° 20' 00" N. 63° 24'  
 30" W. sank at 1950Z in approx. position 44°  
 21' 00" N. 63° 30' 00" W. 47 crew members landed  
 at Halifax 0015Z/15th Jan. 4 missing. My 151316  
 is list of survivors.  
 (N.C.S.O. Halifax 151315Z to Admty.)

Ref. O.R.S. 742. (1) M.V. ATHEL VIKING (Br.) (2) Athel Line Ltd.  
 (3) 1345Z/14th January, 44.24 N. 63.24.30 W. (4) Submarine  
 sighted by J.W. Platt, Carpenter and W. Strand A.B. in approx.  
 position 44.21 N. 63.30 W. at 1823Z steering 180 Fair-miles  
 operating in vicinity at the time. (9) Estimated length 200 to  
 250 ft. square conning tower.  
 (N.C.S.O. Halifax 151318Z to Admty.)

NELSON.

Philadelphia sailed 14th Jan. NELSON for New York.  
 (N.S.H.Q. 151327Z to Admty.)

U/B dis-  
 positions.

Estimates.  
 (N.S.H.Q. 151340Z, Cominch 151548Z.)

ATHEL VIKING,  
 BRITISH  
 FREEDOM  
 MARTIN VAN  
 BUREN  
 torpedoed.

B.X. 141 of 20 ships escorted by 3 frigates and 2  
 bangors escorted 1340Z/14th when in single line  
 ahead at 9½ knots in Q.J.A. 254. Disposition of  
 escorts uncertain as all are still at sea. Numbers  
 3, 4 and 6 in line were all torpedoed right aft  
 when between numbers one and 2 Chynnen buoys there  
 being an interval of approx. 10 minutes between  
 first and third explosions. Survivors evidence on  
 side from where attack came is contradictory and

it is considered probable that Gnats were used. Investigation  
 continues.  
 (C. in C. C.N.A. 151348Z to Admty.)

/S/M 0.21...



War Diary.

15.1.1945  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

S/M O.21. Sailing date in my 112132 Dec. now about 21 Jan. due to adverse weather. Amended mail diversion follows. Pass to B.D.Z. (B.A.D. 151602Z to Admty.)

A/S sweep. Arrivals a.m. on 15th 1945 H.M.C.S. STRATHADAM, BUCKINGHAM from Bermuda diverted to A/S sweep. (C.O.P. Halifax 152201Z to S.B.N.O.W.At.)

U-Boat attacks. In view of the audacity of present U-Boat attacks. it is intended to embark on an extensive mine-laying campaign in coastal waters of the British Isles. It is desired to increase considerably the present laying output and for this purpose

ARIADNE is urgently required. Request you will ask Cominch if he will consent to her return and if he agrees ask him to issue necessary instructions for her to be sailed for U.K. at the earliest opportunity.

(2) Sydney pass to C. in C. B.P.F.  
(1st Sea Lord 152318A to B.A.D.) *Reply: B.A.D. 262209Z, page 514.*

Australia & New Zealand.

LEWES. Your 120708A following is a repetition of my 010740 begins, etc. Concur with C. in C. E.I.S. 280812 D.T.G. para. 2. Basegram to LEWES 010740, ends. (R.N.C.C.O. Sydney 150006Z to Admty.)

C. in C.B.P.F. Admiral Fraser arrived back Sydney p.m. 14th Jan. (2) C. in C. E.I.S. pass to V.A.B.P.F. (C. in C. B.P.F. 150040Z to Admty., B.A.D.)

Octagon. I hereby report for duty in accordance with the Octagon decisions. (2) The British Fleet will look forward to fighting alongside the U.S. Navy in whatever area you may assign us. (C. in C. B.P.F. 150136Z to Cominch.) Reply 162021Z.

B.P.F. Navigation. Your 121642A route surveyed safe to 129° 10' E. B. Except for shoal position 13° 55' S. 123° 55' E. and examinations now being carried out near corrupt group\* are approx. as charted anticipate area east of long. 129° 10' E. to Darwin will be

/completed...



15.1.1945  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

B.P.F. completed end of Feb.  
Navigation. C. Scott Reef anchorage suitable for large fleet  
(Contd.) depths 10-30 fathoms with clear approaches east  
and west fleet chart A.G.S.F. 085 (1) printed  
Dec. 16th forwarded by air Dec. 23rd. Fighter  
strip not practicable.  
(O.C.H.B. 150401Z to Admty.)  
\* Repetition of corrupt group being obtained.

Pacific Fleet Your 101945. Following is repetition of my  
Facilities. 090157 Jan. begins:  
Your 041858. Figure in my 240916 Dec. verified  
as five million five hundred and seventy thousand  
pounds. Ends.  
(V.A.(Q) B.P.F. 150526Z to Admty.)

FORMIDABLE Concur Admty. message 102340 para. 3.  
(aircraft) (2) Admty. pass basegram to FORMIDABLE.  
(C. in C.B.P.F. 150810Z to C. in C. E.I.)

Digest 1090. (1) Prior dawn, enemy submarine contacted Lemne  
Gulf 12 miles southeast Dulag: destroyers  
attacked with unknown results. Another contact  
reported midday 30 miles east of Dulag.  
(7) Previous day 4 Mustangs swept Bicol Peninsula destroying  
troop laden ferry San Miguel Bay.  
(10) Search plane sighted 2 tankers (?Semen) 6 corrupt freighters  
4 or 5 escorts including one possible cruiser Hong Kong Harbour  
noon 14th.  
(11) Previous night Catalina reported 4 large vessels believed  
warships 20 miles southeast Takao course southeast.  
(13) Vighu 13th Jan. P.T. Boats sank one large off northwest  
coast Leyte near Paloapon.  
(18) 3 Mitchells bombed oil tanks and sank launch anchored on  
north coast Ceram 13th Jan.  
(19) Patrol Ventura strafed and damaged small coaster near  
Sorong 12th Jan.  
(21) Same day 18 Corsairs attacked small craft off Rabaul  
Harbour.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 150823Z to Admty.)

B.P.F.(air) Your 140003 (N.T. in W.D.) T.A.M.Y. (One) will  
sail mid Feb. complete with administrative, medical  
stores, air staff and M.A.R.S. Also full number  
of technical personnel.  
(2nd S.L. 152313A to F.O.N.A.S. (Aust.))



15.1.1945  
Monday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack  
& sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/15th January.

Para. B. (1) A/C S/86 obtained A.S.V. contact at 1053Z/14th January in 61.03 N. 02.31 W.

(2) A/C T/210 obtained A.S.V. contact at 0846Z/14th January in 60.52 N. 02.56 W.

(3) A/C H/206 sighted 2 grey smoke puffs followed by wake at 0623Z/15th January in 58.19 N. 02.33 W.

Para. D. (1) CAMROSE attacked contact at 1230Z/14th January in 47.43 N. 07.15 W.

(2) RIVIERE DU LOUP attacked contact believed non submarine at 1005Z/14th January in 52.15 N. 05.40 W.

(D.D.I.C. 151128A.)

U/B dis-  
positions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 151501A, 151502.)



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

HOME COMMANDS.

(Classification by subjects where inclusion in an operational area is impracticable).

- Policy
- Defence of United Kingdom
- Operations
  - North Sea (from 58° N. to Dungeness - Gris Nez)
  - Channel (between Dungeness - Gris Nez, 48° 30' N. and 6° W.)
  - West Coast France (to 48° 30' N., and 5° W).
  - Western Approaches (West of above between 40° and 58° N. to 30° W).
  - Norway (to 80 miles off shore between 58° and 70° N).
  - Northern Waters (north of 58° N. outside "Norway").
  - Baltic (eastward of the Skaw).
- Enemy Intelligence.
- Navigational
- Port Facilities
- Casualties
- Movements (of H.M. Ships)
- Shipping and Convoys.

FOREIGN STATIONS

(Classification by stations).

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



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16.1.1945  
TuesdayWar DiarySITUATION REPORTHome Commands

## North Sea

1. E-boats again visited the vicinity of Sheringham buoy, where they probably laid mines but were engaged by FARNDALE, who claims hits. They also penetrated to the Tongue area in the mouth of the Thames, where they torpedoed L.S.T. 415 before being driven off by gunfire from Tongue Sand Fort. GUILLEMOT then engaged them and claims hits. Two more groups attacked the Schelde area but were driven off by CURZON and COTSWOLD from near West Kappelle and by SEYMOUR and coastal forces (claiming hits) north of Ostend. There were neither casualties nor damage to our forces.

## Channel

2(a) The troopship MARINA was damaged, probably by mine, outside the swept channel off le Havre, but was towed in and beached near Digue du Nord.  
(b) Two U-boat hunts are proceedings off Land's End.

## Western Approaches

3. Yesterday's U-boat hunts have yielded no definite results, but Force 36, reinforced by E.G.19, is still hunting N.E. of Anglesey.

Foreign StationsNorth Atlantic

## KILBIRNIE

4. KILBIRNIE A/S vessel was in collision with SS. BOURBON at 0055 today. LE RESOLU standing by. Both ships returning to Casablanca. KILBIRNIE's forward engine room flooded.

MediterraneanAlgiers  
~~Malta~~\* FUCILIERE  
\* MITRAGLIERE

5. The Italian light cruiser ATTILIO REGOLO, Italian Destroyers CARABINIERE, \* FUCI~~IERE~~, Italian Gunboat ORSA and \* MITRAGLIERE arrived from Balearic Islands, where they had been released.

Port Mahon,

/5a. ...



16.1.1945  
TuesdayWar DiarySITUATION REPORTMediterraneanMalta *atquns*  
(Contd.)

5(a) 7 survivors including Master and one D.E.M.S. rating from NARVA, sunk yesterday, picked up by PHEASANT and SS. DUNERA.

Adriatic

6. Today Spitfires and Hurricanes destroyed a Siebel ferry and damaged a merchant ship 50 miles S.E. of Fiume.

Greece

7. At Kalamata general feeling friendly and all quiet and situation satisfactory at Salonika.

Aegean

8. Enemy raiders reported still on island of Stampalia today.

East Indies

9(a) S/M SIRDAR on her 5th Far East Patrol; 49 days at sea, 29 days in Macassar St. and Java Sea ; and reports no major defects. On 25th December sank 350 ton coaster west of Surabaya. Counter attacked by aircraft. 9 bombs, no damage. On 29th/30th December, considerable surface and A/S activity prevented passage of Lombok Strait. SIRDAR proceeded E. of Timor to Port Darwin.

(b) S/M STATESMAN on her 4th Far East Patrol, on 29th December sank a 30 ton junk off Diamond Point by gunfire. On the 8th January off Ujong Posangau sank 4 motor lighters of 100 tons each by gunfire. On same day sank 4 motor lighters of 100 tons each off Agam Agam by gunfire; one escaped, one severely damaged. Action broken off due to fire from shore batteries.

Force 65

10. Force 65 formed from noon today consisting of NEWCASTLE (flag) NIGERIA, KENYA, ANEER, RAIDER, PATHFINDER and PALADIN. PHOEBE and RAPID will join later.

America and West IndiesU-boat,  
destruction  
of.

11. C.T.G.22.8 (4 U.S. destroyers) reports destruction of U-boat in 47° 43' N. 26.37 W. 480'

/N. ...

U.248  
junk



16.1.1945  
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

America and West Indies

U. 248

U-boat  
destruction  
of  
(Contd.)

North of Azores, at 1349 (approximately) by depth charges after six attacks. Much debris brought to surface including clothing and books of German origin.

Australia and New Zealand

Borneo

12. General Mc.Arthur reports:  
Patrol Liberator attacked 4 sea trucks located Brunei Bay, one damaged by bombing and strafing.

Philippines

13. 28 ineffectual enemy air raids reported today on shipping in Lingayan Gulf.

Hong Kong

14. 4 Mustangs probably sank a destroyer and damaged one transport of 500 feet in length.



16.1.1945.  
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of United Kingdom.Suspected  
Sabotage.

There is a case of suspected sabotage in L.S.T. 180. Request investigation today so as to avoid delay in her operational duties.  
(Capt. I.C. Tilbury, 161645A to F.O.I.C. London, D.N.I.)

Operations.North Sea.Approaching  
E-boats.

Aircraft report 2300. 314 Hook 25 course 260° speed 30.  
(C. in C. Nore, 160010A to Nore Command).

E-boats in  
Tongue area.

Surface radar contact bearing 315° 4.5 miles. My position is 318° 53 F buoy 6.5 miles.  
(GUILLEMOT, 160132 to C. in C. Nore, N.O.I.C. Ostend).

My 0132 contact lost. Bearing 286° 53 F Buoy, 11'  
(GUILLEMOT 160206 to C. in C. Nore.)

Surface radar contact bearing 250° 2 miles. My position 322 53 F Buoy 7 miles.

(GUILLEMOT 160226 to C. in C. Nore).

My 0226. 3 E-boats.

(GUILLEMOT, 160231 to C. in C. Nore, N.O.I.C. Ostend).

Am engaging E-boats.

(GUILLEMOT 160232 to C. in C. Nore).

My 0232 course 000°.

(GUILLEMOT 160239 to C. in C. Nore).

My 0226 course 010° speed 30 knots.

(GUILLEMOT 160245 to C. in C. Nore).

My 0226 contact lost. Probably minelaying. My position bearing 312° 53 F buoy 9.2 miles.

(GUILLEMOT, 160254 to C. in C. Nore).

Radar contact bearing 180° 3 miles. My position bearing 330° 53 F buoy course 090°.

(GUILLEMOT, 160326 to C. in C. Nore).

My 0326 4 E-boats.

(GUILLEMOT 160334 to C. in C. Nore).

My 0326 course 045° speed 30 knots.

(GUILLEMOT, 160338 to C. in C. Nore).

Course 045° speed 30 knots. My position bearing 341° 53 F buoy 9 miles.

(GUILLEMOT 160342 to C. in C. Nore).

My 0326 contact lost. Course 050° speed 30 knots. My position bearing 351° 53 F buoy 9.5 miles.

(GUILLEMOT, 160349 to C. in C. Nore).

My 0231. One E-boat damaged. Mines probably laid in westerly direction from 53 E buoy. E-boat crossed eastern half of Channel and stowed down when 53 E buoy was bearing 140° 5 cables.

My 0234 for 4 read 3 E-boats. These did not reduce speed of 30 knots, were engaged and returned ineffective fire.

(GUILLEMOT, 160449A to C. in C. Nore).

Attacked presume E-boats.

(L.S.T. 319, 160305 to C. in C. Nore).

L.S.T. 415 hit L.S.T. 159 standing by.

(L.S.T. 319, 160306A to C. in C. Nore).

/E-boats...



War Diary.

16.1.1945.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea. - Contd.

- E-boats in Humber area. Surface radar contact distant 2.5 miles 025° from Sheringham buoy. (FARNDALE, 160158A to C. in C. Nore). My 0158 enemy retiring Eastwards at high speed. (FARNDALE, 160211 to C. in C. Nore). My 0158 2 E-boats. (FARNDALE, 160213 to C. in C. Nore).  
Hydrophone contact. Bearing 140° my position bearing 315° Sheringham buoy 10 miles. (LANCASTER, 160219 to C. in C. Nore). My 0158 bearing 040° Sheringham buoy 4 miles. Contact faded. (FARNDALE, 160222 to C. in C. Nore). Suspected minelaying in area bounded by Radar in square joining 58 A Sheringham 57 B and 58 buoy. (FARNDALE, 160301A to C. in C. Nore).
- E-boats in Schelde area. 2 Groups E-boats contacted at 0126, one in position 000° Ostend 22 the other in position 034° Ostend 23. 1st Group dealt with by SEYMOUR 2nd Group driven off by CURZON.  
Most southern position reached T.L. North of N.F. in line with buoy, later engaged by COTSWOLD.  
No minelaying suspected by 2nd Group. (CURZON, 160250A to C. in C. Nore).
- Minesweeping Proceed at first light and conduct high percentage Oropesa search of Q. Z. S. 596. Acknowledge. (C. in C. Nore, 160309A to M/S 40). Proceed forthwith and carry out L.L/S.A. E.G.M.S. either side of centre line of Q. Z. S. 468 acknowledge. (C. in C. Nore, 161110A to M/S 1).
- Summary of E-boat activities. E-boat activity night 15th/16th January.  
1. Four groups of about 6 E-boats each made synchronised attacks about 0140. Groups from Den Helder and IJmuiden shadowed by 16 Group aircraft until latter returned to base owing to fog expected on aerodromes.  
2. Humber Area. Group in 2 divisions crossed Q. Z. S. 308 between 58 and 57 B buoys at 0155. One division crossed Q. Z. S. 277 at 58 A buoy when mines probably laid. This division narrowly missed locating F.N. convoy which had just passed. FARNDALE (Patrol 2) engaged other division between the two channels and drove it N.E. claiming one E-boat hit by pom-pom. K.65 (Trimingham) plotted both divisions consistently well from 0145 to 0240.  
3. Tongue area. GUILLEMOT (Patrol 21) detected group in two divisions steering S.W. near 53 E buoy, where one division may have laid mines. Other division reached position 108 Tongue Sand Fort 4 miles and damaged L.S.T. 415 by torpedo. L.S.T. being towed in. E-boats driven off by gunfire from the



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16.1.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

Summary  
of E-boat  
activities.  
(contd).

Fort and subsequently engaged by GUILLEMOT who  
claims hits. K.5 (N. Foreland) and Dunkirk (Kent)  
both plotted this division.

4. Schelde area. CURZON and COTSWOLD (Patrol 19)  
drove off group 7 miles West of Westkapelle.  
Minelaying not suspected.

5. Schelde area. Group detected 22 miles North  
of Ostend driven off by SEYMOUR and C/Fs 9 (Patrol 16) hits claimed.  
Minelaying not suspected.

6. Few Oerlikon hits on FARNDALE. No damage or casualties to  
our forces.  
(C. in C. Nore, 161150A to Admty).

Discharge  
Situation  
report.

Cositintrep No. 287 Part 4.  
Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 1600A/15th  
January.

<u>British</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> (incl. coal).	<u>Bulk</u> <u>Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
Antwerp	53	382	17,729	5,597	1,479
Ostend	1,286	257	5,488	1,479	2,164
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-
Dieppe	30	-	1,185	-	-
Caen	-	-	780	-	-
Calais	2,929	4	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	849	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,298</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>26,031</b>	<b>7,076</b>	<b>3,643</b>
<u>U.S. North.</u>					
Antwerp	-	-	10,282	-	-
Cherbourg	-	-	7,924	2,236	2,987
Le Havre	2,385	264	5,259	3,365	2,512
Rouen	182	132	5,033	-	-
Granville	-	-	1,686	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,567</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>30,184</b>	<b>5,601</b>	<b>5,499</b>
<u>U.S. South.</u>					
Marseilles	6,003	37	12,871	-	6,475
Port De Bouc	-	-	2,680	12,017	-
Toulon	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,003</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>15,551</b>	<b>12,017</b>	<b>6,475</b>

(Signed Eisenhower cite SHGDS).

/Cumulative...



16.1.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

Discharge  
Situation  
report.  
(contd).

Cumulative totals 1 - 15 January (inclusive).

<u>British</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> (incl. coal).	<u>Bulk</u> <u>Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
Antwerp	358	4,553	172,126	115,081	23,322
Ostend	18,980	2,620	52,307	3,782	23,044
Boulogne	546	392	1,574	-	-
Dieppe	384	-	11,946	-	-
Caen	-	-	20,810	-	-
Calais	11,396	22	53	-	-
Ghent	-	-	6,061	-	-

Total 31,664 7,587 264,877 118,863 46,366

U.S. North.

Antwerp	36	-	195,450	-	-
Cherbourg	785	200	112,372	63,388	37,697
Le Havre	80,335	5,948	97,465	27,835	43,688
Rouen	8,595	5,094	52,375	34,122	7,048
Granville	-	-	27,124	-	-

Total 89,751 11,242 484,786 125,345 88,433

U.S. South.

Marseilles	9,252	1,270	154,702	4,670	46,163
Port De Bouc	-	27	12,732	62,095	-
Toulon	860	-	5,012	-	-

Total 10,112 1,297 172,446 66,765 46,163

(S.H.A.E.F., 161700A to Admty. etc).

Possible  
midget  
U-boat.

Patrol F.G. 5 report having attacked at 1459 today Monday suspicious contact in position 308° Westkepelle 6. 5 miles vicinity. No visible result observed. At 1538 a second attack was carried out in same position. At 1624 a third attack carried out and large oil patch sighted. (N.O.I.C. Ostend, 162140 to C. in C. Nore).



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War Diary.16.1.1945.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Channel.Troopship  
MARINA  
mined.MARINA suffering from explosion 075° H.V.32.2  
miles. Consider it must have been mine.  
(HARGOOD, 161139 to C.T.G.125.12).MARINA damaged by underwater explosion presumed  
to be mine North of Channel Q.Z.S.664 position  
075° H.V.3 2.2 miles ship towed in and beached345° Digue Nord 1/2 miles expect to lighten and enter harbour  
further details will follow.

(C.T.F. 125, 161447A to A.N.C.X.F.)

SS. MARINA troopship 5086 tons damaged probably by mine  
when outside swept channel 278° Le Havre 6½ miles. Ship has  
been beached.

(A.N.C.X.F. 162212A to Admty).

Patrols.

Night Patrol 16/17th January.

26th E.G. as in my 152238. 1st E.G. Patrol area  
limits. (A) Q.Z.S. 636 (B) Ten miles to west.  
(C) Route E. (D) 49° 48' N., cover convoy WWP  
from Kansas to Z Buoy and WWP from Z to Kansas.  
WWP leaves Le Havre 1700A/15th WWP leaves  
Spithead at 0200A/17th. See daily convoy state.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 161244A to S.O.E.Gs. 26, 1).

Day patrols 17th. 1st and 26th E.G. as in my 152238A.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 162131A to S.O.E.Gs. 1 and 26)

Air Patrols. A. Day 17th Patrol 4 by Liberators.

Patrol 5 by Swordfish. Patrol 6 by Barracudas.

B. Swordfish R/T Northburn W/T L.Q.T.

Barracuda R/T Escar W/T K.P.L.

Liberators R/T Saccharine W/T K.T.Z.2.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 162132A to S.O.E.Gs. 1, 26).

Probable  
U-boat  
off Wolf  
Rock.Obtained definite submarine contact position  
49° 54', 05° 48'.

(ROYAL MOUNT, 161335Z to Cs. in C. W.A. Plymouth)

ROYAL MOUNT and ARNPRIOR have submarine contact  
in position 49° 54', 05° 48'. ST. JOHN and  
PORT COLBORNE are over contact to enable former  
2 to comply with C. in C. Western Approaches'151647. ICARUS and LOCH GLENDHU are closing me now my position  
JC, Lizards Head 15 miles.

(VIMY, 161542A to C. in C. Plymouth).

Your 161335. Non-sub-contact exists in 49° 54' 30" N.,  
05° 48' 30" W., and is area German U-boat.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 161637A to ROYAL MOUNT).

D.S. TJERK HIDDES and 2 ships in position 230° Lizard Head  
6 at 1925. One ship has engine defect. Close at best speed and  
screen and report situation.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 161952A to ROYAL MOUNT, ARNPRIOR).

Your 161931A. Contact at 1159Z/16 in 49.34 N., 06.10 W.  
classified as submarine with movement doppler and slow hydrophone  
after first attack. Carried out six depth charge and four  
Hedgehog attacks with no visible results. Echo sounder trace  
showed after 8th attack a 72 foot projection from bottom. Water  
depth 52 fathoms. During 3½ hour attack contact moved  
approximately 1.5 miles. No movement noted after 6th attack.

(ROYAL MOUNT, 162000Z to C. in C. Plymouth).

/Anti---



16.1.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel. - Contd.

Anti  
U-boat  
deep  
mining.

Pass Needles entrance at 0900A tomorrow Wednesday  
17th and complete serial D.1. repeat D.1.  
Acknowledge.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 161521A to V.64)

Suspected  
U-boat  
south of  
Scillies.

1. ST. JOHN and PORT COLBOURNE searching suspected  
U-boat in position 49.35.30 N., 06.11 W.  
2. NENE and MONNOW proceed forthwith to R/V Cable  
Ship EDOUARD JERAMAC proceeding Dartmouth at  
10 knots escorted by PEARL and CORNELIAN in  
position 300 Trevoze Head 5 at 2200A and support  
as far as 05.20 W., on completion proceed to R/V B.T.C.40, due  
Longships 0400A/17 and support as far as Lizard.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 162212A to NENE, MONNOW).

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Continuous  
local patrols  
required for  
inner focal  
points.

The sinkings in the Irish Sea in the last few  
days followed up by attacks off the Clyde Light  
Vessel make it apparent that the disposition  
of the A/S Forces at our disposal needs re-  
inforcement and re-adjustment. In my view the  
blow directed against our inner focal points  
must be countered before blows aimed at us in  
areas further afield. Outside narrow waters  
there is at least some possibility of evasive routeing and our  
convoys are in a formed up state with their own close escort.  
This is not the case at the inner focal points.

2. It is considered that recent sinkings in the Irish Sea  
have made it imperative to institute continuous local patrols  
with as little delay as possible in order to cover the vital  
areas of our inner focal points. The object of these patrols  
will be to attack and harass the enemy, report incidents and  
carry out rescue duties. It is important that our trained  
Escort Groups should not be tied in any defensive role to such  
areas but left as free as possible to be used wherever  
intelligence or reports demand within reasonable range of the  
vital areas.

3. The areas it is desired to cover by these local patrols are:-

- (1) The North Channel and Clyde Approaches.
- (2) The St. Georges Channel.
- (3) Belfast Lough and Approaches.
- (4) Approaches to Milford Haven.
- (5) Approaches to Liverpool.
- (6) Minches and Approaches to Minches.

4. Patrol craft must possess good sea keeping qualities and  
good communications. A/S armament though most desirable is not  
essential.

5. In addition to maintaining local patrols it is considered  
that M.L. Flotillas should be available at suitable bases to  
back up the patrols and to carry out sorties in favourable  
conditions in the sheltered waters that U-boats might use for  
Schnorkelling it is proposed that M.Ls. and appropriate  
maintenance staffs should be based as follows:-

/Milford...



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Continuous  
local patrols  
required for  
inner focal  
points.  
(contd).

Milford Haven - 8 M.Ls.

Londonderry - 8 M.Ls.

Holyhead - 8 M.Ls.

Belfast - 4 M.L.s

Clyde - 4 M.Ls.

Aultbea - 4 M.Ls.

This will require a reinforcement of 28 M.Ls.  
over and above the 8 already operating in the  
Western Approaches Command.

6. A meeting with the Flag Officers-in-Charge, Western Approaches has been arranged for a.m. 17th January when details of local patrols vide para. 2, 3 and 4, above will be fully discussed. After the meeting firm proposals regarding the necessary A/S Trawlers and Drifters that will be required in each sub-command will be made. If the patrols are to be effective adequate numbers will be essential and the demand will inevitably be heavy. It is therefore requested that stops may immediately be taken to investigate all possible sources from which these vessels can be drawn.  
(C. in C. W.A., 160002A to Admty).

U-boat hunt  
N.E. of  
Anglesey.

C. in C. Plymouth's 151918 not to all. Join  
Force 36 (4th E.G. and 31st E.G.) in A/U hunt  
in vicinity 53° 30' 04° 15'. Report P.C. and S.  
R/V to be arranged by S.O. Force 36.  
(C. in C. W.A. 160009A to S.O.E.G.19).

Patrols.

Detach from H.X.330 on crossing 52°20' N., and  
patrol area bounded by  
(V) 52° 05' 05° 59'. (W) 52° 24' 05° 47'.  
(X) 52° 18' 04° 51'. (Y) 52° 08' 04° 42'.  
(Z) 51° 51' 05° 25'.

(2) 6th E.G. will be patrolling area as in my 151521 not to all.  
(3) While on patrol in vicinity St. Georges Channel 6th and 21st  
E.Gs. will form force 38 (Senior Officer S.O. 6th E.G.)  
Codeword Chieftain. W/T 784.  
(C. in C. W.A., 160142A to S.O.E.G.21).

My 161235. One group of Force 36 proceed forthwith to  
support Tanker convoy to 52° 50' N., Report Group detailed.  
E.G.21 is to take support duty between 52°50' N., in Irish Sea  
and 04° 15' W. in Bristol Channel.

(C. in C. W.A., 161246A to Forces 36,38).

Am complying with 161246A. Convoys maximum operational  
speed 13½ knots. E.T. of joining 1630A in 04° 42' W. Am I to  
remain with E.G.21 on reaching 52° 50' N? Suitable.

(S.O.E.G.31, 161521A to C. in C. W.A.)

Situation report at 2000 section Home Force 37, 3rd E.G.  
DUCKWORTH 4 Frigates operating vicinity Firth of Clyde.  
22nd E.G. HART 3 Sloops and LOCH CRAGGIE operating between  
Peninsula of Kintyre and Islay.

Force 36 4th E.G. BENTINCK 4 Frigates 19th E.G. HESPERUS,  
ANGUILLA, LOCH INSH 31st E.G. BERKELEY CASTLE 2 Corvettes  
operating vicinity Irish Sea Area one group of Force 36 to  
support convoy (P.C.74 S.O.) to 52° 50' N., F.S. MISTRAL  
operating with 31st E.G.

/Force...



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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Patrols.  
(contd).

Force 38 6th E.G. NEW WATERFORD S.O., operating vicinity Tuskar Rock 21st Escort Group CONN 4 Frigates operating vicinity Strumble Head thence support convoy (P.C. 74 S.O.) from 52° 50' N., to 04° 15' W. in Bristol Channel add to my 161152A. (C. in C. W.A., 161632A to W.A. Command). Have resumed patrol. Suitable. (S.O.E.G. 6, 162045A to C. in C. W.A.)

Anti-U-boat deep mining.

C. in C. W.A., 150043 sailed APOLLO to carry out operations B.5, B.6, B.7. (N.O.I.C. Milford 161221A to C. in C. W.A.) My 161221. Arrived APOLLO. (F.O.I.C. Milford 161759A to C. in C. W.A.)

Moving of (training) Schnorkel buoys.

In view of operational situation all Schnorkel buoys laid in the Irish Sea and N.W. Approaches are to be weighed forthwith.  
2. F.Os. I.C. addressed are requested to investigate the possibility of alternative sites which must, however, be confined to areas in which a U-boat is unable to proceed submerged.  
3. Bahama Bank, Morecombe Bay and the Ribble Estuary are suggested as possible alternatives for Ronaldsway, Inskip and Burscough respectively. (C. in C. W.A., 161249A to F.O.I.Ca. Greenock, Liverpool, N.I. and Com. D.W.A.)

E.G.17

1. Proceed at 1800 today Tuesday on standard route to Greenock.
2. Speed 15 knots report expected time of arrival direct to F.O.I.C. Greenock.
3. Constant watch on appropriate port waves and CN Broadcast shifting to B.N. Broadcast at 1000/17.
4. Mails to Greenock.
5. S.O. Acknowledge. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 161712 to E.G.17).



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Operations, Ramose Brilliant. HITRA returned to Lerwick at  
"S.C." 0910A/16th.  
(2) Operation successful.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 160913A to A.C.O.S.)  
(1) 0300A/18th January from Lerwick.  
(2) 071° from Noss Head 13 knots (intend to sail "S.C."  
operations from Shetlands.)  
(3) 1800A/18th January.  
(4) Between 1830A/18th January and 0600A/19th January.  
(5) 250° to Sumburgh Head 14 knots.  
(6) p.m. 19th January.  
(7) 070° Sumburgh Head. (8) No.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 161609A to A.C.O.S.)  
(1) My 161609. 61° 02' N. 04° 31' E.  
(2) Ramrose Equerry. (3) 60° 56' N. 04° 37' E.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 161611A to A.C.O.S.)

Operation Amend my 082101 not to CAMPANIA as follows.  
"Charlton." Para. 1. Force 4 after TRUMPETER add CAMPANIA.  
Add new sentence fighter cover and A/S patrol for  
Force 4 will be provided by CAMPANIA.  
Para. 4 cancel and substitute. Following outline  
plan should be followed. If weather and other circumstances  
permit Strikes A and B should be carried out on D plus one. If  
general situation makes this impossible Strike B may be carried  
out on D plus 2. If only 1 strike is possible preference to  
be given to Strike A.  
(2) My 082101, 082105 and 082141 passed to CAMPANIA.  
(C. in C. H.F. 161504A to DIDO, PREMIER, TRUMPETER, CAMPANIA,  
R.A.D.H.F.)

Patrols. Submarine positions at 0800/17th January and  
movements for following 24 hours. All times Zone A  
A. UTSIRA 64° 16' N. 03° 58' E. course 210°  
probably diving by day, 130 miles per 24 hours.  
B. VENTURER sails Lerwick 1000/17th through 090° Muckle Flugga 10  
miles 61° 04' N. 00° 01' E. 61° 04' N. 02° 01' E. and 60° 42' N.  
03° 24' E. probably on surface to 01° E. thence diving by day 130  
miles per 24 hours.  
C. SEANYMPH 59° 44' N. 00° 48' E. probably on the surface 9  
knots through 60° 01' N. 00° 30' E. to Lerwick.  
(F.O.S.M. 161801A to Admty.)

Operations.Northern Waters.

Convoy Kola Inlet 16th January 1945. Departure SAMARITAN,  
J.W. 63. (special Commodore) for Dvina River, SILAS WEIR  
MITCHELL (special Vice Commodore) HORACE GRAY,  
JOHN A. QUITMAN, LE BARON RUSSEL BRIGGS, PAUL H.  
HARWOOD, NORFJELL, CHARLES SCRIBNER for Molotovsk. 8 ships at  
1100A speed 9½ knots E.T.A. at N. Dvina Buoy 0500A/18th Russian  
escort. (2) Admty. pass to M.W.T.  
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia 161215A to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

/Convoy...



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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters  
Norway - Contd.

Convoy Pass to N.C.S.Os. concerned. The following ships  
J.W. 64. for J.W. 64 are to assemble in the Clyde not  
later than p.m. 31st January.  
From Manchester. FORT VERCHERES, FORT CREVECOEUR,  
(fitted for Commodore) JOYCE KILMER (3 ships).  
From Birkenhead. HAROLD L. WINSLOW, SKIENSFJORD (2 ships.)  
From Clyde. ADOLPH S. OCHS, LUCERNA (T), GEORGE STEERS,  
FRANCIS SCOTT KEY, BYRON DARNTON, WILLARD HALL, EDWIN L. DRAKE  
(7 ships.)  
In H.X. 330 due Clyde 17 Jan. HENRY LOMB, LEWIS EMERY JUNIOR,  
NERITINA (T), (3 ships.)  
In H.X. 331 due Clyde 23 Jan. EMPIRE FLINT (T), BRITISH MERIT  
(T), HAWKINS FUDSKE, JOHN J. ABELL, NATHAN TOWSON, DANIEL  
WILLARD (6 ships.)  
In H.X. 332 due Clyde 28 Jan. F.T. FREYLINGHEUSEN, BEN ~~WILLARD~~ F.  
DIXON, ARUNAH S. ABELL, MARIE M. MELONEY, TOWNSEND HARRIS, JOHN  
WANAMAKER (6 ships.) Total 27 ships.  
(2) M. Forms should be forwarded to N.C.S.O. Clyde in good time  
and it is essential that ships are in all respects ready for  
ocean convoy.  
(3) Admiralty (Ext. 716) should be informed immediately if any  
ship is unable to sail.  
(D.T.D. 161651A to C. in C. W.A.)

Reduction of personnel at Scapa. Difficulties described in your 131537 December  
are appreciated but somehow or other we must  
achieve a saving of officers of the order indicated  
in A.M. 031651 December, para. 7. In present  
manpower situation looking up of so many officers  
at Scapa cannot be justified.  
(2) Please re-examine the whole question. Certain administra-  
tive difficulties and inconvenience in accommodation cannot be  
avoided if the required saving in manpower is to be obtained.  
We are prepared to meet your views as far as possible, if by  
some means you can offer reasonable reductions.  
(3) Should welcome your remarks and those of A.C.O.S. also on  
reduction of repair, maintenance and administrative personnel.  
There should be a good deal of scope since approx. 430 officers  
excluding W.R.N.S. 7,200 ratings and 600 civilian workmen are  
at present based there. The assumptions and proposals in para.  
4 (ii) of your 131537 December are accepted.  
(1st Sea Lord 161900A to C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S.)

Enemy Intelligence.

German Military transport from Norway to Denmark. Following transport movements have been reported  
from Oslo ports.  
Moss. A. NEIDENFELS and ISAR which left Moss  
December 26th are now stated to have carried about  
2,000 men, horses, cars and other material.  
B. POMMERN reported to have arrived Moss December  
27th discharged 5 locomotives and 10 midget U-Boats.  
She left Moss December 29th with troops and  
material.



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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

German  
Military  
Transport  
from Norway  
to Denmark.  
(Contd.)

C. ROLANDSECK arrived Moss December 27th in ballast and left again December 28th for Aarhus with troops and material.

D. NEIDENFELS and MOLTKEFELS arrived Moss from Aarhus at 0900 December 30th. Both vessels left 1520 December 31st with altogether 1,500 infantry 850 S.S. troops and about 150 civilians.

E. ROLANDSECK arrived Moss again 1300 January 2nd and discharged ammunition and reserve equipment for A.A. troops She left 1300 January 3rd with troops and material.

F. NEIDENFELS arrived Moss 0600 January 4th with 50 tons ammunition and provisions. She embarked about 1500 troops, horses, cars and other material and left 0330 January 5th escorted by two destroyers.

(2) Heroya, Porsgrunn. A. ULANGA arrived 1300 December 27th. She left for Aarhus December 28th with troops and material.

B. DONAU arrived 1000 December 31st. She left for Aarhus January 1st with troops and material.

(3) Oslo. A. ULANGA which arrived Oslo damaged after air attack January 1st went into Akers Yard January 6th.

B. AANSA I and DONAU arrived Oslo in ballast January 7th. They left together January 8th with 600 to 1000 men. (Another source estimates 2000 men and 200 horses.)

Note: 1. BRETAGNE which arrived Oslo January 8th left same day with ferrocilium and non military cargo.

(2) MAR DEL PLATA still an armed transport reported Copenhagen January 8th. B.2.

(N.A. Stockholm 161719 to Admty.)

N.I.D. Comment. Shipping movements probably correct. ULANGA, which had previously been reported damaged by air attack was seen by photographic R/C in floating dock at Oslo 14th January.

MAR DEL PLATA which has been in East Baltic since the end of October last was seen in Copenhagen by air R/C 15th January.

Casualties & Defects.

SS. DALEMOOR. C.A.F.O. 2120/44 para. 3.  
A. SS. DALEMOOR. B. British. C. 15th January, 1920  
D. 278° 12 A Buoy 1 mile. E. Mine. F. Sunk.  
G.. Fifty six - none missing.  
(Cdre. Sheerness 161759A to Admty.)

SS. JAMES  
HARROD.

T.C. 1690. Secret 16th. Commodity loaded JAMES HARROD rammed by unidentified vessel, now on fire. Will advise details later.  
(U.S. Base A.P.O. 413 162025Z to A.N.C.X.F., Admty.)

Movements.

A.F.D. 55.

Add to my 161200. Tug EMPHATIC and A.F.D. 55 escorted by NEAVE sailed Southend for Plymouth 5 knots due Dumpton 1815.  
(C. in C. Nore 161231 to Admty.)

/French...



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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

French ships  
DUQUESNE,  
GLOIRE  
cruisers. A.N.C.X.F. Main 151542A refers. Plymouth arrange-  
ments agreed. Request you sail DUQUESNE and  
GLOIRE to Cherbourg to arrive Plymouth en route  
0900/18th for fuel. Speed 32 knots or best  
possible. E.T.D. Plymouth 0900/19.  
(C.T.F. 125 161535 to Comar Brest.)

MAURITIUS  
cruiser. MAURITIUS and D.S. 61 arrived. Turn round of  
both ships will be delayed. Full gale and snow-  
storms.  
(A.C.I.C. 161718A to Admty., C. in C. W.A.,  
A.C.O.S., C. in C. H.F.)

CHESTERFIELD,  
CHARLESTOWN  
destroyers. CHESTERFIELD and CHARLESTOWN accepted into reserve  
fleet category C on 15th January.  
(F.O.C.R.F. 161835 to Admty.)

FOLKESTONE  
sloop. FOLKESTONE accepted into reserve fleet category  
C on 15th January.  
(F.O.C.R.F. 161836 to Admty.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Larne-  
Stranraer  
convoys. When more than one ship sails between Larne and  
Stranraer or vice versa they are to be sailed in  
convoy. My 161305A refers.  
(C. in C. W.A. 162346A to N.Os. i/c Larne and  
Stranraer.)



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

<sup>L</sup>  
KILBIRNIE.                   <sup>L</sup>  
                                  KILBIRNIE in collision. Send tug. Position 034.  
                                  20 N. 008.07 W.  
                                  (LEITH 160110A to Commorseafron.)  
                                  My 160110A. KILBIRNIE was in collision with  
SS. BOURBON. LE RESOLU standing by. Both ships returning to  
Casablanca. KILBIRNIE's forward engine room flooded.  
(LEITH 160135A to F.O.G.M.A.)

C.T.G. 22.8                   Good H/F D/F at 0850Z/16th on 8224 k/cs. Put  
weather reporter within 10 miles of 47.33 N. and  
26.34 W. My position 25 miles away.  
(C.T.G. 22.8 160945 to S.B.N.O. Azores, etc.)

VALIANT,  
and escort.                   Reference A.M. 051412\* para. 3. Propose routeing  
VALIANT through positions (all N. and W.) as  
follows. Request (a) time and position for R/V  
with onward escort. (b) Onward Route.  
It is desired if possible that WYE and DOVEY may be  
relieved in time to join TEES and WEAR as escort to R.S. 24.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 161131Z to F.O.G.M.A.)  
\* Sailing VALIANT from Durban to U.K. refuelling Freetown from  
whence 3 frigates to provide escort to Plymouth.

E.G. II and                   Patrol orders for night 16/17th Jan. Group II  
III U/B.                       as in my 151158.  
                                  (2) Group III as in my 151158 para. 2 but between  
                                  amended positions on coast at 005° 35' W. and  
                                  035° 20' N. omitting Tangier Bay.  
(3) HYDERABAD is to return to Gibraltar daylight 17th Jan.  
(4) ANCHUSA sails 0800/17th to join Group III.  
(5) KILMINGTON arrange R/V with ANCHUSA.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 161135A, acknowledged 161735 by Bahamas.)

BLACKHEATH                   Spanish authorities have renewed request for  
salvage.                       withdrawal of warships from territorial waters.  
                                  Failure to comply with this reasonable request  
                                  would prejudice our chance to obtain permission  
                                  for salvage.  
                                  (A.C.G. Gib. 161150A to Admty.)

F.O.G.M.A.'s 152318. Request immediate report whether Franco's  
authority to trans-ship still stands. Your 131945 refers.  
(2) If so, request Ministry of Marine be asked at once to ensure  
that High Commissioner, Morocco, gives effect to Franco's order.  
(P.A.S.(L) 161210A to N.A. Madrid, see 172035A.)  
(2) H.M. ships have been instructed to remain outside  
territorial waters but NIMBLE is at present removing relief crew  
from BLACKHEATH before advent of bad weather.  
(3) SS. BLACKHEATH is within international zone.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 161531A to Admty.)  
Your 151710. Do you require me to take any further action?  
(N.A. Madrid 162030 to F.O.G.M.A.)

VIRAGO.                       My 141919 VIRAGO delayed at Gibraltar owing to  
discovery of sand in bearings.  
(2) Date of completion not yet known.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 161203A to C. in C. Med.)

/French...



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

French destroyers. Arrived F.S. HOVA, SOMALI, BASQUE, SIMOUN.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 161237A to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

KILBIRNIE collision. KILBIRNIE (escorting) Casablanca Joiners M.K.S. 77  
was<sup>L</sup> damaged in collision with FORT BOURBON at  
0055A/16th Jan.  
(2) Forward engine room flooded but fore and aft  
bulkheads intact.  
(3) Ship proceeded Casablanca under own power.  
(4) C.M.S.F. is requested to forward full report of damage and  
investigate and report circumstances of collision.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 161527A to Admty.)

E.G. II and III, U/B patrol. Your 161135A acknowledged.  
Commencing inshore patrol 2100A. Speed 8 knots.  
Conditions suitable but deteriorated in last 24  
hours.  
(Bahamas 161735A to F.O.G.M.A.)

BLACKHEATH. S.O.(I) Gibraltar's 161333A to Tangier only.  
Spanish authorities state no crew left for wreck.  
(2) Madrid's 131945A. Spanish authorities here  
have had no instructions to authorize transshipment.  
(A.C.G. Tangier 161815A to F.O.G.M.A.)

South Atlantic.

Spanish ships. Your 132156. Lengthy diversion to Gibraltar is  
considered impracticable.  
(2) Note (a) ships concerned normally are in  
ballast and are not passenger ships though a  
passenger might occasionally be signed on as  
supercargo, (b) main object of the control is  
deterrent effect.  
(3) Normal control of such ships should not be difficult.  
(4) Up to now these ships have known themselves to be free of  
control, so compulsory call at Freetown even if search is only  
partial is bound to have deterrent effect desired.  
(5) Request your further views after experience with the  
2 ships now routed via Freetown.  
(D.E.W.D. 161856A to F.O.C.W.Af.) See 201047.



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

PRINS ALBERT. Sail at 1700/16th, S.O.A. 21 knots to Port Said.  
 (2) Route, etc.  
 (V.A.M. 161045 to PRINS ALBERT.)

\* FUCILIERE  
 \* MITRAGLIERE  
 Italian War-ships from Balearic Is. Italian Light Cruiser ATTILIO REGOLO, Italian destroyer CARABINIERE, Italian destroyers ~~FUCILIERE~~, Italian gunboat ORSA (and ~~MITRAGLIERE~~) arrived.  
 (F.O.W.M. 161200A to C. in C. Med.)

Red Cross relief. Reference my 092125 January\* the following signal has been received by Middle East from Force 281 begins:  
 Reference Q.226 para. 2. Have you any information as to how Red Cross relief scheme is progressing.

Indications are that if it is not operated soon the refugee problem will be terrific. Ends.  
 (F.O.L.E.M. 161205B, 251923 to C. in C. Med.)  
 \* Negotiations are proceeding with Turks to send Red Cross relief to Dodecanese.

Port de Bouc. No naval objection to use of Port de Bouc where routine minesweeping is in force.  
 (2) Sete cannot be used at present vide my 141222 (N.T. in W.D. Dec. not to all.  
 (3) B.N.A. Madrid 130015 being passed to A.N.C.X.F. and F.O.N.A.M. (C. in C. Med., 161231 to Admty.)

Situation (1) Gibraltar. Reference number 535 para. 1 SS. report No.538. BLACK HEATH has broken in half.  
 (2) Gulf of Genoa. Allied warships have carried out successful bombardments of which most noteworthy was those of San Remo Harbour by French cruiser MONTCAIM and LOOKOUT and of Porto Maurizio Harbour by GEORGES LEYGUES (F.S.)  
 (3) Adriatic. Attitude of local authorities at Zadar much more cordial.  
 (4) Greece. An L.S.T. struck a mine near Cape Turlo, but has reached Piraeus under her own power. North of Kalymnos 2 M.L. encountered enemy craft night of 14th Jan. sank one and set 2 on fire. British troops have landed at Volos without incident. Situation at Mitylene confused and at intervals quiet. On 13th Jan. movement of Army columns (?moving) from Patras was supported by Naval gunfire. At Kalamita general feeling friendly and all quiet and at Salonika situation satisfactory.  
 (C. in C. Med. 162200A.)

Zara (change of name.) The port and town of Zara which were formerly in Italian possession and are now held by the partisans may on occasions be referred to by the Yugoslav name of Zadar.  
 (C. in C. Med. 162321A to Med. Station 378B (B.2))



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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Force 65           Following will form Force 65 as from 1200 F.G. 16th Jan. from which time para. 1 of my 080659 not to all and my 280520\* Dec. are cancelled. NEWCASTLE (Flag N. Cdr. Force 65) NIGERIA, KENYA, AMEER, RAIDER, NORMAN, PALADIN.  
2. PHOEBE and RAPID will join Force 65 at later date. (C. in C. E.I., 160243Z to Admty. etc) Amended by 190514Z.  
\*Units forming force 61.

U/B               Area C.B.3 SS. EUROPE possibly sighted S/M at 1430  
Sighting.       FG 15th in position 010° 25' S., 064° (?21') E. scale W.5. Other areas no fresh information. Scales unchanged.  
(C. in C. E.I., 160437Z to S. and A. E.I.)

SIRDAR           SIRDAR 5th Far East Patrol. At sea 49 days. 29 days in Macassar Strait and Java Sea. No major defects. 25th Dec. sank by gunfire 350 ton Coaster west Surabaya. Aircraft counter attacked 9 bombs no damage. 29th 30th Dec. considerable surface and air A/S activity prevented passage Lombok Strait. SIRDAR proceeded East of Timor to Port Darwin. (C. in C. E.I.S., 160632Z to Admty).

STATESMAN       H.S/M STATESMAN fourth Far East Patrol. 29th Dec. off Diamond Point sank 30 ton Junk by gunfire.  
8th Jan. off Ujong Posangan by gunfire sank 4 motor lighters of 100 tons each. Same day off Agam Agam attacked two 25 ton lighters by gunfire. One escaped one severely damaged. Action broken off due to fire from shore batteries.  
(C. in C. E.I., 160635Z to Admty).

U-boat           SSSS SSSS SSSS 8° 30' N., 74° 39' E. Sighted periscope.  
((BFMZ) EMPIRE NILE, No T.O.O./16th to Admty).  
Ref. my SSSS - 008° 30' N., 074° 39' E. course 285°, speed 11 knots, periscope sighted close under starboard quarter, disappeared immediately, not seen again. We are alright.  
((BFMZ) EMPIRE NILE, 160740Z to Colombo W/T).

SCOUT           SCOUT is not worth repairing. Intend paying her off and employing her as overflow accommodation ship at Trincomalee.  
2. Her reduction and departure of LEWES a.m. 020022 refers leaves E.I. Station without a fast aircraft target ship or S/M Tender.  
3. Request E.T.A. (corrupt group) and a replacement for SCOUT. (C. in C. E.I., 161128Z to Admty).

Distress       SSSS 13.38 N., 51.40 E. X 0-90-31.  
Signal.       ((KFZK) WILLIS VAN DEVANTER, 161135 General)

/B.P.F...



16.1.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

B.P.F.  
build up.

Fleet Train R.A.F.T. 120504/1. FORT PROVIDENCE is sailing 20th Jan. to support operational forces on Burma coast and cannot be released. No other V.S.I.S. is available. My 161203 personal to 4th Sea Lord explains an already very serious situation on this station. (C. in C. E.I., 161205Z to Admty).

Suspicious  
Vessel.

Suspicious vessel signalling (?009°) 25' (?North) (corrupt group) 15' E.  
((KYKO BEN T. OSBORNE, 161225Z to Colombo W/T)



16.1.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

BUXTON.

Your 161336\* approved.  
(1st Lord 160641A to N.S.H.Q.)  
\* Disposal of BUXTON. Requesting approval to pay off BUXTON.

U/B contact and destruction.

First report one submarine 47° 44' N. 26° 37' W. (C.T.G. 22.8 161135Z to S.B.N.O. Azores, Cominch, Cinclant.)

This amplifies my 161135Z not to all. Attacked positive contact in 47.46 N. 26.36 W. Recovered clothing and debris. Heavy underwater explosions. Continuing search of area.

(C.T.G. 22.8 161445Z to Cominch.)

H.F. D.F. fix at 0850 47.33 N. 26.34 W. Sound contact at 1110. One hedgehog and 5 magnetic depth charge attacks between 1301 and 1437 resulted in several underwater explosions with major explosion at 1349. Twenty two minutes after last attack picked up clothing, German books with German markings, debris and human flesh. Extensive oil slicks. Submarine destroyed in 1700 fathoms water 47.43 N. 26.37 W. without surfacing. Will remain in area 24 hours unless otherwise instructed.

(C.T.G. 22.8 161855Z to Cominch.)

U/B dis-positions.

Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q. 161326Z, Cominch 161535Z.)

U/B contacts.

No report 15th. Para. A. 1135/16 T.G. 22.8 made positive contact 47.46 N. 26.36 W. which was subsequently attacked. Clothing and debris recovered, all times Z.

Para. D. Mariners had radar contacts at 0615/16 13.12 N. 64.06 W. and at 0827/16 13.08 N. 64.10 W.  
(Cominch 162150Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)

SEYCHELLES defects.

My 141944 Nov. to Admty. and B.A.D. only refers.  
(1) Spare parts not yet arrived. Intend to sail SEYCHELLES p.m. Jan. 19th for U.K.  
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 162152Z to Admty.)

Censorship restrictions.

Yes. Your 112027 refers.  
(2) Mr. Byron Price would appreciate it if Australian New Zealand and Canadian Press Censorship Authorities could be approached with a view to similar measures being taken.  
(B.A.D. 162221Z to Admty.)

*U. 9. 28  
junk*



16.1.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

B.P.F. Supply route (shortening of.) (1) I have had under consideration the possibility of shortening the supply route to the British Pacific Fleet in its advanced bases and anchorages as soon as the strategic situation in the S.W. Pacific area permits by employing one of the following routes.  
A. Through the Torres Straits and to the E. of New Guinea.  
B. Through the Timor Sea end to the West of New Guinea.  
(2) It would be appreciated if A. Vice Admiral Q would inform me in due course of the advantages which would arise from thus shortening the supply route and B. A.C.N.B. will inform me as to its practicability.  
(3) In the event of either of these routes being used it would be necessary to use Darwin as a base for escorts.  
(4) Fremantle pass basegram to Vice Admiral British Pacific Fleet.  
(5) Manus pass basegram to C.S. 4 and R.A.F.T. in HOWE.  
(C. in C. B.P.F. 160451Z to Admt, A.C.N.B. V.A.Q., F.O.N.A.S.)  
See 190709.

Minelaying B.P.F. My 300330 Dec. para. 13. Date on which minelaying operations may be expected to start depends on the result of future operations and cannot yet be forecast.  
(2) My estimate is that British minelaying force consisting of ARIADNE, APOLLO and MANXMAN supported by mine issuing ships PROME and GURNA should be ready to move into forward area by 1st June and it is requested that action should proceed on this assumption.  
(3) This question was discussed at Pearl Harbour when Admiral Nimitz stated that there would be no difficulty in transferring ARIADNE from 7th Fleet to Britpacfleet in time for these operations. A separate signal is being made in reply to your 102335 not to all.  
(4) The supply of mines to the advanced anchorage is the factor which will govern the number of mines that the force can lay. The weakest section of this supply line is the time taken by PROME and GURNA to transport and prepare mines for issue at the advanced anchorage. This section can be strengthened by  
A. increasing the number of mine issue ships.  
B. Reducing the length of the passage by establishing a mobile mine depot for the preparation of mines as far forward as possible.  
C. Establishing a dump at this mine depot.  
(5) Action request in this connection is as follows.  
A. By A.C.N.B. to remark on the practicability of transferring BUNGAREE to the Britpacfleet as a mine carrying ship. Approx. date required April.  
B. By C. in C. E.I. to advance the transfer of PROME and GURNA to the Britpacfleet so that they may start establishing a dump in this forward mine depot as soon as it is established (estimated date of arrival April.)  
(6) Supply of mines will be required as follows.  
A. Initially 2000 moored contact and non contact mines in the proportion two to one. They should be fitted with flooders. These mines are now available in Australia but not the Flooders.  
B. Subsequent replenishments at the rate of 1500 monthly in same proportion. Bulk supplies being delivered to the forward mine depot.

/Information...



16.1.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Minelaying  
B.P.F.  
(Contd.)

Information is requested from Admiralty as follows.  
A. The availability of M Mark 3 mines which should be of value in the operation envisaged.  
B. Whether Australian authorities should be approached to recommence manufacture of mines.  
(C. in C. B.P.F. 160653Z to Admty.)  
See 190701 and 201035Z, 241213A. *r 120843Z May*

ARIADNE  
(minelayer.)

Your 102335. Having seen Admiral Kinkaid I do not advise altering the status of ARIADNE until necessary in order to carry out the plans given in my 160653.

(2) Meanwhile in order to give greater flexibility it is now considered of great importance that the transfer of ships of the Brit. Pac. Fleet between the Pacific (?Ocean) area and the southwest Pacific area should be delegated to the Commanders of the two areas in consultation with me.

(3) If such an arrangement could be accepted I could then alter the disposition of ships as most suitable to me and the two Army (?Commanders.)

(C. in C. B.P.F. 160655Z to Admty.) Reply 241951

Air Policy  
S.W.Pacific.

From Brairat Melbourne 160800Z to Air Ministry, Whitehall. See Lion Copy.

Octagon.

Welcome to service in the Pacific. Your 150136. Allocations to meet operational requirements of C. in C. S.W.P.A. and Cincpac. will continue to be made by me in consonance with arrangements made at Quebec and in the same manner as is now done in my capacity as executive agent of the U.S. Chiefs of Staff with respect to the U.S. Fleet; early information your 151241 on composition of units, dates of arrival of "Units and Authorities" in Pacific and of operational readiness requested.  
(Cominch 162021Z to C. in C. B.P.F.)

*(no trace in W.D.)*

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack  
& sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/16th Jan.  
Para. A. (1) SPINANGER torpedoed at 1302Z/15th Jan. in 55° 08' N. 05° 25' W.  
(2) H.M. ship attacked at 1331Z/15th January in 55° 08' N. 05° 25' W.  
(3) MAJA torpedoed and sunk at 1214Z/15th Jan. in 53° 40' N. 05° 14' W.

Para. B. (1) Escorts of S.C. 164 sighted periscope at 1100Z/15th Jan. in 55° 43' N. 12° 43' W.

Para. C. (1) H.M.C.S. STELLARTON attacked possible submarine at 0800Z/15th Jan. in 50° 26' N. 09° 53' W.



War Diary.

16.1.1945  
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack  
& sighting  
summary.  
(Contd.)

- (2) RIBBLE attacked contact at 1445Z/15th Jan. in 50° 26' N. 01° 21' W.
- (3) A/C K/838 attacked possible swirl with depth charges at 1557Z/15th Jan in 50° 01' N. 01° 19' W.
- (4) A/C N/202 had disappearing radar contact at 1757Z/15th Jan. in 53° 44' N. 05° 54' W.
- (5) A/C P/210 obtained contact at 0846Z/14th Jan. in 60° 56' N. 03° 20' W.

Para. D. (1) A/C Z/59 had submerged contact at 1158Z/15th Jan. in 55° 57' N. 13° 09' W.

(2) Escorts of O.N.S. 40 attacked probable submarine contact at 0730Z/15th Jan. in 54° 45' N. 14° 43' W.

(3) E.G. 9 attacked bottom contact at 1224Z/15th Jan. in 49° 54' N. 05° 40' W.

(4) A/C H/423 attacked wake or swirl with 6 depth charges at 1515Z/15th Jan. in 53° 20' N. 05° 09' W.

(5) CLARE attacked contact probably wreck of MAJA at 1700Z/15th Jan. near 53° 40' N. 05° 14' W.

Para. E. (1) TAYGETOS sighted suspicious submarine at 0800Z/15th Jan. in 10° 25' S., 64° 35' E.

(2) WYOMING VALLEY fired on periscope before 1215Z/15th Jan. in 09° 11' N. 73° 47' E.

(3) EMPIRE NILE sighted periscope before 0649Z/16th Jan. in 08° 30' N. 74° 39' E.

(D.D.I.C. 161125A.)

U/B dis-  
positions.

Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C. 161332A, 161333A.)



# SECRET

A T N Z  
318A

# IN

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.)

160800Z/January.

Date 17.1.45.

From Brairat Melbourne.

Recd.

CYPHER.

To: Air Ministry Whitehall.

*S.W. Pacific  
Air Policy. B.N. Fleet*

IMPORTANT.

WX.4630.

BM/16 January 16th.

For D.A.T.P.O. from Grice the policy and chain of command for 300 wing was discussed on 13th January with C.A.S. R.A.A.F. members of staff of C. in C. B.P.F. and 45 Group Transport Command. It was agreed that though 300 wing is not for exclusive use of Royal Navy (Air Ministry signal AX 155 December 28th refers) Navy should have prior call on all aircraft of the Wing and R.A.A.F. Transport aircraft would be allocated to assist if available and required. Aircraft would not be left idle when not required by Navy but would be incorporated in general requirements of R.A.A.F. Transport. It is probable that R.A.A.F. will allocate Bundaberg Base for the wing (my signal BM/10 January 13th refers). They will provide any necessary extra facilities for maintenance not already available and not provided by R.A.A.F. To obtain satisfactory chain of command it was agreed to establish in Melbourne an operation room designated Air Transport Central Operations Room (Australia) manned by Control Staffs of Directorate Transportation and Movements (R.A.A.F.) and B.P.F. 300 wing with a Liaison Officer from V.A. (Q) B.P.F. this will enable V.A. (Q) to state requirements direct to R.A.A.F. H.Q. where the operations room will be responsible for meeting such requirements from aircraft at their disposal. Chain of communication and allocation of frequencies for point to point must be agreed between signals staffs of R.N. R.A.A.F. R.A.A.F. and American forces. Since Fleet Air Arm landing strips probably too short for operation Dakotas use of American airfields will be for negotiating between C. in C. B.P.F. and General MacArthur or Admiral Nimitz. A record of all supplies and services provided by R.A.A.F. will be kept for financial adjustment at later date.

*Br*

160800Z.

Received in War Registry at 0456/19th January  
Circulated by Air Ministry to A.M. Depts and  
D.G. of S. D. of S. (P) and Admiralty.

1st Lord  
1st S.L. (3)  
D.F.S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
Sec.  
Deputy Sec.  
5th S.L.  
A.C.N.S. (F).  
A.C.N.S. (A) (2).  
U.W.R.  
D.N.A.O. (2).  
D.A.M.T.  
D.N.A.R. (3).  
D.A.C.R. (3).

Air Branch (3)  
Ops (2)  
O.D. (6)  
D. of P. (3).  
D. of P. (Q) (3).  
M (2).  
D. of S. (6).  
N.A. 2nd S.L. (Air) (2).  
D.S.D. (2).  
D.N.I. (5).  
V.D.  
D.A.E. (4)  
D.A.M.R. (2)



17.1.1945  
Wednesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

- North Sea. 1(a) E-Boats were plotted 20 miles off Ostend, but no contacts were made.  
(b) One mine was detonated off No.58 buoy, East Coast Channel.
- Channel. 2(a) One mine was detonated in the Baie de la Seine, and 10 were cut off Boulogne.  
(b) The third cross-Channel pipeline has been successfully completed to Boulogne.
- Western Approaches. 3. Ten continuous anti-U-Boat patrols have been instituted in Western Approaches area, from Northern Ireland to Cardiff. C. in C. Western Approaches is asking Admiralty for 33 extra small craft to undertake or reinforce these patrols.
- Northern Waters. 4(a) A thirty mile line of schnorkel obstructors is being laid from 20 to 50 miles North of the Shetlands.  
(b) R.A.63 has been dispersed by weather N.E. of the Faeroes. The ships have been directed to Thorshaven to reform.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

- U-Boat sighting. <sup>5</sup>SS. WALTER RALEIGH New York to Mediterranean reported sighting submarine at 1240 to-day in 37 degs. 11' N. 6 degs. 46' E.(Western Med)
- Harassing of Genoa. 6. Coastal craft on patrol tonight made no sighting but were heavily and accurately engaged by shore batteries.
- Adriatic. 7. Coastal craft on patrol in the North Adriatic found 3 E-Boats stranded on Isola Unie (about 25' S.E. of Pola). 2 E-Boats were destroyed by fire and the third damaged beyond repair by torpedo and gunfire.



17.1.1945  
Wednesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

8. Flag of R.A. J.H. Edelsten C.B., C.B.E., as R.A.(D) B.P.F. was hoisted in H.M.S. TYNE at 0800 to-day.

America and West Indies

9. Greek SS. ODYSSEUS of S.C.165 reported ashore at 1315 to-day at Cape Sambro, Halifax Approaches, 44 degs. 28' N. 63 degs. 33' W. All holds flooded. Crew abandoning her. Possibly a total loss. She was unable to maintain Convoy Speed.

Australia and New Zealand

- Philippines. 10.(a) A description of the Luzon operations was received to-day from C. in C. B.P.F.  
(b) H.M.A.S. AUSTRALIA suffered damage from suicide bombers. (page 337 A (2))
- Formosa. 11. General McArthur reports that last night, night-patrol bombed Toko Seaplane Base. Large fires were started.



17.1.1945.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Discharge  
situation  
report.

Cositintrep No. 288 Part Four.  
Discharged by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600A/  
16th Jan.

<u>British.</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> <u>(incl.</u> <u>coal)</u>	<u>Bulk</u> <u>Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
Antwerp	-	263	17,303	630	988
Ostend	1,471	161	4,801	3,839	2,784
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-
Dieppe	-	-	727	-	-
Caen	-	-	2,241	-	-
Calais	2,328	2	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	111	-	-

<b>Total</b>	<b>3,799</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>25,183</b>	<b>4,469</b>	<b>2,772</b>
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U.S. North

Antwerp	-	-	8,956	-	23
Cherbourg	243	-	8,120	11,277	3,276
Le Havre	6,937	133	4,943	322	2,209
Rouen	114	103	7,294	-	-
Granville	-	-	3,005	-	-

<b>Total</b>	<b>7,294</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>32,318</b>	<b>11,599</b>	<b>5,508</b>
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U.S. South.

Marseilles	861	48	11,846	3,721	6,800
Port de Bouc	-	-	3,033	6,762	-
Toulon	-	-	70	-	-

<b>Total</b>	<b>861</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>14,949</b>	<b>10,483</b>	<b>6,800</b>
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Note:- Antwerp (U.S. Ammo. discharge is for 15th January latest available figure.  
(S.H.A.E.F., 171455A to Admty. etc).

Proposal to  
discharge  
Ostend  
stores at  
Ostend.

In order to save time, labour and overland transport in **delivery** of stores for Ostend, it is proposed that in future, Naval Store Carriers should unload stores for that port before proceeding to Antwerp. Request information whether necessary berthing and handling facilities are available.  
(C. in C. Nore, 171622A to Com. Belgium).

/Minesweeping...



322

War Diary.17.1.1945.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.North Sea. - Contd.

Minesweeping off Boulogne. Following signals received from S.O. M/S 14 begins:-

1. Have swept Oropesa to depth of  $12\frac{1}{2}$  fathoms for two laps from P.B. 5 to T.P.B. 3 average width of channel 5 cables centre line marked by channel buoys. 142224A ends.
2. Begins: Channel now cleared 5 cables either side of centre line. One G.Q. mine cut in position  $50^{\circ} 40' 15''$  N.,  $01^{\circ} 23' 18''$  E. 161826 ends.  
(V.A. Dover, 171900A to Admty).

Suspected E-boats. Radar contact possibly E-boat bearing  $092^{\circ}$  Ostend Keppal Light 22 miles. Course  $140^{\circ}$  speed 30 knots.  
(Unit F.B. 3, 171937 to C. in C. Nore).  
Plot H. one. Possible E-boat bearing  $007^{\circ}$  Ostend 21 miles, course  $180^{\circ}$  speed 35 knots.  
(Unit F.H. 1, 171949 to C. in C. Nore).  
My 1937 contact faded am returning to patrol position.  
(F.B. 3, 171950 to C. in C. Nore)  
Plot H. one  $005^{\circ}$  Ostend 22 miles course  $350^{\circ}$  speed 30 knots. Contact faded.  
(F.H. 1, 171957 to C. in C. Nore).

Minesweeping off East Coast. Acoustic mine detonated at 1450 in position  $136^{\circ} 58$  buoy 4 cables.  
(F.O. Humber 172013 to C. in C. Nore).

Operations.Channel.

Patrols. On completion as in my 162212 take up zig-zagging patrols between  $49.56$  N.,  $06.00$  W. and  $49.45$  N.,  $05.30$  W.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 170117A to MONNOW, NENE).  
On reaching longitude Portland Bill detach to resume patrol between Lizard and Prawle unless required by S.O.E.G. 14.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 170122A to S.O.E.G. 14, ICARUS, ASSINIBOINE).  
HAVELOCK, ASSINIBOINE, INCONSTANT take up patrol between  $50^{\circ} 00'$  N.,  $04^{\circ} 11'$  W., and  $50.10$  N.,  $03.00'$  W. ICARUS is to be detached so as to arrive Portland 1700A/17 to fuel and replenish.  
2. F.O.I.C. Portland is requested to sail ICARUS at 0830/18 rejoin S.O.E.G. 14.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 171048A to E.G. 14, F.O.I.C. Portland).  
Night Patrols 17th/18th January.  
1st E.G. and 26th E.G. as in my 161244A.  
2. 1st E.G. cover convoy V.W.P. from Kansas to Z buoy and W.V.P. from Z Buoy to Kansas vide my 062255A.  
3. W.V.P. S.O. Escort BRILLIANT.  
V.W.P. S.O. Escort LA DECOUVERTE.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 171243A to S.O.E.Gs., 1, 27).  
2 ships from each group are to be detached at first light 18th January to proceed to Spithead for short lay over.



War Diary.17.1.1945.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Channel.

Patrols. 2. Report ships detailed and E.T.A's to C. in C.  
(contd). 3. Requirements are to be signalled to Capt. D.  
4. Capt. D. will arrange berths.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 171246A to S.O.E.Gs. 1, 26).

If not in contact MONNOW and NENE leave patrol so as to enter Plymouth at 0830/18. My 131832 refers.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 171744A to S.O.E.G.9).

Day patrols 18th January as in my 152238A.\*

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 172136A to S.O.E.Gs. 1, 26).

\* Day Patrols 16th Jan.

Minesweeping 159th T.G. Q.Z.S. 616. One ground mine detonated off Le Havre. in 49° 41' 15" N., 00° 37' 48" W.  
104th M.S.F. A.2 to H.V.3 buoy and Q.Z.S.665.  
119th M.S.F. Q.Z.S. 588. 181st T.G. Q.Z.S.647.  
Merchant ship MARINA (probably) mined in approximate position 075° 2.2 miles H.V.3 Buoy. Ship beached. (Comdr. M/S le Havre, 170957 to C.T.F.125).

Salvage of From P.S.V.O. (A) The small amount of work necessary on OLE WEGGER does not justify retention of salvage vessel which is urgently required for operations elsewhere.  
OLE WEGGER. (B) Salvage vessel is self - contained and has no heating equipment. Bedding, cooking utensils, crockery etc. in OLE WEGGER. This must be provided by authority responsible for Maintenance Party.  
(N.O.I.C. Antwerp, 171304A to Admty).

Submarine- It is intended to establish a submarine-surface surface craft ship exercise area bounded by following positions exercise area. 50° 35' N., 00° 30' E. 50° 35' N., 00° 43' E.  
50° 30' N., 00° 43' E. 50° 30' N., 00° 30' E.  
2. The whole area will be swept for moored mines and in addition will be swept for ground mines between longitudes 00° 30' E., and 00° 38' E.

Is anticipated that this operation will take at least 3 weeks of sweeping weather.

3. An unlighted buoy will be laid in 50° 30' N., 00° 30' E.  
4. Anticipated date of completion will be reported later when it is hoped F.O. S/M will be able to make a submarine available to act as target ship.  
5. My 141206 and C. in C. W.A., 152233 refer.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 171503 to Admty).

3rd cross- Operation Hamel 3 successfully completed with channel pipe Boulogne End secured ashore. Anticipate completing line. Dumbo End tomorrow 18th.  
(S.N.O. Pluto, 171802 to V.A. Dover, C. in C. Portsmouth, A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Nore, Admty).

Suspected RIBBLE attacking firm contact in 49° 34.2' N., U-boat east 00° 58.5' W. of Barfleurl (JONQUIERE, 172220A to C. in C. Portsmouth).

/Minesweeping..



War Diary.17.1.1945.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Channel. - Contd.

Minesweeping Q.Z.X. 1098 to the eastward of channel buoys has off Dungeness. been cleared with negative result.

- (2) Clearance has been made to the westward by approximately one mile from centre line joining channel buoys P.B. 5, T.P.B. L and T.P.B. 2.
- (3) 4 mines cut in position  $50^{\circ} 40' 45''$  N.,  $01^{\circ} 23' 15''$  E.
- (4) 4 mines cut in position  $50^{\circ} 38' 00''$  N.,  $01^{\circ} 21' 06''$  E.
- (5) ? mines cut in position  $50^{\circ} 37' 06''$  N.,  $01^{\circ} 20' 36''$  E.
- (6) Consider (5) probably dragged from (4).
- (7) Estimate there are 2 lines of mines in approximate north, south direction from positions in (3) and (4).
- (8) All mines were type GQ.  
(S.O.M/S 14 172225 to V.A. Dover).

Operations.Western Approaches.

Patrols & escorts. One group from each of Forces 37, 36 and 38 is to be detached to support O.S. 105 /K.M.S. 79 as follows:

2. From Clyde Light Vessel to  $54^{\circ} 30'$  from Force 37. Thence to  $53^{\circ} 00'$  from Force 36. Thence to  $07^{\circ} 00'$  W., from Force 38.
3. On completion of duty Groups detailed are to resume patrol.
4. Convoy passes Clyde Light Vessel 1100A/17th. Escort CHARLOCK. Mew Island 1430A/17th LAVENDER joins. Position KK 2300A/17th. PIMPERNEL (S.O.) close escort joins from Liverpool in this vicinity. K.4 Buoy 1400A/18th.
5. Report Groups detailed.  
(C. in C. W.A., 170035A to S.O.s. Forces 36, 37, 38).  
COTTON and ANTIGUA pass Gate at 1230A today and proceed towards Smalls to join E.G.19 as ordered by C. in C. W.A. On passing Lundy Island act under the orders of C. in C. W.A.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 170934A to COTTON, ANTIGUA).  
Force 37 3rd E.G. DUCKWORTH S.O., 4 frigates operating vicinity Clyde light vessel also 22nd E.G. HART 3 escort patrolling between Peninsula of Kintyre and Islay.  
Force 36 4th E.G. BENTINCK S.O., CALDER with 19th E.G. HESPERUS, GOODALL, LOCH INSH and E.G.31 BERKELEY CASTLE, 2 Corvettes operating in Irish Sea between  $54^{\circ}$  and  $52^{\circ} 50'$  N., Add to my 171207. Force 38 E.G. 6th NEW WATERFORD (S.O.) 3 Frigates and 21st E.G. CONN, 4 Frigates operating general area St. Georges Channel one group each from Forces 36 and 38 to support O.S. 105/K.M.S. 79 thro' their respective areas.  
(C. in C. W.A., 171502A to Home Section Task Group 10).  
Your 170035. 6th Escort Group will support. Suitable.  
(S.O. Force 38, 171656A to C. in C. W.A.)  
C. in C. Plymouth's 170934. Join S.O. 19th E.G. in force 36 operating between  $52^{\circ} 50'$  and  $53^{\circ} 25'$ .  
S.O. 19th E.G. to arrange R/V.  
(C. in C. W.A., 171821A to COTTON, ANTIGUA).

/When...



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Escorts.  
(Contd.)

When ready about noon 18th Jan. request you will sail 5th E.G. to join Force 36 operating in central Irish Sea. Area of operations to be ordered by S.O. Force 36 in BENTINCK. Codeword "Grasp" W/T 769.

(C. in C. W.A., 171824A to F.O.I.C.N.I.)

One Group from each of Forces addressed is to support O.N.279 as follows:

(2) Force 37 Clyde Light Vessel to 54° 30'. Force 36 thence to 53° 00'. Force 38 thence to 07° 00' W.

(3) Convoy passes Clyde Light Vessel 1430A/18th escorted by POPPY. Mew Island 1730/18th. TINTAGEL CASTLE (S.O. B.1 E.G.), INMAN, DIANELLA join. Position KK 0100/19th STARWORT joins. K.4 Buoy 1400/19th LOTUS joins.

(4) Reports groups detailed.

(C. in C. W.A., 171930A to S.Os. Forces 36, 37, 38.)

Your 171225 not to all.

Close escort of Larne Stranraer Ferry is to be continued. When not occupied in support of convoys or escort of ferry, ships of 3rd E.G. are to patrol area between line Mull of Kintyre to Tor Point and line Mull of Galloway to Skulmartin.

(2) 22nd E.G. endeavour to hold contact for the present.

(3) Larne Stranraer ferry does not run either way on Sundays.

(C. in C. W.A., 171957A to S.O. Force 37.)

Your 171930A. 3rd E.G. detailed.

(S.O. Force 37, 172311A to C. in C. W.A.)

Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining.

Detail 2 escorts to escort APOLLO while laying mine today 17th.

(2) Following ref. positions established for use on R/T with APOLLO.

(XX) Coningbeg Light Vessel. (YY) 51° 50' N.,

06° 00' W.

(3) Escorts detailed are to R/V with APOLLO in position 138° (XX) 11 at 1415/17th on completion of laying escorts are to be detached and rejoin group.

(C. in C. W.A., 170146A to S.O. Force 38.)

APOLLO is not to sail until further orders.

(C. in C. W.A., 171201A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, APOLLO, S.O. Force 38.)

Following is to be the order of laying minefields in my W.A. 00246/9 of 13th Jan. (A.M. 151846 also refers).

(1) Lines B.2, B.3, B.4.

(2) Lines B.1 and E.1.

(3) Minefield T.1 then complete minefields E, C and D as convenient to APOLLO.

(C. in C. W.A., 172003A to APOLLO.)

N.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail APOLLO to R/V with 2 escorts to be detailed by S.O. Force 38 in position 138° Coningbeg Light Vessel 11 miles at 1400A tomorrow 18th Jan.

(2) S.O. Force 38 report name of escort detailed.

(3) APOLLO screened by these escorts is to lay line C.5, C.6 and C.7. On completion of lay escorts are to rejoin their Group and APOLLO is to return to Milford Haven.

/(4) ...



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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches

Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining.  
(Contd.)

(4) N.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to arrange for a skimming sweep over these lines as soon as possible after the lay.  
(C. in C. W.A., 172337A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, APOLLO, S.O. Force 38.)

E.G. 31.

On completion of your duties ordered in my 170035 and if not in contact 31st E.G. is to proceed to Greenock for lay-over.  
(C. in C. W.A., 171819A to S.O. E.G.31.)

Establish-  
ment of  
local  
patrols.

My 160002, para. 6. After full discussion it has been decided that continuous local patrols should be established in the following areas:  
(1) Greenock Sub-Command.  
(A) N. Channel. Area Mull of Kintyre to Fair Head. (B) Clyde Approaches in vicinity of Clyde L.V. (C) Area of Loch Ewe Buoy.

(D) Area of Butt of Lewis. (E) Area between Scalpay and northern point of Skye.

(2) Northern Ireland Sub-Command. Entrance to Belfast Lough.  
(3) Liverpool Sub-Command. The area of the Bar L.V. Anchorage.  
(4) Milford Haven Sub-Command. The area of the Smalls.  
(5) Cardiff Sub-Command. (A) Area around Helwick L.V.  
(B) Area Oxwich to Scarweather L.V.

Extent of areas is left to discretion of Flag Officers in Charge and must be dependent on the number of vessels that are made available.

(2) After all available and suitable local craft including Minesweepers but excluding vessels at present employed on local escort duty have been allocated for patrol duties the following reinforcements of suitable vessels will be necessary if patrols are to be adequately maintained. (Para. (4) of my signal quoted refers).

(A) Clyde 8. (B) Aultbea 4. (C) Liverpool 10. (D) Milford Haven 9. (E) Cardiff 2.

(3) Request immediate steps be taken to provide these additional craft and that they may be allocated as they become available in the following order of priority.

(1) Clyde. (2) Liverpool. (3) Milford Haven. (4) Aultbea.  
(5) Cardiff.

(4) The question of a patrol off the eastern and northern Eire coast was discussed. This question is now being investigated by F.O.I.C. Northern Ireland and it is anticipated that an additional 10 trawlers or drifters will be required for this commitment.

(C. in C. W.A., 172105 to Admty.)

My 172105A Jan. Request immediate steps be taken to establish these local patrols with all available local craft including minesweepers.

(2) Request details of patrol areas be forwarded as soon as possible by letter and that C. in C. W.A. be kept informed by signal regarding disposition of forces.

(C. in C. W.A., 172110A to F.O.I.Cs. Cardiff, Milford Haven, Liverpool, N.I., Greenock.)



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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorway.

Patrols. Submarine positions at 0800/18th Jan. and movements for following 24 hours. All times Zone A.  
 (A) UTSIRA 62° 40' N., 01° 50' E. to 62° 01' N., 01° 01' E. diving by day 130 miles per day thence through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 to Lerwick on surface, 10 knots.  
 (B) VENTURER 60° 07' N., 03° 33' E. diving by day 130 miles per day through 59° 04' N., 04° 01' E. to patrol between Skudesnes Fiord and Egersund.  
 (F.O. S/M., 171812A to Admty.)

OperationsNorthern Waters

Convoy R.A. 63. R.A. 63. Request you will detach the following ships to Kirkwall escorted by escorts proceeding Scapa. C. in C. H.F. concur.  
 FORT MASSAC, EDWARD N. HURLEY, EMPIRE STALWART, USO, BARBARA FRIETCHIE, FORT HIGHFIELD. B.A.M.S. will be made to these ships giving altered destinations.  
 (C. in C. W.A., 171135A to C.S.10.)

Schnorkel obstructors. A.M. 191616A December now also passed to C. in C. W.A. and F.O.I.C. Greenock, para. (2) - Type O boom equipment is now being laid on meridian 01° W. between 61° 12' N., and 61° 42' N.  
 (2) Request your concurrence or remarks to laying type O also on a 40 mile front on a bearing of 280° to the westward of Saint Kilda lat. 57° 50' N.  
 (A.C.N.S.(H), 172209A to C. in C. W.A.)

Enemy Intelligence

Norway withdrawal of troops. (1) North Norway. There is evidence that German flank which was established at Keinovuopio and until Jan. 15th was supplied from Skibotn with an average of 30 lorries daily has now retreated to westward. All road bridges have been blown and houses mined. Reported today that Finnish patrols have now reached this position. A.2.  
 (2) Central Norway. Sabotage to railway communications north and south Trondheim carried out this month may perhaps restrict number of military arriving for embarkation at Oslo ports.  
 (A) North Trondheim on Nordland railway Jorstad bridge was effectively destroyed Jan. 12th.  
 (B) South Trondheim in Roros Valley (alternative rail route sometimes used between Trondheim and Oslo) 2 wooden bridges between Tynset and Koppang reported destroyed.  
 (C) South Dombas removal of rails disturbed train service for a few hours. Traffic has since been reported running normal.  
 Railway statistics for period Jan. 8th to Jan. 11th show that



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HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Norway withdrawal of troops. (Contd.) 23 troop trains passed southward carrying a total 4,600 men thus maintaining original schedule of 6 military trains a day. (D) Between Andalsnes and main line destruction of large solid bridge about Jan. 6th appears to have severed for some time rail communications in this area. (E) Inference. Sabotage to railways - south Trondheim is unlikely to have affected normal rate of embarkation at Oslo ports. Destruction of Nordland railway bridge on principal route for troop transport southward may later limit number of military arriving Oslo and consequently reduce rate of withdrawal from Oslo ports. (N.A. Stockholm, 171841 to Admty.)

Port Facilities

Antwerp. Request sailing of U.S. ships be suspended for the next four days. (N.O.I.C. Antwerp, 171846A to Com. Z, A.N.C.X.F.)

Casualties and Defects

L.S.T.415. My 161150. L.S.T. 415 has arrived Tilbury. Badly damaged by torpedo. Capt. i/c. Tilbury is requested beach her p.m. today 17th Jan. and transfer vehicles to another L.S.T. (C. in C. Nore, 171229A to Admty., Capt. i/c. Tilbury.)

Movements

A.F.D.55. ELLESMERE take MINALTO under his orders, pass gate 1900A Jan. 17th and proceed by standard coastal route to off Portland Bill to relieve LORD MIDDLETON and ST. ELSTAN as escort to A.F.D. 55 in tow of EMPHATIC. Destination Plymouth, speed 5 knots. Codeword "Dickinson". (2) Anticipate codeword "Dickinson" will be off Portland Bill at 0430A/18. (C. in C. Plymouth, 171209A to ELLESMERE.)

VENERABLE light aircraft carrier. Full power trial satisfactory. Ship accepted for service subject to completion of flying trials and carrying out following items. (1) Turbine lagging requires to be brought up to standard A.F.O. 4132/44. (2) Additional stiffening is required to decks to fan flats.

Cammell Laird have agreed to undertake both items in Clyde taking about 6 days. Intend to make arrangements in consultation with F.O.C.T. for work to be done on completion trial programme already planned. (VENERABLE, 171901A to Admty.)



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17.1.1945.  
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSMovements - Contd.PINK,  
corvette.

Request you will arrange towage from local resources for PINK from Cardiff to Llanelly for breaking up.  
(D.O.D.(H), 171949A to F.O.I.C. Cardiff, C. in C. W.A.)

MAURITIUS,  
cruiser.

Intend sailing MAURITIUS in accordance with C. in C. H.F.'s 081504 from Hvalfiord at 1000Z/18th Jan., E.T.A. Clyde Boom 0815Z/20th Jan. routed through following positions: (N) 64° 14' N., 23° 07' W. (O) 63° 39' N., 23° 42' W. (P) 60° 01' N., 22° 03' W. (Q) 56° 30' N., 14° 00' W. (R) 55° 35' N., 07° 01' W. thence by standard route to destination. Speed of advance 20 knots to 15° W. thence 23 knots.  
(A.C.I.C., 172312A to F.O.I.C. Greenock, C. in C. W.A., Admty., A.C.O.S., Cs. in C. H.F., Rosyth.)

Shipping and ConvoysFour-day  
suspension  
of Calais  
train ferry  
service.

It is essential that the train ferry berth at Calais should be dredged in near future. This operation will necessitate the cessation of the train ferry service for four days. As there is no other suitable berth to hold a ferry at Calais suggest that the dredging of the ferry berth takes place at the same time as the Shepperton is replaced on the service by the Hampton in early February. The Hampton could then be held in a U.K. port during dredging operations here. Request instructions and date on which dredging should commence.  
Agreed P.E.C.  
(S.S.T.O. Calais, 171807A to P.S.T.O. N.W.E.)



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17.1.1945.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

BLACKHEATH A.M. 161210 and Consul General Tangier's 151415 salvage. (latter not all). Spaniards have renewed request for withdrawal of H.M. Ships from territorial waters. Unless there are compelling reasons to the contrary, you should at once comply as otherwise chance of obtaining permission to salvage cargo may be prejudiced.

(P.A.S.(L), 170010A to F.O.G.M.A.)

Your 161511\*, para. (3)

This is not technically an international zone but Tangier zone of Morocco with international administration. Spanish administration with declared object of (?act)ing neutral is required de facto but not de jure by H.M. Government. Under article of Tangier statute Sultan retains sovereign rights. Vessel is therefore in Moroccan territorial waters within limits of Tangier zone.

(Tangier, 171220A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

\* SS. BLACKHEATH is within international zone.

My 122517 and my 18 to Foreign Office permission obtained to salvage cargo in stern part of ship. Advise me urgent arrangements so that I may inform Spanish Authorities.

(Acting Consul General Tangier, 171810A to F.O.G.M.A.)

Your 161210. Chief of Naval Staff has spoken to Franco's office who are much annoyed at apparent flouting of their orders by High Commissioner Morocco.

(2) They have instructed M.F.A. to send wireless message to High Commissioner insisting that previous instructions should be complied with.

(B.N.A. Madrid, 172035A to Admty.)

199. Weather at present unsuitable for salvage work.

(2) Intend to begin work as soon as weather moderates. Will keep you fully informed.

(F.O.G.M.A., 172306A to British Consul Tangier.) See 181531A.

C.T.G. 22.8. E.T.A. Horta for fuel 1830Z/18th.  
(Comtaskgroup 22.8, 172314Z to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

L.C.I.(L)s. Group 2 and Group 3 proceed forthwith to meet landing craft Flight P consisting of 15 L.C.I.(L) Flight Cdre. in L.C.I.(L) 295 and escort to Tarifa.

(F.O.G.M.A., 171006 to Group 2, Group 3.)

Group 2 and Group 3 are to leave Flight P when abreast Tarifa and then act as in para. 1 and 2 of my 161135A.

(2) Group 2 return patrol "Bacon" on completion of sweep and Group 3 to patrol line Cape Spartel - Cape Trafalgar.

(F.O.G.M.A., 171538A to Group 2, Group 3.)

H.N.M.S. VAN KINSBERGEN. H.N.M.S. VAN KINSBERGEN will arrive Ponta Delgada approx. 18th January for onward routing to U.K.

(S.B.N.O. Azores, 171146Z to Admty.)



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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic - Contd.

S.R.20.  
VERITY  
(escort).

Sail at 0800A/ Jan. 18th to R/V S.R.20 and act  
as additional escort to Gibraltar.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 171616A to VERITY.)



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WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

PHEASANT My P.C.S. 0001B/17th 034 degs. 19' N. 018 degs. 05' (NARVA) sank by under-water explosion 16.1.45. E. 128 degs. 18. Intend sweeping through position XX 033 degs. 24' N. 019 degs. 25' E. to position 260 then carry out Box search of Perimeter of area. V.A.M.161946A\*. Are survivors still in water.

(PHEASANT, 170029B to F.O.L.E.M.)

\* Not identified.

Your 170150/ intend commencing sweep to westward of XX and pass through XX at daylight then box search of perimeter.

(PHEASANT, 170401B to F.O.L.E.M.)

7 survivors including master and 1 D.E.M.S. rating picked up. Total complement was 28. Their opinion is that it was not a torpedo. Am searching vicinity for more rafts. My approx. position 033 degs. 21' N. 019 degs. 36' E.

(PHEASANT, 170842B to F.O.L.E.M.)

Have completed search covering 700 square miles in daylight in probable area of rafts. Intend sweeping to eastern limit of area and back to western limit during the night. A/C co-operation has been nil - my P.C.S. at 1830 033 degs. 35' N. 019 degs. 23' E. 090 degs. 12 knots, based on a fix at 1700.

(PHEASANT, 171852B to F.O.L.E.M.)

FORMIDABLE. Amend my 161215. On reaching position 251 proceed 035 degs. 00' N. 020 degs. 00' E. for onward routing by F.O.L.E.M. Approx. E.T.A. at this position 0600/18th.

(2) Search for possible German U-Boats is being carried out in area 033 degs. 24' N. 017 degs. 01' E.

(V.A.M. 171125 to FORMIDABLE)

WALTER Intercept 1245Z 500 K/cs type A 2 bearing to the RALEIGH South signal very weak. U-Boat SSSS DE KKHS (WALTER RALEIGH) sighting. Position 37.11 N. 6.46 E. sighted S/M 171240Z acknowledged. At 1246Z. SSSS (unread) BBWW (M.L.472) (also very weak) sighted. (Lands End Radio, 171354A to C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A.. Admiralty) See 180019A.

Your 171240Z/. Was outwitted. Report situation.

(F.O.W.M. 171428 to WALTER RALEIGH Info: Admty.)

/ S/M sighting.

How far off was submarine when sighted.

(F.O.W.M. 171720A to WALTER RALEIGH (R) Admty.)

Possible enemy S/M reported submerging 15 miles N.E. Cape Bougaroni at 1340A. All ships are to keep north of 037 degs. 40' N. between 005 degs. and 008 degs. E.

(F.O.W.M. 171730A to B.A.M.S. 9A, (R) Admty'.)

Black Sea. 288500 RAC/148/36 (?01) cypher 17th Jan. Head of Russian Naval Section confirms enemy mine-laying on several occasions by groups of two planes. A.C.C. Bulgaria 301002 Dec. refers. River is still closed from Giurgiu to Calafat. Minesweeping in progress.

(B.M.M. Roumania, 171635B to Admty, (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.L.E.M., (Freedom pass). B.M.M. Bulgaria) Note by C.6 Tels: Message delayed having originally been received indecypherable.

/Black Sea ...



ATTILIO REGOLO Cruiser 3362 tons  
FUCILIERE Destroyer 1620 tons  
MIRALIERE " "  
CARABINIERE " "  
ORSA Torpedo boat



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WednesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.Black Sea  
routes.

Black Sea.

(1) Establishment of additional radio beacons reported in Admiral Archer 091605 partly removed objection in A.M. 062211 para. 1 to route given in his 221401 Dec.

(2) This route is however not acceptable until sweeping operations in his 091605 para. 2 are completed.

(C. in C. Med. 171741A to Admty.)

CROOME.

Request further consideration be given sailing of CROOME. A.M. 121800/refers, in view of para. 3 of C.S.M.'s 111221 Jan. and my 091412.

(C. in C. Med. 172004A to Admty, Info: V.A.M., C.S.M.)

✓ H.M.S. CROOME allocated to refit at Malta on 1st March)

PRINS ALBERT.

V.A. Malta 161045 no onward routing received. My P.C.S. at 2100B 033 degs. 05' N. 025 degs. 49' E. 106 degs. 22 knots. E.T.A. Port Said Boom 1400B/18th Jan.

(PRINS ALBERT, 172105B to F.O.L.E.M. (R) N.O.I.C. Port Said.)

Escort  
Carriers.  
SLINGER,  
KHEDIVE,  
SPEAKER.

(1) My P.C.S. at 1830A/17th 036 degs. 43' 001 degs. 40' W. 081 degs. 15.

SPEAKER, KHEDIVE, VOLAGE, ESKIMO in company VENUS expected to join shortly.

(2) E.T.A. of Force at 399, 0600Z/22nd SLINGER will be in company if diversion to Malta permits.

(4) Passenger for destination unknown KHEDIVE for HUNTER, ATTACKER, COLOMBO, NEWFOUNDLAND, BRUISER

(R.M.D?) 400, 375 and 315 ESKIMO 5 476 ATTACKER.

(6) Your 171152B/and 171154B/refers.

(SLINGER, 172130A to F.O.L.E.M. etc.)

✓ Formers not identified.

Situation  
Report  
No.539.

(1) ? One cruiser 3 destroyers and one (?Torpedo Boat) of Italian Navy have been released from internment at Port Mahon and have arrived at Algiers.

(2) Coastal craft on patrol in Adriatic found 3 E-Boats stranded on Unie Island. 2 were destroyed

by fire and the third damaged beyond repair by torpedo and gunfire.

(3) SS. NARVA sank in position 033 degs. 21' N. 019 degs. 27' E. 2 minutes after an explosion at 1530 on 15th January.

Survivors were picked up by SS. DUNERA and PHEASANT. Latter states they consider ship was not torpedoed. Sea and air search for possible U-Boat in progress and shipping has been diverted.

(4) Reference No.535 para.4. TREERN was mined and sunk one mile E. of Cape Griva in Trikirixe Channel. There is believed to be only one survivor.

(C. in C. Med. 172310A to Admty.)



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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U/B No fresh information. Scale in all areas  
dispositions. remains unchanged.  
(C. in C. E.I., 170353 to S. and A. E.I. Stn.)

Air F.O.N.A.S.(Aus.) 112038 Dec. para. 1 and V.A.(Q)  
squadrons B.P.F. (Melbourne) 251121 Dec.  
for B.P.F. Until facilities are adequate for setting up a  
pool squadron in Australia reserve aircrews will  
continue to be sent to Ceylon. A general  
shortage will continue for the next few months.

(2) When F.O.N.A.S. Australia considers that facilities are  
adequate and aircraft available without detriment to the first  
line he should establish No. 706 Squadron as a pool with:  
I.E. 3 Corsairs, 4 Seafires, 2 Hellcats, 2 Firefly, 3 Avenger.  
Personnel for this squadron leave U.K. early in Feb. He is  
requested to arrange with F.O. (Air) E.I. for the transfer  
of a proportion of the reserve aircrews from Ceylon to  
Australia. The proportion must depend on the numbers of  
first line aircraft in the two fleets at the time of transfer.  
706 Squadron can be increased when maintenance ratings and  
airfield accommodation are available. F.O.N.A.S. Australia  
is requested to say when aircrews can be accepted direct to  
Australia. Until then the crews will be sent to Ceylon to  
be fed to Australia according to requirements.

(3) The establishments of 756 and 757 Squadrons should be  
amended as follows:

756 - 4 Avenger, 4 Barracuda, Nil Swordfish.

757 - 6 Corsair, 6 Hellcat, 2 Wildcat, 2 Seafire, 6 Martinet,  
1 Sea Otter, 1 Reliant, 1 Harvard.

(4) When 706 Squadron is established 756 Squadron should  
reduce Avengers to 2 and 757 Squadron should reduce Corsairs to  
2 and increase Seafires to 4.

(5) A general shortage of maintenance and general service  
ratings prevents the setting up at present of large pool  
squadrons.

(Hd. of Air Branch (Approved 5th Sea Lord), 170354A to F.O.N.A.S.  
(Australia))

Build up Propose to sail TYNE, RESOURCE, ARTIFEX,  
B.P.F. BATTLE ROCK escorted by LONDON, LEWES and 22nd  
M.S.F. 29th Jan.\* E.T.A. Fremantle 11th Feb.  
(2) UNICORN cannot complete stores and sails  
before 31st Jan. unescorted to overtake convoy

in lat. 008° S.

(3) By allowing UNICORN to sail unescorted to Fremantle or  
throughout, units in para. 1 could sail 25th Jan., arrival  
Fremantle possibly coinciding with forces from Magellan Straits.

(4) Do you wish V.A.(D) B.P.F. to command convoy or proceed to  
Australia by air. No other F.O. available.

(C. in C. E.I., 170510Z to C. in C., B.P.F.)

\* Amended by 190522Z.

Escorts Escort for proposed K.M.F. cycle. Your 122341  
for K.M.F. refers. General situation given in my 120736.  
convoys. Aden Escort Force already reduces any average of  
6 operational frigates. Maximum escort would

*Aden Escort  
Force.*

/be ...



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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Escorts  
for K.M.F.  
convqys.  
(Contd.)

be 3 frigates per convoy which frequently splits in three parts A.P., A.B.F. and A.J. Independent sailing is preferable to this. (2) If requirements of para. 3 of C. in C. B.P.F's 121020 are to be met from East Indies resources Aden Escort Force will be disbanded. (C. in C. E.I., 171131Z to Admty.)

\* See also 020534 det.

R.A.(D)  
B.P.F.

Flag of R.A. J.H. Edelsten, C.B., C.B.E. as R.A.(D) B.P.F. is to be hoisted in TYNE at 0800 tomorrow Thursday 17th Jan. (C. in C. E.I., 171145Z to TYNE.)

N.O.I.C.  
Akyab.

Acting Capt. J.H. MacNair, R.N. is appointed N.O.I.C. Akyab.

(2) My 110201\* Jan. refers.  
(C. in C. E.I., 171315 to Admty.)

\* A N.O.I.C. to be newly established at Akyab.



17.1.1945

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

T.G. 22.8  
fuelling.  
U/B search. At discretion considering fuel problem T.G. 22.8 proceed direct to Boston or to Boston via Argentina or Azores for fuel. In either alternative sweep through track of submarine estimated 180 miles southeast Flemish Cap by Cominch 1535Z/16. Adjust sweep accordance Cominch daily summary. (C. in C. Lant 170212Z to C.T.G. 22.8.)

GANANOQUE,  
U/B contact. Original asdic contact believed submarine gained by H.M.C.S. GANANOQUE at 2308Z in position 046° 44' N. 059° 48' W. 4 attacks completed but on 5th run in contact ?lost within ?150 to 200 yards of target. Hunt carried out until 0020Z/17th as one pattern or charge still available but unsuccessful regaining contact. Proceeded to assistance of H.M.C.S. LOCKEPORT in hunt which proved? undoubted submarine contact in position 046° 43' 060° 01'. Now back with convoy H.M.C.S. LOCKEPORT in company. (H.M.C.S. GANANOQUE 170227Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

NELSON. New York arrived 16th Jan. NELSON from Philadelphia (N.S.H.Q. 171929Z to Admty.)

GANANOQUE  
U/B contact. Para. D. 162308. H.M.C.S. GANANOQUE attacked contact 46° 44' N. 59° 48' W. 162355 T.G. 22.9 made sound contact 45° 05' N. 56° 15' W. All times Z. (Cominch 172047Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)

U/B dis-  
positions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 171343Z, Cominch 171508.)

SS. ODYSSEUS  
ashore. SS. ODYSSEUS ashore 1315Z/17th Cape Sambro approx. position 44.28 N. 63.33 W. All holds flooded. Crew abandoning. (C. in C. C.N.A. 171438Z, 172046Z to Admty., etc.)

U/B dis-  
positions. Estimates. (Cominch 171508Z to Admty.)

ODYSSEUS  
stranded. S.C. 165 ODYSSEUS (Grk.) returning from S.C. 165 unable to maintain convoy speed. Stranded off Halifax Approaches. Possibly total loss. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 172046Z to Ships escorting S.C. 165 for Commodore.)

S/M attack  
& sighting  
summary. No report since my 150259Z para. D.  
(1) Radar contact by Liberator U/10 in 44.02 N. 55.10 W. at 1755Z/16th.  
(2) H.M.C.S. GANANOQUE attacked suspicious contact in 46.44 N. 59.48 W. at 2308Z/16th.  
(3) Sound contact by T.G. 22.9 in 45.05 N. 56.15 W. at 2355Z/16th.  
(N.S.H.Q. 172103Z to Admty, Cominch.)



War Diary.

17.1.1945.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

B.P.F.  
Build up.

To assist in planning (1) future availability of ships and (2) docking and refitting programmes well in advance in order to make the best use of limited facilities the latest information concerning ships earmarked for the British Pacific Fleet and Fleet Train is essential.

(2) It is requested that a monthly signal be made by Admiralty addressed to C. in C. B.P.F. Info. V.A.Q., R.A.F.T. giving for each ship due to join the B.P.F. or Fleet Train within the following four months (a) E.T.A. in the Pacific, (b) date of last docking, (c) date of completion of last refit or trials or in the case of new ships date of completion.

It is further requested that the first list be sent at early date and to include any ships on passage at the time.

(C. in C. B.P.F. 170219Z to Admty.)

Luzon  
operations.

Report from C. in C. B.P.F.  
In four sections. Section 1 containing paras.  
1 - 7 T.O.O. 170619 has been given a Hush  
Circulation.

Section 2 - 4 See Lion Copy.

(C. in C. B.P.F. 170651Z to Admty.)

Digest 1092.

Serial No. 1092. For 16th January unless otherwise stated.

(9) Prior dawn 15th January patrol Liberator bombed and sank one small unidentified type ship off (LUTONGBATWMIRI)

(14) 8 Lightnings swept Kendara for shipping noon 15th destroying one schooner one oil barge, damaging 12 schooners and setting pier<sup>4</sup> afire.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 170813Z to Admty., etc.)

B.P.F.  
Build up.  
Fleet Train  
ships.

R.A.F.T. 120525. DINGLEDALE left U.K. for Pacific via Panama on 9th Jan. and WAVE MONARCH is expected to follow at the end of the month.

(2) PROCRIS, SERBOL and RAPIDOL are not allocated to the Fleet.

(3) FORT WRANGELL is expected to leave Vancouver in Jan.

(4) Other vessels referred to are either in East Indies Station or in Australian waters and authorities concerned are requested to pass necessary information to R.A.F.T.

(D.O.D.(F) 171120A to R.A.F.T.)



A. Th. 2

337a

# TOP SECRET

IN

**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.)

170619Z/January.

From. C. in C. B.P.F.

Date. 17.1.45.

Recd. 2110.

C.C.M. (NAVAL) C. in C's (SEC) BY CABLE.

Addressed. Admiralty,  
Info. C. in C. E.I.

*Luzon Operations*

### NOTE BY WAR REGISTRY.

THIS MESSAGE IS IN FOUR SECTIONS. SECTION 1, CONTAINING PARAGRAPHS 1 to 7, T.O.O. 170619, HAS BEEN GIVEN A H U S H CIRCULATION ONLY.

### SECTION 2.

#### DESCRIPTION OF LUZON OPERATIONS.

*Times' given date of landing was Jan 8 1945*

8. Naval operations in the Lingayan Gulf were carried out for three days prior to the landing.

6th 9. On the first day the minesweepers went in covered on each flank by the supporting force which totalled six old battleships, six cruisers (including AUSTRALIA and SHROPSHIRE) 12 escort carriers providing fighter cover from seaward 47 destroyer type escorts.

7th 10. On the second day as no mines had been found the force proceeded to the head of the gulf and plastered the beaches from stopped positions about 7,000 yards from the shore. The beach obstruction parties went in, in boats and swimming about they cleared obstructions.

8th 11. On the third day this was continued but by this time the Japanese had obviously abandoned the beaches and on 9th S day the army landed with negligible opposition touching down at 0929.5 compared with a planned time of 0930.

12. By the afternoon three aircraft tenders had arrived and 24 Catalinas were lying at their moorings laid in the gulf for anti submarine patrol and courier service.

### SECTION 3.

#### SUICIDE BOMBERS.

13. From S-5 to S-2 the fleet was subjected to continuous aircraft attack by day from small groups. The following damaged occurred -

- Sunk - One escort carrier, two minesweepers, two A.F.D's with beach clearance parties.
- Damaged - Three battleships, two cruisers, one escort carrier, six destroyers.

/Superficially



Superficially - One cruiser, one escort carrier,  
three destroyers.

14. AUSTRALIA was hit six times and provides an interesting example.

- A. Horizontal bomber clipped the top of the centre funnel 12 killed, 35 wounded. A one four inch gun and air warning set out of action.
- B. Horizontal bomber hit ships side. Number one boiler room out of action nearly lost steam but after 15 minutes ready for 22 knots.
- C. Dive bomber hit aft. Slight damage and steering gear temporarily affected.
- D. Bomber hit on the bridge superstructure slight damage.
- E. Hit by fragments from shore batteries.
- F. Horizontal bomber took away after funnel. On the night of S day having completed her task she retired as a 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  funnel ship with only 30% of her anti aircraft in action and speed of 22 knots.

15. In no case did the damage prevent the ships from carrying out their tasks although casualties were fairly heavy for example in battleships, one suicide bomber usually averaged 30 to 40 killed and 100 wounded.

16. Suicide bombers adopted two methods of attack.

- A. A dive in over the fleet and from the sun.
- B. Diving down to the surface three or four miles away and coming in as for a torpedo attack.

17. The Fleet's ack ack fire was perhaps a little wild but of great volume and many aircraft were crashing into the sea close to the ships.

18. Fighter direction has not been developed in these older ships. On the first day there were 100 fighters as cover but the numbers hampered any form of direction. Cover was reduced later on and better results were obtained.

19. On the last two days Japanese air was negligible except at dusk and dawn due I think to army and Third Fleet attacks on Luzon airfields and better protection from our fighters.

/Cont.20.



# TOP SECRET

IN

**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.)

20. The following points need again emphasising during air attack.

- A. Unnecessary personnel must not be on upper deck or concentrate on bridges.
- B. Alternative positions for controlling the ship must be permanently manned.
- C. Arrangements for fire fighting and dealing with wounded on upper deck and bridges must be frequently practised.

#### SECTION FOUR.

#### FLEET TACTICS AND GENERAL REMARKS.

21. The fleet moved in two groups some ten miles apart and each group had three tankers for rapid fuelling of destroyers. The tankers occupied the centre of the formation and manoeuvred with the Fleet the centre one being the guide of the fleet.

22. On S - 5 all the destroyers fuelled from the tankers.

23. On S + 1 the ships reammunitioned from L.S.T's two going alongside each battleship.

24. Submarines were disregarded and indeed none appeared. The Fleet stopped for about three hours to transfer survivors during the night of S - 4 and average speed made good was about 13 knots.

25. The Navy's own Catalinas arriving on S day for immediate reconnaissance courier service and transport makes one envious of the American Naval Air service after the difficulties experienced in finding one of our own aircraft to take one about.

26. Such operations involve a considerable strain on personnel principally because of the suicide bomber. Everyone however seemed cheery although in the NEW MEXICO no one had been ashore since the 20th November.

27. The provision of amenities aboard is of great importance, soda water fountains, ice, ice cream, water coolers, and movies, are all in abundance together with much literature and a mail was delivered at sea on S - 5. There seemed to be ample resources.

Cont. 28.



28. Altogether a well planned operation and carried out with determination boldness and courage and the experience has proved of much value.

170651Z.

1st Lord.  
1st S.L. (3)  
D.F.S.L. (2)  
2nd S.L.  
3rd S.L.  
Vice Controller.  
4th S.L.  
5th S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (H)  
A.C.N.S. (F)  
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)  
A.C.N.S. (W)  
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)  
Secretary.  
Naval Sec.  
D.O.D. (H) (4)  
D.O.D. (F) (2)  
Duty Capt.  
D.N.I. (4)  
D.D.I.C. (2)  
D. of P. (2)  
D. of P. (Q) (3)  
Hd. of M. (6)  
C.N.I. (2)  
Ad. Blake.  
War Diary.  
D.G.D.  
D.T.S.D.  
D.A.W.T.  
D.N.A.O.  
D.M.S.  
D.A/S.W.  
D.A.U.D.  
D.R.E.  
D. of N.  
A.C.N.P.  
N.A. Mails.

vms



17.1.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarine  
attack and  
sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/17th January.

Para. B. (1) MARINA mined or possibly torpedoed  
at 1039Z/16th January in 49° 31' N. 00° 04' W.

(2) H.M.C.S. ROYAL MOUNT attacked contact at 1159Z/  
16th January in 49° 35' N. 06° 11' W.

Para. C. (1) WILLIS VAN DE VANTER reported U-Boat  
at 1135Z/16th January in 13° 38' N. 51° 40' E.

(2) EUROPE sighted possible U-Boat at 2800Z/15th January in 10°  
25' S. 64° 21' E.

Para. D. (1) LANCASTER attacked contact at 1345Z/16th January in  
54° 16' N. 00° 10' W.

(D.D.I.C. 171153Z.)

U/B dis-  
positions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 171449A, 171454A.)



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War Diary18.1.1945  
ThursdaySITUATION REPORTHome Commands

1. Foul weather was universal, from Aberdeen (port closed) to Falmouth (LARGS, L.S.H.(L), unable to sail for the Eastern Fleet.) Gusts of 120 m.p.h. were recorded at Milford Haven.

## North Sea

2(a) A commando unit of Force "T" carried out a small raid on Schouwen, took 8 German prisoners and rescued 4 Dutch civilians.  
 (b) A V.2 bomb fell in Kattendyk Dock at Antwerp, blocking the entrance to No. 1 Dock (which contains a Liberty Ship), sinking 3 barges and damaging 14.  
 (c) SS. SAMVERN was mined 5 miles N.W. of Zeebrugge, and sank in two parts. 39 survivors were rescued by L.S.T. 239 and 6 more by FERNIE.

## Northern Waters

3(a) C.S.10 in VINDEX, with DIADEM, 9 destroyers, 2 sloops, a corvette and approximately 20 merchantmen of the dispersed convoy R.A.63 have arrived at Thorshaven, Faeroes.  
 (b) MAURITIUS, having delivered stores at Reykjavik, has sailed on her return for Greenock.

Foreign StationsMediterranean

THOMAS  
 REED (U.S.)  
 LOBOS (Br.)  
 in  
 collision

4. THOMAS B. REED (U.S. 7176 tons) and LOBOS (Br. 6479 tons) in convoy U.G.S. 65 degs. were in collision in 37 degs. 22' N. 09 degs. 12 E. at 4.30 a.m. today (30' W. by N. of Bizerta) both ships have arrived Bizerta latter extensively damaged and will require docking. Former only slight damage.

## Riviera

5. Tonight near Franco Italian Border Chasseur 105 detected an explosive boat and damaged her with gun-fire. CIMITERRE gave chase and sank the enemy craft south of Monaco. L'ALCORN and LOOKOUT have carried out successful bombardments.  
 5(a) F.M. Alexander reports that tonight 4 Wellingtons for R/C between Promontore to Maestra point bombed 5 small ships mostly with unobserved results. One was claimed probably destroyed.  
 (b) 3 Wellingtons bombed small shipping barges and E-boats in areas in and near Portofino and Spezia with unobserved results.

/Adriatic...



18.1.1945  
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Adriatic

6(a) Mustangs and Beaufighters attacked shipping and harbours in the Adriatic today. A M.V. of 4,000 tons was hit; two small craft destroyed and much damage caused to harbour installations.  
(b) C. in C. Mediterranean Fleet reports coastal craft on patrol today engaged 8 M.E. boats near Idolo Islet and sank one. (See situation report of 20th for details.)

Greece

7. The E.L.A.S. withdrawal from Patras, Salonica and Attica continues without incident.

America and West Indies

U.S. BIDDLE

8. The U.S. Destroyer BIDDLE reported 2 doubtful contacts in 12 degs. 09' N. 63 degs 22' W. at 7.30 today.

Australia and New Zealand

Philippines

9(a) A tanker, two transports and small freighter were set on fire today in Philippine area. (Salamogue north of Vigan - Luzon).  
(b) Flag of Commodore commanding H.M. A.S. Squadron was transferred from H.M. A.S. AUSTRALIA to H.M. A.S. SHROPSHIRE today (read 22<sup>nd</sup>)  
*Commander to 22<sup>nd</sup>*



War Diary.

18.1.1945  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy

Handling of intelligence reports.

The use which can be made of intelligence is greatly restricted if graded Top Secret. All permissible items of intelligence should be promulgated as Confidential or Secret. Items which are Top Secret should be extracted and promulgated separately.

(2) The fact that we have captured one-man and two-man U-Boats, explosive motor boats, one-man torpedoes and prisoners from these types, is now down-graded to Confidential, as also the intelligence which the enemy must automatically know has accrued to us as a result of these captures. Care should be taken by cypher staffs not to up-grade such signals except in accordance with standing instructions vide A.F.O. S.112/44. (D.N.I. 181235A to C. in C. H.F., Cs. in C. Portsmouth, Plymouth, W.A. Nore, Rosyth, A.C.O.S., A.C. Dover.)

Operations.

North Sea.

Foul weather.

Port of Aberdeen closed owing weather. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 181500A to C. in C. Rosyth.) Harwich minesweepers remaining in harbour tonight owing to weather. Position 51 not manned. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 181520 to C. in C. Nore.)

Discharge Situation report.

Cositintrep No. 289 part 4. Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 171600A January.

<u>British</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> <u>(incl. coal).</u>	<u>Bulk</u> <u>Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
Antwerp	63	460	5,506	9,882	104
Ostend	1,090	148	5,380	-	4,214
Boulogne	112	103	-	-	-
Dieppe	61	-	655	-	-
Caen	3,118	3	3,365	-	-
Ghent	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>4,444</u>	<u>714</u>	<u>74,906</u>	<u>9,882</u>	<u>4,314</u>
<u>U.S. North.</u>					
Antwerp	-	-	6,813	-	24
Cherbourg	-	62	10,233	-	3,587
Le Havre	16,284	273	5,831	-	1,687
Rouen	-	-	6,584	1,782	75
Granville	-	-	2,395	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>16,284</u>	<u>335</u>	<u>31,856</u>	<u>1,782</u>	<u>5,373</u>
<u>U.S. South.</u>					
Marseilles	3,677	-	9,254	2,777	5,216
Port de Bouc	-	-	2,408	7,982	-
Toulon	-	-	104	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>3,677</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,766</u>	<u>10,759</u>	<u>5,216</u>

(S.H.A.E.F. 181510A to Admty., and others.)

/Admiral...



18.1.1945  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

Admiral  
Burrough,  
A.N.C.X.F.

Sail as requisite a.m. 19th January to arrive  
Dover at 1100A.  
(2) Admiral Sir Harold Burrough K.C.B., K.B.E.,  
D.S.O., will embark at Dover for passage either  
to Calais or Boulogne depending on weather  
prevailing.

- (3) On completion proceed to assume patrol as ordered.  
(4) V.A. Dover has been requested to arrange fighter protection  
according to time of sailing and transport.  
(C. in C. Nore 181604 to COTSWOLD.)

Patrols.

Patrols for night Friday 19th January.

(1) MENDIP, (2) MACKAY, (3) FARNDALE, (4)  
VERDUN, (5) KITTIWAKE, (6A) SHEARWATER.

(2) (12) EKINS with coastal force from BEEHIVE.

(14) ARENDAL, (17) CURZON with Coastal Force from Ostend,  
(18) COTSWOLD, (19) THORNBOROUGH and SOUTHDOWN, (21) MALLARD  
Coastal Force Unit F.G. 2, F.G. 3, F.H. 3 and F.H. 4 R/V CURZON,  
THORNBOROUGH and SOUTHDOWN at N.F. 8 at 1730A.

(3) Escort for T.A.M. 54, VESPER and HOLDERNESS.

(4) Coastal Force - from U.K. Z.15, F.B. 1, 13, F.A. 4, 11, F.A.  
5, 9, F.C. 5, 7, F.A. 2, 5, F.A. 3, 3, F.C. 8, 53 Buoy F.B. 8  
patrol 12 F.L. 2, F.L. 3, U.W. M.C. 40 55, F.B. 3 from Ostend  
U.W. N.R. 35 12, F.H. 3, U.W.N.R. 39 21, F.G. 5, U.W.N.R. 21 00,  
F.B. 2 within 2½ miles U.W N.R. 23 15, F.A. 8 within 2½ miles  
patrol 16 F.G. 2, F.G. 3.

(C. in C. Nore 181704A to Nore Command.)

SAMVERN  
mined 5'  
N.W. Zeebrugge.

SAMVERN mined in position 315° N.F. 11 1 mile am  
standing by,

(FERNIE 181952A to C. in C. Nore.)

My 181952A. 45 survivors 39 in L.S.T. 239, 6 in  
FERNIE. Wreck broken in half both portions sunk  
in position 315° N.F. 11 1 mile and 033° N.F. 11  
2 miles.

(FERNIE 182230A to C. in C. Nore.)

Situation  
report.

Cositintrep No. 289, part 2 naval.

(1) A Commando Unit in L.C.A. of Force T carried  
out a small raid on Schouwen a.m. 18th 8 prisoners  
were taken and 4 Dutch civilians evacuated.

(2) Antwerp. On Jan. 18th a V.2 fell on Kattendijk

Dock at Antwerp blocking the entrance to No. 1 dry dock, sinking  
3 barges and damaging 14. A Liberty ship is trapped in the dock.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 182130A to Admty.)



War Diary.

18.1.1945  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Suspected U-Boat east of Barfleur.

My 172220. E/S traces show height of 18 feet and possible U-Boat. Target difficult to hold and contact lost. Trying to regain to drop Dan Buoy. Two H.H. attacks carried out, only result slight smell of oil.

(JONQUIERE 180045 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

My 172220. Further echo traces suggest non-submarine, contact was attacked by depth charges and has been buoyed. Resuming patrol.

(JONQUIERE 180245A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Foul weather.

Your 171810A, weather unsuitable for sweeping. Wind south west force 7-8. Intend remaining in Boulogne until weather moderates. Trawlers also remaining in harbour until FYLDEA consider weather suitable.

(M.S. 14 180935A to V.A. Dover.)

Patrols.

Night patrols 18/19th January.

1st and 26th E.G. as in my 161244A.

(2) 1st E.G. cover V.W.P. from Kansas to Z. Buoy.

(3) V.W.P. S.O. escort BRILLIANT.

(4) Further signal follows to 1st E.G.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 181218A to S.O.E.Gs. 1, 26.)

Day patrols 19th January as in my 152238A.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 181847A to S.O.E.Gs. 1, 26.)

Anti-U-Boat deep mining.

Pass gate at 0930A/19th January and carry out serial B.2

(2) Instruct M.Ls. as necessary para. 2 of my 171450 not to all refers.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 181258A to PLOVER.)

Your 181615A\* ships detached as follows, INCONSTANT and ASSINIBOINE to enter Plymouth 19th. HAVELOCK to enter Plymouth 20th.

(2) ICARUS on completion of present duty join HAVELOCK on patrol.

(3) DUNCAN join HAVELOCK on patrol E.C. 4 INCONSTANT and ASSINIBOINE join group or patrol as ordered 20th.

(S.O.E.G. 14 181855A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

\* Not identified in W.R.

Operations.

West Coast of France.

French trawler IENA.

Request you make necessary arrangements with Admiralty to sail French trawler IENA in next suitable convoy to Granville for onward routing to Morlaix. Vessel now ready to proceed from Plymouth, C.T.F. 125 clearance has been requested

and acceptance has been co-ordinated with French authorities N.O.S.I.G.

(Etousa 180051A to U.K. base section.)



18.1.1945  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Parachute stores for ships.

It is considered there is an important requirement for the provision of parachute containers, with effective flotation equipment, to enable urgent stores to be dropped to ships at sea by Coastal Command aircraft. The present improvised method of dropping such stores has not proved completely satisfactory.

(2) It is thought that containers used by army airborne units might be adapted for this purpose.

(3) Request I may be informed if suitable containers can be made available and the size of store they are capable of accommodating.

(C. in C. W.A. 180052A to Admty.)

Patrols and escorts.

Your 171930, 21st E.G. will support. Suitable. (S.O. Force 38 180159A to C. in C. W.A.)

Patrols. (1) Force 37 E.G. 3 DUCKWORTH (S.O.), 4 frigates North Channel between Kintyre Peninsula and Mull of Galloway. E.G. 22 HART 4 escort KINTYRE Peninsula to Islay.

Force 36 E.G. 4 BENTINCK, 4 frigates and E.G. 19 HESPERUS, 4 frigates escort between 54° N. and 52° 50' N. E.G. 5 AYLMER 5 frigates joining from Belfast one group of force 36 to support O.N. 279 to 53° N.

Force 38 E.G. 6 NEW WATERFORD S.O. 3 frigates supporting O.S. 105 to 07° W. Thence patrol general area St. George Channel. E.G. 21 CONN 4 frigates St. George Channel area thence to support O.N. 279 from 53° N. to 07° W.

(C. in C. W.A. 181622 to W.A. Command.)

C. in C. W.A. 171824A. Sailed 5th E.G. S.O. Force 36 172326, not to all, also refers.

(F.O.I.C. N.I. 181730A to C. in C. W.A.)

Irish Sea convoys will in future be supported by Force 37 between Clyde Light Vessel and 54° 00' N. By Force 36 between 54° 00' N. and 52° 40' and by force 38 between 52° 40' N. and (a) 07° 00' W. if using South Irish route, or (b) Milford Haven Buoy if using North Cornish route.

(2) Orders for support will be signalled to all support forces as follows:

For convoys outward bound, support outward (a) designation of convoy and S.O. close escort. (b) E.T.A. Clyde Light Vessel. (c) E.T.A. 54° 00' N. (d) E.T.A. 52° 40' N. (e) E.T.A. Milford Haven Buoy or (f) E.T.A. 07° 00' W. (g) Orders for joining and splitting of individual sections and close escorts.

For convoys inward bound. Support inward (a) designation of convoy and S.O. close escort (b) E.T.A. Milford Haven Buoy or (c) E.T.A. 07° 00' W. (d) E.T.A. 52° 40' N. (e) E.T.A. 54° 00' N. (f) E.T.A. Clyde Light Vessel. (g) Orders for joining and splitting of individual sections and close escorts.

(3) On receipt of this signal senior officers of support forces are to signal to C. in C. W.A. repeated to S.O. close escort Adjacent Support Forces Admiralty and F.O.I.C. of area concerned

/the...

37 NC  
 213  
 36  
 54c  
 37



War Diary.

18.1.1945  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Patrols and escorts.  
(Contd.)

the name of the support group detailed. If a punctual R/V is impossible, the E.T. and position of joining is to be signalled.

Only one support group is to be detailed for each convoy unless otherwise ordered by C. in C. W.A.

(4) Support of Irish Sea Convoys other than C.U. and U.C. is to be given on the lines of operation "C.E." in the case of C.U. and U.C. convoys command is to be exercised as in B.U.S.C.I. 2030.

(5) Between successive support duties groups are to patrol within the limits ordered in para. one above.

(C. in C. W.A. 182208Z to W.A. Command.)

One group from each force addressed is to support U.C. 53A as follows. Force 37 Clyde Light Vessel to 54° 00' N.

Force 36 thence to 52° 40' N.

Force 38 half a group 52° 40' N. to Tuskar.

Other half group supporting Milford Haven section from Milford Haven buoy to Tuskar, whole group thence to 07° 00' W.

(2) Convoy passes Clyde Light Vessel 1500A/19th escorted by RHODES. E.T.A. 54° 00' N. 2100/19th.

C.T.G. 61.1 in ONSLOW joins with Mersey section E.T.A. 52° 40' N. 0430/20th. Milford Haven section passes Milford Haven buoy escorted by RAMSDEN 0400/20th to Tuskar R/V at 0830/20th.

(C. in C. W.A. 182234A to S.Os. Forces 37, 36, 38.)

My 181309 not to all. If contact held by 22nd E.G. shows no sign of life at 1000/19th, 22nd E.G. is to patrol area between Tor Point, Mull of Kintyre, Mull of Galloway and Skulmartin when not acting in support of convoys. 22nd E.G. is also to provide escort for Larne Stranraer Ferry.

(2) At 1200/20th 3rd E.G. if not in contact enter Belfast Lough for fuel and short rest.

(C. in C. W.A. 182337A to Force 37.)

Foul weather.

As weather precludes both accurate observation and skimming sweep intend to remain 2½ hours notice S.O. M.S.F. is requested to report weather periodically.

(APOLLO 180841A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Operations.

Norway.

Patrols.

Submarine positions at 0800/19th January and movements for following 24 hours. All times Z.A.

A. VENTURER on patrol off Skudesnes.

B. UTSIRA approaching Lerwick from northeastwards.  
(F.O.S.M. 181814 to Admty.)



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Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Northern Waters.

Convoy  
R.A. 63  
deflected  
to Faroes.

"Greystoke" Capt. (D) 23's 171101A not to all addressees. E.T.A. Faroes in VINDEX with 8 escorts, 1130 today Thursday. Remainder of escorts and stragglers expected to follow within 24 hours. Further signals will be made giving intentions for future movements when state of convoy and escorts is known. Up to time of dispersal convoy was intact.

(C.S. 10 180330A to Admty., Cs. in C.W.A, H.F. Rosyth, A.C.O.S., A.C.I.C., F.O.S., F.Os. i/c Greenock, N.I. S.B.N.Os. N. Russia, Archangel, Com. D. W.A. N.O.I.C. Faroes, H.Q.C.C., 18 Group, R.A.F.,)

Faroes arrivals VINDEX, DIADEM, MYNGS, WESTCOTT, SCOURGE, SCORPION SAVAGE, STORD, SERAPIS, LAPWING, ALNWICK CASTLE, CYGNET, ZEBRA, ZAMBESI and approx. 20 merchant ships.

(2) Further ships arriving but owing to nil visibility cannot be identified satisfactorily. F.O. 10th C.S. has transferred his flag to DIADEM.

(N.O.I.C. Faroes 181656A to Admty., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Rosyth, C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S., A.C.I.C., F.O.S/M., F.Os. i/c Greenock, N.I. S.B.N.O. N. Russia, S.B.N.O. Archangel, Commodore (D) W.A.)

Reduction of  
personnel  
at Scapa.

Personal for First Sea Lord.

Your 161900 savings can be made, but to obtain worthwhile numbers I think considerable changes in the whole set-up are required.

(2) The line I should like to take is as follows:

A. C. in C. H.F. to take over command of Orkneys and Shetlands including duties of Fortress Commander.  
B. Abolish A.C.O.S. operational area and place it under C. in C. Rosyth who already operates Hunting Groups in conjunction with 18 Group aircraft in this area. He would be responsible for coast-wise convoys including those to Faroes and Shetlands, also A/S operations other than those undertaken by the Home Fleet. The majority of the A/S trawler Group at present based on Scapa would be transferred to Rosyth Pool. This re-arrangement would enable reductions to be made in operational and administrative staff at Scapa and would reduce number of authorities controlling E.N. and W.N. convoys. I have consulted C. in C. Rosyth, who would welcome this change.

C. C. in C. H.F. would be responsible for operation of Motor Torpedo Boats from Lerwick.

D. In view of the expected U-Boat threat the Home Fleet Destroyers will not be adequate to provide escorts for ships whilst working up at Scapa except at the expense of operations on the Norwegian coast. I therefore suggest that no ships larger than destroyers should work up at Scapa unless they are joining the Home Fleet. This will enable me to shut down several instructional organisations and reduce the target service.

E. Make the other reductions already approved by you.

(3) Although removing the dockyard and dock would make possible large savings in personnel at Scapa I do not recommend this, at any rate for the present. The dock is fully occupied by destroyers, and the dockyard deals efficiently with small repairs

/which...



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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Reduction of personnel at Scapa. (Contd.)

which would otherwise require ships to be sent south with a loss of many effective ship days. (4) In conjunction with A.C.O.S. I am working out the detailed reductions which could be effected by the above proposals but I would be glad to know if they have your general approval as soon as possible. (C. in C. H.F. 181806A to Admty.)

Ships detached from Western Approaches to Iceland (C).

A.C.I.C's 141430\* passed to Admiralty. (1) STARWORT has rejoined B.1 group as it had not been anticipated that she would return to Iceland (C). (2) Request decision whether it is the intention that present strength of 2 corvettes, and one trawler from my command should remain based in Iceland.

(3) If so, it is proposed that OXLIP should remain in Iceland unless it is imperative to sail her to U.K. for defects, since relief at this juncture would be difficult. (C. in C. W.A. 181847A to Admty., A.C.I.C.) \*Propose OXLIP return U.K. as soon as STARWORT returns Iceland Command.

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy cruisers.

(1) Sound. A. See your 0711(54?). (a) Cruiser resembling\* NURNBERG reported passing north through Sound Jan. 5th C.3. (b) Cruiser resembling LEIPZIG reported passing north through Sound Jan. 12th Jan. 13th. C.3.

(2) Oslo Fjord. A. KOLN. See my 161309 para. one. KOLN now reported with engine and propeller damage berthed at Tyveholm (?south) Pier Oslo Jan. 16th. Only German workmen employed in repairs. Vessels well camouflaged. B.2.

B. (a) EMDEN. See my 121641 para. one. (b) Cruiser now reported as EMDEN and last seen at Leira Jan. 12th EMDEN is camouflaged as small island and had destroyers U-Boat and torpedo craft in company. By day she is reported to anchor off Oienkilen but on shifting berth at night she generally anchors nearer Sostrene and neighbouring island. B.2. (N.A. Stockholm 181817 to Admty.)

\* German cruiser passed through Great Belt on 4th Jan.

German Military Transports in Denmark.

Following reported from Copenhagen and Aarhus. (1) Copenhagen. See my 161719 MAR DEL PLATA still in Copenhagen Harbour 12 Jan. reported damaged due Marine risks. (2) Aarhus. A. DARSS which arrived Aarhus 2nd January damaged by near miss reported still under repair 11th January.



War Diary.18.1.1945  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.German  
Military  
Transports  
in Denmark.  
(Contd.)

~~MECKLENBERG~~  
VON KNIPRODE

B. WINRICH ~~MECKLENBERG~~ (KNIPRODE) still in Aarhus for repairs 11th January. B.2.  
(3) Inference. Only about 9 medium troop transports are now operating on Oslo-Aarhus run.  
(N.A. Stockholm 181825 to Admty.)

Navigational.Restoration  
of River  
Navigation  
lights.

Trinity House and P.L.A. preparations for restoration River Navigation lights now well forward. Can approval now be obtained please.  
My 051630 forwarded to Admiralty in C. in C. Nore's 061210 both December.  
(F.O.I.C. London 181518A to C. in C. Nore.)

Casualties & Defects.

SS. WILDWOOD.

Steering gear broken down nearing Scarweather send tugs to meet me immediately. Master.  
(SS. WILDWOOD No T.O.O/18th to Burnham Radio.)

L.S.T. 415.

Your 171229A. L.S.T. 415 has been beached in Northfleet Hope North shore 700 feet S.E. of Globe Chalk Jetty. Vehicles will be transferred when weather conditions permit.  
(Capt. i/c Tilbury 181120A to C. in C. Nore.)

SS. EMPIRE  
CLANSMAN.

EMPIRE CLANSMAN ashore Elie Ness.  
(Cullercoats Radio 182113Z to General.)

L.C.V.(P) 1004.

L.C.V.(P) 1004 moored to stern of FERNMOOR sank p. m. today during whole south westerly gale with heavy confused sea and weather tide of six knots craft pooped succession of heavy seas during violent squall and immediately foundered.  
(FERNMOOR 181716A to N.O.I.C. Avonmouth.)

SS. SAMANCO.

S.O.S. SAMANCO ashore Bangor Bay need assistance.  
(SAMANCO 182137Z to General.)

Movements.DUQUESNE,  
GLOIRE,  
cruisers.

DUQUESNE and GLOIRE sailed 1800A/17 January. C.T.F. 125 161535 refers. E.T.A. Plymouth 0900A/18 for fuelling. Route Q.Z.S. 617 positions G.F. Lizard Buoy thence to Plymouth.  
(C.T.F. 125 180451A to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
Arrived F.S. DUQUESNE and GLOIRE.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 181028A to C.T.F. 125.)



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Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

DUQUESNE, C.T.F. 125's 161535 January. Intend to sail F.S. GLOIRE, DUQUESNE and F.S. GLOIRE at 2359A/19th to Cherbourg cruisers. in order that passage may be made during hours of (Contd.) darkness. E.T.A. first light 20th January. (C. in C. Plymouth 181528A to C.T.F. 125.)

MAURITIUS Sailed my 172312. cruiser. (A.C.I.C. 181149A to Admt., C. in C. W.A., H.F., Rosyth, A.C.O.S. F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

LARGS, Intend sailing LARGS escorted by NUBIAN and WHIM- (L.S.H.(L)). BREL at 1800A/18 to comply with A.M. 171519A not to addressees. (2) Routed by Q.Z.S. 608 to 180° Lizard 3 miles thence as in A.M. 172207A not to all addressees. (3) NUBIAN and WHIMBREL will enter Gibraltar, LARGS proceeding independently to Malta or as ordered by C. in C. Mediterranean. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 181410A to F.O.G.M.A., C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta.)  
My 181410A postponed owing to weather.  
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 181729A to F.O.G.M.A.)

Shipping & Convoys.

B.T.C. The new timing of B.T.C. convoys has proved convoys. unsatisfactory in that it entails:-  
A. some loss of ship time in clearances from Solent area. B. Considerable navigational difficulties in the Downs.

Request you will revert to the previous schedule as from B.T.C. 43. This policy will be reviewed if a more positive threat to shipping in St. Helen's Roads develops. A.M. 271303 December not to all refers.  
(A.C.N.S. (U.T.) 182226A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)



War Diary.18.1.1945.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

H.N.M.S. VAN KINSBERGEN. Route for H.N.M.S. VAN KINSBERGEN (details). (Plot (O.D.), 180928A to S.B.N.O. Azores.) D.S. VAN KINSBERGEN arrived Ponta Delgada 1015Z today 18th. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 181430Z to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

VALIANT. Request VALIANT be onward routed from 30 N. through (A) 36.00 N., 11.15 W. (B) 43.00 N., 11.15 W. (C) 180° Lizard Head 5 miles thence by current swept channels. (2) R/V for E.G.38 in position (A) at 1200A Jan. 28th. (F.O.G.M.A., 181155A to F.O.C.W.Af.)

Coastal Force Base Gibraltar. Coastal Force Base Gibraltar will pay off at noon Friday Jan. 19th. 134 H.D.M.L. Flotilla will come under local administration from that date. C. in C. Med.'s 051522 Dec. (not to all) refers. (F.O.G.M.A., 181311A to C. in C. Med.)

BLACKHEATH, salvage. L.C.T.1174, Tug NIMBLE and mooring vessel MOORHILL sailed at 1700A today Thursday to commence salvage of cargo daylight tomorrow Friday. (2) L.C.T. 1174 guard 2150 k/cs and NIMBLE guard (500 ?) k/cs. (4) All ships wearing Red Ensign. (F.O.G.M.A., 181531A as amended 181801A to CONVULVULUS.)

U-Boat contact. Am carrying out depth charge attack on suspected contact. Underwater explosions heard. My position 33° 28' N., 9° 40' W. (KILCHATTAN, 182107Z to F.O.G.M.A.) My 182107Z, no further contact. Am carrying out sweep "Omega" with KILDARY and AIR FRANCE I. (KILCHATTAN, 182249Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

T.G. 22.8. Arrived Horta at 1745Z/18th Task Group 22.8. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 182118Z to F.O.G.M.A.)



18.1.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

WALTER RALEIGH,  
U-Boat. Submarine on surface 6 miles northward and eastward from position reported. ((KKHS) WALTER RALEIGH, 180019A to Malta W/T.)

LOOKOUT,  
Explosive Boats. Patrol vessels engaging explosive boats south of Monaco. (LOOKOUT, 180153A to S.O. Flank Force.) P.One reports one enemy boat sunk near Monaco, 2 survivors, patrol resumed. Will report full details after daylight. (LOOKOUT, 180241A to S.O. Flank Force.)

THOMAS B. REED in collision. Rammed ship 0325/18 position 37.22 N., 09.12 E. ((KOOP) THOMAS B. REED, No T.O.O./18.) Intercept 0406Z 500 k/cs type A.2 bearing 160° class II Gonio A begins: From (KOOP) THOMAS B. REED. Both ships proceeding Bizerta for survey damage. (North Foreland Radio, 180404Z to Admty., etc.) Merchant vessels THOMAS B. REED bound Port Said from Maryland ex U.G.S.65 and LOBOS bound Gibraltar for U.K. from Port Said in collision positions lat. 37° 22' N., long. 09° 12' E. at 180325Z.  
(2) Both ships escorted Bizerta.  
(3) THOMAS B. REED anticipated period to effect emergency repairs to make seaworthy seven days. LOBOS extensive damage requiring part clearing of cargo and ship may require docking.  
(4) Further signal will be made.  
(F.O. Tunisia, 181640A to C. in C. Med.)

S/M STOIC. Arrival STOIC. (N.O.I.C. Suez, 181201B to Admty.)

S/M RORQUAL. Arrival RORQUAL. (N.O.I.C. Suez, 181201B to Admty.)  
/ F.O.S/M.

Black Sea Convoys. Request confirmation that one week's notice is still required for passage of first British merchant ship through Straits or can shorter notice be accepted. Your 081801\* Dec. not to C.S.A. Ankara refers. (C. in C. Med., 181249A to B.N.A. Ankara.)  
\* Ambassador requests not less than one week's notice of intended passage of first Allied merchant ship through Straits.

Opening of Black Sea. My 071025 Jan. Communication procedure has been agreed between British, United States and Soviet Representatives here. (A) Merchant ships proceeding Istanbul-Odessa keep W/T silence except in emergency. If W/T

/communication ...



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Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Opening of communication is essential, international Q Black Sea. code is to be used with ships war W/T call (Contd.) signs on frequency 500 k/cs. It is anticipated that Odessa W/T station (call sign AGC) will be working before arrival of first ships at Istanbul.

(B) Communication between Navpo Istanbul and Alusna Odessa to be through S.O.(I) Istanbul and Odessa W/T station. Until Odessa W/T station is working messages must be passed via B.N.L.O. Black Sea at Sevastopol with whom S.O.(I) Istanbul is already in W/T touch. Alusna Odessa and B.N.L.O. Black Sea hold local code for intercommunication by land line. S.O.(I) Istanbul has been given details of proposed working.

(C) Soviet Naval authorities have requested that details of ships and approx. arrival dates at Istanbul and Odessa may be communicated on arrival of ships in Mediterranean and not less than 10 days before arrival Odessa if possible.

(D) It is also requested that departure Bosphorus and expected time of arrival Approach Point Odessa may be signalled to Alusna Odessa and Moscow from Istanbul as soon as known.

(E) Ships to break W/T silence and report if expected time of arrival likely to differ by more than 2 hours from that given by Istanbul. Signal to be made 12 hours before original expected time of arrival.

(F) It is suggested that a few lettered co-ordinates on proposed route might be established in order that ships may report positions if necessary without loss of security.

(2) Soviet Naval authorities see no necessity for appointment of N.C.S.O. at Istanbul as they consider British and American representatives sufficient for this purpose.

(3) Admty. pass to C. in C. Med. and F.O.L.E.M.\* (Admiral Archer, 181359A to Admty.) See 261008A.

\* Passing action being taken by W.R.

Black Sea dangerous areas.

My 071025 Jan, para. (4).  
Data for C. in C. Med. in bag NMM.112 despatched by air 17th Jan. with Air Chief Marshal Tedder. He hopes to call at Malta.  
(Admiral Archer, 181541A to C. in C. Med.)

Black Sea W/T communication.

In view of opening up of Black Sea it is desired to open direct W/T communication between Istanbul and American representative Alusna Odessa. Russians state they have a short wave W/T station in Odessa with range two to eighteen m/gs. 16.7 to 150 metres power 300 watts.

(2) Request information whether you can work this link keeping four periods a day. If so please propose frequencies and periods and state your call sign.

(3) Until direct communication with Odessa can be established all messages must go via B.N.L.O. Black Sea who will automatically pass to Odessa by land-line any message in lettered cypher.

(4) B.N.L.O. has local code for working with Alusna Odessa and latter will have pad for working with Navpo Istanbul on arrival of first ships at Odessa. Admty. pass to N.S.O.(I) Istanbul.\* (Admiral Archer, 181553A to N.S.O.(I) Istanbul.)

\* Passing action being taken by W.R.



War Diary.18.1.1945.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.DUGUAY  
TROUIN.

In continuation of policy in N.A.F.654 have authorised DUGUAY TROUIN to proceed to Bizerta to change guns and dock for bottom cleaning. New guns are an operational requirement.. (C. in C. Med., 181610 to Admty.)

F.S.  
BARFLEUR.

M.S.C.I.5.  
(1) F.S. BARFLEUR at 191200A to Gibraltar for inclusion M.K.S.78 destination Plymouth.  
(2) 12 knots.  
(4) E.T.A. 200800A.  
(Comnob. Oran, 181628A to F.O.G.M.A.)

Black Sea -  
Minefields.  
Danger areas.

Limits of Crimea danger area given in your 161641 para. 2B differ from those in your 071025 para. D. From para. 1 of former message it appears they should be similar. Request clarification and that limits of this area may be verified and repeated.  
(C. in C. Med., 181720A to Admiral Archer.)

Cositintrep  
No. 558.

Part 4. Greece. The E.L.A.S. withdrawal from Patras, Salonika and Attica continues without incident.  
(A.F.H.Q., No T.O.O./18 to W.O.)



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Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U/B No fresh information. Scale unchanged.  
dispositions. (C. in C. E.I. Stn., 180336Z.)

RENOWN. My 200458 Dec. and 250611 Dec. and your 282013 Dec. Intend RENOWN to embark 501 C.P.C. shells at Durban.  
(2) 219 A.P.C., 5/10 C.R.H. to be retained in RENOWN and exchange to 4 C.R.H. will be effected at Trincomalee.  
(C. in C. E.I., 180537A to Admty.)

Naval Air Ref. A.M. 221643A (N.T. in W.D.) Dec., 1944.  
Stations, Detailed complement figures for complements  
East Indies. laid down in para. (E) particularly in respect of general service ratings are urgently required in order to carry out essential manning of Naval Air Stations and N.A.E.I. in India and Ceylon.  
(F.O. Air (East Indies), 181048Z to Admty.)

Force 64. Landing craft at present allocated to Force 64 are committed for operations until the end of monsoon or longer. C. in C. East Indies Station's 050624 Oct. and 021214 Dec. neither

to all refers.

(2) In view of para. 1 above and in order to replace training wastage the following additional number of craft over and above those already on station will be required to equip Force W to their proper scale.

Serial	Craft (Type)	Number required	Remarks
One	L.C.N.	7	See Note I.
Two	L.C.P.(R)	48	See Note (B).
Three	L.C.M.(3)	36	See Note (C).
Four	L.C.M.(7)	12	See Note (C).
Five	L.C.V.(P)	120	See Note (D).
Six	L.C.P.(L)	16	See Note (E).

(4) With the exception of Serial Two which will not be required until end Sept., monsoon conditions make it most desirable all craft in para. (2) above are shipped so as to arrive in India by first week in May.

(S.O.R.N.E.(I), 181132Z to Admty.)

L.C.M.(3) S.A.C.1094. Am informed Americans have  
rocket developed a 7.2 inch rocket launcher called  
launcher. WOOFUS for fitting to L.C.M.(3) to perform task of L.C.A. (HEDGEROW). Advantage of WOOFUS fitted to L.C.M. over L.A.C. (HR) appear to be -  
(A) L.C.M. carries 5 times weight of rockets.

(B) L.C.M. can revert after assault to normal role.

(C) Greater endurance makes L.C.M.(3) more suitable for amphibious hooks and shore to shore assaults.

(D) WOOFUS has longer range than HEDGEROW.

(2) Range of WOOFUS fitted L.C.M. should also allow employment in normal support role and small size and manoeuvrability would render it more suitable than major rocket craft in estuaries.



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18.1.1945.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSEast IndiesL.C.M.(3)  
rocket  
launcher.  
(Contd.)

(3) It is recommended each Assault Force should have 20 L.C.M.(3) fitted to take WOOFUS rocket launchers. If this is agreed it is requested demands be placed to cover provision of D. launchers on above scale and drawings of any necessary modifications to L.C.M.(3) be despatched to enable work to be done locally.  
(4) Above agreed C. in C. E.I.  
(S.A.C.S.E.A., 181225Z to Admty.) See 260547A.

Oilers for  
B.P.F.

CEDARDALE will sail to arrive Manus by 1st March.  
(2) Neither \*STEAU ROMANA nor CAPTAIN A.F. LUCAS can carry the mixed cargo of fuel, H.S.D. petrol and water needed on Arakan coast and should EAGLESDALE now on Arakan coast become a casualty our naval operation could not be maintained until ECHODALE and EMPIRE SALVAGE are available from Meridian.  
(3) GREEN RANGER has many defects and is unsuitable for Pacific operation until refitted and modern oiling at sea gear provided. Intend to refit her for 2 months at Bombay before sailing to join B.P.F.  
(C. in C. E.I., 181246Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. B.P.F.)  
\* As received.

Movements.

H.M.I.S. BIHAR arrived. Departures QUEEN ELIZABETH wearing flag of F.O. 3rd B.S. PATHFINDER, NORMAN, AMEER, RAIDER, RORQUAL, CLYDE.  
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 181556 to Admty.)

L.C. Flotillas  
for East  
Indies.

As refits of M.L.C. are slipping back and action to check this tendency must depend upon operational requirements, could a decision be given concerning the sailing of the following:  
(A) 74th L.C.T. Flotilla observing this Flotilla should be ready to sail end of Feb.  
(B) 75th and 76th L.C.T. Flotillas observing 4 from each Flotilla will be able to sail before 15th Feb. but 8 in each Flotilla will not.  
(C) Remainder of "A" L.C.I.(L) Squadron should be able to sail on 10th Feb.  
(D) "B" L.C.I.(L) Squadron has only 2 craft refitted and it is most unlikely 1 flight will sail before 1st March.  
(2) In order that congestion in harbours in the U.K. and leave complications may be avoided and observing craft should sail by 1st March to avoid monsoon and training and maintenance facilities in Middle East are good, it is suggested that -  
(E) Action should be taken to ensure 74th L.C.T. Flotilla and "A" L.C.I.(L) Squadron reach India before the monsoon.  
(F) 75th and 76th L.C.T. Flotillas and "B" L.C.I.(L) Squadron should be sailed to the Middle East as soon as weather conditions improve in April.  
(R.A.L.S.C.U., 181834A to Admty.)

/UNICORN ...



18.1.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies - Contd.

UNICORN.  
B.P.F.  
build up.

Your 170510.

It is not desirable for UNICORN to proceed unescorted.

(2) A.M. 181719 Dec. 1943 to C. in C. Eastern Fleet refers.

(D.O.D.(F) (Approved V.C.N.S., 181917A to C. in C. E.I.)

See 201043Z.



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War Diary18.1.1945  
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

U-Boat Estimates.  
Dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. 181336Z, 181506Z to Cominch)

Italian In reply to my letter based on A.M. 181630 Dec.  
S/M's Cominch has replied that he is unable to reconcile  
Allocation of. Admiralty assumptions relative to BANDIERA and  
JALEA with the previous correspondence on  
Italian S/M allocations for A/S training.

(2) Cominch refers to the agreement concluded on  
17th April, 1944 (B.A.D.'s 181627 April refers) in which MAMELI  
was transferred to the U.S. Control and GIADA, BRIN and CORRINDONI,  
were transferred to the British. There then remained unallocated  
13 Italian S/Ms ONICE, DA PROCIDA, JALEA, BANDIERA, ATROPO, MENO-  
TTI, SETTEMBRINI, NICHELIO, DIASPRO, PLATINO, CAGNI, OTARIA  
and SETTIMO.

(3) It was also agreed that the next 2 S/Ms becoming available  
after those definitely allocated in the foregoing para. were to  
be assigned to the U.S. this was made by the allocation of ONICE  
and DA PROCIDA. Of the remaining 11 it was agreed that they  
should be allocated on an equal basis the first going to British  
control.

(4) It is their view that the allocations of BANDIERA, JALEA and  
MENOTTI to the British and ATROPO and SETTEMBRINI to the U.S.  
control were made under this equal share formula.  
(B.A.D. Washington, 181653Z to Admty.) *see 012110A March.*

H.M.C. Departure Halifax 1730Z/18 Jan. H.M.C. Ships  
WASAGA, WASAGA (S.O), VEGREVILLE in company to St. Johns  
VEGREVILLE. N.F. Route speed and W/T as my 120645 E.T.A. 1830  
Z/20.

(2) Upon arrival St. Johns request these ships  
be fuelled and sailed to Horta Azores for onward  
routeing to U.K.

(C. in C. C.N.A. 181753Z and 211214Z to F.O.N.F.)

T.G.61.4. Convoy C.U.56 departing New York and Boston for  
U.K. and Continent 26/27th Jan. escorted by T.G.  
61.4 Captain Chase in CLARK. T.U.61.4.1 Capt.  
Chase in CLARK, Comcoortdiv.58 in PRICE, HISEEM,  
STOCKDALE, FORSTER, STRICKLAND. T.U. 61. (4) 2(Comdbuslappen)?  
in EDSALL, STEWART, DANIEL, CLARENCE L. EVANS. When directed  
by Admty. T.U.61.4<sup>1</sup> return escorting U.C.56A and T.U. 61.4<sup>2</sup>  
U.C. 56B.  
(Cinclant, 181936Z to C.T.G.61.4.)

U-Boat Para. D. 161755 A/C Radar contact 44.02 N.  
contact. 55.10 W. 180015 Army Transport Pilot reported  
sighting long slim object possibly S/M-course 270  
Area 20.30 N. 69.00 W. All times Z.  
(Cominch, 182108Z to Admty for O.I.C.)



War Diary.18.1.1945.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand16/17  
M.T.B.  
Flotillas.

Reference U.S.N. Sub-Board of Inspection and Survey report of 12th December on 16 and 17 M.T.B. Flotillas, (Not to Admiralty or B.A.D.) Recommendation in para. 10.

(2) It is not considered that these M.T.Bs. can be usefully employed by B.P.F. operationally.

Further MULL OF KINTYRE the only coastal craft maintenance ship envisaged is not due until Sept. 1945, and will then be fully employed with N.Z. H.D.M.Ls.

(3) A requirement is being stated to Admiralty for two H.S.T.S. Units. If there is likely to be delay in satisfaction three M.T.Bs. would be acceptable as make shift for towing targets Sydney area. This temporary solution is not recommended as maintenance difficulties are expected.

(C. in C. B.P.F., 180301 to C. in C. E.I., Info. Admty., B.A.D.)

Digest  
1053,  
17th Jan.

(5) 28 ineffectual enemy air raids on shipping Lingayan Gulf 16th January but nil Japanese air activity reported there 17th.

(6) Small type shipping north of Lingayan Gulf up to Vigan being subjected to air and surface attacks: night 14th Jan. P.T. Boats attacked

6 barges off Point San Esterban sinking 4, of 16th Jan. 16 attack planes from 7th Fleet Escort Carriers strafed 2 small carriers, oilers and 2 small freighters near Vigan: 17th Jan. 16 Thunderbolts returning from escort mission destroyed 5 small coastal freighters, set one sea truck afire and damaged one lugger Salamogue Harbour.

(10) During 14th Jan. P.T. Boats probably destroyed 1 barge off Caidwn, Cebu. That night Ormoc P.Ts. destroyed more barges off north-east coast Pacijan Island.

(11) A/C proceeded to Ilions on east coast destroyed or damaged 2 sea trucks, several barges off Ilions.

(13) Ventura strafed and damaged 2 PSOWR Boats near Dumagueite harbour.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 181101 to Admty., etc.)

~~NOWRA~~  
NABBINGTONManning of <sup>Alaska</sup>~~NOWRA~~ by NABBINGTON (M.O.N.A.B. I) is being promulgated.

(Hd. of Air Br., 181102A to F.O.N.A.S.(A))

V.S.I.S.  
B.P.F.  
build-up.

Your 120504Z. V.S.I.S. FORT ALABAMA should be retained in service of B.P.F. until she is relieved by FORT PROVIDENCE.

(2) DENBIGHSHIRE will be relieved on station by equivalent V.S.I.S. before 31st March.

DENBIGHSHIRE by speed and capacity equals two

normal V.S.I.S.

(3) V.S.I.S. CHANGTE will arrive from Mediterranean in early March for service on E.I.S.

(D. of P. (Q), 182039A.)



War Diary

18.1.1945  
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack  
and sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/18th Jan.

Para. B. (1) E.G. 22 attacked bottom contact  
from 0842Z/16th Jan. until 1106Z/17 Jan. in  
55 degs. 31' N. 05 degs. 51' W.

Para. C. (1) A/C P/86 investigated oil slick and  
dropped depth charges at 1615Z/17th Jan. in

58 degs. 43' N. 04 degs. 59' W.

(2) E.G.31 attacked contact later considered possible wreck at  
1331Z/17th Jan. in 54 degs. 05' N. 05 degs. 07' W.

(3) H.M.S. PIMPERNEL attacked doubtful contact at 0112Z/18th  
Jan. in 53. degs. 46' N. 05 degs. 09' W.

(4) H.M.S. RIBBLE attacked contact considered doubtful at 2120Z/  
17th Jan. in 49 degs. 34' N. 00 degs. 59' W.

Para. D. (1) SS. WALTER RALEIGH reported SSSS S/M sighted at  
1240Z/17th Jan. in 37 degs. 11' N. 06 degs. 46' E.

(D.D.I.C.181158A to Cominch)

U-Boat

Estimates.

Dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 181350A and 181358.)



19.1.1945  
Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

1. Admiral Sir Harold Burrough sailed from Dover to assume the Naval Command in Chief of the Allied Expeditionary Force.

2. Foul weather continued in the South and West, although Aberdeen was able to reopen. The steam ships CUBA and MONOWAI suffered damage in Cherbourg, MARINA remained unsalved, LEASIDE PARK grounded off 12 A buoy, East Coast, SAMANCO off Belfast, LEVENWOOD off Sunderland, EMPIRE CLANSMAN off Leith, and the trawler BREEZE off St. Ives. Two motor fishing vessels foundered, and LARGS sailed for the Far East 16 hours late from Falmouth.

North Sea

3.(a) SS. CARRIER was mined off 12A buoy, East Coast. SS. FORT COVINGTON stood by her from 1340 till the arrival of BLENCATHRA, destroyer, at 1703. The Rescue Tug DIVERSION, ordered to the rescue by F.O.I.C. Great Yarmouth, reported she was unable to face the weather.

(b) At Flushing, the 21st Army Group, Dutch Naval, Harbour, and Canal Authorities and our Naval Salvage vessels are proceeding under difficult conditions to restore the harbour and town. The small dry dock is already functioning, and the large one, as well as the 150 ton crane, are hoped for by February 15th, but there is no shore fresh water yet, and the supply of food for the dockyard workers is not yet satisfactory.

Norway

4. The Norse submarine UTSIRA has returned from patrol off Trondhjem where she scored two torpedo hits at 800 yards on a large U-boat and also torpedoed and blew up a 2,000 ton merchantman

Northern Waters

5. Convoy R.A.63 is sorting itself out a Thorshaven, Faeroes. C.S.10 proposes to sail it at 1030 tomorrow by amended route to U.K. with the exception of the tanker LONGWOOD, whose engines are totally broken down, and for whom he is asking for the services of a rescue tug.



19.1.1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Foreign Stations.

South Atlantic.

NORTHERN  
ISLES.

6. H.M. trawler NORTHERN ISLES<sup>§</sup> ran aground off Durban today. It is thought she will become a total loss.

Mediterranean.

Italy.

7. F.M. Alexander reports that three Beaufighters and 4 Spitfires of Coastal Air Force on River patrol Lussin Island - Promontore sank 100 foot covered barge and scored rocket hits on a sixty foot armoured schooner today.

Adriatic.

8. Six Beaufighters attacked coaling wharf and jetties at Arsa scoring rocket hits on quays and rail trucks.  
3 R.P. Hurricanes strafed small enemy craft at Lussinipiccolo claiming a 2 x 60 landing craft damaged.  
Aircraft scored hits on docks at Jablanac.

Greece.

9. Situation reported quiet.  
E.L.A.S. withdrawal from islands in the Volos area is proceeding without incident.

East Indies.

S/M SEASCOUT.

10. H.M. S/M SEASCOUT on her first far East Patrol reports that on 29th December she bombarded 2 coasters already damaged and beached at Malacca Car Nicobar. 9 hits on largest of 200 tons and 5 hits on the other of 100 tons which slid back into the water. The pier received 5 hits. Counter attacked by 4 bombs from unseen aircraft.

/S/M...



War Diary

19.1.1945  
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies - Contd.

S/M PORPOISE  
lost.

11. Capt. 4th (S/M) Flotilla reports S/M PORPOISE is overdue and has failed to answer signal and must be presumed lost.

Mauritius

12. N.O.I.C. reports Mauritius struck by Cyclone. Much damage to Naval buildings and stores. No naval casualties. R.A.F. Station Grand Port and Tombeau Bay destroyed.

America and West Indies

U-boat

<sup>13</sup> At 2.50 p.m. today unidentified merchant vessel reported sighting a periscope wake 10 degs. 49' N. 61 degs. 40' W. at 7.30 p.m. yesterday.

Australia and New Zealand

Movements

14. HOWE, SWIFTSURE and 3 destroyers arrived at Manus (Admiralty Island) today.

Philippines

15(a) 35 Bostons attacked shipping along N.W.Luzon coast from Aparri to Vigan, sinking one sea truck and setting on fire one sizeable tanker, 2 medium freighter transports. 1 small freighter and 3 sea trucks in vicinity of Salomague Harbour just north of Vigan.

(b) It is reported that the name of ship sunk by enemy aircraft off Mindoro on the 4th January was the LEWIS L. DYCHE (U.S. 7176 tons.)



19.1.1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Belgian M.F.Vs. to Belgium. My 170529 November and 300211 November (latter not to all) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to provide towage of Belgian M.F.Vs. to ports indicated.  
(2) Vessels are now urgently required by Belgians. (D.S.V.P. 190741A to C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Cardiff.)

Patrols. My 181704A paras. 1 and 2. Ships anchor and remain at 30 minutes notice as follows: At Humber MENDIP. At Yarmouth MACKAY, FARNDALE, VERDUN. At Cork KITTIWAKE, SHEARWATER, MALLARD. At Small Downs EKINS, ARENDAL N.S., CURZON, SOUTHDOWN, THORNBOROUGH, COTSWOLD.  
(2) Para. 4. Units to be at 30 minutes notice pending moderation in weather.  
(C. in C. Nore 191000A to Nore Command.)

Proposal to discharge Ostend stores at Ostend. Concur your 171622.  
(Com. Belgium 191111 to C. in C. Nore.)

Foul weather. Have been pooped flooded port turbo generator. Do not consider it possible to steer courses downwind. P.C.S. 100° N.F. 9 3 miles, 281° 6 knots. MIDDLETON in company. Wind force 8 to 10 sea 64.  
(HAYDON 191141A to C. in C. Nore.)

My 181500A January. Port of Aberdeen now open.  
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 191600A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Minefield off 12A Buoy. Vessel mined and is now off 12A Buoy, engine room flooded and requires immediate assistance, I am standing by.  
(SS. FORT COVINGTON 191340Z to Humber Radio.)  
SSSS SSSS SSSS mined at position Buoy No. 15.  
(SS. CARRIER No T.O.O/19 to General, Recd. 1425.)

Have lost vessel CARRIER referred to in my 191340Z in snow storm, last seen drifting south westerly 12A Buoy, if possible will try to contact him again when visibility allows.  
(FORT COVINGTON 191510Z to Humber Radio.)

Cancel my 191220 - proceed to assist FORT ST. NICHOLAS mined at 15 Buoy at 1356 - acknowledge.  
(F.O. Humber 191514A to PRIZEMAN.)

Your 191340 - H.M. destroyer BLANCATHRA, from Humber, and tug DIVERSION, from Yarmouth, proceeding to assistance of ship. Report name of casualty.  
(F.O. Humber 191607A to FORT COVINGTON.)

/Great...



19.1.1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Minefield Great Yarmouth 19th January departure tug  
off 12A Buoy. DIVERSION to assistance of mined vessel at 12A  
(Contd.) Buoy.

(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 191629A to F.O.I.C. Humber.)  
Reference your 191607 - French ship CARRIER.  
(FORT COVINGTON 191638Z to F.O.I.C. Humber.)

Mined position 12A Buoy.  
(SS. CARRIER No T.O.O/19 to General, recd. North Foreland Radio  
1655.)

Your 191632Z. Assistance is on the way. Keep me informed  
of condition of casualty.

(F.O. Humber 191750A to FORT COVINGTON.)

I am anchored in vicinity of casualty ready to take off  
survivors if necessary. Destroyer now in vicinity.

(FORT COVINGTON 191703Z to F.O. Humber.)

Departure tug IRISHMAN at 1750 assistance of merchant ship  
using calling signs ZE4XK believed to be FORT ST. NICHOLAS *Sunk in*  
mined between 12A and 15 Buoys. *Mediterranean 15/2 see*  
*B.R. 1337. 1944.*

(F.O. Humber 191803 to C. in C. Nore.)

My 191629A tug DIVERSION returned - unable to proceed owing  
adverse weather will be sailed again if conditions permit.

(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 191833 to F.O.I.C. Humber.)

Ships mined vicinity 12A and 15 Buoys today. Carry out  
sweep tomorrow Saturday in G formation east of centre line Q.Z.S.  
308 from 57F to E.D. thence north of centre line Q.Z.S. 444 from  
E.D. to 12A thence east of centre line Q.Z.S. 380 from 12A to H.2.

(Capt. M/S Grimsby 191941 to M.S. 15 FRASERBURGH.)

Discharge Cositintrep No. 290 part IV.  
Situation Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1500A/18  
Report. January.

British	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores (incl. coal.)	Bulk Pol.	Ammo.
Antwerp	216	287	15,211	7,883	1,553
Ostend	1,015	262	5,204	-	3,043
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-
Dieppe	-	-	1,885	-	-
Caen	-	-	2,311	-	-
Calais	2,096	-	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,327</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>24,611</b>	<b>7,883</b>	<b>4,596</b>
U.S. North.					
Antwerp	-	260	11,950	-	51
Cherbourg	-	-	7,794	4,653	2,728
Le Havre	7,615	362	6,051	-	2,255
Rouen	182	235	7,758	1,355	1,997
Granville	-	-	1,635	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,797</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>35,188</b>	<b>6,008</b>	<b>6,931</b>

/U.S. South...



War Diary.

19.1.1945  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.  
(Contd.)

U.S. South	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores (incl. coal.)	Bulk Pol	Ammo.
Marseilles	9,967	-	4,778	-	2,928
Port de Bouc	-	-	1,560	2,222	-
Toulon	-	-	-	-	-
<hr/>					
Toulon	9,967	-	6,338	2,222	2,928
<hr/>					

(S.H.A.E.F. 191800 to Admty., and others.)

Adm. Burrough Admiral Sir Harold M. Burrough K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.  
A.N.C.X.F. O., has this day assumed duty as Allied Naval  
Commander in Chief Expeditionary Force.  
(2) Merchant vessel SAMVERN mined and sunk in  
position 315° N.F. 11 Buoy 1 mile (off Blankenberg)  
(3) Port of Ostend closed due to weather a.m. 19th January.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 192155A to Admty.)

Operations.

Channel.

Patrols and escorts. Your 181615A and my 181855A. Intend following disposition 14th E.G.  
A. DUNCAN from Start Point at 1230A to relieve ASSINIBOINE.  
B. ASSINIBOINE detach from ICARUS in sufficient time to enter Plymouth at 1630A.  
C. INCONSTANT detach from HAVELOCK at 1330A to enter Plymouth.  
D. HAVELOCK at 1330A to proceed to join ICARUS and DUNCAN and trail on to Lizard Head.  
(S.O.E.G. 14 191002A to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
Night patrols 19/20th January.  
1st and 26th E.G. as in my 161244A. (2) 1st E.G. act main support of V.W.P. from Kansas to Z Buoy. (3) V.W.P. is escorted by CROIX DE LORRAINE. (4) Further signals follow to both groups.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 191322A to S.O.E.Gs. 1, 26.)  
My 191322A on completion of para. 2 R/V at F Buoy at 0001/20th January and support: A. Convoy W.V.L. 53, 24 L.S.Ts. (21 carrying troops 3 carrying vehicles) speed 9 knots.  
B. Codeword "Stinker H.G." C. Escorts CAMPANULA (S.O.) plus 2 corvettes and 5 trawlers. D. Route 5 miles west of Q.Z.S. 636.  
E. Detach at H.V. 2 buoy. F. On completion resume patrol.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 191502A to S.O.E.G. 1.)  
Following special movement in your area tonight. French cruiser GLOIRE, French cruiser DUQUESNE speed 22 knots to Cherbourg using H Channel. E.T.A. H.2 buoy 0545/20th January.  
(2) Commence sweeping up H Channel at 0300 returning so as to be off Cherbourg by 0730. Patrol off harbour entrance until

/ships...



19.1.1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel

Patrols and escorts.  
(Contd.)

ships have entered. Then resume patrol.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 191602A to S.O.E.G. 26.)  
Nore and Dover patrol tonight Jan. 19/20th.  
(1) 12 EKINS, 14 ARENDAL, 16 CURZON, 18  
COTSWOLD, 19 THORNBOROUGH and SOUTHDOWN 21  
MALLARD.

(2) Coastal force unit F.C. 5 at Z.9. F.A. 2 at Z.7. F.A. 3 at Z.5. F.L. 2 and F.L. 3 with EKINS. F.G. 2 and F.G. 3 with CURZON.

(V.A. Dover 191615A to Admty., A.N.C.X.F., Cs. in C. Nore, Portsmouth.)

My 191322. Cover convoy E.W.L. leaving Cherbourg at 2030 tonight. Routed position QQ position RR. Detaching at 2300 and returning so as to comply with my 191602.

(2) E.W.L. S.O. escort DIANTHUS.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 191746A to S.O.E.G. 26.)

On completion of present duty "Detest" proceed to meet and support T.B.C. 41 and 42. Both expected pass Portland westbound via Q.Z.S. 590 at 2200A/19. Close escorts CLARKIA (S.O.), ACONIT.

(C. in C. Plymouth 191841A to S.O.E.G. 14.)

Day patrols 20th Jan. Patrol as in my 152238A.

(2) On sailing BALFOUR, BENTLEY, JONQUIERE and RIBBLE rejoin respective groups.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 192134A to S.O.E.Gs. 1, 26.)

12 submarine chasers to pass under control of C. in C. Portsmouth.

Cominch has authorized temporary retention in 12th Fleet of 12 S.Cs. These craft are assigned C.T.F. 123 for administration and logistical support. C.T.F. 123 is directed to take necessary steps to place these craft as they become available under the operational control of C. in C. Portsmouth.

(Com. 12th Fleet 191528 to C.T.F. 123, Admty., C. in C. Portsmouth, A.N.C.X.F.)

Anti-U-Boat deep mining.

My 181258 postponed 24 hours.

(2) 64 M.T.B. Flotilla is to pass gate at 0930A/20th January and carry out serial B.2 in company with PLOVER.

(3) My 111250 not to M.Ls. refers.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 191638A to PLOVER, V.64.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Continuous local patrols for inner pool points.

A.M. 112101A (not to all addressees.) Request M.F.Vs. JEANNE MARIE, RESOUND, BEATRIX ADRIENNE, S.Ds. HELEN SLATER, HOLLYDALE, N.A.Bs. JACANA, SULARA be diverted to Greenock and held there pending developments on C. in C. W.A's 160002A? Jan. (not to all addressees.)

(2) These vessels may be utilised whilst at Greenock.

(D.S.V.P. 190602A to Cs. in C. W.A., Rosyth, F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/E.G. 24...



War Diary.

19.1.1945  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches - Contd.

E.G. 24. NESS, DART, EVENLODE, LOCH KATRINE, LOCH QUOICH are allocated to Londonderry for E.G. 24. Further signal will be made regarding S.O. of group. (C. in C. W.A. 191204A to Com. D. W.A.)

Anti-U-Boat deep mining. Outfit of mines at present on board APOLLO should be exchanged for an outfit with 60 foot depth reel.  
(2) Understood that mining depot can supply the mines and concurrence of Admiralty has been obtained by telephone.  
(3) A.M. 151846. Importance of laying mines 60 to 70 feet below chart datum is stressed.  
(4) APOLLO may be sailed to lay line C.5, C.6, and C. 7 when new outfit with 60 foot depth reel has been embarked.  
(5) Mines are not to be laid in Northern Channel i.e. line B.1 to B. four to C.one to C. four until minesweepers have swept over mines laid in line B.five B. six and B. seven.  
(C. in C. W.A. 191234A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, APOLLO.)  
Detail 2 escorts of 6th E.G. to R/V with APOLLO in position 183° Coningbeg Light Vessel 11 miles at 1700. Ships detailed are to act in accordance with para. 3 of my 172337.  
(C. in C. W.A. 192220A to S.O. Force 38.)

E.G. 19. If not in contact 19th E.G. less GOODALL is to be detached to arrive Bar Light Vessel Liverpool at 1500/20th for lay over. GOODALL is to be detached at the same time to lay over at Londonderry.  
(C. in C. W.A. 191251A to S.O. Force 36, S.O. E.G. 19.)

E.Gs. 2, 14. F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to sail 2nd E.G. when ready, A.M. 20th January for gunnery practices in Irish Sea and on completion of practices, to Longships, thence as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth.  
(2) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail 14th E.G. to arrive Liverpool a.m. 23rd January for lay over.  
(C. in C. W.A. 191256A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool, C. in C. Plymouth, S.O.E.G. 2.)

Patrols and escorts. Patrol Force 37 E.G. 22 HART, 4 escorts area between Tor Point, Mull of Kintyre, Mull of Galloway and Skulmartin. (My 191506 part I).  
Force 36 E.G. 4th BENTINCK (S.O.) 4 frigates E.G. 19th HESPERUS 4 frigates and E.G. 5th AYLMER 5 frigates operating Irish Sea between 52° 40' N. and 54° N.  
(C. in C. W.A. 191449 to Admty.)  
6th E.G. 205° Bardsey Island 13 miles supporting O.N. 279.  
On completion 6th E.G. supports M.K.S. 76. Request LEEDS CASTLE inform E.T.A. Milford Haven Buoy.  
21st E.G. to support U.C. 53A reporting names of ships detailed for Milford Haven and main section to authorities concerned.  
(S.O. Force 38 191635A to C. in C. W.A.)

/S.O....



War Diary.

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Patrols and escorts.  
(Contd.)

S.O. Force 38's 191635A. CONN, DEANE and REDMILL support Clyde portion of U.C. 53A. FITZROY and RUPERT support Milford Haven portion. Your 182234 refers.  
(S.O.E.G. 21 192103 to C. in C. W.A.)

Possible U-Boat.

CHARLOCK attacked possible submarine contact in position 51° 48' N. 07° 33.4' W. One hedgehog and 2 depth charge attacks produced small amount of light oil now rejoined O.S. 105 K.M.S. 79 in 51 01 N. 07 40 W. course and speed 210 7 knots, 16 ships.

Weather report 3571 1173 suitable.  
(PIMPERNEL 191600A to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.

Norway.

Operation "Charlton".

My 082141. Postponed 24 hours. Ships addressed acknowledge by V/S.  
(C. in C. H.F., 191327A to DIDO, PREMIER, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, CAMPANIA, R.A.(D) H.F.)

UTSIRA's productive patrol.

UTSIRA reports:-

- (1) 11th January 2326A P.C.S. of large German U-Boat (tonnage unknown) escorted by 1 trawler 64° 04' N. 09° 45' E. 360° 12 knots. Fired 4 torpedoes from 800 yards on the surface 2 hits seen. UTSIRA dived, escort heard transmitting and apparently searching the vicinity of attack. Breaking up noises heard 14 minutes and 48 minutes after firing.
- (2) 16th January 0201A P.C.S. of unescorted merchant ship approx. 2000 tons 64° 39' N. 10° 43' E. 040° 13 knots. Fired 4 torpedoes on the surface from 1200 yards. Ship blew up with series of explosions 30 seconds later, when smoke cleared bow of ship was seen vertical and sinking.
- (3) (i) 14th January 0525A 2 unidentified ships passed southbound in Folden Fjord, weather unsuitable for firing.
- (ii) 15th January 1412 sighted M class minesweeper northbound in Folden Fjord which had passed overhead transmitting and apparently carrying out A/S search.
- (4) Extremely bad weather experienced.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 191440A to F.O.S.M.)

Operation "S.C."

Ramose Equerry, HITRA returned at 1710A/19th Jan.  
(2) Operation successful.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 191721A to A.C.O.S.)

\* Was V. 6408 (ex-SKAGERAK) sunk at 0202/16 in 64°05' N, 10°40' E, Fj  
Folden Fjord. (See German Documents, 350)



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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Schnorkel obstructors. A.M. 172209. No objection.  
(C. in C. H.F. 191115A to Admty.)

Reduction of personnel at Scapa. Personal from 1st Sea Lord.  
Thank you for your 181806 which is being studied.  
(1st Sea Lord 191145A to C. in C. H.F.)

Convoy R.A. 63. Request following be made on B.A.M.S. today, Friday. Begins:-  
Convoy R.A. 63 will weigh in at 1030A/20th Saturday, Cdre. leading out. Route amended as follows - from Thorshavn to new position "Queen" (61° 40' N. 05° 15' W.) thence to position "Baker" and "Blue" route. New form A one will be transmitted on B.A.M.S. All ships pass to neighbours by V/S. Further message follows. Ends.  
(2) Positive of new A one form will be passed to Admiralty only.  
(C.S. 10 191145A to Admty.)

My 191145A. R.A. 63. New Form A One.

Number	Ship's Name
11	FORT BOISE
12	OWEN WISTER
13	JOHN GIBBON
14	ANDREW TURNBULL
15	STEPHEN LEACOCK
16	AUGUST BELMONT
21	BRITISH RESPECT
22	LACKLAN
23	CECIL N. BEAN
24	WILLIAM H. WILMER
25	WILLIAM PAGE
26	WOODBIDGE N. FERRIS
31	W.R. GRACE
32	FORT ISLAND
33	ROBERT LOWRY
34	EMPIRE GARRICK
35	AMASO DELANO
41	NELSON ALDRICH
42	RENALD FERNALD
43	LINN BOYD
44	STANTON H. KING
45	STEVENSON TAYLOR

All leading ships are light repeaters. All leading ships and column 2 are sound repeaters.

(C.S. 10 1919242A to Admty.)

Text of your 191145 has been made to convoy R.A. 63 on B.A.M.S.

(D.S.O. 191623A to C.S. 10.)

Request rescue tug may be sent forthwith to Faroes to assist SS. LONGWOOD (T) who is anchored in position 173° Borim Light 6.5 miles with engines totally broken down and beyond repair locally. Attempts to tow by H.M.S. have been unsuccessful. Have directed crew to abandon ship temporarily owing to weather and danger of U-Boats interference.

(C.S. 10 192247A to Admty.)



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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Convoy C. in C. W.A. 171135A. SS. USO did not sail with  
R.A. 63. Kirkwall portion. She is being sailed for Loch  
(Contd.) Ewe with Clyde portion leaving Thorshavn 1030  
tomorrow Saturday.  
(2) A.C.O.S. pass to N.C.S.O. Kirkwall.  
(C.S. 10 192309A to Admty., A.C.O.S.)

J.W. & R.A. Request you will plan accordingly. A.M. 091950  
convoys. para. 2 refers.  
(2) A decision on the reduction of the cycle to  
22 days will be made later.  
(V.C.N.S. 192349A to C. in C. H.F.)

Port Facilities.

Flushing. Flushing. Work has started on 21st Army Group  
project for repairs to Locks, sluices, etc. at  
Flushing to make inner harbour non-tidal and  
suitable for 22 ft. draught ships. About 6 Army  
officers, 300 other ranks are arriving this week, with plant and  
equipment.  
(2) Army port repair ship THAMES COAST will also assist.  
(3) Dutch naval and canal harbour authorities have been given  
details of project and will give max. assistance.  
(4) British naval salvage vessels will assist in lifting  
damaged lock gates, etc. Conditions are difficult.  
(5) Expected that lock gates in 20 metre width lock will be  
cleared in about 10 days for passage of vessels of 14 ft. draught  
at H.W. Slack.  
(6) One or two repair berths 12 ft. only at L.W. should then  
become available in Inner harbour.  
(7) Small dry dock functioning now. Expect large dry dock to  
function 15th February. 6 ton dock side cranes require spare  
parts for repair. Expect 150 ton dockside crane at fitting out  
berth will be repaired by 15th February.  
(8) Motor transport is required immediately for shipyard. See  
my 191020 (not to all addressees.)  
(9) Expect limited quantities of shipyard repair stores which are  
not available at Flushing will be obtained from U.K. through  
Naval Store Transit and Supply Depot at Antwerp.  
(10) House repair situation improving, but materials awaited from  
U.K. No shore supply of fresh water yet. Electric power  
station working reduced output 24 hours day.  
(11) Supply of food for shipyard workers not yet satisfactory.  
Being investigated by S.H.A.E.F. Mission Civil Affairs.  
(F.O. Holland 191015A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Casualties & Defects.

SS. CUBA. Ship aground holed badly amidships in distress  
No. 3 hold full to water line. Please send all  
available pumps.  
(SS. CUBA No T.O.O/19th to Le Havre W/T recd. 0455)

/During...



19.1.1945  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

- SS. CUBA. During high westerly winds up to 50 knots last night SS. CUBA holed in bottom No. 3 hold while alongside quay de Escale. This hold flooded but leakage under control probably due striking rubble dislodged from quayside by heavy swell in harbour.  
(Contd.)
- MONOWAI alongside pontoon pier superficial damage. Two Liberties parted mooring in Bassin Maree, no damages. Weather prevented bringing SS. MARINA in. Salvage work will be more difficult due ship being driven much higher on beach.  
(C.T.F. 125 191231A to A.N.C.X.F.)
- SS. LEASIDE S.O.S. aground on wreck abreast Number 12A Buoy. PARK. Master.  
(SS. LEASIDE PARK 190543Z to General.)  
Clear of wreck require assistance. Master.  
(LEASIDE PARK 190708A to General.)  
Cancel S.O.S. after holds and engine room tight making for Humber. Master.  
(LEASIDE PARK 190738A to General.)  
Am standing by LEASIDE PARK, approx. position 130 Humber Light Vessel 9 miles. Making 6 knots for Humber. Holed forward and drawing 35 foot. Request salvage tug stand by to assist.  
(VIVACIOUS 191046A to F.O.I.C. Immingham.)  
Humber 19 January departure tug HEADMAN at 1210 to assistance of SS. LEASIDE PARK.  
(F.O. Humber 191225 to C. in C. Nore.)  
LEASIDE PARK anchored 1.5 miles 130° Spurn draft forward 37 feet aft 26 feet. Cannot board. Will tow with YORKSHIREMAN and HEADMAN pilot requires 4 tugs for berthing at Immingham.  
E.T.A. 2100.  
(Tug HEADMAN 191630A to F.O. Humber.)  
LEASIDE PARK towed into Humber for repairs.  
(N.C.S.O. Humber 191708 to Admty., Cs. in C. Nore, Rosyth.)
- M.S. SAMANCO. M.S. SAMANCO dragged her anchors and grounded on west side of Wilsons Point Belfast Lough at 2245A/18th. Sustained damage to hull. Extent of damage at present not ascertained.  
(N.C.S.O. N.I. 190955A to Admty.)
- Trawler Trawler BREEZE broke adrift from quay at St. Ives BREEZE. on night of 18/19 January now aground Carbis Bay. All crew safe. Salvage officer proceeding to investigate.  
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 191032A to C. in C. Plymouth.)
- SS. LEVENWOOD. SS. LEVENWOOD went ashore 2359/18th January, approx. 400 yards from cliff south side Hawthorn Point, approx. 1½ miles south of Seaham. All crew including 2 D.E.M.S. ratings landed by L.S.A., no casualties. Ship head west, on even keel on sand between rocks and not working. Holed in No. 1 hold and engine room. Rudder and rudder post gone. C.Bs. and Admiralty stores to be removed when weather permits. Very heavy northeasterly swell, wind N.N.W. 6-7.  
(N.O.I.C. Sunderland 191446A to F.O.I.C. Tyne.) /SS.



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Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects - Contd.SS. EMPIRE  
CLANSMAN.

SS. EMPIRE CLANSMAN went ashore off South Carr Beacon during gale on night 18/19 January. Crew have all been taken off by local life saving apparatus.  
(N.O.I.C. Leith 191800A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

M.F.V.  
GOLDEN WEST.

M.F.V. GOLDEN WEST sank at her moorings in Aberdeen Harbour on 15th January, vessel has been salvaged and is repairable. Report is being forwarded.  
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 191845A to Admty., D.S.V.P.)

M.F.V.  
TANEVIK.

Reference Admty. 011719A January (restricted) Norwegian M.F.V. TANEVIK being towed Methil to Buckie by H.M.T. CASTLENAU, foundered after tow had parted at approx. 1400A/19th January in position 2 miles N.E. 26 Buoy.  
H.M.T. CASTLENAU reports crew taken off at 0045A/19th January.  
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 192005A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Movements.LARGS,  
L.S.H. (L)

My 181410 sailed. Add 16 hours to all times.  
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 191104 to F.O.G.M.A., C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta.)

MAURITIUS,  
cruiser.

N.K. alter course forthwith for S 58° N. 10° W. thence to R.  
(Admty. 191124A to MAURITIUS.)

DUQUESNE,  
GLOIRE,  
cruisers.

My 181528A. Intend to sail F.S. DUQUESNE and F.S. GLOIRE at 0100A/20th to Cherbourg.  
(2) Routed by route E of F.N.M. 2538 (T) 1944 and channel H. S.O.A. 22 knots, E.T.A. H.10 Buoy 0830A/20.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 191548A to C.T.G.125.2.)

TROUBRIDGE,  
TEAZER,  
TENACIOUS,  
TERMAGANT,  
destroyers.

H.M. ships TROUBRIDGE, TEAZER, TENACIOUS and TERMAGANT are to assemble at Plymouth in time to sail for Mediterranean p.m. 29th January.  
(2) C. in C. Med. is requested to arrange 14 days practices before onward routeing ships to East Indies Station.  
(3) Admiralty will promulgate route to Gibraltar.  
(4) Commanders-in-Chief and Flag Officers concerned are requested to sail ships accordingly.  
(5) A.S. Portsmouth's 171910, not to all, refers.  
(D.O.D. (H) 191944A to Cs. in C. Portsmouth, Plymouth, Nore, Med., F.O.I.C. Tyne, F.O.G.M.A.)



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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Convoys B.B. & M.H. It is intended to institute forthwith daily convoys between Barry Roads and Clyde with branches to and from Liverpool and Belfast.  
 (2) Ships of 1000 tons G.R.T. and above are to be included.

- (3) Minimum speed for inclusion seven knots.
- (4) Request you will take action to implement this.

(A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 191342A to C. in C. W.A.)

Pass to ships and N.C.S.Os. concerned.

Admiralty's 191342A not to all.

Coastal convoys will be run in each direction between Barry Roads and the Clyde. These convoys will be designated B.B. and M.H. for the southbound and northbound convoys respectively.

(2) All merchant shipping of 1000 tons gross and above are to be included subject to the following exceptions.

- (A) Ships of speed of under 7 knots.
- (B) Ships of over 12 knots or of special importance.
- (C) All traffic which crosses the convoy route in an easterly or westerly direction. Doubtful cases are to be referred to C. in C. W.A.

(D) Local traffic between Lancashire and Cumberland Coasts.

(3) Ships as in 2B are to be included in an ocean convoy for Irish Sea Passage, or if undue delay would thereby result, C. in C. W.A. is to be informed and decision will be given whether

- (A) ship may sail in the M.H. or B.B. convoy,
- (B) special escort will be detailed, (C) ship is to await next ocean convoy for part passage.

(4) Convoys will be escorted throughout by a Sheepdog escort and may be supported through Irish Sea by Shuttle Service of Support Groups between approx. Clyde L.V. and the Milford Haven Buoy. B.B. and M.H. convoys are expected to pass in about 54° N. and in about 52° 40' N. and on convoys passing, the Support Groups will transfer to the opposite convoy.

(5) The first B.B. convoy will sail Clyde 2100A/22nd and the corresponding M.H. will sail Barry Roads 0700A/22nd, thereafter at daily intervals.

(6) Sections for intermediate ports will be detached at the normal breaking off points on the Standard routes.

(7) A Commodore is to be appointed from one of the Masters of ships in convoy and N.C.S.O. Mersey is requested to supply the necessary convoy signalmen for Commodore's ship.

(8) The following is the estimated convoy time table.

BB. convoy (all times local times.)

Clyde to Barry Roads.

Sails Clyde		2100
54° 57½' N. 05° 33' W.	Joins from ports to The North.	0700
54° 43' N. 05° 25' W.	Belfast Junction	0930
54° 35' N. 05° 20½' W.	Solway Firth Ports Inward Junction.	1100

(K.K.)

53° 46' 05° 30'	Mersey Junction (also Lancashire and Solway Firth Ports Outwards.)	1800
-----------------	--	------

Milford Haven Buoy	M.H. Junction	1700
Helwick		2100
Scarweather	Swansea Junction	0100
Arrive Barry Roads		0430

∧M.H. convoy...



War Diary.

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

B.B. and M.H. | M.H. convoy  
convoys. | Barry Roads to Clyde.  
(Contd.)

Sails Barry Roads		0700
Scarweather	Swansea Junction	1100
Helwick		1400
Milford Haven Buoy	M.H. Junction	1830
(B.B.)		
53° 46' N. 05° 16' W.	Mersey Junction, also Lancashire and Solway Firth Ports inwards.	1730
54° 30' N. 05° 03' W.	Outward Junction for Solway Firth Ports.	0001
54° 42' N. 05° 10' W.	Belfast Junction	0200
Clyde		1430

Flag Officers in Charge are requested to sail joining sections to arrive at R/Vs in good time and as indicated by Coastal Plot. (C. in C. W.A. 192027A to W.A. Command.)



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FridayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

U/B Suspicious Contact. Obtained suspicious radar contact in position 032° 57' N. 009° 33' W. contact has disappeared am hunting suitable.  
(VERITY 190317A to F.O.G.M.A.)  
My 190317A/ consider contact was submarine. No A/S contact yet obtained. Intend hunting for one hour and then proceeding according to your 171616A. Accurate datum of losing contact 033° 03' N. 009° 34' W. Target surfaced speed estimated 20 knots. Radar contact held for 13 minutes. Echo was small and clearly visible on radar screen.  
(VERITY 190400A to F.O.G.M.A.)  
/ Suspicious radar contact.  
No contact proceeding to join WEAR.  
(VERITY 190515A to F.O.G.M.A.)

E.G.2 & 3. Cancel my 181615A not to S.A.S.P. Groups 2 and 3 are to detach from K.M.S.78 on reaching Tarifa patrolling in Westerly Approaches to Straits as arranged by BAHAMAS night 19/20th Jan.  
2. Groups 2 and 3 enter Gibraltar at 0900A/20th Jan.  
3. BAHAMAS signal night intentions.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 191032A to Group 2, Group 3.)

E.G.1 & 4. Ships addressed form Group 1 and Group 4 as follows  
Formation of. - Group 1 LOWESTOFF (S.O.), BELLWORT, CROCUS.  
Group 4 BALINDERRY (S.O.), CYCLAMEN, SPIREA.  
2. LOWESTOFF take Group 1 and Group 4 under his orders and being in all respects ready for war.  
Sail at 0800A (?20th) Jan.  
3. LOWESTOFF is to arrange A/S sweep to westward and return to rendezvous M.K.S.78 off Carnero at 1700A 20th Jan. and act as close escort in memorandum T.S.O.0313/45 being sent to ships addressed.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 191108A LOWESTOFF.)

RICHELIEU Request approval to retain BASQUE and SIMOUN to augment escort of RICHELIEU leaving Casablanca for Gibraltar 24th Jan.  
2. Alternatively request two destroyers may be sailed to arrive Gibraltar a.m. 23rd Jan.  
3. MALCOLM and WOLVERINE will be provided from Gibraltar.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 191148A to C. in C. Mediterranean see 201152A.)  
Para. 3 of my 191148 WOLVERINE will not now complete defects in time.  
2. Only suitable escort available MALCOLM.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 191624A to C. in C. Mediterranean.)

H.N.M.S. (F) sailed 0915Z/19th after fuelling E.T.A.  
VAN Plymouth a.m./23rd S.O.A. 14.  
KINSBERGEN. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 191302Z & 192000Z to F.O.G.M.A. S.B.N.O. Azores.)



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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Dardanelles. As Turkish Government have now issued statement on passage of Allied ships through Straits shorter notice can be accepted.

(2) Request at least three days notice of arrival of first merchant ship, after this consider that normal reporting signal received by C.S.A. Istanbul be sufficient. Your 181249 refers.

(B.N.A. Ankara, 191101C to C. in C. Med.) Amended by 211238.

SWIFT,  
KELVIN.

Request you sail either SWIFT or KELVIN to Malta to arrive a.m. 23rd. C. in C. Mediterranean 181364\* not to all. Report intention.

(F.O.L.E.M. 191116B to S.B.N.O. Greece, 200917.)  
\* As received.

M.T.B.  
Ron. 15.

It is observed that Cominch 291627 Sept. approved some boats of M.T.B. Ron. 15 being transferred to British and manned by Yugoslav crews for work in Adriatic. My 131703 Sept. which was passed Cominch by Com. 8th Fleet refers. It is not clear why he has raised objections in B.A.D. 032021. My 061449 refers. (C. in C. Med., 191118A to Admty.)

TAY.

Arrival TAY. .  
(N.O.I.C. Suez 191131B to Admty.)

L.C. Flotillas. Further to my 051102 and A.M. 131959 Jan. craft of the following flotillas are to be placed in pooled reserve and the personnel returned to U.K. reporting to West Cliff on arrival. (a) L.C.A. 560th 561st Flotillas. (b) L.C.M. (one) 642nd Flotilla. (c) L.C.M. (three) 665th and 666th Flotillas. (C. in C. Med. 191150A to HAMILCAR.)

South  
Aegean  
Summary.

GI/80347 cipher 19th Jan. Up to 0900 hours 19th January 1945.  
(1) Shipping. No photographic R/C 18 Jan. due to weather. Ground sources report. Calino. German launch due transport captured Mayor Stampalia to Leros night 16/17. This probably launch seen approaching Calino a.m. 16th Jan. and which was seen Stampalia 14th Jan. to 16th Jan. Piscopi. Reported 2 landing craft due leave Piscopi for Nisero or Rhodes night 18/19th. (C. in C. M.E., 191225B to W.O.)

ENNERDALE.

ENNERDALE is to be refitted in Naples area in accordance with A.M. 182328 Dec. not to all. Request she be sailed accordingly as soon as practicable. E.T.C. (78) weeks. (C. in C. Med., 191518A to V.A.M.)

/Aegean...



War Diary

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Aegean GO/80419.  
 Sitrep (1) Land and Sea Ops. NTR.  
 No. 41. (2) Political. Force 142 reports 18th Jan. Syros. Buried arms and amm. found. Arrests made by Mil. Governor incl. E.A.M. Political Leader Cyclades. Mitylene. E.A.M. ordering followers desert National Guard. (C. in C. Middle East, 191930A to W.O.)

Black Sea C. in C. Mediterranean 181720+ Limits Crimea - minefields. (? Danger areas) are now as follows along West Danger areas. and South coast crossing peninsula running through points, all positions are North and East.

U. 045 degs. 24', 032 degs. 29'.  
 V. 045 degs. 21', 032 degs. 20'.  
 W. 045 degs. 13', 032 degs. 20'.  
 X. 044 degs. 38', 032 degs. 28'.  
 Y. 044 degs. 30', 033 degs. 00'.  
 Z. 044 degs. 17', 033 degs. 33'.  
 E. 044 degs. 17', 033 degs. 47'.  
 E.1. 044 degs. 22', 033 degs. 51'.  
 E.2. 044 degs. 22', 033 degs. 51.5'.  
 (2) Area is similar to that given in my 071025+ para. (d) except at Eastern limit. New position E. for Edward in 044 degs. 17' N. 033 degs. 47' E. and E.1 and E.2 given in para. (1) above are confirmed as differing due to sweeping operations.  
 (3) My 151641 para. (1)(a) additional information received. From position off Cape Uzfakaz pass through position 043 degs. 30' N. 034 degs. 00" E. thence due North to meet point (3) 044 degs. 20' N. 034 degs. 00' E.  
 (4) All positions quoted in my 151641 have been taken from large up to date map Russian chart. Small discrepancies have been noticed when plotting these positions on Admiralty charts. Admiralty pass to C. in C. Med., F.O.L.E.M. Com.8th Fleet. (Head of B.N.M. Moscow, 191937 to Adnty.)  
 + Limits of Crimea danger area.

G.2 Summary FX.88026 cipher 19th Jan. Secret.  
 Number, 137 Cite FHGBI. Signed Alexander.  
 Extract. Three. Aegean. Two parties reinforcements from Leros to Cos total 600 men. Further battalion expected. Revised German Garrison figures now Leros 2,500 Cos 1,500. (A.F.H.Q. 191945A to W.O.)

Situation (1) Greece. Situation quiet.  
 report (2) Adriatic. Coastal craft on patrol engaged  
 number 540 8 E-boats near Idolo Islet night 18th Jan. and sank one. [Further details, page 397]  
 (3) Harassing of Genoa. Coastal craft on patrol night 17th Jan. made no sighting but were heavily and accurately engaged by shore batteries. Near Franco-Italian border on following night Chasseur 105 detected an explosive boat and damaged her by gunfire. CIMITERRE gave chase and sank the enemy craft close South of Monaco. L'ALBION and LOOKOUT have carried out successful bombardments. (C. in C. Med. Fleet, 192203A to F.O.L.E.M. etc.)

/Cositintrep...



19.1.1945  
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Cositintrep  
Number 558.

MX 43839 cipher 19th January.  
Cite FHGCT, FHGBI. Signed Alexander.  
Part III Air.

Balkan Air Force. Light bombers scored hits on coaling wharf at Arsa and bombed jetties at Senj. RP Beaufighter scored hits on suspected explosive motor boat base at Lussin Piccolo and nearby barracks and gun positions at Rab. Fighter bombers attacked shipping and installations near Pela, hitting 4,000 ton merchant vessel, destroying and damaging small craft and hitting breakwater, buildings and an oil tank. Fighters swept Mostar/Sarajevo area attacking rail movements. Strikes were also claimed on a gun at Lussin Piccolo and a possible midget submarine damaged. (H.Q.M.A.A.F., No T.O.O. 19th January to War Office.)



War Diary

19.1.1945.  
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

PORPOISE Regret to report PORPOISE is overdue has failed to answer signal and must be presumed lost.  
2. It is considered unlikely that S.P.'s were compromised.  
(Capt. (S/M) 4th 190321Z to Admty.)

U.B. Estimates.  
Dispositions. (C. in C. E.I. 190359Z to Ships & Authorities East Indies Station.)

UNICORN Your 161040 not to all crossed my 170510.  
B.P.F. Intention now is (A) Ships in para. (I) of my  
build up. 170510 to sail 25th Jan. (B) UNICORN to sail  
unescorted on E.I.  
(C. in C. East Indies 190522Z to C. in C. British  
Pacific Fleet) Reply C. in C. B.P.F.'s 190345  
and 201043.

Cyclone No Naval casualties from cyclone. (A) Damage to  
Mauritius. naval buildings (1) Port Louis minor. (2) Floreal  
accommodation minor Hope Bakery Canteen extensive.  
(3) Butaritari all camp destroyed canteen damaged.  
(4) Plan R negligible. (5) Armament depot  
negligible. (6) B.N. air station very extensive. (B) All stores  
section suffered storm damage. (C) R.A.F. St. 740 Grand port and  
Tombeau Bay almost completely destroyed.  
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius 190545Z to Cdre. East Africa. Admty.)  
No.46. You will no doubt have received news of severe cyclone  
which according to Press reports has caused serious devastation in  
Mauritius. No report has yet been received from Governor, but it  
would be gratefully appreciated if you would consult G.O.C. in C.  
East Africa with a view to offering Governor Mauritius such  
immediate relief as he may need and you can provide either in the  
matter of food or medical or other supplies.  
(S. of S. Colonies T.O.D. 191630 to Kenya (Sir P. Mitchell)).

FRITILLARY Concur in FRITILLARY U.K.  
to U.K. (C. in C. E.I. 191111Z to Admty.)  
Defect.

S/M H.M. S/M SEASCOUT First Far East Patrol 29th Dec.  
SEASCOUT. bombarded 2 Coasters already damaged and beached  
at Malacca Car Nicobar. 9 hits on largest of 200  
tons and 5 hits on other of 100 tons which slid  
back into water. Fire shifted to pier which  
received 5 hits. Counter attack of 4 bombs from unseen aircraft.  
(C. in C. E.I. 191231 to Admty.)



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Friday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

SEYCHELLES. SEYCHELLES departs point (X) Bermuda 2300/19th. (Route). E.T.A. (G) 1600/28, speed 13 knots. (N.O.B. Bermuda, 191531 to Admty., etc.)

French S/M LE CENTAURE. French S/M LE CENTAURE escorted by SCOTT (who passes this to S/M) will be rerouted by Com. 10th Fleet (C. and R.) to Bermuda for repairs. (C.T.F.25, 191641Z to N.O.B. Bermuda.)

U/B dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q., 191445Z, Cominch 191526Z.)

LEWIS L. DYCHE sunk 4th Jan. U/B contacts. LEWIS L. DYCHE sunk by enemy A/C off Mindoro 4th Jan. Para. (D) 191450Z unidentified merchant vessel reported sighting a periscope wake 10.49 N., 61.40 W. 181930Z U.S.S. BIDDLE reported two doubtful contacts 12.09 N., 63.22 W. Admty. give to H.Q.C.C. for info. (Cominch, 192059Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)

MAENAD. Departure Halifax 2030Z/19th Jan. MAENAD (S.O.), M.M.S.1054 in company to Horta routed (B) 39.59 N., 54.55 W. (C) 39.55 N., 43.02 W. (D) 39.04 N., 31.59 W. (E) 38.52 N. 29.16 W. thence direct. Speed 9 knots. E.T.A. 1830Z/27th. (3) Upon arrival Horta request these ships be sailed to U.K. (C. in C. C.N.A., 192145Z to S.B.N.O. Azores.) See 231422Z.

Australia and New Zealand

C. in C. B.P.F. Command. Headquarters Ship. Your 121002 (received today 18th). Provision of liner you propose is quite impracticable at present in view of manpower situation and shortage of shipping of the type required. (2) Pending further experience, following temporary arrangements are approved: (a) On conclusion of attachment to Com. 7th Fleet, LOTHIAN to be used as your headquarters ship. Para. 1(D) of your 212228 Dec. and A.M. 130113 also refer. (b) In addition, F.O. Force X is to detail for duty at intermediate base most suitable L.S.I.(L) as local depot ship for harbour craft crews, mail and medical parties, drafts etc. (3) Former signals not to all. (V.C.N.S., 190030A to C. in C. B.P.F.)



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- UNICORN. Your 170510 not to Cdr. S.W. Pacific Sea Fron.  
B.P.F. N.O.I.C. Fremantle and R.A.(D) B.P.F. para. 1  
build-up. I agreed.  
(2) Request UNICORN continue unescorted to R/V  
with ULSTER and URANIA off south-west Australia  
and thence proceed direct to Sydney.  
(3) Request you will arrange with N.O.I.C. Fremantle to sail  
these destroyers to R/V arranged by you.  
(4) Request Cdr. S.W. Pacific Sea Fron. will give route onward  
from this R/V.  
(5) R.A.(D) B.P.F. should command this convoy.  
(C. in C. B.P.F., 190345Z to C. in C. E.I.)
- B.P.F. Minelaying operation undertaken by B.P.F. will  
minelaying. be planned primarily by C. in C. U.S. Pacific  
Fleet. Further, when British S/Ms. are based  
in Pacific they will continue to operate under  
C.T.F.71.  
(2) It is therefore considered there is not sufficient scope  
at present for such an experienced officer as Hesslegrave  
particularly in view of position he has built up and holds  
in South East Asia Command. Your 151341 refers.  
(3) It is however, considered that a suitable officer should be  
selected and held available to your C. in C. B.P.F. Staff for  
operation "Envisage" in my 160653.  
(C. in C. B.P.F., 190701 to Admty.)
- B.P.F. My 220045 Dec. Forward administrative planning  
Bases and should now proceed on the assumption that the  
supply route. next set up of British bases in the Pacific will  
be as follows:  
(a) A principal intermediate base in the  
Philippines.  
(b) An advanced anchorage possibly advanced base further forward  
than the Philippines.  
(c) A small intermediate base at Manus for use as an escort  
base and as a staging point on the supply route from Australia  
forward.  
(2) As at present visualised this arrangement will begin to take  
shape in May or June of this year.  
(3) With regard to the intermediate base in the Philippines it  
is not yet clear (a) Where this will be. (b) Whether the  
British submarines will be based in the same place as the rest of  
the Fleet.  
(4) For the meanwhile Manus will be employed as the intermediate  
base in the forthcoming series of operations.  
(5) My 160451 not to all para. 3 also refers.  
(C. in C. B.P.F., 190709Z to V.A.(Q), R.A.F.T., etc.)
- Digest (2) At daybreak previous day patrol Liberator  
1094. bombed and destroyed one sea truck off Labuan  
/8th Jan. in Brunei Bay.  
(4) Another shore-based patrol Liberator carefully  
searched coast line French Indo-China from Camranh  
Bay to Cape Sahoi and reported coast devoid of  
shipping except one large freighter transport

/beached ...



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FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Digest 1094.  
18th Jan.  
(Contd.)

beached and burning, also minimum five tanker hulks or wrecks.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 190731Z to Admty.)

B.P.F.  
Carrier  
borne  
aircraft.  
Efficiency  
of Personnel.

One of the lessons learnt by the Americans from their prolonged and intensive campaign in which carrier-borne aircraft have played a predominant role is that the efficiency of air crews drops off sharply after a few months of such intensive operations.

(2) They have estimated that after a Carrier has operated for six months this efficiency has dropped to the extent that makes it economical to replace their entire component with a new and consequently raw team. On the strength of recent experience and in the light of future operations they are now considering reducing this period to four months.

(3) In order to keep the air groups changing round at a steady rate it is necessary to have - (A) One or two such spare air groups right forward ready to be embarked. (B) A certain proportion in the forward area completing their training and (C) The remainder in the rear area or at home training and forming.

(4) I realise that the adoption of such a policy in the British Service would be revolutionary since we have always stressed the importance of the close relation of the Carrier and her aircraft but I am convinced that it will be most desirable to adopt the American policy in this theatre since there is no reason to doubt the American conclusion as to its necessity.

(B) It would be unreasonable to expect our air crews to undertake the same scale of operations as the Americans in the same area without some comparable terms of service.

(5) I realise also that the shortage of Fleet Air Arm personnel may prevent such a policy from being implemented for some time to come unless sacrifices are made in other directions (e.g. in Assault C.V.Es.) but I feel that an expression of Admiralty policy in this connection might do a great deal to reduce the difficulty referred to in para. 4(B) above.  
(C. in C. B.P.F., 190743Z to Admty., etc.)

SALVESTOR  
(salvage  
vessel)

SALVESTOR is urgently required for initial operations of B.P.F. but does not appear in list of Fleet Train in your 170510. Your 160627 Dec. also refers.

(2) Request information whether ship has arrived in Ceylon and if so expected date of sailing for Australia which should be as early as possible. Your 041001 to C. in C. Med. refers.  
(C. in C. B.P.F., 190745Z to C. in C. E.I.)

B.P.F.  
aircraft.

Your 300330 Dec. and associated signals and V.A. (A)'s 141034 Jan. not to all.  
In order to expand the backing and endurance of your carrier force to the extent which you require without overloading the support and maintenance

/facilities ...



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aircraft.

facilities which can at present be made available, the following arrangements are being made, though as you will appreciate they are very extravagant in ships and personnel which we are so anxious to economise at this time:

(a) To allocate to the Pacific all Assault Carriers which can be released after meeting the minimum requirements of the East Indies Fleet.

(b) To employ the Light Fleet Carriers in the Home or East Indies Fleets until you have support enough for them in the Pacific.

(2) To meet your immediate requirements Cominch will be asked to forego the four or five Assault Carriers offered to him in A.M. 211838 Dec., para. 5(b). Of these ships SLINGER (Corsairs) and SPEAKER (Hellcats) could reach Sydney by end of Feb. Two more could reach Sydney by early April, request you will state whether you prefer Seafire or Hellcat ships. The squadrons of these ships will be available to form reserve carrier groups and the ships will perform replenishment duties as well as providing accommodation and support for the squadrons.

(3) PATROLLER, REAPER and RANEE will come under your orders for the same general purpose when they have completed their present assignment in April. They will have to fetch their fighter squadrons from South Africa. It will not be possible for some time to provide any reserve squadrons of T.B.Rs. but an increasing number of the fighters will be equipped and trained as fighter-bombers.

(4) The air staffs will be replaced as soon as possible in those ships from which they were withdrawn.

(5) A.M. 170354 Jan. explains the position regarding reserve air crews in excess of those already overborne in the carriers. (V.C.N.S., 192347A to C. in C. B.P.F.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGNS/M attack  
and sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/19th Jan.

Para. (A) (1) Gibraltar aircraft sighted possible Snort. at 0843/18th Jan. in 34° 16' N., 08° 50' W.

(2) KILCHATAN made D/C attack on suspected contact at 2107/18th Jan. in 33° 28' N., 09° 40' W.

Para. (B) (1) VERITY obtained radar contact at 0217/19th Jan. in 32° 57' N., 09° 33' W.

(D.D.I.C., 191129A to N.S.H.Q., Cominch.)

U/B  
dispositions.

Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C., 191351A, 191354A.)



20.1.1945  
Saturday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North Sea.

1(a) SS. CARRIER, mined off 12A buoy, sank in tow off the Wash, but all her crew were taken out of her by BLENCATHRA and landed at Immingham.  
(b) The 16 Russian submarine chasers which are unable to make the passage round the North Cape during the winter can profitably be used for local patrols by C. in C. Rosyth from Granton and Port Edgar.

Northern Waters.

2. Convoy R.A.63 less FORT HIGHFIELD, damaged in collision and expected to take 48 hours repairing in Skaalefjord, and LONGWOOD, broken down, sailed from Faeroes for U.K. at 1130.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Algiers.

3. 2 Italian landing craft at Barcelona and a M.B. at Port Mahon have been released from internment and reached Algiers.

Adriatic.

4(a) Partisans more friendly at Split.  
(b) The German force referred to in engagement of 18th January near Idolo Islet considered to consist of 2 large and 4 small M.A.S. boats and 2 small M.Bs. carrying torpedoes. The enemy were sighted first by 2 small motor launches at which they fired 7 torpedoes before retiring. Torpedoes ran ashore.  
(c) Wellingtons on R/C Fiume to Trieste bombed and stopped medium vessel and bombed two other enemy vessels. 17 aircraft engaged in extensive air-sea rescue searches, 6 men so far rescued.

Greece.

5. L.S.T(2) 178 was mined near Patras to-day and reached port next day. There were no casualties. All reported quiet at Kavalla.



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War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

S.E. Asia.           6. To-night Liberators laid mines in Gulf of Martaban and Siam.

Australia and New Zealand

China.  
Hongkong.           7. Six Liberators laid sea mines in Hongkong Harbour.

Formosa.           8. Early this morning search planes reported two substantial convoys southern Formosa St. the first 24 ships 55 miles S.E. of Amoy heading there. A mariner attacked and hit one large ship with bomb but results were not observed. The second convoy consisted of 20 to 30 ships approaching Takao (Formosa) from the North.

Philippines.       9. Successful unopposed landing affected to-day on Santiago Island at N.W. extremity of Lingayan Gulf.

Timor.             10. Three U.S. Liberators attacked a wrecked vessel near Flores Island.



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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of United Kingdom

Removal of Fleet Anchorage baffles at Scapa.

Admiralty 031651 Dec. and my 181806 January. Request Boom Defence Officer may be instructed to commence removal of baffles round the fleet anchorage in the following order H, K, G east of L baffle, D, C, L. (C. in C.H.F. 201207A to A.C.O.S.)

Operations

North Sea

Patrols

The Nore and Dover patrols for tonight 20th/21st January.

(1) 12 RETALICK, 14 HAMBLEDON, 16 CURZON, 18 EKINS, 19 THORNBOROUGH and SOUTHDOWN, 21 SHELDRAKE.

(2) Coastal Force Unit Z.7 F.A.2, Z.3 F.C.8, Z.9 F.C.5, F.G.2 and F.G.3 with CURZON, Z.5, F.A.3, F.L.(2) and F.L.3 with RETALICK, F.M.2 and F.M.3 with EKINS. (V.A. Dover, 201503A to Admty., Cs. in C. Nore, Portsmouth.)

Discharge situation Report

Cositintrep No. 291 Part IV.

Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600A/19 January.

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> (incl. coal.)	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
<u>British</u>					
Antwerp	-	194	12,773	-	1,079
Ostend	1,021	102	3,662	622	1,968
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-
Dieppe	72	-	1,062	-	-
Caen	-	-	2,662	-	-
Calais	-	-	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	986	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,093</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>21,145</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>3,047</b>
<u>U.S. North</u>					
Antwerp	-	125	10,915	-	-
Cherbourg	-	32	6,341	5,627	2,743
Le Havre	6,093	162	3,948	-	-
Rouen	2	-	7,311	3,960	2,275
Granville	-	-	714	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,095</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>29,229</b>	<b>9,587</b>	<b>5,018</b>
<u>U.S. South</u>					
Marseilles	119	40	2,756	-	1,266
Port De Bouc	-	-	1,137	-	-
Toulon	-	-	361	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>4,254</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,266</b>

Note:- Antwerp (U.S.) Ammo. discharge for 18th January was 235 tons (Signed Eisenhower Cite SHGDS.) (S.H.A.E.F. 201515A to Admty. and others.)

Russian S/M <sup>chasers</sup> charges in Rosyth command.

A.M. 261619 Dec.+ and my 291840 December. I am informed that S.Cs. can be utilised operationally and in view of this consider 12

/could...



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Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Russian  
S/M chasers  
in Rosyth  
command.  
(Contd.)

could be based at Granton and usefully employed on loop patrol for which at present only two trawlers are available. The other 4 could, if desired be berthed at Port Edgar, vessels being changed round as necessary for maintenance.  
(2) At least 2 A/S, Officers and Interpreters would be necessary to make S.Cs. operationally effective.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 201551 to Admty.)  
+ Berthing at Port Edgar of 16 Russian S.Cs.

Minefield  
off 12A  
buoy  
East Coast

C.A.F.O. 2120/4 para. 3.  
(a) SS. CARRIER.  
(b) Norwegian.  
(c) 19th January, 1945.  
(d) N.W.  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile from 12A buoy.  
(e) Mined.  
(f) Sunk in position 53 degs. 22' 58" N.

00 degs. 58' 54" E. after being towed from (d).  
(g) 33 survivors - none missing. Picked up by H.M.S. BLENCATHRA and landed at Immingham p.m. 20th January.  
C.A.F.O. 1968/40.

- (1) 1345 G.M.T. 19th January.
  - (2) SS. CARRIER.
  - (3) Gross tonnage 3036.
  - (4) N.W.  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile from 12A buoy.
  - (5) N.W. by N. 5 knots.
  - (6) Port side amidships.
  - (7) Small explosion only.
- (F.O. Humber, 202359A to Admty.)

Operations

Channel

Patrols  
and Escorts

Pass the Gate at 0830A today Saturday and take up patrol as in my 171048.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 200029A to ASSINIBOINE, INCONSTANT.)

Your 112120. Concur but agree with C. in C. Plymouth in his 151623 that where the convoy escort is weak discretion must be allowed for the S.O. escorts to dispose a support group as additional close escorts.  
(2) It is also considered that where convoys contain personnel ships special instructions are required for the S.O. escorts to detail beforehand one ship for the special duties of:-  
(a) Standing by torpedoed personnel ship with a view to immediate rescue operations if required.  
(b) To report to S.O. escorts if further ships are needed for this duty.  
(3) This is considered necessary in view of the large numbers of Allied troops which are now being transported in this Command.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 201440A to Admty.)

/In...



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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Patrols &  
Escorts.  
(Contd.)

In order that ships may verify rapidly whether a particular position contains a non-submarine or wreck not listed in P.C.W.O. 161, a signal prefixed immediate may be coded and transmitted to C. in C. Plymouth in the following form:-

"Interrogation lat. long." meaning "is there a non-submarine in position indicated."  
(2) Reply will be signalled as follows:- "Confirmed lat. long." meaning "nearest known non-submarines are in positions indicated," or "clear" meaning no known non-submarines within 3 miles of your position.

(3) C. in C. W.A. is requested to pass to escort and support groups concerned.

(4) P.C.W.O. 164 will be amended accordingly.

(C. in C. Plymouth 201523A to Plymouth A/S Groups.)

(1) On completion as in my 201011 DUNCAN and ICARUS take up patrol between 090° Bishop Rock 10 and 180° Lizard Head 7.

(2) ASSINIBOINE and INCONSTANT on completion as in my 201310 take up patrol between Lizard Head and Prawle Point.

(C. in C., Plymouth 201603A to E.G. 14.)

Following special movement in your area tonight. (2) Section of convoy C.U. 54 (4 M.Vs. and 2 D.Es.) to Cherbourg.

(3) Route H/2 buoy position 50° 09' N. 01° 33' W. 5 miles E. of H.8 buoy 4 miles east of H.10 thence to Cherbourg.

(4) Sweep 10 miles up route from H.10 returning so as to arrive H.10 30' before convoy then patrol vicinity until convoy has entered. (5) Convoy E.T.A. H.2 buoy 0300A/21st January.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 202120A to JONQUIERE, RIBBLE.)

Day patrols 21st January.

On completion of previous duties 1st and 26th E.G. patrol as in my 152238A.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 202204A to S.O.E.Gs. 1, 26.)

HAVELOCK pass Gate at 0830A/21 and proceed to join INCONSTANT and ASSINIBOINE patrolling between Lizard and Start.

(C. in C. Plymouth 202228A to HAVELOCK.)

My 202120A not to all S.O. 26th E.G. will be joining you.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 202252A to JONQUIERE, RIBBLE.)

American S.Cs. Com. 12th Fleet 191528 refers.

to C. in C.  
Portsmouth.

(1) Comescort control group has been directed to place these craft under your operational control as they become available.

(2) It is desired to establish administrative H.Q. at Usnaab Portland-Weymouth and effect major repairs at Usnaab Dartmouth.

(3) Your concurrence para. 2 is requested.

(C.T.F. 123 201633A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

E.G. 2.

My 191203A and 191831A sailed.

(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 201659A to Cs. in C. Plymouth, W.A.)

/TONKINOIS...



20.1.1945  
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

West Coast France

TONKINOIS,  
LA  
COMBATTANTE,  
CROIX DE  
LORRAINE  
to Brest.

TONKINOIS, take LA COMBATTANTE and CROIX DE LORRAINE under your orders and sail to pass Needles 1400A 21st to Brest.  
(2) Route by Q.Z.S.631, 629, 590 to Start Point, thence to position (f) 48.33.40 N. 05.23 W. (g) 48.13.30 N. 05.23. W. thence into Brest by Q.Z.S.617. Speed 15 knots. E.T.A. 0800A 22nd. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 201650A to TONKINOIS.)

Operations

Western Approaches

Possible  
U-boat

Promising A/S contact reported as S/M attacked by STARWORT in position 51.57 N. 06.42 W. Contact confirmed S/M by INMAN suitable. (S.O.E.G. B.1, 200600A to C. in C.W.A.)

Anti-U-  
boat deep  
minefield

Owing to weather unable to make R/V given in C. in C.W.A.'s 192220 in time for daylight lay. (2) Intend to sail 0900 tomorrow Sunday to pass through same position at 1330. (APOLLO, 201051A to Force 38, C. in C.W.A.)

Patrols  
and  
Escorts

During the present U-boat threat in British coastal waters, I feel that the Irish Sea portions of the U.C. (A) convoys are insufficiently escorted.

(2) If you concur, I will use the escorts of the U.C.(B) convoy to reinforce this escort as far as between 7 degs. and 10 degs. W. This will depend on the U-boat situation at the time and also the time required to allow these escorts to return to fuel before sailing with the U.C.(B) convoy.

(3) It is also my intention to support these convoys with a support group whenever possible.

(C. in C.W.A., 201627Z to Com. 12th Fleet.)

Focal Area and Inshore Patrols.

Planning and conduct of these patrols should be based on following appreciation of enemy's most probable tactics:-

(a) U-boat will approach focal areas at infrequent intervals to seek easy targets of opportunity:

(b) Attacks will be made from periscope depth in daylight or bright moonlight:

(c) After attack U-boat will retire submerged from the scene as fast as patrol activity will allow. If this is intense he will probably bottom until it slackens:

(d) Schnorkelling to charge batteries will be carried out normally at night, away from areas of activity and close inshore whenever the coast is convenient:

(2) The following points concerning the schnorkel should be borne in mind:-

(a) Rough weather does not prohibit its use but calm water will normally be sought for comfort:

/(b)...



War Diary.

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Patrols &  
Escorts.  
(Contd.)

(b) Whilst in use, U-Boat must maintain minimum speed of about 3 knots to preserve diving control.  
(c) Draught of U-Boat whilst snorting will be about 6 fathoms.

This with 2 (b) precludes entry into narrow bays and infers stemming of tidal stream when close inshore at night: (d) Exposed schnorkel is vulnerable to perlikon and small arms fire, using explosive or A.P. bullets. If punctured it cannot be used in bad weather and U-Boat will ultimately be forced to surface for charging.

(C. in C. W.A. 202352A to F.Os. i/c Greenock, N.I., Liverpool, Milford Haven, Cardiff, Cdre. (D) W.A.)

Indiscipline  
in H.M.C.S.  
RIVIERE DU  
LOUP.

(1) At 0730 on 10th Jan. 47 ratings of RIVIERE DU LOUP refused duty and shut themselves in fore mess deck. Ship was at Belfast and Commanding Officer had been discharged to sick quarters on previous day. At 1840 ratings surrendered and were taken under guard to H.M. ship. Board of

Enquiry was held and subsequently offenders were summarily punished by new Commanding Officer (C.N.M.O.121325A.) One accused acquitted and remainder sentenced to imprisonment in lieu of detention for periods varying from 90 to 42 days. They are now in Belfast civil prison. Two sentences suspended.

(2) Proceedings of board of enquiry are being sent to N.S.H.Q. by air copies also Admiralty and C.N.M.O.

(3) Recommend that RIVIERE DU LOUP should be held in Canadian port for further investigation by Canadian naval authorities on following points: (a) Conduct of C.O. Lieut. Smellie and executive officer Lieut. Raney with reference to their responsibility for bad state of discipline in ship which appears to have been deteriorating for some time. (b) Reasons why P.Os. and Leading Seamen failed either to warn C.O. of known discontent or to take any action to prevent mutinous assembly which some almost certainly knew was contemplated by seamen.

(C. in C.W.A. 201819A to N.S.H.Q.)

My 201819A Jan. 1945. Board of enquiry report for N.S.H.Q. is being sent to Admiralty by courier tonight Saturday in envelope marked W.A. 020. Request it may be despatched by air at earliest opportunity.

(C. in C. W.A. 202335A to Admty.)

E.G. 21

If not in contact 21st E.G. leave patrol so as to enter Milford Haven at 1300/21st Jan. for fuel and 48 hours rest. Mails to Milford Haven.

(C. in C. W.A. 202346A to S.O.E.G. 21.)

Operations.

Norway.

Operation  
"Charlton"

My 191327. Postponed a further 24 hours. Acknowledge by V/S.

(C. in C. H.F. 201244A to DIDO, PREMIER, TRUMPETER, CAMPANIA, F.O.(D) H.F.)



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War Diary.20.1.1945  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Northern Waters.Ships de-  
tached from  
Western  
Approaches  
to Iceland  
(C).A.C.I.C's 141430 and C. in C. W.A. 181847.  
In view of the present U-Boat situation OXLIP  
should be sailed to U.K. for docking when essen-  
tial without relief, HONEYSUCKLE and NORTHERN SUN  
being retained in Iceland (C).(2) In the event of a recurrence of the U-Boat  
threat in Icelandic waters, consideration will be  
given to the allocation of reinforcements.  
(V.C.N.S. 200004A to C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C.)Convoy  
R.A. 63.Sailed R.A. 63 at 1131A today 20th (C.S. 10  
200059A refers.)(N.O.I.C. Faroes 201209A to F.Os. of Home Fleet,  
Cdre. (D) H.F., N.O.I.C. Aultbea, N.C.S.O. Loch  
Ewe, H.Q.C.C., 18 Group R.A.F., Admty. C. in C.  
W.A., C. in C. Rosyth, A.C.O.S. F.Os. i/c. N.  
Ireland, Greenock, A.C.I.C., Cdre. (D) W.A.,  
(S/M))SS. FORT HIGHFIELD, ex R.A. 63, damaged in collision night 18/  
19th, estimated time completion repairs p.m. Monday 22nd.(2) Ship anchored in Skaalefjord.  
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 201242A to Admty.)Schnorkel  
obstructors  
west of  
St. Kilda.Admiralty's 172209\* para. 2 not to H.Q.C.C. I am  
strongly averse to an obstruction of this nature  
being laid in area where hunting groups and  
coastal air can conveniently co-operate whenever  
hunting groups are available or in areas through  
which it might be desirable to divert convoys such  
as in proposal under review.(2) Although Sinkers will initially hold flotation and wire in  
position I am in doubt as to how long in winter weather mooring  
wire will last. I therefore suggest this type of obstruction be  
confined to area where it is least likely to prove a nuisance  
to our own side if it breaks adrift at any rate until the  
moorings have proved their reliability in service elsewhere.(3) I am not impressed with the value this obstruction is likely  
to prove, for if a German U-Boat fouled it, the existence and  
whereabouts of the boom would become known to the enemy, and  
subsequently German U-Boats would easily avoid it by deep diving  
or going round it.

(C. in C. W.A., 202342A to Admty.)

\* Para. 2. Concurrence or remarks to laying type O westward  
of St. Kilda.Navigational.Buoyage re-  
quired for  
inshore route,  
Yarmouth Rds.  
to Harwich.My 5674/528/1 of 4/11/44 and A.L. M/D of N.04604/  
44 of 29/11/44. In order to expedite further the  
movement of small coasting vessels it has been  
suggested that traffic should proceed by the inshore  
route between Yarmouth Roads and Harwich in dark  
hours.(2) The following changes in buoyage are required  
and it is requested that they may be carried out as  
soon as possible.

/(3)...



20.1.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Navigational.

Buoyage re- (3) A. S. Cutler, S.W. Whiting N.E. Whiting S.  
quired for Aldeburgh Napes S.B. 1, S.B.2, and S. Barnard  
inshore route, buoys to be replaced by lit buoys visible 2½ miles.  
Yarmouth Rds. B. Orfordness Light to be lit and visible 5 miles.  
to Harwich. C. Buoy marking wreck of MAGDAPUR in 52° 11' 28"  
(Contd.) N. 01° 42' 34" E. to be replaced by port hand  
lighted wreck buoy placed close W. of wreck.  
D. Aldeburgh Ridge buoy to be removed.  
(4) On completion of above changes in buoyage,  
inshore route will pass close east of Whiting Bank and not to  
west as at present.  
(5) F.O.I.C. Harwich 17 (C) of 10th January not to all addressees  
refers.  
(C. in C. Nore 201050A to Admty.)

Port Facilities.

Calais. Your 171807 and Port Commandant Calais P.C/7/C  
of 171135A neither to all addressees. Agreed that  
dredging of train ferry berth should be carried  
out when SHEPPERTON FERRY and HAMPTON FERRY are  
changed over. HAMPTON FERRY is expected to be ready to commence  
service about 20th Feb. and it is proposed that SHEPPERTON FERRY  
is taken off service for refit about three days before HAMPTON  
FERRY is ready to allow a clear period for dredging of four days  
commencing about 17th firm dates will be notified as soon as  
known. Agreed Q (M) TN Exfor Rear.  
(P.S.T.O. N.W.E. 201257 to S.S.T.O. Calais.)

Casualties & Defects.

SS. LEASIDE C.A.F.O. 2120/44 para. 3.  
PARK. A. SS. LEASIDE PARK. B. Canadian. C. 19th  
January, 0533 G.M.T. D. 53° 22' 34" N. 00° 50'  
00" E. E. Ran on SS. DALMORE wreck. F. Not  
sunk. Fore peaks numbers one and two holds flooded  
G. 51 - nonemissing.  
(F.O.I.C. Humber 201005 to Admty.)

SS. EMPIRE PRIZEMAN and IRISHMAN now towing EMPIRE MILNER to  
MILNER Humber.  
(IRISHMAN 201035A to F.O. Humber.)  
Your 201035. Report draft forward and aft and  
approx. E.T.A.  
(F.O. Humber 201101A to IRISHMAN.)

SS. EMPIRE My 191800A. Master of EMPIRE CLANSMAN states  
CLANSMAN. crew numbered 24 of whom 23 survived. All route  
orders and confidential books were locked in  
sealed containers and disposed of in about 3 or  
4 fathoms of water. Salvage officers have so far

/been...



20.1.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

SS. EMPIRE  
CLANSMAN.  
(Contd.)

been unable to board vessel but Master states there is a split between one and two hatches on both port and starboard sides apparently extending from keel upwards. The deck is corrugated and vessel is probably holed fore and aft and is beam to sea and still pounding at high water. Master intends making his report to receiver of wrecks Newcastle. Possibility of salvage is thought to be very slight. (N.O.I.C. Leith 201201A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Movements.

DUQUESNE,  
GLOIRE,  
cruisers.

Sailed F.S. DUQUESNE and F.S. GLOIRE as in my 191548A.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 200141A to C.T.F. 125, A.N.C. X.F.)  
Arrived 0935A/20 F.S. GLOIRE and F.S. DUQUESNE.  
(C.T.G. 125.2 201117A to C.T.F. 125.)

MAURITIUS,  
cruiser.

Arrived Clyde MAURITIUS.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 200958A to A.C.I.C.)  
Intend to sail MAURITIUS passing Clyde Boom 1500A/21st January. E.T.A. Scapa Gate 0830A/22nd January. S.O.A. 23 knots. A.C.O.S. is requested to arrange group IV lights 0730 - to 0800A and group III 0745 - 0830A. Admiralty is requested to divert mails to Scapa.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 201504A to C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S.)

BACHAQUERO,  
L.S.T.(I).

My 121712 January and A.M. 131751 neither to F.O.I.C. Glasgow, defects have now arisen in BACHAQUERO starboard boiler, the repair of which would necessitate placing vessel alongside a berth for at least 10 days with both boilers shut down. F.O.I.C. Glasgow's 192240 January, not to Admty. refers.

- (2) Additionally, examination shows that ship cannot beach in her present condition, a requirement for P.B. training.  
(3) Reference my 111511 January para. 1 BACHAQUERO can still carry out the work of assembling pontoon barge strings with steam in one boiler, but it is now estimated that length of time required to complete assembly is approx. 3 weeks.  
(4) It is therefore not intended undertaking the work of repairs to boilers, and it is proposed that when vessel is no longer required to assist in the P.B. training programme that she be sailed to Inveraray as in A.M. 111225 with the amendment that vessel should completely shut down, retaining only a ship-keeping party which could be accommodated in any of the other ships laid up there.  
(R.A.L.S.C.U. 201232A to Admty.)

DEVONSHIRE,  
cruiser.

DEVONSHIRE A.M. 182311 route. E. 49.10 N. 05.00 W. F. 49.10 N. 11.01 W. G. 51 N. 14 W. H. 55 N. 14 W. J. 160° Barra Head 10 miles thence by standard route through Minches to destination.  
(Admty. 201647A to C. in C. Plymouth.)



20.1.1945.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

E.G. ship repairs. KILMELFORD has been lying defective at Gibraltar for a considerable period awaiting complete camshaft assembly.  
(2) KILMORE is out of action requiring new generator supercharger likewise KILMARTIN requires new supercharger.  
(3) During KILBIRNIE's period of two months for repairs request you will remove necessary parts referred to in paras. 1 and 2 in order that KILMELFORD, KILMARTIN and KILMORE may once more become operational.  
(4) All the necessary spares have been on order for over six months and it is hoped that they will be forthcoming in time to complete KILBIRNIE.  
(5) KILMELFORD sails for Casa. in G.C.111. My 191256A.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 201049A to C.M.S.F.)  
My 201049. It would be much appreciated if you could arrange for the fitting of KILBIRNIE's camshaft assembly in KILMELFORD and when ready sail latter to Gibraltar with both generator superchargers on board.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 201609A to C.M.S.F.)

SS. MONTE AYALA. SOMALI is to weigh and proceed at 0030A Jan. 21st to R/V SS. MONTE AYALA and escort her to Gib.  
(2) SS. MONTE AYALA on passage from? Tenerife to Bilbao has been diverted by aircraft to Gibraltar. Her P.C.S. at 1220A today Sat. was 33.05 N., 13.45 W., 076°, 10 knots.  
(3) Route (details).  
(7) Report by immediate signal if not met by 1600A/21.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 201551A to SOMALI) As amended 201711A.

E.G. 1. Being in all respects ready for sailing you are to sail at 1000A Jan. 21st to R/V Group 1 and thereafter to form part of it, vice BELLWORT.  
(2) Group 1 consisting of LOWESTOFT (S.O.) and CROCUS escorting M.K.S.78 to 08° W. then returning patrol to west of Strait.  
(3) LOWESTOFT arrange R/V. HYDERABAD acknowledge.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 201809A to HYDERABAD.)

South Atlantic

VALIANT. Intend to sail VALIANT 0900Z/21st Jan. speed 12 knots routed as in my 161131Z to F.O.G.M.A. and Admty.  
(3) Escort to position (A) WYE and DOVEY detach on relief by Escort Group 38 and proceed to Gibraltar.  
(4) E.T.A. position (C) 180 Lizard Head 5 miles 1200Z/31st Jan.  
(F.O.C.W.Af., 201040Z to F.O.G.M.A.)



20.1.1945.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic - Contd.

Spanish  
ships.

Spanish ships EL NEPTUNO and MONTE GURUGU have  
not arrived Freetown.  
(F.O.C.W.Af., 201047 to F.O.G.M.A.)

A.F.D. 32.

My 201949A.

It is intended to tow A.F.D.32 from New York via  
the West Indies and the Canaries to Gibraltar,  
leaving New York approx. mid-Feb.

(2) An escort of three vessels will be required from the West  
Indies to vicinity of Las Palmas. The only ships which can  
apparently be made available and have adequate endurance are:  
ANNAMITE, CHEVREUIL, GAZELLE.

(3) Request you will report whether these three ships can be  
made available to arrive San Juan, P.R., about mid-March and  
whether they have in all respects sufficient endurance for  
the passage from San Juan, P.R. to Las Palmas assuming average  
S. of A. of the tow of 100 miles per day.

(D.O.D.(F), 202000A to F.O.C.W.Af.) See also 231652, 240945,  
281739A.



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20.1.1945  
SaturdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

- Black Sea Minefields. Admiralty 200015A and reply 302007 to Admiral Archer - See Lion Copy.
- Black Sea shipping. BRITISH PATIENCE now ready in the Gulf will load cargo of alkylate for discharge at Batum and MARATHON will load cargo of aviation spirit or alkylate from Eastern Seaboard for discharge at Odessa or Batum, both to connect with U.G.S. 70 or 71.  
(2) Request details of route and any danger areas Bosphorus-Batum. (A.C.N.S. 200016A plus 301642A to Admiral Archer )
- KELVIN. Request you sail KELVIN to Malta to arrive on 22nd Jan. F.O.L.E.M. 191116B refers.  
(S.B.N.O. Greece, 200917 to B.N.L.Patras)
- Black Sea. C. in C. Med. 181908. Soviet naval authorities state that light sectors given in my 151641 should be read as true bearings from the light and not from seaward.  
(2) C. in C. Medn. 171231. Reply from Soviet authorities is awaited and has been promised for to-day Sat.  
(Admiral Archer, 201105A to Admty.)
- RICHELIEU. BASQUE and SIMOUN are being retained by F.O.G.M.A. to escort RICHELIEU to Gibraltar from Casablanca 24th Jan. and will join FLANFOR on completion of this duty.  
(C. in C. Med. 201152A to F.O.N.A.M.)
- M/S TRUELOVE. Your 191235B. TRUELOVE has been detailed to R/V U.S. WILLIAM BLUNT at north end of Q.B.C. 922 at 1600/21st Jan.  
(SYLVIA, 201432B to F.O.L.E.M.)
- French Refits SUFFREN. Appears that certain U.S. Authorities are (possibly unwittingly) disregarding present instructions concerning repairs and alterations to French cruiser SUFFREN. Commorseafron reports that -  
(1) Ship has commenced preliminary installation on orders from French Admiralty of S.F. Radar sent by French Mission.  
(2) French expect S.A. Radar late Jan. which they may allocate to this ship.  
(2) Commorseafron states that if installation of S.A. and S.F. Radars and issue of material are authorised by C. in C. Med. work can be completed early March.  
(3) In view of FAN 350, signals leading up to B.A.D's 181739 Sept. and also my 261511 Nov. am informing Commorseafron that C. in C. Med. cannot authorise installation of Radars or issue of material and is referring matter to Admiralty and B.A.D.  
(4) Request confirmation that installation of Radars and issue of material is not approved.  
(C. in C. Med. 201750A to Admty.)

/GRADISCA ...



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SaturdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

GRADISCA German Hospital Ship GRADISCA intercepted by  
Exchange of ACTIVE in position 036 degs. 46' N. 026 degs. 45'  
Nationals. E. at 1345B/20th Jan. C. in C. Med's 081810.  
(F.O.L.E.M. 201910B to C. in C. Med etc.)

SS. NARVA C.A.F.O. 2120/44.  
Sunk (a) NARVA. (b) British. (c) 15th Jan. 1945 at  
15.1.45. 1413.  
(d) 33 degs. 24' N. ~~00~~/9 degs. 25' E.  
(e) Explosion. Cause unknown.  
(f) Sunk (within two mins. approx.)  
(g) Landed at Alexandria. 7 names of survivors landed at Alex.  
Thomas Henry Master, A Cummings 3rd Engineer, D. Robinson  
Chief Steward, N. Maclean A/B, D MacNeil B'osun, S. Wacey Cook,  
F. Petty D.E.M.S., Gunner.  
(2) In addition information has been received by telephone from  
Port Said that the following four survivors were landed at that  
port. S.M. Smith Chief Officer, A.J. Marsh, 2nd Engineer,  
J.O. Marquiss D.E.M.S. gunlayer, J. MacKillop D.E.M.S. gunner.  
(R.A. Alex. 201951 to Admty.)

Air Cositin- 287423. MX 43899 cipher 20th Jan.  
trep No. 559. Cite FHGCT FHGBI signed Alexander.  
(Extracts). Coastal Air Force. Night 18/18. 4 Wellingtons  
on R/C Promontore to Maestra point bombed 5 small  
ships, mostly with unobserved results but one was  
claimed probably destroyed. 3 Wellingtons bombed  
small shipping, barges and E-Boats in areas in and near Portofino  
and Spezia with unobserved results.  
Day 19. 3 Beaufighters and 4 Spitfires on river patrol Lussin  
Island - Promontore sank a 100 foot powered barge and scored roc-  
ket hits on a 60 ft. armoured schooner.  
6 Beaufighters attacked the coaling wharf and jetties at Arsa  
scoring rocket hits on quays and rail trucks. Three R/P Hur-  
ricanes strafed gun sites and small enemy craft at Lussin Piccolo  
claiming 2 x 60 foot landing craft damaged. 4 Hurricanes and  
2 Spitfires scored direct R/P hits on docks at Jablanac.  
(H.Q. M.A.A.F. No T.O.O/20 to W.O)

Situation (1) Greece. All quiet.  
Report (2) Adriatic. Partisans more friendly at Split.  
No. 541. German force referred to in No. 540 para. 2  
considered to consist of 2 large and 4 small M.A.S.  
boats and 2 small M.B's carrying torpedoes.  
Enemy sighted first by two motor launches at whom  
they fired 7 torpedoes before retiring. Torpedoes ran ashore  
and exploded. Attempted interception of enemy failed. The 2  
small M.B's attempted to close Zara harbour and it was one of these  
which was sunk.  
(3) Algiers. 2 Italian landing craft at Barcelona and a M.B. at  
Port Mahon have been released from internment and reached Algiers.  
(C. in C. Med. 202338A to F.O.L.E.M.)



**TOP SECRET****OUT**

**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.)

TOP SECRET

200015A January.

To: Admiral Archer  
Info. C. in C. Mediterranean  
F.O.L.E.M.  
B.N.A; Ankara.  
B.N.L.O. Black Sea  
S.A.C. Med.  
B.A.D.  
S.E.N.O. Greece  
Com. 8th Fleet.

Date 20.1.45.

*Mediterranean*  
*20.1.45 Saturday*

NAVAL CYPHER X PLUG, I.D.C.(O.T.P.),  
NAVAL SHORE CODE (O.T.P.) & O.T.P. T/K.

From Admiralty.

Assuming that Area 'K' and coastal area 'EPG'  
(your 071025 and paragraph 2 of your 091605) cannot be  
cleared in time, Admiralty consider route given in your  
221401/December undesirable.

2. Until areas can be cleared the following route is  
suggested (C. in C. Med's 171741 refers):-

From departure position off Bosphorus in  
41 16 North 29 25 East via route in F.O.L.E.M.  
261952 to

(A) 44 40 North 31 56 East  
thence to

(B) 45 39 North 31 15 East  
thence to approach point in your 221401/December.

3. In the absence of sights

Point (A) can only be made with accuracy by a running  
fix using Cape Khersonese radio beacon and  
the use of soundings to pick up the 100  
fathom line;

Point (B) should be made with aid of Cape Fontana radio  
beacon which lies direct ahead on course  
from (A) to (B).

4. It is considered that the radio beacons should be  
backed up by the following visual aids:

(A) (i) A light vessel, fitted with a radio beacon,  
as near point (A) as practicable.

or (ii) In the absence of a light vessel, anchor a  
patrol craft at some point 'X' (about 44 51 N.  
31 50 East) with instructions to burn a  
searchlight at intervals and transmit by W/T and  
sound her siren in low visibility.

or (iii) .....



or (iii) If (ii) is not possible, lay a light buoy as close to point (A) as possible and send a patrol craft to act as in (ii) above when convoys or ships are expected.

and (B) Lay a light buoy at point (B).

5. It would be of great assistance if a radio beacon were erected on Cape Tarkhan.

6. Request you will obtain views of Soviet Naval Authorities.\*

7. Signals quoted not to all addressees.

\* Reply: 30 2007, page 585A

200015A.

for Head of M. (808)  
Approved A.C.N.S. (UT).

MG

1st Lord.  
1st S.L. (3)  
D.F.S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (H)  
A.C.N.S. (F)  
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)  
Sec.  
Nav. Sec.  
P.A.S. (S)  
P.A.S. (L)  
U.W.R.  
D.C.  
Plot.  
D.O.D. (H) (4)  
D.O.D. (F) (2)  
D.D.I.C. (2)  
D.N.I. (4)

D. of P. (2)  
D. of P. (Q) (3)  
Hd. of M. (M. 05812/44)  
D.T.D. (4)  
D.T.D. (C)  
W.D.  
Admiral Blake (4)  
Hydrog.  
D.S.D.  
D. of N.  
D.M.S.  
D.A/S.W.  
D.A.U.D.  
D. of S.T. (6)



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SaturdayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

Mauritius 272. No.44.  
Cyclone. Centre of cyclone passed over Mauritius from North to South in early hours of 17th Jan. Extensive damage to property and some lives lost. Will report further when review of situation more complete. Am at present re-establishing services and visiting spots most affected.  
(Mauritius, No T.O.O. to S. of S. Colonies)

Your telegram No.46 of 19th Jan. to Governor Kenya. Following information has been received through Command H.Q. from Military authorities in Mauritius. Most severe cyclone for 53 years struck Mauritius on 16th and 17th Jan. causing very heavy damage and destruction of Military property and installations, in spite of full cyclone warnings and precautions.  
(E.A.G.C. No T.O.O. S. of S. Colonies)

Air Cover A.M. 192347 to C. in C. B.P.F.  
for E.I. It is appreciated that your fleet will be for  
Fleet. some little time short of fighter cover and that the final size of your Assault Carrier Force will be reduced. Under the new arrangements your Carrier strength should build up to 8 Assault Carriers and 2 General Purpose Carriers while in addition you may have some Light Fleet Carriers waiting their call to the Pacific  
It appears probable that these ships will be adequate for post monsoon operations.  
(2) It is the intention that you should retain Com. E.C. in ROYALIST to command and train your Assault Carrier Force.  
(3) SLINGER and SPEAKER should be sent to Australia. The names of the other two, which are dependent on C. in C. B.P.F.'s reply to A.M.192347 will be signalled later. The maximum numbers of reserve A/C and any reserve aircrews that can be accepted should be embarked before sailing.  
(D.O.D.(F), 200141A to C. in C. E.I.)

U-Boat Estimates.  
dispositions. (C. in C. E.I. 200348Z to S. and A. E.I. Stn.)

Air Storage in India and Ceylon.  
C. in C. E.I. 200629Z to Admty.  
See Lion Copy.

CEYLON My 131024 N.T. in W.D. add CEYLON to Force 69.  
(C. in C.E.I. 200631Z to Admty.)

Minelaying Mine requirements can now be met without use of  
B.P.F. mine issuing ships. C. in C. B.P.F.160653Z refers.  
(2) PROME requires docking. GURNA requires small alterations for accommodating of S.R.R's. Local arrangements will be made.  
(3) Request early information regarding revised mine loads.  
(C. in C. E.I. 201035 to Admty, Reply 291328A.)

/UNICORN ...



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FOREIGN STATIONS  
EAST INDIES.

UNICORN.

My 190522. In view of Admiralty's 181917 (unescorted passage of UNICORN undesirable) and Admiralty's 191226, intend CRANE and REDPOLE to accompany UNICORN. (C. in C. E.I. 201043Z and 221031Z to C. in C. B.P.F.)

B.P.F.  
build up.

C. in C. B.P.F. 020418. Request you will transfer as required a third U-class S/M to meet this requirement. (D.O.D.(F), 201246A to C. in C. E.I.S.) Reply, 270524Z.

Palk Strait,  
Scheme.

C. in C. E.I.'s 011109 not to all addressees. 4 in No. 90 ft. M.F.V. Fireboats will be allocated from U.K. with crew and R.N.F.F. personnel to cover assembly anchorages for which R.N. will be responsible.

Request information whether Palk Strait scheme will be covered by this arrangement and if not report of fire-fighting provision from U.K. necessary to cover Palk Strait scheme. (D. of L.D. 201604A to C. in C. E.I. C. in C. B.P.F. Info: F.O. Ceylon). Tug EMPIRE PHYLLIS allocated for Palk Straits Scheme.



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

B.P.F. carriers, loan to U.S.A. A.M. 192347 to C. in C. B.P.F. Request you will explain to Cominch the emergency measures which have had to be taken to provide the British Pacific Fleet Carriers with more backing for sustained operations and which necessitate the withdrawal of the offer made in A.M. 211838 December para. 5B.  
 (2) The offer in para. 5A of the same signal remains firm except that THANE has been damaged and will not now be available. The remaining three should be turned over to C. in C. B.P.F. in April. (V.C.N.S. 200137A to B.A.D.)

U-Boat. Highly inconclusive bearings on enigmas. Your 200232 refers from 0226Z to 0243Z on 6280 kilocycles. Suggest U-Boat in area 55.00 to 58.00 N. 35.00 to 45.00 (N.S.H.Q. 200444Z to E.G. 16.)

Army bomber missing. Army B.24 bomber en route Azores from Bermuda overdue and missing. Departed Bermuda 20th 0311Z E.T.A. Azores 20th 1336Z last contacted at 20th 0703Z in position 35.32 N. (75)3.28 W. had fuel for 15 hours. Listen for emergency signal 500 k/cs and 8280 k/cs possible survivors in rubber liferafts. (Comeastseafon 201035 to All U.S. Naval Ships all British Warships.)

U/B dis-positions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 201319Z, Cominch 201511Z.)

U/B attack on convoy B.X. 141, 14th January. Attack on B.X. 141 further to my 151348 visibility at time about three miles decreasing at 1400Z to under one mile in blizzard. Escorts stationed round convoy all had Cats streamed S.O. in H.M.C.S. MEON states first torpedoing about 1332, 3rd at 1350 and that MEON heard torpedo pass from west to east about 1355. H.M.C.S. ETTRICK reports striking submerged object near third torpedoed ship about 1352 and this is substantiated by damage to propeller blade and marks on bottom. H.M.C.S. MEON and H.M.C.S. ETTRICK attacked contacts between Cannel and Blind Sister without visible results. There are reports of torpedo tracks being seen near ships number four and six and idea that Gnats were used is based only on fact that all three ships were hit close to screws. (C. in C. C.N.A. 201602Z to Admty.)

U.S.S. RESCUE hospital ship. Cr. No. 2267. U.S. Navy Department has designated U.S.S. RESCUE as Hospital Ship. Length 403 feet, 6500 tons. (Cominch 201920 to U.S. Fleet/01.)



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

- A.F.D. 32.      Towage of A.F.D. 32. A.M. 101646 to B.A.D. only refers.  
The following are Admty.'s intentions for the towage of A.F.D. 32 from New York to Gibraltar.
- (1) Dock to be towed by SAMSONIA, MEDIATOR and ENVOY, leaving New York about mid Feb.
  - (2) Tow to proceed by the following route:-
    - (a) Coastwise from New York to San Juan.
    - (b) From San Juan, P.R. to the approx. positions 27° N. 40° W. thence to Las Palmas. Detailed route will be promulgated by Admiralty.
    - (c) From Las Palmas to Gibraltar direct.
  - (3) Escort arrangements.
    - (a) B.A.D. is requested to ask U.S. Navy to furnish an escort to San Juan, augmented as necessary for protection against any current U-Boat threat.
    - (b) Escort for the main trans-Atlantic crossing will be provided by ships of the 59th E.G. from Dakar.
    - (c) From the Canaries escort provided by the Gibraltar Escort Force as required by current U-Boat situation.  
(V.C.N.S. 201949A to B.A.D.)

Force X.      Cominch and all U.S. Commands concerned greatly appreciate Admiralty agreement to Force X remaining with Com. 7th Fleet until 1st March.  
(2) Cominch is informing Com. 7th Fleet that the administrative and logistic support of the vessels and craft of Force X are within his purview until released.  
(B.A.D. 202201Z to Admty.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Fleet tanker      Your 171120 request WAVE MONARCH be routed direct  
B.P.F.F.T.      to Manus Staplegrove.  
(R.A.F.T. 200427Z to Admty.)

Digest serial      19th January, 1945 (extract.)  
No. 1093.      (1) Nil enemy air activity over Lingayan Gulf during 48 hours to dusk.  
(3) Aircraft in area north of Subic Bay sank one sea truck, and set on fire one sizeable tanker, 2 medium freighter transports, one small freighter and 3 sea trucks all vicinity Salomagus Harbour just north of Vigan.  
(11) R/C Liberator strafed 1 tug, 1 small coaster heading south off MGHI? setting both afire midday. Also saw 5 small ships Brunei Bay and 2 sea trucks Jesselton and anchored.



**SECRET**

*A + N. Z.*

*Recd. in W.D.  
16/2/45. 401A*

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.)

200153Z/January .

From. F.O. Force "X"

Date 15.2.45.

Recd 1442.

Air Postagram.

*operations Bougainville.*

To. Admiralty.  
Rptd A.C.N.S.

During December, L.C.A. of Force "X" cooperated with 2nd Australian Corps in their advance up the Jaba River, Bougainville, and landed troops behind the Japanese lines.

2. On our leaving Bougainville, General Savige begged me to leave him 4 L.C.A. to be manned by Australian Army, as their L.C.M. and L.C.V. were too deep draught.

3. I therefore left him L.C.A. 372, 466, 847, and 926 which were those in the least efficient state.

4. L.C.A. 1188 was sunk during these operations and efforts to save her have not so far been successful.

200153Z.

1st Lord.  
1st S.L. (3)  
D.F.S.L.  
Controller.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (F)  
Fin. Sec.  
Parl. Sec.  
Sec.  
Naval Sec.  
U.W.R.  
D. Map Room.  
Ops (2)  
Plot.  
O.D. (6)  
C.I.C. {3}  
D.N.I. {5}  
D. of P {3}  
D. of P (0) (3)  
M (3)  
Mails.  
N. 2nd S.L. (O.D)  
D.T.S.D.  
Hydrog (2)  
W.D.  
Ad. Blake.  
D.C.O.M. (4)  
D.C.O.D. (4)  
O.D. (C.O) (4)  
C.N.I. (2)  
Fu  
S.W.R. (6)

A/C D.C.O.D.

} Bath (7) by courier.



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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial (15) P.T. boats destroyed 3 barges at Poro in  
 No. 1093. central Camotes Sea 17th January. Next day our  
 (Contd.) forces landed unopposed Poro Island supported by  
 P. Ts.  
 (18) 4 Lightnings strafed 5 schooners off  
 Kendari midday 18th.  
 (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 201117Z to Admty.)

B.P.F. forward bases. *Shoreline of water*  
 The views expressed in your 160451 are in general  
 accord with Admiralty policy.  
 (2) The Admiralty consider that your logistic  
 policy should aim at max. flexibility and note  
 with approval your intention to move the inter-  
 mediate base forward, as the war moves progressively nearer Japan.  
 (3) The present long haul round Australia and up to your forward  
 bases should only be regarded as a necessary expedient until  
 developments in more forward areas can cut out this stage.  
 (4) The possible use of Scott Reef as a convoy assembly  
 anchorage merits consideration when conditions admit.  
 (5) All facilities should, therefore, be organised on as mobile  
 a basis as possible, and none which are mobile should be allowed  
 to become embedded in Australia.  
 (6) Colombo C.C.O. recypher and pass to V.A.B.P.F.  
 (1st S.L. 201145A to C. in C. B.P.F.)

Navigation Pacific. Your 210900 Dec. Arc of visibility of Double  
 Island has been received as 018° through N.W. to 268  
 degs. It is considered essential that this light  
 should show over recommended tracks to eastward  
 and westward and that there should also be an all  
 round light on East Strait Island.  
 (2) It is noted that all lights in Torres Strait are unwatched.  
 It is requested that consideration may be given to the means  
 which can be employed to ensure that the three important shore  
 lights in the Prince of Wales Channel are burning when this  
 passage is being made by heavy ships.  
 (A.C.N.S.(F) 201606A to A.C.N.B.) See 240648.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack & sighting summary. For 24 hours to 0900Z/20th January.  
 Para. A. (1) H.N.M.S/M UTSIRA attacked U-Boat  
 with torpedo at 2226Z/11th January in 64° 04' N.  
 09° 45' E.  
 Para. B. (1) CHARLOCK attacked possible U-Boat  
 contact at 1500Z/19th January in 51° 48' N. 07°  
 33' W.



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War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack  
& sighting  
summary.  
(Contd.)

(2) STARWORT attacked U-Boat contact at 0500Z/20th  
January in 51° 57' N. 06° 42' W.  
Para. C. (1) H.M. ships attacked contact believed  
wreck at 1539Z/19th January in 56° 08' N. 02° 27' W.  
(2) Transit A/C sighted possible U-Boat at 1150Z/  
19th January in approx. 55° 05' N. 05° 05' W.  
(3) Transit A/C sighted possible U-Boat at 1005Z/  
19th January in approx. 53° 50' N. 04° 25' W.  
(D.D.I.C. 201149A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B dis-  
positions.

Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C. 201400A, 201411A.)



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War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

1. A new "O.P. obstruction" is under consideration, consisting of 2000 ft. lengths of drifting floated wire with indicators at each end, so that any U-Boat passing through with periscope or schnorkel above water would attach to herself a surface indicator.

Channel.

2. (a) The American SS. GEORGE HAWLEY was torpedoed in convoy off Lands End. GEORGE HAWLEY was brought into Falmouth, but ICARUS, of the 14th Escort Group, scored hits on the U-Boat with a hedgehog and two depth charge attacks and brought a survivor to the surface who stated that the U-Boat's number was 91 and her C.O. was Hans Norman. (b) The minesweeping trawler COMPUTATOR was in collision with VANOC off Le Havre. COMPUTATOR sank later, but VANOC reached port.

Western Approaches.

3. (a) APOLLO continued her anti-U-Boat deep mining in the Irish Sea. (b) 16 extra small craft are being made available to C. in C. W.A. towards the continuous anti-U-Boat local patrols referred to in Situation Report of January 17th.

Foreign Stations.

South Atlantic.

VALIANT.

4. VALIANT sailed from Freetown today for Plymouth.

Mediterranean.

Adriatic.

5. Today Mustangs attacked the harbour of Pola (North Adriatic) sinking one 2500 ton ship, damaging another and causing fires among oil storage tanks.



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Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Burma.

6. This morning British troops made a successful landing at Kyaukpogu (north end of Ramree Island S. of Akyab) and secured a beachhead. Initial opposition was reduced by accurate naval bombardment and by heavy air support.

Australia & New Zealand.

Philippines.

7. Last night Liberators from Leyte bombed Takao Harbour (Formosa) causing explosions and fires.

China.  
Kwangtu.

8. 2 Liberators laid sea mines in Hongkong Harbour.



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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Foul weather cases. Port of Ostend re-opened at 1200 Jan. 20th. (A.N.C.X.F. 210002 to Adty.)

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No. 292 part 14. Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600A/20 January.

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> (inc. Coal)	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
<u>British -</u>					
Antwerp	40	287	10,988	-	473
Ostend	-	-	1,950	-	519
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-
Dieppe	195	-	1,239	-	-
Caen	-	-	2,902	-	-
Calais	498	-	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	1,526	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>18,605</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>992</b>
<u>U.S. North -</u>					
Antwerp	-	95	10,901	-	273
Cherbourg	-	35	7,273	3,267	2,843
Le Havre	2,652	91	5,563	-	525
Rouen	196	216	7,248	1,416	2,099
Granville	-	-	1,010	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,848</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>31,995</b>	<b>4,683</b>	<b>5,740</b>
<u>U.S. South -</u>					
Marseilles	205	276	8,708	-	4,603
Port De Bouc	-	-	1,204	-	-
Toulon	-	-	355	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>10,267</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,603</b>

(S.H.A.E.F., 211450A to Adty. and others.)

Operations

Channel

Loss of M/S Trawler COMPUTATOR VANOC in collision with trawler COMPUTATOR. VANOC's boiler room flooded. Position 220 degs. Kansas 1 mile. Both ships endeavouring to make Le Havre. Request tugs. (BRILLIANT 210720A to Le Havre, C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Trawler COMPUTATOR partially abandoned. BRIMNES standing by her and will endeavour to get her. VANOC making slow speed. BRILLIANT standing by her. (BRILLIANT 210845A to Le Havre.)

Le Havre and C. in C. were informed and Le Havre was asked to send tugs soon after you arrived. Keep them informed. (BRILLIANT 211024A to BRIMNES)

COMPUTATOR sank at 1030/21st. in position 160 degs. Kansas Buoy 5 miles. Returning Portland with survivors. E.T.A. 2300/21st. (BRIMNES 211055 to F.O.I.C. Portland.)



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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel (Contd.)

American S.C's Concur in paragraph 2 of your 201633.  
to C. in C. (C. in C. Portsmouth 211220 to C.T.F. 123).  
Portsmouth

Patrols and Night patrol 21st/22nd Jan.  
Escorts. Patrols as in my 152238 para. 2.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 211315A to S.O.E.G. 26.)  
E.G. 2 has joined me and has been directed to  
commence patrol between Lizard Head and Start

Point.

(S.O.E.G. 14 212031A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Day Patrols 22nd Jan.

1st and 26th E.G. as in my 152238A.

2. 1st E.G. be at North end of patrol by 1400. 1st E.G. will be  
required for escort duties St. Helens to Cherbourg P.M. details  
follow.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 212135A to S.O.E.G.'s 1 and 26).

1. 2nd E.G. is to work in two divisions, the 3 ship division to  
include S.O. E.G.2 and to be first division.

2. Following R/T codewords to be assumed. 1st Division -  
Gladstone A. 2nd Division - Gladstone B.

3. Patrol signal follows.

(C. in C. Plymouth 212214A to S.O.E.G.2)

Am complying with S.O. E.G.14's 212031. Your 211802 refers.

(S.O.E.G. 2 212231A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

S.S. GEORGE Ship torpedoed position 180 degs. Longships 4  
HAWLEY miles crew abandon ship.  
torpedoed (MIGNONETTE 211448A to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
Cease sweeping and proceed with despatch to carry  
out A/S search between 180 Lizard 1 mile and 180  
Lizard 10.

(C. in C. Plymouth 211649A to VATERSAY, BENBECULA.)

M/V. GEORGE HAWLEY damaged believed by U-boat in position 180  
degs. Longships 4' at 1448A today. MIGNONETTE standing by.

(C. in C. Plymouth 211712A to Plymouth Command.)

S.S. GEORGE HAWLEY torpedoed in position 180 Longships 4' at  
1448 MIGNONETTE standing by.

2. E.G. 14 5 ships HAVELOCK (S.O.) hunting in vicinity. E.G.2  
closing from N.W. E.T.A. Longships 2000.

3. Proceed at best speed to take ship in tow and tow her to  
Falmouth.

4. LOCH PARK from Falmouth is proceeding with Salvage Officer  
and salvage gear.

(C. in C. Plymouth 211715A to ALLEGIANCE.)

My 211715 and 211800A. MIGNONETTE reports having left GEORGE  
HAWLEY last known position 173 degs. Lands End 5 at 1713.

(C. in C. Plymouth 211957A to ALLEGIANCE, LUNDY.)

/Sinking ...



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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel (Contd.)

Sinking of  
U-boat  
(~~prob. U-91~~)  
U 1199

2nd E.G. are to hunt to northward of line joining Longships and Seven Stones 14th E.G. to southward of this line.

2. Consideration should be given to detaching ships from each group to hunt close inshore in vicinity Pendeen and Scillies respectively.

3. Datum position 180 Longships 4 at 1415A.

(C. in C. Plymouth 211802A to S.O.E.G.'s 2, 14.)

My 1744 not to all. ICARUS obtained contact at (1618A?) and carried out 1 hedgehog and 2 depth charge attacks wood wreckage, oil and large air bubbles were observed and when turning for third attack, survivor was picked up latter states U-Boat is number 91 commanded by Hans Norman but statements are unreliable, owing to shaken condition.

2. Large area now covered with definite diesel oil.

3. Am remaining and plastering.

4. Position of contact 074 degs. Wolf Rock 4 miles.

(S.O.E.G. 14 211847A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

My 211847A. Further interrogation of survivor states he was navigator's Yeoman and was in control room. German U-boat was hit and filled up with water. He opened (hatch?) and got out and remembered nothing more.

2. 3 Hedgehog and 8 depth charge attacks have been carried out and contact has not moved since 1650.

3. ICARUS detached to Plymouth to land survivor and replenish. E.T.A. 2330A.

4. Intend to remain over contact throughout the night.

(S.O.E.G. 14 211954A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

(See 22 1. 45. P.421)

Operations

West Coast France

TONKINOIS, My 201650 you should return to Portsmouth by 12th  
LA COMBATTANTE, Feb. Acknowledge.

CROIX DE (C. in C. Portsmouth 211116A to TONKINOIS, LA  
LORRAINE. COMBATTANTE, CROIX DE LORRAINE.)

Operations

Western Approaches

Patrols and  
Escorts.

Policy of Support Groups in the Irish Sea.

The primary object of Support Groups forming forces 36, 37 and 38 operating in the Irish Sea is the destruction of U-Boats.

*mit* 150 N.) whilst affording additional protection, is designed to place the Support Group in the close vicinity of a U-Boat which is seeking to attack the convoy.

3. Senior Officers of Support Groups so detailed should not hesitate to detach the whole of Group from the convoy.

/(a)...



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Escorts.  
(Contd.)

(a) To destroy a U-Boat located in the vicinity of the convoy. (b) To hunt for a U-Boat which has disclosed its presence by attack anywhere in their area.

4. In the event of an enemy report judged to be of reliable character from any source, the number of escorts detached is to be at the discretion of the Senior Officer, having regard to the validity of such report. (C. in C. W.A. 210014A to Western Approaches Command.)

Patrols.

Force 37. 3rd E.G. DUCKWORTH, DOMETT, BERRY, COOKE, Irish Sea North.

Force 36. 4th E.G. BENTINCK (S.O.) 4 Frigates and 5th E.G. AYLMER Frigates. Central Irish Sea.

Force 38. 6th E.G. NEW WATERFORD 3 Frigates vicinity St. Georges Channel.

Groups from each force support convoys through respective areas. (C. in C. W.A. 211442A to Adty.)

Reference my 160002/Jan. (not to Admty. Bath) it is proposed that patrol vessels not already carrying mark VII depth charges should be equipped with mark XII depth charges and 10 lb. underwater bombs whilst carrying out anti U-Boat patrols.

2. Suggested normal outfit of mark XII depth charges to be carried in each ship is ten, but this number may be reduced to a minimum of five where top weight considerations necessitate. Where possible unessential weights should be landed so that ten depth charges can be carried. In addition, ten 10 lb. underwater bombs should be carried in all ships on patrol for use against Schnorkels.

3. Flag Officers-in-Charge are requested to report the total number of depth charges and 10 lb. underwater bombs required in their command. Estimate should be for first outfit for ships plus 50% reserve.

4. Stowage arrangements and action drill are given in C.A.F.O.'s 970/44 2659/44 and 1587/44.

5. All ships on patrol should be provided with five hundred rounds of O.303 A.P. ammunition for use against Schnorkel, which is vulnerable to any projectile 20 m.m. and larger and to .1303 A.P.

(C. in C. W.A. 212317 to Adty.)

Anti-U-boat  
deep mining.

C. in C. Western Approaches 150043A. Sailed APOLLO to carry out operations C.5, 6 and 7. (F.O.I.C. Milford 210925 to C. in C. W.A.)

If skimming sweep over line B.5, B.6 and B.7 has not been completed and area declared safe before

APOLLO is ready for her next lay, then APOLLO is to start laying minefield E.

2. APOLLO is to revert to the order of laying given in my 172003 as soon as M/S have completed sweep of B.5, B.6 and B.7, provided area is clear.

3. Cancel skimming sweep required by paragraph 4 of my 172337. (C. in C. W.A. 211812A to F.O.I.C. Milford.)

/Possible ...



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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches - Contd.

Possible U-Boat. Am about to attack a submarine in position 54° 00' N., 5° 15' W. range 500 yards. (MILFORD, 211452 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.) My 211452A. Range 3500 yards contact good, slight H.E. movements, target slight right, course 070°. Recorder trace very good, echo steadied Doppler diminished may have recovered. Have left contact am proceeding in company escorted S/M. (MILFORD, 211534A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.) Following received from MILFORD by V/S at 1659 begins. Firm contact attacked with 5 charges course of S/M 070° approx. May have bottomed during attack. Position 54° N., 05° 15' W. Ends. Escort 4th E.G. investigating. Suitable. (S.O. Force 36, 211725A to C. in C. W.A.) Attacked contact in position 54° 02' N., 05° 25' W. (S.O. E.G.22, 212140A to C. in C. W.A.)

Convoy R.A. 63. R.A. 63. Ships for Barry Roads are to proceed with Clyde section to Clyde for onward routing. (C. in C. W.A., 211535A to Escorts of R.A.63.)

Continuous local patrols required for inner focal points. C. in C. W.A., 160002, 172105, 172110 and A.M. 190602 none to all. The following vessels are allocated to you as local patrols.

Vessel	Now at	Remarks
(a) 75 ft. M.F.Vs. Nos.1122, 1077, 1139, 1099, 1157, 1128, 1073, 1135, 1105 and 1106.	Glasson Dock	R.N.P.S. crews will be provided
(b) N.A.B. ANNE	Glasson Dock	R.N.P.S. crew will be provided
(c) JACANA SULARA	Greenock	Blank
(d) SECUTA SILVER CLOUD YEHONALA II	Aultbea	Blank

(2) R/T sets and Oerlikons can be made available for those vessels not already equipped. It is requested you will make arrangements for fitting to be done locally, and to signal any requirements.

(3) R.N.P.S. crews each with one Skipper and one P.S.S.G. are available at Lowestoft on request by C. in C. W.A. for vessels in paras. 1(a) and 1(b).

(A.C.N.S.(H), 211701A to C. in C. W.A.)



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Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorway

Patrol. If practicable a patrol on inshore route between X.12 and X.13 tonight Sunday may be profitable. F.S.K. section 23 page IV refers. (F.O. S/M., 211227A to VENTURER,)

Operation "Charlton". Cancel my 082101 and 061504. (2) Carry out the following operation. Force 4 consisting of DIDO, PREMIER, CAMPANIA and 6 destroyers detailed by R.A.(D) H.F. sails from Scapa a.m. D-day carry out mining strikes on Norwegian coast with aircraft from PREMIER. (3) Mining objectives are: (A) Lepsoyrev 62° 35'30" N., 06° 16' E. (B) Harhamsfiord 62° 38'42" N., 06° 09'24" E. (4) If weather and other circumstances permit strikes (A) and (B) should be carried out on D + 1. If general situation makes this impossible strike (B) may be carried out D + 2. If only one strike is possible preference to be given to strike (A). (6) Codeword as in my 082105. D-day follows. (6) Acknowledge. (C. in C. H.F., 211601A to CAMPANIA, DIDO, PREMIER, R.A.(D) H.F.) My 211601. D-day Monday 22nd January. (C. in C. H.F., 211608 to CAMPANIA, DIDO, PREMIER, R.A.D.H.F.)

OperationsNorthern Waters

Foul weather. (1) Request (A) Group 4 2200 to 0100. (B) Group 3 2350 to 0300. (2) Propose entering harbour with submarines to take shelter, vide submarine 3 100943A until weather moderates. My forward tanks already leaking. Request approval. (SHIKARI, 211940A to A.C.O.S.)

Possible U-Boat. 1 possible submarine contact 040° Strathy Point 8. (SHIKARI, 212130A to A.C.O.S.) My 212130A. Am carrying on with my submarines in accordance with previous orders. Contact was possible submarine. (SHIKARI, 212150A to A.C.O.S.)

Convoy of submarines reformed and proceeding to Scapa. Have turned over contact to SCORPION. (SHIKARI, 212231A to A.C.O.S.) 2 attacks carried out on contact in position 040° Strathy Point 8. No result observed. Target movement, Doppler and movements recorder traces suggest submarine. Left contact to escort submarines in accordance with sailing orders. (SHIKARI, 212320A to A.C.O.S.)



21.1.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Port Facilities

Arromanches. Your 201525. Proposals for closing down of Arrow and release of MISOA on or about 25th Jan. have been submitted to A.N.C.X.F. Very bad weather has recently delayed dismantling of harbour but work is now nearly completed. (R.N.O. Arrow, 211226 to Admty.)

Technical

Anti-Schnorkel O.P. obstructions. To assist in detecting Schnorkelling U-Boats consideration is being given to laying type O.P. obstructions consisting of drifting lengths of 2,000 ft. of fine floated wire with an indicating device each end.  
(2) A Netlayer could carry 200 miles of such equipment and lay at the rate of 3 miles per hour.  
(3) The life with initial design may be low but later developments should permit material improvement.  
(4) In the meanwhile proposals are requested as to the areas in which drifting obstruction type O.P. could be laid where this might foul schnorkelling U-Boats.  
(5) The life of drifting defences will be largely dependent upon the areas being unrestricted and with moderate tidal conditions.  
(6) The indicators which can be immediately provided will only two behind the submarine to give visual surface indication but later will be replaced by one embodying a Radar Reflector which may be effective for ranges of 4 - 15 miles and should remain effective if the submarine dives.  
(7) Type O.P. will not be dangerous to surface craft but would be destroyed when a ship passes through any one 2,000 feet length.  
(8) The 2,000 ft. lengths are self-contained and a continuous line can be laid or gaps can be left between sections as desired and further backing up lines can be established 50 or 60 miles or any other distance apart as may increase the chances of fouling a submarine.  
(9) The liberal use of this equipment should result in submarines being unable to show their periscopes or schnorkels, without risk of becoming attached to a surface indicator. (A.C.N.S.(U.T.), 211731A to Cs. in C. W.A., Rosyth, Portsmouth, Plymouth, Nore, H.F., A.C.O.S.)

Movements

EASTWAY, L.S.D. A.M. 131704A. Intend sailing EASTWAY at 1600 tomorrow Monday 22nd Jan. for Gibraltar escorted by WOLSEY and SEABEAR. Speed of advance 15 knots. E.T.A. Lizard Head 0800/24th. E.T.A. Gibraltar p.m./27th Jan.  
(2) (A) C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to relieve WOLSEY at South Holm Buoy. E.T.A. 0900/23rd.  
(B) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to detach SEABEAR as convenient with orders to proceed to Falmouth. A.M. 201856 refers.  
(3) EASTWAY keeping constant watch on appropriate port wave.

/(4) ...



War Diary.

21.1.1945.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

EASTWAY,  
L.S.D.  
(Contd.) (4) Route East Coast stanard inshore to 54A Buoy then by Q.Z.H. 151, 468, 518, 519 and Route W to Lizard Head then in accordance with A.M. 191545.  
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 211000A to Cs. in C. Nore, Portsmouth, Plymouth, Med., F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)

TEAZER,  
destroyer. Gun trials in TEAZER disclose the Bofors mounting unsatisfactory to such as extent that equipment is only fifty per cent operational. Anticipate time required to make good will be ten to fourteen days including trials.  
Request decision whether repairs should be undertaken or ship sailed in accordance with A.M. 191944 in her present condition. (C. in C. Plymouth, 211507A to Admty.)

MAURITIUS,  
cruiser. Sailed MAURITIUS at 1500 my 201504 refers. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 211544A to C. in C. H.F.)

PENN,  
JAVELIN,  
destroyers. C. in C. H.F. is requested to sail PENN and JAVELIN in company to Greenock on completion of exercises about 30th Jan.  
(2) F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail ships when ready to Gibraltar for onward routeing.  
(a) PENN to East Indies Station on completion of 7 days exercises in the Med.  
(b) JAVELIN as desired by C. in C. Med.  
(3) Admty. will promulgated route to Gibraltar.  
(4) A.M. 272040 December and A.M. 131707 January refer.  
(D.O.D.(H), 211604A to C. in C. H.F., F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Shipping and Convoys

Ships in Channel to remain in convoy. Cancel A.M. 301804\* November. (Plot (T.D.), 211241A to N.C.S.Os. Southend, Ramsgate.)  
\* Detaching ships to proceed independently on ocean voyage when in Coastal convoy.



414

21.1.1945  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Escort Vessel My P.C.S. 041° 02' N. 011° 50' W. (X) 164°  
TOWY. 14 knots.  
(TOWY? 212001A to F.O.G.M.A.)

U/B contact. AG/AC 121/21 Jan. U.S.N. Liberator B/114 on A.S.R.  
search had grade ? 1/1 disappearing radar contact  
in position 38° 30' N. 36° 27' W. at 1340Z/21  
Jan. Sonobuoy signals heard for 80 minutes  
indicating movements to south and then east.  
(247 Group 212300Z to H.Q. Coastal Command.)

South Atlantic.

VALIANT. VALIANT with WYE and DOVEY arrived a.m. 19th Jan.  
and sailed a.m. 21st.  
(S.O.I. Freetown 211436Z to F.O.G.M.A.)



415

21.1.1945.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

ESKIMO. E.T.A. 1330B/21st - acknowledge.  
(ESKIMO, 210150B to F.O.L.E.M.)

German  
routeing  
of GRADISCA  
(Hospital  
ship). "Following from Germans. 'German hospital  
ship GRADISCA left Trieste for Aegean Islands  
at noon on January 8th 1945. Route as follows.  
Remainder return voyage to Trieste along known  
courses'".  
(Hd. of M. Branch, 210535A to C. in C. Med.)

Black Sea. C. in C. Med. 211102A to Admty.  
British Reply from Admty. 300120A.  
shipping. See Lion Copy.

Cositintrep 287653. MX/44017. Cite FHGCT FHGBI. Signed  
No. 560. Alexander. Part Three Air.  
Coastal Air Force. 3 Wellingtons bombed small  
craft at Sestre Levante, Porto Fino, Moneglia  
with unobserved results. Air/Sea Rescue  
searches in Adriatic, mine spotting patrols off south France,  
and scrambles flown. 1 Walrus missing.  
(H.Q.M.A.A.F., 211327A to W.O.)

L.S.T.(I) Preliminary survey of damage L.S.T.(I)\* 178 now  
178 in harbour reveals forward: a hole about 3½  
damage metres square forward underneath number 16 station.  
from mine. Adjacent compartments buckled but apparently W/T.  
Tank deck buckled over hole. Aft slightly  
damaged port propeller and rudder affected.  
Careful shoring will enable ship to be sailed  
for docking and repairs. Can probably make 5 knots under own  
steam but steering gear unreliable consider escort capable of  
towing L.S.T.(I) will be required.  
(B.N.L.O. Patras, 211615B to C. in C. Med.)  
Note by W.R.: N.O.I.C. Patras 211113 (not circulated) states  
L.S.T.(I) 178 was mined and requests a board of enquiry be  
set up.  
\* As received presumably L.S.T.(2) 178 intended.

Force W. Departures SILVIO and PERSIMMON.  
(N.O.I.C. Suez, 211933B to Admty.)

Situation (1) The German hospital ship GRADISCA has been  
Report intercepted by ACTIVE in the Aegean and is being  
No. 542. escorted to Alexandria.  
(2) A L.S.T. has been mined near Patras. KELVIN  
and SOUTHERN MAID are proceeding to her assistance.  
(C. in C. Med., 212301A to F.O. 15th C.S.)



*dem copy*

*Med* 415A  
IN

# 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.)

211102A/January

From: C. in C. Med.

Date 22.1.45

Recd 0057

N.S.C. (T) BY W/T

To: Admiralty,  
Info: S.A.C. Med. B.N.A. Ankara, F.O.L.E.M. Admiral Archer, B.N.L.O. Black Sea, S.B.N.O. Greece, D. of S.T. P.S.T.O. Med.

## IMPORTANT

Paragraph 3 of my 091343 December, Admiralty message 140335 December and Admiralty message 062154 January none to D. of S.T. or P.S.T.O. Mediterranean. It is considered the arrangement at present being made for the reception of British shipping in Black Sea Port may not be adequate for the amount of shipping which may be involved.

*ck Sea -  
tish  
shipping*

(2) The following movements which will entail the use of British Shipping are envisaged by Allied Forces H.Q. in near future:-

(A) Repatriation of Russian ex P's O.W. Known numbers at present are 22500 in France, 4500 in Italy and 3800 in Middle East. There is an additional unknown quantity in France which have yet to be accounted for. Up to the present it has only been practicable to ship a Token number of these Russians due to length of voyage to Persian Gulf and general shortage of shipping. Once the Black Sea is open there will be strong request to repatriate these Russians at a quicker rate by this shorter route.

(B) Repatriation of some 5,000 Italians at present in Bulgaria. It had been intended to use Salonika but owing to the difficulty of overland transport conditions into Greece it is possible that these Italians may have to be evacuated through Burgas.

(C) Discussions are taking place with a view to purchase from Roumania, timber of which there is an acute shortage for military purposes in this Theatre. If these discussions result in satisfactory agreement there will be a requirement of timber amounting to 20,000 tons per month from Roumanian ports to Italy and Middle East.

(D) It is understood that Yugo-Slavian National Government have been offered 50,000 tons wheat by Russian Government. Approval to use Allied shipping for this movement has (2 corrupt groups ✓) given and it is likely British shipping will be allocated for this purpose as soon as the route is open.

(3) Request amounts to the requirements in paragraph 5 (A) (2), (5) and (8) of my 091343 December may be reconsidered.

/ (4).....



(4) Admiralty pass to Admiral Archer. Alex. Cypher  
Code Office pass to B.N.L.O. Black Sea.

✓ Corrupt gps called for. Advance copy sent <sup>211102A</sup> O.D. O.I.C.

1st Lord	O.D. (5)
1st S.L. (2)	D.N.I. (5)
2nd S.L.	D. of P. (3)
D.F.S.L.	D. of P. (Q) (2)
V.C.N.S.	M. (10) for action
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.T.D. (4)
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.T.D. (C)
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)	Plot.
Sec.	W.D.
Nav. Sec.	Ad. Blake (4)
P.A.S. (3)	N.I.D.10 (3)
P.A.S. (L)	D. of S.T. (15)
N.L.	D.E.W.D. (3)
U.W.R.	
Ops. (2)	

A42  
JR



416

21.1.1945  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dis-  
positions.

No fresh information - scales unchanged.  
(C. in C. E.I.S. 210246Z to E.I.S.)

Salvage of  
shipping  
Red Sea Ports.

Following is a repetition of Massawa's 161206  
(N.T. in W.D.) begins: C. in C. E.I. Info. Com.  
Aden from N.O.I.C. Massawa. Application has been  
received from local Italian firm to salvage and ac-  
quire small vessel RIVA LIGURE sunk in South  
Harbour.

(2) Another application has been received from a local firm to  
salvage government owned M.V. CAPITANO BOTTEGO sunk at Dahwak  
Island.

(3) Should these vessels be seized in prize the firms will not  
proceed. Reason for salvage is to secure shipping for use in Red  
Sea. Present trade is carried mainly by Khedival Line at exhor-  
bitant charges.

(4) I see no security reasons why these particular vessels  
should not be raised. I have no naval prize man or means of  
protecting Admiralty interest in these ships should they be  
floated until decision by Admiralty Prize Court London as to  
their disposal. For these reasons I have theretofore stopped  
all salvage in the vicinity of North Harbour as the ships sunk  
there form a protection in the absence of any boom defence and  
in the commercial and south harbours because of my doubt as to  
the position by International Law.

Request instructions. Ends.

(C. in C. E.I. 210329Z to Admty.)

B.P. Fleet.  
Fleet Train.

Following ships on passage are due Fremantle on  
date shown:

CORINDA 26th Jan. PACHECO 27th Jan. PRINSES MARIA  
PIA 6th Feb. KOLA 31st Jan.

(2) DENBIGHSHIRE due Sydney N.S.W. 6th Feb.

(3) FORT PROVIDENCE. See my 161205.

(4) DARVEL E.T.D. Trincomalee 26th Jan. H.M.I.S. KISTNA now  
effecting engine repairs at Trincomalee estimates 14 days from  
Jan. 20th.

(5) To enable replenishment of supplies of N.S. to be conveyed  
to units of B.P. Fleet from Ceylon,, intend to retain BOSPHORUS  
until early March and MARUDU or JAARSTROOM until early April  
when they will be sailed for southwest Pacific with packed  
replenished sets for specific ships.

(C. in C. E.I. 210443Z to F.O.F.T.B.P.F.)

Convoy W.O.1.

Convoy W.O.1. Anticipate U.S.S. GENERAL MITCHELL  
and GENERAL RANDALL will be ready to sail for  
Melbourne about 31st Jan. Request you sail these  
ships escorted by ROTHERHAM and RELENTLESS con-

firring date as soon as known.

(2) Route from Bombay through positions - details.

(3) Cruiser escort will not be provided.

(4) Destroyers are to part company in position O. 05° 10' S. 77°  
15' E. and proceed to Trincomalee.

(Colombo C.C.O. 211207Z to Admty.)



21.1.1945  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U/B dis-positions. Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q. 211314Z, Cominch 211542Z.)

U-Boat. No report 20th. Para. D. 210240Z surface craft reported disappearing radar contact 39.20 N. 69.40 W.  
(Cominch 211947Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)

Australia & New Zealand.

S/Ms Pacific Torpedo Stocks etc. Transport of 4th and 8th submarine flotillas to the Pacific.  
(2) It is anticipated that submarines will commence operating from an advanced base in the Pacific mid May 1945.  
(3) No stocks of torpedoes magnetic mines and ammunition are held in Eastern Australia.  
(4) Request the following stocks may be built up in East Australia by May 1945. Torpedoes mark 8 to mark 9, 150 ammunition 3000 rounds, three inch 1800 rounds four inch mines M mark 2 100 requirements of Dutch submarines will have to be added when it is known whether they are to be transferred with these flotillas.  
(5) Monthly max. expenditure are visualised as follows torpedoes 150 ammunition 1 500 three inch 900 four inch mines 50 M mark 2 50 mark 16.  
(C. in C. B.P.F. 210245Z to Admty.)

UNICORN. Following is repetition of my 161040. Your 181917 refers. C. in C. B.P.F. Only few replacements of Avengers and no Seafires are available in Australia. It is therefore essential for UNICORN to reach Sydney as early as possible before 22nd Feb. my 110743 refers.

(3) To effect this request you will consider sailing UNICORN independently of the fleet train movement.

(4) ULSTER and URANIA will be held available at Fremantle after

*"Aintree"* — ~~AINTREE~~. Ends.

*(operation)* (C. in C. B.P.F. 210302Z to Admty.)

Serial No. 1096. Following report covers Jan. 20th unless otherwise specified and bears serial No. 1096.

(1) Early morning search planes reported two substantial convoys southern Formosa Strait: first comprised 24 ships 55 miles southeast of Amoy headed thereto; observing Mariner attacked and hit one large ship with bomb but results unobserved; second consisted of 20-30 ships possibly including large warships approaching Takao from north. R/C midday revealed only two escort vessels



21.1.1945

Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Serial No.      two medium freighters six sea trucks anchored  
1096 (Contd.)    off Takao, Amoy negative, 2 small ships at  
                 anchor Wong Kora, one freighter four coasters  
                 dispersed along Macao coastal sector.  
                 (6) Same (corrupt group) Bostons returned base  
via coast northeast Luzon shooting up shipping en route and  
destroyed one coaster and damaged second coaster plus 3 or 4  
barges all off Salomague. Nil interception encountered.  
(10) Small new type Jap. submarine measuring 130 feet recovered  
Lingayan Gulf 16th Jan.  
(14) Patrol Ventura strafed and destroyed one barge beached  
off Zamboanga 19th.  
(15) Night 18th Jan. P.T. boats destroyed one enemy barge off  
Okwopai Coast. Next day pair (corrupt group) with eight  
Spitfires destroyed two barges damaged 3 barges North Halmahera  
while two more Spitfires destroyed two barges vicinity Ternato.  
(18) Catalinas over east Java night 18th contacted five ships  
possibly minesweepers Surabaya Straits and few other small ships  
in vicinity.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 210931Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack  
& sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/21st January. Nil.  
(D.D.I.C. 211040A.)

U/B dis-  
positions.

Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C. 211412A, 211413A.)



22.1.1945  
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- North Sea. 1. Two mines were cut off No. 12 buoy, East Coast Channel, and two off the Belgian coast.
- Channel. 2. BRILLIANT was in collision with the corvette LINDSAY at dawn off H.2 buoy, but both ships reached port.
- Western Approaches. 3. (a) SS. GALATEA was torpedoed<sup>on 21st</sup> off Bardsey Is. there was one survivor. Fourth Escort Group searched the area, but without result. Another search was carried out off the Smalls by Sixth Escort Group, but the contact proved to be rocky ledge. A third hunt took place off Morecambe Bay, where ASBESTOS of Fifth Escort Group was attacking a firm contact at 2248.  
(b) APOLLO continued her deep mining off Coningbeg.  
*Submarine sunk by 14 Escort Group off Wolf Rock (P.421)*
- Norway. 4. Operation "V.P. 73" was postponed on account of weather.
- Northern Waters. 5. SHIKARI, escorting three submarines, was compelled to put in to Scapa for shelter.

Foreign Stations.

North Atlantic.

- Gibraltar. 6. Today an aircraft from Coastal Command attacked a suspected U-Boat. 80' W. of Gibraltar with unobserved results.

Mediterranean.

- Adriatic. 7. A very severe gale experienced at Zara. A landing craft dragged ashore, twice refloated.
- Crete. 8. Fighting reported between National Partisan Forces and E.L.A.S. near Rhithymno after which latter withdrew to Matara.



War Diary.

22.1.1945.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Minesweeping off No.12 Buoy, East Coast. Contact mine exploded at 1201 in position 260° 12 buoy 1 mile. Contact mine cut at 1231 in position 260° 12 buoy 1.2 miles. (F.O. Humber, 221409A to C. in C. Nore).

Minesweeping off Belgium. Two magnetic mines Red Polarity swept in position 295° N.F. 12 2.1 miles and 357° N.F.12 1.2 miles. (N.O.I.C. Ostend, 221734A to Com. Belgium).

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No.293 Part 4. Discharge by sea 24 hour period ending 1600A/21 January.

<u>British</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> (Incl. coal)	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
Antwerp	258	338	9,804	-	-
Ostend	13	-	942	-	383
Boulogne	457	121	-	-	-
Dieppe	27	-	1,583	-	-
Caen	-	-	1,072	-	-
Calais	2,855	-	126	-	-
Ghent	-	-	1,176	-	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,610</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>13,692</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>401</b>
<u>U.S. North</u>					
Antwerp	-	123	11,632	-	-
Cherbourg	-	-	6,654	2,919	2,209
Le Havre	3,848	159	6,353	-	1,458
Rouen	680	256	7,532	845	1,363
Granville	-	-	2,203	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,528</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>34,374</b>	<b>3,764</b>	<b>5,029</b>
<u>U.S. South.</u>					
Marseilles	-	150	14,513	-	5,094
Port De Bouc	-	5	1,412	-	-
Toulon	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>15,925</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,094</b>

(S.H.A.E.F., 221500A to Admty. etc).

Belgian Ship Repair Board.

It is desirable that there should be some centralised control of the ship repair facilities at Belgian ports.

(2) The Antwerp ship repair board vide XF 2028/0/1088 of 30th November is suitable for this purpose except that it is nominally under the Antwerp P.E.C. which has of course no jurisdiction outside Antwerp. Subject to your approval I propose that the above be reconstructed as the Belgian ship repair board under my general control. (Com. Belgium, 221741A to A.N.C.X.F.)



War Diary.

22.1.1945.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Sinking of  
U-boat  
(probably 91)  
U1199

1. Detach 2 ships to take over ICARUS contact. ICARUS on relief proceed Plymouth.
2. Remaining 2 ships continue as in your 211954A para. 4.
3. Several non-subs in close vicinity ICARUS contact.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 220008A to S.O.E.G.14)

Following evidence has been obtained as a result of 2 further depth charge attacks.

- A. Large expanse of diesel oil still welling up from position of contact.
- B. Fur lined leather fingerless glove.
- C. Coat hanger made in Bergen and marked with name Watterot.
- D. Much heavy grease.
- E. Boat hook.

2. Consider U-boat definitely destroyed.  
(S.O.E.G.14, 221033A to C. in C. Plymouth).

SS. GEORGE HAWLEY in T.B.C.43 torpedoed in position 180° Longships 4' at 1448/21st. Ship holed in engine room, taken in tow by Tug ALLEGIANCE, arrived Falmouth 0530A/22nd. U-boat believed sunk by 14 E.G. at 1620A/21st in position 074° Wolf Rock 4'. Wood wreckage, oil and air bubbles were observed. One German survivor picked up. Prisoner Friederich Claussen - UN 212/38 KS, landed by ICARUS at Plymouth at 0830A/22nd, taken to R.N. Hospital. Signal follows re survivors of GEORGE HAWLEY.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 221059A to Admty).

BRILLIANT  
destroyer v.  
LINDSAY  
corvette.

In collision with LINDSAY. BRILLIANT's bow damaged but capable of steaming, LINDSAY not making water, but no steam. Request tugs. Position H.2 Buoy.  
(BRILLIANT, 220711 to C. in C. Portsmouth).  
LINDSAY has regained steam and is proceeding to Plymouth with LA DECOUVERTE as escort. No

casualties in either ship.

(BRILLIANT, 220742A to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Ship very difficult to manoeuvre due to damaged bow. Request tug may be sent.

(BRILLIANT, 220816A to C. in C. Portsmouth).

In collision with BRILLIANT vicinity H.2 buoy at 0650 port side badly damaged from bridge to quarter deck. Proceeding on one boiler speed 9 knots. LA DECOUVERTE escorting tug not required.

(LINDSAY, 220825A to C. in C. Plymouth);

Proceed via Nab to assistance of BRILLIANT in vicinity of H.2 buoy.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 220840A to ENTICER).

LINDSAY is to proceed Portland.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 220935A to LA DECOUVERTE).

Stem from forecastle deck to ship bottom damaged and open to sea as far aft as 10 bulkhead.

10 bulkhead holding but slight leaks to the central store.

B. Immediate docking not essential for safety. Ship should berth with starboard side clear.

(BRILLIANT, 221021A to C. in C. Portsmouth).

/Patrols...



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

Patrols. ST. JOHN and PORT COLBOURNE pass Gate at 1630A today and proceed to take up zig zag search between 50.23 N., 05.24 W. and 50.47 N., 04.54 W. (C. in C. Plymouth, 221026A to ST. JOHN, PORT COLBOURNE).

Escort Groups, if not in contact are to take up EW patrols as follows:-

1. NENE and MONNOW zig-zag search between 090 Bishop Rock 14 and 180 Lizard 10 forthwith.
2. WILD GOOSE, LOCH RUTHVEN and DOMINICA zig zag search between Start Point and Portland Bill, on completion of duty as in my 212239A.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 221307A to S.O.E.G.2, NENE, MONNOW).

Night patrol 22nd/23rd January.

Patrol as in my 152238.

2. Be in vicinity of Cherbourg at 1900. Details follow.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 221309A to S.O.E.G.26).

S.O.E.G.9's 221957 (to C. in C. Plymouth only). MONNOW and NENE support B.T.C.46 as in my 221821 as far as Lizard. ST. JOHN and PORT COLBOURNE patrol 225 Pendeen 12 miles in accordance with my 221956.

2. On completion of my 221821 MONNOW and NENE proceed to take up zig-zag search between 50.23 N., 05.24 W., and 50.47 N., and 04.54 W.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 222056A to S.O.E.G.9).

Day patrols 23rd January as in my 152238 para. 2.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 222200 to JONQUIERE, RIBBLE).

Proceed forthwith to patrol between 50.23 N., 05.29 W. and 50.47 N., 04.54 W. Previous orders cancelled.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 222330A to MONNOW, NENE).

30th and 9th Escort Groups. Cdre. D. Western Approaches is requested to sail 30th E.G. as soon as ready today 22nd to Longships thence as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth.

2. F.O.I.C. Northern Ireland is requested to sail KENILWORTH CASTLE to rendezvous with group

off Mew Island.

3. On relief by 30th E.G. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail 9th E.G. to Londonderry to lay over.

(C. in C. W.A., 221123A to F.O.I.C. N.I., Com. D.W.A., C. in C. Plymouth).

Anti-U-boat deep mining.

Proceed from St. Helens at 0300A 23rd January and carry out serial C.2.

2. CAMPANULA is to act as escort as instructed by PLOVER. 3. Acknowledge.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 221547A to PLOVER, CAMPANULA)

Suspected U-boat

Proceed forthwith to patrol vicinity of position 045° Pendeen 12 miles. Conning tower reported in this position at 0600A today Monday. U-boat may be proceeding north east.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 221803A to HAVELOCK, ICARUS, INCONSTANT).

/Conning...



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Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel

Suspected  
U-boat  
(contd).

Conning tower sighted 045° Pendeen 12 miles at 0600A today. Proceed with despatch to cover convoy B.T.C.46, S.O. Escort in STATICE, plotted in position 256° Hartland Point 11 miles at 1800A.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 221821A to S.O.E.G.9)

My 221803 and 221821.

Amend position of sighting to read 225° Pendeen 12 miles.

Cancel last sentence of my 221803.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 221841A to S.O.E.G.9, HAVELOCK, ICARUS, INCONSTANT).

Skipper of M.F.V.1520 reports passing within 2 to 3 hundred yards of submarine which dived between 0600 and 0615 today Monday in approx. position S. 60 W. magnetic 10 to 12 miles from Pendeen Light.

(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 221908A to C. in C. Plymouth).

My 221803, 221821 and 221841. ST. JOHN and PORT COLBOURNE take over patrol from HAVELOCK, INCONSTANT and ICARUS who are then to comply with my 221629, not to all addressees.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 221956A to ST. JOHN, PORT COLBOURNE, HAVELOCK, INCONSTANT, ICARUS).

Your 221803 patrol established between 270° Pendeen 9 miles and 270° Wolf Rock 6 miles.

2. 2 lifeboats from torpedoed vessel were observed in vicinity Wolf Rock p.m. yesterday and only one was visible this morning. Possibility exists that this missing boat may have been mistaken for conning tower in conditions prevailing at 0600A.

(S.O.E.G.14, 222032A to C. in C. Plymouth).

Operations.

West Coast France.

Situation  
Report.

La Rochelle area, enemy re-occupied Charron (T.3549) and Marans (T.4451).  
(S.H.A.E.F., 221740A to Admty. etc).

Operations.

Western Approaches.

SS. GALATEA  
torpedoed off  
Bardsay Is.

S.O.E.G.5 212312\* GALATA<sup>E</sup> of Bergen torpedoed or mined approx. 2100/21st.

(S.O. Force 38, 220502A to C. in C. W.A.)

\*Not circulated; subject:- 2 empty lifeboats position 52° 40' N., 05° 23' W.

My 220502. 2 rafts and wreckage sighted. One Norwegian survivor in H.M.S. TYLER. Think he is sole survivor. 6th E.G. now supporting U.C.53 B. BLIGH and TYLER continuing search with 4th E.G.

(S.O. Force 38, 220518A to C. in C. W.A.)

Report position in which man was picked up.

(C. in C. W.A., 220648A to S.O. Force 38).

Your 220648. 52° 41.5' N., 05° 22' W.

(S.O. Force 38 220759A to C. in C. W.A.)



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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

SS. GALATEA 38. 220518. Searched area Arklow Bank, torpedoes off Carnarvon Bay and North Cardigan Bay before Bardsay Is. daylight and completed Box search from King 3 (contd). buoy to 53° 30' N.,  
2. 4th E.G. proceeding support O.S.106. (S.O. Force 36, 221930A to C. in C. W.A.)

Suspected Proceed with all despatch to investigate position U-boat. 8 miles south east of Milford Haven Buoy. F.S. RENONCULE in contact. (C. in C. W.A., 221115A to S.O.E.G.6). 6th E.G. investigating bottomed contact C. in C.

221115 refers. (S.O. Force 38, 221750A to C. in C. W.A.)  
Your 221115. My 221750 non sub. rock ledge maximum 20 feet high 162 long. (S.O.E.G.6, 221958A to C. in C. W.A.)

Shortage of Your 191342A and my 192027A (see Shipping Section trawler escorts. of 19/1/45 Diary). BB and MH convoys will require 9 trawlers in constant service. This new commitment together with the escorts required for joiners to ocean convoys from Liverpool and Milford Haven also escorts for UR and RU convoys and met duties makes it impossible to provide any further trawler escorts for Appians, A.F.Ds. etc. from this command. (C. in C. W.A., 221136A to Admt).

Second Aircraft reported possible Schnorkel 53° 48' N. suspected 04° 03' W. and is homing. KINCARDINE, ASBESTOS U-boat. investigate. FOWEY continue to Clyde. (C. in C. W.A., 221204A to FOWEY, ASBESTOS, KINCARDINE).  
My 221204 and your 221229 not to all addressees. On arrival of L.N. 2350 GRINDALL about 1800 detach ASBESTOS and KINCARDINE in accordance with their previous orders. (C. in C. W.A., 221702A to S.O.E.G.5).  
Carrying out attack on firm bottom contact in position 54° 00' N., 05° 04' W. KINCARDINE in company. (ASBESTOS, 222248A to C. in C. W.A.)

Anti-U-boat My 221115 not to all addressees. 2 ships only deep mining. of 6th E.G. including NEW WATERFORD investigate F.S. RENONCULE's contact off Milford Haven. Remainder R/V with APOLLO at 1930 22nd in position 116° Coningbeg Light 6 miles to escort her whilst laying mines thence to rejoin Group. (C. in C. W.A., 221329A to S.O.E.G.6).

Training Owing to present U-boat activity in Irish Sea areas moved. all training formerly carried out in Larne and Rockabill areas will now be done in Raasay

/Sanctuary...



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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Training areas moved. (contd).

Sanctuary under the direction of training commander PHILANTE, based on Lochalsh and administered by F.O.I.C. Greenock. (C. in C. W.A., 221606A to W.A. Command).

E.G. 14

When joined by ICARUS 14th E.G. negative DUNCAN and ASSINIBOINE proceed to Liverpool by standard route reporting your E.T.A. direct. (C. in C. Plymouth, 221629A to S.O.E.G. 14).

Operations.

Norway.

Operations "V.P."

- (1) 0400A 23rd January.
- (2) Not later than 2100A 23rd January.
- (3) Not later than 0900A 27th January.
- (4) 249° toward Noss Head. Not more than 20 knots.
- (5) Not later than p.m. 27th January (Intend to carry out V.P. 73).
- (6) No. (7) No.
- (8) 069° Noss Head Cabin. (9) No. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 221532A to A.C.O.S.)
- (1) 069° from Noss Head not more than 20 knots.
- (2) 61° 10' N., 04° 30' E. My 221532A.
- (3) Blank. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 221533A to A.C.O.S.)
- V.P. 73. Postponed owing to weather. E.T.D. now 0400/24th January. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 222017A to A.C.O.S.)

Operations "S.C."

- Intend sailing S.C. operation from Shetland.
- (1) 2100A/23rd Jan. from Scalloway.
- (2) 053° from Muckle Flugga to 62° 30' N., 03° 30' E. thence 098° 13 knots.
- (3) 1900A/24th Jan. (4) Between 1930A/24th Jan. and 0600A/25th Jan.
- (5) 243° to Muckle Flugga 15 knots.
- (6) p.m. 25th Jan.
- (7) 063° Muckle Flugga.
- (8) No. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 221701 to A.C.O.S.)
- (1) 62° 23' N., 05° 34' E. My 221701A.
- (2) Ramose Ardent. (3) Blank. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 221703A to A.C.O.S.)
- Intend to sail S.C. operation from Shetlands.
- (1) 0700A/24th Jan. from Scalloway. (2) 075° from Sumburgh Head 13 knots.
- (3) 2300A/24th January.
- (4) Between 2330/24th January and 0600A/25th January.
- (5) 255° to Sumburgh Head 15 knots. (6) p.m. 25th Jan.
- (7) 075° Sumburgh Head. (8) No. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 221705A to A.C.O.S.)
- (1) 60° 44' N. 04° 44' E. (2) Ramose Wrench. My 221705A.
- (3) Blank. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 221707A to A.C.O.S.)

/Patrol...



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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway - Contd.

Patrol TACITURN leaves Lerwick 1200 23rd on surface at 12 knots through 60° 00' N., 00° 30' E. and 59° 20' N., 01° 15' E. to patrol within 15 miles of 58° 45' N., 01° 15' E.  
(C. of W., 222110A to Cs. in C. Home Commands, A.C.O.S., V.A. Dover, F.O.S.M.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Suspected U-boat. SHIKARI reports Asdic contact with possible U-boat in position 040° Strathie Point 8 miles.  
2. Raise steam with all despatch and proceed to investigate.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 220108A to S.O.E.G.25).

Weatherbound submarines. Scapa arrivals SHIKARI, TACITURN, TRUSTY, VIKING. SHIKARI, TACITURN, VIKING, proceeding when weather moderates.  
(A.C.O.S., 220206 to S.M.3).

Relief Ships for North Norway. Russians report SS. IDEFJORD, N.S. TROMOY, KARMOY and JELOY with 19 Russian escorts, arrived Linnahamari and departed for Kirkenes at 0745A/22  
C. in C. Rosyth pass to C. in C. Royal Norwegian Navy. Admiralty pass to M. of W.T.  
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 220955A to Admty, M. of W.T.)

Icelandic patrols. Force "A" OXLIP S.O., and NORTHERN SUN R/V ICES ONE.  
(2) Force "C" 3 trawlers NAMSOS S.O., patrol north and west of Skagi.  
(A.C.I.C., 221159A to Forces A. and C).

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy warships Norway. Oslofjord January see my 181817. KÖLN sailed Oslo for coast January 16th.  
Earlier report states she had loaded ammunition from lighter in outer Oslo fjord Jan. 7th.  
2. Destroyers.  
(a) Oslo. (I) See my 161309 destroyer with field post number 24212 sailed Vipphetangen Jan. 12th.  
(II) Unidentified destroyer arrived Tyveholmen Jan. 16th and still there Jan. 17th.  
(III) Unidentified destroyer alongside Jan. 18th in Nylands shipyard during week up to Jan. 19th.  
(b) Horten. (I) One and later two destroyers reported Schultz class anchored south of Bastoya mid Jan.  
(II) Two Maas class destroyers off Horten Jan. 13th.  
3. U-boats. Horten. (a) Shore Establishment.

/Training...



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warships  
Norway.  
(contd).

Training School for U-boat personnel is established in barrack huts inside Blucher quay near Solvkronen. School is to be transferred shortly to Aircraft factory buildings. Four small training U-boats are administered by this school  
(b) See my 161309 U.1018 was still in dry dock up to January 13th.

4. Mine clearance vessels. Unidentified mine clearance vessel was lying south Suvaoya about Jan. 8th to Jan. 10th. (N.A. Stockholm, 221819 to Admty).

Navigational.Yarmouth to  
Harwich  
inshore route.

My 201050A para. 3 (A) request S.W. Whiting buoy may be moored in 52° 01' 15" N., 01° 30' 51" E. (C. in C. Nore, 221551A to Admty).

Technical.Procedure  
when S/M  
escort makes  
contact  
with U-boat.

1. Subject to remarks of Commanders in Chief, intend following procedure for own submarines in company with surface escort in Home waters, submarines will continue to be stationed close astern of their escort.

2. On obtaining contact with U-boat, escort to order own submarines in company to keep clear and will carry out counter attack immediately with largest pattern available. During approach one depth charge may be dropped if Foxer has not been streamed. No hunt to be carried out. Escorts W/T report if classified submarine to be prefixed "emergency" and to include "(number) friendly submarines dispersing".

3. Submarines to proceed on motors at maximum silent speed (not more than 7 knots) away from contact.

4. After counter-attack, escort to rejoin submarines at anti Gnat speed if no Foxer streamed. If Foxer is streamed escort and submarines to retire as fast as possible, submarines keeping before the escorts beam until outside Gnat range when Foxer is to be recovered and submarines stationed astern.

5. It is important that submarines and escort are separated for the minimum time owing to danger from own aircraft and surface ships, and submarines must be particularly alert with identification signal whenever away from their normal station astern of their escort.

6. When submarines and escort have regained close station, the escort to make a further report prefixed emergency to the effect that friendly submarines are again in company.

7. Request that in these circumstances aircraft and surface ships be warned that in the interval between these reports friendly unescorted submarines may be encountered and they are not to be attacked unless identified as hostile.

(F.O.S/M 221746A to Admty).



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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

SS. GEORGE HAWLEY. Arrived with Torpedo damage and secured to Buoy in harbour SS. GEORGE HAWLEY towed by H.M.R.T. ALLEGIANCE.  
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 220940A to C. in C. Plymouth)  
SS. GEORGE HAWLEY now secured to Cross Roads buoy Falmouth. Vessel torpedoed on starboard side under funnel. Engine room and boiler room wrecked and tidal. All holds dry and bulkheads in apparently sound condition. Draft of vessel now 12' 6" forward 21' 6" aft.  
It is understood that a representative of the American War Shipping Administration will visit the ship tomorrow Tuesday. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 221837A to C. in C. Plymouth).

SS. JAMES HARROD. JAMES HARROD fire out but still gassing slightly. Vessel has split port side number four opposite collision damage to low water mark. Vessel aft end now complete loss but may be able to save fore end. Bows secured by two Bower anchors and will lay out two heavy anchors and wires from fore side of split to secure the portion of vessel still intact. When this is done it is proposed to discharge forward lorries first then petrol when labour is organised.  
(C.S.V.O. Dover, 221315A to V.A. Dover).

Movements.

MAURITIUS cruiser. Scapa arrival: MAURITIUS.  
(A.C.O.S., 220827A to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

A. F. D. 55 Arrived Tug EMPHATIC towing A. F. D. 55 escorted by ELLSMERE and MINALTO.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 221116A to F.O.I.C. Portland)

LOUISBURG, PORT ARTHUR, BADDECK, R.C.N. corvettes It is recommended that relevant C.s in C. be requested through Admiralty to release and sail the following R.C.N. Corvettes to Londonderry for onward routeing to Canada for refit.  
A. Plymouth: LOUISBURG on relief by SUMMERSIDE.  
B. Portsmouth: PORT ARTHUR on relief by PRESCOTT.  
C. Nore: BADDECK on relief by LUNENBURG.  
(C.N.M.O., 221133 to N.S.H.Q.)

DEVONSHIRE, cruiser. Intend to sail DEVONSHIRE at 1400A/23rd Jan. to Scapa.  
2. Routed west of Ireland and through Minches in accordance with A.M. 201647A (neither reference to all).  
3. S. of A. 22 knots. Codeword Liege.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 221230A to C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S.)

TEAZER destroyer Your 211507, not to all. Repairs should be undertaken. TEAZER should be sailed as soon as ready.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 221330A to Admty). /ARETHUSA..



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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

ARETHUSA  
cruiser. Intend to sail ARETHUSA for Gibraltar at 2359A today 22nd Jan. routed in accordance with A.M. 201603A. Speed of advance 22 knots E.T.A. 0900A 26th Jan. A.M. 231535A December refers. Admty. is requested to direct mail forthwith. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 221544A to F.O.G.M.A., C. in C. Med).

A.F.D. 37 Admty. 012343 A.F.D. 37 has many minor defects and Officer in charge of dock recommends structural survey before further use. It is not expected that any defects requiring extensive repair will be found.  
2. Intend to tow Dock to Southampton when Tug becomes available Dumb Barge R.D.B. 75 will be lifted in L.S.D. (R.N.O. Arrow, 221711A to A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Portsmouth).

Shipping & Convoys.

U.C. convoy escorts. Following from C. in C. W.A., 201627Z. Begins.  
1. During the present U-boat threat in British coastal waters I feel that the Irish Sea portions of the U.C. (A) convoys are insufficiently escorted.  
2. If you concur I will use the escorts of the U.C. (B) convoy to reinforce this escort as far as between 7° and 10° W. This will depend on the U-boat situation at the time and also the time required to allow these escorts to return to fuel before sailing with the U.C. (B) convoy.  
3. It is also my intention to support these convoys with a support group whenever possible. Ends.  
Recommend concurrence para. two. Request your comments. (Com. 12th Fleet, 221441 to C. in C. Lant).  
Concur proposal C. in C. Western Approaches 201627Z passed by your 221441.  
(C. in C. Lant, 221932Z to Com. 12th Fleet).

O.N. and K.M.S./O.S. convoys. To reduce the number of convoys sailing in the Irish Sea and English Channel request you will sail O.N. and K.M.S/O.S. convoys in company from West Coast ports and Southend.  
2. To allow for reduction in speed due to inclusion of K.M.S/O.S. ships, O.N. convoys should be sailed one day earlier commencing with O.N. 281 on Jan. 27th (R) 27th from Liverpool.  
3. Instructions in A.M. 132356 (not to all) regarding escort of the Channel Section K.M.S./O.S. remain in force.  
4. Cs. in C. pass to N.C.S.Os. concerned. (D.T.D., 221540A to Cs. in C. Home Commands).

B.B. and M.H. convoys. My 192027A; Cancel paras. 2 (B) and 3. Substitute new para. 2 (B) as follows:-  
Ships of special importance. These are to be reported to C. in C. W.A. who will decide whether they proceed in coastal convoy or are given special escort.  
(C. in C. W.A., 221545A to W.A. Command).

/T.A.M...



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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

T.A.M. and  
A.T.M.  
convoys.

Owing to the shortage of pilots and pilot cutters the following procedure for T.A.M. and A.T.M. convoys is to be brought into force on days when weather conditions permit commencing with T.A.M. 59 sailing on Wednesday 24th.

2. Southend section of T.A.M. convoy and destroyer escorts leave Southend as requisite to anchor in Margate Roads by 1830A.

3. Trawler Escort leave Sheerness as requisite to arrive Downs at 1500A thence acting as escort to Downs Section which is to sail as ordered by N.C.S.O. Ramsgate to anchor in Margate Roads by 1800A.

4. Pilot Cutter will arrive Margate Roads by 1800A to take off pilots from T.A.M. Ships and on completion proceed so as to arrive S. Falls Buoy at 2130A to embark pilots in A.T.M. convoy,

5. T.A.M. convoy is to weigh and proceed from Margate Roads as requisite to pass S. Falls Buoy in accordance with time table promulgated by Com. Southend.

6. Com. Sheerness is requested to sail Trawler to comply with para. 3.

7. My 191224A December is to be amended accordingly.

8. F.O.I.C. Harwich pass to Fleet M/S Flotillas.

(C. in C. Nore, 221656A to Com. Southend, N.C.S.O. Ramsgate).

Extraordinary  
personnel  
L.S.T. lifts.

Following demands for lifting personnel in L.S.T. have been made at short notice by U.K.

Base:- Sailing on 20th January 1 L.S.T.

21st January 3 L.S.T. 22nd January 3 L.S.T. (did not in fact sail) 23rd January 6 L.S.T.

2. It is essential that such sudden demands

be restricted to cases of real operational emergency as agreed at the special S.H.A.E.F. Meeting on 19th Jan.

3. The planned programme for personnel lift should allow for delays due to weather etc. and any backlog caused by such delays should not have to be treated as an operational emergency.

4. The escorts in all areas round the British Isles are now stretched to the limit by the present U-boat Midget U-boat and E-boat threats and Cs. in C. Naval Home Commands only have the number of escorts necessary to meet their planned commitments.

5. In particular, the lifting of personnel in L.S.T. at short notice causes an extra escort commitment as L.S.T. cannot sail in personnel convoys owing to their low speed. The escorts for such L.S.T. convoys have to be withdrawn from other commitments and so the number provided must usually be the bare minimum.

Personnel so lifted are definitely subjected to additional risk of being torpedoed and this extra risk should not, in A.N.C.X.F.'s opinion, be taken except in cases of real operational emergency. (A.N.C.X.F., 221925A to Com. Z).



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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

U-Boat disposition. Estimate.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 220813A to S.E.C. K.M.S.79/O.S.105 for Cdre.)

RICHELIEU. M.C.S.I.5. Unless otherwise directed intend sail RICHELIEU at 1200/24th.  
(8) F.S. BASQUE, F.S. SIMOUN, MALCOLM (S.O.).  
Escorts detach on passing Europa Point for Gib.

RICHELIEU conducts high speed trials in Med. proceeding Aix Mour at 26½ knots one hour at 2½ knots thence adjusting speed arrive Gibraltar 0830/25th.

(Commorseafron, 221452A as amended by 241212A to F.O.G.M.A.)  
Your 221452\* approved. MALCOLM is Senior Officer of

Escorts.

(2) RICHELIEU is to carry out trials to eastward of Rock burning navigation lights at full brilliancy throughout.

(F.O.G.M.A., 222243A to C.M.S.F.)

\* Intend sail RICHELIEU for trials.

South Atlantic

NORTHERN ISLE. H.M. Trawler NORTHERN ISLE ran aground while on loop patrol off Durban on Jan. 19th. Engine room and bunkers are flooded.

(2) Weather conditions since grounding have prevented salvage operations being carried out and it is thought possible that the ship will be a total loss\*.

(C. in C. S.A., 220924 to Admty.)

\* Confirmed by 281043B.

GENISTA. Sailed GENISTA to Port Elizabeth to refit.  
(2) Speed of advance 13 knots.  
(3) E.T.A. 1500Z/23rd Jan.  
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 221231Z to Admty.)

PHILOMEL. Intend to sail PHILOMEL in accordance with C. in C. S.A.Stn.'s 221206B for Durban p.m./26th Jan.  
(N.L.O. Port Elizabeth, 221455Z to C. in C. S.A.)



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GRADISCA. Missing German Hospital ship GRADISCA has left Leros Island 20/1 at 0930 G.M.T. (Venezia Radio, No T.O.O. Recd. 220123 G.M.T.)

Dardanelles Boom. Following is a repetition of my 061813 Jan. your 220040 refers begins. F.O.L.E.M. (R) Admty., C. in C. Med. From B.N.A. Ankara. Dardanelles Boom is complete except for nets which are mostly not in position.  
(2) Do not intend to leave Turks to complete laying of nets unless I receive instructions from you. Admiralty's 251805 Dec. refers. T.O.O. 061813. Ends. (B.N.A. Ankara, 221817C to Admty.)

Situation Report No. 543. (1) Greece. L.S.T.178 has reached Patras where temporary repairs are being made. Number 542 para. 2 refers. Situation in Greek ports is quiet but uneasy.  
(2) Crete. There has been fighting between National Partisan Forces and E.L.A.S. near Rhithymno after which latter withdrew to Matara.  
(3) Adriatic. A very severe gale has been experienced at Zara. A landing craft dragged ashore but has since been refloated. (C. in C. Med., 222252A to Admty., etc.)

Air Cositintrep No. 561. 287837. MX.44080 cipher 22 Jan. Cite FHGCT, FHGBI. Signed Alexander. Part 3. Coastal Air Force. One of four Wellingtons on R/C Fiume to Trieste bombed and stopped medium vessel and bombed 2 other enemy vessels. 17 aircraft were engaged in extensive air/sea rescue searches from which 6 men have so far been rescued. Balkan Air Force. Weather restricted operations. 15 Mustangs bombed oil storage and harbour at Pola (or Lola) sinking 1 and damaging another 500 ton motor vessels and starting small fire among storage tanks. 2 explosive motor boats were strafed at Lussinpiccolo. (H.Q.M.A.A.F., No T.O.O./22 to W.O.)



433

22.1.1945.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U/B                      No fresh information, scale unchanged.  
dispositions.      (C. in C. E.I.S., 220347Z to S. & A. E.I. Stn.)

E.G. 60.                60th Escort Group is temporarily disbanded  
and will be reconstituted on return of TAFF  
in Feb. My 120736 and 171131 refers.  
(C. in C. E.I.S., 220432Z to E.G. 60.)

UNICORN.              My 201043 not to all and your 190345.  
UNICORN has represented fuelling at Fremantle  
desirable to avoid sailing light with heavy A/C  
load in latter part of passage.  
(2) Intend therefore ULSTER and URANIA relieve CRANE and  
REDPOLE as far as possible from Fremantle to increase S. of A.  
and after refuelling Fremantle UNICORN, ULSTER and URANIA  
proceed Sydney.  
(C. in C. E.I., 221031Z to F.O.W.M., F.O. A/C. B.P.D., V.A.(Q)  
B.P.F., F.O.F.T., B.P.F., C. in C. B.P.F.)



434

22.1.1945.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

- U/B dispositions. Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q., 221330Z, Cominch, 221530Z.)
- A/S protection in Trinidad area. Cominch concurs in the <sup>pro</sup>posal to reduce British M/S and A/S protection in the Trinidad area except he considers it essential to maintain the detection loops in operations, and therefore that six M.Ls. for patrol will still be necessary. He also concurs in the proposed reductions at Jamaica. A.M. 2060026 Jan. refers. (B.A.D., 221737Z to Admty.)  
See S.B.N.O. Trinidad's 281059.
- LE CENTAURE. French S/M LE CENTAURE with U.S.S. SCOTT arrived 2230Z/21. LE CENTAURE repairs require about 7 days. S.B.N.O. Azores inform Comnavzor. (N.O.B. Bermuda, 221925 to Cominch, C.T.F. 25.)
- SS. HASTINGS. Request you will arrange A/S protection while in Azores waters for SS. HASTINGS sailing in convoy M.K.F.38 from Gibraltar arriving for discharge at Santa Maria approx. noon on 24th Jan.  
(Cominch, 222058Z to Admty.)
- N.S.H.Q. S/M attack and sighting summary. No report since my 172103Z, para. (C). T.G. 22.9 attacked doubtful contact in 44.27 N., 63.19 W. at 1615/22nd.  
Para. (D) (1) H.M.C.S. COATICOOK and LEVIS investigated bottomed contact later classified at bottom 44.15 N., 63.44 W. about 0410/22nd. All times Z.  
(2) H.M.C.S. UNGAVA heard underwater explosion in Sydney Approaches at 1544/22nd.  
(N.S.H.Q., 222126Z to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand.

- Digest 1091, 15th Jan. (3) Reconnaissance north-west Borneo midday revealed 3 small patrol craft only at Brunei Bay. Previous day 2 Liberators over this area bombed Labuan docks.  
(9) Enemy air activity negligible over Lingayan Gulf during day.
- (13) Noon on 14th, 4 Mustangs strafed and set afire 2 large barges of 25 barges or coastal craft seen Salamogue Harbour near Vigan.



435

War Diary.22.1.1945.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand

Digest 1091. 15th Jan. (Contd.) (16) Morning 14th Jan. P.T. Boats sank 3 or 4 empty barges proceeding from north-east coast Mindoro towards Verde Island. Concentration of (?44) Q-Boats equipped with machine guns and carrying depth charges still reported along Batongasv - Bagayan Bay coastline.

(20) Beauforts bombed Ywxvand Kairirb 14th and another Beaufort strafed and holed whaler located off Kuiriru Island. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 220017Z to Admty.) Amended by War Registry. 24.1.45.

Hospital ship B.P.F. build up.

Owing to accelerated programme for British Pacific Fleet it would be appreciated if TJITJALENGKA could be sailed to arrive Sydney by 20th March. Your 211234 Dec. and my 050115/ refer. (C. in C. B.P.F., 220701Z to C. in C. E.I.) / Retention of TJITJALENGKA at Trincomalee until end of February.

Digest No. 1097, 21st Jan. 1945. Operations S.W.Pacific Area.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 220919 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack and sighting summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/22nd Jan.

Para. (A) (1) DAHLIA attacked contact at 0759Z/21st Jan. in 49° 56' N., 05° 35' W.

(2) GEORGE HAWLEY torpedoed at 1348Z/21st Jan. in 50° 00' N., 05° 45' W.

(3) ICARUS attacked contact at 1518Z/21st Jan. in 49° 58' N., 05° 42' W.

(4) GALATEA torpedoed or mined about 2000Z/21st Jan. in approx. 52° 40' N., 05° 23' W.

(5) SHIKARI attacked contact 2220Z/21st Jan. in 58° 42' N., 03° 51' W.

(6) Met. A/C Y/518 sighted Snort. course 220° at 1302Z/21st Jan. in 58° 37' N., 09° 51' W.

Para. (B) (1) MILFORD attacked contact at 1352Z/21st Jan. in 54° 00' N., 05° 15' W.

(2) A/C O/105 sighted suspicious object and oil patch at 1509Z/21st Jan. in 53° 45' N., 05° 20' W.

(3) E.G.22 attacked contact at 2040Z/21st Jan. in 54° 02' N., 05° 25' W.

(4) A/C S/53 obtained A.S.V. contact at 0120Z/22nd Jan. in 61° 47' N., 17° 16' W.

(5) U.S. A/C obtained A.S.V. Contact at 1340Z/21st Jan. in 38° 30' N., 36° 27' W.

Para. (D) (1) JOHN W. MACKAY made SSSS before 1535Z/21st Jan. in 13° 24' N., 57° 15' E. (D.D.I.C., 221144A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B dispositions. Estimates. (D.D.I.C., 221404A, 221405.)



*Authentic 012*

# SECRET

IN  
435a

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.)

220919Z/January

From G.H.Q.S.W.P.A.

Date. 23.1.45.

Recd. 1733 *Operations Sq.  
Pacific Area.*

COM 5 SERVICES GEN 'S' BY W/T

Addressed Admiralty. Air Ministry Whitehall. B.A.D.  
Washington. C. in C. British Pacific Fleet.  
F.O.A. F.O.C. Royal Indian Navy. C. in C. West  
Indies Station. H.Q. S.A.C.S.E.A. Air Command  
South East Asia. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. (for Chief of  
Staff Committee) Opnav. N.Z.N.B.  
Repeated Com. 7th Fleet. A.C.N.S. C. in C. East Indies  
Station pass to Air Command S.E. Asia and Supreme  
Allied Commander S.E. Asia.

IMMEDIATE

This Digest bears Serial Number 1097 and covers January 21st except where specified otherwise.

1. Forenoon Recce Liberator observed over 50 ships anchored and dispersed in groups from Northeast Formosa through Southwestern Gansai Shoto to Okinawa Jima including 3 Medium Freighters Miyako Retto but otherwise practically all small Sea Truck type. 4 or 5 small Coasters observed under way approaching Miyako Retto from Northeast; 1 straggler strafed and left dead in water; Lone Coaster approaching Ishigaki from Southwest strafed and damaged. One enemy patrol plane shot down near Okinawa.
2. 75 Lightnings from Mindoro swept Southern Formosa midday without encountering any enemy dive bomb planes but contacted Navy Carrier based planes in operation. Observed several ships burning and sinking Takao Harbor and elsewhere off Southwest Coast Formosa.
3. Previous night few Liberators from Leyte bombed Takao Harbor causing explosions and fires.
4. Many Jap planes mainly medium bomber types reported ferrying from Formosa to Luxon 20th January.
5. 1 Destroyer 1 medium Transport 3 Freighter Transports 2 Tankers whereof 1 possibly dirolict observed anchored Hong Kong Harbor midday. Reconnaissance Macao negative.
6. 2 probable large Destroyers observed late forenoon just North of Camranh Bay course South.
7. Midday Reconnaissance Northwest Coast Borneo revealed nil shipping from Balabac Strait to Brunei Bay except 1 Freighter Transport off Laguan and 1 small Coaster heading into Brunei Bay: Latter ship strafed and damaged.
8. At daybreak 20th January 2 Liberators from Morotai (YDSVEK?) Jesselton railroad yards and 8 small ships (LBCBTDD?) along

/North...



North Coast Borneo that day: Results unobserved.

9. 2 small Freighter Transports sighted hiding in river mouth near Cape Bojeador (North West Luxon) on noon 20th.

10. Night 19th P.T. Boats strafed small Freighter beached near Vigan: Large fires started ashore behind ship and burned for 2 hours.

11. Army Forces captured Tarlac, important road and rail centre 65 miles from Manila, midmorning. Also captured Ifours Ihwnr Anaw, Santantonio and Pura (all Northeast of Tarlac) and La Pax 10-miles along road running East Southeast from Tarlac. Patrols operating South from Tarlac report little or nil contact. Frenche? fighting continues along approaches to Rosario here Cruiser Destroyers (PROFQUING NWHVN?) fire and Warhawks lending aerial support at request.

12. Purvised strikes against Luxon (LIN S QM?), patrols 20th January involved 1 Group Liberators hitting Bamban, 1 Group Mitchells sweeping Bicol Peninsula destroying 5 locomotives over 30 railroad cars, some Bostons and Lightnings attacking Legaspi area.

13. Cuxdent days central Luxon strikes involved 2 Squadrons Liberators bombing enemy defence positions North of Tardac, 4 (Niblsatho?) bombing road over Baleta Pass causing landslides, Mitchells attacking (Funnesanu?) positions near Baguio (North of Rosario) where enemy Headquarters located, 26 Bostons 8 Thunderbolts (corrupt groups) strafing Vichy positions East of Rosario and traffic running South towards Manila.

14. 30 Liberators dropped nearly 63 tons bombs Marikina and Xablan striking Manila, midday.

15. 2 Squadrons Liberators bombed barracks Southern Bataan Peninsula forenoon while 15 Warhawks bombed strafed Coastal positions Subic Bay and set (CPSPE?) sea truck offshore.

16. 2 pairs Mitchells swept communication lines Laguna de Bay into Bicol Peninsula forenoon (SIGUANNNG?) up some rolling stock.

17. P.T. Boats strafed and damaged 3 Luggers 3 sailing boats Lubang Island night 20th. Next day patrol plane sighted over 20 small craft Southeast Coast Lubang.

18. 8 Mitchells attacked La Carlotta Camp and Binalbagan airdrome forenoon and 7 Liberators later dropped nearly 16 tons bombs in Silay airfield.

19. Undetermined number Japs twice attacked our perimeter Southwestern Morotal near central West Coast night 18th: Attacks unsuccessful.

20. P.T. Boats operating with 24 Warhawks evening 20th attacked barge hideouts Northeastern Halmahera.

21. Beaufighters bombed bridges near Tondano in North Celebes afternoon 20th.



# SECRET

IN  
435B.

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.)

-3-

22. 3 Liberators patrolling Flores Sea observed 2 possible Pickot bombs Northwest Coasts Alor Island, attacked wrecked ship near Naoemere on Flores Island and bombed Lautem West airdrome on Timor.

23. Additional attacks Wewak targets 20th January involved 6 Beauforts 6 Bostons one Mitchell. Next day (ILH?) Liberators bombed ack ack positions Wewak strip while 5 Bostons 1 Mitchell hit supply areas Case Moem.

24. On 20th January 17 Mitchells bombed Kavieng strip while 8 Venturas 6 Corsairs attacked other New Ireland targets including Borpop personnel area: 10 Beauforts 12 Corsairs struck assigned objectives Rabaul: 23 Corsairs provided direct ground support Missions Empress Augusta Bay and 16 Corsairs patrolled Benertx Bougainville area.

220919Z

Advance Copy to Ops. O.D. O.I.C.

1st S.L. (3)  
D.F.S.L.  
4th S.L.  
5th S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (H)  
A.C.N.S. (F)  
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)  
A.C.N.S. (W)  
U.W.R.  
D. Map Room.  
Ops. (2)  
Plot.  
O.D. (6)  
O.I.C. (3)  
D.N.I. (7) & for D.N.L.O. (2)  
M. (63) & for A.M. (35)  
C.C.L.S.  
A.L.O.  
W.D.  
Admiral Blake.  
C.W.R.  
D.N.O.R.  
Hydrog.  
D.D.O.D. (C) (2)  
C.N.I. (2)  
Ad. James.

A.S.



436

23.1.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

North Sea.

1. (a) About 18 E-Boats in 3 groups raided the East Coast Swept Channel between 2300 last night and 0305. They torpedoed SS. HALO, straggling out of convoy, but were driven back by our patrols and M.T.Bs. before doing any mining except possibly near N.F. 4 buoy. SEYMOUR and M.T.Bs. claim hits near N.F. 4 buoy at 2300; M.T.Bs. 446 and 495 (who was damaged and had 4 casualties) claim hits half an hour later; GUILLEMOT set one on fire off 53 E Buoy at 0026; and Tongue Sand Fort sank one at 0305, taking survivors.  
(b) Some 20 aircraft raided Ostend and neighbourhood this evening. Minelaying is suspected between N.F. 13 and N.F. 15 buoys. One aircraft was shot down at Breedene with its mine intact.  
(c) The intended Light Craft Base at Zeebrugge has been abandoned owing to the heavy dredging commitment it would have involved.

Western Approaches.

2. (a) C. in C. W.A. desires that K.M.F./M.K.F. troop convoys be routed westabout Ireland during the present U-Boat threat in the Irish Sea. Admiralty agrees.  
(b) APOLLO continued her anti-U-Boat deep mining.

Norway.

3. VENTURER, having expended all her torpedoes, is returning to Lerwick from her Norwegian patrol.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

Adriatic.

4. (a) Wellingtons and Beaufighters attacked shipping in Northern Adriatic and at Jablanac Harbour northern Yugoslavia.  
(b) A 1000 ton M.V. was attacked in the Podgorski Channel by 8 Hurricanes and 2 Spitfires. Many R.P. strikes were observed on the M.V. Explosive motor boats and two man submarines were also attacked off Lussino Island.

Greece, and Levant.

5. 29 enemy mines were swept up in Corfu Channel and one in Dardanelles Approaches.



437

23.1.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Malaya. 6.(a) 19 Liberators successfully laid sea mines  
off Penang Island.  
S/M RORQUAL. (b) S/M RORQUAL on her second East Indies patrol  
between yesterday and today laid 20 Mk. XVI and  
12 type M mines.

Australia & New Zealand.

Philippines. 7. 20 Liberators and 16 Bostons bombed installa-  
tions Corrigedor Island this morning with  
excellent results.

Borneo. 8. Two Liberators on patrol North Borneo  
sank one large sea truck, left one small sea  
truck sinking and hit one sea truck and lugger.

Movement. 9. AUSTRALIA left Manus for Sydney (N.S.W.)



438

23.1.1945.  
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSDefence of United Kingdom.Reductions  
in A/A  
defences.

Following reductions in A.A. Command have recently been approved.

- (A) There will be no operational A.A. defences in following areas Clyde, Forth, Portsmouth, Southampton, Isle of Wight.
- (B) Operational A.A. defences in Orkneys and Shetlands reduced to 24 light A.A. guns only.
- (C) Scale of operational A.A. guns hitherto approved in area East of line Newcastle - London - Dungeness inclusive is generally unaffected apart from removal of light A.A. defences at Hythe, Deal, Margate, Sandwich, Broadstairs and heavy A.A. defences at Clacton and Foreland.
- (D) Newhaven retains 12 light A.A. guns.
- (D. of L.D., 231438A to A.C.O.S., Cs. in C.W.A., Rosyth, Nore, Portsmouth, V.A. Dover).

OperationsNorth Sea.Suspected  
minelaying  
off N.F.4  
buoy.

- (1) Sail at 0500A and conduct Oropesa search in "G" formation either side of centre line N.F.3 to N.F.5 buoys. Full width of channel is to be swept.
- (2) E-Boat minelaying suspected north of N.F.4 buoy.
- (3) Make immediate report if mines are found. Acknowledge.  
(C. in C. Nore, 230004A to S.O. M.S.1).

E-Boat  
activity.

One E-Boat damaged and on fire. E-Boats driven off to N.E. They did not approach closer than 1 miles of Q.Z.S.596. Minelaying not suspected. (GUILLEMOT, 230109A to C. in C. Nore).

2 Groups of 4 E-Boats detected at 0113 and 0129 in position 358° O.S.T.18.5 and 011° O.S.T.19.7 respectively course south speed 40 knots. Engaged by TORRINGTON and F.G.2. Further south position 004° O.S.T. 13.7 minelaying not suspected, no damage claimed. Enemy fled on north course. (TORRINGTON, 230214A to C. in C. Nore).

E-Boat activity night 22nd/23rd January.

- (1) 2300 SEYMOUR (patrol 12) detected E-Boat group in 2 divs. near N.F.4 buoy and 3 miles N.W. of it. S.S. HALO straggling from T.A.C. convoy sunk by torpedo. E-Boats driven off N.W. by SEYMOUR and M.T.Bs. hits are claimed.
- (2) 2328 STAYNER (Patrol 18) vectored M.T.Bs. on to one division retiring from SEYMOUR. M.T.B 495 and 446 had close action and claim damage to enemy. 495 damaged with one rating killed and 3 wounded.
- (3) 0026 GUILLEMOT (Patrol 21) engaged 4 E-Boats 3 miles north of 53 E buoy. One E-Boat set on fire. E-Boats did not reach channel and retired N.E. these may have been some of SEYMOUR's group making second attack.

/(4)...



23.1.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea.

E-Boat  
activity  
(Contd.)

(4) 0115 TORRINGTON (Patrol 16) with M.T.Bs. engaged two divisions each of 4 E-Boats 5 miles N.W. and 3 miles north of H.K.2 buoy steering south. On being engaged enemy retired north at high speed.

(5) 0225 K 5 (N. Foreland) detected 5 E-Boats 025° 15½ miles approaching Tongue/Dumpton Channel. At 0305 Tongue Sand Fort opened fire at about 8000 yards sinking one, survivors have been landed at Chatham. E-Boats at once turned east pursued by C/F unit F.B.6 who had brief action driving enemy north away from Tam convoy then near Foreland buoy. Contact lost in smoke. E-Boats apparently grounded on Kentish knock for short time but owing to rising tide got off and proceeded N.E. at highspeed. K.5 plotted these E-Boats and F.B.6 extremely well throughout. This group had been shadowed from Ymuiden by Wellington aircraft to position 60 miles 255° from Ymuiden where they remained stopped from 2040. At about 2340 aircraft attacked with machine gun and was damaged by flak, touch was then lost.

(6) Difficult to assess actual number of E-Boats operating but probably maximum of 18 in three main groups. Primary object thought to be torpedo attack on convoys but mines may have been laid near N.F.4 buoy.

(C. in C.Nore, 231621A to Admty.).

My 230130. Have contacted Tid 115 at Terneuzen and gained following information: S.S. HALO sunk in approximate position 035° N.F.4 buoy 1½ miles. All members of boarding party taken off by Tid 110 and returned to U.K.

(TURQUOISE, 231734A to C. in C. Nore).

Discharge  
situation  
report.

Cositintrep No. 294. Part 4.  
Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600A  
22nd.

British:

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> (incl. coal)	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
Antwerp	59	231	7575	843	-
Ostend	255	52	1578	670	244
Boulogne	205	79	-	-	-
Dieppe	-	-	2642	-	-
Caen	-	-	1556	-	-
Calais	6536	-	312	-	-
Ghent	-	-	954	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>7055</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>14617</b>	<b>1513</b>	<b>701</b>

U.S. North:

Antwerp	-	154	12811	-	-
Cherbourg	-	31	9575	1547	2196
Le Havre	6992	370	8066	308	1328
Rouen	499	262	6472	511	696
Granville	-	-	1541	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>7491</b>	<b>817</b>	<b>38465</b>	<b>2366</b>	<b>4220</b>

U.S. South:

Marseilles	76	85	14031	-	4715
------------	----	----	-------	---	------

/Port...



War Diary

23.1.1945.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea.

Discharge  
situation  
report  
(Contd.)

U.S. South (Contd.)

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> (incl. coal)	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
Port De Bouc	-	8	2623	4612	-
Toulon	-	-	633	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>17287</b>	<b>4612</b>	<b>4715</b>

(Signed Eisenhower Cite S.H.G.D.S.).  
(S.H.A.E.F., 231520A to Admty. etc.).

Patrols.

Patrol for night Wednesday 24th January.

(1) BLENCATHRA. (2) BLEASDALE. (3) FARNDALE.  
(4) CATTISTOCK. (5) PUFFIN. (6) A. GUILLEMOT.  
(12) THORNBOROUGH with coastal force from BEEHIVE.  
(14) HAMBLEDON. (16) RIOU with coastal force from Ostend.  
(18) TALYBONT. (19) RETALICK and SLAZAK. (21) KITTIWAKE.  
Coastal force from Ostend R/V. RIOU, RETALICK, and SLAZAK at  
N.F.8 buoy at 1800.  
(3) Escort for T.A.M.59 VESPER and VERSATILE.  
Coastal force from U.K. Z.15 F.B.1, Z.13 F.A.4, Z.11 F.A.5,  
Z.9 F.C.6, Z.7 F.A.2, Z.5 F.A.3, Z.3 F.C.8, 53 Buoy F.B.8.  
Patrol 12 F.L.2, 3 UWYJ 29 22 F.B.6.  
From Ostend UWNR 35 12 F.H.3, UWNR 21 00 F.B.2, UWNR 23 15 F.A.8,  
UWNR 39 12 F.G.5.  
Patrol 16 F.G.2, X.G.3.  
(C. in C. Nore, 231751A to Nore Command).

Air  
Activity.

Approx. 20 hostile aircraft operated in area  
between 1845 and 1930 today Tuesday. One aircraft  
shot down at Breedene with mine still intact.  
This will be investigated tomorrow Wednesday.  
Track charts suggest probable minelaying in  
Q.Z.S.584 and in Q.Z.S.657 between N.F.13 buoy and N.F.15 buoy.  
(N.O.I.C. Ostend, 232341 to C. in C. Nore).

Operations

Channel.

Cross -  
Channel  
telegraph  
cable laid. .

Admiralty's 170007A Jan. and my 171525A  
operation completed.  
(V.A. Dover, 231006A to Admty.).

Patrols.

Night patrol 23rd/24th January. As in my  
152238 para.2 amend Northern boundary of area  
to 50° 00' N.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth., 231601A to JONQUIERE,  
RIBBLE).

/Day...



23.1.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel.

Patrols (Contd.) Day patrols 24th January.  
On completion of 231522A proceed to patrol as in my 231601A.  
(2) On arrival at long. 01° 15' W. detach JONQUIERE and RIBBLE to sweep from H.10 buoy to Z buoy returning to H.10 and resuming patrol under orders of S.O.E.G.26 by 1730.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 232305A to S.O.E.G.26).

Operations

Western Approaches.

Suspected U-Boat. ASBESTOS carried out 2 depth charge and two hedgehog attacks KINCARDINE three Squid attacks no results. Contact still firm. Am proceeding in accordance with previous orders. My 222247A refers.  
(ASBESTOS, 230044A to C. in C.W.A.).

Two non - submarine contacts. Stationary bottomed targets attacked in position.  
(A) 54° 14' 40" N. 05° 31' 40" W. and (B) 54° 15' 30" N. 05° 27' 40" W.  
Both give excellent trace.  
(a) Probably rock or wreck silted up.  
(b) Length 200 feet beam 40 feet height 18 feet probably wreck. Suitable and asdic conditions excellent.  
(S.O. Force 37, 231115A to C. in C.W.A.).

Re-routeing of K.M.F./M.K.F. convoys in W.A. You are being drastically re-routed. Alter course forthwith for new positions:  
JN 50.03 N. 14.50 W. JO 53.20 N. 15.15 W.  
JP 55.54 N. 13.02 W. JQ 56.20 N. 08.00 W.  
thence to A on standard route K.  
(2) Stragglers route cancel Q R S T and

substitute:  
U 49.56 N. 15.25 W. V. 53.20 N. 15.57 W. W 55.54 N. 13.02 W.  
X 56.50 N. 08.00 W.  
(Plot O.D., 231347A to Escorts of M.K.F.38).

I consider the routeing of the K.M.F./M.K.F. troop convoys through the Irish Sea during the present U-Boat threat to be a risk which is entirely unjustifiable if by any possible means it can be avoided. I therefore consider they should be routed via the North Channel in a similar manner to the Monsters. It is appreciated of course some slight delay and re-arrangements for disembarkation etc. may well be entailed thereby.

(2) As I am informed that the delay in the sailing of the K.M.F. convoy cannot be accepted, I intend to employ one of the support groups operating in the Irish Sea to escort the K.M.F. from Liverpool and Clyde to approx. 10° W.



23.1.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches.

Re-routeing  
of K.M.F./  
M.K.F.  
convoys in  
W.A.  
(Contd.)

(3) On passing the M.K.F. this Support Group will relieve the 20th Escort Group and escort the M.K.F. to the Clyde, the 20th Escort Group after transferring the K.M.F. and escorting it to Gibraltar.

(4) This arrangement will cause least interference to the present dispositions and cycles of the Support Groups.

(5) I understand that there are troopships in K.M.F.38 for Liverpool but I consider that they should disembark in the Clyde for the reasons given in para.1. After disembarkation they could if necessary be sent to Liverpool.

(C. in C.W.A., 231705A to Admty.).

Anti -  
U-Boat  
deep  
mining.

Request you will sail ships as follows today 23rd.

(a) APOLLO and 2 ships of E.G.21 to R/V. at 2300 in position 116° Coningbeg Light 6 miles. Escort to rejoin Group on completion of lay.

(b) Remainder of E.G.21 to comply with my 212255.

(C. in C.W.A., 231445A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

C. in C.W.A. 211812, 172003 not to all addressees and 231445. APOLLO sails with 2 escorts at 1800 23rd to carry out operation E unless Commander M/S Bristol Channel reports before 2300/23rd that B.5, 6 and 7, has been completed. In latter case lay B.2, 3 and 4.

(F.O.I.C. Milford, 231525 to APOLLO, S.O.E.G.21).

My 231525 sailed. Escorts are FITZROY and RUPERT.

(F.O.I.C. Milford, 231827 to C. in C.W.A.).

Serial E.1 and part of E.2 completed.

(APOLLO, 232048A to C. in C.W.A.).

E.G.22.

Request you sail ships of 22nd E.G. as and when ready tomorrow 24th to rejoin force 37.

(C. in C.W.A., 231633A to Com. D.W.A.).

Patrols and  
escorts.

Your 201627Z. Higher classification. Concur. (Com. 12th Fleet, 231717 to C. in C.W.A.).

Proposals contained in your 212317 are concurred in.

(2) Release arrangements should be in

accordance with para.6 (a) of C.A.F.O. 2659/44.

(D.A./S.W., 232120A to C. in C.W.A.).

Prohibited  
fishing  
area.

In view of mining policy in south west approaches and in order to overcome plotting difficulties referred to by N.O.I.C. Milford Haven it is proposed that deep sea fishing should now be prohibited in St. George's Channel to westward of 005° W. and the southward of 052° 20' N.

(C. in C.W.A., 231728A to Admty.).



War Diary.23.1.1945.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorway.

Patrols. Negative patrol torpedoes expended intend to reach position E.1000/23rd. Weather report 7490 0911.  
(VENTURER, 230431A to F.O.S., A.C.O.S., C. in C. Rosyth, S.O. S/M. Lerwick).

(1) Request you will sail VIKING a.m. 24th to patrol area bounded by 60° 50' N. 03° 35' E. 60° 00' N. and the coast of Norway.

(2) VENTURER is to remain at Lerwick until sailing for next patrol.  
(F.O.S/M., 230947A to S.O. S/M Lerwick).

0800 24th positions of submarines and movements for following 24 hours. Zone A times.

(1) VENTURER 60° 54' N. 02° 29' E. through 61° 04' N. 02° 00' E. and 61° 04' N. 00° 01' E. 090° Muckle Flugga 10 to Lerwick. Diving by day east of 01° E. then 8 knots.

(2) TACITURN on patrol within 15 miles north or south of 58° 45' N. 01° 15' E.

(3) VIKING leaves Lerwick 1100/24th passing through  
(A) 090° Muckle Flugga 10. (B) 61° 24' N. 00° 01' E.  
(C) 61° 24' N. 02° 01' E. (D) 61° 02' N. 03° 35' E. (E) 60° 45' N. 04° 09' E. 8 knots on surface diving by day after 01° E. 135 miles per day.  
(Admty., 232155A to A.I.G.25).

Operation V.P.73 is cancelled.  
V.P. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 231844A to A.C.O.S.).

OperationsNorthern Waters.

Anti-Schnorkel O.P. obstructors. Your 211731A. Propose four lines in following positions:  
(A) 60 55 01 42 61 35 02 44. (B) 60 45 02 10 61 25 03 12. (C) 60 35 02 38 61 15 03 40.  
(D) 60 25 03 08 61 05 04 10.  
All positions north and west.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 231136A to Admty.).

Convoys J.W.64, R.A.64. Intend following operation conducted by C.S.1.  
(2) Object is safe passage of convoy J.W.64 and R.A.64 between U.K. and North Russia.  
(3) D-day is day J.W.64 sails from Clyde. Date and routes in my 232034. Codeword in my 232022.

(4) Forces taking part:-  
(A) CAMPANIA (C.S.1), NAIRANA and BELLONA.  
(B) Fleet destroyers ONSLOW (Capt. D.17), ONSLAUGHT, OPPORTUNE, ORWELL, SERAPIS, STORD, ZAMBESI (Capt. D.2), ZEST, ZEALOUS, ZEBRA.  
(C) Western Approaches escort. 9 ships of 7th and 8th E.G. names will be signalled later.  
(D) Local escort. Russian warships operating from Kola as /arranged...



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23.1.1945.  
Tuesday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorthern Waters.

- Convoys arranged by S.B.N.O. North Russia.  
 J.W.64, (5) Preliminary movement. S.Os. concerned are  
 R.A.64 requested to order preliminary movement as follows.  
 (Contd.) (a) Western Approaches destroyers concerned of  
 7th and 8th Escort Group to arrive Skaalefiord  
 by D plus one day to fuel.  
 (b) Sloops and corvettes concerned of 7th and 8th Escort Group  
 to arrive Clyde by D minus one.  
 (c) C.S.1 to attend convoy conference at Clyde on D day and  
 then return to Scapa.  
 (d) Capt. D.17 in ONSLOW with 3 other fleet destroyers to  
 arrive Clyde by D minus one. Destroyers to fuel.  
 (6) A.C.O.S. is requested to sail R.F.A. BLACK RANGER to arrive  
 Skaalefiord by D day.  
 (7) J.W.64 is to sail from Clyde p.m. D day escorted by 4  
 Fleet destroyers and sloops and corvettes of 7th and 8th  
 Escort Group under Capt. (D) 17. Route Red unless otherwise  
 ordered. All ships should be capable of 10 knots.  
 (8) C.S.1 will proceed from Scapa on D plus 2 with CAMPANIA,  
 NAIRANA, BELLONA and remaining 6 Fleet destroyers so as to join  
 convoy J.W.64 about latitude 063° N. a.m. D plus 3.  
 (9) Western Approaches destroyers are to proceed as necessary  
 from Faroes escorting BLACK RANGER and join convoy J.W.64  
 about latitude 63° N. a.m. D plus 3.  
 (10) No. 18 Group C.C. is requested to provide A/S air escort  
 as far northward as practicable for both outward and homeward  
 convoy if situation permits.  
 (11) S.B.N.O. North Russia is requested sail R.A.64 as soon as  
 practicable after arrival of J.W.64. Route Blue unless other-  
 wise ordered.  
 (12) Alterations to convoy routes if necessary will be ordered  
 with reference to lettered positions on route Red and Blue.  
 (13) Attention is called to N.R.C.I. articles 142 (D) (E) and  
 (F).  
 (14) Movements on completion of R.A.64 unless otherwise ordered.  
 (A) W. Approaches escorts return to Western Approaches base.  
 (B) CAMPANIA, NAIRANA, BELLONA and Fleet destroyers return to  
 Scapa.  
 (15) Admiralty inform Admiral Archer as necessary C. in C.  
 Rosyth pass No.18 Group C.C. Operational authorities pass as  
 Secret hand message to escorts concerned.  
 (C. in C.H.F., 231954A to Admty. C. in C.W.A., C. in C. Rosyth,  
 A.C.O.S., A.C.I.C., F.O. S/M, F.O.I.C. Greenock, F.O.I.C.N.I.,  
 S.B.N.O. North Russia, S.B.N.O. Archangel, Cdre. (D) W.A.,  
 Cdre. (D) H.F., N.O.I.C. Aultbea, N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, N.O.I.C.  
 Faroes).  
 My 231954. Codeword "Hotbed".  
 (2) Operational authorities pass as secret hand message to  
 escorts concerned.  
 (C. in C.H.F. 232022A to same addressees).  
 My 231954.  
 (1) D-day Saturday 3rd Feb. Route Red. Standard route  
 through Minches to:  
 (A) 60° 30' N. 04° 20' W. (B) 62° 00' N. 04° 20' W.  
 (C) 72° 18' N. 11° 30' E. (D) 72° 55' N. 20° 30' E.  
 (E) 27° 05' N. 35° 35' E. then position M.X.69° 31' N. 35° 40'  
 E.

/(3)...



War Diary.23.1.1945.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorthern Waters.

Convoys (3) Route Blue. Through M.X. then  
 J.W.64, (F) All positions are north and east unless  
 R.A.64, otherwise indicated 71° 40' 35° 40'.  
 (Contd.) (G) 72° 38' 28° 20'. (H) 72° 38' 17° 00'.  
 (J) 71° 40' 11° 20' thence to B, A and K 59° 33'  
 04° 20' W. and then by standard route through  
 Minches to Clyde.  
 (4) Operational authorities pass as Secret Hand message to  
 escorts concerned.  
 (C. in C.H.F., 232034A to same addressees).

Enemy Intelligence.

German One minelayer preceded by minesweeper passed  
 Warships. Helsingborg at 0950 today January 23rd northbound.  
 Swedish naval observers report upper half of mines  
 appeared to be painted white A.2.  
 (N.A. Stockholm, 231751 to Admty.).

Anglo -  
 Russian  
 mutual  
 U-Boat  
 inspections.

Russians have applied for permission to inspect  
 German Midget U-Boats in our possession. We  
 intend to give them every facility for obtaining  
 any information they require about these craft.  
 We shall express the hope that they will be  
 similarly forthcoming about U.250. You may find  
 this useful in connection with your own  
 negotiations concerning U.250. Your 101031  
 refers.  
 (Head of M. 232129A to Adm. Archer).

Port Facilities.

Zeebrugge.

In view of the heavy dredging commitment it  
 would entail, it is not now intended to establish  
 a Naval Base for light craft at Zeebrugge  
 (Com. Belgium 191811 not to all refers).  
 (A.N.C.X.F., 231146A to S.H.A.E.F.).

Technical.

Procedure  
 when  
 submarine  
 escort meets  
 U-Boat.

Your 221746A.  
 Concur when Escorts are A/S. vessels.  
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 231105A to S.O. S/M.).

Casualties and Defects.

<sup>M/V</sup>  
 S.S. TROCAS.

Collision off San Head buoy will be unable to  
 proceed. Anchoring master.  
 (TROCAS, 230230Z to N.C.S.O. Deal).



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23.1.1945.  
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSCasualties and Defects - Contd.

S.S. ACTIVE. Faroes ACTIVE T.N.333 abandoned in approx. position 200 miles south east of Westmann Island 16th January due to storm damage. Crew picked up by Icelandic FRAGRIKLETTUR G.A.260 and landed Reykjavik 21st January. ACTIVE left in sinking condition but not seen to sink. (A.C.I.C., 231225A to N.O.I.C. Faroes).

S.S. MAGDALA. R.U.150. NORTHERN SKY's 171205. MAGDALA is now overdue. Request any information. (C. in C.W.A., 231305A to A.C.I.C.).  
Your 231305 nothing heard of MAGDALA other than NORTHERN SKY's signals. (A.C.I.C., 231820A to C. in C.W.A.).

Coal N.O.I.C. Holyhead 230958.  
Hulk C.T.21. C.T.21 grounded in fog at 1340 today approx. 5 miles south of Mew Island craft has arrived in tow at Donaghadee with bottom damage and engine room flooded. (F.O.I.C.N.I., 231627A to Admty.).

Movements.

EASTWAY A.Ms. 022151, 131704, N.O.I.C. Tyne's 211000  
L.S.D. and C. in C. Portsmouth's 221247, none to all. AVONVALE is to pass Gate at 0400A/24th January to R/V. with EASTWAY S.O. escorted by BRECON, EGGESFORD and SEABEAR at seaward end of Q.Z.S. (7553) at 0530A/24th January and continue as additional escort to Gibraltar for onward routing to Taranto.  
(2) Routed in accordance with Admiralty Message 191545. Speed 15 knots.  
(4) EASTWAY is to detach SEABEAR to Falmouth from position (M).  
(6) German U-Boats are operating in Western Channel and the Approaches.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 231402A to AVONVALE, EASTWAY).

American Release of L.C.T. and L.S.T. Reference  
L.C.T. and S.H.A.E.F. 231745A of November, 1944 in view  
L.S.T. closing of Arronanches request release 36 U.S.  
releases. L.C.T.(5) and (6). In view of facts that all  
available U.S. L.S.T. have not been fully  
utilised during last six weeks, that C.U. convoys  
are planned for future movement direct to continent and that  
vehicle commitment ex U.K. is considerably lower, request  
release of 27 U.S. L.S.T. at earliest practicable date. Release  
of 27 U.S. L.S.T. will leave 54 of this craft remaining in  
"Overlord" which number will provide eight sailings per day.  
I am informed that eight sailings per day is satisfactory to  
Comzone and it appears that 54 U.S. L.S.T. and 16 M.T. will  
fully cover known commitments.  
(Comnavu, 231501 to S.H.A.E.F.).

/DEVONSHIRE...



23.1.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

DEVONSHIRE  
cruiser.

Sailed DEVONSHIRE as in my 221230A E.T.A. of arrival Hoxa 1700/25th Jan.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 231514A to C. in C.H.F., A.C.O.S.).

Appian  
and M.L.C.  
Flights to  
India.

R.A.L.S.C.Us. 181834 to Admiralty only.  
On completion of the Appian sailing programme in A.M. 051648 No. 74 Flotilla consisting of 12 L.C.T.(4) together with any stragglers from preceding flights is to assemble at Falmouth as soon as possible after 10th February. They

will comprise Flight G.

(2) No further M.L.C. Flights will be sailed to reach India before monsoon.

(3) Instructions regarding the disposal of other M.L.C. Flotillas already formed or forming will be issued later.  
(A.C.N.S.(F), 231953A to R.A.L.S.C.U., F.O.I.C. Falmouth).

Canadian  
Minister  
for Naval  
Services  
in  
SASKATCHEWAN.

SASKATCHEWAN is required to convoy Minister for Naval Services (Canada) and party from Liverpool p.m. 26th.  
(2) SASKATCHEWAN will be ordered to return to Tobermory on completion of this duty.  
(C. in C.W.A., 232207A to Com. W. Isles).

Shipping and Convoys

O.N. and  
O.S./K.M.S.  
convoys.

O.N. and O.S./K.M.S. convoys. A.M. 221540 convoys will normally split at position J on standard coastal route B whence O.N. convoy will proceed at best speed to final R/V.

(2) Similarly on crossing 07.30 W. O.N.S. will proceed at best speed so as to clear the Irish

Sea Section of the O.S./K.M.S. convoys.

(3) C. in Cs. pass to F.Os. I.C. and N.C.S.Os. concerned.  
(Admty., 231320A to Cs. in C.W.A., Plymouth, Portsmouth, Nore, Com. Southend).

Escorts are to be detailed by S.O's. of Ocean Groups to R/V. and escort joining sections for outbound convoys as follows.

(2) O.N.S. Convoys. Routed northabout Ireland. 2 escorts Liverpool B.L.V. 2 escorts Ailsa Craig. Remainder Belfast.

(3) Combined O.N./O.S./K.M.S. Convoys.

Routed south of Ireland. O.S./K.M.S., escort Liverpool, 1 of O.N. escort Milford Haven, 1 of O.N. escort Belfast. Remainder of O.N. escort Clyde L.V.

(4) S.O. of escorts of O.N. and O.N.S. convoys are to signal names of escorts detailed as in paras.2 and 3.

(5) Amend my 291321 August 1944 and my 071518 September 1944 133 N.S. neither to all addressees.

(C. in C.W.A., 231628A to W.A. Command).

U.C.  
convoys.

It is intended to reinforce U.C.(A) convoys with escorts of the U.C.(B).



23.1.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys.

U.C.  
convoys  
(Contd.)

- (2) F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to sail BURROWS with Mersey Section of U.C.54A.
- (3) F.O.I.C. Cardiff is requested to sail SLATER with Bristol Channel Section of U.C.54A.
- (4) BURROWS and SLATER are to detach when convoy crosses 08° W. and return to their ports of departure.
- (C. in C.W.A., 231933A to F.O.I.Cs. Liverpool, Cardiff).



23.1.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

E.Gs.  
1 and 4.                   LOWESTOFT, CROCUS, CYCLAMEN are to return Gibraltar forthwith.  
(2) HYDERABAD joining Group 4.  
(3) Group 4 taking up patrol "Bacon".  
(4) BALINDERRY arrange R/V HYDERABAD.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 231052A to Group 1, Group 4.)

WOODRUFF.                   Sail at 1800A today Tuesday for Casablanca.  
(2) Your final destination Freetown for refit.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 231504A to WOODRUFF.)

TOWY,  
ST. HELENA.                Intend sail TOWY (S.O.), ST. HELENA at 0800A  
Jan. 24th for United Kingdom.  
(3) S. of A. 14½ knots.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 231528A to C. in C. W.A.)

NUBIAN.                    NUBIAN sailed 1845/23rd for onward routing  
to Alex. not Port Said as in my 230952 in order  
that certain repairs may be undertaken before  
proceeding to Far East.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 231848A to V.A.M., F.O.C. Med.)

<sup>L</sup>  
BALINDERRY                Am attacking A/S contact in position 036° 52' N.,  
A/S                        008° 48' W.  
contact.                   (BALINDERRY, 232325 to Gibraltar C.C.O.)  
My 232325\*.               Contact lost after one hedgehog  
and depth charge attack.   No Doppler or movement  
of target.                No result from attack.   Consider  
target non-submarine and am leaving the area, course 108°, speed  
12 knots.  
(BALINDERRY, 232359A to F.O.G.M.A.)   Confirmed 240024A.  
\* Attacking A/S contact.



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War Diary.

23.1.1945  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Cositintrep  
564, 22nd  
Jan. 1945.

(2) Crete. Near Rhithymno there has been fighting between E.L.A.S. and National Partisans after which former withdrew to mountains.

(3) Adriatic. At Zada a very severe gale has been experienced in which a landing craft dragged ashore. She has since been refloated.  
(C. in C. Med. No T.O.O to W.O.)

ETHIOPIAN.

Intend to sail ETHIOPIAN at 0900/24th S.O.A. 9 knots to Port Said. (2) E.T.A. Port Said daylight 29th.  
(V.A.M. 231130 to N.O.I.C. Port Said.)

Italy. Allied  
naval S/M  
Commission.

The question of the composition of the Allied Naval Submarine Commission in Rome\* has now been raised by U.S. Authorities.

(2) The present arrangements whereby Cdre. (Rome) deputised for F.O.T.A.L.I. was a temporary expedient and not in full accordance with the principles of integration.

(3) I consider the time is now ripe for putting this on a proper basis and I would propose: subject to concurrence of S.A.C. Med.  
(a) to release R.A. Morgan as head of the Naval Submarine Commission. (b) To appoint Cdre. Warren as head of the Naval Submarine Commission in the rank of R.A. Warren to be also deputy to Morgan in his capacity of F.O.L.I. and also to be B.S.N.O. Rome.  
(C. in C. Med. 231257A to Admty.) \* Amended by 231257A.

Dardanelles  
Minesweeping.

Area has not been completed owing to weather conditions. Area swept but not checked is enclosed by lines joining the following positions. All bearing and distance from Cape Helles lighthouse. (1) 306° 1.5 miles and 253° 3.2 miles. (2) 306° 4.3 miles 263° 7.55 miles and 245° 13.4 miles and joining area already reported by M.S. 5 on south and east sides.  
One mine was swept in position 293° Cape Helles lighthouse 4.77 miles and this is presumed to be south end of Q.B. 365 para. A.  
Total number of mines swept in this area 66.  
(SYLVIA 231714B to F.O.L.E.M.)

Cositintrep  
No. 562.

Part 3. Strategic Air Force.  
Operations for night 21/22 and day 22 January were cancelled due to base and route weather. Coastal Air Force. Night 21/22. Three Wellingtons on R/C of Gulf of Venice bombed and straddled three small vessels. A Beaufighter covered Naval Forces operating south of Genoa. One Mosquito scrambled for hostile is missing. Day 22. Four Spitfires attacked and scored near misses on two small ships in Jablanac Harbour. Other Spitfires flew weather R/C, scrambles, and P.39s escorted shipping. A mine spotting patrol was flown off south coast of France and six aircraft carried out the Air Sea Rescue searches.  
(H.Q.M.A.A.F. No T.O.O. to W.O. etc.)

/Minesweeping...



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War Diary.23.1.1945  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Minesweeping. C. in C. Med.'s 031217A. Progressed from east to line joining following positions (all positions N. and E.) 039° 27.2' 020° 06.9' 039° 23.7' 020° 11.2' 039° 20.5' 020° 14'.  
28 mines cut and 1 detonated between lats. 039° 21.9' N. 039° 24.9' N. Continuing tomorrow 24th. S.O. M/S Mediterranean sailed in B.Y.M.S. 2024 for Brindisi p.m. today.  
(S.O. M/S F. 8 231857B to F.O.T.A.L.I.)

L.S.D. JAVELIN will leave U.K. for Med. about 30th Jan.  
EASTWAY. (2) Request ZETLAND or EASTON may be released as soon as possible after 27th Jan. to escort EASTWAY from Gibraltar to Portsmouth. Para. 4 of A.M. 071454 refers.  
(3) Final destination of escort is Nore.  
(D.O.D. (H) 231909A to C. in C. Med., etc.)

Cositintrep Part 4. Greece. H.Q. Four British Division is now  
563. established in Thebes. Routine patrolling and searching for weapons and equipment continued without incident in Attica, Salonika, and the Peloponnese.  
(A.F.H.Q. No T.O.O. to W.O.)

S. Aegean (1) Shipping. Up to 0900 hours 23rd Jan. 1945.  
Summary. Ground source reports German raiding party landed on Pserimo a.m. Jan. 21st. No further details but this force probably from Kos. Offensive action Jan. 22nd. Aircraft bombed Rhodes Harbour  
1230 hours. Bombs fell on Mole and near jetty.  
(C. in C. M.E. No T.O.O. to W.O.)

U/B attack. MCLANAHAN reports having made 3 depth charge attacks on a submarine by 43.36 N. and 07.35.5 E. at 1535A/23rd. Two large air bubbles and one white mine with horns appearing after third attack search continuing.  
(Comflanfor 232125A to F.O.N.A.M.)

No fire support calls due snow and rain - my 231535 initial sound contact at 1239 believed false or mines due to no Doppler. Circled and stopped ship to observe. Target took speed 2 knots and positive screw noises were heard from 400 yards until Pattern dropped. During first attack at 1303 used shallow plan as object observed in target bearing one foot long, 4 inches in diameter, rounded at top, possibly periscope.

/Second...



23.1.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

U/B attack.  
(Contd.)

Second attack medium deep plan at 1328. Several weak contacts followed. At 1410, while following light oil wake, regained contact and dropped deep pattern, at 1424 saw 2 large bubbles 75 to 100 feet wide near pattern marker and believed submarine surfacing.

Ten minutes later white mine about 20-24 inches in diameter with yellow peaked horns appeared in position of bubbles and later disappeared. Several false contacts to northward with DAGUE assisting followed. Discontinued search at 1745. LE FORTUNE and 2 P.Cs. also attacked on contacts. All times A.  
(MCLANAHAN 232102A to F.O. Flanfor.)

Greece.  
Military  
Commands.

A.F.H.Q. No T.O.O. - War Office.  
See Lion Copy.



**TOP SECRET**

IN

Med.  
452A

**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.)

No T.O.O./23rd January.

From. A.F.H.Q.

Date. 23.1.45.

Recd. 2335.

C Y P H E R

Addressed The War Office  
Repeated AGWAR...

Greece. Military Commands.

IMMEDIATE

288177 FX 90136 cipher 23 Jan. TOP SECRET

Cite FHGOT. Signed Alexander.

Reference Troopers, 61599 / (M.O.5) of. 21 January not to AGWAR.

Para. One. Headquarters Land Forces and Military Liaison, Greece (General Scobie) is responsible to Supreme Allied Commander for all operations in Greek Mainland, Islands in the Approaches to Athens, Ionian Islands and Crete. The only exception to this is Attica MIL Comd which is responsible to Greek Government. (See Para Two below).

Para Two. Military Command Athens, IE Headquarters Tenth Corps (General Hawkesworth) is responsible to General Scobie for operations on the Mainland of Greece. With effect from 17 January, Attica Military Command which is Greek, was set up and is the first step in handing over to the Greek Government responsibilities for the maintenance of law and order in Greece. Eight Greek National Guard Brigades passed to Command of Attica Military Command for this purpose. The area of its responsibilities includes Athens, Piraeus and surrounding villages. As time goes on, the area of its responsibilities will be extended. British Troops are stationed within the area of the Attica Military Command and are available to support the Greek Government at any situation which gets beyond control of Attica Military Command.

Para Three. All Forces with the exception of SEN Force in Crete are being abolished. 46 Div, although operating as a normal Div, has been redesignated BREWFORCE for security reasons.

Para Four. The organization of Command is as follows: LF and ML Greece Commands Military Command Athens, Forty Commando in Corfu and SEN Force in Crete. Military Command Athens Commands Four British Division, Four Indian

/Division,



- 2 -

Division, 46 British Division, 23 Armoured Brigade, Two Para Brigade; all on Mainland of Greece.

Para Five. Your Para Three. General Hawkesworth's Command is still called MIL COMD Athens.

Para Six. Your Para Four. BRE FORCE (Fortysix Div) is responsible to General Hawkesworth (Mil Comd Athens).

Para Seven. Your para Five. General Hawkesworth through Four Ind Div is responsible for troops in Volos.

No T.O.O.

✓ Note by M.O.5. Telegram 61599 of 21 January was not distributed. It asked for details of the chain of command in Greece in view of the setting up of the new Greek Command "Attica Military Command" which took over operational responsibility for the Athens/Piraeus area on 17 January.

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

Circulated by War Office to War Office depts., Defence Office, Admiralty, Air Ministry, Foreign Office and Defence Map Room (W.C.O.)



War Diary

23.1.1945  
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-Boat                    All areas scale W.5.  
dispositions.        (C. in C. E.I. 230338Z)

L.S.Ts.                    (1) Departure L.S.T. 199, 403, 11, 8 and 163  
                             unescorted E.T.A. Western Channel Head Light  
                             Vessel, Calcutta 2000Z/31st Jan. S. of A. 9.2  
                             knots.  
(2) Route: details.  
(N.O.I.C. Cochin, 230931Z to Admty.)

Aden                        As reported in my 100647 Dec, 1943 Aden Settlement  
Power                        Power Station is working to full capacity and  
Station.                      cannot supply current for Aden Cold Store, now  
                                 nearing completion, new base workshops, A/S  
                                 instructional apparatus, plan R. and other Admty.  
                                 services which have arisen due to expansion of the  
base.

(2) Necessity for the Turbo-Generator is now becoming increasingly  
urgent and it is important that this equipment should be  
expedited.        Para. 3 of your 021842 Dec, 1943 refers.

(3) As immediate measure it is intended to utilise the Admty.  
underground power station which will suffice temporarily with  
outside adaptations.  
(Com. Aden, 231227Z to Admty.)



23.1.1945  
Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

U-Boat signals. Your 230532. German U-Boat transmitting Naval enigma messages. At 04(50)?Z on 5080 K/cs. 094 degs. position 044 degs. 17' N. 063 degs. 41' W. At 0520Z on 5080 K/cs 095 degs. 106 degs. 094 degs. 101 degs. position 044 degs. 11' N. 032 degs. 41' W. At 0612Z on 5080 K/cs. 082 degs. 095 degs. 100 degs. position 044 degs. 07' N. 063 degs. 41' W. All bearings 2nd Class distance uncertain. All ships in line abreast at 1½ miles. (S.O. E.G. 27, 230826Z to N.Z.H.Q. etc.)

Transfer of ships on loan to R.C.N. Reference Admty. letter dated 14th Jan. concerning the transfer to the R.C.N. on loan of two light fleet carriers and a flotilla of fleet destroyers. (2) While the offer of these valuable ships is much appreciated, it is considered that the conditions contained in para. 6 of Admty's letter would be unacceptable to the Canadian

Cabinet.

(3) It is desired to draw the attention of the Admiralty to C.N.M.O.'s Aide Memoire C.S.21 (P.P.20/44) dated 15th Nov. 1944, para. 6 in which the policy for the employment of these ships is stated. Furthermore should an urgent need arise for these vessels to operate temporarily in a theatre of war in which the Canadian Government has not authorised the employment of Canadian Naval Forces it is suggested that such need should be considered and dealt with by the Canadian Cabinet in the light of the circumstances at the time following representations by the Admiralty.

(4) It is considered that the offer might prove acceptable by the Canadian Cabinet if para. 6 were deleted from the letter. If this suggestion is not acceptable to the Admiralty it is alternatively suggested that the conditions contained in this para. be altered to the following:-

"The ships to be employed in accordance with the general instructions of the Canadian Government for the participation of the Canadian Naval Service in the war, and the procedure for the operation, supply and maintenance of the ships to be agreed upon between the Admiralty and Naval Service Headquarters".  
(N.S.H.Q. 231245 and 312329A to Admty.)

U-Boat dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 231340Z and Cominch, 231534Z)

PRECISE. About 28th Jan. Comeastseafron sail H.M.S. PRECISE (A.N.74) from Norfolk in U.G.S.71. Cinclant detach at appropriate point for Azores and onward routing by S.B.N.O. Azores independently or in company to U.K.  
(Cominch, 231405Z to Comeastseafron, Cinclant)



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War Diary23.1.1945  
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

T.G. 22.4. Cancel my 181649. T.G. 22.4 prepared for extended operations depart Hampton Roads area 24th January and first operate against U-Boat estimated in Cominch 231534Z (N.T. in W.D.) 39.45 N. 53.00 W. (Cinclant, 232234Z to Com. T.G. 22.4)

Australia and New Zealand

B.P.F. For Hydrographer. Your 22031Z/. Message  
Survey for. 080324Z not yet received. 36 foot channel now swept between Booby Island and Double Island. Following restrictions require marking:  
(A) 2 Light Buoys (flashing) in position 000 degs. 5.5 cables and 016 degs. 9.3 cables Booby Island Light House to mark least width 3 cables.  
(B) One Light Buoy (flashing) in position 010 degs. 34.9' S. 141 degs. 59.0 Firth of Forth. To mark Larpent Bank and obstructions.  
(C) 3 Light Buoys in position 076 degs. 1.73 miles (flashing red every 4 seconds) 071 degs. 2.83 miles (flashing every 3 seconds) and 061 degs. 1.87 miles (flashing every 8 seconds) from Ince Point lighthouse in marked channel least width 5 cables between Alert Rock and Herald Patch.  
(?D) Establish a red light on East Strait island showing if feasible a white sector through channel Alert Rock and Herald patches.  
(2) Thence 46 feet channel swept to Harvey Rocks and 48 feet to Bet Island. Task Force is now operating between Bet and Stephens Island Light.  
(3) A deep water channel between Bet reef light and Harvey Rocks running close north Kirkcaldy reef has been established by sounding but not yet swept. This route would require beacon and light on Kirkcaldy reef and one or 2 light buoys to mark least width of 7 cables close north of the reef. Propose to defer decision until completion survey.  
(4) IMS (corrupt group) now completed shore light and about to lay number 8, 9, 10 and 12 buoy. Further material required for item 7 your order and 4 buoy and shore light proposed in para. 1 above. Encypher by N.O.I.C. Thursday Island.  
(CHALLENGER, 230856Z and 291317A to Admty.)  
/ Not identified in W.R.

Digest  
1098  
22.1.45  
Extract.

(3) Successful unopposed landing effected 20th January Santiago Island at northwestern extremity Lingayen Gulf  
(14) Mopping up continues of isolated enemy Pockets on Leyte, some still offering stubborn resistance. Dead Japanese counted on Leyte, date total 70,131, 578 Japanese 177 Formosa, one Korean taken prisoner.



456

War Diary23.1.1945  
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand

Digest (18) Four Mitchells conducting forenoon sweep  
1098 Aiores Sea strafed and destroyed camouflaged  
22.1.45 barge at Roti Island. Patrol Liberator (?pater)  
Extract. unsuccessfully attacked four Qujgeas at Dsuli.  
(Contd.) (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 231213Z to Admty. etc.)

B.P.F. My 250624 Nov. not to V.A. (Q) B.P.F., a cable ship  
Cablesip. will be required to lay and maintain indicator  
loops and H.D.As, for use with HELVIG.  
(2) It is under consideration to sail Admiralty  
Cable Ship of BULLFINCH Class to Sydney to arrive  
about one month before HELVIG for inclusion in British Pacific  
Fleet Train.  
(3) Request your remarks.  
(D.A/S.M. 231523A to C. in C.B.P.F.) Concur 270233Z.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

DEYATELNYI  
S/M attack For 24 hours to 0900Z/23rd Jan.  
and sighting Para. A. (1) U.S.S.R. DEYATELNY sunk probably  
summary. torpedoed on 16th Jan. in approx. 68 degs. 56' N.  
36 degs. 31' E.  
(2) U.S.S.R. destroyer torpedoed and towed into  
port on 20th Jan. in approx. 69 degs. 58' N. 31  
degs. 55' E.  
Para. B. (1) A/C K/179 obtained radar contact at 1914Z/21st Jan.  
in 49 degs. 23' N. 05 degs. 38' W.  
(2) Motor fishing vessel sighted conning-tower which dived at  
0500Z/22nd Jan. in 50 degs. 02' N. 05 degs. 53' W.  
(3) DIANTHUS attacked contact at 0145Z/23rd Jan. in 49 degs. 51'  
N. 00 degs. 45' W.  
(4) F.S. RENONCULE attacked contact before 1015Z/22nd Jan. in  
51 degs. 33' N. 05 degs. 07' W. H.M.C. ships CAPILANO, NORSYD,  
STATICE later attacked same contact. CLARKIA and 2 corvettes  
attacked another contact (believed non-S/M.) in vicinity.  
(5) A/C E/423 attacked possible Schnorkel at 0930Z/22nd Jan. in  
53 degs. 48' N. 04 degs. 11' W.  
(6) H.M.C. Ships ASBESTOS and KINCARDINE attacked contact at  
2148Z/22nd Jan. in 54 degs. 00' N. 05 degs. 04' W.  
(7) A/C attacked possible Schnorkel about 1245Z/22nd Jan. in 36  
degs. 18' N. 07 degs. 11' W.  
Para. C. (1) Convoy Escort heard torpedoes being fired at  
0001Z/19th in 47' 07' N. 09 degs. 40' W.  
(D.D.I.C. 231129A to Cominch, (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

/ U-Boat ...



War Diary

23.1.1945  
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

U-Boat  
contact.

My 221059 July, 1942.

Following the torpedoing of a ship in coastal  
convoy at 211348. ICARUS of E.G.14 obtained  
contact 4 miles E. of Wolf Rock at 211518.

After 1 Hedgehog and 2 depth charge attacks  
wood, wreckage, oil and one survivor picked up. After 2 more  
Hedgehog and 6 depth charge attacks target stationary and large  
area covered with diesel oil.

(D.A/U.D. 231940Z)

U-Boat  
dispositions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C.231514A and 231520A)



War Diary.

24. 1. 1945.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

1. Admiralty Press Division, Admiral Sir William James, has been superseded by "Department of the Chief of Naval Information", Acting Rear-Admiral R.K. Dickson, to ensure the appreciation by the peoples of the British Empire and by our Allies of the part which the Navy has played and must continue to play in future in defence of the Commonwealth.

North Sea.

2. (a) E-boats, probably in groups of 4, were again active in the early hours from the Texel towards the mouth of the Humber. No contact was made by surface forces, but our aircraft attacked them as they were returning and claim hits. Mines may have been laid in Q. Z. L. 67. Towards midnight GUILLEMOT fell in with a group of 54 A buoy and drove them back eastward. (b) A suspected midget submarine was reported and depth-charged by M.L. 153 off Lowestoft, but nothing further was seen or heard of it. (c) Two hostile aircraft raided Antwerp and damaged SS. ALCOA BANNER.

Western Approaches.

3. The whole crew of SS. VIGSNES, detached from the Cardiff convoy for the Mersey, landed in Anglesey from their boats after she had sunk as a result of mine or (unseen) torpedo. Fourth Escort Group, AYLMER, and BLIGH searched the area without success.

Foreign Stations.

East Indies.

Burma

4. C. in C. E.I. reports - M.L. 891 lost by mine off Kyankpym north of Ramree Island Burma Coast.

Sumatra

5. Aircraft from INDOMITABLE R.A. (A) B.P.F. ILLUSTRIOUS, INDEFATIGABLE and VICTORIOUS were flown off from vicinity of Engano (Telanjang) Island (about 60' off S.W. of coast of Sumatra) to attack oil refineries at Palembang. 47 Avengers, 10 Fireflies and 48 fighters attacked distilling plants of Pladjoe while 24 fighters swept enemy airfields. Hits were obtained on power house, and other units, many other buildings were hit or damaged. Defences were alert and enemy fighters intercepted striking force some miles short of target.

/Thirteen...



24.1.1945.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies.

Sumatra.  
(contd).

Thirteen enemy aircraft were shot down and 6 others probably destroyed. 34 enemy aircraft destroyed on ground and 25 others damaged. Nine of our aircraft were lost. The surface force was sighted and reported.

Australia & New Zealand.

Formosa

6. Last night a Catalina attacked with bombs 8 freighters off Keelung, (north coast of Formosa), causing an explosion and a large fire in one ship.

Philippines

7. 7 Mitchells escorted by 8 Thunderbolts today attacked a large tanker in Pasaluig Bay (N. coast Luzon) scoring 2 hits and 2 near misses and leaving the ship burning and listing after an explosion.

Movement

8. HOWE left Manus for Sydney (N.S.W.)



24.1.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Department of Their Lordships are impressed, especially in view  
Chief of Naval of the forthcoming participation of the Fleet in  
Information the war in the Pacific, with the need for ensuring  
supersedes that the part which the Navy has played and must  
Press Division. continue to play in future in defence of the  
Commonwealth is appreciated by the peoples of the  
British Empire and by our Allies.

(2) In consequence, Admiralty organisation has  
been revised and the Press Division has been reconstituted as the  
Department of the Chief of Naval Information.

(3) Captain R.K. Dickson, lately Deputy Director of Plans,  
Admiralty, has been appointed Chief of Naval Information with  
the acting rank of Rear Admiral, in succession to Admiral Sir W.  
James.

(4) These arrangements are an acceleration of the policy  
promulgated in A.L. M/C.E.50187/42, dated 24th February, 1943  
(not to all addressees). Their Lordships regard this policy  
as both important and urgent and Senior Naval Officers are  
requested to ensure that all possible support, consistent with  
the needs of security, is given to the Chief of Naval Information  
and his Staff

(5) Naval Information staffs are being appointed to assist the  
Commander in Chief, British Pacific Fleet, and the Head of the  
B.A.D. in Washington.

(6) The phrase "Naval Information" exactly expresses the intention  
of Admiralty Policy, and it is requested that it may be reflected  
in the nomenclature of subordinate staffs, etc. The use of the  
words Publicity, Propaganda and Public Relations should be  
avoided in this connection.

(7) Commanders in Chief are requested to promulgate the sense  
of this message confidentially at their discretion.

(8) Copies of the Memorandum enclosed with the A.L. referred to  
in para. 4 follow by air mail.

(1st S.L. 241659A to Cs. in C. at Home, Med., S.Atlantic, B.P.F.,  
East Indies, F.O. W.Africa, V.A. Malta, F.O. Central Med.,  
F.O. Levant and Eastern Med. F.O. Western Med., F.O. S/Ms., S.B.  
N.O.W.At., F.O.N.A.S. F.O.N.A.S. (Australia), F.O. Ceylon, F.O.C.  
Aircraft Carriers B.P.F., F.O. (Air) E.I. Station, A.C.I.(C),  
V.A.(O) R.A. Fleet Train.)

Operations.

North Sea.

Enemy A/C mine Following received from N.O.I.C. Ostend begins:  
intact at Approx. 20 hostile A/C operated in area between 1845  
Breedene. and 1930 Tuesday 23rd. One A/C shot down at  
Breedene with mine still intact. Ends.  
Have you any instructions?  
(A.N.C.X.F. 241035A to Admty., for D.T.M.)

Possible Midget submarine N.E. 4 buoy attacking with depth  
midget U- charges.  
Boat off (M.L. 153 241050A to C. in C. Nore.)  
Lowestoft. (See F.O.I.C. Yarmouth's 271748 Jan to C. in C. Nore.)

/Contact...



24.1.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Possible midget Contact lost.

U-Boat off (M.L. 153 241119A to C. in C. Nore.)  
 Lowestoft. Midget submarine report seen diving in position  
 (Contd.) 52° 27' N. 1° 49' E. at 1050/24th January.  
 (C. in C. Nore 241515A to Nore Command.)  
 German midget submarine sighted by M.L. off  
 Lowestoft 1050 today 24th January.

Consider probably SEEHUND and that these craft can operate any-  
 where off East Coast south of 53° N. Max. depth for lying on  
 bottom probably 15 fathoms.

(2) Very good lookout should be kept particularly off harbour  
 entrances and immediate avoiding action taken on sighting a  
 suspicious object. Radar response probably similar to that from  
 a small buoy. M.G. fire should be used in addition to other  
 weapons.

(C. in C. Nore 241530A to Nore Command.)

One A.F.D. R.N.O. Arrow 221711, request defects in A.F.D. 37  
 required for be made good and that R.D.B. 75 be refitted on  
 use in Low arrival to ensure readiness for use if required  
 Countries. in the Low Countries. My 021118 refers. Neither  
 formers to N.O.I.C. Antwerp.  
 (A.N.C.X.F. 241105A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Discharge Cositintrep No. 295 part IV.  
 Situation Discharge by sea - 24 hours period ending 231600A  
 Report. January.

British	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores (incl.coal)	Bulk Pol.	Ammo.
Antwerp	124	191	6,709	5,380	131
Ostend	2,752	261	3,540	891	1,290
Boulogne	53	40	-	-	-
Dieppe	107	-	653	-	-
Caen	-	-	1,105	-	-
Calais	2,407	2	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	2,256	-	774
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,443</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>14,263</b>	<b>6,271</b>	<b>2,195</b>
U.S. North.					
Antwerp	-	85	15,588	-	-
Cherbourg	-	8	8,113	5,954	2,684
Le Havre	24,257	604	7,291	1,423	1,614
Rouen	786	313	5,927	1,096	586
Granville	-	-	921	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,043</b>	<b>1,010</b>	<b>37,840*</b>	<b>8,473</b>	<b>3,884</b>
U.S. South					
Marseilles	2,075	129	14,598	-	5,439
Port de Bouc	-	-	2,632	6,977	-
Toulon	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,075</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>17,230</b>	<b>6,977</b>	<b>5,439</b>

(S.H.A.E.F. 241515A to Admty., and others.)

\* Corrected by War Diary.

/E-Boat...



24.1.1945

Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea. - Contd.

E-Boat activities. E-Boat activity night 23/24 January.  
(1) An indeterminate number of E-Boats possibly 2 groups of 4 were shadowed by aircraft from the Texel to Gap D. Aircraft lost touch about 0001 in approx. 53° 30' N. 1° 50' E. About 0115 aircraft detected a group some 10 miles further north steering east. At 0200 aircraft attacked group of 4 E-Boats 18 miles W.N.W. from the Texel steering 110°. Hits are claimed. This group must have turned earlier than the other.  
(2) No contact by surface patrols or C.Fs. Object of E-Boats cannot be determined but it is possible mines were laid in Q.Z.L. 67.  
(C. in C. Nore 241855A to Admty.)  
Am engaging E-Boats in position 192 54A Buoy 3.5.  
(GUILLEMOT 242317 to C. in C. Nore.)  
Am engaging 6 E-Boats in position 200 54A Buoy 4.5.  
(GUILLEMOT 242319 to C. in C. Nore.)  
My 2317. Course 090°. My position 185° 54A Buoy 6.5 miles.  
(GUILLEMOT 242332 to C. in C. Nore.)  
My 2317. Position of enemy 144° 54A Buoy 7 miles course 075° speed 30 knots. Contact lost. My position 180° 54A Buoy 7.5 miles.  
(GUILLEMOT 242339 to C. in C. Nore.)

Situation report. Cositintrep No. 295 part II Naval.  
(1) At 0820 2 hostile aircraft crossed Antwerp area dropping bombs in dock area. SS. ALCOA BANNER was hit and sunk.  
(2) Further reports of E-Boat activity on night 22/23, (reported in Cositintrep No. 294) show that E-Boats approached convoy route off Dunkirk. They were driven off by our surface forces but during action SS. HALO who was straggling from convoy was torpedoed. Further East, 8 other E-Boats approaching Schelde Estuary were driven off.  
E-Boats also operated off Thames Estuary and one was sunk by Tongue Sand Fort.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 242339A to Admty.)

Operations.

Channel.

Patrols & Escorts. Night patrols 24/25th January, as in my 231601A.  
(2) Detach 3 ships to be off Cherbourg by 1900 to escort envoy E.W.L. to St. Helens.  
(3) C.T.G. 125.2 is requested to pass detach and route to S.O.E.G. 26.  
(4) Report names of ships detailed to C. in C. Portsmouth and C.T.G. 125.2 forthwith.  
(5) On completion of escort duties ships are to resume patrol.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 241300A to S.O.E.G. 26.)



24.1.1945  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Patrols &  
Escorts.  
(Contd.)

3 M.T.Bs. sail from Portland at 1700/24th January and patrol as in my 221530A. Leave patrol at 0900A/25th January, and return to Portland.

(2) Acknowledge and report M.T.Bs. detached.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 241457A to 66 M.T.B.F.)

Day patrol 26th January as in my 231601.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 241701A to S.O.E.G. 26.)

Day patrols 25th January. As in my 231601A BEACON HILL, NEW GLASGOW, MONTREAL on completion of my 241300 anchor St. Helens at 1/2 hours notice. Secret hand message will be sent to anchorage.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 241900A to S.O.E.G. 26.)

Scaring  
charges for  
U-Boats.

*(Operation  
"Dividend")*

Arrangements have been made for anti-U-Boat air patrols to drop scaring charges by day.

(2) These charges will be dropped in pairs at intervals whilst on patrol as follows -

Patrol	Total charges to be dropped each day.
20	4
(?21)	6
6	6

(3) It is intended to use the codeword "Dividend" for this operation and 19 Group is requested to instruct - (a) Aircraft to inform patrols in vicinity when charges are about to be dropped by passing codeword by R/T. (b) R.A.F. stations from which air patrols operate to inform C.C. L. officer at C.H.Q. Portsmouth each day of times at which "Dividend" was carried out.

(4) The procedure in para. 3 is necessary in order to check possible reports of unexplained explosions from shipping.

(5) The positions where it is desired that charges should be dropped on (?following) day will be communicated daily by telephone R.A.F. authorities concerned.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 241905 to Group 19, H.Q.C.C., R.A.F. Thorney, Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force, Admty., Cs. in C. Plymouth, Nore, A.C. Dover.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Patrols.

Establish patrol forthwith between 50.46 N. 04.54 W. and 50.22 N. 05.30 W.

(2) S.O.E.G. 30 acknowledge.

(C. in C. Plymouth 240105A to S.O.E.G. 30.)

Patrols. Force 38 6th E.G. in NEW WATERFORD S.O., 3 frigates, 21st E.G. in CONN S.O. 4 frigates area St. Georges Channel. Support convoys through area. Force 37 3rd E.G. in DUCKWORTH S.O. 5 frigates 22nd E.G. HART S.O. 3 escort area North Irish Sea supporting convoy through area. Force 36 4th E.G. in BENTINCK 5 frigates 5th E.G. in AYLMER S.O. 5 frigates area Central Irish Sea supporting convoys through area.

(C. in C. W.A. 241536A to Admty.)

/Procedure...



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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches - Contd.

Procedure  
employing  
greater use  
of Asdic.

Following procedure employing greater use of asdic listening watch is issued for trial.

- (2) It is designed for use by support groups operating independently to improve chance of U-Boat detection and is applicable at night or low visibility in shallow water when conditions are suitable for snorting. Assumption is U-Boat will stem tidal stream at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  knots.
- (3) In good echo detection conditions set continuous listening watch.
- (4) Combined transmitting and listening watch procedure as follows. After completing transmitting sweep up one side stop on ahead bearing, switch to H.E., pause for amplifier to regain full sensitivity and then listen while sweeping aft. Continue procedure, transmitting on sweeping forward listening on sweeping aft using normal area of sweep.
- (5) Speed should not exceed 8 knots and optimum distance apart of ships to avoid mutual H.E. interference should be determined by trial in each group under various weather and operating conditions.
- (6) Under exceptional conditions it may even be profitable to stop all machinery and drift.
- (7) Results experience to be included in reports of proceedings. (C. in C. W.A. 240107A, W.A.G.M.)

E.G. 9.

If not in contact leave patrol at 0601A/24 and proceed by standard route to Londonderry reporting E.T.A. direct.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 240111A to S.O.E.G. 9.)

SS. VIGSNES  
lost off  
Anglesey.

Report received at 0105A/24th.  
Total crew of 25 of Norwegian vessel VIGSNES 1599 tons Cardiff to Mersey landed in boats near Amlwch Anglesey just after midnight. Wireless operator reports vessel was from Cardiff to Mersey and came up in convoy breaking off for Mersey.

At 1645/23 approximately vessel believed to have struck a mine forward about the foremast and sank in about 10 minutes midway between Skerries and Western Light Float. No one seriously injured. Nothing was seen of possible submarine or track of torpedo.

(N.O.I.C. Holyhead 240155A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

Ship sunk 1645/23rd very approximately  $53^{\circ} 33' 04'' 17'$ .

Search area. KEATS, KEMPTHORNE, GRINDALL remain on present patrol.

(C. in C. W.A. 240232A to Force 36.)

Your 240232. 4th E.G. AYLMER, BLIGH proceeding to carry out search of area. Suitable.

(S.O. Force 36 240315A to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 240232. 4th E.G. commenced box search at 0630.

(2) W.A.G.M. 910 N. Steamer (A) 41 (B) 6.4. Diesel (A) 52 (B) 4.5 suitable.

(S.O. Force 36 241037A to C. in C. W.A.)



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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches - Contd.

Hunt on vague reports. Ship reported on fire 52° 58' 04" 48'. 4th E.G. investigate. P.C. 74 assisting. (C. in C. W.A. 240358A to Force 36.)

AYLMER, BLIGH and P.C. 74 investigate Sonobuoy contact by aircraft W.52 in position 53° 09' N. 004° 42' W.

(2) Area within 10 miles of your 240358 has been searched without result in maximum visibility and flat calm. (S.O.E.G. 5 241002A to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 240358. At 0254 AYLMER fired rocket in position 53° 14' 04" 58'.

(2) My 241002 para. 1. Many non submarine in vicinity including tide waves giving hydrophone effects.

(3) Contact attacked 53° 50.8' 04" 50.5' confirmed wood wreckage non submarine.

(4) Aircraft claim human voice heard on Sonobuoy. Exclamation comment.

(5) Carrying out square search. Suitable. (S.O.E.G. 5 241136 to C. in C. W.A.)

Anti-U-Boat deep mining. Your W.A. 152/00246/9 and A.M. 151846 January, all proposed minefields appear to be located within area in which fishing is prohibited either temporarily or permanently, except those in Irish Sea marked L.Y.G.Z. and H.

(2) To avoid further restriction, suggest that H be laid in existing prohibited area S.W. of Isle of Man (C.A.F.O. 810/44, page 5 (1)(v))

(3) Subject to your concurrence, it is proposed to prohibit deep-water fishing, but not passage, in the following additional areas in the Irish Sea. Inshore fishing within the 3 mile limit, clear of the minefields, may be permitted at the discretion of the local N.O.I.C.

(i) An area bounded by:- On the North, Tuscar Rock 090° between long. 5° 40' W. and long. 5° 00' W.

On the South, lat. 51° 30' N. between long. 5° 56' W. and long. 5° 00' W.

On the East. The meridian of 5° 00' W. long.

On the West by the existing prohibited area.

(ii) An area bounded by:-

On the North lat. 53° 41' N.

On the South lat. 53° 05' N.

On the East, the meridian of 4° 00' W. long.

On the West, long. 5° 15' W.

(4) Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and Scottish Home Department require 10 days notice to ensure that all fishing permits for the Irish Sea are properly endorsed.

(A.C.N.S.(H) 241218A to C. in C. W.A.)

Cancel my 172003A order of laying minefields is to be

(1) lines B.2, B.3, B.4. (2) Lines B.1, C.1, C.2. (3) Lines C.3, C.4 and remaining half of E.2. (4) Minefields T.1.

(C. in C. W.A. 241828A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

E.G. 6. If not in contact 6th E.G. is to enter Milford Haven at daylight tomorrow 25th for fuel and short rest.

(C. in C. W.A. 241956A to S.O. Force 38.)

/Independent...



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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches - Contd.

Independent merchant ships not to attempt survivor-rescues. The risk taken by independent ships in coastal waters in attempting the rescue of survivors from ships torpedoed in their vicinity is considered unjustifiable. Such action is liable to present a further target to the U-Boat resulting in additional loss.

(2) Proposed B.A.M.S. lettered message in following sence begins:-

Instructions to Masters of ships sailing independently in coastal waters when near a casualty.

Masters of independently routed ships who observe a ship in their vicinity to have been damaged by an explosion are not to close the casualty but are to take drastic avoiding action by an alteration of course of not less than 90° for a distance of more than 6 miles if circumstances permit. Position of casualty should not be passed within 6 miles subject to navigational requirements. If fitted with W/T an immediate report is to be made to the appropriate shore authority who will initiate action to rescue the survivors.

If not fitted with W/T the ship should steer for the nearest suitable shore signal station and communicate the information to them.

If any warships or independent M.Vs. are sighted they should also be immediately informed. Ends.

(C. in C. W.A. 242340 to Admty.)

Operations.

Norway.

Operation "S.C." Ramose Wrench. Sailed HITRA at 0700A/24th January. (2) Air escort not especially required on return journey. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 240703A to A.C.O.S.)

Operation "V.P." Intend to carry out "V.P. 73". (1) 0400A/25th Jan. (2) Not later than 2100A/25th Jan. (3) Not later 0900A/29th Jan. (4) 249° toward Noss Head Bressay. Not more than 20 knots. (5) Not later p.m. 29th Jan. (6) No. (7) No. (8) 069° Noss Head Bressay. (9) No. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 241817A to A.C.O.S.)

My 241817A. (1) 069° from Noss Head Cabin. Not more than 20 knots. (2) 61° 10' N. 04° 30' E. (3) Blank. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 241819A to A.C.O.S.)

Patrols. A. VENTURER approaching Lerwick from North Eastwards. B. VIKING 61° 24' N. 01° 39' E. through 61° 24' N. 02° 01' E. 61° 02' N. 05° 35' E. and 60° 45' N. 04° 09' E. to patrol area between 60° 50' N. 60° 00' N. 03° 35' E. and Norwegian coast, diving by day 130 miles in 24 hours. C. TACITURN as in A.M. 232155. (C. of W. 241939A to A.I.G. 25.)

/Operation...



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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway - Contd.

- Operation "Silenium".  
(? ~~Selenium~~)
- Intend following operation.  
Force one consisting of NORFOLK (S.O.), DIDO and 3 destroyers detailed by R.A.D.H.F. leaving Scapa p.m. D Day.
- (2) After passing east of Shetlands force one proceeds to patrol within gun range of enemy shipping route between Bud 62° 54' N. 06° 55' E. and Kvitholm 63° 01' 30" N. 07° 15' E. approaching from northwestward after dark D + 1.
- (3) If no shipping is detected on night D + 1 force should return Scapa or attempt a repetition after dark D + 2 at S.Os. discretion.
- (4) Force 2 consisting of DEVONSHIRE, PREMIER, PUNCHER and 4 destroyers detailed by R.A.D.H.F. leaving Scapa a.m. D + 1 and proceed east of Shetlands as necessary to provide fighter cover for Force 1 at daylight D + 2. If a second attempt is made Force 2 may return Sullom Voe and sail p.m. D + 2 to provide fighter cover at daylight D + 3.
- (5) On completion Force 2 will carry out a mining strike in the following areas.  
A. Skatestrommen 61° 52' 30" N. 06° 09' E.  
B. Aaramsund 62° 12' N. 05° 29' 42" E.
- (6) If after sailing weather proves unfavourable the operation may be postponed 24 hours. Force 1 may proceed Sullom Voe if desired.
- (7) NORFOLK is requested to plan the surface operation, DEVONSHIRE the mining strike and PREMIER to prepare air plans.
- (8) Codeword and D day follow.  
(C. in C. H.F. 242310A to NORFOLK,, PREMIER, R.A.D.H.F.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

- Patrols & escorts.
- On arrival at 36 buoy part company with E.N. 71 and search to east of Fair Island subsequently meet and support southward SS. NOVA and TORDENSKJOLD escorted by 4 trawlers (LORD LLOYD S.O.) departing Lerwick 1811A/24th for Aberdeen 10 knots.
- (2) Codeword "Dog."  
(C. in C. Rosyth 241108 A to S.O.E.G. 25.)

- Search for SS. MAGDALA.
- Your 231820A. Air search will be carried out as soon as weather permits along reverse route to 16° W. Request you will also carry out search.  
(C. in C. W.A. 241128A to A.C.I.C.)  
Air search commences 1700A today by 2 Liberators down convoy route to 16° W. and to southwestward of this line to depth of 120 miles. S.O.(O) allowing for prevailing weather conditions since 15th January. Your 241128 refers.  
(A.C.I.C. 241446A to C. in C. W.A.)

/Convoys..



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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters - Contd.

Convoys  
J.W. 64 &  
R.A. 64.

Para. 4 (c) C. in C. H.F. 231954. CYGNET (S.O.), LAPWING, LARK, ALLINGTON CASTLE, ALNWICK CASTLE, DENBIGH CASTLE, BLUEBELL, RHODODENDRON, BAMBOROUGH CASTLE.  
(Capt. D. Greenock 242300 to Admty., C. in C. W.A. C. in C. Rosyth, S.B.N.O. Archangel, Cdre. D. W.A. F.Os. of H.F., Cdre. D. H.F., A.C.O.S., A.C.I.C., F.O. S/M F.O.I.C. Greenock, F.O.I.C. N.I., S.B.N.O. N. Russia, N.O.I.C. Aultbea, N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, N.O.I.C. Faroes, H.Q.C.C., 18 Group R.A.F.)

Enemy Intelligence.

German M/S  
Gear.

Request you will sail STAR OF FREEDOM to Dover.  
(2) On arrival of Lt. Cdr. Turner, R.N.V.R., from Admiralty A.C. Dover is requested to sail ship to Boulogne to collect captured German M/S gear.  
(Com. Belgium 241725 to N.O.I.C. Ostend.)

Port Facilities.

Lowestoft.

My 051806A. Approx. completion date of dredging at Lowestoft is now February 7th subject to there being no adverse weather conditions. Progress has been delayed due to weather and hard nature of bottom.  
(N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 241605A to C. in C. Nore.)

Technical.

Procedure when  
S/M escort  
meets U/B.

Your 221746 concur.  
(2) 19 Group agrees.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 241100A to F.O. S/M.)  
Your 221746A. Concur generally but in view of large number of convoys and other traffic now proceeding on east and south coasts, consider

S.O. escort must be given freedom to act at own discretion according to circumstances and that standing instructions should not be too rigid.

(C. in C. Nore 241856A to F.O. S/M.)

Anti-  
Schnorkel  
"O.P."  
obstructions.

Admiralty 211731 not to F.O. S/M, para. 4.  
Consider general area between Westray, Orkneys and Faroes would be suitable for "O.P." obstruction. On the assumption that the obstruction will be more affected by the north easterly drift than the prevailing westerly wind it will cover a profitable area easily patrolled by air with surface support groups to southwest.



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HOME COMMANDS.

Technical.

Anti-Schnorkel "O.P." obstructions. (Contd.) (2) Owing to the density of shipping and presence of small craft I feel that waters closer to North Scotland would be unsuitable. (3) Para. 6. Presumably radar detectors will operate only when "O.P." is fouled otherwise area will be saturated with echoes. (C. in C. H.F. 241102A to Admty.) Admiralty message 211731. It does not appear that this equipment is suitable for use in Nore Command for following reasons.  
A. Large volume of shipping on east coast.  
B. Most of area west of Mine Barrier now contains fishing vessels.  
C. Hampering effect on coastal forces engaged on anti-E-Boat operations.  
D. Strength and frequent irregularity of tidal streams.  
E. Necessary patrols in vicinity of obstructions are not available (C. in C. Nore 241310A to Admty.)

Casualties & Defects.

SS. TWICKENHAM FERRY v. S.T. EMPIRE RUPERT. In collision with tug which has sunk position 51.03 N. 1.32 E. (TWICKENHAM FERRY No T.O.O/24th to N.Foreland Radio.) My 241010. TWICKENHAM FERRY returned Dover 1430 having been in collision with tug EMPIRE RUPERT. (P.S.T.O. Dover 241520A to D. of S.T.)

Movements.

DACRES, L.S.H.(S). Your 081843. DACRES should now be regarded as under the administrative authority of Capt. (D) Belfast until allocated to a group by C. in C. W.A. (2) A.M. 082052 which also refers is being passed to you. (D.O.D.(H) 241313A to R.A.L.S.C.U.)

PATROLLER, escort carrier. Intend to sail PATROLLER to U.S.A. in U.C. 54A passing Clyde Boom 0430A/26th January. A.M. 021330A not to all refers. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 241604A to Admty., C. in C. W.A. F.O.C.T. C. in C. Lant, Comnavu, Cominch, C.N.O. PATROLLER.)

GLENROY L.S.I.(L) Intend to sail GLENROY in K.M.F. 40 for onward routeing to India. (D.C.O.D. 241720A to R.A.L.S.C.U., R.A.C.O.B.W.A., F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/American...



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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

American L.C.T. and L.S.T. releases. Your 231501A. Position regarding L.C.T. and L.S.T. will be reviewed at meeting to be held at S.H.A.E.F. early next week. Agreed A.N.C.X.F. (S.H.A.E.F. 241845A to Comnavu.)

A.F.D. 55. A.M. 191954A December. It is anticipated that A.F.D. 55 will be ready to resume passage a.m. 29th January.  
(2) Request escorts may be allocated and sailed to arrive Plymouth by p.m. 27th January.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 241852A to Admty.)

180th M.S.F. B.Y.M.S. 2017, 2018, 2045, 2246, 2225, 2064, 2080 and 2153 will form the 180th M.S.F.  
(2) Request ships be sailed to Swansea on completion of refit.  
(3) Flotilla will proceed overseas about the end of February.  
(4) On completion of refit B.Y.M.S. 2021, 2069, 2036 and 2161 will be attached temporarily to operational flotillas.  
(5) 181st M.S.F. will not be formed at present.  
(6) A.M. 311808 October not to all addressees refers.  
(D.M.S. 242152A to F.Os. i/c Cardiff, Liverpool, N.Os. i/c Aberdeen, Invergordon, Swansea.)

Shipping & Convoys.

U.C.A. convoys. Reference your 221441A and C. in C. Lant 221932Z (neither to all.) Intend also to adopt procedure on lines given in C. in C. W.A. 201627Z, (not to all) for English Channel section of U.C.A. convoys.  
(2) On detaching from U.C.A. convoys escorts for U.C.B. convoy will proceed direct to Portsmouth to fuel, prior to sailing thence with U.C.B.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 241200A to Com. 12th Fleet.)

O.N.S. & S.C. convoys. Your 231722. Concur.  
(C. in C. W.A. 241318A to Admty.)

Nore easterly cross Channel route required. Reference C. in C. Portsmouth 8418/40/7 004/52 of 8th December and Admiralty's M.012398/44 of 19th December. Owing to the shortage of escorts it is considered that an alternative and more easterly cross Channel route is required in this Command.  
(2) This would enable coastal shipping to be sailed independently if necessary with less risk of attack by enemy submarines.  
(3) It would also enable shipping from Thames to proceed more directly to Havre than by J Channel as at present.  
(4) The proposed Channel would run from C.2 buoy to J.2 buoy and thence to H.D. 2 buoy.  
(5) As this channel crosses the mine and bomb jettisoning area promulgated in Admiralty letter referred to it would be necessary to adjust this area and one of the following alternative areas is

/proposed...



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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Nore easterly proposed: A. 50.19 N. 0.20 $\frac{1}{2}$  E. 50.06 N. 0.43 E.  
cross Channel 49.58 N. 0.14 $\frac{1}{2}$  E. B. 50.27 N. 0.25 W. 50.31 N.  
route required. 0.0 W. 50.26 N. 0.08 E. 50.02 N. 0.01 E.  
(Contd.)

Alternative A is preferred.

(6) Request very early approval and acceptance of either of these areas so that sweeping of new channels may be commenced.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 241325A to Admty.)

M.K.F.  
convoys.

Concur in escort proposals in paras. 2, 3 and 4 of your 231705.

(2) The proposal to disembark all ships of M.K.F. 38 in the Clyde is approved. War Office will make the necessary arrangements.

(3) The approval in para. 2 is only possible due to the small size of M.K.F. 38 and the absence of monsters in the Clyde at this particular time.

(4) It will not be practicable to handle all ships of a larger convoy in the Clyde and troopships must continue to be accepted at Liverpool in the future.

(A.C.N.S. (H) 241327A to C. in C. W.A.)

Cross Channel requirements. At a meeting at S.H.A.E.F. (Main) on 19.1 U.S. requirements for cross Channel personnel movement as from 1st February were given as follows:-

(a) Duty movement 5,600 per day with a possible peak of 10,000 on one day.

(b) Leave movement 700 per day initially.

(2) In addition there will be 100 per day S.H.A.E.F. leave personnel until the M.W.T. Newhaven/Dieppe service is running daily.

(3) After allowing for (a) normal scale personnel lift in L.S.T. and M.T. ships and (b) the lift provided by the U.S. troopships BORINQUEN and EXCELSIOR which will be used for the U.S. leave movement but which can be filled up with duty movement, there will remain a daily requirement of duty personnel of 3,300 reducing to 3,200 when the S.H.A.E.F. leave personnel proceed via Newhaven/Dieppe. Peak figure 6,000.

(4) Request your urgent views as to what British personnel ship lift you will require to maintain this flow between Southampton and Havre assuming that the 2 "EMPIRE" class L.S.I. (L) remain available. You should include your recommendations as to relief of the ships now in the service.

(D. of S.T., 242201A to D.S.T.O. Southampton.)



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WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

A/S contact. My 232325 - contact lost, non-S/M.  
(BALINDERRY, 240024A to Gibraltar C.C.O.)  
Have commenced patrol "Strictoon". HYDERABAD  
in company and CYCLAMEN detached for Gibraltar.  
(2) My P.C.S. 036 degs. 24' N. 007 degs. 00' W.  
180 degs. 10. Intend patrolling to southward until 1600.  
(3) W/R 5781 2554.  
(BALINDERRY, 240803A to F.O.G.M.A.)

LARGS (L.S.H.(L)). LARGS sailed for Malta at 0901/24.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 241149A to V.A. Malta)

VALIANT. In order to give additional protection through  
Mediterranean Approaches, request you will sail  
Escort Group 38 to join VALIANT at first light  
27th January, WYE and DOVEY to be detached to  
Gibraltar a.m. 28th Jan.  
(2) Recommend onward route from 30 degs. N. through D.34 degs. N  
10 degs. W. E.36 degs. N. 10 degs. W. thence to B.  
(Plot(O.D) 241200A to F.O.G.M.A.).  
NK. From position (Z) proceed through established position (D)  
all following positions are North and West unless otherwise  
indicated 035 degs. 30' 009 degs. 30'.  
(E) 036 degs. 40' 009 degs. 30'. (F) 039 degs. 00' 011 degs.  
15' thence (B) omitting (A).  
(2) Escort Group 38 will now R/V in (T) 034 degs. 48' 010 degs.  
04' at 0900A January 28th.  
(3) WYE and DOVEY are to remain in company after R/V and will be  
detached in about 038 degs. 30' N.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 241205A to VALIANT)

VIRAGO. Your 161203. VIRAGO request further report.  
(D.O.D.(F) 241214A to F.O.G.M.A.) for 251536.  
VIRAGO delayed at Gibraltar owing to discovery of  
sand in bearings.

MAENAD. On arrival MAENAD and M.M.S. 1054 should be  
sailed to Plymouth.  
(2) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to onward  
route MAENAD to Granton.  
(D.M.S. 241226A to S.B.N.O. Azores, C. in C. Ply-  
mouth, Info: C. in C. W.A. F.O.G.M.A.,  
LOCHINVAR, A.O. BOSCAWEN)



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FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

A.F.D. 32. Admiralty's message 202000.  
Vessels available and endurance sufficient.  
(F.O.C. W.Af. 240945 to Admty.)  
Intending to tow A.F.D. 32 from New York via  
West Indies to Gibraltar.  
My 240945. In event of return of U-Boats to these waters,  
potentialities referred to in my 24/101/2 of 8th Jan. will be  
further reduced.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 241100Z to Admty.)



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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Air  
Operations  
Mediterranean  
22.1.45.

Coastal Details. 4 Spitfires scored near misses on schooner and hits on warehouse at Jablanac.  
Balkan Details. 8 Hurricanes and 2 Spitfires on shipping R/C scored many R.P. strikes on 1000 ton M/V at Rab and had near misses on other small vessels in Podorski Channel.  
Photo R/Cs. 10 sorties were flown covering targets in North Italy and Yugoslavia.  
(Eaker, 240935A A.M.)

KHEDIVE  
Escort  
Carrier.

Following deficiencies in KHEDIVE on passing Alex.  
(2) Stores. Details.  
(5) Request remaining assault escort carriers may be fully stored and completed to full pilot complement before sailing.  
(F.O. E.M. 241339B to Admty.)

?

F.O.L.E.M's. 232051. You will no doubt consider consulting Italian Government regarding disposal of the 45 Italians mentioned.  
(Hd. of M. 241357A C. in C. Med.)

Danube  
H.Q.  
ship.

Request information whether allocation of LOCUST as S.B.N.O. Danube's H.Q. ship has yet been decided A.M. 101426 Nov. (not to F.O.L.E.M.) and F.O.L.E.M's letter No.89/00141/13 of 14th Jan. (not to Admty.) refer.  
(C. in C. Med. 241517 to Admty. (R) F.O.L.E.M.)

ISUM  
No.27.

008706 GH/81832 cipher 24th Jan.  
Aegean. Stampalia. M.A. Ankara reports 15th Jan. German Raiders returned Leros with Cattle and Food. Also took Mayor of Stampalia to Calino. Cos. Same source reports Billets commandeered in Cos Harbour for 1,000 Troops expected from Leros, and that Garrison will thereby be reduced to about 3,000.  
(C. in C. M.E. 241810B to A.F.H.Q.)

L.C.T's  
579 and  
619.

2 Landing craft No. L.C.T. 579 and 619 last reported in position 037 degs. 01' N. 018 degs. 09' W. at 1600A/20th Jan. course 300 degs any ship sighting these craft inform me.  
(V.A. Malta, 241903 to B.A.M.S.)

SANDWICH.

Request SANDWICH be destored as far as practicable at Gibraltar.  
(2) Ship is then to be steamed to Ferryville to complete destoring and pay off into category C reserve.  
(C. in C. Med. 242002A to F.O.G.M.A.)



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War Diary24.1.1945  
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

U-Boat No fresh information. Position unchanged.  
dispositions. (C. in C. E.I. 240328Z to S. and A. E.I. Stations)

B.P.F. My 200937 and your 220153. Expected dates of  
readiness to leave Ceylon.  
A. CRANE and REDPOLE 20th Jan. My 221034 refers.  
B. PHEASANT, WOODCOCK and BARLE about 12th Feb.  
C. WHIMBREL and HELFORD about 23rd February.  
(2) Dates for PHEASANT, WOODCOCK, WHIMBREL and BARLE depend on  
estimate arrival from Mediterranean and allow 7 days boiler clean  
in Ceylon.  
(3) Estimate 19 days Ceylon to East Coast Australia South about.  
(4) PARRETT earmarked as escort in para. 5 of my 160627 Dec.  
Arrive Fremantle early March.  
(C. in C. E.I. 24041Z to C. in C. B.P.F. Info: V.A.(Q) R.A.D.B.F.,

Storage Your 101300 Jan. Proposal to establish a large  
India. victualling depot in India to which stores  
would be sent by commercial freight from Australia  
and elsewhere and reloaded into V.S.I.S., Store  
Carriers, etc. is not considered a practical  
proposition at the present juncture for the following reasons:-  
(A) The storage space would not be ready for use before mid-1946 at  
the earliest, in view of last sentence in para. 5 (B) of your  
160456 Dec.  
(B) Provision of deep water piers or quays would involve difficul-  
ties and additional delays.  
(C) Such a depot would be of little use without a large amount of  
cold storage which would take a considerable time to provide.  
(D) By the time such a depot was likely to be functioning it  
would be far more appropriate for V.S.I.S. at advanced bases (e. g.  
Sumatra, Penang and Singapore) to proceed to Australia to  
replenish, rather than that stores should be sent to India by  
commercial freight and reloaded into V.S.I.S. thus involving an  
unnecessary haul.  
(E) In the aggregate a larger amount of shipping, both V.S.I.S.  
and commercial freight, would be required.  
(F) The depot would involve additional storage, staff and stocks.  
(D. of F. Approved 4th Sea Lord, 240545A to C. in C. E.I.)

M.L.891 Regret loss of M.L.891 by mine off <sup>U</sup>Kyau<sup>U</sup>kpyin, north  
(mined). of Ramree Island Burma coast. Detailed report  
and casualties follow.  
*? on Jan. 21 during landing (p.405)*  
(C. in C. E.I.S. 240843Z to Admty, Info: C.C.F.E.T)

V.S.I.S. (2) Full requirements for V.S.I.S. for East  
Indies and B.P.F. Commands are now under considera-  
tion between Admiralty and Ministry of War  
Transport and no separate allocations can be  
made pending the result of such consideration.  
(D.S.T., 241137A to C. in C. E.I. (R) P.S.T.O. India, S.S.T.O.  
Ceylon, D.G.S.R. Bombay, C.S. Trincomalee, S.T.O. Trincomalee,  
C.S. Ceylon, A.D.G.S.R. Calcutta, S.A.C.S.E.A.)



24.1.1945  
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

TARANTULA. The hull of TARANTULA now used as depot and repair ship for trawlers and small vessels at Colombo has so deteriorated that ship can only be kept afloat with difficulty. Her useful life is over.  
(2) All useable and easily removeable machinery and fittings will be removed by 10th Feb.  
(4) When ship has been gutted (proposed?) to relieve congestion in Colombo by sinking her in deep water leaving the main engines and boilers onboard.  
(C. in C. E.I. 241152Z to Admty.) See 020733Z.

QUEEN  
ELIZABETH. Arrivals QUEEN ELIZABETH wearing flag of V.A. 3  
Capt. (D) 7th in NAPIER, Departure MANCHESTER  
CITY, Capt. (D) 7th in NAPIER, SEA ROVER.  
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 241656A to Admty.)

Scout Unit. A.M. 201301 Oct. and C. in C. E.I. 091215 Dec.  
in view of acute manpower shortage, it has been decided not to form a second Naval Scout Unit for service in S.E.A.C.  
(2) Before the N.S.U. organisation in U.K. is disbanded altogether request you will state whether you have a requirement for Naval Sonic Deception in other than S.E.A.C.  
(Hd. of M. 241732A to A.N.C.X.F.)  
A.M. 201301/Oct. and Your 091215 Dec. in view of acute manpower shortage, it has been decided not to form a second Naval Scout Unit for service in S.E.A.C.  
(Hd. of M. 241737A to C. in C. E.I.)



24.1.1945  
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

U-boat Dispositions Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q. 241303Z to Cominch 241531.)

H.M.C.S. LUNENBURG On completion of working up about 3rd Feb. H.M.C.S. LUNENBURG returns to U.K. to resume duties under operational control of Admiralty. SOMERS ISLES pass to LUNENBURG. (From C. in C. C.N.A., 241443Z to S.B.N.O.W.At.)

Assignment of Fighter aircraft to Carriers B.A.D. Washington 241521Z Admty., and 291401Z. See Lion Copy.

T.G.22.13 Task Group 22.13 hereby constituted Cdr. Harris in CARTER, NEAL, A. SCOTT, MUIR, SUTTON will join group about 1st March. Primary mission hunt and kill enemy S/Ms. as directed. (Cinclant, 242159 to C.C.D.79.)

Handbook of British Warships for U.S. B.A.D. 242243Z - Admty.<sup>2</sup> See Lion Copy. *Reply 150620A Feb.*

Australia and New Zealand

SLINGER and SPEAKER As SLINGER and SPEAKER will be employed as replenishment carriers in the Britpacfleet state of training referred to in your 221225 not to V.A. (Q) is considered adequate. (2) Request these carriers may be sailed to arrive by end Feb. (see Admiralty 192347 para. 2) or earlier if possible. (C. in C. B.P.F., 240219Z, F.O. Air E.I., C. in C.E.I.)

Navigation Pacific Arc of visibility of Double Island Light previously reported in error is now established as from 198 through north to 088. Q.F.H. message will be issued accordingly your 201606+ refers. Assuming, as seems probable, that recommended track will pass between Herald Paths and Alert Rock and south of Double Island this arc of visibility is considered adequate. If recommended track should pass to the northward of Double Island necessary adjustment will be made to the Light necessary

/adjustment...



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24.1.1945  
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Navigation adjustment will be made to the Light.  
Pacific (A.C.N.B., 240648 to Admty.)  
(Contd.) + Arc of visibility of Double Island Light.

Digest Digest bearing serial 1099 follows dated  
1099 January 23rd.  
23.1.45 (5) 20 Liberators, 16 Bostons bombed  
installations Corregidor morning with excellent  
results.

(8) 10 Liberators bombed platinum works at  
Takao early hours while one Catalina bombed Taito town in south  
eastern Formosa. Same time another Catalina bombed (?Blko)  
Naval Base in Pescadores, third Catalina hit camp and dock area  
in south eastern Nansei Shoto, fourth flying boat bombed two  
unidentified type ships 90 miles south west (?Amoy) course  
east with unobserved results.

(10) Two Liberators conducting dawn patrol North Borneo sank  
one large sea truck, left one small sea truck sinking, strafed  
and hit one sea truck and lugger.  
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 240823 to Admty., etc.)

B.P.F. Your 160653 and 160655, para. (1) Latter signal  
Minelayers not to all.

(1) Necessity to embark on an extensive anti-  
U-boat minelaying campaign in coastal waters of  
British Isles calls for retention of APOLLO and  
MANXMAN and return of ARIADNE to U.K. My 152318 refers.

(2) To meet requirements prior to new production mines  
becoming available it will be necessary to transfer to U.K.  
majority of mines Mark XIV and Mark XVII now held abroad.

(3) It is regretted that employment of Fast Minelayers in an  
offensive role in the Pacific must, therefore, be deferred.

(4) Questions of supply and production raised in your signal  
under reply will be dealt with separately, but it is not at  
present foreseen that re-opening of production in Australia  
will be necessary, as on conclusion of anti-U-boat programme,  
mines will be available either from existing world stocks or  
from new production in the U.K. Mines M. Mark III will be  
available.

(5) It is proposed that the arrangements outlined in  
A.M. 201140 should go forward.

(6) Separate action is being taken on paras. 2 and 3 of your  
160655.

(Hd. of M., 241213A to C. in C. B.P.F.)

B.P.F. Your 160655 not to B.A.D.  
Policy

A directive covering the general policy for the  
operation of the British Pacific Fleet is under  
consideration and will be issued shortly.  
Meanwhile you should be generally guided by the

First Sea Lord's personal signal 152010 Nov. to B.A.D. copy  
supplied to you by hand.

(2) It is approved for you to transfer ships of the British  
Pacific Fleet between Central Pacific and South West Pacific  
areas at the request of Admiral Nimitz.

(3) A.M. 152318 also refers.

(Hd. of M., Approved 1st S.L., 241951A to C. in C.B.P.F.)



*Dear Copy*

*av WZ.*

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# TOP SECRET

IN

**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.)

241521Z/January.

From B.A.D. Washington.

Date 24.1.45.

Rec'd. 2049.

O.T.P. BY T/K.

Addressed Admiralty.

*Assignment of Fighter  
aircraft to aircraft  
Carriers.*

IMPORTANT

GUARD

LORSA 25464.

Following Letter has been received by NAR from  
Vice Admiral Fitch, U.S.N. D.C.N.O.

Begins:-

The U.S. Navy has immediate urgent requirements for additional Fighter type aircraft which have been brought about by the decision to increase the number of Fighters carried aboard our aircraft carriers. It appears that the present requirements are greater than the present production program can meet. In order to provide for the indicated shortage, consideration is being given to bringing in any Canadian plants that might be available as well as attempting to increase production in our own plants. If this is done, it is hoped that the Canadian plants may be able to take care of the requirements for the Royal Navy.

The prospective assignment of Fighter type aircraft to the Royal Navy during the year 1945 is as follows:-

<u>Type</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Total</u>
FG	Jan-June	25	150
	Jul.-Dec.	38-9	233
F6F	Jan.-June	52-3	316
	Jul.-Dec.	43	258
FM	Jan.-June	25	150
	Jul.-Dec.	15	90

Under the existing circumstances it is believed that a study should be made as to a possible reduction or suspension of this prospective allocation unless additional facilities can be brought into production.

/In



**TOP SECRET**IN

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In view of urgency of this matter it is requested that you give it your immediate consideration and submit your comments and recommendations at the earliest practicable time. Ends.

Letter has been acknowledged and D.C.N.O. informed the matter has been referred to higher authority.

2. Decision by U.S. Authorities to increase proportion of Fighters carried in their aircraft carriers has resulted from experience gained during recent operations in the Pacific. In spite of production for 1945 being increased by 1800 to grand total of 14456, this number is apparently considered insufficient to meet both U.S. and British requirements and hence proposed raid on assignment to British.

3. British Operational requirements during 1945 coupled with reserves maintained by the British will form the main subject of any discussion on this matter. So far as reserves are concerned, the position is roughly that whilst numbers of British and American aircraft not embarked i.e., aircraft in Reserve plus aircraft in spare groups ready to operate when required, are approximately the same, the Americans contend that unless we are able to form more spare groups our corresponding figure for aircraft in reserve is largely in excess of requirements and is unproductive in maintaining operational requirements of the British Fleet.

4. In view of C. in C. BPF.'s 300340 / December it appears that he does not anticipate that British Carriers will be in a position to operate over periods equivalent to those normally accepted for American Carriers and, consequently, I anticipate some difficulty in making a case for the maintenance of our reserves at their present level unless I can be given some new and convincing arguments in support of this.

5. If, on the other hand, there are good prospects of spare groups being formed in the near future which would result in a reduction of our non-operational reserves to proportions similar to those held by the Americans, we shall undoubtedly have a much better case, always providing that the requisite Escort Carriers can be made available to transfer the spare groups to our Carriers.

6. Far as Canadian production is concerned, I am informed that this is mainly in the hands of the U.S., is now employed on types unsuitable for the R.N., and could not show results on required types for at least 12 months.



7. I shall appreciate very early instructions on what line I am to take with the U.S. Authorities on this matter.

241521Z.

1st Lord.  
1st S.L. (3)  
D.F.S.L. (2)  
2nd S.L.  
3rd S.L.  
5th S.L.  
D.G.N.A.E.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (A) (2).  
A.C.N.S. (H).  
A.C.N.S. (F).  
D. of P. (2).  
D. of P. (Q) (3).  
Hd. of N.  
A.C.N.P.  
D.O.D. (H) (4).  
D.O.D. (F) (2).  
D.N.I. (4).  
D.N.A.O. (2).  
D.A.C.R. (3).  
D.A.W.T.  
D.A.E.  
D.A.M.R.  
Hd. of Air Branch.  
W.D.  
D.C.  
Hd. of M. (5).  
D.T.S.D.  
N.A. 2nd S.L. (Air.)  
P.A.S. (S).  
D. of S. (2).  
Ad. Blake (4).  
Hd. of M.A.S. (4).  
Hd. of P. Shipments.  
D.N.A.R.  
D.D.A.S. (L).  
Sec.  
Dep. Sec.  
Naval Sec.  
Hd. of C.V.  
D. of M.  
Dep. Contr. }  
D.A.S. }  
D.N.O. } Bath. (8).  
C.I.N.O. (2). }  
Hd. of S.W.R. (3). }



H.A. W.D. 24.1.45  
478c

# SECRET

IN

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242243Z/January.

From: B.A.D.

Date: 25.1.45.

Reed: 0805.

O.T.P BY T/K.

*Handbook of British Warships for U.S.*

To: Admiralty.

Navy Department wish to publish in handbook form classified confidential certain details of British warships, a sample page of which is shown below.

2. Their reason for wishing to do this is that there is a strong demand from the U.S. Fleet for information of this nature to be disseminated to personnel who do not have access to "Secret" documents. Navy Department consider this of increasing desirability with the advent of the British Pacific Fleet.
3. Most of the information they wish to use would be taken from GB 1815B but if necessary they are prepared to use approximations, e.g., "27-29 knots" instead of "28.25 knots" for KING GEORGE V class.
4. They have ready for the printer, performance data for the United States, British and French Fleets and would therefore appreciate an early decision.
5. Sample page of proposed ONI 222-GB:--

1. Ships in Class	Building dates
BB13 KING GEORGE V	Completed 1940-42
15 DUKE OF YORK (EX-ANSON)	
16 ANSON (EX-JELICOE)	
17 HOWE (EX-BEATTY)	

2. Dimensions.

Displacement	-	36,750 Tons (STD.)
Length	-	745 feet 0 inches (OA)
Beam	-	103 feet 0 inches (HULL)
Draft	-	34 feet 0 inches (MAX)

3. Armament.

10	-	4 inch
16	-	5.25 DP
6	-	2 PDR. 8 BRL. MTS. (KING GEORGE V - 5)
1	-	2 PDR. 4" BRL. MR. (KING GEORGE V only)
38-108 - 20 MM.		
12 DC Release Gears.		

4. Protection.

Belt	-	14 inches - 15 inches.
Deck	-	5 inches - 6 inches.
Turrets	-	15 inches - 3 inches.

5. Propulsion.

Speed - 28.25 Kts. (Est. full at deep draft)

/Horsepower



SECRET

Horsepower -- 99,999 (Max. continuous seagoing)  
Drive -- 4 screws, geared turbines.  
Fuel -- 3,770-3,930 Tons Oil.

6. Remarks

KING GEORGE V, DUKE OF YORK - Fleet Flagships

ANSON, HOWE - Squadron Flagships.

242243Z.

- 1st L.
- 1st S.L.(3)
- D.F.S.L.
- Contr.
- Vice Contr.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(F)
- A.C.N.S.(H)
- Sec.
- Nav. Sec.
- P.A.S.(S)
- Ops (2)
- Plot.
- O.D.(6)
- O.I.C.(3)
- D.N.I.(5)
- D.of P.(3)
- D.of P.(Q) (3)
- M.(3) for action.
- W.D.
- Ad. Blake (4)
- Dep.Contr.(3) } Bath.
- P. } Bath.
- S.W.R.(6) }
- M.S.
- (All)



War Diary

24.1.1945  
Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M Attack and sighting summary      Para. (a) 1. Nor. VIGSNES\$ torpedoed and sunk at 1545Z/23rd January in latitude 53° 33' N. longitude 04° 17' W.

Para. (b) 1. A/C C/518 sighted snorts at 1300Z/23rd January in latitude 58° 07' N. longitude 09° 54' W. and at 1340Z/23rd January in latitude 58° 19' N. longitude 09° 37' W.

Para. (c) 1. A/C H/179 obtained A.S.V. at 0610Z 24th January in latitude 50° 10' N. longitude 06° 15' W.

(2) A/C E/612 obtained A.S.V. at 2330Z/22nd January in latitude 53° 55' N. longitude 05° 35' E.

(D.D.I.C., 241130A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

U-boat dispositions      Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C. 241434A, 241439A.)



War Diary

25.1.1945  
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North Sea

1(a) Nine mines have been swept as a result of Tuesday's air raid to the mouths of the Schelde, and C. in C. Nore points out that unless the Army and Air Force can obtain better results against minelaying aircraft the Schelde channel is likely to be blocked with wrecks in the near future.

(b) GUILLEMOT was the only ship to contact last night's E-boats, radar conditions being extremely difficult. The channel was reached near numbers 54A, 54B and 3 buoys, and minelaying is considered probable.

Channel

2. Arromanches ("Gooseberry 3," "Mulberry B", and "Arrow") closed down today. The blockships still provide shelter at their Western end but wrecked Phoenix are a danger elsewhere.

West Coast  
France

3. Ballon in la Rochelle area has been occupied by the enemy.

Norway

4(a) VENTURER on return from her patrol south of Stavanger reports that on the 20th she fired 4 torpedoes at 3,500 yards at a convoy of 3 merchantmen escorted by 4 trawlers. She thinks she scored one hit on the convoy and 3 on Norway. On the 22nd she fired 4 more at 6,000 yards at another convoy of 3 or more merchantmen and 4 trawlers and claims to have sunk a trawler. The enemy obtained contacts on both occasions, but ineffectively.

(b) C. in C.H.F.'s operation "Charlton", mining strikes on Lepsoyrev, Haramsfjord, Skatestrommen and Aaramsund, had to be cancelled owing to icing conditions off the Norwegian coast.

(c) Two air attacks were carried out by Coastal Command aircraft off Sogne Fjord; results unstated.

Baltic

5. NURNBERG, cruiser, with smaller vessels in company, was sighted southbound in the Sound, presumably going to the defence of East Prussia.

Foreign Stations

North Atlantic

Movement

<sup>6</sup>RICHELIEU (French battleship) arrived at Gibraltar from Casablanca.



25.1.1945  
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Adriatic

7. Reported that ANTARES (Fleet Minesweeper) was damaged by a near miss from a mine near Ancona today. She reached Ancona later.

East Indies

S/M  
STRONGBOW

8. S/M STRONGBOW on her 4th Far East Patrol reports that on 8th January when off Panel river she attacked with gunfire large tug towing two lighters, one hit obtained before aircraft forced action to be broken off. On 10th January sank 40 ton junk south of Penang and later was attacked by destroyer which dropped 6 charges. On 13th January was hunted by 4 A/S ships off Selangor, for 8 hours, who dropped 18 charges causing her considerable damage.

Australia and New Zealand

Philippines

9a. 3 fighter bombers attacked shipping in Salomague Harbour today. 2 launches and 4 sea trucks set on fire.  
(b) P.T. boats destroyed 4 barges beached N.E. of Cebu Island tonight.

China

10. One Catalina observed seven freighters, one probable cruiser and four escort vessels believed to be destroyers at anchor off Amoy. Bombs were dropped and a hit was scored on one destroyer causing an explosion and flames.



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War Diary.25.1.1945.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.North Sea.Mines swept  
in Schelde  
approaches.Positions of the seven mines swept are as follows:  
51.24.15 N., 03.22.30 E., 51.24.15 N., 03.23.30 E.  
51.24.00 N., 03.23.15 E., 51.24.45 N., 03.19.45 E.  
51.24.45 N., 03.20.45 E., 51.24.45 N., 03.24.30 E.  
51.24.30 N., 03.25.00 E.

(Com. M.S. Terneuzen, 251008A to N.O.I.C. Antwerp)

1 Acoustic mine detonated by explosive sweep in position  
51.26.00 N., 03.18.30 E. 1 Red magnetic mine detonated 140°  
N.F. Buoy 7 cables, 1 Acoustic mine detonated 220° N.F. 12 Buoy  
3 cables.

(N.O.I.C. Ostend, 251734 to Com. Belgium).

N.O.I.C. Ostend 232341 and N.O.I.C. Antwerp 241146. 9  
mines have already been swept in or very adjacent to searched  
channel between N.F.12 and N.F.15 buoys.(2) Observing extreme difficulty in sweeping the ground mines  
now being laid by the enemy, request you will inform the  
appropriate Military and Air Force Authorities that unless  
better results against minelaying aircraft can be produced the  
only channel to the Schelde is likely to be blocked with wrecks  
at no far distant date.

(C. in C. Nore, 251942A to A.N.C.X.F.) See also 261735, 291835.

Patrols

Part company off 28 Buoy and proceed to carry out  
search in Moray Firth passing over Smith Bank and  
arriving in position 58° 40' N., 02° 20' W. at  
0800A/26th thence search to southward through  
position 57° 40' N., 01° 16' W. and 57° 00' N., 01° 40' W.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 251106A to S.O.E.G.25).

Assume following patrol tonight. 5. PUFFIN, 6 GUILLEMOT,  
12 THORNBOROUGH, 14 TALYBONT, 21 KITTIWAKE.(2) Number 6 patrol is to be maintained 1½ miles to westward  
of Q.Z.S.400 and 401.

(3) Acknowledge.

(C. in C. Nore, 251435A to ships concerned).

Patrols for night Friday 26th January.

(1) RUTHERFORD. (ii) SOUTHDOWN. (iii) BLANKNEY. (iv) VERDUN.  
(v) KITTIWAKE. (vi) MALLARD.(2) (xii) STAYNER with coastal force from BEEHIVE. (xiv)  
ARENDALE N.S. (xvi) TORRINGTON with coastal force from Ostend.  
(xviii) SEYMOUR with coastal force from BEEHIVE. (xix) CURZON  
and COTSWOLD. (xxi) SHEARWATER coastal force from Ostend R/V  
CURZON, COTSWOLD and TORRINGTON at N.F.8 at 1800A.

(3) Escort for T.A.M. 61 CATTISTOCK, CUBITT, CLEMATIS.

(4) Coastal force from U.K. Z.15 F.B. 1 13 F.A.4 11 F.A. 5 9 F.C.  
6 7 F.A. 2 5 F.A. 3 3 F.C. 8 53 buoy F.B. 8 patrol 12 F.L. 2,  
3 UW YJ 29 22 F.B.6 UW MC 42 50 F.B.3, 4, 5 patrol 18 F.M. 2 F.M.  
3. From Ostend UW NR 35 12 F.H.3, 4 UW NR 39, 12 F.G. 5 UW NR  
21 00 F.B.2 patrol 16 F.G.23 UW NR 23 15 F.A.8.

(C. in C. Nore, 252215A to Nore Command).

E-boat  
activities

E-boat activity night 24th/25th January.

1. 3 groups operated possibly about 18 boats.  
Radar conditions were extremely difficult.2. 2251 M.T.Bs. on Z.3 reported H.E. and then  
Radar contact which faded.



25.1.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

E-boat activities.  
(contd).

3. 2317 GUILLEMOT (Patrol 6) drove off 6 E-boats 3 miles south of 54 A buoy. Other groups reached channel close south of 54 B and 3 Buoys. C/FS vectored to intercept narrowly missed.  
4. Mines probably laid by all groups.  
(C. in C. Nore, 251136A to Admty).

Possible midget U-boat off Lowestoft.

Your 241530A. Request amplifying report of sighting when available.  
(D.D.I.C. , 251220A to C. in C. Nore).

Discharge situation report.

Cositintrep No.296 Part 4.  
Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600A/24 Jan.

<u>British</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> (incl. coal)	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
Antwerp	44	457	8,464	6,230	45
Ostend	887	218	4,889	-	1,585
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-
Dieppe	116	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	491	-	-
Calais	2,484	2	716	-	-
Ghent	-	-	1,180	-	69
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,531</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>15,740</b>	<b>6,230</b>	<b>1,699</b>
<hr/>					
<u>U.S. North.</u>					
Antwerp	-	177	16,229	-	254
Cherbourg	-	58	11,463	-	4,056
Le Havre	10,657	776	5,921	-	1,368
Rouen	1,172	288	5,883	231	-
Granville	-	-	598	-	-
Ghent	-	18	369	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,829</b>	<b>1,317</b>	<b>40,463</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>5,678</b>
<hr/>					
<u>U.S. South.</u>					
Marseilles	1,982	673	14,577	-	3,455
Port De Bouc	-	-	2,144	11,163	-
Toulon	-	-	137	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,982</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>18,858</b>	<b>11,163</b>	<b>3,455</b>

Note: Amend stores discharge total U.S. North for 23 January to read 37840.  
(S.H.A.E.F., 251800A to Admty. etc).



War Diary.

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Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Minesweeping Y.M.S. 347. LL/SA of area to westward of Cap de  
report. la Heve one ground mine detonated in position  
49° 31' 4" N., 00° 03' 03" E.  
119th M.S.F. Extending Q.Z.S. 664 from H.V.3 to  
A. 2 buoy one mile to northward of centre line  
one ground detonated in position Cap de la Heve, 266° 3 miles.  
159th Q.Z.S.588.  
(Com. M/S Le Havre, 250913 to C.T.F.125).

Patrols To detect Schnorkelling U-boats one ship of each  
Division should carry out a sweep of inshore  
waters to the fifteen fathom line each night.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 251518A to S.O.E.Gs, 2, 30).

Anti-U-boat Pass Gate at 1030A/26th January and carry out  
deep mining. Serial D.2.  
2. HORNET is requested to detail M.L.488 and 181  
to act as escort as instructed by PLOVER.  
3. M.Ls. to return HORNET on completion.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 251613A to PLOVER, HORNET).

Operations.

West Coast France.

Situation Ballon in La Rochelle area occupied by enemy.  
Report. (S.H.A.E.F., 251820A to War Office).

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Patrols & Para. 4 of my 210014. Delete all after "Senior  
Escorts. Officer" and substitute:-  
"Having regard to the distance and position of  
other groups and the validity of the report  
received, support groups should not normally  
proceed outside their own area.  
(C. in C. W.A., 250149A to Western Approaches Command).  
Support of convoy M.H.3 handed over to 5th E.G. in 52°  
50' N. I am resuming patrol. Suitable.  
(S.O.E.G.21, 250317A to C. in C. W.A.)  
Your 241207 not to all addressees. Search carried out  
by Fourth E.G. 53° 25' N., to 54° N., and 05° W. to Irish Coast.  
No results.  
2. Intend Fourth E.G. support BB 3 and MH 4 if not in contact  
by 1430 25th suitable.  
(S.O. Force 36, 250947A to C. in C. W.A.)  
(1) After KENILWORTH CASTLE has joined, 30th E.G. is to  
split and operate in two divisions. 1st Division is to include  
S.O.E.G.30 and is to assume R/T Codeword Napoleon Able 2nd  
Division codeword "Napoleon Baker".



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War Diary.25.1.1945.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsWestern Approaches.Patrols &  
Escorts  
(Contd.)

(2) Patrols are to be taken up as follows. 1st Division zig-zag search between Trevoise Head and 50.15 N. 05.42 W. 2nd Division zig-zag search between Trevoise Head and 50.55 N. 04.42 W.  
(3) S.O.E.G.30 report disposition of ships.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 251523A to S.O.E.G.30).

Force 37. Third E.G. DUCKWORTH, ROWLEY operating north Irish Sea. Patrols till sailing of K.M.F.39.

(a) Firth of Clyde BERRY, COOKE, DOMETT.

(b) Off Bar Light vessel 22nd E.G. HART (S.O.).

Force 36 4th E.G. BENTINCK S.O., 4 frigates and 5th E.G. AYLMER, 5 frigates central Irish Sea.

Force 38 E.G.21 CONN, 4 frigates vicinity St. George's Channel. APOLLO sails Milford Haven approx. 2300A/25th to vicinity Tuskar Rock where 2 ships of E.G.21 will support.

Force supporting convoys through respective areas.

(C. in C.W.A., 251735A to Admiralty).

Anti-U-Boat  
deep  
mining.

Detail 2 ships for R/V. with APOLLO in 116° Coningbeg 6 miles at 0500/26th to escort her while laying mines and then rejoin group.  
(C. in C.W.A., 251158A to S.O.E.G.21).

Extra small  
Craft for  
anti-U-Boat  
patrols.

Reference A.M.141749 November.

Request that drifters ONE, ACCORD, PERILIA, HOS-ANNA and GLEI<sup>L</sup>HEATHER may be retained at Milford Haven, urgently required for patrol duties during present emergency.

C. in C.W.A. 172105 to Admiralty and A.M.211701 neither to C. in C. Home Fleet refer.

(F.O.I.C. Milford, 251205 to Admiralty).

Reference C. in C.W.A. 172105 and A.M. 211701.

In view of urgent need for additional patrol vessels with good sea keeping qualities request that Trawler JACQUELINE CLASSINE waiting off survey at Milford Haven since 29th September with Naval Care and Maintenance Party may be temporary allocated to this port. Vessels is peculiarly suitable to meet a special operational requirement, is in good state and requires very little work and could be commissioned at short notice. Request early approval in view of urgency A.M. 111740 December to D.O.N.P. refers.

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 251849A to Admiralty).

A/S. sea  
training  
with <sup>\*Larne</sup>  
SERAPH  
in Raasay.

Cancel W.A.G.M. 103N as from 25th January. The titles of Training Commander, <sup>\*</sup>ROCKABILL and <sup>\*</sup>Rockabill training commander <sup>\*</sup>LARNE, are to be in abeyance. All sea training will be carried out at Lochalsh under direction of Training Commander Western Approaches, in PHILANTE.

(C. in C.W.A., 251822A to W.A.G.M. 164N).



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25.1.1945.  
Thursday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorway.

- Operation "V.P.73" Sailed M.T.B.709 (S.O.), M.T.B.715, M.T.B.716 at 0400A today 25th January. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 250404A to A.C.O.S.).
- Patrol. Arrival VENTURER. (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 250850 to Admty., A.C.O.S.). VENTURER reports in accordance with I.S.O.H.30.
- (1) 20th January 2127. P.C.S. of 3 medium sized Merchant ships escorted by 4 trawlers 58° 36' N. 05° 32' E. 330° 11 knots. Fired 4 torpedoes from 3500 yards on the surface result not observed but one explosion heard 2 and 1/4 minutes and 4 more 5 minutes after firing which conform with running range to target and Norwegian coast. VENTURER dived. Hunt carried out and apparently held contact for 8 minutes, but no counter attack developed.
- (2) 21st January 1925. P.C.S. of convoy of about 8 ships, 58° 56' N. 05° 23' E. 170° 12 knots. Passed out of range.
- (3) 22nd January 2338. P.C.S. of 3 or more merchant ships and 4 trawlers 59° 09' N. 05° 21' E. 350° 9 knots fired 4 torpedoes from 6000 yards at 2 ships overlapping this attack carried out, dived by moonlight. Result not seen but 1 explosion heard one and 3/4 minutes after firing possibly hit on escort since Asdic transmissions stopped with explosion and breaking up noises were heard immediately afterwards a second explosion heard 5 minutes 40 seconds after firing followed by prolonged reverberations. Hunt carried out by 2 trawlers. Contact obtained but shaken off 2 depth charges finally dropped some distance off.
- (4) One engine out of action from evening of 17th until evening of 22nd, repairs carried out by day when dived. (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 250930A to F.O.S/M.).
- Position of submarines at 0800 26th and movements for following 24 hours. All times Zone A.
- (a) VIKING on patrol in area bounded by 60° N. 60° 50' N. 03° 35' E. and Norwegian coast.
- (b) TACITURN as in A.M. 232155. (C.O.W., 252002A to A.I.G.25).
- Operation "S.C." Ramose Wrench. HITRA returned to Lerwick at 1050A/25th January. (2) Operation successful. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 251109A to A.C.O.S.).
- Ramose Ardent VIGRA returned at 1655A/25th January. (2) Operation successful. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 251701A to A.C.O.S.).
- Operation "Charlton" Operation "Charlton" cancelled owing to icing conditions off Norwegian Coast. Force has returned to harbour. (C. in C.H.F., 251320A to Admiralty).
- Aircraft attacks. Position of 3 enemy merchant vessels 61.21 N. 05.03 E. stationary. Have attacked enemy with /cannon ...

/cannon ...



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25.1.1945.  
Thursday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorway.Aircraft  
attacks.  
(Contd.)

cannon or machine gunfire and R.P.  
(Aircraft MMD42, 251415A to 18 Group).  
Attacked M/V 5,000 tons, 3 escorts, 61° 23' N.  
05° 06' E. am returning to base, E.T.A. 1554.  
(Aircraft MJR 48, 251418A to 18 Group).

OperationsNorthern Waters.S.S. LONGWOOD  
ex convoy  
R.A.63.

Expected time of arrival Loch Ewe 1200A/26th Jan.  
escort oiler LONGWOOD in tow of FREEBOOTER,  
ALNWICK CASTLE in company LONGWOOD is unable to  
anchor having lost both anchors and cables and has  
volunteered crew of officers and D.E.M.S. ratings  
only on board. Berth of at least 700 yards  
radius is requested if tug has to anchor with tow.  
(ALINGTON CASTLE, 251228 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea, A.C.O.S., C. in  
C.W.A.).

Search for  
S.S.  
MAGDALA.

Search as in my 241446 completed. Nothing found.  
Is further search required. If so in what  
area. Wind in this area still north east light.  
(A.C.I.C., 251346A to C. in C.W.A.).  
Your 251346A. Request following area may be  
searched. 62° 00' N. 26° 00' W. 60° 00' N.  
28° 00' W. 58° 00' N. 19° 00' W. 60° 00' N. 15° 00' W.  
(C. in C.W.A., 251946A to A.C.I.C.).

E.Gs. 25  
and 10.

Cdre. D.W.A. is requested to sail E.G.10 on  
January 27th to Scapa to fuel thence as ordered  
by C. in C. Rosyth.  
(2) C. in C. Rosyth is requested to sail E.G.25  
to Londonderry on relief.  
(C. in C.W.A., 252227A to Com. D.W.A., C. in C.  
Rosyth).

Enemy IntelligenceEnemy  
Warships.

Cruiser NURNBERG in company with one Sperrbrecher  
one Horten type mine clearance vessel one 2000  
ton minelayer and 3 or 4 minesweepers passed  
into Sound southbound at 1315 today January 25th.  
(2) Squadron was joined by netlayer referred to in my 231751  
off Elsinore. A.2.  
(N.A. Stockholm, 251744 to Admiralty).

Port Facilities.

Arromanches.

Consequent on closing down of Naval organisation  
at Arromanches today Thursday request following  
information be supplied to ships before sailing  
for Arrow.

/ (A)...



25.1.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Port Facilities.

- Arromanches (Contd.)
- (A) No control boat or pilot is available to bring them in.
- (B) Tugs should only use northern entrance.
- (C) Wrecked and submerged Phoenix exist on either side of northern entrance. Vessels entering must leave the channel entrance buoy close to port.
- (D) Northern entrance is about 3 cables to west of western most blockship. Care must be taken not to confuse this entrance with gap in detached breakwater about 5 cables further to westward. Gap is dangerous because of remains of wrecked Phoenix.
- (E) At half flood tide there is a strong set across northern entrance. Tugs with tows should not leave at this time.
- (F) Best anchorage is in shelter of western end of blockship breakwater\*. Eastern and southern parts of harbour are shoal with much foul ground.
- (G) No water, fuel or provisions can be supplied.
- (H) Naval Liaison Officer with army authorities in charge of remaining harbour equipment will sail and route tugs. No constant V/S watch is kept but tugs will be contacted on arrival. N.L.O. will leave with last tow.
- (R.N.O. Arrow., 251647 to C. in C. Portsmouth).
- \* Note by late S.O. Blockships: Due to unintentional laying of Western blockship ALYNBANK heading approx. north instead of west.

Technical

Anti-Schnorkel "O.P" obstructions. Concur with C. in C.H.F. 241102A and C. in C. Rosyth 231136A. I have no other suggestions to make. (A.C.O.S., 251202A to Admty.).

Movements.

MAURITIUS cruiser and DUKE OF YORK battleship. A.M. 241819. Request arrival of E.R.7628 be deferred. Further signal will be made after consideration of alteration to programme of E.R. 7554. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 251019A to Admty.).

WHITETHROAT controlled minelayer. Request arrangements may be made for WHITETHROAT to be sailed to Halifax N.S. (C.N.M.O., 251130A to Admty.).

LORRAINE battleship. Further to my 241041. French ship LORRAINE can be accepted for docking on Saturday 27th. (A.S. Portsmouth, 251540 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

DEVONSHIRE cruiser. Scapa arrival DEVONSHIRE. (A.C.O.S., 251632A to C. in C. Plymouth).



25.1.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements - Contd.

American  
L.C.T. and  
L.S.T.  
releases.

Comnavu's 231501. Capacity in U.K. for refitting L.S.T. on a long term basis for further service will fall vacant in February. If it would be possible to release some British L.S.T. as well as some U.S. L.S.T. up to eight could be taken by the end of February. (D. of P., 251740A to A.N.C.X.F.).

CHASER  
escort  
carrier.

Intend to sail CHASER escorted by INGLIS and LAWSON passing Gap Buoys at 1500A/26th January Escorts part company at No.8 buoy at 1830A and proceed in accordance with my 251245A. (F.O.I.C. N.I., 251808A to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

C.S.10,  
BIRMINGHAM,  
DIADEM.

Cancel my 261219 December. In view of her more up to date equipment it has been considered preferable for flag of C.S.10 to remain in DIADEM. (C. in C.H.F., 252208A to BIRMINGHAM).



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25.1.1945.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSNorth AtlanticBALINDERRY.  
A/S sweep.My P.C.S. 035° 08' N., 008° 32' W., 000°, 10.  
Have contacted SPIREA and F.S. L'EFFRONTE.  
Intend R/V all ships at 0800 in position 035°  
47' N., 008° 32' W., and carry out N/S sweep of  
area.

(BALINDERRY, 250647A to F.O.G.M.A.)

My P.C.S. at 0915 - 035° 38' N., 008° 30' W., 270°, 12.  
Intend searching areas 035° 40' N. to 036° 20' N. and 008°  
40' W. to 008° 00' W.(2) SPIREA returning to harbour, E.T.A. 1900/25th (your 250740  
refers).

(3) L'EFFRONTE (incomplete group) not (incomplete group).

(BALINDERRY, 250923 to F.O.G.M.A.)

My P.C.S. (036° or 027°) 15' N., 008° 06' W., 270°, 11.

Am searching area as in my 250923A. Sweeping east and west  
working south from 036° 20' N., 051° 5 miles lapse.

(BALINDERRY, 251703A to F.O.G.M.A.)

BALINDERRY continue A.S.R. search proceed as requisite  
to R/V M.K.S. in position (MF) 036° 00' N., 007° 41' W. at  
0830A/26th.(2) HYDERABAD join convoy in position (MJ) 035° 59' N., 006°  
10' W. at 2230A/25th.(3) Group 4 is to act as additional close escort, BALINDERRY  
assuming S.O. Escort on joining.

(F.O.G.M.A., 251214A to BALINDERRY, HYDERABAD.)

VALIANT,  
escort.Ref. A.M. 241200. Comply with para. 1 of my  
241205.(2) Cancel para. 2 of my 241205 and substitute  
E.G. 38 will R/V in position (S) 031° 21' N.,  
012° 50' W. at 0800A Jan. 27th.(3) Orders for detaching WYE and DOVEY will be signalled  
later.

(F.O.G.M.A., 250956A to VALIANT.)

E.G. 38 in LEITH is to take CONVULVULUS and ANCHUSA under  
his orders slipping at 1830A Jan. 25th and proceed to R/V  
VALIANT escorted by WYE and DOVEY in position (S) at 0800A  
Jan. 27th. My 250168 (sic) refers.(2) Proceed at 13 knots through northern half of Straits to (X)  
035° 59' N., 006° 10' W. thence direct to effect R/V.

(3) VALIANT is routed as in F.O.C.W.Af. 161131.

(F.O.G.M.A., 251038A amended by 251234 to E.G. 38.)

CARAQUET,  
MINAS.Departure Horta at 1041Z/25th CARAQUET and MINAS  
for Plymouth routed through (A) 40.01 N., 25.02 W.  
(B) 43.30 N., 16.58 W. (C) 46.03 N., 08.59 W.  
(D) 180° Lizard 3 miles. S. of A. 11 knots.  
E.T.A. 0900Z/30th.

(S.B.N.O. Azores, 251344Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

VIRAGO.

Your 241214A. Have completed pumping round to  
clear system of sand and chain janks have been  
cleaned. All bearings now being opened up for  
examination. Provided none defective anticipatedate of completion 3rd Feb. Board of Enquiry has been held but  
nothing conclusive discovered.

(F.O.G.M.A., 251536A to Admty.)

/F.S. LA SETOISE ...



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25.1.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic - Contd.

F.S. LA  
SETOISE.

F.S. LA SETOISE arrived.  
(Commorseafron, 251905A to F.O.G.M.A.)

RICHELIEU.

Arrivals MALCOLM, F.S. RICHELIEU, BASQUE, SIMOUN from Casablanca. Departures F.S. HOVA for Casablanca. F.S. BASQUE, SIMOUN, SOMALI for Toulon. Arrived from Toulon sailed for Casablanca F.S. COUTELAS.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 252158A to Admty.)

South Atlantic

RACEHORSE,  
REDOUBT.

Simonstown departures 1515B/25th Jan. RACEHORSE, REDOUBT for Durban. Route R.10, S. of A. 19 knots. E.T.A. 0700B/27th Jan. On completion of practices at Durban RACEHORSE, REDOUBT sail for Diego Suarez p.m./29th Jan. as ordered by Cdre. Durban. C. in C. E.I. 081058 not to all refers.  
(C. in C. S.A., 251527 to Admty.)



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War Diary.

25.1.1945.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Movements,  
S/Ms. S/Ms. TRUMP, TIPTOE, SLEUTH in company 37.31,  
07.04 route L to Malta 12 knots.  
LARGS 37.05 04.52 basic eastbound to Malta 13  
knots.  
(F.O.W.M., 250810A, amended by 251253A to  
Admty., C. in C. Med.)

A.F.D. 18. Intend to sail H.M.R.T. ENFORCER towing A.F.D.18  
to Port Said at 1400/25th.  
(2) S. of A. 5 knots or better.  
(3) ENFORCER to report expected time of arrival  
at position 260 and at Port Said.  
(V.A.M., 250925 to N.O.I.C. Port Said.)

A.F.D. 53. Intend sailing A.F.D. 53 in tow of ADVANTAGE  
and CHEERLY escorted by VETCH at 1500B/25th  
Jan. to Port Said for onward routing to  
Vizagapatam. S. of A. 6 knots, E.T.A. a.m./  
2nd Feb.  
(F.O.T.A.L.I., 251047A to C. in C. Med.)

ESKIMO,  
NUBIAN. Request confirmation that ESKIMO and NUBIAN  
are attached to 26th D.F.  
(F.O.L.E.M., 251407B to Admty.)  
Reply: Admty. 281531A.

Linrep.  
No. 225. 289032. FX/91507 cipher 25 Jan. Cite FHGCT.  
Signed Alexander.  
Summary of operations 22 Jan. to 24th Jan.  
(1) Ground. (C) A.F.H.Q. Greece. Patrolling.  
and searching for hidden stores of arms and  
equipment continued. The situation is generally quiet.  
(2) Naval.  
(3) Air. Coastal Air Force Wellingtons and Beaufighters  
attacked shipping in North Adriatic and at Jablanac Harbour  
Northern Yugoslavia and carried out mine spotting sorties off  
French and Italian Riviervas.  
Balkan Air Force attacked shipping in the Podgorski Channel  
North Adriatic and harbours and small shipping explosive motor  
boats and two man submarines on coast of Lussino Island North  
Adriatic. Greek based aircraft bombed anti-aircraft sites on  
Milos and dropped supplies to prisoners of war.  
(A.F.H.Q., 251830A to W.O.)

Red Cross  
relief. My 092125 and 161205. Delay is causing great  
distress and also complication in respect of  
refugees.  
(F.O.L.E.M., 251923B to C. in C. Med.)

/Situation ...



25.1.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation  
Report  
No. 544.

Inspection of German Hospital Ship GRADISCA disclosed no irregularities and she has been sailed to Trieste. ANTARES has been damaged through near miss by mine near Ancona.  
(C. in C.Med., 252132A to F.O.L.E.M.)

A.F.D. 20.

M.F.V. 27.  
Arrivals and Departures EMINENT, DESTINY towing A.F.D. 20.  
(F.O. Tunisia, 252356A to Admty.)



25.1.1945.  
Thursday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies.

- UNICORN. Arrival UNICORN escorted by ROCKET.  
(N.O.I.C. Cochin, 250204Z to C. in C.E.I.).
- STRONGBOW. 4th far east patrol. 8th Jan. off Panel River  
by gunfire attacked large tug towing 2 lighters  
one hit obtained before aircraft forced action  
to be broken off.  
10th Jan. sank 40 ton junk south of Penang later attacked by  
destroyer who dropped 6 charges.  
13th Jan. off Selangor hunted for 8 hours by 4 A/S. ships 18  
charges dropped causing considerable damage.  
(C. in C.E.I., 250243Z to Admty., Info. Capt. (S) 2, Capt.  
(S) 4, Capt. (S) 8).
- U-Boat No fresh yellow\* Scale unchanged.  
dispositions. (C. in C. E.I., 250345Z to Shores and  
Authorities E.I.).\* As received "Information"  
intended.
- H.B.1. Aden Section of convoy H.B.1 arrived escorted by  
ROEBUCK.  
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 250514Z amended by 270719Z to  
Admiralty).
- A.F.D.17. Towage of harbour tug EMPIRE SAM eastern of  
Admiralty Floating Dock 17 is impracticable.  
Para.5 of my 160627 Dec. not to all refers.  
(2) Only alternative is LARIAT to tow Admiralty  
Floating Dock 17 and INTEGRITY to tow EMPIRE SAM. This is  
undesirable as dock requires both tugs.  
(3) Propose to retain EMPIRE SAM on East Indies Station pending  
decision on para. 2 of your 210255 and to sail Admiralty  
Floating Dock 17 with 2 tugs at an early date.  
(C. in C.E.I., 251037Z to C. in C.B.P.F.).
- BEGUM Sailed BEGUM 1400Z/25th by standard red sea  
carrier. route to Suez for canal transit and onward routing  
to U.K.  
(2) E.T.A. Suez 0500Z/29th S. of A. 15 knots.  
(3) Keeping constant watch Broadcast "R".  
(Com. Aden, 251720Z to N.O.I.C. Suez).



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25.1.1945  
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

STAVROS. Owing to stormy weather Steamer lost her rudder including rudderpost. Request you to send Salvage tug to tow steamer under Lloyds form approximate position at 0300 G.M.T. Latitude 35 degs. 47' N. Longitude 61 degs. 48' W. weather stormy West Steamer drifting about 2.7 miles per hour to East. Zissimos Master.  
(SVVB) SS MOUNT AETNA, 250330Z to U.S. Navy Bermuda)  
551 Gibraltar intercepted message from Greek STAVROS (S.V.U.M.) timed 24th 2154 states vessel lost her rudder and rudderpost due to stormy weather and now drifting in position 36 degs. 03 N. 62 degs. 26' W.  
(Gibraltar, 252110A to Admty)

U-Boat Estimates.  
dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. 251337Z & Cominch, 251550Z)

F.S. Enquiries in the Navy Department at a Staff level reveal that SA and SF Radar equipment has not been supplied to the French by the United States specifically for fitting in F.S. SUFFREN, C. in C. Mediterranean's 201750 refers.  
SUFFREN.  
(2) It is possible that the French may be using in SUFFREN Radar equipment supplied to them by the United States as Battle Damage spares for Destroyers.  
(B.A.D. Washington, 252151Z to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand

Digest  
No. 1100  
24.1.1945.

(4) Patrol Liberator over Formosa 23rd January shot down Japanese patrol plane 25 miles North of Keelung. Following night Takao fuel storage area raided by 5 Liberators for 2½ hours causing 14 fires plus several explosions. Same night patrol Catalina sighted 8 large Freighters Keelung early hours bombing 1 ship causing explosion and large fire while other Catalina strafed 1 Sea Truck 20 miles Northeast Keelung.

/ (5) ...



25.1.1945  
ThursdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand

Digest (5) Midday Liberator searcher observed 5 Freighters plus many damaged ships inside Takao harbour, also 15 small ships or luggers anchored outside Takao. Same plane sighted 4 Coasters 2 Luggers 90 miles? South Southeast Takao heading South across Bushi Channel, Luggers were strafed and one left sinking.

(6) 7 Mitchells escorted by 8 Thunderbolts attacked sizeable Tanker apparently serviceable at Pasaling Bay on North Coast Luzon late morning, 2 Hits, 2 near misses caused ship to explode, left burning and listing.

(7) 2 Bostons swept East Coast Luzon midday destroying pair of 70 foot M.Ls near Taalijan in (?Lamonwlfe). Small craft in Bapog Bay also attacked and 3-5 destroyed.

(9) After dark 23rd Jan. 2 enemy medium bombers individually attacked shipping Lingayen Gulf. Ships fire shot one plane down.

(10) Next day early 2 Mitchells, 4 Lightnings co-operating with P.T. Boats attacked possible speed boats in Santiago River (North of left flank perimeter Lingayen Gulf) causing explosions.

(11) Stiff fighting continues in hills above Rosario supported by some attack bombers, and 26 Lightnings also heavy Cruiser gunfire. Coastal operations this sector supported by Destroyer bombardment during day.

(14) Japanese dead counted on Luzon total 5,454 Prisoners 426 whereof 67 Japanese, others Formosan or Korean.

(19) Peetees with Corezina co-operating destroyed 10 barges East Coast Cebu daybreak 23rd.

(20) Enemy S/M sighted and (corrupt) by convoy units off South-east Gross evening. Torpedo attack unsuccessful. 2 Mitchells attacked 4 Barges Soela Islands destroying all. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 250907Z)

A/C  
Carriers.

Your 192347 para.2. Request that the second pair of replenishment C.V.E.S. should consist of one Seafire ship and one Hellcat ship. (C. in C. B.P.F. 251122Z) Reply 011943.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGNS/M attack  
and sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/25th Jan.

Para 'B' (1) A/C T/59 obtained A.S.V. contact at 0812Z/24th Jan. in 53 degs. 09' N. 04 degs. 42' W.

(2) A/C S/311 obtained A.S.V. contact at 0959Z/24th Jan. in 60 degs. 00' N. 06 degs. 13' W.

(3) A/C G/59 obtained A.S.V. contact at 1030Z/24th Jan. in 53 degs. 45' N. 05 degs. 40' W.

(4) U.S. A/C I/114 obtained contact at 0122Z/25th Jan. in 36 degs. 43' N. 19 degs. 21' W.

/Para 'C' ...



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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack  
and sighting  
summary.  
(Contd.)

Para. 'C'. (1) A/C P/407 sighted oil and  
suspicious wreckage at 1005Z/24th Jan. in 53 degs.  
02' N. 04 degs. 50' W.  
(2) A/S trawler AYRSHIRE attacked contact at 1201Z/  
24th Jan. in 53 degs. 33' N. 04 degs. 00' W.  
(3) A/S trawler SAPPER attacked contact at 1224Z/  
24th Jan. in 53 degs. 33' N. 04 degs. 00' W.  
(4) H.M.S. PUFFIN attacked A/S contact at 1901Z/24th Jan. in  
32 degs. 13' N. 01 degs. 52' E.  
(D.D.I.C. 251203A to Cominch)

U-Boat                      Estimates.  
dispositions.      (D.D.I.C. 251430A and 251436A)



War Diary

26.1.1945  
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North Sea.

1(a) Another mine has been swept off Orford Ness.  
(b) Eight more mines have been swept off the Schelde, but further minesweeping and indeed night navigation in the Schelde, is held up by icing conditions necessitating the withdrawal of lightbuoys and minesweepers.

Channel.

2(a) Eight ground mines were detonated off Le Havre.  
(b) TROUBRIDGE, TEAZER, TENACIOUS and TERMAGANT were due to sail for the Far East, but TEAZER and TERMAGANT were both delayed refitting and TROUBRIDGE has been in collision in the Medway, so TENACIOUS sails alone.

Western Approaches.

*u1057  
~~u1172~~  
munk  
RUB  
FDS*

3. MANNERS, frigate, was torpedoed this forenoon 30 miles N.W. of Holyhead. Her stern was blown off and she suffered 47 casualties, but the after bulkhead of her after motor room held, and P.C.74 towed her in to Holyhead. Fourth and Fifth Escort Groups meanwhile carried out an intensive search, in the course of which BENTINCK obtained a contact which she transferred to CALDER and AYLNER. At 4 p.m. nearly 3½ hours after BENTINCK's first contact, CALDER scored a hedgehog hit, the U-Boat (500 tons) surfaced with badly damaged conning tower, and AYLNER, taking no chances, rammed her amidships and she sank.

Northern Waters.

4. It is thought that the Germans will retire from all Norway north and east of Narvik, and that the Russians will not advance out of the Kirkenes area. There will be extreme suffering in the hiatus thus left, due to German general destruction, and the Norwegian Government will probably ask for the despatch of all their units to this area to render all possible help. S.H.A.E.F. fears maintenance responsibility for these forces, but desires control of them.

Foreign Stations

Australia and New Zealand

Philippines.

5. This afternoon 12 Bostons dropped 5 tons of bombs on Aparri Dockyard and jetty (North coast of Luzon). During the day Thunderbolts strafed small craft along Cagayan River South of Aparri and in Salomague Harbour.



26.1.1945  
Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand

China.

6(a) Between Yesterday and to-day 65 Super-Fortresses laid 190 tons of mines off Saigon, in Camranh Bay and in Singapore harbour.  
(b) Night patrol Catalina bombed shipping on Indo China Coast. 1 possible destroyer hit - causing explosion and billowing flame.

Formosa.

7. 2 Catalinas bombed small coaster south of Takao with unobserved results.



War Diary.

26.1.1945.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea.

Mines swept  
in Schelde  
Approaches.

My 251942 an additional 9 mines have been swept it is apparent that there were 12 mines in Channel opposite Kadzand which are sufficient to cause casualties to block it completely.

(2) It is only due to fortuitous circumstances that these mines could be swept.

(C. in C. Nore, 261315 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Sweeping report for today Friday. Channel from N.F.18 to N.F.13 swept LL/SA by 3 B.Y.M.S. and 3 M.M.S. 4 cables either side of centre line. Two actuations. 4 magnetic and 4 acoustic mines detonated positions as follows:

Magnetics: 51.24.27 N., 03.24.12 E. 51.24.52 N., 03.22.16 E.  
(Two) 51.25.08 N., 03.20.02 E.

Acoustics: 51.24.40 N., 03.24.36 E. 51.25.08 N., 03.25.18 E.  
51.25.27 N., 03.15.24 E. (Two).

Channel from N.F.18 to Bat swept LL/SA by 2 M.M.S. One actuation.

Channel from N.F.18 to P.V.N.E. Buoy swept LL/SA. 3 actuations. Both negative results. Further river sweeping abandoned on account of ice.

(Com. M/S Terneuzen, 261629A to N.O.I.C. Antwerp.)

Three acoustic mines detonated simultaneously at 1115 in positions: (A) 51.25 N., 03.17½ E. (B) 51.25 N., 03.19 E. (C) 51.25 N., 03.21 E. All positions approximate. Explosive sweep in use.

(N.O.I.C. Ostend, 261840 to Com. Belgium.)

Mines swept  
in East

1 G.R. mine cut by B.Y.M.S. 1315 in 52° 06½' N., 01° 49' E.

Coast Channel. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 261414A to Admty.)

Schelde  
navigation  
impeded  
by ice.

River ice is forming on the Schelde and it has become necessary to give orders for the lifting of lightbuoys between Antwerp and Hansweert.

The buoys are being replaced by appropriate red and black spar ice buoys. Until further notice night navigation of the river can only take place between Flushing and Terneuzen.

(N.O.I.C. Antwerp, 261500A to Admty.)

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.

Cositintrep No. 297, part 4.

Discharge by sea - 24 hours period ending 1600A/  
25th Jan.

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> (incl. coal)	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
<u>British</u>					
Antwerp	105	233	8,244	2,540	151
Ostend	446	89	4,275	-	1,216
Boulogne	14	32	-	-	-
Dieppe	-	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	587	-	-
Calais	3,654	-	575	-	-
Ghent	-	-	652	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>4,219</u>	<u>354</u>	<u>14,333</u>	<u>2,540</u>	<u>1,458</u>



War Diary.

26.1.1945.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.  
(Contd.)

Cositintrep No. 297, part 4 - (Contd.)

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> (incl. coal)	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
<u>U.S. North</u>					
Antwerp	-	205	19,100	-	-
Cherbourg	-	209	13,893	-	3,821
Le Havre	11,355	687	7,652	-	1,009
Rouen	467	242	6,038	606	-
Granville	-	-	1,112	-	-
Ghent	-	-	657	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,822</b>	<b>1,343</b>	<b>48,452</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>4,830</b>
<u>U.S. South</u>					
Marseilles	380	216	18,646	-	3,665
Port de Bouc	-	-	2,576	9,302	-
Toulon	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>21,222</b>	<b>9,302</b>	<b>3,665</b>

Signed Eisenhower. Cite SHGDS.  
(S.H.A.E.F., 261625A to Admty. and Others.)

Operations

Channel

Mines swept  
off le  
Havre.

159th T.G. Q.Z.S. 588. One ground mine  
detonated in position 49° 32'45" N., 00° 10'08" W.  
119th M.S.F. A.2 to H.V.3 Buoy and Q.Z.S. 665.  
Y.M.S. 347 area to westward of Cap de la Heve.  
Seven ground mines detonated in position 49°  
32'00" N., 00° 03'03" E.  
(Cdr. M/S. Le Havre, 260947 to C.T.F. 125.)

Patrols.

Night patrols 26th/27th Jan. Anti-Snort.  
patrols area limits given.

(2) 26th E.G. as in my 251251A, para. 3.

(3) 1st E.G. (A) H Channel. (B) Route E. (C)

Q.Z.S. 636. (D) 50° 10' N.

(4) 3 M.T.Bs. of 66th Flotilla (A) Q.Z.S. 636. (B) Route E.

(C) Q.Z.S. 673. (D) 50° 10' N.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 261145A to S.O. E.Gs. 1, 26, M.T.B.F.  
66.)

My 261145A. Arrange patrol to cover convoy E.W.L. to  
50° 00' N.

(2) GENTIAN report convoy E.T.D. Cherbourg to S.O. E.G. 26.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 261146A to S.O. E.G. 26.)

Inadequacy  
of lightbuoy  
tenders.

With T.H. Vessel VESTAL out of action for some  
weeks as the result of collision and the  
increasing number of buoys requiring urgent  
attention on account of damage by shipping and

/winter ...



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War Diary.26.1.1945.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel

Inadequacy  
of lightbuoy  
tenders.  
(Contd.)

winter gales, the one remaining T.H. Vessel  
ANDRE BLONDEL is inadequate to maintain existing  
buoyage on both sides of the Channel in an  
efficient state.

(2) Request that a "Bar" vessel or trawler be  
made immediately available for work under the  
supervision of The Superintendent, T.H. Cowes.

Such a vessel would be used for relighting buoys and in  
servicing Juno light vessel off Havre, leaving T.H.V. ANDRE  
BLONDEL free for the heavier and more specialised work of  
lifting and repositioning buoys.

(3) Superintendent, T.H. Cowes has been consulted and has  
agreed with the proposal outlined above.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 261233A to Admty.)

Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining.

Pass Needles at 1100A/27th and carry out serial  
D.2.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 261550A to V.64.)

Operation  
"Nestegg".

L.C.H. 239 is to relieve ALBRIGHTON of H.Q.  
duties for Operation "Nestegg" and is to be  
fitted with V.H/F set. ALBRIGHTON is to revert  
to normal duties of her class.

(D.O.D.(H), 261716A to A.N.C.X.F., C. in C.  
Plymouth.)

Shifting  
eastward  
of cross-  
Channel  
track.

It is regretted that owing to need for  
institution of an alternative cross-Channel  
route which will pass through the jettisoning  
area in the Channel agreed to in A.L. 19th Dec.  
M. 012398/44, it is necessary to adjust the  
jettisoning area in question.

Alternative areas proposed are:

(A) 50° 19' N., 0° 20½' E. 50° 06' N., 0° 43' E.

49° 58' N., 0° 14½' E.

(B) 50° 27' N., 0° 25' W. 50° 31' N., 0° 00' W. 50° 26' N.,  
0° 08' E. 50° 02' N., 0° 01' E.

(2) Request your concurrence to use of one of these areas.

Area (A) is preferred by Admiralty.

(Head of M., 262022A to Air Ministry.)

OperationsWestern Approaches

U-Boat sunk.

Have struck a mine or been struck by torpedo.  
Uncertain which. Position 280° Skerries 21.  
(MANNERS, 261045A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)  
MANNERS struck in 280° Skerries 21 miles close  
full speed.

(C. in C. W.A., 261101A to Force 36.)

/My ...



War Diary.

26.1.1945.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches

U-Boat sunk.  
(Contd.)

*1051  
U. #~~1~~ sunk  
DMS*

My C.A.T. was streamed at the time of explosion consider it possibly due to mine.  
(MANNERS, 261115A to Admty.)  
Shore plot shows MANNERS in 53° 37' N., 05° 24' W. P.C.74 and 3 M.T.Bs. from Holyhead also closing.  
(C. in C. W.A., 261130A to Force 36, MANNERS, P.C.74.)

Stern blown off to after bulkhead of stokers' mess-deck. After bulkhead of after motor room holding and auxiliary diesel running. Casualties 2 officers missing and 2 seriously wounded. 28 ratings missing 6 known dead 15 wounded.

(MANNERS, 261245 to C. in C. W.A.)

P.C.74 towing MANNERS to Holyhead escorted by GRINDALL and KEMPTHORNE, 3 M.T.Bs. in company.

(2) Wounded transferred to H.S. ATLANTIS.

(3) BENTINCK and CALDER have attacked possible contacts in vicinity of BYARD. No results. 4th E.G. "Observant" 20 mile legs. 5th E.G. "Observant" 6 mile legs.

(S.O. Force 36, 261507A to C. in C. W.A.)

U-Boat sunk by CALDER and AYLNER in position 53° 39' N., 05° 21' W.

(S.O. E. G. 5., 261607A to C. in C. W.A.)

My 261607. AYLNER rammed German U-Boat.

(2) Forward lower compartment flooded bulkhead shored and holding. Intend to proceed Holyhead E.T.A. 2300 approx. screened by BLIGH and TYLER transferring to BLIGH on arrival.

(S.O. E.G.5, 261710A to Capt. (D) Belfast, C. in C. W.A., Capt. (S) 8, N.O.I.C. Holyhead.)

AYLNER 261607 not to all addressees. Contact obtained BENTINCK 338° 6,500 yards from MANNERS at 1235 and twice attacked with depth charges. Later handed to CALDER and AYLNER who attacked with depth charges and H/H. At 1559 H/H attack CALDER produced one explosion after 4 seconds U-Boat surfaced at 1604 astern CALDER with conning tower badly damaged. Engaged by gunfire from both ships and rammed amidships by AYLNER tearing hole ship's hull. German U-Boat sank at 1609. Area covered with diesel oil. 2 large bags containing iron rations (German) picked up. German U-Boat 500 tons no guns (forward?).

(S.O. Force 36, 261731A to C. in C. W.A.)

Arrived AYLNER escorted by BLIGH. Latter vessel sailing to rejoin Force after transfer of S.O. E.G.5 and staff to BLIGH.  
(N.O.I.C. Holyhead, 262211A to S.O. Force 36, C. in C. W.A.)

Anti-U-Boat  
deep mining.

Intend to lay, para. 2 your 241828 tomorrow Saturday sailing Milford Haven 1730. Request escorts in position 160 (XX) at 2000/27.

(2) Expect to lay Mark 8 Assemblies at 18 knots on this occasion and possibly at 20 knots in good weather in future. This is same as Mark 1 limitation.

(3) Expect to lay para. 3 on Wednesday 31st, sailing 0830. Request escorts in 162 (XX) 11 at 1100/31st., will confirm on Monday. Agreed Senior Armament Supply Officer.  
(APOLLO, 261241A to C. in C. W.A.)

/Weather ...



26.1.1945.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches - Contd.

Weather-reporting ship.

LAVENDER is to sail Jan. 29th to relieve CAMELLIA as weather-reporting ship fuelling at Londonderry on outward passage.  
(2) E.T.A. in 53° N., 20° W. to be reported.  
(3) CAMELLIA is to proceed to Liverpool on relief.  
(C. in C. W.A., 261441A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool, CAMELLIA.)

Extra small craft for anti-U-Boat patrols.

F.O.I.C. Greenock 251128, para. 2. "Isles" class trawlers when converted as fleet danlayers are not fitted with any form of asdic and do not carry any depth charges.  
(2) In view of the efficiency of these vessels as danlayers and their unsuitability for A/S work they must remain allocated to Fleet M/S

Flotillas.

(D.M.S., 261505A to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 251205 and 251849 Jan. Para. 1 (3) of C. in C. W.A's 241952 Jan. allocates three additional vessels to you for emergency patrols.

(2) Allocation of drifters in A.M. 141719 November must stand. Request completion dates.

(3) JACQUELINE CLASSINE is in course of return to Dutch authorities.

(D.S.V.P., 261936A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Your 251128\*. The shortage of A/S fitted craft for local patrols is appreciated and must be accepted. As the vessels referred to in your para. 2 are no longer A/S fitted the proposed exchanges will not be pursued.

(C. in C. W.A., 261941A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

\* It is therefore submitted for consideration that 3 of the Oropesa trawlers now working from Ardrossan, could with advantage be exchanged with Island class A/S M/S Trawlers at present working as danlayers with Fleet M/S Flotilla.

Patrols.

Patrols - Force 37, E.G.3, DUCKWORTH, 4 frigates off Clyde Light Vessel.  
E.G.22, HART, 4 escort vicinity Bar Light Vessel.  
Force 38, E.G.21, CONN, 4 frigates vicinity

St. George's Channel.

Force 36, E.G.4, BENTINCK (S.O.), 4 frigates and E.G.5, AYLMER 5 frigates central Irish Sea. Force supporting convoys through respective area.

(C. in C. W.A., 261629A to Admt.)

E.Gs. 4 and 5.

If not in contact 4th E.G. leave patrol and proceed to Belfast for fuel and short rest passing Pile Light 1700/27th.  
(2) 5th E.G. will probably have short rest when 4th E.G. rejoins Force 36.  
(C. in C. W.A., 261936A to S.O. E.Gs. 4, 5.)



505

26.1.1945.  
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorway

Operations (1) 0700A/28th Jan. from Scalloway.  
V.P. (2) 046° from Muckle Flugga to 64° 55' N., 08°  
19' E. thence 098°, 13 knots.  
(3) 2000A/29th Jan.  
(4) Between 2200A/29th Jan. and 0600A/30th Jan.  
Intend sailing Scalloway operation from Shetland.  
(5) 232° to Muckle Flugga, 13 knots.  
(6) p.m./31st Jan.  
(7) 052° Muckle Flugga. (8) No.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 261749A to A.C.O.S.)  
V.P.73. Force returned at 1945A today 26th Jan.  
(2) Strom Fiord and Sognesoen were found to be full of fishing  
vessels which sighted M.T.Bs. One 200 ton fishing vessel  
brought back.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 262115A to A.C.O.S.)

OperationsNorthern Waters

Convoy C. in C. Northern Fleet stated he has only six  
J.W. 64. destroyers and 8 S/M Chasers to escort White Sea  
portion of J.W.64. Submarine Chasers may not  
be able to operate in bad weather. He requests,  
therefore, than an Escort Group may accompany  
White Sea portion to 68° 30' N., in entrance to White Sea.  
(2) Recent German U-Boat activity has been close inshore, and  
C. in C. would like to split convoy in new position (MT) 70°  
30' N., 35° 36' E. where local escort will R/V, or earlier if  
daylight meeting can thus be obtained.  
(S.B.N.O. N.Russia, 261805A to C. in C. H.F.)

Northern (1) Subject to approval of the Combined Chiefs of  
Norway, Staff following is action it is proposed to take  
civilian in North Norway in certain eventualities.  
relief. (2) Germans are withdrawing in the extreme North  
although present evidence suggests their with-  
drawal is unlikely to extend initially beyond  
Narvik. Russian intentions are unknown but  
thought that they intend to remain in Kirkenes area. Hiatus  
area is thus developing in which remaining inhabitants are  
suffering extreme hardship due to scorched earth policy. This  
hiatus area may eventually extend as far as Trondheim. There  
is no indication at present of intention to withdraw beyond  
Trondheim. The possibility cannot be overlooked in view of  
present situation on the Eastern Front; but the total  
evacuation of southern Norway would take some months to  
complete as it is unlikely that it could be speeded up beyond  
the present rate of 2 - 3 divisions per month.  
(3) Norwegian token Force is at present operating in North  
Norway under Russian Command (Operation "Crofter") and is giving  
relief to local inhabitants within reach.  
(4) It is understood that Norwegian Government may shortly  
propose the despatch of all available Norwegian Units to North  
Norway to occupy as much of the country as possible.

/(5) ...



War Diary.

26.1.1945.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters

Northern Norway, civilian relief. (Contd.)

(5) Present S.H.A.E.F. plans ("Aladdin") for operations in event of German withdrawal from Norway envisage despatch of United States and British Forces. Diversion of such Forces to Norway clearly cannot be considered at this time. The use of all available Norwegian Forces to occupy the hiatus area is, therefore, welcomed provided they can be administered from resources other than those available to S.H.A.E.F.

(6) If Norwegian Forces are despatched, the most satisfactory system of command would be that Forces come initially under Russian operational control. As Forces leave Russian orbit and enter hiatus area, they should come under S.H.A.E.F. control. This will enable sufficient British and United States personnel to be despatched with the Forces to ensure the proper use of Civil affairs supplies.

(7) To sum up we are prepared to agree with the Norwegian proposal to despatch all available Norwegian Forces to North Norway on condition that maintenance falls on other than S.H.A.E.F. resources.  
(S.H.A.E.F., 261920A to Combined Chiefs of Staff.)

Patrol. My 261131A. Thence search northward keeping east of swept channel.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 262056A to S.O. E.G.25.)

Enemy Intelligence

Enemy R/C over Vaenga Bay. Russians report enemy aircraft flew over Vaenga Bay and dropped flares a.m. yesterday 25th Jan. (S.B.N.O. N.Russia, 260827A to Admty.)

Recovery of new German mine. 182 M.S. Group is being sailed to Humber to investigate and if possible recover suspected new type of German moored mine and sinker. (2) Request L.C.T. 843 (U.O.L.) may be made available as soon as possible to assist in search.  
(D.T.M., 261118A to Com. U.S. 12th Fleet.)

Technical

Anti-Schnorkel "O.P." obstructions. Your 241102A, para. 3. Confirmed that radar detectors will not operate until "O.P." is fouled.  
(D.B.D., 260415A to C. in C. H.F.)

Action when S/M escort meets U-Boat. F.O.S/M's 221746, para. 4.  
(2) If it is considered likely that a U-Boat might try to regain position for a second attack by using high speed submerged, then it is suggested that procedure after counter-attack

/by the ...



War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS

Technical

Action when S/M escort meets U-Boat. (Contd.)

by the surface escort should be on the following lines:  
(A) Escort to stream Foxer.  
(B) Escort to rejoin submarines taking station between them and the position of the counter-attack until out of Gnat range. Escort then to take station on the beam on the side on which counter-attacks took place.  
(C) Submarines form line abreast on escort rejoining.  
(D) The whole force to proceed in this formation at best possible speed for a distance of 10 miles (or for 25 miles if it is considered likely that type XXI U-Boats may be encountered).  
(E) After covering the above distance, submarines to be stationed astern of the escort again.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 261316A to Admty., F.O. S/M.)

Casualties and Defects

L.B.O. 17, oil-tank. R.N.O. Arrow 251733\*. As no salvage vessel can be made available at present and as port of Arromanches has been closed down intend to abandon L.B.O. 17.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 261240A to Admty.)  
\* L.B.O. 17 swamped and sank alongside blockship B.

COMPUTATOR, M/S Trawler. Admty. 252133 not to C. in C. Portsmouth. Regret to report that COMPUTATOR was sunk in collision with VANOC at 1030 on 21st Jan, 1945. There were no casualties in COMPUTATOR and full written report of the occurrence has been forwarded to C. in C. Portsmouth.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 261701A to Admty.)

Movements

A.F.D. 55. PITCAIRN and SEABEAR should now escort A.F.D. 55 from Plymouth to Gibraltar. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to arrange an additional escort to approximate lat. 48° N. C. in C.  
W.A's 221136 and C. in C. Plymouth's 241852 neither to all refer.  
(A.C.N.S.(H), 260040A to C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Portland.)

MAURITIUS, cruiser. A.M. 040304. Refit of MAURITIUS is deferred until about third week in Feb.  
(2) F.O.I.C. Liverpool 251019 refers.  
(D.O.D.(H), 260045A to C. in C. H.F.)

TROUBRIDGE, TEAZER, TENACIOUS, TERMAGANT, destroyers. C. in C. Nore's 231745. Earliest time TERMAGANT can sail is p.m. Sunday 28th and this is subject to satisfactory completion of trials.  
(D.1, 261001 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

/Route ...



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HOME COMMANDS

Movements

TROUBRIDGE, Route for TROUBRIDGE, TEAZER, TENACIOUS and  
TEAZER, TERMAGANT - (A) 180 Lizard 3 miles. (B) 45 N.,  
TENACIOUS, 10 W. (C) 37.30 N., 10.01 W. (D) 36 N., 08 W.  
TERMAGANT, (E) 35.51 N., 06.10 W.  
destroyers. (Plot. (O.D.), 261117A to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
(Contd.) In view of delay to TEAZER, C. in C. Portsmouth  
is requested to sail TROUBRIDGE, TENACIOUS and  
TERMAGANT direct to Gibraltar a.m./29th Jan.  
Route will be promulgated by Admiralty.

(2) A.Ms. 191944, 221330, not to all, and C. in C. Nore's  
231745 refer.

(D.O.D.(H), 261121A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Have been in collision with MIMICO at 26 Buoy while shaping  
up to go alongside VESPER. MIMICO reports extensive damage  
to port quarter above waterline. Damage to TROUBRIDGE appears  
to consist of a small hole in starboard side of stern.  
Request damage to surveyed as soon as possible. Form S.232  
and further signal will be forwarded as soon as damage has  
been fully examined.

(TROUBRIDGE, 261319A to Com. Sheerness.)

My 231745A TROUBRIDGE will not sail.

(2) Proceed independently from B.1 Buoy to Portsmouth by Q.Z.S.  
577, 463, 459, 417, 518, 519, 626, 646 and 373.

(3) Weather permitting speed on passage 20 knots you are to  
zig-zag whilst in Portsmouth Command, risk of crossing boundary  
of swept channels for this purpose is to be accepted.

(4) Communications in accordance with A.F.O.S. S.2/44 Table 2  
1 line 6.

(5) Report your E.T.A. direct to C. in C. Portsmouth.

(6) Acknowledge.

(C. in C. Nore, 261800A to TENACIOUS.)

OCEAN,  
light  
aircraft  
carrier  
(14,000 tons)

From latest information available J.1498 will  
not commission before 20th June.

(A.S.C.B.S., 261510 to Combrax Chatham,  
N.A. 2 S.L.)

M.N.S.C. in  
SASKATCHEWAN,  
destroyer.

My 232207.

(1) After conveying party to Belfast SASKATCHEWAN  
is to proceed to Londonderry in readiness to  
take party to Greenock about Jan. 30th.

(2) F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail  
SASKATCHEWAN to Tobermory on completion of this  
duty.

(C. in C. W.A., 261636A to F.O.I.Cs. N.I.,  
Greenock.)

WHITETHROAT  
controlled  
minelayer.

When ready request H.M.C.S. WHITETHROAT be  
sailed for Londonderry for onward routeing in  
convoy for St. Johns. Final destination Halifax.  
C.N.M.O's 251130 not to F.O.I.C. Greenock refers.  
(D.O.D.(H), 261728A to C. in C. Rosyth, Com. (D)  
W.A.)



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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

Hospital Ship FRANKFURT. German Government has notified SS. FRANKFURT formerly KRONPRINZ OLAF as a hospital ship.  
(2) Characteristics of ship: 3037.76 gross registered tons, length 91.5 metres, breadth 13.9 metres, one funnel, speed 18 knots.  
(3) Ship bears normal hospital ship markings and illuminations and is to be recognised as hospital ship.  
(Air Ministry, 261130 to H.Qs. Bomber, Coastal and Fighter Commands.)

Cross-Channel personnel lifts. Your 242201A Jan. 1945.  
(2) Assuming the total average daily lift does not exceed 3200 by British personnel ships the movement could be effected by the vessels now operating from Southampton which have a total lift of 11,750. This figure includes the CUBA now under repair and for which a suitable substitute would be required.  
(3) No allowance has been made for delay caused by inclement weather or delay in the disembarkation on the far shore.  
(4) If the SOBIESKI is required for another operation it is submitted that this ship and the CUBA may be relieved by three vessels with a capacity at 1400/1500 each. The use of the smaller ships would give a more equitable daily lift and facilitate the turn around at the port of disembarkation.  
(5) It is also submitted that the MONOWAI be relieved by a ship of similar capacity as this vessel is not considered suitable for the present disembarkation port.  
(D.S.TO.Southampton, 261215A to D. of S.T.)

Dummy attacks on T.B.C. convoys. At request of A.S.W.D.U. Thorney Island,, low level dummy attacks by single Beaufighters will be made from time to time on T.B.C. convoys in the vicinity of A.3 Buoy south-west of Isle of Wight.  
(2) Request M.C.S.Os. concerned with sailing of T.B.C. convoys and joiners thereto may be directed to draw the special attention of Masters to the possibility of these attacks, which will only take place infrequently.  
(3) C. in C. Nore and C. in C. Plymouth are requested to inform escorts in the same sense.  
(4) C. in C. Portsmouth will make a signal warning the escort concerned in the early forenoon on the days on which Thorney Island wish to carry out these attacks. Escort should pass this warning to Commodore and ships in convoy by best available means.  
(5) These practices may commence on or after Monday 29th Jan.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 261315A to C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Plymouth, Com. Southend, N.O.I.C. Ramsgate, A.C. Dover, N.O.I.C. Newhaven, N.C.S.O. Cowes, N.C.S.O. Southampton, N.C.S.O. Portsmouth.)



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FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

SNOWFLAKE

Intend sailing SNOWFLAKE at 0800Z/27 Jan. Coastal to Durban S. of A. 11 knots. E.T.A. 0700Z/28 Jan. (N.O.I/C E. London 261029B to Admty.)

JED

JED arrived.  
(N.O.I.C. Durban 261242Z to Admty.)



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FridayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

15th C.S. Intend follow outline programme for C.S.15.  
 (A) AJAX sail 27th Jan. for Piraeus and then as required Greek Mil.  
 1. My 171507.  
 (B) AURORA relieve AJAX about 7th Feb.  
 (C) ARETHUSA work up at Alex. during Feb.  
 (D) ORION work up at Alex. from 19th Feb.  
 2. On relief AURORA propose return (corrupt group) in AJAX (6 corrupt groups) Feb.  
 3. Should ORION be (?unsuited) intend AJAX carry out outstanding wear and waste test about 24th Feb. and AURORA do likewise at beginning of March when ARETHUSA should be available.  
 4. My Flag will remain in AJAX unless immediate emergency requires its transfer to (?ORION).  
 (F.O. 15th C.S. 260029 to F.O.L.E.M.)

COMINSITREP Following is a re encypherment of COMFLANFORS  
 Number 74 251000A begins: COMINSITREP Number 74 ending 241201A. On 18th. BENSON fired 98 rounds at enemy outpost many direct hits at building. On 19th. LOOKOUT fired 84 rounds at a supply dump. Five direct hits - on 20th. TROMBE fired 117 rounds at command post and at gun in railway tunnel. All rounds in area, nice shooting, several direct hits - on 21st. TROMBE had two missions - she fired 39 rounds at barracks, all salvoes effective two direct hits, and 27 rounds at supply dump. Three direct hits - all in target area. On 23rd. MC LANAHAN made three depth charge attacks on a presumed submarine. After third attack search was continued until nightfall without result - EMILE BERTIN left FLANFOR at 221200 and was relieved by JEANNE D'ARC - MATCHLESS - must arrive in Toulon at 251000A - Ends.  
 (COMFLANFOR 260710A to F.O.N.A.M.)

Black Sea. Request you will take any action you consider  
 (opening of.) necessary on Admiral Archer's 181359 para. (F).  
 (A.C.N.S.(F) 261008A to C. in C. Medn.)

A.F.D.24. A.F.D.24 in tow of HESPERIA and EMPIRE SANDY sailed Oran for Port Said 1000A/Jan. 26th. S.O.A. 5 knots. Com. N.O.B. Oran's 251718 not to all.  
 (F.O.W.M. 261200A to C. in C. E.I.)

GREECE My 251648. M.L.458 visited Styliis 25th Jan.  
 (Hostages). report local information 4000 hostages Lamia area. ~~CHIBES~~ total capacity 500 leave for Styliis tonight 26th with M.L.1017 and officer to organise embarkation. Major Hope send officer by road. Consider M.L. essential for communication. My 260006 and your 251912.  
 (MUSKETEER 261410B to S.B.N.O. Greece.)



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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

RICHELIEU A.M. 232205 Dec. refers. Intend ship should carry out following programme on completion of present docking at Gibraltar first week Radar calibration and practices during aircraft attacks and sub calibres. Second week H.A. practices fighter direction exercises night encounters and bombardment. Third week H.A. practices and L.A. day and night practices. Fourth week simultaneous L.A. and H.A. full calibre firings.  
2. L.A. and H.A. practices from Gibraltar. Bombardment at Oran. (C. in C. Mediterranean 261726A and 011313A to Admty.)

Tankers Admty. message 200016. B.M.S.M. Washington report for Black Sea. that all tankers loading in the Western Hemisphere for Black Sea will discharge at Odessa.etc. etc. (A.C.N.S. 261730A to Admiral Archer.)

Beirut. British Minister Beirut on 27th Dec. asked that a Visit of visit be paid by British cruiser in about a month. British He now asks that this visit may take place about Cruiser. end of first week in Feb. when he would arrange to be at Beirut.  
Propose sending AJAX flying flag of C.S. 15 to visit Beirut about 9th Feb. unless you consider this to be apeing the French and that a private ship would be better.  
(F.O.L.E.M. 261810 to C. in C. Med.) Reply from Admty. 021105A.



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

- L.S.H. (L)  
LARGS. Allocation of LARGS to Force W is cancelled. Ship is to revert to administration of R.A.L.S. C.U. A.M. 301049 Nov. is cancelled.  
(2) Decision on future employment of LARGS will be promulgated later.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 260058A to F.O. Force W.)  
Note. LARGS allocated for W.
- U/B dis-positions. No fresh information, scales unchanged.  
(C. in C. E.I.S. 260329Z to Ships and Authorities E.I.S.)
- Maintenance Unit. Reference your 081918 Nov. Owing to late arrival of these ships request information if a Coastal Force Mobile Maintenance Unit fully equipped and manned can be sent out at an early date.  
(2) With arrival of new flotillas and the move forward additional maintenance facilities is an urgent requirement.  
(C. in C. E.I. 260503Z to Admty.)
- L.C.M. (3)  
Rocket Launcher. S.A.C.S.E.A. 181225. Request your views in order to assist Admiralty to make reply.  
(D.C.O.D. 260547A to C.C.O.)
- Commodore, Bay of Bengal. It has been decided that the H.Q. of the Commodore Bay of Bengal shall be moved from Vizagapatam to Calcutta early in Feb. Com. Bay to report probable date of transfer.  
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 260909Z to Combay, F.O.B., All N.Os. i/c P.I.)
- Convoy O.W.1. Expect U.S.S. GENERAL MCRAE and GENERAL MORTON will sail together from Melbourne Friday 2nd Feb. for Calcutta as convoy O.W. 1.  
(2) Cruiser escort for these ships will not be provided.  
(3) Routed to 100° E. by Comsouwespaseafron thence through positions (details).  
(4) N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll requested to sail RACEHORSE and REDOUBT to R/V with convoy.  
(C. in C. E.I. 261450Z to N.O.I.C. Port Melbourne etc., and 311501Z.)
- Movements. CLYDE arrived. Departed TYNE wearing flag of R.A.D B.P.F. LONDON, ARTIFEX, RESOURCE, LEWES, GERALDTON, CAIRNS, IPSWICH, TAMWORTH, GAWLER, CESSNOCK, WOLLONGONG, M.F.A. BATTLE ROCK.  
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 261726Z to Admty.)



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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

Submarine  
 attack  
 and  
 sighting  
 summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/26th January.  
 Para. A. +  
 (1) Ship torpedoed and abandoned, possibly  
 GUADELOUPE in Eastbound Convoy, about 2100Z/25th  
 January in approx. 35 degs. 15' N. 65 degs. 00' W.  
 Parac. C.  
 (1) EMPIRE VICEROY sighted U-boat on surface  
 about 0200Z/26th January in 00 degs. 37' N.  
 73 degs. 50' E.  
 (D.D.I.C., 261114A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)  
 + See 271540Z.)

U-boat  
 dispositions

Estimates.  
 (N.S.H.Q. 261323Z. to Admty.)

F.S. LA  
 GRANDIERE  
 and  
 CAP DES PALMES  
 Duties of.

Chief of French Naval Mission in Washington has  
 approached Cominch with a suggestion that more  
 active duty be provided for LA GRANDIERE and  
 CAP DES PALMES at present desultorily occupied  
 in South Pacific under Comsofac.  
 (2) French Naval Mission say they would  
 appreciate if CAP DES PALMES could be removed  
 from her present duty and assigned to transport-  
 ation duty between France and her Empire under direct command  
 of French Admiralty.  
 (3) U.S.N. Staff feel this may be an effort by the French to  
 exercise a more potent and wholly French Control over this and  
 possibly other ships at present controlled by C.C.V.S. and  
 would like to explore thoroughly the possibility of employing  
 CAP DES PALMES in some capacity of greater utility under an  
 Allied Commander's control.  
 (4) Admiralty's views on the possibility or advantage of such  
 a re-assignment are requested as it does not appear obvious  
 here that she can be usefully employed as an escort owing to  
 her size and low speed, but that she might have some use as  
 cross Channel Transport.  
 (B.A.D., 261725Z to Admty.)

ARIADNE  
 minelayer

The Commander of the Task Force under which  
 ARIADNE has been operating, agrees to release  
 her forthwith, your 152318 refers, and B.A.D.  
 has asked Cominch to route her to United Kingdom  
 via Pacific Canal zone Atlantic.  
 (B.A.D. 262209Z to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand

Suicide  
 Bombing

It is considered the Japanese Suicide dive  
 bomber policy will involve the Britpacfleet in  
 considerable casualties among the bridge  
 personnel. This has been the experience

/in...



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FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Suicide in the American Fleet and R.A.N.  
 Bombing (2) The chance of casualties to key personnel  
 (Contd.) is greatest in the communications Branch and is  
 equally divided between V/S, coder and  
 telegraphist ratings.  
 (3) It is, therefore, requested that the pool  
 of communication ratings available for replacement of casualties  
 in the fleet be maintained at 25% greater strength than those  
 of other branches.  
 (C. in C. Britpacfleet, 260541Z to V.A.(Q), Admty., etc.)

T.F.118 Your 162021. A carrier task force designated  
 T.F.118 will be ready for operations at an  
 advanced anchorage on 15th March. Details.  
 (4) Names of ships are being forwarded by  
 airmailgram.  
 (5) Additional forces are expected which will be communicated  
 as they become available for operations.  
 (C. in C. B.P.F., 260737Z to Cominch and C.N.O.)

S.O.R.M. Terms of proposed Directive by G.O.C.R.M. to  
 Australia Senior Officer, Royal Marines, Australia are as  
 duties of follows:-

(b) You are appointed to the staff of V.A.(Q)  
 British Pacific Fleet as Senior Officer,  
 Royal Marines, Australia (short title S.O.R.M.  
 Australia). Your office is to be organised as a self-  
 contained unit which will have the same relation to the other  
 sections of the staff of V.A.(Q) British Pacific Fleet as  
 G.O.C.R.M. has to other Admiralty Departments.  
 (2) You will command all Royal Marines serving ashore in  
 Australia, other than those "embarked" in Naval Establishments.  
 (4) You will be responsible for advising V.A.(Q) British  
 Pacific Fleet on all administrative matters arising from  
 policy laid down by the Commander-in-Chief, British Pacific  
 Fleet, so far as it concerns the Royal Marines or the  
 exercise of the foregoing duties.  
 (c) Request your concurrence or remarks observing that  
 delegation of certain functions by G.O.C.R.M. is proposed.  
 (Head of M., 260630A to C. in C. B.P.F.)

*British Pacific Fleet - (List of ships)* C in C B.P.F. 260739Z to Cominch + C.N.O.  
 See Lion Copy.

Digest Unless otherwise stated this Digest covers 25th  
 No.1101 January bearing Serial Number 1101.  
 25.1.45 (1) Navy Catalina attacked 2 sea trucks, 7  
 luggers or schooners all anchored Yonakuno Jima  
 in southwestern Nansei Shoto early hours,  
 bombing and strafing damaged all ships.

(3) (29) Liberators bombed Takao during 1½ hours harassing  
 raid prior dawn while (?search) Catalina bombed buildings  
 southwestern tip Formosa and strafed 1 sea truck, 1 cruiser  
 at entrance (?Tahn repetition Kxinan) (As received) Canal  
 hitting target vessel.

(8) Lone sea truck in Salomague Harbour strafed afternoon  
 24th by 2 Thunderbolts: extent of damage unobserved.

(9) Patrols reached point within half mile east of (corrupt  
 group) without enemy contact.

(12) 6 Mitchells bombed strafed jetty and warehouse area  
 Baculod on Negros midday.  
 (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 260705Z.)



War Diary.

260739Z January.

From: C. in C. B.P.F.

BRITISH PACIFIC FLEET  
List of Ships.

In continuation of my signal D.T.G. 260737 the following is a nominal list of the British Pacific Fleet.

T.F. 1 18

Battleships: KING GEORGE V, HOWE.

Fleet Carriers: ILLUSTRIOUS, VICTORIOUS, INDOMITABLE, INDEFATIGABLE.

Cruisers: SWIFTSURE, GAMBIA, BLACK PRINCE, ARGONAUT, EURYALUS.

Destroyers:	<u>4th D.F.</u>	<u>25th D.F.</u>	<u>27th D.F.</u>
	QUICKMATCH	GRENVILLE	KEMPENFELT.
	QUIBERON	ULSTER	WESSEX
	QUALITY	UNDINE	WAGER
	QUEENBOROUGH	URSA	WHELP
		URANIA	WHIRLWIND
		UNDAUNTED	WAKEFUL

Total: 2 B.B., 4 C.V., 2 C.L., 3 C.L., A.A., 16 D.D. = 27

(2) Support Forces.

Escorts:	<u>21st M/S. F.</u>	<u>22nd M/S F.</u>	<u>Sloops and Frigates</u>
	BALLARAT	GERALDTON	CRANE
	MARYBOROUGH	CESSNOCK	REDPOLE
	LISMORE	CAIRNS	PHEASANT
	WHYALLA	IPSWICH	WOODCOCK
	GOULBURN	TAMWORTH	WHIMBREL
	KALGOORLIE	WOOLONGONG	BARLE
	TOOWOOMBA	PIRIE	HELFORD
	BENDIGO	LAUNCESTON	PARRETT

(3) The Fleet Train T.F. 117

Advanced anchorage.

Replenishment Carriers (C.V.E.) SLINGER, SPEAKER

Repair Ships (A.R.B.) RESOURCE.

Aircraft Repair Ship (A.R.V.) UNICORN

Victualling Store Issuing Ship (A.F.) FORT EDMONTON

Hospital Ship (A.H.) OXFORDSHIRE.

Tugs (A.T.A.) 2

Oilers (A.O.) and (A.O.G.) BROWN RANGER, ARNDALE,  
DINGLEDALE, SAN ADOLFO,  
SAN AMBROSIO, WAVE KING,  
CEDARDALE, AASE MAERSK.

Naval store issuing ship (A.K.S.) BACCHUS

Destroyer depot ship (A.D.) TYNE

Intermediate Base.

Air store ship (A.K.S.) FORT COLVILLE

Victualling store issuing ship (A.F.) DENBIGHSHIRE, FORT ALBAMA,  
CITY OF DIEPPE.

Hospital ship (A.H.) TJITJALENGKA.

Tugs (A.T.A.) 2

Distilling ship (A.W.) STAGPOOL

Repair ship (A.R.H.) ARTIFEX

Net layer (A.N.) GUARDIAN



79

Divided between advanced anchorage and intermediate base.

Armament store issuing ship (A.E.)

CORINDA, DARVEL,  
HERMELIN, HERON,  
KHETI, PACHECO,  
PRINCE DE LIEGE,  
PRINCESS MARIA P  
ROBERT MAERSK,  
THYRA S.

10

On passage between advanced and rear bases.

Ferry carriers (C.V.E.)  
Armament store carriers (A.E.)

STRIKER, FENCER.  
GUDRUN MAERSK,  
KISTANA, KOLA.  
BOSPHORUS.

6

Naval store carrier (A.R.S.)

95

T.O.O. 260739Z January.

T.F. 118	27
Support Forces	24
Naval Store	44
	<u>95</u>



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26.1.1945  
Friday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

U-boat                      Estimates  
dispositions              (D.D.I.D., 261403A, 261404A.)

TEL,  
ON,  
O,  
GE,  
A F

ER.

y.



27.1.1945.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North Sea.

1. M.L. 153's midget submarine of January 24th appears subsequently to have grounded and been lost on Middle Scroby Sands. Two Germans, claiming to be two out of the crew of three of a SEEHUND type midget (the third died), were recovered by Trinity House Vessel BEACON. They say that they grounded there 3 days ago.

Channel.

2. BARFLEUR, French Armed Merchant Cruiser, has arrived at Plymouth with 500 large barrels of wine for an unspecified addressee.

Western Approaches.

H X 332

3. SS. RUBEN DARIO and SOLAR were torpedoed in Convoy H.X.332 about 30 miles S.W. from Bardsey Is. at 1140 today. RUBEN DARIO remained in convoy and is making for Liverpool. SOLAR was stopped and became the centre of hunt by 21st Escort Group until the Rescue Tugs STORM KING and SUPERMAN took her in tow for Milford Haven. 9 hours later 5th Escort Group attacked a contact some 25 miles to the S.W., of the Tuskar Rock, and may have scored a hit with a hedgehog.

Norway.

4. Three Coastal Command aircraft attacked shipping off Norway, and one claims to have straddled 3 destroyers off Aalesund.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Riviera.

5. Allied warships continue to carry out successful bombardments near Franco-Italian frontier in Gulf of Genoa.

Adriatic.

6(a) H.M.S. POLLOCK (A/S Trawler) has been towed to Zara after having been mined in Maknare Channel.  
(b) Situation at Zara and Split remains difficult as Partisans still have no details of Naval agreement.

Greece.

7. Greece is quiet in the circumstances, no event of interest to report. Kithera gave H.M.S. ANTWERP an enthusiastic welcome on her visit there.



# FLAGSHIP AUSTRALIA HIT OFF LUZON

## CREW'S GALLANTRY

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

CANBERRA, JAN. 26 ·

Mr. Curtin announced that the flagship Australia, flying the broad pendant of Commodore Farncomb, and the destroyer Arunta, of the Australian squadron, were damaged by enemy air attacks while operating with American warships and others units of the Australian squadron during the invasion of Luzon.

On board the Australia two officers and 25 ratings were killed or died of wounds, one officer and 16 ratings are missing, presumed killed, and one officer and 68 ratings were wounded. The Arunta's casualties were two ratings died of wounds and five others, slightly wounded.

The Australia, which previously suffered damage from enemy attack during the allied bombardment of Leyte in October, when Commodore Collins, then commanding the squadron, was wounded and Captain Dechaineux, commanding the Australia, died of wounds, was subjected to concentrated air attacks at the beginning of January when she was hit five times. During this period the cruiser Shropshire was similarly attacked, but suffered no damage or casualties. Several holes were made in the Arunta's side, but she quickly resumed her position. Magnificent gunnery by various ships accounted for some enemy aircraft, but the ferocity of the action made it difficult to observe how many aeroplanes were destroyed.

Mr. Curtin added that in spite of damage and casualties the Australia did not withdraw until the operation was successfully concluded. Emergency gun crews who took the places of trained men killed or severely wounded did excellent work. Fire broke out in many parts of the cruiser, but officers and men of damage control parties, ignoring risk to themselves, subdued the flames.

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27.1.1945.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Gulf of  
Siam and  
Malacca  
Strait.

8. 15 Liberators laid mines in the Pakchay and Bangkok rivers, in Koh si Chang harbour and in the approaches to Penang.

Australia and New Zealand

Duke of  
Gloucester.

9. RIMUTAKA escorted by ACHILLES and two destroyers arrived at Sydney (N.S.W.) today.

Japan.

10(a) 59 Super-Fortresses attacked harbour installations at Tokyo. 7 aircraft were lost.  
(b) Navy Liberator saw 5 small vessels off Sakashima Island (N.E. of Formosa) heading east, one left stationary and smoking by strafing attack.

Borneo.

11. Aircraft damaged 7 coastal vessels and barges Darvel Bay (Borneo) and one lugger off Manada.



War Diary

27.1.1945  
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Minesweeping 15th M.S.F. is required to carry out a high percentage Lowestoft. Oropesa search of an area bounded by the parallels of 52.28½ N. and 52.36½ N. and by the meridians of 2.05 E. and 2.19 E. Sweeps are to be set as deep as practicable.

- (2) F.O.I.C. Humber is requested to sail 15th M.S.F. to Great Yarmouth Roads to carry out this operation.
- (3) 15th M.S.F. is to anchor nightly in Yarmouth Roads, returning to Humber on completion of operation or if it is necessary to refuel.
- (4) Fishing vessels may be found in the area.
- (5) C. in C. Nore and F.O.I.C. Great Yarmouth are to be kept informed of movements and the progress of operations.
- (6) F.O.I.C. Great Yarmouth is requested to give M.S.15 necessary information of movements of other vessels in the vicinity.  
(C. in C. Nore, 271056A to M.S.F.15)

- Patrols. Commencing tomorrow Sunday a trial will be given to redistribution of C.F.Z. patrol line.
- (2) Intention is that a unit of 3 M.T.Bs will patrol in company with destroyer frigate or corvette on No.1 to 6 patrol.
  - (3) The unit of M.T.Bs will be under shore control in exactly the same way as it is with present Z line and will be ordered out to intercept by C. in C. Nore depending on tactical situation. Failing instructions from C. in C. Ships on patrol may use their discretion in sending M.T.B. Unit to investigate and intercept. C. in C. being kept informed.
  - (4) Owing to the difficulty of identification M.T.B. unit is not to attempt to rejoin destroyer once it has been vectored away if distance apart exceeds 10,000 yards. When distance is greater M.T.B. Unit is to proceed direct to following position on Z line and maintain normal patrol for remainder of night.  
No.1 patrol Z.32. No.2, Z.27. No.3, Z.19. No.4, Z.13.  
No.5, Z.9. No.6, Z.3.
  - (5) In view of coastal force being in or near channel while patrolling it is emphasized that unit must keep well close on destroyer in order to avoid misunderstanding and incident with convoy etc.
  - (6) Patrols should normally be maintained at speed not less than 12 knots for technical reasons of M.T.Bs. (C. in C. Nore, 271340 to Nore Cnd.)  
Nore patrol night 27th/28th Jan.
  - (1) 12 STAYNER with coastal force. 14, COTSWOLD. 16, TORRINGTON with Coastal Force. 18, SEYMOUR. 19, CURZON and ARENDAL. 21, WIDGEON.
  - (2) 9 F.C. 6 7 F.A. 2 3 F.A. 3 3 F.C.8.  
(V.A. Dover, 271437A to Dover Command)

Minesweeping Sweeping report for to-day Saturday. Channel off Schelde. from N.F.18 to N.F.13 swept Oropesa by 3 B.Y.M.S. G. formation to port leading ship along centre line. Negative results. Also LL/SA/HG by 3 M.M.S. four cables either side of centre line. One actuation.



27.1.1945  
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Minesweeping off Schelde. (Contd.)  
Two Acoustic Mines detonated in positions 51.23.34 N. 03.21.38 E. 51.24.51 N. 03.20.50 E. Channel from N.F. 18 to Bat swept LL/SA by 2 M.M.S. One actuation. Negative results. Channel from P.V.N.E. to N.F.18 swept LL/SA 2 actuations. Negative results. Further river sweeping abandoned on account of ice. (Com. M/S Terneuzen, 271529A to N.O.I.C. Antwerp)

Discharge Situation Report. Cositintrep No.298 Part 4. Discharge by Sea - 24 hour period ending 261600A January.

<u>British</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> (inc.Coal)	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
Antwerp	116	263	7,920	-	-
Ostend	11	-	818	-	-
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-
Dieppe	206	-	257	-	-
Caen	-	-	1,066	-	-
Calais	3,477	-	368	-	-
Ghent	-	-	1,003	-	192
<b>Totals.</b>	<b>3,810</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>11,432</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>192</b>
<u>U.S. North</u>					
Antwerp	-	146	20,004	-	41
Cherbourg	-	308	10,648	-	3,165
Le Havre	7,574	730	7,340	-	456
Rouen	409	271	5,937	1,688	235
Granville	-	-	2,647	-	-
Ghent	-	9	1,541	-	-
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>7,983</b>	<b>1,464</b>	<b>48,117</b>	<b>1,688</b>	<b>3,897</b>
<u>U.S. South</u>					
Marseilles	306	78	14,049	-	3,310
Port de Bouc	-	-	2,834	2,326	-
Toulon	-	-	156	-	-
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>17,039</b>	<b>2,326</b>	<b>3,310</b>

(Signed Eisenhower Cite S.H.G.D.S.)  
(S.H.A.E.F. 271545A to Admty and ors.)

Midget U-Boat (SEEHUND) on Scroby Sands off Great Yarmouth. At 1500 to-day Saturday boat from T.H.V. BEACON anchored in Yarmouth roads took two German naval prisoners off Middle Scroby Sands. As boat approached sands prisoners ran to the eastwardside and blew something up. Prisoners were transferred to H.S.L.2507 and brought into Yarmouth where they were placed under military escort. Prisoners stated they had gone aground on the Sands three days ago owing to bad weather and that one of the crew had died. Clothing was quite dry with exception of feet and legs below the keel.

Area where the explosion took place will be carefully searched when weather permits.

(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 271748A to C. in C. Nore, D.N.I.)  
See M.L.153's 241050 to C. in C. Nore and C. in C. Nore, 241530 to Nore Command)

/Schelde ...



War Diary

27.1.1945  
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Midget  
U-Boat  
(SEEHUND) on  
Scroby Sands  
off Great  
Yarmouth  
(Contd.)

N.I.D. Comment: Prisoners state (B.3) that they came from SEEHUND S/M.  
Note: Scroby Sands are about 2' offshore Yarmouth to Caister.

[See also D.N.I. 2815149 and 211510]

Schelde  
mining and  
icing.

Cositintrep No.298 part 11 Naval.  
(1) 11 ground mines were detonated in Schelde Estuary between N.F.13 and N.F.15 buoys on 26th January. This makes a total of 30 detonated since A/C laid mines on the evening of 23rd Jan.  
(2) Ice in Upper reaches of Schelde has caused

cessation of routine minesweeping.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 272359A to Admty.)

Operations

Channel

Patrols.

30th E.G. 1st Division proceed forthwith at sweeping speed to take up zigzag search between Pendeen and Lizard.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 270948A to S.O.E.G.30)

Night patrols 27th/28th.

3 M.T.B. patrol area limits.

(A) North of Cherbourg. (B) 01 degs. 47' W. (C) 50 degs. 00' N. (D) 01 degs. 05' W.

(2) Sail Portland 1700. Leave patrol 1000 and return to Portland.

(3) S.O. acknowledge and report ships detached.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 271256A to S.O. 66th M.T.B. Flotilla)

Cancel para. B (11- of my 271456 on completion proceed to A/S patrol area limits.

(A) North of Cherbourg. (B) 01 degs. 47' W. (C) 50 degs. 00' N. (D) 01 degs. 05' W.

(2) Cover Cherbourg section of H.X. convoy escorted by FLEETWOOD, DEPTFORD from 50 degs. 00' to Cherbourg. Convoy E.T.A.

Cherbourg 0530A/28th routed 5 miles East of H Channel speed 10 knots.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 271638A to ANTHONY)

Day patrol 28th Jan. Continue patrol as in my 271638A.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 271901A to ANTHONY, THUNDER)

Doubtful  
contacts.

Have been investigating 2 stationary bottomed contacts. One in position 49 degs. 57' 00" N. 5 degs. 29' 45" W. definitely wreck, the other 49 degs. 58' 18" N. 5 degs. 31' 18" W. was doubtful. Attacked No.2 3 times with squid. Some

oil coming up. Not enough for sample. Am resuming patrol.  
(S.O. E.G. 30, 272221A to C. in C. Plymouth)

/Suspected ...



War Diary

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Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel - Contd.

Suspected  
U-Boat off  
St. Alban's  
Head.

German U-Boat transmitting 36 Group Naval enigma  
on 3880 K/cs bearing 030 degs. Sky wave. My  
position is 50 degs. 20' 15" N. 01 degs. 54' 36"  
W.  
(GARLIES, 272234Z to Admty, C. in C. Portsmouth)

Possible  
U-Boat  
off  
Cherbourg.

M.T.B. 752 has investigated and carried out two  
attacks on contact in position 49 degs. 43' N.  
01 degs. 47 $\frac{3}{4}$ ' W. now lost contact.  
(M.T.B. 757, 272333A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Operations

Western Approaches

RUBEN DARIO  
and SOLAR  
torpedoed  
30 miles  
S.W. of  
Bardsey Is.

H.X. 332 attacked SAMNID torpedoed 52.35 N.  
05.18 W.  
(S.O.E.G. C.7, 271140Z to C. in C. W.A.)  
Add to my 271140 SOLAR also torpedoed.  
(S.O.E.G. C.7, 271155Z to C. in C. W.A.)  
Amend my 271140Z to read RUBEN DARIO.  
(S.O.E.G. C.7, 271210Z to C. in C. W.A.)  
RUBEN DARIO torpedoed No.2 hold maintaining con-  
voy course and speed, OWEN SOUND escorting.

H.X. 332 -

Intend sailing her to Liverpool by shortest route, recommend  
tug or salvage vessel be sailed for her. SOLAR stopped and  
is now centre of hunt by E.G.21. Consider she will float in-  
definitely but will require tugs.

(S.O. E.G. C.7, 271250Z to C. in C. W.A.)

A.C.I.39 para.5.

(A) 1215A/27. (B) 1. (C) Starboard side. (D) Nil.

(E) Both salvable tugs should be sailed.

(F) E.G.21 and E.G.5.

(S.O.E.G. C.7. 271319Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Proceed with utmost despatch to position 52 degs. 28' N.  
05 degs. 17' W. ship reported torpedoed.

(F.O.I.C.Milford, 271327 to SUPERMAN, STORMKING.)

Tow Tanker to Clyde if conditions permit. Report draught  
and condition of hull.

(2) If STORMKING able to tow alone SUPERMAN return to Milford  
Haven.

(F.O.I.C.Milford, 272055 to STORMKING, SUPERMAN)

Based on to-day experience urgently recommend that convoys  
in this area be formed to as broad a front as navigation permits.  
H.X.332 when attacked was formed in two columns of 11 ships each  
estimated to be six miles long. Escorts were placed one ahead  
one astern and three on each side. Torpedoes were apparently  
fired from ahead of the centre of starboard side hitting 6th ship  
in port column on starboard side and 9th ship in starboard.

(S.O.E.G. C.7, 272134A to C. in C. W.A.)

Condition of hull unknown.

Draft aft 40 feet approx. poop awash, vessel should be partly  
discharged and surveyed at nearest possible port before  
trying to tow any distance. My speed of Advance 5 knots towards  
Milford Haven, SUPERMAN standing by.

(STORMKING, 272235A to F.O.I.C.Milford)

/Patrol ...



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Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches

Patrol and  
 Escorts.

You are temporarily to act under my orders.  
 Establish zigzag search between 50.46 N. 04.52 W.  
 and 50.25 N. 05.25 W. forthwith.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 271516A to TOWY, ST. HELENA)  
 Following programme for support groups supersedes

my 012221:-

<u>Group</u>	<u>Sail</u>	<u>Return</u>	<u>Sail</u>
1	-	6th Feb.	16th Feb.
2	-	15th "	25th "
3	-	1st "	11th "
4	-	9th "	24th "
5	-	13th "	28th "
6	-	7th "	22nd "
9	7th Feb.	2nd March.	-
10	27th Jan.	19th Feb.	-
14	3rd Feb.	28th Feb.	-
15	30th Jan.	24th "	-
17	30th "	20th "	-
19	1st Feb.	26th "	-
21	-	3rd "	13th Feb.
22	-	3rd "	18th "
23	5th Feb.	26th "	-
24	-	-	25th Feb.
25	-	29th Jan.	11th "
26	-	2nd Feb.	12th "
30	-	14th "	24th "
31	1st Feb.	27th Feb.	-

(C. in C. W.A. 272257A to Commde. (D) W.A. Capt. (D) Liverpool,  
 Capt. (D) Greenock, Capt. (D) Belfast)

My 172105 Jan. para. 4 to establish an Inshore Patrol in  
 the important Area between Dublin and St. John's Point will  
 require 8 Patrol Craft. It is intended that they should  
 operate from Ardglass as an advanced base, using Belfast for  
 maintenance and repairs.

(2) Coal burning Drifters would be the most suitable type of  
 craft for this purpose. It is requested that very early steps  
 should be taken to provide these vessels and that they may be  
 sailed to Belfast to operate under the orders of F.O.I.C. N.I.

(3) Request also one Lieutenant Commander or Lieutenant R.N.  
 or Reserve be appointed CAROLINE for duty at advanced base at  
 Ardglass. One or two W.R.N.S. Ratings will also be required  
 and F.O.I.C. N.I. is requested to report particulars of these.

(C. in C. W.A. 272325A to Admty.)

Propose DUCKWORTH and ROWLEY form Gamma Patrol between  
 Tor Point and Mull of Kintyre until E.G.22 rejoins convoy.  
 Suggest attack in Clyde area more likely from the North than  
 from South in view of A/C sighting. Suitable.

(S.O. Force 37, 272355A to C. in C. W.A.)

U-Boat  
 hunt.

*U-1172  
 U-105  
 sunk  
 Feb*

KEATS attacked contact in position 52 degs. 20.5  
 05 degs. 44.5 with hedgehog. 2 explosions 5  
 seconds after projectile hit water. Much oil  
 believed diesel. Suitable deteriorating.  
 (S.O. E.G.5, 272055A to C. in C. W.A.)



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27.1.1945  
SaturdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsWestern Approaches

Prohibited fishing areas.

A.M. 241218. It is recommended that the limits of the new fishing restrictions should be arranged so that the nearest mine in the proposed new fields should be not less than three miles from the boundary of the restricted area.

2. The following is proposed: (a) Amend the position of the minefield H in my W.A.00246/11 of 23rd Jan. as follows: Initial position  $54^{\circ} 1' N. 5^{\circ} 14' W.$  zig zag line of 600 mines, 200 feet apart in a direction  $075^{\circ} 165^{\circ}$ . Six legs each of 100 mines, initial leg in direction  $075^{\circ}$ . (b) Propose deep water fishing but not passage, be prohibited in the following areas (inshore fishing within the three mile limit clear of the minefields to be permitted at the discretion of local N.O.I.C.'s).

(i) the area bounded on the N. by  $52^{\circ} 14' N.$  from the Irish coast to  $4^{\circ} 55' W.$  in the East by  $4^{\circ} 55' W.$  from  $52^{\circ} 14' N.$  Southwards to the Welsh coast. South of the Welsh coast by  $5^{\circ} 00' W.$  to  $51^{\circ} 30' N.$  On the S. by  $51^{\circ} 30' N.$  from  $5^{\circ} 00' W.$  to  $5^{\circ} 56' W.$  on the W. by existing prohibited area.

(ii) the area bounded by, on the N.  $53^{\circ} 41' N.$ , on the S.  $53^{\circ} 05' N.$ , on the E. by  $04^{\circ} 00' W.$ , on the W. by  $05^{\circ} 15' W.$

(iii) the existing prohibited area S.W. of Isle of Man to be increased in size to an area enclosed by the arcs of two circles drawn 3 miles and 17 miles from Chicken Rock between bearings  $165^{\circ}$  and  $290^{\circ}$ .

3. The following priority in the laying of minefields is proposed C.T.G.Z.H.Y.F.A. W.A.00246/11 of 23 Jan. refers.

4. It is anticipated that minefield T will be completed on about 12th Feb. minelaying in areas at present unrestricted for fishing. i.e. Fields G.Z.H.Y. could be started about 15 Feb. if final decision on restricted areas is reached in time for the necessary 10 days notice to be given by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

(C. in C. W.A. 272327A to Admty.)

OperationsNorway

Coastal strike by DIADEM and MAURITIUS.

C.S.10 take DIADEM and MAURITIUS under your orders and proceed as soon as possible at best speed to position  $61^{\circ} N. 03^{\circ} 50' E.$

2. On arrival carry out sweep to Northward.

3. If nothing sighted by 0600 28th withdraw to N. westward so as to be well clear of the coast by daylight.

4. Return to position  $61 N. 03^{\circ} 50' E.$  by 1900 28th passing through position  $62 N. 02 E.$  and sweep to the northward.

5. Operation "Winded" will be taking place on the night of 28/29th. (C. in C. H.F. 271229 to C.S.10, DIADEM, MAURITIUS.)

Scapa Departures - R.A. 10th C.S. in DIADEM with MAURITIUS. (A.C.O.S. 271342 to C. in C. H.F., Admty.)

B.2. report received states 3 Narvik Class Destroyers passed Folda (position approx.  $64^{\circ} 40' N. 11^{\circ} 00' E.$ ) at 1145A/27th Jan. course S., speed 25 knots.

(Admty. (Tactical) 271443A to Home Fleet.)

/My ...



27.1.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway.

Coastal  
strike by  
DIADEM and  
MAURITIUS.  
(Contd.)

My 271229 which is being passed to F.O. S/M.  
Amend position in para. 1 and 1st position in para.  
4 to read 60° 30' N. 04° 30' E.  
(C. in C. H.F. 271529A to C.S. 10, Admty., F.O.S/M.)  
Your 271229. Intend to proceed from position  
A. 61° 01' N. 01° 15' E. to position B. 60° 33' N.  
04° 25' E. thence northwards accepting any mine  
risk. E.T.A. position B 0120A/28th.  
(C.S. 10 271803A to C. in C. H.F.)

Coastal  
Command  
attacks on  
shipping.

Nr. 1. Have attacked one M.V. 5000 tons with  
bombs 170° 8 knots over shot one escort vessel 63°  
49' N. 09° 37' E.  
(A/C WDK 79 272016A to 18 Group.)  
Have attacked 3 destroyers with bombs 62° 45' N.  
05° 10' E. barrage 0030 estimate straddle.  
(A/C WDK 50 272114A to 18 Group.)

Have attacked 1 M.V. 4000 tons with bombs in Rorvik estimate no  
hits.  
(A/C LXD 66 272118A to 18 Group.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Search for  
SS. MAGDALA.

Your 251946. Search completed by 3 Cansos.  
Nothing found.  
(A.C.I.C. 270314A to C. in C. W.A.)

Norwegian  
relief ship  
for N. Norway.

C. in C. H.F. is requested to sail H.Nor. M.S.  
OKSOY in J.W. 64.  
(2) A.C.O.S. is requested to prepare OKSOY for  
service in North Norway A.M. 252247 November not to  
all refers.  
(D.O.D.(H) 271256A to C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S.)

Convoys  
J.W., R.A.64.

"Hotbed". (1) Russian aircraft will provide A/S  
patrols in Kola Approaches.  
(2) Pilots arranged for CAMPANIA, NAIRANA,  
BELLONA, ONSLOW, ZAMBESI and CYGNET.  
(3) Berths after fuelling where applicable  
CAMPANIA 48, BELLONA 49, NAIRANA 52, tankers 50 and 53. 9  
berths alongside at Polyarnoe 3 at Vaenga. Remainder escorts as  
convenient in Vaenga Bay or alongside larger ships. Berths  
between (corrupt) and Veliki Point may be used if required.  
(4) Request ships with mail or supplies may berth Polyarnoe if  
possible.  
(5) Westbound oiler JELYABOV will come alongside BELLONA on  
arrival.  
(6) Request one carrier will supply 2500 gallons aviation spirit  
if available. Russians will provide lighter.  
(7) Shore authorities concerned pass to escorts.  
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia 271739A to C.S. 1.)

/Capt....



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27.1.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Convoys Capt. (D) Greenock 242300. Amend my 231954 as follows.  
J.W., R.A.64. (2) Para. 5. A. Delete. D. For three destroyers (Contd.) read one destroyer. Para. 6. Delete and substitute "A.C.O.S. is requested to sail BLACK RANGER escorted by two destroyers detailed by Cdre. (D) H.F. to R/V with convoy J.W. 64 in vicinity of position A. a.m. D + 2. My 232034 refers."  
Para. 7. For four read one fleet destroyer. For Capt. (D) 17 read S.O. Escort. Para. 9 delete.  
(C. in C. H.F. 271932A to Admty., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Rosyth, A.C.O.S., A.C.I.C., F.O.S/M, F.O.I.C. Greenock, F.O.I.C. Northern Ireland, S.B.N.O. N. Russia, S.B.N.O. Archangel, Cdre. (D) W.A., F.Os. of H.F., Cdre. (D) H.F., N.O.I.C. Faroos, H.Q.C.C. No. 18 Group, R.A.F., N.C.S.O. Clyde, Naval authorities addressed pass to escorts concerned for whom you are responsible.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Details of A.G.M. 157A of 5th January describing German Small  
SEEHUND Battle Units para. 3 details of Midget U-Boat  
midget U/B. type SEEHUND, are as follows:-  
(a) Crew of two. (Fact.) (b) Length 38 ft.  
diameter 9 feet. depth keel to top of pressure  
hull 5 ft. 7 ins. depth keel to top of conning  
tower 7 ft. 10 inches. (Fact.)  
(c) Two 21 ins. electric torpedoes, slung one on either side  
outboard, (fact) probably similar to those carried by Bibor.  
One or two mines, in place of torpedoes may possibly be carried  
(B.3.)  
(d) Conning tower similar to that of Biber, probably fitted with  
periscope projector compass and air intake (B.3.)  
(e) Max. surface speed, with armament, 6-8 knots, submerged speed  
4-5 knots (B.3)  
(f) Propulsion diesel engine and electric motors (B.2.)  
(g) Range approx. 200 miles at 5 knots surfaced plus 50 miles  
at 3-4 knots submerged. Craft can lie on the bottom and has  
oxygen supply sufficient for 60-70 hours. Limited charging of  
batteries by diesels surfaced is possible (B.3.)  
(h) Max. diving depth about 100 ft. (B.3.)  
(i) No W/T gear carried. Simple hydrophones fitted and normal  
explosive depth sounders carried (B.3.)  
(D.N.I. 272250 General Message.)

Port Facilities.

Antwerp. Owing to complete freezing of all canals and need  
to give priority for coal movement by rail  
necessary to restrict imports at Antwerp to  
minimum until weather conditions improve. Request  
no further ocean going ships be sailed for Antwerp without  
detailed calling forward instructions from this H.Q. This does  
not apply to M.T. ships or stores ships for Ghent. Agreed.  
(Exfor 271900A to A.N.C.X.F., and others.)



527

27.1.1945.  
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects.

S.S. GEORGE HAWLEY. Due to extensive hull damage and weakness of GEORGE HAWLEY and vessel making water it has been necessary to beach her on Mylor Bank, Falmouth in approximate position  $15\frac{1}{4}$  cables  $18^\circ$  from Green Light on Eastern Arm of outer harbour. Further details follow.  
My 221837 refers.  
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 271203A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Movements

TENACIOUS and TERMAGANT, destroyers. TROUBRIDGE and TEAZER are delayed. TENACIOUS is expected from The Nore p.m. today 27th or a.m. 28th.  
TERMAGANT and TENACIOUS will sail for Gibraltar on Monday 29th, sailing signal to follow.  
2. Draw 2 copies of latest Med. Station Q messages from N.C.S.O. Portsmouth as convenient tomorrow 28th and give spare copy to TENACIOUS.  
3. Report (A) who is S.O. of pair and (B) intended speed of advance to Gibraltar.  
4. N.C.S.O. Portsmouth report latest numbers of Q Messages supplied.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 271255A to TERMAGANT.)

NITH and WAVENEY L.S.H.(S)'s It is intended to sail NITH and WAVENEY from Clyde on 20th Feb. 1945 to Mediterranean for onward routeing to India.  
(D.C.O.D. & D. of M. 271541A. to R.A.L.S.Q.U., F.O.I.C. Greenock)

BARFLEUR Fr. A.M.C. BARFLEUR has arrived Plymouth and has on board about 500 large barrels of wine stated by C.O. to be consigned to England exact address unknown.  
TBIS is being disembarked now.  
300 tons wright of cargo including the 150 tons of stores for 23rd M.T.B. Flotilla for BARFLEUR are held at Plymouth and it is intended to load this on completion of para. 2.  
Anticipate ship will be ready to sail Wednesday 31st.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 271640A to Admty.)

TROUBRIDGE destroyer. My 231745A, 261745A and 261800A - last not to all addressees. Leave Sheerness at 1300A tomorrow 28th and proceed by Q.Z.S. 394, 577, 459, 517, 518, 519, 626 and 373 to Portsmouth.  
2. Weather permitting speed on passage 20 knots - You are to zig-zag whilst in Portsmouth Command. Risk of passing over boundary of swept channels for this purpose is to be accepted.  
3. Communications:- In accordance with A.F.O.S/2 44 table 2 (1) line 6.  
4. Report your expected time of arrival direct to C. in C. Portsmouth.  
5. Acknowledge.  
(C. in C. Nore 272230A to D.24 in TROUBRIDGE.)



27.1.1945  
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

Major  
troopship  
movements  
to Feb.28th.

Following is summary of major troopship movements  
in and out of Clyde and Liverpool to 28th Feb.

Serial No.	Convoy	Ship	Port	Date
<b>(A) In</b>				
1.	A.T.184	AQUITANIA	Clyde	30/1
2.	A.T.185	QUEEN MARY	Clyde	30/1
3.	C.U.56	Ships not yet allocated to ports but probably mainly to Continent.		6/2
4.	A.T.187	QUEEN ELIZABETH	Clyde	6/2
5.	A.T.187A	U.S. WAKEFIELD	Liverpool	About 6/2
6.	A.T.186	NIEUW AMSTERDAM	Clyde	8/2
7.	A.T.188	ILE DE FRANCE	Clyde	11/2
8.	A.T.189	MAURETANIA	Liverpool	About 11/2
9.	A.T.189A	U.S. MOUNT VERNON	Liverpool	14/2
10.	C.U.57	Ships not yet allocated to ports but probably mainly to Continent		14/2
11.	S.D.62	TAMAROA	Clyde	About 14/2
12.	M.K.F.39	Ships not yet allocated to ports		About 16/2
13.	A.T.189B	U.S. WESTPOINT	Liverpool	17/2
14.	A.T.190	PASTEUR	Liverpool	About 21/2
15.	C.U.58	Ships not yet allocated to ports but probably to Continent		22/2
16.	A.T.191	QUEEN MARY	Clyde	25/2
17.	A.T.192	AQUITANIA	Clyde	27/2
<b>(B) Out</b>				
18.	T.A.183	PASTEUR	Liverpool	About 31/1
19.	T.A.185	QUEEN MARY	Clyde	5/2
20.	T.A.184	AQUITANIA	Clyde	6/2
21.	D.S.62	TAMAROA	Clyde	7/2
22.	T.A.187A	U.S. WAKEFIELD	Liverpool	About 9/2
23.	U.C.56A	U.S. Ships ex C.U.56 plus RANGITIKI from Liverpool		10/2
24.	T.A.187	QUEEN ELIZABETH	Clyde	12/2
25.	T.A.186	NIEUW AMSTERDAM	Clyde	13/2
26.	-	ANDES	Liverpool	14/2
27.	T.A.188	ILE DE FRANCE	Clyde	16/2
28.	K.M.F.40	Composition as notified		About 16/2
29.	T.A.189	MAURETANIA	Liverpool	About 16/2
30.	T.A.189A	U.S. MOUNT VERNON	Liverpool	17/2
31.	U.C.57A	U.S. Ships ex C.U.57 plus STIRLING CASTLE from Liverpool		18/2
32.	T.A.189B	U.S. WEST POINT	Liverpool	20/2
33.	C.U.58	U.S. Ships ex UC.58		26/2
34.	T.A.190	PASTEUR	Liverpool	About 26/2

2. The above is for your guidance and information and is liable  
to alteration during period to 3rd Feb. when further signal will  
be made.

(D. of S.T. 272200A to P.S.T.O.'s Clyde and Scottish and N.W.  
Ports.)



27.1.1945.  
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

JED

Sailed JED coastal to Capetown to refit.  
2. S.O.A. 15 knots.  
3. E.T.A. 1600Z 29th Jan.  
(Cdre. i/c R.N.E. Durban 270724Z to Admty.)

ROSEBAY.

Sailed ROSEBAY to Diego Suarez to refuel and  
thence to Colombo. Details.  
(Cdre. i/c R.N.E. Durban 270924Z to Admty.)



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War Diary.

27.1.1945  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- Movements. From 0800/26th to 0800/27th.  
Arrivals U.S.N. L.S.T. 141, L.C.I. 235, F.S. W.122, C.H. 114.  
Departures F.S. C.H. 133, W.63, W.103, CAPRICORNE, ANTICLINE.  
(Comar Marseilles 271105A to F.O.N.A.M.)
- CITE. FHGCT. FHGBI. Signed Alexander.
- Cositintrep Coastal Air Force. 12 Beaufighters scored R.P. and cannon strikes on guns at Lussinipiccolo. Searches and uneventful scrambles flown.  
No. 565. (H.Q.M.A.A.F. No T.O.O./27th to W.O.)
- Spanish Request any information available regarding fate of Spanish fishing vessel MASSO 14 which parted company with (MASSO) 15 in storm while fishing on Porcupine Bank on Jan. 19th. Latter vessel returned to Vigo.  
MASSO 14. (B.N.A. Madrid 271630A to Admty.) \*061900A-101303APL
- Gulf of Situation report para. 1 METEOR and L'ALCYON carried out sweep A night 26/27 nothing sighted and no contacts.  
Genoa bom- (2) Misspon at 1315 enemy command post, 101 rounds. Three direct hits and many hits on buildings in target area. No retaliation.  
bardment. (3) Three mines sunk in bombardment area.  
(METEOR 271800A to Comflanfor.)
- South Aegean Up to 0930 hours 27th January 1945.  
Summary. (1) Shipping photographic cover of Melos 26 Jan. shows the caique 40/60 foot has departed probably to Crete. Remainder not covered. Ground sources report 2 E.M.S. and 1 Magda arrived Kos from Leros on 25 Jan. with food and 25 soldiers. These craft ready to leave for Leros immediately probably with wheat for Leros garrison. Offensive action 26 Jan. Melos gun emplacements bombed but results not known.  
(C. in C. M.E. No T.O.O. to W.O.)
- Situation (1) Adriatic, POLLOCK has been towed to Zara after report No. 545. having been mined in Maknare Channel. Situation at Zara and Split remains difficult as Partisans still have not received details of Naval Agreement.  
(2) Gulf of Genoa Allied Warships continue to carry out successful bombardments near Franco Italian Frontier.  
(3) Greece in the circumstances is quiet and there is no event of interest to report except ANTWERP visited Kithera and was given enthusiastic welcome.  
(C. in C. Med., 272050A to F.O.L.E.M.)

/A.F.D. 20...



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27.1.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

A.F.D. 20.

Arrived LARGS, DESTINY, EMINENT and A.F.D. 20.  
(V.A. Malta 272159 to Admty.)

LOOKOUT.

Intend to sail LOOKOUT at 281000A to Naples, 20  
knots. Route Bonifacio. E.T.A. 290730A.  
(Complanfor 272213A to F.O.N.A.M.)



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War Diary27.1.1945.  
SaturdayFOREIGN STATIONSEast IndiesINDEMNITABLE  
INDEFATIGABLE

no trace

Operation  
"Meridian"

Force 63 as in my 131024 left Trincomalee under command of R.A.A. B.P.F. 16th Jan. Object largest possible air strike Palembang oil refineries to destroy Pladjoe and Soeng Gerong distilling plants in the order.

2. Force 63 made rendezvous with Force 69 20th Jan. in position 7° S. 95° E. and refuelled. Force 69 consisted of CEYLON, URCHIN and three tankers from Trincomalee. Fourth tanker from Fremantle joined 23rd Jan.

3. Force 63 proceeded to flying off position vicinity Engano Island dawn 22nd. Bad weather prevented strike until 24th when 47 Avengers 10 Fireflies 48 fighters attacked Pladjoe. 24 fighters swept enemy airfields.

4. Preliminary photographic <sup>prela</sup>interception confirms hits on one power house, three crude distilleries two distillation and two other units. Many other buildings hit or damaged.

5. Fighter and A/A defences were alert. Striking force intercepted some miles short of target. 13 Japanese fighters shot down with six probables. 34 aircraft destroyed and 25 damaged on the ground. Our losses nine aircraft.

6. Force was sighted but composition incorrectly reported. (C. in C. E.I. 270241Z, 010542 to Admty., C. in C. B.P.F.)

U/B No fresh information. Scales unchanged.  
dispositions. (C. in C. E.I. Station 270351Z to Admty.)

B.P.F.  
build up.

A.M.201246/ not to all. Anticipate 1 V class probable VIRTUE ready to leave Colombo for Fremantle about mid Feb.

(C. in C. E.I. 270524Z to C. in C. B.P.F.)

requirement.

Request transfer of a third U class S/M to meet

L.S.I.(S)  
PRINS ALBERT.

Arrival PRINS ALBERT.  
(F.O. Bombay 270616Z to Admty.)

Far East  
Welfare.

Admty.'s 051544 Nov. and 052215 Dec. paras. 3 and 4, and C. in C. E.I.S. 011038 Dec. para. 3 (none to all).

India has already submitted and received approval for a new scale of accommodation and amenities, including hospital equipment. A copy of this was sent to S.A.C.S.E.A. by Government of India under No.119/44/A.G. Coord. of 6th Dec. India Office expects demands from India to arrive within a few days. As demands from India, (which should include R.N. establishments in India, but not Ceylon) have to be co-ordinated in London with those from Ceylon, the Pacific and the two Fleets, information about Naval demands is very urgently required. Pre-fabricated hutting, electric fans, cinematograph apparatus for shore establishments, not previously asked for, mobile canteens and shore laundries are among matters that should be considered besides those mentioned in para. 3 of my 052215 Dec.

2. A demand for air lift for welfare and amenities has been received from India, and is being examined by the Air Ministry.



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27.1.1945.  
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Far East  
Welfare.  
Contd.

3. In addition to initial demands, request that all Naval requirements under Prime Minister's directive may be tabulated and a monthly progress report under each heading sent by air.  
(A.C.N.P. Appd. 2nd S.L. 272255A to C. in C. E.I., C. in C. B.P.F.)



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27.1.1945  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

E Groups. W.3 relieved by W.8 at 2200Z/26.  
H.X. 334 P.C.S. 43.02 58.16 080 10 knots.  
Due to weather and low visibility unable to  
determine number of stragglers.

Halifax section two ships both stragglers.  
W.3 P.C.S. 0200Z/27 43.13 58.57 290 8 knots.  
(S.O. W.3 270210Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

U/B dis- Estimates.  
positions. (N.S.H.Q. 271328Z, Cominch 271605Z.)

S/M LE E.T.D. LE CENTAURE and SCOTT 2nd Feb. C.T.F. 25  
CENTAURE. dispatch 2154/24. Modify Mydis 251632 to Cinclant.  
(N.O.B. Bermuda 271527 to Cominch, Cinclant.)

B.P.F. Admiralty 271611 A to B.A.D., and 022053A.  
Policy Air. See Lion Copy.

ARIADNE. Duty ARIADNE with 7th Flt. hereby terminated.  
Sail to Canal Zone for onward routing to U.K.  
by Compaseafon via route to be designated by  
Admiralty.  
(Cominch 271826Z to Admty.)

Dispositions (1.) (a) Area Scapa RODNEY, BERWICK, DEVONSHIRE,  
of opera- DIADEM, DIDO, MAURITIUS, NORFOLK, CAMPANIA,  
tional units NAIRANA, PREMIER, TRUMPETER, 13 destroyers.  
N. Atlantic. (b) Area Clyde 4 destroyers.  
(c) Area Plymouth 5 destroyers.  
(d) Area Portsmouth WARSPITE, EREBUS, ROBERTS.  
(2) Mediterranean Dispositions.

Gib. to 10 E. ARETHUSA, 1 destroyer.  
10 E. to 20 E. COLOMBO, DELHI, 2 destroyers.  
E. of 20 E. AJAX, AURORA, SIRIUS, UGANDA, NEWFOUNDLAND, CALEDON,  
FORMIDABLE, 9 destroyers.  
(D.O.D. (H) 271914A to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

Australia & New Zealand.

B.P.F. cable Concur that a cable ship is required to work with  
ship. HELVIG, Admiralty Message 231523 \* refers.  
(2) This ship will also be of value for laying  
and repairing telephone and telegraph cables.

(3) Request she be supplied with as much eight-  
core or other suitable sub-aqueous telephone cable as is  
practicable.

(C. in C.B.P.F. 270233Z to Admty.)

\* Cable ship required for use with HELVIG.

/Digest...



534<sup>A</sup>

# TOP SECRET

OUT

**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.)

TOPSECRET

271611A/January.

To: B.A.D.

Date 27/1/45

NAVAL CYPHER (O.T.P.).

From Admiralty

IMPORTANT - GUARD

SALOR 16419. LORSA 25464.

We have laid all our calculations on the table many times and we consider further discussions on the scale of our reserves would be fruitless.

We have calculated our requirements on the best information available to us after 5 years of war and of the conditions under which we work and only time and experience in the Far Eastern Theatre will show whether or not we have calculated correctly in the light of our planned maintenance for this area.

In our view, if there is to be any substantial reduction in our assignments this will be reflected in the scale of the effort we shall be able to bring to bear in the Pacific War.

To assist you in making your case, our reasons for having a higher percentage of unmanned reserve aircraft are:

- (1) Our longer pipe line.
- (2) Our greater dispersal of effort with the war in the Indian Ocean and the continuation of operations against Germany.
- (3) The delay in training pilots to man reserves and form spare carrier groups.
- (4) Dispersed aircraft and ineffective reserves, whatever their nature, show up as a greater proportion when, as in our case, the total numbers of aircraft are small, than they do when the total numbers are much greater, as in the case of the U.S.N.

Every effort is being made to provide spare carrier groups within the resources of our pilots. Owing to the continuance of the German War our home training programme has not been fulfilled, but the pilot situation is steadily improving.

It is readily admitted that our resources will not allow us at first to maintain a comparable sustained attack on Japan to that now built up after 3 years of experience by the U.S.N., but our desire is to fight alongside them to the best of our ability. If our planning is to be yet again completely upset by a fluctuating policy on assignments we shall find it extremely difficult to pull our weight.

C271611A to B.A.D. Jc022053A.

for Hd. of Air Branch (Rex Hse. Ext.65)  
(Approved by First Lord) overleaf/.

P.F.  
hey.



1st Lord  
 1st S.L.(3)  
 D.F.S.L.  
 2nd S.L.  
 5th S.L.  
 V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S.(W)  
 A.C.N.S.(A)(2)  
 Secretary  
 D.C.N.A.E.  
 P.A.S.(S)  
 C.N.R.(M.A.P.)  
 D. of P.(2)  
 D.N.A.O.  
 D.A.W.T.  
 D.A.E.  
 D.A.M.R.  
 N.A. 2nd S.L.(Air)  
 Hd. of M.A.S.  
 Admiral Blake  
 S.A. to 5th S.L.  
 Hd. of Air Branch (A.0010/45)  
 W.D.

ONLY

MMB

The following list of names is for the purpose of identifying the personnel who are to be included in the list of names to be submitted to the Committee on the subject of the names of the members of the Council of the Institute of the Royal Society. The names of the members of the Council of the Institute of the Royal Society are listed in the following order: (1) The names of the members of the Council of the Institute of the Royal Society who are to be included in the list of names to be submitted to the Committee on the subject of the names of the members of the Council of the Institute of the Royal Society. (2) The names of the members of the Council of the Institute of the Royal Society who are to be included in the list of names to be submitted to the Committee on the subject of the names of the members of the Council of the Institute of the Royal Society. (3) The names of the members of the Council of the Institute of the Royal Society who are to be included in the list of names to be submitted to the Committee on the subject of the names of the members of the Council of the Institute of the Royal Society. (4) The names of the members of the Council of the Institute of the Royal Society who are to be included in the list of names to be submitted to the Committee on the subject of the names of the members of the Council of the Institute of the Royal Society. (5) The names of the members of the Council of the Institute of the Royal Society who are to be included in the list of names to be submitted to the Committee on the subject of the names of the members of the Council of the Institute of the Royal Society. (6) The names of the members of the Council of the Institute of the Royal Society who are to be included in the list of names to be submitted to the Committee on the subject of the names of the members of the Council of the Institute of the Royal Society. (7) The names of the members of the Council of the Institute of the Royal Society who are to be included in the list of names to be submitted to the Committee on the subject of the names of the members of the Council of the Institute of the Royal Society. (8) The names of the members of the Council of the Institute of the Royal Society who are to be included in the list of names to be submitted to the Committee on the subject of the names of the members of the Council of the Institute of the Royal Society. (9) The names of the members of the Council of the Institute of the Royal Society who are to be included in the list of names to be submitted to the Committee on the subject of the names of the members of the Council of the Institute of the Royal Society. (10) The names of the members of the Council of the Institute of the Royal Society who are to be included in the list of names to be submitted to the Committee on the subject of the names of the members of the Council of the Institute of the Royal Society.



War Diary.

27.1.1945  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

- Digest 1102 (Extract.) (1) 3 Liberators from Morotai patrol-  
26.1.45. ling this coast daybreak 24th bombed 3 small craft  
Brunei Bay sinking one small coaster and damaging  
2 barges.  
(4) 4 Liberators raided Takao early hours, bombing  
military stores and chemical plant, causing 13 good fires.  
(5) 2 other Cats. bombed Kagenko Barracks and ?(Gxran) Aerodrome  
on northeast coast Formosa, also 1 small coaster anchored south  
of Takao, all with unobserved results: observed 12 freighters  
Keelung and 10 ships whereof 3 large 7 small.  
(6) 3 fighter bombers strafed 2 grounded planes found on  
emergency fields Unat area (corrupt) near Cagayan River mouth  
and 2 sea trucks at ?(Saloxhgub) Harbour: 2 launches and 4 sea  
trucks set afire.  
(10) 41 Liberators bombed Corregidor defences forenoon effecting  
several direct hits, while 2 squadrons Mitchells hit installations  
Cabcalen (corrupt) at southern extremity Bataan Peninsula and  
further formation Mitchells struck defences on Israbao Island at  
southern entrance Manila Harbour. Consolidated with these  
attacks more Liberators hit ?(Caqitdvno), 30 Bostons attacked  
coastal defence ?(Farande) Island in Subic Bay.  
(13) 4 Lightnings swept Palawam afternoon 25th destroying 1  
floatplane Puerto Princessa.  
(14) P.T. boats destroyed 4 barges beached northeast coast Cebu  
Island night 25th: single enemy fighter attacked boats off  
?(Boxwm) causing light casualties by near miss.  
(16) 32 Warhawks, 4 Spitfires attacked personnel and supply areas  
northern Halmahera 24th and shot up 1 barge off shore.  
(19) Preliminary report states Bamban River secured and Clark  
Field and capture.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 271147A to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack For 24 hours to 0900Z/27th Jan.  
& sighting Para. A. (1) H.M. ship torpedoed or mined at 0945Z/  
summary. 26th Jan. in 53° 37' N. 05° 24' W. (2) H.M. ships  
U<sup>105</sup> ~~17~~ <sup>2nd</sup> AYLNER and CALDER attacked U-Boat on surface at  
1509Z/26th Jan. in 53° 29' N. 05° 21' W.  
Para. B. (1) A/C V/59 obtained A.S.V. contact at  
0954Z/26th Jan. in 54° 58' N. 05° 39' W. and further contact in  
same position at 1050Z/26th Jan. (2) A/C with S.C. 165 sighted  
disappearing object possibly Snort at 0930Z/26th Jan. in 53° 55' N.  
24° 07' W.  
Reference A.M. 261114A para. C (1) sighting cancelled.  
(D.D.I.C. 271117A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B dis- Estimates.  
positions. (D.D.I.C. 271440A, 271441A.)



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28.1.1945.  
Sunday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORTHome Commands

North Sea.

1(a) Another mine has been detonated off Yarmouth, and 4 off the Schelde.  
(b) The prisoners from the midget SEEHUND U-Boat on the Scroby Sands have stated that she was one of 3 to sail from Ymuiden on January 21st for the Yarmouth area, that they fired a torpedo which missed on the 22nd, grounded on Scroby 23rd, and scuttled 27th, and that Ymuiden held 20 SEEHUNDE when they left. This leaves two outstanding, one of which may have been sunk by M.L. 153 on January 24th.

Western Approaches.

2. 21st Escort Group joined 5th Escort Group in hunting the U-Boat S.W. of Bardsey Is. which yesterday torpedoed RUBEN DARIO and SOLAR. 23 attacks were delivered during the night and three more during today. Much diesel oil, bits of wreckage, and yellow rubber dinghies have come to the surface, and S.O. E.G.5 is confident of a kill. SOLAR has been beached in Oxwich Bay.

Norway.

3. C.S.10 in DIADEM with MAURITIUS detected 3 destroyers steering S. off Indre Sulen, by radar, at 0050, and shortly after sighted them at 20,000 yards. Enemy turned back to the northward and the action devolved into a chase of the destroyers to the protection of their shore batteries in Aspo Fjord after 1½ hours. Fires were observed in 2 of the enemy as well as hits on the third, but they maintained their speed and reached port. DIADEM suffered upper deck damage and 3 casualties, MAURITIUS a hole in her side 6 ft. by 4 ft., and one casualty.

Foreign StationsMediterranean

Adriatic.

4. 16 Beaufighters with 4 Mustangs scored rocket hits on guns and explosive motor boat anchorage at Lussinpiccolo. 5 boats were damaged.



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28.1.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Dutch S/M  
O.19.

5(a) H.N.M.S/M O.19 on patrol east of Batavia on 9th January attacked and claims to have sunk a 3,000 ton escorted merchant ship. O.19 sustained considerable interior damage during ensuing counter-attack.

(b) On 3rd January S/M O.19 successfully laid 40 mines.

Burma.

6. Shipping was attacked in the central and southern Burma area. 3 coasters and a passenger vessel were set on fire, a cargo ship and another passenger vessel were hit with rockets and a large number of river craft were damaged.

Sumatra.

7. 4 Liberators laid mines off north of Sumatra.

Australia and New Zealand

Movement.

8. AUSTRALIA arrived at Sydney (N.S.W.) from Manus.



28.1.1945  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Minesweeping Acoustic mine detonated by sweeper 12° 3 Buoy, 8  
off E.Coast. cables at 0955A.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 281025A to Admty.)  
Reference F.O.I.C. Yarmouth's 281025A.  
(a) 0955/28th January acoustic.  
(b) P formation, M.M.S. 1018, 1041. (c) 2½ cables. (d) M.M.S.  
1018 330° 3 Buoy 3 cables course 187°. (e) Red 055° 11 cables.  
(h) Probably E-Boat lay night 24/25th January. (i) -  
(j) None. (k) Following sea 4-5. (l) Scale one. (m) Low plume.  
(Com. M/S and P. Lowestoft 281642A to C. in C. Nore.)

Patrols. On completion patrol a.m. 29th anchor Yarmouth  
Road and assume emergency destroyer returning  
Sheerness on completion patrol a.m. 30th.  
(D.21 281155A to BLENCATHRA.)

Nore patrol night 28/29th January.  
(1) 12 RIOU with coastal force 14 TALYBONT 16 RETALICK with  
coastal force 18 HAMBLEDON 19 THORNBOROUGH, SLAZAK with coastal  
force 21 GUILLEMOT.  
(2) Coastal force unit 6 F.C. 6, 5 F.C. 5, 4 F.C. 4, 3 F.C. 3, 1  
F.C. 1.  
(V.A. Dover 281426A to Dover Command.)

Night dispositions Sunday 28th January.  
Humber Force. (Group 2) Harbour CAICOS. Harwich Force. (Group 3)  
Patrols 3 FARNDALE 5 SHEARWATER 6 WIDGEON 12 RIOU 14 TALYBONT  
16 RETALICK 18 HAMBLEDON 19 THORNBOROUGH and SLAZAK 21 GUILLEMOT.  
(Group 4) Harbour EGLINTON, ARENDAL, COTSWOLD, MACKAY, SOUTHDOWN,  
CURZON, RUTHERFORD, SEYMOUR, STAYNER, KITTIWAKE, MALLARD, PUFFIN.  
Sheerness Force. (Group 5) T.A.M. 63 HAYDON, FERNIE A.T.M. 48  
PYTCHLEY, MIDDLETON T.A.P. 28 VANQUISHER.  
Patrols 1 BLANKNEY 2 VESPER 4 BLENCATHRA.  
(Group 6) Harbour BLEASDALE, CATTISTOCK, HOLDERNESS, CUBITT,  
DRUMHELLER, STATICE, SUNFLOWER.  
Arriving p.m. with Channel Convoys. VERSATILE, HOLMES, BADDECK.  
(C. in C. Nore 281705A to Admty.)

Schelde ice. Reference North Sea pilot part 4 (1934) pages 14  
and 15. In view of present exceptional weather  
conditions and vital necessity of keeping river  
Schelde open it is requested that the question of  
the provision of an icebreaker may be reconsidered.  
Your 252116 November, para. 2 not to Com. Belgium refers.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 281300A to Admty.)

Minesweeping Sweeping report for today Sunday.  
of Schelde. Channel from N.F. 18 - N.F. 13 swept LL/SA/NG by  
3 M.Ms. four cables either side of centre line.  
One actuation. 4 acoustic mines detonated in  
positions 51.25.08 N. 03.26.30 E. 51.24.40 N.  
03.22.16 E. 51.23.25 N. 03.23.12 E.  
(2) Channel from N.F. 18 to Bat. swept LL/SA, one actuation,  
negative results. Channel from N.F. 18 TP Pvene swept LL/SA.  
3 actuations, negative results. Further river sweeping abandoned  
on account of ice.  
(Com. M/S Terneuzen 281510A to N.O.I.C. Antwerp.)



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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Minesweeping  
of Schelde.  
(Contd.)

S.H.A.E.F. have asked 21 A.G. and 2nd T.A.F. for their remarks on C. in C. Nore 251942. Meanwhile consider extension of Schelde Balloon Barrage to N.F. 13 might at least reduce accuracy of laying. Only means of providing suitable balloon ships quickly appear to be either to use, (a) drifters etc., intended for barrage between Flushing and Terneuzen or, (b) B.Y.M.S. and M.M.S. patrolling with balloons at night. It is realised that weather may restrict use of balloon barrage and that balloons might reduce efficiency of radar cover. Request your remarks.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 281735A to C. in C. Nore.)

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.

Cositintrep No. 299 part IV.  
Discharge by sea - 24 hours period ending 1600A/  
27th January.

British	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores (incl. coal)	Bulk Pol.	Ammo.
Antwerp	65	139	8,761	7,687	208
Ostend	1,120	-	1,006	-	53
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-
Dieppe	-	-	279	-	-
Caen	-	-	1,038	-	-
Calais	4,669	2	506	-	-
Ghent	-	-	1,190	-	288
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Total	5,854	141	12,780	7,687	549
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U.S. North.					
Antwerp	-	152	19,656	-	-
Cherbourg	-	88	9,770	-	3,316
Le Havre	3,130	356	6,214	-	1,575
Rouen	654	544	6,187	2,133	1,295
Granville	-	-	1,252	-	-
Ghent	-	-	1,855	-	-
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Total	3,784	1,140	44,934	2,133	6,186
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U.S. South.					
Marseilles	-	71	13,857	-	1,184
Port de Bouc	-	-	2,026	-	-
Toubn	-	-	157	-	-
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Total	-	71	16,040	-	1,184
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(S.H.A.E.F. 281530A to Admty., and others.)

Midget U/B  
on Scroby  
Sands.

Following from preliminary interrogation of two prisoners captured off Yarmouth p.m. 27 January generally graded B.3:-  
(a) Three SEEHUND midget U-Boats (A.G.M. 253 refers) left Ymuiden at 1500/21 Jan. for an

/operational...



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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Midget U/B on Scroby Sands. (Contd.) operational area off Yarmouth.  
(b) They carried standard armament of two torpedoes and had orders to attack shipping.  
(c) Prisoners' SEEHUND arrived in operational area midday 22 January, fired a torpedo which missed target on night of 22/23 January. Stranded on a sandbank in bad visibility on night 23/24 January. Tried unsuccessfully to get off at high-water and scuttled p.m. 27 January.  
(d) Prisoners do not know whether second torpedo detonated when boat was scuttled. Comment. It is thought unlikely that the torpedo would have detonated.  
(e) When scuttled SEEHUND had just sufficient fuel remaining to return to base.  
(f) Prisoners state twenty SEEHUNDE were in Ymuiden when they left.  
(2) Crew of SEEHUND is two (B.1). F.O.I.C. Yarmouth's 271748A (not to all) refers.  
(3) Endurance possibly slightly more than estimated in A.G.M. 253 (B.2.)  
(4) No evidence of fate of other two SEEHUNDE but one may have been sunk by M.L. 153 on 24 January. (D.N.I. 281549A to C. in C. Nore.) *See also DNI. 311510A.*

Military Situation Report. In Western Holland enemy bridgehead at Capelle slightly reduced; unsuccessful attempt made to land rafts to East but enemy forced to withdraw. In Alsace enemy attitude changed suddenly to defensive with evidence 21 Panzer Division withdrawing. This possibly due to requirements for divisions in East or to build up tactical reserve if 6th S.S. Panzer Army moving to Russia. Defensive attitude certainly symptomatic of change in enemy's strategic position and plans. Not now credible that 6th S.S. Army is staying West. Consider deterioration Russian situation such that it may well be moving East. If this is so enemy will require to regroup part of his remaining armour and likely Cologne sector at present weakly held by infantry will be reinforced. (S.H.A.E.F. 281645 to War Office and others.)

Operations.

Channel.

Patrols. Detach at Z Buoy and proceed to patrol as in my 231601. (C. in C. Portsmouth 281143A to S.O.E.G. 26.) On completion of previous duties sail so as to arrive Z Buoy by 2100A/28th January and patrol area limits. A. Route E. B. Q.Z.S. 673. C. 50° 00' N. D. Q.Z.S. 636. (C. in C. Portsmouth 281256A to SPRAGGE, WALDEGRAVE.)

/Night...



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Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Patrols.  
(Contd.)

Night patrol 28/29th January as in my 231601A.  
(2) Arrange patrol so as to cover convoy E.W.L. S.O. escort THUNDER leaving Cherbourg 1900/28th to 50° 00' N.  
(3) Cover convoy W.E.L. S.O. escort EISNER from 50° 00' N. to Cherbourg. Convoy E.T.A. 50° 00' N. 0030/29th January.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 281258A to S.O.E.G. 26.)

Section 11. (13) M.L. 112 - 5 M.Ls. 243 Trevoise 18' to Appledore  
12. (14) NEWBORN, TOWY, ST. HELENA - Lundy 1800 to patrol Tintagel Head to St. Agnes Head. (15) NAPOLEON "A" 30th E.G. (Div. 1) - 2 ships patrolling Pendeen to Lizard. (16) GLADSTONE "A" 2nd E.G. (Div. 1) - 3 ships patrolling Portland Bill to Start. (17) GLADSTONE "B" 2nd E.G. (Div. 11) - 13 ships patrolling Start to Lizard. (18) 2 coasters northbound, 1 coaster southbound off north Cornish coast.

(C. in C. Plymouth 281420A to Admty., C. in C. Portsmouth.)

My 261512A. (1) Following are amended arrangements. Only 2 ships of each group will lay over at one period. 1st and 2nd pairs of 2nd E.G. on dates arranged for 1st and 2nd Division. 3rd pair February 2nd 30th E.G. retard dates 2 days.

(2) S.O. E.G. 2 detach two ships to enter Plymouth at 1300A/29, present patrols to be continued with 2 ships on each.

(C. in C. Plymouth 281543A to S.O.E.Gs. 2, 30.)

Day patrol 29th January as in my 231601A.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 281835A to S.O.E.G. 26.)

Operations.

West Coast France.

German Forces in Biscayan Ports. For lack of equipment, Maquis forces are unable to mop up four pockets of Germans, numbering in all about 100,000 men, distributed along France's Atlantic coast.

These Germans are bottling up five out of France's seven big Atlantic ports. The waterways to Bordeaux (which is undamaged), La Rochelle, La Pallice, Lorient and Nantes, are all barred. Only Brest and Bayonne are open to Atlantic traffic.

The French are fighting single-handed on this forgotten front. The Maquis are about equal in numbers to the Germans and are containing them. But the Frenchmen were armed and trained only as guerrillas. "Concrete cannot be tackled when you have nothing but machine-guns," says General de Larminat.

The force has provoked some sharp local fighting, but it can do nothing of strategic importance until it receives weapons fitted to tackle modern defences.

At present, the Supreme Allied Commander reckons that its needs are less important than those on other fronts.

There are about 25,000 Germans at Lorient and in the Quiberon peninsula. At Saint Nazaire the enemy force numbers about 35,000. This pocket consists of a belt of territory 15 miles wide, running 30 miles north and 20 miles south of the Loire estuary. It includes the island of Noimoutier and Belle Ile.

/La Rochelle...



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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

West Coast France.

German Forces  
in Biscayan  
Ports.  
(Contd.)

La Rochelle pocket, which is 40,000 strong, stretches beyond the mouth of the Charente and down to Royan on the Gironde, taking in Ile d'Oleron and Ile de Re.

The garrisons communicate by launch. They consist mainly of anti-aircraft units reinforced by submarine crews and other naval personnel, and by some former Customs men. Their strength lies in their excellent equipment. They are commanded by General Farmbacher, who joined them after a last-minute escape from Brest. (Observer Newspaper 28.1.1945.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

RUBEN DARIO  
and SOLOR  
torpedoed:  
U/B hunt.

Your 272235 addressed E.G.C.7 SUPERMAN has SOLOR in tow and is proceeding unescorted to Milford Haven. All ships 21st E.G. are diverted to E.G.5. (S.O.E.G. 21 280007A to C. in C. W.A.) C. in C. W.A. 271535 E.G. 5 and E.G. 21 hunting in area enclosed by circle 10 miles radius position 52° 21' N. 05° 44' W.

Request you will divert as necessary keeping C. in C. W.A. informed.

(S.O.E.G. 5 280013A to FOWEY, RUNNYMEDE, LOCH TULLA, HART.)

My 272055 contact was temporarily lost but regained by search at 2200. One further hedgehog and 22 attacks carried out. Diesel oil now covering large area. E/S trace obtained by type 761 show object about 24 feet high and 200 feet long (?Friday). Position is buoyed and contact will be held until daylight. 21st E.G. carried extended observant.

(S.O.E.G. 5 280117A to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 272235A. LANARK and ZAMALEK complying expected time of arrival SOLOR 0830A.

(S.O.E.G. C.7 280205 to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 280007. Requested estimated P.C.S. of SOLOR. Am closing her with rescue ship to re-embark crew.

(LANARK 280415Z to S.O.E.G. 21.)

E.T.A. 1800A rescue ship ZAMALEK in company 5 cot cases one walking one mental case. Rescue ship requires 60 tons fresh water on arrival. Report of survivors follows.

(LANARK 281130Z to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

M.T. SOLOR ex H.X. 332 torpedoed and towed to off St. Ann's Head by STORM KING.

On examination by shore staff at 1000/28th vessel found to be holed in engine room. Stern and after deck under water, draft aft 40 feet. Ship liable to sink without warning owing to the state of tide at that time and draft of vessel. Entry into Milford Haven was considered to be too hazardous owing to danger of obstructing fairway and, no suitable beach being available till the evening high tide, after consultation with N.O.I.C. Swansea, STORM KING was instructed to proceed with tow to Oxwich Bay for beaching, SOUTHERN BREEZE escorting, wind north 4, sea 2, visibility 7.

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 281211A to C. in C. W.A.)



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Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Western Approaches.

RUBEN DARIO A.F.O. 2901/41:- (a) Rescue ship ZAMALEK.  
and SOLOR (b) SOLOR. (c) 1. (d) 6. (e) 10. (f) 23.  
torpedoed: (n) 40. (o) 30 Norwegian, 2 Swedish, 3 Canadian  
U/B hunt. and 1 British. (p) 3 Norwegian, 1 Canadian.  
(Contd.) Of a total crew of 44 persons, 4 were killed in  
the explosion. The killed were 3 Norwegians and  
1 British.

(LANARK 281307Z to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Contact in my 280117 regained by TYLER at source of oil streak,  
characteristics confirmed by E(?)'s trace. 3 further attacks  
have produced still more diesel oil and small bits of wreckage  
unidentified owing to darkness. Position 52° 21' N. 05° 44.5' W.  
has been buoyed KEATS and TYLER remaining in contact all night.  
(2) BLIGH, GRINDALL and KEMPTHORNE with M.H. 7 in 52° 11'  
05° 21' speed 7 knots. Suitable. My 282230 follows.  
(S.O.E.G. 5 282130A to C. in C. W.A.)

My 282130 consider U-Boat destroyed. KEATS sighted yellow  
inflated rubber dinghies approx. (4?) feet by 3 feet and oil  
still coming up. They were not recovered owing to difficulties  
in holding contact. KEATS and TYLER remaining in vicinity.

(S.O.E.G. 5 282230A to C. in C. W.A.)

Patrols &  
escorts.

It is considered that the problem of escorting  
B.B. and M.M. convoys would be simplified if all  
the trawler escorts were under one administrative  
authority. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is therefore  
requested to detail four A/S trawlers for trans-  
ference temporarily to Liverpool Trawler Force.

(C. in C. W.A. 281131A to F.Os. i/c Milford Haven, Liverpool.)

S.O. 5th E.G. assume duties of Force 38 forthwith.

(2) 21st E.G. if not in contact proceed forthwith and form Force  
36.

(3) W.A.G.M. 150 N Paras. 1 and 5 refer.

(C. in C. W.A. 281316A to S.O.E.Gs. 5, 21.)

Force 38 E.G. 5 BLIGH (S.O.) 4 frigates general area St.  
Georges Channel. E.G. 6 NEW WATERFORD 3 frigates supporting  
U.C. 54A.

Force 36 E.G. 21 CONN 4 frigates Central Irish Sea.

Force 37 E.G. 3 DUCKWORTH (S.O.) ROWLEY North Irish Sea.

E.G. 22 HART 4 escorts supporting C.U. 55 add to my 281202 and  
amend K.M.F.C. 39 for DUCKWORTH read BERRY for "after R/V" read  
"After 10° W."

(C. in C. W.A. 281428A to Admty.)

C.T.G. 61.2 is requested to detach 6th E.G. on crossing 07°  
W. 6th E.G. then to rejoin Force 38.

(C. in C. W.A. 282130A to S.O.E.G. 6, C.T.G. 61.2.)

Your 281316 21st E.G. detached at 1515.

(2) Am proceeding with BLIGH, KEMPTHORNE and GRINDALL to support  
M.H. 7 joining about 2100.(3) KEATS and TYLER remaining in area to search rejoining me on  
passing.

(S.O.E.G. 5 281649A to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 281316A not to all addressees acknowledged. Proceeding  
with 21st E.G. to support B.B. 6 at approx. 2130A in 53° 10' N.  
transferring to M.H. 7 in 52° 40' N.

(2) Expect BYRON to join me 0300A/29th. R/V has been passed  
direct.

(S.O.E.G. 21 281750A to C. in C. W.A.)

/Following...



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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Patrols & escorts. (Contd.) Following provisional movements of support groups are intended.  
(1) On completion of short rest 1500/29th, 4th E.G. to leave Belfast Lough and join Force 38.  
(2) On relief by 4th E.G. 5th E.G. to Belfast Lough for short rest subsequently joining Force 36.  
(3) On completion of training p.m. 29th 15th E.G. to fuel at Bangor and subsequently relieve 3rd E.G. in Force 37. On relief 3rd E.G. to Belfast for lay over.  
(4) On completion of training 31st E.G. to join Force 36 2nd February. On relief 21st E.G. to Belfast for lay over.  
(5) 6th E.G. to remain in Force 38.  
(6) On completion of present escort duty 22nd E.G. to join Force 37. (7) W.A.G.M. 150 N paras. 1 and 5 refer.  
(C. in C. W.A. 281928A to W.A. Command.)

Supplementary small craft for local patrols. It has been approved to suspend the closing down of the Coastal Force Base at Milford Haven and to retain temporarily sufficient personnel and equipment to maintain one flotilla of B type M.Ls. C. in C. W.A.'s 160002 refers.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 282156A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

E.Gs. 4 & 5. F.O.I.C. N.I. is requested to sail 4th E.G. at 1500/29th to join Force 38. E.T.A. 52° 40' N. to be reported.  
(2) At that time 5th E.G. if not in contact is to detach from Force 38 and proceed to Belfast Lough for fuel and short rest.  
(C. in C. W.A. 282331A to F.O.I.C. N.I., S.O.E.G. 5.)

E.Gs. 3 & 15. On completion of training p.m. 29th T.C. PHILANTE is requested to sail 15th E.G. to Bangor for fuel.  
(2) F.O.I.C. N.I. is requested to sail 15th E.G. at 0900/31st to join Force 37.  
(3) Orders for detaching 3rd E.G. to lay over at Belfast will be signalled later.  
(C. in C. W.A. 282334A to T.C. PHILANTE, F.O.I.C. N.I., S.O.E.G.3)

Operations.

Norway.

Coastal strike by DIADEM & MAURITIUS. An engaging 3 destroyers in position 180° ?Dvak 23 (based on a fix.)  
(DIADEM 280050A to A.C.O.S.)  
My 0050. Am chasing enemy to the northward. Some hits.  
(DIADEM 280122A to A.C.O.S.)

My 0122. Enemy has retired into Aspo Fjord under cover of shore batteries. Several hits observed on all destroyers but their speed not reduced. My P.C.S. 61° 04' N. 04° 10' E. 270° 24 knots. 1 hit each ship, 1 killed and 2 wounded in DIADEM and 1 wounded in MAURITIUS.  
(C.S. 10 280230A to C. in C.H.F.)

/If...



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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway.

Coastal strike If not in touch with enemy return to base passing by DIADEM & East of Shetlands.  
MAURITIUS. (C. in C. H.F. 280443A to C.S. 10.)  
(Contd.) Enemy were detected by radar in position 60° 45' N. 04° 07' E. steering to southward, and were sighted at distance of 10 miles 010° from cruisers immediately afterwards. Cruisers were turned towards and opened fire at 0055. Enemy replied one minute later, turning to eastward and shortly after to north. Action then became a chase and lasted until enemy entered Aspo Fjord at 0220. Early in chase 2 fires were observed in 2 enemy ships and hits on the third. Enemy fire was accurate at times and shore batteries took a hand towards the end. Shortest range achieved was 8,000 yards. Enemy made continuous smoke which made observation difficult and maintained speed of 30 knots throughout action, torpedoes passed close to both cruisers. MAURITIUS has one hole in ship's side 6 feet by 4 feet, DIADEM has some damage on upper deck.

(C.S. 10 280949A to C. in C. H.F.)

Scapa arrival C.S. 10 in DIADEM with MAURITIUS.  
(A.C.O.S. 281450A to C. in C. H.F.)

Operation Ramose Tense. Sailed VIGRA at 0719A/28th January.  
"S.C." (2) Air escort not especially required on return journey.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 280719A to A.C.O.S.)

Patrols. From 2100A/30th January patrol 5 miles 000° and 180° from centre of patrol line.  
(2) Leave patrol 0400A/31st January and return to Lerwick by reverse of outward route on surface at C.O. discretion.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 281034A to TACITURN.)

Operation (1) 1100A/29th January. (2) Not later than 2100A/  
"V.P. 79" 30th January. Intend to carry out "V.P. 79" with 1 whaler and 2 M.T.Bs.  
(3) M.T.Bs. leave coast not later than 0900A/2nd February. (4) (a) Whaler from P.2 63° 10' N. 05° 20' E. through P.1 63° 00' N. 03° 00' E. thence 213° toward Noss Head at approx. speed of 13 knots. Estimate whaler leave P. 2 not later than 1800A/30th January. (b) M.T.Bs. return from P.3 63° 10' N. 07° 17' E. through P.2 thence 224° toward Noss Head not more than 20 knots. (5) (a) Whaler not later p.m. 31st January. (b) M.T.Bs. not later p.m. 4th February. (6) No. (7) No. (8) (a) Whaler 033° Noss Head Bressay. (b) M.T.Bs. 044° Noss Head Bressay. (9) No.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 281459A to A.C.O.S.)

From Noss Head to P.1. My 281459A. (1) Whaler and M.T.Bs. 033° 58' 00' N. 03° 00' E. thence 081° to P.2 63° 10' N. 05° 20' E. thence M.T.B. alone 081° to P.3 63° 10' N. 07° 17' E. Not more than 10 knots to P.2 and not more than 20 knots from P.2 to P.3. (2) 63° 10' N. 07° 17' E. (3) Blank.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 281501A to A.C.O.S.)



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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Russian S.Cs. It has been decided not to sail Russian S.Cs. for non-operational North Russia until weather conditions improve in March or April. My 251325 December refers. in Scotland. (2) Owing to breakdowns already experienced and lack of spares in U.K., Soviet Naval Mission does not agree to S.Cs. being employed on operations before sailing.

(3) C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange 6 to be berthed at Roseneath.

(4) C. in C. Rosyth is requested to berth remaining 10 vessels in the Firth of Forth where supervision and reasonable naval amenities can be given, arranging passage with C. in C. W.A. as convenient. My 261719 December and C. in C. Rosyth's 201551 refer.

(A.C.N.S.(H) 281402A to Cs. in C. W.A. Rosyth.)

Convoys C. in C. H.F. 231954 amended by 271932 para. 5D J.W., R.A.64. Capt. (D) 17 in ONSLOW with ZEBRA, para. 6 SERAPIS, STORD detailed, para. 7 ZEBRA will sail with the convoy.

(2) Capt. (D) 17 in ONSLOW is to return to Scapa independently after the conference.

(R.A.D.H.F. 281856A to D.17, ONSLOW, ZEBRA, STORD, SERAPIS.)

Anti-Schnorkel A.M. 191616 December and my 041555 first part of obstructions. laying completed today Sunday between positions 61° 12' N. 01° 00' W. and 61° 17' N. 01° 00' W. (A.C.O.S. 282304 to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Non-inspection Your 232129. No change of heart as yet despite of U.250. our gesture in respect of midget submarine, torpedo only being the attitude. Judged by normal standards this is quite incomprehensible and can only hazard a guess that some political slant is responsible.

(2) On his return am asking Ambassador if he can help.

(3) Preliminary conversations with Soviet experts commenced. Collingwood and party expect to leave for Leningrad 31st Jan. to examine torpedo.

(4) Yeo left at Teheran due to lack of accommodation in aircraft and as weather has intervened since he is still there.

(5) Russians showing an interest in "Oyster" mines. Trust there will be no release of this till they supply the stout (U.250 brand) (Adm. Archer 281106A to Admty.)

/NÜRNBERG...



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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence - Contd.

NÜRNBERG  
cruiser.

Report graded A.2 states German cruiser NÜRNBERG arrived Copenhagen p.m. 27th January. Comment. NÜRNBERG was last reported in Oslo Fjord and may be on passage to the East Baltic. (D.D.I.C. 281942A to Cs. in C. at home, A.N.C.X.F., Cominch, N.A. Stockholm, Ad. Archer (Moscow), H.Q.C.C., H.Q.B.C., Comnavu, S.B.N.O. N. Russia, S.B.N.O. Archangel, B.A.D., F.O. S/M, A.C.I.C.)

Casualties & Defects.

SS. CROMARTY.

My 282046A (not to all) SS. CROMARTY anchored Carrick Roads. Midship accommodation burnt out and gutted. Main engines operational hand steering only available. 1 Engineer Officer dead. (ex T.B.C. 50). (E.O.I.C. Falmouth 282244A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Movements.

VALIANT  
battleship.

All times zone minus one. E.T.A. (1) position C 0400/1st February. (2) Point of arrival 0815. (3) Position B in Q.Z.S. 601 at 0930. Request (a) light No. 60 from 0200 to 0500/1st Feb. (b) 3 tugs to meet ship at position (3) of para. 1 considered essential as ship does not handle at slow speed. (VALIANT 280945Z to C. in C. Plymouth.)

TROUBRIDGE,  
TERMAGANT,  
TENACIOUS,  
destroyers.

Intend to sail TROUBRIDGE, TERMAGANT, TENACIOUS to Gibraltar passing Needles 1600A/29th Jan. (2) Routed Q.Z.S. message 631, 629, 662 and route W to position A. 180 Lizard Head 3 miles position 45° N. 10° W. C. 37° 30' N. 10° 01' W. D. 36° N. 08° W. E. 35° 51' N. 06° 10' W. speed 20 knots E.T.A. 0700A/1st February. (C. in C. Portsmouth 281505 to F.O.G.M.A.)

Sheerness January 28th - departure D.24 in TROUBRIDGE at 1530A 2½ hours late on my 272230A owing to non-completion of repairs. Gun trials have not been carried out. (C. in C. Nore 281625A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

DIADEM  
cruiser.

Leave Scapa passing Hoxa at 2230A/1st Feb. Thursday and proceed by standard route to Rosyth arriving Oxcars Gate at 0830/2nd Feb. Friday. (2) Weather permitting speed through water is to be at least 24 knots until south of 58° N.

(3) Pass over deep D.G. range on passage up harbour.  
(4) 10 days leave may be given to each watch subject to concurrence of C. in C. Rosyth. Report is to be forwarded in accordance with H.G.O. 151.  
(5) HAWKINS will be required to arrive Scapa a.m. 25th in consequence.  
(C. in C. H.F. 281857A to DIADEM.)



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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

Forming and disposing of convoys in Western Approaches.

Request Com. 10th Fleet (C. & R.) and N.S.H.Q. may be instructed:

(A) (1) That subject to the limiting proviso of 8 columns mentioned the front should remain as broad as possible until the entrance to the swept channels of the ports is reached. Your 162031A October refers.

(2) That in coastal waters columns should normally be three cables apart and ships in columns two cables.  
(B) That the position of detaching the Loch Ewe section of convoys routed north of Ireland is amended to 8° W. unless otherwise ordered.

(C. in C. W.A., 282237A to Admty.)

B.B. and M.H. Convoys.

Pass to ships concerned. The following revised estimated time-table for B.B. and M.H. convoys will come into force at 0001A/1st Feb. on reverting to use of routes K and A for Irish Sea traffic. My 271316 para. (1) refers.

B.B. Convoys.

Clyde to Barry Roads

(All times local time)

Sails Clyde

2100

54° 57½' N. 05° 33' W.

Joiners from ports to the north.

0600

54° 43' N. 05° 25' W.

Belfast Junction

0800

54° 35' N. 05° 20½' W.

Solway Firth

0900

Ports (inward junction).

53° 46' N. 05° 09' W.

Mersey Junction

1530

K.1 Buoy

(also Lancashire and Solway Firth Ports outward)

Milford Haven Buoy

M.H. Junction

1000

Scarweather

Swansea Junction

1700

Arrive Barry Roads

2000

M.H. Convoys.

Barry Roads to Clyde.

Sails Barry Roads

As requisite

Scarweather

Swansea Junction

As requisite

Milford Haven Buoy

M.H. Junction

1700

(AA) 53° 39' N.

Mersey Junction

1000

04° 52' W.

(also Lancashire and Solway Firth Ports inward).

54° 30' N. 05° 03' W.

Outward Junction

1700

for Solway Firth ports.

54° 42' N. 05° 10' W.

For Belfast

1900

junction.

Arrive Clyde

0530

Routes for ships in these convoys to and from Mersey is direct from the end of the respective swept channels in 4° W. to the convoy junction points.

(2) Cancel time-table in para. (8) of my 192027.

(3) When convoy exceeds 10 ships it is to be formed in three or more columns.

(4) Columns are to be 3 cables apart and ships in columns 2 cables.

(C. in C. W.A., 282239A to Western Approaches Command.)



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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

VALIANT. On crossing 038° 30' N. detach WYE and DOVEY to proceed to Gibraltar.  
(2) Routed through:  
(R) 036° 50' N. 009° 10' W. thence (S) (corrupt group) 51' N. 006° 10' W.  
S.O.A. 15 knots.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 280949A to VALIANT).

MAENAD Sailed from Horta at 0224Z/28th MAENAD and M.M.S.1054 for Plymouth. Routed as in my 251344.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 281048Z to F.O.G.M.A.).

E.G.1. Ships addressed are to form group 1.  
(2) LOWESTOFT as S.O. takes Group 1 under his orders and proceeds at 0900A/29th Jan. to take up patrol "Ba(co?)n".  
(F.O.G.M.A., 281109A to LOWESTOFT, BELLWORT, BERGAMOT).

South Atlantic

NORTHERN ISLES. My 2209024.\* After consultation with civilian salvage experts it is confirmed that ship will be a total loss.  
(C. in C.S.A., 281043B to Admiralty).  
\* Trawler NORTHERN ISLES ran aground while on patrol duty.



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Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean.

ORDRONAUX. Proceeding Malta speed of advance 25 knots, E.T.A. 0900A. Your 272140 refers. (ORDRONAUX, 280107 to V.A. Malta).

Movements. (1) L.S.T.(I) 1021 (?vicinity) position 14 to Taranto 10 knots.  
(2) U.S. L.S.T.(I) 601, 692 vicinity position 136 off shore to Bari (9) knots.  
(4) ANEMONE, WILTON, 4 M.V. 042° 23' 015° 58' northbound 7½ knots.  
(5) BROCKLESBY one M.V. 041° 48' 016° 27' northbound 12 (knots).  
(6) German Hospital ship GRADISCA under safe conduct vicinity 042° 27' 016° 03' northbound 11 knots.  
(F.O.T.A.L.I., 281309 to S. and A area L.D. (Negative) S.N.O. Vis, V.A.M.).

PRINCE DAVID. Request decision regarding port of destination for PRINCE DAVID. Temporary repairs completed and ship is ready for passage my 111408 Jan. refers.  
(C. in C. Med., 281424 to Admiralty).

U-Boat sweep. Refer C. in C. Lant, 261830\* Commencing 1200Z/27 conducted surface Radar sweep 40 miles wide through track of westbound submarine from 61.00 W. to 53.50 W. My 281400Z position 39.42 N. 53.27 W. course 057 speed 14.  
W.X. 3668 0477.  
(C.T.G. 22.4, 281440 to C. in C. Lant).  
\* Weather reporter C.T.G.22.4 after eastward sweep through track of westbound submarine conduct sweep to north eastward.

Destroyer Flotillas. Your 251407 not to C. in C.E.I. ESKIMO and NUBIAN form part of 10th D.F. A.M. 062259 November not to all.  
(D.O.D.(F), 281531A to F.O.L.E.M.).

ARETHUSA, UGANDA. Sail at 1000A 29th to Alexandria. S. of A. 21 knots, adjusting speed as necessary to pass through position 033° 00' N. 024° 20' E. at 1200B 30th for dummy air attack and to R/V. UGANDA in position 032° 20' N. 026° 10' E. at 1700B/30th. (V.A.M and F.O.C. Med., 281820 to ARETHUSA).

Red Cross relief. Your 161205.\* Foreign Office are still considering whether matter should be taken up through Sweeds or through International Red Cross. They have been pressed to take early action. Further signal will be made immediately proposals are put to Germans.  
(Hd. of M. Approved A.C.N.S.(H), 281831A to F.O.L.E.M.).  
\* Request information as to how Red Cross relief scheme is working.

/Intelligence...



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Sunday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Intelligence  
report  
No.161.

Week end January 28th.  
(1) Dodecanese (a) Small German garrison  
believed established Pserimo. Ship movements  
still confined to small lift between Leros and  
Kos. No air activity apart from visit by  
occasional mail aircraft to Rhodes and Crete.

(2) Crete situation unchanged.

(3) Greece. At Piraeus, Salamis and Perama dockyard and slips  
now able accept small craft for repairs Vassiliadis yard able  
to slip destroyer? and undertake foundry work at Salonika  
clearance of port continues.

(F.O.L.E.M., 282056 to N.L.O. Black Sea etc.).

Air  
Cositintrep  
No.567  
Part III.

Cite F.H.G.C.T. F.H.G.B.I. signed Alexander.  
Balkan Air Force. 4 Mustangs flew weather recces.  
16 Beaufighters with 4 Mustangs scored rocket  
hits on guns and explosive motor boat anchorage at  
Lussinpiccolo and 5 boats were damaged.  
(H.Q.M.A.A.F., No T.O.O. to W.O.).



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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

<u>Weekly Situation Report. 8th S/M. Flotilla.</u>	<u>1. Submarine</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Leaves Area</u>
	STURDY	West ?Sunda Strait	28 January
	TANTALUS	North of Banku Island	1 February
	SPITEFUL	Singapore	4 February
	TANTIVY	West Sunda Strait	6 February
	TRADEWIND	*Anambr Islands	10 February
	SPARK	Java Sea	10 February
	(2) ?(On passage from patrol) - SPIRIT.		
	(3) At Fremantle - ZWAARDVISCH, STORM, SIRDAR, TELEMACHUS, O.19. (C.T.F. 71, 280231Z to Admty.)		
	* As received.		

U/B dispositions. No fresh information, scales unchanged.  
(C. in C. E.I.Stn., 280240Z to S. & A. E.I.Stn.)

Dutch S/M O.19. O.19 (D.S.) 3rd Far East patrol. 3rd Jan. successfully laid 40 mines. 5th Jan. East Batavia 4 torpedoes missed unidentified ship. 9th Jan. one torpedo hit on 3,000 ton escorted merchant ship considered sunk, close depth charging in 616 fathom caused extensive interior damage.  
(C. in C. E.I., 280411Z to Admty.)

E.I. dispositions. Changes in East Indies Fleet disposition signal number 136.  
(A) QUEEN ELIZABETH at Trincomalee.  
(B) SHAH at Trincomalee, FENCER (B.P.F.) at Cochin, INDEFATIGABLE, EMPRESS at sea, BEGUM left station, KHEDIVE at Aden, SPEAKER (B.P.F.), SLINGER (B.P.F.) at Aden.  
(C) No change.  
(D) NIGERIA, NEWCASTLE, KENYA at sea.  
(C. in C. E.I., 280547Z to Admty.)

UNICORN. Arrival Colombo 28th Jan. UNICORN, ROCKET.  
Departure B.Y.M.S. 2005.  
(F.O. Ceylon, 281200Z to Admty.)



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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies.

A/S Protection in Trinidad area. Passed to Admiralty for information. Your 271718. Retention of 6 M.Ls. envisaged in ?B.A.Ds. 221735 will serve no useful purpose as these together with available A/S yachts are insufficient to maintain an efficient patrol on 31 miles of loops involved on northern and southern system bulk of which are out of sight of land observation. Unless loops are adequately guarded the system becomes a liability because of unnumerable unidentified loop crossings occurring which cannot be avoided and which leave the defence of the port in constant uncertainty and confusion.

(2) In view of above consider that if loops must be retained Fairmile flotillas should also be retained observing minimum of 10 Fairmiles are needed in addition to A/S yachts to provide two loops patrol groups margin for docking and refits.

(3) Desire to emphasize that whole plan of reduction at Trinidad proposed in my 071145 Dec. and subsequent correspondence is dependent on abolishing loop defence system and replacing by light A/S patrol on commercial anchorage with yachts leaving protection of U.S. unit to their own escorts and A/T net of U.S. fleet anchorage. If these proposals are unacceptable then consider reduction of M.Ls. at Trinidad should be confined to 118 H.D.M.L. Flotilla only.  
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 281059Q+ to S.B.N.O. W. Atlantic, Admty.).  
+ See also 291400.

U-Boat Dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q., 281358Z and Cominch, 281518).

T.G.60.10. T.G.60.10 hereby reconstituted Captain Eulis in SAMPSON, GLADWYNE, NEW BEDFORD, BRUNSWICK, ORLANDO will escort U.G.S.73 departing New York and Hampton Roads 6-7 Feb. for Western Mediterranean. Escorts then to Oran comply Com. 10th Fleet C. and R. 111720Z. Return escorting G.U.S.75 when C. in C. Mediterranean directs. KENNEBEC relieves CHIWAWA as bermuda tanker 15th Feb. C.T.G. 29.9 in CHEMUNG eastern terminus oiler until relieved by ELOKOMIN about 26th Feb.  
(C. in C. Lant, 281454Z to C.T.G.,60.10).

Royal Navy Aircraft programme suggestions. For Sinclair from Self. (R.A.F.D.E.L., Washington, 281610Z Air Ministry Whitehall).

A.F.D.32. Towage of A.F.D.32. Provided arrangements referred to in A.M. 201949 can be made request you will give 30 days notice as desired by U.S. Authorities of requirement at San Juan P.R. of up to:  
(a) 400 tons U.S. Navy Special Furnace Oil.  
(b) 1100 tons U.S. Navy Diesel Oil.  
(2) My 202000 and F.O.C.W.Af., 240945 also refer.  
(D.O.D.(F), 281739A to B.A.D.).

/U.S....



28.1.1945.  
Sunday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies - Contd.

U.S. Naval Mission to Chile. Chile have agreed in principle to accept a U.S. Naval Mission. Apparently this decision was taken after discussions held for Inter-American Defence Board to achieve interchange ability of essential weapons of war in the Americas, and to ensure that none of the American Countries would be dependent on extra-hemispherical sources for military supplies. Report follows by air mail. (B.N.A. Washington, 281741Z to D.N.I.).

Australia and New Zealand

B.P.F. (docking). Admiralty Letter D. 0210741/44 of 7.7.44 and A.C.N.Bs. 1860/2/132 of 10.11.44. Request immediate information whether Fleet Carriers can be docked in Cairncross Dock, Brisbane and if so in what condition.

(2) Request very early reply to my 120115 with particular reference to Battleships and Fleet Carriers. (V.A.(Q) B.P.F., 280135Z to Admiralty etc.).

Bomb supplies B.P.F. Examination shows that number of 500 pound M.C. bombs available from British sources is likely to be insufficient for British Pacific Fleet to carry out sustained operations until shipments recently ordered have arrived from U.K.

(2) Could 5000 bombs be made available for U.S. stocks for British Pacific Fleet to tide over this period, if possible from a depot in Australia. (Com. in C. B.P.F., 280259Z to C. in C. Pac.);

Digest 1103 28.1.45 extract. (1) Before dawn Navy Catalina saw 3 destroyers 7 unidentified ships heading south between Pescadores and Formosa. Catalina attacked one destroyer with unknown results.

(4) Afternoon 12 Bostons dropped 5 tons of bombs on Aparri dockyard and jetty areas silencing several machine gun pits. During day Thunderbolts strafed small craft along Cagayan River South of Aparri and in Salomague Harbour. Forenoon that day 7 Lightnings strafed 14 grounded aircraft at Tuguegarao damaging 6, also destroying ammunition and fuel dumps and setting barracks ablaze. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 281043Z to Admiralty).



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FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

- B.P.F. Ammunition supply for B.P.F. has been examined in  
ammunition. the light of the following.
- (A) Expected scale of expenditure is 5,000 tons monthly at first.
  - (B) Expenditure will increase to 10,000 tons a month after July.
  - (C) Not intended to use Manus as an intermediate base as it is too far from operations.
  - (D) Most unlikely shore storage can be offered by Americans anywhere certainly not at Manus.
- (2) Intention is to base A.S.I.S. at intermediate base probably in Philippines sending them to advanced anchorage to replenish ships.
- (3) To carry adequate stock 15 A.S.I.S. total capacity 30,000 tons are required plus two for docking and refit total 17.
- (4) In addition 10,000 tons floating or shore transit storage at intermediate base is essential see B.N.L:P. report and paragraph 13 of enclosure K of Wedlake's report dated 9th August 1944.
- (5) Alternative methods of providing this are:
- (a) L.S.Ts. converted for handling ammunition. This method is being considered by United States Navy.
  - (b) N.L. pontoon units or dumb lighters.
  - (c) Shore magazines. The alternative chosen must be that which can be made available most quickly.
- (6) Self propelled craft of capacity about 100 tons each are essential for clearing Carriers to transit storage and replenishing A.S.I.S. It is not practicable to clear Carriers direct to A.S.I.S.
- (7) Final requirements self propelled craft 18 see R.A.F.T. 271102.\* Immediate requirement 8 which until provision of transit storage must clear Carriers and distribute to A.S.I.S. Also essential for replenishing aircraft carriers which cannot take A.S.I.S. alongside.
- (8) To maintain supplies from Eastern Australia to intermediate base 14 Carriers are required assuming load to 2000 tons per ship with selective stowage. Request this number may be available by July.
- (9) The most pressing requirement is for self propelled craft. Paragraph 6 above United States Navy now using L.C.Ts. request these may be sent if possible. Provision of Island auxiliary schooners as temporary expedient is being investigated.
- (10) In order that operations shall not be delayed adequate working parties for handling ammunition are required at intermediate base and to back up A.S.I.S. crews. This is being raised separately in conjunction with other services.
- (11) Above ammunition supply requirements will be included in a full general statement of requirements now being worked out. (C. in C.B.P.F., 280311Z to Admiralty, (R) V.A.Q., R.A.F.T., A.C.N.B., D.D.A.S.E.T., C. in C.E.I.).
- \*Not yet identified in War Reg.



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Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M. attack For 24 hours to 0900Z/28th January.  
and sighting Para.(A).(1) RUBEN DARIO and SOLAR (H.X.332)  
summary. torpedoed before 1140Z/27th Jan. in 52.35 N.  
05.18 W. former proceeding latter in tow.  
(2) E.G.5 attacked contact with hedgehog and depth  
charges from 1955Z/27th Jan. to 0017Z/28th Jan. in 52.20 N.  
05.44 W.  
(3) A/C J/1693 sighted periscope wake probably friendly  
submarine at 1220Z/27th Jan. in 58.45 N. 03.55 W.  
Para. (B) (1) A/C S/210 sighted dark smoke on surface at 1350Z  
27th Jan. in 59.41 N. 02.21 W.  
(2) E.G.6, investigated bottom contact probably non-submarine  
at 1525Z/27th Jan. in 51.35 N. 05.41 W.  
Para.(C) (1) A/C M/304 reported two snorts course 120° at 1613Z  
27th Jan. in 56.03 N. 06.55 W.  
(2) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 0025Z/28th Jan. in 57.24 N.  
08.36 W.  
Para.(D) (1) A/C O/210 obtained A.S.V. contact and sighted  
possible periscope at 0055Z 27th Jan. in 57.00 N. 09.08 W.  
(2) A/C. O/210 obtained further A.S.V. contacts at 0305Z 27th  
Jan. in 57.45 N. 08.10 W. 0428Z 27th Jan. in 57.06 N. 08.59 W.  
0620Z/27th Jan. in 56.58 N. 09.00 W. and 0635Z/27th Jan. in  
56.20 N. 09.03 W.  
(3) A/C G/53 obtained A.S.V. contact at 2026Z 26th Jan. in  
59.38 N. 26.37 W.  
(D.D.I.C., 281115Z to Cominch, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

U-Boat Estimates.  
dispositions. (D.D.I.C., 281321A and 281322 to Cominch etc.).



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Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

- North Sea. 1. Two mines were cut off Harwich.
- Channel. 2. One mine was cut off Boulogne.
- Norway. 3. NAIRANA and CAMPANIA, escorted by BERWICK, carried out Operation "Winded" off Sildegabet. Their aircraft hit and damaged 5 or possibly 4 merchantmen, setting one on fire and probably driving another ashore. They also attacked lighthouses and gun sites. We had no casualties.
- 62°13N  
5°39'E
- Baltic. 4. The Danish steamer ELLIE is reported mined off Gdynia as a result of our aerial minelaying.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

- Gulf of Genoa. 5. Minesweepers northward of Leghorn have been shelled by shore batteries.
- Adriatic. 6. Partisan authorities attitude amicable but still have no knowledge of Naval agreement.
- Greece. 7. Situation quiet.

East Indies

- Burma. 8. 5 Beaufighters, 10 Hurricanes and 4 Spitfires set two coasters and seven other craft on fire, scored R.P. hits on one passenger and one cargo steamer and many river-craft in central and southern Burma.

/Sumatra ...



War Diary.29.1.1945.  
Monday.SITUATION REPORTEast Indies - Contd.

Sumatra.

"Meridian"

9(a) Today aircraft from INDOMITABLE (R.A.(A) B.P.F.), ILLUSTRIOUS, INDEFATIGABLE and VICTORIOUS again attacked oil refineries at Palembang. A preliminary report claims good results. Fifteen of our aircraft are missing but eight of the crews were saved. During an attack by enemy aircraft on ILLUSTRIOUS one officer and 11 ratings were killed and seven ratings injured. In the attack on the Soeng Gerong distilling plant 48 Avengers, 12 Fireflies and 40 fighters were used. 24 fighters swept enemy airfields. In the fighter opposition 8 Jap. planes were shot down with 3 probables and 4 were destroyed on the ground. Seven enemy aircraft got through to the Fleet. 6 being shot down. ILLUSTRIOUS was hit in the island by a shell from our own forces - casualties 12 killed, 21 wounded. Fighter opposition was less than previous strike, our losses 15 aircraft but eight crews recovered.

(b) Last night 4 Liberators laid sea mines N.E. Sumatra.

Australia and New Zealand

Movement.

10. HOWE arrived Sydney (N.S.W.) from Manus.

Formosa.

11. A Liberator sank two coasters and set fire to two more off Ishigaki Jima (N.E. of Formosa).

Philippines.

12(a) Four U.S. Thunderbolts destroyed one small freighter in Cagayan River (N. Luzon).

(b) Highly successful daylight sweep conducted today by Lingayan-based P.Ts. (M.T.Bs.) co-operating with Mustangs at San Fernando destroying 10 barges, 2 luggers, 10 suicide speed boats, starting fires in 3 fuel dumps. Also Mindoro-based P.Ts. destroyed 29 small craft in Batangas Bay.



War Diary.

29.1.1945.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of United Kingdom.

Reduction of gun defences. A.M. 070046 January. Approval has been given to reduce one 6 pdr. twin at Drake's Island to care and maintenance. (D. of L.D., 292249A to C. in C. Plymouth).  
A.M. 07022A January and your 101505 January. Approval has been given to reduce the six inch batteries at Stanger and Stromness to care and maintenance. Coast artillery searchlights will remain operational at both places. (D. of L.D., 292251A to A.C.O.S.).

Operations

North Sea.

M.Ls. for Harbour Defence. My 241530A and 271825A. It is intended to use the 5th, 15th and 19th M.L. Flotillas for defence of harbours and anchorages on the East Coast when they are not required for minesweeping.

M.Ls. of these flotillas fitted A/S are to have their domes replaced, if they have been removed. Com. Sheerness, F.O.I.C. Harwich and F.O.I.C. Humber are to report numbers of these M.Ls. which will be available and whether fitted with A/S and what type and if necessary S.D. ratings are on board. (C. in C. Nore, 291154A to Com. Sheerness, F.O.I.C. Harwich, Humber Yarmouth).

Withdrawal of CAICOS from flying-bomb patrol. My 061730 para.3 not to all. Since 8th January CAICOS has only carried out anti-flying Bomb Patrol three times due to adverse weather. On these three occasions results have been negative.

(2). In view of the greatly increased E-Boat activity on the east coast it is intended to operate CAICOS in an anti-M-Boat role probably in the Harwich area. (C. in C. Nore, 291206A to Admty.).

Minesweeping off Harwich. One mine cut by B.Y.M.S. in 52° 07.8' N. 01° 49.8 E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 291429A to Admiralty).  
One mine cut by B.Y.M.S. in 52° 08.5' N. 01° 50' E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 291613A to Admty.).

Discharge Situation report. Cositintrep No.300 Part 4. Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600A/28th January.

British:

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> (incl. coal)	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
Antwerp	43	307	9748	463	296
Ostend	1398	-	5606	-	1079

/Boulogne...



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Operations

North Sea.

Discharge  
Situation  
Report  
(Contd.)

Cositintrep No.300 Part 4. -Contd.  
British

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> (incl. coal)	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
Boulogne	61	46	-	-	-
Dieppe	1	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	346	-	-
Calais	2722	-	151	-	-
Ghent	-	-	875	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>4225</u>	<u>353</u>	<u>16726</u>	<u>463</u>	<u>1375</u>
<u>U.S. North</u>					
Antwerp	-	174	18221	-	-
Cherbourg	-	63	10433	545	2853
Le Havre	240	254	5480	-	2085
Rouen	-	-	7533	1782	1378
Granville	-	-	326	-	-
Ghent	-	12	2845	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>240</u>	<u>503</u>	<u>44838</u>	<u>2327</u>	<u>6316</u>
<u>U.S. South</u>					
Marseilles	-	-	7911	-	769
Port de Bouc	-	-	1579	-	-
Toulon	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9490</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>769</u>

Note: Amend stores discharge Granville 27th January to read 1562.

(S.H.A.E.F., 291515A to Admiralty etc.).

Patrols.

The Nore and Dover patrol tonight January 29th 30th.

(1) 12 RIOU, 14 HAMBLEDON, 16 RETALICK, 18 SOUTH-DOWN, 19 THORNBOROUGH, 21 PUFFIN.

(2) Coastal force unit 51° 29' N. 01° 22' E. F.B.6 51° 42' N. 02° 50' E. F.B.3, 4 and 5. Patrol 12, F.L.2 and 3 patrol 16, F.G.2 and 3 from Ostend from Kellet buoy via east Goodwin No.2 buoy to S.E. Goodwin buoy F.O. 1 from No.1 buoy via S. Goodwin, No.2 buoy to S.E. Goodwin buoy F.2.

(V.A. Dover, 291530A to Admiralty, A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Nore).

Coastal Force Dispositions night 29/30 January:-

Patrol 1 Unit F.C.1 M.T.B.612, 679, 609. Patrol 2 Unit F.C.2 2 M.T.B. 746, 743, 736. Patrol 3 Unit F.C.3 M.T.B. 773, 766, 789. Patrol 4 Unit F.C.4 M.T.B. 225, 223, 233. Patrol 5 Unit F.C.5 M.T.B. 492, 469, 457. Patrol 6 Unit F.C. 6 M.T.B. 468, 467, 456. UWYJ 2922 Unit F.B.6 M.T.B. 489, 415, 487, UWMC 4250 Unit F.B. 3 M.T.B. 480, 477, 473, 471. Patrol 12 Unit F.L.2. 3 M.T.B. 482, 478, 453, 451.

/From...



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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea.

Patrols  
(Contd.)

From Ostend.  
UWNR 3512 Unit F.H. M.T.Bs. (4 -71' 6").  
UWNR 2100 Unit F.B.2 M.T.Bs. (2-71' 6").  
UWNR 2315 Unit F.A. M.T.Bs. (3-71' 6").  
UWNR 3912 Unit F.G.5 M.Ls. (4 'B' Class).  
Patrol 16 Unit F.G.2 3 M.T.B. (4-71' 6").  
(C. in C. Nore, 291845A to Admiralty).

Anti-aircraft  
mining  
balloons.

Your 281735. A very large number of balloons would be required to provide any appreciable deterrent and their presence would be definitely detrimental to Radar.

(2) Only 5 drifters have so far arrived but with the full 18 it is unlikely that more than 10 or 12 would be fit to operate at a time.  
(3) If minesweepers were used the extra steaming would inevitably reduce their serviceability for minesweeping.  
(4) In view of above I do not consider that the limited number of balloons that might be made available would be of any material value.

(Com. Belgium, 291741 to A.N.C.X.F.).

Your 281735A. In view of existing and future minesweeping commitments it is not considered practicable to use M.M.S. and B.Y.M.S. as balloon patrol vessels at night without seriously prejudicing the maintenance and upkeep of these vessels.

(2) It is thought that a balloon barrage would be of value if suitable craft and the necessary maintenance could be provided from other sources.

(C. in C. Nore, 291835A to A.N.C.X.F.).

E-Boat  
activity.

Aircraft reports 2 E-Boats 53° 15' N. 04° 10' E. course 300, speed 30 knots, at 2030.

(C. in C. Nore, 292102A to Patrols).

Aircraft reports 5 E-Boats 53° 24' N. 03° 28' E. course 270, speed 30 knots at 2150.

(C. in C. Nore, 292209A to Nore Command).

My 292209 53.23 N. 02.44 E. 5 E-Boats, course 290° speed 28 knots at 2229.

(C. in C. Nore, 292316A to Nore Command).

Midget  
U-Boat on  
Scroby  
Sands.

My 271748A and 292310A. Request 2 L.C.Ts. may be dispatched to Yarmouth forthwith for salvage operations. E.T.A. to be signalled.

(F.O.I.C. Great Yarmouth, 292320A to C. in C. Nore).

Operations

Channel

Patrols

Your 281610A.  
On arrival take up zig-zag patrol between 50.46 N. 04.52 W. and 50.25 N. 05.25 W.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 290002A to CAISTOR CASTLE etc.).

/Proceed...



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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

Patrols. Proceed forthwith to patrol area limits:  
(Contd.) (A) 1° 20' W. (B) Route E. (C) Q.Z.S.636.  
(D) 50° 00' N.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 291545A to GARLIES, GORE,  
HOSTE.)

Day patrol 29th Jan. as in my 231601A you are to arrange R/V  
for NEW GLASGOW and RIBBLE when their present escort duty has  
been completed.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 292145A to S.O. E.G.26.)

Mine swept Following from M.S.14 begins: One C.Q. mine  
off Boulogne. encountered in position 50° 40' 57" N., 01°  
22' 27" E. dragged in sweep into cleared water  
and detonated by gunfire.  
(V.A. Dover, 291145A to Admty.)

More Your 241325. Concur in channel proposed in  
easterly para. (4).  
cross- (2) Jettisoning area approved in Admty. Letter  
Channel M. 012398/44 of 19th Dec. has never been  
route. promulgated by Air Ministry.  
(3) Air Ministry are considering jettisoning  
areas A and B of your para. (5) and decision on  
them will be communicated shortly. Admiralty message 262022  
refers.  
(Hd. of M. Branch, 292106A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Operations

Western Approaches

Anti-U-Boat Detail two escorts to R/V APOLLO 2000/29th in  
deep mining. 160° Coningbeg Light Vessel 10 miles and escort  
her while laying mines thence to rejoin group.  
(C. in C. W.A., 291434A to S.O. Force 38.)  
APOLLO's 261241 amended. Sailed APOLLO to carry  
out lay. My 281321 not to C. in C. Plymouth refers.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford, 291815 to C. in C. W.A.)  
Following received. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven from Commander  
M/S. Bristol Channel. Sweep completed. 18 mines cut of which  
2 exploded in sweep and 2 only were watching. Consider check  
of sweep necessary as 2 sweeps parted. Weather deteriorating.  
Returning. E.T.A. 0200. Now sinking 15 floating mines. Ends.  
Keep clear of this area.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford, 291905 to APOLLO.) See also 291955.  
Am returning to harbour without laying. Escort ordered  
to rejoin Force 38. My E.T.A. 0830/30th.  
(APOLLO, 292141A to C. in C. W.A.)

Patrols. Force 37, 3rd E.G. DUCKWORTH (S.O.), ROWLEY and  
22nd E.G. HART, 3 sloops operating separately  
North Irish Sea. Force 36, 21st E.G. CONN, 4  
frigates central Irish Sea.  
Force 38, 5th E.G. BLIGH S.O., 4 frigates and 6th E.G., NEW  
WATERFORD, 3 frigates general area of St. Georges Channel.



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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches.

Patrols  
(Contd.)

2 Escort supports APOLLO vicinity Tuskar Rock.  
(C. in C.W.A., 291455A to Admiralty).

Operations

Norway.

Operation  
"Winded".

Operation "Winded" completed.  
(2) Results obtained. NAIRANA's aircraft. One of 1500 tons position 62° 13' N. 05° 39' E. hit by R.P. set on fire and stopped. 2 boats launched. One of 1500 tons position 62° 10' N. 05° 40' E. hit by R.P. last seen stopped and probably aground. One of 2500 tons position 62° 11' N. 05° 37' E. hit by 2 500 pound bombs and R.P. damaged.  
2 Lighthouses and gun sites attacked. Heaviest H.A. from Bleka Island. No damage or casualties.  
CAMPANIA's aircraft. One 1000 tonner close inshore position 62° 23' N. 05° 35' E. Attacked with R.P. Effect unknown as flares had already been expended. No casualties or damage.  
(3) Request photographic reconnaissance.  
(BERWICK, 291245A to C. in C.H.F.).

Patrols.

Positions of submarines at 0800 30th January and movements for the following 24 hours. All times Zone A.

- (1) VIKING as in my 252002.
- (2) TACITURN leaves patrol vicinity of 58° 45' N. 01° 15' E. at 0400 31st through 59° 20' N. 01° 15' E. and 60° 01' N. 00° 30' E. to Lerwick probably on surface 9 knots.
- (3) SIBYL sails Lerwick 1200/30th probably on the surface 9 knots through 60° 01' N. 00° 30' E. 59° 20' N. 01° 15' E. 59° 01' N. 01° 54' E. 58° 30' N. 01° 54' E. and 57° 50' N. 01° 15' E. to patrol line 15 miles 000° and 180° from 57° 35' N. 01° 15' E.  
(C. of W., 292000A to A.I.G.25).

Operations

Baltic.

Mining  
results  
Southern  
Baltic.

Danish steamer ELLIE mined off Gdynia and beached with cargo coal at Hela mid January. B.3.  
(N.A. Stockholm, 291814 to D.N.I.).

Enemy Intelligence

SEYDLITZ and  
GNEISENAU at  
Gdynia.

Deputy C.O.S. Northern Fleet states, we have information German cruiser SEYDLITZ is at Gdynia with German battlecruiser GNEISENAU and that Germans are preparing to destroy both ships. Presume this has been passed to you in Moscow.  
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 290817A to H.D.N.M. Moscow).  
/S.S....



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Monday.HOME COMMANDSCasualties and Defects.

S.S. SOLOR F.O.I.C. Milford Haven's 281211A.  
 SOLOR in tow of tug STORMKING and drawing 40ft.  
 aft arrived off Oxwich Bay at 1915A 28th Jan.  
 and anchored on instructions of Admiralty  
 Salvage Officer, who considered weather then suitable, and had  
 been put on board earlier to survey vessel.  
 Escort vessels SOUTHERN BREEZE and LANARK and tugs SUPERMAN and  
 STORMKING stood by during the night.  
 First three vessels returned to Milford at daylight 29th,  
 latter vessel remained.  
 Salvage vessel FIRST arrived p.m. and stood by. Rescue ship  
 ZAMALEK returned crew to ship with the exception of 7  
 injured who were brought into Swansea.  
 Salvage Officer recommended the removal of 1200 tons gas oil.  
 Vessels THOROY and NORD-EST 2 detailed, and will await at  
 Mumbles for orders, owing to weather conditions commencing to  
 deteriorate a.m. 29th precluding vessels berthing alongside  
 Decided to beach vessel on p.m. tide 29th to obtain LEE for  
 discharging purposes.  
 Salvage vessel FIRST will supply steam for pumping.  
 Balance of crew except for small working party will be landed  
 at Swansea in due course.  
 Norwegian authorities have all necessary matter in hand.  
 (N.O.I.C. Swansea, 291655A to F.O.I.C. Cardiff).

Movements.

M.N.S.C. in Intend to sail SASKATCHEWAN p.m. 29th January to  
 SASKATCHEWAN, Greenock with Canadian Official Party on board,  
 destroyer. so as to arrive at 0900?/30th January Clyde boom.  
 (Com. D.W.A., 290945A to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

A.F.D.55. Intend to sail as soon as weather outlook permits  
 A.F.D.55 in tow of H.M.R.T. EMPHATIC escorted by  
 PITCAIRN (S.O.), and SEABEAR to Gibraltar for  
 onward routeing to Bombay in accordance with

A.M. 141657 December not to all addressees.  
 (2) Routed through position:-  
 R 48° 20' N. 06° 30' W. S 44° 00' N. 11° 30' W. T 39° 00' N.  
 11° 30' W. U 36° 20' N. 09° 50' W. V 35° 51' N. 06° 10' W.  
 thence as ordered by C. in C. Mediterranean.  
 (3) ORONSAY will proceed as additional escort till crossing 48°  
 N. thence to be detached to Plymouth.  
 (4) Speed 5½ knots codeword "Christine".  
 (7) Dock master and 17 ratings from dock will take passage in  
 PITCAIRN and SEABEAR (9 in each).  
 (8) Request Admiralty divert mail as requisite.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 291104A to F.O.G.M.A., C. in C. Med.).

BELLONA Intend sailing BELLONA p.m. 1st February by  
 cruiser. searched channel route to Scapa. E.T.A. May  
 Island 0050/2nd Speed of advance 23 knots.  
 E.T.A. Hoxa Gate 0900/2nd.

/(2)...



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HOME COMMANDS

Movements

BELLONA  
cruiser  
(Contd.)

(2) BELLONA is to request lights as required.  
(3) Mails to Scapa after last delivery 1st  
February.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 291120 to C. in C.H.F.).

VALIANT  
battleship.

VALIANT will berth at C buoy on arrival.  
(2) Arrival during daylight is desirable. No  
objection to time given in para,4 of F.O.C. West  
Africa 201040Z not to N.O.I.C. Falmouth being  
advanced.  
(3) Additional escorts will join you in approximately 48° N.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 291450A to VALIANT).

BITER  
escort  
carrier.

BITER accepted into Reserve Fleet category C on  
29th Jan. 1945.  
(F.O.C.R.F., 291629 to Admiralty).

BARFLEUR  
destroyer.

Intend to sail BARFLEUR 1600/5th February to  
Gibraltar calling at Merville for fuel.  
(R.A.D.H.F., 291650A to C. in C.H.F.).



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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

VALIANT  
(escort)

Arrived WYE, DOVEY.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 292104A to F.O.C.W.Af.)

E.G. 1.

Sail at 0830A Jan. 30th to join Group 1 carrying out patrol "Bacon Gross". Group 1 consists of LOWESTOFT S.O. and BELLWORT.  
(3) LOWESTOFT is requested to arrange R/V.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 292304 and 300953 to Y.S. NADA.)

South Atlantic

JED.

Capetown arrival JED.  
(C. in C. S.A. Stn. (Simonstown), 291053B to C. in C. E.I. Stn.)

Exercises.

Intend to sail NORWICH CITY and ST. ZENO at 1200B tomorrow Tuesday to area with centre position 034° 43' S., 022° 27' E. radius 45 miles to carry out exercises arranged with 61

Air School George.

- (2) S. of A. 9 knots. E.T.A. 1000B/31st Jan.
- (3) Exercises will be carried out in above area on Jan. 31st, Feb. 1st, 2nd, 5th and 6th. Ships will anchor in Mossel Bay area a.m. Feb. 4th.
- (5) On completion return to Port Elizabeth. E.T.A. a.m. Feb. 7th.  
(N.L.O. Port Elizabeth, 291724 to C. in C. S.A.)



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- A.F.D. 24. A.F.D.24 in tow of HESPERIA and EMPIRE SANDY  
37° 33' 03° 59', route L.5. Section U.G.S.68.  
F.S. SOMALI (S.O.), A.B. 38° 15' 03° 49', route  
Y.9.  
(F.O.W.M., 290804A to Admty., C. in C. Med.)
- Change of Title. Should appreciate early reply to my 111617.  
(V.A. Malta, 291000A to C. in C. Med.)
- Linrep. No. 226. Ops. 25th Jan. to 28th Jan. FX. 17682. Cite FHGCT signed Alexander.  
(B) A.F.H.Q. Greece. There were no major  
changes in the situation.  
(2) Naval. Gulf of Genoa. Further successful  
bombardments have been made by Allied warships  
near Franco-Italian border.  
Adriatic. The situation remains difficult at  
Split and Zadar as details of Naval agreement  
have not yet been received by Partisans. A  
trawler has arrived in tow at the latter place after having  
been mined in the Maknare Channel.  
Greece. All is quiet and there is no event of interest to  
report except that an H.M. ship which visited Kithera was  
enthusiastically welcomed.  
Alexandria. German hospital ship GRADISCA has been released  
and sailed for Trieste inspection having disclosed no  
irregularities. Linrep number 224 refers.  
Balkan Air Force was also very restricted by weather but  
explosive motor boat and midget submarine bases on Lussimpiccolo  
were attacked by rocket firing aircraft.  
(A.F.H.Q., 291145A to Linrep. Addressees.)
- EASTON,  
L.S.T.  
escort. Intend sailing EASTON escorting L.S.T.(I) 358  
L.S.T.(I) 1021 at 1730B Wednesday 31st, S. of  
A. 7 knots to Patras routed, adjusting speed to  
arrive seaward end of Q.B.C. 919 at 0700B/2nd  
Feb. E.T.A. Patras 1530B/2nd.  
EASTON is available to escort L.S.T.(I)s. to  
Salonika returning to Taranto.  
(F.O.T.A.L.I., 291215A to S.B.N.O. Greece.)  
Amended by 311202A.
- ZETLAND. ZETLAND is being sailed to comply A.M. 231909  
not to all.  
(C. in C. Med., 291709A to Admty.)
- French S/Ms.  
Movements. Propose following programme for French submarines:  
(A) F.S/M. CURIE leave Toulon Feb. 15th for Oran  
to embark spare parts and proceed thence to  
U.K. for refit. Your 081252\* Nov.  
(B) F.S/M. DORIS to replace F.S/M. CURIE at  
Toulon and give leave. Crew has been five years away from  
France.  
(C) F.S/M. ARCHIMEDE to provide A/S training at Oran in lieu  
of F.S/M. DORIS.  
(F.O.W.M., 291734A to C. in C. Med.) Approved by 291734 from  
C. in C. Med.  
\* Consultation with French Admiralty re future of CURIE.

/Situation ...



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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation Report No. 546. (1) Greece situation quiet.  
(2) Adriatic. Attitude of Partisan authorities amicable but they still have no knowledge of naval agreement.  
(3) Gulf of Genoa. Minesweepers to northward of Leghorn have been shelled by shore batteries. (C. in C. Med., 291815A to F.O.L.E.M.)

Aegean Sitrep No. 48. Political. Khios. Demonstration by Nationalists 28th Jan. to condemn action E.L.A.S. in Greece and render thanks to Britain and Allies. (C. in C. M.E., 291910 to W.O.)

Dardanelles Minesweeping. (1) Having remained in Besike Bay for 36 hours with wind S.S.W. force 8 and with no indication of improved conditions, Force 58 has returned Khios.  
(2) Approach channel to Dardanelles has been cleared to a total width of 2 miles as ordered in F.O.L.E.M's 291943 Nov. This channel has been extended by clearing more than 2 miles on its western and northern sides. With all lights in Turkish Territory exhibited at full brilliance and every facility for accurate navigation no difficulty should be found in keeping in this 2 mile wide channel throughout its entire length.  
(3) Two actuations with negative result have been given over area in which SA/LL sweeping was ordered. A large portion of this area lies within Turkish Indicator Loop System which should have given evidence of ground minelaying by surface or submerged craft.  
(4) To avoid loss of time owing to such unsettled weather conditions and with so much remaining to be done in other areas, propose these operations should be suspended indefinitely and that Force 58 should now undertake completion of clearance of Kinaros Channel. (S.O. M/S.12, 292323B to F.O.L.E.M.)



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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U/B                    No fresh information, scales unchanged.  
dispositions.        (C. in C. E.I., 290343Z to Admty., etc.)

S/M TANTIVY.        TANTIVY leaves patrol at dark 6th Feb. for  
Trincomalee passing through position, etc., etc.  
(C.T.F. 71, 291016 to S.O. S/M. E.I.S.)

GOMBROON.           GOMBROON.    P.S.T.O.I. 250902\* and S.O.R.N.E. I.  
271520\* neither to all.    Future employment is  
under consideration by Admiralty.  
(2) Refit should not be commenced until  
decision is made.  
(3) Request Admiralty expedite reply to my 100437 as facilities  
at Bombay are now available.  
(C. in C. E.I., 291127Z to Admty.)  
Reply: 052009.  
\* Not identified by War Registry.

H.M.S.                BETONY will be handed over to R.I.N. on return  
BETONY,              from refit early March.  
handing                (C. in C. E.I., 291456Z to BETONY.)  
over.



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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

U.B. Estimates.  
Dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 291338Z to Admty. etc. and Cominch 291541Z.)

A/S In view of S.B.N.O. Trinidad's 281059 being passed  
Protection in suggest you again approach American authorities  
Trinidad with regard to position of loop system.  
Area. (S.B.N.O. W.A. 291400Z to B.A.D.)

Assignment Fifth Sea Lord personal from N.A.R. Conversations  
of Fighter with Admirals Cassady and Richardson subsequent to  
aircraft to sending Lorsa \*25464 have somewhat clarified  
Carriers. matter.  
2. Signal from self to Sinclair. Dorpoc 64, gives  
details in particular with regard to Canadian  
production proposals.  
3. Situation appears to be: provided (A) 1945 reserve position can  
be justified. (B) B.P.F. will soon be affected by further cuts.  
(C) There is a definite prospect, as a result of our own effort  
which must be made now, of giving some considerable relief to  
U.S.N. Fighter production next year. Approximate present  
assignments probably will be allowed to continue.  
4. Presume you are using Campbell (S.N.R.) now in United Kingdom.  
(B.A.D. 291401Z to Admty.)  
\* 241521Z/Jan.

E.G.27 If not in contact abandon patrol at first light  
Patrol. 31st Jan. and proceed to Halifax sweeping through  
positions A 43.00 N. 49.00 W. and B 43.00 N. 61.00  
W. S.O.A. 14 knots. Operational situation  
permitting Group will clean boilers on arrival.  
(C. in C.C.N.A. 291348Z to Escort Group 27.)

Australia and New Zealand

Digest Serial 4. Navy Liberator saw 5 small vessels off  
Number 1104 Sakashima Island heading East on Jan. 27th, one  
28.1.45. passed left stationary and smoking by straffing  
attack.  
15. Dahlit based Liberator attacked sub-chaser  
Lombok Island causing damage while 2 Dutch  
Mitchells straffed two objects Flores Islands.  
16. On 27th aircraft caused heavy casualties among personnel at  
Tawi Tawi (N.E. of Borneo) damaged 7 coastal vessels and luggers  
in Darvel Bay (Borneo) also destroyed one lugger off Manada.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 291053Z to Admty.)



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FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

UGANDA Concur in ships in your 271413 proceeding to join  
NEWFOUNDLAND. B.P.F. in company.  
(C. in C. British Pac. Fleet 290833Z to F.O.L.E.M.)

B.P.F. It is under consideration to route vessels to the  
Navigation. West and North of Melville Island instead of  
through Clarence Strait, but this cannot be done  
without further examination of the locality.  
Request your views on the possibility of extending  
the survey of the route Scott Reef to Darwin to include also the  
survey of a safe route passing between Parry Shoal, Marie Shoal  
and Goodrich Bank and the coast of Melville Island.  
2. Request information as to steps being taken to mark a safe  
passage through Clarence Strait by day and night for deep draught  
ships, observing: (a) that North Channel is preferred to the track  
shown on chart 1095. (b) owing to the importance of accurate  
navigation in approaches to Abbott Shoal, it is considered that  
the light-buoy should be replaced by a light-vessel, fitted, if  
possible, with a radio beacon.  
(Admty. Hydrographer 291214A to O.C.H.B.)  
Para. 1 (a). The necessity for establishing these buoys,  
provided 36 feet is least depth, is not apparent since heavy  
ships must, in any case, pass near High Water.  
Para. 1 (b). No information is available regarding any  
obstruction.  
Para. 1 (c). One buoy to northward of Herald Patches and one  
buoy to southward of Alert Rock is considered sufficient unless  
shoals have extended.  
Para. 3. In order to avoid a turn, in or close to the gap, it is  
desirable for the approach courses to be as nearly in the  
direction of the axis of the Channel through the gap as possible.  
The survey in the vicinity of Kirkcaldie Reef should, therefore,  
be extended as follows:- South limit. 10° 20' S. East limit from  
west extreme of Cocconut Island in direction 191°. It is  
emphasised that the marking of this gap must be reliable. Light  
beacons should therefore be used on both sides if practicable.  
2. It is further suggested that a light beacon should be  
established on eastern end of N.W. Reef, Prince of Wales Channel,  
in such a position as to lead between Alert Rock and Herald  
Patches and also between Mecca and Sunk Reefs.  
(Hydrographer 291317A to CHALLENGER.)

Minelaying Consideration has been given to loading of PROME  
B.P.F. and GURNA before these ships form part of Fleet  
Loading. Train.  
2. Proposed that following principles be adopted:-  
(a) All mines embarked to be capable of sterilising  
of flooding. (b) Buoyant mines to be embarked in  
multiple of minelayer's capacity i.e. 156 for surface laid mines  
and 50 for Mark XVI Mines. (c) One third of surface laid mines  
to be M. Mark I. (d) Sinkers. Numbers of sinkers to be adjusted  
to match mines etc. (e) Where possible 500 lb. charge cases to  
be carried. (f) An increase to be made in number of ground mines  
both aircraft and submarine, at expense of buoyant mines at  
present embarked. (h) Both ships to be treated as separate units.  
4. Propose ships should re-adjust loads at Durban.  
5. Request your remarks on above proposals.  
(D.D.O.D.(M) 291328A to C. in C. B.P.F. etc.)



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29.1.1945.  
MondayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSU. Boat Campaign

Sub. attack and sighting summary. For 24 hours to 0900Z 29th Jan.  
Para. A. (1) E.G.31 attacked contact believed wreck at 2214Z 28th Jan. in 56° 36' N. 7° 12' W.  
Para. B. (1) A/C G/330 sighted possible Schnorkel at 1020Z 28th Jan. in 60° 23' N. 5° 55' W. (2)  
A/C K/304 obtained A.S.V. contact at 1320Z 28th Jan. in 54° 2' N. 4° 36' W.  
Para. C. (1) U.S.S. WINGFIELD sighted possible Schnorkel at 0755Z 28th Jan. in 55° 10' N. 5° 52' W.  
Para. D. (1) A/C Q/502 obtained A.S.V. contact and sighted oil-patches at 1725Z 28th Jan. in 58° 48' N. 5° 24' W.  
(D.D.I.C. 291120A to Cominch N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

U.B. Estimates.  
Dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 291346A and 291348A to A.I.G. and Cominch.)



30.1.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- North Sea. 1. (a) M.M.S. 248 was sunk by a near miss by a mine off N.F. 15 buoy. There were no casualties. No other mines were found.  
(b) E-Boats were active last night off the east coast, coming to within  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles of the East Dudgeon Shoal, and crossing the Channel south of 57D Buoy. CUBITT and WOLFHOUND engaged them and drove them off. Minelaying is suspected near 57D Buoy but not in the diversion at present in use.
- Channel. 2. TROUBRIDGE, TERMAGANT and TENACIOUS have after all synchronised their sailings and left Portsmouth in company last night. C. in C. W.A. intends to use them as escort to ACTIVITY and SS. SARMIENTO, stragglers from K.M.F. 39 if these are unable to rejoin convoy.
- Western Approaches. 3. Two possible U-Boat contacts have been attacked, one off Holyhead and one off Dundrem Bay, so far without result.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

- South of France. 4. KING SALVOR (salvage vessel) was damaged by a mine in the Rhone Estuary (at St. Louis de Rhone) (22 miles west of Marseilles) today. She is proceeding to Le Ciotat for docking. No casualties.
- Adriatic. 5. (a) Local authorities at Zara now know of existence of naval agreement but have no knowledge of details or instructions concerning action to be taken.  
(b) Last night coastal craft were engaged by enemy patrol probably consisting of E-Boats and a destroyer off Promontore. M.T.B. 374 slightly damaged no casualties.
- Greece. 6. (a) General Zervas visited Corfu today where situation is satisfactory and was given enthusiastic welcome.  
(b) ACTIVE bombarded Piscopi. General situation remains quiet.
- Crete. 7. Fighting is at present in progress between E.L.A.S. minority and Partisans. Harbour labourers at Heraklion are on strike.



30.1.1945  
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand

Philippines

8. This morning American troops landed at Grande Island, Subic Bay (30' N.W. of Manila Bay) without opposition. Subic Bay reported available for shipping. Olongapo naval base captured in the afternoon.

China

9. Last night a Catalina set fire to a tanker south of the Pescadores.



30.1.1945  
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Minesweeping off Schelde M. M/S 248 sunk by near miss 3/4 miles W.S.W. of N.F.15 all hands safe. Returning to harbour. (M.M.S.228 300935A to BLEASDALE, CATTISTOCK.) Sweeping report for today Tuesday. Channel from N.F.18 - N.F.15 (South side only) Swept LL/SA H.G by 3 Motor M/Ss. 1 actuation. Motor M/S 248 mined and sunk 6 cables W.S.W. of N.F.15. Channel from N.F.18 - BAT swept LL/SA by 2 Motor M/Ss. 1 actuation. Negation result QV Channel from N.F.18 - PV NE swept LL/SA. 2 actuations. Negative result. No report of river sweeping available. (Capt. M.S. Terneuzen, 301732A to N.O.I.C. Antwerp.)

M.Ls. for Harbour Defence against midget U-boats. Your 291154. No vessels of the 5th M.L. Flotilla are at present available for A/S duties. Domes were removed by Admiralty authority in December, 1942 and it is presumed these have now been used for other ships. M.L.143 only has an S.D. Rating. All are fitted for type 134A except M.Ls. 138 and 142 who are fitted for type 134D and M.L. 137 who is not fitted or wired for any set. Endeavour will be made to complete this Flotilla and report will be made as each becomes available. It is anticipated that all vessels will require slipping. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 301039A to C. in C. Nore.)

Your 291154. 1st M/L Flotilla.

M.L.	Asdic Gear	Type	Dome	S.D. Ratings
207	Yes	134A	Yes	One
185	Yes	134D	Being fitted during refit.	One

5th M.L. Flotilla sailing for Harwich 31.1.1945

M.L.	Asdic Gear	Type	Dome	S.D. Ratings
137	No	No	No	None
141	Yes	134A	No	None
203	Yes	134A	No	None
275	Yes	134A	No	None

F.O.I.C. Harwich's 292323 not to all addressees no domes for 5th M/L Flot. are held at Immingham.

15th Flotilla

M.L.	Asdic Gear	Type	Dome	S.D. Ratings
473	Yes	134A	No	One
914	Yes	134C	Yes	One
300	No	No	No	None
465	Yes	134D (Modified)	Yes	One

(F.O. Humber, 301859A to C. in C. Nore.)

Patrols Dover and The Nore patrol for tonight 30th/31st January.

(1) 12 RUTHERFORD, 14 ARENDAL, 16 STAYNER, 18 SEYMOUR, 19 CURZON and SOUTHDOWN, 21 MALLARD.

(2) Coastal Force Unit.

With RUTHERFORD F.L.2 and F.L.3 with STAYNER F.G.2 and F.G.3. 51° 21' N. 03° 00' E. F.B.2 51° 23' N. 03° 15' E. F.A.8 F.O.1 from Kellet buoy via East Goodwin 2 buoy to S.E. Goodwin Buoy. F.O.2 from number 1 buoy via South Goodwin 2 buoy to S.E. Goodwin Buoy.

(V.A. Dover, 301627A to Admty., C. in C. Nore.)



War Diary

30.1.1945  
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

Discharge  
Situation  
Report.

Cositintrep No.3Q1 part 4.  
Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 291600A  
January:

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u> <u>(incl.</u> <u>coal.)</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>	<u>Ammo.</u>
<u>British</u>					
Antwerp	24	361	10,381	-	1,354
Ostend	1,508	230	4,998	2,990	767
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-
Dieppe	1	-	-	-	-
Caen	-	-	265	-	-
Calais	4,194	-	-	-	-
Ghent	-	-	475	-	359
Totals:	5.728	591	16.119	2,990	2,480
<u>U.S. North</u>					
Antwerp	-	209	18,346	-	-
Cherbourg	-	67	9,028	2,479	3,719
Le Havre	3,043	458	6,112	-	2,051
Rouen	388	261	6,864	2,505	1,595
Granville	-	-	1,280	-	-
Ghent	-	-	3,551	-	-
Totals:	3,431	995	45,181	4,984	7,365
<u>U.S. South</u>					
Marseilles	-	58	5,855	-	452
Port de Bouc	-	-	668	-	-
Toulon	-	-	2,882 M.X.	-	-
Totals:	-	58	6,805	-	452

(S.H.A.E.F. 301745A to Admty. and others.)

E-Boat  
activity  
night  
29/30  
January.

Aircraft first obtained A.S.V. contact at 1913 in 52 degs. 50' N. 4 degs. 36' E. steering North-westerly course. A/C shadowed and confirmed contact as 2 E-Boats at 2040. Enemy was attacked with bombs.  
Another A/C reported group of 5 E-Boats in 53 degs. 24' N. 03 degs. 28' E. at 2150 steering 270 degs. 30 knots.

In view of very adverse weather air patrols had to be cancelled and no further air reports were received after 2235. Shore Radar detected unidentified plot at extreme range between 60 degs. E. Dudgeon 7½ and 58 degs. E. Dudgeon 10 at 0020 and at 0036. CAICOS obtained Radar contacts in same vicinity between 0033 and 0100. At 0110 CUBITT on No.1, Patrol reported Radar contact and 0036 confirmed 3 E-Boats steering 45 degs. This report was later amended to read 6 E-Boats. CUBITT engaged and chased until contact faded.  
At 0115 Shore Radar detected group in position 103 degs. E. Dudgeon 11 on westerly course high speed. This group crossed Channel south of 57 D buoy. Northbound convoy was in vicinity and at 0143 WOLFHOUD escorting this convoy sighted and engaged stopped E-Boats who retired on course 140 degs.

/Minelaying ...



War Diary

30.1.1945  
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

E-boat  
activity  
night  
29th/30th  
January.  
(Contd.)

Minelaying may have taken place in vicinity 57D buoy but not in diversion at present in use. Convoy does not appear to have been the object of attack. Commanding officer WOLFHOUD supports this theory.

Weather. Wind S.W. Force 5. Sea rough. Visibility 800 to 1,500 yards. Heavy snow. (C. in C. Nore, 301847A to Admty.)  
My 301847A.

Sheringham picked up carriers on 43.55 MC/S at 0202, 0213 and 0243.

They were of too short duration to be identified definitely as E. boat carriers.

(2) Smudge signals were reported between 2129Z and 0248Z. (C. in C. Nore, 302220A to Admty.)

Operations

Channel

Anti-U-boat  
deep mining

Proceed to St. Helens and when conditions suitable proceed in execution of previous orders. M.Ls. and M.T.Bs. not to sail. Report intentions. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 300929A to PLOVER.)  
Pass Gate at 0900A 31st January and carry out Serial E 2 repetition E 2. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 301631A to V.64.)

Patrols

Take FLEETWOOD and DIANTHUS under your orders and leave harbour so as to be on patrol by 1930A today Tuesday. Patrol within limits:

- (a) Route E.
- (b) Q.Z.S.636.

- (c) 50° 00' N.
- (d) 1° 20' W.

Unless ordered to contrary leave patrol at 0900A tomorrow Wednesday and enter Cherbourg. You are required for E.W.L. convoy escort p.m. 31st.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 301225A to THUNDER.)

Night Patrol.

Detail 2 ships of your Group at 1800A to operate within area limits (a) Q.Z.S.616. (b) 00° 25' W. (c) 49° 30' W.

(d) 01° 05' W. Report names of ships detailed.

(2) Remaining 3 ships of your Group are to continue patrol within area limits (a) 01° 47' W. (b) 50° 00' N. 01° 05' W.

(c) 49° 35' N. and coast of France.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 301511A to S.O.E.G.26.)

Your 302130A not to Admiralty. If not met on reaching 49° 45' N. turn and sweep towards position (T) as far as 49° N. when if not met proceed through 180° Lizard 5 miles thence towards Plymouth unless otherwise ordered.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 302326A to TANATSIDE.)

E.G.17

Sailed E.G.17 in ASCENSION with BURGESS, MOORSOM, LOCH KILLIN and LOCH LOMOND in accordance with my 301436A. (N.T. in W.D) Cf. C. in C. W.A. 301228A (in Western (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 302014A to C. in C. Portsmouth etc.)  
*approaches*



30.1.1945  
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches

Anti-U-boat  
deep mining

S.O. M/S 292141 indicates material failure did not occur and as weather is improving with low visibility intend remaining at sea in hope of laying in fog.

Can escorts R/V in position 160 Coningbeg light ship 10 miles at 1100.

(APOLLO 300751Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Detach 2 escorts to R/V APOLLO in 160° Coningbeg 10 and report E.T.A.

(C. in C. W.A. 301011A to S.O. Force 38).

Search for  
dredger  
NOVID MAGNUM

Dredger NOVID MAGNUM sailed Swansea with B.T.C.53 for Falmouth, was ordered to return Swansea at 0300/30th. Plot indicated vessel continuing S.W. and faded in position 350° Trevoise Head 24½ miles at 0745A/30th.

(2) Proceed forthwith to search on eastern and southern edges of Q.Z.X. 1465 as far as 5° 20' W. Do not enter Q.Z.X. 1465, 1006 or 1018.

(3) If met, escort to shelter.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 301051A to TRADOU<sup>S</sup>SAC, BEAUMARIS.)

E.Gs. 26,  
17

(1) Request F.O.I.C. Greenock will sail E.G.17 as convenient p.m. today to R/V LOCH KILLIN and LOCH LOMOND off Cumbraes thence in company to vicinity Longships thereafter as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth.

(2) On relief by E.G.17 C. in C. Portsmouth is requested sail E.G.26 to Londonderry.

(C. in C.W.A. 301228A to Cs. in C. Plymouth, Portsmouth, F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Possible  
U-boat

Have attacked firm contact 53° 31' N. 05° 10' W. (CAPE PORTLAND 301524 to C. in C. W.A.)

Take over CAPE PORTLAND's contact in 53° 31' 05° 10'.

(C. in C.W.A. 301611A to S.O.E.G.21.)

Aircraft  
Exercise  
Areas

My 301547A. The following aircraft exercise areas are established, in which illuminants may be used.

Irish Sea. North of 54° 05' N. and E. of 04° 25' W. Clyde Area. (a) Area enclosed by

55° 26' N. 05° 43' W. 55° 37' N. 06° 10' W.

56° 10' N. 05° 40' W., 56° 06' N. 05° 33' W. 55° 45' N. 05° 35' W.

(b) Areas V for Victor, Kilbrannon, Inchmarnock, North and South.

(c) Existing Area East of Cumbrae Island off Fairlie.

(2) F.Os. i/c may cancel any exercise if shipping is likely to be endangered.

(3) F.O.i/c Liverpool is to cancel any exercises in the Irish Sea Area during hours in which Monsters, K.M.F. M.K.F.

/convoys...



War Diary

30.1.1945  
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches

Aircraft Exercises Areas.  
(Contd.)

convoys and other important shipping is passing through, as much notice as possible being given to the air stations concerned.  
(4) F.O.C.T. is requested to promulgate the above to ships and authorities concerned.  
(C. in C.W.A. 301550A to F.O.C.T., W.A. Command.)

Supplementary A/S vessels.

My 281320. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven reports that JACQUELINE CLASSINE is admirably suited for this duty and could be got ready quickly. Request A.M. 261936 para. 3 may be reconsidered and the vessel allocated to Milford Haven for this important duty. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven reports that the following trawlers recently returned to their owners would also be suitable. ALEXANDER SCOTT, ANNA MELVILLE, MILFORD DUCHESS.  
(3) It is considered a total of two ships should be available. It is appreciated that the policy of returning trawlers to the fishing industry must be adhered to, but in the circumstances request consideration be given to requisitioning one of the craft referred to in para. 2 as they require little preparation.  
(C. in C.W.A. 301713A to Admt.)

Second possible U-boat

Am attacking U-boat in position 54° 03' 05" 23'.  
(NORTHERN SPRAY 302243A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)  
NORTHERN SPRAY attacking contact in position 54° 20' N. 05° 21½' W.  
ROYAL MARINE 302245A to C. in C.W.A., F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

Contact lost after second attack no positive result intend remaining in vicinity.

(NORTHERN SPRAY 302255A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

ROYAL MARINE's 302245. E.G.22 ordered to investigate.

Suitable.

(S.O. Force 37, 302309A to C. in C.W.A.)

My 302245 NORTHERN SPRAY reports contact lost after second attack remaining in vicinity. ROYAL MARINE proceeding with IRIS. Zigzagging at utmost speed.  
Correct position to read 54° 03' 05" 23'.  
(ROYAL MARINE, 302315 to C. in C.W.A., F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

Operations

Norway

Patrol

My 292000A. Amend para. (2) to read TACITURN leaves patrol forthwith through 59° 20' N. 00° 15' E. probably on surface at 9 knots to 60° 01' N. 00° 30' E. about 0800 30th thence to Lerwick about 1200 same day.  
(C. of W., 300110A to A.I.G.25.)

/Operation...



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TuesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorway - Contd.

Operation "S.C."      Ramose Forage again postponed.      E.T.D. now 0100A  
1st February.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 302015A to A.C.O.S.)

OperationsNorthern Waters

Patrol      (1) SIBYL 58° 05' N. 01° 15' E. probably on the  
surface to patrol vicinity of 57° 35' N. 01° 15' E.  
(C. of W., 301838A to A.I.G.25.)

Convoy J.W.64      My 231954A.      Para. 4 (B) delete STORD.  
(C. in C. H.F., 301852A to Admty. and others.)

Technical

Anti-Schnorkel and U-boat obstructions Type O.P.      Admty. Message, 211731 consider that type O.P. obstructions are not entirely suitable for use in Plymouth Command for the following reasons:  
(a) On account of the large volume of coastal cross-Channel and ocean traffic no area can be regarded as free from shipping. i.e. unrestricted.  
(b) Fishing activity off the coast would interfere with free use of type O.P.  
(c) Surface watch on obstructions could not be provided. Any watch maintained on the obstructions would have to be maintained by 19 Group aircraft. The difficulty of locating the obstructions from the air would reduce the value of this form of observation.  
(2) A trial of the equipment in this Command could be made in the following areas:  
(a) To seaward of and parallel to convoy route off North Cornish coast.  
(b) In mid-Channel on approximate line Plymouth to Ile de Bas.  
(3) Reference paragraph six of Admiralty message quoted.  
(a) The introduction of a Radar reflector on this equipment appears liable to cause confusion to aircraft.  
(b) A long period of burning for the light on the indicators is desirable.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 302013A to Admty.)

Casualties & Defects

SS.SOLAR      My 291655A.      SOLAR beached on West Shore of Oxwich Bay at 1920A/29th January head approximately W.N.W. approximate position 51° 33' N. 4° 9' W.  
(N.O.I.C. Swansea 301047A to F.O.I.C. Cardiff.)

DUNRAVEN CASTLE, M/S Trawler      DUNRAVEN CASTLE ran ashore on Iron Ledges while on patrol at 1845 yesterday. Salvage will be attempted, but owing to this casualty and serious defects in two other ships it will be necessary to reduce the number of ships on patrol from three

/to...



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TuesdayHOME COMMANDSCasualties & Defects - Contd.

DUNRAVEN to two. Channel will continue to be swept from  
CASTLE, No.8 Buoy to No.5 Buoy by one ship in each  
M/S Trawler. direction daily.  
(N.O.I.C. Ardrossan, 301128A to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

L.S.T. 368. Main engines of L.S.T. 368 damaged by sabotage.  
Ship was due to sail for Far East about Feb. 1st.  
Request representative be sent to investigate  
ship being held at Spithead.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 301130A to Admty. D.N.I.)

Movements

TROUBRIDGE, SARMIENTO now under way. My P.C.S. at 0100  
TERMAGANT, 56 degs. 01' N. 10 degs. 24' W. 230 degs. 14  
TENACIOUS, knots escorting merchant ship to rejoin convoy to  
destroyers, comply with C. in C. W.A. 292314. 9943 5327  
ACTIVITY, (? Weather report).  
escort (COOKE, 300145A to S.O.E.G.20.)  
carrier, of / ? 292320 intended.  
K.M.F. 39. C. in C. Western Approaches' 292320A. My E.P.C.S.  
at 0900A/30th January, 55 degs. N. 015 degs. W.  
180 degs. 12.  
(S.O.E.G.20, 300320A to TROUBRIDGE, ACTIVITY,  
BERRY, COOKE.)

Your 292320A. My P.C.S. at 0900A 055 degs. 55' N. 12 degs. 08' W.  
(U) 220 degs. 5 knots. Have 4 Avenger A/C slightly damaged.  
Hope to rejoin convoy route when weather moderates. W/R  
4762 2467.

(ACTIVITY, 301002A to C. in C. W.A.)

My 300303 and ACTIVITY's 301002 neither to all. COOKE and  
SARMIENTO joined in position 55 degs. 35' N. 12 degs. 33' W.  
P.C.S. 240 degs. 5 knots fuel state reference 910 N. (A) 44 percent  
(B) 6 percent all frigates. Liberator in company. Not suitable.  
(BERRY, 301346A to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 301002 Weather permitting, keep west of 14.30 W. when  
south of 54.40 N.

(Plot.(O.D.) 301440A to ACTIVITY)

BERRY 301346 passed RO.G.M.A. and C. in C. Med. TROUBRIDGE,  
TERMAGANT, TENACIOUS take over escort ACTIVITY and SARMIENTO as  
soon as possible.

(2) On relief frigates return to North Channel. If ACTIVITY  
and SARMIENTO can not overtake convoy they are to proceed to  
Gibraltar by convoy route escorted by destroyers.

(3) If and when convoy is overtaken destroyers are to proceed  
ahead in company to Gibraltar in execution of previous order.  
(C. in C. W.A. 301650 to BERRY, ACTIVITY, TROUBRIDGE.)

/DIADEM ...



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TuesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSMovements - Contd.

**DIADEM**  
 cruiser. Leave Scapa p.m. 1st February to arrive Tyne Pier-heads 0800A/2nd report time of sailing.  
 (2) Weather permitting speed through the water should be at least 24 knots.  
 (3) Ten days leave may be given to each watch subject to concurrence of F.O.I.C.Tyne. Forward report in accordance with H.G.O.151.  
 (4) You will be required to arrive Scapa p.m. 25th February. (C. in C. H.F.30149A to DIADEM)

**VALIANT**  
 battleship. Sailed FAULKNER and VAN GALEN my 291612 refers. (C. in C. Plymouth, 301318A to VALIANT, S.O.E.G.38) E.T.A. of VALIANT at position (c) is now 0400A 1st February.  
 (2) Cancel R/V ordered in para.2 of my 291612A.  
 Continue along route of VALIANT to meet her at daylight tomorrow 31st.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 301640A to FAULKNER, VAN GALEN)  
 E.T.A. ?m 12 hours later. C. in C. Plymouth 291612A refers. (VALIANT, 301702Z to FAULKNER)

**WARSPITE,**  
 battleship. WARSPITE is to be placed forthwith in reserve Category B, in the first instance, at one month's notice for service.  
 (V.C.N.S.301450A to F.O.C.R.F., C. in C. Portsmouth)

**DUQUESNE,**  
**SUFFREN,**  
**MONTCALM,**  
**GEORGES**  
**LEYGUES,**  
**GLOIRE,**  
 French  
 cruisers,  
**LORRAINE,**  
 French  
 battleship. Following received from Marine Paris begins:  
 To A.N.C.X.F. from Marine Paris.  
 En raison report Operation "Independance" je vous demande bien vouloir recommander a Admirauté que le croiseur DUQUESNE soit envoyé le plus-tot possible en Mediterranée pour etre affecte a La Flank Force Secteur F.O.N.A.M. Ce croiseur bien sûr ayant des chaudières tres fatiguées a une artillerie en tresbon etat et peut rendre de tres grands services a La Flank Force. DUQUESNE et ulterieurement SUFFREN remplaceraient dans Flank Force les croiseurs MONTCALM et GEORGES LEYGUES dont les canons sont usés et dont l'entrée en reparation ne peut être indefiniment retardée.  
 Je propose que la LORRAINE et la GLOIRE restent en reserve dans le Nord prêts a toute mission eventuelle. Je demande qu' - Admirauté envoie un telegramme present pour obtenir accord C. in C. Med. Pour affectation immédiate DUQUESNE à Flank Force se basant sur son inutilité dans le Nord et inconvenients de son maintien dans ports Français de la Manche. 271645A/Jan. ends.  
 (2) A.N.C.X.F. has no objection to DUQUESNE proceeding to Med. until required for "Independance" though C. in C. Med. does not appear to require her. C. in C. Med. 081310 refers. (A.N.C.X.F. 301721A to Admty.)

**ZETLAND**  
 destroyer. Your 231909A and 291709A neither to all. ZETLAND will be allocated temporarily to 16th Destroyer Flotilla.  
 C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail ZETLAND to Harwich on arrival.  
 (C. in C. Nore, 301800A to Admty.)

/BARFLEUR ...



War Diary

30.1.1945  
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements - Contd.

BARFLEUR,  
French  
A.M.C.

Request BARFLEUR may be instructed not to sail until remainder of 23rd M.T.B. Flotilla stores have been embarked and to disembark one thousand Hectolitres of wine for account of F.N.G.B. (P.N.L.O. 301935A to Admty.)

VANOC,  
destroyer.

A.S. Portsmouth's 241310A/Jan. (not to all addressees), approved for H.M.S. VANOC to be scapped.

(2) Maximum destoring is to be carried out at Portsmouth as quickly as possible; crew to be reduced to minimum and vessel sailed to Falmouth and reduced to Category C.

(1st Lord, 302046A to C. in C. Portsmouth, F.O.C.R.F., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Falmouth)

Shipping and Convoys

Fuelling  
Trawlers  
employed as  
tugs on  
Far Shore.

Your 271630 para. 4. Fuelling trawlers MILFORD KING, RUGBY and YTHAN BRAES are available for Cotug. OUR BAIRNS fitted with power pump and CYELSE converted to water carrier will be held as requested.

(2) Para. 5 GOOSANDER now at Portsmouth expects to complete in 7 days.

(3) Due to age and condition of all fuelling trawlers and the need for complete refits no guarantee can be given that they will remain operational for any length of time. A.M.071950 October also refers.

(4) A great deal of labour has been expended in preparing and maintaining these old trawlers for "Overlord" and if they are expected to operate indefinitely as tugs it is considered that each should receive a proper refit in which case Admiralty allocation of a refitting port will be necessary. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 301445 to A.N.C.X.F.)



584

30.1.1945.  
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic.

- E.G.1.           LOWESTOFT is to position Group 1 so as to provide cover to the passage of K.M.S. 80 and M.K.S.80 between 008° W. and 005° 50' W. (F.O.G.M.A., 300843A to Group 1).  
BERGAMOT has returned to harbour with defect.
- (2) NADA Y.S. sailed 0830A January 30th to join Group 1. (F.O.G.M.A., 330953A to C. in C. Med.).

- Cod fisheries.           Ministry of Marine communicates that cod fishing programme and fuel requirements will be substantially the same as for 1944.
- (2) Minister of Marine propose sailing the first 2 groups consisting of 2 trawlers each on 15th and 17th Feb. respectively.
- (3) Ministry of Marine request in the interests of national economy that the route from Lisbon to Newfoundland banks may be direct.
- (4) Request approval.  
(N.A. Lisbon, 301751 to Admiralty).

South Atlantic

- South African A/S and M/S ships.           Admiralty Letter M. 05467/44 28th Oct. 1944. High Commissioner considers that the moment is not propitious to raise matter with Union Govt. It would be better to wait until South African A/S and M/S ships in the Mediterranean are paid off and the Union's attitude towards Eastern War has crystalised.
- (2) In the meantime Union Authorities have approved release BARBRAKE for service with Royal Navy conditional on "arrangements under which S.A.N.F. personnel and ships service with the Royal Navy are not disturbed."
- (3) Under these circumstances I concur with High Commissioner and in order not to delay release of BARBRAKE she has been accepted under these terms.
- (4) It is therefore proposed to defer action on above quoted Admiralty Letter for the present.  
(C. in C.S.A., 301112B to Admiralty).

- S.S. ASTURIAS.           On arrival of Dutch tugs THAMES and ZWARTE ZEE, request you will arrange for S.S. ASTURIAS to be towed to Gibraltar. A.M. 121822 refers.
- (2) Escorts should be provided from local resources.  
(D.O.D.(F), 301623A to F.O.C.W.Af.).



30.1.1945  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

British  
Shipping  
Black Sea.

Although the movements outlined in para. 2 of your 211102 would materially increase the volume of United Nations shipping using Black Sea ports, D. of S.T. and M.W.T. do not consider they are likely to materialise for some time. Until more definite information is available, it is not considered necessary to increase staff beyond that indicated in A.M. 062154.

(2) M.W.T.R. Mediterranean has been requested to pass you M.W.T's 172139 referring to anticipated sailings for Black Sea ports. (A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 300120A to C. in C. Med., etc.)

WOODCOCK.

Sail to pass position 309 at 1800/31st thence by basic eastbound route to Port Said E.T.A. 399 0600/1st Feb. S.O.A. 13 knots. (F.O.L.E.M. 301340B to WOODCOCK.)

Situation  
Report No.  
547.

(1) Adriatic. Local authorities at Zara now know of existence of Naval Agreement but have no knowledge of details or instructions concerning action to be taken.

(2) Greece. General Zervas visited Corfu where situation is satisfactory and was given enthusiastic welcome.

(3) Crete. Fighting is at present in progress between E.L.A.S. minority and Partisans. Harbour labourers at Heraklion are on strike.

(C. in C. Med. 301938A to Admty., etc.)

Black Sea  
Mines,  
Navigation  
Aids to.

Admiral Archer 302007 and 011547Z to Admty., etc.  
See Lion Copy.



**TOP SECRET****IN**

**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.)

From Admiral Archer

302007 January

*Black Sea Navigational Aids etc.*

Date 31.1.45

Recd. 1000

RUSSIAN X BY W/T

CORRECTION

Addressed: Admiralty.

Repeated: C. in C. Mediterranean, F.O.L.E.M., B.N.A. Ankara,  
B.N.L.O. Black Sea, SACMED, S.B.N.O. Greece/Commander  
Eight Fleet, B.A.D.

IMMEDIATE

Your 200015 Soviet Naval Authorities agree to route proposed in para. 2 until danger areas mentioned in para. 1 are cleared.

2. They state that. it is impossible to provide the navigational aids suggested in para. 4 owing to shortage of equipment due to enemy action.

3. They have agreed however to provide the following additional radio beacons which they consider should enable ships to make the passage in safety.

- (1) At Tendra lat. 46 degs. 19.3' N, long. 31 degs. 30.9' E  
working wave 969 metres, call sign D for Dog,  
radius - Under trial will be signalled later.
- (2) At Tarkhankut lat. 45 degs. 20.7' N, long. 32 degs. 29.8' E  
working wave 969 metres, call sign T for Tare,  
radius of action 80 miles (may be increased).
- (3) At Cape Aitodor lat. 44 degs. 25.5' N, long. 34 degs. 08' east  
working wave 942 metres, call sign U for Uncle  
radius of action 50 miles.

4. The radio beacon given in para. 3 will work singly and in groups with those given in my 221401 Dec. and 091635 Jan. as follows,

- (A) Tendra first Bolshoi Montan (Second) Both working on a wave length of 969 metres. Or alternatively
- (B) Bolshoi Montan (First) Tendra (second) Tarkhankut (Third) - all working on a wave length of 969 metres, also
- (C) Khersonese (First) and Aitodor (second) working on a wave length of 942 metres.

5. Radio beacons of these navigational groups work in six minute cycles and are distinguished by their call sign and position in the group as given in para. 4. The first beacon works the first two minutes of each cycle. The second for the next two minutes, and, where there is a third, this works the last two minutes of each cycle which otherwise is a silent period. In the working part of each cycle, the following signals are transmitted, call-signs are repeated three times followed by a long dash for bearings. This combination of  
/signals



signals is transmitted 4 to 5 times in the course of each two minutes work. When working singly, radio beacons also work in six minute cycles, two minutes work followed by four minutes silence. When working singly Bolshoi Fontan uses the wavelength of 942 metres given in my 221401 December.

6. In foggy weather these beacons work 10 cycles in each hour and in clear weather two cycles in each half-hour. Information as to times these commence is being sought.

7. The above details do not (not) apply to Kaliakra and Constantza which only work as a navigational group in 20 minute cycles - nine minutes work followed by eleven minutes silence. Kaliakra works the first 4½ minutes of each cycle commencing at the hour exactly Constantza works the next 4½ minutes of each cycle after Kaliakra.

8. Kaliakra transmits its call sign six times in 30 seconds followed by 15 seconds silence, giving a period of 45 seconds. This characteristic is repeated 6 times in the working part of each 20 minutes cycle.

9. Constantza transmits its call sign 5 times in 20 seconds followed by 10 seconds silence, giving a period of 30 seconds. This characteristic is repeated 9 times in the working part of each 20 minute cycle.

10. Admiralty pass to all (all) addressees/

302007

Note: Above is complete version of Adl. Archer's 302007 part one only of which was previously circulated under this T.O.O.

NMB/MEK.

/ Passing action being taken by War Registry.

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

1st Lord	Plot	D.S.D.
1st S.L.(3)	D.O.D.(H)(4)	D.of N.
D.F.S.L.	D.O.D.(F)(2)	D.M.S.
V.O.N.S.	D.D.I.C.(2)	D.A/S.W.
A.C.N.S.(H)	D.N.I.(1)	D.A.U.D.
A.C.N.S.(F)	D.of P.(2)	D.of S.T.(6)
A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)	D. of I.(Q)(3)	
Sec.	Hd. of M.(M.05812/44)(10)	
Nav.Sec.	D.T.D.(4)	
P.A.S.(S)	D.T.D.(C)	
P.A.S.(L)	W.D.	
U.W.R.	Ad.Blake(4)	
D.C.	Hydrog.	



586

30.1.1945.  
TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

- Convoy W.O.1. Departure convoy W.O.1 (one) comprising U.S.S. GENERAL RANDALL and U.S.S. GENERAL MITCHELL escorted by RELENTLESS routed in accordance with C. in C. E.I. 210944 and Com. S.W. Pac. Sea Frontier's 240507 56 R/V ROCKET in accordance with C. in C. E.I. 270901. Signals quoted redirect.
2. S.O.A. 18½ knots.
3. E.T.A. GENERALS at Melbourne 0900Z 12th Feb. E.T.A. Destroyers at Trincomalee will be signalled after detaching. (F.O. Bombay 300102Z to C. in C. B.P.F. Admty. etc.)
- U.B. dispositions. No fresh information, scale in all areas remains W.5.  
(C. in C. East Indies 300331Z to Ships and Authorities East Indies Station.)
- Navigation. Fonic (595) Pass to N.C.S.O.'s  
Australian Meiri temporary amendment number 48 Section XII  
waters. cancel temporary amendment 39, 42, 44 and 45, Fonic's 507, 547, 560 and 561 and revert to normal routing and reporting expected times of arrival by W/T as in XII C.
2. Navigation lights are to be burnt as ordered by Fonic's 488 and 512.
3. Zigzagging ships of 10 knots and over are to zigzag in open waters within 200 miles coast of Australia except:- (A) In area 5.A S. of Australia when eastward of 120 degs. E. (B) In area 5.B. (C) In area 5.C when S. of 010 degs. S.
4. On receipt of amendment 107 cancel temporary amendments 31/33/38 and 40 Fonic's 451, 463, 497 and 531.  
(C. in C. E.I.S. 301036Z to F.O. Ceylon.)



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30.1.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies.

U-Boat                      Estimates.  
dispositions.              (N.S.H.Q., 301336Z and Cominch 301550Z to Admty.  
etc.).

Submarine                  Route French submarine LE CENTAURE to Azores  
LE                              etc. etc. and onward to Gibraltar.  
CENTAURE.                  (Com. 10th Fleet C. and R., 301720Z to N.O.B.  
Bermuda, Info. Comsublant, Admiralty, etc.).

A.F.D.32                      About mid-February Comeastseafon sail tow  
consisting of R.N. tugs and British A.F.D.32 New  
York to San Juan Puerto Rico. Advise routine  
instructions. Action addressees provide escort  
within respective commands for anti-submarine and navigational  
duties. At San Juan tow will require services and supplies  
including fuel estimated at not over 400 tons Navy Special and  
1100 tons Navy Diesel Oil. When ready Comcaribseafon sail to  
Las Palmas and Gibraltar with R.N. escort via route to be  
promulgated by Admiralty.  
(Cominch, 301932Z to Comeastseafon etc.).

Your 201949 Navy Department is making the necessary  
arrangements for escorting dock from New York to San Juan.  
Although Admiralty stipulate short stages from one shelter port  
to another, it is the feeling of the experts here that this  
practice would be inadvisable since  
(a) the prevailing winds are strong from the northeast and such  
coasting would put dock continuously on a lee shore  
(b) inshore routeing encounters full strength of Gulf Stream  
which at times reduce speed to 1 knots.  
(3) While Cominch will initiate hailing orders for dock and  
escort from N.Y. and San Juan, Admiralty is requested to keep  
British Authority at Las Palmas advised of dock's movements.  
(B.A.D. Washington, 302225Z to Admiralty).

Force X                      In view request of C. in C.B.P.F. modified  
B.P.F.                              release dates for Force X are approved. Release  
LOTHIAN forthwith EMPIRE ARQUEBUS mid-February  
remainder one March all to C. in C. B.P.F.

New subject. See my 271826 to Com. 7th Fleet concerning  
disposition ARIADNE. This answers your 300126 (both advance and  
Pearl). C.C.O. Sydney New South Wales pass to C. in C.B.P.F.  
(Cominch, 302003Z to C.T.F.77 etc.).

Australia and New Zealand

B.P.F.                              Add to my 130600Z and refer V.A.(Q) 180827Z  
Boats etc.                      Government approval includes also building of  
following additional boats etc.  
(A.C.N.B., 300319Z to Admiralty, B.A.D., V.A.(Q)  
B.P.F.).

/Force...



War Diary.

30.1.1945.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand.- Contd.

Force 63. E.T.A. Fremantle with Force 63 at 0600H 5th Feb.  
(2) Only 30,000 gallons aviation spirit required for each carrier. My 140608 not to all refers. (R.A.A.B.P.F., 300445Z to N.O.I.C. Fremantle etc.).

Dispositions I have had under consideration the more detailed  
B.P.F. requirements for base and H.Q. ships during  
Base and forthcoming operations (A.M. 190030 Jan. and my  
H.Q. Ships. 290845\* refer).

(2) These can best be met by employment of some of the ships of Force X at any rate until general position has stabilised and base and H.Q. is developed in Philippines.

(3) If Their Lordships have no objections I intend to allocate them as follows. S.O. Force X who is in Sydney agrees.

(4) H.Q. ship for R.A.F.T.B.P.F. at Manus until arrival MONTCLARE. LOTHIAN is now available to arrive Sydney 7th Feb. and sail Manus 17th February. She would also be available to accommodate S.R.N.O. staff and shore party until they can be accommodated ashore.

(5) Base ship at Leyte. LAMONT. She would provide admittance and accommodation for fleet training working party and also if necessary for Capt. Escort Forces and Party until arrival at (?group omitted) berth. A.M. 190030 para. 2.(b) refers. To arrive Manus to embark working party as soon as possible after (?8th) March.

(6) H.Q. Ship for C. in C. as my staff will for present remain in Sydney (my 290845) it will be necessary for me to proceed to Manus or Leyte for short period with small operational staff. Intend to retain accommodation for myself and 6 officers and necessary ratings in LOTHIAN and LAMONT while they are employed on duty as in paras. 4 and 5 above. On arrival MONTCLARE, LOTHIAN to proceed Sydney and be available as my H.Q. ship after necessary alterations until arrival of ship requested in my 290845 para.9.(5).

(7) Transport Monab 4 to Manus. (?HAKE) or EMPIRE ARQUEBUS as selected by S.O. Force X. To be released 15th Feb. and proceed Sydney to embark Monab 4. On completion of this duty to be available to act overflow base ship at Manus.

(8) Passenger transports to forward area. GLENEARN. It is estimated that upwards of one thousand passengers for naval requirements in addition to those carried by air will require transport monthly between Australia, Manus and Philippines and that there will be a full time requirement for a ship for this purpose.

(9) On transferring LOTHIAN to R.A.F.T.B.P.F. S.O. Force X will (?assemble) and administer his force from on shore in Sydney.

(10) I am in touch Commander 7th Fleet and I will arrange actual date of release direct with him.

(C. in C.B.P.F., 300800Z to Admiralty etc.).

\*As received.

Transfer Flag of Commodore Commanding H.M.A.S. Squadron  
of flag. was transferred from H.M.A.S. AUSTRALIA to  
H.M.A.S. SHROPSHIRE on 18th Jan. 1945.  
(A.C.N.B., 300816Z to Admty. etc.).



30.1.1945.  
Tuesday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand - Contd.

- Digest 1105 29.1.1945 extract. Digest serial number 1105 follows covering Jan. 29th unless otherwise stated.
- (2) During day Navy Liberator over Yansei Shoto attacked 5 small coasters 8 barges anchored off Ishigaki Jima sinking two small coasters leaving two others burning. Another Liberator saw 11 small freighters 20 small coasters 100 barges off Miyako Jetto sinking 2 small freighters also strafing barges and wharf installations.
- (6) Navy Liberator over Cadrane Bay afternoon saw about 14 small coasters at anchor also two tankers one destroyer 3 destroyer escorts 25 miles north heading north west.
- (7) French sources report three transports 4 destroyer escorts arrived Cap Saint Jacques January 28th. Also report one transport one cargo vessel covered by two floatplanes departed Quinhon same day, and that (?Ourane) carries increased shipping traffic.
- (8) Forenoon 28th January navy Liberator saw 2 tankers one destroyer escort 3 small freighters 1 submarine anchored off Cap Saint Jacques also one small freighter three coasters 45 miles north east heading south west.
- (15) Early morning 4 Thunderbolts swept Cagayan Alley destroying one small freighter laden with fuel in Cayatan River. At noon 12 Thunderbolts swept Aparri - Tuguegarao area without incident.
- (16) Forenoon 28th January 3 Lightnings destroyed 3 grounded fighters at Tuguegarao. 4 other Lightnings swept Iligan Area destroying or damaging nine trucks and staff cabs. Noon next day 9 Bostons attacked same area bombing strafing airstrip and (?Vanraxwr) starting fires.
- (17) About 4 enemy aircraft were over our positions south of Lingayan Gulf night 28th-29th January. One aircraft dropped bombs near Magcorr Mangaldan airdrome slightly damaging several aircraft.
- (21) Early morning these Lightnings attacked Batangas area co-ordinating with P.T.-Boats while later 2 Mitchells attacked speed boat hideouts same vicinity causing huge explosions. Noon 4 Thunderbolts bombed strafed gun positions on Verde Island.
- (22) Morning American Forces landed unopposed on Zambales Coast and captured San Naranso and San Antonio. Forces now advancing eastwards towards head of Subic Bay. During night 28th - 29th January 200 mines cleared from Clark field and Stotsenburg areas. San Fernando (40 miles from Manila) secured and our forces advancing on Calompit.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 301157 to Admiralty etc.).



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30.1.1945.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarine attack and sighting summary. For 24 hours to 0900Z/30th January. Nil. (D.D.I.C., 301029A to Cominch).

U-Boat sunk. My 221059 July 1942. (1) Following contact obtained and attacked by BENTINCK of E.G.4 CALDER and AYLMER obtained and attacked an asdic contact and at 261604 a U-Boat surfaced astern of CALDER. Both ships attacked with gunfire and after being rammed by AYLMER the U-Boat sank at 1609, 23 miles east of Rockabill, Ireland. (2) KEATS of E.G.5, following the torpedoing of the Norwegian tanker SOLAR and American RUBEN DARIO, attacked an asdic contact 30 miles north-west of St. David's Head at 271955. Hedgehog explosions produced a considerable quantity of oil, wreckage and two yellow dinghies. Echo sounder trace indicate the dimensions of a U-Boat on the bottom. (D.A.U.D., 301910A to Cominch etc.).

U-Boat dispositions. Estimates. (D.D.I.C., 301350A, 301354 to Cominch and A.I.G.).

Points from 1st A.U. meeting of 1945 held on 26th January. (A) Higher merchant ship losses in British coastal waters brought to the attention of the Prime Minister. Our successes compared unfavourably with our losses. This is mainly due to enemy's skill in use of Schnorkel increasing, but it is hoped that better results will be obtained as a result of increased mining and improved experience of escort groups operating in coastal waters.

(B) In Arctic waters we have been more successful and convoys to and from North Russia have run in safety.

(C) Extent of U-Boat offensive greatly dependent upon spirit of U-Boat Commanders, which will be adversely affected by our military successes, bombing of U-Boat construction facilities in addition to any losses which we are able to inflict upon the U-Boat force at sea.

(D) Forecast the enemy should be able to maintain total of 60 U-Boats on patrol by mid-February, increasing during the spring to 80 boats on patrol.

(E) Counter measures include increase of convoy in U.K. inshore waters, extensive mining programme, increase in escort vessel strength and the laying of floating obstructions to foul and damage Schnorkel tubes, particularly in transit areas.

(F) Highest priority to improvement to Radar for U-Boat detection and to repair of anti-submarine craft of which about 40 at present defective.

(G) Effect of probable loss of Danzig on U-Boat constructions forecast is a reduction of about 30% which will take effect on enemy's operational strength after four to five months.

(H) Measures for economy of escort forces by re-routing of Russian convoys via Black Sea are being examined.

(A.C.N.S.(U.T.), 302018A to B.A.D.).



591

31.1.1945.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North Sea.

- 1(a) Four mines were swept off Harwich. A near miss (30 ft.) by one of them caused multiple but minor damage to FROLIC, and she returned to Harwich to make good defects.
- (b) One mine was swept off N.F. 5 Buoy.
- (c) The blockships at the Wemeldinge end of the South Beveland Canal have been removed. The Hansweerd end is delayed by weather and icing.
- (d) The limiting draught for ships with a beam up to 57 ft. is now 24 ft. at springs and 22 ft. 6 in. at neaps, through Terneuzen Lock.

Western Approaches.

- 2(a) Two U-Boat contacts were investigated, but without result.
- (b) TROUBRIDGE, TERMAGANT and TENACIOUS have joined ACTIVITY, Gibraltar-bound.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Crete.

3. Combatants have withdrawn from Heraklion where situation now quiet but uneasy.

East Indies

Burma.

4. Beaufighters damaged a number of ships in the Gulf of Martaban and south of Rangoon today.



592

31.1.1945.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand

Formosa. 5. Today 12 Mitchells sank one destroyer, set fire to a second and probably damaged a third south of Formosa.

Philippines. 6(a) American forces landed without opposition at Nasugbu (west coast of Batangos Province, south of Manila Bay) and moved rapidly inland. Last night successful diversionary operations conducted in Tabayas Bay area.  
(b) Last night Ormoc-based P.Ts. sank two small merchantmen Bohol Straits killing 200 Japs in one ship and destroying oil and fuel in other ship. Sank one troop laden barge in same vicinity.



31.1.1945  
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.North Sea.

Minesweeping 1 ground mine detonated by M.M.S. in position No. off E. Coast. 3 buoy 151° 7 cables.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich 311250A to Admty.)

4 ground mines detonated within 5 cables of position 51° 57' N. 01° 44.7' E.

(2) Am continuing sweep of western half of Q.Z.S. 151.

(3) Any further mines swept up will be reported at end of days sweeping.

(S.O. M.S.F. 42 311415A to C. in C. Nore.)

Magnetic mine detonated at 1120 in position 154° E.

Dudgeon Buoy 1.2 miles.

(F.O. Humber 311455A to C. in C. Nore.)

FROLIC sustained multiple minor damage from mines reported in my 311415A. Engine room defects have been temporarily made good. FROLIC is returning to Harwich escorted by HERMETRAY. Her E.T.A. Cork Light Vessel is 1815.

(S.O. M.S.F. 42 311535A to C. in C. Nore.)

Presence of coarse acoustic mine definitely established. My 311415 and 311535 refer. Have to discontinue sweeping as explosive sweep is not carried. Further reports follow. Dans remain on centre line of Q.Z.S. 151 at one mile intervals between 53 and A Buoy.

(2) E.T.A. roughly 5 sweepers and one danlayer 1900.

(S.O. M.S.F. 42 311643A to C. in C. Nore.)

My 311250 for No. 3 Buoy 151° 7 cables now read: 52° 08' 12" N. 01° 49' 06" E. Assumed ground mine was detonated in position 52° 01' 08" N. 01° 41' 36" E.  $\frac{3}{4}$  cable astern M.Ls. carrying out 0 sweep Q.Z.L. 59.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich 311900A to Admty.)

Summary of LL/SA E.G.M.S. January 31st.

All to westward of centre line of Q.Z.S. 151 from 53 Buoy to 1 mile short of 54A Buoy.

(2) 1 lap width 10 cables. 1 fine red mine (a) detonated in 51° 57.3' N. 01° 45.4' E. 1 fine red mine (b) detonated in 51° 57' N. 01° 44.7' E.

Second lap commenced at northern end abandoned owing to failure of inner ship (my 311535A refers.) After 1 coarse acoustic mine (c) detonated in 51° 56.8' N. 01° 44.3' E. and 1 red mine (d) detonated in 51° 56.9' N. 01° 44.2' E.

3rd lap width 5 cables complete with negative result.

(3) Mine (a) was detonated after 3 seconds off pulse.

(b) After 4 seconds on pulse, (c) 30 feet off bow of ship in centre of formation, (d) alongside end of short tail.

(4) Mine (a) (b) considered to be acoustic magnetic.

(5) Visibility throughout one mile or less owing to rain and mist.

(6) 6 M/S and 2 danlayers anchored off Cork Lightship. FROLIC proceed into Harwich a.m. tomorrow February 1st to make good defect. FAIRY and COMBATANT have defective LL and SA respectively which it is hoped to make good over night, weather permitting.

(S.O. M.S.F. 42 312125A to C. in C. Nore.)

Midget U/Bs  
off Gt.  
Yarmouth.

Following from further interrogation two SEEHUND prisoners taken off Yarmouth 27 January corrects my 281549 and is graded B.2.

(a) Operational area of all three SEEHUNDE was

/off...



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Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Midget U/Bs off Ramsgate.  
off Gt. (b) Prisoners fired their torpedo in this area.  
Yarmouth. (c) Soon after arriving off Ramsgate on night of  
(Contd.) (c) 22/23 January prisoners' compasses went out of  
order and they believed they were on homeward  
course when they stranded at 0200/25 off Yarmouth.  
(d) Prisoners state they were depth-charged  
between 1000 and 1100/24 January. Comment. Although prisoners  
consider they were further south this may have been the attack  
by M.L. 153 at 1050/24.  
(D.N.I. 311510A to C. in C. Nore.)

Discharge by sea - 24 hour period ending 1600A/  
Situation 30th January. Cositintrep No. 302 part 4.  
Report.

British	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores (incl. coal)	Bulk Pol.	Ammo
Antwerp	56	368	11,051	-	1,469
Ostend	903	243	3,137	-	670
Boulogne	235	83	-	-	-
Dieppe	210	-	1,568	-	-
Caen	-	-	234	-	-
Calais	3,406	2	332	-	-
Ghent	-	-	791	-	791
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	4,810	696	17,113	-	2,930
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

S.H.A.E.F. 311730A to Admty., and others.)

From P.S.V.O.  
Clearing of Block ships at Wemeldinge end of South Beveland  
S. Beveland Canal cleared removal of block ships at Hansweerd  
Canal. delayed by adverse weather conditions and severe  
icing.  
(N.O.I.C. Antwerp 311738A to F.O. Holland.)

Minesweeping Am anchored in Small Downs.  
in Schelde (2) Today swept in accordance with your 301758  
Approaches. to width 5 cables either side of centre line 1  
actuation and second actuation on south side  
between N.F. 3 and N.F. 4 before sweep was  
abandoned on account of visibility which did not  
improve beyond 5 cables until vicinity South Falls was reached  
on return passage.  
(3) 1 mine swept as in my 311217.  
(4) CHEERFUL out of action as LL sweeper with diesel defect  
requiring base assistance.  
(S.O. M.S.F. 18 311806A to C. in C. Nore.)



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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Channel.

Suspected U-Boat in Weymouth Bay. Have attacked contact in 50° 35' 5" N. 02° 14' W. Consider 2 extra explosions. Am investigating. (S.O. M.T.B.F. 66 310844 to C. in C. Portsmouth.) My 310844. Many non-submarine in area. Have lost contact. Returning to harbour, E.T.A. 1040. (S.O.M.T.B.F. 66 311010A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Your 310844. Following information required forthwith:

(a) Was contact bottomed when detected.  
 (b) Any trail of wreckage or oil.  
 (c) Length of time after D/C pattern when unexplained explosions were heard.  
 (d) Are you still in firm contact.  
 If still in contact position should be marked by Dan Buoy.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth 311017 to S.O.M.T.B.F. 66.)

Patrols & Escorts. Ships addressed form Force 28.  
 (2) If ordered establish anti-submarine patrol along convoy route between positions which will be ordered. Convoys passing through this area are to be trailed.  
 (3) At night one ship to search inshore to 15 fathom line for schnorkelling U-Boats.  
 (4) Attention is drawn to my 201523 January.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth 311149A to TEES, VIZALMA, ST. KENAN, IMPERIALIST.)

Ships addressed form Force 27.  
 (2) If ordered establish anti-submarine patrol along convoy route between positions which will be ordered. Convoys passing through this area are to be trailed.  
 (3) At night one ship to search inshore to 15 fathom line for schnorkelling U-Boats.  
 (4) Attention is drawn to my 201523 January.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth 311152A to RECRUIT, RIFLEMAN, PLUCKY.)  
 After complying with my 311225A not to all S.O. E.G. 30 is to detach LOCH FADA and one ship of 30th E.G. to take up zig-zag search between Pendeen and Lizard S.O. E.G. 30 report name of ship detached.

(C. in C. Plymouth 311245A to S.O.E.G. 30.)  
 Night patrols. (1) E.G. 1 weigh at 1800A today Wednesday and proceed to patrol with BENTLEY and STOCKHAM within area limits. A. Route E (B) Q.Z.S. 636. C. 50° 00' N. D. 01° 15' W.  
 (2) GARLIES, GORE, HOSTE weigh at 1800A today Wednesday and proceed to patrol within area limits. A. Route E B. Q.Z.S. 673. C. 50° 00' N. D. Q.Z.S. 636.  
 (3) NEW GLASGOW, RIBBLE remain on patrol in area limits. A. 50° 00' N. B. 01° 15' W. C. Coast of France. D. 01° 50' W.  
 (4) E.G. 26 with JONQUIERE and MONTREAL establish Gamma patrol between positions A. 50° 27' N. 02° 15' W. B. 50° 10' N. 02° 05' W. Ships to be on patrol by 1930A. Weather damage not to be risked.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth 311306 to S.O.E.Gs. 1, 26, GARLIES.)  
 Day patrols. Initially as for tonight my 311306A refers.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth 312325A to S.O.E.Gs. 1, 26, GARLIES, RIBBLE.)



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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel. - Contd.

Possible  
U-Boat.

ABELIA reports steady (corrupt group). Slight (corrupt group) doppler clear trace of a (3 corrupt groups) down to (?gentle) echo. Contact disappeared after pattern. After 1½ hours 2 mile observant of position contact not regained by ABELIA nor confirmed by TOBAGO. Numerous echoes in vicinity. Ships return convoy.  
(TOBAGO 312259A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Operations.

West Coast France.

Missing  
Spanish  
Fishing  
Vessel.

Spanish Ministry of Marine request any information available regarding Spanish fishing vessel MASSO 14 which parted company with MASSO 15 while fishing on Porcupine Bank January 19th. Latter vessel returned to Vigo.  
(D.N.I. 311701A to C. in C. W.A)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

E.Gs. 31, 21. On completion of training p.m. 31st T.C. PHILANTE is requested to sail 31st E.G. to Bangor for fuel.  
(2) F.O.I.C. N.I. is requested to sail 31st E.G. at 0800/2nd to join Force 36.  
(3) On 31st E.G. crossing 54° N. 21st E.G. if not in contact is to leave area and proceed to Belfast for lay over.  
(C. in C. W.A. 310011A to T.C. PHILANTE, F.O.I.C. N.I., S.O.E.G.21)

Possible  
U-Boat.

NORTHERN SPRAY lost contact at 0041A after 2 attacks. 22nd E.G. obtained contact on arrival (corruptgroup) W.58. Intend search of 3 miles square and if no other contact 22nd E.G. and NORTHERN SPRAY to proceed in execution of previous orders. Suitable.  
(S.O.E.G. 22 310315A to S.O. Force 37.)

E.Gs. 19, 22. F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to sail 19th E.G. less LOCH SHIN a.m. 1st February to join Force 37. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail LOCH SHIN (S.O. 19th E.G.) when ready to join group. My 252156 not to all refers. LOCH SHIN to arrange R/V.  
(2) On 19th E.G. less LOCH SHIN crossing 54° 30' N. 22nd E.G. leave area and proceed to Liverpool for lay over.  
(C. in C. W.A. 311248A to F.Os. i/c Liverpool, Greenock, S.O.E.G. 22.)

/Second...



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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches. - Contd.

Second possible U-Boat. TOBAGO and ABELIA hunting probable German U-Boat 50° 33' N. 05° 18' W. (OAKHAM CASTLE 312110A to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.

Norway.

Operation "S.C." Ramose Tense. VIGRA returned at 0550A/31st Jan. (2) Operation successful. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 310611A to A.C.O.S.)

Patrols. Leave patrol 0001A/3rd February and return Lerwick by reverse of outward route. Diving by day east of 01° E. (2) VENTURER leaving Lerwick 1500A/2nd February to patrol in same area, routed through - A. 090° Muckle Flugga 10. B. 61° 04' N. 00° 01' E. C. 61° 04' N. 01° 59' E. D. 60° 36' N. 03° 45' E. Diving by day east of 01° E. (S.O. S/M Lerwick 311130A to VIKING.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Convoy J.W. 64. My 281856 passed to DENBIGH CASTLE para. 1 for STORD read DENBIGH CASTLE. (Com. D. H.F. 311841A to D. 17, ONSLOW, STORD, DENBIGH CASTLE.) My 242300 delete ALLINGTON CASTLE defective add WHITEHALL ready to sail from Clyde a.m. Saturday 3rd February. (Capt. (D) Greenock 312300A to Admty., and usual addressees.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Intended recovery of new type German mine and sinker. When refit complete on or about 1st February request you sail U.S.L.C.T. 843 (UOL) to join 182 M/S group. On arrival report S.O. group for duty. Admiralty 261118A refers. (Com. 12th Fleet 311452 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Port Facilities.

Terneuzen. Captured ports. Terneuzen Lock. The draught limitation for ships up to 57 feet beam has now been raised to 24 feet at springs and 22 feet 6 inches at neaps. (A.N.C.X.F. 310013A to Admty.)



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HOME COMMANDS.

Technical.

O.P. type Admiralty message 211731. The liberal use of  
Schnorkel type O.P. obstructions drifting with the tide  
obstructions. does not appear feasible in the Portsmouth  
Command for the following reasons:  
A. the strong tidal streams. B. The volume of  
shipping. C. The number of traffic routes.  
D. The waters on both sides of the channel are now open to  
fishing. E. Forces for the patrol of these obstructions are not  
available. F. Preliminary trials have shown that these  
obstructions tend to bunch when floating freely in a tideway  
and that the flotation becomes waterlogged after a short period.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 311525A to Admty.)

Casualties & Defects.

U.S. tug N.O.I.C. Appledore's 1930 of 27th January, an  
704. extensive search in W.A. Command including  
search by A/C and enquiries in Eire ports through  
N.A. Dublin have failed to reveal any trace of  
U.S. tug 704.  
(C. in C. W.A. 311104A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

BERRY BERRY has number 3 main diesel damaged by crank  
frigate. case explosion and subsequent fire. D.G. burned  
and out of action, starboard propeller shaft  
out of action until damaged air line can be  
repaired.

Maximum speed 13 knots, DOMETT and COOKE in company.  
(BERRY 311128A to C. in C. W.A.)

SS. FRESHTARN. Your 301600A regret no information.  
(R.N.O. Troon 311703 to F.O.I.C. N.I.)

Movements.

ACTIVITY, Escort of ACTIVITY and SARMIENTO taken over by  
escort Capt. D. 24 in TROUBRIDGE. P.C.S. at 0900A 53°  
carrier, 20' N. 15° 00' W. 180° 15 knots.  
TROUBRIDGE, BERRY, DOMETT and COOKE course 060° 13 knots  
TERMAGANT, returning North Channel. Suitable weather report  
TENACIOUS 9681 9414.  
destroyers. (BERRY 311043 to C. in C. W.A.)

BRILLIANT A.M. 252020A January not to all. Intend to sail  
destroyer. BRILLIANT to Antwerp escorted by CAMPANULA as  
soon as weather forecast is satisfactory. Ships  
leaving Portsmouth at last light and adjusting speed to be off  
Flushing at 1400 two days later.  
(2) Routed by standard route and Q.Z.S. 513, 517 to Dumpton  
thence Q.Z.S. 458, 581 and 657.  
(3) Ship has (a) bows damaged unable to anchor but can be taken  
in tow, (b) reduced complement, (c) close range weapons only

/available...



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War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

BRILLIANT, available, D. main engines and steering gear  
destroyer. working.  
(Contd.) (4) N.O.I.C. Antwerp is requested to provide tug  
to meet BRILLIANT off Flushing to tow her from  
there.  
(5) CAMPANULA should escort as far as Terneuzen  
returning thence independently to Portsmouth.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 311245A to N.O.I.C. Antwerp, C. in C. Nore.)

NORTHWAY, Pass Spithead at 0001A/1st and proceed to Le Havre  
L.S.D. by Q.Z.S. 373, 646, 673, 619, 664, L'AVENTURE  
acting as escort.  
(2) Speed 14 knots, zig-zagging until H.D. 2 buoy.  
(3) Communications - constant W/T watch on 2450  
k/cs and broadcast CN.  
(4) L'AVENTURE is to return with V.W.P. convoy p.m. 1st as  
ordered by C.T.G. 125.15.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 311740 to NORTHWAY, L'AVENTURE.)

BARFLEUR, You will be required to leave Plymouth about 1900A/  
armed mer- 1st February to escort F.S. BARFLEUR to Cherbourg,  
chant cruiser. proceeding to Portsmouth on completion.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 311758A to S.O.E.G. 38.)  
Intend sailing French Aux. Cruiser BARFLEUR at  
1930A/1st February escorted by E.G. 38 (LEITH (S.O.)  
CONVOLVULUS and ANCHUSA) to Cherbourg. F.O.W.M. 311825 December  
not to all addressees refers.  
(2) Routed through L. 180° Start Point 5 miles. M. H.2 buoy.  
N. 090° H.5 buoy 5 miles. O. 090° H.8 buoy 5 miles. P. 000° H.10  
buoy 4 miles thence to Cherbourg.  
(4) S.O.A. 12 knots, E.T.A. H.10 buoy 0830A/2nd February. Ships  
will zig-zag in the Portsmouth Command.  
(5) On completion of escort duty 38th E.G. is to return to  
Portsmouth in accordance with previous orders.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 311912A to C.T.F. 125.)  
My 301935A. Cancel disembarkation of wine. Request BARFLEUR  
be sailed when all stores have been embarked.  
(F.N.G.B. 311954A to Admty.)

BARFLEUR, Your 281014 and Commodore D's 301617. Personnel  
destroyer. will join with stores on February 6th as  
originally arranged.  
(D.G.D. 312349A to BARFLEUR.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Arrival times Your 291629. Arrival of C.U. 54 ships at Le Havre  
of C.U., and was in accordance with the estimate made in P.D.  
H.X. convoys. New York's 092140. It is regretted that the error  
of 24 hours in your 191455 was not noticed. It  
is observed that C.U. 55 similarly arrived sub-  
stantially at the expected time of arrival forecast  
as sailing.

/(2)...



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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Arrival times of C.U. and H.X. convoys. (Contd.)

(2) Difficulties of handling shipping in these ports is however fully appreciated. Admiralty will in future signal to C.T.F. 125 convoys time of crossing 25° W. Cinclant is being asked to instruct escorts of Channel Section to include C.T.F. 125 in the address of any reports made after the split has taken place on approx. 25° W.

(3) Request you will confirm that the above information and that passed by C. in C. Portsmouth, e.g. his 271310 will meet your requirements.

(A.C.N.S. (U.T.) 310001A to C.T.F. 125.)

Your 310001 para. 3, negative.

Com. 10th Fleet (C. & R.) position reports to all Commands concerned with convoy movements in Atlantic Ocean north of 40° N. and west of 26° W. (e.g. his 301514 and 301542) received daily by this Command cover requirements within U.S. strategic area. Thence eastward until crossing 07° W. into Plymouth Command is a blind area, plotting (and consequently port planning) is rendered difficult by withholding of Western Approaches diversion and situation signals. Reports by English Channel sections of C.U. convoys are contributory but it must be noted that split may not take place until well east. C. in C. Portsmouth's signals are too late to serve as basis for decisions on clearing ports for reception, these decisions are influenced by the movements within the Western Approaches Command. Estimates made by Port Director New York cover only time of arrival at last ocean position (approx. 10° W.) and, in fact, convoys seldom pass through these original positions. Route and speed are varied on passage. A few hours difference in timing while in Western Approaches area results in 24 hours difference in arrival at combat ports and, as example of result, three or four days loss of time for every near-completion ship moved unnecessarily from Le Havre to Rouen. The number of ships arriving in both H.X. and C.U. convoys for continental discharge on U.S. account is considerable and it is essential for its expeditious handling that complete information on it be available to this Command.

(C.T.F. 125 311441 to Admty.)



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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

- Fleet  
Minesweepers. Sailed Horta at 2241Z/20th.  
H.M.C.S. WASAGA and VEGREVILLE for Plymouth  
routed as in my 251344Z S.O.A. 11 knots. E.T.A.  
1230Z 4th Feb.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores 310134Z to F.O.G.M.A.)
- Escort. Sail at 1630A today Wednesday to rendezvous U.S.S.  
GEN. <sup>W.F.</sup>RICHARDSON in position 16 at 311730A and act  
as escort to 10 degs. W.  
2. On crossing 10 degs. W. part company and  
proceed Gibraltar routed through (a) 35.51 N. 06.10 W.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 311036A to MALCOLM.)
- E.G.2. On completion of duties in my 300843/ resume  
patrol Bacon.  
2. You will be required to act as additional close  
escort to K.M.S. 81.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 311104A to Grp.I.)  
/ H.M.S. LOWESTOFT is to position Group 1 so as to provide cover  
to passage of K.M.S. 80 and M.K.S.80.
- TAY defect. Starboard tail end shaft broken, propeller and  
shaft hung up in a bracket. A.M. returning to  
Gibraltar.  
(TAY 311325Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

South Atlantic

- TEES. Information is requested as to present whereabouts  
and movements of TEES A/M 101525A and my 311140  
refers.  
(F.O.C. West Africa 311305Z to Admty.)  
Your 311305 Jan. Flight "E" weatherbound has not yet sailed.  
(D.O.D.(F) 312230A to F.O.C.W.Af.)
- Convoy  
OW.1. Sailed RACEHORSE and REDOUBT to comply with C. in  
C. E.I.S. 261132 not to Admty. routed through etc.  
2. S.O.A. 19 knots.  
3. E.T.A. Diego Suarez 0400Z 4th.  
5. B.N.L.O. Diego Suarez is requested to signal  
E.T.A. Addu Atoll.  
(Cdr. i/c Durban 311501Z to Admty. etc.)



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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

H.D.M.Ls. It is essential that the 6 H.D.M.Ls. building in Levant should be completed and sailed in time to arrive Bombay before start of Monsoon. Necessary priority is to be given to this work report estimated dates of departure. C. in C. Med's 151747A\* Dec., not to A.S. Alex. A.S. Alex. 141214B Dec., not to Admiralty and A.S.L. 081649 January refer.  
(C. in C. Med., Malta 311010 to F.O.L.E.M.)  
\* Allocation of H.D.M.Ls. to Mediterranean Station.

L.S.Ts. (1) Intend sailing G.S. KANARIS escorting L.S.T. (1) 173, 36. 173, L.S.T. (1) 36, Salonika 0700/1st, routed, speed 8 knots, E.T.A. 1800/4th.  
(N.O.I.C. Patras 311110B to B.N.C.N.A.)

A.F.D. 20. Intend sailing DESTINY and EMINENT towing A.F.D. 20 at 1200/1st Feb: to Port Said.  
(2) S.O.A. 5 knots or better. E.T.A. Port Said to be reported by EMINENT when known.  
(7) EMINENT acknowledge.  
(V.A.M. 311210 to N.O.I.C. Port Said.)

S.Aegean Summary Up to 0900 hrs. 31st January 1945.  
31st Jan. '45 (1) Shipping. Calino. One craft 150 tons and one pioneer craft 100 tons arrived 22nd Jan. and were still present 27th Jan. Comment this probably refers to launch 40/60 foot and Magda barge seen at Calino but which had departed by the morning of 28th Jan. Also reported but not confirmed that Pserimo will be evacuated by the enemy about 31st Jan. Offensive action 30th Jan. Naval bombardment and air bombing continued at Piscopi.  
(C. in C. M.E. 311230B.)

Situation (1) Shukra. Reference number 547. Combatants Report No. 548. have withdrawn from Heraklion where situation now quiet but uneasy.  
(2) Greece. On 30th Jan. ACTIVE bombarded Piscopi. General situation remains quiet.  
(C. in C. Med. 311240A to F.O.L.E.M., etc.)

S.N.O.E. Sy. ELISSA pays off today 31st Jan. accounts being transferred to HAMILCAR.  
(2) The title of S.O. Eastern Sicily (short title S.N.O.E.Sy.) will be transferred to C.O. HAMILCAR on 1st Feb. who will serve in the dual capacity of S.N.O.E.Sy. and C.O. HAMILCAR.  
(3) Commander J.S. Dove O.B.E., R.N. is appointed R.N.O. Augusta to date 1st Feb.  
(5) S.N.O.E.Sy. is to be automatically responsible for R.N.O. Augusta.  
(C. in C. Med. 311511A to Med. Station, Admty.)



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

- L.S.Ts. (2) Special capacity exists in the U.K. for refitting L.S.T. which if not utilised will be lost. General shipping situation precludes the release of any further L.S.T. for refit, by S.C.A.E.F.
- (2) Request you will propose a programme suitable to your operational requirements for releasing for refit in the U.K. the 10 L.S.T.(2) transferred from U.S. which were to have been taken in hand in the Mediterranean A.M. 271946 December refers. It would be convenient if the L.S.T. could return at the rate of 4 per month, the first 4 arriving in U.K. by end of February.
- (3) The removal of the commitment to refit L.S.T. may be of assistance as regards your escort refitting programme.  
(V.C.N.S. 311728A to C. in C. Med.)

- Light Fleet Carriers. Owing to U-Boat activity in Irish Sea and Clyde approaches it is under consideration for COLOSSUS, VENGEANCE and VENERABLE and subsequently GLORY to work up at Alexandria. Dates of arrival are uncertain owing to teething troubles but the first three ships should arrive Alexandria about end Feb., followed later by GLORY.
- (2) The estimated requirements for three light fleet carriers working up simultaneously at Alexandria are:-
- (a) Disembarked accommodation for 2 T.B.R. squadrons of 18 I.E. Barracudas each at Dekheila, etc.
- (b) Accommodation and maintenance facilities at Fayid for about 30 reserve aircraft.
- (c) Torpedo facilities at Dekheila. Personnel will be provided. Workshops exist.
- (d) Gunnery facilities.
- (f) Radar calibration team can be provided but suitable aircraft will be required from the F.R.U. reserves in the Mediterranean.
- (g) Ships will land such air stores as are necessary for the maintenance of their own aircraft disembarked.
- (3) These arrangements will necessitate the squadrons of HUNTER, ATTACKER and STALKER being moved from Dekheila to an R.A.F. station to await embarkation in their own ships, which it is proposed should proceed to the E.I. Station immediately on completion of their refits.
- (4) It is appreciated that the above proposals will not be ideal and will probably extend the working up period of the light fleet carriers.
- (6) Ships will be administered by Flag Officer Light Fleet Carriers.
- (7) Request you will remark on these proposals and state if any additional training staff is required.
- (8) The preparations being made to enable 1 light fleet carrier and 1 escort carrier to work up at Malta will continue, A.M. 251707 Dec. (not to all) refers.  
(V.C.N.S. 311943A to C. in C. Med.) See 311944 to C. in C. E.I.

- A.F.D. 30. Request you make necessary arrangements for A.F.D. 30 to proceed with minimum delay after arrival of ASSIDUOUS expected with K.M.S. 81, leaving U.K. 28th Jan.  
(F.O.L.E.M. 312053, 011830 to S.N.O.L.A.)



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31.1.1945.  
WednesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

- U.B. Dispositions. No fresh information. Scales in all areas remain unchanged.  
(C. in C. E.I. 310340 Admty. etc.)
- A/S training S/M VOX At 1202Z 31st - my position 013° 01' S. 092° 05' E. S.O.A. 7.  
(VOX 310344Z to S.O. S/M Colombo.)
- Attack on Sumatra. *Meridian* Second Strike on Palembang Target - Soeng Tugrong completed. Result good. Our loss 15 but 8 crew recovered. Further signal follows.  
(C. in C. E.I. 311316Z to Admty.)
- C. in C. E.I. Arrived RAPID wearing Flag of C. in C. E.I. Stn. TORBAY.  
RAPID, STATESMAN, MILFORD COUNTESS.  
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 311719Z to Admty.)
- RICHELIEU. A.M. 232205/Dec. and C. in C. Med's. 261726, neither to all addressees.  
2. C. in C. Med. is requested to sail RICHELIEU on completion of programme of practices set out in his 261726, but she should arrive Ceylon not later than mid March.  
3. B.A.D. Washington is requested to inform Cominch and Admiral Fenard of RICHELIEU's impending return to East Indies Station, but it is not considered that a further signal from the C.C.S. will be necessary as she will be returning to the station to which she is at present allocated.  
4. Admiral Lemonnier is being informed.  
(D.O.D.(F) Appd. V.C.N.S. 311737A to C. in C. E.I. etc.)
- Light Fleet Carriers. Owing to U boat activity in the Irish Sea and the Clyde Approaches it is intended that Light Fleet Carriers shall work up in Mediterranean.  
2. In consequence it will be necessary for ATTACKER, HUNTER and STALKER to proceed direct to your Command on completing their refits in the Mediterranean about 21st Feb. A.M. 200141 also refers.  
3. It is also intended that EMPEROR, ARBITER and CHASER shall work up under your Command when ready. These ships would sail from U.K. as follows:- EMPEROR and ARBITER mid Feb. \*CHASER end Feb.  
(V.C.N.S. 311944A to C. in C. E.I.)  
W.D. Note. See also 311943A to C. in C. Med. under Mediterranean.  
\*Cancelled by 011943A.



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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

- SS. PONTIAC in distress. Following has been incompletely received on 500 k/cs. S.O.S. from NEZO (PONTIAC). In distress foundering position 44.17 N., 63.09 W., at 0400 course 335, speed 5. (Freetown W/T, 310030 G.M.T. to Admty.).  
Following received from C. in C.C.N.A. at 310218 G.M.T. Received from NEZO (PONTIAC) S.O.S. in distress position 44.16.5 N., 63.06 W. from Camperdown 129½. From Canso 230½ approx. From Yarmouth 82 approx. (Camperdown Radio, No T.O.O./31 to Admty.).
- E.G.25. The following allocation is effective to date 31st Jan. from new construction to E.G.25 H.M.C.S. STRATHADAM. (C. in C.C.N.A., 311157Z to N.S.H.Q.).
- U/B dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q., 311341Z, Cominch 311537Z).
- T.G.62.2 Hereby constituted is Task Group 62.2 Captain Smith Hutton in MERVINE, Condesdiv 14 in WAINWRIGHT, MAYRANT, MACKENZIE, JOHN D. FORD, ELOKOMIN escort U.G.F.20 ARIEL included departing Norfolk 7th Feb. for Mediterranean ports. Escorts lay-over in Oran. Detach ELOKOMIN, JOHN D. FORD vicinity Azores for Casablanca and Eastern terminus tanker duty. On arrival detach MACKENZIE to report Com. 8th Fleet for duty. When directed by C. in C. Med. return escorting G.U.F.20. (C. in C. Lant, 311645Z to Comdesron 15, Admty.).
- RIMOUSKI Diffused lighting. Your 022013Z para.3. We consider there is not, a real tactical requirement for diffused lighting at the present time, since U-Boats are expected to remain submerged almost continuously, and to rely mainly on hydrophones for detecting ships. (2) Intention to abandon further development is concurred in. Request confirmation this implies that gear offered to Admiralty will not be provided. (3) A potential requirement for diffused lighting in the future still exists, and all experience of H.M.C.S. RIMOUSKI's installation under operational conditions will be valuable. (A.C.N.S.(W), 311655A to N.S.H.Q.).
- Mid-ocean Force. Following allocations from new construction to the mid-ocean force are affective to date 31st Jan. For duty with C.5 H.M.C.S. WEST YORK. For duty with C.7 MERRITONIA. (C. in C.C.N.A., 312020Z to N.S.H.Q. etc.).
- Radar contacts. First report since Cominch 232055. Para.D. A/S at 1500 feet had several Radar contacts 43.03 N. 68.54 W. beginning 311335Z. (Cominch, 312036Z to Admiralty etc.).

/Transfer...



War Diary

31.1.1945.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies - Contd.

Transfer of  
ships on  
loan to  
R.C.N.

Further consideration has been given to the terms of the loan to the R.C.N. of two Light Fleet Carriers and a Flotilla of Fleet Destroyers in the light of your 231245, and the following revised wording of para.6 of Admiralty Letter M. 010225/44 dated 14th Jan. has been approved begins:-

Both the Carriers including their Naval Air Squadrons and Fleet Destroyers form part of the total numbers on which the Admiralty are relying for the execution of the Royal Navy's share in the overall strategic plan. It would be Their Lordships intention to deploy these ships in the Pacific as part of the British Pacific Fleet but should urgent operational requirements necessitate a change of plan, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa would be consulted. Ends.

(2) Admiralty Letter M. 010225/44 should be regarded as amended accordingly.

(1st Lord, 312329A to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Australia and New Zealand

Digest  
1106  
30.1.45

Covering January 30th unless otherwise stated.  
(4) Forenoon, American Troops landed Grande Is. (Subic Bay) without opposition. Meanwhile forces advancing eastwards from Zambales Coast captured San Marzelino Aerodrome and secured Castellinos.

Other elements advancing south-east passed through Subic Town and reached Calapcian (about two miles south-east of Subic). Subic Bay reported available for shipping.

(8) Noon 29th Jan. French sources reported convoy two tankers, three destroyers, one destroyer escort departed Nhatrang (30 miles north by east Camranh Bay) heading north, probably Cuhztgg same convoy Y.M. report para.6 yesterday's digest.

(9) Early hours American combat transports returning from Zambalef landing hit by probable torpedo and taken under tow.

(10) Highly successful daylight sweep conducted 29th January by Lingayan based P.Ts. co-operating with Mustangs San Fernando destroying 10 barges, 2 luggers, 10 suicide speedboats, starting fires in three fuel dumps. Same day Mindoro Base P.Ts. with co-operating aircraft destroyed 29 small craft in Batangas Bay.

(12) Delayed Roberg Luzon air strikes 29th January: morning single Mitchells dropped 500 pound bombs on speedboat hideout Tayabas Bay.

Part 6 indecypherable:

guns and huts Kavieng area, 28 Mitchells, 8 Venturas hitting supplies and plane work Vunakanar while 24 Corsairs raided Rabaul supply dumps.

(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 310717Z to Admiralty, etc.).



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31.1.1945.  
Wednesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand.

Torpedo  
stores for  
B.P.F.

D.A.W.T. 311857A to V.A.(Q) B.P.F.  
See Lion Copy.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M. attack  
and sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/31st January.

Para. B. (1) At 1036Z 30th January LAUZON heard  
unexplained explosion astern in latitude 55° 53'  
N. longitude 07° 54' W.

Para.C.(1) At 1355Z 30th January F.S. RENONCULE  
attacked contact in latitude 50° 04' N. longitude 04° 48' W.

(2) At 1424Z 30th January CAPE PORTLAND attacked firm contact in  
latitude 53° 31' N. longitude 05° 10' W.

(3) At 1644Z 30th January LOCH FYNE attacked contact in latitude  
51° 55' N. longitude 06° 12' W.

(4) At 1750Z 30th January A/C. Z/172 sighted suspicious wake or  
swirl in latitude 53° 19' N. longitude 04° 56' W.

(5) At 2143Z 30th January NORTHERN SPRAY attacked contact in  
latitude 54° 03' N. longitude 05° 23' W.

(6) At 0215Z 30th January E.G.22 obtained contact in latitude  
54° 03' N. longitude 05° 23' W.

(D.D.I.C., 311122A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q. etc.).

U-Boat  
dispositions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C., 311409A\* to A.I.G. and Cominch).

\* See also 311416A.



**TOP SECRET****OUT**

**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.)

311857A/Jan.

To: V.A. (Q) B.P.F.  
Info. F.O.N.A.S. (A)  
A.C.N.B.  
B.A.D. Washington.

Date 31.1.45.

*Torpedo Stores for B.P.F*

Naval Cypher (XD) Plug &  
O.T.P. T/K

---

From: Admiralty

Your 080550. Conditions of transfer of 22.4 inch servicing equipment at Nowra are acceptable although without details of the leases and agreements referred to in para 1(d) it is not possible to comment on this aspect.

2. Transfer of 123 torpedoes and 22 blowing heads to the Royal Navy has been requested.

3. Apart from torpedoes mentioned in para 2. above 211 torpedoes are in transit to Australia as follows: -

4.	In transit to Australia now	50
	With No. 7 M.A.T.M.U. sailing	
	now	24
	Being loaded in ports in U.K.	40
	Awaiting freight	77
	Awaiting freight at Simonstown	20

---

Total 211

---

5. Situation regarding Exercise Heads is as follows:-

FORMIDABLE	18
ILLUSTRIOUS	6
INDEFATIGABLE	6
INDOMITABLE	6
No. 7 M.A.T.M.U.	15

Awaiting.....



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-2-

Awaiting shipment in U.K.	3
Awaiting shipment at Simonstown	14
To be shipped from Simonstown after conversion	8

V.A.(Q) B.P.F. is requested to re-allocate these heads to the best advantage. It may be possible to transfer a few additional heads from Ceylon and further signal will be made.

6. Bids for American Torpedoes for use in B.P.F. are based on the following assumptions:-

Outfits for 6 Fleet Carriers at $1\frac{1}{2}$ Torpedoes per Aircraft	200
" " 3 Escort Carriers " " "	54
100% Reserve for above maintained in A.S.I.S. M.A.T.M.U.'s and Torpedo Depots	254
Outfits for:-	
Nowra	36
Jarvis Bay	36
Ceylon	36
Intermediate Base (No. 7 M.A.T.M.U.)	24
Annual Training Wastage - Carriers	24
- Australian Stations	24
- Intermediate Base	12
- Ceylon	12
- Transit pipeline	48
In addition to the above there are in U.K. Outfits for training and experimental stations	62
Annual Wastage	39
TOTAL	851

7000000



7. We are 213 torpedoes short and bids have been placed accordingly but there is at present no assignment. This figure represents the outfits for training and experimental stations and B.A.D. has been informed that unless this requirement can be met we must reduce the operational reserve to supply the training stations as we regard training with runner torpedoes vital to the success of a torpedo strike.

8. Outfits of exercise heads have been cut to a minimum.

6 Fleet Carriers	90
Ceylon	36
Nowra	24
Jarvis Bay	24
Intermediate Base	15
Training and Experimental in U.K.	62
Annual Wastage	<u>120</u>
	<u>371</u>

9. We are 199 heads short and have bid for 129 to meet immediate requirements and to cover 3 months wastage, but no extra heads have as yet been assigned.

311857A

D.A.W.T.  
(Tel. No. 993)  
Approved A.C.N.S. (W)

1st Lord	Under Sec. (L)	D.N.A.O.	Dep. Cont.
1st S.L. (3)	P.A.S. (NP)	N.A. 2nd S.L. (Air)	Und. Sec.
D.F.S.L. (2)	P.A.S. (S)	E.A.P.	Dep. Sec.
2nd S.L.	D. of F.	D.G.S.	D.N.O.
Contr.	D. of E.	E. in C.	D. of D.
Vice Contr.	D.N.I. (4)	D.N.O.	D.A.S.
4th S.L.	D. of P. (2)	D.D.A.S. (L)	C.E. in C.
5th S.L.	D. of P. (Q) (3)	D.T.M.	C.S.L.
V.C.N.S.	D.O.D. (F) (2)	D. of D.	Hd. Lab. Br.
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.O.D. (H) (4)	D. of S. (2)	Hd. of M.F.
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)	D.T.S.D.	D.A.C.R. (2)	Hd. S.W.R. (3)
Parl. Sec.	D.G.D.	D.A.E.	
Civil Lord	W.D.	D.A.M.R. (2)	Bath (13)
Fin. Sec.	Hd. of N.	D.S.V.P.	
Sec.	N.A. 2nd S.L.	C.E. in C.	
Naval Sec.	D.C.		
Dep. Sec.	D.A.W.T. (3) (AWD. 113/45)		

NMB